

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE DIVISION

CREAGRI, INC., a California Corporation,	)	Case No.: 11-CV-06635-LHK
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	ORDER CONSTRUING DISPUTED
	)	CLAIM TERMS OF U.S. PATENT NOS.
PINNACLIFE INC., a Nevada Corporation,	)	6,416,808 and 8,216,599
	)	
Defendant.	)	
	)	

Plaintiff CreAgri, Inc. (“CreAgri”) brings this action for patent infringement against Defendant Pinnaclife Inc. (“Pinnaclife”). The parties now seek construction of four disputed terms used in the claims of the following patents-in-suit: U.S. Patent Nos. 6,416,808 (“808 Patent”) and 8,216,599 (“599 Patent”). The Court held a technology tutorial and a claim construction hearing on February 8, 2013. The Court has reviewed the claims, specifications, and other relevant evidence, and has considered the briefing and arguments of the parties at the February 8, 2013 claim construction hearing. The Court now construes the terms at issue.

**I. BACKGROUND**

**A. Background and Description of the Invention**

The two patents-in-suit generally relate to compounds obtained from olive plants. At the time of the invention, olives were known to contain compounds, that, when ingested, provide

1 beneficial health effects. *See* '808 Patent at 2:9-30. Those health effects were attributed to  
2 phenolic compounds, in particular, hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein. *See id.* Both hydroxytyrosol  
3 and oleuropein are present in the water byproduct obtained from industrial olive oil production,  
4 which is known as “vegetation water.” *See* '808 Patent at 2:41-49. Tyrosol, another phenolic  
5 compound, also exists in vegetation water but is an undesired component. '808 Patent at 4:43-46.

6 The '808 Patent, entitled “Method of Obtaining a Hydroxytyrosol-rich Composition From  
7 Vegetation Water,” is directed to olive-derived dietary supplements that contain hydroxytyrosol  
8 and oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol at certain weight ratios. *See* '808 Patent at 3:43-51.  
9 The patent specification also discloses methods for producing hydroxytyrosol-rich compositions  
10 from olives, which involves converting oleuropein present in the vegetation water to  
11 hydroxytyrosol under appropriate conditions. *See* '808 Patent at 2:57-67. However, no claim is  
12 directed towards these methods.<sup>1</sup> The '599 Patent, entitled “Method for Treatment of  
13 Inflammation,” discloses methods for treating certain inflammation conditions, with a treatment  
14 agent containing substantially purified hydroxytyrosol or a substantially purified mixture of  
15 hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein. *See* '599 Patent Abstract.

16 CreAgri alleges that a number of Pinnaclife’s products infringe the '808 Patent and the '599  
17 Patent. ECF No. 50 (“Second Amended Complaint” or “SAC”), ¶¶ 51-77. In addition, CreAgri  
18 accuses Pinnaclife of actively inducing infringement of the '599 Patent. SAC, ¶ 60.

19 **B. Claim Terms at Issue**

20 In the parties’ Joint Claim Construction Statement, the parties identified ten claim terms to  
21 be construed:

- 22 1. “comprising” or “comprised of”;
- 23 2. “aqueous extract of olives”;
- 24 3. “olive plant extract”

25 <sup>1</sup> The '808 Patent Application initially included 16 claims directed towards methods producing  
26 hydroxytyrosol-rich compositions from olives (“Method Claims”). *See* CreAgri’s Opening Claim  
27 Construction Brief, Exs. 6 and 7. These claims were removed from the '808 Patent during  
28 prosecution pursuant to a restriction requirement. *See id.*, Ex. 7; Pinnaclife’s Resp., Ex. D. Many  
of these claims (or claims similar to them) were ultimately included in a divisional of the '808  
Patent, *see* U.S. Patent Nos. 7,261,909, and a continuation-in-part of the '808 Patent, *see* U.S.  
Patent No. 7,713,569.

4. “about”
5. “powder extract”
6. “inflammatory condition”
7. “clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom”;
8. “marker” or “biochemical marker”;
9. “first treatment agent”
10. “second disease treatment agent” or “second treatment agent”

See ECF No. 43 (“Joint Claim Construction Statement”).

In the Joint Claim Construction Statement, the parties also identified two additional terms upon whose construction the parties agree.

Claim Language	Construction
“substantially purified” and “substantially purified mixture”	“a compound or compounds that are removed from their natural environment, isolated or separated, and are at least 60% free from other components with which they are naturally associated”
“coincident”	plain and ordinary meaning.

*Id.* at 1-2. The Court adopts the parties’ construction of these terms.

Additionally, in the course of claim construction briefing, CreAgri and Pinnaclife agreed upon the construction of the following terms:

Claim Language	Construction
“about”	plain and ordinary meaning
“powder extract”	plain and ordinary meaning
“inflammatory condition”	plain and ordinary meaning
“first treatment agent”	plain and ordinary meaning
“olive plant extract”	“a preparation from an olive plant”
“second disease treatment agent” and “second treatment agent”	“a compound administered in addition to the first disease treatment agent of claim 1, where the compound acts to treat coronary, bronchial or neuro inflammation”

See Pinnaclife’s Responsive Claim Construction Br. at 5-6 (“Pinnaclife’s Resp.”) (adopting CreAgri’s proposed definitions of “about,” “powder extract,” “inflammatory condition,” “first

1 treatment agent,” and “olive plant extract”); CreAgri’s Reply Claim Construction Brief (“CreAgri’s  
2 Reply”) at 15 (adopting Pinnaclife’s definitions of “second disease treatment agent” and “second  
3 treatment agent”). The Court adopts the parties’ construction of the aforementioned terms.

4 In Pinnaclife’s Responsive Brief, Pinnaclife states that, during the parties’ meet and confer  
5 process, Pinnaclife identified the following terms, which appear “in at least [C]laim 1 of the ‘599  
6 [P]atent[,] as insolubly ambiguous and therefore indefinite: ‘normal range,’ ‘desired change,’  
7 ‘elevated levels,’ and ‘respiratory distress.’” Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 6. Pinnaclife states that CreAgri  
8 has offered no construction for these terms. *Id.* Accordingly, Pinnaclife states that, if necessary,  
9 Pinnaclife will seek summary judgment of invalidity under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 consistent with the  
10 Court’s scheduling order. *Id.* CreAgri responds that its position is, and has always been, that the  
11 aforementioned terms require no construction because the plain and ordinary meaning applies. *See*  
12 CreAgri’s Reply at 2. CreAgri notes that it stated as much in its preliminary claim construction  
13 chart. *See* Declaration of Harold Storey in Support of Plaintiff CreAgri, Inc.’s Reply, ECF No. 52,  
14 Ex. 1 at 5. Because the challenged terms were not identified as requiring construction in the  
15 parties’ Joint Claim Construction Statement, and the parties have not briefed the issue of whether  
16 these terms are insolubly ambiguous, the Court will not address them at this time.

17 Thus, the terms requiring construction by the Court are as follows:

- 18 1. “comprising” or “comprised of”;
- 19 2. “aqueous extract of olives”;
- 20 3. “clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom”;
- 21 4. “marker” or “biochemical marker.”

22 Additionally, ostensibly in the context of construing the terms “comprising” or “comprised  
23 of,” Pinnaclife raised three additional construction issues:

- 24 1. whether the preamble “a dietary supplement” sets forth a limitation;
- 25 2. whether the weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein and hydroxytyrsol and  
26 tyrosol described in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent, respectively, apply to the  
27 “dietary supplement” or to the “aqueous extract” referenced in those claims; and  
28

1           3. whether the the weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein described in Claim 1  
2           of the '599 Patent apply to the "first treatment agent" or "olive plant extract"  
3           referenced in that claim.

4           *See* Joint Claim Construction Statement at 3; PinnacLife's Resp. at 8-14.

5           While the Court does not agree with the parties that these construction issues are relevant to  
6           the proper construction of the terms "comprising" or "comprised of," the Court will address these  
7           issues as well.

8           **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

9           Claim construction is a question of law to be determined by the court. *Markman v.*  
10          *Westview Instruments, Inc.*, 52 F.3d 967, 979 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (en banc), *aff'd* 517 U.S. 370 (1996).  
11          "Ultimately, the interpretation to be given a term can only be determined and confirmed with a full  
12          understanding of what the inventors actually invented and intended to envelop with the claim."  
13          *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, 415 F.3d 1303, 1316 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (en banc) (internal quotation marks  
14          omitted). Accordingly, a claim should be construed in a manner that "stays true to the claim  
15          language and most naturally aligns with the patent's description of the invention." *Id.*

16          In construing disputed terms, the court looks first to the claims themselves, for "[i]t is a  
17          'bedrock principle' of patent law that 'the claims of a patent define the invention to which the  
18          patentee is entitled the right to exclude.'" *Id.* at 1312 (quoting *Innova/Pure Water, Inc. v. Safari*  
19          *Water Filtration Sys., Inc.*, 381 F.3d 1111, 1115 (Fed. Cir. 2004)). Generally, the words of a claim  
20          should be given their "ordinary and customary meaning," which is "the meaning that the term[s]  
21          would have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question at the time of the invention." *Id.* at  
22          1312-13. In some instances, the ordinary meaning to a person of skill in the art is clear, and claim  
23          construction may involve "little more than the application of the widely accepted meaning of  
24          commonly understood words." *Id.* at 1314.

25          In many cases, however, the meaning of a term to a person skilled in the art will not be  
26          readily apparent, and the court must look to other sources to determine the term's meaning. *Id.*  
27          Under these circumstances, the court should consider the context in which the term is used in an  
28          asserted claim or in related claims, bearing in mind that "the person of ordinary skill in the art is

1 deemed to read the claim term not only in the context of the particular claim in which the disputed  
2 term appears, but in the context of the entire patent, including the specification.” *Id.* at 1313.  
3 Indeed, the specification is “‘always highly relevant’” and “[u]sually [] dispositive; it is the single  
4 best guide to the meaning of a disputed term.” *Id.* at 1315 (quoting *Vitronics Corp. v.*  
5 *Conceptronic, Inc.*, 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996)). Where the specification reveals that the  
6 patentee has given a special definition to a claim term that differs from the meaning it would  
7 ordinarily possess, “the inventor’s lexicography governs.” *Id.* at 1316. Likewise, where the  
8 specification reveals an intentional disclaimer or disavowal of claim scope by the inventor, the  
9 inventor’s intention as revealed through the specification is dispositive. *Id.*

10 A court may also consider the patent’s prosecution history, which consists of the complete  
11 record of proceedings before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“U.S. PTO” or  
12 “PTO”) and includes the cited prior art references. A court may consider prosecution history  
13 where it is in evidence, for the prosecution history “can often inform the meaning of the claim  
14 language by demonstrating how the inventor understood the invention and whether the inventor  
15 limited the invention in the course of prosecution, making the claim scope narrower than it  
16 otherwise would be.” *Id.* at 1317 (internal citations omitted).

17 Finally, a court is also authorized to consider extrinsic evidence in construing claims, such  
18 as “expert and inventor testimony, dictionaries, and learned treatises.” *Markman*, 52 F.3d at 980  
19 (internal citations omitted). Expert testimony may be particularly useful in “[providing]  
20 background on the technology at issue, [explaining] how an invention works, [ensuring] that the  
21 court’s understanding of the technical aspects of the patent is consistent with that of a person of  
22 skill in the art, or [establishing] that a particular term in the patent or the prior art has a particular  
23 meaning in the pertinent field.” *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1318. Although a court may consider  
24 evidence extrinsic to the patent and prosecution history, such evidence is considered “less  
25 significant than the intrinsic record” and “less reliable than the patent and its prosecution history in  
26 determining how to read claim terms.” *Id.* at 1317-18 (internal quotation marks and citation  
27 omitted). Thus, while extrinsic evidence may be useful in claim construction, ultimately “it is  
28 unlikely to result in a reliable interpretation of patent claim scope unless considered in the context

1 of the intrinsic evidence.” *Id.* at 1319. Any expert testimony “that is clearly at odds with the claim  
2 construction mandated by the claims themselves, the written description, and the prosecution  
3 history” will be significantly discounted. *Id.* at 1318 (internal quotation marks and citation  
4 omitted).

5 **III. DISCUSSION**

6 **A. “comprising” or “comprised of”**

Terms in Dispute	CreAgri’s Proposed Construction	Pinnaclife’s Proposed Construction
“comprising” or “comprised of”	“including but not limited to”	<b>’808 Patent:</b> “containing as part of the dietary supplement” <b>’599 Patent:</b> “containing as part of the treatment agent administered to a subject having an inflammatory condition”

7 The term “comprising” appears in independent Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent, as  
8 follows:

- 9
- 10
- 11 1. A dietary supplement **comprising** an aqueous extract of olives containing a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 5:1 and about 200:1.
  - 12 5. A dietary supplement **comprising** an aqueous extract of olives containing a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1.

13

14

15

16

17

’808 Patent at 10:36-38, 10:48-50 (emphasis added).

18 The term “comprised of” appears in Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent, as follows:

- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition characterized by a detectable clinical symptom or change in a level of a biochemical marker with respect to the normal range of the marker, the method comprising:
    - administering to the subject a dose corresponding to between about 0.1 mg/kg body weight and 2000 mg/kg body weight daily of a first treatment agent **comprised of** an olive plant extract having a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1; and
    - continuing said administration until there is observed a return of the marker level to the normal range or a desired change in the clinical symptom, where the marker or the clinical symptom is selected from the group consisting of:
      - (i) elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation;
      - (ii) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation; and

1 (iii) elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes or clinical symptoms  
2 determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro  
inflammation.

3 '599 Patent at 19:37-20:5 (emphasis added).<sup>2</sup>

4 CreAgri argues that “comprising” and “comprised of” should be construed as permitting  
5 additional elements, and that, as a result, the terms should be construed as meaning “including but  
6 not limited to.” CreAgri’s Opening Claim Construction Brief (“CreAgri’s Opening Br.”) at 6.  
7 Notwithstanding the difference in the proposed language, Pinnaclife does not dispute that the term  
8 “comprising... allows for incorporation of additional elements not expressly identified in the  
9 claim.” See Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 7. Indeed, at the *Markman* hearing, both parties agreed to  
10 construe “comprising” and “comprised of” as “including but not limited to.” See ECF No. 62  
11 (Transcript of the February 8, 2013 *Markman* Hearing) (“Tr.”) at 37:20-24, 38:16-20. This  
12 construction is consistent with how the Federal Circuit has construed these terms. See, e.g., *CIAS,*  
13 *Inc. v. Alliance Gaming Corp.*, 504 F.3d 1356, 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2007) (“In the patent claim context  
14 the term ‘comprising’ is well understood to mean ‘including but not limited to.’” “The usual and  
15 generally consistent meaning of ‘comprised of,’ when it is used as a transition phrase, is, like  
16 ‘comprising,’ that the ensuing elements or steps are not limiting.”); see also Manual of Patent  
17 Examining Procedure (“MPEP”) § 2111.03 (“The transitional term ‘comprising’...is inclusive or  
18 open-ended and does not exclude additional, unrecited elements or method steps.”). Accordingly,  
19 the Court adopts CreAgri’s construction and construes “comprising” and “comprised of” as  
20 “including but not limited to.”

21 Pinnaclife raises two additional arguments in the context of construing “comprising” and  
22 “comprised of.” First, Pinnaclife argues that the use of “dietary supplement” in the preambles of  
23 independent Claims 1 and 5 imposes a limitation on the '808 Patent. See Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 8.  
24 Second, Pinnaclife argues that the weight ratios disclosed in Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent and

25 <sup>2</sup> In the Joint Claim Construction Statement, Pinnaclife also proposed a construction for the term  
26 “comprising” as used in Claim 16 of the '599 Patent. See ECF No. 43 at 3. This construction  
27 appears to have been abandoned in Pinnaclife’s claim construction briefing. See Pinnaclife’s Resp.  
28 at 6-7. At the *Markman* hearing, Pinnaclife confirmed that it no longer disputes the meaning of  
“comprising” as used in Claim 16 of the '599 Patent. See Tr. at 14:18-24. Accordingly, the Court  
only construes “comprising” or “comprised of” as used in Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent, and in  
Claim 1 of the '599 Patent.



1 Claim 1 of the '599 Patent apply to the “dietary supplement” and “treatment agent” respectively.  
 2 *See id.* at 12. The Court is not persuaded that these issues are related to the construction of  
 3 “comprising” and “comprised of.” At the *Markman* hearing, PinnacLife agreed that the issues  
 4 relating to the preamble and weight ratios did not necessarily need to be resolved in the context of  
 5 construing “comprising” and “comprised of,” so long as these issues are addressed. *See Tr.*  
 6 102:21-103:21. Therefore, the Court addresses these two issues below in separate sections.

7 **B. The Preamble “a dietary supplement”**

Term in Dispute	CreAgri’s Proposed Construction	PinnacLife’s Proposed Construction
The preamble “a dietary supplement”	The preamble “a dietary supplement” is not a claim limitation.	The preamble “a dietary supplement” limits all claims of the '808 Patent.

11 “A dietary supplement” is used as preambles in independent Claims 1 and 5 of the '808  
 12 Patent, as follows:

- 13 1. **A dietary supplement** comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a  
 14 weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 5:1 and about  
 15 200:1.
- 16 5. **A dietary supplement** comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a  
 17 weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1.

18 '808 Patent at 10:36-38, 10:48-50 (emphasis added).

19 PinnacLife argues that the preamble “a dietary supplement” imposes a limitation on all  
 20 claims of the '808 Patent. *See PinnacLife’s Resp.* at 8. CreAgri, on the other hand, contends that “a  
 21 dietary supplement” does not establish a limitation. *See CreAgri’s Reply Br.* at 5-6.

22 As an initial matter, the Court notes with disapproval that PinnacLife did not raise its  
 23 argument that the preamble is a claim limitation or disclose the evidence upon which it intended to  
 24 rely in the Joint Claim Construction Statement. Nevertheless, the Court believes that CreAgri was  
 25 able to adequately respond to PinnacLife’s arguments in CreAgri’s Reply and at the *Markman*  
 26 hearing. Thus, the Court will address this issue on the merits.

27 In general, a preamble limits the invention if it recites essential structure or steps, or if it is  
 28 “necessary to give life, meaning, and vitality” to the claim. *Catalina Mktg. Int’l, Inc. v.*  
*Coolsavings.com, Inc.*, 289 F.3d 801, 808 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Conversely, a preamble is not limiting

1 “where a patentee defines a structurally complete invention in the claim body and uses the  
2 preamble only to state a purpose or intended use for the invention.” *Id.* While there is no litmus  
3 test for determining when a preamble operates as a limitation, courts have provided certain  
4 “guideposts” or examples of circumstances in which a preamble may establish a claim limitation.  
5 These circumstances include when: (1) the “Jepson” form is used for a claim<sup>3</sup>; (2) the preamble is  
6 “essential to understand the limitations or terms in the claim body” (*e.g.* when a preamble phrase  
7 provides the antecedent basis for other terms in the claim body); (3) the preamble recites  
8 “additional structure or steps underscored as important by the specification”; and (4) a patentee  
9 clearly relies on the preamble during prosecution to distinguish the claimed invention from the  
10 prior art. *Id.*

11 Here, Pinnaclife makes several arguments regarding why the preamble “a dietary  
12 supplement” should be construed as limiting. First, citing *Catalina*, Pinnaclife argues that the  
13 preamble is limiting because it is “essential to understand the... terms in the... body” of dependent  
14 Claim 3. *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 9 (quoting *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808). Pinnaclife also argues  
15 that its proposed construction is supported by the specification. *See id.* Finally, Pinnaclife makes  
16 several arguments relating to the prosecution history. *See id.* at 9-11. The Court will address the  
17 claim language, specification, and prosecution history in turn.

### 18 1. Claim Language

19 First, Pinnaclife argues that the preamble of independent Claims 1 and 5 should be  
20 construed as limiting because dependent Claim 3 “incorporates the preamble into” the body of  
21 Claim 3. *See id.* at 9. Dependent Claim 3 states: “The dietary supplement of [C]laim 1, wherein  
22 *said supplement* is dried to provide a powder extract.” ‘808 Patent at 10:42-43 (emphasis added).  
23 Pinnaclife argues that the reference to “supplement” in Claim 3 “may only be understood with  
24 reference to the ‘dietary supplement’ preamble.” *See id.* at 9. Thus, Pinnaclife argues that because

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>3</sup> “A Jepson claim is to an improvement on an existing device, process[,] or combination, and  
27 includes (1) a preamble reciting conventional elements or steps, (2) a transition phrase such as  
28 ‘wherein the improvement comprises,’ and (3) the elements or steps the applicant considers to be  
new.” DONALD S. CHISUM ET AL., UNDERSTANDING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW 116 (2nd ed.  
2011); *see also* 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(e). Here, neither Claim 1 nor Claim 5 claims an improvement on  
an existing device, process, or combination. Thus, neither claim is a Jepson claim.

1 the preamble is “essential to understand the limitations or terms in the body” of Claim 3, it is  
2 limiting. *See id.* (quoting *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808). The Court is not persuaded by this argument.

3 *Catalina* did indeed recognize that a preamble may be limiting where the preamble  
4 provides the antecedent basis for a term in the claim body, such that the preamble is “essential to  
5 understand the limitations or term in the body.” *See Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808. Applying this  
6 principle, the *Catalina* Court found that the phrase “located at predesignated sites such as  
7 consumer stores” limited independent Claim 25. *See id.* at 810-11. Claim 25 provided for: “A  
8 system for controlling the selection and dispensing of product coupons at a plurality of remote  
9 terminals *located at predesignated sites such as consumer stores*, comprising: a plurality of free  
10 standing coupon display terminals *located at predesignated sites such as consumer stores*, each of  
11 said terminals being adapted for bidirectional data communication with a host central processing  
12 unit....” *Id.* at 806. The *Catalina* Court reasoned that because the phrase “located at predesignated  
13 sites such as consumer stores” appeared in both “the preamble and [the] body of” that claim, the  
14 preamble established a limitation. *See id.* at 810-11.

15 In the present case, the preamble “a dietary supplement” does not appear in the bodies of  
16 Claims 1 and 5. Indeed, Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent “define[.]... structurally complete  
17 invention[s].” *Id.* at 808. Specifically, Claims 1 and 5 describe compositions comprised of  
18 aqueous extracts with certain ratios of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol and  
19 tyrosol, respectively. The preamble phrase “a dietary supplement” does not provide any additional  
20 information about the structure of the compositions (*i.e.* its chemical components and their relative  
21 ratios). Accordingly, removing the preamble phrase would “not affect the structure” of the claimed  
22 compositions. *Id.* at 809 (“[T]he preamble generally is not limiting when the claim body describes  
23 a structurally complete invention such that deletion of the preamble phrase does not affect the  
24 structure or steps of the claimed invention.”). Thus, with respect to Claims 1 and 5, it appears that  
25 “the preamble only... state[s] a purpose or intended use for the invention.” *Id.* at 808. As set forth  
26 in *Catalina*, “preambles describing the use of an invention generally do not limit the claims  
27 because the patentability of apparatus or composition claims depends on the claimed structure, not  
28 on the use or purpose of that structure.” *Id.* at 809.

1           PinnacLife argues that the preamble “a dietary supplement” should, nevertheless, be  
2 construed as limiting because it appears in the preamble and the body of dependent Claim 3. *See*  
3 PinnacLife Resp. at 9. However, PinnacLife fails to cite, and the Court is unaware of, any authority  
4 for the proposition that a preamble phrase appearing in an independent claim should be construed  
5 as limiting that independent claim simply because that phrase appears in both the preamble and the  
6 body of a dependent claim. *Catalina* did not address this issue as the *Catalina* Court considered  
7 only whether the preamble found in independent Claim 25 was limiting where it appeared in both  
8 the preamble and the body of *that* claim. Thus, the Court is not persuaded that the preamble “a  
9 dietary supplement” should be construed as limiting Claims 1 and 5 (or the Patent as a whole)  
10 simply because it appears in the preamble and the body of dependent Claim 3. The claim language  
11 therefore does not support PinnacLife’s argument that the preamble is limiting. Furthermore, as  
12 well be discussed below, the specification confirms that compositions claimed in the ’808 Patent  
13 were not intended to be limited to uses as dietary supplements.<sup>4</sup>

## 14                           2.       **Specification**

15           PinnacLife also argues that several elements of the specification support PinnacLife’s  
16 construction that the preamble is limiting. *See* PinnacLife’s Resp. at 9. As explained in *Catalina*, a  
17 preamble may be limiting where it recites “additional structure or steps underscored as important  
18 by the specification.” *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808. Here, PinnacLife argues that “dietary  
19 supplement” should be construed as limiting because the Abstract states that: “The invention  
20 provides an olive-derived *dietary supplement* comprising hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein in specific  
21 weight ratios.” ’808 Patent Abstract. Similarly, the Summary of the Invention states that “the  
22 invention includes a dietary supplement.” *Id.* at 3:43-54. Finally, PinnacLife notes that the section  
23

---

24  
25 <sup>4</sup> PinnacLife also argues that Dependent Claims 2 and 6 “do not stand as complete inventions  
26 without reading ‘supplement’ or ‘dietary supplement’ as part of the claim.” PinnacLife’s Resp. at 9.  
27 PinnacLife argues that this supports the conclusion that the preamble in Claim 1 is limiting. *See id.*  
28 Even accepting *arguendo* that Claims 2 and 6 did not “stand as complete inventions without  
reading ‘supplement’ or dietary supplement’ as part of the claim,” *id.*, PinnacLife fails to cite any  
authority for the proposition that a preamble phrase contained in an independent claim limits the  
independent claim if a dependent claim cannot “stand as a complete invention[.]” without  
referencing the preamble phrase.

1 disclosing the composition is titled “Hydroxytyrosol-Rich *Dietary Supplement*.” *id.* at 7:28  
2 (emphasis added).

3 The Court finds these references to the specification unpersuasive. None of the references  
4 “underscore[s]” that the dietary supplement use of the composition is an important part of the  
5 composition’s structure. *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808. The statement in the Abstract describes the  
6 composition as being “compris[ed] [of] hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein in specific weight ratios.”  
7 ’808 Patent Abstract. Like Claims 1 and 5 (discussed *supra*), the reference to a “dietary  
8 supplement” in the first portion of the Abstract sentence describes a possible use of the  
9 composition. *Id.* Similarly, the statement in the Summary of the Invention that “the invention  
10 includes a dietary supplement” does not clearly indicate that the composition’s use was meant to be  
11 limited to dietary supplements. *Id.* at 3:43-54 (emphasis).

12 Finally, and most significantly, the first sentence in the portion of the specification titled  
13 “Hydroxytyrosol-Rich Dietary Supplement” explicitly states that use as a dietary supplement is but  
14 one possible use for the invention: “III. Hydroxytyrosol-Rich Dietary Supplement. It should be  
15 appreciated that hydroxytyrosol produced by the method described above may be used for a *variety*  
16 of applications. For example...: (i) as a natural anti-bacterial, anti-viral and/or fungicidal product  
17 for agricultural and/or pest control applications, and (ii) as a therapeutic and/or an anti-oxidant for  
18 a variety of health purposes.” *See* ’808 Patent at 7:30-38 (emphasis added). Thus, rather than  
19 supporting Pinnaclife’s construction, the specification supports CreAgri’s position that the  
20 invention is not limited to use as a dietary supplement. The Court next addresses Pinnaclife’s  
21 arguments regarding the prosecution history.

### 22 3. Prosecution History

23 Pinnaclife argues that the prosecution history supports its argument that the preamble  
24 should be limiting. Indeed, a preamble may be limiting where the inventor has “clear[ly] reli[ed]  
25 on the preamble during prosecution to distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art.”  
26 *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808. Pinnaclife makes three arguments relating to the prosecution history.  
27 None of these arguments is persuasive. The Court addresses each argument in turn.  
28

1 With respect to the prosecution history, PinnacLife first argues that in describing the  
2 Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner stated: “WO 00/36936, is cited to show further the state of  
3 the art with respect to *dietary supplement compositions* comprising aqueous extracts of tyrosol and  
4 hydroxytyrosol.” Marshall Decl., Ex. E at 2 (emphasis added). PinnacLife argues that this  
5 statement indicates that the Patent Examiner considered prior art relating to dietary supplements in  
6 granting the ’808 Patent. PinnacLife’s Resp. at 11. The Court disagrees. While the Reasons for  
7 Allowance indicate that the Patent Examiner considered other dietary supplements in granting the  
8 ’808 Patent, in the same document, the examiner explicitly states that the ’808 Patent was granted  
9 because it claimed unique mixtures of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol.  
10 See Marshall Decl., Ex. E (stating that the claim was allowed because “[n]one of the prior art  
11 references teaches or suggests the weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol  
12 to tyrosol as are instantly claimed”). Thus, the examiners’ Reasons for Allowance fail to  
13 demonstrate that the dietary supplement use of the product was essential in distinguishing the  
14 invention from the prior art such that it may be inferred that CreAgri “clear[ly] reli[ed]” on the  
15 supplement’s dietary use in order to obtain its patent. *Catalina*, 289 F.3d at 808.

16 PinnacLife’s second prosecution history related argument concerns the patent Abstract.  
17 PinnacLife notes that the portion of the Abstract reading “The invention provides olive-derived  
18 hydroxytyrosol” was changed to “The invention provides *an olive-derived dietary supplement*  
19 *comprising hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein in specific weight ratios.*” See Storey Decl., Ex. 7 at 18  
20 (the emphasized terms represent the additions). Furthermore, the Abstract was revised to eliminate  
21 certain language referring to certain non-dietary uses of the claimed invention including “as a  
22 natural anti-bacterial, anti-viral[,] and fungicidal product.” *Id.*

23 These amendments to the Abstract fail to demonstrate the sort of clear reliance that would  
24 warrant construing the preamble as limiting. PinnacLife has adduced no evidence suggesting that  
25 the amendments were made to help distinguish the ’808 Patent from prior art. See *Textron*  
26 *Innovations Inc. v. American Eurocopter Corp.*, No. 2011-1309, 2012 WL 3871717, at \*29 (Fed.  
27 Cir. Sept. 7, 2012) (holding that amendment to claim to add the term “replacement” did not limit  
28 claim where “the amended application was silent as to why the term ‘replacement’ was added...

1 [and] [t]here was no express statement... that the term ‘replacement’ was added to overcome the  
2 rejection by limiting the invention to replacement parts only.”<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the Court finds that  
3 the amendments to the Abstract do not support the conclusion that the invention was intended to be  
4 limited to dietary supplement uses.

5 PinnacLife makes one final argument regarding the prosecution history. *See* PinnacLife’s  
6 Resp. at 10-11. PinnacLife notes that the original application for the ‘808 Patent included three  
7 different categories of claims. *See id.* The first two categories claimed: (1) a process of acidifying  
8 vegetation water to produce a hydroxytyrosol-rich composition (*see* Storey Decl., Ex. 7, Claims 1-  
9 9), and (2) a process of extracting a hydroxytyrosol-rich composition (*see id.*, Claims 10-16)  
10 (collectively with Claims 1-9, the “Method Claims”). The third category claimed a “dietary  
11 supplement” with a certain composition. *See id.*, Claims 17-22 (“Composition Claims”). The  
12 Method Claims were deleted from the ‘808 Patent during the course of prosecution leaving only  
13 the Composition Claims, which are Claims 1-6 in the final ‘808 Patent.<sup>6</sup> PinnacLife argues that the  
14 inventor’s decision to use the term “dietary supplement” rather than the term “hydroxytyrosol-rich  
15 composition” in the Composition Claims was deliberate and “for reasons relating to the prior art”  
16 such that it may be inferred that the use of the term “dietary supplement” in the preambles was  
17 intended to be limiting. *See* PinnacLife’s Resp. at 11. The Court is not persuaded. PinnacLife  
18 provides no evidence or basis for its assertion that the term “dietary supplement” was used for  
19 reasons relating to the prior art. Consequently, this argument fails. Thus, the Court concludes that  
20 the patentee has not “clear[ly] reli[ed] on the preamble during prosecution to distinguish the  
21 claimed invention from the prior art.” *Id.*, 289 F.3d at 808.

22 For the reasons set forth above, the Court finds that the preambles “a dietary supplement”  
23 do not establish a limitation on the claim.

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>5</sup> Moreover, the Court notes that when the Abstract was amended to eliminate the language relating  
26 to non-dietary uses, it was also amended to eliminate language describing certain dietary uses. *See*  
27 Storey Decl., Ex. 7 at 18 (striking “it is useful as a therapeutic and anti-oxidant for a variety of  
28 health purposes”).

<sup>6</sup> As set forth *supra*, the Method Claims were removed from the ‘808 Patent during prosecution  
pursuant to a restriction requirement. PinnacLife’s Resp., Ex. D. Many of the Method Claims (or  
claims similar to the Method Claims) were incorporated into a separate patent, *see* U.S. Patent No.  
7,261,909, and into a continuation of the ‘808 Patent, *see* U.S. Patent No. 7,713,569.

C. Weight Ratios Claimed in the '808 Patent

Term in Dispute	CreAgri's Proposed Construction	Pinnaclife's Proposed Construction
Weight ratios claimed in the '808 Patent	<p>In Claim 1 of the '808 Patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein applies to the "aqueous extract of olives," not to the "dietary supplement."</p> <p>In Claim 5 of the '808 Patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol applies to the "aqueous extract of olives," not to the "dietary supplement."</p>	<p>In Claim 1 of the '808 Patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein applies to the "dietary supplement."</p> <p>In Claim 5 of the '808 Patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol applies to the "dietary supplement."</p>

Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent describe certain weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein and hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol, as follows:

1. A dietary supplement comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a **weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein<sup>7</sup> of between about 5:1 and about 200:1.**
5. A dietary supplement comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a **weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1.**

'808 Patent at 10:36-38, 10:48-50 (emphasis added).

CreAgri argues that the weight ratios of the chemical compounds described in Claims 1 and 5 apply to the aqueous extract, but not to the dietary supplement. CreAgri's Opening Br. at 7-8. In other words, while the aqueous extract must contain the chemical compounds according to the claimed weight ratios, the dietary supplement need not. Pinnaclife, on the other hand, argues that

<sup>7</sup> The Court notes that the claims in the '808 Patent refer to "oleuropein" whereas the claims in the '599 Patent refer to "oleuropein." See '808 Patent at 10:35-39; '599 Patent at 19:45. However, the definition for "oleuropein" in the '808 Patent indicates that it is the same chemical as the "oleuropein" referred to in the '599 Patent. See '808 Patent at 4:22-23 (defining "oleuropein" as "secoiridoid glucoside oleuropein (Structure II in FIG. 1)") (emphasis in original); '599 Patent at 5:15-16 (defining "oleuropein" as "secoiridoid glucoside oleuropein (Structure II in FIG. 1)") (emphasis in original); '808 Patent, Fig. 1, Structure II; '599 Patent, Fig. 1, Structure II. Moreover, the parties use "oleuropein" in their discussion of the '808 Patent. See e.g. CreAgri's Opening Claim Construction Brief at 2 ("The '808 Patent... is generally directed towards water-soluble dietary supplements that contain certain claimed ratios [sic] hydroxytyrosol to *oleuropein* or tyrosol.") (emphasis added); *id.* at 5, 7. Consequently, the Court uses the terms "oleuropein" and "oleuropein" interchangeably.



1 the weight ratios in Claims 1 and 5 should apply to the dietary supplement.<sup>8</sup> Pinnaclife's Resp. at  
2 11-12.

3 As will be set forth below, the Court finds that CreAgri's construction is supported by the  
4 claim language, but that the specification and the prosecution history fail to affirmatively support  
5 either parties' construction. Below, the Court addresses the claim language, specification, and  
6 prosecution history in turn.

### 7 1. Claim Language

8 As an initial matter, the Court finds that the claim language supports CreAgri's proposed  
9 construction. In Claims 1 and 5, the restrictive phrases "containing a weight ratio," follow  
10 immediately after "aqueous extract of olives" (*see* '808 Patent at 10:36-38, 10:48-50), which  
11 suggests that the weight ratios apply to the "aqueous extract." If the weight ratios were intended to  
12 apply to the "dietary supplement," additional language could have been included to make this clear.  
13 For example, the claim language could have read "[a] dietary supplement comprising an aqueous  
14 extract of olives [*and*] containing a weight ratio." *See id.* Thus, the plain language of Claims 1 and  
15 5 supports CreAgri's proposed construction wherein the weight ratios apply to the aqueous extract.

16 In Pinnaclife's brief, Pinnaclife argues that the language of dependent Claims 2 and 6,  
17 which depend on Claims 1 and 5 respectively, support the conclusion that the weight ratios  
18 described in Claims 1 and 5 apply to the dietary supplement. *See* Pinnaclife's Resp. at 11-12.  
19 Claims 2 and 6 read:

- 20 2. The supplement of claim 1, which has a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to  
21 oleuropein of between about 10:1 and about 100:1.
- 22 6. The dietary supplement of claim 5, containing a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol  
23 and tyrosol of between about 5:1 and about 30:1.

24 '808 Patent at 10:39-41; 10:51-54. Pinnaclife argues that since Dependent Claims 2 and 6 serve to  
25 further limit the weight ratios of the chemical compounds contained in the dietary supplement, the

---

26 <sup>8</sup> Pinnaclife argues that, because the preambles are meant to serve as a limitation on Claims 1 and  
27 5, "it is... clear that the dietary supplement must comprise the claimed weight ratios of" chemical  
28 compounds. Pinnaclife's Resp. at 12. As set forth above, the Court has concluded that the  
preambles in Claims 1 and 5 were not meant to serve as a limitation on Claims 1 and 5.  
Furthermore, even if the preambles were meant to be limiting, it would not necessarily follow that  
the dietary supplement must be comprised of the claimed weight ratios.

1 weight ratios in Claims 1 and 5 must necessarily apply to the dietary supplement. *See* Pinnacliffe’s  
2 Resp. at 12. The Court disagrees.

3 As set forth above, Claim 1 claims:

4 A dietary supplement comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a weight  
5 ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 5:1 and about 200:1.

6 ’808 Patent at 10:36-38.

7 Claim 2 claims:

8 The supplement of claim 1, which has a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to  
9 oleuropein of between about 10:1 and about 100:1.

10 *Id.* at 10:39-41

11 The Court observes that because the dietary supplement described in Claim 1 is  
12 “compris[ed]” of the aqueous extract (’808 Patent at 10:36), the dietary supplement may have the  
13 same ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein as the aqueous extract. Thus, under CreAgri’s  
14 proposed construction, wherein the ratio applies to the aqueous extract, Claim 1 would encompass  
15 dietary supplements “containing a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about  
16 5:1 and about 200:1.” *Id.* at 10:36-39. The dietary supplement claimed in Claim 2 has a narrower  
17 ratio (between 10:1 and 100:1) than the ratio described in Claim 1 (between 5:1 and 200:1). Thus,  
18 under CreAgri’s construction wherein the ratio applies to the aqueous extract as opposed to the  
19 supplement, the dietary supplement in Claim 2 is still within the scope of Claim 1.

20 The same is true with respect to Claims 5 and 6. Claim 5 claims:

21 A dietary supplement comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a weight  
22 ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1.

23 *Id.* at 10:48-50.

24 Claim 6 claims:

25 A dietary supplement comprising an aqueous extract of olives containing a weight  
26 ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 5:1 and about 30:1.

27 *Id.* at 10:51-54.

28 Because the dietary supplement described in Claim 5 is “compris[ed]” of the aqueous  
extract (’808 Patent at 10:36), the dietary supplement may have the same ratio of hydroxytyrosol  
and oleuropein as the aqueous extract. Thus, if the Court adopts CreAgri’s construction wherein

1 the weight ratio described in Claim 5 applies to the aqueous extract, Claim 5 would encompass  
2 within its scope dietary supplements with a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between  
3 about 3:1 and about 50:1. The ratio of the supplement described in Claim 6 is narrower (“between  
4 about 5:1 and 30:1”) (*see id.* at 10:52-54) than the ratio described in Claim 5. Thus, under  
5 CreAgri’s proposed construction, the supplement in Claim 6 would still be encompassed within the  
6 scope of Claim 5. Thus, Pinnaclife’s argument fails.

7 Ultimately, given that the language of Claims 1 and 5 suggest that the weight ratios apply to  
8 the aqueous extract and that Pinnaclife has failed to show that Claims 2 and 6 would be excluded  
9 by CreAgri’s proposed construction, the Court finds that the claim language supports CreAgri’s  
10 construction. Next, the Court examines the patent specification.

## 11 2. Specification

12 The patent specification does not affirmatively support either parties’ construction. On the  
13 one hand, the Abstract states: “The invention provides an olive-derived *dietary supplement*  
14 comprising hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein *in specific weight ratios.*” ’808 Patent Abstract  
15 (emphasis added); *see Hill-Rom Co., Inc. v. Kinetic Concepts, Inc.*, 209 F.3d 1337, 1341 (Fed. Cir.  
16 2000) (“[Courts] have frequently looked to the abstract to determine the scope of the invention...”)  
17 (citation omitted). Thus, the Abstract seems to support Pinnaclife’s construction.<sup>9</sup> On the other  
18 hand, in another part of the specification, the ’808 Patent explicitly discloses an aqueous extract  
19 containing hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein, or hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol, at the weight ratios  
20 described in Claims 1 and 5. *See* ’808 Patent at 7:50-56 (“[t]he aqueous...extracts can be  
21 formulated to contain various weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between 5:1 and  
22 200:1... [or] hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1”). There is no  
23 similar disclosure about the dietary supplement. In light of this conflicting language, the  
24 specification fails to provide convincing support for either parties’ proposed construction.

25  
26  
27 <sup>9</sup> However, the Court notes that the Abstract is silent about the weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and  
28 tyrosol, the two ingredients in the composition claimed in Claim 5. Accordingly, the Abstract may  
not even be relevant to the question of whether the weight ratio in Claim 5 applies to the  
supplement or the aqueous extract.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18

### 3. Prosecution History

The prosecution history of the '808 Patent also fails to conclusively support either party's construction. The Notice of Allowability states that the '808 Patent was allowed because "[n]one of the prior art references teaches or suggests the weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol as are instantly claimed." See Pinnaclife's Ex. E, ECF No. 49-6 at 3. Thus, the unique weight ratios claimed in the '808 Patent were essential in distinguishing it from the prior art. However, whether the examiner was talking about weight ratios of the chemical compounds as contained in the dietary supplement or, alternatively, in the aqueous extract is ambiguous. Other portions of the prosecution history likewise fail to clarify this point. Thus, the prosecution history fails to provide guidance as to whether the weight ratios apply to the supplement or the extract.

Because the language of Claims 1 and 5 supports CreAgri's construction, and the specification and prosecution history are ambiguous, the Court adopts CreAgri's construction that the claimed weight ratios in Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent apply to the "aqueous extract of olives," not to the "dietary supplement." See *DSW, Inc. v. Shoe Pavilion, Inc.*, 537 F.3d 1342, 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2008) ("[A]bsent contravening evidence from the specification or prosecution history, plain and unambiguous claim language controls the construction analysis.").

#### D. Weight Ratio Claimed in the '599 Patent

Term in Dispute	CreAgri's Proposed Construction	Pinnaclife's Proposed Construction
Weight ratios claimed in the '599 Patent	In Claim 1 of the '599 Patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein applies to the "olive plant extract," not to the "first treatment agent."	In Claim 1 of the '599 patent, the claimed weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein applies to the "first treatment agent."

23  
24  
25

Claim 1 of the '599 Patent also describes a certain weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein. The relevant part of the claim language reads:

26  
27  
28

...administering to the subject a dose corresponding to between about 0.1 mg/kg body weight and 2000 mg/kg body weight daily of a first treatment agent comprised of an olive plant extract having a **weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1**; and...

1 '599 Patent at 19:41-46 (emphasis added).

2 PinnacLife argues that the weight ratio applies to the “first treatment agent.” *See*  
3 PinnacLife’s Resp. at 13. PinnacLife argues that the claim language is ambiguous as to whether the  
4 weight ratio applies to the “treatment agent” or to the “olive plant extract.” *Id.* PinnacLife contends  
5 that it is, nevertheless, clear that the weight ratio applies to the treatment agent because the  
6 specification “repeatedly [describes] the treatment agent, and not the olive plant extract, as having  
7 the claimed weight ratio....” *Id.*

8 CreAgri argues that the weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein described in Claim 1  
9 of the '599 Patent applies to the “olive plant extract.” *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 8. CreAgri  
10 argues that the claim language only requires that the olive plant extract have the claimed weight  
11 ratio. *See id.* CreAgri also contends that PinnacLife’s argument that the weight ratio should be  
12 construed as applying to the treatment agent because the weight ratio is described as applying to  
13 the treatment agent in the specification is, in essence, an attempt to “limit[] the claimed  
14 invention... [based on the] preferred embodiments... in the specification.” CreAgri’s Reply at 8.  
15 (quoting *Verizon Services Corp. v. Vonage Holdings Corp.*, 503 F.3d 1295, 1302-03 (Fed. Cri.  
16 2007)). For the reasons set forth below, the Court concludes that CreAgri’s construction is correct.

17 As an initial matter, the Court agrees with CreAgri that the claim language supports  
18 CreAgri’s proposed construction. Similar to Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent, the weight ratio in  
19 Claim 1 of the '599 Patent immediately follows “olive plant extract.” *See* '599 Patent at 19:43-45  
20 (“first treatment agent comprised of an olive plant extract having a weight ratio of....”). There is  
21 no intervening language to suggest that the weight ratio was meant to apply to the first treatment  
22 agent. For example, Claim 1 does not state “a first treatment agent comprised of an olive plant  
23 extract [*and*] having a weight ratio of....” *Id.* Thus, the claim language is most consistent with  
24 CreAgri’s proposed construction. Next, the Court considers the specification.

25 PinnacLife argues that its construction should be adopted in part because the specification  
26 describes the weight ratio as applying to the treatment agent. *See* PinnacLife’s Resp. at 13. The  
27 Court is not persuaded. The claimed weight ratio appears a total of four times in the specification.  
28 On three of those occasions, the specification describes the weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to

1 oleuropein as applying to “[the] treatment agent,” as opposed to “an olive extract.”<sup>10</sup> Of these three  
2 instances, one is particularly supportive of Pinnaclife’s construction. The language is as follows:

3 Summary of the Invention... In one embodiment, the weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol  
4 to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1. In another embodiment, the  
5 weight ratio is between about 5:1 and about 100:1. In yet another embodiment, the  
6 weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein is between about 10:1 and about  
7 50:1.

8 ’599 Patent at 2:38-44. This example is noteworthy because the referenced weight ratios (1:1 and  
9 about 200:1, 5:1 and about 100:1, and 10:1 and about 50:1), correspond exactly to the weight ratios  
10 described in the claims. *See id.* at 19:43-46 (claiming as Claim 1 a “method comprising:  
11 administering... a first treatment agent comprised of an olive plant extract having a weight ratio of  
12 hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1”); *id.* at 20:6-7 (claiming as  
13 dependent Claim 2, “[t]he method of claim 1, wherein said weight ratio is between about 5:1 and  
14 about 100:1); *id.* at 20:8-9 (claiming as dependent Claim 3, “[t]he method of claim 2, wherein said  
15 weight ratio is between about 10:1 and about 50:1”). The fact that the three embodiments in the  
16 specification that correspond so closely to Claims 1, 2, and 3 describe the weight ratios as applying  
17 to the treatment agent as opposed to the olive plant extract suggests that the weight ratio set forth in  
18 Claim 1 applies to the treatment agent.

19 Nevertheless, the Federal Circuit has cautioned that “though understanding the claim  
20 language may be aided by the explanations contained in the written description, it is important not  
21 to import into a claim limitations that are not a part of the claim.” *SuperGuide Corp. v. DirecTV*  
22 *Enterprises, Inc.*, 358 F.3d 870, 875 (Fed. Cir. 2004). Thus, even if all the embodiments described  
23 in the specification include a certain limitation, the claims should not be construed as including this  
24 limitation unless the specification “expressly or by clear implication restrict[s] the scope of the  
25 invention.” *Liebel-Flarsheim Co. v. Medrad, Inc.*, 358 F.3d 898, 908 (Fed. Cir. 2004); *id.* at 906

25 <sup>10</sup> *See* ’599 Patent at 7:56-58 (“In one aspect, the invention method comprises administering to a  
26 subject... an effective amount of a *treatment agent* having a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to  
27 oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1.”), 13:21-23 (“A dose of an *olive plant extract*  
28 *treatment agent* having a weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and  
about 200:1...” (emphasis added); *but see id.* at 3:15-18 (“The method includes administering to  
the subject a dose of an *olive plant extract treatment agent*. In one embodiment, *the extract* has a  
weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1”).

1 (“Even when the specification describes only a single embodiment, the claims of the patent will not  
2 be read restrictively unless the patentee has demonstrated a clear intention to limit the claim scope  
3 using ‘words or expressions of manifest exclusion or restriction.’”).

4 Here, as set forth above, the language of Claim 1 indicates that it is sufficient for the olive  
5 plant extract to have the claimed ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein. If the Court were to  
6 nevertheless construe the weight ratio as limiting the treatment agent because the embodiments in  
7 the specification limit the treatment agent, the Court would be improperly limiting the claim based  
8 on the specification. *See e.g. SuperGuide*, 358 F.3d at 875.<sup>11</sup> Accordingly, the Court declines to  
9 hold that the weight ratio applies to the treatment agent simply because the embodiments set forth  
10 in the specification apply weight ratios to the treatment agent.

11 Thus, the Court concludes that CreAgri’s construction, wherein the weight ratio applies to  
12 the “olive plant extract,” is correct.

13 **E. “aqueous extract of olives”**

Term in Dispute	CreAgri’s Proposed Construction	Pinnaclife’s Proposed Construction
“aqueous extract of olives”	“a water-soluble preparation from an olive plant”	“an aqueous solution containing water-soluble compounds obtained by washing and pressing olive fruit”  As used in the ’808 Patent, “an aqueous extract” is not an “aqueous-alcoholic extract.” A powder is not an “aqueous extract.”

14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20 The term “aqueous extract of olives” appears in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent, as  
21 follows:

- 22 1. A dietary supplement comprising an **aqueous extract of olives** containing a  
23 weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 5:1 and about  
24 200:1.

25 <sup>11</sup> The Court also notes that the embodiments in the specification -- *i.e.* those where the weight  
26 ratio applies to the treatment agent -- are not inconsistent with a construction of the claim in which  
27 the weight ratio applies to the olive plant extract. The olive plant extract is the source of  
28 hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein in the treatment agent. Thus, conceivably, the treatment agent may  
have the same ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein as the olive plant extract. Consequently,  
CreAgri’s construction, which construes the ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein as applying to  
the olive plant extract, does not exclude the embodiments described in the specification (*i.e.* those  
where the treatment agent contains the claimed ratio of hydroxytyrosol and oleuropein).

1           5. A dietary supplement comprising an **aqueous extract of olives** containing a  
2           weight ratio of hydroxytyrosol and tyrosol of between about 3:1 and about 50:1.

3           ’808 Patent at 10:36-38, 10:48-50 (emphasis added).

4           While ostensibly seeking a construction of a single term “aqueous extract of olives,” the  
5           parties’ constructions raise three issues. First, the parties dispute whether “aqueous extract” must  
6           be a solution, or whether it may be a dry or powder extract which was derived using water. *See*  
7           Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 14 (arguing that the “aqueous extract” must be a solution); CreAgri’s Opening  
8           Br. at 10 (arguing that the “aqueous extract” may be a dry powder). Second, the parties dispute  
9           whether the “olive” component of the “aqueous extract” must be derived from the olive fruit, or  
10          whether it may be derived from any part of the olive plant. *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 16 (arguing  
11          that the olive component must be obtained from the olive fruit); CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 12-13  
12          (arguing that the olive component may be derived from any part of the olive plant). Finally, the  
13          parties dispute whether the “olive” component must be obtained by “washing and pressing.” *See*  
14          Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 16 (arguing that the olive component must be obtained by “washing and  
15          pressing”); CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 12 (arguing that the ’808 Patent does not limit the method by  
16          which the olive component is obtained). The Court addresses each of these issues in turn.

17                   **1. “Aqueous” Means a Solution**

18          The parties’ dispute whether “aqueous extract” may be of a powdered form. Pinnaclife  
19          contends that the use of the term “aqueous” implies that the extract must be in a “watery” (*i.e.*  
20          liquid) form. Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 14. Pinnaclife argues that its construction is supported by the  
21          specification, which indicates that the aqueous extract is a solution. *See id.* at 15.

22          CreAgri argues that “aqueous extract” may refer to a powdered extract so long as it is  
23          derived from water. *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 11. CreAgri contends that the word “aqueous”  
24          merely describes the origin of the compound, meaning that it was collected in water, rather than  
25          describing the current state of the compound. *See id.* at 9, 11. CreAgri argues that interpreting the  
26          term aqueous extract as requiring a watery or liquid substance would exclude dependent Claim 3.  
27          *See id.* at 11. At the *Markman* hearing, CreAgri also argued that dependent Claim 4 supports its  
28          construction. *See* Tr. at 108:1-6. Finally, CreAgri argues in its briefs that the extrinsic evidence,



1 specifically the dictionary definition of “aqueous,” supports CreAgri’s proposed construction. *See*  
2 CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 10.

3 The Court finds that Pinnaclife’s proposed construction is correct based on the  
4 specification. The Court is not persuaded by CreAgri’s arguments that CreAgri’s interpretation is  
5 necessary so as not to exclude Claim 3 or CreAgri’s argument that its interpretation must be  
6 adopted based on the extrinsic evidence. Below, the Court addresses: (1) Pinnaclife’s arguments  
7 regarding the specification; (2) CreAgri’s arguments regarding dependent Claims 3 and 4; and (3)  
8 CreAgri’s arguments regarding the extrinsic evidence.

9 **a. Specification**

10 As an initial matter, the Court agrees with Pinnaclife that its construction is the most  
11 consistent with the specification. *See In re Abbott Diabetes Care Inc.* (“*Abbott*”), 696 F.3d 1142,  
12 1149 (Fed. Cir. 2012) (“Although the PTO emphasizes that it was required to give all claims their  
13 broadest reasonable construction, ... this court has instructed that any such construction be  
14 consistent with the specification.”); *see also Burlington Indus., Inc. v. Dayco Corp.*, 849 F.2d 1418,  
15 1421 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (“[I]t is said the inventor may be his own lexicographer...But he must use  
16 his words consistently in the claims and in the specifications.”). The term “aqueous extract”  
17 appears three times in the specification.<sup>12</sup> In two of those instances, the specification merely  
18 recites the claim language. *See* ’808 Patent at 3:43-51. The third instance, however, is  
19 enlightening. It reads:

20 Oral dosage forms [of hydroxytyrosol] can be in solid or liquid form. Such dosage  
21 forms can be formulated from purified hydroxytyrosol or they can be formulated  
22 from *aqueous or aqueous-alcoholic extracts*. Regarding the latter, *aqueous or*  
*aqueous-alcoholic...extracts can be spray-dried to provide a dry powder* that can be  
formulated into oral dosage forms with other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

23 ’808 Patent at 7:41-50 (emphasis added). The fact that the aqueous extract must be *dried to*  
24

25  
26 <sup>12</sup> Although not directly using the term “aqueous extract,” the Background of the Invention also  
27 states that “it is desirable to develop a method which produces an *aqueous olive extract* with a high  
28 percentage of hydroxytyrosol.” ’808 Patent at 2:52-54 (emphasis added). This statement,  
however, does not provide sufficient information to be of assistance in resolving the parties’  
dispute.

1 provide a dry powder suggests the aqueous extract itself is not already in a dry form. *See id.*<sup>13</sup>

2 Notably, CreAgri appears to read the aforementioned statement regarding the spray-drying  
3 of the aqueous extract into a dry power as an indication that the aqueous extract may be dry. *See*  
4 CreAgri's Opening Br. at 10 (citing '808 Patent at 7:42-50). Indeed, the Court might agree with  
5 CreAgri if the specification continued to refer to the extract as "aqueous extract" after the point of  
6 spray-drying. However, the sentences following the spray-drying sentence address additional  
7 characteristics of the aqueous extract and do not indicate whether the extract would continue to be  
8 referred to as an "aqueous" extract after spray-drying.<sup>14</sup>

9 The Court also notes that, to the extent the specification uses adjectives to describe dry  
10 forms of the extract, the specification uses the adjectives "dried" or "powder." For example, the  
11 specification states that "the vegetation water of isolated hydroxytyrosol [may be used] to produce  
12 a *dried* extract." '808 Patent at 3:10-11 (emphasis added). In another instance, the specification  
13 states that: "The above supplements may be dried to provide a *powder* extract, which can [be]  
14 formulated into a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive." *Id.* at 3:52-54 (emphasis  
15 added). These uses suggest that, where the inventor intended to refer to a dry extract, the inventor  
16 referred to it using a term other than aqueous extract.

17 Thus, the Court finds that the specification supports Pinnaclife's proposed construction  
18 wherein the use of the term "aqueous" implies that the extract must be in a watery or liquid form.<sup>15</sup>

19  
20 <sup>13</sup> Indeed, definitions of spray-drying expressly state that the substance being spray-dried must be a  
21 fluid. *See Perry's Chemical Engineers' Handbook*, 7th Edition (1997) (defining spray-drying as  
22 "[f]eed solids in a *fluid state* (solution, gel, paste, emulsion, slurry, or melt) are dispersed in a gas  
23 and converted to granular solid products by heat.") (emphasis added); *Hawley's Condensed*  
24 *Chemical Dictionary*, 13th Edition (1997) (defining "spray-dry" as "drying solids by spraying  
25 *solutions of them* into a heated chamber.") (emphasis added).

26 <sup>14</sup> For example, the sentence in the specification following the spray-drying sentence provides that  
27 the "aqueous extract" may be "formulated to contain various weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to  
28 oleoeuropein." '808 Patent at 7:50-53. It gives no indication as to whether an extract that has been  
spray-dried would continue to be an "aqueous" extract.

<sup>15</sup> At the *Markman* hearing, when asked what part of the specification supported its construction  
that "aqueous extract" may be dry, CreAgri pointed to 8:28-34 of the '808 Patent. *See* Tr. 106:8-  
10. It reads "[Parenteral formulations] are commonly prepared as sterile injectable solutions, using  
a parenterally acceptable carrier such as isotonic saline solution or as a sterile packaged powder  
prepared for reconstitution with sterile buffer or isotonic saline prior to administration to a  
subject." While this paragraph appears to disclose a "powder," nowhere does it make clear that the  
"aqueous extract" is the powder.

**b. Dependent Claims 3 and 4**

1 CreAgri argues that construing “aqueous extract” as a solution would exclude Dependent  
2 Claim 3. *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 11. Claim 3 reads:

3 The supplement of claim 1, wherein said supplement *is dried* to provide a powder  
4 extract.

5 ’808 Patent at 10:42-43 (emphasis added). Citing to the principle that a dependent claim must  
6 “include every limitation of the claim from which it depends...”, CreAgri contends that, if Claim 1  
7 is construed as including a limitation pursuant to which the extract must be a liquid, Claim 3 will  
8 be excluded because it does not include this limitation, but instead permits a dry, “powder extract.”  
9 *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 11 (quoting MPEP § 608.01). The Court is not persuaded.

10 Claim 3 does not indicate that the “aqueous extract” may be a dry powder. For example,  
11 Claim 3 does not state that “the supplement of claim 1, wherein said aqueous extract is a powder  
12 extract.” Instead, Claim 3 specifies that the dietary supplement in Claim 1 may be *dried*. This is  
13 entirely consistent with the interpretation that “aqueous extract” is a solution. Claim 3 simply  
14 implies that the supplement, which is comprised of an aqueous extract, may become a “powder  
15 extract” after undergoing a drying process.<sup>16</sup> Claim 3 does not imply that the aqueous extract is dry  
16 in its original form. Claim 3 therefore does not omit the limitation that the aqueous extract is a  
17 liquid.<sup>17</sup> Thus, construing Claim 1 as requiring a liquid extract would not exclude Claim 3.

18 At the *Markman* hearing, CreAgri argued, for the first time, that dependent Claim 4 also  
19 supports CreAgri’s proposed construction. *See* Tr. 108:1-6. Claim 4 recites, “The dietary  
20 supplement of claim 1, wherein said extract is in the form of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection  
21 food additive.” ’808 Patent at 10:45-47. The only extract to which Claim 1 refers is the “aqueous  
22 extract.” It could be argued that because Claim 4 indicates that the extract may be in the form of a  
23 tablet, which is dry, then the aqueous extract may be dry, as opposed to a solution. The Court is  
24

25  
26 <sup>16</sup> Notably, the language of Claim 3 states the “*supplement*” becomes a “*powder extract*” after  
27 being “*dried*.” ’808 Patent at 10:43-44 (emphasis added). There is no explanation as to why a  
28 *supplement*, which is comprised of an extract and potentially other ingredients, is referred to as an  
*extract* after it is dried. *See supra* Section III(B).

<sup>17</sup> The Court further observes that in Claim 3 the inventor again uses a term other than “aqueous  
extract” to describe a dried version of the extract (i.e., “a powder extract”).

1 not persuaded that Claim 4 provides a sufficient basis to construe aqueous extract as including dry  
2 powders.

3 Notably, the specification indicates that the extract must be processed before it can be  
4 formed into a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive. Specifically, the specification states  
5 that, in order to be formed into a tablet, capsule, pill, and confection food additive form, a  
6 “hydroxytyrosol-rich composition,” which may be in the form of an “extract,” must be “mixed,  
7 diluted, or enclosed with a carrier.” *See id.* at 7:61-64. In some instances, the composition may  
8 also be combined with additional elements including sugars, other flavoring agents, starches,  
9 emulsifiers, and preservatives. *See id.* at 8:11-22. These statements imply that, in order to be  
10 formed into a tablet, capsule, pill, and confection food additive form, the aqueous extract must be  
11 mixed, diluted, or otherwise altered. Thus, in light of the specification, Claim 4’s statement that  
12 the aqueous extract “is in the form of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive,” does not  
13 necessarily support the conclusion that the aqueous extract was originally dry, but rather supports  
14 the conclusion that the aqueous extract may be processed into a dry form. Because it appears from  
15 the specification that the extract to which Claim 4 refers must be processed into a dry form, the  
16 Court finds that Claim 4 does not support the conclusion that the aqueous extract may be dry.<sup>18</sup>

17 **c. Extrinsic Evidence**

18 The Court is also not persuaded by CreAgri’s extrinsic evidence. CreAgri argues that the  
19 definition of “aqueous,” as set forth in the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific Terms, supports

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 <sup>18</sup> The Court is also reluctant to rely on Claim 4 because it is not clear that Claim 4’s statement that  
22 the *extract* may be in the form of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive is accurate. The  
23 specification suggests that it is the *supplement* rather than the aqueous extract that may be in the  
24 form of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive. Specifically, the specification provides  
25 that: “The above *supplements* may be dried to provide a powder extract, which can [be] formulated  
26 into a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive.” *Id.* at 3:52-54 (emphasis). However,  
27 Claim 4 states that the “*extract* [may be] in the form of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food  
28 additive.” ’808 Patent at 10:45-47. Given that the supplement is the final form of the product, it is  
logical that it would be in an easily consumable form such as a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection  
food additive. It is not necessarily clear that there would be a reason for the extract, which is a  
mere component of the final product, to be processed into a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food  
additive. Consequently, the Court has concerns that, in stating that the *extract* may be in the form  
of a tablet, capsule, pill, or confection food additive in Claim 4, the inventor may have incorrectly  
substituted the term “extract” for “supplement.”

1 its construction. *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 10. The McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific  
2 Terms defines “aqueous” as “[r]elating to or made with water.” *See* Storey Decl., Ex. 4 (McGraw-  
3 Hill Dictionary of Scientific Terms, 4th Ex., 1989) at 114.<sup>19</sup> CreAgri argues that it may be inferred  
4 from the aforementioned definition that “aqueous” only means that the extract must be extracted  
5 using water, not that it must still be in a liquid state. *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 10.

6 CreAgri’s reliance on the dictionary definition is misplaced. As an initial matter, CreAgri’s  
7 dictionary definition is from 1989, which is more than a decade before the 2001 effective filing  
8 date of the patent application. *See Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1313 (“the ordinary and customary  
9 meaning of a claim term is the meaning that the term would have to a person of ordinary skill in the  
10 art in question *at the time of the invention, i.e., as of the effective filing date of the patent*  
11 *application.*”) (emphasis added). Moreover, CreAgri’s definition provides only limited support for  
12 CreAgri’s position that the aqueous extract may be dry as the use of the phrase “relating to...  
13 water” is not necessarily broad enough to permit a watery solution that has been dried.  
14 Furthermore, even if the dictionary definition did support CreAgri’s position, extrinsic evidence  
15 like the dictionary definition is “less significant than the intrinsic record.” *See Phillips*, 415 F.3d at  
16 1317 (“[W]hile extrinsic evidence can shed useful light on the relevant art,...it is less significant  
17 than the intrinsic record in determining the legally operative meaning of claim language” (internal  
18 quotations omitted)). Here, as discussed above, the only reference to the aqueous extract in the  
19 specification that gives any indication of its states indicates that it is a liquid, and, in several cases  
20 where the specification refers to a dried extract, it refers to it using the adjectives “dried” and  
21 “powdered.” Thus, the intrinsic evidence in this case supports the conclusion that the use of the  
22 adjective “aqueous” in connection with the term “extract” implies that the extract is still in a liquid  
23 form.

24 Ultimately, given that the only reference to aqueous extract in the specification that gives  
25 any indication of the extract’s state indicates that it is a liquid, the Court agrees with Pinnacliffe that  
26

---

27 <sup>19</sup> CreAgri further notes that “extract” is defined as “a preparation, usually in concentrated form,  
28 obtained by treating plant... tissue with a solvent to remove desired ... nutritive components.” *Id.*  
at 684.

1 the term “aqueous extract” refers to a liquid extract, as opposed to merely referring to an extract  
2 that was originally obtained using water as a solvent. Thus, the Court construes the term “aqueous  
3 extract” as “an aqueous solution containing a water-soluble preparation.” Next, the Court  
4 addresses the parties’ dispute regarding whether the olive component of the aqueous extract must  
5 be obtained from the olive fruit or whether it may be obtained from any part of the olive plant.

## 6 2. “Olives” Do Not Refer Only to Olive Fruits

7 Pinnaclife contends that, as used in the ’808 Patent, “olives” refer only to the olive fruits  
8 and that, accordingly, the “aqueous extract of olives” must be derived only from olive fruit.  
9 Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 16-17. In support of this argument, Pinnaclife notes that the ’808 Patent  
10 specification describes various methods for producing hydroxytyrosol-rich compositions. *See id.* at  
11 16.<sup>20</sup> In describing these methods, the specification repeatedly references “olives” together with  
12 words that are characteristic of olive fruits such as “pits,” “pulp” and “olive meat.” *Id.* Pinnaclife  
13 argues that these references support the conclusion that “olives” refer to olive fruit. *Id.*

14 CreAgri argues that “olives” refer to the entire olive plant and not just the fruits. CreAgri’s  
15 Opening Br. at 12. CreAgri argues that the claim language does not refer to olive *fruits*, and that  
16 the prosecution history also does not provide any indication that “the compositions had to be  
17 limited to extracts only from the olive fruit.” *Id.* CreAgri argues that, by attempting to construe  
18 olives as referring to only the olive fruit based on the references to olive meat and other portions of  
19 the olive fruit in the specification, Pinnaclife is “inappropriately read[ing] a limitation from the  
20 written description into the claims.” *Id.* (citing *Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1323). The Court agrees with  
21 CreAgri that the term “olives” should not be construed as referring exclusively to the olive fruit.

22 Pinnaclife is correct that, in describing the methods for producing hydroxytyrosol-rich  
23 compositions, the patent specification repeatedly references “olives” together with words that are  
24 characteristic of olive fruits (*e.g.* “pits,” “pulp” and “olive meat”). *See, e.g.*, ’808 Patent at 2:31-32  
25 (“[O]live oil production involves crushing *olives*, including the *pits*, to produce a thick paste.”),  
26

---

27 <sup>20</sup> As set forth *supra*, the application for the ’808 Patent included a number of Method Claims, but  
28 these claims were deleted from the final version of the ’808 Patent. However, the descriptions of  
these methods in the specification remain.

1 4:43-44 (“*Pits* in the *olives* contain tyrosol which is an undesired component in the vegetation  
2 water...”), 4:53-55 (“To produce vegetation water, *olive pulp* from the *olives* is first pressed to  
3 obtain a liquid-phase mixture including olive oil...”), 5:1-3 (“Initially, *olives* are fed to a pulper  
4 that separates the *olive pits* from the *olives* to obtain a *pitless olive meat*.” (emphasis added)).  
5 However, this does not necessarily mean that the invention requires that the olive component be  
6 derived from olive fruit.

7 As set forth *supra*, the Federal Circuit has cautioned that, “[t]hough understanding... claim  
8 language may be aided by the explanations contained in the written description,” a court cannot  
9 “import into a claim limitations” from the written description. *SuperGuide*, 358 F.3d at 875. Thus,  
10 even if all the embodiments described in the common specification include a certain limitation, the  
11 claims should not be construed as including this limitation unless the specification “expressly or by  
12 clear implication restrict[s] the scope of the invention.” *Liebel-Flarsheim*, 358 F.3d at 908; *id.* at  
13 906.

14 In this case, although the patentee repeatedly references the term “olives” together with  
15 words characteristic of olive fruits (*e.g.* “pits,” “pulp” and “olive meat”), nowhere in the  
16 specification does the patentee “expressly or by clear implication restrict” the term “olive” to olive  
17 fruits or reject the use of other components of the olive plant to obtain the claimed extract. *See*  
18 *Liebel-Flarsheim Co.*, 358 F.3d at 908. Indeed, the Field of the Invention indicates that any part of  
19 the olive plant may be used to the extent it states that “[t]his invention relates to a phenolic fraction  
20 of a group of compounds present in *olive plants* known as hydroxytyrosol...” ’808 Patent at 1:10-  
21 11. Accordingly, the Court declines to construe the term “olives” in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808  
22 Patent as being limited to “olive fruits.”

23 **3. The Dietary Supplement Need Not Be Obtained Through “Washing and**  
24 **Pressing Olive Fruit”**

25 PinnacLife next argues that the dietary supplement of the invention must be obtained  
26 through the process of “washing and pressing olive fruit.” PinnacLife’s Resp. at 17. CreAgri urges  
27 that no such limitation should be read into the claims. CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 12-13. The Court  
28 agrees with CreAgri.

1 The Federal Circuit has held that a true product claim, as opposed to a product-by-process  
 2 claim, is not limited to the methods of manufacture disclosed in the specification. *Vanguard*  
 3 *Products Corp. v. Parker Hannifan Corp.*, 234 F.3d 1370, 1372-73 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (“A novel  
 4 product that meets the criteria of patentability is not limited to the process by which it was made.”);  
 5 *Andersen Corp. v. Fiber Composites*, 474 F.3d 1361 (Fed. Cir. 2007) (“[T]he method of  
 6 manufacture, even when cited as advantageous, does not itself convert product claims into claims  
 7 limited to a particular process...”); *Compare Southwall Technologies, Inc. v. Cardinal IG Co.*, 54  
 8 F.3d 1570 (Fed. Cir. 1995) (process steps can be treated as part of a product claim if the patentee  
 9 has made clear that the process steps are an essential part of the claimed invention).

10 Here, Claims 1 and 5 of the '808 Patent are product claims defined in terms of structural  
 11 characteristics alone. Moreover, the prosecution history confirms that the patent was allowed  
 12 because of the unique structural characteristics of the claimed product and not because of the  
 13 method in which it is produced. *See* Pinnaclife’s Ex. E, ECF No. 49-6 at 3 (Notice of Allowability  
 14 stating that the '808 Patent was allowed because “[n]one of the prior art references teaches or  
 15 suggests the weight ratios of hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein or hydroxytyrosol to tyrosol as are  
 16 instantly claimed.”). Indeed, the patent examiner recognized that “the product may be prepared by  
 17 more than one method,” and that “one could prepare the composition of [the invention] by merely  
 18 physically mixing the known components of the composition.” *See* Office Action, ECF No. 47-7  
 19 at 4. Thus, the Court concludes that the dietary supplement of the invention need not be obtained  
 20 through “washing and pressing olive fruit” as Pinnaclife proposes. *See Vanguard*, 234 F.3d at  
 21 1372-73.

22 Having addressed each of the parties’ disputes concerning the proper interpretation of the  
 23 term “aqueous extract of olives,” the Court construes this term as “an aqueous solution containing a  
 24 water-soluble preparation from an olive plant,” with no restriction on the process by which the  
 25 “aqueous solution” is obtained.

26 **F. “clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom”**

Terms in Dispute	CreAgri’s Proposed Construction	Pinnaclife’s Proposed Construction
“clinical	No construction necessary.	“subjective evidence of disease or



1 symptom” or 2 “detectable 3 clinical symptom”		physical disturbance perceived by the patient and observed by a physician during clinical examination” “Clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom,” as used in the ’599 Patent, refers only to (1) respiratory distress associated with bronchial inflammation or (2) clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing where those symptoms are associated with neuro-inflammation, and excludes all other symptoms.
---	--	---

7  
8 The term “clinical symptom” and “detectable clinical symptom” both appear in Claim 1 of  
9 the ’599 Patent, as follows:

- 10 1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition characterized  
11 by a **detectable clinical symptom** or change in a level of a biochemical marker  
12 with respect to the normal range of the marker, the method comprising:

13 administering to the subject a dose corresponding to between about 0.1  
14 mg/kg body weight and 2000 mg/kg body weight daily of a first treatment  
15 agent comprised of an olive plant extract having a weight ratio of  
16 hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1; and  
17 continuing said administration until there is observed a return of the marker  
18 level to the normal range or a desired change in the **clinical symptom**,  
19 where the marker or the **clinical symptom** is selected from the group  
20 consisting of

- 21 (i) elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary  
22 inflammation;  
23 (ii) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation;  
24 and  
25 (iii) elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes or clinical symptoms  
26 determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro  
27 inflammation.

28 ’599 Patent at 19:37-20:5 (emphasis added).

CreAgri argues that “clinical symptom” is a plain, non-technical term that should be given  
its ordinary meaning. CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 20. Pinnaclife argues that “clinical symptom”  
should be construed as requiring observation by both a patient and a physician. Pinnaclife’s Resp.  
at 18. In addition, Pinnaclife urges this Court to limit the scope of “clinical symptom” to only two  
conditions explicitly stated in Claim 1. *Id.* at 19-20. The Court addresses each of these arguments  
below.



1 Pinnacle's construction also finds no support in the specification. The term "symptom" or  
2 "clinical symptom" appears eight times in the specification. The specification indicates that a  
3 "clinical symptom" is one that is "detectable" and observable. *See, e.g.*, '599 Patent at 3:13 ("a  
4 detectable clinical symptom"), 3:23-24 ("...until there is observed a return of the marker level to  
5 the normal range or a desired change in the clinical symptom."). However, like the claim  
6 language, the specification does not indicate whether a patient, a physician, or both must observe  
7 the clinical symptom. Indeed, the specification only makes a passing reference to "physician," and  
8 this reference does not suggest that a physician must observe the clinical symptom. *See* '599  
9 Patent at 4-6 ("It will be understood that the amount of the compound actually administered will be  
10 determined by a physician..."). Similarly, while the word "patient" appears more often throughout  
11 the specification, it is generally associated with a certain type of disease. *See, e.g.*, '599 Patent at  
12 9:15-16 ("...treating a patient suffering from peripheral neuropathy."). The specification does not  
13 give any indication that the "clinical symptom" must be observed by the patient and a physician.

14 Pinnacle's citations to extrinsic evidence are also unavailing. Pinnacle contends that its  
15 assertion that the symptom must be observed by both the patient and a physician is supported by  
16 two dictionary definitions of "clinical." Pinnacle's Resp. at 18. The first definition, which is  
17 from the 2002 edition of Webster's Third International Dictionary, defines "clinical" as "involving  
18 or depending on direct observation of the living patient; observable by clinical inspection." *See*  
19 Marshall Decl. ¶ 12, Ex. K (Webster's Third Int'l Dictionary). The second definition, which is  
20 from the 2006 edition of the American Heritage Dictionary, defines "clinical" as "involving or  
21 relating to direct observation of the patient." *See* Marshall Decl. ¶ 11, Ex. J (Am. Heritage  
22 Dictionary).

23 At the outset, the Court notes that the definition from the 2006 edition of the American  
24 Heritage Dictionary does not provide particularly probative evidence regarding the proper  
25 construction of the terms of the '599 Patent because this patent was filed three years earlier on Feb.  
26 13, 2003.<sup>21</sup> *See Phillips*, 415 F.3d at 1313 ("the ordinary and customary meaning of a claim term is  
27

28 <sup>21</sup> The Provisional Application of the '599 Patent was filed on Feb. 13, 2002.

1 the meaning that the term would have to a person of ordinary skill in the art in question *at the time*  
2 *of the invention, i.e., as of the effective filing date of the patent application.*”) (emphasis added).  
3 Moreover, while Pinnaclife’s dictionary definitions define “clinical symptoms” as requiring “direct  
4 observation,” neither definition requires observation by a “physician” as Pinnaclife contends.  
5 Furthermore, as a practical matter, in many instances, medical personnel other than a physician  
6 may be charged with observing patients. Thus, contrary to Pinnaclife’s assertion, the dictionary  
7 definition does not support its construction.

8 Finally, Pinnaclife directs the Court to a statement by CreAgri’s counsel that suggests a  
9 doctor is required to observe the “clinical symptom.” *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 19. CreAgri’s  
10 counsel made the statement during the hearing on Pinnaclife’s motion to compel supplemental  
11 infringement contentions, which reads:

12 Q: Is it your theory that the doctor will make [the determination that the  
13 inflammation is gone] or is it that the customer takes the bill [sic] and is done?

14 A: I think when the doctor determines the inflammation is gone.

15 Pinnaclife’s Resp. Ex. L, ECF No. 49-13 at 25:17-26:13. The Court is not persuaded. First,  
16 Pinnaclife points to no authority that instructs the Court to rely on counsel’s statement made during  
17 a discovery hearing to interpret the meaning of a disputed claim term. *Cf. Phillips v. AWH Corp.*,  
18 415 F.3d 1303, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2005) (aside from intrinsic evidence, the court also authorizes  
19 district courts to rely on evidence “external to the patent and prosecution history, including expert  
20 and inventor testimony, dictionaries, and learned treatises.”) (citation omitted). Even if counsel’s  
21 statement was proper evidence for claim construction, it cannot trump intrinsic evidence such as  
22 the claim language and the specification. *See id.* (holding that “extrinsic evidence... is less  
23 significant than the intrinsic record”) (internal quotations omitted). As explained above, the  
24 intrinsic evidence imposes no limitation that a physician or a patient must observe the “clinical  
25 symptom.” Thus, the Court declines to read this limitation into Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent.

26 For the reasons set forth above, the Court concludes that the term “clinical symptom” does  
27 not imply that the symptom must be observed by both the patient and a physician.  
28

2. “Clinical Symptom” Refers Only to the Two Symptoms Explicitly Disclosed in Claim 1

Pinnaclife next argues that “clinical symptom” should be construed as referring to only those symptoms specifically identified in the claim. *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 19-20.

The relevant claim language reads “where the marker or clinical symptom is selected from the group *consisting of* (i) elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation; (ii) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation; and (iii) elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes or clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro inflammation.” ’599 Patent at 19:50-20:5 (emphasis added). The parties agree that “respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation” and “clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro inflammation” are “clinical symptom[s].” *See* Tr. 65:9-18; Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 18. The parties also agree that: (1) “elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation,” and (2) “elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes” are “marker[s].” *See* Tr. 65:9-18; Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 18.

Pinnaclife argues that the fact that the list of markers and symptoms is preceded by the term “consisting of” implies that the only two symptoms encompassed in the claim language are: (1) “respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation,” and (2) “clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro inflammation.” *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 20. The Court agrees. In contrast to the term “comprising of,” the term “consisting of” is “well understood in patent usage... [to be] close-ended and convey limitation and exclusion.” *CIAS, Inc. v. Alliance Gaming Corp.*, 504 F.3d 1356, 1361 (Fed. Cir. 2007); *see also Norian Corp. v. Stryker Corp.*, 363 F.3d 1321, 1331 (Fed. Cir. 2004) (“[C]onsisting of” is a term of patent convention meaning that the claimed invention contains only what is expressly set forth in the claim....”). Thus, the patent drafter’s use of the phrase “consisting of,” as opposed to “comprising of,” suggests that “clinical symptom” should be limited to the two symptoms explicitly stated in the claim.

At the *Markman* hearing, CreAgri generally agreed that “clinical symptom” should be limited to the symptoms explicitly stated in the claim. *See* Tr. at 117:9-12. However, CreAgri urged the Court to construe “clinical symptom” to include “coronary inflammation,” in addition to “respiratory distress...” and “clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing...”

1 *See id.* at 118:18-119:15; '599 Patent at 19:53. The Court is not persuaded. The term “coronary  
 2 inflammation” appears in the following claim language: “elevated levels of C-reactive protein *in*  
 3 *the case of coronary inflammation.*” '599 Patent at 19:52-53 (emphasis added). As set forth *supra*,  
 4 CreAgri has agreed this statement as a whole refers to a marker and not a symptom. Moreover,  
 5 CreAgri fails to direct the Court’s attention to any intrinsic evidence supporting its assertion that  
 6 “coronary inflammation” constitutes a separate clinical symptom. Thus, the Court declines to  
 7 construe “clinical symptoms” as including “coronary inflammation.”<sup>22</sup>

8 Thus, for the reasons stated above, “clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom,” as  
 9 used in the '599 Patent, refers only to (1) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation,  
 10 or (2) clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing where those symptoms are  
 11 related to neuro-inflammation. The Court further clarifies that Claim 1 of the '599 Patent does not  
 12 include the limitation that a physician or a patient must observe the “clinical symptom” or  
 13 “detectable clinical symptom.”

14 **G. “marker” or “biochemical marker”**

Terms in Dispute	CreAgri’s Proposed Construction	Pinnacle’s Proposed Construction
“marker” or “biochemical marker”	No construction necessary.	“a biological substance measured, detected, or observed by a physician to evaluate the presence of inflammation”  “Marker” or “biological marker,” as used in the '599 patent, refers only to (1) C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation or (2) CSF levels of isoprostanes in the case of neuro-inflammation, excludes all other biological substances.

23  
 24 <sup>22</sup> The Court notes that the specification does list one additional symptom: “joint pain and swelling  
 25 in the case of joint inflammation,” *see* '599 Patent at 13:33-36. However, this symptom is not  
 26 listed in the claim language. Moreover, at the *Markman* hearing, CreAgri conceded that the  
 27 inventor had disavowed “joint pain and swelling” as a symptom. *See* Tr. at 68:20-64:6; Marshall  
 28 Decl., Ex. H (“The Examiner’s attention is drawn to the fact that *the claims no longer recite symptoms such as those related to joint inflammation.* Thus, the Examiner’s remarks directed to this previously claimed aspect of the method are now rendered moot.”). Accordingly, the Court does not construe “clinical symptom” as including “joint pain and swelling in the case of joint inflammation.”

1 The terms “marker” and “biochemical marker” both appear in Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent,  
2 as follows:

- 3 1. A method of treating a subject having an inflammatory condition characterized  
4 by a detectable clinical symptom or change in a level of a **biochemical marker**  
5 with respect to the normal range of the **marker**, the method comprising:

6 administering to the subject a dose corresponding to between about 0.1  
7 mg/kg body weight and 2000 mg/kg body weight daily of a first treatment  
8 agent comprised of an olive plant extract having a weight ratio of  
9 hydroxytyrosol to oleuropein of between about 1:1 and about 200:1; and

10 continuing said administration until there is observed a return of the **marker**  
11 level to the normal range or a desired change in the clinical symptom,

12 where the **marker** or the clinical symptom is selected from the group  
13 consisting of:

- 14 (i) elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary  
15 inflammation;  
16 (ii) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation;  
17 and  
18 (iii) elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes or clinical symptoms  
19 determined from neuropsychological testing in the case of neuro  
20 inflammation.

21 ’599 Patent at 19:37-20:5 (emphasis added).

22 CreAgri argues that no construction is necessary. *See* CreAgri’s Opening Br. at 20.  
23 Pinnaclife, on the other hand, argues that the term should be construed as meaning “a biological  
24 substance measured, detected, or observed by a physician to evaluate the presence of  
25 inflammation.” Pinnaclife’s Resp. at 20-21. Pinnaclife further argues that “marker” or  
26 “biochemical marker” refers only to the markers explicitly set forth in the claim. *See id.* at 20.

27 The Court disagrees with Pinnaclife that a physician must measure, detect or observe the  
28 marker or biochemical marker. As set forth above in connection with the related term “clinical  
symptom,” the intrinsic evidence does not support including this additional limitation. Neither the  
claim language nor the specification requires that the marker be measured, detected or observed by  
a physician. CreAgri’s counsel’s statement that a physician must determine the presence or  
absence of inflammation, even assuming the statement is proper evidence for claim construction,  
cannot trump the intrinsic evidence. *See* Pinnaclife’s Resp. Ex. L, ECF No. 49-13 at 25:17-26:13.

1 Thus, as with “clinical symptom,” there is no requirement that a physician must measure, detect or  
2 observe the marker or biochemical marker.

3 The Court does, however, agree with PinnacLife that “marker” or “biochemical marker”  
4 should be limited to the two markers expressly set forth in the claim language (“elevated levels of  
5 C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation” and “elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes  
6 in the case of neuro-inflammation”). As noted above, the transition phrase “consisting of” is  
7 unambiguously close-ended, conveying limitation and exclusion. *See CIAS*, 504 F.3d at 1361.

8 Accordingly, the Court construes “marker” or “biochemical marker” as referring only to (1)  
9 elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation or (2) elevated CSF  
10 levels of isoprostanes in the case of neuro-inflammation. *See* ’599 Patent at 19:50-20:5.<sup>23</sup> The  
11 Court further clarifies that Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent does not include the limitation that a  
12 physician must measure, detect or observe the marker or biochemical marker.

13 **H. Conclusion**

14 For the reasons discussed above, the Court construes the disputed claim terms as follows:

Claim Language	Construction
“comprising” or “comprised of”	“including but not limited to”
the preamble “a dietary supplement” in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent	the preamble “a dietary supplement” in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent is not a claim limitation.
weight ratios claimed in the ’808 Patent	the claimed weight ratios in Claims 1 and 5 of the ’808 Patent apply to the “aqueous extract of olives,” not to the “dietary supplement.”
weight ratio claimed in the ’599 Patent	the claimed weight ratio in Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent apply to the “olive plant extract.”
“aqueous extract of olives”	“an aqueous solution containing a water-soluble preparation from an olive plant,” with no restriction on the process by which the “aqueous solution” is obtained.

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>23</sup> In PinnacLife’s proposed construction for “markers,” neither “levels of C-Reactive protein...”  
27 nor “CSF levels of isoprostanes...” is preceded by the word “elevated.” Because the claim  
28 language includes the word “elevated” before both markers, *see e.g.* ’599 Patent at 19:52  
 (“elevated levels of C-reactive protein”), and the parties used the word “elevated” in connection  
 with both markers at the *Markman* hearing, *see e.g.* Tr. at 65:9-14, the Court includes “elevated” in  
 its final construction.

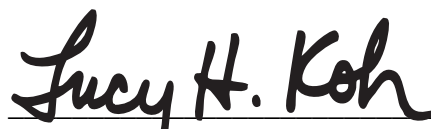


1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

<p>“clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom”</p>	<p>“clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom,” as used in the ’599 Patent, refers only to (1) respiratory distress in the case of bronchial inflammation, or (2) clinical symptoms determined from neuropsychological testing where those symptoms are related to neuro-inflammation.</p> <p>Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent does not include the limitation that a physician or a patient must observe the “clinical symptom” or “detectable clinical symptom.”</p>
<p>“marker” or “biochemical marker”</p>	<p>“marker” or “biochemical marker,” as used in the ’599 Patent, refers only to (1) elevated levels of C-reactive protein in the case of coronary inflammation or (2) elevated CSF levels of isoprostanes in the case of neuro-inflammation.</p> <p>Claim 1 of the ’599 Patent does not include the limitation that a physician must measure, detect or observe the marker or biochemical marker.</p>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: April 16, 2013



LUCY H. KOH  
United States District Judge