

(12) PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. **AU 199867486 B2**
(10) Patent No. **730817**

(54) Title
Gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, method for the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis, and method for the determination of factors causing rheumatoid arthritis

(51)⁶ International Patent Classification(s)
C12N 015/11 C12Q 001/68

(21) Application No: 199867486 (22) Application Date: 1998 .04 .10

(87) WIPO No: W098/51791

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number	(32) Date	(33) Country
9-125899	1997 .05 .15	JP
10-31840	1998 .02 .13	JP

(43) Publication Date : 1998 .12 .08
(43) Publication Journal Date : 1999 .01 .28
(44) Accepted Journal Date : 2001 .03 .15

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OPI. DATE 08/12/98 APPLN. ID 67486/98
AQJP DATE 28/01/99 PCT NUMBER PCT/JP98/01665



AU9867486



(51) 国際特許分類6 C12N 15/11, C12Q 1/68	A1	(11) 国際公開番号 WO98/51791
		(43) 国際公開日 1998年11月19日(19.11.98)

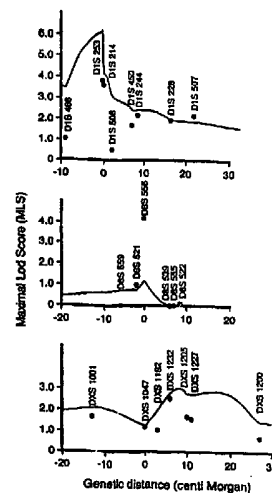
(21) 国際出願番号 PCT/JP98/01665	(81) 指定国 AU, CA, JP, KR, US, 欧州特許 (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
(22) 国際出願日 1998年4月10日(10.04.98)	添付公開書類 国際調査報告書
(30) 優先権データ 特願平9/125899 1997年5月15日(15.05.97) JP 特願平10/31840 1998年2月13日(13.02.98) JP	
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(54)Title: GENE CAUSATIVE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, METHOD FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS, AND METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF FACTORS CAUSING RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

(54)発明の名称 慢性関節リウマチの疾患遺伝子、慢性関節リウマチの診断方法および慢性関節リウマチの原因因子の決定方法

(57) Abstract

A method for the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis characterized by amplifying the PCR genomic DNA of a subject with the use of a gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis and located no more than ± 1 centimorgan apart from a DNA sequence hybridizable with microsatellite markers DIS214, DIS253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and/or DXS1232 and at least one of the above microsatellite markers as primers, and comparing the resultant PCR products with the corresponding PCR products of a normal subject.



ABSTRACT

The application provides genes causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which are located within ± 1 centimorgan from DNA sequences to which the microsatellite markers

5 D1S214, D1S253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and/or DXS1232 are hybridized; a method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, comprising amplifying the genomic DNA of a subject by PCR using at least one of the microsatellite markers as primer and comparing the PCR products thereof with the PCR products prepared in the same manner using the genomic DNA of a normal control; and a

10 method for identifying the causative factors of rheumatoid arthritis comprising the same as described above.



DESCRIPTION**A Gene Causative of Rheumatoid Arthritis,
Method for Diagnosing Rheumatoid Arthritis,**

5 **and Method for Identifying Causative Factors of Rheumatoid Arthritis**

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to the genes causative of rheumatoid arthritis, a method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis using the mutations of these genes as the
10 indicators, and a method for identifying the causative factors of rheumatoid arthritis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The aspects of arthritis and joint damage causing rheumatoid arthritis, particularly the pathological courses thereof, have been elucidated gradually through
15 various research works. Because many of the autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis are induced by the concomitant participation of numerous causative factors and are then exacerbated progressively to the stage of apparent diseases, however, the interactive mechanism per se of such numerous factors should be elucidated for accurate characterization and appropriate therapeutic management of
20 the disease.

The prevalent rheumatoid arthritis is about 1 % (N. Engl. J. Med., 322: 1277-1289, 1990), but the frequency of the disease is about 8 times increased in the siblings of the patients with the disease (Cell, 85: 311-318, 1996). Hence, it is predicted that a certain genetic factor may serve as one of the causative factors. Nevertheless,
25 molecular genetic technology and genetic engineering technology for general use for



identifying of genetic factors of diseases never function effectively in case of autoimmune diseases, because the onset of autoimmune diseases is never induced via such a biologically simple mechanism as abnormal amplification of one mutated gene as in the case of cancer. Conventional strategies of traditional genetics for the elucidation of the fundamental genetic pathogenesis of diseases have demonstrated distinctively that autoimmune diseases are caused by genetic multi-factor inheritance, but the strategies were apparently insufficient. As has been described above, none of the genes involved in rheumatoid arthritis or none of the loci of the genes on chromosome have absolutely been evidenced so far.

Alternatively, the linkage analysis method and the positional cloning method by means of polymorphic markers have opened an innovative progress recently in the field of research works on genetic diseases. By using these methods, not only the chromosomal locations of disease genes previously never characterized have been identified but also the causative genes of numerous diseases have been isolated and assayed (Experimental Medicine, Vol. 12, No. 6: 80-85, 1994). More recently, the causative gene of type I diabetes mellitus has been isolated (Nature, 171: 130-136, 1994), owing to a sib-pair analysis method comprising usage of the linkage analysis using a microsatellite marker as the polymorphic marker (Nature, 359: 794-801, 1992; Nature Genet., 7: 246-336) and the analysis of patient pedigrees as one of the procedures of traditional genetics. Thus, it becomes possible that genes causing diseases hardly curable because of the current absence of any effective therapeutic means, including autoimmune diseases, will be identified.

In such circumstances and the latest progress of the research works, the present application has been submitted. It is an object of the invention to provide the genes causative of rheumatoid arthritis, the chromosomal locations of these genes



firstly being specified, a method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis using the mutations of these genes as the indicators, and a method for identifying the causative factors of rheumatoid arthritis.

5 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the application of the invention to overcome the aforementioned problems, the following individual genes are provided.

1. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome 1 to which the
10 microsatellite markers D1S214 and/or D1S253 are hybridized.
2. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome 8 to which the microsatellite marker D8S556 is hybridized.
3. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1
15 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome X to which the microsatellite markers DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and/or DXS1232 are hybridized.

In accordance with the application, a method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, comprising amplifying the genomic DNA of a subject by PCR method using as primer at
20 least one of microsatellite markers D1S214, D1S253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and DXS1232, and then comparing the resulting PCR products with the PCR products prepared in the same manner using the genomic DNA of a normal control.

In accordance with the application, furthermore, a method for identifying the
25 causative factors of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising amplifying the genomic DNA of a



subject by PCR using as primer at least one of microsatellite markers D1S214, D1S253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and DXS1232, and then comparing the resulting PCR products with the PCR products prepared in the same manner using the genomic DNA of a normal control.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a map of microsatellite markers for use in identifying the loci of the inventive genes on the chromosomes 1 to 5;

Fig. 2 is a map of microsatellite markers for use in identifying the loci of the
10 inventive genes on the chromosomes 6 to 15;

Fig. 3 is a map of microsatellite markers for use in identifying the loci of the inventive genes on the chromosomes 16 to 22, and chromosome X;

Fig. 4 shows one example of the gel electrophoresed PCR products;

Fig. 5 shows one example of the Genotyper analysis of the PCR products;

15 Fig. 6 depicts the results of the MLS values of the analyzed microsatellite markers, as plotted vs the chromosomes 1 to 6;

Fig. 7 depicts the results of the MLS values of the analyzed microsatellite markers, as plotted vs the chromosomes 7 to 12;

Fig. 8 depicts the results of the MLS values of the analyzed microsatellite
20 markers, as plotted vs the chromosomes 13 to 18;

Fig. 9 depicts the results of the MLS values of the analyzed microsatellite markers, as plotted vs the chromosomes 19 to X; and

Fig. 10 graphically shows the relationship between the MLS values of the individual microsatellite markers at multiple marker sites including the marker sites
25 indicating the inventive disease genes and the distances (in unit centimorgan) thereof



from the target disease genes on the chromosome 1 (upper panel), the chromosome 8 (middle panel) and the X chromosome (lower panel).

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

5 The method for identifying the genes of the present invention is now described in detail hereinafter.

 The genes of the invention comprise plural genes having been identified of the chromosomal loci by the linkage analysis of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and their families with blood relationship. More specifically, the inventors have determined the
10 loci of all the genes with relation to the disease sensitivity to rheumatoid arthritis, by using the DNA polymorphism (polymorphism of the length of CA repeat sequence) of microsatellite marker genes over the entire lengths of human chromosomes. The method is specifically described below.

1. Extraction of genomic DNA

15 A set of Patient A and another Patient B, both with rheumatoid arthritis at the stage II or higher of joint damage satisfying the clinical standard of American Rheumatism Association, and a normal sibling member C was first prepared; and then, such 35 families were analyzed as subjects. From the individuals blood was drawn peripheral blood (10 ml), using EDTA; the blood was then gradually mixed with 20 ml
20 buffer I [0.32 M sucrose, 5 % v/v Triton X-100, 5 mM MgCl₂, 12 mM Tris HCl (pH 7.6)], to solubilize the cell membrane. After centrifugation, precipitated nuclei reacted with buffer II [4 M guanidine thiocyanate, 12 mM EDTA, 375 mM NaCl, 0.5 % sodium N-lauroyl sarcosinate, 0.1 M β-mercaptoethanol, 12 mM Tris HCl (pH 7.6)] to solubilize the nuclear membrane to extract DNA by ethanol precipitation.

25 2. PCR amplification and sizing of microsatellite DNA



Using the extracted genomic DNA as template, microsatellite marker genes corresponding to the chromosomal loci shown in Figs. 1 to 3 were amplified by PCR using fluorescently labeled primers (manufactured by Perkin-Elmer Co.). Herein, the marker D1S502 was not used because of the technical toughness for DNA amplification.

5 For detailed analysis of the region HLA-D, individual genes of D6S299, D6S265 and D6S273 were amplified in place of D6D276. In addition to the amplification of the microsatellite DNAs, genes in the vicinity of the region HLA-DRB1 were also amplified by PCR using restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers; in total, 359 marker sites were examined.

10 The composition of the PCR solution (15 μ l) for microsatellite DNA amplification was as follows; DNA (30 ng), primers in mixture (0.2 μ M), dNTP (each 0.2 mM), DNA polymerase (1 unit), $MgCl_2$ (2.5 mM) and 1 $\times$ PCR buffer II. Amplification was conducted under the following conditions; denaturation at 94 $^{\circ}C$ for 10 minutes, denaturation (94 $^{\circ}C$ for 30 seconds), annealing at 55 $^{\circ}C$ for 1 minute and extension at
15 72 $^{\circ}C$ for 2 minutes; the program was repeated for 27 cycles, but the last extension was conducted at 72 $^{\circ}C$ for 5 minutes.

Individual PCR products labeled with 6-FAM, TET or HEX were electrophoresed, together with TAMURA-labeled size standards, on one gel panel (4 % acrylamide/6 M urea) in a DNA sequencer (ABI 337; manufactured by Applied BioSystems, Co. Ltd.).

20 Fig. 4 shows one example of the electrophoresis. According to the method, electrophoretic error could be reduced greatly, because the peaks, sizes and regions of DNA fragments were analyzed with reference to the size standards patterned. Subsequently, the individual marker genes were sized on the basis of the positions of the fluorescent images incorporated on a computer system, to determine how the genes
25 derived from parents could be inherited per one pedigree. Furthermore, the



electrophoretic results were subjected to gene scanning analysis and subsequent sizing with an analysis software Genotyper. Fig. 5 shows one example of the analysis results with Genotyper.

3. Linkage analysis

5 The sib-pair analysis method using linkage analysis by means of microsatellite marker has already been known in the identification of the causative gene of type I diabetes mellitus (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 92: 8560-8565, 1995). However, the method cannot be applied as it is with no modification to subjects with rheumatoid arthritis. The reason is that general sib-pair analysis method determines the genetic mode of IBD
10 (identical by descent) between a patient and both the parents thereof and that both the parents of individual patients with rheumatoid arthritis as one of senile diseases are dead in most of the cases at the onset of the disease so no definite IBD value can be determined in such cases.

In accordance with the invention, 35 families composed of Patient A, Patient B
15 and a normal sibling member C were analyzed for IBD determination. More specifically, the IBD value is designated as 1 provided that both of the affected sibling members are endowed with the essential gene "a" of a parent; IBD = 2 provided that the afflicted sibling members share individual alleles in common and that the individual alleles are imparted from either one of the parents. When both the parents are already
20 dead with no possibility of typing of the genes of the parents, IBD cannot definitely be defined. Provided that the distribution of a certain arbitrary gene marker in a race population as a analysis subject is defined, the IBD value nevertheless can be determined by using the frequency of the allotype of the gene. Provided that the apparent IBD agreement between patient A, patient B and a normal sibling member C is
25 defined as (IBD between A and B, IBD between A and C and IBD between B and C) and



that a certain arbitrary gene as a target is defined as "a" while others are defined as "â", all the possibilities are shown as 27 cases as in Table 1.

[Table 1]

- Case 1: (aa, aa, aa), (aâ, aâ, aâ), (ââ, ââ, ââ)
- Case 2: (aa, aa, ââ), (ââ, ââ, aa)
- Case 3: (aa, ââ, aa), (ââ, aa, aa), (aa, ââ, ââ), (ââ, aa, ââ)
- Case 4: (aa, aa, ââ), (aâ, aâ, aa), (aâ, aâ, ââ), (ââ, ââ, aâ)
- Case 5: (aa, aâ, aa), (aâ, aa, aa), (aa, aâ, ââ), (aâ, aa, ââ), (ââ, aâ, aâ), (ââ, aâ, ââ), (aâ, ââ, aâ), (ââ, ââ, ââ)
- Case 6: (aa, ââ, aâ), (ââ, aa, aâ)
- Case 7: (aa, aâ, ââ), (aâ, aa, ââ), (aâ, ââ, aa), (ââ, aâ, aa)

According to the formula 1 of Holmans & Clayton (Am. J. Hum. Genet. 57: 1221-1232, 1995) provided that the allotype frequency of the gene "a" is defined as "Pa", the Lod value (L value) can be determined as follows.

Formula 1

$$L = \sum_{P \in P} \Pr \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{parental} \\ \text{genotypes } P \end{array} \right) \left[\prod_{j=1}^{N_H} \Pr(g_i | P) \right] \times \sum_{j=0}^2 \Pr \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{genotypes of} \\ \text{affected pair} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} j\text{IBD}, \\ P \end{array} \right) Z_j$$

For example, the L values of three sets of Case 1 are calculated as L_{11} , L_{12} and L_{13} by the following formulas 2, 3 and 4, respectively.

Formula 2

$$L_{11} = P_a^4 z_0 + 1/2 P_a^3 (1+P_a) z_1 + 1/4 P_a^2 (1+P_a)^2 z_2$$

Formula 3

$$L_{12} = P_a^4 z_0 + 1/2 P_a^3 (1+P_a) z_1 + 1/4 P_a^2 (1+P_a)^2 z_2$$



Formula 4

$$L_{13} = 3P_a^2 P_b^2 z_0 + 1/2 P_a P_b (1 + 2P_a P_b) z_1 + P_a P_b (1 + 1/2 P_a P_b) z_2$$

In the same manner, the L values from L_{11} to L_{72} can be calculated. By the
 5 same calculation on all subjects, the L value of the gene "a" in a population can be
 calculated according to the formula 5.

Formula 5

$$L = \frac{n!}{n_0! n_1! \dots n_n!} L_{11}^{n_{11}} L_{12}^{n_{12}} \dots L_{n2}^{n_{n2}}$$

10 By subsequently permitting the variables Z_0 , Z_1 and Z_2 to vary throughout the
 ranges under provisions of $Z_0 \leq 1/2$, $Z_0 \leq 1/2 Z_1$ and $Z_0 + Z_1 + Z_2 = 1$, the maximum (L_{max})
 of the L values can be determined. Under the provision of no emergence of any
 relationship between these markers and the actual gene, alternatively, the L value (L_{null})
 can be calculated according to the formula 6, provided that $Z_0 = 0.25$, $Z_1 = 0.50$ and $Z_2 =$
 15 0.25.

Formula 6

$$L_{null} = \frac{n!}{n_0! n_1! \dots n_n!} L_{11}^{n_{11}} L_{12}^{n_{12}} \dots L_{n2}^{n_{n2}}$$

Finally, the maximum Lod value (Maximal Load (Lod?) Score: MLS) can be
 20 calculated according to the formula 7.

Formula 7

$$MLS = \log \frac{L_{max}}{L_{null}}$$

Figs. 6 to 9 depict the results of the MLS values of all the microsatellite markers
 25 of 359 in total as plotted vs each chromosome. First, herein, marker sites with MLS



values around 3.0 are supposed to significantly correspond to the causative genes as well. In other words, the MLS value indicates the probability of the emergence of the relationship between one of the markers and one of the causative genes compared with the accidental emergence thereof and is represented in a logarithmic figure based on $\log_{10}$; at MLS = 3.0, the relationship is supposed to be present at a probability 1000-fold the probability of the accidental emergence thereof. More specifically, it is indicated that the microsatellite markers D1S214, D1S253, D8S556 and DXS1232 at extremely large MLS values around 3.0 are present very closely to the causative genes.

Fig. 10 graphically shows the relationship between the MLS values of the individual microsatellite markers at multiple marker sites including the four marker sites and the distances (in centimorgan) thereof from the disease genes on the chromosome 1 (upper panel), the chromosome 8 (middle panel) and the X chromosome (lower panel). As shown in Fig. 10, a target disease gene of rheumatoid arthritis is present at a position very close to the sites of the microsatellite markers D1S214 and/or D1S253 on human chromosome 1. Similarly, the disease genes are present at a position very close to the site marked with the microsatellite marker D8S556 on human chromosome 8 and at a position very close to the sites marked with microsatellite markers DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and/or DXS1232 on human X chromosome.

The disease genes of rheumatoid arthritis in accordance with the invention are present at such specific chromosomal loci as described above (genes present at least at one or more of positions within ± 1 centimorgan from the 8 sites marked with the microsatellite markers); once the coding regions and DNA sequences thereof are identified and determined by known methods such as positional cloning, the disease genes can make profound contributions to the establishment of an effective therapeutic method thereof. The PCR amplification and analysis of the microsatellite genes used



in accordance with the invention are applicable to the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis and the identification of the causative factors thereof. More specifically, by amplifying the genome DNA of a patient with the potential onset of the disease by PCR using the markers corresponding to the chromosomal sites as primers and comparing the
5 resulting amplified products with the genome DNA of a normal control by the analysis with Genotyper as shown in Fig. 5, the potential subsequent onset of the disease can be estimated at a high precision.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

10 The invention provides the disease genes of human rheumatoid arthritis, a method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis using the mutations of these disease genes as the indicators, and a method for determining the causative factors thereof. These aspects of the invention are applicable to the development of pharmaceutical medicines and therapeutic strategies.



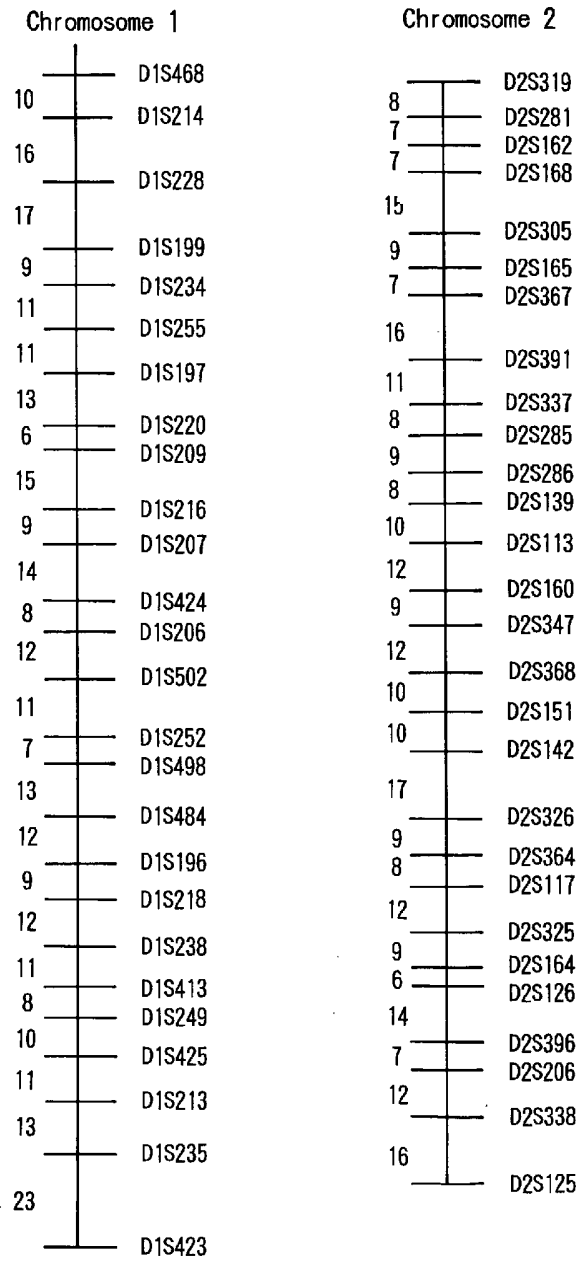
CLAIMS

1. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome 1 to which the
5 microsatellite markers D1S214 and/or D1S253 are hybridized.
2. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome 8 to which the microsatellite marker D8S556 is hybridized.
10
3. A gene causative of rheumatoid arthritis, which gene is located within ± 1 centimorgan from a DNA sequence on human chromosome X to which the microsatellite markers DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and/or DXS1232 are hybridized.
15
4. A method for diagnosing rheumatoid arthritis, comprising amplifying the genomic DNA of a subject by PCR method using at least one of the microsatellite markers D1S214, D1S253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205, DXS1227 and DXS1232 as primer, and then comparing the PCR products thereof with the PCR
20 products prepared in the same manner using the genomic DNA of a normal control.
5. A method for identifying the causative factors of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising amplifying the genomic DNA of a subject by PCR method using at least one of the microsatellite markers D1S214, D1S253, D8S556, DXS1001, DXS1047, DXS1205,
25 DXS1227 and DXS1232 as primer, and then comparing the PCR products thereof with



the PCR products prepared in the same manner using the genome DNA of a normal control.

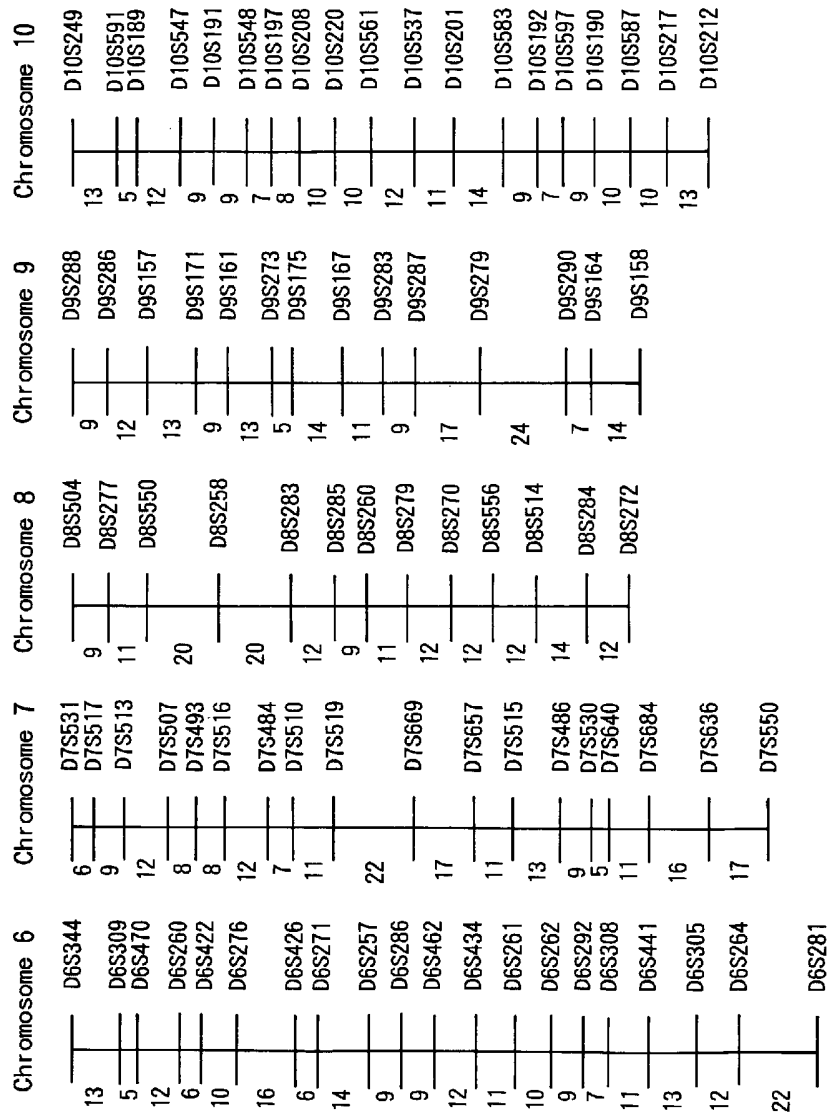




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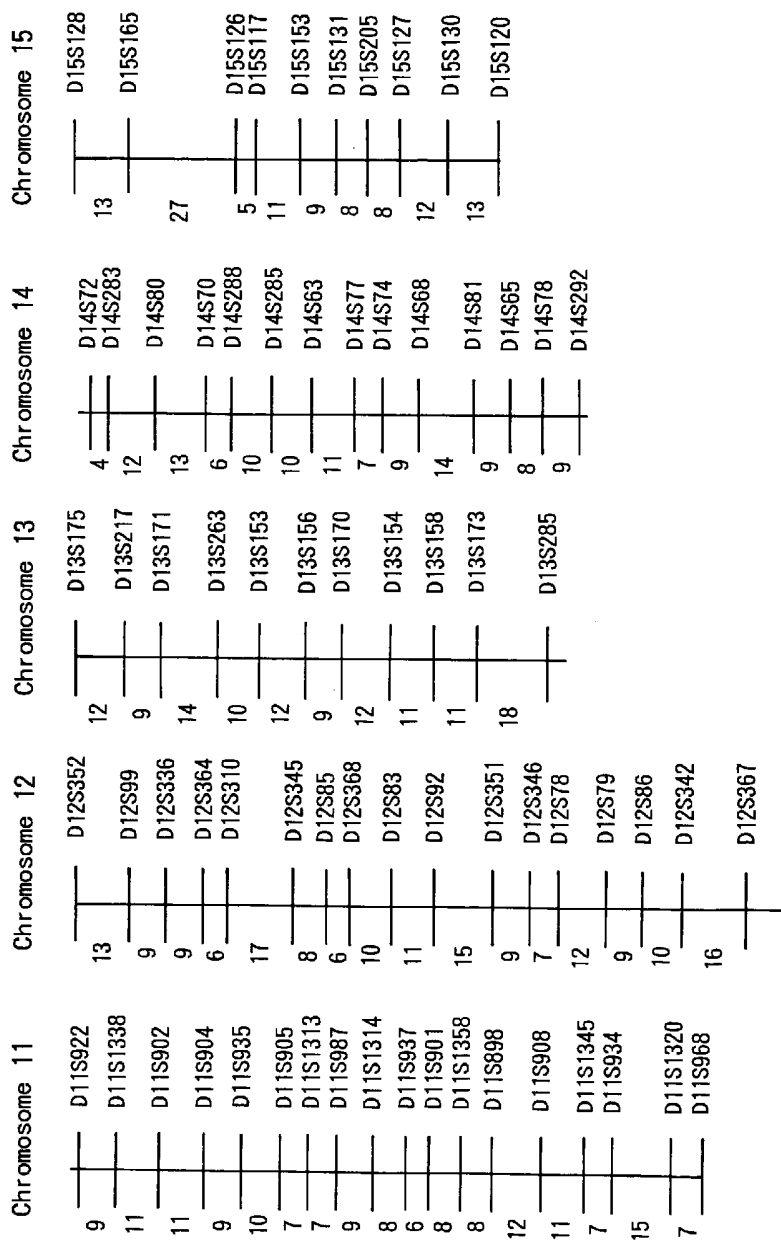
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Fig. 2



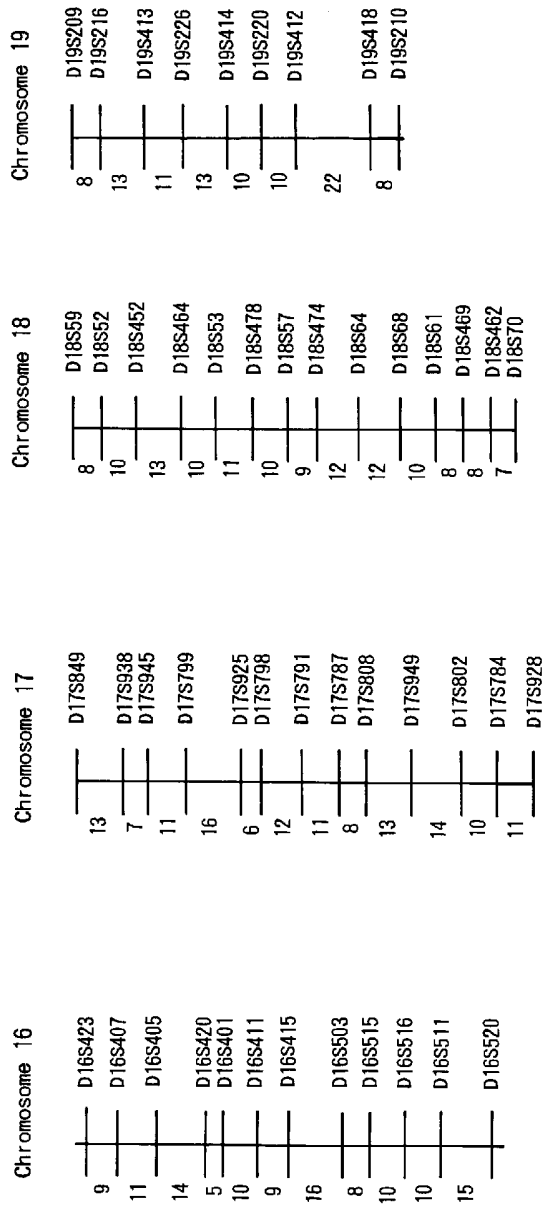
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Continuation of Fig. 2



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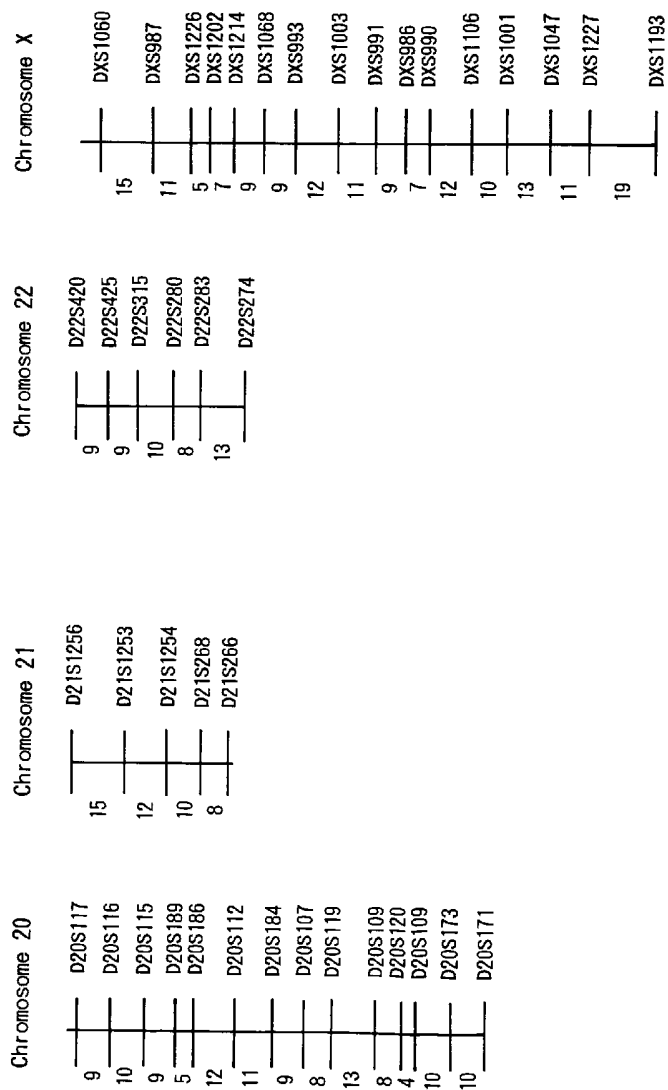
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Fig. 3



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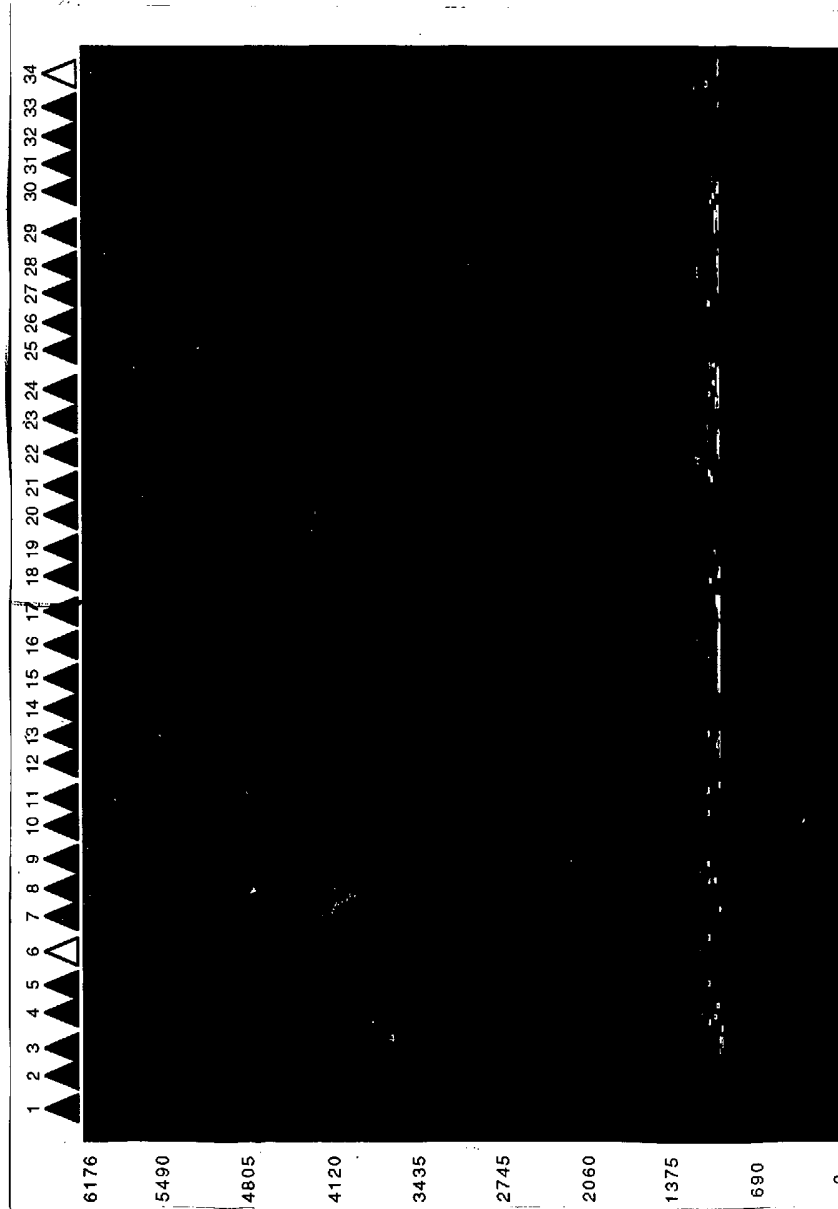
Continuation of Fig. 3



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Fig. 4

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

6176

5490

4805

4120

3435

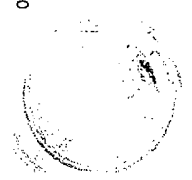
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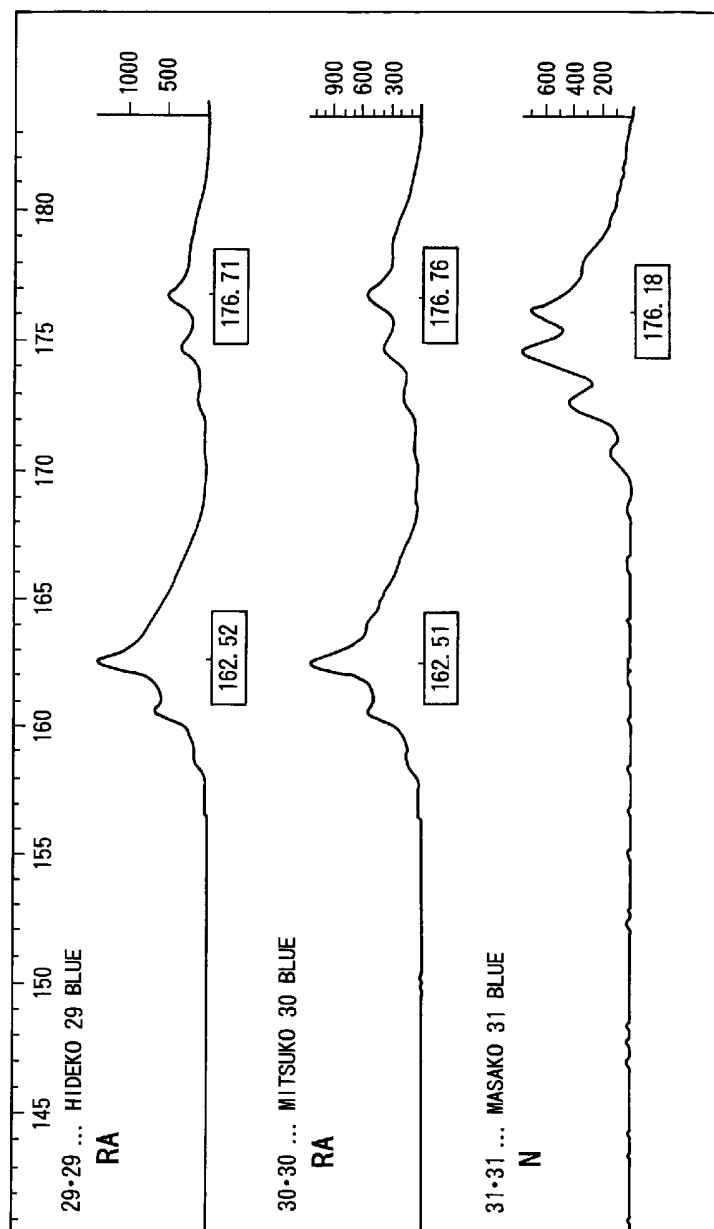
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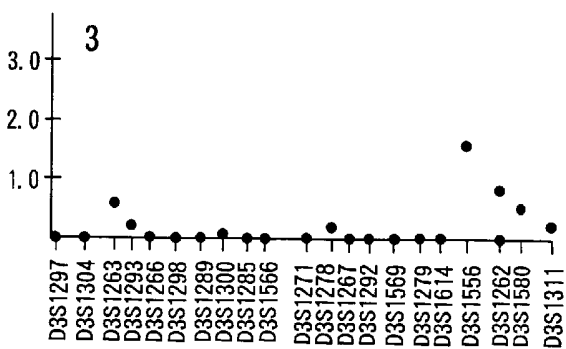
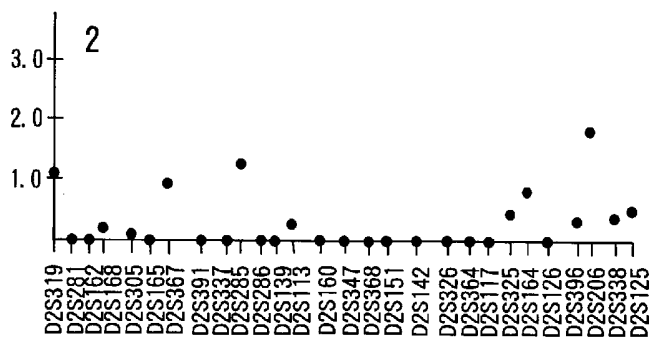
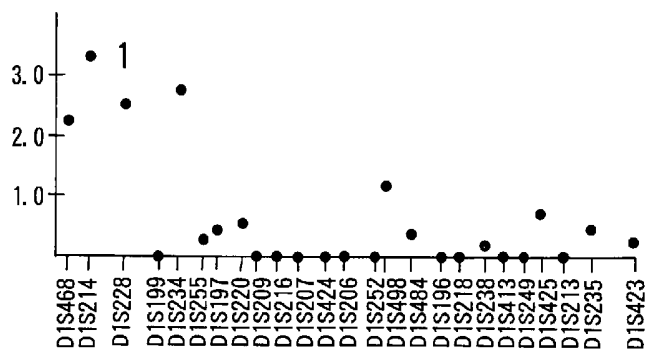
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Fig. 5



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Fig. 6

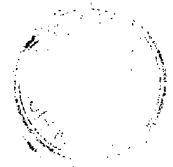
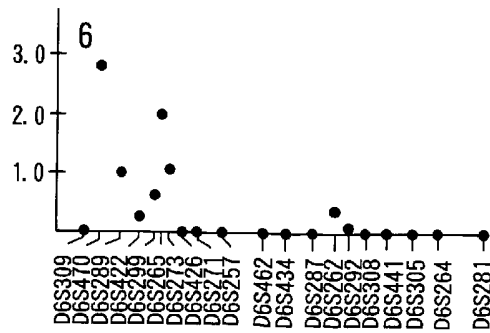
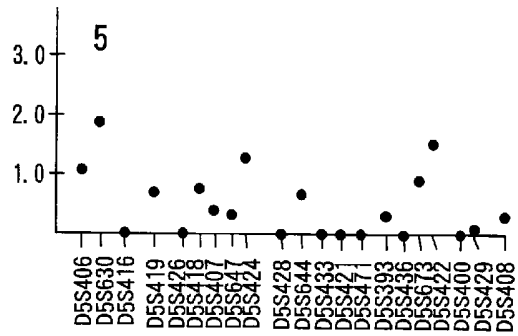
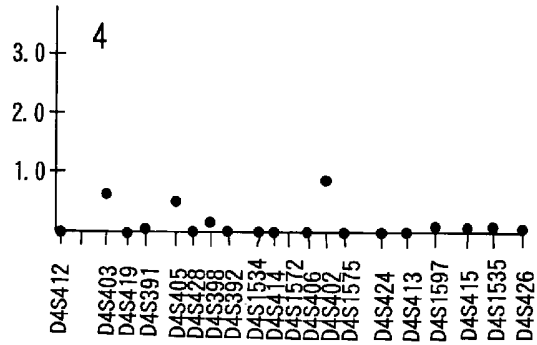


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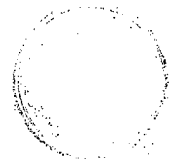
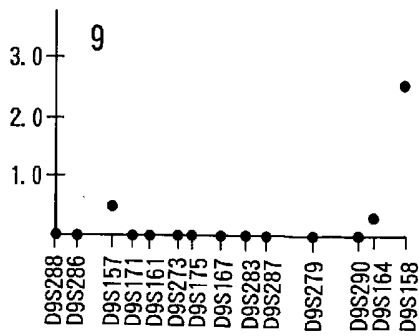
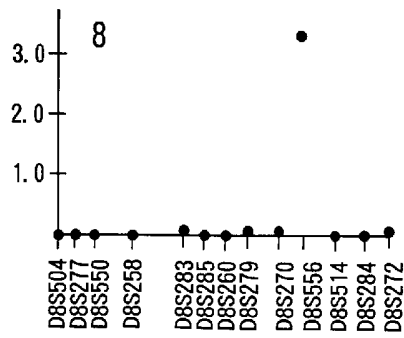
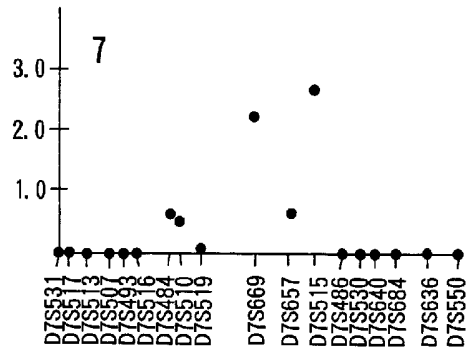
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Continuation of Fig. 6



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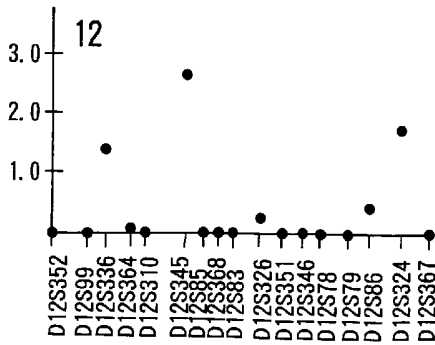
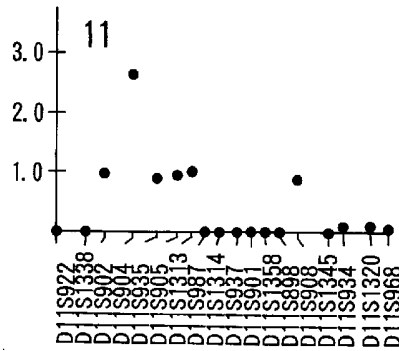
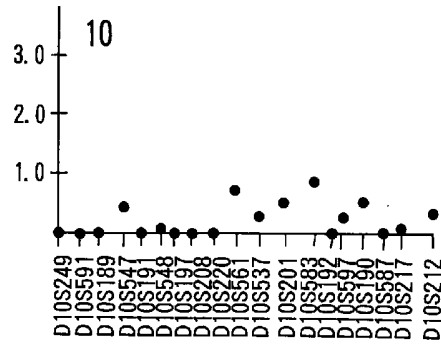
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Fig. 7



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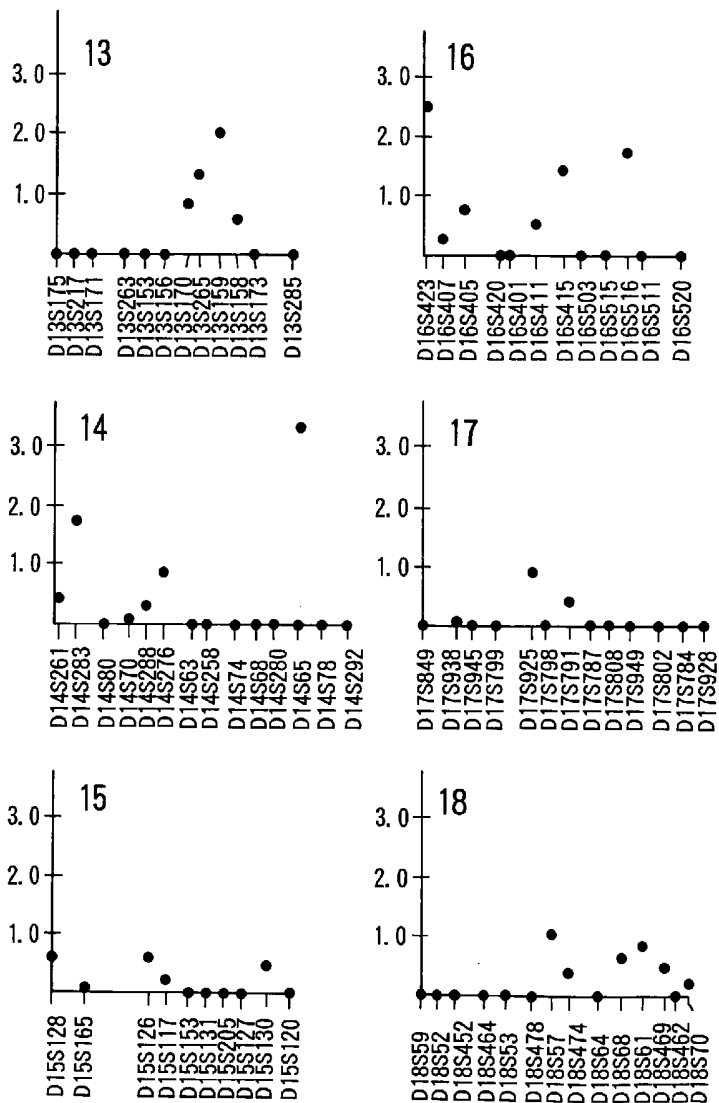
7/1/10

Continuation of Fig. 7



30100-6303

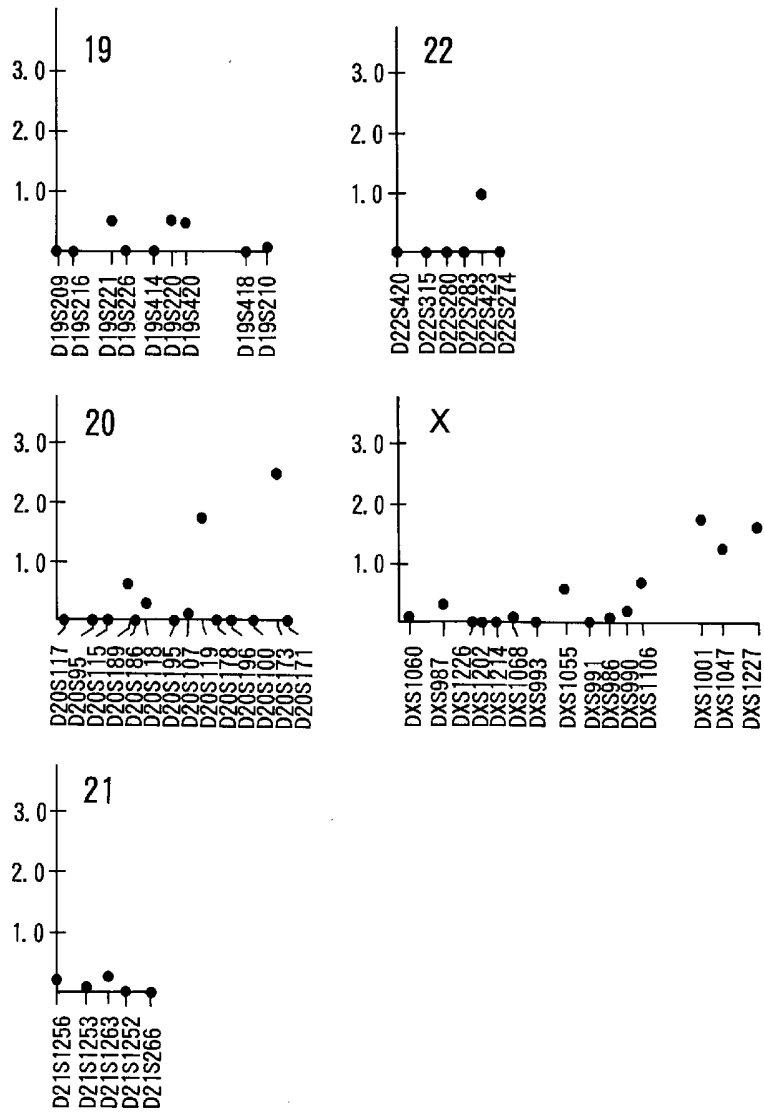
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Fig. 8



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Fig. 9



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Fig. 10

