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(21) International application number: PCT/EP99/00599 (22) International filing date: 29 January 1999 (29.01.99) (30) Data relating to the priority: 198 04 815.7 6 February 1998 (06.02.98) DE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): INDENA S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Viale Ortles, 12, I-20139 Milan (IT). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (US only): BOMBARDELLI, Ezio [IT/IT]; Via Val di Sole, 22, I-20141 Milano (IT). MENHARD, Birgitta [DE/DE]; Opladener Strasse 79, D-40789 Monheim (DE). ZENK, Meinhart, Hans [DE/DE]; Pfeivestlstrasse 17, D- 81243 Munich (DE). (74) Attorneys: WEICKMANN, H. etc.; Kopernikusstrasse 9, D-81679 Munich (DE).		(81) Designated states: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO Patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian Patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI Patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published With the International Search Report. Before expiry of the period provided for amending the claims, will be republished if such amendments are received.

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(54) Title: METHOD FOR PRODUCING BACCATIN

(54) Bezeichnung: VERFAHREN ZUR HERSTELLUNG VON BACCATIN

(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a method for producing baccatin and/or baccatin derivatives. According to said method, 10-desacetyl baccatin or a derivative thereof is reacted in the presence of an isolated enzyme and an acetyl donor. An acetyl transferase with a molecular weight of between 70 and 72 kD, determined by SDS-PAGE, is used as the enzyme. Said acetyl transferase can be obtained from cell cultures of *Taxus chinensis*.

(57) Zusammenfassung

Es wird ein Verfahren zur Herstellung von Baccatin oder/und Baccatinderivaten beschrieben, bei dem man 10-Desacetyl/baccatin oder ein 10-Desacetyl/baccatinderivat in Gegenwart eines isolierten Enzyms und eines Acetyldonors umsetzt, wobei als Enzym eine Acetyltransferase mit einem Molekulargewicht von 70 bis 72 kD, bestimmt durch SDS-PAGE, verwendet wird, die aus Zellkulturen von *Taxus chinensis* erhältlich ist.