



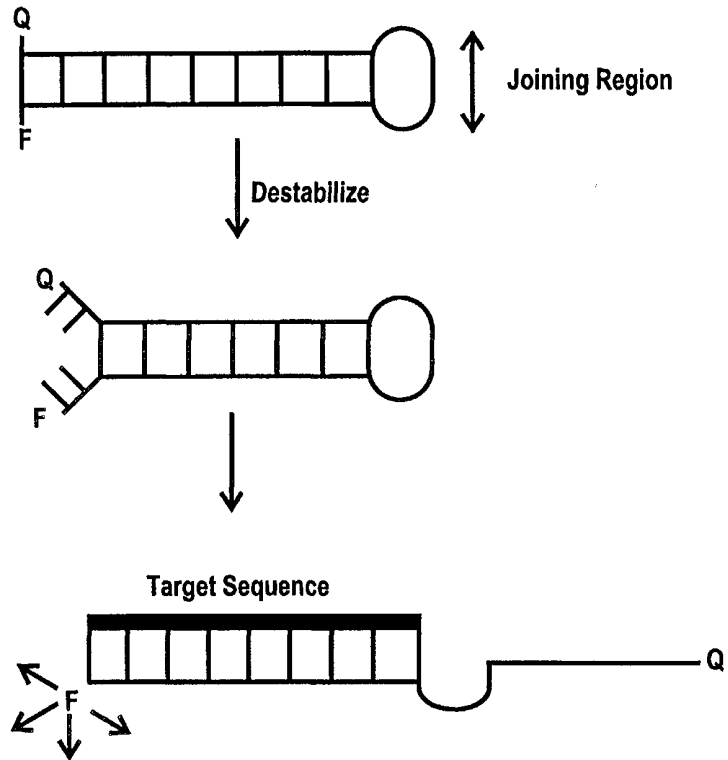
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/15098 (22) International Filing Date: 1 July 1999 (01.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/091,616 2 July 1998 (02.07.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): GEN-PROBE INCORPORATED [US/US]; Patent Dept., 10210 Genetic Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-4362 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BECKER, Michael, M. [US/US]; 12819 Meadowdale Lane, San Diego, CA 92131 (US). SCHROTH, Gary [US/US]; 687 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City, CA 94404 (US). (74) Agent: CAPPELLARI, Charles, B.; Patent Dept., 10210 Genetic Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92121-4362 (US).</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, KR, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, IT, LU, NL, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 6 April 2000 (06.04.00)</p>

(54) Title: MOLECULAR TORCHES

(57) Abstract

The present invention features "molecular torches" and the use of molecular torches for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid sequence. Molecular torches contain a target binding domain, a target closing domain, and a joining region. The target binding domain is biased towards the target sequence such that the target binding domain forms a more stable hybrid with the target sequence than with the target closing domain under the same hybridization conditions. The joining region facilitates the formation or maintenance of a closed torch.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/15098

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C12Q1/68				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C12Q				
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	EP 0 601 889 A (MAINE MEDICAL CENTER RES) 15 June 1994 (1994-06-15) the whole document	1, 3-5, 7, 9, 12, 16-19, 21, 23, 26, 30-34		
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.				
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Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">21 January 2000</p>		Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">31/01/2000</p>		
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Luzzatto, E</p>		

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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