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A PROCESS FOR COMBINED DESIZING AND "STONE-WASHING" OF DYED DENIM

The present invention relates to a desizing and "stone-washing" one-step process whereby dyed denim having localized variation in colour density of improved uniformity is achieved by treating dyed denim, especially dyed denim garment such as denim jeans, with an amylolytic enzyme and two different endoglucanases in the very same process step.

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#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

During the weaving of textiles, the threads are exposed to considerable mechanical strain. Prior to weaving on mechanical looms, warp yarns are often coated with size starch or starch derivatives in order to increase their tensile strength and to prevent breaking. The most common sizing agent is starch in native or modified form, yet other polymeric compounds such as polyvinylalcohol (PVA), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyacrylic acid (PAA) or derivatives of cellulose (e.g. carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose or methylcellulose), may also be abundant in the size.

In general, after the textiles have been woven, the fabric proceeds to a desizing stage, followed by one or more additional fabric processing steps. Desizing is the act of removing size from textiles. After weaving, the size coating must be removed before further processing the fabric in order to ensure a homogeneous and wash-proof result. The preferred method of desizing is enzymatic hydrolysis of the size by the action of amylolytic enzymes.

For the manufacture of denim clothes, the fabric is cut and sown into garments, that is afterwards finished. In particular, for the manufacture of denim garment, different enzymatic finishing methods have been developed. The finishing of denim garment normally is initiated with an enzymatic desizing step, during which garments are subjected to the action of amylolytic

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enzymes in order to provide softness to the fabric and make the cotton more accessible to the subsequent enzymatic finishing steps.

Cotton wax and other lubricants can be applied to yarns in order to increase the speed of cotton weaving. Also waxes of higher melting points are being introduced. Wax lubricants are predominantly triglyceride ester based lubricants. After desizing, the wax either remains or redeposits on the fabric and as a result, the fabric gets darker in shade, gets glossy spots, and becomes more stiff.

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International Patent Application No. WO 93/13256 (Novo Nordisk A/S) describes a process for the removal of hydrophobic esters from fabric, in which process the fabric is impregnated during the desizing step with an aqueous solution of lipase. This process has been developed for use in the fabric mills only, and is carried out using existing fabric mill equipment, i.e. a pad roll, a jigger, or a J box.

JP-A 2-80673 discloses a method whereby desizing and softening are achieved by treating cellulose fibres with an aqueous solution containing both amylase and cellulase.

For many years denim jeans manufacturers have washed their garments in a finishing laundry with pumice stones to achieve a soft-hand as well as a desired fashionable "stone-washed" look. This abrasion effect is obtained by locally removing the surface bound dyestuff. Recently cellulytic enzymes have been introduced into the finishing process, turning the stone-washing process into a "bio-stoning process".

The goal of a bio-stoning process is to obtain a distinct, but homogeneous abrasion of the garments (stone-washing appearance). However, uneven stone-washing ("streaks" and "creases") are very frequently occurring. In consequence repair work ("after-painting") is needed on a major part (up to about 80%) of the stone-washed jeans that have been processed in the laundries.

Thus, it is an object of the present invention to provide a process which reduces the problem of streaks and creases on the finished denim garments.

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#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention provides a process for the treatment of fabrics, which process improves the color distribution/uniformity, stone-wash quality, etc., and which reduces the need for after-painting of the finished clothes.

The invention provides a one-step process for enzymatically desizing and stone-washing dyed denim, which process comprises treating the denim with an amylolytic enzyme, such as an  $\alpha-$  amylase, in combination with a first abrading monocomponent endoglucanase and a second streak-reducing monocomponent endoglucanase.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention provides a process for enzymatic treatment of fabrics, by which process it is possible to provide desized and enzymatically stone-washed dyed denim of improved visual quality.

As described above, enzymatic treatment of fabrics conventionally includes the steps of desizing the fabric by use of amylolytic enzymes, softening the garment (including the steps of bio-polishing, bio-stoning and/or garment wash) by use of cellulytic enzymes, optionally followed by dyeing the garment, washing the garment, and/or softening the garment with a chemical softening agent, typically a cationic, sometimes silicone-based, surface active compound. The process of the present invention may conveniently take place during the desizing and/or softening step of the conventional garment manufacturing steps.

Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment, the process of present invention relates to a one-step process for combined desizing and "stone-washing" of dyed denim, wherein the denim is treated with an amylolytic enzyme, such as an  $\alpha$ -amylase, in combination with a first abrading monocomponent endoglucanase and a second streak-reducing monocomponent endoglucanase.

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In the present context, the term "abrading endoglucanase (or cellulase)" is intended to mean an endoglucanase which is capable of providing the surface of dyed denim fabric (usually sown into garment, especially jeans) localized variations in colour density. Examples of abrading cellulase are those mentioned in the International Patent Application PCT/US89/03274 published as WO 90/02790 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

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The term "monocomponent endoglucanase" denotes an endoglucanase which is essentially free from other proteins, in particular other endoglucanases. Monocomponent endoglucanases are typically produced by recombinant techniques, i.e. by cloning and expression of the relevant gene in a homologous or a heterologous host.

In the present context, the term "streak-reducing endoglucanase (or cellulase)" or "levelling" endoglucanase is intended to mean an endoglucanase which is capable of reducing formation of streaks usually present on the surface of dyed denim fabric (usually sown into garment, especially jeans) which has been subjected to a "stone-washing" process, either an enzymatic stone-washing process or process using pumice for providing localized variations in colour density on the denim surface. Examples of streak-reducing or levelling cellulases are those mentioned in the International Patent Application PCT/DK95/00108 published as WO 95/24471 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The first endoglucanase is preferably a fungal EG V type cellulase. Another useful endoglucanase is a fungal EG III type cellulase obtainable from a strain of the genus Trichoderma. Examples of useful fungal EG III type cellulases are those disclosed in WO 92/06184, WO 93/20208 and WO 93/20209, and WO 94/21801 which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Preferably, the EG V type endoglucanase is derived from or producible by a strain of Scytalidium (f. Humicola), Fusarium, Myceliophthora, more preferably derived from or producible by Scytalidium thermophilum (f. Humicola insolens), Fusarium oxysporum or Myceliophthora themophila, most preferably from

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Humicola insolens, DSM 1800, Fusarium oxysporum, DSM 2672, or Myceliophthora themophila, CBS 117.65.

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In one embodiment of the invention, the first endoglucanase is an endoglucanase comprising the amino acid sequence of the *Humicola insolens* endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 1 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1, reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.

In another embodiment of the invention, the first endoglucanase is an endoglucanase comprising the amino acid sequence of the *Fusarium oxysporum* endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 2 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2, reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.

In the present context the homology may be determined as the degree of identity between two or more amino acid sequences by means of computer programs known in the art such as GAP provided in the GCG program package (Needleman and Wunsch, 1970, Journal of Molecular Biology 48:443-453). For purposes of determining the degree of identity between two amino acid sequences for the present invention, GAP is used with the following settings: GAP creation penalty of 3.0 and GAP extension penalty of 0.1.

In the present context the antibody reactivity may be determined as follows:

Antibodies to be used in determining immunological crossreactivity may be prepared by use of the relevant purified
enzyme. More specifically, antiserum against the enzyme may be
raised by immunizing rabbits (or other rodents) according to the
procedure described by N. Axelsen et al. in: A Manual of
Quantitative Immunoelectrophoresis, Blackwell Scientific
Publications, 1973, Chapter 23, or A. Johnstone and R. Thorpe,
Immunochemistry in Practice, Blackwell Scientific Publications,

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1982 (more specifically p. 27-31). Purified immunoglobulins may be obtained from the antisera, for example by salt precipitation ((NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>4</sub>), followed by dialysis and ion exchange chromatography, e.g. on DEAE-Sephadex. Immunochemical characterization of proteins may be done either by Outcherlony double-diffusion analysis (O. Ouchterlony in: Handbook of Experimental Immunology (D.M. Weir, Ed.), Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1967, pp. 655-706), by crossed immunoelectrophoresis (N. Axelsen et al., supra, Chapters 3 and 4), or by rocket immunoelectrophoresis (N. Axelsen et al., Chapter 2).

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The hybridization may be determined by allowing the DNA (or corresponding RNA) sequences to hybridize under the following conditions:

Presoaking of a filter containing the DNA fragments or RNA to hybridize in 5 x SSC (Sodium chloride/Sodium citrate, Sambrook et al. 1989) for 10 min, and prehybridization of the filter in a solution of  $5 \times SSC$ ,  $5 \times Denhardt's solution$ (Sambrook et al. 1989), 0.5 % SDS and 100  $\mu g/ml$  of denatured sonicated salmon sperm DNA (Sambrook et al. 1989), followed by hybridization in the same solution containing a random-primed (Feinberg, A. P. and Vogelstein, B. (1983) Anal. Biochem. 132:6-13),  $^{32}P$ -dCTP-labeled (specific activity > 1 x  $10^9$  cpm/ $\mu g$  ) probe for 12 hours at ca.  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The filter is then washed twice for 30minutes in 2 x SSC, 0.5 % SDS at at least 55°C, more preferably at least 60°C, even more preferably at least 65°C, and still more preferably at least 70°C (high stringency), even more preferably at least 75°C. Molecules to which the oligonucleotide probe hybridizes under these conditions are detected using a xray film.

In a preferred embodiment of the process of the invention, the second endoglucanase has a catalytic activity on cellotriose at pH 8.5 corresponding to  $k_{cat}$  of at least 0.01 s<sup>-1</sup>, preferably of at least 0.1 s<sup>-1</sup>, more preferably of at least 1 s<sup>-1</sup>.

Preferably, the second endoglucanase is obtainable by or derived from a strain of *Humicola*, *Trichoderma*, *Myceliophthora*,

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Penicillium, Irpex, Aspergillus, Scytalidium or Fusarium, more preferably from a strain of Humicola insolens, Fusarium oxysporum or Trichoderma reesei. Preferred second endoglucanases are of the EG I type.

An example of a useful second endoglucanase is an endoglucanase comprising the amino acid sequence of the *Humicola insolens* endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 3 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 3, reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.

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In the process of the invention, the first and second endoglucanase, respectively, can be used in an amount of corresponding to a cellulase activity between 5 and 8,000 ECU per litre of desizing/"stone-washing" liquour, preferably between 10 and 5000 ECU per litre of liquor, and more preferably between 50 and 500 ECU per litre of liquor. The first and second endoglucanase, respectively, is preferably dosed in an amount corresponding to 0.01-40 mg endoglucanase/l, more preferably 0.1-2.5 mg/l, especially 0.1-1.25 mg/l.

The substrate of the process of the invention is dyed denim. The denim may be dyed with a natural or a synthetic dye. Examples of synthetic dyes are direct dyes, fiber-reactive dyes or indirect dyes. In a preferred embodiment, the denim is dyed with indigo. Typically, the denim is cut and sown into garment before subjected to the process of the present invention. Examples of garment are jeans, jackets and skirts. An especially preferred example is indigo-dyed denim jeans.

In the process of the invention, conventional desizing enzymes, in particular amylolytic enzymes, can be used in order to remove starch-containing size.

Therefore, an amylolytic enzyme, preferably an  $\alpha$ -amylase, may be added during the process of the invention. Conventionally, bacterial  $\alpha$ -amylases are used for the desizing, e.g. an  $\alpha$ -amylases derived from a strain of Bacillus, particularly a

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strain of Bacillus licheniformis, a strain of Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, or a strain of Bacillus stearothermophilus; or mutants thereof. Amino acid sequences of such amylases are apparent from, e.g., WO 95/21247. Examples of suitable commercial  $\alpha$ -amylase products are Termamyl $^{TM}$ , Aquazym $^{TM}$  Ultra and  $Aquazym^{TM}$  (available from Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark). However, also fungal  $\alpha$ -amylases can be used. Examples of fungal  $\alpha$ amylases are those derived from a strain of Aspergillus. Other useful  $\alpha\text{-amylases}$  are the oxidation-stable  $\alpha\text{-amylase}$  mutants disclosed in WO 95/21247. For instance, an  $\alpha\text{--amylase}$  mutant prepared from a parent  $\alpha\text{-amylase}$  by replacing one or more of the methionine amino acid residues with a Leu, Thr, Ala, Gly, Ser, Ile, Asn, or Asp amino acid residue, preferably a Leu, Thr, Ala, or Gly amino acid residue. Of particular interest is an  $\alpha\text{--}$ amylase mutant prepared from the B. licheniformis  $\alpha$ -amylase in which the methionine at position 197 has been replaced with any other amino acid residue, in particular with Leu, Thr, Ala, Gly, Ser, Ile, Asn, or Asp amino acid residue, preferably a Leu, Thr, Ala, or Gly amino acid residue.

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The amylolytic enzyme may be added in amounts conventionally used in desizing processes, e.g. corresponding to an  $\alpha$ -amylase activity of from about 10 to about 10,000 KNU/l such as from 100 to about 10,000 KNU/l or from 10 to about 5,000 KNU/l. Also, in the process according to the present invention, 1-10 mM of Ca<sup>++</sup> may be added as a stabilizing agent.

The process of the present invention may be accomplished at process conditions conventionally prevailing in desizing/ "stone-washing" processes, as carried out by the person skilled in the art. The process of the invention may, e.g., be carried out batch-wise in a washer extractor.

It is at present contemplated that a suitable liquor/textile ratio may be in the range of from about 20:1 to about 1:1, preferably in the range of from about 15:1 to about 5:1.

In conventional desizing and "stone-washing" processes, the

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reaction time is usually in the range of from about 1 hour to about 24 hours. However, in the process of the present invention the reaction time may well be less than 1 hour, i.e. from about 5 minutes to about 55 minutes. Preferably the reaction time is within the range of from about 5 or 10 to about 120 minutes.

The pH of the reaction medium greatly depends on the enzyme in question. Preferably the process of the invention is carried out at a pH in the range of from about pH 3 to about pH 11, preferably in the range of from about pH 6 to about pH 9, or within the range of from about pH 5 to about pH 8.

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A buffer may be added to the reaction medium to maintain a suitable pH for the enzymes used. The buffer may suitably be a phosphate, borate, citrate, acetate, adipate, triethanolamine, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, carbonate (especially alkali metal or alkaline earth metal, in particular sodium or potassium carbonate, or ammonium and HCl salts), diamine, especially diaminoethane, imidazole, or amino acid buffer.

The process of the invention may be carried out in the presence of conventional textile finishing agents, including wetting agents, polymeric agents, dispersing agents, etc.

A conventional wetting agent may be used to improve the contact between the substrate and the enzymes used in the process. The wetting agent may be a nonionic surfactant, e.g. an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, an ethoxylated oxo alcohol, an ethoxylated alkyl phenol or an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

Examples of suitable polymers include proteins (e.g. bovine serum albumin, whey, casein or legume proteins), protein hydrolysates (e.g. whey, casein or soy protein hydrolysate), polypeptides, lignosulfonates, polysaccharides and derivatives thereof, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, ethylene diamine condensed with ethylene or propylene oxide, ethoxylated polyamines, or ethoxylated amine polymers.

The dispersing agent may suitably be selected from nonionic, anionic, cationic, ampholytic or zwitterionic surfactants. More specifically, the dispersing agent may be selected from carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose,

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alkyl aryl sulphonates, long-chain alcohol sulphates (primary and secondary alkyl sulphates), sulphonated olefins, sulphated monoglycerides, sulphated ethers, sulphosuccinates, sulphonated methyl ethers, alkane sulphonates, phosphate esters, alkyl isothionates, acylsarcosides, alkyltaurides, fluorosurfactants, fatty alcohol and alkylphenol condensates, fatty acid condensates, condensates of ethylene oxide with an amine, condensates of ethylene oxide with an amide, sucrose esters, sorbitan esters, alkyloamides, fatty amine oxides, ethoxylated monoamines, ethoxylated diamines, alcohol ethoxylate and mixtures thereof.

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In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the process may be performed using a lipolytic enzyme that is capable of carrying out lipolysis at elevated temperatures. In order to efficiently hydrolyse hydrophobic esters of high melting points, lipolytic enzymes that possess sufficient thermostability and lipolytic activity at temperatures of about 60°C or above, are preferred. Adequate hydrolysis can be obtained even above or below the optimum temperature of the lipolytic enzyme by increasing the enzyme dosage.

The lipolytic enzyme may be of animal, plant or microbial origin. Examples of microorganisms producing such thermostable lipolytic enzymes are strains of Humicola, preferably a strain of Humicola brevispora, a strain of Humicola lanuginosa, a strain of Humicola brevis var. thermoidea, a strain of Humicola insolens, a strain of Fusarium, preferably a strain of Fusarium oxysporum, a strain of Rhizomucor, preferably a strain of Rhizomucor miehei, a strain of Chromobacterium, preferably a strain of Chromobacterium viscosum, and a strain of Aspergillus, preferably a strain of Aspergillus niger. Preferred thermostable lipolytic enzymes are derived from strains of Candida or Pseudomonas, particularly a strain of Candida antarctica, a strain of Candida tsukubaensis, a strain of Candida auriculariae, a strain of Candida humicola, a strain of Candida foliarum, a strain of Candida cylindracea (also called Candida rugosa), a strain of Pseudomonas cepacia, a strain of Pseudomonas fluorescens, a strain of Pseudomonas fragi, a strain

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of Pseudomonas stutzeri, or a strain of Thermomyces lanuginosus.

Lipolytic enzymes from strains of *Candida antarctica* and *Pseudomonas cepacia* are preferred, in particular lipase A from *Candida antarctica*. Such lipolytic enzymes, and methods for their production, are known from e.g. WO 88/02775, US 4,876,024, and WO 89/01032, which publications are hereby included by reference.

The enzyme dosage is dependent upon several factors, including the enzyme in question, the desired reaction time, the temperature, the liquid/textile ratio, etc. It is at present contemplated that the lipolytic enzyme may be dosed in an amount corresponding to of from about 0.01 to about 10,000 KLU/l, preferably of from about 0.1 to about 1000 KLU/l.

Conventional finishing agents that may be present in a process of the invention include, but are not limited to pumice stones and perlite. Perlite is a naturally occurring volcanic rock. Preferably, heat expanded perlite may be used. The heat expanded perlite may e.g. be present in an amount of 20-95 w/w% based on the total weight of the composition.

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## Cellulytic Activity

The cellulytic activity may be measured in endo-cellulase units (ECU), determined at pH 7.5, with carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) as substrate.

The ECU assay quantifies the amount of catalytic activity present in the sample by measuring the ability of the sample to reduce the viscosity of a solution of carboxy-methylcellulose (CMC). The assay is carried out at 40°C; pH 7.5; 0.1M phosphate buffer; time 30 min; using a relative enzyme standard for reducing the viscosity of the CMC Hercules 7 LFD substrate; enzyme concentration approx. 0.15 ECU/ml. The arch standard is defined to 8200 ECU/g.

# Amylolytic Activity

The amylolytic activity may be determined using potato starch as substrate. This method is based on the break-down of modified potato starch by the enzyme, and the reaction is

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followed by mixing samples of the starch/enzyme solution with an iodine solution. Initially, a blackish-blue colour is formed, but during the break-down of the starch the blue colour gets weaker and gradually turns into a reddish-brown, which is compared to a coloured glass standard.

One Kilo Novo alfa Amylase Unit (KNU) is defined as the amount of enzyme which, under standard conditions (i.e. at  $37^{\circ}$ C +/- 0.05; 0.0003 M Ca<sup>2+</sup>; and pH 5.6) dextrinizes 5.26 g starch dry substance Merck Amylum solubile.

A folder AF 9/6 describing this analytical method in more detail is available upon request to Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark, which folder is hereby included by reference.

## Lipolytic Activity

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The lipolytic activity may be determined using tributyrine as substrate. This method is based on the hydrolysis of tributyrin by the enzyme, and the alkali consumption is registered as a function of time.

One Lipase Unit (LU) is defined as the amount of enzyme which, under standard conditions (i.e. at  $30.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; pH 7.0; with Gum Arabic as emulsifier and tributyrine as substrate) liberates 1  $\mu$ mol titrable butyric acid per minute (1 KLU = 1000 LU).

A folder AF 95/5 describing this analytical method in more detail is available upon request to Novo Nordisk A/S, Denmark, which folder is hereby included by reference.

#### EXAMPLE 1

The following example illustrates the effect of adding a streak-reducing or levelling endoglucanase to the combined desizing-abrasion process in order to reduce the number of streaks on denim jeans or other garment and to produce denim garment, especially jeans, with a uniformly localized color variation.

Wash trials were carried out under the following conditions:

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#### Textile:

Blue denim DAKOTA, 14½ oz, 100 % cotton.

The denim was cut and sewed into "legs" of approximately  $37.5 \times 100$  cm (about 375 g each).

Two new legs and one old (used one time) leg were used in each trial (a total of approx. 1100 g textile).

#### Enzyme:

Trial A: Amylase: Termamyl<sup>®</sup>, dosage: 200 KNU/1

10 Endoglucanase (cellulase):

EG V (a monocomponent  $\sim 43$  kD endoglucanase from Humicola insolens, DSM 1800, having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 1),

dosage: 10 ECU/g denim

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Trial B: Amylase: Termamyl®, dosage: 200 KNU/l Endoglucanase (cellulase):

EG V (as in trial A), dosage: 10 ECU/g denim

EG I (monocomponent endoglucanase from *Humicola insolens*, DSM 1800, having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 3), dosage: 10 ECU/g denim

**Washing** was carried out in a wascator (FOM71 LAB). Wash-program:

25 1) Main wash at 55°C, 20 1 water, 120 min, buffer and enzyme added.

Buffer:30 g  $KH_2PO_4$  + 20 g  $Na_2HPO_4$ , pH7

- 2) Drain 30 sec.
- 3) Rinse at 80°C, normal action, 32 l water,

15 min.; 20 g Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> added

- 4) Drain 30 sec.
- 5) Rinse at 54°C, normal action,32 l water, 5 min.
- 35 6) Drain 30 sec.
  - 7) Rinse at 14°C, normal action, 32 1 water,

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5 min.

- 8) Drain 30 sec.
- 9) Spinning 40 sec. at low speed and 50 sec. at high speed.

Drying: The samples were dried in a tumble-dryer.

The jeans from the two trials were abraded to almost the same level.

#### 10 Evaluation:

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5 persons skilled in the art of evaluating denim were asked to grade the denim legs (two legs from each trial, leg "1" and "3" from trial B, leg "2" and "4" from trial A) from 1 to 4, where 1 was the least streaked denim leg and 4 was the leg with most streaks on.

Grading were as shown in the table below:

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
Grade 1	1	3	3	3	3
Grade 2	3	1	1	1	1
Grade 3	4	2	2	2	2
Grade 4	2	4	4	4	4

As can be seen from the table, the denim legs treated in the combi-process of the invention with a combination of two monocomponent endoglucanases having abrading and strak-reducing properties, respectively, e.g. an EG V type and EG I type cellulase, are all rated to have the best appearance with respect to streaking and uniformity of the localized color variation.

#### Figures 1 and 2:

To illustrate the change in uniformity that can be obtained by using a streak-reducing or levelling endoglucanse

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(cellulase) in the process of the invention, swatches from trial A and B were scanned (HP ScanJet II CX) into a computer and printed in black-and-white.

Figure 1 show part of a denim leg from trial B and figure 2 show part of a denim leg from trial A.

16

# SEQUENCE LISTING

	IN	FORM	ITAI	ON I	FOR	SEQ	ΙD	NO:	1:							
		(	i)	SEQ	JENC	E C	HARA	ACTE	CRIS	TIC	S:					
5				(A)	) LE	NGT	Н: 4	415	ami	no a	acio	is				
				(B)	TY	PE:	am:	ino	aci	d						
				(C)	ST	'RAN	DE DI	NESS	: s	ingl	le					
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10					SINA			-								
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15																
	Gln	Lys	Pro	Gly	Glu	Thr	Lys	Glu	Val	His	Pro	Gln	Leu	Thr	Thr	Phe
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20	ni g	Суз	1111	20	Arg	СГУ	GIŸ	Cys	Lуs 25	Pro	Ala	Thr	Asn	Phe 30	Ile	Val
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	Leu	Asp		Leu	Ser	His	Pro	Ile	His	Arg	Ala	Glu	Gly	Leu	Gly	Pro
			35					40					45			
25	Glv	Gly	Cvs	Gìv	Asp	Tro	Glv	Asn	Pro	Pro	Dro	Tura	ħ a ==	TI - 1	^	
	_	50	-1-	1		•••	55	11011	110	110	FIO	60	ASD	val.	Cys	Pro
		Val	Glu	Ser	Cys		Lys	Asn	Cys	Ile	Met	Glu	Gly	Ile	Pro	Asp
30	65					70					75					80
50	Tyr	Ser	Gln	Tvr	Glv	Val	Thr	Thr	Asn	Glv	Thr	Sor	Lou	7	T a	G1
				-	85				••••	90	****	DCI	Беи	Ary	95	GIII
2.5	His	Ile	Leu		Asp	Gly	Arg	Val		Ser	Pro	Arg	Val	Tyr	Leu	Leu
35				100					105					110		
	Asp	Lys	Thr	Lvs	Ara	Ara	Tvr	Glu	Met	Leu	His	Len	Thr	Clu	Dha	C1
	•	-	115	-1-	9	5	- / -	120	1100	Lea	1113	LCu	125	оту	rne	GIU
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		130					135					140				

	Ala 145		Tyr	Leu	Ser	Glu 150		His	Pro	Thr	Gly 155		Lys	Ser	Lys	Tyr 160
5	Asn	Pro	Gly	Gly	Ala 165	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Thr	Gly 170		Cys	Asp	Ala	Gln 175	-
	Phe	Val	Thr	Pro 180	Phe	Ile	Asn	Gly	Leu 185		Asn	Ile	Glu	Gly 190	-	Gly
10	Ser	Cys	Cys 195	Asn	Glu	Met	Asp	Ile 200	Trp	Glu	Ala	Asn	Ser 205	Arg	Ala	Ser
15	His	Val 210	Ala	Pro	His	Thr	Cys 215	Asn	Lys	Lys	Gly	Leu 220	Tyr	Leu	Cys	Glu
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30	Gln	Asp 290	Gly	Lys	Val	Ile	Glu 295	Ser	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Asn 300	Lys	Glu	Gly	Val
	Pro 305	Tyr	Thr	Asn	Met	Ile 310	Asp	Asp	Glu	Phe	Cys 315	Glu	Ala	Thr	Gly	Ser 320
35	Arg	Lys	Tyr	Met	Glu 325	Leu	Gly	Ala	Thr	Gln 330	Gly	Met	Gly	Glu	Ala 335	Leu
	Thr	Arg	Gly	Met 340	Val	Leu	Ala	Met	Ser 345	Ile	Trp	Trp	Asp	Gln 350	Gly	Gly
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	Glu	Gly 370	Ala	Pro	Ser	Asn	Ile 375	Val	Gln	Val	Glu	Pro 380	Phe	Pro	Glu	Val

	Thr Ty:	r Thr	Asn	Leu	Arg 390	Trp	Gly	Glu	Ile	Gly 395		Thr	Tyr	Gln	Glu 400
5	Val Gli	n Lys	Pro	Lys 405	Pro	Lys	Pro	Gly	His 410		Pro	Arg	Ser	Asp 415	
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	Ala Asp	Ala	Gly :	Ile	His	Gly	Ile	Arg	Arg	Ser	Ala	Gly	Cys	Gly	Asp
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35	Ala Gly	Ile	Thr '	Thr	Ser	Glv	Asn	Lvs	Leu	Ara	Len	Gln	Gln	I.e.i	Tìo
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	Asn Asn			Val	Ser	Pro	Arg		Tyr	Leu	Leu	Glu	Glu	Asn	Lys
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5	Val	. Glu 130		Glu	l Lys	: Leu	Pro		Gly	/ Met	: Asn	140		a Leu	туг	: Le
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	Ser 385		. Ile	Arg	Ile	Gly 390	Glu	Ile	Gly	Ser	Thr 395	Ser	Ser	Val	Lys	Ala 400
10	Pro	Ala	Tyr	Pro	Gly 405	Pro	His	Arg	Leu							
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	Leu	Val	Asn	Gly 20	Gln	Lys	Pro	Gly	Glu 25	Thr	Lys	Glu	Val	His	Pro	Gln
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20	Thr	Tyr	Gln	Glu 420	Val	Gln	Lys	Pro	Lys <b>42</b> 5	Pro	Lys	Pro	Gly	His 430	Gly	Pro
	Arg	Ser	<b>Asp</b> 435													

PCT/DK96/00469

WO 97/18286

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CLAIMS

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1. A one-step process for combined desizing and "stonewashing" of dyed denim, wherein the denim is treated with an amylolytic enzyme in combination with a first abrading monocomponent endoglucanase and a second streak-reducing monocomponent endoglucanase.

- 2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the amylolytic enzyme is an  $\alpha$ -amylase, preferably a microbial  $\alpha$ amylase, such as a bacterial or a fungal  $\alpha$ -amylase.
- 3. The process according to claim 2, wherein the  $\alpha$ amylase is producible by the bacterium Bacillus, or by the fungus Aspergillus.
- 4. The process according to claim 2, wherein the  $\alpha$ amylase is producible by the Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus subtilis or Bacillus stearothermophilus; or mutants thereof.
- 5. The process according to claim 4, wherein the  $\alpha$ amylase are selected from the oxidation-stable  $\alpha$ -amylase mutants disclosed in International Patent Application PCT/DK94/00371 (WO 95/21247).
- 6. The process according to any of the claims 1-5, wherein the first endoglucanase is a fungal EG V type cellulase, or a fungal EG III type cellulase obtainable from a strain of the genus Trichoderma.
- 7. The process according to claim 6, wherein the EG V type endoglucanase is derived from or producible by a strain of Scytalidium (f. Humicola), Fusarium, or Myceliophthora.
- 8. The process according to claim 7, wherein the EG V is derived from or producible by Scytalidium thermophilum (f. Humicola insolens), Fusarium oxysporum or Myceliophthora themophila, preferably from Humicola insolens, DSM 1800, Fusarium oxysporum, DSM 2672, or Myceliophthora themophila, CBS 117.65.
- 9. The process according to claim 8, in which the endoglucanase comprises the amino acid sequence of the Humicola

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insolens endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 1 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which

- i) is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 1,  $\,$
- ii) reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or  $\,$
- iii) is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.
- 10. The process according to claim 8, in which the endoglucanase comprises the amino acid sequence of the *Fusarium oxysporum* endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 2 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which
- i) is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 2,  $\,$
- ii) reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or
- iii) is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.
- 11. The process according to any of the claims 1 10, wherein the second endoglucanase has a catalytic activity on cellotriose at pH 8.5 corresponding to  $k_{cat}$  of at least 0.01 s<sup>-1</sup>, preferably of at least 0.1 s<sup>-1</sup>, more preferably of at least 1 s<sup>-1</sup>.
- 12. The process according to claim 11, wherein the second endoglucanase is obtainable by or derived from a strain of Humicola, Trichoderma, Myceliophthora, Penicillium, Irpex, Aspergillus, Scytalidium or Fusarium.
- 13. The process according to claim 12, wherein the endoglucanase is derivable from a strain of *Humicola insolens*, Fusarium oxysporum or *Trichoderma reesei*.
- 14. The process according to claim 12, in which the endoglucanase comprises the amino acid sequence of the *Humicola insolens* endoglucanase shown in SEQ ID No. 3 or is an analogue of said endoglucanase which
- i) is at least 60% homologous with the sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 3,

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- ii) reacts with an antibody raised against said endoglucanase, and/or
- $\tt iii)$  is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the DNA sequence encoding said endoglucanase.
- 15. The process according to any of the claims 1-14, in which the first and second endoglucanase, respectively, is used in an amount of corresponding to a cellulase activity between 5 and 8000 ECU per litre of desizing/"stone-washing" liquor, preferably between 50 and 500 ECU per litre of liquor.
- 16. The process according to any of the claims 1-15, in which the treatment is performed at a temperature in the range of 30-100°C, preferably 30-60°C, and a pH in the range of 3-11, preferably 7-9.

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- 17. The process according to any of the claims 1-16, wherein denim is dyed with a natural dye, preferably indigo; or a synthetic dye, preferably direct dye, indirect dye and fiber-reactive dye.
- 18. The process according to any of the claims 1-17, in which the denim additionally is treated with a thermostable lipolytic enzyme; preferably a thermostable lipolytic enzyme derived from a strain of *Pseudomonas*, more preferably a strain of *Pseudomonas fragi*; a strain of *Pseudomonas stutzeri*, a strain of *Pseudomonas cepacia*, a strain of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, or a strain of *Candida*, preferably a strain of *Candida cylindracea* (also called *Candida rugosa*), or a strain of *Candida antarctica*.
- 19. The process according to claim 18, in which the lipolytic enzyme is dosed in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 10,000 KLU/l, preferably of from about 0.1 to about 1000 KLU/l.
- 20. The process according to any of the claims 1-19, in which the  $\alpha\text{-amylase}$  is dosed in an amount of from about 100 to about 10,000 KNU/l.

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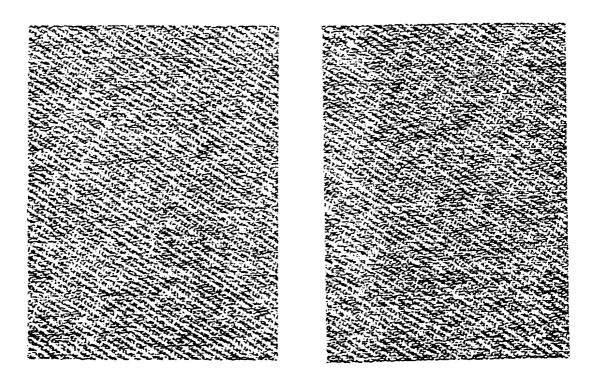


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 96/00469

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: C11D 3/386, D06L 1/14, D06M 16/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

#### IPC6: C11D, D06M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

## SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C DOOL	A FENTEN CONTRIBED TO THE PER PROPERTY.	
C. DOCO	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5460966 A (MICHAEL W. DIXON), 24 October 1995 (24.10.95), column 1, line 23 - line 35; column 5, line 1 - line 7	1-17
Y	WO 9117243 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 14 November 1991 (14.11.91), see example 6	1-4,6
Y	WO 9407983 A1 (GENENCOR INTERNATIONAL, INC.), 14 April 1994 (14.04.94), page 12, line 31 - page 13, line 16, and claims	1,6,11-13
	<del></del>	
Y	WO 9524471 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 14 Sept 1995 (14.09.95), figures 1-3, claims 20 and 21	1,6-17
	<del></del>	

Х	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box	: C.	X See patent family annex.
* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" "L"	eriter document but published on or after the international filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"X"	document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"& <b>"</b>	considered to involve an inventive step when the document 15 combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family
	e of the actual completion of the international search	Date o	f mailing of the international search report  28.02.97
	February 1997		20.02.9/
Nan	ne and mailing address of the ISA/	Author	rized officer
Box	edish Patent Office 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM simile No. +46 8 666 02 86		-0lof Gustafsson one No. +46.8.782.25.00

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/DK 96/00469

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No	
A	WO 9521247 A1 (NOVO NORDISK A/S), 10 August 1995 (10.08.95)	5	
	~ <b>~~~</b>		

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

03/02/97

International application No.
PCT/DK 96/00469

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent (amily member(s)	Publication date
JS-A- 5 <b>460</b> 9	66 24/10/95	BE-A- 1008269 DE-A- 4407801 FR-A,B- 2702779 GB-A,B- 2276178 GB-D- 9404712 IT-D- RM940135	05/03/96 22/09/94 23/09/94 21/09/94 00/00/00 00/00/00
√0-A1- 91172	43 14/11/91	AT-T- 118545 AU-B- 639570 AU-A- 7887491 CA-A- 2082279 DE-D,T- 69107455 EP-A,B- 0531372 ES-T- 2068586 JP-T- 5509223	15/03/95 29/07/93 27/11/91 10/11/91 12/10/95 17/03/93 16/04/95 22/12/93
/O-A1- 9 <b>40</b> 79	83 14/04/94	AU-A- 4924793 CA-A- 2145873 EP-A- 0663004 JP-T- 8502101	26/04/94 14/04/94 19/07/95 05/03/96
/O-A1- 95244	71 14/09/95	AU-A- 1890095 DE-U- 29509606 EP-A- 0749473	25/09/95 08/02/96 27/12/96
/O-A1- 95212	47 1 <b>0/0</b> 8/95	AU-A- 7807594 EP-A- 0742817 FI-A- 963043	21/08/95 20/11/96 01/08/96

Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)