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(54) Title: ALPHA-GALACTOSIDASE FROM BIFIDOBACTERIUM BIFIDUM AND ITS USE

(57) Abstract: The present invention concerns a new α -galactosidase with transgalactosylating activity isolated from *Bifidobacterium bifidum*. The α -galactosidase is capable of converting mellibiose to α -galactobiose disaccharides which may be incorporated into numerous food products or animal feeds for improving gut health by promoting the growth of bifidobacteria in the gut, and repressing the growth of the pathogenic microflora.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. C12N9/40 C12N5/10 A23L1/09 A23L1/29		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C12N A23L		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, Sequence Search, BIOSIS, WPI Data, EMBASE, MEDLINE, FSTA, CHEM ABS Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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X	-& EP 1 227 152 A (NESTLE SA [CH]) 31 July 2002 (2002-07-31) see the whole document, in particular SEQ ID NO:919 ----- -/--	1-6, 8-14,18
☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *& document member of the same patent family		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Bassias, Ioannis

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