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Guiseley

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[54] MODIFIED AGAROSE AND AGAR AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

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[52] U.S. Cl. 536/120; 426/573; 426/516

[58] Field of Search 536/1.1, 120; 426/573, 426/273; 436/516

[56] **References Cited PUBLICATIONS**

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Primary Examiner—Johnnie R. Brown

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A modified agarose or agar containing alkylated, alkenylated, acylated or hydroxyalkylated agarose in which the alkyl, alkenyl, and acyl groups contain from 1 to 3 carbon atoms and the hydroxyalkyl groups contain from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, which modified product has a gelling temperature at least 1° C. lower than the gelling temperature of the corresponding unmodified agarose or agar. The modified material also has a lowered melting point and a higher clarity than the unmodified. The product is made by alkylation, etc. either in a non-aqueous solvent or in an aqueous alkaline solvent; in the latter case the aldehyde end group of the unmodified material may be first blocked by reduction to the hydroxyl group. The compounds are useful as thickeners, for electrophoresis and for diffusive Interactions.