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(54) METABOLIC ENGINEERING OF ARABINOSE-FERMENTING YEAST CELLS

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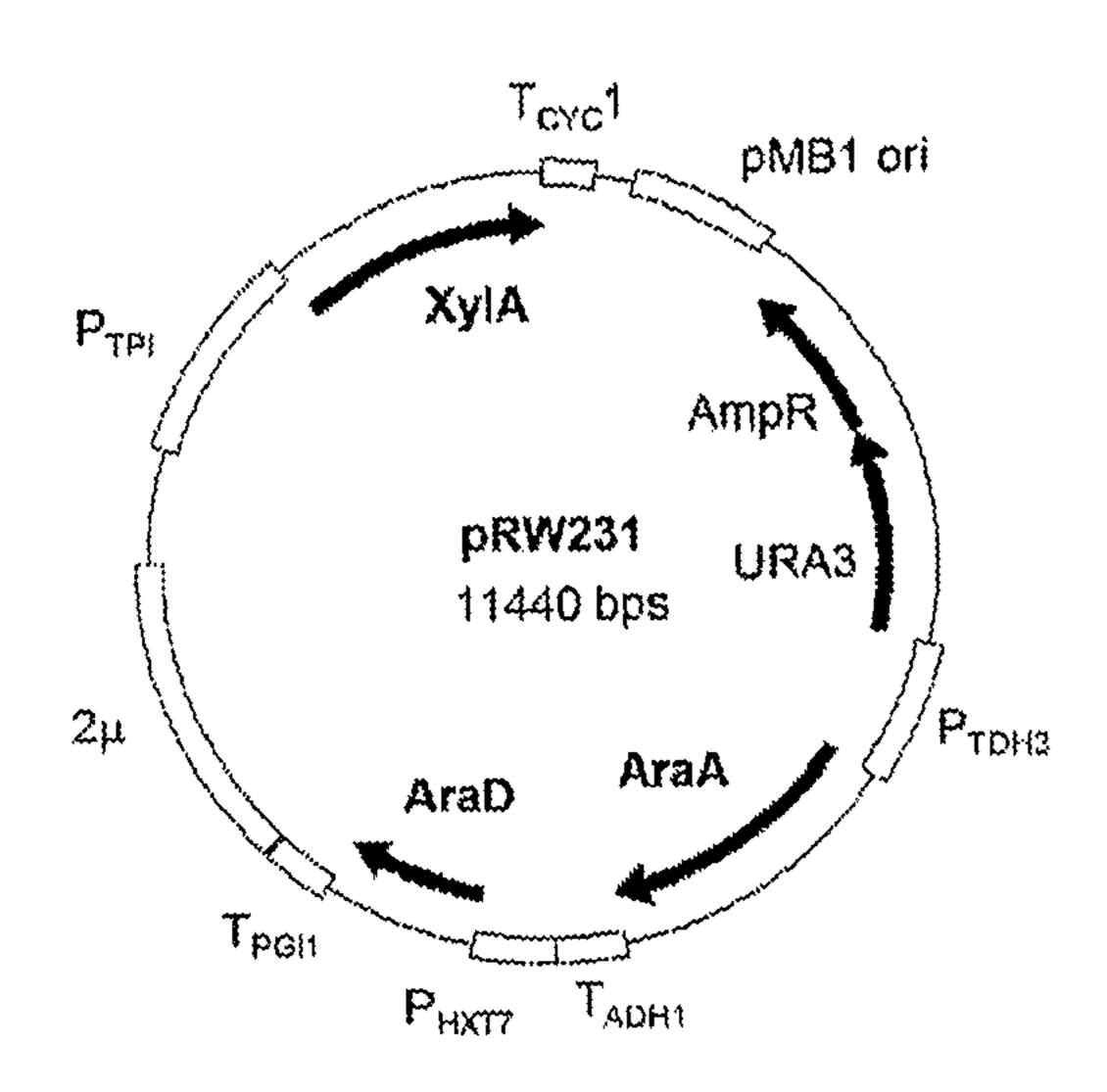
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(57) ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an eukaryotic cell expressing nucleotide sequences encoding the ara A, ara B and ara D enzymes whereby the expression of these nucleotide sequences confers on the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol. Optionally, the eukaryotic cell is also able to convert xylose into ethanol.



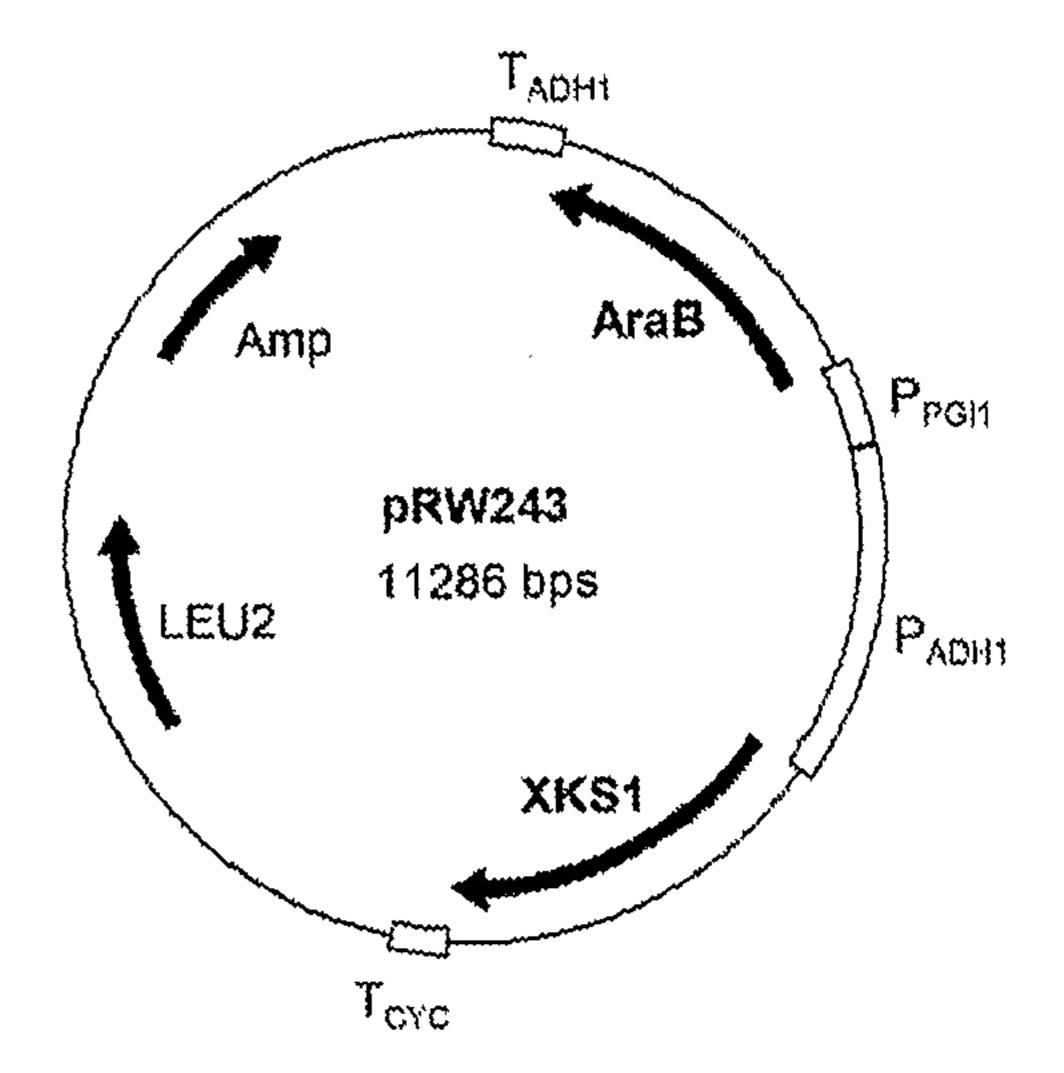
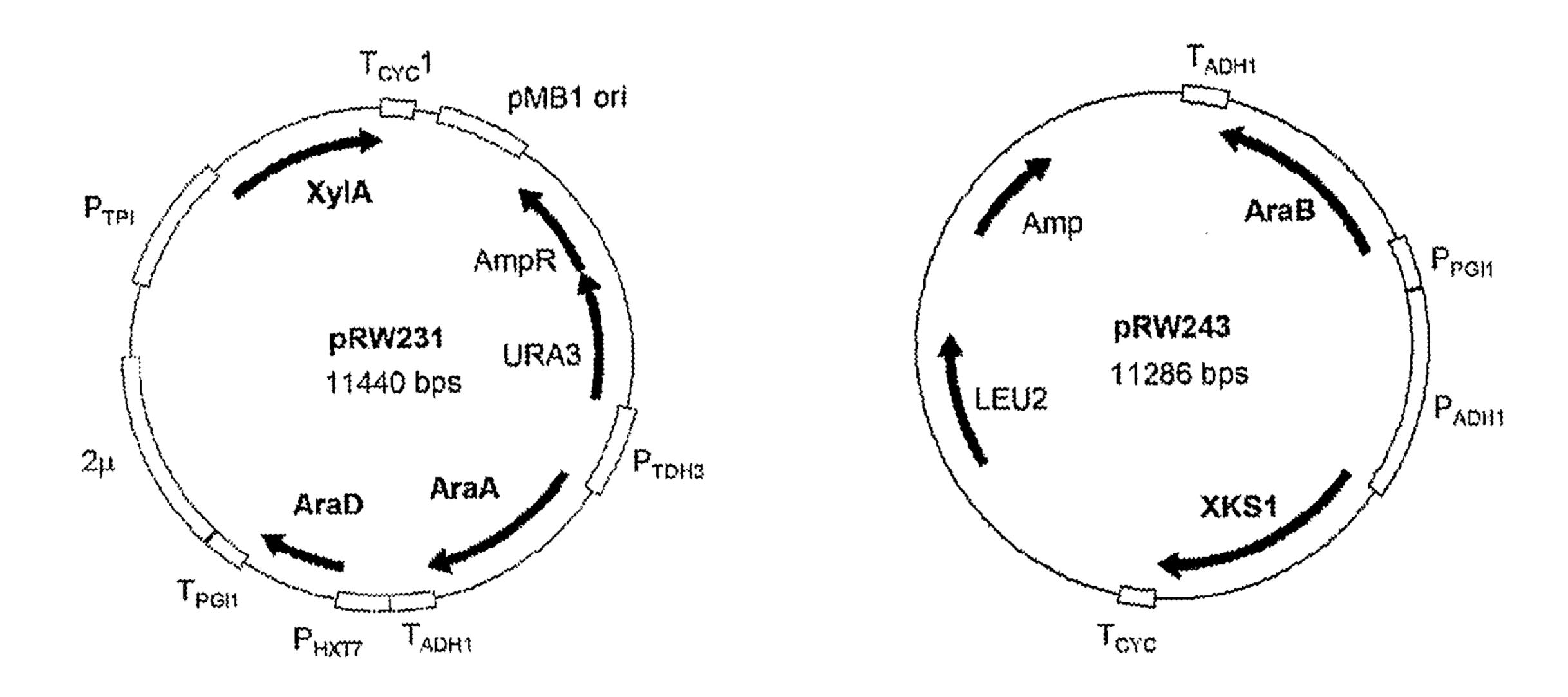
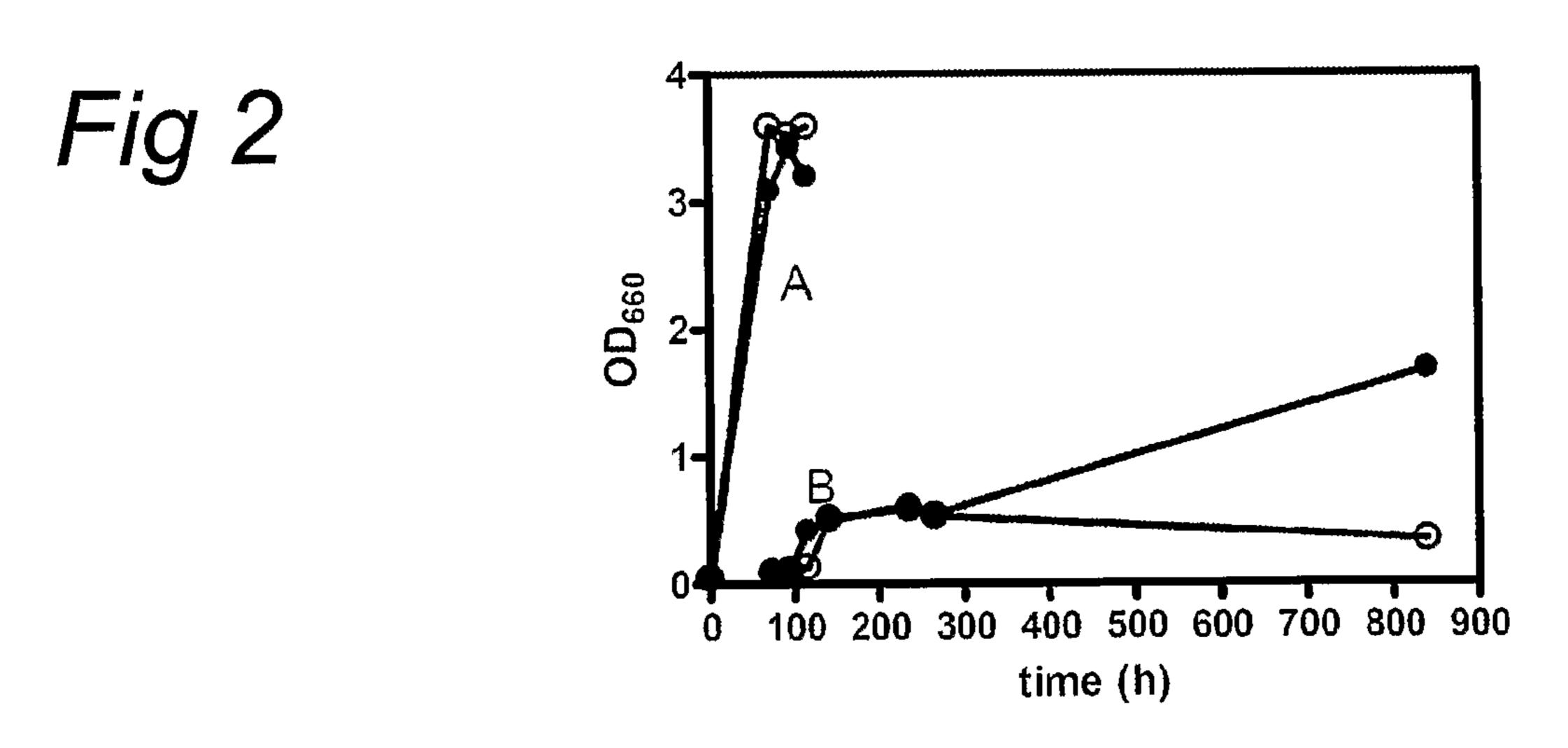


Fig 1





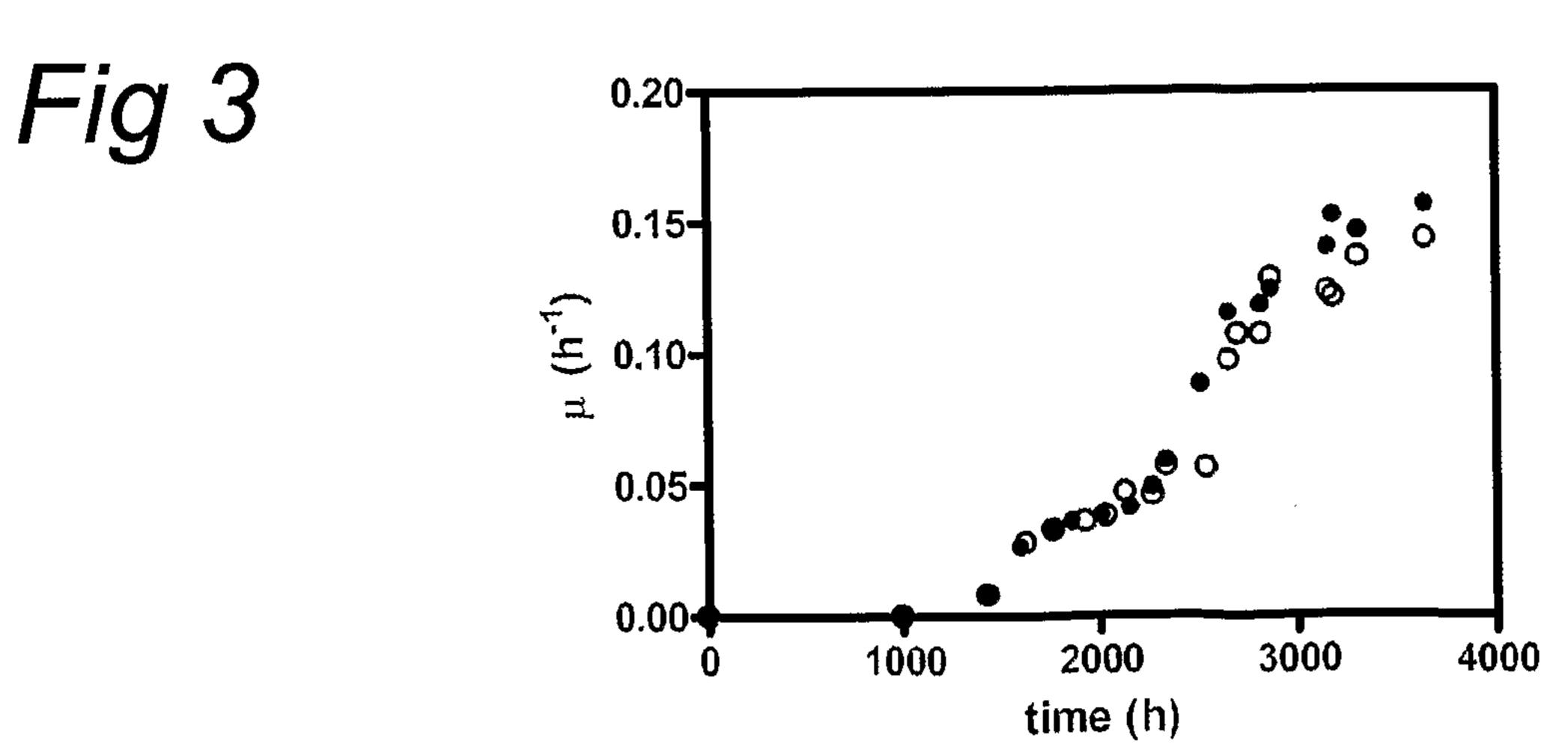


Fig 4

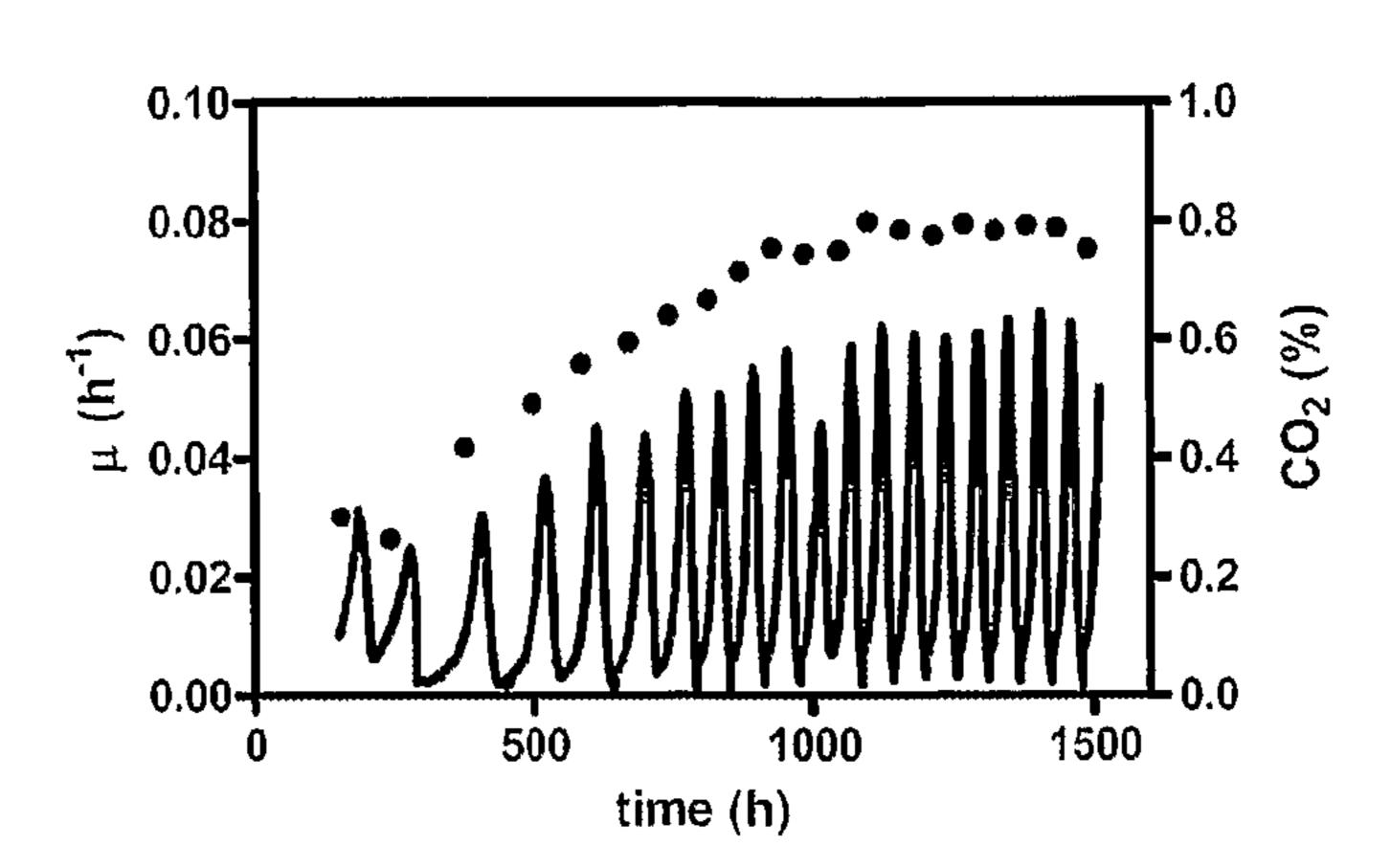


Fig 5a

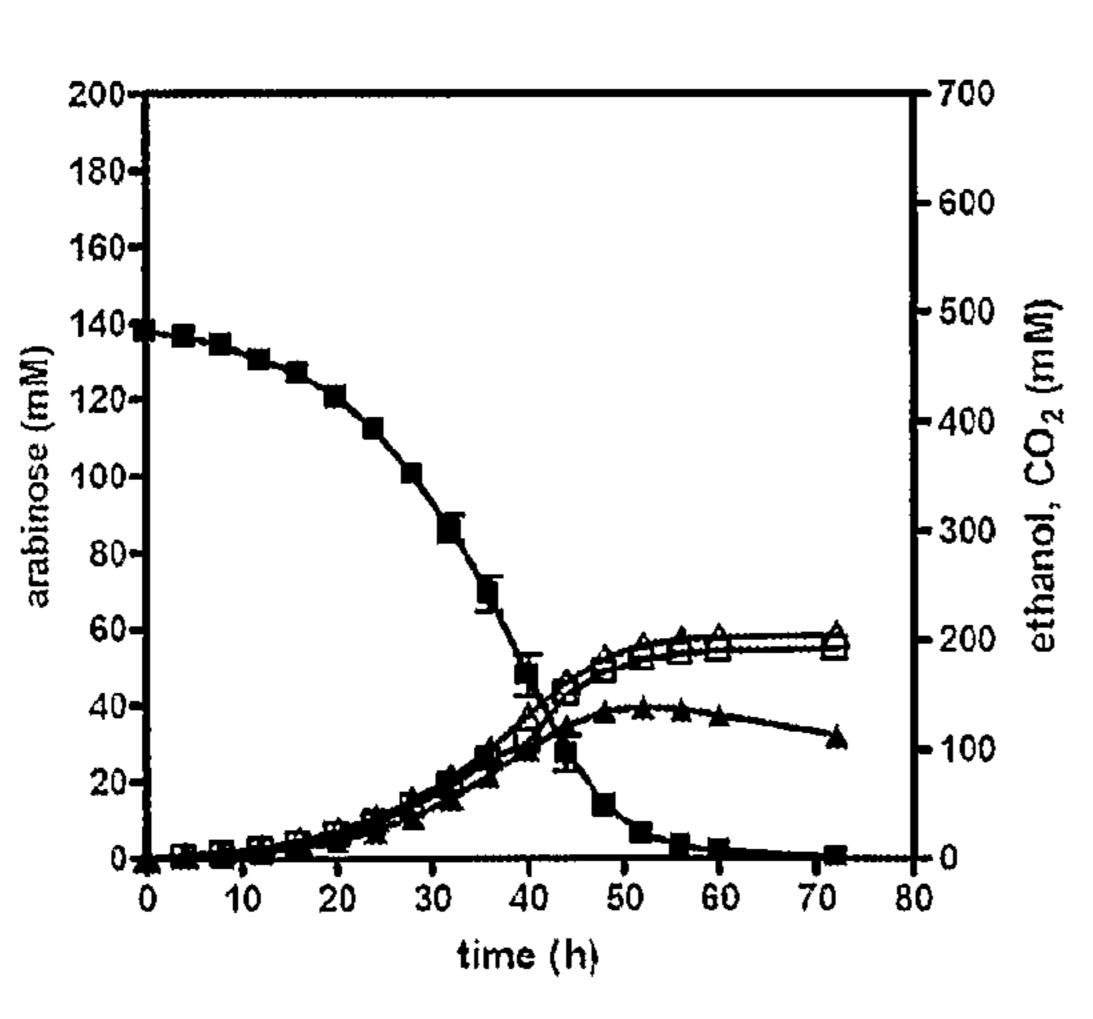


Fig 5b

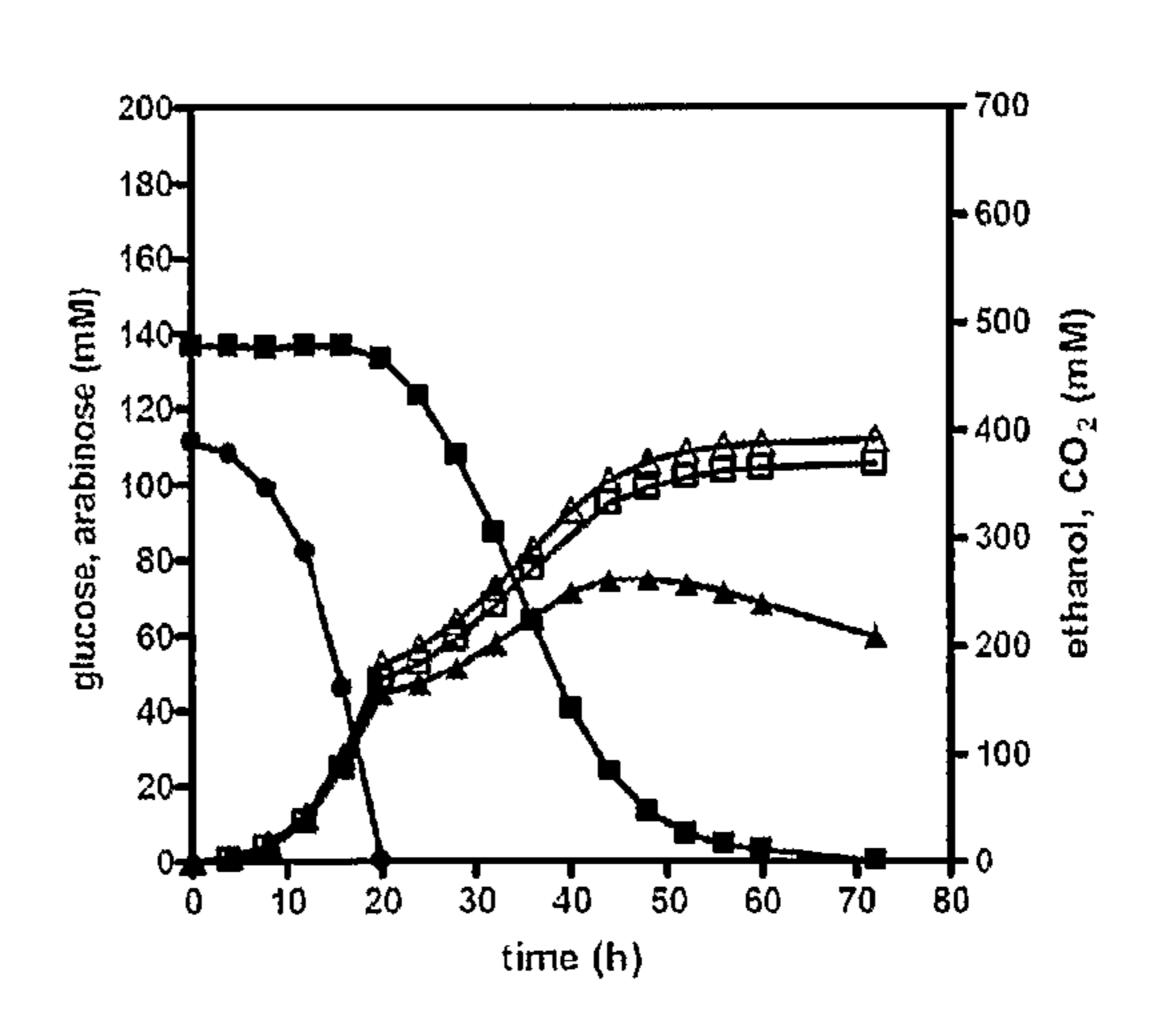


Fig 5c

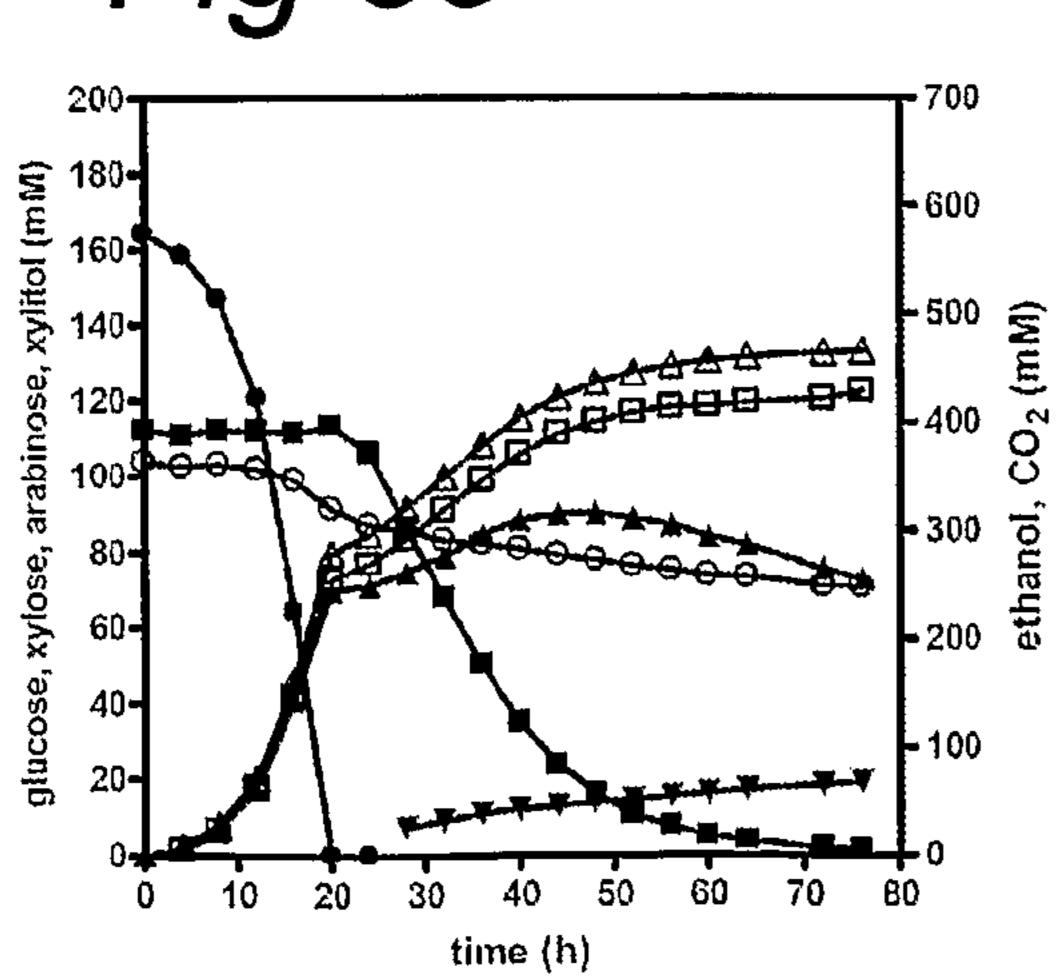


Fig 5d

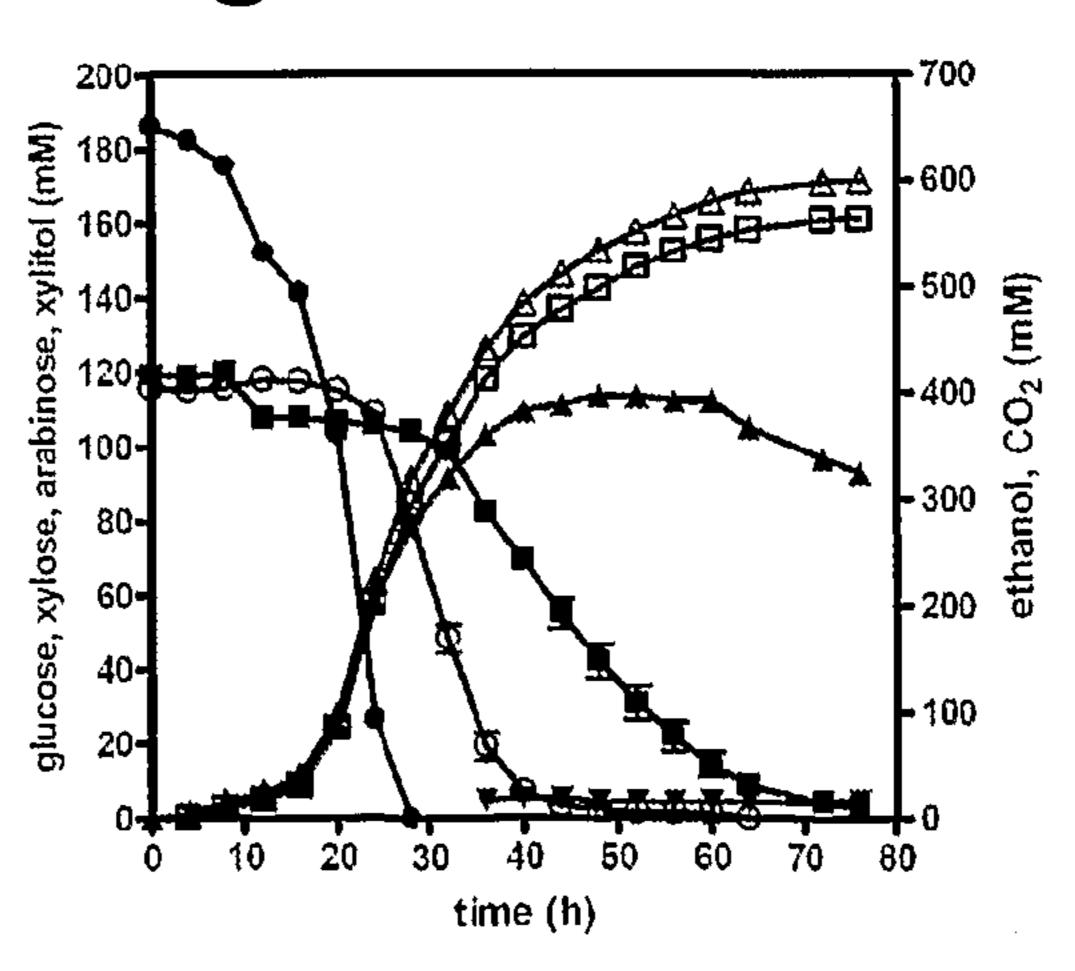


Fig 6

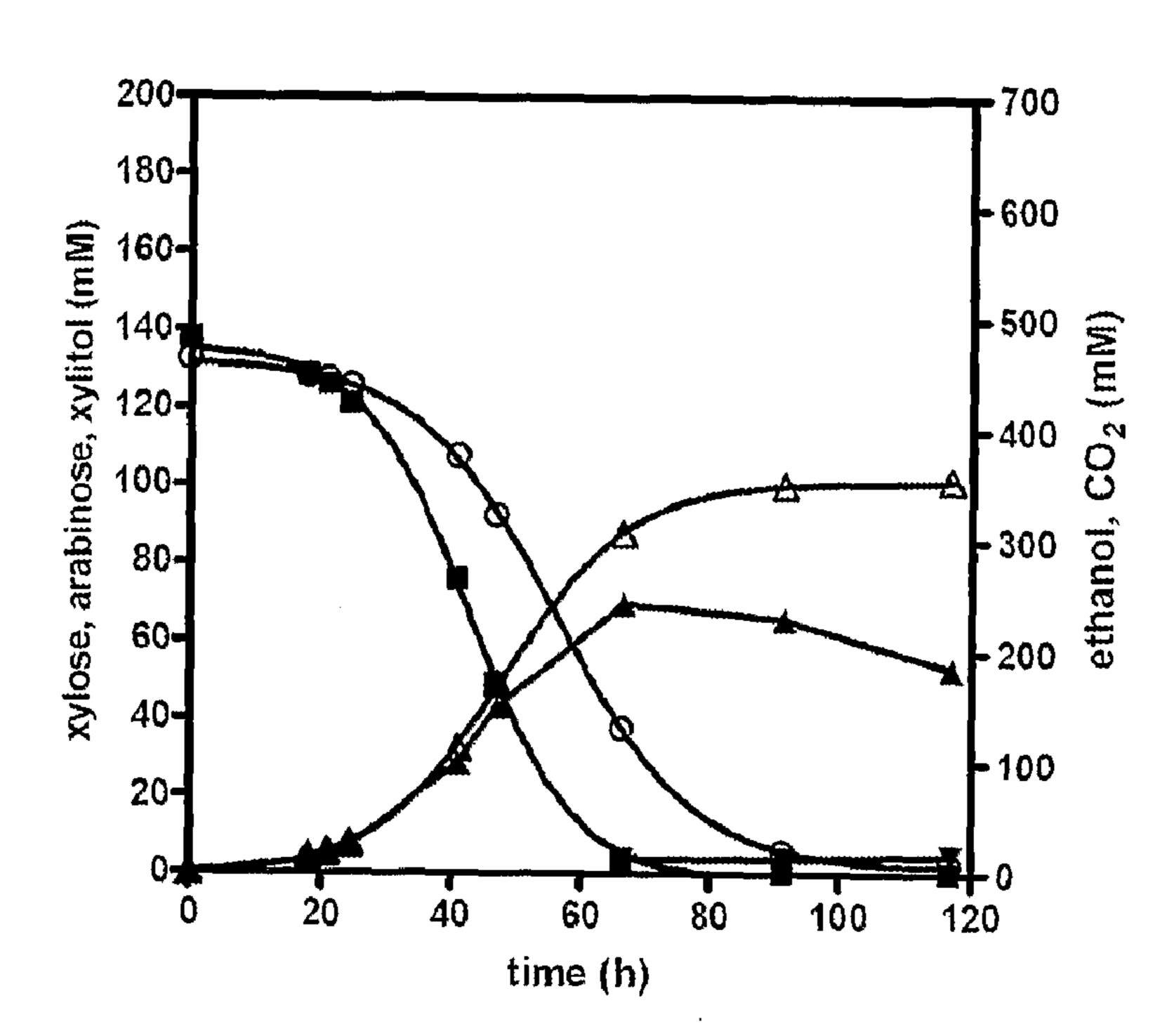
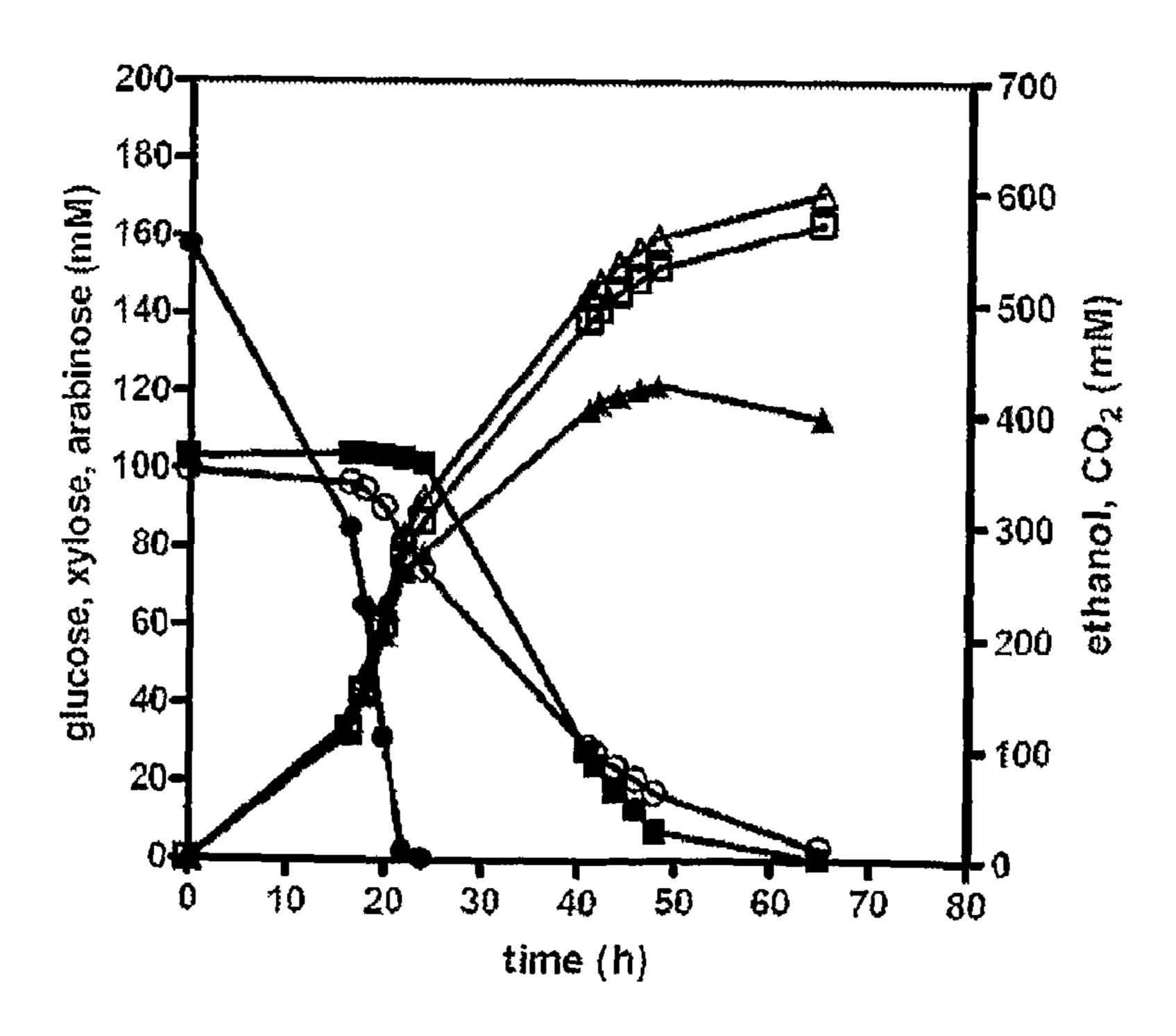


Fig 7



METABOLIC ENGINEERING OF ARABINOSE-FERMENTING YEAST CELLS

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to an eukaryotic cell having the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product and to a process for producing a fermentation product wherein this cell is used.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Fuel ethanol is acknowledged as a valuable alternative to fossil fuels. Economically viable ethanol production from the hemicellulose fraction of plant biomass requires the simultaneous fermentative conversion of both pentoses and hexoses at comparable rates and with high yields. Yeasts, in particular *Saccharomyces* spp., are the most appropriate candidates for this process since they can grow and ferment fast on hexoses, both aerobically and anaerobically. Furthermore they are much more resistant to the toxic environment of lignocellulose hydrolysates than (genetically modified) bacteria.

[0003] EP 1 499 708 describes a process for making *S. cerevisiae* strains able to produce ethanol from L-arabinose. These strains were modified by introducing the araA (L-arabinose isomerase) gene from *Bacillus subtilis*, the araB (L-ribulokinase) and araD (L-ribulose-5-P4-epimerase) genes from *Escherichia coli*. Furthermore, these strains were either carrying additional mutations in their genome or over-expressing a TAL1 (transaldolase) gene. However, these strains have several drawbacks. They ferment arabinose in oxygen limited conditions. In addition, they have a low ethanol production rate of 0.05 g·g⁻¹·h⁻¹ (Becker and Boles, 2003). Furthermore, these strains are not able to use L-arabinose under anaerobic conditions. Finally, these *S. cerevisiae* strains have a wild type background, therefore they can not be used to co-ferment several C5 sugars.

[0004] WO 03/062430 and WO 06/009434 disclose yeast strains able to convert xylose into ethanol. These yeast strains are able to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose.

[0005] Still, there is a need for alternative strains for producing ethanol, which perform better and are more robust and resistant to relatively harsh production conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0006] FIG. 1. Plasmid maps of pRW231 and pRW243.

[0007] FIG. 2. Growth pattern of shake flask cultivations of strain RWB219 (\bigcirc) and IMS0001 (\bigcirc) in synthetic medium containing 0.5% galactose (A) and 0.1% galactose +2% L-arabinose (B). Cultures were grown for 72 hours in synthetic medium with galactose (A) and then transferred to synthetic medium with galactose and arabinose (B). Growth was determined by measuring the OD₆₆₀.

[0008] FIG. 3. Growth rate during serial transfers of S. cerevisiae IMS0001 in shake flask cultures containing synthetic medium with 2% (w/v) L-arabinose. Each datapoint represents the growth rate estimated from the OD_{660} measured during (exponential) growth. The closed and open circles represent duplicate serial transfer experiments.

[0009] FIG. 4. Growth rate during an anaerobic SBR fermentation of *S. cerevisiae* IMS0001 in synthetic medium

with 2% (w/v) L-arabinose. Each datapoint represents the growth rate estimated from the CO₂ profile (solid line) during exponential growth.

[0010] FIG. 5. Sugar consumption and product formation during anaerobic batch fermentations of strain IMS0002. The fermentations were performed in 1 synthetic medium supplemented with: 20 g l^{-1} arabinose (A); 20 g l^{-1} glucose and 20 g l^{-1} arabinose (B); 30 g l^{-1} glucose, 15 g l^{-1} xylose, and 15 g l^{-1} arabinose (C); Sugar consumption and product formation during anaerobic batch fermentations with a mixture of strains IMS0002 and RWB218. The fermentations were performed in 1 liter of synthetic medium supplemented with 30 g l⁻¹ glucose, 15 g l^{-1} xylose, and 15 g l^{-1} arabinose (D). Symbols: glucose (\blacksquare); xylose (\square); arabinose (\square); ethanol calculated from cumulative CO₂ production (\square); ethanol measured by HPLC (\blacktriangle); cumulative CO₂ production (\square); xylitol (\blacktriangledown)

[0011] FIG. 6. Sugar consumption and product formation during an anaerobic batch fermentation of strain IMS0002 cells selected for anaerobic growth on xylose. The fermentation was performed in 1 liter of synthetic medium supplemented with 20 g l^{-1} xylose and 20 g l^{-1} arabinose. Symbols: xylose (\bigcirc); arabinose (\blacksquare); ethanol measured by HPLC (\blacktriangle); cumulative CO₂ production (Δ); xylitol (\blacktriangledown).

[0012] FIG. 7. Sugar consumption and product formation during an anaerobic batch fermentation of strain IMS0003. The fermentation was performed in 1 liter of synthetic medium supplemented with: 30 g l^{-1} glucose, 15 g l^{-1} xylose, and 15 g l^{-1} arabinose. Symbols: glucose (\bullet); xylose (\bigcirc); arabinose (\blacksquare); ethanol calculated from cumulative CO₂ production (\square); ethanol measured by HPLC (\blacktriangle); cumulative CO₂ production (Δ);

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Eukaryotic Cell

[0013] In a first aspect, the invention relates to a eukaryotic cell capable of expressing the following nucleotide sequences, whereby the expression of these nucleotide sequences confers on the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol:

- [0014] (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an arabinose isomerase (araA), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0015] (i) nucleotide sequences encoding an araA, said araA comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 55% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
 - [0016] (ii) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
 - [0017] (iii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
 - [0018] (iv) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code,
- [0019] (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a L-ribulokinase (araB), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0020] (i) nucleotide sequences encoding an araB, said araB comprising an amino acid sequence that has

- at least 20% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
- [0021] (ii) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
- [0022] (iii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
- [0023] (iv) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code,
- [0024] (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding an L-ribulose-5-P-4-epimerase (araD), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0025] (i) nucleotide sequences encoding an araD, said araD comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
 - [0026] (ii) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.
 - [0027] (iii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
 - [0028] (iv) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.
- [0029] A preferred embodiment relates to an eukaryotic cell capable of expressing the following nucleotide sequences, whereby the expression of these nucleotide sequences confers on the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol:
 - [0030] (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an arabinose isomerase (araA), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0031] (i) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - [0032] (ii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i);
 - [0033] (iii) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (ii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code,
 - [0034] (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a L-ribulokinase (araB), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0035] (i) nucleotide sequences encoding an araB, said araB comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 20% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
 - [0036] (ii) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
 - [0037] (iii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
 - [0038] (iv) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code,

- [0039] (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding an L-ribulose-5-P-4-epimerase (araD), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - [0040] (i) nucleotide sequences encoding an araD, said araD comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
 - [0041] (ii) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.
 - [0042] (iii) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
 - [0043] (iv) nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

Sequence Identity and Similarity

[0044] Sequence identity is herein defined as a relationship between two or more amino acid (polypeptide or protein) sequences or two or more nucleic acid (polynucleotide) sequences, as determined by comparing the sequences. Usually, sequence identities or similarities are compared over the whole length of the sequences compared. In the art, "identity" also means the degree of sequence relatedness between amino acid or nucleic acid sequences, as the case may be, as determined by the match between strings of such sequences. "Similarity" between two amino acid sequences is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and its conserved amino acid substitutes of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide. "Identity" and "similarity" can be readily calculated by various methods, known to those skilled in the art.

[0045] Preferred methods to determine identity are designed to give the largest match between the sequences tested. Methods to determine identity and similarity are codified in publicly available computer programs. Preferred computer program methods to determine identity and similarity between two sequences include e.g. the BestFit, BLASTP, BLASTN, and FASTA (Altschul, S. F. et al., J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410 (1990), publicly available from NCBI and other sources (BLAST Manual, Altschul, S., et al., NCBI NLM NIH Bethesda, Md. 20894). A most preferred algorithm used is EMBOSS (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/emboss/align). Preferred parameters for amino acid sequences comparison using EMBOSS are gap open 10.0, gap extend 0.5, Blosum 62 matrix. Preferred parameters for nucleic acid sequences comparison using EMBOSS are gap open 10.0, gap extend 0.5, DNA full matrix (DNA identity matrix).

[0046] Optionally, in determining the degree of amino acid similarity, the skilled person may also take into account so-called "conservative" amino acid substitutions, as will be clear to the skilled person. Conservative amino acid substitutions refer to the interchangeability of residues having similar side chains. For example, a group of amino acids having aliphatic side chains is glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, and isoleucine; a group of amino acids having aliphatic-hydroxyl side chains is serine and threonine; a group of amino acids having amide-containing side chains is asparagine and glutamine; a group of amino acids having aromatic side chains is phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan; a group of amino acids having basic side chains is lysine, arginine, and histidine; and a group of amino acids having sulphur-containing side chains is cysteine and methionine. Preferred conser-

vative amino acids substitution groups are: valine-leucine-isoleucine, phenylalanine-tyrosine, lysine-arginine, alanine-valine, and asparagine-glutamine. Substitutional variants of the amino acid sequence disclosed herein are those in which at least one residue in the disclosed sequences has been removed and a different residue inserted in its place. Preferably, the amino acid change is conservative. Preferred conservative substitutions for each of the naturally occurring amino acids are as follows: Ala to ser; Arg to lys; Asn to gln or his; Asp to glu; Cys to ser or ala; Gln to asn; Glu to asp; Gly to pro; His to asn or gln; Ile to leu or val; Leu to ile or val; Lys to arg; gin or glu; Met to leu or ile; Phe to met, leu or tyr; Ser to thr; Thr to ser; Trp to tyr; Tyr to trp or phe; and, Val to ile or leu.

Hybridising Nucleic Acid Sequences

[0047] Nucleotide sequences encoding the enzymes expressed in the cell of the invention may also be defined by their capability to hybridise with the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO.'s 2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 respectively, under moderate, or preferably under stringent hybridisation conditions. Stringent hybridisation conditions are herein defined as conditions that allow a nucleic acid sequence of at least about 25, preferably about 50 nucleotides, 75 or 100 and most preferably of about 200 or more nucleotides, to hybridise at a temperature of about 65° C. in a solution comprising about 1 M salt, preferably 6×SSC or any other solution having a comparable ionic strength, and washing at 65° C. in a solution comprising about 0.1 M salt, or less, preferably 0.2×SSC or any other solution having a comparable ionic strength. Preferably, the hybridisation is performed overnight, i.e. at least for 10 hours and preferably washing is performed for at least one hour with at least two changes of the washing solution. These conditions will usually allow the specific hybridisation of sequences having about 90% or more sequence identity.

[0048] Moderate conditions are herein defined as conditions that allow a nucleic acid sequences of at least 50 nucleotides, preferably of about 200 or more nucleotides, to hybridise at a temperature of about 45° C. in a solution comprising about 1 M salt, preferably 6×SSC or any other solution having a comparable ionic strength, and washing at room temperature in a solution comprising about 1 M salt, preferably 6×SSC or any other solution having a comparable ionic strength. Preferably, the hybridisation is performed overnight, i.e. at least for 10 hours, and preferably washing is performed for at least one hour with at least two changes of the washing solution. These conditions will usually allow the specific hybridisation of sequences having up to 50% sequence identity. The person skilled in the art will be able to modify these hybridisation conditions in order to specifically identify sequences varying in identity between 50% and 90%.

AraA

[0049] A preferred nucleotide sequence encoding a arabinose isomerase (araA) expressed in the cell of the invention is selected from the group consisting of:

[0050] (a) nucleotide sequences encoding an araA polypeptide said araA comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1;

[0051] (b) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60, 70, 80, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2;

[0052] (c) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridises to a nucleic acid molecule sequence of (a) or (b);

[0053] (d) nucleotide sequences the sequence of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (c) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

The nucleotide sequence encoding an araA may encode either a prokaryotic or an eukaryotic araA, i.e. an araA with an amino acid sequence that is identical to that of an araA that naturally occurs in the prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism. The present inventors have found that the ability of a particular araA to confer to a eukaryotic host cell the ability to use arabinose and/or to convert arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol when co-expressed with araB and araD does not depend so much on whether the araA is of prokaryotic or eukaryotic origin. Rather this depends on the relatedness of the araA's amino acid sequence to that of the sequence SEQ ID NO. 1.

AraB

[0054] A preferred nucleotide sequence encoding a L-ribulokinase (AraB) expressed in the cell of the invention is selected from the group consisting of:

[0055] (a) nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3;

[0056] (b) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO.4;

[0057] (c) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridises to a nucleic acid molecule sequence of (a) or (b);

[0058] (d) nucleotide sequences the sequence of which differ from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (c) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

The nucleotide sequence encoding an araB may encode either a prokaryotic or an eukaryotic araB, i.e. an araB with an amino acid sequence that is identical to that of a araB that naturally occurs in the prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism. The present inventors have found that the ability of a particular araB to confer to a eukaryotic host cell the ability to use arabinose and/or to convert arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product when co-expressed with araA and araD does not depend so much on whether the araB is of prokaryotic or eukaryotic origin. Rather this depends on the relatedness of the araB's amino acid sequence to that of the sequence SEQ ID NO. 3.

AraD

[0059] A preferred nucleotide sequence encoding a L-ribulose-5-P-4-epimerase (araD) expressed in the cell of the invention is selected from the group consisting of:

[0060] (e) nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 60,

65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 5;

[0061] (f) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO.6;

[0062] (g) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridises to a nucleic acid molecule sequence of (a) or (b);

[0063] (h) nucleotide sequences the sequence of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (c) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

The nucleotide sequence encoding an araD may encode either a prokaryotic or an eukaryotic araD, i.e. an araD with an amino acid sequence that is identical to that of a araD that naturally occurs in the prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism. The present inventors have found that the ability of a particular araD to confer to a eukaryotic host cell the ability to use arabinose and/or to convert arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product when co-expressed with araA and araB does not depend so much on whether the araD is of prokaryotic or eukaryotic origin. Rather this depends on the relatedness of the araD's amino acid sequence to that of the sequence SEQ ID NO. 5.

[0064] Surprisingly, the codon bias index indicated that expression of the *Lactobacillus plantarum* araA, araB and araD genes were more favorable for expression in yeast than the prokaryolic araA, araB and araD genes described in EP 1 499 708.

[0065] It is to be noted that L. plantarum is a Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS) organism, which is recognized as safe by food registration authorities. Therefore, a preferred nucleotide sequence encodes an araA, araB or araD respectively having an amino acid sequence that is related to the sequences SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, or 5 respectively as defined above. A preferred nucleotide sequence encodes a fungal araA, araB or araD respectively (e.g. from a Basidiomycete), more preferably an araA, araB or araD respectively from an anaerobic fungus, e.g. an anaerobic fungus that belongs to the families Neocallimastix, Caecomyces, Pfromyces, Orpinomyces, or Ruminomyces. Alternatively, a preferred nucleotide sequence encodes a bacterial araA, araB or araD respectively, preferably from a Gram-positive bacterium, more preferably from the genus *Lactobacillus*, most preferably from *Lactobacillus plantarum* species. Preferably, one, two or three or the araA, araB and araD nucleotide sequences originate from a *Lactobacillus* genus, more preferably a *Lac*tobacillus plantarum species. The bacterial araA expressed in the cell of the invention is not the *Bacillus subtilis* araA disclosed in EP 1 499 708 and given as SEQ ID NO:9. SEQ ID NO:10 represents the nucleotide acid sequence coding for SEQ ID NO:9. The bacterial araB and araD expressed in the cell of the invention are not the ones of Escherichia coli (E. *coli*) as disclosed in EP 1 499 708 and given as SEQ ID NO: 11 and SEQ ID NO:13. SEQ ID NO: 12 represents the nucleotide acid sequence coding for SEQ ID NO:11. SEQ ID NO:14 represents the nucleotide acid sequence coding for SEQ ID NO:13.

[0066] To increase the likelihood that the (bacterial) araA, araB and araD enzymes respectively are expressed in active form in a eukaryotic host cell of the invention such as yeast, the corresponding encoding nucleotide sequence may be adapted to optimise its codon usage to that of the chosen

eukaryotic host cell. The adaptiveness of a nucleotide sequence encoding the araA, araB, and araD enzymes (or other enzymes of the invention, see below) to the codon usage of the chosen host cell may be expressed as codon adaptation index (CAI). The codon adaptation index is herein defined as a measurement of the relative adaptiveness of the codon usage of a gene towards the codon usage of highly expressed genes. The relative adaptiveness (w) of each codon is the ratio of the usage of each codon, to that of the most abundant codon for the same amino acid. The CAI index is defined as the geometric mean of these relative adaptiveness values. Non-synonymous codons and termination codons (dependent on genetic code) are excluded. CAI values range from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating a higher proportion of the most abundant codons (see Sharp and Li, 1987, Nucleic Acids Research 15: 1281-1295; also see: Jansen et al., 2003, Nucleic Acids Res. 31(8):2242-51). An adapted nucleotide sequence preferably has a CAI of at least 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6 or 0.7.

[0067] In a preferred embodiment, expression of the nucleotide sequences encoding an ara A, an ara B and an ara D as defined earlier herein confers to the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert it into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate. Without wishing to be bound by any theory, L-arabinose is expected to be first converted into L-ribulose, which is subsequently converted into xylulose 5-phosphate which is the main molecule entering the pentose phosphate pathway. In the context of the invention, "using L-arabinose" preferably means that the optical density measured at 660 nm (OD₆₆₀) of transformed cells cultured under aerobic or anaerobic conditions in the presence of at least 0.5% L-arabinose during at least 20 days is increased from approximately 0.5 till 1.0 or more. More preferably, the OD_{660} is increased from 0.5 till 1.5 or more. More preferably, the cells are cultured in the presence of at least 1%, at least 1.5%, at least 2% L-arabinose. Most preferably, the cells are cultured in the presence of approximately 2% L-arabinose.

[0068] In the context of the invention, a cell is able "to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose" when detectable amounts of L-ribulose are detected in cells cultured under aerobic or anaerobic conditions in the presence of L-arabinose (same preferred concentrations as in previous paragraph) during at least 20 days using a suitable assay. Preferably the assay is HPLC for L-ribulose.

[0069] In the context of the invention, a cell is able "to convert L-arabinose into xylulose 5-phosphate" when an increase of at least 2% of xylulose 5-phosphate is detected in cells cultured under aerobic or anaerobic conditions in the presence of L-arabinose (same preferred concentrations as in previous paragraph) during at least 20 days using a suitable assay. Preferably, an HPCL-based assay for xylulose 5-phosphate has been described in Zaldivar J., et al ((2002), Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol., 59:436-442). This assay is briefly described in the experimental part. More preferably, the increase is of at least 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or more.

[0070] In another preferred embodiment, expression of the nucleotide sequences encoding an ara A, ara B and ara D as defined earlier herein confers to the cell the ability to convert L-arabinose into a desired fermentation product when cultured under aerobic or anaerobic conditions in the presence of L-arabinose (same preferred concentrations as in previous paragraph) during at least one month till one year. More preferably, a cell is able to convert L-arabinose into a desired fermentation product when detectable amounts of a desired

fermentation product are detected using a suitable assay and when the cells are cultured under the conditions given in previous sentence. Even more preferably, the assay is HPLC. Even more preferably, the fermentation product is ethanol.

[0071] A cell for transformation with the nucleotide sequences encoding the araA, araB, and araD enzymes respectively as described above, preferably is a host cell capable of active or passive xylose transport into and xylose isomerisation within the cell. The cell preferably is capable of active glycolysis. The cell may further contain an endogenous pentose phosphate pathway and may contain endogenous xylulose kinase activity so that xylulose isomerised from xylose may be metabolised to pyruvate. The cell further preferably contains enzymes for conversion of pyruvate to a desired fermentation product such as ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic or a cephalosporin. The cell may be made capable of producing butanol by introduction of one or more genes of the butanol pathway as disclosed in WO2007/041269.

[0072] A preferred cell is naturally capable of alcoholic fermentation, preferably, anaerobic alcoholic fermentation. The host cell further preferably has a high tolerance to ethanol, a high tolerance to low pH (i.e. capable of growth at a pH lower than 5, 4, 3, or 2.5) and towards organic acids like lactic acid, acetic acid or formic acid and sugar degradation products such as furfural and hydroxy-methylfurfural, and a high tolerance to elevated temperatures. Any of these characteristics or activities of the host cell may be naturally present in the host cell or may be introduced or modified through genetic selection or by genetic modification. A suitable host cell is a eukaryotic microorganism like e.g. a fungus, however, most suitable as host cell are yeasts or filamentous fungi.

[0073] Yeasts are herein defined as eukaryotic microorganisms and include all species of the subdivision Eumycotina (Alexopoulos, C. J., 1962, In: Introductory Mycology, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York) that predominantly grow in unicellular form. Yeasts may either grow by budding of a unicellular thallus or may grow by fission of the organism. Preferred yeasts as host cells belong to one of the genera Saccharomyces, Kluyveromyces, Candida, Pichia, Schizosaccharomyces, Hansenula, Kloeckera, Schwanniomyces, or Yarrowia. Preferably the yeast is capable of anaerobic fermentation, more preferably anaerobic alcoholic fermentation.

[0074] Filamentous fungi are herein defined as eukaryotic microorganisms that include all filamentous forms of the subdivision Eumycotina. These fungi are characterized by a vegetative mycelium composed of chitin, cellulose, and other complex polysaccharides. The filamentous fungi of the present invention are morphologically, physiologically, and genetically distinct from yeasts. Vegetative growth by filamentous fungi is by hyphal elongation and carbon catabolism of most filamentous fungi is obligately aerobic. Preferred filamentous fungi as host cells belong to one of the genera Aspergillus, Trichoderma, Humicola, Acremonium, Fusarium, or Penicillium.

[0075] Over the years suggestions have been made for the introduction of various organisms for the production of bioethanol from crop sugars. In practice, however, all major bio-ethanol production processes have continued to use the yeasts of the genus *Saccharomyces* as ethanol producer. This is due to the many attractive features of *Saccharomyces* spe-

cies for industrial processes, i.e., a high acid-, ethanol- and osmo-tolerance, capability of anaerobic growth, and of course its high alcoholic fermentative capacity. Preferred yeast species as host cells include *S. cerevisiae*, *S. bulderi*, *S. barnetti*, *S. exiguus*, *S. uvarum*, *S. diastaticus*, *K. lactis*, *K. marxianus*, *K. fragilis*.

[0076] In a preferred embodiment, the host cell of the invention is a host cell that has been transformed with a nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the araA, araB, and araD enzymes as defined above. In one more preferred embodiment, the host cell is co-transformed with three nucleic acid constructs, each nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding araA, araB or araD. The nucleic acid construct comprising the araA, araB, and/or araD coding sequence is capable of expression of the araA, araB, and/or araD enzymes in the host cell. To this end the nucleic acid construct may be constructed as described in e.g. WO 03/0624430. The host cell may comprise a single but preferably comprises multiple copies of each nucleic acid construct. The nucleic acid construct may be maintained episomally and thus comprise a sequence for autonomous replication, such as an ARS sequence. Suitable episomal nucleic acid constructs may e.g. be based on the yeast 2µ or pKD1 (Fleer et al., 1991, Biotechnology 9:968-975) plasmids. Preferably, however, each nucleic acid construct is integrated in one or more copies into the genome of the host cell. Integration into the host cell's genome may occur at random by illegitimate recombination but preferably nucleic acid construct is integrated into the host cell's genome by homologous recombination as is well known in the art of fungal molecular genetics (see e.g. WO 90/14423, EP-A-0 481 008, EP-A-0 635 574 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,265,186). Accordingly, in a more preferred embodiment, the cell of the invention comprises a nucleic acid construct comprising the araA, araB, and/or araD coding sequence and is capable of expression of the araA, araB, and/or araD enzymes. In an even more preferred embodiment, the araA, araB, and/or araD coding sequences are each operably linked to a promoter that causes sufficient expression of the corresponding nucleotide sequences in a cell to confer to the cell the ability to use L-arabinose, and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate. Preferably the cell is a yeast cell. Accordingly, in a further aspect, the invention also encompasses a nucleic acid construct as earlier outlined herein. Preferably, a nucleic acid construct comprises a nucleic acid sequence encoding an araA, araB and/or araD. Nucleic acid sequences encoding an araA, araB, or araD have been all earlier defined herein. Even more preferably, the expression of the corresponding nucleotide sequences in a cell confer to the cell the ability to convert L-arabinose into a desired fermentation product as defined later herein. In an even more preferred embodiment, the fermentation product is ethanol. Even more preferably, the cell is a yeast cell.

[0077] As used herein, the term "operably linked" refers to a linkage of polynucleotide elements (or coding sequences or nucleic acid sequence) in a functional relationship. A nucleic acid sequence is "operably linked" when it is placed into a functional relationship with another nucleic acid sequence. For instance, a promoter or enhancer is operably linked to a coding sequence if it affects the transcription of the coding sequence. Operably linked means that the nucleic acid sequences being linked are typically contiguous and, where necessary to join two protein coding regions, contiguous and in reading frame.

[0078] As used herein, the term "promoter" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that functions to control the transcription of one or more genes, located upstream with respect to the direction of transcription of the transcription initiation site of the gene, and is structurally identified by the presence of a binding site for DNA-dependent RNA polymerase, transcription initiation sites and any other DNA sequences, including, but not limited to transcription factor binding sites, repressor and activator protein binding sites, and any other sequences of nucleotides known to one of skill in the art to act directly or indirectly to regulate the amount of transcription from the promoter. A "constitutive" promoter is a promoter that is active under most environmental and developmental conditions. An "inducible" promoter is a promoter that is active under environmental or developmental regulation.

[0079] The promoter that could be used to achieve the expression of the nucleotide sequences coding for araA, araB and/or araD may be not native to the nucleotide sequence coding for the enzyme to be expressed, i.e. a promoter that is heterologous to the nucleotide sequence (coding sequence) to which it is operably linked. Although the promoter preferably is heterologous to the coding sequence to which it is operably linked, it is also preferred that the promoter is homologous, i.e. endogenous to the host cell. Preferably the heterologous promoter (to the nucleotide sequence) is capable of producing a higher steady state level of the transcript comprising the coding sequence (or is capable of producing more transcript molecules, i.e. mRNA molecules, per unit of time) than is the promoter that is native to the coding sequence, preferably under conditions where arabinose, or arabinose and glucose, or xylose and arabinose or xylose and arabinose and glucose are available as carbon sources, more preferably as major carbon sources (i.e. more than 50% of the available carbon source consists of arabinose, or arabinose and glucose, or xylose and arabinose or xylose and arabinose and glucose), most preferably as sole carbon sources. Suitable promoters in this context include both constitutive and inducible natural promoters as well as engineered promoters. A preferred promoter for use in the present invention will in addition be insensitive to catabolite (glucose) repression and/or will preferably not require arabinose and/or xylose for induction.

[0080] Promotors having these characteristics are widely available and known to the skilled person. Suitable examples of such promoters include e.g. promoters from glycolytic genes, such as the phosphofructokinase (PPK), triose phosphate isomerase (TPI), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD, TDH3 or GAPDH), pyruvate kinase (PYK), phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK) promoters from yeasts or filamentous fungi; more details about such promoters from yeast may be found in (WO 93/03159). Other useful promoters are ribosomal protein encoding gene promoters, the lactase gene promoter (LAC4), alcohol dehydrogenase promoters (ADH1, ADH4, and the like), the enolase promoter (ENO), the glucose-6-phosphate isomerase promoter (PGI1, Hauf et al, 2000) or the hexose(glucose) transporter promoter (HXT7) or the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (TDH3). The sequence of the PGI1 promoter is given in SEQ ID NO:51. The sequence of the HXT7 promoter is given in SEQ ID NO:52. The sequence of the TDH3 promoter is given in SEQ ID NO:49. Other promoters, both constitutive and inducible, and enhancers or upstream activating sequences will be known to those of skill in the art. The promoters used in the host cells of the invention may be modified, if desired, to affect their control characteristics. A preferred cell of the

invention is a eukaryotic cell transformed with the araA, araB and araD genes of *L. plantarum*. More preferably, the eukaryotic cell is a yeast cell, even more preferably a *S. cerevisiae* strain transformed with the araA, araB and araD genes of *L. plantarum*. Most preferably, the cell is either CBS120327 or CBS120328 both deposited at the CBS Institute (The Netherlands) on Sep. 27, 2006.

The term "homologous" when used to indicate the relation between a given (recombinant) nucleic acid or polypeptide molecule and a given host organism or host cell, is understood to mean that in nature the nucleic acid or polypeptide molecule is produced by a host cell or organisms of the same species, preferably of the same variety or strain. If homologous to a host cell, a nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide will typically be operably linked to another promoter sequence or, if applicable, another secretory signal sequence and/or terminator sequence than in its natural environment. When used to indicate the relatedness of two nucleic acid sequences the term "homologous" means that one single-stranded nucleic acid sequence may hybridize to a complementary single-stranded nucleic acid sequence. The degree of hybridization may depend on a number of factors including the amount of identity between the sequences and the hybridization conditions such as temperature and salt concentration as earlier presented. Preferably the region of identity is greater than about 5 bp, more preferably the region of identity is greater than 10 bp.

[0082] The term "heterologous" when used with respect to a nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) or protein refers to a nucleic acid or protein that does not occur naturally as part of the organism, cell, genome or DNA or RNA sequence in which it is present, or that is found in a cell or location or locations in the genome or DNA or RNA sequence that differ from that in which it is found in nature. Heterologous nucleic acids or proteins are not endogenous to the cell into which it is introduced, but has been obtained from another cell or synthetically or recombinantly produced. Generally, though not necessarily, such nucleic acids encode proteins that are not normally produced by the cell in which the DNA is transcribed or expressed. Similarly exogenous RNA encodes for proteins not normally expressed in the cell in which the exogenous RNA is present. Heterologous nucleic acids and proteins may also be referred to as foreign nucleic acids or proteins. Any nucleic acid or protein that one of skill in the art would recognize as heterologous or foreign to the cell in which it is expressed is herein encompassed by the term heterologous nucleic acid or protein. The term heterologous also applies to non-natural combinations of nucleic acid or amino acid sequences, i.e. combinations where at least two of the combined sequences are foreign with respect to each other.

Preferred Eukaryotic Cell Able to Use and/or Convert L-Arabinose and Xylose

[0083] In a more preferred embodiment, the cell of the invention that expresses araA, araB and araD is able to use L-arabinose and/or to convert it into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or a desired fermentation product as earlier defined herein and additionally exhibits the ability to use xylose and/or convert xylose into xylulose. The conversion of xylose into xylulose is preferably a one step isomerisation step (direct isomerisation of xylose into xylulose). This type of cell is therefore able to use both L-arabinose and xylose. "Using" xylose has preferably the same meaning as "using" L-arabinose as earlier defined herein.

[0084] Enzyme definitions are as used in WO 06/009434, for xylose isomerase (EC 5.3.1.5), xylulose kinase (EC 2.7. 1.17), ribulose 5-phosphate epimerase (5.1.3.1), ribulose 5-phosphate isomerase (EC 5.3.1.6), transketolase (EC 2.2. 1.1), transaldolase (EC 2.2.1.2), and aldose reductase" (EC 1.1.1.21).

[0085] In a preferred embodiment, the eukaryotic cell of the invention expressing araA, araB and araD as earlier defined herein has the ability of isomerising xylose to xylulose as e.g. described in WO 03/0624430 or in WO 06/009434. The ability of isomerising xylose to xylulose is conferred to the host cell by transformation of the host cell with a nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a xylose isomerase. The transformed host cell's ability to isomerise xylose into xylulose is the direct isomerisation of xylose to xylulose. This is understood to mean that xylose isomerised into xylulose in a single reaction catalysed by a xylose isomerase, as opposed to the two step conversion of xylose into xylulose via a xylitol intermediate as catalysed by xylose reductase and xylitol dehydrogenase, respectively.

[0086] The nucleotide sequence encodes a xylose isomerase that is preferably expressed in active form in the transformed host cell of the invention. Thus, expression of the nucleotide sequence in the host cell produces a xylose isomerase with a specific activity of at least 10 U xylose isomerase activity per mg protein at 30° C., preferably at least 20, 25, 30, 50, 100, 200, 300 or 500 U per mg at 30° C. The specific activity of the xylose isomerase expressed in the transformed host cell is herein defined as the amount of xylose isomerase activity units per mg protein of cell free lysate of the host cell, e.g. a yeast cell free lysate. Determination of the xylose isomerase activity has already been described earlier herein.

[0087] Preferably, expression of the nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase in the host cell produces a xylose isomerase with a K_m for xylose that is less than 50, 40, 30 or 25 mM, more preferably, the K_m for xylose is about 20 mM or less.

[0088] A preferred nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase may be selected from the group consisting of:

[0089] (e) nucleotide sequences encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 7 or SEQ ID NO:15;

[0090] (f) nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 95, 97, 98, or 99% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 8 or SEQ ID NO:16;

[0091] (g) nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridises to a nucleic acid molecule sequence of (a) or (b);

[0092] (h) nucleotide sequences the sequence of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (c) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

[0093] The nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase may encode either a prokaryotic or an eukaryotic xylose isomerase, i.e. a xylose isomerase with an amino acid sequence that is identical to that of a xylose isomerase that naturally occurs in the prokaryotic or eukaryotic organism. The present inventors have found that the ability of a particular xylose isomerase to confer to a eukaryotic host cell the ability to isomerise xylose into xylulose does not depend so

much on whether the isomerase is of prokaryotic or eukaryotic origin. Rather this depends on the relatedness of the isomerase's amino acid sequence to that of the Piromyces sequence (SEQ ID NO. 7). Surprisingly, the eukaryotic Piromyces isomerase is more related to prokaryotic isomerases than to other known eukaryotic isomerases. Therefore, a preferred nucleotide sequence encodes a xylose isomerase having an amino acid sequence that is related to the Piromyces sequence as defined above. A preferred nucleotide sequence encodes a fungal xylose isomerase (e.g. from a Basidiomycete), more preferably a xylose isomerase from an anaerobic fungus, e.g. a xylose isomerase from an anaerobic fungus that belongs to the families Neocallimastix, Caecomyces, Piromyces, Orpinomyces, or Ruminomyces. Alternatively, a preferred nucleotide sequence encodes a bacterial xylose isomerase, preferably a Gram-negative bacterium, more preferably an isomerase from the class *Bacteroides*, or from the genus *Bacteroides*, most preferably from *B. thetaio*taomicron (SEQ ID NO. 15).

[0094] To increase the likelihood that the xylose isomerase is expressed in active form in a eukaryotic host cell such as yeast, the nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase may be adapted to optimise its codon usage to that of the eukaryotic host cell as earlier defined herein.

[0095] A host cell for transformation with the nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase as described above, preferably is a host capable of active or passive xylose transport into the cell. The host cell preferably contains active glycolysis. The host cell may further contain an endogenous pentose phosphate pathway and may contain endogenous xylulose kinase activity so that xylulose isomerised from xylose may be metabolised to pyruvate. The host further preferably contains enzymes for conversion of pyruvate to a desired fermentation product such as ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic or a cephalosporin. A preferred host cell is a host cell that is naturally capable of alcoholic fermentation, preferably, anaerobic alcoholic fermentation. The host cell further preferably has a high tolerance to ethanol, a high tolerance to low pH (i.e. capable of growth at a pH lower than 5, 4, 3, or 2.5) and towards organic acids like lactic acid, acetic acid or formic acid and sugar degradation products such as furfural and hydroxy-methylfurfural, and a high tolerance to elevated temperatures. Any of these characteristics or activities of the host cell may be naturally present in the host cell or may be introduced or modified by genetic modification. A suitable cell is a eukaryotic microorganism like e.g. a fungus, however, most suitable as host cell are yeasts or filamentous fungi. Preferred yeasts and filamentous fungi have already been defined herein.

[0096] As used herein the wording host cell has the same meaning as cell.

[0097] The cell of the invention is preferably transformed with a nucleic acid construct comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the xylose isomerase. The nucleic acid construct that is preferably used is the same as the one used comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding araA, araB or araD.

[0098] In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the cell of the invention:

[0099] expressing araA, araB and araD, and exhibiting the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose, as earlier defined herein

further comprises a genetic modification that increases the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway, as described in WO 06/009434. In particular, the genetic modification causes an increased flux of the non-oxidative part pentose phosphate pathway. A genetic modification that causes an increased flux of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway is herein understood to mean a modification that increases the flux by at least a factor 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2, 5, 10 or 20 as compared to the flux in a strain which is genetically identical except for the genetic modification causing the increased flux. The flux of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway may be measured by growing the modified host on xylose as sole carbon source, determining the specific xylose consumption rate and substracting the specific xylitol production rate from the specific xylose consumption rate, if any xylitol is produced. However, the flux of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway is proportional with the growth rate on xylose as sole carbon source, preferably with the anaerobic growth rate on xylose as sole carbon source. There is a linear relation between the growth rate on xylose as sole carbon source (μ_{max}) and the flux of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway. The specific xylose consumption rate (Q_s) is equal to the growth rate (μ) divided by the yield of biomass on sugar (Y_{xs}) because the yield of biomass on sugar is constant (under a given set of Conditions: anaerobic, growth medium, pH, genetic background of the strain, etc.; i.e. $Q_s = \mu/Y_{xs}$). Therefore the increased flux of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway may be deduced from the increase in maximum growth rate under these conditions. In a preferred embodiment, the cell comprises a genetic modification that increases the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway and has a specific xylose consumption rate of at least 346 mg xylose/g biomass/h.

[0100] Genetic modifications that increase the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway may be introduced in the host cell in various ways. These including e.g. achieving higher steady state activity levels of xylulose kinase and/or one or more of the enzymes of the non-oxidative part pentose phosphate pathway and/or a reduced steady state level of unspecific aldose reductase activity. These changes in steady state activity levels may be effected by selection of mutants (spontaneous or induced by chemicals or radiation) and/or by recombinant DNA technology e.g. by overexpression or inactivation, respectively, of genes encoding the enzymes or factors regulating these genes.

[0101] In a more preferred host cell, the genetic modification comprises overexpression of at least one enzyme of the (non-oxidative part) pentose phosphate pathway. Preferably the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of the enzymes encoding for ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, transketolase and transaldolase, as described in WO 06/009434.

[0102] Various combinations of enzymes of the (non-oxidative part) pentose phosphate pathway may be overexpressed. E.g. the enzymes that are overexpressed may be at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase and ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase and transletolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase and transletolase;

or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase and transketolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase and transaldolase; or at least the enzymes transketolase and transaldolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5phosphate epimerase, transketolase and transaldolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, transketolase and transaldolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, and transaldolase; or at least the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, and transketolase. In one embodiment of the invention each of the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, transketolase and transaldolase are overexpressed in the host cell. More preferred is a host cell in which the genetic modification comprises at least overexpression of both the enzymes transketolase and transaldolase as such a host cell is already capable of anaerobic growth on xylose. In fact, under some conditions we have found that host cells overexpressing only the transketolase and the transaldolase already have the same anaerobic growth rate on xylose as do host cells that overexpress all four of the enzymes, i.e. the ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, transketolase and transaldolase. Moreover, host cells overexpressing both of the enzymes ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase and ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase are preferred over host cells overexpressing only the isomerase or only the epimerase as overexpression of only one of these enzymes may produce metabolic imbalances.

[0103] There are various means available in the art for overexpression of enzymes in the cells of the invention. In particular, an enzyme may be overexpressed by increasing the copy number of the gene coding for the enzyme in the host cell, e.g. by integrating additional copies of the gene in the host cell's genome, by expressing the gene from an episomal multicopy expression vector or by introducing a episomal expression vector that comprises multiple copies of the gene.

[0104] Alternatively overexpression of enzymes in the host cells of the invention may be achieved by using a promoter that is not native to the sequence coding for the enzyme to be overexpressed, i.e. a promoter that is heterologous to the coding sequence to which it is operably linked. Suitable promoters to this end have already been defined herein.

[0105] The coding sequence used for overexpression of the enzymes preferably is homologous to the host cell of the invention. However, coding sequences that are heterologous to the host cell of the invention may likewise be applied, as mentioned in WO 06/009434.

[0106] A nucleotide sequence used for overexpression of ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 17 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 18, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0107] A nucleotide sequence used for overexpression of ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 19 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising

with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 20, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0108] A nucleotide sequence used for overexpression of transketolase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with transketolase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 21 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 22, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0109] A nucleotide sequence used for overexpression of transaldolase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with transaldolase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 23 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 24, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0110] Overexpression of an enzyme, when referring to the production of the enzyme in a genetically modified host cell, means that the enzyme is produced at a higher level of specific enzymatic activity as compared to the unmodified host cell under identical conditions. Usually this means that the enzymatically active protein (or proteins in case of multi-subunit enzymes) is produced in greater amounts, or rather at a higher steady state level as compared to the unmodified host cell under identical conditions. Similarly this usually means that the mRNA coding for the enzymatically active protein is produced in greater amounts, or again rather at a higher steady state level as compared to the unmodified host cell under identical conditions. Overexpression of an enzyme is thus preferably determined by measuring the level of the enzyme's specific activity in the host cell using appropriate enzyme assays as described herein. Alternatively, overexpression of the enzyme may determined indirectly by quantifying the specific steady state level of enzyme protein, e.g. using antibodies specific for the enzyme, or by quantifying the specific steady level of the mRNA coding for the enzyme. The latter may particularly be suitable for enzymes of the pentose phosphate pathway for which enzymatic assays are not easily feasible as substrates for the enzymes are not commercially available. Preferably in the host cells of the invention, an enzyme to be overexpressed is overexpressed by at least a factor 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2, 5, 10 or 20 as compared to a strain which is genetically identical except for the genetic modification causing the overexpression. It is to be understood that these levels of overexpression may apply to the steady state level of the enzyme's activity, the steady state level of the enzyme's protein as well as to the steady state level of the transcript coding for the enzyme.

[0111] In a further preferred embodiment, the host cell of the invention:

[0112] expressing araA, araB and araD, and exhibiting the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose, and optionally

[0113] comprising a genetic modification that increase the flux of the pentose pathway as earlier defined herein further comprises a genetic modification that increases the specific xylulose kinase activity. Preferably the genetic modification causes overexpression of a xylulose kinase, e.g. by overexpression of a nucleotide sequence encoding a xylulose kinase. The gene encoding the xylulose kinase may be endog-

enous to the host cell or may be a xylulose kinase that is heterologous to the host cell. A nucleotide sequence used for overexpression of xylulose kinase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with xylulose kinase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 25 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 26, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0114] A particularly preferred xylulose kinase is a xylose kinase that is related to the xylulose kinase xylB from Piromyces as mentioned in WO 03/0624430. A more preferred nucleotide sequence for use in overexpression of xylulose kinase in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with xylulose kinase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 27 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 28, under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0115] In the host cells of the invention, genetic modification that increases the specific xylulose kinase activity may be combined with any of the modifications increasing the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway as described above, but this combination is not essential for the invention. Thus, a host cell of the invention comprising a genetic modification that increases the specific xylulose kinase activity in addition to the expression of the araA, araB and araD enzymes as defined herein is specifically included in the invention. The various means available in the art for achieving and analysing overexpression of a xylulose kinase in the host cells of the invention are the same as described above for enzymes of the pentose phosphate pathway. Preferably in the host cells of the invention, a xylulose kinase to be overexpressed is overexpressed by at least a factor 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 2, 5, 10 or 20 as compared to a strain which is genetically identical except for the genetic modification causing the overexpression. It is to be understood that these levels of overexpression may apply to the steady state level of the enzyme's activity, the steady state level of the enzyme's protein as well as to the steady state level of the transcript coding for the enzyme.

[0116] In a further preferred embodiment, the host cell of the invention:

- [0117] expressing araA, araB and araD, and exhibiting the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose, and optionally
- [0118] comprising a genetic modification that increase the flux of the pentose pathway and/or
- [0119] further comprising a genetic modification that increases the specific xylulose kinase activity all as earlier defined herein

further comprises a genetic modification that reduces unspecific aldose reductase activity in the host cell. Preferably, unspecific aldose reductase activity is reduced in the host cell by one or more genetic modifications that reduce the expression of or inactivate a gene encoding an unspecific aldose reductase, as described in WO 06/009434. Preferably, the genetic modifications reduce or inactivate the expression of each endogenous copy of a gene encoding an unspecific aldose reductase in the host cell. Host cells may comprise multiple copies of genes encoding unspecific aldose reductases as a result of di-, poly- or aneu-ploidy, and/or the host

cell may contain several different (iso)enzymes with aldose reductase activity that differ in amino acid sequence and that are each encoded by a different gene. Also in such instances preferably the expression of each gene that encodes an unspecific aldose reductase is reduced or inactivated. Preferably, the gene is inactivated by deletion of at least part of the gene or by disruption of the gene, whereby in this context the term gene also includes any non-coding sequence up- or downstream of the coding sequence, the (partial) deletion or inactivation of which results in a reduction of expression of unspecific aldose reductase activity in the host cell. A nucleotide sequence encoding an aldose reductase whose activity is to be reduced in the host cell of the invention is a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide with aldose reductase activity, whereby preferably the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence having at least 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 or 95% identity with SEQ ID NO. 29 or whereby the nucleotide sequence is capable of hybridising with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO. 30 under moderate conditions, preferably under stringent conditions.

[0120] In the host cells of the invention, the expression of the araA, araB and araD enzymes as defined herein is combined with genetic modification that reduces unspecific aldose reductase activity. The genetic modification leading to the reduction of unspecific aldose reductase activity may be combined with any of the modifications increasing the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway and/or with any of the modifications increasing the specific xylulose kinase activity in the host cells as described above, but these combinations are not essential for the invention. Thus, a host cell expressing araA, araB, and araD, comprising an additional genetic modification that reduces unspecific aldose reductase activity is specifically included in the invention.

[0121] In a preferred embodiment, the host cell is CBS120327 deposited at the CBS Institute (The Netherlands) on Sep. 27, 2006.

[0122] In a further preferred embodiment, the invention relates to modified host cells that are further adapted to L-arabinose (use L-arabinose and/or convert it into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product and optionally xylose utilisation by selection of mutants, either spontaneous or induced (e.g. by radiation or chemicals), for growth on L-arabinose and optionally xylose, preferably on L-arabinose and optionally xylose as sole carbon source, and more preferably under anaerobic conditions. Selection of mutants may be performed by serial passaging of cultures as e.g. described by Kuyper et al. (2004, FEMS Yeast Res. 4: 655-664) and/or by cultivation under selective pressure in a chemostat culture as is described in Example 4 of WO 06/009434. This selection process may be continued as long as necessary. This selection process is preferably carried out during one week till one year. However, the selection process may be carried out for a longer period of time if necessary. During the selection process, the cells are preferably cultured in the presence of approximately 20 g/l L-arabinose and/or approximately 20 g/l xylose. The cell obtained at the end of this selection process is expected to be improved as to its capacities of using L-arabinose and/or xylose, and/or converting L-arabinose into L-ribulose and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or a desired fermentation product such as ethanol. In this context "improved cell" may mean that the obtained cell is able to use L-arabinose and/or xylose in a more efficient way than the cell it derives from. For example, the obtained cell is expected to better grow: increase of the

specific growth rate of at least 2% than the cell it derives from under the same conditions. Preferably, the increase is of at least 4%, 6%, 8%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or more. The specific growth rate may be calculated from OD_{660} as known to the skilled person. Therefore, by monitoring the OD_{660} , one can deduce the specific growth rate. In this context "improved cell" may also mean that the obtained cell converts L-arabinose into L-ribulose and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or a desired fermentation product such as ethanol in a more efficient way than the cell it derives from. For example, the obtained cell is expected to produce higher amounts of L-ribulose and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or a desired fermentation product such as ethanol: increase of at least one of these compounds of at least 2% than the cell it derives from under the same conditions. Preferably, the increase is of at least 4%, 6%, 8%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or more. In this context "improved cell" may also mean that the obtained cell converts xylose into xylulose and/or a desired fermentation product such as ethanol in a more efficient way than the cell it derives from. For example, the obtained cell is expected to produce higher amounts of xylulose and/or a desired fermentation product such as ethanol: increase of at least one of these compounds of at least 2% than the cell it derives from under the same conditions. Preferably, the increase is of at least 4%, 6%, 8%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25% or more.

[0123] In a preferred host cell of the invention at least one of the genetic modifications described above, including modifications obtained by selection of mutants, confer to the host cell the ability to grow on L-arabinose and optionally xylose as carbon source, preferably as sole carbon source, and preferably under anaerobic conditions. Preferably the modified host cell produce essentially no xylitol, e.g. the xylitol produced is below the detection limit or e.g. less than 5, 2, 1, 0.5, or 0.3% of the carbon consumed on a molar basis.

[0124] Preferably the modified host cell has the ability to grow on L-arabinose and optionally xylose as sole carbon source at a rate of at least 0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.25 or 0.3 h⁻¹ under aerobic conditions, or, if applicable, at a rate of at least 0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, 0.07, 0.08, 0.09, 0.1, 0.12, 0.15 or 0.2 h⁻¹ under anaerobic conditions Preferably the modified host cell has the ability to grow on a mixture of glucose and L-arabinose and optionally xylose (in a 1:1 weight ratio) as sole carbon source at a rate of at least 0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.25 or 0.3 h⁻¹ under aerobic conditions, or, if applicable, at a rate of at least 0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.03, 0.05, 0.1, 0.12, 0.15, or 0.2 h⁻¹ under anaerobic conditions.

[0125] Preferably, the modified host cell has a specific L-arabinose and optionally xylose consumption rate of at least 346, 350, 400, 500, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 900 or 1000 mg/g cells/h. Preferably, the modified host cell has a yield of fermentation product (such as ethanol) on L-arabinose and optionally xylose that is at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 98% of the host cell's yield of fermentation product (such as ethanol) on glucose. More preferably, the modified host cell's yield of fermentation product (such as ethanol) on L-arabinose and optionally xylose is equal to the host cell's yield of fermentation product (such as ethanol) on glucose. Likewise, the modified host cell's biomass yield on L-arabinose and optionally xylose is preferably at least 55, 60, 70, 80, 85, 90, 95 or 98% of the host cell's biomass yield on glucose. More preferably, the modified host cell's biomass yield on L-arabinose and optionally xylose is equal to the host cell's biomass yield on glucose. It

L-arabinose and optionally xylose both yields are compared under aerobic conditions or both under anaerobic conditions. [0126] In a more preferred embodiment, the host cell is CBS120328 deposited at the CBS Institute (The Netherlands) on Sep. 27, 2006 or CBS121879 deposited at the CBS Institute (The Netherlands) on Sep. 20, 2007.

[0127] In a preferred embodiment, the cell expresses one or more enzymes that confer to the cell the ability to produce at least one fermentation product selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β -lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin. In a more preferred embodiment, the host cell of the invention is a host cell for the production of ethanol. In another preferred embodiment, the invention relates to a transformed host cell for the production of fermentation products other than ethanol. Such non-ethanolic fermentation products include in principle any bulk or fine chemical that is producible by a eukaryotic microorganism such as a yeast or a filamentous fungus. Such fermentation products include e.g. lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin. A preferred host cell of the invention for production of non-ethanolic fermentation products is a host cell that contains a genetic modification that results in decreased alcohol dehydrogenase activity.

Method

In a further aspect, the invention relates to fermentation processes in which a host cell of the invention is used for the fermentation of a carbon source comprising a source of L-arabinose and optionally a source of xylose. Preferably, the source of L-arabinose and the source of xylose are L-arabinose and xylose. In addition, the carbon source in the fermentation medium may also comprise a source of glucose. The source of L-arabinose, xylose or glucose may be L-arabinose, xylose or glucose as such or may be any carbohydrate oligoor polymer comprising L-arabinose, xylose or glucose units, such as e.g. lignocellulose, xylans, cellulose, starch, arabinan and the like. For release of xylose or glucose units from such carbohydrates, appropriate carbohydrases (such as xylanases, glucanases, amylases and the like) may be added to the fermentation medium or may be produced by the modified host cell. In the latter case the modified host cell may be genetically engineered to produce and excrete such carbohydrases. An additional advantage of using oligo- or polymeric sources of glucose is that it enables to maintain a low(er) concentration of free glucose during the fermentation, e.g. by using rate-limiting amounts of the carbohydrases. This, in turn, will prevent repression of systems required for metabolism and transport of non-glucose sugars such as xylose. In a preferred process the modified host cell ferments both the L-arabinose (optionally xylose) and glucose, preferably simultaneously in which case preferably a modified host cell is used which is insensitive to glucose repression to prevent diauxic growth. In addition to a source of L-arabinose, optionally xylose (and glucose) as carbon source, the fermentation medium will further comprise the appropriate ingredient required for growth of the modified host cell. Compositions of fermentation media for growth of microorganisms such as yeasts or filamentous fungi are well known in the art.

[0129] In a preferred process, there is provided a process for producing a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β -lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin whereby the process comprises the steps of:

[0130] (a) fermenting a medium containing a source of L-arabinose and optionally xylose with a modified host cell as defined herein, whereby the host cell ferments L-arabinose and optionally xylose to the fermentation product, and optionally,

[0131] (b) recovering the fermentation product.

The fermentation process is a process for the pro-[0132]duction of a fermentation product such as e.g. ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic, such as Penicillin G or Penicillin V and fermentative derivatives thereof, and/or a cephalosporin. The fermentation process may be an aerobic or an anaerobic fermentation process. An anaerobic fermentation process is herein defined as a fermentation process run in the absence of oxygen or in which substantially no oxygen is consumed, preferably less than 5, 2.5 or 1 mmol/L/h, more preferably 0 mmol/L/h is consumed (i.e. oxygen consumption is not detectable), and wherein organic molecules serve as both electron donor and electron acceptors. In the absence of oxygen, NADH produced in glycolysis and biomass formation, cannot be oxidised by oxidative phosphorylation. To solve this problem many microorganisms use pyruvate or one of its derivatives as an electron and hydrogen acceptor thereby regenerating NAD⁺. Thus, in a preferred anaerobic fermentation process pyruvate is used as an electron (and hydrogen acceptor) and is reduced to fermentation products such as ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotics and a cephalosporin. In a preferred embodiment, the fermentation process is anaerobic. An anaerobic process is advantageous since it is cheaper than aerobic processes: less special equipment is needed. Furthermore, anaerobic processes are expected to give a higher product yield than aerobic processes. Under aerobic conditions, usually the biomass yield is higher than under anaerobic conditions. As a consequence, usually under aerobic conditions, the expected product yield is lower than under anaerobic conditions. According to the inventors, the process of the invention is the first anaerobic fermentation process with a medium comprising a source of L-arabinose that has been developed so far.

[0133] In another preferred embodiment, the fermentation process is under oxygen-limited conditions. More preferably, the fermentation process is aerobic and under oxygen-limited conditions. An oxygen-limited fermentation process is a process in which the oxygen consumption is limited by the oxygen transfer from the gas to the liquid. The degree of oxygen limitation is determined by the amount and composition of the ingoing gasflow as well as the actual mixing/mass transfer properties of the fermentation equipment used. Preferably, in a process under oxygen-limited conditions, the rate of oxygen consumption is at least 5.5, more preferably at least 6 and even more preferably at least 7 mmol/L/h.

[0134] The fermentation process is preferably run at a temperature that is optimal for the modified cell. Thus, for most

yeasts or fungal cells, the fermentation process is performed at a temperature which is less than 42° C., preferably less than 38° C. For yeast or filamentous fungal host cells, the fermentation process is preferably performed at a temperature which is lower than 35, 33, 30 or 28° C. and at a temperature which is higher than 20, 22, or 25° C.

[0135] A preferred process is a process for the production of ethanol, whereby the process comprises the steps of: (a) fermenting a medium containing a source of L-arabinose and optionally xylose with a modified host cell as defined herein, whereby the host cell ferments L-arabinose and optionally xylose to ethanol; and optionally, (b) recovery of the ethanol. The fermentation medium may also comprise a source of glucose that is also fermented to ethanol. In a preferred embodiment, the fermentation process for the production of ethanol is anaerobic. Anaerobic has already been defined earlier herein. In another preferred embodiment, the fermentation process for the production of ethanol is aerobic. In another preferred embodiment, the fermentation process for the production of ethanol is under oxygen-limited conditions, more preferably aerobic and under oxygen-limited conditions. Oxygen-limited conditions have already been defined earlier herein.

[0136] In the process, the volumetric ethanol productivity is preferably at least 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 5.0 or 10.0 g ethanol per litre per hour. The ethanol yield on L-arabinose and optionally xylose and/or glucose in the process preferably is at least 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 95 or 98%. The ethanol yield is herein defined as a percentage of the theoretical maximum yield, which, for glucose and L-arabinose and optionally xylose is 0.51 g. ethanol per g. glucose or xylose. In another preferred embodiment, the invention relates to a process for producing a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, 3-hydroxypropionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propanediol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin. The process preferably comprises the steps of (a) fermenting a medium containing a source of L-arabinose and optionally xylose with a modified host cell as defined herein above, whereby the host cell ferments L-arabinose and optionally xylose to the fermentation product, and optionally, (b) recovery of the fermentation product. In a preferred process, the medium also contains a source of glucose.

[0137] In the fermentation process of the invention leading to the production of ethanol, several advantages can be cited by comparison to known ethanol fermentations processes:

[0138] anaerobic processes are possible.

[0139] oxygen limited conditions are also possible.

[0140] higher ethanol yields and ethanol production rates can be obtained.

[0141] the strain used may be able to use L-arabinose and optionally xylose.

[0142] Alternatively to the fermentation processes described above, another fermentation process is provided as a further aspect of the invention wherein, at least two distinct cells are used for the fermentation of a carbon source comprising at least two sources of carbon selected from the group consisting of but not limited thereto: a source of L-arabinose, a source of xylose and a source of glucose. In this fermentation process, "at least two distinct cells" means this process is preferably a co-fermentation process. In one preferred embodiment, two distinct cells are used: one being the one of the invention as earlier defined able to use L-arabinose, and/or

to convert it into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol and optionally being able to use xylose, the other one being for example a strain which is able to use xylose and/or convert it into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol as defined in WO 03/062430 and/or WO 06/009434. A cell which is able to use xylose is preferably a strain which exhibits the ability of directly isomerising xylose into xylulose (in one step) as earlier defined herein. These two distinct strains are preferably cultived in the presence of a source of L-arabinose, a source of xylose and optionally a source of glucose. Three distinct cells or more may be co-cultivated and/or three or more sources of carbon may be used, provided at least one cell is able to use at least one source of carbon present and/or to convert it into a desired fermentation product such as ethanol. The expression "use at least one source of carbon" has the same meaning as the expression "use of L-arabinose". The expression "convert it (i.e. a source of carbon) into a desired fermentation product has the same meaning as the expression "convert L-arabinose into a desired fermentation product".

[0143] In a preferred embodiment, the invention relates to a process for producing a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, amino acids, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, β -lactam antibiotics and cephalosporins, whereby the process comprises the steps of:

[0144] (a) fermenting a medium containing at least a source of L-arabinose and a source of xylose with a cell of the invention as earlier defined herein and a cell able to use xylose and/or exhibiting the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose, whereby each cell ferments L-arabinose and/or xylose to the fermentation product, and optionally,

[0145] (b) recovering the fermentation product.

All preferred embodiments of the fermentation processes as described above are also preferred embodiments of this further fermentation processes: identity of the fermentation product, identity of source of L-arabinose and source of xylose, conditions of fermentation (aerobical or anaerobical conditions, oxygen-limited conditions, temperature at which the process is being carried out, productivity of ethanol, yield of ethanol).

Genetic Modifications

[0146] For overexpression of enzymes in the host cells of the inventions as described above, as well as for additional genetic modification of host cells, preferably yeasts, host cells are transformed with the various nucleic acid constructs of the invention by methods well known in the art. Such methods are e.g. known from standard handbooks, such as Sambrook and Russel (2001) "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd edition), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, or F. Ausubel et al, eds., "Current protocols in molecular biology", Green Publishing and Wiley Interscience, New York (1987). Methods for transformation and genetic modification of fungal host cells are known from e.g. EP-A-0 635 574, WO 98/46772, WO 99/60102 and WO 00/37671.

[0147] Promoters for use in the nucleic acid constructs for overexpression of enzymes in the host cells of the invention have been described above. In the nucleic acid constructs for overexpression, the 3'-end of the nucleotide acid sequence

encoding the enzyme(s) preferably is operably linked to a transcription terminator sequence. Preferably the terminator sequence is operable in a host cell of choice, such as e.g. the yeast species of choice. In any case the choice of the terminator is not critical; it may e.g. be from any yeast gene, although terminators may sometimes work if from a non-yeast, eukaryotic, gene. The transcription termination sequence further preferably comprises a polyadenylation signal. Preferred terminator sequences are the alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH1) and the PGI1 terminators. More preferably, the ADH1 and the PGI1 terminators are both from *S. cerevisiae* (SEQ ID NO:50 and SEQ ID NO:53 respectively).

[0148] Optionally, a selectable marker may be present in the nucleic acid construct. As used herein, the term "marker" refers to a gene encoding a trait or a phenotype which permits the selection of, or the screening for, a host cell containing the marker. The marker gene may be an antibiotic resistance gene whereby the appropriate antibiotic can be used to select for transformed cells from among cells that are not transformed. Preferably however, non-antibiotic resistance markers are used, such as auxotrophic markers (URA3, TRP1, LEU). In a preferred embodiment the host cells transformed with the nucleic acid constructs are marker gene free. Methods for constructing recombinant marker gene free microbial host cells are disclosed in EP-A-0 635 574 and are based on the use of bidirectional markers. Alternatively, a screenable marker such as Green Fluorescent Protein, lacZ, luciferase, chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, beta-glucuronidase may be incorporated into the nucleic acid constructs of the invention allowing to screen for transformed cells.

[0149] Optional further elements that may be present in the nucleic acid constructs of the invention include, but are not limited to, one or more leader sequences, enhancers, integration factors, and/or reporter genes, intron sequences, centromers, telomers and/or matrix attachment (MAR) sequences. The nucleic acid constructs of the invention may further comprise a sequence for autonomous replication, such as an ARS sequence. Suitable episomal nucleic acid constructs may e.g. be based on the yeast 2µ or pKD1 (Fleer et al., 1991, Biotechnology 9:968-975) plasmids. Alternatively the nucleic acid construct may comprise sequences for integration, preferably by homologous recombination. Such sequences may thus be sequences homologous to the target site for integration in the host cell's genome. The nucleic acid constructs of the invention can be provided in a manner known per se, which generally involves techniques such as restricting and linking nucleic acids/nucleic acid sequences, for which reference is made to the standard handbooks, such as Sambrook and Russel (2001) "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (3rd edition), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.

[0150] Methods for inactivation and gene disruption in yeast or fungi are well known in the art (see e.g. Fincham, 1989, Microbiol Rev. 53(1):148-70 and EP-A-0 635 574).

[0151] In this document and in its claims, the verb "to comprise" and its conjugations is used in its non-limiting sense to mean that items following the word are included, but items not specifically mentioned are not excluded. In addition, reference to an element by the indefinite article "a" or "an" does not exclude the possibility that more than one of the element is present, unless the context clearly requires that there be one and only one of the elements. The indefinite article "a" or "an" thus usually means "at least one".

[0152] The invention is further described by the following examples, which should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

EXAMPLES

Plasmid and Strain Construction

Strains

The L-arabinose consuming Sachharomyces cerevi-[0153]siae strain described in this work is based on strain RWB220, which is itself a derivative of RWB217. RWB217 is a CEN. PK strain in which four genes coding for the expression of enzymes in the pentose phosphate pathway have been overexpressed, TAL1, TKL1, RPE1, RKI1 (Kuyper et al., 2005a). In addition the gene coding for an aldose reductase (GRE3), has been deleted. Strain RWB217 also contains two plasmids, a single copy plasmid with a LEU2 marker for overexpression of the xylulokinase (XKS1) and an episomal, multicopy plasmid with URA3 as the marker for the expression of the xylose isomerase, XylA. RWB217 was subjected to a selection procedure for improved growth on xylose which is described in Kuyper et al. (2005b). The procedure resulted in two pure strains, RWB218 (Kuyper et al., 2005b) and RWB219. The difference between RWB218 and RWB219 is that after the selection procedure, RWB218 was obtained by plating and restreaking on mineral medium with glucose as the carbon source, while for RWB219 xylose was used.

[0154] Strain RWB219 was grown non-selectively on YP with glucose (YPD) as the carbon source in order to facilitate the loss of both plasmids. After plating on YPD single colonies were tested for plasmid loss by looking at uracil and leucine auxotrophy. A strain that had lost both plasmids was transformed with pSH47, containing the cre recombinase, in order to remove a KanMX cassette (Guldener et al., 1996), still present after integrating the RKI1 overexpression construct. Colonies with the plasmid were resuspended in Yeast Peptone medium (YP) (10 g/l yeast extract and 20 g/l peptone both from BD Difco Belgium) with 1% galactose and incubated for 1 hour at 30° C. About 200 cells were plated on YPD. The resulting colonies were checked for loss of the KanMX marker (G418 resistance) and pSH47 (URA3). A strain that had lost both the KanMX marker and the pSH47 plasmid was then named RWB220. To obtain the strain tested in this patent, RWB220 was transformed with pRW231 and pRW243 (table 2), resulting in strain IMS0001.

[0155] During construction strains were maintained on complex YP: 10 g l⁻¹ yeast extract (BD Difco), 20 g l⁻¹ peptone (BD Difco) or synthetic medium (MY) (Verduyn et al., 1992) supplemented with glucose (2%) as carbon source (YPD or MYD) and 1.5% agar in the case of plates. After transformation with plasmids strains were plated on MYD. Transformations of yeast were done according to Gietz and Woods (2002). Plasmids were amplified in *Escherichia coli* strain XL-1 blue (Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif., USA). Transformation was performed according to Inoue et al. (1990). *E. coli* was grown on LB (Luria-Bertani) plates or in liquid TB (Terrific Broth) medium for the isolation of plasmids (Sambrook et al, 1989).

Plasmids

[0156] In order to grow on L-arabinose, yeast needs to express three different genes, an L-arabinose isomerase (AraA), a L-ribulokinase (AraB), and a L-ribulose-5-P 4-epi-

merase (AraD) (Becker and Boles, 2003). In this work we have chosen to express AraA, AraB, and AraD from the lactic acid bacterium *Lactobacillus plantarum* in *S. cerevisiae*. Because the eventual aim is to consume L-arabinose in combination with other sugars, like D-xylose, the genes encoding the bacterial L-arabinose pathway were combined on the same plasmid with the genes coding for D-xylose consumption.

[0157] In order to get a high level of expression, the L. plantarum AraA and AraD genes were ligated into plasmid pAKX002, the 2μ XylA bearing plasmid.

[0158] The AraA cassette was constructed by amplifying a truncated version of the TDH3 promoter with SpeI5'Ptdh3 and 5'AraAPtdh3 (SEQ ID NO: 49), the AraA gene with Ptdh5'AraA and Tadh3'AraA and the ADH1 terminator (SEQ ID NO:50) with 3'AraATadh1 and 3'Tadh1-SpeI. The three fragments were extracted from gel and mixed in roughly equimolar amounts. On this mixture a PCR was performed using the SpeI-5'Ptdh3 and 3'Tadh1SpeI oligos. The resulting P_{TDH3}-AraA-T_{ADH1} cassette was gel purified, cut at the 5' and 3' SpeI sites and then ligated into pAKX002 cut with NheI, resulting in plasmid pRW230.

[0159] The AraD construct was made by first amplifying a truncated version of the HXT7 promoter (SEQ ID NO:52) with oligos SalI5'Phxt7 and 5'AraDPhxt, the AraD gene with Phxt5'AraD and Tpgi3'AraD and the GPI1 terminator (SEQ ID NO:53) region with the 3'AraDTpgi and 3'TpgiSalI oligos. The resulting fragments were extracted from gel and mixed in roughly equimolar amounts, after which a PCR was performed using the SalI5'Phxt7 and 3'Tpgi1SalI oligos. The resulting P_{HXT7} -AraD- T_{PGI1} cassette was gel purified, cut at the 5' and 3' SalI sites and then ligated into pRW230 cut with XhoI, resulting in plasmid pRW231 (FIG. 1).

[0160] Since too high an expression of the L-ribulokinase is detrimental to growth (Becker and Boles, 2003), the AraB gene was combined with the XKS1 gene, coding for xylulokinase, on an integration plasmid. For this, p415ADHXKS (Kuyper et al., 2005a) was first changed into pRW229, by cutting both p415ADHXKS and pRS305 with PvuI and ligating the ADHXKS-containing PvuI fragment from p415ADHXKS to the vector backbone from pRS305, resulting in pRW229.

[0161] A cassette, containing the L. plantarum AraB gene between the PGI1 promoter (SEQ ID NO:51) and ADH1 terminator (SEQ ID NO:50) was made by amplifying the PGI1 promoter with the SacI5'Ppgi1 and 5'AraBPpgi1 oligos, the AraB gene with the Ppgi5'AraB and Tadh3'AraB oligos and the ADH1 terminator with 3'AraBTadh1 and 3'Tadh1SacI oligos. The three fragments were extracted from gel and mixed in roughly equimolar amounts. On this mixture a PCR was performed using the SacI-5'Ppgi 1 and 3'Tadh1SacI oligos. The resulting P_{PGI1} -AraB- T_{ADH1} cassette was gel purified, cut at the 5' and 3' Sad sites and then ligated into pRW229 cut with SacI, resulting in plasmid pRW243 (FIG. 1).

[0162] Strain RWB220 was transformed with pRW231 and pRW243 (table 2), resulting in strain IMS0001.

[0163] Restriction endonucleases (New England Biolabs, Beverly, Mass., USA and Roche, Basel, Switzerland) and DNA ligase (Roche) were used according to the manufacturers' specifications. Plasmid isolation from *E. coli* was performed with the Qiaprep spin miniprep kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). DNA fragments were separated on a 1% agarose (Sigma, St. Louis, Mo., USA) gel in 1×TBE (Sambrook et al, 1989). Isolation of fragments from gel was carried out with

the Qiaquick gel extraction kit (Quiagen). Amplification of the (elements of the) AraA, AraB and AraD cassettes was done with Vent_R DNA polymerase (New England Biolabs) according to the manufacturer's specification. The template was chromosomal DNA of *S. cerevisiae* CEN.PK113-7D for the promoters and terminators, or *Lactobacillus plantarum* DSM20205 for the Ara genes. The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed in a Biometra TGradient Thermocycler (Biometra, Gottingen, Germany) with the following settings: 30 cycles of 1 min annealing at 55° C., 60° C. or 65° C., 1 to 3 min extension at 75° C., depending on expected fragment size, and 1 min denaturing at 94° C.

Cultivation and Media

[0164] Shake-flask cultivations were performed at 30° C. in a synthetic medium (Verduyn et al., 1992). The pH of the medium was adjusted to 6.0 with 2 M KOH prior to sterilisation. For solid synthetic medium, 1.5% of agar was added. [0165] Pre-cultures were prepared by inoculating 100 ml medium containing the appropriate sugar in a 500-ml shake flask with a frozen stock culture. After incubation at 30° C. in an orbital shaker (200 rpm), this culture was used to inoculate either shake-flask cultures or fermenter cultures. The synthetic medium for anaerobic cultivation was supplemented with 0.01 g l⁻¹ ergosterol and 0.42 g Tween 80 dissolved in ethanol (Andreasen and Stier, 1953; Andreasen and Stier, 1954). Anaerobic (sequencing) batch cultivation was carried out at 30° C. in 2-1 laboratory fermenters (Applikon, Schiedam, The Netherlands) with a working volume of 1 1. The culture pH was maintained at pH 5.0 by automatic addition of 2 M KOH. Cultures were stirred at 800 rpm and sparged with 0.5 l min⁻¹ nitrogen gas (<10 ppm oxygen). To minimise diffusion of oxygen, fermenters were equipped with Norprene tubing (Cole Palmer Instrument company, Vernon Hills, USA). Dissolved oxygen was monitored with an oxygen electrode (Applisens, Schiedam, The Netherlands). Oxygen-limited conditions were achieved in the same experimental set-up by headspace aeration at approximately $0.05 \, 1 \, \text{min}^{-1}$.

Determination of Dry Weight

[0166] Culture samples (10.0 ml) were filtered over preweighed nitrocellulose filters (pore size 0.45 µm; Gelman laboratory, Ann Arbor, USA). After removal of medium, the filters were washed with demineralised water and dried in a microwave oven (Bosch, Stuttgart, Germany) for 20 min at 360 W and weighed. Duplicate determinations varied by less than 1%.

Gas Analysis

[0167] Exhaust gas was cooled in a condensor (2° C.) and dried with a Permapure dryer type MD-110-48P-4 (Permapure, Toms River, USA). O2 and CO2 concentrations were determined with a NGA 2000 analyser (Rosemount Analytical, Orrville, USA). Exhaust gasflow rate and specific oxygen-consumption and carbondioxide production rates were determined as described previously (Van Urk et al., 1988; Weusthuis et al., 1994). In calculating these biomass-specific rates, volume changes caused by withdrawing culture samples were taken account for.

Metabolite Analysis

[0168] Glucose, xylose, arabinose, xylitol, organic acids, glycerol and ethanol were analysed by HPLC using a Waters

Alliance 2690 HPLC (Waters, Milford, USA) supplied with a BioRad HPX 87H column (BioRad, Hercules, USA), a Waters 2410 refractive-index detector and aWaters 2487 UV detector. The column was eluted at 60° C. with 0.5 g l⁻¹ sulphuric acid at a flow rate of 0.6 ml min⁻¹.

Assay for Xylulose 5-Phosphate (Zaldivar J., et al, Appl. Microbiol. Biotechnol., (2002), 59:436-442)

[0169] For the analysis of intracellular metabolites such as xylulose 5-phosphate, 5 ml broth was harvested in duplicate from the reactors, before glucose exhaustion (at 22 and 26 h of cultivation) and after glucose exhaustion (42, 79 and 131 h of cultivation). Procedures for metabolic arrest, solid-phase extraction of metabolites and analysis have been described in detail by Smits H. P. et al. (Anal. Biochem., 261:36-42, (1998)). However, the analysis by high-pressure ion exchange chromatography coupled to pulsed amperometric detection used to analyze cell extracts, was slightly modified. Solutions used were eluent A, 75 mM NaOH, and eluent B, 500 mM NaAc. To prevent contamination of carbonate in the eluent solutions, a 50% NaOH solution with low carbonate concentration (Baker Analysed, Deventer, The Netherlands) was used instead of NaOH pellets. The eluents were degassed with Helium (He) for 30 min and then kept under a He atmosphere. The gradient pump was programmed to generate the following gradients: 100% A and 0% B (0 min), a linear decrease of A to 70% and a linear increase of B to 30% (0-30) min), a linear decrease of A to 30% and a linear increase of B to 70% (30-70 min), a linear decrease of A to 0% and a linear increase of B to 100% (70-75 min), 0% A and 100% B (75-85 min), a linear increase of A to 100% and a linear decrease of B to 0% (85-95 min). The mobile phase was run at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. Other conditions were according to Smits et al. (1998).

Carbon Recovery

[0170] Carbon recoveries were calculated as carbon in products formed, divided by the total amount of sugar carbon consumed, and were based on a carbon content of biomass of 48%. To correct for ethanol evaporation during the fermentations, the amount of ethanol produced was assumed to be equal to the measured cumulative production of CO₂ minus the CO₂ production that occurred due to biomass synthesis (5.85 mmol CO₂ per gram biomass (Verduyn et al., 1990)) and the CO₂ associated with acetate formation.

Selection for Growth on L-Arabinose

[0171] Strain IMS0001 (CBS120327 deposited at the CBS on 27/09/06), containing the genes encoding the pathways for both xylose (XylA and XKS1) and arabinose (AraA, AraB, AraD) metabolization, was constructed according the procedure described above. Although capable of growing on xylose (data not shown), strain IMS0001 did not seem to be capable of growing on solid synthetic medium supplemented with 2% L-arabinose. Mutants of IMS0001 capable of utilizing L-arabinose as carbon source for growth were selected by serial transfer in shake flasks and by sequencing-batch cultivation in fermenters (SBR).

[0172] For the serial transfer experiments, a 500-ml shake flask containing 100 ml synthetic medium containing 0.5% galactose were inoculated with either strain IMS0001, or the reference strain RWB219. After 72 hours, at an optical density at 660 nm of 3.0, the cultures were used to inoculate a new shake flask containing 0.1% galactose and 2% arabinose.

Based on HPLC determination with D-ribulose as calibration standard, it was determined that already in the first cultivations of strain IMS0001, on medium containing a galactose/ arabinose mixture, part of the arabinose was converted into ribulose and subsequently excreted to the supernatant. These HPLC analyses were performed using a Waters Alliance 2690 HPLC (Waters, Milford, USA) supplied with a BioRad HPX 87H column (BioRad, Hercules, USA), a Waters 2410 refractive-index detector and a Waters 2487 UV detector. The column was eluted at 60° C. with 0.5 g sulphuric acid at a flow rate of 0.6 ml min⁻¹. In contrast to the reference strain RWB219, the OD_{660} of the culture of strain IMS0001 increased after depletion of the galactose. When after approximately 850 hours growth on arabinose by strain IMS0001 was observed (FIG. 2), this culture was transferred at an OD_{660} of 1.7 to a shake flask containing 2% arabinose. Cultures were then sequentially transferred to fresh medium containing 2% arabinose at an OD_{660} of 2-3. Utilization of arabinose was confirmed by occasionally measuring arabinose concentrations by HPLC (data not shown). The growth rate of these cultures increased from 0 to 0.15 h⁻¹ in approximately 3600 hours (FIG. 3).

[0173] A batch fermentation under oxygen limited conditions was started by inoculating 1 l of synthetic medium supplemented with 2% of arabinose with a 100 ml shake flask culture of arabinose-grown IMS0001 cells with a maximum growth rate on 2% of L-arabinose of approximately 0.12 h⁻¹. When growth on arabinose was observed, the culture was subjected to anaerobic conditions by sparging with nitrogen gas. The sequential cycles of anaerobic batch cultivation were started by either manual or automated replacement of 90% of the culture with synthetic medium with 20 g l⁻¹ arabinose. For each cycle during the SBR fermentation, the exponential growth rate was estimated from the CO₂ profile (FIG. 4). In 13 cycles, the exponential growth rate increased from 0.025 to 0.08 h⁻¹. After 20 cycles a sample was taken, and plated on solid synthetic medium supplemented with 2% of L-arabinose and incubated at 30° C. for several days. Separate colonies were re-streaked twice on solid synthetic medium with L-arabinose. Finally, a shake flask containing synthetic medium with 2% of L-L-arabinose was inoculated with a single colony, and incubated for 5 days at 30° C. This culture was designated as strain IMS0002 (CBS120328 deposited at the Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelculturen (CBS) on 27/09/ 06). Culture samples were taken, 30% of glycerol was added and samples were stored at -80° C.

Mixed Culture Fermentation

[0174] Biomass hydrolysates, a desired feedstock for industrial biotechnology, contain complex mixtures consisting of various sugars amongst which glucose, xylose and arabinose are commonly present in significant fractions. To accomplish ethanolic fermentation of not only glucose and arabinose, but also xylose, an anaerobic batch fermentation was performed with a mixed culture of the arabinose-fermenting strain IMS0002, and the xylose-fermenting strain RWB218. An anaerobic batch fermenter containing 800 ml of synthetic medium supplied with 30 g l⁻¹ D-glucose, 15 g l⁻¹ D-xylose, and 15 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose was inoculated with 100 ml of pre-culture of strain IMS0002. After 10 hours, a 100 ml inoculum of RWB218 was added. In contrast to the mixed sugar fermentation with only strain IMS0002, both xylose and arabinose were consumed after glucose depletion (FIG. 5D). The mixed culture completely consumed all sugars, and

within 80 hours 564.0±6.3 mmol 1¹ ethanol (calculated from the CO₂ production) was produced with a high overall yield of 0.42 g g⁻¹ sugar. Xylitol was produced only in small amounts, to a concentration of 4.7 mmol 1⁻¹.

Characterization of Strain IMS0002

[0175] Growth and product formation of strain IMS0002 was determined during anaerobic batch fermentations on synthetic medium with either L-arabinose as the sole carbon source, or a mixture of glucose, xylose and L-arabinose. The pre-cultures for these anaerobic batch fermentations were prepared in shake flasks containing 100 ml of synthetic medium with 2% L-arabinose, by inoculating with –80° C. frozen stocks of strain IMS0002, and incubating for 48 hours at 30° C.

[0176] FIG. 5A shows that strain IMS0002 is capable of fermenting 20 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose to ethanol during an anaerobic batch fermentation of approximately 70 hours. The specific growth rate under anaerobic conditions with L-arabinose as sole carbon source was 0.05±0.001 h⁻¹. Taking into account the ethanol evaporation during the batch fermentation, the ethanol yield from $20 \,\mathrm{g}\,\mathrm{l}^{-1}$ arabinose was 0.43 ± 0.003 g g⁻¹. Without evaporation correction the ethanol yield was 0.35±0.01 g g⁻¹ of arabinose. No formation of arabinitol was observed during anaerobic growth on arabinose. In FIG. 5B, the ethanolic fermentation of a mixture of 20 g l⁻¹ glucose and 20 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose by strain IMS0002 is shown. L-arabinose consumption started after glucose depletion. Within 70 hours, both the glucose and L-arabinose were completely consumed. The ethanol yield from the total of sugars was 0.42±0. 003 g g^{-1} .

[0177] In FIG. **5**C, the fermentation profile of a mixture of 30 g l⁻¹ glucose, 15 g l⁻¹ D-xylose, and 15 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose by strain IMS0002 is shown. Arabinose consumption started after glucose depletion. Within 80 hours, both the glucose and arabinose were completely consumed. Only 20 mM from 100 mM of xylose was consumed by strain IMS0002. In addition, the formation of 20 mM of xylitol was observed. Apparently, the xylose was converted into xylitol by strain IMS0002. Hence, the ethanol yield from the total of sugars was lower than for the above described fermentations: 0.38 ± 0.001 g g⁻¹. The ethanol yield from the total of glucose and arabinose was similar to the other fermentations: 0.43 ± 0.001 g g⁻¹.

[0178] Table 1 shows the arabinose consumption rates and the ethanol production rates observed for the anaerobic batch fermentation of strain IMS0002. Arabinose was consumed with a rate of 0.23-0.75 g h⁻¹ g⁻¹ biomass dry weight. The rate of ethanol produced from arabinose varied from 0.08-0.31 g h⁻¹ g⁻¹ biomass dry weight.

[0179] Initially, the constructed strain IMS0001 was able to ferment xylose (data not shown). In contrast to our expectations, the selected strain IMS0002 was not capable of fermenting xylose to ethanol (FIG. 5C). To regain the capability of fermenting xylose, a colony of strain IMS0002 was transferred to solid synthetic medium with 2% of D-xylose, and incubated in an anaerobic jar at 30° C. for 25 days. Subsequently, a colony was again transferred to solid synthetic medium with 2% of arabinose. After 4 days of incubation at 30° C., a colony was transferred to a shake flask containing synthetic medium with 2% arabinose. After incubation at 30° C. for 6 days, 30% of glycerol was added, samples were taken and stored at -80° C. A shake flask containing 100 ml of synthetic medium with 2% arabinose was inoculated with such a frozen stock, and was used as preculture for an anaero-

bic batch fermentation on synthetic medium with 20 g l⁻¹ xylose and 20 g l⁻¹ arabinose. In FIG. **6**, the fermentation profile of this batch fermentation is shown. Xylose and arabinose were consumed simultaneously. The arabinose was completed within 70 hours, whereas the xylose was completely consumed in 120 hours. At least 250 mM of ethanol was produced from the total of sugars, not taking into account the evaporation of the ethanol. Assuming an end biomass dry weight of 3.2 g l⁻¹ (assuming a biomass yield of 0.08 g g⁻¹ sugar), the end ethanol concentration estimated from the cumulative CO₂ production (355 mmol l⁻¹) was approximately 330 mmol l⁻¹, corresponding to a ethanol yield of 0.41 g g⁻¹ pentose sugar. In addition to ethanol, glycerol, and organic acids, a small amount of xylitol was produced (approximately 5 mM).

Selection of Strain IMS0003

[0180] Initially, the constructed strain IMS0001 was able to ferment xylose (data not shown). In contrast to our expectations, the selected strain IMS0002 was not capable of fermenting xylose to ethanol (FIG. 5C). To regain the capability of fermenting xylose, a colony of strain IMS0002 was transferred to solid synthetic medium with 2% of D-xylose, and incubated in an anaerobic jar at 30° C. for 25 days. Subsequently, a colony was again transferred to solid synthetic medium with 2% of arabinose. After 4 days of incubation at 30° C., a colony was transferred to a shake flask containing synthetic medium with 2% arabinose. After incubation at 30° C. for 6 days, 30% of glycerol was added, samples were taken and stored at -80° C.

[0181] From this frozen stock, samples were spread on solid synthetic medium with 2% of L-arabinose and incubated at 30° C. for several days. Separate colonies were re-streaked twice on solid synthetic medium with L-arabinose. Finally, a shake flask containing synthetic medium with 2% of L-arabinose was inoculated with a single colony, and incubated for 4 days at 30° C. This culture was designated as strain IMS0003 (CBS 121879 deposited at the CBS on 20/09/07). Culture samples were taken, 30% of glycerol was added and samples were stored at -80° C.

Characterization of Strain IMS0003

[0182] Growth and product formation of strain IMS0003 was determined during an anaerobic batch fermentation on synthetic medium with a mixture of 30 g l⁻¹ glucose, 15 g l⁻¹ D-xylose and 15 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose. The pre-culture for this anaerobic batch fermentation was prepared in a shake flasks containing 100 ml of synthetic medium with 2% L-arabinose, by inoculating with a –80° C. frozen stock of strain IMS0003, and incubated for 48 hours at 30° C.

[0183] In FIG. 7, the fermentation profile of a mixture of 30 g l⁻¹ glucose, 15 g l⁻¹ D-xylose, and 15 g l⁻¹ L-arabinose by strain IMS0003 is shown. Arabinose consumption started after glucose depletion. Within 70 hours, the glucose, xylose and arabinose were completely consumed. Xylose and arabinose were consumed simultaneously. At least 406 mM of ethanol was produced from the total of sugars, not taking into account the evaporation of the ethanol. The final ethanol concentration calculated from the cumulative CO₂ production was 572 mmol l⁻¹, corresponding to an ethanol yield of 0.46 g g⁻¹ of total sugar. In contrast to the fermentation of a mixture of glucose, xylose and arabinose by strain IMS0002 (FIG. 5C) or a mixed culture of strains IMS0002 and RWB218 (FIG. 5D), strain IMS0003 did not produce detectable amounts of xylitol.

TABLE 1

S. cerevisiae strains used.											
Strain	Characteristics	Reference									
RWB217	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P $_{TPI}$::(-266, -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP $_{TPI}$ TKLl pUGP $_{TPI}$ RPEl KanloxP-P $_{TPI}$::(-?, -1)RKIl {p415ADHXKS, PAKX002}	Kuyper et al. 2005a									
RWB218	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-266, -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP _{TPI} TKLl pUGP _{TPI} -RPEl KanloxP-P _{TPI} ::(-?, -1)RKIl {p415ADHXKS1, pAKX002}	Kuyper et al. 2005b									
RWB219	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P $_{TPI}$::(-266, -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP $_{TPI}$ TKLl pUGP $_{TPI}$ RPEl KanloxP-P $_{TPI}$::(-?, -1)RKIl {p415ADHXKS1, pAKX002}	This work									
RWB220	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-266 , -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP _{TPI} TKLl _P UGP _{TPI} -RPEl loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-2 , -1)RKIl	This work									
IMS0001	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-266, -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP _{TPI} TKLl pUGP _{TPI} -RPEl loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-?, -1)RKIl {pRW231, PRW243}	This work									
IMS0002	MATA ura3-52 leu2-112 loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-266, -1)TALl gre3::hphMX pUGP _{TPI} TKLl pUGP _{TPI} -RPEl loxP-P _{TPI} ::(-?, -1)RKIl {pRW231, PRW243} selected for anaerobic growth on L-arabinose	This work									

TABLE 2

Plasmids used												
plasmid	characteristics	Reference										
pRS305 pAKX002 p415ADHXKS1 pRW229 pRW230 pRW231 pRW243	Integration, LEU2 2μ , URA3, P_{TPII} -Piromyces xylA CEN, LEU2, P_{ADHI} -S.cerXKS1 integration, LEU2, P_{ADHI} -S.cerXKS1 pAKX002 with P_{TDH3} -AraA pAKX002 with P_{TDH3} -AraA and P_{HXT7} -AraD LEU2, integration, P_{ADHI} -ScXKS1-T $_{CYC}$, P_{PGII} -L.plantarumAraB-T $_{ADHI}$	Gietz and Sugino, 1988 Kuyper et al. 2003 Kuyper et al., 2005a This work This work This work This work This work										

TABLE 3

		oligos	used	in	this	work
Oligo	DNA seque	ence				

AraA expression cassette

Spel5'Ptdh3 5'GACTAGTCGAGTTTATCATTATCAATACTGC3' SEQ ID NO: 31

5'AraAPtdh 5'CTCATAATCAGGTACTGATAACATTTTGTTTTGTTTATGTGTGTTTATTC3' SEQ ID NO: 32

Ptdh5'AraA 5'GAATAAACACACATAAACAAAACAAAATGTTATCAGTACCTGATTATGAG3 SEQ ID NO: 33

Tadh3'AraA 5'AATCATAAATCATAAGAAATTCGCTTACTTTAAGAATGCCTTAGTCAT3' SEQ ID NO: 34

3'AraATadh 1 5'ATGACTAAGGCATTCTTAAAGTAAGCGAATTTCTTATGATTTATGATT3' SEQ ID NO: 35

3'Tadh 1 Spel5'CACTAGTCTCGAGTGTGGAAGAACGATTACAACAGG3' SEQ ID NO: 36

AraB expression cassette

SacI5'Ppgil 5'CGAGCTCGTGGGTGTATTGGATTATAGGAAG3' SEQ ID NO: 37

5'AraBPpgil 5'TTGGGCTGTTTCAACTAAATTCATTTTTAGGCTGGTATCTTGATTCTA3' SEQ ID NO: 38

Ppgi5'AraB 5'TAGAATCAAGATACCAGCCTAAAAATGAATTTAGTTGAAACAGCCCAA3' SEQ ID NO: 39

TABLE 3-continued

	<u>oligos used in this work</u>
Oligo	DNA sequence
Tadh3'AraB SEQ ID NO: 4	
3'AraBTadh 1	L 5'CTGGGCAAGCAATCAAATATTAGAGCGAATTTCTTATGATTTATGATT3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	11
3'Tadh 1 Sac	cI5'TGAGCTCGTGTGGAAGAACGATTACAACAGG3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	12
	AraD expression cassette
SalI5'Phxt7	5'ACGCGTCGACTCGTAGGAACAATTTCGG3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	13
5'AraDPhxt SEQ ID NO: 4	5'CTTCTTGTTTTAATGCTTCTAGCATTTTTTGATTAAAAATTAAAAAAAA
Phxt5'AraD	5 ' AAGTTTTTTAATTTTAATCAAAAAATGCTAGAAGCATTAAAACAAGAAG3 '
SEQ ID NO: 4	45
Tpgi3'AraD	5'GGTATATATTTAAGAGCGATTTGTTTACTTGCGAACTGCATGATCC3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	46
3'AraDTpgi	5'GGATCATGCAGTTCGCAAGTAAACAAATCGCTCTTAAATATATACC3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	47
3'TpgiSalI	5'CGCAGTCGACCTTTTAAACAGTTGATGAGAACC3'
SEQ ID NO: 4	48

TABLE 4

Maximum observed specific glucose and arabinose consumption
rates and ethanol production rates during anaerobic batch
fermentations of S. cerevisiae IMS0002.

C-source	$g h^{-1} g^{-1} DW$	$g h^{-1} g^{-1} DW$	$g_{eth, glu}$ $g h^{-1} g^{-1} DW$	$\begin{array}{c} q_{eth,\;ara} \\ g \ h^{-1} \ g^{-1} \ DW \end{array}$
20 g l ⁻¹ arabinose 20 g l ⁻¹ glucose 20 g l ⁻¹ arabinose	 2.08 ± 0.09	0.75 ± 0.04 0.41 ± 0.01	— 0.69 ± 0.00	0.31 ± 0.02 0.19 ± 0.00
30 g l ⁻¹ glucose 15 g l ⁻¹ xylose 15 g l ⁻¹ arabinose	1.84 ± 0.04	0.23 ± 0.01	0.64 ± 0.03	0.08 ± 0.01

 q_{glu} : specific glucose consumption rate

q_{eth, glu}: specific ethanol production rate during growth on glucose

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q_{ara}: specific arabinose consumption rate

 $q_{eth, ara}$: specific ethanol production rate during growth on arabinose

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        35
Val Phe Lys Asp Val Met Thr Thr Ala Glu Ser Ile Thr Asn Phe Met
    50
                        55
Lys Glu Val Asn Tyr Asn Asp Lys Val Ala Gly Val Ile Thr Trp Met
His Thr Phe Ser Pro Ala Lys Asn Trp Ile Arg Gly Thr Glu Leu Leu
                85
                                    90
Gln Lys Pro Leu Leu His Leu Ala Thr Gln Tyr Leu Asn Asn Ile Pro
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            100
                                105
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Lys Met Ile Se	er Tyr Ala 405	Val Asp	Ala Asn 410	Lys Pro	o Glu Al	a Glu 415	Thr	
Pro Asn Leu Pa	ro Val Ala 20	Lys Gln	Leu Trp 425	Thr Pro	b Lys Me 43	-	Leu	
Lys Lys Gly A 435	la Leu Glu	Trp Met	Gln Ala	Gly Gly	Gly Hi 445	s His	Thr	
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210

215

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220

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His	Gly	Tyr	Leu 100	Ala	Phe	Asp	Gln	Gln 105	Ala	Lys	Leu	Leu	Val 110	Pro	Phe		
Arg	Thr	Trp 115	Arg	Asn	Asn	Ile	Thr 120	Gly	Gln	Ala	Ala	Asp 125	Glu	Leu	Thr		
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Lys	Val 210	Lys	Pro	Tyr	Ser	Trp 215	Asp	Ile	Arg	His	Ile 220	Leu	Pro	Arg	Val		

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Pro	Glu	Gly	Asp 260	Ala	Gly	Thr	Gly	Met 265	Val	Gly	Thr	Asn	Ser 270	Val	Arg				
Lys	Arg	Thr 275	Gly	Asn	Ile	Ser	Val 280	Gly	Thr	Ser	Ala	Phe 285	Ser	Met	Asn				
Val		_	_		Leu		_		_	_	_	Ile	Asp	Ile	Val				
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Ser	Met	Thr	Leu 500	Ser	Pro	Glu	Pro	Glu 505	Arg	Val	Ala	Gly	Tyr 510	Arg	Glu				
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360

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Gly Glu Let 50	u Lys Pro S	er Asp Leu 55	Val Val Val	Asn Leu Gln Gly Glu 60	
Val Val Glu 65		eu Asn Pro 0	Ser Ser Asp 75	Thr Pro Thr His Thr 80	
Val Leu Ty:	r Asn Ala F 85	he Pro Asn	Ile Gly Gly 90	Ile Val His Thr His 95	
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Met Asn Thr Thr His Ala Asp Thr Phe Tyr Gly Asp Val Pro Ala Ala

120

115

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Trp Trp His Thr Leu Cys Ala Glu Gly Ala Asp Gln Phe Gly Gly

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Pro	Tyr	Tyr	Cys 100	Phe	His	Asp	Val	Asp 105	Leu	Val	Ser	Glu	Gly 110	Asn	Ser
Ile	Glu	Glu 115	Tyr	Glu	Ser	Asn	Leu 120	Lys	Ala	Val	Val	Ala 125	Tyr	Leu	Lys
Glu	Lys 130	Gln	Lys	Glu	Thr	Gly 135		Lys	Leu	Leu	Trp 140	Ser	Thr	Ala	Asn
Val 145	Phe	Gly	His	Lys	Arg 150	Tyr	Met	Asn	Gly	Ala 155	Ser	Thr	Asn	Pro	Asp 160
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Ala	Gly	Ile	Glu 180	Leu	Gly	Ala	Glu	Asn 185	Tyr	Val	Phe	Trp	Gly 190	Gly	Arg
Glu	Gly	Tyr 195	Met	Ser	Leu	Leu	Asn 200	Thr	Asp	Gln	Lys	Arg 205	Glu	Lys	Glu
His	Met 210	Ala	Thr	Met	Leu	Thr 215	Met	Ala	Arg	Asp	Tyr 220	Ala	Arg	Ser	Lys
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His	Lys 50	Pro	Val	Val	Thr	Ser 55	Pro	Glu	Thr	Ile	Arg 60	Glu	Leu	Leu	Arg
Glu 65	Ala	Glu	Tyr	Ser	Glu 70	Thr	Сув	Ala	Gly	Ile 75	Ile	Thr	Trp	Met	His 80
Thr	Phe	Ser	Pro	Ala 85	Lys	Met	Trp	Ile	Glu 90	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ser	Tyr 95	Gln
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Gly	Thr	Ile 115	Asp	Met	Asp	Phe	Met 120	Asn	Ser	Asn	Gln	Ser 125	Ala	His	Gly
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Ala	Lys	Gly	Lys	Arg 325	Thr	Ser	Phe	Met	Glu 330	Asp	Tyr	Thr	Tyr	His 335	Phe
Glu	Pro	Gly	Asn 340	Glu	Met	Ile	Leu	Gly 345	Ser	His	Met	Leu	Glu 350	Val	Cya
Pro	Thr	Val 355	Ala	Leu	Asp	Gln	Pro 360	Lys	Ile	Glu	Val	His 365	Ser	Leu	Ser
Ile	Gly 370	Gly	Lys	Glu	Asp	Pro 375	Ala	Arg	Leu	Val	Phe 380	Asn	Gly	Ile	Ser
Gly 385	Ser	Ala	Ile	Gln	Ala 390	Ser	Ile	Val	Asp	Ile 395	Gly	Gly	Arg	Phe	Arg 400
Leu	Val	Leu	Asn	Glu 405	Val	Asn	Gly	Gln	Glu 410	Ile	Glu	Lys	Asp	Met 415	Pro
Asn	Leu	Pro	Val 420	Ala	Arg	Val	Leu	Trp 425	Lys	Pro	Glu	Pro	Ser 430	Leu	Lys
Thr	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Trp	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gly	Gly	Ala	His	His	Thr	Cys

435	440	445	
Leu Ser Tyr Glu Leu 450	Thr Ala Glu Gln Met Leu 455	. Asp Trp Ala Glu Met 460	
•	Val Leu Ile Ser Arg Asp 470 475	•	
Leu Lys His Glu Leu 485	Lys Trp Asn Glu Ala Leu 490	Tyr Arg Leu Gln Lys 495	
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tttgtgaggg gctcagcgg	gg atttcttcca gatataaaat	cactcataag cccgtcgtca	180
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ctgtcgcttt ggatcagcc	g aaaatcgagg ttcattcgct	ttcgattggc ggcaaagagg	1140
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cagcggagca aatgcttga	at tgggcggaaa tggcgggaat	cgaaagtgtt ctcatttccc	1440
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<210> SEQ ID NO 11

<211> LENGTH: 566

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: E. coli

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Trp Tyr Pro Arg 35	Trp Gln	Lys Gly 40	Gln	Phe	Cys	Asp	Ala 45	Pro	Asn	Asn
Gln Phe Arg His 50							Met	Glu	Ala	Ala
Leu Lys Thr Val 65	Leu Ala 70	Glu Leu	Ser	Val	Glu 75	Gln	Arg	Ala	Ala	Val 80
Val Gly Ile Gly	Val Asp 85	Ser Thr	_	Ser 90	Thr	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ile 95	Asp
Ala Asp Gly Asn 100	Val Leu	Ala Leu	Arg 105	Pro	Glu	Phe	Ala	Glu 110	Asn	Pro
Asn Ala Met Phe 115	Val Leu	Trp Lys 120	Asp	His	Thr	Ala	Val 125	Glu	Arg	Ser
Glu Glu Ile Thr 130	Arg Leu	Cys His 135	Ala	Pro	Gly	Asn 140	Val	Asp	Tyr	Ser
Arg Tyr Ile Gly 145	Gly Ile 150	Tyr Ser	Ser		Trp 155		Trp	Ala	Lys	Ile 160
Leu His Val Thr	Arg Gln 165	Asp Ser		Val 170	Ala	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ala 175	Ser
Trp Ile Glu Leu 180	Cys Asp	Trp Val	Pro 185	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ser	Gly 190	Thr	Thr
Arg Pro Gln Asp 195	_		_	_			_	His	Lys	Ser
Leu Trp His Glu 210	Ser Trp	Gly Gly 215	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ala 220	Ser	Phe	Phe	Asp
Glu Leu Asp Pro 225	Ile Leu 230	Asn Arg	His	Leu	Pro 235	Ser	Pro	Leu	Phe	Thr 240
Asp Thr Trp Thr	Ala Asp 245	Ile Pro		Gly 250	Thr	Leu	Cys	Pro	Glu 255	Trp
Ala Gln Arg Leu 260	Gly Leu	Pro Glu	Ser 265	Val	Val	Ile	Ser	Gly 270	Gly	Ala
Phe Asp Cys His 275	Met Gly	Ala Val 280	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Gln 285	Pro	Asn	Ala
Leu Val Lys Val 290	_	Thr Ser 295	Thr	Cys	Asp	Ile 300	Leu	Ile	Ala	Asp
Lys Gln Ser Val 305	Gly Glu 310	Arg Ala	Val	_	Gly 315	Ile	Cys	Gly	Gln	Val 320
Asp Gly Ser Val	Val Pro 325	Gly Phe		Gly 330	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gly	Gln 335	Ser
Ala Phe Gly Asp 340	_	_							Trp	Pro
Leu Glu Gln Leu 355	Ala Ala	Gln His 360	Pro	Glu	Leu	Lys	Ala 365	Gln	Ile	Asn
Ala Ser Gln Lys 370	Gln Leu	Leu Pro 375	Ala	Leu	Thr	Glu 380	Ala	Trp	Ala	Lys
Asn Pro Ser Leu	Asp His	Leu Pro	Val	Val	Leu	Asp	Trp	Phe	Asn	Gly

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395 390 395 400	
Arg Arg Ser Pro Asn Ala Asn Gln Arg Leu Lys Gly Val Ile Thr Asp 405 410 415	
Leu Asn Leu Ala Thr Asp Ala Pro Leu Leu Phe Gly Gly Leu Ile Ala 420 425 430	
Ala Thr Ala Phe Gly Ala Arg Ala Ile Met Glu Cys Phe Thr Asp Gln 435 440 445	
Gly Ile Ala Val Asn Asn Val Met Ala Leu Gly Gly Ile Ala Arg Lys 450 455 460	
Asn Gln Val Ile Met Gln Ala Cys Cys Asp Val Leu Asn Arg Pro Leu 465 470 480	
Gln Ile Val Ala Ser Asp Gln Cys Cys Ala Leu Gly Ala Ala Ile Phe 485 490 495	
Ala Ala Val Ala Ala Lys Val His Ala Asp Ile Pro Ser Ala Gln Gln 500 505 510	
Lys Met Ala Ser Ala Val Glu Lys Thr Leu Gln Pro Arg Ser Glu Gln 515 520 525	
Ala Gln Arg Phe Glu Gln Leu Tyr Arg Arg Tyr Gln Gln Trp Ala Met 530 535 540	
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caattttgtg atgccccgaa taaccagttc cgtcatcatc cgcgtgacta cattgagtca	180
atggaagcgg cactgaaaac cgtgcttgca gagcttagcg tcgaacagcg cgcagctgtg	240
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gaccacactg cggttgaaag aagcgaagag attacccgtt tgtgccacgc gccgggcaat	420
gttgactact cccgctatat tggcggtatt tattccagcg aatggttctg ggcaaaaatc	480
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tgcgactggg tgccagctct gctttccggt accacccgcc cgcaggatat tcgtcgcgga	600
cgttgcagcg ccgggcataa atctctgtgg cacgaaagct ggggcggctt gccgccagcc	660
agtttctttg atgagctgga cccgatcctc aatcgccatt tgccttcccc gctgttcact	720
gacacctgga ctgccgatat tccggtgggc accttatgcc cggaatgggc gcagcgtctc	780
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960

1020

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ctgattgccg acaaacagag cgttggcgag cgggcagtta aaggtatttg cggtcaggtt

gatggcagcg tggtgcctgg atttatcggt ctggaagcag gccaatcggc gtttggtgat

atct	acgo	cct ç	ggtto	cggt	cg cq	gtact	tcago	c tgg	gaaga	ctgg	aaca	agctt	tgc (egeed	cagcat	1	080
ccgg	gaact	iga a	aagco	gcaaa	at ca	aacgo	ccago	c caç	gaaac	caac	tgct	tac	ggc (gctga	accgaa	1	140
gcat	ggg	cca a	aaaat	ccgt	tc to	ctgga	atcad	c cto	geegg	gtgg	tgct	cga	ctg (gttta	aacggt	1:	200
cgto	cgcto	ege (caaac	cgcta	aa co	caaco	gccto	g aaa	agggg	gtga	ttad	ccgat	cct t	caaco	ctcgct	1	260
acco	gacgo	ctc (cgcto	gatgi	tt co	ggcg	gtttg	g att	gate	gcca	ccg	cctt	tgg (cgcad	cgcgca	1:	320
atca	atgga	agt g	gcttt	cacc	ga to	cagg	ggato	c gco	cgtca	aata	acgt	gato	ggc (gatgo	ggcggc	1:	380
atco	gagag	gga a	aaaa	ccaaç	gt ca	attat	tgcag	g gco	ctgct	gcg	acgt	gct	gaa t	cgco	ccgctg	1	440
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Pro	Lys	His	Asn 20	Leu	Val	Thr	Leu	Thr 25	Trp	Gly	Asn	Val	Ser 30	Ala	Val		
Asp	Arg	Glu 35	Arg	Gly	Val	Phe	Val 40	Ile	Lys	Pro	Ser	Gly 45	Val	Asp	Tyr		
Ser	Ile 50	Met	Thr	Ala	Asp	Asp 55	Met	Val	Val	Val	Ser 60	Ile	Glu	Thr	Gly		
Glu 65	Val	Val	Glu	Gly	Ala 70	Lys	Lys	Pro	Ser	Ser 75	Asp	Thr	Pro	Thr	His 80		
Arg	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Gln 85	Ala	Phe	Pro	Ser	Ile 90	Gly	Gly	Ile	Val	His 95	Thr		
His	Ser	Arg	His 100	Ala	Thr	Ile	Trp	Ala 105	Gln	Ala	Gly	Gln	Ser 110	Ile	Pro		
Ala	Thr	Gly 115	Thr	Thr	His	Ala	Asp 120	Tyr	Phe	Tyr	Gly	Thr 125	Ile	Pro	Cys		
Thr	Arg 130	Lys	Met	Thr	Asp	Ala 135	Glu	Ile	Asn	Gly	Glu 140	Tyr	Glu	Trp	Glu		
Thr 145	Gly	Asn	Val	Ile	Val 150	Glu	Thr	Phe	Glu	Lys 155	Gln	Gly	Ile	Asp	Ala 160		
Ala	Gln	Met	Pro	Gly 165	Val	Leu	Val	His	Ser 170	His	Gly	Pro	Phe	Ala 175	Trp		
Gly	Lys	Asn	Ala 180	Glu	Asp	Ala	Val	His 185	Asn	Ala	Ile	Val	Leu 190	Glu	Glu		
Val	Ala	Tyr 195	Met	Gly	Ile	Phe	Cys 200	Arg	Gln	Leu	Ala	Pro 205	Gln	Leu	Pro		
Asp	Met 210	Gln	Gln	Thr	Leu	Leu 215	Asn	Lys	His	Tyr	Leu 220	Arg	Lys	His	Gly		
Ala 225	Lys	Ala	Tyr	Tyr	Gly 230	Gln											
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<210> SEQ ID NO 14 <211> LENGTH: 696

<211> HENGIII. 09

<213> ORGANISM: E. coli

< 400)> SI	EQUE	NCE :	14												
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ctg	gtcad	ege :	tcaca	atggg	gg ca	aacgt	cago	gc	gttg	gatc	gcga	agcgo	cgg	cgtct	ttgtg	120
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atcg	gaaad	ccg (gtgaa	agtgg	gt to	gaag	gtgcg	g aaa	aaago	ccct	cct	ccgat	tac	gccaa	actcac	240
cgad	ctgct	ct .	atcaç	ggcat	t c	ccgt	ccatt	gg	eggea	attg	tgca	acaca	aca	ctcg	cgccac	300
gcca	actat	ct (gggcg	gcago	gc g	ggcca	agtcg	g att	ccaç	gcaa	ccg	gcaco	cac	ccacç	gccgac	360
tatt	tcta	acg (gcaco	catto	cc c1	tgcad	cccgc	c aaa	aatga	accg	acgo	cagaa	aat	caaco	ggtgaa	420
tato	gagto	ggg (aaaco	cggta	aa c	gtcat	cgta	a gaa	aacct	tcg	aaaa	aaca	ggg	tatco	gatgca	480
gcg	caaat	gc	ccgg	cgtco	ct g	gtcca	attct	cad	egged	ccat	ttg	catg	ggg	caaaa	aatgcc	540
gaag	gatgo	gg	tgcat	caacg	ge ea	atcgt	tgata	g gaa	agagg	gtcg	ctta	atato	ggg	gatat	tctgc	600
cgt	cagtt	ag	cgccg	gcagt	t a	ccgga	atato	g caq	gcaaa	acgc	tgct	gaat	taa	acact	atctg	660
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Gly	Lys	Asp	Ser 20	Lys	Asn	Pro	Met	Ala 25	Phe	Arg	Tyr	Tyr	Asp 30	Ala	Glu	
Lys	Val	Ile 35	Asn	Gly	Lys	Lys	Met 40	Lys	Asp	Trp	Leu	Arg 45	Phe	Ala	Met	
Ala	Trp 50	Trp	His	Thr	Leu	Сув 55	Ala	Glu	Gly	Gly	Asp 60	Gln	Phe	Gly	Gly	
Gly 65	Thr	Lys	Gln	Phe	Pro 70	Trp	Asn	Gly	Asn	Ala 75	Asp	Ala	Ile	Gln	Ala 80	
Ala	Lys	Asp	Lys	Met 85	Asp	Ala	Gly	Phe	Glu 90	Phe	Met	Gln	Lys	Met 95	Gly	
Ile	Glu	Tyr	Tyr 100	Cys	Phe	His	Asp	Val 105	Asp	Leu	Val	Ser	Glu 110	Gly	Ala	
Ser	Val	Glu 115		Tyr	Glu	Ala	Asn 120	Leu	Lys	Glu	Ile	Val 125	Ala	Tyr	Ala	
Lys	Gln 130	Lys	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr 135	Gly	Ile	Lys	Leu	Leu 140	Trp	Gly	Thr	Ala	
Asn 145	Val	Phe	Gly	His	Ala 150	Arg	Tyr	Met	Asn	Gly 155	Ala	Ala	Thr	Asn	Pro 160	
Asp	Phe	Asp	Val	Val 165	Ala	Arg	Ala	Ala	Val 170	Gln	Ile	Lys	Asn	Ala 175	Ile	
Asp	Ala	Thr	Ile 180	Glu	Leu	Gly	Gly	Glu 185	Asn	Tyr	Val	Phe	Trp 190	Gly	Gly	
Arg	Glu	Gly 195	-	Met	Ser	Leu	Leu 200	Asn	Thr	Asp	Gln	Lys 205	Arg	Glu	Lys	
~ 7	TT!.	_		~ 1	N	.	m1_	-		-	7		~ 7	3	77	

Glu His Leu Ala Gln Met Leu Thr Ile Ala Arg Asp Tyr Ala Arg Ala 210 220

780

											0011	C 111.	aca		
Arg Gl 225	y Phe	Lys	Gly	Thr 230	Phe	Leu	Ile	Glu	Pro 235	Lys	Pro	Met	Glu	Pro 240	
Thr Ly	s His	Gln	Tyr 245	Asp	Val	Asp	Thr	Glu 250	Thr	Val	Ile	Gly	Phe 255	Leu	
Lys Al	a His	Gly 260	Leu	Asp	Lys	Asp	Phe 265	Lys	Val	Asn	Ile	Glu 270	Val	Asn	
His Al	a Thr 275		Ala	Gly	His	Thr 280	Phe	Glu	His	Glu	Leu 285	Ala	Val	Ala	
Val As	_	Gly	Met	Leu	Gly 295	Ser	Ile	Asp	Ala	Asn 300	Arg	Gly	Asp	Tyr	
Gln As	n Gly	Trp	Asp	Thr 310	Asp	Gln	Phe	Pro	Ile 315	Asp	Asn	Tyr	Glu	Leu 320	
Thr Gl	n Ala	Met	Met 325	Gln	Ile	Ile	Arg	Asn 330	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Thr 335	Gly	
Gly Th	ır Asn	Phe 340	Asp	Ala	Lys	Thr	Arg 345	Arg	Asn	Ser	Thr	Asp 350	Leu	Glu	
Asp Il	e Phe. 355		Ala	His	Ile	Ala 360	_	Met	Asp	Ala	Met 365	Ala	Arg	Ala	
Leu Gl	u Ser	_	Ala	Ala	Leu 375			Glu	Ser	Pro 380	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Met	
Leu Al 385		Arg	Tyr	Ala 390	Ser	Phe	Asp	Gly	Gly 395	Lys	Gly	Lys	Glu	Phe 400	
Glu As	sp Gly	Lys	Leu 405	Thr	Leu	Glu	Asp	Val 410	Val	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Lys 415		
Lys Gl	y Glu	Pro 420		Gln	Thr	Ser	Gly 425		Gln	Glu	Leu	Tyr 430		Ala	
Ile Le	u Asn 435	Met	Tyr	Сув			120								
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<400>	SEQUE	NCE :	16												
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aaggat	tggc	tgaga	attc	gc ta	atggo	catgo	g tgg	gcaca	acat	tgt	gagat	iga a	aggtg	ggtgat	180
cagtto	ggtg	gcgga	aacaa	aa go	caatt	ccca	a tgg	gaato	ggta	atgo	cagat	.gc t	atac	caggca	240
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gactto	gatg	tagta	agcto	cg to	gatgo	ctgtt	caç	gatca	aaaa	atgo	cgatt	iga t	gcaa	acgatt	540
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<210> SEQ ID NO 17

<211> LENGTH: 258

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213 > ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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Asn Leu Lys Phe Asp Asp His Lys Ile Ile Gly Ile Gly Ser Gly Ser 35

Thr Val Val Tyr Val Ala Glu Arg Ile Gly Gln Tyr Leu His Asp Pro 50 55

Lys Phe Tyr Glu Val Ala Ser Lys Phe Ile Cys Ile Pro Thr Gly Phe 65 75 80

Gln Ser Arg Asn Leu Ile Leu Asp Asn Lys Leu Gln Leu Gly Ser Ile 85 90 95

Glu Gln Tyr Pro Arg Ile Asp Ile Ala Phe Asp Gly Ala Asp Glu Val 100 105

Asp Glu Asn Leu Gln Leu Ile Lys Gly Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Phe Gln 115 120

Glu Lys Leu Val Ser Thr Ser Ala Lys Thr Phe Ile Val Val Ala Asp

130 135 140
Ser Arg Lys Lys Ser Pro Lys His Leu Gly Lys Asn Trp Arg Gln Gly

155

160

Val Pro Ile Glu Ile Val Pro Ser Ser Tyr Val Arg Val Lys Asn Asp 165 170 175

150

Leu Leu Glu Gln Leu His Ala Glu Lys Val Asp Ile Arg Gln Gly Gly 180

Ser Ala Lys Ala Gly Pro Val Val Thr Asp Asn Asn Asn Phe Ile Ile 195 200 205

Asp Ala Asp Phe Gly Glu Ile Ser Asp Pro Arg Lys Leu His Arg Glu 210 215 220

Ile Lys Leu Leu Val Gly Val Val Glu Thr Gly Leu Phe Ile Asp Asn 235 240

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Glu Lys

<210> SEQ ID NO 18 <211> LENGTH: 2467 <212> TYPE: DNA

<213 > ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

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Ile Lys Pro Gly 130	Thr Ser Val 135	Asp Val Leu	Phe Glu Leu Al 140	a Pro His
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Lys Phe Met Glu	Asp Met Met 165	Pro Lys Val 170	Glu Thr Leu Ar	g Ala Lys 175
Phe Pro His Leu 180		Val Asp Gly 185	Gly Leu Gly Ly 19	
Ile Pro Lys Ala 195	Ala Lys Ala	Gly Ala Asn 200	Val Ile Val Al 205	a Gly Thr
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<213> ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

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<212> TYPE: PRT

<213 > ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

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Arg Met Asn Pro Thr Asn Pro Asp Trp Ile Asn Arg Asp Arg Phe Val 50

Leu Ser Asn Gly His Ala Val Ala Leu Leu Tyr Ser Met Leu His Leu 65 70 75 80

Thr Gly Tyr Asp Leu Ser Ile Glu Asp Leu Lys Gln Phe Arg Gln Leu 85

Gly Ser Arg Thr Pro Gly His Pro Glu Phe Glu Leu Pro Gly Val Glu 100 110

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Pro 385	Ser	Asn	Leu	Thr	Arg 390	Trp	Lys	Glu	Ala	Leu 395	Asp	Phe	Gln	Pro	Pro 400
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Ala	Ala 450	Gly	Ala	Val	Arg	Leu 455	Ser	Ala	Leu	Ser	Gly 460	His	Pro	Val	Ile
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Gln	Val	Trp	Arg 500	Pro	Ala	Asp	Gly	Asn 505	Glu	Val	Ser	Ala	Ala 510	Tyr	Lys
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Thr	Phe	Asp 595	Lys	Gln	Pro	Leu	Glu 600	Tyr	Arg	Leu	Ser	Val 605	Leu	Pro	Asp	
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840

900

960

1020

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<210> SEQ ID NO 23

<211> LENGTH: 335

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 23

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Ser Leu Ile Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Gln Pro Thr Tyr Ala Lys Leu Ile 50 55

Asp Val Ala Val Glu Tyr Gly Lys Lys His Gly Lys Thr Thr Glu Glu 65 70 75 80

Gln Val Glu Asn Ala Val Asp Arg Leu Leu Val Glu Phe Gly Lys Glu 85 90 95

Ile Leu Lys Ile Val Pro Gly Arg Val Ser Thr Glu Val Asp Ala Arg 100 105 110

Leu Ser Phe Asp Thr Gln Ala Thr Ile Glu Lys Ala Arg His Ile Ile 115 120

Lys Leu Phe Glu Gln Glu Gly Val Ser Lys Glu Arg Val Leu Ile Lys 130 140

Ile Ala Ser Thr Trp Glu Gly Ile Gln Ala Ala Lys Glu Leu Glu Glu 145 150 150

Lys Asp Gly Ile His Cys Asn Leu Thr Leu Leu Phe Ser Phe Val Gln 165 170 175

Ala Val Ala Cys Ala Glu Ala Gln Val Thr Leu Ile Ser Pro Phe Val

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960

1020

1080

1140

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<210> SEQ ID NO 25 <211> LENGTH: 600

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 25

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Leu Lys Cys Leu Ala Ile Asn Gln Asp Leu Lys Ile Val His Ser Glu 35 40

Thr Val Glu Phe Glu Lys Asp Leu Pro His Tyr His Thr Lys Lys Gly 50

Val Tyr Ile His Gly Asp Thr Ile Glu Cys Pro Val Ala Met Trp Leu 65 70 75 80

Glu Ala Leu Asp Leu Val Leu Ser Lys Tyr Arg Glu Ala Lys Phe Pro 85 90

Leu Asn Lys Val Met Ala Val Ser Gly Ser Cys Gln Gln His Gly Ser 100 110

Val Tyr Trp Ser Ser Gln Ala Glu Ser Leu Leu Glu Gln Leu Asn Lys 115 120

Lys Pro Glu Lys Asp Leu Leu His Tyr Val Ser Ser Val Ala Phe Ala 130 140

Arg Gln Thr Ala Pro Asn Trp Gln Asp His Ser Thr Ala Lys Gln Cys 145 150 150

Gln Glu Phe Glu Cys Ile Gly Gly Pro Glu Lys Met Ala Gln Leu 165 170 175

Thr Gly Ser Arg Ala His Phe Arg Phe Thr Gly Pro Gln Ile Leu Lys 180 185

Ile Ala Gln Leu Glu Pro Glu Ala Tyr Glu Lys Thr Lys Thr Ile Ser

		195					200					205			
Leu	Val 210	Ser	Asn	Phe	Leu	Thr 215	Ser	Ile	Leu	Val	Gly 220	His	Leu	Val	Glu
Leu 225	Glu	Glu	Ala	Asp	Ala 230	Cys	Gly	Met		Leu 235	-	Asp	Ile	Arg	Glu 240
Arg	Lys	Phe	Ser	Asp 245	Glu	Leu	Leu	His	Leu 250	Ile	Asp	Ser	Ser	Ser 255	Lys
Asp	Lys	Thr	Ile 260	Arg	Gln	Lys	Leu	Met 265	_	Ala	Pro	Met	Lys 270	Asn	Leu
Ile	Ala	Gly 275	Thr	Ile	Сув	Lys	Tyr 280	Phe	Ile	Glu	Lys	Tyr 285	Gly	Phe	Asn
Thr	Asn 290	Cys	Lys	Val	Ser	Pro 295	Met	Thr	Gly	Asp	Asn 300	Leu	Ala	Thr	Ile
305	Ser	Leu	Pro	Leu	Arg 310	Lys	Asn	Asp	Val	Leu 315	Val	Ser	Leu	Gly	Thr 320
Ser	Thr	Thr	Val	Leu 325	Leu	Val	Thr	Asp	330	Tyr	His	Pro	Ser	Pro 335	Asn
Tyr	His	Leu	Phe 340	Ile	His	Pro	Thr	Leu 345	Pro	Asn	His	Tyr	Met 350	Gly	Met
Ile	Cys	Tyr 355	Cys	Asn	Gly	Ser	Leu 360	Ala	Arg	Glu	Arg	Ile 365	Arg	Asp	Glu
Leu	Asn 370	Lys	Glu	Arg	Glu	Asn 375	Asn	Tyr	Glu	Lys	Thr 380	Asn	Asp	Trp	Thr
Leu 385	Phe	Asn	Gln	Ala	Val 390	Leu	Asp	Asp	Ser	Glu 395	Ser	Ser	Glu	Asn	Glu 400
Leu	Gly	Val	Tyr	Phe 405	Pro	Leu	Gly	Glu	Ile 410	Val	Pro	Ser	Val	Lys 415	Ala
Ile	Asn	Lys	Arg 420	Val	Ile	Phe	Asn	Pro 425	Lys	Thr	Gly	Met	Ile 430	Glu	Arg
Glu	Val	Ala 435	Lys	Phe	Lys	Asp	Lys 440	Arg	His	Asp	Ala	Lys 445	Asn	Ile	Val
Glu	Ser 450	Gln	Ala	Leu	Ser	Сув 455	Arg	Val	Arg	Ile	Ser 460	Pro	Leu	Leu	Ser
Asp 465	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ser	Ser 470	Gln	Gln	Arg	Leu	Asn 475	Glu	Asp	Thr	Ile	Val 480
-		_	Tyr	485					490	_	-			495	_
Pro	Glu	Arg	Thr 500	Phe	Phe	Val	Gly	Gly 505	Ala	Ser	Lys	Asn	Asp 510	Ala	Ile
Val	_	515					520	_			_	525			_
	530		Pro			535			_	_	540	-	-		
545			Leu	-	550			<u>-</u>		555				_	560
			Asp	565			_		570					575	-
	_		Glu 580			_		Tyr 585	Asn	Ser	ГÀв	Ile	Val 590	Pro	Leu
Ser	Glu	Leu 595	Glu	Lys	Thr	Leu	Ile 600								

<210> SEQ ID NO 26 <211> LENGTH: 2467 <212> TYPE: DNA

<213 > ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

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tttc	ccato	ggc a	atgta	aatgo	ga aa	agcat	tatco	c gat	gtg	gata	atga	aaaat	ttg (gatco	gctata	2100
atto	ccaaç	gat 1	tgtc	ccctt	ta aç	gcgaa	actgo	g aaa	aagao	ctct	cato	ctaaa	aat a	atgtt	tgaat	2160
aatt	tato	cat 🤅	gadat	gaca	aa gt	cacac	cacaa	a aca	acaga	acac	ataa	atata	aca t	cacat	tatata	2220
tata	atcad	ccg t	ttatt	tatgo	cg to	gcaca	atgad	c aat	gaad	cttg	tato	gttt	cgt a	atact	gtagc	2280
aagt	agto	cat (catt	tgtt	ta a	ccgtt	cgga	a aaa	atgad	caaa	aagt	caaaa	atc a	aataa	aatgaa	2340
gagt	aaaa	aaa (caatt	tate	ga aa	agggt	gago	c gad	ccago	caac	gaga	agaga	aca a	aatca	aaatta	2400
gcg	ctttc	cca 🤅	gtgag	gaata	at aa	agaga	agcat	t tga	aaaga	agct	aggt	tati	tgt t	caaat	catct	2460
cgaç	gctc															2467
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		~	Val		Gly	Ile	Asp	Leu	Gly 10	Thr	Gln	Ser	Met	Lуs 15	Val	
Val	Ile	Tyr	Asp 20	Tyr	Glu	Lys	Lys	Glu 25	Ile	Ile	Glu	Ser	Ala 30	Ser	Сув	
Pro	Met	Glu 35	Leu	Ile	Ser	Glu	Ser 40	Asp	Gly	Thr	Arg	Glu 45	Gln	Thr	Thr	
Glu	Trp 50	Phe	Asp	Lys	Gly	Leu 55	Glu	Val	Сув	Phe	Gly 60	Lys	Leu	Ser	Ala	
Asp 65	Asn	Lys	Lys	Thr	Ile 70	Glu	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ile 75	Ser	Gly	Gln	Leu	His 80	
Gly	Phe	Val	Pro	Leu 85	Asp	Ala	Asn	Gly	Lys 90	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asn	Ile 95	Lys	
Leu	Trp	Сув	Asp 100	Thr	Ala	Thr	Val	Glu 105	Glu	Сув	Lys	Ile	Ile 110	Thr	Asp	
Ala	Ala	Gly 115	Gly	Asp	Lys	Ala	Val 120	Ile	Asp	Ala	Leu	Gly 125	Asn	Leu	Met	
Leu	Thr 130	Gly	Phe	Thr	Ala	Pro 135	Lys	Ile	Leu	Trp	Leu 140	Lys	Arg	Asn	Lys	
Pro 145	Glu	Ala	Phe	Ala	Asn 150	Leu	Lys	Tyr	Ile	Met 155	Leu	Pro	His	Asp	Tyr 160	
Leu	Asn	Trp	Lys	Leu 165	Thr	Gly	Asp	Tyr	Val 170	Met	Glu	Tyr	Gly	Asp 175	Ala	
Ser	Gly	Thr	Ala 180	Leu	Phe	Asp	Ser	Lys 185	Asn	Arg	Cys	Trp	Ser 190	Lys	Lys	
Ile	Cys	Asp 195	Ile	Ile	Asp	Pro	Lys 200	Leu	Leu	Asp	Leu	Leu 205	Pro	Lys	Leu	
Ile	Glu 210	Pro	Ser	Ala	Pro	Ala 215	Gly	Lys	Val	Asn	Asp 220	Glu	Ala	Ala	Lys	
Ala 225	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Pro	Ala 230	Gly	Ile	Pro	Val	Ser 235	Ala	Gly	Gly	Gly	Asp 240	
Asn	Met	Met	Gly	Ala 245	Val	Gly	Thr	Gly	Thr 250	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	Phe 255	Leu	

Thr Met Ser Met Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Leu Tyr Gly Tyr Ser Asp Lys

265

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Pro Ile Ser Asp Pro Ala Asn Gly Leu Ser Gly Phe Cys Ser Ser Thr 275 280 285	
Gly Gly Trp Leu Pro Leu Leu Cys Thr Met Asn Cys Thr Val Ala Thr 290 295 300	
Glu Phe Val Arg Asn Leu Phe Gln Met Asp Ile Lys Glu Leu Asn Val 305 310 320	
Glu Ala Ala Lys Ser Pro Cys Gly Ser Glu Gly Val Leu Val Ile Pro 325 330 335	
Phe Phe Asn Gly Glu Arg Thr Pro Asn Leu Pro Asn Gly Arg Ala Ser 340 345 350	
Ile Thr Gly Leu Thr Ser Ala Asn Thr Ser Arg Ala Asn Ile Ala Arg 355 360 365	
Ala Ser Phe Glu Ser Ala Val Phe Ala Met Arg Gly Gly Leu Asp Ala 370 375 380	
Phe Arg Lys Leu Gly Phe Gln Pro Lys Glu Ile Arg Leu Ile Gly Gly 385 390 395 400	
Gly Ser Lys Ser Asp Leu Trp Arg Gln Ile Ala Ala Asp Ile Met Asn 405 410 415	
Leu Pro Ile Arg Val Pro Leu Leu Glu Glu Ala Ala Ala Leu Gly Gly 420 425 430	
Ala Val Gln Ala Leu Trp Cys Leu Lys Asn Gln Ser Gly Lys Cys Asp 435 440 445	
Ile Val Glu Leu Cys Lys Glu His Ile Lys Ile Asp Glu Ser Lys Asn 450 455 460	
Ala Asn Pro Ile Ala Glu Asn Val Ala Val Tyr Asp Lys Ala Tyr Asp 465 470 480	
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<210> SEQ ID NO 28 <211> LENGTH: 2041 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: Piromyces sp. <400> SEQUENCE: 28	
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gttgctggta ttgatcttgg aactcaaagt atgaaagtcg ttatttacga ctatgaaaag	180
aaagaaatta ttgaaagtgc tagctgtcca atggaattga tttccgaaag tgacggtacc	240
cgtgaacaaa ccactgaatg gtttgacaag ggtcttgaag tttgttttgg taagcttagt	300
gctgataaca aaaagactat tgaagctatt ggtatttctg gtcaattaca cggttttgtt	360
cctcttgatg ctaacggtaa ggctttatac aacatcaaac tttggtgtga tactgctacc	420
gttgaagaat gtaagattat cactgatgct gccggtggtg acaaggctgt tattgatgcc	480
cttggtaacc ttatgctcac cggtttcacc gctccaaaga tcctctggct caagcgcaac	540
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aagettaetg gtgattaegt tatggaatae ggtgatgeet etggtaeege tetettegat	660
tctaagaacc gttgctggtc taagaagatt tgcgatatca ttgacccaaa acttttagat	720

ttacttccaa agttaattga accaagcgct ccagctggta aggttaatga tgaagccgct

aaggcttacg	gtattccagc	cggtattcca	gtttccgctg	gtggtggtga	taacatgatg	840
ggtgctgttg	gtactggtac	tgttgctgat	ggtttcctta	ccatgtctat	gggtacttct	900
ggtactcttt	acggttacag	tgacaagcca	attagtgacc	cagctaatgg	tttaagtggt	960
ttctgttctt	ctactggtgg	atggcttcca	ttactttgta	ctatgaactg	tactgttgcc	1020
actgaattcg	ttcgtaacct	cttccaaatg	gatattaagg	aacttaatgt	tgaagctgcc	1080
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gctaacattg	ctcgtgctag	tttcgaatcc	gccgttttcg	ctatgcgtgg	tggtttagat	1260
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aatgctaacc	caattgccga	aaatgttgct	gtttacgaca	aggcttacga	tgaatactgc	1560
aaggttgtaa	atactctttc	tccattatat	gcttaaattg	ccaatgtaaa	aaaaatata	1620
atgccatata	attgccttgt	caatacactg	ttcatgttca	tataatcata	ggacattgaa	1680
tttacaaggt	ttatacaatt	aatatctatt	atcatattat	tatacagcat	ttcattttct	1740
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aatagtctcg	tatttatgcc	caataatcag	gaaaattacc	taatgctgga	ttcttgttaa	1860
taaaaacaaa	ataaataaat	taaataaaca	aataaaaatt	ataagtaaat	ataaatatat	1920
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a						2041

<210> SEQ ID NO 29 <211> LENGTH: 327 <212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Saccharomyces cerevisiae

<400> SEQUENCE: 29

Met Ser Ser Leu Val Thr Leu Asn Asn Gly Leu Lys Met Pro Leu Val 1 10 15

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Tyr Glu Ala Ile Lys Leu Gly Tyr Arg Leu Phe Asp Gly Ala Cys Asp 35 40 45

Tyr Gly Asn Glu Lys Glu Val Gly Glu Gly Ile Arg Lys Ala Ile Ser 50

Glu Gly Leu Val Ser Arg Lys Asp Ile Phe Val Val Ser Lys Leu Trp 65 70 75

Asn Asn Phe His His Pro Asp His Val Lys Leu Ala Leu Lys Lys Thr 85 90 95

Leu Ser Asp Met Gly Leu Asp Tyr Leu Asp Leu Tyr Tyr Ile His Phe 100 105

Pro Ile Ala Phe Lys Tyr Val Pro Phe Glu Glu Lys Tyr Pro Pro Gly 115 120

Phe Tyr Thr Gly Ala Asp Asp Glu Lys Lys Gly His Ile Thr Glu Ala 130 140	
His Val Pro Ile Ile Asp Thr Tyr Arg Ala Leu Glu Glu Cys Val Asp 145 150 155 160	
Glu Gly Leu Ile Lys Ser Ile Gly Val Ser Asn Phe Gln Gly Ser Leu 165 170 175	
Ile Gln Asp Leu Leu Arg Gly Cys Arg Ile Lys Pro Val Ala Leu Gln 180 185 190	
Ile Glu His His Pro Tyr Leu Thr Gln Glu His Leu Val Glu Phe Cys 195 200 205	
Lys Leu His Asp Ile Gln Val Val Ala Tyr Ser Ser Phe Gly Pro Gln 210 215 220	
Ser Phe Ile Glu Met Asp Leu Gln Leu Ala Lys Thr Thr Pro Thr Leu 225 230 235 240	
Phe Glu Asn Asp Val Ile Lys Lys Val Ser Gln Asn His Pro Gly Ser 245 250 255	
Thr Thr Ser Gln Val Leu Leu Arg Trp Ala Thr Gln Arg Gly Ile Ala 260 265 270	
Val Ile Pro Lys Ser Ser Lys Lys Glu Arg Leu Leu Gly Asn Leu Glu 275 280 285	
Ile Glu Lys Lys Phe Thr Leu Thr Glu Glu Leu Lys Asp Ile Ser	
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cgtttattcg atggtgcttg cgactacggc aacgaaaagg aagttggtga aggtatcagg	180
aaagccatct ccgaaggtct tgtttctaga aaggatatat ttgttgtttc aaagttatgg	240
aacaattttc accatcctga tcatgtaaaa ttagctttaa agaagacctt aagcgatatg	300
ggacttgatt atttagacct gtattatatt cacttcccaa tcgccttcaa atatgttcca	360
tttgaagaga aataccctcc aggattctat acgggcgcag atgacgagaa gaaaggtcac	420
atcaccgaag cacatgtacc aatcatagat acgtaccggg ctctggaaga atgtgttgat	480
gaaggettga ttaagtetat tggtgtttee aaettteagg gaagettgat teaagattta	540
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caagaacacc tagttgagtt ttgtaaatta cacgatatcc aagtagttgc ttactcctcc	660
caagaacacc tagttgagtt ttgtaaatta cacgatatcc aagtagttgc ttactcctcc ttcggtcctc aatcattcat tgagatggac ttacagttgg caaaaaccac gccaactctg	660 720
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gaaaggttac ttggcaacct agaaatcgaa aaaaagttca ctttaacgga gcaagaattg

cactagtctc gagtgtggaa gaacgattac aacagg

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212> TYPE: DNA	
213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
220> FEATURE:	
223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
400> SEQUENCE: 31	
actagtcga gtttatcatt atcaatactg c	31
210> SEQ ID NO 32	
211> LENGTH: 49	
212> TYPE: DNA	
213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
220> FEATURE:	
223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
400> SEQUENCE: 32	
tcataatca ggtactgata acattttgtt tgtttatgtg tgtttattc	49
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211> LENGTH: 49	
212> TYPE: DNA	
213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
220> FEATURE:	
223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
400> SEQUENCE: 33	
gaataaacac acataaacaa acaaaatgtt atcagtacct gattatgag	49
210> SEQ ID NO 34	
210 SEQ ID NO 34 211> LENGTH: 48	
211> BENGIN: 40	
213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
220> FEATURE:	
223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
400> SEQUENCE: 34	
atcataaat cataagaaat tcgcttactt taagaatgcc ttagtcat	48
.010. CEO ID NO 3E	
210> SEQ ID NO 35	
211> LENGTH: 48 212> TYPE: DNA	
212> TIPE: DNA 213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
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220> FEATORE: 223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
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tgactaagg cattcttaaa gtaagcgaat ttcttatgat ttatgatt	48
010. 000 00	
210> SEQ ID NO 36	
211> LENGTH: 36	
212 > TYPE: DNA	
213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence	
220> FEATURE: 223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer	
400> SEQUENCE: 36	
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<211> LENGTH: 28

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<211> LENGTH: 31
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer
<400> SEQUENCE: 37
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<210> SEQ ID NO 38
<211> LENGTH: 48
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer
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<211> LENGTH: 48
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<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: primer
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		atgcctgcaa tgatgaatct	_			300	
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atatgccaat acttcacaat gttcgaatct attcttcatt tgcagctatt gtaaaataat
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                                                                      300
                                                                      302
gg
```

- 1. A eukaryotic cell capable of expressing the following nucleotide sequences, wherein the expression of these nucleotide sequences confers on the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product:
 - (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding an arabinose isomerase (araA), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i. nucleotide sequences encoding an araA, said araA comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 55% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - iii. nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic add molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
 - iv, nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic; code,
 - (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding a L-ribulokinase (araB), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- i. nucleotide sequences encoding an araB, said araB comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 20% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3,
- ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 50% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4,
- iii. nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);
- iv. nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code,
- (c) a nucleotide sequence encoding an L-ribulose-5-P-4-epimerase (araD), wherein said nucleotide sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i. nucleotide sequences encoding an araD, said araD comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5,
 - ii. nucleotide sequences comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 60% sequence identity with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6,
 - iii. nucleotide sequences the complementary strand of which hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule of sequence of (i) or (ii);

- iv. nucleotide sequences the sequences of which differs from the sequence of a nucleic acid molecule of (iii) due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.
- 2. A cell according to claim 1, wherein one, two or three of the araA, araB and araD nucleotide sequences originate from a *Lactobacillus* genus, preferably a *Lactobacillus* plantarum species.
- 3. A cell according to claim 1, wherein the cell is a yeast cell, preferably belonging to one of the genera: Saccharomyces, Kluyveromyces, Candida, Pichia, Schizosaccharomyces, Hansenula, Kloeckera, Schwanniomyces or Yarrowia.
- 4. A cell according to claim 3, wherein the yeast cell belongs to one of the species: S. cerevisiae, S. bulderi, S. barnetti, S. exiguus, S. uvarum, S. diastaticus, K. lactis, K. marxianus or K. fragilis.
- 5. A cell according to claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequences encoding the araA, araB and/or araD are operably linked to a promoter that causes sufficient expression of the corresponding nucleotide sequences in the cell to confer to the cell the ability to use L-arabinose and/or to convert L-arabinose into L-ribulose, and/or xylulose 5-phosphate and/or into a desired fermentation product.
- 6. A cell according to claim 1, wherein the cell exhibits the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose.
- 7. A cell according to claim 6, wherein the cell comprises a genetic modification that increases the flux of the pentose phosphate pathway.
- **8**. A cell according to claim **6**, wherein the genetic modification comprises overexpression of at least one gene of the non-oxidative part of the pentose phosphate pathway.
- 9. A cell according to claim 8, wherein the gene is selected from the group consisting of the genes encoding ribulose-5-phosphate isomerase, ribulose-5-phosphate epimerase, transketolase and transaldolase.
- 10. A cell according to claim 8, wherein the genetic modification comprises overexpression of at least the genes coding for a transketolase and a transaldolase.
- 11. A cell according to claim 1, wherein the cell further comprises a genetic modification that increases the specific xylulose kinase activity.
- 12. A cell according to claim 11, wherein the genetic modification comprises overexpression of a gene encoding a xylulose kinase.
- 13. A cell according to claim 8, wherein the gene that is overexpressed is endogenous to the cell.
- 14. A cell according to claim 5, wherein the cell comprises a genetic modification that reduces unspecific aldose reductase activity in the cell.
- 15. A cell according to claim 14, wherein the genetic modification reduces the expression of, or inactivates a gene encoding an unspecific aldose reductase.
- 16. A cell according to claim 15, wherein the gene is inactivated by deletion of at least part of the gene or by disruption of the gene.

- 17. A cell according to claim 14, wherein the expression of each gene in the cell that encodes an unspecific aldose reductase is reduced or inactivated.
- **18**. A cell according to claim **1**, wherein the fermentation product is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β-lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin.
- 19. A nucleic acid construct comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an araA, a nucleic acid sequence encoding an araB and/or a nucleic acid sequence encoding an araD all as defined in claim 1.
- 20. A process for producing a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β -lactam, antibiotic and a cephalosporin, whereby the process comprises:
 - (a) fermenting a medium containing a source of arabinose and optionally xylose with a modified cell as defined in claim 1, whereby the cell ferments arabinose and optionally xylose to the fermentation product; and optionally,
 - (b) recovering the fermentation product.
- 21. A process for producing a fermentation product selected from the group consisting of ethanol, lactic acid, 3-hydroxy-propionic acid, acrylic acid, acetic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, malic acid, fumaric acid, an amino acid, 1,3-propane-diol, ethylene, glycerol, butanol, a β -lactam antibiotic and a cephalosporin, wherein the process comprises:
 - (a) fermenting a medium containing at least a source of L-arabinose and a source of xylose with a cell as defined in claim 1 and a cell able to use xylose and/or exhibiting the ability to directly isomerise xylose into xylulose, whereby each cell ferments L-arabinose and/or xylose to the fermentation product; and optionally,
 - (b) recovering the fermentation product.
- 22. A process according to claim 20, wherein the medium also contains a source of glucose.
- 23. A process according to claim 20, wherein the fermentation product is ethanol.
- 24. A process according to claim 23, wherein the volumetric ethanol productivity is at least 0.5 g ethanol per litre per hour.
- 25. A process according to claim 23, wherein the ethanol yield is at least 30%.
- 26. A process according to claim 20, wherein the process is anaerobic.
- 27. A process according to claim 20, wherein the process is aerobic, preferably performed under oxygen limited conditions.

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