CLAIMS

1. A peptide of the formula

$(X1)_nX2R$

wherein X1 and X2 may be identical or different and independently represent any amino acid other than arginine;

n is 0 or 1; and

R stands for arginine,

wherein said peptide exhibits a peptone biological activity; **and further wherein the peptide is not DIR, DLR ASR, IIR, IDR, LDR, EGR, SIR, SLR, LSR or GR.**

2. The peptide of claim 1, wherein said peptide is obtained by fractionation of a peptone or is chemically synthesized.

3. The peptide of claim 2 wherein said peptone is a PP3 (component-3 of protease peptidone).

4. The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide is selected from the peptides EVR, DPR, TVR, EIR, ELR, INR, LNR, QVR, AVR, GIR, GLR, IVR, LVR, ITR, LTR, DTR, ESR, GGR, DVR, ILR, LLR, AIR, ALR, ADR, AGR, DQR, ENR, DMR, EMR, GTR, FPR, LMR, IPR, LPR, DR, VR, ER, NR, and QR.

5. The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptide is a tripeptide.

6. The peptide of claim 5 wherein said tripeptide is selected from the peptides EVR, DPR, TVR, EIR, ELR, INR, LNR, QVR, AVR, GIR, GLR, IVR, LVR, ITR, LTR, DTR, ESR, GGR, DVR, ILR, LLR, AIR, ALR, ADR, EGR, AGR, DQR, ENR, DMR, EMR, GTR, FPR, LMR, IPR, and LPR.

7. The peptide of claim 1 wherein said peptone biological activity is selected from the group consisting of promotion of cell growth, promotion of cell density; promotion of viable cell count; and increase of production yield in said recombinant host cell culture.

8. A composition comprising a peptide of claim 1.

9. The composition of claim 8 w for use in a cell culture medium.

10. A peptide selected from:

a) the tripeptides EVR, DPR, TVR, EIR, ELR, INR, LNR, QVR, AVR, GIR, GLR, IVR, LVR, ITR, LTR, DTR, ESR, GGR, DVR, ILR, LLR, AIR, ALR, ADR, AGR, DQR, ENR, DMR, EMR, GTR, FPR, LMR, IPR, and LPR;

b) the tripeptides EVR, VER, LTR, TLR, ITR, TIR, TVR, and VTR; and

c) the dipeptides DR, VR, ER, NR, and QR,

wherein said peptide exhibits a peptone biological activity.

CLAIMS

1. A culture medium comprising a C-terminal arginine-containing di- or tri-peptide selected from:

a) the tripeptides EVR, DPR, TVR, VTR, EIR, ELR, INR, LNR, QVR, AVR, GIR, GLR, IVR, LVR, ITR, LTR, TLR, TIR, DTR, ESR, DVR, ILR, LLR, AIR, ALR, ADR, AGR, DQR, ENR, DMR, EMR, GTR, FPR, LMR, IPR, and LPR; and

b) the dipeptides DR, VR, ER, NR, and QR,

wherein said peptide exhibits a peptone biological activity.

2. The culture medium of claim 1, wherein said peptide is obtained by fractionation of a peptone or is chemically synthesized.

3. The culture medium of claim 2 wherein said peptone is a PP3 (component-3 of protease peptidone).

4. The culture medium of claim 1 wherein said peptide is selected from the peptides EVR, DPR, TVR, VTR, EIR, ELR, INR, LNR, QVR, AVR, GIR, GLR, IVR, LVR, ITR, LTR, DTR, ESR, DVR, ILR, LLR, AIR, ALR, ADR, AGR, DQR, ENR, DMR, EMR, GTR, FPR, LMR, IPR, and LPR.

5. The culture medium of claim 1 wherein said peptone biological activity is selected from the group consisting of promotion of cell growth, promotion of cell density; promotion of viable cell count; and increase of production yield in said recombinant host cell culture.