



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2002/06/19  
 (87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2003/01/03  
 (45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2011/07/19  
 (85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2003/12/22  
 (86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: EP 2002/006767  
 (87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2003/000733  
 (30) Priorité/Priority: 2001/06/22 (IT FI2001A000114)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *C07K 14/705* (2006.01),  
*C07K 14/47* (2006.01), *C07K 17/08* (2006.01),  
*G01N 33/68* (2006.01)  
 (72) Inventeurs/Inventors:  
PAPINI, ANNA MARIA, IT;  
CHELLI, MARIO, IT;  
ROVERO, PAOLO, IT;  
LOLLI, FRANCESCO, IT  
 (73) Propriétaire/Owner:  
UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE, IT  
 (74) Agent: MARKS & CLERK

(54) Titre : GLYCOPEPTIDES, PREPARATION ET UTILISATION DE CES GLYCOPEPTIDES POUR LE DIAGNOSTIC  
OU LE TRAITEMENT DE LA SCLEROSE EN PLAQUES  
 (54) Title: GLYCOPEPTIDES, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OR THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT  
OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Glycopeptides capable of identifying multiple sclerosis antibodies, and therefore useful as diagnostic tools or for the treatment of said pathology are described.

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
3 January 2003 (03.01.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/000733 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C07K 14/705**, 17/08, G01N 33/68, C07K 14/47
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP02/06767
- (22) International Filing Date: 19 June 2002 (19.06.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
FI2001A000114 22 June 2001 (22.06.2001) IT
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE** [IT/IT]; Piazza San Marco, 4, I-50121 Firenze (IT).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **PAPINI, Anna, Maria** [IT/IT]; Via G. Alessi, 2, I-50127 Firenze (IT). **CHELLI, Mario** [IT/IT]; Località Fornacina, 6, I-50064 Incisa Val d'Arno (Prov. of Firenze) (IT). **ROVERO, Paolo** [IT/IT]; Via G. Alessi, 2, I-50127 Firenze (IT). **LOLLI, Francesco** [IT/IT]; Viale Guidoni, 143, I-50127 Firenze (IT).
- (74) Agent: **GERVASI, Gemma**; Notarbartolo & Gervasi, Corso di Porta Vittoria, 9, I-20122 Milan (IT).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**  
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:**  
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
13 November 2003
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



**WO 03/000733 A3**

(54) Title: GLYCOPEPTIDES, THEIR PREPARATION AND USE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OR THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

(57) Abstract: Glycopeptides capable of identifying multiple sclerosis antibodies, and therefore useful as diagnostic tools or for the treatment of said pathology are described.

## **Glycopeptides, their preparation and use in the diagnosis or therapeutic treatment of multiple sclerosis**

### Field of invention

The present invention refers to glycopeptides formed of 11 – 24 aminoacids  
5 capable of identifying multiple sclerosis antibodies and therefore useful as  
diagnostic tools or for the treatment of said pathology.

### State of the art

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an inflammatory demyelinating disease of the central  
nervous system highly invalidating and therefore of high social impact. It causes  
10 the degradation of the central nervous system white matter (myelin) bringing about  
serious damage in the transmission of nerve signals.

The etiopathogenesis of the disease has not yet been clearly defined, but it is  
hypothesised that an autoimmune process directed against the principal myelin  
proteins is an important pathogenic mechanism of the disease. The myelin  
15 damage is most probably due to the synergic action of the T cell response and the  
antibody response against myelin proteins and glycoproteins. In particular the  
autoantibodies can play a key role in the activation of macrophages, in  
demyelination, and in the blocking of nervous conduction.

In a previous study [A.M. Papini *et al.*, Proceedings of the 10<sup>th</sup> International  
20 Congress of Immunology, Monduzzi Editore, International Proceeding Division  
Bologna, Italy (1998), pp. 1239-1244] the possibility of identifying MS specific  
antibodies through a glycosylated peptide constituted of a sequence of 21  
aminoacids of the myelin oligodendrocytic glycoprotein (MOG) (from positions 30  
to 50), and indicated by the formula  $\text{Asn}^{31}(\text{Glc})\text{hMOG}(30-50)$  has been  
25 demonstrated.

The interest in developing new glycosylated peptides capable of carrying out the  
function of identifying said antibodies with greater efficiency and therefore useful  
both for the diagnosis and for the treatment of multiple sclerosis is evident.

### Summary of the invention

30 The present invention refers to glycopeptides of 11 – 24 aminoacids containing a  
tetrapeptide of formula (I):

X-Asn(G)-Y-Z (I)

in which:

X = aminoacid carrying an amino or carboxylic group on the side chain;

Y = Pro, Gly;

5 G is a sugar

Z = Ala, Val, Ile, His

Detailed description of the invention

It has now been surprisingly found, and is a subject of the present invention, that short glycopeptides, constituted of 11 – 24 aminoacids, containing the above-  
10 defined tetrapeptide play a very efficient role in the recognition of the antibodies typical of MS and are therefore useful in its diagnosis or its therapeutic treatment.

According to the present invention, glycopeptides of formula (II) are preferred:

A-B-X-Asn(G)-Y-Z-C-D (II)

in which:

15 Y and G are as defined above;

A = 2 – 5 aminoacids or absent

B and C = trifunctional aminoacids forming a lactam bridge between each other by means of the respective side chains, or absent;

D = 5 – 15 aminoacids;

20 X = Glu, Asp, Lys, Arg, Orn, Dap;

Z = Ala, Val, Ile, His.

For trifunctional aminoacids forming a lactam bridge between each other as defined above, is meant, for example, the pair Dap-Asp or Asp-Dap, Dab-Glu or Glu-Dab, Orn-Asp or Asp-Orn, and the pair formed by other aminoacids, for  
25 example non-natural aminoacids, having analogous characteristics.

For sugar is preferably meant: mono and disaccharides of type Glc, GlcNAc,  $\beta$ -D-Glcp-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-D-Glc (cellobiose), etc.

For aminoacids, when not otherwise defined, is meant natural or non-natural aminoacids.

30 Obviously residues A, if present, and D may contain an appropriate alkyl spacer to lengthen the chain, where for alkyl spacer, in the sense used herein, is meant  $\omega$ -aminoacids with linear alkyl chains (H<sub>2</sub>N-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>H where n is 2 – 6.

The presence of the formula (I) tetrapeptide as defined above, can induce a folding in the peptide conformation that can, for this reason, assume a "hook like" form (when the tetrapeptide is present in the terminal portion of the peptide) or "a hairpin like" form (when the tetrapeptide is present in the central portion of the peptide). These conformations allow an optimal binding of the patients' autoantibodies; this fact is essential for the unexpected properties of the peptides according to the invention.

Particularly preferred, according to the invention are the peptides represented by the following sequences:

1. H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH
2. H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-cyclic[Dap-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Asp]-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH
3. H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-cyclic[Asp-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Orn]-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH
4. H-Ala-Lys-Thr-Ala-Lys-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Val-Glu-Ala-Ser-Gly-OH
5. H-Glu-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Val-His-Phe-Phe-Lys-Asn-Ile-Val-Thr-Pro-Arg-Thr-Pro-OH
6. H-Asp-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Glu-Ala-Phe-Lys-Gly-Ile-Ser-OH
7. H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-HN-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-CO-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH
8. H-Asp-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Val-His-Phe-Phe-Lys-Asn-Ile-Val-(βAla)<sub>3</sub>-OH

The peptides as defined above can also contain an -HN-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>H group in the C-terminus (where n = 2-6) so as to allow the attachment to a resin as requested for their practical use in diagnostics or in therapeutic treatments.

The peptides according to the invention can be prepared according to known methods for solid or liquid phase synthesis.

The solid phase method is particularly useful, well known to experts in the field, the basis of which is that the C-terminal residue is covalently bound to an appropriate solid support, for example polystyrene (Wang's resin), polystyrene-polyoxyethylene (TentaGel resin or PEG-PS) or polyethylene glycol and polyacrylamide co-polymers (PEGA resin), and the successive aminoacids are

added sequentially, through acylation of the amino group of the residue bound to the resin, for example through the symmetric anhydride of the following aminoacid, appropriately protected, where necessary, on the side chain. Upon completion of the synthesis the crude peptide is obtained by treating the resin with an  
5 appropriate acid, for example hydrofluoric acid or trifluoroacetic acid, and separated by precipitation in ethyl ether and successive lyophilisation. The peptide is finally purified using chromatographic techniques, such as for example preparative HPLC. It is also possible to maintain the synthetic peptide bound to the solid support (for example polystyrene-polyoxyethylene TentaGel<sup>TM</sup> resin or PEG-  
10 PS<sup>TM</sup>), carrying out the selective deprotection of the side chains with an appropriate reagent.

Alternatively, still according to known techniques, the attachment of the peptide to the appropriate support is achieved so as to form the corresponding conjugates, useful in diagnostics or in therapy. The preferred supports for this purpose include  
15 resins, insoluble in water, and completely compatible with organic liquids, such as: silica gel, cellulose, polyacrylate, sepharose and analogues, as well as the same resins normally used by experts in the field for the preparation of synthetic peptides, as for example Wang's resin, polystyrene-polyoxyethylene (TentaGel resin or PEG-PS) or polyethylene glycol and polyacrylamide copolymers  
20 (completely compatible with water) such as PEGA<sup>TM</sup> resin and more stable analogue resins such as POEPS (polyoxyethylene-polystyrene), POEPOP (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene), as well as macroporous resins described for their interest for the solid phase glycosylation of peptides, such as SPOCC (PEG substituted with oxethane) [Rademann, J; Grøtli, M; Meldal, M; and Bock, K. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*  
25 1999, 121, 5459-5466] or derivatives thereof like EXPO<sub>3000</sub> (copolymer with tetrakis-[4-(3-methyl-oxethane-3-ylmethyl)-phenyl]-silane) [Tornøe, C.W.; and Meldal M. In: *Peptides 2000*, J. Martinez and J.A. Fehrentz (Eds.) EDK, Paris, France 2001].

Examples disclosing the preparation of some peptides according to the invention,  
30 are provided in the following for illustrative, non limiting purposes of the invention.

Example 1. Synthesis of a linear peptide

Preparation of H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH

The resin Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-NovaSyn (0.5 g, 0.11 mmol/g) was made to swell in  
5 DMF for 1 hour at room temperature and packed into the glass column (150 × 15 mm) of a continuous flow, semiautomated synthesiser. After deprotection of the amino group present on the resin with a solution of 20% piperidine in DMF, for the insertion of each aminoacid the column was loaded with a solution containing Fmoc-aminoacid (2.5 eq., 0.137 mmol) dissolved in DMF (1.3 ml), and as  
10 activating reagent HOBt (2.5 eq, 0.137 mmol), TBTU (2.5 eq, 0.137 mmol) and NMM (3.75 eq, 0.205 mmol).

The following aminoacids were used in order:

- 1) Fmoc-Val-OH
- 2) Fmoc-Met-OH
- 15 3) Fmoc-Trp(Boc)-OH
- 4) Fmoc-Gly-OH
- 5) Fmoc-Tyr(tBu)-OH
- 6) Fmoc-Pro-OH
- 7) Fmoc-Ala-OH
- 20 8) Fmoc-Leu-OH
- 9) Fmoc-Phe-OH
- 10) Fmoc-Val-OH
- 11) Fmoc-Ser(tBu)-OH
- 12) Fmoc-His(Trt)-OH
- 25 13) Fmoc-Gly-OH
- 14) Fmoc-Asn(Glc)-OH (*N*<sup>α</sup>-Fmoc-*N*<sup>γ</sup>-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-glucopyranosyl)-L-Asn-OPfp)
- 15) Fmoc-Arg(Pmc)-OH
- 16) Fmoc-Glu(OtBu)-OH
- 30 17) Fmoc-Val-OH
- 18) Fmoc-Arg(Pmc)-OH
- 19) Fmoc-Pro-OH

## 20) Fmoc-Thr(tBu)-OH

Upon completion of synthesis, the resin was deprotected with 20% piperidine in DMF, filtered, washed with DMF, DCM and ether, and finally dried under vacuum. The crude peptide was obtained by treatment of the resin with a mixture of  
5 TFA/phenol/anisole/ethanedithiol (94:2:2:2) (10 ml), maintained with agitation for 30 minutes at 0 °C and at room temperature for 1.5 hours. The resin was filtered and washed with TFA and the filtrate concentrated to half volume under vacuum. The peptide was precipitated by treatment with cold ether. The precipitate obtained was lyophilised recovering 112 mg of crude peptide.

10 Deacetylation was attained by adding dropwise, a solution of NaOMe 0.1 M in MeOH, to achieve a pH = 12, to a solution of the peptide in anhydrous MeOH (15 ml) maintained with agitation in a nitrogen atmosphere. The NaOMe solution was prepared by adding metallic sodium (270 mg in ligroin (pet. ether), 117 mmol) to distilled MeOH (11 ml) in a nitrogen atmosphere. After 1 hour dry ice was added to  
15 the mixture until neutralised. The solution was concentrated giving the crude peptide, which was purified by semipreparative HPLC (HPLC purity greater than 97%).

Characterisation: ESI-MS: found:  $[M+3H]^{3+}$  m/z = 869.9,  $[M+2H]^{2+}$  m/z = 1304.2; calculated: PM monoisotopic = 2605.38.

20 The other linear peptides were prepared following the same method, but using the necessary aminoacids in the appropriate sequences.

Example 2. Synthesis of a cyclic peptide.

Preparation of H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-cyclic[Dap-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Asp]-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH

25 TentaGel resin SPHB-Lys(Boc)-Fmoc (1.00 g, 0.22 mmol/g) was treated as described in example 1. For each coupling 4 eq of Fmoc-aminoacids (0.88 mmol) dissolved in DMF (1.3 ml) were used, and as activating reagents HOBt (4 eq, 0.88 mmol) and TBTU (4 eq, 0.88 mmol,) and NMM (6 eq, 1.68 mmol,) were used.

The following aminoacids were used in the following order:

- 30 1) Fmoc-Val-OH  
2) Fmoc-Met-OH  
3) Fmoc-Trp(Boc)-OH

- 4) Fmoc-Gly-OH
- 5) Fmoc-Tyr(tBu)-OH
- 6) Fmoc-Pro-OH
- 7) Fmoc-Ala-OH
- 5 8) Fmoc-Leu-OH
- 9) Fmoc-Phe-OH
- 10) Fmoc-Val-OH
- 11) Fmoc-Asp(OAll)-OH
- 12) Fmoc-His(Trt)-OH
- 10 13) Fmoc-Gly-OH
- 14) Fmoc-Asn(Glc)-OPfp
- 15) Fmoc-Arg(Pmc)-OH
- 16) Fmoc-Dap(Alloc)-OH
- 17) Fmoc-Val-OH
- 15 18) Fmoc-Arg(Pmc)-OH
- 19) Fmoc-Pro-OH
- 20) Fmoc-Thr(tBu)-OH

Upon completion of synthesis, the allylic protective groups of the Dap and Asp side chains were selectively removed by treatment with a solution of Pd(PPh<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub> (3 eq) in 7.5 ml of CHCl<sub>3</sub>/AcOH/ NMM 37:2:1 in Argon atmosphere. The reaction mixture was stirred using a mechanical arm for 3 hours at room temperature. The resin was then filtered and washed three times with a solution of 0.5% DIPEA in DMF, three times with a solution of 0.05% sodium diethyl carbamate in DMF, three times with DMF and three times with DCM.

For the subsequent cyclisation reaction, the resin was made to swell in a flask in DMF for 1 hour. NMM (4 eq.) was then added and after 10 minutes, PyBOP (4 eq.). The reaction mixture was agitated, using a mechanical arm, for three days at room temperature. The resin was filtered and washed several times with DMF, DCM and Et<sub>2</sub>O and finally dried under vacuum.

Afterwards, the resin was deprotected of Fmoc by 20% piperidine in DMF, followed by detachment of the peptide and its isolation exactly as described in example 1.

Example 3. Synthesis of a resin-bound peptide.

Preparation of H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-( $\beta$ Ala)<sub>3</sub>-PEG-PS

The base resin PEG-PS, in amino form (1 g, 0.09 eq) was made to swell in DMF  
5 for 1 hour at room temperature and packed into the glass column (150 × 15 mm)  
of a continuous flow, semiautomatic synthesiser. For the coupling of the first  
aminoacid the column was loaded with a solution containing Fmoc- $\beta$ Ala-OH (4 eq.,  
0.36 mmol) dissolved in DMF (1.5 ml), and as activating reagents HOBt (4 eq.,  
0.36 mmol), TBTU (4 eq., 0.36 mmol) and NMM (6 eq, 0.54 mmol). The reaction  
10 was carried out for 1 hour and later, after the appropriate washes, followed by the  
deprotection of the amino groups, by treatment with 20% piperidine in DMF. The  
coupling cycle for  $\beta$ Ala was repeated a further twice, and then continued in the  
same way for the coupling of a residue of Fmoc-Lys(Boc)-OH. Later, the  
construction of the entire peptide sequence was continued, exactly as indicated in  
15 example1. Following the final treatment with piperidine, the resin-peptide was  
deprotected by treatment with a mixture of TFA/phenol/anisole/ethanedithiol  
(94:2:2:2) (10 ml), with agitation for 30 minutes at 0 °C and at room temperature  
for 1.5 hours, scrupulously washed and dried under reduced pressure.

Example 4. Conjugation of a peptide to resin.

20 A free peptide, linear or cyclic, prepared as described in examples 1 and 2,  
respectively, was conjugated to Sepharose<sup>TM</sup> resin preactivated with CNBr,  
according to the usual reaction protocols advised by the manufacturers in order to  
obtain a resin-peptide conjugate. The product thus obtained is useful as for  
example for the preparation of plates for the diagnosis or treatment of patients  
25 affected by MS [see also the following].

The present invention refers also to a kit comprising the glycopeptides according to  
the invention and useful for diagnostic purposes.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention a kit as above said  
comprises:

- 30 - a microplate  
- a buffer solution for adhering the peptide to the plate;  
- a modified peptide according to the invention (lyophilised);

- FCS-buffer (10% FCS, 9g/l NaCl, Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20 0,05%);
  - concentrated wash solution (20x concentrated);
  - positive control serum;
  - negative control serum;
  - 5 - an antibody reacting with the antibody of Multiple Sclerosis [conjugate-(AP conjugated with anti-Igm)];
  - a substrate (p-nitrophenylphosphate, disodium salt);
  - a substrate buffer (1 M diethanolamine buffer, pH 9.8);
  - a stop solution (1 M sodium hydrate).
- 10 If preferred the buffer solution for adhering the peptide to the plate and the modified peptide according to the invention can be incorporated directly in the microplate.

#### Diagnostic use

For diagnostic use the glycopeptides of the invention were diluted and absorbed  
15 onto binding plastic in the wells of microtitre plates (ELISA systems). Patient serum or plasma was then added in a series of different concentrations (dilution series). The autoantibody specific for our products bound to the peptide absorbed onto the plastic. According to the technique known by experts in the field, ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immuno-Sorbent Assay), the autoantibody molecules bound to  
20 the glycopeptide are then evidenced through the binding of appropriate secondary antibodies, added to the ELISA plates, which recognise the immunoglobulin constant fragment. These secondary antibodies, conjugated with appropriate enzymes, can be visualised through a colourimetric reaction: the absorbance developed is proportional to the amount of specifically bound autoantibody.  
25 Quantitatively, the result is expressed as the antibody titre, defined as the reciprocal of the dilution factor in which no further reaction is observed.

The antibody titre, as defined above, was measured in different patients affected by multiple sclerosis; the glycoproteins according to the invention have shown higher antibody titres compared to those measured with known glycopeptides.

#### 30 Therapeutic use

The peptides according to the invention, in free form or bound to appropriate resins, can be used for the treatment of patients affected by multiple sclerosis as,

thanks to their high specificity of antibody recognition, they can be used to neutralise and/or selectively remove the autoantibodies.



12

&lt;400&gt; 2

Thr Pro Arg Val Xaa Arg Asn Gly His Asp Val Phe Leu Ala Pro Tyr  
 1 5 10 15

Gly Trp Met Val Lys  
 20

&lt;210&gt; 3

&lt;211&gt; 21

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; glycopeptide

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; CARBOHYD

&lt;222&gt; (7)..(7)

&lt;223&gt; the carbohydrate is beta-D-glucoopyranosyl

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; MISC\_FEATURE

&lt;222&gt; (10)..(10)

&lt;223&gt; Xaa is Orn

&lt;400&gt; 3

Thr Pro Arg Val Asp Arg Asn Gly His Xaa Val Phe Leu Ala Pro Tyr  
 1 5 10 15

Gly Trp Met Val Lys  
 20

&lt;210&gt; 4

&lt;211&gt; 13

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;223&gt; glycopeptide

&lt;220&gt;

&lt;221&gt; CARBOHYD

&lt;222&gt; (6)..(6)

&lt;223&gt; the carbohydrate is beta-D-glucoopyranosyl

&lt;400&gt; 4

Ala Lys Thr Ala Lys Asn Gly His Val Glu Ala Ser Gly  
 1 5 10

&lt;210&gt; 5

&lt;211&gt; 17

&lt;212&gt; PRT

&lt;213&gt; Artificial Sequence





The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A glycopeptide of 11 - 24 amino acids comprising a tetrapeptide of formula (I):



in which:

X = amino acid carrying an amino or carboxylic group on the side chain;

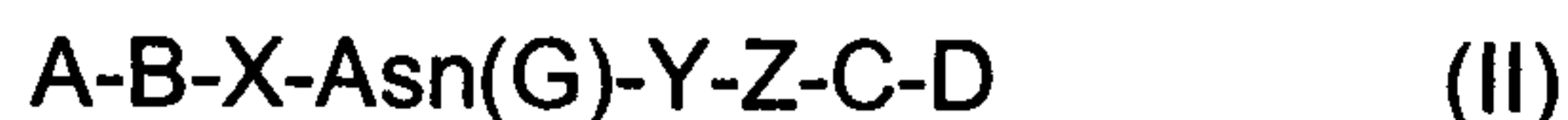
Y = Pro or Gly;

G = a mono- or disaccharide; and

Z = Ala, Val, Ile or His.

2. A glycopeptide according to claim 1, in which the amino acids are natural or non-natural amino acids.

3. A glycopeptide according to claim 1 or 2, of formula (II):



in which:

Y and G are as defined above;

A is a group of 2 - 5 amino acids or is absent;

B and C are trifunctional amino acids capable of forming a lactam bridge between each other by means of the respective side chains or are both absent;

D represents a group of 5 - 15 amino acids;

X is Glu, Asp, Lys, Arg, Orn, or Dap; and

Z is Ala, Val, Ile, or His.

4. A glycopeptide according to claim 3, in which B and C represent the pairs: Dap-Asp or Asp-Dap, Dab-Glu or Glu-Dab, or Orn-Asp or Asp-Orn.

5. A glycopeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the mono- or disaccharide is  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl (Glc), 2-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc), or cellobiose.
6. A glycopeptide according to claim 5, in which the mono- or disaccharide is  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl (Glc).
7. A glycopeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 6, represented by one of the following formulae:  
 H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH;  
 H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-cyclic[Dap-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Asp]-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH;  
 H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-cyclic[Asp-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Orn]-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH;  
 H-Ala-Lys-Thr-Ala-Lys-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Val-Glu-Ala-Ser-Gly-OH;  
 H-Glu-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Val-His-Phe-Phe-Lys-Asn-Ile-Val-Thr-Pro-Arg-Thr-Pro-OH;  
 H-Asp-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Glu-Ala-Phe-Lys-Gly-Ile-Ser-OH;  
 H-Thr-Pro-Arg-Val-Glu-Arg-Asn(Glc)-Gly-His-Ser-HN-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>6</sub>-CO-Val-Phe-Leu-Ala-Pro-Tyr-Gly-Trp-Met-Val-Lys-OH; or  
 H-Asp-Asn(Glc)-Pro-Val-Val-His-Phe-Phe-Lys-Asn-Ile-Val-( $\beta$ Ala)<sub>3</sub>-OH.
8. A glycopeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 7, containing an alkyl spacer in non-terminal positions.
9. A glycopeptide according to claim 8, in which said alkyl spacer has the formula -HN-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>-, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6.
10. A glycopeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 9, containing a further C-terminal -HN-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub>H group wherein n is an integer from 2 to 6.

11. A process for the solid-phase preparation of a glycopeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10, in which:

- a) the C-terminal residue is covalently bound to an appropriate solid support;
- b) the successive amino acids are added sequentially, through acylation of the amino group of the residue bound to the resin;
- c) the crude peptide is recovered by treatment of the resin with an appropriate acid;
- d) the peptide is purified using a chromatographic technique; and
- e) the peptide is eventually attached to an appropriate solid support.

12. A process according to claim 11, in which the solid support of stage (a) is silica gel, cellulose, polyacrylate, Sepharose<sup>TM</sup>, polystyrene (Wang's resin), polystyrene-polyoxyethylene (TentaGel<sup>TM</sup> resin or PEG-PS<sup>TM</sup>), a copolymer of polyethyleneglycol and polyacrylamide (PEGA<sup>TM</sup> resin), POEPS (polyoxyethylene-polystyrene), POEPOP (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene) or SPOCC (PEG<sup>TM</sup> substituted with oxethane).

13. A process according to claim 12, in which the solid support of stage (e), if present, is silica gel, cellulose, polyacrylate, or Sepharose<sup>TM</sup>.

14. A conjugate comprising a resin, insoluble in water and completely compatible with organic fluids, and a glycopeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10.

15. A conjugate according to claim 14, in which the resin is Sepharose<sup>TM</sup>, cellulose or silica gel.

16. A plate for diagnosis of multiple sclerosis containing a glycopeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10.

17. A diagnostic method for multiple sclerosis, in which free glycopeptides as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 is used, comprising the following steps:

the glycopeptides as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 are diluted and absorbed onto binding plastic in the wells of microtitre plates, ELISA systems; patient serum or plasma is added in a series of different concentrations; an autoantibody specific for the glycopeptides is bound to the peptide and absorbed onto the plastic; and

the autoantibody molecules bound to the glycopeptide are then evidenced through the binding of appropriate secondary antibodies, added to the ELISA plates, which recognise the immunoglobulin constant fragment; these secondary antibodies, conjugated with appropriate enzymes, are visualised through a colourimetric reaction wherein the absorbance developed is proportional to the amount of specifically bound autoantibody.

18. A diagnostic method for multiple sclerosis in which conjugates as defined in claim 14 or 15 are used comprising the following steps:

the conjugates as defined in claim 14 or 15 are diluted and absorbed onto binding plastic in the wells of microtitre plates, ELISA systems;

patient serum or plasma is added in a series of different concentrations;

an autoantibody specific for the glycopeptides bound to the peptide absorbed onto the plastic; and

the autoantibody molecules bound to the glycopeptide are then evidenced through the binding of appropriate secondary antibodies, added to the ELISA plates, which recognise the immunoglobulin constant fragment; these secondary antibodies, conjugated with appropriate enzymes, are visualised through a colourimetric reaction wherein the absorbance developed is proportional to the amount of specifically bound autoantibody.

19. A kit for the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis comprising:

a microplate;

a buffer solution for adhering the peptide to the plate;

a glycopeptide as defined in any one of claims 1 to 10 lyophilised;

FCS-buffer: 10% FCS, 9g/l NaCl, Tween<sup>TM</sup> 20 0.05%;

20x concentrated wash solution;

positive control serum;

negative control serum;  
an antibody reacting with the antibody of multiple sclerosis, conjugate-(AP conjugated with anti-Igm);  
a substrate of p-nitrophenylphosphate and disodium salt;  
a substrate buffer: 1 M diethanolamine buffer, pH 9.8; and  
a stop solution: 1 M sodium hydrate.

20. A kit according to claim 19, wherein said buffer solution for adhering the glycopeptide to the plate and said glycopeptide are incorporated directly in the microplate.