

[54] PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A LOW-MOLECULAR WEIGHT PEPTIDE COMPOSITION AND NUTRIENT AGENT CONTAINING THE SAME

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[57] ABSTRACT

A low-molecular weight peptide composition mainly based on dipeptides and tripeptides is produced by dispersing protein raw material from any suitable source in water at a concentration of 5 to 20 w/v %, adjusting the pH of the dispersion to 1 to 4 with an acid, adding at least two acid proteases to the dispersion, and permitting enzymatic proteolysis to take place for a desired period of time at a suitable temperature while suppressing the formation of free amino acids. Also provided is a nutrient agent comprising the thus produced low-molecular weight peptide composition mainly based on dipeptides and tripeptides wherein the contents of free amino acids and those peptides having a molecular weight of at least 700 are individually 20% by weight or less. The nutrient agent is useful in medical treatment.

11 Claims, No Drawings