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Moseley et al.

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(54) **PRODUCTION OF LIPIDS AND TERPENOIDS IN *AUXENOCLORELLA PROTOTHECOIDES***

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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C12N 9/02 (2006.01)
C12N 9/16 (2006.01)
C12N 9/90 (2006.01)
C12P 7/6472 (2022.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **C12P 7/6472** (2013.01); **C12N 9/0071** (2013.01); **C12N 9/0083** (2013.01); **C12N 9/16** (2013.01); **C12N 9/90** (2013.01); **C12N 15/52** (2013.01); **C12Y 114/19** (2013.01); **C12Y 114/19002** (2013.01); **C12Y 301/02014** (2013.01); **C12Y 505/01018** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC C12N 15/52; C12N 9/16; C12N 9/90
See application file for complete search history.

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(57)

ABSTRACT

Methods to produce oils with modified profiles of fatty acid, carotenoids and/or terpenoids in microalgal mutants are provided. Microalgal mutants produce the oil containing fatty acids, carotenoids and/or terpenoids of a modified profile with a disruption or ablation of one or more alleles of an endogenous polynucleotide or comprising an exogenous gene are also provided.

12 Claims, 36 Drawing Sheets

Specification includes a Sequence Listing.

(56)

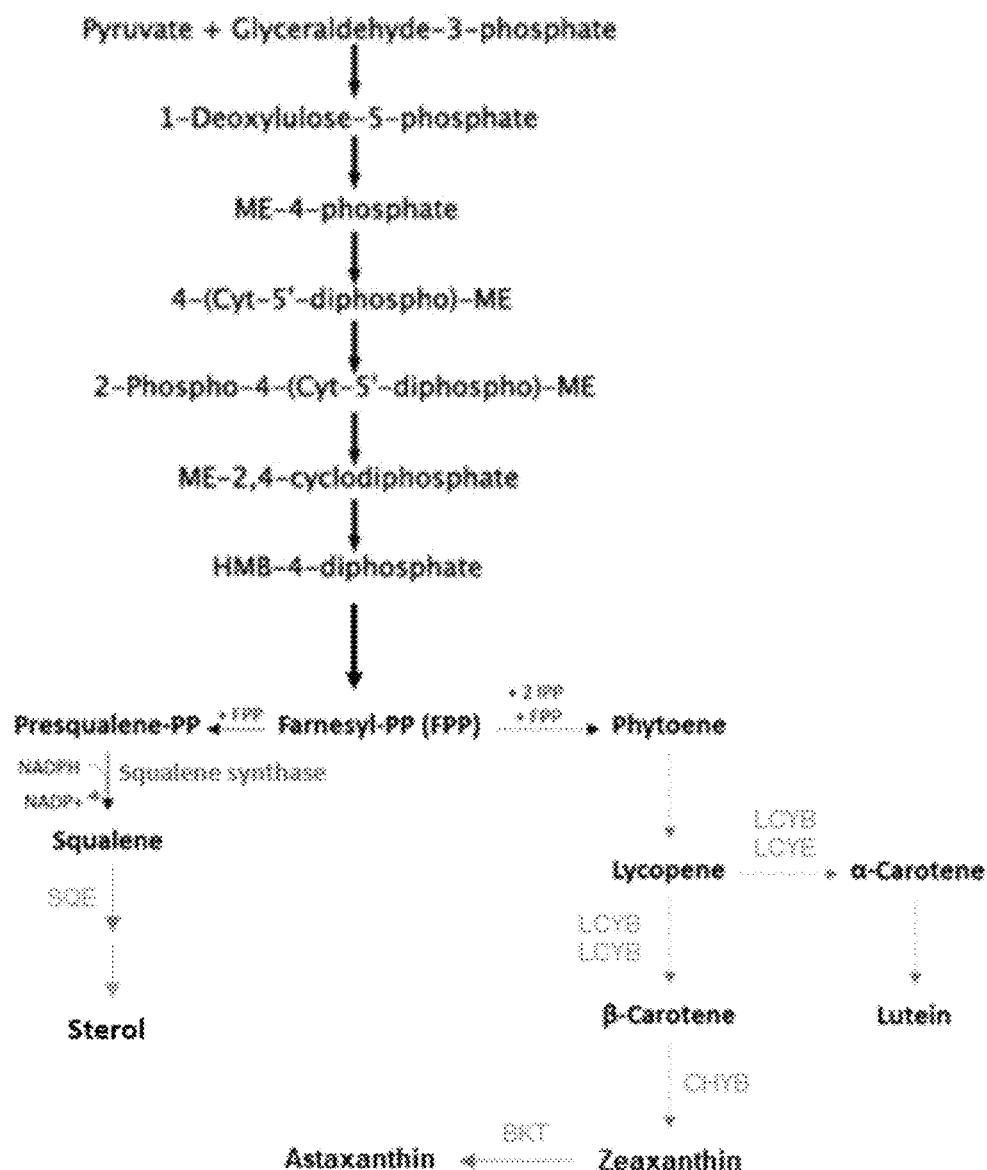
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[FIG. 1]



[FIG. 2A]

aagcttCAAGTGCCTGCCTTACAGTGTACCAACAACAGTCTAACCTACCCCTTCGGTCATTCTGC
CCTTTGGCAAGAGTTCAAGAATGAAGTGTGCTTGCACATCGAGCTAGTGCTGTGAGCGAAGACAA
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CGAACCCCGCGATGGGGCCGAGCCATGCCGACATCTGACATCTCATATGATAAGGCGCTTCA
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CGGCGATGTCGTCCCTATCCAAAACAATCGTTCGAAGACCTTCTTTGTTCGCTCAACCCACCG
AGGAGACCGTCTGGATTCCATGCTGCTGTGACGCCCTAGCCCCCTGAGACCCCTCCAAGTGGCG
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GACAGCCGAAGCCCAACCGCAGCCCTGGTGCAGCATGCGTGGACGGAAACATTGGCAATGC
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gcctgtatggggcccccacccgagcaggacccccaggcaagfcctactgggtgtatgttccatccatcaacccatgcggccatctggact
ctcaaccaggacttccatggcaggctcaacccgacccacttccatggatcgttccatgcacccatgcggccatctggactaca
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【FIG. 2B】

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CGCTGTGCATGGATTGTTGGCACGAGTCTGCATCTGAAGCTGCTGGTAGCGTCAGAGCA
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tt

[FIG. 3A]

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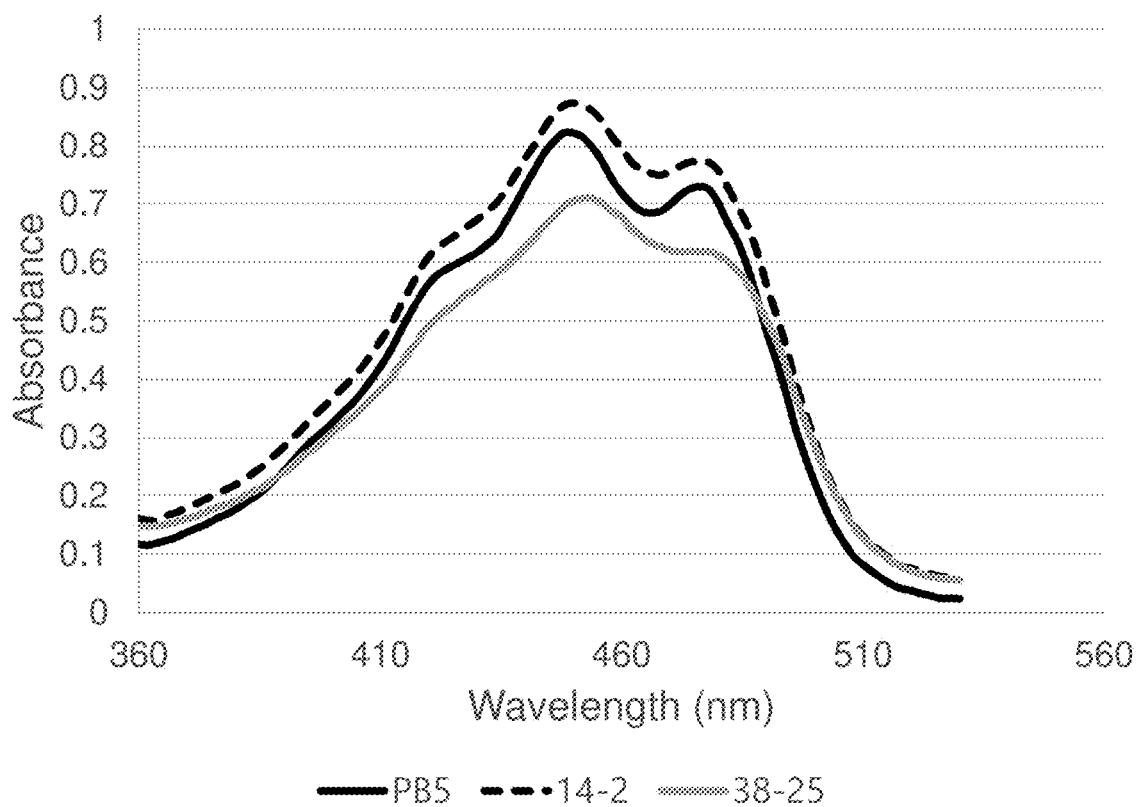
[FIG. 3B]

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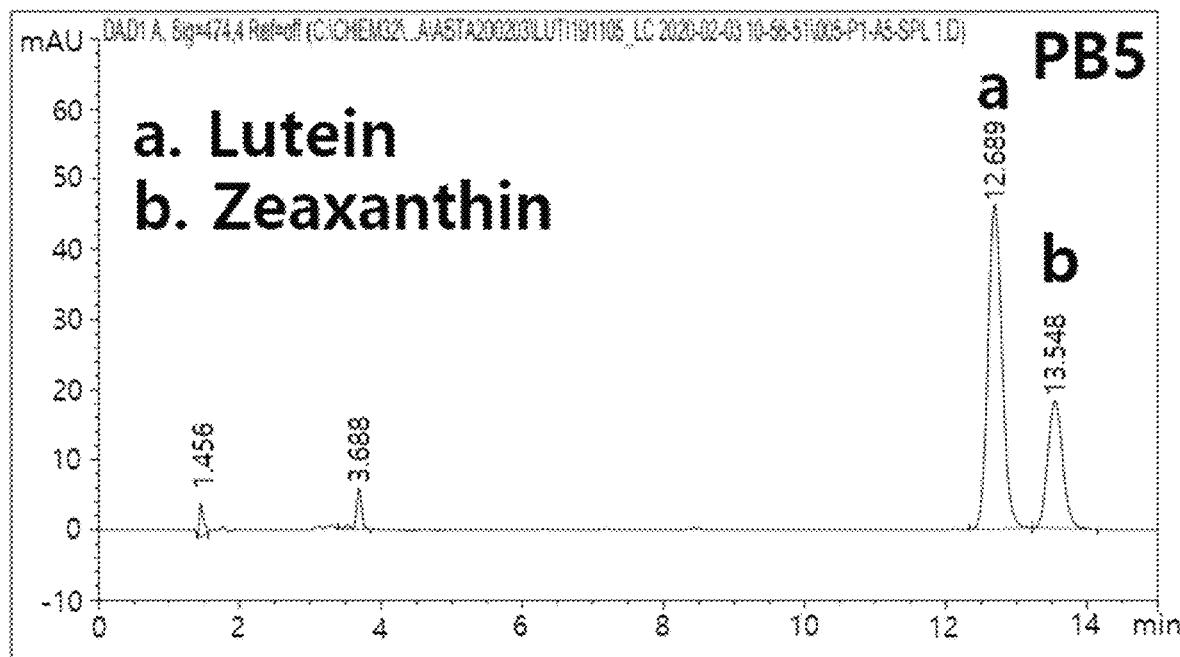
[FIG. 30]

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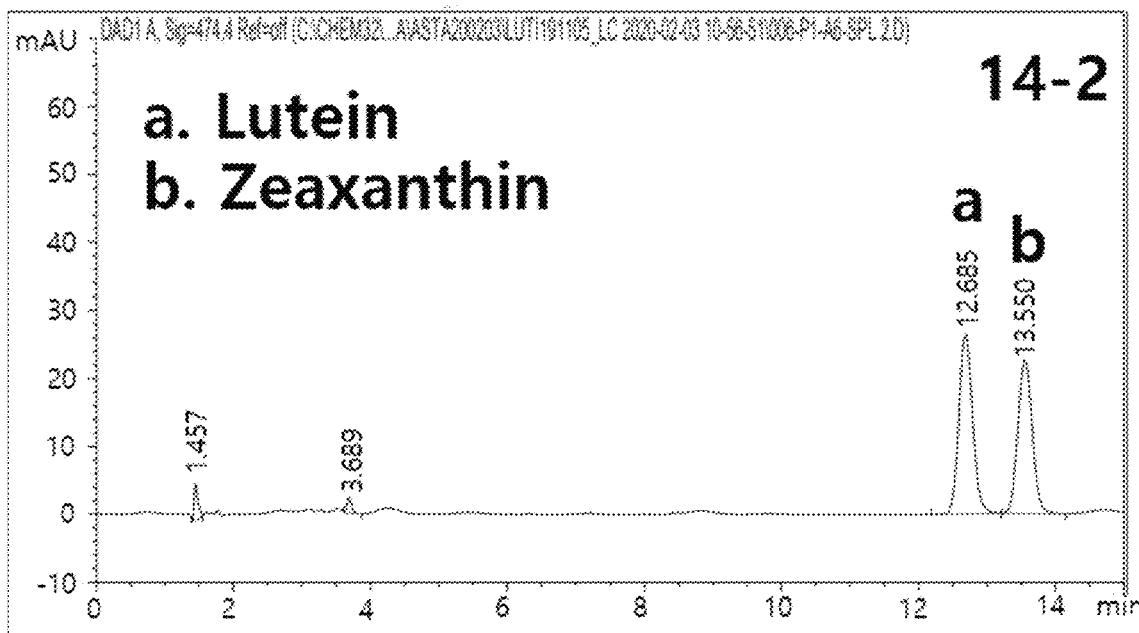
[FIG. 4A]



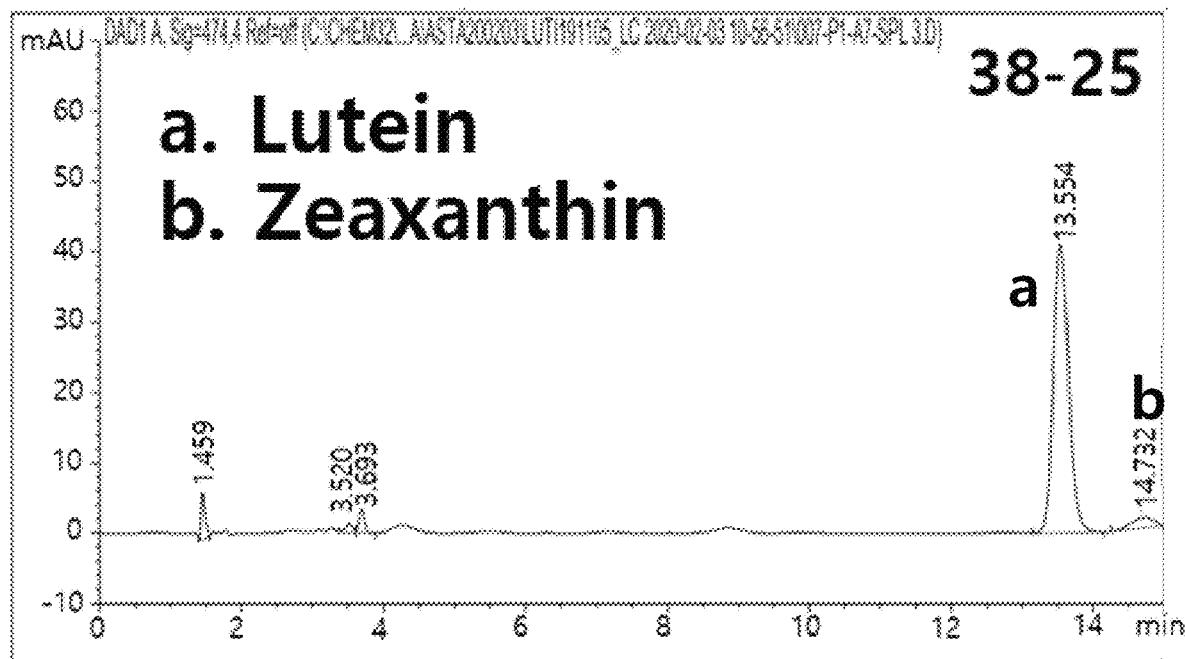
[FIG. 4B]



[FIG. 4C]



[FIG. 4D]



[FIG. 5]

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[FIG. 6]

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[FIG. 7A]

MGPGIQPTSARPCSRTKHSRFALLAAALTARRVKQFTKQFRSRRMAEDILKLWQRQYHLP
REDSDKRTLREVRVHLYRPPRSIDLGGIAAVAVTIALWATLFVYGLWFVQLPWALKVGETATS
WATIAAVFFSLEFLYTGLFITTHDAMHGTLRNRRRLNDFLGQLAISLYAWFDYSVLHRKHW
EHHNHTGEPRVDPDFHRGNPNLAWWFAQFMVSYMTLSQFLKIAVWSNLLLAGAPLANQL
LFMTAAPILSAFRLFYYGTYPHHPEKHTGAMPWQVSRTSSASRLQSFLTGYHFDLHWE
HHRWPYAPWWELPKCRQIARGAALA*

【FIG. 7B】

MATASTESAFNARCGDLRRSAGSGP~~RRPARPLPVRAAIRSRRMAEDILKLWQRQYHLPRE~~
DSDKRTL~~RERVHLYRPPRS~~DLGGIAVAVT~~VIALWATLFVYGLWFVKLPWALKVGETATSWA~~
TIAAVFFSLEFLYTGLFITTHDAMHG~~TIALRNRR~~LNDLGQLAISLYAWFDYSVLHRKHWEH
HNHTGEPRVDPDFHRGNPNLAVWFAQFMVSYMTLSQFLKIAWWSN~~LLL~~LAGAPLANQLL~~F~~
MTAAPILSAFRLFYYGTYVPHHPEK~~GHTGAMPWQVSRTSSASRLQSFLTCYHFDLHWEH~~
HRWPYAPWWELPKCRQIARGAALA*

parent	-	P85	14-2	P85	P85	14-2	14-2
construct	-	pP80014	pP80038	pP80120	pP80123	pP80120	pP80123
strain	P85	14-2	38-25	120A-2	123A-5	120B-5	123B-24

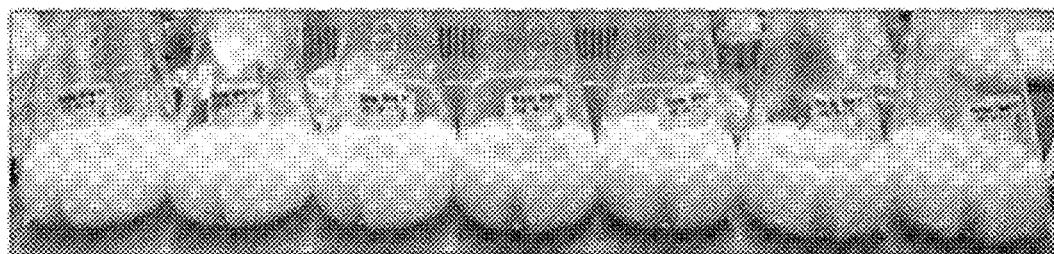
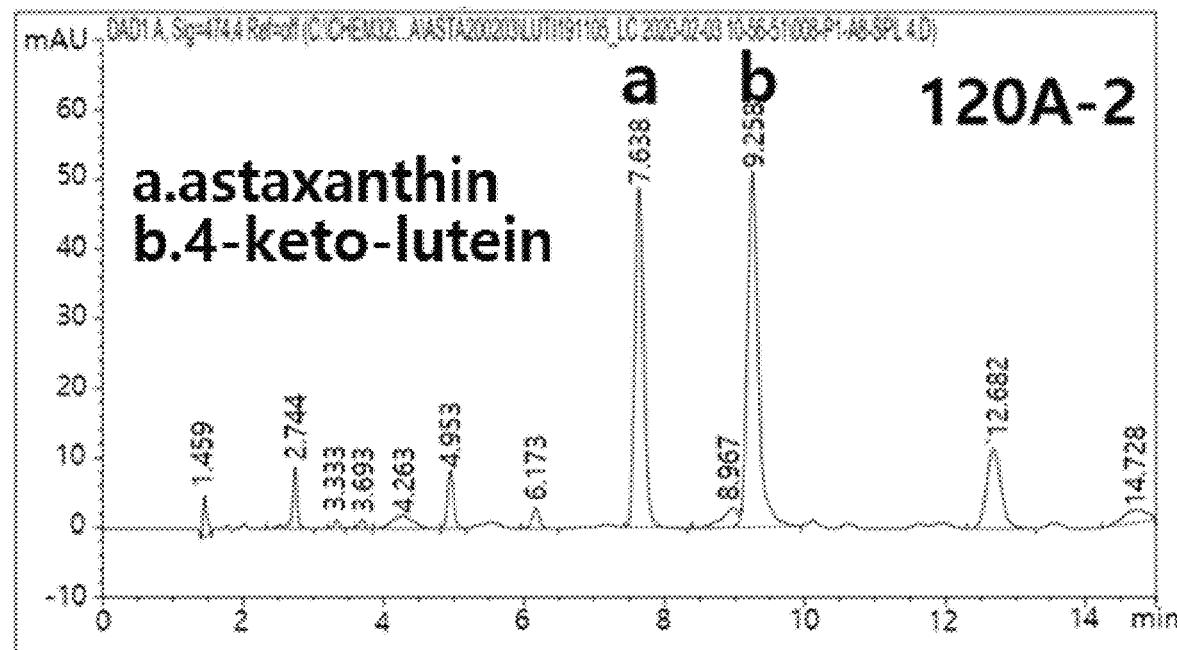
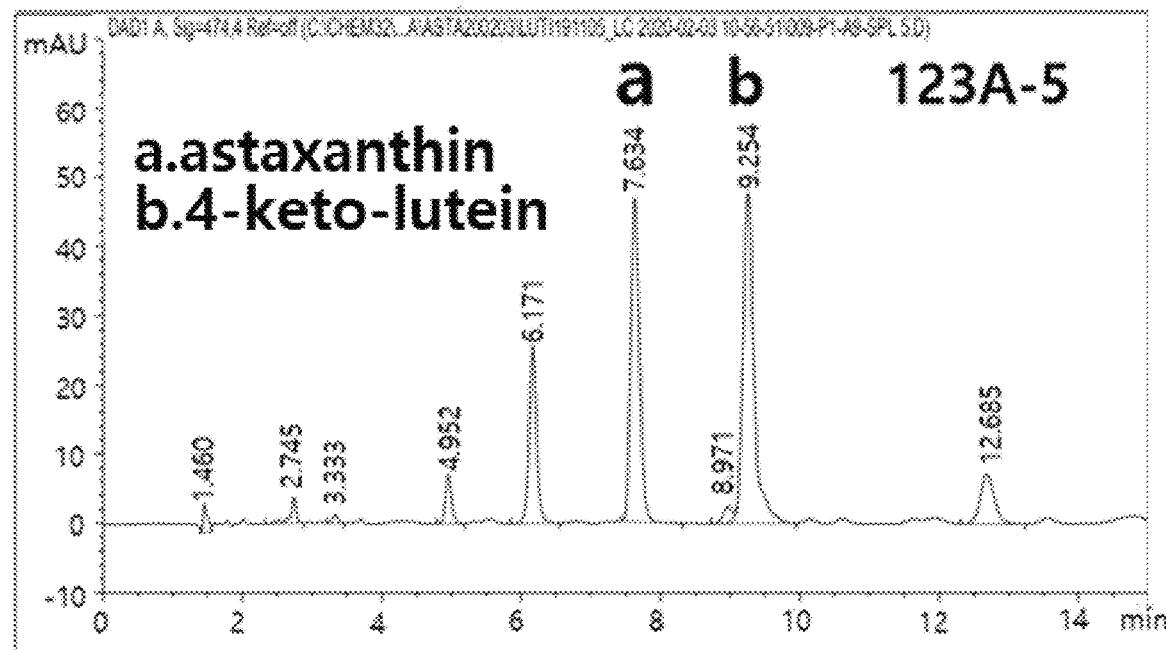


FIG. 8A

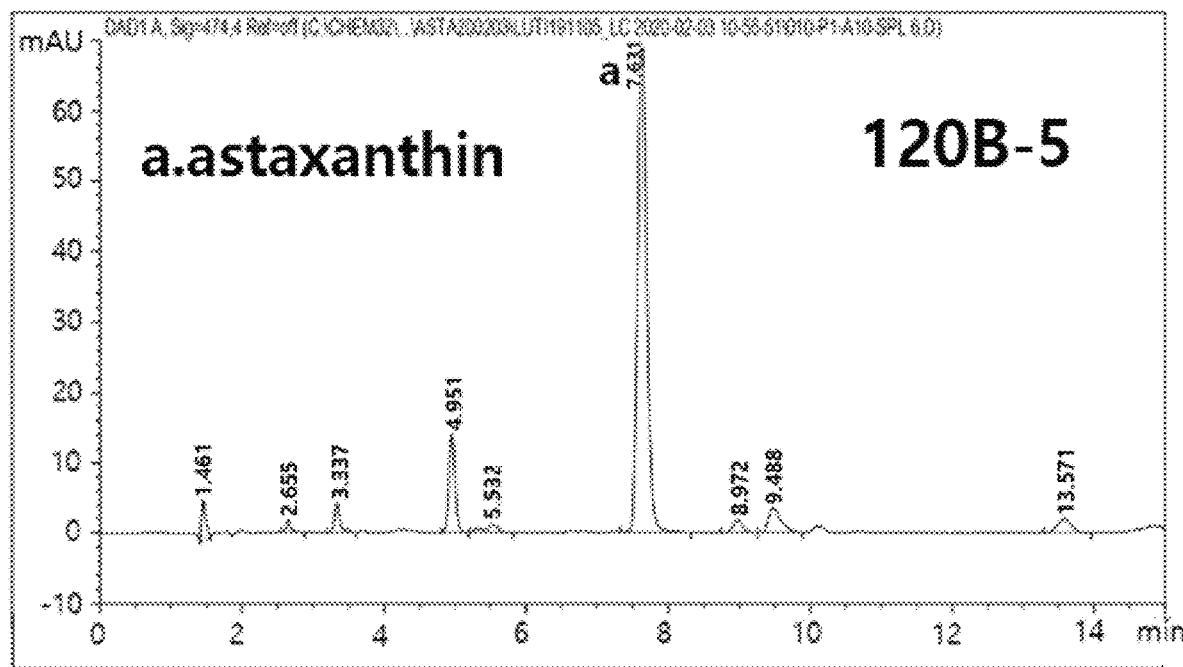
[FIG. 8B]



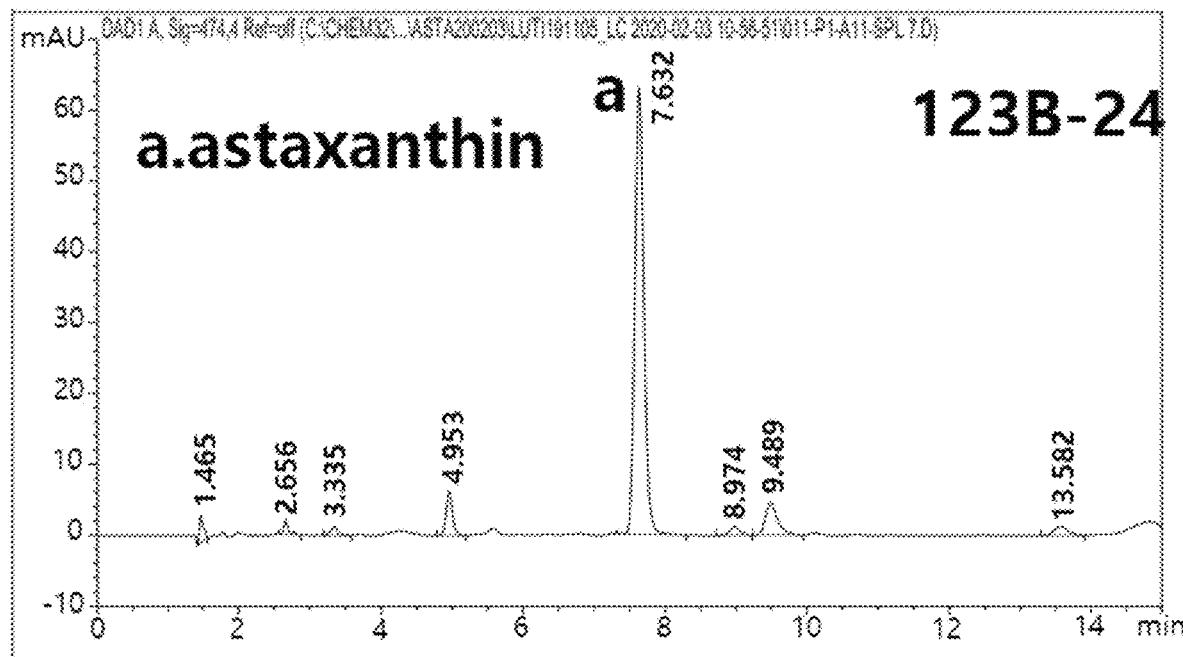
[FIG. 8C]



[FIG. 8D]



[FIG. 8E]



[FIG. 9A]

[FIG. 9B]

ggagctggagcccatgatcgtggcccaagttcttgtaaggtaacgtgaacaatggcaactccgcgtggccctccatcgaggag
gaggctacaaggcgaggcaccatgtggcccgacaccatcatggaccctgtccacggccggccacatccacgagaacggcgca
gtggatcgcaactccgcgtggccacccatotaccaggcgctggagaagggtgaaacggcatcgccgagaacccgtaa
ctgggagggttcccgccgagaacgtgatcgagcaggccgagcaggcgctggactacttcacgatccacgoggcgctgtgtgogtacatc
ccctgaccgcacccgccaacggccgtacggccatcgigtccgcggccatccacgcgaaacggccgtggccfaccacaaggagaaccc
gcctacgagcactgggacgacatccgttgcacaccatgtgcacccatgtccatcgccgacggccgtgcgcgcggccatcta
cgacgccaacgacacggccagggtcgccgagctgtgacccaggccgacggccgtggagaaggacgtgcagggtg
aacggggcccgccacgtgcccattgcacaaggatcccgagaacatgcagaacggccgtggccatcgaggccgccttata
ccctggcccccgtacgaccgacatcgccgtggatcgaccacatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
gcacccatcgccgtggccacccgtggccaaaggccggccacccatgtccatccatcgccgtggccatccatccatccatcc
ggccacccatcgccgtggccaaaggccggccacccatgtccatccatcgccgtggccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
ggaccaggccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatccatcc
tgctccatgtgoggccccaaagttctgtccatgaagatcccgaggacatccgcacgtacggccgaggagaacggctacggctcccgag
gaggccatccgcccaggccatggccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatccatccatcc
ggccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatcgccgtggccatccatccatccatccatcc
TGAGTCCTGGCACCCTGCTCCCTGACCCCTGTTC
CCCTGCCTGCTTCTCCCGGTGACATCCGACCTGCTGCAAAATTCCCGTTCTGCACAACACTTGCTGACCGAGG
GTGGGGTCCGAAGTAAAAGCCACAATCAACACCCCAAGGCACATTAAGAGTGCACAGCATGACCCAGCATAGGGTT
GTGTGGAGGAAGGGGGTCGAGTCGGCTTGGCGAGGGGGGTGGTCACGATGACCACATCTGCCGGATAATTGAATCC
TCAGGGAAAATACCAAGTCTCTGCTTCCAGGTGCTCCgagetcCCCAGGGAGTCAATCAGTTGTGTATG
AGATTGATCTGCCTGTTGCAGATCCCCGACCCGCTGCCGGCCCTCTGCCGTGCCACCCCT
TGCCCTGGGTGTGCCTTGTCTGCACACCTCCGCCGGACCTTCACCCCTGCC
ACCTCGACACAAGCAGGTGTGGACGTGATAAGTGGTGGGGGGGGTGGCCGGCGGGCG
TGGCGCATCAGCAGGGCTTGGACGGCCGACCGCGTGTCTCCTCGAGGGGGATCTGGCCAG
CCCGACCGCATCGTGGGAGCTGCTGCAGCCTGGCGGGCGTGTGGCCCTGGAGGCGCTGG
CCTGGGGCGCCGTGGACGGCATCGACGCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGGTACTGCATGTTCAAGG
GCAGGGCGCGAGGGCGTGCATGCCCTACCCCAACCCCGCCGAGCTGGGGGTCCAGCGGCTGC
GGCTGCGGCATGCAGGGCCCCACTGGAAGCGCCAGCGCCGCGCCGGCGACGCC
GTCACGGGCTTCTCCTCCACAACGGCGATTGTCAGGGCTGCCGCGCGGGCGGGCG
TGCGCCCCGGGTCAAGCTGCCCTGGGACGGTGCCTGGATGACGCCGGCGG

[FIG. 9C]

GACTGGGAGGAGGGCGCGTGGTACGGCGTGCCTACCGCGGGCGACGGCGGAGC
GCGTGGCACTGGGCCACCTCACCGTGGTCTGCACGGCATGTACTCGCCCTGCGGTCCAAGC
TGGCGGTGCCGACCTGCGCACGCCCTCCACTTCATCaagctt

[FIG. 10A]

【FIG. 108】

aicagcaacgcggcccgaggagccgggtcgccaccaaacaccacgttgacgaaggccaaacagctacaacgttgtaccgttgcacacagcac
cggccactctggagttcgagctgggttgacggcgtcaacaccacccagacgatctccaaggccgtgttcgcggaccctcttctygttcaaggg
cctggaggaccgcaggagtacctcggcatgggttcgggtgtcccttcttccctggaccgcgggaacagcaaggfagaagttgt
gaaggagaacccctactttccaaacccgcattgagcgtgaacaacccagccctcaagagtgagaacgcaccgttccactacaaggfigtacgg
cttgcggaccagaacatcttggagctgtacttcaacgcacggcgcacgttgtccaccaacaccacttcaigaccacccggaaacgccttgg
gttccgtgaacatgacgcacgggggtggacaacccgttctacatgacacaaggfocaggfgcycogaggfcaag TGATTGATTGGAACTCA
CAAAGCGGCCACGGCTTCGAACGTCCCGTGTCAATTGCGCGGGGTGTGCCAGAGTTCTGCCACCACCGATGCTCA
CCCTAGGGGGGGATGCCCTTGACATTCATGTGTGCCTGCATGCACGTTGTATCAGTCTCACCAACACCTTGAAGATT
TTTGGGAGGGGGGGGGAGTCGGAAATGAAACgagcteCCCAGGGAGTCAATCAGTTGTCAATGAGAT
TGATCTGCCTGTTGCAGATCCCCCGACCCGCTGCCGGCCCTCTGCCGTGCGACACCCCTTG
CCTGGGGTGTGCCTCTTGTCTGCATCGCACACCTCCGCCGGACCTCACCCCTCCCACC
TCGACACAAGCAGGTGTGGGACGTGATA GTGGTGGGGCGGGGTGGCGCGCGCTGG
CGCATCAGCAGGGCTTGGACGGCCACGGCGACGCGTGCCTCGAGCGGGATCTGGCCAGCCC
GACCGCATCGTGGCGAGCTGCTGCAGCCTGGCGCGTGCCTGGCGCTGGCGCGCTGGCGCTGG
GGCGGGCGCGTGGACGGCATCGACGGCAGCGCGAGCCCGTGGTGGGTACTGCATGTTCAAGGGCG
GGCGCGAGGGCGTGCATCGCCTACCCCCACCCCCCGCCGAGCTGGGGGTCCAGCGGCTGCCG
GCAGGCATGCAGGGGCCCCACTGGAAGCGCCAGCGCCGCCCGCCGGGACGCCCCCGTCA
CGGGCTTCTCCTCCACAAACGGCGATTGTCAGCGGCTGCCGCCGCCGGCGCTGCG
CCCAGGGGTCA CGCTGCGTCGCGCACGGTGCAGCGCGCTGGTGGATGACGCCGGCGGGACT
GGGAGGAGGGGGCGCGTGGTACGGCGTGCCTGCGACGGCATGTA CTGGCCCTGCCGTCCAAGCTGG
TGGCACTGGGCCACCTCACCGTGGTCTGCGACGGCATGTA CTGGCCCTGCCGTCCAAGCTGG
CGGTGCCCGACCTGCGCACGCCCTCCCACTTCATCaagctt

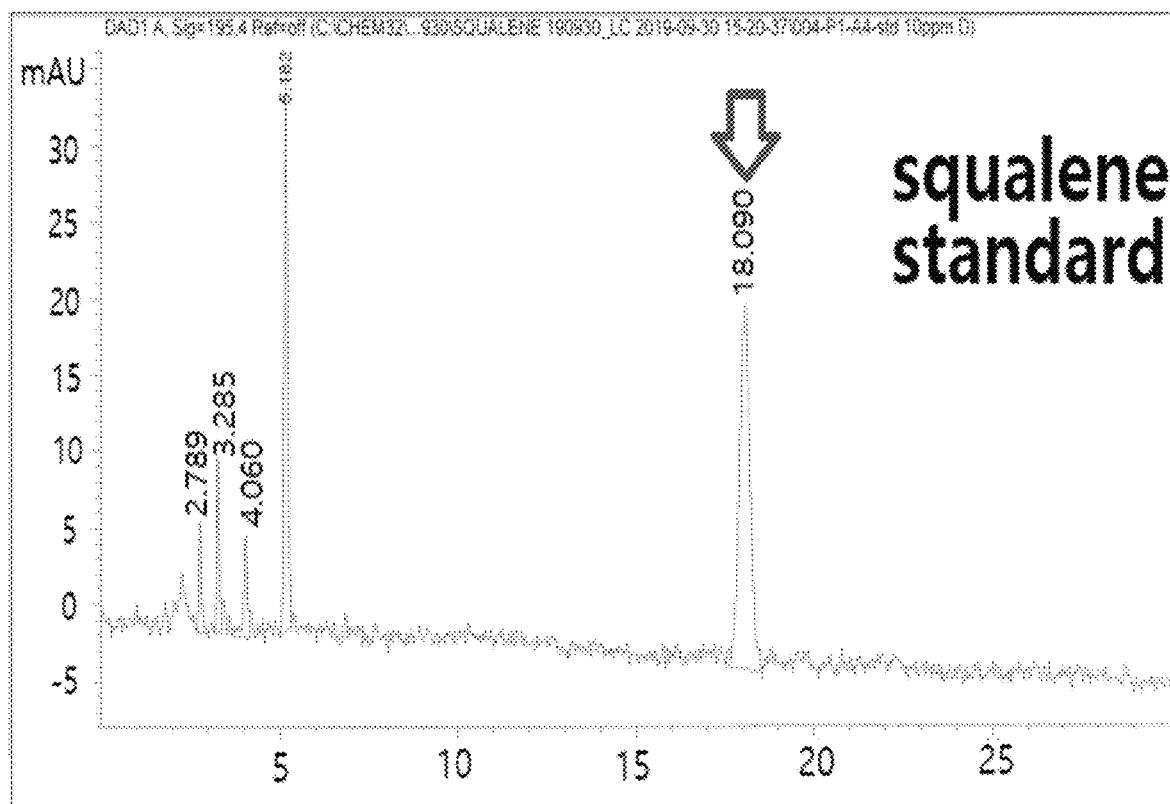
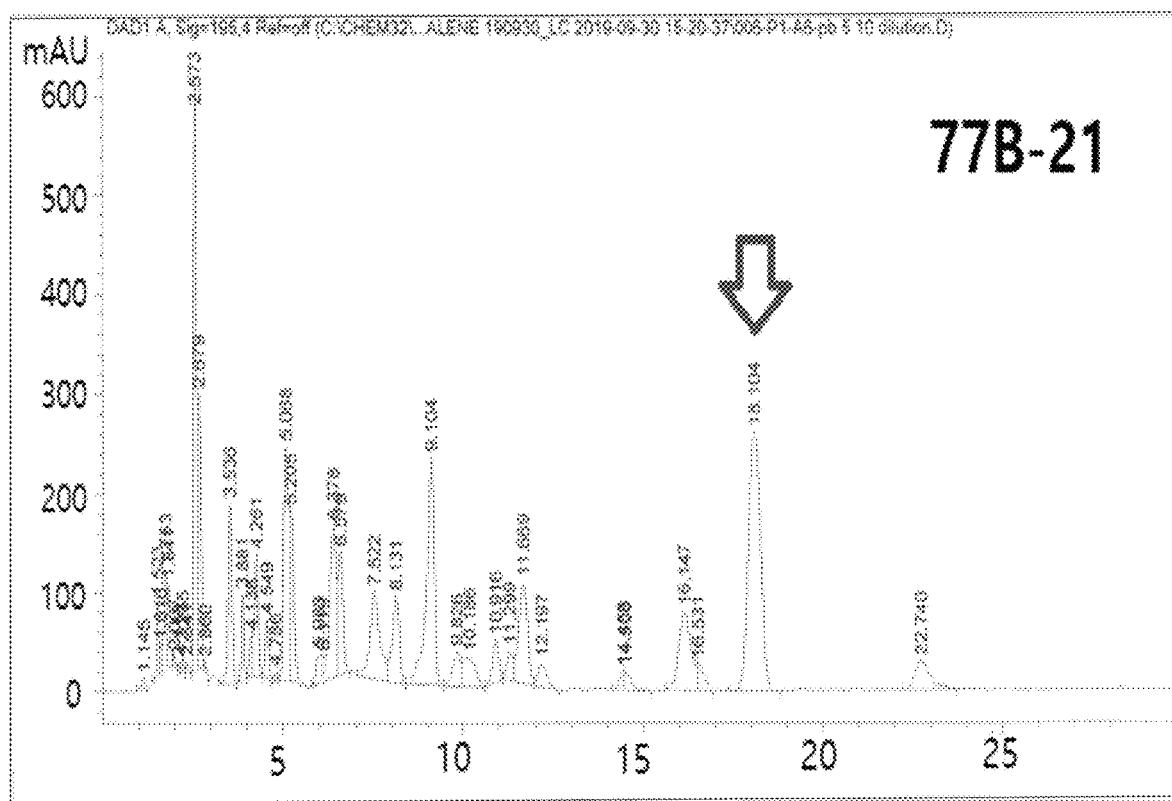


FIG. 11A



[FIG. 12]

MQFSLAGMNTRALQTGARPSLPAARPSRRVRPARRSAPCPVARTMGGEQPSAEGV
AWDKISTDELADWAGAGPPTPLLDTVAFPVHKNFNSRQLQQLCHELRADLIHTVAKTGGH
LGSSLGVVELTVALHHVFNTPEDRIVWDVGHQAYIHKMLTGRARMHTIRQQGGLSGFTR
RAESVYDPFGAGHSSTSVAALGMAVGRDRKGGRANNCIAVIGDGAITGGMAYEAMNHAG
FLDTNMIVILNDNQQVSLPTQYNGKNQEPVGALSSALARLQANRQLRELREIAKGVTKQLP
DVIQNATAKIDEYARGMISGTGSTLFEELGFYYIGPVDGHNMQDLVDVLSEIKATETVGPVL
LHWVTQKGRGYTPAETASDRMHGVVQYDTLTGKQKKGSGGPQSYTNYFADALVAEAKRD
ARVLGIHAAMGGTGMRFEAAPDRVFDTGIAEQHAVTFAAGLATEGLVPVAIYSTFLQ
RGYDQIVHDVSLQSLPVRFALDRAGNVGADGATHAGAFDVTLACLPNMVVMAPSNEAE
LVHAVATAAAIDDRPSAFRFPRGNGLGVDLAAAGVTDDLKGQPMEVGRGVRRGGADVA
LLGYGTCVNACLAADLLAQGVSVTVDARFCKPLDTALVRRMAAEHPVMITVEEGSIGG
FAAHVMQFLALEGLLDGKLKFRPMTLPDRYIEHTQAEQMAEAGLTASHIAGTALSVMGV
KRDAPSIFST*

[FIG. 13]

MRCSAQLNTRGPTLPSARPRTRVVSASAAPVPSAWPGRVVLPEKSASRTGPKKFSLL
GSTGSIGTQTLDIVAEPDRAFTQVSLAAGGNVALLAEQIARFSPSLVSRDGGARALEAA
LDAAGVDRRPEIQIGAAGIDAVAHHPEADACVTGIVGCCAGLRPTMAAIEAGKDICLANKEI
AGGPTVLPAAAKHGVSLPADSEHSAIFQCLQQLPEGGLRRIILTASGGAFRDLPVSELPKV
TVADALKHPNWAMGKKITIDSATLMNKGLEVIEAHYLFGASYDNIDIVIHPQSIVHSMIETQD
SSVLAQLGWPDMDRLPILYTMSPERVPCSEVTWPRLDVKAGNLTRQPDHAKYPAMEL
AYSAGRAGGTMTGVMSAANEAAVELFLEEAIGYLDIVPWEAACAEHRVELVERPSLEEIV
HYDQWARRHVRESVAKRAPAAVPAL*

【FIG. 14】

MAAVVEAGHAASKQKTEAHQTKQEFLAVFEKLRDELLEDISLAGQPESSKDWLRTMLDYN
VPHGKLNRGMALDVLLAARGGDVTEKEREAAVLGWCIELLQAYFLVADDIMDSSLTRR
GQPCWYRQPHVMVAINDGIILESCIYRLLKLHFRAHPAYVHILLELFHDTHRTAHGQLLDT
TTAPPGGVDLTRYTEGTYLRIVTYKTAFYTIYLPVACGLALAGVTDEASLALAEDLSVRMGR
YFQIQDDVLDLAFGEPEVIGKVGTDIQDSKCSWLVRALAVASAEQREAIAKYGRDDAEAV
EAVKAVYRELDLPAFAAYEQESYDGLVQAIEGQDKFPPAWFMGILAKIYKRTK

【FIG. 15】

MGKLGESELLSHPDEIIPMAAMYLAARRAAVLPHDPDLAFCYSMLNKVSRSFAIVIQQLPQL
RDAVCVFYLVLRALDTVEDDMAIDQAEKVPIIISFHEKTYEKDWSMKGHGHYVELMEQY
PVVCAAFQGLEPQYQEVTDICRRMGAGMAEFIVKEVETVKDYDLYCHYAGLVGVGLSN
LFAGSGLESEDFAFLHELSNGMGLFLQKTNIRDYLEDIMEEPAPRMFWPKIEWGKHGDSL
EDFKDPENAEAAVACLNDMIADALRHVDASLDYMQRRLNRPIFRFCAVPQIMAIGTLAACF
DNPSVFTGVVKMRRGQTAKIMHDVEDYADLLAYFRAFGQALAAKARAARGKGAESVGRA
AERWVAGCSAALADLSRAENARMAAAARRPLSLPARALLVAALLYLFLAWRAEGVRRWL
GVDSPPAAHKLDYYNQIVASMFLGYSLFAVGTGRRP*

【FIG. 16C】

GTCGGCCCCCTGCAGCGCTCGTGTCCGGAAACGACCCGCTACTCAATCCCTGAACCATGAATAC
TTCAGGGGGGGGGCGAAGTGGCCAACCGGCCCTCCCTCTCCCTCAAGACATCGCAACGCGA
TCCCGGGCGGAGTGCTGGAAGAAGGACACCTCAAGTCCTCGCCTACCTGGCGCTAGATGTAGG
AATCGTTGCTGCCCTGGCCGTGACAGCACATGCCGTCAACTGCCATGGCTCTGGCCCTTCTAC
TGGCTGGCGCAGGGGACCATGTTCTGGGCCCTGTTGTCGTGCCACGACTGGTGCGGTTGG
AGGGGGTAATCTGGCGACCCCTGCAGGGCATGCAGTGGGGACAAGAGCATGCCAGGCTCCGCC
TTGCCTGCTGATCCCAGCCCCACTTGGCTGGACAATAGATGCTGTCGGGGACATGCCCGAGTGC
ATGCCACAATGGGCCCTTCAACAACGTACCCACTATGACCCATATTCCCTGCAGCGGCCACC
AGAGCTTCAGCACAACAAAGCAGCTGAATGACGTGGaagctt

【FIG. 17】

ggaatccccctccqagatqaagccgtggttggcacggaggaggccctgcgggccagaqtgttcttcgtgcacgtctcc
ggcttggtggctcgctgggtggccatgagctgcagtgcataataggtaatcgttgcacccggcactac
caatqatqatcaacaccgagccgcctctgttgtgtgttgccttacccctactgcgtactgcgtgcaggagcttcatgaggatc
acactgacggtcaggggatcagcacccagtcggacatcccgttccactacgaggctcggtgcaccatgtatggtaggt
gaagttggccctgggaggaggcgcttagaggaggccctggggcaaaggatcacccctactgtacgtggctggctcaatcaccca
cccccccccttgaagtccgcfcctcagtttgcgtttgcgtttccaaaaatcgagccacaatcgaaatacactacctaaggcttcaccac
ctggcgtaccctcggaatgccccatcagcccaaaccacalggagaaaaggcgccgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgc
tgtggggagctccattctgtcagcttgggtggccaggtcgcgtacagatggcacatacaggaccctgcgcaccctgcgc
cagcactttgtgaatttaagcagcgttagatcgtcgtatggcttagagaaccggccctgcctcccccattcccttcacacat
ttgaacacccggaccggcc

【FIG. 18B】

AGGGGAGGCCTTGGAAATATTGGCGTCACGCGAGGAGTAGGCTTGCTGGTGGCCCTGGATAACGCTGACTCTTCAA
GCAGTGGGCACCACACCCACCTTTGCCAAGGGCAAGGAGTGGAAAGGGGGGGGGCTGCCATGCACCCCTGAC
GGGCATGCCGTTCCGGAGGGGGCAACTGCGGCCCTGCCGCTGGCTCGTCCCCCTACCCCCACCATG
CCTGGAGCGTTCCATCCCCAAATCACATTCCATCCAAGTTGTATCACTATGCCCTTGGCTCTATACACTACGGCC
TGAGGTCCCTTCTGGCCGTGGGGCACACGCCAACCCCCCACCATACTCTTCCATACACTGCAATGCTTCGAGC
CTGCCCTGCCAACCTGCTCTGCTTGTCTCCCCTCCCTTGAGGTTTCCAATGCAAGTAAGAGAAGTCGACGTGCAT
GGACAGATGATTGAGAGATGAGactagtcttcgcatacacttccagcaaaaggtagggcggtcgccgagacggctcccg
tgtccatgcaacacccatgtgtccgcaccccccgaagcttcgcgtccatggggcgccatggatgcggccccaaggcgatggta
aatagccaggcccccgatgtcaaaagacattatagcgagctaccaaagccataitcaaacacactagatcaaccacttcaacacaggccact
cgagccatgtatcgacactccgttaaggggcgcccttcgcgtttccatgtccacaaaccccgcaaaATGctgcaggcccttcgttgtccatgt
ggccgggttcgcggccaagaatcagccgcctccatgcacgcacggagaegfcccgcacccgcctcggtcacttcacccccaacaagggtggat
gaacgaccccaacccggccatgtggtaogacgagaaggaccccaagtggccaccttgtacttcagtaaacccggacacgcacccgttgaaaa
ccgccttgcgttggggccacggccacgtccgcacgcacccgtaccaactfggaggaccagcccatcgccatgcggccaaagcc
gcgccttgcgttgggtggactacaacaacacccgcggccatgtccatgcacccatgcacccgcggccatgtggccatgt
ggacccatacaacaccccgaggactccgcacgcacccgtacccatccatgcacccgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
gtgtggccgcactccaccccgatccgcgcacccgtacccatccatgcacccgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
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tacccatccatgcacccgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
ggccgggggttcaaccaggatccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
caaggactacaacccgttgcacccatccatgcacccgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
tccgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
gagctgtatcaaccgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
ggccaaacaggatccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
caaggatccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
ttccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
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accaccaacccatgtggaccggggaaacggccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
aggatccatgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgttgcgt
GTGTGCCAGAGTTCTGCCACCGATGCTCACCCCTAGGGGGGGATGCCCTTGTACATTGTGTGCCTGCATGCA

【FIG. 180】

CGTTTGTATCAGTCTCACCAACACCTGAAGATTTGGGAGGGGGGGGGAAAGTCGGAATGGAAcetcgagCAACG
CTACGGCAACTCCCTCGATGGCTTCAAGTACGGAGATGTGGGCATCCAGGATTGCCATGTGCTGC
TTCAGCCCTCCTCATGCCACTAGCACTATTTGACTCCCGATTGCCAGGTTCAAGGGCATC
AAGGAGTCGGAGATCAGCCGCGCCATGACCTCCCGCTACTTCGAGGACCTAACGTCATGCCG
AGGTGCTTTGCATATATTACAGCTAATTATGATGGGTGTGGTGCGCGATATGCTTGCAAGGTCTC
CGGTGAGCTAATGATCGGCACATCCCTCCGGCATCCGCAGGTCGATGTCGTCAATTGTTGGG
CTGGGTCTCGGGGCCTCTCGTGCCTATGAGCTGAGCAAGCACCCGGATGTCAAGGTATGGG
CTGAGCAGGGCACATCCTCAGATGATGTTGCTGTAATTGCAATTGAAACTTGCGGTTGTTGCCAG
CACAGCCTCAATCAATCATGTTGCTGGCTGGAAACCGCTATGATAACCCAGCCTCAACATGGG
GCAGGGATATCGTTACACCTGCTTGAACCCCCCGCAACAGGTGGCCATCATCGAGCAGGGCGT
CGCCCCCTGGGGTGGAGCGTGGCTGGCTGGGGGTCAAGCTTCTCGGCTATGTGTGTGAGTCTAGG
CACGGGGACGGGTGGACTGAAGCAAGGGTTGGCGCAGGGTGTGATATCCATGTGTTGGACA
TTCTCGTTGGAAAACAAGATGTGTATTTAGTGCTATCTCGGTGGCTGCATTCCaaagctt

【FIG. 19A】

aagcttAGCATACTCCTATTCTGACAATGTCACAGTCGGTCTGCCAGGGATAGTGGCTTGCTGTC
AGACTCGGCCCCGGACTCTCCCGTAAGTGCGACGCCGGAAATCTGTTGAGAGGAGGGCGATCT
GCGAGGGTTCGCCTCCATGGCCCAGTGACACCAGCAGTATGCCATGAAGCGATGATGTCTGT
GAAAATGATGTTAGAATTCTTATATACATGTTGGTAAATGCTGTGACTTAAGTTAC
GAGCTGGCTGACAGAGACAATCTTCAGGTCAAATGTTGGCACCAATGATCGCGACCGATCGTCA
GGGGTTATCAAGTCAGATCTGAAACGAAAACCAGAAATCAAATTGCCAAAGGCATGTTGTATGT
CGAGAATTATCATGCGGGTGACTGGCTCGCTAATTCTGGCATGGAAGGATGCCACATCGAATTGA
TCCGGGGAGACTAACACTTGTAGAAATTGCAATGTGCCATATTCCAGATATCCCAGCCGGCCCT
CTATAAACCACCTGCGGGCTCAGATACTACGAAGAGGCTCAGATAACTCAAGGACGTGCATTG
AATTATCCCTGCCGCGGAAAACATCAGACCAGGTGCCATGCTGAGCGTCGAGTTGGTGCTT
GATAGACCTTCACCTTGATCTGAGGTTCCCGTCCCCAGAGCACTCGAATCTCCGGCATCTTACAG
GCAAACOGCAAACAGTAAATAATGGCGAGCACCATCACCATGggtaaccdttgtagtgcccaaaaaacggctac
cacctaacaatctcacgcacgtttatccctgcaccttgtacgcttttgatcgatcgatcgatc
gaccgcggccggagacgcaggctcgaggcgccgcctcgcaacttgtgatttcccgatccctgc
catgcacctcggtggactcgatcacaacgcgcgtgcatacgccacaaaaacacacttatcgcaagg
gtactcgatcgatcgacttgcctggcgaggacgggtagatactcaaggcggtgcatacgcc
acccatcgatcgatcgatcgacttcgcgcgtccatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcg
gttgggtgtcgaggagactcacatgcacggagggtgccacattgcaccacgcgcacc
cgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcg
gagagccgaccacATGtccccccccacactccatgtccccccgcaccaacggcggtggccatca
acggcgcccaagaactgctggacttcgcggcccccctcaagatgcgcacactccggccat
ggcgatccctgcctcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgat
tactggatcgcccaaggccacatgtccactccctcatccctgggccccatcc
acgttgatcgcccaacatccatgcactccctcatccctgggccccatcc
cgtggagaaggacgcaggatgggtgcacccatgcacggatggatgc
cgtgcgcaccatccatgcgtgcgtgttcctgcacccatcc
accgcggccatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgat
caaggatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgat
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gtacaggccaaaggatggatggatcgatcgatcgatcgatcgat

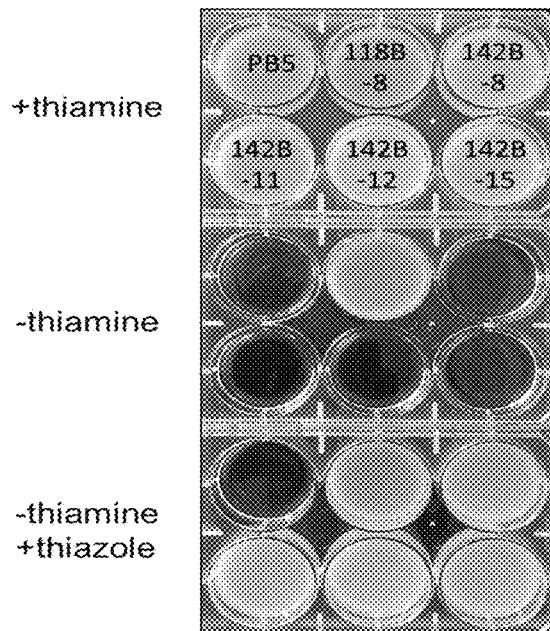
[FIG. 198]

tcggccaccacgtgatccaccaccgttcccccaagatgcggactaccacccgtggaggeccaccaggcgccaaggcactgtgdggca
agtactaccgcgagccaaagaaggccggcccttcccttccactgttccgttccatgttgccgtccatgtttccctggggaggccactaactgttcc
acacccggcgcacgtgggttccaccaggccacatcccaagttcccccaccctccgtccaccaccaccaaggccaaagtccaaagtcccttcc
TGTATCGGGGAGGAGGGAGTGAGCGGGGAAGGGGGCAGCCACACGGGGGCCCGTCCTGACCTGCCACCCCTCCCTCGTC
GAGCCOCTGCCAGGGGGCGCCGCAACGABCCATGCGTGTGCATGTTCTGGAGGGCCTTCCACCGGGCGATGTG
CGAGCCCATCTCGCTTCAACACACCCGCTGCCGCATGCGCTCCACTCCCCAAAACCACCTCGACCCCTCCA
GGGCTCCCTCCCGCCCCACCCCTGCCTGCTGATATAAGAAACAGTGTGACATGCTAACGAGGG
TACAGGGGTGCACCAACAGAGAGGAGTGGTACACAGTCGGATAactaggtcccttccgtccacaatgttgtaaatgc
gtgggttgcacccggaggactgtggctactcggttgcataaggagcccttgcacccttgcaggatcgaaacccttgc
atgtccctgggtggcaacatcatctctgtgaagctqattqaccqaaaacatgtqagtggatgtgaggacgqcatqagtggcccaaca
tcgatatacgacacatcttggagtttacggcaaattgttatcacacttccatctggcttgcaccacaatatttagtggacccttgc
gagaaggcttgcgttaatctttaattgtacgaaaccagaacgtgttaatggcrtcccttgcgttgcgttgc
ccccatcttgcggtaatccgcgttgcaccatccatgtatcagcccaatcgccaaatgtgcacccatcttgc
cttgcgtatcaccgcacaaaaatcccatccgcgttgcaccatccgcgggttgcgttgc
cccttgcgttgcaccatccgcgttgcaccatccgc
taataattttgtggggattccccgggtctgtcccgatgttttgcgttgcaccatccgc
atcacoATGatcgaggcaggacggcccttcaacgcggctcccttgcggccatgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
catggctgtccgcacccggccgtgtccgcgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
aggcttgcgttgcgttgcggccgggttgcgttgcaccatccgc
gogactggctgtccgcggccgggttgcgttgcaccatccgc
catgcggccgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
aggccggccgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
tgcggccgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
accgttgcgttgcaccatccgc
AGGAACGTGGAGGAGGTGCAAGGAGGGTGTCTCACCCCTGGTGTCTTCA
GAGGTGCTTATCCGATACCTQCTTCTGTGCATGGCTTGTGCGATATGTACACCGCATTGCA
ATTGGTGGQAGCAGCATAGAGCTTAGAAGGGCTTAGGAGCGGAATGT
GAGCGDAAAGggatccCAACGCTACGCAACTCCCTTGATGGCTTCAAGTACGGAGATGT
GGGGCATC

[FIG. 19C]

CAGGATTGCATGTGCTGCTTCAGCCCTCCTCATGCCACTAGCACTCATTTTCGACTCCCGAT
TGCCAGGTTCAAGGGCATCAAGGAGTCGGAGATCAGCGCGCCATGACCTCCCGCTACTTCGAG
GACCTAACGTCAATGCCGAGGTGCTTTGCATATATTACAGCTAATTATGATGGGTGTGGTGC
CGATATGCTTGCAAGGTCTCCGGTGAGCTAATGATCGGCACATCCCTCCGCGCATCGCAGGTC
GATGTCGTCAATTGTTGGGGCTGGGCTCGCGGCCTCTCGTGCCTATGAGCTGAGCAAGCACC
CGGATGTCAAGGTATGGGCTGAGCAGGGCACATCCTCAGATGATGTTGCTGTAATTGCAATTGAA
ACTTGCGGTTGTTCCCAGCACAGCCTCAATCAATCATGTGTGCTGCGTTGGAAACGCTATGATA
CCCAGCCTCAACATGGGGCAGGGATACGTTACACCTGCTGAACCCCCCGCAACAGGTGGC
CATCATCGAGCAGGGCGTCGCCCCCTGGGGTGGAGCGTGGCTGGGGGTGAGCTCTCTCGG
CTATGTGTGAGTCTAGGCACGGGACGGGTGGACTGAAGCAAGGGTGGCGCAGGGTGT
GATATCCATGTGTTGGACATTCTCGTTGGAAAACAAGATGTGTATTTAGTGTATCTCGGTGG
CTGCATTOCaagctt

[FIG. 20]



【FIG. 21】

ATGccaccccccctccgtccccgtcagggtggccgtgaccfcccacccactgcgtcgccctgcgcgagcccccccccgaaggc
ccagtgcccccggccagccccgtgccacgcctccgcgcggcaagcccaagcgccgcgtggfgggtgaccggccagggc
gtgggtgaccfcccgtggccagtccacccaggcaggttctacgaccaggctgtcgccggccctccggcatcacccacatcgagg
gttcgacaccccccactactccaccaagatgcggcgaggtgaagtccgtggaaegccgccccctacgtggcccgcaagt
gggtgaagcgcatggacgagggtgatgaagttcatgtcgccggcaagcaggccctggaggacgccccctggccctgccccctcg
agggccccggcctggaggaccctggaccgcagctgtgcggcatccgtatggcaccgcocatggcggcatgaccacccctcg
ccctccggcgtggaggccctgaccctgtccggcaccgcacccatgtgcacccatccatccatggcaacatgggc
ggcgcctatgtggccatggaccctggcgtcatggcccccaactactccatccaccgcctgcgcaccggcaactactgcac
catctccggccgaccacatccgcacggcagccgtgtatgcgtggggggggcgcacgcgcgcctccgcocctgggacgc
cgccatggcggcgtcatccgtcaaggccctgtcccgccgcacgcacgcgcgcctccgcocctgggacgc
cgccgcgcacggcgtcatccgtatggcgagggccggcgtgtgggtgtggaggagactggagacgcgcgcgcgcgc
gccaccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
cgccgtgcgcctgtgcgtggagc
gcacccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
cctcccaagggcgccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
ggcgtggcgtgcaccccaacctgaacctggacgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgcgc
gcaggccgacgtgaaggftggccctgtccaaactccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatccatcc
agTGA

【FIG. 22】

MATASLPVQAVTSTHCFGIREPRRKROWARQTRCHASAAGKPKRWWVTGQGVTS
GQSTQQFYDQLLAGASGITHIEGFDTSDYSTKIAGEVKSVDAAPYVARKWVKRMDEVMKF
MFVAGKQALEDAGLPFECPGLELDLDRKLCGILIGTAMGGMTTFASGVVEALTLSGHRKMNP
FCIPFSIGNMGGAMLAMD LGFMGPNYSISTACATGNYCIISAADHIRNGDAVLMLAGGADA
AVIPSGIGGFIACKALSRRNDAPERASRPWDAGRDFVMGEGAGVLVLEELEHARARGAT
ILAEFIGGAATCDAHHMTEPEPSGRGVRLCLERGLAAAGVAPEEVTVNAHGTSTPAGDV
AEFRAIRAVLGHDGLRINSSKGAI GHLLGAAGAVEAVATIQALRTGWLHPNLNLDEPDKGV
DASVLVGGVKEQADVKAVALSNSFGFGGHNSCVLFRKFE

1

**PRODUCTION OF LIPIDS AND
TERPENOIDS IN *AUXENOCHLORELLA*
*PROTOTHECOIDES***

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION**

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 63/109,901 filed on Nov. 5, 2020, the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention describes microalgae having a functional oil-producing ability comprising an altered profile of fatty acids, carotenoids and/or terpenoids and a method of extracting oil using the microalgae. More specifically, it relates to a method for producing oil having modified fatty acids, carotenoids and/or terpenoids content compared to wild-type microalgae, such as *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* with inhouse strain designation as PB5.

BACKGROUND ART

Industrial production of lipids and fats from oleaginous microorganisms has been investigated since the late 19th century, but the promise of these “single cell oils” has only been realized in the last 20-30 years¹. Oleaginous microorganisms trigger biosynthesis of storage lipids in response to imbalances between carbon (C) supply and other major nutrients such as nitrogen (N) or phosphorus (P) that are required for growth. This response allows accumulation of excess C under conditions where limitation for other nutrients prevents cell growth and division. Microbial storage lipids are largely composed of triacylglycerides (TAGs), which can be mobilized and used for rapid growth when the limiting nutrient or nutrients become available. Subsets of yeasts, fungi, and algae, but very few bacteria are oleaginous¹. In the case of some algae, oil production can be stimulated by photosynthesis or by heterotrophic fermentation of sugars, but there is little economic incentive to make lipids which have similar composition or properties to commodity plant oils. In the early 2000s there was a flurry of interest and investment in photosynthetic production of biofuels from algae, but this has now largely faded due to the unfavorable energy return and economics of fuel production from aquatic microbes^{2,3}. Heterotrophic oil productivity is substantially higher than is the case for photoautotrophic production, but the price of common sugar feedstocks is seldom any less than one quarter of the price of typical commodity oils, and the lipid yield for most heterotrophic processes is less than 25%. The economics can improve if the carbon source comes from a low value waste stream (e.g., lactose from cheese production, cellulosic sugars from agricultural waste).

On the other hand, heterotrophic production of very long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (VLCPUFAs) from algae, straustochytrids and yeasts provides a roadmap for successful commercialization of microbial oils. Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) from the dinoflagellate algae *Cryptocodoninum cohnii* and arachidonic acid (ARA) from the yeast *Mortierella alpina* are both important components of infant formula¹. These fatty acids are important components of human breast milk and are vital for brain and nervous system development⁴. The microbial oils address a particular market need for which there are no appropriate substitutes, since

2

the only other significant sources of VLCPUFAs come from fish oils which are subject to contamination with toxins and heavy metals.

Other successful commodity products from aquatic microalgae follow the VLCPUFA model. Astaxanthin and beta-carotene are key carotenoids for human nutrition; the former is one of the most powerful antioxidants known, while beta-carotene also has strong antioxidant activity and is a pro-vitamin A supporting vision⁵. Synthetic astaxanthin derived from petrochemicals is used extensively as a colorant in fish farming but is not approved for human consumption in food or supplements. The major natural source of astaxanthin is the chlorophyte *Haematococcus lacustris* (also *H. pluvialis*), which is grown photoautotrophically in ponds or bioreactors. *Haematococcus* cultures can produce up to 5% of their biomass as astaxanthin when they are subjected to nutrient and high light stress. Astaxanthin is also produced commercially by the heterotrophic fermentation of the yeast *Phaffia rhodozyma*, but the carotenoid content of the biomass is much lower than *Haematococcus*⁶, 7. Natural beta-carotene is extracted from another chlorophyte, the halophile *Dunaliella salina*, which is grown photoautotrophically in large salt ponds. Both *Haematococcus* and *Dunaliella* fetch high prices for the biomass, but photoautotrophic cell densities are too low and the production costs for harvesting and extraction are too high for the natural sources to reach the scale where they can compete with synthetic carotenoids.

Squalene is an important component of human sebum (12%), a fact that justifies its role in the physiology of skin⁸, its action in skin hydration, repairing of the damaged skin, and rejuvenating the aging skin was demonstrated. The emollient and hydration properties of squalene and its biocompatibility with skin make squalene an important component in cosmetic formulations (moisturizing creams, makeup, lipstick, and nail and hair products).

Furthermore, squalene appears to play an essential role in protecting skin from free radical oxidative damage. Squalene acts in skin as a quencher of singlet oxygen, protecting by this mechanism the skin surface from lipid peroxidation due to exposure to UV light.

Squalene has been known to play diverse biological roles as an antioxidant^{9,10}, anti-cancer agent^{10,11}, age defyer^{12,13}, chemo preventive agent^{14,15,16}, antibacterial agent^{13,17}, adjuvant for vaccines and drug carrier^{18,19}, and detoxifier¹¹, 20 among others.

Squalene has proved to be a well-tolerated, non-toxic cytoprotective agent that mitigates undesirable side effects of cancer chemotherapy. Many anticancer therapies damage normal healthy tissues, even to the point of organ toxicity. These toxic secondary effects can limit the anticancer drug dosage, and even lead to treatment failure. Squalene is effective at scavenging and detoxifying free radicals produced by chemotherapeutic or radiation therapy agents.

The role of squalene is not just confined to these applications, but it is also a precursor to thousands of bioactive molecules, including steroids and hopanoids. Consequently, many chemicals, food, cosmetic, and pharmaceutical industries have started to use squalene extensively. It also acts as a boosting agent, or adjuvant, that improves the immune system and makes vaccines more effective. Over the last decade, global squalene demand has increased and gained much public and scientific attention. In 2014, the global squalene market demand was about 2.67 kilotons²¹, with a projected value of 241.9 million USD by 2022, with major revenues expected from the personal care and cosmetic products²². In order to fulfill this ever-increasing demand of

squalene, a pressing need has arisen to produce squalene in a renewable and sustainable manner.

Squalene is harvested from deep-sea sharks and exists in high concentration in shark liver. However, the intensive fishing of these sharks puts in danger the existence of these species, with many of them being close to extinction as their reproductive cycle is quite long and the growth is slow.

Most plant seed oils contain small amounts of squalene²³. This phytosqualene has superior qualities compared to shark squalene, in that it is highly stable, generally free of heavy metal contamination, odorless, and colorless. In spite of containing significant amounts of squalene, plants oils are not ideal sources. Some plants are strictly seasonal, and squalene content varies greatly geographically. Oilseed crops require the appropriate climatic conditions, soil quality, scheduled irrigation or sufficient rainfall, fertilizer, and pest management. The process of cultivation is labor intensive and correspondingly the amount of squalene produced from plant sources is not sufficient to fulfill the increasing worldwide demand.

Several microalgae and other microorganisms accumulate comparable levels of squalene to plant oils. Short generation times and ease of genetic engineering make microalgae a better alternative for squalene production than plants.

Native biosynthetic pathways which include squalene as an intermediate are present in many microalgae, and these pathways can be transformed or extended to convert the organisms into “cellular factories” for squalene production.

Auxenochlorella protothecoides is one of the most oleaginous species of microalgae and can be cultivated heterotrophically with productivity in commercial scale²⁴. Metabolic engineering using genetic tools on this organism has strong potential to produce variety products including carotenoids, terpenoids, and other active ingredients, which can be an important alternative source of currently depleted natural resources.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors of the present application have developed the Trebouxiophyte alga, *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* PB5, as a biotechnology platform for the heterotrophic production of valuable lipids, carotenoids, terpenoids, and other compounds. Efficient transformation and facile gene targeting by homologous recombination are features of this system. Targeted knockouts and knock-ins of fatty acid and lipid biosynthetic pathway genes enabled the improved synthesis of polyunsaturated fatty acids. Valuable ketocarotenoids were produced by disrupting endogenous carotenoid biosynthetic genes and expressing heterologous beta-carotene ketolase transgenes. Squalene accumulation was increased by blocking phytosterol biosynthesis. *A. protothecoides* PB5 can be employed as a general platform for the photoautotrophic, mixotrophic, or heterotrophic production of valuable biomolecules. Here the inventors of the present application demonstrate the utility of the system for the biosynthesis of modified fatty acids, lipids, carotenoids, and other terpenoids (FIG. 1).

It is an object of the present invention to provide mutant microalgae having functional oil-producing ability comprising modified profiles of fatty acids, carotenoids and/or terpenoids as proposed to solve the above problems.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing oil using the microalgal mutant.

Another object of the present invention is to provide oil prepared by the above production method.

Advantageous Effects

The present application shows that when using a microalgal mutant in which *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* PB5 microalga genes are knocked out or knocked in by homologous recombination, an oil containing fatty acids, carotenoids and/or terpenoids of an altered profile compared to that of wild type thereof can be effectively extracted.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 shows a diagram of the Isoprenoid pathway, an essential metabolic pathway present in microalgae.

FIGS. 2A-B show the sequence of the transforming DNA from the LCYE-1 disruption construct pPB0014. (SEQ ID NO: 1)

FIGS. 3A-C show the sequence of the transforming DNA from the LCYE-2 disruption construct pPB0038. (SEQ ID NO: 2)

FIGS. 4A-D show spectrophotometric and HPLC analysis of carotenoid pigments from wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5, 14-2, and 38-25. Absorbance spectra of acetone-methanol-extracted pigments from wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5, LCYE-1 disruption strain 14-2, and LCYE-1/LCYE-2 double knockout strain 38-25. Peak absorbances are indicated for each curve (FIG. 4A). HPLC chromatograms showing carotenoid pigments present in oil extracted from the same strains as in A (FIG. 4B: PB5, FIG. 4C: 14-2, FIG. 4D: 38-25).

FIG. 5 shows the sequence of the expression module cloned into the KpnI site of pPB0038 to generate construct pPB0120. (SEQ ID NO: 3)

FIG. 6. Nucleotide sequence of the ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1 expression module from pPB0123. (SEQ ID NO: 4)

FIG. 7A shows the amino acid sequence of native CrBKT1. The predicted plastid transit peptide is underlined. (SEQ ID NO:5)

FIG. 7B shows the amino acid sequence of chimeric ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1. The predicted ApSAD2 plastid transit peptide is underlined. (SEQ ID NO:6)

FIGS. 8A-E show shake flask cultures illustrating the color differences due to engineered alterations in the carotenoid profiles (FIG. 8A). HPLC chromatograms showing carotenoid pigments present in oil extracted from the same strains as in A (FIG. 8B: 120A-2, FIG. 8C: 123A-5, FIG. 8D: 120B-5, FIG. 8E: 123B-24).

FIGS. 9A-C show the sequence of the transforming construct pPB0065, targeting disruption of ApSQE-2. (SEQ ID NO: 7)

FIGS. 10A-B show the sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0077. (SEQ ID NO: 8)

FIGS. 11A-B show the chromatograms of HPLC analysis of the standard squalene (FIG. 11A), the accumulation of squalene in SQE double knockout strain 77B-21 (FIG. 11B).

FIG. 12 shows the amino acid sequence of *A. protothecoides* 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase (DXS). The predicted plastid transit peptide is underlined. (SEQ ID NO:9)

FIG. 13 shows the amino acid sequence of *A. protothecoides* 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate reductoisomerase (DXR). (SEQ ID NO:10)

FIG. 14 shows the amino acid sequence of *A. protothecoides* farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FDPS). (SEQ ID NO:11)

FIG. 15 shows the amino acid sequence of *A. protothecoides* squalene synthase (SQS). (SEQ ID NO:12)

FIGS. 16A-C show the sequence of the transforming construct pPB0039, targeting insertion of the ApSAD2 promoter upstream of the FAD3-1 coding sequence. (SEQ ID NO: 13)

FIG. 17 shows the nucleotide sequence of the ApFATA promoter in pPB0041 SEQ ID NO: 14)

FIGS. 18A-C show the sequence of the transforming construct pPB0118, targeting AtPDCT and ScSUC2 expression to the THI4 locus. (SEQ ID NO: 15)

FIGS. 19A-C show the sequence of the transforming construct pPB0142, targeting LuFAD3A and neoR expression to the THI4 locus. (SEQ ID NO: 16)

FIG. 20 shows the growth of strains targeting one or both alleles of THI4. Wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5 is unable to grow without added thiamine. Thiamine prototrophy is observed in strain 118B-8, expressing AtTHIC, targeted to one allele of THI4. Disruption of the second THI4 allele by pPB0142 renders the transformants thiazole auxotrophs.

FIG. 21 shows the coding sequence of KASII from *A. protothecoides*, optimized for translation. (SEQ ID NO:17)

FIG. 22 shows the amino acid sequence of *A. protothecoides* beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase II. (SEQ ID NO:18)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Unless otherwise defined herein, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Furthermore, to the extent that the terms “including,” “includes,” “having,” “has,” “with,” or variants thereof are used in either the detailed description and/or the claims, such terms are intended to be inclusive in a manner like a term “comprising.” The transitional terms/phrases (and any grammatical variations thereof) “comprising,” “comprises,” “comprise,” “consisting essentially of,” “consists essentially of,” “consisting,” and “consists of” can be used interchangeably.

The phrases “consisting essentially of” or “consists essentially of” indicate that the claim encompasses embodiments containing the specified materials or steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s) of the claim.

The term “about” means within an acceptable error range for the value as determined by one of ordinary skills in the art, which will depend in part on how the value is measured or determined, i.e., the limitations of the measurement system. Where values are described in the application and claims unless otherwise stated the term “about” meaning within an acceptable error range for the particular value should be assumed. In the context of compositions containing amounts of ingredients where the term “about” is used, these compositions contain the stated amount of the ingredient with a variation (error range) of 0-10% around the value ($X \pm 10\%$).

An “allele” refers to a version of a gene at the same place on homologous chromosomes. An allele may encode the same or similar protein.

“Exogenous gene” shall mean a nucleic acid that codes for the expression of an RNA and/or protein that has been introduced into a cell (e.g., by transformation/transfection), and is also referred to as a “transgene”. A cell comprising an exogenous gene may be referred to as a recombinant cell, into which additional exogenous gene(s) may be introduced. The exogenous gene may be from a different species (and so heterologous), or from the same species (and so homolo-

gous), relative to the cell being transformed. Thus, an exogenous gene can include a homologous gene that occupies a different location in the genome of the cell or is under different control, relative to the endogenous copy of the gene. An exogenous gene may be present in more than one copy in the cell. An exogenous gene may be maintained in a cell as an insertion into the genome (nuclear or plastid) or as an episomal molecule.

“Fatty acids” shall mean free fatty acids, fatty acid salts, or fatty acyl moieties in a glycerolipid. It will be understood that fatty acyl groups of glycerolipids can be described in terms of the carboxylic acid or anion of a carboxylic acid that is produced when the triglyceride is hydrolyzed or saponified.

“Fixed carbon source” is a molecule(s) containing carbon, typically an organic molecule that is present at ambient temperature and pressure in solid or liquid form in a culture media that can be utilized by a microorganism cultured therein. Accordingly, carbon dioxide is not a fixed carbon source.

“Microalgae” are eukaryotic microbial organisms that contain a chloroplast or other plastid, and optionally that can perform photosynthesis, or a prokaryotic microbial organism capable of performing photosynthesis. Microalgae include obligate photoautotrophs, which cannot metabolize a fixed carbon source as energy, as well as heterotrophs, which can live solely off a fixed carbon source. Microalgae include unicellular organisms that separate from sister cells shortly after cell division, such as *Chlamydomonas*, as well as microbes such as, for example, *Volvox*, which is a simple multicellular photosynthetic microbe of two distinct cell types. Microalgae include cells such as *Chlorella*, *Dunaliella*, and *Prototheca*. Microalgae also include other microbial photosynthetic organisms that exhibit cell-cell adhesion, such as *Agmenellum*, *Anabaena*, and *Pyrolobryts*. Microalgae also include obligate heterotrophic microorganisms that have lost the ability to perform photosynthesis.

In connection with a recombinant cell, the term “knock-down” refers to a gene that has been partially suppressed (e.g., by about 1-95%) in terms of the production or activity of a protein encoded by the gene.

Also, in connection with a recombinant cell, the term “knockout” refers to a gene that has been completely or nearly completely (e.g., >95%) suppressed in terms of the production or activity of a protein encoded by the gene. Knockouts can be prepared by ablating the gene by homologous recombination of a nucleic acid sequence into a coding sequence, gene deletion, mutation, or other methods. When homologous recombination is performed, the nucleic acid that is inserted (“knocked-in”) can be a sequence that encodes an exogenous gene of interest or a sequence that does not encode for a gene of interest.

An “oleaginous” cell is a cell capable of producing at least 20% lipid by dry cell weight, naturally or through recombinant or classical strain improvement. An “oleaginous microbe” or “oleaginous microorganism” is a microbe, including a microalga that is oleaginous (especially eukaryotic microalgae that store lipid). An oleaginous cell also encompasses a cell that has had some or all its lipid or other content removed, and both live and dead cells.

In connection with a functional oil, a “profile” is the distribution of species or triglycerides or fatty acyl groups within the oil. A “fatty acid profile” is the distribution of fatty acyl groups in the triglycerides of the oil without reference to the attachment to a glycerol backbone. Fatty acid profiles are typically determined by conversion to a fatty acid methyl ester (FAME), followed by gas chroma-

tography (GC) analysis with flame ionization detection (FID). The fatty acid profile can be expressed as one or more percent of fatty acid in the total fatty acid signal determined from the area under the curve for that fatty acid.

"Recombinant" is a cell, nucleic acid, protein, or vector that has been modified due to the introduction of an exogenous nucleic acid or the alteration of a native nucleic acid. Thus, e.g., recombinant cells can express genes that are not found within the native (non-recombinant) form of the cell or express native genes differently than those genes are expressed by a non-recombinant cell. Recombinant cells can, without limitation, include recombinant nucleic acids that encode for a gene product or for suppression elements such as mutations, knockouts, antisense, interfering RNA (RNAi), or dsRNA that reduce the levels of the active gene product in a cell. A "recombinant nucleic acid" is a nucleic acid originally formed in vitro, in general, by the manipulation of nucleic acid, e.g., using polymerases, ligases, exonucleases, and endonucleases, using chemical synthesis, or otherwise is in a form not normally found in nature. Recombinant nucleic acids may be produced, for example, to place two or more nucleic acids in operable linkage. Thus, an isolated nucleic acid or an expression vector formed in vitro by ligating DNA molecules that are not normally joined in nature, are both considered recombinant for the purposes of this invention. Once a recombinant nucleic acid is made and introduced into a host cell or organism, it may replicate using the in vivo cellular machinery of the host cell; however, such nucleic acids, once produced recombinantly, although subsequently replicated intracellularly, are still considered recombinant for purposes of this invention. Similarly, a "recombinant protein" is a protein made using recombinant techniques, i.e., through the expression of a recombinant nucleic acid.

The terms "triglyceride", "triacyl glyceride" and "TAG" are used interchangeably as is known in the art.

In the present disclosure, ranges are stated in shorthand, to avoid having to set out at length and describe each value within the range. Any appropriate value within the range can be selected, where appropriate, as the upper value, lower value, or the terminus of the range. For example, a range of 0.1-1.0 represents the terminal values of 0.1 and 1.0, as well as the intermediate values of 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, and all intermediate ranges encompassed within 0.1-1.0, such as 0.2-0.5, 0.2-0.8, 0.7-1.0, etc. When ranges are used herein, combinations and sub-combinations of ranges (e.g., subranges within the disclosed range), specific embodiments therein are intended to be explicitly included.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing oil comprising a fatty acid, carotenoid, and/or terpenoid of a modified profile using a gene knockout or knock-in microalgal mutant by homologous recombination is provided.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing oil, characterized in that the weight ratio of zeaxanthin to lutein is high compared to the oil produced from wild-type microalgae, is provided.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing an oil comprising astaxanthin is provided.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing an oil comprising squalene is provided.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a functional oil, characterized in that the weight ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 is low compared to the oil produced from wild-type microalgae, is provided.

Preferably, the ratio of the oil ranges between 1:1 to 5:1 compared to the oil produced from the wild type microalgae which is 7:1.

According to one aspect of the present invention, a method for producing a functional oil, characterized in that the omega-3 fatty acids increased 3-5-fold and the overall PUFA increased 2-3-fold compared to the wild-type strain.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the microalgal mutant may be a gene knockout or knock-in 10 microalgal mutant by homologous recombination. Preferably, the microalgae may be *Auxenochlorella* genus, more preferably, *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* PB5.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the microalgae mutant is to provide a method for producing 15 functional oil, characterized in that one or more of the alleles LCYE-1 and LCYE-2 of the Lycopene Cyclase Epsilon gene are knocked out.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the microalgal mutant strain may be to provide a method for 20 producing a functional oil, characterized in that one or more of the alleles SQE-1 and SQE-2 of the Squalene Epoxidase gene are knocked out.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the microalgal mutant may be to provide a method for producing 25 a functional oil, characterized in that the native FAD3 promoter is replaced with a Stearoyl-ACP Desaturase (SAD2) promoter, or the native FAD3 promoter is replaced with an acyl-ACP thioesterase (FATA) promoter.

According to one aspect of the present invention, it may 30 be to provide the use of microalgae as a platform to produce functional oils comprising fatty acids, carotenoids, and/or terpenoids of altered profile by modification of the isoprenoid pathway.

According to an aspect of the present invention, it may be 35 to provide a mutant microalga for the production of oil containing fatty acids, carotenoids, and/or terpenoids of an altered profile.

According to an aspect of the present invention, it may be 40 to provide an oleaginous microalgae mutant that produce a functional oil, the microalgae comprising an ablation of one or more alleles of an endogenous polynucleotide or comprising an exogenous gene.

According to one aspect of the present invention, the microalgal mutant is a microalgal mutant knocked out or 45 knocked-in by homologous recombination, preferably, at least one of the alleles LCYE-1 and LCYE-2 of lycopene cyclase epsilon characterized by knocking out, or knocking out at least one of alleles SQE-1 and SQE-2 of squalene epoxidase, or replacing the native FAD3 promoter with a Stearoyl-ACP Desaturase (SAD2) promoter or a mutant strain in which the native FAD3 promoter is replaced with the promoter of the *A. protothecoides* FATA gene encoding acyl-ACP thioesterase.

Hereinafter, the present invention will be explained in 50 detail.

As an aspect for achieving the object of the present invention, the present invention provides an *Auxenochlorella* protothecoides mutant for producing a fatty acid, a carotenoid, or terpenoid having a modified profile.

As an embodiment, the *Auxenochlorella* protothecoides 55 mutant may be a mutant of *A. protothecoides* PB5.

The *Auxenochlorella* protothecoides mutant of the present invention may be prepared using general mutation treatment methods.

In the present invention, "mutation" refers to a change in 60 a nucleotide sequence due to the insertion, deletion, or substitution of a base into the original nucleotide sequence.

As a means of mutation, the number of inserted bases may be different depending on the mutation and thus is not limited thereto. "Deletion mutation" means a mutation in which a base is removed from the original nucleotide sequence, and "substitution mutation" means that an original nucleotide is changed to another base without changing the number in the original nucleotide sequence.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention, pPB0014 has a transforming DNA with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 which is a DNA construct in which LCYE-1 encoding one allele of Lycopene Cyclase Epsilon in Auxenochlorella protothecoides PB5 is prepared in order to change the ratio of lutein derived from alpha-carotene and zeaxanthin derived from beta-carotene compared to wild type. Then, strain 14-2 was prepared by introducing pPB0014. Afterward, in order to generate a double knockout strain completely lacking lutein, a carotenoid derived from alpha-carotene, pPB0038, a DNA construct having a transforming DNA with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, in which LCYE-2 encoding the second allele of Lycopene Cyclase Epsilon was prepared. The mutant strain 38-25 is prepared by transforming the strain 14-2 with said pPB0038.

It was confirmed that the above strains increased the ratio of zeaxanthin to lutein compared to the wild type.

In a further embodiment, to prepare a keto-carotenoid, an expression module for *C. reinhardtii* beta-carotene ketolase1 (CrBKT1) SEQ ID NO: 4, was introduced into the pPB0038 backbone to produce construct pPB0123, which targeted the LCYE-2 single allele. Alternatively, strains in which LCYE alleles were disrupted were prepared. In addition, when a single LCYE allele is knocked out, 4-keto-lutein and astaxanthin are produced, while when both LCYE alleles are knocked out strains almost exclusively produced astaxanthin.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention, to obtain squalene, ApSQE-2 encoding the Squalene Epoxidase allele 2 in Auxenochlorella protothecoides PB5 is knocked out. DNA construct having a transforming DNA with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 pPB0065 was prepared and introduced into wild-type Auxenochlorella protothecoides PB5 to prepare strain 65-4. Then, in order to generate a double knockout strain, pPB0077, a DNA construct having nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 8 was constructed and transformed into the strain 65-4 in which SQE-1 encoding Squalene Epoxidase allele 1 was knocked out. The prepared mutant strain was named strain 77B-21.

It was confirmed that the above strains can accumulate squalene while the wild type cannot.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the native FAD3 promoter in *A. protothecoides* PB5 is replaced with a promoter of a gene that is strongly up-regulated during lipid production, thereby activating the endogenous FAD3 gene encoding Fatty acid Desaturase 3 to reduce the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 compared to the wild type. Specifically, construct pPB0039 having a transforming DNA with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 was constructed in which the ApSAD2 promoter was inserted upstream of the FAD3-1 coding sequence. Alternatively, construct pPB0041 was constructed, in which the native FAD3 promoter was replaced with the promoter of the FATA gene encoding acyl-ACP thioesterase SEQ ID NO: 14. Plasmid construct pPB0039 and pPB0041 were introduced into wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5 to obtain strains 39-1 and 39-9 strains 41-1 and 41-3, respectively. It was confirmed that the strains increased the ratio of omega 3 to omega 6 compared to the wild type.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention, transfer of C18:1 between DAG and phospholipids was improved by transforming a construct, pPB0118 SEQ ID NO:15, encoding *Arabidopsis* phosphatidylcholine:diacylglycerol choline phosphotransferase (PDCT) into strain 41-3. As a result, C18:2 accumulation increased by 2.5-fold in strains 118B-8 and 118B-20, indicating that expression of AtPDCT during lipid production caused significant enhancement of FAD2 activity, and the incorporation of C18:2 into TAG was favored over desaturation by FAD3.

In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the accumulation of fatty acids C18:3 (ALA) was increased by the introduction of a construct, pPB0142 SEQ ID: NO:16, encoding heterologous (*Linum usitatissimum*) FAD3A into strain 118B-8. As a result, ALA accumulation increased about 3% in strain 142B-11.

Auxenochlorella protothecoides PB5 is a superior system for generating engineered microalgae strains due to its ease of transformation and facile homologous recombination that does not require riboprotein-mediated gene editing. PB5 has a higher intrinsic capacity than non-photosynthetic heterotrophic platforms for production of carotenoids and other terpenoids due to the high flux through these biosynthetic pathways during photosynthetic growth.

The Mutants of the present invention are more industrially useful in that they may provide oils having fatty acids, carotenoids, and squalene content of a profile different from that produced in wild-type Auxenochlorella protothecoides.

In some cases, the percent (w/w) of zeaxanthin in the carotenoids produced by using the microalgal mutants of the present invention is 2-3-fold higher compared to the wild-type microalgae and the zeaxanthin is present as a major carotenoid. In a specific embodiment, the percent of zeaxanthin produced ranges between 40 to 90% (w/w) of the total identified carotenoids.

In some cases, the oil produced may contain keto carotenoids, such as the mixture of keto lutein, and astaxanthin, and the astaxanthin is present as a major carotenoid. In a specific embodiment, the percent of keto carotenoids produced ranges between 20-90% (w/w) of the total identified carotenoids.

In some cases, the oil produced may contain squalene. In a specific embodiment, the amount of squalene in the oil produced ranges from 300 to 1300 ppm.

In some cases, the weight ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 in the oil produced by using the microalgal mutants of the present invention is low compared to the oil produced from wild-type microalgae which are 7:1. In a specific embodiment the percent ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 in the oil produced ranges from 1:1 to 5:1.

The mutant of the present invention may grow appropriately in a growth environment (light conditions, temperature conditions, medium, etc.) capable of culturing conventional Auxenochlorella protothecoides.

The mutant of the present invention may be cultured according to the culture conditions of general Auxenochlorella protothecoides, and specifically, a culture medium capable of culturing algae under weak light conditions may be used. To culture a specific microorganism, it may include a nutrient material required for a culture target, that is, a microorganism to be cultured, and may be mixed by adding material for a special purpose. The medium includes an all-natural medium, synthetic medium, or selective medium. The Auxenochlorella protothecoides mutant may be cultured according to a conventional culture method.

11

The pH of the culture medium is not particularly limited if the *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* may survive and grow, for example, it is viable at pH 5 or higher, specifically at pH 6 to 8.

The *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* mutant of the present invention may produce modified profiles of fatty acids, carotenoids, and terpenoids in cells, so that oils extracted from mutants of the present invention may be effectively used as raw materials for pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food, feed, etc.

In this aspect, the present invention provides a composition comprising the oil derived from the *Auxenochlorella protothecoides* mutant. The composition may be a cosmetic composition, a food composition, a composition for a food additive, a feed composition, a composition for a feed additive, a pharmaceutical composition, a raw material composition for food, a raw material composition for feed, a raw material composition for pharmaceutics or a raw material composition for cosmetics.

The composition may be used as a raw material for food, feed or pharmaceutics, and may be used as a formulation for oral administration or parenteral administration. For example, it may be used as a formulation for oral, transdermal or injection administration. Accordingly, the composition of the present invention may be a composition for oral administration in that the composition may be orally supplied to be included in food, medicine, or feed.

In the case of compositions for oral administration may be formulated as powders, granules, tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, suspensions, etc. by using methods known in the art. For example, oral preparations may be obtained by mixing the active ingredient with excipients, grinding the mixture, adding suitable additives, and processing it into a granule mixture to obtain tablets or sugar tablets. Examples of suitable excipients include sugars, including lactose, dextrose, sucrose, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol and maltitol, and starches, including corn starch, wheat starch, rice starch and potato starch, cellulose, including methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, and the like, fillers such as gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and the like may be included. In addition, cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone, agar, alginic acid, or sodium alginate may be added as a disintegrant if necessary.

The composition may be used for human and animal health promotion. Specifically, the mutant of the present invention has oil production ability with enhanced antioxidant pigment content, so it is not easily oxidized, and functionally, it is possible to provide an oil superior to conventional microalgae-derived vegetable oil in antioxidant activity, and it can be effectively used as a raw material for health functional food, feed, or medicine.

In addition, since the composition may be added to food or feed to achieve a special purpose use, in this respect it may be a food composition, a composition for food additives, a feed composition or a composition for feed additives. When the composition is used in feed or food, it is possible to maintain or enhance body health by pigments and lipids including zeaxanthin produced by the mutant and accumulated in cells.

In the present invention, "additive" is included as long as it is a material added to food or feed other than the main raw material, and specifically, it may be an effective active material having functionality in food or feed.

In the present invention, the composition for feed may be prepared in the form of fermented feed, compounded feed, pellet form, and silage. The fermented feed may include a

12

functional oil derived from the mutant of the present invention, and additionally include various microorganisms or enzymes.

The composition is mixed with a carrier commonly used in the food or pharmaceutical field, such as tablets, troches, capsules, elixirs, syrups, powders. It can be prepared and administered in the form of powder, suspension, or granules. As the carrier, binders, lubricants, disintegrants, excipients, solubilizers, dispersants, stabilizers, suspending agents, and the like may be used. The administration method may be an oral, or parenteral method, but preferably oral administration. In addition, the dosage may be appropriately selected according to the absorption of the active ingredient in the body, the inactivation rate and excretion rate, the age, sex, condition of the subject, and the like. The pH of the composition can be easily changed according to the manufacturing conditions of the drug, food, cosmetics, etc. in which the composition is used.

The composition may include 0.001 to 99.99% by weight, preferably 0.1 to 99% by weight of any one selected from the group consisting of the microalgal mutants of the present invention, the culture of the mutants, the dried product of the mutant, or the culture thereof, and the extract of the mutant or the culture thereof, and the functional oil derived from the mutant, based on the total weight of the composition, and the method of using the composition and the content of the active ingredient may be appropriately adjusted according to the purpose of use.

The mutant may be included in the composition in its own or dried form, and the culture of the mutant may be included in the composition in a concentrated or dried form. In addition, the dried product refers to the dried form of the mutant or its culture and may be in the form of a powder prepared by freeze-drying or the like.

In addition, the extract means that obtained by extraction from the mutant of the present invention, its culture medium or its dried product, an extract using a solvent, etc. Thus, the mutant of the present invention includes those obtained by crushing the mutant of the present invention. Specifically, the oil with the modified profile accumulated in the cells of the mutant of the present invention may be extracted and separated by a physical or chemical method.

In addition, the method for producing oil with the modified profile according to the present invention may include culturing the mutant of the present invention. In addition, the production method may further include; after the culturing step, isolating the mutant of the present invention from the culture.

The culture may be performed in a medium of pH 5.0 to 8.0 conditions. In addition, it may be carried out under a weak light condition, specifically, a light intensity condition in the range of 0.1-1, 1-3, or 3-5 $\mu\text{mol photons/m}^2 \text{ s}$.

The production method may further include, in addition to the culturing step, a concentration step to increase the content of algae after culturing, and a drying step of drying by further reducing the moisture of the algae that has undergone the concentration step. However, the concentration step or the drying step is not necessarily required, and in general, the concentration and drying method commonly used in the field to which the present invention pertains, and it can be carried out using a machine.

The production method may further include the step of purifying the material isolated from the culture, which may be performed by a conventional purification method in the art to which the present invention pertains.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, the present invention will be explained in detail through Examples and Experimental Examples, but these Examples and Experimental Examples are presented only as of the illustration of the present invention, and the scope of the present invention is not limited thereby.

The oleaginous Trebouxiophyte alga, *Auxenochlorella* protothecoides, stores copious amounts of triacylglyceride oil under conditions where the nutritional carbon supply is in excess, but cell division is inhibited due to the limitation of other essential nutrients.

Heterotrophically grown *Auxenochlorella* strains also degrade chlorophyll and down-regulate photosynthesis but maintain significant levels of the yellow carotenoids lutein and zeaxanthin. Bulk biosynthesis of fatty acids with carbon chain lengths up to C18 occurs in the plastids; fatty acids are then exported to the endoplasmic reticulum where incorporation into triacylglycerides (TAGs) occurs. Lipids are stored in large cytoplasmic organelles called lipid bodies until environmental conditions change to favor growth, whereupon they are rapidly mobilized to provide energy and carbon molecules for anabolic metabolism. Wild-type *A. protothecoides* storage lipid is comprised mainly of oleic (~68%), palmitic (~12%), and linoleic (~13%) acids, with minor amounts of stearic, myristic, α -linolenic, and palmitoleic acids. This fatty acid profile results from the relative activities and substrate affinities of the enzymes of the endogenous fatty acid biosynthetic pathway. *A. protothecoides* is amenable to manipulation of fatty acid and lipid biosynthesis using molecular genetic tools, enabling the production of oils with fatty acid profiles that are very different from the wild-type composition. Similarly, the carotenoid and phytosterol profile of the lipid fraction can be altered by genetic engineering of terpenoid biosynthesis pathways.

We have demonstrated efficient transformation and facile nuclear gene targeting via homologous recombination in *A. protothecoides*, PB5. In the following examples, we leverage our ability to perform gene knockouts and knock-ins to produce algal oils with modified fatty acid, carotenoid, and terpenoid profiles.

Wild type *A. protothecoides* PB5 was obtained from the University of Texas Culture Collection of Algae (UTEX catalog number 250), and it is available to the public to purchase via webpage www.utex.org.

Example 1. Production of Strains with Altered Carotenoid Profiles

Lutein is the predominant carotenoid that accumulates in heterotrophic *A. protothecoides* cells. To alter the ratio of lutein (derived from alpha-carotene) to zeaxanthin (derived from beta-carotene) we made a DNA construct to disrupt LCYE-1, encoding one allele of lycopene cyclase epsilon in *A. protothecoides* PB5. In general, flanking regions, promoters, and terminator sequences were PCR amplified from PB5 genomic DNA, and codon-optimized synthetic genes were amplified from plasmid DNA. Herculase II Fusion Enzyme (Agilent, USA) was used for PCR amplification. 50 ml amplification reactions contained 100-500 ng genomic DNA template, 250 micromolar dNTPs, 0.25 micromolar primers, and 0.5 ml Herculase II fusion DNA polymerase. Initial denaturation was at 95° C. for 2 minutes or at 98° C. for 4 minutes for highly GC-enriched templates. PCR products were amplified using 30-35 cycles of 95° C. or 98° C.,

20 seconds, 55-65° C. annealing for 20 seconds, and extension at 72° C. for 30 seconds per kb. The sequence of the transforming DNA from the LCYE-1 disruption construct pPB0014 is shown below in FIG. 2.

Relevant restriction sites used to generate linear DNA and for cloning are indicated in lowercase, bold, and are from 5'-3' HindIII, KpnI, SacI, and HindIII. Underlined sequences at the 5' and 3' flanks of the construct represent genomic DNA from *A. protothecoides* PB5 that enable targeted integration of the transforming DNA via homologous recombination at the LCYE-1 locus. Proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction, the *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* TUB2 promoter (CrTUB2') driving the expression of the *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* SUC2 gene (ScSUC2, codon-optimized for expression in *A. protothecoides* and encoding sucrose invertase, thereby enabling the strain to utilize exogenous sucrose) is indicated by lowercase, boxed text. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for ScSUC2 are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The terminator region of the *A. protothecoides* enolase gene (ApPGH) is indicated by small capitals.

Construct pPB0014 was introduced into *A. protothecoides* PB5 using a modified lithium acetate transformation procedure. Briefly, 50 mL of seed growth medium containing 2% glucose in 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask was inoculated with a loop of cells from a plate. Cultures were grown for 2 days at room temperature on an orbital shaker at 140 rpm, to an OD 750 nm 2-4. 50 ml of cell culture was harvested in a Falcon tube and centrifuged for 5 minutes at 3750 rpm. The cell pellet was washed once with 5 ml wash solution (0.1 M Lithium acetate (LiAc) and 1×TE (10 mM Tris, 0.1 mM EDTA) buffer and centrifuged to discard the supernatant. The cells were resuspended in 500 μ l wash solution, transferred to a sterile Eppendorf tube, and incubated for 1 hour on a rotary shaker at room temperature at 150 rpm. For each transformation, 150 μ l of cell suspension was aliquoted into a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube. 5-20 μ g of linearized DNA was added to the cell suspension, then incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature at 150 rpm. 750 μ l of PEG solution (0.1 M LiAc, 1×TE, 40% PEG-4000) was added to the Eppendorf tube, and transformations were incubated overnight on the shaker at room temperature at 150 rpm. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 5000 rpm for 30 seconds and resuspended in 250 μ l of 1 M sorbitol. About 180 μ l of the transformation was spread on growth media plates with 1.5% agar with selection, using glass beads, and incubated at room temperature for 1 to 2 weeks. Single colonies were observed on the agar plate after 5-6 days of plating.

Primary transformants were selected for heterotrophic growth on media with sucrose as the sole carbon source. Colonies were clonally purified, and integration of pPB0014 at the LCYE-1 locus was verified for 11 strains by PCR amplification of the regions flanking the 5' and 3' ends of the integration site. Strain 14-2 was selected as the parent strain for subsequent modifications. Next, we disrupted LCYE-2, encoding the second allele of lycopene cyclase epsilon, with the goal of generating double knockout strains completely lacking in alpha-carotene-derived carotenoids. The sequence of the transforming DNA from the LCYE-2 disruption construct pPB0038 is shown below in FIG. 3. Relevant restriction sites used to generate linear DNA and for cloning are indicated in lowercase, bold, and are from 5'-3' HindIII, KpnI, SacI, and HindIII. Underlined sequences at the 5' and 3' flanks of the construct represent genomic DNA from *A. protothecoides* that enable targeted integration of the transforming DNA via homologous recombination at the

LCYE-2 locus. Proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction, the *A. protothecoides* HUP1 promoter (ApHUP1) driving the expression of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* THIC gene (AtTHIC, codon-optimized for expression in *A. protothecoides* and encoding 4-amino-5-hydroxymethyl-2-methylpyrimidine synthase activity, thereby permitting the strain to grow in the absence of exogenous thiamine) is indicated by lowercase, boxed text. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for AtTHIC are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The terminator region of the *A. protothecoides* heat shock protein 90 (ApHSP90) gene is indicated by small capitals.

Construct pPB0038 was transformed into LCYE-1 disruption strain 14-2. Primary transformants were selected for heterotrophic growth on media without thiamine, and with sucrose as the sole carbon source. Colonies were clonally purified, and double knockout of both LCYE-1 and LCYE-2 was verified in strain 38-25 by PCR amplification of the regions flanking the 5' and 3' ends of the pPB0014 and pPB0038 integrations. Spectrophotometric, and HPLC analysis of carotenoid pigments from wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5, 14-2, and 38-25 is shown in FIGS. 4A and B. Pigments for spectrophotometric analysis were extracted by mechanical disruption of cell pellets mixed with 0.5 mm glass beads (BioSpec Products, Inc.) suspended in 80:20 acetone:methanol, using a Mini-Beadbeater-16 (BioSpec Products, Inc.). Absorption spectra were acquired using a Thermo Scientific GeneSyst 10 uv spectrophotometer. Lutein is the predominant pigment extracted from the wild-type strain. Reduction of lycopene cyclase epsilon activity by disrupting the LCYE-1 allele in 14-2 increases the ratio of zeaxanthin to lutein. Lutein accumulation is abolished in the 38-25 double knockout strain, and zeaxanthin is the major carotenoid.

Cell cultivation—Cells were grown in a growth medium composed of the following chemicals in 1 L deionized water. 0.025 g NaCl, 0.25 g NaNO₃, 0.074 g MgSO₄·7H₂O, 0.025 g CaCl₂·2H₂O, 0.075 g K₂HPO₄, 0.176 g KH₂PO₄, 2.38 g HEPES, 3 g Yeast extract, 5 ml stock vitamin solutions, and 20 g glucose. pH was adjusted to 6.8 with 20% NaOH. Stock vitamin solution contained the following in 200 ml HEPES solution (50 mM HEPES, pH7.8); 0.005 g Biotin, 0.44 g Thiamine HCl, 0.027 g B12, and 0.619 g D-Pantothenic acid hemicalcium. The stock vitamin solution was filtered, sterilized, and stored at 4° C. refrigerator.

Seed flask cultivation—in 250 ml Erlenmeyer flask containing 95 ml growth medium and 5 ml 40% stock glucose solution, loopful of cells were inoculated from the agar plate and grown for 2 days on an orbital shaker at 115 rpm at 28° C. under 0.1-1 μmol photons/m² s low intensity LED light.

Main flask cultivation—in 1 L Erlenmeyer flask containing 332.5 ml growth medium and 17.5 ml 40% stock glucose solution, inoculate cells from seed flask so that initial optical density (OD) at 750 nm wavelength was 0.5-0.6. Incubate the flask on the orbital shaker under 0.1-1 μmol photons/m² s low intensity LED light at 115 rpm at 28° C. for 4-5 days until all glucose is exhausted. Harvest the cells via centrifugation and freeze dry the cell pellet. Store the freeze-dried cell pellet at -20° C. freezer.

The lipid extraction method and HPLC parameters are described below.

About 3-5 g lyophilized PB5 and modified strain cell powders were finely ground in a mortar using a pestle. 30 ml of ether was added to the milled microalga powders then vortexed for about 30 seconds to extract oil and carotenoids. 30 ml of additional ether was used if necessary to complete the extraction of all the oil and carotenoids. The remaining

ether was evaporated using an evaporator at room temperature. The extracted oil was dissolved and diluted at a 1:10 ratio with a mixed Hexane:Ethyl Acetate (70:30, v/v) solvent. 10 ul of the diluted solution was injected into an HPLC (Agilent 1260 Infinity II, Agilent, USA) and separation of analytes was conducted on a Luna silica 100 A column (25 cm×4.6 mm; 5 μm, Phenomenex, USA). The mobile phase consisted of hexane:ethyl acetate (70:30, v/v) at a flow rate of 1.5 ml/min. The column temperature was set at 30° C. and lutein, zeaxanthin, and standards were detected at 446 nm. The lutein standard eluted at a retention time of 12.6 minutes and the zeaxanthin standard eluted at a retention time of 13.5 minutes. Table 1 summarized the results of carotenoid analysis of each genetically modified strain and wild-type strain PB5 (control).

TABLE 1

Carotenoids identified in extracted oil from PB5 and modified strains via HPLC.			
Strains	Carotenoids	Retention time	Percent (%)
PB5 (Control)	Lutein	12.689	67.0392
	Zeaxanthin	13.548	27.9272
14-2	Lutein	12.685	50.1228
	Zeaxanthin	13.55	45.4815
38-25	Zeaxanthin	13.554	87.8917

Next, we sought to express beta-carotene ketolase activity in *A. protothecoides* cells, allowing them to make keto-carotenoids with high value as antioxidants. To achieve this, we introduced an expression module for the *C. reinhardtii* beta-carotene ketolase gene 1 (CrBKT1) into the pPB0038 backbone. The sequence of the expression module cloned into the KpnI site of pPB0038 to generate construct pPB0120 is shown below in FIG. 5. KpnI and SpeI sites flanking the expression module and used for cloning are indicated in lowercase, bold. Proceeding in the 5' to 3' direction, the *A. protothecoides* SAD2 promoter (ApSAD2) driving the expression of the CrBKT1 gene is indicated by lowercase, boxed text. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for CrBKT1 are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The sequence encoding the predicted plastid transit peptide is underlined. The terminator region of *A. protothecoides* SAD2 is indicated by small capitals.

We considered that the heterologous CrBKT1 protein might not be imported efficiently into *Auxenochlorella* plastids, so we also made a version of the CrBKT1 expression module that replaced the sequence encoding the native plastid transit peptide with the corresponding sequence from the endogenous *Auxenochlorella* SAD2 gene. The sequence of the chimeric ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1 coding sequence in construct pPB0123 is shown below in FIG. 6. pPB0123 was otherwise identical to pPB0120 and targeted the AtTHIC transformation marker and the CrBKT1 expression module to the LCYE-2 locus. The sequences of the native CrBKT1 protein and the ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1 chimeric proteins are shown in FIGS. 7A and 7B, respectively.

Constructs pPB0120 and pPB0123 were both transformed into wild-type *A. protothecoides* PB5 to make LCYE-2 single allele knockouts expressing CrBKT1, and into LCYE-1 disruption strain 14-2 to make LCYE double knockouts expressing CrBKT1. Primary transformants made in the wild-type *A. protothecoides* background were selected for heterotrophic growth on glucose-containing media without thiamine, while transformants generated in

the 14-2 parent strain were selected on media without thiamine, supplemented with sucrose. Primary transformants were clonally purified and shake flask cultures of representative strains are shown in FIG. 8A. Strains transformed with pPB0123, expressing chimeric ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1 produced more red-colored ketocarotenoids than pPB0120 transformants that expressed native CrBKT1, suggesting that the chimeric protein was imported and processed more efficiently than the native protein. HPLC analysis, shown in FIG. 8B, showed that the predominant ketocarotenoids in LCYE-2 single allele knockouts (A strains, wild-type *A. protothecoides* parent) were 4-keto-lutein and astaxanthin, derived from lutein and zeaxanthin, respectively. The strains that expressed CrBKT1 with both LCYE alleles disrupted (B strains) made astaxanthin almost exclusively.

The lipid extraction method and HPLC parameters for keto-carotenoids analysis—Ether extraction of oil and carotenoids was performed as described above. The extracted oil was dissolved and diluted at a 1:100 ratio with a solvent mixture of Hexane:Acetone (82:18, v/v). 20 μ l of the diluted solution was injected into an HPLC (Agilent 1260 Infinity II, Agilent, USA) and separation of analytes was conducted on a Luna silica column (15 cm \times 4.6 mm; 3 μ m, Phenomenex, USA). The mobile phase consisted of Hexane:Acetone (82:18, v/v) ran at a flow rate of 1.2 ml/min. The column temperature was not set and astaxanthin and standards were detected at 474 nm. The astaxanthin standard was eluted at a retention time of 7.6 minutes. Table 2 summarized HPLC analysis results of genetically modified strains producing different carotenoids.

TABLE 2

Carotenoids identified in extracted oil from modified strains via HPLC.			
Strains	Carotenoids	Retention time	Percent (%)
120A-2	Astaxanthin	7.638	29.8938
	Keto Lutein	9.258	39.4228
	Lutein	12.682	11.5903
123A-5	Astaxanthin	7.634	30.0058
	Keto Lutein	9.254	39.9874
	Lutein	12.685	7.5039
120B-2	Astaxanthin	7.631	71.5094
	Zeaxanthin	13.571	3.3719
123B-24	Astaxanthin	7.632	77.876
	Zeaxanthin	13.582	2.5516

Example 2. Production of Strains with Accumulating Squalene

Squalene is used extensively in cosmetics as an emollient and moisturizer, while its antioxidant properties are exploited in sunscreens and anti-aging products. There are numerous pharmacological applications, including use in formulations as a chemoprotective agent, an anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agent, an adjuvant for vaccines, and a drug carrier. In vivo studies have demonstrated its value as a food supplement with benefits for weight and cholesterol control. Squalene is also a valuable precursor for the chemical synthesis of steroids and other bioactive molecules.

We have enhanced the value of *A. protothecoides*, PB5, storage lipid by engineering strains to accumulate squalene during the lipid production phase by targeted disruption of the squalene epoxidase (SQE) gene. Squalene epoxidase catalyzes the squalene cyclization step in phytosterol bio-

synthesis. Knockout of the equivalent ERG1 gene in *S. cerevisiae* led to squalene accumulation. Similar metabolic engineering strategies have been applied in cyanobacteria and purple non-sulfur bacteria, and elevated squalene levels were observed in *C. reinhardtii* strains where RNAi was used to knock-down SQE gene expression.

In this example, we describe genetically engineered *A. protothecoides*, PB5 strains in which we have disrupted both alleles of SQE. These modifications block downstream phytosterol biosynthesis and cause the accumulation of squalene in cellular lipids. The sequence of the transforming construct pPB0065, targeting disruption of ApSQE-2 is provided in FIG. 9. Restriction sites are indicated with bold, lowercase text. HindIII sites delimit the 5' and 3' ends of the transforming DNA. EcoRI and SacI sites flank the selection cassette. Underlined sequences represent SQE-2 genomic DNA targeting integration at the SQE-2 locus via homologous recombination. Proceeding from 5' to 3', the selection cassette contains the ApHUP1 promoter (lowercase, boxed text), driving the expression of codon-optimized AtTHIC. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for AtTHIC are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApHSP90 terminator region is indicated by small capitals.

SQE-2 knockout strains were generated by transformation of pPB0065 into *A. protothecoides* PB5. Primary transformants were selected on glucose-containing growth media without thiamine. Colonies were clonally purified, and targeted disruption of SQE-2 was verified by PCR amplification and sequencing of the regions flanking the integration site. Transformant 65-4 was selected as the parent strain for subsequent transformation with construct pPB0077, targeting ApSQE-1. The sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0077 is shown below in FIG. 10. Restriction sites are indicated with bold, lowercase text. HindIII sites delimit the 5' and 3' ends of the transforming DNA. EcoRI and SacI sites flank the selection cassette. Underlined sequences represent ApSQE-1 genomic DNA targeting integration at the ApSQE-1 allele via homologous recombination. Proceeding from 5' to 3', the selection cassette contains the CrTUB2 promoter (lowercase, boxed text), driving the expression of codon-optimized ScSUC2. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for ScSUC2 are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApPGH terminator region is indicated by small capitals.

Primary transformants from the introduction of pPB0077 into strain 65-4 were selected on growth media with sucrose and without thiamine. Colonies were clonally purified and targeted disruption of both ApSQE-1 and ApSQE-2 was verified by PCR amplification and sequencing of the regions flanking the integration site.

A representative strain, 77B-21, was grown in lipid production media and the squalene content of crude lipid extracts was measured by HPLC (FIG. 11).

Cell cultivation conditions—Cells were grown in a growth medium containing the following in 1 L deionized water: 4.2 g K₂HPO₄, 3.57 g NaH₂PO₄ \cdot H₂O, 0.24 g MgSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.025 g CaCl₂ \cdot 2H₂O, 0.25 g citric acid, 2 micromolar thiamine-HCl, and 10 mL of trace metal solution. 1 L of trace metal solution contained 2.75 g citric acid, 0.011 g CuSO₄ \cdot 5H₂O, 0.081 g CoCl₂ \cdot 6H₂O, 0.33 g H₃BO₃, 1.4 g ZnSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.9485 g MnCl₂ \cdot 4H₂O, 0.039 g Na₂MoO₄ \cdot 2H₂O, 0.11 g FeSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.0144 g NiSO₄ \cdot 6H₂O. Pre-seed and seed medium contained 0.991 g/L of (NH₄)₂SO₄, and lipid production media contained 0.248 g of (NH₄)₂SO₄. The pre-seed medium was supple-

mented with 5 g/L glucose; seed medium contained 20 g/L glucose and lipid production contained 40 g/L glucose.

The lipid extraction method and HPLC parameters for squalene analysis—About 3 g of lyophilized PB5 and modified strain cell powders were finely ground in a mortar using a pestle. 30 ml of ether was added to the ground PB5 powder and the resulting suspension was vortexed for about 30 seconds to extract oil. An additional 30 ml of ether was used to complete oil extraction. The remaining ether was evaporated at room temperature using an evaporator. The extracted oil was dissolved and diluted at a 1:10 ratio with a solvent mixture solvent of Acetonitrile:Methanol (8:2, v/v), which was also used as the mobile phase. 30 μ L of the diluted solution was injected into an HPLC (Agilent 1260 Infinity II) and separation of analytes was conducted on a C18 reverse column (15 cm \times 4.6 mm; Shiseido, Japan). The mobile phase's flow rate was 1.5 mL/min. The column temperature was set at 35° C. and squalene and the standard was detected at 195 nm. Squalene standard eluted at a retention time of 18.090.

Squalene accumulated to 1222 ppm in oil from strain 77B-21, a level that is on par with the squalene content of olive oil, a common commercial source.

The value of *A. protothecoides* oil would be enhanced by further increases in squalene levels. This may be achieved through overexpression of key enzymes in the isoprenoid biosynthesis pathway to increase flux. The amino acid sequences of *A. protothecoides* 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase (DXS), 1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate reductoisomerase (DXR), farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FDPS), and squalene synthase are provided in FIGS. 12-15. Overexpression of the native *A. protothecoides* enzymes, or of heterologous enzymes from plants or other algae, in the SQE double knockout background may improve squalene accumulation.

Example 3. Production of Strains with Increased Levels of Omega-3 and Omega-6 Fatty Acids

The fatty acid composition of *A. protothecoides* storage lipid is typical for Trebouxiophyte algae, consisting mainly of oleic (~68%), palmitic (~12%), and linoleic (~13%) acids, with minor amounts of stearic, myristic, α -linolenic, and palmitoleic acids. We sought to improve the nutritional quality of *A. protothecoides* triacylglyceride oils by increasing the polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) content. First, we activated the endogenous FAD3 gene, encoding fatty acid desaturase 3, by swapping the native FAD3 promoter with promoters from genes that are strongly upregulated during lipid production. FAD3 introduces a double bond at the Δ 15 position of linoleic acid (C18:2) to make α -linolenic acid. The sequence of the transforming construct pPB0039, targeting insertion of the ApSAD2 promoter upstream of the FAD3-1 coding sequence is provided in FIG. 16. Restriction sites are indicated with bold, lowercase text. HindIII sites delimit the 5' and 3' ends of the transforming DNA. KpnI and SpeI sites flank the selection cassette. Underlined sequences represent FAD3-1 genomic DNA targeting integration at the FAD3-1 locus via homologous recombination. Proceeding from 5' to 3', the selection cassette contains the ApHUP1 promoter (lowercase, boxed text), driving the expression of codon-optimized AtTHIC. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for AtTHIC are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApHSP90 terminator region is indicated by small capitals. Lowercase, boxed text delineates the ApSAD2 promoter.

We also made a version of the FAD3 integration construct expression module that replaced the native FAD3 promoter with the promoter from the *A. protothecoides* FATA gene, encoding the acyl-ACP thioesterase. Construct pPB0041 was identical to pPB0039 except that ApFATA promoter shown below in FIG. 17 in lowercase, boxed text, was used to drive the expression of FAD3.

pPB0039 and pPB0041 were transformed into *A. protothecoides* PB5 and primary transformants were selected on glucose-containing growth media without thiamine. Colonies were clonally purified and insertion of the constructs at the FAD3 locus was verified by PCR amplification and sequencing of the regions flanking the integration site.

Cell cultivation conditions—Cells were grown in a growth medium composed of the following chemicals in 1 L of deionized water: 4.2 g K₂HPO₄, 3.57 g NaH₂PO₄ \cdot H₂O, 0.24 g MgSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.025 g CaCl₂ \cdot 2H₂O, 0.25 g citric acid, 2 micromolar thiamine-HCl, and 10 mL of trace metal solution. 1 L of trace metal solution contained 2.75 g citric acid, 0.011 g CuSO₄ \cdot 5H₂O, 0.081 g CoCl₂ \cdot 6H₂O, 0.33 g H₃BO₃, 1.4 g ZnSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.9485 g MnCl₂ \cdot 4H₂O, 0.039 g Na₂MoO₄ \cdot 2H₂O, 0.11 g FeSO₄ \cdot 7H₂O, 0.0144 g NiSO₄ \cdot 6H₂O. Pre-seed and seed medium contained 0.991 g/L of (NH₄)₂SO₄, and lipid production media contained 0.248 g of (NH₄)₂SO₄. The pre-seed medium was supplemented with 5 g/L glucose; seed medium contained 20 g/L glucose and lipid production contained 40 g/L glucose.

Freeze-dried microalgal samples were sent to Microbial ID Inc., (Delaware, USA) for fatty acid methyl ester analysis (FAME). Microbial ID Inc. utilized standardized gas chromatographic analysis of fatty acid methyl esters method developed by MIDI Inc., (Delaware, USA) and the reference could be found in their technical note #101, published and revised in 2006. The fatty acid profiles of lipids from shake flask assays of representative strains are shown in Table 3. Strains driving expression of one allele of FAD3 with the ApSAD2 promoter (39-1 and 39-9 strains) or the ApFATA promoter (41-1 and 41-3 strains) showed a slight increase in α -linolenic acid (ALA, omega-3) from 2% in the wild-type (PB5) to about 3%. The increase in ALA came at the expense of linoleic acid (omega-6), improving the omega-6:omega-3 ratio from 7 to about 4 (lower is better).

TABLE 3

Fatty acid profiles as a percentage of total fatty acids for <i>A. protothecoides</i> strains transformed with pPB0039 or pPB0041.					
strain	PB5	39-1	39-9	41-1	41-3
C14:0 myristic	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7
C16:0 palmitic	12.7	13.0	12.6	12.0	12.6
C16:1n-7 palmitoleic	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
C18:0 stearic	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.3
C18:1n-9 oleic	66.3	68.9	67.8	68.5	67.5
C18:2n-6 linoleic LA	14.2	10.5	11.1	11.7	11.9
C18:3n-3 α -linolenic	2.0	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.1
omega-6:omega-3	6.9	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.9
% PUFA	16.2	13.4	14.4	14.6	15.0

The Δ 9 double bond in C18:1 is introduced by the stearoyl-ACP desaturases (SADs) in the plastid. Formation of the Δ 12 and Δ 15 double bonds, catalyzed by FAD2 and FAD3, respectively, occurs in the endoplasmic reticulum, and these enzymes use membrane lipids as their substrate. The relatively low abundance of C18:2 and C18:3 α in wild-type *A. protothecoides* storage lipid results from the competition between the acyltransferases of the Kennedy pathway for the formation of TAG, and the enzymes of the

Lands cycle, which control the exchange of fatty acids between diacylglycerol (DAG) and membrane phospholipids. We considered that increasing the transfer of C18:1 between DAG and phospholipids might improve PUFA production, so we introduced a construct to overexpress *Arabidopsis* PDCT, encoding phosphatidylcholine:diacylglycerol choline phosphotransferase into strain 41-3. The sequence of the transforming construct pPB0118, targeting AtPDCT and ScSUC2 expression to the THI4 locus is provided in FIG. 18. Restriction sites are indicated with bold, lowercase text. HindIII sites delimit the 5' and 3' ends of the transforming DNA. KpnI, SpeI, and XhoI sites separate the AtPDCT expression module and the ScSUC2 expression cassette. Underlined sequences represent THI4 genomic DNA targeting integration at the THI4 locus via homologous recombination. Proceeding from 5' to 3', the selection cassette contains the ApSAD2 promoter (lowercase, boxed text), driving the expression of codon-optimized AtPDCT. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for AtPDCT are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApSAD2 terminator region is indicated by small capitals. Lowercase, boxed text delineates the CrTUB2 promoter, driving the expression of codon-optimized ScSUC2. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for ScSUC2 are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApPGH terminator region is indicated by small capitals.

pPB0118 was transformed into strain 41-3, and primary transformants were selected on sucrose-containing growth media without thiamine. Colonies were clonally purified and insertion of the constructs at the THI4 locus was verified by PCR amplification and sequencing of the regions flanking the integration site. Freeze-dried microalgal cell samples were sent to Microbial ID inc. (Delaware, USA) for fatty acid methyl ester analysis and the profiles of lipids from shake flask assays of representative strains containing the pPB0118 construct are shown in Table 4. C18:2 accumulation increased by 2.5-fold in strains 118B-8 and 118B-20, indicating that expression of AtPDCT during lipid production caused significant enhancement of FAD2 activity. ALA levels only increased by about 1% compared to the 41-3 parent strain, suggesting that incorporation of C18:2 into TAG was favored over desaturation by FAD3. The omega-6:omega-3 ratio increased from 3.8 in 41-3 to above 8, due to the increase in C18:2 without a concomitant increase in ALA.

TABLE 4

Fatty acid profiles as a percentage of total fatty acids for strain 41-3 transformed with pPB0118.

strain	PB5	41-3	118B-8	118B-20
C14:0 myristic	1.7	1.8	2.1	2.1
C16:0 palmitic	12.3	12.5	12.4	13.3
C16:1n-7 palmitoleic	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
C18:0 stearic	2.4	2.3	1.8	2.2
C18:1n-9 oleic	67.9	67.5	45.4	46.4
C18:2n-6 linoleic LA	13.1	12.0	33.3	30.8
C18:3n-3 α -linolenic	1.8	3.1	4.0	3.9
omega-6:omega-3	7.2	3.8	8.3	8.0
% PUFA	15.0	15.1	37.3	34.7

Upregulation of the endogenous FAD3 gene and overexpression of AtPDCT only resulted in small improvements in ALA accumulation, so we tested whether ALA biosynthesis could be further improved by the expression of heterologous

FAD3. We chose to test FAD3A from *Linum usitatissimum* (flax), which has been shown previously to have desaturase activity in *Prototheca moriformis*. The sequence of the transforming construct pPB0142, targeting LuFAD3A and neoR expression to the THI4 locus is provided in FIG. 19. Restriction sites are indicated with bold, lowercase text. HindIII sites delimit the 5' and 3' ends of the transforming DNA. KpnI, SpeI, and BamHI sites separate the LuFAD3A expression module and the neoR expression cassette. Underlined sequences represent THI4 genomic DNA targeting integration at the THI4 locus via homologous recombination. Proceeding from 5' to 3', the selection cassette contains the ApSAD2 promoter (lowercase, boxed text), driving the expression of codon-optimized LuFAD3A. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for LuFAD3A are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApFBA1 terminator region is indicated by small capitals. Lowercase, boxed text delineates the ApPGK1 promoter, driving the expression of codon-optimized neoR, which confers resistance to the antibiotic G418. The initiator ATG and terminator TGA for neoR are indicated by uppercase italics, while the coding region is indicated with lowercase italics. The ApPGK1 terminator region is indicated by small capitals.

pPB0142 was transformed into strain 118B-8, and primary transformants were selected on G418-containing growth media supplemented with sucrose and without thiamine. Colonies were clonally purified and insertion of the constructs at the THI4 locus was verified by PCR amplification and sequencing of the regions flanking the integration site. We also verified that strains containing both constructs pPB0118 and pPB0142 disrupted both alleles of the THI4 locus, rendering them unable to grow without supplementation with hydroxymethyl thiazole (FIG. 20).

As shown in FIG. 20, Thiamine prototrophy is observed in strain 118B-8, expressing AtTHIC, targeted to one allele of THI4. Disruption of the second THI4 allele by pPB0142 renders the transformants thiazole auxotrophs.

Freeze-dried microalgal cell pellets were sent to Microbial ID (Delaware, USA) for fatty acid methyl ester analysis (FAME) and the profiles of lipids from shake flask assays of representative strains containing the pPB0142 construct are shown in Table 5. ALA accumulation increased from 5.4% in the 118B-8 parent to up to 8.7% in strain 142B-11, indicating that expression of LuFAD3A during lipid production enhanced desaturation of C18:2. The omega-6:omega-3 ratio was reduced to 4, similar to the original ratio observed in the parent strain 41-3 (see Table 4), but with a 5-fold increase in omega-3 fatty acids and a 3-fold improvement in overall PUFA compared to the wild-type strain.

TABLE 5

Fatty acid profiles as a percentage of total fatty acids for strain 118B-8 transformed with pPB0142.				
strain	PB5	118B-8	142B-8	142B-11
C14:0 myristic	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.2
C16:0 palmitic	12.0	11.8	12.5	12.0
C16:1n-7 palmitoleic	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4
C18:0 stearic	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.8
C18:1n-9 oleic	67.9	44.1	39.9	39.2
C18:2n-6 linoleic LA	13.5	34.0	34.4	34.6
C18:3n-3 α -linolenic	1.8	5.4	8.2	8.7
omega-6:omega-3	7.6	6.3	4.2	4.0
% PUFA	15.3	39.4	42.6	43.3

We aim to produce a nutritionally superior oil from *A. protothecoides* PB5, with very low saturates and a 1:1 ratio of omega-6:omega-3 fatty acids. Optimization of C18:2 and C18:3 α levels may be achieved by modulating the expression of AtPDCT and LufAD3A. The main saturated fatty acids in wild-type *A. protothecoides* oil are C14:0, C16:0, and C18:0 (see Tables 3, 4 & 5). Levels of C14:0 and C16:0 can be reduced by over-expressing the native KASII gene, encoding beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase II, which extends C16:0 to C18:0. The coding sequence of the *Auxenochlorella* KASII gene, optimized for translation, is shown in FIG. 21 and the corresponding amino acid sequence is detailed in FIG. 22.

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ttcaaggggcc tggaggaccc cgaggaggatc ctccgcattgg gcttcggagggt gtcggcg	2460
tccttcgtcc tggaccggcgg gaacagcaag gtgaagttcg tgaaggagaa cccctacttc	2520

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accaaccgca tgagegtgaa caaccagccc ttcaagagcg agaacgacct gtcctactac	2580
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gtgtccacca acacctactt catgaccacc gggAACGCC tgggctccgt gaacatgacg	2700
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atggaaactc acaaaggcgc ccacggcttc gaacgtccc tgtaatttc gcgggggtgt	2820
ccagagtttc tgcgecaccc atgttcaccc tagggggggg tgcccttgc cattcatgtg	2880
tgcctgcatttgc acgttttgta tcagtcaccc cacacccgttga agatTTTGG gagggggggg	2940
gaagtcggaa tggaaacggag ctccgcgtt gtcagatggg ggagtgggtg gatggccctg	3000
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tcaagtacgaa gagaagctt	3739

<210> SEQ_ID NO 2
 <211> LENGTH: 4611
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0038

<400> SEQUENCE: 2

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attctgtccct ttggcaaggg ctcagaatga agtgtgcctc cacatcgagc tagtgctgt	120
agcgaagaca aggaagtccc cactcacca cgtggccaga ttttatcttt tttcagattt	180
caaggggccac gcccagcgaa ccccgcgatg gggccgagcc atgcccgcaca tctcgacatc	240
ttccatatgac aaggcgcttc aaagtgcata ttatgtcgat ggcacatcgatt aggagagtgg	300
ttgaacacca gccccatcttc caccggggaa ggaccgtcg aatgcctctg cagacggcca	360
ccgtctgtatc gctgcctgtc ccggaggtgac ggcgtatgtcg tccatatccc aaacaatcgt	420
tcaagaccc ttctttgtt cgctcaaccc accgaggaga ccgtctggat tccatgcgc	480
tgtgacgcct agccccctga gaccctccaa gtggggcggtc coctccctatgc ccccccagcct	540
ctctgacgtg gcagatgcct ccggggaaacg aaatcaggat cgcaggagg gctcctacga	600
gcagccccctg gtccaaacgccc aggtgcctag gggaaaaggaa gggcagggggg ccttgaggcg	660
aggcctggccc aggcagggtt tccatggtca gtcgtggcag tgccatgaca gccgaagccc	720
accgcgacac cgtgggtgca gcatgcgtgg acggaaacat tggcaatgcc ttgccccatt	780

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ggaccccccag	gccccgaaac	gggacgatca	gcaggacccc	ctgtccagcc	tcctccccac	840
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acaatgcctg	tcccgccat	gcatctcaac	agectcatgc	aaggtttgc	caagcaagac	960
cattctgatc	tggaaacttg	tagtgttgt	atggggagg	ttgtgtctt	aatcaagt	1020
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caccggatt	gtctcacgcg	catttcggag	aaggtttgc	gaacactcca	ggacatgaaa	1140
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gaataaaaac	ggcgacccag	ctccagaggc	gcaatccctt	tcacaatctg	tttaacttcc	1560
aacaaagtat	aagtcaattt	aacttgacac	aatggccgcg	tccgttccact	gcaccctgat	1620
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ccacgcccccc	gacctggcca	agcagcaccc	ccacgcccc	gcgtgggacg	acgcgcgtgc	3180

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caaggcgccg ttcaggttcc gctggatgga ccagttcgcg ctgtccctgg accccatgac	3240
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ctccatgtgc ggccccaaatgt tctgtccat gaagatcacg gaggacatcc gcaagtacgc	3360
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ggcagccagg gccccccgac gcatgcgtgc ctcctcgac atcccgacca ggtgggtgac	4560
cctggectcc ggccggccgg cggggcgctt cctcaagtac gagagaagct t	4611

<210> SEQ ID NO 3
 <211> LENGTH: 2081
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the CrBKT1 expression module from pPB0120

<400> SEQUENCE: 3

ggtacccttg cagtccccca aaaactggct accacctaac aattctcacg cagtttatac	60
ctctgcactt tgatgtcgcg tttttgattt gtcgtgcgtac attacagcgat tgagtggcca	120
gcaggaaagg gaccggggtc cgagacgagt ctgagggcgcc gtcgtcgaaa cttggattcc	180
ggattttctta ccctgcacgc acctcggtt ggagtcgatc agaaattgtc attgcacat	240
tgcctggcga ggacgggtga tataactcaag ggcgtgcac gcccacaaaa cacacactta	300
tctgcaagggg agttactgca tcaggctctg ctcaacagct cgtgacatcg atcggtcagc	360
tccccacgcg gtgcgtgtcc gcatggagca cccctcccgaa gacacctgcg ttgggtgtcg	420
gaggagatca catgcacagg aggtggccac attgcacac ggcacccgca aataggcaga	480
cttcggccat cctgtcatacg catgtccgtt ggccggaaat catggcctcc ccaccaggcg	540
tcacgcgcgtc cccacactccc tccccctgtt ggcgcaggcc cccgcgttcc gtggagagcc	600

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gaccacatgg gccccggcat ccagcccacc tccgcccccc cctgtccccg caccaagcac	660
tcccggttcg ccctgtggc cgccgcctcg accggccgcg gegtgaagca gttcaccaag	720
cagttccgtt cccgcgcatt ggccgaggac atccgtaaage tgtggcagcg ccagtaccac	780
ctgccccggc aggactccga caagcgcacc ctgcgcgagc gegtgcacct gtaccgcccc	840
ccccgtccg acctggggcg catcgccgtg gccgtgaccg tgatgcctt gtggccacc	900
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gccacactt gggccaccat cgccgcgtg ttcttctcc tggagttctt gtacaccggc	1020
ctgttcatca ccacccacga cgccatgcac ggccatcgcc ccctgegcaa ccgcgcctg	1080
aacgacttcc tgggcagct cgcgatctcc ctgtacgcct ggttcgacta ctccgtgt	1140
caccgcaaggc actggggagca ccacaaccac accggcgagc cccgcgtgga ccccgacttc	1200
caccgcccga accccaaccc ggccgtgtgg ttccggccagt tcattgggtgc ctacatgacc	1260
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ctggccaacc agctgtgtt catgaccgcg ccccccattcc tgccgcctt ccgcctgttc	1380
tactacggca octacgtgcc ccaccacccc gagaaggggc acaccggcgc catgcctgg	1440
cagggttccc gcaccccttc cgccctccgc ctgcagtcctt tcctgacctg ctaccatcc	1500
gacccctcaact gggagcacca ccgcgtggcc tacggccccc ggtggggagct gcccaagtgc	1560
cgccagatcg cccggggcgc cgccctggcc tgagcggagg ctttggaaat attcgctca	1620
cgcgaggagt aggctctgt ggtggccct ggatacgctg actcttcaag cagtggggca	1680
ccacacccac ctttgccaa gggcaaggag tcggaaagggg ggggggtgc catgeacccc	1740
tgacgggcat ggccgttccg cgaggccgc aactgcggcgc gctgcggcc tggctgtgc	1800
ccccctaccc ccaccattgc ctggagcggtt tccatccccca aatcacattc catccaagtt	1860
gtatcactat gcccccttgg ctctatacac tcacggcctt aggtcccttc tcggcggtgg	1920
cggcacacgc ccaacccccc accataactt ttccatacac tgcaatgcctt cgagcgtgcc	1980
tgccacactgc tctgttgttgc tccctccct tcccttggg ttttccaatg cagtaagaga	2040
agtcgacgtg catggacaga tgattgagag atgagactag t	2081

<210> SEQ ID NO 4
 <211> LENGTH: 981
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1 expression module from pPB0123

<400> SEQUENCE: 4

atggccaccc catccacttt ctccggcggtt aatggcccgct gggggcgcacct gctgtcgatcg	60
gggggggtccg ggcccccggcg cccagcgagg cccctccccc tgcgcgtgc catccgtcc	120
cgccgcgtgg ccgaggacat cctgaagctg tggcagcgcgc agtaccaccc gccccggcag	180
gactccgaca agcgccaccc tgcgcgcgcgtc gtgcacccgtt accggccccc ccgcgtccgac	240
ctggggccgca tcggcggtggc cgtgaccgtg atcgccctgtt gggccaccct gttcggtac	300
ggccctgtggt tcgtgaagct gcccctggcc ctgaagggtgg gcgagaccgc caccccttgg	360
gcacccatcg ccgcgtgttt ctctccctg gagttccgtt acaccggcctt gttcatcacc	420
accacacgacg ccatgcacgg caccatgcgc ctgcgcgaacc gccgcctgaa cgacttcttg	480
ggcccgatcg cgatctccct gtacgcctgg ttgcactact ccgtgtgcgaa ccgcaagcac	540

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tgggagcacc acaaccacac cggcgagccc cgctggacc ccgacttcca ccgcggcaac 600
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 ctgaagatcg ccgtgtggtc caacctgctg ctgctggccg gggccccctt ggccaaccag 720
 ctgctgttca tgaccgccgc ccccatcctg tccgccttcc gctgttcta ctacggcacc 780
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 gagcaccacc gctggcccta cggccctgg tgggagctgc ccaagtgcgc ccagatcgcc 960
 cgccggccgc ccctggcctg a 981

<210> SEQ ID NO 5
 <211> LENGTH: 328
 <212> TYPE: PRT
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of native CrBKT1

<400> SEQUENCE: 5

Met	Gly	Pro	Gly	Ile	Gln	Pro	Thr	Ser	Ala	Arg	Pro	Cys	Ser	Arg	Thr
1															
															15

Lys	His	Ser	Arg	Phe	Ala	Leu	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Thr	Ala	Arg	Arg
20														
														30

Val	Lys	Gln	Phe	Thr	Lys	Gln	Phe	Arg	Ser	Arg	Arg	Met	Ala	Glu	Asp
35															
															45

Ile	Leu	Lys	Leu	Trp	Gln	Arg	Gln	Tyr	His	Leu	Pro	Arg	Glu	Asp	Ser
50															
															60

Asp	Lys	Arg	Thr	Leu	Arg	Glu	Arg	Val	His	Leu	Tyr	Arg	Pro	Pro	Arg
65															
															80

Ser	Asp	Leu	Gly	Gly	Ile	Ala	Val	Ala	Val	Thr	Val	Ile	Ala	Leu	Trp
85															
															95

Ala	Thr	Leu	Phe	Val	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Trp	Phe	Val	Lys	Leu	Pro	Trp	Ala
100															
															110

Leu	Lys	Val	Gly	Glu	Thr	Ala	Thr	Ser	Trp	Ala	Thr	Ile	Ala	Ala	Val
115															
															125

Phe	Phe	Ser	Leu	Glu	Phe	Leu	Tyr	Thr	Gly	Leu	Phe	Ile	Thr	Thr	His
130															
															140

Asp	Ala	Met	His	Gly	Thr	Ile	Ala	Leu	Arg	Asn	Arg	Arg	Leu	Asn	Asp
145															
															160

Phe	Leu	Gly	Gln	Leu	Ala	Ile	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Trp	Phe	Asp	Tyr	Ser
165															
															175

Val	Leu	His	Arg	Lys	His	Trp	Glu	His	His	Asn	His	Thr	Gly	Glu	Pro
180															
															190

Arg	Val	Asp	Pro	Asp	Phe	His	Arg	Gly	Asn	Pro	Asn	Leu	Ala	Val	Trp
195															
															205

Phe	Ala	Gln	Phe	Met	Val	Ser	Tyr	Met	Thr	Leu	Ser	Gln	Phe	Leu	Lys
210															
															220

Ile	Ala	Val	Trp	Ser	Asn	Leu	Leu	Leu	Ala	Gly	Ala	Pro	Leu	Ala	
225															
															240

Asn	Gln	Leu	Leu	Phe	Met	Thr	Ala	Ala	Pro	Ile	Leu	Ser	Ala	Phe	Arg
245															
															255

Leu	Phe	Tyr	Tyr	Gly	Thr	Tyr	Val	Pro	His	His	Pro	Glu	Lys	Gly	His
260															
															270

Thr Gly Ala Met Pro Trp Gln Val Ser Arg Thr Ser Ser Ala Ser Arg

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275	280	285
Leu Gln Ser Phe Leu Thr Cys Tyr His Phe Asp Leu His Trp Glu His		
290	295	300
His Arg Trp Pro Tyr Ala Pro Trp Trp Glu Leu Pro Lys Cys Arg Gln		
305	310	315
Ile Ala Arg Gly Ala Ala Leu Ala		
325		

<210> SEQ ID NO 6
<211> LENGTH: 326
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of chimeric ApSAD2tp_CrBKT1

<400> SEQUENCE: 6

Met Ala Thr Ala Ser Thr Phe Ser Ala Phe Asn Ala Arg Cys Gly Asp		
1	5	10
15		

Leu Arg Arg Ser Ala Gly Ser Gly Pro Arg Arg Pro Ala Arg Pro Leu		
20	25	30

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

Lys Leu Trp Gln Arg Gln Tyr His Leu Pro Arg Glu Asp Ser Asp Lys		
50	55	60

Arg Thr Leu Arg Glu Arg Val His Leu Tyr Arg Pro Pro Arg Ser Asp		
65	70	75
80		

Leu Gly Gly Ile Ala Val Ala Val Thr Val Ile Ala Leu Trp Ala Thr		
85	90	95

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

Val Gly Glu Thr Ala Thr Ser Trp Ala Thr Ile Ala Ala Val Phe Phe		
115	120	125

Ser Leu Glu Phe Leu Tyr Thr Gly Leu Phe Ile Thr Thr His Asp Ala		
130	135	140

Met His Gly Thr Ile Ala Leu Arg Asn Arg Arg Leu Asn Asp Phe Leu		
145	150	155
160		

Gly Gln Leu Ala Ile Ser Leu Tyr Ala Trp Phe Asp Tyr Ser Val Leu		
165	170	175

His Arg Lys His Trp Glu His His Asn His Thr Gly Glu Pro Arg Val		
180	185	190

Asp Pro Asp Phe His Arg Gly Asn Pro Asn Leu Ala Val Trp Phe Ala		
195	200	205

Gln Phe Met Val Ser Tyr Met Thr Leu Ser Gln Phe Leu Lys Ile Ala		
210	215	220

Val Trp Ser Asn Leu Leu Leu Ala Gly Ala Pro Leu Ala Asn Gln		
225	230	235
240		

Leu Leu Phe Met Thr Ala Ala Pro Ile Leu Ser Ala Phe Arg Leu Phe		
245	250	255

Tyr Tyr Gly Thr Tyr Val Pro His His Pro Glu Lys Gly His Thr Gly		
260	265	270

Ala Met Pro Trp Gln Val Ser Arg Thr Ser Ser Ala Ser Arg Leu Gln		
275	280	285

Ser Phe Leu Thr Cys Tyr His Phe Asp Leu His Trp Glu His His Arg		
290	295	300

Trp Pro Tyr Ala Pro Trp Trp Glu Leu Pro Lys Cys Arg Gln Ile Ala		
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US 12,037,630 B2

39**40**

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305	310	315	320
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Arg Gly Ala Ala Leu Ala
325

<210> SEQ_ID NO 7
<211> LENGTH: 4637
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0065

<400> SEQUENCE: 7

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ggatggagg gaacccagct gggagccgga ggagcatgtg acccccgacc tgatcgagct	120
atatgcgcgc agggacgctc gagcacggga tgtcaaggcc gggctgaca aggctggcaa	180
gggttaggaca cctgcgttga ggcaaacgct ggagacggcc ggtctcagca tgtgatctg	240
tacttgctgt gacaagggtgg acaatgcagt acgaggtgta ccaggctaa tagttcttagt	300
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gagccatgac cggcgaccat ccatgtcccg tcactcgat gcactggctg acatcgccgg	420
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<210> SEQ ID NO 8
<211> LENGTH: 3767
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0077

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gggcaggaca cctgcggccga ggcaaacgcgtt	ggagacggcc ggtctcagca tggatcctg	240
tacttgtgtg gacaagggtgg acaatgcagt acgagttgtt	ccaggcttaag tatccctagt	300
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gagccatgac cggcactat ccacatcccg tcactccgt	gcactggctg acatggcg	420
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tccagegcag ccagtcgttca tactttaca caacatagta	cgtaacgcgc attaggcccc	780
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cgagctacca aagccatatt caaacaccta gatcaactacc	acttctacac aggcactcg	1080
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caaaacatgt gctgcaggcc ttctgttcc tgctggccgg	ttcgccgcc aagatcagcg	1200
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acaccatcgaa cccgcggccag cgctgcgtgg ccatctggac	ctacaacacc ccggagtcgg	1560
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ggccgcgttggaa cggcatcgac gcgcggcccg tggcgggtt ctgcacatgtc aaggccggc	3360
gcgaggcgctg catcgaccc cccacccccc cgcacgtggg ggggtccacgc gctggggctg	3420
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gcgtggactt gggccaccc acctgtgtctt gcacggcat gtactcggcc ctgcgggttcca	3720
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<210> SEQ ID NO 9
<211> LENGTH: 730
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of A. protothecoides

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1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate synthase (DXS)

<400> SEQUENCE: 9

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Met Gln Phe Ser Leu Ala Gly Met Asn Thr Arg Ala Leu Gln Thr Gly
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Ala Arg Pro Ser Leu Pro Ala Ala Arg Pro Ser Arg Arg Val Arg Pro
 20          25          30

Ala Arg Arg Ser Ala Pro Cys Pro Val Ala Arg Thr Met Gly Gly Gly
 35          40          45

Glu Glu Gln Pro Ser Ser Ala Glu Gly Val Ala Trp Asp Lys Ile Ser
 50          55          60

Thr Asp Glu Leu Ala Asp Trp Ala Gly Ala Gly Pro Pro Thr Pro Leu
 65          70          75          80

Leu Asp Thr Val Ala Phe Pro Val His Ile Lys Asn Phe Asn Ser Arg
 85          90          95

Gln Leu Gln Gln Leu Cys Lys Glu Leu Arg Ala Asp Leu Ile His Thr
100         105         110

Val Ala Lys Thr Gly Gly His Leu Gly Ser Ser Leu Gly Val Val Glu
115         120         125

Leu Thr Val Ala Leu His His Val Phe Asn Thr Pro Glu Asp Arg Ile
130         135         140

Val Trp Asp Val Gly His Gln Ala Tyr Ile His Lys Met Leu Thr Gly
145         150         155         160

Arg Arg Ala Arg Met His Thr Ile Arg Gln Gln Gly Gly Leu Ser Gly
165         170         175

Phe Thr Arg Arg Ala Glu Ser Val Tyr Asp Pro Phe Gly Ala Gly His
180         185         190

Ser Ser Thr Ser Val Ser Ala Ala Leu Gly Met Ala Val Gly Arg Asp
195         200         205

Arg Lys Gly Arg Ala Asn Asn Cys Ile Ala Val Ile Gly Asp Gly Ala
210         215         220

Ile Thr Gly Gly Met Ala Tyr Glu Ala Met Asn His Ala Gly Phe Leu
225         230         235         240

Asp Thr Asn Met Ile Val Ile Leu Asn Asp Asn Gln Gln Val Ser Leu
245         250         255

Pro Thr Gln Tyr Asn Gly Lys Asn Gln Glu Pro Val Gly Ala Leu Ser
260         265         270

Ser Ala Leu Ala Arg Leu Gln Ala Asn Arg Gln Leu Arg Glu Leu Arg
275         280         285

Glu Ile Ala Lys Gly Val Thr Lys Gln Leu Pro Asp Val Ile Gln Asn
290         295         300

Ala Thr Ala Lys Ile Asp Glu Tyr Ala Arg Gly Met Ile Ser Gly Thr
305         310         315         320

Gly Ser Thr Leu Phe Glu Glu Leu Gly Phe Tyr Tyr Ile Gly Pro Val
325         330         335

Asp Gly His Asn Met Gln Asp Leu Val Asp Val Leu Ser Glu Ile Lys
340         345         350

Ala Thr Glu Thr Val Gly Pro Val Leu Leu His Val Val Thr Gln Lys
355         360         365

Gly Arg Gly Tyr Thr Pro Ala Glu Thr Ala Ser Asp Arg Met His Gly
370         375         380

Val Val Gln Tyr Asp Thr Leu Thr Gly Lys Gln Lys Lys Gly Ser Gly
385         390         395         400

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US 12,037,630 B2

49**50**

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Gly Pro Gln Ser Tyr Thr Asn Tyr Phe Ala Asp Ala Leu Val Ala Glu
405 410 415

Ala Lys Arg Asp Ala Arg Val Leu Gly Ile His Ala Ala Met Gly Gly
420 425 430

Gly Thr Gly Met Asn Arg Phe Glu Ala Ala Phe Pro Asp Arg Val Phe
435 440 445

Asp Thr Gly Ile Ala Glu Gln His Ala Val Thr Phe Ala Ala Gly Leu
450 455 460

Ala Thr Glu Gly Leu Val Pro Phe Val Ala Ile Tyr Ser Thr Phe Leu
465 470 475 480

Gln Arg Gly Tyr Asp Gln Ile Val His Asp Val Ser Leu Gln Ser Leu
485 490 495

Pro Val Arg Phe Ala Leu Asp Arg Ala Gly Asn Val Gly Ala Asp Gly
500 505 510

Ala Thr His Ala Gly Ala Phe Asp Val Thr Tyr Leu Ala Cys Leu Pro
515 520 525

Asn Met Val Val Met Ala Pro Ser Asn Glu Ala Glu Leu Val His Ala
530 535 540

Val Ala Thr Ala Ala Ala Ile Asp Asp Arg Pro Ser Ala Phe Arg Phe
545 550 555 560

Pro Arg Gly Asn Gly Leu Gly Val Asp Leu Ala Ala Ala Gly Val Thr
565 570 575

Asp Asp Leu Lys Gly Gln Pro Met Glu Val Gly Arg Gly Val Val Arg
580 585 590

Arg Gly Gly Ala Asp Val Ala Leu Leu Gly Tyr Gly Thr Cys Val Asn
595 600 605

Ala Cys Leu Ala Ala Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Ala Gln Gly Val Ser Ala
610 615 620

Thr Val Val Asp Ala Arg Phe Cys Lys Pro Leu Asp Thr Ala Leu Val
625 630 635 640

Arg Arg Met Ala Ala Glu His Pro Val Met Ile Thr Val Glu Glu Gly
645 650 655

Ser Ile Gly Gly Phe Ala Ala His Val Met Gln Phe Leu Ala Leu Glu
660 665 670

Gly Leu Leu Asp Gly Lys Leu Lys Phe Arg Pro Met Thr Leu Pro Asp
675 680 685

Arg Tyr Ile Glu His Gly Thr Gln Ala Glu Gln Met Ala Glu Ala Gly
690 695 700

Leu Thr Ala Ser His Ile Ala Gly Thr Ala Leu Ser Val Met Gly Val
705 710 715 720

Lys Arg Asp Ala Pro Ser Ile Phe Ser Thr
725 730

<210> SEQ ID NO 10
<211> LENGTH: 453
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of A. protothecoides
1-deoxy-D-xylulose 5-phosphate reductoisomerase (DXR)

<400> SEQUENCE: 10

Met Arg Cys Ser Ala Gln Leu Asn Thr Arg Gly Pro Thr Leu Pro Asn
1 5 10 15

Ser Ala Arg Pro Arg Thr Cys Arg Val Val Ser Ala Ser Ala Ala Pro
20 25 30

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Val Pro Ser Ala Trp Pro Gly Arg Val Val Leu Pro Glu Lys Ser Ala
 35 40 45
 Ser Arg Thr Gly Pro Lys Lys Phe Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser Thr Gly Ser
 50 55 60
 Ile Gly Thr Gln Thr Leu Asp Ile Val Ala Glu His Pro Asp Arg Phe
 65 70 75 80
 Gln Val Val Ser Leu Ala Ala Gly Gly Asn Val Ala Leu Leu Ala Glu
 85 90 95
 Gln Ile Ala Arg Phe Ser Pro Ser Leu Val Ser Val Arg Asp Ser Gly
 100 105 110
 Gly Ala Arg Ala Leu Glu Ala Ala Leu Asp Ala Ala Gly Val Asp Arg
 115 120 125
 Arg Pro Glu Ile Gln Ile Gly Ala Ala Gly Ile Asp Ala Val Ala Ala
 130 135 140
 His Pro Glu Ala Asp Ala Cys Val Thr Gly Ile Val Gly Cys Ala Gly
 145 150 155 160
 Leu Arg Pro Thr Met Ala Ala Ile Glu Ala Gly Lys Asp Ile Cys Leu
 165 170 175
 Ala Asn Lys Glu Thr Leu Ile Ala Gly Gly Pro Thr Val Leu Pro Ala
 180 185 190
 Ala Ala Lys His Gly Val Ser Ile Leu Pro Ala Asp Ser Glu His Ser
 195 200 205
 Ala Ile Phe Gln Cys Leu Gln Gly Leu Pro Glu Gly Gly Leu Arg Arg
 210 215 220
 Ile Ile Leu Thr Ala Ser Gly Gly Ala Phe Arg Asp Leu Pro Val Ser
 225 230 235 240
 Glu Leu Pro Lys Val Thr Val Ala Asp Ala Leu Lys His Pro Asn Trp
 245 250 255
 Ala Met Gly Lys Lys Ile Thr Ile Asp Ser Ala Thr Leu Met Asn Lys
 260 265 270
 Gly Leu Glu Val Ile Glu Ala His Tyr Leu Phe Gly Ala Ser Tyr Asp
 275 280 285
 Asn Ile Asp Ile Val Ile His Pro Gln Ser Ile Val His Ser Met Ile
 290 295 300
 Glu Thr Gln Asp Ser Ser Val Leu Ala Gln Leu Gly Trp Pro Asp Met
 305 310 315 320
 Arg Leu Pro Ile Leu Tyr Thr Met Ser Trp Pro Glu Arg Val Pro Cys
 325 330 335
 Ser Glu Val Thr Trp Pro Arg Leu Asp Phe Val Lys Ala Gly Asn Leu
 340 345 350
 Thr Phe Arg Gln Pro Asp His Ala Lys Tyr Pro Ala Met Glu Leu Ala
 355 360 365
 Tyr Ser Ala Gly Arg Ala Gly Gly Thr Met Thr Gly Val Met Ser Ala
 370 375 380
 Ala Asn Glu Ala Ala Val Glu Leu Phe Leu Glu Glu Ala Ile Gly Tyr
 385 390 395 400
 Leu Asp Ile Val Pro Val Val Glu Ala Ala Cys Glu Ala His Arg Val
 405 410 415
 Glu Leu Val Glu Arg Pro Ser Leu Glu Glu Ile Val His Tyr Asp Gln
 420 425 430
 Trp Ala Arg Arg His Val Arg Glu Ser Val Ala Lys Arg Ala Pro Ala
 435 440 445

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Ala Val Pro Ala Leu
450

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<210> SEQ_ID NO 11
<211> LENGTH: 359
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of A. protothecoides
      farnesyl diphosphate synthase (FDPS)

<400> SEQUENCE: 11

Met Ala Ala Val Val Glu Ala Gly His Ala Ala Ser Lys Gln Lys Thr
1           5          10          15

Glu Ala His Gln Thr Lys Gln Glu Phe Leu Ala Val Phe Glu Lys Leu
20          25          30

Arg Asp Glu Leu Leu Glu Asp Ser Ile Leu Ala Gly Gln Pro Glu Ser
35          40          45

Ser Lys Asp Trp Leu Arg Thr Met Leu Asp Tyr Asn Val Pro His Gly
50          55          60

Lys Leu Asn Arg Gly Met Ala Val Leu Asp Val Leu Leu Ala Ala Arg
65          70          75          80

Gly Gly Asp Val Thr Glu Lys Glu Arg Glu Ala Ala Asn Val Leu Gly
85          90          95

Trp Cys Ile Glu Leu Leu Gln Ala Tyr Phe Leu Val Ala Asp Asp Ile
100         105         110

Met Asp Ser Ser Leu Thr Arg Arg Gly Gln Pro Cys Trp Tyr Arg Gln
115         120         125

Pro His Val Gly Met Val Ala Ile Asn Asp Gly Ile Ile Leu Glu Ser
130         135         140

Cys Ile Tyr Arg Leu Leu Lys Leu His Phe Arg Ala His Pro Ala Tyr
145         150         155         160

Val His Leu Leu Glu Leu Phe His Asp Thr Thr His Arg Thr Ala His
165         170         175

Gly Gln Leu Leu Asp Thr Thr Ala Pro Pro Gly Gly Val Asp Leu
180         185         190

Thr Arg Tyr Thr Glu Gly Thr Tyr Leu Arg Ile Val Thr Tyr Lys Thr
195         200         205

Ala Phe Tyr Thr Ile Tyr Leu Pro Val Ala Cys Gly Leu Ala Leu Ala
210         215         220

Gly Val Thr Asp Glu Ala Ser Leu Ala Leu Ala Glu Asp Leu Ser Val
225         230         235         240

Arg Met Gly Arg Tyr Phe Gln Ile Gln Asp Asp Val Leu Asp Ala Phe
245         250         255

Gly Glu Pro Glu Val Ile Gly Lys Val Gly Thr Asp Ile Gln Asp Ser
260         265         270

Lys Cys Ser Trp Leu Val Val Arg Ala Leu Ala Val Ala Ser Ala Glu
275         280         285

Gln Arg Glu Ala Ile Lys Ala Asn Tyr Gly Arg Asp Asp Ala Glu Ala
290         295         300

Val Glu Ala Val Lys Ala Val Tyr Arg Glu Leu Asp Leu Pro Ala Ala
305         310         315         320

Phe Ala Ala Tyr Glu Gln Glu Ser Tyr Asp Gly Leu Val Gln Ala Ile
325         330         335

Glu Gly Gln Asp Lys Phe Pro Pro Ala Val Phe Met Gly Ile Leu Ala
340         345         350

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Lys Ile Tyr Lys Arg Thr Lys
355

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<210> SEQ ID NO 12
<211> LENGTH: 458
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of A. protothecoides
squalene synthase (SQS)

<400> SEQUENCE: 12

Met Gly Lys Leu Gly Glu Leu Leu Ser His Pro Asp Glu Ile Ile Pro
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Met Ala Ala Met Tyr Leu Ala Ala Arg Arg Ala Ala Val Leu Pro His
20          25          30

Asp Pro Asp Leu Ala Phe Cys Tyr Ser Met Leu Asn Lys Val Ser Arg
35          40          45

Ser Phe Ala Ile Val Ile Gln Gln Leu Pro Glu Gln Leu Arg Asp Ala
50          55          60

Val Cys Val Phe Tyr Leu Val Leu Arg Ala Leu Asp Thr Val Glu Asp
65          70          75          80

Asp Met Ala Ile Asp Gln Ala Glu Lys Val Pro Ile Leu Leu Ser Phe
85          90          95

His Glu Lys Thr Tyr Glu Lys Asp Trp Ser Met Lys Cys Gly His Gly
100         105         110

His Tyr Val Glu Leu Met Glu Gln Tyr Pro Val Val Cys Ala Ala Phe
115         120         125

Gln Gly Leu Glu Pro Gln Tyr Gln Glu Val Ile Thr Asp Ile Cys Arg
130         135         140

Arg Met Gly Ala Gly Met Ala Glu Phe Ile Val Lys Glu Val Glu Thr
145         150         155         160

Val Lys Asp Tyr Asp Leu Tyr Cys His Tyr Val Ala Gly Leu Val Gly
165         170         175

Val Gly Leu Ser Asn Leu Phe Ala Gly Ser Gly Leu Glu Ser Glu Asp
180         185         190

Phe Ala Ser Leu His Glu Leu Ser Asn Gly Met Gly Leu Phe Leu Gln
195         200         205

Lys Thr Asn Ile Ile Arg Asp Tyr Leu Glu Asp Ile Met Glu Glu Pro
210         215         220

Ala Pro Arg Met Phe Trp Pro Lys Glu Ile Trp Gly Lys His Gly Asp
225         230         235         240

Ser Leu Glu Asp Phe Lys Asp Pro Glu Asn Ala Glu Ala Ala Val Ala
245         250         255

Cys Leu Asn Asp Met Ile Ala Asp Ala Leu Arg His Val Asp Ala Ser
260         265         270

Leu Asp Tyr Met Gln Arg Leu Arg Asn Arg Pro Ile Phe Arg Phe Cys
275         280         285

Ala Val Pro Gln Ile Met Ala Ile Gly Thr Leu Ala Ala Cys Phe Asp
290         295         300

Asn Pro Ser Val Phe Thr Gly Val Val Lys Met Arg Arg Gly Gln Thr
305         310         315         320

Ala Lys Ile Met His Asp Val Glu Asp Tyr Ala Asp Leu Leu Ala Tyr
325         330         335

Phe Arg Ala Phe Gly Gln Ala Leu Ala Ala Lys Ala Arg Ala Ala Arg

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US 12,037,630 B2

57

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340	345	350
Gly Lys Gly Ala Glu Ser Val Gly Arg Ala Ala Glu Arg Val Val Ala		
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Gly Cys Ser Ala Ala Leu Ala Asp Leu Ser Arg Ala Glu Asn Ala Arg		
370	375	380
Met Ala Ala Ala Ala Arg Arg Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Ala Arg Ala Leu		
385	390	395
Leu Leu Val Ala Ala Leu Leu Tyr Leu Phe Leu Ala Trp Arg Ala Glu		
405	410	415
Gly Val Arg Arg Trp Leu Gly Val Asp Ser Pro Pro Ala Ala His Lys		
420	425	430
Leu Asp Tyr Tyr Asn Gln Ile Val Ala Ser Met Phe Leu Gly Tyr Ser		
435	440	445
Leu Phe Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Arg Arg Pro		
450	455	

<210> SEQ ID NO 13
<211> LENGTH: 5161
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA
from ppB0039

<400> SEQUENCE: 13

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aggcaaggac gaccatgccg ggagaaaccc aaggtgacga agtgacattg tgctcgatca	180
cctccatgcac tgcctcaactc gcccatgtac cttggatcatg tactcccaag tctgcatctt	240
ggtgttccctg ttcaagtcgc ggagtcctc caggcgctgc tcgtcgccgc ggtcccgca	300
gatgtaaaag gcagggacac ccaccccaag gccactccc agtagagccc cccctacagc	360
aaccagggtg tccggatcgc taaagtgcgt gttgatcgcg cggcacggtg gcattatcg	420
gcgtggatgg cccatgatc ggtcaacga aggcccttc atggcaggc cgcatggtc	480
tccattgcag gggatacccg ctgcacttt cgttgacaat aacatcctcg tatagtttga	540
gaaaggattt gtgatctgtc tctggaggcc cttaaagtcc tgccctcct ctgctggAAC	600
ctgacctctc atgccccctgc gccacgcccc cggatctgat atggctctga tatgggtggc	660
tctgtacccct tggcttaggcg accccctaa gcacgcgtgc gggccaggc acaacattat	720
attttgcctt ctccctcgat aacgctcatt tttttggaa actaacgttt aaaagctctc	780
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aacaatgcct gtcccgatcca tgcacatcaa cagcctcatg caaggttgc acaagcaaga	900
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atgccttgc acgtatgaac catctccac ggccttgaaa agatcgctcg acttccattc	1140
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gggcaggagg aagagaggag ttgatcaaaa ctgcgtatc acgttcccccc atggcgatcc	1260
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caacaaagta taagtcaatt caacttgaca caatggccgc gtccgtccac tgcaccctga	1560
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US 12,037,630 B2

61**62**

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t	5161

<210> SEQ_ID NO 14
 <211> LENGTH: 774
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the ApFATA promoter in
 pPB0041

<400> SEQUENCE: 14	
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gctgcagtgc aagtgtacat ataggtaat cttatgaccc ggcactacca atgatgtca	180
acaccgagcg gccctctgtt ttgtgttgc ctctttaccc tcaactgcgtt ctgcgtgcagg	240
agcttcatga ggatcacact gacggtcagg gggatcagca cocagtcggc gacatccgaa	300
tccagttacga ggtccctggct gaccatgtat gtaggtgaag ttggccctgt ggaggagcg	360
tagaggagcc tcggggccaaa gatccctta ctctgacgtt gctggctaa tcacccatcc	420
ctcccccttg aagtccggctc tcagtttgcg ttgtttcgaa atcgagccac aatcgaaat	480
acactaccta aaggctctca ccacccgtggc tacctcgaa tgcccatcag cccaaacaca	540

US 12,037,630 B2

63**64**

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<210> SEQ ID NO 15
<211> LENGTH: 5651
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0118

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<210> SEQ ID NO 16
 <211> LENGTH: 5526
 <212> TYPE: DNA
 <213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
 <220> FEATURE:
 <223> OTHER INFORMATION: Nucleotide sequence of the transforming DNA from pPB0142

<400> SEQUENCE: 16

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aaatcaaatt tgccaaagcg catgtttgtt tggatgttgcgtt gtcactggct	420
cgttaattctt ggcgttggaaag gatgccacat cgttgcgttgcgtt cggggagact aacacttgc	480
agaatttgcgtt tggccatata tccagatatac ccagccggcc cttctataaa ccacatgtgg	540

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<210> SEQ ID NO 17
<211> LENGTH: 1380
<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Coding sequence of KASII from A. protothecoides, optimized for translation

<400> SEQUENCE: 17

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ggcttcgaca	cctccgacta	ctccaccaag	atgcgcggc	aggtgaagtc	cgtggacgc	300
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gccctgcgc	ccggctggc	gcacccaa	ctgaacctgg	acgagccga	caagggcgt	1260
gacgcctccg	tgctgggtgg	cggcgtgaa	gagcaggcc	acgtgaaggt	ggccctgtcc	1320
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<210> SEQ ID NO 18
<211> LENGTH: 459
<212> TYPE: PRT
<213> ORGANISM: Artificial Sequence
<220> FEATURE:
<223> OTHER INFORMATION: Amino acid sequence of A. protothecoides beta-ketoacyl-ACP synthase II

<400> SEQUENCE: 18

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Cys Phe Gly Leu Arg Glu Pro Arg Arg Lys Arg Gln Trp Ala Arg Gln
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 35 40 45

Val Thr Gly Gln Gly Val Val Thr Ser Leu Gly Gln Ser Thr Gln Gln
 50 55 60

Phe Tyr Asp Gln Leu Leu Ala Gly Ala Ser Gly Ile Thr His Ile Glu
 65 70 75 80

Gly Phe Asp Thr Ser Asp Tyr Ser Thr Lys Ile Ala Gly Glu Val Lys
 85 90 95

Ser Val Asp Ala Ala Pro Tyr Val Ala Arg Lys Trp Val Lys Arg Met
 100 105 110

Asp Glu Val Met Lys Phe Met Phe Val Ala Gly Lys Gln Ala Leu Glu
 115 120 125

Asp Ala Gly Leu Pro Phe Glu Gly Pro Gly Leu Glu Asp Leu Asp Arg
 130 135 140

Lys Leu Cys Gly Ile Leu Ile Gly Thr Ala Met Gly Gly Met Thr Thr
 145 150 155 160

Phe Ala Ser Gly Val Glu Ala Leu Thr Leu Ser Gly His Arg Lys Met
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Asn Pro Phe Cys Ile Pro Phe Ser Ile Gly Asn Met Gly Ala Met
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Leu Ala Met Asp Leu Gly Phe Met Gly Pro Asn Tyr Ser Ile Ser Thr
 195 200 205

Ala Cys Ala Thr Gly Asn Tyr Cys Ile Ile Ser Ala Ala Asp His Ile
 210 215 220

Arg Asn Gly Asp Ala Val Leu Met Leu Ala Gly Gly Ala Asp Ala Ala
 225 230 235 240

Val Ile Pro Ser Gly Ile Gly Gly Phe Ile Ala Cys Lys Ala Leu Ser
 245 250 255

Arg Arg Asn Asp Ala Pro Glu Arg Ala Ser Arg Pro Trp Asp Ala Gly
 260 265 270

Arg Asp Gly Phe Val Met Gly Glu Gly Ala Gly Val Leu Val Leu Glu
 275 280 285

Glu Leu Glu His Ala Arg Ala Arg Gly Ala Thr Ile Leu Ala Glu Phe
 290 295 300

Ile Gly Gly Ala Ala Thr Cys Asp Ala His His Met Thr Glu Pro Glu
 305 310 315 320

Pro Ser Gly Arg Gly Val Arg Leu Cys Leu Glu Arg Gly Leu Ala Ala
 325 330 335

Ala Gly Val Ala Pro Glu Glu Val Thr Tyr Val Asn Ala His Gly Thr
 340 345 350

Ser Thr Pro Ala Gly Asp Val Ala Glu Phe Arg Ala Ile Arg Ala Val
 355 360 365

Leu Gly His Asp Gly Leu Arg Ile Asn Ser Ser Lys Gly Ala Ile Gly
 370 375 380

His Leu Leu Gly Ala Ala Gly Ala Val Glu Ala Val Ala Thr Ile Gln
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Ala Leu Arg Thr Gly Trp Leu His Pro Asn Leu Asn Leu Asp Glu Pro
 405 410 415

Asp Lys Gly Val Asp Ala Ser Val Leu Val Gly Gly Val Lys Glu Gln

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420	425	430
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435	440	445

Asn Ser Cys Val Leu Phe Arg Lys Phe Glu Glu		
450	455	

10

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing oils with modified profiles of omega-3 fatty acids, omega-6 fatty acids, lutein, zeaxanthin, astaxanthin, 4-keto-lutein, or squalene, comprising: growing a microalgal mutant, wherein the microalgal mutant is made by knock-out, knock-in or homologous recombination, wherein the microalgal mutant is a mutant of *Auxenochlorella protothecoides*, wherein the microalgal mutant comprises a knock-out of at least one allele of lycopene cyclase epsilon LYCE-1, lycopene cyclase epsilon LYCE-2, squalene epoxidase SQE-1, or squalene epoxidase SQE-2, or a replacement of a native FAD3 promoter by a FATA gene promoter from *Auxenochorella protothecoides* or a stearoyl-ACP desaturase (SAD2) promoter from *Auxenochorella protothecoides*, and
- isolating the oil from the microalgal mutant.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the zeaxanthin has a percent (w/w) of zeaxanthin is 2-3-fold higher compared to the wild-type microalgae and the zeaxanthin is present as a major carotenoid.
 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the percent (w/w) of zeaxanthin produced ranges between 40 to 90% of a total identified carotenoids.
 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the oil contains a mixture of 4-keto lutein and astaxanthin, and wherein the astaxanthin is present as a major carotenoid.
 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the percent (w/w) of keto carotenoids produced ranges between 20-90% of a total identified carotenoids.

15 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the oil contains squalene.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the omega-6 fatty acids and the omega-3 fatty acids have a weight ratio of omega-6 fatty acids to omega-3 fatty acids in the oil that is low compared to the oil produced from wild type microalgae.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the weight ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 in the oil ranges from 1:1 to 5:1 compared to the oil produced from wild type microalgae which is 7:1.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the omega-3 fatty acids increased 3-5-fold and the overall PUFA polyunsaturated fatty acids increased 2-3-fold compared to the wild-type strain.

25 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the microalgal mutant is characterized in that one or more of the alleles of the lycopene cyclase epsilon LYCE-1 gene, lycopene cyclase epsilon LYCE-2 gene are knocked out.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the microalgal mutant is characterized in that one or more of the alleles of the squalene epoxidase SQE-1 gene, or squalene epoxidase SQE-2 gene are knocked out.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the microalgal mutant is characterized in that the native FAD3 promoter is replaced with a stearoyl-ACP desaturase (SAD2) promoter or a promoter from the *Auxenochorella protothecoides* FATA gene encoding acyl-ACP thioesterase.

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