

**BACILLUS SP. FERM BP-3376 AND A METHOD FOR ITS USE TO PRODUCE
AN ALKALINE PROTEINASE K-16**

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a novel enzyme called alkaline proteinase K-16 that is characterized as having an optimum pH in an alkaline range, and stability in the presence of various surface active agents, such as sodium linear alkylbenzene sulfonate, sodium polyoxyethylene alkyl sulfate, sodium dodecyl sulfate, sodium α -olefin sulfonate, sodium alkyl sulfonate, and α -sulfo-fatty acid ester. The present invention further provides for the microorganism *Bacillus* sp. FERM BP-3376, which is capable of producing the novel alkaline proteinase, and a process for producing the novel alkaline proteinase. Alkaline-proteinase K-16 of the present invention exhibits an excellent action against insoluble proteins and maintains sufficient activity over a wide temperature range and in the presence of surface active agents thus providing a use as an enzyme for detergents.

(Fig. 1)