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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DEVGEN NV** [BE/BE]; Technologiepark 30, B-9052 Gent-Zwijnaarde (BE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BEGHYN, Myriam** [BE/BE]; Dorpsstraat 52, B-9870 Zulte (BE). **BOGAERT, Thierry** [BE/BE]; Wolvendreef 26 G, B-8500 Kortrijk (BE). **FELDMANN, Pascale** [BE/BE]; Goudbrokaatsstraat 2, B-9030 Gent-Mariakerke (BE). **RAEMAEKERS, Ro-
maan** [BE/BE]; Eikelstraat 29, B-9840 De Pinte (BE).

(74) Agent: **WHITE, Nina**; Verulam Gardens, 70 Gray's Inn Road, London Greater London WC1X 8BT (GB).

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(54) Title: DOWN-REGULATING GENE EXPRESSION IN INSECT PESTS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to genetic control of infestation by insect pest species, particularly prevention and/or control of pest infestation of plants, using interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) molecules. Compositions and combinations containing the interfering RNA molecules of the invention for use in topical applications, for example in the form of insecticides.



WO 2012/143542 A1

Down-regulating gene expression in insect pests**Field of the invention**

The present invention relates generally to genetic control of infestation by insect pest species, particularly prevention and/or control of pest infestation of plants. More specifically, the invention relates to down-regulation of expression of target genes in insect pest species by interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) molecules. Compositions and combinations containing the interfering RNA molecules of the invention for use in topical applications, for example in the form of insecticides, are also provided.

Background to the invention

There exists an abundance of insect pest species that can infect or infest a wide variety of environments and host organisms. Insect pests include a variety of species from the insect Orders *Hemiptera* (true bugs), *Coleoptera* (beetles), *Siphonaptera* (fleas), *Dichyoptera* (cockroaches and mantids), *Lepidoptera* (moths and butterflies), *Orthoptera* (e.g. grasshoppers) and *Diptera* (true flies). Pest infestation can lead to significant damage. Insect pests that infest plant species are particularly problematic in agriculture as they can cause serious damage to crops and significantly reduce plant yields. A wide variety of different types of plant are susceptible to pest infestation including commercial crops such as rice, cotton, soybean, potato and corn.

Traditionally, infestation with insect pests has been prevented or controlled through the use of chemical pesticides. However, these chemicals are not always suitable for use in the treatment of crops as they can be toxic to other species and can cause significant environmental damage. Over more recent decades, researchers have developed more environmentally-friendly methods of controlling pest infestation. For example, microorganisms such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* bacteria that naturally express proteins toxic to insect pests have been used. Scientists have also isolated the genes encoding these insecticidal proteins and used them to generate transgenic crops resistant to insect pests e.g. corn and cotton plants genetically engineered to produce proteins of the Cry family. Although bacterial toxins have been highly successful in controlling certain types of pest, they are not effective against all pest species. Researchers have therefore looked for other more targeted approaches to pest control and in particular to RNA interference or 'gene silencing' as a means to control pests at the genetic level.

RNA interference or 'RNAi' is a process whereby the expression of genes in the context of a cell or whole organism is down-regulated in a sequence-specific manner. RNAi is now a well-established technique in the art for inhibiting or down-regulating gene expression in a wide variety of organisms including pest organisms such as fungi, nematodes and insects. Furthermore, previous studies have shown that down-regulation of target genes in insect pest species can be used as a means to control pest infestation.

WO2007/074405 describes methods of inhibiting expression of target genes in invertebrate pests including Colorado potato beetle. Furthermore, WO2009/091864 describes compositions and

methods for the suppression of target genes from insect pest species including pests from the *Lygus* genus.

Although the use of RNAi for down-regulating gene expression in pest species is known in the art, the success of this technique for use as a pest control measure depends on selection of the most

appropriate target genes, namely those wherein loss of function results in significant disruption of an essential biological process and/or death of the organism. The present invention is thus directed towards the down-regulation of particular target genes in insect pests as a means to achieve more effective prevention and/or control of insect pest infestation, particularly of plants.

Summary of the invention

The current inventors sought to identify improved means for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation using genetic approaches. In particular, they investigated the use of RNAi to down-regulate genes in such a way as to impair the ability of the insect pest to survive, grow, colonize specific environments and/or infest host organisms and thus limit the damage caused by the pest.

Therefore, in accordance with one aspect of the invention, there is provided an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA or double stranded RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest,

wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75%, preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183,

206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence consisting of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to

62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50,

13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(v) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to

46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or

(vi) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 70% preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid

sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to

46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

In a particular aspect of the invention, interfering RNA molecules of the current invention comprise at least one double-stranded region, typically the silencing element of the interfering RNA, comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of nucleotides complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of the target gene.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA or double stranded RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131,

179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233

, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2,

175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

5 (iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, wherein the two
10 orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or
15 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any
20 of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233.

These target genes encode proteins within the troponin/myofilament complex.

25 In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA or double stranded RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed
30 complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67
35 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences

are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a

nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, and wherein

when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51

to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

- 5 (iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to
- 10 273, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17,
- 15 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or

- (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least
- 20 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165,
- 25 167, 166, 270 to 273.

These target genes encode insect ribosomal proteins.

- In certain embodiments, the present invention relates to an interfering RNA molecule which comprises at least one double-stranded region, typically the silencing element of the interfering RNA molecule,
- 30 comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of at least 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides, that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%,
- 35 98%, 99% or 100% complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of a target gene from the troponin/myofibril complex.

In one embodiment, the target gene encodes an insect wings up A (troponin I) protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7178 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2.

In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 79. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes an upheld protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7107 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 121 and 130. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 330. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the tropomyosin 1 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4898 Dm protein), or the tropomyosin 2 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4843 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 123 and 132. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 332. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the myosin heavy chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17927 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 122 and 131. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 331. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the myosin light chain cytoplasmic protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3201 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 124 and 133. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 333. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the spaghetti squash protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3595 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 125 and 134. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 334. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the zipper protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG15792 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 126 and 135. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 335. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the troponin C (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2981, CG7930, CG9073, CG6514, CG12408, CG9073, CG7930, CG2981, CG12408 or CG6514 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 127 and 136. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 336 and 337.

According to another embodiment the present invention relates to an interfering RNA molecule which comprises at least one double-stranded region, typically the silencing element of the interfering RNA molecule, comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of at least 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides, that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98%, 99% or 100% complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of a target gene that encodes an insect ribosomal protein. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes ribosomal protein S3A (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2168 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 11 and 12. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 84. In

one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein LP1 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4087 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 3 and 4. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.80. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S3 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6779 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 7 and 8. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L10Ab (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7283 Dm protein) represented by SEQ ID NOs 9 and 10. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 83. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S18 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG8900 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 13 and 14. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.85. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L4 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG5502 Dm protein), said target gene represented by SEQ ID NO 5 and 6. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.81. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG10423 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 15 and 16. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L6 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11522 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 17 and 18. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 87. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG13389 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 19 and 20. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 88. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3195 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 21 and 22. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.89. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L26 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6846 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 158 and 159. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 343. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L21 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG12775 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 165, 166 and 167. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NOs 347 and 348. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11271 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 156 and 157. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 342. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S28b (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2998 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 160 and 161. In a preferred embodiment, the insect

orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 344. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4651 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 154 and 155. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 341. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L10 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17521 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 163 and 164. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 345. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L5 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17489 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 152 and 153. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 340. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S15Aa (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2033 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 150 and 151. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 339. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L19 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2746 Dm protein) or the ribosomal protein L27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4759 Dm protein). In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit II protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG34069 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 25 and 26. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 91. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ATP synthase- γ chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7610 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 129 and 138. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 338. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ubiquitin-5E (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG32744 Dm protein). In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the proteasome beta-type subunit (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17331 Dm protein), the protein which is an insect orthologue of the CG13704 Dm protein; and the Rpn12 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4157 Dm protein).

In accordance with a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a composition for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation comprising at least one interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) and at least one suitable carrier, excipient or diluent, wherein the interfering RNA functions upon uptake by the pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34,

139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to

46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209,

286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to

221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

The composition of the invention may be used for the prevention and/or control of pest infestation. In certain embodiments, the composition may be used as a pesticide for a plant or for propagation or reproductive material of a plant. In a further aspect, provided herein is a combination for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation comprising the composition of the invention and at least one other active agent.

In a further aspect, provided herein is a method for down-regulating expression of a target gene in an insect pest species in order to prevent and/or control pest infestation, comprising contacting said pest species with an effective amount of at least one interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA), wherein the interfering RNA functions upon uptake by the pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128,

149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129,

138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261,

160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254

to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid

- 5 sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs. SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 10 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 15 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

In accordance with a further aspect of the invention, there is provided an isolated polynucleotide
20 selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 25 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 30 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, 35 or
- (ii) a polynucleotide which consists of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides

of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, said polynucleotide is at least 75 % preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274

to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) a polynucleotide which comprises a fragment of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25,

26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300,

5 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000

contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2,

175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38,

140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to

58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to

10 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144,

178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125,

134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185,

234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154,

155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162,

15 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281,

200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the

complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence that,

when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of

SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3,

20 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14,

51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to

70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to

289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217,

124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230

25 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to

245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261,

160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274

to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321,

386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%,

30 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188,

2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38,

140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to

58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to

78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144,

35 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125,

134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185,

234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154,

155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or

- 5 (v) a polynucleotide which consists of a fragment of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 10 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 15 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence that, 20 when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 25 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 30 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125,

134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or

(vi) a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 70 % preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, and wherein said polynucleotide is no longer than 10000, 9000, 8000, 7000, 6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000 or 1500 nucleotides.

The amino acid sequences encoded by the target genes of the present invention are represented by SEQ ID NOs 79, 349, 352, 356, 80, 326, 81, 327, 82, 83, 328, 84, 329, 85, 86, 359, 87 to 91, 330, 350, 353, 331, 351, 332 to 336, 337, 354, 338 to 344, 346, 345, 347, 348, 357, 355, 358, 390 to 393, respectively.

In a particular aspect of the invention, the isolated polynucleotide is part of an interfering RNA molecule, typically part of the silencing element, comprising at least one double-stranded region comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of nucleotides complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of the target gene. More particularly, the isolated polynucleotide is cloned in a DNA construct in a sense and antisense orientation so that the upon transcription of the sense and antisense polynucleotide a dsRNA molecule is formed, which functions upon uptake by a pest to inhibit or down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest.

In one embodiment the present invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide that is cloned in a DNA construct in a sense and antisense orientation so that the upon transcription of the sense and antisense polynucleotide a dsRNA molecule is formed, which functions upon uptake by an insect to inhibit or down-regulate the expression of a target gene within the troponin/myofilament complex.

In one embodiment, the target gene encodes an insect wings up A (troponin I) protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7178 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 1 and 2. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 79. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes an upheld protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7107 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 121 and 130. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 330. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the tropomyosin 1 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4898 Dm protein), or the tropomyosin 2 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4843 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 123 and 132. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 332. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the myosin heavy chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17927 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 122 and 131. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 331. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the myosin light chain cytoplasmic protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3201 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 124 and 133. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 333. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the spaghetti squash protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3595 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 125 and 134. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 334. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the zipper protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG15792 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 126 and 135. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 335. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the troponin C (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2981, CG7930, CG9073, CG6514, CG12408, CG9073, CG7930, CG2981, CG12408 or CG6514 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 127 and 136. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 336 and 337.

According to other embodiments, the present invention relates to an isolated polynucleotide that is cloned in a DNA construct in a sense and antisense orientation so that the upon transcription of the sense and antisense polynucleotide a dsRNA molecule is formed, which functions upon uptake by an insect to inhibit or down-regulate the expression of a target gene that encodes an insect ribosomal protein.

In one embodiment, the target gene encodes ribosomal protein S3A (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2168 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 11 and 12. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity

to SEQ ID NO. 84. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein LP1 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4087 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 3 and 4. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.80. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the

5 ribosomal protein S3 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6779 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 7 and 8. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L10Ab (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7283 Dm protein) represented by SEQ ID NOs 9 and 10. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 83. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the

10 ribosomal protein S18 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG8900 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 13 and 14. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.85. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L4 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG5502 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 5 and 6. In a preferred embodiment, the insect

15 orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.81. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG10423 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 15 and 16. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L6 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11522 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 17 and 18. In a preferred

20 embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 87. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG13389 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 19 and 20. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 88. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the

25 ribosomal protein L12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3195 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 21 and 22. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO.89. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L26 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6846 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 158 and 159. In a preferred

30 embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 343. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L21 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG12775 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 165, 166 and 167. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NOs 347 and 348. In one embodiment, the target

35 gene encodes the ribosomal protein S12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11271 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 156 and 157. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 342. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S28b (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2998 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NOs 160 and 161. In a

preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 344. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4651 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 154 and 155. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 341. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L10 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17521 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 163 and 164. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 345. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L5 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17489 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 152 and 153. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 340. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein S15Aa (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2033 Dm protein), said target gene being represented by SEQ ID NO 150 and 151. In a preferred embodiment, the insect orthologue has at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99%, 100% identity to SEQ ID NO. 339. In one embodiment, the target gene encodes the ribosomal protein L19 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2746 Dm protein) or the ribosomal protein L27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4759 Dm protein). Preferably, the methods of the invention find practical application in the prevention and/or control of insect pest infestation, in particular, control of pest infestation of crop plants such as but not limited to cotton, potato, rice, strawberries, alfalfa, soy, tomato, canola, sunflower, sorghum, pearl millet, corn, eggplant, pepper and tobacco. In addition, the interfering RNA of the invention may be introduced into the plants to be protected by routine genetic engineering techniques.

In all aspects of the invention, in preferred embodiments the target gene

- (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or
- (ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289,

298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174,

180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or

- 5 (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 10 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233.

These target genes encode proteins within the troponin/myofilament complex.

In all aspects of the invention, in preferred embodiments, the target gene

- 15 (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 20 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or 25 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 35 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%,

85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273.

These target genes encode insect ribosomal proteins.

- 10 In all aspects of the invention, in preferred embodiments, the target gene (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180,
- 15 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or (ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID
- 20 NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or
- (iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at
- 25 least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said
- 30 corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or
- (iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree
- 35 that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313.

5

Brief description of the Tables and Figures

Table 1 *Lygus hesperus* novel targets identified from first screen.

Table 1B *Lygus hesperus* novel targets in Lh594 pathway.

Table 1C *Lygus hesperus* novel targets identified from second round screen.

10 **Table 2** Polynucleotide sequences of target genes identified in *Lygus hesperus*.

Table 3 Amino acid sequences of target genes identified in *Lygus hesperus*.

Table 4 dsRNAs (sense strand represented by equivalent DNA sequence) corresponding to *Lygus hesperus* target genes and primers for producing the dsRNAs.

15 **Table 5** *Lygus hesperus* targets ranking according to dose response curves (DRCs) and compared to bench mark targets Lh423 & Lh105.

Table 6 *Lygus hesperus* targets from second round screen-ranking according to DRCs and compared to bench mark targets Lh423 & Lh594.

Table 7 Polynucleotide sequences of target genes identified in Colorado potato beetle (CPB).

Table 8 Amino acid sequences of target genes identified in CPB.

20 **Table 9** dsRNAs (sense strand represented by equivalent DNA sequence) corresponding to CPB target genes and primers for producing the dsRNAs.

Table 10 Polynucleotide sequences of target genes identified in brown plant hopper (BPH).

Table 11 Amino acid sequences of target genes identified in BPH.

25 **Table 12** dsRNAs (sense strand represented by equivalent DNA sequence) corresponding to BPH target genes and primers for producing the dsRNAs.

Table 13 Primers used for amplification of aphid cDNAs, based on pea aphid genomic sequence.

Table 14 Polynucleotide sequences of target genes identified in aphids.

Table 15 Amino acid sequences of target genes identified in aphids.

30 **Table 16** dsRNAs (sense strand represented by equivalent DNA sequence) corresponding to aphid target genes and primers for producing the dsRNAs.

Table 17 Degenerate primers used for amplification of CPB Ld594 cDNA

Table 18 Degenerate primers used for amplification of BPH cDNAs

Table 19: *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* novel targets from the screen.

Table 20: *Nilaparvata lugens* novel identified target.

35 **Table 21:** *Acyrtosiphon pisum* novel identified targets.

Figure 1: Plates Lh001_009 second confirmation assay. Dark bars: mortality at day 3 to 6, light bars: mortality at day 6 to 8. Candidate clones are named using the "Lygxxx" screening codes and the "Lhxxx" target nomenclature codes.

Figure 2: Plates Lh010_020 second confirmation assay. Dark bars: mortality at day 3 to 6, light bars: mortality at day 6 to 8. Candidate clones are named using the “Lygxxx” screening codes and the “Lhxxx” target nomenclature codes.

Figure 3: Mortality analysis of *Lygus* novel targets from plates Lh001 to Lh009, expressed as % mortality over a 10 day period. Controls are indicated in dotted lines. Positive control: Lh423 dsRNA (RpL19). Negative controls: GFP dsRNA and diet only (Control).

Figure 4: Mortality analysis of *Lygus* novel targets from plates Lh010 to Lh020, expressed as % mortality over a 10 day period. Controls are indicated in dotted lines. Positive control: Lh423 (RpL19). Negative controls: GFP and diet only (Control).

Figures 5 to 9 *Lygus hesperus* novel targets – dose response curves at concentrations of purified synthetic dsRNA ranging from 0.4 to 0.025 µg/µl (in the figure, the unit “µg/µl” is not displayed). GFP dsRNA and milliQ water were used negative controls. dsRNA of targets were produced using the primers as described in the example section 1.1.

Figure 10 Lh594 dose response curve, at dsRNA concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 0.001 µg/µl. GFP dsRNA and milliQ water were used negative controls.

Figure 11 A dsRNA activity in *Lygus hesperus* bioassay in absence of tRNA. Lh594 (5µg/µl); positive control: Lh423 (5µg/µl); negative controls: GFP dsRNA (5µg/µl) and milliQ water; **B** Identification of Lh594 limit of activity using decreasing concentration of dsRNA (from 5 µg to 0.25 µg). Negative controls: GFP dsRNA (5µg/µl) and milliQ water.

Figure 12 Plates Lh010 to Lh020 second confirmation assay of second screen targets. Dark bars: mortality at day 4 to 8, light bars: mortality at day 4 to 6. Candidate clones are named using the “Lygxxx” screening codes and the “Lhxxx” target nomenclature codes.

Figure 13 Assay results for *Lygus* troponin pathway targets, tested at 0.5 µg/µl fixed.

Figures 14 A-B *Lygus hesperus* novel targets from troponin pathway – dose response curves at concentrations of purified synthetic dsRNA ranging from 0.4 to 0.025 µg/µl (in the figure, the unit “µg/µl” is not always displayed). GFP dsRNA and milliQ water were used as negative controls.

Figures 15 A-D *Lygus hesperus* novel targets of second screen targets – dose response curves at concentrations of purified synthetic dsRNA ranging from 0.5 to 0.05 µg/µl. GFP dsRNA and milliQ water were used as negative controls.

Figure 16 Survival analysis of CPB larvae treated with 1 µg dsRNA Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620. Positive controls included 1 µg dsRNA of bench mark targets Ld513 and Ld049. Negative controls included milliQ water and FP.

Figure 17 Effects of Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620 dsRNAs on pupation of CPB 4th instar larvae, compared to untreated control (UTC). Bugs were fed 1 µg dsRNA dispensed in potato leaf disks, then were allowed to feed on untreated potato leaves (**A**) for 4 days before being placed on vermiculite. To assess the effect of the dsRNA, dead insects were excavated from the vermiculite (because of the strong effects induced by Ld594 dsRNA, no pupae could be recovered from the vermiculite and therefore, no image is available for this target dsRNA) (**B**).

Figure 18 Effect of CPB Ld594, 619 & 620 dsRNAs on survival and fitness of CPB adults.

Assessments were performed on days 4, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 13. Control MQ: milliQ water.

Figure 19 Activity of dsRNA from NI594 pathway in brown plant hopper. DsRNAs were tested at 0.5 µg/µl in presence of 0.1% CHAPSO. Positive control: NI537 dsRNA (0.5 µg/µl), negative controls:

GFP dsRNA (0.5 µg/µl) and diet alone.

Figure 20 Activity of dsRNA from Ap594, Ap423, Ap537 and Ap560 on *A. pisum*. DsRNAs were tested at 0.5 µg/µl in presence of 5 µg/µl tRNA. Negative control: GFP dsRNA (0.5 µg/µl).

Figure 21 Mortality percentages of *L. decemlineata* larvae on artificial diet treated with dsRNA. Ld583, Ld584, Ld586 & Ld588 represent target clones. Positive control: Ld513; negative control: FP.

Detailed description of the invention

The present inventors have discovered that down-regulating the expression of particular target genes in insect pest species by RNAi can be used to effectively prevent and/or control infestation by said insect pest.

As used herein, the term "control" of pest infestation refers to any effect on a pest that serves to limit and/or reduce either the numbers of pest organisms and/or the damage caused by the pest.

Preferred target genes are therefore essential genes that control or regulate one or more essential biological functions within the insect pest, for example, cell division, reproduction, energy metabolism, digestion, neurological function and the like. Down-regulation of these essential genes by RNAi techniques can lead to death of the insect, or otherwise significantly retard growth and development or impair the ability of the pest to colonize an environment or infest host organisms.

The present inventors have now identified superior target genes of insect pest species belonging to the *Lygus*, *Leptinotarsa*, *Nilaparvata* and *Acyrtosiphum* genus, which targets are envisaged for use singly or in combination as an effective means for RNAi-mediated control of insect infestation, for example of agronomically important crops. Orthologues of these newly identified target genes can be used in other insect species to control pest infestation of the corresponding relevant crops.

More specifically, the present inventors describe here that genes encoding for proteins of the troponin/myofilament complex form excellent target genes for suppression by the RNA inhibition machinery. One of these target genes encoded the insect troponin I protein (wings up A) which is an orthologue of the *Drosophila* CG7178 protein. This protein is involved in muscular contraction and belongs to a physiological pathway that was not yet fully explored for (insect) pest control through RNA inhibition. Moreover, since this protein complex is animal specific, no plant genes homologues or orthologues are known, reducing the risk of off-type plant phenotypes when expressing target dsRNA in plants. In addition, in *Drosophila*, troponin I is described as a haplo-insufficient gene, displaying a mutant phenotype in the heterozygote state. Such genes are particularly susceptible to reduced mRNA expression levels and as such can be considered as ideal RNAi targets.

Further interesting target genes in this troponin/myofilament complex are listed below.

Annotation ID	Cytology	Dm identifier
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up	upheld	CG7107
Tm1	tropomyosin 1	CG4898
Tm2	tropomyosin 2	CG4843
Mhc	myosin heavy chain	CG17927
Mlc-c	myosin light chain cytoplasmic	CG3201
sqh	spaghetti squash	CG3595
zip	zipper	CG15792

Thus, according to one embodiment the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the

5 silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 10 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 15 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising 25 said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 30 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218

to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30,

282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289,

298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared

with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217,

124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%,

95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177,

183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, wherein the two

orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182,

130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135,

226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135,

226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233.

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid

sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any

of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131,

179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233.

In a preferred embodiment, the target gene encodes an insect protein chosen from the troponin/myofilament complex chosen from the group comprising the troponin I (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7178 Dm protein), the upheld protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7107 Dm protein), the tropomyosin 1 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4898 Dm protein), the tropomyosin 2 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4843 Dm protein), the myosin heavy chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17927 Dm protein), the myosin light chain cytoplasmic protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3201 Dm protein), the spaghetti squash protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3595 Dm protein), the zipper protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG15792 Dm protein), the troponin C (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2981, CG7930, CG9073, CG6514, CG12408, CG9073, CG7930, CG2981, CG12408 or CG6514 Dm protein)

In other embodiments, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18,

59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38,

140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at

least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, and wherein

when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167,

166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to

273, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the

sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154,

155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid

sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least

- 5 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 10 167, 166, 270 to 273.

In a preferred embodiment, the target gene encodes an insect ribosomal protein chosen from the group comprising the ribosomal protein S3A (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2168 Dm protein),

the ribosomal protein LP1 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4087 Dm protein), the ribosomal

- 15 protein S3 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6779 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L10Ab (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7283 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S18 (e.g. an insect orthologue

of the CG8900 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L4 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG5502 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG10423 Dm protein), the

ribosomal protein L6 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11522 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein

- 20 S13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG13389 Dm protein), and the ribosomal protein L12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3195 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L26 (e.g. an insect orthologue of

the CG6846 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L21 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG12775 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11271 Dm protein), the

ribosomal protein S28b (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2998 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein

- 25 L13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4651 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L10 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17521 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L5 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the

CG17489 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S15Aa (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2033 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L19 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2746 Dm protein), the

ribosomal protein L27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4759 Dm protein)

- 30

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that

functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element

is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which

- 35 comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs

1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and

compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at

least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so

that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of

SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is

optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the

complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two

sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, or

5 having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at

10 least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, or

15 (iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12, or

20 (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11 12.

25 In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a

30 target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, or

35 (ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at

least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement

thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least

85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 166, 167.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that

- 5 functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene
- 10 (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, or
- 15 (ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or
- 20 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, or
- (iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the
- 25 corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, or
- (iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID
- 30 NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, or
- 35 (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183.

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which
5 comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%,
10 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said
15 fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or
20 the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or
25 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least
30 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179.

35 In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which

comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% preferably at least 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137.

In yet other embodiments, the present invention relates to an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA or double stranded RNA) that inhibits or downregulates the expression of a target gene that encodes a mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit II protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG34069 Dm protein).

Thus, in one aspect, the invention provides an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest.

As used herein, a "target gene" comprises any gene in the insect pest which one intends to down-regulate. In a preferred embodiment, the target gene is down-regulated so as to control pest infestation, for example by disrupting an essential biological process occurring in the pest, or by decreasing the pathogenicity of the pest. Preferred target genes therefore include but are not limited

to those that play key roles in regulating feeding, survival, growth, development, reproduction, infestation and infectivity. According to one embodiment, the target gene is such that when its expression is down-regulated or inhibited, the insect pest is killed. According to another embodiment, the target gene is such that when its expression is down-regulated or inhibited, growth of the pest is prevented or retarded or stunted or delayed or impeded, pest reproduction is prevented, or transition through the life cycles of the pest is prevented. According to yet another embodiment of the invention, the target gene is such that when its expression is down-regulated or inhibited, the damage caused by the pest and/or the ability of the pest to infect or infest environments, surfaces and/or plant or crop species is reduced; or the pest stops feeding from its natural food resources such as plants and plant products. The terms "infest" and "infect" or "infestation" and "infection" are generally used interchangeably throughout.

The target genes may be expressed in all or some of the cells of the insect pest. Furthermore, the target genes may only be expressed by the insect pest at a particular stage of its life-cycle, for example, the mature adult phase, immature nymph or larval phase or egg phase.

As used herein "pest" species are preferably insect species that cause infection or infestation, preferably of plants. The insect species may comprise and species belonging to the Orders *Coleoptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Diptera*, *Dichyoptera*, *Orthoptera*, *Hemiptera*, or *Siphonaptera*.

Preferred plant pathogenic insects according to the invention are plant pest are selected from the group consisting of *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Laodelphax* spp. (e.g. *L. striatellus* (small brown planthopper)); *Nephotettix* spp. (e.g. *N. virescens* or *N. cincticeps* (green leafhopper), or *N. nigropictus* (rice leafhopper)); *Sogatella* spp. (e.g. *S. furcifera* (white-backed planthopper)); *Chilo* spp. (e.g. *C. suppressalis* (rice striped stem borer), *C. auricilius* (gold-fringed stem borer), or *C. polychrysus* (dark-headed stem borer)); *Sesamia* spp. (e.g. *S. inferens* (pink rice borer)); *Tryporyza* spp. (e.g. *T. innotata* (white rice borer), or *T. incertulas* (yellow rice borer)); *Anthonomus* spp. (e.g. *A. grandis* (boll weevil)); *Phaedon* spp. (e.g. *P. cochleariae* (mustard leaf beetle)); *Epilachna* spp. (e.g. *E. varivietis* (mexican bean beetle)); *Tribolium* spp. (e.g. *T. castaneum* (red floor beetle)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata* howardi (southern corn rootworm), *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm); *Ostrinia* spp. (e.g. *O. nubilalis* (European corn borer)); *Anaphothrips* spp. (e.g. *A. obscurus* (grass thrips)); *Pectinophora* spp. (e.g. *P. gossypiella* (pink bollworm)); *Heliothis* spp. (e.g. *H. virescens* (tobacco budworm)); *Trialeurodes* spp. (e.g. *T. abutiloneus* (banded-winged whitefly) *T. vaporariorum* (greenhouse whitefly)); *Bemisia* spp. (e.g. *B. argentifolii* (silverleaf whitefly)); *Aphis* spp. (e.g. *A. gossypii* (cotton aphid)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Euschistus* spp. (e.g. *E. conspersus* (conspersed stink bug)); *Chlorochroa* spp. (e.g. *C. sayi* (Say stinkbug)); *Nezara* spp. (e.g. *N. viridula* (southern green stinkbug)); *Thrips* spp. (e.g. *T. tabaci* (onion thrips)); *Frankliniella* spp. (e.g. *F. fusca* (tobacco thrips), or *F. occidentalis* (western flower thrips)); *Acheta* spp. (e.g. *A. domesticus* (house cricket)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Macrosiphum* spp.

(e.g. *M. euphorbiae* (potato aphid)); *Blissus* spp. (e.g. *B. leucopterus leucopterus* (chinch bug)); *Acrosternum* spp. (e.g. *A. hilare* (green stink bug)); *Chilotraea* spp. (e.g. *C. polychrysa* (rice stalk borer)); *Lissorhoptrus* spp. (e.g. *L. oryzophilus* (rice water weevil)); *Rhopalosiphum* spp. (e.g. *R. maidis* (corn leaf aphid)); and *Anuraphis* spp. (e.g. *A. maidiradicis* (corn root aphid)).

5 According to a more specific embodiment, the invention is applicable for species belonging to the family of Chrysomelidae or leaf beetles. Chrysomelid beetles such Colorado potato Beetles, Flea Beetles, Corn Rootworms and Curculionids such as Alfalfa Weevils are particularly important pests. Specific Leptinotarsa species to control according to the invention include Colorado Potato Beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Say) and False Potato Beetle (*Leptinotarsa juncta* (Say). CPB is a
10 (serious) pest on our domestic potato, other cultivated and wild tuber bearing and non-tuber bearing potato species and other Solanaceous (nightshades) plant species including the crop species tomato, eggplant, peppers, tobacco (Nicotiana species including ornamentals), ground cherry, rice, corn or cotton; and the weed/herb species, horse nettle, common nightshade, thorn apple, henbane and buffalo burr. Corn rootworms include species found in the genus Diabrotica (e.g., *D. undecimpunctata*
15 *undecimpunctata*, *D. undecimpunctata howardii*, *D. longicornis*, *D. virgifera* and *D. balteata*). Corn rootworms cause extensive damage to corn and cucurbits.

According to a more specific embodiment, the invention is applicable for species belonging to the order of Hemipterans (family of Aphidoidea), such as *Myzus persicae* (green peach aphid, *Aphis fabae* (Black Bean Aphid), *Acyrtosiphum pisum* (Pea Aphid), *Brevicoryne brassicae* (Cabbage
20 Aphid), *Sitobion avenae* (Grain Aphid), *Cavariella aegopodii* (Carrot Aphid), *Aphis craccivora* (Groundnut Aphid), *Aphis gossypii* (Cotton Aphid), *Toxoptera aurantii* (Black Citrus Aphid), *Cavariella spp* (Willow Aphid), *Chaitophorus spp* (Willow Leaf Aphids), *Cinara spp.* (Black Pine Aphids), *Drepanosiphum platanoides* (Sycamore Aphid) *Elatobium spp* (Spruce Aphids) which cause damage to plants such as Prunus trees, particularly peach, apricot and plum; trees that are mainly
25 cultured for wood production such as willows and poplars, to row crops such as corn, cotton, soy, wheat and rice, to vegetable crops of the families Solanaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Compositae, Cruciferae, and Cucurbitaceae, including but not limited to, artichoke, asparagus, bean, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, cantaloupe, celery, corn, cucumber, fennel, kale, kohlrabi, turnip, eggplant, lettuce, mustard, okra, parsley, parsnip, pea, pepper, potato, radish,
30 spinach, squash, tomato, turnip, watercress, and watermelon; or field crops such as, but not limited to, tobacco, sugar beet, and sunflower; a flower crop or other ornamental plant such as pine trees and conifers. Other Hemipterans belong to *Nilaparvata ssp* (eg. *N. lugens*, *Sogatella furcifera*) and cause damage to rice plants. Other Hemipterans belong to *Lygus ssp* (eg. *Lygus hesperus*, *Lygus rugulipennis*, *Lygus lineolaris*, *Lygus sully*) and other species of plant-feeding insects in the family of the Miridae, and cause damage to cotton, potato plants, strawberries, cotton, alfalfa, canola, peach,
35 plums, grape, lettuce, eggplant, onion, green beans. As well as several Mediterranean trees and several ornamental trees such as elm tree (*Ulmus spp.*) pine nut (*Pinus Pinea*) London plane tree (*Platanus Acerifolia*), white redbud (*Malus alba*). Other Hemipterans belong to the family of the Pentatomoidea, they are commonly referred to as shield bugs, chust bugs, and stink bugs (eg; the

brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), the Consperse stink bug (*Euschistus conspersus*), southern green stink bug (*Nezara viridula*), forest bug (*Pentatoma rufipes*), harlequin bug (*Murgantia histrionica*), rice stink bug (*Oebalus pugnax*) and cause damage to fruits including apples, peaches, figs, mulberries, citrus fruits and persimmons, blackberry, and vegetables including sweetcorn, tomatoes, soy beans, lima beans and green peppers, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, horseradish, collards, mustard, Brussels sprouts, potato, egg plant, okra, beans, asparagus, beets, weeds, fruit trees and field crops such as field corn and soy bean. Stink bugs are also a pest of grasses, sorghum and rice.

A plant to be used in the methods of the invention, or a transgenic plant according to the invention encompasses any plant, but is preferably a plant that is susceptible to infestation by a plant pathogenic insect.

Accordingly, the present invention extends to plants and to methods as described herein wherein the plant is chosen from the following group of plants (or crops): alfalfa, apple, apricot, artichoke, asparagus, avocado, banana, barley, beans, beet, blackberry, blueberry, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, canola, carrot, cassava, cauliflower, a cereal, celery, cherry, citrus, clementine, coffee, corn, cotton, cucumber, eggplant, endive, eucalyptus, figs, grape, grapefruit, groundnuts, ground cherry, kiwifruit, lettuce, leek, lemon, lime, pine, maize, mango, melon, millet, mushroom, nut oat, okra, onion, orange, an ornamental plant or flower or tree, papaya, parsley, pea, peach, peanut, peat, pepper, persimmon, pineapple, plantain, plum, pomegranate, potato, pumpkin, radicchio, radish, rapeseed, raspberry, rice, rye, sorghum, soy, soybean, spinach, strawberry, sugar beet, sugarcane, sunflower, sweet potato, tangerine, tea, tobacco, tomato, a vine, watermelon, wheat, yams and zucchini.

In specific embodiments, the present invention provides target genes which encode proteins involved in the function of a wings up A (troponin I), a mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit II protein, or one of the ribosomal proteins as specified in Table 1.

In preferred embodiments, the present invention provides target genes selected from the group of genes (i) having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75%, preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical any of

SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (ii) having a nucleotide sequence consisting of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (iii) having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000, or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181,

189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (iv) having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000, or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to

297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (v) having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 70% preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or (vi) which gene is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35

to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389;

and wherein the nucleotide sequence of said gene is no longer than 10000, 9000, 8000, 7000, 6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000 or 1500 nucleotides.

The amino acid sequences encoded by the target genes of the present invention are represented by SEQ ID NOs. SEQ ID NOs 79, 349, 352, 356, 80, 326, 81, 327, 82, 83, 328, 84, 329, 85, 86, 359, 87 to 91, 330, 350, 353, 331, 351, 332 to 336, 337, 354, 338 to 344, 346, 345, 347, 348, 357, 355, 358, 390 to 393.

As used herein, the term "having" has the same meaning as "comprising".

As used herein, the term "sequence identity" is used to describe the sequence relationship between two or more nucleotide or amino acid sequences. The percentage of "sequence identity" between two sequences is determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window (a defined number of positions), wherein the portion of the sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (*i.e.* gaps) as compared to the reference sequence in order to achieve optimal alignment. The percentage sequence identity is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleotide base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of 'matched' positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number

of positions in the comparison window and multiplying the result by 100. Methods and software for determining sequence identity are available in the art and include the Blast software and GAP analysis. For nucleic acids, the percent identity is calculated preferably by the BlastN alignment tool whereby the percent identity is calculated over the entire length of the query nucleotide sequence.

5 A person skilled in the art will recognise that homologues or orthologues (homologues existing in different species) of the target genes represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 10 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 15 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 can be identified. These pest homologues and/or orthologues are also within the scope of the current invention. Preferred homologues and/or orthologues are genes similar in nucleotide sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the homologue and/or orthologue has a sequence 20 that is at least 75%, preferably at least 80% or 85%, more preferably at least 90% or 95%, and most preferably at least about 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 25 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 30 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof. Similarly, also preferred homologues and/or orthologues are proteins that are similar in amino acid sequence to such a degree that when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, the homologue and/or orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75%, preferably at least 35 80% or 85%, more preferably at least 90% or 95%, and most preferably at least about 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 79, 349, 352, 356, 80, 326, 81, 327, 82, 83, 328, 84, 329, 85, 86, 359, 87 to 91, 330, 350, 353, 331, 351, 332 to 336, 337, 354, 338 to 344, 346, 345, 347, 348, 357, 355, 358, 390 to 393.

Other homologues are genes which are alleles of a gene comprising a sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389. Further preferred homologues are genes comprising at least one single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) compared to a gene comprising a sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

The 'interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA)' of the current invention encompasses any type of RNA molecule capable of down-regulating or 'silencing' expression of a target gene, including but not limited to sense RNA, antisense RNA, short interfering RNA (siRNA), microRNA (miRNA), double-stranded RNA (dsRNA), hairpin RNA (RNA) and the like. Methods to assay for functional interfering RNA molecules are well known in the art and are disclosed elsewhere herein.

The interfering RNA molecules of the current invention effect sequence-specific down-regulation of expression of a target gene by binding to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene. Binding occurs as a result of base pairing between complementary regions of the interfering RNA and the target nucleotide sequence. As used herein, the term 'silencing element' refers to the portion or region of the interfering RNA comprising or consisting of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary, or at least partially complementary, to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and which functions as the active portion of the interfering RNA to direct down-regulation of expression of said target gene. In one embodiment of the invention, the silencing element comprises or consists of a sequence of at least 17 contiguous nucleotides, preferably at least 18 or 19

contiguous nucleotides, more preferably at least 21 contiguous nucleotides, even more preferably at least 22, 23, 24 or 25 contiguous nucleotides complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene.

As used herein, "expression of a target gene" refers to the transcription and accumulation of the RNA transcript encoded by a target gene and/or translation of the mRNA into protein. The term 'down-regulate' is intended to refer to any of the methods known in the art by which interfering RNA molecules reduce the level of primary RNA transcripts, mRNA or protein produced from a target gene. In certain embodiments, down-regulation refers to a situation whereby the level of RNA or protein produced from a gene is reduced by at least 10%, preferably by at least 33%, more preferably by at least 50%, yet more preferably by at least 80%. In particularly preferred embodiments, down-regulation refers to a reduction in the level of RNA or protein produced from a gene by at least 80%, preferably by at least 90%, more preferably by at least 95%, and most preferably by at least 99% within cells of the insect pest as compared with an appropriate control insect pest which has for example, not been exposed to an interfering RNA or has been exposed to a control interfering RNA molecule. Methods for detecting reductions in RNA or protein levels are well known in the art and include RNA solution hybridization, Northern hybridization, reverse transcription (e.g. quantitative RT-PCR analysis), microarray analysis, antibody binding, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and Western blotting. In another embodiment of the invention, down-regulation refers to a reduction in RNA or protein levels sufficient to result in a detectable change in a phenotype of the pest as compared with an appropriate pest control, for example, cell death, cessation of growth, or the like. Down-regulation can thus be measured by phenotypic analysis of the insect pest using techniques routine in the art.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the interfering RNA down-regulates gene expression by RNA interference or RNAi. RNAi is a process of sequence-specific gene regulation typically mediated by double-stranded RNA molecules such as short interfering RNAs (siRNAs). siRNAs comprise a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand. The sense strand or 'guide strand' of the siRNA molecule comprises a sequence of nucleotides complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of the target gene. The sense strand of the siRNA is therefore able to anneal to the RNA transcript via Watson-Crick-type basepairing and target the RNA for degradation within a cellular complex known as the RNAi-induced silencing complex or RISC. Thus, in the context of preferred interfering RNA molecules of the current invention, the silencing element as referred to herein may be a double-stranded region comprising annealed complementary strands, at least one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary or at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene. In one embodiment the double-stranded region has a length of at least 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 base pairs.

Longer double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecules comprising one or more functional double-stranded silencing elements as described elsewhere herein, and capable of RNAi-mediated gene silencing are

also contemplated within the scope of the current invention. Such longer dsRNA molecules comprise at least 80, 200, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 base pairs. These dsRNA molecules may serve as precursors for the active siRNA molecules that direct the RNA transcript to the RISC complex for subsequent degradation.

5 dsRNA molecules present in the environment surrounding an organism or the cells thereof may be taken up by the organism and processed by an enzyme called Dicer to yield siRNA molecules.

Alternatively, the dsRNA may be produced *in vivo* i.e. transcribed from a polynucleotide or polynucleotides encoding the same present within a cell, for instance a bacterial cell or a plant cell, and subsequently processed by Dicer either within the host cell or preferably within the insect pest

10 cells following uptake of the longer precursor dsRNA. The dsRNA may be formed from two separate (sense and antisense) RNA strands that anneal by virtue of complementary basepairing.

Alternatively, the dsRNA may be a single strand that is capable of folding back on itself to form a hairpin RNA (RNA) or stem-loop structure. In the case of a RNA, the double-stranded region or 'stem' is formed from two regions or segments of the RNA that are essentially inverted repeats of one

15 another and possess sufficient complementarity to allow the formation of a double-stranded region. One or more functional double-stranded silencing elements may be present in this 'stem region' of the molecule. The inverted repeat regions are typically separated by a region or segment of the RNA known as the 'loop' region. This region can comprise any nucleotide sequence conferring enough flexibility to allow self-pairing to occur between the flanking complementary regions of the RNA. In

20 general, the loop region is substantially single-stranded and acts as a spacer element between the inverted repeats.

All the interfering RNA molecules of the invention effect sequence-specific down-regulation of expression of a target gene by binding to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene.

Binding occurs as a result of complementary base pairing between the silencing element of the

25 interfering RNA and the target nucleotide sequence. The interfering RNA molecules of the invention comprise at least one or at least two silencing elements. In one embodiment of the current invention, the target nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence of nucleotides as represented by the RNA transcript of the target gene, or a fragment thereof wherein the fragment is preferably at least 17 nucleotides, more preferably at least 18, 19 or 20 nucleotides, or most preferably at least 21, 22, 23,

30 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 nucleotides. In a preferred embodiment of the current invention, the target nucleotide sequence comprises a sequence of nucleotides equivalent to the RNA transcript encoded by any of the polynucleotides selected from the group consisting of (i) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21,

35 preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100 or 1115 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16,

205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (ii) a polynucleotide which consists of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof,

or (iii) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, said

polynucleotide is at least 75 % preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (iv) a polynucleotide which comprises a fragment of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence so that, when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202,

187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof,

or (v) a polynucleotide which consists of a fragment of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence that, when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261,

- 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or (vi) a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 70 % preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389. In a more preferred embodiment of the above, said polynucleotide is no longer than 10000, 9000, 8000, 7000, 6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000 or 1500 nucleotides.
- Preferably, the interfering RNA molecules of the current invention comprise at least one double-stranded region, typically the silencing element of the interfering RNA, comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of nucleotides complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of the target gene.
- The silencing element, or at least one strand thereof wherein the silencing element is double-stranded, may be fully complementary or partially complementary to the target nucleotide sequence of the target gene. As used herein, the term "fully complementary" means that all the bases of the nucleotide sequence of the silencing element are complementary to or 'match' the bases of the target

nucleotide sequence. The term "at least partially complementary" means that there is less than a 100% match between the bases of the silencing element and the bases of the target nucleotide sequence. The skilled person will understand that the silencing element need only be at least partially complementary to the target nucleotide sequence in order to mediate down-regulation of expression of the target gene. It is known in the art that RNA sequences with insertions, deletions and mismatches relative to the target sequence can still be effective at RNAi. According to the current invention, it is preferred that the silencing element and the target nucleotide sequence of the target gene share at least 80% or 85% sequence identity, preferably at least 90% or 95% sequence identity, or more preferably at least 97% or 98% sequence identity and still more preferably at least 99% sequence identity. Alternatively, the silencing element may comprise 1, 2 or 3 mismatches as compared with the target nucleotide sequence over every length of 24 partially complementary nucleotides.

It will be appreciated by the person skilled in the art that the degree of complementarity shared between the silencing element and the target nucleotide sequence may vary depending on the target gene to be down-regulated or depending on the insect pest species in which gene expression is to be controlled.

In another embodiment of the current invention, the silencing element comprises a sequence of nucleotides that is the RNA equivalent of any of the polynucleotides selected from the group consisting of a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100 or 1115 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (ii) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17,

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313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein said polynucleotide is no longer than 10000, 9000, 8000, 7000, 6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000 or 1500 nucleotides. It will be appreciated that in such embodiments the silencing element may comprise or consist of a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which, the sense strand, comprises a sequence of nucleotides at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene.

The target nucleotide sequence may be selected from any suitable region or nucleotide sequence of the target gene or RNA transcript thereof. For example, the target nucleotide sequence may be located within the 5'UTR or 3'UTR of the target gene or RNA transcript or within exonic or intronic regions of the gene.

The skilled person will be aware of methods of identifying the most suitable target nucleotide sequences within the context of the full-length target gene. For example, multiple silencing elements targeting different regions of the target gene can be synthesised and tested. Alternatively, digestion of the RNA transcript with enzymes such as RNase H can be used to determine sites on the RNA that are in a conformation susceptible to gene silencing. Target sites may also be identified using *in silico* approaches, for example, the use of computer algorithms designed to predict the efficacy of gene silencing based on targeting different sites within the full-length gene.

The interfering RNAs of the current invention may comprise one silencing element or multiple silencing elements, wherein each silencing element comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene and that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of said target gene. Concatemeric RNA constructs of this type are described in WO2006/046148 as incorporated herein by reference. In the context of the present invention, the term 'multiple' means at least two, at least three, at least four, etc and up to at least 10, 15, 20 or at least 30. In one embodiment, the interfering RNA comprises multiple copies of a single silencing element *i.e.* repeats of a silencing element that binds to a particular target nucleotide sequence within a specific target gene. In another embodiment, the silencing elements within the interfering RNA comprise or consist of different sequences of nucleotides complementary to different target nucleotide sequences. It should be clear that combinations of multiple copies of the same silencing element combined with silencing elements binding to different target nucleotide sequences are within the scope of the current invention.

The different target nucleotide sequences may originate from a single target gene in an insect pest species in order to achieve improved down-regulation of a specific target gene in an insect pest species. In this case, the silencing elements may be combined in the interfering RNA in the original order in which the target nucleotide sequences occur in the target gene, or the silencing elements may be scrambled and combined randomly in any rank order in the context of the interfering RNA as compared with the order of the target nucleotide sequences in the target gene.

Alternatively, the different target nucleotide sequences are representing a single target gene but originating from different insect pest species.

Alternatively, the different target nucleotide sequences may originate from different target genes. If the interfering RNA is for use in preventing and/or controlling pest infestation, it is preferred that the different target genes are chosen from the group of genes regulating essential biological functions of insect pest species, including but not limited to survival, growth, development, reproduction and pathogenicity. The target genes may regulate the same or different biological pathways or processes.

In one embodiment, at least one of the silencing elements comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene wherein the target gene is selected from the group of genes as described earlier.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the different genes targeted by the different silencing elements originate from the same insect pest species. This approach is designed to achieve enhanced attack against a single insect pest species. In particular, the different target genes may be expressed differentially in the different stages of the insect's life cycle, for example, the mature adult, immature larval and egg stages. The interfering RNA of the invention may thus be used to prevent and/or control insect pest infestation at more than one stage of the insect's life cycle.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the different genes targeted by the different silencing elements originate from different insect pest species. The interfering RNA of the invention can thus be used to prevent and/or control infestation by more than one insect pest species simultaneously.

The silencing elements may be arranged as one contiguous region of the interfering RNA or may be separated by the presence of linker sequences. The linker sequence may comprise a short random nucleotide sequence that is not complementary to any target nucleotide sequences or target genes.

In one embodiment, the linker is a conditionally self-cleaving RNA sequence, preferably a pH-

5 sensitive linker or a hydrophobic-sensitive linker. In one embodiment, the linker comprises a sequence of nucleotides equivalent to an intronic sequence. Linker sequences of the current invention may range in length from about 1 base pair to about 10000 base pairs, provided that the linker does not impair the ability of the interfering RNA to down-regulate the expression of target gene(s).

10 In addition to the silencing element(s) and any linker sequences, the interfering RNA of the invention may comprise at least one additional polynucleotide sequence. In different embodiments of the invention, the additional sequence is chosen from (i) a sequence capable of protecting the interfering RNA against RNA processing, (ii) a sequence affecting the stability of the interfering RNA, (iii) a sequence allowing protein binding, for example to facilitate uptake of the interfering RNA by cells of the insect pest species, (iv) a sequence facilitating large-scale production of the interfering RNA, (v) a sequence which is an aptamer that binds to a receptor or to a molecule on the surface of the insect pest cells to facilitate uptake, or (v) a sequence that catalyses processing of the interfering RNA within the insect pest cells and thereby enhances the efficacy of the interfering RNA. Structures for enhancing the stability of RNA molecules are well known in the art and are described further in WO2006/046148 as incorporated herein by reference.

The length of the interfering RNA of the invention needs to be sufficient for uptake by the cells of an insect pest species and down-regulation of target genes within the pest as described elsewhere herein. However, the upper limit on length may be dependent on (i) the requirement for the interfering RNA to be taken up by cells of the pest and (ii) the requirement for the interfering RNA to be processed in the cells of the pest to mediate gene silencing via the RNAi pathway. The length may also be dictated by the method of production and the formulation for delivery of the interfering RNA to cells. Preferably, the interfering RNA of the current invention will be between 21 and 10000 nucleotides in length, preferably between 50 and 5000 nucleotides or between 100 and 2500 nucleotides, more preferably between 80 and 2000 nucleotides in length.

30 The interfering RNA may contain DNA bases, non-natural bases or non-natural backbone linkages or modifications of the sugar-phosphate backbone, for example to enhance stability during storage or enhance resistance to degradation by nucleases. Furthermore, the interfering RNA may be produced chemically or enzymatically by one skilled in the art through manual or automated reactions.

Alternatively, the interfering RNA may be transcribed from a polynucleotide encoding the same.

35 Thus, provided herein is an isolated polynucleotide encoding any of the interfering RNAs of the current invention.

Also provided herein is an isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (i) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550,

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286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to
217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136,

230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or (v) a polynucleotide which consists of a fragment of at least 21, preferably at least 22, 23 or 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 125, 150, 175, 200, 225, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, 1500, 2000 or 3000 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence so that, when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to

217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% preferably at least 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99 % identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or (vi) a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 70 % preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 98% or 99% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, and wherein said polynucleotide is no longer than 10000, 9000, 8000, 7000, 6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000 or 1500 nucleotides.

In preferred embodiments, the isolated polynucleotide is part of an interfering RNA molecule, typically part of the silencing element, comprising at least one double-stranded region comprising a sense RNA strand annealed by complementary basepairing to an antisense RNA strand wherein the sense strand of the dsRNA molecule comprises a sequence of nucleotides complementary to a sequence of nucleotides located within the RNA transcript of the target gene. The sense strand of the dsRNA is

therefore able to anneal to the RNA transcript and target the RNA for degradation within the RNAi-induced silencing complex or RISC.

The polynucleotides of the invention may be inserted via routine molecular cloning techniques into DNA constructs or vectors known in the art. Therefore, according to one embodiment, a DNA

5 construct comprising any of the polynucleotides of the current invention is provided. Preferably, provided herein is a DNA construct comprising a polynucleotide encoding at least one of the interfering RNAs of the current invention. The DNA construct may be a recombinant DNA vector, for example a bacterial, viral or yeast vector. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the DNA
10 construct is an expression construct and the polynucleotide is operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence capable of driving expression of the polynucleotide sequence. The term 'regulatory sequence' is to be taken in a broad context and is intended to refer to any nucleotide sequence capable of effecting expression of polynucleotides to which it is operably linked including but not limited to promoters, enhancers and other naturally-occurring or synthetic transcriptional
15 activator elements. The regulatory sequence may be located at the 5' or 3' end of the polynucleotide sequence. The term 'operably linked' refers to a functional linkage between the regulatory sequence and the polynucleotide sequence such that the regulatory sequence drives expression of the polynucleotide. Operably linked elements may be contiguous or non-contiguous.

Preferably, the regulatory sequence is a promoter selected from the group comprising but not limited to constitutive promoters, inducible promoters, tissue-specific promoters and growth/developmental
20 stage-specific promoters. In one embodiment, the polynucleotide is placed under the control of a strong constitutive promoter such as any selected from the group comprising the CaMV35S promoter, doubled CaMV35S promoter, ubiquitin promoter, actin promoter, rubisco promoter, GOS2 promoter, Figwort mosaic virus 34S promoter.

Optionally, one or more transcription termination sequences may be incorporated in the expression
25 construct of the invention. The term 'transcription termination sequence' encompasses a control sequence at the end of a transcriptional unit, which signals termination of transcription, 3' processing and poly-adenylation of a primary transcript. Additional regulatory sequences including but not limited to transcriptional or translational enhancers may be incorporated in the expression construct, for instance as with the double enhanced CaMV35S promoter.

30 The present invention also encompasses a method for generating any of the interfering RNAs of the invention comprising the steps of (i) contacting a polynucleotide encoding said interfering RNA or a DNA construct comprising the same with cell-free components; or (ii) introducing (*e.g.* by transformation, transfection or injection) a polynucleotide encoding said interfering RNA or a DNA
construct comprising the same into a cell.

35 The invention thus also relates to any double stranded ribonucleotide produced from the expression of a polynucleotide described herein.

Accordingly, also provided herein is a host cell transformed with any of the polynucleotides described herein. Further encompassed by the present invention are host cells comprising any of the interfering RNA's of the current invention, any of the polynucleotides of the current invention or a DNA construct

comprising the same. The host cell may be a prokaryotic cell including but not limited to gram-positive and gram-negative bacterial cells, or an eukaryotic cell including but not limited to yeast cells or plant cells. Preferably, said host cell is a bacterial cell or a plant cell. The bacterial cell can be chosen from the group comprising, but not limited to, Gram positive and Gram negative cells

5 comprising *Escherichia* spp. (e.g. *E. coli*), *Bacillus* spp. (e.g. *B. thuringiensis*), *Rhizobium* spp., *Lactobacillus* spp., *Lactococcus* spp., *Pseudomonas* spp. and *Agrobacterium* spp.. The polynucleotide or DNA construct of the invention may exist or be maintained in the host cell as an extra-chromosomal element or may be stably incorporated into the genome of the host cell.

Characteristics of particular interest in selecting a host cell for the purposes of the current invention

10 include the ease with which the polynucleotide or DNA construct encoding the interfering RNA can be introduced into the host, the availability of compatible expression systems, the efficiency of expression, and the stability of the interfering RNA in the host.

Preferably, the interfering RNAs of the invention are expressed in a plant host cells. Preferred plants of interest include but are not limited to cotton, potato, rice, tomato, canola, soy, sunflower, sorghum, 15 pearl millet, corn, alfalfa, strawberries, eggplant, pepper and tobacco.

In situations wherein the interfering RNA is expressed within a host cell and/or is used to prevent and/or control pest infestation of a host organism, it is preferred that the interfering RNA does not exhibit significant 'off-target' effects *i.e.* the interfering RNA does not affect expression of genes within the host. Preferably, the silencing element does not exhibit significant complementarity with

20 nucleotide sequences other than the intended target nucleotide sequence of the target gene. In one embodiment of the invention, the silencing element shows less than 30%, more preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10% and even more preferably less than 5% sequence identity with any gene of the host cell or organism. If genomic sequence data is available for the host organism, one can cross-check identity with the silencing element using standard bioinformatics tools. In one 25 embodiment, there is no sequence identity between the silencing element and a gene from the host cell or host organism over a region of 17, more preferably over a region of 18 or 19 and most preferably over a region of 20 or 21 contiguous nucleotides.

In the practical application of the invention, the interfering RNAs of the invention may be used for the prevention and/or control of any insect pest belonging to the Orders *Coleoptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Diptera*, 30 *Dichyoptera*, *Orthoptera*, *Hemiptera* and *Siphonaptera*.

Furthermore, in accordance with another aspect of the invention, there is provided herein a composition for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation comprising at least one interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) and optionally at least one suitable carrier, excipient or diluent, wherein the 35 interfering RNA functions upon uptake by the pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest. The interfering RNA may be any of those as disclosed elsewhere herein.

Preferably, the interfering RNA comprises or consists of at least one silencing element and said silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which (the sense strand) comprises a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially

complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene. The 'target gene' may be any of the pest target genes as disclosed elsewhere herein including but not limited to genes involved in regulating pest survival, growth, development, reproduction and pathogenicity. Alternatively, the composition comprises at least one host cell comprising at least one interfering RNA molecule or DNA construct encoding the same and optionally at least one suitable carrier, excipient or diluent, wherein the interfering RNA functions upon uptake of the host cell by the insect pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest.

In the practical application of the invention, the composition may be used for the prevention and/or control of any insect pest belonging to the Orders *Coleoptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Diptera*, *Dichyoptera*, *Orthoptera*, *Hemiptera* and *Siphonaptera*. The composition may therefore be in any suitable form for application to insect pests or for application to substrates and/or organisms, in particular plants, susceptible to infestation by said insect pest. In one embodiment, the composition is for use in preventing and/or controlling pest infestation of plants or propagation or reproductive material of plants and is thus directed towards insect pest species that infest plants. The composition of the present invention is particularly effective when the insect pest belongs to the category of 'chewing' insects that cause considerable damage to plants by eating plant tissues such as roots, leaves, flowers, buds, twigs and the like. Examples from this large insect category include beetles and their larvae.

The composition of the invention may be used to control insect pests at all stages of their life cycle, for example, the mature adult stage, the larval and egg stages.

In the context of the composition of the invention, the interfering RNA may be produced from a DNA construct, in particular an expression construct as described elsewhere herein, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the same. In preferred embodiments, the interfering RNA may be produced inside a host cell or organism engineered to express said interfering RNA from a polynucleotide encoding the same.

Suitable host organisms for use in the compositions of the current invention include but are not limited to microorganisms that are known to colonize the environment on and/or around plants or crops of interest *i.e.* plants or crops susceptible to infestation by insect pest species. Such microorganisms include but are not limited to those that occupy the phylloplane (the surface of plant leaves) and/or the rhizosphere (the soil surrounding plant roots). These microorganisms are selected so as to be capable of successfully competing with any wild-type organisms present in the plant environment. Suitable microorganisms for use as hosts include various species of bacteria, algae and fungi. It is clear that the chosen microorganisms must not be toxic to plants. Such compositions applied to plants susceptible of infestation by insect pest species will be ingested by the insect pests feeding on the treated plants.

Host organisms that do not naturally colonize plants and/or their environment are also within the scope of the current invention. Such organisms may serve only as a means to generate the interfering RNA of the composition. For example, in one embodiment, the interfering RNA is

fermented/produced in a bacterial host and the bacteria are subsequently inactivated/killed. The resulting bacteria may be processed and used as an insecticidal spray in the same manner that *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains have been used as an insecticide for a spray application. In certain embodiments, a bacterial extract or lysate may be suitably purified to leave a substantially pure interfering RNA containing extract, which is subsequently formulated into one of the compositions of the invention. Standard extraction/purification techniques would be known by a person skilled in the art.

Compositions of the invention may be in any suitable physical form for application to insects. For example, the composition may be in solid form (powder, pellet or a bait), liquid form (including a form administered as a spray insecticide) or gel form. In a specific embodiment, the composition may be a coating, paste or powder that can be applied to a substrate in order to protect said substrate from infestation by insects. In this embodiment, the composition can be used to protect any substrate or material that is susceptible to infestation by or damage caused by an insect.

The nature of the excipients and the physical form of the composition may vary depending on the nature of the substrate that it is desired to treat. For example, the composition may be a liquid that is brushed or sprayed onto or imprinted into the material or substrate to be treated, or a coating or powder that is applied to the material or substrate to be treated.

In one embodiment, the composition is in the form of a bait. The bait is designed to lure the insect to come into contact with the composition. Upon coming into contact therewith, the composition is then internalised by the insect, by ingestion for example and mediates RNAi to thus kill the insect. Said bait may comprise a food substance, such as a protein based food, for example fish meal. Boric acid may also be used as a bait. The bait may depend on the species being targeted. An attractant may also be used. The attractant may be a pheromone, such as a male or female pheromone for example. As an example, the pheromones referred to in the book "Insect Pheromones and their use in Pest Management" (Howse et al, Chapman and Hall, 1998) may be used in the invention. The attractant acts to lure the insect to the bait, and may be targeted for a particular insect or may attract a whole range of insects. The bait may be in any suitable form, such as a solid, paste, pellet or powdered form.

The bait may also be carried away by the insect back to the colony. The bait may then act as a food source for other members of the colony, thus providing an effective control of a large number of insects and potentially an entire insect pest colony. This is an advantage associated with use of the double stranded RNA of the invention, because the delayed action of the RNAi mediated effects on the pests allows the bait to be carried back to the colony, thus delivering maximal impact in terms of exposure to the insects.

Additionally, compositions which come into contact with the insects may remain on the cuticle of the insect. When cleaning, either an individual insect cleaning itself or insects cleaning one another, the compositions may be ingested and can thus mediate their effects in the insect. This requires that the composition is sufficiently stable such that the interfering RNA remains intact and capable of

mediating RNAi even when exposed to external environmental conditions for a length of time, which may be a period of days for example.

The baits may be provided in a suitable "housing" or "trap". Such housings and traps are commercially available and existing traps may be adapted to include the compositions of the invention. Any housing or trap which may attract an insect to enter it is included within the scope of the invention. The housing or trap may be box-shaped for example, and may be provided in pre-formed condition or may be formed of foldable cardboard for example. Suitable materials for a housing or trap include plastics and cardboard, particularly corrugated cardboard. Suitable dimensions for such a housing or trap are, for example, 7-15 cm wide, 15-20 cm long and 1-5 cm high. The inside surfaces of the traps may be lined with a sticky substance in order to restrict movement of the insect once inside the trap. The housing or trap may contain a suitable trough inside which can hold the bait in place. A trap is distinguished from a housing because the insect can not readily leave a trap following entry, whereas a housing acts as a "feeding station" which provides the insect with a preferred environment in which they can feed and feel safe from predators.

Accordingly, in a further aspect the invention provides a housing or trap for insects which contains a composition of the invention, which may incorporate any of the features of the composition described herein.

In a further alternative embodiment, the composition may be provided in the form of a spray. Thus, a human user can spray the pest directly with the composition. The composition is then internalized by the insect, from where it can mediate RNA interference, thus controlling the insect. The spray is preferably a pressurized/aerosolized spray or a pump spray. The particles may be of suitable size such that they adhere to the insect, for example to the exoskeleton, and may be absorbed therefrom. Particle size may be measured by known means, such as by use of a Mastersizer, which is a commercially available device.

In a still further embodiment, the carrier is an electrostatically charged powder or particle which adheres to the insect. Suitable powders and particles which are capable of adhering to an insect and thus delivering the RNA constructs of the invention are described in detail in WO 94/00980 and WO 97/33472, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Alternatively, the carrier may comprise magnetic particles which adhere to the insect cuticle. Suitable magnetic particles which are capable of adhering to an insect and thus delivering the RNA constructs of the invention are described in detail in WO 00/01236, which reference is incorporated herein.

In a still further embodiment, the carrier of the composition comprises metallic particles which are initially unmagnetised but which are capable of becoming magnetically polarised when subjected to the electrical field provided by the insect body. This mode of action is described in detail in WO 2004/049807 and is incorporated by reference herein.

Preferably, the composition incorporates a carrier which increases the uptake of the interfering RNA into the insect pest. Such a carrier may be a lipid-based carrier, preferably comprising one or more of, oil-in water emulsions, micelles, cholesterol, lipopolyamines and liposomes. Other agents which

promote uptake of the constructs of the invention are well known to those of skill in the art and include polycations, dextrans and (tris) cationic lipids, such as CS096, CS102 etc. Commercially available liposomes include LIPOFECTIN® and CELLFECTIN® etc. A number of suitable carriers are listed under the heading "Transfection promoting agent" in WO 03/004644 and each of the examples provided is hereby incorporated by reference.

In a further preferred embodiment, the carrier is a nucleic acid condensing agent. Preferably, the nucleic acid condensing agent comprises spermidine or protamine sulphate or a derivative thereof. Wherein the composition of the invention is for use in preventing and/or controlling pest infestation of a plant, the composition can contain an agriculturally suitable carrier. Such a carrier may be any material that the plant to be treated can tolerate, which does not cause undue damage to the environment or other organisms therein and, which allows the interfering RNA to remain effective against the insect pest species. In particular, the compositions of the invention may be formulated for delivery to plants in accordance with routine agricultural practices used in the bioinsecticide industry. The composition may contain further components capable of performing other functions including but not limited to (i) enhancement or promotion of uptake of the interfering RNA by cells of the pest and (ii) stabilization of the active components of the composition. Specific examples of such further components contained in the composition comprising the interfering RNA, are yeast tRNA or yeast total RNA.

The compositions may be formulated for direct application or as a concentration of a primary composition that requires dilution prior to use. Alternatively, the composition may be supplied as kit comprising the interfering RNA or the host cell comprising or expressing the same in one container and the suitable diluent or carrier for the RNA or host cell in a separate container. In the practical application of the invention, the composition may be applied to a plant or any part of a plant at any stage of the plant's development. In one embodiment, the composition is applied to the aerial parts of a plant, for example during cultivation of plant crops in a field. In a further embodiment, the composition is applied to the seeds of a plant either while they are in storage or once they are planted in the soil. It is generally important to obtain good control of pests in the early stages of plant growth as this is the time when the plant can be most severely damaged by pest species.

The composition may be applied to the environment of an insect pest by various techniques including but not limited to spraying, atomizing, dusting, scattering, pouring, coating of seeds, seed treatment, introduction into the soil, and introduction into irrigation water. In the treatment of plants susceptible to pest infestation, the composition may be delivered to the plant or part of a plant before the appearance of the pest (for the purposes of prevention), or once signs of pest infestation begin to appear (for the purposes of pest control).

In a further embodiment of the invention, the compositions of the invention may be formulated so as to contain at least one further active agent. Thus, the composition may be provided as a "kit-of-parts" comprising the interfering RNA containing composition in one container and one or more suitable active ingredients, for example a chemical or biological pesticide, in a separate container.

Alternatively, the compositions may be provided as a mixture which are stable and to be used in conjunction with one another.

Suitable active ingredients which may act in a complementary manner to the interfering RNA molecules of the present invention include, but are not limited to the following: Chlorpyrifos, Allethrin, Resmethrin, Tetrabromoethyl, Dimethol-cyclopropane carboxylic acid (which are generally included in liquid compositions); and Hydramethylnon, Avermectin, Chlorpyrifos, Sulfuramid, Hydroprene, Fipronil (GABA receptor), Isopropylphenyl methyl carbamate, Indoxacarb (PARA), Noviflumuron (Chitinsynthesis inhibitor), Imiprothrin (PARA), Abamectin (Glutamate-gated Chloride channel), Imidacloprid (Acetylcholin receptor) (which are generally included in bait compositions).

In a preferred embodiment, the active ingredient is known to be a preferred insecticide in terms of health and environmental considerations, such as for instance Hydramethylnon and Avermectin.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the composition is formulated so as to contain at least one further agronomical agent, for example a herbicide or an additional pesticide. As used herein, a 'second pesticide' or 'additional pesticide' refers to a pesticide other than the first or original interfering RNA molecule of the composition. Alternatively, the composition of the invention may be delivered in combination with at least one other agronomical agent, for a example a herbicide or a second pesticide. In one embodiment, the composition is provided in combination with a herbicide selected from any known in the art, for instance glyphosate, imidazolinone, sulphonylurea and bromoxynil. In a further embodiment, the composition is provided in combination with at least one additional pesticide.

The additional pesticide may be selected from any pesticides known in the art and/or may comprise an interfering ribonucleic acid that functions upon uptake by a pest to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said pest species. In one embodiment, the target pest is an insect pest species and the interfering RNA is selected from any of the interfering RNAs as described herein. In a further embodiment, the additional pesticide comprises an interfering RNA that functions to down-regulate expression of a known gene in any target pest species, not limited to insect pests. The original interfering RNA molecule of the composition and the second or additional pesticide(s) may target the same insect pest species or may be intended to target different insect pest species. For example, the original interfering RNA and the second pesticide may target different species of insect pest or may target different families or classes of pest organisms, for example, fungi or nematodes or insects. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art how to test combinations of interfering RNA molecules and other agronomical agents for synergistic effects. In a preferred embodiment, the composition contains a first interfering RNA molecule described elsewhere herein and one or more additional pesticides, each toxic to the same insect pest, wherein the one or more additional pesticides are selected from a patatin, a *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein, a *Xenorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a

Photorhabdus insecticidal protein, a *Bacillus laterosporous* insecticidal protein, a *Bacillus spaericus* insecticidal protein, and a lignin, and wherein said *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein is selected from the group consisting of a Cry1Ab, a Cry1C, a Cry2Aa, a Cry3, a TIC851, a CryET70, a Cry22, a VIP, a TIC901, a TIC1201, a TIC407, a TIC417, a binary insecticidal protein selected from

CryET33 and CryET34, CryET80 and CryET76, TIC100 and TIC101, and PS149B1, and insecticidal chimeras of any of the preceding insecticidal proteins.

The different components of the combinations described herein may be administered, for example to a host organism susceptible to infestation by pest, in any order. The components may be delivered

Also provided herein is a method for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation, comprising contacting an insect pest species with an effective amount of at least one interfering RNA wherein the RNA functions upon uptake by said pest to down-regulate expression of an essential pest target gene. The essential target gene may be any pest gene involved in the regulation of an essential biological process required by the pest to initiate or maintain infestation including but not limited to survival, growth, development, reproduction and pathogenicity. In particular, the target gene may be any of the pest genes as described elsewhere herein.

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297 or 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297 or 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 79, 349, 352 or 356 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm)).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 328 or 84 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, 59 to 62, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi*

(northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 17, 18, 59 to 62, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in SEQ ID NOs 87 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, 63 to 66, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 19, 20, 63 to 66, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D.*

virgifera zeae (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in SEQ ID NOs 88 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned). In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm)). In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 347 or 348 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D.*

virgifera virgifera (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises

5 or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle),
10 *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm),
15 wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 330, 350 or 353 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises

20 or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato
25 beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zeae* (Mexican corn rootworm).

30 In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293,
35 or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera*

virgifera (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 331 or 351

(when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, or the

complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm)).

In the methods described herein to down-regulate expression of a target gene in an insect pest species, double stranded RNA molecules comprising at least 21 bp, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to at least 21 contiguous nucleotides in any of SEQ ID NOs 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, or the complement thereof, can be used to down-regulate expression of the orthologous target gene in a coleopteran, hemipteran, lepidoteran or dipteran insect chosen from the group comprising but not limited to *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm) or *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm), wherein the orthologous genes encode a protein having an amino acid sequence which is at least 85%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98%, 99% identical to the amino acid sequence as presented in any of SEQ ID NOs 337 or 354 (when said encoded proteins are optimally aligned).

Furthermore, there is provided herein a method for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation in a field of crop plants, said method comprising expressing in said plants an effective amount of an interfering RNA as described herein.

Wherein the method is for the control of pest infestation, the phrase 'effective amount' extends to the quantity or concentration of interfering RNA required to produce a phenotypic effect on the pest such that the numbers of pest organisms infesting a host organism are reduced and/or the amount of damage caused by the pest is reduced. In one embodiment, the phenotypic effect is death of the pest

and the interfering RNA is used to achieve at least 20%, 30%, 40%, preferably at least 50%, 60%, 70%, more preferably at least 80% or 90% pest mortality as compared to control insect pests. In a further embodiment, the phenotypic effects include but are not limited to stunting of pest growth, cessation of feeding and reduced egg-laying. The total numbers of pest organisms infesting a host organism may thus be reduced by at least 20%, 30%, 40%, preferably at least 50%, 60%, 70%, more preferably at least 80% or 90% as compared with control pests. Alternatively, the damage caused by the insect pest may be reduced by at least 20%, 30%, 40%, preferably at least 50%, 60%, 70%, more preferably at least 80% or 90% as compared with control insect pests. Hence, the method of the invention can be used to achieve at least 20%, 30%, 40%, preferably at least 50%, 60%, 70%, more preferably at least 80% or 90% pest control.

As used herein, the term 'plant' may include any reproductive or propagation material for a plant. Reference to a plant may also include plant cells, plant protoplasts, plant tissue cultures, plant calli, plant clumps and plant cells that are intact in plants or parts of plants such as embryos, pollen, ovules, seeds, leaves, flowers, branches, fruit, kernels, ears, cobs, husks, stalks, roots, root tips and the like.

Also provided herein is the use of the interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) as described herein or the DNA construct as described herein for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation, preferably insect pest infestation of plants.

The invention will be further understood with reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Examples**Example 1 Identification of target genes in insect pest species****1.1. *Lygus hesperus* normalized cDNA library and preparation of dsRNAs in multiwell plates for the screening assays**

Nucleic acids were isolated from *Lygus hesperus* nymphs of different life stages, including freshly hatched nymphs 2, 4, 6 and 9 days old nymphs and adults. A cDNA library was prepared using the SMARTer™ PCR cDNA Synthesis Kit, following the manufacturer's instructions (Clontech Cat. No 634925). The cDNA library was normalized using the Trimmer kit (Evrogen Cat No NK001) and cloned in the PCR4-TOPO vector (Invitrogen). The normalization of the clones introduced M2 adapters (Trimmer Kit, Evrogen, SEQ ID NO 92: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG), oppositely oriented at each end of the clones. The recombinant vector constructs were transformed into cells of *Escherichia coli* strain TOP10 (Invitrogen). The transformed cells were subsequently diluted and plated so as to obtain single colonies or clones. The clones were checked to ensure that clone redundancy for the library did not exceed 5%. Single clones were picked in liquid LB (Luria-broth) media, in 96-deep-well plates, and grown overnight at 37°C. The plates also included positive (Lh423) and negative (FP) control clones.

To generate the dsRNA, sense and antisense DNA fragments, containing T7 promoter sequence, were generated by PCR. In brief, per clone, 1µl of bacterial suspension was dispensed in multiwell PCR plates containing REDTaq® (Sigma Cat No D4309) and primers oGCC2738 (SEQ ID NO 93: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG) and oGCC2739 (SEQ ID NO 94: GCGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGAAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG) based on the M2 and the T7-M2 sequences respectively. The PCR reaction was followed by *in vitro* transcription, where per clone, 6µl PCR product were added to 9µl RiboMAX™ Large Scale RNA Production System—T7 (Promega Cat No P1300) and incubated overnight at 37°C. The final dsRNA solution was diluted 2 times in *L. hesperus* sucrose diet, containing 15 % sucrose and 5µg/µl yeast tRNA (Invitrogen Cat No 15401-029) and used for screening. The dsRNA corresponding to the positive Lh423 control clone is SEQ ID NO 101 and to the negative FP control clone is SEQ ID NO 104 (see **Table 4**).

1.2. Screen for novel and potent *Lygus hesperus* target genes using a dsRNA expression cDNA library

A new screening assay for potent *Lygus hesperus* targets has been developed. The assay set-up was as follows: each well of a 96-well plate houses a one-day-old *L. hesperus* nymph exposed to a parafilm sachet containing sucrose diet which includes either test dsRNA or control dsRNA in the presence of tRNA. Each plate contained dsRNA from 90 different clones, 3 x Lh423 (positive control) and 3 x FP (fluorescent protein; negative control). Each clone (test dsRNA) was replicated over three plates. After three days exposure, the nymphal survival number was recorded and the diet replaced

with fresh rearing (complex) diet in absence of dsRNA. The mortality was assessed at days 4, 6 and 8. An identical set up was used for the first and second round confirmation assays, with 8 and 20 insects respectively, with one nymph per well.

The assay system was validated using dsRNA corresponding to Lh423 target as the positive control and a fluorescent protein dsRNA as the negative control: over 90% were true positives and under 5% were false positives, respectively.

Twenty 96 well-plates, named Lh001 to Lh020 (see bottom line in **Figures 1 & 2**), containing 1800 individual clones have been tested. 205 candidates were identified and tested in a first confirmation assay. Setting the threshold at showing $\geq 50\%$ mortality, 41 independent clones were identified and progressed to a second round of confirmation. In the assay, the clones were compared to the positive controls Lh423 (RpL19) and Lh105.2 (Sec23) and the negative control Pt (encoding a coral fluorescent protein). The dsRNA corresponding to the positive (Lh423) control clone is SEQ ID NO 101, to the positive Lh105.2 control clone is SEQ ID NO 102 and to the negative (Pt) control clone is SEQ ID NO 104 (see **Table 4**).

Second round confirmation assays, testing 20 insects / test dsRNA, were initiated for all the test dsRNAs displaying $\geq 50\%$ mortality in the first confirmation (**Figures 1 and 2**). Candidate targets corresponding to the confirmed test dsRNAs were named with an "Lhxxx number" (see **Table 1**). Using the same cut-off at $\geq 50\%$ mortality, 15 targets were confirmed in the first screen.

A second screen for identifying more *Lygus hesperus* targets was performed. The results of the second round confirmation assays are represented in **Figure 12**. Using the same cut-off at $\geq 50\%$ mortality, several targets were confirmed in the second screen (see **Table 1 C**).

1.3. Identification of *Lygus* targets

In parallel to the confirmation insect assays, the inserts corresponding to the positive clones were sequenced and BlastX searches against both *Drosophila* and *Tribolium* protein databases were used to confirm the identity of the targets. **Table 1** provides a summary of the bio-informatics analysis and current annotation of the novel identified *L. hesperus* target sequences.

Fifteen novel *L. hesperus* targets were identified in the first screen and 11 novel *L. Hesperus* targets were identified in the second screen. All targets exhibit high potency against *L. hesperus* nymphs indicating that the cDNAs encoding double-stranded RNAs contained therein are essential for pest survival and thus represent target genes of interest for the purposes of pest control. The DNA sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of these target genes were therefore determined and are provided in **Tables 2 and 3** respectively.

Lh594, the *Lygus hesperus* orthologue of *Drosophila* troponin I, involved in muscle contraction - and therefore absent in plants-, represents a novel class of target belonging to an animal specific physiological pathway not yet explored for GM-RNAi. In the fruit fly, troponin I is described as a haplo-

insufficient gene, displaying a mutant phenotype in the heterozygote state. Such genes may be particularly susceptible to reduced mRNA expression levels and as such can be considered as ideal RNAi targets.

In this Lh594 pathway, eight targets were selected (see **Table 1B**). For each target, up to 4 pairs of degenerated PCR primers were designed based on the alignments of the sequences of various insects, including bee, *Tribolium* and aphid. The primers are being used to amplify fragments from *Lygus hesperus* targets. The DNA sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of these target genes were determined and are provided in **Tables 2 and 3** respectively.

- 10 **Table 1:** *Lygus hesperus* novel targets ranked in % mortality according to the second confirmation assay results (first screen).

Target ID	rank 2nd confirmation	Best <i>Drosophila</i> hit	NAME	SYMBOL
Lh594	1	CG7178	wings up A (troponin I)	wupA
Lh618	2	CG2168	ribosomal protein S3A	RpS3A
Lh609	3	CG4087	ribosomal protein LP1	RpLP1
Lh595	4	-	no <i>Drosophila</i> hit found, <i>Lygus</i> specific target/sequence	
Lh611	5	CG6779	ribosomal protein S3	RpS3
Lh560	6	CG10423	ribosomal protein S27	RpS27
Lh596	7	-	no <i>Drosophila</i> hit found, <i>Lygus</i> specific target/sequence	RpL34b
Lh615	8	CG11522	ribosomal protein L6	RpL6
Lh617	9	CG7283	ribosomal protein L10Ab	RpL10Ab
Lh612	10	CG13389	ribosomal protein S13	RpS13
Lh246	11	CG3195	ribosomal protein L12	RpL12
Lh429	12	CG8900	ribosomal protein S18	RpS18
Lh610	13	CG5502	ribosomal protein L4	RpL4
Lh597	14	no hit found		
Lh598	15	CG34069	mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit II	mt:ColI
Lh614	-	CG7610	ATP synthase-γ chain	ATPsyn-γ

Table 1B: *Lygus hesperus* novel targets in Lh594 pathway

Target ID	Best <i>Drosophila</i> hit(s)	NAME	SYMBOL
Lh619	CG7107	troponin T (upheld)	up

Lh620	CG17927	myosin heavy chain	Mhc
Lh621	CG4843	tropomyosin2 (Tm2)	Tm2
Lh622	CG3201	myosin light chain cytoplasmic	Mlc-c
Lh623	CG3595	spaghetti squash	sqh
Lh624	CG15792	zipper	zip
Lh625	*CG2981,CG7930,CG9073,CG6514,CG12408	troponin C	
Lh626	*CG9073,CG7930,CG2981,CG12408,CG6514	troponin C	

*unclear : multiple hits in family - ranked according e-value

Table 1C: *Lygus hesperus* novel targets ranked in % mortality according to the second confirmation assay results (second screen).

Target ID	rank 2nd confirmation	Best Drosophila hit	NAME	SYMBOL
Lh631	1	CG6846	Ribosomal protein L26	RpL26
Lh634.2	2	CG12775	Ribosomal protein L21	RpL21
Lh634.1	3	CG12775	Ribosomal protein L21	RpL21
Lh630	4	CG11271	Ribosomal protein S12	RpS12
Lh632	5	CG2998	Ribosomal protein S28b	RpS28b
Lh618.2	6	CG2168	Ribosomal protein S3A	RpS3A
Lh629	7	CG4651	Ribosomal protein L13	RpL13
Lh633.2	8	CG17521	Ribosomal protein L10	RpL10
Lh628	9	CG17489	Ribosomal protein L5	RpL5
Lh633	10	CG17521	Ribosomal protein L10	RpL10
Lh627	11	CG2033	Ribosomal protein S15Aa	RpS15A

5

1.4. Full length cDNA cloning by RACE (rapid amplification of cDNA ends)

In order to clone full length cDNA, starting from a known clone of internal fragment from the most potent targets, the 5'/3' RACE kit was used (Roche, Cat. No. 1 734 792; based on Sambrook, J. & Russell, D.M). The standard protocol, described in the Instruction Manual, was followed. Briefly, for a 5' RACE, a target sequence specific antisense primer was designed on the known sequence and used for a first strand cDNA synthesis, using *Lygus* RNA as template. A tail was added to the first strand cDNA and used as an anchor for the second strand synthesis and amplification of an unknown end portion of the transcript. For a 3' RACE, an oligo dT anchor primer was used for the first strand cDNA synthesis. For the 5' and 3' RACEs, nested primers, specific to the target sequence were used

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15

in a second PCR reaction. The PCR fragments were analysed on agarose gel, purified, cloned and sequenced for confirmation.

Full length cDNA sequences corresponding to the targets were assembled in VectorNTi, a fully integrated sequence analysis software package for DNA sequence analysis (Invitrogen).

5

Example 2 *In vitro* production of double-stranded RNAs for gene silencing

2.2. Production of dsRNAs corresponding to the partial sequences of the *Lygus hesperus* target genes

- 10 Double-stranded RNA was synthesized in milligram quantities. First, two separate 5' T7 RNA polymerase promoter templates (a sense template and an antisense template) were generated by PCR. PCRs were designed and carried out so as to produce sense and antisense template polynucleotides, each having the T7 promoter in a different orientation relative to the target sequence to be transcribed.
- 15 For each of the target genes, the sense template was generated using a target-specific T7 forward primer and a target-specific reverse primer. The antisense templates were generated using target-specific forward primers and target-specific T7 reverse primers. The sequences of the respective primers for amplifying the sense and antisense templates via PCR for each of the target genes are provided in **Table 4**. The PCR products were analysed by agarose gel electrophoresis and purified.
- 20 The resultant T7 sense and antisense templates were mixed and transcribed by the addition of T7 RNA polymerase. The single-stranded RNAs produced by transcription from the templates were allowed to anneal, were treated with DNase and RNase, and were purified by precipitation. The sense strand of the resulting dsRNA produced from each of the target genes is provided in **Table 4**.

25 2.2. Survival analysis assays for novel *Lygus hesperus* targets

- To enable ranking according to potency, *in vitro* dsRNAs corresponding to the novel targets were synthesized and applied to *L. hesperus* in 10 days survival analysis bioassays. Briefly, one day old *L. hesperus* nymphs were placed in 96 well-plates with sucrose seals containing 0.5µg/µl target dsRNA, supplemented with 5µg/µl yeast tRNA. The plates were incubated for 3 days under standard *Lygus*
- 30 rearing conditions. At day 3, 6 and 8, the diet seals were refreshed with seals containing *Lygus* diet only. Lh423 (RpL19) was used as positive control and GFP dsRNA and sucrose diet were used as negative controls.

- The results from the survival analyses confirmed the data from the first and second confirmation assays. Lh594 was established as a highly potent target, with activity and speed-to-kill stronger than
- 35 the strong control Lh423.

So far, the *Lygus* screen for novel targets identified new targets with activities higher or in the range of the positive control Lh423, these include Lh429, Lh594, Lh609, Lh610, Lh611, Lh617 and Lh618. The mortality induced by these targets is show in the **Figures 3 and 4**.

To allow a more precise ranking of the targets according to their activity, dose response concentration analyses were made. The novel targets were tested in *in vitro* assays, with concentrations ranging from 0.4 to 0.025 µg/µl. Per condition, 24 one day old nymphs were tested in the 96 well-plate set-up, in sucrose diet supplemented with dsRNA and tRNA carrier. The results are presented as % survival over a 10 day experiment (**Figures 5 to 9**) and are summarized in **Table 5**.

Based on the concentration curve analyses, the targets were ranked by comparison to the bench mark controls Lh423 and Lh105 (**Table 5**).

Table 5: *Lygus* novel targets ranking according to DRCs and compared to bench mark targets Lh423 & Lh105.

Target ID	Potency expressed as µg/µl dsRNA needed to reach 90% kill at day 7
Lh594	0.025 (at day 6)
Lh618	0.05-0.1
Lh612	0.05
Lh615	0.05
Lh423	0.1
Lh595	0.1
Lh560	0.1
Lh610	0.1
Lh617	0.1
Lh105	0.2
Lh614	0.2 (at day 6)
Lh611	0.2
Lh596	0.3
Lh609	ND
Lh429	ND

The potency of Lh594 was further confirmed. This target effect is clearly observed at least one day before the other targets and the bench mark positive control Lh105 and Lh423. Because Lh594 was highly potent, the LD50 was not reached in the standard DRC experiment, with concentration ranging from 0.4 to 0.025µg/µl dsRNA (**Figure 6**), the Lh594 experiment was therefore repeated, including lower concentrations ranging from 0.05 to 0.001 µg/µl dsRNA (**Figure 10**). In conclusion, Lh594 activity was observed at concentration as low as 0.0025 µg/µl and about 90% kill (corresponding to about 10 % survival) was obtained at day 6 with 0.025 µg dsRNA.

To further explore the potency of Lh594 and the role of tRNA carrier in the RNAi response in *Lygus hesperus*, additional *in vitro* feeding assays were set up in the absence of carrier tRNA. Lh594, Lh423

(bench mark control) and GFP (negative control) dsRNAs were produced *in vitro*, using the standard method. The dsRNAs were purified and tested at 5 µg/µl in the absence of tRNA (**Figure 11 A**).

In absence of tRNA, targets Lh594 and Lh423, induced high lethality in *Lygus* nymphs. The results from this experiment have been since reproduced. Target dsRNA was able to induce RNAi-by-feeding effects in *Lygus* nymphs in the absence of tRNA.

To investigate the activity of dsRNA at lower concentrations in the absence of carrier tRNA, additional experiments were set up, using decreasing amounts of dsRNA (**Figure 11 B**).

A similar approach was followed for the *Lygus* targets that were identified in the second screen. To allow a ranking of the targets according to their activity, dose response concentration analyses were made. The novel targets were tested in *in vitro* assays, with concentrations ranging from 0.5 to 0.05 µg/µl. Per condition, 24 one day old nymphs were tested in the 96 well-plate set-up, in sucrose diet supplemented with dsRNA and tRNA carrier. The results are presented as % survival over a 9 day experiment (**Figures 15 A-D**). Lh594 and Lh423 have been included in the assay as a reference targets. The results are summarized in **Table 6**. Based on the concentration curve analyses, the targets were ranked by comparison to the bench mark control Lh423.

Table 6: *Lygus* novel targets from second screen-ranking according to DRCs and compared to bench mark targets Lh423 & Lh594.

Target ID	Potency expressed as µg/µl dsRNA needed to reach 90% kill at day 7
Lh594	0.025 (at day 6)
Lh634	0.1
Lh423	0.1
Lh631	0.4
Lh633	0.4
Lh627	0.5
Lh628	0.5
Lh630	0.5
Lh632	0.5
Lh629	ND

Example 3 Troponin pathway screen

To enable testing of the Troponin pathway targets, *in vitro* produced dsRNAs corresponding to

Lh619, Lh620, Lh621, Lh622, Lh622, Lh623, Lh624, Lh625 and Lh626 were synthesized and applied to *L. hesperus* in 10 days survival analysis bioassays. Briefly, one day old *L. hesperus* nymphs were

placed in 96 well-plates with sucrose seals containing 0.5µg/µl target dsRNA, supplemented with 5 µg/µl yeast tRNA. The plates were incubated for 3 days under standard *Lygus* rearing conditions. At day 3, 6 and 8, the diet seals were refreshed with seals containing *Lygus* diet only. Lh594 (Troponin I) was used as positive control and GFP dsRNA and sucrose diet were used as negative controls (Figure 13). Four targets were then included in dose response curve analyses in an *in vitro* assay, with concentrations ranging from 0.4 to 0.025 µg/µl. Per condition, 24 one day old nymphs were tested in the 96 well-plate set-up, in sucrose diet supplemented with dsRNA and tRNA carrier. The results are presented as % survival over a 10 day experiment (Figures 14 A-B).

Example 4 Identification of target genes in *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*

4.1. *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* normalized cDNA library and preparation of dsRNAs in multiwell plates for the screening assays

Nucleic acids were isolated from *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* larvae of different stages. A cDNA library was prepared using the SMARTer™ PCR cDNA Synthesis Kit, following the manufacturer's instructions (Clontech Cat. No 634925). The cDNA library was normalized using the Trimmer kit (Evrogen Cat No NK001) and cloned in the PCR®-BLUNTII-TOPO® vector (Invitrogen). The normalization of the clones introduced M2 adapters (Trimmer Kit, Evrogen, SEQ ID NO 92: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG), oppositely oriented at each end of the clones. The recombinant vector constructs were transformed into cells of *Escherichia coli* strain TOP10 (Invitrogen). The transformed cells were subsequently diluted and plated so as to obtain single colonies or clones. The clones were checked to ensure that clone redundancy for the library did not exceed 5%. Single clones were inoculated into liquid LB (Luria-broth) media, in 96-well plates, and grown overnight at 37°C. The plates also included positive (Ld513) and negative (FP) control clones.

To generate the dsRNA, sense and antisense DNA fragments, containing T7 promoter sequence, were generated by PCR. In brief, per clone, 1 µl of bacterial suspension was dispensed in multiwell PCR plates containing REDTaq® (Sigma Cat No D4309) and primers oGCC2738 (SEQ ID NO 93: AAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG) and oGCC2739 (SEQ ID NO 94: GCGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGAAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAG) based on the M2 and the T7-M2 sequences, respectively. The PCR reaction was followed by *in vitro* transcription, where, per clone, 6 µl PCR product was used in a 20 µl reaction volume containing the transcription reagents provided by the RiboMAX™ Large Scale RNA Production System - T7 kit (Promega Cat No P1300) and incubated overnight at 37°C. The final dsRNA solution was diluted in sterile Milli-Q water and used for screening. The dsRNA corresponding to the positive Ld513 control clone is SEQ ID NO 400 (see Table 9) and to the negative FP control clone is SEQ ID NO 104 (see Table 4).

4.2. Screen for novel and potent *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* target genes using a dsRNA expression cDNA library

Each well of a 48-well plate contained 0.5 mL artificial diet pretreated with a topical overlay of 25 µl (or 1 µg) of the test or control dsRNA. One L2 larva was placed in each well and 3 larvae were tested per clone. CPB survival numbers were assessed at days 4, 7 and 10.

In a second bioassay, CPB larvae were fed on diet treated with topically applied test dsRNA generated from clones derived from a normalized cDNA library. One larva was placed in a well of a 48-well multiplate containing 0.5 mL diet pretreated with a topical overlay of 25 µL of a 40 ng/µL dsRNA solution. A total of twenty-four larvae were tested per treatment (clone). The number of surviving insects were assessed at days 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 11. The larval mortality percentage was calculated relative to day 0 (start of assay) (see **Figure 21**).

4.3. Identification of *L. decemlineata* beetle targets

The new target sequences from the screen in 5.2. and the target sequences corresponding to the troponin pathway targets, orthologous to the *Lygus* Lh594, Lh619 and Lh620 sequences, have been identified in *L. decemlineata*. The primers which provided relevant cDNA fragment for Ld594 are listed in **Table 17**. The cDNA sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of these target genes were determined and are provided in **Tables 7 and 9** respectively.

4.4. Production of dsRNAs corresponding to the partial sequences of the *L. decemlineata* target genes

dsRNA was synthesized using the primers as provided in **Table 9**. The sense strand of the resulting dsRNA produced from the target genes is provided in **Table 9**.

4.5. Survival analysis assays for novel *L. decemlineata* targets

Early larval assay

Synthetic dsRNAs were produced for the 3 targets, Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620, and were tested in a feeding assay on CPB larvae (see **Figure 16**). A 10 day assay was performed in 48 well plates, on artificial diet (based on Gelman *et al*, J Ins Sc, 1:7, 1-10: Artificial diets for rearing the Colorado Potato Beetle), supplemented with 1 µg dsRNA /well, with 12 larvae per condition.

A clear effect on the development of the larvae could be observed. A second assay was set up to investigate the effect of these dsRNAs during the course of pupation and metamorphosis (see pupation assay underneath).

Pupation assay

A CPB pupation assay was set up to investigate the effect of RNAi knock-down of Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620 during pupation and metamorphosis. Fourth instar larvae were fed 1 µg *in vitro* synthesized dsRNA dispensed on a potato leaf disk and were then transferred to a box containing untreated fresh potato leaves. Four days later the surviving insects were placed on vermiculite to allow pupation.

Lh594 treated insects were slow, smaller and mostly were unable to go through pupation. The hatching of the pupa was assessed at the end of the experiment. For the untreated control 24 larvae pupated and all hatched into healthy adults. For Ld620, a decrease in numbers of larvae progressing into pupation was observed. For the three targets tested, no larvae progressed into healthy pupae and none emerged into adult. Dead insects recovered from the vermiculite showed various degrees of malformations (**Figure 17**).

Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620, first appeared as not lethal targets in the CPB larval assay, although a reduction of vitality was clearly observed in the dsRNA treated insects. On the other hand, in the pupation assay, all 3 targets induced strong effects and inhibited the entry in pupation and/or metamorphosis.

Adult assay

To assess activity of Ld594, Ld619 and Ld620 in CPB adults, a leaf disc assay was set up. A potato leaf disc (1.7 cm diameter) was painted with dsRNA or controls and was placed in a 3.5 cm Petri dish with one adult beetle. The next day a fresh treated leaf disc was provided to the insects. On the third day, the adults were transferred to a box containing enough fresh, untreated potato leaves to sustain the survival of the untreated controls. Per treatment, 6 adults were tested and the numbers of survivors and moribund insects were counted at regular intervals from day 6 to day 13. The insects were considered moribund if they were unable to right themselves after being placed on their back. Despite the relatively high level of background in the negative control in this particular assay, clear effects were observed for the insects that had been exposed to Ld594 or Ld619 dsRNAs (**Figure 18**).

Example 5 Identification of target genes in *Nilaparvata lugens*

5.1 Identification of *Nilaparvata lugens* targets

New target sequences, corresponding to Troponin pathway targets and named NI594 (Troponin I), NI619 (Troponin T) and NI626 (Troponin C) have been identified in brown plant hopper, *Nilaparvata lugens*. Orthologous sequences of the *Lygus* genes, named NI594 (Troponin I), NI619 (Troponin T) and NI625/626 (Troponin C), were cloned through degenerated primer PCR, using BPH cDNA as template. In addition, full length cDNA was identified for NI594, using RACE (see above for method). AmpliTaq Gold PCR system (Applied Biosystems) was used following the manufacturers' instructions and with standard conditions for the degenerate primer PCR reactions, typically as follows: 1 cycle with 10 minutes at 95 °C, followed by 40 cycles with 30 seconds at 95 °C, 1 minute at 50 °C and 1 minute at 72 °C, followed by 10 minutes at 72 °C. To increase the rate of success, up to 10 different degenerated primers, forward and reverse, were designed, based on alignments of orthologous sequences in other species, and used in various combinations. PCR fragments obtained were purified from the gel by gel extraction kit (Qiagen Cat. No 28706) and cloned into a TOPO TA vector (Invitrogen). The clones were sequenced and the consensus sequences were used in Blast searches

against various available insect sequence databases to confirm the relevance of the insert. The degenerated primers that resulted in successful amplification are listed in **Table 18**.

The DNA sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of these target genes and one other target gene (NI537) were determined and are provided in **Tables 10 and 11** respectively.

5

5.2 Production of dsRNAs corresponding to the partial sequences of the *Nilaparvata lugens* target genes

dsRNA was synthesized using the primers as provided in **Table 12**. The sense strand of the resulting dsRNA produced from each of the target genes is provided in **Table 12**.

10

5.3 Survival analysis assays for novel *Nilaparvata lugens* targets

dsRNAs were synthesized and tested in the previously optimized BPH RNAi-by-feeding assays, in the presence of the zwitterionic detergent, CHAPSO, at 0.1% final concentration. The dsRNAs were tested at 0.5 µg/µl final concentration. NI537, a potent target in the BPH assays was used as bench mark target in the assay. The insect survival was assessed over the course of 9 days.

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The results of the bioassay showed that in BPH NI594, NI619 and NI626 were also potent RNAi targets in BPH (**Figure 19**).

Example 6 Identification of target genes in *Acyrtosiphon pisum*

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6.1 Identification of *Acyrtosiphon pisum* targets

New target sequences have been identified in aphids and were named Ap423, Ap537, Ap560 and Ap594, following the same nomenclature: "Apxxx", where "Ap" corresponds to *Acyrtosiphon pisum* and "xxx" to the ID of the target. Primers were designed based on public domain gene prediction in AphidBase (ref: <http://www.aphidbase.com/>) (**Table 13**).

25

The DNA sequences and deduced amino acid sequences of these target genes were determined and are provided in **Tables 14 and 15** respectively.

30

6.2 Production of dsRNAs corresponding to the partial sequences of the aphid target genes

dsRNA was synthesized using the primers as provided in **Table 16**. The sense strand of the resulting dsRNA produced from each of the target genes is provided in **Table 16**.

6.3 Survival analysis assays for novel aphid targets

35

RNAi-by-feeding was tested in *Acyrtosiphon pisum* (pea aphid) with 4 targets Ap594, Ap423, Ap560, Ap537. The sequences were amplified by PCR using primers, designed on public domain sequence information (<http://www.aphidbase.com/>), and cDNA prepared from aphids. The synthetic dsRNAs

were prepared and tested at a final concentration of 0.5 µg/µl in presence of 5 µg/µl yeast tRNA in a sucrose diet. Ten neonate pea aphid nymphs were placed in a small Petri dish (32 mm). Fifty µl diet (with tRNA and dsRNA) was pipetted on top of the first layer of parafilm. A second layer of parafilm covered the diet and created a feeding sachet where the aphids could feed. Per target five replicates of 10 neonate nymphs were set-up. GFP dsRNA was used as a negative control. The diet was refreshed on day 4 and 7 of the assays and survival was assessed (**Figure 20**).

Table 2

Target ID	cDNA Sequence (sense strand) 5' → 3'
Lh594	SEQ ID NO 1
Lh609	SEQ ID NO 3
Lh610	SEQ ID NO 5
Lh610 (b)	SEQ ID NO 139
Lh611	SEQ ID NO 7
Lh611 (b)	SEQ ID NO 140
Lh617	SEQ ID NO 9
Lh618	SEQ ID NO 11
Lh618 (b)	SEQ ID NO 141
Lh429	SEQ ID NO 13
Lh423	SEQ ID NO 95
Lh105.2	SEQ ID NO 96
Lh560	SEQ ID NO 15
Lh615	SEQ ID NO 17
Lh612	SEQ ID NO 19
Lh246	SEQ ID NO 21
Lh597	SEQ ID NO 23
Lh598	SEQ ID NO 25
Lh619	SEQ ID NO 121
Lh619 (b)	SEQ ID NO 142
Lh619 (c)	SEQ ID NO 143

Lh620	SEQ ID NO 122
Lh620 (b)	SEQ ID NO 144
Lh620 (c)	SEQ ID NO 145
Lh621	SEQ ID NO 123
Lh622	SEQ ID NO 124
Lh623	SEQ ID NO 125
Lh623 (b)	SEQ ID NO 146
Lh624	SEQ ID NO 126
Lh624 (b)	SEQ ID NO 147
Lh625	SEQ ID NO 127
Lh625 (b)	SEQ ID NO 148
Lh626	SEQ ID NO 128
Lh626 (b)	SEQ ID NO 149
Lh614	SEQ ID NO 129
Lh627	SEQ ID NO 150
Lh628	SEQ ID NO 152
Lh629	SEQ ID NO 154
Lh630	SEQ ID NO 156
Lh631	SEQ ID NO 158
Lh632	SEQ ID NO 160
Lh633.1	SEQ ID NO 162
Lh633.2	SEQ ID NO 163
Lh634.1	SEQ ID NO 165
Lh634.2	SEQ ID NO 167
Lh595.1	SEQ ID NO 168
Lh595.2	SEQ ID NO 170
Lh596	SEQ ID NO 172

Table 3

Target ID	Corresponding amino acid sequence of cDNA clone as represented in Table 2
Lh594	SEQ ID NO 79
Lh609	SEQ ID NO 80
Lh610	SEQ ID NO 81
Lh610 (b)	SEQ ID NO 326
Lh611	SEQ ID NO 82
Lh611 (b)	SEQ ID NO 327
Lh617	SEQ ID NO 83
Lh618	SEQ ID NO 84
Lh618 (b)	SEQ ID NO 328
Lh429	SEQ ID NO 85
Lh429 (b)	SEQ ID NO 329
Lh423	SEQ ID NO 99
Lh105.2	SEQ ID NO 100
Lh560	SEQ ID NO 86
Lh615	SEQ ID NO 87
Lh612	SEQ ID NO 88
Lh246	SEQ ID NO 89
Lh597	SEQ ID NO 90
Lh598	SEQ ID NO 91
Lh619	SEQ ID NO 330
Lh620	SEQ ID NO 331
Lh621	SEQ ID NO 332
Lh622	SEQ ID NO 333
Lh623	SEQ ID NO 334
Lh624	SEQ ID NO 335

Lh625	SEQ ID NO 336
Lh626	SEQ ID NO 337
Lh614	SEQ ID NO 338
Lh627	SEQ ID NO 339
Lh628	SEQ ID NO 340
Lh629	SEQ ID NO 341
Lh630	SEQ ID NO 342
Lh631	SEQ ID NO 343
Lh632	SEQ ID NO 344
Lh633.1	SEQ ID NO 345
Lh633.2	SEQ ID NO 346
Lh634.1	SEQ ID NO 347
Lh634.2	SEQ ID NO 348

Table 4

Target ID	Primers Forward 5' → 3'	Primers Reverse 5' → 3'	dsRNA: sense strand represented by equivalent DNA Sequence 5' → 3'
Lh594	SEQ ID NO 27 SEQ ID NO 29	SEQ ID NO 28 SEQ ID NO 30	SEQ ID NO 2
Lh609	SEQ ID NO 31 SEQ ID NO 33	SEQ ID NO 32 SEQ ID NO 34	SEQ ID NO 4
Lh610	SEQ ID NO 35 SEQ ID NO 37	SEQ ID NO 36 SEQ ID NO 38	SEQ ID NO 6
Lh611	SEQ ID NO 39 SEQ ID NO 41	SEQ ID NO 40 SEQ ID NO 42	SEQ ID NO 8
Lh617	SEQ ID NO 43 SEQ ID NO 45	SEQ ID NO 44 SEQ ID NO 46	SEQ ID NO 10
Lh618	SEQ ID NO 47	SEQ ID NO 48	SEQ ID NO 12

	SEQ ID NO 49	SEQ ID NO 50	
Lh429	SEQ ID NO 51 SEQ ID NO 53	SEQ ID NO 52 SEQ ID NO 54	SEQ ID NO 14
Lh423	SEQ ID NO 105 SEQ ID NO 107	SEQ ID NO 106 SEQ ID NO 108	SEQ ID NO 101
Lh105.2	SEQ ID NO 109 SEQ ID NO 111	SEQ ID NO 110 SEQ ID NO 112	SEQ ID NO 102
GFP	SEQ ID NO 113 SEQ ID NO 115	SEQ ID NO 114 SEQ ID NO 116	SEQ ID NO 103
Pt	SEQ ID NO 117 SEQ ID NO 119	SEQ ID NO 118 SEQ ID NO 120	SEQ ID NO 104
Lh560	SEQ ID NO 55 SEQ ID NO 57	SEQ ID NO 56 SEQ ID NO 58	SEQ ID NO 16
Lh615	SEQ ID NO 59 SEQ ID NO 61	SEQ ID NO 60 SEQ ID NO 62	SEQ ID NO 18
Lh612	SEQ ID NO 63 SEQ ID NO 65	SEQ ID NO 64 SEQ ID NO 66	SEQ ID NO 20
Lh246	SEQ ID NO 67 SEQ ID NO 69	SEQ ID NO 68 SEQ ID NO 70	SEQ ID NO 22
Lh597	SEQ ID NO 71 SEQ ID NO 73	SEQ ID NO 72 SEQ ID NO 74	SEQ ID NO 24
Lh598	SEQ ID NO 75 SEQ ID NO 77	SEQ ID NO 76 SEQ ID NO 78	SEQ ID NO 26
Lh619	SEQ ID NO 206 SEQ ID NO 208	SEQ ID NO 207 SEQ ID NO 209	SEQ ID NO 130
Lh620	SEQ ID NO 210	SEQ ID NO 211	SEQ ID NO 131

	SEQ ID NO 212	SEQ ID NO 213	
Lh621	SEQ ID NO 214 SEQ ID NO 216	SEQ ID NO 215 SEQ ID NO 217	SEQ ID NO 132
Lh622	SEQ ID NO 218 SEQ ID NO 220	SEQ ID NO 219 SEQ ID NO 221	SEQ ID NO 133
Lh623	SEQ ID NO 222 SEQ ID NO 224	SEQ ID NO 223 SEQ ID NO 225	SEQ ID NO 134
Lh624	SEQ ID NO 226 SEQ ID NO 228	SEQ ID NO 227 SEQ ID NO 229	SEQ ID NO 135
Lh625	SEQ ID NO 230 SEQ ID NO 232	SEQ ID NO 231 SEQ ID NO 233	SEQ ID NO 136
Lh626	SEQ ID NO 234 SEQ ID NO 236	SEQ ID NO 235 SEQ ID NO 237	SEQ ID NO 137
Lh614	SEQ ID NO 238 SEQ ID NO 240	SEQ ID NO 239 SEQ ID NO 241	SEQ ID NO 138
Lh627	SEQ ID NO 242 SEQ ID NO 244	SEQ ID NO 243 SEQ ID NO 245	SEQ ID NO 151
Lh628	SEQ ID NO 246 SEQ ID NO 248	SEQ ID NO 247 SEQ ID NO 249	SEQ ID NO 153
Lh629	SEQ ID NO 250 SEQ ID NO 25	SEQ ID NO 251 SEQ ID NO 253	SEQ ID NO 155
Lh630	SEQ ID NO 254 SEQ ID NO 256	SEQ ID NO 255 SEQ ID NO 257	SEQ ID NO 157
Lh631	SEQ ID NO 258 SEQ ID NO 260	SEQ ID NO 259 SEQ ID NO 261	SEQ ID NO 159
Lh632	SEQ ID NO 262	SEQ ID NO 263	SEQ ID NO 161

	SEQ ID NO 264	SEQ ID NO 265	
Lh633.2	SEQ ID NO 266 SEQ ID NO 268	SEQ ID NO 267 SEQ ID NO 269	SEQ ID NO 164
Lh634.1	SEQ ID NO 270 SEQ ID NO 272	SEQ ID NO 271 SEQ ID NO 273	SEQ ID NO 166
Lh595	SEQ ID NO 274 SEQ ID NO 276	SEQ ID NO 275 SEQ ID NO 277	SEQ ID NO 169
Lh596	SEQ ID NO 278 SEQ ID NO 280	SEQ ID NO 279 SEQ ID NO 281	SEQ ID NO 173

Table 7

Target ID	cDNA sequence (sense strand) 5' → 3'
Ld594	SEQ ID NO 174
Ld619	SEQ ID NO 176
Ld620	SEQ ID NO 178
Ld583	SEQ ID NO 386
Ld584	SEQ ID NO 387
Ld586	SEQ ID NO 388
Ld588	SEQ ID NO 389
Ld513	SEQ ID NO 394

5 **Table 8**

Target ID	Corresponding amino acid sequence of cDNA clone as represented in Table 9
Ld594	SEQ ID NO 349
Ld619	SEQ ID NO 350
Ld620	SEQ ID NO 351

Ld583	SEQ ID NO 390
Ld584	SEQ ID NO 391
Ld586	SEQ ID NO 392
Ld588	SEQ ID NO 393
Ld513	SEQ ID NO 395

Table 9

Target ID	Primers Forward 5' → 3'	Primers Reverse 5' → 3'	dsRNA: sense strand represented by equivalent DNA Sequence 5' → 3'
Ld594	SEQ ID NO 282 SEQ ID NO 284	SEQ ID NO 283 SEQ ID NO 285	SEQ ID NO 175
Ld619	SEQ ID NO 286 SEQ ID NO 288	SEQ ID NO 287 SEQ ID NO 289	SEQ ID NO 177
Ld620	SEQ ID NO 290 SEQ ID NO 292	SEQ ID NO 291 SEQ ID NO 293	SEQ ID NO 179
Ld513	SEQ ID NO 396 SEQ ID NO 398	SEQ ID NO 397 SEQ ID NO 399	SEQ ID NO 400

Table 10

Target ID	cDNA Sequence (sense strand) 5' → 3'
NI594	SEQ ID NO 180
NI619	SEQ ID NO 182
NI626	SEQ ID NO 184
NI537	SEQ ID NO 186

5

Table 11

Target ID	Corresponding amino acid sequence of cDNA clone as represented in Table 12
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NI594	SEQ ID NO 352
NI619	SEQ ID NO 353
NI626	SEQ ID NO 354
NI537	SEQ ID NO 355

Table 12

Target ID	Primers Forward 5' → 3'	Primers Reverse 5' → 3'	dsRNA: sense strand represented by equivalent DNA Sequence 5' → 3'
NI594	SEQ ID NO 294 SEQ ID NO 296	SEQ ID NO 295 SEQ ID NO 297	SEQ ID NO 181
NI619	SEQ ID NO 298 SEQ ID NO 300	SEQ ID NO 299 SEQ ID NO 301	SEQ ID NO 183
NI626	SEQ ID NO 302 SEQ ID NO 304	SEQ ID NO 303 SEQ ID NO 305	SEQ ID NO 185
NI537	SEQ ID NO 306 SEQ ID NO 308	SEQ ID NO 307 SEQ ID NO 309	SEQ ID NO 187

Table 13

Target	Fw primer sequence	Reverse primer sequence
Ap594	SEQ ID NO 369	SEQ ID NO 370
Ap423	SEQ ID NO 371	SEQ ID NO 372
Ap537	SEQ ID NO 373	SEQ ID NO 374
Ap560	SEQ ID NO 375	SEQ ID NO 376

5

Table 14

Target ID	cDNA Sequence (sense strand) 5' → 3'
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Ap594	SEQ ID NO 188
Ap423	SEQ ID NO 200
Ap537	SEQ ID NO 202
Ap560	SEQ ID NO 204

Table 15

Target ID	Corresponding amino acid sequence of cDNA clone as represented in Table 16
Ap594	SEQ ID NO 356
Ap423	SEQ ID NO 357
Ap537	SEQ ID NO 358
Ap560	SEQ ID NO 359

Table 16

Target ID	Primers Forward 5' → 3'	Primers Reverse 5' → 3'	dsRNA: sense strand represented by equivalent DNA sequence 5' → 3'
Ap594	SEQ ID NO 310 SEQ ID NO 312	SEQ ID NO 311 SEQ ID NO 313	SEQ ID NO 189
Ap423	SEQ ID NO 314 SEQ ID NO 316	SEQ ID NO 315 SEQ ID NO 317	SEQ ID NO 201
Ap537	SEQ ID NO 318 SEQ ID NO 320	SEQ ID NO 319 SEQ ID NO 321	SEQ ID NO 203
Ap560	SEQ ID NO 322 SEQ ID NO 324	SEQ ID NO 323 SEQ ID NO 325	SEQ ID NO 205

5

Table 17

Target	Forward primer	Reverse primer
Ld594	SEQ ID NO 377	SEQ ID NO 378

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Table 18

Target	Forward primer	Reverse primer
NI594	seq id no 379	seq id no 380
NI619	seq id no 381	seq id no 382
NI626	seq id no 383	seq id no 384

5 **Table 19**

Target ID	Best Drosophila hit	NAME	SYMBOL
Ld583	CG4759	Ribosomal protein L27	RpL27
Ld584	CG 17331	Proteasome, beta-type subunit	
Ld586	CG13704	unknown	
Ld588	CG4157	Rpn12	

Table 20

Target ID	Best Drosophila hit	NAME	SYMBOL
NI594	CG7178	wings up A (troponin I)	wupA
NI619	CG7107	troponin T (upheld)	up
NI626	*CG9073, CG7930, CG2981, CG12408, CG6514, CG2981, CG7930, CG9073, CG6514, CG12408	troponin C	
NI537	CG32744	Ubiquitin-5E; protein modification process	

*unclear : multiple hits in family

10 **Table 21**

Target ID	Best Drosophila hit	NAME	SYMBOL
Ap594	CG7178	wings up A (troponin I)	wupA
Ap423	CG2746	ribosomal protein L19	RpL19
Ap537	CG32744	Ubiquitin-5E; protein	

		modification process	
Ap560	CG10423	ribosomal protein S27	RpS27

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the above mentioned assays without departing from the spirit or scope of this assay as generically described. Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific examples, and such equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the present invention. The present example, therefore, is to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

Claims

1. An interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) that functions upon uptake by an insect pest species to down-regulate expression of a target gene in said insect pest,

5 wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and

wherein the target gene

10 (i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to
15 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172,
20 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204,
25 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

35 (ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176,

182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to

213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152,

153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

2. The interfering RNA of claim 1 wherein the silencing element comprises or consists of a sequence of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides which is complementary or at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene.

3. The interfering RNA of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the RNA comprises at least two silencing elements, wherein each silencing element comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within a target gene.

4. The interfering RNA of claim 3 wherein each of the silencing elements comprises or consists of a different sequence of nucleotides which is complementary to a different target nucleotide sequence.

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5. The interfering RNA of claim 4 wherein the different target nucleotide sequences originate from a single target gene or from different target genes.

6. The interfering RNA of claim 5 wherein the different target genes originate from the same insect pest species or different insect pest species.

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7. The interfering RNA of any of claims 1-6 wherein the insect pest species is a plant pest.

8. The interfering RNA of claim 7 wherein the plant pest is an insect pest species selected from the insect species belonging to the orders *Coleoptera*, *Hemiptera*, *Lepidoptera*, *Diptera*, *Dichyoptera*, *Orthoptera*, and *Siphonaptera*.

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9. The interfering RNA of claim 8 wherein the insect plant pest is selected from the group consisting of *Leptinotarsa* spp. (e.g. *L. decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle), *L. juncta* (false potato beetle), or *L. texana* (Texan false potato beetle)); *Nilaparvata* spp. (e.g. *N. lugens* (brown planthopper)); *Lygus* spp. (e.g. *L. lineolaris* (tarnished plant bug) or *L. hesperus* (western tarnished plant bug)); *Myzus* spp. (e.g. *M. persicae* (green peach aphid)); *Diabrotica* spp. (e.g. *D. virgifera virgifera* (western corn rootworm), *D. barberi* (northern corn rootworm), *D. undecimpunctata howardi* (southern corn rootworm), *D. virgifera zea* (Mexican corn rootworm)).

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10. The interfering RNA of any of claims 1-10 wherein the target gene encodes an insect protein chosen from the group comprising (i) a protein from the troponin/myofilament complex chosen from the group comprising the troponin I (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7178 Dm protein), the upheld protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7107 Dm protein), the tropomyosin 1 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4898 Dm protein), the tropomyosin 2 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4843 Dm protein), the myosin heavy chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17927 Dm protein), the myosin light chain cytoplasmic protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3201 Dm protein), the spaghetti squash protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3595 Dm protein), the zipper protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG15792 Dm protein), the troponin C (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2981, CG7930, CG9073, CG6514, CG12408, CG9073, CG7930, CG2981, CG12408 or CG6514 Dm protein); (ii) an insect ribosomal protein chosen from the group comprising the ribosomal protein S3A (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2168 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein LP1 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4087 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S3 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6779 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L10Ab (e.g. an insect orthologue

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of the CG7283 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S18 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG8900 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L4 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG5502 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG10423 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L6 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11522 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG13389 Dm protein), and the ribosomal protein L12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG3195 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L26 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG6846 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L21 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG12775 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S12 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG11271 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S28b (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2998 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L13 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4651 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L10 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17521 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L5 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17489 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein S15Aa (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2033 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L19 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG2746 Dm protein), the ribosomal protein L27 (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4759 Dm protein); ~~and~~ (iii) the mitochondrial cytochrome c oxidase subunit II protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG34069 Dm protein); (iv) the ATP synthase- γ chain (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG7610 Dm protein); (v) the ubiquitin-5E (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG32744 Dm protein); (vi) the proteasome beta-type subunit (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG17331 Dm protein), (vii) the protein which is an insect orthologue of the CG13704 Dm protein; and (viii) the Rpn12 protein (e.g. an insect orthologue of the CG4157 Dm protein).

11. The interfering RNA of any of claims 1-10 wherein down-regulating expression of the target gene causes decreased growth, development, reproduction, or survival of the pest as compared with pest species exposed to an interfering ribonucleic acid targeting a non-essential gene or an interfering ribonucleic acid that does not down-regulate any genes within the pest species.

12. A polynucleotide comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding the interfering RNA of any of claims 1-11.

13. The polynucleotide of claim 12 which is comprised in a DNA construct.

14. The DNA construct of claim 13 which is an expression construct, wherein the polynucleotide sequence encoding the interfering RNA is operably linked to at least one regulatory sequence capable of driving expression of the polynucleotide sequence.

15. A host cell comprising an interfering RNA of any of claims 1-11, the polynucleotide of claim 12 or the DNA construct of claim 13 or 14.

16. The host cell of claim 15 wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic or a eukaryotic cell.

17. The host cell of claim 16 wherein the host cell is a bacterial cell.

18. A composition for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation comprising at least one
5 interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) and at least one suitable carrier, excipient or diluent, wherein the
interfering RNA functions upon uptake by the pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene
within said pest,

wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region
of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises
10 or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target
nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and

wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs
1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34,
15 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15,
204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71
to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to
301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218
to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128,
20 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152,
153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262
to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172,
173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387,
388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two

25 sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1,
174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139,
5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204,
16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to
74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301,
30 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to
221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149,
184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246
to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265,
163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278
35 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or
the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at
least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30,

282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or (iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18,

59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218

to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

19. The composition of claim 18 wherein the interfering RNA is as defined in any of claims 1-11.

20. The composition of claim 18 or claim 19 wherein the interfering RNA is encoded by a DNA construct of claim 13 or claim 14.

21. The composition of any of claims 18-20 comprising a host cell expressing or capable of expressing the interfering RNA.

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the host cell is a bacterial cell.

23. The composition of any of claims 18-22 wherein the composition is in a form suitable for ingestion by an insect.

24. The composition of any of claims 18-23 wherein the composition is in solid, liquid or gel form.

25. The composition of any of claims 18-24 wherein the composition is formulated as an insecticidal spray.

26. The composition of claim 25 wherein the spray is a pressurized/aerosolized spray or a pump spray.

27. The composition of any of claims 18-26 wherein the composition further comprises at least one pesticidal agent selected from the group consisting of a chemical insecticide, a patatin, a *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein, a *Xenorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Photorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Bacillus laterosporus* insecticidal protein, and a *Bacillus sphaericus* insecticidal protein.

28. The composition of claim 27 wherein said *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein is selected from the group consisting of a Cry1, a Cry3, a TIC851, a CryET170, a Cry22, a TIC901, a TIC201, a TIC407, a TIC417, a binary insecticidal protein CryET80 and CryET76, a binary insecticidal protein TIC100 and TIC101, a combination of an insecticidal protein ET29 or ET37 with an insecticidal protein TIC810 or TIC812, and a binary insecticidal protein PS149B1.

29. A housing or trap for an insect pest which contains a composition as defined in any of claims 18-28.

30. Use of a composition according to any of claims 18 to 28 for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation.

31. Use of a composition according to any of claims 18 to 28 as a pesticide for a plant or for propagation of reproductive material of a plant.

32. A combination for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation comprising the composition of any of claims 18 to 28 and at least one other active agent.

33. The combination of claim 32 wherein the combination is for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation of a plant and the other active agent is an agronomical agent.

34. The combination of claim 33 wherein the agronomical agent comprises a herbicide.

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35. The combination of claim 34 wherein the herbicide is selected from a glyphosate-insensitive version of a 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS), a catabolic enzyme that is able to break down dicamba such as dicamba monooxygenase or a phosphinothricin acetyl transferase gene that is able to catabolize glufosinate-ammonium.

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36. The combination of claim 33 wherein the agronomical agent comprises a second pesticide.

37. The combination of claim 36 wherein the second pesticide is selected from the group consisting of a chemical insecticide, a patatin, a *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein, a *Xenorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Photorhabdus* insecticidal protein, a *Bacillus laterosporus* insecticidal protein, and a *Bacillus sphaericus* insecticidal protein.

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38. The combination of claim 37 wherein said *Bacillus thuringiensis* insecticidal protein is selected from the group consisting of a Cry1, a Cry3, a TIC851, a CryET170, a Cry22, a TIC901, a TIC201, a TIC407, a TIC417, a binary insecticidal protein CryET80 and CryET76, a binary insecticidal protein TIC100 and TIC101, a combination of an insecticidal protein ET29 or ET37 with an insecticidal protein TIC810 or TIC812, and a binary insecticidal protein PS149B1.

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39. A method for down-regulating expression of a target gene in an insect pest species in order to prevent and/or control pest infestation, comprising contacting said pest species with an effective amount of at least one interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA), wherein the interfering RNA functions upon uptake by the pest to down-regulate the expression of a target gene within said pest, wherein the RNA comprises at least one silencing element wherein the silencing element is a region of double-stranded RNA comprising annealed complementary strands, one strand of which comprises or consists of a sequence of nucleotides which is at least partially complementary to a target nucleotide sequence within the target gene, and wherein the target gene

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(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128,

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149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387,

5 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1-26, 121-205, 386-389, 394, 400, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30,

10 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147,

15 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof,

20 or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142,

25 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269,

30 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1-26, 121-205, 386-389, 394, 400, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at

35 least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18,

59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218

to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or (v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the interfering RNA is as defined in any of claims 1-11.

41. The method of claim 39 or claim 40 wherein down-regulation of expression of a target gene in an insect pest species is used to obtain at least 20% pest control or at least 20% pest mortality as compared to control insect pests contacted with an interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) targeting a non-essential pest gene or a target gene not expressed in said pest.

42. The method of any of claims 39 to 41 wherein the method is used to prevent and/or control pest infestation of a plant.

5 43. The method of claim 42 wherein the plant is chosen from the group comprising cotton, potato, rice, canola, sunflower, sorghum, pearl millet, corn, strawberries, soy, alfalfa, tomato, eggplant, pepper and tobacco.

10 44. Use of the interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) of any of claims 1-11, the DNA construct of claim 13 or claim 14, or the composition of any of claims 18-28 for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation.

15 45. A kit comprising the interfering ribonucleic acid (RNA) of any of claims 1-11, the DNA construct of claim 13 or claim 14, or the composition of any of claims 18-28 for preventing and/or controlling insect pest infestation.

46. An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

20 (i) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 25 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

30 (ii) a polynucleotide which comprises at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 35 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257,

158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, said polynucleotide is at least 75 % identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) a polynucleotide which comprises a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleotide sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, or the complement thereof, and wherein said fragment or said complement has a nucleotide sequence that, when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to

269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389 or the complement thereof, or

(iv) a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85 % identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 23, 24, 71 to 74, 25, 26, 75 to 78, 143, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, 128, 149, 184, 137, 185, 234 to 237, 302 to 305, 129, 138, 238 to 241, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, 168, 170, 169, 274 to 277, 172, 173, 278 to 281, 200, 201, 314 to 317, 186, 202, 187, 203, 306 to 309, 318 to 321, 386, 387, 388, 389, and wherein said polynucleotide is no longer than 10000 nucleotides.

47. The interfering RNA according to any one of claims 1-10, the polynucleotide of claim 12 or claim 13, the DNA construct of claim 14, the host cell of any one of claims 15-17, the composition of any one of claims 18-28, the housing or trap of claim 29, the use of any one of claims 30, 31 or 44, the combination of any one of claims 32-38, the method of any one of claims 39-43, the kit of claim 45 or the isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide

sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233 or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, 121, 142, 176, 182, 130, 177, 183, 206 to 209, 286 to 289, 298 to 301, 145, 122, 144, 178, 131, 179, 210 to 213, 290 to 293, 123, 132, 214 to 217, 124, 133, 218 to 221, 146, 125, 134, 222 to 225, 147, 126, 135, 226 to 229, 127, 148, 136, 230 to 233.

48. The interfering RNA according to any one of claims 1-10, the polynucleotide of claim 12 or claim 13, the DNA construct of claim 14, the host cell of any one of claims 15-17, the composition of any one of claims 18-28, the housing or trap of claim 29, the use of any one of claims 30, 31 or 44, the combination of any one of claims 32-38, the method of any one of claims 39-43, the kit of claim 45 or the isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273 or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8,

39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, said nucleotide sequence of said fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or the complement thereof, or

(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to

273, or the complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid

sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least

85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs. 3, 4, 31 to 34, 139, 5, 6, 35 to 38, 140, 7, 8, 39 to 42, 9, 10, 43 to 46, 141, 11, 12, 47 to 50, 13, 14, 51 to 54, 15, 204, 16, 205, 55 to 58, 322 to 325, 17, 18, 59 to 62, 19, 20, 63 to 66, 21, 22, 67 to 70, 150, 151, 242 to 245, 152, 153, 246 to 249, 154, 155, 250 to 253, 156, 157, 254 to 257, 158, 159, 258 to 261, 160, 161, 262 to 265, 163, 162, 164, 266 to 269, 165, 167, 166, 270 to 273.

49. The interfering RNA according to any one of claims 1-10, the polynucleotide of claim 12 or claim 13, the DNA construct of claim 14, the host cell of any one of claims 15-17, the composition of any one of claims 18-28, the housing or trap of claim 29, the use of any one of claims 30, 31 or 44, the combination of any one of claims 32-38, the method of any one of claims 39-43, the kit of claim 45 or the isolated polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the target gene

(i) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313 or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when the two sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

(ii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or having a nucleotide sequence so that, when said gene comprising said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence is at least 75% identical to any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

(iii) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of at least 21 contiguous nucleotides of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, and wherein when said fragment is optimally aligned and compared with the corresponding fragment in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, said nucleotide sequence of said

fragment is at least 75% identical to said corresponding fragment of any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the complement thereof, or

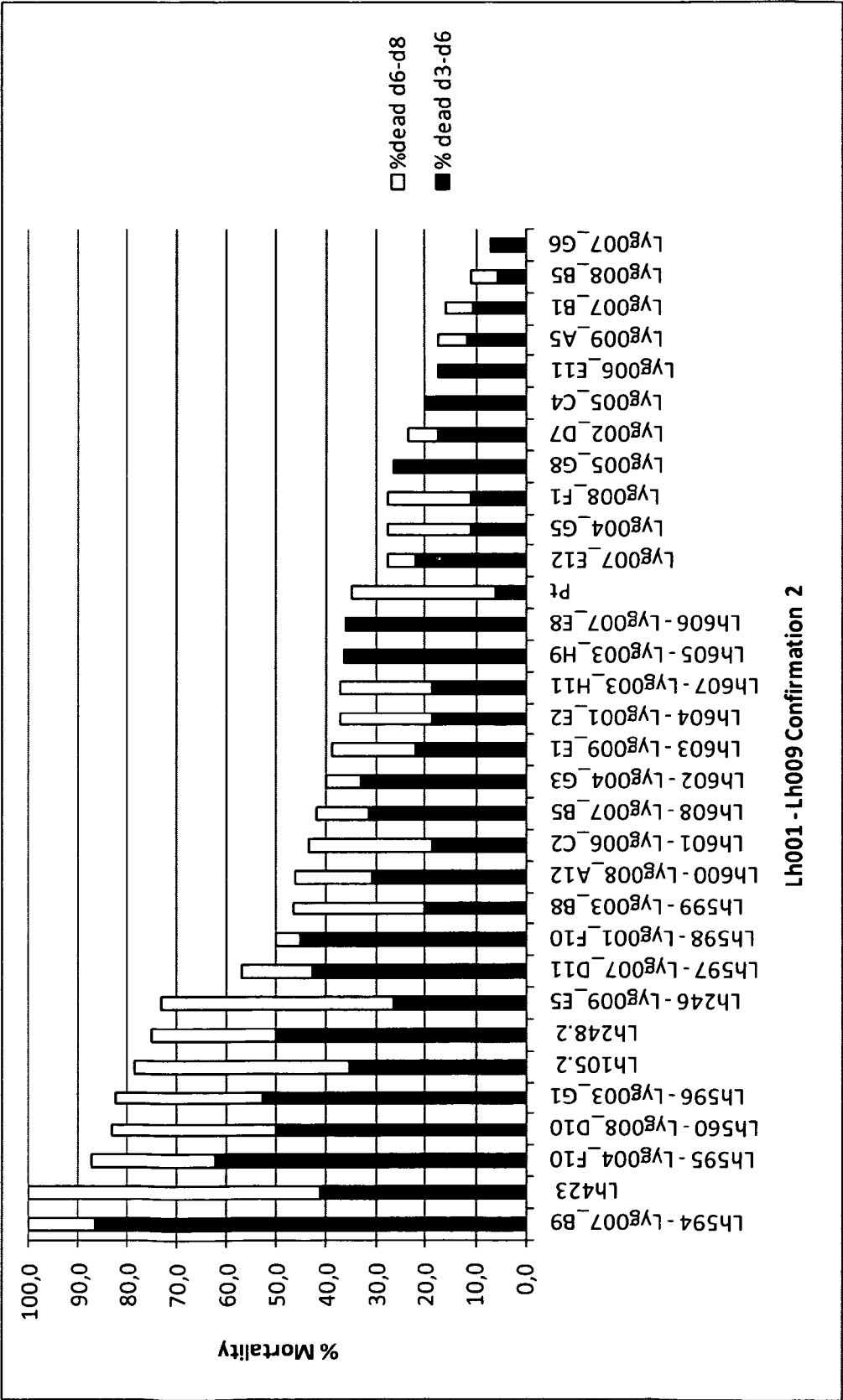
(iv) is an insect pest orthologue of a gene having a nucleotide sequence comprising any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or the

5 complement thereof, wherein the two orthologous genes are similar in sequence to such a degree that when the two genes are optimally aligned and compared, the orthologue has a sequence that is at least 75% identical to any of the sequences represented by SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313, or

(v) is selected from the group of genes having a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid

10 sequence that, when the two amino acid sequences are optimally aligned and compared, is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 174, 180, 188, 2, 175, 181, 189, 27 to 30, 282 to 285, 294 to 297, 310 to 313.

Figure 1



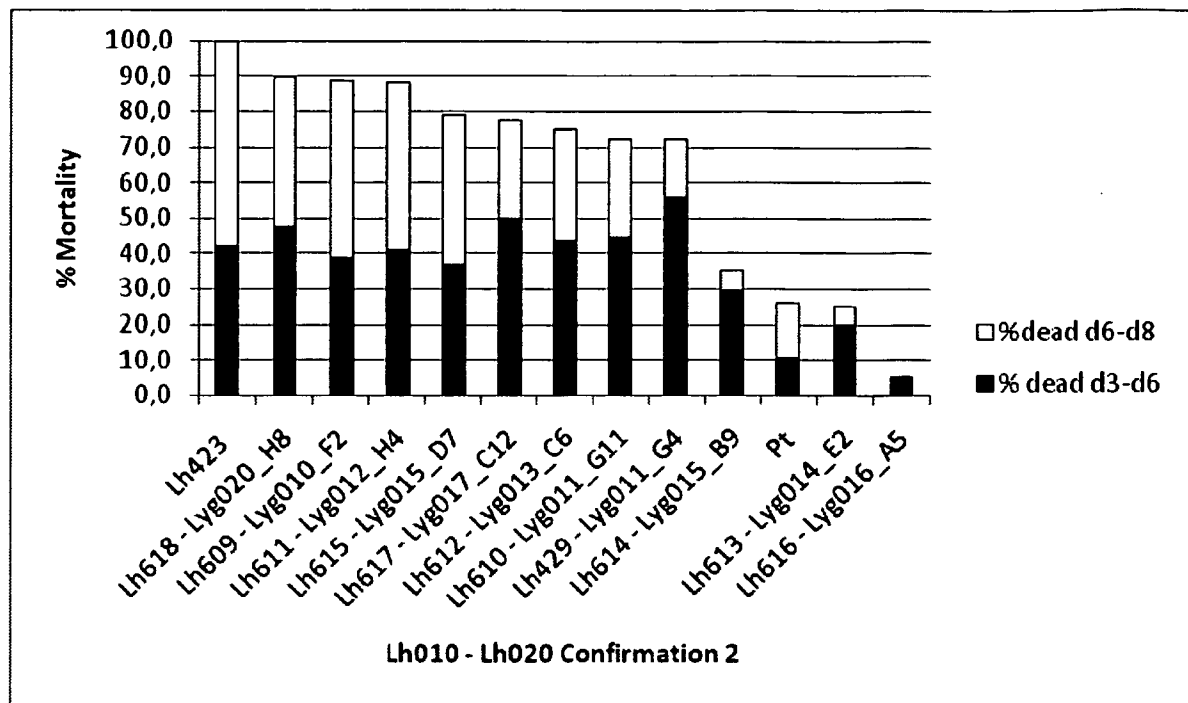
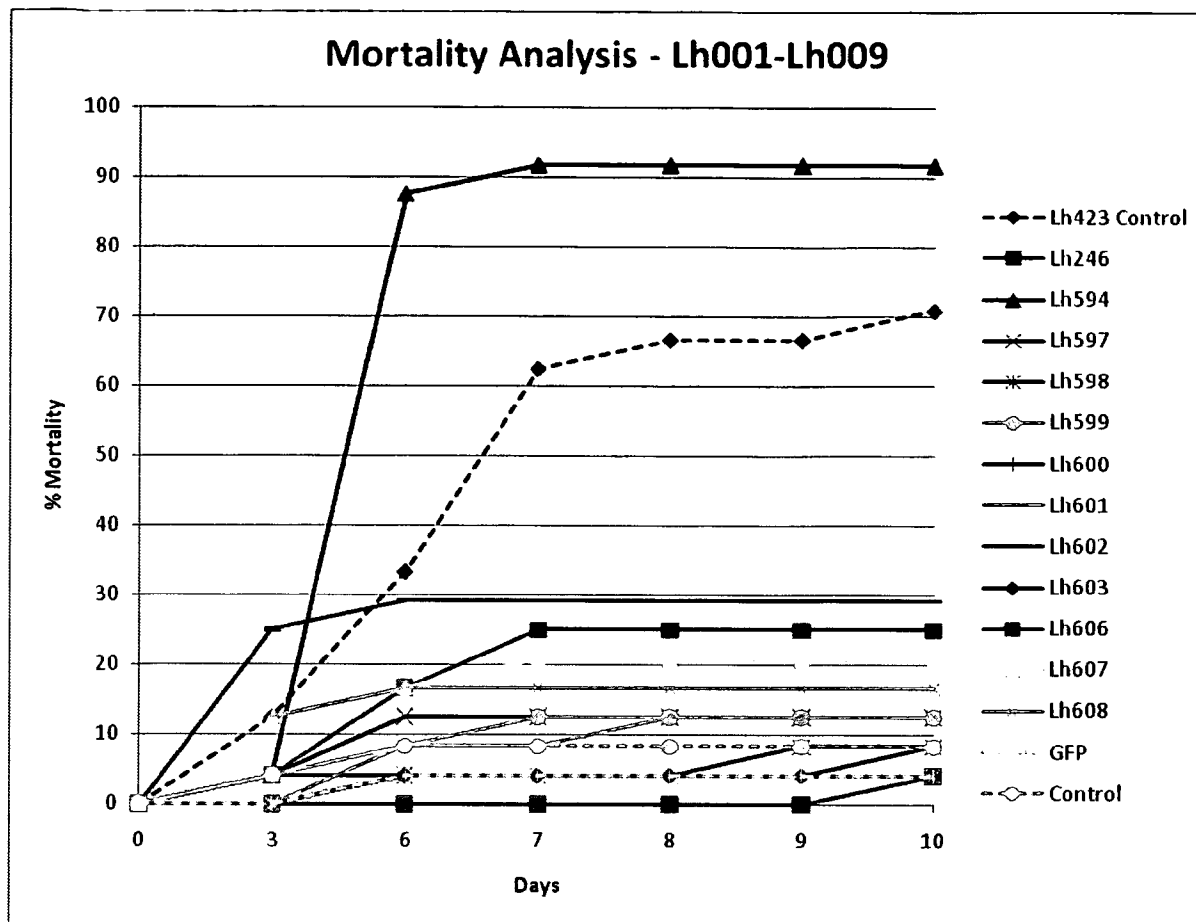


Figure 2

**Figure 3**

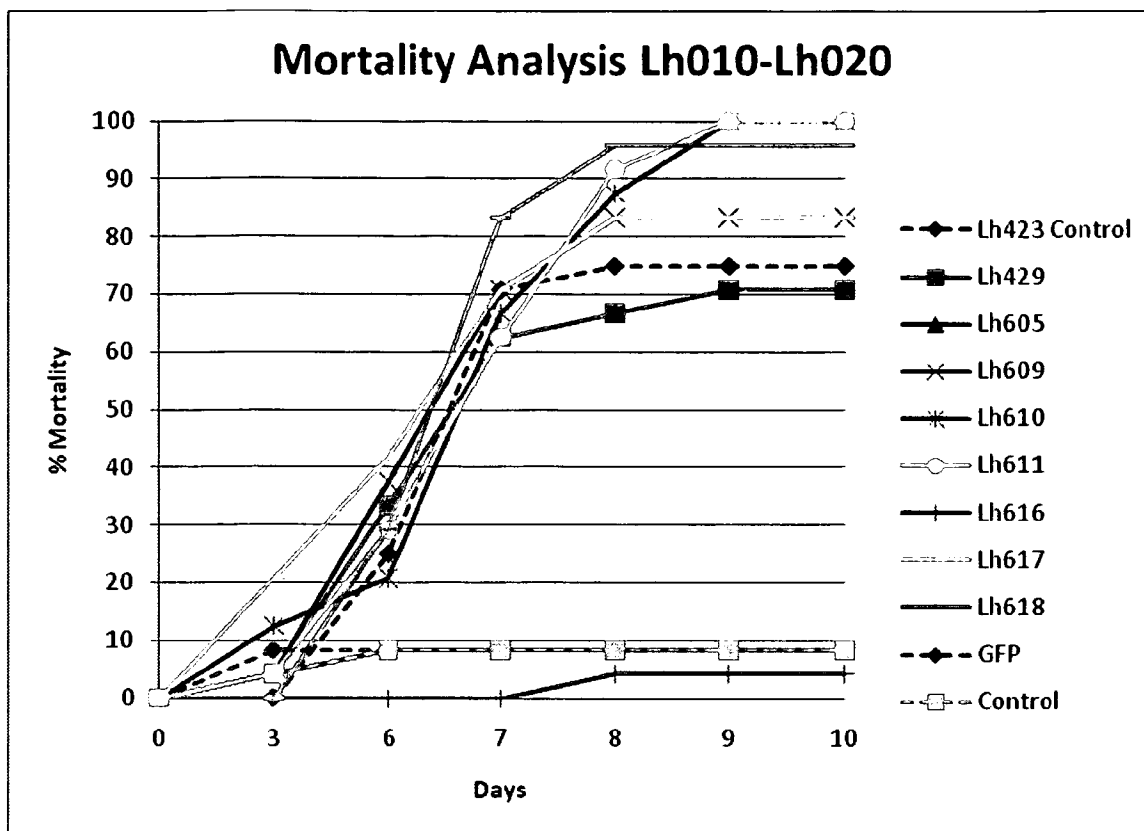


Figure 4

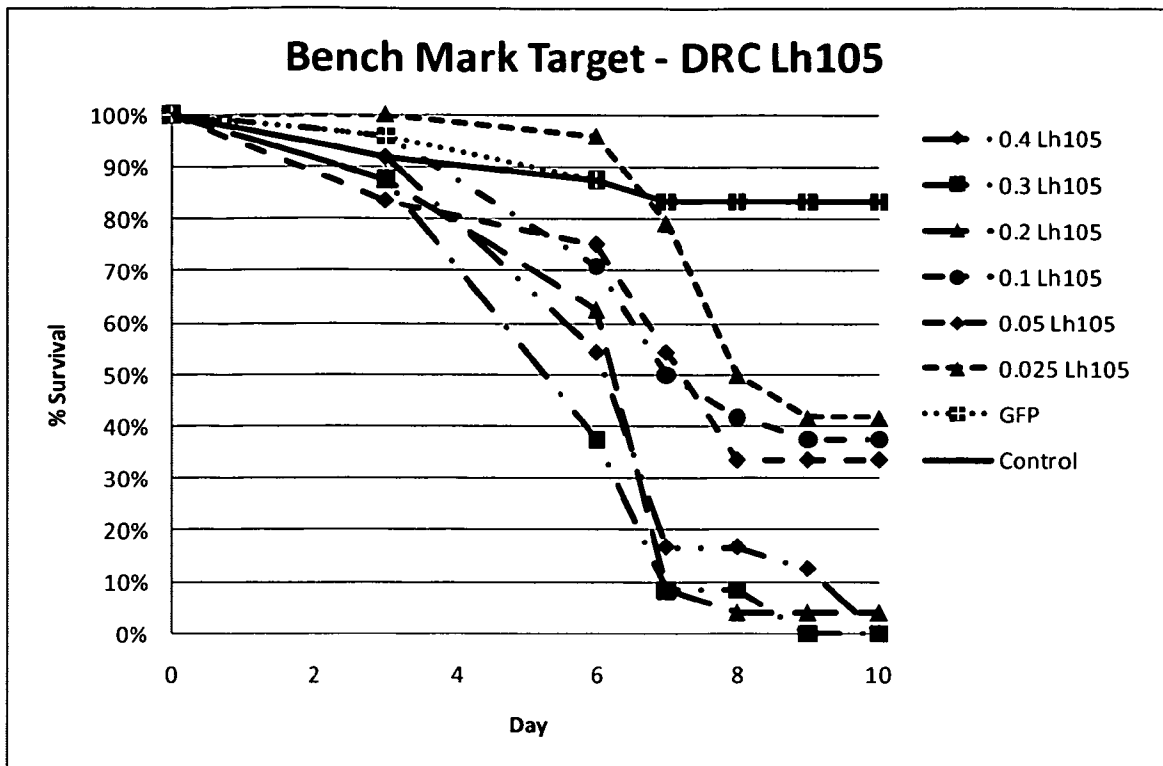


Figure 5

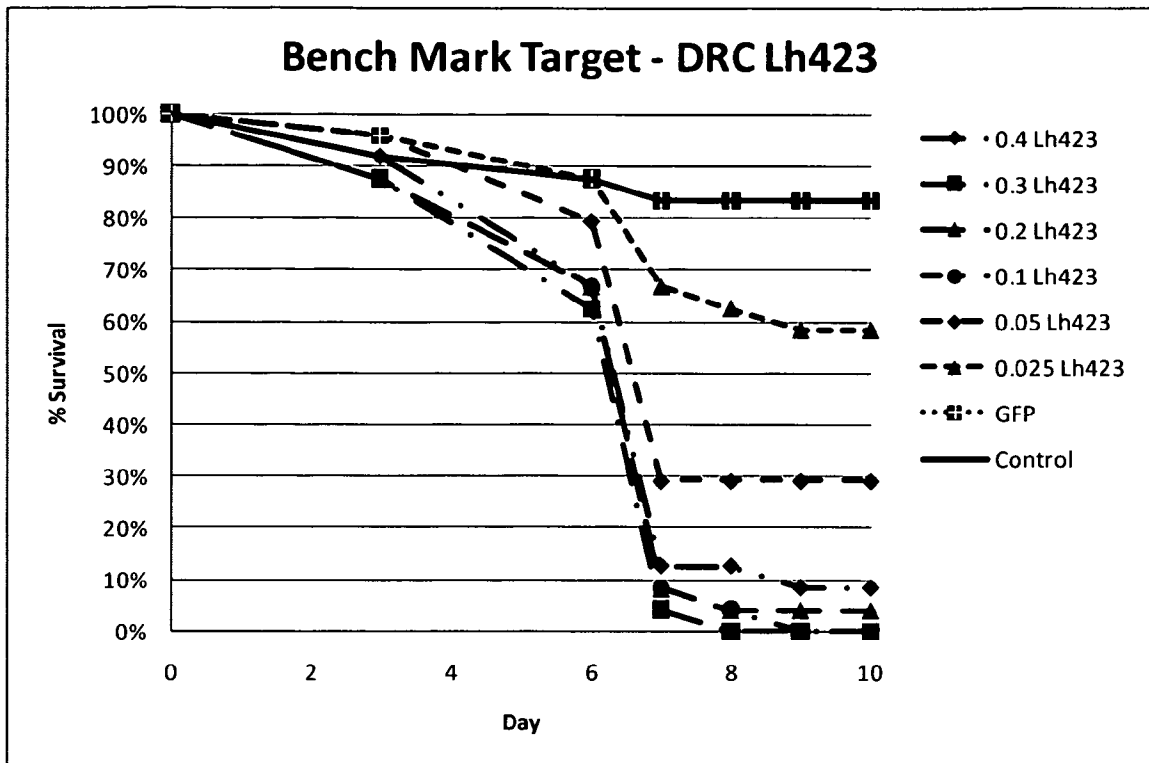


Figure 5 continued

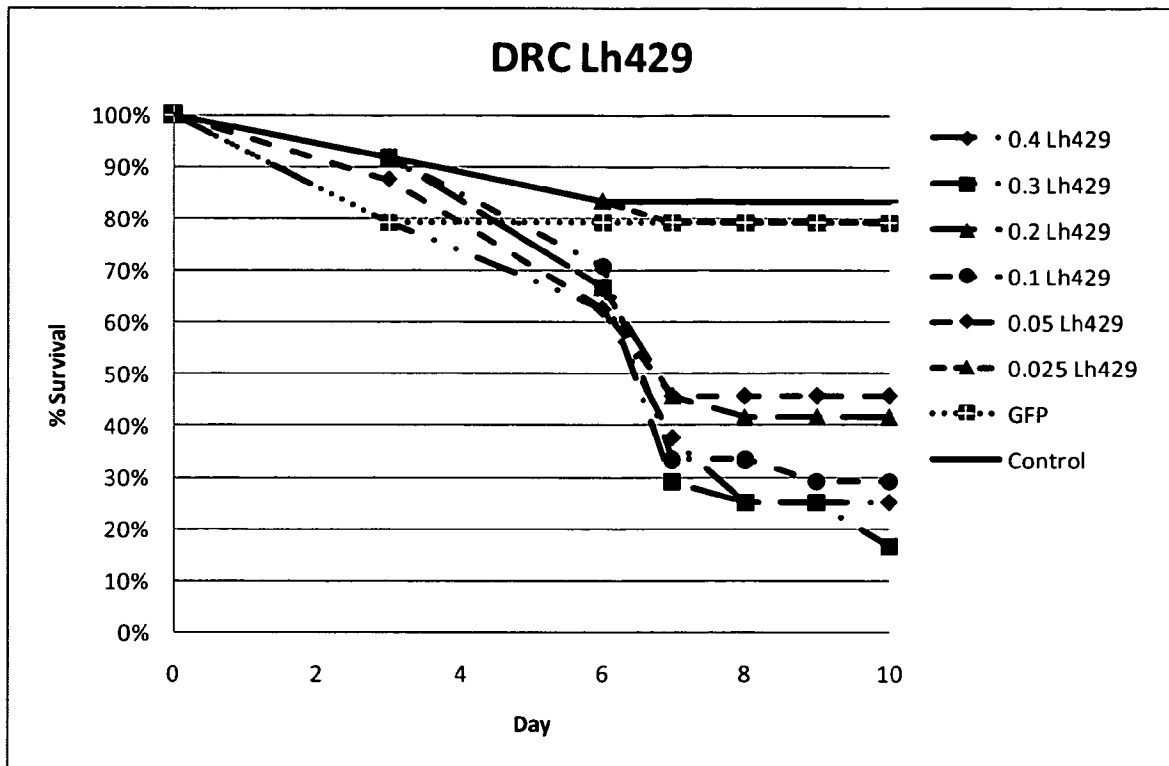
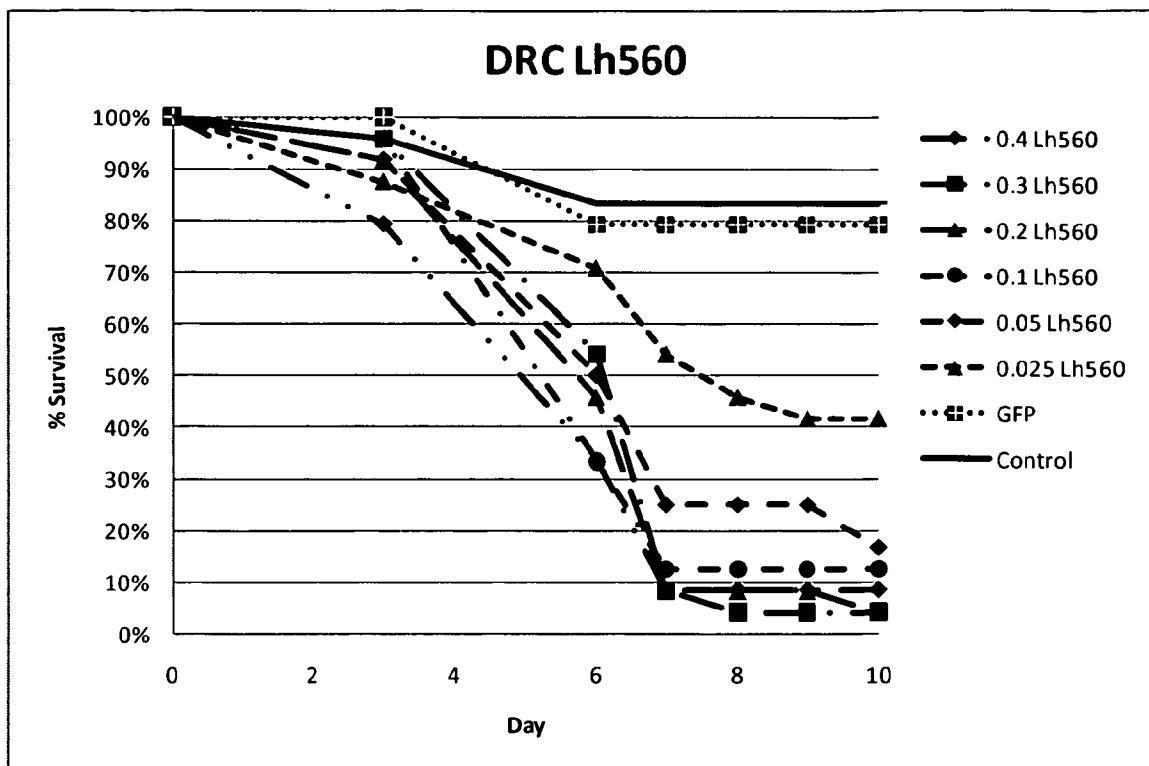


Figure 5 continued

**Figure 6**

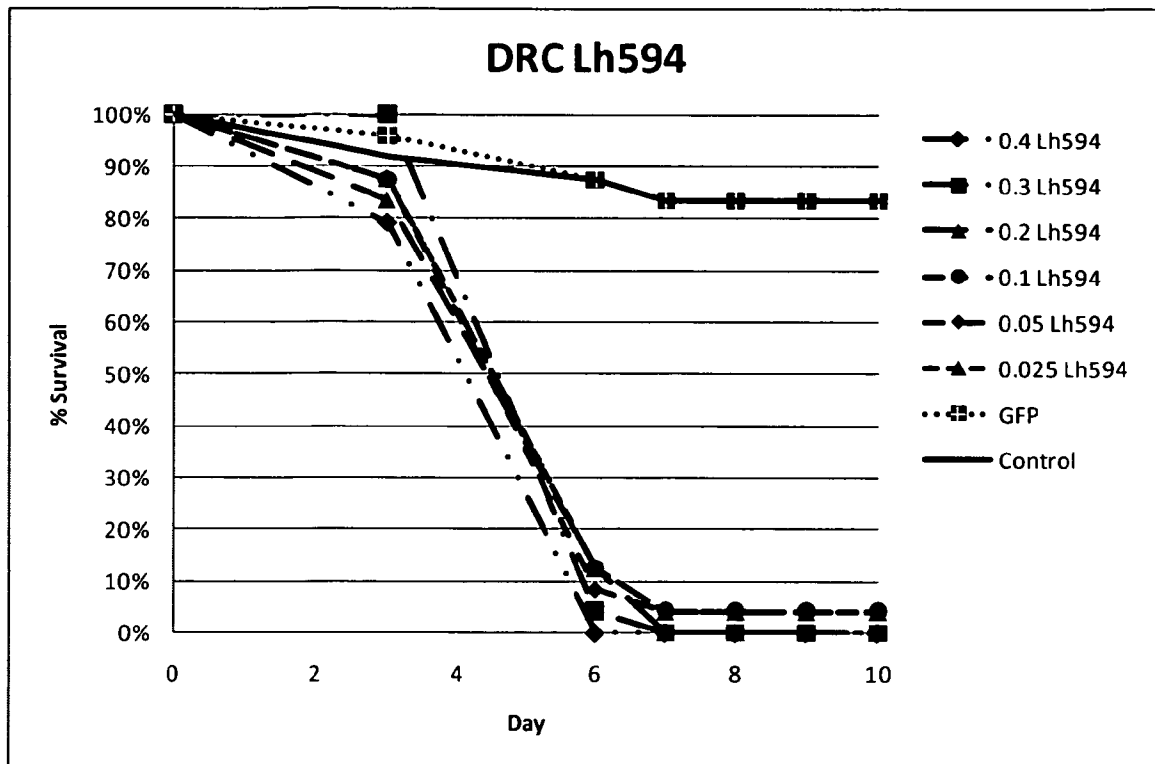


Figure 6 continued

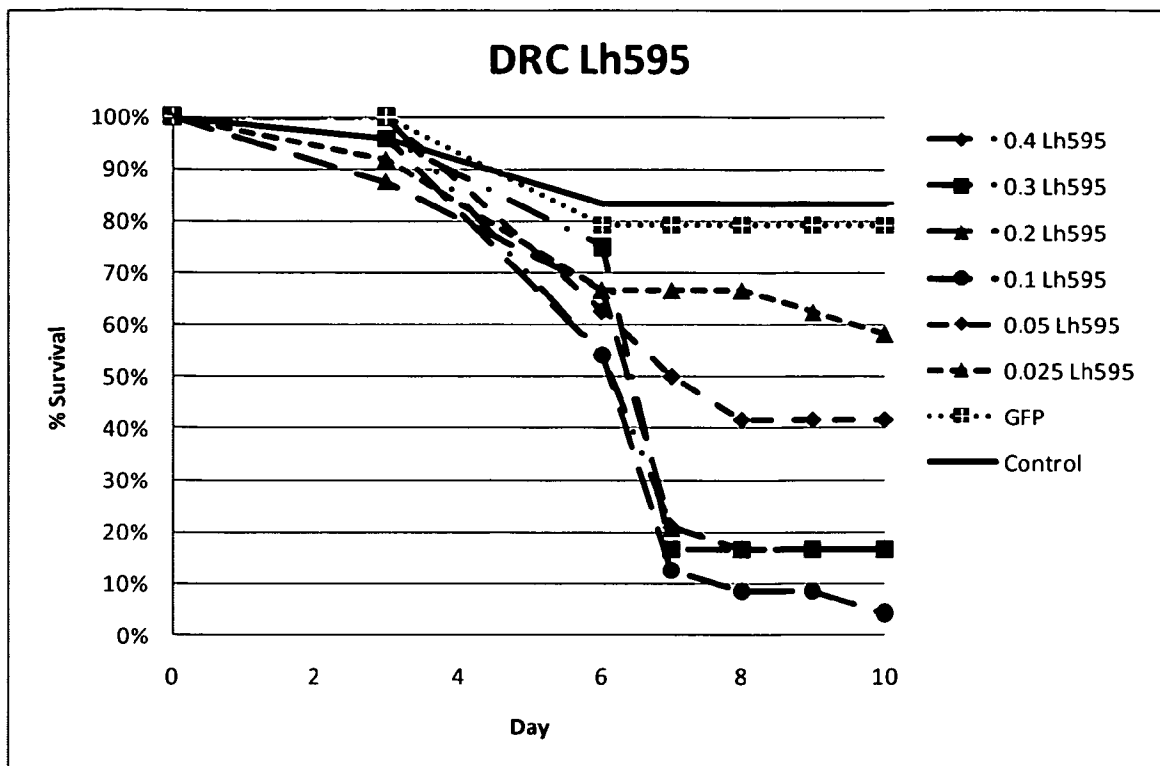
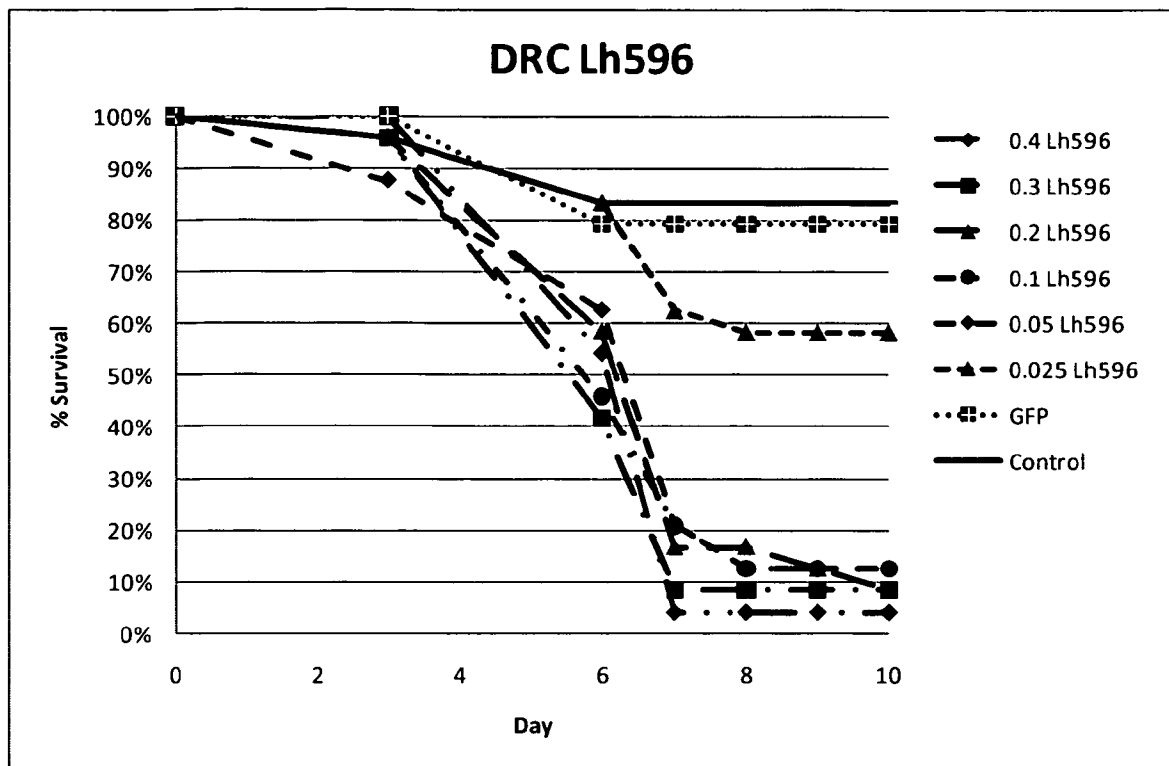


Figure 6 continued

**Figure 7**

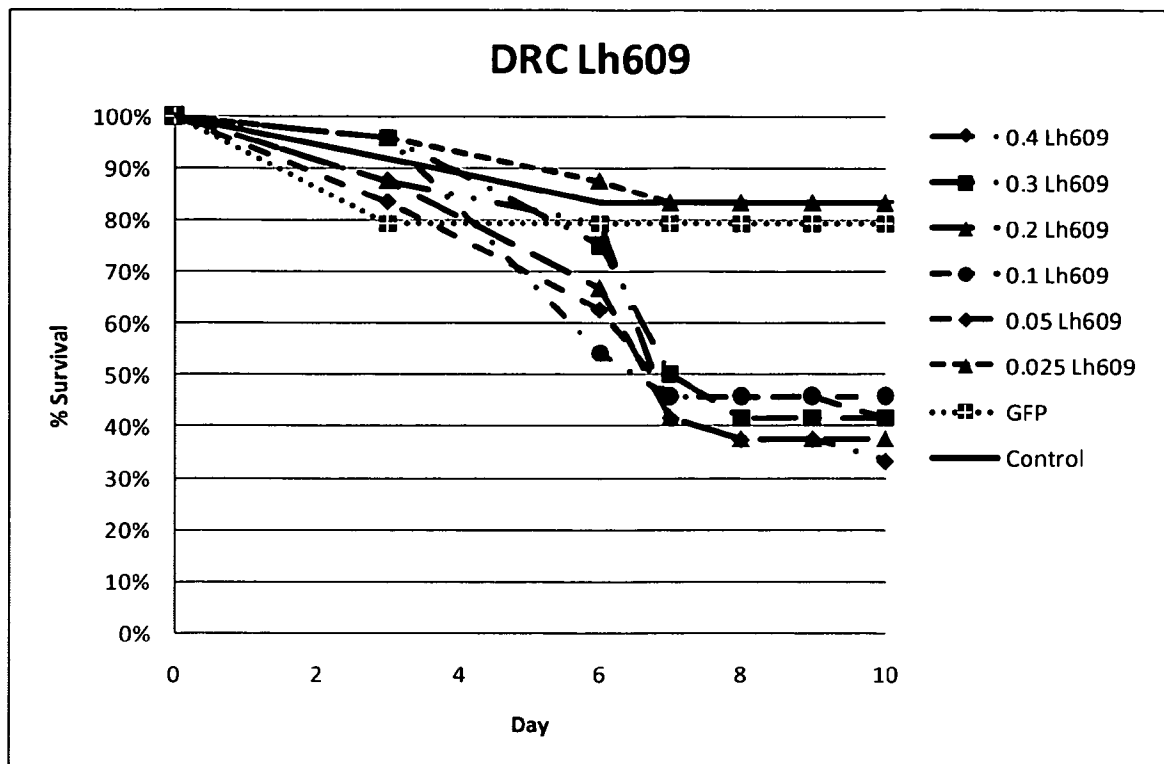


Figure 7 continued

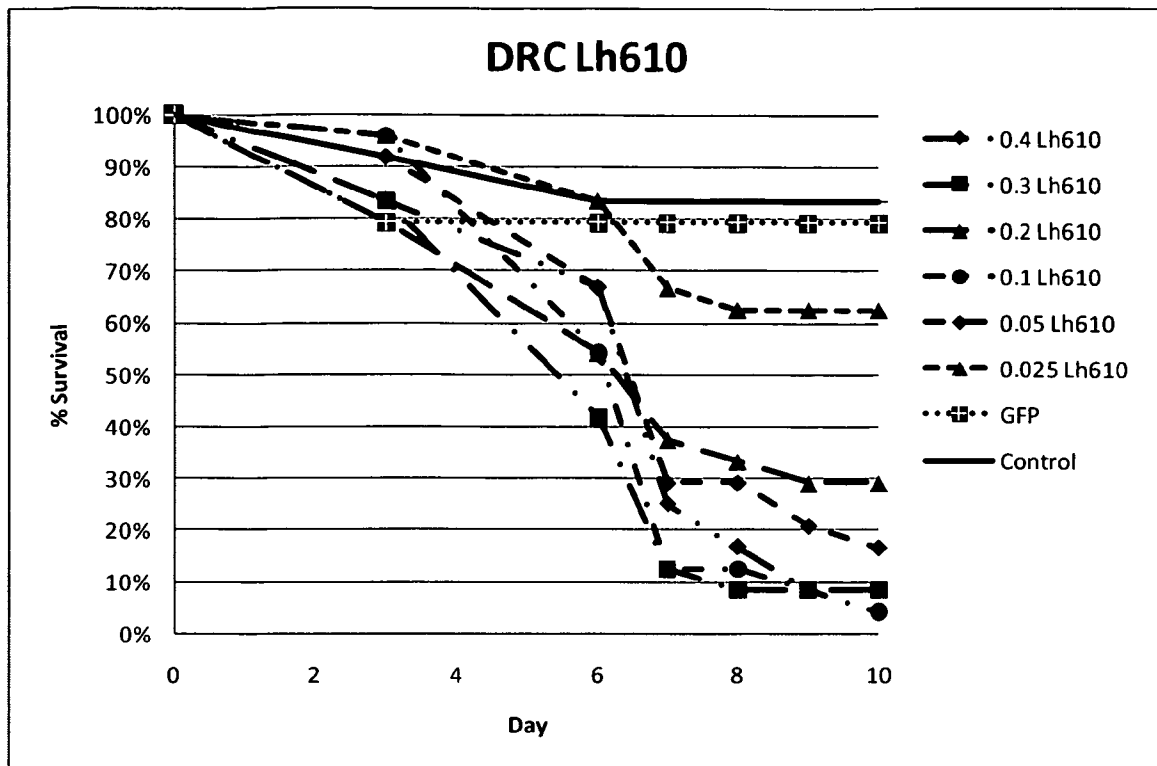
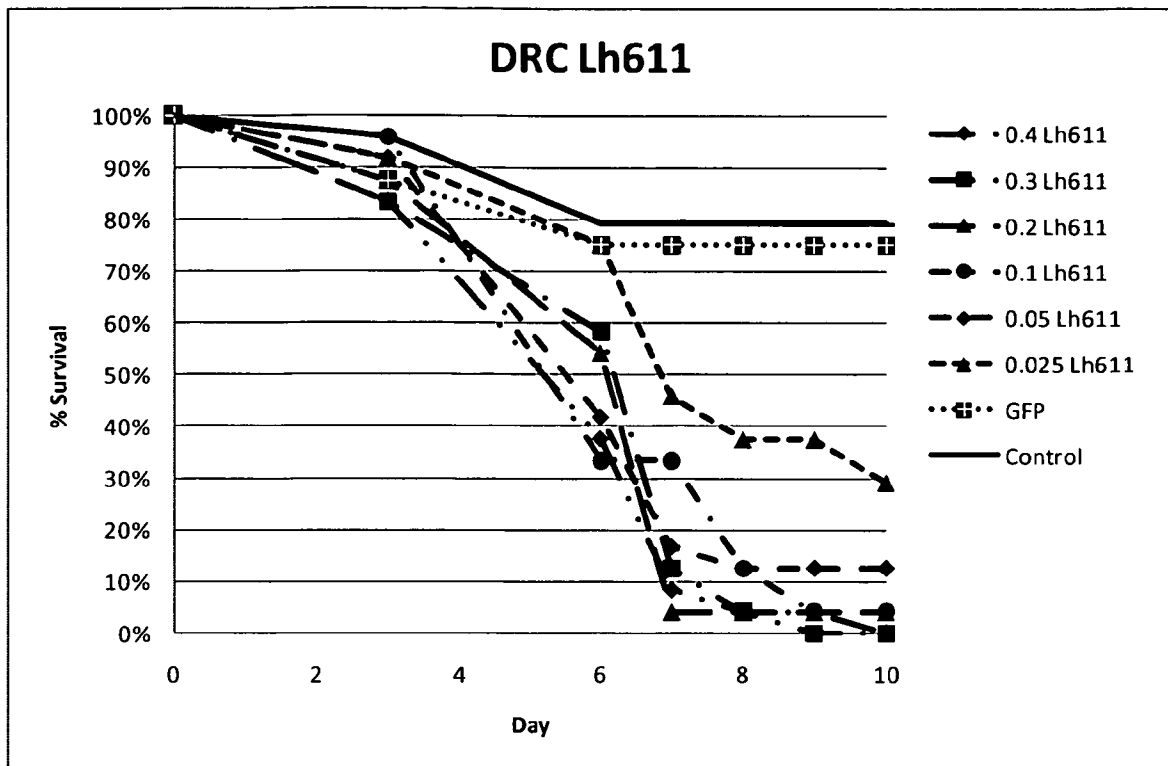


Figure 7 continued

**Figure 8**

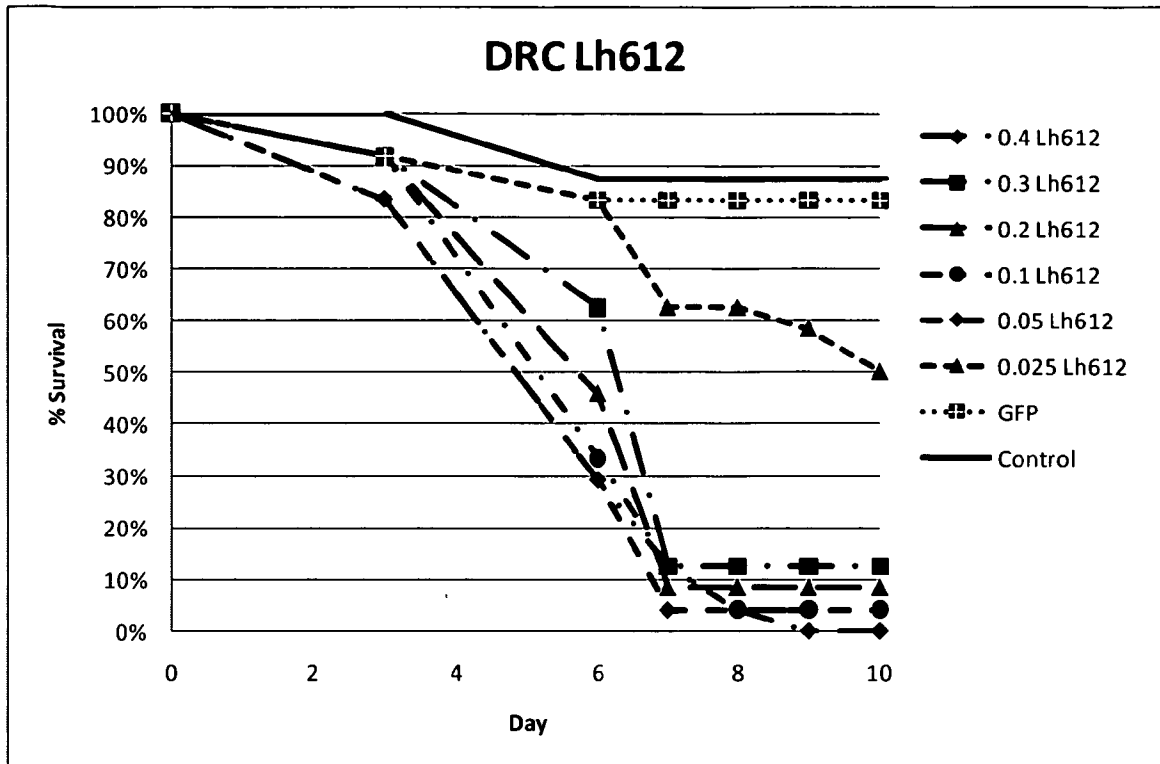


Figure 8 continued

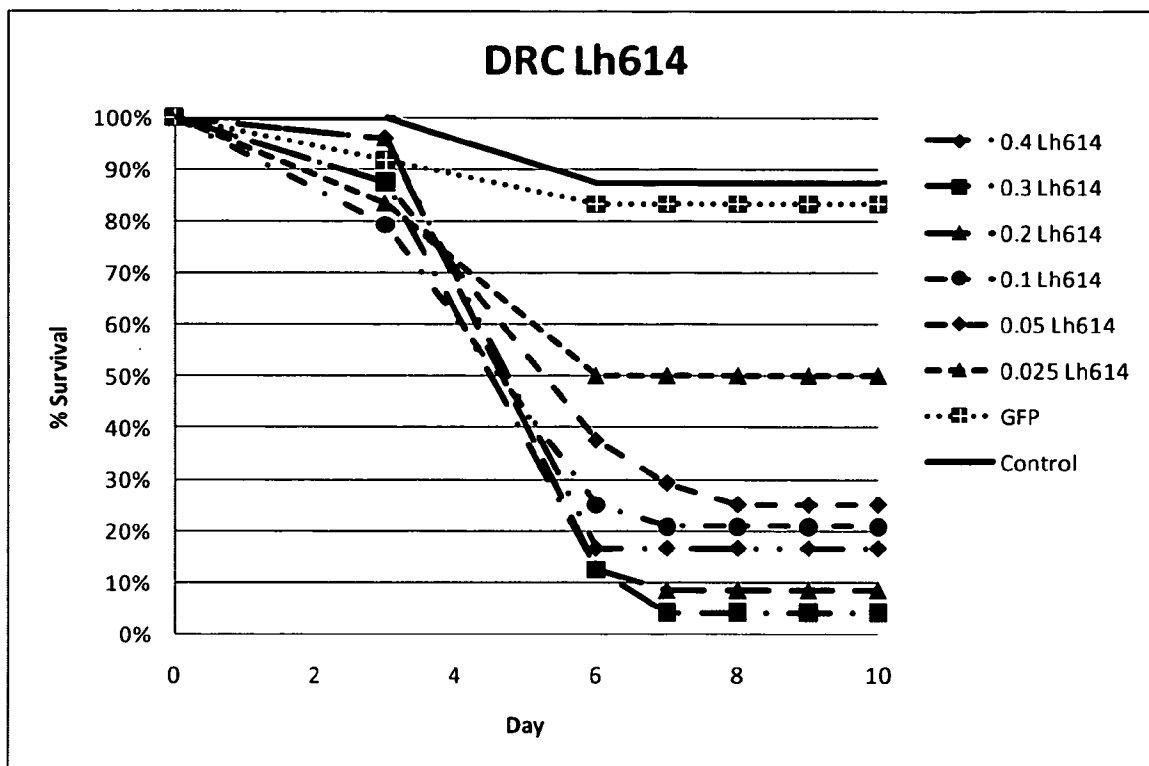
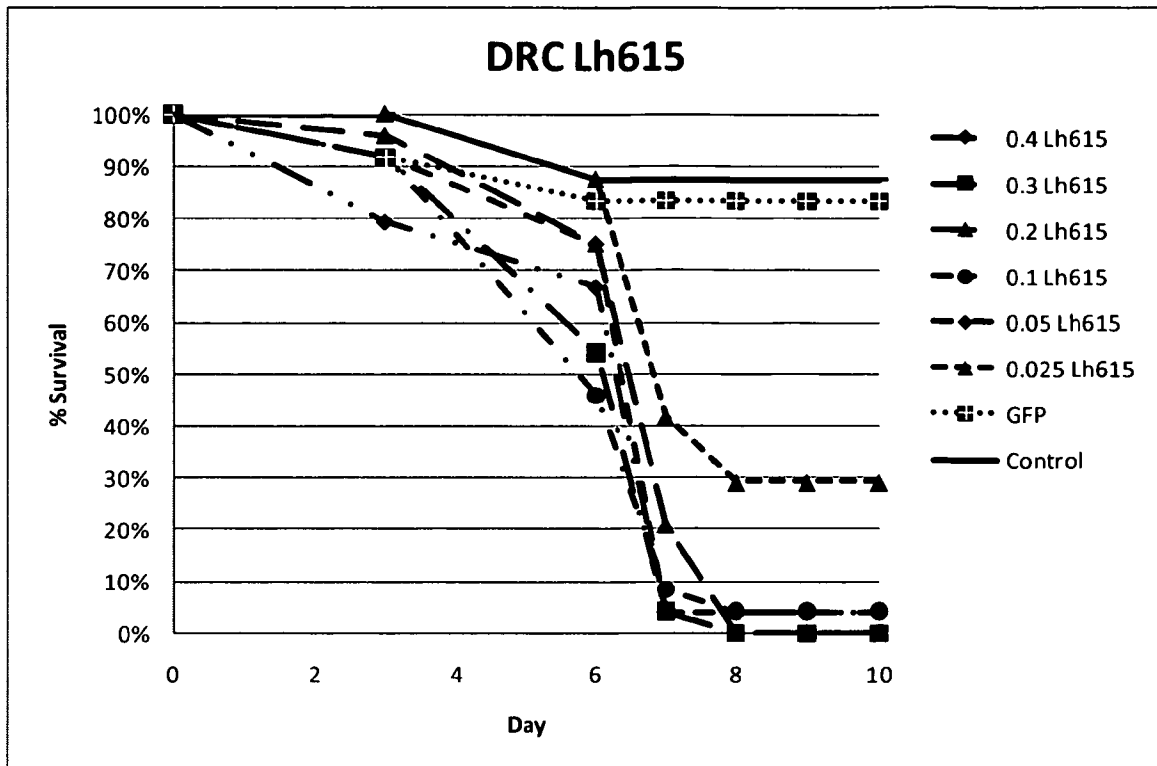


Figure 8 continued

**Figure 9**

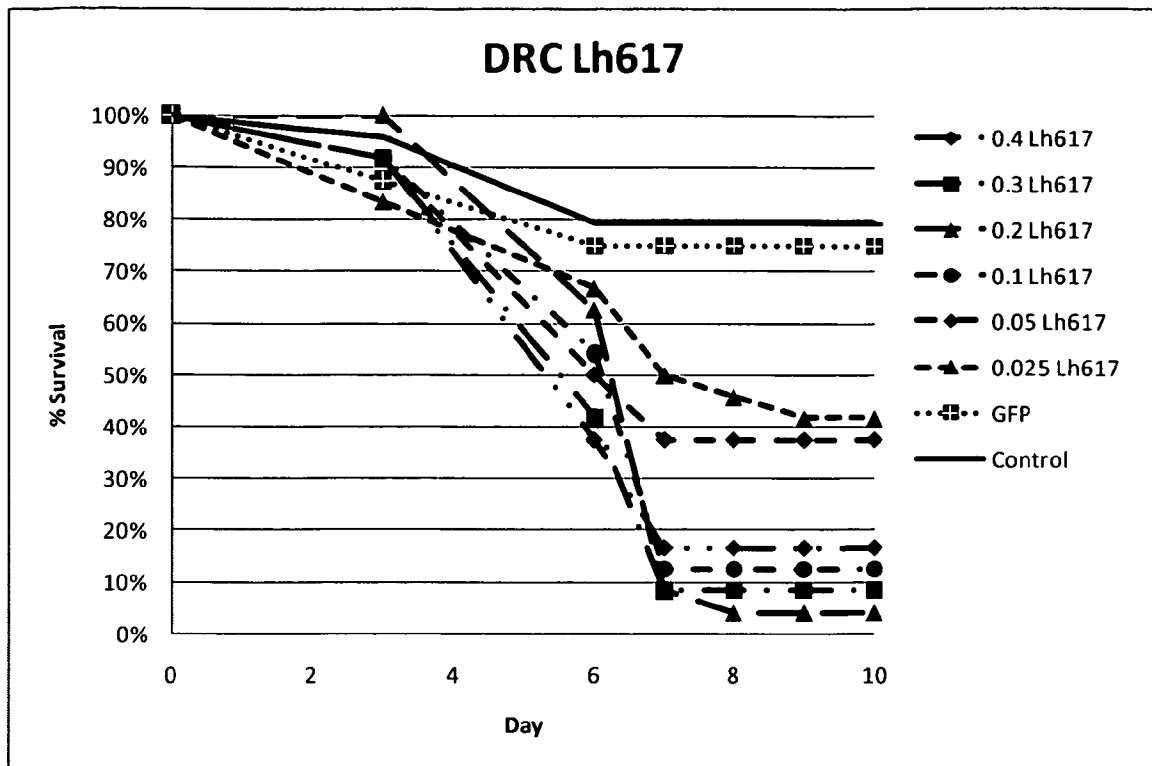


Figure 9 continued

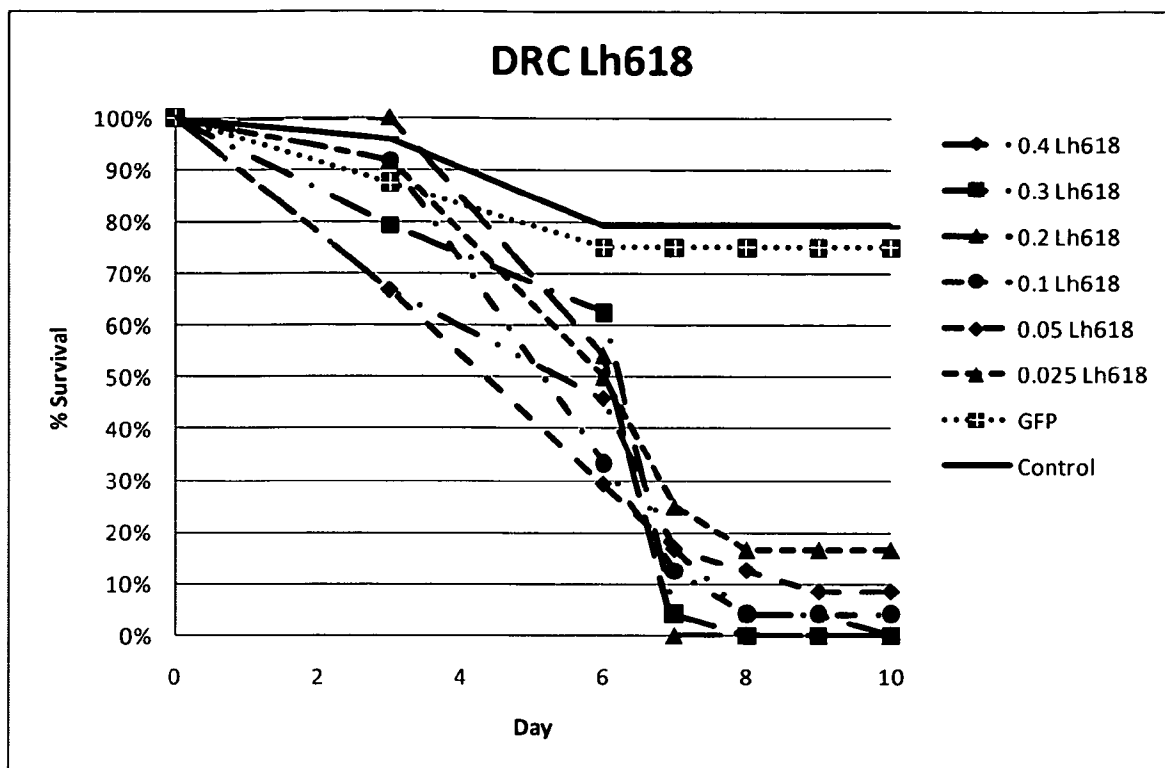
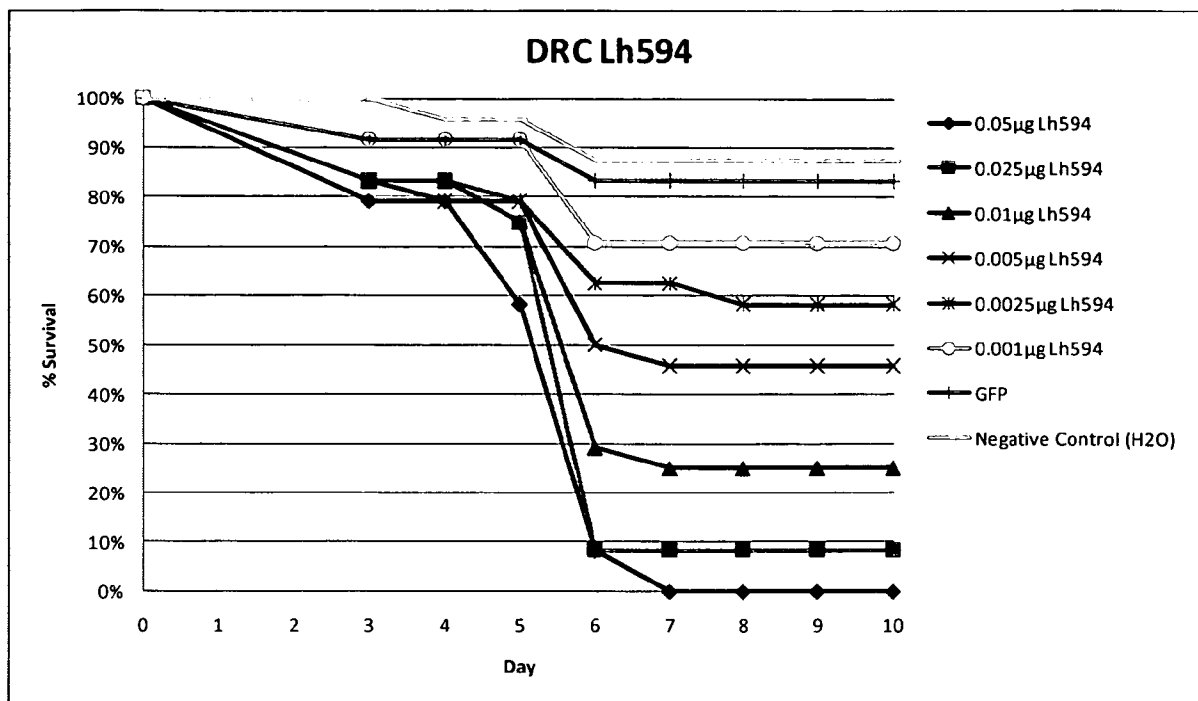
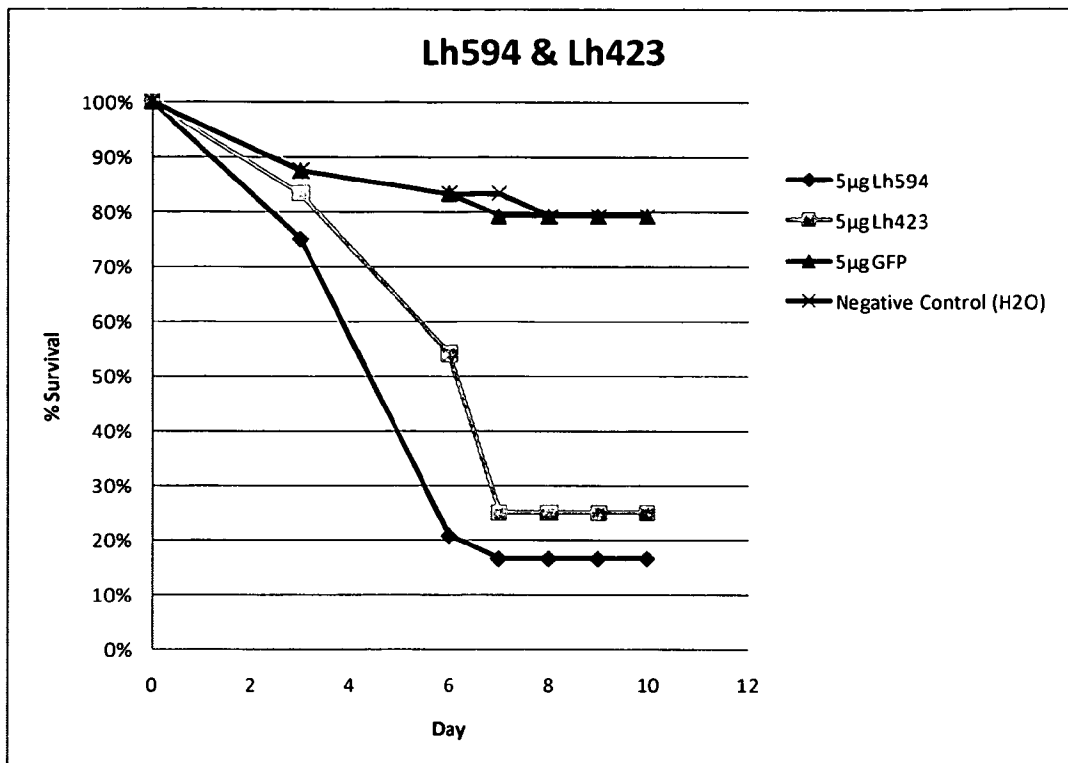


Figure 9 continued

**Figure 10**

A.



B.

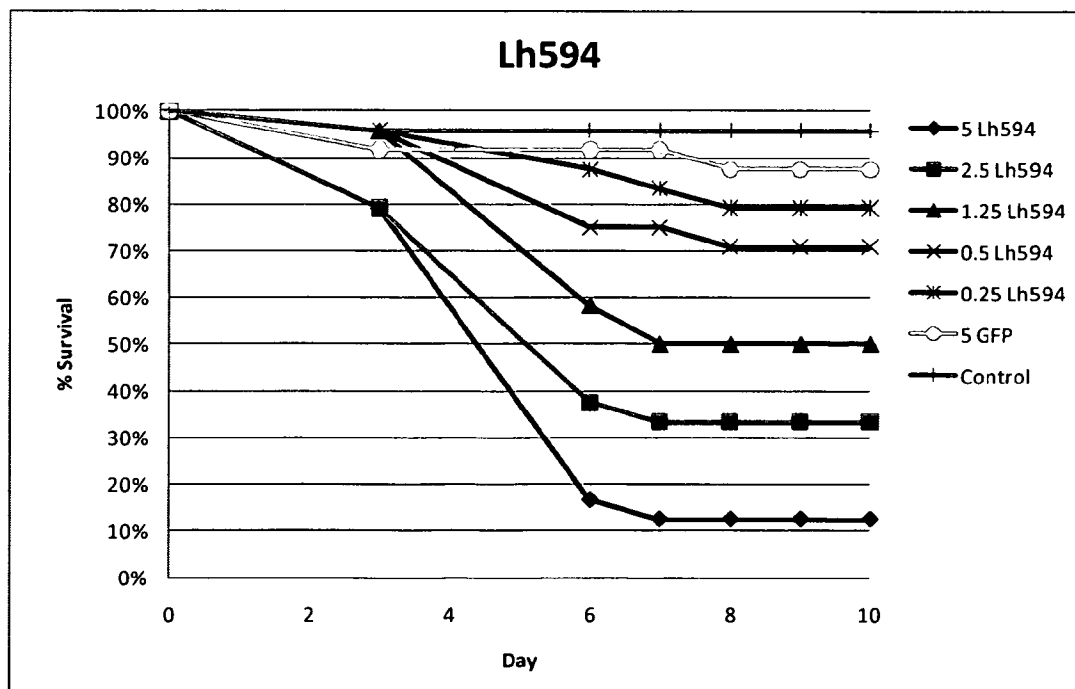


Figure 11

**ANY REFERENCE TO FIGURES 12 TO 21
SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
AS NON EXISTENT**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2012/057332

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C12N15/82 C07K14/435 A01H5/00 A01H5/10
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C07K C12N A01H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, EMBASE, WPI Data, Sequence Search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE EMBL [Online] 21 October 2005 (2005-10-21), "NADBB46TR Aedes aegypti infected with Dengue virus Pool library Aedes aegypti cDNA clone NADBB46, mRNA sequence.", XP002681238, retrieved from EBI accession no. EM EST:DV392288 Database accession no. DV392288 abstract; sequence ----- -/--	12-17, 45-47, 49



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 September 2012

Date of mailing of the international search report

10/10/2012

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Oderwald, Harald

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2012/057332

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE EMBL [Online] 25 October 2003 (2003-10-25), "IPG018C12_250658 JH III-treated male I. pini midguts Ips pini cDNA clone IPG018C12 5, mRNA sequence.", XP002684157, retrieved from EBI accession no. EM_EST:CB408878 Database accession no. CB408878 abstract; sequence -----	12-17, 45-47,49
X	WO 2009/091864 A2 (PIONEER HI BRED INT [US]; DU PONT [US]; HERRMANN RAFAEL [US]; LASSNER) 23 July 2009 (2009-07-23) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-11, 18-44

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2012/057332

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-47, 49(all partially)
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-47, 49(all partially)

An interfering ribonucleic acid (RNAi) comprising a double-stranded silencing element wherein the target gene has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1. Polynucleotid, host cell, compositions, housing, trap, uses of the composition and the RNAi, combination for preventing and/or controlling pest infestation, methods for down-regulating expression, kits, and polynucleotides relating to said nucleotide sequence.

2-279. claims: 1-49(partially)

same as invention 1, but relating to a nucleotide sequence in the order given in claim 1, i.e. invention relates to SEQ ID NO: 174, ..., and invention 279 relates to SEQ ID NO: 389.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2012/057332

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2009091864 A2	23-07-2009	AU 2009206127 A1	23-07-2009
		CN 102007215 A	06-04-2011
		US 2009192117 A1	30-07-2009
		WO 2009091864 A2	23-07-2009
