United States Patent [19]

Jones et al.

[11] **Patent Number: 4,505,940**

[45] **Date of Patent: Mar. 19, 1985**

[54] **NON-CAFFEINE SOLIDS RECOVERY PROCESS**

[75] Inventors: **Gary V. Jones**, Tarrytown, N.Y.; **James F. Meinhold**, Boonton, N.J.; **Joseph A. Musto**, Bronx, N.Y.

[73] Assignee: **General Foods Corporation**, White Plains, N.Y.

[21] Appl. No.: **594,460**

[22] Filed: **Mar. 29, 1984**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[3] **A23F 5/22**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **426/424**; 544/274

[58] **Field of Search** 544/274; 426/424

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,472,881	6/1949	Bender	426/428 X
2,508,545	5/1950	Shuman	544/274
2,933,395	4/1960	Adler et al. .	
4,409,253	10/1983	Morrison et al.	426/424

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

865488	10/1978	Belgium .
1591756	11/1968	France .

Primary Examiner—Joseph Golian

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Basam E. Nabulsi; Thomas R. Savoie; Daniel J. Donovan

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An improved roast and ground coffee extract decaffeination method which involves partitioning non-caffeine solids from caffeine and returning the non-caffeine solids to a decaffeinated coffee product for improved flavor and economics. Liquid-liquid extraction is used to partition the non-caffeine solids into an aqueous phase from a caffeine-solvent phase. Caffeine is recovered from the caffeine-solvent phase as a valuable by-product.

5 Claims, No Drawings