

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION

CHRIS R. JOHNSON, Clerk
By
Deputy Clerk

SHANE SPARKS, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

-against-

TARGET BRANDS, INC. and
TARGET CORPORATION

Defendants.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Case No.

15-5033

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff, Shane Sparks, brings this lawsuit against Defendants Target Brands, Inc. and Target Corporation (collectively "Target" or "Defendants"). In order to remedy the harm arising from Defendants' illegal conduct which has resulted in unjust profits, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of Plaintiff and a statewide class of Arkansas citizens who, within the last five years, purchased the mislabeled herbal supplements referred to herein as (the "Purchased Products" and/or "Mislabeled Products").

DEFINITIONS

1. "Class Period" is February 4, 2010 to the present.
2. Over the last five years, Plaintiff, Shane Sparks, has purchased Up & Up Ginkgo Biloba, Up & Up St. John's Wort and Up & Up Valerian Root (the "Purchased Products"). Pictures of the Purchased Products are attached at Exhibit "1."
3. "Mislabeled Herbal Products" are the Purchased Products identified herein.
4. The Mislabeled Herbal Products were mislabeled because they failed to contain the medicinal herbs represented by the label.
5. The issue in this case is the false label representations and/or misrepresentations on the labels of the Misbranded Herbal Products.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, Shane Sparks, is a resident of Bentonville, Benton County, Arkansas who purchased the Purchased Products during the five (5) years prior to the filing of this Complaint (the "Class Period").

7. Defendant, Target Brands, Inc., is a Minnesota corporation with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota doing business in the State of Arkansas.

8. Defendant, Target Corporation, is a Minnesota corporation with its principal place of business in Minneapolis, Minnesota doing business in the State of Arkansas.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action in which: (1) the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs; (2) a member of the class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different from a defendant; and (3) the number of members of the Class in the aggregate is greater than 100.

10. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because the wrongdoing alleged herein occurred in Arkansas. Defendants also have sufficient minimum contacts with Arkansas and has otherwise intentionally availed itself of the markets in Arkansas through the promotion, marketing, and sale of products sufficient to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

11. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) and (3) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred in this District, a substantial part of the property that is the subject of this action is situated in this District, and Defendants are subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction with respect to this action.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12. Target has manufactured, labeled and sold, during the Class Period, Target “Up & Up” brand dietary supplement products defined herein as “Mislabeled Herbal Products.”

13. The Target “Mislabeled Herbal Products” prominently identified the primary herbal dietary ingredient as “Gingko Biloba,” “St. John’s Wort” and “Valerian Root.”

14. The “Mislabeled Herbal Products” do not contain the primary herbal dietary ingredient represented on the products’ labels, such as “Gingko Biloba,” “St. John’s Wort” and “Valerian Root.”

15. The Attorney General for the State of New York has served upon Target a Cease and Desist Notification demanding that Target immediately stop the sale of the Mislabeled Herbal Products. A copy of the Cease and Desist Notification is attached as Exhibit “2.”

16. Target falsely manufactured, labeled and sold the “Mislabeled Herbal Products.” The “Mislabeled Herbal Products” have no monetary value and are worthless.

17. Plaintiff and the Class relied upon the representations on the products’ labels to their detriment.

18. Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged by the false and deceptive labeling on the Mislabeled Herbal Products. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to a return of the purchase price paid for the worthless Mislabeled Herbal Products.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

19. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to the Arkansas Rule of Procedure 23 on behalf of the following class:

All persons who purchased Up & Up Gingko Biloba, Up & Up St. John’s Wort and Up & Up Valerian Root in the United States, since February 4,

2010. (the "Class").

20. The following persons are expressly excluded from each Class: (1) Defendants and their subsidiaries and affiliates; (2) all persons who make a timely election to be excluded from the proposed Class; (3) governmental entities; and (4) the Court to which this case is assigned and its staff.

21. This action can be maintained as a class action because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Class is easily ascertainable.

22. Numerosity: Based upon Defendants' publicly available sales data with respect to the misbranded products at issue, it is estimated that the Class numbers in the hundreds, and that joinder of all Class members is impracticable.

23. Common Questions Predominate: This action involves common questions of law and fact applicable to each Class member that predominate over questions that affect only individual Class members. Thus, proof of a common set of facts will establish the right of each Class member to recover. Questions of law and fact common to each Class member include:

- a. Whether Defendants engaged in unlawful, unfair or deceptive business practices by failing to properly label its products it sold to consumers;
- b. Whether the products at issue were mislabeled as a matter of law;
- c. Whether Defendants made unlawful and misleading herbal representations and warranties with respect to its products sold to consumers;
- d. Whether Defendants violated the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (A.C.A. § 4-88-101, *et. seq.*);
- e. Whether Defendants breached its implied warranty of merchantability;
- f. Whether Defendants breached its express warranties;
- g. Whether Defendants were negligent in its labeling and advertising of the Purchased Products;
- h. Whether Defendants unlawfully sold the Mislabeled Herbal Products in violation of the laws of Arkansas;
- i. Whether Defendants' unlawful, unfair and deceptive practices harmed Plaintiff

and the Class;

- j. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have been damaged by the unlawful actions of the Defendants and the amount of damages to the Class;
- k. Whether Defendants were unjustly enriched by its deceptive practices;
- l. Whether punitive damages should be awarded; and
- m. Whether Defendants should be enjoined from continuing the conduct complained of herein.

24. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of each Class because Plaintiff bought Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products during the Class Period. Defendants' unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concern the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced. Plaintiff and each Class sustained similar injuries arising out of Defendants' conduct in violation of Arkansas law. The injuries of each member of each Class were caused directly by Defendants' wrongful conduct. In addition, the factual underpinning of Defendants' misconduct is common to all Class members of each class and represents a common thread of misconduct resulting in injury to all members of each Class. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct that give rise to the claims of each member of the Class and are based on the same legal theories.

25. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's counsel have any interests that conflict with or are antagonistic to the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has retained competent and experienced class action attorneys to represent their interests and those of the members of the Class. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel have the necessary financial resources to adequately and vigorously litigate this class action, and Plaintiff and counsel are aware of their fiduciary responsibilities to the members of the class and will diligently discharge those duties by seeking the maximum possible recovery for the Class.

26. Superiority: There is no plain, speedy or adequate remedy other than by maintenance of this class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the

Class will tend to establish inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendants and result in the impairment of each Class member's rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Further, as the damages suffered by individual members of the Class may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the Class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. Class treatment of common questions of law and fact would also be superior to multiple individual actions or piecemeal litigation in that class treatment will conserve the resources of the Court and the litigants, and will promote consistency and efficiency of adjudication.

27. Predominance: The prerequisites to maintaining a class action pursuant to ARK. R. CIV. P. 23 are met as questions of law or fact common to each class member predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

28. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of A.C.A. § 4-88-101 et seq.)

29. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

30. Defendants' conduct constitutes unlawful deceptive and unconscionable trade

practices. Defendants' conduct was consumer-oriented and this conduct had broad impact on consumers at large. Defendants engaged in false, misleading and unlawful advertising, marketing and labeling of Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products. Defendants' manufacturing, distribution and sale of Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products were similarly unlawful.

31. Defendants unlawfully sold Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas during the Class Period.

32. As fully alleged above, by advertising, marketing, distributing and selling mislabeled and misbranded Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products to Plaintiff and other members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas, Defendants engaged in, and continue to engage in, unlawful deceptive and unconscionable trade practices.

33. Defendants' misleading marketing, advertising, packaging and labeling of Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products were likely to deceive reasonable consumers.

34. Plaintiff and other members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas were deceived.

35. Defendants have engaged in unlawful deceptive and unconscionable trade practices.

36. Plaintiff and other members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas were injured by Defendants' unlawful deceptive and unconscionable trade practices.

37. Defendants' fraud and deception caused Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products that they would otherwise not have purchased had Plaintiff known the true nature of these products.

38. Plaintiff and other members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas were injured as a result of Defendants' unlawful deceptive and

unconscionable trade practices.

39. Defendants sold to Plaintiff and the members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas, a product that had no economic value. Defendants' violation of A.C.A. §§ 4-88-107 and 4-88-108 remains ongoing.

40. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' violation of A.C.A. §§ 4-88-107 and 4-88-108, Plaintiff and the members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas were injured when they paid for this illegal and worthless products. Plaintiff and the members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

41. As a result of Defendants' unlawful deceptive and unconscionable trade practices, Plaintiff and the members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas, pursuant to A.C.A. § 4-88-113 and A.C.A. §§ 4-88-107 and 4-88-108, are entitled to damages and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendants' ill-gotten gains and to restore to Plaintiff and the members of the Class who purchased Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products in Arkansas any money paid for Defendants' Mislabeled Herbal Products.

42. The conduct described above constitutes unfair or deceptive trade practices predominately and substantially affecting the conduct of trade or commerce throughout the United States in violation of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practice Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 4-88-101, *et. seq.* and other similar state statutes prohibiting unfair and deceptive acts and practices (collectively "DTPA"). Other similar state statutes include:

Alabama:	Ala. Code §8-19-5
Alaska:	Alaska Stat. §45-50-471, <i>et seq.</i>
Arkansas:	Ark. Code Ann. §4-88-101, <i>et seq.</i>
Arizona:	Ariz. Rev. Stat. §44-1522, <i>et seq.</i>
California:	Cal. Civ. Code §§1780 – 1784, Business and Profession Code §1720, <i>et seq.</i> ,

	§1750, et seq.
Connecticut:	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§42-110a – 42-110g
Colorado:	Col. Rev. Stat. §§6-1-101 – 6-1-114
Delaware:	6 Del. Code Ann. §§2511 – 2537
District of Columbia:	D.C. Code Ann. §§28-3801 – 28-3819
Florida:	Fla. Stat. Ann. §§501.201 – 501.213
Georgia:	Ga. Stat. §10-1-393, et. seq.
Hawaii:	Hawaii Rev. L. §§480-1 – 480-24
Idaho:	Idaho Code §§48-601 – 48-619
Illinois:	815 IL CS 505/2
Indiana:	Ind. Code §24-5-0.5, et. seq.
Iowa:	Iowa Code §714.16
Kansas:	Kan. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§50-623 – 50-644
Kentucky:	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§367.110 – 367.990
Louisiana:	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§13:1401 – 13:1418
Maine:	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§206 – 214
Maryland:	Md. Code Ann. §§13-501
Massachusetts:	Mass. Gen. L. Ann. Ch. 93A. §§1-11
Michigan:	Mich. Stat. Ann. §19.418(B)
Minnesota:	Minn. Stat. Ann. §§325D.09 – 325D.16
Mississippi:	Miss. Code §75-24-5, et. seq.
Missouri:	Mo. Ann. Stat. §§407.010 – 407.701
Montana:	Mont. Rev. Code Ann. §§30-14-101 – 30-14-224
Nebraska:	Neb. Rev. Code §§59-1501 – 59-1623
Nevada:	Nev. Rev. Stat. §§590A.010 – 590A.280
New Hampshire:	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §358-A:2
New Jersey:	N.J. Rev. Stat. §§56:8-1 – 56:8-24
New Mexico:	N.M. Stat. Ann. §57-12-10
New York:	N.Y. Gen. Bus. L. §§349 - 350
North Carolina:	N.C. Gen. Stat. §§75-1 – 75-56
North Dakota:	N.D. Cent. Code §51-15-02
Ohio:	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §1345
Oklahoma:	Okla. Stat. Tit. 15 §753
Oregon:	Ore. Rev. Stat. §§646.605 – 646.642
Pennsylvania:	73 Pa. Stat. §201, et se.
Rhode Island:	R.I. Rev. L. Ann. §§6-13.1-1 – 6-13.1-11
South Carolina:	S.C. Code §39-5-20, et. seq.
South Dakota:	S.D. Comp. L. §§37-24-1 37-24-35
Tennessee:	Tenn. Code Ann. §47-18-101 et seq.
Texas:	Tex. Rev. Civ. Stat. §§17.41 –17.63
Utah:	Utah Code Ann. §13-11-19
Vermont:	Vt. Stat. Ann. §§2451 – 2462
Virginia:	Va. Code §59.1-200, et. seq.
Washington:	RCW §19-86-010, et seq.
West Virginia:	W. Va. Code Ann. §46A-6-104
Wisconsin:	Wis. Stat. Ann. §100.18
Wyoming:	Wyo. Stat. §40-12-105, et.seq.

43. As approximate results of the Defendants' deceptive trade practices, the Plaintiff and the members of the class have suffered actual damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

44. Defendants' conduct complained of herein renders it liable under the states' DTPAs for damages for the consequences of such conduct.

45. Defendants' actions were willful, wanton, malicious, and in total disregard for the rights of the Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendants knew or should have known, in light of the surrounding circumstances that their conduct in violation of states' Deceptive Trade Practices Acts would naturally and probably result in damages to Plaintiff and Class Members. Defendants continued its wrongful conduct with malice or in reckless disregard of the consequences, from which malice may be inferred. Further, Defendants intentionally pursued its course of conduct for the purpose of causing Plaintiff and Class Members damages. Punitive damages should be awarded to deter the actions of Defendants and others who might engage in similar action or conduct.

46. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to any and all penalties and/or multipliers of damages as may be provided for in the states' DTPAs.

47. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of this action, plus pre and post judgment interest as may be allowed by law.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
(Unjust Enrichment)

48. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

49. As a result of Defendants' unlawful and deceptive actions described above, Defendants were enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and the Class through the payment of the purchase price for the Mislabeled Herbal Products.

50. Under the circumstances, it would be against equity and good conscience to permit Defendants to retain the ill-gotten benefits that they received from the Plaintiff and the Class, in light of the fact that the Mislabeled Herbal Products purchased by Plaintiff and the Class were illegal products and were not what Defendants represented them to be. Thus, it would be unjust and inequitable for Defendants to retain the benefit without restitution to the Plaintiff and the Class for the monies paid to Defendants for the Mislabeled Herbal Products.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
(Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability)

51. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

52. Implied in the purchase of the Mislabeled Herbal Products by Plaintiff and the Class is the warranty that the purchased products are legal and can be lawfully sold and possessed.

53. Defendants knowingly and intentionally mislabeled their Mislabeled Herbal Products.

54. Defendants knew those Mislabeled Herbal Products were unlawful.

55. When Defendants sold this product it impliedly warranted that the products were legal and could be lawfully possessed and/or sold and therefore, merchantable.

56. Plaintiff would not have knowingly purchased a product that was illegal to own or possess.

57. No reasonable consumer would knowingly purchase a product that is illegal to own or possess.

58. The purchased Mislabeled Herbal Products were unfit for the ordinary purpose for which Plaintiff and the Class purchased them.

59. In fact, this Mislabeled Herbal Products were illegal, mislabeled, and economically

worthless.

60. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class were injured through their purchase of unsuitable, useless, illegal and unsellable products.

61. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the Class were damaged in the amount they paid for Mislabeled Herbal Products.

62. Notice of the Breach of Warranty is being provided to Defendant.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Breach of Express Warranty)

63. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

64. Defendants' representations of fact and/or promises on the labels relating to their Mislabeled Herbal Products created express written warranties that the product would conform to Defendants' representation of fact and/or promises.

65. The Defendants' descriptions of their Mislabeled Herbal Products became part of the bases of the bargains, creating express written warranties that the product purchased by Plaintiff and the other Class Members would conform to Defendants' descriptions and specifications. The Mislabeled Herbal Products purchased by Plaintiff did not so conform.

66. Defendants provided warranties that its Mislabeled Herbal Products were labeled in compliance with state law and were not mislabeled under state law. Defendants breached these express written warranties.

67. As a result of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the other Class Members have suffered damages, in that the value of the product they purchased was less than warranted by Defendant.

68. Defendants engaged in a scheme of offering the Mislabeled Herbal Products for sale to Plaintiff and members of the Class by way of, inter alia, false and misleading product packaging and labeling.

69. Plaintiff and the Class were the intended targets of such representations and warranties.

70. Plaintiff and the Class reasonably relied on Defendants' representations and warranties.

71. Plaintiff asserts this cause of action for violations of Arkansas law pertaining to express warranties. Plaintiff and the Class were injured as a result of Defendants' breach of their express warranties about the Mislabeled Herbal Products. Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to damages arising from the breach of warranty.

72. Notice of the Breach of Warranty is being provided to Defendant.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
(Negligence)

73. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each of the above allegations as if fully set forth herein.

74. In making representations of fact to Plaintiff and the other Class members about their Mislabeled Herbal Products, Defendants failed to lawfully label or advertise their Mislabeled Herbal Products and violated their duties to disclose the material facts alleged above. Among the direct and proximate causes of said failure to disclose were the negligence and carelessness of Defendant.

75. Plaintiff and the other Class members, as a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' breaches of their duties, reasonably relied upon such representations to their detriment. By reason thereof, Plaintiff and the other Class members have suffered damages.

76. As described above, Defendants' actions violated a number of express statutory provisions designed to protect Plaintiff and the Class. Defendants' illegal actions constitute negligence per se. Moreover, the statutory food labeling and misbranding provisions violated by Defendants are strict liability provisions.

77. As alleged above, Plaintiff and the Class were injured by Defendants' unlawful actions and are entitled to recover an amount to be determined at trial due to the injuries and loss they suffered as a result of Defendants' negligence.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of their claims.


PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons, prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- A. For an order certifying this case as a class action and appointing Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel to represent the Class;
- B. For an order awarding, as appropriate, damages, restitution, or disgorgement to Plaintiff and the Class including all monetary relief to which Plaintiff and the Class are entitled;
- C. For an order awarding pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- D. For attorneys' fees and costs;
- E. Award punitive damages in an appropriate amount; and
- F. Enter an injunction permanently barring continuation of the conduct complained of herein.

Dated: February 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT 1

standardized extract
ginkgo biloba
120 mg

helps support memory, concentration
and circulation**



90 CAPLETS
DIETARY SUPPLEMENT

**These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration.
This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

Supplement Facts

Serving Size 1 Caplet

Amount Per Caplet	% Daily Value
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Ginkgo (<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>) (leaf) Standardized extract (24% flavone glycosides, 6% terpene lactones) 120 mg	
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*Daily Value not established.

Other Ingredients: Dicalcium Phosphate,
Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium,
Stearic Acid, Magnesium Stearate, Hypromellose,
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose, Polyethylene Glycol.

GLUTEN FREE

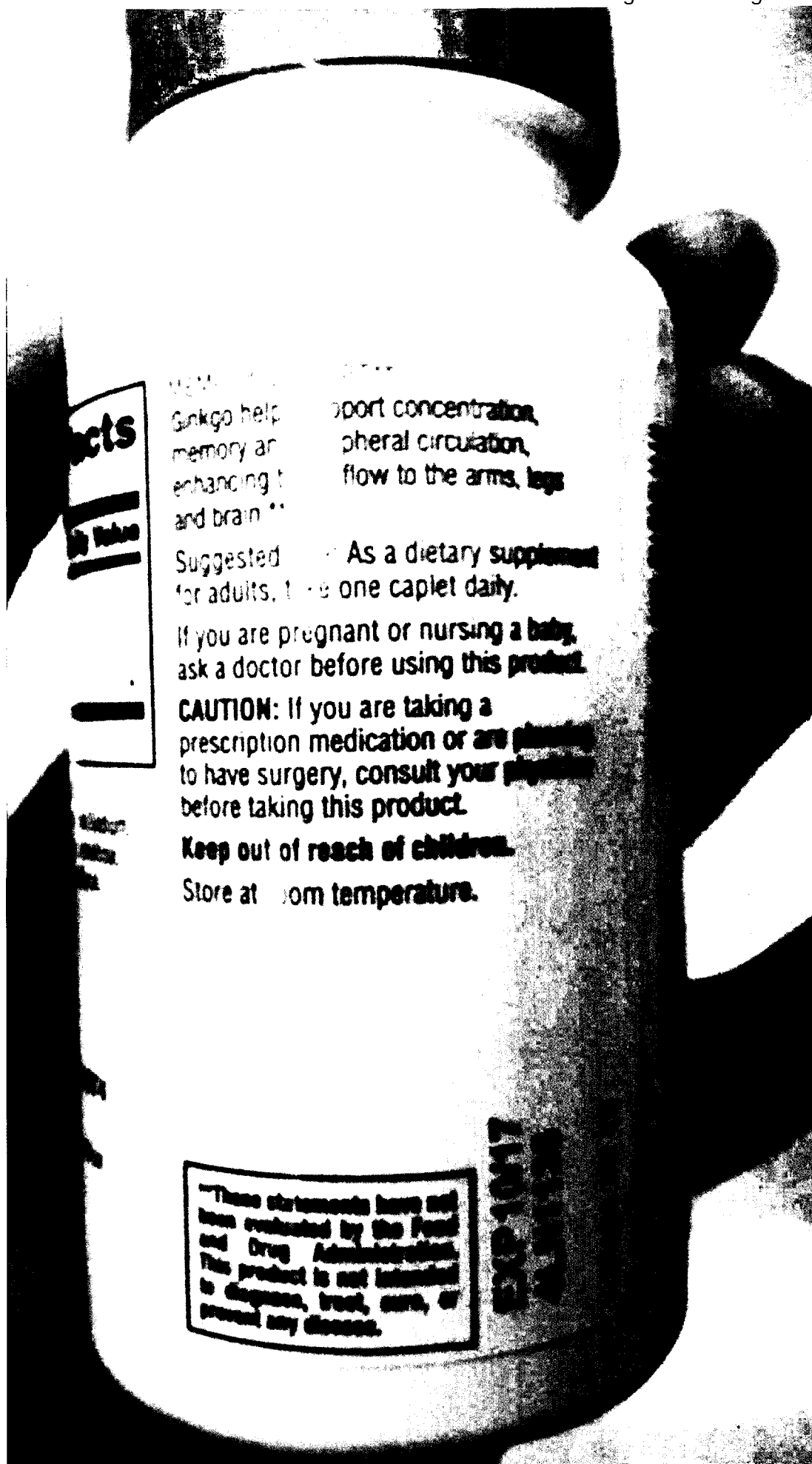
Questions? Call 1-800-910-6874

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ffects

its value

Ginkgo helps support concentration,
memory and peripheral circulation,
enhancing blood flow to the arms, legs
and brain.

Suggested Use: As a dietary supplement
for adults, take one caplet daily.

If you are pregnant or nursing a baby,
ask a doctor before using this product.

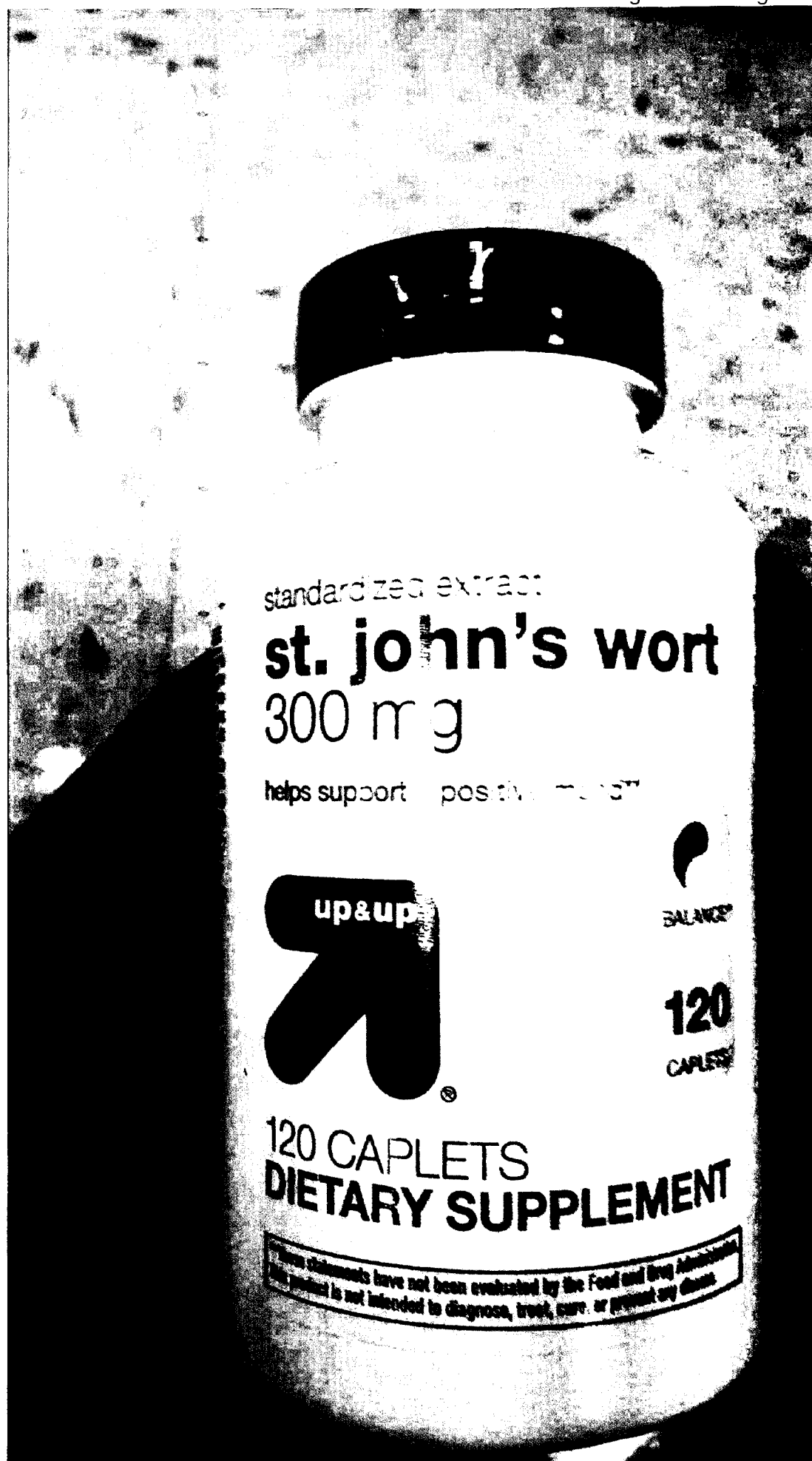
CAUTION: If you are taking a
prescription medication or are planning
to have surgery, consult your physician
before taking this product.

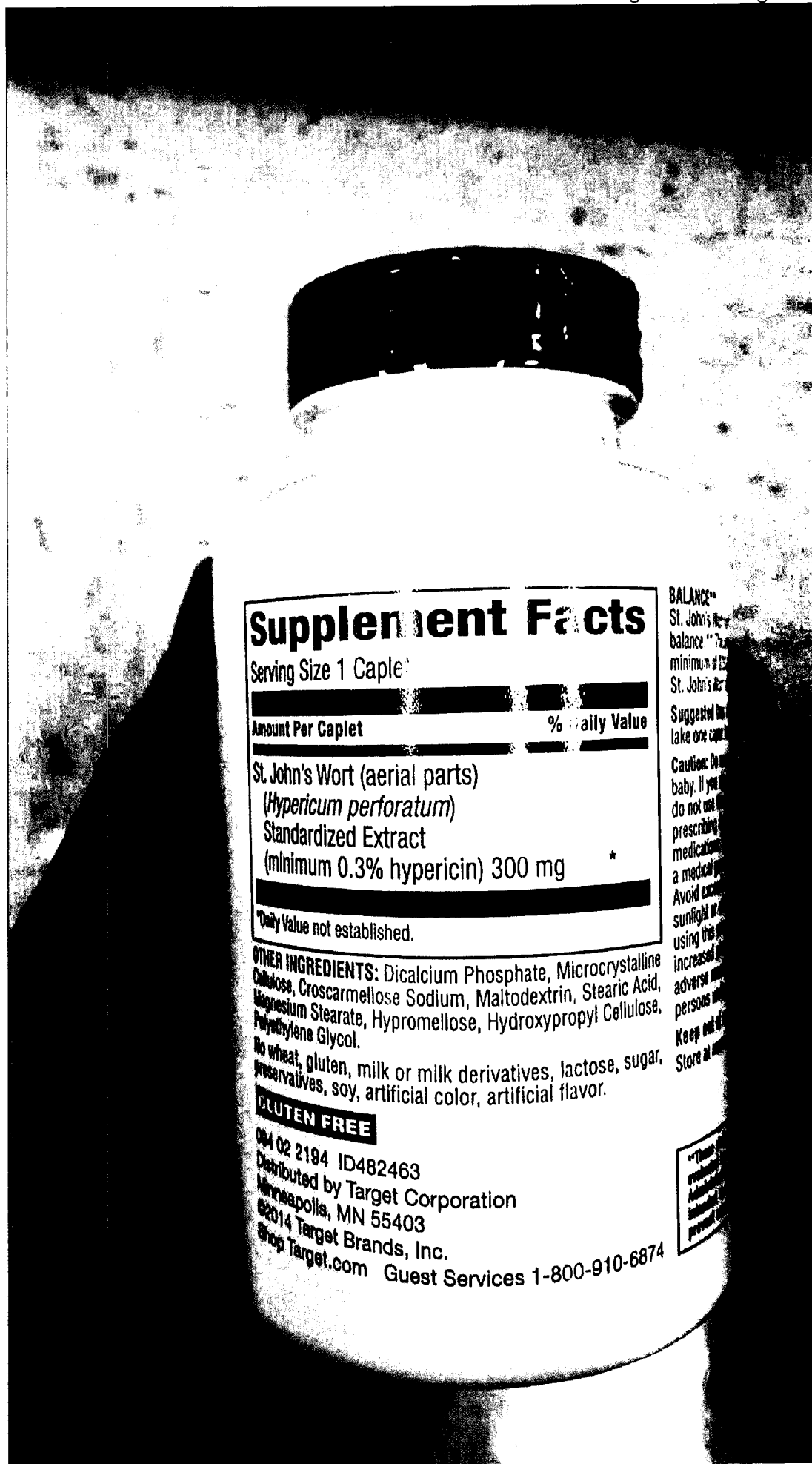
Keep out of reach of children.

Store at room temperature.

These statements have not
been evaluated by the Food
and Drug Administration.
This product is not intended
to diagnose, treat, cure, or
prevent any disease.

EXP-10/17
LOT-12/16





Supplement Facts

Serving Size 1 Capsule

Amount Per Capsule

% Daily Value

St. John's Wort (aerial parts)
(*Hypericum perforatum*)
Standardized Extract
(minimum 0.3% hypericin) 300 mg *

*Daily Value not established.

OTHER INGREDIENTS: Dicalcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Maltodextrin, Stearic Acid, Magnesium Stearate, Hypromellose, Hydroxypropyl Cellulose, Polyethylene Glycol.

No wheat, gluten, milk or milk derivatives, lactose, sugar, preservatives, soy, artificial color, artificial flavor.

GLUTEN FREE

04 02 2194 ID482463

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BALANCE

St. John's Wort
balance "The
minimum of 15
St. John's Wort

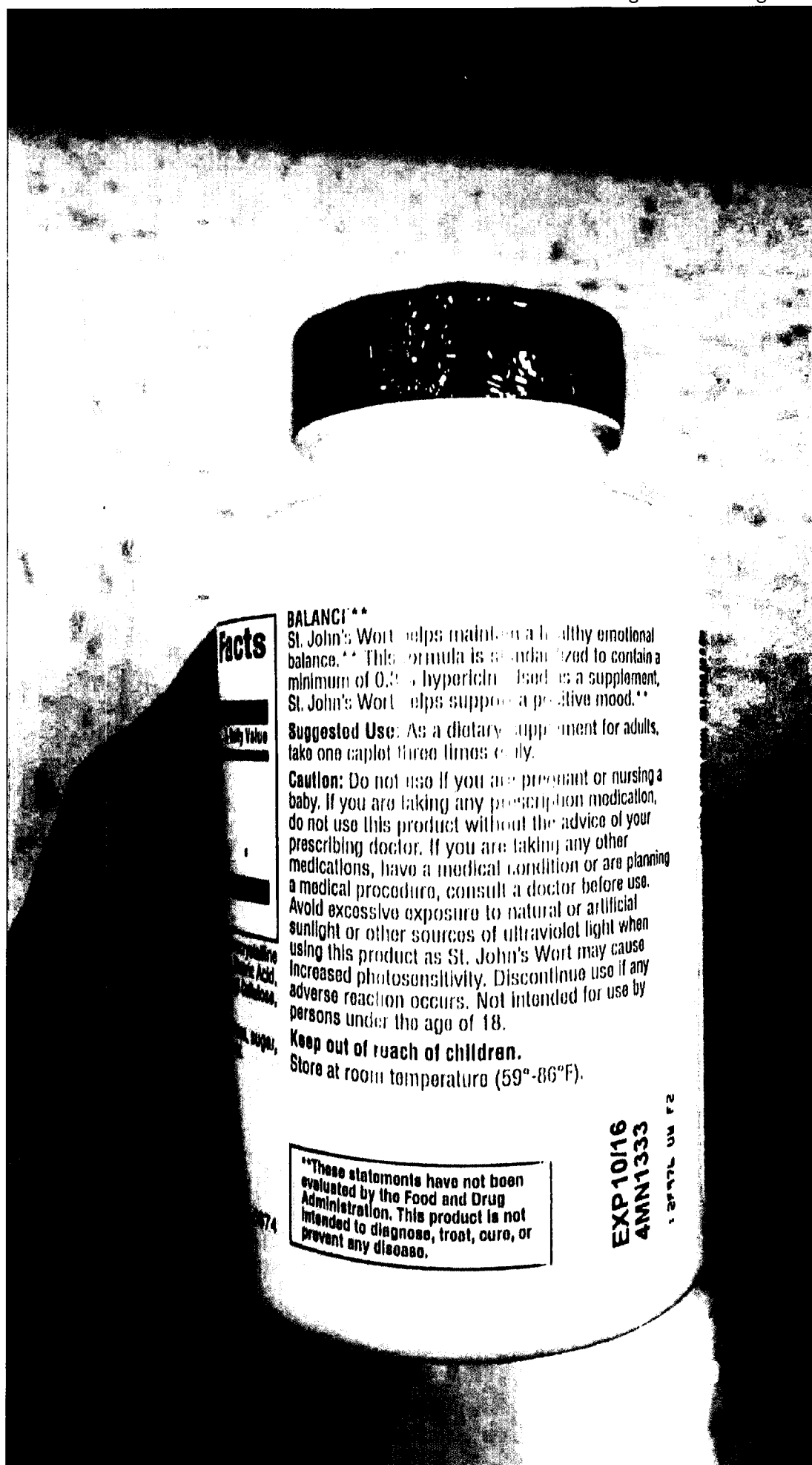
Suggested Use
Take one capsule

Caution: Do not
take if you are
pregnant or nursing
a baby. If you are
do not take if you
prescribing
medication
a medical professional
Avoid excessive
sunlight or tanning
beds while using this
product as it may
increase the risk of
skin irritation or
sunburn.

Keep out of reach
of children.

Store at room
temperature.

"This product
contains
ingredients
that may
interact with
certain
medications
or medical
conditions.
Consult your
physician
before use."



Facts

BALANCE**

St. John's Wort helps maintain a healthy emotional balance. ** This formula is standardized to contain a minimum of 0.3% hypericin. Used as a supplement, St. John's Wort helps support a positive mood. **

Suggested Use: As a dietary supplement for adults, take one caplet three times daily.

Caution: Do not use if you are pregnant or nursing a baby. If you are taking any prescription medication, do not use this product without the advice of your prescribing doctor. If you are taking any other medications, have a medical condition or are planning a medical procedure, consult a doctor before use. Avoid excessive exposure to natural or artificial sunlight or other sources of ultraviolet light when using this product as St. John's Wort may cause increased photosensitivity. Discontinue use if any adverse reaction occurs. Not intended for use by persons under the age of 18.

Keep out of reach of children.

Store at room temperature (59°-86°F).

**These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

EXP 10/16
AMN1333

1.29776 UM P2

EXHIBIT 2



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DIVISION OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS

February 2, 2015

Alexander Gourlay, President
Walgreens
200 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Certified—Return Receipt Requested

Re: **CEASE & DESIST NOTIFICATION**
Finest Nutrition—Walgreen Distributed Herbal Dietary Supplements

Dear Mr. Gourlay:

This letter constitutes a demand to cease and desist engaging in the sale of adulterated and/or mislabeled herbal dietary supplements, and in particular to immediately stop the sale of five "Finest Nutrition" dietary supplements as identified by lot number in the exhibit annexed hereto.

Be advised that the Attorney General is authorized by Executive Law § 63(12) to investigate allegations and prosecute businesses which perpetuate fraud upon consumers or engage in illegality in their business practices. General Business Article 22-b further authorizes this office to redress deceptive business acts and practices and false advertising. Of late, the topic of purity (or lack thereof) in popular herbal dietary supplements has raised serious public health and safety concerns,¹ and also caused this office to take steps to independently assess the validity of industry representations and advertising.

In an investigation recently conducted by the Attorney General's Office, six popular Walgreen "Finest Nutrition" brand dietary supplement products were purchased at three different New York State locations and were then genetically tested five times per sample, yielding 90 results. The supplements tested included Gingko Biloba, St. John's Wort, Ginseng, Garlic, Echinacea, and Saw Palmetto. By using established DNA barcoding technology, analytic testing disclosed that 5 of the 6 types of dietary supplement products tested were either unrecognizable or a substance other than what they claimed to be, and therefore fairly constitute contaminated or substituted products. Eighteen (18) percent of the tests yielded DNA matching the product label; 45% tested for botanical material other than what was on the label; and 37% yielded no plant DNA at all.

¹See, e.g., Newmaster, et al., "DNA Barcoding Detects Contamination and Substitution in North American Herbal Products," *BMC Medicine*, 2013, 11:222 (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/11/222>).

Contamination, substitution and falsely labeling herbal products constitute deceptive business practices and, more importantly, present considerable health risks for consumers. The Attorney General's testing upon the products purchased revealed the following:

Ginkgo Biloba. Negative. The only DNA identified was "oryza", commonly known as rice. No ginkgo biloba DNA was identified.

St. John's Wort. Negative. Of the 15-tests performed, only three identified any DNA, and it was not of St. John's Wort. The DNA positively identified included allium, oryza, and dracaena (garlic, rice, tropical houseplant). No St. John's Wort was identified in the product.

Ginseng. Negative. Fifteen tests yielded identification of allium (x2) and oryza (x6), but no genetic material from ginseng.

Garlic. Negative. Genetic material of palm, dracaena, wheat, and oryza was located, with only 1/15 of the tests identifying allium as present in the product. Ten of the 15-tests showed no identifiable genetic plant material.

Echinacea. Negative. The testing revealed 5-positive identification of allium, 5-positive findings of oryza, and one for DNA material originating in the daisy family. No DNA from Echinacea was identified.

Saw Palmetto. Positive. All fifteen tests yielded genetic material of the saw palmetto plant.

Studies conducted by the Centre for Biodiversity Genomics at the University of Guelph and others have previously alerted the dietary supplement industry to the fact that it is not providing the public with authentic products without substitution, contamination or fillers. It is disappointing that over a year later the Attorney General's researcher reached similar conclusions, demonstrating that the industry has failed to clean up its practices.

To assist in the Attorney General's ongoing investigation of this matter, and pursuant to the above authority, kindly supply the following information:

1. The name of the manufacturer and the location of the production of each of the herbal products identified above.
2. A listing of any DNA testing or any other analytic testing for content and quality (including but not limited to chemical composition) of the herbal products listed above and copies of such testing results.
3. Copies of all licensing and production contracts with any party involved in the production and distribution of the herbal products identified above.
4. A listing of all ingredients used in the products identified above and a measurement of the amount of each ingredient in each of the herbal products identified above.
5. Identify the standards or procedures followed to authenticate the content of the herbal products listed above.

6. Produce the relevant Bioterrorism Registration documentation for the manufacturer of the dietary supplements.
7. Articulate the acquisition, production protocol, and quality assurance measures undertaken by the manufacturer of the products tested, including all such protocols undertaken to comply with current Dietary Supplement Current Good Manufacturing Practices (CGMPs) for quality control.
8. Produce any and all serious adverse event reports associated with use of any Walgreen herbal dietary supplement in the United States

Please provide the requested information to me at the following address: NYS Attorney General's Office, Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601. Kindly respond on or before 5:00 P.M. on February 9, 2015. If you have any questions, you may contact Assistant Attorney General Deanna R. Nelson at 315-785-2444.

The foregoing shall not constitute a waiver of or limitation on the Attorney General's authority to issue subpoenas or take enforcement action pursuant to applicable law.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

MARTIN J. MACK
Executive Deputy Attorney General
In Charge of Regional Affairs

Enc.

Supplements by Lot #: As a courtesy, store location for the tested supplement is also listed. Kindly remove all of the supplements identified below which may bear the lot number indicated no matter the store location.

OAG #	Product	Address	Lot #
Br-Wg-1	Gingko Biloba	Walgreens #04362, 520 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217	885709-02
Br-Wg-2	St. John's Wort	Walgreens #04362, 520 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217	443071-09
Br-Wg-3	Ginseng	Walgreens #04362, 520 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217	761948-04
Br-Wg-4	Garlic	Walgreens #04362, 520 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217	902192-02
Br-Wg-5	Echinacea	Walgreens #04362, 520 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11217	770813-01
R-Wg-1	Gingko Biloba	Walgreens #09584, 1650 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620	889588-02
R-Wg-2	St. John's Wort	Walgreens #09584, 1650 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620	764386-03
R-Wg-3	Ginseng	Walgreens #09584, 1650 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620	761948-04
R-Wg-4	Garlic	Walgreens #09584, 1650 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620	902192-02
R-Wg-5	Echinacea	Walgreens #09584, 1650 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620	748376-01
Wa-Wg-1	Gingko Biloba	Walgreens #10219, 929 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601	885768-01
Wa-Wg-2	St. John's Wort	Walgreens #10219, 929 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601	491668-10
Wa-Wg-3	Ginseng	Walgreens #10219, 929 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601	500472-03
Wa-Wg-4	Garlic	Walgreens #10219, 929 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601	881647-02
Wa-Wg-5	Echinacea	Walgreens #10219, 929 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601	752900-02