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学位論文審査の要旨

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学位論文題名

Structure and function of dextran-related enzymes from *Streptococcus mutans*

(*Streptococcus mutans*由来デキストラン関連酵素の構造と機能に関する研究)

The thesis is composed of 121 pages, 45 figures, 16 tables, and 5 chapters with 1 reference dissertation.

Streptococcus mutans extracellularly produces dextran to cause tooth decay, so that it is of interested to study the depolymerizing enzymes from *S. mutans*. This bacterium generates dextranase (SmDex), which hydrolyzes α -(1→6)-glucosidic linkages of dextran to produce isomaltooligosaccharides (IGs). IGs are incorporated into the cells and hydrolyzed to glucose by dextran glucosidase (SmDG). IGs, known to have a prebiotic effect, are utilized for biochemistry and food science. The goal of this study is the production of IGs with the various degrees of polymerization (DPs) using the wild-type or engineered SmDex. SmDG can also catalyze the production of IGs by transglucosylation, necessary to analyze its mechanism. Furthermore, a function-unknown enzyme (SmTre13) having sequence similarity to oligo-1,6-glucosidases, which catalyze the hydrolysis of IGs, is encoded in the genome of *S. mutans*. This study also elucidated the substrate specificity of SmTre13.

1. Dextranase (SmDex)

At the initial reaction stage, SmDex generated IGs with DP 3 (IG3) and DP 4 from 0.4% dextran, followed by producing glucose and isomaltose (IG2). Reaction on 4% dextran yielded IGs with higher DP (IGh), which provides DP-regulating production of IGs. Mutations T558H, W279A/T563N and W279F/T563N increased IGh from 0.4% dextran. T558H especially produced IG with DP 5 at a high rate under this reaction conditions. Bond-cleavage frequency of the wild type and its derivatives was analyzed

using synthesized *p*-nitrophenyl α -isomaltooligosaccharides, indicating that these mutations affected an affinity at the -4 subsite.

2. Dextran glucosidase (SmDG)

SmDG hydrolyzes α -(1 \rightarrow 6)-glucosidic linkage at non-reducing end of substrates, but not α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-glucosidic linkage. A previous study demonstrated that Val195, Lys275, and Glu371 were important residues for recognizing α -(1 \rightarrow 6)-linkage. Further amino acid candidate for α -(1 \rightarrow 6)-recognition is found by sequence comparison with α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-specific homologs. Therefore, the replacement of this candidate with residue of α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-specific group was conducted using V195A/K275A/E371A of SmDG as a parent enzyme, meaning the generation of quadruple mutant. Another comparison with sucrose-acting homologs also finds that one amino acid of SmDG is distinct, so that alternation of this residue was done using V195A as a parent enzyme, forming a double mutant. Both mutants decreased the activities on α -(1 \rightarrow 6)-substrates but increased those for α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-substrates. The double mutant exhibited higher affinity to sucrose than the wild type. Those alternations also reflected substrate specificity of transglucosylation: wild type displayed the transferring activity on α -(1 \rightarrow 6)-glucosidic substrate, whereas double mutant did both of α -(1 \rightarrow 6)- and α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-substrates, and quadruple mutant did only α -(1 \rightarrow 4)-substrate.

3. Trehalose-6-phosphate hydrolase (SmTre13)

Recombinant SmTre13 displayed superior and moderate specificity toward trehalose 6-phosphate and *p*-nitrophenyl α -glucoside (PNP-Glc), respectively, and slight or no activity on other substrates containing IG2, IG3 and sucrose, thereby indicating that SmTre13 is a trehalose-6-phosphate hydrolase. To understand the recognition mechanism of the phosphate group of substrate, two basic residues were mutated. Both single mutants decreased activities on trehalose 6-phosphate but did not alter those on PNP-Glc, suggesting the phosphate group recognition by two basic residues. To elucidate α -(1 \leftrightarrow 1)- α specificity of SmTre13, the mutant enzymes were generated by replacing two neutral residues individually. Both mutants lost the activity toward trehalose 6-phosphate, while their activities displayed moderate reduction for PNP-Glc and increased for sucrose. The results suggest that the mutated residues are involved in α -(1 \leftrightarrow 1)- α specificity of SmTre13.

Therefore, we acknowledge that the author is qualified to be granted the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Agriculture from Hokkaido University.