15. *Bifidobacterium bifidum* OLB6378 strain (accession number: NITE BP-31) which has been heat treated.

16. An agent for use as a medicament, wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

17. Use of an agent in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating periodontal disease , wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

18. An anticariogenic agent for use as a medicament, wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

19. Use of an anticariogenic agent in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating periodontal disease , wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

[Advantage of the Invention]

[0013]

In the invention, it was found that a bifidobacterium has anticariogenic effect, and thus it has become possible to provide a novel anticariogenic agent or anticariogenic composition containing a bifidobacterium and without side effects.

[0014]

Also, because it was found that a bifidobacterium has an effect of preventing or treating periodontal disease, it has become possible to provide a novel agent for preventing periodontal disease or for treating periodontal disease containing a bifidobacterium and without side effects or a novel composition for preventing periodontal disease or for treating periodontal disease containing a bifidobacterium and without side effects.

[Mode for Carrying Out the Invention]

[0015]

The invention is explained in detail below.

The invention relates to an anticariogenic agent or an anticariogenic composition containing a bifidobacterium.

The invention also relates to an agent for preventing periodontal disease or for treating periodontal disease containing a bifidobacterium or a composition for preventing periodontal disease or for treating periodontal disease containing a bifidobacterium.

[0016]

In the present specification, unless otherwise specifically noted, the anticariogenic agent, the agent for preventing periodontal disease and the agent for treating periodontal disease are together referred to as "the agent of the invention", and the anticariogenic composition, the composition for preventing periodontal disease and the composition for treating periodontal disease are together referred to as "the composition of the invention".

[0017]

<Bifidobacterium>

The bifidobacterium used for the invention is a bacterium belonging to genus *Bifidobacterium*, and the kind and the origin of the bifidobacterium used for the invention are not limited. Specifically, examples of the bifidobacterium include *Bifidobacterium*

[Designation of Document] Claims

[Claim 1]

An anticariogenic agent comprising a bifidobacterium.

[Claim 2]

The anticariogenic agent according to claim 1, wherein the bifidobacterium is *Bifidobacterium bifidum*.

[Claim 3]

The anticariogenic agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the bifidobacterium is *Bifidobacterium bifidum* OLB6378 strain (accession number: NITE BP-31).

[Claim 4]

The anticariogenic agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the bifidobacterium is in the form of heat-treated cell.

[Claim 5]

The anticariogenic agent according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the bifidobacterium is applied in an amount of 10^8 cells/day or more continuously for four weeks or longer.

[Claim 6]

An anticariogenic composition comprising the anticariogenic agent according to any one of claims 1 to 5.

[Claim 7]

The anticariogenic composition according to claim 6 further comprising a dispersant.

[Claim 8]

The anticariogenic composition according to claim 7, wherein the dispersant is dextrin.

[Claim 9]

A package comprising the anticariogenic composition according to any one of claims 6 to 8 and a packaging material, wherein the anticariogenic composition is packaged in the packaging material.

[Claim 10]

An agent for use as a medicament, wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

[Claim 11]

Use of an agent in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating periodontal disease , wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

[Claim 12]

An anticariogenic agent for use as a medicament, wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

[Claim 13]

Use of an anticariogenic agent in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating periodontal disease , wherein the agent comprises a bifidobacterium.

[Claim 14]

Bifidobacterium bifidum OLB6378 strain (accession number: NITE BP-31) which has been heat treated.