CLAIMS

1. An isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. producing O-acetyl homoserine, wherein the endogenous activity of citrate synthase is attenuated or inactivated.

2. The isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism with the attenuated endogenous activity of citrate synthase has an amino acid sequence respresented by SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. The isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. according to claim 1, wherein the activity of cystathionine gamma synthase, homoserine kinase, or both is further attenuated or inactivated compared to their endogenous activities.

4. The isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. according to claim 1, wherein the activity of homoserine O-acetyltransferase is further introduced or enhanced, or the endogenous homoserine O-succinyltransferase is further modified to have the activity of homoserine O-acetyltransferase.

5. The isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. according to claim 1, wherein the activity of at least one protein selected from the group consisting of phosphoenolpyruvate carboxylase, aspartate aminotransferase, and aspartate semialdehyde dehydrogenase is further introduced or enhanced.

6. The isolated microorganism of Escherichia sp. according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is Escherichia coli.

7. A method for producing O-acetyl homoserine, comprising:
(a) culturing the isolated microorganism of any of claims 1 to 6; and
(b) recovering O-acetyl homoserine produced during the cultivation of the microorganism.

8. A method for producing methionine, comprising:
(a) culturing the isolated microorganism of any of clams 1 to 6;
(b) recovering O-acetyl homoserine produced during the cultivation of the microorganism; and
(c) reacting the recovered O-acetyl homerine and methyl mercaptan by an enzyme reaction using an enzyme having an O-acetyl homoserine sulfhydrylase activity or a microorganism possessing the enzyme.