ABSTRACT

NOVEL THERAPEUTIC AND PROPHYLACTIC AGENTS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

The invention provides a novel surface polypeptide from *Aeromonas hydrophila* as well as fragments, variants and derivatives of this polypeptide. Also provided are polynucleotides encoding the polypeptide, fragments, variants and derivatives. Compositions containing the polypeptide and polynucleotides of the invention are also disclosed as well as methods useful in the treatment and prevention of bacterial infection in an animal, wherein said infection is caused by bacteria of a genus selected from the group consisting of *Aeromonas*, *Vibrio* and *Edwardsiella,* and in the diagnosis of bacterial infection in an animal, wherein said infection is caused by bacteria of a genus *Aeromonas.*

(Figure 5 is to be published)