

Table 2

Elution positions in HPLC and mass analysis of acidic PA-oligosaccharides from colon adenocarcinoma tissue eluted later than G9 on the amide column

Fraction	Elution position in HPLC		Mass (observed)	Mass (calculated)	Estimated composition
	Size (Gu)	RP (Gu)			
G10-1	4.78	4.09	1223.5	1223.5 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₃ HexNAc ₁ dHex ₁ -PA
G10-2	4.74	5.35	1223.5	1223.5 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₃ HexNAc ₁ dHex ₁ -PA
G11	4.92	3.77	1223.3	1223.5 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₃ HexNAc ₁ dHex ₁ -PA
G12	5.51	5.64	1442.4	1442.5 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ -PA
G13	5.89	4.71	1442.6	1442.5 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ -PA
G14-1	6.29	4.73	1588.4	1588.6 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ dHex ₁ -PA
G14-2	6.25	4.94	1588.3	1588.6 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ dHex ₁ -PA
G15	6.71	4.19	1588.4	1588.6 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ dHex ₁ -PA
G16-1	6.90	5.64	1807.1	1807.7 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₅ HexNAc ₃ -PA
G16-2	6.87	6.05	1807.4	1807.7 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₅ HexNAc ₃ -PA
G16-3	6.85	6.78	1807.5	1807.7 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₅ HexNAc ₃ -PA
G17-1	7.04	4.16	1734.4	1734.7 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ dHex ₂ -PA
G17-2	7.00	5.04	1734.3	1734.7 [M+H] ⁺	NeuAc ₁ Hex ₄ HexNAc ₂ dHex ₂ -PA

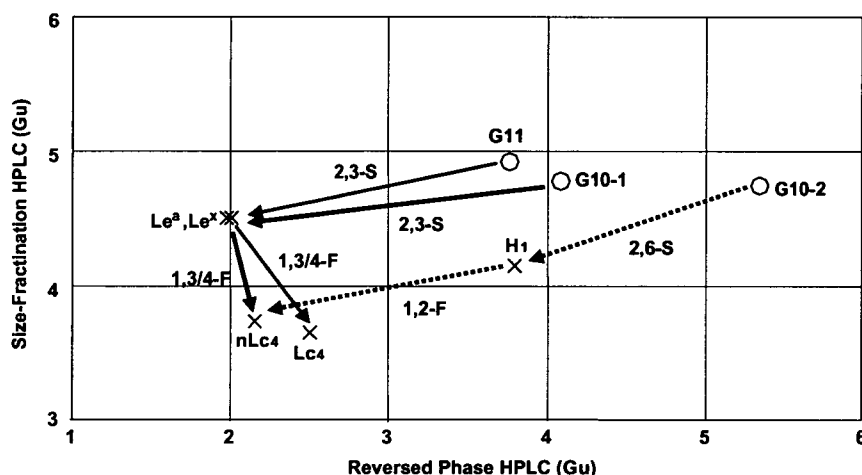


Fig. 3. Sequential digestion of PA-oligosaccharides G10-1, G10-2, and G11. Circles indicate the positions of G10-1, G10-2, and G11. Thick-line, dotted-line, and thin-line arrows indicate the directions of the changes after glycosidase digestion of G10-1, G10-2, and G11, respectively. Glycosidases are shown beside each line. Enzyme abbreviations: 2,3-S, α 2,3-sialidase under conditions where the enzyme specifically digests sialic acid in the α 2-3 linkage; 2,6-S, α 2,3-sialidase under conditions where the enzyme digests sialic acid in both α 2-3 and α 2-6 linkages; 1,3/4-F, α 1,3/4-fucosidase; 1,2-F, α 1,2 fucosidase. Xs mark the positions of the standard compounds.

results suggest that sialic acid is α 2-6 linked to the terminal residue (see Materials and Methods). In addition, the desialylated product of G10-2 corresponded to H₁ on the 2-D map (dashed-line arrows in Fig. 3). After desialylation, G10-2 could be digested with α 1,2-fucosidase but not with α 1,3/4-fucosidase, and the position of the product of the digest on the map corresponded with that of nLc₄. On the basis of these data, G10-2 is estimated to be NeuAc α 2-6(Fuc α 1-2)Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc, a structure that has not been reported previously (Table 3). These structures are consistent with the results from MS/MS analysis (Fig. 4, left). The mass spectrum of MS³ of G10-2 revealed it to have a core tetrasaccharide structure: Hex-HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA. The presence of a fragment ion at m/z 534, corresponding to [dHex+Hex-HexNAc+Na]⁺ in the MS³ spectra of G10-2, indicates that a fucosyl residue is linked to the outermost Hex or HexNAc residue. However, the characteristic product ion at m/z

792, corresponding to [dHex-HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA+Na]⁺, was observed in the MS³ spectrum of G10-1 and G11 (Fig. 4, right) but not in the MS³ spectra of G10-2, suggesting that a fucosyl residue is linked to the outermost Hex residue but not the HexNAc residue in G10-2.

Structure of G12 and G13

G12 was digested successfully with α 2,3-sialidase in condition 1. In contrast, G13 could not be digested with α 2,3-sialidase under the same conditions, but could be digested in condition 2. Both desialylation products had very similar behavior on the HPLC eluting at the same positions (2.93, 5.38), indicating that G12 and G13 have the same structural backbone and that sialic acid is linked α 2-3 and α 2-6, respectively, to the terminal residue. Desialylated products from G12 and G13 were sequentially digested

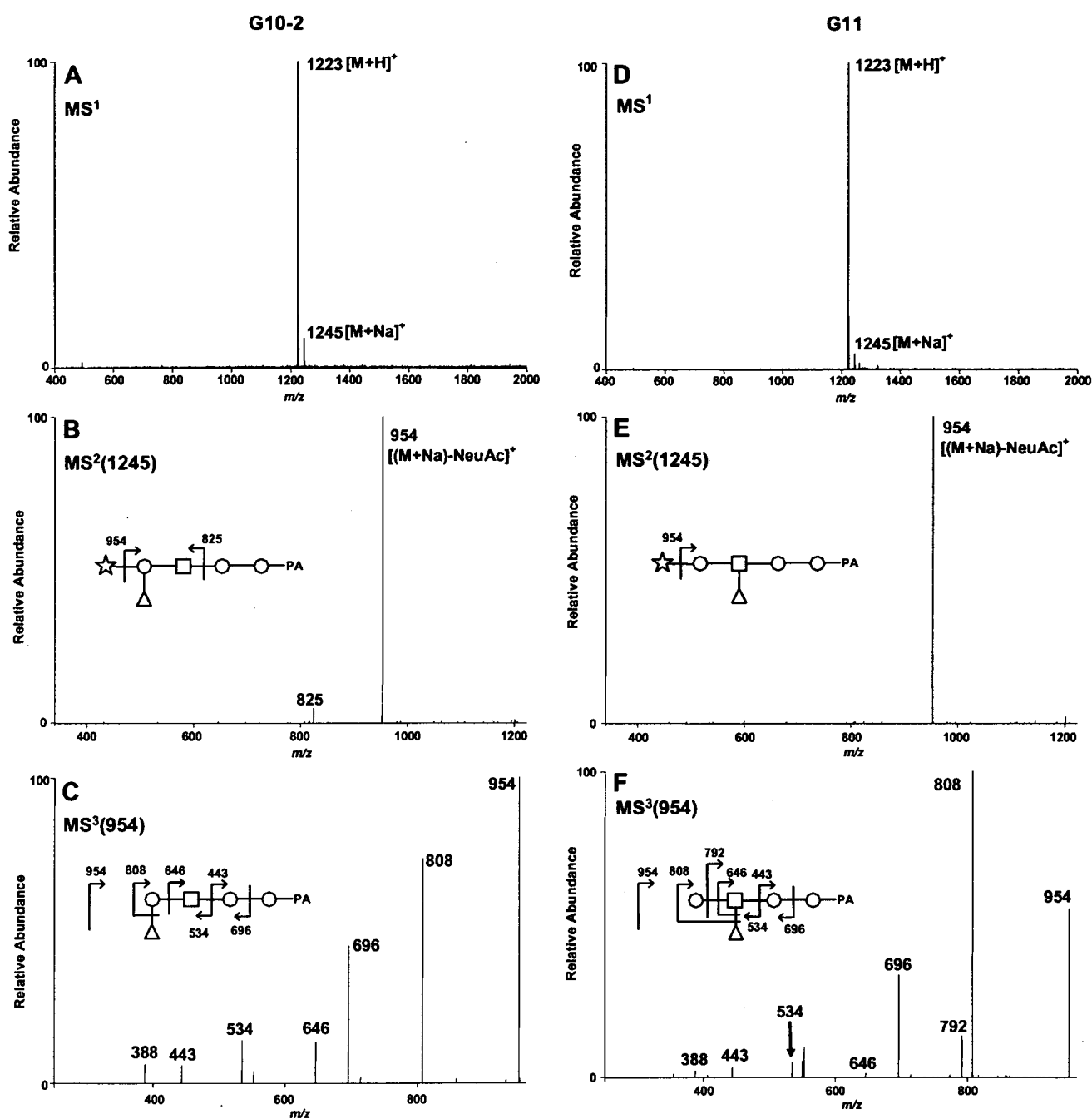


Fig. 4. MS¹⁻³ spectra of G10-2 and G11. (A,D) MS¹ spectra of G10-2 (A) and G11 (D). (B,E) MS² spectra of [M+Na]⁺ precursor ion at *m/z* 1245 detected in MS¹ of panel A (B) and panel D (E). (C,F) MS³ spectra of [(M+Na)-NeuAc]⁺ precursor ion at *m/z* 954 detected in MS² of panel B (C) and panel E (F). Fragment ions numbered mass values in panels B, C, E, and F are sodium adduct ions. The MS/MS fragment ions were assigned as shown schematically. Symbols: open circle, Hex; open square, HexNAc; open star, sialic acid; open triangle, dHex.

with β 1,4-galactosidase and β -*N*-acetylhexosaminidase. The products of both digests corresponded to nLc₄ on the map, indicating the structure of both backbones to be Gal β 1-4HexNAc-Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc. Hydrolysis of G12 and G13 with endo- β -galactosidase gave two peaks by HPLC, corresponding to Glc-PA and GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc-PA. These results indicate that the subterminal HexNAc is GlcNAc linked β 1-3 to galactose. Hence,

the structures of G12 and G13 are estimated to be as shown in Table 3. These structures are consistent with tandem mass analysis data (data not shown).

Structure of G14-1, G14-2, and G15

Sialic acid is linked α 2-3 to the terminal residue of G14-1 and G14-2 and linked α 2-6 to terminal residue

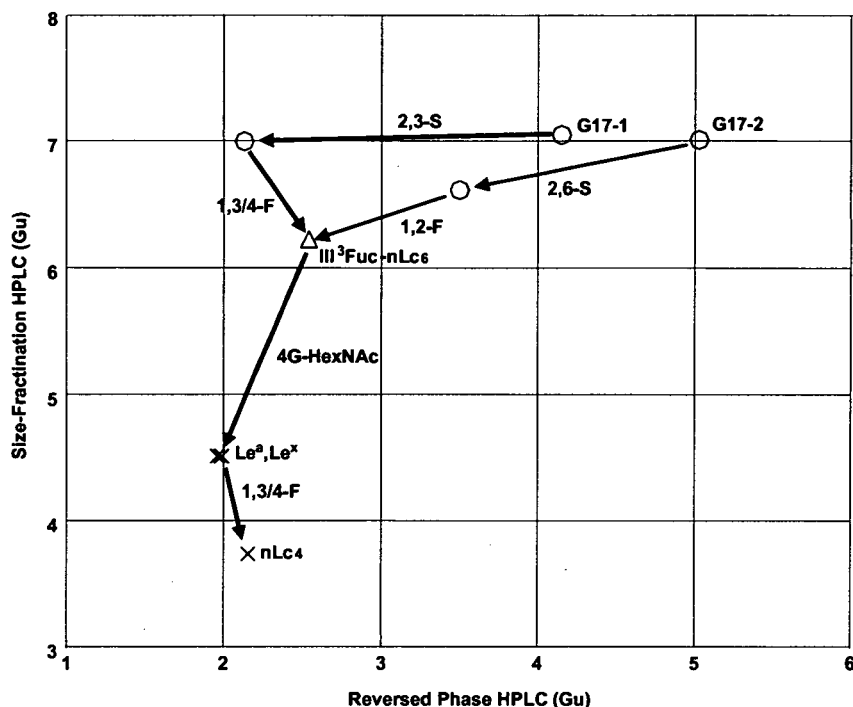


Fig. 5. Sequential digestion of PA-glycans G17-1 and G17-2. Circles indicate the positions of G17-1, G17-2, and their digests. Thick-line and thin-line arrows indicate the directions of the changes after glycosidase digestion of G17-1 and G17-2, respectively. Glycosidases are shown beside each line. Enzyme abbreviations and Xs are the same as in Fig. 3. The triangle represents the reference compound, III³Fuc-nLc₆, which was obtained in the analysis of the structure of G14-1 and G15.

of G15, as determined by α 2,3-sialidase digestion as described above. After sialidase digestion, G14-1 and G15 had the same elution position (2.51, 6.23), whereas the coordinates of the desialylated product of G14-2 were (2.49, 6.12). These results indicate that the desialylated structures of G14-1 and G15 are the same but are different from desialylated G14-2. After sequential digestion with β 1,4-galactosidase, β -N-acetylhexosaminidase and α 1,3/4-fucosidase, the digestion products of G15 changed into the reference compound nLc₄. From these results, the structure of G15 is tentatively predicted to be NeuAc α 2-6Gal β 1-4HexNAc-Gal β 1-4(Fuc α 1-3)GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc. After the fucosyl residue linked to the proximal GlcNAc of G15 was digested with bovine kidney fucosidase, the defucosylated product of G15 was cleaved by endo- β -galactosidase. The products of the digestion showed two peaks by HPLC, corresponding to Glc-PA and GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc-PA. The estimated structures of G15 and G14-1 are presented in Table 3. On α 1,3/4-fucosidase digestion, the coordinates of desialylated G14-2 coincided with those of Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc (nLc₆), as was determined in the above experiment, suggesting the structure of G14-2 to be NeuAc α 2-3Gal β 1-4(Fuc α 1-3)GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc (Table 3). These structures are consistent with MS/MS analysis data (data not shown).

Structure of G16-1, G16-2, and G16-3

Sialic acid is linked α 2-3 to the terminal residue of G16-1, G16-2, and G16-3, as determined by α 2,3-sialidase digestion. After sialidase digestion, G16-1 and G16-2 were converted to species with the same coordinates (3.66, 6.88) and G16-3 was converted to a species with coordinates (4.20, 6.88). These results indicate that G16-1 and G16-2 have the same backbone structure, which is different from that of G16-3. Desialylated G16-3 was sequentially digested with β 1,4-galactosidase and β -N-acetylhexosaminidase twice. The first and second sequential digests gave products that corresponded to nLc₆ and nLc₄, respectively. This result indicated the structure of G16-3 to be NeuAc α 2-3Gal β 1-4HexNAc-Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc. Endo- β -galactosidase treatment of G16-3 produced two major peaks by HPLC, corresponding to GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc-PA and GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc-PA. These results indicate that the subterminal HexNAc is GlcNAc linked β 1-3 to galactose. On the basis of these results, the structure of G16-3 is estimated to be as listed in Table 3.

Sequential digestion of desialylated G16-2 with β 1,4-galactosidase and then β -N-acetylhexosaminidase released two galactose and two HexNAc residues, respectively, as measured by MS (data not shown). The products of these digests coincided with the position of the reference com-

pound nLc₄. These results indicate that G16-1 and G16-2 contain two side chains, NeuAc α 2-3Gal β 1-4HexNAc and Gal β 1-4HexNAc, which are linked together to the terminal

galactose of nLc₄. When intact G16-2 was trimmed on a nonsialylated branch with β 1,4-galactosidase and β -N-acetylhexosaminidase, the product was identical to G12. These

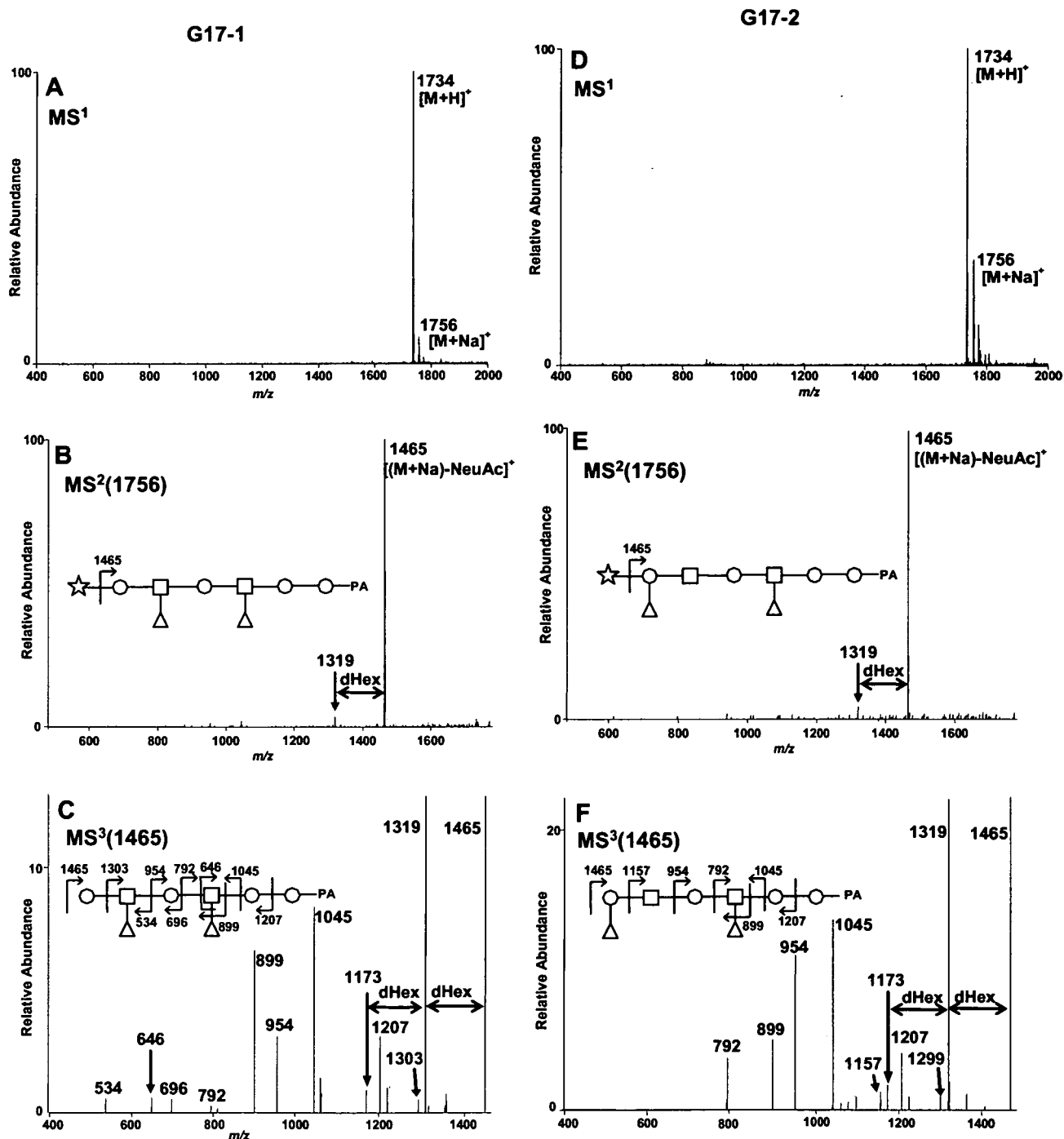


Fig. 6. MS¹⁻³ spectra of G17-1 and G17-2. (A,D) MS¹ spectra of G17-1 (A) and G17-2 (D). (B,E) MS² spectra of $[M+Na]^+$ precursor ion at m/z 1756 detected in MS¹ of panel A (B) and panel D (E). (C,F) MS³ spectra of $[(M+Na)-NeuAc]^+$ precursor ion at m/z 1465 detected in MS² of panel B (C) and panel E (F). Mass spectra in panels C and F are magnified to demonstrate clearly the minor product ions such as at m/z 534, 1157, and 1303. The y axes in panels C and F are labeled with the most abundant ions at m/z 1319 as 100%. Relative abundances of product ions at m/z 1465 in panels C and F are 38 and 45%, respectively, in these scans. Fragment ions numbered mass values in panels B, C, E, and F are sodium adduct ions. The MS/MS fragment ions were assigned as shown in Fig. 4.

results suggest the position of sialylation in G16-2 to be at the terminal galactose of the Gal β 1-4GlcNAc chain on the side of the β 1-3 linkage. In G16-1, the position of sialylation is at the terminal galactose of another Gal β 1-4HexNAc chain (Table 3). We speculate another HexNAc to be GlcNAc and β 1-6 linked to galactose; however, from the results of this study, we are unable to demonstrate this unambiguously. The structures of G16-1, G16-2, and G16-3 are consistent with MS/MS analysis data (data not shown).

Structure of G17-1 and G17-2

Sialic acid is linked α 2-3 and α 2-6 to the terminal residues of G17-1 and G17-2, respectively, as demonstrated by sialidase digestion as described above (Fig. 5). Desialylated G17-1 could be digested with α 1,3/4-fucosidase. In contrast, desialylated G17-2 could be digested with α 1,2-fucosidase but not with α 1,3/4-fucosidase. The products of both digests were identical to Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4(Fuca α 1-3)GlcNAc β 1-3Gal β 1-4Glc-PA, which was determined as described above (Fig. 5). The digestion product from G17-1 was sequentially digested with β 1,4-galactosidase, β -N-acetylhexosaminidase, and α 1,3/4-fucosidase to yield a product identical to nLc $_4$ (Fig. 5). From these results, the structures of G17-1 and G17-2 are estimated to be as shown in Table 3. The structure of G17-2 has the same terminal structure as G10-2, NeuAc α 2-6(Fuca α 1-2)Gal β 1-4GlcNAc β 1, and has also not been reported previously. These structures were also confirmed by MS/MS analysis. Product ions in MS 3 spectra revealed the core structure of G17-1 and G17-2 to be Hex-HexNAc-Hex-HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA (Fig. 6). Fucosylation of the inner HexNAc residue of G17-1 and G17-2 was suggested by the detection of a characteristic product ion at m/z 792, corresponding to [dHex-HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA+Na] $^+$ in MS 3 spectra of G17-1 and G17-2. The position of attachment of the remaining fucose residue is also demonstrated by careful examination of product ions of MS 3 spectra. Product ions at m/z 1303, corresponding to [dHex-HexNAc-Hex-(dHex-)HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA+Na] $^+$, and at m/z 534, corresponding to [Hex-HexNAc-dHex+Na] $^+$, were detected in MS 3 spectra of G17-1, suggesting that the remaining fucose is linked to the subterminal HexNAc in G17-1. In contrast, in MS 3 spectra of G17-2, the product ion at m/z 1303 was not detected; instead, a product ion at m/z 1157, corresponding to [HexNAc-Hex-(dHex)HexNAc-Hex-Hex-PA], was detected, suggesting the attachment of the remaining fucose is to the outermost Hex in G17-2.

Discussion

Enzymatic release of carbohydrate moieties and fluorescent labeling, followed by 2-D mapping, MS/MS, and glycosidase digestion, revealed the structures of major acidic GSLs in colon adenocarcinoma. We were able to identify

22 kinds of acidic GSLs from approximately 20 mg of tissue. One of those identified is sulfated (G1), and the others are sialylated, including ganglio-series (G2, G3, G4, G5, G7, and G9), lacto-series (G11), and neolacto-series (G6, G8, G10-1,2, G12, G13, G14-1,2, G15, G16-1,2,3, and G17-1,2) GSLs. The structures of acidic GSLs in colon adenocarcinoma have been widely studied using a number of conventional methods, such as TLC and methylation analysis, and various kinds of acidic GSLs have been reported to be present in the tissues [8,11,13,15]. The acidic GSLs identified in this study include most of the acidic GSLs previously reported to be present in the tissue. For example, as major components, GM3 (G2), SPG (G6), IV 6 NeuAc α -nLc $_4$ (G8), SLe x (G10-1), SLe a (G11), VI 3 NeuAc α -nLc $_6$ (G12), and VI 6 NeuAc α -nLc $_6$ (G13) were identified, whereas VI 3 NeuAc α III 3 Fuca α -nLc $_6$ (G14-1), VI 6 NeuAc α III 3 Fuca α -nLc $_6$ (G15), and VI 3 NeuAc α ,V 3 Fuca α III 3 Fuca α -nLc $_6$ (G17-1) were present as minor components. SM3 (G1) and GD1b (G9) have not been detected in the tissues in the previous studies. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that 2 novel fucogangliosides, G10-2 and G17-2, having a common carbohydrate moiety at their termini, namely NeuAc α 2-6(Fuca α 1-2)Gal β 1-4GlcNAc, were identified. To our knowledge, this unique structure has not been found in glycoproteins as well as in GSLs. In addition to G10-2 and G17-2, the structure of G16-1 has not been reported previously. Although the structures of G16-1 and G16-2 were not unambiguously determined in the current study, it is most likely that the undetermined HexNAc residue is GlcNAc linked β 1-6 to terminal galactose of nLc $_4$. Assuming the above to be correct, G16-2 has been previously isolated from human erythrocytes [21], but G16-1 has not been isolated from any source. Several acidic GSLs, such as sulfatide and disialosyl lacto-series gangliosides (reported to be present in colon cancer tissues [11,13,15]), were not detected in this study. Sulfatide could not be detected in this study because of its high level of resistance to endoglycoceramidase II [16]. The reason for the lack of detection of the other gangliosides is not clear but may arise from sample variation.

There are two possible reasons why the newly identified acidic GSLs, G10-2, G16-1, and G17-2, have been undiscovered previously. One is that the quantities of these gangliosides are quite small. However, this is unlikely given that G17-1, which is present in this tissue at nearly equivalent levels to the newly characterized acidic GSLs seen in this analysis, previously have been isolated and characterized from adenocarcinoma of colon metastases to liver, that is, the same sample used in this study. The other possibility is the potential error in identifying acidic GSLs by TLC. These acidic GSLs might not be separated and purified to homogeneity by HPLC using organic solvents and TLC, probably due to the existence of one or more other components, such as their isomers, with identical chromatographic behavior. Even in our study, G10-2, G16-1, and G17-2 coeluted on the size fractionation column with their isomers, G10-1, G16-2, and G17-1, respectively.

It was only through the use of another chromatography method (an ODS column) that the species could be separated from each other. These results show that the high-resolution techniques employed here, consisting of pyridylation of carbohydrate moieties of acidic GSLs followed by separation on two different kinds of chromatography column (amide and ODS), enabled the isolation and characterization of novel GSLs even in a comprehensively studied tissue. Therefore, the results encourage us to look for unique structures that may be present in other types of tumor tissues using this assay. However, it should be noted that of the 22 kinds of GSLs identified in this analysis, 12 did not match to standard oligosaccharides previously prepared and analyzed on the 2-D map. To generally apply the method used in this study to a variety of cancerous tissues, the number of prepared standard oligosaccharides would seem to be insufficient, and it is essential to obtain many more standard PA-oligosaccharide libraries for 2-D mapping. Furthermore, libraries of multistage MSⁿ spectra of *N*-linked oligosaccharides have been constructed and have served to identify structures [22,23]. A similar approach might also be necessary for the glycomic analysis of GSLs.

Two α 2-6-sialyltransferases, ST6Gal-I [24] and ST6Gal-II [25], and two α -2-fucosyltransferases, FUT I and FUT II [26], are the candidate enzymes for the biosynthesis of the unique terminal structures of G10-2 and G17-2. It is necessary to clarify the specificities of the α 2-6-sialyltransferases and the α -2-fucosyltransferases to elucidate the involvement of these glycosyltransferases in forming these carbohydrate structures. Furthermore, it is also important to determine whether or not the newly characterized G10-2 and G17-2 are tumor-associated antigens. Preparation of antibodies recognizing the unique structure common to their termini, NeuAc α 2-6(Fuc α 1-2)Gal β 1-4GlcNAc, may be useful for immunohistochemical analysis of cancerous and normal tissues.

The relative quantities of each acidic GSL were revealed in detail, showing ranges from 0.1 to 58.0% of the total. However, in the previous studies, it was impossible to analyze the quantity precisely because they were analyzed by densitometry or estimated from the density of orcinol-stained bands. We believe that the accumulation of more precise quantitative data of the kind presented here from various other tumors and normal tissues will help in understanding the characteristic features of the carbohydrate structures in individual tumors.

In summary, this study has demonstrated that the techniques used are sensitive enough and have enough resolving power to find novel acidic GSL structures from small quantities of already well-studied cancerous tissues. The structural analysis of acidic GSLs in malignant tissues has been performed mainly in adenocarcinoma, whereas other types of malignant tumor, such as squamous cell carcinoma and sarcoma, have not been studied in detail. Application of the methods used in this study to these tumors will be important and will lead to the discovery

of novel carbohydrate structures and reveal characteristic features of individual tumors.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported in part by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (17510191) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan and by research grants from the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan. We thank Koichi Honke and Shunji Natsuka for useful discussions and critical comments on the manuscript.

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