# **Systems pathway engineering of** *Corynebacterium crenatum* **for improved L-arginine production**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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### **Plasmid and strain constructions**<sup>[1,](#page-18-0)[2](#page-18-1)</sup>

For construction of  $pK18-*argB*<sub>M3</sub>$ , the  *gene was amplified by PCR with* primers argB-1 and argB-2, from plasmid  $pJCB_{M3}^3$  $pJCB_{M3}^3$  $pJCB_{M3}^3$ . In the next step, the amplified DNA fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Sal*I and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18- $argB_{M3}$ . This plasmid was used to transform Cc0 using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as CcMB, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-P*eftuargCJBDFR*, the DNA fragment upstream of *argC* gene, the sequence of *eftu*-promoter and the upstream region of *argC* gene were amplified using the primer combinations argC-1/argC-2, Peftu-1/ Peftu-2, and argC-3/argC-4 from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5 in PCR1, PCR2 and PCR3, respectively. In PCR4, the amplified DNA-fragment upstream of *argC* gene from PCR1 and the amplified DNA-fragment of the *eftu*-promoter from PCR2 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers argC-1 and Peftu-2. In PCR5, the amplified DNA fragment of the upstream region of *argC* gene from PCR3 and the amplified DNA fragment from PCR4 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers argC-1 and argC-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained the DNA fragment upstream of *argC* gene, the sequence of *eftu*-promoter and the upstream region of *argC* gene from upstream to downstream, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by argC-1 and argC-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-P*eftuargCJBDFR*. This plasmid was used to transform CcMB using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as CcMB-P*eftuargCJBDFR*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-P*eftuargGH*, the DNA fragment upstream of *argG* gene, the sequence of *eftu*-promoter and the upstream region of *argG* gene were amplified using the primer combinations argG-1/argG-2, Peftu-1/ Peftu-2, and argG-3/argG-4 from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5 in PCR1, PCR2 and PCR3, respectively. In PCR4, the amplified DNA-fragment upstream of *argG* gene from PCR1 and the amplified DNA-fragment of the *eftu*-promoter from PCR2 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers argG-1 and Peftu-2. In PCR5, the amplified DNA fragment of the upstream region of *argG* gene from PCR3 and the amplified DNA fragment from PCR4 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers argG-1 and argG-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained the DNA fragment upstream of *argG* gene, the sequence of *eftu*-promoter and the upstream region of *argG* gene from upstream to downstream, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by argG-1 and argG-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-P*eftuargGH*. This plasmid was used to transform CcMB-P*eftuargCJBDFR* using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc1, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-2*pfk*, the *pfk* gene was amplified by PCR with primers pfk-1, pfk-2, pfk-3 and pfk-4. In PCR1 and PCR2 the complete *pfk* sequence was amplified together with flanking regions upstream and downstream of the *pfk* gene using the primer combinations pfk-1/pfk-2 and pfk-3/pfk-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers pfk-1 and pfk-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained two complete *pfk* genes each flanked with upstream and downstream sequences, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *BamH*I which were added by pfk-1 and pfk-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *BamH*I and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-2*pfk*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc1 using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc1-2*pfk*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-rbs*pgi*, the DNA fragment upstream of *pgi* gene and

the upstream region of *pgi* gene were amplified using the primer combinations pgi-1/pgi-2 and pgi-3/pgi-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers pgi-1 and pgi-4. In the resulting DNA fragments the sequence of natural RBS of *pgi* gene was replaced by the sequences of synthetic RBSs with strengths of 4000 au, 5000 au, 6500 au and 8500 au which were added by the primer pgi-3, respectively, as well as two recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by pgi-1 and pgi-4, respectively. These fragments were digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmids pK18-4000rbs*pgi*, pK18-5000rbs*pgi*, pK18-6500rbs*pgi*, pK18-8500rbs*pgi*, respectively. These plasmids were used to transform Cc1 using electroporation, which result in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plates with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotypes were investigated by PCR and DNA sequencing analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc2, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-P*sodptsG*, the DNA fragment upstream of *ptsG* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *ptsG* gene were amplified using the primer combinations ptsG-1/ptsG-2, Psod-1/ Psod-2, and ptsG-3/ptsG-4 from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5 in PCR1, PCR2 and PCR3, respectively. In PCR4, the amplified DNA-fragment upstream of *ptsG* gene from PCR1 and the amplified DNA-fragment of the *sod*-promoter from PCR2 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers ptsG-1 and Psod-2. In PCR5, the amplified DNA fragment of the upstream region of *ptsG* gene from PCR3 and the amplified DNA fragment from PCR4 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers ptsG-1 and ptsG-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained the DNA fragment upstream of *ptsG* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *ptsG* gene from upstream to downstream, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by ptsG-1 and ptsG-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-P*sodptsG*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc2-6500 using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium

containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as  $Cc2-G<sub>sod</sub>$ , was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-P*sodiolT1*, the DNA fragment upstream of *iolT1* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *iolT1* gene were amplified using the primer combinations iolT1-1/ iolT1-2, Psod-1/ Psod-2, and iolT1-3/ iolT1-4 from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5 in PCR1, PCR2 and PCR3, respectively. In PCR4, the amplified DNA-fragment upstream of *iolT1* gene from PCR1 and the amplified DNA-fragment of the *sod*-promoter from PCR2 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers iolT1-1 and Psod-2. In PCR5, the amplified DNA fragment of the upstream region of *iolT1* gene from PCR3 and the amplified DNA fragment from PCR4 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers iolT1-1 and iolT1-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained the DNA fragment upstream of *iolT1* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *iolT1* gene from upstream to downstream, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by iolT1-1 and iolT1-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-P*sodiolT1*. This plasmid was used to transform  $Cc2-G<sub>sod</sub>$  using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc2-Gsod-P*sodiolT1*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-P*sodppgk*, the DNA fragment upstream of *ppgk* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *ppgk* gene were amplified using the primer combinations ppgk-1/ppgk-2, Psod-1/ Psod-2, and ppgk-3/ppgk-4 from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5 in PCR1, PCR2 and PCR3, respectively. In PCR4, the amplified DNA-fragment upstream of *ppgk* gene from PCR1 and the amplified DNA-fragment of the *sod*-promoter from PCR2 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers ppgk-1 and Psod-2. In PCR5, the amplified DNA fragment of the upstream region of *ppgk* gene from PCR3 and the amplified DNA fragment from PCR4 were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers ppgk-1 and ppgk-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained the DNA fragment upstream of *ppgk* gene, the sequence of *sod*-promoter and the upstream region of *ppgk*

gene from upstream to downstream, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by ppgk-1 and ppgk-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-P*sodppgk*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc2-G<sub>sod</sub>-P<sub>sod</sub>*iolT1* using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc3, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-ATG*pyc*, the DNA fragment upstream of *pyc* gene and the upstream region of *pyc* gene were amplified using the primer combinations pyc-1/pyc-2 and pyc-3/pyc-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers pyc-1 and pyc-4. In the resulting DNA fragments the natural start codon GTG of *pyc* gene was replaced by ATG through the primer pyc-3, as well as two recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by pyc-1 and pyc-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-ATG*pyc*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc3 using electroporation, which result in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plates with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotypes were investigated by PCR and DNA sequencing analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as  $Cc3-pyc<sub>G1A</sub>$ , was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-2*gltA*, the *gltA* gene was amplified by PCR with primers gltA-1, gltA-2, gltA-3 and gltA-4. In PCR1 and PCR2 the complete *gltA* sequence was amplified together with flanking regions upstream and downstream of the *gltA* gene using the primer combinations gltA-1/gltA-2 and gltA-3/gltA-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers gltA-1 and gltA-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained two complete *gltA* genes each flanked with upstream and downstream sequences, as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by gltA-1 and gltA-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-2*gltA*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc3-*pyc*G1A using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc4, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-2*icd*, the *icd* gene was amplified by PCR with primers icd-1, icd-2, icd-3 and icd-4. In PCR1 and PCR2 the complete *icd* sequence was amplified together with flanking regions upstream and downstream of the *icd* gene using the primer combinations icd-1/icd-2 and icd-3/icd-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers icd-1 and icd-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained two complete *icd* genes each flanked with upstream and downstream sequences as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Xba*I which were added by icd-1 and icd-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Xba*I and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-2*icd*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc4 using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc4-2*icd*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-2*gdh*, the *gdh* gene was amplified by PCR with primers gdh-1, gdh-2, gdh-3 and gdh-4. In PCR1 and PCR2 the complete *gdh* sequence was amplified together with flanking regions upstream and downstream of the *gdh* gene using the primer combinations gdh-1/gdh-2 and gdh-3/gdh-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers gdh-1 and gdh-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained two complete *gdh* genes each flanked with upstream and downstream sequences as well as recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by gdh-1 and gdh-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-2*gdh*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc4-2*icd* using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc4-2*icd*-2*gdh*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-rbs*odhA*, the DNA fragment upstream of *odhA* gene and the upstream region of *odhA* gene were amplified using the primer combinations odhA-1/odhA-2 and odhA-3/odhA-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers odhA-1 and odhA-4. In the resulting DNA fragments the sequence of natural RBS of *odhA* gene was replaced by the sequences of synthetic RBSs with strengths of 200 au, 500 au, 800 au and 1200 au which were added by the primer odhA-3, respectively, as well as two recognition sites *EcoR*I and *BamHI* which were added by odhA-1 and odhA-4, respectively. These fragments were digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *BamH*I and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmids pK18-200rbs*odhA*, pK18-500rbs*odhA*, pK18-800rbs*odhA*, pK18-1200rbs*odhA*, respectively. These plasmids were used to transform Cc4-2*icd*-2*gdh* using electroporation, which result in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plates with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotypes were investigated by PCR and DNA sequencing analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc5, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-rbs*lysC*, the DNA fragment upstream of *lysC* gene and the upstream region of *lysC* gene were amplified using the primer combinations lysC-1/lysC-2 and lysC-3/lysC-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers lysC-1 and lysC-4. In the resulting DNA fragments the sequence of natural RBS of *lysC* gene was replaced by the sequences of synthetic RBSs with strengths of 15 au, 30 au, 60 au and 100 au which were added by the primer lysC-3, respectively, as well as two recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by lysC-1 and lysC-4, respectively. These fragments were digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmids pK18-15rbs*lysC*, pK18-30rbs*lysC*, pK18-60rbs*lysC*, pK18-100rbs*lysC*, respectively. These plasmids were used to transform Cc5-800 using electroporation, which result in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plates with LBG medium containing 10% (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotypes were investigated by PCR and DNA sequencing analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc5*lysC*, was used for subsequent genetic modifications.

For construction of pK18-∆*proB*, the upstream and downstream regions of *proB* gene were amplified using the primer combinations proB-1/proB-2 and proB-3/proB-4, respectively, from genomic DNA of *C. crenatum* SYPA5-5. In the next step, the amplified DNA fragments were fused in an overlap-extension PCR using primers proB-1 and proB-4. The resulting DNA fragment contained an incomplete *proB* gene, lacking about 500 nucleotides, as well as two recognition sites *EcoR*I and *Hind*III which were added by proB-1 and proB-4, respectively. This fragment was digested with the restriction enzymes *EcoR*I and *Hind*III and ligated into the equally digested vector pK18, resulting plasmid pK18-∆*proB*. This plasmid was used to transform Cc5*lysC*-30 using electroporation, which results in the first recombination. The selected colonies were subjected to the second recombination on the plate with LBG medium containing  $10\%$  (w/v) sucrose. The modified genotype was investigated by PCR analysis and determination of enzyme activity. A positively identified mutant, in the following referred to as Cc6.

### **Microbial production of L-arginine**

Batch fermentations in shake flasks were performed as follows. A stock culture was maintained and revived on agar slants containing 10 g  $L^{-1}$  peptone, 10 g  $L^{-1}$  beef extract, 5 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 5 g L<sup>-1</sup> NaCl, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> agar. One loop of colonies from agar slants was inoculated into 20 mL seed medium containing 30 g  $L^{-1}$  glucose, 20 g  $L^{-1}$  yeast extract, 20 g  $L^{-1}$  (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1 g  $L^{-1}$  KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g  $L^{-1}$  MgSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, and cultured at 30  $^{\circ}$ C and 200 rpm for 15 h in 250 mL shake flasks. Then, 1 mL seed culture was transferred into 250 mL shake flasks containing 25 mL fermentation medium, and cultured at 30  $^{\circ}$ C and 200 rpm. The fermentation medium contained 100 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose, 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup>

 $MgSO_4$   $7H_2O$ ,  $0.02 \text{ g L}^1$  FeSO<sub>4</sub>  $7H_2O$ ,  $0.02 \text{ g L}^1$  MnSO<sub>4</sub>,  $30 \text{ g L}^1$  CaCO<sub>3</sub>. The batch cultures were performed in triplicate.

Fed-batch fermentations were carried out in 5 L stirred fermenters (BIOTECH-5BG, Baoxing Co., China). A stock culture was maintained and revived on agar slants containing 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> peptone, 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> beef extract, 5 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 5 g L<sup>-1</sup> NaCl, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> agar. One loop of colonies from agar slants was inoculated into 50 mL seed medium containing 30 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup>  $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ , 1 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> MgSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, and cultured at 30 °C and 200 rpm for 20 h in 500 mL shake flasks. The seed culture (100 mL) was transferred into the 5 L stirred fermenter. Fermentation was started with a volume of 1.5 L. The fermentation medium contained 80 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose, 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup>  $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ , 1.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> MgSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02 g L<sup>-1</sup> FeSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02  $g L^{-1}$  MnSO<sub>4</sub>. The feed medium contained 500 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose, 10 g L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 20  $g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub> SO<sub>4</sub>$ . The feed medium was fed into the fermenter when the residual concentration of glucose became below 20 g  $L^{-1}$ . The fed-batch fermentation was performed at 30  $^{\circ}$ C; pH was maintained at 7.0 by automatically adding 30% NH<sub>4</sub>OH solution; the agitation speed was controlled at 600 rpm and the air flow rate was maintained at  $3.0 \text{ L min}^{-1}$ .

Pilot-scale fermentations were performed as follows. Corn starch hydrolysate and corn steep liquor were used as carbon source and nitrogen source, respectively. The first seed culture was cultivated in first seed medium containing 40  $g L^{-1}$  glucose (supplied by corn starch hydrolysate), 40 g L<sup>-1</sup> corn steep liquor, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> MgSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, at 30 °C for 20 h in 2 L shake flasks. Then, the first seed culture (3.0 L) was transferred into the 100 L stirred fermenter containing 50 L second seed medium, and cultured at 30  $^{\circ}$ C and 350 rpm for 20 h. The second seed medium contained 40 g  $L^{-1}$  glucose (supplied by corn starch hydrolysate), 30 g L<sup>-1</sup> corn steep liquor, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup>  $MgSO<sub>4</sub>7H<sub>2</sub>O$ . Finally, this second seed culture was inoculated into a 1000 L bioreactor containing 500 L fermentation medium. The fermentation medium contained 80 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose (supplied by corn starch hydrolysate), 25 g L<sup>-1</sup> corn steep liquor, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 1.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> MgSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02 g L<sup>-1</sup> FeSO<sub>4</sub> 7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02 g L<sup>-1</sup> MnSO<sub>4</sub>. The feed medium contained 500 g L<sup>-1</sup> glucose (supplied by corn starch hydrolysate), 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> corn steep liquor, 20 g L<sup>-1</sup> (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The feed medium was fed into the fermenter when the residual concentration of

glucose became below 20 g L<sup>-1</sup>. The fed-batch fermentation was performed at 30 °C; pH was maintained at 7.0 by automatically adding 30% NH4OH solution; the agitation speed was controlled at 220 rpm and the air flow rate was maintained at 500  $L \min^{-1}$ .



**Figure S1. Pilot-scale L-arginine fed-batch fermentation.** (**A**) The 100 L bioreactor for seed culture cultivation. (**B**) The appearance of the 1000 L bioreactor for L-arginine fed-batch fermentation. (**C**) The interior structure of the 1000 L bioreactor for L-arginine fed-batch fermentation. (**D**) The culture broth of L-arginine fermentation in the 1000 L bioreactor.





SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

**Table S2. Arginine batch fermentation of CcMB and Cc1 strains**

| Strain | Arginine (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Time (h) | Yield $(g g-1)$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) |
|--------|------------------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CcMB   | $15.1 + 0.53$          | 72       | $0.161 + 0.012$ | $16.1 + 0.38$       |
| Cc1    | $16.9 + 0.58$          | 72       | $0.172 + 0.010$ | $15.5 + 0.31$       |

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

| <b>Strain</b> | <b>Specific PFK</b><br>activities $(U \, mg^{-1})$ | Arginine<br>$(g L^{-1})$ | Time (h) | Yield $(g g^{-1})$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) | <b>NADPH</b> level<br>(µmol $g^{-1}$ DCW) |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Cc1           | $0.42 + 0.11$                                      | $17.3 \pm 0.61$          | 73       | $0.175 + 0.011$    | $15.1 + 0.37$       | $2.26 \pm 0.18$                           |
| $Cc1-2pfk$    | $0.76 - 0.15$                                      | $14.8 + 0.57$            | 70       | $0.153 \pm 0.008$  | $18.7 + 0.45$       | $1.87 + 0.13$                             |

**Table S3. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc1 and Cc1-2***pfk* **strains**

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

**Table S4. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc1 and Cc2 strains**

| <b>Strains</b> | <b>Specific PGI</b><br>activities $(U \, m\mathbf{g}^{-1})$ | Arginine $(g L-1)$ | Time (h) | <b>Residual</b><br>glucose (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Yield $(g g^{-1})$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) | <b>NADPH</b> level<br>$(\mu \text{mol g}^{-1} \text{DCW})$ |
|----------------|---|--------------------|----------|--|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Cc1            | $1.53 + 0.17$   | $16.7 + 0.31$      | 72       | $3.3 + 1.2$                              | $0.181 + 0.010$    | $15.6 + 0.46$       | $2.31 + 0.15$  |
| $Cc2-4000$     | $0.48 + 0.11$   | $13.5 + 0.28$      | 84       | $32.5 + 2.3$                             | $0.198 + 0.008$    | $9.8 + 0.32$        | $3.69 + 0.27$  |
| $Cc2-5000$     | $0.54 + 0.06$   | $16.4 + 0.25$      | 84       | $19.6 + 1.8$                             | $0.201 + 0.011$    | $11.4 + 0.22$       | $3.51 + 0.21$  |
| $Cc2-6500$     | $0.87 + 0.08$   | $18.8 + 0.36$      | 84       | $8.0 \pm 3.1$                            | $0.197 + 0.012$    | $13.2 + 0.41$       | $3.17 + 0.19$  |
| $Cc2-8500$     | $1.06 + 0.15$   | $18.3 + 0.42$      | 76       | $5.7 + 2.3$                              | $0.186 + 0.010$    | $14.8 + 0.32$       | $2.73 \pm 0.25$  |

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

**Table S5. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc2-6500 and Cc2-Gsod strains**

| Strain     | Arginine $(g L-1)$ Time (h) |    | <b>Residual glucose (g</b> $L^{-1}$ ) Yield (g g <sup>-1</sup> ) DCW (g $L^{-1}$ ) |                                   |                 |
|------------|-----------------------------|----|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cc2-6500   | $17.4 + 0.61$               | 80 | $16.3 + 4.1$   | $0.198 \pm 0.012$ $12.8 \pm 0.58$ |                 |
| $Cc2-Gsod$ | $18.2 \pm 0.57$             | 72 | $8.7 + 4.1$  | $0.193 \pm 0.010$                 | $16.4 \pm 0.35$ |
|            |                             |    |  |                                   |                 |

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.





SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.





SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

| <b>Strain</b> | <b>Specific CS</b><br>activities $(Umg-1)$ | Arginine<br>$(g L-1)$ | Time (h) | <b>Residual</b><br>glucose (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Yield $(g g^{-1})$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| $Ce-pycG1A$   | $0.64 \pm 0.19$                            | $17.1 \pm 0.28$       | 60       | $8.7 + 3.4$                              | $0.185 \pm 0.009$  | $17.8 + 0.43$       |
| Cc4           | $1.05 + 0.21$                              | $18.4 + 0.35$         | 60       | $4.8 + 2.8$                              | $0.195 \pm 0.012$  | $18.7 + 0.56$       |

**Table S8. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc3-***pyc***G1A and Cc4 strains**

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

**Table S9. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc4 and Cc4-2***icd* **strains**

| <b>Strain</b> | <b>Specific ICD</b><br>activities $(U \, m\mathbf{g}^{-1})$ | Arginine<br>$(g L-1)$ | Time (h) | <b>Residual</b><br>glucose (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Yield $(g g^{-1})$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) | <b>NADPH</b> level<br>$(\mu \text{mol g}^{-1} \text{DCW})$ |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Cc4           | $0.89 + 0.16$   | $18.1 + 0.28$         | 60       | $7.6 + 2.8$                              | $0.198 + 0.013$    | $18.4 + 0.52$       | $3.26 \pm 0.27$  |
| $Cc4-2icd$    | $1.43 + 0.25$   | $19.7 + 0.35$         | 60       | $2.5 + 1.2$                              | $0.205 + 0.011$    | $19.3 + 0.63$       | $3.42 \pm 0.23$  |

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

**Table S10. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc4-2***icd* **and Cc4-2***icd***-2***gdh* **strains**

| <b>Strain</b> | <b>Specific GDH</b><br>activities $(U \, mg-1)$ | Arginine<br>$(g L-1)$ | Time (h) | <b>Residual</b><br>glucose (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Yield $(g g-1)$ | $DCW$ (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Specific arginine<br>yield $(g g-1 DCW)$ |
|---------------|---|-----------------------|----------|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| $Cc4-2icd$    | $1.87 + 0.39$                                   | $20.3 + 0.37$         | 60       | $4.6 + 2.1$                              | $0.208 + 0.012$ | $19.8 + 0.37$       | $1.02 \pm 0.09$                          |
| Cc4-2icd-2gdh | $3.16 \pm 0.54$                                 | $21.1 + 0.35$         | 60       | $8.5 + 1.2$                              | $0.226 + 0.014$ | $18.7 + 0.32$       | $1.15 + 0.08$                            |

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.





SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.





SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

| <b>Strain</b>   | <b>Specific GK</b><br>activities $(U \, mg^{-1})$ | Arginine $(g L^{-1})$ | Time (h) | <b>Residual</b><br>glucose (g $L^{-1}$ ) | Yield $(g g^{-1})$ | Proline $(g L^{-1})$ |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------------|----------------------|
| $Cc5lvsC-30$    | $0.32 - 0.08$                                     | $26.0 + 0.46$         | 60       | $3.7 + 2.5$                              | $0.269 + 0.014$    | $0.87 + 0.23$        |
| Cc <sub>6</sub> | $0.03 + 0.01$                                     | $27.3 \pm 0.35$       | 60       | $5.2 \pm 2.1$                            | $0.284 + 0.017$    | Not detected         |

**Table S13. Arginine batch fermentation of Cc5***lysC***-30 and Cc6 strains**

SDs based on three biologically independent experiments.

## **Table S14. The predicted cost of food-grade L-arginine production by fermentation of Cc6 strain**



The price of food-grade L-arginine produced by keratin hydrolysis method is 55,000-60,000 RMB ton<sup>-1</sup> in China now.



# **Table S15. Strains used in this study**



# **Table S16. Plasmids used in this study**



| pK18-500rbsodhA      | pK18 derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of <i>odhA</i> gene by<br>500 au of activity RBS  | This study |
|----------------------|--|------------|
| pK18-800rbsodhA      | pK18 derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of <i>odhA</i> gene by<br>800 au of activity RBS  | This study |
| pK18-1200rbsodhA     | pK18 derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of <i>odhA</i> gene by<br>1200 au of activity RBS | This study |
| $pK18$ -rbslys $C$   | $pK18$ derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of lysC gene by<br>weak RBS                     | This study |
| $pK18-15$ rbslys $C$ | $pK18$ derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of lysC gene by 15<br>au of activity RBS        | This study |
| $pK18-30rbslvsC$     | $pK18$ derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of lysC gene by 30<br>au of activity RBS        | This study |
| $pK18-60$ rbslys $C$ | $pK18$ derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of lysC gene by 60<br>au of activity RBS        | This study |
| $pK18-100rbslvsC$    | $pK18$ derivative for chromosomal replacement of natural RBS of lysC gene by 100<br>au of activity RBS       | This study |
| $pK18-\Delta proB$   | $pK18$ derivative for in-frame deletion of $prob$ gene   | This study |

**Table S17. Primers used in this study**

a.







Introduced restriction sites are underlined.

# **Table S18. Primers used for the RT-PCR experiments**[6](#page-19-2)





#### **References**

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