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[54] **COFFEE EXTRACTION PROCESS**

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[57] ABSTRACT

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data

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A process for the counter-current extraction of soluble coffee solids. Soluble coffee solids are extracted from roast and ground coffee in a first extraction stage using a primary extraction liquid at a temperature of 80° C. to 160° C. Then soluble coffee solids are extracted from the partially extracted grounds in a second extraction stage using a secondary extraction liquid at a temperature of 160° C. to 190° C., the coffee grounds having at least 25% by weight of soluble coffee solids extracted from them. The coffee grounds obtained from the second extraction stage are drained and thermally hydrolyzed in a hydrolysis stage at a temperature of 160° C. to 220° C. for 1 to 15 minutes. Soluble coffee solids are extracted from the hydrolyzed coffee grounds in a third extraction stage using a tertiary extraction liquid at a temperature of 170° C. to 195° C. to provide extracted coffee grounds and a hydrolyzed coffee extract.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A23F 5/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **426/433; 426/434; 426/595**

[58] **Field of Search** 426/595, 433,
426/434

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18 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

