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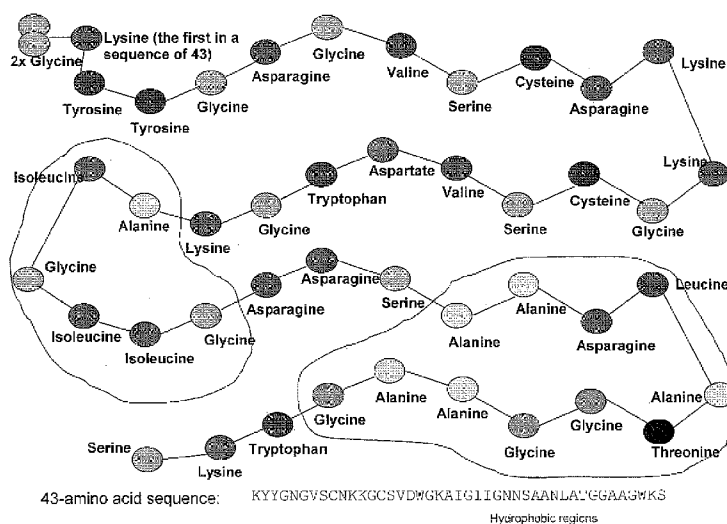
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PROBIOTIC STRAIN AND ANTIMICROBIAL PEPTIDE DERIVED THEREFROM



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a strain of *Enterococcus mundtii* having probiotic qualities. The strain of *E. mundtii* (ST4SA) produces an antimicrobial peptide which exhibits antimicrobial activity against a broad range of bacteria. The invention also provides an isolated nucleotide sequence which codes for the antimicrobial peptide (peptide ST4SA). Another aspect of the invention relates to a process for the production of a peptide of the invention which comprises cultivating *Enterococcus mundtii* strain ST4SA in a nutrient medium under micro-aerophilic conditions at a temperature of between 100C and 45°C, until a recoverable quantity of said peptide is produced, and recovering said peptide. The isolated peptide of the invention may be used as an antimicrobial agent in a liquid formulation or a gel formulation as a topical treatment and may also be used as an antimicrobial agent following encapsulation in a polymer.

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