



We claim:-

1. A peptide of formula:



wherein:

A is absent, Met, Met(O), Thr, Ala, His, Phe, Lys, Gly;

B is absent, Gly, Asp, Trp, Gln, Asn, Tyr, Pro, Arg;

C is absent, Arg, Phe, Tyr, Gly, His, Pro, Lys;

D is absent, Val, Gly, Tyr, Trp, Phe, His;

X is a carboxy terminal OH, OCH₃, or NH₂ group,

provided that (i) when A is present, at least one of B, C, or D is also present, or when B is present, then C and/or D is also present and (ii) the peptide is not Phe-Thr-Lys-Pro-Gly-X, Thr-Lys-Pro-Pro-Arg-X, Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-Gly-X, or Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-X.

or a derivative thereof.

2. The peptide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the peptide is not a tetrapeptide.

3. The peptide as claimed in claim 1, wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of Thr-Lys-Pro-X, Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-Pro-X, and Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-Pro-Phe-X.

4. The peptide as claimed in claim 3 having the formula Thr-Lys-Pro-X.

5. The peptide as claimed in claim 3 having the formula Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-Pro-X.

6. The peptide as claimed in claim 3 having the formula Thr-Lys-Pro-Arg-Pro-Phe-X.

7. The peptide as claimed in claim 1 having the formula Thr-Lys-Pro-B-C-X, wherein B is Arg, Gln, or Asn, and C is Pro, Gly, or Phe.

8. The peptide as claimed in claim 1 having the formula A-Thr-Lys-Pro-B-C-X, wherein:
A is Met, Thr, Ala, His, Phe, Lys, or Gly;

B is Arg, Gln, or Asn, and

C is Pro, Gly, or Phe.

9. The peptide as claimed in claim 1 having the formula A-Thr-Lys-Pro-B-C-D-X, wherein:
A is Met, Thr, Ala, His, Phe, Lys, or Gly;
B is Arg, Gln, or Asn;
C is Pro, Gly, or Phe, and
D is Val, Gly, Tyr, Trp, Phe, or His.
10. The peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-9, wherein said peptide is produced by expression in a recombinant microorganism.
11. The peptide as claimed in claim 10, wherein said peptide is produced by expression in a recombinant microorganism involving using an E. coli strain, obtained based on a commercial parent strain by inserting a commercial vector suitable for use in this type of bacterial cells, said vector containing a nucleic acid encoding any of the specified peptides, culturing obtained strains and isolating said peptides..
12. The peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1-9, wherein said peptide is produced by chemical synthesis.
13. The peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, for stimulating sexual or reproductive function.
14. The peptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, for preventing or treating sexual or reproductive dysfunction.

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