Claims

[Claim 1]

Bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* having a xylanase gene on a genome, wherein the xylanase gene is a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:1, or a polynucleotide having an identity of 90% or more with the nucleotide sequence and encoding a protein having xylanase activity, and wherein the bacteria have an ability to utilize xylanase and are a genetically modified species.

~~[Claim 2]~~

~~The bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* according to claim 1, wherein the xylanase gene is a polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1, or a polynucleotide having an identity of 70% or more with the nucleotide sequence and encoding a protein having xylanase activity.~~

~~[Claim 3]~~

~~The bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* according to claim 1 or 2, which has an ability to utilize xylans.~~

[Claim ~~4~~2]

The bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* according to claim ~~3~~1, wherein the xylans are xylan and arabinoxylan.

[Claim ~~5~~3]

The bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 4~~or 2, which has an ability to utilize starch.

[Claim ~~6~~4]

The bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* according to any one of claims 1 to ~~5~~3, wherein the bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* is classified as *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum*.

~~[Claim 7]~~

~~*Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT11027 (NITE BP-02928), *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT11055 (NITE BP-02929), *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT11057 (NITE BP-02930), *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT11952 (NITE BP-02931), *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT11954 (NITE BP-02932), *Bifidobacterium pseudocatenulatum* YIT12989 (NITE BP-02933) or a bacterial strain closely related thereto.~~

[Claim ~~8~~5]

A food or beverage comprising the bacteria belonging to the genus *Bifidobacterium* ~~genus bacterium~~ according to any one of claims 1 to ~~7~~4.

[Claim ~~9~~6]

The food or beverage according to claim ~~8~~5, which is a fermented milk ~~food~~ or beverage.