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(54) Title: IMPROVED CHIMERIC MEGANUCLEASE ENZYMES AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The current invention relates to polypeptides encoding mutant I-DmoI derivatives with enhanced cleavage activity and altered sequence specificity and uses of these polypeptides. These polypeptides comprise at least the first I-DmoI domain, and the peptide sequence comprises the substitution of at least one of residues 15, 19 and/or 20 as well as at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77, 81 of the first I-DmoI domain.

Improved chimeric Meganuclease Enzymes and uses thereof

The invention relates to chimeric meganuclease enzymes comprising a modified *I-DmoI* domain having improved activity and altered DNA target sequences. In particular the invention relates to chimeric meganuclease enzymes comprising a modified *I-DmoI* domain linked to an *I-CreI* monomer.

Among the strategies to engineer a given genetic locus, the use of rare cutting DNA endonucleases such as meganucleases has emerged as a powerful tool to increase the rate of successful gene targeting through the generation of a DNA double strand break (DSB) by a rare cutting DNA endonuclease and a homologous recombination event at the site of the break.

Meganucleases are endonucleases, which recognize large (12-45 bp) DNA target sites. In the wild, meganucleases essentially comprise homing endonucleases, a family of very rare-cutting endonucleases. This family was first characterized by the use *in vivo* of the protein *I-SceI* (Omega nuclease), originally encoded by a mitochondrial group I intron of the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Homing endonucleases encoded by intron ORFs, independent genes or intervening sequences (inteins) present striking structural and functional properties that distinguish them from "classical" restriction enzymes which generally have been isolated from the bacterial system R/MII.

Homing endonucleases have recognition sequences that span 12–40 bp of DNA, whereas "classical" restriction enzymes recognize much shorter stretches of DNA, in the 3–8 bp range (up to 12 bp for a so called rare-cutter). Therefore homing endonucleases have a very low frequency of cleavage, even in a genome as large and complex as that of a human.

Several homing endonucleases encoded by group I intron or inteins have been shown to promote the homing of their respective genetic elements into allelic intronless or inteinless sites. By making a site-specific double-strand break in the intronless or inteinless alleles, these nucleases create recombinogenic ends, which engage in a gene conversion process that duplicates the coding sequence and leads to the insertion of an intron or an intervening sequence at the DNA level.

Homing endonucleases fall into four separate families, classified on the basis of conserved amino acids motifs. For review, see Chevalier and Stoddard (Nucleic Acids Research, 2001, 29, 3757-3774).

5 One of these families and the subject of the present invention is the LAGLIDADG family, the largest of the homing endonucleases families. This family is characterized by a conserved tridimensional structure (see below), but displays very poor conservation at the primary sequence level, except for a short peptide above the catalytic center. This family has been called LAGLIDADG, after a consensus sequence for this peptide, found in one or two copies in each LAGLIDADG protein.

10 Homing endonucleases with one LAGLIDADG (L) are around 20 kDa in molecular mass and act as homodimers. Those with two copies (LL) range from 25 kDa (230 amino acids) to 50 kDa (HO, 545 amino acids) with 70 to 150 residues between each motif and act as a monomer. Cleavage of the target sequence occurs inside the recognition site, leaving a 4 nucleotide staggered cut with 3'OH
15 overhangs.

I-CeuI and *I-CreI* (163 amino acids) are homing endonucleases with one LAGLIDADG motif (mono-LAGLIDADG). *I-DmoI* (194 amino acids, SWISSPROT accession number P21505 (SEQ ID NO: 22)), *I-SceI*, *PI-PfuI* and *PI-SceI* are homing endonucleases with two LAGLIDADG motifs.

20 In the present invention, unless otherwise mentioned, the residue numbers refer to the amino acid numbering of the *I-DmoI* sequence SWISSPROT number P21505 (SEQ ID NO: 22) or the structure PDB code 1b24.

Structural models using X-ray crystallography have been generated for *I-CreI* (PDB code 1g9y), *I-DmoI* (PDB code 1b24), *PI-SceI*, *PI-PfuI*. Structures of
25 *I-CreI* and *PI-SceI* (Moure et al., Nat Struct Biol, 2002, 9: 764-70) bound to their DNA site have also been elucidated leading to a number of predictions about specific protein-DNA contacts.

LAGLIDADG proteins with a single motif, such as *I-CreI* (SEQ ID NO: 24), form homodimers and cleave palindromic or pseudo-palindromic DNA
30 sequences, whereas the larger, double motif proteins, such as *I-SceI* are monomers and cleave non-palindromic targets. Several different LAGLIDADG proteins have been crystallized and they exhibit a striking conservation of the core structure that contrasts

with a lack of similarity at the primary sequence level (Jurica et al., Mol Cell. 1998; 2:469-76, Chevalier et al., Nat Struct Biol. 2001; 8:312-6, Chevalier et al., J Mol Biol. 2003; 329:253-69, Moure et al., J Mol Biol. 2003; 334:685-95, Moure et al., Nat Struct Biol. 2002; 9:764-70, Ichiyanagi et al., J Mol Biol. 2000; 300:889-901, Duan et al., Cell. 1997; 89:555-64, Bolduc et al., Genes Dev. 2003; 17:2875-88, Silva et al., J Mol Biol. 1999; 286:1123-36).

In this core structure, two characteristic $\alpha\beta\alpha\beta\beta\alpha$ folds, contributed by two monomers in dimeric LAGLIDADG proteins or by two domains in monomeric LAGLIDADG proteins, face each other with a two-fold symmetry. DNA binding depends on the four β strands from each domain, folded into an antiparallel β -sheet, and forming a saddle on the DNA helix major groove. The catalytic core is central, with a contribution of both symmetric monomers/domains. In addition to this core structure, other domains can be found: for example, *PI-SceI*, an intein, has a protein splicing domain, and an additional DNA-binding domain (Moure et al., Nat Struct Biol. 2002; 9:764-70, Grindl et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 1998; 26:1857-62).

Despite an apparent lack of sequence conservation between individual members of the LAGLIDADG family, structural comparisons indicate that LAGLIDADG proteins, should they cut as dimers like *I-CreI* or as a monomer like *I-DmoI*, adopt a similar active conformation. In all structures, the LAGLIDADG motifs are central and form two packed α -helices where a 2-fold (pseudo-) symmetry axis separates two monomers or apparent domains.

The LAGLIDADG motif corresponds to residues 13 to 21 in *I-CreI*, and to positions 14 to 22 and 110 to 118, in *I-DmoI*. On either side of the LAGLIDADG α -helices, a four β -sheet provides a DNA binding interface that drives the interaction of the protein with the half site of the target DNA sequence. *I-DmoI* is similar to *I-CreI* dimers, except that the first domain (residues 1 to 95) and the second domain (residues 105 to 194) are separated by a linker (residues 96 to 104) (Epinat et al., Nucleic Acids Res, 2003, 31: 2952-62).

I-SceI was the first homing endonuclease used to stimulate homologous recombination over 1000-fold at a genomic target in mammalian cells (Choulika et al., Mol Cell Biol. 1995; 15:1968-73, Cohen-Tannoudji et al., Mol Cell Biol. 1998; 18:1444-8, Donoho et al., Mol Cell Biol. 1998; 18:4070-8, Alwin et al.,

Mol Ther. 2005; 12:610-7, Porteus., Mol Ther. 2006; 13:438-46, Rouet et al., Mol Cell Biol. 1994; 14:8096-106).

Recently, *I-SceI* was also used to stimulate targeted recombination in mouse liver *in vivo*, and recombination could be observed in up to 1% of
5 hepatocytes (Gouble et al., J Gene Med. 2006; 8:616-22). An inherent limitation of such a methodology is that it requires the prior introduction of the natural *I-SceI* cleavage site into the locus of interest.

To circumvent this limitation, significant efforts have been made over the past years to generate zinc finger nucleases with tailored cleavage
10 specificities (Porteus M H et al., Nat Biotechnol. 2005; 23:967-73, Ashworth et al., Nature. 2006; 441:656-9, Urnov et al., Nature. 2005; 435, 646-651, Smith et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2006, 2006; 34:e149).

Given their high level of specificity, homing endonucleases represent ideal scaffolds for engineering tailored endonucleases. Several studies have
15 shown that the DNA binding domain from LAGLIDADG proteins, (Chevalier et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2001; 29:3757-74) could be engineered.

Several LAGLIDADG proteins, including *PI-SceI* (Gimble et al., J Mol Biol. 2003; 334:993-1008), *I-CreI* (Seligman et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2002; 30:3870-9, Sussman et al., J Mol Biol. 2004; 342:31-41, Rosen et al., Nucleic Acids
20 Res. 2006; Arnould et al., J Mol Biol. 2006; 355:443-58), *I-SceI* (Doyon et al., J Am Chem Soc. 2006; 128:2477-84) and *I-MsoI* (Ashworth et al., Nature. 2006; 441:656-9) have been modified by rational or semi-rational mutagenesis and screening to acquire new sequence binding or cleavage specificities.

Recently, semi rational design assisted by high throughput screening
25 methods have allowed the Applicants to derive thousands of novel proteins from *I-CreI*, an homodimeric protein from the LAGLIDADG family (Smith et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2006; 34: e149; Arnould et al., J Mol Biol. 2006; 355:443-58).

The Applicants have previously identified the DNA-binding sub-domains of *I-CreI* and shown that these were independent enough to allow for a
30 combinatorial assembly of mutations (Smith et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2006; 34: e149). These findings allowed for the production of a second generation of engineered *I-CreI* derivatives, cleaving chosen targets.

This combinatorial strategy, has been illustrated by the generation of meganucleases cleaving a natural DNA target sequence located within the human RAG1 and XPC genes (Smith et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2006; 34: e149; Arnould et al., *J Mol Biol.* 2007; 371:49-65).

5 However, although the capacity to combine up to four sub-domains considerably increases the number of DNA sequences that can be targeted, it is still difficult to prepare a suite of enzymes which can act upon the complete range of sequences possible for a natural target sequence of a given size.

 One of the most elusive factors is the impact of the four central
10 nucleotides of the *I-CreI* target site. Despite the absence of base specific protein-DNA interactions in this region, *in vitro* selection of cleavable *I-CreI* targets from a library of randomly mutagenized sites revealed the importance of these four base-pairs for cleavage activity (Argast et al., *J Mol Biol.* 1998; 280:345-53). More generally, it is unlikely that engineered meganucleases cleaving every possible 22 base pair sequence
15 could be derived solely from the *I-CreI* scaffold.

 Another strategy is to combine domains from distinct meganucleases. This approach has been illustrated by the creation of new meganucleases by domain swapping between *I-CreI* and *I-DmoI*, leading to the generation of a meganuclease cleaving the hybrid sequence corresponding to the
20 fusion of the two half parent target sequences (Epinat et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2003; 31:2952-62, Chevalier et al., *Mol. Cell.* 2002; 10:895-905).

I-DmoI is a 22 kDa endonuclease from the hyperthermophilic archae *Desulfurococcus mobilis*. It is a monomeric protein comprising two similar domains, which have both a LAGLIDADG motif. The structure of the protein alone, without its
25 DNA target henceforth referred to as D1234 (SEQ ID NO: 30), has been solved (Silva et al., *J Mol Biol.* 1999; 286:1123-36).

 The research group of Chevalier et al., (*Mol Cell.* 2002; 10:895-905) has built a chimeric protein based on the two endonucleases *I-DmoI* and *I-CreI* that was called *E-DreI* (Engineered *I-DmoI/I-CreI*). *E-DreI* consists of the fusion of the N-
30 terminal domain of *I-DmoI* to a single subunit of the *I-CreI* homodimer linked by a flexible linker to create the initial scaffold for the enzyme. Chevalier et al., then made a number of residue modifications based upon the predictions of computational

interface algorithms so as to alleviate any potential steric clashes predicted from a 3D model generated by combining elements of previously generated *I-DmoI* and *I-CreI* models.

In Chevalier et al., 2002 precited, residues were identified between
5 the facing surfaces of the two component molecules; in particular residues at positions 47, 51, 55, 108, 193 and 194 of the *E-DreI* scaffold were identified as potentially clashing. These residues were replaced with alanine residues but such a modified protein was found to be insoluble.

Residue numbers refer to the *E-DreI* open reading frame which
10 comprises 101 residues (beginning at the first methionine) from the N-terminal domain of *I-DmoI* fused to the last 156 residues of *I-CreI* separated by a three amino acid NGN linker which mimics the native *I-DmoI* linker in length.

The interface was then optimised through a combination of
15 computational redesign for residues 47, 51, 55, 108, 193 and 194 as well as residues 12, 13, 17, 19, 52, 105, 109 and 113; followed by an *in vivo* protein folding assay upon selected sequences to determine the solubility of *E-DreI* enzymes modified at these residues. A final scaffold was designed with modifications: I19, H51 and H55 of *I-DmoI* and E8, L11, F16, K96 and L97 of *I-CreI* (corresponding to E105, L108, F113, K193 and L194).

20 The *E-DreI* (Chevalier et al., Mol Cell. 2002; 10:895-905) structure in complex with its chimeric DNA target dre3 (C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) using the applicants nomenclature) was solved as shown in Figure 2 herein. *E-DreI* was shown able to recognise and cut this hybrid C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) target only. From this
25 structure a number of residues were predicted to be base-specific contacts of *E-DreI* to its target hybrid site, these residues were 25, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 70, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81 of *I-DmoI*; and residues 123, 125, 127, 130, 135, 137, 139, 141, 163, 165, 167, 172 of *I-CreI* in *E-DreI*.

The Applicants have also previously conducted experiments with a
30 *DmoCre* scaffold to seek to broaden the range of DNA target sequences cleaved by engineered homing nuclease enzymes. *DmoCre* is a chimeric molecule built from the two homing endonucleases *I-DmoI* and *I-CreI*. It includes the N-terminal portion from *I-DmoI* linked to an *I-CreI* monomer. *DmoCre* could have a tremendous advantage as

scaffold: mutation in the *I-DmoI* moiety could be combined with mutations in the *I-CreI* domain, and thousands of such variant *I-CreI* molecules have already been identified and profiled (Smith J et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2006;34(22):e149, Arnould S et al., *J Mol Biol.* 2006; 355:443-58, Arnould S et al., *J Mol Biol.* 2007; 371:49-65).

5 Based upon the structure of the *I-DmoI* protein alone, without its DNA target (Silva et al., *J Mol Biol.* 1999; 286:1123-36) and on the structure of the complex between *I-CreI* and its DNA target C1234 (SEQ ID NO: 28) (Jurica et al., *Mol Cell.* 1998; 2:469-76; Chevalier et al., *J Mol Biol.* 2003; 329:253-69), a chimeric *DmoCre* endonuclease has been built (Epinat et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2003, 31: 10 2952-62). *DmoCre* is a monomeric protein that corresponds to *I-DmoI* up to residue F109 followed by *I-CreI* from residue L13. To avoid a steric clash, I107 has been mutated into a leucine residue. In addition, residues 47, 51 and 55 of *I-DmoI*, which were found to be close to residues 96 and 97 of *I-CreI*, were mutated to alanine, alanine and aspartic acid respectively.

15 *DmoCre* has been shown to be active *in vitro* (Epinat et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2003, 31: 2952-62) and was able to cleave the hybrid target C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) composed from the left part of C1234 (SEQ ID NO: 28) or C1221 (SEQ ID NO: 29) (the palindromic target derived from C1234) and the D1234 (SEQ ID NO: 20 30) right part (Figure 1). Furthermore *I-DmoI* and *DmoCre* variants able to cleave their DNA target sequences more efficiently at 37°C were identified by random mutagenesis and screening in yeast cells (WO 2005/105989; Prieto et al., *J. Biol Chem.* 2007 Nov 12; [Epub ahead of print]).

25 The *E-DreI* and *DmoCre* chimeric enzymes are therefore only capable of recognizing and cutting the hybrid target C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31). In addition the scaffolds of *E-DreI* and *DmoCre* have in common the modification of residues 47, 51 and 55.

30 The inventors are interested in creating a new generation of chimeric enzymes which recognize a wider set of target sequences and therefore they have investigated the further enhancement of the first domain of the *I-DmoI* enzyme for use as either a component in a chimeric *I-DmoI* enzyme or a chimeric enzyme comprising catalytic domains from two different nucleases. By being able to target new DNA sequences and so induce a double-strand break in a site of interest comprising a DNA

target sequence, the applicants provide the tools to thereby induce a DNA recombination event, a DNA loss or cell death.

This double-strand break can be used to: repair a specific sequence, modifying a specific sequence, restoring a functional gene in place of a mutated one, 5 attenuating or activating an endogenous gene of interest, introducing a mutation into a site of interest, introducing an exogenous gene or a part thereof, inactivating or detecting an endogenous gene or a part thereof, translocating a chromosomal arm, or leaving the DNA unrepaired and degraded. Such modified meganuclease enzymes therefore give a user a wide variety of potential options in the therapeutic, research or 10 other productive use of such modified meganuclease enzymes.

The inventors have therefore sought to improve chimeric meganuclease enzymes comprising at least one *I-DmoI* domain by seeking to increase the number of DNA targets these chimeric enzymes can recognize and cut.

Therefore the present invention relates to a polypeptide, comprising 15 the sequence of an *I-DmoI* endonuclease or a chimeric derivative thereof, including at least the first *I-DmoI* domain and characterized in that it comprises the substitution of at least one of residues 15, 19 or 20 and the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77 or 81 of said first *I-DmoI* domain; and wherein said polypeptide recognises an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs 20 from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 2 , ± 3 , ± 4 , ± 5 , ± 6 , ± 7 , ± 8 , ± 9 , ± 10 .

Throughout this specification, the *DmoCre* chimeric enzymes described contain a valine at position 2 due to cloning procedure. This additional residue is not included in the numbering of the residues within the chimeric enzyme 25 sequence. Therefore, for instance, residue at position 19 in the chimeric enzyme is actually the 20th residue in this chimeric enzyme.

The inventors provide a polypeptide encoding an improved *I-DmoI* endonuclease or a derivative thereof, such as a chimeric enzyme comprising the first domain of *I-DmoI* in combination with another functional endonuclease domain or 30 monomer. This polypeptide has two or more amino acid residue changes in the first *I-DmoI* domain corresponding to residues 1 to 95 of the native *I-DmoI* protein. In particular the first *I-DmoI* domain corresponds to positions 1 to 95 in the *I-DmoI*

amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:22), the *I-DmoI* linker to positions 96 to 104 and the beginning of the second *I-DmoI* domain to positions 105 to 109 which is the complete fragment used in *DmoCre2* and *DmoCre4*, two new chimeric meganuclease scaffolds which the applicants have developed and describe herein. Preferably the complete 109 residue fragment is used as the first *I-DmoI* domain fragment in a chimeric enzyme.

Changes to residues 15, 19 and 20 have been experimentally shown by the inventors to result in increased activity of the chimeric protein called *DmoCre2* by the inventors. Changes to residues 29, 33 and 35 have been shown for the first time by the applicants to alter the sequence recognised by this modified domain of *I-DmoI* at positions ± 8 to ± 10 of the *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site (SEQ ID NO: 30). Changes to residues 75, 76 and 77 have been shown by the inventors for the first time to alter the sequence recognised by this modified domain of *I-DmoI* at positions ± 2 to ± 4 of the *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site (SEQ ID NO: 30). Changes to residues 27, 37 and 81 have been shown by the inventors for the first time to alter the sequence recognised by this modified domain of *I-DmoI* at positions ± 5 to ± 7 of the *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site (SEQ ID NO: 30) Therefore the inventors provide an improved first *I-DmoI* domain which is capable of recognising target sequences different to the hybrid sequence C12D34. The *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site (SEQ ID NO: 30) is **AAGTTCCGGCG**, the +2 to +4 and +8 to +10 regions are in bold, and the +5 to +7 region is in italics.

Such a polypeptide comprises a modified meganuclease and allows a wider range of DNA target sequences to be recognised and cut, other than the hybrid target sequence recognised and cut by *DmoCre* and *E-DreI*.

In particular at least one of the residues in positions 15, 19 or 20 is substituted for any amino acid.

In particular, the polypeptide according to the invention may comprise the modification of the lysine in position 15 which is changed to a glutamine, a L15Q change.

In particular, the polypeptide according to the invention may comprise the modification of the isoleucine in position 19 changed to aspartic acid, a

I19D change. Modification of residue 19 has been shown by the applicants to render the *I-DmoI* domain more active.

In particular, the polypeptide according to the invention may comprise the modification of the glycine in position 20 which is changed to serine or alanine, a G20S or G20A change.

In particular the polypeptide may also comprise at least one modified residue at position 107.

In particular the polypeptide according to the invention comprises the modification of the isoleucine in position 107 to a lysine, a I107L modification. Modification of residue 107 should prevent a steric clash between the *I-DmoI* domain and the other domain of the enzyme for instance *I-CreI*.

In particular the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 29, 33 or 35 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 8 , ± 9 , ± 10 .

In particular the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 75, 76 or 77 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 2 , ± 3 , ± 4 .

In particular the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 37 or 81 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 5 , ± 6 , ± 7 .

In particular, the polypeptide is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.

In the current application derived from, means any nucleic acid or protein sequence which is created from an original sequence and then modified so as to retain its original functionality but has residue changes and/or additions or deletions relative to the original sequence whilst retaining its functionality.

SEQ ID NO: 1 is the sequence of an *I-DmoI* domain modified at residues 15 and 19 used in the current invention as the *I-DmoI* domain in *DmoCre2* (SEQ ID NO: 2). This *I-DmoI* domain also contains a modification to residue 107, but

no modifications to L47A, H51A and L55D as per Epinat et al., (Nucleic Acids Res, 2003, 31: 2952-62).

In particular, the polypeptide is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 27.

5 SEQ ID NO: 27 is the sequence of a modified *I-DmoI* domain modified at residues 19, 20 and 109 used in the current invention as the *I-DmoI* domain in *DmoCre4* (SEQ ID NO: 9) by the applicants. This *I-DmoI* domain does not contain the modifications to L47A, H51A and L55D as per Epinat et al., (Nucleic Acids Res, 2003, 31: 2952-62).

10 In particular, the polypeptide is a chimeric *I-DmoI* endonuclease consisting of the fusion of the first *I-DmoI* domain to a sequence of a dimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease or to a domain of another monomeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease.

The current invention concerns modified *I-DmoI* endonuclease enzymes comprising both a modified first *I-DmoI* domain and a second wildtype *I-DmoI* domain comprising residues 1-95 of SEQ ID NO:22 in a single monomeric protein or alternatively the combination of two *I-DmoI* domains altered according to the current invention. It is also an aspect of the present invention that the modified *I-DmoI* domain may be combined with a domain of another LAGLIDADG endonuclease, such as *I-Sce I*, *I-Chu I*, *I-Cre I*, *I-Csm I*, *PI-Sce I*, *PI-Tli I*, *PI-Mtu I*, *I-Ceu I*, *I-Sce II*, *I-Sce III*, *HO*, *PI-Civ I*, *PI-Ctr I*, *PI-Aae I*, *PI-Bsu I*, *PI-Dha I*, *PI-Dra I*, *PI-Mav I*, *PI-Mch I*, *PI-Mfu I*, *PI-Mfl I*, *PI-Mga I*, *PI-Mgo I*, *PI-Min I*, *PI-Mka I*, *PI-Mle I*, *PI-Mma I*, *PI-Msh I*, *PI-Msm I*, *PI-Mth I*, *PI-Mtu I*, *PI-Mxe I*, *PI-Npu I*, *PI-Pfu I*, *PI-Rma I*, *PI-Spb I*, *PI-Ssp I*, *PI-Fac I*, *PI-Mja I*, *PI-Pho I*, *PI-Tag I*, *PI-Thy I*, *PI-Tko I*, *I-MsoI*, and *PI-Tsp I*; preferably, *I-Sce I*, *I-Chu I*, *I-Dmo I*, *I-Csm I*, *PI-Sce I*, *PI-Pfu I*, *PI-Tli I*, *PI-Mtu I*, and *I-Ceu I*.

In addition the current invention concerns a polypeptide wherein the sequence of the first domain of *I-DmoI*, also comprises the substitution of at least one further residue selected from the group: (i) one of the residues in positions 4, 49, 52, 30 92, 94 and/or 95 of said first *I-DmoI* domain, and/or (ii) one of the residues in positions 101, 102, and/or 109 of the linker or the beginning of the second domain of *I-DmoI*.

According to an advantageous embodiment of said polypeptide:

- the asparagine in position 4 is changed to isoleucine (N4I),
- the lysine in position 49 is changed to arginine (K49R),
- the isoleucine in position 52 is changed to phenylalanine (I52F),
- the alanine in position 92 is changed to threonine (A92T),
- the methionine in position 94 is changed to lysine (M94K),
- the leucine in position 95 is changed to glutamine (L95Q),
- the phenylalanine in position 101 (if present) is changed to cysteine

(F101C),

- the asparagine in position 102 (if present) is changed to isoleucine (N102I), and/or

- the phenylalanine in position 109 (if present) is changed to isoleucine (F109I).

In particular, the first *I-DmoI* domain of the polypeptide is at the NH₂-terminus of said chimeric-*Dmo* endonuclease.

In particular, the dimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease forming part of the chimeric-*Dmo* endonuclease is *I-CreI*.

In particular, the chimeric *I-DmoI* endonuclease derives from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

SEQ ID NO: 2 is the peptide sequence of the preferred *DmoCre2* chimeric endonuclease of the current invention comprising an *I-DmoI* domain modified at residues 15, 19 and 107.

In particular the polypeptide according to the invention is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 9.

SEQ ID NO: 9 is the peptide sequence of the preferred *DmoCre4* chimeric endonuclease of the current invention comprising an *I-DmoI* domain modified at residues 19, 20 and 109.

In particular, the polypeptide according to this first aspect of the present invention may comprise a detectable tag at its NH₂ and/or COOH terminus.

The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide, this polynucleotide being characterized in that it encodes a polypeptide according to the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a vector, characterized in that it comprises a polynucleotide according to the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a host cell, characterized in that it is modified by a polynucleotide or a vector according to the present invention.

5 The recombinant vectors comprising said polynucleotide may be obtained and introduced in a host cell by the well-known recombinant DNA and genetic engineering techniques.

The polypeptide of the invention may be obtained by culturing the host cell containing an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence
10 encoding said polypeptide, under conditions suitable for the expression of the polypeptide, and recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

The present invention also relates to a non-human transgenic animal, characterized in that all or part of its constituent cells is modified by a polynucleotide or a vector according to the present invention.

15 The present invention also relates to a transgenic plant, characterized in that all or part of its constituent cells is modified by a polynucleotide or a vector according to the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a polypeptide including at least the first *I-DmoI* domain consisting of the substitution of at least one of residues 15,
20 19, 20 and the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77 or 81 of said first *I-DmoI* domain, fused to the sequence of an *I-CreI* monomer, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprising the modification of at least one of the residues in positions 44, 68, 70, 75 or 77 of said *I-CreI* monomer.

References to residue number in the *I-CreI* monomer refer to the
25 reference *I-CreI* monomer sequence SEQ ID NO: 24. Such a polypeptide is able to cleave for example the 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) target. 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) is the first half of the 5CAG_P target (SEQ ID NO: 32) fused to the second half of the *I-DmoI* target DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 30). The 5CAG_P target (SEQ ID NO: 32) refers to the wildtype *I-CreI* target DNA sequence which has been modified
30 at positions ± 3 , ± 4 and ± 5 to the sequence CAG.

All target sequences are 22 or 24 bp palindromic sequences. Therefore, they will be described only by the modified nucleotides followed by the suffix P.

The present invention also relates to a polypeptide, comprising the
5 sequence of an *I-DmoI* endonuclease or a chimeric derivative thereof including at least a first *I-DmoI* domain comprising the substitution of at least one of residues 15, 19, 20 and the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77 or 81 of said first *I-DmoI* domain, fused to the sequence of an *I-CreI* monomer, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprising the modification of at least one of
10 the residues in positions 28, 30, 32, 33, 38 or 40 of said *I-CreI* monomer.

Such a polypeptide is able to cleave for example the RAG1.10.2D34 target (SEQ ID NO: 35) or the RAG1.10.3D34 target (SEQ ID NO: 39). RAG1.10.2D34 is the first half of the RAG1.10.2 DNA target (SEQ ID NO: 34) fused to the second half of the *I-DmoI* target DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 30).
15 RAG1.10.3D34 is the first half of the RAG1.10.3 DNA target (SEQ ID NO: 38) fused to the second half of the *I-DmoI* target DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 30).

The present invention also relates to a polypeptide, comprising the sequence of an *I-DmoI* endonuclease or a chimeric derivative thereof including at least the first *I-DmoI* domain consisting in the substitution of at least one of residues 15, 19,
20 20 and the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77 or 81 of said first *I-DmoI* domain, fused to the sequence of an *I-CreI* monomer, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprising the modification of at least one of the residues in positions 37, 79, 81 of said *I-CreI* domain.

In the case where positions 27, 37 or 81 are modified, such a
25 polypeptide is able to cleave a target in which the 7NNN portion of the *DmoCre*, +5 to +7 of the C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) DNA target sequence differs from the wildtype nucleotide sequence target GGA.

For a better understanding of the invention and to show how the same may be carried into effect, there will now be shown by way of example only,
30 specific embodiments, methods and processes according to the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1: Sequence comparison in which the different 22 bp DNA targets are represented, wherein C1234 (SEQ ID NO: 28) is the wild-type *I-CreI* target, C1221 (SEQ ID NO: 29) is the palindromic sequence derived from the left part of C1234 (SEQ ID NO: 28), D1234 (SEQ ID NO: 30) is the wild-type *I-DmoI* target and C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) is the hybrid target for the chimeric *DmoCre* protein and a DC10NNN target (SEQ ID NO: 8) is a derivative from C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31), where degeneracy at positions +8, +9 and +10 has been introduced.

Figure 2: Shows the structure of *E-DreI* bound to its DNA target (PDB code 1MOW).

Figure 3A: Shows the molecular surface of *E-DreI* bound to its DNA target.

Figure 3B: is a zoomed in showing residues 29, 33 and 35 in interaction with the DNA. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds.

Figure 4: Schematic Restriction map of pCLS1055

Figure 5: Schematic Restriction map of pCLS0542

Figure 6: Showing an example of primary screening of *DmoCre2* mutants from the DClib2 library against 8 DC10NNN targets.

Figure 7: Shows a hit map of *DmoCre2* and the Dclib2 library against the 64 DC10NNN targets. Each target represented in the hit map refers to the complementary strands of C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31); for example, CGG in the hit map corresponds to the DC10CCG as defined in example 2 below.

Figure 8: Molecular surface of *E-DreI* bound to its DNA target (Figure 8A). The area of binding that has been chosen for randomization (base pairs at positions +2, +3, +4 and protein residues 75, 76 and 77) has been highlighted in red.

Figure 8B is a zoom showing residues 75, 76 and 77 in interaction with the DNA. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds.

Figure 9: Hitmap of *DmoCre4* and the D4Clib4 library against 63 out of the 64 DC4NNN targets (DC4TTC is absent). For the D4Clib4 hitmap, the number below each cleaved target is the number of clones that cleaved this target. Some of these clones can have redundant sequences. For each target, the grey level is proportional to the mean of cleavage intensity. Each target represented in the hit map

refers to the complementary strands of C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31); for example, AGG in the hit map corresponds to the DC4CCT as defined in example 3 below.

Figure 10: Some different 22 bp DNA targets are represented. The 5CAG_P (SEQ ID NO: 32) palindrome target is derived from C1221 with differences at positions ± 5 , ± 4 , ± 3 that are highlighted in grey boxes. For the *I-CreI* target moiety, the 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) target differ from C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) in the same way than 5CAG_P (SEQ ID NO: 32) differ from C1221.

Figure 11: The figure displays an example of primary screening of DCSCa2_5CAG mutants and DCSCa4_5CAG mutants against the 5CAGD34 target (SEQ ID NO: 33). For the DCSCa2_5CAG library screen, we used a nine dots cluster format. In each nine dots yeast cluster, a different mutant is tested against the 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) target in the upper left dot. For the DCSCa4_5CAG library screen, we used a four dots cluster format. In each four dots cluster, a different mutant is tested against the 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) target in the two left dots, while the two right dots are cluster internal controls. The H10, H11 and H12 clusters contain positive and negative controls.

Figure 12: Different 22 bp DNA targets are represented. The RAG1.10.2 DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO: 34) is a palindromic target derived from C1221 (SEQ ID NO: 29). The 10GTT and 5CAG modules are highlighted in grey boxes. For the *I-CreI* target moiety, the RAG1.10.2D34 target (SEQ ID NO: 35) differ from C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31) in the same way than RAG1.10.2 (SEQ ID NO: 32) differ from C1222.

Figure 13: Yeast cleavage assay for the DmoM2 mutant against the RAG1.10.2D34 (SEQ ID NO: 35), RAG1.10.2 (SEQ ID NO: 34), C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31), D1234 (SEQ ID NO: 30) and C1221 (SEQ ID NO: 29) DNA targets. In each four dots yeast cluster, the two left dots represent the cleavage assay of the DmoM2 mutant with the indicated target, while the two right dots are internal controls.

Figure 14: Different 22 bp DNA targets are represented. The RAG1.10.3 DNA sequence is a palindromic target derived from C1221. The 10TGG and 5GAG modules are highlighted in grey boxes. For the *I-CreI* target moiety, the RAG1.10.3D34 target differ from C12D34 in the same way than RAG1.10.3 differs from C1222.

Figure 15: The figure displays an example of secondary screening of RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters against their respective target. For the RAG1.10.2D34 target, a different mutant is tested against its target in the upper left dot of each yeast cluster. For the RAG1.10.3D34 target, a different mutant is tested against its target in the bottom left dot of each yeast cluster. In each four dots cluster, the two right dots are cluster internal controls.

Figure 16: Secondary screening of refined RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters against their respective targets. The experiment design is indicated. For the RAG1.10.2D34 screening, the initial mutant is RG2D2, while it is RG3D3 for the RAG1.10.3D34 screening. The refined RAG1.10.2D34 cutters located in A9, B3, C5 and circled in black are respectively Amel1_RG2D, Amel2_RG2D, Amel3_RG2D. The refined RAG1.10.3D34 cutters located in A8, B3, E3 and circled in black are respectively Amel1_RG3D, Amel2_RG3D, Amel3_RG3D.

Figure 17: Hit map of the D4Clib2Bis library against the 64 DC4NNN targets. The number below each cleaved target is the number of DmoCre2 mutants with different sequences cleaving this target. For each target, the grey level is proportional to the mean of cleavage intensity. Each target represented in the hit map refers to the complementary strands of C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31); for example, CAG in the hit map corresponds to the DC4CTG as defined in example 3.

Figure 18: Molecular surface of E-DreI bound to its DNA target (Figure 17A). The area of binding that has been chosen for randomization (base pairs at positions +5, +6, +7 and protein residues 37 and 81) has been highlighted in black. Figure 16B is a zoom showing residues 37 and 81 in interaction with the DNA. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds. Figure 16C is another zoom showing residue 27 in the vicinity of residue 37.

Figure 19: Hit map of the D7Clib2 library against the 64 DC7NNN targets. The number below each cleaved target is the number of DmoCre2 mutants with different sequences cleaving this target. For each target, the grey level is proportional to the mean of cleavage intensity. Each target represented in the hit map refers to the complementary strands of C12D34 (SEQ ID NO: 31); for example, GGA in the hit map corresponds to the DC7TCC as defined in example 9.

Figure 20: The figure displays an example of primary screening of *DmoCre2* mutants from the SeqDC10NNN4ACT library against the combined DC10TGG4ACT target. In each yeast cluster, the two right dots are experiment internal controls. For the other four dots, one dot corresponds to one mutant from the SeqDC10NNN4ACT library. Three positives clones are black circled.

Figure 21: The figure displays an example of primary screening of mutants from the RAG1.10.3DC4NNN library against the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT target (A) and the RAG1.10.3DC4TAT target (B). In each yeast cluster, the top right dot corresponds to the Amel2_RG3D mutant and the down right dot is experiment internal control. For the other four dots, one dot corresponds to one mutant from the RAG1.10.3DC4NNN library. Some positive clones are black circled.

There will now be described by way of example a specific mode contemplated by the Inventors. In the following description numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding. It will be apparent however, to one skilled in the art, that the present invention may be practiced without limitation to these specific details. In other instances, well known methods and structures have not been described so as not to unnecessarily obscure the description.

Definitions

- Amino acid residues in a polypeptide sequence are designated herein according to the one-letter code, in which, for example, Q means Gln or Glutamine residue, R means Arg or Arginine residue and D means Asp or Aspartic acid residue.

- hydrophobic amino acid refers to leucine (L), valine (V), isoleucine (I), alanine (A), methionine (M), phenylalanine (F), tryptophane (W) and tyrosine (Y).

- Nucleotides are designated as follows: one-letter code is used for designating the base of a nucleoside: a is adenine, t is thymine, c is cytosine, and g is guanine. For the degenerated nucleotides, r represents g or a (purine nucleotides), k represents g or t, s represents g or c, w represents a or t, m represents a or c, y represents t or c (pyrimidine nucleotides), d represents g, a or t, v represents g, a or c, b represents g, t or c, h represents a, t or c, and n represents g, a, t or c.

- by "meganuclease" is intended an endonuclease having a double-stranded DNA target sequence of 12 to 45 pb.

- by "parent LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease" is intended a wild-type LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease or a functional variant thereof. Said parent LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease may be a monomer, a dimer (homodimer or heterodimer) comprising two LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domains which are associated in a functional endonuclease able to cleave a double-stranded DNA target of 22 to 24 bp.

- by "homodimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease" is intended a wild-type homodimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease having a single LAGLIDADG motif and cleaving palindromic DNA target sequences, such as *I-CreI* or *I-MsoI* or a functional variant thereof.

- by "LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease variant" or "variant" is intended a protein obtained by replacing at least one amino acid of a LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease sequence, with a different amino acid.

- by "functional variant" is intended a LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease variant which is able to cleave a DNA target, preferably a new DNA target which is not cleaved by a wild type LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease. For example, such variants have amino acid variation at positions contacting the DNA target sequence or interacting directly or indirectly with said DNA target.

- by "homing endonuclease variant with novel specificity" is intended a variant having a pattern of cleaved targets (cleavage profile) different from that of the parent homing endonuclease. The variants may cleave less targets (restricted profile) or more targets than the parent homing endonuclease. Preferably, the variant is able to cleave at least one target that is not cleaved by the parent homing endonuclease.

The terms "novel specificity", "modified specificity", "novel cleavage specificity", "novel substrate specificity" which are equivalent and used indifferently, refer to the specificity of the variant towards the nucleotides of the DNA target sequence.

- by "*I-CreI*" is intended the wild-type *I-CreI* having the sequence SWISSPROT P05725 or pdb accession code 1g9y (SEQ ID NO:24).

-by "*I-DmoI*" is intended the wild-type *I-DmoI* having the sequence SWISSPROT number P21505 (SEQ ID NO: 22) or the structure PDB code 1b24

- by "domain" or "core domain" is intended the "LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domain" which is the characteristic $\alpha\beta\beta\alpha\beta\alpha$ fold of the homing endonucleases of the LAGLIDADG family, corresponding to a sequence of about one hundred amino acid residues. Said domain comprises four beta-strands
5 folded in an antiparallel beta-sheet which interacts with one half of the DNA target. This domain is able to associate with another LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domain which interacts with the other half of the DNA target to form a functional endonuclease able to cleave said DNA target. For example, in the case of the dimeric homing endonuclease *I-CreI* (163 amino acids), the LAGLIDADG homing
10 endonuclease core domain corresponds to the residues 6 to 94. In the case of monomeric homing endonucleases, two such domains are found in the sequence of the endonuclease; for example in *I-DmoI* (194 amino acids), the first domain (at least residues 1 to 95 and the second domain (residues 105 to 194) are separated by a linker (residues 96 to 104).

15 - by "subdomain" is intended the region of a LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domain which interacts with a distinct part of a homing endonuclease DNA target half-site.

- by "beta-hairpin" is intended two consecutive beta-strands of the antiparallel beta-sheet of a LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domain which
20 are connected by a loop or a turn,

- by "C1221" it is intended to refer to the first half of the *I-CreI* target site '12' repeated backwards so as to form a palindrome '21'.

- by "cleavage activity" the cleavage activity of the variant of the invention may be measured by a direct repeat recombination assay, in yeast or
25 mammalian cells, using a reporter vector, as described in the PCT Application WO 2004/067736; Epinat *et al.*, Nucleic Acids Res., 2003, 31, 2952-2962; Chames *et al.*, Nucleic Acids Res., 2005, 33, e178, and Arnould *et al.*, J. Mol. Biol., 2006, 355, 443-458. The reporter vector comprises two truncated, non-functional copies of a reporter gene (direct repeats) and a chimeric DNA target sequence within the
30 intervening sequence, cloned in a yeast or a mammalian expression vector. The DNA target sequence is derived from the parent homing endonuclease cleavage site by replacement of at least one nucleotide by a different nucleotide. Preferably a panel of

palindromic or non-palindromic DNA targets representing the different combinations of the 4 bases (g, a, c, t) at one or more positions of the DNA cleavage site is tested (4ⁿ palindromic targets for n mutated positions). Expression of the variant results in a functional endonuclease which is able to cleave the DNA target sequence. This cleavage induces homologous recombination between the direct repeats, resulting in a functional reporter gene, whose expression can be monitored by appropriate assay.

- by "DNA target", "DNA target sequence", "target sequence", "target-site", "target", "site"; "recognition site", "recognition sequence", "homing recognition site", "homing site", "cleavage site" is intended a 22 to 24 bp double-stranded palindromic, partially palindromic (pseudo-palindromic) or non-palindromic polynucleotide sequence that is recognized and cleaved by a LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease. These terms refer to a distinct DNA location, preferably a genomic location, at which a double stranded break (cleavage) is to be induced by the endonuclease. The DNA target is defined by the 5' to 3' sequence of one strand of the double-stranded polynucleotide. For example, the palindromic DNA target sequence cleaved by wild type *I-CreI* is defined by the sequence 5'- t₁₂c₋₁₁a₋₁₀a₋₉a₋₈a₋₇c₋₆g₋₅t₋₄c₋₃g₋₂t₋₁a₊₁c₊₂g₊₃a₊₄c₊₅g₊₆t₊₇t₊₈t₊₉t₊₁₀g₊₁₁a₊₁₂ (SEQ ID NO:29). Cleavage of the DNA target occurs at the nucleotides in positions +2 and -2, respectively for the sense and the antisense strand. Unless otherwise indicated, the position at which cleavage of the DNA target by a meganuclease variant occurs, corresponds to the cleavage site on the sense strand of the DNA target.

- by "DNA target half-site", "half cleavage site" or half-site" is intended the portion of the DNA target which is bound by each LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease core domain.

- by "DC10NNN", (SEQ ID NO: 8) it is intended that this is the target sequence of *DmoCre* with variability in positions +8, +9 and +10 of the sequence, hence *DmoCre* in position 10 variable at 3 nucleotides sequentially backwards from 10. Likewise DC4NNN (SEQ ID NO: 36) refers to the target sequence of *DmoCre* with variability in positions +2, +3 and +4 of the sequence; and DC7NNN (SEQ ID NO: 37) refers to the target sequence of *DmoCre* with variability in positions +5, +6 and +7 of the sequence.

- by "chimeric DNA target" or "hybrid DNA target" is intended the fusion of a different half of two parent meganuclease target sequences. In addition at least one half of said target may comprise the combination of nucleotides which are bound by separate subdomains (combined DNA target).

5 - by "mutation" is intended the substitution, the deletion, and/or the addition of one or more nucleotides/amino acids in a nucleic acid/amino acid sequence.

- by "homologous" is intended a sequence with enough identity to another one to lead to a homologous recombination between sequences, more particularly having at least 95 % identity, preferably 97 % identity and more preferably 99 %.

- "Identity" refers to sequence identity between two nucleic acid molecules or polypeptides. Identity can be determined by comparing a position in each sequence which may be aligned for purposes of comparison. When a position in the compared sequence is occupied by the same base, then the molecules are identical at that position. A degree of similarity or identity between nucleic acid or amino acid sequences is a function of the number of identical or matching nucleotides at positions shared by the nucleic acid sequences. Various alignment algorithms and/or programs may be used to calculate the identity between two sequences, including FASTA, or BLAST which are available as a part of the GCG sequence analysis package (University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.), and can be used with, e.g., default settings.

15 - "individual" includes mammals, as well as other vertebrates (e.g., birds, fish and reptiles). The terms "mammal" and "mammalian", as used herein, refer to any vertebrate animal, including monotremes, marsupials and placental, that suckle their young and either give birth to living young (eutharian or placental mammals) or are egg-laying (metatharian or nonplacental mammals). Examples of mammalian species include humans and other primates (e.g., monkeys, chimpanzees), rodents (e.g., rats, mice, guinea pigs) and ruminants (e.g., cows, pigs, horses).

25 - "genetic disease" refers to any disease, partially or completely, directly or indirectly, due to an abnormality in one or several genes. Said abnormality can be a mutation, an insertion or a deletion. Said mutation can be a punctual mutation. Said abnormality can affect the coding sequence of the gene or its regulatory

30

sequence. Said abnormality can affect the structure of the genomic sequence or the structure or stability of the encoded mRNA. This genetic disease can be recessive or dominant. Such genetic disease could be, but are not limited to, cystic fibrosis, Huntington's chorea, familial hypercholesterolemia (LDL receptor defect),
 5 hepatoblastoma, Wilson's disease, congenital hepatic porphyrias, inherited disorders of hepatic metabolism, Lesch Nyhan syndrome, sickle cell anemia, thalassaemias, xeroderma pigmentosum, Fanconi's anemia, retinitis pigmentosa, ataxia telangiectasia, Bloom's syndrome, retinoblastoma, Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, and Tay-Sachs disease.

10 -by "RAG gene" is intended the RAG1 or RAG2 gene of a mammal. For example, the human RAG genes are available in the NCBI database, under the accession number NC_000011.8: the RAG1 (GeneID:5896) and RAG2 (GeneID:5897) sequences are situated from positions 36546139 to 36557877 and 36570071 to 36576362 (minus strand), respectively. Both genes have a short
 15 untranslated exon 1 and an exon 2 comprising the ORF coding for the RAG protein, flanked by a short and a long untranslated region, respectively at its 5' and 3' ends

- "RAG1.10" is a 22 bp (non-palindromic) target located at position 5270 of the human RAG1 gene (accession number NC_000011.8, positions 836546139 to 36557877), 7 bp upstream from the coding exon of RAG1.

20 - "RAG1.10.2" (SEQ ID NO: 34) is a palindromic target (tgttctcagg tacctgagaaca) derived from the first half of the RAG1.10 target

- "RAG1.10.2D34" : by "RAG1.10.2D34" (SEQ ID NO:35) it is meant a sequence comprising the first portion of the RAG1.10.2 target sequence as defined above joined to the second half of the *I-DmoI* target sequence designated D34.

25 The sequence is "tgttctcagg taagttccggcg".

- "RAG1.10.3" (SEQ ID NO: 38) is a palindromic target (ctggctgaggctacctcagccag) derived from the first half of the RAG1.10 target

- "RAG1.10.3D34" : by "RAG1.10.3D34" (SEQ ID NO:39) it is meant a sequence comprising the first portion of the RAG1.10.3 target sequence as
 30 defined above joined to the second half of the *I-DmoI* target sequence designated D34.

The sequence is "ttggctgaggttaagttccggcg".

- "vectors": a vector which can be used in the present invention includes, but is not limited to, a viral vector, a plasmid, a RNA vector or a linear or circular DNA or RNA molecule which may consists of a chromosomal, non chromosomal, semi-synthetic or synthetic nucleic acids. Preferred vectors are those
5 capable of autonomous replication (episomal vector) and/or expression of nucleic acids to which they are linked (expression vectors). Large numbers of suitable vectors are known to those of skill in the art and commercially available.

Viral vectors include retrovirus, adenovirus, parvovirus (e. g. adeno-associated viruses), coronavirus, negative strand RNA viruses such as orthomyxovirus
10 (e. g., influenza virus), rhabdovirus (e. g., rabies and vesicular stomatitis virus), paramyxovirus (e. g. measles and Sendai), positive strand RNA viruses such as picornavirus and alphavirus, and double-stranded DNA viruses including adenovirus, herpesvirus (e. g., Herpes Simplex virus types 1 and 2, Epstein-Barr virus, cytomegalovirus), and poxvirus (e. g., vaccinia, fowlpox and canarypox). Other viruses include
15 Norwalk virus, togavirus, flavivirus, reoviruses, papovavirus, hepadnavirus, and hepatitis virus, for example. Examples of retroviruses include: avian leukosis-sarcoma, mammalian C-type, B-type viruses, D type viruses, HTLV-BLV group, lentivirus, spumavirus (Coffin, J. M., *Retroviridae: The viruses and their replication*, In *Fundamental Virology*, Third Edition, B. N. Fields, et al., Eds., Lippincott-Raven
20 Publishers, Philadelphia, 1996). The term "vector" refers to a nucleic acid molecule capable of transporting another nucleic acid to which it has been linked. One type of preferred vector is an episome, i.e., a nucleic acid capable of extra-chromosomal replication. Preferred vectors are those capable of autonomous replication and/or expression of nucleic acids to which they are linked. Vectors capable of directing the
25 expression of genes to which they are operatively linked are referred to herein as "expression vectors. A vector according to the present invention comprises, but is not limited to, a YAC (yeast artificial chromosome), a BAC (bacterial artificial), a baculovirus vector, a phage, a phagemid, a cosmid, a viral vector, a plasmid, a RNA vector or a linear or circular DNA or RNA molecule which may consist of
30 chromosomal, non chromosomal, semi-synthetic or synthetic DNA. In general, expression vectors of utility in recombinant DNA techniques are often in the form of "plasmids" which refer generally to circular double stranded DNA loops which, in

their vector form are not bound to the chromosome. Large numbers of suitable vectors are known to those of skill in the art.

Vectors can comprise selectable markers, for example: neomycin phosphotransferase, histidinol dehydrogenase, dihydrofolate reductase, hygromycin
5 phosphotransferase, herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase, adenosine deaminase, glutamine synthetase, and hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase for eukaryotic cell culture; TRP1 for *S. cerevisiae*; tetracycline, rifampicin or ampicillin resistance in *E. coli*.

Preferably said vectors are expression vectors, wherein a sequence
10 encoding a polypeptide of the invention is placed under control of appropriate transcriptional and translational control elements to permit production or synthesis of said protein. Therefore, said polynucleotide is comprised in an expression cassette. More particularly, the vector comprises a replication origin, a promoter operatively linked to said encoding polynucleotide, a ribosome site, an RNA-splicing site (when
15 genomic DNA is used), a polyadenylation site and a transcription termination site. It also can comprise an enhancer. Selection of the promoter will depend upon the cell in which the polypeptide is expressed.

EXAMPLE 1: Improvement of *DmoCre* with increased activity

The inventors set out to improve the existing *DmoCre* scaffold by
20 increasing the overall activity of this enzyme. In particular three mutations were introduced into the *I-DmoI* N-terminal α -helix of *DmoCre* corresponding to residues 15, 19 and 20 of *I-DmoI* (SEQ ID NO: 22).

The G20S mutation leads to a more active *DmoCre* protein in yeast, whereas the two mutations L15Q and I19D, render the protein active in CHO cells as
25 shown by an extrachromosomal SSA (Single Strand Annealing) recombination assay previously described (Arnould et al., Mol Biol. 2006 Jan 20;355(3):443-58). Hence, the final *DmoCre* scaffold that was used in the current experiments harbors the L15Q, I19D and G20S mutations, which are all localized in the *I-DmoI* N-terminal LAGLIDADG α -helix; said wild-type *I-DmoI* domain is provided as SEQ ID NO:1.

30 This scaffold is referred to as *DmoCre2* and was used in further experiments. The peptide sequence of *DmoCre2* is provided as SEQ ID NO: 2.

EXAMPLE 2: Making of *DmoCre2* derived mutants cleaving degenerated DC10NNN_P targets

To study the possibility of engineering new sequence specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein, the inventors investigated the three adjacent nucleotides at position +8 to +10 of the C12D34 DNA target. The structure displayed in Figure 2 allowed the inventors to examine closely the contacts between these three base pairs and the *DmoCre2* protein residues.

Figure 3A shows the molecular surface of the hybrid enzyme bound to its DNA target. The area of binding that has been chosen for randomization (base pairs at positions +8, +9, +10 and protein residues corresponding to residues 29, 33 and 35 of SEQ ID NO: 22) has been highlighted. Figure 3B is a zoomed in view showing residues 29, 33 and 35 in interaction with the DNA target. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds. Using this analysis therefore the inventors pinpointed three *DmoCre2* residues: R33 and E35 that are in contact with the DNA and Y29, which is close to the DNA and appears to interact with E35.

In order to isolate new cleavage specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein, a *DmoCre2* mutant library mutated at positions 29, 33 and 35 (DClib2) was built, transformed into yeast and screened using a yeast screening assay, see below, against the 64 targets degenerated at position +8 to +10 that the applicants called DC10NNN (SEQ ID NO: 8). The DC10NNN target is 5' CAAAACGTCGTAAGTTCCNNNC 3' (SEQ ID NO 8), wherein NNN represent positions +8 to +10 and all combinations of A, C, G and T in these positions make up the 64 target DC10NNN sequences.

Material and Methods

Construction of the 64 target vectors:

The targets were cloned as follows: oligonucleotides corresponding to each of the 64 target sequences flanked by gateway cloning sequence were ordered from Prologo:

5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCNNNGGAACTTACGACGTTTTGAC
AATCGTCTGTCA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 3). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). The

yeast reporter vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT- α , ura3 Δ 851, trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202).

Construction of the DmoCre2 DClib2 mutant library:

In order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences containing
5 mutations at positions 29, 33 or 35, two separate overlapping PCR reactions were carried out that amplify the 5' end (aa positions 1-43) or the 3' end (positions 36-264) of the *DmoCre* coding sequence. For the 3' end, PCR amplification is carried out using a primer specific to the vector (pCLS0542, Figure 5) (Gal10R 5'-ACAACCTTGATTGGAGACTTGACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 4)) and a primer specific to
10 the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 36-46 (Dmo10CreFor 5'-TATCGTGTTGTGATCACCCAGAAGTCTGAAAAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 5)). For the 5' end, PCR amplification is carried out using a primer specific to the vector pCLS0542 (Gal10F 5'-GCAACTTTAGTGCTGACACATACAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 6)) and a primer specific to the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 23-43
15 (Dmo10CreRev 5'-CTTCTGGGTGATCACAACACGATAMNNGCTMNGTTACCTTTMNNTT TCAGCTTGTACAGGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO:7)).

The MNN code in the oligonucleotide resulting in a NNK codon at positions 29, 33 and 35 allows the degeneracy at these positions among the 20 possible amino acids. Then, 25 ng of each of the two overlapping PCR fragments and
20 75 ng of vector DNA (pCLS0542) linearized by digestion with NcoI and EagI were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, his3 Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact coding sequence containing both groups of mutations is generated by *in vivo* homologous
25 recombination in yeast. The DClib2 nucleic diversity is $3^{23} = 32768$, after transformation, 2232 clones were picked, representing about 7% of the library diversity.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Screening was performed as described previously (Arnould et al., J
30 Mol Biol. 2006; 355:443-58). Specifically, mating was performed using a colony gridder (QpixII, Genetix). Mutants were gridded on nylon filters covering YPD plates, using a low gridding density (about 4 spots/cm²). A second gridding process was

performed on the same filters to spot a second layer consisting of different reporter-harboring yeast strains for each target. Membranes were placed on solid agar YPD rich medium, and incubated at 30°C for one night, to allow mating. Next, filters were transferred to synthetic medium, lacking leucine and tryptophan, with galactose (2%)
5 as a carbon source, and incubated for five days at 37°C, to select for diploids carrying the expression and target vectors. After 5 days, filters were placed on solid agarose medium with 0.02% X-Gal in 0.5 M sodium phosphate buffer, pH 7.0, 0.1% SDS, 6% dimethyl formamide (DMF), 7mM β -mercaptoethanol, 1% agarose, and incubated at 37°C, to monitor β -galactosidase activity. Results were analyzed by scanning and
10 quantification was performed using proprietary software.

Sequencing of mutants

To recover the mutant expressing plasmids, yeast DNA was extracted using standard protocols and used to transform *E. coli*. Sequencing of mutant ORF were then performed on the plasmids by Millegen SA. Alternatively,
15 ORFs were amplified from yeast DNA by PCR (Akada et al., Biotechniques. 2000; 28:668-70, 672, 674), and sequencing was performed directly on PCR product by Millegen SA.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above, the
20 2232 clones that constitute the *DmoCre2* DClib2 library were screened against the 64 DC10NNN targets. The screen gave 519 positive clones able to cleave at least one DC10NNN target (SEQ ID NO: 8) (Figure 6), resulting after sequencing in 432 unique meganucleases. The initial *DmoCre2* protein is able to cleave 13 out of the 64 DC10NNN targets. The DClib2 hitmap displayed in Figure 7 shows that by
25 introducing mutations at positions 29, 33 and 35 in the *DmoCre* coding sequence, 57 DC10NNN targets are now being cleaved by *DmoCre2* derived mutants. The current screening approach has therefore allowed the inventors to widen the *DmoCre2* cleavage spectrum for DC10NNN targets and to isolate new cleavage specificities.

With reference to Table I below the various DClib2 clones identified
30 by the inventors are listed showing the residue changes in each of these as well as the DC10 target sequences which they have been shown to cleave. The top most row showing the three nucleotides in positions +8 to +10 and the figures representing the

intensity of the colour reaction in comparison to a negative control from yeast lacking insert. Specifically values of '0' represent an experimental result equal to the tested level of background noise in this assay. Values of '-' indicate this sample has not been tested for this particular nucleotide combination.

	A	G	T	G	T	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A	G	T	A
29R33Y35Q	0.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29R33M35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29C33S35S	0.52	0.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.26	0.39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29Q33L35H234N	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29A33N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29I35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33S35L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29K35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33H35S196R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33P35D	0	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33T35D214G	0	0.11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29F33T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0.95	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33P35A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S33A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.31	0	0	0	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29I33N35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29Q33T35H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29K33P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33Y35T	0.08	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H33Q35N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33Q35D66R176G261T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33G35D197E	0.15	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.18	0	0	0.24	0	0.85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33V35A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33C35Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29L33G35N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33T35D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33I35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.34	0.22	0.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H35Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29P33L35L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33I35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33I85A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33S35S	0.19	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33T35A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H33P35Q58C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S33Y35S	0.36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29	0.45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29V33Y35T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33F35T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29N33T35G	0.14	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table I

29G33S35S	0.61	0.31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29N33L35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29S33M35Q	0.18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29V33S35S	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33S56V	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33V35T	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29W33Y35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33M35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33S35D	0	0.24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27	0.39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29T35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29S33S35G145R	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29L33I35Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S33I35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H33S35Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29H33T35Q	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33A129P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29Q33S35N	0.15	0.20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29Q33N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29T33Y35T	0.18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33N35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33W35W	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33I35M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33T76S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29W35D89H	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29F33L35S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29R33M35D	0	0.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33S35M	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29P33I35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29F33L35N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S33H35D	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29N33S35H	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29S33A35G107P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29C33M35G176G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29L33L35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table I

29S33S	-	-	0.33	0	1.00	0.73	0.68	0	0	0.24	0.51	0.46	0.14	0	0.36	0.29	0	0.26	0	0.98	0.39	0.16	0.15	0.11	0	0.50	0
29E35Y	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29A33Q35G	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.08	0
29M33L35S	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.19	0
29N35Y	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29E35S	0	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.76	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
33G35N	0	0	0	0.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
29T33P35H	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.20	0	0	0	0	0	0
29G33T35Q	-	-	0	0.15	0	0.24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.48	0	0	0	0	0.21	0.66	0	0	0	0.19	0
29T33V35A47P	0	0.32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.45	0
29S33V35N	-	-	0	0.14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.23	0
29T33K	-	-	0	0	0	0.89	0.49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.60	0.41	0	0	0	0	0
29R33L35H	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.16	0
29D33F35G	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.19	0
29H33G35H	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.22	0	0	0	0	0.09	0	0	0	0	0	0
29V33I35A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.48	0
33E35S	-	-	0.17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.24	0	0	0	0	0.05	0	0	0	0	0.28	0
29E33H35G243K	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.08	0
5V29F33T35N	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table I

EXAMPLE 3: Making of *DmoCre* derived mutants cleaving degenerated DC4NNN_P targets

The applicants have also developed another *DmoCre* scaffold active in yeast and CHO cells, this scaffold as well as being modified at residue 20, a G20S substitution, is also modified at residues corresponding to residues 19 and 109 (I19D and F109Y modifications) of SEQ ID NO: 22 and was named *DmoCre4* (SEQ ID NO: 9) by the inventors.

To study the possibility of finding additional specificities for the *DmoCre4* protein (SEQ ID NO: 9), the applicants investigated the three adjacent nucleotides at position +2 to +4 of the C12D34 DNA target. The structure displayed in Figure 2 allowed them to examine closely the contacts between these three base pairs and the protein residues (Figure 8). The inventors have identified three *DmoCre4* residues corresponding to residues D75, T76 and R77 of SEQ ID NO: 22, that are in contact with the DNA target. In order to isolate new cleavage specificities for the *DmoCre4* protein, a *DmoCre4* mutant library mutated at positions 75, 76 or 77 (D4Clib4) was built, transformed into yeast and screened using the yeast screening assay against the 64 targets degenerated at position +2 to +4 that the inventors called DC4NNN (SEQ ID NO: 36). Such an approach has been already thoroughly described for the *I-CreI* protein (Smith J et al., Nucleic Acids Res. 2006; Arnould S, et al., J Mol Biol. 2006; 355:443-58, Arnould S et al., J Mol Biol. 2007; 371:49-65).

Material and Methods

Construction of the 64 target vectors:

The targets were cloned as follow: oligonucleotides corresponding to each of the 64 target sequences flanked by gateway cloning sequence were ordered from Prologo:

5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCGGANNNTACGACGTTTTTGAC
AATCGTCTGTCA 3'(SEQ ID NO: 10). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT- α , ura3 Δ 851, trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202).

Construction of the DmoCre4 D4Clib4 mutant library:

In order to generate *DmoCre4* derived coding sequences containing mutations at positions 75, 76 and 77, two separate overlapping PCR reactions were carried out that amplify the 5' end (aa positions 1-74) or the 3' end (positions 66-264) of the *DmoCre4* coding sequence. For the 3' end, PCR amplification is carried out using a primer specific to the vector (pCLS0542, Figure 5) (Gal10R 5'-ACAACCTTGATTGGAGACTTGACC-3') (SEQ ID NO: 11) and a primer specific to the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 66-83 (DClib4For 5'-AAATCTAAAATCCAGATCGTTAAGGGTNNKNNKNNKTATGAGCTGCGTGT GAGC-3') (SEQ ID NO: 12). The NNK codons at positions 75 to 77 allow the degeneracy at these positions among the 20 possible amino acids. For the 5' end, PCR amplification is carried out using a primer specific to the vector pCLS0542 (Gal10F 5'-GCAACTTTAGTGCTGACACATACAGG-3') (SEQ ID NO: 13) and a primer specific to the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 66-74 (DClib4Rev 5'-ACCCTTAACGATCTGGATTTTAGATTT-3') (SEQ ID NO: 14). Then, 25ng of each of the two overlapping PCR fragments and 75ng of vector DNA (pCLS0542) linearized by digestion with NcoI and EagI were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, his3 Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz R D et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact *DmoCre* coding sequence is generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination in yeast. The D4Clib4 nucleic diversity is $32^3 = 32768$. After transformation, 4464 clones were picked, representing about 14% of the library diversity.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above, the 4464 clones that constitute the *DmoCre4* D4Clib4 library were screened against all the 64 DC4NNN targets except for the DC4GAA target. The screen gave 1194 positive clones able to cleave at least one DC4NNN target (SEQ ID NO: 36). These clones were not characterized at the sequence level. The initial *DmoCre4* protein is able to cleave 4 out of 63 DC4NNN targets. The D4Clib4 hitmap displayed in Figure 9 shows

that by introducing mutations at positions 75, 76 and 77 in the *DmoCre4* coding sequence, 21 DC4NNN targets are now being cleaved by *DmoCre4* derived mutants. Our screening approach has therefore allowed us to widen the *DmoCre4* cleavage spectrum for DC4NNN targets and to isolate new cleavage specificities.

5 **EXAMPLE 4: Making of *DmoCre* derived mutants cleaving the 5CAGD34 target**

The inventors have previously shown that they were able to modify the *I-CreI* protein specificity toward palindromic DNA targets derived from C1221 and degenerated at positions ± 5 , ± 4 , ± 3 (Arnould et al, J Mol Biol. 2006; 355:443-58). By introducing mutations in the *I-CreI* coding sequence at positions 44, 68, 70, 75 and
10 77, they were able to obtain *I-CreI* derived mutants that cleave the 5CAG_P target (SEQ ID NO: 32).

In the present example, the inventors show that by introducing these same mutations in the *DmoCre2* or *DmoCre4* coding sequences, they can generate *DmoCre* derived mutants that cleave the 5CAGD34 target (SEQ ID NO: 33) (Figure
15 10). To generate these *DmoCre* derived mutants, they took 36 *I-CreI* mutants able to cleave the 5CAG_P target (SEQ ID NO: 32). The coding sequence of the *I-CreI* moiety was removed from the *DmoCre2* or the *DmoCre4* proteins by restriction enzyme digestion and replaced by the 5CAG_P cutter coding sequences. The two mutant libraries DCSCa2_5CAG and DCSCa4_5CAG based respectively on the
20 *DmoCre2* and *DmoCre4* proteins were built and screened against the 5CAGD34 target (SEQ ID NO: 33) using the yeast screening assay described previously herein.

Material and Methods

Construction of the 5CAGD34 target vector

The target was cloned as follow: an oligonucleotide corresponding to
25 the target sequence flanked by gateway cloning sequences was ordered from Prologo:
5' TGGCATAACAAGTTTTCGCCGGAACCTTACCTGGTTTTGACAATCGTCTG
TCA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 15). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR
amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway
protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter
30 vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT- α , *ura3* Δ 851,
trp1 Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *lys2* Δ 202).

Construction of the DCsca2_5CAG mutant library

In order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences that contain mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety sequence responsible for the 5CAG_P target cleavage, a PCR reaction was carried out that amplified the region between aa 13-148 for each of the *I-CreI* derived 5CAG_P cutters. PCR amplification was carried out using the primers CreNgoLib (5' CGTGAGCAGCTGGCGTTCCTGGCCGGCTTTGTGGAC GGTGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)) and CreMluLib (5'-ACGAACGGTTTCAGAAGT GGTTTTACGCGTCTTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 17)).

The 36 PCR fragments were then pooled. The yeast expression vector for the *DmoCre2* protein was then digested with NgoMIV and MluI removing a fragment covering residues 111 to 238 of the *DmoCre2* protein. Finally, 25 ng of the overlapping PCR pool and 75 ng of the digested vector DNA were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *his3* Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz R D et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact *DmoCre* coding sequence containing the mutations characteristic of the 5CAG_P cutters was generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination in yeast. After transformation, 186 clones were picked, representing about 5 times the library diversity.

Construction of the DCsca4_5CAG mutant library

In order to generate *DmoCre4* derived coding sequences that contain mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety sequence responsible for the 5CAG_P target cleavage, a PCR reaction was carried out that amplified the region between aa 13-148 for each of the *I-CreI* derived 5CAG_P cutters. PCR amplification was carried out using the primers CreMluLib and CreNgoLibY (5' CGTGAGCAGCTGGCGTACCTGGCC GGCTTTGTGGACGGTGAC-3') (SEQ ID NO: 18), which takes into account the F109Y mutation characteristic of the *DmoCre4* protein. The 36 PCR fragments were then pooled. The yeast expression vector for the *DmoCre4* protein was then digested with the restriction enzymes NgoMIV and MluI removing a fragment covering residues 111 to 238 of the *DmoCre4* protein. Finally, 25ng of the PCR pool and 75ng of the digested vector DNA were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *his3* Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz R D et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002;

350:87-96). An intact *DmoCre* coding sequence containing the mutations characteristic of the 5CAG_P cutters was generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination in yeast. After transformation, 186 clones were picked, representing about 5 times the library diversity.

5 *Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:*

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above in Example 1, the 186 clones that constitute the DCSCa2_5CAG library and the 186
10 clones that constitute the DCSCa4_5CAG library were screened against the 5CAGD34 (SEQ ID NO: 33) target. The first library gave 32 positive clones and the second one 40 positive clones with an overall stronger cleavage efficiency. Examples of positives are shown on Figure 11. The clones that cleave the 5CAGD34 target (SEQ ID NO: 33) do not cleave the 5CAG_P target (SEQ ID NO: 32) (data not shown). So the
15 inventors have demonstrated that it is possible to introduce specific *I-CreI* mutations in the *DmoCre* scaffold to cleave efficiently the combined target.

EXAMPLE 5: Making of a *DmoCre* derived mutant cleaving the RAG1.10.2D34 target

The RAG1.10.2 DNA palindromic target (SEQ ID NO: 34) derives
20 from the *I-CreI* C1221 target (SEQ ID NO: 29) (Figure 12). The inventors have previously shown how, by combining 10GTT (e.g. nucleotides 8, 9 and 10 are G, T and T respectively) and 5CAG *I-CreI* derived mutants and then performing a random mutagenesis step on the first isolated RAG1.10.2 cutters, they were able to obtain a *I-CreI* derived mutant that cleaves very strongly the RAG1.10.2 target
25 (WO2008/010009). This mutant called M2 bears the following mutations in comparison to the wild-type *I-CreI* sequence: N30R, Y33N, Q44A, R68Y, R70S, I77R of SEQ ID NO: 24. These same mutations were introduced in the *I-CreI* moiety of the *DmoCre2* protein and the activity of the resulting *DmoCre* mutant called DmoM2 (SEQ ID NO: 71) against the RAG1.10.2D34 (SEQ ID NO: 35) combined
30 target was probed using the yeast cleavage assay.

Material and Methods

Construction of the RAG1.10.2D34 target vector

The target was cloned as follow: an oligonucleotide corresponding to the target sequence flanked by gateway cloning sequences was ordered from Prologo:
5 5' TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCGGAACCTTACCTGAGAACAACAATCGTCTG
TCA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 19). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR
amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway
protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter
vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT α , ura3 Δ 851,
10 trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202).

Construction of the DmoM2

In order to generate a *DmoCre2* derived coding sequence that contains mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety specific to the RAG1.10.2 M2 mutant, a PCR
reaction was carried out that amplify the region between aa 9-146 of the M2 mutant.
15 PCR amplification is carried out using the primers CreNgoFor (5'
TTCCTGCTGTACCTGGCCGGCTTTGTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20)) and CreMluRev
(5'- TTCAGAAGTGGTTTTACGCGTCTTAG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)). The PCR
fragment was then digested with the restriction enzymes NgoMIV and MluI as was
the yeast expression vector containing the ORF for the *DmoCre2* protein. A ligation
20 reaction was performed and *E. coli* DH5 α was transformed with the ligation mixture.
The resulting DmoM2 mutant was then amplified and sequenced.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

25 Using this yeast cleavage assay, activity of the *DmoM2* mutant
against the combined RAG1.10.2D34 target (SEQ ID NO: 35) and other different
targets was probed. Figure 13 shows that, the *DmoM2* cleaves specifically the
combined RAG1.10.2D34 target (SEQ ID NO: 35). Therefore, the inventors have
demonstrated that it is possible to introduce into the *I-CreI* moiety of the *DmoCre*
30 scaffold mutations that were previously isolated in the *I-CreI* scaffold during a
combinatorial and/or optimization experiment for a target sequence, in order to cleave

efficiently a combined *DmoCre* target which comprises a portion of the target sequence.

EXAMPLE 6: Making of a *DmoCre* derived mutants cleaving the RAG1.10.2D34 or RAG1.10.3D34 targets

5 The RAG1.10.2 and RAG1.10.3 DNA palindromic targets (SEQ ID NO: 34 and 38) derive from the *I-CreI* C1221 target (SEQ ID NO: 29) (Figure 14). The inventors have previously shown how, by combining 10GTT and 5CAG *I-CreI* derived mutants, they were able to obtain *I-CreI* derived mutants that cleave very strongly the RAG1.10.2 target or by combining 10TGG and 5GAG *I-CreI* derived
10 mutants, they were able to obtain *I-CreI* derived mutants that cleave very strongly the RAG1.10.3 target (WO2008/010009 and WO2008/010093). By using the same methodology as described in Example 4, the coding sequence of the *I-CreI* moiety was removed from the *DmoCre2* protein by restriction enzyme digestion and replaced
15 sequences. Table II below sums up the mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety in reference to residue numbering in *I-CreI* sequence SEQ ID NO: 24 for RAG1.10.2 cutters coding sequences and Table III below sums up the mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety for RAG1.10.3 cutters coding sequences. To generate DCSca2_RAG1.10.2 and DCSca2_RAG1.10.3 mutant libraries, 33 RAG1.10.2 cutters and 35 RAG1.10.3
20 cutters were respectively used. The two mutant libraries were then screened respectively against the RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 targets and also against the parental targets using the previously described yeast screening assay.

RAG1.10.2 Cutters

N°	
1	30K33A44R68Y70S77T
2	30R33C44A68Y70S75Y77N
3	30R33C44R68Y70S77T
4	30K33A44N68Y70S75Y77R82T
5	33R38T44A68S70S73I77R
6	30K33A44A68Y70S75Y77K
7	30R33T44A68Y70S75Y77R
8	30R32D44A68Y70S75Y77K
9	30R33N44R68Y70S77T
10	30R33N44A68S70P75Y
11	30K33G44A68Y70S75Y77K
12	30R33C44R68Y70S77T
13	33R38T44A68Y70S75Y77K
14	30R33N44K68Y70S75Y77N
15	30R33C44A68Y70S75Y77V

16	30R33N44N68Y70S75Y77K
17	30R33S44N68Y70S75Y77R82T
18	30R33C44A68Y70S75Y77K
19	30K33A44A68S70S73I77R
20	30K33S44A68Y70S75Y77K
21	30R32D44A68Y70S75Y77K
22	30K33A44T68Y70S75Y77R
23	30R33N44A68Y70S75Y77K
24	30K33G44A68Y70S75Y77K
25	30R33C44N68Y70S75Y77K
26	30R32D44A68S70S73I77R
27	30R33Q44A68Y70S75Y77R
28	33R38T44A68Y70S75Y77K
29	30R33N44T68Y70S75Y77R
30	30K33G44A68Y70S75Y77K
31	33H38G44A68Y70S75Y77K129M
32	30R33N44N68Y70S75Y77R82T
33	30K33S44A68S70S73I77R

Table II

RAG1.10.3 Cutters

N°	
1	28N33S38R40R44A70T75N
2	28Q33S38R40K44Y68N70S75N77V
3	28N33S38R40R44A68A70N75N
4	28A33S38R40K44A68A70N75N129A
5	30H33M38A44A70S75Y
6	28N33S38R40R44Y70S75Y77Q
7	28N33S38R40R44A68T70N75N
8	28N33S38R40R44A68T70N75N
9	28N33S38R44A68T70N75N
10	28A33S38R40K44T70S75Y
11	32D33C44A70S75Y77Q
12	28Q33S38R40K44N68S70S75N77V
13	30H33M38A44A70S75Y77V
14	30H33M38A40R44A68H70Q75N
15	30H33M38A44A70S75Y77T
16	28N33S38R40R44N68Y70S75Y77V
17	30R33Q44D68N70S75N
18	28N33S38R40R44Y70S75Q77V
19	28N33S38R40R44A70N75N
20	33T38A40K44N68Y70S75Y77N
21	28Q33S38R40K44A68H70Q75N
22	28Q33S38R40K44Y70S75Y77Q
23	28Q33S38R40K44A68A70N75N103S153G
24	28N33S38R40R44T70S75Y
25	28N33S38R40R44N70S75Y77V
26	28N33S38P40R44A68T70N75N129A
27	28N33S38R40R44S70S75Y77Q
28	28N33S38R40R44T70S75Y
29	28Q33S38R40K44N68Y70S75Y77V
30	28Q33S38R40K44T70S75Y
31	28Q33S38R40K44A68H70H75N

32	28N33S38R40R44A70N75N
33	28Q33S38R40K44A70S75N
34	28N33S38R40R44A70N75N
35	30H33M38A44A70N75N

Table III**Material and Methods***Construction of the RAG1.10.3D34 target vector*

5 The target was cloned as follow: an oligonucleotide corresponding to the target sequence flanked by gateway cloning sequences was ordered from Proligo: 5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCGGAACCTTACCTCAGCCAGACAATCGTCTGTC A-3' (SEQ ID NO: 19). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol
10 (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT- α , ura3 Δ 851, trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202).

Construction of the DCSca2_RAG1.10.2 mutant library

15 In order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences that contain mutations in the *I-CreI* moiety sequence responsible for RAG1.10.2 target cleavage, a PCR reaction was carried out that amplified the region between aa 13-148 for each of the 33 *I-CreI* derived RAG1.10.2 cutters, in addition the primers also comprise portions homologous at either end to the sequence of the expression vector comprising *DmoCre2* . PCR amplification is carried out using the primers CreNgoLib (5'
20 CGTGAGCAGCTGGCGTTCCTGGCCGGCTTTGTGGACGGTGAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 16)) and CreMluLib (5'-ACGAACGGTTTCAGAAGT GGTTTTACGCGTCTTAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 17)).

The 33 PCR fragments were then pooled. The yeast expression vector for the *DmoCre2* protein was then digested with NgoMIV and MluI removing a
25 fragment covering residues 111 to 238 of the *DmoCre2* protein. Finally, 25 ng of the PCR pool and 75 ng of the digested vector DNA were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, his3 Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz R D et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact *DmoCre* coding sequence containing the
30 mutations characteristic of the RAG1.10.2 cutters was generated by *in vivo*

homologous recombination in yeast. After transformation, 186 clones were picked, representing about 5 times the library diversity.

Construction of the DCSCa2_RAG1.10.3 mutant library

The methodology was the same as for the DCSCa2_RAG1.10.2 mutant library, except a pool of 35 RAG1.10.3 cutters was used.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above in Example 2, the 186 clones that constitute the DCSCa2_RAG1.10.2 mutant library and the 186 clones that constitute the DCSCa2_RAG1.10.3 mutant library were screened respectively against the RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 targets. The DCSCa2_RAG1.10.2 library yielded 36 positive clones, 24 clones among them were rearranged and submitted to a secondary round of screening shown in Figure 15. The 24 clones represent 8 unique sequences (see Table IV) and are specific of the RAG1.10.2D34 target: they do not cleave the RAG1.10.2, C1221 and C12D34 targets. The DCSCa2_RAG1.10.3 library gave 52 positive clones, 33 clones among them were rearranged and submitted to a secondary screening shown in Figure 15. The 33 clones represent 6 unique sequences (see Table IV) and are specific to the RAG1.10.3D34 target: they do not cleave the RAG1.10.3, C1221 and C12D34 targets. So the inventors have demonstrated that it is possible to introduce specific *I-CreI* mutations in the *DmoCre* scaffold using a library approach to cleave efficiently and specifically the combined target.

EXAMPLE 7: Refinement of RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 meganucleases by random mutagenesis.

To improve the cleavage efficiency of the RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters identified in example 6, a round of random mutagenesis was undertaken on selected RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters isolated in example 6. For each target, three mutants among those described in Example 6 were chosen, see Table IV. Their DNA was pooled and used as template for the PCR

randomization. A mutant library was built in the yeast and screened against the adequate target.

Material and Methods

Construction of libraries by random mutagenesis

5 On each pool of mutants, random mutagenesis by PCR using Mn^{2+} at a concentration of 0.3 mM was performed. Primers used are preATGCreFor (5'GCATAAATTACTATACTTCTATAGACACGCAAACACAAATACACAGCG GCCTTGCCACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 40)) and ICreIpostRev (5'- GGCTCGAGGAGCTCGTCTAGAGGATCGCTCGAGTTATCAGTCGGCCGC-3'
10 (SEQ ID NO: 41)).

Approximately 25ng of the PCR product and 75ng of vector DNA (pCLS542, Figure 5) linearized by digestion with *NcoI* and *EagI* were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *his3* Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz and
15 Woods 2002). Expression plasmids containing an intact coding sequence for the *DmoCre* mutant was generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination between overlapping portions of the PCR product and digested vector, in yeast.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

20

Results

Table IV below shows the sequence of the eight RAG1.10.2D34 cutters and the six RAG1.10.3D34 cutters. Among them, the three first of each class of cutters (underlined in Table IV) were chosen to perform the randomizing PCR. Their sequences derive from the *DmoCre2* protein and differ at residues at positions
25 126, 128, 130, 131, 136, 138, 142, 166, 168, 173 and 175 (SEQ ID NO: 2). These positions correspond to the positions 28, 30, 32, 33, 38, 40, 44, 68, 70, 75 and 77 of I-*CreI* (SEQ ID NO: 24) respectively. As indicated above these RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters also comprise the mutations present in *DmoCre2*, namely the L15Q, I19D and G20S mutations, which are all located in the *I-DmoI* N-terminal
30 LAGLIDADG alpha-helix.

	Mutant name	SEQ ID NO	Sequence (ex: KKSAQS / AYSYK stands for 28K30K32S33A38Q40S / 44A68Y70S75Y77K)
RAG1.10.2D34 cutters	<u>RG2D1</u>	48	KKSAQS / AYSYK
	<u>RG2D2</u>	49	KRSCQS / AYSYK + 72P
	<u>RG2D3</u>	50	KRSCQS / AYSDR
	RG2D4	76	KNSRTS / AYSYK
	RG2D5	77	KRSCQS / AYSYV
	RG2D6	78	KKSSQS / AYSYK
	RG2D7	79	KRSNQS / TYSYR
	RG2D8	80	KRSYQS / AYSYK
RAG1.10.3D34 cutters	<u>RG3D1</u>	51	QNSSRR / TRSYI
	<u>RG3D2</u>	52	NNSSRR / YRSQV
	<u>RG3D3</u>	53	NNSSRR / ARNNI
	RG3D4	81	NNSSRR / TRSYI
	RG3D5	82	ANSSRK / AANNI
	RG3D6	83	QNSSRK / AHQNI

20 **Table IV:** Sequences of RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters. Underlined cutters were chosen for the random mutagenesis.

The mutant libraries created from the randomizing PCR were then screened with our yeast screening assay against their respective target. The RG2D2 and RG3D3 mutants were used as a control. Mutants presenting an activity increase in comparison to the control mutants were selected and submitted to a secondary round of screening screening shown in Figure 16. For each target, three mutants with improved cleavage activity have been circled. These selected mutants were isolated and sequenced and Table V shows their sequences.

25

	Mutant name	SEQ ID NO	Sequence* (ex: KKSAQS / AYSYK + V105A stands for 28K30K32S33A38Q40S / 44A68Y70S75Y77K +V105A)
RAG1.10.2D34 target	Amel1_RG2D	54	KKSAQS / AYSYK + V105A
	Amel2_RG2D	55	KRSCQS / AYSYK + S72P, E80K
	Amel3_RG2D	56	KRSCQS / AYSDR + Y66H
RAG1.10.3 D34 target	Amel1_RG3D	57	QNSSRR / ARSYI
	Amel2_RG3D	58	QNSSRR / ARNQV
	Amel3_RG3D	59	QNSSRR / YRSQV

* Position numbering in reference to I-CreI sequence (SEQ ID NO:24)

Table V: Sequences of refined RAG1.10.2D34 and RAG1.10.3D34 cutters

Table V shows that the cleavage activity improvement for the RAG1.10.2D34 target comes from the introduction of the V105A, E80K and Y66H mutations in I-CreI moiety (position numbering in reference to I-CreI sequence SEQ ID NO:24). In the case of the RAG1.10.3D34 target, the activity increase is not provided by additional mutations but by an exchange of mutations between the three RAG1.10.3D34 cutters that were used to perform the mutagenesis.

EXAMPLE 8: Making of new *DmoCre* derived mutants cleaving degenerated DC4NNN_P targets

To search for *DmoCre* scaffolds with specificities for the DC4NNN targets (SEQ ID NO: 36), a new mutant library based on the *DmoCre2* protein was generated in yeast. As mentioned in Example 3, the three residues D75, T76 and R77 of SEQ ID NO: 22, contact the three bases at position +2 to +4 of the C12D34 target. Residue T41 of SEQ ID NO: 22, is also involved and establishes also a Van der Waals contact with the methyl group of the thymine located at position +4 of the C12D34 target. It was thought by the inventors that mutation of this residue could provide new specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein toward the DC4NNN targets. Therefore, in order to isolate new cleavage specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein, a *DmoCre2* mutant library (D4Clib2Bis) mutated at positions corresponding to residues 41, 75 or

77 of SEQ ID NO: 22 (I-*DmoI* moiety) was constructed and transformed into yeast and screened using the yeast screening assay against the 64 targets degenerated at position +2 to +4 (DC4NNN SEQ ID NO: 36).

Material and Methods

5 Construction of the *DmoCre2* D4Clib2Bis mutant library:

In order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences containing mutations at positions 41, 75 and 77 of SEQ ID NO:22 (I-*DmoI* moiety), different PCR reactions were carried out. The first PCR reaction, using a primer specific to the vector pCLS0542 (Gal10F 5'-GCAACTTTAGTGCTGACACATACAGG-3' (SEQ
10 ID NO: 13)) and the primer DCaa49-37Rev (5'-TTTAATCAGGTTTTCAGACTTCTGMNNGATCACAACACG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 42)), which amplifies the 5' end (aa positions 1-49) of the *DmoCre2* coding sequence. For the 3' end amplification, two PCR reactions were carried out. The first one amplifies the region between residues 42 to 74 of *DmoCre2* using the primers
15 DCaa42-50For (5'-CAGAAGTCTGAAAACCTGATTAAACAA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 43)) and DCaa74-66Rev (5'-ACCCTTAACGATCTGGATTTTAGATTT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 44)). The second one amplifies the 3'-end (positions 68-264) of *DmoCre2* using the primer DCaa68-81For (5'-AAAATCCAGATCGTTAAGGGTNNKACCNNKTATGAGCTGCGT-3' (SEQ ID
20 NO: 45)) and a primer specific to the vector (pCLS0542, Figure 5) (Gal10R 5'-ACAACCTTGATTGGAGACTTGACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 4)).

The two PCR fragments were purified and used as a template in an assembly PCR performed with the DCaa42-50For and Gal10R primers.

Then, 25ng of each of the two overlapping PCR fragments
25 (positions 1-49 and 42-264) and overlapping 75ng of vector DNA (pCLS0542) linearized by digestion with *NcoI* and *EagI* were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α , *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *his3* Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz R D et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact *DmoCre* coding was generated by *in vivo*
30 homologous recombination in yeast. After transformation, 2232 clones were picked.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above, the 2232 clones that constitute the *DmoCre2* D4Clib2Bis library were screened against all the 64 DC4NNN targets except for the DC4TTC target. The screen gave 335 positive clones able to cleave at least one DC4NNN target (SEQ ID NO: 36). These clones were rearranged, sequenced (221 unique sequences were isolated) and submitted to a secondary round of screening. The initial *DmoCre2* protein is able to cleave 4 out of 63 DC4NNN targets. The D4Clib2Bis hitmap displayed in Figure 17 shows that by introducing mutations at positions 41, 75 and 77 in the *DmoCre2* coding sequence, 32 DC4NNN targets are now being cleaved by these *DmoCre2* derived mutants.

This number has to be compared to the 21 DC4NNN targets that were cleaved by the mutant library described in Example 3. Mutating position 41 in this screening approach has therefore allowed the inventors to widen the *DmoCre2* cleavage spectrum for DC4NNN targets and to isolate new cleavage specificities.

15 **EXAMPLE 9: Making of new *DmoCre* derived mutants cleaving degenerated DC7NNN_P targets**

To study the possibility of engineering new sequence specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein, the Applicants investigated the three adjacent nucleotides at position +5 to +7 of the C12D34 DNA target. The structure displayed in Figure 2 allowed examining closely the contacts between these three base pairs and the *DmoCre2* protein residues.

Figure 18A shows the molecular surface of the hybrid enzyme bound to its DNA target. The area of binding that has been chosen for randomization (base pairs at positions +5, +6, +7 and protein residues 37 and 81) has been highlighted. The 64 targets degenerated at position +5 to +7 are called DC7NNN (SEQ ID NO: 37). The DC7NNN target is 5' CAAAACGTCGTAAGTNNNGGCG 3' (SEQ ID NO 37), wherein NNN represent positions +5 to +7 and all combinations of A, C, G and T in these positions make up the 64 target DC7NNN sequences. Figure 18B is a zoomed in view showing the two arginine residues 37 and 81 of SEQ ID NO: 22, in interaction with the DNA. Dashed lines represent hydrogen bonds. Mutating one or two of these arginine residues leads to a sharp decrease or a complete loss of cleavage activity of *DmoCre2* toward the DC7NNN targets.

A closer inspection of the structure shows that the arginine residue 37 is in hydrophobic contact with leucine residue 27 of SEQ ID NO: 22 (Figure 18C). Therefore, a mutation at position 27 could compensate for a mutation of the arginine 37.

5 In order to isolate new cleavage specificities for the *DmoCre2* protein, a *DmoCre2* mutant library mutated at positions 27 and 37 (D7Clib2) was built, transformed into yeast and screened using a yeast screening assay, see below, against all the 64 DC7NNN targets except for the DC7GAC.

Material and Methods

10 *Construction of the 64 target vectors:*

The targets were cloned as follows: oligonucleotides corresponding to each of the 64 target sequences flanked by gateway cloning sequence were ordered from Proligo:

15 5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCNNNACTTACGACGTTTTGACAATCGTCTGTC
A-3', (SEQ ID NO: 3). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT- α , *ura3* Δ 851, *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *lys2* Δ 202).

20 *Construction of the DmoCre2 DClib2 mutant library:*

In order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences containing mutations at positions 27 and 37, two separate overlapping PCR reactions were carried out that amplify the 5' end (aa positions 1-43) or the 3' end (positions 38-264) of the *DmoCre* coding sequence. For the 3' end, PCR amplification is carried out
25 using a primer specific to the vector (pCLS0542, Figure 5) (Gal10R 5'-ACAACCTTGATTGGAGACTTGACC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 4)) and a primer specific to the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 38-46 (DC37For 5'GTTGTGATCACCCAGAAGTCTGAAAAC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 46)). For the 5' end, PCR amplification is carried out using a primer specific to the vector pCLS0542
30 (Gal10F 5'-GCAACTTTAGTGCTGACACATACAGG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 6)) and a primer specific to the *DmoCre* coding sequence for amino acids 23-43

(DC3727ScanRev 5'-CTTCTGGGTGATCACAACMNNATATTCGCTACGGTT
ACCTTTATATTTMNNCTTGTACAGGCC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 47)).

The MNN code in the oligonucleotide resulting in a NNK codon at
positions 27 and 37 allows the degeneracy at these positions among the 20 possible
5 amino acids. Then, 25 ng of each of the two overlapping PCR fragments and 75 ng of
overlapping vector DNA (pCLS0542) linearized by digestion with NcoI and EagI was
used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT- α ,
trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, his3 Δ 200) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol
(Gietz et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96).

10 An intact coding sequence containing both groups of mutations was
generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination in yeast. The D7Clib2 nucleic
diversity is $32^2 = 1024$, after transformation, 1116 clones were picked, representing
approximately the whole library diversity.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

15 Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Using the yeast screening assay that has been described above, the
1116 clones that constitute the *DmoCre2* D4Clib2Bis library were screened against all
the 64 DC4NNN targets except for the DC4GTC target. The screen gave 174 positive
20 clones able to cleave at least one DC7NNN target. These clones were rearranged,
sequenced (75 unique sequences were isolated) and submitted to a secondary round of
screening. The initial *DmoCre2* protein was able to cleave 9 out of 63 DC7NNN
targets (DC7CCC, DC7TCC, DC7ACC, DC7GCC, DC7TTC, DC7ATC, DC7TCT,
DC7ACT and DC7TTT). The D7Clib2 hitmap displayed in Figure 19 shows that by
25 introducing mutations at positions 27 and 37 in the *DmoCre2* coding sequence, 19
DC7NNN targets are now being cleaved by *DmoCre2* derived mutants. Our screening
approach has therefore allowed us to widen the *DmoCre2* cleavage spectrum for
DC7NNN targets and to isolate new cleavage specificities.

EXAMPLE 10: Making of new *DmoCre* derived mutants combining two sets of mutations and cleaving the combined DC10TGG4ACT target

The possibility of combining different sets of mutations previously isolated for the *DmoCre2* protein to cleave a combined target was investigated. First, 5 eight *DmoCre2* derived mutants mutated at residues corresponding to positions 75, 76 and 77 in wild type *I-DmoI* (SEQ ID NO: 22); and able to cleave the DC4ACT target were chosen, see Table VI for the sequence at residues corresponding to positions 75-77 in SEQ ID NO: 22; these mutants were used to create a mutant library (SeqDC10NNN4ACT) degenerated at *DmoCre2* residues corresponding to amino 10 acids positions 29 and 33 in SEQ ID NO: 22. The resulting library was finally screened in yeast against the combined DC10TGG4ACT target.

Material and Methods

Construction of the DC10TGG4ACT target vector:

The target was cloned as follows: an oligonucleotide corresponding 15 to the target sequence flanked by gateway cloning sequence was ordered from Proligo: 5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTCCAGGAAGTTACGACGTTTTGACAATCGTCTGT CA-3' SEQ ID NO: 60. Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter vector 20 was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT α , *ura3* Δ 851, *trp1* Δ 63, *leu2* Δ 1, *lys2* Δ 202).

*Construction of the *DmoCre2* SeqDC10NNN4ACT mutant library:*

First, the DNA coding for the eight *DmoCre2* mutants able to cleave the DC4ACT target were pooled. Then, this DNA pool was used as a template for two 25 separate overlapping PCR reactions in order to generate *DmoCre2* derived coding sequences containing mutations at positions 29 and 33. The first PCR reaction amplifies the 5' end of *DmoCre2* coding sequence (aa positions 1-40) using the primers Gal10F (5'-GCAACTTTAGTGCTGACACATACAGG-3' SEQ ID NO: 6) and D10CreRev2 (5'- GATCACAACACGATATTCGCTMNGTTACCTTTMNN 30 TTTCAGCTTGTA-3' SEQ ID NO: 61) and the second PCR reaction amplifies the 3' end (positions 34-264) of the *DmoCre2* coding sequence using the primers specific Gal10R (5'-ACAACCTTGATTGGAGACTTGACC-3' SEQ ID NO: 4) and

D10CreFor2 (5'-AGCGAATATCGTGTGTTGTGATCACCCAGAAGTCTG-3' SEQ ID NO: 62).

The MNN code in the D10CreRev2 oligonucleotide resulting in a NNK codon at positions 29 and 33 allows the degeneracy at these positions among the 20 possible amino acids. Then, 25 ng of each of the two overlapping PCR fragments and 75 ng of overlapping vector DNA (pCLS0542, Figure 5) linearized by digestion with NcoI and EagI were used to transform the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain FYC2-6A (MAT α , ura3 Δ 851, trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202) using a high efficiency LiAc transformation protocol (Gietz et al., Methods Enzymol. 2002; 350:87-96). An intact coding sequence was generated by *in vivo* homologous recombination in yeast. After transformation, 2232 clones of the SeqDC10NNN4ACT library were picked.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

Eight *DmoCre2* derived mutants able to cleave the DC4ACT target were chosen. These mutants carry mutations at residues corresponding to positions 75, 76 and 77 in SEQ ID NO: 22 and are listed in Table VI below.

Mutant Name	SEQ ID NO	Sequence, aa 75 to 77
Mt1-DC4ACT	63	RSV
Mt2-DC4ACT	64	HSC
Mt3-DC4ACT	65	NGA
Mt4-DC4ACT	66	HTS
Mt5-DC4ACT	67	RTV
Mt6-DC4ACT	68	ATN
Mt7-DC4ACT	69	CTC
Mt8-DC4ACT	70	TTV

Table VI: Sequence (aa 75 to 77) of the eight DC4ACT cutters that were chosen to create the SeqDC10NNN4ACT library

The SeqDC10NNN4ACT library was then screened using our yeast screening assay toward the combined DC10TGG4ACT target. The screening assay gave 11 positive clones and part of the screening is shown in Figure 20, where three

positive clones are black circled. Thus, we show here that it is possible to associate mutations of residues interacting with nucleotides at positions +8 to +10 of the C12D34 target with mutations of residues interacting with nucleotides at positions +2 to +4 of the C12D34 target in order to cleave a combined target.

5 **EXAMPLE 11: Making of new RAG1.10.3D34 derived mutants that cleave the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT and RAG1.10.3DC4TAT targets**

Taking the refined RAG1.10.3D34 cutter described in Example 7 (Amel2_RG3D mutant SEQ ID NO: 58), a mutant library (RAG1.10.3DC4NNN) was built that degenerates the residues of Amel2_RG3D (SEQ ID NO: 58) corresponding
10 to positions 75, 76 and 77 in wild type I-DmoI (SEQ ID NO: 22); in order to find potential cutters for the two following targets (Figure 14): RAG1.10.3DC4ACT (5'-CTGGCTGAGGTAACCTCCGGCG-3' SEQ ID NO: 72) and RAG1.10.3DC4TAT (5'-CTGGCTGAGGTATATCCGGCG-3' SEQ ID NO: 73).

Material and Methods

15 *Construction of the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT and RAG1.10.3DC4TAT target vector:*

The target was cloned as follows: an oligonucleotide corresponding to the complement of the above target sequence flanked by gateway cloning sequence was ordered from Proligo: 5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCGGAAGTTACCTCAG
20 CCAGACAATCGTCTGTCA-3' SEQ ID NO: 74 (for the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT target) and 5'TGGCATAACAAGTTTTTCGCCGGAATATACCTCAGCCAGACAATCGTCTGTCA-3' SEQ ID NO: 75 (for the RAG1.10.3DC4TAT target). Double-stranded target DNA, generated by PCR amplification of the single stranded oligonucleotide, was cloned using the Gateway protocol (Invitrogen) into yeast
25 reporter vector (pCLS1055, Figure 4). Yeast reporter vector was transformed into *S. cerevisiae* strain FYBL2-7B (MAT^a, ura3 Δ 851, trp1 Δ 63, leu2 Δ 1, lys2 Δ 202).

Construction of the RAG1.10.3DC4NNN mutant library

Using the DNA of the Amel2_RG3D (SEQ ID NO: 58) as a template, the inventors used the same protocol as described in the Example 3 for the
30 D4Clib4 generation to build the RAG1.10.3DC4NNN mutant library. 2232 clones were picked.

Mating of meganuclease expressing clones and screening in yeast:

Experiments were performed as described in Example 2 above.

Results

The 2232 clones constituting the RAG1.10.3DC4NNN library were
5 screened against the two targets RAG1.10.3DC4ACT (SEQ ID NO: 72) and
RAG1.10.3DC4TAT (SEQ ID NO: 73) using our yeast screening assay. The screen
yielded 68 positive clones toward the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT target (Figure 21, A) and
26 positive clones toward the RAG1.10.3DC4TAT target (Figure 21, B). The
Amel2_RG3D mutant (top right dot control) did not cleave the RAG1.10.3DC4ACT
10 and RAG1.10.3DC4TAT targets. Each positive clone was found to cleave only one of
the two targets. These results show the specificity of the mutants we have obtained.
This screening proves therefore that after having introduced mutation in the Cre
moiety of the *DmoCre* protein (Amel2_RG3D mutant), it is possible to further
engineer the protein by adding mutations in the I-*DmoI* moiety to cleave specifically
15 the combined target.

CLAIMS

- 1) A polypeptide, comprising the sequence of an *I-DmoI* endonuclease or a chimeric derivative thereof, including at least the first *I-DmoI* domain and characterized in that it comprises the substitution of at least one of
5 residues in positions 15, 19 or 20 and the substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 29, 33, 35, 37, 75, 76, 77 or 81 of said first *I-DmoI* domain; and
wherein said polypeptide recognises an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 2 , ± 3 , ± 4 , ± 5 , ± 6 , ± 7 , ± 8 , ± 9 , ± 10 .
- 2) A polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein at least one of
10 residues in positions 15, 19 or 20 are substituted for any amino acid.
- 3) A polypeptide according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the residue in position 20 is changed to serine or alanine (G20S or G20A).
- 4) A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the lysine in
15 position 15 to glutamine (L15Q).
- 5) A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein the isoleucine in position 19 to aspartic acid (I19D).
- 6) A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the
20 substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 29, 33 or 35 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 8 , ± 9 , ± 10 .
- 7) A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, wherein the
25 substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 75, 76 or 77 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 2 , ± 3 , ± 4 .
- 8) A polypeptide according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 wherein the
30 substitution of at least one of the residues in positions 27, 37 or 81 by any amino acid, alters the recognition of said polypeptide for an *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site which differs from a wildtype *I-DmoI* DNA target half-site SEQ ID NO: 30, in at least one of positions ± 5 , ± 6 , ± 7 .

9) A polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein it is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.

10) A polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein it is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 27.

11) A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said polypeptide is a chimeric-*Dmo* endonuclease consisting of the fusion of said first *I-Dmo* I domain to a sequence of a dimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease or to a domain of another monomeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease.

12) A polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein said first *I-DmoI* domain is fused to a second domain selected from the one of the enzymes in the group: *I-Sce I*, *I-Chu I*, *I-Cre I*, *I-Csm I*, *PI-Sce I*, *PI-Tli I*, *PI-Mtu I*, *I-Ceu I*, *I-Sce II*, *I-Sce III*, *HO*, *PI-Civ I*, *PI-Ctr I*, *PI-Aae I*, *PI-Bsu I*, *PI-Dha I*, *PI-Dra I*, *PI-Mav I*, *PI-Mch I*, *PI-Mfu I*, *PI-Mfl I*, *PI-Mga I*, *PI-Mgo I*, *PI-Min I*, *PI-Mka I*, *PI-Mle I*, *PI-Mma I*, *PI-Msh I*, *PI-Msm I*, *PI-Mth I*, *PI-Mtu I*, *PI-Mxe I*, *PI-Npu I*, *PI-Pfu I*, *PI-Rma I*, *PI-Spb I*, *PI-Ssp I*, *PI-Fac I*, *PI-Mja I*, *PI-Pho I*, *PI-Tag I*, *PI-Thy I*, *PI-Tko I*, *PI-Tsp I*, *I-MsoI*.

13) A polypeptide according to any preceding claim, wherein said sequence comprises the substitution of at least one further residue selected from the group: (i) one of the residues in positions 4, 49, 52, 92, 94 and/or 95 of said first *I-DmoI* domain, and/or (ii) one of the residues in positions 101, 102, and/or 109 of the linker or the beginning of the second domain of *I-DmoI*, if present.

14) A polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein: the asparagine in position 4 is changed to isoleucine (N4I); the lysine in position 49 is changed to arginine (K49R); the isoleucine in position 52 is changed to phenylalanine (I52F); the alanine in position 92 is changed to threonine (A92T); the methionine in position 94 is changed to lysine (M94K); the leucine in position 95 is changed to glutamine (L95Q); the phenylalanine in position 101 (if present) is changed to cysteine (F101C); the asparagine in position 102 (if present) is changed to isoleucine (N102I), and/or the phenylalanine in position 109 (if present) is changed to isoleucine (F109I).

15) A polypeptide according to any preceding claim, characterized in that the first *I-DmoI* domain is at the NH₂-terminus of said chimeric-*Dmo* endonuclease.

5 16) A polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that said dimeric LAGLIDADG homing endonuclease is *I-CreI*.

17) A polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 16, characterized in that it is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

18) A polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that it is derived from the sequence SEQ ID NO: 9.

10 19) A polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 18, characterized in that it comprises a detectable tag at its NH₂ and/or COOH terminus

20) A polynucleotide, characterized it is encoding the polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 19.

15 21) A vector, characterized in that it comprises the polynucleotide according to claim 20.

22) A host cell, characterized in that it is modified by the polynucleotide according to claim 20 or the vector according to claim 21.

20 23) A non-human transgenic animal, characterized in that all or part of its cells is modified by the polynucleotide according to claim 20 or the vector according to claim 21.

24) A transgenic plant, characterized in that all or part of its cells are modified by the polynucleotide according to claim 20 or the vector according to claim 21.

25 25) Use of a polypeptide according to anyone of claims 1 to 19, a polynucleotide according to claim 20, a vector according to claim 21, a cell according to claim 22, a non-human animal according to claim 23 or a plant according to claim 24, for the selection and/or the screening of meganucleases with novel DNA target specificity.

30 26) A polypeptide according to any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprises the modification of at least one of the residues in positions 44, 68, 70, 75, 77 of said *I-CreI* monomer.

27) A polypeptide according to any one of claims 16 to 18 or 26, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprises the modification of at least one of the residues in positions 28, 30, 32, 33, 38, 40 of said *I-CreI* monomer.

28) A polypeptide according to any one of claims 16 to 18 or 26 to
5 27, wherein said *I-CreI* monomer sequence comprises the modification of at least one of the residues in positions 37, 79, 81 of said *I-CreI* monomer.

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C1234	CAAACGTCGTGAGACAGTTTG (SEQ ID NO:28)
C1221	CAAACGTCGTACGACGTTTG (SEQ ID NO:29)
D1234	CCTTGCCGGTAAGTCCGGCG (SEQ ID NO:30)
C12D34	CAAACGTCGTAAAGTCCGGCG (SEQ ID NO:31)
DC10NNN	CAAACGTCGTAAAGTCCNNNG (SEQ ID NO:8)

-11 -10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10 +11

Figure 1

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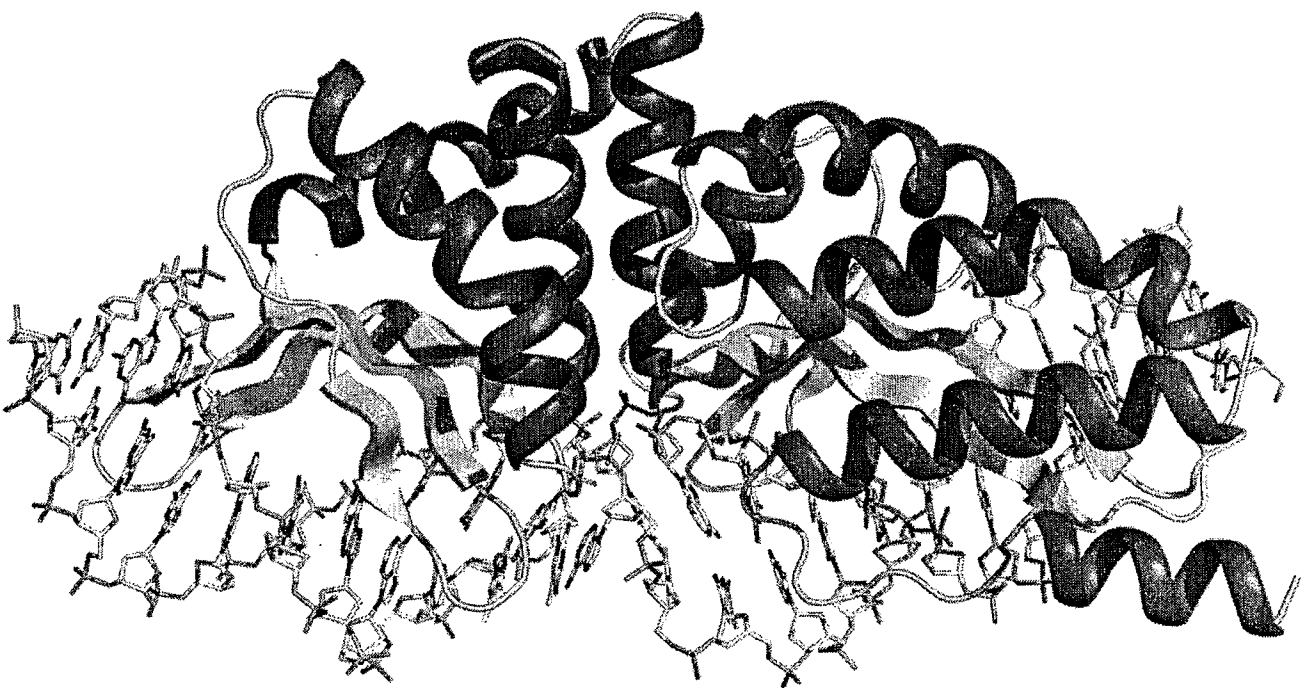


Figure 2

Figure 3A

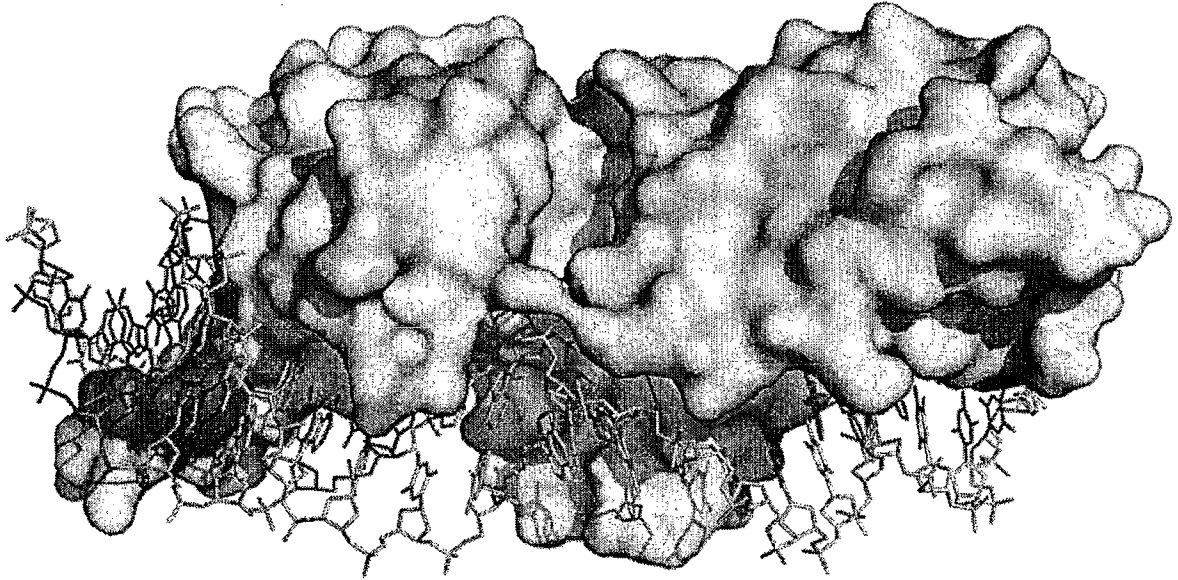
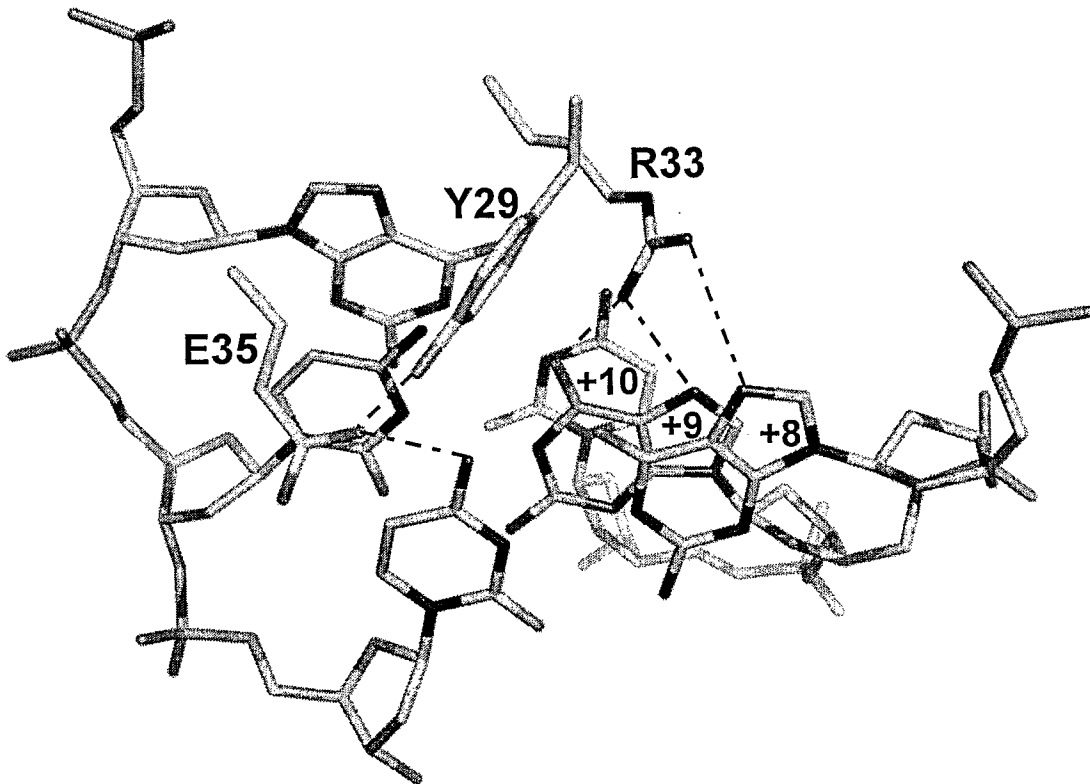


Figure 3B



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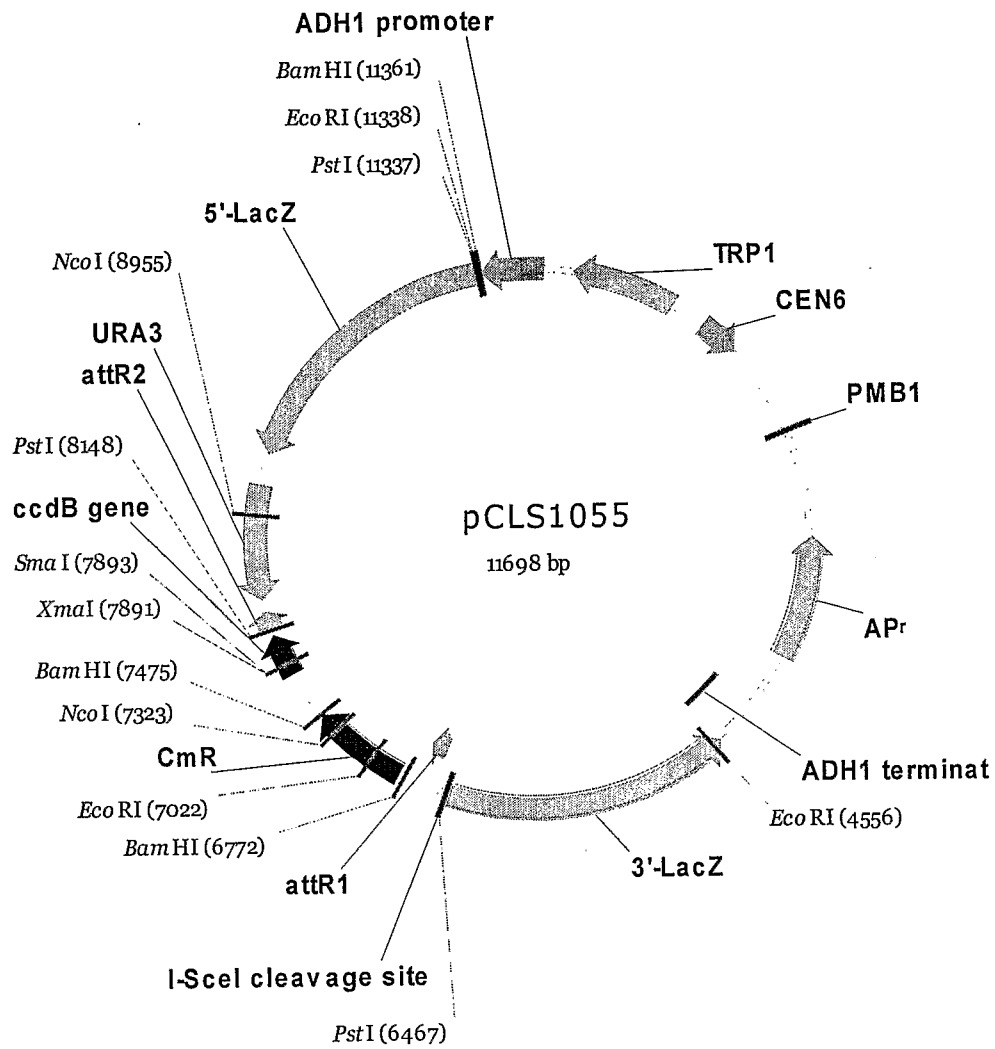


Figure 4

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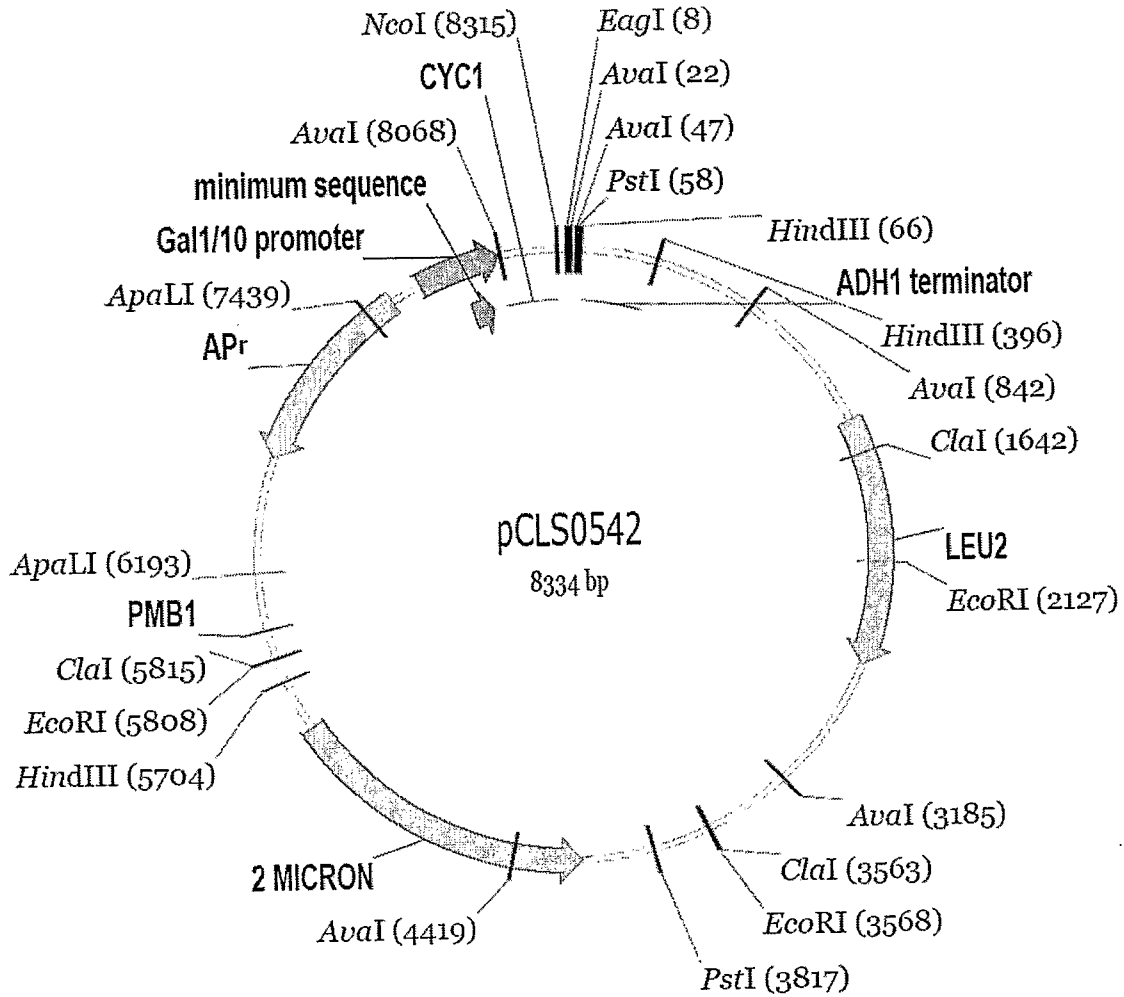
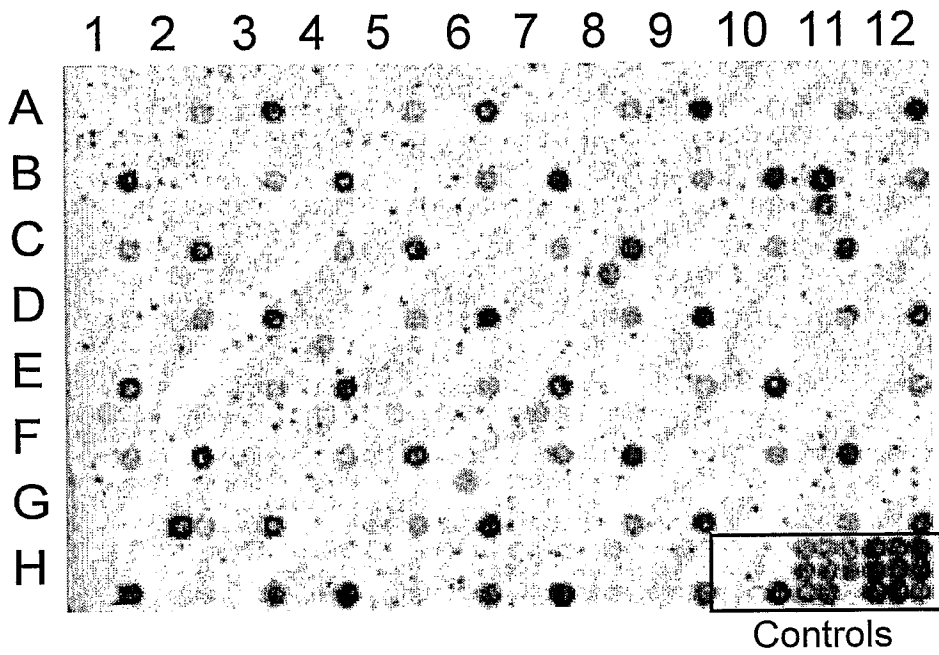


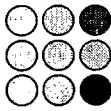
Figure 5

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Experiment Design

8 DC10NNN targets



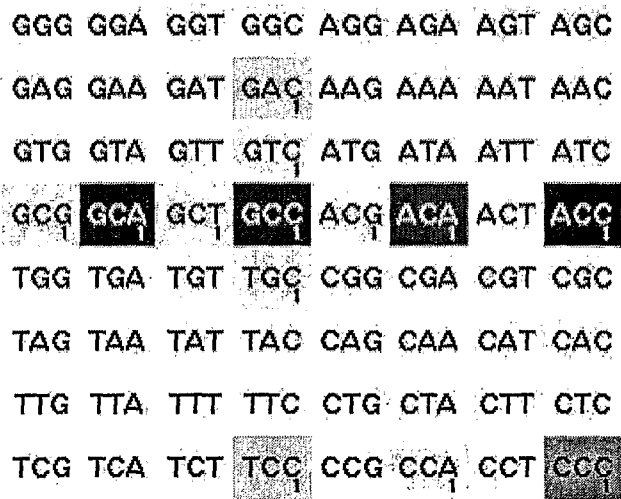
← Internal control

Figure 6

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Hitmaps

DmoCre



DClib2



Figure 7

Figure 8A

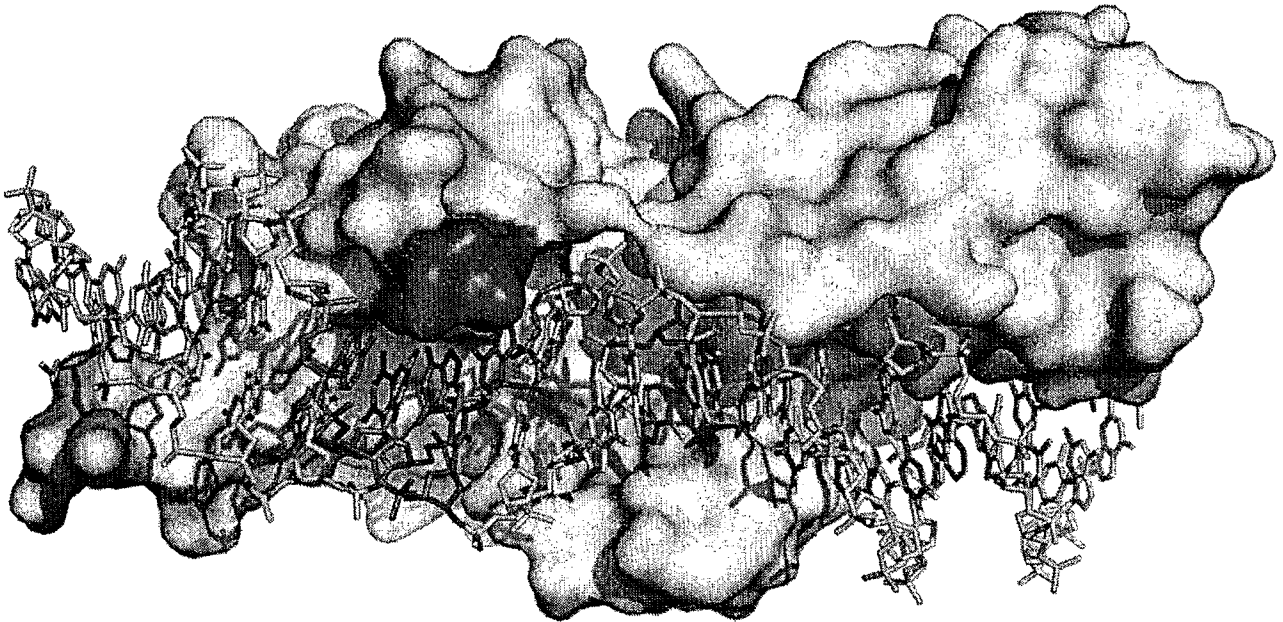
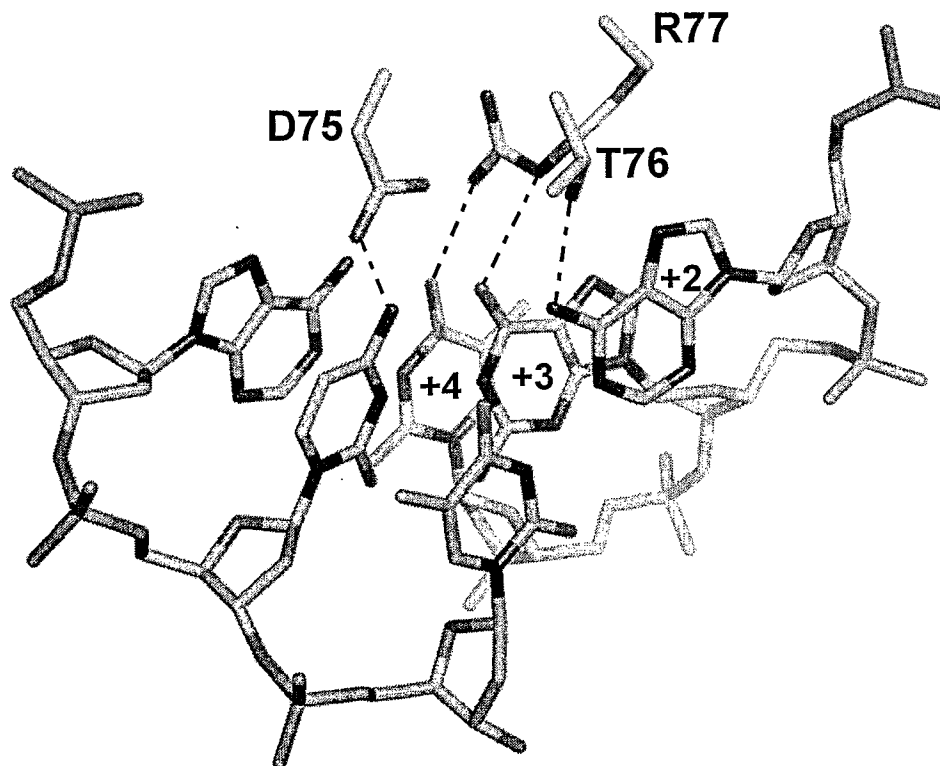


Figure 8B



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DmoCre4

GGG GGA GGT GGC AGG AGA AGT AGC
 GAG GAA GAT GAC AAG AAA AAT AAC
 GTG GTA GTT GTC ATG ATA ATT ATC
 GCG GCA GCT GCC ACG ACA ACT ACC
 TGG TGA TGT TGC CGG CGA CGT CGC
 TAG TAA TAT TAC CAG CAA CAT CAC
 TTG TTA TTT TTC CTG CTA CTT CTC
 TCG TCA TCT TCC CCG CCA CCT CCC

D4CLib4

GGG₂ GGA₁₆ GGT₁ GGC AGG₂₉₀ AGA₂₆₈ AGT₃₁₇ AGC
 GAG GAA₃ GAT GAC AAG₉₉ AAA AAT₅₁ AAC
 GTG GTA₃ GTT GTC ATG₉ ATA₁₈₆ ATT₁₇₀ ATC
 GCG GCA GCT GCC ACG₁₆₃ ACA₁₁ ACT₅₀₂ ACC₁₂₇
 TGG TGA₇ TGT₃ TGC CGG CGA CGT CGC
 TAG TAA TAT TAC CAG CAA CAT CAC
 TTG₁ TTA TTT TTC CTG CTA CTT CTC
 TCG TCA TCT₄ TCC CCG CCA CCT CCC

Figure 9

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-11 -10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10 +11

C1234 **CAAACGTCGTGAGACAGTTTG** (SEQ ID NO:28)

C1221 **CAAACGTCGTACGACGTTTTG** (SEQ ID NO:29)

5CAG_P **CAAAC**CAG**GTAC**CTG**GTTTTG** (SEQ ID NO:32)

C12D34 **CAAACGTCGTAAGTTCCGGCG** (SEQ ID NO:31)

5CAGD34 **CAAAC**CAG**GTAAGTTCCGGCG** (SEQ ID NO:33)

Figure 10

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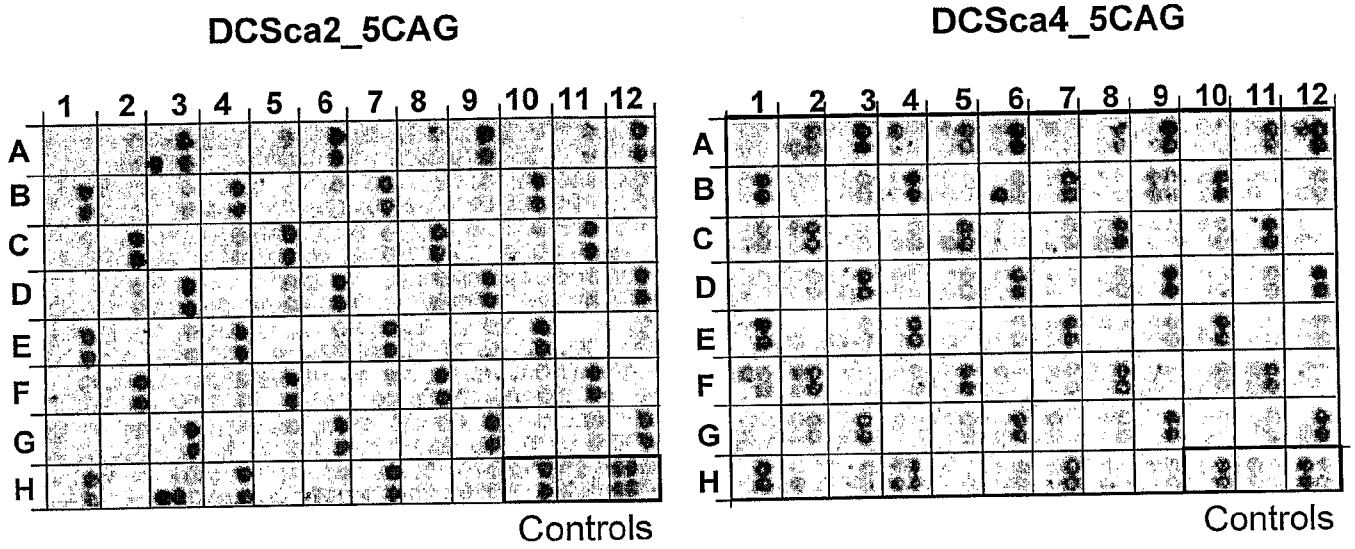


Figure 11

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	-11 -10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10 +11	
C1234	CAAAACGTCGTGAGACAGTTTG	(SEQ ID NO:28)
C1221	CAAAACGTCGTACGACGTTTTG	(SEQ ID NO:29)
RAG1.10.2	TGTTCTCAGGTACCTGAGAACA	(SEQ ID NO:34)
C12D34	CAAAACGTCGTAAGTTCCGGCG	(SEQ ID NO:31)
RAG1.10.2D34	TGTTCTCAGGTAAGTTCCGGCG	(SEQ ID NO:35)

Figure 12

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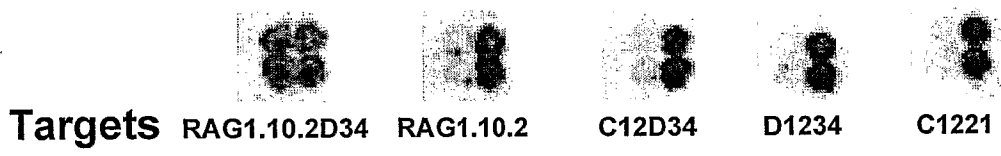


Figure 13

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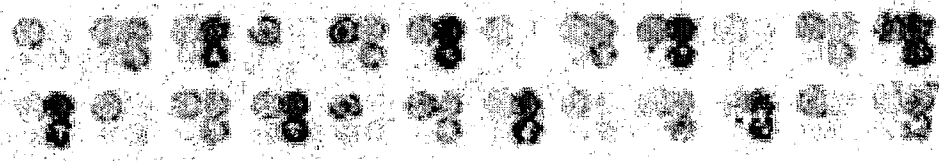
-11 -10 -9 -8 -7 -6 -5 -4 -3 -2 -1 +1 +2 +3 +4 +5 +6 +7 +8 +9 +10 +11

C1234	CAAAACGTCGTGAGACAGTTTG (SEQID NO:28)
C1221	CAAAACGTCGTACGACGTTTTG (SEQID NO:29)
RAG1.10.3	CTGGCTGAGGTA CTCAGCCAG (SEQID NO:38)
C12D34	CAAAACGTCGTAAGTTCCGGCG (SEQID NO:31)
RAG1.10.3D34	CTGGCTGAGGTAAGTTCCGGCG (SEQID NO:39)
RAG1.10.3DC4ACT	CTGGCTGAGGTA ACTTCCGGCG (SEQID NO:71)
RAG1.10.3DC4TAT	CTGGCTGAGGTATATTCCGGCG (SEQID NO:72)

Figure 14

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RAG1.10.2D34 cutters



RAG1.10.3D34 cutters

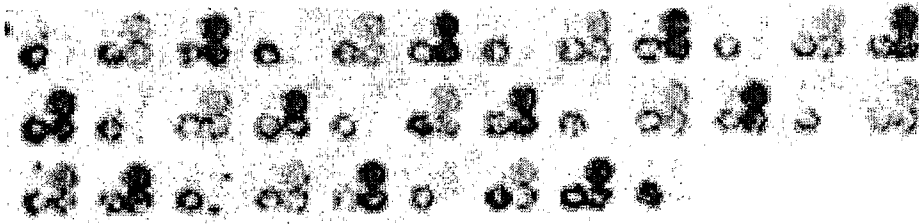


Figure 15

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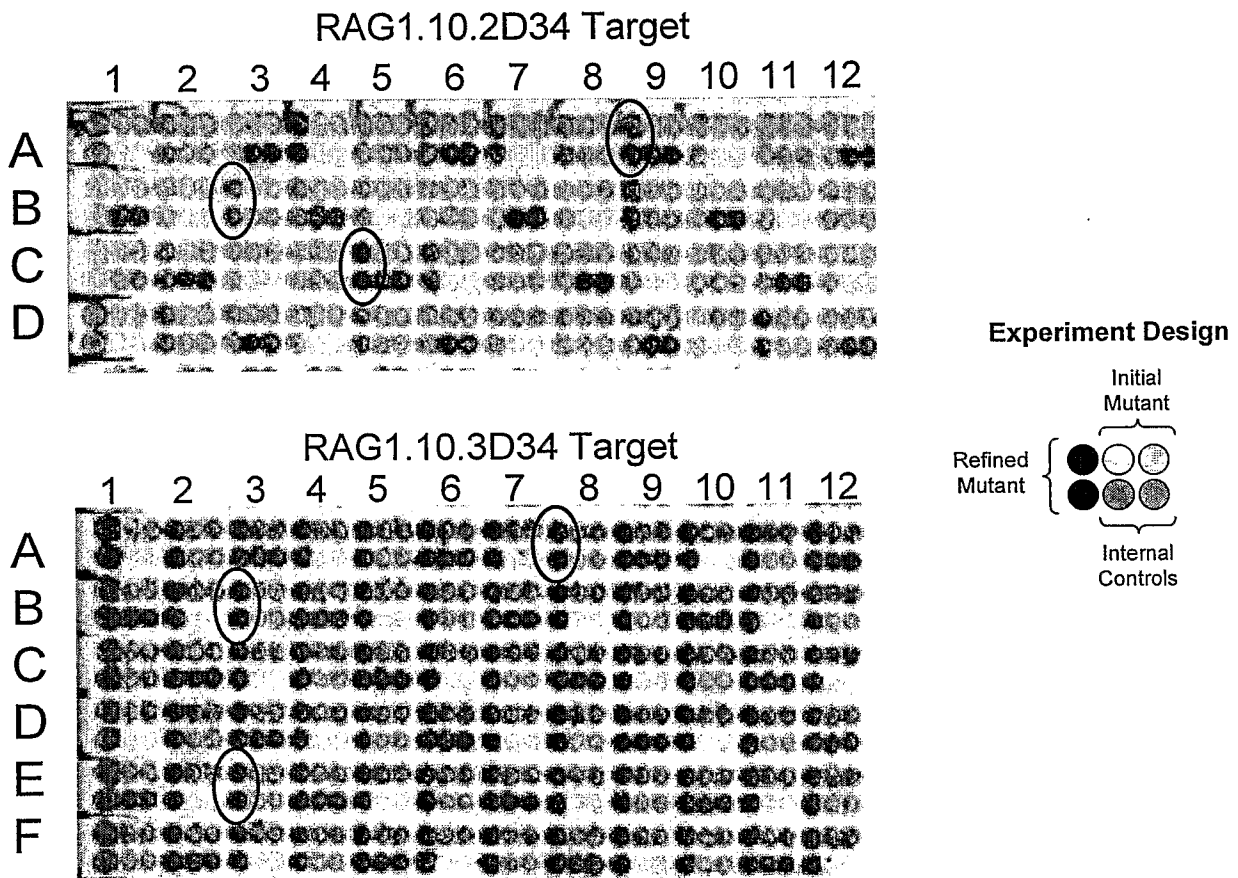


Figure 16

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D4Clib2Bis

GGG 5	GGA 3	GGT 54	GGC	AGG 29	AGA 158	AGT 121	AGC 1
GAG 6	GAA 2	GAT	GAC 2	AAG 3	AAA 2	AAT 20	AAC
GTG 4	GTA 2	GTT 25	GTC	ATG 1	ATA 22	ATT 64	ATC 2
GCG	GCA 1	GCT 1	GCC	ACG 10	ACA 10	ACT 10	ACC 13
TGG	TGA 4	TGT 133	TGC	CGG	CGA	CGT 10	CGC
TAG	TAA	TAT 12	TAC	CAG 6	CAA	CAT	CAC
TTG	TTA	TTT 2	TTC	CTG	CTA	CTT	CTC
TCG	TCA 5	TCT	TCC	CCG	CCA	CCT	CCC

Figure 17

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Figure 18A

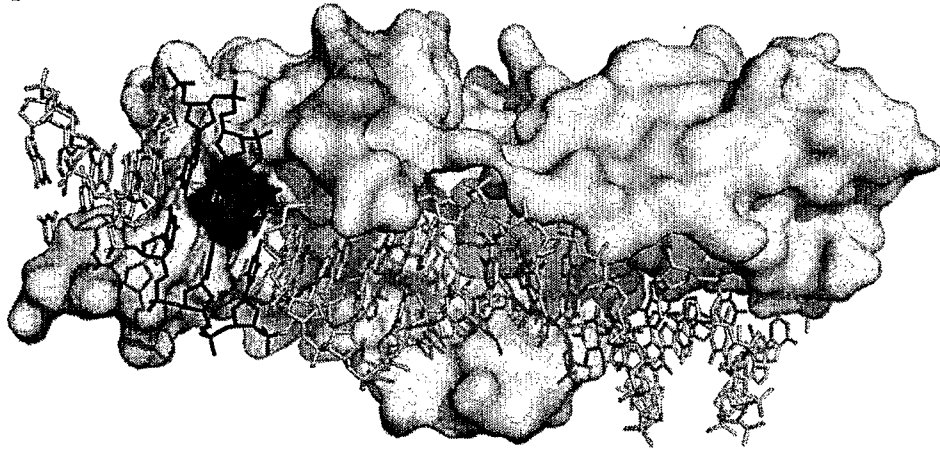


Figure 18B

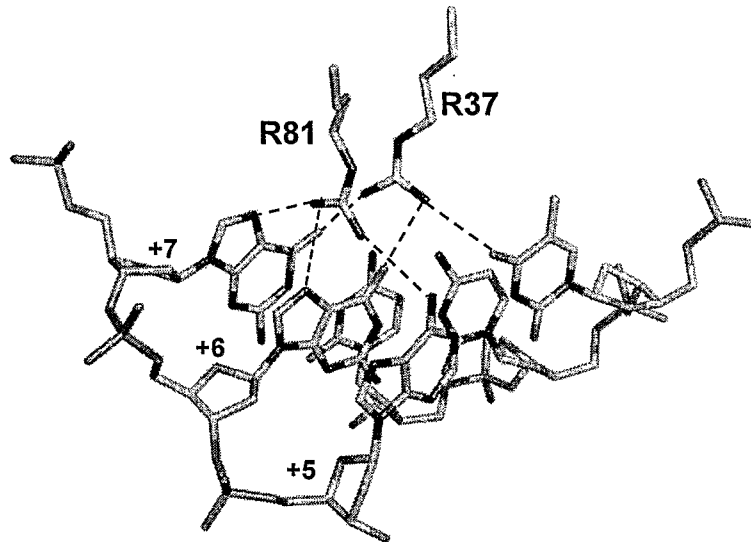
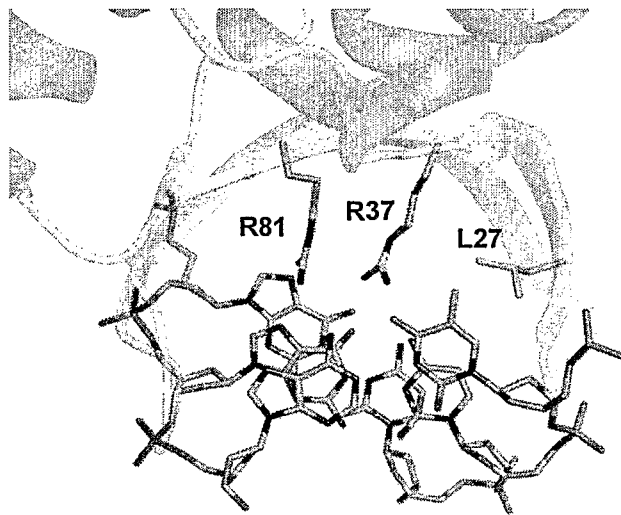


Figure 18C



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D7Clib2

GGG 22	GGA 68	GGT 31	GGC 32	AGG	AGA 43	AGT 18	AGC
GAG 3	GAA 39	GAT 30	GAC 4	AAG	AAA 8	AAT 3	AAC
GTG 1	GTA 12	GTT 15	GTC	ATG 1	ATA	ATT	ATC
GCG	GCA	GCT	GCC	ACG	ACA	ACT	ACC
TGG	TGA	TGT	TGC	CGG	CGA 2	CGT 2	CGC
TAG	TAA	TAT	TAC	CAG	CAA 2	CAT	CAC
TTG	TTA	TTT	TTC	CTG	CTA	CTT	CTC
TCG	TCA	TCT	TCC	CCG	CCA	CCT	CCC

Figure 19

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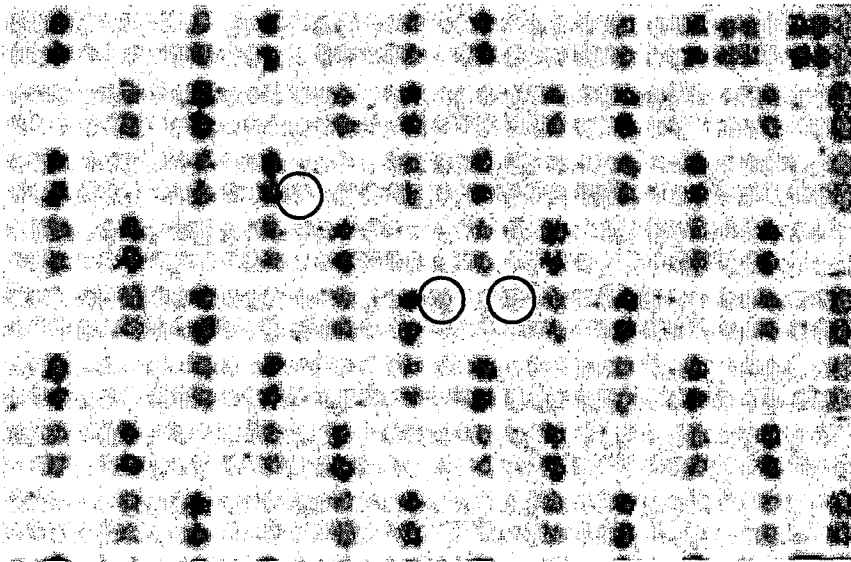
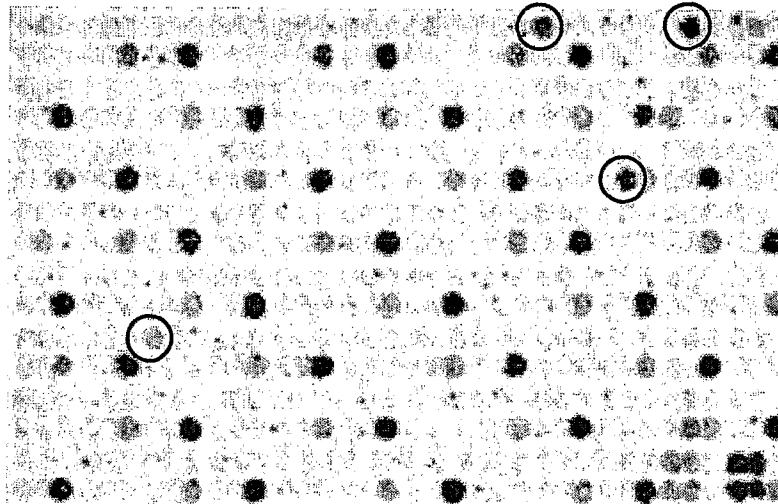


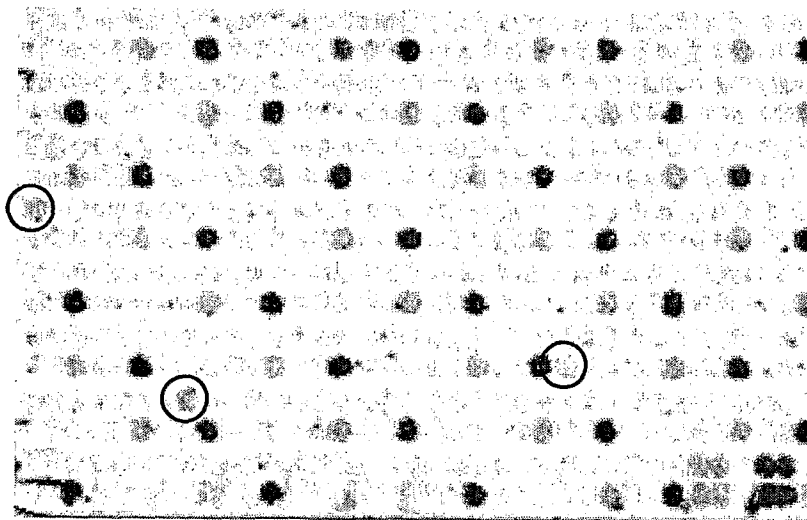
Figure 20

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A



B



Experiment Design

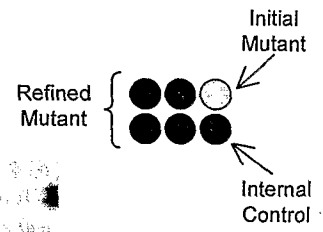


Figure 21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2008/003744

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C07K14/195 C12N15/62

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C07K C12N

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	CHEVALIER B S ET AL: "Design, activity, and structure of a highly specific artificial endonuclease" MOLECULAR CELL, CELL PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, MA, US, vol. 10, no. 4; 20 October 2002 (2002-10-20), pages 895-905, XP002248750 ISSN: 1097-2765 cited in the application abstract; figures 1,2,5	1-28
Y	WO 2005/105989 A (CELLECTIS [FR]; EPINAT JEAN-CHARLES [FR]; LACROIX EMMANUEL [FR]) 10 November 2005 (2005-11-10) cited in the application claims 1,2; table II	1-28
	-/--	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

- * Special categories of cited documents :
- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
 - *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
 - *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
 - *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
 - *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
 - *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
 - *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
 - *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
 - *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 23 April 2009	Date of mailing of the international search report 06/05/2009
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Moonen, Peter
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/IB2008/003744

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>PRIETO JESUS ET AL: "Generation and analysis of mesophilic variants of the thermostable archaeal I-DmoI homing endonuclease"[Online] XP002493369 Manuscript M706323200 online 12-11-2007 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.jbc.org/cgi/doi/10.1074/jbc.M706323200> cited in the application the whole document</p>	1-28
A	<p>EPINAT J-C ET AL: "A novel engineered meganuclease induces homologous recombination in yeast and mammalian cells" NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, SURREY, GB, vol. 31, no. 11, 1 June 2003 (2003-06-01), pages 2952-2962, XP002248751 ISSN: 0305-1048 cited in the application the whole document</p>	1-28
A	<p>SMITH JULIANNE ET AL: "A combinatorial approach to create artificial homing endonucleases cleaving chosen sequences" 27 November 2006 (2006-11-27), NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, SURREY, GB, PAGE(S) E149 - 1 , XP002457876 ISSN: 0305-1048 cited in the application the whole document</p>	1-28
A	<p>SILVA G H ET AL: "Analysis of the LAGLIDADG interface of the monomeric homing endonuclease I-DmoI" NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, SURREY, GB, vol. 32, no. 10, 1 June 2004 (2004-06-01), pages 3156-3168, XP002364698 ISSN: 0305-1048 the whole document</p>	1-28
A	<p>PÂQUES FRÉDÉRIC ET AL: "Meganucleases and DNA double-strand break-induced recombination: perspectives for gene therapy." CURRENT GENE THERAPY FEB 2007, vol. 7, no. 1, February 2007 (2007-02), pages 49-66, XP002493370 ISSN: 1566-5232 the whole document</p>	1-28

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IB2008/003744

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

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

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

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

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

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

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

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 27, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

2. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 29, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

3. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 33, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

4. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 35, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

5. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 37, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

6. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 75, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

7. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 76, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

8. claims: 1-28, partially

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 77, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

9. claims: 1-28, partially

Meganuclease having the first I-DmoI domain comprising at least the substitution of amino acid residue at position 81, encoding polynucleotide and uses thereof.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/IB2008/003744

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2005105989 A	10-11-2005	CA 2564513 A1	10-11-2005
		EP 1591521 A1	02-11-2005
		JP 2007535322 T	06-12-2007
		US 2008271166 A1	30-10-2008
