

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 June 2005 (23.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/056776 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 1/21

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/KR2004/003030

(22) International Filing Date:
23 November 2004 (23.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: Korean

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10-2003-0091398
15 December 2003 (15.12.2003) KR

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CJ CORP. [KR/KR]; 500, Namdaemunno 5 ga, Jung-gu, Seoul 100-095 (KR).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): PARK, Young-Hoon [KR/KR]; 111-102 Mujigaedaerim Apt., Gumi-dong, Bundang-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do 463-703 (KR). LIM, Sang-Jo [KR/KR]; 103-1602 Dongseong 1cha Apt.,

Jukjeon2-dong, Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do 449-845 (KR). KIM, Byoung-Hoon [KR/KR]; 205-1205 Samhwan Apt., 2danji, Mansu1-dong, Namdong-gu, Incheon 405-741 (KR). KIM, Seong-Jun [KR/KR]; 307-1001 Pungnimsin Apt., 1235, Gwonseon-dong, Gwonseon-gu, Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do 441-390 (KR). LIM, Ho-Soo [KR/KR]; Deokpyeong 1~2-ri, Majang-myeon, Icheon-si, Gyeonggi-do 467-812 (KR).

(74) Agent: LEE, Duck-Rog; YEiL Patent & Trademark International, YEiLPAT Bldg., 669-17 Yorksam-dong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul 135-915 (KR).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: E.COLI MUTANT CONTAINING MUTANT GENES RELATED WITH TRYPTOPHAN BIOSYNTHESIS AND PRODUCTION METHOD OF TRYPTOPHAN BY USING THE SAME

cagaggttaagggttgaaagcgcgac taaatgcccgtgttaataaaaaatgtacgaaatatggat
tgaaaactttactttatgggtatcgttaactgctgctcctcgcctgaggatcaactatcgc aacgagc
ataaacaggatcggcctcattgcaaaaagacgc gctgaataacgtacatattaccgacgaacagg
ttttaatgactccggaacaaactgaaggccgct tttccatgagcccgcaacagaagcccgat
tgcctgactcgggtaaaagcatttcagatata tccgcggggcgcgacccctcgtctgctggtagta
tgtggctccttgttcattcagatcgcggaaac tgcctcgggaatagctcgtcgtatttaaagccc
ttgcccgcagaggtcagcagatagcctctatc tggtaatgcccgtctatttgaaaaaccccgtac
cactgtcggctggaagggttaattaacgac cccataggtatggctccttttgatgtagaagcc
ggcctgcagatcgcgctaaattgctgcttga gctgggtgaataatgggactgcccactggcgaagg
aagcgttagatccgaaatagcccgaatacc tggggatcgttttagctggctcagcaattggctc
tcgtacaacggaaatcgcaaacaccgctgaaa tggccctcgggctttccatgcccggttgggttt
aaaaacggcaccgacggcagctggcacaacgc aattaacgctatgcccggccgcccagccgc
accgctttgttggtcattaaaccaggcaggc aggtgctgtgctacaaactcaggggaatccgga
cggccatgtgatccctggcgggtgtaaacgc cgaactatagcccctgggatgttgccgaatgt
gaaaaagagatggaacaggcgggactgccc cgtctcgtatggttagatgacgacacggtaatt
ccaataaagattatcgcctcag [tct] ggggtggcagaatccggtggtgctcaaatcaaaagt
ggcaatcgtcaattattggtctgatgatcga aagtaaatccacaggggcaatcagctctccg
agcaaccggcagtgaaatgaaatcaggtgta tccgtaacggatgctcgtcattagctgggaaat
gaccgatgcttgcctgctgaaatcattcagg abctgaaacggcagctgacggctcgcgtggct
taagaggctttatgatggttgcgtgaattgacc gcaattacggatcaaatgtagaagctgataaa
gcgctgctgaatttatagcgaagcgtctgga actggttgcgtgaagtg

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a Tryptophan-producing *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 (KCCM-10534) containing single or multi mutant genes related with Tryptophan biosynthesis and production method of Tryptophan using the same. More particularly, DNA base sequences and amino acid sequences *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* originated from tryptophan producing *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 (KCCM-10534) and related with Tryptophan biosynthesis, are disclosed, and *E.coli* CJ285 containing at least one of the mutant genes is cultivated directly in a glucose-containing fermentation medium, whereby L-tryptophan can be accumulated in the culture medium.

WO 2005/056776 A1



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

[DESCRIPTION]

**E.COLI MUTANT CONTAINING MUTANT GENES RELATED WITH
TRYPTOPHAN BIOSYNTHESIS AND PRODUCTION METHOD OF
TRYPTOPHAN BY USING THE SAME**

5

[Technical Field]

The present invention relates to a Tryptophan-producing *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 (KCCM-10534) containing single or multi mutant genes related with Tryptophan biosynthesis and production method of Tryptophan using the same.

10 More particularly, N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (hereinafter it will be referred to as NTG) is processed repeatedly, and base sequences and amino acid sequences of genes originated from the Tryptophan-producing mutant gene CJ285, such as *aroF* and *aroG* for encoding isoenzyme of DAHP synthase that is resistant to Tryptophan Hydroxamate (hereinafter it will be referred to as THX), the

15 Tryptophan analog, *trpR* for regulating *trp*, *aroH*, *mtr*, *trpR*, and *aroL* operon related with Tryptophan biosynthesis, and *tyrR* protein for regulating *aroF-tyrA*, *aroG*, and *aroP* operon are known. A mutant strain containing the above gene(s) is then fermented in a medium containing glucose in order to produce L-tryptophan.

20

[Background Art]

Tryptophan is one of essential amino acids, and has been broadly used in diverse fields including feed additives, medical substances such as sleeping draught or tranquilizer or Ringer's solution, and health food substances. Typical

25 production methods of Tryptophan are chemical synthesis, enzyme reaction, and fermentation using microorganisms. In case of the chemical synthesis, the production takes place in a high temperature and high pressure space, and because

D-tryptophan and L-tryptophan are produced together an additional refining process is required to obtain desired tryptophan. In case of the enzyme reaction such as the Japanese patent to Matsui Doatsui (Korean Patent Publication No. 90-005773), indole and serine used as substrates for the reaction are very expensive and the
5 enzyme itself is not safe.

On the other hand, the fermentation using microorganisms involve auxotrophic strains and regulatory mutant strains of diverse microorganisms such as *E.coli* and *Corynebacterium*. Rapid technical advances in gene recombination in 1980's have provided much information on metabolism and control mechanism
10 thereof. Many researchers had remarkable successes to develop superior recombinant strains through gene manipulation, and to improve productivity (Matsui *et al*, 1988). Also, in Korea, a number of Tryptophan production techniques related with the direct fermentation were disclosed either by using Tryptophan-resistant or auxotrophic mutant strains (Korean Patent Publication Nos. 87-1813, 90-
15 8251, and 92-7405) or recombined strains (Korean Patent Publication Nos. 90-5772 and 91-5627). Mainly these Tryptophan analog resistant strains were to overcome feedback inhibition of enzymes during the Tryptophan biosynthesis, and the recombinant strains were also used for cloning enzymes during the Tryptophan biosynthesis. In fact, the studies have made a remarkable success. For instance,
20 the biggest merit of the traditional L-tryptophan production using an artificial mutant of *E.coli* was that inexpensive cultivation substrates were used to product the L-tryptophan. However, the productivity or the Tryptophan yield was extremely low. Therefore, to maximize the Tryptophan yield through the gene recombination, there exists a need to secure an artificial mutant which is excellent as
25 a parent strain and obtain genes whose regulations are released.

Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above problems, and it is an object of the present invention to identify base sequences

and amino acid sequences of a mutant gene for encoding *aroF* and *aroG*, which are enzymes for use in the synthesis of 3-deoxyarabionohep-tulosonate 7-phosphate (hereinafter it will be referred to as DAHP), the first precursor of aromatic amino acids during the biosynthesis of Tryptophan originated from an
5 *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285, out of phosphoenolpyruvate and Erythrose 4-phosphate, and *trpR* and *tyrR* for regulation transcription of genes related with the Tryptophan synthesis.

It is another object of the present invention to provide an L-tryptophan producing *E.coli* mutant strain that contains single or multi mutant genes described
10 above.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a production method of L-tryptophan with high concentration and high yield by cultivating the mutant directly in a fermentation medium containing glucose.

15 [Description of the Drawings]

The above and other objects, features and other advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 illustrates a mutant gene, wherein CCT among the internal
20 sequence of *aroF* gene is mutated to [TCT] and as a result thereof, the 280th amino acid Proline is changed to Serine;

Fig. 2 illustrates a mutant gene, wherein T base in the promoter region of *aroG* gene is mutated to [C] base, GTG in the internal sequence of the gene to [GCG], and TGC to [CGC] and as a result thereof, the 57th amino acid Valine is
25 changed to Alanine and the 61st amino acid Cysteine is changed to Arginine, respectively;

Fig. 3 illustrates a mutant gene, wherein the 704th G base in the internal

sequence of *trpR* gene is deleted and as a result thereof, the frame during the protein translation is changed and 23 amino acids with respect to wild-type gene [cgattgattttgtaggectgataagacgtggcgcatcaggcatcgtgcaccgaatgccggatgcggcgga] are added; and

5 Fig. 4 illustrates a mutant gene, wherein GGC in the internal sequence of *tyrR* gene is mutated to [GAC] and CTG to [CTA] and as a result thereof, the 25th amino acid Glycine is changed to Aspartate and the 86th amino acid Leucine is changed to a nonsense mutation.

[Disclosure]

10

[Technical Problem]

In accordance with an aspect of the present invention, the above and other objects can be accomplished by the provision of an *E.coli* mutant strain containing mutant genes related with Tryptophan biosynthesis, in which NTG is processed repeatedly in *E.coli* CJ181 (KFCC 10902), the tryptophan-producing parent strain, to cause mutation therein and the mutant (CJ285) is made resistant to THX, the Tryptophan analog, whereby Tryptophan production of the mutant strain can be improved markedly compared to the parent strain. Also, to analyze DNA base sequence and amino acid sequence, genes for encoding *aroF* and *aroG*, the enzymes for synthesizing the first precursor DAHP of the aromatic amino acid during the Tryptophan biosynthesis, *trpR* protein for regulating *trp*, *aroH*, *mtr*, *trpR*, and *aroL* operon related with the Tryptophan biosynthesis, and *tyrR* protein for regulating *aroF-tyrA*, *aroG*, *aroP* operon are cloned, and the DNA base sequences is compared with the base sequences of wild-type genes. In this manner, it becomes possible to locate gene mutation. Later, CJ285 strain containing at least one of *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR* and *tyrR* is cultivated directly in the fermentation medium containing glucose. Compared to the parent strain, the

15

20

25

CJ285 produced much more Tryptophan.

That is to say, the *E.coli* CJ285 strain serves to maximize Tryptophan yield through the gene recombination technique and is a novel strain that has never disclosed.

5

[Technical Solution]

The present invention provides a production method of L-tryptophan wherein the method includes the steps of: amplifying primer of genes through the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), the genes encoding enzymes involved in the synthesis of 3-deoxyarabionohep-tulosonate 7-phosphate (DAHP), *trpR* protein for regulating *trp*, *aroH*, *mtr*, *trpR*, and *aroL* operon related with Tryptophan biosynthesis, and *tyrR* protein for regulating *aroF-tyrA*, *aroG*, and *aroP* operon, cloning the genes by pCR2.1-TOPO vector to search plasmid clones that react with a band of expected size; determining base sequences of *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* genes based on the bidirectional base sequence analysis employing the plasmid clone containing the above-described four genes as a template, determining amino acid sequences from the base sequences, and comparing the base sequences of the genes with the base sequences of wild-type genes to locate mutation; and fermenting an *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 containing one or more of mutant genes *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* in a fermentation medium containing glucose and thereby, producing L-tryptophan.

The gene manipulation used in the present invention conforms to the Molecular Cloning Laboratory Manual (T. Maniatis E.F., Fritch, J. Sambrook).

A tryptophan-producing parent strain *E.coli* CJ181 (KFCC 10902) was cultivated at constant temperature for five days in a plate minimal medium containing 0.3g/l of THX, the Tryptophan analog. To increase growth rate and release the sensitivity of the CJ181 to THX, 500µg/ml of NTG, the mutation-causing

substance, was added into the medium. Any strains grown in the minimal medium containing 0.3g/l of THX were selected first, and these selected strains were cultivated again in a minimal medium containing 0.5g/l of THX. Finally, a highly THX-resistant strain was selected and named CJ285. The ingredients of the minimal medium are shown in Table 1 below, and 100mg/l of auxotrophic amino acid was added to the medium, respectively.

[Table 1]

Composition of *E.coli* minimal medium (M9 medium)

Glucose minimal medium (M9 medium)	
Ingredient	Content (g/l)
Glucose	2
NaHPO ₄	6
KH ₂ PO ₄	3
NaCl	0.5
NH ₄ Cl	1
MgSO ₄	0.5
CaCl ₂	0.01
Tyrosine	0.1
pH 7.0	

The mutant strain CJ285 of the present invention went through 12-hour shaking culture in LB medium at 37°C. The LB medium (pH = 7.4) contained 1% of Bacto-Trypton, 0.5% of Bacto-yeast extract, and 1% of NaCl. Out of the medium was collected a mycobiont and a chromosome DNA was obtained by means of the Quiagen chromosomal DNA isolation kit. Thusly obtained chromosome DNA was immersed in ethanol and dried to be purified. This purified chromosome DNA, being as a template, went through the PCR. Approximately 1.3kb, 2kb, 530bp, and 1.9kb of *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* mutant genes were separated, respectively, from 1% of agarose gel by means of the Quiagen gel extraction kit, and

the gene fragments were purified to use as genetic resources for cloning. These mutant gene fragments originated from the CJ285 strain were cloned to pCR2.1-TOTO vector by means of the TOPO cloning kit (manufactured by Invitrogen Company) and as a result thereof, a clone containing the gene was identified.

5 To determined the base sequence and the amino acid sequence of the gene for encoding *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* proteins, the plasmid containing mutant gene(s) was isolated and purified, and the entire gene sequence including the sequence after the promoter, genetic code region, protein synthesis termination codon was determined. In order to determine the DNA base sequence of the genes
10 of the present invention, the previously isolated, purified plasmid DNA was mixed with a sequencing primer and a polymerase, and amplified through the PCR. Thusly amplified plasmid DNA was immersed in ethanol to be purified and mixed with Hi-Di solution. As a result, the plasmid DNA was transformed to a dsDNA containing single strand, and DNA base sequence analysis was proceeded by means
15 of the base sequence analyzer ABI 3100 (manufactured by Applied Biosystem). The DNA base sequence analysis was performed on the basis of the BLAST (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/>) search program in the U.S. NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) website and the Tools PROGRAM (<http://us.expasy.org/tools/dna.html>) in the ExPasy website. Thusly determined
20 gene base sequence was then compared with the base sequence of a wild-type gene to find out if any mutation occurred, and the mutant amino acid was identified through the translation.

The CJ285 mutant strain containing at least one of the mutant genes *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* was fermented directly in the fermentation medium containing
25 glucose to produce L-tryptophan. More specifically, the mutant strain was cultivated under aerobic condition (flask shaking at 200-300rpm or fermenter at 400-1000rpm, and the amount of air current = 0.5-1.5vvm), fermentation temperature =

30°C and pH = 6.0 ~ 8.0, and the resulting L-tryptophan was accumulated into the culture medium. In case of using the flask, the mutant strain was cultivated at 30°C and 220rpm for 48-60 hours, and the resulting L-tryptophan was accumulated in the culture medium. In case of using the fermenter, fed batch cultivation is used.

- 5 Thus, glucose was additionally supplied several times to produce L-tryptophan. The ingredients of the fermentation medium are listed in Table 2 below.

[Table 2]

Composition of fermentation medium

Fermentation medium in Erlenmeyer flask		Fermentation medium in 5L fermenter	
Ingredient	Content (g/l)	Ingredient	Content (g/l)
Glucose	60	Glucose	63.16
Yeast extract	2.5	Yeast extract	4
KH ₂ PO ₄	2	KH ₂ PO ₄	1.5
MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	1	Citric acid	1.4
(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	20	MgSO ₄ •7H ₂ O	2
Sodium citrate	5	(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	7
NaCl	1	Tyrosine	0.8
Tyrosine	0.1	Fumaric acid	1
CaCO ₃	40	CaCl ₂	0.5

- 10 To find out growth rate of the mycobiont of the culture medium, absorbance was measured at 600nm. Also, the sugar analysis was made based on Bertrand method. Meanwhile, the quantity of L-tryptophan was analyzed by means of HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography).

- 15 Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.

[Advantageous Effects]

According to the present invention, the novel *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 (KCCM-10534) is developed by processing NTG repeatedly in *E.coli* CJ181, and resistant to Tryptophan Hydroxamate, the Tryptophan analog. By analyzing DNA base sequence and amino acid of mutant genes *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* related with Tryptophan biosynthesis, a significant mutation can be identified and a proper mutant gene for use in the recombined strain development can be obtained. In addition, compared to the parent strain CJ181, its mutant strain CJ285 containing at least one of the mutant genes is capable of producing more Tryptophan (about 10% more). Therefore, CJ285 of the present invention can be very advantageously used as a proper mother strain for the recombined strain development and for the amino acid fermentation industry and pharmaceutical manufacture.

[Mode for carrying out the Invention]

Example 1: Selection of THX-resistant mutant strain CJ285

Tryptophan-producing parent strain *E.coli* CJ181 (KFCC 10902) went through 12-hour shaking culture in LB medium at 37°C, and was rinsed twice in sterilized saline solution. Here, the LB medium (pH = 7.4) contained 1% of Bacto-Trypton, 0.5% of Bacto-yeast extract, and 1% of NaCl. The CJ181 was diluted in 0.1M sodium citrate buffer solution (pH = 5.5) until the final OD = 1.0. The CJ181 was cultivated in the minimal medium containing 0.3g/l of THX (please refer to Table 1) for five days. In order to increase growth rate and make the THX-resistant CJ181, 500µg/ml of NTG, the mutation-causing substance, was added into the medium. The solution was placed in a 37°C thermostatic bath for the reaction for 30 minutes, and was rinsed in 0.1M phosphate buffer solution (pH = 7.0) three times. Then the CJ181 was cultivated in a minimal medium containing 0.5g/l of

THX (please refer to Table 1) for five days and as a result thereof, approximately 100 colonies were obtained. Thusly obtained mutant strains and the original parent strain were subject to Tryptophan fermentation test in a flask. In result, *E.coli* CJ285 featuring superior tryptophan production capacity to the original *E.coli* parent strain CJ181 could be selected. The best strain for producing L-tryptophan was isolated from the strains, and placed in an Erlenmeyer flask. After conducting the tryptophan production test on the strain in the flask, and the fermentation experiment in the 5L fermenter was performed as described in Example 6 below.

[Table 3]

10 Experiment result of newly developed artificial mutant strains in flask

<i>E.coli</i>	Mycobiant (OD ₆₀₀)	L-tryptophan (g/l)
CJ181	30	7.1
CJ285	28	7.9

As seen in Table 3, the concentration of L-tryptophan produced from the *E.coli* mutant strain CJ285 was higher than that of the original parent strain *E.coli* KFCC 10902. The CJ285 was deposited with the KCCM (Korean Culture Center of Microorganisms) on November 28, 2003, and given the number KCCM-10534.

Example 2: *aroF* gene cloning of mutant strain CJ285 and sequence analysis

To amplify *aroF* gene through the PCR using a chromosome DNA isolated from the CJ285 as a template, the following primers (21-mers) were used. 5'-GTATTTACCCCGTTATTGTC-3' was used as a sense primer, and 5'-CACTTCAGCAACCAGTTCCAG-3' was used as an anti-sense primer. For the PCR about 30ng of genomic DNA of the CJ285 and 25pmol of each primer were added to Accupower PCR HL-Premix containing DNA polymerase, dNTPs and reaction buffer until the final concentration becomes 20 μ l. The PCR program was

executed 25 times. It started at 94°C for five minutes and then 35 seconds, at 55°C for 40 seconds, and at 72°C for 90 seconds. Lastly, the last extension was performed for seven minutes at 72°C. Its result was then checked through 1% agarose gel electrophoresis.

5 To clone the gene fragment to pCR2.1-TOPO vector, about 1.3kb (which corresponds to the size of *aroF* mutant gene) gene fragments were isolated from the 1% agarose gel by means of the Quiagen gel extraction kit. Thusly obtained gene fragments were then purified and used as genetic resources for cloning. By using the TOPO cloning kit (manufactured by Invitrogen Company) the mutant gene
10 fragments obtained from the CJ285 strain were mixed with pCR2.1-TOPO vector solution at the ratio of 1:4. Later, 1 μ l of saline solution was added to the mixture and the reaction was continued at room temperature for 20 minutes. The reaction solution was mixed with 40 μ l of TOP10 competent cell included in the kit and sit in the ice for 20 minutes. Afterwards, thermal shock was applied for 30 seconds at
15 42°C and the solution was placed back to the ice immediately for 2 minutes. 250 μ l of SOC medium was added thereto, and the mutant genes were cultivated at 37°C for 1 hour. 100 μ l of culture medium was smeared over LB agar medium containing 50 μ g/ml of Ampicillin, and the mutant genes were cultivated therein for about 12 hours at 37°C. Only white colonies were selected and cultivated again for
20 about 12 hours in the LB liquid medium containing 50 μ g/ml of Ampicillin. Plasmid was isolated therefrom and treated with *EcoRI* restriction enzyme for 2 hours and developed by 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. By using an UV illuminator, a clone containing the mutant gene(s) was identified.

To determine DNA base sequence of the genes, plasmid was isolated from
25 the previously identified clone and purified. Thusly isolated, purified plasmid was mixed with 2pmol of sequence analysis primer that can be combined with *aroF* gene through a complementary hydrogen bond, 2 μ l of Big dye containing polymerase,

and 1 μ l of plasmid DNA (about 200ng). Then, the PCR was executed 25 times, first at 96°C for 30 seconds, at 50°C for 15 seconds, and at 60°C for four minutes. The plasmid DNA was immersed in ethanol to be purified and mixed with 10 μ l of Hi-Di solution. As a result, the plasmid DNA was transformed to a dsDNA
5 containing single strand, and DNA base sequence analysis was proceeded by means of the base sequence analyzer ABI 3100 (manufactured by Applied Biosystem). The DNA base sequence analysis was performed on the basis of the BLAST (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/>) search program in the U.S. NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) website and the Tools PROGRAM
10 (<http://us.expasy.org/tools/dna.html>) in the ExPasy website. Thusly determined gene base sequence was then compared with the base sequence of a wild-type gene to find out if any mutation occurred, and the mutant amino acid was identified through the translation.

15 **Example 3: *aroG* gene cloning of mutant strain CJ285 and sequence analysis**

To amplify *aroG* gene through the PCR using a chromosome DNA isolated from the CJ285 as a template, the following primers (21-mers) were used. 5'-GTATTTACCCCGTTATTGTC-3' was used as a sense primer, and 5'-ACTCCGCCGGAAGTGAATA-3' was used as an anti-sense primer. For the
20 PCR about 30ng of genomic DNA of the CJ285 and 25pmol of each primer were added to Accupower PCR HL-Premix containing DNA polymerase, dNTPs and reaction buffer until the final concentration becomes 20 μ l. The PCR program was executed 25 times. It started at 94°C for five minutes and then 35 seconds, at 55°C for 40 seconds, and at 72°C for two minutes and 20 seconds. Lastly, the last
25 extension was performed for seven minutes at 72°C. Its result was then checked through 1% agarose gel electrophoresis.

To clone the gene fragment to pCR2.1-TOPO vector, about 2kb (which

corresponds to the size of *aroG* mutant gene) gene fragments were isolated by means of the Quiagen gel extraction kit. Thusly obtained gene fragments were then purified and used as genetic resources for cloning. The experiment procedure from this point and the base sequence analysis following the determination of base sequence are identical with those in Example 2.

Example 4: *trpR* gene cloning of mutant strain CJ285 and sequence analysis

To amplify *trpR* gene through the PCR using a chromosome DNA isolated from the CJ285 as a template, the following primers (21-mers) were used. 5'-CGCCACGGAATGGGGACGTCG-3' was used as a sense primer, and 5'-CCGCGTCTTATCATGCCTACC-3' was used as an anti-sense primer. For the PCR about 30ng of genomic DNA of the CJ285 and 25pmol of each primer were added to Accupower PCR HL-Premix containing DNA polymerase, dNTPs and reaction buffer until the final concentration becomes 20 μ l. The PCR program was executed 25 times. It started at 94°C for five minutes and then 1 minute, at 60°C for 30 seconds, and at 72°C for 1 minute. Lastly, the last extension was performed for seven minutes at 72°C. Its result was then checked through 1% agarose gel electrophoresis.

To clone the gene fragment to pCR2.1-TOPO vector, about 530bp (which corresponds to the size of *trpR* mutant gene) gene fragments were isolated by means of the Quiagen gel extraction kit. Thusly obtained gene fragments were then purified and used as genetic resources for cloning. The experiment procedure from this point and the base sequence analysis following the determination of base sequence are identical with those in Example 2.

Example 5: *tyrR* gene cloning of mutant strain CJ285 and sequence analysis

To amplify *tyrR* gene through the PCR using a chromosome DNA isolated

from the CJ285 as a template, the following primers (21-mers) were used. 5'-GGATTGACGATGACAAACCT-3' was used as a sense primer, and 5'-CTGGTGGATGAAATCACCAC -3' was used as an anti-sense primer. For the PCR about 30ng of genomic DNA of the CJ285 and 25pmol of each primer were added to Accupower PCR HL-Premix containing DNA polymerase, dNTPs and reaction buffer until the final concentration becomes 20 μ l. The PCR program was executed 25 times. It started at 94°C for five minutes and then 1 minute, at 53°C for 30 seconds, and at 72°C for two minutes and 20 seconds. Lastly, the last extension was performed for seven minutes at 72°C. Its result was then checked through 1% agarose gel electrophoresis.

To clone the gene fragment to pCR2.1-TOPO vector, about 1.9kb (which corresponds to the size of *tyrR* mutant gene) gene fragments were isolated by means of the Quiagen gel extract kit. Thusly obtained gene fragments were then purified and used as genetic resources for cloning. The experiment procedure from this point and the base sequence analysis following the determination of base sequence are identical with those in Example 2.

Example 6: Fermentation of mutant strain CJ285 in 5L fermenter

E.coli CJ285 containing at least one of the mutant genes with the base sequence disclosed in the Examples 2 to 5, and the parent strain CJ181 (KFCC 10902) were fed batch cultivated in a 5L fermenter (fermentation temperature = 30°C, culture pH = 6.9 – 7.1 (pH can be controlled by ammonia water), the amount of air current = 0.5 – 1.0vvm, and stirring speed = 500 – 700rpm). It turned out the fermentation concentration of the CJ285 was 28.2g/l, and that of the parent strain CJ181 was 25.1g/l. Therefore, the fermentation time of the *E.coli* CJ285 was reduced slightly, resulting in L-tryptophan productivity increase by about 10% per hour.

[Table 4]

Fermentation of CJ285 mutant strain in 5L fermenter

Name of strain	Cultivation time (hr)	Total sugar (g/l)	Total amount of accumulated T-tryptophan
CJ181	63	243.5	25.1
CJ285	61	243.5	28.2

Applicant's or agent's file reference YL04025PCT	International application No. PCT/KR2004/003030
---	--

**INDICATIONS RELATING TO DEPOSITED MICROORGANISM
OR OTHER BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL**

(PCT Rule 13bis)

A. The indications made below relate to the deposited microorganism or other biological material referred to in the description on page <u>10</u> , line <u>14-15</u> .	
B. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of depositary institution Korean Culture Center of Microorganisms	
Address of depositary institution (including postal code and country) Name: Korean Culture Center of Microorganisms Address: 361-221, Yurim B/D, Hongje 1-dong, Seodaemun-gu Seoul 120-091, Republic of Korea	
Date of deposit November 28, 2003	Accession Number KCCM-10534
C. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicable) This information is continued on an additional sheet <input type="checkbox"/>	
D. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS ARE MADE (if the indications are not for all designated States)	
E. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS (leave blank if not applicable)	
The indications listed below will be submitted to the International Bureau later (specify the general nature of the indications e.g. "Accession Number of Deposit")	

For receiving Office use only
<input type="checkbox"/> This sheet was received with the international application
Authorized officer

For International Bureau use only
<input type="checkbox"/> This sheet was received by the International Bureau on:
Authorized officer

[CLAIMS]

[Claim 1] An L-tryptophan producing *E.coli* mutant strain containing at least one of mutant genes consisting of *aroF*, *aroG*, *trpR*, and *tyrR* related with Tryptophan biosynthesis.

- 5 [Claim 2] The mutant strain according to claim 1, wherein the *E.coli* mutant strain is *E. coli* CJ285 KCCM-10534.

[Claim 3] A production method of L-tryptophan using the *E.coli* mutant strain of claim 1 or claim 2.

1/4

Fig. 1

cagaggtaaggggttgaaagcgcgactaaatgcccgtgtgtaaataaaaatgtacgaaatatggat
tgaaaactttactttatggtatcgttacgctcgtccctcgtcaggatcaactatcgcaaaacgagc
ataaacaggatcgcacatcatgcaaaaagacgcgctgaataacgtacatattaccgacgaacagg
ttttaatgactccggaacaactgaaggccgctttccattgagcctgcacaagaagccagat
tgcctgactcgcgtaaaagcatttcagatatta tcgccgggcgcgatccctcgtctgctggtagta
tgtggctccttgttcattc atgacccggaac tgcctcgggaat atgctcgtc gatttaaagccc
ttgccgcagaggtcagcgatagcctctatctggtaatgcccgtctat tttgaaaaccccgtac
cactgctcggctggaagggttaattaacgaccccatatggatggctcttttgatgtagaagcc
gggctgcagatcgcgcgtaattgctgcttgagctgggtgaatatgggactgccactggcgacgg
aagcgttagatccgaatagcccgcaatacctgggcgacctgcttagctggcagcaattggtgc
tcgtacaacggaatcgcaaac tcaccgtgaaatggcctccgggctttccatgccggctgggtttt
aaaaacggcaccgacggcagctcggcaacagcaattaacgctatgcccgcgccgccagccgc
accgttttgttggc attaaccaggcaggccaggttgcgttgctacaaactcaggggaatccgga
cggccatgtgatcc tgcgcggtggtaaagcgc cgaac tatagccctgcggatgttgcgc aatgt
gaaaaagagatggaacaggcgggactgcgccc gtctctgatggtagat tgcagccacggtaatt
ccaataaagattatcggcgtcag [tct] ggggtggcagaatccgtggctgctcaaatcaagat
ggcaatcgtcaat tattggtctgatgacgaaagtaatatccacgagggcaatcagcttccg
agcaaccgcgcagtgaaatgaaatacgggtgatacgtaacggatgcccgtc attagctgggaaat
gaccgatgccccttgc tgcgtgaaattcatcaggatctgaacgggcagctgacggctcgcgtggct
taagagggtttattatgggtgctgaaattgaccgcattacgcgatcaaattgatgaagtcgataaa
gcgctgctgaatttat tagcgaagcgtctggaactgggttgc tgaagtg

2/4

Fig. 2

acagtcagaaataatgtggccagttttgtcattttcataggatgctcctgttatggtcggtatg
tcggataacctcttccaacagtgcatttgcaggtgaatataaggcattggtttaagatttcagc
caggttatgaaacgcagcagagaatcctgaaataat taacaacaaaggagt tacagttagaaa
ttgtaggagagatctcgtttttcgcgacaatctggcgtttt tcttgctaattccaggattaatc
[C]gttcatagtgtaaaaccccgtttacacatctcgcaggaagatatagattggaagtattgca
ttcac taagataagtatggcaacactggaacagac atgaat t atcagaacgacgatttacgcat
caaagaaatcaaagagttacttcctcctgtcgcattgctggaaaaatccccgctactgaaaat
gccgcgaatacgggtgccc atgccgaaaagc gatccataa g atcctgaaaggtaatgatgatc
gctgtttggtt [ggg] attggcca [cgc] tcaattcatgac cctgtcgcggcaaaagagtatg
ccactcgttgc tggcgc tgcgtgaagagctgaaagatgagctggaaaatcgtaatgcgcgtcta
ttttgaaaagccgcgtaccacggtgggctggaaaagggctgattaacgatccgcatatggataat
agcttccagatcaacgacggctcgcgtatagccgtaaat gctgcttgatattaacgacagc g
gtctgccagcggcaggtgagt tctcgatatgatcacc ccaaatatctcgc tgcctgatgag
ctggggcgc aat tggcgcacgtaccaccgaatcgcaggtgc accgcgaactggc atcagggtt
tctgtccggctcggcttcaaaaatggcaccgacggtagat taaagtggctatcgatgccatta
atgccgcgggtgcgccgc actgcttctgtccgtaacgaaa tgggggc atcggcgattgtgaa
taccagcggtaacggcgat tgc atatc atctgcgcggcggtaaagagcctaactacagcgcg
aagcacgttgc tgaagtgaagaagggtgaacaaagcaggcc tggcagcacaggatgatgcg
atttcagccatgctaactcgtccaaacaaatcaaaaagcagatggatggttggtgctgacgttg
ccagcagattgccgggtggc gaaaaggccat tattggcgtgattgggtggaaagccatctgggtggaa
ggcaatcagagcctcgagagcggggagccgctggcc tacgg taagagcatcaccgatgcctgca
tcggctgggaagataccgatgctctgttacgtcaac tggcgaatgcagtaaaagcgcgtcgcgg
g taagggttaatgtcggatgcgccgtcagagtggcgtatc cgatgaatcacacaggcctgat
aagtcgcgcagcgtcgc atcaggcaatgtgctccat tgttagcaacaaaaagcgcactcactt
gcagtcggctttctcattttaacgaatgacgtttacttcgc tttaccctgggtttgcaacc

3/4



Fig. 3

atggcccaacaatcacccatattcagcagcgatggcagaacagcgtcaccaggagtggttacgtt
ttgtcgacctgcttaagaatgcc taccaaaac gatctccat ttaccgttg ttaacc tgatgc t
gacgccagatgagcgcgaagcgttggggactcgcgtgcgtattgtcgaagagctgttgcgcggc
gaaatgagccagcgtgagttaaaaatgaactcggcgcaggcatcgcgacgattacgcgtggat
ctaacagcctgaaagccgcgc ccgtcgagctgcgcc agtggctggaagaggtgttgc tgaaaa [
cgattgattttgtaggcctgataagacgtggcgc atcaggcatcgtgc accgaatgc cggatgc
ggcgtga]

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2004/003030

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC7 C12N 1/21		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC7 C12N 1/21		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Korean Patents and applications for inventions since 1975		
Korean Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975		
Japanese Utility models and application for Utility models since 1975		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
eKIPASS, PubMed, Delphion		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0789073 A2 (DEGUSSA AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT) 13 AUGUST 1997 See the whole document.	1-3
A	KR 1999-012361 A (CHEIL JEDANG CORPORATION) 25 FEBRUARY 1999 See the whole document.	1-3
A	JP 64-080280 A (MITSUI TOATSU CHEM INC.) 27 MARCH 1989 See the whole document.	1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
11 MARCH 2005 (11.03.2005)		14 MARCH 2005 (14.03.2005)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR		Authorized officer
 Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140		LEE, CHUNG HO Telephone No. 82-42-481-8160 

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
 Information on patent family members

International application No.
 PCT/KR2004/003030

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0789073 A2	13.08.1997	AT 204324 T AU 6445296 A AU 712821 B2 BR 9603654 A CA 2184760 A1 DE 69614498 D1 DE 69614498 T2 EP 0789073 A2 GB 2304718 A JP 9121846 A SK 111096 A3 US 5756345 A ZA 9607474 A	15.09.2001 13.03.1997 18.11.1999 19.05.1998 06.03.1997 20.09.2001 23.05.2002 13.08.1997 26.03.1997 13.05.1997 07.05.1997 26.05.1998 27.02.1998
KR 1999-012361 A	25.02.1999	none	
JP 64-080280 A	27.03.1989	none	