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Levy

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(54) **SUSTAINED DELIVERY OF POLYIONIC BIOACTIVE AGENTS**

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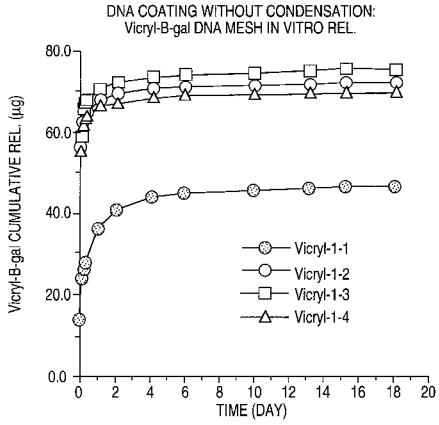
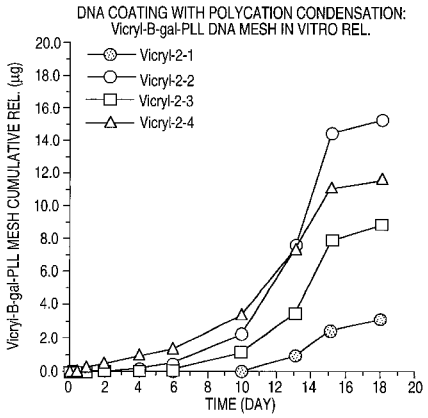
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to compositions and methods for delivering a polyionic bioactive composition such as a nucleic acid to a tissue of an animal. The compositions of the invention include compositions which comprise a matrix comprising the polyionic bioactive agent and wherein at least most of the polyionic bioactive agent at the exterior portion of the matrix is present in a condensed form. The invention also includes methods of making such compositions, including particles, devices, bulk materials, and other objects which comprise, consist of, or are coated with such compositions. Methods of delivering a polyionic bioactive agent to an animal tissue are also described. The invention further includes a method of storing a nucleic acid.

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