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(54) PLANT AMINO ACYL-TRNA SYNTHETASE

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(57) ABSTRACT

This invention relates to an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase. The invention also relates to the construction of a chimeric gene encoding all or a portion of the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase, in sense or antisense orientation, wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of the aminoacyltRNA synthetase in a transformed host cell.

PLANT AMINO ACYL-TRNA SYNTHETASE

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/092,866, filed Jul. 15, 1998.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention is in the field of plant molecular biology. More specifically, this invention pertains to nucleic acid fragments encoding aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase in plants and seeds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] All tRNAs have two functions: to chemically link to a specific amino acid and to recognize a codon in mRNA so that the linked amino acid can be added to a growing peptide chain during protein synthesis. In general there is at least one aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase for each of the twenty amino acids. A specific aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase links an amino acid to the 2' or 3' hydroxyl of the adenosine residue at the 3'-terminus of a tRNA molecule. Once its correct amino acid is attached, a tRNA then recognizes a codon in mRNA, thus deliverng its amino acid to the growing polypeptide chain. These enzymatic functions are critical to gene expression (Neidhart et al. (1975) *Annu. Rev. Microbiol.* 29:215-250). Mutations in tRNA synthetases often result in alterations in protein synthesis and in some cases cell death.

[0004] Plants like other cellular organisms have aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. However a complete description of the plant 'complement' of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases has not been published. It is anticipated that plants will likely have at least forty aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Plants have three sites of protein synthesis: the cytoplasm, the mitochondria and the chloroplast. Accordingly, there could be as many as sixty aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases. Based on knowledge of other eukaryotes the cytoplasmic and mitochondrial aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases are expected to be encoded by the same gene. This gene should be nuclearly encoded and produce two alternate products, one with a mitochondrial specific transit peptide, and the other without this targeting signal. The chloroplast is the other site of protein synthesis in plants. Based on a few examples of known plant chloroplast specific aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase genes it appears that these genes are also nuclearencoded. Chloroplast aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases are directed to the chloroplast by a transit peptide.

[0005] Because of the central role aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases play in protein synthesis any agent that inhibits or disrupts aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase activity is likely to be toxic. Indeed a number of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase inhibitors (antibiotics and herbicides) are known (Zon et al. (1988) *Phytochemistry* 27(3):711-714 and Heacock et al. (1996) *Bioorganic Chemistry* 24(3):273-289). Thus it may be possible to develop new herbicides that target aminoacyltRNA synthetases and engineer aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases that are resistant to such herbicides. Accordingly, the availability of nucleic acid sequences encoding all or a portion of these enzymes would facilitate studies to better understand protein synthesis in plants, provide genetic tools for the manipulation of gene expression, and provide a possible target for herbicides.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The instant invention relates to isolated nucleic acid fragments encoding aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase. Spe-

cifically, this invention concerns an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyltRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyltRNA synthetase and an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is substantially similar to an isolated nucleic acid fragment that encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase. In addition, this invention relates to a nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to the nucleic acid fragment encoding aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase.

[0007] An additional embodiment of the instant invention pertains to a polypeptide encoding all or a substantial portion of an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetaseselected from the group consisting of aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase and tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase.

[0008] In another embodiment, the instant invention relates to a chimeric gene encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, or to a chimeric gene that comprises a nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to a nucleic acid fragment encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences, wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of levels of the encoded protein in a transformed host cell that is altered (i.e., increased or decreased) from the level produced in an untransformed host cell.

[0009] In a further embodiment, the instant invention concerns a transformed host cell comprising in its genome a chimeric gene encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences. Expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of the encoded protein in the transformed host cell. The transformed host cell can be of eukaryotic or prokaryotic origin, and include cells derived from higher plants and microorganisms. The invention also includes transformed plants that arise from transformed host cells of higher plants, and seeds derived from such transformed plants.

[0010] An additional embodiment of the instant invention concerns a method of altering the level of expression of an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryp-tophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase in a transformed host cell comprising: a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase; and b) growing the transformed host cell under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase.

[0011] An addition embodiment of the instant invention concerns a method for obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of an amino acid

sequence encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase.

[0012] A further embodiment of the instant invention is a method for evaluating at least one compound for its ability to inhibit the activity of an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, the method comprising the steps of: (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase, operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences; (b) growing the transformed host cell under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyltRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyltRNA synthetase in the transformed host cell; (c) optionally purifying the aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase expressed by the transformed host cell; (d) treating the aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase with a compound to be tested; and (e) comparing the activity of the aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase that has been treated with a test compound to the activity of an untreated aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyltRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyltRNA synthetase, thereby selecting compounds with potential for inhibitory activity.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEQUENCE DESCRIPTIONS

[0013] The invention can be more fully understood from the following detailed description and the accompanying Sequence Listing which form a part of this application.

[0014] Table 1 lists the polypeptides that are described herein, the designation of the cDNA clones that comprise the nucleic acid fragments encoding polypeptides representing all or a substantial portion of these polypeptides, and the corresponding identifier (SEQ ID NO:) as used in the attached Sequence Listing. The sequence descriptions and Sequence Listing attached hereto comply with the rules governing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosures in patent applications as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.821-1.825.

TABLE 1

Aninoacyl-tRNA Synthetase			
		SEQ ID	NO:
Protein	Clone Designation	(Nucleotide)	(Amino Acid)
Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase	p0094.cssth73r	1	2
Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase	rl0n.pk0015.g11	3	4
Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase	sfl1.pk0046.e8	5	6
Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase	wle1n.pk0021.e6	7	8
Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase	p0119.cmtmt52r	9	10
Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase	rsl1n.pk016.p18	11	12
Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase	sfl1.pk0013.f9	13	14

TABLE 1-continued

Aninoacyl-tRNA Synthetase			
		SEQ ID NO:	
Protein	Clone Designation	(Nucleotide)	(Amino Acid)
Tryptophanyl-tRNA	p0118.chsbl87r	15	16
Synthetase Tryptophanyl-tRNA Synthetase	sdp4c.pk033.n11	17	18
Tryptophanyl-tRNA	wlm4.pk0013.c12	19	20
Tyrosyl-tRNA Synthetase	cs1.pk0035.d2	21	22

[0015] The Sequence Listing contains the one letter code for nucleotide sequence characters and the three letter codes for amino acids as defined in conformity with the IUPAC-IUBMB standards described in *Nucleic Acids Research* 13:3021-3030 (1985) and in the *Biochemical Journal* 219 (No. 2):345-373 (1984) which are herein incorporated by reference. The symbols and format used for nucleotide and amino acid sequence data comply with the rules set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.822.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0016] In the context of this disclosure, a number of terms shall be utilized. As used herein, a "nucleic acid fragment" is a polymer of RNA or DNA that is single- or double-stranded, optionally containing synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases. A nucleic acid fragment in the form of a polymer of DNA may be comprised of one or more segments of cDNA, genomic DNA or synthetic DNA.

[0017] As used herein, "substantially similar" refers to nucleic acid fragments wherein changes in one or more nucleotide bases results in substitution of one or more amino acids, but do not affect the functional properties of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence. "Substantially similar" also refers to nucleic acid fragments wherein changes in one or more nucleotide bases does not affect the ability of the nucleic acid fragment to mediate alteration of gene expression by gene silencing through for example antisense or co-suppression technology. "Substantially similar" also refers to modifications of the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention such as deletion or insertion of one or more nucleotides that do not substantially affect the functional properties of the resulting transcript vis-à-vis the ability to mediate gene silencing or alteration of the functional properties of the resulting protein molecule. It is therefore understood that the invention encompasses more than the specific exemplary nucleotide or amino acid sequences and includes functional equivalents thereof.

[0018] For example, it is well known in the art that antisense suppression and co-suppression of gene expression may be accomplished using nucleic acid fragments representing less than the entire coding region of a gene, and by nucleic acid fragments that do not share 100% sequence identity with the gene to be suppressed. Moreover, alterations in a nucleic acid fragment which result in the production of a chemically equivalent amino acid at a given site, but do not effect the functional properties of the

encoded polypeptide, are well known in the art. Thus, a codon for the amino acid alanine, a hydrophobic amino acid, may be substituted by a codon encoding another less hydrophobic residue, such as glycine, or a more hydrophobic residue, such as valine, leucine, or isoleucine. Similarly, changes which result in substitution of one negatively charged residue for another, such as aspartic acid for glutamic acid, or one positively charged residue for another, such as lysine for arginine, can also be expected to produce a functionally equivalent product. Nucleotide changes which result in alteration of the N-terminal and C-terminal portions of the polypeptide molecule would also not be expected to alter the activity of the polypeptide. Each of the proposed modifications is well within the routine skill in the art, as is determination of retention of biological activity of the encoded products.

[0019] Moreover, substantially similar nucleic acid fragments may also be characterized by their ability to hybridize. Estimates of such homology are provided by either DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization under conditions of stringency as is well understood by those skilled in the art (Hames and Higgins, Eds. (1985) Nucleic Acid Hybridisation, IRL Press, Oxford, U.K.). Stringency conditions can be adjusted to screen for moderately similar fragments, such as homologous sequences from distantly related organisms, to highly similar fragments, such as genes that duplicate functional enzymes from closely related organisms. Post-hybridization washes determine stringency conditions. One set of preferred conditions uses a series of washes starting with 6× SSC, 0.5% SDS at room temperature for 15 min, then repeated with 2× SSC, 0.5% SDS at 45° C. for 30 min, and then repeated twice with 0.2× SSC, 0.5% SDS at 50° C. for 30 min. A more preferred set of stringent conditions uses higher temperatures in which the washes are identical to those above except for the temperature of the final two 30 min washes in $0.2 \times SSC$, 0.5% SDS was increased to 60° C. Another preferred set of highly stringent conditions uses two final washes in 0.1× SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65° C.

[0020] Substantially similar nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may also be characterized by the percent identity of the amino acid sequences that they encode to the amino acid sequences disclosed herein, as determined by algorithms commonly employed by those skilled in this art. Preferred are those nucleic acid fragments whose nucleotide sequences encode amino acid sequences that are 80% identical to the amino acid sequences reported herein. More preferred nucleic acid fragments encode amino acid sequences that are 90% identical to the amino acid sequences reported herein. Most preferred are nucleic acid fragments that encode amino acid sequences that are 95% identical to the amino acid sequences reported herein. Sequence alignments and percent identity calculations were performed using the Megalign program of the LASAR-GENE bioinformatics computing suite (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.). Multiple alignment of the sequences was performed using the Clustal method of alignment (Higgins and Sharp (1989) CABIOS. 5:151-153) with the default parameters (GAP PENALTY=10, GAP LENGTH PEN-ALTY=10). Default parameters for pairwise alignments using the Clustal method were KTUPLE 1, GAP PEN-ALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5.

[0021] A "substantial portion" of an amino acid or nucleotide sequence comprises an amino acid or a nucleotide sequence that is sufficient to afford putative identification of the protein or gene that the amino acid or nucleotide sequence comprises. Amino acid and nucleotide sequences can be evaluated either manually by one skilled in the art, or by using computer-based sequence comparison and identification tools that employ algorithms such as BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; Altschul et al. (1993) J Mol. *Biol.* 215:403-410; see also www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/). In general, a sequence of ten or more contiguous amino acids or thirty or more contiguous nucleotides is necessary in order to putatively identify a polypeptide or nucleic acid sequence as homologous to a known protein or gene. Moreover, with respect to nucleotide sequences, gene-specific oligonucleotide probes comprising 30 or more contiguous nucleotides may be used in sequence-dependent methods of gene identification (e.g., Southern hybridization) and isolation (e.g., in situ hybridization of bacterial colonies or bacteriophage plaques). In addition, short oligonucleotides of 12 or more nucleotides may be used as amplification primers in PCR in order to obtain a particular nucleic acid fragment comprising the primers. Accordingly, a "substantial portion" of a nucleotide sequence comprises a nucleotide sequence that will afford specific identification and/or isolation of a nucleic acid fragment comprising the sequence. The instant specification teaches amino acid and nucleotide sequences encoding polypeptides that comprise one or more particular plant proteins. The skilled artisan, having the benefit of the sequences as reported herein, may now use all or a substantial portion of the disclosed sequences for purposes known to those skilled in this art. Accordingly, the instant invention comprises the complete sequences as reported in the accompanying Sequence Listing, as well as substantial portions of those sequences as defined above.

[0022] "Codon degeneracy" refers to divergence in the genetic code permitting variation of the nucleotide sequence without effecting the amino acid sequence of an encoded polypeptide. Accordingly, the instant invention relates to any nucleic acid fragment comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequences set forth herein. The skilled artisan is well aware of the "codon-bias" exhibited by a specific host cell in usage of nucleotide codons to specify a given amino acid. Therefore, when synthesizing a nucleic acid fragment for improved expression in a host cell, it is desirable to design the nucleic acid fragment such that its frequency of codon usage approaches the frequency of preferred codon usage of the host cell.

[0023] "Synthetic nucleic acid fragments" can be assembled from oligonucleotide building blocks that are chemically synthesized using procedures known to those skilled in the art. These building blocks are ligated and annealed to form larger nucleic acid fragments which may then be enzymatically assembled to construct the entire desired nucleic acid fragment. "Chemically synthesized", as related to nucleic acid fragment, means that the component nucleotides were assembled in vitro. Manual chemical synthesis of nucleic acid fragments may be accomplished using well established procedures, or automated chemical synthesis can be performed using one of a number of commercially available machines. Accordingly, the nucleic acid fragments can be tailored for optimal gene expression based on optimization of nucleotide sequence to reflect the codon bias of the host cell. The skilled artisan appreciates the likelihood of successful gene expression if codon usage is biased towards

those codons favored by the host. Determination of preferred codons can be based on a survey of genes derived from the host cell where sequence information is available.

[0024] "Gene" refers to a nucleic acid fragment that expresses a specific protein, including regulatory sequences preceding (5' non-coding sequences) and following (3' noncoding sequences) the coding sequence. "Native gene" refers to a gene as found in nature with its own regulatory sequences. "Chimeric gene" refers any gene that is not a native gene, comprising regulatory and coding sequences that are not found together in nature. Accordingly, a chimeric gene may comprise regulatory sequences and coding sequences that are derived from different sources, or regulatory sequences and coding sequences derived from the same source, but arranged in a manner different than that found in nature. "Endogenous gene" refers to a native gene in its natural location in the genome of an organism. A "foreign" gene refers to a gene not normally found in the host organism, but that is introduced into the host organism by gene transfer. Foreign genes can comprise native genes inserted into a non-native organism, or chimeric genes. A "transgene" is a gene that has been introduced into the genome by a transformation procedure.

[0025] "Coding sequence" refers to a nucleotide sequence that codes for a specific amino acid sequence. "Regulatory sequences" refer to nucleotide sequences located upstream (5' non-coding sequences), within, or downstream (3' noncoding sequences) of a coding sequence, and which influence the transcription, RNA processing or stability, or translation of the associated coding sequence. Regulatory sequences may include promoters, translation leader sequences, introns, and polyadenylation recognition sequences.

[0026] "Promoter" refers to a nucleotide sequence capable of controlling the expression of a coding sequence or functional RNA. In general, a coding sequence is located 3' to a promoter sequence. The promoter sequence consists of proximal and more distal upstream elements, the latter elements often referred to as enhancers. Accordingly, an "enhancer" is a nucleotide sequence which can stimulate promoter activity and may be an innate element of the promoter or a heterologous element inserted to enhance the level or tissue-specificity of a promoter. Promoters may be derived in their entirety from a native gene, or be composed of different elements derived from different promoters found in nature, or even comprise synthetic nucleotide segments. It is understood by those skilled in the art that different promoters may direct the expression of a gene in different tissues or cell types, or at different stages of development, or in response to different environmental conditions. Promoters which cause a nucleic acid fragment to be expressed in most cell types at most times are commonly referred to as "constitutive promoters". New promoters of various types useful in plant cells are constantly being discovered; numerous examples may be found in the compilation by Okamuro and Goldberg (1989) Biochemistry of Plants 15:1-82. It is further recognized that since in most cases the exact boundaries of regulatory sequences have not been completely defined, nucleic acid fragments of different lengths may have identical promoter activity.

[0027] The "translation leader sequence" refers to a nucleotide sequence located between the promoter sequence of a gene and the coding sequence. The translation leader sequence is present in the fully processed mRNA upstream of the translation start sequence. The translation leader sequence may affect processing of the primary transcript to mRNA, mRNA stability or translation efficiency. Examples of translation leader sequences have been described (Turner and Foster (1995) *Molecular Biotechnology* 3:225).

[0028] The "3' non-coding sequences" refer to nucleotide sequences located downstream of a coding sequence and include polyadenylation recognition sequences and other sequences encoding regulatory signals capable of affecting mRNA processing or gene expression. The polyadenylation signal is usually characterized by affecting the addition of polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor. The use of different 3' non-coding sequences is exemplified by Ingelbrecht et al. (1989) *Plant Cell* 1:671-680.

[0029] "RNA transcript" refers to the product resulting from RNA polymerase-catalyzed transcription of a DNA sequence. When the RNA transcript is a perfect complementary copy of the DNA sequence, it is referred to as the primary transcript or it may be a RNA sequence derived from posttranscriptional processing of the primary transcript and is referred to as the mature RNA. "Messenger RNA (mRNA)" refers to the RNA that is without introns and that can be translated into polypeptide by the cell. "cDNA" refers to a double-stranded DNA that is complementary to and derived from mRNA. "Sense" RNA refers to an RNA transcript that includes the mRNA and so can be translated into a polypeptide by the cell. "Antisense RNA" refers to an RNA transcript that is complementary to all or part of a target primary transcript or mRNA and that blocks the expression of a target gene (see U.S. Pat. No. 5,107,065, incorporated herein by reference). The complementarity of an antisense RNA may be with any part of the specific nucleotide sequence, i.e., at the 5' non-coding sequence, 3' non-coding sequence, introns, or the coding sequence. "Functional RNA" refers to sense RNA, antisense RNA, ribozyme RNA, or other RNA that may not be translated but yet has an effect on cellular processes.

[0030] The term "operably linked" refers to the association of two or more nucleic acid fragments on a single nucleic acid fragment so that the function of one is affected by the other. For example, a promoter is operably linked with a coding sequence when it is capable of affecting the expression of that coding sequence (i.e., that the coding sequence is under the transcriptional control of the promoter). Coding sequences can be operably linked to regulatory sequences in sense or antisense orientation.

[0031] The term "expression", as used herein, refers to the transcription and stable accumulation of sense (mRNA) or antisense RNA derived from the nucleic acid fragment of the invention. Expression may also refer to translation of mRNA into a polypeptide. "Antisense inhibition" refers to the production of antisense RNA transcripts capable of suppressing the expression of the target protein. "Overexpression" refers to the production of a gene product in transgenic organisms that exceeds levels of production in normal or non-transformed organisms. "Co-suppression" refers to the production of sense RNA transcripts capable of suppressing the expression of identical or substantially similar foreign or endogenous genes (U.S. Pat. No. 5,231,020, incorporated herein by reference).

[0032] "Altered levels" refers to the production of gene product(s) in transgenic organisms in amounts or proportions that differ from that of normal or non-transformed organisms.

[0033] "Mature" protein refers to a post-translationally processed polypeptide; i.e., one from which any pre- or propeptides present in the primary translation product have been removed. "Precursor" protein refers to the primary product of translation of mRNA; i.e., with pre- and propeptides still present. Pre- and propeptides may be but are not limited to intracellular localization signals.

[0034] A "chloroplast transit peptide" is an amino acid sequence which is translated in conjunction with a protein and directs the protein to the chloroplast or other plastid types present in the cell in which the protein is made. "Chloroplast transit sequence" refers to a nucleotide sequence that encodes a chloroplast transit peptide. A "signal peptide" is an amino acid sequence which is translated in conjunction with a protein and directs the protein to the secretory system (Chrispeels (1991) Ann. Rev. Plant Phys. Plant Mol. Biol. 42:21-53). If the protein is to be directed to a vacuole, a vacuolar targeting signal (supra) can further be added, or if to the endoplasmic reticulum, an endoplasmic reticulum retention signal (supra) may be added. If the protein is to be directed to the nucleus, any signal peptide present should be removed and instead a nuclear localization signal included (Raikhel (1992) Plant Phys. 100:1627-1632).

[0035] "Transformation" refers to the transfer of a nucleic acid fragment into the genome of a host organism, resulting in genetically stable inheritance. Host organisms containing the transformed nucleic acid fragments are referred to as "transgenic" organisms. Examples of methods of plant transformation include Agrobacterium-mediated transformation (De Blaere et al. (1987) *Meth. Enzymol.* 143:277) and particle-accelerated or "gene gun" transformation technology (Klein et al. (1987) *Nature (London)* 327:70-73; U.S. Pat. No. 4,945,050, incorporated herein by reference).

[0036] Standard recombinant DNA and molecular cloning techniques used herein are well known in the art and are described more fully in Sambrook et al. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: Cold Spring Harbor, 1989 (hereinafter "Maniatis").

[0037] Nucleic acid fragments encoding at least a portion of several aninoacyl-tRNA synthetases have been isolated and identified by comparison of random plant cDNA sequences to public databases containing nucleotide and protein sequences using the BLAST algorithms well known to those skilled in the art. The nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to isolate cDNAs and genes encoding homologous proteins from the same or other plant species. Isolation of homologous genes using sequencedependent protocols is well known in the art. Examples of sequence-dependent protocols include, but are not limited to, methods of nucleic acid hybridization, and methods of DNA and RNA amplification as exemplified by various uses of nucleic acid amplification technologies (e.g., polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction).

[0038] For example, genes encoding other aspartyl-tRNA synthetase, cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase, tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase or tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase enzymes, either as

cDNAs or genomic DNAs, could be isolated directly by using all or a portion of the instant nucleic acid fragments as DNA hybridization probes to screen libraries from any desired plant employing methodology well known to those skilled in the art. Specific oligonucleotide probes based upon the instant nucleic acid sequences can be designed and synthesized by methods known in the art (Maniatis). Moreover, the entire sequences can be used directly to synthesize DNA probes by methods known to the skilled artisan such as random primer DNA labeling, nick translation, or endlabeling techniques, or RNA probes using available in vitro transcription systems. In addition, specific primers can be designed and used to amplify a part or all of the instant sequences. The resulting amplification products can be labeled directly during amplification reactions or labeled after amplification reactions, and used as probes to isolate full length cDNA or genomic fragments under conditions of appropriate stringency.

[0039] In addition, two short segments of the instant nucleic acid fragments may be used in polymerase chain reaction protocols to amplify longer nucleic acid fragments encoding homologous genes from DNA or RNA. The polymerase chain reaction may also be performed on a library of cloned nucleic acid fragments wherein the sequence of one primer is derived from the instant nucleic acid fragments, and the sequence of the other primer takes advantage of the presence of the polyadenylic acid tracts to the 3' end of the mRNA precursor encoding plant genes. Alternatively, the second primer sequence may be based upon sequences derived from the cloning vector. For example, the skilled artisan can follow the RACE protocol (Frohman et al. (1988) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85:8998) to generate cDNAs by using PCR to amplify copies of the region between a single point in the transcript and the 3' or 5' end. Primers oriented in the 3' and 5' directions can be designed from the instant sequences. Using commercially available 3' RACE or 5' RACE systems (BRL), specific 3' or 5' cDNA fragments can be isolated (Ohara et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:5673; Loh et al. (1989) Science 243:217). Products generated by the 3' and 5' RACE procedures can be combined to generate full-length cDNAs (Frohman and Martin (1989) Techniques 1:165).

[0040] Availability of the instant nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences facilitates immunological screening of cDNA expression libraries. Synthetic peptides representing portions of the instant amino acid sequences may be synthesized. These peptides can be used to immunize animals to produce polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies with specificity for peptides or proteins comprising the amino acid sequences. These antibodies can be then be used to screen cDNA expression libraries to isolate full-length cDNA clones of interest (Lerner (1984) *Adv. Immunol.* 36:1; Maniatis).

[0041] The nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to create transgenic plants in which the disclosed polypeptides are present at higher or lower levels than normal or in cell types or developmental stages in which they are not normally found. This would have the effect of altering the level of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase activity in those cells.

[0042] Overexpression of the proteins of the instant invention may be accomplished by first constructing a chimeric

gene in which the coding region is operably linked to a promoter capable of directing expression of a gene in the desired tissues at the desired stage of development. For reasons of convenience, the chimeric gene may comprise promoter sequences and translation leader sequences derived from the same genes. 3' Non-coding sequences encoding transcription termination signals may also be provided. The instant chimeric gene may also comprise one or more introns in order to facilitate gene expression.

[0043] Plasmid vectors comprising the instant chimeric gene can then constructed. The choice of plasmid vector is dependent upon the method that will be used to transform host plants. The skilled artisan is well aware of the genetic elements that must be present on the plasmid vector in order to successfully transform, select and propagate host cells containing the chimeric gene. The skilled artisan will also recognize that different independent transformation events will result in different levels and patterns of expression (Jones et al. (1985) EMBO J. 4:2411-2418; De Almeida et al. (1989) Mol. Gen. Genetics 218:78-86), and thus that multiple events must be screened in order to obtain lines displaying the desired expression level and pattern. Such screening may be accomplished by Southern analysis of DNA, Northern analysis of mRNA expression, Western analysis of protein expression, or phenotypic analysis.

[0044] For some applications it may be useful to direct the instant polypeptides to different cellular compartments, or to facilitate its secretion from the cell. It is thus envisioned that the chimeric gene described above may be further supplemented by altering the coding sequence to encode the instant polypeptides with appropriate intracellular targeting sequences such as transit sequences (Keegstra (1989) *Cell* 56:247-253), signal sequences or sequences encoding endoplasmic reticulum localization (Chrispeels (1991) *Ann. Rev. Plant Phys. Plant Mol. Biol.* 42:21-53), or nuclear localization signals (Raikhel (1992) *Plant Phys.* 100:1627-1632) added and/or with targeting sequences that are already present removed. While the references cited give examples of each of these, the list is not exhaustive and more targeting signals of utility may be discovered in the future.

[0045] It may also be desirable to reduce or eliminate expression of genes encoding the instant polypeptides in plants for some applications. In order to accomplish this, a chimeric gene designed for co-suppression of the instant polypeptide can be constructed by linking a gene or gene fragment encoding that polypeptide to plant promoter sequences. Alternatively, a chimeric gene designed to express antisense RNA for all or part of the instant nucleic acid fragment can be constructed by linking the gene or gene fragment in reverse orientation to plant promoter sequences. Either the co-suppression or antisense chimeric genes could be introduced into plants via transformation wherein expression of the corresponding endogenous genes are reduced or eliminated.

[0046] Molecular genetic solutions to the generation of plants with altered gene expression have a decided advantage over more traditional plant breeding approaches. Changes in plant phenotypes can be produced by specifically inhibiting expression of one or more genes by antisense inhibition or cosuppression (U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,190,931, 5,107,065 and 5,283,323). An antisense or cosuppression construct would act as a dominant negative regulator of gene activity. While conventional mutations can yield negative regulation of gene activity these effects are most likely recessive. The dominant negative regulation available with a transgenic approach may be advantageous from a breeding perspective. In addition, the ability to restrict the expression of specific phenotype to the reproductive tissues of the plant by the use of tissue specific promoters may confer agronomic advantages relative to conventional mutations which may have an effect in all tissues in which a mutant gene is ordinarily expressed.

[0047] The person skilled in the art will know that special considerations are associated with the use of antisense or cosuppresion technologies in order to reduce expression of particular genes. For example, the proper level of expression of sense or antisense genes may require the use of different chimeric genes utilizing different regulatory elements known to the skilled artisan. Once transgenic plants are obtained by one of the methods described above, it will be necessary to screen individual transgenics for those that most effectively display the desired phenotype. Accordingly, the skilled artisan will develop methods for screening large numbers of transformants. The nature of these screens will generally be chosen on practical grounds, and is not an inherent part of the invention. For example, one can screen by looking for changes in gene expression by using antibodies specific for the protein encoded by the gene being suppressed, or one could establish assays that specifically measure enzyme activity. A preferred method will be one which allows large numbers of samples to be processed rapidly, since it will be expected that a large number of transformants will be negative for the desired phenotype.

[0048] The instant polypeptides (or portions thereof) may be produced in heterologous host cells, particularly in the cells of microbial hosts, and can be used to prepare antibodies to the these proteins by methods well known to those skilled in the art. The antibodies are useful for detecting the polypeptides of the instant invention in situ in cells or in vitro in cell extracts. Preferred heterologous host cells for production of the instant polypeptides are microbial hosts. Microbial expression systems and expression vectors containing regulatory sequences that direct high level expression of foreign proteins are well known to those skilled in the art. Any of these could be used to construct a chimeric gene for production of the instant polypeptides. This chimeric gene could then be introduced into appropriate microorganisms via transformation to provide high level expression of the encoded aninoacyl-tRNA synthetase. An example of a vector for high level expression of the instant polypeptides in a bacterial host is provided (Example 9).

[0049] Additionally, the instant polypeptides can be used as a targets to facilitate design and/or identification of inhibitors of those enzymes that may be useful as herbicides. This is desirable because the polypeptides described herein catalyze various steps in protein synthesis. Accordingly, inhibition of the activity of one or more of the enzymes described herein could lead to inhibition plant growth. Thus, the instant polypeptides could be appropriate for new herbicide discovery and design.

[0050] All or a substantial portion of the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may also be used as probes for genetically and physically mapping the genes that they are a part of, and as markers for traits linked to those

genes. Such information may be useful in plant breeding in order to develop lines with desired phenotypes. For example, the instant nucleic acid fragments may be used as restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers. Southern blots (Maniatis) of restriction-digested plant genomic DNA may be probed with the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention. The resulting banding patterns may then be subjected to genetic analyses using computer programs such as MapMaker (Lander et al. (1987) Genomics 1:174-181) in order to construct a genetic map. In addition, the nucleic acid fragments of the instant invention may be used to probe Southern blots containing restriction endonuclease-treated genomic DNAs of a set of individuals representing parent and progeny of a defined genetic cross. Segregation of the DNA polymorphisms is noted and used to calculate the position of the instant nucleic acid sequence in the genetic map previously obtained using this population (Botstein et al. (1980) Am. J Hum. Genet. 32:314-331).

[0051] The production and use of plant gene-derived probes for use in genetic mapping is described in Bematzky and Tanksley (1986) *Plant Mol. Biol. Reporter* 4(1):37-41. Numerous publications describe genetic mapping of specific cDNA clones using the methodology outlined above or variations thereof. For example, F2 intercross populations, backcross populations, randomly mated populations, near isogenic lines, and other sets of individuals may be used for mapping. Such methodologies are well known to those skilled in the art.

[0052] Nucleic acid probes derived from the instant nucleic acid sequences may also be used for physical mapping (i.e., placement of sequences on physical maps; see Hoheisel et al. In: *Nonmammalian Genomic Analysis: A Practical Guide*, Academic press 1996, pp. 319-346, and references cited therein).

[0053] In another embodiment, nucleic acid probes derived from the instant nucleic acid sequences may be used in direct fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) mapping (Trask (1991) *Trends Genet.* 7:149-154). Although current methods of FISH mapping favor use of large clones (several to several hundred KB; see Laan et al. (1995) *Genome Research* 5:13-20), improvements in sensitivity may allow performance of FISH mapping using shorter probes.

[0054] A variety of nucleic acid amplification-based methods of genetic and physical mapping may be carried out using the instant nucleic acid sequences. Examples include allele-specific amplification (Kazazian (1989) J. Lab. Clin. Med. 114(2):95-96), polymorphism of PCR-amplified fragments (CAPS; Sheffield et al. (1993) Genomics 16:325-332), allele-specific ligation (Landegren et al. (1988) Science 241:1077-1080), nucleotide extension reactions (Sokolov (1990) Nucleic Acid Res. 18:3671), Radiation Hybrid Mapping (Walter et al. (1997) Nature Genetics 7:22-28) and Happy Mapping (Dear and Cook (1989) Nucleic Acid Res. 1 7:6795-6807). For these methods, the sequence of a nucleic acid fragment is used to design and produce primer pairs for use in the amplification reaction or in primer extension reactions. The design of such primers is well known to those skilled in the art. In methods employing PCR-based genetic mapping, it may be necessary to identify DNA sequence differences between the parents of the mapping cross in the region corresponding to the instant nucleic acid sequence. This, however, is generally not necessary for mapping methods.

[0055] Loss of function mutant phenotypes may be identified for the instant cDNA clones either by targeted gene disruption protocols or by identifying specific mutants for these genes contained in a maize population carrying mutations in all possible genes (Ballinger and Benzer (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA 86:9402; Koes et al. (1995)Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA 92:8149; Bensen et al. (1995) Plant Cell 7:75). The latter approach may be accomplished in two ways. First, short segments of the instant nucleic acid fragments may be used in polymerase chain reaction protocols in conjunction with a mutation tag sequence primer on DNAs prepared from a population of plants in which Mutator transposons or some other mutation-causing DNA element has been introduced (see Bensen, supra). The amplification of a specific DNA fragment with these primers indicates the insertion of the mutation tag element in or near the plant gene encoding the instant polypeptides. Alternatively, the instant nucleic acid fragment may be used as a hybridization probe against PCR amplification products generated from the mutation population using the mutation tag sequence primer in conjunction with an arbitrary genomic site primer, such as that for a restriction enzyme site-anchored synthetic adaptor. With either method, a plant containing a mutation in the endogenous gene encoding the instant polypeptides can be identified and obtained. This mutant plant can then be used to determine or confirm the natural function of the instant polypeptides disclosed herein.

EXAMPLES

[0056] The present invention is further defined in the following Examples, in which all parts and percentages are by weight and degrees are Celsius, unless otherwise stated. It should be understood that these Examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and these Examples, one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of this invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications of the invention to adapt it to various usages and conditions.

Example 1

Composition of cDNA Libraries; Isolation and Sequencing of cDNA Clones

[0057] cDNA libraries representing mRNAs from various corn, rice, soybean and wheat tissues were prepared. The characteristics of the libraries are described below.

TABLE 2

	cDNA Libraries from Corn, Rice, Soybean and Wheat		
Library	Tissue	Clone	
cs1 p0094	Corn leaf sheath from 5 week old plant Corn ear leaf sheath, 2–3 weeks after pollen shed*	cs1.pk0035.d2 p0094.cssth73r	
p0118	Corn pooled stem tissue from the 4–5 internodes subtending the tassel, V8–V12 stages*	p0118.chsbl87r	
p0119 rl0n rsl1n sdp4c	Corn ear shoot/w husk: V-12 stage* Rice 15 day old leaf* Rice 15 day old seedling* Soybean developing embryo (9–11 mm)	p0119.cmtmt52r rl0n.pk0015.g11 rsl1n.pk016.p18 sdp4c.pk033.n11	

TABLE 2-continued

	cDNA Libraries from Corn, Rice, Soybean and Wheat		
Library	Tissue	Clone	
sfl1	Soybean immature flower	sfl1.pk0013.f9 sfl1.pk0046.e8	
wle1n	Wheat leaf from 7 day old etiolated seedling*	wlein.pk0021.e6	
wlm4	Wheat seedlings 4 hours after treatment with a fungicide**	wlm4.pk0013.c12	

*These libraries were normalized essentially as described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,482,845, incorporated herein by reference. **Fungicide: Application of 6-iodo-2-propoxy-3-propyl-4(3H)-quinazoli-none synthesis and methods of using this compound are described in

USSN 08/545, 827, incorporated herein by reference.

[0058] cDNA libraries may be prepared by any one of many methods available. For example, the cDNAs may be introduced into plasmid vectors by first preparing the cDNA libraries in Uni-ZAP* XR vectors according to the manufacturer's protocol (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, Calif.). The Uni-ZAP* XR libraries are converted into plasmid libraries according to the protocol provided by Stratagene. Upon conversion, cDNA inserts will be contained in the plasmid vector pBluescript. In addition, the cDNAs may be introduced directly into precut Bluescript II SK(+) vectors (Stratagene) using T4 DNA ligase (New England Biolabs), followed by transfection into DH10B cells according to the manufacturer's protocol (GIBCO BRL Products). Once the cDNA inserts are in plasmid vectors, plasmid DNAs are prepared from randomly picked bacterial colonies containing recombinant pBluescript plasmids, or the insert cDNA sequences are amplified via polymerase chain reaction using primers specific for vector sequences flanking the inserted cDNA sequences. Amplified insert DNAs or plasmid DNAs are sequenced in dye-primer sequencing reactions to generate partial cDNA sequences (expressed sequence tags or "ESTs"; see Adams et al., (1991) Science 252:1651). The resulting ESTs are analyzed using a Perkin Elmer Model 377 fluorescent sequencer.

Example 2

Identification of cDNA Clones

[0059] cDNA clones encoding aninoacyl-tRNA synthetases were identified by conducting BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; Altschul et al. (1993) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410; see also www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/) searches for similarity to sequences contained in the BLAST "nr" database (comprising all non-redundant GenBank CDS translations, sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structure Brookhaven Protein Data Bank, the last major release of the SWISS-PROT protein sequence database, EMBL, and DDBJ databases). The cDNA sequences obtained in Example 1 were analyzed for similarity to all publicly available DNA sequences contained in the "nr" database using the BLASTN algorithm provided by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). The DNA sequences were translated in all reading frames and compared for similarity to all publicly available protein sequences contained in the "nr" database using the BLASTX algorithm (Gish and States (1993) Nature Genetics 3:266-272) provided by the NCBI. For convenience, the P-value (probability) of observing a match of a cDNA sequence to a sequence contained in the searched databases merely by chance as calculated by BLAST are reported herein as "pLog" values, which represent the negative of the logarithm of the reported P-value. Accordingly, the greater the pLog value, the greater the likelihood that the cDNA sequence and the BLAST "hit" represent homologous proteins.

Example 3

Characterization of cDNA Clones Encoding Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase

[0060] The BLASTX search using the EST sequences from clones listed in Table 3 revealed similarity of the polypeptides encoded by the cDNAs to aspartyl-tRNA synthetase from Drosophila melanogaster (NCBI Identifier No. gi 4512034), Rattus norvegicus (NCBI Identifier No. gi 135099) and Homo sapiens (NCBI Identifier no. gi 4557513). Shown in Table 3 are the BLAST results for individual ESTs ("EST"), the sequences of the entire cDNA inserts comprising the indicated cDNA clones ("FIS"), or contigs assembled from two or more ESTs ("Contig"):

TABLE 3

BLAST Results	for Sequences E	Encoding Polypeptides
Homologous to Drose	ophila melanoga	ster, Rattus norvegicus and
Homo sag	oiens Aspartyl-tF	RNA Synthetase
Clone	Status	BLAST pLog Score
p0094.cssth73r	FIS	134.00 (gi 4512034)
rl0n.pk0015.g11	FIS	51.15 (gi 135099)
sf11.pk0046.e8	FIS	102.00 (gi 4557513)
wle1n.pk0021.e6	FIS	21.40 (gi 4557513)

[0061] The data in Table 4 represents a calculation of the percent identity of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6 and 8 and the Drosophila melanogaster, Rattus norvegicus and Homo sapiens aspartyl-tRNA synthetase sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 23, 24 and 25 respectively).

TABLE 4

Percent Identity of A From the Nucleotide Se Polypeptides Homologous norvegicus and Homo. SEQ ID NO.	Amino Acid Sequences Deduced quences of cDNA Clones Encoding s to <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , <i>Rattus</i> <i>sapiens</i> Aspartyl-tRNA Synthetase Percent Identity to
2	51% (gi 4512034)
4	65% (gi 135099)
6	51% (gi 4557513)
8	52% (gi 4557513)

[0062] Sequence alignments and percent identity calculations were performed using the Megalign program of the LASARGENE bioinformatics computing suite (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.). Multiple alignment of the sequences was performed using the Clustal method of alignment (Higgins and Sharp (1989) CABIOS. 5:151 -153) with the default parameters (GAP PENALTY=10, GAP LENGTH PEN-ALTY=10). Default parameters for pairwise alignments using the Clustal method were KTUPLE 1, GAP PEN-ALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5.

Sequence alignments and BLAST scores and probabilities indicate that the nucleic acid fragments comprising the instant cDNA clones encode a substantial portion of an aspartyl-tRNA synthetase. These sequences represent the first corn, rice, soybean and wheat sequences encoding aspartyl-tRNA synthetase.

Example 4

Characterization of cDNA Clones Encoding Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase

[0063] The BLASTX search using the EST sequences from clones listed in Table 5 revealed similarity of the polypeptides encoded by the cDNAs to cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase from *Haemophilus influenzae* (NCBI Identifier No. gi 1174501) and *Escherichia coli* (NCBI Identifier No. gi 41203). Shown in Table 5 are the BLAST results for individual ESTs ("EST"), the sequences of the entire cDNA inserts comprising the indicated cDNA clones ("FIS"), or contigs assembled from two or more ESTs ("Contig"):

TABLE 5

BLAST Results for Sequences Encoding Polypeptides Homologous to <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase		
Clone	Status	BLAST pLog Score
p0119.cmtmt52r rsl1n.pk016.p18 sf11.pk0013.f9	FIS FIS FIS	104.00 (gi 1174501) 108.00 (gi 41203) 117.00 (gi 1174501)

[0064] The data in Table 6 represents a calculation of the percent identity of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 10, 12 and 14 and the *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Escherichia coli* sequences (SEQ ID NOs: 26 and 27 respectively).

TABLE 6

Percent Identity of Amino Acid Sequences Deduced From the Nucleotide Sequences of cDNA Clones Encoding Polypeptides Homologous to Haemophilus influenzae and Escherichia coli Cysteinyl-tRNA Synthetase	
SEQ ID NO.	Percent Identity to

10 12 14	43% (gi 1174501) 44% (gi 41203) 44% (gi 1174501)	
	(gr 11/ (601)	

[0065] Sequence alignments and percent identity calculations were performed using the Megalign program of the LASARGENE bioinformatics computing suite (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.). Multiple alignment of the sequences was performed using the Clustal method of alignment (Higgins and Sharp (1989) CABIOS. 5:151-153) with the default parameters (GAP PENALTY=10, GAP LENGTH PEN-ALTY=10). Default parameters for pairwise alignments using the Clustal method were KTUPLE 1, GAP PEN-ALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5. Sequence alignments and BLAST scores and probabilities indicate that the nucleic acid fragments comprising the instant cDNA clones encode a substantial portion of a cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase. These sequences represent the first corn, rice and soybean sequences encoding cysteinyltRNA synthetase.

Example 5

Characterization of cDNA Clones Encoding Tryptophanyl-tRNA Synthetase

[0066] The BLASTX search using the EST sequences from clones listed in Table 7 revealed similarity of the polypeptides encoded by the cDNAs to tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase from Synechocystis sp. (NCBI Identifier No. gi 2501072). Shown in Table 7 are the BLAST results for individual ESTs ("EST"), the sequences of the entire cDNA inserts comprising the indicated cDNA clones ("FIS"), or contigs assembled from two or more ESTs ("Contig"):

TABLE 7

BLAST Results for Sequences Encoding Polypeptides Homologous to Synechocystis sp. Tryptophanyl-tRNA Synthetase		
Clone	Status	BLAST pLog Score to (gi 2501072)
p0118.chsbl87r sdp4c.pk033.n11 wlm4.pk0013.c12	EST FIS FIS	104.00 103.00 43.22

[0067] The data in Table 8 represents a calculation of the percent identity of the amino acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 16, 18 and 24 and the Synechocystis sp. sequence (SEQ ID NO: 28).

TABLE 8

Percent Identity of Ar	mino Acid Sequences Deduced
From the Nucleotide Seq	uences of cDNA Clones Encoding
Polypeptides Home	ologous to Synechocystis sp.
Tryptophar	hyl-tRNA Synthetase
SEQ ID NO.	Percent Identity to (gi 2501072)
16	49%
18	50%
20	51%

[0068] Sequence alignments and percent identity calculations were performed using the Megalign program of the LASARGENE bioinformatics computing suite (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.). Multiple alignment of the sequences was performed using the Clustal method of alignment (Higgins and Sharp (1989) CABIOS. 5:151-153) with the default parameters (GAP PENALTY=10, GAP LENGTH PEN-ALTY=10). Default parameters for pairwise alignments using the Clustal method were KTUPLE 1, GAP PEN-ALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5. Sequence alignments and BLAST scores and probabilities indicate that the nucleic acid fragments comprising the instant cDNA clones encode a substantial portion of a tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase. These sequences represent the first corn, soybean and wheat sequences encoding tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase.

Example 6

Characterization of cDNA Clones Encoding Tyrosyl-tRNA Synthetase

[0069] The BLASTX search using the EST sequence from the clone listed in Table 9 revealed similarity of the polypep-

tide encoded by the cDNA to tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase from *Bacillus caldotenax* (NCBI Identifier No. gi 135196). Shown in Table 9 are the BLAST results for the sequence of the entire cDNA insert comprising the indicated cDNA clone ("FIS"):

TABLE 9

BLAST Results for to <i>Bacillus</i>	BLAST Results for Sequence Encoding Polypeptide Homologous to Bacillus caldotenax Tyrosyl-tRNA Synthetase		
Clone	Status	BLAST pLog Score to (gi 135196)	
cs1.pk0035.d2	FIS	62.52	

[0070] The data in Table 10 represents a calculation of the percent identity of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:22 the *Bacillus caldotenax* sequence (SEQ ID NO: 29).

TABLE 10

Percent Identity of Amine Nucleotide Sequence of Homologous to <i>Bacillus</i> of	D Acid Sequence Deduced From the CDNA Clone Encoding Polypeptide <i>aldotenax</i> Tyrosyl-tRNA Synthetase
SEQ ID NO.	Percent Identity to (gi 135196)
22	52%

[0071] Sequence alignments and percent identity calculations were performed using the Megalign program of the LASARGENE bioinformatics computing suite (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, Wis.). Multiple alignment of the sequences was performed using the Clustal method of alignment (Higgins and Sharp (1989) *CABIOS*. 5:151-153) with the default parameters (GAP PENALTY=10, GAP LENGTH PEN-ALTY=10). Default parameters for pairwise alignments using the Clustal method were KTUPLE 1, GAP PEN-ALTY=3, WINDOW=5 and DIAGONALS SAVED=5. Sequence alignments and BLAST scores and probabilities indicate that the nucleic acid fragments comprising the instant cDNA clones encode a substantial portion of a tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase. This sequence represent the first corn sequence encoding tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase.

Example 7

Expression of Chimeric Genes in Monocot Cells

[0072] A chimeric gene comprising a cDNA encoding the instant polypeptides in sense orientation with respect to the maize 27 kD zein promoter that is located 5' to the cDNA fragment, and the 10 kD zein 3' end that is located 3' to the cDNA fragment, can be constructed. The cDNA fragment of this gene may be generated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the cDNA clone using appropriate oligonucleotide primers. Cloning sites (NcoI or SmaI) can be incorporated into the oligonucleotides to provide proper orientation of the DNA fragment when inserted into the digested vector pML103 as described below. Amplification is then performed in a standard PCR. The amplified DNA is then digested with restriction enzymes NcoI and SmaI and fractionated on an agarose gel. The appropriate band can be

isolated from the gel and combined with a 4.9 kb NcoI-SmaI fragment of the plasmid pML103. Plasmid pML103 has been deposited under the terms of the Budapest Treaty at ATCC (American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Va. 20110-2209), and bears accession number ATCC 97366. The DNA segment from pML103 contains a 1.05 kb Sall-NcoI promoter fragment of the maize 27 kD zein gene and a 0.96 kb Smal-Sall fragment from the 3' end of the maize 10 kD zein gene in the vector pGem9Zf(+) (Promega). Vector and insert DNA can be ligated at 15° C. overnight, essentially as described (Maniatis). The ligated DNA may then be used to transform E. coli XL1-Blue (Epicurian Coli XL-1 Blue™; Stratagene). Bacterial transformants can be screened by restriction enzyme digestion of plasmid DNA and limited nucleotide sequence analysis using the dideoxy chain termination method (Sequenase[™] DNA Sequencing Kit; U.S. Biochemical). The resulting plasmid construct would comprise a chimeric gene encoding, in the 5' to 3' direction, the maize 27 kD zein promoter, a cDNA fragment encoding the instant polypeptides, and the 10 kD zein 3' region.

[0073] The chimeric gene described above can then be introduced into corn cells by the following procedure. Immature corn embryos can be dissected from developing caryopses derived from crosses of the inbred corn lines H99 and LH132. The embryos are isolated 10 to 11 days after pollination when they are 1.0 to 1.5 mm long. The embryos are then placed with the axis-side facing down and in contact with agarose-solidified N6 medium (Chu et al. (1975) Sci. Sin. Peking 18:659-668). The embryos are kept in the dark at 27° C. Friable embryogenic callus consisting of undifferentiated masses of cells with somatic proembryoids and embryoids borne on suspensor structures proliferates from the scutellum of these immature embryos. The embryogenic callus isolated from the primary explant can be cultured on N6 medium and sub-cultured on this medium every 2 to 3 weeks.

[0074] The plasmid, p35S/Ac (obtained from Dr. Peter Eckes, Hoechst Ag, Frankfurt, Germany) may be used in transformation experiments in order to provide for a selectable marker. This plasmid contains the Pat gene (see European Patent Publication 0 242 236) which encodes phosphinothricin acetyl transferase (PAT). The enzyme PAT confers resistance to herbicidal glutamine synthetase inhibitors such as phosphinothricin. The pat gene in p35 S/Ac is under the control of the 35S promoter from Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (Odell et al. (1985) *Nature* 313:810-812) and the 3' region of the nopaline synthase gene from the T-DNA of the Ti plasmid of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

[0075] The particle bombardment method (Klein et al. (1987) *Nature* 327:70-73) may be used to transfer genes to the callus culture cells. According to this method, gold particles (1 μ m in diameter) are coated with DNA using the following technique. Ten μ g of plasmid DNAs are added to 50 μ L of a suspension of gold particles (60 mg per mL). Calcium chloride (50 μ L of a 2.5 M solution) and spermidine free base (20 μ L of a 1.0 M solution) are added to the particles. The suspension is vortexed during the addition of these solutions. After 10 minutes, the tubes are briefly centrifuged (5 sec at 15,000 rpm) and the supernatant removed. The particles are resuspended in 200 μ L of absolute ethanol, centrifuged again and the supernatant removed.

resuspended in a final volume of 30 μ L of ethanol. An aliquot (5 μ L) of the DNA-coated gold particles can be placed in the center of a KaptonTM flying disc (Bio-Rad Labs). The particles are then accelerated into the corn tissue with a BiolisticTM PDS-1000/He (Bio-Rad Instruments, Hercules Calif.), using a helium pressure of 1000 psi, a gap distance of 0.5 cm and a flying distance of 1.0 cm.

[0076] For bombardment, the embryogenic tissue is placed on filter paper over agarose-solidified N6 medium. The tissue is arranged as a thin lawn and covered a circular area of about 5 cm in diameter. The petri dish containing the tissue can be placed in the chamber of the PDS-1000/He approximately 8 cm from the stopping screen. The air in the chamber is then evacuated to a vacuum of 28 inches of Hg. The macrocarrier is accelerated with a helium shock wave using a rupture membrane that bursts when the He pressure in the shock tube reaches 1000 psi.

[0077] Seven days after bombardment the tissue can be transferred to N6 medium that contains gluphosinate (2 mg per liter) and lacks casein or proline. The tissue continues to grow slowly on this medium. After an additional 2 weeks the tissue can be transferred to fresh N6 medium containing gluphosinate. After 6 weeks, areas of about 1 cm in diameter of actively growing callus can be identified on some of the plates containing the glufosinate-supplemented medium. These calli may continue to grow when sub-cultured on the selective medium.

[0078] Plants can be regenerated from the transgenic callus by first transferring clusters of tissue to N6 medium supplemented with 0.2 mg per liter of 2,4-D. After two weeks the tissue can be transferred to regeneration medium (Fromm et al. (1990) *Bio/Technology* 8:833-839).

Example 8

Expression of Chimeric Genes in Dicot Cells

[0079] A seed-specific expression cassette composed of the promoter and transcription terminator from the gene encoding the β subunit of the seed storage protein phaseolin from the bean *Phaseolus vulgaris* (Doyle et al. (1986) *J. Biol. Chem.* 261:9228-9238) can be used for expression of the instant polypeptides in transformed soybean. The phaseolin cassette includes about 500 nucleotides upstream (5') from the translation initiation codon and about 1650 nucleotides downstream (3') from the translation stop codon of phaseolin. Between the 5' and 3' regions are the unique restriction endonuclease sites Nco I (which includes the ATG translation initiation codon), Sma I, Kpn I and Xba I. The entire cassette is flanked by Hind III sites.

[0080] The cDNA fragment of this gene may be generated by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) of the cDNA clone using appropriate oligonucleotide primers. Cloning sites can be incorporated into the oligonucleotides to provide proper orientation of the DNA fragment when inserted into the expression vector. Amplification is then performed as described above, and the isolated fragment is inserted into a pUC18 vector carrying the seed expression cassette.

[0081] Soybean embroys may then be transformed with the expression vector comprising sequences encoding the instant polypeptides. To induce somatic embryos, cotyledons, 3-5 mm in length dissected from surface sterilized,

immature seeds of the soybean cultivar A2872, can be cultured in the light or dark at 26° C. on an appropriate agar medium for 6-10 weeks. Somatic embryos which produce secondary embryos are then excised and placed into a suitable liquid medium. After repeated selection for clusters of somatic embryos which multiplied as early, globular staged embryos, the suspensions are maintained as described below.

[0082] Soybean embryogenic suspension cultures can maintained in 35 mL liquid media on a rotary shaker, 150 rpm, at 26° C. with florescent lights on a 16:8 hour day/night schedule. Cultures are subcultured every two weeks by inoculating approximately 35 mg of tissue into 35 mL of liquid medium.

[0083] Soybean embryogenic suspension cultures may then be transformed by the method of particle gun bombardment (Klein et al. (1987) *Nature* (London) 327:70, U.S. Pat. No. 4,945,050). A DuPont Biolistic[™] PDS 1000/HE instrument (helium retrofit) can be used for these transformations.

[0084] A selectable marker gene which can be used to facilitate soybean transformation is a chimeric gene composed of the 35S promoter from Cauliflower Mosaic Virus (Odell et al. (1985) *Nature* 313:810-812), the hygromycin phosphotransferase gene from plasmid pJR225 (from *E. coli*; Gritz et al. (1983) *Gene* 25:179-188) and the 3' region of the nopaline synthase gene from the T-DNA of the Ti plasmid of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. The seed expression cassette comprising the phaseolin 5' region, the fragment encoding the instant polypeptides and the phaseolin 3' region can be isolated as a restriction fragment. This fragment can then be inserted into a unique restriction site of the vector carrying the marker gene.

[0085] To 50 μ L of a 60 mg/mL 1 μ m gold particle suspension is added (in order): 5 μ L DNA (1 μ g/ μ L), 20 μ l spermidine (0.1 M), and 50 μ L CaCl₂ (2.5 M). The particle preparation is then agitated for three minutes, spun in a microfuge for 10 seconds and the supernatant removed. The DNA-coated particles are then washed once in 400 μ L 70% ethanol and resuspended in 40 μ L of anhydrous ethanol. The DNA/particle suspension can be sonicated three times for one second each. Five μ L of the DNA-coated gold particles are then loaded on each macro carrier disk.

[0086] Approximately 300-400 mg of a two-week-old suspension culture is placed in an empty 60×15 mm petri dish and the residual liquid removed from the tissue with a pipette. For each transformation experiment, approximately 5-10 plates of tissue are normally bombarded. Membrane rupture pressure is set at 1100 psi and the chamber is evacuated to a vacuum of 28 inches mercury. The tissue is placed approximately 3.5 inches away from the retaining screen and bombarded three times. Following bombardment, the tissue can be divided in half and placed back into liquid and cultured as described above.

[0087] Five to seven days post bombardment, the liquid media may be exchanged with fresh media, and eleven to twelve days post bombardment with fresh media containing 50 mg/mL hygromycin. This selective media can be refreshed weekly. Seven to eight weeks post bombardment, green, transformed tissue may be observed growing from untransformed, necrotic embryogenic clusters. Isolated

green tissue is removed and inoculated into individual flasks to generate new, clonally propagated, transformed embryogenic suspension cultures. Each new line may be treated as an independent transformation event. These suspensions can then be subcultured and maintained as clusters of immature embryos or regenerated into whole plants by maturation and germination of individual somatic embryos.

Example 9

Expression of Chimeric Genes in Microbial Cells

[0088] The cDNAs' encoding the instant polypeptides can be inserted into the T7 *E. coli* expression vector pBT430. This vector is a derivative of pET-3a (Rosenberg et al. (1987) *Gene* 56:125-135) which employs the bacteriophage T7 RNA polymerase/T7 promoter system. Plasmid pBT430 was constructed by first destroying the EcoR I and Hind III sites in pET-3a at their original positions. An oligonucleotide adaptor containing EcoR I and Hind III sites was inserted at the BamH I site of pET-3a. This created pET-3aM with additional unique cloning sites for insertion of genes into the expression vector. Then, the Nde I site at the position of translation initiation was converted to an Nco I site using oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis. The DNA sequence of pET-3aM in this region, 5'-CATATGG, was converted to 5'-CCCATGG in pBT 430.

[0089] Plasmid DNA containing a cDNA may be appropriately digested to release a nucleic acid fragment encoding the protein. This fragment may then be purified on a 1% NuSieve GTG[™] low melting agarose gel (FMC). Buffer and agarose contain $10 \,\mu\text{g/ml}$ ethidium bromide for visualization of the DNA fragment. The fragment can then be purified from the agarose gel by digestion with GELase™ (Epicentre Technologies) according to the manufacturer's instructions, ethanol precipitated, dried and resuspended in 20 µL of water. Appropriate oligonucleotide adapters may be ligated to the fragment using T4 DNA ligase (New England Biolabs, Beverly, Mass.). The fragment containing the ligated adapters can be purified from the excess adapters using low melting agarose as described above. The vector pBT430 is digested, dephosphorylated with alkaline phosphatase (NEB) and deproteinized with phenol/chloroform as described above. The prepared vector pBT430 and fragment can then be ligated at 16° C. for 15 hours followed by transformation into DH5 electrocompetent cells (GIBCO BRL). Transformants can be selected on agar plates containing LB media and 100 µg/mL ampicillin. Transformants containing the gene encoding the instant polypeptides are then screened for the correct orientation with respect to the T7 promoter by restriction enzyme analysis.

[0090] For high level expression, a plasmid clone with the cDNA insert in the correct orientation relative to the T7 promoter can be transformed into *E. coli* strain BL21 (DE3) (Studier et al. (1986) *J. Mol. Biol.* 189:113-130). Cultures are grown in LB medium containing ampicillin (100 mg/L) at 25° C. At an optical density at 600 nm of approximately 1, IPTG (isopropylthio- β -galactoside, the inducer) can be added to a final concentration of 0.4 mM and incubation can be continued for 3 h at 25°. Cells are then harvested by centrifugation and re-suspended in 50 μ L of 50 mM Tris-HCl at pH 8.0 containing 0.1 mM DTT and 0.2 mM phenyl methylsulfonyl fluoride. A small amount of 1 mm glass beads can be added and the mixture sonicated 3 times for

about 5 seconds each time with a microprobe sonicator. The mixture is centrifuged and the protein concentration of the supernatant determined. One μ g of protein from the soluble fraction of the culture can be separated by SDS-polyacry-lamide gel electrophoresis. Gels can be observed for protein bands migrating at the expected molecular weight.

Example 10

Evaluating Compounds for Their Ability to Inhibit the Activity of Aminoacyl-tRNA Synthetase

[0091] The polypeptides described herein may be produced using any number of methods known to those skilled in the art. Such methods include, but are not limited to, expression in bacteria as described in Example 9, or expression in eukaryotic cell culture, in planta, and using viral expression systems in suitably infected organisms or cell lines. The instant polypeptides may be expressed either as mature forms of the proteins as observed in vivo or as fusion proteins by covalent attachment to a variety of enzymes, proteins or affinity tags. Common fusion protein partners include glutathione S-transferase ("GST"), thioredoxin ("Trx"), maltose binding protein, and C- and/or N-terminal hexahistidine polypeptide ("(His)₆"). The fusion proteins may be engineered with a protease recognition site at the fusion point so that fusion partners can be separated by protease digestion to yield intact mature enzyme. Examples of such proteases include thrombin, enterokinase and factor Xa. However, any protease can be used which specifically cleaves the peptide connecting the fusion protein and the enzyme.

[0092] Purification of the instant polypeptides, if desired, may utilize any number of separation technologies familiar to those skilled in the art of protein purification. Examples of such methods include, but are not limited to, homogenization, filtration, centrifugation, heat denaturation, ammonium sulfate precipitation, desalting, pH precipitation, ion exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography and affinity chromatography, wherein the affinity ligand represents a substrate, substrate analog or inhibitor. When the instant polypeptides are expressed as fusion proteins, the purification protocol may include the use of an affinity resin which is specific for the fusion protein tag attached to the expressed enzyme or an affinity resin containing ligands which are specific for the enzyme. For example, the instant polypeptides may be expressed as a fusion protein coupled to the C-terminus of thioredoxin. In addition, a (His)₆ peptide may be engineered into the N-terminus of the fused thioredoxin moiety to afford additional opportunities for affinity purification. Other suitable affinity resins could be synthesized by linking the appropriate ligands to any suitable resin such as Sepharose-4B. In an alternate embodiment, a thioredoxin fusion protein may be eluted using dithiothreitol; however, elution may be accomplished using other reagents which interact to displace the thioredoxin from the resin. These reagents include β -mercaptoethanol or other reduced thiol. The eluted fusion protein may be subjected to further purification by traditional means as stated above, if desired. Proteolytic cleavage of the thioredoxin fusion protein and the enzyme may be accomplished after the fusion protein is purified or while the protein is still bound to the ThioBond[™] affinity resin or other resin.

[0093] Crude, partially purified or purified enzyme, either alone or as a fusion protein, may be utilized in assays for the evaluation of compounds for their ability to inhibit enzymatic activation of the instant polypeptides disclosed herein. Assays may be conducted under well known experimental conditions which permit optimal enzymatic activity. For example, assays for aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases are presented by Zon et al. (1988) *Phytochemistry* 27(3):711-714 and Heacock et al. (1996) *Bioorganic Chemistry* 24(3):273-289.

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Ser Val His Leu Gly .	Asn Tyr Leu Gly Ala Ile	e L y s Asn Trp Val Ala	
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Ala Ser Lys Gln Met Val Lys Phe Ala Ala Asn Ile Asn Lys Glu Ser Ile Ile Asp Val Glu Gly Ile Val Arg Lys Val Asn Gln Lys Ile Gly Ser Cys Thr Gln Gln Asp Val Glu Leu His Val Gln Lys Ile Tyr Val Ile Ser Leu Ala Glu Pro Arg Leu Pro Leu Gln Leu Asp Asp Ala Ile Arg Pro Glu Val Glu Gly Glu Glu Asp Gly Arg Ala Thr Val Asn Gln 165 170 175 Asp Thr Arg Leu Asp Asn Arg Ile Ile Asp Leu Arg Thr Ser Thr Ser Gln Ala Ile Phe His Leu Gln Ser Gly Ile Cys His Leu Phe Arg Glu 195 200 205 Thr Leu Ile Asn Lys Gly Phe Val Glu Ile Gln Thr Pro Lys Ile Ile Ser Ala Ala Ser Glu Gly Gly Ala Asn Val Phe Thr Val Ser Tyr Phe Lys Ser Asn Ala Tyr Leu Ala Gln Ser Pro Gln Leu Tyr Lys Gln Met Cys Ile Cys Ala Asp Phe Glu Lys Val Phe Cys Ile Gly Pro Val Phe 260 265 270 Arg Ala Glu Asp Ser Asn Thr His Arg His Leu Thr Glu Phe Val Gly Leu Asp Ile Glu Met Ala Phe Asn Tyr His Tyr His Glu Val Val Glu Glu Ile Ala Asp Thr Leu Val Gln Ile Phe Lys Gly Leu Gln Glu Arg Phe Gln Thr Glu Ile Gln Thr Val Asn Lys Gln Phe Pro Cys Glu Pro Phe Lys Phe Leu Glu Pro Thr Leu Arg Leu Glu Tyr Cys Glu Ala Leu Ala Met Leu Arg Glu Ala Gly Val Glu Met Asp Asp Glu Glu Asp Leu Ser Thr Pro Asn Glu Lys Leu Leu Gly Arg Leu Val Lys Glu Lys Tyr Asp Thr Asp Phe Tyr Val Leu Asp Lys Tyr Pro Leu Ala Val Arg Pro Phe Tyr Thr Met Pro Asp Pro Arg Asn Pro Lys Gln Ser Asn Ser Tyr Asp Met Phe Met Arg Gly Glu Glu Ile Leu Ser Gly Ala Gln Arg Ile 420 425 430 His Asp Pro Gln Leu Leu Thr Glu Arg Ala Leu His His Gly Ile Asp Leu Glu Lys Ile Lys Ala Tyr Ile Asp Ser Phe Arg Phe Gly Ala Pro 450 455 460
 Pro His Ala Gly Gly Gly Ile Gly Leu Glu Arg Val Thr Met Leu Phe

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320

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Met Leu Arg Glu Ala Gly Val Glu Met Gly Asp Glu Asp Asp Leu Ser Thr Pro Asn Glu Lys Leu Leu Gly His Leu Val Lys Glu Lys Tyr Asp Thr Asp Phe Tyr Ile Leu Asp Lys Tyr Pro Leu Ala Val Arg Pro Phe Tyr Thr Met Pro Asp Pro Arg Asn Pro Lys Gln Ser Lys Ser Tyr Asp 405 410 415 Met Phe Met Arg Gly Glu Glu Ile Leu Ser Gly Ala Gln Arg Ile His 420 425 430 Asp Pro Gln Leu Leu Thr Glu Arg Ala Leu His His Gly Asn Asp Leu Glu Lys Ile Lys Ala Tyr Ile Asp Ser Phe Arg Phe Gly Ala Pro Pro His Ala Gly Gly Gly Ile Gly Leu Glu Arg Val Thr Met Leu Phe Leu Gly Leu His Asn Val Arg Gln Thr Ser Met Phe Pro Arg Asp Pro Lys Arg Leu Thr Pro <210> SEO ID NO 26 <211> LENGTH: 459 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Haemophilus influenzae Rd <400> SEQUENCE: 26 Met Leu Lys Ile Phe Asn Thr Leu Thr Arg Glu Lys Glu Ile Phe Lys Pro Ile His Glu Asn Lys Val Gly Met Tyr Val Cys Gly Val Thr Val Tyr Asp Leu Cys His Ile Gly His Gly Arg Thr Phe Val Cys Phe Asp Val Ile Ala Arg Tyr Leu Arg Ser Leu Gly Tyr Asp Leu Thr Tyr Val Arg Asn Ile Thr Asp Val Asp Asp Lys Ile Ile Lys Arg Ala Leu Glu Asn Lys Glu Thr Cys Asp Gln Leu Val Asp Arg Met Val Gln Glu Met Tyr Lys Asp Phe Asp Ala Leu Asn Val Leu Arg Pro Asp Phe Glu Pro Arg Ala Thr His His Ile Pro Glu Ile Ile Glu Ile Val Glu Lys Leu Ile Lys Arg Gly His Ala Tyr Val Ala Asp Asn Gly Asp Val Met Phe Asp Val Glu Ser Phe Lys Glu Tyr Gly Lys Leu Ser Arg Gln Asp Leu Glu Gln Leu Gln Ala Gly Ala Arg Ile Glu Ile Asn Glu Ile Lys Lys Asn Pro Met Asp Phe Val Leu Trp Lys Met Ser Lys Glu Asn Glu Pro

Ser Trp Ala Ser Pro Trp Gly Ala Gly Arg Pro Gly Trp His Ile Glu Cys Ser Ala Met Asn Cys Lys Gln Leu Gly Glu Tyr Phe Asp Ile His Gly Gly Ser Asp Leu Met Phe Pro His His Glu Asn Glu Ile Ala Gln Ser Cys Cys Ala His Gly Gly Gln Tyr Val Asn Tyr Trp Ile His Ser Gly Met Ile Met Val Asp Lys Glu Lys Met Ser Lys Ser Leu Gly 260 265 270 Asn Phe Phe Thr Ile Arg Asp Val Leu Asn His Tyr Asn Ala Glu Ala Val Arg Tyr Phe Leu Leu Thr Ala His Tyr Arg Ser Gln Leu Asn Tyr 290 295 300 Ser Glu Glu Asn Leu Asn Leu Ala Gln Gly Ala Leu Glu Arg Leu Tyr 305 310 315 320 Thr Ala Leu Arg Gly Thr Asp Gln Ser Ala Val Ala Phe Gly Gly Glu Asn Phe Val Ala Thr Phe Arg Glu Ala Met Asp Asp Asp Phe Asn Thr Pro Asn Ala Leu Ser Val Leu Phe Glu Met Ala Arg Glu Ile Asn Lys 355 360 365 Leu Lys Thr Glu Asp Val Glu Lys Ala Asn Gly Leu Ala Ala Arg Leu Arg Glu Leu Gly Ala Ile Leu Gly Leu Leu Gln Gln Glu Pro Glu Lys Phe Leu Gln Ala Gly Ser Asn Asp Asp Glu Val Ala Lys Ile Glu Ala Leu Ile Lys Gln Arg Asn Glu Ala Arg Thr Ala Lys Asp Trp Ser Ala 420 425 430 Ala Asp Ser Ala Arg Asn Glu Leu Thr Ala Met Gly Ile Val Leu Glu Asp Gly Pro Asn Gly Thr Thr Trp Arg Lys Gln <210> SEQ ID NO 27 <211> LENGTH: 461 <212> TYPE: PRT <213> ORGANISM: Escherichia coli <400> SEQUENCE: 27 Met Leu Lys Ile Phe Asn Thr Leu Thr Arg Gln Lys Glu Glu Phe Lys Pro Ile His Ala Gly Glu Val Gly Met Tyr Val Cys Gly Ile Thr Val Tyr Asp Leu Cys His Ile Gly His Gly Arg Thr Phe Val Ala Phe Asp Val Val Ala Arg Tyr Leu Arg Phe Leu Gly Tyr Lys Leu Lys Tyr Val Arg Asn Ile Thr Asp Ile Asp Asp Lys Ile Ile Lys Arg Ala Asn Glu

Asn Gly Glu Ser Phe Val Ala Met Val Asp Arg Met Ile Ala Glu Met 85 90 His Lys Asp Phe Asp Ala Leu Asn Ile Leu Arg Pro Asp Met Glu Pro 100 105 110 Arg Ala Thr His His Ile Ala Glu Ile Ile Glu Leu Thr Glu Gln Leu 120 Ile Ala Lys Gly His Ala Tyr Val Ala Asp Asn Gly Asp Val Met Phe 130 135 140 Asp Val Pro Thr Asp Pro Thr Tyr Gly Val Leu Ser Arg Gln Asp Leu145150150155 Asp Gln Leu Gln Ala Gly Ala Arg Val Asp Val Val Asp Asp Lys Arg 165 170 175 Asn Pro Met Asp Phe Val Leu Trp Lys Met Ser Lys Glu Gly Glu Pro 180 185 190 Ser Trp Pro Ser Pro Trp Gly Ala Gly Arg Pro Gly Trp His Ile Glu 195 200 205 Cys Ser Ala Met Asn Cys Lys Gln Leu Gly Asn His Phe Asp Ile His 210 215 220 220 Gly Gly Gly Ser AspLeu Met Phe Pro His His Glu Asn Glu Ile Ala225230235240 Gln Ser Thr Cys Ala His Asp Gly Gln Tyr Val Asn Tyr Trp Met His 245 250 255 Ser Gly Met Val Met Val Asp Arg Glu Lys Met Ser Lys Ser Leu Gly 260 265 270 Asn Phe Phe Thr Val Arg Asp Val Leu Lys Tyr Tyr Asp Ala Glu Thr 275 280 285 Val Arg Tyr Phe Leu Met Ser Gly His Tyr Arg Ser Gln Leu Asn Tyr 295 300 290 Ser Glu Glu Asn Leu Lys Gln Ala Arg Ala Ala Val Glu Arg Leu Tyr 305 310 315 320 310 315 Thr Ala Leu Arg Gly Thr Asp Lys Thr Val Ala Pro Ala Gly Gly Glu 330 325 335 Ala Phe Glu Ala Arg Phe Ile Glu Ala Met Asp Asp Asp Phe Asn Thr 345 340 350 Pro Glu Ala Tyr Ser Val Leu Phe Asp Met Ala Arg Glu Val Asn Arg 355 360 365 Leu Lys Ala Glu Asp Met Ala Ala Ala Asn Ala Met Ala Ser His Leu 375 380 Arg Lys Leu Ser Ala Val Leu Gly Leu Leu Glu Glu Glu Pro Glu Ala385390395400 Phe Leu Gln Ser Gly Ala Gln Ala Asp Asp Ser Glu Val Ala Glu Ile 405 410 415 Glu Ala Leu Ile Gln Gln Arg Leu Asp Ala Arg Lys Ala Lys Asp Trp 420 425 430 Ala Ala Asp Ala Ala Arg Asp Arg Leu Asn Glu Met Gly Ile Val 435 440 445 Leu Glu Asp Gly Pro Gln Gly Thr Thr Trp Arg Arg Lys 450 455 460

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Phe	Ala	His 35	Arg	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ala 40	Met	Asp	Lys	Pro	Arg 45	Ile	Leu	Ser
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Val	Val	Asp	Leu	His 85	Ala	Ile	Thr	Val	Pro 90	His	Asn	Pro	Gln	Thr 95	Leu
Ala	Gln	Asp	Thr 100	Leu	Thr	Ile	Ala	Ala 105	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Cys 110	Gly	Ile
Asp	Leu	Gln 115	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Ile	Phe 120	Val	Gln	Ser	His	Val 125	Ala	Ala	His
Ser	Glu 130	Leu	Ala	Trp	Leu	Leu 135	Asn	Сув	Val	Thr	Pro 140	Leu	Asn	Trp	Leu
Glu 145	Arg	Met	Ile	Gln	Phe 150	Lys	Glu	Lys	Ala	Val 155	Lys	Gln	Gly	Glu	Asn 160
Val	Ser	Val	Gly	Leu 165	Leu	Asp	Tyr	Pro	Val 170	Leu	Met	Ala	Ala	Asp 175	Ile
Leu	Leu	Tyr	Asp 180	Ala	Asp	Lys	Val	Pro 185	Val	Gly	Glu	Asp	Gln 190	Lys	Gln
His	Leu	Glu 195	Leu	Thr	Arg	Asp	Ile 200	Val	Ile	Arg	Ile	Asn 205	Asp	Lys	Phe
Gly	Arg 210	Glu	Asp	Ala	Pro	Val 215	Leu	Lys	Leu	Pro	Glu 220	Pro	Leu	Ile	Arg
L y s 225	Glu	Gly	Ala	Arg	Val 230	Met	Ser	Leu	Ala	Asp 235	Gly	Thr	Lys	Lys	Met 240
Ser	Lys	Ser	Asp	Glu 245	Ser	Glu	Leu	Ser	Arg 250	Ile	Asn	Leu	Leu	A sp 255	Pro
Pro	Glu	Met	Ile 260	Lys	Lys	Lys	Val	L y s 265	Lys	Cys	Lys	Thr	Asp 270	Pro	Gln
Arg	Gly	Leu 275	Trp	Phe	Asp	Asp	Pro 280	Glu	Arg	Pro	Glu	C ys 285	His	Asn	Leu
Leu	Thr 290	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Leu	Leu 295	Ser	Asn	Gln	Thr	L y s 300	Glu	Ala	Val	Ala
Gln 305	Glu	Сув	Ala	Glu	Met 310	Gly	Trp	Gly	Gln	Phe 315	Lys	Pro	Leu	Leu	Thr 320
Glu	Thr	Ala	Ile	Ala 325	Ala	Leu	Glu	Pro	Ile 330	Gln	Ala	Lys	Tyr	Ala 335	Glu
Ile	Leu	Ala	Asp 340	Arg	Gly	Glu	Leu	Asp 345	Arg	Ile	Ile	Gln	Ala 350	Gly	Asn
Ala	Lys	Ala 355	Ser	Gln	Thr	Ala	Gln 360	Gln	Thr	Leu	Ala	Arg 365	Val	Arg	Asp
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00	110		ac	~

Pro	Leu	Val 355	Glu	Leu	Leu	Val	Ser 360	Ala	Gly	Ile	Ser	Pro 365	Ser	Lys	Arg
Gln	Ala 370	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ile	Gln 375	Asn	Gly	Ala	Ile	T y r 380	Val	Asn	Gly	Glu
Arg 385	Leu	Gln	Asp	Val	Gly 390	Ala	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ala 395	Glu	His	Arg	Leu	Glu 400
Gly	Arg	Phe	Thr	Val 405	Ile	Arg	Arg	Gly	Lys 410	Lys	Lys	Tyr	Tyr	Leu 415	Ile
Arg	Tyr	Ala													

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an aspartyltRNA synthetase comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6 and 8;
- (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a).

2. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 1 wherein nucleic acid fragment is a functional RNA.

3. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence of the fragment comprises the sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5 and 7.

4. A chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment of claim 1 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.

5. A transformed host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 4.

6. An aspartyl-tRNA synthetase polypeptide comprising all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 2., 4, 6 and 8

7. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a cysteinyltRNA synthetase comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12 and 14;
- (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a).

8. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 7 wherein nucleic acid fragment is a functional RNA.

9. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 7 wherein the nucleotide sequence of the fragment comprises the sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9, 11 and 13.

10. A chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment of claim 7 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.

11. A transformed host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 10.

12. A cysteinyl-tRNA synthetase polypeptide comprising all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, 12 and 14.

13. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16, 18 and 20;
- (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a).

14. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 13 wherein nucleic acid fragment is a functional RNA.

15. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 13 wherein the nucleotide sequence of the fragment comprises the sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, 17 and 19.

16. A chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment of claim 13 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.

17. A transformed host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 16.

18. A tryptophanyl-tRNA synthetase polypeptide comprising all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence set forth in a member selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 16, 18 and 20.

19. An isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding a tyrosyltRNA synthetase comprising a member selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) an isolated nucleic acid fragment encoding an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22;
- (b) an isolated nucleic acid fragment that is complementary to (a).

20. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 19 wherein nucleic acid fragment is a functional RNA.

21. The isolated nucleic acid fragment of claim 19 wherein the nucleotide sequence of the fragment comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 1.

22. A chimeric gene comprising the nucleic acid fragment of claim 19 operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences.

23. A transformed host cell comprising the chimeric gene of claim 22.

24. A tyrosyl-tRNA synthetase polypeptide comprising all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 22.

25. A method of altering the level of expression of an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase in a host cell comprising:

- (a) transforming a host cell with the chimeric gene of any of claims 4, 10, 16 and 22; and
- (b) growing the transformed host cell produced in step (a) under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene
- wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of altered levels of an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase in the transformed host cell.

26. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase comprising:

- (a) probing a cDNA or genomic library with the nucleic acid fragment of any of claims 1, 7,13 and 19;
- (b) identifying a DNA clone that hybridizes with the nucleic acid fragment of any of claims 1, 7, 13 and 19;
- (c) isolating the DNA clone identified in step (b); and
- (d) sequencing the cDNA or genomic fragment that comprises the clone isolated in step (c)
- wherein the sequenced nucleic acid fragment encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence encoding an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase.

27. A method of obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding a substantial portion of an amino acid sequence encoding an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase comprising:

- (a) synthesizing an oligonucleotide primer corresponding to a portion of the sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21; and
- (b) amplifying a cDNA insert present in a cloning vector using the oligonucleotide primer of step (a) and a primer representing sequences of the cloning vector

- wherein the amplified nucleic acid fragment encodes a substantial portion of an amino acid sequence encoding an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase.
- 28. The product of the method of claim 26.
- **29**. The product of the method of claim 27.

30. A method for evaluating at least one compound for its ability to inhibit the activity of an aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) transforming a host cell with a chimeric gene comprising a nucleic acid fragment encoding an aminoacyltRNA synthetase, operably linked to suitable regulatory sequences;
- (b) growing the transformed host cell under conditions that are suitable for expression of the chimeric gene wherein expression of the chimeric gene results in production of the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase encoded by the operably linked nucleic acid fragment in the transformed host cell;
- (c) optionally purifying the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase expressed by the transformed host cell;
- (d) treating the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase with a compound to be tested; and
- (e) comparing the activity of the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase that has been treated with a test compound to the activity of an untreated aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase,
- thereby selecting compounds with potential for inhibitory activity.

* * * * *