Analysis of Free Oligosaccharides (fOS) from Wild-Type *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Baker's Yeast) using Two Different Extraction Methods

(Analisis Oligosakarida Bebas (fOS) daripada *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Yis Baker) Jenis Liar menggunakan Dua Kaedah Pengekstrakan Berbeza)

IQBAL JALALUDIN, AMIRUL HUSNA SUDIN, DHARSHINI ELANGOVAN, HUSSEIN M. AL-BAJALAN, NUR MAISARAH SARIZAN, NOOR LIANA MAT YAJIT, KAMALRUL AZLAN AZIZAN, ABDUL MUNIR ABDUL MURAD, FARAH DIBA ABU BAKAR, DOMINIC S. ALONZI & MUKRAM MOHAMAD MACKEEN*

ABSTRACT

The glycomic profiles of free oligosaccharides (fOS) derived from misfolded N- and O-linked glycoproteins and lipid-linked oligosaccharides are important molecular signatures in various biological processes and serve as a readout of functional properties such as glycosidase inhibition. Several glycan extraction methods are available based on different sorbent chemistries that may influence the analytical profiles obtained. However, there is limited availability of studies comparing the effects of sorbent chemistries on glycan profiles. Therefore, in our study, the fOS profiles from wild-type Saccharomyces cerevisiae *(Baker's yeast) extracted using two common methods namely mixed-bed ion-exchange (MBIE) [AG50W-X12 (H⁺) and AG2-X8 (Cl⁻)] and reversed-phase (C18) sorbents were compared using total carbohydrate (phenol sulfuric acid) and total protein (bicinchoninic acid, BCA) assays, thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and high-performance liquid chromatography-evaporative light scattering detector (HPLC-ELSD) analyses. MBIE extraction contained higher oligosaccharide and protein (0.26 mg/mL and 1.8 mg/mL) content than C18 extraction (0.11 mg/mL and 0.2 mg/mL). TLC analysis (butanol: ethanol: water = 6:3:1 and 5:4:1) showed the presence of fOS in both the MBIE and C18 extracts based on the detection of orcinol active (UV-inactive) spots. Similar peaks were present in the HPLC-ELSD chromatograms for both extractions methods with MBIE showing higher abundance. Glycan unit (GU) analysis of the dextran standard using HPLC-ELSD showed that the largest possible oligosaccharide structures detected were only di/trisaccharides. Based on all these results, MBIE extraction is a more suitable carbohydrate extraction technique compared to C18 extraction for subsequent profiling and functional studies of fOS.*

Keywords: Free oligosaccharides (fOS); glycans; HPLC-ELSD; Saccharomyces cerevisiae; TLC

ABSTRAK

Profil glikomik oligosakarida bebas (fOS) yang diterbit daripada glikoprotein N- dan O- yang tersalah lipat serta oligosakarida terpaut-lipid (LLO) adalah penanda molekul penting dalam pelbagai proses biologi dan berfungsi sebagai bacaan terhadap sifat berfungsi seperti perencatan glikosidase. Beberapa kaedah pengekstrakan glikan boleh didapati berdasarkan pelbagai kimia bahan erap yang berbeza yang mungkin mempengaruhi profil analitik. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian terhadap perbandingan kesan kimia bahan erap terhadap profil glikan adalah terhad. Oleh itu, dalam kajian ini profil fOS daripada Saccharomyces cerevisiae *(yis Baker) jenis liar diekstrak menggunakan dua kaedah yang digunakan secara meluas iaitu bahan erap dan pertukaran ion lapisan-campuran (MBIE) [AG50W- X12 (H⁺) dan AG2-X8 (Cl⁻) dan fasa berbalik (C18) dibandingkan dengan jumlah karbohidrat (asid fenol sulfurik) dan jumlah protein (asid bisikoninik, BCA), kromatografi lapisan nipis (TLC) dan kromatografi cecair berprestasi tinggi-penyejatan penyerakan cahaya (HPLC-ELSD). Pengekstrakan MBIE mengandungi kandungan oligosakarida dan protein yang lebih tinggi iaitu (0.26 mg/mL dan 1.8 mg/mL) berbanding dengan pengekstrakan C18 (0.11 mg/mL dan 0.2 mg/mL). Analisis TLC (butanol: etanol: air = 6: 3: 1 dan 5: 4: 1) menunjukkan kehadiran fOS dalam kedua-dua ekstrak MBIE dan C18 berdasarkan tompok aktif orsinol (tidak aktif-UV). Puncak yang sama hadir dalam kromatogram HPLC-ELSD untuk kedua-dua kaedah pengekstrakan dengan MBIE menunjukkan kelimpahan yang lebih tinggi. Analisis unit glikan (GU) terhadap data HPLC-ELSD piawai dekstran menunjukkan struktur oligosakarida yang paling besar dikesan hanya di/trisakarida. Berdasarkan keputusan yang diperoleh, pengekstrakan MBIE merupakan teknik pengekstrakan karbohidrat yang lebih sesuai berbanding dengan pengekstrakan C18 untuk kajian profil dan fungsi fOS.*

Kata kunci: Glikan; HPLC-ELSD; Oligosakarida bebas (fOS); Saccharomyces cerevisiae; TLC

Introduction

N-glycosylation is the most diverse form of protein modification in all eukaryotes and some prokaryotes. This process occurs in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and is catalysed by the enzyme oligosaccharyltransferase (OST). The membrane-bound enzyme co-translationally transfers the accumulated dolicholpyrophosphate $Glc_3Man_9GlcNAc_2$ oligosaccharide to the asparagine residue in the protein with the sequence N-X-S/T (N = asparagine, X = any amino acid except proline, S = serine, T = threonine) to produce *N*-linked glycoproteins (Roth et al. 2010). In ER quality control, the $Glc_3Man_9GlcNAc_2$ form of the donor glycan, linked covalently to nascent proteins, is rapidly trimmed by enzymes glucosidases I and II and, in some cases, ER α-mannosidase I, converting it to $Glc_1Man_8GlcNAc_2$. The glucosylated *N*-linked glycans (oligosaccharides) $Glc_{1-3}Man_9GlcNAc_2$ involved in this process are important in protein biosynthesis and folding that occurs during endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation (ERAD) (Chantret et al. 2003). The lectin molecular chaperones, calnexin and calreticulin, are known to interact with the monoglucosylated *N*-glycans in a conformationally dependent manner to promote correct folding of newly synthesized glycoproteins (Hirayama et al. 2010; Mackeen et al. 2009). *N*-glycan free oligosaccharides (fOS) are generated from lipid-linked oligosaccharides (LLO) (Harada et al. 2013) and the release of misfolded *N*-glycoproteins resulting from the ERAD pathway (Helenius & Aebi 2004). More recently, misfolded *O*-linked glycoproteins have also been reported as a source of fOS (Hirayama et al. 2019). The glycomic profiles of free oligosaccharides (fOS) derived from misfolded *N*- and *O*-linked glycoproteins and lipid-linked oligosaccharides are important molecular signatures in various biological processes and serve as a readout of functional properties such as glycosidase inhibition. fOS profiles are useful for a diverse range of structural and functional studies such as glycoprotein folding (Hirayama 2018; Shenkman et al. 2018), infant gut bacterial colonisation (Karav et al. 2019), lactation (Liu et al. 2019), bacterial (Nothaft et al. 2010) and viral infections (Miller et al. 2018), cancer (Alonzi et al. 2011), and degenerative diseases such as osteoarthritis (Homan et al. 2019), congenital-defects of glycosylation (CDG) (Davids et al. 2019), and lysosomal storage disorders (Huang et al. 2018). Additionally, fOS accumulation has also been used to evaluate the cell-based inhibition of glycosidase enzymes by small molecules (Glawar et al. 2012; Rawlings et al. 2009).

Several methods of fOS extraction have been reported in the literature such as mixed-bed ion-exchange (MBIE), C18 reversed-phase, hydrophilic interaction chromatography (HILIC) and porous graphite carbon (PGC) (Alonzi et al. 2008; Lin et al. 2014; Verostek et al. 2000; Zhang et al. 2014). Each of these extraction methods may influence the glycan profiles obtained due to their different sorbent chemistries. The valuable information obtained through glycan profiling is important for various applications, for example characterisation of therapeutic glycoproteins (Higgins 2010). However, very few reports compare the profiles and yields of different glycan/oligosaccharide extraction methods. Therefore, in this study, two commonly used methods of extraction based on different sorbent chemistries namely mixed-bed ion-exchange (MBIE) [AG50W-X12 (H⁺) /AG2-X8 (Cl⁻)] by Alonzi et al. (2008) and C18 reversed-phase by Lin et al. (2014) sorbents were used to compare the fOS profiles extracted from wild-type *S. cerevisiae*.

The MBIE method has been previously reported by Alonzi et al. (2008) as a simple technique with high recovery ($\sim 90\%$). This ion-exchange based method utilises a cation (H⁺ counter-ion) over anion (OH⁻ counter-ion) resin column. Besides that, the MBIE technique does not require the use of organic solvents and phase separation for glycan extraction employed by Mellor et al. (2004). The reversed-phase C18 method operates on the basis of complementary hydrophobic retention and hydrophilic elution. Complex-type of *N*-glycans (sialylated complex-type structures) and high-mannose structures have been extracted using a C18 cartridge (Lin et al. 2014). Both these extraction methods will desalt, deproteinate and extract glycans but may provide different profiles of glycans and protein yields as well as display the presence/absence of different glycans thereby influencing the fOS profiles obtained in this study. Therefore, we report the comparison of fOS profiles extracted from *S. cerevisiae* using MBIE and C18 extractions that were analysed and characterised by TLC (with UV and the carbohydrate-affinity stain orcinol), high-performance liquid-chromatography with an evaporative light scattering detector (HPLC-ELSD) for the universal detection and total content assays (phenol-sulfuric acid for glycans and bicinchoninic acid for proteins).

Materials and Methods

Materials

Wild-type *S. cerevisiae* (Baker's yeast) was kindly donated by Dr. Farah Diba Abu Bakar from Microbiology Programme, Centre for Biotechnology and Functional Food, Faculty of Science and Technology, UKM. All the reagents used were from Sigma unless specified otherwise: HPLC-grade solvent from JT baker, water was Milli-Q™ grade, C18 Sep-Pak cartridge from Supelco and ion-exchange resin from Bio-Rad. The column used for the HPLC-ELSD analysis is a XBridge amide HILIC column (4.6 × 250 mm, 3.5 μm particle size) purchased from Waters. A glycan molecular weight ladder standard was prepared from the partial hydrolysis of dextran.

Preparation of dextran molecular weight ladder

The dextran ladder standard was prepared via partial hydrolysis using 100 mg of dextran (MW 200,000) dissolved in 1 mL of 0.1 M HCl and heated at 100 ºC for

4 h. The reaction was cooled and subsequently passed through a column packed with 2 mL of Bio-Rad AG3-X4A (OH⁻ form, 100-200 mesh) to deplete excess hydrochloric acid. Then, the eluted sample was diluted with 2 mL of water. The dextran standard was then kept at -20 ºC until use for oligosaccharide HPLC analysis.

CULTURE OF WILD-TYPE (WT) *SACCHAROMYCES CEREVISIAE* AND EXTRACTION OF FREE OLIGOSACCHARIDES (FOS)

Two sets of *S. cerevisiae* were inoculated into 5 mL of YPD medium and incubated at 30 °C, 240 rpm for 24 h. The growth of the culture was monitored at OD_{600} till it reaches around 1.0. The overnight culture (~1 × 10^7 cells/mL) was added into 500 mL YPD medium and then incubated at 30 °C, 240 rpm for 48 h. Cell lysis was performed as described previously (Jalaludin et al. 2017). After 48 h, the cell pellets were harvested by centrifugation (2500 rpm, 4 °C and 8 min) and washed (3X) using phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Subsequently, the cells were snap-frozen using liquid nitrogen for 10 s and thawed three times. The cell pellets were resuspended in lysis buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH7.4 containing 4 mM $MgCl_2$) and acid-washed glass beads and subsequently vortexed for 30 s (six times). The cell debris was then removed by centrifugation (4300 rpm, 4°C and 5 min) and supernatant (2 sets) were collected for fOS extraction. Free oligosaccharide extraction was performed using two previously reported methods; MBIE [AG50W-X12 (H^+) /AG2-X8 (Cl^-)] by Alonzi et al. (2008) and C18 reverse-phase cartridge by Lin et al. (2014). In the first method, supernatant (1 set) was applied onto a mixed-bed ion-exchange column [0.2 mL of AG50W-X12 (H^+, 100-200 mesh) over 0.4 mL of AG3-X4 (OH^-, 100-200 mesh)], pre-equilibrated with water (5×1 mL) then washed with 4×1 mL of water. The eluate was collected for further analysis. In the second method, the supernatant (1 set) was loaded onto C18 cartridge that were equilibrated with 5.0 mL of acetonitrile (50%), 5.0 mL of acetonitrile (25%) and 10 mL formic acid (0.1%). The fOS was eluted with 3 mL of 5% acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid. Aliquots from both extraction methods were collected (before and after extraction) for the bicinchoninic acid (BCA) and phenol-sulfuric acid (PSA) assays.

BICINCHONINIC ACID ASSAY (BCA) FOR PROTEIN QUANTIFICATION

Protein concentration was determined using the bicinchoninic acid (BCA) assay as described previously (Schoel et al. 1995). The working reagent was prepared by adding and mixing $CuSO_4.5H_2O$ (1%) to BCA at the ratio of 1:40 and was filtered using a 0.45 µm polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane prior to use. Bovine serum albumin (BSA) was used as the standard to prepare a standard curve with concentration of BSA ranging between 0.2 and 1.0 mg/mL. BSA (20 µL) was first added into the microplate well and followed by 200 µL of the working reagent. Samples were then incubated at 60 °C for 15 min. Protein concentration was measured by reading the absorbance at 595 nm using a microplate reader (Bio-Rad model 680). A standard curve of absorbance ($A_{595\,nm}$) vs concentration (mg/mL) was plotted. Each calibration point was carried out in triplicate and the linearity (coefficient of determination, R^2) of the calibration curve was determined. For the cell lysate and fOS extracts, samples were diluted five times and the protein concentration was determined. All assay reactions were performed in triplicate.

PHENOL-SULFURIC ACID ASSAY FOR OLIGOSACCHARIDE QUANTIFICATION

The concentration of oligosaccharides in the extracted fOS samples were determined using the phenol sulfuric acid assay (PSA) as described previously (Jalaludin et al. 2017; Masuko et al. 2005). Quantification of fOS was carried out using a calibration curve generated using glucose as a standard. The standard calibration curve was plotted by using a series of known glucose standard concentrations (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 mg/mL) prepared by serial dilution. Glucose (200 µL) was added to 200 µL of phenol (5%) and 1 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid. The mixture was vortexed and incubated at 100 °C for 10 min. After incubation, samples were diluted five times and absorbance (UV-Vis) was measured at 490 nm ($A_{490\,nm}$) using a spectrophotometer. All assay reactions were performed in triplicate.

THIN LAYER CHROMATOGRAPHY (TLC)

Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was carried out on aluminium sheets coated with 60 F254 silica purchased from Merck. The samples from both extraction methods (before and after extraction) were spotted on TLC plate and developed using a solvent system comprised of butanol: ethanol: water at two different ratios (6:3:1 and 5:4:1). The TLC plates were observed under UV at wavelength 254 nm and then, the TLC plate was stained with orcinol followed by heating for 2 min (till spots were observed). The staining solution was prepared by dissolving 0.2 mg of orcinol in 1.1 mL of concentrated sulfuric acid and 10 mL of water.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY-EVAPORATIVE LIGHT SCATTERING DETECTOR (HPLC-ELSD)

The partially hydrolysed dextran standard, glucose standard and fOS of *S. cerevisiae* extracts were analysed using a Dionex HPLC instrument coupled to an evaporative light scattering detector (HPLC-ELSD). Samples were separated on a XBridge Amide column (4.6 × 250 mm, 3.5 µm particle size) (Waters Corporation, MA, USA) with slight modifications (Jalaludin et al. 2017) to the method previously reported by Neville et al. (2004). The mobile phases comprised of solvent A containing 80% (v/v)

acetonitrile and 20% (w/v) 100 mM ammonium acetate (pH6.0) while solvent B containing 20% (v/v) acetonitrile and 20% (w/v) 100 mM ammonium acetate (pH6.0) and 60% (v/v) MilliQ-H_2O. The following gradient conditions were used for the HPLC-ELSD analysis: time 0 min (t-0), 86% A, 14% B (0.8 mL/min); t-6, 86% A, 14 % B (0.8 mL/min); t-40, 47.6% A, 53.4% B (0.8 mL/min); t- 42, 5% A, 95% B (0.8 mL/min); t-44, 5% A, 95% B (0.8 mL/min); t-46, 86% A, 14% B (0.8 mL/min); t-47, 86% A, 14% B (0.8 mL/min), t-59, 86% A, 14 % B (0.8 mL/min); and t-60, 86% A, 14 % B (0.8 mL/min). The injection volume of sample for MBIE extraction method was 10 µL and for the C18 reversed-phase cartridge was 60 µL.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF CARBOHYDRATES (PSA ASSAY) AND PROTEINS (BCA ASSAY)

The total concentration of carbohydrates was determined using the PSA assay. A standard curve for quantification was generated using glucose and the linear equation, y = 3.236x ($R^2 = 0.993$) generated from the standard curve was used to quantify the carbohydrate content (Figure 1). Comparison between the fOS crude extracts using MBIE and C18 reversed-phase methods showed that the concentration of total carbohydrates was higher in the MBIE extract (0.26 mg/mL) than the C18 extract (0.11 mg/mL). On the other hand, the total protein content was determined using BCA assay. The standard curve generated using BSA as standard resulted in a linear equation of y = 0.4145x ($R^2 = 0.959$) as shown in Figure 2. The BCA standard curve was used to determine the protein concentration in fOS extracts. Initially, the protein concentration of the *S. cerevisiae* cell lysate was determined before fOS extraction to ensure the efficiency of the extraction methods. The initial total protein concentration of cell lysate obtained based on the standard curve was 3.5 mg/mL. The protein concentration after fOS extraction showed that MBIE extracts (1.8 mg/mL) had higher protein content compared to the C18 extracts (0.2 mg/mL). As summarised in Table 1, the concentrations of proteins and oligosaccharides were 9-fold and 2.4-fold higher in the MBIE extract than C18 extract, respectively.
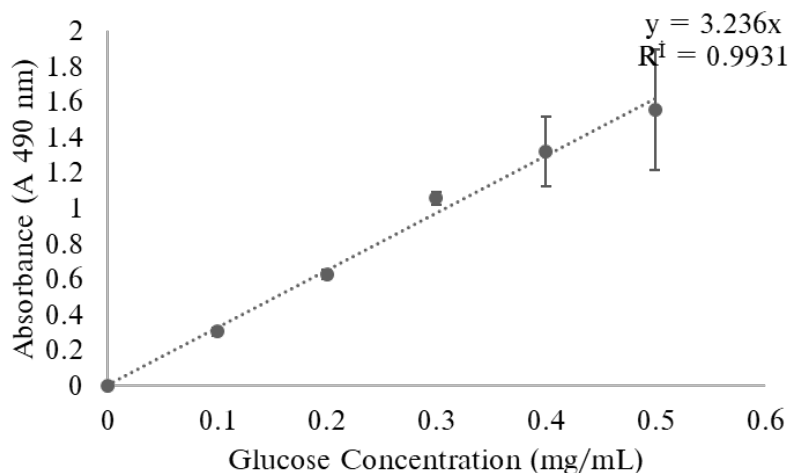

FIGURE 1. Standard curve of carbohydrate concentration (glucose standard) for the PSA assay
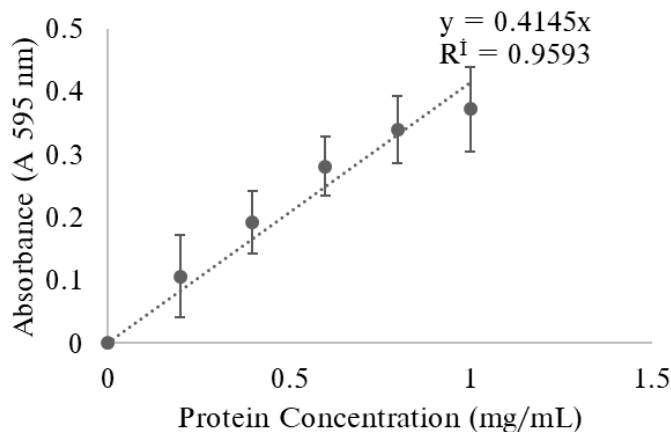

FIGURE 2. Standard curve of protein concentration (BSA standard) for the BCA assay

TABLE 1. Carbohydrate and protein concentration of fOS extract

Extraction method	Concentration (mg/mL)		Percentage (%)	
	Carbohydrate	Protein	Carbohydrate	Protein
MBIE	0.26	1.8	5.2	36
C18 reversed- phase	0.11	0.2	2.2	4

SEPARATION PROFILE OF FOS EXTRACTS USING TLC AND HPLC-ELSD

The separation profile of fOS extracts from MBIE and C18 methods were analysed using two chromatography techniques which are thin layer chromatography (TLC) and high-performance liquid chromatography-evaporative light scattering detector (HPLC-ELSD). ELSD is a universal detector which detects both carbohydrate and non-carbohydrate compounds, and TLC is used for selective detection of oligosaccharides using affinity stains such as orcinol further complemented with the absence of UV spots due to the lack of chromophores in glycans. The TLC analysis optimised using a solvent system (butanol: ethanol: water) at two different ratios (6:3:1 and 5:4:1) showed similar separation profiles for both MBIE and C18 extracts (Figure 3). Under UV light, several spots were detected with low and high R_f values, suggesting the presence of either non-carbohydrate or carbohydrate-
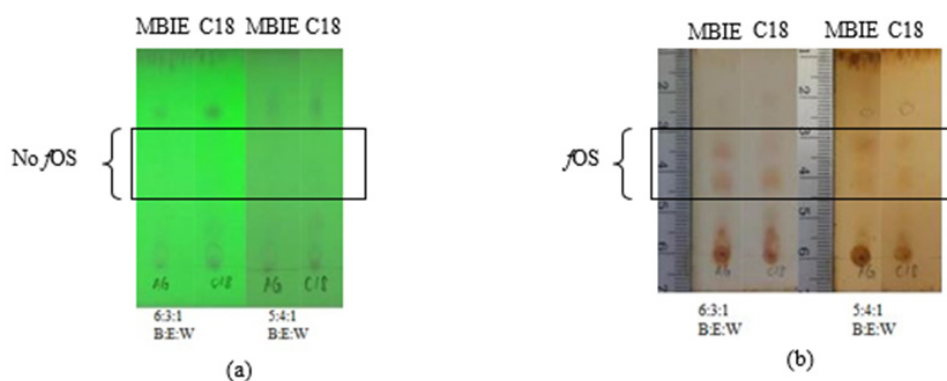
FIGURE 3. TLC plates of mixed-bed ion-exchange (MBIE) and C18 fOS extracts viewed (a) under UV and (b) after orcinol stainin
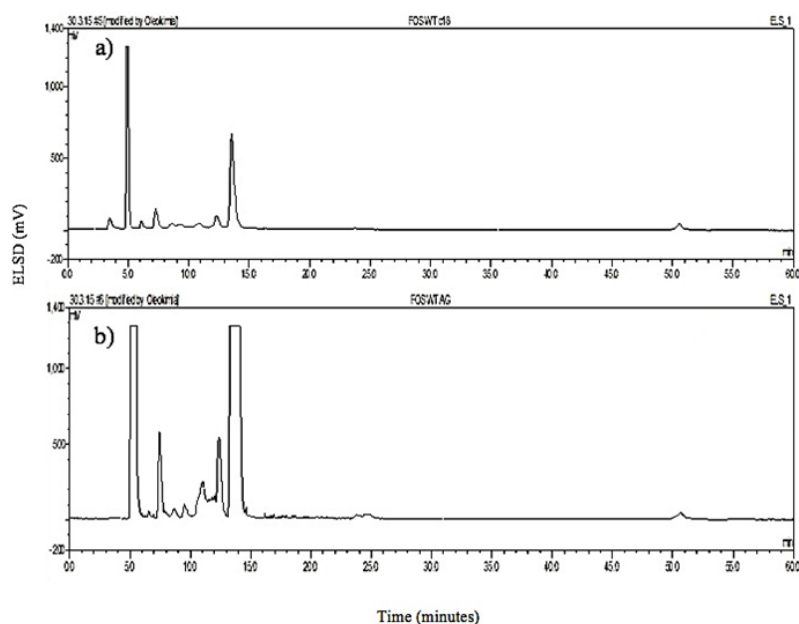
FIGURE 4. HPLC-ELSD chromatograms (0-60 min) of: a) C18 (reversed-phase) extraction (6-fold higher concentration than MBIE) and b) MBIE extraction
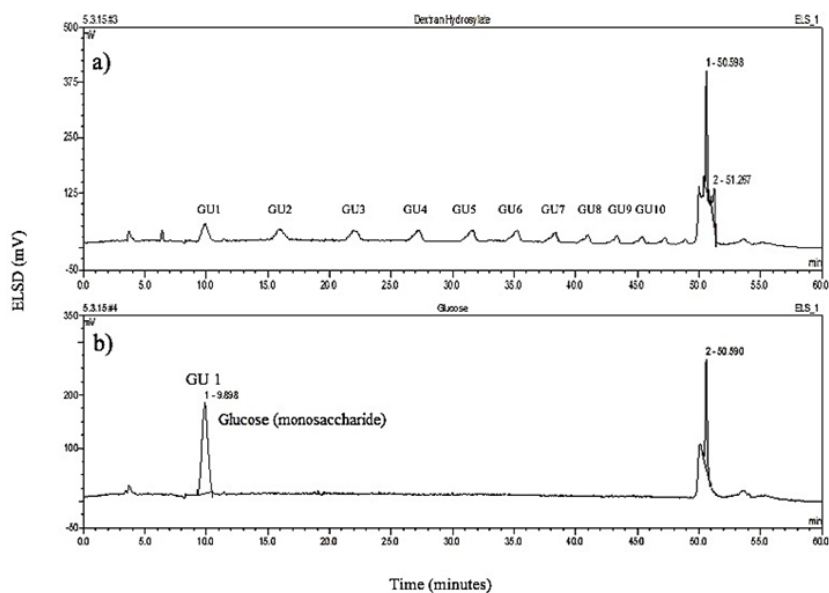
FIGURE 5. HPLC-ELSD chromatograms (0-60 min) of: a) partially hydrolysed dextran standard and b) glucose standard

conjugated metabolites (Figure 3(a)). However, when the TLC plates were stained with orcinol, a carbohydrate affinity stain, spots with mid-range R_f values were observed for both MBIE and C18 extracts (Figure 3(b)). This suggests the presence of unbound carbohydrates (fOS) in both samples. The intensity of fOS spots observed to be stronger in the MBIE extract than the C18 extract and this is consistent with the PSA results which showed higher total carbohydrate content in MBIE than C18 extract.

Profiling of the fOS extracts by HPLC using the universal detector ELSD showed similar peaks for both extraction methods (Figure 4). However, the intensities of all peaks were much higher in the MBIE extract than the C18 extract. The dominant peaks at retention times R_t 5.2 and 14.8 min were particularly high in the MBIE extract. These peaks may correspond to protein-related material in the samples with 9-fold higher concentration of proteins in the MBIE extract than the C18 extract determined using the BCA assay. The fOS detected using TLC may correspond to the smaller peaks in between the two dominant peaks observed in the chromatogram. The HPLC-ELSD results also showed that higher order N-glycan structures were not detected in both extracts which would appear at much higher R_t values. The R_t values of the peaks detected showed that any possible glycan peaks would be the smaller structures of mono- to di-saccharides determined based on glycan unit (GU) analysis of a dextran ladder (Figure 5). This may be due to very low abundance of high-mannose glycans and the truncation of these structures by mannosidases to more abundant smaller structures.

Conclusion

Free oligosaccharide extraction (fOS) from *S. cerevisiae* using mixed-bed ion-exchange (MBIE) resulted in higher carbohydrate and protein content compared to the C18

reversed-phase extract. The high protein content from MBIE extraction makes it less suitable for de-proteination. HPLC-ELSD results also showed that larger glycans (> di/tri-saccharides) were not detected most probably due to truncation by enzymes and low abundance. Therefore, all these results suggested that while mixed-bed ion-exchange extraction was a more suitable method of carbohydrate extraction, it also yielded a much higher quantity of proteins compared to C18 extraction. Further studies should be carried out to further optimise MBIE extraction to reduce protein content and also evaluate other common fOS extraction techniques to increase the carbohydrate over protein ratio for subsequent profiling and functional studies of fOS.

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Iqbal Jalaludin, Amirul Husna Sudin, Dharshini Elangovan, Hussein M. Al-Bajalan & Mukram Mohamad Mackeen*
Department of Chemical Sciences
Faculty of Science and Technology
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Malaysia

Nur Maisarah Sarizan, Kamalrul Azlan Azizan & Mukram Mohamad Mackeen*
Institute of Systems Biology
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Malaysia

Noor Liana Mat Yajit, Abdul Munir Abdul Murad & Farah Diba Abu Bakar
Department of Biosciences and Biotechnology
Faculty of Science and Technology
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
43600 UKM Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan
Malaysia

Dominic S. Alonzi
Oxford Glycobiology Institute
University of Oxford
Oxford OX1 3QU
United Kingdom

*Corresponding author; email: mukram.mackeen@ukm.edu.my