

## (12) United States Patent

van der Donk et al.

#### (54) TWO COMPONENT BACILLUS LANTIBIOTIC AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING AND USING THE SAME

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- (51) **Int. Cl.** C07K 1/00

(2006.01)C07K 14/00 (2006.01)C07K 17/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ...... 530/350; 424/246.1

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

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tory, Aug. 3, 2000-May 19, 2007. NCBI Accession No: AE017333 [gi:52346357] with Revision His-

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#### (57)ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to two-component lantibiotics isolated from Bacillus sp. Methods for producing said lantibiotics are provided, wherein dehydration and cyclization of the peptides is carried out by two substrate-specific modifying enzymes. Given the antimicrobial activity of the instant lantibiotics, methods for preventing or treating bacterial infections are also provided.

#### 2 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

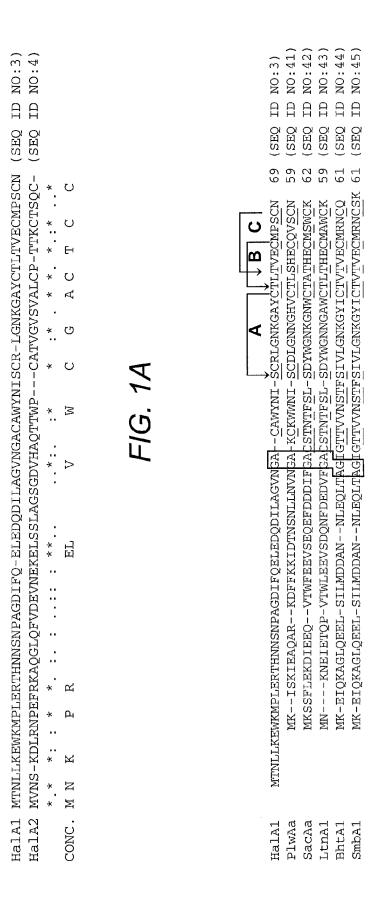


FIG. 1B

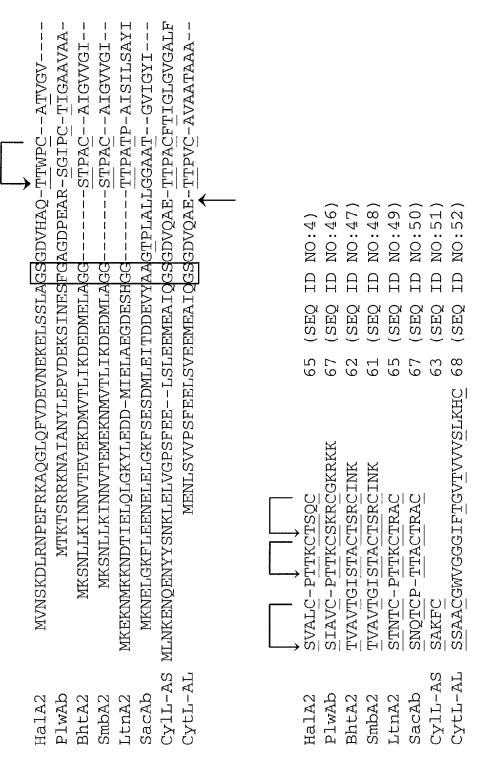


FIG. 1C

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CTX

LGN G

<del>+</del>

MT-N-LLKEWKMPLERTHNNSNPAGDIFQELEDQD---ILAGVNGACAWYNISCRLGNKGAYCTL

++ WK P+ RT ++ +PAG+I +EL++++

HalA1

CONC.

MSKKEMILSWKNPMYRTESSYHPAGNILKELQEEEQHSIAGGTITLSTCAILSKPLGNNGYLCTV

SEQ ID

NO:7) ID NO:1) ID NO:3)

П

(SEQ (SEQ (SEQ

TVECMPSCN TXECMPSCN TKECMPSCN

HalA1 CONC. LanA1

LanA1

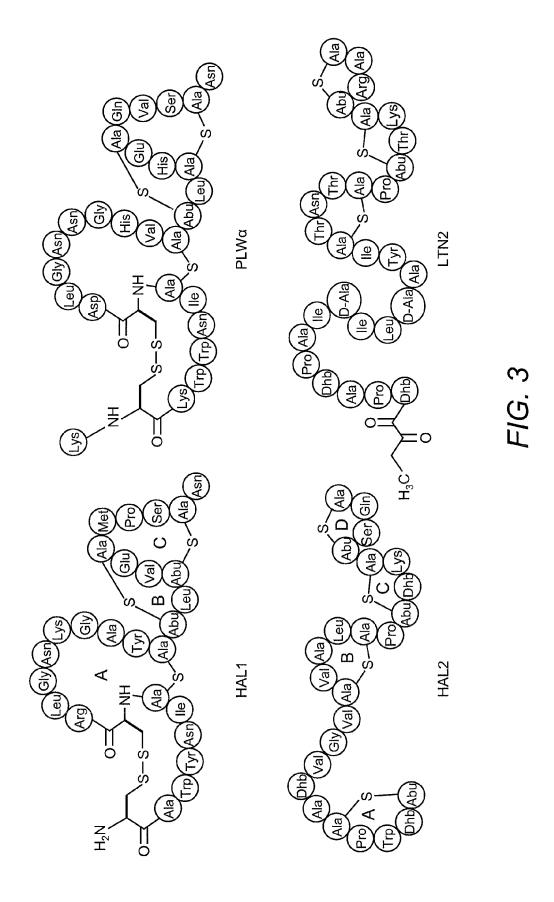
--WPCATVGVSVA--LCPTTKCTSQC W C T GV+V+ LCPTTKCTS+C Halaz mynskdlrnpefrkaggl-Qfvdevnekelsslagsgdvhagtt----V+E+EL +L G DV+ +TT

VSEEELKALVGGNDVNPETTPATTSSWTCITAGVTVSASLCPTTKCTSRC

LanA2

CONC.

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# TWO COMPONENT BACILLUS LANTIBIOTIC AND METHODS FOR PRODUCING AND USING THE SAME

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/768,406, filed Jun. 26, 2007 now abandoned, which claims benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/820,646 filed Jul. 28, 2006, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

#### INTRODUCTION

This invention was made in the course of research sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, grant number GM 15 58822. The government has certain rights in the invention.

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Antimicrobial peptides are produced by a wide variety of 20 organisms including bacteria, insects, and mammals (Hancock (1998) Expert Opin. Investig. Drugs 7:167-74; Jack & Jung (2000) Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol. 4:310-7; Toke (2005) Biopolymers 80:717-735). Due to the rapid spread of multiple-drug resistant bacterial strains, antimicrobial peptides 25 are currently being investigated as a potential new source of antibiotics to treat infections. Antimicrobial peptides have a high degree of structural and chemical diversity, exhibit rapid bactericidal action, and typically display a broad spectrum of activity. The lantibiotic group of bacterial-derived antimicrobial peptides possesses high antibacterial activity against Gram positive bacteria including drug resistant strains (Delves-Broughton, et al. (1996) Antonie vanLeeuwenhoek 69:193-202; Kruszewska, et al. (2004) J. Antimicrob. Chemother. 54:648-53; Brumfitt, et al. (2002) J. Antimicrob. 35 Chemother. 50:731-4; Galvin, et al. (1999) Lett. Appl. Microbiol. 28:355-8; Goldstein, et al. (1998) J. Antimicrob. Chemother. 42:277-8; Cotter, et al. (2005) Nat. Rev. Microbiol. 3:777-88). Over 45 members have been identified in the lantibiotic family (Chatterjee, et al. (2005) Chem. Rev. 105: 40 633-84). The most studied lantibiotic, nisin, is produced by Lactococcus lactis and has been used world-wide in food preservation for over 40 years (Delves-Broughton, et al. (1996) supra; Hurst (1981) Adv. Appl. Microbiol. 27:85-123; Rayman, et al. (1981) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 41:375-80). 45 Lantibiotics share the presence of lanthionine (Lan) and/or methyllanthionine (MeLan) residues, and also typically the unsaturated amino acids dehydroalanine (Dha) and dehydrobutyrine (Dhb). These structural motifs are the basis for their biological activity as well as their family name (Schnell, 50 et al. (1988) Nature 333:276-278).

Lantibiotics are ribosomally synthesized as precursor peptides (prepeptides) that are subjected to post-translational modifications to produce the active, mature compounds (Cotter, et al. (2005) Nat. Rev. Microbiol. 3:777-88; Chatterjee, et 55 al. (2005) Chem. Rev. 105:633-84). The prepeptide contains an amino-terminal leader sequence that does not undergo post-translational modification. The role of this leader sequence appears to be required for modification of the structural region and must be removed by proteolysis in the final 60 step to produce the mature lantibiotic (Schnell, et al. (1988) Nature 333:276-278; van der Meer, et al. (1994) J. Biol. Chem. 269:3555-62; Xie, et al. (2004) Science 303:679-81; Li, et al. (2006) Science 5766:1464-7). The dehydro amino acids (Dha and Dhb) found in lantibiotics are introduced via 65 the dehydration of serine and threonine residues located in the carboxy-terminal structural region of the prepeptide.

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Lanthionine (Lan) and methyllanthionine (MeLan) rings can then be generated by intramolecular conjugate additions of cysteine residues to these  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated amino acids.

A growing class of two-component lantibiotic systems utilizes two peptides that are each post-translationally modified to an active form and act in synergy to provide antibacterial activity (Garneau, et al. (2002) Biochimie 84:577-92). Dehydration and cyclization of the prepeptides to form lanthionine bridges in these systems is likely performed by bifunctional LanM proteins. In most cases the sequence similarity of the two peptides is rather low (~25%), and so two different enzymes are thought to be employed for the post-translational modification of each peptide (McAuliffe, et al. (2000) Microbiology 146:2147-54). The exception is cytolysin, a twocomponent lantibiotic that is processed by a single LanM enzyme (Cox, et al. (2005) Curr. Protein Pept. Sci. 6:77-84). In this case, the sequence homology of the two peptide substrates is much higher at ~90%. Other post-translational modifications of the peptides in two-component systems can include the conversion of L-Ser to D-Ala (Skaugen, et al. (1994) J. Biol. Chem. 269:27183-27185; Cotter, et al. (2005) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 102:18584-9) and formation of amino-terminal  $\alpha$ -keto amides from the deamination of dehydro residues (Martin, et al. (2004) Biochemistry 43:3049-

The best-studied two-component lantibiotic, lacticin 3147, is composed of the modified peptides LtnA1 and LtnA2, and is produced by Lactococcus lactis (Ryan, et al. (1999) J. Biol. Chem. 274:37544-50). Since the designation LtnA1 and LtnA2 also refers to the unmodified prepeptides, the designations Ltn1 and Ltn2 are used herein for the mature, active components. The post-translational modification of each prepeptide is believed to be catalyzed by two separate bifunctional enzymes, LtnM1 and LtnM2, based on genetic data in which deletion of either LanM gene results in abrogation of bioactive material (McAuliffe, et al. (2000) supra). To date, in vitro activity of LtnM1 or LtnM2 has not been demonstrated. The Ltn1 and Ltn2 peptides act in synergy in a 1:1 ratio to produce nanomolar antibacterial activity (Morgan, et al. (2005) Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 49:2606-11). A study on the mode of action of lacticin 3147 demonstrated that Ltn1 binds to the peptidoglycan precursor lipid II (Wiedemann, et al. (Jun. 12, 2006) Mol. Microbiol.), a result that was anticipated because of the structural similarity between Ltn1 and mersacidin, which also disrupts cell wall biosynthesis by binding to lipid II (Brötz, et al. (1998) Mol. Microbiol. 30:317-327). In order for lacticin 3147 to substantially inhibit cell wall biosynthesis and form small pores in the cell membrane, however, Ltn2 is also necessary, leading to a proposed model in which the lipid II:Ltn1 complex recruits Ltn2 to form a high affinity complex (Wiedemann, et al. (Jun. 12, 2006) supra). Structural characterization of the modified peptides has indicated that Ltn1 adopts a globular conformation similar to mersacidin, while Ltn2 has a more elongated structure that is  $\alpha$ -helical in nature (Martin, et al. (2004) supra).

The mechanisms governing substrate recognition and specificity in two-component lantibiotic systems that utilize two modification enzymes are of great interest since it is believed that each LanM protein is required to discriminate between the two prepeptides present in the cell. Needed in the art is a method for in vitro reconstitution of a two-component lantibiotic biosynthetic system to provide definitive support for the roles of the proteins involved and demonstrate recognition and specificity. Such a system could be used to develop novel lantibiotics based on designing peptide sequences that can be site-specifically modified to yield new products. Given the synergy observed among two-component lantibiotics,

which display similar or higher activity than the best single-component lantibiotic nisin (Morgan, et al. (2005) supra), the engineering of new lantibiotics with therapeutic potential could be realized.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic composed of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2. Pharmaceutical compositions containing said lantibiotic, as well as nucleic acid molecules, vectors, and host cells expressing said lantibiotic are also provided.

The present invention is also a method for producing the two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic of the present invention. The method involves contacting precursor peptides containing amino acids sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 with at least one modifying enzyme capable of effecting dehydration and cyclization of the precursor peptide, and cleaving the leader peptide from the precursor peptides thereby producing a biologically active two-component 20 *Bacillus* lantibiotic.

The present invention further relates to a *Bacillus* lantibiotic modifying enzyme which effects dehydration and cyclization of a peptide or polypeptide and a method for using the same to modify a peptide or polypeptide. Nucleic acid <sup>25</sup> molecules, vectors, and host cells expressing said lantibiotic modifying enzymes are also provided.

The present invention is also a kit for producing haloduracin, wherein said kit contains precursor peptides HalA1 and HalA2 and modifying enzymes HalM1 and HalM2.

Methods for preventing or inhibiting the growth of a bacterium and preventing or treating a bacterial infection using an effective amount of the two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic of the present invention are also provided.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A-1C show the sequence alignments of HalA1 and HalA2 (FIG. 1A); HalA1 with the  $\alpha$  prepeptides from plantaracin W (PlwA $\alpha$ ), staphylococcin C55 (SacA $\alpha$ ), lacticin 40 3147 (LtnA1), BhtA1, and SmbA1 (FIG. 1B); and of HalA2 with the  $\beta$  prepeptides from plantaracin W (PlwA $\beta$ ), lacticin 3147 (LtnA2), BhtA2, SmbA2, SacA $\beta$ , and the two peptides of cytolysin (CylL-AS and CylL-AL)(FIG. 1C). Serine and threonine residues in the structural regions are underlined, as 45 are the cysteine residues that may be involved in lanthionine thioether formation. The conserved protease cleavage sequences are boxed.

FIG. **2** shows the amino acid sequence of HalA1 (FIG. **2**A) or HalA2 (FIG. **2**B) from *B. halodurans* aligned with the 50 amino acid sequence of the lantibiotic alpha (FIG. **2**A) or beta (FIG. **2**B) peptide from *B. licheniformis*.

FIG. 3 shows the proposed structures for the Hal1 (SEQ ID NO:5) and Hal2 (SEQ ID NO:6) peptides of the two-component lantibiotic haloduracin. The closest structural analogs, 55 the alpha peptide from plantaricin, Plwα (SEQ ID NO:53), and the Ltn2 peptide (SEQ ID NO:54) from lacticin 3147, are shown for comparison. Dehydrobutyrine (Dhb) and Dehydroalanine (Dha) residues are indicated. MeLan and Lan bridges are indicated as are cystine linkages. Rings in Hal 60 peptides are indicated by letters to correspond to discussion in the Examples.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Lantibiotics are ribosomally synthesized peptides that undergo post-translational modifications to their mature, 4

antimicrobial form. They are characterized by the presence of the unique amino acid lanthionine, which is introduced via dehydration of Ser/Thr residues followed by reaction of the resulting dehydro amino acids with cysteines to form thioether linkages. Two-component lantibiotics utilize two peptides that are each post-translationally modified to yield two functionally distinct products that act in synergy to provide bactericidal activity. For the purposes of the present invention, the term peptide is intended to embrace a string of amino acid residues of 100 amino acids in length, wherein the term polypeptide or protein generally refers to molecules of greater than 100 amino acids in length.

Novel two-component lantibiotics from Bacillus sp. have now been identified. Haloduracin, encoded by the genome of the Gram-positive alkaliphilic bacterium Bacillus halodurans C-125, was heterologously expressed and the purified precursor peptides, HalA1 and HalA2, were processed by the expressed and purified modification enzymes HalM1 and HalM2 in an in vitro reconstitution assay. The activity of each HalM enzyme was substrate-specific and the assay products exhibited antimicrobial activity after removal of their leader sequences at an engineered Factor Xa cleavage site, indicating that correct thioether formation had occurred. Haloduracin's biological activity was dependent on the presence of both modified peptides and was comparable to the bactericidal effects exhibited by the peptides isolated from the producer strain. The structures of the two mature haloduracin peptides, Hall and Hal2, were determined and have similarities as well as some distinct differences compared to other known two-component lantibiotics.

Moreover, HalA1 and HalA2 exhibit sequence identity (39.2% and 35.6%, respectively) with lantibiotic alpha and beta peptides encoded by Bacillus licheniformis. Similar to 35 the haloduracin gene cluster, B. licheniformis encodes two prepeptides, two modification enzymes, and several additional transport, immunity, and regulation proteins involved in lantibiotic biosynthesis. Of significance is the nearly identical C-termini of the mature B. halodurans and B. licheniformis lantibiotic peptides. Wherein the alpha peptides share the common amino acid sequence Cys-Thr-Xaa<sub>1</sub>-Thr-Xaa<sub>2</sub>-Glu-Cys-Met-Pro-Ser-Cys-Asn (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein Xaa<sub>1</sub> is an aliphatic amino acid residue (e.g., Ile, Val, or Leu) and Xaa2 is any amino acid residue; the beta peptides share the common amino acid sequence Leu-Cys-Pro-Thr-Thr-Lys-Cys-Thr-Ser-Xaa<sub>1</sub>-Cys (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein Xaa<sub>1</sub> is Gln or Arg.

Accordingly, the present invention is a two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic composed of alpha and beta peptides comprising the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, respectively. As used herein, the term "lantibiotic" refers to a biologically active compound that acts so as to modify the ability of a target organism to develop, grow, proliferate, or otherwise function. The term can optionally include a compound derived by genetic engineering techniques, synthetic techniques, or a combination of techniques. For example, a lantibiotic can be at least partially synthetic and at least partially recombinant; thus the term can include variants of natural lantibiotics.

The term "target organism" refers to bacteria, viruses, fungi, or protozoa. Target organisms can also include a mammal, particularly a human. In the case of a multicellular organism such as a human, the term is meant to broadly convey a cell, tissue, organ, or fluid of the organism, whether in vivo, ex vivo, or in vitro. In a particular embodiment, the target organism is a bacterium and the compound acts to reduce or control growth or proliferation of the bacterium.

Two-component Bacillus lantibiotics include the haloduracin alpha and beta peptides isolated from B. halodurans, as well as the alpha and beta peptides of the lantibiotic isolated from B. licheniformis. In one embodiment, the present invention provides the B. halodurans alpha and beta haloduracin 5 prepeptides (i.e., HalA1 and HalA2) set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4, respectively. In another embodiment, the present invention provides the mature B. halodurans alpha and beta haloduracin peptides (i.e., Hall and Hal2) set forth as SEQ ID NOs:5 and 6, respectively. The haloduracin alpha peptide is composed of 28 amino acid residues in its mature form and has a molecular weight of 2332 Da, whereas the beta peptide is first processed to a 30 amino acid residue peptide which is subsequently further cleaved to 24 amino acid residues in its mature form having a molecular 15 weight of 3046 Da. In yet another embodiment, the present invention provides the B. licheniformis alpha and beta lantibiotic prepeptides set forth as SEQ ID NOs:7 and 8, respectively. In still another embodiment, the present invention provides Bacillus alpha and beta peptides containing an 20 exogenous protease cleavage sequence such as that recognized by Factor Xa, i.e., Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9). Exemplary haloduracin alpha and beta peptide amino acid sequences containing an exogenous protease cleavage NO:11, respectively. Moreover, it is contemplated that the lantibiotic subunits are interchangeable, e.g., an alpha subunit of haloduracin can be combined with a beta subunit of the B. licheniformis lantibiotic to produce a biologically active lan-

The two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotics of the present invention can be isolated and purified from the respective Bacillus species which naturally produce the desired lantibiotic using methods as exemplified herein or well-known in the art of lantibiotic purification; expressed in a heterologous 35 system (e.g., E. coli) via the nucleic acid molecules disclosed herein; produced via in vitro translation, or chemically synthesized using established methods. As used herein, the term "purified" refers to a molecule having been separated from a cellular component.

Whether produced in vitro, in vivo or chemically synthesized, the instant lantibiotic peptides can be composed of natural, non-proteinogenic, unnatural or derivatized amino acid residues. In the context of the present invention, a natural amino acid includes one of the 20 naturally occurring amino 45 acid residues (i.e., alanine, arginine, asparagine, aspartic acid, cysteine, glutamic acid, glutamine, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, praline, serine, threonine, tryptophan, tyrosine, valine), whereas the term "derivatized amino acid" refers to any amino acid that is 50 derivatized chemically or biosynthetically. An example of a derivatized amino acid is selenocysteine. Further, the term "non-proteinogenic amino acid" as used in the context of the present invention refers to an amino acid that is not incorporated by normal in vivo biosynthesis into a protein and 55 "unnatural amino acid" refers to a synthetic amino acid or refers to an amino acid that is typically foreign to a particular organism. Unnatural amino acids can optionally be a subset of non-proteinogenic amino acids.

By way of illustration, a synthetic biologically active lan- 60 tibiotic containing at least one non-proteinogenic amino acid, unnatural amino acid, peptoid, beta amino acid, or derivatized amino acid can be produced by generating a first precursor lantibiotic peptide; generating a second precursor lantibiotic peptide, wherein said second precursor lantibiotic peptide 65 contains at least one unnatural amino acid, peptoid, or derivatized amino acid; and combining said first and second precur-

sor lantibiotic peptides so as to produce a third precursor lantibiotic peptide which contains the at least one unnatural amino acid, peptoid, or derivatized amino acid. In such an approach, the step of combining the precursor peptides can include ligation, conjugation, or other connection of said first precursor peptide to said second precursor peptide. A synthetic biologically active lantibiotic thus produced can be further reacted with an effective amount of a purified modifying enzyme as disclosed herein to effect dehydration and cyclization of the third precursor peptide. The leader peptide of the precursor lantibiotic peptide can than be cleaved using a suitable protease.

In this regard, it has been demonstrated that His6-LctA(1-38) and His6-LctA(1-38)Cys38Sec can be produced by expressed protein ligation (EPL) (Reis, et al. (1994). Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 60:2876-83) of the His6-LctA(1-37)-intein-CBD fusion with cysteine and selenocysteine (Sec), respectively. See U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/034,275. Thus, it is contemplated that like LctM, semisynthetic Bacillus lantibiotic peptide substrates generated by EPL will be recognized by HalM1 and HalM2 for lantibiotic engineering of haloduracin as well as other lantibiotics including subtilin

Given the substrate promiscuity of lantibiotic modifying sequence are set forth herein as SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID 25 enzymes such as LctM, it is contemplated that HalM1 and HalM2 can also be used in the production of novel lantibiotics. To demonstrate this, steric and electronic tolerance of the enzymes is assessed. This is followed by the incorporation of amino acids designed to answer specific questions about the post-translational modification process including mutants that incorporate peptide fragments from other lantibiotic prepeptides. The structural diversity accessible by these studies is greatly increased by using semi-synthetic substrates prepared by combinatorial parallel synthesis. In addition to the fundamental scientific knowledge that comes forth from these studies, they allow access to molecules with interesting properties that are not easily prepared by either chemical or biological techniques.

> Thus, the present invention also relates to isolated and 40 purified nucleotide sequences encoding the Bacillus lantibiotics disclosed herein. In one embodiment, the present invention provides the nucleic acid molecules set forth in SEQ ID NOs:12 and 13 which encode the B. halodurans alpha and beta haloduracin prepeptides (i.e., HalA1 and HalA2), respectively. In another embodiment, the present invention embraces nucleic acid molecules which encode alpha and beta subunits of the B. licheniformis two-component lantibiotic (i.e., SEQ ID NOs:14 and 15) In another embodiment, the present invention provides for nucleic acid molecules encoding lantibiotic modifying enzymes. Exemplary HalM1 and HalM2 nucleic acid molecules are set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 16 and 17, whereas exemplary nucleic acid molecules encoding LanM1 and LanM2 are set forth in SEQ ID NOs:18 and 19).

Modifications to the nucleic acids of the present invention are also contemplated as long as the essential structure and function of the peptide or polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acids are maintained. Likewise, fragments used as primers or probes can have substitutions as long as enough complementary bases exist for selective, specific hybridization with high stringency.

Modifications of the peptides or polypeptides specifically disclosed herein, include amino acid substitutions based on any characteristic known in the art, including the relative similarity or differences of the amino acid side-chain substituents, for example, their hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, charge, size, and the like. In particular embodiments, conser-

vative substitutions (i.e., substitution with an amino acid residue having similar properties) are employed.

In making amino acid substitutions, the hydropathic index of amino acids can be considered. The importance of the hydropathic amino acid index in conferring interactive biologic function on a protein is generally understood in the art (see, Kyte and Doolittle (1982) *J. Mol. Biol.* 157:105). It is accepted that the relative hydropathic character of the amino acid contributes to the secondary structure of the resultant protein, which in turn defines the interaction of the protein with other molecules.

Polymorphisms are also embraced by the present invention. Polymorphisms are variants in the gene sequence. They can be sequence shifts found between various bacterial strains and isolates which, while having a different sequence, produce functionally equivalent gene products. Polymorphisms also encompass variations which can be classified as alleles and/or mutations which can produce gene products which may have an altered function. Polymorphisms also encompass variations which can be classified as alleles and/or mutations which either produce no gene product, an inactive gene product, or increased levels of gene product.

As exemplified herein, nucleic acid molecules of the present invention can be expressed separately, i.e., inserted into separate vectors for expression and purification of indi- 25 vidual gene products, namely alpha and beta peptides and modifying enzymes, or alternatively collectively (e.g., as a gene cluster) inserted into a vector as an expression cassette. The nucleic acid molecules of the invention can encode for alpha and beta peptides and modifying enzymes as well as 30 fusion proteins thereof. Fusion proteins include fusions with a heterologous polypeptide or peptide, i.e. a signal sequence for secretion and/or other polypeptide which will aid in the purification of peptide or polypeptide (e.g., GST, His6, or the like). Such vectors are known or can be constructed by those 35 skilled in the art and generally contain all expression elements (e.g., promoters, terminator fragments, enhancer elements, marker genes and other elements as appropriate) necessary to achieve the desired transcription of the sequences. Other beneficial characteristics can also be contained within the vectors 40 such as mechanisms for recovery of the nucleic acids in a different form. Phagemids are a specific example of such beneficial vectors because they can be used either as plasmids or as bacteriophage vectors. Examples of other vectors include viruses such as bacteriophages, baculoviruses, and 45 retroviruses, DNA viruses, cosmids, plasmids, and other recombination vectors. The vectors can also contain elements for use in either prokaryotic or eukaryotic host systems. One of ordinary skill in the art will know which host systems are compatible with a particular vector.

The vectors can be introduced into cells or tissues and expressed by any one of a variety of known methods within the art. Such methods can be found generally described in Sambrook et al. (1989, 1992) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Springs Harbor Laboratory, New York; 55 Ausubel et al. (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley and Sons, Baltimore, Md.; Chang, et al. (1995) Somatic Gene Therapy, CRC Press, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Vega, et al. (1995) Gene Targeting, CRC Press, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Vectors: A Survey of Molecular Cloning Vectors and Their 60 Uses, Butterworths, Boston, Mass. (1988); and include, for example, stable or transient transfection, lipofection, electroporation and infection with recombinant viral vectors. Introduction of nucleic acids by infection offers several advantages over other listed methods. Higher efficiencies can 65 be obtained due to their infectious nature. Moreover, viruses are very specialized and typically infect and propagate in

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specific cell types. Thus, their natural specificity can be used to target the vectors to specific cell types in vivo or within a tissue or mixed culture of cells. The viral vectors can also be modified with specific receptors or ligands to alter target specificity through receptor mediated events.

Host cells suitable for introduction and expression of the nucleic acids of the invention are desirably bacterial; however, yeast (e.g., *Pichia, Saccharomyces*, etc.), mammalian, or insect host cells are also contemplated as is a cell-free expression system. In particular embodiments, the host cell or culture is bacterial. Exemplary bacterial host cells include *E. coli* as well as *Bacillus* sp.

As will be understood by the skilled artisan upon reading the instant disclosure, precursor lantibiotic peptides are generally first modified and then become biologically active (i.e., they prevent or inhibit the growth of a target organism) by proteolytic cleavage of the leader peptide from the mature peptide; wherein cleavage can occur prior to, concomitantly with or after export from the cell. Therefore, the alpha and beta lantibiotic precursor peptides can be expressed or synthesized with an endogenous protease cleavage sequence; or expressed or synthesized with an exogenous protease cleavage sequence which can be cleaved by a selected protease, e.g., Factor Xa, thereby effecting removal of the leader peptide. In this regard, the instant lantibiotic precursor peptides can proteolytically processed in vivo or processed in vitro under controlled conditions. Alternatively, the mature form of the peptides can be directly expressed or synthesized. As such, in one embodiment, an intact leader or structural peptide is not essential. For example, it is contemplated that the leader peptide can be combined with the mature form of the lantibiotic peptide in trans to facilitate the dehydration and cyclization of the mature peptide by a modifying enzyme.

Likewise, enzymes that modify the instant lantibiotic peptides (e.g., HalM1 and HalM2 or LanM1 and LanM2) can be co-expressed by a recombinant host cell which expresses the alpha and beta peptides to provide in vivo modification of the peptides, or alternatively the modifying enzymes can be provided in an in vitro reconstitution reaction to modify the alpha and beta peptides. Accordingly, contact of a lantibiotic peptide with a modifying enzyme specifically encompasses both in vivo and in vitro embodiments.

A Bacillus lantibiotic modifying enzyme of the present invention refers to a polypeptide or fragment thereof capable of acting upon an alpha or beta lantibiotic peptide so as to effect both at least one dehydration reaction and at least one cyclization reaction. In this regard, the present invention also provides a purified modifying enzyme capable of producing a biologically active lantibiotic peptide by effecting dehydration and cyclization of a precursor peptide. In one embodiment, the *Bacillus* lantibiotic modifying enzyme is a HalM1 enzyme. In another embodiment, the Bacillus lantibiotic modifying enzyme is a HalM2 enzyme. In particular embodiments, the Bacillus lantibiotic modifying enzyme is HalM1 or HalM2 having an amino acid sequence as respectively set forth in SEQ ID NOs:20 and 21. In other embodiments, *Bacillus* lantibiotic modifying enzymes are obtained from *B*. licheniformis (i.e., LanM1 and LanM2), the amino acid sequence of which are set forth herein as SEQ ID Nos:22 and 23, respectively. Still other embodiments contemplate the use of CinM (cinnamycin LanM), MrsM (mersacidin LanM), MutM (mutacin II LanM), ScnM (streptococcin A-FF22 LanM), RumM (ruminococcin A LanM), LtnM1 and LtnM2 (lacticin 3147 LanM), LctM (lacticin 481 LanM), or NukM modifying enzymes to effect dehydration and cyclization of the instant two-component Bacillus lantibiotics.

As has been demonstrated (Sahl and Bierbaum (1998) Annu. Rev. Microbiol. 52:41-79), the proteins which are involved in post-translational processing and modification of lantibiotics can be used in vitro to modify other polypeptides or peptides (especially other lantibiotics) and increase the 5 stability of such molecules. As such, particular embodiments embrace the use of a Bacillus HalM1 or HalM2 enzyme or a LanM1 or LanM2 enzyme to modify HalA1 or HalA2 (i.e., haloduracin) peptides; or LanA1 or LanA2 peptides as well as other polypeptides and lantibiotics. By way of illustration, 10 such a method involves contacting a primary translation product of another lantibiotics (e.g., duramycin) with a modifying enzyme of the invention so that the modifying enzyme effects dehydration and cyclization of the lantibiotic. Such a method can be carried our in vitro, using the translation products, or in 15 vivo, e.g., by introducing the structural gene for another lantibiotic into a host cell which expresses HalM1 or HalM2 enzyme or LanM1 or LanM2 enzyme.

Having demonstrated in vitro reconstitution of HalM1 and HalM2 for producing haloduracin, the present invention also 20 relates to a kit containing precursor peptides HalA1 and HalA2 in combination with modifying enzymes HalM1 and HalM2 for producing haloduracin. Alternatively, the kit can contain *B. licheniformis* alpha and beta peptides in combination with LanM1 and LanM2 modifying enzymes. The kit can 25 further contain buffers suitable for carrying out dehydration and cyclization of the precursor peptides and an instruction manual. In some embodiments, the alpha and beta precursor peptides contain exogenous protease cleavage sequences and the kit further contains a selected protease which recognizes 30 and cleaves the exogenous protease cleavage sequence.

Using the in vitro biosynthesis system disclosed herein, antimicrobial peptide design and engineering is now possible. The in vitro biosynthesis system allows detailed investigation of the substrate specificity of each individual modifying 35 enzyme as site-directed mutants are readily and rapidly accessible through combinatorial methods. Evaluation of substrate specificity in vitro has advantages over in vivo methods for a complex system like lantibiotic biosynthesis. In particular, when a lantibiotic producing strain shows low or 40 no bioactivity after mutation of the substrate peptide, this can imply the original residue was critical for biological activity, or alternatively it may be due to failure of the biosynthetic proteins (dehydratase, cyclase, or protease), poor expression of the mutant substrates, inability of the wild-type transport 45 proteins to secrete the processed mutants, breakdown of the analog products, or potential toxicity of the non-natural products to the producing strain due to non-recognition of the mutants by the innate immunity proteins. As such, substrate specificity of the biosynthetic proteins can be examined in a 50 much more controlled fashion, and improved lantibiotic variants thus identified can be invaluable starting points to subsequently engineer and optimize an in vivo production system.

In particular, it is contemplated that non-silent mutations of 55 the alpha or beta lantibiotic peptides will produce changes in the amino acid sequence leading to a variant form of two-component lantibiotic having one or more different properties compared to naturally occurring lantibiotic. Similarly, mutations of the modifying enzymes can lead to different post-translational modifications. Such mutagenesis can be performed using available methods, e.g., chemical mutagenesis, alanine-scanning mutagenesis, site-directed mutagenesis using oligonucleotides, error-prone PCR or by propagating target nucleic acid in an appropriate plasmid in a mutator 65 strain, e.g., the XL1-Red strain of *E. coli* (STRATAGENE). The protocol for this procedure is described in Greener and

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Callahan (1993) STRATEGIES 6:32-34. Mutagenesis can be carried out on a particular coding sequence (e.g., HalA1, HalA2, HalM1, or HalM2) or the entire gene cluster encoding the biosynthetic machinery for lantibiotic production can be subjected to mutagenesis.

In some embodiments, the present invention provides a method for producing a library of lantibiotic-producing host cells, wherein the host cells produce mutant forms of haloduracin. Such a library can be screened for desirable properties. Desirably, the library is initially screened for lantibiotic production (e.g. by determining the effect on *Lactococcus lactis* growth), and then screened for interesting and/or advantageous mutations. Subsequent screening can be limited, e.g., following such an initial screening step, to host cells which display lantibiotic production. Lantibiotics identified by such a screening method can be purified and used in accordance with the pharmaceutical compositions and therapeutic methods disclosed herein.

Having demonstrated the isolation and production of a biologically active two-component lantibiotic from *Bacillus*. the present invention also relates to two-component Bacillus lantibiotic compositions and methods for use in pharmaceutical, agricultural, and food industry applications to combat infections caused by strains of Actinobacilli, Clostridium sp., Corvnebacteria, Enterococci, Listeria monocytogenes, Mycobacterium phlei, Neisseria, Propionibacterium, Staphylococci, Streptococci, and other Gram-positive bacteria. In this regard, the present invention relates to methods for preventing or inhibiting the growth of a bacterium and preventing or treating a bacterial infecting by providing an effective amount of a two-component Bacillus lantibiotic disclosed herein. Such an effective amount provides a measurable reduction or inhibition in the growth or proliferation of the bacterium.

Thus according to particular embodiments of the present invention, the instant two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic is provided in pharmaceutical compositions containing, as active ingredient, the lantibiotic in admixture with one or more pharmaceutical carriers and/or excipients. The term pharmaceutical composition as used herein is meant to cover human treatment and prophylaxis as well as the veterinary field. Treatment of animals such as cow (mastitis), chicken and the like are within the scope of the present invention.

For pharmaceutical administration, the two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic can be incorporated into preparations in either liquid or solid forms using carriers and excipients conventionally employed in the pharmaceutical art, optionally in combination with further active ingredients. The preparation can, for example, be applied orally, parenterally enterally or preferably topically. Preferred forms include, for example, solutions, emulsions, gels, sprays, lotions, ointments, creams or powders. A generally recognized compendium of such preparations is Remington: The Science and Practice of Pharmacy, Alfonso R. Gennaro, editor, 20th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins: Philadelphia, Pa., 2000. The carrier(s) or excipient(s) selected must be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not injurious to the subjected receiving treatment.

It is contemplated that one of ordinary skill can readily determine the amount of two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic to be administered. It is apparent that the dosage will be dependent on the particular treatment used. It should also be clear that the dosage should be chosen to display the biological activity without causing adverse effects. It will be understood that age, sex, type of disease, of formulation and other variables known to the person of ordinary skill will affect determination of the dosage to be used.

Advantageously the pharmaceutical compositions can be formulated as dosage units, each unit being adapted to supply a fixed dose of active ingredient. The total daily dose can, of course, be varied depending on the subject treated and the particular use of the composition. Such adjustment can be 5 readily made by the skilled clinician or veterinarian.

If under certain conditions, it would be beneficial to provide a subject with a longer circulating time and/or slow release of the two-component *Bacillus* lantibiotic, the lantibiotic can be trapped in well-known delivery molecules such as liposomes, synthetic vesicles, nanoerythrosomes (U.S. Pat. No. 5,653,999) and the like, according to known methods

In foodstuff compositions, wherein the instant two-component Bacillus lantibiotic prevents solid or liquid food from 15 spoiling (i.e. meats, dowry products, beer, wine and the like) by inhibiting or killing bacteria and especially harmful bacteria, it is contemplated that the instant lantibiotic can be added directly to the food. Furthermore, the instant lantibiotic can be used as biopreservative agent in foods and in personal 20 hygiene products as well as a anticarries agent (i.e., in toothpaste, mouth wash, and in topical application), disinfectant cleanser (to combat acne for example), selective agent against Gram-positive bacteria in culture media (Ray (1992) In: Food Biopreservative of Microbial Origin, Ray et al. (Eds) CRC 25 Press Inc., Boca Raton, Fla., p. 207-264; Harlanda (1993) In: Bacteriocins of Lactic Acid Bacteria, Hoover et al (Eds.) Acad. Press Inc., San Diego, Calif., p. 63-91; U.S. Pat. No. 5,231,013).

In some embodiments, the instant lantibiotic is provided as <sup>30</sup> a prodrug. The term "prodrug" refers to compounds that are rapidly transformed in vivo to yield the parent compound, for example, by hydrolysis in blood. A thorough discussion is provided in Higuchi and Stella, *Prodrugs as Novel Delivery Systems*, Vol. 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium Series, and in <sup>35</sup> *Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design* (1987) Edward B. Roche (ed.) American Pharmaceutical Association and Pergamon Press.

Such a prodrug includes esters or amides of the instant alpha and beta peptides. Examples of pharmaceutically  $^{40}$  acceptable, non-toxic esters of said peptides include  $\rm C_1\text{-}C_6$  alkyl esters wherein the alkyl group is a straight or branched chain. Acceptable esters also include  $\rm C_5\text{-}C_7$  cycloalkyl esters as well as arylalkyl esters such as, but not limited to benzyl. As will be appreciated by the skilled artisan, such esters can  $^{45}$  be prepared according to conventional methods.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable, non-toxic amides of the lantibiotic peptides of this invention include amides derived from ammonia, primary  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl amines and secondary  $C_1$ - $C_6$  dialkyl amines wherein the alkyl groups of are straight or branched chain. In the case of secondary amines, the amine may also be in the form of a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle containing one nitrogen atom. As with the esters, amides of the instant alpha and beta peptides can be prepared according to conventional methods.

The invention is described in greater detail by the following non-limiting examples.

#### Example 1

### Materials

Bacillus halodurans C-125 was purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, Va.). The bioactivity indicator strain *Lactococcus lactis* CNRZ 117 was 65 obtained from the Centre National de Recherches Zootechniques (Jouy-enJosas, France). Genomic DNA isolated from

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B. halodurans C-125 was also purchased from the ATCC. Chemically competent Escherichia coli DH5a cells were purchased from the UIUC Cell Media Facility, while electrocompetent BL21 (DE3) cells were purchased from STRAT-AGENE (La Jolla, Calif.). Media was obtained from DIFCO Laboratories (Sparks, Md.). Oligonucleotide primers were synthesized by Operon Technologies (Alameda, Calif.). Cloned Pfx polymerase, T4 DNA ligase, and restriction enzymes NdeI, NheI, BamHI, and XhoI were obtained from INVITROGEN (Carlsbad, Calif.). Factor Xa was obtained from NEW ENGLAND BIOLABS (Ipswich, Mass.). Cloning vectors (pET) were purchased from NOVAGEN (Madison, Wis.). Iodoacetamide was obtained from Acros Organics (Geel, Belgium). DTT (1,4 dithio-DL-threitol) was purchased from FISHER BIOTECH (Hampton, N.H.) and TCEP (tris(2-carboxyethyl) phosphine hydrochloride) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, Mo.). IPTG (isopropyl-1thio-Dgalactopyranoside) was obtained from CALBIO-CHEM (San Diego, Calif.). C-18 zip tips were purchased from MILLIPORE (Billerica, Mass.). Gel extraction, plasmid mini-prep, and PCR purification kits were purchased from QIAGEN (Valencia, Calif.). A 5 mL HITRAP chelating HP column and PD-10 columns were purchased from GE Healthcare. Thiopropyl SEPHAROSE resin was purchased from Amersham Biosciences (Piscataway, N.J.). Dialysis tubing (SPECTRA/POR) was obtained from Spectrum Laboratories, Inc. (Rancho Dominguez, Calif.). The ketone modifying agents 1,2-phenylenediamine and benzoyl hydrazine were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich and Alfa Products, Thiokol/ Ventron Division (Danvers, Mass.), respectively.

### Example 2

#### Methods

Induction of Haloduracin Production. B. halodurans C-125 was obtained as a freeze-dried culture and rehydrated using trypticase soy broth (pH 7 and 9) under aerobic conditions at 37° C. A 5 mL culture of B. halodurans C-125 was inoculated from this cell stock in LB broth and grown under aerobic conditions for 30 hours at 37° C. Aliquots of the culture (100 µL) were removed and plated on modified nutrient agar. The plates were grown an additional 90 hours at 30° C. until a dense lawn of bacteria was present. Bacterial lawns were gently washed with sterile water to remove the cells from the plate. The cell suspension was collected and incubated overnight at 30° C. without shaking to further induce sporulation. The solution was then centrifuged at 5000×g for 30 minutes at 4° C. and the supernatant was filtered using a 0.2 µm syringe filter to remove any remaining cells or spores. The cell-free solution containing haloduracin was analyzed by mass spectrometry and used for bioassays.

Mass Spectrometry. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization-time of flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry was performed using a Voyager-DE-STR (APPLIED BIOSYS-TEMS, Foster City, Calif.) instrument. Assay samples were prepared for MS by purification over a C-18 zip tip. The sample was eluted from the zip tip into a saturated solution of α-hydroxycinnamic acid prepared in 50% acetonitrile containing 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) for analysis. High resolution ESI-FTMS was performed on a custom-built 8.5 T Quadrupole—FTMS (Miller, et al. (2006) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 128:1420-1; Patrie, et al. (2004) J. Am. Soc. Mass Spectrom.
15:1099-108). The fragment ion prediction program of the ProSight PTM software bundle was used to generate fragment ion masses.

Bioactivity Assay. The inhibitory activity of haloduracin isolated from the producing strain and prepared in vitro was assayed using the solid agar medium test. Liquid molten GM17 agar (4% M17, 0.5% glucose, 1.5% agar) was cooled to 50° C. and seeded with an overnight culture of the indicator strain *Lactococcus lactis* CNRZ 117. After agar solidification in a Petri dish, samples were applied to a small well created in the medium. Assay samples were typically concentrated to dryness using a speed vac and rehydrated in a small volume (5-15  $\mu$ L) of sterile water for application purposes. The cellfree solution isolated from *B. halodurans* C-125 was applied directly to the plate without further concentration. Plates were incubated overnight at room temperature and zones of inhibition were observed the next day.

Molecular Cloning of Haloduracin Expression Constructs. Genomic DNA from B. halodurans C-125 was used as the template for PCR amplification of halA1, halA2, halM1, and halM2. Primers (Table 1) were constructed that added an Ndel restriction site 5' and Xhol restriction site 3' to each halA gene. An NheI restriction site was added at the 5' end of halM1, while an XhoI site was added to the 3' end. The halM2 gene was amplified with an XhoI restriction site at the 5' end and a BamHI restriction site at the 3' end. The PCR products were digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes and gel purified using a QIAGEN gel extraction kit. Vector DNA (pET15b for halA1, halA2, halM2 and pET28b for HalM1) digested with the same restriction enzymes was added to a ligation reaction containing T4 DNA ligase and the insert DNA. Chemically competent E. coli DH5α cells were transformed with each ligation mixture and plated on LB-agar containing the appropriate antibiotics to screen for positive clones (pET15b based constructs—ampicillin, 100 μg/mL; pET28b based constructs—kanamycin, 50 μg/mL). Clones were screened by redigestion of isolated plasmid DNA or 35 colony PCR. Positive clones were confirmed by DNA sequence analysis.

TABLE 1

Construct	Locatio	nPrimer Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
pHalA1	5'	GCGCCGCATATGACAAATCTT	24
1	3'	AGGCTCGAGTTAGTTGCAAGA	25
pHalA2	5'	GCGCCGCATATGGTAAATTCA	26
_	3'	AAACTCGAGTTAGCACTGGCT	27
pHalM1	5'	GCCGCTAGCATGAGAGAATTA	28
	3'	CGTCTCGAGTTAATGATTCGC	29
pHalM2	5'	GGGTATCCGCTCGAGATGAAAACTCC TCTAACAAGT	30
	3'	TATAAACGCGGATCCTTATCTGTCAT GAATTCTCAA	31
pHalA1-Xa	5'	ATTCTAGCTGGGATTGAAGGTCGTTG CGCATGGTAC	32
	3'	AGGCTCGAGTTAGTTGCAAGA	33
pHalA2-Xa	5'	GCTTCAGGAGATATTGAAGGTCGTAC AACTTGGCCT	34
	3 '	AAACTCGAGTTAGCACTGGCT	35

Engineering of a Factor Xa Cleavage Site in the HalA Peptides. To generate HalA peptides that contained a Factor Xa cleavage site, primers were designed for each peptide that contained the nucleotide sequence necessary to encode the amino acids Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) in place of four 65 wild-type peptide residues. In the first round of PCR to generate a megaprimer for subsequent rounds, the mutations

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were encoded by the 5' primer, while the 3' primer remained the same as listed in Table 1. The template DNA used for this reaction was the pET15b construct containing the wild-type hal A gene cloned previously. The double stranded PCR product of the first round was gel-purified and used as one of the primers in the next round of PCR. The other primer for round two was specific for the T7 promoter of the pET vector in which the gene was originally cloned. Using the megaprimer isolated above and the T7 promoter primer with the DNA of the pET construct containing the wild-type gene as template, a PCR product was generated that contained the appropriate mutations. In the case of HalA1, residues Val-Asn-Gly-Ala (SEQ ID NO:36) were replaced with Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) resulting in the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:10, while residues Val-His-Ala-Gln (SEQ ID NO:37) were substituted with Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) in HalA2 resulting in the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:11. The DNA was gel-purified and the modified gene of interest was excised from the PCR product by digestion with NdeI and XhoI. Following gel purification, each modified halA gene was ligated into pET15b digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes and transformed into  $E.\ coli\ DH5\alpha$  cells. Positive clones were isolated and confirmed by DNA sequence analysis.

Overexpression and Purification of HalA Peptides. The electrocompetent E. coli BL21 (DE3) strain was transformed with the pET construct containing the appropriate N-terminal hexa-histidine halA fusion gene. Cultures were inoculated from single colony transformants and grown overnight at 37° C. in LB broth supplemented with 100 µg/mL ampicillin. The overnight culture was used to inoculate 3 liters of LB broth, and cells were grown at 37° C. to A600 ~0.6-0.8. Expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM IPTG, and the culture was incubated at 37° C. for three additional hours. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 6500×g for 20 minutes at 4° C. The pellet (~15 grams) was resuspended in 30 mL of start buffer containing 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 20% glycerol, 500 mM NaCl, and 0.5 mM imidazole. The cell 40 paste was subjected to sonication to lyse the cells. Cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 16,500×g for 20 minutes at 4° C. The supernatant was decanted and the pellet containing the insoluble peptide was resuspended in the same volume of start buffer. The sonication and centrifugation steps were 45 repeated and the pellet was resuspended in 30 mL of buffer 1, containing 6 M guanidine hydrochloride, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 500 mM NaCl, and 0.5 mM imidazole. The sample was sonicated and remaining insoluble material was removed by centrifugation at 16,500×g for 20 minutes at  $4^{\circ}$  C. and the supernatant passed through a 0.45  $\mu m$  filter. The peptides were purified by immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) using a 5 mL Ni<sup>2+</sup> column. The filtered sample was applied to the column and washed with two column volumes of buffer 1, followed by two column vol-55 umes of buffer 2 containing 4 M guanidine hydrochloride, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 300 mM NaCl, and 30 mM imidazole. The peptide of interest was eluted in 1-2 column volumes of elution buffer containing 4 M guanidine hydrochloride, 20 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.5, 100 mM NaCl, and 1 M imidazole. The fractions containing peptide were pooled and desalted via dialysis or reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography. Dialysis was performed using 1000 Da molecular weight cut off tubing in which the peptide sample buffer was exchanged with 20 mM sodium acetate, pH 4, followed by exchange with 0.05% HCl. Reverse-phase HPLC was performed on a C4 column using a gradient of 2-100% of 80% acetonitrile in 0.1% TFA. Follow-

ing desalting by either method, the peptide sample was lyophilized to dryness and stored at  $-20^{\circ}$  C.

Overexpression and Purification of the HalM Enzymes. Electrocompetent E. coli BL21 (DE3) strain was transformed with the pET construct containing the appropriate N-terminal 5 hexa-histidine halM fusion gene. Cultures were inoculated from single colony transformants and grown overnight at 37° C. in LB broth supplemented with 100 µg/mL ampicillin or 50 μg/mL kanamycin. The overnight culture was used to inoculate 3 liters of LB broth, and cells were grown at 37° C. to 10 A600 ~0.5-0.6. Expression was induced by the addition of 1 mM IPTG, and the culture was incubated at 18° C. for ~20 additional hours. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 6500×g for 20 minutes at 4° C. The pellet was resuspended in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 500 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol and lysed by sonication at 65% intensity for 15 minutes. The sample was clarified by centrifugation at 16,500×g for 20 minutes at 4° C. to yield the crude cell-free extract, which was filtered through a 0.45  $\mu m$  filter.

Each HalM protein was purified by IMAC using a 5 mL 20 Ni<sup>2+</sup> column. After the sample was applied to the column, it was washed with two column volumes each of 25 mM, 50 mM, and 75 mM imidazole in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 500 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol. The protein was eluted with two column volumes each of 200 mM and 500 mM imidazole in 25 20 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 500 mM NaCl, and 10% glycerol. Fractions were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and those containing protein were pooled and desalted using a PD-10 size exclusion column. The protein was stored in 20 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 100 mM or 500 mM KCl, and 10% glycerol at -80° C.

HalM Assays of HalA Substrates. Purified HalA peptides were incubated with purified HalM proteins in various combinations of substrates and enzymes in the presence of 50 mM MOPS, pH 7.2-7.5, 2.5 mM ATP, 1-3 mM TCEP, and 10 mM MgCl $_2$  at 25° C. for 2-4 hours. The final concentration of each  $\,$  35 peptide or protein was ~0.4 mg/mL. Aliquots were removed at set times and subjected to purification over a C-18 zip tip followed by MALDI-TOF MS analysis.

Iodoacetoamide Modification of Haloduracin. The haloduracin peptides isolated from *B. halodurans* C-125 or produced in vitro were subjected to modification by iodoacetoamide (IAA). Hal1 and Hal2 isolated from *B. halodurans* were incubated with 5 or 10 mM IAA for 30-45 minutes at room temperature in the dark both before and after treatment with 1 mM TCEP to reduce any potential disulfide linkages. HalA1 and HalA2 were analyzed immediately following modification by the HalM enzymes, since excess reductant (TCEP) is present in the assay mixture and keeps all unreacted Cys reduced. Samples were taken for MALDI-TOF MS and excess IAA was removed by addition of ~0.5 mg of thiolpropyl-SEPHAROSE resin in a water-slurry mixture and subsequent centrifugation.

Analysis for an N-terminal 2-Oxobutyryl Group by Diamine Modification. 1,2-Phenylenediamine was added to a 4 M sodium acetate buffer, pH 4.8 to a final concentration of 55 40 mM. Each peptide was added to this solution at a final concentration of 0.1-0.3 mg/mL for the Hal peptides or 0.03-0.1 mg/mL for the 2-oxobutyryl-Ala-Trp-Pro-Ser (SEQ ID NO:40) synthetic control peptide. Reactions were incubated at 38° C. for 12 hours and analyzed by MALDI-TOF MS. No 60 change in mass was observed for either haloduracin peptide, while the AWPS peptide exhibited a decrease in mass of 84 Da (i.e., 566 Da to 482 Da).

Analysis for an N-terminal 2-Oxobutyryl Group by Hydrazine Modification. The Hal peptides isolated from *B. halodu-65 rans* C-125 or the positive control peptide Ala-Trp-Pro-Ser (SEQ ID NO:40) containing a 2-oxobutyryl moiety were

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incubated in 100 mM MOPS, pH 3 or 5 with 5 mM benzoyl hydrazine at a final concentration of 0.3 mg/mL for 12 hours at 25° C. Samples were analyzed by MALDTOF MS. No change in mass was observed for Hall or Hal2, indicating that hydrazone formation did not occur. In contrast, the Ala-Trp-Pro-Ser (SEQ ID NO:40) peptide exhibited a 118 Da increase in mass, consistent with hydrazone formation at the ketone functional group.

Factor Xa Cleavage of Peptide Leader Sequences. Factor Xa was used to remove the leader sequences from the HalA-Xa peptides following modification by the HalM enzymes. Both  $\text{CaCl}_2$  and Factor Xa were added directly to the HalM assay mixture at final concentrations of 2 mM and 0.03 mg/mL, respectively. Samples were then incubated at room temperature for 3-6 hours to fully proteolyze the peptide substrates. Aliquots were removed for MALDI-TOF MS analysis. Reactions were concentrated to dryness using a speed vac and brought up in ~10-15  $\mu$ L of sterile water for use in the bioactivity assay.

#### Example 3

#### Identification of Haloduracin

During a search for analogs of the lantibiotic mersacidin, a homolog of the mrsA gene was identified in the fully sequenced genome of the Gram-positive bacterium Bacillus halodurans C-125 (Takami, et al. (2000) Nucleic Acids Res. 28:4317-31). This strain had not previously been reported to produce a lantibiotic. The HalA1 gene encoded a peptide of 69 residues (SEQ ID NO:3), with a 41-residue leader sequence (SEQ ID NO:38) of the double-glycine type that was expected to be removed by a protease resulting in a 28-residue active peptide (SEQ ID NO:5). The HalA1 peptide, found in GENBANK Accession No. BAB04173, shared 34% sequence identity with the precursor peptide for mersacidin. Further analysis of the surrounding DNA sequence identified the halA2 gene immediately 5' of halA1. HalA2, found in GENBANK Accession No. BAB04172, contained 65 residues (SEQ ID NO:4), 35 of which likely encompassed the leader sequence (SEQ ID NO:39) based on a predicted double-glycine cleavage signal at residues Gly34-Ser35 resulting in a 24 amino acid residue active peptide (SEQ ID NO:6). The two prepeptides HalA1 and HalA2 shared 22.9% sequence identity with each other (FIG. 1A). HalA1 has significant sequence identity (40-50%) with peptides from other two-component systems, including LtnA1 (lacticin 3147; Ryan, et al. (1999) J. Biol. Chem. 274:37544-50), PlwAa (plantaricin W; Holo, et al. (2001) Microbiology 147:643-651), and SacAa (staphylococcin C55; Navaratna, et al. (1998) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 64:4803-8) (FIG. 1B). HalA2 exhibits similarity (35-40% identity) to PlwAα (plantaricin W), CylL-L and CylL-S (cytolysin), and Ltn2 (FIG. 1C).

Inspection of the sequence alignments in FIG. 1B and FIG. 1C as well as the structures of lacticin 3147 and haloduracin reveals similarities and differences in the two component lantibiotics, which with the exception of lacticin 3147 (Weidemann, et al. (2006) Mol. Micro. 61:285-296), have not been structurally characterized. The A1/ $\alpha$ -peptides all have the same topology of the three C-terminal rings, which is important in lipid II binding in mersacidin. On the other hand, the N-terminus is quite different amongst these peptides, with plantaricin and haloduracin both containing an N-terminal cyclic disulfide, lacticin 3147 and staphylococcin C55 an N-terminal methyllanthionine ring, and the very close homologs BHT and Smb lacking a ring altogether. The A2/ $\beta$ -

peptides have structural motifs at both the N- and C-termini. The N-terminal methyllanthionine ring identified herein in Hal2 appears relatively common as sequence homology indicates it is present in all family members accept lacticin 3147 and staphylococcin C55 (FIG. 1C). This first ring is followed by a stretch of hydrophobic amino acids. It is in this region that the Ser to D-Ala conversions occur in LtnA2 of lacticin 3147. The next ring system (B-ring, FIG. 1C) is once again relatively conserved amongst currently known two-component lantibiotics, and is only absent in BHT/Smb. Finally, the two most C-terminal Lan/MeLan rings are conserved in all members that have a companion A1/ $\alpha$  peptide. These rings are absent in the two peptides of cytolysin, with CylL<sub>S</sub> truncated after the B-ring and CylL<sub>L</sub> containing an appended sequence that is unrelated to the other family members.

Two lanM genes, designated HalM1 and halM2, were found flanking the two halA genes and appeared to encode the enzymes that perform the post-translational modification of HalA1 and HalA2. HalM1 (GENBANK Accession No. BAB04174) and HalM2 (GENBANK Accession No. 20 BAB04171) exhibited 25% sequence identity to each other and other LanM proteins from both two-component and single component lantibiotic systems. The leader sequence of the modified HalA peptides was most likely removed by a bifunctional transport protein designated HalT that was also 25 encoded in the gene cluster. HalT contains an N-terminal proteolytic region, six transmembrane regions, and an ATP binding domain and shares homology with the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family of proteins (Håvarstein, et al. (1995) Mol. Microbiol. 16:229-40). The fully modified biosynthetic 30 products, designated Hall (from HalA1) and Hal2 (from HalA2), compose the lantibiotic haloduracin and were expected to act synergistically for bactericidal activity.

Including haloduracin, seven two-component lantibiotics have now been documented (Ryan, et al. (1999) J. Biol. 35 Chem. 274:37544-50; Holo, et al. (2001) Microbiology 147: 643-651; Navaratna, et al. (1998) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 64:4803-8; Yonezawa & Kuramitsu (2005) Antimicrob. Agents Chemother. 49:541-8; Hyink, et al. (2005) FEMS Microbiol. Lett. 252:235-41). By searching the non-redun- 40 dant database for homologs to the haloduracin peptides, another gene cluster in Bacillus licheniformis was identified that encoded two prepeptides designated herein as LanA1 and LanA2 (FIGS. 2A and 2B, respectively), two modification enzymes designated herein as LanM1 and LanM2, and sev- 45 eral additional transport, immunity, and regulation proteins involved in lantibiotic biosynthesis. The amino acid sequence of the lantibiotic prepeptides of B. licheniformis as compared to that of haloduracin are depicted in FIGS. 2A and 2B. Bacillus licheniformis alpha prepeptide is found as GenBank 50 Accession No. AE017333. The nucleotide sequences encoding LanA1, LanA2, LanM1, and LanM2 are set forth herein as SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:18, and SEQ ID NO:19, respectively.

#### Example 4

#### Production of Haloduracin by B. halodurans C-125

Haloduracin production was observed when *B. halodurans* 60 C-125 was grown on modified nutrient broth plates for >90 hours to induce sporulation, which often induces antibiotic production. The plates were washed with sterile water and incubated overnight. Cells and spores were then removed by centrifugation and the supernatant containing the haloduracin 65 peptides was collected. Analysis of the cell-free supernatant by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry (MS) indicated that two

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products with masses of 2332 Da (M+H) and 3046 Da (M+H) were present. When applied to a *Lactococcus lactis* CNRZ 117 indicator strain, a zone of growth inhibition was produced. This result demonstrated the isolation of active haloduracin from the producer strain under these conditions.

#### Example 5

Expression and Purification of the Biosynthetic Components for Haloduracin Production

Genomic DNA isolated from B. halodurans C-125 was used as the template DNA for PCR amplification of halA1, halA2, HalM1, and halM2. Each gene was cloned into the appropriate pET (NOVAGEN) vector to generate an N-terminal hexa-histidine (H6) fusion construct. The halA genes were overexpressed in E. coli and the corresponding peptides purified to homogeneity according to methods used for other lantibiotic prepeptides (Xie, et al. (2004) Science 303:679-81). Briefly, the peptides were expressed in inclusion bodies that were isolated by centrifugation and resolubilized in guanidinium hydrochloride. Each peptide was subsequently purified by immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) followed by reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography. Similarly, the halM genes were overexpressed in E. coli and the corresponding proteins purified to homogeneity by IMAC, resulting in proteins that were >90%

Purified HalA1 and HalA2 were incubated together with purified HalM1 and HalM2 in an assay mixture containing (tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine hydrochloride), MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and ATP (Xie, et al. (2004) supra; Chatterjee, et al. (2005) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 127:15332-3) and then subjected to MALDI-MS. Incubation of the prepeptides with both modification enzymes resulted in the 3-fold dehydration of HalA1 and the 7-fold dehydration of HalA2 by comparison to the peptide starting material. Based on the number of Ser/Thr residues in the proposed structural regions of HalA1 and HalA2 (FIG. 1), HalA1 underwent three of four possible dehydrations whereas HalA2 was dehydrated at seven of eight possible residues. These results were consistent with the haloduracin peptides isolated from the producer strain whose masses corresponded to the same number of dehydration events for each peptide.

The specificity of each enzyme was subsequently examined. Incubation of HalA1 with HalM1 generated a species that was dehydrated 3-fold, while incubation of HalA2 with HalM2 generated a species that was dehydrated 7-fold. Incubation of HalA1 with HalM2 or HalA2 with HalM1 did not result in modified peptide in either case, indicating that each HalM enzyme can dehydrate one but not both HalA peptides. These data also rule out the possibility that a complex involving both peptides and/or both proteins was required for activity of either enzyme. The activity of HalM1 with HalA1 was examined in the presence of HalA2 as well, and it was found that addition of the non-substrate peptide did not appear to inhibit modification of the true peptide substrate. Similar results were observed for HalM2 with HalA2 in the presence of HalA1.

#### Example 6

# Iodoacetamide Modification of the Haloduracin Peptides

The mass spectra recorded of the HalM assays demonstrated efficient dehydration activity but could not detect

cyclization activity since no change in mass occurs in this step. To test for cyclization activity, the substrates and products were monitored for the presence of free cysteines by alkylation with iodoacetamide (IAA) following treatment with a reducing agent to assure cysteines would be available 5 for reaction. Reaction with iodoacetamide results in the addition of a carbamidomethyl group to each free cysteine present, translating to an increase in mass of 58 Da. The authentic Hall and Hall peptides isolated from B. halodurans C-125 were first subjected to IAA modification. Hall displayed two adducts as judged by mass spectrometry (Δm=116 Da). Adduct formation was dependent on prior treatment with a reductant, indicating that the adducts formed on Cys residues that were tied up in a cystine linkage under non-reducing conditions. Hal2 did not undergo IAA adduct formation under any conditions tested, consistent with each Cys residue of this peptide being involved in a MeLan or Lan ring, which were not susceptible to chemical reducing agents.

To determine the importance of the disulfide in Hla1, the bioactivity of Hal1 and Hal2 after chemical modification with 20 iodoacetamide was evaluated after removal of excess iodoacetamide using thiopropyl-SEPHAROSE resin. The remaining peptides containing two (Hal1) or zero (Hal2) adducts were then spotted against the indicator strain, where they exhibited zones of growth inhibition comparable to the wild-type peptides, indicating that the cystine linkage was not necessary for the biological activity of haloduracin.

To compare the ring structures of the haloduracin products produced in vitro with the peptides isolated from the producing strain, the products of the HalM assays were also treated with iodoacetamide and subjected to MALDI-TOF MS. The mass of HalA1 after modification by HalM1 was increased by 116 Da, consistent with the addition of two adducts. The mass of HalA2 modified by HalM2 remained unchanged under the alkylation conditions tested, consistent with the absence of free Cys residues. These results are in agreement with the chemical modification of the wild-type peptides, indicating that the HalM enzymes carried out the in vitro cyclization reaction in the same manner as in vivo.

#### Example 7

#### Tests for the Presence of a 2-Oxobutyryl Group

The HalA2 peptide shared sequence homology with the 45 β-peptide of plantaricin W (PlwAβ) and the LtnA2 peptide of lacticin 3147. Both of the mature peptides of these lantibiotics are thought to contain a 2-oxobutyryl group at their N-terminus (Martin, et al. (2004) Biochemistry 43:3049-3056; Holo, et al. (2001) Microbiology 147:643-651), resulting from 50 spontaneous hydrolysis of an N-terminal Dhb. The position of removal of the leader peptide deduced from the mass of Hal2 isolated from B. halodurans, as well as its sequence, indicated Hal2 might also contain a 2-oxobutyryl residue at its N-terminus at position 42 of the prepeptide. To investigate this 55 possibility, the peptide was first reacted with 1,2-diaminobenzene in a sodium acetate buffer to remove the oxobutyryl group (Martin, et al. (2004) supra; Stevens & Dixon (1995) Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1252:195-202; Sunde, et al. (1998) Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1388:45-52). Analysis by MALDI- 60 TOF, however, did not show any change in the mass of the Hal2 peptide. A control reaction with a synthetic peptide 2-oxobutyryl-Ala-Trp-Pro-Ser (SEQ ID NO:40) showed the expected reaction under identical conditions, indicating that Hal2 did not contain an  $\alpha$ -keto amide. In another experiment, 65 rather than removing the 2-oxobutyryl group, the peptide was reacted with benzoyl hydrazine, which should result in a

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hydrazone adduct if a ketone group were present. However, no adduct was obtained with Hal2, whereas the control peptide showed the expected increase in mass due to hydrazone formation 8 (Δm=118 Da). Furthermore, the Hal1 and Hal2 peptides were analyzed by high resolution Fourier Transform mass spectrometry (, et al. (2006) J. Am. Chem. Soc. 128: 1420-1), which can readily distinguish between peptides of different molecular formula. The masses of HalA1 and HalA2 were 3043.2802 Da (calculated 3043.2730 Da) and 2330.0456 Da (calculated 2330.0469 Da), respectively. The mass of Hall was within 2.5 ppm to a product with three dehydrations and one disulfide. The mass of Hal2 was consistent to 0.56 ppm with seven dehydrations and was inconsistent with an N-terminal 2-oxobutyryl group (calculated 2331.0309). Furthermore, analysis of the Hal2 peptide by tandem FTMS/MS resulted in fragment b-ions that clearly showed that in Hal2 Thr1, Thr2, Ser7, and Thr11 were dehydrated (corresponding to Thr42, Thr43, Ser48, and Thr52 in the HalA2 prepeptide) and that the one Ser/Thr residue that was not dehydrated was amongst Thr17, Thr 18, Thr 21 and Ser 22.

#### Example 8

#### Engineering a Factor Xa Cleavage Site into the HalA Peptides

The biological activity of lantibiotic peptides is dependent upon the formation of the correct ring structures (Kuipers, et al. (1996) Antonievan Leeuwenhoek 69:161-169; Bierbaum, et al. (1994) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 60:4332-8; Chen, et al. (1998) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 64:2335-40; Ottenwälder, et al. (1995) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 61:3894-903) and the removal of the N-terminal leader sequence of the modified peptides (van der Meer, et al. (1994) J. Biol. Chem. 269:3555-62; Xie, et al. (2004) Science 303:679-81). To demonstrate the biological activity of the haloduracin peptides prepared in vitro, the leader sequence of each product had to be removed. A peptide engineering method was used to achieve this goal. The last four amino acid residues of each peptide N-terminal to the cleavage site (as deduced from authentic Hall and Hal2) were replaced with the Factor Xa recognition sequence. In the case of HalA1, residues 38-41 (Val-Asn-Gly-Ala; SEQ ID NO:36) were replaced with the sequence Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) using molecular biology methods, whereas for HalA2 residues 32-25 (Val-His-Ala-Gln; SEQ ID NO:37) were replaced by Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9). Because Factor Xa cleaves after the sequence Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9), the structural region of each peptide obtained after digestion would correspond to the native mature products. The HalA peptides containing the Factor Xa cleavage site were overexpressed as hexahistidine fusion proteins and purified as described for the wild-type peptides. HalA1-Xa (HalA1 containing the Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) cleavage site) was incubated with HalM1 under the standard assay conditions to generate a 3-fold dehydrated species as judged by MALDI-TOF MS. HalA2-Xa (HalA2 containing the engineered cleavage site) was incubated with HalM2 under the same conditions to generate a 7-fold dehydrated species as judged by MALDI-TOF 9 MS. The results were consistent in both cases with the wild-type peptide data, indicating that substitution of four residues in the leader sequence of each peptide with the sequence Ile-Glu-Gly-Arg (SEQ ID NO:9) did not alter the recognition and activity of the HalM enzymes. Following HalM modification, each peptide was subjected to proteolysis by Factor Xa in a CaCl<sub>2</sub>-dependent reaction. Application of the proteolyzed samples to the haloduracin sensitive strain L. lactis CNRZ 117 resulted in a zone of inhibition comparable to that produced by Hal1 and Hal2

isolated from *B. halodurans*. This zone was dependent on the addition of both modified peptides. When either peptide was spotted separately, no inhibition was observed.

FIG. 3 depicts the structures for the two fully-processed haloduracin peptides that are consistent with mass spectrometric and structural characterization data presented herein, and with structural precedence in peptides from other systems. Based on the high accuracy mass spectrum of Hall isolated from the producing strain, HalA1 undergoes 3 dehydration events and the N-terminal leader sequence is removed after the anticipated proteolytic cleavage sequence Gly-Ala. The resulting product retains one Ser residue that was assigned to position 67, on the basis of similarity with the  $\alpha$ peptide from plantaricin W (Plwa), which also contains an unmodified Ser residue at the equivalent position (Holo, et al. (2001) supra). The HalA1 structural peptide contains more Cys residues than Ser/Thr and hence not all cysteines can be engaged in Lan/MeLan rings. The formation of two IAA adducts only after pretreatment with reductants indicates that two cysteines are present in a cystine linkage in the isolated peptide. Cvs42 and Cvs49 are assigned to be involved based 20 on similarity to Plwa. Hall is only the third example of a lantibiotic in which Cys residues are present as a disulfide, with sublancin and Plwα being the other examples (Holo, et al. (2001) supra; Paik, et al. (1998) J. Biol. Chem. 273:23134-42). As with plantaricin W (Holo, et al. (2001) supra), the 25 oxidation state of these two Cys residues does not seem to be crucial for biological activity, since reduction and even alkylation with IAA did not abolish antimicrobial activity. The three remaining cysteines are believed to form one Lan and two MeLan rings with the same connectivity as confirmed (Martin, et al. (2004) supra) or proposed for all other known two-component lantibiotics (Holo, et al. (2001) supra; Navaratna, et al. (1998) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 64:4803-8; Yonezawa & Kuramitsu (2005) supra; Hyink, et al. (2005) supra). The closest homolog, the  $\alpha$ -peptide of plantaricin W, is shown in FIG. 3. The six-amino acid containing MeLan B-ring, which is believed to be important for lipid II binding in mersacidin (Hsu, et al. (2003) J. Biol. Chem. 278:13110-7), is conserved in HalA1 and LicA1 including the invariant and essential Glu within this ring (Szekat, et al. (2003) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 69:3777-83). This MeLan ring is also 40 found in the  $\alpha/A1$ -peptides of lacticin 3147 (Martin, et al. (2004) supra), plantaricin W (Holo, et al. (2001) supra), staphylococcin C55 (Navaratna, et al. (1998) supra), Smb (Yonezawa & Kuramitsu (2005) supra), and BHT-A (Hyink, et al. (2005) supra) as well as in the lacticin 481 subgroup of single component lantibiotics (Chatterjee, et al. (2005) supra).

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The accurate mass for Hal2 isolated from B. halodurans C-125 is consistent with 7-fold dehydration of the HalA2 prepeptide and cleavage of the leader peptide C-terminal to Gln41. As for Hal1, the mass data indicate that Hal2 contains one unmodified Ser/Thr residue, assigned to Ser22 based on FTMS/MS data that show the unmodified residue to be located in the segment spanning residues 16-24. Proteolytic processing after Gln41 of HalA2 would result in Dhb42 of HalA2 occupying the N-terminal position of Hal2 upon removal of the leader peptide. Eneamines are unstable in aqueous solutions and undergo spontaneous and rapid hydrolysis to the corresponding ketone, resulting in a 2-oxobutyryl residue instead of a Dhb (Kellner, et al. (1989) Angew. Chem. 101:618-21) (see Ltn2 in FIG. 3). Alternatively, if HalM2 catalyzes the formation of an N-terminal MeLan by reaction of Cys46 with Dhb42 of the prepeptide (Dhb1 and Cys5 in mature Hal2), Hal2 would not have an N-terminal Dhb upon proteolysis and hence no α-keto amide would be formed. The IAA alkylation experiments clearly showed that Cys5 of Hal2 was indeed involved in a MeLan since no free Cvs was present. Furthermore, three independent methods provided evidence against an N-terminal 2-oxobutyryl group, indicating that HalM2 indeed forms a MeLan between residues 42 and 46 of HalA2. An alternative possibility that would result in the absence of the 2-oxobutyryl group is that Thr42 is not dehydrated resulting in Thr1 at the N-terminus of Hal2 after proteolysis. However, this model is inconsistent with the MS/MS data since the masses of a series of fragment ions clearly indicate the dehydration of Thr1 in Hal2. Unlike Cys5, the remaining three cysteines in Hal2 are conserved in the  $\beta/A2$  peptides of lacticin 3147, plantaricin W, and staphylococcin C55, and hence their involvement in the Lan and MeLan rings shown in FIG. 3 is supported. Indeed the fragment ions observed are fully consistent with the proposed rings of Hal2, as is the lack of fragmentation in the segments spanning residues 1 and 5, 11 and 15, and 16 to 24 (Xie, et al. (2004) supra).

The mass data demonstrated that the cleavage site for the leader peptide is not at the predicted position as the LanT protease domains typically process their substrates at a double Gly recognition motif; for HalA2 this would have been between Ser35 and Gly36. A similar observation has been reported for the two-component systems plantaricin W and cytolysin, in which the peptide undergoes additional proteolytic processing beyond the removal of the leader sequence (Cox, et al. (2005) supra; Holo, et al. (2001) supra). In cytolysin the additional proteolysis has been shown to be necessary for biological activity (Cox, et al. (2005) supra).

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Ser	Met	Tyr 115	Ile	Glu	Lys	Phe	Gln 120	Gln	Gln	Gln	Leu	Arg 125	Lys	Lys	Ile	
Gly	Pro 130	Ile	His	Glu	Glu	Ile 135	Trp	Thr	Gln	Ile	Val 140	Gln	Asp	Ile	Thr	
Ser 145	Lys	Leu	Asn	Ala	Ile 150	Leu	His	Arg	Thr	Leu 155	Ile	Leu	Glu	Leu	Asn 160	
Val	Ala	Arg	Val	Thr 165	Ser	Gln	Leu	Lys	Gly 170	Asp	Thr	Pro	Glu	Glu 175	Arg	
Phe	Ala	Tyr	Tyr 180		Lys	Thr	Tyr	Leu 185	Gly	Lys	Arg	Glu	Val 190	Thr	His	
Arg	Leu	Tyr 195		Glu	Tyr	Pro	Val 200		Leu	Arg	Leu	Leu 205		Thr	Thr	

Ile Ser His His Ile Ser Phe Ile Thr Glu Ile Leu Glu Arg Val Ala 210 215 220

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Asn 225	Asp	Arg	Glu	Ala	Ile 230	Glu	Thr	Glu	Phe	Ser 235	Pro	Cys	Ser	Pro	Ile 240
Gly	Thr	Leu	Ala	Ser 245	Leu	His	Leu	Asn	Ser 250	Gly	Asp	Ala	His	His 255	Lys
Gln	Arg	Thr	Val 260	Thr	Ile	Leu	Glu	Phe 265	Ser	Ser	Ser	Leu	Lys 270	Leu	Val
Tyr	Lys	Pro 275	Arg	Ser	Leu	Lys	Val 280	Asp	Gly	Val	Phe	Asn 285	Gly	Leu	Leu
Ala	Phe 290	Leu	Asn	Asp	Arg	Thr 295	Gly	Glu	Val	Ile	300 Lys	Asp	Gln	Tyr	CÀa
Pro 305	Lys	Val	Leu	Gln	Arg 310	Asp	Gly	Tyr	Gly	Tyr 315	Val	Glu	Phe	Val	Thr 320
His	Gln	Ser	СЛа	Gln 325	Ser	Leu	Glu	Glu	Val 330	Ser	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Glu 335	Arg
Leu	Gly	Ser	Leu 340	Met	Ser	Leu	Ser	Tyr 345	Val	Leu	Asn	Ser	Ser 350	Asp	Phe
His	Phe	Glu 355	Asn	Ile	Ile	Ala	His 360	Gly	Pro	Tyr	Pro	Val 365	Leu	Ile	Asp
Leu	Glu 370	Thr	Ile	Ile	His	Asn 375	Thr	Ala	Asp	Ser	Ser 380	Glu	Glu	Thr	Ser
Thr 385	Ala	Met	Asp	Arg	Ala 390	Phe	Arg	Met	Leu	Asn 395	Asp	Ser	Val	Leu	Ser 400
Thr	Gly	Met	Leu	Pro 405	Ser	Ser	Ile	Tyr	Tyr 410	Arg	Asp	Gln	Pro	Asn 415	Met
Lys	Gly	Leu	Asn 420	Val	Gly	Gly	Val	Ser 425	ГЛа	Ser	Glu	Gly	Gln 430	ГЛа	Thr
Pro	Phe	Lys 435	Val	Asn	Gln	Ile	Ala 440	Asn	Arg	Asn	Thr	Asp 445	Glu	Met	Arg
Ile	Glu 450	Lys	Asp	His	Val	Thr 455	Leu	Ser	Ser	Gln	Lys 460	Asn	Leu	Pro	Ile
Phe 465	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ala	Met 470	Glu	Ser	Val	His	Phe 475	Leu	Asp	Gln	Ile	Gln 480
Lys	Gly	Phe	Thr	Ser 485	Met	Tyr	Gln	Trp	Ile 490	Glu	Lys	Asn	Lys	Gln 495	Glu
Phe	Lys	Glu	Gln 500	Val	Arg	Lys	Phe	Glu 505	Gly	Val	Pro	Val	Arg 510	Ala	Val
Leu	Arg	Ser 515	Thr	Thr	Arg	Tyr	Thr 520	Glu	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ser 525	Ser	Tyr	His
Pro	Asp 530	Leu	Leu	Arg	Ser	Ala 535	Leu	Asp	Arg	Glu	Val 540	Leu	Leu	Asn	Arg
Leu 545	Thr	Val	Asp	Ser	Val 550	Met	Thr	Pro	Tyr	Leu 555	Lys	Glu	Ile	Ile	Pro 560
Leu	Glu	Val	Glu	Asp 565	Leu	Leu	Asn	Gly	Asp 570	Val	Pro	Tyr	Phe	Tyr 575	Thr
Leu	Pro	Glu	Glu 580	Arg	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Gln 585	Glu	Ala	Ser	Ala	Ile 590	Asn	Ser
Thr	Phe	Phe 595	Thr	Thr	Ser	Ile	Phe 600	His	Lys	Ile	Asp	Gln 605	Lys	Ile	Asp
ГÀа	Leu 610	Gly	Ile	Glu	Asp	His 615	Thr	Gln	Gln	Met	Lys 620	Ile	Leu	His	Met
Ser 625	Met	Leu	Ala	Ser	Asn 630	Ala	Asn	His	Tyr	Ala 635	Asp	Val	Ala	Asp	Leu 640
Asp	Ile	Gln	Lys	Gly 645	His	Thr	Ile	Lys	Asn 650	Glu	Gln	Tyr	Val	Glu 655	Met

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Ala Lys Asp Ile Gly Asp Tyr Leu Met Glu Leu Ser Val Glu Gly Glu Asn Gln Gly Glu Pro Asp Leu Cys Trp Ile Ser Thr Val Leu Glu Gly Ser Ser Glu Ile Ile Trp Asp Ile Ser Pro Val Gly Glu Asp Leu Tyr Asn Gly Ser Ala Gly Val Ala Leu Phe Tyr Ala Tyr Leu Phe Lys Ile Thr Gly Glu Lys Arg Tyr Gln Glu Ile Ala Tyr Lys Ala Leu Val Pro $725 \hspace{1.5cm} 730 \hspace{1.5cm} 735$ Val Arg Arg Ser Val Ala Gln Phe Gln His His Pro Asn Trp Ser Ile 745 Gly Ala Phe Asn Gly Ala Ser Gly Tyr Leu Tyr Ala Met Gly Thr Ile Ala Ala Leu Phe Asn Asp Glu Arg Leu Lys His Glu Val Thr Arg Ser 775 Ile Pro His Ile Glu Pro Met Ile His Glu Asp Lys Ile Tyr Asp Phe 790 Ile Gly Gly Ser Ala Gly Ala Leu Lys Val Phe Leu Ser Leu Ser Gly Leu Phe Asp Glu Pro Lys Phe Leu Glu Leu Ala Ile Ala Cys Ser Glu 825 His Leu Met Lys Asn Ala Ile Lys Thr Asp Gln Gly Ile Gly Trp Lys 840 Pro Pro Trp Glu Val Thr Pro Leu Thr Gly Phe Ser His Gly Val Ser 855 Gly Val Met Ala Ser Phe Ile Glu Leu Tyr Gln Gln Thr Gly Asp Glu 870 875 Arg Leu Leu Ser Tyr Ile Asp Gln Ser Leu Ala Tyr Glu Arg Ser Phe Phe Ser Glu Glu Glu Glu Asn Trp Leu Thr Pro Asn Lys Glu Thr Pro 905 Val Val Ala Trp Cys His Gly Ala Pro Gly Ile Leu Val Ser Arg Leu 920 Leu Leu Lys Lys Cys Gly Tyr Leu Asp Glu Lys Val Glu Lys Glu Ile Glu Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Thr Ile Arg Lys Gly Leu Gly Asn Asn Arg 950 Ser Leu Cys His Gly Asp Phe Gly Gln Leu Glu Ile Leu Arg Phe Ala Ala Glu Val Leu Gly Asp Ser Tyr Leu Gln Glu Val Val Asn Asn Leu Ser Gly Glu Leu Tyr Asn Leu Phe Lys Thr Glu Gly Tyr Gln Ser Gly 1000 Thr Ser Arg Gly Thr Glu Ser Val Gly Leu Met Val Gly Leu Ser 1015 Gly Phe Gly Tyr Gly Leu Leu Ser Ala Ala Tyr Pro Ser Ala Val 1030 Pro Ser Ile Leu Thr Leu Asp Gly Glu Ile Gln Lys Tyr Arg Glu 1045 1050 Pro His Glu Ala Asn His

1055

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Pro	Val	Thr 35	Glu	Glu	Ile	Gln	Lys 40	Tyr	Phe	His	Ala	Glu 45	Asn	Asp	Leu
Phe	Ser 50	Phe	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Pro 55	Phe	Leu	Gln	Phe	Thr 60	Tyr	Gln	Ser	Met
Ser 65	Asp	Tyr	Phe	Met	Thr 70	Phe	Lys	Thr	Asp	Met 75	Ala	Leu	Ile	Glu	Arg 80
Gln	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gln 85	Ser	Thr	Leu	Thr	Ala 90	Val	His	His	Arg	Leu 95	Phe
His	Leu	Thr	His 100	Arg	Thr	Leu	Ile	Ser 105	Glu	Met	His	Ile	Asp 110	Lys	Leu
Thr	Val	Gly 115	Leu	Asn	Gly	Ser	Thr 120	Pro	His	Glu	Arg	Tyr 125	Met	Asp	Phe
Asn	His 130	ГÀа	Phe	Asn	rys	Thr 135	Ser	Lys	Ser	Lys	Asn 140	Leu	Phe	Asn	Ile
Tyr 145	Pro	Ile	Leu	Gly	Lys 150	Leu	Val	Val	Asn	Glu 155	Thr	Leu	Arg	Thr	Ile 160
Asn	Phe	Val	Lys	Lys 165	Ile	Ile	Gln	His	Tyr 170	Met	ГÀа	Asp	Tyr	Leu 175	Leu
Leu	Ser	Asp	Phe 180	Phe	ГÀа	Glu	ГÀз	Asp 185	Leu	Arg	Leu	Thr	Asn 190	Leu	Gln
Leu	Gly	Val 195	Gly	Asp	Thr	His	Val 200	Asn	Gly	Gln	CAa	Val 205	Thr	Ile	Leu
Thr	Phe 210	Ala	Ser	Gly	Gln	Lys 215	Val	Val	Tyr	Lys	Pro 220	Arg	Ser	Leu	Ser
Ile 225	Asp	ГÀа	Gln	Phe	Gly 230	Glu	Phe	Ile	Glu	Trp 235	Val	Asn	Ser	ГÀа	Gly 240
Phe	Gln	Pro	Ser	Leu 245	Arg	Ile	Pro	Ile	Ala 250	Ile	Asp	Arg	Gln	Thr 255	Tyr
Gly	Trp	Tyr	Glu 260	Phe	Ile	Pro	His	Gln 265	Glu	Ala	Thr	Ser	Glu 270	Asp	Glu
Ile	Glu	Arg 275	Tyr	Tyr	Ser	Arg	Ile 280	Gly	Gly	Tyr	Leu	Ala 285	Ile	Ala	Tyr
Leu	Phe 290	Gly	Ala	Thr	Asp	Leu 295	His	Leu	Asp	Asn	Leu 300	Ile	Ala	СЛв	Gly
Glu 305	His	Pro	Met	Leu	Ile 310	Asp	Leu	Glu	Thr	Leu 315	Phe	Thr	Asn	Asp	Leu 320
Asp	Cys	Tyr	Asp	Ser 325	Ala	Phe	Pro	Phe	Pro 330	Ala	Leu	Ala	Arg	Glu 335	Leu
Thr	Gln	Ser	Val 340	Phe	Gly	Thr	Leu	Met 345	Leu	Pro	Ile	Thr	Ile 350	Ala	Ser
Gly	Lys	Leu 355	Leu	Asp	Ile	Asp	Leu 360	Ser	Ala	Val	Gly	Gly 365	Gly	Lys	Gly

Val Gln Ser Glu Lys Ile Lys Thr Trp Val Ile Val Asn Gln Lys Thr 370 375 380

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385 Asn	Lys	Pro	Thr		390 Asn	Gly	Lys	Glu		395 Asn	Ile	Gly	Asn		400 Ile
D	774	***- 7	m1	405	<b>a</b> 1	Dl	7	T	410	m	7	T	Dl	415	7
PIO	HIS	vai	420	Asp	GIÀ	Pne	Arg	цув 425	мес	ıyr	Arg	ьeu	Phe 430	ьеи	Asn
Glu	Ile	Asp 435	Glu	Leu	Met	Asp	His 440	Asn	Gly	Pro	Ile	Phe 445	Ala	Phe	Glu
Ser	Cys 450	Gln	Ile	Arg	His	Val 455	Phe	Arg	Ala	Thr	His 460	Val	Tyr	Ala	Lys
Phe 465	Leu	Glu	Ala	Ser	Thr 470	His	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Leu 475	Gln	Glu	Pro	Thr	Arg 480
Arg	Asn	Lys	Leu	Phe 485	Glu	Ser	Phe	Trp	Asn 490	Ile	Thr	Ser	Leu	Met 495	Ala
Pro	Phe	Lys	Lys 500	Ile	Val	Pro	His	Glu 505	Ile	Ala	Glu	Leu	Glu 510	Asn	His
Asp	Ile	Pro 515	Tyr	Phe	Val	Leu	Thr 520	Cys	Gly	Gly	Thr	Ile 525	Val	ГÀа	Asp
Gly	Tyr 530	Gly	Arg	Asp	Ile	Ala 535	Asp	Leu	Phe	Gln	Ser 540	Ser	Cys	Ile	Glu
Arg 545	Val	Thr	His	Arg	Leu 550	Gln	Gln	Leu	Gly	Ser 555	Glu	Asp	Glu	Ala	Arg 560
Gln	Ile	Arg	Tyr	Ile 565	ГÀа	Ser	Ser	Leu	Ala 570	Thr	Leu	Thr	Asn	Gly 575	Asp
Trp	Thr	Pro	Ser 580	His	Glu	Lys	Thr	Pro 585	Met	Ser	Pro	Ala	Ser 590	Ala	Asp
Arg	Glu	Asp 595	Gly	Tyr	Phe	Leu	Arg 600	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ala	Ile 605	Gly	Asp	Asp
Ile	Leu 610	Ala	Gln	Leu	Ile	Trp 615	Glu	Asp	Asp	Arg	His 620	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Leu
Ile 625	Gly	Val	Ser	Val	Gly 630	Met	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val 635	Thr	Val	Ser	Pro	Leu 640
Thr	Pro	Gly	Ile	Tyr 645	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu	Gly 650	Ile	Val	Leu	Phe	Phe 655	Asp
Gln	Leu	Ala	Gln 660	Gln	Thr	Gly	Glu	Thr 665	His	Tyr	Arg	His	Ala 670	Ala	Asp
Ala	Leu	Leu 675	Glu	Gly	Met	Phe	680	Gln	Leu	Lys	Pro	Glu 685	Leu	Met	Pro
Ser	Ser 690	Ala	Tyr	Phe	Gly	Leu 695	Gly	Ser	Leu	Phe	Tyr 700	Gly	Leu	Met	Val
Leu 705	Gly	Leu	Gln	Arg	Ser 710	Asp	Ser	His	Ile	Ile 715	Gln	ràa	Ala	Tyr	Glu 720
Tyr	Leu	Lys	His	Leu 725	Glu	Glu	Cys	Val	Gln 730	His	Glu	Glu	Thr	Pro 735	Asp
Phe	Val	Ser	Gly 740	Leu	Ser	Gly	Val	Leu 745	Tyr	Met	Leu	Thr	Lys 750	Ile	Tyr
Gln	Leu	Thr 755	Asn	Glu	Pro	Arg	Val 760	Phe	Glu	Val	Ala	Lys 765	Thr	Thr	Ala
Ser	Arg 770	Leu	Ser	Val	Leu	Leu 775	Asp	Ser	Lys	Gln	Pro 780	Asp	Thr	Val	Leu
Thr 785	Gly	Leu	Ser	His	Gly 790	Ala	Ala	Gly	Phe	Ala 795	Leu	Ala	Leu	Leu	Thr 800
Tyr	Gly	Thr	Ala	Ala 805	Asn	Asp	Glu	Gln	Leu 810	Leu	Lys	Gln	Gly	His 815	Ser

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Tyr Leu Val Tyr Glu Arg Asn Arg Phe Asn Lys Gln Glu Asn Asn Trp 825 Val Asp Leu Arg Lys Gly Asn Ala Tyr Gln Thr Phe Trp Cys His Gly Ala Pro Gly Ile Gly Ile Ser Arg Leu Leu Leu Ala Gln Phe Tyr Asp Asp Glu Leu Leu His Glu Glu Leu Asn Ala Ala Leu Asn Lys Thr Ile Ser Asp Gly Phe Gly His Asn His Ser Leu Cys His Gly Asp Phe Gly 890 Asn Leu Asp Leu Leu Leu Tyr Ala Gln Tyr Thr Asn Asn Pro Glu 905 Pro Lys Glu Leu Ala Arg Lys Leu Ala Ile Ser Ser Ile Asp Gln Ala 920 His Thr Tyr Gly Trp Lys Leu Gly Leu Asn His Ser Asp Gln Leu Gln 935 Gly Met Met Leu Gly Val Thr Gly Ile Gly Tyr Gln Leu Leu Arg His 950 Ile Asn Pro Thr Val Pro Ser Ile Leu Ala Leu Glu Leu Pro Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Glu Lys Glu Leu Arg Ile His Asp Arg 980 <210> SEQ ID NO 22 <211> LENGTH: 1052 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Bacillus licheniformis <400> SEQUENCE: 22 Met Asn Glu Lys Ser Ala Gly Tyr His Glu Arg Leu Pro Val Ala Gln Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Val Asn Asp Lys Ile Lys Tyr Trp Arg Ser Leu 20 25 30Phe Gly Asp Asp Asp Lys Trp Leu Asn Lys Ala Val Ser Leu Leu Ser  $35 \ \ \ 40 \ \ \ \ 45$ His Asp Pro Leu Ser Ser Ile Ala Gln Ser Ser Val Ser Gln Ser Val Gly Leu Lys Asp Ser Arg Arg Gly Pro Trp Gln Lys Met Gln Lys Arg 65 70 75 80 Ile Phe Glu Thr Pro Phe Ser Tyr Lys Asp Ser Ala Leu Gln Asp Ser 85 90 95 Glu Leu Leu Phe Asp Ser Leu Leu Thr Arg Phe Ala Ser Ala Ala Gln 105 Asp Ala Leu Glu Glu Gln Asn Ile Ile Leu Ser Pro Pro Leu Cys Arg Gln Val Leu Thr His Leu Lys Gln Thr Leu Leu Gln Ile Ala His Gln Thr Leu Ile Leu Glu Leu Asn Ile Leu Arg Leu Glu Asp Gln Leu Lys 150 Gly Asp Thr Pro Glu Met Arg Tyr Leu Asp Phe Asn Asp Asn Phe Leu Val Asn Pro Gly Tyr Leu Arg Thr Leu Phe Asn Glu Tyr Pro Val Leu 185 Leu Arg Leu Leu Cys Thr Lys Thr Asp Tyr Trp Val Gln Asn Phe Ser 200

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Phe 225	His	Ile	Ala	Gly	Asp 230	Pro	Val	His	Ile	Glu 235	Leu	Gly	Val	Gly	Asp 240
Ser	His	Asn	Lys	Gly 245	Lys	Met	Ala	Ala	Ile 250	Leu	Thr	Tyr	Ser	Asp 255	Gly
ГÀз	Lys	Ile	Val 260	Tyr	Lys	Pro	Arg	Ser 265	His	Asp	Val	Asp	Asp 270	Ala	Phe
Gln	Leu	Leu 275	Leu	Ser	Trp	Ile	Asn 280	Asp	Arg	Asn	Ser	Gly 285	Ser	Pro	Leu
Lys	Thr 290	Leu	Arg	Leu	Ile	Asn 295	Lys	Lys	Arg	Tyr	Gly 300	Trp	Ser	Glu	Phe
Ile 305	Pro	His	Glu	Thr	Cys 310	His	Thr	Lys	Lys	Glu 315	Leu	Glu	Gly	Tyr	Tyr 320
Thr	Arg	Leu	Gly	Lys 325	Leu	Leu	Ala	Val	Leu 330	Tyr	Ser	Ile	Asp	Ala 335	Val
Asp	Phe	His	His 340	Glu	Asn	Ile	Ile	Ala 345	Ser	Gly	Glu	His	Pro 350	Val	Leu
Ile	Asp	Leu 355	Glu	Ser	Ile	Phe	His 360	Gln	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Arg 365	Asp	Glu	Pro
Gly	Ser 370	Thr	Ala	Val	Asp	Lys 375	Ala	Asn	Tyr	Ile	Leu 380	Ser	Arg	Ser	Val
Arg 385	Ser	Thr	Gly	Ile	Leu 390	Pro	Phe	Asn	Leu	Tyr 395	Phe	Gly	Arg	Lys	Asn 400
Arg	Asp	Lys	Val	Val 405	Asp	Ile	Ser	Gly	Met 410	Gly	Gly	Gln	Glu	Ala 415	Gln
Glu	Ser	Pro	Phe 420	Gln	Ala	Leu	Gln	Ile 425	Lys	Gly	Phe	Phe	Arg 430	Asp	Asp
Ile	Arg	Leu 435	Glu	His	Asp	Arg	Phe 440	Glu	Ile	Gly	Glu	Ala 445	Lys	Asn	Leu
Pro	Thr 450	Leu	Asp	His	Gln	His 455	Val	Pro	Val	Ala	Asp 460	Tyr	Leu	His	Cys
Ile 465	Ile	Glu	Gly	Phe	Ser 470	Ala	Val	Tyr	Arg	Leu 475	Ile	Ser	Asp	His	Gly 480
Glu	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Ala 485	Thr	Ile	Glu	His	Phe 490	Lys	Asn	Сла	Thr	Val 495	Arg
Asn	Ile	Leu	Lys 500	Pro	Thr	Ala	His	Tyr 505	Ala	Ser	Leu	Leu	Asn 510	Lys	Ser
Tyr	His	Pro 515	Asp	Phe	Leu	Arg	Asp 520	Ala	Val	Asp	Arg	Glu 525	Val	Phe	Leu
Сув	Arg 530	Val	Glu	ГАв	Phe	Glu 535	Asp	Ala	Asp	Thr	Asp 540	Ile	Ala	Ala	Ala
Lуs 545	Thr	Glu	Leu	Lys	Glu 550	Leu	Ile	Arg	Gly	Asp 555	Ile	Pro	Tyr	Phe	Leu 560
Ser	Lys	Pro	Ser	Asp 565	Thr	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Asn 570	Gly	Glu	Glu	Glu	Pro 575	Ile
Ala	Ala	Tyr	Phe 580	Glu	Thr	Pro	Ser	Phe 585	Thr	Arg	Val	Ile	Lys 590	Lys	Ile
Ser	Ser	Phe 595	Ser	Asp	Gln	Asp	Leu 600	Lys	Glu	Gln	Ala	Asn 605	Val	Ile	Arg
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Gly	Val	Glu 675	Glu	Ile	Ser	Trp	Thr 680	Ile	Ser	Pro	Val	Ser 685	Leu	Asp	Leu
Tyr	Asn 690	Gly	Asn	Ala	Gly	Ile 695	Gly	Leu	Phe	Met	Ser 700	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Arg
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Leu	Lys	Tyr	Ala 740	Asp	Ser	Gly	Ala	Phe 745	Thr	Gly	Val	Ser	Gly 750	Tyr	Leu
Tyr	Phe	Leu 755	Gln	His	Ala	Gly	Thr 760	Val	Gln	Lys	Lys	Asn 765	Glu	Trp	Ile
Glu	Leu 770	Ile	His	Glu	Ala	Leu 775	Pro	Val	Leu	Glu	Ala 780	Val	Ile	Glu	Gln
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Leu	Met	Ser	Leu	Tyr 805	Glu	Gln	Leu	Asp	Asp 810	Pro	Val	Phe	Leu	Lys 815	Leu
Ala	Glu	Lys	Cys 820	Ala	Gly	His	Leu	Leu 825	Gln	His	ГÀа	Thr	Asn 830	Ile	Glu
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Phe	Ala 850	His	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly 855	Ile	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu 860	Ser	Arg	Phe	Asn
Lys 865	Val	Phe	Asp	Ser	Gln 870	Ser	Leu	ГÀз	Lys	Ile 875	Ile	Ser	Gln	CÀa	Leu 880
Ala	Phe	Glu	ГЛа	Gln 885	Leu	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Ser 890	Glu	ГÀа	Asn	Trp	Gly 895	Ser
ГЛа	Gly	Arg	Glu 900	Gln	Leu	Ser	Val	Ala 905	Trp	Cys	His	Gly	Ala 910	Ala	Gly
Ile	Leu	Leu 915	Ser	Arg	Ser	Ile	Leu 920	Arg	Glu	Asn	Gly	Val 925	Asn	Asp	Pro
Gly	Leu 930	His	Thr	Asp	Ile	Leu 935	Asn	Ala	Leu	Glu	Thr 940	Thr	Val	ГÀа	His
Gly 945	Leu	Gly	Asn	Asn	Arg 950	Ser	Phe	Cha	His	Gly 955	Asp	Phe	Gly	Gln	Leu 960
Glu	Ile	Leu	Arg	Gly 965	Phe	Arg	Glu	Glu	Phe 970	Ser	Glu	Leu	Asn	Thr 975	Ile
Ile	Gln	Asn	Thr 980	Glu	Asp	Arg	Leu	Leu 985	Thr	Tyr	Phe	Gln	Glu 990	Asn	Pro
Phe	Ser	Lys 995	Gly	Val	Ser	Arg	Gly 1000		l Asl	Se:	r Ala	a Gl; 10		eu Me	et Leu
Gly	Leu 1010		r Gly	y Val	l Gly	7 Ty:		ly Me	et Le	∋u Gi		ys ( 020	Gln '	Tyr (	Gly
Glu	Glu 1025		ı Pro	o Glu	ı Leı	1 Let 103		ln L∈	eu Se	er P:		ro ( 035	Gln <i>l</i>	Ala I	Leu
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<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus licheniformis

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Glu Asn Gly Lys Thr Pro Ser Arg Pro Thr Asp Phe His Leu Ser Ser 35 40 45

Val Gln His Ser Pro Asn Glu Pro Val Gln Leu Gln Gly Lys Met Pro

Glu Trp Ala Ala Cys Leu Ser Glu Ile Met Lys Tyr Asn Pro Lys Ala 65 70 70 75 80

Val Ser Glu Leu Lys His Pro Leu Pro His Met Ser Phe Val Thr Phe

Leu Val Pro Phe Leu Leu Phe Ala Gln Glu Arg Met Ser Lys Ala Phe 105

Ser Glu Phe Glu Lys Gln Glu Gly Gly Leu Ser Gly Ile Ile Asp Ala 120

Ala Gly Tyr Gln Asp Gly Ile Met Ser Glu Leu His Gln Cys Leu Asp

Lys Leu Ala Thr Arg Thr Leu Ile Thr Glu Leu Asn Val Ala Arg Glu

Asp Gly Arg Leu Lys Gly Ala Ser Pro Glu Glu Arg Tyr Val Tyr Phe

Val Glu Gln Tyr Ile Ser Asp Pro Glu Ile Tyr Arg Glu Phe Phe Glu

Leu Tyr Pro Val Leu Gly Arg Leu Met Ala Glu Lys Val Leu Arg Val

Leu Glu Ile His Glu Glu Ile Ile Gly Arg Phe Leu Ser Asp Arg Ser

Leu Ile Ala Lys Lys Phe Asn Ile Ala Ser Pro Glu Leu Val Gly Phe 230 235

Glu Gly Asp Leu Gly Asp Ser His Lys Asn Gly Gln Ser Val Lys Val

Leu Val Leu Asn Asn Gly Lys Leu Val Tyr Lys Pro Arg Ser Leu Ser 265

Ile Asp Glu His Tyr Arg Glu Leu Leu Asn Trp Leu Asn Gly Arg Gly 280

Met Lys Tyr Ser Leu Arg Ala Ala Glu Val Leu Asp Arg Gly Asn Tyr

Gly Trp Gln Glu Phe Val Lys His Glu Gly Cys Ser Ser Glu Glu Glu

Leu Glu Arg Phe Tyr Phe Arg Gln Gly Gly His Leu Ala Ile Leu Tyr

Gly Leu Arg Ser Val Asp Phe His Asn Glu Asn Ile Ile Ala Ser Gly

Glu His Pro Ile Leu Ile Asp Leu Glu Thr Leu Phe Asp Asn His Val 360

Ser Ile Phe Ala Gln Asn Gln Asn Leu His Val Thr Ala Leu Glu Leu 375

gont inuo

Lys 385	His	Ser	Val	Leu	Ser 390	Ser	Met	Met	Leu	Pro 395	Val	ràa	Phe	Lys	His 400
Asp	Glu	Val	Leu	Asp 405	Phe	Asp	Leu	Ser	Gly 410	Ile	Gly	Gly	Lys	Gly 415	Gly
Gln	Gln	Ser	Lys 420	Lys	Ala	ГÀЗ	Gly	Tyr 425	Ala	Val	Leu	Asn	Tyr 430	Gly	Glu
Asp	Arg	Met 435	Ser	Leu	ГÀЗ	Glu	Thr 440	Ser	Leu	Thr	Thr	Glu 445	Glu	Lys	Leu
Asn	Ala 450	Pro	Lys	Leu	Asn	Gly 455	Arg	Pro	Val	Ser	Ala 460	Val	Phe	Tyr	Thr
Asp 465	Phe	Ile	Val	Glu	Gly 470	Phe	Lys	Asn	Ala	Tyr 475	Ala	Ile	Met	Met	Lys 480
His	Lys	Glu	Glu	Leu 485	Ala	Gly	Pro	Ser	Gly 490	Phe	Leu	Asn	Leu	Phe 495	Lys
His	Asp	Glu	Val 500	Arg	His	Val	Phe	Arg 505	Pro	Thr	His	Val	Tyr 510	Gly	Lys
Phe	Leu	Glu 515	Ala	Ser	Thr	His	Pro 520	Asp	Tyr	Leu	Thr	Ala 525	Gly	Asp	Lys
Arg	Glu 530	Gln	Leu	Phe	Asp	Tyr 535	Met	Trp	Met	Leu	Ala 540	ГÀв	Gln	Ser	Glu
Lys 545	Ala	Asn	Val	Phe	Ile 550	Pro	Asp	Glu	Ile	Val 555	Asp	Leu	Leu	Leu	His 560
Asp	Ile	Pro	Tyr	Phe 565	Thr	Phe	Tyr	Ala	Gly 570	Gly	Thr	Ser	Leu	Leu 575	Asn
Ser	Arg	Gly	Glu 580	Glu	Ser	Glu	Gly	Phe 585	Tyr	Glu	Thr	Ser	Ser 590	Ile	Asp
Leu	Ala	Lys 595	ГÀв	ГÀв	Ile	Gln	Ser 600	Phe	Ser	Glu	ГÀв	Asp 605	Leu	Asn	His
Gln	Leu 610	Arg	Tyr	Ile	Ser	Leu 615	Ser	Met	Ala	Thr	Leu 620	Ile	Glu	Asn	Val
Trp 625	Asp	His	Ala	Glu	Ser 630	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gln	Lys 635	Glu	Thr	Val	Ala	Asp 640
Leu	Gly	Lys	Glu	Val 645	Lys	His	Ile	Ala	Asp 650	Asp	Leu	Leu	Gln	Lys 655	Ala
Ile	Tyr	Ser	Glu 660	Arg	Gly	Glu	Gly	Pro 665	Phe	Trp	Ile	Ser	Asn 670	Asn	Ala
Gly	Asp	Glu 675	Lys	Met	Val	Phe	Leu 680	Ser	Pro	Leu	Pro	Met 685	Gly	Leu	Tyr
Asp	Gly 690	Met	Ala	Gly	Leu	Ala 695	Ile	Phe	Phe	Ala	Gln 700	Ala	Gly	Lys	Val
Leu 705	Asn	Glu	Gln	Val	Tyr 710	Thr	Asp	Thr	Ala	Arg 715	Ser	Met	Ile	Glu	Glu 720
Ile	Gln	Lys	Glu	Glu 725	Ser	Tyr	Trp	Val	Gln 730	Asn	Gly	Asn	Ser	His 735	Ser
Ala	Phe	Phe	Gly 740	Thr	Gly	Ser	Phe	Ile 745	Tyr	Leu	Tyr	Ser	Tyr 750	Leu	Gly
Ser	Leu	Trp 755	Glu	Asp	Asp	Ser	Leu 760	Leu	Glu	Arg	Ala	Leu 765	Asn	Leu	Ile
Pro	Arg 770	Val	Leu	Asp	Gln	Pro 775	Asn	Gln	Thr	Gln	Asn 780	Pro	Asp	Phe	Ile
Ala 785	Gly	Asp	Ser	Gly	Leu 790	Leu	Thr	Val	Leu	Val 795	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Ile 800
Lys	Gln	His	Pro	Ala 805	Val	Leu	Asp	Ser	Ile 810	Arg	Gln	Val	Leu	Ser 815	Arg

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Leu Asn Asp Arg Ile Gly Arg Leu Leu Asp Ser Ile Glu Gln Asp Ala
                              825
Val Ser Leu Thr Gly Phe Ser His Gly Leu Thr Gly Ile Ala Phe Ser
Ile Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Val Ile His Asp Asp Ser Cys Lys Glu Leu
Val Leu Lys Leu Val Glu Glu Glu Asp Arg Tyr Phe Gln Lys Asp His
Leu Asn Trp Leu Asp Leu Arg Asn Asp Ser His Thr Leu Ser Pro Ser
Tyr Trp Cys His Gly Ala Pro Gly Ile Leu Leu Gly Arg Ala His Ile
                               905
Gln Ala Phe Ile Pro Glu Leu Thr Thr Arg Thr Leu Lys Leu Gln Glu
                           920
Ala Leu Gln Ser Ser Leu Asn Leu Ala Asp Cys Gln Asn His Ser Leu
                      935
Cys His Gly Leu Ile Gly Asn Leu Asn Ile Leu Leu Asp Ile Lys Arg
                   950
Leu Asn Arg Glu Leu His Val Pro Asp Asp Ile Phe Cys Ile Tyr Lys
Thr Lys Asn Arg Gly Trp Lys Thr Gly Leu His Ser Asp Val Glu Ser
                             985
Leu Gly Met Phe Val Gly Thr Ala Gly Ile Ala Tyr Gly Leu Leu Arg
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Leu Leu Asp Glu Ser Val Pro Ser Val Leu Thr Leu Asp Ile Pro
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                        1015
                                             1020
Thr Gly Arq
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<211> LENGTH: 21
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213 > ORGANISM: Artificial sequence
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<223 > OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligonucleotide
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligonucleotide
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cgtctcgagt taatgattcg c
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial sequence
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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Synthetic oligonucleotide
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gggtatccgc tcgagatgaa aactcctcta acaagt
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aaactcgagt tagcactggc t
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Val Asn Gly Ala
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Val His Ala Gln
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<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus halodurans
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Met Thr Asn Leu Leu Lys Glu Trp Lys Met Pro Leu Glu Arg Thr His
1
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                                    10
Asn Asn Ser Asn Pro Ala Gly Asp Ile Phe Gln Glu Leu Glu Asp Gln
Asp Ile Leu Ala Gly Val Asn Gly Ala
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus halodurans
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Ala Gly Ser
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<220> FEATURE:
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Ala Trp Pro Ser
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Lactobacillus plantarum
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Met Lys Ile Ser Lys Ile Glu Ala Gln Ala Arg Lys Asp Phe Phe Lys
Lys Ile Asp Thr Asn Ser Asn Leu Leu Asn Val Asn Gly Ala Lys Cys
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Lys Trp Trp Asn Ile Ser Cys Asp Leu Gly Asn Asn Gly His Val Cys
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Thr Leu Ser His Glu Cys Gln Val Ser Cys Asn
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Bacillus licheniformis
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Met Lys Ser Ser Phe Leu Glu Lys Asp Ile Glu Glu Gln Val Thr Trp
Phe Glu Glu Val Ser Glu Gln Glu Phe Asp Asp Ile Phe Gly Ala
                            25
Cys Ser Thr Asn Thr Phe Ser Leu Ser Asp Tyr Trp Gly Asn Lys Gly
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Asn Trp Cys Thr Ala Thr His Glu Cys Met Ser Trp Cys Lys
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<213 > ORGANISM: Lactococcus lactis
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Met Asn Lys Asn Glu Ile Glu Thr Gln Pro Val Thr Trp Leu Glu Glu
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Val Ser Asp Gln Asn Phe Asp Glu Asp Val Phe Gly Ala Cys Ser Thr
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Asn Thr Phe Ser Leu Ser Asp Tyr Trp Gly Asn Asn Gly Ala Trp Cys
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Thr Leu Thr His Glu Cys Met Ala Trp Cys Lys
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<211> LENGTH: 61
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<213> ORGANISM: Streptococcus ratti
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Met Lys Glu Ile Gln Lys Ala Gly Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Ser Ile Leu
                                 10
Met Asp Asp Ala Asn Asn Leu Glu Gln Leu Thr Ala Gly Ile Gly Thr
Thr Val Val Asn Ser Thr Phe Ser Ile Val Leu Gly Asn Lys Gly Tyr
                         40
Ile Cys Thr Val Thr Val Glu Cys Met Arg Asn Cys Gln
  50
                     55
<210> SEQ ID NO 45
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Streptococcus mutans
<400> SEQUENCE: 45
Met Lys Glu Ile Gln Lys Ala Gly Leu Gln Glu Glu Leu Ser Ile Leu
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Met Asp Asp Ala Asn Asn Leu Glu Gln Leu Thr Ala Gly Ile Gly Thr
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Thr Val Val Asn Ser Thr Phe Ser Ile Val Leu Gly Asn Lys Gly Tyr
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Ile Cys Thr Val Thr Val Glu Cys Met Arg Asn Cys Ser Lys
   50
                      55
<210> SEQ ID NO 46
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<213 > ORGANISM: Lactobacillus plantarum
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Pro Val Asp Glu Lys Ser Ile Asn Glu Ser Phe Gly Ala Gly Asp Pro
Glu Ala Arg Ser Gly Ile Pro Cys Thr Ile Gly Ala Ala Val Ala Ala
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Ser Ile Ala Val Cys Pro Thr Thr Lys Cys Ser Lys Arg Cys Gly Lys
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Arg Lys Lys
65
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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213 > ORGANISM: Streptococcus ratti
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<400> SEQUENCE: 47 Met Lys Ser Asn Leu Leu Lys Ile Asn Asn Val Thr Glu Val Glu Lys Asp Met Val Thr Leu Ile Lys Asp Glu Asp Met Glu Leu Ala Gly Gly Ser Thr Pro Ala Cys Ala Ile Gly Val Val Gly Ile Thr Val Ala Val Thr Gly Ile Ser Thr Ala Cys Thr Ser Arg Cys Ile Asn Lys 50 60<210> SEQ ID NO 48 <211> LENGTH: 61 <212> TYPE: PRT <213 > ORGANISM: Streptococcus mutans <400> SEOUENCE: 48 Met Lys Ser Asn Leu Leu Lys Ile Asn Asn Val Thr Glu Met Glu Lys 10 Asn Met Val Thr Leu Ile Lys Asp Glu Asp Met Leu Ala Gly Gly Ser Thr Pro Ala Cys Ala Ile Gly Val Val Gly Ile Thr Val Ala Val Thr 40 Gly Ile Ser Thr Ala Cys Thr Ser Arg Cys Ile Asn Lys <210> SEQ ID NO 49 <211> LENGTH: 65 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Lactococcus lactis <400> SEQUENCE: 49 Met Lys Glu Lys Asn Met Lys Lys Asn Asp Thr Ile Glu Leu Gln Leu 10 Gly Lys Tyr Leu Glu Asp Asp Met Ile Glu Leu Ala Glu Gly Asp Glu Ser His Gly Gly Thr Thr Pro Ala Thr Pro Ala Ile Ser Ile Leu Ser Ala Tyr Ile Ser Thr Asn Thr Cys Pro Thr Thr Lys Cys Thr Arg Ala Cys 65 <210> SEO ID NO 50 <211> LENGTH: 67 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Bacillus licheniformis <400> SEQUENCE: 50 Met Lys Asn Glu Leu Gly Lys Phe Leu Glu Glu Asn Glu Leu Glu Leu Gly Lys Phe Ser Glu Ser Asp Met Leu Glu Ile Thr Asp Asp Glu Val 25 Tyr Ala Ala Gly Thr Pro Leu Ala Leu Leu Gly Gly Ala Ala Thr Gly 40 Val Ile Gly Tyr Ile Ser Asn Gln Thr Cys Pro Thr Thr Ala Cys Thr 55 50 Arg Ala Cys

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<223> OTHER INFORMATION: D-Alanine

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What is claimed is:

1. An isolated two-component lantibiotic of *Bacillus* comprising SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4; SEQ ID NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8; or SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:11.

**2**. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the two-component lantibiotic of *Bacillus* of claim **1** in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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