

7 positioned in the region of the axis of generation of said surface and having a relatively small surface area, dielectric means connecting said electrodes and means for applying a varying electrical potential to said electrodes.

4. A device in accordance with claim 3 wherein said dielectric means exhibits a dielectric constant which varies progressively from a relatively high value in the region of the large electrode to a relatively low value in the region of said small electrode.

5. A device in accordance with claim 3 wherein said dielectric means has an electrical conductivity which varies progressively between said electrodes.

6. A device for producing thrust comprising a planar electrode, a second electrode positioned in the region of the axis of generation of said planar electrode and having a surface area smaller than the surface area of said planar electrode, a dielectric member connecting said electrodes and means for applying a high electrostatic potential to said electrodes.

7. A device in accordance with claim 6 wherein said dielectric member is tapered from the planar electrode towards the smaller electrode.

8. A device in accordance with claim 6 wherein said dielectric member has a conductivity which varies progressively from a relatively high value near the planar electrode to a relatively low value near the smaller electrode.

9. A device for producing thrust in response to the application of electrical potentials to the electrodes thereof comprising a first electrode, a second electrode having a relatively large planar surface area with respect to said first electrode and means including a connecting member supporting said electrodes in spaced relationship for producing a varying field gradient between said electrodes.

10. A device in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connecting member has a varying cross-section.

11. A device in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connecting member tapers between said electrodes.

12. A device in accordance with claim 9 wherein said first and second electrodes are flat electrodes of unequal area.

13. A device according to claim 9 including means for applying a varying electrical potential to said electrodes.

14. A device in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connecting member has a dielectric constant which varies between electrodes.

15. A device in accordance with claim 14 wherein said first electrode is a frusto-conical surface and wherein said

connecting member extends along the axis of generation of said first electrode.

16. A device in accordance with claim 14 wherein said first electrode defines a frusto-conical surface.

17. A device in accordance with claim 9 wherein said connecting member comprises semi-conducting particles whereby said connecting member is given a conductivity gradient.

18. A device in accordance with claim 15 wherein said second electrode is a disk-shaped radiator and wherein the potentials applied to said electrodes are alternating current potentials, the diameter of said disk-shaped electrode being equal to a half-wave length of the alternating current potential.

19. A device in accordance with claim 15 wherein said connecting member contains semi-conducting particles which are more concentrated in the region of the disk radiator than in the region adjacent said first electrode.

20. A device for producing thrust in response to the application of electrical potentials to the electrodes thereof comprising an annular electrode, a second electrode, and insulating means connecting said electrodes whereby thrust is produced along the axis of generation of said annular electrode in response to the application of electrical potentials thereto.

21. A device in accordance with claim 20 wherein said annular electrode comprises a torodial surface.

22. A device in accordance with claim 20 wherein said second electrode is mounted on the axis of generation of said annular electrode.

23. A device in accordance with claim 22 wherein said second electrode is displaced from the center of said annular electrode whereby a thrust is developed along said axis in a direction from said second electrode towards that annular electrode in response to the application of electrical potentials thereto.

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