ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A biological process for predominantly producing an optically active α-hydroxycarboxylic acid having a phenyl group directly from a racemic α-hydroxynitrile or a mixture of an aldehyde corresponding to the nitrile and prussic acid as a substrate is disclosed, comprising reacting a microorganism belonging to the genus Gordona with the substrate in a neutral to basic aqueous medium. A desired optically active α-hydroxycarboxylic acid having a phenyl group can be obtained quantitatively at a high optical purity.

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