parapsilosis (Genbank Acc. No. BAA24528.1; GI:2815409), *Sporobolomyces salmonicolor* (Genbank Acc. No. AF160799; GI:6539734).

[0005] In order to circumvent many chemical synthetic procedures for the production of key compounds, ketoreductases are being increasingly employed for the enzymatic conversion of different keto and aldehyde substrates to chiral alcohol products. These applications can employ whole cells expressing the ketoreductase for biocatalytic ketone reductions, or purified enzymes in those instances where presence of multiple ketoreductases in whole cells would adversely affect the stereopurity and yield of the desired product. For *in vitro* applications, a co-factor (NADH or NADPH) regenerating enzyme such as glucose dehydrogenase (GDH), formate dehydrogenase *etc.* is used in conjunction with the ketoreductase. Examples using ketoreductases to generate useful chemical compounds include asymmetric reduction of 4-chloroacetoacetate esters (Zhou, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1983 105:5925-5926; Santaniello, *J. Chem. Res.* (S) 1984:132-133; U.S. Patent Nos. 5,559,030; U.S. Patent No. 5,700,670 and U.S. Patent No. 5,891,685), reduction of dioxocarboxylic acids (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,399,339), reduction of tert-butyl (S) chloro-5-hydroxy-3-oxohexanoate (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,645,746 and WO 01/40450), reduction pyrrolotriazine-based compounds (*e.g.*, U.S. application No. 2006/0286646); reduction of substituted acetophenones (*e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,800,477); and reduction of ketothiolanes (WO 2005/054491).

[0006] It is desirable to identify other ketoreductase enzymes that can be used to carry out conversion of various keto substrates to its corresponding chiral alcohol products.

4. SUMMARY

[0007] The present disclosure provides ketoreductase polypeptides capable of reducing 5-((4*S*)-2-oxo-4-phenyl (1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl))-1-(4-fluorophenyl) pentane-1,5-dione ("the substrate") to (4*S*)-3-[(5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxypentanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one ("the product"), polynucleotides encoding such polypeptides, and methods for using the polypeptides. The ketoreductase polypeptides are also capable of reducing 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3(R)-[3-oxo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl)]-4(S)-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azetidinone, to the corresponding stereoisomeric alcohol 1-(4-fluorophenyl)- 3(R)-[3(S)-hydroxy-3(4-fluorophenyl)-propyl)]-4(S)-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azetidinone.

[0007a] In one aspect, there is provided a recombinant ketoreductase polypeptide capable of converting the substrate 5-((4*S*)-2-oxo-4-phenyl (1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl))-1-(4-fluorophenyl) pentane-1,5-dione to the product (4*S*)-3-[(5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxypentanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one at a rate that is improved over the rate of a reference polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, and wherein the substrate is converted to the product with a percent stereomeric excess of at least about 90%, and which comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85% identical to a reference sequence of SEQ ID NO: 128, 130 or 160, with the proviso that the amino acid sequence has at the residue corresponding to residue X145 a serine and at the residue corresponding to residue X190 a cysteine.

[0008] In one embodiment~~aspect~~, the ketoreductase polypeptides described herein have an amino acid sequence that has one or more amino acid differences as compared to a reference amino acid sequence of a wild-type ketoreductase or an engineered ketoreductase that result in an improved property of the enzyme for the defined keto substrate. Generally, the engineered ketoreductase polypeptides have an improved property as compared to the naturally-occurring wild-type ketoreductase enzymes obtained

from *Lactobacillus kefir* ("*L. kefir*"; SEQ ID NO:4), *Lactobacillus brevis* ("*L. brevis*"; SEQ ID NO:2), and *Lactobacillus minor* ("*L. minor*"; SEQ ID NO:158). In some embodiments, the polypeptides of the disclosure have an improved property as compared to another engineered polypeptide, such as SEQ ID NO: 8. Improvements in enzyme property include increases in enzyme activity, stereoselectivity, sterospecificity, thermostability, solvent stability, or reduced product inhibition. In the present disclosure, the ketoreductase polypeptides have at least the following amino acid sequence as compared to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 158: the amino acid residue corresponding to X145 is a serine, and the amino acid residue corresponding to X190 is a cysteine. In some embodiments, as compared to the sequences of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, or 158, the ketoreductase polypeptides have at least the following amino acid sequence differences: (1) the amino acid residue corresponding to X145 is a serine; the amino acid residue corresponding to residue X190 is a cysteine; and the amino acid residue corresponding to X96 is a glutamine. In some embodiments, as compared to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 158, the ketoreductase polypeptides have at least the amino acid sequence as compared to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 158: residue X145 is a serine; residue X190 is a cysteine, and residue X211 is an arginine.

[0009] In some embodiments, the ketoreductase polypeptides of the disclosure~~invention~~ are improved as compared to SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 158 with respect to their rate of enzymatic activity, *i.e.*, their rate of converting the substrate to the product. In some embodiments, the ketoreductase polypeptides are capable of converting the substrate to the product at a rate that is at least 1.5-times, 2-times, 3-times, 4-times, 5-times, 10-times, 25-times, 50-times, 100-times, 150-times, 200-times, 400-times, 1000-times, 3000-times, 5000-times, 7000-times or more than 7000-times the rate exhibited by the enzyme of SEQ ID NO:2, 4 or 158.

[0010] In some embodiments, the ketoreductase polypeptide is capable of converting the substrate 5-((4*S*)-2-oxo-4-phenyl (1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl))-1-(4-fluorophenyl) pentane-1,5-dione to the product (4*S*)-3-[(5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxypentanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, at a rate that is improved over a reference polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8. In some embodiments, such ketoreductase polypeptides are also capable of converting the substrate to the product with a percent stereomeric excess of at least about 95%. In some embodiments, such ketoreductase polypeptides are also capable of converting the substrate to the product with a percent stereomeric excess of at least about 99%. Exemplary polypeptides with such properties include, but are not limited to, polypeptides which comprising amino acid sequences corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, and 126.

68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, and 126.

[0016] In some embodiments, an improved ketoreductase polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that corresponds to the sequence formulas of SEQ ID NO:161, 162 or 163 (or a region thereof, such as residues 90-211). SEQ ID NO:162 is based on the amino acid sequence of the *Lactobacillus kefir* ketoreductase of SEQ ID NO:4. The sequence formula of SEQ ID NO:161 is based on the amino acid sequence of the *Lactobacillus brevis* ketoreductase (SEQ ID NO:2). The sequence formula of SEQ ID NO:163 is based on the amino acid sequence of the *Lactobacillus minor* ketoreductase (SEQ ID NO:158). SEQ ID NO:161, 162 or 163 specify that residue X145 is a polar residue and residue X190 is cysteine.

[0016a] In one aspect, there is provided a recombinant ketoreductase polypeptide comprising a region with an amino acid sequence having at least about 85% identity to residues 90 to 211 of a reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:130, with the proviso that the ketoreductase polypeptide has at the residue corresponding to X145 a serine and at the residue corresponding to residue X190 a cysteine.

[0017] In some embodiments, an improved ketoreductase polypeptide of the disclosure is based on the sequence formulas of SEQ ID NO:161, 162 or 163 and can comprise an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical to the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:128, 130, or 160, with the proviso that the ketoreductase amino acid sequence has at the residue corresponding to residue X145 a serine and at the amino acid residue corresponding to X190 a cysteine. In some embodiments, the ketoreductase polypeptides can have one or more amino acid residue differences as compared to SEQ ID NO:128, 130, or 160. These differences can be amino acid insertions, deletions, substitutions, or any combination of such changes. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence differences can comprise non-conservative, conservative, as well as a combination of non-conservative and conservative amino acid substitutions. Various amino acid residue positions where such changes can be made are described herein.

[0018] In some embodiments, an improved ketoreductase polypeptide is based on the sequence formulas of SEQ ID NO:161, 162 or 163 and can comprise a region having an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99% identical to a region or domain thereof, such as residues 90-211 of the reference sequence of SEQ ID NO:128, 130, or 160, with the proviso that the ketoreductase polypeptide amino acid sequence has at the residue corresponding to residue X145 a serine and at the amino acid residue corresponding to X190 a cysteine. In some embodiments, the amino acid sequence differences can comprise non-conservative, conservative, as well as a combination of non-conservative and conservative amino acid substitutions. Various amino acid residue positions where such changes can be made in the defined region are described herein.

[0019] In some embodiments, an improved ketoreductase comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least about 85%, 86%, 87%, 88%, 89%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or

99% identical to the amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 8, 42, 44, 46, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, and 126., wherein the improved ketoreductase polypeptide amino acid sequence includes any one set of the specified amino acid substitution combinations presented in Tables 3 and 4. In some embodiments, these ketoreductase polypeptides can have mutations at other amino acid residues.

[0019a] In one aspect, there is provided a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide as defined herein.

[0020] In another embodimentaspect, the present disclosure provides polynucleotides encoding the engineered ketoreductases described herein or polynucleotides that hybridize to such polynucleotides under highly stringent conditions. The polynucleotide can include promoters and other regulatory elements useful for expression of the encoded engineered ketoreductase, and can utilize codons optimized for specific desired expression systems. In some embodiments, the polynucleotides encode a ketoreductase polypeptides having at least the following amino acid sequence as compared to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 158: the amino acid residue corresponding to X145 is a serine, and the amino acid residue corresponding to X190 is a cysteine. Exemplary polynucleotides include, but are not limited to, a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, and 125.

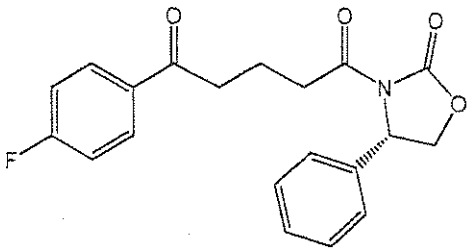
[0020a] In one aspect, there is provided an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide as defined herein operably linked to control sequences suitable for directing expression of the encoded polypeptide in a host cell.

[0020b] In one aspect, there is provided a host cell comprising the expression vector as defined herein.

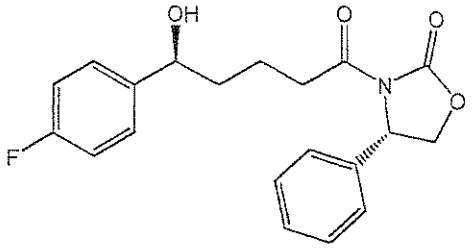
[0021] In another embodimentaspect, the present disclosure provides host cells comprising the polynucleotides and/or expression vectors described herein. The host cells may be *L. kefir* or *L. brevis*, or they may be a different organism, and as *E. coli*. The host cells can be used for the expression and isolation of the engineered ketoreductase enzymes described herein, or, alternatively, they can be used directly for the conversion of the substrate to the stereoisomeric product.

[0022] Whether carrying out the method with whole cells, cell extracts or purified ketoreductase enzymes, a single ketoreductase enzyme may be used or, alternatively, mixtures of two or more ketoreductase enzymes may be used.

[0023] The ketoreductase enzymes described herein are capable of catalyzing the reduction reaction of the keto group in the compound of structural formula (**I**), 5-((4*S*)-2-oxo-4-phenyl (1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl))-1-(4-fluorophenyl) pentane-1,5-dione ("the substrate"),

(I) 

to the corresponding stereoisomeric alcohol product of structural formula (II), (4*S*)-3-[(5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxypentanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one ("the product"):

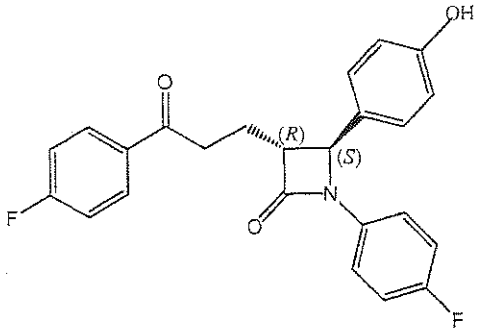
(II) 

[0023a] In one aspect, there is provided a composition comprising the compound of structural formula (I) and/or the compound of structural formula (II) and a ketoreductase as defined herein.

[0023b] In one aspect, there is provided a method for steroselectively reducing the substrate 5-((4*S*)-2-oxo-4-phenyl (1,3-oxazolidin-3-yl))-1-(4-fluorophenyl) pentane-1,5-dione to the product (4*S*)-3-[(5*S*)-5-(4-fluorophenyl)-5-hydroxypentanoyl]-4-phenyl-1,3-oxazolidin-2-one, which comprises contacting the substrate with the ketoreductase polypeptide as defined herein under reaction condition suitable for reducing or converting the substrate to the product.

[0024] In some embodiments, the method for reducing or converting the substrate having the structural formula (I) to the corresponding product of structural formula (II) comprises contacting or incubating the substrate with a ketoreductase polypeptide disclosed herein under reaction conditions suitable for reducing or converting the substrate to the product.

[0025] In some embodiment, the ketoreductase enzymes described herein are also capable of catalyzing the reduction reaction of the keto group in the compound of structural formula (III), 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3(R)-[3-oxo-3-(4-fluorophenyl)propyl)]-4(S)-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azetidinone,

(III) 

to the corresponding stereoisomeric alcohol product of structural formula (IV), 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-3(R)-[3(S)-hydroxy-3(4-fluorophenyl)-propyl)]-4(S)-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-azetidinone,