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(54) Titre : MUTANTS D' α -AMYLASE

(54) Title: α -AMYLASE MUTANTS

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

The invention relates to a variant of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, comprising mutations in two, three, four, five or six regions/positions. The variants have increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent). The invention also relates to a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase variant of the invention, a recombinant expression vector which carries a DNA construct of the invention, a cell which is transformed with a DNA construct of the invention, the use of an α -amylase variant of the invention for washing and/or dishwashing, textile desizing, starch liquefaction, a detergent additive comprising an α -amylase variant of the invention, a manual or automatic dishwashing detergent composition comprising an α -amylase variant of the invention, a method for generating a variant of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, which variant exhibits increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent).

Abstract

The invention relates to a variant of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, comprising mutations in two, three, four, five or six regions/positions. The variants have increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent). The invention also relates to a DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase variant of the invention, a recombinant expression vector which carries a DNA construct of the invention, a cell which is transformed with a DNA construct of the invention, the use of an α -amylase variant of the invention for washing and/or dishwashing, textile desizing, starch liquefaction, a detergent additive comprising an α -amylase variant of the invention, a manual or automatic dishwashing detergent composition comprising an α -amylase variant of the invention, a method for generating a variant of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, which variant exhibits increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent).

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JUMBO APPLICATIONS / PATENTS

**THIS SECTION OF THE APPLICATION / PATENT CONTAINS MORE
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Title: α -amylase mutants

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates, *inter alia*, to novel variants (mutants) of parent Termamyl-like α -amylases, notably variants exhibiting increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent) which are advantageous with respect to applications of the variants in,
10 industrial starch processing particularly (e.g. starch liquefaction or saccharification).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

α -Amylases (α -1,4-glucan-4-glucanohydrolases, EC 3.2.1.1)
15 constitute a group of enzymes which catalyze hydrolysis of starch and other linear and branched 1,4-glucosidic oligo- and polysaccharides.

There is a very extensive body of patent and scientific literature relating to this industrially very important class of
20 enzymes. A number of α -amylase such as Termamyl-like α -amylases variants are known from e.g. WO 90/11352, WO 95/10603, WO 95/26397, WO 96/23873 and WO 96/23874.

Among more recent disclosures relating to α -amylases, WO 96/23874 provides three-dimensional, X-ray crystal structural
25 data for a Termamyl-like α -amylase which consists of the 300 N-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. amyloliquefaciens* α -amylase and amino acids 301-483 of the C-terminal end of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase comprising the amino acid sequence (the latter being available commercially under the tradename
30 TermamylTM), and which is thus closely related to the industrially important *Bacillus* α -amylases (which in the present context are embraced within the meaning of the term "Termamyl-like α -amylases", and which include, *inter alia*, the *B. licheniformis*, *B. amyloliquefaciens* and *B. stearothermophilus*
35 α -amylases). WO 96/23874 further describes methodology for

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

2

designing, on the basis of an analysis of the structure of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, variants of the parent Termamyl-like α -amylase which exhibit altered properties relative to the parent.

5 WO 95/35382 (Gist Brocades B.V.) concerns amylolytic enzymes derived from *B. licheniformis* with improved properties allowing reduction of the Ca^{2+} concentration under application without a loss of performance of the enzyme. The amylolytic enzyme comprises one or more amino acid changes at positions selected
10 from the group of 104, 128, 187, 188 of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase sequence.

WO 96/23873 (Novo Nordisk) discloses Termamyl-like α -amylase variants which have increased thermostability obtained by pairwise deletion in the region R181*, G182*, T183* and G184* of
15 the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 herein.

BRIEF DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to novel α -amylolytic variants (mutants) of a Termamyl-like α -amylase, in particular variants
20 exhibiting increased thermostability (relative to the parent) which are advantageous in connection with the industrial processing of starch (starch liquefaction, saccharification and the like).

The inventors have surprisingly found out that in case of
25 combining two, three, four, five or six mutations (will be described below), the thermostability of Termamyl-like α -amylases is increased at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentration in comparison to single mutations, such as the mutation disclosed in WO 96/23873 (Novo Nordisk), i.e. pairwise
30 deletion in the region R181*, G182*, T183* and G184* of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 herein.

The invention further relates to DNA constructs encoding variants of the invention, to composition comprising variants of the invention, to methods for preparing variants of the
35 invention, and to the use of variants and compositions of the invention, alone or in combination with other α -amylolytic

enzymes, in various industrial processes, e.g., starch liquefaction.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

5 Figure 1 is an alignment of the amino acid sequences of six parent Termamyl-like α -amylases in the context of the invention. The numbers on the Extreme left designate the respective amino acid sequences as follows:

1: SEQ ID NO: 2,

10 2: Kaoamyl,

3: SEQ ID NO: 1,

4: SEQ ID NO: 5,

5: SEQ ID NO: 4,

6: SEQ ID NO: 3.

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DETAILED DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The Termamyl-like α -amylase

It is well known that a number of α -amylases produced by
20 *Bacillus* spp. are highly homologous on the amino acid level. For instance, the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 (commercially available as Termamyl™) has been found to be about 89% homologous with the *B. amyloliquefaciens* α -amylase comprising the amino acid sequence
25 shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 and about 79% homologous with the *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3. Further homologous α -amylases include an α -amylase derived from a strain of the *Bacillus* sp. NCIB 12289, NCIB 12512, NCIB 12513 or DSM 9375, all of which are described
30 in detail in WO 95/26397, and the α -amylase described by Tsukamoto et al., Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, 151 (1988), pp. 25-31.

Still further homologous α -amylases include the α -amylase produced by the *B. licheniformis* strain described in EP 0252666
35 (ATCC 27811), and the α -amylases identified in WO 91/00353 and

WO 94/18314. Other commercial Termamyl-like *B. licheniformis* α -amylases are OptithermTM and TakathermTM (available from Solvay), MaxamylTM (available from Gist-brocades/Genencor), Spezym AATM and Spezyme Delta AATM (available from Genencor), and
5 KeistaseTM (available from Daiwa).

Because of the substantial homology found between these α -amylases, they are considered to belong to the same class of α -amylases, namely the class of "Termamyl-like α -amylases".

Accordingly, in the present context, the term "Termamyl-like
10 α -amylase" is intended to indicate an α -amylase which, at the amino acid level, exhibits a substantial homology to TermamylTM, i.e. the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 herein. In other words, a Termamyl-like α -amylase is an α -amylase which has the amino acid
15 sequence shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 herein, and the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 of WO 95/26397 (the same as the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 7 herein) or in SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 95/26397 (the same as the amino acid sequence shown as SEQ ID NO: 8 herein) or in Tsukamoto et
20 al., 1988, (which amino acid sequence is shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 herein) or i) which displays at least 60%, preferred at least 70%, more preferred at least 75%, even more preferred at least 80%, especially at least 85%, especially preferred at least 90%, even especially more preferred at least 95% homology with at
25 least one of said amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 and/or ii) displays immunological cross-reactivity with an antibody raised against at least one of said α -amylases, and/or iii) is encoded by a DNA sequence which hybridizes to the DNA sequences encoding the
30 above-specified α -amylases which are apparent from SEQ ID NOS: 9, 10, 11, or 12 of the present application (which encoding sequences encode the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 herein, respectively), from SEQ ID NO: 4 of WO 95/26397 (which DNA sequence, together with the stop codon TAA,

is shown in SEQ ID NO: 13 herein and encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8 herein) and from SEQ ID NO: 5 of WO 95/26397 (shown in SEQ ID NO: 14 herein), respectively.

In connection with property i), the "homology" may be determined by use of any conventional algorithm, preferably by use of the GAP programme from the GCG package version 7.3 (June 1993) using default values for GAP penalties, which is a GAP creation penalty of 3.0 and GAP extension penalty of 0.1, (Genetic Computer Group (1991) Programme Manual for the GCG Package, version 7, 575 Science Drive, Madison, Wisconsin, USA 53711).

A structural alignment between Termamyl and a Termamyl-like α -amylase may be used to identify equivalent/corresponding positions in other Termamyl-like α -amylases. One method of obtaining said structural alignment is to use the Pile Up programme from the GCG package using default values of gap penalties, i.e., a gap creation penalty of 3.0 and gap extension penalty of 0.1. Other structural alignment methods include the hydrophobic cluster analysis (Gaboriaud et al., (1987), FEBS LETTERS 224, pp. 149-155) and reverse threading (Huber, T ; Torda, AE, PROTEIN SCIENCE Vol. 7, No. 1 pp. 142-149 (1998)).

Property ii) of the α -amylase, i.e. the immunological cross reactivity, may be assayed using an antibody raised against, or reactive with, at least one epitope of the relevant Termamyl-like α -amylase. The antibody, which may either be monoclonal or polyclonal, may be produced by methods known in the art, e.g. as described by Hudson et al., Practical Immunology, Third edition (1989), Blackwell Scientific Publications. The immunological cross-reactivity may be determined using assays known in the art, examples of which are Western Blotting or radial immunodiffusion assay, e.g. as described by Hudson et al., 1989. In this respect, immunological cross-reactivity between the α -amylases having the amino acid sequences SEQ ID NOS: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 respectively, have been found.

The oligonucleotide probe used in the characterization of the Termamyl-like α -amylase in accordance with property iii) above

may suitably be prepared on the basis of the full or partial nucleotide or amino acid sequence of the α -amylase in question.

Suitable conditions for testing hybridization involve presoaking in 5xSSC and prehybridizing for 1 hour at $\sim 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ in a solution of 20% formamide, 5xDenhardt's solution, 50mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.8, and 50mg of denatured sonicated calf thymus DNA, followed by hybridization in the same solution supplemented with 100mM ATP for 18 hours at $\sim 40^{\circ}\text{C}$, followed by three times washing of the filter in 2xSSC, 0.2% SDS at 40°C for 30 minutes (low stringency), preferred at 50°C (medium stringency), more preferably at 65°C (high stringency), even more preferably at $\sim 75^{\circ}\text{C}$ (very high stringency). More details about the hybridization method can be found in Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor, 1989.

In the present context, "derived from" is intended not only to indicate an α -amylase produced or producible by a strain of the organism in question, but also an α -amylase encoded by a DNA sequence isolated from such strain and produced in a host organism transformed with said DNA sequence. Finally, the term is intended to indicate an α -amylase which is encoded by a DNA sequence of synthetic and/or cDNA origin and which has the identifying characteristics of the α -amylase in question. The term is also intended to indicate that the parent α -amylase may be a variant of a naturally occurring α -amylase, i.e. a variant which is the result of a modification (insertion, substitution, deletion) of one or more amino acid residues of the naturally occurring α -amylase.

Parent hybrid α -amylases

The parent α -amylase may be a hybrid α -amylase, i.e. an α -amylase which comprises a combination of partial amino acid sequences derived from at least two α -amylases.

The parent hybrid α -amylase may be one which on the basis of amino acid homology and/or immunological cross-reactivity and/or

DNA hybridization (as defined above) can be determined to belong to the Termamyl-like α -amylase family. In this case, the hybrid α -amylase is typically composed of at least one part of a Termamyl-like α -amylase and part(s) of one or more other α -
5 amylases selected from Termamyl-like α -amylases or non-Termamyl-like α -amylases of microbial (bacterial or fungal) and/or mammalian origin.

Thus, the parent hybrid α -amylase may comprise a combination of partial amino acid sequences deriving from at least two
10 Termamyl-like α -amylases, or from at least one Termamyl-like and at least one non-Termamyl-like bacterial α -amylase, or from at least one Termamyl-like and at least one fungal α -amylase. The Termamyl-like α -amylase from which a partial amino acid sequence derives may, e.g., be any of those specific Termamyl-like α -
15 amylases referred to herein.

For instance, the parent α -amylase may comprise a C-terminal part of an α -amylase derived from a strain of *B. licheniformis*, and a N-terminal part of an α -amylase derived from a strain of *B. amyloliquefaciens* or from a strain of *B. stearothermophilus*.
20 For instance, the parent α -amylase may comprise at least 430 amino acid residues of the C-terminal part of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase, and may, e.g. comprise a) an amino acid segment corresponding to the 37 N-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. amyloliquefaciens* α -amylase having the amino acid
25 sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 and an amino acid segment corresponding to the 445 C-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID No. 4, or b) an amino acid segment corresponding to the 68 N-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. stearother-*
30 *mophilus* α -amylase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 and an amino acid segment corresponding to the 415 C-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.

The non-Termamyl-like α -amylase may, e.g., be a fungal α -amylase, a mammalian or a plant α -amylase or a bacterial α -amylase (different from a Termamyl-like α -amylase). Specific examples of such α -amylases include the *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA
5 α -amylase, the *A. niger* acid α -amylase, the *Bacillus subtilis* α -amylase, the porcine pancreatic α -amylase and a barley α -amylase. All of these α -amylases have elucidated structures which are markedly different from the structure of a typical Termamyl-like α -amylase as referred to herein.

10 The fungal α -amylases mentioned above, i.e. derived from *A. niger* and *A. oryzae*, are highly homologous on the amino acid level and generally considered to belong to the same family of α -amylases. The fungal α -amylase derived from *Aspergillus oryzae* is commercially available under the tradename Fungamyl™.

15 Furthermore, when a particular variant of a Termamyl-like α -amylase (variant of the invention) is referred to - in a conventional manner - by reference to modification (e.g. deletion or substitution) of specific amino acid residues in the amino acid sequence of a specific Termamyl-like α -amylase, it is
20 to be understood that variants of another Termamyl-like α -amylase modified in the equivalent position(s) (as determined from the best possible amino acid sequence alignment between the respective amino acid sequences) are encompassed thereby.

A preferred embodiment of a variant of the invention is one
25 derived from a *B. licheniformis* α -amylase (as parent Termamyl-like α -amylase), e.g. one of those referred to above, such as the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.

30 Construction of variants of the invention

The construction of the variant of interest may be accomplished by cultivating a microorganism comprising a DNA sequence encoding the variant under conditions which are conducive for producing the variant. The variant may then

subsequently be recovered from the resulting culture broth. This is described in detail further below.

Altered properties of variants of the invention

5 The following discusses the relationship between mutations which may be present in variants of the invention, and desirable alterations in properties (relative to those a parent, Termamyl-like α -amylase) which may result therefrom.

10 Increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentration

 Mutations of particular relevance in relation to obtaining variants according to the invention having increased thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentration
15 include mutations at the following positions (relative to *B. licheniformis* α -amylase, SEQ ID NO: 4):
 H156, N172, A181, N188, N190, H205, D207, A209, A210, E211, Q264, N265.

 In the context of the invention the term "acidic pH" means a
20 pH below 7.0, especially below the pH range, in which industrial starch liquefaction processes are normally performed, which is between pH 5.5 and 6.2.

 In the context of the present invention the term "low Calcium concentration" means concentrations below the normal level used
25 in industrial starch liquefaction. Normal concentrations vary depending of the concentration of free Ca^{2+} in the corn. Normally a dosage corresponding to 1mM (40ppm) is added which together with the level in corn gives between 40 and 60ppm free Ca^{2+} .

 In the context of the invention the term "high temperatures"
30 means temperatures between 95°C and 160°C, especially the temperature range in which industrial starch liquefaction processes are normally performed, which is between 95°C and 105°C.

 The inventors have now found that the thermostability at
35 acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentration may be increased even more by combining certain mutations including the above

mentioned mutations and/or I201 with each other.

Said "certain" mutations are the following (relative to *B. licheniformis* α -amylase, SEQ ID NO: 4):

N190, D207, E211, Q264 and I201.

5 Said mutation may further be combined with deletions in one, preferably two or even three positions as described in WO 96/23873 (i.e. in positions R181, G182, T183, G184 in SEQ ID NO: 1 herein). According to the invention variants of a parent Termamyl-like α -amylase with α -amylase activity comprising
10 mutations in two, three, four, five or six of the above positions are contemplated.

It should be emphasised that not only the Termamyl-like α -amylases mentioned specifically below are contemplated. Also other commercial Termamyl-like α -amylases are contemplated. An
15 unexhaustive list of such α -amylases is the following:

α -amylases produced by the *B. licheniformis* strain described in EP 0252666 (ATCC 27811), and the α -amylases identified in WO 91/00353 and WO 94/18314. Other commercial Termamyl-like *B. licheniformis* α -amylases are OptithermTM and TakathermTM
20 (available from Solvay), MaxamylTM (available from Gist-brocades/Genencor), Spezym AATM Spezyme Delta AATM (available from Genencor), and KeistaseTM (available from Daiwa).

It may be mentioned here that amino acid residues, respectively, at positions corresponding to N190, I201, D207 and
25 E211, respectively, in SEQ ID NO: 4 constitute amino acid residues which are conserved in numerous Termamyl-like α -amylases. Thus, for example, the corresponding positions of these residues in the amino acid sequences of a number of Termamyl-like α -amylases which have already been mentioned (vide
30 *supra*) are as follows:

Table 1.

Termamyl-like α -amylase

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WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

11

	<i>B. licheniformis</i> (SEQ ID NO: 4)	N190	I201	D207	E211	Q264
	<i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> (SEQ ID NO: 5)	N190	V201	D207	E211	Q264
	<i>B. stearothermophilus</i> (SEQ ID NO: 3)	N193	L204	E210	E214	---
	<i>Bacillus</i> WO 95/26397 (SEQ ID NO: 2)	N195	V206	E212	E216	---
5	<i>Bacillus</i> WO 95/26397 (SEQ ID NO: 1)	N195	V206	E212	E216	---
	" <i>Bacillus</i> sp. #707" (SEQ ID NO: 6)	N195	I206	E212	E216	---

Mutations of these conserved amino acid residues are very important in relation to improving thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low calcium concentration, and the following mutations are of particular interest in this connection (with reference to the numbering of the *B. licheniformis* amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4).

Pair-wise amino acid deletions at positions corresponding to R179-G182 in SEQ ID NO: 5 corresponding to a gap in Seq ID NO: 4. when aligned with a numerous Termamyl-like α -amylases. Thus, for example, the corresponding positions of these residues in the amino acid sequences of a number of Termamyl-like α -amylases which have already been mentioned (vide supra) are as follows:

Table 2.

Termamyl-like α -amylase	Pair wise amino acid deletions among
<i>B. amyloliquefaciens</i> (SEQ ID No.5)	R176, G177, E178, G179
<i>B. stearothermophilus</i> (SEQ ID No.3)	R179, G180, I181, G182
<i>Bacillus</i> WO 95/26397 (SEQ ID No.2)	R181, G182, T183, G184
<i>Bacillus</i> WO 95/26397 (SEQ ID No.1)	R181, G182, D183, G184
" <i>Bacillus</i> sp. #707" (SEQ ID No.6)	R181, G182, H183, G184

When using SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 6 as the backbone (i.e. as the parent Termamyl-like α -amylase) two, three, four, five or six mutations may according to the invention be made in the following regions/positions to increase the thermostability at acidic pH and/or at low Ca^{2+} concentrations (relative to the parent):

(relative to Seq ID NO: 1 herein):

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

12

- 1: R181*, G182*, T183*, G184*
- 2: N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 3: V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
- 4: E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 5 5: E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 6: K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- (relative to SEQ ID NO: 2 herein):
- 1: R181*,G182*,D183*,G184*
- 2: N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 10 3: V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
- 4: E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 5: E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 6: K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- (Relative to SEQ ID NO: 3 herein):
- 15 1: R179*,G180,I181*,G182*
- 2: N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 3: L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 4: E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 5: E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 20 6: S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V
- Relative to SEQ ID NO: 4 herein):
- 1: Q178*,G179*
- 2: N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 3: I201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 25 4: D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 5: E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 6: Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- (relative to SEQ ID NO: 5 herein):
- 1: R176*,G177*,E178,G179*
- 30 2: N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 3: V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
- 4: D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 5: E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 6: Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
- 35 (relative to SEQ ID NO: 6 herein):
- 1: R181*,G182*,H183*,G184*
- 2: N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

13

3: I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 4: E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 5: E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 6: K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V.

5 Comtemplated according to the present invention is combining three, four, five or six mutation.

Specific double mutations for backbone SEQ ID NO: 1 to SEQ ID NO: 6 are listed in the following.

Using SEQ ID NO: 1 as the backbone the following double
 10 mutantions resulting in the desired effect are comtemplated according to the invention:

-R181*/G182*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/T183*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -T183*/G184*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 15 -R181*/G182*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -G182*/T183*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -T183*/G184*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -R181*/G182*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/T183*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 20 -T183*/G184*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/T183*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -T183*/G184*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 25 -G182*/T183*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -T183*/G184*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 30 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 35 -V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

-V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 5 E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

Using SEQ ID NO: 2 as the backbone the following double
 10 mutantions resulting in the desired effect are contemplated
 according to the invention:

-R181*/G182*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/D183*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -D183*/G184*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 15 -R181*/G182*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -G182*/T183*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -T183*/G184*/V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -R181*/G182*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/T183*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 20 -T183*/G184*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/T183*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -T183*/G184*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 25 -G182*/T183*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -T183*/G184*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195 A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -N195 A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 30 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 35 -V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -V206 A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

15

- /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -V206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 5 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 10 Using SEQ ID NO. 3 as the backbone the following double
 mutations resulting in the desired effect are contemplated
 according to the invention:
 -R179*/G180*/N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G180*/I181*/N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 15 -I181*/G182*/N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R179*/G180*/L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G180*/I181*/L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I181*/G182*/L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R179*/G180*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 20 -G180*/I181*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I181*/G182*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R179*/G180*/E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G180*/I181*/E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I181*/G182*/E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 25 -R179*/G180*/S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 -G180*/I181*/S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 -I181*/G182*/S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 -N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 30 -N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N193A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 35 /S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 -L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

-L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -L204A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 5 -E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;
 -E214A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 10 /S267A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,T,W,Y,V;

Using SEQ ID NO. 4 as the backbone the following double mutations resulting in the desired effect are contemplated according to the invention:

-Q178*/G179*/N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 15 -Q178*/G179*/I201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -Q178*/G179*/D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -Q178*/G179*/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R179*/G180*/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N190/I201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 20 -N190/D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N190/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N190/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I201/D207A,R,N,C,Q,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I201/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 25 -I201/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -D207/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -D207/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E211/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

Using SEQ ID NO: 5 as the backbone the following double mutations resulting in the desired effect are contemplated according to the invention:

-R176*/G177*/N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G177*/E178*/N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E178*/G179*/N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 35 -R176*/G177*/V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -G176*/E178*/V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -E178*/G179*/V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

17

-R176*/G177*/D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G177*/E178*/D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E178*/G179*/D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R176*/G177*/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 5 -G177*/E178*/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E178*/G179*/E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R176*/G177*/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G177*/E178*/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E178*/G179*/Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 10 -N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y;
 -N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 15 /E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N190A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 20 -V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -V201A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y
 /Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 25 /E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -D207A,R,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E211A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /Q264A,R,D,N,C,E,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V.

30 Using SEQ ID NO: 6 as the backbone the following double
 mutantions resulting in the desired effect are contemplated
 according to the invention:

-R181*/G182*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/H183*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 35 -H183*/G184*/N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/H183*/I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

-H183*/G184*/I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/H183*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -H183*/G184*/E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 5 -R181*/G182*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/H183*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -H183*/G184*/E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -R181*/G182*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -G182*/H183*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 10 -H183*/G184*/K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 15 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -N195A,R,D,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 20 /E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -I206A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 25 -E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E212A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 -E216A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V
 30 /K269A,R,D,N,C,E,Q,G,H,I,L,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;

All Termamyl-like α -amylase defined above may suitably be used as backbone for preparing variants of the invention.

However, in a preferred embodiment the variant comprises the following mutations: N190F/Q264S in SEQ ID NO: 4 or in
 35 corresponding positions in another parent Termamyl-like α -amylases.

In another embodiment the variant of the invention comprises

the following mutations: I181*/G182*/N193F in SEQ ID NO: 3 (TVB146) or in corresponding positions in another parent Termamyl-like α -amylases. Said variant may further comprise a substitution in position E214Q.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the invention the parent Termamyl-like α -amylase is a hybrid α -amylase of SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 5. Specifically, the parent hybrid Termamyl-like α -amylase may be a hybrid alpha-amylase comprising the 445 C-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase
10 shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 and the 37 N-terminal amino acid residues of the α -amylase derived from *B. amyloliquefaciens* shown in SEQ ID NO: 5, which may suitably further have the following mutations: H156Y+A181T+N190F+A209V+Q264S (using the numbering in SEQ ID NO: 4). The latter mentioned hybrid is used in the
15 examples below and is referred to as LE174.

General mutations in variants of the invention

It may be preferred that a variant of the invention comprises one or more modifications in addition to those outlined above.
20 Thus, it may be advantageous that one or more proline residues present in the part of the α -amylase variant which is modified is/are replaced with a non-proline residue which may be any of the possible, naturally occurring non-proline residues, and which preferably is an alanine, glycine, serine, threonine,
25 valine or leucine.

Analogously, it may be preferred that one or more cysteine residues present among the amino acid residues with which the parent α -amylase is modified is/are replaced with a non-cysteine residue such as serine, alanine, threonine, glycine, valine or
30 leucine.

Furthermore, a variant of the invention may - either as the only modification or in combination with any of the above outlined modifications - be modified so that one or more Asp and/or Glu present in an amino acid fragment corresponding to
35 the amino acid fragment 185-209 of SEQ ID NO: 4 is replaced by an Asn and/or Gln, respectively. Also of interest is the

replacement, in the Termamyl-like α -amylase, of one or more of the Lys residues present in an amino acid fragment corresponding to the amino acid fragment 185-209 of SEQ ID NO: 4 by an Arg.

It will be understood that the present invention encompasses
5 variants incorporating two or more of the above outlined modifications.

Furthermore, it may be advantageous to introduce point-mutations in any of the variants described herein.

10 Methods for preparing α -amylase variants

Several methods for introducing mutations into genes are known in the art. After a brief discussion of the cloning of α -amylase-encoding DNA sequences, methods for generating mutations at specific sites within the α -amylase-encoding sequence will be
15 discussed.

Cloning a DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase

The DNA sequence encoding a parent α -amylase may be isolated from any cell or microorganism producing the α -amylase in question, using various methods well known in the art. First, a
20 genomic DNA and/or cDNA library should be constructed using chromosomal DNA or messenger RNA from the organism that produces the α -amylase to be studied. Then, if the amino acid sequence of the α -amylase is known, homologous, labelled oligonucleotide
25 probes may be synthesized and used to identify α -amylase-encoding clones from a genomic library prepared from the organism in question. Alternatively, a labelled oligonucleotide probe containing sequences homologous to a known α -amylase gene could be used as a probe to identify α -amylase-encoding clones,
30 using hybridization and washing conditions of lower stringency.

Yet another method for identifying α -amylase-encoding clones would involve inserting fragments of genomic DNA into an expression vector, such as a plasmid, transforming α -amylase-negative bacteria with the resulting genomic DNA library, and

then plating the transformed bacteria onto agar containing a substrate for α -amylase, thereby allowing clones expressing the α -amylase to be identified.

Alternatively, the DNA sequence encoding the enzyme may be prepared synthetically by established standard methods, e.g. the phosphoroamidite method described by S.L. Beaucage and M.H. Caruthers (1981) or the method described by Matthes et al. (1984). In the phosphoroamidite method, oligonucleotides are synthesized, e.g. in an automatic DNA synthesizer, purified, annealed, ligated and cloned in appropriate vectors.

Finally, the DNA sequence may be of mixed genomic and synthetic origin, mixed synthetic and cDNA origin or mixed genomic and cDNA origin, prepared by ligating fragments of synthetic, genomic or cDNA origin (as appropriate, the fragments corresponding to various parts of the entire DNA sequence), in accordance with standard techniques. The DNA sequence may also be prepared by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using specific primers, for instance as described in US 4,683,202 or R.K. Saiki et al. (1988).

Site-directed mutagenesis

Once an α -amylase-encoding DNA sequence has been isolated, and desirable sites for mutation identified, mutations may be introduced using synthetic oligonucleotides. These oligonucleotides contain nucleotide sequences flanking the desired mutation sites; mutant nucleotides are inserted during oligonucleotide synthesis. In a specific method, a single-stranded gap of DNA, bridging the α -amylase-encoding sequence, is created in a vector carrying the α -amylase gene. Then the synthetic nucleotide, bearing the desired mutation, is annealed to a homologous portion of the single-stranded DNA. The remaining gap is then filled in with DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment) and the construct is ligated using T4 ligase. A specific example of this method is described in Morinaga et al. (1984). US 4,760,025 discloses the introduction of oligonucleotides encoding multiple

mutations by performing minor alterations of the cassette. However, an even greater variety of mutations can be introduced at any one time by the Morinaga method, because a multitude of oligonucleotides, of various lengths, can be introduced.

- 5 Another method for introducing mutations into α -amylase-encoding DNA sequences is described in Nelson and Long (1989). It involves the 3-step generation of a PCR fragment containing the desired mutation introduced by using a chemically synthesized DNA strand as one of the primers in the PCR reactions.
- 10 From the PCR-generated fragment, a DNA fragment carrying the mutation may be isolated by cleavage with restriction endonucleases and reinserted into an expression plasmid.

Random Mutagenesis

15

Random mutagenesis is suitably performed either as localised or region-specific random mutagenesis in at least three parts of the gene translating to the amino acid sequence shown in question, or within the whole gene.

- 20 The random mutagenesis of a DNA sequence encoding a parent α -amylase may be conveniently performed by use of any method known in the art.

In relation to the above, a further aspect of the present invention relates to a method for generating a variant of a
25 parent α -amylase, e.g. wherein the variant exhibits altered or increased thermal stability relative to the parent, the method comprising:

- (a) subjecting a DNA sequence encoding the parent α -amylase to random mutagenesis,
- 30 (b) expressing the mutated DNA sequence obtained in step (a) in a host cell, and
- (c) screening for host cells expressing an α -amylase variant which has an altered property (i.e. thermal stability) relative to the parent α -amylase.

Step (a) of the above method of the invention is preferably performed using doped primers.

For instance, the random mutagenesis may be performed by use of a suitable physical or chemical mutagenizing agent, by use of
5 a suitable oligonucleotide, or by subjecting the DNA sequence to PCR generated mutagenesis. Furthermore, the random mutagenesis may be performed by use of any combination of these mutagenizing agents. The mutagenizing agent may, e.g., be one which induces transitions, transversions, inversions, scrambling, deletions,
10 and/or insertions.

Examples of a physical or chemical mutagenizing agent suitable for the present purpose include ultraviolet (UV) ir-radiation, hydroxylamine, N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (MNNG), O-methyl hydroxylamine, nitrous acid, ethyl methane sulphonate
15 (EMS), sodium bisulphite, formic acid, and nucleotide analogues. When such agents are used, the mutagenesis is typically performed by incubating the DNA sequence encoding the parent enzyme to be mutagenized in the presence of the mutagenizing agent of choice under suitable conditions for the mutagenesis to
20 take place, and selecting for mutated DNA having the desired properties.

When the mutagenesis is performed by the use of an oligonucleotide, the oligonucleotide may be doped or spiked with the three non-parent nucleotides during the synthesis of the
25 oligonucleotide at the positions which are to be changed. The doping or spiking may be done so that codons for unwanted amino acids are avoided. The doped or spiked oligonucleotide can be incorporated into the DNA encoding the α -amylase enzyme by any published technique, using e.g. PCR, LCR or any DNA polymerase
30 and ligase as deemed appropriate.

Preferably, the doping is carried out using "constant random doping", in which the percentage of wild-type and mutation in each position is predefined. Furthermore, the doping may be directed toward a preference for the introduction of certain nucleotides, and thereby a preference for the introduction of one or more specific amino acid residues. The doping may be made, e.g., so as to allow for the introduction of 90% wild type and 10% mutations in each position. An additional consideration in the choice of a doping scheme is based on genetic as well as protein-structural constraints. The doping scheme may be made by using the DOPE program which, *inter alia*, ensures that introduction of stop codons is avoided.

When PCR-generated mutagenesis is used, either a chemically treated or non-treated gene encoding a parent α -amylase is subjected to PCR under conditions that increase the mis-incorporation of nucleotides (Deshler 1992; Leung et al., Technique, Vol.1, 1989, pp. 11-15).

A mutator strain of *E. coli* (Fowler et al., Molec. Gen. Genet., 133, 1974, pp. 179-191), *S. cerevisiae* or any other microbial organism may be used for the random mutagenesis of the DNA encoding the α -amylase by, e.g., transforming a plasmid containing the parent glycosylase into the mutator strain, growing the mutator strain with the plasmid and isolating the mutated plasmid from the mutator strain. The mutated plasmid may be subsequently transformed into the expression organism.

The DNA sequence to be mutagenized may be conveniently present in a genomic or cDNA library prepared from an organism expressing the parent α -amylase. Alternatively, the DNA sequence may be present on a suitable vector such as a plasmid or a bacteriophage, which as such may be incubated with or otherwise exposed to the mutagenising agent. The DNA to be mutagenized may also be present in a host cell either by being integrated in the genome of said cell or by being present on a vector harboured in the cell. Finally, the DNA to be mutagenized may be in isolated form. It will be understood that the DNA sequence to be subjected to random mutagenesis is preferably a cDNA or a genomic DNA sequence.

In some cases it may be convenient to amplify the mutated DNA sequence prior to performing the expression step b) or the screening step c). Such amplification may be performed in accordance with methods known in the art, the presently preferred method being PCR-generated amplification using
5 oligonucleotide primers prepared on the basis of the DNA or amino acid sequence of the parent enzyme.

Subsequent to the incubation with or exposure to the mutagenising agent, the mutated DNA is expressed by culturing a
10 suitable host cell carrying the DNA sequence under conditions allowing expression to take place. The host cell used for this purpose may be one which has been transformed with the mutated DNA sequence, optionally present on a vector, or one which was carried the DNA sequence encoding the parent enzyme during the
15 mutagenesis treatment. Examples of suitable host cells are the following: gram positive bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus circulans*,
20 *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, *Streptomyces lividans* or *Streptomyces murinus*; and gram-negative bacteria such as *E. coli*.

The mutated DNA sequence may further comprise a DNA sequence encoding functions permitting expression of the mutated DNA
25 sequence.

Localized random mutagenesis

The random mutagenesis may be advantageously localized to a part of the parent α -amylase in question. This may, e.g., be
30 advantageous when certain regions of the enzyme have been identified to be of particular importance for a given property of the enzyme, and when modified are expected to result in a variant having improved properties. Such regions may normally be identified when the tertiary structure of the parent enzyme has
35 been elucidated and related to the function of the enzyme.

The localized, or region-specific, random mutagenesis is conveniently performed by use of PCR generated mutagenesis techniques as described above or any other suitable technique known in the art. Alternatively, the DNA sequence encoding the part of the DNA sequence to be modified may be isolated, e.g., by insertion into a suitable vector, and said part may be subsequently subjected to mutagenesis by use of any of the mutagenesis methods discussed above.

10 Alternative methods of providing α -amylase variants

Alternative methods for providing variants of the invention include gene shuffling method known in the art including the methods e.g. described in WO 95/22625 (from Affymax Technologies N.V.) and WO 96/00343 (from Novo Nordisk A/S).

15

Expression of α -amylase variants

According to the invention, a DNA sequence encoding the variant produced by methods described above, or by any alternative methods known in the art, can be expressed, in enzyme form, using an expression vector which typically includes control sequences encoding a promoter, operator, ribosome binding site, translation initiation signal, and, optionally, a repressor gene or various activator genes.

The recombinant expression vector carrying the DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase variant of the invention may be any vector which may conveniently be subjected to recombinant DNA procedures, and the choice of vector will often depend on the host cell into which it is to be introduced. Thus, the vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, i.e. a vector which exists as an extrachromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, e.g. a plasmid, a bacteriophage or an extrachromosomal element, minichromosome or an artificial chromosome. Alternatively, the vector may be one which, when introduced into a host cell, is integrated into the host cell genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated.

In the vector, the DNA sequence should be operably connected

to a suitable promoter sequence. The promoter may be any DNA sequence which shows transcriptional activity in the host cell of choice and may be derived from genes encoding proteins either homologous or heterologous to the host cell. Examples of
5 suitable promoters for directing the transcription of the DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase variant of the invention, especially in a bacterial host, are the promoter of the *lac* operon of *E.coli*, the *Streptomyces coelicolor* agarase gene *dagA* promoters, the promoters of the *Bacillus licheniformis* α -amylase
10 gene (*amyL*), the promoters of the *Bacillus stearothermophilus* maltogenic amylase gene (*amyM*), the promoters of the *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* α -amylase (*amyQ*), the promoters of the *Bacillus subtilis* *xylA* and *xylB* genes etc. For transcription in a fungal host, examples of useful promoters are those derived from
15 the gene encoding *A. oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, *A. niger* neutral α -amylase, *A. niger* acid stable α -amylase, *A. niger* glucoamylase, *Rhizomucor miehei* lipase, *A. oryzae* alkaline protease, *A. oryzae* triose phosphate isomerase or *A. nidulans* acetamidase.

20 The expression vector of the invention may also comprise a suitable transcription terminator and, in eukaryotes, polyadenylation sequences operably connected to the DNA sequence encoding the α -amylase variant of the invention. Termination and polyadenylation sequences may suitably be derived from the same
25 sources as the promoter.

The vector may further comprise a DNA sequence enabling the vector to replicate in the host cell in question. Examples of such sequences are the origins of replication of plasmids pUC19, pACYC177, pUB110, pE194, pAMB1 and pIJ702.

30 The vector may also comprise a selectable marker, e.g. a gene the product of which complements a defect in the host cell, such as the *dal* genes from *B. subtilis* or *B. licheniformis*, or one which confers antibiotic resistance such as ampicillin, kanamycin, chloramphenicol or tetracyclin resistance. Fur-
35 thermore, the vector may comprise *Aspergillus* selection markers such as *amdS*, *argB*, *niaD* and *sC*, a marker giving rise to

hygromycin resistance, or the selection may be accomplished by co-transformation, e.g. as described in WO 91/17243.

While intracellular expression may be advantageous in some respects, e.g. when using certain bacteria as host cells, it is generally preferred that the expression is extracellular. In general, the *Bacillus* α -amylases mentioned herein comprise a preregion permitting secretion of the expressed protease into the culture medium. If desirable, this preregion may be replaced by a different preregion or signal sequence, conveniently accomplished by substitution of the DNA sequences encoding the respective preregions.

The procedures used to ligate the DNA construct of the invention encoding an α -amylase variant, the promoter, terminator and other elements, respectively, and to insert them into suitable vectors containing the information necessary for replication, are well known to persons skilled in the art (cf., for instance, Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Ed., Cold Spring Harbor, 1989).

The cell of the invention, either comprising a DNA construct or an expression vector of the invention as defined above, is advantageously used as a host cell in the recombinant production of an α -amylase variant of the invention. The cell may be transformed with the DNA construct of the invention encoding the variant, conveniently by integrating the DNA construct (in one or more copies) in the host chromosome. This integration is generally considered to be an advantage as the DNA sequence is more likely to be stably maintained in the cell. Integration of the DNA constructs into the host chromosome may be performed according to conventional methods, e.g. by homologous or heterologous recombination. Alternatively, the cell may be transformed with an expression vector as described above in connection with the different types of host cells.

The cell of the invention may be a cell of a higher organism such as a mammal or an insect, but is preferably a microbial cell, e.g. a bacterial or a fungal (including yeast) cell.

Examples of suitable bacteria are grampositive bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus lentus*,

Bacillus brevis, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus circulans*, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or *Streptomyces lividans* or *Streptomyces murinus*,
5 or gramnegative bacteria such as *E.coli*. The transformation of the bacteria may, for instance, be effected by protoplast transformation or by using competent cells in a manner known per se.

The yeast organism may favourably be selected from a species of *Saccharomyces* or *Schizosaccharomyces*, e.g. *Saccharomyces*
10 *cerevisiae*. The filamentous fungus may advantageously belong to a species of *Aspergillus*, e.g. *Aspergillus oryzae* or *Aspergillus niger*. Fungal cells may be transformed by a process involving protoplast formation and transformation of the protoplasts followed by regeneration of the cell wall in a manner known per se.
15 A suitable procedure for transformation of *Aspergillus* host cells is described in EP 238 023.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention relates to a method of producing an α -amylase variant of the invention, which method comprises cultivating a host cell as described above
20 under conditions conducive to the production of the variant and recovering the variant from the cells and/or culture medium.

The medium used to cultivate the cells may be any conventional medium suitable for growing the host cell in question and obtaining expression of the α -amylase variant of the invention.
25 Suitable media are available from commercial suppliers or may be prepared according to published recipes (e.g. as described in catalogues of the American Type Culture Collection).

The α -amylase variant secreted from the host cells may conveniently be recovered from the culture medium by well-known
30 procedures, including separating the cells from the medium by centrifugation or filtration, and precipitating proteinaceous components of the medium by means of a salt such as ammonium sulphate, followed by the use of chromatographic procedures such as ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography, or the
35 like.

Industrial applications

The α -amylase variants of this invention possesses valuable properties allowing for a variety of industrial applications. In particular, enzyme variants of the invention are applicable as a component in washing, dishwashing and hard-surface cleaning
5 detergent compositions. Numerous variants are particularly useful in the production of sweeteners and ethanol from starch, and/or for textile desizing. Conditions for conventional starch-conversion processes, including starch liquefaction and/or saccharification processes, are described in, e.g., US 3,912,590
10 and in EP patent publications Nos. 252 730 and 63 909.

Production of sweeteners from starch:

A "traditional" process for conversion of starch to fructose syrups normally consists of three consecutive enzymatic
15 processes, viz. a liquefaction process followed by a saccharification process and an isomerization process. During the liquefaction process, starch is degraded to dextrins by an α -amylase (e.g. Termamyl™) at pH values between 5.5 and 6.2 and at temperatures of 95-160°C for a period of approx. 2 hours. In
20 order to ensure an optimal enzyme stability under these conditions, 1 mM of calcium is added (40 ppm free calcium ions).

After the liquefaction process the dextrins are converted into dextrose by addition of a glucoamylase (e.g. AMG™) and a debranching enzyme, such as an isoamylase or a pullulanase (e.g.
25 Promozyme™). Before this step the pH is reduced to a value below 4.5, maintaining the high temperature (above 95°C), and the liquefying α -amylase activity is denatured. The temperature is lowered to 60°C, and glucoamylase and debranching enzyme are added. The saccharification process proceeds for 24-72 hours.

30 After the saccharification process the pH is increased to a value in the range of 6-8, preferably pH 7.5, and the calcium is removed by ion exchange. The dextrose syrup is then converted into high fructose syrup using, e.g., an immobilized gluco-seisomerase (such as Sweetzyme™).

35 At least 1 enzymatic improvements of this process could be envisaged. Reduction of the calcium dependency of the liquefying α -amylase. Addition of free calcium is required to

ensure adequately high stability of the α -amylase, but free calcium strongly inhibits the activity of the glucose isomerase and needs to be removed, by means of an expensive unit operation, to an extent which reduces the level of free calcium
5 to below 3-5 ppm. Cost savings could be obtained if such an operation could be avoided and the liquefaction process could be performed without addition of free calcium ions.

To achieve that, a less calcium-dependent Termamyl-like α -amylase which is stable and highly active at low
10 concentrations of free calcium (< 40 ppm) is required. Such a Termamyl-like α -amylase should have a pH optimum at a pH in the range of 4.5-6.5, preferably in the range of 4.5-5.5.

Detergent compositions

15 As mentioned above, variants of the invention may suitably be incorporated in detergent compositions. Increased thermostability at low calcium concentrations would be very beneficial for amylase performance in detergents, i.e. the alkaline region. Reference is made, for example, to WO 96/23874
20 and WO 97/07202 for further details concerning relevant ingredients of detergent compositions (such as laundry or dishwashing detergents), appropriate methods of formulating the variants in such detergent compositions, and for examples of relevant types of detergent compositions.

25 Detergent compositions comprising a variant of the invention may additionally comprise one or more other enzymes, such as a lipase, cutinase, protease, cellulase, peroxidase or laccase, and/or another α -amylase.

α -amylase variants of the invention may be incorporated in
30 detergents at conventionally employed concentrations. It is at present contemplated that a variant of the invention may be incorporated in an amount corresponding to 0.00001-1 mg (calculated as pure, active enzyme protein) of α -amylase per liter of wash/dishwash liquor using conventional dosing levels
35 of detergent.

The invention also relates to a composition comprising

a mixture of one or more variants of the invention derived from (as the parent Termamyl-like α -amylase) the *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a Termamyl-like alpha-amylase derived from the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.

Further, the invention also relates to a composition comprising a mixture of one or more variants according the invention derived from (as the parent Termamyl-like α -amylase) the *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 and a hybrid alpha-amylase comprising a part of the *B. amyloliquefaciens* α -amylase shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 and a part of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase shown in SEQ ID NO: 4. The latter mentioned hybrid Termamyl-like α -amylase comprises the 445 C-terminal amino acid residues of the *B. licheniformis* α -amylase shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 and the 37 N-terminal amino acid residues of the α -amylase derived from *B. amyloliquefaciens* shown in SEQ ID NO: 5. Said latter mentioned hybrid α -amylase may suitably comprise the following mutations: H156Y+A181T+N190F+A209V+Q264S (using the numbering in SEQ ID NO: 4). In the examples below said hybrid parent Termamyl-like α -amylase, is used in combination with variants of the invention, which variants may be used in compositions of the invention.

In a specific embodiment of the invention the composition comprises a mixture of TVB146 and LE174, e.g., in a ratio of 2:1 to 1:2, such as 1:1.

A α -amylase variant of the invention or a composition of the invention may in an aspect of the invention be used for washing and/or dishwashing; for textile desizing or for starch liquefaction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Enzymes:

BSG alpha-amylase: *B. stearothermophilus* alpha-amylase depicted
5 in SEQ ID NO: 3.

TVB146 alpha-amylase variant: *B. stearothermophilus* alpha-
amylase variant depicted in SEQ ID NO: 3 with the following
mutations: with the deletion in positions I181-G182 + N193F.

LE174 hybrid alpha-amylase variant:

10 LE174 is a hybrid Termamyl-like alpha-amylase being identical
to the Termamyl sequence, i.e., the *Bacillus licheniformis* α -
amylase shown in SEQ ID NO: 4, except that the N-terminal 35
amino acid residues (of the mature protein) has been replaced
by the N-terminal 33 residues of BAN (mature protein), i.e.,
15 the *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* alpha-amylase shown in SEQ ID
NO: 5, which further have following mutations:

H156Y+A181T+N190F+A209V+Q264S (using the numbering in SEQ ID NO:
4). LE174 was constructed by SOE-PCR (Higuchi et al. 1988,
Nucleic Acids Research 16:7351).

20

Fermentation and purification of α -amylase variants

A *B. subtilis* strain harbouring the relevant expression
plasmid is streaked on a LB-agar plate with 10 μ g/ml kanamycin
from -80°C stock, and grown overnight at 37°C.

25 The colonies are transferred to 100 ml BPX media supplemented
with 10 μ g/ml kanamycin in a 500 ml shaking flask.

Composition of BPX medium:

30	Potato starch	100	g/l
	Barley flour	50	g/l
	BAN 5000 SKB	0.1	g/l
	Sodium caseinate	10	g/l
	Soy Bean Meal	20	g/l
	Na ₂ HPO ₄ , 12 H ₂ O	9	g/l
	Pluronic™	0.1	g/l

35

The culture is shaken at 37°C at 270 rpm for 5 days.

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

34

Cells and cell debris are removed from the fermentation broth by centrifugation at 4500 rpm in 20-25 minutes. Afterwards the supernatant is filtered to obtain a completely clear solution.

- 5 The filtrate is concentrated and washed on a UF-filter (10000 cut off membrane) and the buffer is changed to 20mM Acetate pH 5.5. The UF-filtrate is applied on a S-sepharose F.F. and elution is carried out by step elution with 0.2M NaCl in the same buffer. The eluate is dialysed against 10mM Tris, pH 9.0 and applied on a
- 10 Q-sepharoseTM F.F. and eluted with a linear gradient from 0-0.3M NaCl over 6 column volumes. The fractions which contain the activity (measured by the PhadebasTM assay) are pooled, pH was adjusted to pH 7.5 and remaining color was removed by a treatment with 0.5% W/vol. active coal in 5 minutes.

15

Activity determination - (KNU)

- One Kilo alphah-amylase Unit (1 KNU) is the amount of enzyme which breaks down 5.26 g starch (Merck, Amylum Solubile, Erg. B 6,
- 20 Batch 9947275) per hour in Novo Nordisk's standard method for determination of alpha-amylase based upon the following condition:

Substrate	soluble starch
25 Calcium content in solvent	0.0043 M
Reaction time	7-20 minutes
Temperature	37°C
pH	5.6

- 30 "Novo method for determining bacterial alpha-amylase", Analytical method AF 9, org date 80-03-19, available from Novozymes A/S, Denmark.

BS-amylase Activity Determination - KNU(S)**1. Application Field**

This method is used to determine α -amylase activity in fermentation and recovery samples and formulated and granulated products.

2. Principle

BS-amylase breaks down the substrate (4,6-ethylidene(G₇)-p-nitrophenyl(G₁)- α ,D-maltoheptaoside (written as ethylidene-G₇-PNP) into, among other things, G₂-PNP and G₃-PNP, where G denoted glucose and PNP p-nitrophenol.

G₂-PNP and G₃-PNP are broken down by α -glucosidase, which is added in excess, into glucose and the yellow-coloured p-nitrophenol.

The colour reaction is monitored in situ and the change in absorbance over time calculated as an expression of the speed of the reaction and thus of the activity of the enzyme.

2.1 Reaction conditions**Reaction:**

Temperature : 37°C
pH : 7.1
Pre-incubation time: 2 minutes

Detection:

Wavelength : 405 nm
Measurement time 3 minutes

3. Definition of Units

Bacillus stearothermophilus alpha-amylase (BS-amylase) activity is determined relative to a standard of declared activity and stated in Kilo Novo Units (Stearothermophilus) or KNU(S)).

4. Specificity and Sensitivity

Limit of determination: approx. 0.4 KNU(s)/g

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

36

5. ApparatusCobas FaraTM analyserDiluted (e.g. Hamilton MicrolabTM 1000)Analytical balance (e.g. MettlerTM AE 100)

5 Stirrer plates

6. Reagents/Substrates

A ready-made kit is used in this analysis to determine α -amylase activity. Note that the reagents specified for the substrate and α -glucosidase are not used as described in the Boehringer Mannheim guidelines. However, the designations "buffer", "glass 1", glass 1a" and Glass 2" are those referred to in those guidelines.

15 **6.1. Substrate**

4,6-ethylidene(G_7)-p-nitrophenyl(G_1)- α ,D-maltoheptaoside (written as ethylidene- G_7 -PNP) e.g. Boehringer Mannheim 1442 309

6.2 α -glucosidase help reagent20 α -glucosidase, e.g. Boehringer Mannheim 1442 309**6.3 BRIJ 35 solution**

BRIJ 35 (30% W/V Sigma 430 AG-6)

1000 mL

Demineralized water

up to 2,000 mL

25

6.4 StabiliserBrijTM35 solution

33 mL

CaCl₂·2H₂O (Merck 2382)

882 g

Demineralized water

up to 2,000 mL

30

7. Samples and Standards**7.1 Standard curve**

35 Example: Preparation of BS-amylase standard curve

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

37

The relevant standard is diluted to 0.60 KNU(s)/mL as follows. A calculated quantity of standard is weighed out and added to 200 mL volumetric flask, which is filled to around the 2/3 mark with demineralized water. Stabiliser corresponding to 1% of the
 5 volume of the flask is added and the flask is filled to the mark with demineralized water.

A Hamilton Microlab 1000 is used to produce the dilutions shown below. Demineralized water with 1% stabiliser is used as the diluent.

10

Dilution No.	Enzyme stock solution	1% stabiliser	KNU(s)/mL
1	20µL	580µL	0.02
2	30µL	570µL	0.03
3	40µL	560µL	0.04
4	50µL	550µL	0.05
5	60µL	540µL	0.06

7.2 Level control

A Novo Nordisk A/S BS amylase level control is included in all runs using the Cobas Fara. The control is diluted with 1%
 15 stabiliser so that the final dilution is within the range of the standard curve. All weights and dilutions are noted on the worklist

7.3 Sample solutions

20 Single determination

Fermentation samples (not final samples) from production, all fermentation samples from pilot plants and storage stability samples are weighed out and analyzed once only.

Double determination over 1 run:

25 Process samples, final fermentation samples from production, samples from GLP studies and R&D samples are weighed out and analyzed twice.

Double determinations over 2 runs:

Finished product samples are weighed out and analyzed twice over two separate runs.

Maximum concentration of samples in powder form: 5%

Test samples are diluted with demineralized water with 1% stabiliser to approx. 0.037 KNU(S)/mL on the basis of their expected activity. The final dilution is made direct into the sample cup.

8. Procedure

10 8.1 Cobas Menu Program

- The Cobas Menu Program is used to suggest the weight/dilutions of samples and level control to be used.
- The samples are entered into the program with a unique identification code and a worklist is printed out
- 15 ■ The samples and control are weighed out and diluted as stated on the worklist with hand-written weight data is inserted into the BS-amylase analysis logbook
- The results are computered automatically by the Cobas Fara as described in item 9 and printed out along with the standard curve.
- 20 ■ Worklists and results printouts are inserted into the BS-amylase analysis logbook.

8.2 Cobas Fara set-up

- 25 ■ The samples are placed in the sample rack
- The five standards are placed in the calibration rack at position 1 to 5 (strongest standard at position 5), and control placed in the same rack at position 10.
- The substrate is transferred to a 30 mL reagent container and placed in that reagent rack at position 2 (holder 1).
- 30 ■ The α -glucosidase help reagent is transferred to a 50 mL reagent container and placed in the reagent rack at position 2 (holder C)

35 8.3 Cobas Fare analysis

The main principles of the analysis are as follows:

20µL sample and 10µL rinse-water are pipetted into the cuvette along with 250µL α-glucosidase help reagent. The cuvette rotates for 10 seconds and the reagents are thrown out into the horizontal cuvettes. 25µL substrate and 20µL rinse-water are pipetted off. After a 1 second wait to ensure that the temperature is 37°C, the cuvette rotates again and the substrate is mixed into the horizontal cuvettes. Absorbance is measured for the first time after 120 seconds and then every 5 seconds. Absorbance is measured a total of 37 times for each sample.

9. Calculations

The activity of the samples is calculated relative to Novo Nordisk A/S standard.

The standard curve is plotted by the analyzer. The curve is to be gently curved, rising steadily to an absorbance of around 0.25 for standard no. 5.

The activity of the samples in KNU(S)/mL is read off the standard curve by the analyzer.

The final calculations to allow for the weights/dilutions used employ the following formula:

$$\text{Activity in KNU(S)/g} = S \times V \times F/W$$

S= analysis result read off (KNU(S)/mL

V= volume of volumetric flask used in mL

F= dilution factor for second dilution

W= weight of enzyme sample in g

9.2 Calculation of mean values

Results are stated with 3 significant digits. However, for sample activity < 10 KNU(S)/g, only 2 significant digits are given.

The following rules apply on calculation of mean values:

1. Data which deviates more than 2 standard deviations from the mean value is not included in the calculation.

2. Single and double determination over one run:

The mean value is calculated on basis of results lying within the standard curve's activity area.

3. Double determinations over two runs: All values are included in the mean value. Outliers are omitted.

10. Accuracy and Precision

- 5 The coefficient of variation is 2.9% based on retrospective validation of analysis results for a number of finished products and the level control.

Assay for α -Amylase Activity

- 10 α -Amylase activity is determined by a method employing Phadebas® tablets as substrate. Phadebas tablets (Phadebas® Amylase Test, supplied by Pharmacia Diagnostic) contain a cross-linked insoluble blue-coloured starch polymer which has been mixed with bovine serum albumin and a buffer substance and
15 tabletted.

- For every single measurement one tablet is suspended in a tube containing 5 ml 50 mM Britton-Robinson buffer (50 mM acetic acid, 50 mM phosphoric acid, 50 mM boric acid, 0.1 mM CaCl_2 , pH adjusted to the value of interest with NaOH). The test is
20 performed in a water bath at the temperature of interest. The α -amylase to be tested is diluted in x ml of 50 mM Britton-Robinson buffer. 1 ml of this α -amylase solution is added to the 5 ml 50 mM Britton-Robinson buffer. The starch is hydrolysed by the α -amylase giving soluble blue fragments. The absorbance of
25 the resulting blue solution, measured spectrophotometrically at 620 nm, is a function of the α -amylase activity.

- It is important that the measured 620 nm absorbance after 10 or 15 minutes of incubation (testing time) is in the range of 0.2 to 2.0 absorbance units at 620 nm. In this absorbance range
30 there is linearity between activity and absorbance (Lambert-Beer law). The dilution of the enzyme must therefore be adjusted to fit this criterion. Under a specified set of conditions (temp., pH, reaction time, buffer conditions) 1 mg of a given α -amylase will hydrolyse a certain amount of substrate and a blue colour
35 will be produced. The colour intensity is measured at 620 nm. The measured absorbance is directly proportional to the specific

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

41

activity (activity/mg of pure α -amylase protein) of the α -amylase in question under the given set of conditions.

EXAMPLES**EXAMPLE 1**Construction of variants of BSG α -amylase (SEQ ID NO: 3)

5 The gene encoding BSG, amyS, is located in plasmid pPL1117. This plasmid contains also the gene conferring resistance towards kanamycin and an origin of replication, both obtained from plasmid pUB110 (Gryczan, T.J. et al (1978) J.Bact 134:318-329).

10 The DNA sequence of the mature part of amyS is shown as SEQ ID NO: 11 and the amino acid sequence of the mature protein is shown as SEQ ID NO: 3

 BSG variant TVB145, which contains a deletion of 6 nucleotides corresponding to amino acids I181-G182 in the
15 mature protein, is constructed as follows:

 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) is utilized to amplify the part of the amyS gene (from plasmid pPL1117), located between DNA primers BSG1 (SEQ ID NO: 15) and BSGM2 (SEQ ID NO: 18). BSG1 is identical to a part of the amyS gene whereas BSGM2
20 contains the 6 bp nucleotide deletion. A standard PCR reaction is carried out: 94°C for 5 minutes, 25 cycles of (94°C for 45 seconds, 50°C for 45 seconds, 72°C for 90 seconds), 72°C for 7 minutes using the Pwo polymerase under conditions as recommended by the manufacturer, Boehringer Mannheim GmbH.

25 The resulting approximately 550 bp amplified band was used as a megaprimer (Barik, S and Galinski, MS (1991): Biotechniques 10: 489-490) together with primer BSG3 in a second PCR with pPL1117 as template resulting in a DNA fragment of approximately 1080 bp.

30 This DNA fragment is digested with restriction endonucleases Acc65I and SalI and the resulting approximately 550 bp fragment is ligated into plasmid pPL1117 digested with the same enzymes and transformed into the protease- and amylase-deleted *Bacillus subtilis* strain SHA273 (described in
35 WO92/11357 and WO95/10603).

 Kanamycin resistant and starch degrading transformants were analysed for the presence of the desired mutations (restriction

digest to verify the introduction of a HindIII site in the gene). The DNA sequence between restriction sites Acc65I and SalI was verified by DNA sequencing to ensure the presence of only the desired mutations.

5 BSG variant TVB146 which contains the same 6 nucleotide deletion as TVB145 and an additional substitution of asparagine 193 for a phenylalanine, N193F, was constructed in a similar way as TVB145 utilizing primer BSGM3 (SEQ ID NO: 19) in the first PCR.

10 BSG variant TVB161, containing the deletion of I181-G182, N193F, and L204F, is constructed in a similar way as the two previous variants except that the template for the PCR reactions is plasmid pTVB146 (pPL1117 containing the TVB146-mutations within amyS and the mutagenic oligonucleotide for the
15 first PCR is BSGM3.

BSG variant TVB162, containing the deletion of I181-G182, N193F, and E210H, is constructed in a similar way as TVB161 except that the mutagenic oligonucleotide is BSGM4 (SEQ ID NO: 20).

20 BSG variant TVB163, containing the deletion of I181-G182, N193F, and E214Q, is constructed in a similar way as TVB161 except that the mutagenic oligonucleotide is BSGM5 (SEQ ID NO: 21).

The above constructed BSG variants were then fermented and
25 purified as described above in the "Material and Methods" section.

EXAMPLE 2

Measurement of the calcium- and pH-dependent stability

30 Normally, the industrial liquefaction process runs using pH 6.0-6.2 as liquefaction pH and an addition of 40 ppm free calcium in order to improve the stability at 95°C-105°C. Some of the herein proposed substitutions have been made in order to improve the stability at

- 35 1. lower pH than pH 6.2 and/or
2. at free calcium levels lower than 40 ppm free calcium.

Two different methods have been used to measure the improvements in stability obtained by the different

substitutions in the α -amylase from *B.stearothermophilus*:

Method 1. One assay which measures the stability at reduced pH, pH 5.0, in the presence of 5 ppm free calcium.

10 μ g of the variant were incubated under the
5 following conditions: A 0.1 M acetate solution, pH
adjusted to pH 5.0, containing 5ppm calcium and 5% w/w
common corn starch (free of calcium). Incubation was
made in a water bath at 95°C for 30 minutes.

Method 2. One assay which measure the stability in the
10 absence of free calcium and where the pH is maintained at pH
6.0. This assay measures the decrease in calcium sensitivity:
10 μ g of the variant were incubated under the following
conditions: A 0.1 M acetate solution, pH adjusted to
pH 6.0, containing 5% w/w common corn starch (free of
15 calcium). Incubation was made in a water bath at 95°C
for 30 minutes.

Stability determination

All the stability trials 1, 2 have been made using
20 the same set up. The method was:

The enzyme was incubated under the relevant conditions (1-4).
Samples were taken at 0, 5, 10, 15 and 30 minutes and diluted
25 times (same dilution for all taken samples) in assay buffer
(0.1M 50mM Britton buffer pH 7.3) and the activity was
25 measured using the Phadebas assay (Pharmacia) under standard
conditions pH 7.3, 37°C.

The activity measured before incubation (0 minutes) was
used as reference (100%). The decline in percent was calculated
as a function of the incubation time. The table shows the
30 residual activity after 30 minutes of incubation.

WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

45

Stability method 1. / Low pH stability improvement

MINUTES OF INCUBATION	WT. SEQ. ID. NO:3 AMYLASE (BSG)	SEQ. ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 (TVB145)	SEQ. ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 + N193F (TVB146)	SEQ. ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 + N193F + E214Q (TVB163)
0	100	100	100	100
5	29	71	83	77
10	9	62	77	70
15	3	50	72	67
30	1	33	62	60

5 Stability method 1. / Low pH stability improvement

The temperature described in method 1 has been reduced from 95°C to 70°C since the amylases mentioned for SEQ ID NO: 1 and 2 have a lower thermostability than the one for SEQ ID NO: 3.

MINUTES OF INCUBATION	WT. SEQ. ID. NO: 2 AMYLASE	SEQ. ID NO: 2 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. D183-G184	SEQ. ID NO: 1 AMYLASE	SEQ. ID NO: 1 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. T183-G184
0	100	100	100	100
5	73	92	41	76
10	59	88	19	69
15	48	91	11	62
30	28	92	3	59

Stability method 2. / Low calcium sensitivity

MINUTES OF INCUBATION	WT. SEQ ID NO: 3 AMYLASE (BSG)	SEQ ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 (TVB145)	SEQ ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 + N193F (TVB146)	SEQ ID NO: 3 VARIANT WITH DELETION IN POS. I181-G182 + N193F + E214Q (TVB163)
0	100	100	100	100
5	60	82	81	82
10	42	76	80	83
15	31	77	81	79
30	15	67	78	79

Specific activity determination.

5 The specific activity was determined using the Phadebas assay (Pharmacia) as activity/mg enzyme. The activity was determined using the α -amylase assay described in the Materials and Methods section herein.

The specific activity of the parent enzyme and a single and
10 a double mutation was determined to:

BSG: SEQ ID NO:3 (Parent enzyme) 20000 NU/mg

TVB145: SEQ ID NO:3 with the deletion in positions

I181-G182: (Single mutation) 34600 NU/mg

15

TVB146: SEQ ID NO:3 with the deletion in positions

I181-G182 + N193F: (Double mutation)

36600 NU/mg

TVB163: SEQ ID NO:3 with the deletion in positions

20 I181-G182+N193F+E214Q: (Triple mutation) 36300 NU/mg

EXAMPLE 3

Pilot plant jet cook and liquefaction with alpha-amylase

variant TVB146

Pilot plant liquefaction experiments were run in the mini-jet system using a dosage of 50 NU (S)/g DS at pH 5.5 with 5 ppm added Ca^{++} , to compare the performance of formulated BSG alpha-amylase variant TVB146 (SEQ ID NO: 3 with deletion in positions

I181-G182 + N193F) with that of parent BSG alpha-amylase (SEQ ID NO: 3). The reaction was monitored by measuring the DE increase (Neocuproine method) as a function of time.

10 Corn starch slurries were prepared by suspending 11.8 kg Cerestar C*Pharm GL 03406 (89 % starch) in deionized water and making up to 30 kg. The pH was adjusted to 5.5 at ambient temperature, after the addition of 0.55 g $\text{CaCl}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$.

The following enzymes were used:

15

TVB146	108 KNU(S)/g, 146 KNU(SM9)/g
BSG amylase	101 KNU(S)/g, 98 KNU(SM9)/g

20 An amount of enzyme corresponding to 50 NU (SM9)/g DS was added, and the conductivity adjusted to 300mS using NaCl. The standard conditions were as follows:

Substrate concentration	35 % w/w (initial)
	31.6-31.9 % w/w (final)
25 Temperature	105°C, 5 min (Primary liquefaction)
	95°C, 90 min (Secondary liquefaction)
pH (initial)	5.5

30 After jetting, the liquefied starch was collected and transported in sealed thermos-flasks from the pilot plant to the laboratory, where secondary liquefaction was continued at 95 °C.

10 ml samples were taken at 15 minute intervals from 15-90 minutes. 2 drops of 1 N HCl were added to inactivate the enzyme. From these samples, 0.3-0.1 g (according to the expected DE) were weighed out and diluted to 100 ml. Reducing sugars were then determined according to the Neocuproine method (Determination of reducing sugar with improved precision.

Dygert, Li, Florida and Thomas (1965). Anal. Biochem 13, 368) and DE values determined. The development of DE as a function of time is given in the following table:

	TVB146	BSG
Time (min.)	DE (neocuproine)	
15	2.80	2.32
30	4.88	3.56
45	6.58	4.98
60	8.17	6.00
75	9.91	7.40
90	11.23	8.03

5

As can be seen the alpha-amylase variant TVB146 performed significantly better under industrially relevant application conditions at low levels of calcium than the parent BSG alpha-amylase.

10

EXAMPLE 4

Jet Cook and Liquefaction with a combination of alpha-amylase variants (TVB146 and LE174)

Jet cook and liquefaction using a combination of the alpha-amylase variants, TVB146 and LE174 (ratio 1:1) were carried out at the following conditions:

Substrate A.E. Staley food grade powdered corn starch (100lbs)

D.S. 35% using DI water

20 Free Ca^{2+} 2.7ppm at pH 5.3 (none added, from the starch only)
Initial pH 5.3

Dose AF9 units (AF9 is available on request) for each enzyme variant was 28 NU/g starch db for a total dose of 56 NU/g

Temperature in primary liquefaction 105°C

25 Hold time in primary liquefaction 5 minutes

Temperature in secondary liquefaction 95°C

At 15 minutes into secondary liquefaction 1.5 gms of hydrolyzate was added to a tared one liter volumetric containing 500cc of DI water and 1 ml of one normal HCl and the exact wt. added was recorded. This was repeated at 15 minute intervals out to 90 minutes with an additional point at 127

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WO 99/19467

PCT/DK98/00444

49

minutes. These were diluted to one liter and determined for dextrose equivalence via Neocuproine method as discribed by Dygert, Li, Florida and Thomas. Determination of reducing sugar with improved precision (1965). Anal. Biochem 13, 368.

5

The results were as follows:

	Time	DE
	15	3.2
	30	4.8
10	45	6.3
	60	7.8
	75	9.4
	90	10.4
	127	13.1

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DEMANDES OU BREVETS VOLUMINEUX

**LA PRÉSENTE PARTIE DE CETTE DEMANDE OU CE BREVETS
COMPREND PLUS D'UN TOME.**

CECI EST LE TOME __1__ DE __2__

NOTE: Pour les tomes additionels, veuillez contacter le Bureau Canadien des Brevets.

JUMBO APPLICATIONS / PATENTS

**THIS SECTION OF THE APPLICATION / PATENT CONTAINS MORE
THAN ONE VOLUME.**

THIS IS VOLUME __1__ OF __2__

NOTE: For additional volumes please contact the Canadian Patent Office.

CLAIMS

1. A variant of a parent Termamyl™-like α -amylase, the variant having α -amylase activity and comprising one of the following sets of mutations:
 - R179*/G180*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V;
 - G180*/I181*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,V; or
 - I181*/G182*/E210A,R,D,N,C,Q,G,H,I,L,K,M,F,P,S,T,W,Y,Vin SEQ ID NO:3 or in corresponding positions in another parent Termamyl™-like α -amylase, wherein * represents a deletion, and wherein the variant has at least 90% identity with SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8.
2. A DNA construct comprising a DNA sequence encoding an α -amylase variant according to claim 1.
3. A recombinant expression vector which carries a DNA construct according to claim 2.
4. A cell which is transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 2 or a vector according to claim 3.
5. A cell according to claim 4, which is a microorganism.
6. A cell according to claim 5, which is a bacterium or a fungus.
7. A detergent additive comprising an α -amylase variant according to claim 1, optionally in the form of a non-dusting granulate, stabilised liquid, or protected enzyme.
8. A detergent composition comprising an α -amylase variant according to claim 1 and a stabiliser.
9. A manual or automatic dishwashing detergent composition comprising an α -amylase variant according to claim 1 and a

stabiliser.

10. A manual or automatic laundry washing composition comprising an α -amylase variant according to claim 1 and a stabiliser.

11. A composition comprising:

(i) a mixture of (a) the α -amylase from *B. licheniformis* having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4, and (b) one or more variants according to claim 1, wherein the parent Termamyl™-like α -amylase is *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3; or

(ii) a mixture of (a) the α -amylase from *B. stearothermophilus* having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and (b) one or more variants according to claim 1 in which the mutations are in the corresponding positions of one or more other parent Termamyl™-like α -amylases; or

(iii) a mixture of (a) one or more variants according to claim 1, wherein the parent Termamyl™-like α -amylase is *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and (b) one or more variants according to claim 1 in which the mutations are in the corresponding positions of one or more other parent Termamyl™-like α -amylases.

12. A composition comprising a mixture of (a) one or more variants according to claim 1, wherein the parent Termamyl™-like α -amylase is *B. stearothermophilus* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, and (b) *B. licheniformis* α -amylase having the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

13. Use of an α -amylase variant according to claim 1, or a composition according to claim 11 or 12, for washing and/or dishwashing.

14. Use of an α -amylase variant according to claim 1, or a

composition according to claim 11 or 12, for textile desizing.

15. Use of an α -amylase variant according to claim 1, or a composition according to claim 11 or 12, for starch liquefaction.

1	HHNGTNGTMM	QYFEWHL PND	GNHWNRLRDD	ASNLRNGIT	AIWIPPAWKG	50
2	..NGTNGTMM	QYFEWYLPND	GNHWNRLRSD	ASNLDKKGIS	AVWIPPAWKG	
3	HHNGTNGTMM	QYFEWYLPND	GNHWNRLRDD	AANLKS KGIT	AVWIPPAWKG	
4	...VNGTLM	QYFEWYTPND	GQHWKRLQND	AEHLSDIGIT	AVWIPPAYKG	
5	..ANLNGTLM	QYFEWYMPND	GQHWRRLQND	SAYLAEHGIT	AVWIPPAYKG	
6	.AAPFNGTMM	QYFEWYLPDD	GTLWTKVANE	ANNLSSLGIT	ALWLPPAYKG	
51	TSQNDVG YGA	YDLYDLGEFN	QKGTVRTKYG	TRSQLESAIH	ALKNNGVQVY	100
1	ASQNDVG YGA	YDLYDLGEFN	QKGTIRTKYG	TRNQLQA AVN	ALKSNGIQVY	
2	TSQNDVG YGA	YDLYDLGEFN	QKGTVRTKYG	TRNQLQA AVT	SLKNNGIQVY	
3	LSQSDNG YGP	YDLYDLGEFQ	QKGTVRTKYG	TKSELQDAIG	SLHSRNVQVY	
4	TSQADVG YGA	YDLYDLGEFH	QKGTVRTKYG	TKGELQSAIK	SLHSRDINVY	
5	TSRSDVG YGV	YDLYDLGEFN	QKGTVRTKYG	TKAQYLQAIQ	AAHAAGMQVY	
6						
101	GDVVMNHKGG	ADATENVLAV	EVNPNNRNQE	ISGDYTI EAW	TKFDFPGRGN	150
1	GDVVMNHKGG	ADATEMVR AV	EVNPNNRNQE	VSGEYTI EAW	TKFDFPGRGN	
2	GDVVMNHKGG	ADGTEI VNAV	EVNRSNRNQE	TSGEYAIEAW	TKFDFPGRGN	
3	GDVVLN HKAG	ADATEDVTAV	EVNPNARNQE	TSEYQI KAW	TDFRFPGRGN	
4	GDVVIN HKGG	ADATEDVTAV	EVDPADRNRV	ISGEHLI KAW	THFHFPGRGS	
5	ADVVF DHKGG	ADGTEWVD AV	EVNPSDRNQE	ISGTYQIQAW	TKFDFPGRGN	
6						
151	TYSDEFKWRWY	HFDGVDWDQS	RQFQNR IYKF	RGDGKAWDWE	VDSENGNYDY	200
1	THSNFKWRWY	HFDGVDWDQS	RKLNNR IYKF	RGDGKGWDWE	VDTEGN YDY	
2	NHSSEFKWRWY	HFDGTDWDQS	RQLQNK IYKF	RGTGKAWDWE	VDTEGN YDY	
3	TYSDEFKWHWY	HFDGADWDES	RKI. SRIKF	RGEGKAWDWE	VSSEGN YDY	
4	TYSDEFKWHWY	HFDGTDWDES	RKL. NR IYKF	. . QGKAWDWE	VSENGN YDY	
5	TYSSEFKWRWY	HFDGVDWDES	RKL. SRIKF	RGIGKAWDWE	VDTEGN YDY	
6						

Fig. 1

Fig. 1

Figure 1 (continued)

401	YGTQHDYFDH	HNIIGWTREG	NTTHPNSGLA	TIMSDGPGGE	KWMYVVGQNK	450
1	YGRQN					
2	YGTQHDYFDH	HDIIGWTREG	NSSHPNSGLA	TIMSDGPGGN	KWMYVVGKNKA	
3	YGPQHDYIDH	PDVIGWTREG	DSSAAKSGLA	ALITDGP GGS	KRMYAGL KNA	
4	YGAQHDYFDH	HDIVGWTREG	DSSVANSGLA	ALITDGP GGA	KRMYVGRQNA	
5	YGTQHDYLDH	SDIIGWTREG	GTEKPGSGLA	ALITDGP GGS	KWMYVVGKQHA	
6						
10	451	GQVWHDITGN	KPGTVTINAD	GWANFSVNGG	SVSIWVKR..	500
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
15						
20	501					
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
25						

Fig. 1

Figure 1 (continued)