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(54) Title: MICROORGANISMS FOR PRODUCING METHACRYLIC ACID AND METHACRYLATE ESTERS AND METHODS RELATED THERETO

(57) Abstract: The invention provides a non-naturally occurring microbial organism having a methacrylic acid, methacrylate ester, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate and/or 2-hydroxyisobutyrate pathway. The microbial organism contains at least one exogenous nucleic acid encoding an enzyme in a methacrylic acid pathway. The invention additionally provides a method for producing methacrylic acid, methacrylate ester, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate and/or 2- hydroxyisobutyrate. The method can include culturing methacrylic acid, methacrylate ester, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate and/or 2-hydroxyisobutyrate producing microbial organism, where the microbial organism expresses at least one exogenous nucleic acid encoding a methacrylic acid pathway enzyme in a sufficient amount to produce methacrylic acid, methacrylate ester, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate and/or 2-hydroxyisobutyrate, under conditions and for a sufficient period of time to produce methacrylic acid, methacrylate ester, 3-hydroxyisobutyrate and/or 2-hydroxyisobutyrate.