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(54) Title: HIGH-PHOSPHATE STARCH

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to modified starches having an elevated content of phosphate and an elevated content of amylose.

High-phosphate starch

The invention relates to modified starches having an elevated content of phosphate and an elevated content of amylose.

5

In view of the increasing importance which is currently being attached to plant components as renewable sources of raw material, one of the tasks of biotechnological research is to endeavor to adapt these plant raw materials to the requirements of the processing industry. In addition to this,
10 it is necessary to achieve a great diversity of substances in order to enable renewable raw materials to be used in as many areas of employment as possible.

While the polysaccharide starch is composed of chemically uniform basic
15 units, i.e. the glucose molecules, it is a complex mixture of different molecular forms which exhibit differences with regard to the degree of polymerization and branching and consequently differ greatly from each other in their physicochemical properties. A distinction is made between amylose starch, an essentially unbranched polymer composed of
20 alpha-1,4-glycosidically linked glucose units, and amylopectin starch, a branched polymer in which the branches are formed as a result of the appearance of additional alpha-1,6-glycosidic linkages. Another important difference between amylose and amylopectin lies in their molecular weights. While amylose, depending on the origin of the starch, has a
25 molecular weight of $5 \times 10^5 - 10^6$ Da, the molecular weight of amylopectin is between 10^7 and 10^8 Da. The two macromolecules can be differentiated by their molecular weight and their different physicochemical properties, something which can most readily be visualized by their different iodine-binding properties.

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Amylose was regarded for a long time as being a linear polymer which consisted of alpha-1,4-glycosidically linked alpha-D-glucose monomers. However, more recent studies have demonstrated the presence of alpha-1,6-glycosidic branching points (approx. 0.1%) (Hizukuri and Takagi,
35 Carbohydr. Res. 134, (1984), 1-10; Takeda et al., Carbohydr. Res. 132, (1984), 83-92).

Different methods are available for determining the amylose content. Some of these methods are based on the iodine binding ability of the amylose,

which ability can be determined potentiometrically (Banks & Greenwood, in W. Banks & C.T. Greenwood, Starch and its components (pp. 51-66), Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press), amperometrically (Larson et al., Analytical Chemistry 25(5), (1953), 802-804) or spectrophotometrically (Morrison & Laignelet, J. Cereal Sc. 1, (1983), 9-20). The amylose content can also be determined calorimetrically by means of DSC (differential scanning calorimetry) measurements (Kugimiya & Donovan, Journal of Food Science 46, (1981), 765-770; Sievert & Holm, Starch/Stärke 45 (4), (1993), 136-139). In addition, it is possible to determine the amylose content of native or debranched starch using SEC (size exclusion chromatography). This method has been recommended, in particular, for determining the amylose content of recombinantly modified starches (Gérard et al., Carbohydrate Polymers 44, (2001), 19-27).

The functional properties, such as the solubility, the retrogradation behavior, the ability to bind water, the film-forming properties, the viscosity, the pasting properties, the freeze/thaw stability, the acid stability, the gel strength and the grain size of starches are influenced, inter alia, by the amylose/amylopectin ratio, the molecular weight, the pattern of side chain distribution, the content of ions, the content of lipid and protein, the mean starch grain size, the starch grain morphology, etc. The functional properties of starch are also influenced by the content of phosphate, i.e. a non-carbon component of starch. In this connection, a distinction is made between phosphate which is covalently bonded in the form of monoesters to the glucose molecules of the starch (termed starch phosphate here) and phosphate in the form of phospholipids which are associated with the starch.

The content of starch phosphate varies in dependence on the plant type. Thus, for example, certain corn mutants synthesize a starch having an elevated content of starch phosphate (waxy corn 0.002% and high-amylose corn 0.013%) whereas conventional corn types only exhibit traces of starch phosphate. Small quantities of starch phosphate are also found in wheat (0.001%) whereas it has not been possible to detect any starch phosphate in oats and sorghum. Less starch phosphate has also been found in rice mutants (waxy rice 0.003%) than in conventional rice types (0.013%). Significant quantities of starch phosphate have been detected in plants, such as tapioca (0.008%), sweet potato (0.011%), arrowroot (0.021%) and

potato (0.089%), which synthesize tuber storage starch or root storage starch. The percentage values for the starch phosphate content which are cited above are in each case based on the dry weight of the starch and were determined by Jane et al. (1996, *Cereal Foods World* 41 (11), 827-832). In general, the distribution of the phosphate in (native) starch which is synthesized by plants is characterized by from about 30% to 40% of the phosphate residues being covalently bonded in the C3 position, and from about 60% to 70% of the phosphate residues being covalently bonded in the C6 position, of the glucose molecules (Blennow et al., 2000, *Int. J. of Biological Macromolecules* 27, 211-218). By contrast, chemically phosphorylated starches additionally possess phosphate residues which are covalently bonded in the C2 position of the glucose molecules since the chemical reaction proceeds in a randomly directed manner.

Kossmann and Lloyd (2000, *Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences* 19(3), 171-126) provide a review of native starches which are isolated from different plant species in which enzymes involved in starch biosynthesis are reduced.

Plants in which the activity of an SSIII protein (Abel et al., 1996, *The Plant Journal* 10(6), 9891-991; Lloyd et al., 1999, *Biochemical Journal* 338, 515-521) or the activity of a BEI protein (Kossmann et al., 1991, *Mol Gen Genet* 230, 39-44; Safford et al., 1998, *Carbohydrate Polymers* 35, 155-168) or the activity of a BEII protein (Jobling et al., 1999, *The Plant Journal* 18), or the activity of a BEI and BEII protein (Schwall et al., 2000, *Nature Biotechnology* 18, 551-554; WO 96/34968, Hofvander et al., 2004, *Plant Biotechnology* 2, 311-321), or the activity of a BEI protein and of an SSIII (WO 00/08184) protein are reduced have thus far been described.

As compared with corresponding wild-type plants, starches which are isolated from plants in which the activity of an SSIII protein is reduced exhibit a relative shift of the side chains of the amylopectin from relatively long chains to short chains (Lloyd et al., 1999, *Biochemical Journal* 338, 515-521), a phosphate content which is elevated by 70%, no change in the amylose content (Abel et al., 1996, *The Plant Journal* 10(6), 9891-991) and a decrease in the final viscosity in the RVA analysis (Abel, 1995, Berlin Free University Dissertation). As compared with starches which are isolated from untransformed wild-type plants, these starches, which are also described in WO 00/08184, exhibit a phosphate content which is

increased by 197%, an amylose content which is increased by 123% and a final viscosity in the RVA analysis which falls to 76% of the wild type. In addition, the gel strength of the starch concerned falls to 84% of the wild type.

5

In the Morrison & Laignelet (1983, J. Cereal Sc. 1, 9-20) spectrophotometric analysis, starches which are isolated from plants which exhibit a reduced activity of both a BEI protein and a BEII protein have an amylose content of from 77% to 89.1% (corresponds to at most 348% of the starch which is isolated from wild-type plants) and a phosphorus content of from 2400 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of starch (corresponds to 77.4 μmol of phosphate/g starch) to 3000 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of starch (corresponds to 96.8 μmol of phosphate/g starch). This gives a maximum increase of 613% as compared with starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants. Starches containing more than 55% amylose no longer exhibit any pasting (Schwall et al., 2000, Nature Biotechnology 18, 551-554). Starches having lower amylose values (40.9%) exhibit a final viscosity value which is increased by 256%, after pasting in the RVA analysis, and exhibit a phosphorus content of 206 mg/100 g of starch (corresponds to 66.4 μmol of phosphate/g of starch). Higher phosphorus contents, e.g. 240 mg of phosphorus/100 g of starch (corresponds to 77.4 μmol of phosphate/g of starch; WO 9634968), are only achieved when the relevant starches also exhibit higher amylose values. Hofvander et al. (2004, Plant Biotechnology 2, 311-321) describe starches which are isolated from genetically modified potato plants having a phosphorus content of from 2400 to 3300 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of starch (corresponds to from 77.4 to 106.4 μmol of phosphate/g of starch), with the starches exhibiting an amylose content (spectrophotometric determination of the iodine-binding ability) of from 47% to 86%.

30 The present invention is based on the object of making available potato starches having novel properties, novel plant cells and/or plants which produce the starches, and also means and methods for generating said plant cells and/or plants.

35 This object is achieved by the provision of the embodiments which are described in the patent claims.

The present invention consequently relates to modified starch which is

isolated from potato plants and which

- a) has an amylose content, as measured by the method of Hovenkamp-Hermelink et al. (1987, Theoretical and Applied Genetics 75, 217-221), of between 40% and 50%, and
- 5 b) has a phosphorus content of from 80 to 95 μmol of phosphate per gram of starch (dry weight).

The elevated quantities of starch phosphate in starches according to the invention confer surprising and advantageous properties on the starches.

- 10 As a result of the increased content of starch phosphate, starches according to the invention carry an increased content of charged groups which have a substantial influence on the functional properties of the starch. Starch which carries charged functional groups can, in particular, be employed in the paper industry, where it is used for the surface coating of
- 15 paper. Paper which is coated with charged molecules which also exhibit good adhesive properties (pasting properties) is particularly suitable for taking up dyes, such as ink, printing colors, etc.

- The starches according to the invention are native starches. In connection with the present invention, the term "native starch" means that the starch is
- 20 isolated from plants or starch-storing parts of plants using methods known to the skilled person.

- In connection with the present invention, the amylose content is determined
- 25 using the method of Hovenkamp-Hermelink et al. (Potato Research 31, (1988), 241-246) which is described for potato starch (see General Methods, item 1).

- Within the meaning of the present invention, the term "phosphate content"
- 30 of the starch denotes the content of phosphate which is covalently bonded in the form of starch phosphate monoesters.

- Methods for determining the phosphate content are known to the skilled person and adequately described in the literature (e.g. Gericke and
- 35 Kurmies, 1952, Z. Düngg. Pflanzenernähr. Bodenk. 59, 235-247). In connection with the present invention, preference is given to using the method which is described under General Methods, item 2.

Methods for isolating starch from plants or from starch-storing parts of plants are known to the skilled person. Furthermore, methods for extracting the starch from different starch-storing plants are described, for example, in Starch: Chemistry and Technology (Eds.: Whistler, BeMiller and Paschall
5 (1994), 2nd edition, Academic Press Inc. London Ltd; ISBN 0-12-746270-8; see, for example, chapter XII, pages 412-468: corn and sorghum starches: preparation; by Watson; chapter XIII, pages 469-479: tapioca, arrowroot and sago starches: preparation; by Corbishley and Miller; chapter XIV, pages 479-490: potato starch: preparation and uses; by Mitch; chapter XV,
10 pages 491 to 506: wheat starch: preparation, modification and uses; by Knight and Oson; and chapter XVI, pages 507 to 528: rice starch: preparation and uses; by Rohmer and Klem; corn starch: Eckhoff et al., Cereal Chem. 73 (1996), 54-57). On an industrial scale, corn starch is usually extracted by what is termed "wet milling".

15
Furthermore, the present invention relates to a method for the manufacture of the (potato) starch according to the invention, including the step of extracting the starch from a plant cell according to the invention or from a plant according to the invention, from propagation material according to the
20 invention of such a plant and/or from harvestable plant parts according to the invention of such a plant, preferably from starch-storing parts according to the invention of such a plant. Preferably, such a method also includes the step of harvesting the cultivated plants or plant parts and/or the propagation material of these plants before the extraction of the starch and,
25 further, particularly preferably the step of cultivating plants according to the invention before harvesting.

Starch phosphate can be present in the form of monoesters at the C3 or C6 position in the polymerized glucose monomers (Blennow et al., 2000, Int. J. of Biological Macromolecules 27, 211-218). The distribution of the
30 phosphate in plant-synthesized starch is generally characterized by from about 30% to 40% of the phosphate residues being covalently bonded in the C3 position, and from about 60% to 70% of the phosphate residues being covalently bonded in the C6 position, of the glucose molecules
35 (Blennow et al., 2000, Int. J. of Biological Macromolecules 27, 211-218). Starches according to the invention are characterized by exhibiting a phosphate distribution in which the C6 phosphate content based on the total phosphate content is increased.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention therefore relates to modified starch according to the invention which is characterized by having a C6 phosphorus content of from 45 to 60 μmol of phosphate per gram of starch (dry weight).
5

In connection with the present invention, the term "C6 phosphate content" is intended to be understood as being the quantity of starch phosphate which is covalently bonded in the C6 position in the glucose molecules of the starch.
10

In connection with the present invention, the term "total phosphate content" is intended to be understood as meaning the total quantity of starch phosphate which is covalently bonded to glucose molecules in the starch.
15

A variety of methods have been described for determining the quantity of C6 phosphate (e.g. Ritte et al., 2000, *Starch/Stärke* 52, 179-185). The use of ^{31}P -NMR to determine the quantity of C6 phosphate is described in Kasemusuan and Jane (1996, *Cereal Chemistry* 73, 702-707).
20 Preference is given to using the Ames (Methods in Enzymology VIII, (1996), 115-118) method, with particular preference being given to using the method which is described under General Methods item 2.

Starches according to the invention are also characterized by exhibiting an altered amylopectin side-chain distribution as compared with starch (amylopectin) which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.
25

The invention therefore preferably relates to modified starch according to the invention which exhibits an altered amylopectin side-chain distribution as compared with starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.
30

In connection with the present invention, the term "wild-type plant" refers to plants whose genetic information, apart from genetic modifications which cause starch according to the invention to be synthesized, corresponds to that of the plant which synthesizes the starch according to the invention.
35

The side-chain distribution is determined by determining the percentage

proportion of a particular group of side chains in the total content of all the side chains in a GPC chromatogram. For this purpose, the total area below the line of the GPC chromatogram is divided into individual segments which in each case represent groups of side chains of different length. The chosen segments contain side chains having the following degrees of polymerization (DP = number of glucose monomers within a side chain): DP less than 11, DP from 11 to 18, DP from 19 to 24, DP from 25 to 30, DP from 31 to 36, DP from 37 to 42, DP from 43 to 48, DP from 49 to 55, DP from 56 to 61, DP from 62 to 123 and DP greater than 123. In order to correlate the elution volume with the molar mass, the GPC column which is used is calibrated with dextran standards (Fluka, Product No. 31430). The dextrans which are used, their pertinent molar masses, and the elution volumes, are shown in fig. 1. The calibration straight line which results from this is used to depict the elution diagram as a molecular weight distribution. For the purpose of determining the molecular weights of the individual side chains, glucose was specified to have a molecular weight of 162. The total area below the line in the GPC chromatogram is stipulated to be 100% and the proportions of the areas of the individual segments are calculated in relation to the proportion of the total area.

In connection with the present invention, the term altered "side-chain distribution" is intended to be understood as meaning a change in the proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of less than 11, a DP of from 11 to 18, a DP of from 19 to 24, a DP of from 25 to 30, a DP of from 31 to 36, a DP of from 37 to 42, a DP of from 43 to 48, a DP of from 49 to 55, a DP of from 56 to 61, a DP of from 62 to 123 and/or a DP greater than 123, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having the same degree of polymerization in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

Starch according to the invention is preferably characterized by the proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of less than 11, a DP of from 11 to 18 and/or a DP of from 19 to 24 being reduced and by the proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 56 to 61, a DP of from 62 to 123 and/or a DP of greater than 123 being increased, as compared with the amylopectin side chains having the same degree of polymerization in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of less than 11 in starch according to the invention is preferably reduced by at least 65%, preferably at least 70%, particularly preferably at least 75% and very particularly preferably at least 80%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of less than 11 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 11 to 18 in starch according to the invention is preferably reduced by at least 40%, preferably at least 45%, particularly preferably at least 50% and very particularly preferably at least 53%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 11 to 18 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 19 to 24 in starch according to the invention is preferably reduced by at least 5%, preferably at least 10% and particularly preferably at least 15%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 19 to 24 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 56 to 61 in starches according to the invention is preferably increased by at least 20%, preferably at least 30%, particularly preferably at least 35% and very particularly preferably at least 40%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 56 to 61 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 62 to 123 in starches according to the invention is preferably increased by at least 100%, preferably at least 150%, particularly preferably at least 200% and very particularly preferably at least 230%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of from 62 to 123 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The proportion of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of greater than 123 in starches according to the invention is preferably increased by at least 700%, preferably at least 800%, particularly preferably at least 900% and very particularly preferably at least 1000%, based on the quantity of the amylopectin side chains having a DP of greater than 123 in starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

Starch according to the invention possesses the property that it exhibits an elevated final viscosity in the RVA analysis when the RVA analysis is

carried out in an aqueous solution containing CaCl_2 . In this connection, the addition of CaCl_2 causes the starch to be completely pasted.

5 The present invention therefore preferably relates to starch according to the invention which, after pasting in the RVA analysis in the added presence of CaCl_2 , exhibits a final viscosity which is increased as compared with starch which is isolated from wild-type plants and which is pasted under identical conditions. The RVA analysis is preferably carried out in the added presence of at least 1.5 M CaCl_2 , particularly preferably of at least 2 M
10 CaCl_2 and very particularly preferably of at least 2.5 M CaCl_2 .

15 Protocols for carrying out the RVA (rapid visco analyzer) analysis are described below under General Methods, item 4. It should be pointed out, in particular, that an 8% starch suspension (w/w) is frequently employed in the RVA analysis of potato starches. The documents (Directions for use, Newport Scientific Pty Ltd., Investment Support Group, Warriewood NSW 2102, Australia) which are enclosed with the "RVASuper3" appliance recommend a suspension containing approx. 10% starch for analyzing potato starch.

20 Surprisingly, it was found, in the case of potato plant-derived starch and concerning the present invention, that it was not possible to use an 8% starch suspension (2 g of starch intended for 25 ml of water) for the analysis because the final viscosity reached values which the appliance was no longer able to register. For this reason, starch suspensions of only 6% strength (1.5 g of starch in 25 ml of water) were used for the RVA
25 analysis instead of 8% starch suspensions. In connection with the present invention, therefore, an increased final viscosity in the RVA analysis is intended to be understood as meaning an increase by at least 100%, particularly by at least 120%, in particular by at least 140%, as compared with wild-type plants which are not genetically modified. In this connection,
30 the increase in the final viscosities is to be related to 6% starch suspensions which were carried out in an aqueous CaCl_2 solution. In connection with the present invention, preference is given to using the RVA analytical method 1, which is described under General Methods, item 4, for determining the final viscosity in the RVA analysis.

35

It was furthermore found that starches according to the invention exhibit an elevated pasting temperature in the RVA analysis.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention therefore relates to starch according to the invention which exhibits an elevated pasting temperature in the RVA analysis. The pasting temperature of starch according to the invention is preferably at least 80°C, preferably at least 85°C, particularly
5 preferably at least 90°C and very particularly preferably at least 92°C. In connection with the present invention, the pasting temperature is preferably carried out using the RVA analytical method 3 which is described under General Methods, item 4.

10 Starches having an elevated pasting temperature offer the advantage that they can be more readily dispersed in heated liquids. Starch according to the invention is therefore particularly suitable for producing foodstuffs, with starch being added, for example as a thickener, to heated foodstuff preparations.

15 Following pasting, starch according to the invention preferably forms gels whose strength is increased.

In another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to starch according to the invention which, after pasting in water, forms a gel which exhibits a gel strength which is increased as compared with that of a gel composed of starch which is isolated from wild-type plants. Particularly preferably, starch according to the invention forms, after pasting in an aqueous CaCl₂ solution, a gel which develops a final viscosity which is
20 increased as compared with that of a gel composed of starch which is
25 isolated from corresponding wild-type plants.

The advantage of starch according to the invention, as compared with conventional starch, is that, after pasting in salt-containing solutions, it
30 forms stronger gels than does conventional starch. For this reason, starch according to the invention is particularly suitable for applications in the foodstuffs sphere, where starch is frequently employed as a thickener. As a rule, foodstuffs contain salts. Less starch according to the invention than conventional starch therefore has to be used for thickening foodstuffs. This
35 saves costs and reduces the calorie content of foodstuffs which contain starch according to the invention as compared with foodstuffs which contain conventional starch.

In connection with the present invention, the term "increased gel strength" is intended to be understood as meaning an increase in the gel strength, preferably by at least 20%, in particular by at least 40%, more preferably by at least 60%, and particularly preferably by at least 90%, as compared with
5 the gel strength of starch which is isolated from wild-type plants.

In connection with the present invention, the gel strength is to be determined using a texture analyzer in the method which is described under General Methods, item 3.

10 In order to prepare starch gels, the crystalline structure of native starch first of all has to be destroyed by heating in aqueous suspension while stirring continuously. This can be carried out using a rapid visco analyzer (Newport Scientific Pty Ltd., Investment Support Group, Warriewood NSW 2102, Australia). As already explained above, in the case of potato plant-derived
15 starch according to the invention a 6% starch suspension, instead of the 8% suspension used as standard, was employed, in this connection,. In order to determine the gel strength, the starch suspensions which are pasted in the rapid visco analyzer are stored for a certain time and then subjected to an analysis using a texture analyzer. Consequently, 6%,
20 instead of 8%, pasted starch suspensions were also used for determining the gel strength.

The starch according to the invention, preferably native potato starch, can, after having been extracted from plants or starch-containing plant parts, be
25 modified chemically and/or physically using standard methods which are known to the skilled person.

In this connection, starch according to the invention offers the advantage that it can be derivatized at relatively high temperatures since, as already
30 described above, it exhibits a higher pasting temperature than does conventional starch. As a result, the reactions, for example in connection with chemical derivatization, can take place at higher temperatures, with this leading to the reactions proceeding more efficiently without the structure of the starch grain being destroyed.

35 Furthermore, starch according to the invention offers the advantage that it is better suited for being the starting substance for the derivation than are conventional starches (e.g. isolated from wild-type potato plants) because, as a result of its higher content of covalently bonded starch phosphate, it

exhibits a higher proportion of reactive, functional groups, is more strongly hydrophilic and is more readily accessible to chemical agents.

5 The present invention therefore also relates to methods for preparing a derivatized starch, wherein starch according to the invention is subsequently derivatized.

10 In connection with the present invention, the term "derivatized starch" is intended to be understood as meaning a starch according to the invention whose properties have been altered using chemical, enzymatic, thermal or mechanical methods after it has been isolated from plant cells.

15 In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the derivatized starch according to the invention is heat-treated and/or acid-treated starch.

20 In another preferred embodiment, the derivatized starches are starch ethers, in particular starch alkyl ethers, O-allyl ethers, hydroxylalkyl ethers, O-carboxymethyl ethers, nitrogen-containing starch ethers, phosphate-containing starch ethers or sulfur-containing starch ethers.

25 In another preferred embodiment, the derivatized starches are crosslinked starches.

30 In another preferred embodiment, the derivatized starches are starch-graft polymers.

35 In another preferred embodiment, the derivatized starches are oxidized starches.

40 In another preferred embodiment, the derivatized starches are starch esters, in particular starch esters which have been introduced into the starch using organic acids. Particularly preferably, the starch esters are phosphate starches, nitrate starches, sulfate starches, xanthate starches, acetate starches or citrate starches.

45 Methods for preparing derivatized starches according to the invention are known to the skilled person and are adequately described in the general literature. Orhofer (in Corn, Chemistry and Technology, 1987, eds.

Watson and Ramstad, chapter 16, 479-499), for example, provides a review of the preparation of derivatized starches.

5 The present invention also relates to derivatized starch which can be obtained using the method according to the invention for preparing a derivatized starch.

The present invention also relates to the use of starch according to the invention for preparing derivatized starch.

10

Starch according to the invention can be prepared by isolation from genetically modified plants or plant cells which exhibit an activity of one or more SSIII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and of one or more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, which is reduced as compared with that of corresponding wild-type plants or plant cell which are not genetically modified.

20

The invention therefore also relates to genetically modified plants or plant cells which synthesize a starch according to the invention and which exhibit an activity

- 25 a) of one or more SSIII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- b) of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- 30 c) of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- d) of one or more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and which exhibit an at least 80% identity with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, which is reduced as compared with that of corresponding wild-type plants or plant cells which are not genetically modified.

35

The invention further relates to genetically modified plants or plant cells which exhibit an activity

- a) of one or more SSIII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- b) of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- 5 c) of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and
- d) of one or more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and which exhibit an at least 80% identity with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14,
- 10 which is reduced as compared with that of corresponding wild-type plants or plant cells which are not genetically modified.

Plants or propagation material of plants according to the invention comprising plant cells according to the invention are also an object of the
15 invention.

Here, the term "propagation material" encompasses those components of the plant which are suitable for producing progeny in a vegetative or sexual manner. Suitable for vegetative propagation are, for example, cuttings,
20 callus cultures, rhizomes or tubers. Other propagation material encompasses, for example, fruits, seeds, seedlings, protoplasts, cell cultures, etc. Preferred propagation materials are tubers, fruits or seeds.

In a further embodiment, the present invention relates to harvestable plant
25 parts of plants according to the invention, such as fruits, storage roots, roots, flowers, buds, shoots, leaves or stems, preferably seeds, fruits or tubers, where these harvestable parts comprise plant cells according to the invention.

30 In connection with the present invention, the term "genetically modified" means that the genetic information of the plant cell has been altered.

In this connection, the genetic modification can be any genetic modification which leads to a reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins
35 which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and to a reduction in the activity of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and to a reduction in the activity of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell and to a reduction in the

activity of one or more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant or plant cell, and which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, as compared with corresponding wild-type plants or plant cells which are not genetically modified.

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In connection with the present invention, the term "corresponding" means that, when several objects are being compared, the objects in question, which are being compared with each other, are kept under identical conditions. In connection with the present invention, the term
10 "corresponding" means, in connection with a wild-type plant, that the plants which are being compared with each other were grown under identical cultural conditions and that they are of the same (cultural) age.

In this connection, the term "reduction in the activity" means, in the context
15 of the present invention, a reduction in the expression of endogenous genes which encode SSIII proteins and/or BEI proteins and/or BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, and/or a reduction in the quantity of SSIII protein, BEI protein, BEII protein and/or protein which exhibits the amino
20 acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, in the plants or plant cells, and/or a reduction in the enzymatic activity of the SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, in the plants or plant cells as compared with the corresponding wild-type
25 plants or plant cells which are not genetically modified.

The reduction in the expression can, for example, be determined by determining the quantity of coding transcripts of SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence
30 specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14. This can be effected, for example, by means of Northern Blot analysis or RT-PCR. In this connection, a reduction preferably means a reduction in the quantity of transcripts, as compared with corresponding plants or plant cells which are not genetically modified, by at least 50%, in particular by at least 70%,
35 preferably by at least 85% and particularly preferably by at least 95%. The reduction in the quantity of SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, which results in a reduced activity of

these proteins in the plant cells or plants concerned, can be determined, for example, by means of immunological methods such as Western Blot analysis, ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) or RIA (radio immuno assay). In this connection, a reduction preferably means a
5 reduction in the quantity of SSIII protein, BEI protein, BEII protein and/or protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 by at least 50%, in particular by at least 70%, preferably by at least 85%, and particularly preferably by at least 95%, as compared with corresponding plants or plant cells which are not
10 genetically modified.

In connection with the present invention, "SSIII protein" is to be understood as meaning a class of soluble starch synthases (ADP-glucose 1,4-alpha-D-glucan 4-alpha-D-glucosyltransferase; EC 2.4.1.21). Soluble starch
15 synthases catalyze a glycosylation reaction in which glucose residues of the substrate ADP-glucose are transferred to alpha-1,4-linked glucan chains with the formation of an alpha-1,4-linkage (ADP-glucose + {(1,4)-alpha-D-glucosyl}(N) ⇌ ADP + {(1,4)-alpha-D-glucosyl}(N + 1)).

20 SSIII proteins are described, for example, in Marshall et al. (The Plant Cell 8; (1996); 1121-1135), Li et al. (2000, Plant Physiology 123, 613-624), Abel et al. (The Plant Journal 10(6); (1996); 981-991) and in WO 0066745. The structure of SSIII proteins frequently exhibits a sequence of domains. SSIII proteins have a signal peptide at the N terminus for transport of the
25 proteins into plastids. There then follow, in the direction of the C terminus, an N-terminal region, an SSIII-specific region and a catalytic domain (Li et al., 2000, Plant Physiology 123, 613-624). Other analyses based on primary sequence comparisons (<http://hits.isb-sib.ch/cgi-bin/PFSCAN>) have shown that the potato SSIII protein possesses a carbohydrate-binding
30 domain (CBM). This domain (Pfam Motiv cbm 25) comprises amino acids 377 to 437 of the potato SSIII protein sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO 2. Therefore, in connection with the present invention, an SSIII protein is intended to be understood as meaning starch synthases which exhibit an
35 identity of at least 50%, preferably of at least 60%, particularly preferably of at least 70%, more preferably of at least 80% and in particular of at least 90%, with the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO 3.

The term homology or identity is intended to mean the number of amino acids which are congruent (identity) with those of other proteins, expressed as a percentage. Preference is given to using computer programs to determine the identity by comparing SEQ ID NO 3 with other proteins. If sequences which are being compared with each other are of different lengths, the identity is then to be ascertained by the number of amino acids which the shorter sequence has in common with the longer sequence determining the percentage identity. The identity can, as a standard, be ascertained using computer programs such as ClustalW (Thompson et al.,
5 Nucleic Acids Research 22 (1994), 4673-4680) which are known and available to the public. ClustalW is made publicly available by Julie Thompson (Thomson@EMBL-Heidelberg.DE) and Toby Gibson (Gibson@EMBL-Heidelberg.DE), European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Meyerhofstrasse 1, D 69117 Heidelberg, Germany. ClustalW can also be
10 downloaded from various internet sites, inter alia from the IGBMC (Institut de Génétique et de Biologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire, B.P. 163, 67404 Illkirch Cedex, France; ftp://ftp-igbmc.u-strasbg.fr/pub/) and from EBI (ftp://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/software/) as well as all the mirrored EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton,
15 Cambridge CB10 1SD, UK) internet sites.

When version 1.8 of the ClustalW computer program is being used in order to determine the identity between, for example, the reference protein of the present application and other proteins, the following parameters are to be set: KTUPLE=1, TOPOIAG=5, WINDOW=5, PAIRGAP=3, GAPOpen=10,
25 GAPEXTEND=0.05, GAPDIST=8, MAXDIV=40, MATRIX=GONNET, ENDGAPS(OFF), NOPGAP, NOHGAP.

One option for finding similar sequences is to carry out sequence database searches. In the searches, one or more sequences are predetermined to be what is termed the query. Statistical computer programs are then used
30 to compare this query sequence with sequences which are contained in the chosen databases. Such database searches (blast searches) are known to the skilled person and can be carried out using the databases provided by different suppliers. If such a database search is carried out using the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information,
35 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) database, the standard settings which are predetermined for the given comparison query should then be used. In the case of protein sequence comparisons (blastp), these settings are as follows: limit entrez = not activated; filter = low complexity activated; expect

value = 10; word size = 3; matrix = BLOSUM62; gap costs: existence = 11, extension = 1. Such a search also results in the percentage identity between the query sequence and the similar sequences which are found in the databases being presented in addition to other parameters.

- 5 In connection with the present invention, therefore, an SSIII protein is intended to be understood as meaning starch synthases which, when at least one of the above-described methods for determining identity is used, exhibit an identity of at least 50%, preferably of at least 60%, particularly preferably of at least 70%, more preferably of at least 80%, and in
10 particular of at least 90%, with the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO 3, with the identity having been determined by means of at least one of the above-described methods.

- 15 Within the context of the present invention, the term "branching enzyme" or "BE protein" (α -1,4-glucan: α -1,4-glucan 6-glycosyl transferase, E.C. 2.4.1.18) is understood as meaning a protein which catalyzes a transglycosylation reaction in which α -1,4 linkages in an α -1,4-glucan donor are hydrolyzed and the α -1,4-glucan chains which are released in this connection are transferred to an α -1,4-glucan acceptor chain and, in
20 conjunction with this, transformed into α -1,6 linkages.

In connection with the present invention, the term "BEI protein" is intended to be understood as meaning an isoform I branching enzyme (BE); the BEI protein is preferably derived from potato plants.

- 25 In this connection, the designation of the isoforms follows the nomenclature proposed by Smith-White and Preiss (Smith-White and Preiss, Plant Mol Biol. Rep. 12, (1994), 67-71, Larsson et al., Plant Mol Biol. 37, (1998), 505-511). This nomenclature is based on all enzymes which exhibit a higher homology (identity) at the amino acid level with the corn BEI protein
30 (GenBank Acc. No. D11081; Baba et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 181(1), (1991), 87-94; Kim et al. Gene 216, (1998), 233-243) than with the corn BEII protein (GenBank Acc. No. AF072725, U65948) being designated isoform I branching enzymes or BEI proteins for short.

- 35 In connection with the present invention, the term "BEII protein" is intended to be understood as meaning an isoform II branching enzyme (BE); this enzyme is preferably derived from potato plants. In connection with the present invention, all enzymes which exhibit a higher homology (identity) at

the amino acid level with the corn BEII protein (GenBank Acc. No. AF072725, U65948) than with the corn BEI protein (GenBank Acc. No. D 11081, AF 072724) should be designated isoform II branching enzymes or BEII proteins for short.

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"Proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14" are involved in starch biosynthesis in plants. Amino acid sequences which encode these proteins exhibit an homology with amino acids which encode branching enzyme-like proteins
10 derived from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (EMBL acc No.: BAB02827). It has been found, surprisingly, that plants which exhibit a reduced activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 and exhibit a reduced activity of an SSIII protein, of a BEI protein and of a BEII protein synthesize a starch which has a higher
15 phosphate content, an altered amylopectin side-chain distribution and a higher amylose content as compared with starch which is isolated from potato plants which exhibit a reduced activity of an SSIII protein, of a BEI protein and of a BEII protein. Beside the side-chain distribution, the enzyme brings about a decrease in the side chains having a degree of polymerization DP of less than 11 and a DP of from 11 to 18 and an
20 increase in the proportion of side chains having a degree of polymerization DP of from 62 to 123 and a DP of greater than 123 as compared with starch which is isolated from potato plants which exhibit a reduced activity of an SSIII protein, of a BEI protein and of a BEII protein. It can be
25 concluded from this that proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 are involved in the synthesis of side chains of the starch amylopectin.

The reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins which occur(s)
30 endogenously in the plant or plant cells and of one or more BEI proteins which occur(s) endogenously in the plants or plant cells and of one or more BEII proteins which occur(s) endogenously in the plant or plant cells and of one or more proteins which occur(s) endogenously in the plant or plant cells and exhibit(s) the amino acid sequence specified under
35 SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 can be effected by introducing one or more foreign nucleic acid molecules into the plant.

In a further embodiment, the plant cells according to the invention and the plants according to the invention are characterised in that a sense and/or antisense strand of the foreign nucleic acid molecule(s) encode(s) at least a part of a protein having the activity of an SSIII protein and/or BEI protein
5 and/or BEII protein and/or the activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14.

In a further embodiment, the invention relates to plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention wherein the foreign nucleic acid molecule encoding a BEI protein is chosen from the group consisting of
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- a) Nucleic acid molecules, which encode a protein with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 5;
- b) Nucleic acid molecules, which code a protein, the sequence of which
15 has an identity of at least 60%, in particular of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 5;
- c) Nucleic acid molecules, which comprise the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 4 or a complimentary sequence thereof;
20
- d) Nucleic acid molecules, which have an identity of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with nucleic acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 4;
- 25 e) Nucleic acid molecules, which hybridise with at least with one strand of the nucleic acid molecules described under a) or c) under stringent conditions;
- f) Nucleic acid molecules, the nucleotide sequence of which deviates from the sequence of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a) or c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code; and
30
- g) Nucleic acid molecules, which represent fragments, allelic variants and/or derivatives of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a), b), c), d), e) or f).

35 In a further embodiment, the invention relates to plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention wherein the foreign nucleic

acid molecule encoding a BEII protein is chosen from the group consisting of

- a) Nucleic acid molecules, which encode a protein with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 7;
- 5 b) Nucleic acid molecules, which code a protein, the sequence of which has an identity of at least 60%, in particular of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 7;
- 10 c) Nucleic acid molecules, which comprise the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 6 or a complimentary sequence thereof;
- d) Nucleic acid molecules, which have an identity of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with nucleic acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 6;
- 15 e) Nucleic acid molecules, which hybridise with at least with one strand of the nucleic acid molecules described under a) or c) under stringent conditions;
- f) Nucleic acid molecules, the nucleotide sequence of which deviates from the sequence of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a) or c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code; and
- 20 j) Nucleic acid molecules, which represent fragments, allelic variants and/or derivatives of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a), b), c), d), e) or f).

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In a further embodiment, the invention relates to plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention wherein the foreign nucleic acid molecule encoding a SSIII protein is chosen from the group consisting of

- 30 a) Nucleic acid molecules, which encode a protein with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 2;
- b) Nucleic acid molecules, which code a protein, the sequence of which has an identity of at least 60%, in particular of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 2;

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- c) Nucleic acid molecules, which comprise the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 1 or a complimentary sequence thereof;
- d) Nucleic acid molecules, which have an identity of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with nucleic acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 1
- e) Nucleic acid molecules, which hybridise with at least with one strand of the nucleic acid molecules described under a) or c) under stringent conditions;
- 10 f) Nucleic acid molecules, the nucleotide sequence of which deviates from the sequence of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a) or c) due to the degeneration of the genetic code; and
- j) Nucleic acid molecules, which represent fragments, allelic variants and/or derivatives of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a), 15 b), c), d), e) or f).

In a further embodiment, the invention relates to plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention wherein the foreign nucleic acid molecule leading to a reduction in the activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or 20 SEQ ID NO 14 is chosen from the group consisting of

- a) Nucleic acid molecules, which code a protein, the sequence of which has an identity of at least 60%, in particular of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or 14;
- 25 b) Nucleic acid molecules, which comprise the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or 13 or a complimentary sequence thereof;
- 30 c) Nucleic acid molecules, which have an identity of at least 70%, preferably of at least 80% and particularly preferably of at least 90% and especially preferably of at least 95% with nucleic acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or 13;
- 35 d) Nucleic acid molecules, which hybridise with at least with one strand of the nucleic acid molecules as specified in SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13 under stringent conditions;

- e) Nucleic acid molecules, the nucleotide sequence of which deviates from the sequence of the nucleic acid molecules as specified in SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13 due to the degeneration of the genetic code; and
- 5 f) Nucleic acid molecules, which represent fragments, allelic variants and/or derivatives of the nucleic acid molecules identified under a), b), c), d), e) or f).

10 In connection with the present invention, the term "foreign nucleic acid molecule" or "foreign nucleic acid molecules" is understood as meaning a molecule which is such that it either does not occur naturally in corresponding plants or plant cells or that it does not occur naturally in the plants in the specific spatial arrangement or that it is located at a site in the genome of the plants at which it does not naturally occur. Preference is
15 given to the foreign nucleic acid molecule being a recombinant molecule which is composed of different elements whose combination or specific spatial arrangement does not occur naturally in plant cells.

20 The foreign nucleic acid molecule(s) which is/are used for the genetic modification can be one assembled nucleic acid molecule or several separate nucleic acid molecules, in particular what are termed single, double, triple or quadruple constructs. Thus, the foreign nucleic acid molecule can, for example, be what is termed a "quadruple construct", which is understood as being a single vector for plant transformation which
25 contains the genetic information for inhibiting the expression of one or more endogenous SSIII proteins and for inhibiting the expression of one or more BEI proteins and for inhibiting the expression of one or more BEII proteins and for inhibiting the expression of one or more proteins which exhibit(s) the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14
30 or its presence leads to a reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins, BEI proteins or BEII proteins and of proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14.

35 In another embodiment of the invention, several different foreign nucleic acid molecules, rather than a quadruple construct, are introduced into the genome of the plant, with one of these foreign nucleic acid molecules being, for example, a DNA molecule which constitutes, for example, a cosuppression construct which reduces the expression of one or more

endogenous SSIII proteins and another foreign nucleic acid molecule being a DNA molecule which, for example, encodes an antisense RNA which reduces the expression of one or more endogenous BEI and/or BEII proteins. However, the use of any combination of antisense, 5 cosuppression, ribozyme and double-stranded RNA constructs or in-vivo mutagenesis which leads to simultaneous reduction in the expression of one or more SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins and proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 is also in principle suitable when constructing foreign 10 nucleic acid molecules.

In this connection, the foreign nucleic acid molecules can either be introduced into the genome of the plant cell simultaneously ("cotransformation") or else one after the other, i.e. in a chronologically consecutive manner ("supertransformation"). 15

The foreign nucleic acid molecules can also be introduced into different individual plants of a species. In this connection, it is possible to generate plants in which the activity of one target protein, or two or three target proteins, is reduced. Subsequent crossing can then be used to generate 20 plants in which the activity of all four target proteins is reduced.

It is furthermore possible to make use of a mutant, instead of a wild-type plant cell or wild-type plant, for introducing a foreign nucleic acid molecule or for generating the plant cells or plants according to the invention, with 25 the mutant being characterized by already exhibiting a reduced activity in the case of one or more target proteins. The mutants can either be spontaneously arising mutants or else mutants which have been generated by the selective use of mutagens.

30 Various methods which are known to the skilled person, for example those which lead to an inhibition of the expression of endogenous genes which encode an SSIII protein, BEI protein or BEII protein and/or a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, can be used to produce plants which synthesize a starch 35 according to the invention. These methods include, for example, the expression of an appropriate antisense RNA or of a double-stranded RNA construct, the provision of molecules or vectors which mediate a cosuppression effect, the expression of an appropriately constructed

ribozyme which specifically cleaves transcripts which encode an SSIII protein, BEI protein, BEII protein or a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, or else what is termed "in-vivo mutagenesis". Furthermore, the simultaneous expression of sense and antisense RNA molecules of the particular target gene to be repressed can also be used to reduce the activity of SSIII proteins and/or the BEI proteins and/or the BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 in the plants. These methods are familiar to the skilled person.

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In addition to this, it is known that, *in planta*, the formation of double-stranded promoter sequence RNA molecules can lead *in trans* to methylation and transcriptional inactivation of homologous copies of this promoter (Mette et al., EMBO J. 19, (2000), 5194-5201).

15 All these methods are based on introducing a foreign nucleic acid molecule, or several foreign nucleic acid molecules, into the plant cell genome.

In order to use antisense or cosuppression technology to inhibit gene expression, it is possible, for example, to use a DNA molecule which comprises the entire sequence encoding an SSIII protein and/or BEI protein or BEII protein and/or a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, including any flanking sequences which may possibly be present, or else DNA molecules which only comprise parts of the coding sequence, with these parts having to be long enough to bring about an antisense effect or cosuppression effect in the cells. In general, sequences having a minimum length of 23 bp, preferably a length of 100-500 bp, in particular sequences having a length of more than 500 bp, are suitable for effecting efficient antisense or cosuppression inhibition.

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The use of DNA sequences which have a high degree of homology with the sequences which occur endogenously in the plant cell and which encode SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 is also suitable for antisense or cosuppression approaches. The minimum identity should be greater than approx. 65%. The use of sequences having

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homologies of at least 90%, in particular of between 95% and 100%, is to be preferred.

5 It is furthermore possible to conceive of using introns, i.e. noncoding regions of genes which encode SSIII proteins, BEI proteins, BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 for the purpose of achieving an antisense effect or a cosuppression effect.

10 The use of intron sequences for inhibiting the expression of genes which encode starch biosynthesis proteins has been described in the international patent applications WO 97/04112, WO 97/04113, WO 98/37213 and WO 98/37214.

15 The skilled person knows how to achieve an antisense effect and a cosuppression effect. The method of cosuppression inhibiting has been described, for example, in Jorgensen (Trends Biotechnol. 8 (1990), 340-344), Niebel et al. (Curr. Top Microbiol. Immunol. 197 (1995), 91-103), Flavell et al., (Curr. Top. Microbiol Immunol. 197 (1995), 43-46), Palaqui and Vaucheret (Plant. Mol. Biol. 29 (1995), 149-159), Vaucheret et al., (Mol. Gen. Genet. 248 (1995), 311-317), and de Borne et al. (Mol. Gen. 20 Genet. 243 (1994), 613-621).

Expressing ribozymes for the purpose of reducing the activity of particular enzymes in cells is also known to the skilled person and is described, for example, in EP-B1 0321201. Feyter et al. (Mol. Gen. Genet. 250, (1996), 25 329-338) have, for example, described expressing ribozymes in plant cells.

30 Furthermore, a reduction in the activity of SSIII proteins and/or the BEI proteins and/or the BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 in plants or plant cells can also be achieved by means of in-vivo mutagenesis, in which a hybrid RNA-DNA oligonucleotide ("chimeroplast") is introduced into the cells by means of transformation of cells (Kipp, P.B. et al., Poster Session at the "5th International Congress of plant molecular biology, 21-27 September 1997, Singapore; R.A. Dixon and C.J. Arntzen, meeting report relating to "Metabolic Engineering in Transgenic Plants", Keystone 35 Symposia, Copper Mountain, CO, USA, TIBTECH 15, (1997), 441-447; international patent application WO 9515972; Kren et al., Hepatology 25,

(1997), 1462-1468; Cole-Strauss et al., Science 273, (1996), 1386-1389; and Beetham et al., 1999, PNAS 96, 8774-8778).

While a part of the DNA component of the RNA-DNA oligonucleotide is homologous with a nucleic acid sequence which encodes an endogenous
5 SSIII protein, BEI protein or BEII protein and/or a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, it possesses a mutation, as compared with the nucleic acid sequence encoding endogenous SSIII proteins, BEI proteins or BEII proteins and/or
10 proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, or contains a heterologous region which is surrounded by the homologous regions.

The mutation or heterologous region which is contained in the DNA component of the RNA-DNA oligonucleotide can be transferred into the genome of a plant cell by the base pairing of the homologous regions of the
15 RNA-DNA oligonucleotide and of the endogenous nucleic acid molecule, followed by homologous recombination. This leads to a reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins, BEI proteins or BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under
20 SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14.

20 Furthermore, the reduction in the activity of an SSIII protein and/or of the BEI protein or the BEII protein and/or in the activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or
25 SEQ ID NO 14 in the plants can also be brought about by simultaneously expressing sense and antisense RNA molecules of the particular target gene to be repressed.

This can be achieved, for example, by using chimeric constructs which contain inverted repeats of the particular target gene or parts of the target gene (RNAi technology). In this case, the chimeric constructs encode
30 sense and antisense RNA molecules of the particular target gene. *In planta*, sense and antisense RNA are synthesized simultaneously as one RNA molecule, with sense and antisense RNA being separated from each other by a spacer and being able to form a double-stranded RNA molecule. It has been shown that introducing inverted repeat DNA constructs into the
35 plant genome is a very efficient method for repressing the genes which correspond to the inverted repeat DNA constructs (Waterhouse et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 95, (1998), 13959-13964; Wang and Waterhouse, Plant Mol. Biol. 43, (2000), 67-82; Singh et al., Biochemical Society

Transactions vol. 28 part 6 (2000); 925-927; Liu et al., Biochemical Society Transactions vol.28 part 6 (2000), 927-929); Smith et al., (Nature 407, (2000), 319-320; International patent application WO 99/53050 A1). Sense and antisense sequences of the target gene or the target genes can also
5 be expressed separately from each other using the same or different promoters (Nap. J-P et al., 6th International Congress of Plant Molecular Biology, Quebec, 18-24 June, 2000; Poster S7-S27, lecture session S7).

10 It is consequently also possible to reduce the activity of an SSIII protein and/or BEI protein and/or BEII protein and/or reduce the activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 in the plants or plant cells by generating double-stranded RNA molecules which contain inverted repeats of nucleic acid sequences which encode SSIII proteins and/or BEI proteins and/or BEII proteins
15 and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14. Preference is given, for this purpose, to introducing inverted repeats of DNA molecules which encode SSIII proteins and/or BEI proteins or BEII proteins and/or proteins which exhibit the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 into the
20 plant genome, with the DNA molecules to be transcribed being under the control of a promoter which initiates transcription of said DNA molecules in plant cells.

25 In addition to this, it is known that forming double-stranded RNA molecules of promoter DNA molecules in plants can lead, *in trans*, to methylation and transcriptional inactivation, of homologous copies of these promoters, which will be designated target promoters in that which follows (Mette et al., EMBO J. 19, (2000), 5194-5201).

30 It is consequently possible, by inactivating the target promoter, to reduce the expression of a particular protein (e.g. SSIII protein, BEI protein, BEII protein and/or protein which inhibits the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14) which is naturally controlled by this target promoter.

35 That is, the DNA molecules which comprise the target promoters of the genes (target genes) to be repressed are, in this case, in contrast to the original function of promoters in plants, not being used as elements for controlling the expression of genes or cDNAs but, instead, are being themselves used as transcribable DNA molecules.

Preference is given to using constructs which contain inverted repeats of the target promoter DNA molecules, with the target promoter DNA molecules being under the control of a promoter which controls the genetic expression of said target promoter DNA molecules, for producing the
5 double-stranded target promoter RNA molecules *in planta*, where these molecules can be present as RNA hairpin molecules. These constructs are subsequently introduced into the plant genome. Expression of the inverted repeats of said target promoter DNA molecules leads *in planta* to the formation of double-stranded target promoter RNA molecules (Mette et al.,
10 EMBO J. 19, (2000), 5194-5201). The target promoter can thereby be inactivated.

The skilled person furthermore knows that he can achieve a reduction of activity of one or more SSIII proteins, BEI proteins or BEII proteins and/or
15 of one or more proteins which exhibit(s) the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 by expressing nonfunctional derivatives, in particular transdominant mutants, of these proteins and/or by expressing antagonists/inhibitors of these proteins.

Antagonists/inhibitors of these proteins include, for example, antibodies,
20 antibody fragments or molecules having similar binding properties. For example, a cytoplasmatic scFv antibody has been used to modulate the activity of the phytochrome A protein in recombinantly altered tobacco plants (Owen, Bio/Technology 10 (1992), 790-4; Review: Franken, E, Teuschel, U. and Hain, R., Current Opinion in Biotechnology 8, (1997),
25 411-416; Whitelam, Trends Plant Sci. 1 (1996), 268-272).

Examples of useful promoters for expressing the nucleic acids which reduce the activity of a target gene are the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S RNA promoter and the corn ubiquitin promoter for constitutive
30 expression, the B33 patatin gene promoter (Rocha-Sosa et al., EMBO J. 8 (1989), 23-29), the MCPI promoter of the potato metallopeptidase inhibitor gene (Hungarian patent application HU9801674) and the potato GBSSI promoter (international patent application WO 92/11376) for tuber-specific expression in potatoes.

35 It is particularly advantageous to express the foreign nucleic acid molecule (the foreign nucleic acid molecules) in the plant organs which store starch. These organs are, in particular, potato plant tubers.

However, it is also possible to use promoters which are only activated at a

point in time which is determined by external influences (see, for example, WO 93/07279). Heat-shock protein promoters which allow simple induction are particularly of interest in this connection.

5 It is furthermore possible for a termination sequence, which is used for correctly terminating the transcription, to be present and for a poly-A tail, to which a function in transcript stabilization is attributed, to be added to the transcript. These elements are described in the literature (cf., for example, Gielen et al., EMBO J. 8 (1989), 23-29) and are exchangeable at will.

10

The present invention therefore also relates to a plant cell or a plant which is genetically modified, with the genetic modification leading to reduction of a protein having the activity of an SSIII protein and/or BEI protein and/or BEII protein and/or the activity of a protein which exhibits the amino acid
15 sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 as compared with those of corresponding wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants, and which contains at least one foreign nucleic acid molecule which is selected from the group consisting of

20 a) polynucleotides which encode at least one antisense RNA which leads to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous SSIII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEI protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one protein having the amino acid
25 sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14;

30 b) polynucleotides which lead, by way of a cosuppression effect, to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous SSIII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEI protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one protein having the amino acid
sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14;

35 c) polynucleotides which encode at least one ribozyme which specifically cleaves transcripts of at least one endogenous SSIII gene and/or of at least one BEI gene and/or of at least one BEII gene and/or of at least one gene having the nucleotide sequence

- specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13;
- 5 d) polynucleotides which are introduced by means of in-vivo mutagenesis and which lead to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous SSIII gene and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous BEI gene and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous BEII gene and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one gene having the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13, with the mutation or insertion leading to a reduction in the expression of one endogenous SSIII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEI protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one protein having the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14;
- 10
- 15 e) polynucleotides which encode at least one antisense RNA and at least one sense RNA, with said antisense RNA and said sense RNA being able to form a double-stranded RNA molecule which leads to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous SSIII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEI protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one endogenous BEII protein and/or to a reduction in the expression of at least one protein having the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14;
- 20
- 25 f) polynucleotides which contain transposons, with the integration of the transposon sequences leading to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous SSIII gene and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous BEI gene and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one endogenous BEII gene, and/or to a mutation or an insertion in at least one gene having the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13, with the mutation or insertion leading to a reduction in the expression of said gene or to the synthesis of inactive SSIII and/or of inactive BEI and/or of inactive BEII and/or of an inactive protein having the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14; and
- 30
- 35 g) T-DNA molecules which, by insertion in at least one endogenous

5 SSIII gene and/or by insertion in at least one endogenous BEI gene and/or by insertion in at least one endogenous BELL gene and/or by insertion in at least one gene having the nucleotide sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 11 or SEQ ID NO 13, lead to a reduction in the expression of said gene or to the synthesis of inactive SSIII and/or of inactive BEI and/or of inactive BELL and/or of an inactive protein having the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14.

10 In conjunction with the present invention, the term "SSIII gene" or "BEI gene" or "BELL gene" is to be understood to mean a nucleic acid molecule (cDNA, DNA), which encodes a SSIII protein or a BEI protein or BELL protein, respectively.

15 A large number of techniques are available for introducing DNA into a host plant cell. These techniques include transforming plant cells with T DNA using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* or *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* as the transforming agent, fusing protoplasts, injecting, electroporating DNA, using the biolistic approach to introduce the DNA, and other possibilities.

20 The use of agrobacterium-mediated transformation of plant cells has been intensively investigated and adequately described in EP 120516; Hoekema, In: The Binary Plant Vector System Offsetdrukkerij Kanters B.V. Alblasterdam (1985), Chapter V; Fraley et al., Crit. Rev. Plant Sci. 4, 1-46 and in An et al. EMBO J. 4, (1985), 277-287. For potato transformation, see, e.g., Rocha-Sosa et al., EMBO J. 8, (1989), 29-33).

30 Plant cells and plants which have been genetically modified by introducing a foreign nucleic acid molecule can be distinguished from wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants by, inter alia, the fact that they contain a foreign nucleic acid molecule which does not naturally occur in wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants or by the fact that such a molecule is integrated at a site in the genome of the plant cell according to the invention or in the genome of the plant according to the invention at which it does not occur in wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants, that is in another genomic environment.

35 Furthermore, such plant cells according to the invention and plants according to the invention can be distinguished from wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants by the fact that they contain at least one copy of the foreign

nucleic acid molecule stably integrated in their genome, where appropriate in addition to copies of such a molecule which occur naturally in the wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants. If the foreign nucleic acid molecule(s) which has/have been introduced into the plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention is/are (a) copy(s) which is/are in addition to molecules which already occur naturally in the wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants, the plant cells according to the invention or the plants according to the invention can be distinguished from wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants by the fact, in particular, that this/these additional copy(s) is/are located at sites in the genome at which it/they do not occur in wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants. This can be verified by means of a Southern blot analysis, for example.

In addition, the plant cells according to the invention and the plants according to the invention can preferably be distinguished from wild-type plant cells or wild-type plants by at least one of the following features: if the foreign nucleic acid molecule which has been introduced is heterologous in relation to the plant cell or plant, the plant cells according to the invention or plants according to the invention then exhibit transcripts of the nucleic acid molecules which have been introduced. These transcripts can be detected, for example, by means of Northern blot analysis or by means of RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction). Plant cells according to the invention and plants according to the invention which are expressing an antisense transcript and/or an RNAi transcript can be detected, for example, using specific nucleic acid probes which are complementary to the RNA (which naturally occurs in the plant cell) which encodes the protein.

In connection with the present invention, the term "potato plant" or "potato" means plant species of the genus *Solanum*, particularly tuber-producing species of the genus *Solanum* and, in particular, *Solanum tuberosum*.

The present invention furthermore relates to a method for producing a genetically modified plant according to the invention in which

- a) a plant cell is genetically modified, with the genetic modification leading to a reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or

- more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and exhibit at least 80% identity with the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14, as compared with corresponding wild-type plant cells which have not been genetically modified;
- 5 b) a plant is regenerated from plant cells derived from step a); and
c) where appropriate, further plants are generated using the plants in accordance with step b).

10 Preferred embodiments of the invention are methods for producing a genetically plant according to the invention wherein said genetically modified plant produces a starch according to the invention.

The genetic modification which is introduced into the plant cell in accordance with step a) can in principle be any type of modification which
15 leads to a reduction in the activity of one or more SSIII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or more BEI proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or more BEII proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and of one or more proteins which occur endogenously in the plant and which exhibit at least 80% identity with the
20 under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14.

Methods known to the skilled person (e.g. described in "Plant Cell Culture Protocols", 1999, ed. by R.D. Hall, Humana Press, ISBN 0-89603-549-2) can be used to regenerate the plants in accordance with step (b).

25 The generation of further plants in accordance with step (c) of the method according to the invention can be effected, for example, by means of vegetative propagation (for example by way of cuttings or tubers or by way of callus culture and regeneration of whole plants) or by means of sexual propagation. In this connection, the sexual propagation preferably takes
30 place in a controlled manner, i.e. selected plants possessing particular properties are crossed with each other and propagated. In this connection, the selection preferably takes place such that the further plants which are obtained in accordance with step c) exhibit the genetic modification which was introduced in step a).

35

Description of the sequences

SEQ ID 1: Nucleic acid sequence for a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) SSIII

starch synthase, with the sequences which encode the corresponding SSIII protein being indicated.

SEQ ID 2: Amino acid sequence of a potato SSIII protein.

5

SEQ ID 3: Amino acid sequence of the Pfam cbm25 binding domain of a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) SSIII protein.

SEQ ID 4: Nucleic acid sequence encoding a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) BEI branching enzyme.

10

SEQ ID 5: Amino acid sequence of a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) BEI branching enzyme.

SEQ ID 6: Nucleic acid sequence encoding a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) BEII branching enzyme.

15

SEQ ID 7: Amino acid sequence of a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) BEII branching enzyme.

20

SEQ ID 8: PCR-amplified nucleic acid sequence encoding a potato (*solanum tuberosum*) BEII branching enzyme.

SEQ ID NO 9: Nucleic acid sequence containing the region encoding the 3' region of a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch biosynthesis. This sequence is inserted in plasmid AN 46-196.

25

SEQ ID NO 10: Nucleic acid sequence containing the region encoding the 5' region of a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch biosynthesis. This sequence is inserted in plasmid AN 47-196.

30

SEQ ID NO 11: Nucleic acid sequence containing the complete region encoding a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch biosynthesis. This sequence is inserted in plasmid AN 49 and was deposited on 15 September 2003, under the number DSM 15926, in the Deutschen Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen [German collection of microorganisms and cell cultures] GmbH, Mascheroder Weg 1b, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany, in accordance with the Budapest

35

Treaty.

SEQ ID NO 12: Amino acid sequence encoding a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch biosynthesis. This sequence can be deduced from the nucleic acid sequence inserted in plasmid AN 49 or from
5 the nucleic acid sequence which is described under SEQ ID NO 11.

SEQ ID NO 13: Nucleic acid sequence containing the complete region encoding a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch
10 biosynthesis. This sequence was obtained by joining the nucleic acid sequences described under SEQ ID NO 9 and SEQ ID NO 10. This nucleic acid sequence is an allelic variant of the nucleic acid sequence which is described under SEQ ID NO 11 and which encodes a protein which is involved in starch biosynthesis.

15 SEQ ID NO 14: Amino acid sequence encoding a *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) protein involved in starch biosynthesis. This sequence can be deduced from the nucleic acid sequence which is described under SEQ ID NO 13 and is the amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of the
20 amino acid sequence which is described under SEQ ID NO 12 and which encodes a protein which is involved in starch biosynthesis.

Description of the figures

25 Fig. 1: Calibration curve and table containing appurtenant dextran standards

General methods

30 Starch analysis

1. Determining the amylose content or the amylose/amylopectin ratio

35 Starch was isolated from potato plants using standard methods and the amylose content, and the amylose to amylopectin ratio, were determined using the method described by Hovenkamp-Hermelink et al. (Potato Research 31, (1988), 241-246). The amylose content is calculated by applying the formula cited on page 243 of this article.

2. Determining the phosphate content

Positions C2, C3 and C6 of the glucose units in the starch can be phosphorylated. In order to determine the C6-P content of the starch, 50 mg of starch are hydrolyzed, at 95°C for 4 h, in 500 µl of 0.7 M HCl. The assays are then centrifuged at 15500 × g for 10 min and the supernatants are taken off. 7 µl from the supernatants are mixed with 193 µl of imidazole buffer (100 mM imidazole, pH 7.4; 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM EDTA and 0.4 mM NAD). The measurement was carried out at 340 nm in a photometer. After a basal absorption had been established, the enzyme reaction was started by adding 2 units of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (from *Leuconostoc mesenteroides*, Boehringer Mannheim). The change in absorption is directly proportional to the concentration of the G-6-P content in the starch.

The total phosphate content was determined by the Ames method (Methods in Enzymology VIII, (1966), 115-118).

30 µl of ethanolic magnesium nitrate solution are added to approx. 50 mg of starch and the mixture is incinerated at 500°C for 3 hours in a muffle furnace. 300 µl of 0.5 M hydrochloric acid are added to the residue and the whole is incubated at 60°C for 30 min. Subsequently, an aliquot is made up to 300 µl 0.5 M hydrochloric acid and the whole is added to a mixture of 100 µl of 10% ascorbic acid and 600 µl of 0.42% ammonium molybdate in 2 M sulfuric acid and incubated at 45°C for 20 min.

This is followed by a photometric determination at 820 nm using a phosphate calibration series as standard.

3. Determining the gel strength (texture analyzer)

1.5 g of starch (TS) are pasted, in 25 ml of aqueous suspension, in an RVA appliance (for the conditions, see general methods, item 4: RVA analytical method 1) and then stored at room temperature for 24 h in a closed vessel. The samples are fixed under the probe (cylindrical piston with planar surface) of a TA-XT2 texture analyzer from Stable Micro Systems (Surrey, UK), and the gel strength is determined using the following parameters:

- test rate 0.5 mm/s
- depth of penetration 7 mm

- 39 -

-	contact area	113 mm ²
-	pressure	2 g

4. Using a Rapid Visco Analyzer (RVA) to determine the viscosity
5 properties

Standard method

2 g of starch (TS) are taken out in 25 ml of H₂O (deionized water,
conductivity of at least 15 megaohms) and used for analysis in a rapid
10 visco analyzer (Newport Scientific Pty Ltd., Investmet Support Group,
Warriewood NSW 2102, Australia). The appliance is operated in accordance
with the manufacturer's instructions. In this connection, the viscosity values
are given in RVUs in accordance with the manufacturer's operating
instructions, which, in this respect, are hereby incorporated into the
15 description by reference. In order to determine the viscosity of the aqueous
solution of the starch, the starch suspension is first of all heated at 50°C for
1 minute (step 1), after which it is heated from 50°C to 95°C at a rate of
12°C per minute (step 2). The temperature is then maintained at 95°C for
2.5 min (step 3). After that, the solution is cooled down from 95°C to 50°C
20 at a rate of 12°C per minute (step 4). The viscosity is determined during the
entire period.

Only 1.5 g of starch (TS) were taken up in 25 ml of H₂O (deionized water,
conductivity of at least 15 megaohms) when, in particular, the limits of the
25 RVA measurement range were insufficient when an initial weight of 2.0 g
(TS) of starch were taken up in 25 ml of H₂O (deionized water, conductivity
of at least 15 megaohms).

RVA analytical method 1:

30 In order to determine the viscosity of a 6% aqueous solution of the starch,
the starch suspension is first of all stirred at 960 rpm for 10 seconds after
which it is heated at 50°C for initially 1 minute and at a stirring speed of
160 rpm (step 1). After that, the temperature is raised from 50°C to 95°C at
a heating rate of 12°C per minute (step 2). The temperature is kept at 95°C
35 for 2.5 minutes (step 3) and, after that, lowered from 95°C to 50°C at a rate
of 12°C per minute (step 4). The last step (step 5) maintains the
temperature of 50°C for 2 minutes.

After the program has come to an end, the stirrer is removed and the beaker is covered. The pasted starch is now available for the texture analysis after 24 h.

5 RVA analytical method 2:

In order to determine the viscosity of a 6% aqueous solution of the starch containing 2.7 M calcium chloride, the starch suspension is first of all stirred at 960 rpm and at 30°C for 10 seconds (step 1). After that, the temperature is raised, at a stirring speed of 160 rpm, from 30°C to 95°C at a heating rate of 12°C per minute (step 2). The temperature is kept at 95°C for 10 2 minutes and 30 seconds (step 3) and, after that, lowered from 95°C to 50°C at a rate of 12°C per minute (step 4). The last step (step 5) maintains the temperature of 50°C for 2 minutes.

After the program has come to an end, the stirrer is removed and the 15 beaker is covered. The pasted starch is now available for the texture analysis after 24 h.

In some cases, an altered temperature profile was also used in order to clearly depict an increase in the pasting temperature.

20 The following temperature profile was employed:

RVA analytical method 3:

In order to determine the viscosity of a 6% aqueous solution of the starch, the starch suspension is first of all stirred at 960 rpm for 10 seconds after 25 which it is heated at 50°C for initially 2 minutes and at a stirring speed of 160 rpm (step 1). After that, the temperature is raised from 50°C to 95°C at a heating rate of 1.5°C per minute (step 2). The temperature is kept at 95°C for 15 minutes (step 3) and, after that, lowered from 95°C to 50°C at a rate of 1.5°C per minute (step 4). The last step (step 5) maintains the 30 temperature of 50°C for 30 minutes.

After the program has come to an end, the stirrer is removed and the beaker is covered. The pasted starch is now available for the texture analysis after 24 h.

35 In the profile of the RVA analysis, there are characteristic values which are depicted for comparing different measurements and substances. In connection with the present invention, the following terms are to be understood as follows:

Maximum viscosity (RVA Max)

The maximum viscosity is understood as being the highest viscosity value, as measured in RVUs, which is reached in step 2 or 3 of the temperature profile.

5 Minimum viscosity (RVA Min)

The minimum viscosity is understood as being the lowest viscosity value, as measured in RVUs, which occurs in the temperature profile after the maximum viscosity. This normally occurs in step 3 of the temperature profile.

10 Final viscosity (RVA Fin)

The final viscosity is understood as being the viscosity value, as measured in RVUs, which occurs at the end of the measurement.

Setback (RVA Set)

15 What is termed the "setback" is calculated by subtracting the final viscosity value from that of the minimum which occurs in the curve after the maximum viscosity has been reached.

Pasting temperature

20 The pasting temperature is understood as being the temperature in the RVA profile at which the viscosity increases strongly within a short period for the first time.

Peak Time (RVA T)

The peak time is understood as being the time in the temperature profile at which the viscosity has reached the maximum value.

25 5. Process for extracting the starch from potato tubers

All the tubers belonging to a line (from 4 to 5 kg) are processed jointly in a commercially available juice extractor (Multipress automatic MP80, Braun). The starch-containing juice is collected in a 10 L bucket (height of the
30 bucket/diameter of the bucket ratio = approx. 1.1) into which 200 ml of tap water containing a spoon tip (approx. 3-4 g) of sodium disulfite have been initially introduced. The bucket is then completely filled with tap water. After the starch has settled for a period of 2 hours, the supernatant is decanted off and the starch is resuspended in 10 l of tap water and passed through a
35 sieve having a mesh width of 125 μm . After 2 hours (the starch has once again settled on the bottom of the bucket) the aqueous supernatant is decanted once again. This washing process is repeated a further 3 times such that the starch is in all resuspended five times in fresh tap water.

These starches are then dried at 37°C down to a water content of 12-17% and homogenized in a mortar. The starches are now available for analyses.

6. Using gel permeation chromatography to analyze the side-chain
5 distribution of the amylopectin

In order to separate amylose and amylopectin, 100 mg of starch are dissolved in 6 ml of 90% (v/v) DMSO while stirring continuously. After 3 volumes of ethanol have been added, the precipitate is separated off by
10 centrifuging for 10 minutes at 1 800 g and at room temperature. The pellet is then washed with 30 ml of ethanol, dried and dissolved, at 60°C, in 10 ml of 1% (w/v) NaCl solution. After the solution has been cooled down to 30°C, approximately 50 mg of thymol are added slowly and this solution is incubated at 30°C for from 2 to 3 days. After that, the solution is centrifuged
15 for 30 min at 2 000 g and at room temperature. 3 volumes of ethanol are added to the supernatant and the amylopectin which precipitates out is separated off by centrifuging for 5 minutes at 2 000 × g and at room temperature. The pellet (amylopectin) is washed with 10 ml of 70% (v/v) ethanol, centrifuged for 10 min at 2 000 × g and at room temperature, and
20 dried with acetone.

10 mg of amylopectin are then stirred at 70°C for 10 minutes in 250 µl of 90% (v/v) DMSO. 375 µl of water are added to the solution at 80°C so as to achieve complete dissolution.

300 µl of a 16.6 mM sodium acetate solution, pH 3.5, and 2 µl of
25 isoamylase (0.24 u/µl, Megazyme, Sydney, Australia) are added to 200 µl of this solution and the whole is incubated at 37°C for 15 hours.

A 1:4 dilution of this aqueous isoamylase reaction mixture with DMSO containing 90 mM Na nitrate is then filtered using an 0.2 µm filter after which 24 µl of the filtrate is analyzed chromatographically. The separation
30 is carried out using two columns which are connected in series, i.e. first of all a Gram PSS3000 (Polymer Standards Service, together with appropriate precolumn), with this then being followed by a Gram PSS100. The detection was effected using a refraction index detector (RI 71, Shodex). The column was equilibrated with DMSO containing 90 mM sodium nitrate. It was eluted with DMSO containing 90 mM sodium nitrate
35 at a flow rate of 0.7 ml/min and over a period of 1 hour.

In order to correlate the elution volume with the molar mass and thus with the chain length of the side chains, the column which was used was

calibrated with dextran standards. The dextrans which were used, their pertinent molar masses, and the elution volumes, are given in fig. 1.

Version 6 of the Wingpc program from Polymer Standards Service GmbH, Mainz, Germany was used for the further evaluation of the chromatograms which were obtained.

The total area below the line of the GPC chromatogram was divided into individual sections which in each case represent side-chain groups of differing length. The sections which were chosen contained glucan chains having the following degrees of polymerization (DP = number of glucose monomers within a side chain): DP less than 11, DP11-18, DP19-24, DP25-30, DP31-36, DP37-42, DP43-48, DP49-55, DP56-61, DP62-123 and DP greater than 123). For the purpose of determining the molecular weights of the individual side chains, glucose was assumed to have a molecular weight of 162. The total area below the line in the GPC chromatogram was stipulated to be 100% and the proportion of the areas of the individual sections was calculated based on the proportion of the total area.

Examples

1. Preparing the expression vector ME5/6

pGSV71 is a derivative of the plasmid pGSV7, which is derived from the intermediary vector pGSV1. pGSV1 is a derivative of pGSC1700, whose construction was described by Cornelissen and Vanderwiele (Nucleic Acid Research 17, (1989), 19-25). pGSV1 was obtained from pGSC1700 by deleting the carbenicillin resistance gene and deleting the T-DNA sequences of the TL-DNA region of the plasmid pTiB6S3.

pGSV7 contains the origin of replication of the plasmid pBR322 (Bolivar et al., Gene 2, (1977), 95-113) and also the origin of replication of the *pseudomonas* plasmid pVS1 (Itoh et al., Plasmid 11, (1984), 206). pGSV7 also contains the selectable marker gene *aadA* from the *Klebsiella pneumoniae* transposon Tn1331, which mediates resistance to the antibiotics spectinomycin and streptomycin (Tolmasky, Plasmid 24 (3), (1990), 218-226; Tolmasky and Crosa, Plasmid 29(1), (1993), 31-40).

Plasmid pGSV71 was obtained by cloning a chimeric *bar* gene between the border regions of pGSV7. The chimeric *bar* gene contains the cauliflower mosaic virus promoter sequence for initiating transcription (Odell et al.,

Nature 313, (1985), 180), the *streptomyces hygrosopicus bar* gene (Thompson et al., Embo J. 6, (1987), 2519-2523) and the 3'-untranslated region of the nopaline synthase gene of the pTiT37 T-DNA for transcription termination and polyadenylation. The *bar* gene mediates tolerance to the
5 herbicide glufosinate ammonium.

At position 198-222, the T-DNA contains the right-hand border sequence of the TL-DNA from the plasmid pTiB6S3 (Gielen et al., EMBO J. 3, (1984), 835-846). A polylinker sequence is located between nucleotides 223-249. Nucleotides 250-1634 contain the P35S3 promoter region of the cauliflower
10 mosaic virus (Odell et al., see above). The coding sequence of the *streptomyces hygrosopicus* phosphinothricin resistance gene (*bar*) (Thompson et al., 1987, see above) is located between nucleotides 1635-2186. In this connection, the two terminal codons at the 5' end of the *bar* wild-type gene were replaced with the codons ATG and GAC. A polylinker
15 sequence is located between nucleotides 2187-2205. The 260 bp *TaqI* fragment of the untranslated 3' end of the nopaline synthase gene (3'nos) from the T-DNA of plasmid pTiT37 (Depicker et al., J. Mol. Appl. Genet. 1, (1982), 561-573) is located between nucleotides 2206 and 2465. Nucleotides 2466-2519 contain a polylinker sequence. The left-hand border
20 sequence of the pTiB6S3 TL-DNA (Gielen et al., EMBO J. 3, (1984), 835-846) is located between nucleotides 2520-2544.

The vector pGSV71 was then cut with the enzyme *PstI* and blunted. The B33 promoter and the *ocs* cassette were excised, as an *EcoRI-HindIII* fragment, from the vector pB33-Kan and blunted and inserted into the *PstI*-
25 cut and blunted vector pGSV71. The resulting vector served as the starting vector for constructing ME5/6: an oligonucleotide containing the cleavage sites *EcoRI*, *PacI*, *SpeI*, *SrfI*, *SpeI*, *NotI*, *PacI* and *EcoRI* was introduced, with the *PstI* cleavage site being duplicated, into the *PstI* cleavage site in vector ME4/6 which was located between the B33 promoter and the *ocs*
30 element. The resulting expression vector was designated ME5/6.

Description of the vector pSK-Pac:

pSK-Pac is a derivative of the pSK-Bluescript (Stratagene, USA) in which a flanking *PacI* cleavage site has been introduced at each end of the multiple
35 cloning site (MCS).

2. Producing transgenic potato plants in which the activities of a BEI protein, of an SSIII protein and of a BEII protein are reduced

In order to generate transgenic plants in which the activities of a BEI protein, of an SSIII protein and of a BEII protein are reduced, transgenic plants in which the activities of a BEI protein and of an SSIII protein were reduced were first of all generated. For this purpose, agrobacteria were used, as described in Rocha-Sosa et al. (EMBO J. 8, (1989), 23-29), to transfer the T-DNA of the plasmid pB33-alpha-BEI-alpha-SSIII-Kan into potato plants.

In order to construct the plasmid pB33-alpha-BEI-alpha-SSIII-Kan, the expression vector pBin33-Kan was first of all constructed. For this, the promoter of the *solanum tuberosum* patatin gene B33 (Rocha-Sosa et al., 1989, see above) was ligated, as a *DraI* fragment (nucleotides -1512 - +14), into the vector pUC19 (Genbank Acc. No. M77789), which had been cut with *SstI* and whose ends had been blunted using T4 DNA polymerase. This resulted in the plasmid pUC19-B33. The B33 promoter was excised from this plasmid using *EcoRI* and *SmaI* and ligated into the vector pBinAR, which had been cut correspondingly. This resulted in the plant expression vector pBin33-Kan. The plasmid pBinAR is a derivative of the vector plasmid pBin19 (Bevan, Nucl. Acid Research 12, (1984), 8711-8721) and was constructed by Höfgen and Willmitzer (Plant Sci. 66, (1990), 221-230). A *HindIII* fragment of 1631 bp in length, which contains a partial cDNA encoding the potato BEI enzyme (Kossmann et al., 1991, Mol. & Gen. Genetics 230(1-2):39-44), was then blunted and introduced into vector pBinB33, which had been previously cut with *SmaI*, in the antisense orientation in regard to the B33 promoter (promoter of the *solanum tuberosum* patatin gene B33; Rocha-Sosa et al., 1989). The resulting plasmid was cut with *BamHI*. A *BamHI* fragment of 1363 bp in length, containing a partial cDNA encoding the potato SSIII protein (Abel et al., 1996, loc. cit.), was introduced into the cleavage site, likewise in the antisense orientation with regard to the B33 promoter.

Following the transformation, it was possible to identify different lines of transgenic potato plants in whose tubers the activities of a BEI protein and of an SSIII protein were clearly reduced. The plants resulting from this transformation were designated by 038VL.

In order to detect the activity of soluble starch synthases by means of nondenaturing gel electrophoresis, tissue samples of potato tubers were disrupted in 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 2 mM DTT, 2.5 mM EDTA, 10%

- glycerol and 0.4 mM PMSF. The electrophoresis was carried out in a MiniProtéan II chamber (BioRAD). The monomer concentration of the gels, which were 1.5 mm thick, was 7.5% (w/v), while 25 mM Tris-glycine, pH 8.4, served as the gel buffer and running buffer. Equal quantities of protein extract were loaded on and fractionated for 2 h at 10 mA per gel. The activity gels were then incubated in 50 mM Tricine-NaOH, pH 8.5, 25 mM potassium acetate, 2 mM EDTA, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM ADP-glucose, 0.1% (w/v) amylopectin and 0.5 M sodium citrate. Glucans which were formed were stained with Lugol's solution.
- BEI activity was likewise detected using nondenaturing gel electrophoresis: in order to isolate proteins from plants, the sample material was triturated in liquid nitrogen, taken up in extraction buffer (50 mM Na citrate, pH 6.5; 1 mM EDTA, 4 mM DTT) and, after centrifugation (10 min, 14 000 g, 4°C), used directly for measuring the protein concentration as described by Bradford. From 5 to 20 µg, as required, of total protein extract were then treated with 4-fold loading buffer (20% glycerol, 125 mM Tris HCl, pH 6.8) and loaded onto a "BE activity gel". The composition of the running buffer (RB) was as follows: RB = 30.2 g of Tris base, pH 8.0, 144 g of glycine made up to 1 l with H₂O.
- After the gel run had come to an end, the gels were in each case incubated overnight at 37°C in 25 ml of "phosphorylase buffer" (25 ml of 1 M Na citrate, pH 7.0, 0.47 g of glucose-1-phosphate, 12.5 mg of AMP, 2.5 mg of rabbit phosphorylase a/b). The gels were stained with Lugol's solution.
- Further analyses showed that starches isolated from the lines 038VL008 and 038VL107, in which both the BEI protein and the SSIII protein were reduced, exhibited the highest phosphate content of all the independent transformants which were examined.
- Plants of these lines were then transformed with the plasmid pGSV71-alpha-BEII-basta as described in Rocha-Sosa et al. (EMBO J. 8, (1989), 23-29). Plasmid pGSV71-alpha-BEII-basta was constructed by using standard methods to screen a tuber-specific potato cDNA library with a DNA fragment which was amplified by means of RT-PCR (primers: 5'-gggggtgttgcttgacta and 5'-cccttctcctcctaacc; stratagene ProSTAR™ HF single-tube RT-PCR system) using tuber total RNA as template. This resulted in the isolation of a DNA fragment of about 1 250 bp in size (SEQ ID NO. 8), which was then subcloned, as an *EcoRV-SmaI* fragment, into the *EcoRV* cleavage site of the cloning vector pSK-Pac (see above)

and finally ligated, as a *PacI* fragment, into the expression vector ME5/6 in the antisense orientation with regard to the promoter. This gave rise to the plasmid pGSV71-alpha-BEII-basta (see fig. 6).

- 5 Tuber tissue samples were taken from the independent transformant plants which were obtained by transformation with plasmid pGSV71-alpha-BEII-basta, and which were designated 108CF and, respectively, 110CF, and the amylose content of the samples was determined (see methods). The starches of the independent lines whose tubers exhibited the highest
10 amylose content were used for further analysis of the starch properties. In order to demonstrate that, in addition to exhibiting reduced activity of a BEI protein and of an SSIII protein, these plants also exhibited reduced activity of a BEII protein, an analysis was also carried out using non-denaturing gel electrophoresis. The analysis was carried out using the same method as
15 that already described above for analyzing the reduced BEI activity except that the non-denaturing polyacrylamide gel contains 0.5% maltodextrin (Beba, 15% maltodextrin solution for neonates, Nestle) in addition to the above-described composition. Adding the dextrin made it possible to display the different activities of the BEI proteins and BEII proteins in a gel after incubating the gels in "phosphorylase buffer" (25 ml of 1 M Na citrate;
20 pH 7.0, 0.47 g of glucose-1-phosphate, 12.5 mg of AMP, 2.5 mg of rabbit phosphorylase a/b) at 37°C overnight and then staining with Lugol's solution.
- 25 3. Cloning a full-length sequence of a *solanum tuberosum* protein having the sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14

The gene sequence encoding a *solanum tuberosum* protein having the
30 sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 has not previously been described.

By making sequence comparisons using different branching enzymes, it was possible to identify a domain which was used to screen EST databases. The potato EST TC73137 (TIGR database;
35 http://www.tigr.org/tigr-scripts/tgi/tc_report.pl?tc=TC73137&species=potato) was identified in this connection.

The primers B1_Asp (GAT GGG TAC CAG CAC TTC TAC TTG GCA GAG G) and B2_Sal (TCA AGT CGA CCA CAA CCA GTC CAT TTC TGG) were

used to amplify a sequence, which corresponded to this EST sequence, from a tuber-specific *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) cDNA library. Attempts to use leaf-specific, sink or source tissue-specific cDNA libraries as templates for the PCR reaction did not give rise to any amplificate.

5 Primers which were complementary to the ends of the previously known sequence and vector sequences of the relevant cDNA libraries were prepared for the purpose of amplifying the entire sequence encoding the protein concerned, which sequence also comprised previously unknown sequences. None of the primer combinations for amplifying a full-length
10 sequence which were used when taking this approach led to any further region being amplified. Tomato EST databases were consequently screened once again.

In this connection, it was possible to identify two tomato ESTs (TIGR database; BG127920 and TC130382) which either exhibited a high degree
15 of homology with the above-described amplificate of the potato protein (TC130382) or (BG127920) or with a putative branching enzyme derived from *Arabidopsis* (Genbank: GP|9294564|dbj|BAB02827.1).

Primers were now prepared once again in order to also amplify previously
20 unknown sequences of the protein having the amino acid sequence depicted under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14. The 3' region of the protein concerned was amplified by means of PCR, using the primers KM2_Spe (5'-TCAAAGTACGTCACAACCGATCCATTTCTGG-3') and SoputE (5'-CACTTTAGAAGGTATCAGAGC-3'), from a cDNA library which
25 was prepared from *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) tubers. The resulting fragment, of approx. 1 kb in size, was cloned in an undirected manner into the pCR4-TOPO vector supplied by Invitrogen (product number: 45-0030). The resulting plasmid was designated AN 46-196. The sequence of the fragment inserted in plasmid AN 46-196 is depicted under SEQ ID NO 9.

30 The 5' region was likewise amplified by means of the PCR technique from the same cDNA library using the primers So_put5' (5'-GTATTTCTGCGAAGGAACGACC-3') and So_putA (5'-AACAAATGCTCTCTCTGTCTGG-3'). The resulting fragment, of approx. 2 kb
35 in size, was cloned in an undirected manner into the pCR4-TOPO invitrogen vector (product number: 45-0030). The resulting plasmid was designated AN 47-196. The sequence of the fragment inserted in plasmid AN 47-196 is depicted under SEQ ID NO 10.

Primers were now prepared once again in order to amplify a full-length sequence.

The following primers were used: SO_{putA} (AACAAATGCTCTCTCTGTCGG) and SO_{putE} (CACTTTAGAAGGTATCAGAGC). A PCR product of approximately 3.2 kb in size was obtained and cloned into the invitrogen vector pCR2.1 (product number: 45-0030). The resulting plasmid (deposited under DSM 15926) was designated AN 49. The sequence of the fragment inserted in plasmid AN 49 is depicted under SEQ ID NO 11.

10

4. Producing transgenic potato plants in which the activities of a BEI protein, of an SSIII protein, of a BEII protein and of a protein having the amino acid sequence depicted under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 are reduced

15

a) Information concerning vector pBinB33-Hyg

The *EcoRI-HindIII* fragment comprising the B33 promoter, a part of the polylinker and the *ocs* terminator, was excised from plasmid pBinB33 and ligated into the vector pBIB-Hyg (Becker, 1990), which had been cut correspondingly.

20

The plasmid pBinB33 was obtained by ligating the promoter of the *solanum tuberosum* patatin gene B33 (Rocha-Sosa et al., 1989), as a *DraI* fragment (nucleotides -1512-+14), into the *SstI*-cut vector pUC19, whose ends had been blunted using T4 DNA polymerase. This resulted in the plasmid pUC19-B33. The B33 promoter was excised from this plasmid using *EcoRI* and *SmaI* and ligated into vector pBinAR, which had been cut correspondingly. This resulted in the plant expression vector pBinB33.

25

The plasmid pBinAR is a derivative of the vector plasmid pBin19 (Bevan, 1984) and was constructed as follows:

30 A fragment of 529 bp in length, which comprises nucleotides 6909-7437 of the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S RNA promoter (Pietrzak et al., 1986, Nucleic Acids Research 14, 5857-5868), was isolated, as an *EcoRI/KpnI* fragment, from the plasmid pDH51 (Pietrzak et al., 1986) and ligated between the *EcoRI* and *KpnI* cleavage sites of the pUC18 polylinker. This resulted in the plasmid pUC18-35S.

35

A fragment of 192 bp in length, which comprises the polyadenylation signal (3' end) of the *octopin synthase* gene (gene 3) of the T-DNA of the Ti-plasmid pTiACH5 (Gielen et al., 1984) (nucleotides 11749-11939), was

isolated from the plasmid pAGV40 (Herrera-Estrella et al., 1983) using the restriction endonucleases *Hind*III and *Pvu*II. After *Ssp*I linkers had been added to the *Pvu*II cleavage site, the fragment was ligated between the *Sph*I and *Hind*III cleavage sites of pUC18-35S. This resulted in the plasmid pA7.

The entire polylinker, containing the 35S promoter and the ocs terminator, was excised from pA7 using *Eco*RI and *Hind*III and ligated into pBin19, which had been cut correspondingly. This resulted in the plant expression vector pBinAR (Höfgen and Willmitzer, 1990).

b) Information concerning vector AN 54-196

AN 54-196 is a derivative of plasmid pBinB33-Hyg, into which a constituent sequence of the nucleic acid sequence encoding the protein having the amino acid sequence specified under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 was inserted as an inverted repeat (RNAi technology) under the control of the promoter of the *solanum tuberosum* patatin gene B33 (Rocha-Sosa et al., 1989). For this, a PCR product was first of all amplified from a tuber-specific *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) cDNA library using the primers B1_Asp (GAT GGG TAC CAG CAC TTC TAC TTG GCA GAG G) and B2_Sal (TCA AGT CGA CCA CAA CCA GTC CAT TTC TGG) resulting in the cleavage sites *Asp*718 and *Sal*I being added. The PCR product (625 bp) which was obtained was cloned, in the antisense orientation with regard to the B33 promoter, by way of these two cleavage sites. A second PCR fragment, which was amplified from a tuber-specific *solanum tuberosum* (cv Désirée) cDNA library using the primers B3_Sal (GCT TGT CGA CGG GAG AAT TTT GTC CAG AGG) and B4_Sal (GAT CGT CGA CAG CAC TTC TAC TTG GCA GAG G), and which was identical to 301 bp of the first fragment, was cloned, by way of the *Sal*I cleavage site, downstream of the first fragment but in the sense orientation with regard to the B33 promoter. This arrangement is designated an inverted repeat (RNAi technology).

c) Producing transgenic potato plants

In order to generate transgenic potato plants in which the activities of a BEI protein, of an SSIII protein, of a BEII protein and of a protein having the amino acid sequence depicted under SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 were reduced, agrobacteria were used, as described in Rocha-Sosa et al. (EMBO J. 8, (1989), 23-29), to transfer the T-DNA of plasmid AN 54-196

into transgenic potato plants belonging to the line 110CF-003. The plants obtained as a result of being transformed with plasmid AN 53-196 were designated 376SO.

- 5 5. Analyzing the starch in plants in which the activities of a BEI protein, of an SSIII protein, of a BEII protein and of a protein which exhibits the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO 12 or SEQ ID NO 14 are reduced.

10 Starch was isolated from the tubers of different independent lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO, described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-type plants (cv Désirée). The physiochemical properties of these starches were then analyzed.

15

a) RVA analysis

The viscosity profile of starches which were isolated from the tubers of the lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO, described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-type plants (cv
20 Désirée) were determined using RVA analytic method 2 as described under item 4 in the general methods. The gel strength was then determined using the method described under item 3 in the general methods.

25 Table 1 below summarizes the results of the RVA analysis and of the gel strength analysis. The values which are given are the measured values which were in each case determined expressed as a percentage based on the corresponding measured value, which was in each case stipulated to be 100%, of starch which was isolated from the tubers of wild-type plants.

	RVA Max (%)	RVA Min (%)	RVA Fin (%)	RVA Set (%)	RVA T (%)	RVA Pasting temperature	TA "strength 1"
Wild type (Désirée)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100%
110CF-003	97.1%	314.5%	165.9%	83.6%	167.2%	115.6%	159.4%
376SO-010	103.9%	284.4%	153.7%	81.7%	143.7%	115.8%	195.3%
376SO-047	94.1%	292.4%	163.3%	92.9%	164.3%	134.2%	175.5%
376SO-087	82.5%	252.9%	147.1%	89.4%	157.6%	125.7%	173.4%

Table 1 RVA in accordance with method 2, TA strength of CaCl₂-pasted starches

5 The viscosity profiles of starches which were isolated from the tubers of the lines 110CF-003 and 376SO-010 were determined using RVA analytical method 3, which is described under item 4 in the general methods.

Table 2 below gives the values which are obtained for the pasting temperatures of the lines which were measured:

	Pasting temperature
110CF-003	78.8°C
376SO-010	93.6°C

10 Table 2

b) Analyzing the contents of phosphate and amylose

15 The C6 phosphate content of starches which were isolated from the tubers of the lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-type plants (cv Désirée) was determined using the method described under item 2 in the general methods.

20 The total phosphate content of starches which were isolated from the tubers of the lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO, described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-

type plants (cv Désirée) was determined using the method described under item 2 in the general methods.

5 The amylose content of starches which were isolated from the tubers of individual lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO, described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-type plants (cv Désirée) was determined using the method described under item 1 in the General Methods.

10 The results obtained from representative lines are depicted in table 3. The quantity of C6 phosphate or total phosphate was first of all determined in $\mu\text{mol/g}$ of starch. All the other values given in table 3 relating to the C6 phosphate content or the total phosphate content can be calculated from the initially determined value ($\mu\text{mol/g}$ of starch). For these calculations, 31
15 is used as the value for the molecular weight of phosphorus.

The "quantity [%]" values in each case indicate the quantity of the substance concerned expressed as a percentage of the total quantity of the starch.

20 The "based on wild type [%]" values in each case indicate the quantity of the substance concerned expressed as a percentage of the corresponding quantity of the same substance in starch which has been isolated from the tubers of wild-type plants.

25 6. Analyzing the side chain distribution of the amylopectin

The side chain distribution of starches which were isolated from the tubers of individual lines derived from the transformations 110CF and 376SO, as described in the abovementioned examples, and from the tubers of wild-
30 type plants (cv Désirée) was determined using the method described under item 6 in the General Methods. The results are summarized in table 4.

- 54 -

	Desi	110-CF	376-SO-10	376-SO-47	376-SO-87
<dp11	100.0%	24.2%	14.3%	15.8%	13.5%
dp11-dp18	100.0%	45.7%	36.3%	40.1%	37.5%
dp19-dp24	100.0%	77.6%	68.8%	72.2%	71.3%
dp25-dp30	100.0%	100.2%	93.6%	96.2%	94.8%
dp31-dp36	100.0%	101.9%	98.5%	100.0%	98.3%
dp37-dp42	100.0%	98.4%	96.8%	97.4%	96.6%
dp43-dp48	100.0%	103.6%	103.1%	103.2%	103.1%
dp49-dp55	100.0%	118.7%	119.8%	119.3%	119.9%
dp56-dp61	100.0%	139.6%	143.4%	142.1%	143.2%
dp62-dp123	100.0%	231.1%	256.3%	246.5%	252.0%
>123dp	100.0%	929.4%	1236.3%	1135.4%	1209.4%

Table 4

Patent claims

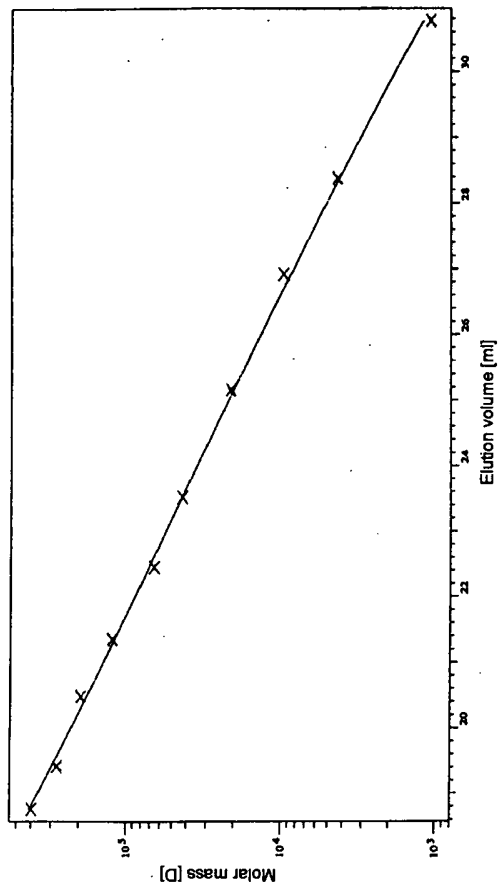
1. A modified starch which is isolated from potato plants and which
 - a) has an amylose content, as measured by the method of Hovenkamp-Hermelink et al. (1987, Theoretical and Applied Genetics 75, 217-221), of between 40% and 50%, and
 - b) has a phosphorus content of from 80 to 95 μmol of phosphate per gram of starch (dry weight).
2. The modified starch as claimed in claim 1, which has a C6 phosphorus content of from 45 to 60 μmol of phosphate per gram of starch (dry weight).
3. The modified starch as claimed in claim 1 or 2 which exhibits an altered amylopectin side-chain distribution as compared with starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type potato plants.
4. The modified starch as claimed in one of claims 1, 2 or 3, wherein the proportion of side chains having a DP of less than 11 and/or a DP of from 11 to 18 is reduced, and the proportion of side chains having a DP of from 56 to 61 and/or a DP of from 62 to 123 is increased, as compared with starch which is isolated from corresponding wild-type potato plants.
5. A method for preparing a derivatized starch, wherein modified starch as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4 is subsequently derivatized.
6. The use of modified starch as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4 for preparing derivatized starch.

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	C6 Position				Total Quantity				Amylose	
	[μmol of phosphate/g of starch]	[μg of phosphorus/g of starch]	Based on wild type [%]	[μmol of phosphate/g of starch]	[mg of phosphorus/100 g]	[μg of phosphorus/g of starch]	Quantity [%]	Based on wild type [%]	Quantity [%]	Based on wild type [%]
wt-1	10.30	319.30		21.10	65.41	654.10	0.07		23.1	
wt-2	8.60	266.60		19.90	61.69	616.90	0.06		23.3	
wt mean	9.45	292.95		20.50	63.55	635.50	0.06		23.20	
110CF 003-1	44.3	1373.30		74.30	230.33	2303.30	0.23		40.6	
110CF 003-2	42.8	1326.80		75.10	232.81	2328.10	0.23		39.2	
110 CF 003 mean	43.55	1350.05	461%	74.70	231.57	2315.70	0.23	364%	39.9	172%
396SO 010	55.20	1711.20	584%	90.80	281.48	2814.80	0.28	443%	45.5	196%
396SO 047	46.80	1450.80	495%	87.00	269.70	2697.00	0.27	424%	45.3	195%
396SO 087	54.00	1674.00	571%	88.80	275.28	2752.80	0.28	433%	41.9	181%

Table 3

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Calibration table:

18.76	401300	Dextran T670
19.41	276500	Dextran T410
20.49	196300	Dextran T270
21.35	123600	Dextran T150
22.45	66700	Dextran T80
23.52	43500	Dextran T50
25.15	21400	Dextran T25
26.92	9890	Dextran T12
28.38	4440	Dextran T5
30.77	1080	Dextran T1

Fig 1

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Bayer CropScience GmbH

<120> High-phosphate starch

<130> BCS 05-5002-PCT

<150> EP05090095.0

<151> 2005-04-08

<150> US60/670,115

<151> 2005-04-11

<160> 14

<170> PatentIn version 3.1

<210> 1

<211> 4167

<212> DNA

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<221> CDS

<222> (207)..(3899)

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<301> Abel,G.J., Springer,F., Willmitzer,L. and Kossmann,J.

<302> Cloning and functional analysis of a cDNA encoding a novel 139 kDa

<303> Plant J.

<304> 10

<305> 6

<306> 981-991

<307> 1996

<308> X94400

<309> 1995-12-22

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<308> EMBL / X94400

<309> 1997-04-16

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gatgttctat ttgattctgt ggtgaacaag agttttacaa agaacattcc tttttctttt	180
tttcttggtt cttgtgtggg tcagcc atg gat gtt cca ttt cca ctg cat aga	233
Met Asp Val Pro Phe Pro Leu His Arg	
1 5	
cca ttg agt tgc aca agt gtc tcc aat gca ata acc cac ctc aag atc	281
Pro Leu Ser Cys Thr Ser Val Ser Asn Ala Ile Thr His Leu Lys Ile	
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aaa cct ttt ctt ggg ttt gtc tct cat gga acc aca agt cta tca gta	329
Lys Pro Phe Leu Gly Phe Val Ser His Gly Thr Thr Ser Leu Ser Val	
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Gln Ser Ser Ser Trp Arg Lys Asp Gly Met Val Thr Gly Val Ser Phe	
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Pro Phe Cys Ala Asn Leu Ser Gly Arg Arg Arg Arg Lys Val Ser Thr	
60 65 70	
act agg agt caa gga tct tca cct aag ggg ttt gtg cca agg aag ccc	473
Thr Arg Ser Gln Gly Ser Ser Pro Lys Gly Phe Val Pro Arg Lys Pro	
75 80 85	
tca ggg atg agc acg caa aga aag gtt cag aag agc aat ggt gat aaa	521
Ser Gly Met Ser Thr Gln Arg Lys Val Gln Lys Ser Asn Gly Asp Lys	
90 95 100 105	
gaa agt caa agt act tca aca tct aaa gaa tct gaa att tcc aac cag	569
Glu Ser Gln Ser Thr Ser Thr Ser Lys Glu Ser Glu Ile Ser Asn Gln	
110 115 120	
aag acg gtt gaa gca aga gtt gaa act agt gac gat gac act aaa gta	617
Lys Thr Val Glu Ala Arg Val Glu Thr Ser Asp Asp Asp Thr Lys Val	
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gtg gtg agg gac cac aag ttt ctg gag gat gag gat gaa atc aat ggt	665
Val Val Arg Asp His Lys Phe Leu Glu Asp Glu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gly	
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tct act aaa tca ata agt atg tca cct gtt cgt gta tca tct caa ttt	713

Ser	Thr	Lys	Ser	Ile	Ser	Met	Ser	Pro	Val	Arg	Val	Ser	Ser	Gln	Phe	
	155					160					165					
gtt	gaa	agt	gaa	gaa	act	ggt	ggt	gat	gac	aag	gat	gct	gta	aag	tta	761
Val	Glu	Ser	Glu	Glu	Thr	Gly	Gly	Asp	Asp	Lys	Asp	Ala	Val	Lys	Leu	
170					175					180					185	
aac	aaa	tca	aag	aga	tcg	gaa	gag	agt	gat	ttt	cta	att	gat	tct	gta	809
Asn	Lys	Ser	Lys	Arg	Ser	Glu	Glu	Ser	Asp	Phe	Leu	Ile	Asp	Ser	Val	
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ata	aga	gaa	caa	agt	gga	tct	cag	ggg	gaa	act	aat	gcc	agt	agc	aag	857
Ile	Arg	Glu	Gln	Ser	Gly	Ser	Gln	Gly	Glu	Thr	Asn	Ala	Ser	Ser	Lys	
			205					210					215			
gga	agc	cat	gct	gtg	ggt	aca	aaa	ctt	tat	gag	ata	ttg	cag	gtg	gat	905
Gly	Ser	His	Ala	Val	Gly	Thr	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Ile	Leu	Gln	Val	Asp	
		220					225					230				
gtt	gag	cca	caa	caa	ttg	aaa	gaa	aat	aat	gct	ggg	aat	gtt	gaa	tac	953
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Thr	Val	Glu	Thr	Gly	Asp	Ser	Ser	Leu	Asn	Leu	Arg	Leu	Glu	Met	Glu	
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Ala	Asn	Leu	Arg	Arg	Gln	Ala	Ile	Glu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Glu	Glu	Asn	Leu	
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Ser	Cys	Lys	Ile	His	Val	Pro	Lys	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Arg	Ala	Asp	Phe	Val	
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Phe	Phe	Asn	Gly	Gln	Asp	Val	Tyr	Asp	Asn	Asn	Asp	Gly	Asn	Asp	Phe	
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Asp Gly Met Val Thr Gly Val Ser Phe Pro Phe Cys Ala Asn Leu Ser
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Gly Arg Arg Arg Arg Lys Val Ser Thr Thr Arg Ser Gln Gly Ser Ser
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Pro Lys Gly Phe Val Pro Arg Lys Pro Ser Gly Met Ser Thr Gln Arg
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Lys Val Gln Lys Ser Asn Gly Asp Lys Glu Ser Gln Ser Thr Ser Thr
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Ser Lys Glu Ser Glu Ile Ser Asn Gln Lys Thr Val Glu Ala Arg Val
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Glu Thr Ser Asp Asp Asp Thr Lys Val Val Val Arg Asp His Lys Phe
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Leu Glu Asp Glu Asp Glu Ile Asn Gly Ser Thr Lys Ser Ile Ser Met
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Ser Pro Val Arg Val Ser Ser Gln Phe Val Glu Ser Glu Glu Thr Gly
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Gly Asp Asp Lys Asp Ala Val Lys Leu Asn Lys Ser Lys Arg Ser Glu
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Glu Ser Asp Phe Leu Ile Asp Ser Val Ile Arg Glu Gln Ser Gly Ser

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Glu	Asn	Asn	Ala	Gly	Asn	Val	Glu	Tyr	Lys	Gly	Pro	Val	Ala	Ser	Lys
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Arg Ala Gln Ala Lys Glu Glu Ala Ala Lys Lys Lys Lys Val Leu Arg
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Glu Leu Met Val Lys Ala Thr Lys Thr Arg Asp Ile Thr Trp Tyr Ile
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Glu Pro Ser Glu Phe Lys Cys Glu Asp Lys Val Arg Leu Tyr Tyr Asn
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Lys Ser Ser Gly Pro Leu Ser His Ala Lys Asp Leu Trp Ile His Gly
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Gly Tyr Asn Asn Trp Lys Asp Gly Leu Ser Ile Val Lys Lys Leu Val
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Lys Ser Glu Arg Ile Asp Gly Asp Trp Trp Tyr Thr Glu Val Val Ile
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Pro Asp Gln Ala Leu Phe Leu Asp Trp Val Phe Ala Asp Gly Pro Pro
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Lys His Ala Ile Ala Tyr Asp Asn Asn His Arg Gln Asp Phe His Ala
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Ile Val Pro Asn His Ile Pro Glu Glu Leu Tyr Trp Val Glu Glu Glu
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His Gln Ile Phe Lys Thr Leu Gln Glu Glu Arg Arg Leu Arg Glu Ala
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Ala Met Arg Ala Lys Val Glu Lys Thr Ala Leu Leu Lys Thr Glu Thr
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Lys Glu Arg Thr Met Lys Ser Phe Leu Leu Ser Gln Lys His Val Val
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Tyr Thr Glu Pro Leu Asp Ile Gln Ala Gly Ser Ser Val Thr Val Tyr
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Tyr Asn Pro Ala Asn Thr Val Leu Asn Gly Lys Pro Glu Ile Trp Phe
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Arg Cys Ser Phe Asn Arg Trp Thr His Arg Leu Gly Pro Leu Pro Pro
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Gln Lys Met Ser Pro Ala Glu Asn Gly Thr His Val Arg Ala Thr Val
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Lys Val Pro Leu Asp Ala Tyr Met Met Asp Phe Val Phe Ser Glu Arg
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Glu Asp Gly Gly Ile Phe Asp Asn Lys Ser Gly Met Asp Tyr His Ile
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Pro Val Phe Gly Gly Val Ala Lys Glu Pro Pro Met His Ile Val His
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Ile Ala Val Glu Met Ala Pro Ile Ala Lys Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Asp
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Val Val Thr Ser Leu Ser Arg Ala Val Gln Asp Leu Asn His Asn Val
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Asp Ile Ile Leu Pro Lys Tyr Asp Cys Leu Lys Met Asn Asn Val Lys
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Asp Phe Arg Phe His Lys Asn Tyr Phe Trp Gly Gly Thr Glu Ile Lys
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Val Trp Phe Gly Lys Val Glu Gly Leu Ser Val Tyr Phe Leu Glu Pro
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Gln Asn Gly Leu Phe Ser Lys Gly Cys Val Tyr Gly Cys Ser Asn Asp
 865 870 875 880

Gly Glu Arg Phe Gly Phe Phe Cys His Ala Ala Leu Glu Phe Leu Leu
 885 890 895

Gln Gly Gly Phe Ser Pro Asp Ile Ile His Cys His Asp Trp Ser Ser
 900 905 910

Ala Pro Val Ala Trp Leu Phe Lys Glu Gln Tyr Thr His Tyr Gly Leu
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Ser Lys Ser Arg Ile Val Phe Thr Ile His Asn Leu Glu Phe Gly Ala
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Asp Leu Ile Gly Arg Ala Met Thr Asn Ala Asp Lys Ala Thr Thr Val
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Ser Pro Thr Tyr Ser Gln Glu Val Ser Gly Asn Pro Val Ile Ala Pro
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His Leu His Lys Phe His Gly Ile Val Asn Gly Ile Asp Pro Asp Ile
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Trp Asp Pro Leu Asn Asp Lys Phe Ile Pro Ile Pro Tyr Thr Ser Glu
 995 1000 1005

Asn Val Val Glu Gly Lys Thr Ala Ala Lys Glu Ala Leu Gln Arg
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Lys Leu Gly Leu Lys Gln Ala Asp Leu Pro Leu Val Gly Ile Ile
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Thr Arg Leu Thr His Gln Lys Gly Ile His Leu Ile Lys His Ala
1040 1045 1050

Ile Trp Arg Thr Leu Glu Arg Asn Gly Gln Val Val Leu Leu Gly
1055 1060 1065

Ser Ala Pro Asp Pro Arg Val Gln Asn Asp Phe Val Asn Leu Ala
1070 1075 1080

Asn Gln Leu His Ser Lys Tyr Asn Asp Arg Ala Arg Leu Cys Leu
1085 1090 1095

Thr Tyr Asp Glu Pro Leu Ser His Leu Ile Tyr Ala Gly Ala Asp
1100 1105 1110

Phe Ile Leu Val Pro Ser Ile Phe Glu Pro Cys Gly Leu Thr Gln
1115 1120 1125

Leu Thr Ala Met Arg Tyr Gly Ser Ile Pro Val Val Arg Lys Thr
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Gly Gly Leu Tyr Asp Thr Val Phe Asp Val Asp His Asp Lys Glu
1145 1150 1155

Arg Ala Gln Gln Cys Gly Leu Glu Pro Asn Gly Phe Ser Phe Asp
1160 1165 1170

Gly Ala Asp Ala Gly Gly Val Asp Tyr Ala Leu Asn Arg Ala Leu
1175 1180 1185

Ser Ala Trp Tyr Asp Gly Arg Asp Trp Phe Asn Ser Leu Cys Lys
1190 1195 1200

Gln Val Met Glu Gln Asp Trp Ser Trp Asn Arg Pro Ala Leu Asp
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<212> PRT

<213> solanum tuberosum

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Val Phe Phe Asn Gly Gln Asp Val Tyr Asp Asn Asn Asp Gly Asn Asp
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Phe Ser Ile Thr Val Lys Gly Gly Met Gln Ile Ile Asp
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<211> 1641

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<213> Solanum tuberosum

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gaaaaatatg aggaccctt tgaggaattt gctcaagggt atttaaaatt tggattcaac 240

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gtttggagta ttagaattcc tgatgttgac agtaagccag tcattccaca caactccaga 420

gttaagtttc gtttcaaca tggtaatgga gtgtgggtag atcgtatccc tgcttgata 480

aagtatgcca ctgcagacgc cacaaagttt gcagcaccat atgatggtgt ctactgggac 540

ccaccacctt cagaaaggta ccacttcaaa taccctcgcc ctcccaaacc ccgagcccca 600

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atggccataa tggaacattc ttactatgga tcatttggat atcatgttac aaactttttt 780

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<212> PRT

<213> Solanum tuberosum

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<308> Swiss Prot / P30924

<309> 1993-07-26

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 35 40 45

Arg Met Lys Arg Tyr Val Asp Gln Lys Met Leu Ile Glu Lys Tyr Glu
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Gly Pro Leu Glu Glu Phe Ala Gln Gly Tyr Leu Lys Phe Gly Phe Asn
 65 70 75 80

Arg Glu Asp Gly Cys Ile Val Tyr Arg Glu Trp Ala Pro Ala Ala Gln
 85 90 95

Glu Ala Glu Val Ile Gly Asp Phe Asn Gly Arg Asn Gly Ser Asn His
 100 105 110

Met Met Glu Lys Asp Gln Phe Gly Val Trp Ser Ile Arg Ile Pro Asp
 115 120 125

Val Asp Ser Lys Pro Val Ile Pro His Asn Ser Arg Val Lys Phe Arg
 130 135 140

Phe Lys His Gly Asn Gly Val Trp Val Asp Arg Ile Pro Ala Trp Ile
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 Lys Tyr Ala Thr Ala Asp Ala Thr Lys Phe Ala Ala Pro Tyr Asp Gly
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 Val Tyr Trp Asp Pro Pro Pro Ser Glu Arg Tyr His Phe Lys Tyr Pro
 180 185 190
 Arg Pro Pro Lys Pro Arg Ala Pro Arg Ile Tyr Glu Ala His Val Gly
 195 200 205
 Met Ser Ser Ser Glu Pro Arg Val Asn Ser Tyr Arg Glu Phe Ala Asp
 210 215 220
 Asp Val Leu Pro Arg Ile Lys Ala Asn Asn Tyr Asn Thr Val Gln Leu
 225 230 235 240
 Met Ala Ile Met Glu His Ser Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Phe Gly Tyr His Val
 245 250 255
 Thr Asn Phe Phe Ala Val Ser Asn Arg Tyr Gly Asn Pro Glu Asp Leu
 260 265 270
 Lys Tyr Leu Ile Asp Lys Ala His Ser Leu Gly Leu Gln Val Leu Val
 275 280 285
 Asp Val Val His Ser His Ala Ser Asn Asn Val Thr Asp Gly Leu Asn
 290 295 300
 Gly Phe Asp Ile Gly Gln Gly Ser Gln Glu Ser Tyr Phe His Ala Gly
 305 310 315 320
 Glu Arg Gly Tyr His Lys Leu Trp Asp Ser Arg Leu Phe Asn Tyr Ala
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 Asn Trp Glu Val Leu Arg Phe Leu Leu Ser Asn Leu Arg Trp Trp Leu
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 Glu Glu Tyr Asn Phe Asp Gly Phe Arg Phe Asp Gly Ile Thr Ser Met
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 370 375 380
 Glu Tyr Phe Ser Glu Ala Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Val Val Tyr Leu Met
 385 390 395 400
 Leu Ala Asn Asn Leu Ile His Lys Ile Phe Pro Asp Ala Thr Val Ile
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Ala Glu Asp Val Ser Gly Met Pro Gly Leu Ser Arg Pro Val Ser Glu
 420 425 430

Gly Gly Ile Gly Phe Asp Tyr Arg Leu Ala Met Ala Ile Pro Asp Lys
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Trp Ile Asp Tyr Leu Lys Asn Lys Asn Asp Glu Asp Trp Ser Met Lys
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Glu Val Thr Ser Ser Leu Thr Asn Arg Arg Tyr Thr Glu Lys Cys Ile
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Ala Tyr Ala Glu Ser His Asp Gln Ser Ile Val Gly Asp Lys Thr Ile
 485 490 495

Ala Phe Leu Leu Met Asn Lys Glu Met Tyr Ser Gly Met Ser Cys Leu
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Thr Asp Ala Ser Pro Val Val Asp Ala Gly Ile Ala Leu Asp Lys Met
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His Gly
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<211> 2649

<212> DNA

<213> Solanum tuberosum

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<308> EMBL / AJ011890

<309> 1999-04-07

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<302> Improvements in or relating to plant starch composition

<308> EMBL / A58164

<309> 1998-03-05

<310> wo 96 34968

<311> 1996-05-03

<312> 1996-11-07

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<211> 882

<212> PRT

<213> Solanum tuberosum

<400> 7

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 Glu Lys Ser Ser Tyr Asn Ser Glu Phe Arg Pro Ser Thr Val Ala Ala
 50 55 60
 Ser Gly Lys Val Leu Val Pro Gly Thr Gln Ser Asp Ser Ser Ser Ser
 65 70 75 80
 Ser Thr Asp Gln Phe Glu Phe Thr Glu Thr Ser Pro Glu Asn Ser Pro
 85 90 95
 Ala Ser Thr Asp Val Asp Ser Ser Thr Met Glu His Ala Ser Gln Ile
 100 105 110
 Lys Thr Glu Asn Asp Asp Val Glu Pro Ser Ser Asp Leu Thr Gly Ser
 115 120 125
 Val Glu Glu Leu Asp Phe Ala Ser Ser Leu Gln Leu Gln Glu Gly Gly

130 135 140
 Lys Leu Glu Glu Ser Lys Thr Leu Asn Thr Ser Glu Glu Thr Ile Ile
 145 150 155 160
 Asp Glu Ser Asp Arg Ile Arg Glu Arg Gly Ile Pro Pro Pro Gly Leu
 165 170 175
 Gly Gln Lys Ile Tyr Glu Ile Asp Pro Leu Leu Thr Asn Tyr Arg Gln
 180 185 190
 His Leu Asp Tyr Arg Tyr Ser Gln Tyr Lys Lys Leu Arg Glu Ala Ile
 195 200 205
 Asp Lys Tyr Glu Gly Gly Leu Glu Ala Phe Ser Arg Gly Tyr Glu Lys
 210 215 220
 Met Gly Phe Thr Arg Ser Ala Thr Gly Ile Thr Tyr Arg Glu Trp Ala
 225 230 235 240
 Leu Gly Ala Gln Ser Ala Ala Leu Ile Gly Asp Phe Asn Asn Trp Asp
 245 250 255
 Ala Asn Ala Asp Ile Met Thr Arg Asn Glu Phe Gly Val Trp Glu Ile
 260 265 270
 Phe Leu Pro Asn Asn Val Asp Gly Ser Pro Ala Ile Pro His Gly Ser
 275 280 285
 Arg Val Lys Ile Arg Met Asp Thr Pro Ser Gly Val Lys Asp Ser Ile
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 Pro Ala Trp Ile Asn Tyr Ser Leu Gln Leu Pro Asp Glu Ile Pro Tyr
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 Asn Gly Ile His Tyr Asp Pro Pro Glu Glu Glu Arg Tyr Ile Phe Gln
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 His Pro Arg Pro Lys Lys Pro Lys Ser Leu Arg Ile Tyr Glu Ser His
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 Ile Gly Met Ser Ser Pro Glu Pro Lys Ile Asn Ser Tyr Val Asn Phe
 355 360 365
 Arg Asp Glu Val Leu Pro Arg Ile Lys Lys Leu Gly Tyr Asn Ala Leu
 370 375 380
 Gln Ile Met Ala Ile Gln Glu His Ser Tyr Tyr Ala Ser Phe Gly Tyr
 385 390 395 400
 His Val Thr Asn Phe Phe Ala Pro Ser Ser Arg Phe Gly Thr Pro Asp
 405 410 415

Asp Leu Lys Ser Leu Ile Asp Lys Ala His Glu Leu Gly Ile Val Val
 420 425 430

Leu Met Asp Ile Val His Ser His Ala Ser Asn Asn Thr Leu Asp Gly
 435 440 445

Leu Asn Met Phe Asp Cys Thr Asp Ser Cys Tyr Phe His Ser Gly Ala
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Arg Gly Tyr His Trp Met Trp Asp Ser Arg Leu Phe Asn Tyr Gly Asn
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Trp Glu Val Leu Arg Tyr Leu Leu Ser Asn Ala Arg Trp Trp Leu Asp
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Ala Phe Lys Phe Asp Gly Phe Arg Phe Asp Gly Val Thr Ser Met Met
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Tyr Ile His His Gly Leu Ser Val Gly Phe Thr Gly Asn Tyr Glu Glu
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Tyr Phe Gly Leu Ala Thr Asp Val Asp Ala Val Val Tyr Leu Met Leu
 530 535 540

Val Asn Asp Leu Ile His Gly Leu Phe Pro Asp Ala Ile Thr Ile Gly
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Glu Asp Val Ser Gly Met Pro Thr Phe Cys Ile Pro Val Gln Glu Gly
 565 570 575

Gly Val Gly Phe Asp Tyr Arg Leu His Met Ala Ile Ala Asp Lys Arg
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Ile Glu Leu Leu Lys Lys Arg Asp Glu Asp Trp Arg Val Gly Asp Ile
 595 600 605

Val His Thr Leu Thr Asn Arg Arg Trp Ser Glu Lys Cys Val Ser Tyr
 610 615 620

Ala Glu Ser His Asp Gln Ala Leu Val Gly Asp Lys Thr Ile Ala Phe
 625 630 635 640

Trp Leu Met Asp Lys Asp Met Tyr Asp Phe Met Ala Leu Asp Arg Pro
 645 650 655

Ser Thr Ser Leu Ile Asp Arg Gly Ile Ala Leu His Lys Met Ile Arg
 660 665 670

Leu Val Thr Met Gly Leu Gly Gly Glu Gly Tyr Leu Asn Phe Met Gly
 675 680 685

Asn Glu Phe Gly His Pro Glu Trp Ile Asp Phe Pro Arg Ala Glu Gln
 690 695 700

His Leu Ser Asp Gly Ser Val Ile Pro Gly Asn Gln Phe Arg Tyr Asp
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Lys Cys Arg Arg Arg Phe Asp Leu Gly Asp Ala Glu Tyr Leu Arg Tyr
 725 730 735

Arg Gly Leu Gln Glu Phe Asp Arg Pro Met Gln Tyr Leu Glu Asp Lys
 740 745 750

Tyr Glu Phe Met Thr Ser Glu His Gln Phe Ile Ser Arg Lys Asp Glu
 755 760 765

Gly Asp Arg Met Ile Val Phe Glu Lys Gly Asn Leu Val Phe Val Phe
 770 775 780

Asn Phe His Trp Thr Lys Ser Tyr Ser Asp Tyr Arg Ile Ala Cys Leu
 785 790 795 800

Lys Pro Gly Lys Tyr Pro Val Ala Leu Asp Ser Asp Asp Pro Leu Phe
 805 810 815

Gly Gly Phe Gly Arg Ile Asp His Asn Ala Glu Tyr Phe Thr Phe Glu
 820 825 830

Gly Trp Tyr Asp Asp Arg Pro Arg Ser Ile Met Val Tyr Ala Pro Cys
 835 840 845

Lys Thr Ala Val Val Tyr Ala Leu Val Asp Lys Glu Glu Glu Glu Glu
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Glu Glu

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<211> 1255

<212> DNA

<213> Solanum tuberosum

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<211> 1004

<212> DNA

<213> Solanum tuberosum

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<213> Solanum tuberosum

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Lys Tyr Lys Gln Ser Glu Glu Glu Lys Gly Ile Asp Pro Val Gly Phe
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Glu Arg Tyr Lys Ser Leu Lys Asp Leu Lys Asp Glu Ile Leu Thr Arg
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His Phe Ser Leu Lys Glu Met Ser Thr Gly Tyr Glu Leu Met Gly Met
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His Arg Asn Ile Gln His Arg Val Asp Phe Leu Glu Trp Ala Pro Gly
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Ala Arg Tyr Cys Ala Leu Ile Gly Asp Phe Asn Gly Trp Ser Thr Thr
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Gly Asn Cys Ala Arg Glu Gly His Phe Gly His Asp Asp Tyr Gly Tyr
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 Trp Phe Ile Ile Leu Glu Asp Lys Leu Arg Glu Gly Glu Glu Pro Asp
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 Lys Leu Tyr Phe Gln Gln Tyr Asn Tyr Ala Glu Asp Tyr Asp Lys Gly
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 Asp Thr Gly Ile Thr Val Glu Glu Ile Phe Lys Lys Ala Asn Asp Glu
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 Asp Val Val Asp Ser Gly Lys Glu Tyr Asp Ile Tyr Asn Ile Ile Gly
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 Met Pro Ala Leu Pro His Gly Ser Lys His Arg Val Tyr Phe Asn Thr
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 Glu Tyr Ala Tyr Lys Trp Lys His Lys Leu Pro Val Lys Pro Lys Ser
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Cys Tyr Phe His Thr Gly Lys Arg Gly His His Lys Phe Trp Gly Thr
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Arg Met Phe Lys Tyr Gly Asp Pro Asp Val Leu His Phe Leu Leu Ser
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His Ser Leu Ser Ser Met Leu Tyr Thr His Asn Gly Phe Ala Ser Phe
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Thr Gly Asp Met Asp Glu Tyr Cys Asn Gln Tyr Val Asp Lys Glu Ala
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Leu Leu Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ala Asn Glu Val Leu His Ala Leu His Pro
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Asn Val Ile Thr Ile Ala Val Asp Ala Thr Leu Tyr Pro Gly Leu Cys
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Asp Pro Thr Ser Gln Gly Gly Leu Gly Phe Asp Tyr Phe Ala Asn Leu
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Glu Trp Cys Met Ser Lys Ile Val Ser Thr Leu Val Gly Asp Arg Gln
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Asn Thr Asp Lys Met Leu Leu Tyr Ala Glu Asn His Asn Gln Ser Ile
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Ser Gly Gly Arg Ser Phe Ala Glu Ile Leu Ile Gly Asn Ser Leu Gly
 690 695 700

Lys Ser Ser Ile Ser Gln Glu Ser Leu Leu Arg Gly Cys Ser Leu His

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 Lys Met Ile Arg Leu Ile Thr Ser Thr Ile Gly Gly His Ala Tyr Leu
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 740 745 750
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 Met Met Asp Leu Asp Lys Asn Gly Arg Ile Leu Ser Arg Gly Leu Ala
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 Arg Tyr Ile Ile Gly Val Glu Glu Ala Gly Glu Tyr Gln Val Thr Leu
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 Asn Thr Asp Glu Asn Lys Tyr Gly Gly Arg Gly Leu Leu Gly His Asp
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 Gln Asn Thr Gln Arg Thr Ile Ser Arg Arg Ala Asp Gly Met Arg Phe
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Gln Leu Lys Phe Val Arg Ser Arg Arg Ala Arg Val Ser Arg Cys Arg
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Cys Ser Ala Thr Glu Gln Pro Pro Pro Gln Arg Arg Lys Gln Arg Pro
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Phe Leu Ser Lys Tyr Gly Ile Thr His Lys Ala Phe Ala Gln Phe Leu
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Arg Glu Arg Tyr Lys Ser Leu Lys Asp Leu Lys Asp Glu Ile Leu Thr
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cgt cat ttc agt ctc aag gag atg tct act ggg tat gaa tta atg ggt 385
Arg His Phe Ser Leu Lys Glu Met Ser Thr Gly Tyr Glu Leu Met Gly
115 120 125

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195 200 205

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210 215 220

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225 230 235

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Lys	Val	Ser	Ser	Phe	Asn	Asp	Phe	Ile	Ser	Lys	Val	Leu	Pro	His	Val	
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Thr	Arg	Met	Phe	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Asp	Leu	Asp	Val	Leu	His	Phe	Leu	Leu	
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 50 55 60
 Lys Tyr Lys Gln Ser Glu Glu Gly Lys Gly Ile Asp Pro Val Gly Phe
 65 70 75 80

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BUDAPESTER VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE
ANERKENNUNG DER HINTERLEGUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN
FÜR DIE ZWECKE VON PATENTVERFAHREN

DSMZ
Deutsche Sammlung von
Mikroorganismen und
Zellkulturen GmbH

INTERNATIONALES FORMBLATT

BAYER Crop Science GmbH
Brüningstr. 50
65929 Frankfurt/Main

EMPFANGSBESTÄTIGUNG BEI ERSTHINTERLEGUNG,
ausgestellt gemäß Regel 7.1 von der unten angegebenen
INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE

I. KENNZEICHNUNG DES MIKROORGANISMUS	
Vom HINTERLEGER zugewiesenes Bezugszeichen: AN-49	Von der INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE zugewiesene EINGANGSNUMMER: DSM 15926
II. WISSENSCHAFTLICHE BESCHREIBUNG UND/ODER VORGESCHLAGENE TAXONOMISCHE BEZEICHNUNG	
Mit dem unter I. bezeichneten Mikroorganismus wurde <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eine wissenschaftliche Beschreibung <input type="checkbox"/> eine vorgeschlagene taxonomische Bezeichnung eingereicht. (Zutreffendes ankreuzen).	
III. EINGANG UND ANNAHME	
Diese internationale Hinterlegungsstelle nimmt den unter I bezeichneten Mikroorganismus an, der bei ihr am 2003-09-15 (Datum der Erst- hinterlegung) ¹ eingegangen ist.	
IV. EINGANG DES ANTRAGS AUF UMWANDLUNG	
Der unter I bezeichnete Mikroorganismus ist bei dieser Internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle am _____ eingegangen (Datum der Erst- hinterlegung) und ein Antrag auf Umwandlung dieser Ersthinterlegung in eine Hinterlegung gemäß Budapester Vertrag ist am _____ eingegangen (Datum des Eingangs des Antrags auf Umwandlung).	
V. INTERNATIONALE HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE	
Name: DSMZ-DEUTSCHE SAMMLUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN UND ZELLKULTUREN GmbH Anschrift: Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124 Braunschweig	Unterschrift(en) der zur Vertretung der internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle befugten Person(en) oder des (der) von ihr ermächtigten Bediensteten: <i>V. Weils</i> Datum: 2003-09-17

¹ Falls Regel 6.4 Buchstabe d zutrifft, ist dies der Zeitpunkt, zu dem der Status einer internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle erworben worden ist.


BUDAPESTER VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE
ANERKENNUNG DER HINTERLEGUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN
FÜR DIE ZWECKE VON PATENTVERFAHREN

DSMZ
Deutsche Sammlung von
Mikroorganismen und
Zellkulturen GmbH

INTERNATIONALES FORMBLATT

BAYER Crop Science GmbH
Brüningstr. 50
65929 Frankfurt/Main

LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSBESCHEINIGUNG
ausgestellt gemäß Regel 10.2 von der unten angegebenen
INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE

I. HINTERLEGER	II. KENNZEICHNUNG DES MIKROORGANISMUS
Name: BAYER Crop Science GmbH Brüningstr. 50 Anschrift: 65929 Frankfurt/Main	Von der INTERNATIONALEN HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE zugeleitete EINGANGSNUMMER: DSM 15926 Datum der Hinterlegung oder Weiterleitung ¹ : 2003-09-15
III. LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSBESCHEINIGUNG	
Die Lebensfähigkeit des unter II genannten Mikroorganismus ist am 2003-09-15 ² geprüft worden. Zu diesem Zeitpunkt war der Mikroorganismus <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lebensfähig <input type="checkbox"/> nicht mehr lebensfähig	
IV. BEDINGUNGEN, UNTER DENEN DIE LEBENSFÄHIGKEITSPRÜFUNG DURCHGEFÜHRT WORDEN IST*	
V. INTERNATIONALE HINTERLEGUNGSSTELLE	
Name: DSMZ-DEUTSCHE SAMMLUNG VON MIKROORGANISMEN UND ZELLKULTUREN GmbH Anschrift: Mascheroder Weg 1b D-38124 Braunschweig	Unterschrift(en) der zur Vertretung der internationalen Hinterlegungsstelle befugten Person(en) oder des (der) von ihr ermächtigten Bediensteten:  Datum: 2003-09-17

¹ Angabe des Datums der Ersthinterlegung. Wenn eine erneute Hinterlegung oder eine Weiterleitung vorgenommen worden ist, Angabe des Datums der jeweils letzten erneuten Hinterlegung oder Weiterleitung.
² In den in Regel 10.2 Buchstabe a Ziffer ii und iii vorgesehenen Fällen Angabe der letzten Lebensfähigkeitsprüfung.
³ Zutreffendes ankreuzen.
⁴ Ausfüllen, wenn die Angaben beantragt worden sind und wenn die Ergebnisse der Prüfung negativ waren.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2006/003602

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C12N15/82 C08B30/04

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 C08B

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, BIOSIS, EMBASE, 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	<p>SCHWALL G P ET AL: "Production of very-high-amylose potato starch by inhibition of SBE A and B" NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY, NATURE PUBLISHING, US, vol. 18, no. 5, May 2000 (2000-05), pages 551-554, XP002239695 ISSN: 1087-0156 cited in the application table 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/--</p>	1-6

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
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *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)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *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
- *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
- *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.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 July 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

02/08/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Kania, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2006/003602

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	HOFVANDER P. ET AL.: "Field performance and starch characteristics of high-amylose potatoes obtained by antisense gene targeting of two branching enzymes" PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY JOURNAL, vol. 2, 2004, pages 311-320, XP002350357 cited in the application table 3	1-6
A	----- WO 2005/030942 A (BAYER CROPSCIENCE GMBH; FROHBERG, CLAUS) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07) -----	
A	WO 2004/056999 A (BAYER CROPSCIENCE GMBH; HOEHNE, MICHAELA; FROHBERG, CLAUS; LANDSCHUETZ) 8 July 2004 (2004-07-08) -----	
A	WO 00/08184 A (HOECHST SCHERING AGREVO GMBH) 17 February 2000 (2000-02-17) cited in the application -----	
A	JOBLING S A ET AL: "A minor form of starch branching enzyme in potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.) tubers has a major effect on starch structure: Cloning and characterisation of multiple forms of SBE A" PLANT JOURNAL, BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, OXFORD, GB, vol. 18, no. 2, April 1999 (1999-04), pages 163-171, XP002309385 ISSN: 0960-7412 cited in the application -----	
A	SLATTERY C J ET AL: "Engineering starch for increased quantity and quality" TRENDS IN PLANT SCIENCE, ELSEVIER SCIENCE, OXFORD, GB, vol. 5, no. 7, July 2000 (2000-07), pages 291-298, XP002241850 ISSN: 1360-1385 -----	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/EP2006/003602

Patent document cited in search report	A	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2005030942	A	07-04-2005	NONE	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
WO 2004056999	A	08-07-2004	AU 2003293991 A1	14-07-2004
			CA 2505776 A1	08-07-2004
			JP 2006511235 T	06-04-2006
			US 2006130181 A1	15-06-2006
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WO 0008184	A	17-02-2000	AU 772364 B2	22-04-2004
			AU 5161999 A	28-02-2000
			BR 9912665 A	02-05-2001
			CA 2338002 A1	17-02-2000
			CN 1316006 A	03-10-2001
			DE 19836098 A1	03-02-2000
			EP 1100937 A1	23-05-2001
			HU 0102998 A2	28-11-2001
			JP 2002525036 T	13-08-2002
			PL 345829 A1	14-01-2002
			US 6596928 B1	22-07-2003
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