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 98% 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 xylans are xylan and arabinoxylan.

[Claim 3]

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

[Claim 4]

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

[Claim 5]

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

[Claim 6]

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