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POLYPEPTIDES POSSESSING A NITRILASE ACTIVITY, DNA SEQUENCE CODING FOR SAID POLYPEPTIDES, EXPRESSION CASSETTES AND HOST MICROORGANISMS ENABLING THEM TO BE OBTAINED, AND METHOD OF CONVERTING NITRILES TO CARBOXYLATES BY MEANS OF SAID POLYPEPTIDES

The present invention relates to novel polypeptides having a nitrilase activity and to the genetic tools for producing them, namely:

- the DNA sequence coding for a polypeptide having a nitrilase activity and capable of hydrolyzing nitriles to carboxylates,
- an analog of this sequence resulting from the degeneracy of the genetic code,
- a DNA sequence hybridizing with one of these sequences or a fragment thereof and coding for a polypeptide having a nitrilase activity, and
- expression cassettes and microorganisms enabling them to be obtained.

Application: enzymatic conversion of nitriles to carboxylates.

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