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(54) **Title:** POLYPEPTIDES HAVING PROTEASE ACTIVITY AND POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING SAME

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to isolated polypeptides having protease activity, and polynucleotides encoding the polypeptides. The invention further relates to the use of such polypeptides in detergent and/or in cleaning processes. The invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs, vectors, and host cells comprising the polynucleotides as well as methods of producing the polypeptides.

POLYPEPTIDES HAVING PROTEASE ACTIVITY AND POLYNUCLEOTIDES ENCODING SAME

REFERENCE TO A SEQUENCE LISTING

5 This application contains a Sequence Listing in computer readable form, which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

10 The present invention relates to the use of polypeptides having protease activity and polynucleotides encoding the polypeptides. The invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs, vectors, and host cells comprising the polynucleotides as well as methods of producing the polypeptides. The present invention particularly relates to the use of polypeptides having protease activity in food application and in detergents.

15 DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

Enzymes have been used for many decades in the cleaning compositions such as detergents for various purposes such as laundry and dish wash in house hold care and industrial cleaning. A mixture of different enzymes are used each performing its specific activity to specific substances constituting soil from various stains. Proteases are enzymes which degrade proteins and can be used in cleaning processes such as dish wash and laundry to remove the proteinaceous stains. The most commonly used proteases are the serine proteases, in particular subtilases. This family has previously been further grouped into 6 different sub-groups by Siezen RJ and Leunissen JAM, 1997, Protein Science, 6, 501-523. One of these sub-groups is the subtilisin family which includes subtilases such as Savinase®, Alcalase® (Novozymes A/S) and BLAP® (Henkel AG). Over the years the subtilisins and other proteases has been genetically engineered to increase their performance. Typically the proteases are designed to fulfil different purposes such as to increase their wash performance e.g. at low temperature conditions and/or increase their capacity to remove certain stains. Commercially known genetically engineered proteases includes Relase®, Polarzyme®, Kannase®, Liquanase®, Ovozyme®, Coronase®, Blaze® (Novozymes A/S), Properase®, Purafect Prime®, Purafect Ox®, FN3®, FN4®, Excellase® and Ultimase® (Danisco/DuPont). Despite the availability of many optimized proteases designed for various purposes the compositions of the soiling and stains are very complex and the wash conditions and detergent composition changes to meet different user needs. All factors which makes the availability of different types of proteases for use in cleaning and detergents

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advantageous.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to isolated bacillus polypeptides having protease activity,
5 selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of
SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 85% sequence identity to
the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;

10 (c) a variant of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 comprising a substitution,
deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g. several) positions; and

(d) a fragment of the polypeptide of (a), (b) or (c) that has protease activity;

(e) a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of
SEQ ID NO: 4;

15 (f) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 80% sequence identity to
the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

(g) a variant of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 comprising a substitution,
deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g. several) positions; and

(h) a fragment of the polypeptide of (e), (f) or (g) that has protease activity;

20 (i) a polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID
NO: 6;

(j) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 90% sequence identity to
the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5;

(k) a variant of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6 comprising a substitution,
25 deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g. several) positions; and

(l) a fragment of the polypeptide of (i), (j) or (k) that has protease activity.

The present invention also relates to isolated polynucleotides encoding the polypeptides of
the present invention; nucleic acid constructs; recombinant expression vectors; recombinant host
cells comprising the polynucleotides; and methods of producing the polypeptides.

30 The present invention also relates to the use of the proteases of the invention in detergent
cleaning and detergent compositions, methods of doing cleaning and stain removal processes.

The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide comprising
or consisting of amino acids -110 to -84 of SEQ ID NO: 2, a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide
comprising or consisting of amino acids -83 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 2, or a polynucleotide encoding a
35 signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -110 to -1 of SEQ ID NO:

2, each of which is operably linked to a gene encoding a protein; nucleic acid constructs, expression vectors, and recombinant host cells comprising the polynucleotides; and methods of producing a protein.

5 The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -103 to -77 of SEQ ID NO: 4, a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -76 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 4, or a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -103 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 4, each of which is operably linked to a gene encoding a protein; nucleic acid constructs, expression vectors, and recombinant host cells comprising the polynucleotides; and methods of
10 producing a protein.

The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -106 to -78 of SEQ ID NO: 6, a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -77 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 6, or a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -106 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 6, each of which is operably linked to a gene encoding a protein; nucleic acid constructs, expression vectors, and recombinant host cells comprising the polynucleotides; and methods of
15 producing a protein

OVERVIEW OF SEQUENCE LISTING

20 SEQ ID NO: 1 is the DNA sequence of *Bacillus sp-1* protease
SEQ ID NO: 2 is the amino acid sequence as deduced from SEQ ID NO: 1
SEQ ID NO: 3 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus idriensis* protease
SEQ ID NO: 4 is the amino acid sequence as deduced from SEQ ID NO: 3
SEQ ID NO: 5 is the DNA sequence of *Bacillus sp-2* protease
25 SEQ ID NO: 6 is the amino acid sequence as deduced from SEQ ID NO: 5
SEQ ID NO: 7 is the amino acid sequence of the mature *Bacillus sp-1* protease.
SEQ ID NO: 8 is the amino acid sequence of the mature *Bacillus idriensis* protease
SEQ ID NO: 9 is the amino acid sequence of the mature *Bacillus sp-2* protease.
SEQ ID NO: 10 is the amino acid sequence of the TY-145 protease (WO2004/067737, SEQ ID NO:
30 1).
SEQ ID NO: 11 forward primer for *Bacillus sp-1* protease
SEQ ID NO: 12 reverse primer for *Bacillus sp-1* protease
SEQ ID NO: 13 forward primer for *Bacillus idriensis* protease
SEQ ID NO: 14 reverse primer for *Bacillus idriensis* protease
35 SEQ ID NO: 15 forward primer for *Bacillus sp-2* protease

- SEQ ID NO: 16 reverse primer for *Bacillus sp-2* protease
SEQ ID NO: 17 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus lentus*
SEQ ID NO: 18 is the amino acid sequence of *Termomyces lanuginosus*
SEQ ID NO: 19 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus sp*
5 SEQ ID NO: 20 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus halmapalus*
SEQ ID NO: 21 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus sp.*
SEQ ID NO: 22 is the amino acid sequence of *Cytophaga sp.*
SEQ ID NO: 23 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus sp.*
SEQ ID NO: 24 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus sp.*
10 SEQ ID NO: 25 is the amino acid sequence of *Bacillus sp.*

Definitions

Polypeptides Having Protease Activity

Polypeptides having protease activity, or proteases, are sometimes also designated
15 peptidases, proteinases, peptide hydrolases, or proteolytic enzymes. Proteases may be of the exo-
type that hydrolyses peptides starting at either end thereof, or of the endo-type that act internally in
polypeptide chains (endopeptidases). Endopeptidases show activity on N- and C-terminally blocked
peptide substrates that are relevant for the specificity of the protease in question.

The term "protease" is defined herein as an enzyme that hydrolyses peptide bonds. It
20 includes any enzyme belonging to the EC 3.4 enzyme group (including each of the thirteen
subclasses thereof). The EC number refers to Enzyme Nomenclature 1992 from NC-IUBMB,
Academic Press, San Diego, California, including supplements 1-5 published in Eur. J. Biochem.
1994, 223, 1-5; Eur. J. Biochem. 1995, 232, 1-6; Eur. J. Biochem. 1996, 237, 1-5; Eur. J. Biochem.
1997, 250, 1-6; and Eur. J. Biochem. 1999, 264, 610-650; respectively. The term "subtilases" refer
25 to a sub-group of serine protease according to Siezen *et al.*, *Protein Engng.* 4 (1991) 719-737 and
Siezen *et al.* *Protein Science* 6 (1997) 501-523. Serine proteases or serine peptidases is a
subgroup of proteases characterised by having a serine in the active site, which forms a covalent
adduct with the substrate. Further the subtilases (and the serine proteases) are characterised by
having two active site amino acid residues apart from the serine, namely a histidine and an aspartic
30 acid residue. The subtilases may be divided into 6 sub-divisions, i.e. the Subtilisin family, the
Thermitase family, the Proteinase K family, the Lantibiotic peptidase family, the Kexin family and
the Pyrolysins family. The term "protease activity" means a proteolytic activity (EC 3.4). Proteases of
the invention are endopeptidases (EC 3.4.21). There are several protease activity types: The three
main activity types are: trypsin-like where there is cleavage of amide substrates following Arg or
35 Lys at P1, chymotrypsin-like where cleavage occurs following one of the hydrophobic amino acids

at P1, and elastase-like with cleavage following an Ala at P1. For purposes of the present invention, protease activity is determined according to the procedure described in the Examples below. The proteases of the present invention have at least 20%, *e.g.*, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 100% of the protease activity of the mature polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 7, 8 or 9.

The term "protease activity" means a proteolytic activity (EC 3.4.21.) that catalyzes the hydrolysis of amide bond or a protein by hydrolysis of the peptide bond that link amino acids together in a polypeptide chain. Several assays for determining protease activity are available in the art. For purposes of the present invention, protease activity may be determined using Suc-AAPF-pNA assay as described in the Examples of the present application. The polypeptides of the present invention have at least 20%, *e.g.*, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90%, at least 95%, or at least 100% of the protease activity of the mature polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 7, 8 or 9.

The term "isolated polypeptide" as used herein refers to a polypeptide that is isolated from a source. In one aspect, the polypeptide is at least 20% pure, more preferably at least 40% pure, more preferably at least 60% pure, even more preferably at least 80% pure, most preferably at least 90% pure and even most preferably at least 95% pure, as determined by SDS-PAGE. The term "pure" as used herein, refers to the degree of purity of polypeptide in a sample, composition or the like. Thus, such as at least 95% pure means that no more than 5% of the sample, composition or the like consists of impurities. It is within the knowledge of the skilled person to determine the purity of an isolated polypeptide.

The term "substantially pure polypeptide" denotes herein a polypeptide preparation that contains at most 10%, preferably at most 8%, more preferably at most 6%, more preferably at most 5%, more preferably at most 4%, more preferably at most 3%, even more preferably at most 2%, most preferably at most 1%, and even most preferably at most 0.5% by weight of other polypeptide material with which it is natively or recombinantly associated. It is, therefore, preferred that the substantially pure polypeptide is at least 92% pure, preferably at least 94% pure, more preferably at least 95% pure, more preferably at least 96% pure, more preferably at least 97% pure, more preferably at least 98% pure, even more preferably at least 99%, most preferably at least 99.5% pure, and even most preferably 100% pure by weight of the total polypeptide material present in the preparation. The polypeptides of the present invention are preferably in a substantially pure form. This can be accomplished, for example, by preparing the polypeptide by well-known recombinant methods or by classical purification methods.

The term "mature polypeptide coding sequence" means a polynucleotide that encodes a mature polypeptide having protease activity. In one aspect the mature polypeptide is a polypeptide

with SEQ ID NO 7, 8 or 9. In another aspect the mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to 313 of SEQ ID NO 2, the mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO 4 or the mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO 6.

5 The relatedness between two amino acid sequences or between two nucleotide sequences is described by the parameter "sequence identity". For purposes of the present invention, the degree of identity between two amino acid sequences is determined using the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm (Needleman and Wunsch, 1970, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48: 443-453) as implemented in the Needle program of the EMBOSS package (EMBOSS: The European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite, Rice *et al.*, 2000, *Trends in Genetics* 16: 276-277; <http://emboss.org>), preferably version 10 3.0.0 or later. Version 6.1.0 was used. The optional parameters used are gap open penalty of 10, gap extension penalty of 0.5, and the EBLOSUM62 (EMBOSS version of BLOSUM62) substitution matrix. The output of Needle labeled "longest identity" (obtained using the `-nobrief` option) is used as the percent identity and is calculated as follows:

(Identical Residues x 100)/(Length of Alignment – Total Number of Gaps in Alignment).

15 For purposes of the present invention, the degree of identity between two deoxyribonucleotide sequences is determined using the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm (Needleman and Wunsch, 1970, *supra*) as implemented in the Needle program of the EMBOSS package (EMBOSS: The European Molecular Biology Open Software Suite, Rice *et al.*, 2000, *supra*; <http://emboss.org>), preferably version 3.0.0 or later. Version 6.1.0 was used. The optional 20 parameters used are gap open penalty of 10, gap extension penalty of 0.5, and the EDNAFULL (EMBOSS version of NCBI NUC4.4) substitution matrix. The output of Needle labeled "longest identity" (obtained using the `-nobrief` option) is used as the percent identity and is calculated as follows:

(Identical Deoxyribonucleotides x 100)/(Length of Alignment – Total Number of Gaps in 25 Alignment).

The term "fragment" means a polypeptide having one or more (several) amino acids deleted from the amino and/or carboxyl terminus of a mature polypeptide; wherein the fragment has protease activity.

30 The term "functional fragment of a polypeptide" or "functional fragment thereof" is used to describe a polypeptide which is derived from a longer polypeptide, *e.g.*, a mature polypeptide, and which has been truncated either in the N-terminal region or the C-terminal region or in both regions to generate a fragment of the parent polypeptide. To be a functional polypeptide the fragment must maintain at least 20%, preferably at least 40%, more preferably at least 50%, more preferably at least 60%, more preferably at least 70%, more preferably at least 80%, even more preferably at

least 90%, most preferably at least 95%, and even most preferably at least 100% of the protease activity of the full-length/mature polypeptide.

The term "subsequence" means a polynucleotide having one or more (several) nucleotides deleted from the 5' and/or 3' end of a mature polypeptide coding sequence; wherein the
5 subsequence encodes a fragment having protease activity.

The term "allelic variant" means any of two or more alternative forms of a gene occupying the same chromosomal locus. Allelic variation arises naturally through mutation, and may result in polymorphism within populations. Gene mutations can be silent (no change in the encoded polypeptide) or may encode polypeptides having altered amino acid sequences. An allelic variant of
10 a polypeptide is a polypeptide encoded by an allelic variant of a gene.

The term "variant" means a polypeptide having protease activity comprising an alteration, *i.e.*, a substitution, insertion, and/or deletion of one or more (several) amino acid residues at one or more (several) positions. A substitution means a replacement of an amino acid occupying a position with a different amino acid; a deletion means removal of an amino acid occupying a
15 position; and an insertion means adding 1-3 amino acids adjacent to an amino acid occupying a position.

The terms "cleaning compositions" and "cleaning formulations," refer to compositions that find use in the removal of undesired compounds from items to be cleaned, such as fabric, carpets, dishware including glassware, contact lenses, hard surfaces such as tiles, zincs, floors, and table
20 surfaces, hair (shampoos), skin (soaps and creams), teeth (mouthwashes, toothpastes), etc. The terms encompasses any materials/compounds selected for the particular type of cleaning composition desired and the form of the product (e.g., liquid, gel, granule, powder, or spray compositions), as long as the composition is compatible with the protease and other enzyme(s) used in the composition. The specific selection of cleaning composition materials is readily made by
25 considering the surface, item or fabric to be cleaned, and the desired form of the composition for the cleaning conditions during use. These terms further refer to any composition that is suited for cleaning, bleaching, disinfecting, and/or sterilizing any object and/or surface. It is intended that the terms include, but are not limited to detergent composition (e.g., liquid and/or solid laundry detergents and fine fabric detergents; hard surface cleaning formulations, such as for glass, wood,
30 ceramic and metal counter tops and windows; carpet cleaners; oven cleaners; fabric fresheners; fabric softeners; and textile and laundry pre-spotters, as well as dish detergents).

The term "detergent composition", includes unless otherwise indicated, granular or powder-form all-purpose or heavy-duty washing agents, especially cleaning detergents; liquid, gel or paste-form all-purpose washing agents, especially the so-called heavy-duty liquid (HDL) types; liquid

5 fine-fabric detergents; hand dishwashing agents or light duty dishwashing agents, especially those of the high-foaming type; machine dishwashing agents, including the various tablet, granular, liquid and rinse-aid types for household and institutional use; liquid cleaning and disinfecting agents, including antibacterial hand-wash types, cleaning bars, mouthwashes, denture cleaners, car or carpet shampoos, bathroom cleaners; hair shampoos and hair-rinses; shower gels, foam baths; metal cleaners; as well as cleaning auxiliaries such as bleach additives and "stain-stick" or pre-treat types.

10 The term "detergent composition", includes unless otherwise indicated, granular or powder-form all-purpose or heavy-duty washing agents, especially cleaning detergents; liquid, gel or paste-form all-purpose washing agents, especially the so-called heavy-duty liquid (HDL) types; liquid fine-fabric detergents; hand dishwashing agents or light duty dishwashing agents, especially those of the high-foaming type; machine dishwashing agents, including the various tablet, granular, liquid and rinse-aid types for household and institutional use; liquid cleaning and disinfecting agents, including antibacterial hand-wash types, cleaning bars, soap bars, mouthwashes, denture cleaners, car or carpet shampoos, bathroom cleaners; hair shampoos and hair-rinses; shower gels, foam baths; metal cleaners; as well as cleaning auxiliaries such as bleach additives and "stain-stick" or pre-treat types. The terms "detergent composition" and "detergent formulation" are used in reference to mixtures which are intended for use in a wash medium for the cleaning of soiled objects. In some embodiments, the term is used in reference to laundering fabrics and/or garments (e.g., "laundry detergents"). In alternative embodiments, the term refers to other detergents, such as those used to clean dishes, cutlery, etc. (e.g., "dishwashing detergents"). It is not intended that the present invention be limited to any particular detergent formulation or composition. The term "detergent composition" is not intended to be limited to compositions that contain surfactants. It is intended that in addition to the polypeptides having protease activity i.e. proteases according to the invention, the term encompasses detergents that may contain, e.g., surfactants, builders, chelators or chelating agents, bleach system or bleach components, polymers, fabric conditioners, foam boosters, suds suppressors, dyes, perfume, tannish inhibitors, optical brighteners, bactericides, fungicides, soil suspending agents, anti-corrosion agents, enzyme inhibitors or stabilizers, enzyme activators, transferase(s), hydrolytic enzymes, oxido reductases, bluing agents and fluorescent dyes, antioxidants, and solubilizers.

The term "fabric" encompasses any textile material. Thus, it is intended that the term encompass garments, as well as fabrics, yarns, fibers, non-woven materials, natural materials, synthetic materials, and any other textile material.

35 The term "textile" refers to woven fabrics, as well as staple fibers and filaments suitable for conversion to or use as yarns, woven, knit, and non-woven fabrics. The term encompasses yarns

made from natural, as well as synthetic (e.g., manufactured) fibers. The term, "textile materials" is a general term for fibers, yarn intermediates, yarn, fabrics, and products made from fabrics (e.g., garments and other articles).

5 The term "non-fabric detergent compositions" include non-textile surface detergent compositions, including but not limited to compositions for hard surface cleaning, such as dishwashing detergent compositions, oral detergent compositions, denture detergent compositions, and personal cleansing compositions.

10 The term "effective amount of enzyme" refers to the quantity of enzyme necessary to achieve the enzymatic activity required in the specific application, e.g., in a defined detergent composition. Such effective amounts are readily ascertained by one of ordinary skill in the art and are based on many factors, such as the particular enzyme used, the cleaning application, the specific composition of the detergent composition, and whether a liquid or dry (e.g., granular, bar) composition is required, and the like. The term "effective amount" of a protease refers to the quantity of protease described hereinbefore that achieves a desired level of enzymatic activity, e.g.,
15 in a defined detergent composition.

The term "water hardness" or "degree of hardness" or "dH" or "°dH" as used herein refers to German degrees of hardness. One degree is defined as 10 milligrams of calcium oxide per litre of water.

20 The term "relevant washing conditions" is used herein to indicate the conditions, particularly washing temperature, time, washing mechanics, detergent concentration, type of detergent and water hardness, actually used in households in a detergent market segment.

25 The term "adjunct materials" means any liquid, solid or gaseous material selected for the particular type of detergent composition desired and the form of the product (e.g., liquid, granule, powder, bar, paste, spray, tablet, gel, or foam composition), which materials are also preferably compatible with the protease enzyme used in the composition. In some embodiments, granular compositions are in "compact" form, while in other embodiments, the liquid compositions are in a "concentrated" form.

30 The term "stain removing enzyme" as used herein, describes an enzyme that aids the removal of a stain or soil from a fabric or a hard surface. Stain removing enzymes act on specific substrates, e.g., protease on protein, amylase on starch, lipase and cutinase on lipids (fats and oils), pectinase on pectin and hemicellulases on hemicellulose. Stains are often depositions of complex mixtures of different components which either results in a local discolouration of the material by itself or which leaves a sticky surface on the object which may attract soils dissolved in the washing liquor thereby resulting in discolouration of the stained area. When an enzyme acts on
35 its specific substrate present in a stain the enzyme degrades or partially degrades its substrate

thereby aiding the removal of soils and stain components associated with the substrate during the washing process. For example, when a protease acts on a grass stain it degrades the protein components in the grass and allows the green/brown colour to be released during washing.

5 The term "reduced amount" means in this context that the amount of the component is smaller than the amount which would be used in a reference process under otherwise the same conditions. In a preferred embodiment the amount is reduced by, e.g., at least 5%, such as at least 10%, at least 15%, at least 20% or as otherwise herein described.

10 The term "low detergent concentration" system includes detergents where less than about 800 ppm of detergent components is present in the wash water. Asian, e.g., Japanese detergents are typically considered low detergent concentration systems.

The term "medium detergent concentration" system includes detergents wherein between about 800 ppm and about 2000 ppm of detergent components is present in the wash water. North American detergents are generally considered to be medium detergent concentration systems.

15 The term "high detergent concentration" system includes detergents wherein greater than about 2000 ppm of detergent components is present in the wash water. European detergents are generally considered to be high detergent concentration systems.

20 The term "vegetable oil" includes plant oil e.g. oils from plant seeds. Vegetable fats and oils are lipid materials derived from plants. The oil is composed of triglycerides and can also contain minor constituents of phospholipids and galactolipids. Although many plant parts may yield oil in commercial practice, oil is extracted primarily from seeds. Vegetable fats and oils may or may not be edible. Examples of vegetable oils include but are not limited to rapeseed oil, linseed oil, tung oil, castor oil, soy oil, canola oil, sunflower oil, safflower oil, peanut oil, cotton seed oil, palm oil, palm kernel oil, coconut oil, olive oil, grape seed oil, corn oil, sesame oil, algae oil and rice bran oil. The term also includes biodiesel oil, produced from vegetable oil- or animal based oil consisting of
25 long-chain alkyl (methyl, propyl or ethyl) esters by reacting the oil with alcohol to produce fatty acid esters. Thus, the invention includes processing of vegetable oil to produce biodiesel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

30 In one aspect, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having protease activity, selected from the group consisting of: (a) a polypeptide having at least 85 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; a polypeptide having at least 80 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4; a polypeptide having at least 89 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6; (b) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO:
35 1; a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature

polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5; (c) a variant of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6 comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g. several) positions; and (d) a fragment of the polypeptide of
5 (a), (b) or (c) that has protease activity.

In a particular aspect, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 of at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have
10 protease activity. In one aspect, the polypeptide differ by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Another aspect of the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 of at least 80%, at least 81%, at least
15 82%, at least 83%, at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have protease activity. In one aspect, the polypeptide differ by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4.

Another aspect of the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6 of at least 90%, at least 91%, at least
20 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have protease activity. In one aspect, the polypeptide differ by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6.
25

In one embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, or the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, or 6. In another embodiment,

A polypeptide of the present invention preferably comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or an allelic variant thereof; or is a fragment thereof having protease
30 activity. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of amino acids 1 to 313 of SEQ ID NO: 2

A polypeptide of the present invention preferably comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or an allelic variant thereof; or is a fragment thereof having protease
35 activity. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of the mature polypeptide of

SEQ ID NO: 4. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

5 A polypeptide of the present invention preferably comprises or consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 or an allelic variant thereof; or is a fragment thereof having protease activity. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises or consists of amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 6.

10 A particular embodiment the polypeptide having a sequence identity to a polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 7 of at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have protease activity. In one embodiment, the polypeptide differs by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15 A particular embodiment the polypeptide having a sequence identity to a polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 8 of at least 80%, at least 81%, at least 82%, at least 83%, at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have protease activity. In one embodiment, the polypeptide differs by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 8.

20 A particular embodiment, the polypeptide having a sequence identity to a polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 9 of at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which have protease activity. In one embodiment, the polypeptide differs by no more than 20 amino acids, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 from the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 9.

30 In one embodiment, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having protease activity encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under very low stringency conditions, low stringency conditions, medium stringency conditions, medium-high stringency conditions, high stringency conditions, or very high stringency conditions with the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5 or the full-length complement thereof (Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, 2d edition, Cold Spring Harbor, New York).

35 The polynucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5 or a subsequence thereof, as well as the polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6 or a fragment thereof may be used to design nucleic acid probes to identify and clone DNA encoding polypeptides having protease activity from strains of different genera or species according to methods well-known in the art. In particular, such probes

can be used for hybridization with the genomic DNA or cDNA of a cell of interest, following standard Southern blotting procedures, in order to identify and isolate the corresponding gene therein. Such probes can be considerably shorter than the entire sequence, but should be at least 15, *e.g.*, at least 25, at least 35, or at least 70 nucleotides in length. Preferably, the nucleic acid probe is at least 100 nucleotides in length, *e.g.*, at least 200 nucleotides, at least 300 nucleotides, at least 400 nucleotides, at least 500 nucleotides, at least 600 nucleotides, at least 700 nucleotides, at least 800 nucleotides, or at least 900 nucleotides in length. Both DNA and RNA probes can be used. The probes are typically labeled for detecting the corresponding gene (for example, with ^{32}P , ^3H , ^{35}S , biotin, or avidin). Such probes are encompassed by the present invention.

A genomic DNA or cDNA library prepared from such other strains may be screened for DNA that hybridizes with the probes described above and encodes a polypeptide having protease activity. Genomic or other DNA from such other strains may be separated by agarose or polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, or other separation techniques. DNA from the libraries or the separated DNA may be transferred to and immobilized on nitrocellulose or other suitable carrier material. In order to identify a clone or DNA that hybridizes with SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5 or a subsequence thereof, the carrier material is used in a Southern blot.

For purposes of the present invention, hybridization indicates that the polynucleotide hybridizes to a labeled nucleic acid probe corresponding to (i) SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5; (ii) the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5; (iii) the full-length complement thereof; or (iv) a subsequence thereof; under very low to very high stringency conditions. Molecules to which the nucleic acid probe hybridizes under these conditions can be detected using, for example, X-ray film or any other detection means known in the art.

In one embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is nucleotides 501 to 1769, nucleotides 600 to 1600, nucleotides 700 to 1500, or nucleotides 800 to 1200 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; the mature polypeptide thereof; or a fragment thereof. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is SEQ ID NO: 1.

In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is nucleotides 501 to 1751, nucleotides 600 to 1600, nucleotides 700 to 1500, or nucleotides 800 to 1200 of SEQ ID NO: 3. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4; the mature polypeptide thereof; or a fragment thereof. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is SEQ ID NO: 3.

In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is nucleotides 501 to 1760, nucleotides 600 to 1600, nucleotides 700 to 1500, or nucleotides 800 to 1200 of SEQ ID NO: 5. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID

NO: 6; the mature polypeptide thereof; or a fragment thereof. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid probe is SEQ ID NO: 5.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having protease activity encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 of at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having protease activity encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 of at least 80%, at least 81%, at least 82%, at least 83%, at least 84% at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89%, at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to an isolated polypeptide having protease activity encoded by a polynucleotide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 of at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%.

In another embodiment, the present invention relates to variants of the mature polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6 comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g., several) positions. In an embodiment, the number of amino acid substitutions, deletions and/or insertions introduced into the mature polypeptides of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6 is not more than 20, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, or 19. The amino acid changes may be of a minor nature, that is conservative amino acid substitutions or insertions that do not significantly affect the folding and/or activity of the protein; small deletions, typically of 1-30 amino acids; small amino- or carboxyl-terminal extensions, such as an amino-terminal methionine residue; a small linker peptide of up to 20-25 residues; or a small extension that facilitates purification by changing net charge or another function, such as a poly-histidine tract, an antigenic epitope or a binding domain. In another embodiment, the number of amino acid substitutions, deletions, and/or insertions introduced into the mature polypeptide if SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 6, is not more than 40, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, or 39.

Examples of conservative substitutions are within the groups of basic amino acids (arginine, lysine and histidine), acidic amino acids (glutamic acid and aspartic acid), polar amino acids (glutamine and asparagine), hydrophobic amino acids (leucine, isoleucine and valine), aromatic amino acids (phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine), and small amino acids (glycine, alanine,

serine, threonine and methionine). Amino acid substitutions that do not generally alter specific activity are known in the art and are described, for example, by H. Neurath and R.L. Hill, 1979, *In, The Proteins*, Academic Press, New York. Common substitutions are Ala/Ser, Val/Ile, Asp/Glu, Thr/Ser, Ala/Gly, Ala/Thr, Ser/Asn, Ala/Val, Ser/Gly, Tyr/Phe, Ala/Pro, Lys/Arg, Asp/Asn, Leu/Ile, 5 Leu/Val, Ala/Glu, and Asp/Gly.

Alternatively, the amino acid changes are of such a nature that the physico-chemical properties of the polypeptides are altered. For example, amino acid changes may improve the thermal stability of the polypeptide, alter the substrate specificity, change the pH optimum, and the like.

10 Essential amino acids in a polypeptide can be identified according to procedures known in the art, such as site-directed mutagenesis or alanine-scanning mutagenesis (Cunningham and Wells, 1989, *Science* 244: 1081-1085). In the latter technique, single alanine mutations are introduced at every residue in the molecule, and the resultant mutant molecules are tested for protease activity to identify amino acid residues that are critical to the activity of the molecule. See 15 also, Hilton *et al.*, 1996, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271: 4699-4708. The active site of the enzyme or other biological interaction can also be determined by physical analysis of structure, as determined by such techniques as nuclear magnetic resonance, crystallography, electron diffraction, or photoaffinity labeling, in conjunction with mutation of putative contact site amino acids. See, for example, de Vos *et al.*, 1992, *Science* 255: 306-312; Smith *et al.*, 1992, *J. Mol. Biol.* 224: 899-904; 20 Wlodaver *et al.*, 1992, *FEBS Lett.* 309: 59-64. The identity of essential amino acids can also be inferred from an alignment with a related polypeptide. The identity of essential amino acids can also be inferred from an alignment with a related polypeptide. For the polypeptide with SEQ ID NO 2 the catalytic triad comprising the amino acids D37, H74 and S253 is essential for protease activity of the enzyme.

25 For the polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 4, the catalytic triad comprising the amino acids D38, H75 and S254 is essential for protease activity of the enzyme.

For the polypeptide with SEQ ID NO: 6, the catalytic triad comprising the amino acids D38, H75 and S254 is essential for protease activity of the enzyme.

30 In an embodiment, the variant has improved catalytic activity compared to the parent enzyme.

In a particular embodiment, the variant has at least 10%, such as at least 15%, such as at least 20%, such as at least 30%, improved catalytic activity compared to the parent enzyme.

35 Single or multiple amino acid substitutions, deletions, and/or insertions may be made and tested using known methods of mutagenesis, recombination, and/or shuffling, followed by a relevant screening procedure, such as those disclosed by Reidhaar-Olson and Sauer, 1988,

5 *Science* 241: 53-57; Bowie and Sauer, 1989, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86: 2152-2156; WO 95/17413; or WO 95/22625. Other methods that can be used include error-prone PCR, phage display (e.g., Lowman *et al.*, 1991, *Biochemistry* 30: 10832-10837; U.S. Patent No. 5,223,409; WO 92/06204), and region-directed mutagenesis (Derbyshire *et al.*, 1986, *Gene* 46: 145; Ner *et al.*, 1988, *DNA* 7: 127).

10 Mutagenesis/shuffling methods can be combined with high-throughput, automated screening methods to detect activity of cloned, mutagenized polypeptides expressed by host cells (Ness *et al.*, 1999, *Nature Biotechnology* 17: 893-896). Mutagenized DNA molecules that encode active polypeptides can be recovered from the host cells and rapidly sequenced using standard methods in the art. These methods allow the rapid determination of the importance of individual amino acid residues in a polypeptide.

The polypeptide may be a hybrid polypeptide in which a region of one polypeptide is fused at the N-terminus or the C-terminus of a region of another polypeptide.

15 The polypeptide may be a fusion polypeptide or cleavable fusion polypeptide in which another polypeptide is fused at the N-terminus or the C-terminus of the polypeptide of the present invention. A fusion polypeptide is produced by fusing a polynucleotide encoding another polypeptide to a polynucleotide of the present invention. Techniques for producing fusion polypeptides are known in the art, and include ligating the coding sequences encoding the polypeptides so that they are in frame and that expression of the fusion polypeptide is under control of the same promoter(s) and terminator. Fusion polypeptides may also be constructed using intein technology in which fusion polypeptides are created post-translationally (Cooper *et al.*, 1993, *EMBO J.* 12: 2575-2583; Dawson *et al.*, 1994, *Science* 266: 776-779).

20 A fusion polypeptide may further comprise a cleavage site between the two polypeptides. Upon secretion of the fusion protein, the site is cleaved releasing the two polypeptides. Examples of cleavage sites include, but are not limited to, the sites disclosed in Martin *et al.*, 2003, *J. Ind. Microbiol. Biotechnol.* 3: 568-576; Svetina *et al.*, 2000, *J. Biotechnol.* 76: 245-251; Rasmussen-Wilson *et al.*, 1997, *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 63: 3488-3493; Ward *et al.*, 1995, *Biotechnology* 13: 498-503; and Contreras *et al.*, 1991, *Biotechnology* 9: 378-381; Eaton *et al.*, 1986, *Biochemistry* 25: 505-512; Collins-Racie *et al.*, 1995, *Biotechnology* 13: 982-987; Carter *et al.*, 1989, *Proteins: Structure, Function, and Genetics* 6: 240-248; and Stevens, 2003, *Drug Discovery World* 4: 35-48.

Sources of Polypeptides Having protease Activity

35 Polypeptides having protease activity of the present invention may be obtained from microorganisms of any genus. For purposes of the present invention, the term "obtained from" as used herein in connection with a given source shall mean that the polypeptide encoded by a

polynucleotide is produced by the source or by a strain in which the polynucleotide from the source has been inserted. In one aspect, the polypeptide obtained from a given source is secreted extracellularly.

The polypeptides may be a bacterial protease. For example, the polypeptides may be a Gram-positive bacterial polypeptide such as a *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Enterococcus*, *Geobacillus*, *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Oceanobacillus*, *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, or *Streptomyces* protease, or a Gram-negative bacterial polypeptide such as a *Campylobacter*, *E. coli*, *Flavobacterium*, *Fusobacterium*, *Helicobacter*, *Ilyobacter*, *Neisseria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Salmonella*, or *Ureaplasma* protease.

In one aspect, the polypeptide is a *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus circulans*, *Bacillus clausii*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus firmus*, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus pumilus*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, or *Bacillus thuringiensis* protease

In one embodiment, the polypeptide is a *Bacillus sp.* protease, e.g., the protease with SEQ ID NO: 2 or the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO 6. In one aspect the polypeptide is a *Bacillus idriensis* protease e.g. the protease of SEQ ID NO 4.

Strains of these species are readily accessible to the public in a number of culture collections, such as the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ), Centraalbureau Voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), and Agricultural Research Service Patent Culture Collection, Northern Regional Research Center (NRRL).

The parent may be identified and obtained from other sources including microorganisms isolated from nature (e.g., soil, composts, water, etc.) or DNA samples obtained directly from natural materials (e.g., soil, composts, water, etc.) using the above-mentioned probes. Techniques for isolating microorganisms and DNA directly from natural habitats are well known in the art. A polynucleotide encoding a parent may then be obtained by similarly screening a genomic DNA or cDNA library of another microorganism or mixed DNA sample. Once a polynucleotide encoding a parent has been detected with the probe(s), the polynucleotide can be isolated or cloned by utilizing techniques that are known to those of ordinary skill in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, *supra*).

Polynucleotides

The present invention also relates to isolated polynucleotides encoding a polypeptide or a catalytic domain of the present invention, as described herein.

The techniques used to isolate or clone a polynucleotide are known in the art and include

isolation from genomic DNA or cDNA, or a combination thereof. The cloning of the polynucleotides from genomic DNA can be effected, *e.g.*, by using the well-known polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or antibody screening of expression libraries to detect cloned DNA fragments with shared structural features. See, *e.g.*, Innis *et al.*, 1990, *PCR: A Guide to Methods and Application*, Academic Press,
5 New York. Other nucleic acid amplification procedures such as ligase chain reaction (LCR), ligation activated transcription (LAT) and polynucleotide-based amplification (NASBA) may be used. The polynucleotides may be cloned from a strain of *bacillus* or a related organism and thus, for example, may be an allelic or species variant of the polypeptide encoding region of the polynucleotide.

10 Modification of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of the present invention may be necessary for synthesizing polypeptides substantially similar to the polypeptide. The term "substantially similar" to the polypeptide refers to non-naturally occurring forms of the polypeptide. These polypeptides may differ in some engineered way from the polypeptide isolated from its native source, *e.g.*, variants that differ in specific activity, thermostability, pH optimum, or the like. The
15 variants may be constructed on the basis of the polynucleotide presented as the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3 or 5, *e.g.*, a subsequence thereof, and/or by introduction of nucleotide substitutions that do not result in a change in the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide, but which correspond to the codon usage of the host organism intended for production of the enzyme, or by introduction of nucleotide substitutions that may give rise to a
20 different amino acid sequence. For a general description of nucleotide substitution, see, *e.g.*, Ford *et al.*, 1991, *Protein Expression and Purification* 2: 95-107.

Signal Peptide and Propeptide

The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide comprising
25 or consisting of amino acids -110 to -84 of SEQ ID NO: 2. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -83 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 2. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -110 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 2. The polynucleotides may further comprise a gene encoding a protein, which is operably linked to the
30 signal peptide and/or propeptide. The protein is preferably foreign to the signal peptide and/or propeptide. In one aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide is nucleotides 501 to 581 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the propeptide is nucleotides 582 to 830 of SEQ ID NO: 1. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide and the propeptide is nucleotides 501 to 830 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

35 The present invention further relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide

comprising or consisting of amino acids -103 to -77 of SEQ ID NO: 4. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -76 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 4. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -103 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 4. The polynucleotides may further comprise a gene encoding a protein, which is operably linked to the signal peptide and/or propeptide. The protein is preferably foreign to the signal peptide and/or propeptide. In one aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide is nucleotides 501 to 581 of SEQ ID NO: 3. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the propeptide is nucleotides 582 to 809 of SEQ ID NO: 3. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide and the propeptide is nucleotides 501 to 809 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

The present invention further relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -106 to -78 of SEQ ID NO: 6. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -77 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 6. The present invention also relates to a polynucleotide encoding a signal peptide and a propeptide comprising or consisting of amino acids -106 to -1 of SEQ ID NO: 6. The polynucleotides may further comprise a gene encoding a protein, which is operably linked to the signal peptide and/or propeptide. The protein is preferably foreign to the signal peptide and/or propeptide. In one aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide is nucleotides 501 to 587 of SEQ ID NO: 5. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the propeptide is nucleotides 588 to 818 of SEQ ID NO: 5. In another aspect, the polynucleotide encoding the signal peptide and the propeptide is nucleotides 501 to 818 of SEQ ID NO: 5.

The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs, expression vectors and recombinant host cells comprising such polynucleotides.

The present invention also relates to methods of producing a protein, comprising (a) cultivating a recombinant host cell comprising such polynucleotide; and (b) recovering the protein.

The protein may be native or heterologous to a host cell. The term "protein" is not meant herein to refer to a specific length of the encoded product and, therefore, encompasses peptides, oligopeptides, and polypeptides. The term "protein" also encompasses two or more polypeptides combined to form the encoded product. The proteins also include hybrid polypeptides and fused polypeptides.

Preferably, the protein is a hormone, enzyme, receptor or portion thereof, antibody or portion thereof, or reporter. For example, the protein may be a hydrolase, isomerase, ligase, lyase, oxidoreductase, or transferase, *e.g.*, an alpha-galactosidase, alpha-glucosidase, aminopeptidase, amylase, beta-galactosidase, beta-glucosidase, beta-xylosidase, carbohydrase, carboxypeptidase, catalase, cellobiohydrolase, cellulase, chitinase, cutinase, cyclodextrin glycosyltransferase,

deoxyribonuclease, endoglucanase, esterase, glucoamylase, invertase, laccase, lipase, mannosidase, mutanase, oxidase, pectinolytic enzyme, peroxidase, phytase, polyphenoloxidase, proteolytic enzyme, ribonuclease, transglutaminase, or xylanase. The gene may be obtained from any prokaryotic, eukaryotic, or other source.

5

Nucleic Acid Constructs

The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs comprising a polynucleotide of the present invention operably linked to one or more control sequences that direct the expression of the coding sequence in a suitable host cell under conditions compatible with the control sequences.

10 Thus, in one aspect, the present invention relates to a nucleic acid construct comprising a polynucleotide encoding polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or a polypeptide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to one or more control
15 sequences that direct the expression of the coding sequence in a suitable host cell under conditions compatible with the control sequences.

A polynucleotide may be manipulated in a variety of ways to provide for expression of the polypeptide. Manipulation of the polynucleotide prior to its insertion into a vector may be desirable or necessary depending on the expression vector. The techniques for modifying polynucleotides
20 utilizing recombinant DNA methods are well known in the art.

The control sequence may be a promoter, a polynucleotide that is recognized by a host cell for expression of a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of the present invention. The promoter contains transcriptional control sequences that mediate the expression of the polypeptide. The promoter may be any polynucleotide that shows transcriptional activity in the host cell including
25 mutant, truncated, and hybrid promoters, and may be obtained from genes encoding extracellular or intracellular polypeptides either homologous or heterologous to the host cell.

Examples of suitable promoters for directing transcription of the nucleic acid constructs of the present invention in a bacterial host cell are the promoters obtained from the *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* alpha-amylase gene (*amyQ*), *Bacillus licheniformis* alpha-amylase gene (*amyL*),
30 *Bacillus licheniformis* penicillinase gene (*penP*), *Bacillus stearothermophilus* maltogenic amylase gene (*amyM*), *Bacillus subtilis* levansucrase gene (*sacB*), *Bacillus subtilis* *xyIA* and *xyIB* genes, *Bacillus thuringiensis cryIIIA* gene (Agaisse and Lereclus, 1994, *Molecular Microbiology* 13: 97-107), *E. coli lac* operon, *E. coli trc* promoter (Egon *et al.*, 1988, *Gene* 69: 301-315), *Streptomyces coelicolor* agarase gene (*dagA*), and prokaryotic beta-lactamase gene (Villa-Kamaroff *et al.*, 1978,
35 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 75: 3727-3731), as well as the *tac* promoter (DeBoer *et al.*, 1983, *Proc.*

Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 80: 21-25). Further promoters are described in "Useful proteins from recombinant bacteria" in Gilbert *et al.*, 1980, *Scientific American* 242: 74-94; and in Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, *supra*. Examples of tandem promoters are disclosed in WO 99/43835.

5 Examples of suitable promoters for directing transcription of the nucleic acid constructs of the present invention in a filamentous fungal host cell are promoters obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus nidulans* acetamidase, *Aspergillus niger* neutral alpha-amylase, *Aspergillus niger* acid stable alpha-amylase, *Aspergillus niger* or *Aspergillus awamori* glucoamylase (*glaA*), *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Aspergillus oryzae* alkaline protease, *Aspergillus oryzae* triose phosphate isomerase, *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease (WO 96/00787), *Fusarium venenatum* amyloglucosidase (WO 00/56900), *Fusarium venenatum* Daria (WO 00/56900), *Fusarium venenatum* Quinn (WO 00/56900), *Rhizomucor miehei* lipase, *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, *Trichoderma reesei* beta-glucosidase, *Trichoderma reesei* cellobiohydrolase I, *Trichoderma reesei* cellobiohydrolase II, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase I, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase II, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase III, *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase IV, 15 *Trichoderma reesei* endoglucanase V, *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase I, *Trichoderma reesei* xylanase II, *Trichoderma reesei* beta-xylosidase, as well as the NA2-tpi promoter (a modified promoter from an *Aspergillus* neutral alpha-amylase gene in which the untranslated leader has been replaced by an untranslated leader from an *Aspergillus* triose phosphate isomerase gene; non-limiting examples include modified promoters from an *Aspergillus niger* neutral alpha-amylase gene in which the untranslated leader has been replaced by an untranslated leader from an *Aspergillus* 20 *nidulans* or *Aspergillus oryzae* triose phosphate isomerase gene); and mutant, truncated, and hybrid promoters thereof.

In a yeast host, useful promoters are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase (ENO-1), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* galactokinase (GAL1), *Saccharomyces* 25 *cerevisiae* alcohol dehydrogenase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH1, ADH2/GAP), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* triose phosphate isomerase (TPI), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* metallothionein (CUP1), and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3-phosphoglycerate kinase. Other useful promoters for yeast host cells are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *Yeast* 8: 423-488.

30 The control sequence may also be a transcription terminator, which is recognized by a host cell to terminate transcription. The terminator is operably linked to the 3'-terminus of the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide. Any terminator that is functional in the host cell may be used in the present invention.

Preferred terminators for bacterial host cells are obtained from the genes for *Bacillus clausii* 35 alkaline protease (*aprH*), *Bacillus licheniformis* alpha-amylase (*amyL*), and *Escherichia coli*

ribosomal RNA (*rrnB*).

Preferred terminators for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus nidulans* anthranilate synthase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Aspergillus niger* alpha-glucosidase, *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, and *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease.

5 Preferred terminators for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cytochrome C (CYC1), and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase. Other useful terminators for yeast host cells are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *supra*.

10 The control sequence may also be an mRNA stabilizer region downstream of a promoter and upstream of the coding sequence of a gene which increases expression of the gene.

Examples of suitable mRNA stabilizer regions are obtained from a *Bacillus thuringiensis cryIIIA* gene (WO 94/25612) and a *Bacillus subtilis* SP82 gene (Hue *et al.*, 1995, *Journal of Bacteriology* 177: 3465-3471).

15 The control sequence may also be a leader, a nontranslated region of an mRNA that is important for translation by the host cell. The leader is operably linked to the 5'-terminus of the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide. Any leader that is functional in the host cell may be used.

Preferred leaders for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase and *Aspergillus nidulans* triose phosphate isomerase.

20 Suitable leaders for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* enolase (ENO-1), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alcohol dehydrogenase/glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (ADH2/GAP).

25 The control sequence may also be a polyadenylation sequence; a sequence operably linked to the 3'-terminus of the polynucleotide and, when transcribed, is recognized by the host cell as a signal to add polyadenosine residues to transcribed mRNA. Any polyadenylation sequence that is functional in the host cell may be used.

30 Preferred polyadenylation sequences for filamentous fungal host cells are obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus nidulans* anthranilate synthase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Aspergillus niger* alpha-glucosidase *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, and *Fusarium oxysporum* trypsin-like protease.

Useful polyadenylation sequences for yeast host cells are described by Guo and Sherman, 1995, *Mol. Cellular Biol.* 15: 5983-5990.

35 The control sequence may also be a signal peptide coding region that encodes a signal peptide linked to the N-terminus of a polypeptide and directs the polypeptide into the cell's secretory pathway. The 5'-end of the coding sequence of the polynucleotide may inherently contain

a signal peptide coding sequence naturally linked in translation reading frame with the segment of the coding sequence that encodes the polypeptide. Alternatively, the 5'-end of the coding sequence may contain a signal peptide coding sequence that is foreign to the coding sequence. A foreign signal peptide coding sequence may be required where the coding sequence does not naturally contain a signal peptide coding sequence. Alternatively, a foreign signal peptide coding sequence may simply replace the natural signal peptide coding sequence in order to enhance secretion of the polypeptide. However, any signal peptide coding sequence that directs the expressed polypeptide into the secretory pathway of a host cell may be used.

Effective signal peptide coding sequences for bacterial host cells are the signal peptide coding sequences obtained from the genes for *Bacillus* NCIB 11837 maltogenic amylase, *Bacillus licheniformis* subtilisin, *Bacillus licheniformis* beta-lactamase, *Bacillus stearothermophilus* alpha-amylase, *Bacillus stearothermophilus* neutral proteases (*nprT*, *nprS*, *nprM*), and *Bacillus subtilis* *prsA*. Further signal peptides are described by Simonen and Palva, 1993, *Microbiological Reviews* 57: 109-137.

Effective signal peptide coding sequences for filamentous fungal host cells are the signal peptide coding sequences obtained from the genes for *Aspergillus niger* neutral amylase, *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase, *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA amylase, *Humicola insolens* cellulase, *Humicola insolens* endoglucanase V, *Humicola lanuginosa* lipase, and *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase.

Useful signal peptides for yeast host cells are obtained from the genes for *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* invertase. Other useful signal peptide coding sequences are described by Romanos *et al.*, 1992, *supra*.

The control sequence may also be a propeptide coding sequence that encodes a propeptide positioned at the N-terminus of a polypeptide. The resultant polypeptide is known as a proenzyme or propolypeptide (or a zymogen in some cases). A propolypeptide is generally inactive and can be converted to an active polypeptide by catalytic or autocatalytic cleavage of the propeptide from the propolypeptide. The propeptide coding sequence may be obtained from the genes for *Bacillus subtilis* alkaline protease (*aprE*), *Bacillus subtilis* neutral protease (*nprT*), *Myceliophthora thermophila* laccase (WO 95/33836), *Rhizomucor miehei* aspartic proteinase, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* alpha-factor.

Where both signal peptide and propeptide sequences are present, the propeptide sequence is positioned next to the N-terminus of a polypeptide and the signal peptide sequence is positioned next to the N-terminus of the propeptide sequence.

It may also be desirable to add regulatory sequences that regulate expression of the polypeptide relative to the growth of the host cell. Examples of regulatory systems are those that

cause expression of the gene to be turned on or off in response to a chemical or physical stimulus, including the presence of a regulatory compound. Regulatory systems in prokaryotic systems include the *lac*, *tac*, and *trp* operator systems. In yeast, the ADH2 system or GAL1 system may be used. In filamentous fungi, the *Aspergillus niger* glucoamylase promoter, *Aspergillus oryzae* TAKA
5 alpha-amylase promoter, and *Aspergillus oryzae* glucoamylase promoter may be used. Other examples of regulatory sequences are those that allow for gene amplification. In eukaryotic systems, these regulatory sequences include the dihydrofolate reductase gene that is amplified in the presence of methotrexate, and the metallothionein genes that are amplified with heavy metals. In these cases, the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide would be operably linked with the
10 regulatory sequence.

Expression Vectors

The present invention also relates to recombinant expression vectors comprising a polynucleotide of the present invention, a promoter, and transcriptional and translational stop
15 signals. Thus, in one aspect, the present invention relates to a recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or a polypeptide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the expression vector further comprises a promoter,
20 and transcriptional and translational stop signals. The various nucleotide and control sequences may be joined together to produce a recombinant expression vector that may include one or more convenient restriction sites to allow for insertion or substitution of the polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide at such sites. Alternatively, the polynucleotide may be expressed by inserting the polynucleotide or a nucleic acid construct comprising the polynucleotide into an appropriate vector
25 for expression. In creating the expression vector, the coding sequence is located in the vector so that the coding sequence is operably linked with the appropriate control sequences for expression.

The recombinant expression vector may be any vector (*e.g.*, a plasmid or virus) that can be conveniently subjected to recombinant DNA procedures and can bring about expression of the polynucleotide. The choice of the vector will typically depend on the compatibility of the vector with
30 the host cell into which the vector is to be introduced. The vector may be a linear or closed circular plasmid.

The vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, *i.e.*, a vector that exists as an extrachromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, *e.g.*, a plasmid, an extrachromosomal element, a minichromosome, or an artificial chromosome. The

vector may contain any means for assuring self-replication. Alternatively, the vector may be one that, when introduced into the host cell is integrated into the genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated. Furthermore, a single vector or plasmid or two or more vectors or plasmids that together contain the total DNA to be introduced into the genome of the host cell, or a transposon, may be used.

The vector preferably contains one or more selectable markers that permit easy selection of transformed, transfected, transduced, or the like cells. A selectable marker is a gene the product of which provides for biocide or viral resistance, resistance to heavy metals, prototrophy to auxotrophs, and the like.

Examples of bacterial selectable markers are *Bacillus licheniformis* or *Bacillus subtilis* *dal* genes, or markers that confer antibiotic resistance such as ampicillin, chloramphenicol, kanamycin, neomycin, spectinomycin, or tetracycline resistance. Suitable markers for yeast host cells include, but are not limited to, ADE2, HIS3, LEU2, LYS2, MET3, TRP1, and URA3. Selectable markers for use in a filamentous fungal host cell include, but are not limited to, *amdS* (acetamidase), *argB* (ornithine carbamoyltransferase), *bar* (phosphinothricin acetyltransferase), *hph* (hygromycin phosphotransferase), *niaD* (nitrate reductase), *pyrG* (orotidine-5'-phosphate decarboxylase), *sC* (sulfate adenylyltransferase), and *trpC* (anthranilate synthase), as well as equivalents thereof. Preferred for use in an *Aspergillus* cell are *Aspergillus nidulans* or *Aspergillus oryzae* *amdS* and *pyrG* genes and a *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* *bar* gene.

The vector preferably contains an element(s) that permits integration of the vector into the host cell's genome or autonomous replication of the vector in the cell independent of the genome.

For integration into the host cell genome, the vector may rely on the polynucleotide's sequence encoding the polypeptide or any other element of the vector for integration into the genome by homologous or non-homologous recombination. Alternatively, the vector may contain additional polynucleotides for directing integration by homologous recombination into the genome of the host cell at a precise location(s) in the chromosome(s). To increase the likelihood of integration at a precise location, the integrational elements should contain a sufficient number of nucleic acids, such as 100 to 10,000 base pairs, 400 to 10,000 base pairs, and 800 to 10,000 base pairs, which have a high degree of sequence identity to the corresponding target sequence to enhance the probability of homologous recombination. The integrational elements may be any sequence that is homologous with the target sequence in the genome of the host cell. Furthermore, the integrational elements may be non-encoding or encoding polynucleotides. On the other hand, the vector may be integrated into the genome of the host cell by non-homologous recombination.

For autonomous replication, the vector may further comprise an origin of replication enabling the vector to replicate autonomously in the host cell in question. The origin of replication

may be any plasmid replicator mediating autonomous replication that functions in a cell. The term "origin of replication" or "plasmid replicator" means a polynucleotide that enables a plasmid or vector to replicate *in vivo*.

5 Examples of bacterial origins of replication are the origins of replication of plasmids pBR322, pUC19, pACYC177, and pACYC184 permitting replication in *E. coli*, and pUB110, pE194, pTA1060, and pAM β 1 permitting replication in *Bacillus*.

Examples of origins of replication for use in a yeast host cell are the 2 micron origin of replication, ARS1, ARS4, the combination of ARS1 and CEN3, and the combination of ARS4 and CEN6.

10 Examples of origins of replication useful in a filamentous fungal cell are AMA1 and ANS1 (Gems *et al.*, 1991, *Gene* 98: 61-67; Cullen *et al.*, 1987, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 15: 9163-9175; WO 00/24883). Isolation of the AMA1 gene and construction of plasmids or vectors comprising the gene can be accomplished according to the methods disclosed in WO 00/24883.

15 More than one copy of a polynucleotide of the present invention may be inserted into a host cell to increase production of a polypeptide. An increase in the copy number of the polynucleotide can be obtained by integrating at least one additional copy of the sequence into the host cell genome or by including an amplifiable selectable marker gene with the polynucleotide where cells containing amplified copies of the selectable marker gene, and thereby additional copies of the polynucleotide, can be selected for by cultivating the cells in the presence of the appropriate
20 selectable agent.

The procedures used to ligate the elements described above to construct the recombinant expression vectors of the present invention are well known to one skilled in the art (see, *e.g.*, Sambrook *et al.*, 1989, *supra*).

25 **Host Cells**

The present invention also relates to recombinant host cells, comprising a polynucleotide of the present invention operably linked to one or more control sequences that direct the production of a polypeptide of the present invention. Thus, in one aspect, the present invention relates to a recombinant host cell comprising a polynucleotide encoding polypeptide having at least 85%
30 sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or a polypeptide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to one or more control sequences that direct the expression of the coding sequence in a suitable host cell under conditions compatible with the control sequences. A construct or vector
35 comprising a polynucleotide is introduced into a host cell so that the construct or vector is

maintained as a chromosomal integrant or as a self-replicating extra-chromosomal vector as described earlier. The term "host cell" encompasses any progeny of a parent cell that is not identical to the parent cell due to mutations that occur during replication. The choice of a host cell will to a large extent depend upon the gene encoding the polypeptide and its source.

5 The host cell may be any cell useful in the recombinant production of a polypeptide of the present invention, e.g., a prokaryote or a eukaryote.

The prokaryotic host cell may be any Gram-positive or Gram-negative bacterium. Gram-positive bacteria include, but are not limited to, *Bacillus*, *Clostridium*, *Enterococcus*, *Geobacillus*, *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Oceanobacillus*, *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, and *Streptomyces*.
10 Gram-negative bacteria include, but are not limited to, *Campylobacter*, *E. coli*, *Flavobacterium*, *Fusobacterium*, *Helicobacter*, *Ilyobacter*, *Neisseria*, *Pseudomonas*, *Salmonella*, and *Ureaplasma*.

The bacterial host cell may be any *Bacillus* cell including, but not limited to, *Bacillus alkalophilus*, *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus brevis*, *Bacillus circulans*, *Bacillus clausii*, *Bacillus coagulans*, *Bacillus firmus*, *Bacillus lautus*, *Bacillus lentus*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *Bacillus megaterium*, *Bacillus pumilus*, *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Bacillus thuringiensis* cells.
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The bacterial host cell may also be any *Streptococcus* cell including, but not limited to, *Streptococcus equisimilis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Streptococcus uberis*, and *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *Zooepidemicus* cells.

20 The bacterial host cell may also be any *Streptomyces* cell including, but not limited to, *Streptomyces achromogenes*, *Streptomyces avermitilis*, *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces griseus*, and *Streptomyces lividans* cells.

The introduction of DNA into a *Bacillus* cell may be effected by protoplast transformation (see, e.g., Chang and Cohen, 1979, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 168: 111-115), competent cell transformation
25 (see, e.g., Young and Spizizen, 1961, *J. Bacteriol.* 81: 823-829, or Dubnau and Davidoff-Abelson, 1971, *J. Mol. Biol.* 56: 209-221), electroporation (see, e.g., Shigekawa and Dower, 1988, *Biotechniques* 6: 742-751), or conjugation (see, e.g., Koehler and Thome, 1987, *J. Bacteriol.* 169: 5271-5278). The introduction of DNA into an *E. coli* cell may be effected by protoplast transformation (see, e.g., Hanahan, 1983, *J. Mol. Biol.* 166: 557-580) or electroporation (see, e.g.,
30 Dower *et al.*, 1988, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16: 6127-6145). The introduction of DNA into a *Streptomyces* cell may be effected by protoplast transformation, electroporation (see, e.g., Gong *et al.*, 2004, *Folia Microbiol. (Praha)* 49: 399-405), conjugation (see, e.g., Mazodier *et al.*, 1989, *J. Bacteriol.* 171: 3583-3585), or transduction (see, e.g., Burke *et al.*, 2001, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 98: 6289-6294). The introduction of DNA into a *Pseudomonas* cell may be effected by
35 electroporation (see, e.g., Choi *et al.*, 2006, *J. Microbiol. Methods* 64: 391-397) or conjugation (see,

e.g., Pinedo and Smets, 2005, *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 71: 51-57). The introduction of DNA into a *Streptococcus* cell may be effected by natural competence (see, e.g., Perry and Kuramitsu, 1981, *Infect. Immun.* 32: 1295-1297), protoplast transformation (see, e.g., Catt and Jollick, 1991, *Microbios* 68: 189-207), electroporation (see, e.g., Buckley *et al.*, 1999, *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 65: 3800-3804), or conjugation (see, e.g., Clewell, 1981, *Microbiol. Rev.* 45: 409-436). However, any method known in the art for introducing DNA into a host cell can be used.

The host cell may also be a eukaryote, such as a mammalian, insect, plant, or fungal cell.

The host cell may be a fungal cell. "Fungi" as used herein includes the phyla Ascomycota, Basidiomycota, Chytridiomycota, and Zygomycota as well as the Oomycota and all mitosporic fungi (as defined by Hawksworth *et al.*, *In, Ainsworth and Bisby's Dictionary of The Fungi*, 8th edition, 1995, CAB International, University Press, Cambridge, UK).

The fungal host cell may be a yeast cell. "Yeast" as used herein includes ascosporogenous yeast (Endomycetales), basidiosporogenous yeast, and yeast belonging to the Fungi Imperfecti (Blastomycetes). Since the classification of yeast may change in the future, for the purposes of this invention, yeast shall be defined as described in *Biology and Activities of Yeast* (Skinner, Passmore, and Davenport, editors, *Soc. App. Bacteriol. Symposium Series No. 9*, 1980).

The yeast host cell may be a *Candida*, *Hansenula*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Pichia*, *Saccharomyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces*, or *Yarrowia* cell, such as a *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces diastaticus*, *Saccharomyces douglasii*, *Saccharomyces kluyveri*, *Saccharomyces norbensis*, *Saccharomyces oviformis*, or *Yarrowia lipolytica* cell.

The fungal host cell may be a filamentous fungal cell. "Filamentous fungi" include all filamentous forms of the subdivision Eumycota and Oomycota (as defined by Hawksworth *et al.*, 1995, *supra*). The filamentous fungi are generally characterized by a mycelial wall composed of chitin, cellulose, glucan, chitosan, mannan, and other complex polysaccharides. Vegetative growth is by hyphal elongation and carbon catabolism is obligately aerobic. In contrast, vegetative growth by yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is by budding of a unicellular thallus and carbon catabolism may be fermentative.

The filamentous fungal host cell may be an *Acremonium*, *Aspergillus*, *Aureobasidium*, *Bjerkandera*, *Ceriporiopsis*, *Chrysosporium*, *Coprinus*, *Coriolus*, *Cryptococcus*, *Filibasidium*, *Fusarium*, *Humicola*, *Magnaporthe*, *Mucor*, *Myceliophthora*, *Neocallimastix*, *Neurospora*, *Paecilomyces*, *Penicillium*, *Phanerochaete*, *Phlebia*, *Piromyces*, *Pleurotus*, *Schizophyllum*, *Talaromyces*, *Thermoascus*, *Thielavia*, *Tolyptocladium*, *Trametes*, or *Trichoderma* cell.

For example, the filamentous fungal host cell may be an *Aspergillus awamori*, *Aspergillus foetidus*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Aspergillus japonicus*, *Aspergillus nidulans*, *Aspergillus niger*,

Aspergillus oryzae, *Bjerkandera adusta*, *Ceriporiopsis aneirina*, *Ceriporiopsis caregiea*, *Ceriporiopsis gilvescens*, *Ceriporiopsis pannocinta*, *Ceriporiopsis rivulosa*, *Ceriporiopsis subrufa*, *Ceriporiopsis subvermispota*, *Chrysosporium inops*, *Chrysosporium keratinophilum*, *Chrysosporium lucknowense*, *Chrysosporium merdarium*, *Chrysosporium pannicola*, *Chrysosporium queenslandicum*, *Chrysosporium tropicum*, *Chrysosporium zonatum*, *Coprinus cinereus*, *Coriolus hirsutus*, *Fusarium bactridioides*, *Fusarium cerealis*, *Fusarium crookwellense*, *Fusarium culmorum*, *Fusarium graminearum*, *Fusarium graminum*, *Fusarium heterosporum*, *Fusarium negundi*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Fusarium reticulatum*, *Fusarium roseum*, *Fusarium sambucinum*, *Fusarium sarcochromum*, *Fusarium sporotrichioides*, *Fusarium sulphureum*, *Fusarium torulosum*, *Fusarium trichothecioides*, *Fusarium venenatum*, *Humicola insolens*, *Humicola lanuginosa*, *Mucor miehei*, *Myceliophthora thermophila*, *Neurospora crassa*, *Penicillium purpurogenum*, *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*, *Phlebia radiata*, *Pleurotus eryngii*, *Thielavia terrestris*, *Trametes villosa*, *Trametes versicolor*, *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma koningii*, *Trichoderma longibrachiatum*, *Trichoderma reesei*, or *Trichoderma viride* cell.

Fungal cells may be transformed by a process involving protoplast formation, transformation of the protoplasts, and regeneration of the cell wall in a manner known *per se*. Suitable procedures for transformation of *Aspergillus* and *Trichoderma* host cells are described in EP 238023, Yelton *et al.*, 1984, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81: 1470-1474, and Christensen *et al.*, 1988, *Bio/Technology* 6: 1419-1422. Suitable methods for transforming *Fusarium* species are described by Malardier *et al.*, 1989, *Gene* 78: 147-156, and WO 96/00787. Yeast may be transformed using the procedures described by Becker and Guarente, *In* Abelson, J.N. and Simon, M.I., editors, *Guide to Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology, Methods in Enzymology*, Volume 194, pp 182-187, Academic Press, Inc., New York; Ito *et al.*, 1983, *J. Bacteriol.* 153: 163; and Hinnen *et al.*, 1978, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 75: 1920.

25

Methods of Production

The present invention also relates to methods of producing the polypeptides of the present invention, comprising (a) cultivating a cell, which in its wild-type form produces the polypeptide, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide. Thus, in one aspect, the present invention relates to a method of producing a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or a polypeptide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6, wherein the method comprises the steps of (a) cultivating a cell, such as a host cell according to the invention, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide. In a

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preferred aspect, the cell is a *Bacillus* cell. In a more preferred aspect, the cell is a *Bacillus sp.* cell. In a most preferred aspect, the cell is selected from *Bacillus sp-13380*, *Bacillus idriensis* or *Bacillus sp-62451* producing the polypeptides with SEQ ID NO 2, 4 or 6 respectively.

Thus, one embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide
5 having at least 85 % identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising: (a) cultivating a cell, which in its wild-type form produces the polypeptide, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide.

Another embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide
10 having at least 80 % identity to SEQ ID NO: 4, comprising: (a) cultivating a cell, which in its wild-type form produces the polypeptide, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide.

A third embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide having
15 at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 6, comprising: (a) cultivating a cell, which in its wild-type form produces the polypeptide, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide.

The present invention also relates to methods of producing a polypeptide of the present invention, comprising (a) cultivating a recombinant host cell of the present invention under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and (b) recovering the polypeptide.

Thus, one embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide
20 having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising:

- (a) cultivating a host cell under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide;
and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide.

Thus, one embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide
25 having at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4, comprising:

- (a) cultivating a host cell under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide;
and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide.

Thus, one embodiment of the invention relates to a method of producing the polypeptide
30 having at least 89% identity to SEQ ID NO: 6, comprising:

- (a) cultivating a host cell under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide;
and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide.

The host cell may be a bacterial host cells such a *Bacillus*, *Streptococcus* or *Streptomyces*
35 cell. The host cell may also be a eukaryote, such as a mammalian, insect, plant, or fungal cell. The

host cell may be a fungal cell, which may be a yeast cell. Various suitable host cells are described in the "host cells" section of the present application.

The cell or the host cells are cultivated in a nutrient medium suitable for production of the polypeptide using methods known in the art. For example, the cell may be cultivated by shake flask
5 cultivation, or small-scale or large-scale fermentation (including continuous, batch, fed-batch, or solid state fermentations) in laboratory or industrial fermentors performed in a suitable medium and under conditions allowing the polypeptide to be expressed and/or isolated. The cultivation takes place in a suitable nutrient medium comprising carbon and nitrogen sources and inorganic salts, using procedures known in the art. Suitable media are available from commercial suppliers or may
10 be prepared according to published compositions (e.g., in catalogues of the American Type Culture Collection). If the polypeptide is secreted into the nutrient medium, the polypeptide can be recovered directly from the medium. If the polypeptide is not secreted, it can be recovered from cell lysates.

The polypeptide may be detected using methods known in the art that are specific for the
15 polypeptides. These detection methods include, but are not limited to, use of specific antibodies, formation of an enzyme product, or disappearance of an enzyme substrate. For example, an enzyme assay may be used to determine the activity of the polypeptide.

The polypeptide may be recovered using methods known in the art. For example, the polypeptide may be recovered from the nutrient medium by conventional procedures including, but
20 not limited to, collection, centrifugation, filtration, extraction, spray-drying, evaporation, or precipitation.

The polypeptide may be purified by a variety of procedures known in the art including, but not limited to, chromatography (e.g., ion exchange, affinity, hydrophobic, chromatofocusing, and size exclusion), electrophoretic procedures (e.g., preparative isoelectric focusing), differential
25 solubility (e.g., ammonium sulfate precipitation), SDS-PAGE, or extraction (see, e.g., *Protein Purification*, Janson and Ryden, editors, VCH Publishers, New York, 1989) to obtain substantially pure polypeptides.

In an alternative aspect, the polypeptide is not recovered, but rather a host cell of the present invention expressing the polypeptide is used as a source of the polypeptide.
30

Detergent Compositions

In one aspect, the invention is directed to detergent compositions comprising an enzyme of the present invention in combination with one or more additional cleaning composition components. Thus one embodiment, the present invention relates to a detergent composition comprising an isolated
35 polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 of at least 85%,

at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89% at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which polypeptide has protease activity.

Another aspect, the present invention relates to a detergent composition comprising an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 of at least 80% at least 81% at least 82% at least 83% at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89% at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which polypeptide has protease activity.

A third aspect, the present invention relates to a detergent composition comprising an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6 of at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100%, which polypeptide has protease activity.

The choice of additional components is within the skill of the artisan and includes conventional ingredients, including the exemplary non-limiting components set forth below. The choice of components may include, for fabric care, the consideration of the type of fabric to be cleaned, the type and/or degree of soiling, the temperature at which cleaning is to take place, and the formulation of the detergent product. Although components mentioned below are categorized by general header according to a particular functionality, this is not to be construed as a limitation, as a component may comprise additional functionalities as will be appreciated by the skilled artisan and includes conventional ingredients, including the exemplary non-limiting components set forth below.

The choice of components may include, for textile care, the consideration of the type of textile to be cleaned, the type and/or degree of soiling, the temperature at which cleaning is to take place, and the formulation of the detergent product. Although components mentioned below are categorized by general header according to a particular functionality, this is not to be construed as a limitation, as a component may comprise additional functionalities as will be appreciated by the skilled artisan.

The detergent composition may be suitable for laundry of textiles or for hard surface cleaning including dish wash including automated dish wash.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the a polypeptide of the present invention may be added to a detergent composition in an amount corresponding to 0.001-200 mg of protein, such as 0.005-100 mg of protein, preferably 0.01-50 mg of protein, more preferably 0.05-20 mg of protein, even more preferably 0.1-10 mg of protein per liter of wash liquid.

The enzyme(s) of the detergent composition of the invention may be stabilized using conventional stabilizing agents, e.g., a polyol such as propylene glycol or glycerol, a sugar or sugar

alcohol, lactic acid, boric acid, or a boric acid derivative, e.g., an aromatic borate ester, or a phenyl boronic acid derivative such as 4-formylphenyl boronic acid, and the composition may be formulated as described in, for example, WO92/19709 and WO92/19708 or the protease according to the invention may be stabilized using peptide aldehydes or ketones such as described in WO 2005/105826 and WO 2009/118375. A polypeptide of the present invention may also be incorporated in the detergent formulations disclosed in WO97/07202, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Surfactants

10 The detergent composition may comprise one or more surfactants, which may be anionic and/or cationic and/or non-ionic and/or semi-polar and/or zwitterionic, or a mixture thereof. In a particular embodiment, the detergent composition includes a mixture of one or more non-ionic surfactants and one or more anionic surfactants. The surfactant(s) is typically present at a level of from about 0.1% to 60% by weight, such as about 1% to about 40%, or about 3% to about 20%, or about 3% to about 10%. The surfactant(s) is chosen based on the desired cleaning application, and includes any conventional surfactant(s) known in the art. Any surfactant known in the art for use in detergents may be utilized.

When included therein the detergent will usually contain from about 1% to about 40% by weight, such as from about 5% to about 30%, including from about 5% to about 15%, or from about 20% to about 25% of an anionic surfactant. Non-limiting examples of anionic surfactants include sulphates and sulfonates, in particular, linear alkylbenzenesulfonates (LAS), isomers of LAS, branched alkylbenzenesulfonates (BABS), phenylalkanesulfonates, alpha-olefinsulfonates (AOS), olefin sulfonates, alkene sulfonates, alkane-2,3-diylbis(sulfates), hydroxyalkanesulfonates and disulphonate, alkyl sulfates (AS) such as sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), fatty alcohol sulfates (FAS), primary alcohol sulfates (PAS), alcohol ethersulfates (AES or AEOS or FES, also known as alcohol ethoxysulfates or fatty alcohol ether sulfates), secondary alkanesulfonates (SAS), paraffin sulfonates (PS), ester sulfonates, sulfonated fatty acid glycerol esters, alpha-sulfo fatty acid methyl esters (alpha-SFMe or SES) including methyl ester sulfonate (MES), alkyl- or alkenylsuccinic acid, dodeceny/tetradeceny succinic acid (DTSA), fatty acid derivatives of amino acids, diesters and monoesters of sulfo-succinic acid or soap, and combinations thereof.

When included therein the detergent will usually contain from about 1% to about 40% by weight of a cationic surfactant. Non-limiting examples of cationic surfactants include alkyldimethylethanolamine quat (ADMEAQ), cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB), dimethyldistearylammonium chloride (DSDMAC), alkylbenzyltrimethylammonium, alkyl quaternary ammonium compounds, alkoxyated quaternary ammonium (AQA) and combinations thereof.

When included therein the detergent will usually contain from about 0.2% to about 40% by weight of a non-ionic surfactant, for example from about 0.5% to about 30%, in particular from about 1% to about 20%, from about 3% to about 10%, such as from about 3% to about 5%, or from about 8% to about 12%. Non-limiting examples of non-ionic surfactants include alcohol ethoxylates (AE or AEO), alcohol propoxylates, propoxylated fatty alcohols (PFA), alkoxyated fatty acid alkyl esters, such as ethoxylated and/or propoxylated fatty acid alkyl esters, alkylphenol ethoxylates (APE), nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE), alkylpolyglycosides (APG), alkoxyated amines, fatty acid monoethanolamides (FAM), fatty acid diethanolamides (FADA), ethoxylated fatty acid monoethanolamides (EFAM), propoxylated fatty acid monoethanolamide (PFAM), polyhydroxy alkyl fatty acid amides, or N-acyl N-alkyl derivatives of glucosamine (glucamides, GA, or fatty acid glucamide, FAGA), as well as products available under the trade names SPAN and TWEEN, and combinations thereof.

When included therein the detergent will usually contain from about 1% to about 40% by weight of a semipolar surfactant. Non-limiting examples of semipolar surfactants include amine oxides (AO) such as alkyldimethylamineoxide, *N*-(coco alkyl)-*N,N*-dimethylamine oxide and *N*-(tallow-alkyl)-*N,N*-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)amine oxide, fatty acid alkanolamides and ethoxylated fatty acid alkanolamides, and combinations thereof.

When included therein the detergent will usually contain from about 1% to about 40% by weight of a zwitterionic surfactant. Non-limiting examples of zwitterionic surfactants include betaine, alkyldimethylbetaine, and sulfobetaine, and combinations thereof.

Hydrotropes

A hydrotrope is a compound that solubilises hydrophobic compounds in aqueous solutions (or oppositely, polar substances in a non-polar environment). Typically, hydrotropes have both hydrophilic and a hydrophobic character (so-called amphiphilic properties as known from surfactants); however the molecular structure of hydrotropes generally do not favour spontaneous self-aggregation, see e.g. review by Hodgdon and Kaler, 2007, *Current Opinion in Colloid & Interface Science* 12: 121-128. Hydrotropes do not display a critical concentration above which self-aggregation occurs as found for surfactants and lipids forming micelles, lamellar or other well defined meso-phases. Instead, many hydrotropes show a continuous-type aggregation process where the sizes of aggregates grow as concentration increases. However, many hydrotropes alter the phase behaviour, stability, and colloidal properties of systems containing substances of polar and non-polar character, including mixtures of water, oil, surfactants, and polymers. Hydrotropes are classically used across industries from pharma, personal care, food, to technical applications. Use of hydrotropes in detergent compositions allow for example more concentrated formulations of

surfactants (as in the process of compacting liquid detergents by removing water) without inducing undesired phenomena such as phase separation or high viscosity.

The detergent may contain 0-5% by weight, such as about 0.5 to about 5%, or about 3% to about 5%, of a hydrotrope. Any hydrotrope known in the art for use in detergents may be utilized.

5 Non-limiting examples of hydrotropes include sodium benzene sulfonate, sodium p-toluene sulfonates (STS), sodium xylene sulfonates (SXS), sodium cumene sulfonates (SCS), sodium cymene sulfonate, amine oxides, alcohols and polyglycoethers, sodium hydroxynaphthoate, sodium hydroxynaphthalene sulfonate, sodium ethylhexyl sulfate, and combinations thereof.

10 Builders and Co-Builders

The detergent composition may contain about 0-65% by weight, such as about 5% to about 50% of a detergent builder or co-builder, or a mixture thereof. In a dish wash detergent, the level of builder is typically 40-65%, particularly 50-65%. The builder and/or co-builder may particularly be a chelating agent that forms water-soluble complexes with Ca and Mg. Any builder and/or co-builder
15 known in the art for use in laundry detergents may be utilized. Non-limiting examples of builders include zeolites, diphosphates (pyrophosphates), triphosphates such as sodium triphosphate (STP or STPP), carbonates such as sodium carbonate, soluble silicates such as sodium metasilicate, layered silicates (*e.g.*, SKS-6 from Hoechst), ethanolamines such as 2-aminoethan-1-ol (MEA), iminodiethanol (DEA), triethanolamine (TEA), and carboxymethylinulin (CMI), and combinations
20 thereof.

The detergent composition may also contain 0-65% by weight, such as about 5% to about 50%, of a detergent co-builder, or a mixture thereof. The detergent composition may include a co-builder alone, or in combination with a builder, for example a zeolite builder. Non-limiting examples of co-builders include homopolymers of polyacrylates or copolymers thereof, such as poly(acrylic acid) (PAA) or copoly(acrylic acid/maleic acid) (PAA/PMA). Further non-limiting examples include
25 citrate, chelators such as aminocarboxylates, aminopolycarboxylates and phosphonates, and alkyl- or alkenylsuccinic acid. Additional specific examples include 2,2',2"-nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA), ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA), iminodisuccinic acid (IDS), ethylenediamine-N,N'-disuccinic acid (EDDS), methylglycinediacetic acid (MGDA), glutamic acid-N,N'-diacetic acid (GLDA), 1-hydroxyethane-1,1-diylbis(phosphonic acid) (HEDP), ethylenediaminetetrakis(methylene)tetrakis(phosphonic acid) (EDTMPA), diethylenetriaminepentakis(methylene)pentakis(phosphonic acid) (DTPMPA), N-(2-hydroxyethyl)iminodiacetic acid (EDG), aspartic acid-N-monoacetic acid (ASMA), aspartic acid-N,N'-diacetic acid (ASDA), aspartic acid-N- monopropionic acid (ASMP) , iminodisuccinic acid
30 (IDA), N- (2-sulfomethyl) aspartic acid (SMAS), N- (2-sulfoethyl) aspartic acid (SEAS), N- (2-

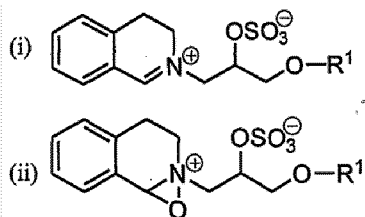
sulfomethyl) glutamic acid (SMGL), N- (2- sulfoethyl) glutamic acid (SEGL), N- methyliminodiacetic acid (MIDA), α - alanine-N,N-diacetic acid (α -ALDA) , serine-N,N-diacetic acid (SEDA), isoserine-N,N-diacetic acid (ISDA), phenylalanine-N,N-diacetic acid (PHDA) , anthranilic acid- N ,N - diacetic acid (ANDA), sulfanilic acid-N, N-diacetic acid (SLDA) , taurine-N, N-diacetic acid (TUDA) and
5 sulfomethyl-N,N-diacetic acid (SMDA), N-(hydroxyethyl)-ethylenediaminetriacetate (HEDTA), diethanolglycine (DEG), diethylenetriamine penta (Methylene Phosphonic acid) (DTPMP), aminotris(methylenephosphonic acid) (ATMP), and combinations and salts thereof. Further exemplary builders and/or co-builders are described in, e.g., WO 09/102854, US 5977053

10 Bleaching Systems

The detergent may contain 0-10% by weight, such as about 1% to about 5%, of a bleaching system. Any bleaching system known in the art for use in laundry detergents may be utilized. Suitable bleaching system components include bleaching catalysts, photobleaches, bleach activators, sources of hydrogen peroxide such as sodium percarbonate and sodium perborates,
15 preformed peracids and mixtures thereof. Suitable preformed peracids include, but are not limited to, peroxy-carboxylic acids and salts, percarbonic acids and salts, perimidic acids and salts, peroxy-monosulfuric acids and salts, for example, Oxone (R), and mixtures thereof. Non-limiting examples of bleaching systems include peroxide-based bleaching systems, which may comprise, for example, an inorganic salt, including alkali metal salts such as sodium salts of perborate
20 (usually mono- or tetra-hydrate), percarbonate, persulfate, perphosphate, persulfate salts, in combination with a peracid-forming bleach activator. The term "Bleach activator" as used herein is meant a compound which reacts with peroxygen bleach like hydrogen peroxide to form a peracid. The peracid thus formed constitutes the activated bleach. Suitable bleach activators to be used herein include those belonging to the class of esters amides, imides or anhydrides, Suitable
25 examples are tetraacetyl ethylene diamine (TAED), sodium 3,5,5 trimethyl hexanoyloxybenzene sulfonate, diperoxy dodecanoic acid, 4-(dodecanoyloxy)benzenesulfonate (LOBS), 4-(decanoyloxy)benzenesulfonate, 4-(decanoyloxy)benzoate (DOBS), 4-(3,5,5-trimethylhexanoyloxy)benzenesulfonate (ISONOBS), tetraacetylenediamine (TAED) and 4-(nonanoyloxy)benzenesulfonate (NOBS), and/or those disclosed in WO98/17767. A particular
30 family of bleach activators of interest was disclosed in EP624154 and particularly preferred in that family is acetyl triethyl citrate (ATC). ATC or a short chain triglyceride like Triacin has the advantage that it is environmental friendly as it eventually degrades into citric acid and alcohol. Furthermore acetyl triethyl citrate and triacetin has a good hydrolytical stability in the product upon storage and it is an efficient bleach activator. Finally ATC provides a good building capacity to the
35 laundry additive. Alternatively, the bleaching system may comprise peroxyacids of, for example, the

amide, imide, or sulfone type. The bleaching system may also comprise peracids such as 6-(phthaloylamino)percapronic acid (PAP). The bleaching system may also include a bleach catalyst. In some embodiments the bleach component may be an organic catalyst selected from the group consisting of organic catalysts having the following formulae:

5



(iii) and mixtures thereof; wherein each R^1 is independently a branched alkyl group containing from 9 to 24 carbons or linear alkyl group containing from 11 to 24 carbons, preferably each R^1 is independently a branched alkyl group containing from 9 to 18 carbons or linear alkyl group containing from 11 to 18 carbons, more preferably each R^1 is independently selected from the group consisting of 2-propylheptyl, 2-butyloctyl, 2-pentylnonyl, 2-hexyldecyl, n-dodecyl, n-tetradecyl, n-hexadecyl, n-octadecyl, iso-nonyl, iso-decyl, iso-tridecyl and iso-pentadecyl. Other exemplary bleaching systems are described, e.g., in WO2007/087258, WO2007/087244, WO2007/087259, WO2007/087242. Suitable photobleaches may for example be sulfonated zinc phthalocyanine

20 Polymers

The detergent may contain 0-10% by weight, such as 0.5-5%, 2-5%, 0.5-2% or 0.2-1% of a polymer. Any polymer known in the art for use in detergents may be utilized. The polymer may function as a co-builder as mentioned above, or may provide antiredeposition, fiber protection, soil release, dye transfer inhibition, grease cleaning and/or anti-foaming properties. Some polymers may have more than one of the above-mentioned properties and/or more than one of the below-mentioned motifs. Exemplary polymers include (carboxymethyl)cellulose (CMC), poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA), poly(vinylpyrrolidone) (PVP), poly(ethyleneglycol) or poly(ethylene oxide) (PEG), ethoxylated poly(ethyleneimine), carboxymethyl inulin (CMI), and polycarboxylates such as PAA, PAA/PMA, poly-aspartic acid, and lauryl methacrylate/acrylic acid copolymers, hydrophobically modified CMC (HM-CMC) and silicones, copolymers of terephthalic acid and oligomeric glycols, copolymers of polyethylene terephthalate and polyoxyethene terephthalate (PET-POET), PVP, poly(vinylimidazole) (PVI), poly(vinylpyridin-N-oxide) (PVPO or PVPNO) and polyvinylpyrrolidone-vinylimidazole (PVPVI). Further exemplary polymers include sulfonated polycarboxylates, polyethylene oxide and polypropylene oxide (PEO-PPO) and diquatonium ethoxy sulfate. Other exemplary polymers are disclosed in, e.g., WO 2006/130575. Salts of the above-mentioned

polymers are also contemplated.

Fabric hueing agents

The detergent compositions of the present invention may also include fabric hueing agents such as dyes or pigments which when formulated in detergent compositions can deposit onto a fabric when said fabric is contacted with a wash liquid comprising said detergent compositions thus altering the tint of said fabric through absorption/reflection of visible light. Fluorescent whitening agents emit at least some visible light. In contrast, fabric hueing agents alter the tint of a surface as they absorb at least a portion of the visible light spectrum. Suitable fabric hueing agents include dyes and dye-clay conjugates, and may also include pigments. Suitable dyes include small molecule dyes and polymeric dyes. Suitable small molecule dyes include small molecule dyes selected from the group consisting of dyes falling into the Colour Index (C.I.) classifications of Direct Blue, Direct Red, Direct Violet, Acid Blue, Acid Red, Acid Violet, Basic Blue, Basic Violet and Basic Red, or mixtures thereof, for example as described in WO2005/03274, WO2005/03275, WO2005/03276 and EP1876226 (hereby incorporated by reference). The detergent composition preferably comprises from about 0.00003 wt% to about 0.2 wt%, from about 0.00008 wt% to about 0.05 wt%, or even from about 0.0001 wt% to about 0.04 wt% fabric hueing agent. The composition may comprise from 0.0001 wt% to 0.2 wt% fabric hueing agent, this may be especially preferred when the composition is in the form of a unit dose pouch. Suitable hueing agents are also disclosed in, e.g., WO 2007/087257, WO2007/087243.

Additional enzymes

The detergent additive as well as the detergent composition may comprise one or more additional enzymes such as a protease, lipase, cutinase, an amylase, carbohydrase, cellulase, pectinase, mannanase, arabinase, galactanase, xylanase, oxidase, e.g., a laccase, and/or peroxidase.

In general, the properties of the selected enzyme(s) should be compatible with the selected detergent, (i.e., pH-optimum, compatibility with other enzymatic and non-enzymatic ingredients, etc.), and the enzyme(s) should be present in effective amounts.

Thus, in one embodiment, the detergent composition comprises one or more additional enzymes, wherein the additional enzymes is selected from the group consisting of

- i) a protease comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 32, 33, 48-54, 58-62, 94-107, 116, 123-133, 150, 152-156, 158-161, 164, 169, 175-186, 197, 198, 203-216 as compared with the protease in SEQ ID NO:17;
- ii) a lipase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 1-5, 27, 33,

38, 57, 91, 94, 96, 97, 111, 163, 210, 225, 231, 233, 249, and 254-256 as compared with the lipase in SEQ ID NO:18;

- iii) an alpha-amylase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 9, 118, 149, 182, 186, 195, 202, 257, 295, 299, R320, 323, 339, 345, and 458 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:19;
- iv) an alpha-amylase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 140, 195, 206, 243, 260 and 476 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:20;
- v) an alpha-amylase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 180, 181, 243, and 475 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:21;
- vi) an alpha-amylase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 178, 179, 187, 203, 458, 459, 460, and 476 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:22;
- vii) an alpha-amylase comprising a modifications in the following position: 202 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:23;
- viii) an alpha-amylase comprising one or more modifications in the following positions: 405, 421, 422, and 428 as compared with the alpha-amylase in SEQ ID NO:24; and/or
- ix) an alpha-amylase according to SEQ ID NO:25.

Cellulases: Suitable cellulases include those of bacterial or fungal origin. Chemically modified or protein engineered mutants are included. Suitable cellulases include cellulases from the genera *Bacillus*, *Pseudomonas*, *Humicola*, *Fusarium*, *Thielavia*, *Acremonium*, e.g., the fungal cellulases produced from *Humicola insolens*, *Myceliophthora thermophila* and *Fusarium oxysporum* disclosed in US 4,435,307, US 5,648,263, US 5,691,178, US 5,776,757 and WO 89/09259.

Especially suitable cellulases are the alkaline or neutral cellulases having colour care benefits. Examples of such cellulases are cellulases described in EP 0 495 257, EP 0 531 372, WO 96/11262, WO 96/29397, WO 98/08940. Other examples are cellulase variants such as those described in WO 94/07998, EP 0 531 315, US 5,457,046, US 5,686,593, US 5,763,254, WO 95/24471, WO 98/12307 and WO99/001544.

Other cellulases are endo-beta-1, 4-glucanase enzyme having a sequence of at least 97% identity to the amino acid sequence of position 1 to position 773 of SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 2002/099091 or a family 44 xyloglucanase, which a xyloglucanase enzyme having a sequence of at least 60% identity to positions 40-559 of SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 2001/062903.

Commercially available cellulases include Celluzyme™, and Carezyme™ (Novozymes A/S) Carezyme Premium™ (Novozymes A/S), Celluclean™ (Novozymes A/S), Celluclean

Classic™ (Novozymes A/S), Cellusoft™ (Novozymes A/S), Whitezyme™ (Novozymes A/S), Clazinase™, and Puradax HA™ (Genencor International Inc.), and KAC-500(B)™ (Kao Corporation).

5 Proteases: suitable proteases to be used with the protease of the invention include those of bacterial, fungal, plant, viral or animal origin e.g. vegetable or microbial origin. Microbial origin is preferred. Chemically modified or protein engineered mutants are included. It may be an alkaline protease, such as a serine protease or a metalloprotease. A serine protease may for example be of the S1 family, such as trypsin, or the S8 family such as subtilisin. A metalloproteases protease may for example be a thermolysin from e.g. family M4 or other metalloprotease such as those from M5, 10 M7 or M8 families.

The term "subtilases" refers to a sub-group of serine protease according to Siezen et al., Protein Engng. 4 (1991) 719-737 and Siezen et al. Protein Science 6 (1997) 501-523. Serine proteases are a subgroup of proteases characterized by having a serine in the active site, which forms a covalent adduct with the substrate. The subtilases may be divided into 6 sub-divisions, i.e. 15 the Subtilisin family, the Thermitase family, the Proteinase K family, the Lantibiotic peptidase family, the Kexin family and the Pyrolysin family.

Examples of subtilases are those derived from *Bacillus* such as *Bacillus lentus*, *B. alkalophilus*, *B. subtilis*, *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *Bacillus pumilus* and *Bacillus gibsonii* described in; US7262042 and WO09/021867, and *subtilisin lentus*, *subtilisin Novo*, *subtilisin Carlsberg*, *Bacillus licheniformis*, *subtilisin BPN'*, *subtilisin 309*, *subtilisin 147* and *subtilisin 168* described in 20 WO89/06279 and protease PD138 described in (WO93/18140). Other useful proteases may be those described in WO92/175177, WO01/016285, WO02/026024 and WO02/016547. Examples of trypsin-like proteases are trypsin (e.g. of porcine or bovine origin) and the *Fusarium* protease described in WO89/06270, WO94/25583 and WO05/040372, and the chymotrypsin proteases 25 derived from *Cellulomonas* described in WO05/052161 and WO05/052146.

A further preferred protease is the alkaline protease from *Bacillus lentus* DSM 5483, as described for example in WO95/23221, and variants thereof which are described in WO92/21760, WO95/23221, EP1921147 and EP1921148.

30 Examples of metalloproteases are the neutral metalloprotease as described in WO07/044993 (Genencor Int.) such as those derived from *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*.

Examples of useful proteases are the variants described in: WO92/19729, WO96/034946, WO98/20115, WO98/20116, WO99/011768, WO01/44452, WO03/006602, WO04/03186, WO04/041979, WO07/006305, WO11/036263, WO11/036264, especially the variants with 35 substitutions in one or more of the following positions: 3, 4, 9, 15, 27, 36, 57, 61, 68, 76, 87, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 118, 120, 123, 128, 129, 130, 160, 167, 170, 194, 195, 199, 205, 206, 217, 218, 222, 224, 232, 235, 236, 245, 248, 252 and 274 using the BPN'

numbering. More preferred the subtilase variants may comprise the mutations: S3T, V4I, S9R, A15T, K27R, *36D, G61E,D, V68A, N76D, N87S,R, *97E, A98S, S99G,D,A, S99AD, S101G,M,R S103A, V104I,Y,N, S106A, G118V,R, H120D,N, N123S, S128L, P129Q, S130A, G160D, Y167A, R170S, A194P, G195E, V199M, V205I, L217D, N218D, M222S, A232V, K235L, Q236H, Q245R, N252K, T274A (using BPN' numbering).

Suitable commercially available protease enzymes include those sold under the trade names Alcalase®, Duralase™, Durazym™, Release®, Release® Ultra, Savinase®, Savinase® Ultra, Primase®, Polarzyme®, Kannase®, Liquanase®, Liquanase® Ultra, Ovozyme®, Coronase®, Coronase® Ultra, Neutrase®, Everlase® and Esperase® (Novozymes A/S), those sold under the tradename Maxatase®, Maxacal®, Maxapem®, Purafect®, Purafect Prime®, Preferenz™, Purafect MA®, Purafect Ox®, Purafect OxP®, Puramax®, Properase®, Effectenz™, FN2®, FN3®, FN4®, Excellase®, Ultimase®, Opticlean® and Optimase® (Danisco/DuPont), Axapem™ (Gist-Brocades N.V.), BLAP (sequence shown in Figure 29 of US5352604) and variants hereof (Henkel AG) and KAP (*Bacillus alkalophilus* subtilisin) from Kao.

Lipases and Cutinases: Suitable lipases and cutinases include those of bacterial or fungal origin. Chemically modified or protein engineered mutant enzymes are included. Examples include lipase from *Thermomyces*, e.g. from *T. lanuginosus* (previously named *Humicola lanuginosa*) as described in EP258068 and EP305216, cutinase from *Humicola*, e.g. *H. insolens* (WO96/13580), lipase from strains of *Pseudomonas* (some of these now renamed to *Burkholderia*), e.g. *P. alcaligenes* or *P. pseudoalcaligenes* (EP218272), *P. cepacia* (EP331376), *P. sp.* strain SD705 (WO95/06720 & WO96/27002), *P. wisconsinensis* (WO96/12012), GDSL-type *Streptomyces* lipases (WO10/065455), cutinase from *Magnaporthe grisea* (WO10/107560), cutinase from *Pseudomonas mendocina* (US5,389,536), lipase from *Thermobifida fusca* (WO11/084412), *Geobacillus stearothermophilus* lipase (WO11/084417), lipase from *Bacillus subtilis* (WO11/084599), and lipase from *Streptomyces griseus* (WO11/150157) and *S. pristinaespiralis* (WO12/137147).

Other examples are lipase variants such as those described in EP407225, WO92/05249, WO94/01541, WO94/25578, WO95/14783, WO95/30744, WO95/35381, WO95/22615, WO96/00292, WO97/04079, WO97/07202, WO00/34450, WO00/60063, WO01/92502, WO07/87508 and WO09/109500.

Preferred commercial lipase products include Lipolase™, Lipex™; Lipolex™ and Lipoclean™ (Novozymes A/S), Lumafast (originally from Genencor) and Lipomax (originally from Gist-Brocades).

Still other examples are lipases sometimes referred to as acyl transferases or perhydrolases, e.g. acyltransferases with homology to *Candida antarctica* lipase A (WO10/111143), acyltransferase from *Mycobacterium smegmatis* (WO05/56782), perhydrolases from the CE 7

family (WO09/67279), and variants of the *M. smegmatis* perhydrolase in particular the S54V variant used in the commercial product Gentle Power Bleach from Huntsman Textile Effects Pte Ltd (WO10/100028).

5 Amylases: Suitable amylases which can be used together with the protease of the invention may be an alpha-amylase or a glucoamylase and may be of bacterial or fungal origin. Chemically modified or protein engineered mutants are included. Amylases include, for example, alpha-amylases obtained from *Bacillus*, e.g., a special strain of *Bacillus licheniformis*, described in more detail in GB 1,296,839.

10 Suitable amylases include amylases having SEQ ID NO: 2 in WO 95/10603 or variants having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 3 thereof. Preferred variants are described in WO 94/02597, WO 94/18314, WO 97/43424 and SEQ ID NO: 4 of WO 99/019467, such as variants with substitutions in one or more of the following positions: 15, 23, 105, 106, 124, 128, 133, 154, 156, 178, 179, 181, 188, 190, 197, 201, 202, 207, 208, 209, 211, 243, 264, 304, 305, 391, 408, and 444.

15 Different suitable amylases include amylases having SEQ ID NO: 6 in WO 02/010355 or variants thereof having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 6. Preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 6 are those having a deletion in positions 181 and 182 and a substitution in position 193.

20 Other amylases which are suitable are hybrid alpha-amylase comprising residues 1-33 of the alpha-amylase derived from *B. amyloliquefaciens* shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 of WO 2006/066594 and residues 36-483 of the *B. licheniformis* alpha-amylase shown in SEQ ID NO: 4 of WO 2006/066594 or variants having 90% sequence identity thereof. Preferred variants of this hybrid alpha-amylase are those having a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one of more of the following positions: G48, T49, G107, H156, A181, N190, M197, I201, A209 and Q264. Most preferred variants of the hybrid alpha-amylase comprising residues 1-33 of the alpha-amylase
25 derived from *B. amyloliquefaciens* shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 of WO 2006/066594 and residues 36-483 of SEQ ID NO: 4 are those having the substitutions:

M197T;

H156Y+A181T+N190F+A209V+Q264S; or

G48A+T49I+G107A+H156Y+A181T+N190F+I201F+A209V+Q264S.

30 Further amylases which are suitable are amylases having SEQ ID NO: 6 in WO 99/019467 or variants thereof having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 6. Preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 6 are those having a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one or more of the following positions: R181, G182, H183, G184, N195, I206, E212, E216 and K269. Particularly preferred amylases are those having deletion in positions R181 and G182, or positions H183 and G184.

35 Additional amylases which can be used are those having SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3,

SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 7 of WO 96/023873 or variants thereof having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 7. Preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 7 are those having a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one or more of the following positions: 140, 181, 182, 183, 184, 195, 206, 212, 243, 260, 269, 304 and 476, using SEQ ID 2 of WO 96/023873 for numbering. More preferred variants are those having a deletion in two positions selected from 181, 182, 183 and 184, such as 181 and 182, 182 and 183, or positions 183 and 184. Most preferred amylase variants of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 7 are those having a deletion in positions 183 and 184 and a substitution in one or more of positions 140, 195, 206, 243, 260, 304 and 476.

Other amylases which can be used are amylases having SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 08/153815, SEQ ID NO: 10 in WO 01/66712 or variants thereof having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 08/153815 or 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 10 in WO 01/66712. Preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 10 in WO 01/66712 are those having a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one or more of the following positions: 176, 177, 178, 179, 190, 201, 207, 211 and 264.

Further suitable amylases are amylases having SEQ ID NO: 2 of WO 09/061380 or variants having 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 thereof. Preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 2 are those having a truncation of the C-terminus and/or a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one or more of the following positions: Q87, Q98, S125, N128, T131, T165, K178, R180, S181, T182, G183, M201, F202, N225, S243, N272, N282, Y305, R309, D319, Q320, Q359, K444 and G475. More preferred variants of SEQ ID NO: 2 are those having the substitution in one or more of the following positions: Q87E,R, Q98R, S125A, N128C, T131I, T165I, K178L, T182G, M201L, F202Y, N225E,R, N272E,R, S243Q,A,E,D, Y305R, R309A, Q320R, Q359E, K444E and G475K and/or deletion in position R180 and/or S181 or of T182 and/or G183. Most preferred amylase variants of SEQ ID NO: 2 are those having the substitutions:

N128C+K178L+T182G+Y305R+G475K;

N128C+K178L+T182G+F202Y+Y305R+D319T+G475K;

S125A+N128C+K178L+T182G+Y305R+G475K; or

S125A+N128C+T131I+T165I+K178L+T182G+Y305R+G475K wherein the variants are C-terminally truncated and optionally further comprises a substitution at position 243 and/or a deletion at position 180 and/or position 181.

Other suitable amylases are the alpha-amylase having SEQ ID NO: 12 in WO01/66712 or a variant having at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 12. Preferred amylase variants are those having a substitution, a deletion or an insertion in one or more of the following positions of SEQ ID NO: 12 in WO01/66712: R28, R118, N174; R181, G182, D183, G184, G186, W189, N195, M202, Y298, N299, K302, S303, N306, R310, N314; R320, H324, E345, Y396, R400, W439, R444,

N445, K446, Q449, R458, N471, N484. Particular preferred amylases include variants having a deletion of D183 and G184 and having the substitutions R118K, N195F, R320K and R458K, and a variant additionally having substitutions in one or more position selected from the group: M9, G149, G182, G186, M202, T257, Y295, N299, M323, E345 and A339, most preferred a variant that additionally has substitutions in all these positions.

Other examples are amylase variants such as those described in WO2011/098531, WO2013/001078 and WO2013/001087.

Commercially available amylases are Duramyl™, Termamyl™, Fungamyl™, Stainzyme™, Stainzyme Plus™, Natalase™, Liquozyme X and BAN™ (from Novozymes A/S), and Rapidase™, Purastar™/Effectenz™, Powerase and Preferenz S100 (from Genencor International Inc./DuPont).

Peroxidases/Oxidases: Suitable peroxidases/oxidases include those of plant, bacterial or fungal origin. Chemically modified or protein engineered mutants are included. Examples of useful peroxidases include peroxidases from *Coprinus*, e.g., from *C. cinereus*, and variants thereof as those described in WO 93/24618, WO 95/10602, and WO 98/15257.

Commercially available peroxidases include Guardzyme™ (Novozymes A/S).

The detergent enzyme(s) may be included in a detergent composition by adding separate additives containing one or more enzymes, or by adding a combined additive comprising all of these enzymes. A detergent additive of the invention, i.e., a separate additive or a combined additive, can be formulated, for example, as a granulate, liquid, slurry, etc. Preferred detergent additive formulations are granulates, in particular non-dusting granulates, liquids, in particular stabilized liquids, or slurries.

Non-dusting granulates may be produced, e.g. as disclosed in US 4,106,991 and 4,661,452 and may optionally be coated by methods known in the art. Examples of waxy coating materials are poly(ethylene oxide) products (polyethyleneglycol, PEG) with mean molar weights of 1000 to 20000; ethoxylated nonylphenols having from 16 to 50 ethylene oxide units; ethoxylated fatty alcohols in which the alcohol contains from 12 to 20 carbon atoms and in which there are 15 to 80 ethylene oxide units; fatty alcohols; fatty acids; and mono- and di- and triglycerides of fatty acids. Examples of film-forming coating materials suitable for application by fluid bed techniques are given in GB 1483591. Liquid enzyme preparations may, for instance, be stabilized by adding a polyol such as propylene glycol, a sugar or sugar alcohol, lactic acid or boric acid according to established methods. Protected enzymes may be prepared according to the method disclosed in EP 238,216.

Adjunct materials

Any detergent components known in the art for use in laundry detergents may also be utilized. Other optional detergent components include anti-corrosion agents, anti-shrink agents,

anti-soil redeposition agents, anti-wrinkling agents, bactericides, binders, corrosion inhibitors, disintegrants/disintegration agents, dyes, enzyme stabilizers (including boric acid, borates, CMC, and/or polyols such as propylene glycol), fabric conditioners including clays, fillers/processing aids, fluorescent whitening agents/optical brighteners, foam boosters, foam (suds) regulators, perfumes, soil-suspending agents, softeners, suds suppressors, tarnish inhibitors, and wicking agents, either alone or in combination. Any ingredient known in the art for use in laundry detergents may be utilized. The choice of such ingredients is well within the skill of the artisan.

Dispersants - The detergent compositions of the present invention can also contain dispersants. In particular powdered detergents may comprise dispersants. Suitable water-soluble organic materials include the homo- or co-polymeric acids or their salts, in which the polycarboxylic acid comprises at least two carboxyl radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms. Suitable dispersants are for example described in Powdered Detergents, Surfactant science series volume 71, Marcel Dekker, Inc.

Dye Transfer Inhibiting Agents - The detergent compositions of the present invention may also include one or more dye transfer inhibiting agents. Suitable polymeric dye transfer inhibiting agents include, but are not limited to, polyvinylpyrrolidone polymers, polyamine N-oxide polymers, copolymers of N-vinylpyrrolidone and N-vinylimidazole, polyvinylloxazolidones and polyvinylimidazoles or mixtures thereof. When present in a subject composition, the dye transfer inhibiting agents may be present at levels from about 0.0001 % to about 10%, from about 0.01% to about 5% or even from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of the composition.

Fluorescent whitening agent - The detergent compositions of the present invention will preferably also contain additional components that may tint articles being cleaned, such as fluorescent whitening agent or optical brighteners. Where present the brightener is preferably at a level of about 0,01% to about 0,5%. Any fluorescent whitening agent suitable for use in a laundry detergent composition may be used in the composition of the present invention. The most commonly used fluorescent whitening agents are those belonging to the classes of diaminostilbene-sulphonic acid derivatives, diarylpyrazoline derivatives and bisphenyl-distyryl derivatives. Examples of the diaminostilbene-sulphonic acid derivative type of fluorescent whitening agents include the sodium salts of: 4,4'-bis-(2-diethanolamino-4-anilino-s-triazin-6-ylamino) stilbene-2,2'-disulphonate; 4,4'-bis-(2,4-dianilino-s-triazin-6-ylamino) stilbene-2,2'-disulphonate; 4,4'-bis-(2-anilino-4(N-methyl-N-2-hydroxy-ethylamino)-s-triazin-6-ylamino) stilbene-2,2'-disulphonate, 4,4'-bis-(4-phenyl-2,1,3-triazol-2-yl)stilbene-2,2'-disulphonate; 4,4'-bis-(2-anilino-4(1-methyl-2-hydroxy-ethylamino)-s-triazin-6-ylamino) stilbene-2,2'-disulphonate and 2-(stilbyl-4"-naphtho-1.,2':4,5)-1,2,3-triazole-2"-sulphonate. Preferred fluorescent whitening agents are Tinopal DMS and Tinopal CBS available from Ciba-Geigy AG, Basel, Switzerland. Tinopal DMS is the

disodium salt of 4,4'-bis-(2-morpholino-4 anilino-s-triazin-6-ylamino) stilbene disulphonate. Tinopal CBS is the disodium salt of 2,2'-bis-(phenyl-styryl) disulphonate. Also preferred are fluorescent whitening agents is the commercially available Parawhite KX, supplied by Paramount Minerals and Chemicals, Mumbai, India. Other fluorescers suitable for use in the invention include the 1-3-diaryl pyrazolines and the 7-alkylaminocoumarins.

Suitable fluorescent brightener levels include lower levels of from about 0.01, from 0.05, from about 0.1 or even from about 0.2 wt % to upper levels of 0.5 or even 0.75 wt%.

Soil release polymers - The detergent compositions of the present invention may also include one or more soil release polymers which aid the removal of soils from fabrics such as cotton and polyester based fabrics, in particular the removal of hydrophobic soils from polyester based fabrics. The soil release polymers may for example be nonionic or anionic terephthalate based polymers, polyvinyl caprolactam and related copolymers, vinyl graft copolymers, polyester polyamides see for example Chapter 7 in Powdered Detergents, Surfactant science series volume 71, Marcel Dekker, Inc. Another type of soil release polymers are amphiphilic alkoxyated grease cleaning polymers comprising a core structure and a plurality of alkoxyate groups attached to that core structure. The core structure may comprise a polyalkylenimine structure or a polyalkanolamine structure as described in detail in WO 2009/087523 (hereby incorporated by reference). Furthermore random graft co-polymers are suitable soil release polymers Suitable graft co-polymers are described in more detail in WO 2007/138054, WO 2006/108856 and WO 2006/113314 (hereby incorporated by reference). Other soil release polymers are substituted polysaccharide structures especially substituted cellulosic structures such as modified cellulose derivatives such as those described in EP 1867808 or WO 2003/040279 (both are hereby incorporated by reference). Suitable cellulosic polymers include cellulose, cellulose ethers, cellulose esters, cellulose amides and mixtures thereof. Suitable cellulosic polymers include anionically modified cellulose, nonionically modified cellulose, cationically modified cellulose, zwitterionically modified cellulose, and mixtures thereof. Suitable cellulosic polymers include methyl cellulose, carboxy methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyl ethyl cellulose, hydroxyl propyl methyl cellulose, ester carboxy methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Anti-redeposition agents - The detergent compositions of the present invention may also include one or more anti-redeposition agents such as carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), polyoxyethylene and/or polyethyleneglycol (PEG), homopolymers of acrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid and maleic acid, and ethoxylated polyethyleneimines. The cellulose based polymers described under soil release polymers above may also function as anti-redeposition agents.

Other suitable adjunct materials include, but are not limited to, anti-shrink agents, anti-

wrinkling agents, bactericides, binders, carriers, dyes, enzyme stabilizers, fabric softeners, fillers, foam regulators, hydrotropes, perfumes, pigments, sod suppressors, solvents, and structurants for liquid detergents and/or structure elasticizing agents.

5 Formulation of detergent products

The detergent composition of the invention may be in any convenient form, e.g., a bar, a homogenous tablet, a tablet having two or more layers, a pouch having one or more compartments, a regular or compact powder, a granule, a paste, a gel, or a regular, compact or concentrated liquid.

10 Detergent formulation forms: Layers (same or different phases), Pouches, various forms for Machine dosing unit.

Pouches may be configured as single or multicompartments. It may be of any form, shape and material which is suitable for hold the composition, e.g. without allowing the release of the composition from the pouch prior to water contact. The pouch is made from water soluble film
15 which encloses an inner volume. Said inner volume may be divided into compartments of the pouch. Preferred films are polymeric materials preferably polymers which are formed into a film or sheet. Preferred polymers, copolymers or derivatives thereof are selected polyacrylates, and water soluble acrylate copolymers, methyl cellulose, carboxy methyl cellulose, sodium dextrin, ethyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose, malto dextrin, poly methacrylates,
20 most preferably polyvinyl alcohol copolymers and, hydroxyprpyl methyl cellulose (HPMC). Preferably the level of polymer in the film for example PVA is at least about 60%. Preferred average molecular weight will typically be about 20,000 to about 150,000. Films can also be of blend compositions comprising hydrolytically degradable and water soluble polymer blends such as polyactide and polyvinyl alcohol (known under the Trade reference M8630 as sold by Chris Craft In.
25 Prod. Of Gary, Ind., US) plus plasticisers like glycerol, ethylene glycerol, Propylene glycol, sorbitol and mixtures thereof. The pouches can comprise a solid laundry cleaning composition or part components and/or a liquid cleaning composition or part components separated by the water soluble film. The compartment for liquid components can be different in composition than compartments containing solids. Ref: (US2009/0011970 A1).

30 Detergent ingredients may be separated physically from each other by compartments in water dissolvable pouches or in different layers of tablets. Thereby negative storage interaction between components may be avoided. Different dissolution profiles of each of the compartments may also give rise to delayed dissolution of selected components in the wash solution.

A liquid or gel detergent , which is not unit dosed, may be aqueous, typically containing at
35 least 20% by weight and up to 95% water, such as up to about 70% water, up to about 65% water,

up to about 55% water, up to about 45% water, up to about 35% water. Other types of liquids, including without limitation, alkanols, amines, diols, ethers and polyols may be included in an aqueous liquid or gel. An aqueous liquid or gel detergent may contain from 0-30% organic solvent. A liquid or gel detergent may be non-aqueous.

5

Laundry soap bars

The enzymes of the invention may be added to laundry soap bars and used for hand washing laundry, fabrics and/or textiles. The term "laundry soap bar" as used herein includes laundry bars, soap bars, combo bars, syndet bars and detergent bars. The types of bar usually differ in the type of surfactant they contain, and the term laundry soap bar includes those containing soaps from fatty acids and/or synthetic soaps. The laundry soap bar has a physical form which is solid and not a liquid, gel or a powder at room temperature. The term solid is defined as a physical form which does not significantly change over time, i.e. if a solid object (e.g. laundry soap bar) is placed inside a container, the solid object does not change to fill the container it is placed in. The bar is a solid typically in bar form but can be in other solid shapes such as round or oval.

The laundry soap bar may contain one or more additional enzymes, protease inhibitors such as peptide aldehydes (or hydrosulfite adduct or hemiacetal adduct), boric acid, borate, borax and/or phenylboronic acid derivatives such as 4-formylphenylboronic acid, one or more soaps or synthetic surfactants, polyols such as glycerine, pH controlling compounds such as fatty acids, citric acid, acetic acid and/or formic acid, and/or a salt of a monovalent cation and an organic anion wherein the monovalent cation may be for example Na^+ , K^+ or NH_4^+ and the organic anion may be for example formate, acetate, citrate or lactate such that the salt of a monovalent cation and an organic anion may be, for example, sodium formate.

The laundry soap bar may also contain complexing agents like EDTA and HEDP, perfumes and/or different type of fillers, surfactants e.g. anionic synthetic surfactants, builders, polymeric soil release agents, detergent chelators, stabilizing agents, fillers, dyes, colorants, dye transfer inhibitors, alkoxylated polycarbonates, suds suppressers, structurants, binders, leaching agents, bleaching activators, clay soil removal agents, anti-redeposition agents, polymeric dispersing agents, brighteners, fabric softeners, perfumes and/or other compounds known in the art.

The laundry soap bar may be processed in conventional laundry soap bar making equipment such as but not limited to: mixers, plodders, e.g. a two stage vacuum plodder, extruders, cutters, logo-stampers, cooling tunnels and wrappers. The invention is not limited to preparing the laundry soap bars by any single method. The premix of the invention may be added to the soap at different stages of the process. For example, the premix containing a soap, an enzyme, optionally one or more additional enzymes, a protease inhibitor, and a salt of a monovalent cation and an

organic anion may be prepared and the mixture is then plodded. The enzyme and optional additional enzymes may be added at the same time as the protease inhibitor for example in liquid form. Besides the mixing step and the plodding step, the process may further comprise the steps of milling, extruding, cutting, stamping, cooling and/or wrapping.

5

Granular detergent formulations

A granular detergent may be formulated as described in WO09/092699, EP1705241, EP1382668, WO07/001262, US6472364, WO04/074419 or WO09/102854. Other useful detergent formulations are described in WO09/124162, WO09/124163, WO09/117340, WO09/117341,
 10 WO09/117342, WO09/072069, WO09/063355, WO09/132870, WO09/121757, WO09/112296, WO09/112298, WO09/103822, WO09/087033, WO09/050026, WO09/047125, WO09/047126, WO09/047127, WO09/047128, WO09/021784, WO09/010375, WO09/000605, WO09/122125, WO09/095645, WO09/040544, WO09/040545, WO09/024780, WO09/004295, WO09/004294, WO09/121725, WO09/115391, WO09/115392, WO09/074398, WO09/074403, WO09/068501,
 15 WO09/065770, WO09/021813, WO09/030632, and WO09/015951.

WO2011025615, WO2011016958, WO2011005803, WO2011005623, WO2011005730,
 WO2011005844, WO2011005904, WO2011005630, WO2011005830, WO2011005912,
 WO2011005905, WO2011005910, WO2011005813, WO2010135238, WO2010120863,
 WO2010108002, WO2010111365, WO2010108000, WO2010107635, WO2010090915,
 20 WO2010033976, WO2010033746, WO2010033747, WO2010033897, WO2010033979,
 WO2010030540, WO2010030541, WO2010030539, WO2010024467, WO2010024469,
 WO2010024470, WO2010025161, WO2010014395, WO2010044905, WO2010145887,
 WO2010142503, WO2010122051, WO2010102861, WO2010099997, WO2010084039,
 WO2010076292, WO2010069742, WO2010069718, WO2010069957, WO2010057784,
 25 WO2010054986, WO2010018043, WO2010003783, WO2010003792, WO2011023716,
 WO2010142539, WO2010118959, WO2010115813, WO2010105942, WO2010105961,
 WO2010105962, WO2010094356, WO2010084203, WO2010078979, WO2010072456,
 WO2010069905, WO2010076165, WO2010072603, WO2010066486, WO2010066631,
 WO2010066632, WO2010063689, WO2010060821, WO2010049187, WO2010031607,
 30 WO2010000636.

Uses

The present invention is directed to methods for using the polypeptides having protease activity, or compositions thereof. The invention may be used in compositions thereof in the
 35 laundering of textile and fabrics, such as house hold laundry washing and industrial laundry

washing. The invention is directed to methods for using the compositions thereof in hard surface cleaning such as automated dish washing (ADW), car wash and cleaning of industrial surfaces.

Use of proteases of the invention in detergent compositions and cleaning processes

5 The soils and stains that are important for detergent formulators are composed of many different substances, and a range of different enzymes, all with different substrate specificities have been developed for use in detergents both in relation to laundry and hard surface cleaning, such as dishwashing. These enzymes are considered to provide an enzyme detergency benefit, since they specifically improve stain removal in the cleaning process they are applied in as compared to the
10 same process without enzymes. Stain removing enzymes that are known in the art include enzymes such as carbohydrases, amylases, proteases, lipases, cellulases, hemicellulases, xylanases, cutinases, and pectinase.

 In one aspect, the present invention relates to the use of an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2 of at least 85%, at least 86%, at least
15 87%, at least 88%, at least 89% at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% in detergent compositions and cleaning processes, such as laundry and hard surface cleaning.

 In one aspect, the present invention relates to the use of an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 of at least 80% at least 81% at least
20 82% at least 83% at least 84%, at least 85%, at least 86%, at least 87%, at least 88%, at least 89% at least 90%, at least 91%, at least 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% in detergent compositions and cleaning processes, such as laundry and hard surface cleaning.

 In one aspect, the present invention relates to the use of an isolated polypeptide having a sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6 of at least 90%, at least 91%, at least
25 92%, at least 93%, at least 94%, at least 95%, at least 96%, at least 97%, at least 98%, at least 99%, or 100% in detergent compositions and cleaning processes, such as laundry and hard surface cleaning.

 In another aspect, the present invention relates to the use of protease of the invention in
30 detergent compositions and cleaning processes, such as laundry and hard surface cleaning. Thus, in one aspect, the present invention demonstrates the detergency effect of the protease of the invention on various stains and under various conditions. In a particular embodiment the detergent composition according to the invention and the use in cleaning process relates to the use of a protease of the invention together with at least one of the above mentioned stain removal enzymes.

35 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the protease of the invention may be

combined with additional enzymes these additional enzymes are described in details in the section “other enzymes”; preferably the protease of the invention is combined with at least two enzymes, more preferred at least three, four or five enzymes. Preferably, the enzymes have different substrate specificity, e.g., carbolytic activity, proteolytic activity, amylolytic activity, lipolytic activity, hemicellulytic activity or pectolytic activity. The enzyme combination may for example be a protease of the invention with another stain removing enzyme, e.g., a protease of the invention and an amylase, a protease of the invention and a cellulase, a protease of the invention and a hemicellulase, a protease of the invention and a lipase, a protease of the invention and a cutinase, a protease of the invention and a pectinase; or a protease of the invention and an anti-redeposition enzyme, particularly preferred a protease of the invention and an amylase. More preferably, the protease of the invention is combined with at least two other stain removing enzymes, e.g., a protease of the invention, a lipase and an amylase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase and a pectinase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase and a cutinase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase and a cellulase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase and a hemicellulase; or a protease of the invention, a lipase and a pectinase; or a protease of the invention, a lipase and a cutinase; or a protease of the invention, a lipase and a cellulase; or a protease of the invention, a lipase and a hemicellulase. Even more preferably, a protease of the invention may be combined with at least three other stain removing enzymes, e.g., a protease of the invention, an amylase, a lipase and a pectinase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase, a lipase and a cutinase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase, a lipase and a cellulase; or a protease of the invention, an amylase, a lipase and a hemicellulase, preferably a protease of the invention, a lipase, an amylase and a cellulase. A protease of the invention may be combined with any of the enzymes selected from the non-exhaustive list comprising: carbohydrases, such as an amylase, a hemicellulase, a pectinase, a cellulase, a xanthanase or a pullulanase, a peptidase, other proteases or a lipase.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a protease of the invention may be combined with one or more metalloproteases, such as a M4 Metalloprotease, including Neutrase™ or Thermolysin. Such combinations may further comprise combinations of the other detergent enzymes as outlined above.

The cleaning process or the textile care process may for example be a laundry process, a dishwashing process or cleaning of hard surfaces such as bathroom tiles, floors, table tops, drains, sinks and washbasins. Laundry processes may for example be household laundering, but it may also be industrial laundering. Furthermore, the invention relates to a process for laundering of fabrics and/or garments where the process comprises treating fabrics with a washing solution containing a detergent composition, and at least one protease of the invention. The cleaning

process or a textile care process may for example be carried out in a machine washing process or in a manual washing process. The washing solution can for example be an aqueous washing solution containing a detergent composition.

5 The fabrics and/or garments subjected to a washing, cleaning or textile care process of the present invention may be conventional washable laundry, for example household laundry. Preferably, the major part of the laundry is garments and fabrics, including knits, woven, denims, non-woven, felts, yarns, and towelling. The fabrics may be cellulose based such as natural cellulose, including cotton, flax, linen, jute, ramie, sisal or coir or manmade cellulose (e.g., originating from wood pulp) including viscose/rayon, ramie, cellulose acetate fibers (tricell), lyocell
10 or blends thereof. The fabrics may also be non-cellulose based such as natural polyamides including wool, camel, cashmere, mohair, rabbit and silk or synthetic polymer such as nylon, aramid, polyester, acrylic, polypropylene and spandex/elastane, or blends thereof as well as blend of cellulose based and non-cellulose based fibers. Examples of blends are blends of cotton and/or rayon/viscose with one or more companion material such as wool, synthetic fibers (e.g., polyamide
15 fibers, acrylic fibers, polyester fibers, polyvinyl alcohol fibers, polyvinyl chloride fibers, polyurethane fibers, polyurea fibers, aramid fibers), and cellulose-containing fibers (e.g., rayon/viscose, ramie, flax, linen, jute, cellulose acetate fibers, lyocell).

The last few years there has been an increasing interest in replacing components in detergents, which is derived from petrochemicals with renewable biological components such as
20 enzymes and polypeptides without compromising the wash performance. When the components of detergent compositions change new enzyme activities or new enzymes having alternative and/or improved properties compared to the common used detergent enzymes such as proteases, lipases and amylases is needed to achieve a similar or improved wash performance when compared to the traditional detergent compositions.

25 A protease of the invention is usable in proteinaceous stain removing processes. The proteinaceous stains may be stains such as food stains, or e.g., baby food, sebum, cocoa, egg, blood, milk, ink, grass, or a combination hereof.

Typical detergent compositions includes various components in addition to the enzymes, these components have different effects, some components like the surfactants lower the surface
30 tension in the detergent, which allows the stain being cleaned to be lifted and dispersed and then washed away, other components like bleach systems removes discolour often by oxidation and many bleaches also have strong bactericidal properties, and are used for disinfecting and sterilizing. Yet other components like builder and chelator softens, e.g., the wash water by removing the metal ions from the liquid.

35 In a particular embodiment, the invention relates to the use of a composition comprising a

protease of the invention, wherein said enzyme composition further comprises at least one or more of the following a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system or bleach component in laundry or dish wash.

Thus, in one embodiment, the invention relates to the use of a composition comprising a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or a polypeptide having at least 89% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the composition further comprises at least one or more of the following; a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system or bleach component in laundry or dish wash.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the amount of a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system and/or bleach component are reduced compared to amount of surfactant, builder, chelator or chelating agent, bleach system and/or bleach component used without the added protease of the invention. Preferably the at least one component which is a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system and/or bleach component is present in an amount that is 1% less, such as 2% less, such as 3% less, such as 4% less, such as 5% less, such as 6% less, such as 7% less, such as 8% less, such as 9% less, such as 10% less, such as 15% less, such as 20% less, such as 25% less, such as 30% less, such as 35% less, such as 40% less, such as 45% less, such as 50% less than the amount of the component in the system without the addition of protease of the invention, such as a conventional amount of such component. In one embodiment, the protease of the invention is used in detergent compositions wherein said composition is free of at least one component which is a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system or bleach component and/or polymer.

Washing Method

The detergent compositions comprising a protease of the present invention are ideally suited for use in laundry applications. Accordingly, the present invention includes a method for laundering a fabric. The method comprises the steps of contacting a fabric to be laundered with a cleaning laundry solution comprising the detergent composition according to the invention. The fabric may comprise any fabric capable of being laundered in normal consumer use conditions. The solution preferably has a pH of from about 5.5 to about 8. The compositions may be employed at concentrations of from about 100 ppm, preferably 500 ppm to about 15,000 ppm in solution. The water temperatures typically range from about 5°C to about 90°C, including about 10°C, about 15°C, about 20°C, about 25°C, about 30°C, about 35°C, about 40°C, about 45°C, about 50°C, about 55°C, about 60°C, about 65°C, about 70°C, about 75°C, about 80°C, about 85°C and about 90°C. The water to fabric ratio is typically from about 1:1 to about 30:1.

In particular embodiments, the washing method is conducted at a pH of from about 5.0 to about 11.5, or in alternative embodiments, even from about 6 to about 10.5, such as about 5 to about 11, about 5 to about 10, about 5 to about 9, about 5 to about 8, about 5 to about 7, about 5.5 to about 11, about 5.5 to about 10, about 5.5 to about 9, about 5.5 to about 8, about 5.5 to about 7, about 6 to about 11, about 6 to about 10, about 6 to about 9, about 6 to about 8, about 6 to about 7, about 6.5 to about 11, about 6.5 to about 10, about 6.5 to about 9, about 6.5 to about 8, about 6.5 to about 7, about 7 to about 11, about 7 to about 10, about 7 to about 9, or about 7 to about 8, preferably about 5.5 to about 9, and more preferably about 6 to about 8.

In particular embodiments, the washing method is conducted at a degree of hardness of from about 0°dH to about 30°dH, such as about 1°dH, about 2°dH, about 3°dH, about 4°dH, about 5°dH, about 6°dH, about 7°dH, about 8°dH, about 9°dH, about 10°dH, about 11°dH, about 12°dH, about 13°dH, about 14°dH, about 15°dH, about 16°dH, about 17°dH, about 18°dH, about 19°dH, about 20°dH, about 21°dH, about 22°dH, about 23°dH, about 24°dH, about 25°dH, about 26°dH, about 27°dH, about 28°dH, about 29°dH, about 30°dH. Under typical European wash conditions, the degree of hardness is about 15°dH, under typical US wash conditions about 6°dH, and under typical Asian wash conditions, about 3°dH.

The present invention relates to a method of cleaning a fabric, a dishware or hard surface with a detergent composition comprising a protease of the invention.

A preferred embodiment concerns a method of cleaning, said method comprising the steps of: contacting an object with a cleaning composition comprising a protease of the invention under conditions suitable for cleaning said object. In a preferred embodiment the cleaning composition is a detergent composition and the process is a laundry or a dish wash process.

Still another embodiment relates to a method for removing stains from fabric which comprises contacting said a fabric with a composition comprising a protease of the invention under conditions suitable for cleaning said object.

In a preferred embodiment, the compositions for use in the methods above further comprises at least one additional enzyme as set forth in the "other enzymes" section above, such as an enzyme selected from the group consisting of carbohydrases, amylases, peptidases, proteases, lipases, cellulase, xylanases or cutinases or a combination hereof. In yet another preferred embodiment the compositions comprises a reduced amount of at least one or more of the following components a surfactant, a builder, a chelator or chelating agent, bleach system or bleach component or a polymer.

EXAMPLES**Example 1: Expression and Purification:**

Isolation, genome sequencing and identification of the encoding genes from, *Bacillus sp.-1* (SEQ ID NO 1), *Bacillus idriensis* (SEQ ID NO 3) and *Bacillus sp.-2* (SEQ ID NO 5).

5 Three bacterial strains from the genus *Bacillus* were isolated from various sources under different physiological conditions and the species identified by sequencing of the 16S ribosomal subunit genes as listed in Table 1.

Table 1:

Strain	Source type	Location	Medium	Temperature
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i> (SEQ ID NO 1)	Environmental sample	Japan	TY medium pH 9	30C
<i>Bacillus idriensis</i> (SEQ ID NO 3)	Mud	Antarctica	Marine 2216 medium + 1% skimmilk	10C
<i>Bacillus sp.-2</i> (SEQ ID NO 5)	Environmental sample	United states	Minimal medium + 1% skim milk pH 10	30C

10 Chromosomal DNA from the bacterial strains was isolated by using the QIAamp DNA Blood Mini Kit[®] (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). 2 ug of chromosomal DNA was sent for genome sequencing at FASTERIS SA, Switzerland. The genomes were sequenced by Illumina Sequencing. The resulting genome sequences were analyzed and three proteases were identified by comparison to the protease TY145 (SEQ ID NO: 10) by searching using the BLAST program. The DNA sequence
15 of the identified genes encoding the polypeptides of the invention is included in the sequence listing as SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 6.

Cloning and expression of three proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1*, *Bacillus idriensis* and *Bacillus sp.-2* in *Bacillus subtilis* expression host.

20 A linear integration vector-system was used for the expression cloning of the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* (SEQ ID NO: 2), *Bacillus idriensis* (SEQ ID NO: 4) and *Bacillus sp.-2* (SEQ ID NO: 6). The linear integration construct was a PCR fusion product made by fusion of the gene between two *Bacillus subtilis* homologous chromosomal regions along with strong promoters and a chloramphenicol resistance marker. The fusion was made by SOE PCR (Horton, R.M., Hunt, H.D.,
25 Ho, S.N., Pullen, J.K. and Pease, L.R. (1989) Engineering hybrid genes without the use of restriction enzymes, gene splicing by overlap extension Gene 77: 61-68). The SOE PCR method is

also described in patent application WO 2003/095658. The gene was expressed under the control of a triple promoter system (as described in WO 99/43835), consisting of the promoters from *Bacillus licheniformis* alpha-amylase gene (amyL), *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* alpha-amylase gene (amyQ), and the *Bacillus thuringiensis* cryIIIA promoter including stabilizing sequence. The gene coding for chloramphenicol acetyl-transferase was used as marker (described in e.g. Diderichsen, B.; Poulsen,G.B.; Joergensen,S.T.; A useful cloning vector for *Bacillus subtilis*. Plasmid 30:312 (1993)). The final gene constructs were integrated on the *Bacillus* chromosome by homologous recombination into the pectate lyase locus. The gene fragments were amplified from chromosomal DNA of the corresponding strains with gene specific primers containing overhang to the two flanking vector fragments (primer sequences are listed in Table 2). All genes were expressed with a *Bacillus clausii* secretion signal (with the following amino acid sequence: MKKPLGKIVASTALLISVAFSSSIASA) replacing the native secretion signal and the *Bacillus sp-62451* genes were expressed with a poly histidine -tag (HHHHHH) linked to the C-terminal of the protein.

15

Table 2: Primers used for PCR amplification

Templ e DNA	Primer forward	Primer reverse
Bacillus sp-1 SEQ ID NO 1	G TTCATCGATCGCATCGGCTAAAGAA CCGGAGACCCAAAAT (SEQ ID NO:11)	GCGTTTTTTTTATTGATTAACGCGTTTATTT TACACGTGGGTATCCGAA (SEQ ID NO:12)
Bacillus idriensis SEQ ID NO 3	G TTCATCGATCGCATCGGCTCAAGAT GCGGCAAAAACAGATG (SEQ ID NO:13)	GCGTTTTTTTTATTGATTAACGCGTTTATTG TACTCTGGCAAACCCAA (SEQ ID NO:14)
Bacillus sp-2 SEQ ID NO 5	TTTTAGTTCATCGATCGCATCGGCTT CAGATGAAGCAAAGGGG (SEQ ID NO:15)	GCGTTTAGTGGTGATGGTGATGATGTTTT ACTCTAGGGTAACCAAATC (SEQ ID NO:16)

The two vector fragments and the gene fragment were subjected to a Splicing by Overlap Extension (SOE) PCR reaction to assemble the 3 fragments into one linear vector construct. This was done independently for each of the three genes. An aliquot of each of the three PCR products

20

was transformed into *Bacillus subtilis*. Transformants were selected on LB agar plates supplemented with 6 µg of chloramphenicol per ml. For each construct a recombinant *Bacillus subtilis* clone containing the integrated expression construct was grown in liquid culture. The enzyme containing supernatants were harvested and the enzymes purified as described below.

5

Purification of three proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1*, *Bacillus idriensis* and *Bacillus sp.-2*

The culture broth was centrifuged (26000 x g, 20 min) and the supernatant was carefully decanted from the precipitate. The supernatant was filtered through a Nalgene 0.2µm filtration unit in order to remove the rest of the *Bacillus* host cells. The 0.2µm filtrate was mixed 1:1 with 3.0M (NH₄)₂SO₄ and the mixture was applied to a Phenyl-sepharose FF (high sub) column (from GE Healthcare) equilibrated in 100mM H₃BO₃, 10mM MES/NaOH, 2mM CaCl₂, 1.5M (NH₄)₂SO₄, pH 6.0. After washing the column with the equilibration buffer, the protease was step-eluted with 100mM H₃BO₃, 10mM MES, 2mM CaCl₂, pH 6.0. The eluted peak (containing the protease activity) was collected and applied to a Bacitracin agarose column (from Upfront chromatography) 10 equilibrated in 100mM H₃BO₃, 10mM MES, 2mM CaCl₂, pH 6.0. After washing the column 15 extensively with the equilibration buffer, the protease was eluted with 100mM H₃BO₃, 10mM MES, 2mM CaCl₂, 1M NaCl, pH 6.0 with 25%(v/v) 2-propanol. The elution peak (containing the protease activity) was transferred to 20mM MES, 2mM CaCl₂, pH 6.0 on a G25 sephadex column (from GE Healthcare). The G25 transferred peak was the purified preparation and was used for further 20 experiments.

When the purified protease preparations were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and the gel was stained with coomassie a major band was seen at approx. 36-37kDa and two minor bands were seen at approx. 29Da and 7-8kDa respectively. EDMAN degradation showed that the minor bands represent nicked protease molecules. This is supported by the fact that only one band was seen on 25 a coomassie stained SDS-PAGE gel if this gel was run without reducing agent suggesting an intramolecular sulphur bridge connecting the two parts of the nicked protease molecules.

The purified proteases were tested for activity by a protease activity assay using Suc-AAPF-pNA as substrate. The assay was performed as follows:

- pNA substrate : Suc-AAPF-pNA (Bachem L-1400).
30 Temperature : Room temperature (25°C)
Assay buffer : 100mM succinic acid, 100mM HEPES, 100mM CHES, 100mM CABS,
1mM CaCl₂, 150mM KCl, 0.01% Triton X-100, pH 9.0.

20µl protease (diluted in 0.01% Triton X-100) was mixed with 100µl assay buffer. The assay was started by adding 100µl pNA substrate (50mg dissolved in 1.0ml DMSO and further 35 diluted 45x with 0.01% Triton X-100). The initial increase in OD₄₀₅ was monitored as a measure of

the protease activity.

The skilled person knows of alternative assays that may be used in order to determine the activity of a polypeptide having protease activity, or a protease as such.

5 **Example 2: TOM wash using the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1***

The wash performance of the protease from *Bacillus sp.-1* was tested using laundry liquid model detergent detergent on 6 different stains using the Tergo-O-Meter (TOM) wash system.

The Tergo-O-Meter (TOM) is a medium scale model wash system that can be applied to test 16 different wash conditions simultaneously. A TOM is basically a large temperature controlled
10 water bath with up to 16 open metal beakers submerged into it. Each beaker constitutes one small top loader style washing machine, each of them containing a solution of a specific detergent/enzyme system and the soiled and unsoiled fabrics. Using the soiled and unsoiled fabrics the performance of the specific detergent/enzyme system can be determined. Mechanical stress can be achieved by a rotating stirring arm stirring the liquid within each beaker. Because the TOM
15 beakers have no lid, withdrawal of samples during a TOM experiment is possible, and thereby facilitating the option of gathering information on-line during washing.

In a TOM experiment, factors such as 'the ballast to soil' ratio and 'the fabric to wash liquid' ratio can be varied. Therefore, the TOM provides the link between small scale experiments, such as AMSA and mini-wash, and the more time consuming full scale experiments in top loader
20 washing machines.

The TOM experiment was performed by using a water bath comprising up to 16 steel beakers and 1 rotating arm per beaker with the capacity of 500 or 1200mL of detergent solution. The experiment was performed in the temperature range from 5 to 80°C. The water bath was filled with deionized water, and the rotational speed was set to 70 to 120rpm/min.

25 All beakers were clean and without traces of prior test material.

The wash solution was then prepared with the desired amount of detergent, temperature and water hardness in a bucket. Detergent was dissolved during magnet stirring for 10 min. The wash solution was used within 30 to 60 min after preparation. 1000ml wash solution was added to each TOM beaker, and agitation at 120rpm was started. To those beakers used for testing the
30 enzymes of the present invention, the enzymes were added to the beaker. The swatches (also termed "fabrics") and the ballast (i.e. additional clean pre-washed cotton and/or polyester textile to get 'the desired liquid to textile' ratio) were sprinkled and loaded to the beaker. Time measurement started when the swatches and the ballast were added to the beaker. The washing ran for 30 min and was stopped by stopping the agitation of the beakers. The wash load was transferred from the
35 TOM beakers to a sieve in order to rinse with cold tap water. The swatches and the ballast were

transferred to a European washing machine for a 14 min rinse cycle. The swatches were separated from the ballast and placed on a tray covered with a paper. Another paper was added on top of the swatches. The swatches were left to dry overnight and the Color Eye was measured as described below.

5 The experimental conditions are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Experimental conditions for laundry experiments

Detergent dosage	Laundry liquid model detergent B 3.33 g/L
Test solution volume	1L
pH	As is
Wash time	30 minutes
Temperature	20°C
Water hardness	15°dH
Protease concentration	30 nM
Swatch	CS-37, C-05, PC-03, CS-01, C-H010, 062KC

Water hardness was adjusted to 15°dH by addition of CaCl₂, MgCl₂, and NaHCO₃ (Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺:CO₃⁻ = 4:1:7.5) to the test system.

10 Table 4: Delta remission value of detergent containing proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* compared to detergent without protease at 20°C.

Swatch	CS-37	C-05	PC-03	CS-01	C-H010	062KC
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	3.4	3.7	3.8	1.4	5.2	7.3

15 The results of Table 4 show that detergent containing *Bacillus sp.-1* is effective at removing grass (062KC), egg (CS-37) chocolate/milk (C-H010, PC-03), blood/milk/ink (C-05), and blood (CS-01) stains at 20°C.

Table 5: Relative wash performance of detergent containing proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* compared to detergent TY-145 protease (SEQ ID NO 10) at 20°C.

Swatch	C-H010
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	1.5

20 The results of Table 5 show that detergent containing *Bacillus sp.-1* is more effective at removing chocolate/milk (C-H010) than TY145 at 20°C.

Example 3: AMSA wash using the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus sp.-2*

The wash performance of the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus sp.-2* was tested using laundry liquid model detergent on five different technical stains using the Automatic Mechanical Stress Assay (AMSA).

5 By AMSA, the wash performance of many small volume enzyme-detergent solutions can be examined. The AMSA plate has a number of slots for test solutions and a lid that firmly squeezes the textile to be washed against the slot openings. During the wash, the plate, test solutions, textile and lid are vigorously shaken to bring the test solution in contact with the textile and apply mechanical stress in a regular, periodic, oscillating manner. For further description see
 10 WO02/42740 especially the paragraph "Special method embodiments" at page 23-24.

Table 6: Model detergents and test materials were as follows:

Laundry liquid model detergent	Sodium hydroxide 99 %: 2.95 % Sulfonic acid: 11.52 % Soy soap: 5.5 % Propylene glycole: 5.05 % C13-alkoholethoxylate, 8 EO: 9.45 % Phosphonate, Dequest 2066 type: 1.00 % Triethanolamine: 2.0 % Coco soap: 4.5 % Sodium citrate, dihydrate: 1.0 % IPA-denaturered ethanol: 4.63 % Opacifier: 0.12 % Blue dye. Ion exchanged water up to 100%
Laundry liquid model detergent B	LAS 7.2% AEOS 4.2% Soy soap 2.75% Coco soap 2.75% AEO 6.6% NaOH 1.2% Ethanol 3% MPG 6% Glycerol 2%

	TEA 3% Sodium formiate 1% Sodium citrate 2% DTMPA 0.2% PCA 0.2% Ion exchanged water 55.1%
Laundry liquid model detergent K	LAS 3% AS 3% AEOS 6% coco fatty acid 1% AEO 3% MEA 0.3% MPG 3% Ethanol 1.5% DTPA (as Na5 salt) 0.1% Sodium citrate 4% Sodium formate 1% KOH 0.6% NaOH 0.4% Ion exchanged water up to 100%
Persil Small&Mighty	Commercially available
Great value Mandarin Essence	Commercially available
Test material	CS-37 Full egg pigment C-05 Blood/milk/ink on cotton PC-03 Chocolate milk/soot CS-01 Aged blood C-H010 Cocoa cooked up milk CS-38 Egg Yolk on cotton C-03 Chocolate milk/soot on cotton EMPA117 Blood/milk/ink on cotton/polyester 062KC Scrubbed Grass on knitted cotton

Test materials were obtained from EMPA Testmaterials AG, Mövenstrasse 12, CH-9015 St. Gallen, Switzerland, from Center For Testmaterials BV, P.O. Box 120, 3133 KT Vlaardingen, the Netherlands, and WFK Testgewebe GmbH, Christenfeld 10, D-41379 Brüggen, Germany.

Water hardness was adjusted to 15°dH by addition of CaCl₂, MgCl₂, and NaHCO₃ (Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺ = 4:1:7.5) to the test system. After washing the textiles were rinsed in tap water and dried.

The wash performance was measured as the brightness of the color of the textile washed.

5 Brightness may also be expressed as the intensity of the light reflected from the sample when illuminated with white light. When the sample is stained the intensity of the reflected light is lower, than that of a clean sample. Therefore the intensity of the reflected light can be used to measure wash performance.

10 Color measurements were made with a professional flatbed scanner (Kodak iQsmart, Kodak, Midtager 29, DK-2605 Brøndby, Denmark), which was used to capture an image of the washed textile.

To extract a value for the light intensity from the scanned images, 24-bit pixel values from the image were converted into values for red, green and blue (RGB). The intensity value (Int) was calculated by adding the RGB values together as vectors and then taking the length of the resulting
15 vector:

$$Int = \sqrt{r^2 + g^2 + b^2}$$

The experiments were conducted using a single cycle wash procedure, with the detergent composition and swatches described in Table 6 and the experimental conditions as specified in
20 Table 7 below.

Table 7: Experimental conditions for laundry experiments

Detergent dosage	Laundry liquid model detergent B 3.33 g/L
Test solution volume	160 micro L
pH	As is
Wash time	20 minutes
Temperature	20°C
Water hardness	15°dH
Protease concentration	0-10-30-60-100nM
Swatch	PC-03, CS-38, CS-01, C-03

Water hardness was adjusted to 15°dH by addition of CaCl₂, MgCl₂, and NaHCO₃ (Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺:CO₃⁻ = 4:1:7.5) to the test system. After washing the textiles were rinsed in tap water and dried.

25

Table 8: Delta intensity value of detergent comprising proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus sp.-2* compared to detergent without protease at 20°C.

Swatch	Enzyme concentration nM	PC-03	CS-38	CS-01	C-03
<u><i>Bacillus sp.-1</i></u>	10	6.0	4.4	1.4	0.4
	30	10.4	4.0	1.2	3.2
	60	12.3	7.6	2.9	6.7
	100	14.6	8.0	5.1	5.8
<u><i>Bacillus sp.-2</i></u>	10	8.2	1.5	2.7	4.3
	30	14.6	5.4	5.2	4.7
	60	17.9	11.4	3.9	6.3
	100	18.9	10.3	6.7	8.4

The results of Table 8 show that detergent comprising *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus sp.-2* is effective at removing chocolate/milk (PC-03, C-03), blood (CS-01) and egg (CS-38) stains at 20°C.

Example 4: AMSA dose-response wash using the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus idriensis*

The dose-response wash performance of the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus idriensis* was tested using four different detergents on three different stains.

The experiments were conducted as described in the AMSA for laundry method (as described in Example 3) using a single cycle wash procedure, with the detergent composition and swatches described in Table 6 and the experimental conditions as specified in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Experimental conditions for laundry experiments

Detergent dosage	Laundry liquid model detergent B 3.33 g/L (EU detergent) Persil Small & Mighty 2.5 g/L (EU detergent) Great value Mandarin Essence 1.19 g/L (US detergent) Laundry liquid model detergent K 0.8g/L (US detergent)
Test solution volume	160 µL
pH	As is
Wash time	20 minutes

Temperature	20°C
Water hardness	15°dH (EU detergents) or 9°dH (US detergents)
Protease concentration	0 - 2,5nM- 5nM – 10nM - 30 nM
Swatch	PC-03, C-05, CS-37

Water hardness was adjusted to 15°dH by addition of CaCl₂, MgCl₂, and NaHCO₃ (Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺:CO₃⁻ = 4:1:7.5) to the test system. After washing the textiles were flushed in tap water and dried.

- 5 Table 10: Performance of proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus idriensis* on C-05 Blood/Milk/Ink stain compared to detergent without protease at 20°C.

Detergent	Laundry liquid model detergent B		Persil Small & Mighty		Great value Mandarin Essence		Laundry liquid model detergent K	
	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	13.0	20.1	16.9	24.8	4.3	10.6	6.8	14.1
<i>Bacillus idriensis</i>	1.33	3.77	1.4	0.8	6.2	3.4	0.4	3.9

- 10 Table 11: Performance of proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus idriensis* on PC-03 Cocoa stain compared to detergent without protease at 20°C.

Detergent	Laundry liquid model detergent B		Persil Small & Mighty		Great value Mandarin Essence		Laundry liquid model detergent K	
	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM
<i>Bacillus sp.-13380</i>	7.5	12.7	8.4	15.0	2.1	4.3	2.4	7.4
<i>Bacillus idriensis</i>	0.6	0.7	2.2	2.1	0	0	0	1.0

- 15 Table 12: Performance of proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* and *Bacillus idriensis* on CS-37 Full Egg w/Pigment stain compared to detergent without protease at 20°C.

Detergent	Laundry liquid model detergent	Persil Small & Mighty	Great value Mandarin	Laundry liquid model detergent
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	B				Essence		K	
	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM	10 nM	30 nM
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	1.8	3.3	4.1	4.8	0	0.8	3.4	8.3
<i>Bacillus idriensis</i>	1.6	1.4	0.8	2.0	0.5	0	0	1.8

The results of Tables 10, 11, and 12 show that detergents comprising *Bacillus sp.-1* is particular effective at removing chocolate/milk, blood/milk and egg stains at 20°C.

5 Example 5: Mini wash using the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1*

The wash performance of the proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* was tested using laundry liquid model detergent detergent on one technical stain using the mini wash system, which is a test method where soiled textile is continuously lifted up and down into the test solution and subsequently rinsed.

10

Table 13: The experimental conditions

Detergent	Laundry liquid model detergent Laundry liquid model detergent B
Detergent dose	8 g/l 3.33 g/L
pH	As is (i.e. not adjusted)
Water hardness	15°dH, adjusted by adding CaCl ₂ *2H ₂ O, MgCl ₂ *6H ₂ O and NaHCO ₃ (4:1:7.5) to milli-Q water.
Enzyme conc.	2.5 nM, 5 nM, 10 nM, 30 nM, 60 nM
Test solution volume	50 mL
Test material	PC-03 Chocolate milk/soot
Temperature	30°C
Wash time	20 min
Rinse time	10 min
Test system	Soiled textile continuously lifted up and down into the test solutions, 50 times per minute (up-time 0.29 sec, down-time 0.29 sec, lift time 0.17 sec). The test solutions are kept in 125 ml glass beakers.

	After wash of the textiles are continuously lifted up and down into tap water, 50 times per minute (up-time 0.5 sec, down-time 5 sec, lift time 0.5 sec).
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Test materials were obtained from EMPA Testmaterials AG Mövenstrasse 12, CH-9015 St. Gallen, Switzerland, from Center for Testmaterials BV, P.O. Box 120, 3133 KT Vlaardingen, the Netherlands, and WFK Testgewebe GmbH, Christenfeld 10, D-41379 Brügggen, Germany.

5 The textiles were subsequently air-dried and the wash performance was measured as the brightness of the color of these textiles. Brightness may also be expressed as the Remission (R), which is a measure for the light reflected or emitted from the test material when illuminated with white light. The Remission (R) of the textiles was measured at 460 nm using a Zeiss MCS 521 VIS spectrophotometer. The measurements were done according to the manufacturer's protocol.

10 The performance of the proteases of the invention was compared to the performance of proteases at 30 nM protease concentration by calculating the relative performance:

$$RP = (R_{\text{protease}} - R_{\text{BLANK}}) / (R_{\text{REFERENCE}} - R_{\text{BLANK}})$$

An enzyme was considered to exhibit improved wash performance, if it performed better than the reference (RP > 1) in at least one detergent composition.

15

The experimental conditions are specified in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Delta remission value of detergent containing proteases from *Bacillus sp.-1* compared to detergent without protease at 30°C on chocolate (PC-03).

Detergent	Enzyme dosage nM	Laundry liquid model detergent	Laundry liquid model detergent B
<i>Bacillus sp.-1</i>	0	0	0
	0.5	0.3	0
	1.1	0.6	0.3
	2.1	1.4	1.3
	4.3	2.3	1.6
	12.8	4.3	2.6

20

The results of Table 14 show that an enzyme dosage of 2.1 nM has an improved wash performance even at such low dosages (i.e. commercial available detergent compositions may comprise up to 30-90 nM enzymes depending on the region).

CLAIMS

1. An isolated polypeptide having protease activity, selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a polypeptide having at least 85 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of
5 SEQ ID NO: 2; a polypeptide having at least 80 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of
SEQ ID NO: 4; a polypeptide having at least 89 % sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of
SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (b) a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 85% sequence identity to
the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; a polypeptide encoded by a
10 polynucleotide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide coding sequence of
SEQ ID NO: 3; a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide having at least 89% sequence identity to
the mature polypeptide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5;
 - (c) a variant of the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6 comprising a
substitution, deletion, and/or insertion at one or more (e.g. several) positions; and
 - 15 (d) a fragment of the polypeptide of (a), (b) or (c) that has protease activity.
2. The polypeptide according to claim 1 comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6 or the
mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6.
- 20 3. The polypeptide according to claim 2, wherein the mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to
313 of SEQ ID NO: 2, the mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 4 or the
mature polypeptide is amino acids 1 to 314 of SEQ ID NO: 6.
4. The polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which is a variant of the mature
25 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6 comprising a substitution, deletion, and/or insertion at one or
more positions.
5. A composition comprising the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4.
- 30 6. The composition according to claim 5 being a detergent composition such as a composition
for laundry or automatic dish washing.
7. The composition according to claim 6 further comprising one of more additional enzymes,
wherein said one or more additional enzymes is selected among, proteases, amylases, lipases,
35 cutinases, cellulases, endoglucanases, xyloglucanases, pectinases, pectin lyases, xanthanases,

peroxidaes, haloperoxygenases, catalases, mannanases, or any mixture thereof.

8. The composition according to any one of claims 6 or 7 comprising one or more components selected among: surfactants, builders, bleaching systems, polymers and hydrotropes.

5 9. The detergent composition according to any one of claims 5 to 8 in the form of a bar, a homogenous tablet, a tablet having two or more layers, a pouch having one or more compartments, a regular or compact powder, a granule, a paste, a gel, or a regular, compact or concentrated liquid.

10 10. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 5 to 9 in a cleaning process, such as laundry, hard surface cleaning, dish wash or automated dish wash.

11. Use of a polypeptide having protease activity in a cleaning process, wherein the polypeptide having protease activity is selected among:

- 15 (a) a polypeptide having at least 85% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4; and
- 20 (c) a polypeptide having at least 90% sequence identity to the mature polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 6.

12. A method for removing a stain from a surface which comprises contacting said surface with a composition according to any one of claims 5 to 9.

25 13. An isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4.

14. A nucleic acid construct or expression vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 13 operably linked to one or more control sequences that direct the production of the polypeptide in an expression host.

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15. A recombinant host cell comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 13 operably linked to one or more control sequences that direct the production of the polypeptide.

35 16. A method of producing the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 comprising:

(a) cultivating a cell, which in its wild-type form produces said polypeptide, under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and

(b) recovering the polypeptide.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the cell is a bacillus.
18. A method of producing a polypeptide having protease activity comprising:
- 5 (a) cultivating the host cell according to claim 15 under conditions conducive for production of the polypeptide; and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/078814

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C12N9/54
ADD.
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C12N
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, Sequence Search

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2009/019157 A1 (HENKEL AG & CO KGAA [DE]; WEBER ANGRIT [DE]; WIELAND SUSANNE [DE]; MAU) 12 February 2009 (2009-02-12) the whole document abstract; sequences 2,3 page 3 page 10 - page 11 page 26 page 37 - page 38 claims 1-18 ----- -/--	1,4-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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

Date of the actual completion of the international search 21 April 2015	Date of mailing of the international search report 08/05/2015
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Sprinks, Matthew
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2014/078814

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>DATABASE UniProt [Online]</p> <p>28 June 2011 (2011-06-28), "SubName: Full=Protease M30C4 {ECO:0000313 EMBL:AEB91315.1}"; XP002738674, retrieved from EBI accession no. UNIPROT:F4ZE70 Database accession no. F4ZE70 abstract; sequence</p>	1,4-6,8, 13-18
X	<p>& JULIE NEVEU ET AL: "Isolation and characterization of two serine proteases from metagenomic libraries of the Gobi and Death Valley deserts", APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, SPRINGER, BERLIN, DE, vol. 91, no. 3, 15 April 2011 (2011-04-15) , pages 635-644, XP019927346, ISSN: 1432-0614, DOI: 10.1007/S00253-011-3256-9 clone pBSM30C4; figure 1; table 3 the whole document</p>	1,4-6,8, 13-18
X	<p>-----</p> <p>DATABASE UniProt [Online]</p> <p>8 March 2011 (2011-03-08), "SubName: Full=Uncharacterized protein {ECO:0000313 EMBL:EFV75680.1}"; XP002738671, retrieved from EBI accession no. UNIPROT:E5WNY8 Database accession no. E5WNY8 abstract; sequence</p> <p>-----</p>	1,4,5,13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2014/078814

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2009019157 A1	12-02-2009	DE 102007036756 A1	05-02-2009
		WO 2009019157 A1	12-02-2009
