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(12) **United States Patent**  
**Hartle et al.**(10) **Patent No.:** **US 7,144,737 B2**(45) **Date of Patent:** **Dec. 5, 2006**(54) **PROCESS FOR DETERMINING THE PERCENT OF CHELATION IN A DRY MIXTURE**(75) Inventors: **Jennifer Hartle**, Harrisville, UT (US);  
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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*G01N 33/00* (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **436/86; 436/89**(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... **436/86, 436/89**

See application file for complete search history.

*Primary Examiner*—Monique T. Cole(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Thorpe North & Western(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for determining the amount of metal amino acid chelate present in various chelate compositions. FT-IR is used to determine the amount of free amino acid present. The bound amino acids may be in the form of an amino acid complex or an amino acid chelate. A total metal analysis and measurement of ligand quantity is then performed, from which the percent of metal amino acid chelate in the sample is calculated.

**9 Claims, No Drawings**

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