



US011359217B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Inui et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** US 11,359,217 B2
(b4) **Date of Patent:** Jun. 14, 2022

(54) **TRANSFORMANT OF CORYNEFORM BACTERIUM AND PRODUCTION METHOD FOR USEFUL COMPOUND USING SAME**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **17/051,514**

(22) PCT Filed: **Feb. 18, 2019**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/JP2019/005902**

§ 371 (c)(1),
(2) Date: **Oct. 29, 2020**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2019/211937**

PCT Pub. Date: **Nov. 7, 2019**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2021/0222211 A1 Jul. 22, 2021

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 1, 2018 (JP) JP2018-088424

(51) **Int. Cl.**

C12N 9/88 (2006.01)
C12P 7/22 (2006.01)
C12N 9/02 (2006.01)
C12N 9/10 (2006.01)
C12R 1/15 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **C12P 7/22** (2013.01); **C12N 9/0069** (2013.01); **C12N 9/1085** (2013.01); **C12N 9/88** (2013.01); **C12Y 113/11001** (2013.01); **C12Y 205/01054** (2013.01); **C12Y 401/01063** (2013.01); **C12Y 402/03004** (2013.01); **C12R 2001/15** (2021.05)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

None

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is a transformant of a microorganism that has improved catechol productivity.

6 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.

(56)

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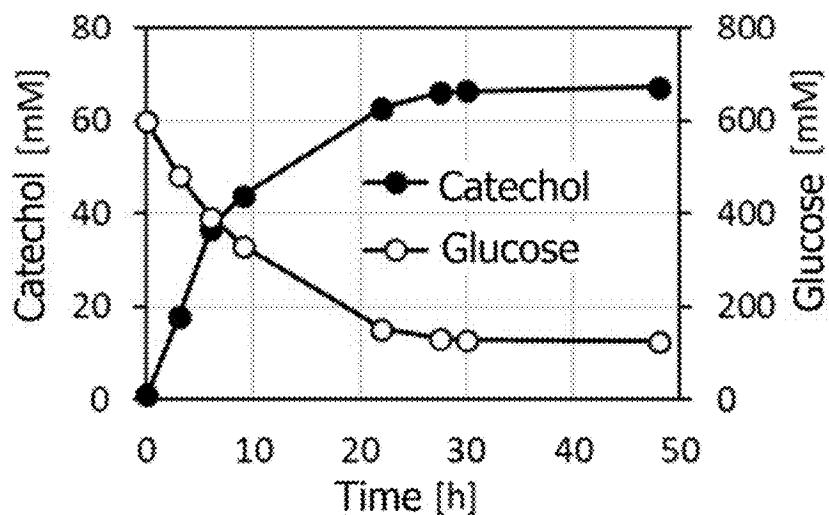


FIG. 1

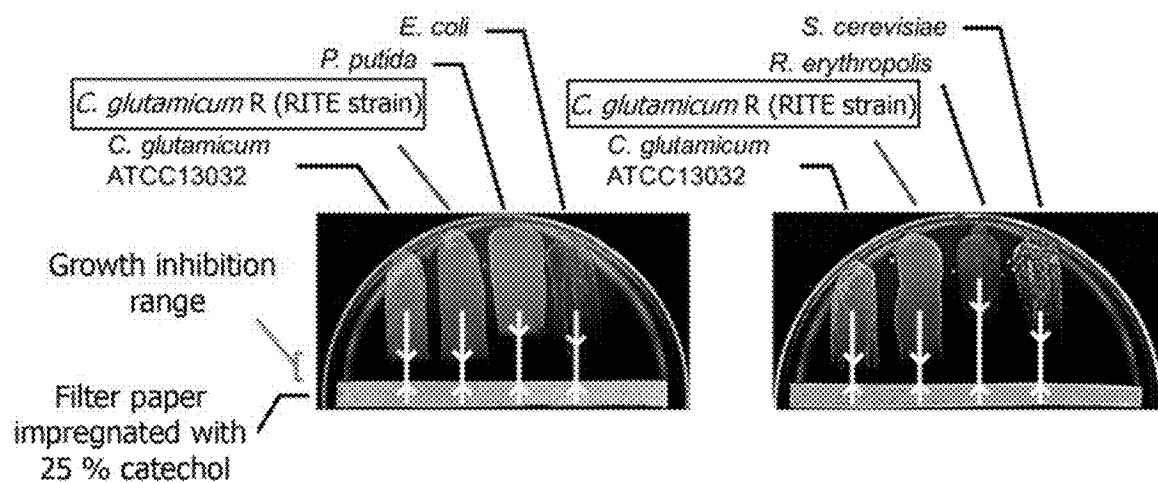


FIG. 2

1

**TRANSFORMANT OF CORYNEFORM
BACTERIUM AND PRODUCTION METHOD
FOR USEFUL COMPOUND USING SAME**

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to a transformant of a coryneform bacterium. The present disclosure also relates to a method for producing a useful compound (for example, catechol) using the transformant.

BACKGROUND ART

Against the backdrop of global warming and exhaustion of fossil resources, production of chemical products using renewable resources has been recognized to be an important measure with view to realizing a low-carbon society, as new industrial biorefinery, along with biofuel, and has attracted attention.

Catechol is used as a raw material for synthesis of flavoring agents, polymerization inhibitors, antioxidants, pharmaceutical products, and a raw material for synthesis of agricultural chemicals. Catechol is also used as a raw material for removers for a resist (a photosensitive resin applied when a printed substrate is manufactured), deoxy-generating agents (activated carbon adsorbents), and plating treatment agents.

Catechol is produced by an oxidation reaction using phenol as a main raw material. However, the production of catechol from renewable resources is earnestly desired, towards the realization of the above-described low-carbon society.

Catechol exists on the metabolic pathway of microorganisms. Catechol is produced through two-stage oxidation of benzene or a decarboxylation reaction with respect to dihydroxybenzoic acid. Thereafter, the decomposition of catechol is promoted through ortho-cleavage or meta-cleavage, and is incorporated in the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle.

Patent Documents 1 and 2 discloses a technique for producing catechol from glucose using a transformed bacterium obtained by using a microorganism of the genus *Escherichia* or the genus *Klebsiella* as a host into which transketolase, DAHP synthase, and 3-dehydroquinate synthase are introduced, and further, dehydroshikimate dehydratase and protocatechuic acid decarboxylase derived from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* are introduced.

The invention disclosed by Patent Document 3 intends to produce adipic acid and cis,cis-muconate using microorganisms. The document, in the discussion, discloses an exemplary production of catechol using the strain having the same configuration as that disclosed in Patent Document 2.

Patent Documents 4 and 5 disclose methods for producing compounds using dehydroshikimic acid as a precursor, and propose a catechol producing method wherein protocatechuic acid decarboxylase derived from *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, or *Clostridium butyricum* is caused to express. In the examples disclosed therein, a transformed bacterium obtained by causing 3,4-DHB decarboxylase derived from *Enterobacter cloacae* to express in *Escherichia coli* used.

The invention disclosed by Patent Document 6 intends to produce three types of isomers of muconic acid. The document, in the discussion, discloses an exemplary production of catechol using the strain having the same configuration as that disclosed in Patent Document 2.

Non-Patent Document 1 discloses a technique for producing catechol from glucose using a transformed bacterium

2

obtained by introducing a protocatechuic acid decarboxylase gene of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* into *Escherichia coli*.

Non-Patent Document 2 discloses a technique for producing catechol from glucose using a transformed bacterium obtained by introducing an anthranilate 1,2-dioxygenase gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* into *Escherichia coli*.

Non-Patent Document 3 discloses a technique for producing catechol from glucose using a transformed bacterium obtained by introducing a protocatechuic acid decarboxylase gene of *Klebsiella pneumoniae* into *Escherichia coli*.

PRIOR ART DOCUMENT

Patent Document

- 15 Patent Document 1: U.S. Pat. No. 5,272,073
- Patent Document 2: JP-T-hei-9(1997)-506242
- Patent Document 3: JP-T-hei-9(1997)-505463
- Patent Document 4: US Patent No. 2012-0196339
- Patent Document 5: US Patent No. 2013-0252294
- Patent Document 6: JP-T-2013-516196

Non-Patent Document

- 25 Non-Patent Document 1: J. Am. Chem. Soc. (1995) 117: 2395-2400
- Non-Patent Document 2: Microb. Cell Fact. (2014) 13:136
- Non-Patent Document 3: J. Am. Chem. Soc. (2005) 127: 2874-2882

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Problem to be Solved by the Invention

Regarding the catechol producing method based on a biological method, further improvement in the productivity is expected, toward practical use of the same.

The present disclosure, in one aspect, provides a microorganism that is able to efficiently produce catechol from a saccharide as a raw material, and a method of efficiently producing catechol by using the microorganism.

Means to Solve the Problem

The present disclosure, in one aspect, relates to a transformant of a coryneform bacterium,

wherein the transformant is obtained by introducing, into the coryneform bacterium as a host, at least one gene selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a decarboxylase gene ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*;

(2) an ortholog of the gene (1) in at least one of the genus *Lactobacillus*, the genus *Bacillus*, the genus *Enterobacter*, the genus *Escherichia*, the genus *Paenibacillus*, the genus *Citrobacter*, and the genus *Pantoea*; and

(3) a gene in which an enzyme that has an amino acid sequence identity of 70% or more with an amino acid sequence of an enzyme encoded by the gene (1) or (2), and 60 that has a decarboxylation activity, is encoded

wherein a mutation is introduced into a catechol 1,2-dioxygenase gene catA and a protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase gene pcaHG of the coryneform bacterium as a host, and functions of enzymes encoded by the two genes are degraded or lost.

The present disclosure, in another aspect, relates to a catechol producing method that includes:

the step of causing the transformant of a coryneform bacterium according to the present disclosure react in a reaction solution from which at least one of factors necessary for growth, or in a reaction solution under reducing conditions; and

the step of collecting catechol in a reaction medium.

Effect of the Invention

According to the present disclosure, in one aspect, the production of catechol in a coryneform bacterium can be made efficient. For example, the production rate and/or yield in the catechol production can be improved.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a graph showing an exemplary catechol production using a strain CAT21.

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary experiment that indicates high resistance of a coryneform bacterium against catechol.

MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

As a result of earnest studies, the present inventors found that the catechol productivity can be improved by causing a predetermined decarboxylase to be expressed in a coryneform bacterium into which a mutation that suppresses decomposition of protocatechuic acid and catechol is introduced.

It is estimated that the decarboxylation reaction of protocatechuic acid is accelerated by causing the predetermined decarboxylase to be expressed, whereby the catechol productivity is improved. The present disclosure, however, is not limited to this mechanism.

According to the present disclosure, in one aspect, the production concentration and/or yield of catechol can be improved.

[Host]

In the present disclosure, the host into which a predetermined decarboxylase is introduced is a coryneform bacterium.

In the present disclosure, the coryneform bacteria are a group of microorganisms defined in Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology Vol. 8, 599 (1974), and are not particularly limited as long as they grow under normal aerobic conditions. The specific examples include bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium*, bacteria of the genus *Brevibacterium*, bacteria of the genus *Arthrobacter*, bacteria of the genus *Mycobacterium* and bacteria of the genus *Micrococcus*. Among the coryneform bacteria, bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium* are preferred.

Examples of the genus *Corynebacterium* include *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Corynebacterium efficiens*, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, *Corynebacterium halotolerans*, and *Corynebacterium alkanoxyticum*. Among them, *Corynebacterium glutamicum* is preferred for safety and high xylooligosaccharide utilization.

Examples of preferred strains include *Corynebacterium glutamicum* R (FERM P-18976), ATCC13032, ATCC13869, ATCC13058, ATCC13059, ATCC13060, ATCC13232, ATCC13286, ATCC13287, ATCC13655, ATCC13745, ATCC13746, ATCC13761, ATCC14020, ATCC31831, MJ-233 (FERM BP-1497), MJ-233AB-41 (FERM BP-1498). Among them, strains R (FERM P-18976), ATCC13032, and ATCC13869 are preferred.

These strains are available from NBRC (NITE Biological Resource Center), ATCC (American Type Culture Collection), etc., which are microorganism culture collections.

Further, these microorganisms are not only wild strains that exist in the natural world, but may be mutant strains or gene recombinant strains of the same.

With a view to improving the catechol productivity, the transformant according to the present disclosure is configured so that mutations are introduced into the gene *catA* that encodes an enzyme having a catechol 1,2-dioxygenase activity, and into the gene *pcaHG* that encodes an enzyme having a protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase activity, in the genome of the coryneform bacterium as a host; and functions of these two enzymes are degraded or lost. Examples of the mutations include substitution, deletion, and insertion of a base sequence.

These mutations may be introduced in advance into a coryneform bacterium to be used as a host, or may be introduced in a process of producing the transformant according to the present disclosure.

Further, with a view to improving the catechol productivity, a gene-modified strain that would improve the production of the protocatechuic acid may be used as a coryneform bacterium as a host (for example, WO2017/169399). [Introduction of Decarboxylase]

In the present disclosure, a decarboxylase that is introduced into a coryneform bacterium as a host is preferably an enzyme that has a decarboxylation activity with respect to protocatechuic acid.

Examples of the introduction of an enzyme having a decarboxylation activity with respect to protocatechuic acid, into a coryneform bacterium as a host, include the introduction of any one of the following genes (1) to (3) below:

(1) a decarboxylase gene *ubiD* of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*;

(2) an ortholog of the gene (1) in the genus *Lactobacillus*, the genus *Bacillus*, the genus *Enterobacter*, the genus *Escherichia*, the genus *Paenibacillus*, the genus *Citrobacter*, and the genus *Pantoea*; and

(3) a gene in which an enzyme that has an amino acid sequence identity of 70% or more with an amino acid sequence of an enzyme encoded by the gene (1) or (2), and that has a decarboxylation activity, is encoded.

In the present disclosure, the introduction of the genes (1) to (3) into a host coryneform bacterium can be performed by using a common gene recombination technique (for example, the method proposed by Michael R Green & Joseph Sambrook, "Molecular cloning", Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press); it can be implemented in the form of the introduction of a gene by using a plasmid vector, or the incorporation of a gene into a host coryneform bacterium chromosome.

In the present disclosure, "incorporating/introducing a gene" refers to incorporating or introducing a gene into a host in such a manner that the gene can express in the host, in one or a plurality of embodiments.

For example, to introduce the *ubiDX* gene into a host coryneform bacterium, it is preferable to introduce an appropriate promoter in an upstream region on the 5' side of the gene, and it is more preferable to additionally introduce a terminator in a downstream region on the 3' side.

[Decarboxylase Gene *ubiD* of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*]

In the present disclosure, a decarboxylase gene *ubiD* of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* is registered as LGG_02656 or LGG_RS12695 in a database such as NCBI, in one or a plurality of embodiments.

A decarboxylase gene to be introduced into a host may be an ortholog of the above-described ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*. Examples of orthologs of ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include orthologs of the genus *Lactobacillus*, the genus *Bacillus*, the genus *Enterobacter*, the genus *Escherichia*, the genus *Paenibacillus*, the genus *Citrobacter*, and the genus *Pantoea*; with a view to improving the catechol productivity, orthologs of the genus *Lactobacillus*, the genus *Bacillus*, and the genus *Enterobacter* are preferred; among these, orthologs of the genus *Lactobacillus* and the genus *Bacillus* are more preferred; among these, orthologs of the genus *Lactobacillus* are further preferred; and the genes used in Examples are still further preferred.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Lactobacillus* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pentosus*, the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus plantarum*, the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pobuzihii*, and the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus composti*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Bacillus* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Bacillus megaterium*, the ubiD gene of *Bacillus licheniformis*; the ubiD gene of *Bacillus atrophaeus*, the ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis*; and the ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *spizizenii*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Enterobacter* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter aerogenes* the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter cloacae*, the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter sakazakii*; and the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter hormaechei*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Escherichia* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Escherichia coli*, and the ubiD gene of *Escherichia fergusonii*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Paenibacillus* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Paenibacillus polymyxa*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Citrobacter* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Citrobacter koseri*.

Examples of the ortholog of the genus *Pantoea* for the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* include, though not limited to, the ubiD gene of *Pantoea ananatis*.

It should be noted that the "ortholog gene" in the present disclosure means an analog gene that encodes a protein having a homologous function, existing in a different organism (for example, a different species, a different genus).

A decarboxylase gene to be introduced into a host may be a gene in which an enzyme that has an amino acid sequence identity of 70% or more with an amino acid sequence of an enzyme encoded by the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* described above or an ortholog of the same, and that has a decarboxylation activity, is encoded.

The identity of the amino acid sequence is 70% or more, preferably 75% or more, more preferably 80% or more, and further preferably 85% or more, with a view to improving the catechol productivity.

In the present disclosure, it is preferable that, together with the ubiD gene, the ubiX gene, located in the same genome as that of the ubiD gene, is introduced into a host coryneform bacterium together with the ubiD gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. Besides, in a case where the ubiH gene is present in the same genome as that of the ubiD gene, it is preferable that the ubiH gene is also introduced into a host coryneform bacterium together

with the ubiD gene and the ubiX gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity.

The ubiD gene and the ubiX gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, arrayed in this order, constitute an operon, and in such a case, they are described as an ubiDX gene in the present disclosure. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiDX gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 in the sequence listing.

10 In the case where a ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiDX gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. Besides, in the case where an ortholog of a 15 ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, similarly, the ubiX gene and the ubiD gene are preferably introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, with a view to improving the catechol productivity; if there is the ubiH gene in the genome, it is 20 preferable that the ubiH gene, the ubiD gene and the ubiX gene are also introduced into a host coryneform bacterium.

The ubiX gene of *Lactobacillus pentosus*, together with the ubiH gene, constitutes an operon (an ubiHX gene), independently from the ubiD gene. In the case where a ubiD 25 gene of *Lactobacillus pentosus* to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the ubiHX gene and the ubiD gene are preferably introduced, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, exemplary base sequences of the ubiHX gene and the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pentosus* are the base sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 2 and 3 in the sequence listing, respectively.

In the case where a ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus plantarum* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, similarly, the ubiHX gene and the ubiD gene are preferably introduced therein, with a view to improving the catechol 35 productivity, as is the case with *Lactobacillus pentosus*. In one or a plurality of embodiments, exemplary base sequences of the ubiHX gene and the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus plantarum* are the base sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 4 and 5 in the sequence listing, respectively.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pobuzihii* or that of *Lactobacillus composti*, is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, similarly, it is preferably introduced as the ubiDX gene of *Lactobacillus pobuzihii* or 45 *Lactobacillus composti*, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, exemplary base sequences of the ubiDX gene of *Lactobacillus pobuzihii* and *Lactobacillus composti* are the base sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 6 and 7 in the sequence listing.

Regarding the ubiD gene of *Bacillus megaterium*, the ubiX gene, the ubiD gene, and the ubiH gene, arrayed in this order, constitute an operon, and in such a case, they are described as an ubiXDH gene in the present disclosure. In the case where the ubiD gene of *Bacillus megaterium* is to 55 be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Bacillus megaterium* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Bacillus licheniformis* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a 65 plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Bacillus licheniformis* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Bacillus atrophaeus* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Bacillus atrophaeus* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *spizizenii* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *spizizenii* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter aerogenes* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Enterobacter aerogenes* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter cloacae* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Enterobacter cloacae* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter sakazakii* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Enterobacter sakazakii* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Enterobacter hormaechei* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced in the form of the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Enterobacter hormaechei* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Escherichia coli* W is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Escherichia coli* W is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Escherichia fergusonii* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Escherichia fergusonii* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Paenibacillus polymyxa* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with

a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Paenibacillus polymyxa* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Citrobacter koseri* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Citrobacter koseri* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 in the sequence listing.

In the case where the ubiD gene of *Pantoea ananatis* is to be introduced into a host coryneform bacterium, the same is preferably introduced as the ubiXDH gene, with a view to improving the catechol productivity. In one or a plurality of embodiments, an exemplary base sequence of the ubiXDH gene of *Pantoea ananatis* is the base sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 in the sequence listing.

[Transformant]

The present disclosure, in one aspect, relates to a transformant obtained by introducing any one of the above-described genes (1) to (3) into a host coryneform bacterium, wherein functions of two enzymes in the host genome, which are catechol 1,2-dioxygenase (catA) and protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase (pcaHG), are degraded or lost.

The transformant according to the present disclosure, in one or a plurality of embodiments, is capable of efficiently producing catechol.

In the transformant according to the present disclosure, in one or a plurality of embodiments, the ubiX gene and/or the ubiH gene are preferably introduced, with a view to improving the catechol productivity.

The transformant according to the present disclosure may be further characterized in that another gene (or genes) is introduced therein, or that a gene (or genes) is deleted and/or mutated, to produce catechol or to make the production more efficient.

In one or a plurality of embodiments for making the production of catechol more efficient, the introduction or disruption of a gene for improving the production of protocatechuic acid is performed, for example. Exemplary introduction of a gene for improving the production of protocatechuic acid is the introduction of a gene that encodes an enzyme having 3-deoxy-D-arabino-heptulonate-7-phosphate synthase activity (for example, aroG), and/or a gene that encodes an enzyme having 3-dehydroquinate synthase activity (for example, qsuB).

The transformant according to the present disclosure, in one or a plurality of embodiments, can be used in the production of catechol. The transformant according to the present disclosure, in one or a plurality of embodiments, can be used in the production of an organic compound from catechol as an intermediate.

[Method for Producing Catechol]

The transformant according to the present disclosure is capable of producing catechol at a high efficiency in a reaction solution without bacterial cell growth, using saccharides as raw materials.

The present disclosure, therefore, in another aspect, relates to a catechol producing method that includes the steps of causing the transformant of the coryneform bacterium according to the present disclosure to react in a reaction solution in which at least one of factors necessary for growth is removed, or in a reaction solution under reducing conditions; and collecting catechol in a reaction medium.

In the catechol producing method according to the present invention, first of all, the above-described transformant according to the present disclosure is cultured to grow under aerobic conditions.

The transformant according to the present disclosure can be cultured by using a normal nutrient medium that contains a carbon source, a nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and the like. In the culture, as a carbon source, for example, glucose, waste molasses, or the like can be used alone or in mixture, and as a nitrogen source, for example, ammonium, ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrate, urea, or the like can be used alone or in mixture. Further, as an inorganic salt, for example, dibasic potassium phosphate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, magnesium sulfate, or the like can be used. In addition to these, nutrients such as peptone, meat extract, yeast extract, corn steep liquor, various types of vitamins such as casamino acid, biotin, or thiamine can be appropriately added to the medium as required.

Generally, the culturing can be carried out under aerobic conditions such as aeration stirring or shaking, at a temperature of about 20° C. to about 60° C., preferably about 25° C. to about 35° C. The pH during the culturing is in a range of, for example, around 5 to 10, preferably around 7 to 8, and the pH adjustment during the culturing can be carried out by adding acid or alkali. The carbon source concentration at the start of the culturing is about 1% (W/V) to about 20% (W/V), preferably about 2% (W/V) to about 5% (W/V). Further, the culturing period is usually about 1 to 7 days.

Next, cultured bacterial cells of the transformant according to the present disclosure are collected. A method for collecting and separating cultured bacterial cells from the cultured substance thus obtained as described above is not limited particularly, and a known method such as centrifugation or membrane separation can be used, for example.

The cultured bacterial cells thus collected may be processed, and the processed bacterial cells thus obtained may be used in the next step. Examples of the processed bacterial cells include cultured bacterial cells subjected to a certain processing operation, for example, immobilized bacterial cells that are obtained by immobilizing bacterial cells with acrylamide, carrageenan, or the like.

In the catechol production reaction by the cultured bacterial cells of the transformant according to the present disclosure, collected and separated from the cultured substance thus obtained as described above, or by the processed bacterial cells obtained from the same, any production process under aerobic conditions or reducing conditions may be used, as long as it is in a solution of a reaction without bacterial cell growth. The catechol production process may be of a batch type, or of a continuous type.

In the present disclosure, "does not grow" encompasses "substantially does not grow", and "hardly grows". For example, in a reaction under aerobic conditions, growth of the transformant can be avoided or inhibited by the use of a reaction solution in which one or more of compounds essential for the growth of the microorganism, for example, vitamins, such as biotin and thiamine, nitrogen sources, etc. is depleted or limited.

Besides, under reducing conditions, coryneform bacteria substantially do not grow, and therefore, the composition of the reaction solution is not limited. The oxidation-reduction potential of the reaction solution under reducing conditions is preferably about -200 mV to about -500 mV, and more preferably about -150 mV to -500 mV. The reduced state of the reaction solution can be simply estimated using a resazurin indicator (in a reduced state, decolorization from blue

to colorless is observed). However, for precise measurement, a redox-potential meter (for example, ORP Electrodes made by BROADLEY JAMES) may be used.

In the present disclosure, it is preferable that reducing conditions are maintained immediately after bacterial cells or processed bacterial cells are added to a reaction solution until catechol is collected; however, a reaction solution may be in a reduced state at least at the point in time when catechol is collected. It is desirable that a reaction solution is kept under reducing conditions during about 50% or more of a reaction period, preferably during about 70% or more of the same, and more preferably during about 90% or more of the same. Particularly, it is more desirable that a reaction solution has an oxidation-reduction potential kept at about -200 mV to about -500 mV during about 50% or more of a reaction period, preferably during about 70% or more of the same, and more preferably during about 90% or more of the same.

The reaction solution contains an organic carbon source (for example, saccharides) that are raw materials used in the production of catechol. Examples of the organic carbon source include materials that the transformant according to the present disclosure can utilize in a biochemical reaction.

Specifically, examples of saccharides include monosaccharides, such as glucose, xylose, arabinose, galactose, fructose, and mannose; disaccharides, such as cellobiose, sucrose, lactose, and maltose; and polysaccharides, such as dextrin and soluble starch; etc. Among these, glucose is preferable.

The present disclosure, therefore, in one aspect, relates to a catechol producing method that includes the steps of causing the transformant of the coryneform bacterium according to the present disclosure to react in a reaction solution in which at least one of factors necessary for growth is removed, or in a reaction solution under reducing conditions; and collecting catechol in a reaction medium.

Finally, the catechol produced in the reaction medium as described above is collected. For doing so, a known method that is used in bioprocessing can be used. Examples of such a known method include the salting-out method, the recrystallization method, the organic solvent extraction method, the distillation method (reactive distillation by esterification etc.), the chromatography separation method, and the electrodialysis method, which can be used with respect to a solution of catechol. The method for separating and purifying catechol may be decided appropriately.

The present disclosure relates to the following, in one or a plurality of embodiments:

[1] A transformant of a coryneform bacterium that is obtained by introducing, into the coryneform bacterium as a host, at least one gene selected from the group consisting of:

(1) a decarboxylase gene ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*;

(2) an ortholog of the gene (1) in at least one of the genus *Lactobacillus*, the genus *Bacillus*, the genus *Enterobacter*, the genus *Escherichia*, the genus *Paenibacillus*, the genus *Citrobacter*, or the genus *Pantoea*; and

(3) a gene in which an enzyme that has an amino acid sequence identity of 70% or more with an amino acid sequence of an enzyme encoded by the gene (1) or (2), and that has a decarboxylation activity, is encoded.

wherein mutations are introduced into a catechol 1,2-dioxygenase gene catA, and a protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase gene pcaHG in the coryneform bacterium as a host; and functions of enzymes encoded by the gene catA and functions of enzymes encoded by the gene pcaHG are degraded or lost.

11

- [2] The transformant according to Item [1],
wherein the transformant has a catechol producing ability.
- [3] The transformant according to Item [1] or [2],
wherein at least one of a gene that encodes an enzyme having 3-deoxy-D-arabino-heptulosonate-7-phosphate synthase activity, and a gene that encodes an enzyme having 3-dehydroquinate synthase activity, is additionally introduced.
- [4] The transformant according to any one of Items [1] to [3],
wherein the coryneform bacterium as a host is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.
- [5] The transformant according to any one of Items [1] to [4],
wherein the coryneform bacterium as a host is *Corynebacterium glutamicum* R (FERM P-18976), ATCC13032, or ATCC13869.
- [6] A transformant of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* CAT21 (Accession Number: NITE BP-02689).
- [7] A catechol producing method including the steps of causing the transformant of a coryneform bacterium according to any one of Items [1] to [6] to react in a reaction solution in which at least one of factors necessary for growth is removed, or in a reaction solution under reducing conditions; and collecting catechol in a reaction medium.

- [8] The catechol producing method according to Item [7],
wherein, in the reaction solution, at least one saccharide selected from the group consisting of glucose, fructose, cellobiose, xylobiose, sucrose, lactose, maltose, dextrin, xylose, arabinose, galactose, mannose, and soluble starch is converted into catechol with use of the transformant according to any one of Items [1] to [6], and catechol is collected from the reaction solution.

EXAMPLE

The following description describes the present invention in detail, while referring to examples, but the present invention is not limited to these examples.

12

Example 1

Construction of Catechol Producing Strain

(1) Preparation/Obtainment of Chromosomal DNA

Corynebacterium glutamicum R(FERM P-18976), *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* NBRC 3425, *Lactobacillus pentosus* JCM 1558, *Lactobacillus plantarum* NBRC 3070, *Lactobacillus pobuzihii* JCM 18084, *Lactobacillus composti* JCM 14202, *Lactobacillus hokkaidonensis* JCM 18461, *Lactobacillus sakei* subsp. *sakei* JCM 1157, *Bacillus megaterium* JCM 2506, *Bacillus licheniformis* JCM 2505, *Bacillus atrophaeus* JCM 9070, *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis* NBRC 14144, *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *spizizenii* NBRC 101239, *Enterobacter aerogenes* NBRC 13534, *Enterobacter cloacae* NBRC 13535, *Enterobacter hormaechei* ATCC 49162, *Escherichia coli* W NBRC 13500, *Escherichia fergusonii* NBRC 102419, *Paenibacillus polymyxa* NBRC 15309, and *Pantoea ananatis* LMG 20103 were cultured according to information obtained from organizations from which the strains are available, and thereafter, chromosomal DNAs thereof were prepared by using DNA genome extraction kit (trade name: "GenomicPrep Cells and Tissue DNA Isolation Kit", manufactured by Amersham PLC). Chromosomal DNAs of *Enterobacter sakazakii* ATCC BAA-894D-5 and *Citrobacter koseri* ATCC BAA-895D-5 were obtained from ATCC.

(2) Construction of Plasmid for Expression of Catechol-Production-Related Gene

Primer sequences used for isolating target enzyme genes are shown in Table 1. In PCR, Veriti Thermal Cycler (manufactured by Applied Biosystems Inc.) was used, and PrimeSTAR HS DNA Polymerase (manufactured by Takara Bio Inc.) was used as a reaction reagent.

DNA fragments obtained were introduced into cloning vectors containing PgapA promoters (pCRB209 [WO2012/033112], pCRB210 [WO2012/033112]). It should be noted that in *Lactobacillus pentosus* and those of *Lactobacillus plantarum*, the ubiD gene and the ubiXH gene are located at different positions on the chromosome, and therefore they were separately cloned, and then transferred onto the same plasmid.

The names of the cloning vectors introduced and the plasmids obtained are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 1

Primer for Isolation of Catechol-Production-Related Gene

Gene Source	Enzyme Gene	Forward	Reverse	Gene Sequence
<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>	ubiDX	SEQ ID NO. 24	SEQ ID NO. 25	SEQ ID NO. 1
<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiXH	SEQ ID NO. 26	SEQ ID NO. 27	SEQ ID NO. 2
<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiD	SEQ ID NO. 28	SEQ ID NO. 29	SEQ ID NO. 3
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiXH	SEQ ID NO. 30	SEQ ID NO. 31	SEQ ID NO. 4
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiID	SEQ ID NO. 32	SEQ ID NO. 33	SEQ ID NO. 5
<i>Lactobacillus pobuzihii</i>	ubiDX	SEQ ID NO. 34	SEQ ID NO. 35	SEQ ID NO. 6
<i>Lactobacillus composti</i>	ubiDX	SEQ ID NO. 36	SEQ ID NO. 37	SEQ ID NO. 7
<i>Lactobacillus hokkaidonensis</i>	ubiDXH	SEQ ID NO. 38	SEQ ID NO. 39	SEQ ID NO. 8
<i>Lactobacillus sakei</i> subsp. <i>sakei</i>	ubiDXH	SEQ ID NO. 40	SEQ ID NO. 41	SEQ ID NO. 9
<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 42	SEQ ID NO. 43	SEQ ID NO. 10
<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 44	SEQ ID NO. 45	SEQ ID NO. 11
<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 46	SEQ ID NO. 47	SEQ ID NO. 12
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>subtilis</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 48	SEQ ID NO. 49	SEQ ID NO. 13
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>spizizenii</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 50	SEQ ID NO. 51	SEQ ID NO. 14
<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 52	SEQ ID NO. 53	SEQ ID NO. 15
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 54	SEQ ID NO. 55	SEQ ID NO. 16
<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 56	SEQ ID NO. 57	SEQ ID NO. 17
<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 58	SEQ ID NO. 59	SEQ ID NO. 18

TABLE 1-continued

Primer for Isolation of Catechol-Production-Related Gene				
Gene Source	Enzyme Gene	Forward	Reverse	Gene Sequence
<i>Escherichia coli</i> W	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 60	SEQ ID NO. 61	SEQ ID NO. 19
<i>Escherichia fergusonii</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 62	SEQ ID NO. 63	SEQ ID NO. 20
<i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 64	SEQ ID NO. 65	SEQ ID NO. 21
<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 66	SEQ ID NO. 67	SEQ ID NO. 22
<i>Pantoea ananatis</i>	ubiXDH	SEQ ID NO. 68	SEQ ID NO. 69	SEQ ID NO. 23

TABLE 2

Plasmid for Expression of Catechol-Production-Related Gene			
Gene Source	Enzyme Gene	Introduced Vector	Plasmid
<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>	ubiDX	pCRB209	Pani37
<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiXH	pCRB209	Pani277
<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiID	pCRB209	Pani278
<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiXH + ubiD	Pani277	Pani279
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiXH	pCRB209	Pani33
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiID	pCRB209	Pani34
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiXH + ubiD	Pani33	Pani40
<i>Lactobacillus pobuzhii</i>	ubiDX	pCRB209	Pani284
<i>Lactobacillus composti</i>	ubiDX	pCRB209	Pani283
<i>Lactobacillus hokkaidensis</i>	ubiDXH	pCRB210	Pani282
<i>Lactobacillus sakei</i> subsp. <i>sakei</i>	ubiDXH	pCRB210	Pani281
<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	PGadi21
<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	PGadi20
<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani63
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>subtilis</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	pCRG34
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>spizizenii</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani60
<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani86
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani26
<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani81
<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani88
<i>Escherichia coli</i> W	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani80
<i>Escherichia fergusonii</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani85
<i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani84
<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani83
<i>Pantoea ananatis</i>	ubiXDH	pCRB209	Pani82

(3) Construction of Plasmid for Chromosomal Gene Disruption of *Corynebacterium Glutamicum* Strain R

A DNA region necessary for markerless chromosomal gene disruption of a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain R was amplified by the PCR method. Each PCR fragment is linkable in overlap regions. The DNA fragment thus obtained was introduced into the plasmid pCRA725 [J. Mol. Microbiol. Biotechnol. 8: 243-254 (2004), (JP-A-2006-124440)] for markerless gene disruption. Obtained plasmids for chromosomal gene disruption are shown in Table 3.

crossover strain that has a crossover with the homologous region on the chromosome introduced into the plasmid pCRA725, the strain exhibits the kanamycin resistance due to the expression of the kanamycin-resistant gene on pCRA725, and the lethality in a sucrose-containing medium due to the expression of the sacR-sacB gene of the *Bacillus subtilis*. In contrast, in a case of a double crossover strain, 15 the strain exhibits the kanamycin sensitivity due to the loss of the kanamycin-resistant gene on pCRA725, and the viability in a sucrose-containing medium due to the loss of the sacR-sacB gene. A markerless chromosomal gene introduced strain, therefore, exhibits the kanamycin sensitivity 20 and the viability in the sucrose-containing medium.

By the above-described methods, PCA-production-related gene chromosome integrated strains were constructed by using the above-described plasmids for catechol-production-related gene chromosomal integration and the plasmids 25 for chromosomal genes disruption. A *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain PCA3 [WO2017/169399], which is a coryneform bacterium that produces protocatechuic acid, was used as a host strain. Further, the plasmid pCRG3 [WO2017/ 30 169399] for gene pcaHG disruption, the plasmid pCRB295 [WO2017/169399] for the qsuB gene chromosome integration, and the plasmid pCRB285 [WO2017/169399] for the aroG gene (S180F) chromosome integration were also used. This chromosomal gene recombination is outlined in Tables 4 and 5.

40

TABLE 4

Construction of Catechol Producing Strains by Chromosomal Gene Recombination		
Constructed Strain	Host Strain	Recombinant Plasmid
LHglc1367	<i>Corynebacterium glutamicum</i> PCA3	pCRG33
ESglc1590	<i>Corynebacterium glutamicum</i> R	pCRG33, pCRG3
ESglc1609	ESglc1590	PCRB295, pCRB285

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TABLE 3

Plasmid for Chromosomal Gene Disruption of <i>Corynebacterium Glutamicum</i> Strain R			
Plasmid for Chromosomal Disruption	Disrupted Gene	Forward	Reverse
pCRG33	catA	SEQ ID NO. 70 SEQ ID NO. 72*	SEQ ID NO. 71* SEQ ID NO. 73

*Primer including overlap region

(4) Construction of Catechol Producing Strains by Chromosomal Gene Recombination

The vector pCRA725 for markerless chromosomal gene introduction is a plasmid that cannot be replicated in *Corynebacterium glutamicum* R. In a case of a single

55

TABLE 5

Outline of Strain Constructed by Chromosomal Gene Recombination		
Constructed Strain	Chromosome integrated gene	Disrupted chromosomal gene
LHglc1367	xylABx4, bglF(V317A)A, araBAD, araE, tkt-tal, aroG(S180F)x2, aroCKBx3, aroAx2, aroDx2, aroEx2, qsuB, pobAx2, ubiC	qsuD, poxF, pcaHG, catA, ldhA
ESglc1590 ESglc1609	qsuB, aroG(S180F)	pcaHG, catA

x2, x3: indicating the number of genes introduced into chromosome

15

(5) Construction of Strain in which Plasmid for Expression of Catechol-Producing Gene is Introduced

Catechol-producing strains were constructed by introducing a protocatechuic acid decarboxylase into the above-described chromosomal gene recombinant strains. Besides, pCRB22 (Appl Microbiol Biotechnol. 2015 June; 99(11): 4679-89) was used for carrying out control experiments. The strains thus constructed are outlined in Table 6.

TABLE 6

Outline of Catechol Producing Strain

Constructed Strain	Host Strain	Introduced Plasmid	Source of Protocatechuic Acid Decarboxylase Gene
CAT21	LHgcl1367	Pani37	<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>
CAT41	LHgcl1367	Pani279	<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>
CAT24	LHgcl1367	Pani40	<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>
CAT42	LHgcl1367	Pani284	<i>Lactobacillus pobuzihii</i>
CAT45	LHgcl1367	Pani283	<i>Lactobacillus composti</i>
CAT6	LHgcl1367	PGadi21	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>
CAT5	LHgcl1367	PGadi20	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>
CAT39	LHgcl1367	Pani63	<i>Bacillus atrophaeus</i>
CAT2	LHgcl1367	pCRG34	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>subtilis</i>
CAT38	LHgcl1367	Pani60	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>spizizenii</i>
CAT37	LHgcl1367	Pani86	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>
CAT1	LHgcl1367	Pani26	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>
CAT32	LHgcl1367	Pani81	<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>
CAT40	LHgcl1367	Pani88	<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>
CAT31	LHgcl1367	Pani80	<i>Escherichia coli</i> W
CAT36	LHgcl1367	Pani85	<i>Escherichia fergusonii</i>
CAT35	LHgcl1367	Pani84	<i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i>
CAT34	LHgcl1367	Pani83	<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>
CAT33	LHgcl1367	Pani82	<i>Pantoea ananatis</i>
CAT158	LHgcl1367	pCRB22	—
CAT91	ESgcl1590	Pani37	<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>
CAT92	ESgcl1609	Pani37	<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>

Corynebacterium glutamicum CAT21 was deposited in Incorporated Administrative Agency National institute of Technology and Evaluation, NITE Patent Microorganisms Depository (2-5-8-122 Kazusakamatari, Kisarazu-shi, Chiba 292-0818 Japan) as an international depositary authority (International deposit date: Apr. 17, 2018, Accession Number: NITE BP-02689 under the Budapest Treaty).

Example 21

Catechol Production Test (in Test Tube, 10 mL Scale) (Combination of Protocatechuic Acid Decomposition Pathway Disruption, Catechol Decomposition Pathway Disruption)

By using a strain CAT91, which is a catechol producing strain, which was constructed on the basis of a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain R (see Tables 5 and 6), experiments of producing catechol in an aerobic batch reaction using a test tube were carried out by the method described below.

Each strain CAT91 was applied to A-agar plate [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ 2 g; $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$; 0.042% (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 1 ml; 0.01% (w/v) thiamin solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g; and agar 15 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 4% glucose, and it was incubated at 33° C. for 15 hours in a dark place.

One platinum loop of the strain CAT91 grown on the above-described plate was inoculated in a test tube containing 10 ml of A-liquid medium [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ 2 g;

$(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$; 0.042% (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 1 ml; 0.01% (w/v) thiamin solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; and vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 7 to 15 hours.

Each strain grown under the above-described conditions was suspended in 10 ml of A-liquid medium containing 10 kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 4% glucose so that the initial bacterial cell concentration $\text{OD}_{610}=0.5$. 200 mg of CaCO_3 was added thereto and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 48 hours. The culture solution obtained after 48 hours was centrifuged (4° C., 15,000×g, 5 minutes), whereby supernatant of culture was obtained. The concentration of metabolite in the supernatant of culture was analyzed by using a high-performance liquid chromatography system (Prominence HPLC (manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation), COSMOSIL Packed column 5C18-AR-II, separation using 10% methanol and 0.1% phosphoric acid for the mobile phase). Consequently, this strain produced 0.1 mM of catechol after 48 hours.

Example 31

Catechol Production Test (in Test Tube, 10 mL Scale) (Combination of Protocatechuic Acid Decomposition Pathway Disruption, Catechol Decomposition Pathway Disruption, DAHP Synthesis Enzyme Reinforcement, and Protocatechuic Acid Synthesis Enzyme Reinforcement)

By using the strain CAT92, which is a catechol producing strain constructed on the basis of the strain CAT91 (see Tables 5 and 6)), experiments of producing catechol in an aerobic batch reaction using a test tube were carried out by the method described below.

Each strain CAT92 was applied to A-agar plate [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ 2 g; $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$; 0.042% (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 1 ml; 0.01% (w/v) thiamin solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g; and agar 15 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 4% glucose, and it was incubated at 33° C. for 15 hours in a dark place.

One platinum loop of the strain CAT92 grown on the above-described plate was inoculated in a test tube containing 10 ml of A-liquid medium [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO}$ 2 g; $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$; 0.042% (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 1 ml; 0.01% (w/v) thiamin solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; and vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 4% glucose, and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 7 to 15 hours.

Each strain grown under the above-described conditions was suspended in 10 ml of A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 4% glucose so that the initial bacterial cell concentration $\text{OD}_{610}=0.5$. 200 mg of CaCO_3 was added thereto and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 48 hours. The culture solution obtained after 48 hours was centrifuged (4° C., 15,000×g, 5 minutes), whereby supernatant of culture was obtained. The concentration of metabolite in the supernatant of culture was analyzed by using a high-performance liquid chromatography system (Prominence HPLC (manufactured by Shimadzu Corporation), COSMOSIL Packed column

17

5C18-AR-II, separation using 10% methanol and 0.1% phosphoric acid for the mobile phase). Consequently, this strain produced 18.4 mM of catechol after 24 hours.

Example 41

Catechol Production Test (in Test Tube, 10 mL Scale)
(Influence on Catechol Production by Genes From Various Organisms that Encode Enzymes Having Decarboxylation Activity with Respect to Protocatechic Acid Derived)

In order to examine effects of the introduction of a gene that encodes an enzyme having a decarboxylation activity with respect to protocatechic acid in the production of catechol by a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* transformant, a

18

kanamycin of final concentration 50 µg/mL and 4% glucose so that the initial bacterial cell concentration OD₆₁₀=0.5. 200 mg of CaCO₃ was added thereto and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 24 hours. The culture solution obtained after 24 hours was centrifuged (4° C., 15000×g, 5 minutes), and the supernatant of culture obtained was subjected to quantitative analysis of catechol, using the above-mentioned high-performance liquid chromatography system. The results are shown in Table 7.

Incidentally, the “amino acid sequence identity” shown in Table 7 indicates results of comparison between amino acid sequences encoded by the ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, and amino acid sequences encoded by other ubiD genes.

TABLE 7

Strain	Species	Gene	(mM)	Catechol Production		Amino Acid Sequence Identity (%)	
				Concentration	vs. L. <i>rhamnosus</i>	vs. B. <i>megaterium</i>	vs. L. <i>megaterium</i>
CAT 21	<i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i>	ubiDX	44.3	100	—	—	—
CAT 41	<i>Lactobacillus pentosus</i>	ubiXH + ubiD	33.6	85	—	—	—
CAT 24	<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i>	ubiXH + ubiD	33.2	85	—	—	—
CAT 42	<i>Lactobacillus pobuzihii</i>	ubiDX	29.4	82	—	—	—
CAT 45	<i>Lactobacillus composti</i>	ubiDX	26.3	80	—	—	—
CAT 06	<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	ubiXDII	29.1	—	100	—	—
CAT 05	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>	ubiXDH	27.1	—	81	—	—
CAT 39	<i>Bacillus atropphaeus</i>	ubiXDII	23.5	—	81	—	—
CAT 02	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>subtilis</i>	ubiXDII	21.8	—	82	—	—
CAT 38	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> subsp. <i>spizizenii</i>	ubiXDH	22.4	—	82	—	—
CAT 37	<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	ubiXDH	25.4	—	—	—	—
CAT 01	<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	ubiXDII	25.4	—	—	—	—
CAT 32	<i>Enterobacter sakazakii</i>	ubiXDH	24.9	—	—	—	—
CAT 40	<i>Enterobacter hormaechei</i>	ubiXDH	21.4	—	—	—	—
CAT 31	<i>Escherichia coli</i> W	ubiXDH	21.9	—	—	—	—
CAT 36	<i>Escherichia fergusonii</i>	ubiXDH	21.9	—	—	—	—
CAT 35	<i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i>	ubiXDH	26.4	—	—	—	—
CAT 34	<i>Citrobacter koseri</i>	ubiXDH	24.5	—	—	—	—
CAT 33	<i>Pantoea ananatis</i>	ubiXDH	21.2	—	—	—	—
CAT 158	Control	—	0	—	—	—	—

strain LHglc1367 in which a gene encoding a catechol degrading enzyme was disrupted was constructed on the basis of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain PCA3 [WO2017/169399], which produces protocatechic acid (Table 5). Plasmids in which respective genes were incorporated were introduced in these strains, respectively, whereby decarboxylase-introduced strains CAT01 to CAT47 were obtained (Table 6). Respective catechol productivities were compared. Each strain was applied to the above-described A-agar plate containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 µg/mL and 4% glucose, and it was incubated at 33° C. for 15 hours in a dark place.

One platinum loop of each strain grown on the above-described plate was inoculated in a test tube containing 10 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 µg/mL and 2% glucose, and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 7 to 15 hours.

Each strain grown under the above-described conditions was inoculated in 10 ml of A-liquid medium containing

The results shown in Table 7 indicate that the introduction of the ubiDX gene of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* or an ortholog of the same causes the amount of produced catechol to increase. It is indicated that the amount of produced catechol was particularly increased in the case where the strain in which the gene ubiDX of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* or the gene having high homology with the gene ubiDX is introduced is used (for example, the strain CAT21, the strain CAT41, the strain CAT24).

Example 51

Catechol Production Test (in Jar Fermenter, 400 mL Scale)
(Study on Optimal pH for Production)

By using strain CAT21 (see Tables 5 to 7), experiments of producing catechol in an aerobic batch reaction using a jar fermenter were carried out by the method described below.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 10 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50

$\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 18 hours.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 100 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 12 hours.

Bacterial cells grown under the above-described conditions were collected by centrifugation (4° C., 3000 $\times g$, 10 minutes), and the bacterial cells thus obtained were suspended in 400 ml of a culture solution [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.042\%$ (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 25 μl ; 0.01% (w/v) thiamine solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; and vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 8% glucose, and 3 g/L of an antifoam agent (ADEKANOL L126, manufactured by Adeka Corporation) in a 1000-ml jar fermenter culture vessel so that $\text{OD}_{610}=0.2$. Each of these was subjected to 24-hour aerated agitated culture in a 1000-ml jar fermenter under the conditions of 33° C., pH control by addition of 5.0 N aqueous ammonia, aeration amount of 0.4 L/min (air, 1 vvm), and dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) of 10% (assuming that the saturated dissolved oxygen concentration under atmospheric pressure is 100%). The concentration of metabolite in the supernatant of culture was analyzed by using the high-performance liquid chromatography system described above. The results are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8

Comparison of Amounts of Catechol Produced in Jar Fermenter with Varied pH	
pH	Catechol Production Concentration (mM)
6.0	39
6.5	51
7.0	60
7.5	50
8.0	0

The strain CAT21, in a case of being cultured with pH 7.0 being maintained, had produced 60 mM of catechol when 24 hours passed after the start of culturing, and exhibited the highest concentration, among the examined cases of various values of pH. In addition, in a case where it was cultured with pH 8.0 being maintained, the concentration of produced catechol was 0 mM at the point in time when 24 hours passed. These results indicate that in a case where catechol is produced with use of this strain, pH set in the vicinity of 7.0 leads to the highest productivity.

Example 6

Catechol Production Test (in Jar Fermenter, 400 mL Scale) (Growth-Independent Production Test)

By using the strain CAT21 (see Tables 5 to 7), experiments of producing catechol in an aerobic batch reaction using a jar fermenter were carried out by the method described below.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 10 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 18 hours.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 100 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentra-

tion 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 12 hours.

Bacterial cells grown under the above-described conditions were collected by centrifugation (4° C., 3000 $\times g$, 10 minutes), and the bacterial cells thus obtained were suspended in 400 ml of a culture solution [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.042\%$ (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 25 μl ; 0.01% (w/v) thiamine solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; and vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 8% glucose, and 3 g/L of an antifoam agent (ADEKANOL L126) in a 1000-ml jar fermenter culture vessel so that $\text{OD}_{610}=0.2$. Each of these was subjected to 18-hour aerated agitated culture in the 1000-ml jar fermenter under the conditions of 33° C., pH 7.0 (controlled by addition of 5.0 N aqueous ammonia), aeration amount of 0.4 L/min (air, 1 vvm), and dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) of 5% (assuming that the saturated dissolved oxygen concentration under atmospheric pressure is 100%).

Bacterial cells of the strain grown under the above-described conditions were collected by centrifugation (4° C., 5000 $\times g$, 10 minutes), and the bacterial cells thus obtained were washed with 0.9% sodium chloride aqueous solution once. Thereafter, the bacterial cells were suspended in 250 ml of a reaction solution [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{Fe}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.042\%$ (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; and 0.01% (w/v) thiamine solution 2 ml] containing 10% glucose so that 100 g of wet bacterial cells were contained per liter (5% of the medium volume in terms of weight of wet bacterial cells), and a catechol producing reaction was caused under the conditions of 33° C., pH 7.0 (controlled by adding 5.0 N aqueous ammonia), aeration amount of 0.25 L/min (air, 1 vvm), DO 5%, by using a 1000-ml jar fermenter. The concentration of metabolite in the supernatant of culture was analyzed by using the high-performance liquid chromatography system described above. The results are shown in FIG. 1.

As illustrated in FIG. 1, the strain CAT21 had produced 66 mM (7.25 g/l) of catechol when 27.5 hours had passed after the start of the catechol producing reaction. The results indicate that this strain has a very high catechol productivity in a reaction process without bacterial cell growth using an inorganic salt minimal medium. The catechol productivity of this strain significantly exceeded the productivity of *Escherichia coli* recombinant strain, 38 mM (4.2 g/L) in 36 hours (Non-Patent Document 3) and 41 mM (4.5 g/L) in 84 hours (Non-patent Document 2), which is the highest productivity among the productivities by the processes of fermentation from saccharides that have been reported so far.

Example 7

Catechol Production Test (in Jar Fermenter) (Utilization of Resin Adsorption)

By using the strain CAT21 (see Tables 5 to 7), experiments of producing catechol performed in an aerobic batch reaction using a jar fermenter, with use of a resin adsorption in combination, were carried out by the method described below.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 10 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentra-

21

$\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 18 hours.

The strain CAT21 was inoculated in 100 ml of the A-liquid medium containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ and 2% glucose, and thereafter, aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 33° C. for 12 hours.

Bacterial cells grown under the above-described conditions were collected by centrifugation (4° C., 3000 $\times g$ 10 minutes), and the bacterial cells thus obtained were suspended in 400 ml of a culture solution [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{FeSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.042\%$ (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; 0.02% (w/v) biotin solution 25 μl ; 0.01% (w/v) thiamine solution 2 ml; yeast extract 2 g; and vitamin assay casamino acid 7 g] containing kanamycin of final concentration 50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, 8% glucose, and 3 g/L of an antifoam agent (AD-EKANOL L126) in a 1000-ml jar fermenter culture vessel so that $\text{OD}_{610}=0.2$. Each of these was subjected to 18-hour aerated agitated culture in the 1000-ml jar fermenter under the conditions of 33° C., pH 7.0 (controlled by addition of 5.0 N aqueous ammonia), aeration amount of 0.4 L/min (air, 1 vvm), and dissolved oxygen concentration (DO) of 5% (assuming that the saturated dissolved oxygen concentration under atmospheric pressure is 100%).

Bacterial cells of the strain grown under the above-described conditions were collected by centrifugation (4° C., 5000 $\times g$, 10 minutes), and the bacterial cells thus obtained were washed with 0.9% sodium chloride aqueous solution once. Thereafter, the bacterial cells were suspended in 300 ml of a reaction solution [obtained by dissolving the following in 1 liter of distilled water: $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ 7 g; KH_2PO_4 0.5 g; K_2HPO_4 0.5 g; $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 0.5 g; 0.06% (w/v) $\text{Fe}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O} + 0.042\%$ (w/v) $\text{MnSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1 ml; and 0.01% (w/v) thiamine solution 2 ml] containing 10% glucose so that 100 g of wet bacterial cells were contained per liter (5% of the medium volume in terms of weight of wet bacterial cells), and a catechol producing reaction was caused under the conditions of 33° C., pH 7.0 (controlled by adding 5.0 N aqueous ammonia), aeration amount of 0.3 L/min (air, 1 vvm), DO 5%, by using a 1000-ml jar fermenter. At this time, a flow passage filled with the reaction solution from the jar fermenter in advance, and a peristaltic pump, were connected, so that circulation of the culture solution was started simultaneously. A cross flow filtration apparatus (Microza Pencil module) and another peristaltic pump were arranged in the middle of the flow passage, so that filtrate that does not contain bacterial cells was discharged. This filtrate was passed through a column packed with 60 g of an adsorption resin (SP850), and flow-through liquid was returned to the jar fermenter. After 48 hours, the experiment was ended; all the reaction solution contained in the flow passage was returned to the jar fermenter, and the volume thereof was measured. The concentration of metabolite in the supernatant of culture was analyzed by using the high-performance liquid chromatography system described above. The metabolite adsorbed to the resin was extracted by causing water, then, 100% ethanol to pass therethrough, and the aqueous extract, as it was, and the ethanol extract, dried and solidified by an evaporator and dissolved in water of the same volume, were analyzed with the above-described high-performance liquid chromatography system. The results are shown in Table 9.

22

TABLE 9

Amount of Catechol Contained in Culture Solution and Resin After End of Reaction			
Analyzed Sample	Volume (ml)	Concentration (mM)	Amount of Catechol (mmole)
In Culture Solution	475	40.5	19.2
Resin 1	100	42.4	4.2
Resin 2	40	915.6	36.6
Resin 3	50	81.1	4.1
Resin 4	50	0.9	0.0
Total			64.2

15 The total mass of catechol products divided by the volume of the reaction solution was assumed to be the catechol production concentration. Consequently, this strain CAT21 produced 135 mM (14.9 g/L) of catechol in 48 hours. The yield with respect to consumed glucose in that case was 18% (molar ratio).

20 As an exemplary case of the catechol production by the process of fermentation from saccharides wherein an adsorption resin was used in combination, a case where 77 mM (8.5 g/L) of catechol was produced with use of a *Escherichia coli* recombinant strain in 36 hours, resulting in the yield of 7%, was reported (Non-Patent Document 3); however, the catechol productivity of the strain CAT21 significantly exceeded the above-described results in terms 25 of concentration and yield.

Reference Example 1

Verification that Coryneform Bacterium Exhibits Higher Catechol Resistance, as Compared with Other Microorganisms

35 *Coryneform* bacteria (*Corynebacterium glutamicum*), colon bacteria (*Escherichia coli*), yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*), *Pseudomonas* (*Pseudomonas putida*), and *Rhodococcus* (*Rhodococcus erythropolis*) were subjected to 40 cross-streak assay on agar plates, so that their resistances against catechol were compared.

45 The *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain R, and the strain ATCC 13032, were applied to the above-described A-agar plates containing 4% glucose, and were incubated at 33° C. for 15 hours in a dark place. One platinum loop of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* grown on the plate described above was inoculated in a test tube having therein 10 ml of the A-liquid medium containing 2% glucose, and aerobic shaking 50 culture was carried out at 33° C. for 13 hours.

55 The *Escherichia coli* strain K-12 MG1655 was applied to a LB-agar plate [containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, 0.5% sodium chloride, and 1.5% agar], and was incubated at 37° C. for 15 hours in a dark place. *Escherichia coli* grown on the plate described above was inoculated in an LB-liquid medium [containing 1% polypeptone, 0.5% yeast extract, and 0.5% sodium chloride], and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 37° C. for 13 hours.

60 The *Pseudomonas putida* strain ATCC 700801 was applied to the above-described LB-agar plate, and was incubated at 30° C. for 15 hours in a dark place. *Pseudomonas putida* grown on the plate described above was inoculated in the LB-liquid medium, and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 30° C. for 13 hours.

65 Further, the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain NBRC2376 was applied to a YEPD agar plate [2% polypeptone, 1% yeast extract, 2% glucose, and 1.5% agar], and was incu-

23

bated at 30° C. for 20 hours in a dark place. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* grown on the plate described above was inoculated in a YEPD liquid medium [2% polypeptone, 1% yeast extract, and 2% glucose], and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 30° C. for 13 hours.

The *Rhodococcus erythropolis* strain ATCC 27854 was applied to the LB-agar plate, and was incubated at 30° C. for 15 hours in a dark place. *Rhodococcus erythropolis* grown on the plate described above was inoculated in the LB-liquid medium, and aerobic shaking culture was carried out at 30° C. for 13 hours.

Each strain preliminary cultured as described above was uniformly applied in a line form onto the above-described A-agar plates containing 4% glucose, and filter paper impregnated with 25% catechol was placed on each plate at the center thereof so as to intersect with the lines. After being

24

incubated at 30° C. or 26° C. for 24 hours in a dark place, growth inhibition ranges of the strains from the filter paper were compared so that resistances thereof were compared. The results are shown in FIG. 2.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the results indicate that the coryneform bacteria have narrower growth inhibition ranges than any of the other bacteria, and have relatively high resistances. In addition, no clear difference was seen between the results of the coryneform bacterium strain R 10 and those of the strain ATCC 13032.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present disclosure is useful for, for example, producing catechol.
[Sequence Listing]

SEQUENCE LISTING

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gatcgccgtt gggaaaggaga tttagccatgc ccacttttac gactgaacaa gcagggttac	600
agatgcaagc caccgttcag gttatcgat atgacttattt gattgtcggt acggggcgca	660
ccaaatccgca tattgggtat gtgaccacca ttacagcaac gatgccggcc caaaccgtca	720
aatttcctag tcacgatggc cgtttcaca aggataactt catttcggat cgaatggcgaa	780
agcgcctgca gtcgtcggtt cggggaaattt gcacgattac tgctggattt catgtcaacc	840
agattactaa ggcacagatt gcccggcgtg caccaatgac ggtatgatttt agccagcaaa	900
ttattacttg gctacaagca caccatcc accgtcgatc gecggaatac tacggggatg	960
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<210> SEQ ID NO 3

<211> LENGTH: 1473

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus pentosus

<400> SEQUENCE: 3

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aactatcatg aaaccgacgt tgaagtagat ccaaattgcggg aactttctgg tgtttatcg	120
tatattggtg ctgggtggac cgttgaacgg ccaacacaag aaggtccagc aatgtatgtt	180
aacaacgtga agggtttcc tgacacgcgt gtcttgcactg gttaatggc tagccgtcg	240

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cgggttggta agatgttcca tcatgattac caaacgttag gtcaatatct taacgatgca	300
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atttacaagt caactgatga aggctttgat attcggaaatg tagttgcagc gccaaactaat	420
acgccacaag atgctggtcc atataatcacy gtcgggttg tcttcggttc aagcatggac	480
aagtccaaga gtgacgttac gattcacccgg atgggttcttg aagacaagga caagctcgga	540
atctacatca tgccctggtgg ccgtcatatc ggtgcctttg ccgaagaata tgaaaaggcc	600
aataaaaccaa tgccaatcac gatcaacatt ggtttggatc ctgccattac cattggtgcc	660
acctttgaac cacctaccac cccatTTGt tacaacgaat taggggttgc tggtgccatt	720
cggaatcaag ccgttcaatt agtgcgttgg gttaccgttg atgaaaaggc gattgcacgt	780
tctgaataca cggttggaaagg ctatcatcg cctaacgaac ggattcaaga agacatcaac	840
acccatacgg gtaaagcgat gcctgaattc ccaggttatg atgggtatgc taaccagcc	900
ttacaagtca tcaagggtgac ggcggtaacg catcgggaaa atgcccattat gcaaagtgtt	960
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cagttgttta accgcgcatt tcctggcaaa gtgactaactc tttacaatcc gccggctgg	1080
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tcagaacggc cacaatacga tccaaaatcg attcggttcc gtgggtatgag ttcaagttt	1380
gttatacgatg gcaactgttacc attcgatatg aaagaccaat ttgaacgggc tcaattcatg	1440
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<210> SEQ ID NO 4

<211> LENGTH: 977

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus plantarum

<400> SEQUENCE: 4

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aaaaaaaaact tggagttaga gactgattac tcgctcgccg agttgacggc gctcgccgat	180
gctacttatac gggctaatacga ccaaggcgca gcgattgcca gtgggtcggt tttgaatgac	240
ggaatggtca ttgtcccagc tagtatgaag acggtagcg ggattgcgtt cggcttcgg	300
gataatttaa tatcgccggc tgctgtatgc acgattaaag aacaacgtaa acttgtgatt	360
gttccacgtg aaacaccgtt aacgcgttattt catttagaaa atctaacaaa gttggcaaaa	420
ctcgggtcccc aaattattcc accgattccc gcttttatac atcatccaca gtccattcag	480
gatctggtca atcatcaaact aatgaaaatt ttggatgcgtt ttcataattca taatgaaact	540
gatcgccgtt gggagggggg ttaagtatgg caacttttac gactgagcag gccgggtatc	600
aaatgcaagc aacactccaa gtgattggat atgacttgcgtt gatcggtcggtt accgggtgg	660
ccaaatccccca tattgggtgac gtgaccacac taactgcccag cacgggtccc gaaacggta	720
agtttccccag ccatgtatggt cgcttccata aagataactt tatttcggaa cgaatggcca	780
agcggattca gcgttatcta gctggaaatgttacaattac tgccggaaattt catgtcaacc	840

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aaattactaa agcacaataa gcagctgcgg caccaatgac ggtatgaccctc agccgccaga	900
ttatttagctg gttacaggcc catcccgctt aggctgaaaa gccggaatat tatggacaag	960
atgagcaacc gcggtag	977

<210> SEQ ID NO 5
<211> LENGTH: 1473
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus plantarum

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

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tatatacggtg ctgggtggac cgttcaacgg ccaacgcgaag agggtccagc aatgtatgtt	180
aacaacgtta aggggtttcc tgatacgcgg gtcttgactg gattgtatggc gagtcgcgg	240
cgcgttggta agatgttcca ccacgattat cagacgttag ggcaataactt gaacgaagca	300
gtctctaatac cagtggcgcc agaaaacgggtt gctgaagcgg atgcgcgcgc tcacgtatgtt	360
gtttataaaag cgacggatga aggctttgtat attcggaaatg tagtggcagc accaacgaaat	420
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aacaagccaa tgccaattac aattaatatt ggtttggatc cagccattac gattggtgca	660
actttcgaac caccgaccac gccattcggt tataacgaat taggtgttgc tggtgcgtt	720
cggAACCAAG ctgttcaattt agttgacggg gtgaccgtcg atgaaaaggc gattgcgcgt	780
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ggtggtaatg tgatgaccat catcgatattt cacaaggata atgaaaggc tgaaggaaatt	1140
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tcggAACGCC CACAATATGA tccaaaggcgtt attcgtttcc gtgggtatgag ttctaaacta	1380
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aaagtggctg actggggagaa gtattttaaag taa	1473

<210> SEQ ID NO 6
<211> LENGTH: 2043
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus pobuzihii

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

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tacatttggtg ctgggtggac agttgaacgtt ccaacacaag aaggacctgc gatgtatgtt	180
aataatgtca aaggcttcc tagtacacgtt gttttgtatggc cagtcggaga	240

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cgtgttagaa	aatgctcca	tcatgattat	cagacattag	gtcaattctt	taatgaagca	300
gttcgaaac	cggttcctcc	agtttgggt	gacgaaaagg	atgcacctac	gcatgaagtt	360
gtgcaccatg	caacagataa	gaattttgat	attcgtaagt	tagtcgctgc	tcctacaaac	420
acaccccaag	atgctggtcc	ttatattaca	gttggtag	ttttagggtc	taacatggat	480
aagacgatgt	cagatgtgac	tatccatcgt	atgtgcattg	aaggaaaaga	taagttggga	540
atttatatta	tgccctggcgg	aagacatatt	ggggcttttgc	ctgaagaata	cgaaaaggct	600
aataagccga	tgccctgttac	gatcaatatt	ggacttgacc	cagcagtaac	gattggtaca	660
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cgttaaccaggc	ctgttgaatt	ggtcaatgggt	gtttcagtag	atgaaaaagc	aattgcacgg	780
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gccgatgtca	tacttaagga	acaacgaaaa	cttgcata	tccctcgat	atcgcccttta	1860
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ccgatccag	cctttataa	ccatcctct	tctattcaag	accttgcgg	ccatcagacg	1980
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tga						2043

<210> SEQ ID NO 7
<211> LENGTH: 2055
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus composti

<400> SEQUENCE: 7

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caatatacgc	ccaccgtatga	attgggtggac	cctaattgcgg	aatttagctgg	agtttaccgc	120
tacattggcg	ctgggggcac	ggtcaagcg	cccactcaag	caggaccggc	attgtatgttgc	180
aacaacgtca	agggtttgc	cggcacccgg	gtcttgatttgc	gttatttggc	cagtcgcaag	240

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cgggtgggtt tgctatttca tcacgattac catacgctag gccaatttct aaatgatgca	300
gtggaccatc ccctaaaccc ggtgacagtt tctgaagctg acgccccggc ccatgaagtc	360
atccacaaaag tcgacgaccc tgattttat atccgcaaac tcatcgccgc ccccaccaat	420
accgaatacg acgcaggggcc ttacatcacc atgggcttag tttatgggtc taatcgcc	480
aaaacccaaaaa gtgatgtgac cattcatcg atgggttttag aggataaga taccattggc	540
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aacgaaccca tgcccattac tgtgaacatc ggcttagatc cggccatcac gttggggcc	660
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<210> SEQ ID NO 8

<211> LENGTH: 2517

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus hokkaidonensis

<400> SEQUENCE: 8

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tatattgggtt cgggtggaaac cgttaagctt cccaccactt aaggccaaac aatgtatgttt	180
aataatgtta aaggatttcc aggttagtgcgg gtgcgtatgg gattacaagc ctctcgtaaa	240
cgggtggta agatcttgcata tcattttttttt aaaaacgtttt gtcacatgtt aaacgaggct	300

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gtttcaaat ctgtcaaaccc agtagaaagtt aaaagagaag atgcacctgc tcaagaagta
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2517

<210> SEQ ID NO 9
<211> LENGTH: 2491
<212> TYPE: DNA

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<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus sakei subsp. sakei

<400> SEQUENCE: 9

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tatattggTG	ctggcgggAC	agtcatgcGG	ccaacaACG	aaggcccAAC	aatgtatTTT	180
aataatgtTA	aaggctCCC	tggagtcGT	gttttaATTG	gcttgcaAGC	ttcaegcAA	240
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gtaaccaaAC	cagttgcccc	cgtcgaAGT	acacgcgAA	aagcaccAGC	acaagaAGTC	360
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aacgaaccaa	tgcccaattAC	cattaacatt	ggtttggACC	cagcgttAC	cattggggCT	660
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agaaatgaAG	cggttcaAGT	agtgccttGT	gtcgctgtTG	atgccttAGG	gattgcccGT	780
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acaattggTC	cttcagaAGA	acacgtttCG	atggccggTA	ttccaaCTGA	agcatcaATT	1020
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cgtacaattT	cggtcactG	aaacggattA	tacaatgcAC	ttaaaattAG	agcgcAACAC	2160
gtctgattTA	ttaattcAGA	ttatcggtGG	cgacgtGCC	cattacggCG	tcatcacGAC	2220
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tcaagaaaaa gtattaattt atcagggttt aaaaactgtt aagccactga ttacgaataa	2340
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<210> SEQ ID NO 10	
<211> LENGTH: 2247	
<212> TYPE: DNA	
<213> ORGANISM: <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	
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acaattaagc tggaaacatc ctatagcggt cagcaagtag aagcgctagc agattatgt	180
tattcatatc aagaccaagc agcaaaaatt tcgagcggct ctttcgtat agatggaatg	240
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cgcgaaacgc ctttaatac gattcattt gaaaacatgc tggatcttc aaaaatggga	420
gctatcctgg tgccgcctat gcccgttt tataacaaac ctaagacgt cgacgtatt	480
gtcacacata ttgctgttcg aacgttagat cagttggaa ttgagcttcc tgaagcaaaa	540
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<210> SEQ ID NO 11

<211> LENGTH: 2252

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: *Bacillus licheniformis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 11

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acgatcctgc acgaaaacggg atatacgatg aaagacgtgg aaaagctgc atctttacg	180
tattcccaca aagaccaggc ggccgcatt tcaagcggtt ctttcaaac ggacggaatg	240
attgtcgac cgtcagttt gaagacgttg gcgggcattt gcaccggat ggcggataac	300
ctcttgcacc gttcgccgga cgtcatgtg aaggaacggg aaaagctgt tctgttaaca	360
agggagacgc cgctgaacca gattcatctt gaaaacatgc ttgagctgac aaaaatgggg	420
gcgggtgtatcc tgccgcgat gccggcttt tataatcatc cccaaaatct gaccgaaatg	480
gtcgatcata tcgtatccg gacgctggac caatttggca tccatctgtc tgaagcgaag	540
cgtggaaatc gtatgaaaca ggagaataa ggaggataac agaatggctt atcaagattt	600
tagagattt ttaataacgc tgaaaaaaga aggacagctt cttgaagtcc aggaagaggt	660
gaagccggaa cccgatttgg gagcagctgc acgcgcgc aacaacctcg gagacaatc	720
acccgcgttt ttattcaaca acatttacgg ctataacaat gccaaatcg cgctgaatgt	780
aatcggctcc tggccgaacc acgcattat gctggcctt cccaaaagaca cgccggtaa	840
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cgaaccgggtt attgcaacgg cggcatccac accgcgttta tacgatcaat cagaatacga	1260
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<210> SEQ ID NO 12

<211> LENGTH: 2249

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: *Bacillus atrophaeus*

<400> SEQUENCE: 12

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acaatcaaac atgaaacagg ttatagctta aaagaagttt aagagcttgc ctcatatacg	180
tactctcata aggatcaggc ggctgccatt tcaagcgggt ctttcaaac ggacggcatg	240
atcgtcgccc cgtgcagttt gaatcgctc gcaaggatttgc acacggggat ggccggacaat	300
ctgttgaccc gggctgcaga tgtcatgttgc aaagagagaa aaaagcttgtt cctgtgtacg	360
agagaaaacgc cgcttaacca gattcattt gagaatatgc tgcattaaac aaagatggaa	420
accattattt ttccgcattt gcccgtttt tataatcagg cggcaagtct ggatgaaatg	480
gtggaccata ttgtatttgc aacgtggat caattcggca ttgccttcc tgaggcaaaa	540
cgttggaaatg gaattgaaaa agaaaaaggaa ggagcttgcatggcttat caagatttca	600
gagaattttt cgctgccttgc gaaaaaggagg gacagcttattt aaaagtttgc gaaagggtga	660
agccggagcc ggatttagga gccgcagccc gcgcagccaa caacctcgcc gataaaagcc	720
cggttctttt atttaacaat atttacggat acaacaatgc acaaattcgatc atgaatgtca	780
tccgttcttgc gccaaccac gcatgtatgc ttggcttgc gaaagataca ccgttgcggaa	840
agcgtttttt tgaatttgc aacgtatgtt aacagtttgc gatgcgggtc aaacgcgttgc	900
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tcaaaatcaa acgcgtatct catagaaatc atccgttattt tgaacatttata tatctcgcc	1500
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gtgattcaaa	aaaggggagaa	atcatgagca	aatcgccctgt	agaaggcgct	tgggaagtct	2100
accaatgtca	aacgtgttcc	ttcacatgga	gatcatgtga	accggaaagc	attacaaacc	2160
cgaaaaaata	caatccatca	ttaagatcg	atccgaagga	aacagaaaca	gctgttgaag	2220
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<210> SEQ ID NO 13

<211> LENGTH: 2283

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis*

<400> SEQUENCE: 13

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gaaacccatc	tcgttgtgtc	tccttggca	aacgtcacga	tcaaacacga	aacaggctat	180
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gcatttcaa	gcggggtcg	ttgatccat	ggaatgatgg	ttgcgcgg	cagcatgaaa	300
tctctcgaa	gcattcgac	aggaatggcg	gataatctgc	tgacacgtgc	ggcggatgtc	360
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gcattttata	atcggccgag	aagcttagag	gaaatgggtt	accatattgt	tttttagaacg	540
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tgatgctgg	catgcccggaa	gacacaccgg	taaaagaaca	gtttttgaa	ttcgcaaagc	900
gttatgacca	gtttccgat	ccggtcaaacc	gtgaggaaac	agcgccattt	catgaaaatg	960
aaatcacaga	agatatcaat	ttgttcgata	tactgcctct	tttcagaatt	aaccagggtg	1020
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catatcgcat	cgtcaaata	aagctgtctg	atcttgatgt	tccgtggggc	gctgaagtgg	1380
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tgatcgccat taacacatgc gtgcgcgtt atcagcagtt aaaagaagcg tatccgaacg	1620
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acttatctgt cctgcgcgtt gatccggat ccaatccatc aggaatcaact cacaaaatga	1920
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gaaaggatgt tcgaaatgca tacatgtcct cgatgcgact caaaaaaggg agaagtcatg	2100
agcaaatcgc ctgttagaagg cgcatggaa gtttatcagt gcacaaatcg ctttttaca	2160
tggagatcct gtgaaccgga aagcattaca aatcccggaa aatacaatcc agcgttaaa	2220
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<210> SEQ ID NO 14

<211> LENGTH: 2283

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus subtilis subsp. spizizenii

<400> SEQUENCE: 14

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gaaaacccatc tcgtcggttc tccttgggtt aacgtcaca tcaaacacga aacaggctat	180
accttaaaag aagtagaaaca acttgcacaca tacacgtatt cgcataaggc ccaggcggca	240
gccatttcaa gcgggtcggt tgataccgtt ggcattgttgc ttgcgcacatc cagcatgaaa	300
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aagaaggaca gtcgtcaaca gtgaatgaag aggttaacgc ggagccggat atagggctg	720
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aaatcacaga agatataat ttgttcgtata tactgcctct tttcagaatt aaccaaggag	1020
acggcggtta ctatcttagac aaagcatgtg tcattttcccg cgatcttgc gatcctgaga	1080
atttcggcaaa acaaaaacgtc gggatttaca gaatgcaggat caaaggaaaa gaccgccttgc	1140
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US 11,359,217 B2

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catatcgcat	cgtgaaatct	aagctgtctg	atcttgatgt	tccatggggc	gctgaagtag	1380
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attcaccat	aaacaacgaaa	gaatggAAC	aaaaactaat	ggacttaatg	aataaataag	2040
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agcaaatcgc	ctgtagaagg	cgcattggaa	gtttatcagt	gtcaaacatg	tttttcaca	2160
tggagatcct	gtgagccgga	aagtattaca	aatccggcga	aatacaatcc	acgcgttaaa	2220
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tga						2283

<210> SEQ_ID NO 15
<211> LENGTH: 2268
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Enterobacter aerogenes

<400> SEQUENCE: 15
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accaccattg agctggaaac gccctatacg gtcgtatgc tcgcccgcgtt ggccgacttc 180
tgccatagcc ctgcggatca ggccgcgacc atctcatcg gatcgttcg taccgacggc 240
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gggttagtcg gccgcgcggc ggacgtggtg ctgaaagagg ggccgaagct ggttctggtg 360
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cgccgcgtgaa acggcgtgcg cgccgtcgag aatttatacc aggagaatta atcatggctt 600
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gcgaagaggtt gaatgcgcgag ccggatctcg ccgcgtccgc taacgccaca gggcgcgtatcg 720
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cgagcgatcg cgctaattcca gcgtggcgaaa aacaccgt tgatggcgac gatataacc 960
tgttcgatata tctgcgcgtt ttccgcgtga acgtggcgca cgggtggtttc tatctcgaca 1020

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acgatatgcg gctgcacatcg cataaagcgg aagagcggg tgaggatctg cccattgcca	1200
tcaccctggg taacgacccg attattaccc ttagatggcgc gacgcgcctg aaatatgacc	1260
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cgttgtatct cggaatgccg tggaccgaaa tcgactatct gatggcccg gcgacctgcg	1560
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atcggttacc agtgcacca ctgcctctat acctggcgta ataccgaacc gctgegtcgt	2160
accagccgcg aacattatcc ggaagcgttc cgcacatgcg agaaagatata ttagtggcg	2220
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<210> SEQ ID NO 16
<211> LENGTH: 2252
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Enterobacter cloacae

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

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accaccattg agctggaaac gccttataacc gcgcaggatg tgcggccct ggcacatgtc	180
gttcacagtc ctgcccataca ggctgccacc atctccctcg gtcgtttcg taccgacggc	240
atgatgtca ttccctgcag catgaaaacg ctggcggtt tccgcgcggg ctatgccaa	300
gggctgttgg ggcgtgcggc agacgtgggtg ctgaaagagg ggcgcacgt ggtgtgtc	360
ccgcgtgaaa cgcgcgtcag caccattcat ctggagaaca tgctcgctt ttcccgatg	420
gggggtggcga tgggtggcc catgcctgcg tattacaacc acccgcaaac cgccgatgtat	480
atcacccagc atatcggtac ccgcgtactc gaccagtttgcgttggagca caaaaaggcg	540
cgtcgctgga acggcctgca ggcggcgaaa cattttcac aggagaataa cgatggcatt	600
ttagtggatggt gaaagcttcc tgcaggcgct agatgagcaaa gggcaactgc tgaaaatgt	660
agaagagggc aatgcgggac cggatctggc ggcggccgc aacgcgcacgg gacgtatcg	720
ttagtggtgcg cctgcgtgtt ggttcgatcaa cattcgcggg tttaccgtatgc ccagggttgt	780
gatgaacacc atcggttcc ggcagaacca cgcacatttcg atggggctgc cggcgaatac	840

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cccggtcaaa aagcagatcg atgagtttat tcgcccgtgg gataaattcc cggtcgacc	900
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tattttacccg atggaaagtga agggcaaactg taagctccggc ctgcagccgg tgccgatgca	1140
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tacgttgggc aacgatccga tcatcacccct gatgggcgcga acggccgtga aatacgatca	1260
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gttgaccggc ttgcgtgtgc cgtgggggtc tgaagtgtatc ctggaaagggg tgattgaagg	1380
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caatatgacg gtggccgtta ttgataaagt ctgcgtaccgc accaaaccga ttttcaatc	1500
cctctatctc gggatgccct ggaccgagat cgactacctg atggggccag ccacctgtgt	1560
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gccggataac cgcggtaact acagccagcc ggtgcaggat ttacctgaaa ccaaagcctg	1980
ggctgaaaag ctgactgcga tgctggcagc acgccaataa ggaggaaaag atgatttgc	2040
cacggttgcg cgtatgacaa attgaggtga tggccacatc accgggtgaaa gggatctgga	2100
cgggttatca gtgccagcat tgcctgtata cctggccgcga tactgagccg ctgcgtcgta	2160
ccagccgcga acattaccct gaagcgttcc gcatgacgcga gaaggatatt gatgaggcgc	2220
cgcaggttacc gaccatccg ccattgtgt aa	2252

<210> SEQ ID NO 17

<211> LENGTH: 2284

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Enterobacter sakazakii

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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accacgatcg aactggaaac gccgttctcc tggcaggatg tccggggctt ggcagatgt	180
gtgcacagcc cggcggtatca ggcgcgcgcg atctccctcg gatcggttcg caccgacggc	240
atgggtatca ttccgtgcag catggaaacc ctggcggggca tccgcgcggg ctacgcgcac	300
gggctggggc ggcgcgcgc tgatgtgggt ctgaaagaga accgtaaact ggtgtgggt	360
ccgcgcgaaa caccgcttag caccattcat ctggaaaacc tgctggcgct ctcgaagatg	420
ggcgtggcca tcgtgcgcgc catgcccgcgc tggtaacaacc atcccgccgac gatcgacgac	480
atcatcaacc atatcgctgc gcgcgtgcgc gatcagttcg ggctcgatgc ccgcaacgc	540
cgccgcgtggc aggggtctaaa tcctgcgaaa acagccgacca cccattcatc acgaggagga	600
aacacgcgtg gcttttgcacg atctgcgcag ctttttgcag ggcgttgaag agcagggcga	660
actgctgagg atcagcgaag aggtgcaggg ggagccggat atcgcggccgg ccgccaacgc	720

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gaccggacgc atcggcgaag gcgegccgc gctctggttt gacaatatcc gcggctttac	780
tgacgcgcgg gtggcgatga acaccattgg ttcatggccg aaccacgcga tctcgctcgg	840
tctggccgcct gccacacccgg taaaggcagca gatagaagaa ttatttcgc gctgggatac	900
cttccccgtc gcgcggaaac gccgcgataa tccgcgcattgg gcggaaaaca gcgtcgacgg	960
cgacgacatt aacctgttcg acattctgcg gctgtttcgc ttaaacgcacg gcgcacggcgg	1020
gttctacctt gataaaacgt gtgttgtcgc gcgcgcattgg ctgcgcattgg aacacttcgg	1080
caaggcagaat gtccggatct accggatgga agtgaaaggc aagcgcacgc tcgggctgca	1140
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tttgcgggtt gcgattacgc ttggcaacgc tccgatcatc acgctgtatgg gcgcacgc	1260
gctgaaatac gatcagtgcgg aatatgaaat ggcccgcgcg ctgcgcgaaa gcccgtaccc	1320
gatagccacc gcgcgcgtga ccggtttcga cgtgcgcgtgg gggtcggaaag tgatccttga	1380
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accgatttc gaatcgctct atctcgccat gcgcgtggacc gaaatcgact acctgtatgg	1560
cccgccgacc tgccgtccgc tttaccagca gcttaaaggc gagttcccg aagtgcaggc	1620
gggtgaacgcg atgtatacc acgggctgtc cgcgattatc tccaccaaga aacgcgtacgg	1680
cggtttgcgc cgcgcgggtgg gcctgcgtgc gatgaccacg cgcacgggc ttggcgtacgt	1740
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gttggagctt gatcctggct caagccggc ggggattacc gacaagctga ttatcgacgc	1920
cactacgcg gttgcgcgg ataaccgcgg gcattacacg cagccggta aagacctgcc	1980
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ggtaaaaggc gtctggacgg tgtatcgtgc ccagcattgt ttgtacacct ggcgcgcac	2160
cggccgtcg cgcgtacca gcgcgcgcgca ttaccccgag gcttcggta tgacgcaggc	2220
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ttaa	2284

<210> SEQ ID NO 18
<211> LENGTH: 2252
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Enterobacter hormaechei

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

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accacgattg agctggaaac gcccttcaact gcgcgtacgc ttgcgtcaact ggccgtatgtc	180
gtccacatgc cggccgtacca ggctgcaccat atctccctccg gatcgatccgc caccgcggc	240
atgatcgatca tcccgatcgat catgaaaacg ctggcgccgg tccgcgcggg ctacgcggaa	300
gggctggtag ggcgtgcggc agacgtggtg ctgaaagagg gacgcacgt ggtgtgtt	360
ccccgcgaga cgcgcgtcg caccattcat ctggagaaca tgcttgcctt ttccgcgt	420
ggccgtggcga tggtgcgcgc tatgcgtcg tactacaacc acccgcaac cgcgcgtac	480

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attacccagc atatcggtac ccgcgttctc gaccagtttgc tctggagca taaaaaagcc	540
cgcacgctggg aaggtttgc ggcagcgaaa catttttcac aggagaataaa agatggcatt	600
tgtatgatttgc agaagtttct tgcaggcgt cgatgagcaaa gggcagctgc tgaaaattga	660
ggaaagaggta aacgcggagc cggatttagc ggeggccgccc aacgctaccg ggccatgg	720
cgcgcgcgc cctgcgtgt gtgtcgataa tattcgcggc ttccaccatg cccgagtggt	780
gtatgaacacc atcggctcggt ggcaaaacca cgcatttcg atggggctgc cagcgaatac	840
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tttcgcacatt ttgcgcgtgt tccgcgtgaa cgacgggtac gggggctttt atctcgataa	1020
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catttaccgt atggaaagtga agggcaagcg taagctggc ctgcaaccgg tgccgatgca	1140
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tacgctgggtt aacgatccga tcacatcccc gatggggcgcc acggcgtgtaa aatacgatca	1260
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gctgaccgggt tttgtgtgc cgtgggggtt ggaagtgtac ctggaaagggg tgattgaagg	1380
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caacatgacc gttgtcgca ttgataaagt ctcttaccgc accaaaccca ttttgcatac	1500
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ggttaatccg gggggcgtatc ttggcgatgtt tccgaatatgtt tctgtgtgtt aacttgaccc	1860
tggctccagc cccggggggta tcacccgacaa gctgtatgtt gatgccacca cccctgtgc	1920
cccgacaaac cgtggtaactt acaggccgtt ggtacaggac ctccctgtt ccaaagcctg	1980
ggccgaaaaaa ctgaccgcgtt tgctggcgtt acgtcaataaa ggagggaaaaaa atgatttgcc	2040
cacgttgtgc cgtatgtt attgtatgtt tggcaacatccgtt accgggtttt ggtgtcttgc	2100
cggtatatca gtgccagcac tgcgtgtata cctggcgca taccgttaccgtt ctacggcgta	2160
ccagccgcgtt gcatatccgtt gaacgttccgtt gcatgttaccgtt gaaggatattt gatggggcgtt	2220
cgcaggtgtt aacaatccgtt ccgtgtgtttt aa	2252

<210> SEQ ID NO 19

<211> LENGTH: 2268

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Escherichia coli

<400> SEQUENCE: 19

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accaccatttgcgtt aacttggaaatccgtt cccttacccgtt gctcggttttgcgtt ccgttccgtt	180
agccatataacc cggcggtatca ggcggcgatccgtt atcttccatccgtt gttttttccgtt taccgttaccgtt	240
atgatcgatccgtt ttccgtgttccgtt tttatgtcgaaatccgtt cccttacccgtt gctcggttttccgtt	300
ggccctggtag ggcgcgcggc ggacgtcgatccgtt ctccaaagaag gccgcaaaactt ggtgtgttccgtt	360

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ccgcgtgaaa tgccgcttag caccatccat ctcgaaaata tgctcgact ttcacgcatt	420
ggcgtggcga tgggtggccc gatgcctgca tttataacc atcccgaaac ggttagatgac	480
attgtccacc atgtggtagc ccgcgtgctg gatcaatttgc gcctcgaaca tccccacgcc	540
aggcgctggc aaggattgcc gcaggccccgg aatttttctc aggagaatga ataatggcat	600
ttgatgattt acgcagctt ttacaggcgc ttgatgacca cggccagttt ctgaaaatca	660
gcgaagaagt gaacgcgcgag cggatctgg cagcagcgc taacgcacc gggcgtatcg	720
cgacggcgcg ccccgccgtg tggtttgata atattcgccg ctttaccgtt gcccgcgtgg	780
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cgaggcgcgc cgccaaatcca gcctggcgcg agaacaccgt tgatggcgcg gagatcaacc	960
tgttcgatat cctgcgcgtg tttcgtttaa acgatggcga tggcggttcc tatctcgaca	1020
aagcgtgcgt ggtttccgc gatcgctcg acccggtataa cttcggcgaag cagaacgtcg	1080
gcacatctaccg catgaaatgc aaggccaaatccgc gtaagctcggtt cctgcacccgcgtgc	1140
acgatatacgcc cctgcacatcg cataaaggcgcg aagagcgcggc tgaagatctg ccgattgcgc	1200
tcacgcgtcg taacgatccg atcatcacgc tgatggggcc caccgcgcgtg aaatatgatc	1260
agtcccgatgcg cggaaatggca ggcgcgcgtgc gtgaaagccgc gtacccgcgcgcgc	1320
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tgccgcgtgtt tcagcagctg aaagcccgatgc tccctgaagt gcaggccgtt aacgcctgt	1620
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cgggtggccgc ggcgcgcgtgc accacgcgcgc atggctcggtt ctacgttgcgatggattt	1740
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aagtgaaccc ggcaggggat ttgggtgcgtt tggcgaatat gtccgtgcgtt gaactcgatc	1860
caggctcaag ccctgcggggat atcaccgcaca agctgttacccgtt cgcgcgcgttgcg	1920
ccccggacaa ccgtggtcac tacagccaaatccgcg tttaccggaa accaaaggcc	1980
gggcgtgaaa actgaccgcgtt atgctggctgtt cacgttataa aggagaagaa gatgtttgtt	2040
ccacgttgcgtt ccgtatgcaca gattgttgcgtt atggcgaaat ccgcgggtt gatgtctgg	2100
acggtatatc agtgcgcagca ttgcctttat acctggcgcgcg ataccgcacc gctgcgcgtt	2160
accagccgcgcg aacattatcc cgaagcgttcc cgcgttgcgcg agaaagatattt gatgtgcgcgc	2220
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<210> SEQ ID NO 20

<211> LENGTH: 2268

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Escherichia fergusonii

<400> SEQUENCE: 20

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caagcgttgcg gggagatgccgaaatgttgcgtt gatgttgcgtt gtcggaaatgtt	120
accaccatttgcgttgcgtt gtcggaaatgtt gtcgttgcgtt aacgcgttac	180

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tgccataacc	cgccggatca	ggccgcaacc	atctcctcag	gttccttgc	tacgcacgg	240
atgatcgta	ttccgtgcag	tatgaaaacg	ctcgccggta	tccgcgtgg	ttacgcccgt	300
ggcctggtag	ggcgccggc	ggacgtcg	ctcaaagaag	gccgcaaact	ggtgtgg	360
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aggcgctggc	aaggattgcc	gcaggcccgg	aattttccc	aggagaatga	ataatggcat	600
ttgtatgatt	acgcagctt	ttacaggc	ttgtatgacta	cggtcagtta	ctgaaaatca	660
gtgaagaagt	gaacgcccag	ccggatctgg	cagccgc	caacgcca	ggcgat	720
cgacgggtgc	accggcg	tggttgaca	atattcg	cttaccgat	gcccgcgt	780
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ccccggtaa	aaaacagatt	gatgagttt	tccgcgc	ggataactt	cccattgccc	900
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tgtcgat	tctgcgc	tttcgtttaa	acgatggc	tggcggtt	tatctcgaca	1020
aagcgtgcgt	gtttccgc	gateccgc	acccggataa	tttcggcaag	cagaatgtcg	1080
gcatctaccg	catggaa	tgaa	gtaa	cgtcg	gtgcgc	1140
acgatatcg	cctgc	cataa	aagagc	cg	cgatgc	1200
tcacgc	taacgatccg	atcatc	tgatggggc	cacccgc	aaatacgt	1260
aatcagagta	cgaaatgg	ggc	gcaactac	gcgaa	gccc	1320
cgctgacccg	ttttgatgt	ccgtggg	cagaagt	cctcg	aggc	1380
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cggtgggc	cggtgc	gat	accacgc	acgg	ctgg	1740
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ccccggacaa	ccgtgg	tac	agcc	cggt	cg	1980
gggctgaaa	actgacc	atgc	ggcc	ggta	acc	2040
ccacg	tttg	gatg	aa	cgcc	ggaa	2100
acgg	tctacc	atgc	ccag	tttgc	tttgc	2160
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<211> LENGTH: 2304

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Paenibacillus polymyxa

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

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<211> LENGTH: 2268
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: *Citrobacter koseri*
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<213> ORGANISM: Pantoea ananatis	
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer
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<210> SEQ ID NO 25
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer
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<400> SEQUENCE: 25
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<210> SEQ ID NO 26
<211> LENGTH: 36
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
 222 OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primers

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

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<211> LENGTH: 34
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
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<400> SEQUENCE: 27

<210> SEQ ID NO 28
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:

<400> SEQUENCE: 28

<210> SEQ ID NO 29
<211> LENGTH: 34
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<223> OTHER INFORM

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<210> SEQ ID NO 30
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 30

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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 31

ctctcatatg ctaccgcggt tgctcg 26

<210> SEQ ID NO 32
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 32

ctctcatatg gcagaacaac catggg 26

<210> SEQ ID NO 33
<211> LENGTH: 34
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

ctctcatatg ttacttcaaa tacttctccc agtc 34

<210> SEQ ID NO 34
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

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<210> SEQ ID NO 35
<211> LENGTH: 34
<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

ttatttaca tatgtcatct gccatccaa cgtg 34

<210> SEQ ID NO 36
<211> LENGTH: 40
<212> TYPE: DNA

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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 36
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<210> SEQ ID NO 37
<211> LENGTH: 34
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 37
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<210> SEQ ID NO 38
<211> LENGTH: 44
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

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<210> SEQ ID NO 39
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 39
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<210> SEQ ID NO 40
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 40
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<210> SEQ ID NO 41
<211> LENGTH: 36
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 41
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<210> SEQ ID NO 42
<211> LENGTH: 32
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 42
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<210> SEQ ID NO 43
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 43

ctctcatatg ttaagatcg ggtggcaca

29

<210> SEQ ID NO 44
<211> LENGTH: 28
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 44

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28

<210> SEQ ID NO 45
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 45

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33

<210> SEQ ID NO 46
<211> LENGTH: 28
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 46

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28

<210> SEQ ID NO 47
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 47

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26

<210> SEQ ID NO 48
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 48

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37

<210> SEQ ID NO 49
<211> LENGTH: 30
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer	
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<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
<220> FEATURE:	
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer	
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<211> LENGTH: 32	
<212> TYPE: DNA	
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<220> FEATURE:	
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<211> LENGTH: 29	
<212> TYPE: DNA	
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
<220> FEATURE:	
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer	
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<212> TYPE: DNA	
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
<220> FEATURE:	
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer	
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<212> TYPE: DNA	
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<220> FEATURE:	
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 56

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<210> SEQ ID NO 57
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 57

ctctcatatg ttaacgctta ccatccgcc

29

<210> SEQ ID NO 58
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 58

ctctcatatg agattgattt tggttatgac

30

<210> SEQ ID NO 59
<211> LENGTH: 31
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 59

ctctcatatg gagtcgttgtt tagttctctg c

31

<210> SEQ ID NO 60
<211> LENGTH: 28
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amplification Primer

<400> SEQUENCE: 60

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28

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28

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32

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<400> SEQUENCE: 72

agctgaacag atcgttgate agaactgatc ctgcaccctg

40

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<400> SEQUENCE: 73

ctctgagctc gttgtatgtca atgcgcagag

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The invention claimed is:

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1. A transformant of a *Corynebacterium* obtained by introducing, into the *Corynebacterium*, at least one gene selected from the group consisting of:
 - (1) a decarboxylase gene ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*; and
 - (2) at least one ortholog of the decarboxylase gene ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*,
 wherein one or more substitutions, deletions and/or insertions are introduced into a catechol 1,2-dioxygenase gene catA, and a protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase gene pcaHG in the *Corynebacterium*, thereby degrading or losing functions of enzymes encoded by the catechol 1,2-dioxygenase gene catA and the protocatechuic acid dehydrogenase gene pcaHG, wherein the *Corynebacterium* is selected from the group consisting of: *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, *Coryne-*

bacterium efficiens, *Corynebacterium ammoniagenes*, and *Corynebacterium halotolerance*, wherein the ortholog of the decarboxylase gene ubiD of *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* is selected from the group consisting of: an ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pentosus*, an ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus plantarum*, an ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus pobuzihii*, an ubiD gene of *Lactobacillus composti*, an ubiD gene of *Bacillus megaterium*, an ubiD gene of *Bacillus licheniformis*, an ubiD gene of *Bacillus atrophaeus*, an ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *subtilis*, an ubiD gene of *Bacillus subtilis* subsp. *Spizizenii*, an ubiD gene of *Enterobacter aerogenes*, an ubiD gene of *Enterobacter cloacae*, an ubiD gene of *Enterobacter sakazakii*, an ubiD gene of *Enterobacter hormaechei*, an ubiD gene of *Escherichia coli* W, the ubiD gene of *Escherichia fergusonii*, an ubiD gene of *Paenibacillus polymyxa*, the ubiD gene of *Citrobacter koseri*, and an ubiD gene of *Pantoea ananatis*, and

wherein the transformant has a catechol producing ability.

2. The transformant of claim 1,

wherein the *Corynebacterium* is *Corynebacterium glutamicum* R (FERM P-18976), ATCC13032, or ATCC13869.

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3. A transformant of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* CAT21 deposited under Accession Number: NITE BP-02689.

4. A method for producing catechol comprising:
reacting the transformant of claim 1 in a reaction solution 10
under reducing conditions; and

collecting catechol in a reaction solution.

5. The method of claim 4,

wherein the reaction solution comprises at least one saccharide selected from the group consisting of glucose, fructose, cellobiose, xylobiose, sucrose, lactose, maltose, dextrin, xylose, arabinose, galactose, mannose, and soluble starch.

6. The transformant of claim 1, wherein the *Corynebacterium* is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*. 20

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