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[54] **METHOD OF ENCAPSULATING BIOMATERIAL IN BEAD POLYMERS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 264/4.1, 4.3; 424/32, 424/34–38, 93, 94; 435/177, 182, 178; 514/2

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Viable biomaterial such as animal cells, plant cells, bacteria, algae or fungi are immobilized with retained ability of growth by encapsulation in polymer beads. Encapsulation is carried out by adding the biomaterial to an aqueous solution of a polymer such as agar, agarose, carrageenan, chitosan, gelatin, collagen or fibrinogen, dispersing the solution in a water-insoluble dispersion medium such as soybean oil, tri-n-butylphosphate, liquid silicone, paraffin oil or phthalic acid dibutylester and allowing the polymer to gel.

6 Claims, No Drawings