



(11) **EP 2 017 344 A8**

(12) **CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A1)
Corrections, see
Bibliography INID code(s) 72

(51) Int Cl.:
C12N 15/60 (2006.01) **C12N 9/88** (2006.01)
C12N 15/80 (2006.01) **C12N 1/15** (2006.01)
C12P 1/02 (2006.01) **C12R 1/66** (2006.01)

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
13.05.2009 Bulletin 2009/20

(43) Date of publication:
21.01.2009 Bulletin 2009/04

(21) Application number: **07112895.3**

(22) Date of filing: **20.07.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE
SI SK TR**
Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

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(54) **Production of itaconic acid**

(57) The invention relates to the production of itaconic acid in micro-organisms by introducing into a suitable host cell a gene coding for the enzyme *cis*-aconitic acid decarboxylase, preferably derived from *A. terreus*. Further production of itaconic acid can be boosted by intro-

duction of a gene coding for the enzyme aconitase and/or the enzyme 2-methylcitrate dehydratase. Further part of the invention are host cells, preferably from *A. niger*, provided with the above mentioned genes.

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