We claim:

1. A method for the prophylaxis of a bowel condition, comprising the step of administering as a probiotic an effective amount of a *Bacillus* bacteria that produces lipopeptides.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the bowel condition is selected from the group consisting of antibiotic associated diarrhea, *Clostridium difficile* acquired diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, and gastro-intestinal disease.

3. A method for the treatment of a bowel condition, comprising the step of administering as a probiotic an effective amount of a *Bacillus* bacteria that produces lipopeptides.

4. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the bowel condition is selected from the group consisting of antibiotic associated diarrhea, *Clostridium difficile* acquired diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, and gastro-intestinal disease.

5. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the administration of inulin combined with the *Bacillus* bacteria.

6. The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising the administration of inulin combined with the *Bacillus* bacteria.

7. The method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the administration of a probiotic combined with the *Bacillus* bacteria.

8. The method as defined in claim 3, further comprising the administration of a probiotic combined with the *Bacillus* bacteria.

9. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the bacteria are selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and *Bacillus subtilis*.

10. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the bacteria are selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* and *Bacillus subtilis*.

11. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* bacteria produce a synergistic compound upon administration.

12. The method as defined in claim 3, wherein the *Bacillus* bacteria produce a synergistic compound upon administration.

13. An isolated bacterial strain having the 16S rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

14. An isolated bacterial strain as defined in claim 13, wherein the strain has at least 90% homology to the 16S rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

15. An isolated bacterial strain having the partial *gyrA* sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.

16. An isolated bacterial strain as defined in claim 15, wherein the strain has at least 90% homology to the partial *gyrA* sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2.

17. An isolated bacterial strain having the partial *gyrA* sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3.

18. An isolated bacterial strain as defined in claim 17, wherein the strain has at least 90% homology to the partial *gyrA* sequence of SEQ ID NO. 3.

19. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* bacteria consist of bacteria of the strain identified as ATCC strain PTA-6737.

20. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the *Bacillus* bacteria consist of bacteria of the strain identified as ATCC strain PTA-6737.

Claims

1. Use of a *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria of the strain identified as ATCC strain PTA-6737 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the *Bacillus* bacteria is combined with inulin or a probiotic.

3. A *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria of the strain identified as ATCC strain PTA-6737 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease.

4. A *Bacillus subtilis* bacteria according to claim 3 in combination with inulin or a probiotic for use according to claim 3.

5. Use of an isolated bacterial strain having the 16S rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.

6. An isolated bacterial strain having the 16S rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory bowel disease.

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