Production of aromatic polyesters by metabolically engineered Escherichia coli

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Engineered Escherichia coli strain is used to produce aromatic polyesters from glucose through one-step fermentation. Clostridium difficile isocaprenoyl-CoA:2-hydroxyisocaproate CoA-transferase and evolved polyhydroxyalkanoate synthase genes are overexpressed in the engineered D-phenyllactate-producer strain. Poly(3-hydroxybutryate-co-D-phenyllactate) copolymers, with different compositions are produced through expression of Cupriavidus necator β-ketothiolase and reductase genes. This is the first attempt on the one-step fermentative production of aromatic polyesters from renewable resources. [This work was supported by the Intelligent Synthetic Biology Center through the Global Frontier Project (2011-0031963) and also by the Technology Development Program to Solve Climate Changes on Systems Metabolic Engineering for Biorefineries (NRF2012MIA2A2026556 and NRF-2012MIA2A2026557) from the Ministry of Science and ICT through the National Research Foundation of Korea.]