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Yamaguchi et al.

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[54] **METHOD OF PRODUCING AN INSTANTLY SOLUBLE TEA POWDER**

Furia et al, Fenaroli's Handbook of Flavor Ingredients, 1975, 2nd Ed., CRC Press: Cleveland, p. 406.

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Related U.S. Application Data

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of producing an instantly soluble powder quickly dissolving by only pouring hot water or water thereupon in the production of powders including tea and flavorful beverages such as coffee according to vacuum freeze-drying, which comprises, in subjecting a solution having the solids content of 5 weight % or more to vacuum freeze-drying, incorporating a gaseous body of 10 volume % or more therein to form foams at the time of freezing, and then subjecting the mixture to vacuum freeze-drying. Another object of the present invention is to provide a method of producing an instantly soluble powder (an instant tea powder) having almost the same flavor, taste and appearance as those of ordinary tea directly extracted with hot water from tea leaves represented by green tea, brown rice tea, toasted tea, oolong tea and black tea and being excellent in solubility, which comprises subjecting an extract solution from tea leaves to condensation by means of a reverse osmosis membrane, adding and mixing a powder of tea leaves therein, subjecting the obtained mixture to foam-containing freezing, and then freeze-drying it after a adjustment of a particle size of it or adjusting the particle size of it after the freeze-drying.

[63] Continuation of Ser. No. 128,714, Sep. 30, 1993, abandoned.

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Oct. 13, 1992 [JP] Japan 4-301739
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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **A23F 3/16; A23F 3/22; A23F 3/24**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **426/594; 426/385; 426/597**

[58] **Field of Search** **426/594, 597, 426/385**

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7 Claims, No Drawings