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(54) TRANSGENIC PATHOGEN-RESISTANT ORGANISM

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Forderung der Wissenschaften e.V.,

Gottingen (DE)

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Filed: Mar. 6, 1997

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(30) Foreign Application Priority Data

Oct. 9, 1992 (DE) P42 34 131

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 38/54(2006.01)A61K 38/47(2006.01)A61K 38/16(2006.01)

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) ABSTRACT

Transgenic pathogen-resistant organism whose genome contains at least two different genes under the control of active promoters with pathogen-inhibiting action. This organism is distinguished by a synergistic pathogen-inhibiting action. This action is evident particularly when the genes code for the gene products chitinase (ChiS, ChiG), glucanase (GluG), protein synthesis inhibitor (PSI) and antifungal protein (AFP).

2 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

Fig. 1



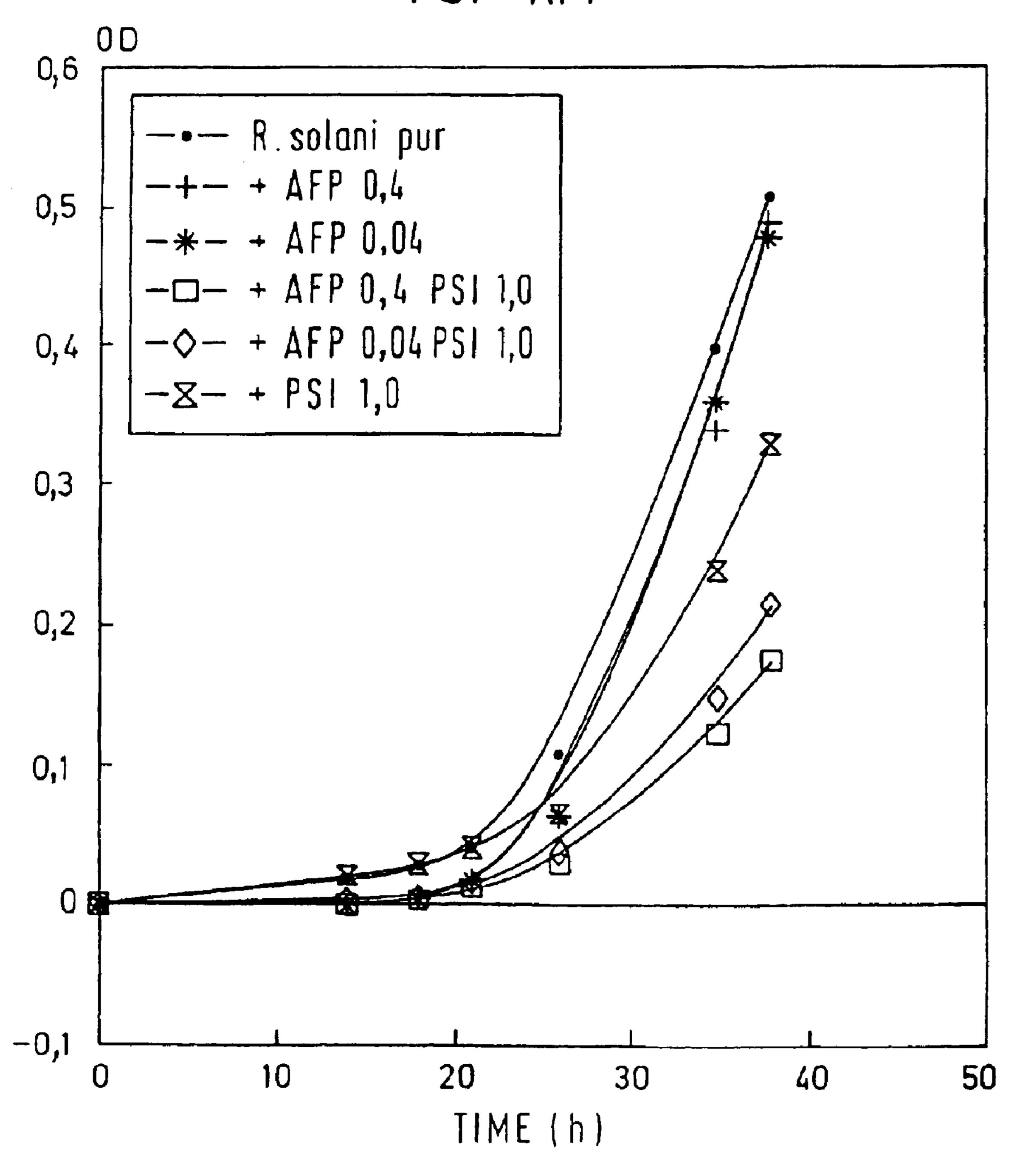
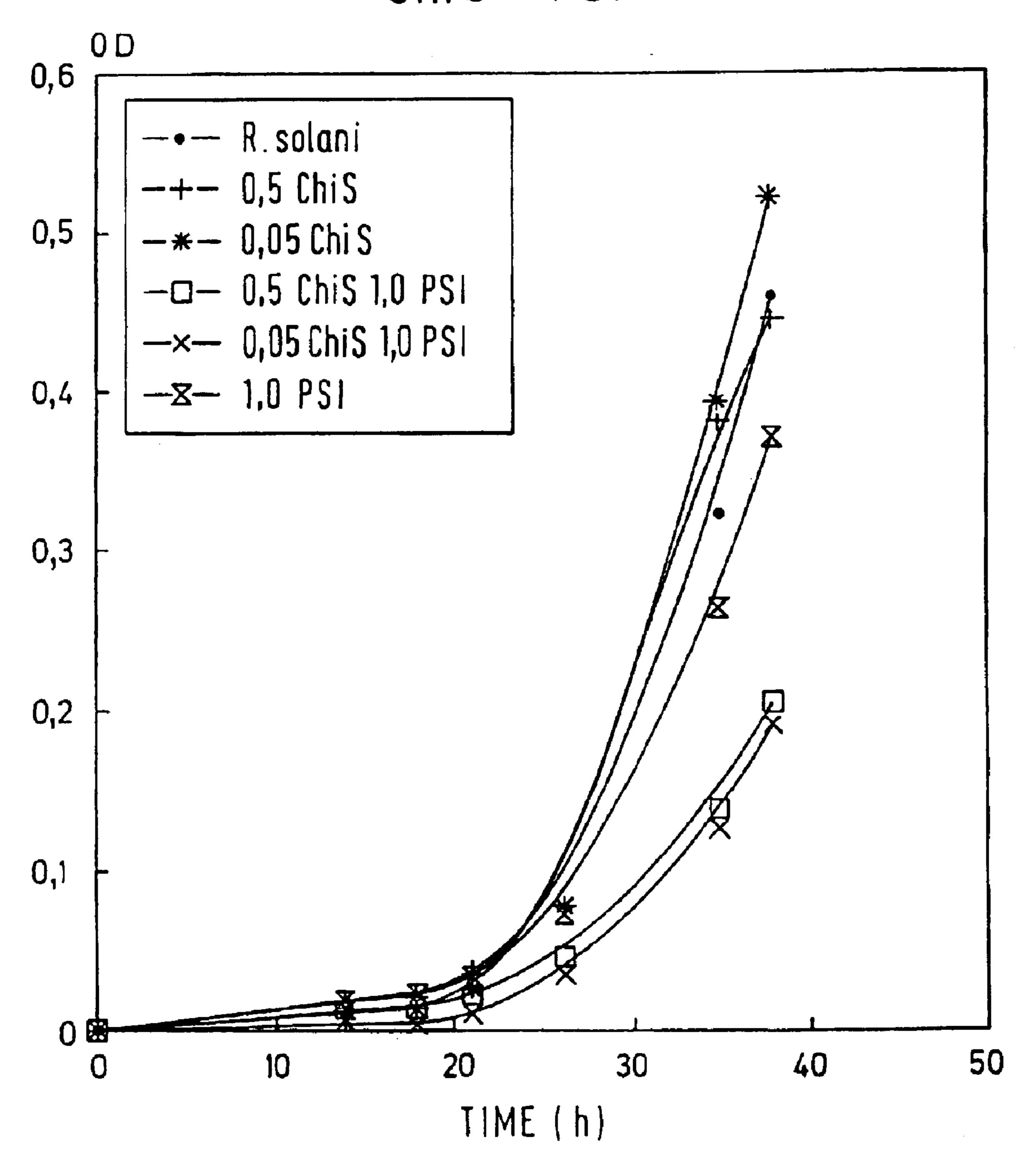


Fig. 2

Aug. 15, 2006



TRANSGENIC PATHOGEN-RESISTANT ORGANISM

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

[This is a divisional of application No. 08/457,797, filed on Jun. 1, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,045, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 08/134,416, filed on Oct. 8, 1993, 10 now abandoned.] The present application is a reissue of application Ser. No. 08/812,025, filed Mar. 6, 1997, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,804,184, which is a divisional of application Ser. No. 08/457,797, filed Jun. 1, 1995, which issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,045 and which is now reissue 15 application Ser. No. 09/729,141 which is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/134,416, filed on Oct. 8, 1993, now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a pathogen-resistant organism and to a process for generating it.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is known in the state of the art that infestations of a plant 25 by pathogens causes a series of different reactions. These include, for example, changes in the cell wall structure, the synthesis of phytoalexins which have antimicrobial activity, the accumulation of so-called PR proteins (pathogenesis-related), protease inhibitors and enzymes with hydrolytic 30 functions (Hahlbrock and Grisebach in Ann. Rev. Plant. Physiol., 30 (1979), 105–130).

Many pathogens (fungi and insects) have chitin as a constituent of their cell wall. By contrast, plants posses no chitin. It has now been demonstrated in some cases that there is enhanced production of chitinases in plants after infestation by pathogens. Chitinases are among the enzymes with hydrolytic functions and they catalyze chitin breakdown. It has now been possible to show that plants acquire an increased resistance to pathogens by the production of 40 chitinases.

It is furthermore known to use a gene from barley plants whose gene product codes for an inhibitor of fungal protein synthesis. The incorporation of a corresponding inhibitor gene in transgenic plants led to improved resistance to fungi.

Finally, it has also been disclosed that the use of a polypeptide from Aspergillus giganteus is able to protect, by virtue of its antifungal activity, plants from infestation by fungi.

However, given this state of the art there is a need to provide further transgenic pathogen-resistant organisms. Moreover, the organisms which are particularly desired are those whose resistance is increased overall by comparison with the known organisms or is extended with respect to the number of possible pathogens.

This problem is solved by a transgenic pathogen-resistant organism having the features of the present invention.

The invention is based on the surprising finding that the incorporation of at least two different genes with pathogen- 60 inhibiting action into the genome of an organism assists the latter to resist pathogens to an extent going far beyond an additive effect of each of the genes on its own.

The dependent claims indicate further embodiments of the invention.

The genes can code for gene products which reduce the vitality of fungi. In particular, the genes can be of fungal,

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bacterial and plant, animal or viral origin. In particular, the gene products have properties which promote resistance to fungi. The gene products are chitinase (ChiS, ChiG), glucanase (GluG), protein synthesis inhibitor (PSI) and antifungal protein (AFP).

The transgenic pathogen-resistant organism can be a plant, and tobacco, potato, strawberry, corn, rape or tomato plants are preferred.

The invention also relates to DNA-transfer vectors with inserted DNA sequences as are indicated in detail in this description.

The invention furthermore relates to a process for the generation of pathogen-resistant organisms as are described herein, wherein at least 1 gene with pathogen-inhibiting action is transferred into the genome of an organism, and the pathogen-resistant organism is obtained.

- (a) by crossing the organism with another, optionally transgenic, organism which contains at least one other gene with pathogen-inhibiting action, and subsequently selecting, and/or
- (b) by transformation of this other gene with pathogen-inhibiting action into the organism. The process can be used with DNA-transfer vectors with inserted DNA sequences corresponding to a gene with pathogen-inhibiting action as described herein.

Finally, the invention relates to a process for the generation of pathogen-resistant organisms, wherein vectors which comprise more than one gene with pathogen-inhibiting action are used for the transformation into the genome of an organism.

The invention also relates to a process for ensuring the resistance of organisms to pathogens, characterized in that the organism used is a transgenic pathogen-resistant organism according to the present invention or an organism whose genome contains at least one gene complying with the definitions used herein, and at least one substance which is not expressed by the organism but corresponds to any other one of the gene products complying with the definitions given in this application is applied to the organism.

It was possible to achieve the synergistic effects very particularly with transgenic pathogen-resistant organisms to which the gene sequences which coded for proteins of the attached sequence listings A to E, or corresponded to the latter, were transferred or transfected.

ChiS:

A DNA fragment which is 1.8 Kb in size, that codes for a chitinase called ChiS (SEQ ID NO: 8) was isolated from the soil bacterium Serratia marcescens. In vitro investigations with purified ChiS protein showed that it is able effectively to inhibit the growth of fungi, even in low concentrations. The reason for the inhibition is that the ChiS protein has a chitinase activity which is able to damage the tips of the fungi hyphae. In this way the fungus is unable to grow further and is inhibited.

PSI:

The PSI gene originates from barley and codes for a protein which inhibits protein synthesis by fungi. In vitro tests show that even low concentrations of PSI are sufficient to inhibit various fungi such as, for example, Rhizoctonia solani.

AFP:

It is possible for a polypeptide which has antifungal activity to be isolated from the fermentation broth of Aspergillus giganteus and to be sequenced. This polypeptide is suitable as antifungal agent, for example as spraying agent

and as preservative for industrial products and human and animal foods. It can furthermore be combined with other substances which have pesticidal activity, fertilizers or growth regulators. Inhibitory activities against fungi were detectable inter alia against various Aspergillus, Fusaria, 5 Phytophthora and Trichophyton species.

ChiG and GluG:

Two genes which code, respectively, for a chitinase (ChiG) and glucanase (GluG) can be isolated from certain types of barley. Purified ChiG protein or GluG protein ¹⁰ inhibits various phytopathogenic fungi in vitro (inter alia Rhizoctonia solani) (see R. Leah et al., Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 266, No. 3 (1991), pages 1564–1573).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors have now found, completely surprisingly, that an at least binary combination of expression of PSI, AFP, ChiS, ChiG or GluG leads to synergistic effects in respect of the acquired resistance to fungi in transgenic plants. In particular, the effects of the individual substances ²⁰ in the combination are markedly exceeded. These include resistance to the fungus Rhizoctonia solani, Sclerotinia infestation, Botrytis infestation, etc.

Combinations according to the invention are (DNA and/or polypeptides):

(binary combinations)

ChiS, GluG; ChiS, PSI; ChiS, ChiG; ChiS, AFP; GluG, PSI; GluG, ChiG; GluG, AFP; PSI; ChiG; PSI, AFP; (ternary combinations)

ChiS, GluG, PSI; ChiS, GluG, ChiG; ChiS, GluG, AFP; GluG, PSI, ChiG; GluG, PSI, AFP; PSI, ChiG, AFP; ChiG, AFP, GluG

(quaternary combinations)

ChiS, GluG, PSI, AFP; ChiS, GluG, PSI, ChiG; (quinary 35 combination)

ChiS, GluG, PSI, AFP, ChiG

The invention furthermore relates to the combined use of the proteins with pathogen-inhibiting action, preferably ChiS, PSI, AFP, ChiG and GluG, against pathogens. Combined use also means in this context that at least a first pathogen-inhibiting substance is expressed by the organism and at least a second substance which has pathogen-inhibiting action is applied to the organism from outside.

The agents according to the invention also include those which contain the abovementioned proteins in at least binary combination. The agents according to the invention can contain other active substances besides the proteins. The other active substances can be pesticides, fertilizers and/or growth regulators, and the agents according to the invention can be prepared in various formulations such as concentrates, emulsions, powders, formulations or carriers, mixtures with other active substances, etc. The ChiS/PSI and AFP/PSI combination is particularly preferred. These proteins can be used particularly effectively to inhibit the growth of Rhizoctonia solani, especially in tobacco crops.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows the effects of AFP and PSI on Rhizoctonia solani.

FIG. 2 shows the effects of ChiS and PSI on Rhizoctonia solani.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention also relates to the use in a process according to the invention of a DNA sequence which codes at least

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for a polypeptide of sequences A to E, in which sequence A is the sequence of a 60 amino acid AFP protein (SEQ ID NO: 2); sequence A' is the sequence of 51 amino acid AFP protein (SEQ ID NO: 3); sequence B is the sequence of the PSI protein (SEQ ID NO: 5); sequence B' is the sequence of a protein encoded by an incomplete PSI-cDNA clone (SEQ ID NO: 7); sequence D is the sequence of the ChiG protein (SEQ ID NO: 10); and sequence E is the sequence of the GluG protein (SEQ ID NO: 12) or to a pathogen-resistant organism, where its genome contains at least two different genes under the control of active promoters with pathogeninhibiting action, where the genes are in each case selected from the group of sequences A to E, in which sequence A is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 1) which comprises a region encoding AFP protein; sequence B is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 4) which comprises a region encoding PSI protein; sequence B' is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 6) which was identified as a portion of an incomplete PSI-cDNA clone; sequence C is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 8) encoding ChiS protein; sequence D is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 9) which comprises a region encoding ChiG protein; and sequence E is the sequence of a nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO: 11) which comprises a region encoding GluG protein. The invention furthermore includes DNA sequences which hybridize with a DNA sequence which codes for polypeptides of amino-acid sequences A to E, in which sequence A is the sequence of a 60 amino acid AFP protein (SEQ ID NO: 2); sequence A' is the sequence of a 51 amino acid AFP protein (SEQ ID NO: 3); sequence B is the sequence of the PSI protein (SEQ ID NO: 5); sequence B' is the sequence of a protein encoded by an incomplete PSI-cDNA clone (SEQ ID NO: 7); sequence D is the sequence of the ChiG protein (SEQ ID NO: 10); and sequence E is the sequence of the GluG protein (SEQ ID NO: 12), where these DNA sequences can be of natural, synthetic or semisynthetic origin and can be related to the abovementioned DNA sequence by mutations, nucleotide substitutions, nucleotide deletions, nucleotide insertions and inversions of nucleotide sequences, and for a polypeptide with pathogenic activity. The invention furthermore relates to a recombinant DNA molecule which contains at least one DNA sequence which accords with the preceding statements, where this DNA molecule can be in the form of a cloning or expression vector.

The invention relates to appropriate host organisms and intermediate hosts which are transformed with a recombinant DNA molecule which accords with the preceding statements. Preferred as intermediate host in the generation of a pathogen-resistant transgenic organism are strains of bacteria, in particular so-called Agrobacteria strains.

The invention furthermore relates to the transgenic pathogen-resistant organisms obtained by the process according to the invention, in particular tobacco, potato, corn, pea, rape and tomato plants.

The DNA sequences according to the invention are, as a rule, transferred together with a promoter. Promoter sequences are recognized by the plant transcription apparatus and thus lead to constitutive expression of the gene associated with them in plants. The promoter can, however, also be pathogen-inducible and/or wound-inducible (WUN1) and/or tissue-specific and/or development-specific.

The genetic manipulation operations necessary for carrying out the invention, especially for expression of the gene in plants, are generally known. See for example the publication by Maniatis et al. in "Molecular cloning: A laboratory manual", Cold Spring Harbor (1982).

The invention is explained in detail in the following examples.

All the standard methods of molecular biology were carried out, unless otherwise indicated, as described by Maniatis et al., "Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual", ⁵ Cold Spring Harbor (1982).

The DNA (SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 6; SEQ ID NO: 8; SEQ ID NO: 9; SEQ ID NO: 11) coding for amino-acid sequences A to E (SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 3; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO: 7; SEQ ID NO: 10; SEQ ID NO: 12) was initially cloned in a manner known per se and then transferred by conjugation into A. Tumefaciens LBA 4404 (A. Hoekema et al., Nature 303, 179–180). This took place by the method described by Van Haute et al. in EMBO J. 2, 411–418 (1983).

The transfer of DNA into that Agrobacterium was checked by isolating Agrobacterium DNA by the method described by Ebert et al. in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84 5745–5749 (1987). Restriction cleavage of the DNA, transfer to Hybond-N membrane (Amersham) and hybridization with a radioactively labeled DNA probe provided information about successful DNA transfer into the Agrobacterium.

The transformed Agrobacterium was then used to transform tobaco, rape, strawberry, tomato and potato plants.

The LBA4404 Agrobacteria required for the infection were initially cultivated in selective antibiotic medium (P. Zambrisky et al. in EMBO J., 1, 147–152 (1983)), sedimented by centrifugation and washed in YEB medium without antibiotics (YEB=0.5% meat extract; 0.2% yeast 30 extract; 0.5% peptone; 0.5% sucrose; 2 mM MgSO₄). After renewed sedimentation and taking up in MgSO₄ it was possible to use the bacteria for the infection.

The so-called leaf disk method was used for the infection. Sterile leaves were used for the leaf disk infection. Leaf ³⁵ pieces about 1 cm in size are dipped in the previously described Agrobacteria suspension and subsequently transferred to 3 MS medium (medium described by T. Murashige and F. Skoog in Physiol. Plant., 15, 473–497 (1962); 3MS= MS-3% sucrose). After incubation at 25° C. to 27° C. with 40 16 hours of light for two days, the leaf pieces were transferred to MSC16 medium (according to T. Murashige (see above); MSC16=MS+0.5 μg/ml BAP+0.1 μg/ml NAA+100 μg/ml kanamycin sulfate+500 μg/ml Claforan). Shoots appearing after 4–6 weeks were cut off and transplanted to 45 MSC15 medium (according to Murashige (see above); MSC15=MS+2% sucrose, 500 μg/ml Claforan+100 μg/ml kanamycin sulfate). Shoots with root formation were analyzed further.

Monocotyledonous plants (including corn), but some dicotyledonous plants too, were transformed by direct gene transfer into protoplasts. These protoplasts were subsequently regenerated to intact plants (Example: J. Potrykus in Biotechnology 8 (1990), 535).

The resulting transgenic plants were infected with the fungus Rhizoctonia solani for testing purposes. For this purpose, fungal cultures were grown and thoroughly mixed in standard soil. This soil was then distributed in a dish and planted with the plants to be tested.

For the evaluation, each plant on a dish was assigned a value from 0 to 3. It was possible to calculate from this for each plant line an index which resulted from the sum of the values. The classification is as follows:

0=no symptoms (healthy)

1=slightly reduced size (compared with a non-infected control); no or very slight visible infestation

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2=severe reduction in growth; severe symptoms of infestation

3=dead

The rating is carried out in each case 14 days after the start of the series of tests.

EXAMPLE 1:

Fungus inhibition tests with combined proteins

The invention initially was to show that the proteins used here have synergistic effects in their combination. Fungal growth tests in vitro were carried out for this purpose.

These entailed a defined amount of Rhizoctonia solani fungal mycelium being mixed with 100 µl of potato dextrose solution and incubated in microtiter plates at 25° C. In this test there is a linear correlation between the growth of the fungus and the increase in the optical density at 405 nanometers. The inhibitory effect of proteins can be detected from a smaller increase in the optical density.

20 2–3 mycelium balls were taken from a liquid culture of R. solani, mixed with 100 μl of KGB medium in an Eppendorf vessel and carefully homogenized with a glass mortar. This suspension was then mixed with 10 ml of KGB medium and passed through a sterile 100 μm screen. The optical density of this mycelium fragment suspension (100 μl aliquot) was adjusted to a value of 0.06–0.07 at 405 nanometers by adding medium. 100 μl samples were placed on a microtiter plate and mixed with the proteins to be tested. 7 parallels were measured per mixture. Mixtures which were mixed with the corresponding amounts of buffer served as controls. The plates were incubated in the dark at 25° C. for 48 hours, and the optical density of the cultures was measured at regular intervals.

Calculation of whether two proteins act together in an additive synergistic or antagonistic manner in the inhibition of fungal growth is possible from the measured data with the aid of the Colby formula which is described hereinafter and generally used (S. R. Colby in Wheeds, 15 (1967), 20–22).

To do this it was initially necessary to calculate the growth inhibition E to be expected theoretically with an additive behavior (the expected efficacy). This is given by:

 $E=W1+W2-((W1\times W2)/100)$

where W1 and W2 indicate the efficacies of the individual proteins, which is defined as that percentage deviation of the growth plot (in the presence of the protein) from the untreated control. The efficacy for a protein (at a defined time in the growth plot) is given by:

 $W1=(OD(K)-OD(P))/OD(K)\times 100 \text{ (percent)}$

In this, OD(K) is the optical density of the untreated control and OD(P) is the optical density of the culture treated with the protein.

Thus, on combined use of two proteins, the following statements were possible: if the efficacy G measured in the experiment is identical to the expected value E, the behavior is additive. If, on the other hand, G is greater than E, the behavior is synergistic.

Using this test model, it emerged that the proteins ChiS, PSI, AFP, ChiG and GluG used in the Examples surprisingly have synergistic inhibitory effects on various fungi, and these effects were achieved both by the combination of two types of proteins and by multiple combination of the abovementioned proteins.

For example, the following values were determined from the combination of ChiS and PSI protein and from the

combination of AFP protein and PSI protein on the fungus Rhizoctonia solani (in each case two different ChiS and AFP concentrations with a constant RIP concentration):

ChiS+PSI:

The expected values were: E1=29.9% and E2=44.5%

The measured values were: G1=60.4% and G2=64.1%

The proteins ChiS and PSI therefore act together in a synergistic manner in the inhibition of the growth of R. solani.

FIG. 1 shows the results obtained with the combination of 10 the proteins and with the individual substances. According to the Figure, various ChiS concentrations (0.5 μg/ml and 0.05 μg/ml) are combined with PSi protein (1.0 μg/ml.

AFP+PSI:

The expected values were: E1=39.9% and E2=41.9%

The measured values were: G1=57.7% and G2=65.4% The AFP and PSI combination also according to this

shows a synergistic inhibition of growth of the fungus R. solani. FIG. 2 indicates the test results with various AFP concentrations (0.4 µg/ml and 0.04 µg/ml) combined with 20 PSI protein (1.0 μg/ml).

EXAMPLE 2:

Transgenic plants

In order to obtain the organisms according to the invention with DNA sequences which act together synergistically, initially transgenic plants which contained at least one of the genes which act together synergistically were generated.

ChiS in transgenic slants

Initially a ChiS gene was fused to plant regulatory sequences.

A ChiS gene 1.8 Kb in size was sequenced by using synthetic oligonucleotides in the dideoxy sequencing (1977), 5463–5467.

The 35S promoter originating from cauliflower mosaic virus (CamV) (400 bp (according to Töpfer et al. in Nucl. Acid. Res., 15 (1987), 5890)) underwent transcriptional fusion to the ChiS gene. The termination signal, which is 0.2 40 Kb in size, of the 35S gene of CamV, whose functionality in dicotyledonous plants is known, was used 3' from the ChiS gene. The chimeric gene 35S-ChiS was cloned into the pLS034 vector by means of the Agrobacterium tumefaciens transformation system in tobacco and potato plants, and 45 kanamycin-resistant plants were regenerated.

It was possible to detect both the ChiS gene and the corresponding mRNA as well as the gene product protein in the resulting plants.

PSI in transgenic plants

PolyA RNA was initially isolated from ripe barley seeds (Hordeum vulgare L. cv. Piggy) and deposited in a cDNA gene bank λ -gt-11-phages. The details of the process are to be found in R. Lea in Plant. Biol., 12 (1989), 673-682. Monospecific PSI antibodies were then used to identify CDNA clones.

Subsequently, the PSI-positive λ -gt-11-phages were isolated, cloned further and sequenced by the dideoxy sequencing method of Sanger et al. indicated above. The 60 DNA cloned into E. coli was then transferred in the manner described above by conjugation into Agrobacterium LBA4404.

Both the transferred gene and mRNA and gene product were detectable in corresponding transgenic tobacco, potato, 65 rape, strawberry and tomato plants.

AFP in transgenic plants

For the cloning in the vector, the cDNA sequence of the antifungal peptide is provided with ends which can be ligated into BamH1 and Sal1 restriction cleavage sites. The cloning vector used was pDH51 (Pietrzak et al. in Nucl. Acids Res. 14 (1986), 5857). The vector pDH51 was opened with the restriction enzymes BamH1 and Sal1 between promoter and terminator. The vector pDH51 is a pUC18 derivative which contains promoter and terminator sequences of the 35S transcript from cauliflower mosaic virus. These sequences are recognized by the plant's transcription apparatus and lead to strong constitutive expression of the gene associated with them in plants. The DNA of the antifungal peptide is then cloned via the BamH1 and Sal1 cleavage site into the vector. Finally, the transcription 15 unit—promoter, gene and terminator—is cut out of the vector using the restriction enzyme EcoRI and cloned into a plant transformation vector. The following vectors and their derivatives can, for example, be used as plant transformation vector:

pOCA18 (Olszewski et al. in Nucl. Acids Res., 16 (1988), 10765) pPCV310 (Koncz and Shell in MGG 204) (1986), 383) and pBin19 (Bevan et al. Nucl. Acids. Res. 12 (1984), 8711)

After the transcription unit and the vector had been ligated via the EcoRI cleavage site, the construct was conjugated into the Agrobacterium strain MP90RK (Koncz and Shell (see above)) or IHA101 (Hood et al. in J. Bacteriol. 168 (1986), 1291).

Transgenic tobacco, potato, strawberry, rape and tomato 30 plants were then transformed by the method described above. Transformed shoots are selected on the basis of the cotransferred resistance to the antibiotic kanamycin. Expression of the antifungal protein in the transformed crop plants was checked and confirmed by DNA analysis (Southern method of Sanger et al. in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 74 35 blotting), RNA analysis (Northern blotting) and protein analysis with specific antibodies (Western blotting).

ChiG and GluG in transgenic plants

ChiG- and GluG-transgenic plants which were both Southern-, Northern- and Western-positive were obtainable in analogy to the plants described above.

ChiS, PSI, AFP, ChiG, GluG in transgenic monocotyledonous plants.

It was possible by means of direct gene transfer to integrate the abovementioned genes into the genome of monocotyledonous plants such as, for example, corn. This resulted in transgenic plants which were Southern- and Northern- and Western-positive.

Combination of various fungus-resistance genes in transgenic plants

The previously obtained tobacco, corn, rape, strawberry, potato and tomato plants were crossed together and selected for plants containing in each case the fungus-resistant genes of both parents. In addition, transgenic plants were obtained by transforming them initially with one and then with one or 55 more other gene. Finally, plants were also transformed with vectors which contained various resistance genes. Fungusresistance tests were done with this plant material. Surprisingly, in all cases synergistic effects, not just additive effects, in respect of fungus resistance are observed.

For example, a tobacco plant which expresses ChiS and PSI shows a considerably greater resistance to Rhizoctonia infestation than the plants which expressed only ChiS or PSI or which would result from the additive resistance.

A synergistic inhibitory effect on infestation with Rhizoctonia solani also results from combined expressed of PSIand AFP-transgenic tobacco. Combination of two or more different genes (ChiS, RIP, AFP, ChiG and GluG) in a wide

variety of transgenic plants also led to synergistic inhibitory effects on various fungi.

Whereas wild-type plants have index values from 38 to 46 in tests on 20 seedlings, it emerges with transgenic tobacco according to the invention that the latter grows as well in the presence of the fungus Rhizoctonia solani as do control plants (index value 10-12) cultivated on Rhizoctonia-free soil.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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                                                                      105
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Arg Ala Arg Val Leu Ala Thr Tyr Asn Gly Lys Cys Tyr Lys Lys Asp
                     10
                                                                     153
aat atc tgc aag tac aag gca cag agc ggc aag act gcc att tgc aag
Asn Ile Cys Lys Tyr Lys Ala Gln Ser Gly Lys Thr Ala Ile Cys Lys
                                     30
                                                                      201
tgc tat gtc aaa aag tgc ccc cgc gac ggc gcg aaa tgc gag ttt gac
Cys Tyr Val Lys Lys Cys Pro Arg Asp Gly Ala Lys Cys Glu Phe Asp
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Tyr Lys Lys Asp Asn Ile Cys Lys Tyr Lys Ala Gln Ser Gly Lys Thr
Ala Ile Cys Lys Cys Tyr Val Lys Lys Cys Pro Arg Asp Gly Ala Lys
Cys Glu Phe Asp Ser Tyr Lys Gly Lys Cys Tyr Cys
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Cys Pro Arg Asp Gly Ala Lys Cys Glu Phe Asp Ser Tyr Lys Gly Lys
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9

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Met Ala Lys Asn Val Asp Lys Pro Leu Phe Thr Ala Thr Phe Asn Val
                                                                     150
cag gcc agc tcc gcc gac tac gcc acc ttc atc gcc ggc atc cgc aac
Gln Ala Ser Ser Ala Asp Tyr Ala Thr Phe Ile Ala Gly Ile Arg Asn
                                                                     198
aag ctc cgc aac ccg gcg cac ttc tcc cac aac cgc ccc gtg ctg ccg
Lys Leu Arg Asn Pro Ala His Phe Ser His Asn Arg Pro Val Leu Pro
                                                                     246
ccg gtc gag ccc aac gtc ccg ccg agc agg tgg ttc cac gtc gtg ctc
Pro Val Glu Pro Asn Val Pro Pro Ser Arg Trp Phe His Val Val Leu
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                             60
                                                 65
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aag gcc tcg ccg acc agc gcc ggg ctc acg ctg gcc att cgg gcg gac
Lys Ala Ser Pro Thr Ser Ala Gly Leu Thr Leu Ala Ile Arg Ala Asp
     70
                                                                     342
aac atc tac ctg gag ggc ttc aag agc agc gac ggc acc tgg tgg gag
Asn Ile Tyr Leu Glu Gly Phe Lys Ser Ser Asp Gly Thr Trp Trp Glu
 85
                                         95
                                                            100
                                                                     390
ctc acc ccg ggc ctc atc ccc ggc gcc acc tac gtc ggg ttc ggc ggc
Leu Thr Pro Gly Leu Ile Pro Gly Ala Thr Tyr Val Gly Phe Gly Gly
            105 110
                                                                     438
acc tac cgc gac ctc ctc ggc gac acc gac aag ctg acc aac gtc gct
Thr Tyr Arg Asp Leu Leu Gly Asp Thr Asp Lys Leu Thr Asn Val Ala
            120
                                125
                                                    130
                                                                     486
ctc ggc cgg cag cag ctg gcg gac gcg gtg acc gcc ctc cac ggg cgc
Leu Gly Arg Gln Gln Leu Ala Asp Ala Val Thr Ala Leu His Gly Arg
                                                145
        135
                            140
                                                                     534
acc aag gcc gac aag ccg tcc ggc ccg aag cag cag cag gcg agg gag
Thr Lys Ala Asp Lys Pro Ser Gly Pro Lys Gln Gln Ala Arg Glu
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150					155					160					
gcg gtg Ala Val 165	_	_	_			_				_	_			_	582
acg gtg Thr Val									_						630
aag aag Lys Lys	_		_					_	_	_	_				678
tgg cag Trp Gln	_	_				_	_	_	_	_		_		_	726
ccg gga Pro Gly 230	_	_			_			_			_	_			774
agg acg Arg Thr 245	_	_	_	_	Ala		_	Leu			_	_			822
gag gtg Glu Val	_			_	_		_	_		_		_		_	870
gcg agt Ala Ser					gtag	ttt †	tcca	ggtat	ta co	ctgca	atgg	g tag	gtgta	aaaa	925
gtcgaata	aaa o		tcaca	ag a	gtqa	cgqa	c tqa	atata	aaat	aaat	taaat	taa a	acqto	gtcaca	985
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Gly Ile	Arg 35	Asn	Lys	Leu	Arg	Asn 40	Pro	Ala	His	Phe	Ser 45	His	Asn	Arg	
Pro Val 50	Leu	Pro	Pro	Val	Glu 55	Pro	Asn	Val	Pro	Pro 60	Ser	Arg	Trp	Phe	
His Val 65	Val	Leu	Lys	Ala 70	Ser	Pro	Thr	Ser	Ala 75	Gly	Leu	Thr	Leu	Ala 80	
Ile Arg	Ala	Asp	Asn 85	Ile	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Gl y 90	Phe	Lys	Ser	Ser	Asp 95	Gly	
Thr Trp	Trp	Glu 100	Leu	Thr	Pro	Gly	Leu 105	Ile	Pro	Gly	Ala	Thr 110	Tyr	Val	
Gly Phe	Gl y 115	Gly	Thr	Tyr	_	A sp 120	Leu	Leu	Gly	Asp	Thr 125	Asp	Lys	Leu	
Thr Asn 130	Val	Ala	Leu	Gly	Arg 135	Gln	Gln	Leu	Ala	Asp 140	Ala	Val	Thr	Ala	
Leu His 145	Gly	Arg	Thr	L y s 150	Ala	Asp	Lys	Pro	Ser 155	Gly	Pro	Lys	Gln	Gln 160	

Gln Ala Arg Glu Ala Val Thr Thr Leu Leu Leu Met Val Asn Glu Ala

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Thr Arg Phe Gln Thr Val Ser Gly Phe Val Ala Gly Leu Leu His Pro 180 190 185 Lys Ala Val Glu Lys Lys Ser Gly Lys Ile Gly Asn Glu Met Lys Ala 195 200 Gln Val Asn Gly Trp Gln Asp Leu Ser Ala Ala Leu Leu Lys Thr Asp 210 215 Val Lys Pro Pro Pro Gly Lys Ser Pro Ala Lys Phe Ala Pro Ile Glu 225 230 235 240 Lys Met Gly Val Arg Thr Ala Val Gln Ala Ala Asn Thr Leu Gly Ile 245 250 Leu Leu Phe Val Glu Val Pro Gly Gly Leu Thr Val Ala Lys Ala Leu 260 265 Glu Leu Phe His Ala Ser Gly Gly Lys 275 280 <210> SEQ ID NO 6 <211> LENGTH: 480 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: Hordeum vulgare <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: CDS <222> LOCATION: (1)...(351) <223> OTHER INFORMATION: protein syntheis inhibitor (PSI), aminoterminally incomplete protein from an incomplete PSI cDNA clone <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: 3'UTR <222> LOCATION: (352)...(487) <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: polyA_signal <222> LOCATION: (404)...(409) <223> OTHER INFORMATION: potential polyadenylation signal <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: polyA_signal <222> LOCATION: (437)...(442) <223> OTHER INFORMATION: potential polyadenylation signal <220> FEATURE: <221> NAME/KEY: polyA_signal <222> LOCATION: (445)...(450) <223> OTHER INFORMATION: potential polyadenylation signal <400> SEQUENCE: 6 48 gcg gtg acg acg ctg ctc ctc atg gtg aac gag gcc acg cgg ttc cag Ala Val Thr Thr Leu Leu Leu Met Val Asn Glu Ala Thr Arg Phe Gln 10 96 Thr Val Ser Gly Phe Val Ala Gly Leu Leu His Pro Lys Ala Val Glu 144aag aag agc ggg aag atc ggc aat gag atg aag gcc cag gtg aac ggg Lys Lys Ser Gly Lys Ile Gly Asn Glu Met Lys Ala Gln Val Asn Gly 35 192 tgg cag gac ctg tcc gcg gcg ctg ctg aag acg gac gtg aag ccc ccg Trp Gln Asp Leu Ser Ala Ala Leu Leu Lys Thr Asp Val Lys Pro Pro 50 240 ccg gga aag tcg cca gcg aag ttc acg ccg atc gag aag atg ggc gtg Pro Gly Lys Ser Pro Ala Lys Phe Thr Pro Ile Glu Lys Met Gly Val 65 288 agg act gct gag cag gct gcg gct act ttg ggg atc ctg ctg ttc gtt Arg Thr Ala Glu Gln Ala Ala Ala Thr Leu Gly Ile Leu Leu Phe Val 85 90 95 336 gag gtg ccg ggt ggg ttg acg gtg gcc aag gcg ctg gag ctg ttt cat Glu Val Pro Gly Gly Leu Thr Val Ala Lys Ala Leu Glu Leu Phe His 105 110 100 391 gcg agt ggt ggg aaa taggtagttt tgcaggtata cctgcatggg taaatgtaaa

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900

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960
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cgcgaggact tcaaagtctc gatccacgat ccgttcgccc cgctgcaaaa agcgcagaag
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caggegeate etgaeetgaa aateetgeeg tegateggeg getggaeget gteegaeeeg
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1320
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                                                                   1860
caaatcgccg gccagttcat gagcggcgag tggcagtata cctacgacgc cacggcggaa
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ateggaetea ecettttggg taateettea geattteete etgtetttaa eggegateae
                                                                  2220
                                                                  2280
aaaaataacc gttcagatat tcatcattca gcaacaaagt tttggcgttt tttaacggag
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<222> LOCATION: (64)...(861)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: 26 kD preprotein of chitinase (ChiG)
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
<222> LOCATION: (862)...(1002)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: partial, 11 nucleotides at 3' end not shown
<220> FEATURE:
<221> NAME/KEY: polyA_signal
<222> LOCATION: (905)...(910)
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: potential polyadenylation site
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: probable signal peptide

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				sia	pept	ide										
				_	5)		3)									
				`	ION:	`	,	e si	gnal	. per	tide)				
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aca	_	_	_						_		_	_	_	gtg	_	108
	Met	Arg	Ser	Leu		Val	Val	Val	Ala		Val	Ala	Thr	Val		
	Τ				5					10					15	
2+4	~~~	2+4	~~~	200	~~~	999	~~~	200	~+ ~	+ a a	+ a a	2+4	~+ ~	+ ~ ~	~~~	156
_	_			_		_		_					_	tcg Ser	_	156
Hec	AIG	110	оту	20	нια	Arg	оту	DCI	25	DCI	DCI	110	vai	30	AL 9	
				20					23					50		
αca	caq	ttt	gac	cac	atσ	ctt	ctc	cac	cac	aac	gac	aac	acc	tgc	caq	204
_	_		_	_	_			_	_		_		_	Cys	_	
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gcc	aag	ggc	ttc	tac	acc	tac	gac	gcc	ttc	gtc	gcc	gcc	gca	gcc	gcc	252
Ala	Lys	Gly	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Tyr	Asp	Ala	Phe	Val	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	
		50					55					60				
_	_		_		_	_		_	_	_	_		_	cgc		300
Phe		Gly	Phe	Gly	Thr		Gly	Ser	Ala	Asp		Gln	Lys	Arg	Glu	
	65					70					75					
-						~~~									±	240
	_	_			_	_			_					ggg		348
80	Ата	Ата	Pne	ьeu	85	GIII	IIIL	ser	птъ	90	THE	TIIL	сту	Gly	95	
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gaa	cgt	ggc	gcc	tcc	tcc	gac	tac	tgc	acc	ccg	agc	gca	caa	tgg	ccg	444
Glu	Arg	Gly	Ala	Ser	Ser	Asp	Tyr	Cys	Thr	Pro	Ser	Ala	Gln	Trp	Pro	
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Cys	Ala		GIY	Lys	Arg	Tyr	_	GIY	Arg	GIY	Pro		GIn	Leu	Ser	
		130					135					140				
cac	aac	+ac	aac	+ a+	aaa	aa+	acc	aac	caa	acc	a+c	aaa	at a	gat	c+ a	540
							_			_			_	Asp	-	340
1110	145	- 7 -	71011	- 1 -	O + y	150	711 G	O ± y	9	711 G	155	O ± y	vai	2101	ЦСи	
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ctg	gcc	aac	ccq	gac	ctg	gtg	gcc	acq	gac	gcc	act	gtg	ggc	ttt	aaq	588
														Phe		
160				_	165				_	170			_		175	
														tcg		636
Thr	Ala	Ile	Trp	Phe	${\tt Trp}$	Met	Thr	Ala	Gln	Pro	Pro	Lys	Pro	Ser	Ser	
				180					185					190		
	_			_		_		_	_			_	_	cgg	_	684
Hls	Ala	val		Ala	GTA	GIN	Trp		Pro	ser	GTÀ	Ala	_	Arg	ALA	
			195					200					205			
~~~	~~~	~~~	~+ ~	~~~	~~~	+++	~~±	~+ ~	ہ ∔ج	200	22~	ء+~	م+ م	227	aaa	732
_														aac Asn		132
ma	оту	210	val	110	оту	T 116	215	val	-1-C	*11T	11011	220	-T-C	11011	- T A	
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gqa	atc	gaq	tgc	gqt	cac	gga	caq	gac	agc	cqc	gtc	gcc	gat	cga	atc	780
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Gln Phe Asp Arg Met Leu Leu His Arg Asn Asp Gly Ala Cys Gln Ala 35 40 45	
Lys Gly Phe Tyr Thr Tyr Asp Ala Phe Val Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Phe 50	
Pro Gly Phe Gly Thr Thr Gly Ser Ala Asp Ala Gln Lys Arg Glu Val 65 70 75 80	
Ala Ala Phe Leu Ala Gln Thr Ser His Glu Thr Thr Gly Gly Trp Ala 85 90 95	
Thr Ala Pro Asp Gly Ala Phe Ala Trp Gly Tyr Cys Phe Lys Gln Glu 100 105 110	
Arg Gly Ala Ser Ser Asp Tyr Cys Thr Pro Ser Ala Gln Trp Pro Cys 115	
Ala Pro Gly Lys Arg Tyr Tyr Gly Arg Gly Pro Ile Gln Leu Ser His 130 135	
Asn Tyr Asn Tyr Gly Pro Ala Gly Arg Ala Ile Gly Val Asp Leu Leu	
145 150 150 160  Ala Asn Pro Asp Leu Val Ala Thr Asp Ala Thr Val Gly Phe Lys Thr	
165 170 175	
Ala Ile Trp Phe Trp Met Thr Ala Gln Pro Pro Lys Pro Ser Ser His 180 185	
Ala Val Ile Ala Gly Gln Trp Ser Pro Ser Gly Ala Asp Arg Ala Ala 195 200 205	
Gly Arg Val Pro Gly Phe Gly Val Ile Thr Asn Ile Ile Asn Gly Gly 210 215 220	
Ile Glu Cys Gly His Gly Gln Asp Ser Arg Val Ala Asp Arg Ile Gly 225 230 235 240	
Phe Tyr Lys Arg Tyr Cys Asp Ile Leu Gly Val Gly Tyr Gly Asn Asn 245 250 255	
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Lys Asp Val Ala Ser Met Phe Ala Val Ala Leu Phe Ile Gly Ala Phe
                         10
                                             15
                                                                     153
gct gct gtt cct acg agt gtg cag tcc atc ggc gta tgc tac ggc gtg
Ala Ala Val Pro Thr Ser Val Gln Ser Ile Gly Val Cys Tyr Gly Val
                     25
 20
                                                             35
atc ggc aac aac ctc ccc tcc cgg agc gac gtg gtg cag ctc tac agg
                                                                     201
Ile Gly Asn Asn Leu Pro Ser Arg Ser Asp Val Val Gln Leu Tyr Arg
                                                                     249
tcc aag ggc atc aac ggc atg cgc atc tac ttc gcc gac ggg cag gcc
Ser Lys Gly Ile Asn Gly Met Arg Ile Tyr Phe Ala Asp Gly Gln Ala
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                                                                     297
ctc tcg gcc gtc cgc aac tcc ggc atc ggc ctc atc ctc gac atc ggc
Leu Ser Ala Val Arg Asn Ser Gly Ile Gly Leu Ile Leu Asp Ile Gly
                                                                     345
aac gac cag ctc gcc aac atc gcc gcc agc acc tcc aac gcg gcc tcc
Asn Asp Gln Leu Ala Asn Ile Ala Ala Ser Thr Ser Asn Ala Ala Ser
     85
                                                                     393
tgg gtc cag aac aac gtg cgg ccc tac tac cct gcc gtg aac atc aag
Trp Val Gln Asn Asn Val Arg Pro Tyr Tyr Pro Ala Val Asn Ile Lys
100
                    105
                                        110
                                                            115
                                                                     441
tac atc gcc gcc ggc aac gag gtg cag ggc ggc gcc acg cag agc atc
Tyr Ile Ala Ala Gly Asn Glu Val Gln Gly Gly Ala Thr Gln Ser Ile
                                                        130
                120
                                                                     489
ctg ccg gcc atg cgc aac ctc aac gcg gcc ctc tcc gcg gcg ggg ctc
Leu Pro Ala Met Arg Asn Leu Asn Ala Ala Leu Ser Ala Ala Gly Leu
            135
                                140
                                                    145
                                                                     537
ggc gcc atc aag gtg tcc acc tcc atc cgg ttc gac gag gtg gcc aac
Gly Ala Ile Lys Val Ser Thr Ser Ile Arg Phe Asp Glu Val Ala Asn
       150 155 160
                                                                     585
tcc ttc ccg ccc tcc gcc ggc gtg ttc aag aac gcc tac atg acg gac
Ser Phe Pro Pro Ser Ala Gly Val Phe Lys Asn Ala Tyr Met Thr Asp
    165
                        170
                                            175
                                                                     633
gtg gcc cgg ctc ctg gcg agc acc ggc gcg ccg ctg ctc gcc aac gtc
Val Ala Arg Leu Leu Ala Ser Thr Gly Ala Pro Leu Leu Ala Asn Val
180
                    185
                                        190
                                                            195
                                                                     681
tac ccc tac ttc gcg tac cgt gac aac ccc ggg agc atc agc ctg aac
Tyr Pro Tyr Phe Ala Tyr Arg Asp Asn Pro Gly Ser Ile Ser Leu Asn
```

								_	con	tin	ued		
	200					205					210		
tac gcg acg tt Tyr Ala Thr Ph 21	e Gln	_					_	_					729
ctg acc tac ac Leu Thr Tyr Th 230	_	_		_		_		_					777
gcg ctg gag aa Ala Leu Glu Ly 245				_			_				_		825
agc ggg tgg cc Ser Gl <b>y</b> Trp Pr 260		_	_	_	_	_	_		_	_		_	873
cgg acg tac aa Arg Thr Tyr As			_	_		-	_						921
aag aag cgg ga Lys Lys Arg Gl 29	u Ala	Leu		Thr	Tyr	Ile	Phe	Ala					969
aac cag aag ac Asn Gln Lys Th 310		_	_	_			_						1017
ccg gac aag tc Pro Asp Lys Se 325		_				_		_	tacg	tgt a	agcta	accta	g 1070
ctcacatacc taa	ataaat	ta ag	gatga	cacgt	t ac	gtac	gtaa	tgc	ggcaf	taa a	aagto	gtaac	g 1130
tagacacgta cat	tcatco	ca to	ggaag	gagt	g caa	accaa	agca	tgc	gtta	act 1	taatq	ggtga	t 1190
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Gly Ala Phe Al 20	a Ala	Val	Pro	Thr	Ser 25	Val	Gln	Ser	Ile	Gl <b>y</b> 30	Val	Cys	
Tyr Gly Val Il 35	e Gly	Asn	Asn	Leu 40	Pro	Ser	Arg	Ser	Asp 45	Val	Val	Gln	
Leu <b>Ty</b> r Arg Se 50	r L <b>y</b> s	Gly	Ile 55	Asn	Gly	Met	Arg	Ile 60	Tyr	Phe	Ala	Asp	
Gly Gln Ala Le	u Ser	Ala 70	Val	Arg	Asn	Ser	Gl <b>y</b> 75	Ile	Gly	Leu	Ile	Leu 80	
Asp Ile Gly As	n Asp 85	Gln	Leu	Ala	Asn	Ile 90	Ala	Ala	Ser	Thr	Ser 95	Asn	
Ala Ala Ser Tr	_	Gln	Asn	Asn	Val 105	Arg	Pro	Tyr	Tyr	Pro 110	Ala	Val	
Asn Ile Lys Ty 115	r Ile	Ala		Gl <b>y</b> 120		Glu	Val	Gln	Gl <b>y</b> 125	Gly	Ala	Thr	
Gln Ser Ile Le	u Pro	Ala	Met 135	Arg	Asn	Leu	Asn	Ala 140	Ala	Leu	Ser	Ala	
Ala Glv Leu Gl	v Ala	Tle	Lvs	Val	Ser	Thr	Ser	Tle	Ara	Phe	Asn	Glu	

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

Val Ala Asn Ser Phe Pro Pro Ser Ala Gly Val Phe Lys Asn Ala Tyr

#### -continued

				165					170					175	
Met	Thr	Asp	Val 180	Ala	Arg	Leu	Leu	Ala 185	Ser	Thr	Gly	Ala	Pro 190	Leu	Leu
Ala	Asn	Val 195	Tyr	Pro	Tyr	Phe	Ala 200	Tyr	Arg	Asp	Asn	Pro 205	Gly	Ser	Ile
Ser	Leu 210	Asn	Tyr	Ala	Thr	Phe 215	Gln	Pro	Gly	Thr	Thr 220	Val	Arg	Asp	Gln
Asn 225		_			<b>Ty</b> r 230					_				_	Ala 240
Val	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Leu 245	Glu	Lys	Ala	Gly	Ala 250	Pro	Ala	Val	Lys	Val 255	Val
Val	Ser	Glu	Ser 260	Gly	Trp	Pro	Ser	Ala 265	Gly	Gly	Phe	Ala	Ala 270	Ser	Ala
Gly	Asn	Ala 275	Arg	Thr	Tyr	Asn	Gln 280	Gly	Leu	Ile	Asn	His 285	Val	Gly	Gly
Gly	Thr 290	Pro	Lys	Lys	Arg	Glu 295	Ala	Leu	Glu	Thr	<b>Ty</b> r 300	Ile	Phe	Ala	Met
Phe 305	Asn	Glu	Asn	Gln	L <b>y</b> s 310	Thr	Gly	Asp	Ala	Thr 315	Glu	Arg	Ser	Phe	Gl <b>y</b> 320
Leu	Phe	Asn	Pro	Asp 325	Lys	Ser	Pro	Ala	<b>Ty</b> r 330	Asn	Ile	Gln	Phe		

30

We claim:

- 1. A process for producing a plant having increased resistance to fungal attack, comprising topically applying, to a transgenic plant, a first gene product of a gene selected from the group consisting of a ChiG gene from barley, a 35 GluG gene from barley, a PSI gene from barley, and an AFP gene from Aspergillus giganteus, wherein the transgenic plant carries at least two transgenes, each operably linked to a plant-functional promoter, wherein one transgene is a ChiS gene from Serratia marcescens and a second transgene is a 40 gene selected from the group consisting of a ChiG gene from barley, a GluG gene from barley, a PSI gene from barley, and an AFP gene from Aspergillus giganteus, provided that the second transgene does not encode the first gene product.
- 2. A process for producing a plant having increased resistance to fungal attack, comprising topically applying, to

a transgenic plant, a first gene product of a gene selected from the group consisting of a ChiG gene from barley, a GluG gene from barley, a PSI gene from barley, and a ChiS gene from Serratia marcescens, wherein the transgenic plant carries at least two transgenes, each operably linked to a plant-functional promoter, wherein one transgene is an AFP gene from Aspergillus giganteus and a second transgene is a gene selected from the group consisting of a ChiG gene from barley, a GluG gene from barley, a PSI gene from barley, and a ChiS gene from Serratia marcescens, provided that the second transgene does not encode the first gene product.

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