CLAIMS

{Claim 1}

A method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor, comprising the steps of:

bringing microorganisms having a 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid production capacity into contact with a test substance in the presence of a sebaceous dirt component;

detecting the production of a damp-dry malodor-causing substance by the microorganisms; and thereby

selecting a test substance having a damp-dry malodor inhibitory function.

{Claim 2}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1, wherein the sebaceous dirt component is an anteiso fatty acid.

{Claim 3}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the damp-dry malodor-causing substance is 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid.

{Claim 4}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are added to a fabric product to which the sebaceous dirt component is clung, to bring the microorganisms and the test substance into contact with each other.

{Claim 5}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 4, wherein the fabric product is a cotton fabric product that has been already used.

{Claim 6}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are brought into contact with each other in a solution or solid containing the sebaceous dirt component.

{Claim 7}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the microorganisms are at least one kind of microbial strain selected from the group consisting of genus Moraxella, Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Sphingomonas, Cupriavidus, Ralstonia, Psychorobacter, Serratia, Escherichia, Staphylococcus, Burkholderia, Saccaromyces and Rhodotorula.

{Claim 8}

The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the microorganisms are at least one kind of microbial strain selected from the group consisting of species of Moraxella sp., Moraxella osloensis, Acinetobacter radioresistens, Acinetobacter junii, Acinetobacter calcoaceticus, Serratia marcescens, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas alcaligenes, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus subtilis, Psychrobacter pacificensis, Psychrobacter glacincola, Sphingomonas yanoikuyae, Ralstonia sp., Saccaromyces cerevisiae, Rhodotorula mucilaginosa, Rhodotorula slooffiae, Cupriavidus oxalaticus and Burkholderia cepacia.

{Claim 9}

A method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor, comprising the steps of:

bringing microorganisms having a 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid production capacity into contact with a test substance in the presence of a sebaceous dirt component;

detecting the production of a damp-dry malodor-causing substance by the microorganisms; and thereby

evaluating the damp-dry malodor inhibitory function of the test substance.

{Claim 10}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 9, wherein the sebaceous dirt component is an anteiso fatty acid.

{Claim 11}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 9 or 10, wherein the damp-dry malodor-causing substance is 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid.

{Claim 12}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are added to a fabric product to which the sebaceous dirt component is clung, to bring the microorganisms and the test substance into contact with each other.

{Claim 13}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 12, wherein the fabric product is a cotton fabric product that has been

already used.

{Claim 14}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 9 to 11, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are brought into contact with each other in a solution or solid containing the sebaceous dirt component.

{Claim 15}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 9 to 14, wherein the microorganisms are at least one kind of microbial strain selected from the group consisting of genus Moraxella, Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Sphingomonas, Cupriavidus, Ralstonia, Psychorobacter, Serratia, Escherichia, Staphylococcus, Burkholderia, Saccaromyces and Rhodotorula.

{Claim 16}

The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to any one of Claims 9 to 15, wherein the microorganisms are at least one kind of microbial strain selected from the group consisting of species of Moraxella sp., Moraxella osloensis, Acinetobacter radioresistens, Acinetobacter junii, Acinetobacter calcoaceticus, Serratia marcescens, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas alcaligenes, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus subtilis, Psychrobacter pacificensis, Psychrobacter glacincola, Sphingomonas yanoikuyae, Ralstonia sp., Saccaromyces cerevisiae, Rhodotorula mucilaginosa, Rhodotorula slooffiae, Cupriavidus oxalaticus and Burkholderia cepacia.

{Claim 17}

A kit for screening of a damp-dry malodor inhibitor or a kit for evaluation of a damp-dry malodor inhibitor, comprising:

a sebaceous dirt component; and

microorganisms having a 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid production capacity.

Claims

1. A method of screening for a test substance that is a damp-dry malodor inhibitor, comprising the steps of:
bringing microorganisms that produce 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid into contact with the test substance in the presence of a sebaceous dirt component;
detecting production of 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid by the microorganisms; and
selecting a test substance that decreases production of 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid as a damp-dry malodor inhibitor.

2. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1, wherein the sebaceous dirt component is an anteiso fatty acid.

3. A method of evaluating whether a test substance is a damp-dry malodor inhibitor, comprising the steps of:

bringing microorganisms that produce 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid into contact with the test substance in the presence of a sebaceous dirt component;

detecting the production of 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid by the microorganisms; and

evaluating the test substance as a damp-dry malodor inhibitor if the test substance decreases production of 4-methyl-3-hexenoic acid.

4. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the sebaceous dirt component is an anteiso fatty acid.

5. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are added to a fabric product that contains the sebaceous dirt component, to bring the microorganisms and the test substance into contact with each other.

6. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 5, wherein the fabric product is a cotton fabric product that has been used.

7. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are brought into contact with each other in a solution or solid containing the sebaceous dirt component.

8. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 1, wherein the microorganisms comprise at least one microbial strain from a genus selected from the group consisting of *Moraxella, Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Sphingomonas, Cupriavidus, Ralstonia, Psychorobacter, Serratia, Escherichia, Staphylococcus, Burkholderia, Saccaromyces* and *Rhodotorula.*

9. The method of screening a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 8, wherein the microorganisms comprise at least one microbial strain from a species selected from the group consisting of *Moraxella* sp., *Moraxella osloensis, Acinetobacter radioresistens, Acinetobacter junii, Acinetobacter calcoaceticus, Serratia marcescens, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas alcaligenes, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus subtilis, Psychrobacter pacificensis, Psychrobacter glacincola, Sphingomonas yanoikuyae, Ralstonia* sp., *Saccaromyces cerevisiae, Rhodotorula mucilaginosa, Rhodotorula slooffiae, Cupriavidus oxalaticus* and *Burkholderia cepacia.*

10. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are added to a fabric

product that contains the sebaceous dirt component, to bring the microorganisms and the test substance into contact with each other.

11. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 10, wherein the fabric product is a cotton fabric product that has been used.

12. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the microorganisms and the test substance are brought into contact with each other in a solution or solid containing the sebaceous dirt component.

13. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 3, wherein the microorganisms comprise at least one microbial strain from a genus selected from the group consisting of *Moraxella, Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas, Bacillus, Sphingomonas, Cupriavidus, Ralstonia, Psychorobacter, Serratia, Escherichia, Staphylococcus, Burkholderia, Saccaromyces* and *Rhodotorula.*

14. The method of evaluating a damp-dry malodor inhibitor according to Claim 13, wherein the microorganisms comprise at least one microbial strain from a species selected from the group consisting of *Moraxella* sp., *Moraxella osloensis, Acinetobacter radioresistens, Acinetobacter junii, Acinetobacter calcoaceticus, Serratia marcescens, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Pseudomonas alcaligenes, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus subtilis, Psychrobacter pacificensis, Psychrobacter glacincola, Sphingomonas yanoikuyae, Ralstonia* sp., *Saccaromyces cerevisiae, Rhodotorula mucilaginosa, Rhodotorula slooffiae, Cupriavidus oxalaticus* and *Burkholderia cepacia.*