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(54) METHOD FOR PRODUCING ANILINE DERIVATIVE BY FERMENTATION FROM CARBON SOURCE

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- (58) **Field of Classification Search** None See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided is a method for producing an aniline derivative by fermentation from a carbon source such as glucose. The method comprises the following steps: production of microorganisms capable of producing 1.8 g/L or more of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) under prescribed culture conditions by introducing at least three exogenous genes into microorganisms having the ability to biosynthesize 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid; and production of at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid, and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE) by bringing these microorganisms into contact with a carbon source under conditions suited to the growth and/or maintenance of these microorganisms.

8 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets



С Ц

FIG. 2

6.00g
3.00g
0.50g
2.00g
0.50g
0.015g
0.05g
2.00g
1.00g
50.0mg
50.0mg
2.00ml
1.00L
7.2





METHOD FOR PRODUCING ANILINE **DERIVATIVE BY FERMENTATION FROM CARBON SOURCE**

This application is a continuation of PCT/JP2015/058295, 5 filed Mar. 19, 2015, which claims priority of JP2014-058570, filed Mar. 20, 2014. The contents of the aboveidentified applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING, TABLE OR COMPUTER PROGRAM

The Sequence Listing is concurrently submitted herewith with the specification as an ASCII formatted text file via 15 EFS-Web with a file name of Sequence Listing.txt with a creation date of Sep. 9, 2016, and a size of 62.0 kilobytes. The Sequence Listing filed via EFS-Web is part of the specification and is hereby incorporated in its entirety by reference herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a method for producing an aniline derivative by fermentation from a carbon source. 25 More specifically, the invention relates to a method for producing at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE), from a carbon source such as glucose, by creating a microorganism imparted with the function of biosynthesizing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid, using a genetic engineering method, and conducting fermentation using the microorganism. 35

BACKGROUND ART

In recent years, in response to the problem of global warming caused by petroleum-derived carbon dioxide, opportunities continue to arise throughout the world to 40 overhaul social structures that are overdependent on fossil fuels. This trend is leading to increasingly active operation of "biorefineries" that make use of bioprocessing technology, for which research is accelerating throughout the world, but unfortunately under the current state of affairs no 45 research results have yet been obtained for biosynthesis of aromatic compounds, although in light of the importance of aromatic compounds including aniline derivatives for the chemical industry, diligent efforts are being expended in research toward synthesis of aromatic polymers. 50

For example, PTL 1 discloses a technique relating to polymer synthesis using 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA) which is a natural molecule, and reports that a high heatproof polymer is obtained from 4-aminocinnamic acid.

Also, as disclosed in NPL 1, the metabolic pathway for biosynthesis of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) via shikimic 55acid has been elucidated (see p. 2818, FIG. 1), but there has been no disclosure nor teaching of ammonia-lyase functioning in an organism and converting 4-aminophenylalanine to 4-aminocinnamic acid.

NPL 2 describes isolation of the gene for phenylalanine ⁶⁰ [PTL 3] Japanese Patent Public Inspection No. 2008-501326 ammonia-lyase of the yeast Rhodotorula glutinis JN-1 (hereunder abbreviated as "Rgpal"), depositing of the yeast at CCTCC (China Center For Type Culture Collection) as mutant by site-specific mutagenesis of the gene. Further- 65 [NPL 1] He, et al., Microbiology (2001) deposit number M2011490, and creation of an optimum pH more, since the Chinese Patent Application specification of which the authors of NPL 2 are the inventors (hereunder,

PTL 2) was published on Apr. 24, 2013, the actual sequence of Rgpal is publicly known. However, it is not disclosed that the enzyme can produce 4-aminocinnamic acid using 4-aminophenylalanine as the substrate.

Thus, 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) is an important substance in that it is a precursor for 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA).

Also, NPL 3 discloses, as shown in FIG. 1, conversion of chorismic acid to 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) by 10 PapA (4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid synthase), conversion of ADC to 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP) by PapB (4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid mutase), and conversion of ADP to 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid by PapC (4-amino-4deoxyprephenate dehydrogenase).

Also, it is believed that 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid is converted to 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) by the action of microbial endogenous enzymes.

In addition, PTL 3 discloses that biosynthesis of 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC), at least catalyzed by an ²⁰ enzyme belonging to the class of aminodeoxychorismic acid synthases, is carried out by in vivo fermentation in a host microorganism having 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid synthase at an increased level of activity, while obtaining a fermentation culture broth comprising 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) and 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP), and that the compounds are recovered from the fermentation culture broth, either together or each one separately.

However, when the conventionally known pap genes, i.e. the 3 key enzymes known in pathways of antibiotic production (for example, PapA, PapB, PapC of Streptomyces venezuelae) are simply utilized directly, the productivity of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) by fermentation is no more than about 0.2 g/L, and even attempting various combinations of conventionally known pap genes, it accumulates at no more than about 0.9 g/L.

Such low productivity has been an obstacle when trying achieve industrial mass production of aniline derivatives including 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE), from carbon sources such as glucose by fermentation (see FIG. 1).

Thus, a method allowing industrial mass production of derivatives including 4-aminophenylalanine aniline (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE) from carbon sources such as glucose by fermentation has not yet been established, and there is strong demand to develop one.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

[PTL 1] International Patent Publication No. WO2013/ 073519

[PTL 2] CN103060352A Specification

Non-Patent Literature

- [NPL 2] Zhou, et al., Biotechnol Lett (2013) 35:751-756
- [NPL 3] J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2003, 125, 935-939

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

Problems to be Solved by the Invention

As mentioned above, when the conventionally known pap 5 genes, i.e. the 3 key enzymes known in pathways of antibiotic production (for example, PapA, PapB, PapC of *Streptomyces venezuelae*) are simply utilized directly, the productivity of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) by fermentation is no more than about 0.2 g/L, and even attempting various 10 combinations of conventionally known pap genes, it accumulates at no more than about 0.9 g/L. The present inventors have transferred enzyme genes associated with 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA) synthesis into transformants producing 0.2 to 0.9 g/L of 4APhe using conventional pap genes, but 15 were not able to accomplish synthesis of 4ACA.

In light of the current situation of the prior art, it is an object of the invention to provide a method that allows industrial mass production of aniline derivatives including 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid ²⁰ (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE) by fermentation from a carbon source such as glucose.

Means for Solving the Problems

Upon searching for novel pap-like genes coding for proteins having homology with PapA, PapB, PapC of Streptomyces venezuelae, using genome databases, with the aim of increasing 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) productivity, 30 and finding that Pseudomonas fluorescence SBW25 (De Leij F et al. (1995) Appl Environ Microbiol 61:3443-3453) strains PFLU1770, PFLU1771 and PFLU1772, which belong to the same phylum Proteobacteria as Escherichia coli, exhibit homology of 34% (PapC), 44% (PapA) and 35 28% (PapB), respectively, the present inventors succeeded in creating recombinant Escherichia coli producing the genes and in providing them for fermentation of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), and were able to drastically increase productivity, with production of 4APhe at 1.8 g/L. It has not 40 been possible in the prior art to achieve production of 4APhe on the order of grams.

Surprisingly, as mentioned above, it has not been possible to synthesize 4ACA even by transferring enzyme genes associated with synthesis of 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA) 45 into transformants producing 4APhe at 0.2 to 0.9 g/L using conventional pap genes, but 4ACA were successfully synthesized for the first time when these enzyme genes were transferred into transformants producing 4APhe at 1.8 g/L. The present inventors conjecture that, while conversion 50 from chorismic acid to 4-aminopyruvic acid in Escherichia coli has not proceeded efficiently by prior art methods, it can be efficiently promoted by gene modification, and as a result, 4APhe productivity is increased and the threshold for 4APhe production is exceeded, thereby allowing production of 55 4ACA which has not been achievable in the past. The present inventors conducted diligent research and repeated experimentation based on this finding, and thereupon completed this invention.

Specifically, the present invention is as follows.

[1] A method for producing an aniline derivative, comprising the following step:

transferring three or more exogenous genes into a microorganism having a function of biosynthesizing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid, to create a microorganism capable of producing 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) at 1.8 g/L or greater under prescribed culturing

conditions; and contacting the microorganism with a carbon source under conditions suitable for growth and/or maintenance of the microorganism, to produce at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE).

[2] The method according to [1] above, wherein the three or more exogenous genes are papA, papB and papC.

[3] The method according to [2] above, wherein the papA, papB and papC are each derived from *Pseudomonas fluorescence*.

[4] The method according to [3] above, wherein the papA, papB and papC comprise the sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 7, 9 and 5, respectively.

[5] The method according to any one of [1] to [4] above, wherein in the step of creating the microorganism, at least one gene coding for phenylalanine synthase is further disrupted.

[6] The method according to [5] above, wherein the disrupted gene is pheA.

[7] The method according to any one of [1] to [6] above, wherein in the step of creating the microorganism, at least one exogenous gene selected from the group consisting of aroG, aro10 and pal is further transferred.

[8] The method according to any one of [1] to [7] above, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus*, *Corynebacterium*, *Pseudomonas* or *Zymomonas bacteria* and yeast belonging to *Saccharomyces* or *Schizosaccharomyces*.

[9] The method according to [8] above, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

[10] The method according to any one of [1] to [9] above, wherein the carbon source is selected from the group consisting of D-glucose, sucrose, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, starch, cellulose, rice bran, molasses, corn decomposition solution and cellulose decomposition solution.

Effect of the Invention

By the method of the invention it is possible to accomplish industrial mass production of at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE) by fermentation from a carbon source.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the pathways leading from glucose to 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE), via chorismic acid and 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid.

FIG. 2 is a table showing the fermentation medium composition.

FIG. **3** is a graph showing 4APhe production by PFAB-⁶⁰ CAAro.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

The invention will now be explained in detail by way of embodiments thereof.

Unless otherwise specified, all of the technical and scientific terms used throughout the present specification have the same meanings as generally understood by a person skilled in the technical field to which the present disclosure is related. Similar or equivalent methods or substances to those mentioned throughout the present specification may be used for carrying out the methods or compositions disclosed 5 herein, the methods, apparatuses, substances, etc. mentioned in the present specification being examples.

The term "microorganism" includes prokaryotic microorganisms and eukaryotic microorganisms of the Archaea domain, Bacteria domain and Eukarya domain, the latter 10 including yeast, filamentous fungi, protozoa, algae, and higher protists.

For this embodiment, the microorganism may be any one that has the function of biosynthesizing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid, but it is preferably one selected 15 from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli, Bacillus, Corynebacterium, Pseudomonas* or *Zymomonas* bacteria and *Saccharomyces* or *Schizosaccharomyces* yeast, and from the viewpoint of rapid growth ability and ease of fermentation management, *Escherichia coli* is particularly 20 preferred.

The terms "recombinant microorganism" and "recombinant host cells" are used interchangeably throughout the present specification, and they indicate a microorganism that has been genetically modified to produce or overproduce an 25 endogenous polynucleotide, or to produce a foreign polynucleotide such as included in a vector, or having altered production of an endogenous gene. Here, "altered" means upregulation or downregulation of gene production, or the level of an RNA molecule coding for a polypeptide or 30 polypeptide subunit or an equivalent RNA molecule, or the activity of one or several polypeptides or polypeptide subunits, resulting in increase or decrease of the production, level or activity compared to that observed in the unaltered state. 35

For a gene sequence, the term "production" refers to transcription of the gene and, where appropriate, translation of the obtained mRNA transcript into a protein. Thus, as is clear from context, protein production results from transcription and translation of an open reading frame sequence. 40 The production level of a desired product in host cells can be determined based on the amount of corresponding mRNA in the cells, or the amount of desired product encoded by a selected sequence. For example, mRNA that has been transcribed from a selected sequence can be quantified by PCR 45 or Northern hybridization (see Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989)). A protein encoded by a selected sequence can be quantified by various methods such as, for example, assay of the bioactivity of the protein by ELISA, 50 using an antibody that reacts with the protein, recognizing and binding with it, or an assay that is independent of the activity, such as Western blotting or radioimmunoassay. See Sambrook et al. cited above. A polynucleotide generally codes for a target enzyme that participates in a metabolic 55 pathway for production of a desired metabolite.

The terms "recombinant microorganism" and "recombinant host cells" are understood to indicate not only a specific recombinant microorganism but also any descendants or latent descendants of the microorganism. Because certain 60 modifications may take place with subsequent generations due to mutations or environmental influences, such descendants are often not in fact identical to the parent cells, but as used herein, these are still included within the scope of the term. 65

The term "manipulation" refers to any treatment of a microorganism that produces a detectable change in the microorganism, the treatment including, but not being limited to, insertion of a foreign polynucleotide and/or polypeptide into the microorganism and mutation of a polynucleotide and/or polypeptide that is unique to the microorganism.

The terms "metabolically manipulated" or "metabolic manipulation" imply a rational pathway design or assembly of a biosynthesis gene, a gene associated with an operon, or a regulatory element for such a polynucleotide, for production of a desired metabolite. The term "metabolically manipulated" may further include optimization of metabolic flux, by reduction of competitive metabolic pathways that compete with intermediates through the desired pathway, or regulation or optimization of transcription, translation, protein stability and protein functionality using genetic engineering including disruption and knock-out, and appropriate culturing conditions.

The terms "metabolically manipulated microorganism" and "modified microorganism" are used interchangeably throughout the present specification, and refer not only to particular cells of interest but also to descendants or latent descendants of those cells. Because certain modifications may take place with subsequent generations due to mutations or environmental influences, such descendants are often not in fact identical to the parent cells, but as used herein, these are still included within the scope of the term.

The term "biosynthetic pathway", also known as "metabolic pathway", refers to a series of anabolic or catabolic biochemical reactions for conversion of one chemical spe-30 cies to another chemical species. When gene products act on the same substrate either in parallel or in series to produce the same product, or act on a metabolic intermediate (or "metabolite") between the same substrate and metabolic final product, or produce the metabolic intermediate, the 35 gene products belong to the same "metabolic pathway".

The term "foreign (exogenous)", when used herein in reference to a molecule, and especially to an enzyme or polynucleotide, indicates a molecule being produced in an organism other than the organism from which the molecule is derived, or in an organism other than an organism found in nature, and it is unrelated to the production level, as the production level may be lower than, equal to or higher than the production level of the molecule in the naturally occurring microorganism.

The terms "natural" or "endogenous" when used herein in reference to a molecule, and especially to an enzyme or polynucleotide, indicates a molecule being produced in the organism from which the molecule is derived, or in an organism found in nature, and it is unrelated to the production level, as the production level may be lower than, equal to or higher than the production level of the molecule in the naturally occurring microorganism. It is understood that production of a natural enzyme or polynucleotide can be altered in a recombinant microorganism.

The term "feedstock" is defined as a starting material, or a mixture of starting materials, supplied to a microorganism or fermentation process, from which other products can be produced. For example, a carbon source such as a biomass or a carbon compound derived from a biomass is a feedstock for a microorganism that produces product fuel in a fermentation process. The feedstock may contain nutrients other than carbon sources.

The term "carbon source" generally refers to a substance suitable for use as a source of carbon, for prokaryotic organism growth or eukaryotic cell growth. Carbon sources include, but are not limited to, biomass hydrolysates, starch, sucrose, cellulose, hemicellulose, xylose, lignin and mono-

mer components of these substrates. Without being limitative, carbon sources may include various organic compounds in various forms including polymers, carbohydrates, acids, alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, amino acids and peptides. Examples of these include various monosaccharides, 5 for example, glucose, dextrose (D-glucose), maltose, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, succinic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid, ethanol, rice bran, molasses, corn decomposition solution, cellulose decomposition solution, and mixtures of the foregoing.

The term "substrate" or "appropriate substrate" refers to any substance or compound that is converted to another compound by the action of an enzyme, or that is intended for such conversion. The term includes not only a single type of compound but also any combination of compounds, such as 15 a solution, mixture or other substance containing at least one substrate or its derivative. Furthermore, the term "substrate" includes not only compounds that provide a carbon source suitable for use as a starting material such as sugar, derived from a biomass, but also intermediate and final product 20 metabolites used in pathways associated with the metabolically manipulated microorganisms described in the present specification.

The term "ferment" or "fermentation" is defined as a process in which a microorganism is cultured in a medium 25 containing a starting material such as feedstock or nutrients, the microorganism converting the starting material such as feedstock to a product.

The term "prescribed culturing conditions" means the fermentation culturing conditions that are defined in the 30 examples below.

The term "polynucleotide" is used interchangeably with the term "nucleic acid" throughout the present specification and refers to an organic polymer comprising two or more monomers including nucleotides, nucleosides or their ana- 35 logs, and they include, but are not limited to, single-stranded or double-stranded sense or antisense deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) of arbitrary length, and where appropriate, singlestranded or double-stranded sense or antisense ribonucleic acid (RNA) of arbitrary length, including siRNA. The term 40 "nucleotide" refers to any of several compounds comprising a purine or pyrimidine base and a ribose or deoxyribose sugar bonded to a phosphate group, which are the structural units of nucleic acid bases. The term "nucleoside" refers to a compound comprising a purine or pyrimidine base bonded 45 to deoxyribose or ribose, found in nucleic acids in particular (guanosine or adenosine). The term "nucleotide analog" or "nucleoside analog" means, respectively, a nucleotide or nucleoside in which one or more individual atoms are replaced by different atoms or different functional groups. 50 Thus, the term "polynucleotide" includes nucleic acids, DNA or RNA of arbitrary length, as well as their analogs or fragments. A polynucleotide of three or more nucleotides is known as a nucleotide oligomer or oligonucleotide.

present specification include "genes", and the nucleic acid molecules in the present specification include "vectors" or "plasmids". Thus, the term "gene" refers to a polynucleotide coding for a specific sequence of amino acids constituting all or part of one or more proteins or enzymes, also known as 60 a "structural gene", and may include a regulatory (nontranscribed) DNA sequence such as a promoter sequence, which sequence determines the conditions in which the gene is produced, for example. The transcribed region of a gene may include the untranslated region that includes the intron, 65 5'-untranslated region (UTR) and 3'-UTR, and the coding sequence.

The term "vector" is any means that allows propagation and/or migration of a nucleic acid between organisms, cells or cell components. A vector may be a virus, bacteriophage, provirus, plasmid, phagemid, transposon or an artificial chromosome, such as a YAC (yeast artificial chromosome) BAC (bacterial artificial chromosome) or PLAC (plant artificial chromosome), which is an "episome", i.e. a component that can spontaneously replicate and be incorporated into the chromosomes of host cells. The vector may be a naked RNA polynucleotide, a naked DNA polynucleotide, a polynucleotide comprising both DNA and RNA in the same chain, polylysine bonded DNA or RNA, peptide bonded DNA or RNA or liposome-bonded DNA, which are essentially not episomes, or the vector may be an organism including one or more of the aforementioned polynucleotide constructs, for example, an Agrobacterium, bacterium or the like.

The term "transformation" refers to the process in which a vector is transferred into host cells. The transformation (or transduction, or transfection) can be realized by any of several methods, including chemical substance transformation (for example, lithium acetate transformation), electroporation, microinjection, microprojectile bombardment (or particle bombardment-mediated delivery), and Agrobacterium-mediated transformation.

The term "enzyme", as used herein, refers to any substance that catalyzes or promotes one or more chemical or biochemical reactions, and usually includes enzymes that are completely or partially composed of polypeptides, although it may include enzymes composed of different molecules including polynucleotides.

The term "protein" or "polypeptide", as used herein, indicates an organic polymer composed of two or more amino acid monomers and/or its analog. When used throughout the present specification, the terms "amino acid" or "amino acid monomer" refer to any natural and/or synthetic amino acids including glycine and both D- or L-optical isomers. The term "amino acid analog" refers to an amino acid wherein one or more individual atoms has been replaced with different atoms or different functional groups. Thus, the term "polypeptide" includes any amino acid polymers of arbitrary length, including full length proteins and peptides, as well as their analogs and fragments. A polypeptide of three or more amino acids is referred to as a protein oligomer" or "oligopeptide".

As mentioned above, the first mode of the invention is a method for producing an aniline derivative, comprising the following step:

transferring three or more exogenous genes into a microorganism having a function of biosynthesizing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid, to create a microorganism capable of producing 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) at 1.8 g/L or greater under prescribed culturing conditions; and

contacting the microorganism with a carbon source under It is understood that the polynucleotides mentioned in the 55 conditions suitable for growth and/or maintenance of the microorganism, to produce at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE).

> The three or more exogenous genes are preferably papA, papB and papC, and more preferably the papA, papB and papC are derived from *Pseudomonas fluorescence*, and more preferably the papA, papB and papC consist of the nucleotide sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 7, 9 and 5, respectively.

> According to the invention, however, the amino acid sequences encoded by the three or more exogenous genes

include proteins that comprise amino acid sequences having at least 90% sequence identity with the amino acid sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 8, 10 and 6, respectively, and having PapA, PapB and PapC enzyme activity, and the sequence identity may be at least 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 5 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99%.

Here, the term "sequence identity" means, for two chains of polypeptide sequences (or amino acid sequences) or polynucleotide sequences (or nucleotide sequences), the quantity (number) of amino acid residues or nucleotides 10 composing them that can be determined as identical between the two chains, in terms of the mutual agreement between them, meaning the degree of sequence correlation between two polypeptide sequences or two polynucleotide sequences. Identity can be easily calculated. Numerous 15 methods are known for measuring identity between two polynucleotide sequences or polypeptide sequences, and the term "sequence identity" is well known to those skilled in the art.

Furthermore, according to the invention, the amino acid 20 sequences encoded by the three or more exogenous genes include proteins that comprise the amino acid sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 8, 10 and 6, respectively, with a deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids, and having PapA, PapB and PapC enzyme 25 activity. Here, "several" may be at most 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 or 2.

Mutant DNA can be prepared by any method known to those skilled in the art such as, for example, chemical synthesis, genetic engineering or mutagenesis. Specifically, 30 mutant DNA can be obtained by introducing mutations into DNA comprising the nucleotide sequences coding for the amino acid sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 8, 10 and 6, using a method of contact with a chemical agent serving as a mutagen, a method of irradiation with ultraviolet rays or a 35 genetic engineering method. Site-specific mutagenesis is a genetic engineering method that is useful as it allows introduction of specific mutations into specified sites, and it may be carried out by the method described in Sambrook, J. et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Ed., 40 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989. By producing the mutant DNA using a suitable production system, it is possible to obtain a protein comprising an amino acid sequence with a deletion, substitution, insertion or addition of one or several amino acids. 45

Furthermore, according to the invention, the three or more exogenous genes include nucleic acids comprising nucleotide sequences that hybridize with nucleic acid comprising nucleotide sequences complementary to the nucleotide sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 7, 9 and 5 under high 50 stringent conditions, and that code for proteins having PapA, PapB and PapC enzyme activity.

As used herein, "stringent conditions" are conditions that allow specific binding between a polynucleotide and genomic DNA in a selective and detectable manner. Strin-55 gent conditions are defined by an appropriate combination of salt concentration, organic solvent (for example, formamide), temperature and other known conditions. Specifically, stringency is increased by reducing the salt concentration, increasing the organic solvent concentration or 60 raising the hybridization temperature. Stringency is also affected by the rinsing conditions after hybridization. The rinsing conditions are defined by the salt concentration and temperature, and stringency of rinsing is increased by reducing the salt concentration and raising the temperature. Thus, 65 "stringent conditions" means conditions in which a specific hybrid is formed only between nucleotide sequences having

high identity, namely a degree of identity between the nucleotide sequences of about 90% or greater as the overall average. Specifically, "stringent conditions" indicates hybridization with 6.0×SSC at about 45° C. followed by rinsing with 2.0×SSC at 50° C. For selection of stringency, the salt concentration in the rinsing step may be selected between, for example, about 2.0×SSC, 50° C. as low stringency to about 0.1×SSC, 50° C. as high stringency. Also, the temperature for the rinsing step may be raised from room temperature, or approximately 22° C., as low stringent conditions to about 65° C. as high stringent conditions. The hybridization can be carried out according to a method known to those skilled in the art or a similar method. When a commercially available library is to be used, it may be carried out according to the method described in the accompanying directions for use.

According to this embodiment, in the step of creating the microorganism, preferably at least one gene coding for phenylalanine synthase, such as pheA, is also disrupted. Also preferably, at least one exogenous gene selected from the group consisting of aroG, aro10 and pal is further introduced. Enzymes associated with the metabolic pathway of the invention will now be described.

Biosynthesis of 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) from chorismic acid is publicly known from K. S. Anderson et al., JACS 113 (1991) 3198-3200. On p. 5690 of Parsons et al., Biochem 42(2003) 5684-5693, it is stated that ADC is only barely hydrolyzed under the influence of phenazine biosynthesis PhzD protein, for which ADC is clearly an unsatisfactory substrate. Moreover, since ADC synthesis is the first step in folate synthesis from chorismic acid in the natural world, aminodeoxychorismic acid synthase enzyme is abundantly available in the natural world. It has been speculated that these are to be found in all folate prototrophic organisms, such as bacteria, yeast, plants and lower eukaryotes. The aminodeoxychorismic acid synthase enzyme is known to also participate in p-aminobenzoate synthesis.

According to the invention, a papA-like gene (PfpapA) was used, for which conversion activity from chorismic acid to 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) had not been confirmed.

The biosynthetic pathway from 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) to 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP) is publicly known from Teng et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 107 (1985) 5008-5009, for example, but biosynthesis and collection of ADP was not described so as to be publicly known as for ADC, probably because the ADP product is unstable. This publication indicates possible biosynthetic pathways from 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) and 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP) to 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), similar to the disclosure of Blanc et al., Mol. Mic. 23(1997) 191-202, but the fermentation pathways of the ADC and ADP products to 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) and collection thereof, are in no way suggested. As mentioned above, PTL 3 discloses that biosynthesis of 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC), at least catalyzed by an enzyme belonging to the class of aminodeoxychorismic acid synthases, is carried out by in vivo fermentation in a host microorganism having 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid synthase at an increased level of activity, while obtaining a fermentation culture broth including 4-amino-4-deoxychorismic acid (ADC) and 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP), and that the compounds are recovered from the fermentation culture broth, either together or each one separately.

According to the invention, a papB-like gene (PfpapB) was used, for which conversion activity from 4-amino-4-

deoxychorismic acid (ADC) to 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP) had not been confirmed.

The enzyme 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate dehydrogenase participates in the biosynthetic pathway from 4-amino-4deoxyprephenate (ADP) to 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid. The 5 enzyme 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate dehydrogenase carries out oxidative decarboxylation of ADP, causing dissociation of the carboxy group at position 1 of ADP and producing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid which has an aromatic ring. According to the invention, a papC-like gene (PfpapC) was 10 used, for which conversion activity from 4-amino-4-deoxyprephenate (ADP) to 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid had not been confirmed.

An aminotransferase participates in the biosynthetic pathway from 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid to 4-aminophenylala- 15 nine (4APhe). Aminotransferases transfer amino groups of amino acids to α -keto acid, and tyrosine aminotransferase, aspartic acid aminotransferase and the like have been shown to participate in the biosynthesis of aromatic amino acids. In this case, glutamic acid is utilized as an amino group donor. 20 According to the invention, an endogenous enzyme of the host microorganism was used for conversion from 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid to 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe).

Ammonia-lyases participate in the biosynthetic pathway from 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) to 4-aminocinnamic 25 acid (4ACA). Ammonia-lyases are enzymes such as phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, tyrosine ammonia-lyase and histidine ammonia-lyase that cause dissociation of α-amino groups of aromatic amino acids to produce α - β -unsaturated carboxylic acids and ammonia, and those derived from 30 plants and microorganisms such as NCBI (www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/gene/) deposit number NP 187645.1, NCBI deposit number DQ013364.1, NCBI deposit number EGU13302.1 and NCBI deposit number KF770992.1, are preferred.

Phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (Pal) is an enzyme having 35 activity of converting phenylalanine to cinnamic acid, and resting cells reaction using Escherichia coli producing Pal4 genes of Arabidopsis thaliana (the wild type and mutants F126E and F126D), or the PAL gene (RgPal) of Rhodotorula glutinis, and conversion of 4APhe to 4ACA, has already 40 been successfully achieved.

According to the invention, RgPal was used for conversion from 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) to 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA).

A decarboxylase participates in the biosynthetic pathway 45 from 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid to 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehvde. A decarboxylase is an enzyme that causes dissociation of a carboxyl group from a pyruvic acid derivative to produce an aldehyde derivative and carbon dioxide, there being especially used ones that can utilize aromatic pyruvic 50 detail by the following examples. acid derivatives such as phenylpyruvic acid as substrates. The yeast-derived phenylpyruvate decarboxylase (NCBI deposit number NM_001180688.3) is used for this purpose, and analogous enzymes such as NCBI deposit number XP_002498188 and NCBI deposit number XP_444902.1 55 can also be used.

For conversion from 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid to 2-(4aminophenyl)aldehyde according to the invention there was used the yeast Aro10, which has been demonstrated to be a phenylpyruvate decarboxylase that converts phenylpyruvic 60 acid to phenylacetaldehyde.

Aldehyde dehydrogenases participate in the biosynthetic pathway from 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde to 4-aminophenylacetic acid. An aldehyde dehydrogenase oxidizes an aldehyde to yield carboxylic acid, with NAD⁺ or NADP⁺ as 65 a coenzyme, and any of those derived from prokaryotic or eukaryotic organisms may be used. In particular, those

utilizing aromatic aldehydes such as phenylacetaldehyde as substrates may be used. More particularly, NCBI deposit number NP_013893.1 and NCBI deposit number NP_013892.1, which are yeast-derived phenylacetaldehyde dehydrogenases, as well as their analogous enzymes, may be used for this purpose.

Alcohol dehydrogenases participate in the biosynthetic pathway from 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde to 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE). An alcohol dehydrogenase reduces an aldehyde to an alcohol with NADH or NADPH as a coenzyme, and any of those derived from prokaryotic or eukaryotic organisms may be used. In particular, those utilizing aromatic aldehydes such as phenylacetaldehyde as substrates may be used. More particularly, NCBI deposit number NP_014555.1, NCBI deposit number NP_014032.1, NCBI deposit number NP_013800.1, NCBI deposit number NP_011258.1 and NCBI deposit number NP_009703.1, which are yeast-derived alcohol dehydrogenases, as well as their analogous enzymes, may be used for this purpose. Those derived from aniline derivative-producing hosts, produced by the producing hosts, may also be used.

According to the invention, an endogenous enzyme of a host microorganism was used for conversion from 2-(4aminophenyl)aldehvde to 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE).

Also, Escherichia coli AroG and AroF are enzymes that catalyze the initial reaction in the biosynthetic pathway for aromatic amino acids, and they are used for synthesis of 3-deoxy-D-arabino-heptulosonic acid 7-phosphate. The enzyme activity of AroG is known to be inhibited by phenylalanine. Mutant AroG, which is resistant to feedback inhibition, is utilized for high production of aromatic amino acids and their analogs using Escherichia coli, and AroG4 is a mutant form of AroG. Therefore, transfer of AroG4 was carried out in the examples that follow.

In addition, Escherichia coli PheA is an enzyme involved in phenylalanine synthesis, having activity of converting chorismic acid (chorismate) to phenylpyruvic acid (phenylpyruvate). Since chorismic acid is also a substrate of PapA, disruption of the pheA gene would be expected to result in increased host cell concentration of chorismic acid which is the substrate of PapA. Therefore, the pheA gene was disrupted in the examples which follow.

EXAMPLES

The present invention will now be explained in greater

[Fermentation Medium Composition]

The fermentation medium composition is shown in FIG. 2. The following culturing conditions were used for the fermentation, and are referred to as "prescribed culturing conditions" throughout the present specification.

[Prescribed Culturing Conditions]

(Preculturing)

LB medium was added to a test tube at up to 4 ml of liquid volume, and then 100 µl of Escherichia coli glycerol stock was added thereto and culturing was conducted at 37° C., 120 rpm for 6 hours.

(Medium Composition (/L))

The LB medium composition was as shown in Table 1. The culture media used were sterilized at 121° C., 15 minutes using an autoclave.

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LB medium pH 7.0 Tryptone Yeast extract NaCl	10 g/L 5 g/L 10 g/L
INACI	10 g/L

(Main Culturing)

A 5 ml portion of the fermentation medium was added to a 50 ml test tube, and then 500 µl of preculturing broth was added thereto and culturing was conducted at 37° C., 120 rpm for 12 hours. Next, IPTG was added to a final concentration of 0.1 mM, and culturing was continued for 12 hours. For culturing using a flask, 100 ml of the aforementioned fermentation medium with glucose added to a final concen-15 tration of 10 g/l was added to a 500 ml blade-equipped flask, 500 µl of preculturing broth was added thereto, and culturing was continued at 30° C. As the producing host there was used Escherichia coli NST37(DE3) [ATCC 31882, U.S. Pat. No. 4,681,852, genotypes: aroG, aroF, pheA, tyrR, tyrA and 20 trpE] or a derivative thereof, and tyrosine and tryptophan were added to the medium at 0.05 g/l. After inducing production with IPTG, glucose was added every 12 hours of culturing to 5 g/l. After 36 hours of culturing, the amount of production of 4APhe as the compound to be evaluated was 25 examined.

[Preparation of Bacterial Strains]

(Preparation of pheA Gene-Disrupted Strain)

Following the procedure reported in Baba, T. et al. Mol. Syst. Biol. 2, 2006.0008 (2006), the kanamycin resistance 30 gene was amplified using a primer set comprising a sequence homologous with 50 bp outside of the ORF of the pheA gene, and the FRT sequence (SEQ ID NO: 4: 5'-gt-ctattet ctagaaagtataggaacttetggacagcaagegaaceggaattge-3'; 35 and SEQ ID NO: 3: 5'-gatgattcacatcatccggcaccttttcatcaggttggatcaacaggcacgaagttcctatact ttctagagagaataggaacttctcagaagaactcgtcaagaaggcg-3'), with pZE21 MCS (Lutz and Bujard, Nucl. Acids Res. (1997) 25(6): 1203-1210) as template. The obtained gene fragment was used as a disruption 40 cassette. The region comprising the pheA gene in the genome of strain NST37 [ATCC 31882, U.S. Pat. No. 4,681,852, genotypes: aroG, aroF, pheA, tyrR, tyrA, trpE] was replaced with a disruption cassette by $\operatorname{Red}^R/\operatorname{ET}^R$ Recombination, to obtain a pheA gene-disrupted strain. The 45 kanamycin resistance gene in the genome of the genedisrupted strain was removed with an FLP-FRT recombination system. The obtained pheA gene-disrupted strain was designated as NST37(DE3)/ApheA. This strain could not grow in phenylalanine-free M9 medium. 50

(Construction of Plasmids for aroG4 and aroF Production) The artificial gene synthesis service of GeneScript was used to synthesize a DNA fragment comprising the aroG4 gene with EcoRI and HindIII cleavage sites at the ends (SEQ ID NO: 1, Appl. Environ. Microbiol., 63, 761-762(1997)). 55 After smoothing with T4 DNA Polymerase, it was linked to pACYC184 (Nippon Gene) having the chloramphenicol resistance gene previously cut with EcoRV. The obtained plasmid was designated as pACYC-aroG4. This was transferred into NST37(DE3)/ApheA to create strain NST37 60 (DE3)/ApheA/pACYC-aroG4.

(Construction of Plasmids for PFLU1770, PFLU1771 and PFLU1772 Production)

Upon searching for genes coding for proteins exhibiting homology with PapABC of *Streptomyces venezuelae*, using 65 genome databases, it was found that *Pseudomonas fluorescence* SBW25 (De Leij F et al. (1995) Appl Environ

Microbiol 61:3443-3453) strains PFLU1770, PFLU1771 and PFLU1772, which belong to the same phylum Proteobacteria as *Escherichia coli*, exhibited homology of 34% (PapC), 44% (PapA) and 28% (PapB), respectively. Recombinant *Escherichia coli* producing these genes were prepared, and the production of 4APhe was examined.

The artificial gene synthesis service of GeneScript was used to synthesize the PFLU1770 gene (SEQ ID NO: 5, PfPapC gene), PFLU1771 gene (SEQ ID NO: 7, PfPapA gene) and PFLU1772 gene (SEQ ID NO: 9, PfPapB gene) of Pseudomonas fluorescence SBW25, which belong to the same phylum Proteobacteria as Escherichia coli. The codons of the nucleotide sequence of each gene were optimized for production in Escherichia coli. Each gene linked to pUC57 (Genescript) was cut using different restriction enzymes and linked with pETduet-1 (Novagen), pRSFduet-1 (Novagen) or pCDFduet-1 (Novagen) to construct pET-PFLU1771, pRSF-PFLU1771, pCDF-PFLU1771, pET-PFLU1770_1772, pRSF-PFLU1770_1772 and pCDF-PFLU1770_1772. That is, PFLU1771 (PfpapA) was synthesized artificially and introduced into pETduet-1 to prepare pET-PFLU1771. Also, PFLU1770 (PfpapC) and PFLU1772 (PfpapB) were synthesized artificially and inserted into pCDFduet-1 to prepare pCDF-PFLU 1770 1772.

(Construction of SvpapABC and SppapBC Production Plasmids)

The following three plasmids were prepared. The PCR template used was total DNA of *Streptomyces venezuelae* (ATCC deposit number 10712) and *Streptomyces pristinaespiralis* (ATCC deposit number 25486).

pET-svpapA: A DNA fragment comprising the svPapA gene (He et al., Microbiol, 147: 2817-2829 (2001)) was amplified by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 11:5'-gacacatatgcgcacgcttctgatcgac-3' and SEQ ID NO: 12:5'-gacgatatcatcgggcgcccgccacggc-3'). It was digested using restriction enzymes NdeI and EcoRV, and linked with pETduet-1 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain pET-svpapA.

pRSF-svpapBC: A DNA fragment comprising the svPapB gene (He et al., Microbiol, 147: 2817-2829 (2001)) was amplified by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 13:5'-gagccatgggcaccgagcagaacgagctg-3' and SEQ ID NO: 14:5'-cagaagcttcaccgccggtcctcggccgtc-3'). It was digested using restriction enzymes NcoI and HindIII, and linked with pRSFduet-1 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain a plasmid. At the NdeI-XhoI site of the obtained plasmid, there was linked a DNA fragment comprising the svPapC gene (He et al., Microbiol, 147: 2817-2829 (2001)) obtained by amplification by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 15:5'-cagagacatatgagcg-gcttccccgcag-3' and SEQ ID NO: 16:5'-gactcgagtcatcggtc-cttctcgccttcg-3'), to obtain pRSF-svpapBC.

pRSF-sppapBC: A DNA fragment comprising the spPapB gene (Blanc et al., Mol. Microbiol. 23: 191-202 (1997)) was amplified by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 17:5'-cagcatgggcaccccgccgccatcccc-3' and SEQ ID NO: 18:5'-cagaagcttcacgacacggccccccgcg-3'). It was digested using restriction enzymes NcoI and HindIII, and linked with pRSFduet-1 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain a plasmid. At the NdeI-EcoRV site of the obtained plasmid there was linked a DNA fragment comprising the spPapC gene (Blanc et al., Mol. Nicrobiol. 23: 191-202 (1997)) obtained by amplification by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 19:5'-cagagacatat-gaggggtggttcggtgttcg-3' and SEQ ID NO: 20:5'-cagatatca-gtgcagggggtgaacatc-3'), to obtain pRSF-sppapBC.

(Construction of Plasmid for Aro10 Production)

The Aro10 gene (SEQ ID NO: 23) was amplified by PCR, with the genome of Saccharomyces cerevisiae S288C (ATCC 204508) as template, using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 21:5'-gagccatggcacctgttacaattga-3' and SEQ ID NO: 22:5'-gacggatcctattttttatttcttttaaagtgc-3'). It was digested using restriction enzymes NcoI and BamHI, and linked with pRSF-duet1 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain pRSF-aro10.

(Preparation of pET-PFLU1771 Rgpal)

A DNA fragment comprising the PAL gene derived from yeast Rhodotorula glutinis (SEQ ID NO: 27) (RgPAL gene) was amplified by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 25:5'-gacggatccgatggccccctccgtcgactc-3' and SEQ 15 ID NO: 26:5'-gctgaattettatgccatcatettgacgag-3'). It was digested using restriction enzymes BamHI and EcoRI and linked to pET-PFLU1771 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain pET-PFLU_1771 Rgpal. (Preparation of pRSF-Rgpal) 20

A DNA fragment comprising the RgPAL gene was amplified by PCR using the following primer pair (SEQ ID NO: 25 and SEQ ID NO: 26). It was digested using restriction enzymes BamHI and EcoRI, and linked with pRSFduet-1 that had been treated with the same enzymes, to obtain 25 pRSF-Rgpal.

[Culturing Using Jar Fermenter]

A preculturing broth cultured in LB medium was seeded at a 1/10 volume in a 1.0 L-volume jar fermenter (BMJ-1: Biotto) containing 500 ml of medium for 4APhe production. 30 mg/L of 4ACA was produced. Aeration was with air at 0.6 L/min, and the stirring speed was set to 500 r.p.m. When the O.D. reached 0.4 to 0.5, IPTG was added to a final concentration of 0.1 mM. A BF510 feed control system (Able-Biott) was used for culturing with glucose-stat. The BF510 was set so that the 35 pap gene was used under the same culturing conditions as glucose concentration was measured each hour during this time, and when the measured value fell below 1.5 g/l, 1 g of glucose and 0.2 g of ammonium chloride were added to the culturing vat.

[Analysis of Samples]

The cell concentration was measured at 600 nm using a spectrophotometer (UVmini-1240). Measurement of the glucose concentration was accomplished by colorimetry, using a glucose test kit (Wako). For measurement of the 4APhe concentration in the medium, an HPLC (1200 infin- 45 ity series: Hewlett Packard) was used and the absorbances at wavelengths of 210, 254 and 280 nm were measured as indices.

Example 1

pET-PFLU1771 pCDF-The plasmids and PFLU1770_1772 were transferred into Escherichia coli NST37(DE3)/ApheA/pACYC-aroG4 to obtain strain PFABCAAro. Each strain was cultured under the aforementioned "prescribed culturing conditions" with an IPTG concentration of 0.1 mM, and after 36 hours of culturing, the

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amount of 4APhe production was examined. As a result, strain PFABCAAro produced 1.8 g/L of 4APhe.

Comparative Example 1

When Streptomyces pristinaespiralis papABC (pET-sp-PapA and pRSF-spPapBC) was used by the same method as Example 1, 0.2 g/L of 4APhe was obtained. Also, when Streptomyces venezuelae papA (pET-svpapA) and Streptomyces pristinaespiralis papBC (pRSF-sppapBC) were used, 0.9 g/L of 4APhe was obtained, but the results of Example 1 were not reached.

Example 2: Culturing of Strain PFABCAAro with Jar Fermenter

Upon culturing using strain PFABC Δ Aro, by the method described above in [Culturing using jar fermenter], 4APhe was successfully produced at a maximum of 4.0 g/L (sugarbased yield: 15%), as shown in FIG. 3. The sugar-based yield was 13% at 44 hours of culturing when the production volume no longer varied.

Example 3: Production of 4-Aminocinnamic Acid (4ACA)

The three plasmids pET-PFLU1771_Rgpal, pCDF-PFLU1770_1772 and pRSF-Rgpal were transferred into Escherichia coli NST37(DE3)/ApheA/pACYC-aroG4. The obtained strains were cultured using a jar fermenter, and 3

Comparative Example 2

Contrasting with the above results, when a conventional Example 3, it was not possible to produce 4ACA.

> Example 4: Production of 4-Aminophenethylethanol (4APE)

It was attempted to accomplish fermentative production of 4APE using yeast Aro10. A strain obtained by transferring pRSF-aro10 into PFABCAAro was cultured. During this time, accumulation of 4APE was confirmed after 24 hours of culturing at both IPTG concentrations of 0.1 mM and 0.3 mM.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

By the method of the invention it is possible to accomplish industrial mass production of at least one aniline derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE) by fermentation from a carbon source.

SEQUENCE LISTING

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SEQUENCE LISTING

<210> SEQ ID NO 1 <211> LENGTH: 2099 <212> TYPE: DNA <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<160> NUMBER OF SEQ ID NOS: 28

<220> FEATURE: <223> OTHER INFORMATION: E. coli <400> SEOUENCE: 1 aagettgeat geetgeaggt egaegttatt tggegegaea tttteaeggg egteagggge tacctggccc gcatcagctg cggcgtttgc tggccgttat tagtttgcgc tccgcatcgg cagccagtgc ggcaccgcgg caaggettag agtggcagtc agaaataatg tggccagttt tgtcattttc ataggatgct cctgttatgg tcgttatgtc ggataacctc ttccaacagt gcatttgcag gtgaatataa ggcattggtt taagatttca gccaggttat gaaacgcagc agagaatett gaaataatta acaaacaaag gagttacagt tagaaattgt aggagagate tcgtttttcg cgacaatctg gcgtttttct tgctaattct aggattaatc cgttcatagt qtaaaacccc qtttacacat tctqacqqaa qatataqatt qqaaqtattq cattcactaa gataagtatg gcaacactgg aacagac atg aat tat cag aac gac gat tta cgc Met Asn Tyr Gln Asn Asp Asp Leu Arg atc aaa gaa atc aaa gag tta ctt cct cct gtc gca ttg ctg gaa aaa Ile Lys Glu Ile Lys Glu Leu Leu Pro Pro Val Ala Leu Leu Glu Lys ttc ccc gct act gaa aat gcc gcg aat acg gtt gcc cat gcc cga aaa Phe Pro Ala Thr Glu Asn Ala Ala Asn Thr Val Ala His Ala Arg Lys gcg atc cat aag atc ctg aaa ggt aat gat gat cgc ctg ttg gtt gtg Ala Ile His Lys Ile Leu Lys Gly Asn Asp Asp Arg Leu Leu Val Val att ggc cca tgc tca att cat gat cct gtc gcg gca aaa gag tat gcc Ile Gly Pro Cys Ser Ile His Asp Pro Val Ala Ala Lys Glu Tyr Ala act cgc ttg ctg gcg ctg cgt gaa gag ctg aaa gat gag ctg gaa atc Thr Arg Leu Leu Ala Leu Arg Glu Glu Leu Lys Asp Glu Leu Glu Ile gta atg cgc gtc tat ttt gaa aag ccg cgt acc acg gtg ggc tgg aaa Val Met Arg Val Tyr Phe Glu Lys Pro Arg Thr Thr Val Gly Trp Lys ggg ctg att aac gat ccg cat atg gat aat agc ttc cag atc aac gac Gly Leu Ile Asn Asp Pro His Met Asp Asn Ser Phe Gln Ile Asn Asp ggt ctg cgt ata gcc cgt aaa ttg ctg ctt gat att aac gac agc ggt Gly Leu Arg Ile Ala Arg Lys Leu Leu Leu Asp Ile Asn Asp Ser Gly ctg cca gcg gca ggt gag ttt ctc gat atg atc acc cta caa tat ctc Leu Pro Ala Ala Gly Glu Phe Leu Asp Met Ile Thr Leu Gln Tyr Leu gct gac ctg atg agc tgg ggc gca att ggc gca cgt acc acc gaa tcg Ala Asp Leu Met Ser Trp Gly Ala Ile Gly Ala Arg Thr Thr Glu Ser cag gtg cac cgc gaa ctg gca tca ggg ctt tct tgt ccg gtc ggc ttc Gln Val His Arg Glu Leu Ala Ser Gly Leu Ser Cys Pro Val Gly Phe aaa aat ggc acc gac ggt acg att aaa gtg gct atc gat gcc att aat Lys Asn Gly Thr \mbox{Asp} Gly Thr \mbox{Ile} Lys Val Ala Ile \mbox{Asp} Ala Ile \mbox{Asp} gee gee ggt geg eeg eac tge tte etg tee gta aeg aaa tgg ggg eat Ala Ala Gly Ala Pro His Cys Phe Leu Ser Val Thr Lys Trp Gly His tog gog att gtg aat acc ago ggt aac ggo gat tgo cat atc att otg Ser Ala Ile Val Asn Thr Ser Gly Asn Gly Asp Cys His Ile Ile Leu

-continued
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ttc agc cat gct aac tcg tcc aaa caa ttc aaa aag cag atg gat gtt 1350 Phe Ser His Ala Asn Ser Ser Lys Gln Phe Lys Lys Gln Met Asp Val 270 275 280
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Ala Asn Thr Val Ala His Ala Arg Lys Ala Ile His Lys Ile Leu Lys 35 40 45
Gly Asn Asp Asp Arg Leu Leu Val Val Ile Gly Pro Cys Ser Ile His 50 55 60
Asp Pro Val Ala Ala Lys Glu Tyr Ala Thr Arg Leu Leu Ala Leu Arg 65 70 75 80
Glu Glu Leu Lys Asp Glu Leu Glu Ile Val Met Arg Val Tyr Phe Glu 85 90 95

Lys	Pro	Arg	Thr 100	Thr	Val	Gly	Trp	Lys 105	Gly	Leu	Ile	Asn	Asp 110	Pro	His	
Met	Asp	Asn 115	Ser	Phe	Gln	Ile	Asn 120	Asp	Gly	Leu	Arg	Ile 125	Ala	Arg	Lys	
Leu	Leu 130	Leu	Asp	Ile	Asn	Asp 135	Ser	Gly	Leu	Pro	Ala 140	Ala	Gly	Glu	Phe	
Leu 145	Asp	Met	Ile	Thr	Leu 150	Gln	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Asp 155	Leu	Met	Ser	Trp	Gly 160	
Ala	Ile	Gly	Ala	Arg 165	Thr	Thr	Glu	Ser	Gln 170	Val	His	Arg	Glu	Leu 175	Ala	
Ser	Gly	Leu	Ser 180	СЛа	Pro	Val	Gly	Phe 185	ГЛа	Asn	Gly	Thr	Asp 190	Gly	Thr	
Ile	ГЛа	Val 195	Ala	Ile	Asp	Ala	Ile 200	Asn	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ala 205	Pro	His	Сүз	
Phe	Leu 210	Ser	Val	Thr	Гла	Trp 215	Gly	His	Ser	Ala	Ile 220	Val	Asn	Thr	Ser	
Gly 225	Asn	Gly	Asp	Суз	His 230	Ile	Ile	Leu	Arg	Gly 235	Gly	Lys	Glu	Pro	Asn 240	
Tyr	Ser	Ala	ГЛа	His 245	Val	Ala	Glu	Val	Lys 250	Glu	Gly	Leu	Asn	Lys 255	Ala	
Gly	Leu	Pro	Ala 260	Gln	Val	Met	Ile	Asp 265	Phe	Ser	His	Ala	Asn 270	Ser	Ser	
Lys	Gln	Phe 275	Lys	ГЛа	Gln	Met	Asp 280	Val	Сув	Ala	Asp	Val 285	Cys	Gln	Gln	
Ile	Ala 290	Gly	Gly	Glu	Гла	Ala 295	Ile	Ile	Gly	Val	Met 300	Val	Glu	Ser	His	
Leu 305	Val	Glu	Gly	Asn	Gln 310	Ser	Leu	Glu	Ser	Gly 315	Glu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Tyr 320	
Gly	Lys	Ser	Ile	Thr 325	Asp	Ala	Суз	Ile	Gly 330	Trp	Glu	Asp	Thr	Asp 335	Ala	
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ttci	cta	gaa a	agtai	tagg	aa ci	tct	ggaca	a gca	aagco	gaac	cgga	aatto	gc			109
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<210> SEQ ID NO 5

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									gaa Glu							144
									ggt Gly							192
									agc Ser							240
									gaa Glu							288
									gct Ala 105							336
									atg Met							384
									gtg Val							432
									gaa Glu							480
									ctg Leu							528
-	-		-	-		-			ggt Gly 185	-	-	-	-		-	576
									gtc Val							624
									ctg Leu							672
		-		-	-	-		-	cag Gln	-	-			-	-	720
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	gtc Val 65														24	0
	tgt Cys														28	8
	cat His														33	6
	ggc Gly														38	4
	tac Tyr														43	2
	gcc Ala 145														48	0
	ccg Pro														52	8
	ggt Gly														57	6
	ggt Gly														62	4
	gcg Ala														67	2
	gcg Ala 225														72	0
	caa Gln	-		-	-	-			-			-	-	-	76	8
	tca Ser	-	-	-		-	-		-		-		-	 -	81	.6
-	caa Gln				-	-	-					-	_	-	86	4
	ctg Leu			-			-	-		-	-		-		91	2

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													atg Met			1008	
													agc Ser			1056	
													ttt Phe 365			1104	
	•			•		0					0		ggt Gly			1152	
													aac Asn			1200	
													ctg Leu			1248	
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													ctg Leu 445			1344	
													tac Tyr			1392	
													tgc Cys			1440	
													cgt Arg			1488	
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		-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-		-	ctg Leu 525	-	-	1584	
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-	-			-	-		-				-	-	gcc Ala		-	1776	
-	-		-			-	-	-		-	-		aaa Lys 605	-		1824	
													gtt Val			1872	

											gca Ala 635					1920
											gcg Ala					1968
		-					-	-	-		gaa Glu	-	-	-	-	2016
											ttc Phe					2064
gaa Glu		tga	ctc	gag												2079
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Ala	Gln	Tyr	Leu 20	Tyr	Glu	Val	Thr	Gly 25	Ile	Сув	Ala	Asp	Ile 30	Val	Thr	
		35		-			40				Gln	45	-			
	50			-		55			-		Tyr 60		-		-	
65	-	-			70					75	Pro Gly			-	80	
				85					90		Lys			95		
			100					105			Phe		110			
	His	115				Thr	120				Glu	125				
Ala 145	130 Trp	Thr	Glu	Glu	Gly 150	135 Val	Val	Met	Ala	Ile 155	140 Glu	His	Glu	Ser	Arg 160	
	Ile	Trp	Gly	Val 165		Phe	His	Pro	Glu 170		Ile	Asp	Ser	Glu 175		
Gly	His	Ala	Leu 180	Leu	Ser	Asn	Phe	Ile 185	Gly	Met	Ala	Ile	Glu 190	His	Asn	
Gly	Asn	His 195	Arg	Thr	Ser	Ala	Thr 200	Gln	Asn	Pro	Asp	Ala 205	Ser	Ala	Ser	
Ala	Asn 210	Glu	His	Tyr	Arg	Ala 215	Val	Gly	Gly	Leu	Leu 220	Asn	Met	Gln	Leu	
Ala 225	Tyr	Arg	Thr	Tyr	Pro 230	Gly	Pro	Phe	Asp	Pro 235	Leu	Ala	Leu	Phe	Thr 240	
Gln	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Gln 245	Asp	His	His	Ala	Phe 250	Trp	Leu	Asp	Ser	Glu 255	Lys	
Ser	Glu	Arg	Pro	Asn	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Met	Gly	Ser	Gly	Gln	Ala	

			260					265					270		
Gln	Gly	Ser 275	Ile	Arg	Leu	Thr	Tyr 280	Asp	Val	Asn	Ser	Glu 285	Ser	Leu	Thr
Leu	Ala 290	Gly	Pro	Lys	Gly	Ser 295	Arg	Ile	Val	Thr	Gly 300	Asp	Phe	Phe	Thr
Leu 305	Phe	Ser	Gln	Ile	Val 310	Glu	Ser	Val	Asn	Val 315	Ala	Val	Pro	Gln	Tyr 320
Leu	Pro	Phe	Glu	Phe 325	Lys	Gly	Gly	Phe	Val 330	Gly	Tyr	Met	Gly	Tyr 335	Glu
Leu	Lys	Ala	Leu 340	Thr	Gly	Gly	Asn	Lys 345	Val	Tyr	Arg	Ser	Gly 350	Gln	Pro
Asp	Ala	Gly 355	Phe	Met	Phe	Ala	Pro 360	His	Phe	Phe	Val	Phe 365	Asp	His	His
Asp	Gln 370	Thr	Val	Tyr	Glu	Cys 375	Met	Ile	Ser	Ala	Thr 380	Gly	Gln	Ser	Pro
Gln 385	Trp	Pro	Gln	Leu	Leu 390	Thr	Ser	Met	Thr	Thr 395	Leu	Asn	Asn	Ala	Thr 400
Asp	Arg	Arg	Pro	Phe 405	Val	Pro	Gly	Ala	Val 410	Asp	Glu	Leu	Glu	Leu 415	Ser
Leu	Glu	Asp	Gly 420		Asp	Asp	Tyr	Ile 425		Lys	Val	Lys	Gln 430		Leu
Gln	Tyr	Ile 435		Asp		Glu	Ser 440		Glu	Ile	Сув	Leu 445		Asn	Arg
Ala	Arg 450		Ser	Tyr	Ser	Gly 455		Pro	Leu	Ala	Ala 460		Arg	Arg	Met
Arg 465	Glu	Ala	Ser	Pro	Val 470		Tyr	Gly	Ala	Tyr 475		Сув	Phe	Asp	Ser 480
	Ser	Val	Leu	Ser 485		Ser	Pro	Glu	Thr 490		Leu	Arg	Ile	Asp 495	
Gly	Gly	Leu	Ile 500		Ser	Arg	Pro	Ile 505		Gly	Thr	Arg	Ala 510		Ser
Гла	Asp			Glu	Asp	Gln			Arg	Ser	Asp			Ala	Ser
Thr	Lys	515 Asp	Arg	Ala	Glu		520 Leu	Met	Ile	Val		525 Leu	Val	Arg	His
_	530 Leu	Asn	Gln	Val	-	-					540 His	Val	Pro	His	
545 Phe	Ala	Val	Glu	Ser	550 Phe			Val		555 Gln	Leu	Val	Ser	Thr	560 Val
Arg	Gly	His	Leu	565 Arg	Asn	Asp	Ile	Ser	570 Thr	Met	Glu	Ala	Ile	575 Arg	Ala
Cys	- Phe	Pro	580 Gly	Gly	Ser	Met	Thr	585 Gly	Ala	Pro	Lys	Lys	590 Arg	Thr	Met
-	Ile	595	-	-			600	-			-	605	-		
	610		-	-		615		-		-	620		-		-
625	Leu	-	-		630			-		635					640
Ile	Arg	Thr	Ala	Val 645	Leu	His	Lys	Gln	Gln 650	Ala	Glu	Phe	Gly	Ile 655	Gly
Gly	Ala	Ile	Val 660	Ala	His	Ser	Asp	Pro 665	Asn	Glu	Glu	Leu	Glu 670	Glu	Thr
Leu	Val	Lys 675	Ala	Ser	Val	Pro	Tyr 680	Tyr	Ser	Phe	Tyr	Ala 685	Gly	Ser	Glu

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Lys

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tct gcc Ser Ala 15	atc ctg Ile Leu	Gln	-		-	-		-	-	-					97
cat ctg His Leu	gtt gat Val Asp														145
gcg gaa Ala Glu															193
Ala Glu Leu Lys Ala Ala His Asp Ile Pro Met Met Gln Pro Gln Arg 50 55 60 atc gtg cag gtt ctg gat caa ctg aaa gac aaa agc tct acc gtg ggt 241 Ile Val Gln Val Leu Asp Gln Leu Lys Asp Lys Ser Ser Thr Val Gly 65 70 75															
ctg cgc Leu Arg 80	ccg gac Pro Asp		Val												289
	atc cag Ile Gln	Glu	-		-			-	-	-		-			337
	tcg tga Ser	gcgg	ccgc	!											357
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Ile Leu	Gln Pro 20	Gln .	Arg	Asp		Leu 25	Asp	Arg	Ile	Asn	Asn 30	His	Leu		
Val Asp	Leu Leu 35	Gly	Glu	Arg	Met 40	Ser	Val	Суз	Met	Asp 45	Ile	Ala	Glu		
Leu Lys 50	Ala Ala	His .		Ile 55	Pro	Met	Met	Gln	Pro 60	Gln	Arg	Ile	Val		
Gln Val 65	Leu Asp		Leu 70	Lys	Asp	Lys	Ser	Ser 75	Thr	Val	Gly	Leu	Arg 80		
Pro Asp	Tyr Val	Gln 85	Ser	Val	Phe	Lys	Leu 90	Ile	Ile	Glu	Glu	Thr 95	Сүв		
Ile Gln	Glu Glu 100	Gln	Leu	Ile	Gln	Arg 105	Arg	Arg	Asn	Gln	Gly 110	Gln	Arg		

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cac ctt gtt tcc aac cga tca gca aca att ccg ttt ggt gaa tac ata His Leu Val Ser Asn Arg Ser Ala Thr Ile Pro Phe Gly Glu Tyr Ile	98

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		-	-	-			gat Asp	-			-			-		146
	-						tta Leu 55	-						-	-	194
							gtc Val									242
							tcc Ser									290
			-			-	ggt Gly	-		-	-	-				338
-		-		-	-		gtc Val		-	-			-			386
-	-			-	-	-	tca Ser 135	-			-	-				434
		-	-		-		cat His	-								482
		-			-	-	gta Val		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	530
							act Thr									578
							tct Ser									626
							gtt Val 215									674
	<u> </u>					•	tgt Cys		<u> </u>				<u> </u>			722
							att Ile									770
							gta Val									818
							tgc Cys									866
	-	-				-	att Ile 295	-							-	914
							ggt Gly									962
							cat His									1010
aat	aat	aaa	cat	tat	act	ttt	act	tat	aaa	cca	aat	gct	aaa	atc	att	1058

Asn	Asn	Gly	His	Tyr 340	Thr	Phe	Thr	Tyr	Lys 345	Pro	Asn	Ala	Lys	Ile 350	Ile		
	ttt Phe															1106	
	caa Gln															1154	
	aag Lys 385															1202	
	act Thr															1250	
	caa Gln															1298	
	ttt Phe															1346	
	ttc Phe															1394	
	caa Gln 465															1442	
	gtt Val															1490	
	aac Asn															1538	
	ggt Gly															1586	
	aat Asn															1634	
	gaa Glu 545															1682	
	tgg Trp															1730	
	tat Tyr															1778	
	ttg Leu															1826	
	gaa Glu	-				-	_	-			-	-		-	-	1874	
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		THER			I.TON	: Е.	COL	1							
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Leu	Val	Ser	Asn 20	Arg	Ser	Ala	Thr	Ile 25	Pro	Phe	Gly	Glu	Tyr 30	Ile	Phe
Lys	Arg	Leu 35	Leu	Ser	Ile	Asp	Thr 40	Гла	Ser	Val	Phe	Gly 45	Val	Pro	Gly
Asp	Phe 50	Asn	Leu	Ser	Leu	Leu 55	Glu	Tyr	Leu	Tyr	Ser 60	Pro	Ser	Val	Glu
Ser 65	Ala	Gly	Leu	Arg	Trp 70	Val	Gly	Thr	Сүз	Asn 75	Glu	Leu	Asn	Ala	Ala 80
Tyr	Ala	Ala	Aab	Gly 85	Tyr	Ser	Arg	Tyr	Ser 90	Asn	Lys	Ile	Gly	Суз 95	Leu
Ile	Thr	Thr	Tyr 100	Gly	Val	Gly	Glu	Leu 105	Ser	Ala	Leu	Asn	Gly 110	Ile	Ala
Gly	Ser	Phe 115	Ala	Glu	Asn	Val	Lys 120	Val	Leu	His	Ile	Val 125	Gly	Val	Ala
Lys	Ser 130	Ile	Asp	Ser	Arg	Ser 135	Ser	Asn	Phe	Ser	Asp 140	Arg	Asn	Leu	His
His 145	Leu	Val	Pro	Gln	Leu 150	His	Asp	Ser	Asn	Phe 155	Гла	Gly	Pro	Asn	His 160
Lys	Val	Tyr	His	Asp 165	Met	Val	Гла	Asp	Arg 170	Val	Ala	Суз	Ser	Val 175	Ala
Tyr	Leu	Glu	Asp 180	Ile	Glu	Thr	Ala	Cys 185	Asp	Gln	Val	Asp	Asn 190	Val	Ile
Arg	Asp	Ile 195	Tyr	Lys	Tyr	Ser	Lys 200	Pro	Gly	Tyr	Ile	Phe 205	Val	Pro	Ala
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						aag Lys										720	I
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Thr 225	Gly	His	Pro	Asp	Ser 230	Lys	Val	His	Val	Asp 235	Gly	Gln	Ile	Met	Ser 240			

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Met 705	Ala														

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing an aniline derivative, comprising the following steps:

- transferring three or more exogenous genes into a microorganism having a function of biosynthesizing 4-aminophenylpyruvic acid from chorismic acid, to create a microorganism capable of producing 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe) at 1.8 g/L or greater under prescribed culturing conditions; and
- contacting the microorganism with a carbon source under conditions suitable for growth and/or maintenance of the microorganism, to produce at least one aniline ²⁵ derivative selected from the group consisting of 4-aminophenylalanine (4APhe), 4-aminocinnamic acid (4ACA), 2-(4-aminophenyl)aldehyde, 4-aminophenylacetic acid and 4-aminophenethylethanol (4APE), wherein the three or more exogenous genes are papA, ³⁰ papB and papC each derived from *Pseudomonas fluorescence*.

2. The method according to claim **1**, wherein the papA, papB and papC consist of the nucleotide sequences listed as SEQ ID NO: 7, 9 and 5, respectively.

3. The method according to claim **1**, where in the step of creating the microorganism, at least one gene coding for phenylalanine synthase is further disrupted.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the disrupted gene is pheA.

5. The method according to claim **1**, where in the step of creating the microorganism, at least one exogenous gene selected from the group consisting of aroG, aro10 and pal is further transferred.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia coli, Bacillus, Corynebacterium, Pseudomonas* or *Zymomonas* bacteria, and yeast belonging to *Saccharomyces* or *Schizosaccharomyces*.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the microorganism is *Escherichia coli*.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the carbon source is selected from the group consisting of D-glucose, sucrose, oligosaccharides, polysaccharides, starch, cellulose, rice bran, molasses, corn decomposition solution, and cellulose decomposition solution.

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