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C07K 16/42 (2006.01)
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C12N 5/10 (2006.01)
C12N 15/63 (2006.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Rhodococcus equi (*R.equi*) has been determined to have a major adhesion factor encoded by a rpl pathogenicity island which enables host colonisation, wherein the rpl pathogenicity island is absent from non-pathogenic *Rhodococcus* species. Further, the proteins (Rpl) encoded by the rpl pathogenicity island have been determined to be major immunodominant antigens. There is provided a novel diagnostic marker and vaccine candidate for *R. equi* in horses and other susceptible species.

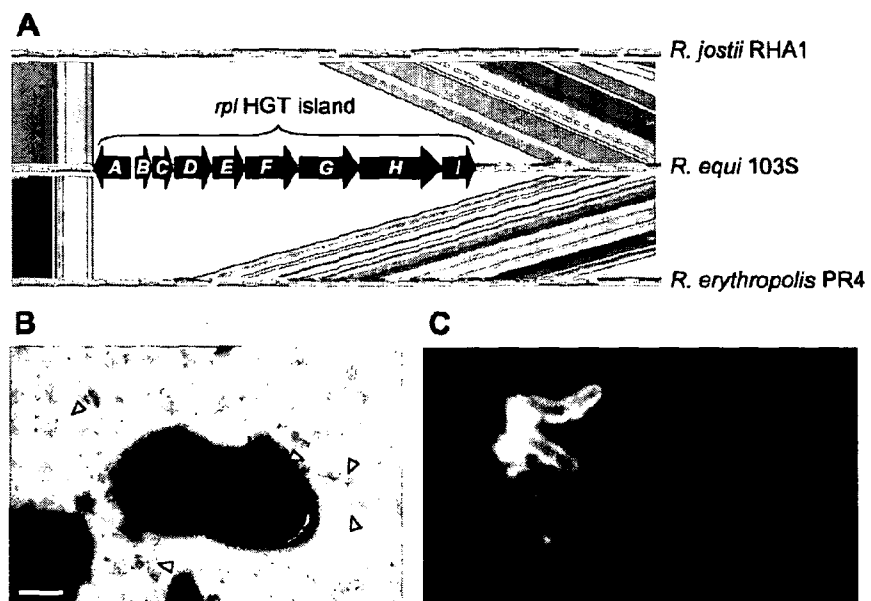


Figure 1

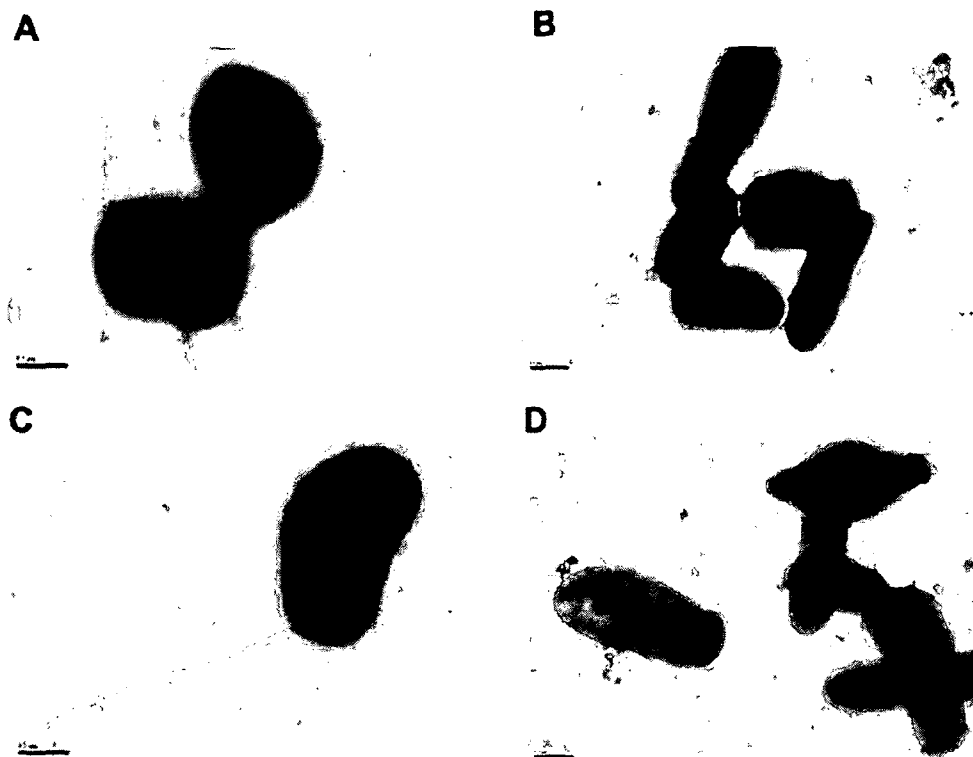


Figure 2

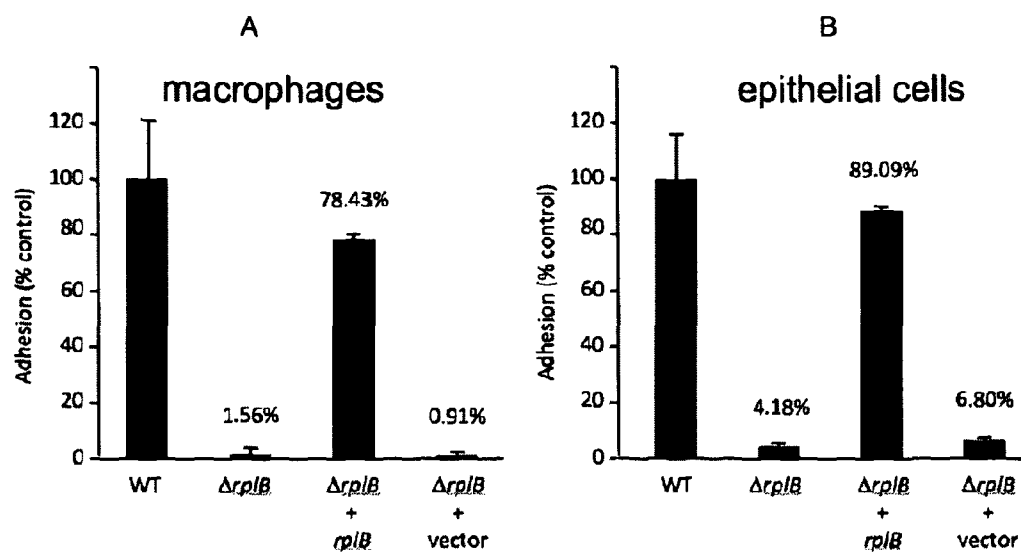


Figure 3

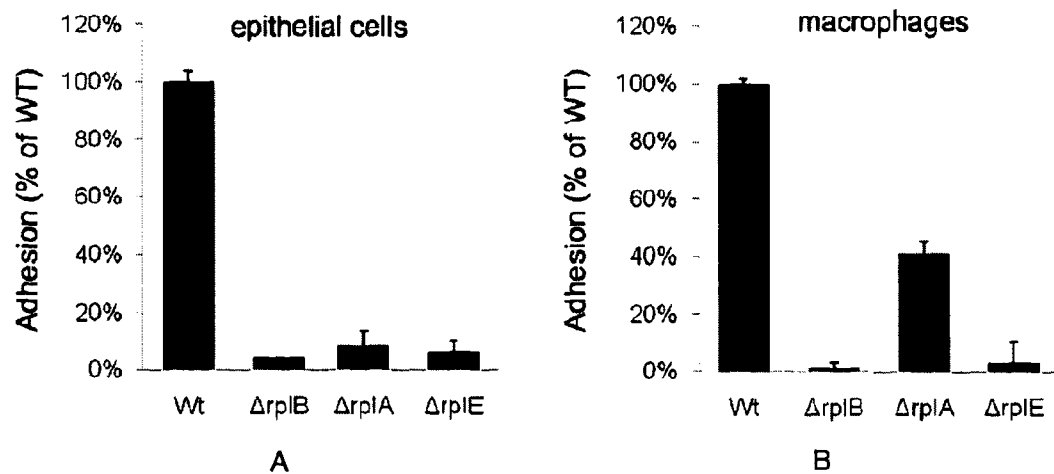


Figure 4

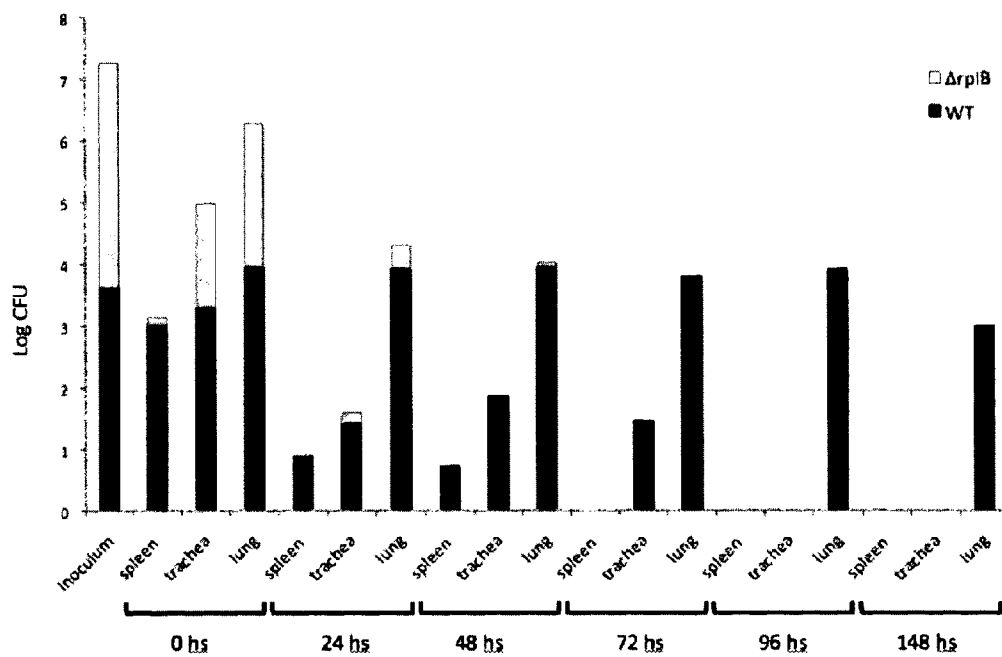


Figure 5

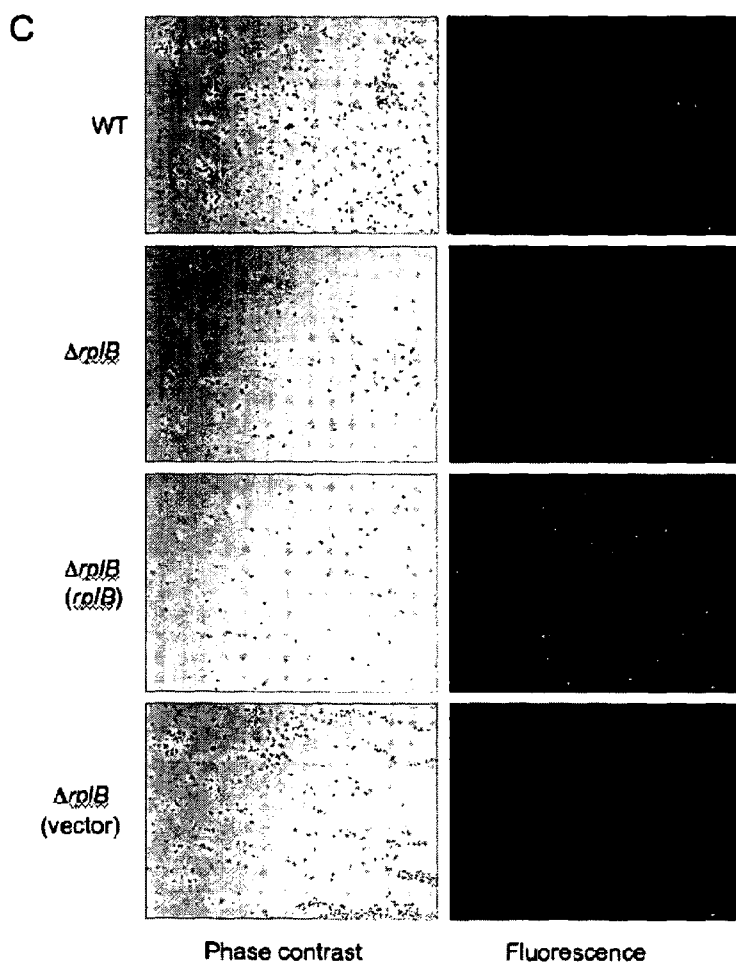
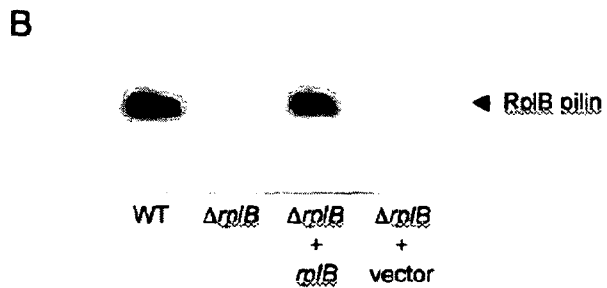
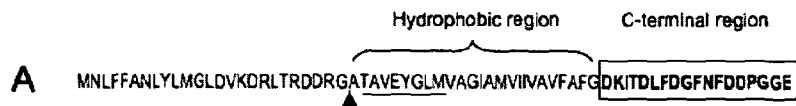


Figure 6

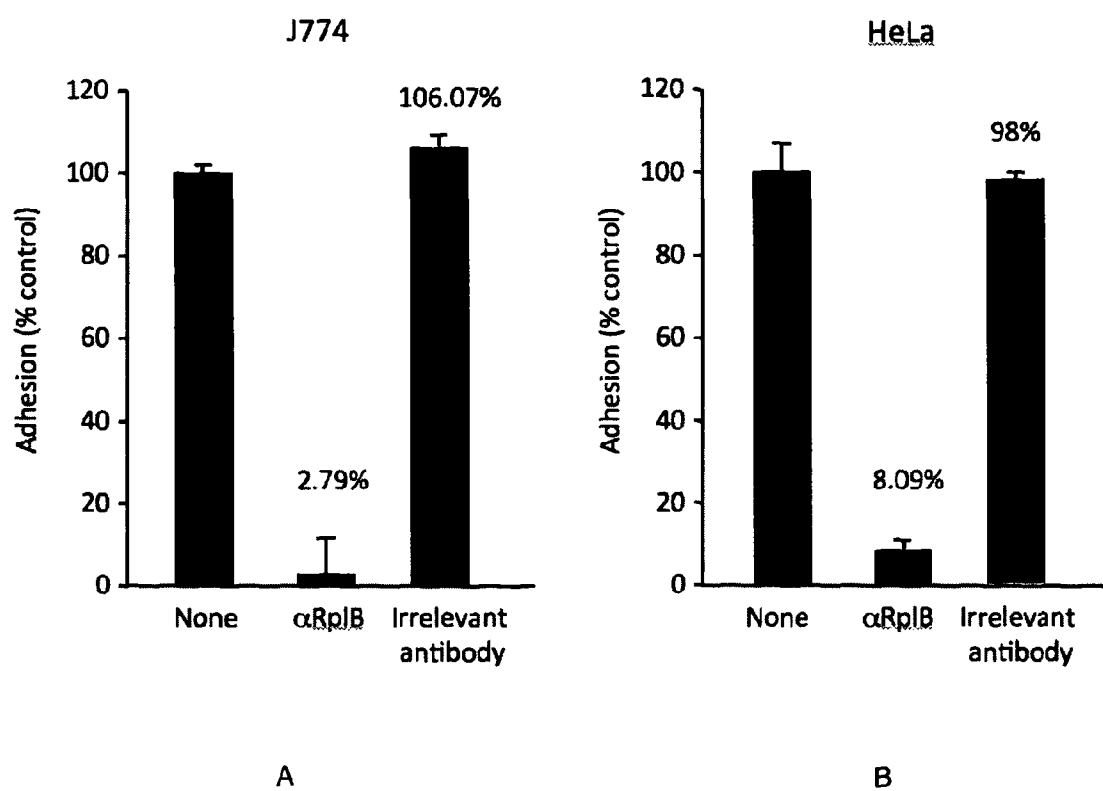


Figure 7

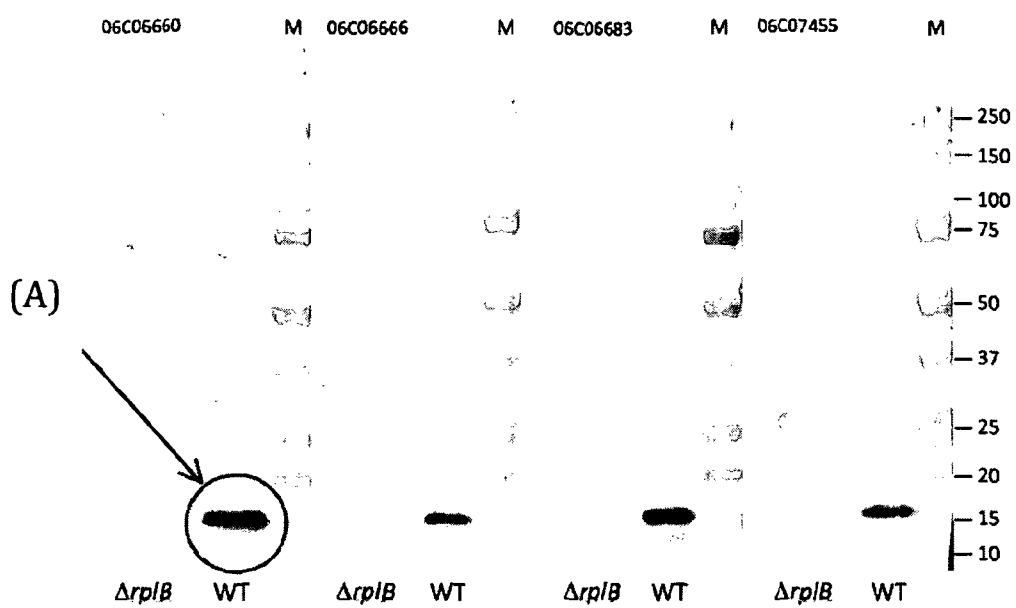


Figure 8

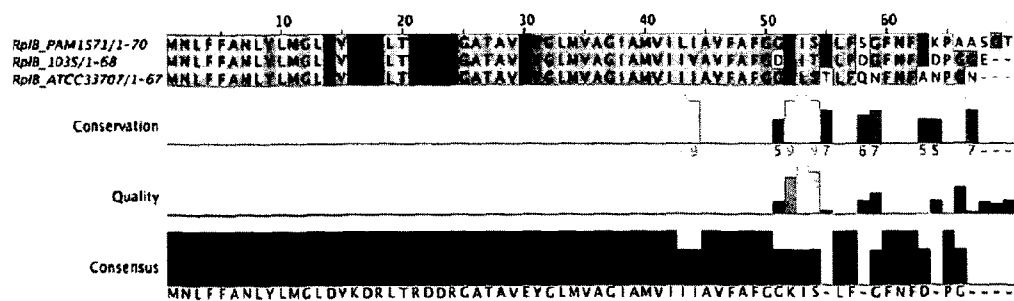


Figure 9

Fig 9 B

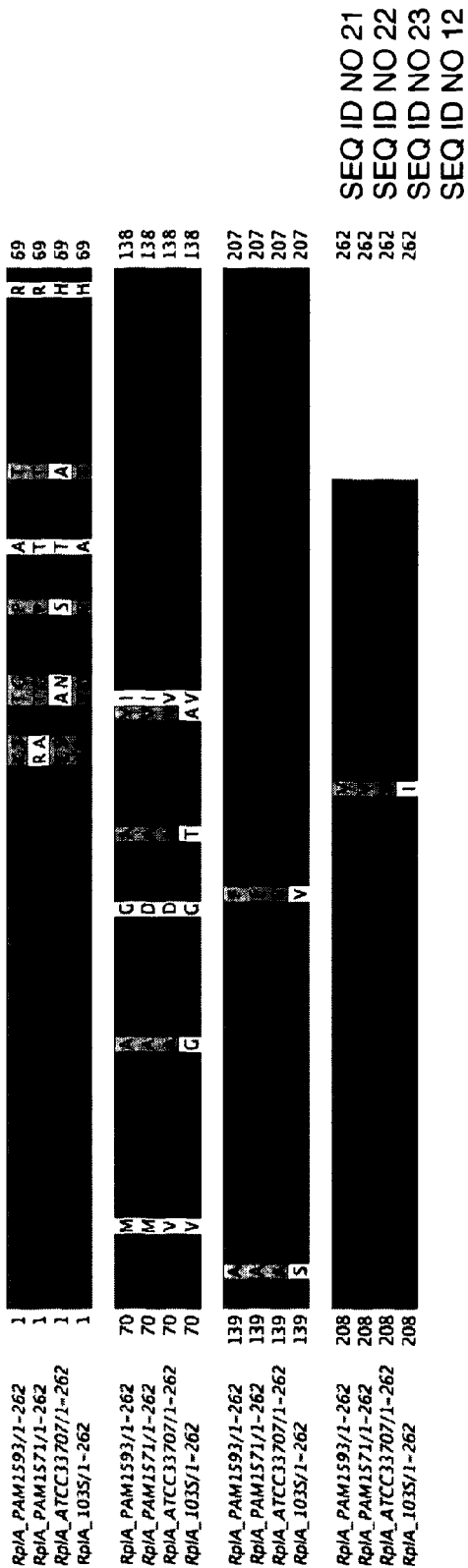


Fig 9 C



Fig 9 E

RplC_1035/1-133	1 -- M K A T	67	SEQ ID NO 14
RplC_ATCC33707/1-135	1 V I M K T	69	SEQ ID NO 27
RplC_PAM1953/1-130	1 - - - - R	64	SEQ ID NO 28
RplC_PAM1571/1-135	1 M G R F G	69	SEQ ID NO 29
RplC_1035/1-133	68	133	
RplC_ATCC33707/1-135	70	135	
RplC_PAM1953/1-130	65	130	
RplC_PAM1571/1-135	70	135	

Fig 9 G

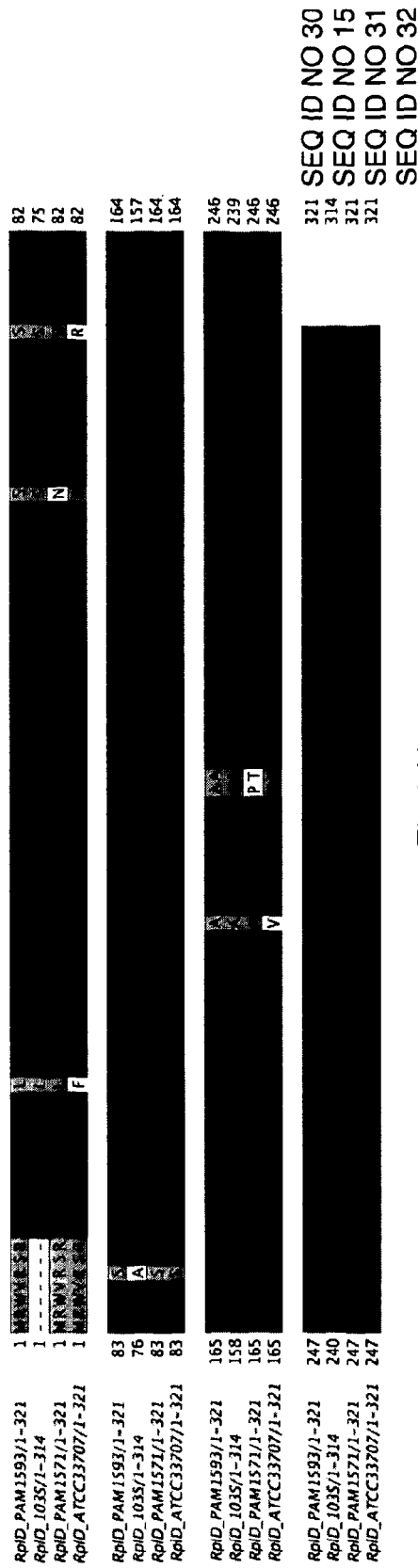


Fig 9 H

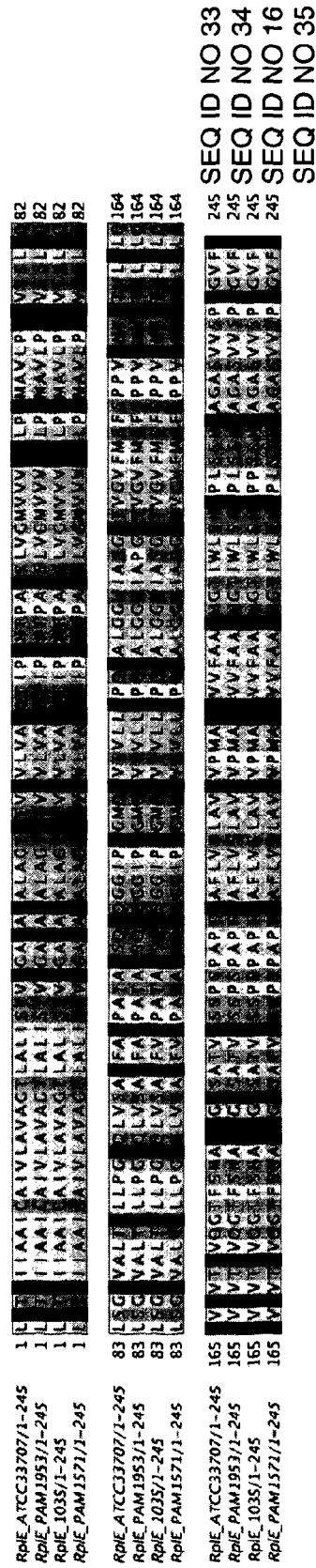


Fig 9 K

RpIF_1035/1-399	1			81
RpIF_PAM1571/1-399	1	E		81
RpIF_PAM1593/1-398	1	E		80
RpIF_ATCC33707/1-399	1	D		81
RpIF_1035/1-399	82			162
RpIF_PAM1571/1-399	82			162
RpIF_PAM1593/1-398	81			161
RpIF_ATCC33707/1-399	82			162
RpIF_1035/1-399	163			243
RpIF_PAM1571/1-399	163	C		243
RpIF_PAM1593/1-398	162	G		242
RpIF_ATCC33707/1-399	163	S		243
RpIF_1035/1-399	244			324
RpIF_PAM1571/1-399	244		A	324
RpIF_PAM1593/1-398	243			323
RpIF_ATCC33707/1-399	244			324
RpIF_1035/1-399	325			399
RpIF_PAM1571/1-399	325			399
RpIF_PAM1593/1-398	324			398
RpIF_ATCC33707/1-399	325			399

SEQ ID NO 17
 SEQ ID NO 36
 SEQ ID NO 37
 SEQ ID NO 38

Fig 9 L

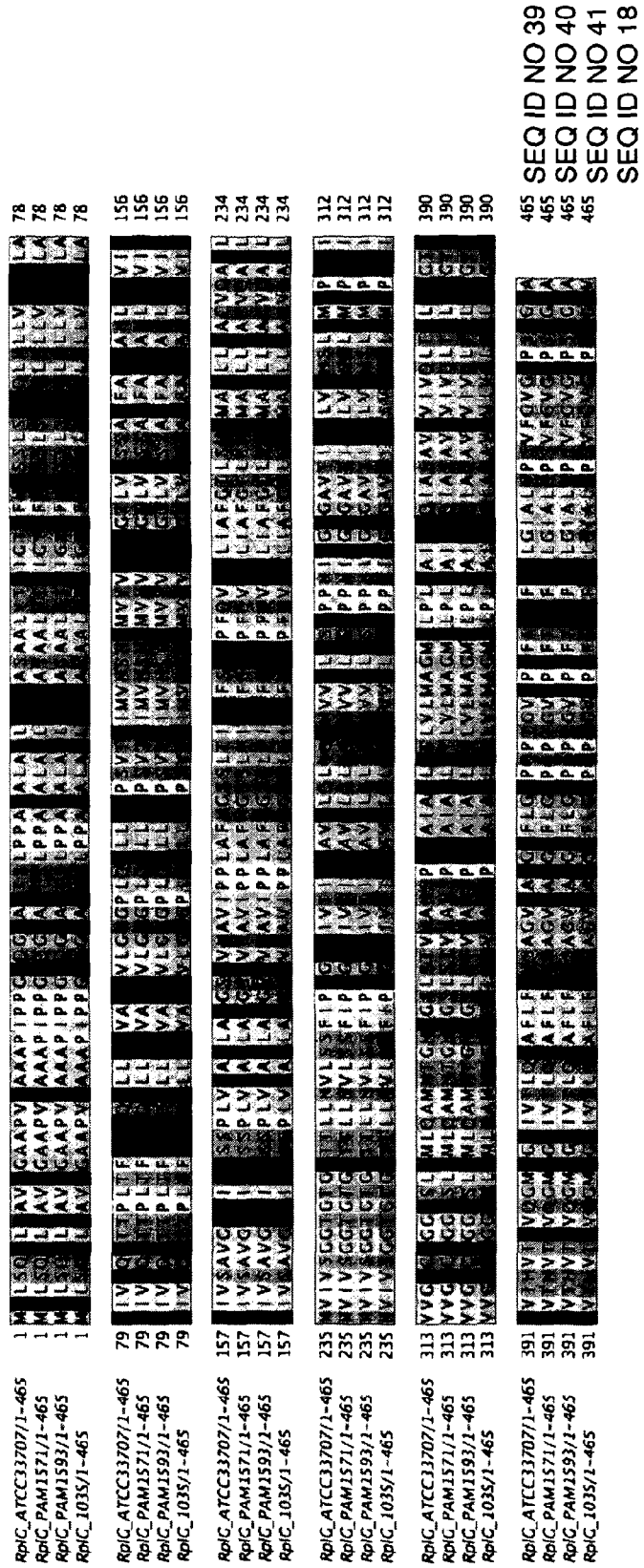


Fig 9 M

RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	1	78
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	1	78
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	1	78
RpIC_1035/1-465	1	78
RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	79	156
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	79	156
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	79	156
RpIC_1035/1-465	79	156
RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	157	234
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	157	234
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	157	234
RpIC_1035/1-465	157	234
RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	235	312
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	235	312
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	235	312
RpIC_1035/1-465	235	312
RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	313	390
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	313	390
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	313	390
RpIC_1035/1-465	313	390
RpIC_ATCC33707/1-465	391	465
RpIC_PAM1571/1-465	391	465
RpIC_PAM1593/1-465	391	465
RpIC_1035/1-465	391	465

SEQ ID NO 39
 SEQ ID NO 40
 SEQ ID NO 41
 SEQ ID NO 18

Fig 9 O

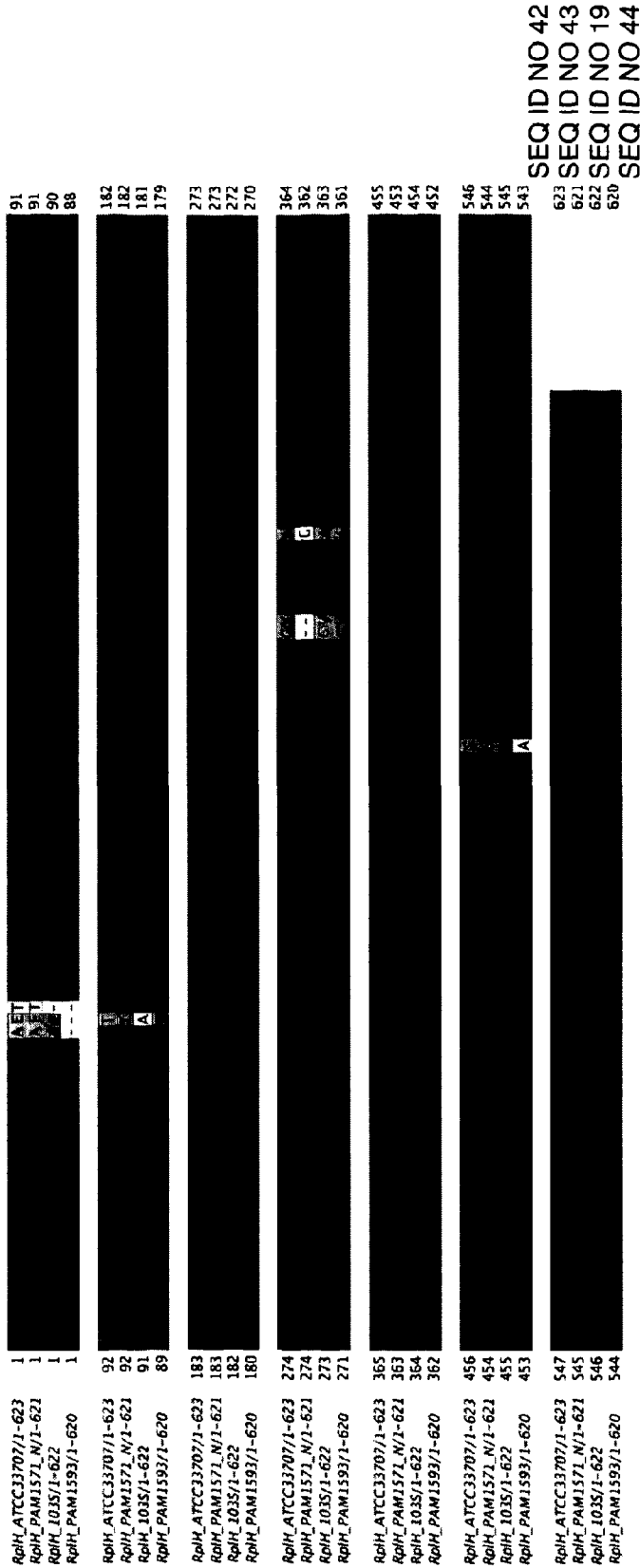


Figure 10 A

>RplA_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 48):
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aacagtgcgatcgaccgcgtgcgccctggagaccgcgtgcgccgagccgaagtgcaccccc
gccaactcaaccccgccgtccccctcccctacgtccgcggtggccgcccggatcgcgatg
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actgccctcctgttcgctcgcgatcactctcctgctcgcgctcctcgatcttctcccggca
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gcagtgggttcgctcgtcaacggggcactggtcggccctgctgcgcgcccgcgatcgggtgc
gccgtcctgttcgggttctacttcgtaactcgcctgatctatccggccggcatggggttc
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gccgtcgttgcgatcctggcagccgatccgctggcgcgctgcgtatctggactgggcccgc
cggcctga

>RplA_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 49):
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AACAGTGCATCGACCGCGTGCGCCTGGAGACCGCGTGCGCCGAGCCGAGGGCGACCCCC
ACCGGCTCAACCCCGCCGCCCCCTCCCCTACGTCCGCGGTAGCCACCCGGATCGCGATG
ATCGACACCATCACGCGACGACGCGACATCAGTGCCCCGCCATGCTCGTTCGAACTCGCA
ACGGCCCTCCTGTTTCGTCGCGATCACTCTCCGTCTCGCCGCTCTCGATCTTCTCCCGGCA
GCACCGGCCTATCTCTGGTTCGCCGTCATCGGGATCGCCCTCGCCGTCATCGACATCGAT
TGCAAACGGCTGCCGAACCTCCTCGTTCGTACCCTCGTACCCTCGTATTCGCCTGCCTG
GCAGTGGGTTCGTCGTCACGGGCGACTGGTCGGCCCTGCTGCGCCGCCGCGATCGGTGCC
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GCGGCCTGA

>RplA_PAM1593 (SEQ ID NO 50):
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ACCGGCTCAACCCCGCCGCCCCCTCCCCTGCGTCCGCGGTAGCCACCCGGATCGCGATG
ATCGACACCATCACGCGACGACGCGACATCAGTGCCCCGCCATGCTCGTTCGAACTCGCA
ACGGCCCTCCTGTTTCGTCGCGATCACTCTCCGTCTCGCCGCTCTCGGTCTTCTCCCGGCA
GCACCGGCCTATCTCTGGTTCGCCGTCATCGGGATCGCCCTCGCCGTCATCGACATCGAT
TGCAAACGGCTGCCGAACCTCCTCGTTCGTACCCTCGTACCCTCGTATTCGCCTGCCTG
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GCCGTGTTTCGATCCTGGCGGCCGATCCGCTGGCGCGCGCGTATCTGGACTGGGCCGCC
GCGGCCTGA

Figure 10 B

>RplB_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 51):
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CGTGACGACCGCGGGCCACTGCGGTTCGAGTACGGACTGATGGTCGCCGGCATCGCGATG
GTGATCCTCATTTGCGGTCTTCGCCCTTCGGCGGCAAGATCAGCGAGCTGTTTAGCGGCTTC
AATTCGACAAGCCCGCTGCGTTCGGGCACGTAG

>RplB_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 52):
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gtgatcatcatgcegtctttgccttcggcgccagactcagcacctgttccagaacttc
aacttcgccaaccggttaactag

Figure 10 C

>RplC_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 53):
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GGAAGTACCGTGACGCTCACGGTCAGCTATCCACTCGAGTACATGACGGGACTCTTTCC
GGTAAGCCGACGCTCACCGGCACGGGGTTCATGCGATGCGGTGGGTGA

>RplC_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 54):
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>RplC_PAM1953 (SEQ ID NO 55):
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Figure 10 D (i)

>RplD_PAM1593 (SEQ ID NO 56):
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AGTCTGGACGTGAAGATCCTCGTCGCCTACAACGTGACGGCGCCGCGCTGCAACGGAACC
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>RplD_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 57):
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Figure 10 D (ii)

```
>Rp1D_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 58)
ATGCGGTGGGTGAGGTCTCGCATGTC TAATGACGAGCGCGGGTCTCGCCGTGCTCGTC
GCGATCCTCATGGTCGTGCTCCTGGGATGTGCTGCGATCTCGGTCGACATCGGTGCGAAC
TATGTCGTCAAACGTCAGTTGCAGAACGGGGCCGATGCGGCTGCGCTCGCCGTAGCTCAG
GAATCCAATTGCAAGGCAGGATCTTCCGCCTCATCCGTGTCGAGCCTTGTCCAGGCGAAC
GTCAACAGCTCGTCGGCTTCAAGTGCGGCGGTGATCGACGGTGTGAAGCGGAAGGTGACG
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AGTCTGGACGTGAAGATCCTCGTCGCCTACAACGTGACGGCGCCGCGCTGCAACGGAACC
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GCGAAGATCGACCCACCGTCTATGCAACACCGGGCGACACCGGTAACAACATTCGGGGG
CCGTGCAAGGACACCATCAAGCAGTTTCAGAATGCCGTCGTCCGGGTCCC GATCTACGAC
GTCGCAGGTGGAACCGGAAGCGGTGGATGGTTTCACGTCGTGCGTTTGGCTGCCTTCAAG
ATTCAGGGCTACCGGCTGAGCGGCAACCCGGAGTTCAACTGGAACAACGATGTTACGGG
GCGCTGAGTTGCACCGGCAGCTGTCGCGGCATCATCGGTACCTTCGTGAAAATTGTCAGC
CTCGATTCCGGATCTGACGCCGGGAGGGATCGATTTCCGGCGTGAGTACGATCAGCTTGCTC
GATTAG
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Figure 10 E

>RplE_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 59):
ttgagaacccgaatcattgctgcgatctgtgcgatcgttctcgcggtcgcgggaaccctc
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>RplE_PAM1953 (SEQ ID NO 60):
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GATGTGCTCGTCGCCGATCAGACGATTCCGAAGAACACTCCCGCCGATTCGCTCGTGGGA
ATGGTTGTGGTCAAGAACTTCCGGAATGGCGGTGCTACCCGAACGGGTGACCAGTCTC
GACCAACTGTCCGGCAAGGTGCGGCTGACCGACCTCCTGCCGGGCGAACAACACTGGTCTCG
GCGCATTCGCAGACCCGGCGACCCGCCGAAGTCAGGACCAGGGAGGAATCCCCGAGGGG
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GGCGATAACCGTCGGCGTCTTCATGTCCTTCTCGCCGCCCGTCAAGAACTACGAAACACAT
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ATCTGGCTTTCCAATGAGCCGCTGAGTTTGAACGAGGCCGGGGCATCCGTGGTCTCCCCG
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>RplE_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 61):
TTGAGAACCCGAATCATTGCTGCGATCTGTGCGATCGTTCTCGCGGTCGCGGGAACCCCTC
GCCCTGATCTCGTATGTACGCGGGCCGATGCCCGCGCCCTGGCGGGTACACGCACCCTC
GATGTGCTCGTCGCCGATCAGACGATTCCGAAGAACACTCCCGCCGATTCGCTCGTGGGA
ATGGTTGTGGTCAAGAACTTCCGGAATGGCGGTGCTACCCGATCGGGTACCAGTCTC
GACCAACTGTCCGGCAAGGTGCGGCTGACCGACCTCCTGCCGAGGCGAACAACACTGGTCTCG
GCGCATTCGTCGACCCGGCGACCCGCCGAAGTCAGGACCAGGGAGGAATCCCCGAGGGG
ATGCAGGAGGTGACGGTCTTCTCGAGCCGCAACGCGCACTGGGAGGCCACATCGCGTCA
GGCGATAACCGTCGGCGTCTTCATGTCCTTCTCGCCGCCCGTCAAGAACTACGAAACACAT
CTGAGATTGCAGAAAGTGCAGTACGCGGGTCCAGGGAACGTTCTCCAACGCCGACGAA
GGGGATTCCGGCCACGGTGCAGTCTGTCGCCGAGCCCTGCTCCCACCGAGGCCTTCTCGTC
TCGCTGGCGGTTCGACGTGCCGATGGCGGAGCGCGTCTGTTTTCCGCCGGAGCACGGGACC
ATCTGGCTTTCCAATGAGCCGCTGAGTTTGAACGAGGCCGGGGCATCCGTGGTCTCCCCG
GAAGGAGTGTTCGATGA

Figure 10 F (i)

>Rp1F_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 62):
 ATGAGCCGCATCGTCCTGCTGACCGATCGCGACGATTTCCGCCCGCCGCGTGTACCACGCC
 GCGGACGGCAACCTTCTGGTGTGCGCGCGCAGCCGGTCCCCGGGGCCGGCGCAGTTG
 GTCGGGCTCGGCGTGACCGTGCAACCCGAAGTTCTCGTTCCTCGGTCCGGACGTGCCGGAA
 GTGGAGGGCCTCTCCCTCGCCGGCCGGATCGATCATTGACGCCCGGCACCACGGTGGTT
 CTGGCCAGTGATGCGGGCACCGACGTGTGGTTGCGGGCGATGCGCGCCGGCGTGCGGGAC
 GTGATGTCGCCGGAGGCGGAGATCGCGGACGTTCTGTGCGGTACTCGATCGAGCGGGCCAG
 GCCGCACTGGCGCGACGTCAGGGGGCGAGTGCACCGGCGGAGCAGCATGCGGTTCAAGGG
 AAGGTCATCGTGGTTCGCGTTCGCCGAAAGGCGGAACCGGAAAGACCACCGTTGCGACGAAT
 CTTGCAGTAGGACTCGCGGCGGCAGCGCCTCACTCGACGGTGTGGTGGACCTCGACGTG
 CAGTTCGGGGACGTTGCCAGTGCTCTCCAGTTGGTTCCGGAACATTGCCTGACCGACGCC
 GTCGCGGGCCCGGCCAGCCAGGACATGATCGTCTCAAGACCGTCTTACACCCCATTTCC
 ACAGGACTGCATGCGCTGTGTGGGTCCGACTCGCCCGCGGCGGGCGACAGCATCACCGGC
 GAGCAGGTGAGCACTCTGCTGACGCAGTTGGCGGCCGAATTCCGGTACGTGGTTCGTGCGAC
 ACCGCGCCCGGTTTGCTCGAACACACCCTGGCGGCGCTCGACCTCGCTACCGACGTGCTG
 TTGGTGTGCGGTATGACGCTGCCAGCGTCCGCGGGATGCACAAGGAACTGCAGTTGCTG
 GCGGAGCTGAATCTGGGTCCGGTTCGTGCGGCATGTGCTGCTCAACTTTGCGGATCGACGC
 GAGGGGCTGACGGTCCAGGACATCCAGAACACCATCGGGGTCCCCGCCGATATCGTGATC
 AAGCGGTCGAAAGCCGTTGCCCTCTCGACGAACCGGGGTGTTCCACTGCTTCAGAACCCG
 GGTCCGGATCGCACTGCGAAAGAGTTGTGGCGACTCGTCCGGCCGATCGATCCGGCTCCC
 GATAACCACCAAGGGTGGACGCGCGCGGCATCGGGCAGCCGAGGCGGTGGGGCGAAATGA

>Rp1F_PAM1593 (SEQ ID NO 63):
 ATGAGCCGCATCGTCCTGCTGACCGATCGCGACGATTYCGCCCGCCGCGTGTACCACGCC
 GCGGACGGCAACCTTCTGGTGTGCGCGCGCAGCCGGTCCCCGGGGCCGGCGCAGTTG
 GTCGGGCTCGGCGTGACCGTGCAACCCGACGTTCTCGTTCCTCGGTCCGGACGTGCCGGAA
 GTGGAGGGCCTCTCCCTCGCCGGCCGGATCGATCATTGACGCCCGGCACCACGGTGGTT
 CTGGCCAGTGATGCGGGCACCGACGTGTGGTTGAGGGCGATGCGCGCCGGCGTGCGGGAC
 GTGATGTCGCCGGAGGCGGAGATCGCGGACGTTCTGTGCCGTACTCGATCGAGCAGGTCAG
 GCCGCGCTGGCGCGACGTCAGGGGGCGAGTGCACCGGCGGAGCAGCATGCGGTTCAAGGG
 AAGGTCATCGTGGTTCGCGTTCGCCGAAAGGCGGAACCGGAAAGACCACCGTTGCGACGAAT
 CTTGCAGTCGGACTCGCGGCGGCAGCGCCTCACTCCACGGTGTGGTGGACCTCGACGTG
 CAGTTCGGCGACGTTGCCAGTGCTCTCCAGTTGGTTCCGGAACATTGCCTGACCGACGCC
 GTCGCGAGCCCGGCCAGCCAGGACATGATCGTCTCAAGACCGTCTGACACCCCATTTCC
 ACAGGACTGCATGCGCTGTGTGGATCGGACTCGCCCGCGGCGGGCGACAGCATCACCGGC
 GAGCAGGTGAGCACTCTGCTGACGCAGTTGGCGGCCGAATTCCGGTACGTGGTTCGTGCGAC
 ACCGCGCCCGGTTTGCTCGAACACACCCTGGCGGCGCTCGACCTTGCTACCGACGTGCTG
 TTGGTGTGCGGTATGACGCTGCCAGCGTCCGCGGGATGCACAAGGAACTGCAATTGCTG
 ACGGAGCTGAATCTGGGTCCGGTTCGTGCGGCATGTGCTGCTCAACTTTGCGGATCGACGC
 GAGGGGCTGACGGTCCAGGACATCCAGAACACCATCGGGGTCCCCGCCGATATCGTGATC
 AAGCGCTCGAAAGCCGTTGCCCTCTCGACGAACCGGGGGTTCCTACTGCTTCAGAACCCG
 GGTCCGGATCGCACTGCGAAAGAGTTGTGGCGACTCGTCCGGCCGATCGATCCGGCTCCC
 GATAACCACCAAGGGTGGACGCGCGCGGCATCGGGCAGCCGAGGCGGTGGGTGCGAAATGA

Figure 10 F (ii)

>RplF_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 64):
atgagccgcatcgctcctgctgaccgatcgcgacgatttcgcccgcgcgctgtaccacgcc
gcggacggcaaccttctggtggtgcccggcgcagccggttccccggggccggcgcagttg
gtcgggctcggcgtgaccgtgcaaccgcagcttctcgttctcgggccggacgtgccgga
gtggagggcctctccctcgcggccggatcgatcattcgcgcgccggcaccacggtggtt
ctggccagtgatgcgggcaccgacgtgtggttgagggcgatgcgcgcggcgtgcgggac
gtgatgtcgcggaggcggagatcgcggacgttcgtgccgtactcgatcgagcaggtcag
gccgcgctggcgcgacgtcagggggcgagtgcaccggcggagcagcatgcggttcaaggg
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ctgacagtccgactcgcggcggcagcgcctcactccacgggtggtggtggacctcgacgtg
cagttcggcgcagcttgccagtgtctctccagttggttccggaacattgctgaccgacgcc
gtcgcgagcccggccagccaggacatgatcgtcctcaagaccgtcctgacacccccattcc
acaggactgcatgcgctgtgtggatcggactcgcgccggcggggcgacagcattaccggc
gagcaggtgagcactctgctgacgcagttggcggccgaattccggtacgtggtcgtcgac
accgcgcccggtttgctcgaacacacctggcggcgctcgaccttgctaccgacgtcgtg
ttggtgtcgggtatggacgtgccagcgtccgcgggatgcacaaggaactgcaattgctg
acggagctgaatctgggtccggtcgtgcggcatgtcgtgctcaacttgccggatcgacgc
gaggggctgacgggtccaggacatccagaacaccatcgggggtccccgccgatcgtgatc
aagcgtcgaagccgttgccctctcgacgaaaccgggggggttccactgcttcagaacccg
ggtcgggatcgcactgcgaaagagtgtggtgactcgtcggccgtatcgatccggctccc
gataccgccaagggtggacgcgcggcatcgggcagccgaggcgggtgggtgcgaaatga

Figure 10 G (i)

>RplG_PAM1593 (SEQ ID NO 65):
ATGAGACTGTCCCAACGGCTCGAGGCCGTGCGCGGAGCCGCACCCGTGGAAGCCGCCGCA
CCGATCCCGCCGGGAAGCAGGGGAAGGCGAAAACGTCCCTCCCTCCGGCCGACGCTCTC
GCCGAACGAAGGACCGTGCGAGTGC GGCCCTGTACACCCGGATCGGCACCCGCTTCAAC
GACTCCTCGTTGAGCGAGGAGCAACTGCATCTCCTGGTCCGTGAGGAACTGGCCGAAATC
GTGGAGCAAGAGACGACGCCACTCACCTTCGACGAACGGCAGCGCCTGCTCCGTGAGGTT
GCCGACGAGGTACTGGGGCACGGACCGCTCCAGCGGCTACTGGAGGACCCCGTCGGTCACC
GAGATCATGGTCAACAGCCACGACATGGTCTACGTCGAGCGGGACGGCACCCCTCGTCCGC
AGCTCCGCGCGATTTCGCGGACGAGGCGCACCTGCGTCGCGTGATCGAACGCATCGTTTCC
GCCGTCGGTCGACGGATCGACGAATCGTCCCGCTCGTGGATGCACGCTTGGCGGATGGC
TCCCGTGTCAACGCGGTGATCCCACCGCTCGCATTC AACGGCTCCTCGCTCACCATTCGA
AAGTTCGAAAGATCCGTTCCAGGTCGACGATCTCATCGCCTTCGGCACTCTCTCGCAC
GAGATGGCCGAACGCTCGACGCGTGTGTGCAGGCGGACTGAACGTCATCGTCTCGGGC
GGCACGGGCACGGGAAGACGACGCTGCTCAACGTGCTCTCGTCGTTTCATTCGGAAGGG
GAGCGGATCGTACCATCGAGGACGCCGTGGAACGCAACTTCAGCAGGACCACGTCGTA
CGGTTGGAGAGCCGACCGCCGAACATCGAGGGCAAGGGTGCCGTCACCATCCGCGACCTG
GTGCGGAACGCTGCGTATGCGTCCCGACCGCATCGTGGTGGGGGAGTGTGCGGAGGC
GAGAGTCTCGACATGCTGCAAGCGATGAACACCGGTCACGACGGGTCGCTGTGACGGTG
CATGCCAATTCGCCCCGTGACGCCATCGCGCGCTTGGAGACGCTCGTGTGATGGCGGGC
ATGGACTTGCCGTTGCGGGCGATCCGGGAGCAGATTGCTTCGGCGGTCGACGTGATCGTG
CAGCTCACTCGACTACGTGACGGCACTCGGCGAGTGACCCACGTGACCGAGGTCCAGGGC
ATGGAGGGTGAGATCGTCACTGCAGGATGCCCTTCTGTTGACTACAGCGCCGGCGTC
GACGCGCGGGCGATTCTCGGCAGACCGCAGCCGACGGGAGTGC GGCCCGGGTTCACC
GACAAATTCGAGATCTCGGTATTGCTTTGTGCGCGAGTGTTCGGGGTGGGAGAACCC
TCCCGGGGGCGGGCATGA

Figure 10 G (ii)

>Rp1G_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 66):
ATGAGACTGTCCCAACGGCTCGAGGCCGTGCGCGGAGCCGCACCCGTCGAAGCCGCCGCA
CCGATCCCGCCGGGGAAGCAGGGGAAGGCGAAGACGTCCCTCCCTCCGGCCGACGCTCTC
GCCGAAC TGAAGGACCGTGCGAGTGC GGCCCTGTACACCCGGATCGGCACCCGCTTCAAC
GACTCCTCGTTGAGCGAGGAGCAACTGCATCTCCTGGTCCGTGAGGAACTGGCCGAGATC
GTGGAGCAGGAGACGACGCCACTCACCTTCGACGAGCGGCAGCGCCTGCTCCGTGAGGTC
GCCGACGAGGTACTGGGGCACGGACCGCTTCAGCGGCTACTGGAGGACCCGTCGGTCACC
GAGATCATGGTCAACAGCCACGACATGGTCTACGTCGAGCGGGACGGCACCCCTCGTTTCGC
AGCTCCGCGCGATTCGCGGACGAGGCGCACCTGCGCCGCGTGATCGAACGCATCGTTTCC
GCCGTCGGTCGACGGATCGACGAATCGTCCCCGCTCGTGGATGCACGCTTGGCGGACGGC
TCCCCTGTCAACGCGGTGATCCCACCGCTCGCATTC AACGGCTCCTCGCTCACCATT CGA
AAGTTC TCGAAAGATCCGTTCCAGGTCGACGATCTCATCGCCTTCGGCACTCTCTCGCAC
GAGATGGCCGAAC TGTGACGCGTGTGTGCAGGCGCGACTGAACGTCATCGTCTCGGGC
GGCACGGGCACGGGGAAGACGACGCTGCTCAACGTGCTCTCGTTCGTTTCATTC CGGAAGGG
GAGCGGATCGTCAACATCGAGGACGCCGTGGAAC TGCAACTTCAGCAGGACCACGTCGTA
CGGTTGGAGAGCCGACCGCCGAACATCGAGGGCAAGGGCGCCGTCACCATCCGTGACCTG
GTGCGGAACTCGCTGCGTATGCGTCC TGACCCGATCGTGGTGGGGGAGTGTGCGGGAGGC
GAGAGTCTCGACATGCTGCAAGCGATGAACACCCGTCACGACGGGTGCTGTCGACGGTG
CATGCGAATTCGCCCCGTGACGCCATCGCGCGCTTGGAGACGCTCGTGTGATGGCGGGC
ATGGACCTGCCGTTGCGGGCGATCCGGGAGCAGATTGCTTCGGCGGTCGACGTGATCGTG
CAGCTCACTCGACTACGTGACGGCAC TCGGGCAGTGACCCACGTGACCGAGGTCCAGGGC
ATGGAGGGTGAGATCGTCACCCTGCAGGATGCC TCCCTGTTTCGACTACAGCGCCGGCGTC
GACGCGCGCGGGCGATTCCCTCGGCAGACCGCAGCCGACCGGAGTGCGGCCGCGGTTACC
GACAAATTCCGAGATCTCGGTATTGCTTTGTGCGCCGAGTGT TTTTCGGGGTGGGAGAACC
TCCCGGGGGCGGGCATGA

Figure 10 G (iii)

>Rp1G_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 67):

```
atgagactgtcccaacggctcgaggccgtgcgcgagccgcacccgctcgaagcggccgca
ccgatcccgcggggaagcaggggaaggcgaagacgtccctccctccggccgacgctctc
gccgaactgaaggaccgtgcgagtgccgcccctgtacaccggatcggcaccgcttcaac
gactcctcgttgagcggaggcaactgcatctcctggtcgctgaggaactggccgaatc
gtggagcaagagacgacgccaactcaccttcgacgaacggcagcgcctgctccgtgaggtc
gccgacgaggtactggggcacggaccgctccagcggctactggaggaccgctcggtcacc
gagatcatgggtcaacagccacgacatgggtctacgtcagcgggacggcaccctcgtccgc
agctccgcgcgatttcgaggacgaggcgcacctgctcgcgtgatcgaacgcatcgtttcc
gccgtcggtcgacgggatcgacgaatcgctccccgctcgtggatgcacgcttggcggatggc
tcccgtgtcaacgcgggtgatcccaccgctcgcattcaacggctcctcgtcaccattcga
aagttctcgaagatccggttccaggtcgcacgatctcatcgccttcggcactctctcgac
gagatggccgaactgctcgcgcggtggtgagggcgcactgaacgctcatcgctcgggc
ggcacgggacggggaagacgacgctgctcaacgtgctctcgtcgttcatccggaaggg
gagcggatcgctcaccatcgaggacgcccgtggaaactgcaacttcagcaggaccacgctcgtc
cggttggagagccgaccgccgaacatcgagggcaagggcgcctcaccatccgcgacctg
gtgcggaaactcgtcgcgtatgctcggaccgcatcggtggggggagtgctcgcggaggc
gagagctcgcacatgctgcaagcgcgatgaacaccggtcacgacgggtcgtgctgcacggtg
catgcgaattcgcgccgtgacgccatcgcgcgcttgagagcgcctcgtggtgatggcgggc
atggacctgcccgttgcggggcgtccggggagcagattgcttcggcgggtcgcgctgatcgtg
cagctcactcgactacgtgacggcactcggcgcagtgaccacgctgaccgaggtccagggc
atggaggggtgagatcgtaaccctgcaggatgccttccctgcttcgactacagcgcggcgtc
gacgcgcgcgggcatcctcggcagaccgcagccgaccggagtgccggcccggttcacc
gacaaatcccgagatctcggatttgctttgtcgcggagtggttttcgggggtgggagaaccc
tcccggggcgggcatga
```

Figure 10 H (i)

>Rp1H_PAM1593 (SEQ ID NO 68):
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GCCGTAGCCGCGGCCNNNGGAGGCTGTCCAGGTCCTCGGCGGTTCGACACGACCCGGTTT
CCCGACATCGAGGTGTCCATCCTCGCGCCGCCCGGTATCGAAGGGCAGGCGATCGATCCG
GGAACGTTTCGCGCTCACCGAGGGCGGCGTGCCGCGAGAGATCGAGGTCAGGCAGCAGCCG
GGTTCGAGCAGGACATCGTGCTCGCAATCGACGTGTCCGGGGCATGTCCGGTCCGGCG
CTGGACGACGTGAAGCGCGCCGCATCGGATTTCTGTGCGGCAGGCGCCGACCGGCGCCAC
ATCGGAATCGTCGCGATCTCGTCGACGCCACAGGTGCTCTCGGAACTGACGACGGACTCC
GAGGACCTGCTCCGCGAGATCGACGGACTGAAGGCGGGCGGCAACAGCGCGATCGCAGAT
TCGGTGGTGACCGCCGCGAGATGCTCGAGCGCGGCGAAGCGGCCAACAAACATCCTGCTT
CTGTTGACGGACGGCGCCGACACGTGAGTGCACACTCGATGTCCGAACTCCCGTCCGTC
CTGAGTCGGTCGCGCGGTCGCTGTACGCCGTGCAGATGTGACACCCGAGACGAACTCT
GCTCTCCTGCAGCAGGTTGCGCGGGAGTCGCGCGGTTCAGTACGCGTCTGCGGGTGATACG
GCGGCGCTGGGTGCGATCTACCAGTCGGCCGCTCGCGCGCTCGGAAACCTGTACGTCGTC
CGATAACCGATCGGAAGCGAACGGCGATAACCCAGGTGGTGGCGAGCGTGCAGCGGCGCA
GCCGGCCGAGTGAGCGATCCGTTCCCGGTGACATCGCCCGGTGTGGTGCCGACGCCGAGC
GTGCTCGCCGGGACCGTCGACGGTTTCTTACGTCCTTCGACGGGGCTGGTGATCGGGCTC
CTAGCGTGCTACTCGGCGCTTGCGGGAGGCGTGTGGCGGTTCGCCGTTAGAGCGCCCGCG
AGGATTTCCGGCAGCACGTGCTGGGCGGCAGGACGGACGGGACTCGATGCTGTCCCGATTC
GCGGAACGGCTGGTGCAGTGGATCGATCAGAACCTGAGGAGACCGGACGCATCGCTGCC
CGCACCCAGGCGCTACAGGAGGCGGGGCTGAAGCTTCGTCCAGGTGACTTCATCGCCCTG
GTCCGGTGTGCGGCGATCACCGCTGCGGCGATCGGTCTCCTGGCTTCGGGCATCGTGCGG
GCGCTCTTGCTCGCGGCGATCACAGTGGGATTGTCGAGAATCTATCTCCGTGTGATGGCC
GGTAGGCGTCCGGCCGCGTTTCGCTGATCAGCTCGACGATTCCTGACGCTGCTGGCCAGC
AATCTCCGAGCCGGGCACAGCATGCTCCGAGCGCTCGATTCCCTTTCCCGAGAGGCGGAG
GTGCCGACTTCGGAGGAGTTTCGCTCGGATCGTCAACGAGACTCGGGTGGGACGTGATCTC
AACGAGGCTCTCGACGACGTGGCCCGGCGGATGCGAAGTGACGATTTCAACTGGATAGCT
CAGGCGATCGCCATCAACCGTGAGGTGCGAGGCGACCTCGCGGAAGTCTTCGACCAGGTG
GGCAACACCATTTCGAGAGCGAAATCAGATTCGACGGCAGGTGAAAGCCCTTGCTGCCGAG
GGGAAACTGTCCGCCTACGTGCTGATGGCGCTGCCCTTCGGTCTCACCGCATTTCTGCTC
GTCTCGAATCCGGACTACCTGTGCAAGTTGACGGGTAGCGCCATCGGCTACGTGATGATC
GCGGTGGGGCTCGTCATGCTGACCGTCGGTGGGCTGTGGATGAACAAGGTTGTCTCGGTC
AAGTTCTAG

Figure 10 H (ii)

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>RplH_PAM1571_N (SEQ ID NO 69):
ATGAGTCGGTGCGTGGTGGCCGTCGTGCTCGCCCTCGGTGCGGGTGTTCCTGGGAATTCCT
GCCGTAGCCGCGGCGGCCGAGACGGAGGCTGTCCAGGTCTCGGCGGTTCGACACGACCCGG
TTTCCCACATCGAGGTGTCCATCCTCGCGCCGCCCAGGTATCGAAGGGCAGGCGATCGAT
CCGGGAACGTTTCGCGCTCACCGAGGGAGGCGTGCCGCGAGAGATCGAGGTTCAGGCAGCAG
CCGGGTTCGAGCAGGACATCGTGCTCGCAATCGACGTGTCCGGGGGCATGTCCGGTCCG
GCGCTGGACGACGTGAAGCGCGCCGCATCGGATTTTCGTACGGCAGGCGCCGACCCGGCGCC
CACATCGGAATCGTCGCGATCTCGTCGACGCCACAGGTGCTCTCGGAAC TGACGACGGAC
TCCGAGGACCTGCTCCGCAGGATCGACGGACTGAAGGCGGGCGGCAACAGCGCGATCGCA
GATTCGGTGGTGACCGCCCGAGATGCTCGAGCGCGGGAAGCGGCCAACAAACATCCTG
CTTCTGTTGACGGACGGCGCCGACACGTCCAGTGCACACTCGATGTCGGAAC TCCCGTCC
GTCCTGAGTCGGTTCGCGCGCTCGCTGTACGCCGTGCAGATGTCGACACCCGAGACGAAC
TCTGCTCTCCTGCAGCAGGTGCGCGGGAGTCGCGCGGTTCAGTACCGCTTTCGCGGTGAT
ACGGCGGCGCTGGGTGCGATCTACCAGTCCGCCGCTCGCGCGCTCGGAAACCTGTACGTC
GTCGGATACCGATCGGAAGCGAACGGCGATACCCAGGTGGTGGCGAGCGTCCGACGCGC
GACGCCGCGAGTGAGCGATCCGTTCCCGGTGACATTGCCCGGTGTGGTGCCGACGCGC
AGCGTCGTGCGCGGGACCGTCGACGGTTTCTTTCACGTCTTCGACGGGGCTGGTGATCGGG
CTCCTAGCGTGTACTCGCGCTTGCGGGANNNNNNctggcggtagagggccc
gagagatttcggcagcacgctcgtgggcggcaggacggacggactcgatgctccga
ttcgcggaacggctgggtgcagtggatcgatcagaacctgaggagacgcggacgcatcgct
gcccgcacccaggcgctacaggaggcggggctgaagcttcgtccagggtgacttcacgcc
ctggtcgggtgctgcgcgatcaccgctgcgcgatcggtctcctggcttcgggcatcggtg
gcggegtctctgctcgcggcgatcacagtgggattgctcgagaatctatctcgggtgatg
gcccgtaggcgtcgggcccgcgttcgctgatcagctcgacgattccctgcagctgctggcc
agcaatctccgagccgggacacagcatgctccgagcgctcgattcccttccgggaggcg
gaggtgcccacttcggaggagttegctcggatcgtaacgagactcgggtgggacgtgat
ctcaacgagctctctcgacgacgtggcccggcgatgcaagtgacgatttcaactggata
gctcaggcgatcgccatcaaccgtgaggtcggaggcgacctcgcggaagtccctcgaccag
gtgggcaacaccattcgagagcgaatcagattcgacggcaggtgaaagcccttgctgcc
gaggggaaactgtccgctacgtgctgatggcgctgcccttcggctctaccgcatttctg
ctcgtctcgaatccggactacctgctgaagttgacgggtagcgccatcggctacgtgatg
atcgcggtggggctcgtcatgctgaccgctcgggtgggctgtggatgaacaaggttgtctcg
gtcaagttctag

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Figure 10 H (iii)

>Rp1H_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 70):
atgagtcgggtgogtgggtggccgtcgtgctcgccctcgggtgcgggtgttctgggaattcct
gccgtagccgogggcgccgagacggaggctgtccaggtctcggcggtcgacacgacccgg
ttcccgacatcgaggtgtccatectcgcgcccgggtatcgaagggcaggcgatcgat
ccgggaacgttcgcgctcaccgagggaggcgtgcccgcgagagatcgaggtcaggcagcag
ccgggttccgagcaggacatcgtgctcgcaatcgacgtgtccgggggcatgtcgggtccg
gcgctggacgacgtgaagcgcgcccgcacatcgatttctgtgcggcaggcgcgacccggcgc
cacatcggaatcgtcgcgactcgtcgcgacgcccacaggtgctctcggaactgacgacggac
tccgaggacctgctccgcaggatcgacggactgaaggcgggcccgaacagcgcgactcgca
gattcgggtggtgaccgcccgcgagatgctcgcgagcggcgaagcggccaacaacatcctg
cttctgttgacggacggcgcgacacgtcgcgagtcacactcgatgtcggaactcccgtcc
gtcctgagtcgggtcgcgcccgtcgtgtacgcgctgcagatgtcgcgcccgcgagacgaac
tctgctctcctgcagcaggttgcgcccggagtcgcgcccgtcagtacgcgctctcgggtgat
acggcggcgcctgggtgcgacttaccagtcggccgctcgcgcccgtcggaaacctgtacgtc
gtccgataaccgatcggaagcgaacggcgatacccaggtggtggcgagcgtgcgcagcggc
gcagccggccgagtgagcgatccgttcccgggtgacattgcccgggtggtgcccgcgccc
agcgtcgtcgcggggaccgtcgcaggtttcttccagctcttcgacggggctgggtgatcggg
ctcctagcgtgctactcggcgttgcgggaggcgtgctggcggtcgcgggttagagcggcc
gcgaggatttcggcagcagctcgtggggcggcaggacggacgggactcgatgctgtcccga
ttcgcggaacggctgggtgcagtggtatcgatcagaacctgaggagacgcggacgcacatcgt
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gcccgtaggcgtcgggcccgcgttcgctgatcagctcgacgattccctgcagctgctggcc
agcaatctccgagccggcacagcagctcgcgagcgcctcgattcccttcccgagaggcg
gaggtgccgacttcggaggagttcgtcgcgacgtcaacgagactcgggtgggacgtgat
ctcaacgagctctcgcgacgagcgtggcccggcggatgcgaagtgcgatttcaactggata
gtcaggcgcgacgccatcaaccgtgaggtcggaggcgcacctcgcggaagtccctcgaccag
gtcggcaacaccattcgagagcgaatcagattcgacggcagggtgaaagcccttgcctgcc
gaggggaaactgtccgcctacgtgctgatggcgctgccccttcgggtctcaccgcatttctg
ctcgtctcgaatccggactacctgtcgaagttgacgggtagcggccatcgggtacgtgatg
atcgcgggtggggctcgtcctgctgacccgtcgggtgggctgtggatgaacaaggttgcctc
gtcaagttctag

Figure 10 I (i)

>Rp1I_PAM1571 (SEQ ID NO 71):
GTGATTCACCGCTGGTGCTCATGGCGGGCGCTGTCCGTCGGCGGGGCGTTGGGTGTTCTG
GTGTGGTTGACGGCCGGCGCCCGAGATCCAGAACGCGGACCCGCCCTTCAGAACCTGCAG
TCGCAGCTGGCGTTGCCGATTCCGGAGTCGGGAGGCGCGCCACCGCTTTCGCTCGGCCGA
TTCGTGAAGCTGCTGTGCGCCGCCGGGACGATGGCCCGCTTGGAACGACTGCACATCCTT
GCCGGTCGTCCAGCGGCGTGGGTTCGGAAACGGGCGCGATGGCGAAGATCGTTCTCGCC
GCGGCCGCCGCCCTGCTCGGCCCTTCTCGCGGTGGGTGCGTTCGCTGGCGTCGGCCGGGTG
CTGTTTCGCTGCGGCCGCCGTCGCGCTGGCGTATTTTCGTCCCGAACTTCTCCTGCAGAGC
AGGGGGCAGGAGCGCCAAGCCGCGATCGAACTGGCGCTTGCCGACACCCCTCGACCAGATG
ACGATCGCAGTCGAGGCGGGCCCTGGGGTTCGAAGCCGCCATGCAGCGGGCCGCGAAGAAC
GGAAAGGGGCCGCTGGCCGAGGAATTCATCCGGACATTGCAGGACATACAGATGGGGCAG
TCGAGGCGAATCGCGTACCTGGATCTTGCCGCCAGAACGAAAGCACCCAACCTGCGGAGG
TTCTTCGGGCCGTCATCCAAGCCGACGAGTACGGCGTGGCCATCGCCGAGGTCCTGCGG
ACCCAGGCCCTCGGAGATGCGTCTGAAACGCCGTCAGAGTGCTGAGGAGAAGGCGATGAAG
GTTCCGGTGAAGGTGCTGTTCCGTTGATGACCTGCATCCTGCCGACCATCTTCATCGTG
ATCCTGGGTCCGGCGGTGATCAACATGATGGAGGTCTTGGGCGGTATGTAA

>Rp1I_PAM1953 (SEQ ID NO 72):
GTGATTCACCGCTGGTGCTCATGGCGGGCGCTGTCCGTCGGCGGGGCGTTGGGTGTTCTG
GTGTGGTTGACGGCCGGCGCCCGAGATCCGGAACGCGGACCCGCCCTTCAGAACCTCCAG
TCGCAGCTGGCGCTGCCGATTCCGGAGTCGGGAGGCGCGCCACCGATTTTCGCTCGGCCGA
TTCGTGAAGCTGCTGTGCGCACCCGGGACGATGGCCCGGTGGAACGACTGCACATCCTT
GCCGGTCGTCCAGCGGCGTGGGTTCGGAAACGGGCGCGATGGCGAAGATCGTTCTCGCC
GCGGCCGCCGCCCTGCTCGGCCCTTCTCGCGCGGGTTCGCTTCGCTGGCGTCGGCCGGGTG
CTGTTTCGCTGCGGCCGCCGTCGCGCTGGCGTATTTTCGTCCCGAACTTCTCCTGCAGAGC
AGGGTGCAGGAGCGCCAAGCCGCGATCGAACTGGCGCTTGCCGACACCCCTCGACCAGATG
ACGATCGCAGTCGAGGCGGGCCCTGGGGTTCGAAGCCGCAATGCAGCGGGCCGCGAAGAAC
GGAAAGGGGCCGCTGGCCGAGGAATTCATCCGGACATTGCAGGACATACAGATGGGGCAG
TCGAGGCGAATCGCGTACCTGGATCTTGCCGCCAGAACGAAAGCACCCAACCTGCGGAGG
TTCTTCGGGCCGTCATCCAAGCCGACGAGTACGGCGTGGCCATCGCCGAGGTTTTGCGG
ACCCAGGCCCTCGGAGATGCGTCTGAAACGCCGTCAGAGTGCTGAGGAGAAGGCGATGAAG
GTTCCGGTGAAGGTGCTGTTCCATTGATGACCTGCATCCTGCCGACCATCTTCATCGTG
ATCCTGGGTCCGGCGGTGATCAACATGATGGAGGTCTTGGGCGGTATGTAA

Figure 10 I (ii)

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>RplI_ATCC33707 (SEQ ID NO 73):  
gtgattccaccgctggtgctcgtggcgccgctgtccgctcggcgggcggtgggtggttctg  
gtgtggttgacggccggcgcccgagatccggaacggcgaccgcccttcagaacctccag  
tcgcagctggcgttgccgattccggtgtcgggaggcgccaccgcttctcgtcggcga  
ttcgtgaagctgctgtcgcgcgccgggacgatggcccgcttggaacgactgcacatcctt  
gccggtcgtccagcggcgtgggttcgggaacggggccgcgatggcgaagatcgttctcgc  
ggggcgcgccctgctcggccttctcgcggtgggtgctcgcctggcgtcggccgggtg  
ctgttcgctcgggcgcgcgtcgcgctggcgtatctcgtcccggaaacttctcctgcagagc  
agggggcaggagcgccaagccgcgatcgaactggcgccttgcgacaccctcgaccagatg  
acgatcgcagtcgaggcgggcctggggttcgaagccgccatgcagcgggcccgaagaac  
ggaaagggccgctggccgaggaattcatccggacattgcaggacatacagatggggcag  
tcgaggcgaatcgcgtacctggatcttgcgcgcagaacgaaagcacccttgcggagg  
ttccttcggggccgtcatccaagccgacgagtacggcgtggccatcgcggaggctcctcgg  
accaggcctcggagatgcgtctgaaacgcgcgtcagagtgctgaggagaaggcagatgaag  
gttccggtgaaggctgctgtttccgttgatgacctgcacctcgcgaccatcttcatcgtg  
atcctgggtccggcggtgatcaacatgatggaggctctggggcggtatgtaa
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IMMUNE SYSTEM MODULATING COMPOSITION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to polypeptides encoded by *Rhodococcus (Corynebacterium) equi* (*R. equi*), compositions including such polypeptides (Rpl) and antibodies to such polypeptides, which can be useful in the treatment of animals, specifically horses and foals, to minimise infection of animals, by *R. equi*. The invention further relates to methods of detection of *R. equi* using polypeptides (Rpl), antibodies with binding specificity to said polypeptides or nucleic acids or the like with binding specificity to nucleic acids encoding such polypeptides using, for example, PCR.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

[0002] *Rhodococcus equi* is a Gram-positive, facultative intracellular coccobacillus classified in the order of Actinomycetales. It is primarily a soil organism. It has been recognised as a positive agent of a debilitating and potentially fatal bronchopneumonia affecting foals worldwide. *R. equi* is considered to be one of the most significant pathogens in the equine breeding industry.

[0003] The successful early diagnosis and treatment of *Rhodococcus equi* in foals and management of the foals environment to reduce the risk of contracting the disease are, arguably, among the most challenging experiences currently facing equine stud farms. Presently the treatment of *R. equi* disease is by the prolonged administration of a combination of antimicrobials, macrolides, i.e. erythromycin, azithromycin or clarithromycin, and rifampicin. However, as this therapy risks antibiotic resistance and adverse drug reactions in the foal and the dam, improved means of therapy and prophylactic treatment are required.

[0004] *R. equi* can also affect non-equine species. In pigs *R. equi* is associated with granulomatous lymphadenitis of cervical lymphatic tissue and in man *R. equi* can cause cavitory pneumonia, predominantly in immunocompromised individuals especially those with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). As a consequence of the AIDS pandemic, *R. equi* pneumonia has become a disease of increasing significance in human medicine. *R. equi* infections have also been described in cattle, sheep, goats, lama, cats and dogs, but disease in these species is rare with lesions confined to lymph node abscessation or wound infection.

[0005] Infection by *R. equi* relies on the ability of *R. equi* to colonise the airways and replicate inside macrophages which is dependent on its capacity to interfere with endosomal maturation following phagocytosis and to prevent acidification of the vacuole in which it resides. Eventually, intracellular proliferation of the pathogen leads to the necrotic death of the macrophages accompanied by massive damage to lung tissue characterised by cavitation and granuloma formation.

[0006] Studies of the virulent strains of *R. equi* have determined that such strains possess an extra chromosomal DNA element known as a plasmid, which is associated with virulence. Plasmids isolated from regular strains infecting foals have been proposed to include a region that represents a pathogenicity island, which is a DNA fragment containing genes required for virulence. The pathogenicity island identified contains a family of nine virulence associated protein (Vap) chains (VapA-VapC-Vap-I, pseudo-VapE). Killed/inactivated *R. equi* organisms do not illicit protective immunity,

and there is no consistent evidence that protein or DNA vaccines, based on the highly immunogenic VapA surface antigen, are efficacious in producing protection against a Rhodococcal pneumonia in foals. In view of the lack of an efficacious vaccine, *R. equi* infection is a major cause of mortality in young foals and the heavy economic losses incurred due to *R. equi* has a major economic impact in countries where thoroughbred racing and breeding is important (USA, Australia, Ireland, Argentina, UK, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Japan etc.). There is a need for treatment regimes and a vaccine to be developed which can be used to control *R. equi* on farms, in particular stud farms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The inventors have determined a novel diagnostic marker and vaccine candidate for *Rhodococcus equi* in horses and other susceptible species and treatment means. Specifically, the inventors have identified a rpl pathogenicity island that differs from the yap pathogenicity island and the inventors have determined the rpl pathogenicity island, in particular RplB, encodes a major adhesion factor of *R. equi* which enables host colonisation. The proteins (Rpl) encoded by the rpl pathogenicity island are considered to be major immunodominant antigens. The inventors have further determined that the rpl pathogenicity island is absent from non-pathogenic *Rhodococcus* species. These findings allow the use of probes to proteins or nucleic acid of the rpl pathogenicity island and antibodies with binding specificity to the proteins encoded by the rpl pathogenicity island in methods of detection of *R. equi*. Further, it enables the use of nucleic acids encoding proteins or proteins of the rpl pathogenicity island as immune system modulators, in particular to provoke a protective immune response to subsequent antigen challenge in an animal.

[0008] Accordingly, a first aspect of the invention provides at least one immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide having an amino acid sequence, encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from a gene as listed at table one, or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

TABLE ONE

rpl locus	Identifier	Proposed function of encoded protein	Position in <i>R. equi</i> 103S	SEQ ID NO
rplA	REQ_18350	Prepilin peptidase	Position 1938280-1939068 (complement) in 103S genome	1
rplB	REQ_18360	Pilin subunit	Position 1939395-1939601 in 103S genome	2
rplC	REQ_18370	Minor pilin protein	Position 1939683,-1940084 in 103S genome	3
rplD	REQ_18380	Putative lipoprotein	Position 1940093-1941037 1940084 in 103S genome	4
rplE	REQ_18390	Pilus assembly protein	Position 1941047-1941784 in 103S genome	5
rplF	REQ_18400	Pilus assembly ATPase	Position 1941781-1942980 in 103S genome	6

TABLE ONE-continued

rpl locus	Identifier	Proposed function of encoded protein	Position in <i>R. equi</i> 103S	SEQ ID NO
rplG	REQ_18410	Secretion apparatus ATPsae	Position 1942977-1944374 in 103S genome	7
rplH	REQ_18420	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	Position 1944371-1946239 in 103S genome	8
rplI	REQ_18430	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	Position 1946262-1947152 in 103S genome	9

[0009] In embodiments of the invention, the polypeptide or derivative or variant or fragment thereof can be encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a gene as listed in Table 2

TABLE TWO

rpl locus	Identifier	Proposed function of encoded protein	Position in <i>R. equi</i> 103S	SEQ ID NO
rplA	REQ_18350	Prepilin peptidase	Position 1938280-1939068 (complement) in 103S genome	1
rplB	REQ_18360	Pilin subunit	Position 1939395-1939601 in 103S genome	2
rplC	REQ_18370	Minor pilin protein	Position 1939683.-1940084 in 103S genome	3
rplD	REQ_18380	Putative lipoprotein	Position 1940093-1941037 1940084 in 103S genome	4
rplE	REQ_18390	Pilus assembly protein	Position 1941047-1941784 in 103S genome	5
rplH	REQ_18420	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	Position 1944371-1946239 in 103S genome	8
rplI	REQ_18430	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	Position 1946262-1947152 in 103S genome	9

[0010] In particular embodiments the polypeptide or a derivative or variant or fragment thereof can be encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from rplB (SEQ ID NO 2), rplC (SEQ ID NO 3), or rplD (SEQ ID NO 4). In an alternative embodiment, the polypeptide or a derivative can be encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from rplB (SEQ ID NO 2), rplA (SEQ ID NO 1) or rplE (SEQ ID NO 5).

[0011] In embodiments of the invention, the polypeptide or a derivative or fragment thereof is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a

gene selected from the list of genes of Table 1, more preferably selected from the list of genes of Table 2.

[0012] In embodiments of the invention, the polypeptide or a derivative or fragment or variant thereof is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence consisting essentially of or consisting of a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from the list of genes of Table 1, more preferably selected from the list of genes of Table 2.

[0013] In embodiments, the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising the polynucleotide sequence of a gene encoding Rpl pilin ATGAACCTCTTCTTCGCGAACCTGTACCTCATGGGCTTAGACGTCAA GGACCGTCTGACCCGTGACGACCGCG-GCGCCACTGCGGTTCGAGTAC GGACTGATGGTTCGCGCATCGCGATGGTGCATTCATTGTTGCGGTTTT CGCCTTCGGCGATAAGATTACCGAC-CTCTTCGATGGCTTCAACTTCG ACGATCCCGGCG-GCGAGTAG (SEQ ID NO 2).

[0014] In embodiments, the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence consisting essentially of or consisting of the polynucleotide sequence of a gene encoding Rpl pilin ATGAACCTCTTCTTCGCGAACCTGTACCTCATGGGCTTAGACGTCAA GGACCGTCTGACCCGTGACGACCGCGGCCACTGCGGTTCGAGTAC GGACTGATGGTTCGCGCATCGCGATG-GTGATCATTGTTGCGGTTTT CGCCTTCGGCGATAAGATTACCGACCTCTTCGATGGCTTCAACTTCG ACGATCCCGGCGGCGAGTAG (SEQ ID NO 2).

[0015] In embodiments, the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising a fragment of the polynucleotide sequence of a gene encoding Rpl pilin ATGAACCTCTTCTTCGCGAACCTGTACCTCATGGGCTTAGACGTCAA GGACCGTCTGACCCGTGACGACCGCG-GCGCCACTGCGGTTCGAGTAC GGACTGATGGTTCGCGCATCGCGATGGTGCATTCATTGTTGCGGTTTT CGCCTTCGGCGATAAGATTACCGAC-CTCTTCGATGGCTTCAACTTCG ACGATCCCGGCG-GCGAGTAG (SEQ ID NO 2)

[0016] wherein the polypeptide encoded by the fragment is a biologically active immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide sequence comprising the polynucleotide sequence of the gene encoding Rpl pilin ATGAACCTCTTCTTCGCGAACCTGTACCTCATGGGCTTAGACGTCAA GGACCGTCTGACCCGTGACGACCGCGGCCACTGCGGTTCGAGTAC GGACTGATGGTTCGCGCATCGCGATG-GTGATCATTGTTGCGGTTTT CGCCTTCGGCGATAAGATTACCGACCTCTTCGATGGCTTCAACTTCG ACGATCCCGGCGGCGAGTAG (SEQ ID NO 2).

[0017] In embodiments, a derivative or fragment or variant can be an immunogenic derivative or fragment or variant that can provide an immune response in which antibodies with binding specificity to at least one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are generated for example antibodies cross-reactive to the biologically active immunogenic fragment and at least one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

[0018] In particular embodiments such fragments, derivatives or variants can functionally provide a pilus in *R. equi*. Such derivatives, fragments or variants can be biologically active derivatives, fragments or variants.

[0019] In embodiments the Rpl pilin polypeptide (RplB) can comprise an amino acid sequence MNLFFAN-

LYLMGLDVKDRLTRDDRGATAVEYGLM-VAGIAMVIIVAVFAFG DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 10).

[0020] In embodiments, a polypeptide of the invention can consist of an amino acid sequence MNLFFANLYLMGLD-VKDRLTRDDRGATAVEYGLMVAGIAMVIIVAVFAFG DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 10).

[0021] In embodiments a polypeptide of the invention can comprise DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11) or can be a variant thereof wherein such variant has at least 1, at least 2, at least 3, at least 4, at least 5, at least 6, at least 7, at least 8, at least 9, at least 10 amino acids different to that of SEQ ID NO 11. Substituted amino acids may suitably be conservative or non conservative amino acids. Alternatively, the variant may include insertions or deletions. Suitably, in embodiments a variant can demonstrate analogous biological function as a RplB pilin subunit or SEQ ID NO 11. In embodiments, a conserved variant may be provided by amino acid sequences comprising DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11) wherein amino acids as shown are replaced by amino acids which are structurally conservative. For example, an aliphatic amino acid (alanine, serine, valine, leucine, isoleucine or the like) can be substituted with another suitable aliphatic amino acid, a hydrophobic amino acid (tyrosine, phenylalanine, tryptophan) can be substituted by another hydrophobic amino acid or a charged amino acid can be substituted by another charged amino acid. In such conserved variants, additional amino acids may be substituted.

[0022] In embodiments a polypeptide of the invention can comprise the amino acid sequence DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11). In embodiments a polypeptide of the invention consists of, or consists essentially of the amino acid sequence DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11).

[0023] A polypeptide of the invention may be provided using recombinant means or may be a synthetic polypeptide or may be extracted from *R. equi* bacteria, *R. equi* culture supernatant or from biological material infected with *R. equi*. In embodiments an isolated immunogenic polypeptide of the invention is expressed at the bacterial cell surface of a *R. equi*, or is secreted from *R. equi*.

[0024] In embodiments, a polypeptide of the invention, or a fragment, derivative or variant thereof comprises an amino acid sequence of at least one polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the list provided by Table 3 or as set out in the sequences of FIG. 9.

TABLE THREE

Rpl protein	Identifier	Proposed function	SEQ ID NO
RplA	REQ_18350 product	Prepilin peptidase	12
RplB	REQ_18360 product	Pilin subunit	13
RplC	REQ_18370 product	Minor pilin protein	14
RplD	REQ_18380 product	Putative lipoprotein	15
RplE	REQ_18390 product	Pilus assembly protein	16
RplF	REQ_18400 product	Pilus assembly ATPase	17
RplG	REQ_18410 product	Secretion apparatus ATPsae	18
RplH	REQ_18420 product	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	19

TABLE THREE-continued

Rpl protein	Identifier	Proposed function	SEQ ID NO
RplI	REQ_18430 product	Secretion apparatus integral membrane protein	20

[0025] All of the polypeptides shown in Table 3 are encoded in the *rpl* locus and are part of the *R. equi* Rpl pilus biogenesis machinery.

[0026] In embodiments a polypeptide of the invention can be encoded by an *R. equi* strain isolated from horses. In embodiments the polypeptide can be isolated from horses and can be from a virulent strain of *R. equi*. In embodiments, polypeptides of the invention can be made synthetically or recombinantly using techniques which are widely available in the art.

[0027] The polypeptide of the invention may be optionally linked to an immunogenic carrier. Said immunogenic carrier may be a heterologous polypeptide, lipid, liposome, or another acceptable carrier molecule. Suitably, a polypeptide of the invention may be linked to the immunogenic carrier by chemical coupling or a polypeptide of the invention may be expressed as a fusion protein with the immunogenic carrier. A polypeptide of the invention, and/or a biologically active and/or immunogenic fragment, or derivative, or variant thereof, can be provided in an immunogenic composition, for example to raise antisera or monoclonal antibodies for passive immunisation, or as a vaccine. Alternatively, a polypeptide of the invention, fragment, derivative or variant thereof may be useful in an assay to detect antibodies specific for the polypeptide, including diagnostic assays. As set out herein, in embodiments, a derivative of a polypeptide of the invention can be a composite of specific polypeptide sequences of the invention, for example composites of SEQ ID NO 10, SEQ ID NO 11 and a polypeptide as set out in Table 3 or fragments thereof, or nucleotide sequences for example as set out at Table 1 or Table 2 disclosed herein. In embodiments, the nucleic acid sequences can be used to form concatemers and may be used to provide polypeptide sequences, for example relevant epitopes may be put in tandem or provided in multiples of 3, 4, 5, 6, or greater than 10, greater than 20 or more. Further, in embodiments a derivative can include a scrambled or chimeric polypeptide containing combinations of different relevant Rpl polypeptides. In such embodiments the combinations of relevant Rpl polypeptides can be provided in multiples of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or greater than 10, greater than 20 or more.

[0028] It is important to note that even with knowledge of the genome of *R. equi* strain 103S, it would not be apparent that *R. equi* produced pili appendages or that the nine-gene locus encompassing nucleotide positions 1,938,280 to 1,947,152 (locus tags REQ18350-430) encoded a pilus biogenesis apparatus responsible for the production of *R. equi* pili involved in virulence and host colonisation. Pili are widespread among bacteria and can serve many functions unrelated to virulence. For example pili can facilitate attachment of bacteria to environmental surfaces such as soil particles, biofilm formation, be mediators of bacterial motility or enable adhesion to other bacteria. As will be appreciated, depending on pili function, in some instances, pili may not provide an immunogenic determinant suitable for vaccine development or be able to act as a diagnostic marker.

[0029] Using visualisation by electron microscopy and genetic molecular analysis, the inventors demonstrated for the first that *R. equi* produces pili appendages or fimbriae, identified that the *rpl* locus *R. equi* encodes the pilus biogenesis apparatus, and further determined that proteins of *R. equi* pili are major virulence factors involved in host colonisation and that they are major immunodominant antigens. The latter determination would not have been suggested from sequence data alone.

[0030] According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided an isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*. In embodiments of the invention there is provided an isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising or consisting of a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a variant or derivative or fragment thereof, for example as illustrated in the sequences of FIG. 10.

[0031] Due to the known degeneracy of the genetic code, a polynucleotide sequence which differs from those indicated by any one of SEQ ID 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 can encode an active immunogenic derivative, variant or fragment and/or a biologically active derivative, variant or fragment of a polypeptide of the invention. In embodiments, a polynucleotide sequence which encodes such a derivative, fragment or variant sequence or an immunogenic biologically active derivative or fragment can result from silent mutations (e.g., occurring during PCR amplification), or nucleotide substitutions, deletions or insertions or the like or can be the product of deliberate mutagenesis of a native sequence. Variant polypeptides may be encoded by variant polynucleotide sequences having sequence homology (identity) of greater than at least 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, preferably at least 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, and more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% but less than 100% contiguous nucleotide sequence homology to any one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 or fragments thereof. A variant polypeptide may be encoded by a polynucleotide sequence including nucleotide bases not present in the corresponding wild type nucleic acid molecule and/or internal deletions relative to the corresponding wild type nucleic acid molecule, such as SEQ ID NOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. Polynucleotide sequences encoding fragments of a polypeptide of the invention may be greater than 30 nucleotides in length, greater than 50 nucleotides in length, greater than 100 nucleotides in length, or greater than 150 nucleotides in length. The invention also provides isolated nucleic acids useful in the production of polypeptides. Suitably said biologically active immunogenic derivative, fragment or variant can elicit an immune response wherein the antibodies generated to said derivative, fragment or variant have a binding specificity to any one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9. In embodiments, there can be provided a polynucleotide sequence comprising or consisting of a sequence as set out in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9.

[0032] In further embodiments there is provided an isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising or consisting of a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9. In additional embodiments, there is provided an isolated or

recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising or consisting of a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4. In specific embodiments there is provided an isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising or consisting of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO 2.

[0033] Polypeptides of the invention or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof may be prepared as a pharmaceutical preparation or composition. Such preparations will comprise the polypeptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof and a suitable carrier, diluent or excipient. These preparations may be administered by a variety of routes, for example, oral, buccal, topical, intramuscular, intravenous, subcutaneous, intranasal or the like.

[0034] In a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a composition comprising a polypeptide or antibody according to the invention, or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. A carrier and/or excipient useful in a composition of the present invention will generally not inhibit to any significant degree a relevant biological activity of the polypeptide or antibody of the invention. Alternatively, or in addition, the carrier or excipient can comprise a compound that enhances uptake and/or delivery and/or efficacy of the polypeptide and/or antibody as described herein. Alternatively, or in addition, the carrier or excipient can comprise a compound that enhances the activity of a polypeptide and/or antibody as described herein and/or reduces inhibition of said polypeptide or antibody by degradative enzymes in the site of administration and/or on route to the site of action and/or at the site of action. For example, the carrier or excipient may comprise a protease inhibitor and/or a DNase inhibitor and/or an RNase inhibitor to thereby enhance the stability of a polypeptide and/or antibody as described herein above or nucleic acid encoding same.

[0035] As will be apparent to the person skilled in the art based on the foregoing description, the methods of the present invention further comprise providing, producing or obtaining a composition comprising a polypeptide and/or an antibody or nucleic acid encoding said polypeptide. Suitable methods for producing such compositions will be apparent to the skilled artisan based on the disclosure herein. A polypeptide can also be delivered with other relevant antigens in a polyvalent protein vaccine.

[0036] In certain further aspects, the present invention provides an antibody which has binding specificity to at least one of the polypeptides of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof, or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody. Accordingly, in a fourth aspect of the invention there is provided an antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of the invention or an epitope, fragment, derivative or variant thereof. Antibodies of the present invention may confer protection against infection with *R. equi*. Additionally or alternatively, an antibody can specifically bind to a polypeptide of the invention or can bind to an epitope of the pili provided on *R. equi* or an *R. equi* antigen of the pili and whilst not conveying protection against infection with *R. equi*, may be a useful in an immunoassay for the detection of polypeptides of the invention or for diagnosis of *R. equi* infection.

[0037] In certain embodiments, the antibody can be a polyclonal antibody. Alternatively, the antibody can be a mono-

clonal antibody, a chimeric antibody, or a synthesized or a synthetic antibody. Methods for producing a polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies are well known in the art and an antibody provided against a polypeptide of the pili is described herein.

[0038] In certain further aspects, the present invention further extends to a method of producing an antibody which specifically binds to at least one polypeptide of the present invention, or a biologically active and/or immunogenic fragment, derivative or variant thereof, said method comprising:

[0039] (i) immunising a host with a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as described herein according to any embodiment, and

[0040] (ii) recovering antibodies generated by the host against said polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof.

[0041] The present invention also provides a method for producing an antibody that binds to an antibody which specifically binds to at least one polypeptide of the present invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof (i.e., a method for producing an anti-idiotypic antibody), said method comprising:

[0042] (i) immunising a host with an antibody that binds to a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody,

[0043] (ii) identifying antibodies generated by the host against an antigen binding site of said antibody; and

[0044] (iii) recovering the antibodies identified at (ii).

[0045] The present invention also provides an anti-idiotypic antibody that selectively binds to an antibody that binds to a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as described herein or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody.

[0046] In a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition comprising an antibody of the invention together with a pharmaceutical carrier.

[0047] The invention also provides vectors comprising nucleic acids of the invention and cells comprising such vectors.

[0048] In the sixth aspect of the invention there is provided a construct comprising a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide of the invention, for example an isolated nucleic acid, or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence and the expression of an *R. equi* polypeptide of the invention.

[0049] The present invention also provides a process for producing a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as described herein according to any embodiment, said method comprising culturing a cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof of the present invention operably linked to a promoter under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof. A suitable nucleic acid may comprise a polynucleotide sequence or fragment thereof of a gene selected from Table 1, or more preferably Table 2. In one example, the method additionally comprises recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture, e.g., from the medium in which the cell is cultured.

[0050] In embodiments the present invention provides a method of producing a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof of the invention, said method comprising the steps of:

[0051] (i) culturing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide of the present invention or a vector encoding the same, and

[0052] (ii) recovering the polypeptide of the present invention from the host cell or culture medium.

[0053] In embodiments, the construct comprises an isolated nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof operably linked to a promoter which is functional in a host cell to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence and the expression of a *R. equi* polypeptide of the invention.

[0054] In alternative embodiments, the construct comprises an isolated nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof operably linked to a promoter which is functional in a heterologous host system, for example an attenuated vaccinal strain, including, but not limited to, a microbial system, a virus, a parasite, an attenuated pathogen or normal or immuno-stimulating microbiota. Suitably, the heterologous host system construct may be delivered as a live vaccine alone or in combination with other relevant protective antigens in a polyvalent vaccine.

[0055] In embodiments, the construct can comprise a nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from at least one gene identified by Table 1, more preferably a gene selected from Table 2, operably linked to a promoter.

[0056] In embodiments, the construct can comprise a nucleic acid sequence comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9, more preferably a polynucleotide sequence which can encode SEQ ID NO 10 or 11.

[0057] In a seventh aspect of the invention there is provided a construct of the sixth aspect of the present invention in combination with a pharmaceutical carrier.

[0058] In an eighth aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition capable of treating or preventing a disease caused by *R. equi*, comprising one or more surface-associated (a polypeptide naturally associated to the surface structures or on the outer surface of *R. equi*.) or secreted polypeptides of *R. equi* wherein said polypeptides form pili of *R. equi*. In embodiments the composition can be a vaccine capable of preventing a disease caused by *R. equi*, which results in the production of antibodies against a polypeptide of *R. equi* which can form the pili of *R. equi* and wherein the polypeptide is reactive against antibodies or immune cells recovered from animals repeatedly infected with *R. equi*.

[0059] In embodiments, the polypeptide of *R. equi* which can form the pili of *R. equi*, wherein the polypeptide is reactive against antibodies and/or immune cells recovered from animals repeatedly infected with *R. equi* comprises the amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence of a gene selected from Table 1, or more preferably Table 2 or is an immunogenic fragment or variant or derivative of such a polypeptide.

[0060] In embodiments of the invention, the subject for which the vaccine can be administered is a foal and immunisation results in an immune response which inhibits or prevents *R. equi* infection and results in the production of antibodies employed as an immunogen.

[0061] In embodiments the subject to which the vaccine is administered can be a horse and immunisation results in an immune response which inhibits or prevents *R. equi*, or in the production of antibodies to the polypeptide employed as an immunogen.

[0062] While the invention is particularly directed to polypeptide suitable as antigen in a vaccine for use in horses or foals, it will be clearly understood that it is applicable to any other animal which is susceptible to infection with *R. equi*, including humans, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, lama, cats or animals which have a similar biology and would be understood to share a high degree of genomic similarity to horses. It will also be appreciated that the diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic aspects of the invention are also applicable to subjects which have been exposed to an animal infected with *R. equi*, or an environmental source contaminated with *R. equi* such as faeces, soil, or the like.

[0063] According to a ninth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating or preventing a disease or condition caused by *R. equi* comprising the step of administering a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant, an antibody, a nucleic acid, composition and/or a vaccine of the invention to subjects suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, or at risk of a condition mediated by *R. equi*.

[0064] There is provided the use of a polypeptide of the invention or a biologically active and/or immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant, an antibody, a nucleic acid, composition and/or a vaccine of the invention in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a condition mediated by *R. equi*. In embodiments the treatment may be prophylactic treatment to prevent or inhibit infection.

[0065] There is provided a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant, an antibody, a nucleic acid, composition and/or a vaccine of the invention for use in the treatment of a condition mediated by *R. equi*. In embodiments the treatment may be prophylactic treatment to prevent or inhibit infection.

[0066] According to a tenth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of detecting *R. equi* comprising the step of detecting a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant, or an antibody of the invention in a sample, or a polynucleotide of the invention which can encode a polypeptide of the invention or fragment thereof. In embodiments, a sample may be a soil sample.

[0067] In embodiments, there is provided a method of diagnosing a disease or condition caused by *R. equi* comprising the step of detecting a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant, or an antibody of the invention in a biological sample from a subject suffering from, suspected to be suffering from, or at risk of such a condition, or a polynucleotide of the invention which can encode a polypeptide of the invention or fragment thereof.

[0068] Detection of a polypeptide or an antibody of the invention may be achieved by a variety of methods, including but not limited immunoassay methods such as radioimmuno assay, enzyme linked immunoabsorbent assays (ELISA), chemiluminescence assays, immunohistochemistry, immunoblotting, for example Western blotting, immunofluorescence and mass spectrometry. An example of use of an antibody to detect a polypeptide of a *R. equi* pili (RplB) is provided in the Examples herein.

[0069] Suitably, detection of antibodies with binding specificity to a polypeptide encoded by any one of SEQ ID NO 1,

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 may be used as a test for *R. equi* in horses. In embodiments, PCR testing for nucleic acids encoding a polypeptide of the pili, for example as encoded by any one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 may be used as a test for *R. equi*, particularly where a quantitative detection is preferred. Based on the nucleic acid sequence data provided herein, suitable primers or probes for use in the detection of nucleic acid sequences which can encode polypeptides of the pili of *R. equi* could be provided as would be understood in the art. As will be understood, suitably, in embodiments, said probes or primers can hybridise to the nucleic acid sequences encoding peptides associated with pilus formation, preferably any one of SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9, under stringent conditions. Hybridisation refers to the binding, duplexing, or hybridizing of a molecule only to a particular nucleotide sequence under stringent conditions when that sequence is present in a complex mixture (e.g., total cellular) DNA or RNA. Stringent hybridisation occurs when a nucleic acid binds the target nucleic acid with minimal background. Typically, to achieve stringent hybridisation, temperatures of around 1° C. to about 20° C., more preferably 5° C. to about 20° C. below the T_m (melting temperature at which half the molecules dissociate from their partner) are used. However, it is further defined by ionic strength and pH of the solution. An example of highly stringent wash conditions is 0.15 M NaCl at 72° C. for about 15 minutes. An example of a stringent wash condition is a 0.2×SSC wash at 65° C. for 15 minutes (see, Sambrook and Russell, *infra*, for a description of SSC buffer). Often, a high stringency wash is preceded by a low stringency wash to remove background probe signal. An example of a medium stringency wash for a duplex of, for example, more than 100 nucleotides, is 1×SSC at 45° C. for 15 minutes. An example of a low stringency wash for a duplex of for example more than 100 nucleotides, is 4-6×SSC at 40° C. for 15 minutes. For short probes (for example about 10 to 50 nucleotides), stringent conditions typically involve salt concentrations of less than about 1.5 M, more preferably about 0.01 to 1.0 M, Na ion concentration (or other salts) at pH 7.0 to 8.3, and the temperature is typically at least about 30° C. and at least about 60° C. for long probes (>50 nucleotides). Detection of a polynucleotide of the invention may be by any suitable means, for example using PCR, a microarray or the like as would be known in the art.

[0070] In an eleventh aspect of the present invention there is provide a kit to detect *R. equi* wherein the kit comprises a polypeptide or antibody of the invention or a nucleic acid probe. In embodiments a kit can comprise a polypeptide or antibody of the invention.

[0071] In embodiments, the kit is for use in the method of diagnosing a disease or condition caused by *R. equi* wherein the kit comprises a polypeptide or antibody of the invention or a nucleic acid probe. In embodiments a kit can comprise a polypeptide or antibody of the invention.

[0072] In embodiments, the kit can include a solid support, for example a test strip, plastic bead or the like to which polypeptide or antibody of the invention can be coated. The kit may include a detection antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide or antibody of the invention which comprises a detectable label or binding site for a detectable label. Suitably a labelling molecule can include an enzyme, fluorescent label or radiolabel. Binding sites for detectable labels include avidin, biotin, streptavidin and the like.

[0073] Additionally, the kit can include instructions for using the kit to practise the present invention. The instructions

should be in writing in a tangible form or stored in an electronically retrievable form. A further aspect of the present invention provides a method of screening immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptides of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof to determine if a test agent can bind to said polypeptide comprising the steps: providing a candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof, providing a test agent to the candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide and determining whether said test agent can bind to said candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide.

[0074] A test agent which can bind to a *R. equi* polypeptide of the invention may inhibit the activity of said polypeptide, minimise its secretion or inhibit its ability to form functional pili. In embodiments, such a test agent may be a useful therapeutic.

[0075] The present invention also provides the use of a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof or an antibody as described herein in medicine.

[0076] In a twelfth aspect, the present invention provides the use of a polypeptide of the invention or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof, an antibody, composition and/or vaccine of the invention in the treatment or prevention of a disease or condition caused by *R. equi*.

[0077] In one embodiment of the invention, a method of treatment comprises the steps:

[0078] (i) identifying a subject suffering from a disorder associated with or *R. equi* or at risk of developing *R. equi*;

[0079] (ii) administering a polypeptide, or composition as described herein to said subject.

[0080] In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of treatment comprising administering or recommending a polypeptide, or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof or an antibody or composition as described herein to a subject previously identified as having *R. equi* infection or suffering from a condition associated with *R. equi* infection. The invention may also provide a method of treatment of a subject in need thereof, said method comprising:

[0081] (i) identifying a subject suffering from a disorder associated with or *R. equi* or at risk of developing *R. equi*;

[0082] (ii) obtaining a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as described herein according to any embodiment,

[0083] (iii) formulating the polypeptide or antibody with a suitable carrier and/or excipient to form a composition wherein said composition is in an amount sufficient to reduce or prevent or inhibit *R. equi* infection or suffering from a condition associated with *R. equi* infection and

[0084] (iv) administering said composition to said subject.

[0085] In a further embodiment there is provided a method of treatment of a subject in need thereof, said method comprising:

[0086] (i) identifying a subject suffering from a disorder associated with or *R. equi*. or at risk of developing *R. equi*;

[0087] (ii) obtaining a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof or an antibody as described herein according to any embodiment,

[0088] (iii) formulating the polypeptide or antibody with a suitable carrier and/or excipient to form a composition wherein said composition is in an amount sufficient to reduce or prevent or inhibit *R. equi* infection or suffering from a condition associated with *R. equi* infection and

[0089] (iv) recommending administration of a composition at (iii).

[0090] In embodiments a polypeptide on the invention can be provided to a subject to generate a protective immune response in the subject. In particular embodiments the polypeptide may act as a vaccine.

[0091] Sequences identified in the patent application include:

SEQ ID NO 1

rpIA REQ_18350> - 3104103:3104891
GTGATCGTCGCAGCGGGCGTCGGCGCCGCACTCCTGGGTATCCTCG
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SEQ ID NO 2

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SEQ ID NO 3

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SEQ ID NO 8

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SEQ ID NO 9

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SEQ ID NO 12

RpIA:
VIVAAGVGAALLGILAGAFANSAIDRVLETAACAEPKSTPTGSTPPPPSP
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TPAYLWFAAVGIALAVIDIDCKRPNFLVPSYPIVFACLSVGSVVTGDW
SALLRAAIGAAVLFGVYFVLALIYPAGMGFDVKLAGVIGAVLAYLSYGT
LLVGAFALFVAALVGLIILVTRRGRIGTTPFGPYMIAAAIVAILAADP
LARAYLDWAAAA

SEQ ID NO 13

RpIB:
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DKITDLDFDGFNFDDPGGE

SEQ ID NO 14

RpIC:
MKRLTSDSGVAAEFALVVPILI TLVLGIVEFGRGYNVQNAVSAAREGA
RTMAIKKDPAAARAAVKAGVFSPAITDAEICISTSGTQGC SATSCPSGS
TVTLTVSYPLEYMTGLPFGKPTLTGTGVMRCGG

SEQ ID NO 15

RpID:
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GDDGLAGRRNVFAPVLGVDRSEISASATASCVFPLGGTAEPLTFHKCH
FDESRLDVKILVAYNVTAPRCNGTSGNAAPGNFGWLQGANRCPAKI
DAAVYATPGDTGNIPGPKDITIKQFQNAVVRVPIYDVAGGTGSGGW
HVVGLAAFKI QGYRLSGNPEFNWNNVDVHGALSCTGSCRGIIGTFVKIVSL
DSDLTPGGIDFGVSTISLLD

SEQ ID NO 16

RpIE:
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ARFVDPATARSQDQGGIPEGMQEVTVLEPQRALGGHIASGDTVGVFMSF
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EGVFR

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SEQ ID NO 17

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EAVGAK

SEQ ID NO 18

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ALSPSVFGVGEPSRGRV

SEQ ID NO 19

RpIH:
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PGIEGQAI DPGTFALTEGGVPREIEVRQOPGSEQDIVLAIDVSGGMSGPA
LDDVKRAASDFVRQAPAGAHIGIVAISSTPQVLSLTTDSEDLLRRIDGL
KAGGNSAIDSVVTAAMELERGEAANNILLLLTDGADTS SAHMSSELPSV
LSRSRASLYAVQMSTPETNSALLQQVARES RGYASAGDTAALGAIYQSA
ARALGNLYVVRSEANGDTQVVASVRS GAAGRVSDPPVTLPGVVPT
PSVVAGTVDGFFTSSTGLVIGLLACYSALAGGLAVAGRAPARISAARRG
RQDGRDSMLSRFAERLVQWIDQNLRRRRGRI AARTQALQEAGLKL RPD
FIALVGAAAITAAI GLLASGIVAALLLAAITVGLSRIYLRVMAGRRAA
FADQLDSDLQLLASNL RAGHSMRLALDLSREAEVPTSEEFARIVNETRV
GRDLNESLDDVARRMRSDDFNWIAQAI AINREVGGDLAEVLDQVGN TIRE
RNQIRRQVKALAAEGKLSAYVLMALPFGLTAFLLVSNPDYLSKLTGSAIG
YVMIAVGLVMLTVGGLWMNKVVSVKF

SEQ ID NO 20

RpII:
VIPPVLVMAALSVGGALGVLVWLTVGARDPERGPALRNLQSQALALPIES
GGAPPLSLGRFVKLLSPPGTMARLERLHILAGRPAAWVPERAAMAKIVLA

-continued

AAAALLGLLAVGASPGVGRVLFAAAAVALAYFVPELLLQSRGQERQAAIE
LALADTLDQMTIAVEAGLGFEEAMQRAAKNGKGPLAEFIRTLQDIQMG
QSRRIAYLDLAARTKAPNLRRLRAVIQADEYGVIAEVLRTQASEMRK
RRQSAEEKAMKVPVKVLFPLMTCILPTIFIVILGPAVINMMEVLGGM

[0092] Preferred features and embodiments of each aspect of the invention are as for each of the other aspects *mutatis mutandis* unless context demands otherwise.

[0093] Each document, reference, patent application or patent cited in this text is expressly incorporated herein in their entirety by reference, which means it should be read and considered by the reader as part of this text. That the document, reference, patent application or patent cited in the text is not repeated in this text is merely for reasons of conciseness. Reference to cited material or information contained in the text should not be understood as a concession that the material or information was part of the common general knowledge or was known in any country.

[0094] Throughout the specification, unless the context demands otherwise, the terms ‘comprise’ or ‘include’, or variations such as ‘comprises’ or ‘comprising’, ‘includes’ or ‘including’ will be understood to imply the includes of a stated integer or group of integers, but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

[0095] By “consisting essentially of” it is meant that a nucleic acid does not include additional, substituted or deleted nucleotide(s) to a polynucleotide sequence of the invention described herein or a polypeptide does not include additional, substituted, or deleted amino acids which significantly alter the character of a sequence of the invention such that it is not immunogenic and biologically active.

[0096] As used herein, the singular forms “a”, “an”, and “the” include the corresponding plural reference unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[0097] Where a range of values is expressed, it will be understood that this range encompasses the upper and lower limits of the range and all values in between these limits.

[0098] The terms “polypeptide”, “protein” and “peptide” are herein used interchangeably.

[0099] The term “isolated” refers to materials, such as nucleic acid molecules, which are substantially free or otherwise removed from components that normally accompany or interact with the materials in a naturally occurring environment. An isolated nucleic acid typically contains less than about 50%, preferably less than about 75%, and most preferably less than about 90% of the components with which it was originally associated. Polypeptides, antibodies and nucleic acids of the invention as disclosed herein can be isolated.

[0100] The terms “polynucleotide”, “polynucleotide sequence”, and “nucleic acid sequence” are used interchangeably herein. A “polynucleotide” as used herein refers to purine- and pyrimidine-containing polymers of any length, either polyribonucleotides or polydeoxyribonucleotides, which can be single or double stranded, such as, for example, DNA-DNA, DNA-RNA and RNA-RNA. A polynucleotide may optionally contain synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases. A polynucleotide in the form of a polymer of DNA may be comprised of one or more strands of cDNA, genomic DNA, synthetic DNA, or mixtures thereof.

[0101] A “derivative” of a polypeptide as used herein will be understood to include polypeptides which have been sub-

ject to chemical modifications, including esterification, amidation, reduction, methylation, fusion to another peptide and the like. The polypeptide derivatives may be modified such that the modifications increase the stability and/or immunogenicity and/or bioavailability of the polypeptide derivative in comparison to the unmodified polypeptide. Covalent derivatives of the peptides or polypeptides of the invention can be prepared by linking the chemical moieties to functional groups on the amino acid side chains or at the N-terminus or C-terminus of the antigenic polypeptide. Conjugation of a polypeptide to another peptide may further be achieved by genetic means through the use of recombinant DNA techniques that are well known in the art, such as those set forth in the teachings of Sambrook et al. *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2 ed. Vol. 1, pp. 1.101-104, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, (1989) and F.M. Ausubel et al. *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Eds. J.Wiley Press (2006), the relevant portions of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0102] A “variant” polypeptide of the invention can be a polypeptide which has an amino acid sequence which differs from the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 due to the presence of one or more deletions, insertions, or substitutions of amino acid residues. In embodiments, a variant has at least 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, preferably at least 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, and more preferably 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% but less than 100% contiguous amino acid sequence identity to the corresponding polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence as disclosed herein. Percentage identity may be determined using, for example computer programs as would be known by one skilled in the art.

[0103] Variants can include polypeptides in which individual amino acids of the polypeptide of the invention are substituted by other amino acids which are closely related as understood in the art, for example, substitution of one hydrophobic residue such as isoleucine, valine, leucine or methionine for another, or the substitution of one polar residue for another, such as arginine for lysine, glutamic for aspartic acid or glutamine for asparagine.

[0104] In embodiments, a fragment of a polypeptide of the present invention can consist of a truncated version of a polypeptide of the invention which has been truncated by 1, 2, 3, 4 or more than 5, more than 10, or more than 20 amino acids. An antigenic fragment may be generated using for example C-terminal deletion of any one of the polynucleotide sequences of the genes as listed in Table 1 or Table 2 and said C-terminal deletion constructs may then be inserted into a suitable prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression plasmid. The antigenic activity of the expression products derived from the constructs may then be tested by assessing reactivity with antisera from naturally and/or experimentally infected horse or foals using immunoblotting methods. Alternatively a series of synthetic polypeptide fragments with greater than 85%, greater than 90%, greater than 95%, or 100% sequence identity to portions of any one the polypeptides encoded by a polynucleotide sequence of a gene of Table 1 or more preferably Table 2 can be generated. These peptides may then be reacted with antisera from naturally or experimentally infected horses using an ELISA method to determine which peptide fragments are antigenic. Alternatively, synthetic peptides may be used to immunise, for example, mice, rabbits, or horses and the antisera produced can be assessed for reactivity with *R. equi* using indirect immunofluorescence assays. In

this way immunogenic fragments may be identified and *R. equi*-specific antisera may be produced. These two latter approaches described are particularly advantageous for small peptides that contain linear, continuous epitopes.

[0105] “Operably linked” means that a nucleic acid molecule is placed in functional relationship with another nucleic acid molecule. Generally an operably linked promoter will be linked such that it is contiguous with and in the same reading phase as the gene to be expressed.

[0106] Generally the terms “treating”, “treatment” and the like are used to mean affecting a subject tissue or cell to obtain a desired pharmacological and/or physiological effect. As used herein, the term “treatment” and associated terms such as “treat” and “treating” means the reduction of the progression, severity and/or duration of infection or for the amelioration of at least one of the symptoms thereof by *R. equi* or may be prophylactic (preventative treatment). The term ‘treatment’ therefore refers to any regimen that can benefit a subject. References herein to “therapeutic” and “prophylactic” treatments are to be considered in their broadest context. The term “therapeutic” does not necessarily imply that a subject is treated until total recovery. Similarly, “prophylactic” does not necessarily mean that the subject will not eventually contract a disease condition.

[0107] As used herein, the term “subject” refers to an animal, preferably a mammal and in particular a horse.

FIGURES

[0108] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying figures in which:

[0109] FIG. 1 illustrates the *R. equi* pilus locus (*rpl*). (A) The 9 Kb *rpl* horizontally acquired (HGT) island (REQ18350-430) is absent from nonpathogenic *Rhodococcus* spp. (e.g. *R. jostii* RHA1 and *R. erythropolis* PR4). *rpl* genes have been detected in all *R. equi* clinical isolates (≈ 300 isolates tested). *rpl* gene products which are considered to be encoded are: A, prepilin peptidase; B, pilin subunit; C, TadE minor pilin; D, putative lipoprotein; E, CpaB pilus assembly protein; F, CpaE pilus assembly protein; GHI, Tad transport machinery. (B) Electron micrograph of *R. equi* 103S pili (indicated by arrowheads). Bar=0.5 μm . (C) *R. equi* pili visualized by immunofluorescence microscopy ($\times 1,000$ magnification). Reproduced from Letek et al. 2010, PLoS Genet. 6: e1001145).

[0110] FIG. 2 illustrates a demonstration by targeted mutant construction and genetic re-complementation analysis that the *rpl* locus encodes the *R. equi* pilus. Negative staining transmission electron micrographs of wild-type *R. equi* 103S (WT) (panel A), isogenic *rplB* deletion mutant of 103S ($\Delta rplB$, apiliated) (panel B), *rplB*-complemented mutant (piliated) (panel C), and mock-complemented mutant with an empty vector (no *rplB* gene). Bar=0.5 μm (panel D).

[0111] FIG. 3 illustrates the effect of *rplB* gene deletion and complementation on *R. equi* adhesion to (A) macrophages (J774A.1 cell line) and (B) epithelial cells (HeLa cell line), two key target cell types in the pathogenesis of airborne lung infection. Data expressed as percentage of the control (WT); mean of at least three independent duplicate experiments \pm SEM.

[0112] FIG. 4 illustrates the adhesion phenotype to (A) epithelial cells (HeLa cell line) and (B) macrophages (J774A.1 cell line) with additional *rpl* knock-out mutants (*rplA* and *rplE*).

[0113] FIG. 5 illustrates *Rpl* pili are essential for *R. equi* lung colonization in mice as demonstrated using a novel in vivo lung infection model in mice developed by the inventors. It is based on a competitive virulence assay in which each mouse receives an intranasal inoculum containing 50% of wild-type (WT) *R. equi* bacteria and 50% of mutant ($\Delta rplB$) *R. equi* bacteria. t=0 means 60 min after delivery of the intranasal inoculum.

[0114] FIG. 6 illustrates production in rabbits of a specific antibody against the putative *R. equi* pilin subunit (RplB). (A) Amino acid sequence of putative RplB prepilin and of the C-terminal peptide used to raise a rabbit polyclonal antibody (boxed). Arrowhead indicates putative cleavage site of the prepilin. (B) Immunodetection of the RplB pilin by SDS-PAGE western blot analysis of whole cell extracts of wild-type *R. equi* (WT), an isogenic in-frame deletion *rplB* mutant ($\Delta rplB$), the *rplB*-complemented mutant ($\Delta rplB+rplB$), and a mock-complement mutant ($\Delta rplB+vector$), using the anti-RplB peptide antibody (diluted 1:1,000; secondary antibody, alkaline phosphatase-conjugated mouse anti-rabbit monoclonal antibody, 1:10,000 diluted; reaction revealed with NBT/BCIP substrate). The anti-Rpl antibody specifically detects the *Rpl* pilin subunit in WT and re-complemented *rpl* mutant, not in the apiliated *rpl* mutant and mock-complemented mutant. (C) Detection of *Rpl* pili production in *R. equi* by immunofluorescence using the anti-RplB peptide antibody and the same bacteria as in (B) (630 \times magnification, Leica AF6000 microscope).

[0115] FIG. 7 illustrates Inhibition of *R. equi* attachment to (A) macrophages and (B) epithelial cells by an anti-RplB antibody. Prior to the adhesion assay, the antibody raised against the RplB (pilin subunit) peptide (see FIG. 6A) was incubated for 60 min at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. (40 μl /ml of a suspension in cell culture medium of exponentially grown *R. equi* bacteria at a density calculated for a multiplicity of infection of 15:1). As a control, the *R. equi* bacterial cell suspension was pre-incubated with an irrelevant antiserum (anti-*Listeria* monocytogenes rabbit polyclonal antibody).

[0116] FIG. 8 illustrates RplB pilin antigens are recognized in vivo and elicit a strong antibody response in naturally infected foals. Representative example of the reactivity against the *Rpl* pilin of horse sera from bacteriologically confirmed cases of foal pneumonia, as determined by SDS-PAGE western blot analysis with whole cell extracts of wild-type *R. equi* (WT) and the isogenic $\Delta rplB$ mutant. All convalescent sera tested to date gave a strong reaction against the RplB pilin antigen whereas normal (non-case) sera did not. The *Rpl* pili dissociate into 18 kDa polypeptides that probably correspond to SDS-resistant homo-tetramers (predicted molecular mass of RplB pilin, 4.95 kDa) that remain non-covalently bound by strong monomer-monomer interactions via the N-terminal hydrophobic region of the pilin subunit. (A) indicates RplB is the first antigen detected in a crude *R. equi* protein preparation by the antibodies present in case sera.

[0117] FIG. 9 illustrates variability of RplB amino acid sequence in *R. equi* strains and of other *Rpl* proteins.

[0118] FIG. 10 illustrates the nucleotide sequences encoding *Rpl* proteins of other strains of *R. equi*.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0119] As indicated above, the inventors have identified polypeptides which play an important role in virulence of *R. equi* and have used this knowledge to identify polypeptides

which can be used to mediate an immune response in infected subjects, particularly horses, and in particular foals. Whilst the amino acid sequences of the polypeptides determined for the identified strain are noted, as will be understood, biologically active immunogenic fragments, derivatives or variants of such a polypeptide can also be used. As discussed variant polypeptides can comprise amino acid percent identity with the amino acid sequences disclosed herein. Alternatively, polypeptides of the invention may be encoded by variant nucleic acid sequences which have nucleotide percent identity with the polynucleotide sequences disclosed herein.

[0120] The percent identity of two or more sequences may be determined by visual inspection and mathematical calculation. Alternatively, the percent identity of two nucleic acid sequences can be determined by comparing sequence information using the GAP computer program, version 6.0 described by Devereux et al. (Nucl. Acids Res. 12:387, 1984) and available from the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group (UWGCG). The preferred default parameters for the GAP program include: (1) a unary comparison matrix (containing a value of 1 for identities and 0 for non-identities) for nucleotides, and the weighted comparison matrix of Gribskov and Burgess, Nucl. Acids Res. 14:6745, 1986, as described by Schwartz and Dayhoff, eds., Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure, National Biomedical Research Foundation, pp. 353-358, 1979; (2) a penalty of 3.0 for each gap and an additional 0.10 penalty for each symbol in each gap; and (3) no penalty for end gaps. Other programs used by one skilled in the art of sequence comparison may also be used.

[0121] Polypeptides of the invention may be prepared by any of a number of conventional techniques. A nucleic acid encoding a peptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof, may be subcloned into an expression vector for production of the polypeptide or fragment. The DNA sequence advantageously is fused to a sequence encoding a suitable leader or signal peptide and/or a promoter operable in a cell into which the nucleic acid is to be introduced. Alternatively, the desired fragment may be chemically synthesized using known techniques. DNA fragments also may be produced by restriction endonuclease digestion of a full length cloned DNA sequence, and isolated by electrophoresis on agarose gels. If necessary, oligonucleotides that reconstruct the 5' or 3' terminus to a desired point may be ligated to a DNA fragment generated by restriction enzyme digestion. Such oligonucleotides may additionally contain a restriction endonuclease cleavage site upstream of the desired coding sequence, and position an initiation codon (ATG) at the N-terminus of the coding sequence.

[0122] Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) procedure also may be employed to isolate and amplify a DNA sequence encoding a desired polypeptide fragment. Oligonucleotides that define the desired termini of the DNA fragment are employed as 5' and 3' primers. The oligonucleotides may additionally contain recognition sites for restriction endonucleases, to facilitate insertion of the amplified DNA fragment into an expression vector. PCR techniques are described in Saiki et al., Science 239:487 (1988); Recombinant DNA Methodology, Wu et al., eds., Academic Press, Inc., San Diego (1989), pp. 189-196; and PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications, Innis et al., eds., Academic Press, Inc. (1990).

[0123] The invention encompasses polypeptides and biologically active immunogenic fragments, derivatives, or vari-

ants thereof in various forms, including those that are naturally occurring or produced through various techniques such as procedures involving recombinant DNA technology. For example, nucleotides encoding polypeptides of the invention can be derived from SEQ ID NO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9 by in vitro mutagenesis, which includes site-directed mutagenesis, random mutagenesis, and in vitro nucleic acid synthesis. Such forms include, but are not limited to, derivatives, variants, and oligomers, as well as fusion proteins or fragments thereof.

Polypeptide Derivatives

[0124] Embodiments of a derivative of a polypeptide of the invention can comprise one or more non-naturally occurring amino acids or amino acid analogs, including non-genetically encoded L-amino acids, synthetic L-amino acids or D-enantiomers of an amino acid. Suitably, embodiments of a derivative can comprise one or more residues selected from the group consisting of: hydroxyproline, β -alanine, 2,3-diaminopropionic acid, α -aminoisobutyric acid, N-methylglycine (sarcosine), ornithine, citrulline, t-butylalanine, t-butylglycine, N-methylisoleucine, phenylglycine, cyclohexylalanine, norleucine, naphthylalanine, pyridylalanine 3-benzothienyl alanine 4-chlorophenylalanine, 2-fluorophenylalanine, 3-fluorophenylalanine, 4-fluorophenylalanine, penicillamine, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-carboxylic acid β -2-thienylalanine, methionine sulfoxide, homoarginine, N-acetyl lysine, 2,4-diamino butyric acid, p-aminophenylalanine, N-methylvaline, homocysteine, homoserine, ϵ -amino hexanoic acid, δ -amino valeric acid, 2,3-diaminobutyric acid and mixtures thereof. Other amino acid residues that are useful for making the polypeptides and polypeptide derivatives described herein can be found, e.g., in Fasman, 1989, CRC Practical Handbook of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, CRC Press, Inc., and the references cited therein.

[0125] In embodiments, derivatives of polypeptides of the invention can also comprise an isostere of a polypeptide. The term "isostere" as used herein is intended to include a chemical structure that can be substituted for a second chemical structure because the steric conformation of the first structure fits a binding site specific for the second structure. The term specifically includes peptide back-bone modifications (i.e., amide bond mimetics) known to those skilled in the art. Such modifications include modifications of the amide nitrogen, the α -carbon, amide carbonyl, complete replacement of the amide bond, extensions, deletions or backbone crosslinks. Several peptide backbone modifications are known, including ψ [CH₂S], ψ [CH₂NH], ψ [CSNH₂], ψ [NHCO], ψ [COCH₂], and ψ [(E) or (Z) CH=CH]. In the nomenclature used above, ψ indicates the absence of an amide bond. The structure that replaces the amide group is specified within the brackets. Other modifications include, for example, an N-alkyl (or aryl) substitution (ψ [CONR]), or backbone crosslinking to construct lactams and other cyclic structures. In another example, a polypeptide derivative may be a retro-peptide analog. A retro-peptide analog comprises a reversed amino acid sequence of a polypeptide described herein. For example, a retro-peptide analog of a polypeptide comprises a reversed amino acid sequence of a sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20. Retro-inverso polypeptides may be complete or partial. Complete retro-inverso peptides are those in which a complete sequence of a polypeptide described herein is reversed and the chirality of each amino acid in a sequence is inverted,

other than glycine, because glycine does not have a chiral analog. Partial retro-inverso polypeptides are those in which only some of the peptide bonds are reversed and the chirality of only those amino acid residues in the reversed portion is inverted. For example, one or two or three or four or five or more than 10, more than 20, more than 30, more than 40 or more than 50 amino acid residues are D-amino acids. Suitably a polypeptide of and for use in the present invention may be further modified using at least one of C and/or N-terminal capping, and/or cysteine residue capping. Suitably, a polypeptide of and for use in the present invention may be capped at the N terminal residue with an acetyl group. Suitably, a polypeptide of and for use in the present invention may be capped at the C terminal with an amide group. Suitably, thiol groups of cysteines of polypeptides of the invention may be capped with acetamido methyl groups. In embodiments, the term derivative can include scrambled polypeptides comprising immunodominant epitopes of the rpl encoded pilus for example fragments of SEQ ID NOs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20. In embodiments derivatives can be encoded by rpl genes or fragments thereof which encode immunodominant epitopes of Rpl pilus provided in tandem, or as longer repeat stretches, for example concatemered, to increase the immunogenicity of the encoded polypeptides. In embodiments, combinations of polypeptides of the invention (and corresponding nucleic acid sequences) can be fused in a single polypeptide.

Polypeptide Synthesis

[0126] A polypeptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof may be synthesized using any suitable chemical method known to the person skilled in the art. For example, synthetic peptides can be prepared using known techniques of solid phase, liquid phase, or peptide condensation, or any combination thereof, and can include natural and/or unnatural amino acids. Amino acids used for peptide synthesis may be standard Boc (N α -amino protected N α -t-butyloxycarbonyl) amino acid resin with the deprotecting, neutralization, coupling and wash protocols of the original solid phase procedure of Merrifield, J. Am. Chem. Soc., 85:2149-2154, 1963, or the base-labile Na-amino protected 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) amino acids described by Carpino and Han, J. Org. Chem., 37:3403-3409, 1972. Both Fmoc and Boc N α -amino protected amino acids can be obtained from various commercial sources, such as, for example, Fluka, Bachem, Advanced Chemtech, Sigma, Cambridge Research Biochemical, Bachem, or Peninsula Labs.

[0127] Generally, chemical synthesis methods comprise the sequential addition of one or more amino acids to a growing peptide chain. Normally, either the amino or carboxyl group of the first amino acid is protected by a suitable protecting group. The protected or derivatized amino acid can then be either attached to an inert solid support or utilized in solution by adding the next amino acid in the sequence having the complementary (amino or carboxyl) group suitably protected, under conditions that allow for the formation of an amide linkage. The protecting group is then removed from the newly added amino acid residue and the next amino acid (suitably protected) is then added, and so forth. After the desired amino acids have been linked in the proper sequence, any remaining protecting groups (and any solid support, if solid phase synthesis techniques are used) are removed sequentially or concurrently, to render the final polypeptide.

By simple modification of this general procedure, it is possible to add more than one amino acid at a time to a growing chain, for example, by coupling (under conditions which do not racemize chiral centers) a protected tripeptide with a properly protected dipeptide to form, after deprotection, a pentapeptide. See, e.g., J. M. Stewart and J. D. Young, Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis (Pierce Chemical Co., Rockford, Ill. 1984) and G. Barany and R. B. Merrifield, The Peptides: Analysis, Synthesis, Biology, editors E. Gross and J. Meienhofer, Vol. 2, (Academic Press, New York, 1980), pp. 3-254, for solid phase peptide synthesis techniques; and M. Bodansky, Principles of Peptide Synthesis, (Springer-Verlag, Berlin 1984) and E. Gross and J. Meienhofer, Eds., The Peptides: Analysis. Synthesis. Biology, Vol. 1, for classical solution synthesis. Typical protecting groups include t-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc), 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) benzyloxycarbonyl (Cbz); p-toluenesulfonyl (Tx); 2,4-dinitrophenyl; benzyl (Bzl); biphenylisopropylloxycarboxy-carbonyl, t-amylloxycarbonyl, isobornylloxycarbonyl, o-bromobenzyloxycarbonyl, cyclohexyl, isopropyl, acetyl, o-nitrophenylsulfonyl and the like.

[0128] Typical solid supports are cross-linked polymeric supports. These can include divinylbenzene cross-linked-styrene-based polymers, for example, divinylbenzene-hydroxymethylstyrene copolymers, divinylbenzene-chloromethylstyrene copolymers and divinylbenzene-benzhydrylaminopolystyrene copolymers.

[0129] A peptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as described herein according to any embodiment can also be chemically prepared by other methods such as by the method of simultaneous multiple peptide synthesis. See, e. g., Houghten Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82: 5131-5135, 1985 or U.S. Pat. No. 4,631,211.

Recombinant Polypeptide Production

[0130] Alternatively, or in addition, a peptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof can be produced as a recombinant protein. To facilitate the production of a recombinant polypeptide, nucleic acid encoding the same is preferably isolated or synthesized. Typically the nucleic acid encoding the recombinant protein is/are isolated using a known method, such as, for example, amplification (e.g., using PCR or splice overlap extension) or isolated from nucleic acid from *R. equi* using one or more restriction enzymes or isolated from a library of nucleic acids.

[0131] Methods for such isolation will be apparent to the ordinary skilled artisan and/or described in Ausubel et al (In: Current Protocols in Molecular Biology. Wiley Interscience, ISBN 047 150338, 1987), Sambrook et al (In: Molecular Cloning: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, New York, Third Edition 2001).

[0132] For expressing protein by recombinant means, a protein-encoding nucleic acid is placed in operable connection with a promoter or other regulatory sequence capable of regulating expression in a cell-free system or cellular system. For example, nucleic acid comprising a sequence that encodes a polypeptide of the pili of *R. equi* is placed in operable connection with a suitable promoter and maintained in a suitable cell for a time and under conditions sufficient for expression to occur.

[0133] A number of other gene construct systems for expressing a nucleic acid of a gene selected from Table 1 or Table 2 in bacterial cells are well-known in the art and are

described for example, in Ausubel et al (In: Current Protocols in Molecular Biology. Wiley Interscience, ISBN 047 150338, 1987), and Sambrook et al (In: Molecular Cloning: Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories, New York, Third Edition 2001).

[0134] A wide range of additional host/vector systems suitable for expressing a polypeptide of the present invention are available publicly, and described, for example, in Sambrook et al (In: Molecular cloning, A laboratory manual, second edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989).

[0135] Following expression of a polypeptide, isolation and purification of the polypeptide may be accomplished by any suitable technique, as would be known in the art.

Compositions

[0136] A polypeptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof may be administered alone, but will preferably be administered as a pharmaceutical composition, which will generally comprise a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent or carrier selected depending on the intended route of administration. Examples of suitable pharmaceutical carriers include; water, glycerol and ethanol.

[0137] The term “carrier or excipient” as used herein, refers to a carrier or excipient that is conventionally used in the art to facilitate the storage, administration, and/or the biological activity of an active compound. A carrier may also reduce any undesirable side effects of the active compound. A suitable carrier is, for example, stable, e.g., incapable of reacting with other ingredients in the formulation. In one example, the carrier does not produce significant local or systemic adverse effect in recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed for treatment. Such carriers and excipients are generally known in the art. Suitable carriers for this invention include those conventionally used, e.g., water, saline, aqueous dextrose, and glycols are preferred liquid carriers, particularly (when isotonic) for solutions. Suitable pharmaceutical carriers and excipients include starch, cellulose, glucose, lactose, sucrose, gelatin, malt, rice, flour, chalk, silica gel, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, glycerol monostearate, sodium chloride, glycerol, propylene glycol, water, ethanol, and the like.

[0138] Pharmaceutical composition adapted for oral administration may be presented as discrete units such as capsules, soft gels, or tablets; powders or granules; solutions or suspensions in aqueous or non-aqueous liquids; edible foams or whips; or oil-in-water liquid emulsions or water-in-oil liquid emulsions.

[0139] Pharmaceutical compositions provided as formulations adapted for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous sterile injection solutions which contain a polypeptide or a biologically active immunogenic fragment, derivative, or variant thereof or an antibody of the invention and optionally, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents and thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose containers, for example sealed ampules and vials, and may be stored in a freeze-dried (lyophilized) condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier, for example water for injections, immediately prior to use. Extemporaneous injection

solutions and suspensions may be prepared from sterile powders, granules and tablets.

Administration

[0140] As will be appreciated by a person of skill in the art, selecting an administration regimen for a therapeutic composition or vaccine of the invention depends on several factors, including the serum or tissue turnover rate of a polypeptide of the invention or an antibody invention, the level of symptoms, the immunogenicity of the polypeptide, and the accessibility of the target cells in the biological matrix. Preferably, an administration regimen maximizes the amount of therapeutic compound delivered to the subject consistent with an acceptable level of side effects. Accordingly, the amount of polypeptide, antibody or composition delivered depends in part on the polypeptide, antibody or composition and the severity of the condition being treated.

[0141] A polypeptide or antibody can be provided, for example, by continuous infusion, or by doses at intervals of, e.g., one day, one week, or 1-7 times per week. A preferred dose protocol is one involving the maximal dose or dose frequency that avoids significant undesirable side effects. A total weekly dose depends on the type and activity of the compound being used. Determination of the appropriate dose is made by a veterinarian or clinician, for example using parameters or factors known or suspected in the art to affect treatment or predicted to affect treatment.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

[0142] Using electron microscopy and other microscopical techniques we demonstrated that *R. equi* produces long, thick and apparently rigid pili appendages, typically between two and four per bacteria cell (FIG. 1 panels BC).

Example 2

Genome Sequencing

[0143] Genome sequencing of the complete genome sequence of *R. equi* strain 103S was determined in an international collaborative venture. The genome has just over 5 million base pairs and encodes 4598 genes of average length value 1009 pairs of nucleotides.

Example 3

[0144] Demonstration that the *rpl* (*R. equi* pili) locus (nucleotide positions 1,938,280 to 1,947,152, locus tags REQ18350-430) encodes the *R. equi* pilus by targeted mutant construction and genetic re-complementation analysis.

[0145] An in-frame deletion mutant was constructed in the *rplB* gene putatively encoding the Rpl pilin subunit (RplB). Homologous recombination methodology previously devised (Navas et al. 2001, Identification and mutagenesis by allelic exchange of *choE*, encoding a cholesterol oxidase from the intracellular pathogen *Rhodococcus equi*. J. Bacteriol. 183: 4796-4805), and a novel suicide vector, pSelAct, for positive selection of double recombinants on 5-fluorocytosine (5-FC) (van der Geize et al. 2008, A novel method to

generate unmarked gene deletions in the intracellular pathogen *Rhodococcus equi* using 5-fluorocytosine conditional lethality. Nucleic Acids Res. 36: e1 51) was used in this approach. The Δ rplB mutant was complemented by stably inserting the rplB gene plus corresponding promoter region into the *R. equi* chromosome using the integrative vector pSET152 (Hong and Hondalus 2008, Site-specific integration of *Streptomyces* PhiC31 integrase-based vectors in the chromosome of *Rhodococcus equi*. FEMS Microbiol. Lett. 287: 63-68). As shown in FIG. 2, the inactivation of the rplB gene results in loss of pili formation by *R. equi*. Pili formation is restored upon reintroduction of the rplB gene in the Δ rplB mutant but not by complementation with an empty vector, demonstrating that rplB is a gene directly responsible for the pilated phenotype.

Example 4

[0146] Demonstration that the *R. equi* pili mediate attachment to mammalian cells.

[0147] The Δ rplB mutant was tested in adhesion assays using monolayers of two cell types relevant to *R. equi* infection: epithelial cells to which the pathogen have to adhere to during the initial stages of lung colonization, and macrophages, which are used as host cells for bacterial intracellular replication. The rplB mutant was severely impaired in attachment to both eukaryotic cell types, and its complementation with the rplB gene but not an empty vector restored wild-type cytoadhesiveness (FIG. 3).

[0148] Two additional mutants were constructed in rplA and rplE (FIG. 1A) and they also caused a significant reduction of *R. equi* cytoadhesiveness (FIG. 4), indicating that other genes from the rpl locus are involved in pilus-mediated attachment to eukaryotic cells (not shown).

Example 5

[0149] Demonstration that the *R. equi* pili are essential for lung colonization in vivo in a mouse model of *R. equi* infection.

[0150] A novel in vivo model of competitive *R. equi* lung infection in mice was developed and used to test the virulence of the rplB mutant in comparison to rplB-proficient (wild-type) bacteria. *R. equi* wild-type and an isogenic rplB knockout mutant in equal amounts were inoculated intranasally to Balb/c mice. At specific time points after infection, the bacterial population was determined in lungs and tracheas to assess airway colonisation. The spleens were also analysed to determine the capacity of the bacteria to overwhelm local defences and spread deeper into host tissues. FIG. 4 shows that the mutant, initially accounting for 50% of the inoculum, was only detectable—in much less proportion—during the two first time points sampled (0 and 24 hour post inoculation), indicating that apiliated bacteria are immediately cleared from the lungs and thus substantially less virulent. In the first time point, only a very small fraction of the bacteria that translocated to the spleen were mutants. These data indicate

that a wild-type capacity to attach to host cells via the Rpl pili is essential for host colonisation by *R. equi*.

Example 6

[0151] Demonstration that the RplB (putative pilin subunit) protein is antigenic in vivo in rabbits.

[0152] The synthetic RplB peptide indicated in FIG. 6A was used to hyperimmunize rabbits. The antiserum specifically detected the RplB pilin subunit in whole cell extracts of *R. equi* (FIG. 6B) and the production of Rpl pili in *R. equi* by immunofluorescence (FIG. 6C), indicating that it is immunogenic in vivo in rabbits.

Example 7

[0153] Demonstration that RplB elicits neutralizing antibodies that inhibit *R. equi* attachment.

[0154] The rabbit hyperimmune anti-RplB antiserum was used in attachment-inhibition assays in HeLa epithelial cells and J774A.1 macrophages. FIG. 7 shows that the RplB antiserum, but not an irrelevant antiserum, inhibited *R. equi* cytoadhesion. Given the key role of the Rpl pili in lung colonization by *R. equi* (FIG. 4), these data indicate that RplB is a vaccine target to prevent lung infection by the pathogen.

[0155] This is evidence that indicates that the pilin subunit RplB is recognised by the immune system in vivo and the animal body mounts a specific immune response with production of specific antibodies to the *R. equi* pilin subunit RplB. As the polyclonal antiserum containing anti-RplB antibodies inhibits attachment of *R. equi* to monolayers of HeLa epithelial cells or J774 macrophages if added to the infection assays, which effect is not seen if the Rpl antiserum is not added, or if an unrelated control antiserum raised against other bacteria (e.g. *Listeria*) is used, this indicates a protective function of the antibodies through inhibition of bacterial attachment to host cells, the first phase of host colonisation during infection.

Example 8

[0156] Demonstration that the RplB putative pilin subunit is an immunodominant antigen in naturally infected foals.

[0157] Using SDS-PAGE western immunoblotting and whole-cell extracts from wild-type and rplB (apiliated) deletion mutant bacteria, it was shown that the sera from natural cases of *R. equi* infection in foals contain antibodies to the RplB putative pilin subunit (FIG. 8). The RplB protein is the first detected in the crude *R. equi* protein preparation by the antibodies present in the case sera. Thus, the RplB pilin subunit is recognized in vivo by the foal's immune system during *R. equi* infection and is an immunodominant antigen. Normal, non-case sera did not react against the RplB protein, indicating that this antigen provides a suitable marker for the early detection and diagnosis of *R. equi* infection in foals.

[0158] Although the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to particular examples, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in the form and details may be made therein without departing from the scope of the present invention.

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 Ala Val Leu Phe Gly Val Tyr Phe Val Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Pro Ala
 165 170 175

 Gly Met Gly Phe Gly Asp Val Lys Leu Ala Gly Val Ile Gly Ala Val
 180 185 190

 Leu Ala Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Gly Thr Leu Leu Val Gly Ala Phe Leu Ala
 195 200 205

 Phe Leu Val Ala Ala Leu Val Gly Leu Ile Ile Leu Val Thr Arg Arg
 210 215 220

 Gly Arg Ile Gly Thr Thr Ile Pro Phe Gly Pro Tyr Met Ile Ala Ala
 225 230 235 240

 Ala Ile Val Ala Ile Leu Ala Ala Asp Pro Leu Ala Arg Ala Tyr Leu
 245 250 255

 Asp Trp Ala Ala Ala Ala
 260

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<210> SEQ ID NO 13
<211> LENGTH: 68
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 13

Met Asn Leu Phe Phe Ala Asn Leu Tyr Leu Met Gly Leu Asp Val Lys
 1           5           10          15
Asp Arg Leu Thr Arg Asp Asp Arg Gly Ala Thr Ala Val Glu Tyr Gly
 20          25          30
Leu Met Val Ala Gly Ile Ala Met Val Ile Ile Val Ala Val Phe Ala
 35          40          45
Phe Gly Asp Lys Ile Thr Asp Leu Phe Asp Gly Phe Asn Phe Asp Asp
 50          55          60
Pro Gly Gly Glu
 65

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<210> SEQ ID NO 14
<211> LENGTH: 133
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 14

Met Lys Arg Leu Thr Ser Asp Ser Gly Val Ala Ala Val Glu Phe Ala
 1           5           10          15
Leu Val Val Pro Ile Leu Ile Thr Leu Val Leu Gly Ile Val Glu Phe
 20          25          30
Gly Arg Gly Tyr Asn Val Gln Asn Ala Val Ser Ala Ala Ala Arg Glu
 35          40          45
Gly Ala Arg Thr Met Ala Ile Lys Lys Asp Pro Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala
 50          55          60
Ala Val Lys Gly Ala Gly Val Phe Ser Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp Ala Glu
 65          70          75          80
Ile Cys Ile Ser Thr Ser Gly Thr Gln Gly Cys Ser Ala Thr Ser Cys
 85          90          95
Pro Ser Gly Ser Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Val Ser Tyr Pro Leu Glu Tyr
 100         105         110
Met Thr Gly Leu Phe Pro Gly Lys Pro Thr Leu Thr Gly Thr Gly Val
 115         120         125
Met Arg Cys Gly Gly
 130

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<210> SEQ ID NO 15
<211> LENGTH: 314
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 15

Met Ser Asn Asp Glu Arg Gly Val Val Ala Val Leu Val Ala Ile Leu
 1           5           10          15
Met Val Val Leu Leu Gly Cys Ala Ala Ile Ser Val Asp Ile Gly Ala
 20          25          30
Asn Tyr Val Val Lys Arg Gln Leu Gln Asn Gly Ala Asp Ala Ala Ala
 35          40          45

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Leu Ala Val Ala Gln Glu Ser Ser Cys Lys Ala Gly Ser Ser Ala Ser
 50 55 60
 Ser Val Ser Ser Leu Val Gln Ala Asn Val Asn Ser Ser Ser Ala Ala
 65 70 75 80
 Ser Ala Ala Val Ile Asp Gly Val Lys Arg Lys Val Thr Val Thr Ala
 85 90 95
 Ser Ala Val Gly Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala Gly Arg Arg Asn Val Phe Ala
 100 105 110
 Pro Val Leu Gly Val Asp Arg Ser Glu Ile Ser Ala Ser Ala Thr Ala
 115 120 125
 Ser Cys Val Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Thr Ala Glu Leu Pro Leu Thr Phe
 130 135 140
 His Lys Cys His Phe Asp Glu Ser Arg Ser Leu Asp Val Lys Ile Leu
 145 150 155 160
 Val Ala Tyr Asn Val Thr Ala Pro Arg Cys Asn Gly Thr Ser Gly Asn
 165 170 175
 Ala Ala Pro Gly Asn Phe Gly Trp Leu Gln Gly Ala Asn Gly Arg Cys
 180 185 190
 Pro Ala Lys Ile Asp Ala Ala Val Tyr Ala Thr Pro Gly Asp Thr Gly
 195 200 205
 Asn Asn Ile Pro Gly Pro Cys Lys Asp Thr Ile Lys Gln Phe Gln Asn
 210 215 220
 Ala Val Val Arg Val Pro Ile Tyr Asp Val Ala Gly Gly Thr Gly Ser
 225 230 235 240
 Gly Gly Trp Phe His Val Val Gly Leu Ala Ala Phe Lys Ile Gln Gly
 245 250 255
 Tyr Arg Leu Ser Gly Asn Pro Glu Phe Asn Trp Asn Asn Asp Val His
 260 265 270
 Gly Ala Leu Ser Cys Thr Gly Ser Cys Arg Gly Ile Ile Gly Thr Phe
 275 280 285
 Val Lys Ile Val Ser Leu Asp Ser Asp Leu Thr Pro Gly Gly Ile Asp
 290 295 300
 Phe Gly Val Ser Thr Ile Ser Leu Leu Asp
 305 310

<210> SEQ ID NO 16

<211> LENGTH: 245

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

Leu Arg Thr Arg Ile Ile Ala Ala Ile Cys Ala Ile Val Leu Ala Val
 1 5 10 15
 Ala Gly Thr Leu Ala Leu Ile Ser Tyr Val Arg Gly Ala Asp Ala Arg
 20 25 30
 Ala Leu Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Val Asp Val Leu Val Ala Asp Gln Thr
 35 40 45
 Ile Pro Lys Asn Thr Pro Ala Asp Ser Leu Val Gly Met Val Val Val
 50 55 60
 Lys Lys Leu Pro Glu Met Ala Val Leu Pro Asp Arg Val Thr Ser Leu
 65 70 75 80
 Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Lys Val Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Leu Pro Gly Glu
 85 90 95

-continued

Gln Leu Val Ser Ala Arg Phe Val Asp Pro Ala Thr Ala Arg Ser Gln
 100 105 110

Asp Gln Gly Gly Ile Pro Glu Gly Met Gln Glu Val Thr Val Leu Leu
 115 120 125

Glu Pro Gln Arg Ala Leu Gly Gly His Ile Ala Ser Gly Asp Thr Val
 130 135 140

Gly Val Phe Met Ser Phe Ser Pro Pro Val Lys Asn Tyr Glu Thr His
 145 150 155 160

Leu Arg Leu Gln Lys Val Arg Val Thr Arg Val Gln Gly Thr Phe Ser
 165 170 175

Asn Ala Asp Glu Gly Asp Ser Ala Thr Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro
 180 185 190

Ala Pro Thr Glu Ala Phe Leu Val Ser Leu Ala Val Asp Val Pro Met
 195 200 205

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

Asn Glu Pro Pro Ser Ser Asn Glu Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Val Ser Pro
 225 230 235 240

Glu Gly Val Phe Arg
 245

<210> SEQ ID NO 17

<211> LENGTH: 399

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

Met Ser Arg Ile Val Leu Leu Thr Asp Arg Asp Asp Phe Ala Arg Arg
 1 5 10 15

Val Tyr His Ala Ala Asp Gly Asn Leu Leu Val Leu Pro Ala Gln Pro
 20 25 30

Val Pro Arg Gly Pro Ala Gln Leu Val Gly Leu Gly Val Thr Val Gln
 35 40 45

Pro Glu Val Leu Val Leu Gly Pro Asp Val Pro Glu Val Glu Gly Leu
 50 55 60

Ser Leu Ala Gly Arg Ile Asp His Ser Thr Pro Gly Thr Thr Val Val
 65 70 75 80

Leu Ala Ser Asp Ala Gly Thr Asp Val Trp Leu Arg Ala Met Arg Ala
 85 90 95

Gly Val Arg Asp Val Met Ser Pro Glu Ala Glu Ile Ala Asp Val Arg
 100 105 110

Ala Val Leu Asp Arg Ala Gly Gln Ala Ala Leu Ala Arg Arg Gln Gly
 115 120 125

Ala Ser Ala Pro Ala Glu Gln His Ala Val Gln Gly Lys Val Ile Val
 130 135 140

Val Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Val Ala Thr Asn
 145 150 155 160

Leu Ala Val Gly Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Pro His Ser Thr Val Leu Val
 165 170 175

Asp Leu Asp Val Gln Phe Gly Asp Val Ala Ser Ala Leu Gln Leu Val
 180 185 190

Pro Glu His Cys Leu Thr Asp Ala Val Ala Gly Pro Ala Ser Gln Asp

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195					200					205					
Met	Ile	Val	Leu	Lys	Thr	Val	Leu	Thr	Pro	His	Ser	Thr	Gly	Leu	His
210						215					220				
Ala	Leu	Cys	Gly	Ser	Asp	Ser	Pro	Ala	Ala	Gly	Asp	Ser	Ile	Thr	Gly
225					230					235					240
Glu	Gln	Val	Ser	Thr	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gln	Leu	Ala	Ala	Glu	Phe	Arg	Tyr
				245					250					255	
Val	Val	Val	Asp	Thr	Ala	Pro	Gly	Leu	Leu	Glu	His	Thr	Leu	Ala	Ala
			260					265					270		
Leu	Asp	Leu	Ala	Thr	Asp	Val	Val	Leu	Val	Ser	Gly	Met	Asp	Val	Pro
	275						280					285			
Ser	Val	Arg	Gly	Met	His	Lys	Glu	Leu	Gln	Leu	Leu	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asn
	290					295						300			
Leu	Gly	Pro	Val	Val	Arg	His	Val	Val	Leu	Asn	Phe	Ala	Asp	Arg	Arg
305					310					315					320
Glu	Gly	Leu	Thr	Val	Gln	Asp	Ile	Gln	Asn	Thr	Ile	Gly	Val	Pro	Ala
				325					330					335	
Asp	Ile	Val	Ile	Lys	Arg	Ser	Lys	Ala	Val	Ala	Leu	Ser	Thr	Asn	Arg
			340					345						350	
Gly	Val	Pro	Leu	Leu	Gln	Asn	Pro	Gly	Arg	Asp	Arg	Thr	Ala	Lys	Glu
		355					360					365			
Leu	Trp	Arg	Leu	Val	Gly	Arg	Ile	Asp	Pro	Ala	Pro	Asp	Thr	Ala	Lys
	370					375					380				
Gly	Gly	Arg	Ala	Arg	His	Arg	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Val	Gly	Ala	Lys	
385					390					395					

<210> SEQ ID NO 18

<211> LENGTH: 465

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

Met	Arg	Leu	Ser	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Ala	Val	Arg	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Val
1			5						10					15	
Glu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Pro	Ile	Pro	Pro	Gly	Lys	Gln	Gly	Lys	Ala	Lys	Thr
			20					25					30		
Ser	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ala	Asp	Ala	Leu	Ala	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Arg	Ala	Ser
		35					40					45			
Ala	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Arg	Ile	Gly	Thr	Arg	Phe	Asn	Asp	Ser	Ser	Leu
		50				55					60				
Ser	Glu	Glu	Gln	Leu	His	Leu	Leu	Val	Arg	Glu	Glu	Leu	Ala	Glu	Ile
65					70					75					80
Val	Glu	Gln	Glu	Thr	Pro	Leu	Thr	Phe	Asp	Glu	Arg	Gln	Arg	Leu	
				85					90					95	
Leu	Arg	Glu	Val	Ala	Asp	Glu	Val	Leu	Gly	His	Gly	Pro	Leu	Gln	Arg
			100					105					110		
Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Pro	Ser	Val	Thr	Glu	Ile	Met	Val	Asn	Ser	His	Asp
		115					120					125			
Met	Val	Tyr	Val	Glu	Arg	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu	Val	Arg	Ser	Ser	Ala	Arg
		130				135					140				
Phe	Ala	Asp	Glu	Ala	His	Leu	Arg	Arg	Val	Ile	Glu	Arg	Ile	Val	Ser
145					150					155					160

-continued

Ala Val Gly Arg Arg Ile Asp Glu Ser Ser Pro Leu Val Asp Ala Arg
165 170 175

Leu Ala Asp Gly Ser Arg Val Asn Ala Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Ala Phe
180 185 190

Asn Gly Ser Ser Leu Thr Ile Arg Lys Phe Ser Lys Asp Pro Phe Gln
195 200 205

Val Asp Asp Leu Ile Ala Phe Gly Thr Leu Ser His Glu Met Ala Glu
210 215 220

Leu Leu Asp Ala Cys Val Gln Ala Arg Leu Asn Val Ile Val Ser Gly
225 230 235 240

Gly Thr Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Leu Leu Asn Val Leu Ser Ser Phe
245 250 255

Ile Pro Glu Gly Glu Arg Ile Val Thr Ile Glu Asp Ala Val Glu Leu
260 265 270

Gln Leu Gln Gln Asp His Val Val Arg Leu Glu Ser Arg Pro Pro Asn
275 280 285

Ile Glu Gly Lys Gly Ala Val Thr Ile Arg Asp Leu Val Arg Asn Ser
290 295 300

Leu Arg Met Arg Pro Asp Arg Ile Val Val Gly Glu Cys Arg Gly Gly
305 310 315 320

Glu Ser Leu Asp Met Leu Gln Ala Met Asn Thr Gly His Asp Gly Ser
325 330 335

Leu Ser Thr Val His Ala Asn Ser Pro Arg Asp Ala Ile Ala Arg Leu
340 345 350

Glu Thr Leu Val Leu Met Ala Gly Met Asp Leu Pro Leu Arg Ala Ile
355 360 365

Arg Glu Gln Ile Ala Ser Ala Val Asp Val Ile Val Gln Leu Thr Arg
370 375 380

Leu Arg Asp Gly Thr Arg Arg Val Thr His Val Thr Glu Val Gln Gly
385 390 395 400

Met Glu Gly Glu Ile Val Thr Leu Gln Asp Ala Phe Leu Phe Asp Tyr
405 410 415

Ser Ala Gly Val Asp Ala Arg Gly Arg Phe Leu Gly Arg Pro Gln Pro
420 425 430

Thr Gly Val Arg Pro Arg Phe Thr Asp Arg Phe Arg Asp Leu Gly Ile
435 440 445

Ala Leu Ser Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Arg Gly Arg
450 455 460

Val
465

<210> SEQ ID NO 19

<211> LENGTH: 622

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 19

Met Ser Arg Cys Val Val Ala Val Val Leu Ala Leu Gly Ala Gly Val
1 5 10 15

Leu Gly Ile Pro Ala Val Ala Ala Ala Glu Glu Ala Val Gln Val
20 25 30

Ser Ala Val Asp Thr Thr Arg Phe Pro Asp Ile Glu Val Ser Ile Leu
35 40 45

-continued

Ala Pro Pro Gly Ile Glu Gly Gln Ala Ile Asp Pro Gly Thr Phe Ala
50 55 60

Leu Thr Glu Gly Gly Val Pro Arg Glu Ile Glu Val Arg Gln Gln Pro
65 70 75 80

Gly Ser Glu Gln Asp Ile Val Leu Ala Ile Asp Val Ser Gly Gly Met
85 90 95

Ser Gly Pro Ala Leu Asp Asp Val Lys Arg Ala Ala Ser Asp Phe Val
100 105 110

Arg Gln Ala Pro Ala Gly Ala His Ile Gly Ile Val Ala Ile Ser Ser
115 120 125

Thr Pro Gln Val Leu Ser Glu Leu Thr Thr Asp Ser Glu Asp Leu Leu
130 135 140

Arg Arg Ile Asp Gly Leu Lys Ala Gly Gly Asn Ser Ala Ile Ala Asp
145 150 155 160

Ser Val Val Thr Ala Ala Glu Met Leu Glu Arg Gly Glu Ala Ala Asn
165 170 175

Asn Ile Leu Leu Leu Leu Thr Asp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ser Ser Ala His
180 185 190

Ser Met Ser Glu Leu Pro Ser Val Leu Ser Arg Ser Arg Ala Ser Leu
195 200 205

Tyr Ala Val Gln Met Ser Thr Pro Glu Thr Asn Ser Ala Leu Leu Gln
210 215 220

Gln Val Ala Arg Glu Ser Arg Gly Gln Tyr Ala Ser Ala Gly Asp Thr
225 230 235 240

Ala Ala Leu Gly Ala Ile Tyr Gln Ser Ala Ala Arg Ala Leu Gly Asn
245 250 255

Leu Tyr Val Val Arg Tyr Arg Ser Glu Ala Asn Gly Asp Thr Gln Val
260 265 270

Val Ala Ser Val Arg Ser Gly Ala Ala Gly Arg Val Ser Asp Pro Phe
275 280 285

Pro Val Thr Leu Pro Gly Val Val Pro Thr Pro Ser Val Val Ala Gly
290 295 300

Thr Val Asp Gly Phe Phe Thr Ser Ser Thr Gly Leu Val Ile Gly Leu
305 310 315 320

Leu Ala Cys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Ala Val Ala Gly
325 330 335

Arg Ala Pro Ala Arg Ile Ser Ala Ala Arg Arg Gly Arg Gln Asp Gly
340 345 350

Arg Asp Ser Met Leu Ser Arg Phe Ala Glu Arg Leu Val Gln Trp Ile
355 360 365

Asp Gln Asn Leu Arg Arg Arg Gly Arg Ile Ala Ala Arg Thr Gln Ala
370 375 380

Leu Gln Glu Ala Gly Leu Lys Leu Arg Pro Gly Asp Phe Ile Ala Leu
385 390 395 400

Val Gly Ala Ala Ala Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Gly Leu Leu Ala Ser
405 410 415

Gly Ile Val Ala Ala Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Ile Thr Val Gly Leu Ser
420 425 430

Arg Ile Tyr Leu Arg Val Met Ala Gly Arg Arg Arg Ala Ala Phe Ala
435 440 445

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Asp Gln Leu Asp Asp Ser Leu Gln Leu Leu Ala Ser Asn Leu Arg Ala
 450 455 460
 Gly His Ser Met Leu Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Leu Ser Arg Glu Ala Glu
 465 470 475 480
 Val Pro Thr Ser Glu Glu Phe Ala Arg Ile Val Asn Glu Thr Arg Val
 485 490 495
 Gly Arg Asp Leu Asn Glu Ser Leu Asp Asp Val Ala Arg Arg Met Arg
 500 505 510
 Ser Asp Asp Phe Asn Trp Ile Ala Gln Ala Ile Ala Ile Asn Arg Glu
 515 520 525
 Val Gly Gly Asp Leu Ala Glu Val Leu Asp Gln Val Gly Asn Thr Ile
 530 535 540
 Arg Glu Arg Asn Gln Ile Arg Arg Gln Val Lys Ala Leu Ala Ala Glu
 545 550 555 560
 Gly Lys Leu Ser Ala Tyr Val Leu Met Ala Leu Pro Phe Gly Leu Thr
 565 570 575
 Ala Phe Leu Leu Val Ser Asn Pro Asp Tyr Leu Ser Lys Leu Thr Gly
 580 585 590
 Ser Ala Ile Gly Tyr Val Met Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Val Met Leu Thr
 595 600 605
 Val Gly Gly Leu Trp Met Asn Lys Val Val Ser Val Lys Phe
 610 615 620

<210> SEQ ID NO 20

<211> LENGTH: 296

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 20

Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Val Leu Met Ala Ala Leu Ser Val Gly Gly Ala
 1 5 10 15
 Leu Gly Val Leu Val Trp Leu Thr Val Gly Ala Arg Asp Pro Glu Arg
 20 25 30
 Gly Pro Ala Leu Arg Asn Leu Gln Ser Gln Leu Ala Leu Pro Ile Pro
 35 40 45
 Glu Ser Gly Gly Ala Pro Pro Leu Ser Leu Gly Arg Phe Val Lys Leu
 50 55 60
 Leu Ser Pro Pro Gly Thr Met Ala Arg Leu Glu Arg Leu His Ile Leu
 65 70 75 80
 Ala Gly Arg Pro Ala Ala Trp Val Pro Glu Arg Ala Ala Met Ala Lys
 85 90 95
 Ile Val Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Leu Leu Ala Val Gly
 100 105 110
 Ala Ser Pro Gly Val Gly Arg Val Leu Phe Ala Ala Ala Val Ala
 115 120 125
 Leu Ala Tyr Phe Val Pro Glu Leu Leu Leu Gln Ser Arg Gly Gln Glu
 130 135 140
 Arg Gln Ala Ala Ile Glu Leu Ala Leu Ala Asp Thr Leu Asp Gln Met
 145 150 155 160
 Thr Ile Ala Val Glu Ala Gly Leu Gly Phe Glu Ala Ala Met Gln Arg
 165 170 175
 Ala Ala Lys Asn Gly Lys Gly Pro Leu Ala Glu Glu Phe Ile Arg Thr
 180 185 190

-continued

Leu Gln Asp Ile Gln Met Gly Gln Ser Arg Arg Ile Ala Tyr Leu Asp
 195 200 205

Leu Ala Ala Arg Thr Lys Ala Pro Asn Leu Arg Arg Phe Leu Arg Ala
 210 215 220

Val Ile Gln Ala Asp Glu Tyr Gly Val Ala Ile Ala Glu Val Leu Arg
 225 230 235 240

Thr Gln Ala Ser Glu Met Arg Leu Lys Arg Arg Gln Ser Ala Glu Glu
 245 250 255

Lys Ala Met Lys Val Pro Val Lys Val Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Thr Cys
 260 265 270

Ile Leu Pro Thr Ile Phe Ile Val Ile Leu Gly Pro Ala Val Ile Asn
 275 280 285

Met Met Glu Val Leu Gly Gly Met
 290 295

<210> SEQ ID NO 21

<211> LENGTH: 262

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 21

Val Ile Val Ala Ala Gly Val Gly Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Ile Leu Ala
 1 5 10 15

Gly Ala Phe Ala Asn Ser Ala Ile Asp Arg Val Arg Leu Glu Thr Ala
 20 25 30

Cys Ala Glu Pro Lys Ser Thr Pro Thr Gly Ser Thr Pro Pro Pro Pro
 35 40 45

Ser Pro Ala Ser Ala Val Ala Thr Arg Ile Ala Met Ile Asp Thr Ile
 50 55 60

Thr Arg Arg Arg Asp Ile Ser Ala Arg Arg Met Leu Val Glu Leu Ala
 65 70 75 80

Thr Ala Leu Leu Phe Val Ala Ile Thr Leu Arg Leu Ala Ala Leu Gly
 85 90 95

Leu Leu Pro Ala Ala Pro Ala Tyr Leu Trp Phe Ala Val Ile Gly Ile
 100 105 110

Ala Leu Ala Val Ile Asp Ile Asp Cys Lys Arg Leu Pro Asn Phe Leu
 115 120 125

Val Val Pro Ser Tyr Pro Ile Val Phe Ala Cys Leu Ala Val Gly Ser
 130 135 140

Val Val Thr Gly Asp Trp Ser Ala Leu Leu Arg Ala Ala Ile Gly Ala
 145 150 155 160

Ala Val Leu Phe Gly Phe Tyr Phe Val Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Pro Ala
 165 170 175

Gly Met Gly Phe Gly Asp Val Lys Leu Ala Gly Val Ile Gly Ala Val
 180 185 190

Leu Ala Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Gly Thr Leu Leu Val Gly Ala Phe Leu Ala
 195 200 205

Phe Leu Val Ala Ala Leu Val Gly Leu Ile Ile Leu Val Thr Arg Arg
 210 215 220

Gly Arg Ile Gly Thr Thr Ile Pro Phe Gly Pro Tyr Met Ile Ala Ala
 225 230 235 240

Ala Val Val Ala Ile Leu Ala Ala Asp Pro Leu Ala Arg Ala Tyr Leu

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	245	250	255
Asp Trp Ala Ala Ala Ala			
	260		
<210> SEQ ID NO 22			
<211> LENGTH: 262			
<212> TYPE: PRT			
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi			
<400> SEQUENCE: 22			
Val Ile Val Ala Ala Gly Val Gly Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Ile Leu Ala			
1	5	10	15
Gly Ala Phe Ala Asn Ser Ala Ile Asp Arg Val Arg Leu Glu Thr Ala			
	20	25	30
Cys Ala Glu Pro Arg Ala Thr Pro Thr Gly Ser Thr Pro Pro Pro			
	35	40	45
Ser Pro Thr Ser Ala Val Ala Thr Arg Ile Ala Met Ile Asp Thr Ile			
	50	55	60
Thr Arg Arg Arg Asp Ile Ser Ala Arg Arg Met Leu Val Glu Leu Ala			
65	70	75	80
Thr Ala Leu Leu Phe Val Ala Ile Thr Leu Arg Leu Ala Ala Leu Asp			
	85	90	95
Leu Leu Pro Ala Ala Pro Ala Tyr Leu Trp Phe Ala Val Ile Gly Ile			
	100	105	110
Ala Leu Ala Val Ile Asp Ile Asp Cys Lys Arg Leu Pro Asn Phe Leu			
	115	120	125
Val Val Pro Ser Tyr Pro Ile Val Phe Ala Cys Leu Ala Val Gly Ser			
	130	135	140
Val Val Thr Gly Asp Trp Ser Ala Leu Leu Arg Ala Ala Ile Gly Ala			
145	150	155	160
Ala Val Leu Phe Gly Phe Tyr Phe Val Leu Ala Leu Ile Tyr Pro Ala			
	165	170	175
Gly Met Gly Phe Gly Asp Val Lys Leu Ala Gly Val Ile Gly Ala Val			
	180	185	190
Leu Ala Tyr Leu Ser Tyr Gly Thr Leu Leu Val Gly Ala Phe Leu Ala			
	195	200	205
Phe Leu Val Ala Ala Leu Val Gly Leu Ile Ile Leu Val Thr Arg Arg			
	210	215	220
Gly Arg Ile Gly Thr Thr Ile Pro Phe Gly Pro Tyr Met Ile Ala Ala			
225	230	235	240
Ala Val Val Ala Ile Leu Ala Ala Asp Pro Leu Ala Arg Ala Tyr Leu			
	245	250	255
Asp Trp Ala Ala Ala Ala			
	260		
<210> SEQ ID NO 23			
<211> LENGTH: 262			
<212> TYPE: PRT			
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi			
<400> SEQUENCE: 23			
Val Ile Val Ala Ala Gly Val Gly Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Ile Leu Ala			
1	5	10	15
Gly Ala Phe Ala Asn Ser Ala Ile Asp Arg Val Arg Leu Glu Thr Ala			

-continued

20					25					30					
Cys	Ala	Glu	Pro	Lys	Ser	Thr	Pro	Ala	Asn	Ser	Thr	Pro	Pro	Ser	Pro
	35						40					45			
Ser	Pro	Thr	Ser	Ala	Val	Ala	Ala	Arg	Ile	Ala	Met	Ile	Asp	Thr	Ile
	50					55					60				
Thr	Arg	Arg	His	Asp	Ile	Ser	Ala	Arg	Arg	Val	Leu	Val	Glu	Leu	Ala
65					70					75					80
Thr	Ala	Leu	Leu	Phe	Val	Ala	Ile	Thr	Leu	Arg	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp
				85					90					95	
Leu	Leu	Pro	Ala	Ala	Pro	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Trp	Phe	Ala	Val	Val	Gly	Ile
			100					105					110		
Ala	Leu	Ala	Val	Ile	Asp	Ile	Asp	Cys	Lys	Arg	Leu	Pro	Asn	Phe	Leu
		115					120					125			
Val	Val	Pro	Ser	Tyr	Pro	Ile	Val	Phe	Ala	Cys	Leu	Ala	Val	Gly	Ser
	130					135					140				
Val	Val	Thr	Gly	Asp	Trp	Ser	Ala	Leu	Leu	Arg	Ala	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ala
145					150					155					160
Ala	Val	Leu	Phe	Gly	Phe	Tyr	Phe	Val	Leu	Ala	Leu	Ile	Tyr	Pro	Ala
			165					170						175	
Gly	Met	Gly	Phe	Gly	Asp	Val	Lys	Leu	Ala	Gly	Val	Ile	Gly	Ala	Val
			180					185					190		
Leu	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Tyr	Gly	Thr	Leu	Leu	Val	Gly	Ala	Phe	Leu	Ala
		195					200					205			
Phe	Leu	Val	Ala	Ala	Leu	Val	Gly	Leu	Ile	Ile	Leu	Val	Thr	Arg	Arg
	210					215					220				
Gly	Arg	Ile	Gly	Thr	Thr	Ile	Pro	Phe	Gly	Pro	Tyr	Met	Ile	Ala	Ala
225					230					235					240
Ala	Val	Val	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ala	Ala	Asp	Pro	Leu	Ala	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Leu
			245					250						255	
Asp	Trp	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala										
		260													

<210> SEQ ID NO 24

<211> LENGTH: 70

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 24

Met	Asn	Leu	Phe	Phe	Ala	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Leu	Met	Gly	Leu	Asp	Val	Lys
1			5						10				15		
Asp	Arg	Leu	Thr	Arg	Asp	Asp	Arg	Gly	Ala	Thr	Ala	Val	Glu	Tyr	Gly
		20					25						30		
Leu	Met	Val	Ala	Gly	Ile	Ala	Met	Val	Ile	Leu	Ile	Ala	Val	Phe	Ala
	35					40					45				
Phe	Gly	Gly	Lys	Ile	Ser	Glu	Leu	Phe	Ser	Gly	Phe	Asn	Phe	Asp	Lys
	50					55					60				
Pro	Ala	Ala	Ser	Gly	Thr										
65					70										

<210> SEQ ID NO 25

<211> LENGTH: 67

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

-continued

<400> SEQUENCE: 25

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Met Asn Leu Phe Phe Ala Asn Leu Tyr Leu Met Gly Leu Asp Val Lys
1           5           10           15
Asp Arg Leu Thr Arg Asp Asp Arg Gly Ala Thr Ala Val Glu Tyr Gly
          20           25           30
Leu Met Val Ala Gly Ile Ala Met Val Ile Ile Ile Ala Val Phe Ala
          35           40           45
Phe Gly Gly Arg Leu Ser Thr Leu Phe Gln Asn Phe Asn Phe Ala Asn
          50           55           60
Pro Gly Asn
65

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<210> SEQ ID NO 26

<211> LENGTH: 63

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence

<220> FEATURE:

<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Consensus amino acid sequence of amino acid sequence alignment of SEQ ID NO 24 and SEQ ID NO 25

<400> SEQUENCE: 26

```

Met Asn Leu Phe Phe Ala Asn Leu Tyr Leu Met Gly Leu Asp Val Lys
1           5           10           15
Asp Arg Leu Thr Arg Asp Asp Arg Gly Ala Thr Ala Val Glu Tyr Gly
          20           25           30
Leu Met Val Ala Gly Ile Ala Met Val Ile Ile Ile Ala Val Phe Ala
          35           40           45
Phe Gly Gly Lys Ile Ser Leu Phe Gly Phe Asn Phe Asp Pro Gly
          50           55           60

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 27

<211> LENGTH: 135

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 27

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Val Ile Met Lys Arg Leu Thr Ser Asp Ser Gly Val Ala Ala Val Glu
1           5           10           15
Phe Ala Leu Val Val Pro Ile Leu Ile Thr Leu Val Leu Gly Ile Val
          20           25           30
Glu Phe Gly Arg Gly Tyr Asn Val Gln Asn Ala Val Ser Ala Ala Ala
          35           40           45
Arg Glu Gly Ala Arg Thr Met Ala Ile Lys Lys Asp Pro Ala Ala Ala
          50           55           60
Arg Ala Ala Val Lys Gly Ala Gly Val Phe Ser Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp
          65           70           75           80
Ala Glu Ile Cys Ile Ser Thr Ser Gly Ser Gln Gly Cys Ser Ala Thr
          85           90           95
Ser Cys Pro Ser Gly Ser Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Val Ser Tyr Pro Leu
          100          105          110
Glu Tyr Met Thr Gly Leu Phe Pro Gly Lys Pro Thr Leu Thr Gly Thr
          115          120          125
Gly Val Met Arg Cys Gly Gly
          130          135

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-continued

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<210> SEQ ID NO 28
<211> LENGTH: 130
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 28

Leu Arg Ser Asp Ser Gly Val Ala Ala Val Glu Phe Ala Leu Val Val
1          5          10          15
Pro Ile Leu Ile Thr Leu Val Leu Gly Ile Val Glu Phe Gly Arg Gly
20        25        30
Tyr Asn Val Gln Asn Ala Val Ser Ala Ala Ala Arg Glu Gly Ala Arg
35        40        45
Thr Met Ala Ile Lys Lys Asp Pro Ala Ala Ala Arg Ala Ala Val Lys
50        55        60
Gly Ala Gly Val Phe Ser Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp Ala Glu Ile Cys Ile
65        70        75        80
Ser Thr Ser Gly Thr Gln Gly Cys Ser Ala Thr Ser Cys Pro Ser Gly
85        90        95
Ser Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Val Ser Tyr Pro Leu Glu Tyr Met Thr Gly
100       105       110
Leu Phe Pro Gly Lys Pro Thr Leu Thr Gly Thr Gly Val Met Arg Cys
115       120       125

Gly Gly
130

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<210> SEQ ID NO 29
<211> LENGTH: 135
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 29

Met Gly Met Arg Arg Phe Gly Ser Asp Ser Gly Ala Ala Ala Val Glu
1          5          10          15
Phe Ala Leu Val Val Pro Ile Leu Ile Thr Leu Val Leu Gly Ile Val
20        25        30
Glu Phe Gly Arg Gly Tyr Asn Val Gln Asn Ala Val Ser Ala Ala Ala
35        40        45
Arg Glu Gly Ala Arg Thr Met Ala Ile Lys Lys Asp Pro Ala Ala Ala
50        55        60
Arg Ala Ala Val Lys Gly Ala Gly Val Phe Ser Pro Ala Ile Thr Asp
65        70        75        80
Ala Glu Ile Cys Ile Ser Thr Ser Gly Thr Gln Gly Cys Ser Ala Thr
85        90        95
Ser Cys Pro Ser Gly Ser Thr Val Thr Leu Thr Val Ser Tyr Pro Leu
100       105       110
Glu Tyr Met Thr Gly Leu Phe Pro Gly Lys Pro Thr Leu Thr Gly Thr
115       120       125

Gly Val Met Arg Cys Gly Gly
130       135

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<210> SEQ ID NO 30
<211> LENGTH: 321
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 30

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Met Arg Trp Val Arg Ser Arg Met Ser Asn Asp Glu Arg Gly Val Val
1      5      10      15
Ala Val Leu Val Ala Ile Leu Met Val Val Leu Leu Gly Cys Ala Ala
20      25      30
Ile Ser Val Asp Ile Gly Ala Asn Tyr Val Val Lys Arg Gln Leu Gln
35      40      45
Asn Gly Ala Asp Ala Ala Ala Leu Ala Val Ala Gln Glu Ser Ser Cys
50      55      60
Lys Ala Gly Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser Val Ser Ser Leu Val Gln Ala Asn
65      70      75      80
Val Asn Ser Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser Ala Ala Val Ile Asp Gly Val Lys
85      90      95
Arg Lys Val Thr Val Thr Ala Ser Ala Val Gly Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala
100     105     110
Gly Arg Arg Asn Val Phe Ala Pro Val Leu Gly Val Asp Arg Ser Glu
115     120     125
Ile Ser Ala Ser Ala Thr Ala Ser Cys Val Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Thr
130     135     140
Ala Glu Leu Pro Leu Thr Phe His Lys Cys His Phe Asp Glu Ser Arg
145     150     155     160
Ser Leu Asp Val Lys Ile Leu Val Ala Tyr Asn Val Thr Ala Pro Arg
165     170     175
Cys Asn Gly Thr Ser Gly Asn Ala Ala Pro Gly Asn Phe Gly Trp Leu
180     185     190
Gln Gly Ala Asn Gly Arg Cys Pro Ala Lys Ile Asp Ala Ala Val Tyr
195     200     205
Ala Thr Pro Gly Asp Thr Gly Asn Asn Ile Pro Gly Pro Cys Lys Asp
210     215     220
Thr Ile Lys Gln Phe Gln Asn Ala Val Val Arg Val Pro Ile Tyr Asp
225     230     235     240
Val Ala Gly Gly Thr Gly Ser Gly Gly Trp Phe His Val Val Gly Leu
245     250     255
Ala Ala Phe Lys Ile Gln Gly Tyr Arg Leu Ser Gly Asn Pro Glu Phe
260     265     270
Asn Trp Asn Asn Asp Val His Gly Ala Leu Ser Cys Thr Gly Ser Cys
275     280     285
Arg Gly Ile Ile Gly Thr Phe Val Lys Ile Val Ser Leu Asp Ser Asp
290     295     300
Leu Thr Pro Gly Gly Ile Asp Phe Gly Val Ser Thr Ile Ser Leu Leu
305     310     315     320
Asp

```

<210> SEQ ID NO 31

<211> LENGTH: 321

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 31

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Met Arg Trp Val Arg Ser Arg Met Ser Asn Asp Glu Arg Gly Val Val
1      5      10      15
Ala Val Leu Val Ala Ile Leu Met Val Val Leu Leu Gly Cys Ala Ala
20      25      30

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-continued

Lys Ala Gly Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser Val Ser Arg Leu Val Gln Ala Asn
 65 70 75 80
 Val Asn Ser Ser Ser Ala Ser Ser Ala Ala Val Ile Asp Gly Val Lys
 85 90 95
 Arg Lys Val Thr Val Thr Ala Ser Ala Val Gly Asp Asp Gly Leu Ala
 100 105 110
 Gly Arg Arg Asn Val Phe Ala Pro Val Leu Gly Val Asp Arg Ser Glu
 115 120 125
 Ile Ser Ala Ser Ala Thr Ala Ser Cys Val Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Thr
 130 135 140
 Ala Glu Leu Pro Leu Thr Phe His Lys Cys His Phe Asp Glu Ser Arg
 145 150 155 160
 Ser Leu Asp Val Lys Ile Leu Val Ala Tyr Asn Val Thr Ala Pro Arg
 165 170 175
 Cys Asn Gly Thr Ser Gly Asn Ala Ala Pro Gly Asn Phe Gly Trp Leu
 180 185 190
 Gln Gly Val Asn Gly Arg Cys Pro Ala Lys Ile Asp Ala Ala Val Tyr
 195 200 205
 Ala Thr Pro Gly Asp Thr Gly Asn Asn Ile Pro Gly Pro Cys Lys Asp
 210 215 220
 Thr Ile Lys Gln Phe Gln Asn Ala Val Val Arg Val Pro Ile Tyr Asp
 225 230 235 240
 Val Ala Gly Gly Thr Gly Ser Gly Gly Trp Phe His Val Val Gly Leu
 245 250 255
 Ala Ala Phe Lys Ile Gln Gly Tyr Arg Leu Ser Gly Asn Pro Glu Phe
 260 265 270
 Asn Trp Asn Asn Asp Val His Gly Ala Leu Ser Cys Thr Gly Ser Cys
 275 280 285
 Arg Gly Ile Ile Gly Thr Phe Val Lys Ile Val Ser Leu Asp Ser Asp
 290 295 300
 Leu Thr Pro Gly Gly Ile Asp Phe Gly Val Ser Thr Ile Ser Leu Leu
 305 310 315 320
 Asp

<210> SEQ ID NO 33

<211> LENGTH: 245

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 33

Leu Arg Thr Arg Ile Ile Ala Ala Ile Cys Ala Ile Val Leu Ala Val
 1 5 10 15
 Ala Gly Thr Leu Ala Leu Ile Ser Tyr Val Arg Gly Ala Asp Ala Arg
 20 25 30
 Ala Leu Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Val Asp Val Leu Val Ala Asp Gln Thr
 35 40 45
 Ile Pro Lys Asn Thr Pro Ala Asp Ser Leu Val Gly Met Val Val Val
 50 55 60
 Lys Lys Leu Pro Glu Met Ala Val Leu Pro Glu Arg Val Thr Ser Leu
 65 70 75 80
 Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Lys Val Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Leu Pro Gly Glu
 85 90 95

-continued

Gln Leu Val Ser Ala Arg Phe Ala Asp Pro Ala Thr Ala Arg Ser Gln
100 105 110

Asp Gln Gly Gly Ile Pro Glu Gly Met Gln Glu Val Thr Val Leu Leu
115 120 125

Glu Pro Gln Arg Ala Leu Gly Gly His Ile Ala Ser Gly Asp Thr Val
130 135 140

Gly Val Phe Met Ser Phe Ser Pro Pro Val Lys Asn Tyr Glu Thr His
145 150 155 160

Leu Arg Leu Gln Lys Val Arg Val Thr Arg Val Gln Gly Thr Phe Ser
165 170 175

Asn Ala Asp Glu Gly Asp Ser Ala Thr Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro
180 185 190

Ala Pro Thr Glu Ala Phe Leu Val Ser Leu Ala Val Asp Val Pro Met
195 200 205

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

Asn Glu Pro Leu Ser Ser Asn Glu Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Val Ser Pro
225 230 235 240

Glu Gly Val Phe Arg
245

<210> SEQ ID NO 34

<211> LENGTH: 245

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 34

Leu Arg Thr Arg Ile Ile Ala Ala Ile Cys Ala Ile Val Leu Ala Val
1 5 10 15

Ala Gly Thr Leu Ala Leu Ile Ser Tyr Val Arg Gly Ala Asp Ala Arg
20 25 30

Ala Leu Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Val Asp Val Leu Val Ala Asp Gln Thr
35 40 45

Ile Pro Lys Asn Thr Pro Ala Asp Ser Leu Val Gly Met Val Val Val
50 55 60

Lys Lys Leu Pro Glu Met Ala Val Leu Pro Glu Arg Val Thr Ser Leu
65 70 75 80

Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Lys Val Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Leu Pro Gly Glu
85 90 95

Gln Leu Val Ser Ala Arg Phe Ala Asp Pro Ala Thr Ala Arg Ser Gln
100 105 110

Asp Gln Gly Gly Ile Pro Glu Gly Met Gln Glu Val Thr Val Leu Leu
115 120 125

Glu Pro Gln Arg Ala Leu Gly Gly His Ile Ala Pro Gly Asp Thr Val
130 135 140

Gly Val Phe Met Ser Phe Ser Pro Pro Val Lys Asn Tyr Glu Thr His
145 150 155 160

Leu Arg Leu Gln Lys Val Arg Val Thr Arg Val Gln Gly Thr Phe Ser
165 170 175

Asn Ala Asp Glu Gly Asp Ser Ala Thr Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro
180 185 190

Ala Pro Thr Glu Ala Phe Leu Val Ser Leu Ala Val Asp Val Pro Met

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195	200	205
Ala Glu Arg Val Val Phe 210	Ala Ala Glu His Gly 215	Thr Ile Trp Leu Ser 220
Asn Glu Pro Leu Ser 225	Ser Asn Glu Ala Gly 230	Ala Ser Val Val Ser Pro 235 240
Glu Gly Val Phe Arg 245		

<210> SEQ ID NO 35
 <211> LENGTH: 245
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 35

Leu Arg Thr Arg 1	Ile Ile Ala Ala Ile Cys Ala 5 10	Ile Val Leu Ala Val 15
Ala Gly Thr Leu Ala Leu Ile Ser Tyr Val Arg Gly Ala Asp Ala Arg 20 25 30		
Ala Leu Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr Val Asp Val Leu Val Ala Asp Gln Thr 35 40 45		
Ile Pro Lys Asn Thr Pro Ala Asp Ser Leu Val Gly Met Val Val Val 50 55 60		
Lys Lys Leu Pro Glu Met Ala Val Leu Pro Asp Arg Val Thr Ser Leu 65 70 75 80		
Asp Gln Leu Ser Gly Lys Val Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Leu Pro Gly Glu 85 90 95		
Gln Leu Val Ser Ala Arg Phe Val Asp Pro Ala Thr Ala Arg Ser Gln 100 105 110		
Asp Gln Gly Gly Ile Pro Glu Gly Met Gln Glu Val Thr Val Leu Leu 115 120 125		
Glu Pro Gln Arg Ala Leu Gly Gly His Ile Ala Ser Gly Asp Thr Val 130 135 140		
Gly Val Phe Met Ser Phe Ser Pro Pro Val Lys Asn Tyr Glu Thr His 145 150 155 160		
Leu Arg Leu Gln Lys Val Arg Val Thr Arg Val Gln Gly Thr Phe Ser 165 170 175		
Asn Ala Asp Glu Gly Asp Ser Ala Thr Val Asp Ser Ser Pro Ser Pro 180 185 190		
Ala Pro Thr Glu Ala Phe Leu Val Ser Leu Ala Val Asp Val Pro Met 195 200 205		
Ala Glu Arg Val Val Phe Ala Ala Glu His Gly Thr Ile Trp Leu Ser 210 215 220		
Asn Glu Pro Leu Ser Ser Asn Glu Ala Gly Ala Ser Val Val Ser Pro 225 230 235 240		
Glu Gly Val Phe Arg 245		

<210> SEQ ID NO 36
 <211> LENGTH: 399
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 36

Met Ser Arg Ile Val Leu Leu Thr Asp Arg Asp Asp Phe Ala Arg Arg

-continued

1	5	10	15
Val Tyr His	Ala Ala Asp Gly Asn Leu Leu Val Leu Pro Ala Gln Pro	20	25 30
Val Pro Arg	Gly Pro Ala Gln Leu Val Gly Leu Gly Val Thr Val Gln	35	40 45
Pro Glu Val	Leu Val Leu Gly Pro Asp Val Pro Glu Val Glu Gly Leu	50	55 60
Ser Leu Ala	Gly Arg Ile Asp His Ser Thr Pro Gly Thr Thr Val Val	65	70 75 80
Leu Ala Ser	Asp Ala Gly Thr Asp Val Trp Leu Arg Ala Met Arg Ala	85	90 95
Gly Val Arg	Asp Val Met Ser Pro Glu Ala Glu Ile Ala Asp Val Arg	100	105 110
Ala Val Leu	Asp Arg Ala Gly Gln Ala Ala Leu Ala Arg Arg Gln Gly	115	120 125
Ala Ser Ala	Pro Ala Glu Gln His Ala Val Gln Gly Lys Val Ile Val	130	135 140
Val Ala Ser	Pro Lys Gly Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Val Ala Thr Asn	145	150 155 160
Leu Ala Val	Gly Leu Ala Ala Ala Pro His Ser Thr Val Leu Val	165	170 175
Asp Leu Asp	Val Gln Phe Gly Asp Val Ala Ser Ala Leu Gln Leu Val	180	185 190
Pro Glu His	Cys Leu Thr Asp Ala Val Ala Gly Pro Ala Ser Gln Asp	195	200 205
Met Ile Val	Leu Lys Thr Val Leu Thr Pro His Ser Thr Gly Leu His	210	215 220
Ala Leu Cys	Gly Ser Asp Ser Pro Ala Ala Gly Asp Ser Ile Thr Gly	225	230 235 240
Glu Gln Val	Ser Thr Leu Leu Thr Gln Leu Ala Ala Glu Phe Arg Tyr	245	250 255
Val Val Val	Asp Thr Ala Pro Gly Leu Leu Glu His Thr Leu Ala Ala	260	265 270
Leu Asp Leu	Ala Thr Asp Val Val Leu Val Ser Gly Met Asp Val Pro	275	280 285
Ser Val Arg	Gly Met His Lys Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Ala Glu Leu Asn	290	295 300
Leu Gly Pro	Val Val Arg His Val Val Leu Asn Phe Ala Asp Arg Arg	305	310 315 320
Glu Gly Leu	Thr Val Gln Asp Ile Gln Asn Thr Ile Gly Val Pro Ala	325	330 335
Asp Ile Val	Ile Lys Arg Ser Lys Ala Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Asn Arg	340	345 350
Gly Val Pro	Leu Leu Gln Asn Pro Gly Arg Asp Arg Thr Ala Lys Glu	355	360 365
Leu Trp Arg	Leu Val Gly Arg Ile Asp Pro Ala Pro Asp Thr Thr Lys	370	375 380
Gly Gly Arg	Ala Arg His Arg Ala Ala Glu Ala Val Gly Ala Lys	385	390 395

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<211> LENGTH: 398
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 37

Met Ser Arg Ile Val Leu Leu Thr Asp Arg Asp Asp Ala Arg Arg Val
 1           5           10           15
Tyr His Ala Ala Asp Gly Asn Leu Leu Val Leu Pro Ala Gln Pro Val
          20           25           30
Pro Arg Gly Pro Ala Gln Leu Val Gly Leu Gly Val Thr Val Gln Pro
          35           40           45
Asp Val Leu Val Leu Gly Pro Asp Val Pro Glu Val Glu Gly Leu Ser
          50           55           60
Leu Ala Gly Arg Ile Asp His Ser Thr Pro Gly Thr Thr Val Val Leu
 65           70           75           80
Ala Ser Asp Ala Gly Thr Asp Val Trp Leu Arg Ala Met Arg Ala Gly
          85           90           95
Val Arg Asp Val Met Ser Pro Glu Ala Glu Ile Ala Asp Val Arg Ala
          100          105          110
Val Leu Asp Arg Ala Gly Gln Ala Ala Leu Ala Arg Arg Gln Gly Ala
          115          120          125
Ser Ala Pro Ala Glu Gln His Ala Val Gln Gly Lys Val Ile Val Val
 130          135          140
Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Val Ala Thr Asn Leu
 145          150          155          160
Ala Val Gly Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Pro His Ser Thr Val Leu Val Asp
          165          170          175
Leu Asp Val Gln Phe Gly Asp Val Ala Ser Ala Leu Gln Leu Val Pro
          180          185          190
Glu His Cys Leu Thr Asp Ala Val Ala Ser Pro Ala Ser Gln Asp Met
          195          200          205
Ile Val Leu Lys Thr Val Leu Thr Pro His Ser Thr Gly Leu His Ala
 210          215          220
Leu Cys Gly Ser Asp Ser Pro Ala Ala Gly Asp Ser Ile Thr Gly Glu
 225          230          235          240
Gln Val Ser Thr Leu Leu Thr Gln Leu Ala Ala Glu Phe Arg Tyr Val
          245          250          255
Val Val Asp Thr Ala Pro Gly Leu Leu Glu His Thr Leu Ala Ala Leu
          260          265          270
Asp Leu Ala Thr Asp Val Val Leu Val Ser Gly Met Asp Val Pro Ser
          275          280          285
Val Arg Gly Met His Lys Glu Leu Gln Leu Leu Thr Glu Leu Asn Leu
          290          295          300
Gly Pro Val Val Arg His Val Val Leu Asn Phe Ala Asp Arg Arg Glu
 305          310          315          320
Gly Leu Thr Val Gln Asp Ile Gln Asn Thr Ile Gly Val Pro Ala Asp
          325          330          335
Ile Val Ile Lys Arg Ser Lys Ala Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Asn Arg Gly
          340          345          350
Val Pro Leu Leu Gln Asn Pro Gly Arg Asp Arg Thr Ala Lys Glu Leu
          355          360          365
Trp Arg Leu Val Gly Arg Ile Asp Pro Ala Pro Asp Thr Ala Lys Gly

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Leu Arg Met Arg Pro Asp Arg Ile Val Val Gly Glu Cys Arg Gly Gly
 305 310 315 320
 Glu Ser Leu Asp Met Leu Gln Ala Met Asn Thr Gly His Asp Gly Ser
 325 330 335
 Leu Ser Thr Val His Ala Asn Ser Pro Arg Asp Ala Ile Ala Arg Leu
 340 345 350
 Glu Thr Leu Val Leu Met Ala Gly Met Asp Leu Pro Leu Arg Ala Ile
 355 360 365
 Arg Glu Gln Ile Ala Ser Ala Val Asp Val Ile Val Gln Leu Thr Arg
 370 375 380
 Leu Arg Asp Gly Thr Arg Arg Val Thr His Val Thr Glu Val Gln Gly
 385 390 395 400
 Met Glu Gly Glu Ile Val Thr Leu Gln Asp Ala Phe Leu Phe Asp Tyr
 405 410 415
 Ser Ala Gly Val Asp Ala Arg Gly Arg Phe Leu Gly Arg Pro Gln Pro
 420 425 430
 Thr Gly Val Arg Pro Arg Phe Thr Asp Lys Phe Arg Asp Leu Gly Ile
 435 440 445
 Ala Leu Ser Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Arg Gly Arg
 450 455 460
 Ala
 465
 <210> SEQ ID NO 40
 <211> LENGTH: 465
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi
 <400> SEQUENCE: 40
 Met Arg Leu Ser Gln Arg Leu Glu Ala Val Arg Gly Ala Ala Pro Val
 1 5 10 15
 Glu Ala Ala Ala Pro Ile Pro Pro Gly Lys Gln Gly Lys Ala Lys Thr
 20 25 30
 Ser Leu Pro Pro Ala Asp Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu Lys Asp Arg Ala Ser
 35 40 45
 Ala Ala Leu Tyr Thr Arg Ile Gly Thr Arg Phe Asn Asp Ser Ser Leu
 50 55 60
 Ser Glu Glu Gln Leu His Leu Leu Val Arg Glu Glu Leu Ala Glu Ile
 65 70 75 80
 Val Glu Gln Glu Thr Thr Pro Leu Thr Phe Asp Glu Arg Gln Arg Leu
 85 90 95
 Leu Arg Glu Val Ala Asp Glu Val Leu Gly His Gly Pro Leu Gln Arg
 100 105 110
 Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Ser Val Thr Glu Ile Met Val Asn Ser His Asp
 115 120 125
 Met Val Tyr Val Glu Arg Asp Gly Thr Leu Val Arg Ser Ser Ala Arg
 130 135 140
 Phe Ala Asp Glu Ala His Leu Arg Arg Val Ile Glu Arg Ile Val Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Ala Val Gly Arg Arg Ile Asp Glu Ser Ser Pro Leu Val Asp Ala Arg
 165 170 175
 Leu Ala Asp Gly Ser Arg Val Asn Ala Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Ala Phe

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180					185					190					
Asn	Gly	Ser	Ser	Leu	Thr	Ile	Arg	Lys	Phe	Ser	Lys	Asp	Pro	Phe	Gln
		195					200					205			
Val	Asp	Asp	Leu	Ile	Ala	Phe	Gly	Thr	Leu	Ser	His	Glu	Met	Ala	Glu
	210					215					220				
Leu	Leu	Asp	Ala	Cys	Val	Gln	Ala	Arg	Leu	Asn	Val	Ile	Val	Ser	Gly
225					230					235					240
Gly	Thr	Gly	Thr	Gly	Lys	Thr	Thr	Leu	Leu	Asn	Val	Leu	Ser	Ser	Phe
				245					250					255	
Ile	Pro	Glu	Gly	Glu	Arg	Ile	Val	Thr	Ile	Glu	Asp	Ala	Val	Glu	Leu
			260					265					270		
Gln	Leu	Gln	Gln	Asp	His	Val	Val	Arg	Leu	Glu	Ser	Arg	Pro	Pro	Asn
		275					280					285			
Ile	Glu	Gly	Lys	Gly	Ala	Val	Thr	Ile	Arg	Asp	Leu	Val	Arg	Asn	Ser
	290					295					300				
Leu	Arg	Met	Arg	Pro	Asp	Arg	Ile	Val	Val	Gly	Glu	Cys	Arg	Gly	Gly
305					310					315					320
Glu	Ser	Leu	Asp	Met	Leu	Gln	Ala	Met	Asn	Thr	Gly	His	Asp	Gly	Ser
				325					330					335	
Leu	Ser	Thr	Val	His	Ala	Asn	Ser	Pro	Arg	Asp	Ala	Ile	Ala	Arg	Leu
			340					345					350		
Glu	Thr	Leu	Val	Leu	Met	Ala	Gly	Met	Asp	Leu	Pro	Leu	Arg	Ala	Ile
		355					360					365			
Arg	Glu	Gln	Ile	Ala	Ser	Ala	Val	Asp	Val	Ile	Val	Gln	Leu	Thr	Arg
	370					375					380				
Leu	Arg	Asp	Gly	Thr	Arg	Arg	Val	Thr	His	Val	Thr	Glu	Val	Gln	Gly
385					390					395					400
Met	Glu	Gly	Glu	Ile	Val	Thr	Leu	Gln	Asp	Ala	Phe	Leu	Phe	Asp	Tyr
				405					410					415	
Ser	Ala	Gly	Val	Asp	Ala	Arg	Gly	Arg	Phe	Leu	Gly	Arg	Pro	Gln	Pro
			420					425					430		
Thr	Gly	Val	Arg	Pro	Arg	Phe	Thr	Asp	Lys	Phe	Arg	Asp	Leu	Gly	Ile
		435					440					445			
Ala	Leu	Ser	Pro	Ser	Val	Phe	Gly	Val	Gly	Glu	Pro	Ser	Arg	Gly	Arg
	450					455					460				

Ala
465

<210> SEQ ID NO 41
 <211> LENGTH: 465
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 41

Met	Arg	Leu	Ser	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Ala	Val	Arg	Gly	Ala	Ala	Pro	Val
1				5					10					15	
Glu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Pro	Ile	Pro	Pro	Gly	Lys	Gln	Gly	Lys	Ala	Lys	Thr
			20					25					30		
Ser	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ala	Asp	Ala	Leu	Ala	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Arg	Ala	Ser
		35				40						45			
Ala	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Arg	Ile	Gly	Thr	Arg	Phe	Asn	Asp	Ser	Ser	Leu
	50					55					60				

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Ser Glu Glu Gln Leu His Leu Leu Val Arg Glu Glu Leu Ala Glu Ile
 65 70 75 80
 Val Glu Gln Glu Thr Thr Pro Leu Thr Phe Asp Glu Arg Gln Arg Leu
 85 90 95
 Leu Arg Glu Val Ala Asp Glu Val Leu Gly His Gly Pro Leu Gln Arg
 100 105 110
 Leu Leu Glu Asp Pro Ser Val Thr Glu Ile Met Val Asn Ser His Asp
 115 120 125
 Met Val Tyr Val Glu Arg Asp Gly Thr Leu Val Arg Ser Ser Ala Arg
 130 135 140
 Phe Ala Asp Glu Ala His Leu Arg Arg Val Ile Glu Arg Ile Val Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Ala Val Gly Arg Arg Ile Asp Glu Ser Ser Pro Leu Val Asp Ala Arg
 165 170 175
 Leu Ala Asp Gly Ser Arg Val Asn Ala Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Ala Phe
 180 185 190
 Asn Gly Ser Ser Leu Thr Ile Arg Lys Phe Ser Lys Asp Pro Phe Gln
 195 200 205
 Val Asp Asp Leu Ile Ala Phe Gly Thr Leu Ser His Glu Met Ala Glu
 210 215 220
 Leu Leu Asp Ala Cys Val Gln Ala Arg Leu Asn Val Ile Val Ser Gly
 225 230 235 240
 Gly Thr Gly Thr Gly Lys Thr Thr Leu Leu Asn Val Leu Ser Ser Phe
 245 250 255
 Ile Pro Glu Gly Glu Arg Ile Val Thr Ile Glu Asp Ala Val Glu Leu
 260 265 270
 Gln Leu Gln Gln Asp His Val Val Arg Leu Glu Ser Arg Pro Pro Asn
 275 280 285
 Ile Glu Gly Lys Gly Ala Val Thr Ile Arg Asp Leu Val Arg Asn Ser
 290 295 300
 Leu Arg Met Arg Pro Asp Arg Ile Val Val Gly Glu Cys Arg Gly Gly
 305 310 315 320
 Glu Ser Leu Asp Met Leu Gln Ala Met Asn Thr Gly His Asp Gly Ser
 325 330 335
 Leu Ser Thr Val His Ala Asn Ser Pro Arg Asp Ala Ile Ala Arg Leu
 340 345 350
 Glu Thr Leu Val Leu Met Ala Gly Met Asp Leu Pro Leu Arg Ala Ile
 355 360 365
 Arg Glu Gln Ile Ala Ser Ala Val Asp Val Ile Val Gln Leu Thr Arg
 370 375 380
 Leu Arg Asp Gly Thr Arg Arg Val Thr His Val Thr Glu Val Gln Gly
 385 390 395 400
 Met Glu Gly Glu Ile Val Thr Leu Gln Asp Ala Phe Leu Phe Asp Tyr
 405 410 415
 Ser Ala Gly Val Asp Ala Arg Gly Arg Phe Leu Gly Arg Pro Gln Pro
 420 425 430
 Thr Gly Val Arg Pro Arg Phe Thr Asp Lys Phe Arg Asp Leu Gly Ile
 435 440 445
 Ala Leu Ser Pro Ser Val Phe Gly Val Gly Glu Pro Ser Arg Gly Arg
 450 455 460

Ala

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465

<210> SEQ ID NO 42

<211> LENGTH: 623

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 42

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Met Ser Arg Cys Val Val Ala Val Val Leu Ala Leu Gly Ala Gly Val
1      5      10      15
Leu Gly Ile Pro Ala Val Ala Ala Ala Glu Thr Glu Ala Val Gln
20     25     30
Val Ser Ala Val Asp Thr Thr Arg Phe Pro Asp Ile Glu Val Ser Ile
35     40     45
Leu Ala Pro Pro Gly Ile Glu Gly Gln Ala Ile Asp Pro Gly Thr Phe
50     55     60
Ala Leu Thr Glu Gly Gly Val Pro Arg Glu Ile Glu Val Arg Gln Gln
65     70     75
Pro Gly Ser Glu Gln Asp Ile Val Leu Ala Ile Asp Val Ser Gly Gly
85     90     95
Met Ser Gly Pro Ala Leu Asp Asp Val Lys Arg Ala Ala Ser Asp Phe
100    105   110
Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Thr Gly Ala His Ile Gly Ile Val Ala Ile Ser
115   120   125
Ser Thr Pro Gln Val Leu Ser Glu Leu Thr Thr Asp Ser Glu Asp Leu
130   135   140
Leu Arg Arg Ile Asp Gly Leu Lys Ala Gly Gly Asn Ser Ala Ile Ala
145   150   155   160
Asp Ser Val Val Thr Ala Ala Glu Met Leu Glu Arg Gly Glu Ala Ala
165   170   175
Asn Asn Ile Leu Leu Leu Thr Asp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ser Ser Ala
180   185   190
His Ser Met Ser Glu Leu Pro Ser Val Leu Ser Arg Ser Arg Ala Ser
195   200   205
Leu Tyr Ala Val Gln Met Ser Thr Pro Glu Thr Asn Ser Ala Leu Leu
210   215   220
Gln Gln Val Ala Arg Glu Ser Arg Gly Gln Tyr Ala Ser Ala Gly Asp
225   230   235   240
Thr Ala Ala Leu Gly Ala Ile Tyr Gln Ser Ala Ala Arg Ala Leu Gly
245   250   255
Asn Leu Tyr Val Val Arg Tyr Arg Ser Glu Ala Asn Gly Asp Thr Gln
260   265   270
Val Val Ala Ser Val Arg Ser Gly Ala Ala Gly Arg Val Ser Asp Pro
275   280   285
Phe Pro Val Thr Leu Pro Gly Val Val Pro Thr Pro Ser Val Val Ala
290   295   300
Gly Thr Val Asp Gly Phe Phe Thr Ser Ser Thr Gly Leu Val Ile Gly
305   310   315   320
Leu Leu Ala Cys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ala Gly Gly Val Leu Ala Val Ala
325   330   335
Gly Arg Ala Pro Ala Arg Ile Ser Ala Ala Arg Arg Gly Arg Gln Asp
340   345   350

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Gly Arg Asp Ser Met Leu Ser Arg Phe Ala Glu Arg Leu Val Gln Trp
 355 360 365

 Ile Asp Gln Asn Leu Arg Arg Arg Gly Arg Ile Ala Ala Arg Thr Gln
 370 375 380

 Ala Leu Gln Glu Ala Gly Leu Lys Leu Arg Pro Gly Asp Phe Ile Ala
 385 390 395 400

 Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Ala Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Gly Leu Leu Ala
 405 410 415

 Ser Gly Ile Val Ala Ala Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Ile Thr Val Gly Leu
 420 425 430

 Ser Arg Ile Tyr Leu Arg Val Met Ala Gly Arg Arg Arg Ala Ala Phe
 435 440 445

 Ala Asp Gln Leu Asp Asp Ser Leu Gln Leu Leu Ala Ser Asn Leu Arg
 450 455 460

 Ala Gly His Ser Met Leu Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Leu Ser Arg Glu Ala
 465 470 475 480

 Glu Val Pro Thr Ser Glu Glu Phe Ala Arg Ile Val Asn Glu Thr Arg
 485 490 495

 Val Gly Arg Asp Leu Asn Glu Ser Leu Asp Asp Val Ala Arg Arg Met
 500 505 510

 Arg Ser Asp Asp Phe Asn Trp Ile Ala Gln Ala Ile Ala Ile Asn Arg
 515 520 525

 Glu Val Gly Gly Asp Leu Ala Glu Val Leu Asp Gln Val Gly Asn Thr
 530 535 540

 Ile Arg Glu Arg Asn Gln Ile Arg Arg Gln Val Lys Ala Leu Ala Ala
 545 550 555 560

 Glu Gly Lys Leu Ser Ala Tyr Val Leu Met Ala Leu Pro Phe Gly Leu
 565 570 575

 Thr Ala Phe Leu Leu Val Ser Asn Pro Asp Tyr Leu Ser Lys Leu Thr
 580 585 590

 Gly Ser Ala Ile Gly Tyr Val Met Ile Ala Val Gly Leu Val Met Leu
 595 600 605

 Thr Val Gly Gly Leu Trp Met Asn Lys Val Val Ser Val Lys Phe
 610 615 620

<210> SEQ ID NO 43

<211> LENGTH: 621

<212> TYPE: PRT

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 43

Met Ser Arg Cys Val Val Ala Val Val Leu Ala Leu Gly Ala Gly Val
 1 5 10 15

 Leu Gly Ile Pro Ala Val Ala Ala Ala Glu Thr Glu Ala Val Gln
 20 25 30

 Val Ser Ala Val Asp Thr Thr Arg Phe Pro Asp Ile Glu Val Ser Ile
 35 40 45

 Leu Ala Pro Pro Gly Ile Glu Gly Gln Ala Ile Asp Pro Gly Thr Phe
 50 55 60

 Ala Leu Thr Glu Gly Gly Val Pro Arg Glu Ile Glu Val Arg Gln Gln
 65 70 75 80

 Pro Gly Ser Glu Gln Asp Ile Val Leu Ala Ile Asp Val Ser Gly Gly
 85 90 95

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Met Ser Gly Pro Ala Leu Asp Asp Val Lys Arg Ala Ala Ser Asp Phe
100 105 110

Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Thr Gly Ala His Ile Gly Ile Val Ala Ile Ser
115 120 125

Ser Thr Pro Gln Val Leu Ser Glu Leu Thr Thr Asp Ser Glu Asp Leu
130 135 140

Leu Arg Arg Ile Asp Gly Leu Lys Ala Gly Gly Asn Ser Ala Ile Ala
145 150 155 160

Asp Ser Val Val Thr Ala Ala Glu Met Leu Glu Arg Gly Glu Ala Ala
165 170 175

Asn Asn Ile Leu Leu Leu Leu Thr Asp Gly Ala Asp Thr Ser Ser Ala
180 185 190

His Ser Met Ser Glu Leu Pro Ser Val Leu Ser Arg Ser Arg Ala Ser
195 200 205

Leu Tyr Ala Val Gln Met Ser Thr Pro Glu Thr Asn Ser Ala Leu Leu
210 215 220

Gln Gln Val Ala Arg Glu Ser Arg Gly Gln Tyr Ala Ser Ala Gly Asp
225 230 235 240

Thr Ala Ala Leu Gly Ala Ile Tyr Gln Ser Ala Ala Arg Ala Leu Gly
245 250 255

Asn Leu Tyr Val Val Arg Tyr Arg Ser Glu Ala Asn Gly Asp Thr Gln
260 265 270

Val Val Ala Ser Val Arg Ser Gly Ala Ala Gly Arg Val Ser Asp Pro
275 280 285

Phe Pro Val Thr Leu Pro Gly Val Val Pro Thr Pro Ser Val Val Ala
290 295 300

Gly Thr Val Asp Gly Phe Phe Thr Ser Ser Thr Gly Leu Val Ile Gly
305 310 315 320

Leu Leu Ala Cys Tyr Ser Ala Leu Ala Gly Leu Ala Val Ala Gly Arg
325 330 335

Gly Pro Ala Arg Ile Ser Ala Ala Arg Arg Gly Arg Gln Asp Gly Arg
340 345 350

Asp Ser Met Leu Ser Arg Phe Ala Glu Arg Leu Val Gln Trp Ile Asp
355 360 365

Gln Asn Leu Arg Arg Arg Gly Arg Ile Ala Ala Arg Thr Gln Ala Leu
370 375 380

Gln Glu Ala Gly Leu Lys Leu Arg Pro Gly Asp Phe Ile Ala Leu Val
385 390 395 400

Gly Ala Ala Ala Ile Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Gly Leu Leu Ala Ser Gly
405 410 415

Ile Val Ala Ala Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Ile Thr Val Gly Leu Ser Arg
420 425 430

Ile Tyr Leu Arg Val Met Ala Gly Arg Arg Arg Ala Ala Phe Ala Asp
435 440 445

Gln Leu Asp Asp Ser Leu Gln Leu Leu Ala Ser Asn Leu Arg Ala Gly
450 455 460

His Ser Met Leu Arg Ala Leu Asp Ser Leu Ser Arg Glu Ala Glu Val
465 470 475 480

Pro Thr Ser Glu Glu Phe Ala Arg Ile Val Asn Glu Thr Arg Val Gly
485 490 495

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

<210> SEQ ID NO 45

<211> LENGTH: 296

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<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 45

Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Val Leu Met Ala Ala Leu Ser Val Gly Gly Ala
1           5           10           15
Leu Gly Val Leu Val Trp Leu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg Asp Pro Glu Arg
20           25           30
Gly Pro Ala Leu Gln Asn Leu Gln Ser Gln Leu Ala Leu Pro Ile Pro
35           40           45
Glu Ser Gly Gly Ala Pro Pro Leu Ser Leu Gly Arg Phe Val Lys Leu
50           55           60
Leu Ser Pro Pro Gly Thr Met Ala Arg Leu Glu Arg Leu His Ile Leu
65           70           75           80
Ala Gly Arg Pro Ala Ala Trp Val Pro Glu Arg Ala Ala Met Ala Lys
85           90           95
Ile Val Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Leu Leu Ala Val Gly
100          105          110
Ala Ser Pro Gly Val Gly Arg Val Leu Phe Ala Ala Ala Val Ala
115          120          125
Leu Ala Tyr Phe Val Pro Glu Leu Leu Leu Gln Ser Arg Gly Gln Glu
130          135          140
Arg Gln Ala Ala Ile Glu Leu Ala Leu Ala Asp Thr Leu Asp Gln Met
145          150          155          160
Thr Ile Ala Val Glu Ala Gly Leu Gly Phe Glu Ala Ala Met Gln Arg
165          170          175
Ala Ala Lys Asn Gly Lys Gly Pro Leu Ala Glu Glu Phe Ile Arg Thr
180          185          190
Leu Gln Asp Ile Gln Met Gly Gln Ser Arg Arg Ile Ala Tyr Leu Asp
195          200          205
Leu Ala Ala Arg Thr Lys Ala Pro Asn Leu Arg Arg Phe Leu Arg Ala
210          215          220
Val Ile Gln Ala Asp Glu Tyr Gly Val Ala Ile Ala Glu Val Leu Arg
225          230          235          240
Thr Gln Ala Ser Glu Met Arg Leu Lys Arg Arg Gln Ser Ala Glu Glu
245          250          255
Lys Ala Met Lys Val Pro Val Lys Val Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Thr Cys
260          265          270
Ile Leu Pro Thr Ile Phe Ile Val Ile Leu Gly Pro Ala Val Ile Asn
275          280          285
Met Met Glu Val Leu Gly Gly Met
290          295

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<210> SEQ ID NO 46
<211> LENGTH: 296
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 46

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Val Ile Pro Pro Leu Val Leu Val Ala Ala Leu Ser Val Gly Gly Ala
1           5           10           15
Leu Gly Val Leu Val Trp Leu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg Asp Pro Glu Arg
20           25           30

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Ile Val Leu Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Leu Leu Gly Leu Leu Ala Ala Gly
 100 105 110

Ala Ser Pro Gly Val Gly Arg Val Leu Phe Ala Ala Ala Val Ala
 115 120 125

Leu Ala Tyr Phe Val Pro Glu Leu Leu Leu Gln Ser Arg Val Gln Glu
 130 135 140

Arg Gln Ala Ala Ile Glu Leu Ala Leu Ala Asp Thr Leu Asp Gln Met
 145 150 155 160

Thr Ile Ala Val Glu Ala Gly Leu Gly Phe Glu Ala Ala Met Gln Arg
 165 170 175

Ala Ala Lys Asn Gly Lys Gly Pro Leu Ala Glu Glu Phe Ile Arg Thr
 180 185 190

Leu Gln Asp Ile Gln Met Gly Gln Ser Arg Arg Ile Ala Tyr Leu Asp
 195 200 205

Leu Ala Ala Arg Thr Lys Ala Pro Asn Leu Arg Arg Phe Leu Arg Ala
 210 215 220

Val Ile Gln Ala Asp Glu Tyr Gly Val Ala Ile Ala Glu Val Leu Arg
 225 230 235 240

Thr Gln Ala Ser Glu Met Arg Leu Lys Arg Arg Gln Ser Ala Glu Glu
 245 250 255

Lys Ala Met Lys Val Pro Val Lys Val Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Thr Cys
 260 265 270

Ile Leu Pro Thr Ile Phe Ile Val Ile Leu Gly Pro Ala Val Ile Asn
 275 280 285

Met Met Glu Val Leu Gly Gly Met
 290 295

<210> SEQ ID NO 48
 <211> LENGTH: 789
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 48

```

gtgatcgtcg cagcgggcggt cggcgtgcc ctctctgggca tcctcgccgg ggcgttcgca    60
aacagtgcga tcgaccgcgt gcgcctggag accgcgtgcy cagagccgaa gtcgaccccc    120
gccaactcaa ccccgcgcgc cccctcccct acgtccgcgg tggccgcocg gatcgcgatg    180
atcgacacca tcacgcgacg acacgacatc agtgccccgcc gcgtgctcgt cgaactcgca    240
actgcccctc tgttcgtcgc gatcaactctc cgtctcgccg ctctcgatct tctcccggca    300
gcaccggcct atctctggtt cgccgtcgtc gggatcgccc tcgccgcat cgacatcgat    360
tgcaaacggc tgccgaactt cctcgtcgta cgtcgtacc cgatcgtatt cgctgctctg    420
gcagtggggt cgtcgtcac gggcgactgg tcggccctgc tcgcgcgcgc gatcgtgccc    480
gcctcctcgt tcgggttcta ctctgtaact gccctgatct atccggccgg catgggggtc    540
ggcgacgtca aacttgccgg cgtcatcgcc gccctcctcg cctacctgtc gtaaggcaca    600
ctgctcgtcg gggcgtttct cgcgttctcg gtggccgcac tcgtcggcct gatcactctg    660
gtcaccgcgc gcggaaggat cgggaaccag attccctcgg ggccgtacat gattgcggcg    720
gccgtcgttg cgatcctggc agccgatccg ctggcgcgtg cgtatctgga ctgggcccgc    780
gcggcctga
    789
    
```

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<210> SEQ ID NO 49

<211> LENGTH: 789

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 49

```
gtgatcgtcg cagcgggctg cggcgccgca ctctgggca tccttgccgg ggcattcgca    60
aacagtgcga tcgaccgcgt gcgcctggag accgcgtgcg ccgagccgag ggcgaccccc    120
accggctcaa ccccgccgcc cccctcccct acgtccgctg tagccaccgg gatcgcgatg    180
atcgacacca tcacgcgacg acgcgacatc agtgcccgcc gcatgctcgt cgaactcgca    240
acggcctccc tgttcgtcgc gatcactctc cgtctcgcgg ctctcgatct tctcccggca    300
gcaccggcct atctctgggt cgcgctcacc gggatcgccc tcgcccgtcat cgacatcgat    360
tgcaaacggc tgccgaactt cctcgtcgtg ccgctgtacc cgatcgtatt cgctgcctg    420
gcagtggggt ccgctcgtcacc gggcgactgg tcggccctgc tgcgcgcgcg gatcggtgac    480
gccgtcctgt tcgggttcta cttcgtactc gccctgatct atccggccgg catggggttc    540
ggcgacgtca aacttgccgg cgtcatcgcc gccgtcctcg cctacctgtc gtacggcaca    600
ctgctcgtcg gggcgtttct cgcgttctcg gtggccgcac tcgtgggacct catcatcctg    660
gtcaccgcgc gcggtcggat cgggaccacg attcccttcg ggccgtacat gattgcggcg    720
gccgtcgttg cgatcctcgc ggccgatccg ctggcgcgctg cgtatctgga ctgggcccgc    780
gcggcctga                                     789
```

<210> SEQ ID NO 50

<211> LENGTH: 789

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 50

```
gtgatcgtcg cagcgggctg cggcgccgca ctctgggta tcctcgccgg ggcgttcgcg    60
aacagtgcga tcgaccgcgt gcgcctggag accgcgtgcg ccgagccgaa gtcgaccccc    120
accggctcaa ccccgccgcc cccctcccct gcgtccgctg tagccaccgg gatcgcgatg    180
atcgacacca tcacgcgacg acgcgacatc agtgcccgcc gcatgctcgt cgaactcgca    240
acggcctccc tgttcgtcgc gatcactctc cgtctcgcgg ctctcggtct tctcccggca    300
gcaccggcct atctctgggt cgcgctcacc gggatcgccc tcgcccgtcat cgacatcgat    360
tgcaaacggc tgccgaactt cctcgtcgtg ccgctgtacc cgatcgtatt cgctgcctg    420
gcagtggggt ccgctcgtcacc gggcgactgg tcggccctgc tgcgcgcgcg gatcggtgac    480
gccgtcctgt tcgggttcta cttcgtactc gccctgatct atccggccgg catggggttc    540
ggcgacgtca aacttgccgg cgtcatcgcc gccgtcctcg cctacctgtc gtacggcaca    600
ctgctcgtcg gggcgtttct cgcgttctcg gtggccgcac tcgtgggacct gatcatcctg    660
gtcaccgcgc gcggacggat cgggaccacg attcccttcg ggccgtacat gattgcggcg    720
gccgtcgttg cgatcctcgc ggccgatccg ctggcgcgctg cgtatctgga ctgggcccgc    780
gcggcctga                                     789
```

<210> SEQ ID NO 51

<211> LENGTH: 213

<212> TYPE: DNA

-continued

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 51

atgaacctct tcttcgcgaa cctgtacctc atgggcttag acgtcaagga cegtctgacc	60
cgtagcagacc gcggcgccac tgcggtcgag tacggactga tggtcgccgg catcgcgatg	120
gtgatcctca ttgcggtctt cgccttcggc ggcaagatca gcgagctgtt tagcggcttc	180
aatttcgaca agcccgcctgc gtcgggcacg tag	213

<210> SEQ ID NO 52

<211> LENGTH: 204

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 52

atgaacctct tcttcgcgaa cctgtacctc atgggcttag acgtcaagga cegtctgacc	60
cgtagcagacc gcggcgccac tgcggtcgag tacggactga tggtcgccgg catcgcgatg	120
gtgatcatca tcgccgtctt tgccttcggc ggcagactca gcaccctgtt ccagaacttc	180
aacttcgcca acccggttaa ctag	204

<210> SEQ ID NO 53

<211> LENGTH: 408

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 53

atgggcatgc gccgttttgg ttctgattct ggtgctgccg cagtcaatt cgtctctgtt	60
gttccgattc tgatcacact ggtcctcggc atcgtggagt tcggtcgggg atacaacgtc	120
cagaacgcgg tcagcgcctc tgcgccgag ggtgcacgga cgatggcgat caagaaggat	180
ccggcgccgg cgcgtgccgc cgtgaagggc gcgggtgtgt tcagtccggc gatcaccgat	240
gcgagatct gcatcagcac ttcgggaacg cagggctgtt cggcaacgtc gtgcccgagc	300
ggaagtaccg tgacgctcac ggtcagctat ccaactcgagt acatgacggg actctttccc	360
ggtaagccga cgctcaccgg cacgggggtc atgcgatgcg gtgggtga	408

<210> SEQ ID NO 54

<211> LENGTH: 408

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 54

gtgatcatga agcgcctcac ttccgattca ggggtcgcgg cagtcaatt cgtctctgtc	60
gttccgatcc tgatcacact ggtcctcggc atcgtcgagt tcggtcgggg atacaacgtc	120
cagaacgcgg tcagcgcctc tgcgccgag ggtgcacgga cgatggcgat caagaaggat	180
ccggcgccgg cgcgtgccgc cgtgaagggc gcgggtgtgt tcagtccggc gatcaccgat	240
gcgagatct gcatcagcac ttcgggctcg cagggctgtt cggcaacgtc gtgtccgagc	300
ggaagtaccg tgacgctcac ggtcagctat ccaactcgagt acatgacggg actctttccc	360
ggtaagccga cgctcaccgg cacgggggtc atgcgatgcg gtgggtga	408

<210> SEQ ID NO 55

<211> LENGTH: 393

<212> TYPE: DNA

-continued

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 55

ttgctgtccg attcaggggg cgccgcagtc gaattcgctc tcgtcgttcc gatcctgatc	60
acactgggtcc tcggcatcgt ggagttcggg cggggttaca acgtccagaa cgcggtcagc	120
gctgctgccc gcgaggggtgc acggacgatg gcgatcaaga aggatccggc ggcggcgcgt	180
gctgcccgtga agggcgccggg tgtgttcagt ccggcgatca ccgatgcgga gatctgcac	240
agcacttcgg gaacgcaggg ctggttcggca acgtcgtgtc cgagcgggaag tacctgtacg	300
ctcacggcca gctatccact cgagtacatg acgggactct ttcccggtaa gccgacgctc	360
accggcacgg gggtcacgcg atgcgggtggg tga	393

<210> SEQ ID NO 56

<211> LENGTH: 966

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 56

atgcgggtggg tgaggtctcg catgtctaat gacgagcgcg gggtcgtcgc cgtgctcgtc	60
gcgacctcca tggctgtgct cctgggatgt gctgcgatct cggtcgacat cggtcgcaac	120
tatgtcgtca aacgtcagtt gcagaacggg gccgatgcgg ctgcgctcgc cgtagctcag	180
gaatccagtt gcaaggcagg atcttccgcc tcatccgtgt cgagccttgt ccaggcgaac	240
gtcaacagct cgtcggcttc aagtgcggcg gtgatcgacg gtgtgaagcg gaaggtgacg	300
gtcactcgtc cggcgggtggg tgacgacggc ctgcgccggc ggaggaacgt gttcgtctccg	360
gtcctcggag tcgaccgcag cgagatctcg gcgtctgcga ctgcaagctg cgtgtttccc	420
ctcgggggga ccgcggaact cccgctcacg ttccacaagt gccatttoga cgaatcccgc	480
agtctggacg tgaagatcct cgtcgcttac aacgtgacgg ccgccgcgctg caacggaaac	540
tcgggaaatg cggcaccggg caatttcggc tggctgcagg gggcgaaacgg tcgatgcccg	600
gcgaagatcg acgcccgcgt ctatgcaaca ccgggcgaca ccggaataaa cattccgggg	660
ccgtgcaagg acaccatcaa gcagtttcag aatgccgtcg tccgggtccc gatctacgac	720
gtcgcaggty gaaccggaag cgggtgatgg ttccacgtcg tcggtttggc tgccttcaag	780
attcagggct accggctgag cggcaaccgg gagttcaact ggaacaacga tgttcaaggg	840
gcgctgagtt gcaccggcag ctgtcggcgc atcatcggea ccttcgtgaa aattgtcagc	900
ctcgattcgg atctgacgcc gggagggatc gatttcggcg tgagtacgat cagcttgctc	960
gattag	966

<210> SEQ ID NO 57

<211> LENGTH: 966

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 57

atgcgggtggg tgaggtctcg catgtcgaat gacgagcgcg gggtcgtcgc cgtggtcgtc	60
gcgacctcca tggctgtgct cctgggatgt gctgcgatct cggtcgacat cggtcgcaac	120
tatgtcgtca aacgtcagtt gcagaacggg gccgatgcgg ctgcgctcgc cgtagctcag	180
gaatccagtt gcaaggcagg atcttccgcc tcatccgtgt cgaggcttgt ccaggcgaac	240

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gtcaacagct cgtcggcttc aagtgcggcg gtgatcgacg gtgtgaagcg gaaggtgacg 300
gtcactgcgt cggcgggtggg tgacgacggc ctcccgccg ggaggaacgt gttcgtccc 360
gtcctcggag tcgaccgcag cgagatctcg gcgtctgca ctgcaagctg cgtgtttccc 420
ctcgggggga ccgcggaact cccgctcacg ttccacaagt gccatttca cgaatcccgc 480
agtctggacg tgaagatcct cgtcgctac aacgtgacgg cgcgcgctg caacggaacc 540
tcgggaaatg cggcaccggg caatttcggc tggctacagg gggcgaacgg tcgatgcccg 600
gcgaagatcg acgcggccgt ctatgcaaca ccgggcgaca ccgtaacaa cattccgggg 660
ccgtgcaagg acaccatcaa gcagtttcag aatgccgtcg tccgggtccc gatctacgac 720
gtcgcaggtg gaaccggaag cggtgatgg tttcacgtcg tcggtttggc tgccttcaag 780
attcagggct accggctgag cggcaaccgc gagttcaact ggaacaacga tgttcacgga 840
gcgctgagtt gcaccggcag ctgtcggcgc atcatcgca ccttcgtgaa aattgtcagc 900
ctcgattcgg atctgacgcc gggagggatc gatttcggcg tgagtacgat cagcttgctc 960
gattag 966

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<210> SEQ ID NO 58
<211> LENGTH: 966
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

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<400> SEQUENCE: 58

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```

atgcgggtgg tgaggtctcg catgtctaata gacgagcgcg gggctcgtcg cgtgctcgtc 60
gcgatcctca tggctcgtct cctgggatgt gctgcgatct cggctgacat cggtcgcaac 120
tatgtcgtca aacgtcagtt gcagaacggg gccgatgcgg ctgcgctcgc cgtagctcag 180
gaatccaatt gcaaggcagg atcttccgcc tcattccgtgt cagccttgt ccaggcgaac 240
gtcaacagct cgtcggcttc aagtgcggcg gtgatcgacg gtgtgaagcg gaaggtgacg 300
gtcactgcgt cggcgggtggg tgacgacggc ctcccgccg ggaggaacgt gttcgtccc 360
gtcctcggag tcgaccgcag cgagatctcg gcgtctgca ctgcaagctg cgtgtttccc 420
ctcgggggga ccgcggaact cccgctcacg ttccacaagt gccatttca cgaatcccgc 480
agtctggacg tgaagatcct cgtcgctac aacgtgacgg cgcgcgctg caacggaacc 540
tcgggaaatg cggcaccggg caatttcggc tggctgacgg gggcgaacgg tcgatgcccg 600
gcgaagatcg accccaccgt ctatgcaaca ccgggcgaca ccgtaacaa cattccgggg 660
ccgtgcaagg acaccatcaa gcagtttcag aatgccgtcg tccgggtccc gatctacgac 720
gtcgcaggtg gaaccggaag cggtgatgg tttcacgtcg tcggtttggc tgccttcaag 780
attcagggct accggctgag cggcaaccgc gagttcaact ggaacaacga tgttcacggg 840
gcgctgagtt gcaccggcag ctgtcggcgc atcatcgga ccttcgtgaa aattgtcagc 900
ctcgattcgg atctgacgcc gggagggatc gatttcggcg tgagtacgat cagcttgctc 960
gattag 966

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<210> SEQ ID NO 59
<211> LENGTH: 738
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

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<400> SEQUENCE: 59

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ttgagaaccc gaatcattgc tgcgatctgt gcgatcgttc tcgcggtcgc gggaaacctc   60
gccctgatct cgtatgtacg cggggccgat gcccgcgccc tggcgggtac acgcaccgtc   120
gatgtgctcg tcgccgatca gacgattccg aagaacactc ccgccgattc gctcgtggga   180
atggttggtg tcaagaaact tccgaaaatg gcggtgctac ccgaacgggt gaccagtctc   240
gaccaactgt ccggcaaggt cgcgctgacc gacctcctac ctggcgaaca actggtctcg   300
gcgcgattcg ccgaccggc gaccgcccga agtcaggacc agggaggaat ccccgagggg   360
atgcaggagg tgacggttct tctcagccg caacgcgcac tgggaggcca catcgcgtca   420
ggcgataccg tcggcgtctt catgtccttc tcgccgcccg tcaagaacta cgaaacacat   480
ctgagattgc agaaagtgcg agtcacgcgg gtccaggaa cgttttccaa cgccgacgaa   540
ggggattcgg ccacggtcga ctcgtgcgg agcctctctc ccaccgaggc ctttctcgtc   600
tcgctggcgg tcgacgtgcc gatggcggag cgcgtcgttt tcgcccgga gcaaggacc   660
atctggcttt ccaatgagcc gctgagttcg aacgaggccg gggcatccgt ggtctccccg   720
gaaggagtgt tccgatga                                     738

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<210> SEQ ID NO 60
<211> LENGTH: 738
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

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<400> SEQUENCE: 60

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gccctgatct cgtatgtacg cggggccgat gcccgcgccc tggcgggtac acgcaccgtc   120
gatgtgctcg tcgccgatca gacgattccg aagaacactc ccgccgattc gctcgtggga   180
atggttggtg tcaagaaact tccgaaaatg gcggtgctac ccgaacgggt gaccagtctc   240
gaccaactgt ccggcaaggt cgcgctgacc gacctcctgc cggcgaaca actggtctcg   300
gcgcgattcg cagaccggc gaccgcccga agtcaggacc agggaggaat ccccgagggg   360
atgcaggagg tgacggttct tctcagccc caacgcgcac tgggaggcca catcgcgccg   420
ggcgataccg tcggcgtctt catgtccttc tcgccgcccg tcaagaacta cgaaacacat   480
ctgagattgc agaaagtgcg agtcacgcgg gtccaggaa cgttttccaa cgccgacgaa   540
ggggattcgg ccacggtcga ctcgtgcgg agcctctctc ccaccgaggc ctttctcgtc   600
tcgctggcgg tcgacgtgcc gatggcggag cgcgtcgttt tcgcccgga gcaaggacc   660
atctggcttt ccaatgagcc gctgagttcg aacgaggccg gggcatccgt ggtctccccg   720
gaaggagtgt tccgatga                                     738

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<210> SEQ ID NO 61
<211> LENGTH: 738
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

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<400> SEQUENCE: 61

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ttgagaaccc gaatcattgc tgcgatctgt gcgatcgttc tcgcggtcgc gggaaacctc   60
gccctgatct cgtatgtacg cggggccgat gcccgcgccc tggcgggtac acgcaccgtc   120
gatgtgctcg tcgccgatca gacgattccg aagaacactc ccgccgattc gctcgtggga   180
atggttggtg tcaagaaact tccgaaaatg gcggtgctac ccgatcgggt gaccagtctc   240

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gaccaactgt cgggcaaggt cgcgctgacc gacctcctgc ctggcgaaca actggtctcg	300
gcgcgattcg tcgacccggc gaccgcccga agtcaggacc agggaggaat ccccgagggg	360
atgcaggagg tgacggttct tctcgagccg caacgcgcac tgggaggcca catcgcgtca	420
ggcgataccg tcggcgctct catgtccttc tcgccgcccg tcaagaacta cgaaacacat	480
ctgagattgc agaaagtgcg agtcacgcgg gtccaggaa cgttctcaa cgcgcacgaa	540
ggggattcgg ccacggtcga ctcgctgcgg agcctctctc ccaccgaggc ctttctctgc	600
tcgctggcgg tcgacgtgcc gatggcggag cgcgctgctt tcgccgcgga gcacggggacc	660
atctggcttt ccaatgagcc gctgagttcg aacgaggccg gggcatccgt ggtctccccg	720
gaaggagtgt tccgatga	738

<210> SEQ ID NO 62

<211> LENGTH: 1200

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 62

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gcggacggca accttctggt gttgcccggc cagccggttc cccgggggccc ggcgagttg	120
gtcgggctcg gcgtagacct gcaacccgaa gttctcgttc tcgggtccgga cgtgccggaa	180
gtggagggcc tctccctcgc cggcccgatc gatcattcga cgcgccgcac caccggtggt	240
ctggccagtg atgcggggc cgcagctgtg ttgcccggca tgcgcgcggc cgtgcccggc	300
gtgatgtcgc cggagggcga gatcgcggac gttcgtgcgg tactcgatcg agcggggccag	360
gccgcactgg cgcgacgtca gggggcagtg gcaccggcgg agcagcatgc ggttcaaggg	420
aaggatcctg tggctcgcgc gccgaaagcc ggaaccgaa agaccaccgt tgcgacgaat	480
cttcagtag gactcgcggc ggcagcgcct cactcgacgg tgttgggtgga cctcgacgtg	540
cagttcgggg acgttccag tgctctccag ttggttccgg aacattgctt gaccgacgcc	600
gtcgcgggccc cggccagcca ggacatgatc gtcctcaaga ccgtccttac accccattcc	660
acaggactgc atgcgctgtg tgggtccgac tcgcccgccg cgggcccagc catcaccggc	720
gagcaggtga gactcctgct gacgcagttg gcggcccgaat tccggtaact ggtcgtcgac	780
accgcgcccc gtttctcga acacaccctg gcggcgctcg acctcgctac cgcagctcgtg	840
ttggtgctcg gtatggacct gccacagctc cgcgggatgc acaaggaact gcagttgctg	900
gcggagctga atctgggtcc ggtcgtgcgg catgctcgtc tcaactttgc ggatcgacgc	960
gaggggctga cggtcagga catccagaac accatcgggg tccccgcga tatcgtgatc	1020
aagcggctga aagccgttgc cctctcagc aaccgggggtg ttccactgct tcagaaccgc	1080
ggtcgggatc gactcgcgaa agagtgtggt cgactcgtcg gccgtatcga tccggctccc	1140
gataccacca agggtggagc cgcgcggcat cgggcagccg aggcgggtggg ggcgaaatga	1200

<210> SEQ ID NO 63

<211> LENGTH: 1200

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 63

atgagccgca tcgtcctgct gaccgatcgc gacgatttcg cccgccgctg gtaccacgcc	60
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gcggaaggca accttctggt gttgcccggc cagccgggtc cccggggggc ggcgcagttg 120
gtcgggctcg gcgtgaccgt gcaaccggac gttctcgttc tcggtccgga cgtgccggaa 180
gtggaggggc tctccctcgc cggccggatc gatcattcga cgcgccgac caccgtgggt 240
ctggccagtg atgcccggac cagcgtgtgg ttgagggcga tgcgcgccgg cgtgcccggc 300
gtgatgtcgc cggaggcggg gatcgcggac gttcgtgccg tactcgatcg agcaggtcag 360
gccgcgctgg cgcgacgtca gggggcggag gcaccggcgg agcagcatgc ggttcaaggg 420
aaggatcatg tggtcgcgtc gccgaaaggc ggaaccggaa agaccaccgt tgcgacgaat 480
cttgcatcgc gactcgcggc ggcagcgcct cactccacgg tgttggtgga cctcgacgtg 540
cagttcggcg acggttccag tgctctccag ttggttccgg aacattgcct gaccgacgcc 600
gtcgcgagcc cggccagcca ggacatgatc gtcctcaaga ccgtcctgac acccattcc 660
acaggactgc atgcccgttg tggatcggac tcgcccggc cgggcgacag catcaccggc 720
gagcaggtga gactcgtgct gacgcagttg gcggccgaat tccggtacgt ggtcgtcgcg 780
accgccccg gtttgcctga acacaccctg gcggcgcctg accttgctac cgaagtcgtg 840
ttggtgtcgg gtatggacgt gccacgcgtc cgcgggatgc acaaggaact gcaattgctg 900
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gaggggctga cggtcaggga catccagaac accatcgggg tccccgcga tctcgtgatc 1020
aagcgtcga aagccgttgc cctctcagc aaccgggggg tccactgct tcagaaccgg 1080
ggtcgggatc gactcggaa agagttgtgg cagctcgtcg gccgtatcga tccggctccc 1140
gataccgcca aggttgagc cgcgcggcat cgggcagccg aggcggtggg tgcgaaatga 1200

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<210> SEQ ID NO 64

<211> LENGTH: 1200

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 64

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atgagccgca tgcctcgtg gaccgatcgc gacgatttcg cccgcccggt gtaccacgcc 60
gcggaaggca accttctggt gttgcccggc cagccgggtc cccggggggc ggcgcagttg 120
gtcgggctcg gcgtgaccgt gcaaccggac gttctcgttc tcggtccgga cgtgccggaa 180
gtggaggggc tctccctcgc cggccggatc gatcattcga cgcgccgac caccgtgggt 240
ctggccagtg atgcccggac cagcgtgtgg ttgagggcga tgcgcgccgg cgtgcccggc 300
gtgatgtcgc cggaggcggg gatcgcggac gttcgtgccg tactcgatcg agcaggtcag 360
gccgcgctgg cgcgacgtca gggggcggag gcaccggcgg agcagcatgc ggttcaaggg 420
aaggatcatg tggtcgcgtc gccgaaaggc ggaaccggaa agaccaccgt tgcgacgaat 480
cttgcatcgc gactcgcggc ggcagcgcct cactccacgg tgttggtgga cctcgacgtg 540
cagttcggcg acggttccag tgctctccag ttggttccgg aacattgcct gaccgacgcc 600
gtcgcgagcc cggccagcca ggacatgatc gtcctcaaga ccgtcctgac acccattcc 660
acaggactgc atgcccgttg tggatcggac tcgcccggc cgggcgacag cattaccggc 720
gagcaggtga gactcgtgct gacgcagttg gcggccgaat tccggtacgt ggtcgtcgcg 780
accgccccg gtttgcctga acacaccctg gcggcgcctg accttgctac cgaagtcgtg 840
ttggtgtcgg gtatggacgt gccacgcgtc cgcgggatgc acaaggaact gcaattgctg 900

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acggagctga atctgggtcc ggtcgtgcgg catgtcgtgc tcaactttgc ggatcgacgc	960
gaggggctga cgggccagga catccagaac accatcgggg tccccgccga ttcgtgatc	1020
aagcgtctga aagccgttgc cctctcgacg aaccgggggg ttccactgct tcagaaccgc	1080
ggtcgggacg gactcgcgaa agagtgtgg cgactcgtcg gccgtatcga tccggctccc	1140
gataccgcca aggggtggacg cgcgcggcat cgggcagccg aggcggtggg tgcgaaatga	1200

<210> SEQ ID NO 65

<211> LENGTH: 1398

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 65

atgagactgt cccaacggct cgaggccgtg cgcggagccg caccctcga agccgccgca	60
ccgatccccg cggggaagca ggggaaggcg aaaacgtccc tccctccggc cgacgtctc	120
gccgaactga aggaccgtgc gagtgcggcc ctgtacaccc ggatcggcac ccgcttcaac	180
gactcctcgt tgagcgagga gcaactgcat ctctcgttcc gtgaggaact ggcgaaatc	240
gtggagcaag agacgacgcc actcacctc gacgaacggc agcgcctgct ccgtgaggtt	300
gccgacgagg tactggggca cggaccgctc cagcggctac tggaggaccc gtcggtcacc	360
gagatcatgg tcaacagcca cgacatggtc tacgtcgagc gggacggcac cctcgtccgc	420
agctccgcgc gattcgcgga cgaggcgcac ctgcgtcgcg tgatcgaacg catcgtttcc	480
gccgtcggtc gacggatcga cgaatcgtcc ccgctcgtgg atgcacgctt ggcggatggc	540
tcccgtgtca acgcggtgat cccaccgctc gcattcaacg gctcctcgtc caccattcga	600
aagtctcga aagatccgtt ccaggtcgac gatctcatcg ccttcggcac tctctcgcac	660
gagatggccg aactgctcga cgcgtgtgtg caggcgcgac tgaacgtcat cgtctcgggc	720
ggcacgggca cggggaagac gacgctgctc aacgtgctct cgtcgttcat tccggaaggg	780
gagcggatcg tcaccatcga ggacgccgtg gaactgcaac ttcagcagga ccacgtcgtg	840
cggttgaga gccgaccgcc gaacatcgag ggcaagggtg ccgtcaccat ccgcgacctg	900
gtcgggaact cgtcgcgtat gcgtcccgc cgcacgtgg tgggggagtg tcgcgaggc	960
gagagtctcg acatgctgca agcagatgaac accggtcacg acgggtcgtc gtcgacggtg	1020
catgcgaatt cgcgccgtga cgcacatcgc cgcttgagga cgctcgtggt gatggcgggc	1080
atggacttgc cgttgccggg gatccgggag cagattgctt cggcggtcga cgtgatcgtg	1140
cagctcactc gactacgtga cggcactcgg cgagtgaacc acgtgaccga ggtccagggc	1200
atggagggtg agatcgtcac actgcaggat gccttcctgt tcgactacag cgcggcgctc	1260
gacgcgcgcg ggcgattcct cggcagaccg cagccgacgg gagtgcggcc gcggttcacc	1320
gacaaattcc gagatctcgg tattgctttg tcgcccagtg ttttcggggt gggagaacct	1380
tcccgggggc gggcatga	1398

<210> SEQ ID NO 66

<211> LENGTH: 1398

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 66

atgagactgt cccaacggct cgaggccgtg cgcggagccg caccctcga agccgccgca	60
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ccgatccccg cggggaagca ggggaaggcg aagacgtccc tccctccggc cgacgctctc 120
gccgaactga aggaccgtgc gagtgcggcc ctgtacaccc ggatcggcac ccgcttcaac 180
gactcctcgt tgagcgagga gcaactgcat ctctgggtcc gtgaggaact ggccgagatc 240
gtggagcagg agacgacgcc actcaccttc gacgagcggc agcgcctgct ccgtgaggtc 300
gccgacgagg tactggggca cggacogctt cagcggctac tggaggaccc gtcggtcacc 360
gagatcatgg tcaacagcca cgacatggtc tacgtcgagc gggacggcac cctcgtccgc 420
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gccgtcggtc gacggatcga cgaatcgtcc ccgctcgtgg atgcacgctt ggcggacggc 540
tcccgtgtca acgcggtgat cccacogctc gcattcaacg gctcctcgtc caccattcga 600
aagttctcga aagatccggt ccaggtcgac gatctcatcg ccttcggcac tctctcgac 660
gagatggccg aactgctcga cgcgtgtgtg caggcgcgac tgaacgtcat cgtctcgggc 720
ggcacgggca cggggaagac gacgctgctc aacgtgctct cgtcgttcat tccggaaggg 780
gagcggatcg tcaccatcga ggacccgctg gaactgcaac ttcagcagga ccacgtcgtc 840
cggttggaga gccgaccgcc gaacatcgag ggcaaggcg ccgtcaccaat ccgtgacctg 900
gtcggaaact cgtcgcgtat gcgtcctgac cgcacgtgg tgggggagtg tccgaggagg 960
gagagtctcg acatgctgca agcagatgaa acccgtcacg accggctcgt gtcgacggtg 1020
catgcgaatt cgcctcgtga cgcacatcgc cgcttgaga cgctcgtgtt gatggcgggc 1080
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cagctcactc gactacgtga cggcactcgg cgagtgaccc acgtgaccga ggtccagggc 1200
atggagggtg agatcgtcac cctgcaggat gccttcctgt tcgactacag cgcggcgtc 1260
gacgcgcgcg ggcgattcct cggcagaccg cagccgaccg gagtgcggcc gcggttcaac 1320
gacaaattcc gagatctcgg tattgctttg tcgccgagtg ttttcggggg gggagaaccc 1380
tcccgggggc gggcatga 1398

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<210> SEQ ID NO 67

<211> LENGTH: 1398

<212> TYPE: DNA

<213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi

<400> SEQUENCE: 67

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atgagactgt cccaacggct cgaggccgtg cgcggagccg caccctcga agcggccgca 60
ccgatccccg cggggaagca ggggaaggcg aagacgtccc tccctccggc cgacgctctc 120
gccgaactga aggaccgtgc gagtgcggcc ctgtacaccc ggatcggcac ccgcttcaac 180
gactcctcgt tgagcgagga gcaactgcat ctctgggtcc gtgaggaact ggccgaaatc 240
gtggagcaag agacgacgcc actcaccttc gacgaacggc agcgcctgct ccgtgaggtc 300
gccgacgagg tactggggca cggacogctc cagcggctac tggaggaccc gtcggtcacc 360
gagatcatgg tcaacagcca cgacatggtc tacgtcgagc gggacggcac cctcgtccgc 420
agctcccgcg gattcgcgga cgaggcgcac ctgcgcgcg tgatcgaacg catcgtttcc 480
gccgtcggtc gacggatcga cgaatcgtcc ccgctcgtgg atgcacgctt ggcggatggc 540
tcccgtgtca acgcggtgat cccacogctc gcattcaacg gctcctcgtc caccattcga 600
aagttctcga aagatccggt ccaggtcgac gatctcatcg ccttcggcac tctctcgac 660

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gagatggcgc aactgctcga cgcgtgtgtg caggcgcgac tgaacgtcat cgtctcgggc	720
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gagcggatcg tcaccatcga ggacgcccgtg gaactgcaac ttcagcagga ccacgtcgtg	840
cggttggaga gccgaccgcc gaacatcgag ggcaagggcg ccgtcaccat ccgcgacctg	900
gtgcggaact cgctgcgtat gcgtcccgc cgcacgtggt tgggggagtg tcgcgaggc	960
gagagtctcg acatgctcga agcgtgcaac accggtcacg acgggtcgtc gtcgacgggtg	1020
catgcgaatt cgcctcgtga cgcctcgcg cgcttgagga cgtcgtggt gatggcgggc	1080
atggacctgc cgttgcgggc gatccgggag cagattgctt cggcggtcga cgtgatcgtg	1140
cagctcactc gactacgtga cggcactcgg cgagtgacct acgtgaccga ggtccagggc	1200
atggagggtg agatcgtcac cctgcaggat gccttctgt tcgactacag cgcggcgtc	1260
gacgcgcgcg ggcattcct cggcagaccg cagccgaccg gactgcggcc gcggttcacc	1320
gacaaattcc gagatctcgg tattgctttg tcgccgagtg ttttcggggt gggagaacct	1380
tcccgggggc gggcatga	1398

<210> SEQ ID NO 68
 <211> LENGTH: 1869
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Rhodococcus equi
 <220> FEATURE:
 <221> NAME/KEY: misc_feature
 <222> LOCATION: (78)..(80)
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: n is a, c, g, or t

<400> SEQUENCE: 68

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cccgacatcg aggtgtccat cctcgcgccc cccggtatcg aagggcaggc gatcgatccg	180
ggaacgttcg cgtcaccga gggcggcgtg ccgagagaga tcgaggtcag gcagcagccg	240
ggttccgagc aggacatcgt gctcgaatc gacgtgctcg gggcctatgc gggccggcg	300
ctggacgacg tgaagcgcgc cgcacgggat ttctgctcggc aggcgcccac cggcggcccac	360
atcggaatcg tcgcatctc gtcgacgcca caggtgctct cggaaactgac gacggactcc	420
gaggacctgc tccgcaggat cgacggactg aaggcgggcg gcaacagcgc gatcgcagat	480
tcggtggtga ccgcccga gatgctcag cgcggcgaag cggccaaca catcctgctt	540
ctgttgacgg acggcggcga cacgtcagat gcacactcga tctcggaaact cccgtccgctc	600
ctgagtcggt cgcgcgctgc gctgtacgcc gtgcagatgt cgacaccoga gacgaactct	660
gctctctcgc agcaggttgc gcgggagtcg cgcggtcagt acgcgtctgc gggtgatacg	720
gcggcgtcgg gtgcgatcta ccagtcggcc gctcgcgcgc tcggaaacct gtacgtcgtc	780
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gccggccgag tgagcgtacc gttccgggtg acattgcccg gtgtggtgcc gacgccgagc	900
gtcgtcgcgc ggaccgtcga cggtttcttc acgtcttcga cggggctggt gatcgggctc	960
ctagcgtgct actcggcgtc tcggggaggc gtgctggcgg tcgcccgtag agegcccgcg	1020
aggatttcgg cagcacgtcg tggcggcag gacggacggg actcgtatgct gtcccgattc	1080
gcggaacggc tgggtcagtg gatcgtacg aacctgagga gacgcggacg catcgtctgc	1140

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cgcaccacagg cgctacagga ggccggggctg aagcttcgtc caggtgactt catcgccctg 1200
gtcgggtgctg cggcgatcac cgctcgccgc atcgggtctcc tggcttcggg catcgtggcg 1260
gcgctcttgc tcgcccgcgat cacagtggga ttgtcgagaa tctatctccg tgtgatggcc 1320
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aatctccgag ccgggcacag catgctccga gcgctcgatt ccctttcccg agaggcggag 1440
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<212> TYPE: DNA
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1. A polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi* comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

2. A polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

3. A polypeptide sequence as claimed in claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4 or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

4. A polypeptide sequence as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence comprising ATGAACCTCTTCTCGCGAACCTGTACCTCATGGGCTTAGACGTCAA GGACCGTCTGACCCGTGACGACCGCGGCCACTGCGGTGCGAGTACGGACTGATGGTCGCCGGCATCGCGATGTGATCATTTGTCGGTTTT CGCCTTCGGCGATAA-

GATTACCGACCTCTTCGATGGCTTCAACTTCG ACGATCCCGGCGGCGAGTAG (SEQ ID NO 2) or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

5. A polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence MNLFFAN-LYLMGLDVKDRLTRDDRGATAVEYGLM-VAGIAMVIVAVFAFG DKITDLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 10) or a fragment, derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

6. A polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence DKIT-DLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11) or a fragment, or derivative or variant of such a polypeptide.

7. A polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence DKIT-DLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11) or a fragment, or derivative of such a polypeptide.

8. A polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence DKIT-DLFDGDFNFDDPGGE (SEQ ID NO 11).

9. A composition comprising a polypeptide or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof according to claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. An antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to a polypeptide according to claim 1.

11. An anti-idiotypic antibody which has binding specificity to an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody of claim 10.

12. A construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence.

13. At least

- (i) one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi* or a fragment, derivative or variant thereof, or
- (ii) one nucleic acid which encodes least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, or
- (iii) one antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to at least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, or
- (iv) one construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence for use in medicine.

14. At least

- (i) one polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (ii) one antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (iii) one construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes such a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence for use in medicine, preferably in the treatment or prevention of a disease caused by *R. equi*.

15. A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO

8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1 for use in the treatment or prevention of a disease caused by *R. equi*.

16. An antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof for use in the treatment or prevention of a disease caused by *R. equi*.

17. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof for use in the treatment or prevention of a disease caused by *R. equi*.

18. A construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence for use in the treatment or prevention of a disease caused by *R. equi*.

19. A method of treating or preventing a disease or condition, in particular a disease or condition caused by *R. equi*, comprising the step of administering

- (i) at least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*,
- (ii) a nucleic acid which encodes least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, or
- (iii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to at least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, to a subject, in particular a subject suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, or at risk of a condition mediated by *R. equi*.

20. The method as claimed in claim 19 comprising the step of administering

- (i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (ii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (iii) a construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes such a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence to a subject, in particular a subject suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from, or at risk of a condition mediated by *R. equi*.

21. A method of detecting *R. equi* in a sample comprising the step of detecting

- (i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or

- (ii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (ii) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes such a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 in a sample.
- 22.** The method as claimed in claim 21 for diagnosing a disease or condition caused by *R. equi* comprising the step of detecting
- (i) a polypeptide associated with Rpl pilus formation, preferably an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (ii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (ii) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes such a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1
- in a biological sample from a subject suffering from, suspected to be suffering from, or at risk of such a condition.
- 23.** A kit for use in the method of detecting *R. equi* wherein the kit comprises
- (i) a polypeptide associated with Rpl pilus formation, preferably comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (ii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (iii) nucleic acid probes capable of binding to a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide associated with pilus formation, preferably at least one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9, under stringent conditions.
- 24.** A kit for use in the method of claim 22 wherein the kit comprises
- (i) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (ii) an antibody or an antigen binding fragment of said antibody which has binding specificity to such a polypeptide, or
- (iii) nucleic acid probes capable of binding to a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide associated with pilus formation, preferably at least one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9, under stringent conditions.
- 25.** A method of screening for agents capable of binding to a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1 comprising the steps:
- providing a candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1,
- providing a test agent to the candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide, and
- determining whether said test agent can bind to said candidate immunogenic *R. equi* polypeptide.
- 26.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*.
- 27.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26 comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9.
- 28.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26 comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9.
- 29.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26 comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising a sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4.
- 30.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26 comprising a polynucleotide sequence comprising a sequence as set forth by SEQ ID NO 2.
- 31.** An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26 comprising a polynucleotide sequence consisting of a sequence as set forth by SEQ ID NO 2.
- 32.** A vector comprising an isolated or recombinant nucleic acid as claimed in claim 26.
- 33.** An isolated or recombinant cell comprising a vector as claimed in claim 32.
- 34.** A composition capable of generating an immune response in a host comprising one or more surface-associated or secreted polypeptides of *R. equi* wherein said polypeptides are associated with formation of pili of *R. equi*.
- 35.** A composition as claimed in claim 34 wherein said composition comprises
- (i) at least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, (ii) a nucleic acid which encodes least one polypeptide associated with pilus formation in *R. equi*, or
- (iii) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide sequence selected from any one of SEQ ID NO 1, SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, SEQ ID NO 4, SEQ ID NO 5, SEQ ID NO 6, SEQ ID NO 7, SEQ ID NO 8, and SEQ ID NO 9 or a fragment, derivative, or variant thereof as claimed in claim 1, or
- (iv) a construct comprising an isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes such a polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 operably linked to a promoter which is functional to allow transcription of the nucleic acid sequence.
- 36.** Use of the composition of claim 34 to vaccinate a subject such that *R. equi* infection in the subject is inhibited or minimised.
- 37.** Use as claimed in claim 36 wherein the subject is a horse or a foal.