

may be an expression vector. Nucleic acid molecules can be suitably inserted into a replication vector for expression in the insect cell under a suitable promoter for insect cells. Many vectors are available for this purpose, and selection of the appropriate vector will depend mainly on the size of the nucleic acid molecule to be inserted into the vector and the particular host cell to be transformed with the vector. Each vector contains various components depending on its function (amplification of DNA or expression of DNA) and the particular host cell with which it is compatible. The vector components for insect cell transformation generally include, but not limited to, one or more of the following: a signal sequence, and origin of replication, one or more marker genes, and an inducible promoter.

[0091] The insect vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, i.e., a vector which exists as an extrachromosomal entity, the replication of which is independent of chromosomal replication, e.g., a plasmid, an extrachromosomal element, a minichromosome, or an artificial chromosome. The vector may contain any means for assuring self-replication. Alternatively, the vector may be one which, when introduced into the insect cell, is integrated into the genome and replicated together with the chromosome(s) into which it has been integrated. For integration, the vector may rely on the nucleotide sequence of the vector for stable integration of the vector into the genome by homologous or nonhomologous recombination. Alternatively, the vector may contain additional nucleotide sequences for directing integration by homologous recombination into the genome of the insect host. The additional nucleotide sequences enable the vector to be integrated into the host cell genome at a precise location(s) in the chromosome(s). To increase the likelihood of integration at a precise location, there should be preferably two nucleotide sequences which individually contain a sufficient number of nucleic acids, preferably 400 bp to 1500 bp, more preferably 800 bp to 1000 bp, which are highly homologous with the corresponding target sequence to enhance the probability of homologous recombination. These nucleotide sequences may be any sequence that is homologous with a target sequence in the genome of the insect host cell, and, furthermore, may be non-encoding or encoding sequences.

[0092] Baculovirus expression vectors (BEVs) have become important tools for the expression of foreign genes, both for basic research and for the production of proteins with direct clinical applications in human and veterinary medicine (Doerfler, *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 131: 51-68 (1968); Luckow and Summers, *Bio/Technology* 6: 47-55 (1988a); Miller, *Annual Review of Microbiol.* 42: 177-199 (1988); Summers, *Curr. Comm. Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1988); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). BEVs are recombinant insect viruses in which the coding sequence for a chosen foreign gene has been inserted behind a baculovirus promoter in place of the viral gene, e.g., polyhedrin (Smith and Summers, U.S. Pat. No. 4,745,051, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

[0093] The use of baculovirus vectors relies upon the host cells being derived from Lepidopteran insects such as *Spodoptera frugiperda* or *Trichoplusia ni*. The preferred *Spodoptera frugiperda* cell line is the cell line Sf9. The *Spodoptera frugiperda* Sf9 cell line was obtained from American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, Va.) and is assigned accession number ATCC CRL 1711 (Summers and Smith, *A Manual of Methods for Baculovirus Vectors and*

Insect Cell Culture Procedures, Texas Ag. Exper. Station Bulletin No. 1555 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Other insect cell systems, such as the silkworm *B. mori* may also be used.

[0094] The proteins expressed by the BEVs are, therefore, synthesized, modified and transported in host cells derived from Lepidopteran insects. Most of the genes that have been inserted and produced in the baculovirus expression vector system have been derived from vertebrate species. Other baculovirus genes in addition to the polyhedrin promoter may be employed to advantage in a baculovirus expression system. These include immediate-early (alpha), delayed-early (beta), late (gamma), or very late (delta), according to the phase of the viral infection during which they are expressed. The expression of these genes occurs sequentially, probably as the result of a "cascade" mechanism of transcriptional regulation. (Guarino and Summers, *J. Virol.* 57:563-571 (1986); Guarino and Summers, *J. Virol.* 61:2091-2099 (1987); Guarino and Summers, *Virol.* 162:444-451 (1988); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

[0095] Insect recombinant vectors are useful as an intermediates for the infection or transformation of insect cell systems. For example, an insect recombinant vector containing a nucleic acid molecule encoding a baculovirus transcriptional promoter followed downstream by an insect signal DNA sequence is capable of directing the secretion of the desired biologically active protein from the insect cell. The vector may utilize a baculovirus transcriptional promoter region derived from any of the over 500 baculoviruses generally infecting insects, such as for example the Orders Lepidoptera, Diptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera and Hymenoptera, including for example but not limited to the viral DNAs of *Autographa californica* MNPV, *Bombyx mori* NPV, *Trichoplusia ni* MNPV, *Rachiplusia ou* MNPV or *Galleria mellonella* MNPV, wherein said baculovirus transcriptional promoter is a baculovirus immediate-early gene IE1 or IEN promoter; an immediate-early gene in combination with a baculovirus delayed-early gene promoter region selected from the group consisting of 39K and a HindIII-k fragment delayed-early gene; or a baculovirus late gene promoter. The immediate-early or delayed-early promoters can be enhanced with transcriptional enhancer elements. The insect signal DNA sequence may code for a signal peptide of a Lepidopteran adipokinetic hormone precursor or a signal peptide of the *Manduca sexta* adipokinetic hormone precursor (Summers, U.S. Pat. No. 5,155,037; herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Other insect signal DNA sequences include a signal peptide of the Orthoptera *Schistocerca gregaria* locust adipokinetic hormone precursor and the *Drosophila melanogaster* cuticle genes CP1, CP2, CP3 or CP4 or for an insect signal peptide having substantially a similar chemical composition and function (Summers, U.S. Pat. No. 5,155,037).

[0096] Insect cells are distinctly different from animal cells. Insects have a unique life cycle and have distinct cellular properties such as the lack of intracellular plasminogen activators in insect cells which are present in vertebrate cells. Another difference is the high expression levels of protein products ranging from 1 to greater than 500 mg/liter and the ease at which cDNA can be cloned into cells (Frasier, *In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol.* 25:225 (1989); Summers and Smith, In: *A Manual of Methods for Baculovirus Vectors and Insect Cell*