



Classification of the hydroalcoholic extract of the fruit of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton as a novel food

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An application was submitted to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) for classification of a hydroalcoholic extract of the fruit of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton as a novel food.

This food is a **hydroalcoholic extract of the fruit of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton (commonly known as the American blueberry)**. As regards the fruit itself, human consumption to a significant degree was sufficiently documented prior to 15 May 1997. The fruit of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton was already traded in the EU before 1995, which proves that it was being consumed.

This extract is extracted with a 70:30 ethanol:water solution and contains specific phytochemicals and other constituents of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton in concentrated form, obtained through a defined extraction process, after which it no longer corresponds to the original composition of the fruit.

Based on the information currently available to the FSVO, there is no evidence to suggest that this specific hydroalcoholic extract of the fruit of *Vaccinium angustifolium* Aiton was used as a food for human consumption to a significant degree in Switzerland or a Member State of the EU prior to 15 May 1997.

Unless evidence to the contrary is provided to demonstrate a significant history of use as a food prior to the cut-off date of 15 May 1997, this extract therefore falls under the definition of novel foods stated in Article 15 paragraph 1 of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FUAO; SR 817.02), particularly in the category

"*Food consisting of, isolated from or produced from plants or their parts*" (Art. 15 para. 1 let. d FUAO)

and is subject to the authorisation requirement under Article 17 FUAO.