



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<p>(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : C12N 15/52, 1/15, 9/00 C12P 35/02 // (C12N 1/15 C12R 1:82)</p>	A1	<p>(11) International Publication Number: WO 93/05158</p> <p>(43) International Publication Date: 18 March 1993 (18.03.93)</p>
<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/07711</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 11 September 1992 (11.09.92)</p> <p>(30) Priority data: 757,879 11 September 1991 (11.09.91) US 933,469 28 August 1992 (28.08.92) US</p> <p>(71) Applicant: MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US).</p> <p>(72) Inventors: CONDER, Michael, J. ; 767 Northfield Court, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 (US). CRAWFORD, Lorilee ; 14049 91st. Place N.E., Bothel, WA 98011 (US). McADA, Phyllis, C. ; 15611 173rd Avenue, N.E., Woodinville, WA 98072 (US). RAMBOSEK, John, A. ; 7701 17th Avenue, N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 (US).</p>		<p>(74) Agent: SPEER, Raymond, M.; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065 (US).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: BG, CS, FI, HU, JP, KR, NO, PL, RO, RU.</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>
<p>(54) Title: NOVEL BIOPROCESS FOR PREPARING 7-ADCA</p>		
<p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>An important intermediate for preparing cephalosporin antibiotics, 7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA), is prepared by a novel bioprocess in which a transformed <i>Penicillium chrysogenum</i> strain is cultured in the presence of an adequate feedstock to produce adipoyl-6-APA (6-amino penicillanic acid); and the <i>in situ</i> expression of an expandase gene, e.g., from <i>Streptomyces clavuligerus</i>, with which the <i>P. chrysogenum</i> has been transformed, converts the adipoyl-6-APA by ring expansion to adipoyl-7-ADCA. The final product, 7-ADCA, is then prepared by cleavage of the adipoyl side chain using an adipoyl acylase. The entire synthesis, accordingly, is carried out using bioprocesses, and is efficient and economical.</p>		

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10 TITLE OF THE INVENTION
NOVEL BIOPROCESS FOR PREPARING 7-ADCA

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15

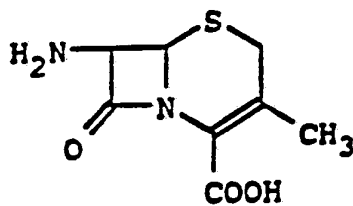
1. Field of the Invention

The present invention is in the field of synthesis
methods for the preparation of commercial
20 cephalosporin antibiotics, of which there are
presently a significant number, these therapeutic
agents now being in their fourth generation. The
large variety of side chains to be found in
commercial cephalosporins and the significant
25 economic importance of the cephalosporins has placed
increased importance on achieving more economic and
efficient methods of preparing key intermediates
which permit ready synthesis of the various
cephalosporins.

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One of these key intermediates is
7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA),
which may be represented by the following formula:

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5 Currently, 7-ADCA is produced from penicillin G and
requires four or five chemical steps to expand the
penicillin ring system from 5 members to the
6-membered ring which characterizes cephalosporins.
As is typical of totally chemical synthesis, this
10 process has serious disadvantages. Among these are
the requirements of a multi-step and complex process,
expensive reagents, significant quantities of process
by-products resulting in effluent treatment problems,
and purification of a highly impure starting material
15 before chemical treatment begins. Consequently,
there has been an ongoing search for a
microbiological or fermentative process which would
achieve enzymatic ring expansion and side chain
cleavage to provide 7-ADCA on a more economic basis
20 than the chemical process currently in use.

 Accordingly, the present invention is
particularly in the field of preparing the key
cephalosporin intermediate 7-ADCA, and more
particularly, in the field of bioprocesses for the
25 preparation of 7-ADCA.

 To date, the search for a successful bioprocess
for making 7-ADCA has largely proved futile,
certainly with respect to one of commercial scale.
For example, while it has been possible to prepare
30 6-amino penicillanic acid (6-APA) by direct
fermentation and/or by enzymatic treatment of
penicillin G, leaving only ring expansion necessary

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to give 7-ADCA, it has been found that, unfortunately, the Cephalosporium or Streptomyces enzymes which carry out ring expansion in the normal metabolic pathways of these microorganisms do not accept 6-APA as a substrate. These enzymes, which are collectively referred to in the art as the DAOCs or expandase enzyme, are defined as enzymes which

5 catalyze the expansion of penam ring structures found in penicillin-type molecules to ceph-3-em rings, as found in the cephalosporins. Hereafter, these enzymes will be referred to as "the expandase enzyme".

10 A substrate on which the expandase enzyme does operate is penicillin N, which upon ring expansion, gives deacetoxy cephalosporin C (DAOC). Here, it is only necessary to cleave the (D)- α -aminoadipoyl side chain to give 7-ADCA, but this side chain has

15 proven stubbornly resistant to enzymatic cleavage, giving only unacceptably low yields.

In accordance with the present invention it has been possible to achieve an efficient bioprocess wherein a penicillin compound (having an adipoyl side

20 chain) is produced by a novel fermentation process in high titers, said penicillin compound being an acceptable substrate for the expandase enzyme system which is produced in situ by the same microorganism which produces the penicillin compound, having been

25 transformed to express said expandase enzyme system. The expandase enzyme then operates to ring expand the penicillin compound to a cephalosporin compound in high yields. And, importantly in the second critical step, the side chain of the penicillin compound, now

30 a cephalosporin compound, is removable by another enzyme system in surprisingly high yields. The unexpected result of this unique bioprocess which

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comprises the present invention is the production of 7-ADCA in surprisingly high yields.

2. Brief Description of the Prior Art

5 Cantwell et al., in Curr Genet (1990) 17:213-221, have proposed a bioprocess for preparing 7-ADCA by ring expansion of penicillin V followed by enzymatic hydrolysis of the resulting deacetoxycephalosporin V to form 7-ADCA. This proposal is based on the availability of a cloned penicillin N expandase gene (cefE) from S. clavuligerus, Kovacevic et al., J. Bacteriol. (1989) 171:754-760 and U.S. 5,070,020. 10 However, since the expandase operates on penicillin N, its natural substrate, but not on penicillin V, the proposal requires genetic engineering to produce a modified expandase gene which can ring-expand the penicillin V. The required modification was not achieved by Cantwell et al., however, and they only 15 succeeded in transforming Penicillium chrysogenum with the cef E gene from Streptomyces clavuligerus and getting low-level expression of the DAOCS (expandase) enzyme. 20

The expandase enzyme has been well studied in the art, both with respect to its activity and its genetic sequence. For example, in Wolfe U.S. 25 4,510,246 and 4,536,476, cyclase, epimerase and ring expansion enzymes were isolated separately from a cell free extract of prokaryotic β -lactam producing organisms, including Streptomyces clavuligerus, to provide stable enzyme reagents. EP-A-0 366 354 30 describes an isolated and purified expandase enzyme from S. clavuligerus which is characterized, including by a terminal residue and amino acid

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composition, and is said to have a molecular weight of about 34,600 Daltons. This is in contrast, however, to the molecular weight of 29,000 assigned to what would appear to be the same enzyme in U.S. 4,536,476. EP-A-0 233 715 discloses isolation and endonuclease restriction map characterization of the expandase enzyme obtained from S. clavuligerus, transformation and expression in a host of said enzyme, and demonstration of ring expansion of penicillin N substrate using said enzyme. U.S. 5,070,020 discloses the DNA sequence encoding the expandase enzyme obtained from S. clavuligerus and describes the transformation of a P. chrysogenum strain with an expression vector containing said DNA sequence, thereby obtaining expression of the expandase enzyme. While it is suggested that this enzyme is useful for the expansion of substrates other than penicillin N, there is no actual demonstration of such an expansion.

The work described above has focused on the expandase enzyme derived from prokaryotic S. clavuligerus. This same enzyme, or at least an enzyme apparently having the same ring expansion activity, is also expressed by strains of eukaryotic Cephalosporium acremonium (also referred to as Acremonium chrysogenum). However, in such strains expandase activity is expressed by a bifunctional gene (cefEF), which also expresses the DACS (hydroxylase) activity whose natural function is to convert the desacetoxycephalosporanic acid (DAOC) product of the expandase enzyme to deacetyl cephalosporin C (DAC). The result is a single, but bifunctional expandase/hydroxylase enzyme. While there have been efforts to separate the activities of

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these two gene products, none have yet been successful. For example, EP-A-0 281 391 discloses the isolation and DNA sequence identification of the DAOCS/DACS gene obtained from C. acremonium ATCC 11550 together with the corresponding amino acid sequences of the enzymes. A Penicillium is transformed and expresses the enzymes, however, the attempted conversion of penicillins G and V to the corresponding cephalosporins is never demonstrated. Further, despite a suggestion that genetic engineering techniques provide a ready means to separate the genetic information encoding DAOCS from DACS and separately express them, no actual demonstration of such separation is set forth.

The DAOCS/DACS (expandase/hydroxylase) enzyme of C. acremonium has also been well studied in the art, both with respect to its activity and its characteristics and genetic sequence. For example, in Demain U.S. 4,178,210; 4,248,966; and 4,307,192 various penicillin-type starting materials are treated with a cell-free extract of C. acremonium which epimerizes and expands the ring to give a cephalosporin antibiotic product. Wu-Kuang Yeh U.S. 4,753,881 describes the C. acremonium enzyme in terms of its isoelectric point, molecular weights, amino acid residues, ratio of hydroxylase to expandase activities and peptide fragments.

The prior art discussed above deals with only a single aspect of the present invention, i.e., the transformation of a P. chrysogenum strain with the gene expressing the expandase enzyme and obtaining expression of that enzyme. The art, however, has only used the expressed enzyme to ring-expand penicillin N, not penicillins G and V. Even in that

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case, penicillin N has a 7-position side chain which cannot be cleaved enzymatically to give 7-ADCA, as in the method of the present invention. The present invention relies on the surprising discovery that an adipoyl side chain can be efficiently added by a P. chrysogenum strain, that the expandase enzyme expressed in situ can use that compound efficiently as a substrate for ring expansion to adipoyl 7-ADCA, and that the adipoyl side chain can then be efficiently removed by yet another enzyme to give 7-ADCA. While various isolated fragments of the present invention may be found in the prior art, there has been no suggestion that they be combined to give the unexpected results obtained with the method of the present invention.

For example, production of 6-adipoyl penicillanic acid is known in the art; see Ballio, A. et al., Nature (1960) 185, 97-99. The enzymatic expansion of 6-adipoyl penicillanic acid on an in vitro basis is also known in the art. See Baldwin et al., Tetrahedron (1987) 43, 3009-3014; and EP-A-0 268 343. And, enzymatic cleavage of adipoyl side chains is also known in the art; see Matsuda et al., J. Bact. (1987) 169, 5815-5820.

The adipoyl side chain has the following structure: $\text{COOH}-(\text{CH}_2)_4-\text{CO}-$, while a side chain of closely related structure is that of glutaryl, having the following formula: $\text{COOH}-(\text{CH}_2)_3-\text{CO}-$. The enzymatic cleavage of glutaryl side chains is known in the art. See, e.g., Shibuya et al., Agric. Biol. Chem. (1981) 45, 1561-1567; Matsuda and Komatsu, J. Bact. (1985) 163, 1222-1228; Matsuda et al., J. Bact. (1987) 169, 5815-5820; Jap. 53-086084 (1978 - Banyu Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.); and Jap.

52-128293 (1977 - Banyu Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.).

Also, EPA-A-0 453 048 describes methods for improving the adipoyl-cleaving activity of the glutaryl acylase produced by Pseudomonas SY-77-1. By substituting different amino acids at certain locations within the alpha-subunit, a three to five times higher rate of adipoyl cleavage (from adipoyl-serine) was observed. It should be noted that although EP-A-0 453 048, apparently, demonstrates an acylase with improved activity towards adipoyl-side chains, it does not describe any ways (either chemical or through a bioprocess in any way analogous to that described in the instant specification) in which an adipoyl-cephalosporin might be generated in the first place.

Where a (D)- α -aminoadipoyl side chain is present, it is known in the art to first enzymatically remove the amino group and shorten the side chain with a (D)-aminoacidoxidase, leaving a glutaryl (GL-7) side chain, with removal of the glutaryl side chain by a second enzyme (glutaryl acylase). Such a two-step cleavage is disclosed in Matsuda U.S. 3,960,662; EP-A-0 275 901; Jap. 61-218057 (1988 - Komatsu, Asahi Chemical Industry Co.); WO 90/12110 (1990 - Wong, Biopure Corp.); and Isogai et al., Bio/Technology (1991) 9, 188-191.

Reference to Copending Application

Reference is made to copending application Serial No. -----, filed ----- (Attorney Docket No. 18572IA), which discloses a bioprocess for making 7-ACA that relies on expression of the activity of the expandase enzyme in a P.

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chrysogenum transformant in the same manner as the bioprocess for making 7-ADCA described herein. However, in the 7-ACA bioprocess, additional transformations are required for the expression of additional enzymatic activities, in order to achieve a wholly different recombinant metabolic pathway to a distinct final product, none of which is suggested in the instant specification.

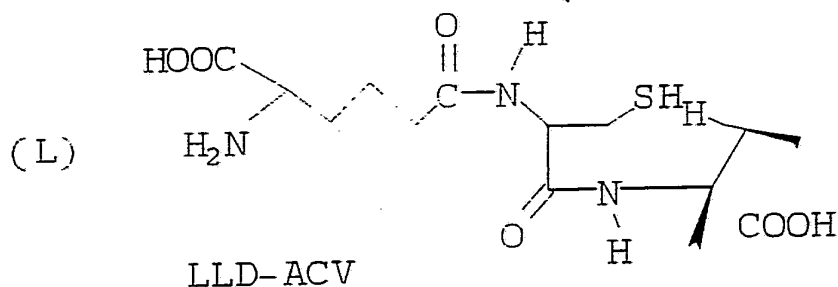
In order to facilitate a better understanding of the method of the present invention and the teachings of the prior art references discussed above, set out immediately below is a representation of the various stages in the metabolic pathways leading to penicillin G and cephalosporin C, the intermediate products, and the enzymes which carry out the transformations involved.

L-alpha-aminoadipic acid +
 L-cysteine + L-valine

5

ACV SYNTHETASE

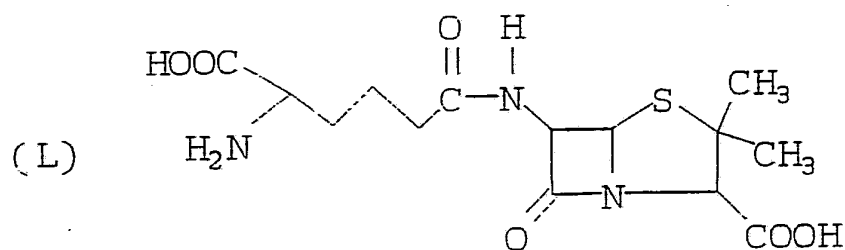
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15

ISOPENICILLIN N
 SYNTHETASE
 (IPNS)

20



25

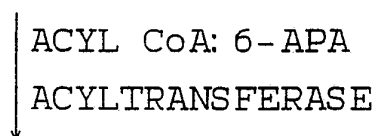
ISOPENICILLIN N
 (IPN)

30

IPN AMIDOLYASE

- 10/1 -

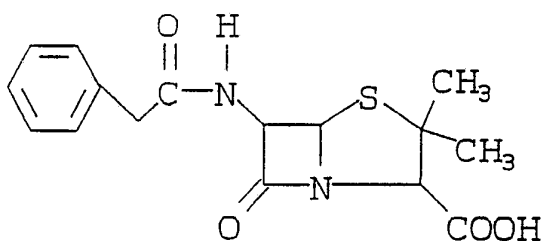
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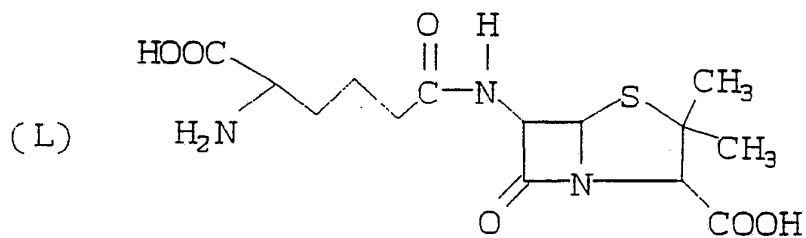
PHENYLACETYL CoA

15



PENICILLIN G

20



25

ISOPENICILLIN N

(IPN)

30

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

- 10/2 -

5

ISOPENICILLIN N

(IPN)

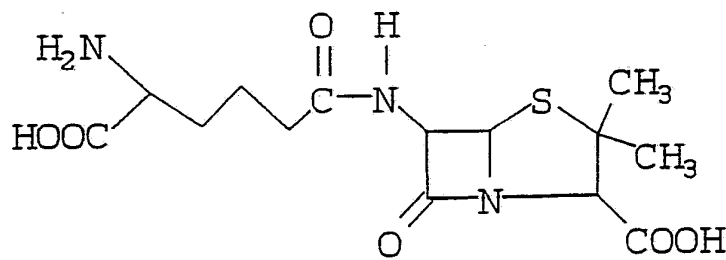
IPN EPIMERASE

10

(D)

PHENYLACETYL CoA

15



20

PENICILLIN N

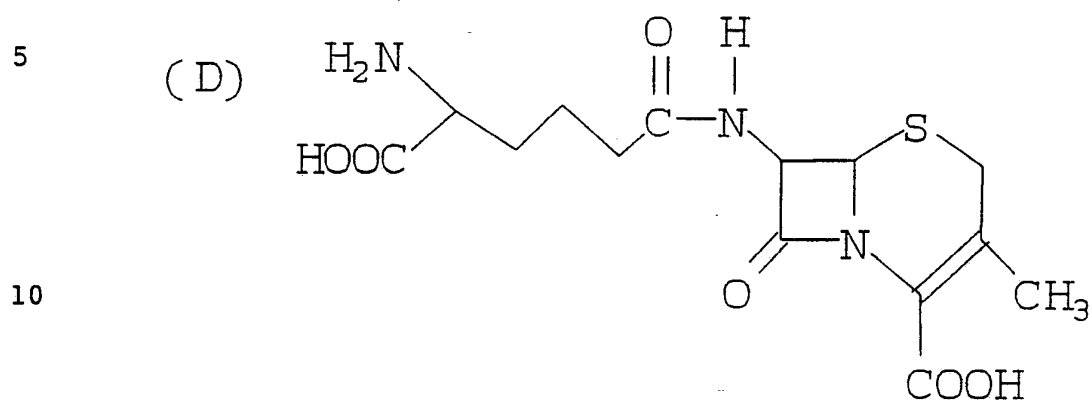
PENICILLIN N

EXPANDASE

25

30

- 10/3 -



15 DESACETOXY-
CEPHALOSPORANIC
ACID
(DAOC)

20

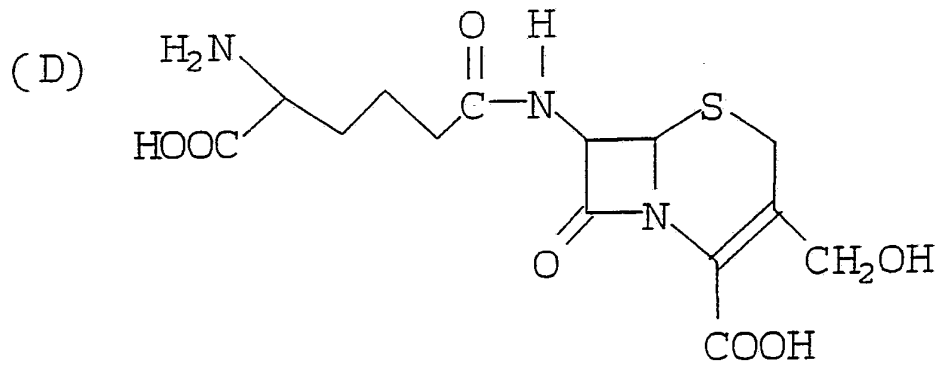
↓ DAOC 3' - HYDROXYLASE

25

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- 10/4 -

5



10

DESACETOXY-
 CEPHALOSPORANIC
 ACID
 (DAC)

15

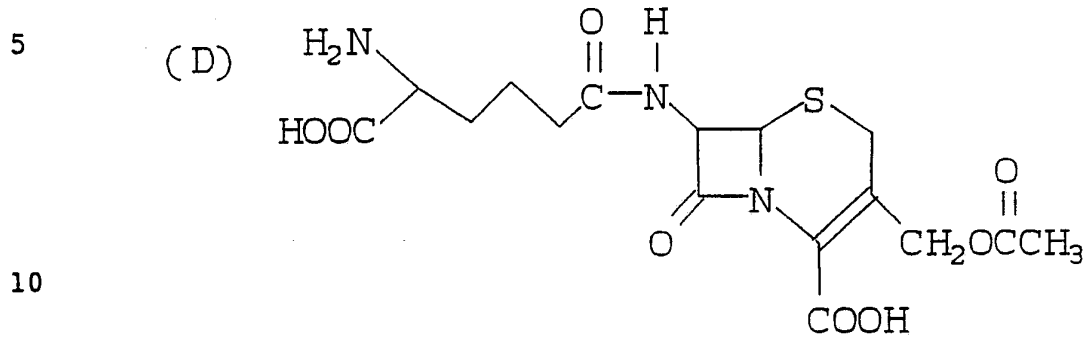
20

DAC ACETYLTRANSFERASE

25

30

- 10/5 -



CEPHALOSPORIN C

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a novel bioprocess for preparing 7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA) comprising the steps of

5 1) maintaining in a culture medium capable of sustaining its growth, a strain of Penicillium chrysogenum which produces isopenicillin N and adding to said culture medium an adipate feedstock comprising adipic acid, or one or more of its salts and esters which are capable of being assimilated and
10 utilized by said strain of Penicillium chrysogenum to produce adipoyl-6-amino penicillanic acid (adipoyl-6-APA), whereby said adipoyl-6-APA is produced;

15 wherein said strain of Penicillium chrysogenum has been transformed by DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme capable of accepting said adipoyl-6-APA as a substrate, whereupon as a result of its expression, said adipoyl-6-APA produced
20 by said strain is also thereafter in situ ring-expanded to form adipoyl-7-ADCA; and

2) contacting said adipoyl-7-ADCA with an adipoyl acylase whereby the adipoyl side chain is removed and the 7-ADCA product is formed; and said
25 product is then isolated.

As used herein, the following terms have the indicated meanings:

30 "adipoyl-6-APA" means [2S-(2 α , 5 α , 6 B)] -3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-6-[(hexane-1, 6-dioyl)amino] -4-thia-1-azabicyclo-[3.2.0] heptane-2-carboxylic acid; and

"adipoyl-7-ADCA" means 7-[(hexane-1, 6-dioyl)

- 12 -

amino]-3-methyl-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo-(4.2.0)-oct-2-ene-2-carboxylic acid.

In particular, the present invention relates to the novel bioprocess for preparing 7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA) recited above in which the adipate feedstock is disodium adipate, in which the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme is derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and in which the adipoyl acylase is derived from Pseudomonas species.

The present invention further relates to a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising plasmid pPenFTSO, as hereinafter described.

The present invention further relates to a Penicillium chrysogenum host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising the promoter of the Penicillium chrysogenum IPNS gene. In particular, the present invention relates to a Penicillium chrysogenum host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising plasmid pPenFTSO, as hereinafter described.

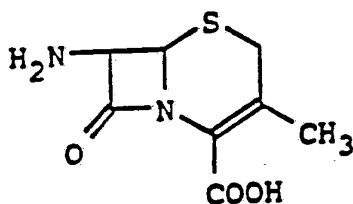
The present invention still further relates to a method comprising the step of culturing a recombinant Penicillium chrysogenum host cell under conditions suitable for gene expression, wherein said recombinant host cell comprises a recombinant DNA

- 13 -

expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising the promoter of the Penicillium chrysogenum IPNS gene. In particular, the present invention relates to a method of culturing a recombinant Penicillium chrysogenum host cell under conditions suitable for gene expression, wherein said recombinant host cell comprises a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising plasmid pPenFTSO, as hereinafter described.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The primary aspect of the present invention is a novel bioprocess for preparing 7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA), a key intermediate in the preparation of synthetic commercial cephalosporins, which may be represented by the following structural formula:

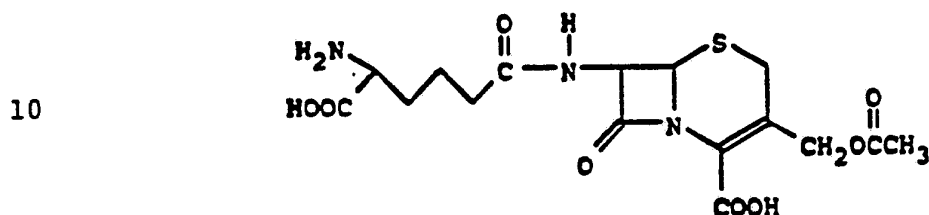


In addition to the cephalosporin nucleus, the distinctive features of 7-ADCA are the 7-amino group and the 3-methyl group. The 7-amino group is one which may be converted to any number of derivative side chains, and thus forms the basis for

- 14 -

synthesizing various commercial cephalosporins. The 3-methyl group will usually, but not always, as in the case of cephalexin, have to be converted to some other side chain to synthesize a commercial cephalosporin.

The 7-ADCA product of the method of the present invention may be contrasted with cephalosporin C, another key cephalosporin intermediate which may be represented by the following structural formula:



15 For this intermediate, the 3-acetyloxymethyl side chain may be acceptable for commercial cephalosporins. However, the 7-(D)- α -aminoadipoyl side chain is not acceptable for further synthetic derivation, and must be cleaved to give the acceptable 7-amino group. Unfortunately, the 7-(D)- α -aminoadipoyl side chain has always proven difficult to remove, whether by chemical or biochemical means.

25 Definitions

As used in the instant specification, and particularly in the section entitled Description of Preferred Embodiments, the following terms have the indicated meanings:

30

7-ADCA	7-Aminodesacetoxycephalosporanic acid
6-APA	6-Aminopenicillanic acid

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	DAOC	Desacetoxycephalosporanic acid
	DAOCS	DAOC synthetase
	DAC	Deacetylcephalosporin C
	DACS	DAC synthase
	IPNS	Isopenicillin N synthetase
	Tris	Tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane
5	EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
	DEPC	Diethylpyrocarbonate
	TE	Tris/EDTA buffer
	SSC	Salt (Sodium chloride), sodium citrate buffer
10	SDS	Sodium dodecylsulfate
	PEG	Polyethylene glycol

Penicillium chrysogenum Culture

15 The first step of the method of the present invention comprises the step of maintaining in a culture medium capable of sustaining its growth, a strain of Penicillium chrysogenum which produces isopenicillin N and adding to said culture medium an adipate feedstock comprising adipic acid, or its
20 salts and esters. The adipate feedstock may be added to the culture medium after inoculation with P. chrysogenum, but it is preferred that it already be present in the culture medium at the time that
25 inoculation takes place. The adipic acid, or its salts and esters are such that they are capable of being assimilated and utilized by said strain of P. chrysogenum to produce adipoyl-6-APA; wherein said strain of P. chrysogenum has been transformed by DNA
30 encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme, whereupon as a result of its expression, said adipoyl-6-APA is in situ ring-expanded to form adipoyl-7-ADCA.

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Other species of the genus Penicillium besides the chrysogenum species produce isopenicillin N. However, historically the highest producing strains of isopenicillin N have all been developed by well-known techniques of strain improvement from the chrysogenum species. As a practical matter, then, the present invention has been limited to strains of Penicillium chrysogenum, although its applicability to other species is obvious. Any deposited strain of Penicillium chrysogenum or other publicly available source of such strain is a suitable starting point for carrying out the method of the present invention.

The culture medium capable of sustaining the growth of a strain of Penicillium chrysogenum which produces isopenicillin N is of the type with which the person of ordinary skill in the art would be readily familiar. For example, the culturing would be carried out by the submerged aerobic fermentation method, and the medium employed would be selected from a number of suitable media available. Typical media utilize carbon sources such as sucrose, glucose, and starch; nitrogen sources such as soybean meal and grits, cotton seed oil, peanut meal, and various amino acids, mixtures thereof, and peptones. Production requirements emphasize yield and ease of isolation, and thus preferred media for such situations may be molasses as the carbon source and soybean meal and amino acids as the nitrogen source.

Nutrient inorganic salts are commonly added to the culture medium, and include salts capable of supplying the following ionic components: sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium, phosphate, sulfate, chloride, bromide, nitrate, carbonate, ferric, ferrous, magnesium, manganese, etc. Trace elements

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are also usually essential for the growth, development and metabolism of the Penicillium chrysogenum, and can be added directly to the culture medium unless supplied already as contaminants, essentially, of the other culture medium ingredients.

5 The Penicillium chrysogenum strains can be cultured in equipment of small volume such as 1 L shake flasks where it is desired to produce only small quantities of 7-ADCA. Where larger quantities of the adipoyl-7-ADCA are desired, however, large scale fermentation tanks under submerged aerobic fermentation conditions will be employed.

10 In carrying out the large scale preparation of adipoyl-7-ADCA, spores of the Penicillium chrysogenum strain are maintained on an agar slant. The spores from the slant are employed to inoculate a vegetative medium having a small volume. The vegetative medium is incubated to produce a heavy, fresh, actively growing culture of the microorganism. This vegetative growth is then employed as the inoculum for the large scale fermentation medium. In certain instances it may be desirable to include yet a further vegetative medium as the inoculum for the fermentation medium. Such second stage vegetative media are commonly employed when the volume of the fermentation medium is significantly larger than the first vegetative medium. In this manner, the spores of the microorganism are cultured at first in a small volume of vegetative medium to obtain inoculum for a vegetative medium of larger volume. The larger volume vegetative medium then supplies sufficient concentration of the microorganism to initiate a rapid onset of the fermentation in the large scale fermentation tank. The vegetative medium can have

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the same composition as the fermentation medium or it can contain additional ingredients to spur the growth and development of the microorganism on a small scale.

The Penicillium chrysogenum strains employed in the method of the present invention are most effectively cultured at temperatures between about 20° and 30°C, but optimal yields will be obtained when the temperature is between about 22° and 28°C, preferably about 25°C.

Maximum production of adipoyl-7-ADCA occurs when the Penicillium chrysogenum strain is cultured in large scale tanks for a period of between about 10 and 30 days, preferably 15 to 25 days. However, when cultured in small scale apparatus, such as 250 mL shake flasks, the growth of the microorganism is more rapid and it produces adipoyl-7-ADCA in a shorter time, e.g., 4 to 15 days, frequently 5 to 7 days.

If the terminal pH in large scale fermentation tanks reaches 8.0 or higher, yield of adipoyl-7-ADCA may be adversely affected. In such situations, it is desirable to monitor the pH of the culture medium throughout the fermentation. If it appears that the pH will reach such levels prior to the time of maximum production of adipoyl-7-ADCA occurs, the pH can be conveniently adjusted downward by adding a suitable acid or buffering agent to the fermentation medium.

The production of adipoyl-7-ADCA can be followed by testing samples of the fermentation broth chromatographically.

As with most submerged aerobic fermentations, sterile air is passed through the culture medium to obtain more efficient growth of the Penicillium chrysogenum strain and increased production of

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adipoyl-7-ADCA. The volume of air forced through the culture medium is usually at least approximately 0.2 volumes of air per minute per volume of culture medium. However, an increased rate of air passage can often have a beneficial effect on the production of adipoyl-7-ADCA.

5 The Penicillium chrysogenum strain will typically produce, in addition to adipoyl-7-ADCA, many side products and metabolites. Since some of these are acid labile, it is desirable in the recovery of adipoyl-7-ADCA from the fermentation medium, to treat
10 the whole fermentation broth at an acid pH for a short time in order to destroy some of the co-produced impurities. The adipoyl-7-ADCA fermentation product is recovered from the filtered fermentation broth thus treated and optionally may be
15 separated from the other components of the fermentation medium by chromatography over an ion exchange resin and may be further purified by chromatography if necessary before the subsequent
20 step of enzymatic cleavage of the adipoyl side chain. It is also possible to carry out such ion exchange chromatography separation after side chain cleavage has been carried out. One of the major side products which presents separation problems is
25 adipoyl-6-APA, and it is possible to chemically or enzymatically degrade this side product in order to make separation more facile. Initially, the filtered fermentation broth is subjected to a preliminary purification procedure which can include an initial
30 extraction with a water immiscible organic solvent, such as n-butanol or amyl acetate, to remove impurities. The extracted broth can then be further purified in a preliminary manner by chromatography over activated carbon.

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Addition of Adipate Feedstock

Preferably, at the time the fermentation culture for the Penicillium chrysogenum is established as described above, i.e., prior to inoculation, an adipate feedstock is added to the other ingredients of the fermentation culture medium. Optionally, the adipate feedstock may be added at some time after inoculation, e.g., at 1, 2 and/or 3 days after inoculation. The adipate feedstock is defined as adipic acid, or any one or more salts or esters of adipic acid which are capable of being assimilated and utilized by the strain of Penicillium chrysogenum being cultured to produce adipoyl-6-APA. The adipic acid, salts and esters may be used alone or in any combination. The disodium salt is preferred, although potassium and mixed salts with sodium would also be suitable. The methyl ester could be used, but the ethyl ester is water insoluble. The adipic acid salt or ester must be such that it can be assimilated and utilized by the strain of Penicillium chrysogenum to make adipoyl-6-APA. For example, adipic acid itself might be suitable, even though it is water insoluble, if under proper pH conditions an assimilatable salt is formed.

Suitable Expandase Enzymes

The strain of Penicillium chrysogenum which has been cultured and provided with an adipate feedstock as described above so that it produces adipoyl-6-APA, is also one which has been transformed by DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme, whereupon as a result of its expression, said

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adipoyl-6-APA is in situ ring-expanded to form adipoyl-7-ADCA.

5 The adipoyl-6-APA is produced intracellularly by the adipate feedstock cultured Penicillium chrysogenum. In that intracellular setting, i.e., on an in situ basis, the transformed Penicillium chrysogenum also expresses DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme, whereupon the enzyme operates on the adipoyl-6-APA as a substrate, and ring-expands it to form adipoyl-7-ADCA.

10 The novel bioprocess of the present invention includes within its scope the transformation of a Penicillium chrysogenum strain of the type described above with any DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme, whereupon as a result of its expression, adipoyl-6-APA is in situ ring-expanded to form adipoyl-7-ADCA. Thus, the DNA with which the Penicillium chrysogenum is transformed must express an enzyme having not only the activity of the expandase enzyme as understood in the art, i.e., the ability to ring-expand isopenicillin N to DAOC, but the ability to ring-expand adipoyl-6-APA to adipoyl-7-ADCA. However, it is contemplated, based on side chain similarity, that any expandase enzyme will be operable in the novel bioprocess of the present invention.

25 It has already been noted under the section describing the prior art, that the expandase enzyme derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064 has been fully sequenced as well as characterized by endonuclease restriction mapping. However, what would appear to be the same enzyme, derived from S. clavuligerus NRRL 3585, has been reported to have a different molecular weight, but it has not been sequenced.

30

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5 These expandase enzymes already identified in the prior art are useful in the novel bioprocess of the present invention. Other expandase enzymes not yet identified, derived from different strains of S. clavuligerus, or even from microorganisms of different genera, may also prove to be suitable for carrying out the novel bioprocess of the present invention. The procedures for identifying such new strains and genera of useful microorganisms and for isolating the putative expandase enzymes and establishing that they are suitable for use in the method of the present invention, are straightforward and well within the skill of the artisan. Screening of cell-free extracts of candidate new strains and genera of useful microorganisms may be done in a reliable and reproducible manner by adding said extracts to the adipoyl-6-APA substrate in the presence of known DAOCS co-factors which include ferrous (Fe^{2+}) ions, ascorbate, α -ketoglutarate and adenosine triphosphate (ATP). The adipoyl-6-APA substrate may be prepared in sufficient quantities by feeding an adipate feedstock to an untransformed Penicillium chrysogenum in a manner analogous to that described in detail further below. The desired expandase enzyme is present if adipoyl-7-ADCA is formed, the presence of which may be detected by chromatography.

25 It is also possible, using well-known recombinant techniques, to generate DNA probes, based on the expandase sequence of S. clavuligerus and C. acremonium, for example, to screen the DNA contents of a candidate microorganism likely to produce an expandase suitable for use in the method of the present invention.

Potential Sources for Expandase Enzymes

Expandase enzymes, as already noted, are enzymes which catalyze the expansion of penam ring structures (found in penicillin-type molecules) to ceph-3-em rings (as found in the cephalosporins). Any organism producing metabolites which contain a cephem ring is, therefore, a potential source for an expandase-encoding DNA. Examples of such organisms are listed below, but this list is exemplary only and should not be considered exhaustive:

10

Fungi

Cephalosporium acremoniumCephalosporium sp.Emericellopsis

15

PaecilomycesScopulariopsisDiheterosporaSpiroidiumAnoxiopsis

20

Actinomycetes

Streptomyces clavuligerusS. lipmanii

25

S. wadayamensisS. todorominensisS. filipinensis cephamyciniS. heteromorphusS. panayensis

30

S. griseusS. cattleyaNocardia lactamdurans

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Other bacteria

Flavobacterium sp.Alcaligenes denitrificansMycoplana bullataProvidencia rettgeri5 Lysobacter lactamgenus

10 The expandases of the organisms listed above are merely candidates for further investigation, and it may be that not all of them will be suitable for the novel process of the present invention. For example, use of those enzymes which possess both expandase and hydroxylase activities, such as that from C. acremonium, might result in the synthesis of hydroxylated adipoyl-7-ADCA, i.e., DAC with an
15 adipoyl side chain.

Isolating DNA Fragments Encoding Expandase Activity

20 Once the presence of a desired expandase enzyme has been detected in the manner described above, procedures for the isolation of the DNA encoding the expandase enzyme activity are also straightforward and well known in the art. DNA probes based on the
25 known sequences and partial sequences of the genes encoding the expandase enzymes are constructed which will hybridize to the desired enzyme-encoding DNA to be isolated. The construction of such probes is based on a knowledge of the amino acid and nucleotide
30 base-sequence encoding the expandase enzyme, as well as the codon preferences of the particular microorganism involved. A detailed description of

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typical procedures of this type applied to the genomic DNA of Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC. 27064 is set out further below.

5 Isolation of the DNA encoding the expandase enzyme activity is accomplished using the restriction and ligation procedures well known in recombinant DNA technology. It is necessary to have an endonuclease
10 restriction map of the genome of the microorganism involved, so that the proper restriction fragment can be produced and isolated. Restriction maps for S. clavuligerus and C. acremonium are already available; thus, for the former, restriction enzymes Bam HI and Sal I are used and electrophoresis provides the
15 desired 1.8 to 2.2 kb sized fragments.

Transformation of the Penicillium chrysogenum Strain

15 Once the DNA fragments encoding the expandase activity are obtained, they may be inserted (ligated) into a plasmid or other expression vector, along with
20 DNA fragments comprising promoters, translational activating sequences, resistance markers, regulatory sequences, cosmid formers, and any other DNA sequences which permit or promote transformation,
25 drive expression of the gene product, and facilitate isolation of the transformants. The expression vector which has thus been constructed is then used
30 to achieve transformation of the Penicillium chrysogenum strain and intracellular expression of the activity of the expandase enzyme. The techniques used to achieve transformation and expression are well known in the art, and a detailed description of
such typical procedures is set out further below.

As already detailed further above, the

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transformed Penicillium chrysogenum strain expresses the activity of the expandase enzyme intracellularly, which then operates in situ on the adipoyl-6-APA substrate to ring-expand it to adipoyl-7-ADCA.

Novel Transformant

5

The specific Penicillium chrysogenum transformant expressing the activity of the expandase gene which is a preferred embodiment of the present invention is novel with respect to such constructions in the prior art as that in Cantwell et al. (1990) Current Genetic, 17, 213-221. In both constructions, in vitro mutagenesis is used to connect the promoter to the expandase gene. In the Cantwell construction, manipulation introduces a NdeI site at the ATG of the expandase gene which is ligated to the XbaI site at the 3' end of the IPNS promoter by a XbaI/NdeI linker. In the construction of the present invention, an NcoI site is created at the ATG of the expandase gene and ligated to the NcoI site at the 3' end of the IPNS linker. This creates the following sequences around the promoter-gene junctions in these constructions:

		XbaI	NcoI		
25	IPNS promotor	5'	TCTAGACACCATGG	3'	SEQ ID NO:1
	<u>Strep</u> expandase	5'	GTGAGAGTTGATGGAC	3'	SEQ ID NO:2
	Cantwell	5'	TCTAGACACTATGGAC	3'	SEQ ID NO:3
30	Present Invention	5'	TCTAGACACCATGGAC	3'	SEQ ID NO:4

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The Cantwell construction replaces a C with a T, whereas, in the construct of the present invention the C is retained; thus the sequence of the IPNS promotor immediately adjacent to the ATG start codon exactly matches that which is found with the naturally occurring IPNS gene. It is possible that the promoter of the prior art, although differing by only a single nucleotide base, may lead to a lower efficiency of translation efficiency, and consequently to a lower level of expandase gene expression.

Other differences are in the regions of the promotor or gene included in the constructions. The Cantwell construction contains the 5' BamHI to XbaI 3' region of the IPNS promotor, whereas, the vector of the present invention contains the 5' NcoI to NcoI 3' region of the promotor [Diez, et al., (1990), J. Biol. Chem. 265, 16358-16365]. This results in approximately 250 bps additional on the 5' end of the IPNS promotor in the Cantwell construction. However, this region is in the open reading frame of the ACV synthetase gene upstream of the IPNS gene.

The Cantwell construction also contains the Streptomyces gene from the ATG to the BamHI site 3' of the gene, whereas the vector of the present invention contains the ATG to the SallI site 3' of the gene [Kovacevic et al. (1989), J. Bacteriol., 171, 754-760]. This results in approximately 1000 bps of additional 3' end sequence on the Cantwell construction. The construction of the present invention still contains the upstream region of the expandase gene to the BamHI site 5' of the ATG; however, it is separated from the reading frame of the expandase gene by the IPNS promotor.

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Another difference of the construct of the present invention over that described in the prior art relates to the selectable marker which is used. The use of a Penicillium IPNS promoter: phleomycin gene fusion in the construct of the present invention tends to select for integration of multiple copies or integration at loci that allow high level expression, and thus potentially may give a higher percentage of transformants that express the expandase gene at high level.

A novel transformant of the type described above, is a Penicillium chrysogenum identified as PC100. Its taxonomic features typically include the production of broadly spreading colonies, blue-green to green in color, smooth velvety with yellow drops; reverse yellow diffusing into the agar; conidial heads branched with all parts smooth; conidia elliptical to globose 3-4 μ m in length. Acceptable culture conditions for the P. chrysogenum utilize a solid medium comprising lactose, monohydrated 1.5% (w/v); corn steep liquor, 0.5% (v/v); peptone, 0.5% (w/v); NaCl, 0.4% (w/v); $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$, 0.05% (w/v); KH_2PO_4 , 0.06% (w/v); $FeCl_3 \cdot 6H_2O$, 0.0005% (w/v); $CuSO_4 \cdot 5H_2O$, 0.0002% (w/v); agar, 3.0% (w/v); in one liter of distilled water, pH 4.8. The P. chrysogenum just described and designated PC100, has been deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852, under the accession number ATCC 74182 (date of deposit: received August 21, 1992 and viability confirmed August 27, 1992).

30

Cleavage of the Adipoyl Side Chain

The next step in the novel bioprocess of the present invention is the cleavage of the adipoyl side chain from the adipoyl-7-ADCA, which requires treatment of the product of the preceding step with an adipoyl acylase enzyme system. As already noted above, one of the significant achievements of the present invention is the ability to carry out all of the steps leading up to formation of the adipoyl-7-ADCA in a single fermentation culture. This achievement provides exceptionally improved efficiency in not having to isolate and partially purify intermediate products from step to step of the process. In this last step, however, the adipoyl acylase enzyme system is not present, i.e., has not been generated in situ in the original fermentation culture.

If the novel bioprocess of the present invention is being carried out in a batch-wise manner, then it will be necessary to isolate and partially purify the product of the first step, and preliminary procedures for doing this have already been described above.

Nevertheless, the process of the present invention may be carried out in any way which effectively brings the adipoyl acylase into contact with the adipoyl-7-ADCA so that enzymatic conversion of that compound to 7-ADCA can take place. This is the definition of the term "contacting" in its broadest context. It is possible to employ a cell free broth of crude adipoyl-7-ADCA as the feed stream and treat it in a batch-wise fashion with crude adipoyl acylase broth. This approach realizes some efficiencies since it does not require any

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substantial purification of the reactants initially. Of course, modifications are possible. E.g., the reactants may be purified to whatever extent desired before being brought into contact with each other. Also, it would be possible to carry out the process in a continuous manner rather than batch-wise. The contacting of the reactants themselves may be
5 modified in various ways in keeping with advances in process technology. Thus, an immobilized enzyme may be used, e.g., in the form of a column containing the adipoyl acylase with the adipoyl-7-ADCA being passed
10 through the column. The immobilized enzyme may also be added to the adipoyl-7-ADCA solution as a suspension. Such immobilized enzyme systems offer the advantages of easy enzyme recovery and multiple reuse. Another example of such process technology is
15 that relating to membrane reactors. The preferred method of contacting the reactants is by way of the immobilized enzyme column.

Adipoyl Acylase Enzymes Useful in the Cleavage Step

20 There are a number of enzymes with known specificity towards adipoyl side chains. Results obtained with an adipoyl acylase commercially available from the RAEV Corp. are detailed in the
25 working examples further below. Seven other enzymes have been reported in the literature which remove adipoyl side chains from cephalosporin-type molecules. Six of these seven enzymes are from
30 Pseudomonas species, and the seventh is from a Bacillus species. Some similarities exist between certain of the Pseudomonad enzymes, but all seven differ to some extent in their physical/biological

properties. Some of their characteristics are summarized below:

	ENZYME (<u>Pseudomonas</u> and <u>Bacillus</u> strains)	REFERENCE	APPROX. MOL. WT. (Subunit)
5	<u>P. SY-77-1</u> (Toyo Jozo)	Shibuya, <u>et al.</u> (1981)	Apparently same as GK 16 below
	<u>P. GK16</u> (Asahi)	Matsuda, Komatsu (1985)	16,000 54,000
10	<u>P. SE83 (acyI)</u> (Asahi)	Matsuda, <u>et al.</u> (1987)	38,200 19,900
15	<u>P. SE83 (acyII)</u> (Asahi)	Matsuda, <u>et al.</u> (1987)	25,400 58,200
	<u>P. diminuta</u> N176 (Fujisawa)	Aramori, <u>et al.</u> (1991a)*	58,000 26,000
20	<u>P. diminuta</u> V22 (Fujisawa)	Aramori, <u>et al.</u> (1991a)*	? ?
25	<u>Bacillus latero-</u> <u>sporus</u> J1	Aramori, <u>et al.</u> (1991b)**	70,000 (monomeric)
	<u>Pseudomonas</u> sp. (RAEV Corp.)	-----	16,000 54,000

30 * Aramori et al., J. Ferment. Bioeng. (1991) 72: 232-243.

** Aramori et al., J. Bacteriol. (1991) 173: 7848-7855.

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All of the above adipoyl acylase enzymes are useful in the novel bioprocess of the present invention. Other adipoyl acylases useful in the method of the present invention may be readily discovered by testing the candidate enzyme against adipoyl-7-ADCA, the actual substrate upon which it must operate. A positive result gives a reliable and reproducible method of determining that a candidate enzyme is indeed useful in the method of the present invention. The substrate can be prepared in a straightforward manner from the reaction of adipic anhydride with 7-ADCA using a modification of the procedure reported by Szewczuk and Wellman-Bednawska in Clin. Chim. Acta (1978) 84, 19-26. The adipic anhydride may be prepared in accordance with the method of Albertson and Lundmark described in J. Macromol. Sci. Chem. (1990) A27, 397-412. The 7-ADCA is available from several commercial sources, including E. R. Squibb & Sons, Ltd., NJ, and Interchem Corp., NJ.

If it is desired to carry out a rough screening of candidate enzymes using a rapid colorimetric method, one may substitute for the adipoyl-7-ADCA substrate a colorimetric substrate such as adipoyl-PABA (para-aminobenzoic acid) or adipoyl-PNA (para-nitroaniline). Cleavage of the side chain gives a color generating species whose presence and concentration is readily determined using a colorimeter. For more detailed information concerning these and other suitable colorimetric methods, see Marelli, L. P. (1968) J. Pharm. Sci. 57: 2172-2173; Szasz, G. (1969) Clin. Chem. 15: 124-136; Szewczuk, A. et al. (1980) Anal. Biochem. 103: 166-169; and Reyes, F. et al. (1989) J. Pharma. Pharmacol. 41: 136-137.

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A comparison was made of the N-terminal amino-acid sequences of the RAEV enzyme with the large subunits of acyII and the GK16 enzymes set out in the table above. The results of the comparison are shown below (where parentheses indicate less than conclusive assignments):

5 RAEV - SEQ ID NO:5
 S N (S) (G) A V A P G K T A N G N A L (L) L Q N (P)
 GK16 - SEQ ID NO:6
 S N S W A V A P G K T A N G N A L L L Q N P
 10 acyII - SEQ ID NO:7
 S N N W A V A P G R T A T G R P I L A G D P

From the sequences shown, it is apparent that all three of these peptides are related. However, a
 15 protein having an N-terminal sequence similar to those shown above will not necessarily possess adipoyl acylase activity, as is the case with a penicillin G acylase produced by a strain of Arthrobacter. On the other hand, there are adipoyl
 20 acylases useful in the method of the present invention which do not exhibit significant homology to the above N-terminal sequence. For example, the Asahi enzyme acyI and the Fujisawa B. laterosporus J1 acylase set out in the table further above, which
 25 have been shown to have some adipoyl-7-ACA acylase activity, do not share any sequence homology with the other enzymes set out above. Consequently, the scope of the present invention with respect to the adipoyl acylases useful in the second step of the novel
 30 bioprocess is determined by whether or not a candidate enzyme is able to cleave the adipoyl side chain from adipoyl-7-ADCA, a matter which may be determined readily and reliably, as detailed above.

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Other approaches to finding suitable adipoyl acylases are possible. For example, EPA-A-0 453 048 describes methods for improving the adipoyl-cleaving activity of the glutaryl acylase produced by Pseudomonas SY-77-1. By substituting different amino acids at certain locations within the alpha-subunit, a three to five times higher rate of adipoyl cleavage (from adipoyl-serine) was observed. Such improved enzymes would also be suitable for use in the present invention. It should be noted that although EP-A-0 453 048, apparently, demonstrates an acylase with improved activity towards adipoyl-side chains, it does not describe any ways (either chemical or through a bioprocess in any way analogous to that described in the instant specification) in which an adipoyl-cephalosporin might be generated in the first place.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

There follows a detailed description of certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, but these are intended to be illustrative only, and not in any way a limitation of the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Penicillium chrysogenum Culture Conditions

The Penicillium chrysogenum strain used in these procedures was maintained on plates containing LCSB

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medium composed of lactose, monohydrated, 1.5%(w/v);
corn steep liquor, 0.5%(v/v); peptone, 0.5%(w/v);
NaCl, 0.4%(w/v); MgSO₄-7H₂O, 0.05%(w/v);
KH₂PO₄, 0.06%(w/v); FeCl₃-6H₂O, 0.0005%(w/v);
CuSO₄-5H₂O, 0.0002%(w/v); agar, 3.0%(w/v); in one
5 liter of distilled water, pH 4.8. After 12 days at
25°C and 65% relative humidity, single colonies were
removed and added to 2 mL of sterilized water in a
screw-top tube containing glass beads. After
macerating the culture growth by vortexing, the
suspension was used to inoculate rice flasks. The
10 rice flasks contained 25g/250 mL flask of Uncle Ben's
converted rice, natural long grain, which has been
washed with three to four volumes of distilled water
for seven minutes, mixed every 30 seconds, and then
drained until the water uptake into the rice was
15 approximately 25%. After 12 days at 25°C and 65%
humidity, the spores were washed from the rice with
50 mL of sterile water. The spore suspension was
used to inoculate liquid cultures and also to provide
lyophiles of the cultures for storage at 4°C. The
20 spores were added to an equal volume of 5% skim milk
and lyophilized in sterile ampoules.

A two-stage fermentation of the strain in
shake-flasks was used for the production of
penicillins or for the production of mycelia as a
25 source of RNA or DNA. The seed stage was initiated
by adding 1×10^8 spores to 50 mL/500 mL flask of
medium composed of glucose, 3.0%(w/v); pharmamedia,
1.0%(w/v); corn steep liquor, 3.0%(v/v); ammonium
sulfate, 0.2%(w/v), CaCO₃, 0.5%(w/v); monopotassium
30 phosphate anhydrous, 0.05%(w/v); lactose, 1.0%(w/v);
primary dry yeast, 1.0%(w/v) in one liter of
distilled water. Incubation was at 25°C and 65%

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relative humidity on a rotary shaker with a 70mm diameter amplitude at 220 rpm. After 48 hours of incubation, the production stage was initiated by transferring 2 mL of vegetative seed to 35 mL/500 mL flask of media with the following composition:

5 KH_2PO_4 , 0.05%(w/v); K_2SO_4 , 0.5%(w/v);
(NH_4) $_2\text{SO}_4$, 1.0%(w/v); lactose, 12.0%(w/v),
pharmamedia, 2.75%(w/v); CaCO_3 (precipitated),
1.0%(w/v), lard oil, 1.0%(v/v) in one liter distilled water pH 6.6. Following autoclaving, but prior to
10 inoculation, sterile 25% sodium adipate (pH 6.6) was added to give a final sodium adipate concentration of 2.5%. Incubation, following inoculation, was then continued under the same conditions as the seed stage for 5 to 7 days.

When mycelia were needed to generate protoplasts
15 for transformation or as a source of DNA, the strain was grown in 50mL/250 mL flask of complete media (CM) composed of: 50 mL of 20X Clutterbuck's salts (120 g Na_2NO_3 , 10.4 g KCl, 10.4 g $\text{MgSO}_4\cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 30.4 g KH_2PO_4), 2.0 mL Vogel's Trace Elements (.3M
20 citric acid, 0.2M ZnSO_4 , 25mM $\text{Fe}(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{SO}_4)_2\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 10mM CuSO_4 , 3mM MnSO_4 , 8mM boric acid, 2mM $\text{Na}_2\text{MoO}_4\cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$), 5 g tryptone, 5 g yeast extract, 10 g glucose, in one liter of distilled water. Incubation was at 25°C on
25 a rotary shaker at 220 rpm.

EXAMPLE 2

30 Isolation of Penicillium Genomic DNA and Total RNA

The vegetative mycelial growth from a 48 hour culture prepared as described above was collected by

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filtration through cheesecloth, frozen in liquid nitrogen and lyophilized overnight. The dried mycelia were ground with sand in a mortar and pestle and resuspended in 25 mL of 100mM LiCl, 50mM EDTA, 10mM Tris pH 8.0, 4% SDS. After heating the suspension to 50-55°C in a 60°C water bath, the mixture was extracted first with 1M Tris (pH8) saturated phenol, followed by Tris- saturated phenol:chloroform (1:1,v:v) and then chloroform. RNA was precipitated from the aqueous phase by the addition of an equal volume of cold 6M LiCl and then allowing the mixture to remain at -20°C for two to three hours. After centrifugation at 12000xg for 20 minutes at 4°C, the supernatant was made 66% (v/v) ethanol and cooled to -20°C for 15 minutes to precipitate the DNA. After centrifugation as described above, the DNA pellet was washed with 70% ethanol, dried and resuspended in TE Buffer (10mM Tris-HCl, pH7.5, 1mM EDTA). The DNA concentration was estimated by comparison to known DNA standards when stained with ethidium bromide in agarose gel electrophoresis.

Cultures of Penicillium chrysogenum as described above in Example 1 were grown for 96 hours in 35 mL of fermentation medium (fermentation conditions previously described), at 25°C on a rotary shaker at 220 rpm. Mycelia were collected by filtration through a Whatman #1 filter under vacuum and washed with approximately 50 mL water. The mycelia were immediately scraped from the filter, resuspended in 5 mL of "breaking buffer" (50mM Tris-HCl pH 7.4, 150mM NaCl, 5mM EDTA pH 8.0, 5% SDS), frozen in liquid nitrogen and lyophilized. After overnight lyophilization, 5 mL of water containing 0.1% DEPC

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and 5 mL of 1M Tris (pH 8) saturated phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (50:50:1) were added and the mixture was left to thaw at 37°C for 20 minutes with shaking. The mixture was centrifuged at 12000xg for ten minutes at 4°C, and the aqueous layer was removed and re- extracted first with 1M Tris (pH 8) saturated phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (50:50:1), and second with 1M Tris (pH 8) saturated phenol, and third with chloroform. An equal volume of 6M LiCl was combined with the final aqueous layer, and the solution was left at -20°C for a minimum of four hours. The total RNA was pelleted at 12000xg for 20 minutes at 4°C, the pellet dissolved in 0.3 mL TE buffer plus 0.03 mL of 3M sodium acetate, and 2.5 volumes of ethanol were added to reprecipitate the RNA. The final pellet was dissolved in 0.1 mL of TE buffer and the RNA concentration was determined spectrophotometrically using absorbance at 260nm.

EXAMPLE 3

20

Streptomyces clavuligerus culture conditions

The Streptomyces clavuligerus strain used in these procedures was ATCC 27064. The strain was maintained on plates consisting of: yeast extract, 4g; malt extract, 10g; glucose, 4g; agar, 20g; in one liter of distilled water, pH 7.2. After 5 days of growth at 30°C, 2 mL of sterile water was added to the plates and the culture growth was scraped from the agar surface. The resulting suspension was transferred to a sterile screw-top tube containing glass beads. After macerating the culture growth by

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vortexing, the suspension was used to inoculate liquid cultures. The suspension was also used for permanent culture storage at - 70°C by adding glycerol to 15% final volume.

When mycelia were needed to generate protoplasts for transformation or for a source of DNA, the strains were grown in 200mL/1 liter flask of YEME media composed of: yeast extract 3g; peptone, 5g; malt extract, 3g; glucose, 10g; sucrose, 340g; MgCl₂-6H₂O, 1.02g; glycine, 5g; agar, 18g; in one liter of distilled water. Incubation was at 28°C on a rotary shaker at 220 rpm.

EXAMPLE 4

Isolation of Streptomyces Genomic DNA

The vegetative growth from a 48 hour culture prepared as described above was collected by centrifugation at 22100xg for 10 minutes. The cells were resuspended in 10 mL of TE buffer and 10 mg of lysozyme was added and the mixture was incubated at 30°C for 15 minutes. One mL of 20% SDS was then added, immediately followed by 10 mL of TE (pH 8) saturated phenol and 1.5 mL of 5M NaCl and the mixture was inverted gently for 20 minutes. The phases were separated at 12000xg for 10 minute after which the aqueous layer was removed and transferred to a fresh tube. An equal volume of chloroform was added and the mixture was inverted gently for 10 minutes. The phases were separated again by centrifugation at 12000xg for 10 minutes and the aqueous layer removed and again transferred to a

- 40 -

fresh tube. Two volumes of isopropanol were carefully added and the precipitated DNA was spooled and redissolved in a minimum volume of TE buffer. RNAse A was added to a final concentration of 20mg/mL and the solution was incubated at 50°C for one hour. Protease K was then added to a final concentration of 100mg/mL, along with 100mM NaCl and 0.4% SDS, and the mixture was incubated at 37°C for one hour. The solution was extracted again with an equal volume of TE (pH 8) saturated phenol, followed by another chloroform extraction. The DNA from the final extraction was spooled after addition of two volumes of isopropanol and the concentration was determined spectrophotometrically using an absorbance reading at 260nm.

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EXAMPLE 5

Construction of a Gene Library and Isolation of a DNA Fragment Containing the Streptomyces clavuligerus Expandase Gene.

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Streptomyces clavuligerus genomic DNA obtained from the procedure previously described was digested with the restriction enzymes Bam HI and Sal I. The digested DNA was electrophoresed on a 0.8% agarose gel and 1.8 to 2.2 kb sized fragments were eluted and ligated to pUC18 DNA which had been previously digested with Bam HI and Sal I. Dilutions of the ligation mixture were used to transform competent JM109 cells using electroporation (Gene Pulser, Bio-Rad, Richmond, CA). Preparation of the competent cells and electroporation conditions were both

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according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The transformation mix was plated onto LB plates containing 100mg/mL ampicillin, and 75mL of 2% X-Gal. Following overnight incubation at 37°C, recombinant colonies were identified by their colorless appearance due to inactivation of the plasmid vector beta-galactosidase gene activity. The colorless colonies were picked to a fresh LB plate containing 100mg/mL ampicillin. After overnight growth at 37°C the colonies were transferred to nitrocellulose and hybridized with a probe produced by polymerase chain reaction which corresponded to the published Streptomyces clavuligerus expandase gene sequence from bases 52-918 [Kovacevic et al. (1989) J. Bacteriol. 171: 754-760; and U.S. 5,070,020]. Labelling of the polymerase chain reaction product was accomplished by random-primer extension reaction with (³²P) dCTP and an Oligolabelling Kit, per the manufacturer's instructions (Pharmacia, Piscataway, New Jersey). The hybridization reaction was performed in the presence of 10⁶ CPM of radiolabeled probe, 30% formamide, 5X SSC (0.15M NaCl, 0.015M sodium citrate pH7), 0.1% SDS, 5X Denhardt's (5g ficoll, 5g polyvinylpyrrolidone, and 5g BSA for 500 mL of 50X stock) and 100mg/mL calf thymus DNA, at 37°C overnight. Several transformants hybridized strongly to the probe. One colony was confirmed to contain a vector carrying the expandase gene by restriction enzyme analysis and this plasmid was designated pFTSO-1.

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EXAMPLE 6

Isolation of Plasmid DNA

E. coli cultures containing the plasmid were grown in 500 mL LB broth (20g/l of LB Broth Base (Gibco, Paisley, Scotland), with 15mg/mL tetracycline on a rotary shaker at 220 rpm for 12-16 hours at 37°C. The cells were pelleted by centrifugation at 4000xg for ten minutes at 4°C. The cell pellet was resuspended in 18 mL Glucose Buffer (50mM glucose, 25mM Tris pH8.0, 10mM EDTA) and 2 mL of 40 mg/mL lysozyme (Sigma, St. Louis, MO) in glucose buffer was added, mixed, and the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 15 minutes. Forty mL of a freshly prepared solution of 0.2N NaOH, 1% SDS was added, and the mixture swirled gently and placed on ice for ten minutes. Thirty mL of 5M potassium acetate pH 4.8 were then added, mixed well, and the resultant mixture was placed on ice for an additional ten minutes. The cellular debris were pelleted by centrifugation at 4000xg for ten minutes at 4°C and the resulting supernatant was filtered through a cheesecloth filter. Isopropanol (0.6 volumes) was added to the clarified supernatant to precipitate the plasmid DNA, and the precipitate was formed during incubation at room temperature for 20 minutes. The plasmid DNA was pelleted at 4000xg for 20 minutes at 4°C and then washed with 70% ethanol and dried briefly. The pellet was resuspended in 9 mL TE buffer, then 10 grams of CsCl and 0.387 mL of a 10mg/mL ethidium bromide solution were added. This solution was centrifuged at 313,100xg for 24 hours. The resulting plasmid band in the cesium chloride

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gradient was visualized with ultraviolet light, isolated, and then the ethidium bromide was removed using water saturated butanol for extraction. The CsCl in the plasmid preparation was then removed by dialysis against TE buffer, and finally the DNA was concentrated using PEG (MW 8000). Concentration of DNA was determined spectrophotometrically using an absorbance reading at 260nm.

EXAMPLE 7

10

Construction of the Penicillium Transformation Vector pPenFTSO

A Penicillium transformation vector was constructed with a phleomycin resistant gene as a dominate selectable marker. This was accomplished first by isolating a 660 bp fragment, containing the phleomycin resistance gene (a phleomycin binding protein gene from Streptoalloteichus hindustanus) and also coupled to a yeast cytochrome C1 terminator, from a Bam HI/Bgl II digest of plasmid pUT713 (CAYLA, Toulouse Cedex, France) by electrophoresis on and elution from agarose gels. The isolated fragment was ligated into the Bam HI site of vector pSELECT* 1 (Promega Corporation) and the orientation of the gene was determined by restriction enzyme analysis. Next, a 550 bp Pst I fragment, containing the lambda cos site was inserted which enables the vector to be used for cosmid formation when appropriate size inserts are included. Then, a 1.5 kb Nco I/Bam HI fragment, containing the promoter region of the Penicillium chrysogenum isopenicillin N synthetase (IPNS) gene,

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was isolated (by electrophoresis on and elution from agarose gels) from an Nco I/Bam HI digest of a genomic clone containing the IPNS gene. The isolated IPNS-promoter fragment was ligated into the Bam HI/Nco I digested vector. The Nco I site is at the ATG start codon of the phleomycin resistance gene. This vector is designated pUTZ-2.

The 1.645 kb fragment containing the Streptomyces clavuligerus expandase gene was purified from a Bam HI and Sal I digest of the pFTSO-1 (vector previously described) by electrophoresis on and elution from a 0.8% agarose gel. The isolated fragment was ligated into vector pSELECT (Promega Corporation) also digested with Bam HI and Sal I. This vector was designated pFTSO-8. A novel Nco I site was created at the ATG start codon of the expandase gene by site-directed mutagenesis of pFTSO-8 using the Altered Sites* in vitro Mutagenesis System (Promega Corporation). Mutagenesis was performed per the manufacturer's instructions. An oligonucleotide was constructed to complement the coding sequence of the DNA region at the ATG start codon from the published sequence of the Streptomyces expandase gene (Kovacevic et al, (1990) Journal of Bacteriology, 171, p. 3952-3958). The oligonucleotide was synthesized by cyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry (Pharmacia Gene Assembler instrumentation), and the oligo sequence was as follows:

SEQ ID NO:8

3' CGAGAGGATCAGTGAGAGTCCATGGACACGACGG 5'.

The mutagenesis was confirmed by restriction enzyme analysis. Next, a 1.2 kb Nco I fragment, containing the promoter region of the Penicillium chrysogenum

- 45 -

isopenicillin N synthetase gene, was isolated (by electrophoresis on and elution from agarose gels) from an Nco I digest of a genomic clone containing the IPNS gene. The IPNS-promoter region was ligated into the pFTSO-8 vector at the novel Nco I site created by the mutagenesis at the ATG start codon of the expandase gene. Orientation of the promoter to the expandase gene was established by restriction enzyme analysis. This IPNS-promoter:expandase gene cassette was then removed as a Bam HI/Sal I fragment into the Bam HI/Sal I cut Penicillium transformation vector pUTZ-2 described above. The final construction was designated pPenFTSO.

EXAMPLE 8

15

Cloning of the Penicillium β -Tubulin Promoter

The Penicillium β -tubulin gene were cloned from a Penicillium lambda genomic library using the Aspergillus niger β -tubulin gene as a hybridization probe. Sequencing of this clone and comparison to the known amino acid sequence of the β -tubulin gene of Aspergillus niger identified a region of 91% homology beginning with the ATG initiation codon. Sequences comprising a functional promoter were isolated between the initiation codon and a Bam HI site 1.4kb upstream.

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30

Construction of the Transformation Vector Carrying the Penicillium β -Tubulin Promoter

A 2.0 kb Xba I/Hind III fragment containing the Penicillium β -tubulin promoter was ligated into

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vector pSELECT (Promega Corporation) also digested with XbaI/Hind III. A novel Nco I site was created at the ATG start codon by site-directed mutagenesis using the Altered Sites in vitro Mutagenesis System (Promega Corporation). Mutagenesis was performed per the manufacturer's instructions. An oligonucleotide was constructed complementary to the ATG start site region, but which incorporated several changes to create an Nco I site, and used for mutagenesis. The oligonucleotide was synthesized by cyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry (Pharmacia Gene Assembler instrumentation) and the oligo sequence was as follows:

Seq. ID No:9

5' ATCTCTTTTCTAATACCTTCACCATGGGTGAGATTGTACGTGATCCC 3'.

The mutagenesis was confirmed by restriction enzyme analysis. Next, a 1.4 kb Bam HI/Nco I fragment containing the Penicillium β -tubulin promoter was ligated to an engineered Nco I site at the ATG of the Streptomyces expandase gene in the Bam HI/Nco I digested vector pFTSO-8 (vector previously described in Example 7). This vector was designated btFTSO-8. The 1.4 kb Bam HI/Nco I fragment containing the β -tubulin promoter was also ligated into a Bam HI/Nco I digested vector pUTZ-2 (vector previously described in Example 7). This ligation positioned the β -tubulin promoter directly in front of the phleomycin resistant gene. This vector was designated pCI-6. Next, a 2.4 kb Bam HI/Hind III fragment from vector btFTSO-8 which contained the β -tubulin promoter expandase gene cassette was ligated to a Bam HI/Hind III digested vector pCI-6 to yield the final Penicillium transformation vector in which the Streptomyces expandase gene and phleomycin

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resistance marker were expressed from the β -tubulin promoter. This vector was designated pTS-2.

EXAMPLE 9

5 Cloning of the Penicillium (GAP) Promoter

The Penicillium glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAP) gene was cloned from a Penicillium lambda genomic library using the GAP gene
10 from Aspergillus niger as a hybridization probe. Four potential positives were further probed with a PCR product generated from primers for the 5' region of the Cephalosporium GAP gene (Kimura, H. et al., (1991), J. Ferm. and Bioeng., 71, 145-150). The
15 oligonucleotides used for the primers of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) were synthesized by cyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry (Pharmacia Gene Assembler instrumentation) and the oligo sequences are as follows:

20 Seq. ID No:10

5' CGCGGATCCCGGCATCAACGGCTTCGGTCGTAT 3'

Seq. ID No:11

5' CGCGGATCCGGGCACGCGCATGGACATGCCAGTG 3'

One of the four putative positives cross hybridized
25 to the PCR product. A four kb Bam HI fragment from this genomic clone was ligated into Bam HI digested vector pSELECT (Promega Corporation) for sequencing. This vector was designated pTS-0. Sequencing of this fragment identified the ATG initiator codon by
30 comparison to the known sequence of the Cephalosporin GAP gene.

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Construction of the Transformation Vector
Carrying the Penicillium GAP Promoter

For engineering the Penicillium GAP promoter with the Streptomyces expandase gene a novel Nco I site was created at the ATG of the Penicillium GAP gene by in vitro site-directed mutagenesis using vector pTS-0. Mutagenesis was performed per the manufacturer's instructions. An oligonucleotide was constructed to be complementary to the coding sequence of the DNA region at the ATG start codon of the GAP gene, but incorporating base changes to create an Nco I site. The oligonucleotide was synthesized by cyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry (Pharmacia Gene Assembler instrumentation), and the oligo sequence was as follows:

Seq. ID No:12

5' CAGTAAACGCAACCATGGTTGTCCAG 3'.

Mutagenesis was confirmed by restriction enzyme analysis. Next, a 1.9 kb NcoI/Bam HI fragment from pTS-0 which contained the GAP promoter was ligated to NcoI/Bam HI digested vector pFTS0-8 (vector previously described in Example 7) for positioning of the GAP promoter with the Streptomyces expandase gene. This vector was designated pTS-0-1. Next, a 3.0 kb Bam HI/Hind III fragment from vector pTS-0-1 which contained the GAP promoter: expandase cassette was ligated to Bam HI/Hind III digested vector pCI-6 (vector previously described in Example 8) to yield the final Penicillium transformation vector pSD-1 in which the Streptomyces expandase gene was expressed from the GAP promoter.

EXAMPLE 10Transformation of Penicillium chrysogenum

Protoplasts from the Penicillium chrysogenum strain described above were generated by inoculating 50 mL of CM broth with 1×10^7 spores for 67 hours at 25°C on a rotary shaker at 220 rpm. The mycelia were collected by filtration onto cheesecloth filters, transferred to 500 mL flasks and resuspended in 25 mL KMP (0.7M KCl, 0.8M mannitol, 0.02M KPO_4 , pH6.3), containing 100 mg Novozyme 234 (Novo BioLabs, Bagsvaerd, Denmark) and allowed to incubate at 30°C at 100 rpm. The spheroplasts were separated by filtration through cheesecloth/glasswool filters and pelleted by centrifugation at 350xg for 10 minutes. The spheroplasts were then washed three times with 10 mL of KMP buffer, and then resuspended in KMPC (KMP with 50 mM $CaCl_2$) to a concentration of 5×10^7 cells/mL and left at room temperature for 20 minutes. For transformation of the Penicillium, 200 mL of the spheroplast suspension was added to DNA (5mg vector DNA in 6.2 mL of KMPC with 5mg/mL heparin) along with 50 mL of PPC (40% PEG MW 3500, 20mM KPO_4 , pH 6.3, 5% $CaCl_2$ was added just before use) and the transformation mix was incubated on ice for 30 minutes. One mL of freshly prepared PPC was added and the mixture was transferred to 50 mL of molten (50°C) regeneration agar (CM plus 1.3M mannitol and 3% agar). The transformation mixture was then distributed between 5 petri dishes. After regeneration for 24 hours at 25°C the plates were then overlaid with OL (1% peptone in 1% agar) containing 100mg/50mL OL of phleomycin. The amount

- 50 -

of overlay was equal to the amount of regeneration agar. The plates were incubated at 25°C for 7-14 days and observed for generation of transformant colonies.

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EXAMPLE 11

HPLC Assays of Adipoyl-6-APA and
Adipoyl-7-ADCA Fermentation Products

10 High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was used to assay the adipoyl-6-APA production in the untransformed P. chrysogenum strain which was used, and the adipoyl-7-ADCA production in the transformed P. chrysogenum strain which was used. The analysis
15 was done on Waters system with 625 solvent delivery system, 490E variable wavelength detector set at 220nm and 254nm, 825 Maxima data system, and a Novo-C18 column as the stationary phase. The mobile phase (at a 1mL/min. flow rate) consisted of a 5
20 minute isocratic 2% methanol/98% 0.010M KH_2PO_4 , pH 7.0, and a 15 minute, 2 to 40% linear gradient of methanol/0.010M KH_2PO_4 , pH 7.0. Quantitation of the adipoyl-6-APA was determined using a standard curve of the standard penicillin N at 220nm, and the
25 quantitation of the adipoyl-7-ADCA was determined using a standard curve of the standard deacetoxy-cephalosporin C at 254nm.

30 Assays for susceptibilities of the adipoyl-6-APA and adipoyl-7-ADCA to penicillinase treatments were done by adding 1 unit/mL of penicillinase I or penicillinase III to filtrates and incubating at room temperature for 10-30 minutes. These samples were

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run under identical HPLC conditions as described above.

UV spectra analysis of the adipoyl-6-APA and adipoyl-7-ADCA products was done using a Waters system with 510 solvent delivery system, 990 photodiode array detector, 990 data system, and a Novo-C18 column as the stationary phase. The mobile phase used was identical to conditions described above.

Large scale isolation of the adipoyl-7-ADCA product from whole fermentation broth was done using a Waters system with 510 solvent delivery system, 990 photodiode array detector, 990 data system, and a mBondapak C18 preparative column as the stationary phase. The mobile phase (at a 5mL/min flow rate) consisted of an isocratic 0.010M KH_2PO_4 pH 7.0 for 35 minutes. The absorption peak corresponding to the retention time of the adipoyl-7-ADCA product was collected using a fraction collector.

EXAMPLE 12

Bioactivity Assays

An agar diffusion bioassay was used to determine antibiotic activity of the HPLC isolated adipoyl-6-APA and the adipoyl-7-ADCA fermentation products. Twenty mL of isolated product was applied to 5mm discs on an LB agar plate (20g/L of LB Broth Base with 3% agar (Gibco, Paisley, Scotland) seeded with Bacillus subtilis ATCC 33677, or E. coli Super Sensitive strain (supplied by Prof. Arnold L. Demain, MIT). Bacillus subtilis was used as the

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indicator strain to assay the adipoyl-6-APA product and the E. coli Super Sensitive strain was used as the indicator strain to assay the adipoyl-7-ADCA product. After 15 hours of incubation at 37°C a halo of inhibited growth of the indicator bacteria around the disk indicated the products showed bioactivity. The controls in this experiment included deacetoxy-
5 cephalosporin C, cephalosporin C, penicillin V, and agar containing penicillinase or no penicillinase as a control for confirmation of β -lactam structures.

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EXAMPLE 13

RAEV Enzyme Assays

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Purified adipoyl-7-ADCA product from whole fermentation broth was used as a substrate to determine the specific activity of the RAEV enzyme (commercially available from RAEV Corp.). The reaction mix contained 10mM substrate, 1mg RAEV
20 enzyme, 5% glycerol, in 0.16M KH_2PO_4 in a total volume of 50ml, and was incubated at 37°C. Five ml aliquots were taken at time points 0, 1, 3, 5, 10, 20, and 30 minutes, diluted with 35ml of 0.010M KH_2PO_4 pH 3.5, and frozen at -70°C before
25 analysis by HPLC under conditions previously described.

30

Activity of the RAEV enzyme against a colorimetric adipoyl-P-aminobenzoic acid substrate was assayed using 5mM substrate, 8.25mg RAEV enzyme, 10% glycerol, in 0.065M KH_2PO_4 pH 7.0, in a total
30 volume of 50 ml for 30 minutes at 37°C. The reaction was carried out in a 96 well microtiter

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dish. Fifty ml of a 1/100 dilution of 1M NaNO_2 in .25M acetic acid was added to terminate the reaction and the reaction was left at room temperature for 3 minutes. One hundred ml of a 1/100 dilution of 10mg/mL 4-amino-5-hydroxy-2,7-naphthalene-disulfonic acid, monosodium salt hydrate in H_2O into .5M NaHCO_3 was added and the color development was monitored immediately at 515nm using a EL 312 Bio-kinetics Plate Reader (BioTek Instruments).

10

EXAMPLE 14

HPLC Assay of RAEV Enzyme Reaction Product

All of the RAEV enzyme (commercially available from RAEV Corp.) assays using the adipoyl-7-ADCA substrate which were monitored by HPLC were done using a Waters system with 625 solvent delivery system, 490E variable wavelength detector set at 203nm and 254nm, 825 Maxima data system, and a Novo-C18 column as the stationary phase. The mobile phase (at a 1mL/min flow rate) consisted of a 5 minute isocratic 2% methanol/98% 0.010M KH_2PO_4 , pH 3.5, and a 15 minute, 2-40% linear gradient of methanol/0.010M KH_2PO_4 pH 3.5. The standard 7-ADCA was used to monitor retention time of the reaction product. Quantitation of the reaction product was calculated using a standard curve of the standard 7-ADCA at 254nm.

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EXAMPLE 1513C-NMR Analysis of the Adipoyl-7-ADCA
Fermentation Product

5 The 13C-NMR (broad band proton-decoupled) spectra
was obtained at 75.4 MHz (7.1T) on an IBM-AF-350
spectrometer in the Fourier Transform mode. The
samples consisted of 50 mg of adipoyl-7-ADCA product
from fermentation broth in 0.5 ml D2O (99.8% D,
Aldrich), or 0.5 mL DMSO-d₆ (99.0% D, Aldrich), in
10 5mm tubes at 350°k. The NMR data confirmed the
product designation as adipoyl-7-ADCA.

EXAMPLE 16

15

Assessment of Alternative Adipoyl Acylase Enzymes

In addition to the studies using the RAEV enzyme,
the removal of the adipoyl side-chain from
20 adipoyl-7-ADCA (and other adipoyl-compounds) was
demonstrated with enzymes produced from a variety of
microbial sources. In an initial study the
Pseudomonas sp. strains SE-83 and SE-495 (deposited
with the Fermentation Research Institute under the
accession numbers FERM BP-817 and FERM BP-818
25 respectively) and the Pseudomonas strain SY-77-1
(deposited with the Northern Regional Research
Laboratory under the accession number NNRL B-8070)
were grown for 72 hours in a medium containing HyCase
30 SF, 2.0% (w/v); monosodium glutamate, 0.5% (w/v);
yeast extract, 0.5% (w/v); corn steep powder, 0.2%
(w/v); cotton seed oil, 0.5% (w/v) and glutaric acid,

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0.1% (w/v). Cells were harvested by centrifugation and washed with 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 8.0; they were then resuspended in buffer and the outer membranes made permeable by the addition of a small volume of chloroform. Aliquots of cell suspension were then mixed with adipoyl-para-nitroaniline (ad-PNA) and incubated at 30°C for periods of 2 to 18 hours. Following incubation, the mixtures were acidified by the addition of 10% (v/v) acetic acid. Liberated p-nitroaniline was then detected by colorimetric means following its conversion to a diazo compound utilizing the reagents supplied in kit-form by Sigma Chemical Company for the assay of gamma-glutamyl-transferase (Sigma product number 545-A). The relative activities of the three strains were 100%, 85.5% and 48% for SE-495, SE-83 and SY-77-1 respectively. Using methods similar to those described for the RAEV enzyme above, activity of the SE-83 and SE-495 enzymes on adipoyl-7-ADCA was also demonstrated. The production of beta-lactamase by SY-77-1 prevented the demonstration of deacylating activity by this strain on adipoyl-7-ADCA.

By similar means adipoyl-acylase production was also demonstrated for two fungal strains (Alternaria sp. MA-133, ATCC No. 20492 and Aspergillus sp. MA-13, ATCC No. 20491; ref. U.S. 4,141,790 to Meiji Seika Kaisha Ltd.) and three additional bacterial strains (a Brevibacterium, ATCC No. 14,649; and Achromobacterium, ATCC No. 14,648 and a Flavobacterium, ATCC No. 14,650) which were described as cephalosporin C acylase producers in U.S. 3,239,394 to Merck & Co., Inc.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

- (1) GENERAL INFORMATION:
- (i) APPLICANT: Conder, Michael J.
McAda, Phyllis and
Rambosek, John
 - 5 (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: NOVEL BIOPROCESS FOR PREPARING 7-ADCA
 - (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 12
 - (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: Merck & Co., Inc.
 - (B) STREET: 126 E. Lincoln Avenue
 - 10 (C) CITY: Rahway,
 - (D) STATE: New Jersey
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 07065
 - (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - 15 (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25
 - (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 07/757,879
 - (B) FILING DATE: 11-SEP-1991
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
 - 20 (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Speer, Raymond M.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 26,810
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: [07/757,879] 18532
 - (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - 25 (A) TELEPHONE: (908) 594-4481
 - (B) TELEFAX: (908) 594-4720
- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:
- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - 30 (A) LENGTH: 14 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

TCTAGACACC ATGG

14

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

5

- (A) LENGTH: 16 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

10

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

GTGAGAGTTG ATGGAC

16

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

15

- (A) LENGTH: 16 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

20

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

TCTAGACACT ATGGAC

16

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

25

- (A) LENGTH: 16 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

30

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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 33 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

5

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

CGCGGATCCC GGCATCAACG GCTTCGGTCC TAT

33

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

10

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 34 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

15

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

CGCGGATCCG GGCACGCGCA TGGACATGCC AGTG

34

20 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 26 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

25

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

CAGTAAACGC AACCATGGTT GTCCAG

26

30

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A novel bioprocess for preparing
7-aminodesacetoxy cephalosporanic acid (7-ADCA)
5 comprising the steps of

1) maintaining in a culture medium capable of
sustaining its growth, a strain of Penicillium
chrysogenum which produces isopenicillin N and adding
10 to said culture medium an adipate feedstock
comprising adipic acid, or one or more of its salts
and esters which are capable of being assimilated and
utilized by said strain of Penicillium chrysogenum to
produce adipoyl-6-amino penicillanic acid
(adipoyl-6-APA), whereby said adipoyl-6-APA is
15 produced;

wherein said strain of Penicillium
chrysogenum has been transformed by DNA encoding the
activity of the expandase enzyme capable of accepting
said adipoyl-6-APA as a substrate, whereupon as a
20 result of its expression, said adipoyl-6-APA produced
by said strain is also thereafter in situ
ring-expanded to form adipoyl-7-ADCA; and

2) contacting said adipoyl-7-ADCA with an
adipoyl acylase whereby the adipoyl side chain is
25 removed and the 7-ADCA product is formed; and said
product is then isolated.

2. A bioprocess according to Claim 1 wherein the
adipate feedstock is disodium adipate.

30 3. A bioprocess according to Claim 1 wherein the DNA
encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme is
derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064.

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4. A bioprocess according to Claim 1 wherein the adipoyl acylase is derived from a Pseudomonas species.
5. A recombinant DNA expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064,
5 and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising the promoter of the Penicillium chrysogenum IPNS gene.
6. An expression vector according to Claim 5
10 comprising plasmid pPenFTSO.
7. A Penicillium chrysogenum host cell transformed with a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme
15 derived from Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising the promoter of the Penicillium chrysogenum IPNS gene.
8. A transformed host cell according to Claim 7
20 wherein the expression vector comprises plasmid pPenFTSO, and which is PC100, ATCC -----.
9. A method comprising the step of culturing a
25 recombinant Penicillium chrysogenum host cell under conditions suitable for gene expression, wherein said recombinant host cell comprises a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising the DNA encoding the activity of the expandase enzyme derived from
30 Streptomyces clavuligerus ATCC 27064, and a promoter which drives expression of said expandase activity-encoding DNA comprising the promoter of the Penicillium chrysogenum IPNS gene.

10. A method according to Claim 9 wherein the recombinant host cell comprises a recombinant DNA expression vector comprising plasmid pPenFTS0.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 92/07711

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int.Cl. 5 C12N15/52; C12N1/15; C12N9/00; C12P35/02 /(C12N1/15,C12R1:82)		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	C12P ; C12N	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
Y	FR,A,1 270 852 (FARBENFABRIKEN BAYER AG) 24 July 1961 see the whole document ---	1-4
Y	NATURE. vol. 185, 9 January 1960, LONDON GB pages 97 - 99 A. BALLIO ET AL 'Incorporation of alpha,omega-dicarboxylic acids as side chains into the penicillin molecule' cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-4
Y	EP,A,0 268 343 (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD) 25 May 1988 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-4
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<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents :</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
04 JANUARY 1993	20. 01. 93	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE	VAN DER SCHAAL C.A.	

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**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. US 9207711
SA 64882**

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