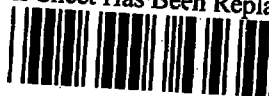


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**A BIFUNCTIONAL COSMID USEFUL FOR
CLONING ACTINOMYCETE DNA**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to novel and useful cosmids for cloning and expressing the isolated DNA gene cluster which directs the synthesis of tetracycline and chlortetracycline, in a heterologous host such as Streptomyces lividans. The claimed plasmids (cosmids) are isolated by screening a cosmid library, constructed in Escherichia coli, for the expression of tetracycline resistance in S. lividans. Plasmids LP²127 and LP²128 are recovered from such tetracycline-resistant S. lividans isolates shown by HPLC analysis of agar and broth fermentations to direct the synthesis of tetracycline and chlortetracycline.

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