[CLAIMS]

[Claim 1]

A glutamate–cysteine ligase variant in which an amino acid corresponding to the 86th position from the N-terminus of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is substituted with an amino acid other than cysteine.

[Claim 2]

The glutamate–cysteine ligase variant of claim 1, wherein the amino acid corresponding to the 86th position is substituted with glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamate, glutamine, aspartate, lysine, arginine, or histidine.

[Claim 3]

The glutamate–cysteine ligase variant of claim 1, wherein the variant consists of one amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 3 to 21.

[Claim 4]

A polynucleotide encoding the glutamate–cysteine ligase variant according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

[Claim 5]

A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 4.

[Claim 6]

A microorganism producing glutathione comprising at least one of: the glutamate–cysteine ligase variant according to any one of claims 1 to 3; a polynucleotide encoding the variant; and a vector comprising the polynucleotide.

[Claim 7]

The microorganism of claim 6, wherein the microorganism is a microorganism belonging to the genus *Saccharomyces*.

[Claim 8]

The microorganism of claim 6, wherein the microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

[Claim 9]

The microorganism of claim 6, wherein the microorganism is a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain deposited with Accession No. KCCM12659P.

[Claim 10]

A method of producing glutathione, the method comprising culturing a microorganism comprising at least one of: the glutamate–cysteine ligase variant according to any one of claims 1 to 3; a polynucleotide encoding the variant; and a vector comprising the polynucleotide, in a culture medium.

[Claim 11]

The method of claim 10, further comprising recovering glutathione from at least one selected from the cultured microorganism, a dried product of the microorganism, an extract of the microorganism, a culture of the microorganism, and a lysate of the microorganism.