

C12N

MICROORGANISMS OR ENZYMES; COMPOSITIONS THEREOF (biocides, pest repellants or attractants, or plant growth regulators, containing microorganisms, viruses, microbial fungi, enzymes, fermentates or substances produced by or extracted from microorganisms or animal material [A01N 63/00](#); food compositions [A21](#), [A23](#); medicinal preparations [A61K](#); chemical aspects of, or use of materials for, bandages, dressings, absorbent pads or surgical articles [A61L](#); fertilisers [C05](#)); PROPAGATING, PRESERVING OR MAINTAINING MICROORGANISMS (preservation of living parts of humans or animals [A01N 1/02](#)); MUTATION OR GENETIC ENGINEERING; CULTURE MEDIA (microbiological testing media [C12Q](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Microorganisms (e.g. protozoa, bacteria, fused plant cells, hybridomas, viruses, animal cells or tissue, stem cells, tumour cells) and enzymes or proenzymes and compositions containing microorganisms and enzymes or proenzymes.
- Processes for preparing, activating, inhibiting, separating, or purifying enzymes.
- Treatment of microorganisms or enzymes with electrical or wave energy.
- Processes of reproducing, maintaining, or preserving microorganisms or compositions thereof.
- Processes of preparing or isolating a composition containing microorganisms.
- Preparing mutants and screening processes therefor.
- Processes of fusing two or more cells to each other.
- Recombinant DNA-technology including:
 - Processes for manipulating genetic material;
 - Processes of preparing, isolating and purifying nucleic acids;
 - Methods for the introduction of genetic material into microorganisms using vectors or other expression systems, using microencapsulation, using microinjection, and other ways;
 - Methods of regulating gene expression;
 - Non-coding nucleic acid sequences, e.g. Promoters, operators, enhancers, suppressors, silencers, locus control regions, antisense nucleic acids, and aptamers, used in regulating gene expression or in other recombinant DNA technology related methods.
- Genes, per se; and vectors and expression systems, per se.
- Media for supporting or sustaining the growth of microorganisms.

Relationships with other classification places

In subclasses [C12M-C12Q](#), in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate subclass of subclasses [C12M-C12Q](#).

Multiple classification:

- Biocidal, pest repellent, pest attractant or plant growth regulatory activity of compounds or preparations containing microorganisms and enzymes is further classified in subclass [A01P](#).
- Therapeutic activity of compounds containing microorganisms, single cell proteins, or enzymes, is further classified in subclass [A61P](#) (as secondary classification).
- Uses of cosmetics or similar toilet preparations containing microorganisms or enzymes are further classified in subclass [A61Q](#).

It is desirable to add the Indexing Codes of subclass [C12R](#) for microorganisms which are considered to be of interest for search.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Nucleic acids not used in recombinant technology and their chemical preparation	C07H 21/00
Measuring or testing processes involving enzymes or microorganisms; Compositions therefor; Preparing such compositions	C12Q

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

New breeds of multicellular plants, e.g. non-transgenic plants, and processes of obtaining these plants	A01H
New breeds of multicellular animals, e.g. transgenic animals, and processes of obtaining these animals	A01K 67/00
Compositions and use of the compositions and compounds for preservation of bodies of humans or animals or parts thereof	A01N 1/00
Compositions and use of the compositions and compounds for preservation of plants or parts thereof	A01N 3/00
Biocides, pest repellents or attractants or plant growth regulators containing microorganisms, viruses, microbial fungi, enzymes, fermentates, or substances produced by, or extracted from, microorganisms or animal material	A01N 63/00
Bakery products which may contain microorganisms or enzymes	A21D 10/00 , A21D 13/00
Foods or foodstuffs containing microorganisms or enzymes	A23
Body treating or pharmaceutical preparations containing microorganisms or enzymes	A61K
Medicinal preparations containing nucleic acids	A61K 31/7088
Medicinal preparations containing genetic material which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases; Gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Bandages, dressings or absorbent pads for physiological fluids containing microorganisms	A61L 15/36
Bandages, dressings or absorbent pads for physiological fluids containing enzymes	A61L 15/38
Biological compost	C05F 9/04
Organic fertilizers containing added bacterial cultures, mycelia or the like	C05F 11/08
Enzyme containing detergent compositions	C11D

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Preservation of living parts of humans or animals	A01N 1/02
Food compositions	A21 , A23
Chemical aspects of, or use of materials for, bandages, dressings, absorbent pads or surgical articles	A61L

Compositions, characterized by the use of bacteria, which are used to enhance recovery of hydrocarbons from underground formations	C09K 8/582
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Special rules of classification

In this subclass, with the exception of group **C12N5/07**, in the absence of an indication to the contrary, classification is made in the last appropriate place.

In this subclass, viruses, human, animal, or plant cells, protozoa, tissues, and unicellular algae are considered as microorganisms.

Overview of relevant Indexing Codes:

[C12N 2500/00](#):

Codes intended for the nutritive components of culture media in combination with [C12N 5/0018](#) (generic media) or [C12N 5/06](#) and subgroups (specific media)—but effects beyond nutrition are not excluded. There is some aspect of classification by pathway in that [C12N 2500/10](#) and subgroups cover metals as well as metal chelators. Note that [C12N 2500/25](#) substitutes for any combination of [C12N 2500/05](#) (for selenium), [C12N 2500/24](#) (transferrin/iron) and [C12N 2501/33](#) (insulin). An example of "undefined extract" is Bovine Pituitary Extract (BPE), [C12N 2500/84](#); serum is not indexed as undefined extract since codes are provided for its explicit absence. [C12N 2500/00](#) is meaningless and should normally not be allocated. [C12N 2500/02](#) codes for explicitly low (or high) O₂ pressure, not for the "usual" 5% CO₂. Antibiotics are not foreseen in the scheme.

[C12N 2501/00](#):

Codes intended for biologically active agents in culture and differentiation processes in combination with [C12N 5/06](#) and subgroups or [C12N 5/0018](#). Indexation is made at the most relevant place, taking account of the biological pathway involved and not the chemical structure, unlike apparently similar hierarchies such as those found in [C07K 14/00](#) or [A61K 38/00](#); e.g. OKT3 antibody [C12N 2501/515](#), staurosporine [C12N 2501/727](#) (tyrosine kinase inhibitor), KAAD-cyclopamine [C12N 2501/41](#) (interferes with Hedgehog pathway), copper salts [C12N 2500/20](#) (more specific symbols under [C12N 2500/00](#) take precedence over [C12N 2501/00](#)). Where pathways intersect or overlap, precedence is given to the most specific symbol and multiple classification may well be considered. Head symbols ([C12N 2501/10](#), [C12N 2501/20](#), [C12N 2501/30](#), etc) should be used only for specific agents not (yet) foreseen in the detailed scheme. [C12N 2501/998](#)- [C12N 2501/999](#) serve as repository for proteins and chemicals which do not fit (yet) within the scheme. [C12N 2501/00](#) is meaningless and should normally not be allocated. [C12N 2501/50](#) and sub-symbols, are not intended to code for markers used in purification and/or identification of cells. (These are intrinsic properties of the cells, not reagents.)

[C12N 2502/00](#):

Complements the [C12N 2500/00](#) and [C12N 2501/00](#) series to indicate conditioned media or co-culture conditions. Also used to index the components of artificial constructs and tissue equivalents: see [C12N 5/0697](#).

[C12N 2506/00](#):

Symbols for "remarkable" differentiation processes, i.e.:

- differentiation from one lineage to a different one, "lineages" being understood as the three dot hierarchies under [C12N 5/0602](#), i.e. going from **C12N5/06BMP** - [C12N 5/0602](#) n (where n and m are different numbers),
- differentiation of pluripotent cells (ES [C12N 5/0606](#), EG [C12N 5/0611](#), iPS [C12N 5/0696](#), multipotent adult stem cells [C12N 5/0607](#),
- and also dedifferentiation, i.e. going backwards from a differentiated cell type to the corresponding stem/progenitor (i.e. from [C12N 5/0602](#) n to **C12N5/06BNP**)

"Typical" differentiation processes from a lineage-specific stem/progenitor cell to its regular progeny within the same lineage (i.e. from **C12N5/06BNP** into [C12N 5/0602](#) n) should not be indexed.

[C12N 2506/00](#) is occasionally used to index strange files pertaining "rejuvenation" without any actual, specific and typable resulting product (see [C12N 5/16](#)).

[C12N 2509/00](#):

Used to spot the use of specific enzymes to digest tissues, i.e. not regular dispase/collagenase, or the use of very precise conditions for digestion.

[C12N 2510/00](#):

Introduced with the closure of [C12N 5/10](#).

[C12N 2517/00](#):

[C12N 2517/02](#) and [C12N 2517/04](#) pertain to isolated cells from a transgenic or cloned animal ([A01K 67/00](#), [C12N 15/00](#) with [A01K](#)); in most cases, such documents do not actually belong to [C12N 5/00](#). [C12N 2517/10](#) documents pertain to cultivation steps which belong to [C12N 5/00](#) (e.g. synchronisation of cells for nuclear transfer, maturation of oocytes for fecundation), although the ultimate purpose is still outside of [C12N 5/00](#) and the document should be circulated accordingly.

[C12N 2531/00](#):

Used in combination with [C12N 5/06](#) (use of micros supports with a specific cell type).

[C12N 2533/00](#):

Used in combination with [C12N 5/0068](#) (mostly), but also [C12N 5/0012](#) and [C12N 5/06](#). Codes may be given either for the base material of the support or for coatings on said support.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Antisense	DNA or RNA composed of the complementary sequence to the target DNA/RNA
Aptamers	Oligonucleotide molecules that bind a specific target molecule.
CpG-motifs	Cytosine-Phosphate-Guanine motifs; a cytosine is directly followed by a guanine in the DNA sequence; methylation of cytosine in CpG- motifs negatively regulates gene expression.
Enzyme	Proteinaceous materials, which cause a chemical change in a starting material without being consumed in the reaction.
Genetic Engineering	Technology used to alter the hereditary apparatus or gene structure of a living cell so that the cell can produce more or different chemicals, or perform completely new functions.
Germ cell	Reproductive cells of the body, specifically, either egg or sperm cells.
Maintaining	Supporting or sustaining growth or metabolic activity of microorganisms.
Microorganism	Comprises single-celled organisms such as bacteria, actinomycetales or single-celled fungi, e.g. yeasts; for the purposes of classification, this term also includes viruses, human, animal or plant cells, protozoa, tissues and unicellular algae.

Multipotent stem cell	A stem cell with the ability to give rise to multiple cell types belonging to one particular embryonic germ layer, the endoderm, the mesoderm or the ectoderm.
Mutation	Any change that alters the sequence of bases along the DNA thereby changing the genetic material of a microorganism.
NK cell	Natural killer cell
Non-coding nucleic acid sequence	Nucleic acid sequence which does not contain instructions for making proteins.
Pluripotent stem cell	A stem cell with the ability to differentiate into cells of at least two of the three embryonic germ layers, the endoderm, the mesoderm and the ectoderm.
Preserving	Rendering microorganisms reversibly dormant.
Proenzyme	An enzyme precursor
Progenitor cell	A parent cell that gives rise to a distinct cell lineage by a series of cell divisions.
Recombinant DNA Technology	Techniques for cutting apart and splicing together pieces of DNA from the same or different sources.
Single-cell protein	Protein derived from microorganisms, usually bacteria or yeast, that are cultivated on a suitable medium and then harvested and processed for use as a food for livestock or humans. For example, blue-green bacterium <i>Spirulina</i> is processed and sold as a protein-rich health food.
Stem cell	Cells capable of renewing themselves through mitotic cell division as well as differentiating into a diverse range of specialized cell types. The term covers adult stem cells as well as embryonic stem cells (ES) as derived from blastocysts.
Totipotent stem cell	A stem cell with the ability to generate a whole organism autonomously; totipotent mammalian cells thus can differentiate into all three somatic lineages (endoderm or mesoderm or ectoderm), the germ line and extra embryonic tissues such as the placenta.
Vector	A DNA sequence (e.g., plasmid, phage DNA) which may be employed to introduce a foreign gene into a host cell and is able to replicate autonomously in the host cell.

C12N 1/00

Microorganisms, e.g. protozoa; Compositions thereof (medicinal preparations containing material from microorganisms [A61K 35/66](#); preparing medicinal bacterial antigen or antibody compositions, e.g. bacterial vaccines [A61K 39/00](#)); Processes of propagating, maintaining or preserving microorganisms or compositions thereof; Processes of preparing or isolating a composition containing a microorganism; Culture media therefor

Definition statement

This place covers:

Main group [C12N 1/00](#) covers compositions comprising microorganisms, processes of treating microorganisms, and processes of culturing or growing of microorganisms.

Subgroups [C12N 1/10](#), [C12N 1/12](#), [C12N 1/14](#), [C12N 1/16](#), [C12N 1/18](#), [C12N 1/20](#) cover media compositions for a type of microorganism, compositions comprising a microorganism (with or without other compounds), processes of isolating, maintaining or propagating microorganisms which are specific for a class of microorganism.

Subgroup [C12N 1/04](#) covers methods of preserving or maintaining viable microorganisms, subgroups [C12N 1/10](#), [C12N 1/12](#), [C12N 1/14](#), [C12N 1/16](#), [C12N 1/18](#), [C12N 1/20](#) cover compositions of microorganisms irrespective of whether they are viable or not.

Subgroup [C12N 1/36](#) also covers attenuation of pathogens for vaccine preparation.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Animal cells	C12N 5/00
Viruses	C12N 7/00
Algae other than microalgae	A01G 33/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Enzymes	C12N 9/00
Carrier-bound or immobilised microorganisms	C12N 11/00
Treatment of microorganisms with electrical or wave energy	C12N 13/00
Preparation of mutants without insertion of genetic material, screening processes	C12N 15/01
Biocides, pest repellants or attractants, plant growth regulators containing microorganisms	A01N 63/00
Treating dough with microorganisms	A21D 8/04
Fermentation of meat, fish	A23B 4/12
Preservation of meat, sausages, fish with microorganisms	A23B 4/20
Preservation of egg or egg products with microorganisms	A23B 5/16
Preservation of fruit or vegetables by acid fermentation	A23B 7/10
Preservation of edible seeds or cereals with microorganisms	A23B 9/28
Whey preparations containing microorganisms	A23C1/02
Fermented milk preparations, treatment using microorganisms	A23C 9/12
Cream containing or treated by microorganisms	A23C 13/16
Butter preparation, addition of microorganisms	A23C 15/123
Butter having reduced fat content prepared by addition of microorganisms	A23C 15/165
Buttermilk containing or treated with microorganisms	A23C 17/02
Making cheese curd with microorganisms	A23C 19/032
Treating cheese curd after whey separation with microorganisms	A23C 19/061
Treating tea by fermentation with microorganisms	A23F 3/10
Tea extractions, extracts, with microorganisms	A23F 3/166

Coffee, removing unwanted substances, using microorganisms, preparations	A23F 5/163
Coffee, reducing or removing alkaloid content, using microorganisms, preparations	A23F 5/204
Extraction of coffee, coffee extracts, addition of or treatment with microorganisms	A23F 5/246
Treating cocoa by fermentation with microorganisms	A23G 1/02
Cocoa products containing microorganisms	A23G 1/423
Sweetmeats, confectionery or marzipan, containing microorganisms	A23G 3/364
Chewing gum containing microorganisms	A23G 4/12
Frozen sweets, e.g. ice confectionery, ice-cream, containing microorganisms	A23G 9/36
Obtaining protein compositions for feed-stuffs, from microorganisms	A23J 1/008
From cereals, wheat, bran, molasses by using microorganisms	A23J 1/12
From leguminous or other vegetable seeds from press-cake or oil-bearing seeds by treatment with microorganisms	A23J 1/148
From yeasts	A23J 1/18
Animal feeding-stuffs, addition of microorganisms	A23K 10/16
Preservation of green fodder by ensilage using microorganisms	A23K 30/18
Non-alcoholic beverages, fermented	A23L 2/382
Non-alcoholic beverages, clarifying or fining using microorganisms	A23L 2/84
Preservation of foods or foodstuffs, in general, using microorganisms	A23L 3/3571
Food or foodstuffs, fermentation of farinaceous cereal or cereal material, addition of microorganisms	A23L 7/104
Food or foodstuffs, treatment of pulse, fermented pulses or legumes, addition of microorganisms	A23L 11/09
Food or foodstuffs, treatment of pulse, fermented pulses or legumes, removing undesirable substances, using microorganisms	A23L 11/37
Meat products, meat meal, addition of or treatment with microorganisms	A23L 13/45
Meat products, meat meal, with yeasts or fungi	A23L 13/46
Meat products, meat meal, tenderised or flavoured meat pieces, addition of microorganisms	A23L 13/74
Egg products, addition of or treatment with microorganisms	A23L 15/25
Food-from-the-sea products, fish, fish meal products, addition of or treatment with microorganisms	A23L 17/65
Food consisting or nut meats or seeds, addition of or treatment with microorganisms	A23L 25/40
Food or foodstuffs containing microorganisms	A23L 29/065
Food or foodstuffs, modifying nutritive quality, containing bacteria or derivatives, e.g. probiotics	A23L 33/135
Food or foodstuffs, modifying nutritive quality, containing yeasts or derivatives	A23L 33/14
Tobacco products or substitutes, treatment with microorganisms	A24B 15/307

Cosmetic or toilet preparations containing material with undetermined composition from microorganisms	A61K 8/99
Medicinal preparations containing material with undetermined composition from microorganisms	A61K 35/66
Medicinal preparations containing antigens from microorganisms, vaccines	A61K 39/00
Processes for making harmful chemical substances harmless or less harmful by biological methods using microorganisms	A62D 3/02
Bioremediation, reclamation of contaminated soil microbiologically	B09C 1/10
Biological treatment of water, wastewater or sewage	C02F 3/00
Polypeptides, genes for polypeptides	C07K 14/00
Compositions for enhanced recovery of hydrocarbons, using bacteria (microbial enhanced oil recovery)	C09K8/583
Refining of hydrocarbon oils by using microorganisms	C10G 32/00
Production of fats, pretreatment of raw materials by microorganisms	C11B 1/025
Detergent compositions containing microorganisms	C11D 3/381
Brewing of beer	C12C
Wine, other alcoholic beverages, preparation thereof	C12G
Vinegar, preparation thereof	C12J
Apparatus for enzymology or microbiology	C12M
Fermentation and enzymatic processes for the preparation of compounds and compositions; including processes involving microorganisms of different genera in the same process, simultaneously	C12P , C12P 29/00
Measuring or testing processes involving microorganisms	C12Q 1/00
Processes using microorganisms	C12R
Enzymes	C12Y
Purification of sugar juices using microorganisms	C13B 20/002
Extraction of sucrose from molasses using microorganisms	C13B 35/005
Extraction of metal components from ores or concentrates with the aid of microorganisms	C22B 3/18
Obtaining uranium using microorganisms	C22B 60/0256
Directed molecular evolution of RNA, DNA, libraries, creating and screening processes (combinatorial chemistry)	C40B
Libraries contained in or displayed by microorganisms	C40B , C40B 40/02
Creation using whole viable microorganisms	C40B , C40B 50/06
Libraries contained in or displayed by microorganisms	C40B 40/02
Methods of creating libraries using whole viable microorganisms	C40B 50/06
Treating fibres, threads, fabrics with microorganisms	D06M 16/003
Processes for obtaining cellulose by treatment of cellulose-containing material (waste paper, pulp) with microorganisms	D21C 5/005
Treatment of cellulose-containing material with microorganisms	D21C 5/005
Pulp or paper, addition of microorganisms thereto	D21H 17/005
Pulp, addition of microorganisms thereto	D21H 17/005

Investigating or analysing water using microorganisms	G01N 33/1866
Immunoassay, biospecific binding assay, for microorganisms	G01N 33/569
Biochemical fuel cells in which microorganisms function as catalysts	H01M 8/16
Biofuels	Y02E 50/10

Special rules of classification

The last place rule is applicable, but all information should be given a class. E.g. if both yeast and bacterial compositions are part of the invention in the application, then classify in both [C12N 1/16](#) and [C12N 1/20](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Microorganism	Includes bacteria and other generally unicellular organisms with dimensions beneath the limits of vision which can be propagated and manipulated in a laboratory, including unicellular fungi (including yeasts), microalgae, protozoa.
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C12N 1/04

Preserving or maintaining viable microorganisms (immobilised microorganisms [C12N 11/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods of preserving or maintaining viable microorganisms.

Relationships with other classification places

Subgroups [C12N 1/10](#), [C12N 1/12](#), [C12N 1/14](#), [C12N 1/16](#), [C12N 1/18](#), [C12N 1/20](#) cover compositions of microorganisms irrespective of whether they are viable or not.

Additional Remarks:

1). The logic behind the list of exclusions in sub-groups [C12N 1/10](#) - [C12N 1/20](#) is that the invention can be better defined by another class. Allocation of a symbol in the [C12N 1/00](#) range as an additional symbol is a modification which would probably make a lot of sense. It simply hasn't been done before (bilateral review perhaps?)

2). [C12R](#) versus [C12N](#):- [C12R](#) is more detailed than [C12N](#). As a result it was decided to "promote" the [C12R](#) indexing scheme in IPC to full subclass status at the EPO for classifying natural isolates. A possible way forward here would be to create a single "natural isolate" subgroup in [C12N 1/00](#) with an obligatory additional [C12R](#) symbol (bilateral review?).

C12N 1/10

Protozoa; Culture media therefor

Definition statement

This place covers:

Media compositions for protozoa, compositions comprising protozoa (with or without other compounds), processes of isolating, maintaining or propagating protozoa.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

If an adapted or attenuated microorganism is obtained	C12N 1/36
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (if an operon is expressed)	C12N 15/52
Cosmetic or medicinal compositions or preparations comprising a microorganism	A61K , A61K 35/66
Mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is defined (according to the defined mutation)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (according to the defined gene)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Processes for the preparation of a compound or substance using a microorganism	C12P
Naturally isolated microorganisms, or mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined	C12R 1/00

C12N 1/12

Unicellular algae; Culture media therefor (culture of multi-cellular plants [A01G](#); as new plants [A01H 13/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Media compositions for unicellular algae, compositions comprising unicellular microalgae (with or without other compounds), processes of isolating, maintaining or propagating unicellular microalgae.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Naturally isolated microorganisms, or mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined, if an adapted or attenuated microorganism is obtained	C12N 1/36
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (if an operon is expressed)	C12N 15/52
Cosmetic or medicinal compositions or preparations comprising a microorganism	A61K , A61K 35/66
Mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is defined (according to the defined mutation)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (according to the defined gene)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Processes for the preparation of a compound or substance using a microorganism	C12P
Naturally isolated microorganisms, or mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined	C12R 1/00

C12N 1/14

Fungi (culture of mushrooms [A01G 18/00](#); as new plants per se [A01H 15/00](#) {; fungi per se [C12R 1/645](#) - [C12R 1/885](#)}); Culture media therefor

Definition statement

This place covers:

Subgroup [C12N 1/14](#) (and lower groups [C12N 1/16](#) and [C12N 1/18](#)) covers media compositions for fungi (yeasts), compositions comprising fungi (yeasts) (with or without other compounds), processes of isolating, maintaining or propagating fungi (yeasts).

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Culture of Mushrooms	A01G 18/00
Fungi as new plants	A01H 15/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Naturally isolated micro-organisms, or mutant micro-organisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined, if an adapted or attenuated micro-organism is obtained	C12N 1/36
Micro-organisms expressing a defined gene (if an operon is expressed)	C12N 15/52
Cosmetic or medicinal compositions or preparations comprising a micro-organism	A61K, A61K 35/66
Mutant micro-organisms in which the mutation is defined (according to the defined mutation)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Micro-organisms expressing a defined gene (according to the defined gene)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Processes for the preparation of a compound or substance using a micro-organism	C12P
Naturally isolated micro-organisms, or mutant micro-organisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined	C12R 1/00

Special rules of classification

Specific genus or species is classified in [C12R 1/645](#) - [C12R 1/885](#).

C12N 1/20

Bacteria {(bacteria per se [C12R 1/01](#) - [C12R 1/64](#)}); Culture media therefor

Definition statement

This place covers:

Media compositions for bacteria, compositions comprising bacteria (with or without other compounds), processes of isolating, maintaining or propagating bacteria.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Naturally isolated microorganisms, or mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined, if an adapted or attenuated microorganism is obtained	C12N 1/36
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (if an operon is expressed)	C12N 15/52
Cosmetic or medicinal compositions or preparations comprising a microorganism	A61K , A61K 35/66
Mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is defined (according to the defined mutation)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Microorganisms expressing a defined gene (according to the defined gene)	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12Y
Processes for the preparation of a compound or substance using a microorganism	C12P
Naturally isolated microorganisms, or mutant microorganisms in which the mutation is undefined or cannot be defined	C12R 1/00

C12N 3/00

Spore forming or isolating processes

Definition statement

This place covers:

Processes for spore formation and for isolation of spores.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Spores, spore-containing compositions or processes using spores. Spores, compositions containing spores, processes using spores can be classified according to microorganisms	C12N 1/00 , C12P , C12R
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Processes using microorganisms	C12R
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Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Spore	Reproductive structure that is adapted for dispersal and surviving for extended periods of time, e.g. in unfavorable conditions. Spores form part of the life cycles of many microorganisms such as bacteria, microalgae, fungi and some protozoa.
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Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

Spore	Endospore, exospore, myxospore, cyst
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C12N 5/00

Undifferentiated human, animal or plant cells, e.g. cell lines; Tissues; Cultivation or maintenance thereof; Culture media therefor; (plant reproduction by tissue culture techniques [A01H 4/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Animal cells, animal cell culture, differentiation in vitro are to be classified in [C12N 5/00](#), provided that such products and processes are characterized and exemplified in the application. A cell which is merely claimed without real and exemplified provision thereof shall not be classified in [C12N 5/00](#). This is the case - for example - where the examples only relate to differentiation of a stem cell to pancreatic cells, but where differentiation to hepatocytes or nerve cells is claimed. Then, only the differentiated pancreatic cells are classified. The other cells are not classified at all.
- CCA (additional information) [C12N 2500/00-C12N 2539/10](#) is compulsory. This relates to any specific and exemplified component of cell culture medium, active agent used in cell culture process, co-culture with or conditioned medium produced by, use of differentiation from one lineage to another or from pluripotent cells, use of cells in diagnostic, methods for the dissociation of cells, genetically modified cells, cells related to new breeds of animals, culture process characterized by the use of forces and support or coating for cells culture characterized by material, topography, treatment or properties. Any such additional information which is claimed but not exemplified is however not to be classified.
- Cells or tissues in medicinal preparations or for medical uses are classified in [A61K 35/12-A61K 35/65](#) irrespective of genetic modification or culture steps. Cells that are medically used after a relevant in vitro culturing step are classified in [A61K 35/00](#) and [C12N 5/00](#).

Further details of subgroups

- [C12N 5/00](#):

The highest rank head group is to be used only in desperate cases, for documents which do not fit elsewhere, e.g. culture processes characterised by temperature.

- [C12N 5/0006](#):

By exception to the dividing line general 00/specific 06, documents describing the modification of membranes of a specific cell type are classified both in [C12N 5/0006](#) and [C12N 5/06](#) and subgroups.

- [C12N 5/0012](#):

Only generic encapsulation here: Encapsulation of a specific cell type is [C12N 5/06](#) (and subgroups), [A61K 2035/126](#). [C12N 2533/00](#) codes may be used for the capsule material. Circulating the document to [A61L 27/00](#) and/or [A61K 47/00](#) should be considered. Encapsulation in fermenters is [C12N 13/00](#). Note that encapsulated hepatocytes and pancreatic cells have specific subgroups: [C12N 5/0671](#) and [C12N 5/0677](#).

- [C12N 5/0018](#):

Generic media for potentially any type of cells. Culture processes using a particular agent are treated as a culture medium containing this agent (e.g. use of propranolol in cell culture: [C12N 5/0018](#), [C12N 2501/81](#)). All documents should have at least one code from the range [C12N 2500/00-C12N 2502/00](#), and possibly many of them. Examples using CHO, 3T3, BHK or other common cell types should be regarded as generic disclosure and classified under [C12N 5/00](#) rather than under [C12N 5/06](#).

Examples using CHO, 3T3, BHK or other common cell types should be regarded as generic disclosure and classified under [C12N 5/00](#) rather than under [C12N 5/06](#).

When a new medium is fully disclosed, most if not all [C12N 2500/00](#) codes potentially apply; codes should be given for any useful information, i.e. any specific component with a specific concentration range (e.g. Ala 20 μ , Pro 10 μ ... is indexed [C12N 2500/32](#); reference to a standard composition of essential amino-acids as one component need not be indexed)—which can mean that many codes are actually given, but this appears to be the best way to retrieve reasonably quickly a document with a medium comprising, e.g., 10-100 nM Cu²⁺ or 20-75 μ Glu. It may not be necessary to index the most common additives (e.g. glutamine) and no code is foreseen for antibiotics, as these appear to be invariably present.

- [C12N 5/0031](#):

Note that serum-free media for specific cell types are [C12N 5/06](#) (and subgroups), [C12N 2500/99](#).

- [C12N 5/0081](#):

By "negative selection", it is meant that the document defines what is to be rejected but does not define in any positive manner what is to be retained. The combination of negative and positive markers is regarded as positive selection, and should normally allow to assign a specific type to the cells, and to classify in [C12N 5/06](#) (and subgroups). In practice, [C12N 5/0087](#) and [C12N 5/0093](#) deal with purging blood or bone marrow (but also, rarely, of other tissues) from, respectively, immune cells and tumour cells before transplantation; [C12N 5/0081](#) is thus very rarely used.

- [C12N 5/0068](#), [C12N 5/0075](#):

Documents should have at least one [C12N 2533/00](#) Indexing Code. Supports for specific cell types are [C12N 5/06](#) (and subgroups), [C12N 2531/00-C12N 2539/00](#).

- [C12N 5/06](#):

This head group is not used! 06 implies that the teachings apply only to specific cells and it should always be possible to know whether the cells derive from vertebrates or invertebrates.

General Considerations:

The scope of any sub-group comprises the cells of the title, any tissue explant essentially consisting of these cells (e.g. skin = keratinocytes = [C12N 5/0629](#)), processes for isolating these cells (e.g. the definition of a set of markers to isolate a specific cell by FACS, but a document dealing with a specific antibody for one single marker can be classified solely in [C07K 16/00](#)), processes for preparing these cells (culture, differentiation), culture media and/supports specifically adapted for these cells and medical uses of these cells (as far as the nature of the cells is known and is relevant; e.g. medical composition of cultivated pancreatic cells [C12N 5/0676](#), [A61K 35/12](#), "low-tech" composition of animal tissue extracts [A61K 35/00](#) and subgroups, photochemically-treated blood [A61K 41/0057](#), [A61K 35/14](#)).

Controlled language: Title note of [C12N 5/06](#): In this group, the following words are used with the meanings indicated:

- a "totipotent" cell can differentiate into all somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm, endoderm), the germ line and extra embryonic tissues such as the placenta;
- a "pluripotent" cell is a somatic stem cell which can differentiate into cells of at least two of the three somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm, endoderm);
- a "multipotent" cell is restricted to one lineage.
- "Progenitor" and "precursor" cells are further restricted within the lineage. If not explicitly foreseen, totipotent cells are classified with pluripotent cells. Multipotent cells should not be classified with pluripotent cells.

This has been adopted to clarify classification practice with respect to the use of the words "pluri-" and "multipotent." Under this definition, totipotent cells need to be able to generate placenta and amnion, i.e. only the zygote, blastula and morula cells strictly qualify; applicants tend to use the term more liberally ... Conversely, the archetypal example of an adult pluripotent cell in the sense of

[C12N 5/0607](#) (see International Application published under the PCT number: WO 01/11011), has been named "Multipotent Adult Stem (Progenitor) Cell" (MASC, MAPC) by its discoverers, which is too restrictive in view of our definitions.

Immediate precursors:

"Four dot" stem/precursor/progenitor groups usually cover (multipotent) stem cells as well as (restricted) precursors and committed progenitors, but there are two important exceptions with respect to the latter: myoblasts go with myotubes in [C12N 5/0658](#) (since myotubes do not proliferate, culture can only be directed to their precursors). In the blood/immune hierarchy [C12N 5/0634](#), immediate, committed, precursors are classified with their progeny; [C12N 5/0647](#) is reserved for stem cells and multi-lineage progenitors.

Sub-headgroups [C12N 5/0603](#), [C12N 5/0608](#), [C12N 5/0613](#), [C12N 5/0618](#), etc vs. specific subgroups [C12N 5/0604](#), [C12N 5/0605](#), [C12N 5/0606](#), [C12N 5/0608](#):

The "three dot" (sub)headgroups are used for two different purposes:

- for cells whose precise type is not (yet) foreseen in the scheme,
- as a broad indication of end product where the examples do not provide enough evidence as to the result of a differentiation process.

E.g. a document pertaining to neural differentiation of BM-MSc is [C12N 5/0618](#), [C12N 2506/1353](#) while a document pertaining to neuronal differentiation of BM-MSc, with detailed, extensive, evidence as to the neuronal phenotype is [C12N 5/0619](#), [C12N 2506/1353](#). In the intermediate situation where a document claims neuronal differentiation with only limited evidence (e.g. one or two markers), it is preferred to use the headgroup [C12N 5/0618](#), especially if the document additionally provides examples of oligodendrocyte/glial differentiation at the same poor level of evidence.

- [C12N 5/0602](#):

The head group should be used only for specific vertebrate cells which do not fit elsewhere in the scheme. Generic disclosure for vertebrate cells is [C12N 5/00](#) (and subgroups).

- [C12N 5/0603](#):

This is actually "embryonic or fetal cells and tissues", but interpreted in a very restricted sense to encompass only cells that are solely embryonic and/or fetal; embryonic/fetal cells of recognisable type which are also present in an adult are classified as adult cells. "Rejuvenated" cells claimed to have been brought back to pluripotency or cells described by an applicant as "ES-like" do not qualify for [C12N 5/0606](#): These cells do not actually originate from an embryo or fetus, see [C12N 5/0607\(A\)](#). In practice, [C12N 5/0603](#) itself only contains embryoid bodies and cells being in an intermediate stage of differentiation between pluripotent cells (ES) and "adult" (typable) tissue; e.g. "definitive endoderm" cells [C12N 5/0603](#) (exists only in embryo), pancreatic cells [C12N 5/0676](#) (adult). Embryonic germ (EG) cells, which can be regarded as an equivalent for ES, are [C12N 5/0611](#), but embryonic carcinoma (EC) cells are classified in [C12N 5/0606](#) as far as they are used as a model for ES (now that human ES have been isolated, EC technology appears to be obsolete).

- [C12N 5/0607](#):

Pluripotent adult stem cells are still a controversial and largely speculative topic. Extreme care must be exercised when allocating this class: to qualify, a cell must have demonstrated pluripotency (note that the corresponding examples of differentiation into at least two distinct lineages are probably not to be indexed) and must not belong to any other subgroup of the scheme.

- [C12N 5/0696](#):

This covers all kinds of (demonstrated) "rejuvenated" cells or induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS). The rejuvenation method/agents are to be classified appropriately ([C12N 2510/00](#) and [C12N 2501/60](#) for typical iPS obtained by forced expression of Oct-3/4, Sox-2, Klf4, Nanog, cMyc...; [C12N 2501/00](#), [C12N 2500/00](#), [C12N 2502/00](#) as appropriate for chemical agents). Detailed aspects regarding the construction of a suitable expression vector are to be classified in [C12N 15/00](#).

- [C12N 5/0608](#):

The head group is to remain empty until a third mammalian sex is discovered or engineered. The few documents dealing both with oocytes and spermatozoa are classified in both subgroups [C12N 5/0609](#) and [C12N 5/061](#).

- [C12N 5/0658](#):

For practical reasons, precursors (myoblasts) have been grouped with their progeny (myotubes); as a result, only few documents remain in [C12N 5/0659](#) (satellite cells).

- [C12N 5/0634](#):

Owing to the complexity of the lineage, committed precursors are grouped with their immediate progeny: e.g. pre-T cells go with T cells in [C12N 5/0636](#); lymphoid stem cells, which can give rise either to B or T, remain in [C12N 5/0647](#).

Vaccines: Immunogenic preparations containing T cells or antigen-presenting cells (dendritic cells, macrophages) exposed to antigens, to be used as elaborate forms of vaccines, are classified in [A61K 39/00](#) in the first place (most probably [A61K 39/0011](#)), with the appropriate [A61K 39/00](#) Indexing Code.

- [C12N 5/0629](#):

[C12N 5/0629](#) contains purified keratinocytes and whole skin biopsies, assigned to what is regarded as the most relevant cell type, but artificially reconstructed skin is [C12N 5/0698](#).

- [C12N 5/0671](#), [C12N 5/0677](#):

Encapsulation is assimilated to 3D culture. [C12N 2533/00](#) codes may apply to the capsule material.

- [C12N 5/0691](#):

For practical reasons, this group contains isolated vascular smooth muscle cells (not [C12N 5/0661](#)) as well as elaborated three-dimensional constructs comprising multiple types (e.g. vascular endothelium [C12N 5/069](#), fibroblasts [C12N 5/0656](#)); in the latter case, the further cell types may be indexed with [C12N 2502/00](#) codes as in [C12N 5/0697](#).

[C12N 5/0692](#):

Haemangioblasts, which are precursors for both the haematopoietic and the vascular endothelial lineages, always get a double class: [C12N 5/0647](#), [C12N 5/0692](#).

- [C12N 5/0693](#):

Tumour cells considered for themselves (i.e. as tumours) are classified here, but tumour cells used as convenient immortalised equivalents / models of their untransformed counterparts are classified as normal cells: e.g. embryonic carcinoma [C12N 5/0606](#); medium specially adapted for hepatomas [C12N 5/067](#), [C12N 2500/00](#), [C12N 2501/00](#), [C12N 2502/00](#), [C12N 2503/00](#), [C12N 2506/00](#), [C12N 2509/00](#).

- [C12N 5/0694](#):

Myeloma cell lines for use in the making of hybridomas are directly classified in [C12N 5/163](#), with their application, rather than as [C12N 5/0694](#).

- [C12N 5/0697](#):

"Tissue equivalent" is to be construed broadly as any in vitro construct associating different cell types to achieve one function; the precise structure or function of an actual tissue need not be achieved but it must be an artificial construct, not an actual tissue explant ([C12N 5/0602](#) and subgroups, according to the source or dominant cell type), and no single cell type must be responsible for the desired effect, as is the case for a typical co-culture. Examples: model of neuromuscular junction where a neuron commands a muscle cell [C12N 5/0697](#), [C12N 2502/081](#), [C12N 2502/1335](#); testicular prosthesis consisting of chondrocytes (for shape) and of Sertoli cells (for hormonal function), [C12N 5/0697](#), [C12N 2502/1317](#), [C12N 2502/24](#); but embryonic stem cells on a feeder layer of embryonic fibroblast [C12N 5/0606](#), [C12N 2502/13](#). [C12N 2502/00](#) codes are used to index all cell types, including

accessory ones (e.g. vascular cells or tumour cells added in some illustrated embodiments to study vascular or tumour growth inside a tissue).

- [C12N 5/10](#):

Not to be used. Genetic engineering itself is classified in [C12N 15/00](#); cells modified for a particular application (e.g. recombinant expression, promoter-reporter constructs for testing) are classified with the application ([C07K 14/00-C07K 14/16](#), [G01N 33/00](#), [C12Q 1/00](#)). Classification in [C12N 5/00](#) is done only if there is actual interest in the cell itself; e.g. transfecting pdx1 in MSC to yield insulin-secreting cells (assimilated to pancreatic delta cells, according to the sought therapeutic effect, even though full differentiation and full functionality may not be achieved) [C12N 5/0676](#), [C12N 2506/1353](#), [C12N 2510/00](#).

- [C12N 5/12](#):

Has only been used for extremely rare cases of generic fused cell technology applicable equally to animal, vegetal, fungal (yeast) or bacterial cells.

- [C12N 5/16](#):

Fusion partners are not indexed. [C12N 5/163](#) covers also cell lines to be used as fusion partners, but not specific hybridomas producing a specific antibody

Some "rejuvenated" cells prepared by introducing "young" cytoplasm into "old" cells, or even by transferring "old" nuclei into enucleated "young" cells" have been assimilated to fused cells and classified here. See also code [C12N 2506/00](#). Note that nuclear transfer in itself is [C12N 15/873](#) and circulation is warranted. Proper cloning is not classified here.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Plants	C12N 5/0025 , C12N 5/04 , C12N 5/14
Mutation or genetic engineering; use of hosts therefore	C12N 15/00
Use of cells in vaccines or immunological preparations	A61K 39/00
Gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Recombinant expression of proteins	C07K 14/00 , C07K 16/00 , C12N 9/00
Apparatus for cell culture	C12M
Apparatus for cell purification	G01N
Screening and/or testing using cells	G01N 33/00 , C12Q 1/00

Special rules of classification

Classification Policy

Considering that:

- Documentation is a search tool;
- Laundry lists of further possible agents or applications, wishes (mere "hope to succeed") and plans for future extensive research are of little interest;
- If it is useful to cite a formal X document, such wish lists can easily be retrieved by full text search while actual technical content cannot easily be extracted from patent databases, due to the overall poor quality of abstracts and the noise generated in full text mode by the laundry lists; classification is based, and solely based, on what has actually been done, i.e. classification is based on the actual examples and not on the claims.

All relevant aspects of the examples, including unclaimed aspects, are classified as allowed by the scheme at the most specific place; the wording of the claims, e.g. with respect to further applications or possible generalisation, need not be considered and shall not be classified in the absence of actual support in the examples. The "last place rule" is not used; multiple symbols may be given as needed.

Irrelevant aspects, which are not classified are those upstream and/or downstream the invention (or "contribution to the art"):

- Upstream. If the invention is directed to the growth or differentiation of cells, the process used to obtain and purify the starting cell material;
- Downstream. Further testing with or about the grown or differentiated cells, e.g. checking for stemness by causing cells to differentiate, assessing the function of the resulting cells, in vitro testing for pharmaceuticals, etc.

A document whose examples are solely directed to testing in cells is probably not to be classified at all in [C12N 5/00](#) but only either in [G01N 33/00](#) or [C12Q 1/00](#) (if emphasis is on the testing itself) or in [A61K 31/00-A61K 38/00](#) (if the intent lies with in vivo therapy after pre-clinical tests).

Non-patent literature is not classified, owing to its sheer abundance and to the quality of dedicated databases.

Some Principles and Practices

- Generic vs. Specific: [C12N 5/00](#) and subgroups are used for general aspects, e.g. "universal" culture media or supports, while subgroups of [C12N 5/06](#) are used for cell-type specific aspects; thus, classification is generally under [C12N 5/06](#), with the appropriate deep Indexing symbol [C12N 5/00](#). Examples using common cell types such as 3T3, CHO, BHK ("eucaryotic equivalent of E. coli") are classified as generic.
- Stem vs. Differentiated Cells: Classification is based on the end product as available to the skilled person. Documents pertaining to the purification of stem cells are classified as the stem cells; possible examples illustrating the potency of these cells to differentiate are not classified. Documents pertaining to the differentiation of stem cells are classified as the end product in the lower subgroups of [C12N 5/0602](#), with all applicable symbols [C12N 2500/00-C12N 2502/00](#) and possibly [C12N 2506/00](#); no symbol is given for the starting material, unless the document also discloses new protocols for its purification and/or maintenance. Documents pertaining to in vivo differentiation of stem cells are classified as the available product, i.e. as (a composition of) stem cells [C12N 5/0606](#), [C12N 5/0611](#), [C12N 5/0623](#), [C12N 5/0647](#), [C12N 5/0662](#) - [C12N 5/0668](#), [C12N 5/0672](#), [C12N 5/0678](#), [C12N 5/068](#), [C12N 5/0687](#), [C12N 5/0689](#), [C12N 5/0692](#), [C12N 5/0695](#), with the relevant symbol [A61K 2035/124](#) for in vivo Application; there are no symbols for the resulting differentiated cells.
- Modified Cells, Fused Cells: [C12N 5/10](#) is closed and should not be used; relevant information not related to the genetic engineering itself can be classified in [C12N 5/06](#) with an [C12N 2510/00](#) symbol.

The technology classified in [C12N 5/12](#) and subgroups (fused cells, e.g. hybridomas [C12N 5/163](#), hybridomas for producing a specific antibody [C07K 16/00](#)) appears to be mostly obsolete and technically deprecated.

The last overhaul in [C12N 5/00](#) (from 2002 onwards) was driven by the surge of stem cell-related applications. In order to both keep track of differentiation processes and maintain stem cell groups to a manageable size, [C12N 2506/00](#) was introduced. It also appeared that, with paperless classification and online search, it would be better to move cell-type specific media and supports to the corresponding cell group; [C12N 2500/00-C12N 2502/00](#) and, later [C12N 2531/00-C12N 2533/00](#), were introduced and [C12N 5/00](#) documents deeply indexed during reorganisation ([C12N 2531/00-C12N 2533/00](#) indexing is less thorough because it was actually performed after reorganisation of [C12N 5/06](#) was complete). To avoid duplicating in whole the existing hierarchies for proteins ([A61K 38/00](#), [C07K 14/00](#)), enzymes ([C12N 9/00](#)), antibodies ([C07K 16/00](#)) and chemicals ([A61K 31/00](#), [C07](#), [C08](#), etc), [C12N 2501/00](#) was organised by signalling pathway, so that a ligand, its receptor, antibodies thereof and any "small organic molecule" with agonist or antagonist activity could share one single symbol.

Further cell groups were introduced, with mnemonic letters wherever possible. It has been submitted that the older layers of classification is organised by cell type while the newer layers are often in terms of organs; this is correct, but, taking into account that each different organ is associated with only a limited number of specific cell types, there should be no ambiguity in practice.

Blood and bone marrow-related groups (initially **06B10**) were completely remodelled for more specificity, giving an opportunity to get rid of the lymphoid/myeloid distinction which proved to be problematic (notably dendritic cells are heterogenous and may derive from both lineages). In order to restrict as much as possible the large group for haematopoietic stem cells, committed progenitors were reclassified with their progeny but this policy was not consistently considered elsewhere.

[C12N 5/0607](#) (pluripotent adult stem cells) derives from a practical issue, which ultimately stems from our poor understanding of stem cells in general. While stem cells are all the rage, it must be kept in mind that actually very few cells have been proved to be stem: Haematopoietic stem cells have only been "purified" to a few percent of a population, and that's with mouse cells, not even in humans. Mesenchymal stem cells are currently sourced from various tissues (bone marrow, circulating blood, adipose tissue) which are assumed to yield similar or identical cells; it has also not been demonstrated whether such MSC populations actually contain true multipotent cells rather than a mixture of various uni- or bipotent progenitors. Evidence of true stemness, at clonal level, is only available for embryonic stem cells; unfortunately, it is also known that ES are a laboratory artefact—a wonderful artefact, but an artefact nevertheless. [C12N 5/0607](#) was intended as a temporary fix, carefully monitored, to be eventually dispersed into existing groups or better redefined, taking advantage of further insights into "stemness".

And then induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) appeared, and a specific group was quickly needed to cover this technology.

Classification strategy according to subject-matter

For the sake of completeness, classification should be considered in all technical fields where they may be of interest. Common targets for additional classification include:

- [A61K 35/00](#) (chemically "undefined" pharmaceutical compositions, including cells)
- [A61K 39/00](#) (vaccines/immunology)
- [A61K 31/00](#), [A61K 38/00](#), [A61K 47/00](#) (pharmacy)
- [A61K 48/00](#) (gene therapy)
- [A61L 27/00](#) (implants, esp. [A61L 27/38](#)), and/or [A61F 2/00](#) (prostheses)
- [A61M](#) (medical devices)
- [C07K 14/00](#), [C07K 16/00](#), [C12N 9/00](#) (proteins)
- [C12M](#) (apparatuses for cell culture)
- [C12N 1/00](#) (bacteria, fungi)
- [A01H](#) (plants, for documents classified with the symbol [C12N 5/04](#) or [C12N 5/14](#))
- [C12N 7/00](#) (viruses, including cells for virus culture)
- [C12N 15/11](#) (RNAi etc.)
- [C12N 15/85](#) (vectors, transgenic animals)
- [G01N 33/50](#) (testing), [C12Q 1/02](#), [C12Q 1/68](#)
- but also [G01N 1/00-G01N 1/30](#) and [B01-B05](#) classes referenced therein (analysis and apparatuses)

Cells per se, Tissues per se: [C12N 5/0602](#) but see the important exception for vaccines below.

Cells for vaccines, immunologic preparations: e.g. stimulated T cells, antigen-loaded dendritic cells or macrophages

[A61K 39/00](#) according to the antigen, with the relevant symbol [A61K 2039/515](#).

These documents are additionally classified in [C12N 5/00](#) only if the invention is directed to the culture process itself and therefore is not adequately described by classification in the field of vaccines alone.

Medical preparations containing living animal cells (other than vaccines):

[C12N 5/0601](#), [C12N 5/0602](#), etc with the relevant symbol [A61K 35/12](#) or [A61K 48/00](#).

Considered for classification in [A61K 35/00](#).

Transformed cells, Immortalised cells: Quite often, transfected cells are nothing more than a means to produce a protein ([C07K 14/00](#), [C07K 16/00](#), [C12N 9/00](#), possibly gene therapy, [A61K 48/00](#)) or to perform biochemical tests or screening assays ([G01N 33/50](#) or [C12Q 1/02](#)): these cases do not deserve classification in [C12N 5/00](#) and no further [C12N 2510/00](#) symbol is required. If, and only if, the document is classified in [C12N 5/00](#) for another reason or the transformation itself is important (e.g. a cell immortalised by telomerase, [C12N 2510/04](#)), an [C12N 2510/00](#) symbol is used in combination with the [C12N 5/06](#) class of the cell type. If the cell type is not relevant, the document pertains to a general method of transfection and should be classified in [C12N 15/00](#).

Also, claims to a transformed cell isolated from a transgenic animal (possibly made for that sole purpose) need not be classified in [C12N 5/0602](#) even the cell type is specified: Consider classification in [C12N 15/85](#) and add an additional [C12N 2517/00](#) symbol. The same apply to fused cells (e.g. hybridomas), which are classified in [C12N 5/12](#) and subgroups only if their interest goes beyond the antibody they produce (forward to [C07K 16/00](#)).

Apparatuses for cell purification are not classified at all in [C12N 5/00](#); if the application concerns a particular (novel) reagent, a particular device or a method specifically tied to a particular device, in many cases it will be classified fully outside of [C12N 5/00](#). The typical document retained in [C12N 5/00](#) pertains to the use of a combination of (known) reagents (combinations of markers) for isolating a given cell type.

Culture medium:

[C12N 5/0018-C12N 5/0056](#) for a "universal" medium, including medium for "generic cells".

[C12N 5/06](#) and subgroups for a medium dedicated to a specific cell type.

In all cases, all specified components are classified with [C12N 2500/00-C12N 2502/00](#) symbols. Many documents pertaining to culture media fall under [C12N 5/06](#) in CPC, but belong to [C12N 5/00](#) or [C12N5/02](#) under IPC.

Culture support:

[C12N 5/0068](#) and [C12N 5/0075](#) possibly add a [C12N 5/06](#) (and subgroups) class for the cell used in the examples if it is relevant. [C12N 5/0601](#), [C12N 5/0602](#)... in the less common case where the support is type-specific classify with [C12N 2533/00](#) and [C12N 2531/00](#) symbols.

Cell culture apparatus:

[C12M](#) Outside of the scope of this document.

Cell culture process:

[C12N 5/0601](#), [C12N 5/0602](#) etc

Classify active agents with [C12N 2501/00](#), [C12N 2500/00](#), [C12N 2502/00](#) symbols as applicable.

Differentiation process:

[C12N 5/0601](#), [C12N 5/0602](#) etc for the resulting cell.

Classify differentiation agents with [C12N 2501/00](#), [C12N 2500/00](#), [C12N 2502/00](#) symbols as applicable.

The differentiation of a lineage-restricted stem cell into the corresponding, expected, progeny (from a [C12N 5/0606](#), [C12N 5/0611](#), [C12N 5/0623](#) etc progenitor or stem cell to a [C12N 5/0603](#), [C12N 5/0608](#), [C12N 5/0613](#) etc terminal cell within the same branch of the hierarchy) is not further classified; differentiation of pluripotent cells ([C12N 5/0606](#), [C12N 5/0607](#), [C12N 5/0611](#)) and "unexpected" differentiation processes, such as transdifferentiation to a different branch of the hierarchy or dedifferentiation (from a differentiated cell into a more primitive or more potent cell), are classified with a [C12N 2506/00](#) symbol for the initial cell.

Tissue culture, 3D culture, tissue equivalents:

[C12N 5/0062](#) for a generic process.

[C12N 5/0601](#), [C12N 5/0602](#) etc for a specific tissue defined by one single cell type or for ex vivo culture of tissues (e.g. skin explants [C12N 5/0677](#)).

[C12N 5/0697](#) etc for an artificial tissue construct requiring the association of more than one type of cells to achieve its function; classify all cell types with [C12N 2502/00](#) symbols.

Tests, screening assays on cells or tissue equivalents:

Classify in [G01N 33/50](#) or [C12Q 1/02](#).

Classification with [C12N 2503/00](#) symbols is only intended to avoid superfluous double classification when the cell in itself is of interest for [C12N 5/00](#) and the testing process is not inventive.

Additional information relating to Plant Cells.

C12N 5/0025

{Culture media for plant cell or plant tissue culture}

Relationships with other classification places

See also [A01H 4/00](#) through [A01H 4/008](#)

C12N 5/04

Plant cells or tissues {(culture media [C12N 5/0025](#))}

Relationships with other classification places

See also [A01H 4/00](#) through [A01H 4/008](#), [C12N 1/12](#), [C12N 5/14](#) and [A01G 33/00](#)

C12N 5/0606

{Pluripotent embryonic cells, e.g. embryonic stem cells [ES] (embryonic germ cells [C12N 5/0611](#), induced pluripotent stem cells [C12N 5/0696](#))}

Special rules of classification

A "pluripotent" cell is a somatic stem cell which can differentiate into cells of at least two of the three somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm). Totipotent cells are classified with pluripotent cells. A "totipotent" cell can differentiate into all somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm), the germ line and extra-embryonic tissues such as the placenta

C12N 5/0607

{Non-embryonic pluripotent stem cells, e.g. MASC (induced pluripotent stem cells [C12N 5/0696](#))}

Special rules of classification

A "pluripotent" cell is a somatic stem cell which can differentiate into cells of at least two of the three somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm). Totipotent cells are classified with pluripotent cells. A "totipotent" cell can differentiate into all somatic lineages (ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm), the germ line and extra-embryonic tissues such as the placenta

C12N 5/0647

{Haematopoietic stem cells; Uncommitted or multipotent progenitors}

Special rules of classification

A "multipotent" cell is restricted to one lineage.

C12N 5/14

Plant cells

Relationships with other classification places

See also [C12N 15/02](#)

C12N 7/00

Viruses; Bacteriophages; Compositions thereof; Preparation or purification thereof (preparing medicinal viral antigen or antibody compositions, e.g. virus vaccines, [A61K 39/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Viruses are ultramicroscopic (20 to 300 nm in diameter), metabolically inert, infectious agents that replicate only within the cells of living hosts, mainly bacteria, plants, and animals: composed of an RNA or DNA core, a protein coat, and, in more complex types, a surrounding envelope.

Note that a virus (or VLP) as such is not considered a nanoparticle even if it falls under the size constraints of nanotechnology (see [B82Y 5/00](#)).

- Viruses as such, e.g. new isolates, mutants or their genomic sequences
- New viral genes, new structural/functional aspects of known viral genes
- Virus like particles (VLP)
- Uses of virus other than therapeutic or vaccine, e.g. disinfectant
- Use of virus as therapeutic agent, other than vaccine, e.g. as cytolytic agent
- Use of viral protein as therapeutic agent other than vaccine, e.g. apoptosis inducing or anti-inflammatory
- Use of virus or viral component as vaccine, e.g. live-attenuated or inactivated virus, VLP, viral protein
- Use of virus or viral particle as a vehicle, e.g. encapsulating small organic molecule
- Use of virus or viral particle as a vector, e.g. encapsulating viral genome or elements thereof as genetic vector
- Chimeric viral vector comprising heterologous viral elements for production of another viral vector

- Special targeting system for viral vectors
- Methods of production or purification of viral material relating to complementing cells and packaging systems for producing virus or viral particles
- Methods of inactivation or attenuation by genetic engineering, by chemical treatment, by serial passage
- Demonstrated in vivo effect

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Phage display	C12N 15/1037
Therapeutic viral non-coding nucleic acid (siRNA)	C12N 15/11
Antiviral drugs	A61K 31/00
Antibodies against viral antigens	C07K 16/00
Diagnostics using viral genes	C12Q 1/70
Processes using viruses or cell lines	C12R 1/91
Diagnostics using viral protein	G01N 33/569 , G01N 33/576

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Transgenic animal model for infectious disease	C12N 15/8509
Further aspects of vectors	C12N 2800/00 - C12N 2999/00
Animal model for infectious disease	A01K 2267/0337
Virus capsids or envelopes enclosing drugs	A61K 9/5184
Therapeutic use of virus not as vaccine	A61K 35/76 , A61K 35/13
Therapeutic use of viral proteins, not as vaccine	A61K 38/16
Further aspects of (viral) vaccines	A61K2039/00
Viral vaccine	A61K 39/12
Polyvalent vaccine	A61K 39/295
Vaccine characterised by adjuvant	A61K 39/39
Gene Therapy	A61K 48/00
Fusion proteins	C07K 2319/00
Measuring or testing involving virus or bacteriophage	C12Q 1/70

Special rules of classification

The complexity of the field is compounded by the large number of available viruses and the increase in their corresponding (therapeutic) uses. In this scheme, taxonomic indexing codes are assigned ([C12N 2700/00-C12N 2795/00](#) series to define which virus is used in a given invention. These codes are extended by two digits to define the specific use(s) of the virus or viral component.

Allocation of these codes is compulsory for all relevant virus subject-matter, according to the rules defined below.

The use of the subdivisions in [C07K 14/005-C07K 14/19](#), [C12N 7/00-C12N 7/08](#) and [C12N 15/86-C12N 15/869](#) is discontinued since the taxonomy within said classification ranges is incomplete and inconsistent. Only [A61K 39/12](#), [C07K 14/005](#), [C12N 7/00](#) and [C12N 15/86](#) will be given in relevant cases, as indicated below.

[C12N 7/00](#) should be given when no other viral ([A61K 39/12](#), [C07K 14/005](#), [C12N 15/86](#)) or other group is appropriate, since giving at least one group as invention information is mandatory.

The specific codes in the [C12N 2710/00-C12N 2795/00](#) ranges have the format **C12N27xx/xxxxyy**. The first part of the code indicates the structural element of the invention, namely the specific virus to which the invention relates. The two last digits before the '/' and the first three digits after the '/' represent the taxonomic location of the virus and the last place rule applies:

- **C12N2710/xxx**: double stranded DNA virus
- **C12N2720/xxx**: double stranded RNA virus
- **C12N2730/xxx**: reverse transcribing DNA virus
- **C12N2740/xxx**: reverse transcribing RNA virus
- **C12N2750/xxx**: single stranded DNA virus
- **C12N2760/xxx**: single stranded RNA virus negative-sense
- **C12N2770/xxx**: single stranded RNA virus positive-sense
- **C12N2780/xxx**: viroids and subviral agents
- **C12N2790/xxx**: naked RNA Virus
- **C12N2792/xxx**: archaeobacteria virus
- **C12N2795/xxx**: bacteriophage

Specific further aspects of viruses that are sufficiently disclosed in the application and worth classifying are assigned in combination with the taxonomy by addition of codes of two digits (yy) at the end of the taxonomic information (xx/xxx). The scope of the information covered by the last two digits is as defined below.

If multiple functions are disclosed for the same virus or viral component, multiple codes of the format **C12N27xx/xxxxyy** are given:

- 11: General: This code covers aspects of viruses that do not fall under the codes defined below. Codes 21-64 take precedence.
- 21: Viruses as such: This code corresponds to IPC [C12N 7/00](#) and covers completely new virus species, as well as new isolates of known viruses. Said viruses may be for instance defined by their genomic sequences or deposit numbers. Disclosed uses of said viruses as indicated below are additionally classified. If the virus per se is an essential feature of the invention, [C12N 7/00](#) is to be given.
- 22: New viral proteins or individual genes, new structural or functional aspects of known viral proteins or genes: This code corresponds to IPC [C07K 14/005-19](#) and encompasses newly identified open reading frames and their expression products, as well as newly identified forms of known viral proteins and genes. Furthermore new mutants, fragments, epitopes and fusion proteins of viral proteins are included. When such gene or protein relates to self-assembling capsids, code 23 for VLP is given. Codes in the [C07K 2319/00](#) range are to be added for disclosed fusion proteins. Additional aspects of said proteins and genes as listed below should be considered, as well as aspects covered by other parts of the classification scheme e.g. in diagnostics ([G01N 33/00](#), [C12Q 1/00](#)) for antibody production ([C07K 16/00](#)), in therapy ([A61K 38/162](#)), with enzyme function ([C12N 9/00](#)), using RNAi for viral protein ([C12N 15/11](#)), codon optimised ([C12N 2800/22](#)). If the protein or its gene is an essential feature of the invention, also [C07K 14/005](#) is to be given, together with the code ending with 22.
- 23: Virus like particles, VLP: VLPs to be classified here are self-assembling viral protein complexes lacking the corresponding viral genome. This code is only to be given when the VLP is an essential feature of the invention.
- 31: Uses of virus other than therapeutic or vaccine, e.g., use of bacteriophages as disinfectant: N.B. [C12R 1/91](#), 'Processes using viruses or cell lines' is not used.

- 32: Use of virus as therapeutic agent, other than vaccine, e.g. cytolytic viruses for tumor therapy: The class [A61K 35/76](#) should be considered in accordance with the classification rules in said field, when the therapeutic activity is an essential feature of the invention.
- 33: Use of viral protein for therapeutic application other than vaccine: This code corresponds to IPC [A61K 38/16](#), and is given for viral proteins that have therapeutic activity, for instance cytotoxic, apoptosis inducing or anti-inflammatory viral proteins. If the therapeutic use of the viral protein is an essential feature of the invention, also [A61K 38/16](#) should be considered in accordance with the classification rules in said field.
- 34: Use of virus or viral component as vaccine: This code corresponds to IPC [A61K 39/12-29](#) and covers the various types of viral vaccines, e.g. live attenuated or inactivated virus, VLP, viral protein or nucleic acid. Further classification of the vaccine aspects needs to be done in accordance with the specific classification rules in said field. In particular, if multiple viral antigens are combined of which at least one is viral, [A61K 39/295](#) needs to be given; if the vaccine is characterised by the adjuvant, [A61K 39/39](#) should be added. The relevant codes from [A61K2039/00](#) for further vaccine aspects should also be given. If the use as a vaccine is an essential feature of the invention(s), also [A61K 39/12](#) is to be given, together with the code ending with 34.
- 41: Use of virus or viral particle as a vector, specific codes 42-45 take precedence.
- 42: Use of viral particle as vehicle: This code is given when no genetic material derived from the viral genome is transported by the viral vector, but rather encapsulated agents, e.g. small nucleic acids or organic compounds. Codes in the [C12N 2810/00](#) series needs to be considered when the surface of the vector is altered to influence targeting.
- 43: Use of viral genome or elements thereof as genetic vector: This code corresponds to IPC [C12N 15/86-C12N 15/869](#) and is given when the invention resides in the vector, for instance when no such virus was previously known as genetic vector, when a known viral genetic vector is improved, or when a new property (e.g. tissue tropism) is uncovered and results in (a) new application(s) of a known viral vector. Additional codes from the [C12N 2800/00-C12N 2840/00](#) ranges need to be considered. If the vector is an essential feature of the invention, also [C12N 15/86](#) is to be given together with codes ending with 43-45.
- 44: Chimeric viral vector comprising heterologous viral elements for production of another viral vector: This code is reserved for the viral backbone of said vector, i.e. if a vaccinia viral vector is used to express a lentiviral vector system, the vaccinia aspect is indicated with 44 and the lentiviral vector with 43.
- 45: Special targeting system for viral vectors: Influencing cell type specificity by modification of the surface of the virus, the specific targeting element can be further defined by codes in the [C12N 2810/00](#) series. If altered tropism is only effected by transcriptional or translational elements, give the relevant codes of the [C12N 2830/00](#) or [C12N 2840/00](#) series.
- 51: Methods of production or purification of viral material: This code corresponds to IPC [C12N 7/02](#) and relates to new protocols for producing viral material, e.g. using particular cell types, growing conditions to increase production, or novel purification methods, e.g. defined by specific centrifugation or chromatography steps. Also methods of stabilising virus compositions using cryopreservants or other excipients are classified here. If production, purification or stabilisation are an essential feature of the invention, also [C12N 7/00](#) is to be given, together with the code ending with 51.
- 52: relating to complementing cells and packaging systems for producing virus or viral particles: This code relates to packaging cells that stably or transiently express viral genes to allow production of virus lacking said genetic information on their genome. This code is also to be given if other aspects of packaging are an important aspect of the invention. If the cells or packaging systems are an essential feature of the invention, also [C12N 7/00](#) is to be given, together with the code ending with 52.
- 61: Methods of inactivation or attenuation: Codes 62-64 take precedence, this code is only used for methods of inactivation or attenuation not covered below, such as (UV) irradiation. If inactivation or attenuation is an essential feature of the invention, also [C12N 7/00](#) is to be given together with codes ending with 61-64.

- 62: Methods of inactivation or attenuation by genetic engineering: This code is given when the nature of the attenuating mutation is known and can be reproduced. Virus-like particles are not classified here but with code 23.
- 63: Methods of inactivation or attenuation by chemical treatment.
- 64: Methods of inactivation or attenuation by serial passage: Selection of new viral strains by (further) serial passage on cell lines, for instance taking modified vaccinia virus Ankara 575 and submitting it to further rounds of serial passage on cells. If mutations have been identified with proven relationship to attenuation, also 62 should be given.
- 71: Demonstrated in vivo effect: This code is given when credible in vivo data are presented that are indicative for a (therapeutic) effect in human or animals. For instance data from clinical trials or from highly relevant animal models, such as primates for HIV, or showing protection of cattle from viral disease, e.g. preventing vertical transmission.

C12N 9/00

Enzymes; Proenzymes; Compositions thereof (preparations containing enzymes for cleaning teeth [A61K 8/66](#), [A61Q 11/00](#); medicinal preparations containing enzymes or proenzymes [A61K 38/43](#); enzyme containing detergent compositions [C11D](#); {enzymes with nucleic acid structure, e.g. ribozymes, [C12N 15/113](#)}); Processes for preparing, activating, inhibiting, separating or purifying enzymes (preparation of malt [C12C 1/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Enzymes or proenzymes and compositions containing enzymes or proenzymes.
- Processes for preparing, activating, inactivating, inhibiting, stabilizing, separating, or purifying enzymes.
- Genes and other polynucleotides coding for enzymes.
- Non-coding nucleic acid sequences, e.g. promoters, operators, derived from genes or operons coding for enzymes.
- Fragments of enzymes and nucleic acids encoding enzymes (fragments of less than 5 amino acids are also classified in [C07K](#))
- Fusion proteins comprising an enzyme or part thereof.
- Antibodies with enzymatic/catalytic activity, e.g. abzymes.
- Crystallized enzymes.

Relationships with other classification places

- Biocidal, pest repellent, pest attractant or plant growth regulatory activity of compounds or preparations containing enzymes is further classified in subclass [A01H](#).
- Therapeutic activity of compounds containing enzymes, is further classified in subclass [A61K](#).
- Uses of cosmetics or similar toilet preparations containing microorganisms or enzymes are further classified in subclass [A61Q](#).
- Fragments of less than 5 amino acids are also classified in maingroup [C07K 5/00](#).
- Carrier-bound or immobilised enzymes and preparations thereof are further classified in maingroup [C12N 11/00](#).
- Treatment of enzymes with electrical or wave energy is further classified in maingroup [C12N 13/00](#).
- Operons comprising the genes for several enzymes are also classified in [C12N 15/52](#).
- Fusion polypeptides comprising (part of) an enzyme are further classified in [C07K 2319/00](#).
- Crystals of enzymes are also classified in [C07K 2299/00](#).

- Enzymes are also classified in [C12Y](#) according to their EC number (see special rules section: "Rules for [C12Y](#) in addition to [C12N 9/00](#))

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Catalytic nucleic acids e.g, ribozymes	C12N 15/113
Antisense nucleotides against enzymes	C12N 15/1137
Antibodies against enzymes	C07K 16/00
Measuring or testing processes involving enzymes; Compositions therefore (including kits, test papers etc); Preparing such compositions	C12Q 1/00
Immunoassays for enzymes	G01N 33/573

Application-oriented references

Examples of places where the subject matter of this place is covered when specially adapted, used for a particular purpose, or incorporated in a larger system:

Compositions containing enzymes and use of the compositions and compounds for preservation of bodies of humans or animals or parts thereof	A01N 1/00
Compositions containing enzymes and use of the compositions and compounds for preservation of plants or parts thereof	A01N 3/00
Biocides, pest repellents or attractants or plant growth regulators containing enzymes	A01N 63/00
Bakery products which may contain enzymes	A21D 10/00 , A21D 13/00
Foods or foodstuffs containing enzymes	A23
Body treating or pharmaceutical preparations containing enzymes	A61K
Medicinal preparations containing nucleic acids encoding enzymes	A61K 31/7088
Medicinal preparations containing genetic material encoding enzymes which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases; Gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Bandages, dressings or absorbent pads for physiological fluids containing enzymes	A61L 15/38
Antibodies against enzymes	C07K 16/40
Enzyme containing detergent compositions	C11D
Preparation of malt	C12C 1/00
Preparation of compounds using enzymes	C12P
Measuring or testing processes involving enzymes; Compositions therefore (including complete kits, test papers etc); Preparing such compositions	C12Q 1/00
Immunoassays for enzymes	G01N 33/573

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Preparing polynucleotides using enzymes	C12N 15/00
Food compositions	A21 , A23
Chemical aspects of, or use of materials for, bandages, dressings, absorbent pads or surgical articles	A61L
Peptides having more than 20 amino acids being receptors (as they often possess also an enzymatic function)	C07K 14/705 - C07K 14/723
Preparation of compounds by using enzymes	C12P

Special rules of classification

Instead of the "last place rule" the following rules are applicable for [C12N 9/00](#) and subgroups:

- Enzymes are generally categorised according to the "Nomenclature and Classification of Enzymes" (as valid on 1 April 2011) of the International Commission on Enzymes. Where appropriate, this designation appears in the subgroups in parenthesis. If the information in disclosures is not enough to be able to classify the document in a subgroup for one specific enzyme, classification is done in a higher, less specific, group. This implies that in case of a search for a specific enzyme also such higher groups should be consulted.
- Besides the enzyme itself also fragments (like epitopes) or derivatives (like mutants) thereof, its proenzyme or just its signal sequence, their encoding polynucleotides or non-coding parts (like promoters, operators) of its gene, including methods for their preparation are all classified in the same subgroup. (antisense DNA or RNA against enzymes [C12N 15/1137](#))
- Documents are only classified in main group [C12N 9/00](#) and lower if there is more disclosed of an enzyme than just a name, a supplier, a reference to a further document for its production and the like. Properties like a sequence or mutation, or a method for its production etc. must be disclosed.
- Documents disclosing only lists of sequences with (putative) enzymatic activity are only classified in the last common enzyme group without classes for each mentioned enzyme, unless more information is given than just the sequence with a putative function. For example a long list of sequences comprising only (putative) proteases will be classified in [C12N 9/48](#). If there are also lipases disclosed the general class for hydrolases ([C12N 9/14](#)) will be given. A combination with an acyltransferase results in [C12N 9/00](#).
- Documents relating to/being valid for only one specific enzyme, like a mutant of a known enzyme, a new enzyme or a purification method specifically adapted to a particular enzyme, are only classified in the most specific and subgroup relating to this specific enzyme. However, it can also be clear from the provided information that, although the examples concern only one enzyme, the invention is also valid for other enzymes (like a specific purification method only exemplified for a pentosyltransferase but applicable for all other glycosyltransferases). Such documents are both classified in the most specific and subgroup for the enzyme in the examples and in a higher common group (in this case [C12N 9/1048](#)).
- [C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) vs. [C12N 15/00](#): [C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) stop where [C12N 15/00](#) begins. [C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) are only used for the product (the inventive non-coding sequence of a gene) while [C12N 15/00](#) is used for the use of this product (e.g. a promoter present in a vector for the production of other proteins). Non-coding sequences are only classified in [C12N 9/00](#) (or [C07K 14/00](#)) if they are (part of) the invention. If the non-coding sequence is just an arbitrary choice from more available sequences it is not classified in [C12N 9/00](#) (or [C07K 14/00](#))
- Reporter genes/enzymes like alkaline phosphatase, beta-lactamase etc. are not classified if they are just present for the detection of something else irrespective whether the above prerequisites of sequence, being prepared and the like are fulfilled. If the document however concerns reporter genes with a specifically mentioned property or preparation, classification in the proper group is necessary (fusion polypeptides containing such reporter enzymes are also classified in [C07K 2319/61](#))

- Proteins with more than one function, like many receptors which often also have an enzymatic function, or the so called oncogenes, which, besides being tumour related, also have their original function, are classified in all groups concerning their different functions/activities. Depending on the discovery of further different functions older documents may still be present in only one class. Such documents are not systematically reclassified. For search purposes both groups should be consulted.
- Enzymes prepared by recombinant DNA technology are not classified according to the host used, but according to the original organism from which the encoding nucleotides were obtained, e.g. HIV protease expressed in E. coli is classified with viral proteases
- Rules for [C12Y](#) in addition to [C12N 9/00](#): Enzymes are classified additionally in [C12Y](#) according to their full EC number (EC a.b.c.d.). An additional [C12Y](#) symbol is also allocated even when a subgroup specific for a single enzyme (EC number) already exists in [C12N 9/00](#). Thus, thrombin (EC 3.4.21.5), for which a single subgroup, [C12N 9/6429](#), exists, will additionally be allocated the appropriate [C12Y](#) symbol. (This double classification is of potential use for other areas of technology (e.g. food chemistry, detergents) where [C12Y](#) classification is used because a more specific classification scheme for enzymes in these areas is not present). A less specific [C12Y](#) symbol (e.g. EC a.b.c.) is only used in addition to a [C12N 9/00](#) symbol if the subject-matter to be classified concerns a group of enzymes with a common activity AND there is no equivalent group present in [C12N 9/00](#) for enzymes with the common activity. For example, a document describes the purification of carboxy-lyases (EC 4.1.1.). [C12N 9/88](#) (lyases, EC 4.) is the closest symbol in [C12N 9/00](#), thus the document is classified in [C12N 9/88](#) and [C12Y 401/01](#). However a document describing the purification of hexosyl transferases is classified ONLY in [C12N 9/1051](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Antisense	DNA or RNA composed of the complementary sequence to the target DNA/RNA
Enzyme	Proteinaceous materials, which cause a chemical change in a starting material without being consumed in the reaction.
Fusion polypeptide	A polypeptide consisting of (parts of) two or more different proteins covalently linked to each other by a peptide bond
Kit	A collection of individual reagents for use in an assay grouped together but being present as separate entities in separate compartments
Mutation	Any change that alters the sequence of bases along the DNA thereby changing the genetic material of a microorganism.
Non-coding nucleic acid sequence	Nucleic acid sequence which does not contain information for the amino acid sequence of a gene product.
Operon	A DNA construct containing a cluster of genes under the control of a single regulatory signal or promoter
Proenzyme	An enzyme precursor
Ribozyme	RNA molecule capable of catalysing a chemical reaction
Signal sequence	A 3-60 amino acids long peptide that directs the transport of the protein that is attached to it

C12N 9/52

derived from bacteria {or Archaea}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Proteinases (, e.g. Endopeptidases (3.4.21 - 3.4.25)) derived from bacteria or proteinases derived from Archaea, formerly known as Archaeobacteria.

C12N 9/96

Stabilising an enzyme by forming an adduct or a composition; Forming enzyme conjugates

Definition statement

This place covers:

- General methods for the stabilisation of enzymes.
- Adducts of enzymes with a specific compound resulting in a more stable enzymes and their preparation.
- Enzyme compositions with specific physical properties of pH, temperature, concentration etc. resulting in a better stability of the enzymes and their preparation.
- Enzyme compositions comprising additives resulting in a better stability of the enzymes and their preparation.
- Enzyme conjugates being more stable than the unconjugated enzyme and their preparation.

Relationships with other classification places

Carrier-bound or immobilized enzymes are also classified in [C12N 11/00](#).

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Enzymes stabilized by mutation	C12N 9/00 - C12N 9/94
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Special rules of classification

Stabilized enzymes are also classified in the most specific subgroup from [C12N 9/00](#) - [C12N 9/94](#) and in [C12Y](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Stabilisation	preserving activity in time and/or amount under certain conditions of pH, temperature etc.
Adduct	a product of a direct addition of two or more distinct molecules, resulting in a single reaction product containing all atoms of all components
Enzyme conjugate	enzyme covalently bound to one or more distinct molecules

C12N 9/98

Preparation of granular or free-flowing enzyme compositions (C12N 9/96 takes precedence)

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Preparation of granular or free-flowing enzyme compositions if it is done to stabilise the enzyme	C12N 9/96
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Special rules of classification

Enzymes present in granular or free-flowing enzyme compositions are also classified in the most specific subgroup from [C12N 9/00](#) - [C12N 9/94](#) and in [C12Y](#).

C12N 11/00

Carrier-bound or immobilised enzymes; Carrier-bound or immobilised microbial cells; Preparation thereof

Definition statement

This place covers:

Enzymes or microbial cells that are immobilised or bound to a carrier, and processes for the immobilisation or binding to carriers of enzymes and microbial cells, with the aim of using them as immobilised or carrier-bound enzymes or microbial cells.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Immobilised or carrier-bound peptides or proteins that are not enzymes	C07K 17/00
Processes and methods wherein immobilised or carrier-bound enzymes or microbial cells are used, e.g. fermentative or enzymatic processes for the preparation of compounds or compositions	C12P
Processes and methods wherein immobilised or carrier-bound enzymes or microbial cells are used, e.g. measuring or testing methods involving immobilised or carrier-bound enzymes	C12Q 1/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Microorganisms, compositions thereof	C12N 1/00
Undifferentiated human, animal or plant cells	C12N 5/00
Enzymes	C12N 9/00
New plants or processes for obtaining them; plant reproduction by tissue culture techniques	A01H
Biological treatment of water, waste water or sewage	C02F 3/00

Apparatus for the use of immobilised or carrier-bound enzymes	C12M 21/18
Processes using microorganisms	C12R
Enzymes	C12Y

Special rules of classification

The last place rule is applicable, but all information should be given a class. E.g. if a bridging agent is used and the carrier is carbohydrate and both are part of the invention in the application, then classify in both [C12N 11/06](#) and [C12N 11/10](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Microbial cell	Microorganisms, including bacteria and other generally unicellular organisms with dimensions beneath the limits of vision which can be propagated and manipulated in a laboratory, including unicellular fungi (including yeasts), microalgae, protozoa and, moreover, human, animal and plant cells.
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C12N 13/00

Treatment of microorganisms or enzymes with electrical or wave energy, e.g. magnetism, sonic waves

Definition statement

This place covers:

Processes of treating microorganisms or enzymes with electrical or wave energy including magnetic and sound waves.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Microorganisms, compositions thereof	C12N 1/00
Undifferentiated human, animal or plant cells	C12N 5/00
Enzymes	C12N 9/00
Introduction of foreign genetic material using processes not otherwise provided for	C12N 15/87
New plants or processes for obtaining them; plant reproduction by tissue culture techniques	A01H
Gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Means for application of stress for stimulating the growth of microorganisms or the generation of fermentation or metabolic products	C12M 35/00
Processes using microorganisms	C12R
Enzymes	C12Y

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Microorganism	Bacteria and other generally unicellular organisms with dimensions beneath the limits of vision which can be propagated and manipulated in a laboratory, including viruses and unicellular fungi (including yeasts), algae (including microalgae) and protozoa and, moreover, human, animal and plant cells.
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C12N 15/00

Mutation or genetic engineering; DNA or RNA concerning genetic engineering, vectors, e.g. plasmids, or their isolation, preparation or purification; Use of hosts therefor (mutants or genetically engineered microorganisms, per se [C12N 1/00](#), [C12N 5/00](#), [C12N 7/00](#); new plants per se [A01H](#); plant reproduction by tissue culture techniques [A01H 4/00](#); new animals per se [A01K 67/00](#); use of medicinal preparations containing genetic material which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases, gene therapy [A61K 48/00](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Preparing mutants and screening processes therefor.

Processes of fusing two or more cells to each other.

Recombinant DNA-technology including:

- Processes for manipulating genetic material;
- Processes of preparing, isolating and purifying nucleic acids;
- Methods for the introduction of genetic material into cells using vectors or other expression systems, using microencapsulation, using microinjection, and other ways;
- Methods of regulating gene expression;
- Non-coding nucleic acid sequences, e.g. Promoters, operators, enhancers, suppressors, silencers, locus control regions, antisense nucleic acids, and aptamers, used in regulating gene expression or in other recombinant DNA technology related methods. (Non-coding parts of genes are also classified in the subgroup corresponding to the product of the gene in [C07K 14/00](#) or [C12N 9/00](#), only if they are part of the invention).
- Operons
- Processes for the preparation of fusion proteins

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Nucleic acids not used in recombinant technology and their chemical preparation	C07H 21/00
Genes and other polynucleotides coding for peptides per se	C07K 14/00 ; C12N 9/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Mutants or genetically engineered microorganisms, per se	C12N 1/00 , C12N 5/00 , C12N 7/00
Mutants of genetically engineered plant or animal cells	C12N 5/00
New plants per se	A01H
New animals per se	A01K 67/00

Special rules of classification

Classification in [C12N 15/00](#) should only be performed in exceptional cases in the absence of a more specific subgroup.

[C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) vs. [C12N 15/00](#): [C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) stop where [C12N 15/00](#) begins. [C12N 9/00](#) (and [C07K 14/00](#)) are only used for the product (the inventive non-coding sequence of a gene) while [C12N 15/00](#) is used for the use of this product (e.g. a promoter present in a vector for the production of other proteins). Non-coding sequences are only classified in [C12N 9/00](#) (or [C07K 14/00](#)) if they are (part of) the invention. If the non-coding sequence is just an arbitrary choice from more available sequences it is not classified in [C12N 9/00](#) (or [C07K 14/00](#))

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Operon	A DNA construct containing a cluster of genes under the control of a single regulatory signal or promoter
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C12N 15/01**Preparation of mutants without inserting foreign genetic material therein;
Screening processes therefor****Definition statement**

This place covers:

Methods for generating mutants and their screening processes, without introducing genetic material into the organism (e.g by using chemical mutagens (nitrosoguanidine), specific culture conditions).

References**Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

Methods for generating mutants by genetic engineering	C12N 15/102 , C12N 15/1024 , C12N 15/1027 , C12N 15/1031
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C12N 15/02

Preparation of hybrid cells by fusion of two or more cells, e.g. protoplast fusion {(monoclonal antibodies [C07K 16/00](#); apparatus for cell fusion [C12M](#))}

Relationships with other classification places

See also [C12N 5/12](#) through [C12N 5/166](#)

C12N 15/09

Recombinant DNA-technology

Definition statement

This place covers:

This subclass will not be used.

C12N 15/10

Processes for the isolation, preparation or purification of DNA or RNA (chemical preparation of DNA or RNA [C07H 21/00](#); preparation of non-structural polynucleotides from microorganisms or with enzymes [C12P 19/34](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods concerning the cloning, recombination, and generation of genetic material (DNA, RNA) by recombinant DNA technology; genetic engineering.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Host cells which are genetically engineered	C12N 1/20 , C12N 5/00 , C12N 7/00 , C12N 15/82
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes; Enzymes	C12N 9/00
Isolation of nucleic acids from host cells	C12N 15/1003 , C12N 15/1006 , C12N 15/101 , C12N 15/1013 , C12N 15/1017
DNA or RNA fragments; Modified forms thereof; Non-coding nucleic acids having biological activity, modulating the expression of genes (e.g. siRNA, miRNA,...; aptamers	C12N 15/11
Chemical preparation of DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology	C07H 21/00
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes; Polypeptides	C07K 14/00
Sequences of promoter, enhancer, intron, exon, IRES, IME are classified according to their corresponding gene sequence, e.g. polypeptide/enzyme	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00 , C12N 15/11
Preparation of non-structural polynucleotides from microorganisms or with enzymes	C12P 19/34

Nucleic acids used in diagnostics; Assays and products for analysing or detecting nucleic acids	C12Q 1/68
Nucleic acid assays and products for analysing or detecting viruses or bacteriophages	C12Q 1/70
Nucleic acids libraries	C40B

Special rules of classification

Apparatus and devices used for the use for the isolation, preparation or purification of DNA or RNA are not classified in [C12N 15/10](#) or any of its subclasses.

In [C12N 15/10](#) and its lower subgroups, the methods or processes should always be classified in combination-sets which consist of the appropriate CPC group together with the Indexing Codes under [C12N 2500/00](#).

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

IRES	Internal Ribosome Entry Site
IME	Intron Mediated Enhancement of gene Expression

C12N 15/1003

{Extracting or separating nucleic acids from biological samples, e.g. pure separation or isolation methods; Conditions, buffers or apparatuses therefor}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids e.g. DNA, RNA, plasmids, vectors, genomic DNA, genomic RNA) from microorganisms, viruses and plant origin.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Host cells which are genetically engineered	C12N 1/20 , C12N 5/00 , C12N 7/00 , C12N 15/82
Chemical, physical, or physico-chemical processes in general; Their relevant apparatus	B01J 19/00
Solid sorbent composition or filter aid compositions per se, suitable for the isolation of nucleic acids	B01J 20/00
Ion exchange material per se, suitable for the isolation of nucleic acids	B01J 39/00 , B01J 41/00 , B01J 43/00 , B01J 45/00 , B01J 47/00
Any apparatuses per se, suitable for use in a process of extracting or isolating nucleic acids from microorganisms, viral or plant origin	B01L 3/00
Apparatuses for enzymology or microbiology per se, suitable for the extraction, isolation and preparation of nucleic acids	C12M 1/00 , C12M 3/00

C12N 15/1006**{by means of a solid support carrier, e.g. particles, polymers}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids using a solid phase, e.g. non-magnetic beads.

References**Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

Solid support carrier per se, suitable for carrying out the methods	C08
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C12N 15/101**{by chromatography, e.g. electrophoresis, ion-exchange, reverse phase}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids by chromatography, binding the nucleic acid onto a column, washing and eluting the nucleic acid.

References**Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

Chromatographic material per se, suitable for carrying out the methods	G01N 30/00
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C12N 15/1013**{by using magnetic beads}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids by chromatography, binding the nucleic acid to para-, ferro- or dia-magnetic beads, e.g. Dynabeads;

References**Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

Magnetic material per se, suitable for carrying out the methods	B03C 1/00
Magnets or magnetic bodies characterised by the magnetic material therefor	H01F 1/00

C12N 15/1017

{by filtration, e.g. using filters, frits, membranes}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods for the isolation of nucleic acids by chromatography using filter, frits, membranes.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Filter material, frits and membranes per se, suitable for carrying out the methods	B01D
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C12N 15/102

{Mutagenizing nucleic acids}

Definition statement

This place covers:

General in vitro method of mutagenesis of nucleic acid by recombinant DNA technology, inserting/deleting/replacing nucleotides e.g. using oligonucleotides and site directed mutagenesis, error prone PCR, splicing by overlap extension.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

DNA shuffling	C12N 15/1027
Oligonucleotide assembly	C12N 15/1031
Signature-tagged-mutagenesis (STM)	C12N 15/1065

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

SOE	Splicing by Overlap Extension
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction

C12N 15/1024

{In vivo mutagenesis using high mutation rate "mutator" host strains by inserting genetic material, e.g. encoding an error prone polymerase, disrupting a gene for mismatch repair}

Definition statement

This place covers:

In vivo method of mutagenesis of nucleic acid by recombinant DNA technology, e.g. inserting/deleting/replacing nucleotides by introducing genetic material into the host cell, or disrupting the mismatch repair mechanism of the cell.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

In vitro mutagenesis technique	C12N 15/102 , C12N 15/1027 , C12N 15/1031
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

C12N 15/1027

{by DNA shuffling, e.g. RSR, STEP, RPR}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Mutagenesis by combined DNA shuffling;
- DNA sequence evolution by sexual PCR;
- Degenerate oligonucleotide gene shuffling and random drift mutagenesis.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

In vitro mutagenesis by DNA fragment assembly	C12N 15/1031
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

RSR	Recursive Sequence Recombination
StEP	Staggered Extension Process
PRP	Random-Priming in vitro Recombination

ITCHY	Incremental Truncation for the Creation of Hybrid enzymes
DOGS	Degenerate Oligonucleotide Gene Shuffling
RNDM	Random Drift Mutagenesis

C12N 15/1031

{mutagenesis by gene assembly, e.g. assembly by oligonucleotide extension PCR}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Preparation of mutated genes by polynucleotide fragment assembly, e.g. assembly of genes using single-stranded oligonucleotides.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

DNA shuffling	C12N 15/1027
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

C12N 15/1034

{Isolating an individual clone by screening libraries}

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method for screening libraries and isolating an individual clone in which the preparation of the library is not an essential technical feature.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Preparation of the library	C12N 15/1093
In silico methods of screening virtual chemical libraries	C40B 30/02
Libraries per se	C40B 40/00
In silico or mathematical methods of creating virtual chemical libraries	C40B 50/02
Bioinformatics, i.e. methods or systems for genetic or protein-related data processing in computational molecular biology;	G06F 19/10

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

Classification in [C12N 15/1034](#) - [C12N 15/1093](#) takes precedence over classification in [C40B](#). That is to say [C40B](#) is of secondary importance and documents must always be classified in [C12N 15/1034](#) and subgroups. A classification symbol from [C40B](#) may be given in addition. (N.B. [C40B](#) is never used for search in this field).

C12N 15/1037

{Screening libraries presented on the surface of microorganisms, e.g. phage display, E. coli display}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Preparation or screening of peptide libraries displayed by microorganism, cellular peptide display, e.g. phage display, E. coli display, yeast display, eukaryotic cell display.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Libraries per se contained in or displayed by microorganism	C40B 40/02
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1041

{Ribosome/Polysome display, e.g. SPERT, ARM}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method for selecting high-affinity polypeptide ligands that specifically bind target molecules by ribosome/polysome display.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

mRNA display	C12N 15/1062
DNA display	C12N 15/1068

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

SPERT	Systematic Polypeptide Evolution by Reverse Translation
ARM	Antibody-Ribosome-mRNA

C12N 15/1044

{Preparation or screening of libraries displayed on scaffold proteins}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Preparation or screening a library of polypeptides comprising a scaffold-based molecule comprising loop domains, e.g. constructing or screening a library of a scaffold-based proteins which are derived from a stability enhanced consensus sequence of a fibronectin type III (FN3) domain incorporating randomized codons in order to produce polypeptide variants.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Library of scaffold based polypeptides	C40B 40/00
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1048

{SELEX}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Method of aptamer selection, screening of DNA/RNA aptamers by systematic evolution of ligands by exponential amplification (SELEX);
- genomic SELEX;
- whole cell SELEX.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Aptamers per se	C12N 15/115
Peptide aptamers, i.e. build from aminoacids rather than nucleotides amino acids rather than nucleotides	C07K
Library of aptamers	C40B 40/00

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

SELEX	Systematic Evolution of Ligands by EXponential amplification
Aptamers	Nucleic acid ligands

C12N 15/1051

{Gene trapping, e.g. exon-, intron-, IRES-, signal sequence-trap cloning, trap vectors}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of creating or screening a library of gene sequences by gene-trap cloning, isolation of gene sequences by gene-trap cloning, e.g. exons, introns, promoters, enhancer, signal sequences, IRES-, IME-sequences.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Preparation and screening expression libraries using reporter assays	C12N 15/1086
Trap vectors per se	C12N 15/70 - C12N 15/82 , C12N 15/85 - C12N 15/86

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) and [C12N 15/1034](#) groups.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

IRES	Internal Ribosome Entry Site
IME	sequence responsible for Intron Mediated Enhancement of gene expression

C12N 15/1055

{Protein x Protein interaction, e.g. two hybrid selection}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Preparation or screening libraries and isolating an individual clone which is involved in protein x protein interaction which involves gene expression, expression of a reporter gene e.g. in vivo library-versus-library selection of optimized protein-protein interactions, phage-based systems to select multiple protein-protein interactions simultaneously from combinatorial libraries,
- Yeast three-hybrid system,
- Three hybrid based screening assays using mammalian cells.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Preparation or screening expression libraries, e.g. reporter assays	C12N 15/1086
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Methods of identifying protein-protein interactions in protein mixtures	G01N 33/6845
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1058

{Directional evolution of libraries, e.g. evolution of libraries is achieved by mutagenesis and screening or selection of mixed population of organisms}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method for the preparation, screening and isolation of gene sequences by a methods of directed molecular evolution using the modified polynucleotide libraries, e.g. cellular transformation, directed evolution, and screening methods for creating novel transgenic organisms having desirable properties, method of screening gene libraries derived from a mixed population of organisms for a bioactivity of biomolecule of interest.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1062

{mRNA-Display, e.g. polypeptide and encoding template are connected covalently}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Linking phenotype (polypeptide) covalently to mRNA (genotype) and screening libraries of such polypeptide-mRNA-display molecules for activity to identify single library member (polynucleotide sequence) that bind with a target molecule.

References**Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

Polypeptide non-covalently bound to mRNA	C12N 15/1075
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Cellular display	C12N 15/1037
Ribosome/Polysome display	C12N 15/1041
DNA display	C12N 15/1075

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1065

{Preparation or screening of tagged libraries, e.g. tagged microorganisms by STM-mutagenesis, tagged polynucleotides, gene tags}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Method of preparation or screening of tagged libraries;
- Method of tracking, identifying, and/or sorting classes or subpopulations of molecules by the use of (oligonucleotide) tags;
- Method whereby a molecular tag is put on a gene, transcript;
- Tag-creating DNA library, tagged microorganism by signature-tagged-mutagenesis (STM), e.g. gene identification signature (GIS) analysis, indexed library of cells, high throughput method for identification of sequence tags, tagged epitope protein transposable element, identification of transposon insertions within a transcribed portion of a gene of interest.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Library of templated molecules covalently or non-covalently linked to the encoded nucleic acid template, library of templated molecules linked to identifier oligonucleotides which have participated in the synthesis of said templated molecules.	C12N 15/1068
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

RBS-assay	Replica Barcode Selection assay
GIS	Gene Identification Signature
STM	Signature-Tagged-Mutagenesis

C12N 15/1068

{Template (nucleic acid) mediated chemical library synthesis, e.g. chemical and enzymatical DNA-templated organic molecule synthesis, libraries prepared by non ribosomal polypeptide synthesis [NRPS], DNA/RNA-polymerase mediated polypeptide synthesis}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Methods and compositions for performing ordered multi-step synthesis by nucleic acid template mediated chemistry;

- Methods of synthesizing libraries of molecules comprising a functional moiety which is operatively linked to an encoding oligonucleotide;
- Library of templated molecules covalently or non-covalently linked to the encoded nucleic acid template;
- Library of templated molecules linked to identifier oligonucleotides which have participated in the synthesis of said templated molecules.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Libraries of templated molecules per se linked to their encoded nucleic acid templates	C40B 40/06
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1072

{Differential gene expression library synthesis, e.g. subtracted libraries, differential screening}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Preparation or screening at least two different libraries for obtaining or amplifying a polynucleotide (a tester-specific polynucleotide), in which an amount existing in a sample (tester) is larger than the amount existing in another sample (driver);
- Method to identify differentially expressed nucleotide sequences; subtractive hybridization process of enrichment of specific sequences from nucleic acid directory corresponding to a test directory; selective tagging of nucleic acids.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1075

{by coupling phenotype to genotype, not provided for in other groups of this subclass}

Definition statement

This place covers:

In vitro method of preparation or screening of libraries in cell-free compartmentalization systems (IVC), e.g. screening libraries prepared in emulsions (water in oil), droplets in contact with oil; directed evolution of polypeptide/enzyme (peptide display library) by in vitro compartmentalization;

covalent or non-covalent DNA-display.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Cellular display	C12N 15/1037
Ribosome/Polysome display	C12N 15/1041
mRNA display	C12N 15/1062
Library of templated molecules covalently or non-covalently linked to the encoded nuclei acid template, library of templated molecules linked to identifier oligonucleotides which have participated in the synthesis of said templated molecules	C12N 15/1068
Libraries per se	C40B

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Library of templated molecules covalently or non-covalently linked to the encoded nuclei acid template	C12N 15/1068
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

DNA display	Polypeptide is covalently or non-covalently bound to DNA
IVC	In vitro cell-free compartmentalization systems

C12N 15/1079

{Screening libraries by altering the phenotype or phenotypic trait of the host (reporter assays [C12N 15/1086](#))}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of identifying nuclei acids that contributes to cell phenotype or phenotypic traits, e.g. method for the identification of genes that are essential for the maintenance of specific cell phenotypes.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1082

{Preparation or screening gene libraries by chromosomal integration of polynucleotide sequences, HR-, site-specific-recombination, transposons, viral vectors}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of identifying nucleic acids by preparation or screening a genome library in which at least one nucleic acid was stable integrated e.g. using HR, site-specific recombination, transposons, viral vectors, into the genome of the host cell, e.g. using methods for site-specifically integrating at least one first nucleic acid into a genome of at least one cell.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

HR	Homologous Recombination
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C12N 15/1086

{Preparation or screening of expression libraries, e.g. reporter assays}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of identifying nucleic acids by preparation or screening a library of nucleic acids using reporter assays, wherein the reporter confers a selectable phenotype on cells, e.g. lacZ, GFP, YFP, Luc.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Gene-trapping	C12N 15/1051
Libraries per se	C40B

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

lacZ	Beta-galactosidase
GFP	Green Fluorescent Protein
YFP	Yellow Fluorescent Protein
Luc	Luciferase

C12N 15/1089

{Design, preparation, screening or analysis of libraries using computer algorithms}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of identifying nuclei acids by preparation or screening a library of nucleic acids in which at least one step comprises the use of a computer algorithm or an in silico step e.g. to align nucleotide sequences, in silico recombination techniques by designing oligonucleotides for regulated recombination.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Libraries per se	C40B
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

In silico screening	C40B 30/02
In silico or mathematical conception of libraries	C40B 50/02
Bioinformatics, i.e. methods or systems for genetic or protein-related data processing in computational molecular biology	G06F 19/10 - G06F 19/24

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1093

{General methods of preparing gene libraries, not provided for in other subgroups}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method of identifying nuclei acids by preparation or screening a library of nucleic acids/host cells not provided for in other subgroups.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/1034](#) group.

C12N 15/1096

{cDNA Synthesis; Subtracted cDNA library construction, e.g. RT, RT-PCR}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Method for preparing cDNA by reverse translation of RNA, e.g. preparation and cloning DNA into a vector in which the reverse transcription is an essential feature of the process.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

C12N 15/11

DNA or RNA fragments; Modified forms thereof (DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology, [C07H 21/00](#)); {Non-coding nucleic acids having a biological activity}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Natural or synthetic nucleic acids used in biotechnology and genetic engineering.

Subgroups [C12N 15/11](#) - [C12N 15/117](#) also cover the use of non-coding nucleic acids as active ingredients medicinal preparations

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology.	C07H 21/00
Nucleotides and nucleosides per se and modified forms thereof.	C07H 21/00
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes, with the exception of operons.	C07K 14/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Methods for isolating, preparing or purifying nucleic acids	C12N 15/10
Pharmaceutical compositions comprising nucleic acids	A61K 31/7088
Use of medicinal preparations containing genetic material which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases, e.g. gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Chemical preparation of DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology	C07H 21/00
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes	C07K 14/00 ; C12N 9/00
Preparation of non-structural polynucleotides from microorganisms or with enzymes	C12P 19/34
Nucleic acids use in diagnostics; probes; primers	C12Q 1/68
Nucleic acid libraries	C40B

Special rules of classification

No distinction is made between 'invention' and 'additional' information. All technical features belonging to the 'invention' and all those exemplified in the document are classified. The allocation of additional information symbols, where possible, is mandatory.

Classification is made in all appropriate places, unless otherwise specified.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

DNA	DeoxyriboNucleic Acid
RNA	RiboNucleic Acid

C12N 15/111

{General methods applicable to biologically active non-coding nucleic acids}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods and processes of general interest for one or more class(es) of non-coding nucleic acids.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

The products per se	C12N 15/11 , C12N 15/113 - C12N 15/117
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Methods for isolating, preparing or purifying nucleic acids	C12N 15/10
Pharmaceutical compositions comprising nucleic acids	A61K 31/7088
Use of medicinal preparations containing genetic material which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases, e.g. gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Chemical preparation of DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology	C07H 21/00
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00
Preparation of non-structural polynucleotides from microorganisms or with enzymes	C12P 19/34
Nucleic acids use in diagnostics; probes; primers	C12Q 1/68
Nucleic acid libraries	C40B

Special rules of classification

The methods or processes should always be further defined by the relevant codes of the [C12N 2320/00](#) indexing scheme.

Methods or processes which are obviously state of the art are not classified

C12N 15/113

Non-coding nucleic acids modulating the expression of genes, e.g. antisense oligonucleotides; {Antisense DNA or RNA; Triplex- forming oligonucleotides; Catalytic nucleic acids, e.g. ribozymes; Nucleic acids used in co-suppression or gene silencing (when used in plants [C12N 15/8218](#))}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Nucleic acids having a direct effect on the expression of a gene or the transcription of its messenger such as Antisense nucleic acids, Catalytic nucleic acids, e.g. ribozymes, Triplex-forming oligonucleotides, Decoys, Nucleic acids used in gene silencing or RNA interference, or MicroRNAs.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Regulatory sequences being part of genes, e.g. promoters or terminators	C12N 15/63 - C12N 15/90
Their use in plants	C12N 15/8218
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes	C07K 14/00 , C12N 9/00
Probes and primers	C12Q

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Methods for isolating, preparing or purifying nucleic acids	C12N 15/10
Pharmaceutical compositions comprising nucleic acids	A61K 31/7088
Use of medicinal preparations containing genetic material which is inserted into cells of the living body to treat genetic diseases, e.g. gene therapy	A61K 48/00
Chemical preparation of DNA or RNA not used in recombinant technology	C07H 21/00
Encoding nucleic acids, i.e. genes	C07K 14/00 ; C12N 9/00
Preparation of non-structural polynucleotides from microorganisms or with enzymes	C12P 19/34
Nucleic acids use in diagnostics; probes; primers	C12Q 1/68
Nucleic acid libraries	C40B

Special rules of classification

In addition to the Rules already outlined for [C12N 15/11](#), use of the [C12N 2310/00](#) - [C12N 2330/00](#) indexing schemes is made.

In this group and its subgroups classification is made according to the origin and nature of the target and should follow the categorisation made in [C07K 14/00](#). Additional help can be found in the MeSH database of the NCBI

(www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/mesh).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Antisense nucleic acid	DNA or RNA composed of the complementary sequence to the target DNA/RNA
Ribozyme	Nucleic acid with a catalytic activity
MicroRNA	Small double-stranded RNA (21-25 nucleotides) generated from a precursor transcript by cleavage with Dicer
Decoy oligonucleotide	A (double-stranded) oligonucleotide comprising a binding-site for a protein
Gene silencing	Interruption or suppression of the expression of a gene at transcriptional or translational levels.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

miRNA	MicroRNA
TFO, triple helix	Triplex-forming oligonucleotide
siRNA	Small interfering RNA
shRNA	short hairpin RNA
RNA interference	RNAi, gene interference, gene silencing, RNA silencing, cosuppression, co-suppression, post-transcriptional gene silencing, PTGS

C12N 15/1135

{against oncogenes or tumor suppressor genes}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Non-coding nucleic acids directed against targets directly involved in the oncogenic processes, e.g. when their expression or activity is de-regulated.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Oncogenes	Genes whose gain-of-function alterations lead to neoplastic cell transformation
Tumour suppressor genes	Genes that inhibit formation and/or development of the tumorigenic phenotype

C12N 15/1137

{against enzymes (viral enzymes [C12N 15/1131](#); receptors [C12N 15/1138](#))}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Non-coding nucleic acids directed to nucleic acids encoding proteins with an enzymatic activity.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Viral enzymes	C12N 15/1131
Receptors having also an enzymatic domain	C12N 15/1138

C12N 15/1138

{against receptors or cell surface proteins}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- Nucleic acids targeting receptors, i.e. membrane-embedded proteins transmitting a signal after binding of their ligand(s), including nuclear receptors.
- Nucleic acids targeting any protein normally present on the surface of a cell, e.g. ion channels.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Nucleic acids against binding proteins other than receptors	C12N 15/113
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C12N 15/115

Aptamers, i.e. nucleic acids binding a target molecule specifically and with high affinity without hybridising therewith {; Nucleic acids binding to non-nucleic acids, e.g. aptamers}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Nucleic acids binding a target molecule specifically and with high affinity without hybridising therewith.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Peptide aptamers, i.e. built from aminoacids rather than nucleotides.	C07K
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Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Nucleic acid libraries	C40B 10/00 , C40B 40/00
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Special rules of classification

- The corresponding Indexing Code should always be given in addition to the class.

- Known aptamers linked to another entity as regulatory domain should be classified in the group corresponding to said entity and the Indexing Code for the aptamer added.

Synonyms and Keywords

In patent documents, the following abbreviations are often used:

Aptamer	Nucleic acid ligand, NAL
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C12N 15/117

Nucleic acids having immunomodulatory properties, e.g. containing CpG-motifs

Definition statement

This place covers:

Non-coding nucleic acids having a direct impact on the immune system.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Adjuvants containing nucleic acids	A61K 2039/55561
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Special rules of classification

The corresponding Indexing Code should always be given in addition to the class.

C12N 15/52

Genes encoding for enzymes or proenzymes

Definition statement

This place covers:

Operons: DNA constructs containing a cluster of genes under the control of a single regulatory signal or promoter.

Groups of genes for enzymes providing an organism with the ability to synthesize a specific compound or compounds (e.g. synthetic (partial) pathways)

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Genes coding for single enzymes	C12N 9/00
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Special rules of classification

The genes present in the operon are also classified in [C12N 9/00](#) and subgroups and in [C12Y](#).

C12N 15/62

DNA sequences coding for fusion proteins

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods to produce a fusion protein by recombinant DNA technology

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Fusion proteins per se and the nucleic acids encoding them.	C12N 9/00 , C07K 2319/00 , C07K 14/00 , C07K 16/00
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Special rules of classification

This group covers only documents in which emphasis is given on the method for the preparation of fusion proteins.

The products of the method are also classified in the groups for the individual proteins being part of the fusion protein.

The documents have further to be given an Indexing Code for fusion proteins: [C07K 2319/00](#).

C12N 15/625

{containing a sequence coding for a signal sequence}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Methods for producing, by recombinant DNA technology, a fusion protein in which one of the fused polypeptides consists of a signal sequence with or without (part of) its mature protein.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Fusion proteins per se	C12N 9/00 , C07K 2319/00 , C07K 14/00 , C07K 16/00
------------------------	--

Special rules of classification

This group covers only documents in which emphasis is given on the method for the preparation of fusion proteins containing a signal sequence.

The products of the method are also classified in the groups for the individual proteins being part of the fusion protein. This includes classification into the group for the polypeptide from which the signal sequence has been derived

The document has further to be given an Indexing Code for fusion proteins: [C07K 2319/00](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Fusion protein	A polypeptide consisting of (parts of) two or more different proteins covalently linked to each other by a peptide bond
Signal sequence	A 3-60 amino acid long peptide that directs the transport of the protein that is attached to it

C12N 15/63

Introduction of foreign genetic material using vectors; Vectors; Use of hosts therefor; Regulation of expression

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method for regulating (enhancing, inhibiting) the gene expression by modifying the operator, enhancer or promoter dependent transcription of the messenger RNA.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Ribosome mediated translational regulation of gene expression	C12N 15/67
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/00](#) group.

C12N 15/635

{Externally inducible repressor mediated regulation of gene expression, e.g. tetR inducible by tetracycline}

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method for regulating (enhancing, inhibiting) the gene expression by modifying/regulating the repressor or inducer mediated transcription of the messenger RNA.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Ribosome mediated translational regulation of gene expression	C12N 15/67
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/00](#) group.

C12N 15/64

General methods for preparing the vector, for introducing it into the cell or for selecting the vector-containing host

Definition statement

This place covers:

General methods for generating vectors for use in recombinant technology i.e. cloning methods for preparing a general vector. A general vector is to be understood as being one which is independent of the origin of replication. Methods for specifically preparing e.g. a plant, viral or mammalian vector, wherein the method of preparation is restricted to and applicable only in e.g. a plant, virus or mammal are classified in their corresponding vector group.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Bacterial vectors	C12N 15/70 , C12N 15/71 , C12N 15/72 , C12N 15/73 , C12N 15/74 , C12N 15/75 , C12N 15/76 , C12N 15/77 , C12N 15/78
Eukaryotic vectors	C12N 15/79
Fungal vectors	C12N 15/80 , C12N 15/81
Plant vectors	C12N 15/82
Mammalian vectors	C12N 15/85
Viral vectors	C12N 15/86

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/00](#) group.

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

The methods or processes should always be classified in combination-sets which consist of the appropriate CPC group together with the Indexing Codes under [C12N 2500/00](#).

C12N 15/65

using markers (enzymes used as markers [C12N 15/52](#))

Definition statement

This place covers:

General methods for preparing the vector, for introducing it into the cell or for selecting the vector-containing host using polypeptides as marker molecules, wherein the polypeptides do not comprise enzymatic activity.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Enzymes used as marker molecules	C12N 15/52
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Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/00](#) group.

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

The methods or processes should always be classified in combination-sets which consist of the appropriate CPC group together with the Indexing Codes under [C12N 2500/00](#).

C12N 15/66

General methods for inserting a gene into a vector to form a recombinant vector using cleavage and ligation; Use of non-functional linkers or adaptors, e.g. linkers containing the sequence for a restriction endonuclease

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method for preparing a recombinant vector using cleavage and ligation.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/00](#) group.

See corresponding header for the [C12N 15/10](#) group.

The methods or processes should always be classified in combination-sets which consist of the appropriate CPC group together with the Indexing Codes under [C12N 2500/00](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Non-functional linkers	DNA sequences which are used to link DNA sequences and which have no known function of structural gene or regulating function.
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C12N 15/67

General methods for enhancing the expression

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method for ribosome mediated regulating (i.e. enhancing, inhibiting) the gene expression by modifying the ribosomal mediated translation of the messenger RNA.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Transcriptional regulation of gene expression	C12N 15/63 , C12N 15/635
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C12N 15/68

Stabilisation of the vector

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method of enhancing the expression a nucleic acid sequence, by stabilizing the vector in the host cell, e.g. preserving DNA in a stable form over time, temperature, culture conditions.

C12N 15/69

Increasing the copy number of the vector

Definition statement

This place covers:

General method of enhancing the expression a nucleic acid sequence, by increasing the copy number of the vector in the host cell, e.g. conditions that results in an increase in plasmid copy number in comparison to a control plasmid, e.g. mutation in the copy number control region.

C12N 15/70

Vectors or expression systems specially adapted for E. coli

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in Escherichia coli.

Special rules of classification

Shuttle vector is classified according to the vector/host system in which the vector is able to replicate.

Vectors comprising a chimeric/hybrid origin of replication are classified according to the vectors/host system in which the vector is able to replicate.

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Shuttle vector	Vector comprising at least two different origins of replication
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C12N 15/71

Expression systems using regulatory sequences derived from the trp-operon

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in Escherichia coli, and comprising regulatory sequences from the trp-operon.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Trp-operon	Tryprophan-operon
Operon	Set of neighbouring prokaryotic genes whose transcription is simultaneously controlled

C12N 15/72

Expression systems using regulatory sequences derived from the lac-operon

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in Escherichia coli, and comprising regulatory sequences from the lac-operon.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Lac-operon	Lactose-operon
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C12N 15/73

Expression systems using phage (lambda) regulatory sequences

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in Escherichia coli, and comprising regulatory sequences from the phage (lambda) regulatory sequences.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/74

Vectors or expression systems specially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e.g. Lactobacillus, Micromonospora

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e.g. Lactobacillus, Micromonospora.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/743

{for Agrobacterium; Rhizobium; Bradyrhizobium}

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e.g. for Agrobacterium, Rhizobium, Bradyrhizobium.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/746

{for lactic acid bacteria (Streptococcus; Lactococcus; Lactobacillus; Pediococcus; Enterococcus; Leuconostoc; Propionibacterium; Bifidobacterium; Sporolactobacillus)}

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e.g.: for lactic acid bacteria (Streptococcus; Lactococcus; Lactobacillus; Pediococcus; Enterococcus; Leuconostoc; Propionibacterium; Bifidobacterium; Sporolactobacillus).

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/75

for Bacillus

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e. g. for Bacillus.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header from [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/76

for Actinomyces; for Streptomyces

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e. g. for Actinomyces; for Streptomyces.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/77

for Corynebacterium; for Brevibacterium

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e. g. Corynebacterium, for Brevibacterium.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/78

for Pseudomonas

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for prokaryotic hosts other than E.coli, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in prokaryotic hosts other than E. coli, e. g. Pseudomonas.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

C12N 15/79

Vectors or expression systems specially adapted for eukaryotic hosts

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for eukaryotic hosts, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in eukaryotic hosts, and which can not be classified in the subgroups below [C12N 15/80](#) – [C12N 15/86](#).

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/64](#).

C12N 15/80

for fungi

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for eukaryotic hosts, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in eukaryotic hosts, e.g. fungi.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/64](#).

C12N 15/81

for yeasts

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for eukaryotic hosts, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in eukaryotic hosts, e.g. yeast.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/64](#).

C12N 15/815

{for yeasts other than Saccharomyces}

Definition statement

This place covers:

All application dealing with vectors especially adapted for eukaryotic hosts, i.e. comprising at least one origin of replication working in eukaryotic hosts, e.g. other than Saccharomyces.

Special rules of classification

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/70](#).

See corresponding header for [C12N 15/64](#).

C12N 15/82

for plant cells {, e.g. plant artificial chromosomes (PACs)}

Definition statement

This place covers:

- New transgenic plants, methods, vectors, constructs, promoters, etc. for transforming, expressing;
- Modifying genotypes/phenotypes of plants by genetic engineering.

Relationships with other classification places

If a document relates to:

Plant breeding (tissue culture) method and new non-transgenic plants (varieties): use [A01H 1/00](#) through [A01H 4/00](#) for the method if appropriate; use [A01H 5/00](#) through [A01H 17/00](#) for the new plants (varieties)

- Purposive modification of plant phenotype/genotype (e.g. method for altering starch composition), creation of transgenic plants and transgenic plants themselves: use [C12N 15/8241](#)... subclass for the method if appropriate; use [C12N 15/8241](#)... subclass as appropriate for the plant if transgenic normally no [A01H](#) class ([A01H](#) class could be given if there is information regarding the transgenic plant as a variety)
- Transformation method or expression method (including constructs, promoters etc): use [C12N 15/8201](#)... or [C12N 15/8216](#)... for the methods as appropriate

Note that the [C12N 15/8241](#)... subclasses are not used unless there is significant matter defining the purposive modification of the plant genotype or phenotype normally no [A01H](#) class as above. (Note also [A01H 1/00](#) through [A01H 4/00](#) could be added. For example if transformation method included information relating to tissue culture).

[A01H 5/00](#) through [A01H 17/00](#) classes are only used in ECLA for new mainly non-transgenic plants (usually varieties).

Special rules of classification

Includes algal transformation

C12N 15/8213

{Targeted insertion of genes into the plant genome by homologous recombination}

Definition statement

This place covers:

Means for DNA/chromosomal rearrangements

C12N 15/8214**{Plastid transformation}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Mitochondrial transformation

C12N 15/8217**{Gene switch}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Multiple cis/trans cascaded systems

C12N 15/8221**{Transit peptides}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Signal peptides

C12N 15/8242**{with non-agronomic quality (output) traits, e.g. for industrial processing; Value added, non-agronomic traits}****Glossary of terms***In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:*

Output trait influences the output products of plants or their parts

C12N 15/8251**{Amino acid content, e.g. synthetic storage proteins, altering amino acid biosynthesis}****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Modulating protein content

C12N 15/8261**{with agronomic (input) traits, e.g. crop yield}****Glossary of terms***In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:*

Input trait influences the input required for growth and development of the plant or its parts

C12N 15/85

for animal cells

Definition statement

This place covers:

Vectors are nucleic acid constructs capable of introducing genetic information into cells. This group covers vectors for animal cells ([C12N 15/85](#)), in particular for the production of transgenic animals ([C12N 15/8509](#)), and viral vectors ([C12N 15/86](#)).

Introduction of foreign genetic material using processes not otherwise provided for, e.g. co-transformation, cloning and microinjection are covered by [C12N 15/87-C12N 15/907](#).

Relationships with other classification places

[C12N 15/8509](#), [C12N 15/873](#) and [C12N 15/877](#) relate to processes for producing animals, which per se are classified in the range [A01K 67/027-A01K 67/033](#), in combination with codes in the [A01K 2207/00-A01K 2267/00](#) ranges.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Vectors specialised for bacterial cells	C12N 15/70 - C12N 15/78
Vectors specialised for yeast cells	C12N 15/80 - C12N 15/81
Vectors specialised for plant cells	C12N 15/82

Special rules of classification

- For all vectors listed below, the relevant uses and functional elements should be indicated using codes in the [C12N 2800/00-C12N 2840/00](#) ranges unless indicated otherwise.
- [C12N 15/85](#) is to be given when a vector is particularly suitable for introduction of genetic material into animal cells.
- [C12N 15/8509](#) is to be combined with codes in the [A01K 2267/00](#) series to indicate the particular purpose of the produced animal model. [A01K 67/027-A01K 67/033](#) is to be given if the animal has actually been generated. In these cases, (a) code(s) in the [A01K 2217/00](#) range are to be used to further define the vector and animal. With respect to the use of codes in the [C12N 2830/00](#) range in combination with [C12N 15/8509](#) classes, [A01K 2217/203](#) takes precedence over [C12N 2830/001](#) and [C12N 2830/007](#), and [A01K 2217/206](#) takes precedence over [C12N 2830/008](#). The [C12N 2830/001-C12N 2830/008](#) codes are only to be given when the invention actually resides in these elements. **C12N27xx/xxx43** (where x is an integer from 0 to 9) codes are to be given to combine viral taxonomy with vector use in generating genetically modified animals.
- The subdivision of viral vectors corresponding to IPC [C12N 15/86](#) and subclasses is no longer used. It is mandatory to give symbols from the [C12N 2710/00-C12N 2795/00](#) series combining the viral taxonomy with the appropriate ending 43, 44 or 45 to indicate subject-matter relating to viral vectors. When the viral vector is an essential part of the invention, [C12N 15/86](#) needs to be co-allocated.
- [C12N 15/87](#) and [C12N 15/88](#) relate to introduction of foreign genetic material by processes not otherwise provided for, whereby the vectors of [C12N 15/88](#) are microencapsulated. If such subject-matter is for therapeutic use, gene therapy ([A61K 48/00](#)) and relevant non-active ingredients need to be considered ([A61K 47/00](#)). For microencapsulation, the liposome composition may be of relevance ([A61K 9/127](#)).
- Processes for the production of new or cloned embryos are to be classified in [C12N 15/873](#) and [C12N 15/877](#). If new animals have been actually produced, also the relevant

[A01K 67/027-A01K 67/033](#) class and relevant codes in the [A01K 2207/00-A01K 2267/00](#) ranges are to be given. For the manipulation of cells, [C12N 5/00](#) groups should be considered.

- [C12N 15/89](#) and subgroups relate to processes for introduction of foreign genetic material by microinjection, in particular using biolistic methods ([C12N 15/895](#)).
- Vectors for homologous recombination are classified in [C12N 15/902](#), with specific subdivision for yeast ([C12N 15/905](#)) and mammalian cells ([C12N 15/907](#)). The last place rule applies.
- Introduction of genetic material specifically into plant cells should also be classified in [C12N 15/82](#) and subgroups.

C12N 2310/00

Structure or type of the nucleic acid

Definition statement

This place covers:

All indexing information needed to characterise the non-coding nucleic acids used in groups [C12N 15/11](#) - [C12N 15/117](#).

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Specific uses or applications	C12N 2320/00
Ways of production or obtention	C12N 2330/00

Special rules of classification

The indexing symbols in this group are only to be used with groups [C12N 15/11](#) - [C12N 15/117](#).

The indexing symbols are only given to information relevant to the invention or explicitly exemplified, i.e. wish-lists are not indexed.

When appropriate, use of combination-symbols is made to further characterise the nucleic acids, e.g.

- [C12N 2310/321](#) combined with [C12N 2310/3521](#) to form a combination set indicates that the nucleic acid is modified at the 2'-position of the sugar by a methoxy-group.
- [C12N 2310/322](#) combined with [C12N 2310/3533](#) to form a combination set indicates that the nucleic acid is halogenated at the 2'-position of the sugar.
- [C12N 2310/333](#) combined with [C12N 2310/3521](#) to form a combination set indicates a methylated adenosine.
- [C12N 2310/14](#) combined with [C12N 2310/531](#) to form a combination set indicates an interfering RNA with a stem-loop structure, e.g. a shRNA.

C12N 2310/10

Type of nucleic acid

Definition statement

This place covers:

Information about which class of non-coding nucleic acid is concerned.

References

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

The chemical structure of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/30
The physical structure of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/50

C12N 2310/30

Chemical structure

Definition statement

This place covers:

Chemical modification of the nucleic acids, i.e. all relevant deviations from the natural DNA or RNA forms.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Classification of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/10
The physical structure of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/50

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Chemical modification of nucleotides and nucleosides	C07H
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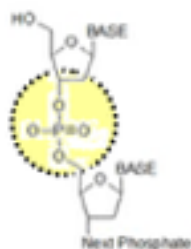
C12N 2310/31

of the backbone

Definition statement

This place covers:

Modifications of the phosphate group(s) forming the backbone of the nucleic acid, including the terminal group(s).



Glossary of terms

In this place, the following terms or expressions are used with the meaning indicated:

Phosphonate	$O=P(O)_2-R$
Phosphorodithioate	$S=P(O)_2-SR$, $S=P(SO)-OR$
Phosphorothioate	$S=P(O)_2-OR$, $O=P(O)_2-SR$
Phosphoramidate	$O=P(O)_2-NR_2$, $O=P(NO)-OR$
Phosphotriester	$O=P(O)_2-O-R$
Phosphonothioate	$S=P(O)_2-R$

C12N 2310/318

where the PO_2 is completely replaced, e.g. MMI or formacetal

Definition statement

This place covers:

Nucleic acids where the phosphate units of the backbone are (at least partially) replaced by a different chemical entity.

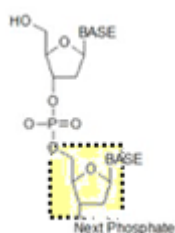
C12N 2310/32

of the sugar

Definition statement

This place covers:

All modifications made to, or variations of, the (deoxy)ribose part of the nucleic acid:



C12N 2310/321

2'-O-R Modification

Definition statement

This place covers:

All modifications at the 2'-position of the sugar made via an oxygen-atom.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Modified sugar ring structures	M12N323/00
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Special rules of classification

The nature of the modifying group is further defined by using a combination symbol (see the corresponding header of [C12N 2310/00](#)).

The combination symbol corresponding to the natural ribose (2'-OH), i.e. [C12N 2310/321](#) combined with [C12N 2310/3531](#) to form a combination set is only given when the RNA nature of the oligonucleotide is of particular relevance to the invention.

C12N 2310/322

2'-R Modification

Definition statement

This place covers:

All modifications directly linked to the 2'-carbon of the sugar, without an intermediate oxygen.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Modified sugar ring structures	M12N323/00
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Special rules of classification

The nature of the modifying group is further defined by using a combination symbol (see the corresponding header of [C12N 2310/00](#)).

The combination symbol corresponding to the natural deoxyribose (2'-H), i.e. [C12N 2310/322](#) combined with [C12N 2310/3531](#) to form a combination set is only given when the DNA nature of the oligonucleotide is of particular relevance to the invention.

C12N 2310/323

modified ring structure

Definition statement

This place covers:

Modifications of the classical (deoxy)ribose ring, including replacement by other sugars.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Modifications made at positions of the sugar not affecting the (deoxy)ribose nature.	C12N 2310/321 , C12N 2310/322
Non-cyclic structures	M12N310/325

Special rules of classification

The nature of the modifying group is further defined by using a combination symbol (see the corresponding header of [C12N 2310/00](#)).

C12N 2310/33

of the base

Definition statement

This place covers:

Nucleic acids comprising a base other than adenine (A), uracil (U), thymidine (T), guanine (G) or cytosine (C). This includes modifications of said natural bases.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Nucleic acids where one or more base(s) is (are) missing	C12N 2310/332
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Special rules of classification

The nature of the modifying group is further defined by using a combination symbol (see the corresponding header of [C12N 2310/00](#)).

C12N 2310/34

Spatial arrangement of the modifications

Definition statement

This place covers:

Nucleic acids where the specific position of a modification within the nucleic acid is relevant.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Modifications of the backbone, sugars or bases per se.	C12N 2310/31 , C12N 2310/32 , C12N 2310/33
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C12N 2320/00

Applications; Uses

Definition statement

This place covers:

Aspects concerning specific uses of the non-coding nucleic acids.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

Structural aspects of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/00
Methods for producing or obtaining the nucleic acids	C12N 2330/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Gene therapy	A61K 48/00
2ND medical uses	A61K 31/7088

Special rules of classification

The indexing symbols in this group are only to be used with groups [C12N 15/11](#) - [C12N 15/117](#).

The indexing symbols are only given to information relevant to the invention or explicitly exemplified, i.e. wish-lists are not indexed.

When appropriate, use of combination-symbols is made to further characterise the nucleic acids (see corresponding rule by [C12N 2310/00](#)).

C12N 2320/10**in screening processes****Definition statement**

This place covers:

The use of the non-coding nucleic acid for screening as well as the detection of the nucleic acid.

References**Informative references**

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Use of nucleic acids in screening	C12Q 1/68
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C12N 2320/11**for the determination of target sites, i.e. of active nucleic acids****Definition statement**

This place covers:

The use of a non-coding nucleic acid in the identification of an accessible site on the target nucleic acid. Hence, the Indexing Code covers also the screening for active non-coding nucleic acids.

References**Limiting references**

This place does not cover:

The use of probes and primers	C12Q 1/68
The use in functional genomics	M12N330/12

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Nucleic acids in screening	C12Q 1/68
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C12N 2320/13**in a process of directed evolution, e.g. SELEX, acquiring a new function****Definition statement***This place covers:*

All methods and processes directed to provide the non-coding nucleic acid with a new function.

References**Informative references***Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

SELEX	C12N 15/1048
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C12N 2320/30**Special therapeutic applications****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Subject-matter where the method or therapeutic application is part of the invention.

References**Informative references***Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:*

Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the nucleic acids; second therapeutic applications	A61K 31/7088
Gene therapy	A61K 48/00

C12N 2320/50**Methods for regulating/modulating their activity****Definition statement***This place covers:*

Methods and means directed to modify the natural activity of the nucleic acids.

References**Limiting references***This place does not cover:*

The directed acquisition of a totally new activity	C12N 2320/13
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C12N 2330/00

Production

Definition statement

This place covers:

The means for producing or obtaining the non-coding nucleic acids.

References

Limiting references

This place does not cover:

The structural aspects of the nucleic acids	C12N 2310/00
Specific uses	C12N 2320/00

Informative references

Attention is drawn to the following places, which may be of interest for search:

Methods for isolating or producing nucleic acids in general	C12N 15/10
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Special rules of classification

The indexing symbols in this group are only to be used with groups [C12N 15/11](#) - [C12N 15/117](#).

The indexing symbols are only given to information relevant to the invention or explicitly exemplified, i.e. wish-lists are not indexed.

When appropriate, use of combination-symbols is made to further characterise the nucleic acids (see corresponding rule by [C12N 2310/00](#)).

C12N 2330/10

naturally occurring

Definition statement

This place covers:

Non-coding nucleic acids naturally present in a cell or organism.

Special rules of classification

This Indexing Code can be given as a combination code, e.g. [C12N 2310/111](#) combined with [C12N 2330/10](#) to form a combination set indicates a naturally occurring antisense.