Claims

1. A genetically modified yeast strain producing desmosterol as the major sterol wherein the sterol 24-C-methyltransferase activity is decreased and wherein the 7-dehydrocholesterol reductase activity is increased.
2. A genetically modified yeast strain according to claim 1 wherein desmosterol constitute at least 40% of the whole sterol.
3. A genetically modified yeast strain according to claim 1 or 2 wherein desmosterol constitute at least 50% of the whole sterol.
4. A genetically modified yeast strain according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the decrease of the sterol 24-C-methyltransferase activity is obtained by inactivation of both alleles of the gene encoding the said activity.
5. A genetically modified yeast strain according to claims 1 to 4 further producing cholesterol as a second major sterol wherein the 24-dehydrocholesterol-reductase activity is increased.
6. A genetically modified yeast strain according to claim 5 wherein at least 20% of the whole sterol is cholesterol.
7. Use of a genetically modified yeast strain according to any one of the claims 1 to 6 for the production of desmosterol.
8. Use of a genetically modified yeast strain according to claims 5 or 6 for the production of cholesterol.