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The Annual Report is published to record the activity of the International Center for Biotechnology (ICBiotech) and issued once in each fiscal year. It contains scientific articles, progress reports, letters, and announcement from the Center. The editor welcomes the submission of appropriate articles from all persons who are concerned with the activity of the Center. All the contributions, however, will be reviewed by editors before their acceptance. The scientific paper herein should be treated as personal communications and not treated as original publications. The Annual Report is distributed upon request to the International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University, 2-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871, Japan (e-mail: [info@icb.osaka-u.ac.jp](mailto:info@icb.osaka-u.ac.jp)). The editors are very grateful to Ms. Fumiko Sawazumi for her technical help.

## CONTENTS

<a href="#"><u>Cloning and Characterization of a Novel Gene Involved in Nitrogen Fixation in <i>Heliobacterium chlorum</i>: A Possible Regulatory Gene</u></a> <i>J. Enkh-Amgalan, H. Kawasaki, H. Oh-oka and T. Seki</i>	1
<a href="#"><u>In Planta Production of Immunogenic Poliovirus Peptide Using Tobacco Mosaic Virus-Based Vector System</u></a> <i>K. Fujiyama, W. Saejung, I. Yanagihara, J. Nakao, R. Misaki, T. Honda, Y. Watanabe and T. Seki</i>	13
<a href="#"><u>Molecular Evolution of the <i>nif</i> Gene Cluster Carrying <i>nifl</i><sub>1</sub> and <i>nifl</i><sub>2</sub> Genes in the Gram-Positive Phototrophic Bacterium <i>Heliobacterium chlorum</i></u></a> <i>J. Enkh-Amgalan, H. Kawasaki and T. Seki</i>	19
<a href="#"><u>Regulation of Aspartokinase, Aspartate Semialdehyde Dehydrogenase, Dihydrodipicolinate Synthase and Dihydrodipicolinate Reductase in <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i></u></a> <i>M. N. Cahyanto, H. Kawasaki, M. Nagashio, K. Fujiyama and T. Seki</i>	29
<a href="#"><u>Expression of Human CMP-N-Acetylneuraminic Acid Synthetase and CMP-Sialic Acid Transporter in Tobacco Suspension-Cultured Cell</u></a> <i>R. Misaki, K. Fujiyama and T. Seki</i>	37
<a href="#"><u>N-Linked Glycan Structures of a Mouse Monoclonal Antibody Produced from Tobacco BY2 Suspension-Cultured Cells</u></a> <i>K. Fujiyama, R. Misaki, A. Katsura, T. Tanaka, A. Furukawa, T. Omasa and T. Seki</i>	43
<a href="#"><u>Enhancement of Recombinant Soluble Dengue Virus 2 Envelope Domain III Protein Production in <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>trxB</i> and <i>gor</i> Double Mutant</u></a> <i>W. Saejung, C. Puttikhunt, T. Prommool, P. Sojikul, R. Tanaka, K. Fujiyama, P. Malasit and T. Seki</i>	51
<a href="#"><u><i>Labrys okinawensis</i> sp. nov. and <i>Labrys miyagiensis</i> sp. nov., Budding Bacteria Isolated from Rhizosphere Habitats in Japan, and Emended Descriptions of the Genus <i>Labrys</i> and <i>Labrys monachus</i></u></a> <i>M. S. Islam, H. Kawasaki, Y. Nakagawa, T. Hattori and T. Seki</i>	59

<a href="#"><u>Identification of the <i>bkdAB</i> Gene Cluster, a Plausible Source of the Starter-Unit for Virginiamycin M Production in <i>Streptomyces virginiae</i></u></a>	67
<i>N. Pulsawat, S. Kitani, H. Kinoshita, Chang Kwon Lee and T. Nihira</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Characterization of Biosynthetic Gene Cluster for the Production of Virginiamycin M, a Streptogramin Type A Antibiotic, in <i>Stereptomyces virginiae</i></u></a>	75
<i>N. Pulsawat, S. Kitani and T. Nihira</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Cloning and Characterization of a Gene Encoding <math>\gamma</math>-Butyrolactone Autoregulator Receptor from <i>Saccharopolyspora erythraea</i></u></a>	87
<i>Yong-Jik Lee, Soo-Hwan Yeo, In Seon Lee, Sam-Pin Lee, S. Kitani, T. Nihira and Hyun Soo Kim</i>	
<a href="#"><u><i>Streptomyces</i>-Derived Induction System for Gene Expression in Cultured Plant Cells</u></a>	95
<i>T. Shindo, T. Takahashi, T. Nihira, Y. Yamada, K. Kato and A. Shinmyo</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Development of Transformation System in <i>Monascus purpureus</i> Using an Autonomous Replication Vector with Aureobasidin A Resistance Gene</u></a>	103
<i>T. Shimizu, H. Kinoshita and T. Nihira</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Chromosome-Shuffling Technique for Selected Chromosomal Segments in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i></u></a>	109
<i>M. Sugiyama, E. Yamamoto, Y. Mukai, Y. Kaneko, M. Nishizawa and S. Harashima</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Chromosome XII Context is Important for rDNA Function in Yeast</u></a>	115
<i>Yeon-Hee Kim, D. Ishikawa, Ho Phu Ha, M. Sugiyama, Y. Kaneko and S. Harashima</i>	
<a href="#"><u>A Polymerase Chain Reaction-Mediated Yeast Artificial Chromosome-Splitting Technology for Generating Targeted Yeast Artificial Chromosomes Subclones</u></a>	127
<i>Yeon-Hee Kim, M. Sugiyama, Y. Kaneko, K. Fukui, A. Kobayashi and S. Harashima</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Pure and Mixed Genetic Lines of <i>Saccharomyces bayanus</i> and <i>Saccharomyces pastorianus</i> and Their Contribution to the Larger Brewing Strain Genome</u></a>	141
<i>S. Rainieri, Y. Kodama, Y. Kaneko, K. Mikata, Y. Nakao and T. Ashikari</i>	

<a href="#"><u>Technical Problems and Practical Operations in Plant Metabolomics</u></a> <i>T. Bamba and E. Fukusaki</i>	149
<a href="#"><u>Time-Course Metabolic Profiling in <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> Cell Cultures after Salt Stress Treatment</u></a> <i>Jae Kwang Kim, T. Bamba, K. Harada, E. Fukusaki and A. Kobayashi</i>	155
<a href="#"><u>Prediction of Japanese Green Tea Ranking by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry-Based Hydrophilic Metabolite Fingerprinting</u></a> <i>W. Pongsuwan, E. Fukusaki, T. Bamba, T. Yonetani, T. Yamahara and A. Kobayashi</i>	165
<a href="#"><u>Pressure-Assisted Capillary Electrophoresis Mass Spectrometry Using Combination of Polarity Reversion and Electroosmotic Flow for Metabolomics Anion Analysis</u></a> <i>K. Harada, E. Fukusaki and A. Kobayashi</i>	171
<a href="#"><u>Single Cell-Based Analysis of Torenia Petal Pigments by a Combination of ArF Excimer Laser Micro Sampling and Nano-High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)-Mass Spectrometry</u></a> <i>S. Kajiyama, K. Harada, E. Fukusaki and A. Kobayashi</i>	179
<a href="#"><u>Size Exclusion Chromatography of Standard Polystyrenes with a Wide Range of Molecular Weight Up to <math>7.45 \times 10^6</math> on Monolithic Silica Capillary Columns</u></a> <i>K. Ute, S. Yoshida, T. Kitayama, T. Bamba, K. Harada, E. Fukusaki, A. Kobayashi, N. Ishizuka, H. Minakuchi and K. Nakanishi</i>	183
<a href="#"><u><i>In Vivo</i> <math>^{15}\text{N}</math>-Enrichment of Metabolites in Suspension Cultured Cells and Its Application to Metabolomics</u></a> <i>K. Harada, E. Fukusaki, T. Bamba, F. Sato and A. Kobayashi</i>	187
<a href="#"><u>Metabolic Fingerprinting and Profiling of <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> Leaf and Its Cultured Cells T87 by GC/MS</u></a> <i>E. Fukusaki, K. Jumtee, T. Bamba, T. Yamaji and A. Kobayashi</i>	197
<a href="#"><u>Module-Based Analysis of Robustness Tradeoffs in the Heat Shock Response System</u></a> <i>H. Kurata, H. El-Samad, R. Iwasaki, H. Ohtake, J. C. Doyle, I. Grigorova, C. A. Gross and M. Khammash</i>	203

<a href="#"><u>Development of a New Biotechnological Basis for Improving Industrial Sustainability in Japan</u></a>	217
<i>H. Ohtake, S. Yamashita and J. Kato</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Recognition of Culture State Using Two-Dimensional Gel Electrophoresis with an Artificial Neural Network</u></a>	225
<i>N. Izawa, M. Kishimoto, M. Konishi, T. Omasa, S. Shioya and H. Ohtake</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Polyamines Affect Polyphosphate Accumulation in <i>Escherichia coli</i></u></a>	235
<i>K. Motomura, N. Takiguchi, H. Ohtake and A. Kobayashi</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Transcriptional Analysis of the Multicopy <i>hao</i> Gene Coding for Hydroxylamine Oxidoreductase in <i>Nitrosomonas</i> sp. Strain ENI-II</u></a>	241
<i>R. Hirota, A. Kuroda, T. Ikeda, N. Takiguchi, H. Ohtake and J. Kato</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Identification and Characterization of the Chemotactic Transducer in <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> PAO1 for Positive Chemotaxis to Trichloroethylene</u></a>	249
<i>Hye-Eun Kim, M. Shitashiro, A. Kuroda, N. Takiguchi, H. Ohtake and J. Kato</i>	
<a href="#"><u>The Significant Improvement of Survival Times and Pathological Parameters by Bioartificial Liver with Recombinant HepG2 in Porcine Liver Failure Model</u></a>	253
<i>S. Enosawa, T. Miyashita, T. Saito, T. Omasa and T. Matsumura</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Double-Compartment Cell Culture Apparatus: Construction and Biochemical Evaluation for Bioartificial Liver Support</u></a>	261
<i>M. Takahashi, M. Sakurai, S. Enosawa, T. Omasa, S. Tsuruoka and T. Matsumura</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Computational Prediction of Impact of Rerouting the Carbon Flux in Metabolic Pathway on Cell Growth and Nisin Production by <i>Lactococcus lactis</i></u></a>	269
<i>A. K. Wardani, S. Egawa, K. Nagahisa, H. Shimizu and S. Shioya</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Comparative Analysis of Transcriptional Responses to Saline Stress in the Laboratory and Brewing Strains of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> with DNA Microarray</u></a>	281
<i>T. Hirasawa, Y. Nakakura, K. Yoshikawa, K. Ashitani, K. Nagahisa, C. Furusawa, Y. Katakura, H. Shimizu and S. Shioya</i>	

<a href="#"><u>Evaluation of Performance of Different Surface-Engineered Yeast Strains for Direct Ethanol Production from Raw Starch</u></a> <i>Teik Seong Khaw, Y. Katakura, Jun Koh, A. Kondo, M. Ueda and S. Shioya</i>	293
<a href="#"><u>Effect of Flocculation on Performance of Arming Yeast in Direct Ethanol Fermentation</u></a> <i>Teik Seong Khaw, Y. Katakura, K. Ninomiya, Y. Bito, S. Katahira, K. Kondo, M. Ueda and S. Shioya</i>	301
<a href="#"><u>Simultaneous Control of Apparent Extract and Volatile Compounds Concentrations in Low-Malt Beer Fermentation</u></a> <i>M. Kobayashi, K. Nagahisa, H. Shimizu and S. Shioya</i>	309
<a href="#"><u>Accumulation of Chloroplast DNA Sequences on the Y Chromosome of <i>Silene latifolia</i></u></a> <i>E. Kejnovsky, Z. Kubat, R. Hobza, M. Lengerova, S. Sato, S. Tabata, K. Fukui, S. Matsunaga and B. Vyskot</i>	319
<a href="#"><u>Stimulated Parametric Emission Microscopy</u></a> <i>K. Isobe, S. Kataoka, R. Murase, W. Watanabe, T. Higashi, S. Kawakami, S. Matsunaga, K. Fukui and K. Itoh</i>	329
<a href="#"><u>Regional and Segmental Flexibility of Antibodies in Interaction with Antigens of Different Size</u></a> <i>M. Oda, S. Uchiyama, C. V. Robinson, K. Fukui, Y. Kobayashi and T. Azuma</i>	337
<a href="#"><u>Calreticulin as a New Histone Binding Protein in Mitotic Chromosomes</u></a> <i>S. Kobayashi, S. Uchiyama, T. Sone, M. Noda, L. Lin, H. Mizuno, S. Matsunaga and K. Fukui</i>	349
<a href="#"><u>Aurora Kinase Is Required for Chromosome Segregation in Tobacco BY-2 Cells</u></a> <i>D. Kurihara, S. Matsunaga, A. Kawabe, S. Fujimoto, M. Noda, S. Uchiyama and K. Fukui</i>	355
<a href="#"><u>GISH and AFLP Analyses of Novel <i>Brassica napus</i> Lines Derived from One Hybrid between <i>B. napus</i> and <i>Orychophragmus vilaceus</i></u></a> <i>Ni Ma, Zai-Yun Li, J. A. Cartagena and K. Fukui</i>	365
<a href="#"><u>Transformation of Yeast Using Bioactive Beads with Surface-Immobilized Yeast Artificial Chromosomes</u></a> <i>S. Kawakami, S. Harashima, A. Kobayashi and K. Fukui</i>	371

<a href="#"><u>Chromosome Maps of Legumes</u></a>	377
<i>N. Ohmido, S. Sato, S. Tabata and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Crystal Structure of <i>Pyrococcus horikoshii</i> PPC Protein at 1.60 Å Resolution</u></a>	385
<i>Linyen Lin, H. Nakano, S. Nakamura, S. Uchiyama, S. Fujimoto, S. Matsunaga, Y. Kobayashi, T. Ohkubo and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Characterization of a Splicing Variant of Plant Aurora Kinase</u></a>	389
<i>D. Kurihara, A. Kawabe, S. Matsunaga, K. Nakagawa, S. Fujimoto, S. Uchiyama and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>A Comparative Proteome Analysis of Human Metaphase Chromosomes Isolated from Two Different Cell Lines Reveals a Set of Conserved Chromosome-Associated Proteins</u></a>	395
<i>H. Takata, S. Uchiyama, N. Nakamura, S. Nakashima, S. Kobayashi, T. Sone, S. Kimura, S. Lahmers, H. Granzier, S. Labeit, S. Matsunaga and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Development of a Multistage Classifier for a Monitoring System of Cell Activity Based on Imaging of Chromosomal Dynamics</u></a>	411
<i>A. E. Gambe, R. M. Ono, S. Matsunaga, N. Kutsuna, T. Higaki, T. Higashi, S. Hasezawa, S. Uchiyama and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Single-Organella Tracking by Two-Photon Conversion</u></a>	423
<i>W. Watanabe, T. Shimada, S. Matsunaga, D. Kurihara, K. Fukui, S. Arimura, N. Tsutsumi, K. Isobe and K. Itoh</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Development of e-Learning Courses for Promoting Student's Global Copmpetency</u></a>	433
<a href="#"><u>- Basic Courses as a Guide to ESP Education in Advanced Science and Technology -</u></a>	
<i>M. Nishikawa, M. Nakajima, C. Iwai, F. Ogasawara, F. Kishino and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Imaging Technologies in Horticulture and Biotechnology</u></a>	435
<i>Y. Akiyama, T. Wako, A. E. Gambe and K. Fukui</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Dependent Maturation of Subtilisin from a Hyperthermophilic Archaeon, <i>Thermococcus kodakaraensis</i>: The Propeptide Is a Potent Inhibitor of the Mature Domain But Is Not Required for Its Folding</u></a>	443
<i>M. Pulido, K. Saito, S. Tanaka, Y. Koga, M. Morikawa, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	

<a href="#"><u>Identification of RNase HIII from Psychrotrophic Bacterium, <i>Shewanella</i> sp. SIB1 as a High-Activity Type RNase H</u></a> <i>Hyongi Chon, T. Tadokoro, N. Ohtani, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	453
<a href="#"><u>Effect of Ultrasonic Irradiation on Protein Crystallization</u></a> <i>K. Kakinouchi, H. Adachi, H. Matsumura, T. Inoue, S. Murakami, Y. Mori, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	465
<a href="#"><u>Extracellular Secretion of <i>Escherichia coli</i> Alkaline Phosphatase with a C-Terminal Tag by Type I Secretion System: Purification and Biochemical Characterization</u></a> <i>C. Angkawidjaja, K. Kuwahara, K. Omori, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	469
<a href="#"><u>Crystallization and Preliminary Crystallographic Analysis of Type I RNase H from the Hyperthermophilic Archaeon <i>Sulfolobus tokodaii</i> 7</u></a> <i>Dong-Ju You, Hyongi Chon, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	477
<a href="#"><u>Crystallization and Preliminary X-Ray Diffraction Study on an Active-Site Mutant of Pro-Tk-Subtilisin from a Hyperthermophilic Archaeon</u></a> <i>S. Tanaka, K. Saito, Hyongi Chon, H. Matsumura, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	481
<a href="#"><u>Crystallization and Preliminary X-Ray Diffraction Study of Glycerol Kinase from the Hyperthermophilic Archaeon <i>Thermococcus kodakaraensis</i></u></a> <i>R. Katsumi, Y. Koga, Dong-Ju You, H. Matsumura, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	485
<a href="#"><u>A Hyperthermophilic Protein Acquires Function at the Cost of Stability</u></a> <i>A. Mukaiyama, M. Haruki, M. Ota, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	489
<a href="#"><u>Family 1.3 Lipase: Bacterial Lipases Secreted by the Type I Secretion System</u></a> <i>C. Angkawidjaja and S. Kanaya</i>	497
<a href="#"><u>Gentisate 1,2-Dioxygenase from <i>Xanthobacter polyaromaticivorans</i> 127W</u></a> <i>S. Hirano, M. Morikawa, K. Takano, T. Imanaka and S. Kanaya</i>	511



<a href="#"><u>Directed Evolution of Tk-Subtilisin from a Hyperthermophilic Archaeon: Identification of a Single Amino Acid Substitution Responsible for Low-Temperature Adaptation</u></a>	519
<i>M. A. Pulido, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Crystal Structure of Unautoprocessed Precursor of Subtilisin from a Hyperthermophilic Archaeon - Evidence for Ca<sup>2+</sup>-Induced Folding -</u></a>	531
<i>S. Tanaka, K. Saito, Hyongi Chon, H. Matsumura, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Effects of Long-Term Ingestion of Diffructose Anhydride III (DFA III) on Intestinal Bacteria and Bile Acid Metabolism in Humans</u></a>	541
<i>K. Minamida, C. Asakawa, I. N. Sujaya, M. Kaneko, A. Abe, T. Sone, H. Hara, K. Asano and F. Tomita</i>	
<a href="#"><u>A Late Quaternary Ice Wedge from the Fox Permafrost Tunnel in Central Alaska is a Time Capsule for Gas and Bacteria</u></a>	549
<i>T. Katayama, M. Fukuda, J. Moriizumi, T. Nakamura, A. Brouchkov, K. Asano, M. Tanaka, J. Beget and F. Tomita</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Determination of Enzymes from <i>Colletotrichum</i> sp. AHU9748 Essential for Lepidimoid Production from Okra Polysaccharide</u></a>	555
<i>C. Saranpuetti, M. Tanaka, T. Sone, K. Asano and F. Tomita</i>	
<a href="#"><u>The Molecular Phylogeny of the Genus <i>Rhizopus</i> Based on rDNA Sequences</u></a>	561
<i>A. Abe, Y. Oda, K. Asano and T. Sone</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Biodesulfurization of Alkylated Forms of Dibenzothiophene and Benzothiophene by <i>Sphingomonas subarctica</i> T7b</u></a>	569
<i>I. B. W. Gunam, Y. Yaku, M. Hirano, K. Yamamura, F. Tomita, T. Sone and K. Asano</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Modulation of Rat Cecal Microbiota by Administration of Raffinose and Encapsulated <i>Bifidobacterium breve</i></u></a>	575
<i>A. Dinoto, A. Suksomcheep, S. Ishizuka, H. Kimura, S. Hanada, Y. Kamagata, K. Asano, F. Tomita and A. Yokota</i>	
<a href="#"><u>Pork Peptone Stimulates Cholecystokinin Secretion from Enteroendocrine Cells and Suppresses Appetite in Rats</u></a>	585
<i>MKNB Sufian, T. Hira, K. Miyashita, T. Nishi, K. Asano and H. Hara</i>	

<a href="#"><u>Rhizobiotoxine Production in <i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> C58 by <i>Bradyrhizobium elkanii</i> rtxACDEFG Genes</u></a>	
<i>M. Sugawara, R. Haramaki, S. Nonaka, H. Ezura, S. Okazaki, S. Eda, H. Mitsui and K. Minamisawa</i>	591
<a href="#"><u>A Milestone for Endophyte Biotechnology</u></a>	
<i>K. Minamisawa</i>	599
<a href="#"><u>Global Gene Expression in <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> Cultured with Vanillin, Vanillate, 4-Hydroxybenzoate and Protocatechuate</u></a>	
<i>N. Ito, M. Itakura, S. Eda, K. Saeki, H. Oomori, T. Yokoyama, T. Kaneko, S. Tabata, T. Ohwada, S. Tajima, T. Uchiumi, E. Masai, M. Tsuda, H. Mitsui and K. Minamisawa</i>	601
<a href="#"><u>Correlation of Denitrifying Capability with the Existence of <i>nap</i>, <i>nir</i>, <i>nor</i> and <i>nos</i> Genes in Diverse Strains of Soybean <i>Bradyrhizobia</i></u></a>	
<i>R. Sameshima-Saito, K. Chiba and K. Minamisawa</i>	613
<a href="#"><u>Expression of the 1-Aminocyclopropane-1-Carboxylic Acid Deaminase Gene Requires Symbiotic Nitrogen-Fixing Regulator Gene <i>nifA2</i> in <i>Mesorhizobium loti</i> MAFF303099</u></a>	
<i>N. Nukui, K. Minamisawa, S. Ayabe and T. Aoki</i>	625
<a href="#"><u>Rhizobitoxine Modulates Plant-Microbe Interactions by Ethylene Inhibition</u></a>	
<i>M. Sugawara, S. Okazaki, N. Nukui, H. Ezura, H. Mitsui and K. Minamisawa</i>	631
<a href="#"><u>Symbiotic <i>Bradyrhizobium japonicum</i> Reduces N<sub>2</sub>O Surrounding the Soybean Root System via Nitrous Oxide Reductase</u></a>	
<i>R. Sameshima-Saito, K. Chiba, J. Hirayama, M. Itakura, H. Mitsui, S. Eda and K. Minamisawa</i>	639
<a href="#"><u>Possible Involvement of Pleiomorphic Vacuolar Networks in Nutrient Recycling in Filamentous Fungi</u></a>	
<i>J. Shoji, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	647
<a href="#"><u><i>Aovps24</i>, a Homologue of <i>VPS24</i>, Is Required for Vacuolar Formation Which Could Maintain Proper Growth and Development in the Filamentous Fungus <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>A. Tatsumi, T. Kikuma, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	649

<a href="#"><u>Functional Analysis of the <i>ATG8</i> Homologue <i>Aoatg8</i> and Role of Autophagy in Differentiation and Germination in <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>T. Kikuma, M. Ohneda, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	659
<a href="#"><u>Development of a Versatile Expression Plasmid Construction system for <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> and Its Application to Visualization of Mitochondria</u></a>	
<i>Y. Mabashi, T. Kikuma, J. Maruyama, Y. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	669
<a href="#"><u>Extracellular Production of Neoculin, a Sweet-Tasting Heterodimeric Protein with Taste-Modifying Activity, by <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>K. Nakajima, T. Asakura, J. Maruyama, Y. Morita, H. Oike, A. Shimizu-Ibuka, T. Misaka, H. Sorimachi, S. Arai, K. Kitamoto and K. Abe</i>	677
<a href="#"><u>Square-Plate Culture Method Allows Detection of Differential Gene Expression and Screening of Novel, Region-Specific Genes in <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>K. Masai, J. Maruyama, K. Sakamoto, H. Nakajima, O. Akita and K. Kitamoto</i>	685
<a href="#"><u>Visualization of the Endocytic Pathway in the Filamentous Fungus <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i> Using an EGFP-Fused Plasma Membrane Protein</u></a>	
<i>Y. Higuchi, T. Nakahama, J. Shoji, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	697
<a href="#"><u>Vacuolar Membrane Dynamics in the Filamentous Fungus <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>J. Shoji, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	705
<a href="#"><u>Differential Distribution of the Endoplasmic Reticulum Network as Visualized by the BipA-EGFP Fusion Protein in Hyphal Compartments across the Septum of the Filamentous Fungus, <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a>	
<i>J. Maruyama, S. Kikuchi and K. Kitamoto</i>	717
<a href="#"><u>Characterization of an Exo-<math>\beta</math>-1,3-Galactanase from <i>Clostridium thermocellum</i></u></a>	
<i>H. Ichinose, A. Kuno, T. Kotake, M. Yoshida, K. Sakka, J. Hirabayashi, Y. Tsumuraya and S. Kaneko</i>	731
<a href="#"><u>Identification of a Catalytic Residue of <i>Clostridium paraputrificum</i> <i>N</i>-Acetyl-<math>\beta</math>-D-Glucosaminidase Nag3A by Site-Directed Mutagenesis</u></a>	
<i>Huazhong Li, Guangshan Zhao, H. Miyake, H. Umekawa, T. Kimura, K. Ohmiya and K. Sakka</i>	741

<a href="#"><u>Different Binding Specificities of S-Layer Homology Modules from <i>Clostridium thermocellum</i> AncA, Sip1, and Sip2</u></a> <i>Guangshan Zhao, Huazhong Li, B. Wamalwa, M. Sakka, T. Kimura, and K. Sakka</i>	749
<a href="#"><u>Essentiality of a Newly Identified Carbohydrate-Binding Module for the Function of CelB (BH0603) from the Alkaliphilic Bacterium <i>Bacillus halodurans</i></u></a> <i>B. M. Wamalwa, M. Sakka, P. M. Shiundu, K. Ohmiya, T. Kimura and K. Sakka</i>	755
<a href="#"><u>Effect of Family 22 Carbohydrate-Binding Module on the Thermostability of Xyn10B Catalytic Module from <i>Clostridium stercorarium</i></u></a> <i>R. Araki, S. Karita, A. Tanaka, T. Kimura and K. Sakka</i>	759
<a href="#"><u>Intermolecular Association Model of Antifungal Polyene Macrolide via Concerted =C-H...O Interactions: X-Ray Crystal Structure Analysis and Ab Initio Molecular-Orbital Calculations of Chainin</u></a> <i>Y. In, H. Ohishi, H. Miyagawa, K. Kitamura, Y. Igarashi and T. Ishida</i>	763
<a href="#"><u>Pterocidin, a Cytotoxic Compound from the Endophytic <i>Streptomyces hygrosopicus</i></u></a> <i>Y. Igarashi, S. Miura, T. Fujita and T. Furumai</i>	771
<a href="#"><u>Absolute Configuration and Antitumor Activity of Myxochelin A Produced by <i>Nonomuraea pusilla</i> TP-A0861</u></a> <i>S. Miyanaga, T. Obata, H. Onaka, T. Fujita, N. Saito, H. Sakurai, I. Saiki, T. Furumai and Y. Igarashi</i>	775
<a href="#"><u>Pradimicin A, a Carbohydrate-Binding Nonpeptidic Lead Compound for Treatment of Infections with Viruses with Highly Glycosylated Envelopes, Such as Human Immunodeficiency Virus</u></a> <i>J. Balzarini, K. V. Laethem, D. Daelemans, S. Hatse, A. Bugatti, M. Rusnati, Y. Igarashi, T. Oki and D. Schols</i>	781
<a href="#"><u>Dipalmitoylation of Radicicol Results in Improved Efficacy against Tumor Growth and Angiogenesis <i>In vivo</i></u></a> <i>T. Oikawa, C. Onozawa, S. Kuranuki, Y. Igarashi, M. Sato, H. Ashino, M. Shimamura, M. Toi and S. Kurakata</i>	793
<a href="#"><u>Enzymatic Synthesis of L-Pipecolic Acid by <math>\Delta^1</math>-Piperideine-2-Carboxylate Reductase from <i>Pseudomonas putida</i></u></a> <i>H. Muramatsu, H. Mihara, M. Yasuda, M. Ueda, T. Kurihara and N. Esaki</i>	801

<a href="#"><u>Mechanism of the Reaction Catalyzed by DL-2-Haloacid Dehalogenase As Determined from Kinetic Isotope Effects</u></a>	
<i>E. Papajak, R. A. Kwiecień, J. Rudziński, D. Sicińska, R. Kamiński, L. Szatkowski, T. Kurihara, N. Esaki and P. Paneth</i>	805
<a href="#"><u>Physicochemical and Pharmacokinetic Characterization of Highly Potent Recombinant L-Methionine <math>\gamma</math>-Lyase Conjugated with Polyethylene Glycol as an Antitumor Agent</u></a>	
<i>T. Takakura, A. Takimoto, Y. Notsu, H. Yoshida, T. Ito, H. Nagatome, M. Ohno, Y. Kobayashi, T. Yoshioka, K. Inagaki, S. Yagi, R. M. Hoffman and N. Esaki</i>	811
<a href="#"><u>Physiological Role of D-Amino Acid-N-Acetyltransferase of <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> Detoxification of D-Amino Acids</u></a>	
<i>Geok-Yong Yow, T. Uo, T. Yoshimura and N. Esaki</i>	819
<a href="#"><u>Enzymatic Synthesis of Cyclic Amino Acids by N-Methyl-L-Amino Acid Dehydrogenase from <i>Pseudomonas putida</i></u></a>	
<i>M. Yasuda, M. Ueda, H. Muramatsu, H. Mihara and N. Esaki</i>	827
<a href="#"><u>Structural and Functional Conversion of Molecular Chaperone ClpB from the Gram-Positive Halophilic Lactic Acid Bacterium <i>Tetragenococcus halophilus</i> Mediated by ATP and Stress</u></a>	
<i>S. Sugimoto, H. Yoshida, Y. Mizunoe, K. Tsuruno, J. Nakayama and K. Sonomoto</i>	833
<a href="#"><u>Lysine-Oriented Charges Trigger the Membrane Binding and Activity of Nukacin ISK-1</u></a>	
<i>S. M. Asaduzzaman, J. Nagao, Y. Aso, J. Nakayama and K. Sonomoto</i>	843
<a href="#"><u>Lactococcin Q, a Novel Two-Peptide Bacteriocin Produced by <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> QU 4</u></a>	
<i>T. Zendo, S. Koga, Y. Shigeri, J. Nakayama and K. Sonomoto</i>	849
<a href="#"><u>Optimization of Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA) Production and Improvement of Astaxanthin Content in a Mutant <i>Schizochytrium limacinum</i> Isolated from Mangrove Forest in Thailand</u></a>	
<i>W. Chatdumrong, W. Yongmanitchai, S. Limtong and W. Worawattanamateekul</i>	857
<a href="#"><u><i>Kazachstania siamensis</i> sp. nov., an Ascomycetous Yeast Species from Forest in Thailand</u></a>	
<i>S. Limtong, W. Yongmanitchai, M. M. Tun, H. Kawasaki and T. Seki</i>	869

<a href="#"><u>Candida thaimueangensis sp. nov., an Anamorphic Yeast Species from Estuarine Water in a Mangrove Forest in Thailand</u></a>	
<i>S. Limtong, W. Yongmanitchai, H. Kawasaki and T. Seki</i>	873
<a href="#"><u>Characterization and Enzymatic Degradation of Microbial Copolyester P(3HB-co-3HV)s Produced by Metabolic Reaction Model-Based System</u></a>	
<i>S. Chanprateep, H. Shimizu and S. Shioya</i>	877
<a href="#"><u>Biochemical and Physiological Changes during Chlorophyll Degradation in Lime (<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> Swingle cv. 'Paan')</u></a>	
<i>Tin O. Win, V. Srilaong, K. L. Kyu, K. Poomputsa and S. Kanlayanarat</i>	887
<a href="#"><u>Hydrolysis of Agricultural Residues and Kraft Pulps by Xylanolytic Enzymes from Alkaliphilic <i>Bacillus</i> sp. Strain BK</u></a>	
<i>Kaewintajuk, Kusuma, Gil Hyong Chon, Jin-Sang Lee, K. Kongkiattakajorn, K. Ratanakhanokchai, Khin Lay Kyu, John Hwa Lee, Min Suk Roh, Yun Young Choi, Hyun Park and Yun Sik Lee</i>	895
<a href="#"><u>Purification of Xylanase from Alkaliphilic <i>Bacillus</i> sp. K-8 by Using Corn Husk Column</u></a>	
<i>C. Tachaapaikoon, Khin Lay Kyu and K. Ratanakhanokchai</i>	903
<a href="#"><u>Cadmium Removal by Immobilized <i>Scytonema</i> sp. and <i>Hapalosiphon hibernicus</i></u></a>	
<i>S. Chaichalearm, D. Inthorn, M. Ruengjitchatchawalya and P. Pokethitiyook</i>	909
<a href="#"><u>Screening of Bacterial Antagonists against Epiphytic Pathogen</u></a>	
<i>B. Baatar, T. Nihira, P. Tuchinda and W. Panbangred</i>	921
<a href="#"><u>Correlation between RAPD PCR Fingerprints, Heat Responses, and Nitrogen Fixing Potential of Soybean Rhizobia</u></a>	
<i>Ly Kim Pheng and K. Chansa-Ngavej</i>	931
<a href="#"><u>Fungal Systematic Study of <i>Nectriaceae</i> from Various Habitats</u></a>	
<i>Nguyen Van Lam, S. Sivichai and J. Luangsa-ard</i>	943
<a href="#"><u>Selection and Characterization of Lactic Acid Bacteria Capable of Starch Digestion and Lactic Acid Production</u></a>	
<i>L. Vongvisith, A. Nilavongse, S. Chauvatcharin, T. Seki and K. Miyamoto</i>	961
<a href="#"><u>Production of Active <math>\alpha</math>-Glucosidase I Isolated from <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> in <i>Escherichia coli</i> Cells</u></a>	
<i>E. A. Prameswari, K. Fujiyama and T. Seki</i>	973

<a href="#"><u>Production of Arachidonic Acid from a Fungus, <i>Mortierella</i> sp.</u></a> <i>Nguyen Thi Thuy Linh and W. Yongmanitchai</i>	987
<a href="#"><u>Enrichment and Molecular Analysis of Microbial Consortia Involved in Dechlorination of Chloroethenes</u></a> <i>K. N. H. Nazir, F. Okamoto, H. Hashimoto, T. Futagami, M. Goto and K. Furukawa</i>	999
<a href="#"><u>Studies of Missing Enzymes in Lysine Metabolism in <i>Pseudomonas</i> and Their Application</u></a> <i>S. A. Noi, H. Mihara and N. Esaki</i>	1011
<a href="#"><u>A Molecular Study of ORF27 of Thai Isolated Baculovirus <i>Helicoverpa armigera</i> Nucleopolyhedrovirus (HaNPV-Th)</u></a> <i>Xyn Meng and K. Poomputsa</i>	1025
<a href="#"><u>Systematic Screening of Subcellular Components Which Affect Hydroxylation Activity of P450 in <i>Escherichia coli</i></u></a> <i>Nugroho D. Ari, K. Honda, T. Omasa and H. Ohtake</i>	1039
<a href="#"><u>Heterologous Expression of Endoglucanase Genes from Endosymbiotic Protists of the Lower Termite, <i>Reticulitermes speratus</i>, in <i>Aspergillus oryzae</i></u></a> <i>C. M. Lopez, S. Sasaguri, J. Maruyama, M. Arioka and K. Kitamoto</i>	1045
<a href="#"><u>Characterization of the Proteins Interacting with a Tobacco Aurora Kinase through Tandem Affinity Purification (TAP)</u></a> <i>J. Khunsook, J. A. Cartagena, D. Kurihara, S. Matsunaga and K. Fukui</i>	1061
<a href="#"><u>Investigation of the Role of Gly<sup>-14</sup> for Maturation of Subtilisin from a Hyperthermophilic Archaeon by Complete Amino Acid Substitutions</u></a> <i>C. Sringiew, M. Pulido, Y. Koga, K. Takano and S. Kanaya</i>	1069
<a href="#"><u>Antimicrobial Activities from Endophytic Actinomycetes Isolated from Thai Plants</u></a> <i>S. Kung, A. Thamchaipenet, S. Kitani and T. Nihira</i>	1081
<a href="#"><u>Molecular Diversity and Construction of a Lignocellulose Degrading Microbial Consortium for Biotechnological Conversion of Local Agricultural Biomass</u></a> <i>V. Champreda, S. Tanapongpipat, P. Hranpichranchai, T. Tongaram, P. Ratanawaree, C. Suriyachatkul, L. Eurwilaichir and Y. Igarashi</i>	1085

<a href="#"><u>Isolation and RAPD-PCR Fingerprints of Soybean Rhizobia from 3 Soybean Cultivation Subdistricts in Wiangsa District, Nan Province, Thailand</u></a> <i>Ly Kim Pheng and K. Chansa-Ngavej</i>	1093
<a href="#"><u>Activities of International Center for Biotechnology for FY2006</u></a>	1097
<a href="#"><u>Index</u></a> Author Index Subject Index	1125