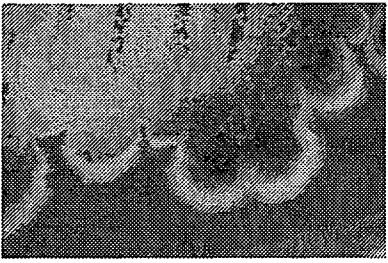
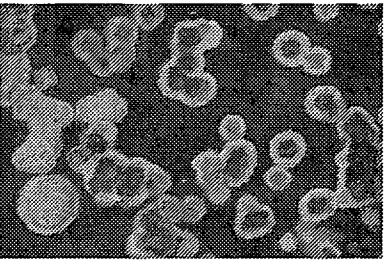
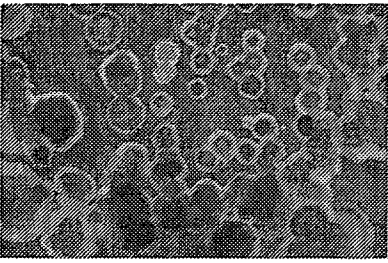
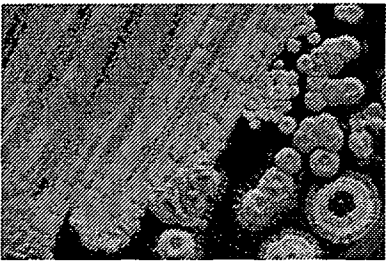
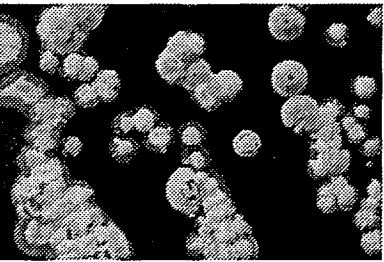
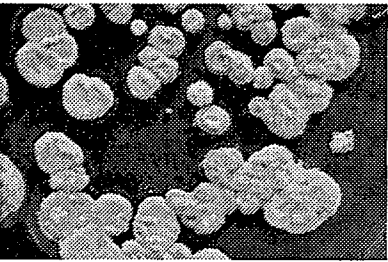
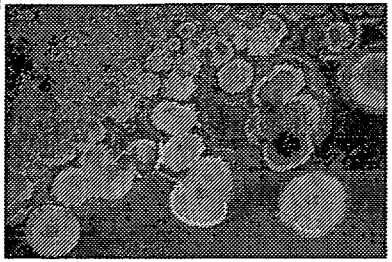
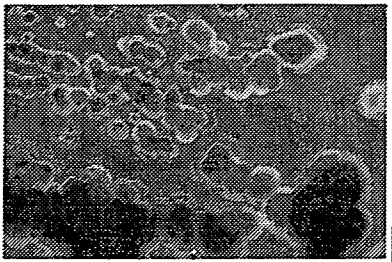
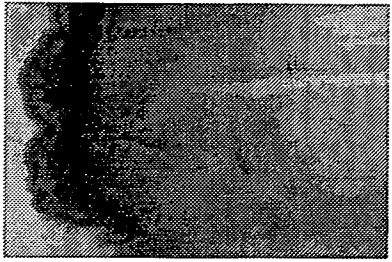
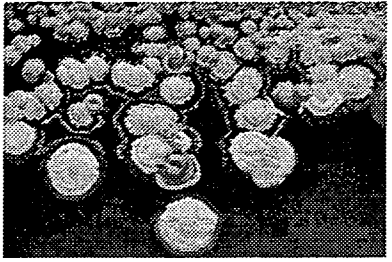
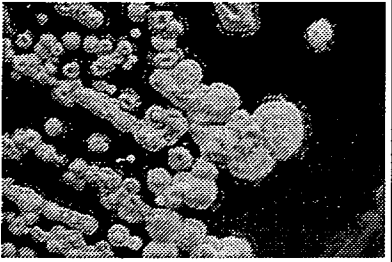
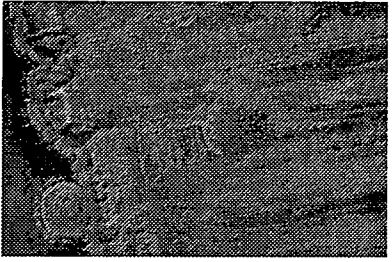
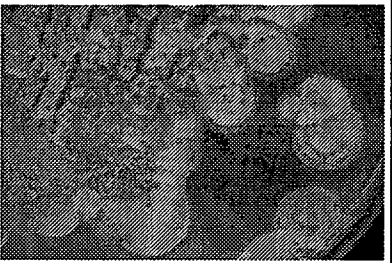
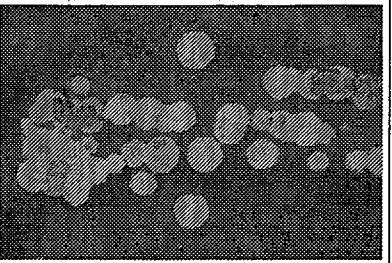
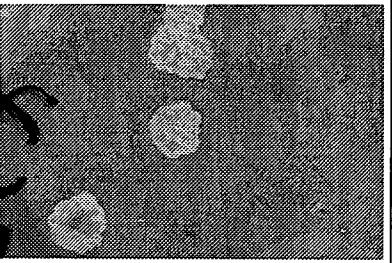
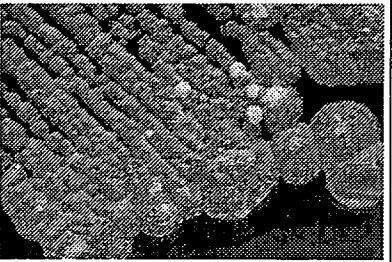
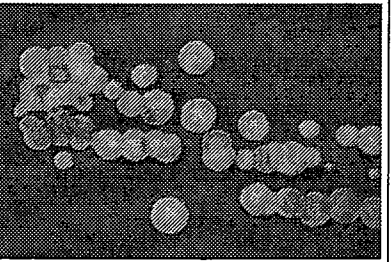
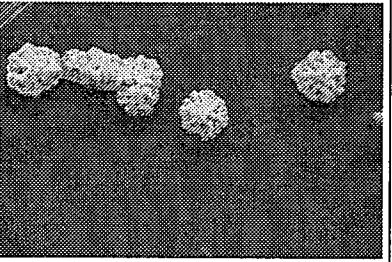
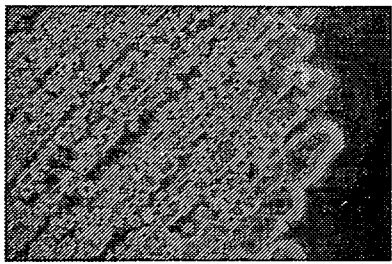
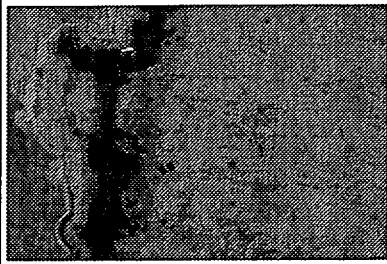

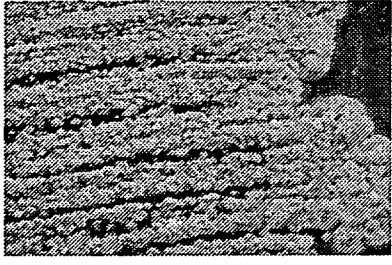
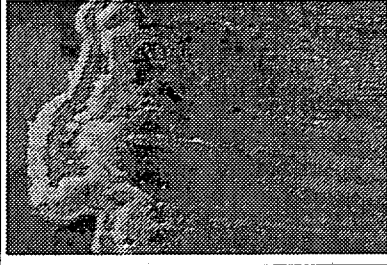

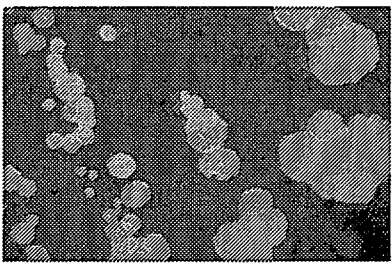
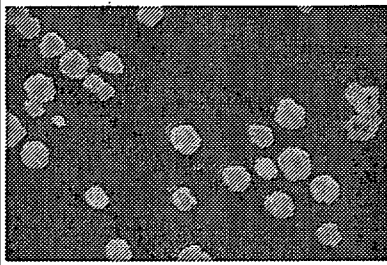
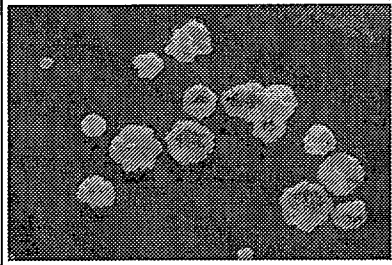
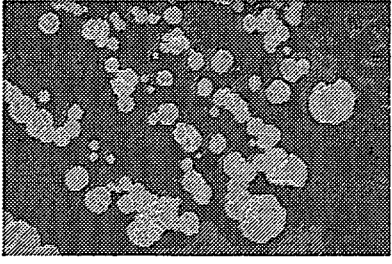
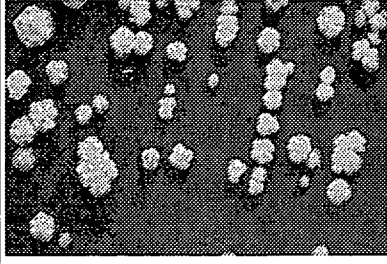
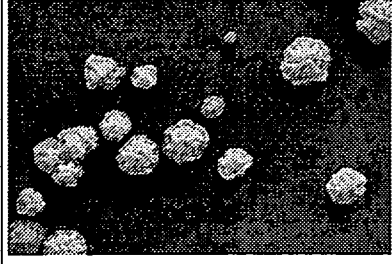

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2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

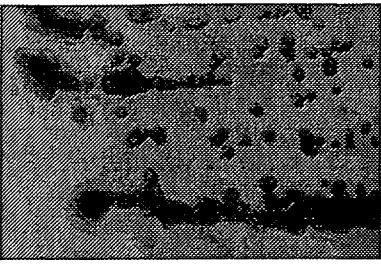
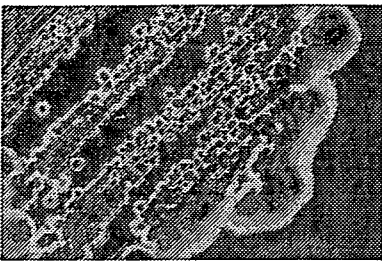
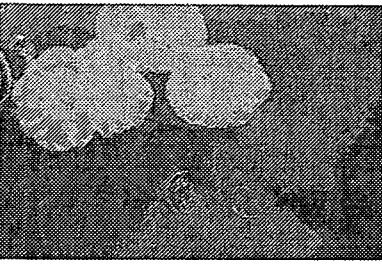
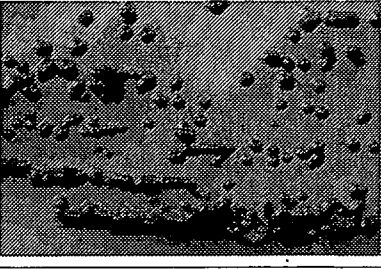
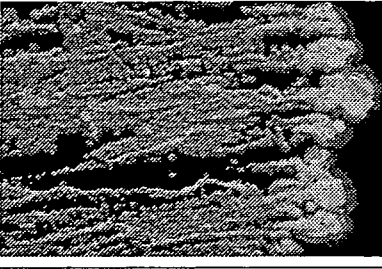
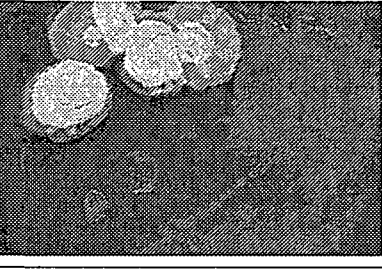
		
		
416	422b	423
2007.6.8	2007.6.9	2007.6.8

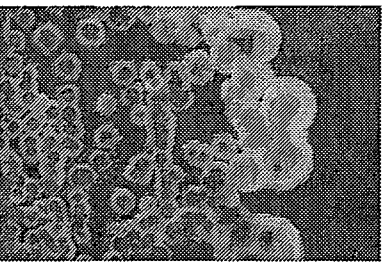
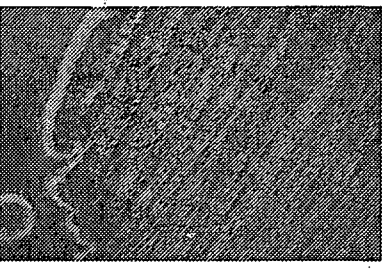
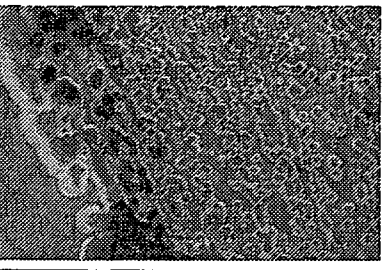
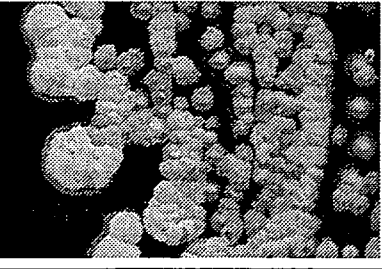
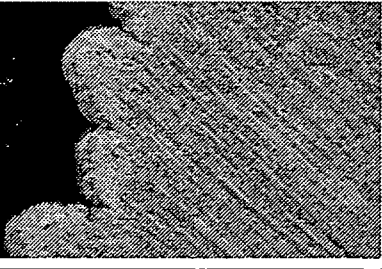
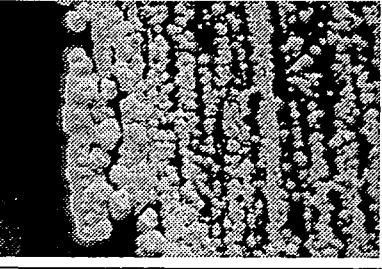
		
		
424	425	433
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.9.

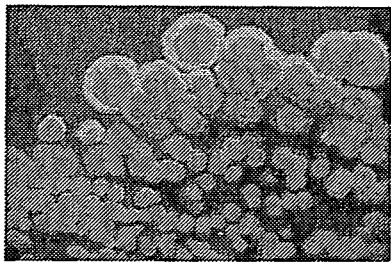
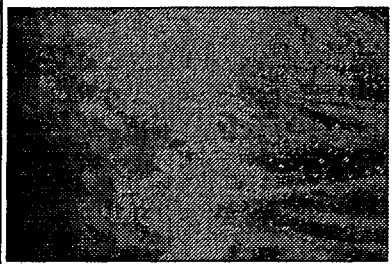
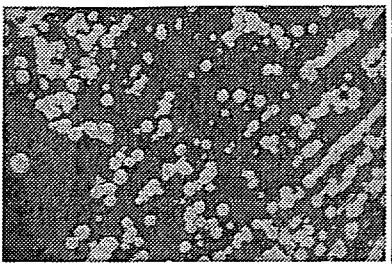
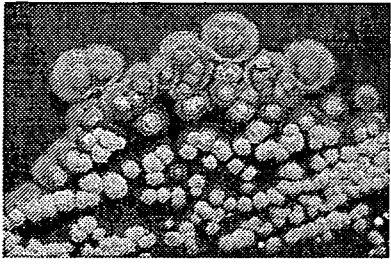

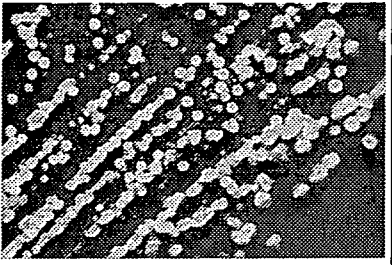
		
		
435	436	438
2007.6.8	2007.6.9	2007.6.8

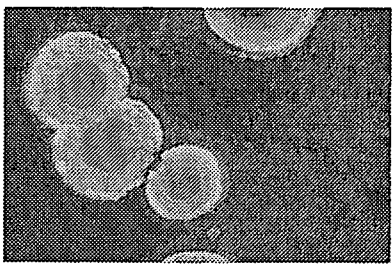
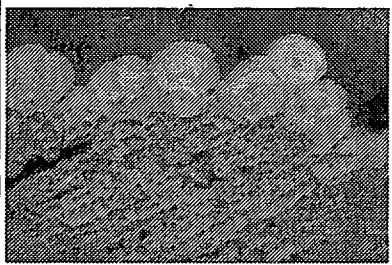
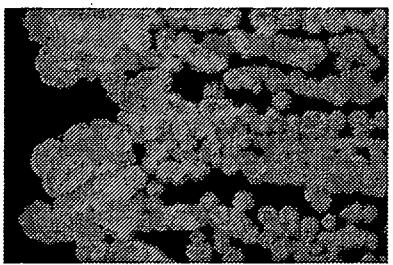
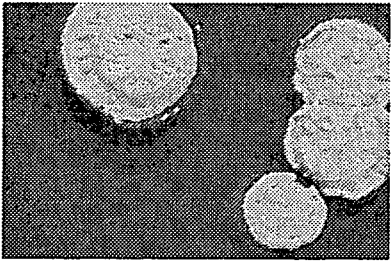
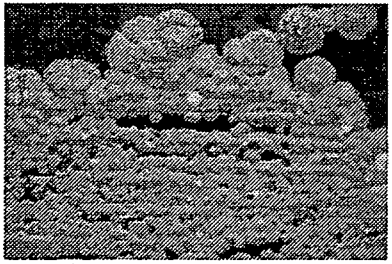
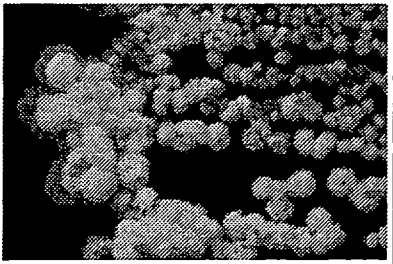
		
		
447	441	439
2007.6.8	2007.6.9	2007.6.9.

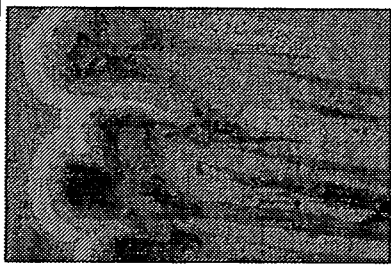
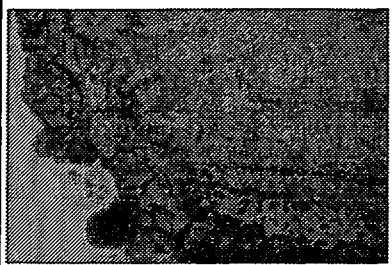
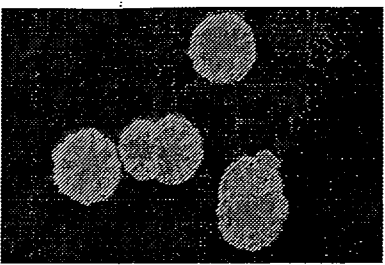
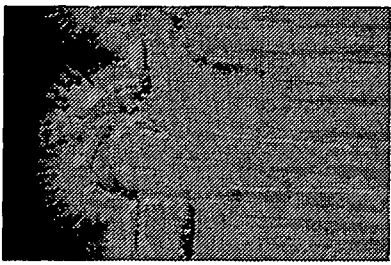

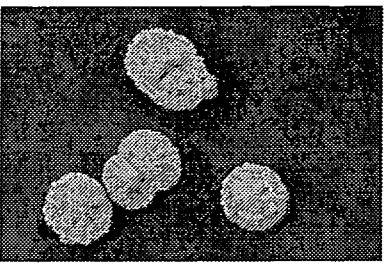
		
		
464	455b	455a
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

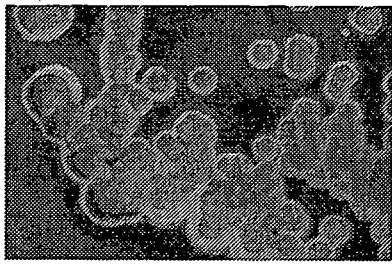
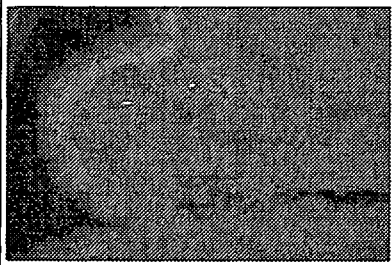
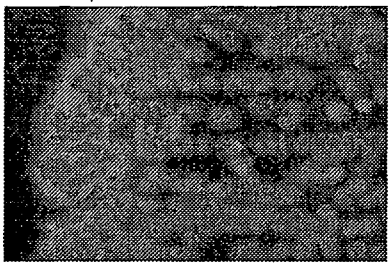
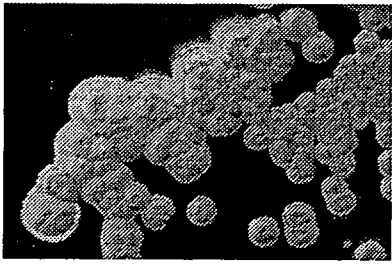
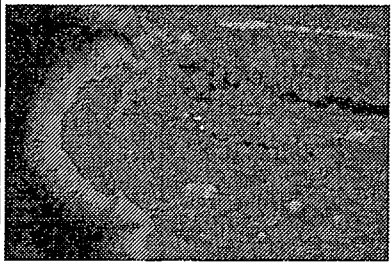
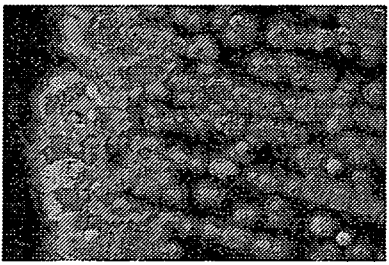
		
		
465	472	484
2007.6.9	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

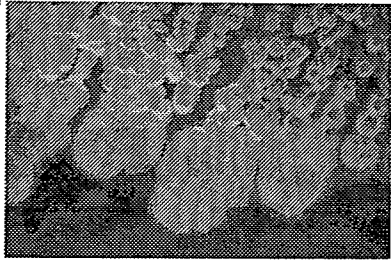
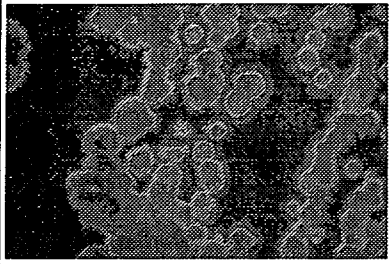

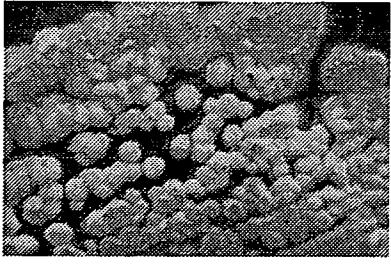
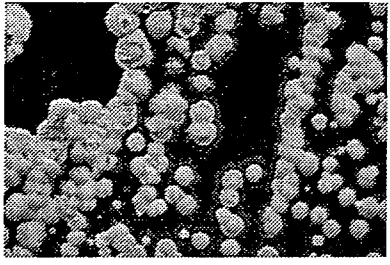
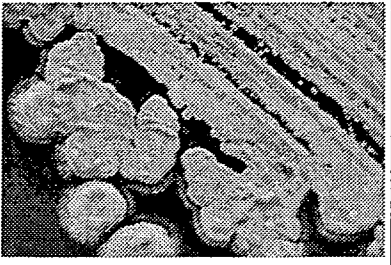
		
		
487	492	493
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

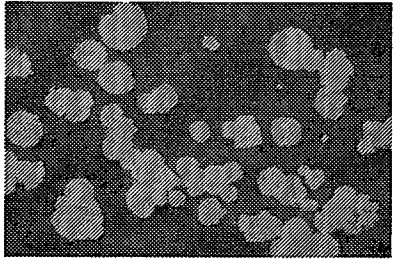
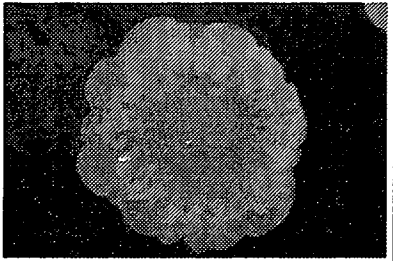
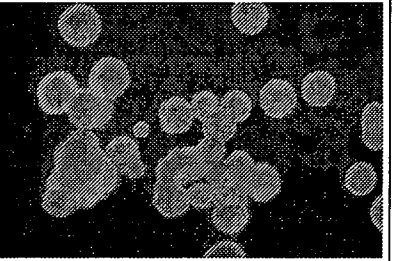
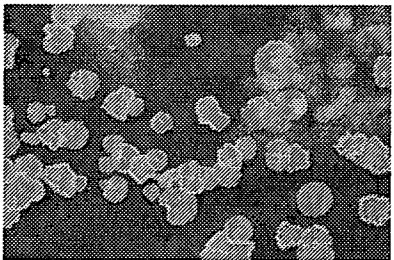
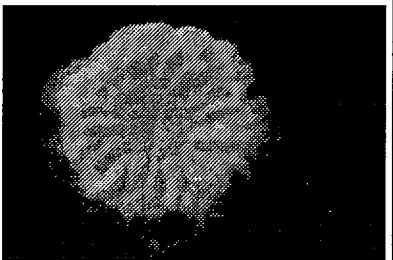
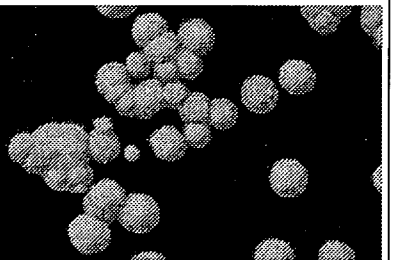
				
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			505	2007.6.8

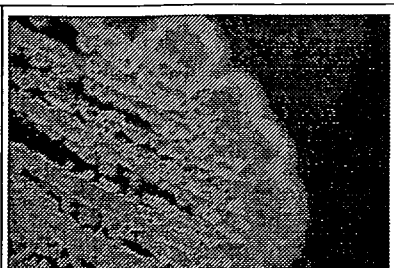
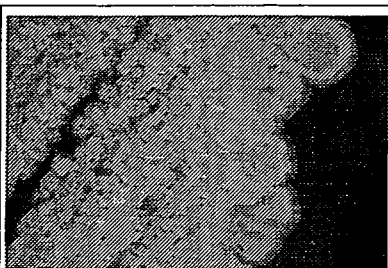
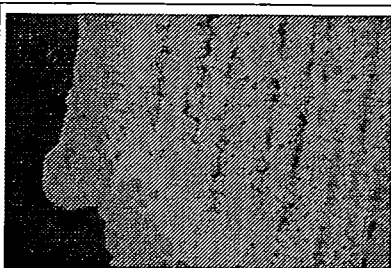
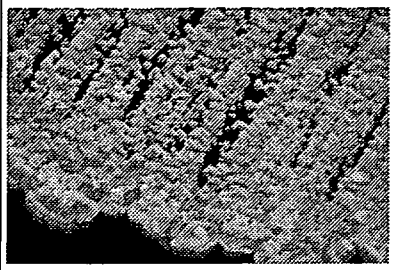
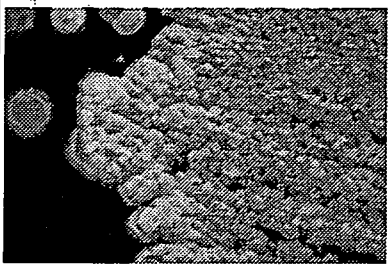
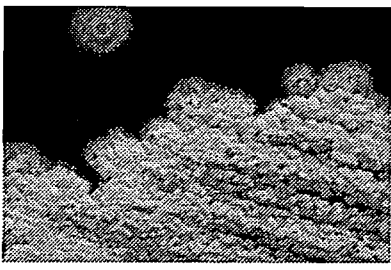
				
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			508	2007.6.8
			512a	2007.6.8

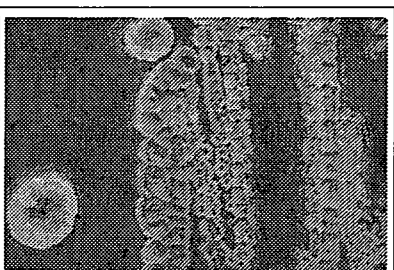

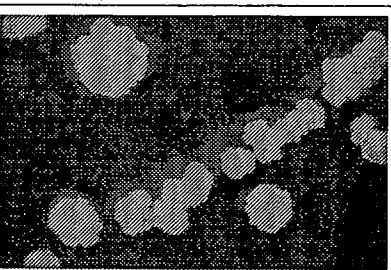
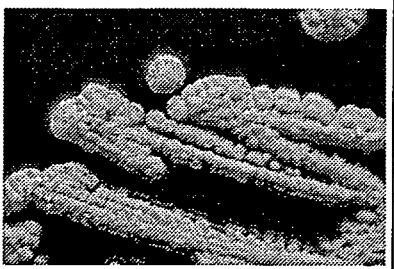
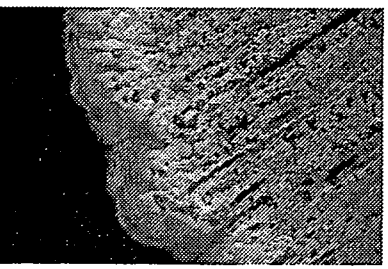
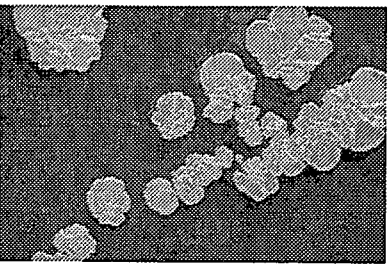
				
			513	2007.6.9
			519	2007.6.9
			525	2007.6.9

				
			536a	2007.6.9
			536b	2007.6.9
			537b	2007.6.9

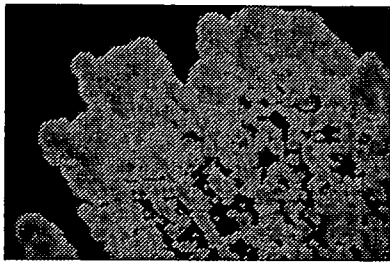
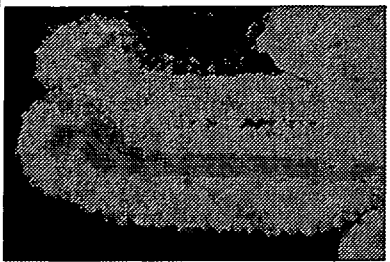
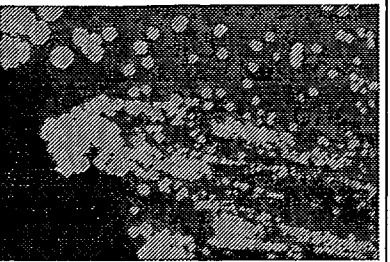
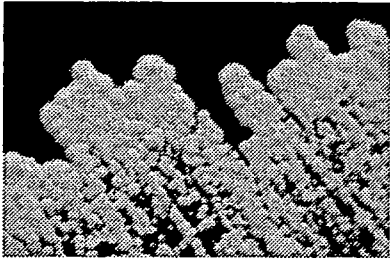
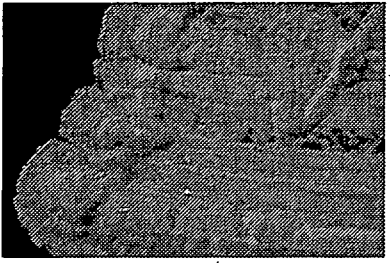
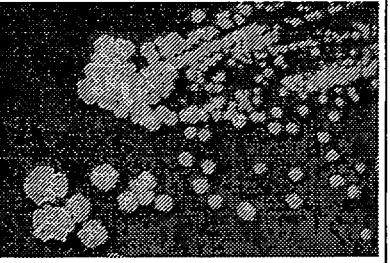
		
		
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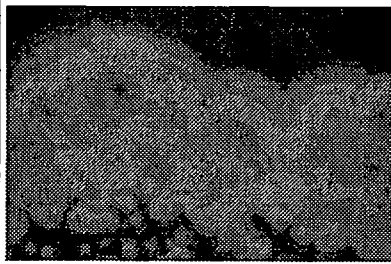
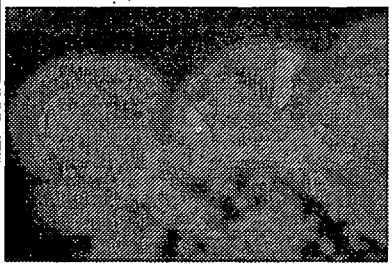

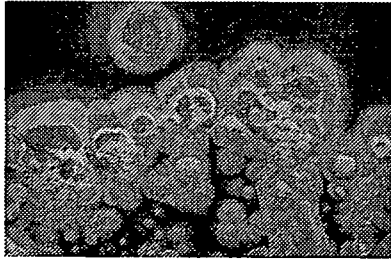
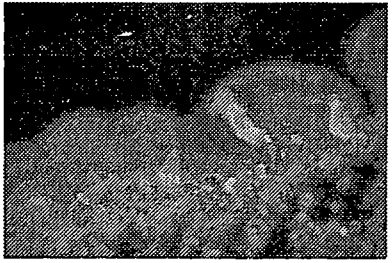
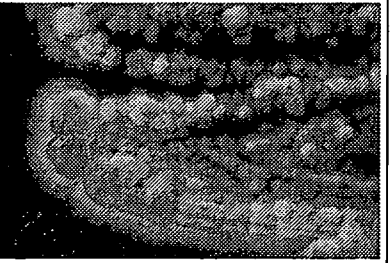
		
		
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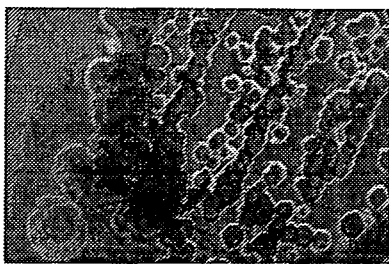
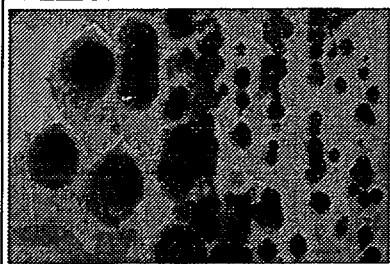
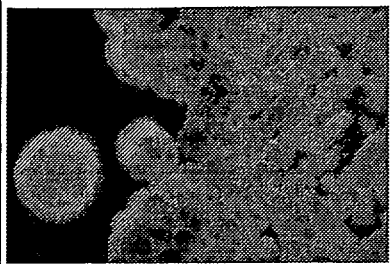
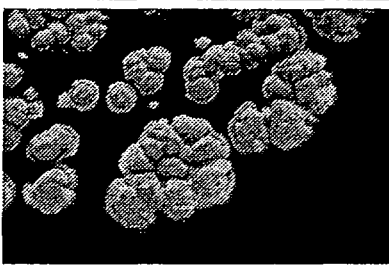
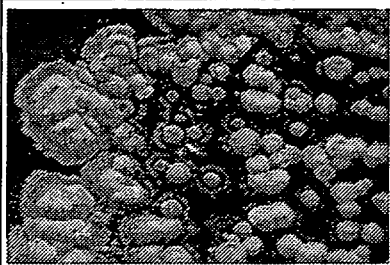
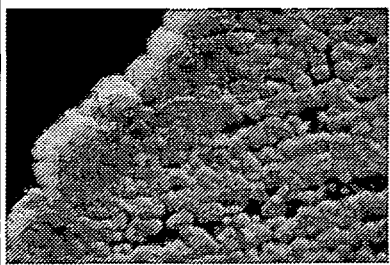
		
		
558	561	562
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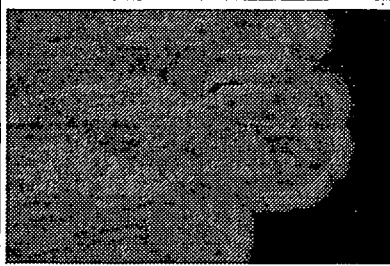
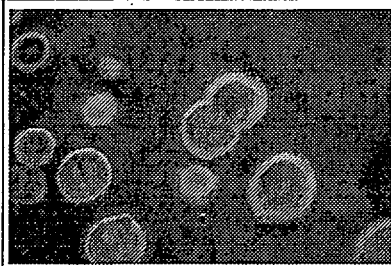
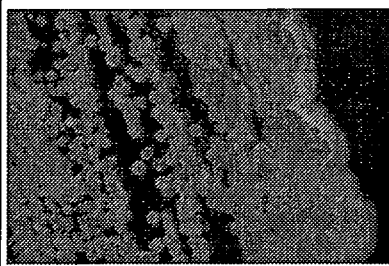
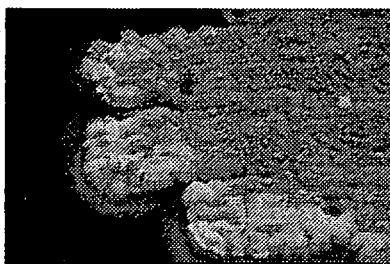
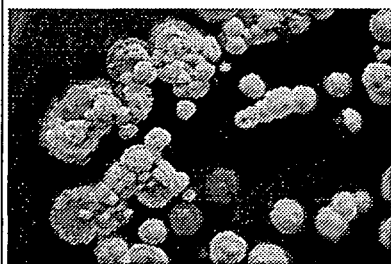
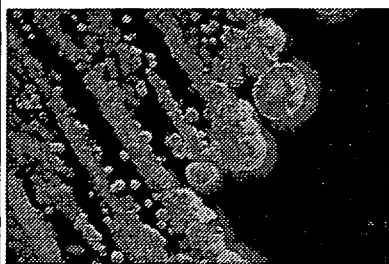
		
		
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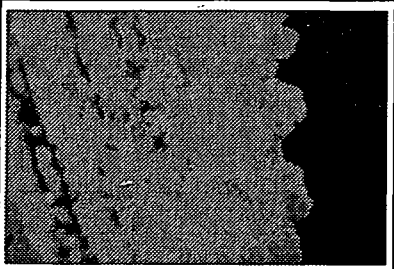
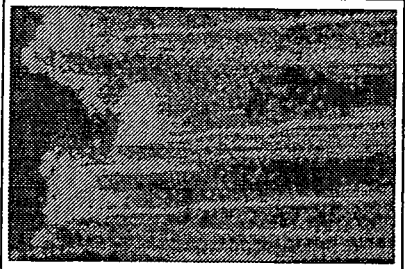
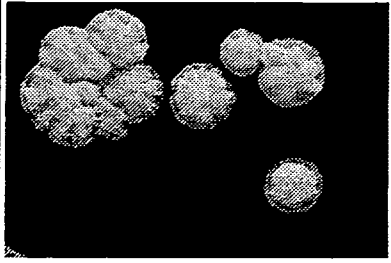
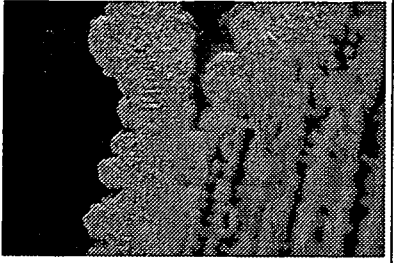



		
		
575	573	569
2007.6.8	2007.6.9	2007.6.9

		
		
583	578	577b
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.9

		
		
598	590	586
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

		
		
604	600	599
2007.6.8	2007.6.8	2007.6.8

		
		
<p>605</p>	<p>607</p>	<p>608</p>
<p>2007.6.8</p>	<p>2007.6.8</p>	<p>2007.6.9</p>

## 別紙 4

## 研究成果の刊行に関する一覧表

## 書籍

著者氏名	論文タイトル名	書籍全体の編集者名	書籍名	出版社名	出版地	出版年	ページ
本年度は該当なし							

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発表者氏名	論文タイトル名	発表誌名	巻号	ページ	出版年
Masaaki Kurihara, Wataru Hakamata, Yukiko Sato, Haruhiro Okuda, Yousuke Demizu, Kosuke Anan, Mitsunobu Doi, Masataka Tanaka, Hhiroshi Suemune.	Computational study on helical structures of oligopeptides containing chiral cyclic $\alpha$ -amino acids.	<i>Peptides 2006</i>		546-547	2007
Kadokura, K.; Rokutani, A.; Yamamoto, M.; Ikegami, T.; Sugita, H.; Itoi, S.; Hakamata, W.; Oku, T.; Nishio, T.	Purification and characterization of <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> extracellular chitinase and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase involved in the production of heterodisaccharide from chitin.	<i>Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology.</i>	75 (2)	357-365	2007
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<p>Kadokura, Kazunari; Sakamoto, Yusuke; Saito, Kaori; Ikegami, Takanori; Hirano, Takako; Hakamata, Wataru; Oku, Tadatake; Nishio, Toshiyuki</p>	<p>Production and secretion of a recombinant <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> chitinase by <i>Escherichia coli</i> and its purification from the culture medium.</p>	<p><i>Bioscience, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry</i></p>	<p>71 (11)</p>	<p>2848-2851</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>Satoh, Tadashi; Cowieson, Nathan P.; Hakamata, Wataru; Ideo, Hiroko; Fukushima, Keiko; Kurihara, Masaaki; Kato, Ryuichi; Yamashita, Katsuko; Wakatsuki, Soichi.</p>	<p>Structural Basis for Recognition of High Mannose Type Glycoproteins by Mammalian Transport Lectin VIP36.</p>	<p><i>Journal of Biological Chemistry</i></p>	<p>282 (38)</p>	<p>28246-28255</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p>Chida, Hirotaka; Nakazawa, Aiko; Akazaki, Hideharu; Hirano, Takako; Suruga, Kohei; Ogawa, Masahiro; Satoh, Tadashi; Kadokura, Kazunari; Yamada, Seiji; Hakamata, Wataru; Isobe, Katsunori; Ito, Tei-ichiro; Ishii, Ryuichi; Nishio, Toshiyuki; Sonoike, Kintake; Oku, Tadatake.</p>	<p>Expression of the algal cytochrome c6 gene in Arabidopsis enhances photosynthesis and growth.</p>	<p><i>Plant and Cell Physiology,</i></p>	<p>48 (7)</p>	<p>948-957</p>	<p>2007</p>

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Y. Demizu, M. Tanaka, M. Nagano, M. Kurihara, M. Doi, T. Maruyama, H. Suemune	Controlling $3^{10}$ -Helix and $\alpha$ -Helix of Short Peptides in the Solid State,	<i>Chem. Pharm. Bull.</i>	55	840-842	2007
M. Tanaka, M. Nagano, Y. Demizu, K. Anan, M. Kurihara, M. Doi, H. Suemune	Side-chain chiral centers of amino acids and helical-screw handedness of their peptides	<i>Peptides 2006</i>	128	268-269	2007
Nagano, M., Tanaka, M., Demizu, Y., Kurihara, M., Doi, M., Suemune, H,	Secondary Structure of Heteropeptides Using Chiral Cyclic $\alpha,\alpha$ -Disubstituted Amino Acids	<i>Peptides 2006</i>	128	476-477	2007

# COMPUTATIONAL STUDY ON CONFORMATION OF OLIGOPEPTIDES CONTAINING CHIRAL CYCLIC $\alpha,\alpha$ -DISUBSTITUTED

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## Introduction

Prediction of the conformation of peptides using computational simulation is an interesting challenge for the design of functionalized and bioactive peptides. We have shown the Monte Carlo conformational search using MacroModel is useful for conformational study of oligopeptides prepared from  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids. Moreover, we have studied conformational analysis of oligopeptides containing chiral  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids to predict the helical screw sense of helical structures ( $\alpha$ -helix,  $3_{10}$ -helix). Here we report computational study on conformation of oligopeptides containing cyclic  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted  $\alpha$ -amino acids with side-chain chiral centers.



Fig. 1. Helical structures of oligopeptides

## Results and Discussion

Conformational search calculations of oligopeptides 1, 2, containing chiral cyclic  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted amino acids, have performed using the Monte Carlo method of MacroModel (ver. 8.1, Schrödinger, Inc.). When AMBER\* force field was used, the global minimum energy conformation of peptide 1 was a left-handed  $\alpha$ -helix, which was more stable than a left-handed  $3_{10}$ -helix by 4.2 kcal/mol. The results were in agreement with its X-ray structure, which showed a left-handed  $\alpha$ -helix [1]

The global minimum energy conformation of peptide 2 was a right-handed helix, which was more stable than a left-handed  $3_{10}$ -helix by 1.6 kcal/m results were obtained by STO-3G level molecular orbital calculation. The difference of energies was small. There were both right- and left-handed  $3_{10}$  in the solid state [2, 3]. These results indicated computational simulation conformational search calculations could predict the helical screw oligopeptides containing chiral cyclic  $\alpha,\alpha$ -disubstituted amino acids.

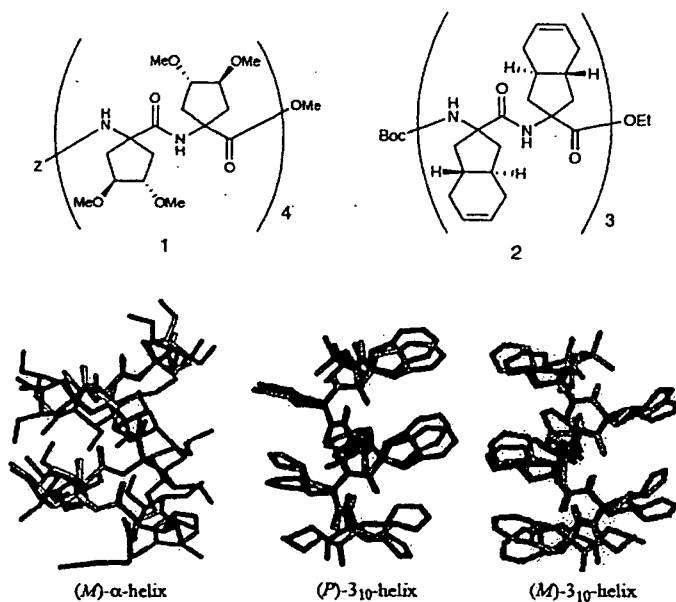


Fig. 2. Modeled structures (light) and X-ray structures (dark) of oligopeptides 1, 2.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported in part by the Budget for Nuclear Research of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, based on the screening and counseling by the Atomic Energy Commission and by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

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## Purification and characterization of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* extracellular chitinase and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase involved in the production of heterodisaccharide from chitin

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**Abstract** A chitin-degrading bacterial strain, KN1699, isolated from Yatsu dry beach (Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, Japan), was identified as *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Treatment of powdered chitin with crude enzyme solution prepared from the supernatant of KN1699 cultures yielded a disaccharide,  $\beta$ -D-*N*-acetylglucosaminyl-(1,4)-D-glucosamine (GlcNAc-GlcN), as the primary chitin degradation product. The extracellular enzymes involved in the production of this heterodisaccharide, chitinase (*Pa*-Chi; molecular mass, 92 kDa) and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase (*Pa*-COD; molecular mass, 46 kDa), were isolated from the crude enzyme solution, and their hydrolysis specificities were elucidated. These studies confirmed that (1) *Pa*-Chi hydrolyzes chitin to produce (GlcNAc)<sub>2</sub> and (2) *Pa*-COD hydrolyzes the acetamide group of reducing end GlcNAc residue of (GlcNAc)<sub>2</sub>. These findings indicate that GlcNAc-

GlcN is produced from chitin by the cooperative hydrolytic reactions of both *Pa*-Chi and *Pa*-COD.

### Introduction

Chitin, a  $\beta$ -(1,4) polymer of *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc), is one of the most abundant biomass polysaccharides, composing the shells of crustaceans such as crab and shrimp, the exoskeletons of insects, and the cell walls of fungi. Oligosaccharides obtained by the hydrolysis of chitin have shown physiological activities. For example, the antitumor (Suzuki et al. 1986; Tokoro et al. 1988; Tsukada et al. 1990) and antimicrobial actions (Tokoro et al. 1989; Kobayashi et al. 1990) of hexa-*N*-acetylchitohexaose [(GlcNAc)<sub>6</sub>] in mice are known to be caused by enhancement of the immunological defense system. Various enzymes involved in chitin hydrolysis [i.e., chitinase (EC 3.2.1.14),  $\beta$ -*N*-acetylhexosaminidase (EC 3.2.1.52), chitin deacetylase (EC 3.5.1.41), and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase (EC 3.5.1)] are known. Chitinase catalyzes the degradation of water-insoluble chitin into water-soluble chitin oligosaccharides by its hydrolytic reaction. A number of chitinases have been isolated from bacteria, and their properties have been investigated (Dahiya et al. 2006). In addition, the genes encoding a variety of chitinases have been cloned. Based on their amino acid sequences, these chitinases are classified in either glycoside hydrolase (GH) family 18 or 19 (<http://atmb.cnrs-mrs.fr/CAZY/>). Most bacterial chitinases belong to GH family 18.  $\beta$ -*N*-Acetylhexosaminidase catalyzes the hydrolysis of chitin oligosaccharides to release the monosaccharide GlcNAc. The enzymes from various sources have been classified in GH families 3, 20 (the main family), and 84.

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An excellent review of microbial  $\beta$ -*N*-acetylhexosaminidases has been published (Scigelova and Crout 1999). Chitin deacetylase and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase are involved in the hydrolysis of the acetamide group of the GlcNAc residue of chitin and chitin oligosaccharides (Tsigos et al. 2000). Both enzymes, isolated from various sources, are classified in carbohydrate esterase (CE) family 4 (<http://afmb.cnrs-mrs.fr/CAZY/>). Several microbial chitin deacetylases and chitin oligosaccharide deacetylases have been isolated and their properties elucidated (Kafetzopoulos et al. 1993; Tsigos and Bouriotis 1995; Gao et al. 1995; Tokuyasu et al. 1996; Ohishi et al. 1997).

To obtain the enzymes that produce specific oligosaccharide from chitin effectively, we screened chitin-degrading bacteria isolated from dry beach soil and from the contents of marine fish intestines. The screen used was the formation of clear zones around colonies on colloidal chitin-agar plates. A number of bacterial strains having chitin-degrading activity were isolated from Yatsu dry beach (Narashino, Chiba Prefecture, Japan). We chose one kind of bacterium (strain KN1699), from these bacteria isolated, through the tests with both chitin decomposition and oligosaccharide production. In this paper, we report the identification of the strain KN1699, oligosaccharide production by extracellular enzyme of this strain, and purification and characterization of the enzyme involved in the oligosaccharide production.

## Materials and methods

### Microorganism

Gram-stain and physiological characterization of strain KN1699 was accomplished using a Color Gram 2 kit (bioMerieux) and an API 20 E kit (bioMerieux), respectively, and the strain was classified according to Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology (Farmer et al. 2005). The genotype of strain KN1699 was investigated by comparing the nucleotide sequence of its 16S rDNA to the sequence database Basic Local Alignment Search Tool for Nucleotide (BLASTN; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/>). Chromosomal DNA from KN1699 was isolated using a High Pure Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Template Preparation Kit (Roche). The 16S rDNA was amplified from the isolated DNA by PCR using a MicroSeq 16S rDNA Full Gene PCR kit (Applied Biosystems), and the resulting PCR product was purified using Quantum Prep PCR Kleen Spin Columns (Bio-Rad). DNA sequence analysis was performed by the dideoxynucleotide method (Sanger et al. 1977). The nucleotide sequence of the PCR product was determined using an automated DNA sequencer (ABI Prism 3100 Genetic Analyzer, Applied Biosystems).

### Chemicals

Glucosamine (GlcN), GlcNAc, chitin oligosaccharides [(GlcNAc)<sub>2-6</sub>], and  $\beta$ -chitin flake were purchased from Seikagaku Kogyo. Powdered  $\alpha$ -chitin was obtained from Wako Pure Chemical Industries.  $\beta$ -Chitin flake was ground to a powder using a blender (Wonder Blender WB-1, Osaka Chemical). Colloidal chitin was prepared using powdered  $\alpha$ -chitin according to the method of Shimahara and Takiguchi (1988). Artificial seawater was prepared using the Sealife (Marine Tech) salt mixture. All other chemicals were of analytical grade.

### Preparation of the crude enzyme solution

Strain KN1699 was grown at 28°C for 16 h with shaking (135 rpm) in 10 ml of half-strength artificial seawater containing 1% (w/v) peptone, 0.1% (w/v) yeast extract, and 0.5% (w/v) powdered  $\alpha$ -chitin. To produce sufficient chitinase for purification and characterization, 5 ml of the above culture was added to 1 l of fresh medium and cultivated for 60 h as described above. After centrifuging the cells (6,000×g, 15 min at 4°C), proteins in the supernatant were precipitated by adding (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (80% saturation) and collected by centrifugation (6,000×g, 20 min at 4°C). The resulting precipitate was dissolved in 50 ml of 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), and the solution was dialyzed against the same buffer to afford crude enzyme solution.

### Purification of enzyme

Purification of chitinase (*Pa*-Chi): The crude enzyme solution was loaded on a DEAE-Toyopearl 650M resin (Tosoh) column ( $\phi$ 2.5×20 cm), pre-equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), and the enzyme was eluted with a linear gradient of 0–0.4 M NaCl in the same buffer (total volume, 800 ml). The active fractions were collected, dialyzed against 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), then the enzyme solution was again loaded on the DEAE-Toyopearl 650M resin column and eluted with a linear gradient of 0–0.3 M NaCl in the same buffer (total volume, 800 ml). After the active fractions were collected and concentrated by diaflow filtration using an Amicon PM-10 membrane, *Pa*-Chi was further purified by gel filtration chromatography using a Toyopearl HW-55F resin (Tosoh) column ( $\phi$ 1.6×100 cm) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 0.2 M NaCl.

Purification of chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase (*Pa*-COD): Ten milliliters of the KN1699 starter culture was diluted into 2 l of half-strength artificial seawater containing 1% (w/v) peptone and 0.1% (w/v) yeast extract, and the

culture was incubated at 28°C for 48 h with shaking (135 rpm). The cells were removed by centrifugation (6,000×g, 15 min at 4°C), and proteins in the supernatant were precipitated with (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (80% saturation) and collected by centrifugation (6,000×g, 20 min at 4°C). The precipitate was dissolved in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and dialyzed against the same buffer. The resulting enzyme solution was loaded on a DEAE Sepharose Fast Flow resin (GE Healthcare Bio-science) column (ϕ3.2×11 cm) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) and eluted with a linear gradient of 0–0.4 M NaCl in the same buffer (total volume, 800 ml). The active enzyme fractions were collected, dialyzed against 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), and loaded on a DEAE-Toyopearl 650M resin column (ϕ1.5×10 cm) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0). Enzyme was eluted with a linear gradient of 0–0.4 M NaCl in the same buffer (total volume, 200 ml). The active fractions were collected, dialyzed as above, and loaded on a Phenyl Sepharose HP resin (GE Healthcare Bio-science) column (ϕ1.0×26 cm) pre-equilibrated with 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0) containing 0.7 M (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. *Pa*-COD was eluted from the column with a linear gradient of 0.7–0 M (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in the same buffer (total volume, 200 ml).

#### Protein analysis

The homogeneities of the enzyme preparations were confirmed by native- and sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). In the SDS-PAGE, 2-mercaptoethanol was adopted as a reducing agent and was added to the sample buffer. Proteins in the polyacrylamide gels were stained using Coomassie Brilliant Blue R250 (Tokyo Kasei). Protein concentrations of the enzyme solutions were determined by the Lowry's method using bovine serum albumin (Sigma) as a standard. The *N*-terminal amino acid sequences of the enzymes were determined using a Perkin Elmer Biosystems model Procise 49X HT protein sequencer.

#### Assay of enzyme

**Assay of chitinase activity:** The assay mixture, consisting of 50 μl enzyme solution and 950 μl 0.5% (w/v) powdered β-chitin in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0), was incubated at 37°C for 30 min. The enzymatic reaction was terminated by heating at 100°C for 5 min in a hot dry bath, and then the reaction mixture was centrifuged at 10,000×g for 4 min. The amount of reducing sugar released was determined using a modification of the Schales methodology (Imoto and Yagashita 1971), using GlcNAc as a standard. One unit of chitinase activity was defined as the amount of enzyme required to liberate reducing sugar equivalent to 1 μmol of GlcNAc per minute under the assay conditions.

**Assay of chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase activity:** The assay mixture consisted of 75 μl enzyme solution and 425 μl 1-mM (GlcNAc)<sub>2</sub> in 20 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0). The reaction mixture was incubated at 37°C for 30 min, then the reaction was stopped by heating at 100°C for 5 min in a hot dry bath. The amount of GlcN residues produced by the enzymatic reaction was determined according to the method of Dische and Borenfreund (1950) using GlcN as a standard. One unit of chitin oligosaccharide deacetylase activity was defined as the amount of enzyme required to produce 1 μmol of GlcN residues per minute under the assay conditions.

To investigate the effects of pH on the activities and stabilities of the enzymes, they were incubated in following buffers: pH 3.0–6.0, sodium citrate buffer; pH 6.0–8.0, sodium phosphate buffer; pH 8.0–11.0, sodium borate buffer. Temperature studies on the activity and the stability of the enzymes were conducted in sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.0).

#### Thin layer chromatography analysis

Oligosaccharides produced from β-chitin, (GlcNAc)<sub>2</sub>, and (GlcNAc)<sub>3</sub> by the enzymatic reactions were analyzed by Silica Gel thin layer chromatography (TLC) using 5:4:3 (v/v/v) *n*-butanol/methanol/16% aqueous ammonia as the mobile phase. Silica Gel 60 TLC plates (0.25 mm) were obtained from E. Merck. After developing the TLC plates twice, compounds were visualized by spraying with an aqueous solution of 2.4% (w/v) phosphomolybdic acid, 5% (v/v) H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and 1.5% (v/v) H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (phosphomolybdic acid reagent) or ethanol containing 0.5% (w/v) ninhydrin (ninhydrin reagent), followed by heating.

#### Purification and identification of oligosaccharide

Aqueous solutions containing the oligosaccharide produced by incubation of powdered β-chitin with crude enzyme were filtered through no. 4 filter paper (Kiryama), then the filtrate was loaded on a charcoal (Wako Pure Chemical) column (ϕ2.0×15 cm) pre-equilibrated with water. The oligosaccharide was eluted from the column with water and lyophilized. After the resulting white powder was dissolved in a small amount of water, the solution was loaded on a Toyopearl HW-40F resin (Tosoh) column (ϕ2.5×90 cm) pre-equilibrated with water. The oligosaccharide was eluted from the column with 20% (v/v) ethanol. The oligosaccharide-containing fractions were collected and dried then re-dissolved in a small amount of water and lyophilized to afford the oligosaccharide as a white powder.

The structure of the oligosaccharide was characterized by <sup>1</sup>H nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometry using D<sub>2</sub>O as a solvent and mass spectrometry.

The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded with a Varian Mercury 400 spectrometer at 20°C. Chemical shifts were expressed in ppm downfield shift from  $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{Si}$ . Mass spectra were obtained with a Waters MicroMass ZQ instrument under positive or negative ion electron-spray ionization conditions.

## Results

### Identification of the strain

The bacterial isolate obtained from soil of Yatsu dry beach, strain KN1699, was identified from its morphological and physiological characteristics (Table 1) and from the nucleotide sequence encoding its 16S rDNA. According to Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology, the isolate was classified as a bacterium belonging to the genus *Vibrio*. A search for similarity with 16S rDNA in the BLASTN database confirmed that the isolate was most closely related to *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* O3:K6 (Table 2). These taxonomic studies allowed us to conclude that strain KN1699 was *V. parahaemolyticus*.

### Analysis of the oligosaccharide produced by enzymes in the culture fluid

The oligosaccharide produced by the action of crude enzyme (prepared from the supernatant of *V. parahaemolyticus* KN1699 cultures) on  $\beta$ -chitin was analyzed using

**Table 1** Morphological and physiological characteristics of strain KN1699

Characteristics	Results
Form	Rods
Gram stain	Negative
Motility	Positive
Oxidase	Positive
Nitrate reduction	Positive
Indole production	Positive
Gas from D-glucose	Negative
Acetoin production	Negative
Hydrogen sulfide production	Positive
Gelatin hydrolysis	Negative
Urea hydrolysis	Negative
Utilization of citrate	Negative
Utilization of sucrose	Negative
Arginine dihydrolase	Negative
Lysine decarboxylase	Positive
Ornithine decarboxylase	Positive
$\beta$ -Galactosidase	Negative
Growth in NaCl	0.5–7%
Growth on TCBS	Green

**Table 2** BLASTN results of comparison of the 16S rDNA of strain KN1699 to the sequence database

Accession number	Species	Strain number	Similarity (%)
BA000031	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	O3:K6	100
BA000032	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	O3:K6	99.9
AY345403	<i>Bacterium</i>	K2-74	99.9
AF319769	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	Ex25	99.9
AY911391	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	MP-2	99.9
AF500207	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	CJ11052	99.8
AJ874352	<i>Vibrio natriegens</i>	01/097	99.8
AY542526	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	KYJ962	99.8
AY738129	<i>Vibrio campbelli</i>	90-69B3	99.7
AF388387	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	ATCC17802	99.5
AF246980	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	98CJ11027	99.4
AY911396	<i>Vibrio harveyi</i>	SW-3	99.3
AF319770	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	Ex97	99.3
AF064637	<i>Vibrio</i> sp.	NAP-4	99.3
AF388389	<i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>	ATCC17802	99.3
AJ874353	<i>Vibrio natriegens</i>	01/252	99.2

TLC. When phosphomolybdic acid reagent was used to visualize the oligosaccharide, TLC analysis of the reaction mixture showed a single product (Fig. 1a), which was also visualized by ninhydrin reagent (Fig. 1b). These results suggest that the product is an oligosaccharide possessing a free amino group. Although the mobility of this compound corresponded to that of chitobiose  $[(\text{GlcN})_2]$ , it is necessary to confirm its structure. Therefore, the compound was purified and its structure analyzed by electron-spray ionization mass spectrometry (ESIMS) and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR. The ESIMS spectra of the product corresponded to  $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$  and  $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$  species at  $m/z$  of 381 and 383, respectively, indicating that this compound is a disaccharide consisting of GlcN and GlcNAc. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR signals obtained (400 MHz,  $\text{D}_2\text{O}$ ) were assigned as follows;  $\alpha$ -anomer (non-reducing end sugar moiety)  $\delta$  1.93 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 3.31–3.53 (m, 3H, H-3, H-4, and H-5), 3.61–3.64 (m, 2H, H-2, and H-6a), 3.80 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b}$  1.2 Hz,  $J_{6a,6b}$  12.4 Hz, H-6b), 4.43 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  8.4 Hz, H-1), (reducing end sugar moiety)  $\delta$  2.61 (dd, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  3.6 Hz,  $J_{2,3}$  10.6 Hz, H-2), 3.31–3.53 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.55–3.59 (m, 1H, H-6a), 3.68 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b}$  2.4 Hz,  $J_{6a,6b}$  12.4 Hz, H-6b), 3.68 (dd, 1H, H-3), 3.73 (ddd, 1H,  $J_{4,5}$  10.0 Hz, H-5), 5.06 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  3.6 Hz, H-1);  $\beta$ -anomer (non-reducing end sugar moiety)  $\delta$  1.93 (s, 3H,  $\text{COCH}_3$ ), 3.31–3.53 (m, 3H, H-3, H-4, and H-5), 3.61–3.64 (m, 2H, H-2, and H-6a), 3.80 (dd, 1H,  $J_{5,6b}$  1.2 Hz,  $J_{6a,6b}$  12.4 Hz, H-6b), 4.44 (d, 1H,  $J_{1,2}$  8.4 Hz, H-1), (reducing end sugar moiety)  $\delta$  2.48 (t, 1H,