

ABSTRACT

PRODUCTION OF SACCHARIDE CARBOXYLIC ACIDS

A process for producing a saccharide carboxylic acid or a salt thereof is characterised in that a microorganism belonging to the genus Pseudogluconobacter and capable of oxidizing a hydroxymethyl group and/or hemiacetal hydroxyl-associated carbon atom to a carboxyl group, or an artefact derived from the microorganism, is permitted to act on a hydroxymethyl and/or hemiacetal hydroxyl-containing saccharide or saccharide derivative to produce and accumulate the corresponding carboxylic acid, and the carboxylic acid so accumulated is harvested; novel saccharide carboxylic acids produced by the above production method, and by the process, from a broad range of saccharides, saccharic acids having carboxyl groups derived from hydroxymethyl and/or hemiacetal OH groups can be produced with high selectivity and in good yield; the resultant saccharide acids are resistant to enzymatic degradation and have improved water solubility, among other characteristics.

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