

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 February 2011 (10.02.2011)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2011/015325 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification:
C12Q 1/00 (2006.01) G01N 33/72 (2006.01)
C12Q 1/26 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2010/004707
- (22) International Filing Date:
2 August 2010 (02.08.2010)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09009968.0 3 August 2009 (03.08.2009) EP
- (71) Applicant (for DE only): ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS GMBH [DE/DE]; Sandhofer Strasse 116, 68305 Mannheim (DE).
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except DE, US): F. HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE AG [CH/CH]; Grenzacherstrasse 124, CH-4070 Basel (CH).
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UL-TIZYME INTERNATIONAL, LTD. [JP/JP]; 1-13-16 Minami, Meguro, Tokyo 152-0013 (JP).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SODE, Koji [JP/JP]; 1-13-16 Minami, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-0013 (JP). IKEBUKURO, Kazunori [JP/JP]; Fuchu-4th Jutaku 4-204, 2-40-1, Fuchi-shi, Tokyo 183-0054 (JP).

- (74) Agent: WEBER, Manfred; Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Patent Department, 68298 Mannheim (DE).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FRUCTOSYL PEPTIDYL OXIDASE AND SENSOR FOR ASSAYING A GLYCATED PROTEIN

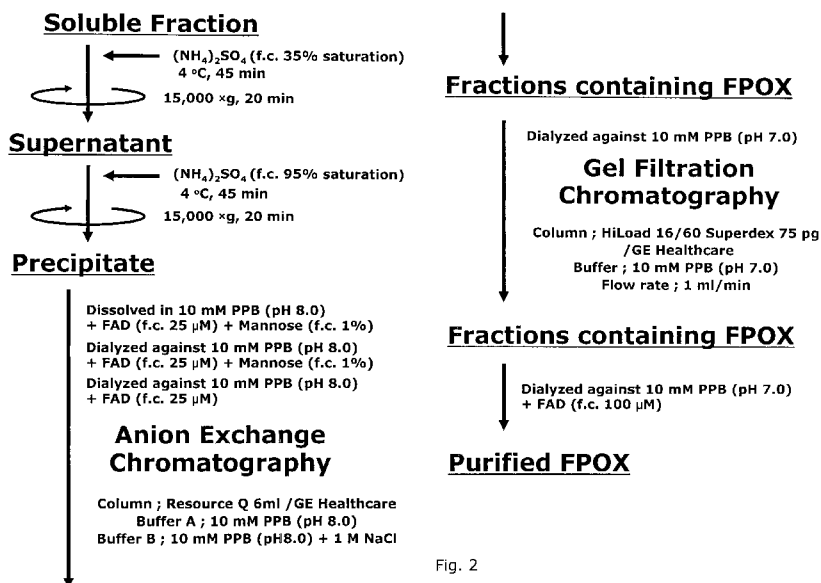


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is the use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase derived from a budding yeast *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* for assaying a glycosylated protein in a sample. The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention has higher activity toward fructosyl valine as well as fructosyl valyl histidine, and useful in assaying HbA1C with higher sensitivity and specificity. Electrode sensors comprising this enzyme are also disclosed.

WO 2011/015325 A1

- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*
- *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

FRUCTOSYL PEPTIDYL OXIDASE AND SENSOR FOR ASSAYING A GLYCATED PROTEINTechnical Field

The present invention relates to a novel fructosyl peptidyl oxidase (FPOX). More particularly, the present invention relates to a fructosyl peptidyl oxidase for use in a kit and a sensor for the measurement of glycated proteins, such as glycated albumin, fructosamine, HbA1c, a fructosyl hexapeptide, fructosyl valine and fructosyl valyl histidine.

Background Art

A glycated protein is generated non-enzymatically via a covalent bond between an amino group on a protein and the reducing terminal of a sugar, and is also referred to as an Amadori compound. In blood, glucose is bound to valine at the N-terminal of the β -chain of hemoglobin to generate glycated hemoglobin (glycohemoglobin; HbA1c). The abundance ratio of HbA1c to hemoglobin (Hb) is higher in patients suffering from diabetes mellitus as compared with a normal healthy individual and the concentration of HbA1c in blood is known to reflect the blood-sugar level during past several weeks. Thus concentration of HbA1c in blood is quite important in clinical tests for diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and in blood-sugar control of patients suffering from diabetes mellitus. The HbA1c concentration in blood may be measured using an enzyme having

specificity to fructosyl valine.

Fructosyl amino acid oxidase is an FAD-dependent enzyme which catalyzes a reaction where fructosyl amino acids are oxidized to generate 2-keto-D-glucose and the corresponding amino acid. Fructosyl amino acid oxidases have been isolated from various kinds of organisms and it has been suggested that glycated protein such as glycated albumin, HbA1c and fructosamine may be analyzed using such enzymes.

In order to assay HbA1c with a high specificity, the fructosyl amino acid oxidase preferably has a selectivity toward fructosylvaline compared to fructosyllysine. More preferably, the fructosyl amino acid oxidase may have an oxidase activity toward fructosyl valyl histidine, which corresponds to the N-terminal two amino acid residues of Hb. Hirokawa et al. (Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 311(1), 2003, 104-111) discloses fructosyl peptidyl oxidases derived from filamentous bacteria of the genus *Achaetomiella* and *Chaetomius*.

An object of the present invention is to provide a new fructosyl peptidyl oxidase for use in measurement of glycated proteins.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present invention is based on a discovery of a fructosyl peptidyl oxidase derived from *Phaeosphaeria nodorum*

having the amino acid sequence shown in Figure. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1). In one aspect, the present invention provides the use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and has a K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of 1mM or less for assaying a glycated protein in a sample. The present invention also provides the use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and has a V_{max}/K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of 10U/mg·mM or more for assaying a glycated protein in a sample. The present invention also provides the use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and having residual activity of 50% or more when heat-treated at 50 °C for 10 minutes for assaying a glycated protein in a sample.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for assaying a glycated protein in a sample, comprising contacting the sample with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined above, and measuring the amount of the glycated protein oxidized by the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides a method for assaying HbA1c comprising digesting HbA1c in a sample to generate fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl

histidine, contacting the fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined above, and measuring the amount of oxidized fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a device for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined above, and an electron transfer mediator. Preferably, the electron transfer mediator is N,N-bis-hydroxyethyl-4-nitrosoaniline. Also preferably the device further comprises one or more reagents selected from saponin, bilirubin oxidase and proteinase N.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a kit for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined above and an electron transfer mediator.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides an enzyme electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined above which is immobilized on the electrode. Preferably, the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase is immobilized on the electrode using a photo-crosslinkable polyvinyl alcohol resin.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides an enzyme sensor for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl

histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c comprising the enzyme electrode of the invention as a working electrode.

Brief Description of Drawings

Figure 1 shows the amino acid sequence of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase from *Phaeosphaeria nodorum*.

Figure 2 shows a purification procedure of the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

Figure 3 shows the SV curve of the purified fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

Figure 4 shows the thermostability of the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

Figure 5 shows measurement of fructosylvaline using the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase in a m-PMS/DCIP system.

Figure 6 shows measurement of fructosyl hexapeptide using the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

Figure 7 shows measurement of HbA1c using the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

Figure 8 shows measurement of fructosylvaline using an electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase in a H₂O₂ system.

Figure 9 shows measurement of fructosylvaline using an electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase in a Prussian blue system.

Figure 10 shows measurement of fructosylvaline using an

electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase in a nitrosoaniline (NA) system.

Figure 11 shows measurement of fructosylvaline using an electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase in a m-PMS system.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention (PnFPOX) is derived from *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* and has the amino acid sequence shown in Figure. 1 (SEQ ID NO:1). A variant of the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase having a modified amino acid sequence with a sequence identity of at least 80% with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 may also be used in the present invention. Preferably, the sequence identity is at least 85%, more preferably at least 90%, and most preferably at least 95%. The genomic sequence of *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* has been published, but this gene has not been annotated. There was no suggestion or implication that *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* has fructosyl peptidyl oxidase or the gene may encode any type of enzyme.

The amino acid sequence of PnFPOX shows 71% identity with FPOX-E (*Eupenicillium terrenum* ATCC 18547; GenBank: BAD00185.1) and 74% identity with FPOX-C (*Coniochaeta* sp. NISL 9330; GenBank: BAD00186.1). The sequence homology with other known fructosyl amino acid oxidases is about 30%.

As described in the Examples below, PnFPOX shows higher activity toward fructosyl valine than toward fructosyl lysine. It also shows even higher activity toward fructosyl valyl histidine. The K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of PnFPOX is 1mM or less, preferably 0.5mM or less, and more preferably 0.3mM or less, which is about ten times lower than that of FPOX-E and FPOX-C. The V_{max}/K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of PnFPOX is 10U/mg·mM or more. This feature is especially advantageous in using the enzyme for assaying HbA1c with higher sensitivity and specificity.

Another advantageous feature of the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention is its thermostability. When PnFPOX is heat-treated at 50 °C for 10 minutes in 10 mM PPB (pH 7.0), a residual activity of about 75% was observed.

The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention may be prepared by recombinant expression using techniques well known in the art. The nucleic acid sequence of PnFPOX is found in GenBank: XP_001798711.1. The sequence may suitably be modified or designed to achieve greater expression level in a selected host organism. A polynucleotide coding for PnFPOX may be cloned from *Phaeosphaeria nodorum*, or prepared by PCR using a series of chemically synthesized oligonucleotides, or fully synthesized using automated DNA synthesizer.

The gene coding for PnFPOX is inserted into an appropriate expression vector, and the vector is introduced

into an appropriate host cell, such as *E. coli*. The transformant is cultured and the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase expressed in the transformant may be collected from the cells or the culture medium.

The recombinant fructosyl peptidyl oxidase thus obtained may be purified by any of the purification techniques known in the art, including ion exchange column chromatography, affinity chromatography, liquid chromatography, filtration, ultrafiltration, salt precipitation, solvent precipitation, immunoprecipitation, gel electrophoresis, isoelectric electrophoresis and dialysis.

The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention is useful in assaying a glycated protein in a sample. The assay method comprises contacting the sample with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention and measuring the amount of the glycated protein oxidized by the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase. Glycated proteins assayed by the present invention include, for example, fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide, HbA1c, glycated albumin and fructosamine. In one aspect, the present invention provides a method for assaying HbA1c comprising digesting HbA1c in a sample to generate fructosyl valine, contacting the fructosyl valine with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention, and measuring the amount of oxidized fructosyl valine. HbA1c may be digested with a proteinase, such as protease and

proteinase N. In a preferred embodiment, the method comprises digesting HbA1c in a sample with proteinase N to generate fructosyl valyl histidine, contacting the fructosyl valyl histidine with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention, and measuring the amount of oxidized fructosyl valyl histidine. In another aspect, the present invention provides a method for assaying HbA1c by digesting HbA1c by an endoprotease Glu-C to generate a fructosyl hexapeptide, and assaying the fructosyl hexapeptide by the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention. It has now been surprisingly found that the fructosyl amino acid oxidase from *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* is capable of oxidizing fructosyl hexapeptide, while FPOX-C of the prior art (*Coniochaeta* sp. NISL 9330; GenBank: BAD00186.1) is not.

Measurement of the amount of the glycated protein oxidized by the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase may be effected by measuring the amount of generated H₂O₂ by any methods known in the art, for example, using a reagent for H₂O₂ detection such as 4AA/TODB/POD (4-aminoantipyrine/N,N-Bis(4-sulfobutyl)-3-methylaniline disodium salt/horseradish peroxidase) or by Pt electrode. Alternatively, the assay may be carried out in the presence of an electron mediator and the amount of electron transferred to the mediator is measured using, for example, mPMS/DCIP (1-methoxy-5-methylphenazinium methylsulfate/2,6-dichloroindophenol), cPES (trifluoroacetate-1-(3-carboxy-propoxy)-5-ethyl-phenanzinium, NA

BM31_1144 (N,N-bis-(hydroxyethyl)-3-methoxy-nitrosoaniline hydrochloride, NA BM31_1008 (N,N-bis-hydroxyethyl-4-nitrosoaniline) and N-N-4-dimethyl-nitrosoaniline. Among them, NA_BM31_1008 is particularly preferred.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a device for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention.

The assay device may have a similar structure as any of conventional, commercially available amperometric biosensor test strips for monitoring the blood glucose level. One example of such a device has two electrodes (working electrode and reference or counter electrode) positioned on an insulating substrate, a reagent port and a sample receiver. The reagent port contains the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention, FAD, and an electron transfer mediator. When a sample such as blood sample is added to the sample receiver, fructosylamine contained in the sample will react with fructosyl peptidyl oxidase to generate current, which is indicative of the amount of fructosylamine in the sample. When a whole blood is used as the sample, the device may also comprise a reagent for hemolysis. Particularly preferred hemolysis reagent is saponin. In another preferred embodiment, the device may also comprise bilirubin oxidase (BOD) in order to reduce the background current of the sensor caused by reducing ingredients

contained in the whole blood sample. In another preferred embodiment, the device may also contain proteinase N to effect release of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine from glycated albumin present in the blood. Saponin, BOD and proteinase N may be separately immobilized on the device, such that the whole blood sample is contacted with Saponin to effect hemolysis and then contacted with BOD and proteinase N. Typical examples of electrochemical sensors suited for the determination of enzyme substrates are known, e.g. from WO 2004/113900 and US 5,997,817. As an alternative to electrochemical sensors, optical detection technologies might be used. Typically, such optical devices are based on color changes that occur in a reagent system comprising the enzyme, an electron transfer mediator and an indicator. The color changes can be quantified using fluorescence, absorption or remission measurements. Typical examples of optical devices suited for the determination of enzyme substrates are known, e.g. from US 7,008,799, US 6,036,919, and US 5,334,508.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a kit for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention.

A kit for the measurement of fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine or a fructosyl hexapeptide may be constructed with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention.

In addition to the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention, the kit may contain buffer necessary for the measurement, appropriate mediator, standards of fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine or a fructosyl hexapeptide or a derivative thereof for the preparation of a calibration curve and an instruction for use. The kit may also contain an endoprotease Glu-C for digesting HbA1c to generate a fructosyl hexapeptide. The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention may be provided in various forms, for example, as a freeze-dried reagent or as a solution in an appropriate storage solution.

It is also possible to construct fructosamine, glycosylated albumin or HbA1c assay kit using the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention. Fructosylamine, glycosylated albumin or HbA1c is enzymatically or chemically digested to generate a fructosylamine compound such as fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine, which in turn is quantified using the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention. Accordingly, the assay kit of the present invention for fructosamine, glycosylated albumin or HbA1c may further contain a reagent for hydrolysis or a proteinase. Preferred proteinase is proteinase N which will digest HbA1c to generate fructosyl valyl histidine.

In another aspect, the present invention provides an enzyme electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the

invention immobilized on the electrode. In a preferred embodiment, the fructosyl amino acid oxidase of the invention is immobilized on the electrode using a polymer to prevent BOD and proteinase N from contacting with the fructosyl amino acid oxidase and the mediator. Otherwise, BOD could interfere with the redox properties of the mediator, and proteinase N could degrade the fructosyl amino acid oxidase. Preferred polymer is a photo-crosslinkable polyvinyl alcohol resin, for example, an azide-unit pendant water-soluble photopolymer (AWP) supplied by Toyo Gosei Co., Ltd. (Chiba, Japan). To construct the enzyme electrode, a buffer solution containing AWP, the fructosyl amino acid oxidase and a mediator such as such as NA_BM31_1008 is applied to the surface of the electrode. After drying the solution, UV light is irradiated to effect crosslinking the polymer.

In another aspect, the present invention provides an enzyme sensor for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c comprising the enzyme electrode of the invention as a working electrode.

The concentration of the fructosylamine in a sample may be determined by measuring the amount of electron generated by the enzyme reaction. The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the present invention is immobilized on the electrodes, such as carbon electrode, metal electrode, and platinum electrode. Immobilization of the enzyme may be effected by cross-linking,

encapsulating into a macromolecular matrix, coating with a dialysis membrane, optical cross-linking polymer, electroconductive polymer, oxidation-reduction polymer, or other methods well known to the person skilled in the art, and any combination thereof.

When measurement is conducted in an amperometric system, carbon electrode, gold electrode or platinum electrode with immobilized PnFPOX is used as a working electrode, together with a counter electrode (such as platinum electrode) and a reference electrode (such as Ag/AgCl electrode). The electrodes are inserted into a buffer containing a mediator and kept at predetermined temperature. Predetermined voltage is applied to the working electrode, then a sample is added and increased value in electric current is measured. Examples of the mediator used in the assay include potassium ferricyanide, ferrocene, osmium derivative, ruthenium derivative, phenazine methosulfate, etc. It is generally also possible to use so-called two-electrode systems with one working electrode and one counter or pseudo-reference electrode.

To prepare a sensor for the measurement of fructosylamine, glycated albumin or HbA1c, the above-mentioned sensor for the measurement of fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine is further combined with a membrane containing immobilized proteinase (such as proteinase N or protease, preferably

proteinase N) to construct a complex sensor. The structure of such a complex sensor based on a continuous reaction by a combination of plural enzymes is well known in the art. See, for example, "Biosensor - Fundamental and Applications" by Anthony P. F. Tuner, Isao Karube and George S. Wilson, Oxford University Press, 1987.

Contents of all patents and reference documents cited in the present specification are entirely incorporated herein by reference.

Examples

The present invention will be illustrated in detail by way of the Examples below, although the present invention shall not be limited to those Examples.

Example 1

Preparation of *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* fructosyl peptidyl oxidase

The nucleotide sequence of the PnFPOX is found in a genomic information of *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* in a public database (GenBank: XP_001798711.1). As the putative ORF contained several minor codons in *E.coli*, the codon usage of the gene was optimized in order to express the gene in *Escherichial coli*. After this optimization, no significant minor codon exist in the sequence. The synthetic gene was

subcloned into an expression vector pET28a to construct pEPN (pET28a-PnFPOX).

E. coli BL21(DE3) cells transformed with PnFAOD expression vector (pEPN) was cultured in 50 ml LB medium supplemented with 50 µg/ml Kanamycin at 37 °C, and IPTG (f.c.0.4 mM) was added at OD_{660nm} = 0.8. The cultivation was continued at 25 °C until OD_{660nm} reached about 3. The cells were collected by centrifugation (5,000xg, 4 °C, 10min), washed (0.85% NaCl aq., 6,000xg, 4°C, 5min), suspended in 3ml of 10 mM PPB (pH 7.0), and homogenized by ultrasonic homogenizer. The resulted suspension was centrifuged (10,000xg, 4°C, 20min), and the supernatant was further centrifuged (60,000 rpm, 4°C, 60min). The supernatant was dialyzed against 10mM PPB (pH7.0) plus 25 µM FAD to obtain a water-soluble fraction. In SDS-PAGE analysis, the water-soluble fraction showed a band at about 48~50kDa, which is consistent with the predicted molecular weight of PnFPOX.

The water-soluble fraction was examined for the oxidase activity using POD/TODB/4A.A. method with three substrate: fructosyl valine (FV), fructosyl lysine (FK), and fructosyl valyl histidine (FVH). The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase showed oxidizing activity to fructosyl amino acid (FV, FK) but also to fructosyl dipeptide (FVH).

Example 2

Purification and characterization of *Phaeosphaeria nodorum* fructosyl peptidyl oxidase

The purification procedure is summarized in Figure 2. *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) transformed with pEPN (pET28a-PnFPOX) was grown aerobically at 37 °C in LB medium (7 L) containing 50 µg kanamycin ml⁻¹. After reaching an A660nm value of 1.4, the cells were induced with 0.3 mM IPTG, and the incubation was continued at 25 °C until reaching an A660nm value of 3.0. The cells were harvested by centrifugation and a quarter of harvested cells (approx. 10.5g) were resuspended in 10 mM PPB, pH 7.0, and lysed by 2 passages through a French press (1,000 kg cm⁻²). The lysate was centrifuged at 10,000g at 4 °C for 20 min, and the supernatant was centrifuged at 40,000 rpm at 4 °C for 90 min. The supernatant was then dialyzed against 10 mM PPB, pH 8.0, containing 25 µM FAD.

Ammonium sulfate was added to the dialyzed supernatant to 35% saturation and then the precipitate formed was pelleted by centrifugation at 15,000g for 20 min. The supernatant to which ammonium sulfate was added to 95% saturation was centrifuged at 15,000g for 20 min. The resultant precipitate was dissolved in 10mM PPB, pH 8.0, containing 25 µM FAD and 1% mannose and dialyzed at 4 °C against the same buffer, and subsequently dialyzed against 10 mM PPB, pH 8.0, containing 25 µM FAD. The dialyzed enzyme solution was applied to a

RESOURCE Q column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with 10 mM PPB, pH 8.0. The active flow-through fractions were collected, and adsorbed proteins that showed no FAOD activities were eluted with a 1 M NaCl. The active flow-through fractions were collected and dialyzed against 10 mM PPB, pH 7.0.

The dialyzed enzyme solution was applied to a HiLoad 16/60 Superdex 75 pg column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated with 10 mM PPB, pH 7.0. Gel filtration chromatography was carried out with the same buffer. The active fractions were collected, and the purified enzyme solution was dialyzed against 10 mM PPB, pH 7.0 containing 100 μ M FAD, and stored at 4 °C. The purity of the purified enzyme was confirmed by SDS-PAGE, and the protein concentration was measured using a DC Protein Assay Kit (Bio-Rad, CA, USA).

As summarized in Table 1, PnFPOX was purified 35-fold by ammonium sulfate precipitation, anion exchange chromatography, and gel filtration chromatography from the cell extract of E.coli BL21(DE3)/pEPN(pET28a-PnFPOX). The purified preparations showed a nearly single band on SDS-PAGE.

Table 1 Purification of recombinant PnFPOX

Stage	Total activity (U)	Total Protein (mg)	Specific Activity (U/mg)	Purification (Fold)	Yield (%)
Soluble fraction	298	526	0.57	1	100
Ammonium Sulfate	243	415	0.59	1.03	82
Resource Q	189	23.9	7.9	13.9	63
HiLoad 1	52.9	2.69	20	34.8	18

The oxidase activity was assayed using 4A.A/TODB/POD with varying concentrations of substrates, FV, FK and FVH. The absorbance at 546nm was monitored. The results are shown in Figure 3. Typical Michaelis-Menten curves were obtained with FV and FVH, but not with FK. Apparent K_m values are 0.64 mM for FV and 0.20 mM for FVH (Table 2). High $V_{max}K_m^{-1}$ value for FV ($42.8 \text{ U mg}^{-1} \text{ mM}^{-1}$) indicates high specificity toward FV of this enzyme. It should be noted that $V_{max}K_m^{-1}$ value for FVH is also considerable ($14.7 \text{ U mg}^{-1} \text{ mM}^{-1}$, 34 % of $V_{max}K_m^{-1}$ for FV). This activity toward FVH of PnFPOX will be advantageous in the enzyme-based measurement of HbA1c. For comparison, the oxidase activity of known fructosyl peptidyl oxidases (FPOX-C and FPOX-E) was also included in the table (Hirokawa et al. *ibid*).

Table 2 Kinetic parameters of fructosyl peptidyl oxidases

	FV			FK			FVH		
	K_m (mM)	V_{max} (U/mg)	V_{max}/K_m	K_m (mM)	V_{max} (U/mg)	V_{max}/K_m	K_m (mM)	V_{max} (U/mg)	V_{max}/K_m
PnFPOX	0.64	27.6	42.8	16	3.23	0.206	0.20	2.97	14.7
FPOX-C	0.824	66.0	80.1	10.6	23.4	2.17	2.81	23.8	8.47
FPOX-E	0.318	20.6	64.8	ND	0.42	---	2.76	5.43	1.97

Thermostability of PnFPOX was evaluated by incubating the purified enzyme solution in 10 mM PPB (pH 7.0) at various temperatures for 10min and then measuring the residual activity. The result is shown in Figure 4. The activity of PnFPOX was maintained about 75 % up to 50 °C. This is in contrast with the known fructosyl peptidyl oxidases (FPOX-C and FPOX-E), which lose almost all activity at 50 °C (Hirokawa et al. *ibid*).

Example 3

Measurement of Fructosylamines using fructosyl peptidyl oxidase

(1) FV - m-PMS/DCIP system

Fructosylvaline (FV) was assayed using PnFPOX in the m-PMS/DCIP system in the presence of 0.6mM PMS and 0.06mM DCIP. Absorbance at 600nm was monitored. The result is shown in Figure 5. The concentration of FV can be measured within the range

between 0.05mM and 1mM.

(2) F6P - 4AA/TODB/POD

A fructosyl hexapeptide (F6P: Fru-Val-His-Leu-Thr-Pro-Glu) having the N-terminus amino acid residues of HbA1c beta-chain was assayed using PnFPOX. To a solution of fructosyl hexapeptide at a final concentration of 300 μ M in PBS buffer (pH7.4), Proteinase N derived from Bacillus subtilis (Sigma) was added at a final concentration of 20mg/ml, and incubated at 37 °C for 10 minutes. Proteinase N was removed with a 10kDa-cut-off spin column, and the cleaved product was assayed with PnFPOX in a 4AA/TODB/POD system. The amount of the fructosyl hexapeptide in a sample was calculated using the calibration curve prepared with FVH as a substrate. The result showed that 300 μ M of FVH was detected (Figure 6).

(3) HbA1c - 4AA/TODB/POD

Red blood cells were isolated from peripheral blood and purified by a boronic acid column. The absorbed and unabsorbed fractions were designated as HbA1c sample and Hb sample, respectively. These samples were subjected to de-heme treatment in acetone containing 0.2%HCl to prepare De-heme HbA1c and De-heme Hb samples. To a solution of De-heme HbA1c sample and De-heme Hb sample at a final concentration of 300 μ M in PBS buffer (pH7.4), Proteinase N was added at a final concentration of 20mg/ml, and incubated at 37 °C for 10 minutes. Proteinase N was removed with a 10kDa-cut-off spin column, and

the cleaved product was assayed with PnFPOX in a 4AA/TODB/POD system. The amount of the HbA1c in a sample was calculated using the calibration curve prepared with FTV as a substrate in the presence of Proteinase N-treated Hb. The result showed that 350 μ M of FVH was detected (Figure 7). FVH was not detected from Hb, indicating that HbA1c can be specifically detected.

(4) FV - Electrode - H₂O₂ system

3.3 μ l (0.04U) of PnFPOX enzyme solution (12u/ml) was mixed with 1.7 μ l of 6% photocrosslinking resin AWP (Toyo Gosei Kogyo) at a final concentration of 2%, and 5 μ l of the mixture was applied on a Pt electrode with a surface area of 7mm². The electrode was air-dried at 30 °C for 30 min, and irradiated with UV-light for 1 min to prepare a working electrode. The electrode and a counter electrode (Pt wire) and a reference electrode (Ag/AgCl) were immersed in a 2 ml 50 mM PPB (pH 7.0) and +600mV vs Ag/AgCl was applied. When the steady state current was observed, the sample solution containing indicated amount of FV was added to the reaction mixture, and current increase was monitored. The result is shown in Figure 8. The concentration of FV can be measured within the range between 0.05mM and 1.5mM.

(5) FV - Electrode - Prussian blue system

A glassy carbon electrode (BAS, surface area of 7mm²) was immersed into a solution of 1mM FeCl₃, 1mM potassiumferricyanide and 2M KCl, and a voltage of +0.4V vs

Ag/AgCl was applied for 1 min to prepare a Prussian blue membrane. Then the electrode was subjected to the CV treatment for ten times from -50mV to +350mV vs Ag/AgCl with a sweeping rate of 5mV/sec to stabilize the Prussian blue membrane. The electrode was washed with water and dried. 3.3ul (0.04U) of PnFPOX enzyme solution (12u/ml) was mixed with 1.7ul of 6% photocrosslinking resin AWP (Toyo Gosei Kogyo) at a final concentration of 2%, and applied on the electrode, and the electrode was air-dried at 30 °C for 30 min, then irradiated with UV-light for 1 min to prepare a Prussian blue-enzyme immobilized electrode as a working electrode. The electrode and a counter electrode (Pt wire) and a reference electrode (Ag/AgCl) were immersed in a 2 ml 50 mM PPB (pH 7.0) and -150mV vs Ag/AgCl was applied. FV was added to the reaction mixture, and current increase was monitored. The result is shown in Figure 9. The concentration of FV can be measured within the range between 0.05mM and 1mM.

(4) FV - Electrode - NA system

3.3ul (0.04U) of PnFPOX enzyme solution (12u/ml) was mixed with 1.7ul of 6% photocrosslinking resin AWP (Toyo Gosei Kogyo) at a final concentration of 2%, and 5ul of the mixture was applied on a gold electrode with a surface area of 7mm². The electrode was air-dried at 30 °C for 30 min, and irradiated with UV-light for 1 min to prepare a working electrode. The electrode and a counter electrode (Pt wire) and a reference

electrode (Ag/AgCl) were immersed in a 2 ml 50 mM PPB (pH 7.0) containing 5mM

N,N-bis(Hydroxyethyl)-3-methoxy-4-nitrosoaniline (NA) and +200mV vs Ag/AgCl was applied. FV was added to the reaction mixture, and current increase was monitored. In order to avoid the effect of oxygen, Ar gas was purged into reaction chamber, continuously. The result is shown in Figure 10. The concentration of FV can be measured within the range between 0.05mM and 1.5mM.

(5) FV - Electrode - m-PMS system

PnFPOX-immobilized gold electrode was prepared as described in (4) above. The electrode and a counter electrode (Pt wire) and a reference electrode (Ag/AgCl) were immersed in a 2 ml 50 mM PPB (pH 7.0) containing 2mM m-PMS and +100mV vs Ag/AgCl was applied. FV was added to the reaction mixture, and current increase was monitored. The result is shown in Figure 11. The concentration of FV can be measured within the range between 0.05mM and 1.5mM.

Example 4

Oxidase activity of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase toward fructosyl hexapeptide

The oxidase activity of the fructosyl peptidyl oxidases PnFPOX and FPOX-C on a fructosyl hexapeptide (F6P:

Fru-Val-His-Leu-Thr-Pro-Glu) was assayed without addition of Proteinase N. The enzyme activity was measured in a 4AA/TODB/POD system as described in Example 2, with the substrate concentration of 1mM for FV and FVH and 5mM for F6P. The result is shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	FV (U/mg)	FVH (U/mg)	F6P (U/mg)
PnFPOX	1.3	0.11	1.3×10^{-3}
FPOX-C	2.3	0.60	n.d

The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase PnFPOX was capable of oxidizing fructosyl hexapeptide.

Industrial Applicability

The fructosyl peptidyl oxidase of the invention may be used for the measurement of glycated proteins, such as hemoglobin (HbA1c) which is clinically useful in diagnosis and control of diabetic conditions.

CLAIMS

1. The use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and has a K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of 1mM or less for assaying a glycated protein in a sample.
2. The use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and has a V_{max}/K_m value toward fructosyl valyl histidine of 10U/mg·mM or more for assaying a glycated protein in a sample.
3. The use of fructosyl peptidyl oxidase comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity with the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and having residual activity of 50% or more when heat-treated at 50 °C for 10 minutes for assaying a glycated protein in a sample.
4. A method for assaying a glycated protein in a sample, comprising contacting the sample with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined in any one of Claims 1-3, and measuring the amount of the glycated protein oxidized by the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase.

5. A method for assaying HbA1c comprising digesting HbA1c in a sample to generate fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine, contacting the fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine with the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined in any one of Claims 1-3, and measuring the amount of oxidized fructosyl valine or fructosyl valyl histidine.

6. A device for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined in any one of Claims 1-3, and an electron transfer mediator.

7. The device as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the electron transfer mediator is N,N-bis-hydroxyethyl-4-nitrosoaniline.

8. The device as claimed in Claim 6 or 7, further comprising one or more reagents selected from saponin, bilirubin oxidase and proteinase N.

9. A kit for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c in a sample comprising the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined in any one of Claims 1-3 and an electron transfer mediator.

10. The kit as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the electron transfer mediator is N,N-bis-hydroxyethyl-4-nitrosoaniline.

11. The kit as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, further comprising one or more reagents selected from saponin, bilirubin oxidase and proteinase N.

12. An enzyme electrode having the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase as defined in any one of Claims 1-3 which is immobilized on the electrode.

13. The enzyme electrode claimed in Claim 12, wherein the fructosyl peptidyl oxidase is immobilized on the electrode using an azide-unit pendant water-soluble photopolymer (AWP).

14. The enzyme electrode as claimed in Claim 12 or 13, further comprising N,N-bis-hydroxyethyl-4-nitrosoaniline immobilized on the electrode.

15. An enzyme sensor for assaying fructosyl valine, fructosyl valyl histidine, a fructosyl hexapeptide or HbA1c comprising the enzyme electrode of any one of claims 12 to 14 as a working electrode.

Phaeosphaeria nodorum fructosyl peptidyl oxidase

MAPSRANTSVIVGGGTIGSSTALHLVRSGYTPSNVTVLDAYPIPSSQSAGNDLNKIMG
VSLRNPVDLQLALEARQMWNEDELFKKFFHNTGRLDCAHGEKDIADLKSGYQALVDAGLD
ATNEWLSEDEILKRMPLLSRDQIKGWKAIFSKDGGWLAATAKAINAVGEYLRDQGVRFQF
YGAGSFKAPLLAEGVCIGVETVDGTRYADKVVLAAGAWSPTLVELHEQCVSKAWVYGHI
QLTPEEAARYKNSPVYNGDVGFFFEFNEHGVIKVCDEFPGFTRFKMHQPFQAKAPKRIS
VPRSHAKHTDTI PDASDV SIRRAIATFMPQFKNKKMFNQAMCWCTDTADAALLICEHPE
WKNFVLATGDSGHSFKLLLPNIGKHVVELLEGLTADDLAHAWRWRPQSGGDALKSRRSAPAK
DLADMPGWNHDKPRANL

(SEQ ID NO:1)

Fig. 1

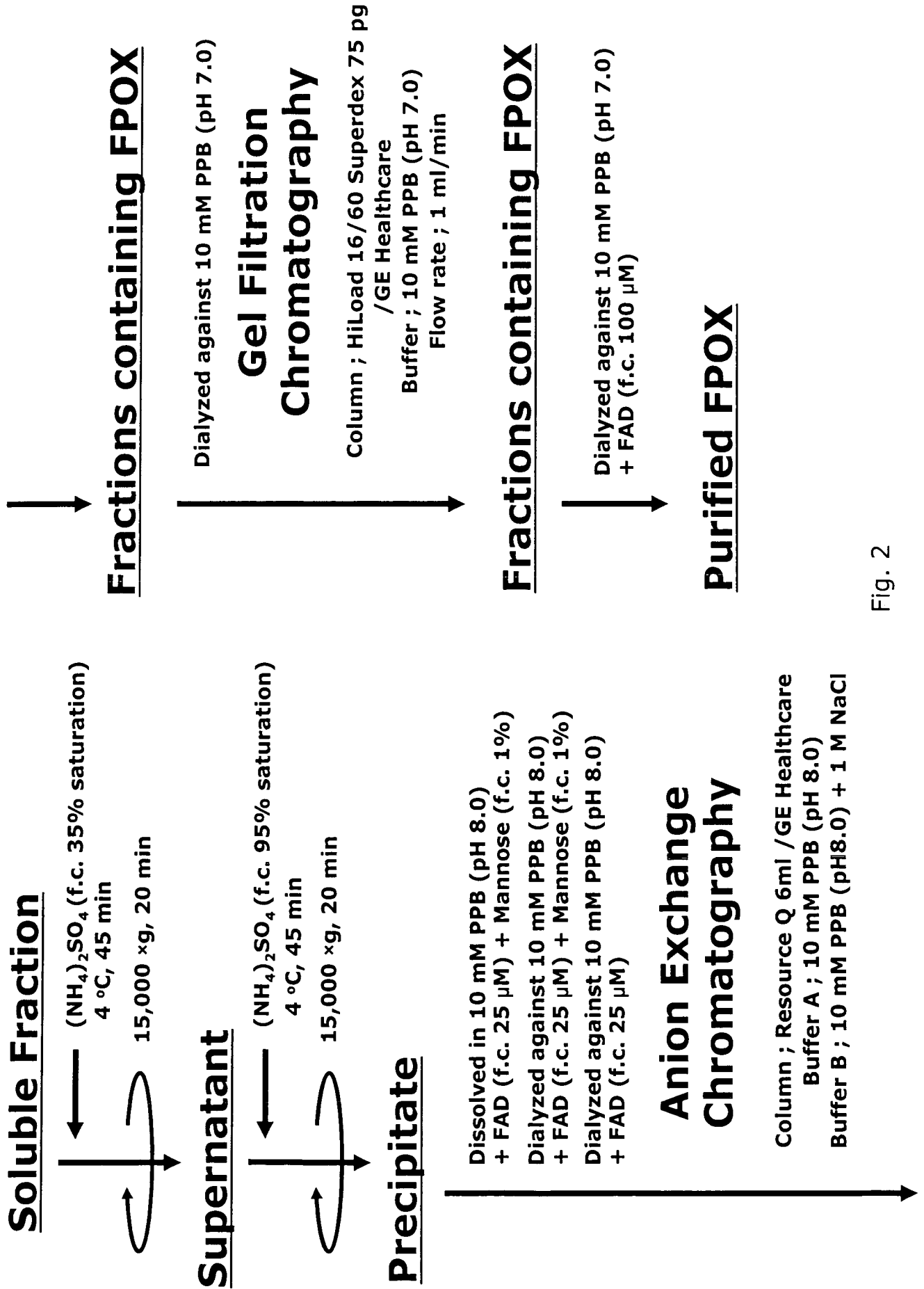


Fig. 2

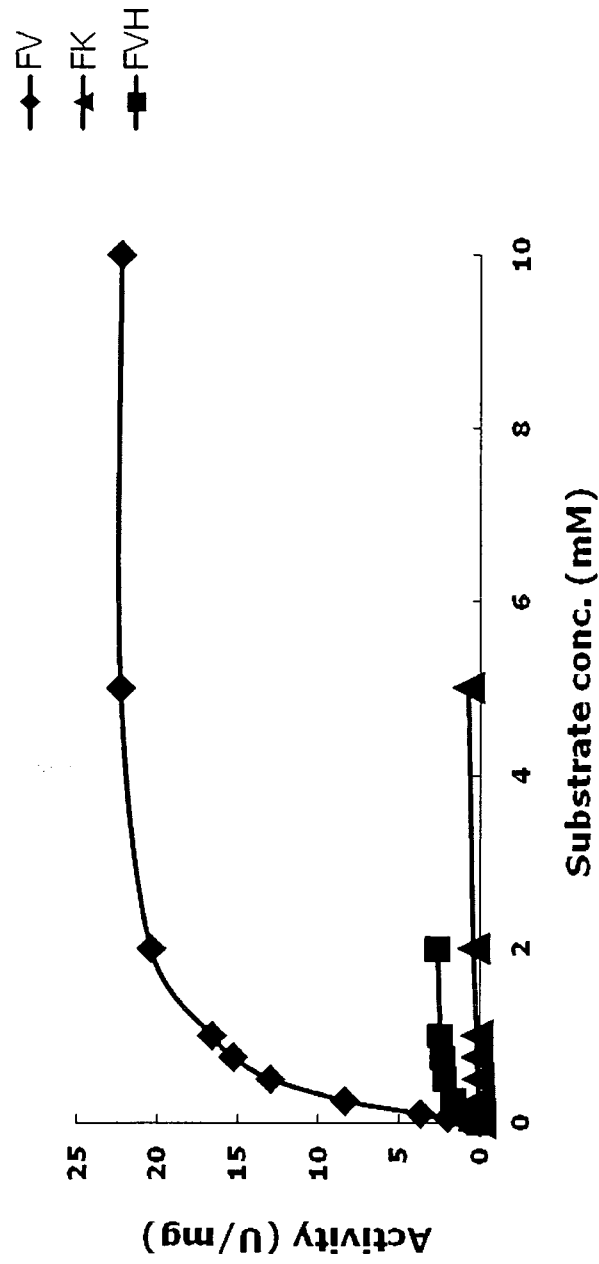


Fig. 3

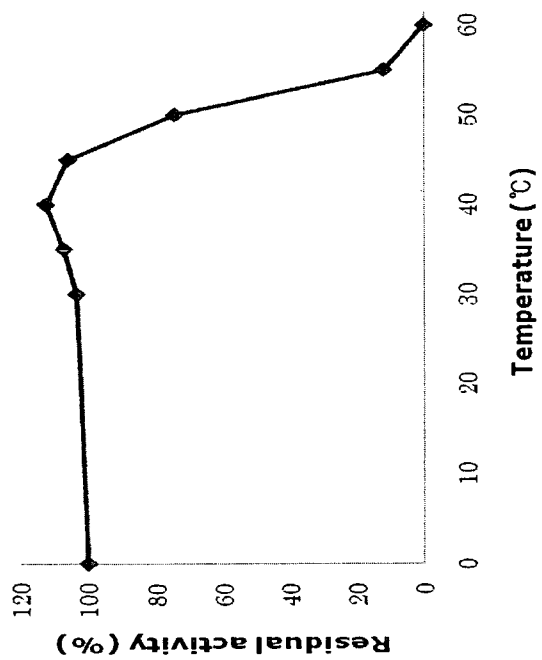


Fig. 4

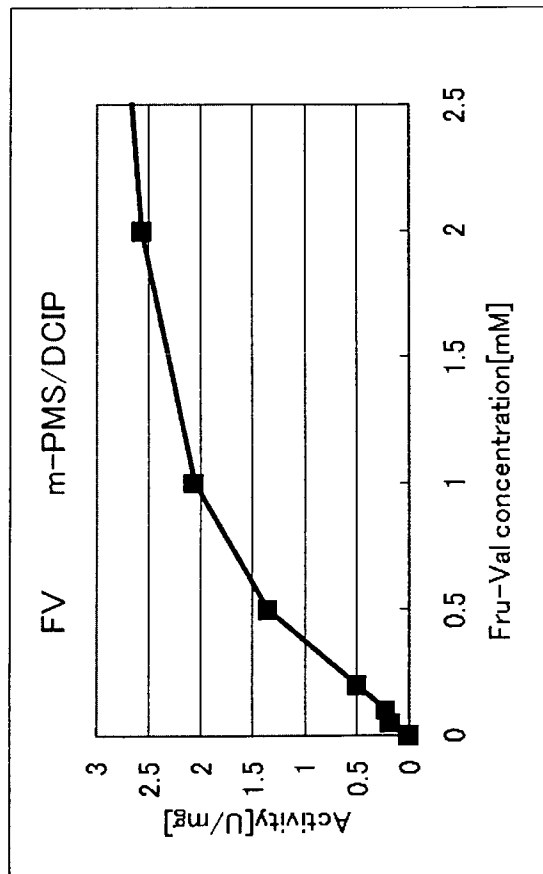


Fig. 5

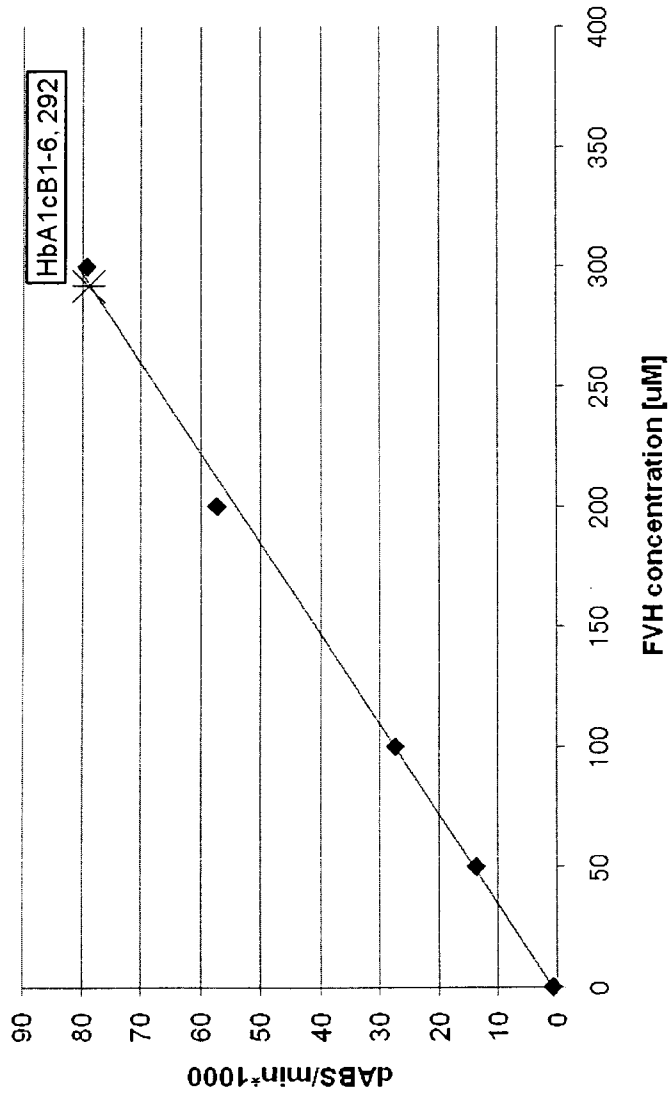


Fig. 6

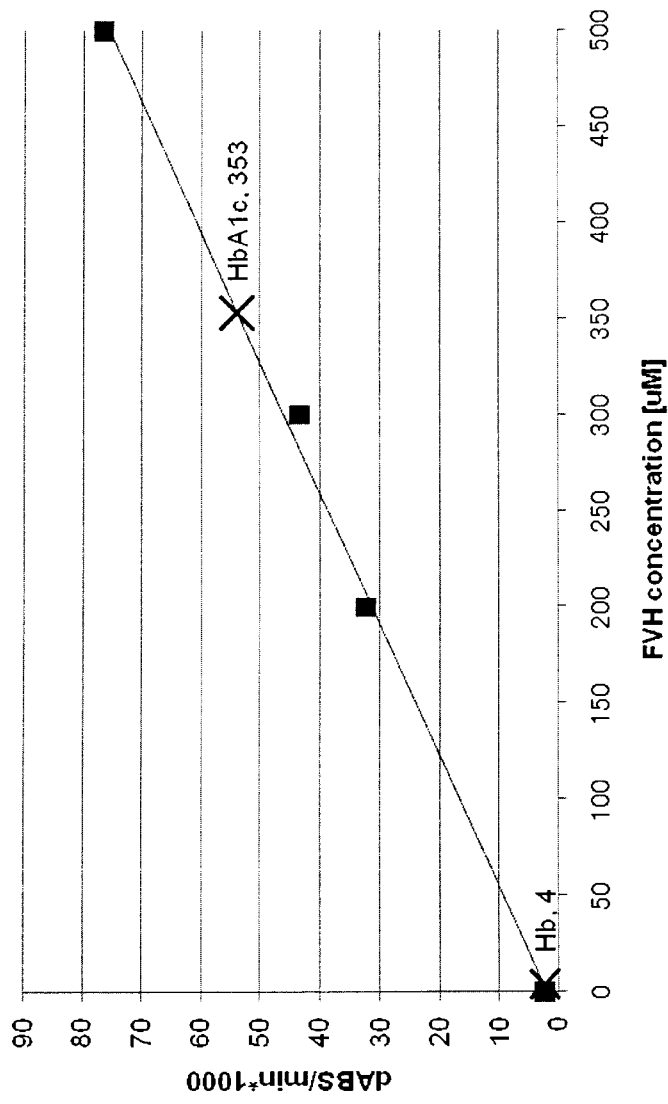


Fig. 7

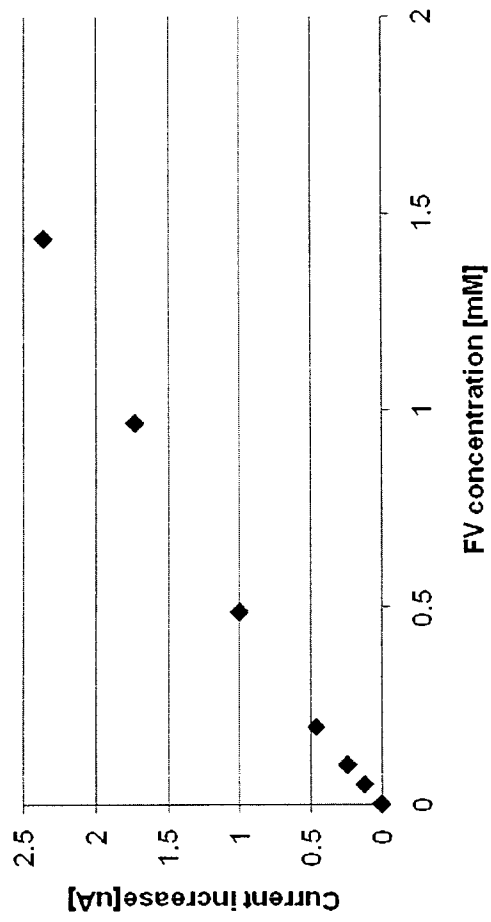


Fig. 8

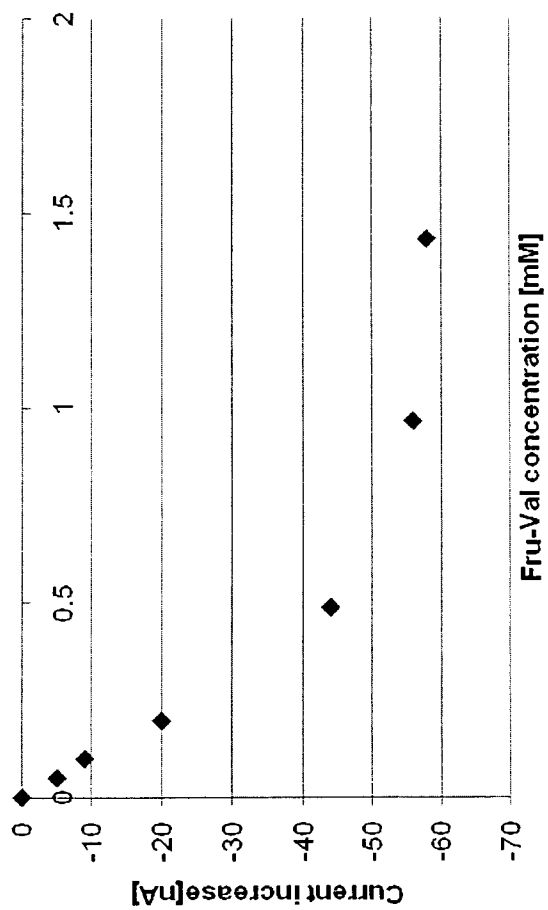


Fig. 9

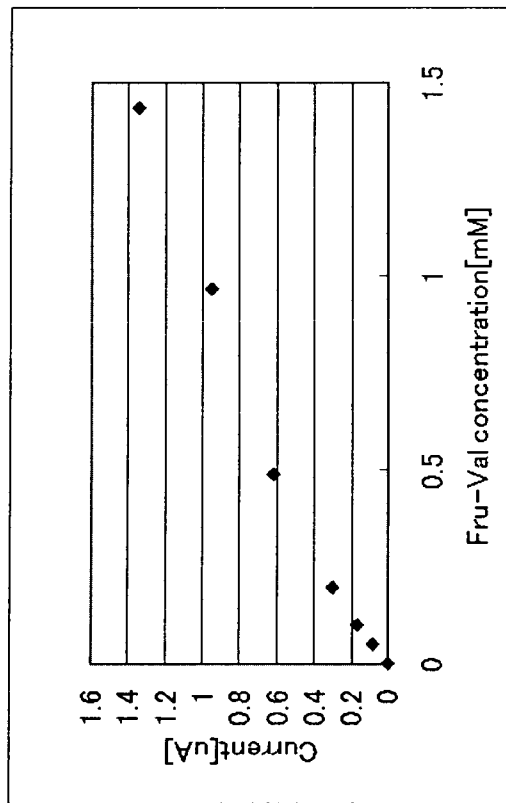


Fig. 10

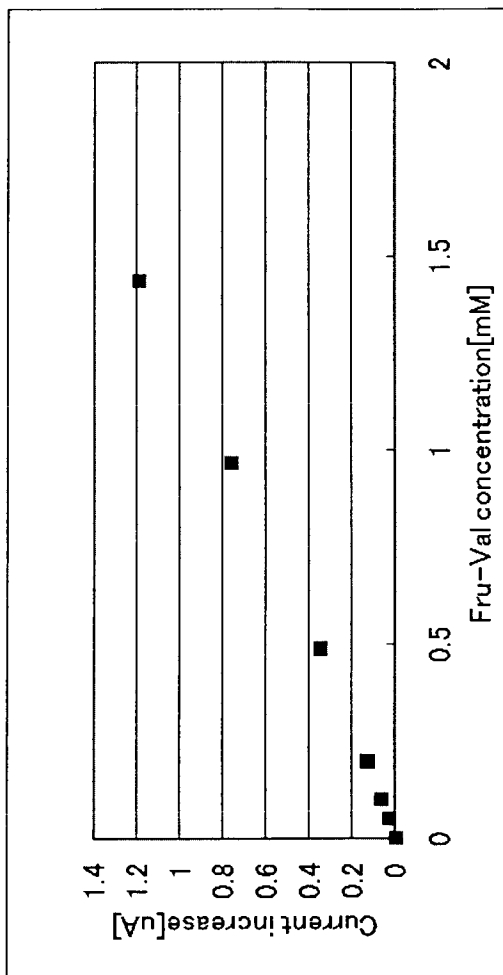


Fig. 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2010/004707

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. C12Q1/00 C12Q1/26 G01N33/72
 ADD.

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)
 C12Q G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, BIOSIS, Sequence Search, EMBASE, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 2 020 439 A (KIKKOMAN CORP [JP]) 4 February 2009 (2009-02-04)	1-4
Y	the whole document claims 19,23,36-38 figure 1 paragraph [0015]	6-15
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

7 January 2011

14/01/2011

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

 Tuyman, Antonin

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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