



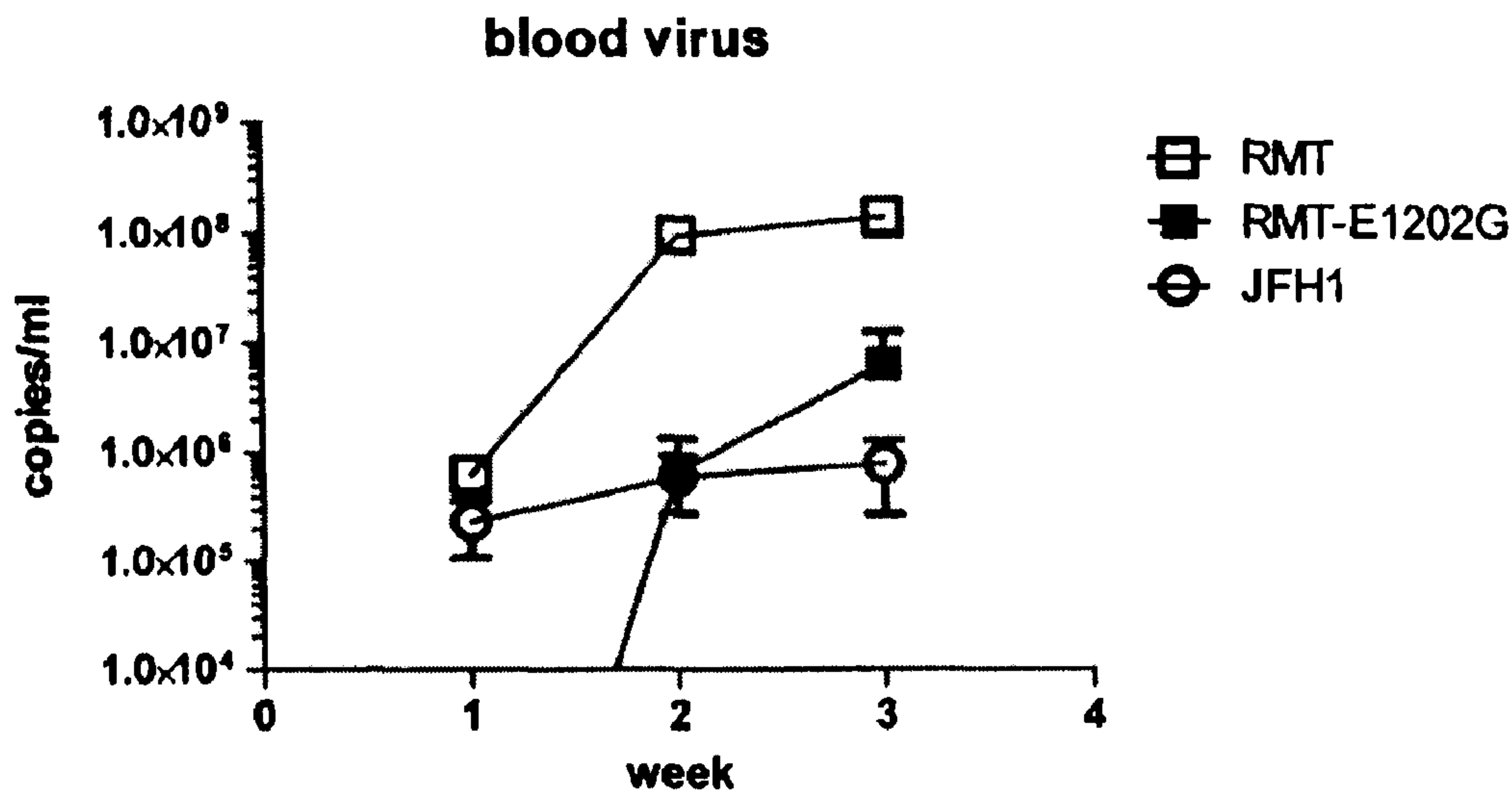
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(54) **Titre : POLYNUCLEOTIDE ISSU D'UNE NOUVELLE SOUCHE DE VIRUS DE L'HEPATITE C ET SON UTILISATION**  
 (54) **Title: POLYNUCLEOTIDE DERIVED FROM NOVEL HEPATITIS C VIRUS STRAIN AND USE THEREOF**



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A polynucleotide encoding the amino acid shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO: 5, or encoding an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto; preferably a polynucleotide comprising replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic

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(57) **Abrégé(suite)/Abstract(continued):**

acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 (position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5) with glycine, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1056 (position 31 of SEQ ID NO:5) with valine, and replacement of the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 2199 (position 1174 of SEQ ID NO:5) with threonine.

**ABSTRACT**

A polynucleotide encoding the amino acid shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO: 5, or encoding an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto; preferably a polynucleotide comprising replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 (position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5) with glycine, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1056 (position 31 of SEQ ID NO:5) with valine, and replacement of the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 2199 (position 1174 of SEQ ID NO:5) with threonine.

## DESCRIPTION

POLYNUCLEOTIDE DERIVED FROM NOVEL HEPATITIS C VIRUS STRAIN  
AND USE THEREOF

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## TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001]

The present invention relates to a polynucleotide derived from a novel strain of hepatitis C virus, a cell and a non-human mammal to which the polynucleotide has been introduced, and a replicon RNA prepared using the polynucleotide.

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## BACKGROUND ART

[0002]

Hepatitis C virus (hereinafter referred to as HCV) is a virus which belongs to Flaviviridae and has a genome of a single-stranded (+)-strand sense RNA, and known to cause hepatitis C. Recent studies have revealed that HCV can be divided into many types based on the genotype or the serotype. According to a phylogenetic analysis by Simmonds et al. using nucleotide sequences of HCV strains, HCV can be divided into 6 types, that is, the genotype 1a, genotype 1b, genotype 2a, genotype 2b, genotype 3a and genotype 3b, each of which can be further divided into several subtypes (Non-patent Document 1).

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[0003]

At present, therapy for hepatitis C is carried out mainly with interferon- $\alpha$  or interferon- $\beta$ , or by a combination therapy using interferon- $\alpha$  and a purine nucleoside-derivative ribavirin. However, even in cases where these therapies are carried out, a therapeutic effect can be observed in only about 60% of the overall patients, and, even in cases where the effect was observed in patients, recurrence occurs in more than half of the patients if the therapy was discontinued. The therapeutic effect of

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interferon is known to be correlated with the genotype of HCV, and it is said that the effect is low against the genotype 1b while the effect is high against the genotype 2a (Non-patent Document 2).

Therefore, in order to evaluate the effect of an agent, it is important to  
5 establish a system which allows infection with, and growth of, each type of the virus, and to thereby investigate the effect of the agent against each type of the virus.

[0004]

Until recently, growing of HCV in a cell culture system and infection of cultured cells with HCV had been difficult, and the only animal which can be  
10 infected with HCV and can be used in experiments was chimpanzee, so that research on the replication mechanism of HCV and on its infection mechanism had been difficult. However, recently, HCV subgenomic RNA replicons were prepared as HCV-derived RNAs having self-replication capacity (Patent Document 1; Non-patent Document 3; Non-patent Document 4; Non-patent Document 5), and analysis of the  
15 replication mechanism of HCV using cultured cells became possible. These HCV subgenomic RNA replicons were prepared by replacing structural proteins existing in the downstream of HCV IRES in the 5'-untranslated region of the HCV genomic RNA of the clone called Con1, which belongs to the genotype 1b, with a neomycin resistance gene and EMCV-IRES linked to the downstream thereof. It has been  
20 demonstrated that introduction of the RNA replicons into Huh7 human liver cancer cells followed by culturing of the cells in the presence of neomycin allows self-replication of the replicons in the Huh7 cells. It is considered that the systems for evaluation of replication of HCV using this RNA replicon system can be a powerful tool for development of anti-HCV drugs

25 [0005]

However, since encoded viral proteins are different among HCVs having different genotypes, sufficient elucidation of the replication mechanism of HCV is



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difficult by only analyzing a subgenomic RNA replicon derived from HCV of the genotype 1b. Therefore, it is thought that preparation of HCV RNA replicons of many genotypes is necessary for research on the replication mechanism of HCV and anti-HCV drugs.

5 [0006]

In Patent Document 2, identification of the virus and the genomic sequence are disclosed for the JFH-1 strain, which belongs to the 2a type. Further, in Patent Document 3, the JFH 2.1 strain and 2.2 strain, which similarly belong to the 2a type, and preparation of replicon RNAs using them are disclosed. On the other hand, in terms of the 1a type, there is a report on the H77 strain (Non-patent Document 6), but a recombinant virus obtained from this strain does not have a sufficient replication efficiency. Further, although a replicon was successfully prepared by introduction of 5 types of mutations which were predicted based on the 1b type, this replicon could be replicated only in a special cell.

15 **PRIOR ART DOCUMENTS****Patent Documents**

[0007]

[Patent Document 1] JP 2001-17187 A

[Patent Document 2] JP 2002-171978 A

20 [Patent Document 3] WO 2005/028652

**Non-patent Documents**

[0008]

[Non-patent Document 1] DUSHEIKO et al., "Hepatitis C Virus Genotypes: an Investigation of Type-specific Differences in Geographic Origin and Disease", *Hepatology*, 1994, PP. 13-18

[Non-patent Document 2] A new type of hepatitis C virus in patients in Thailand, Mori S et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, (1992) 183, 334-342

[Non-patent Document 3] Replication of Subgenomic Hepatitis C Virus RNAs in a Hepatoma Cell Line, Lohmann V et al., *Science*, (1999) 285, 110-113

[Non-patent Document 4] Efficient Initiation of HCV RNA Replication in Cell Culture, Blight KJ et al., *Science*, (2000) 290, 1972-1974

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[Non-patent Document 5] Selectable Subgenomic and Genome-Length Dicistronic RNAs Derived from an Infectious Molecular Clone of the HCV-N Strain of Hepatitis C Virus Replicate Efficiently in Cultured Huh7 Cells, Ikeda M et al., J. Virol., (2002) 76 2997-3006

[Non- patent Document 6] Efficient Replication of Hepatitis C Virus Genotype 1a RNAs in Cell Culture, Blight KJ et al., J. Virol. (2003) 77 3181-3190

#### DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0009]

5           The present invention aims to provide a polynucleotide derived from a novel strain of HCV, and to use this for providing an HCV replicon RNA having high replication efficiency and HCV replicon cells with which continuous mass production of an HCV protein is possible.

[0010]

10           The inventors of the present invention intensively studied to solve the above problems, and, as a result, a novel RMT strain, which is grouped into the 1a type of HCV, was isolated from the serum of a hepatitis C patient; the nucleotide sequence of the strain was determined; and it was discovered that the virus has high infection efficiency. The inventors of the present invention then succeeded in preparing  
15           replicon RNAs having high replication efficiency using this virus, thereby completed the present invention. That is, the present invention provides the followings.

[0011]

(1) A polynucleotide which encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto, wherein said  
20           polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins and structural proteins of hepatitis C virus (HCV).

(2) The polynucleotide according to (1), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position  
25           1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 with glycine.

(3) The polynucleotide according to (1), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto

comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 with glycine, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1056 with valine, and replacement of the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 2199 with threonine.

- 5 (4) The polynucleotide according to (2) or (3), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto further comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to serine at position 2321 of SEQ ID NO:2 with proline and/or replacement of the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 2889 with phenylalanine
- 10 (5) The polynucleotide according to any one of (1) to (4), wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence having not less than 95% homology thereto, and wherein, in cases where the polynucleotide is RNA, the nucleotide "t" in SEQ ID NO:1 is read as "u".
- 15 (6) A hepatitis C virus particle comprising the polynucleotide according to any one of (1) to (5).
- (7) A non-human mammal to which the polynucleotide according to any one of (1) to (5) has been introduced and which produces a recombinant HCV.
- (8) The non-human mammal according to (7), wherein said non-human mammal is a
- 20 human hepatocyte chimeric mouse.
- (9) A cell to which the polynucleotide according to any one of (1) to (5) has been introduced and which produces a recombinant HCV.
- (10) A method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising administering or
- 25 adding said drug candidate substance to the non-human mammal according to (7) or (8) or to the cell according to (9) and evaluating replication capacity of HCV or capacity of translation of HCV protein.



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(11) A polynucleotide which encodes the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto, and wherein said polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins of HCV.

5 (12) The polynucleotide according to (11), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 with glycine.

10 (13) The polynucleotide according to (11), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 5 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 with glycine, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 31 with valine, and replacement of the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 1174 with threonine.

15 (14) The polynucleotide according to (12) or (13), wherein said amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5 or an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity thereto further comprises replacement of the amino acid corresponding to serine at position 1296 of SEQ ID NO:5 with proline and/or replacement of the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 1864 with phenylalanine.

20 (15) The polynucleotide according to any one of (11) to (14), further comprising an IRES sequence.

(16) The polynucleotide according to any one of (11) to (15), further comprising a selection marker gene or a reporter gene.

25 (17) The polynucleotide according to any one of (11) to (16), wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or a polynucleotide which is able to hybridize with the complementary sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions, and wherein, in cases where the polynucleotide is RNA, the nucleotide "t" in SEQ ID NO:3 is read as "u".

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(18) The polynucleotide according to (17), wherein said polynucleotide is a replicon RNA.

(19) A replicon-replicating cell prepared by introducing the replicon RNA according to (18).

(20) The replicon-replicating cell according to (19), wherein the cell is a human liver-derived cell, human uterine cervix-derived cell or human fetal kidney-derived cell.

5 (21) The replicon-replicating cell according to (19) or (20), wherein the cell is a Huh7 cell, HepG2 cell, IMY-N9 cell, HeLa cell or 293 cell.

(22) A method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising adding a drug candidate substance to the replicon-replicating cell according to any one of (19) to (21) and evaluating  
10 replication capacity or protein translation of said replicon RNA.

[0011a]

The present invention further provides the following:

- a polynucleotide which encodes an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity to the full length of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, in which  
15 the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 is replaced with glycine and wherein said polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins and structural proteins of hepatitis C virus (HCV);

- a recombinant hepatitis C virus particle comprising the polynucleotide as described herein;

20 - a cell to which the polynucleotide as described herein has been introduced and which produces a recombinant HCV;

- a method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising administering or



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adding said drug candidate substance to the cell as described herein and evaluating replication capacity of HCV or capacity of translation of HCV protein

- a polynucleotide which encodes an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity to the full length of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5, in which the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 is replaced with glycine and wherein said polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins of HCV;

- a replicon-replicating cell prepared by introducing the replicon RNA as described herein; and

- a method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising adding a drug candidate substance to the replicon-replicating cell as described herein and evaluating replication capacity or protein translation of said replicon RNA.

[0012]

By using a polynucleotide of the novel HCV strain of the present invention, HCV-1a-type-infected model animals and cells can be efficiently obtained.

Further, by using a polynucleotide of the novel HCV strain of the present invention, replicon RNAs and replicon-replicating cells having high replication efficiency can be obtained at a high probability. These replicon-replicating cells can be used as culture systems for continuous production of HCV-derived RNAs and HCV proteins. Further, the replicon-replicating cells can also be used as test systems for screening of various substances that influence replication of HCV or translation of HCV proteins.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013]

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing results of an experiment on infection of human hepatocyte chimeric mice with the serum derived from a patient suffering from 1a-type hepatitis C.

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing the positions of primers for analysis of the sequence of the RMT strain, which primers were designed based on the sequence of the H77 strain.

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the structure of an RMT recombinant virus expression vector.

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing results of comparison of the efficiency of infection to human hepatocyte chimeric mice between the RMT strain and the JFH1 strain.

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing the structure of an expression vector for a replicon RNA derived from the RMT strain.

Fig. 6 is a diagram (photographs) showing the colony formation capacities of replicon RNAs having various mutations, in the presence of an agent.

Fig. 7 is a diagram showing the replication efficiencies of RMT recombinant viruses in Huh7 cells.

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing results of investigation of the effects of antiviral agents in Huh7 cells, using an RMT recombinant virus (to which a triple mutation was introduced).

Fig. 9 is a diagram (micrographs) showing results of fluorescent antibody staining of the HCV-core protein in Huh7 cells infected with culture supernatant (A) or concentrated culture supernatant (B) of #11 cells. The arrowheads indicate stained positions.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

[0014]

The present invention will be described below in detail.

In the present specification, a “polynucleotide” means either RNA or DNA. That is, a “polynucleotide which can express a viral protein” may be either RNA which can be translated into the protein, or DNA which can be transcribed into RNA,



followed by being translated into the protein.

Further, the polynucleotide may be either single-stranded or double-stranded, and may be either naturally occurred or artificially synthesized. Further, the polynucleotide may be partially modified and may be a derivative. It should be noted that each nucleotide sequence in SEQUENCE LISTING is represented as DNA for convenience, but, in cases where the polynucleotide is RNA, the nucleotide symbol "t" is read as "u".

[0015]

The polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention is a polynucleotide encoding structural proteins and nonstructural proteins of HCV.

Examples of such a polynucleotide include the one encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

The amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 is composed of a region comprising structural proteins (Core, E1 and E2) and a region comprising nonstructural proteins (NS2, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A and NS5B).

[0016]

Such structural proteins (Core, E1 and E2) and nonstructural proteins (NS2, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A and NS5B) of HCV are translated as a continuous polyprotein from the translated region and then released by limited hydrolysis by protease. Among these structural proteins and nonstructural proteins (that is, viral proteins of HCV), Core is a core protein, E1 and E2 are envelope proteins, and the nonstructural proteins are proteins involved in replication of the virus itself. Further, it is known that NS2 has a metalloprotease activity and NS3 has a serine protease activity (one third from N-terminus of the whole protein) and a helicase activity (two thirds from C-terminus of the whole protein). Further, it has been reported that NS4A is a cofactor for the protease activity of NS3, and that NS5B has an RNA-dependent RNA polymerase activity.

[0017]

In the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, amino acid positions 1 to 191 correspond to the Core protein; amino acid positions 192 to 383 correspond to the E1 protein; amino acid positions 384 to 809 correspond to the E2 protein; amino acid positions 810 to 1026 correspond to the NS2 protein; amino acid positions 1027 to 1657 correspond to the NS3 protein; amino acid positions 1658 to 1711 correspond to the NS4A protein; amino acid positions 1712 to 1972 correspond to the NS4B protein; amino acid positions 1973 to 2420 correspond to the NS5A protein; and amino acid positions 2421 to 3011 correspond to the NS5B protein.

10 [0018]

The polynucleotide of the present invention is derived from the RMT strain, and may be derived either from the RMT strain itself or from a derivative of the RMT strain.

That is, in the sequence of the polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention, a substitution(s), deletion(s), addition(s), insertion(s) and/or the like may exist(s) as long as the polynucleotide encodes the respective viral proteins described above which are functional. More particularly, the polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention may be a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity, preferably not less than 99% identity, to the entire amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2

20 [0019]

Further, the polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention may be a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence which is the same as the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 except that one or more amino acids, particularly 1 to 50, preferably 1 to 30, more preferably 1 to 10, still more preferably 1 to 5 amino acids are substituted, deleted, added and/or inserted, as long as the polynucleotide encodes the respective viral proteins described above which are

functional.

[0020]

In order to maintain high replication capacity in cultured cells, preferably, the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 is  
5 replaced with glycine, and, more preferably, the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 is replaced with glycine; the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1056 is replaced with valine; and the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 2199 is replaced with threonine. Further, in addition to the above replacements, the polynucleotide may have replacement of the  
10 amino acid corresponding to serine at position 2321 of SEQ ID NO:2 with proline and/or replacement of the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 2889 with phenylalanine.

The “amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2” herein means the amino acid existing at the position of glutamic acid at  
15 position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 based on comparison of sequences, and, for example, in cases where position 1202 becomes position 1201 due to deletion of an amino acid in the upstream of position 1202, the amino acid at position 1201 is referred to as the “amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2”.

[0021]

20 The polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention encodes the structural proteins and the nonstructural proteins of HCV, and, preferably, the polynucleotide comprises the 5'-untranslated region and the 3'-untranslated region in the upstream and the downstream, respectively, of the proteins, and can produce an HCV having the capacities of infection and self-replication. Examples of such a  
25 polynucleotide include viral genomic RNAs, and DNAs that express the RNAs.

[0022]

Particular examples of such a polynucleotide include the polynucleotide

having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

In the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, nucleotide positions 1 to 341 correspond to the “5’-untranslated region (5’-UTR)”;

5 nucleotide positions 342 to 914 correspond to the Core protein-coding region, nucleotide positions 915 to 1490 correspond to the E1 protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 1491 to 2768 correspond to the E2 protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 2769 to 3419 correspond to the NS2 protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 3420 to 5312 correspond to the NS3 protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 5313 to 5474 correspond to the NS4A protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 5475 to 6257

10 correspond to the NS4B-coding region; nucleotide positions 6258 to 7601 correspond to the NS5A protein-coding region; nucleotide positions 7602 to 9374 correspond to the NS5B protein-coding region; and nucleotide positions 9375 to 9598 correspond to the “3’-untranslated region (3’-UTR)”.

[0023]

15 The polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention is not restricted to the polynucleotide having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and a polynucleotide which is able to hybridize with the complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions is also included in the polynucleotide of the present invention as long as the polynucleotide encodes the respective desired

20 proteins described above. The “stringent conditions” herein means conditions under which the so-called specific hybrid is formed while a non-specific hybrid is not formed, and examples of the stringent conditions include: conditions under which DNAs having a high homology, for example, a not less than 95% homology, to each other hybridize with each other, while DNAs having a lower homology to each other

25 do not hybridize with each other; and conditions under which one time, more preferably 2 or 3 times, of washing is carried out at a salt concentration and a temperature corresponding to those in normal washing conditions for Southern



hybridization, such as at 60°C in 0.1×SSC, 0.1% SDS, more preferably at 68°C in 0.1×SSC, 0.1% SDS.

[0024]

By introducing the polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention into a non-human mammal, a 1a-type-HCV-infected model animal can be prepared. Examples of the non-human mammal include mouse, rat, rabbit, dog and chimpanzee, and the non-human mammal is preferably a human hepatocyte chimeric mouse.

A uPA/SCID mouse was prepared by crossing a mouse prepared by gene transfer of the urokinase plasminogen activator (uPA) gene linked to an enhancer and a promoter of albumin (uPA-Tg mouse) with a SCID mouse, and human hepatocytes were transplanted to the resulting mouse, to prepare a human hepatocyte chimeric mouse wherein not less than 70% of the mouse liver was replaced with human hepatocytes. By inoculating HCV to the thus prepared human hepatocyte chimeric mouse, an HCV-persistently-infected chimeric mouse can be prepared.

Such a 1a-type-HCV-infected model animal can be used for research on the control mechanisms of infection and replication of 1a-type HCV, and for evaluation and screening of drug candidate substances.

[0025]

Further, by introducing the polynucleotide of the first embodiment of the present invention into cultured cells, 1a-type-HCV-producing cells can be obtained. The type of the cells is not restricted, and the cells are preferably mammalian-derived cells, more preferably human liver-derived cells, human uterine cervix-derived cells or human fetal kidney-derived cells. Particular examples of the cells include Huh7 cells, HepG2 cells, IMY-N9 cells, HeLa cells and 293 cells. Such 1a-type-HCV-producing cells can be used for research on the control mechanisms of infection and replication of 1a-type HCV, and for evaluation and screening of drug candidate

substances.

[0026]

The polynucleotide of the second embodiment of the present invention is a polynucleotide encoding nonstructural proteins of HCV.

5 Examples of such a polynucleotide include the one encoding the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5.

The amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5 comprises nonstructural proteins (NS2, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A and NS5B).

[0027]

10 In the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5, amino acid positions 2 to 632 correspond to the NS3 protein; amino acid positions 633 to 686 correspond to the NS4A protein; amino acid positions 687 to 947 correspond to the NS4B protein; amino acid positions 948 to 1395 correspond to the NS5A protein; and amino acid positions 1396 to 1986 correspond to the NS5B protein

15 [0028]

In the sequence of the polynucleotide of the second embodiment of the present invention, a substitution(s), deletion(s), addition(s), insertion(s) and/or the like may exist as long as the polynucleotide encodes the respective viral proteins described above which are functional. More particularly, the polynucleotide of the second embodiment of the present invention may be a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity, preferably not less than 99% identity, to the entire amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5.

[0029]

25 In the sequence the polynucleotide of the second embodiment of the present invention, a substitution(s), deletion(s), addition(s), insertion(s) and/or the like may exist(s) as long as the polynucleotide encodes the respective viral proteins described above which are functional. More particularly, the polynucleotide of the second

embodiment of the present invention may be a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence which is the same as the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5 except that one or more amino acids, particularly 1 to 30, preferably 1 to 10, more preferably 1 to 5 amino acids are substituted, deleted, added and/or inserted.

5 [0030]

The polynucleotide of the second embodiment of the present invention is preferably an RNA having the 5'-untranslated region and the 3'-untranslated region in the upstream and downstream, respectively, of the region encoding the nonstructural proteins, and having the capacity of self-replication in a host cell; or a  
10 DNA which can produce the RNA. In the present specification, the RNA having the capacity of self-replication in a host cell is referred to as a "replicon RNA" or "RNA replicon".

[0031]

One embodiment of the HCV replicon RNA of the present invention is a  
15 replicon RNA composed of a nucleotide sequence comprising at least the 5'-untranslated region; a sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein; and the 3'-untranslated region, in the genomic RNA of the RMT strain.

The HCV replicon RNA, or the DNA expressing it, of the present invention  
20 preferably comprises a mutation(s) which enable(s) its efficient replication in a host cell.

Examples of such a mutation(s) include replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 (position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2) with glycine; and the triple mutation by replacement of the amino  
25 acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 (position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2) with glycine, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 31 of SEQ ID NO:5 (position 1056 of SEQ ID NO:2) with

valine, and replacement of the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 1174 of SEQ ID NO:5 (position 2199 of SEQ ID NO:2) with threonine is more preferred. Further, in addition to the above replacements, replacement of the amino acid corresponding to serine at position 1296 of SEQ ID NO:5 with proline and/or replacement of the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 1864 with phenylalanine may be contained.

[0032]

The HCV replicon RNA of the present invention may further comprise an IRES sequence, and may still further comprise a selection marker gene or reporter gene.

The selection marker gene or reporter gene may be linked to the upstream of the IRES sequence, or to the upstream or the downstream of the "sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein"; or may be inserted into the "sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein".

[0033]

A preferred embodiment of the HCV replicon RNA of the present invention is a replicon RNA composed of a polynucleotide comprising the 5'-untranslated region; at least one selection marker gene or reporter gene; at least one IRES sequence; a nucleotide sequence in the genomic RNA of HCV, encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein; and the 3'-untranslated region.

[0034]

The replicon RNA of the present invention more preferably has the 5'-untranslated region of the genomic RNA of HCV; has a selection marker gene or reporter gene, an IRES sequence, and the "sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein", in this order, in the



downstream of the 5'-untranslated region; and has the 3'-untranslated region of the genomic RNA of HCV, in the 3'-end.

[0035]

A more preferred embodiment of the HCV replicon RNA of the present invention is a replicon RNA composed of RNA having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3. A nucleic acid which is able to hybridize with the complementary strand of SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions is also included therein. The meaning of the "stringent conditions" is as mentioned above.

In the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, nucleotide positions 1 to 341 correspond to the "5'-UTR"; nucleotide positions 342 to 1181 correspond to a neomycin resistance gene; nucleotide positions 1185 to 1764 correspond to EMCV IRES; nucleotide positions 1765 to 7722 correspond to the "nonstructural protein (NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A and NS5B proteins)-coding region"; and nucleotide positions 7723 to 7946 correspond to the "3'-UTR".

Although replicon RNAs were explained above, DNAs that can express the replicon RNAs are also, of course, included in the polynucleotide of the present invention.

[0036]

In the present invention, "having the capacity of self-replication" means that, in cases where a replicon RNA is introduced to a cell, the replicon RNA can replicate the replicon RNA itself in the cell. The capacity of autonomous replication can be confirmed by, for example, transfection of the replicon RNA into a Huh7 cell and culturing of the Huh7 cell, followed by subjecting RNA extracted from cells in the obtained culture to Northern blot hybridization or RT-PCR using a probe or primer with which the introduced replicon RNA can be specifically detected, to detect the presence of the replicon RNA. The particular operation to confirm the capacity of autonomous replication can be carried out according to descriptions in Examples of

the present description, about measurement of the colony forming capacity, confirmation of expression of an HCV protein, detection of a replicon RNA, and the like.

[0037]

5           The replicon RNA of the present invention may comprise, in addition to the above-described sequences, an RNA having an arbitrary foreign gene which is to be expressed in the cell to which the replicon RNA is to be introduced. The foreign gene may be linked to the downstream of the 5'-untranslated region; linked to the upstream or the downstream of the selection marker gene or reporter gene; linked to  
10 the upstream or the downstream of the "sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein"; or inserted into the "sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein". The replicon RNA comprising a foreign gene can express the protein encoded by the foreign gene when the replicon RNA is translated in the cell  
15 to which the replicon RNA is introduced. Thus, the replicon RNA comprising a foreign gene can be suitably used also in cases where a specific gene product is produced in the cell, such as the cases of gene therapy.

[0038]

In the present invention, a "selection marker gene" means a gene which can  
20 add selectivity to cells such that only cells wherein the gene is expressed can be selected. Common examples of the selection marker gene include antibiotic resistance genes. Examples of selection marker genes suitable in the present invention include the neomycin resistance gene, thymidine kinase gene, kanamycin resistance gene, pyrithiamin resistance gene, adenylyltransferase gene, zeocin  
25 resistance gene and puromycin resistance gene, among which the neomycin resistance gene and thymidine kinase gene are preferred, and the neomycin resistance gene is more preferred.

[0039]

In the present invention, a “reporter gene” means a marker gene encoding a gene product which can be used as an index of expression of the gene. Common examples of the reporter gene include structural genes of enzymes that catalyze a  
5 luminous reaction or a color reaction. Examples of reporter gene suitable in the present invention include the chloramphenicol acetyltransferase gene,  $\beta$ -galactosidase gene, luciferase gene, green fluorescent protein gene, aequorin gene derived from jerry fish and secreted placental alkaline phosphatase (SEAP) gene.

10 Either only one or both of the above selection marker gene and reporter gene may be contained in the replicon RNA.

[0040]

The “IRES sequence” in the present invention means an internal ribosome binding site which can allow a ribosome to bind to the inside of RNA to initiate translation. Suitable examples of the IRES sequence in the present invention  
15 include, but are not limited to, EMCV IRES (internal ribosome binding site of encephalomyocarditis virus), FMDV IRES and HCV IRES, among which EMCV IRES and HCV IRES are more preferred, and EMCV IRES is most preferred.

[0041]

The replicon RNA of the present invention may further comprise a ribozyme.  
20 The ribozyme is inserted such that it links the selection marker gene, reporter gene or foreign gene in the 5'-side replicon RNA to the IRES sequence and the “sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein” in the 3'-side, to allow their cleavage and separation by the self-cleavage activity of the ribozyme.

25 [0042]

In the replicon RNA of the present invention, the above-mentioned selection marker gene; reporter gene; sequence encoding virus proteins in the genomic RNA of

hepatitis C virus derived from a patient suffering from fulminant hepatitis; foreign gene, and the like are linked together such that translation occurs in the replicon RNA in the correct reading frame. Among these sequences, sequences encoding proteins may be linked to each other via protease cleavage sites or the like such that these sequences are expressed as a fusion protein with the polyprotein translated from the “sequence encoding the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein” of hepatitis C virus and then separated into the respective proteins by protease.

[0043]

10 The HCV replicon RNA of the present invention can be prepared using arbitrary genetic engineering techniques which are known to those skilled in the art. For example, the HCV replicon RNA can be prepared by the following method.

15 First, the NS3 protein, NS4A protein, NS4B protein, NS5A protein and NS5B protein, and DNA corresponding to the RNA in the 3'-untranslated region are inserted into a cloning vector by a conventional method to prepare a DNA clone. On the other hand, the 5'-untranslated region is inserted in the downstream of an RNA promoter, to prepare a DNA clone. The “DNA corresponding to the RNA” means DNA having the nucleotide sequence wherein u (uracil) in the nucleotide sequence of the RNA is replaced with t (thymine). The RNA promoter is preferably one contained in a plasmid clone. Preferred examples of the RNA promoter include, 20 but are not limited to, a T7 RNA promoter, SP6 RNA promoter and SP3 RNA promoter, among which a T7 RNA promoter is especially preferred.

[0044]

25 Subsequently, for example, in the prepared DNA clone of the 5'-untranslated region, a selection marker gene or a reporter gene is inserted into the downstream of the 5'-untranslated region, and an IRES sequence is inserted into the further downstream. Thereafter, by linking the both clones to each other, a DNA for



expressing the HCV replicon RNA of the present invention can be obtained.

[0045]

Subsequently, RNA is synthesized by RNA polymerase using the thus prepared DNA clone as a template. The RNA synthesis can be initiated from the 5'-  
5 untranslated region and the IRES sequence by a conventional method. In cases where the template DNA is a plasmid clone, the above-described DNA region linked to the downstream of the RNA promoter may be cleaved out using a restriction enzyme, to synthesize RNA using the DNA fragment as a template. Thus, the replicon RNA of the present invention can be obtained.

10 [0046]

By introducing the thus prepared replicon RNA into a cell wherein the replicon RNA is to be replicated, a cell wherein the replicon RNA is continuously replicating can be obtained. In the present specification, the cell wherein the replicon RNA is continuously replicating is referred to as a "replicon-replicating cell".

15 [0047]

As the cell to which the replicon RNA is to be introduced, an arbitrary cell can be used as long as the cell can be subcultured, and the cell is preferably a eukaryotic cell, more preferably a human liver-derived cell, human uterine cervix-derived cell or human fetal kidney-derived cell, still more preferably a Huh7 cell,  
20 HepG2 cell, IMY-N9 cell, HeLa cell or 293 cell. These cells may be those obtained from a commercial source; may be obtained from a cell depository; or may be those established from an arbitrary cell (e.g., from a cancer cell or stem cell).

[0048]

The introduction of the replicon RNA into cells may be carried out using an  
25 arbitrary technique known to those skilled in the art. Examples of the introduction method include electroporation, the particle gun method, lipofection, the calcium phosphate method, microinjection and the DEAE sepharose method, among which

electroporation is especially preferred.

The amount of the replicon RNA to be used for the introduction into cells may be determined depending on the type of the introduction method, and is preferably 1 picogram to 100 micrograms, more preferably 10 picograms to 10  
5 micrograms.

[0049]

In cases where a replicon RNA comprising a selection marker gene or a reporter gene is used for the introduction into cells, cells to which the replicon RNA was introduced wherein the replicon RNA is continuously replicating can be selected  
10 using expression of the selection marker gene or the reporter gene. More particularly, for example, cells subjected to treatment for introduction of such a replicon RNA into the cells may be cultured in a medium wherein selection is possible based on expression of the selection marker gene or the reporter gene.

[0050]

15 For example, in cases where a neomycin resistance gene is contained as a selection marker gene in the replicon RNA, cells subjected to treatment for introduction of the replicon RNA into the cells are plated on a culture dish, and the cells are cultured for 16 to 24 hours, followed by addition of G418 (neomycin) to the culture dish at a concentration of 0.05 milligram/milliliter to 3.0 milligrams/milliliter.  
20 Thereafter, with replacement of the culture medium twice per week, the culture is continued, and viable cells are stained with crystal violet after preferably 10 days to 40 days, more preferably 14 days to 28 days of culture after the plating. By this, cells to which the replicon RNA was introduced wherein the replicon RNA is replicating continuously can be selected as colonies.

25 From the formed colonies, cells can be cloned by a conventional method. The thus obtained cell clone wherein the replicon RNA of interest is continuously replicating is referred to as a "replicon-replicating cell clone" in the present

specification.

[0051]

Whether the replicon RNA of interest is actually continuously replicating in the established cell clone is preferably confirmed by detection of the replicon RNA replicated from the introduced replicon RNA in the cell clone, confirmation of  
5 incorporation of the selection marker gene or the reporter gene in the introduced replicon RNA into the host genomic DNA, and confirmation of expression of an HCV protein.

The replicon RNA replicated from the introduced replicon RNA in the cell  
10 clone (which is referred to as a "replicated replicon RNA" in the present specification, for convenience) may be detected by an arbitrary RNA detection method known to those skilled in the art. For example, the replicated replicon RNA can be detected by subjecting total RNA extracted from the cell clone to Northern hybridization or RT-PCR using a DNA fragment specific to the introduced replicon RNA, as a probe  
15 or a primer.

[0052]

Incorporation of the selection marker gene or the reporter gene in the introduced replicon RNA into the host genomic DNA can be confirmed by, for example, performing PCR to amplify at least a part of the selection marker gene or  
20 the reporter gene in the host genomic DNA extracted from the cell clone, thereby confirming the presence/absence of the amplified product.

[0053]

Expression of an HCV protein can be confirmed by, for example, allowing an antibody against the HCV protein, which should be expressed from the introduced  
25 replicon RNA, to react with protein extracted from the cell clone. This method can be carried out by an arbitrary protein detection method known to those skilled in the art, and, more particularly, for example, it can be carried out by blotting a protein

sample extracted from the cell clone onto a nitrocellulose membrane and reacting an anti-HCV-protein antibody (e.g., an anti-NS3 specific antibody, or an antiserum collected from a patient suffering from hepatitis C) therewith, followed by detecting the anti-HCV-protein antibody. If the HCV protein is detected in the protein  
5 extracted from the cell clone, it can be judged that, in the cell clone, the replicon RNA derived from HCV is continuously replicating and expressing the HCV protein.  
[0054]

Thus, a cell clone (replicon-replicating cell clone) wherein the replicon RNA of interest has been confirmed to be continuously replicating can be obtained.  
10 [0055]

The replicon-replicating cell of the present invention can be suitably used also for producing an HCV protein. Production of an HCV protein from replicon-replicating cells can be carried out according to a conventional method by those skilled in the art. More particularly, for example, replicon-replicating cells are  
15 cultured, and, from the obtained culture (which contains cultured cells and a culture medium), the protein can be obtained by a conventional method.  
[0056]

The replicon RNA-replicating cell of the present invention can be used also as a test system for screening or evaluation of substances that suppress replication of  
20 HCV or translation of HCV proteins. More particularly, for example, by culturing replicon-replicating cells in the presence of a drug candidate substance and detecting replication of a replicon RNA in the obtained culture, followed by judging whether the substance suppresses replication of the replicon RNA, a substance that suppresses replication of HCV can be screened. In such a case, the detection of replication of  
25 the replicon RNA in the obtained culture may be either detection of the amount or the presence/absence of the replicon RNA in RNA extracted from the replicon RNA-replicating cells, or detection of the amount or the presence/absence of an HCV



protein contained in protein in the culture or in the replicon RNA-replicating cells contained in the culture.

Further, by culturing replicon-replicating cells in the presence of a drug candidate substance and detecting a protein derived from the replicon RNA in the obtained culture, followed by judging whether the substance suppresses production of the protein, a substance that suppresses translation of the protein of HCV can be screened.

The drug candidate substance is not restricted, and may be, for example, a low-molecular synthetic compound or a compound contained in a natural product. Further, the drug candidate substance may be a peptide or a nucleic acid. Test substances may be used individually in the screening, or a compound library containing these substances may be used.

#### EXAMPLES

[0057]

The present invention will now be described more particularly by way of Examples. However, the scope of the claims should not be limited by the Examples. (Example 1) Cloning of Hepatitis C Virus

##### 1. Origin of Virus

Using a 27-G disposable injection needle, 100  $\mu$ l of the serum of a patient infected with the genotype 1a (G-52998-035: International Reagents Co., Ltd.) was intravenously inoculated to a human hepatocyte chimeric mouse (Tateno et al. American Journal Pathology 2004, 165:901-912) prepared by PhoenixBio Co., Ltd., at the orbital venous plexus. From the following week of the inoculation, 10  $\mu$ L of blood was collected once per week under diethyl ether anesthesia at the orbital venous plexus using Intramedic<sup>TM</sup> Polyethylene Tubing (0.58x0.965 mm, Becton-Dickinson Japan, Tokyo). Immediately after the blood collection, the blood was transferred to a 500-  $\mu$ L safe-lock microtest tube containing a serum separation agent

(Eppendorf Co., Ltd., Tokyo). The blood was left to stand for 5 minutes at room temperature and then centrifuged at 13200×g for 3 minutes to obtain serum, which was then stored at -80°C. From 1 μL of the collected serum, RNA was extracted using SepaGene RV-R (Sanko Junyaku Co., Ltd., Tokyo), and the RNA was dissolved in 10 μL of Nuclease-free water (Ambion, Inc./Applied Biosystems Japan, Tokyo) containing 1 mM DTT (Promega KK, Tokyo) and 4 U/mL ribonuclease inhibitor (TAKARA BIO INC., Shiga). The dissolved RNA was stored at -80±10°C until quantification of the serum HCV RNA.

When the serum HCV RNA was quantified, HCV RNA synthesized in vitro was used as a copy standard. The quantification limit of the serum HCV RNA level was from 4.0×10<sup>4</sup> copies/mL to 1.0×10<sup>9</sup> copies/mL in the serum.

In the PCR reaction solution, 2.5 μL of the stock solution of the dissolved RNA or diluted RNA was used, and PCR was carried out using TaqMan<sup>\*</sup> EZ RT-PCR Core Reagents (Applied Biosystems Japan, Tokyo). The PCR reaction was performed at 50°C for 2 minutes → at 60°C for 30 minutes → at 95°C for 5 minutes → (at 95°C for 20 seconds → at 62°C for 1 minute) ×50 cycles, and the reaction and analysis were carried out using ABI Prism 7700 (Applied Biosystems Japan). The serum HCV RNA level was calculated by averaging the levels measured in 2 wells.

As primers and a probe, the following sequences were used.

Forward primer: 5'-CGGGAGAGCCATAGTGG-3' (SEQ ID NO:6)

Reverse primer: 5'-AGTACCACAAGGCCTTTCG-3' (SEQ ID NO:7)

Probe: 5'-CTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACAC-3' (SEQ ID NO:8) (5'-end: FAM; 3'-end: TAMRA)

The results indicate that infection of HCV was established and the blood virus level was maintained at a high level. The process, and timing of collection of the serum are shown in Fig. 1.

\* Trademark

As a result, it was revealed that this virus maintains a high infection/replication efficiency.

[0058]

## 2. Preparation of Total RNA of Virus and Synthesis of cDNA

5 From 10  $\mu$ l of the chimeric mouse serum obtained in the above-described 1, total RNA was extracted by the AGPC (acid-guanidinium-isothiocyanate-phenol-chloroform) method using ISOGEN-LS (manufactured by Nippon Gene Co., Ltd.), and the extracted total RNA was dissolved in RNase-free water. Using the thus obtained total RNA, reverse transcription was performed with a primer (the antisense  
10 sequence from the 9569th nucleotide having a length of 21 nucleotides) prepared based on the sequence of the HCV-H77 strain (accession No: AF011751), using LongRange Reverse Transcriptase (manufactured by Qiagen), at 25°C for 10minutes and then at 42°C for 90 minutes, followed by treatment for inactivation of the reverse transcriptase at 85°C for 5 minutes, addition of RNase H (manufactured by  
15 Invitrogen) and incubation at 37°C for 20 minutes to digest viral RNA so that only cDNA exists.

[0059]

## 3. Determination of Sequence

Nested PCR was performed using the synthesized cDNA as a template for  
20 PCR. The reaction was carried out by adding the above-described reaction solution at a ratio of 1/10 with respect to the total volume, and using Phusion DNA polymerase (manufactured by Fynnzymes) as the enzyme. PCR primers were designed based on the sequence of HCV-H77 (Fig. 2). Three fragments, that is, those corresponding to nucleotide positions 9 to 4054, 2952 to 7057, and 5963 to  
25 9569, are expected to be amplified in the first PCR reaction. In the second PCR, 3 fragments, that is, those corresponding to nucleotide positions 23-4033, 2967-7035, and 5981-9554, were amplified using the respective reaction solutions as templates.



In the first PCR and the second PCR, 20 cycles and 30 cycles, respectively, of the reaction under the conditions of: denaturation at 98°C for 10 seconds; annealing at 60°C for 30 seconds; and then at 72°C for 2.5 minutes were performed. These DNA fragments were separated by agarose electrophoresis and purified using Wizard SV gel and PCR clean-up system (manufactured by Promega), followed by being 5 cloned using TOPO cloning kit (manufactured by Invitrogen). Appeared colonies were picked up and allowed to grow, followed by purification of plasmid DNAs and determination of the sequences of not less than 15 clones for each fragment using Big Dye Terminator Mix and an automated DNA sequencer model 3100 (manufactured 10 by Applied Biosystems). From the obtained sequence information, the most frequent nucleotide at each nucleotide position was determined to obtain a consensus sequence. At each of all the nucleotide positions, not less than 11 clones out of 15 clones shared the same nucleotide.

Subsequently, using the 5'-RACE method and the 3'-RACE method, the 15 nucleotide sequences of the 5'-end and the 3'-end of the viral RNA were determined. For determination of the 5'-end sequence, 5'-end cDNA was synthesized using the 5'-RACE system (manufactured by Invitrogen, Version 2.0) and a primer (the antisense sequence from the 261st nucleotide having a length of 21 nucleotides), and a poly-C sequence was added to the 5'-end of the synthesized cDNA by terminal 20 deoxynucleotidyl transferase. Thereafter, the 5'-end was amplified by nested-PCR.

Further, in order to determine the 3'-end sequence, a poly-A sequence was added to the extracted viral RNA using poly(A) polymerase (manufactured by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.), and cDNA was prepared using an oligo d(T) primer, followed by PCR amplification using a specific primer (the sense sequence from the 9385th 25 nucleotide having a length of 24 nucleotides) and the oligo d(T) primer. These DNA fragments were similarly subjected to TOPO cloning, and the sequences of not less than 10 clones were determined, to obtain a consensus sequence. The positions



in the HCV-H77 sequence and the lengths of the primers used for the cloning are shown in Fig. 2. Among these, the primers corresponding to the regions 2952 to 2972 and 5981 to 6000 were prepared according to the RMT sequence based on the sequence information preliminarily obtained.

5            Thus, a consensus sequence of the total viral genome was obtained, and the strain was designated the HCV-RMT strain. The obtained nucleotide sequence, which has a length of 9598 nucleotides, is shown in SEQ ID NO:1. The nucleotide sequence had a long translated region between position 342 and position 9374, which encodes 3011 amino acid residues. The amino acid sequence of the translated  
10            region is described in SEQ ID NO:2.

The genomic nucleotide sequence of the RMT strain had a homology of 92.8% in terms of the nucleotide sequence, and 95.1% in terms of the amino acid sequence, to the H77 strain, which similarly belongs to the 1a type

[0060]

## 15            (Example 2) Confirmation of Infectivity to Chimeric Mouse

### 1. Construction of Viral RNA Expression Vector

An expression vector was prepared using the HCV-RMT strain sequence obtained in Example 1. A promoter sequence for T7 RNA polymerase was linked to the 5'-end, and a restriction enzyme *Xba*I-cleavage site was linked to the 3'-end.  
20            The resulting fragment was inserted into pBR322. Further, T at nucleotide position 3941 was converted to C, to destroy the *Xba*I cleavage site in the HCV-RMT sequence, without changing the amino acid sequence. For introduction of the mutation, QuikChangeII Site-Directed Mutagenesis kit (manufactured by Stratagene) was used. Thus, the expression vector was made such that, by digesting the vector  
25            with *Xba*I, removing single-stranded portions with mung bean nuclease and using the resulting DNA fragment as a template for T7 polymerase, RNA having the length of the HCV genome can be synthesized. The prepared expression vector was

designated pRMTx, and its structure is shown in Fig. 3.

[0061]

## 2. Preparation HCV-RMT Strain RNA and Injection Thereof to Liver of Human Hepatocyte Chimeric Mouse

5 pRMTx was sufficiently digested with *Xba*I, and single-stranded portions after the *Xba*I digestion were removed with Mung bean nuclease. Subsequently, using this DNA fragment, RNA was synthesized using RiboMAX (manufactured by Promega KK). After reaction at 37°C for 90 minutes, DNase treatment was carried out at 37°C for 30 minutes, and the synthesized RNA was purified through a  
10 microspin-G25 column (manufactured by GE HealthCare), followed by being subjected to phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation. A part of the thus obtained RNA was subjected to agarose electrophoresis to confirm that RNA having the desired size was produced.

A human hepatocyte chimeric mouse of 10 to 14 weeks old which had human  
15 albumin in the mouse blood at a concentration of not less than 6 mg/ml was subjected to celiotomy, and 400 µL/75 µg of this RNA was injected to the liver directly using an injector. From the following week of the inoculation, 10 µL of blood was collected once per week under diethyl ether anesthesia at the orbital venous plexus using Intramedic™ Polyethylene Tubing, and the copy number of the  
20 HCV-RNA in the serum was measured in the same manner as described above. Further, pRMTx-E1202G, which was prepared by introducing E1202G (a mutation replacing glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 with glycine) to pRMTx, was also subjected to a similar experiment.

As a result, as shown in Fig. 4, in the case of the HCV-RMT strain, a higher  
25 copy number of the HCV RNA was detected in the chimeric mouse serum, compared to the JFH1 strain used as a control. Thus, it was revealed that the HCV-RMT strain has a high replication capacity in the chimeric mouse. Further, also in the

case of the HCV-RMT-E1202G strain, a higher HCV RNA copy number was detected 3 weeks later, compared to the JFH1 strain.

[0062]

(Example 3) Confirmation of Replicon-replicating Capacity and Identification of  
5 Acclimation Mutations

#### 1. Construction of Replicon RNA Expression Vector

According to a conventional method (Lohman et al., Science, 1999), nucleotide positions 391 to 3419 of the HCV-RMT sequence in the pRMTx vector were deleted, and, instead, a sequence for a neomycin resistance protein and,  
10 subsequently, an EMCV-IRES sequence and an initiation codon were inserted. The prepared expression vector was designated pRMTx-neo, and its structure is shown in Fig. 5; the nucleotide sequence of the replicon RNA prepared from the expression vector is shown in SEQ ID NO:3; and the amino acid sequences of the proteins produce by translation are shown in SEQ ID NOs: 4 (neomycin resistance protein) and 5  
15 (nonstructural protein).

[0063]

#### 2. Preparation of Replicon RNA

pRMTx-neo was sufficiently digested with *Xba*I, and single-stranded portions after the *Xba*I digestion were removed with Mung bean nuclease. Subsequently,  
20 using this DNA fragment, RNA was synthesized using RiboMAX (manufactured by Promega KK). After reaction at 37°C for 90 minutes, DNase treatment was carried out at 37°C for 30 minutes, and the synthesized RNA was purified through a microspin-G25 column (manufactured by GE HealthCare), followed by being subjected to phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation. A part of the thus obtained  
25 RNA was subjected to agarose electrophoresis to confirm that RNA having the desired size was produced.

[0064]

### 3. Establishment of Replicon-replicating Cell Clone and Identification of Replicon Sequence Mutations

To Huh7 cells, 30  $\mu\text{g}$  of the synthesized replicon RNA prepared in the above 2 was introduced by electroporation. The Huh7 cell to which the RNA was 5 introduced was plated on a culture dish, and, after 16 hours of culture, G418 (neomycin) was added to the culture dish at a concentration of 300  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ . Thereafter, the culture was continued, with the culture medium being replaced 3 times per week. As a result, 2 colonies were formed 21 days after the plating. These colonies were cloned and the culture was continued, after which one strain of a 10 replicon-replicating clone maintaining stable replication was successfully established. From the established clone, total RNA was prepared, and PCR amplification was carried out to determine a consensus sequence. As a result, 3 mutations, that is, change from glutamic acid to valine at amino acid position 1056 (E1056V), change from glutamic acid to glycine at amino acid position 1202 (E1202G) and change 15 from alanine to threonine at amino acid position 2199 (A2199T) were confirmed. [0065]

### 4. Elucidation of Usefulness of Replicon Sequence Mutations

The 3 mutations confirmed in the replicon-replicating clone were introduced to pRMTx-neo individually or in combination. From the vectors to which the 20 mutations were introduced, replicon RNAs were prepared, and 5  $\mu\text{g}$  each of these replicon RNAs were introduced to Huh7 cells by electroporation in the same manner as in the above-described 3. After 21 days of G418 selection, viable cells were stained with crystal violet, and, as a result, colony formation was confirmed as shown in Fig. 6.

25 Based on these results obtained by comparison among the 3 mutations, the degree of enhancement of the growth capacity in the Huh7 cells was highest in E1202G, followed by E1056V and A2199T in this order. Further, it was revealed



that the clone to which all the 3 mutations were introduced has a higher growth capacity (replication capacity) than any of the clones to which the mutations were introduced alone.

[0066]

5 (Example 4) Confirmation of Growth Capacity of Acclimation Mutation-introduced HCV-RMT Strain in Cultured Cells

E1202G or the 3 acclimation mutations (E1202G, E1056V and A2199T) was/were introduced to pRMTx, and the obtained vectors were designated pRMTx-E1202G and pRMTx-tri, respectively. From pRMTx, pRMTx-E1202G and  
10 pRMTx-tri, viral genomic RNAs were prepared (RMT, RMT-E1202G and RMT-tri, respectively), and 30 µg each of the prepared genomic RNAs were introduced to Huh7 cells by electroporation. The cells were plated on a culture dish and subcultured 3 to 4 times per week, during which the cell were sampled. From the sampled cells, total RNA was purified by the AGPC method, and the copy number of  
15 the HCV genome per 1 µg of the total RNA was quantified according to a conventional method (Takeuchi et al., Gastroenterology, 1999) by reverse transcription real-time PCR using QuantiTect Multiplex PCR kit (manufactured by Qiagen). Daily changes in the copy number of the HCV genome in the cells to which RMT-RNA, RMT-E1202G-RNA and RMT-tri-RNA were respectively  
20 introduced are shown in Fig. 7. It was revealed that, while RMT-RNA, which has no acclimation mutation, quickly disappears, RMT-tri-RNA maintains a viral genomic amount of about  $1 \times 10^6$  copies/µg for not less than 1 month. Further, it was revealed that RMT-E1202G-RNA also maintains a viral genomic amount of not less than  $1 \times 10^5$  copies/µg even on Day 12.

25 [0067]

Further, 10 days after the introduction of the genome, the cells in the state where the HCV genome was maintained were plated on a 96-well plate, and an agent

was added thereto 16 hours later, followed by purification of total RNA 48 hours later from each well using ABI prizm 6100 and a purification kit (manufactured by Applied Biosystems). The HCV amount in the RNA, which was obtained by the above real-time PCR, and the total RNA amount quantified using an absorption spectrophotometer are shown in Fig. 8. As anti-HCV agents, an HCV polymerase inhibitor (MK0608), HCV protease inhibitor (BILN2061), IFN- $\alpha$  and cyclophilin inhibitor (cyclosporin A) were used. For all the anti-HCV agents, growth inhibition capacities against HCV, whose levels were almost the same as those described in documents were observed, and it was thereby confirmed that the cells wherein the HCV-RMT strain is continuously growing are useful as an evaluation system for anti-HCV agents.

[0068]

(Example 5) Confirmation of Production of Infectious Virus from Cells Wherein Acclimation Mutation-introduced HCV-RMT Strain is Continuously Growing

The RMT-tri-introduced cells, wherein the growth was confirmed in Example 4, single cell culture was carried out by the limiting dilution method. Selection was carried out among clones using as an index the amount of the intracellular virus, and the #11 clone, wherein expression of the HCV-core protein could be confirmed in all the cells by the fluorescent antibody method and the intracellular HCV genomic amount was  $1 \times 10^8$  copies/ $\mu\text{g}$ , was obtained. By treating uninfected Huh7 cells with the culture supernatant of the clone after filtration through a 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$ -filter, infected cells were confirmed by the fluorescent antibody method applied to the core protein (Fig. 9). By reducing the total volume of the culture supernatant to about one seventieth using an ultrafiltration membrane, the HCV copies were 40-fold concentrated. The concentrated culture supernatant showed a 45 times higher infectivity titer compared to the culture supernatant before the concentration.

The HCV sequence in the #11 cells was determined and, as a result, it was

revealed that, compared to the RMT strain, all the 10 clones sequenced had the mutation at amino acid position 2321 from serine to proline (S2321P) and the mutation at amino acid position 2889 from leucine to phenylalanine (L2889F). These mutations were suggested to be contributing to the infectivity and the growth capacity of the RMT strain.

#### INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0069]

By using the polynucleotide of the present invention derived from the HCV-RMT strain, which belongs to the genotype 1a, and the identified acclimation mutations, an HCV replicon RNA and the HCV genomic RNA of the genotype 1 showing good replication efficiency can be prepared at a high probability. Replicon-replicating cells to which the replicon RNA was introduced, and HCV-growing cells to which the HCV genomic RNA was introduced can be used as culture systems for continuous production of an RNA derived from HCV, or an HCV protein. Further, the replicon-replicating cells and the HCV-growing cells can be used as test systems for screening various substances that influence replication of HCV and/or translation of HCV proteins.

[0070]

[Description of Sequence Listing]

1. Nucleotide sequence of entire genome of HCV-RMT strain
2. Amino acid sequence encoded by HCV-RMT strain
3. Nucleotide sequence of replicon derived from HCV-RMT strain
4. Amino acid sequence of neomycin resistance protein
5. Amino acid sequence of nonstructural protein encoded by HCV-RMT strain
6. Nucleotide sequence of Forward Primer
7. Nucleotide sequence of Reverse Primer
8. Nucleotide sequence of probe

SEQUENCE LISTING IN ELECTRONIC FORM

In accordance with Section 111(1) of the Patent Rules, this description contains a sequence listing in electronic form in ASCII text format (file: 72689-208 Seq 06-02-12 v1.txt).

A copy of the sequence listing in electronic form is available from the Canadian Intellectual Property Office.

The sequences in the sequence listing in electronic form are reproduced in the following table.

SEQUENCE TABLE

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<120> Polynucleotide from a novel strain of Hepatitis C virus and use thereof

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<140> PCT/JP2010/064417

<141> 2010-08-25

<150> JP2009-197923

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<160> 8

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Leu	Pro	Tyr	Leu	Val	Ala	Tyr	Gln	Ala	Thr	Val	Cys	Ala	Arg	Ala	
		1585					1590					1595			
cag	gcc	ccc	ccc	cca	tcg	tgg	gac	cag	atg	tgg	aag	tgc	ttg	atc	5177
Gln	Ala	Pro	Pro	Pro	Ser	Trp	Asp	Gln	Met	Trp	Lys	Cys	Leu	Ile	
		1600					1605					1610			
cgc	ctc	aag	ccc	acc	ctt	cat	ggg	cca	aca	cct	ctg	cta	tac	aga	5222
Arg	Leu	Lys	Pro	Thr	Leu	His	Gly	Pro	Thr	Pro	Leu	Leu	Tyr	Arg	
		1615					1620					1625			
ctg	ggc	gct	gtt	cag	aat	gaa	gtc	acc	ctg	acg	cac	cca	atc	acc	5267
Leu	Gly	Ala	Val	Gln	Asn	Glu	Val	Thr	Leu	Thr	His	Pro	Ile	Thr	
		1630					1635					1640			
aag	tac	atc	atg	aca	tgc	atg	tcg	gct	gac	ctg	gag	gtc	gtc	acg	5312
Lys	Tyr	Ile	Met	Thr	Cys	Met	Ser	Ala	Asp	Leu	Glu	Val	Val	Thr	
		1645					1650					1655			
agt	acc	tgg	gtg	ctc	gtc	ggc	ggc	gtc	ctg	gct	gct	ttg	gcc	gcg	5357
Ser	Thr	Trp	Val	Leu	Val	Gly	Gly	Val	Leu	Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Ala	
		1660					1665					1670			
tat	tgc	cta	tcc	aca	ggc	tgc	gtg	gtc	ata	gta	ggc	agg	att	gtc	5402
Tyr	Cys	Leu	Ser	Thr	Gly	Cys	Val	Val	Ile	Val	Gly	Arg	Ile	Val	
		1675					1680					1685			
ttg	tcc	ggg	aag	ccg	gct	atc	ata	cct	gac	agg	gaa	gtc	ctc	tac	5447
Leu	Ser	Gly	Lys	Pro	Ala	Ile	Ile	Pro	Asp	Arg	Glu	Val	Leu	Tyr	
		1690					1695					1700			
cgg	gag	ttc	gat	gag	atg	gaa	gag	tgc	tct	cag	cac	ttg	ccg	tac	5492
Arg	Glu	Phe	Asp	Glu	Met	Glu	Glu	Cys	Ser	Gln	His	Leu	Pro	Tyr	
		1705					1710					1715			
atc	gag	cag	ggg	atg	atg	ctc	gcc	gag	cag	ttc	aag	cag	aag	gcc	5537
Ile	Glu	Gln	Gly	Met	Met	Leu	Ala	Glu	Gln	Phe	Lys	Gln	Lys	Ala	
		1720					1725					1730			
ctc	ggc	ctc	ctg	cag	acc	gcg	tcc	cgc	cag	gca	gag	gtc	atc	gcc	5582
Leu	Gly	Leu	Leu	Gln	Thr	Ala	Ser	Arg	Gln	Ala	Glu	Val	Ile	Ala	
		1735					1740					1745			
cct	acc	gtc	caa	acc	aac	tgg	cag	aga	ctc	gag	gcc	ttc	tgg	gcg	5627
Pro	Thr	Val	Gln	Thr	Asn	Trp	Gln	Arg	Leu	Glu	Ala	Phe	Trp	Ala	
		1750					1755					1760			

aag cat atg tgg aac ttc atc agt ggg ata caa tat ctg gcg ggc	5672
Lys His Met Trp Asn Phe Ile Ser Gly Ile Gln Tyr Leu Ala Gly	
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ctg tca acg ttg cct ggt aat ccc gcc att gca tca ttg atg gct	5717
Leu Ser Thr Leu Pro Gly Asn Pro Ala Ile Ala Ser Leu Met Ala	
1780 1785 1790	
ttt aca gct gcc gtc acc agc cca cta acc acc ggc caa act ctc	5762
Phe Thr Ala Ala Val Thr Ser Pro Leu Thr Thr Gly Gln Thr Leu	
1795 1800 1805	
ctc ttc aac att ttg ggg ggg tgg gtg gct gcc cag ctc gca gcc	5807
Leu Phe Asn Ile Leu Gly Gly Trp Val Ala Ala Gln Leu Ala Ala	
1810 1815 1820	
ccc ggt gcc gct acc gcc ttt gtg ggc gct ggc tta gcc ggc gcc	5852
Pro Gly Ala Ala Thr Ala Phe Val Gly Ala Gly Leu Ala Gly Ala	
1825 1830 1835	
gcc atc ggc agt gtt gga ctg ggg aag gtc ctc gtg gac atc ctt	5897
Ala Ile Gly Ser Val Gly Leu Gly Lys Val Leu Val Asp Ile Leu	
1840 1845 1850	
gca ggg tat ggc gcg ggc gtg gcg gga gct ctt gta gca ttt aag	5942
Ala Gly Tyr Gly Ala Gly Val Ala Gly Ala Leu Val Ala Phe Lys	
1855 1860 1865	
atc atg agc ggt gag gtt ccc tcc aca gag gac ctg gtc aat cta	5987
Ile Met Ser Gly Glu Val Pro Ser Thr Glu Asp Leu Val Asn Leu	
1870 1875 1880	
ctg cct gcc atc ctt tcg ccc gga gcc ctt gta gtc ggt gtg gtc	6032
Leu Pro Ala Ile Leu Ser Pro Gly Ala Leu Val Val Gly Val Val	
1885 1890 1895	
tgc gca gca ata cta cgc cgg cac gtt ggc ccg ggc gag gga gca	6077
Cys Ala Ala Ile Leu Arg Arg His Val Gly Pro Gly Glu Gly Ala	
1900 1905 1910	
gtg cag tgg atg aac cgg ttg ata gcc ttc gcc tcc cgg ggg aac	6122
Val Gln Trp Met Asn Arg Leu Ile Ala Phe Ala Ser Arg Gly Asn	
1915 1920 1925	
cac gtt tcc ccc acg cac tac gtg ccg gag agc gat gca gct gcc	6167
His Val Ser Pro Thr His Tyr Val Pro Glu Ser Asp Ala Ala Ala	
1930 1935 1940	
cgc gtc act gcc ata ctc agc agc ctc act gtg acc cag ctc ctg	6212
Arg Val Thr Ala Ile Leu Ser Ser Leu Thr Val Thr Gln Leu Leu	
1945 1950 1955	
agg cga cta cac cag tgg cta agc tcg gag tgt acc act cca tgc	6257
Arg Arg Leu His Gln Trp Leu Ser Ser Glu Cys Thr Thr Pro Cys	
1960 1965 1970	

tcc ggt tcc	tgg cta agg gac atc	tgg gac tgg ata tgc	gag gtg	6302
Ser Gly Ser	Trp Leu Arg Asp Ile	Trp Asp Trp Ile Cys	Glu Val	
1975	1980	1985		
ctg agc gat	ttt aag acc tgg ctg	aag gcc aag ctc atg	cca caa	6347
Leu Ser Asp	Phe Lys Thr Trp Leu	Lys Ala Lys Leu Met	Pro Gln	
1990	1995	2000		
ctg cct ggg	att ccc ttt gtg tcc	tgc caa cgc ggg tac	agg ggg	6392
Leu Pro Gly	Ile Pro Phe Val Ser	Cys Gln Arg Gly Tyr	Arg Gly	
2005	2010	2015		
gtc tgg cga	gga gat ggc att atg	cac act cgc tgc ccc	tgt gga	6437
Val Trp Arg	Gly Asp Gly Ile Met	His Thr Arg Cys Pro	Cys Gly	
2020	2025	2030		
gct gag atc	gcc gga cat gtc aag	aac ggg acg atg agg	atc gtc	6482
Ala Glu Ile	Ala Gly His Val Lys	Asn Gly Thr Met Arg	Ile Val	
2035	2040	2045		
ggt cct aag	acc tgc aga aac acg	tgg agt ggg acc ttc	ccc atc	6527
Gly Pro Lys	Thr Cys Arg Asn Thr	Trp Ser Gly Thr Phe	Pro Ile	
2050	2055	2060		
aac gcc tac	acc acg ggc ccc tgt	acc ccc ctt cct gcg	ccg aac	6572
Asn Ala Tyr	Thr Thr Gly Pro Cys	Thr Pro Leu Pro Ala	Pro Asn	
2065	2070	2075		
tat acg ttc	gcg ctg tgg agg gtg	tct gcg gag gaa tac	gtg gaa	6617
Tyr Thr Phe	Ala Leu Trp Arg Val	Ser Ala Glu Glu Tyr	Val Glu	
2080	2085	2090		
ata agg cag	gtg ggg gac ttc cac	tac gtg acg ggc atg	act gct	6662
Ile Arg Gln	Val Gly Asp Phe His	Tyr Val Thr Gly Met	Thr Ala	
2095	2100	2105		
gac aac ctt	aag tgc cca tgc cag	gtc cca tcg ccc gaa	ttt ttc	6707
Asp Asn Leu	Lys Cys Pro Cys Gln	Val Pro Ser Pro Glu	Phe Phe	
2110	2115	2120		
aca gaa ctg	gat ggg gtg cgc ctg	cat agg ttt gcg ccc	cct tgc	6752
Thr Glu Leu	Asp Gly Val Arg Leu	His Arg Phe Ala Pro	Pro Cys	
2125	2130	2135		
aag ccc ttg	cta cga gat gag gtg	tcg ttc aga gta gga	cta cac	6797
Lys Pro Leu	Leu Arg Asp Glu Val	Ser Phe Arg Val Gly	Leu His	
2140	2145	2150		
gac tac ccg	gtg ggg tcg cag tta	cct tgc gag cct gaa	ccg gat	6842
Asp Tyr Pro	Val Gly Ser Gln Leu	Pro Cys Glu Pro Glu	Pro Asp	
2155	2160	2165		
gtg gcc gta	ctg acg tcc atg ctc	acc gat ccc tcc cat	ata acg	6887
Val Ala Val	Leu Thr Ser Met Leu	Thr Asp Pro Ser His	Ile Thr	
2170	2175	2180		

gca gag gcg gct ggg agg agg tta gca agg gga tcg ccc cct tct	6932
Ala Glu Ala Ala Gly Arg Arg Leu Ala Arg Gly Ser Pro Pro Ser	
2185 2190 2195	
ctg gcc agc tcc tcg gcc agc cag ctg tcc gct cca tct ctc aaa	6977
Leu Ala Ser Ser Ser Ala Ser Gln Leu Ser Ala Pro Ser Leu Lys	
2200 2205 2210	
gca act tgc acc acc aac cac gac tcc cct gac gcc gag ctc ata	7022
Ala Thr Cys Thr Thr Asn His Asp Ser Pro Asp Ala Glu Leu Ile	
2215 2220 2225	
gag gct aac ctc ctg tgg agg cag gag atg ggc gcc aac atc acc	7067
Glu Ala Asn Leu Leu Trp Arg Gln Glu Met Gly Gly Asn Ile Thr	
2230 2235 2240	
agg gtt gag tca gag aac aaa gtg gta gtc ctg gac tcc ttc gat	7112
Arg Val Glu Ser Glu Asn Lys Val Val Val Leu Asp Ser Phe Asp	
2245 2250 2255	
ccg ctt gtg gca gaa gag gac gaa cgg gag atc tcc gtg gcc gca	7157
Pro Leu Val Ala Glu Glu Asp Glu Arg Glu Ile Ser Val Ala Ala	
2260 2265 2270	
gag atc ctg cgg aag tct cgg aga ttc gct ccg gcc ctg ccc att	7202
Glu Ile Leu Arg Lys Ser Arg Arg Phe Ala Pro Ala Leu Pro Ile	
2275 2280 2285	
tgg gca cgg ccg gac tac aac ccc ccg tta ctg gag acg tgg aaa	7247
Trp Ala Arg Pro Asp Tyr Asn Pro Pro Leu Leu Glu Thr Trp Lys	
2290 2295 2300	
aag ccg gac tac gag cca cct gtg gtc cat ggc tgc ccg ctt cca	7292
Lys Pro Asp Tyr Glu Pro Pro Val Val His Gly Cys Pro Leu Pro	
2305 2310 2315	
cct cca aag tcc cct cct gtg cct ccg ccc cgg aag aag cgg acg	7337
Pro Pro Lys Ser Pro Pro Val Pro Pro Pro Arg Lys Lys Arg Thr	
2320 2325 2330	
gtg gtc ctc act gaa tca act gta tcc act gcc ttg gct gag ctt	7382
Val Val Leu Thr Glu Ser Thr Val Ser Thr Ala Leu Ala Glu Leu	
2335 2340 2345	
gct acc aag agc ttt ggc agc tct tca act tcc ggt ata acg ggc	7427
Ala Thr Lys Ser Phe Gly Ser Ser Ser Thr Ser Gly Ile Thr Gly	
2350 2355 2360	
gac aac acg aca gcg tcc tct gag ccc gcc ccc tct gtc tgc cct	7472
Asp Asn Thr Thr Ala Ser Ser Glu Pro Ala Pro Ser Val Cys Pro	
2365 2370 2375	
cca gac tcc gac gct gag tcc tat tct tcc atg ccc ccc ctg gag	7517
Pro Asp Ser Asp Ala Glu Ser Tyr Ser Ser Met Pro Pro Leu Glu	
2380 2385 2390	



ggg gag cct	ggg gat ccg gat ctc	agc gac ggg tca tgg	tcg acg	7562
Gly Glu Pro	Gly Asp Pro Asp Leu	Ser Asp Gly Ser Trp	Ser Thr	
2395	2400	2405		
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Val Ser Ser	Gly Ala Gly Thr Glu	Asp Val Val Cys Cys	Ser Met	
2410	2415	2420		
tcc tat tcc	tgg aca ggc gca ctc	atc acc ccg tgt gcc	gcg gaa	7652
Ser Tyr Ser	Trp Thr Gly Ala Leu	Ile Thr Pro Cys Ala	Ala Glu	
2425	2430	2435		
gaa caa aaa	ttg cct atc aac gca	ctg agc aac tca tta	ctg cgt	7697
Glu Gln Lys	Leu Pro Ile Asn Ala	Leu Ser Asn Ser Leu	Leu Arg	
2440	2445	2450		
cac cac aac	ctc gtg tat tcc acc	acc tca cgc agt gct	tgc caa	7742
His His Asn	Leu Val Tyr Ser Thr	Thr Ser Arg Ser Ala	Cys Gln	
2455	2460	2465		
agg cag aag	aaa gtc aca ttt gac	aga ctg caa gtt ctg	gac aac	7787
Arg Gln Lys	Lys Val Thr Phe Asp	Arg Leu Gln Val Leu	Asp Asn	
2470	2475	2480		
cac tac cag	gac gtg ctc aag gag	gtt aag gcg gcg gcg	tca aaa	7832
His Tyr Gln	Asp Val Leu Lys Glu	Val Lys Ala Ala Ala	Ser Lys	
2485	2490	2495		
gtg aag gct	aac ttg cta tcc gta	gag gaa gct tgc agc	ctg acg	7877
Val Lys Ala	Asn Leu Leu Ser Val	Glu Glu Ala Cys Ser	Leu Thr	
2500	2505	2510		
ccc cca cat	tca gcc aga tca aaa	ttt ggc tat ggg gca	aaa gac	7922
Pro Pro His	Ser Ala Arg Ser Lys	Phe Gly Tyr Gly Ala	Lys Asp	
2515	2520	2525		
gtc cgt tgc	cat gcc aga aag gcc	gta aac cac atc aac	tcc gtg	7967
Val Arg Cys	His Ala Arg Lys Ala	Val Asn His Ile Asn	Ser Val	
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tgg aaa gac	ctt ctg gaa gac agt	gtt aca cca ata gac	aca acc	8012
Trp Lys Asp	Leu Leu Glu Asp Ser	Val Thr Pro Ile Asp	Thr Thr	
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atc atg gct	aag aac gaa gtt ttc	tgc gtt cag cct gag	aag ggg	8057
Ile Met Ala	Lys Asn Glu Val Phe	Cys Val Gln Pro Glu	Lys Gly	
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ggt cgt aag	cca gct cgt ctc atc	gtg tac cct gac ctg	ggt gtg	8102
Gly Arg Lys	Pro Ala Arg Leu Ile	Val Tyr Pro Asp Leu	Gly Val	
2575	2580	2585		
cgc gtg tgc	gag aaa atg gcc ctg	tac gac gtg gta aaa	aaa ctc	8147
Arg Val Cys	Glu Lys Met Ala Leu	Tyr Asp Val Val Lys	Lys Leu	
2590	2595	2600		

ccc ctg gcc	gtg atg gga agc tcc	tac gga ttc cag tac	tca cca	8192
Pro Leu Ala	Val Met Gly Ser Ser	Tyr Gly Phe Gln Tyr	Ser Pro	
	2605	2610	2615	
gga cag cgg	gtt gaa ttc ctc gtg	caa gcg tgg aag tcc	aag ggg	8237
Gly Gln Arg	Val Glu Phe Leu Val	Gln Ala Trp Lys Ser	Lys Gly	
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acc cca atg	ggg ttc tcg tat gat	acc cgc tgc ttt gac	tct aca	8282
Thr Pro Met	Gly Phe Ser Tyr Asp	Thr Arg Cys Phe Asp	Ser Thr	
	2635	2640	2645	
gtc act gag	agc gat atc cgt acg	gag gag gca atc tac	cag tgt	8327
Val Thr Glu	Ser Asp Ile Arg Thr	Glu Glu Ala Ile Tyr	Gln Cys	
	2650	2655	2660	
tgt gac ctg	gac ccc caa gcc cgc	gtg gcc atc aag tcc	ctc acc	8372
Cys Asp Leu	Asp Pro Gln Ala Arg	Val Ala Ile Lys Ser	Leu Thr	
	2665	2670	2675	
gag agg ctt	tat gtc ggg ggt cct	ctt acc aat tca agg	ggg gaa	8417
Glu Arg Leu	Tyr Val Gly Gly Pro	Leu Thr Asn Ser Arg	Gly Glu	
	2680	2685	2690	
aac tgc ggc	tat cgc agg tgc cgc	gca agc ggc gta ctg	aca act	8462
Asn Cys Gly	Tyr Arg Arg Cys Arg	Ala Ser Gly Val Leu	Thr Thr	
	2695	2700	2705	
agc tgt ggt	aac acc ctc act tgc	tac atc aag gcc cga	gca gcc	8507
Ser Cys Gly	Asn Thr Leu Thr Cys	Tyr Ile Lys Ala Arg	Ala Ala	
	2710	2715	2720	
tgt cga gcc	gca ggg ctc cgg gac	tgc acc atg ctc gtg	tgt ggc	8552
Cys Arg Ala	Ala Gly Leu Arg Asp	Cys Thr Met Leu Val	Cys Gly	
	2725	2730	2735	
gac gac tta	gtc gtt atc tgt gaa	agc cag ggg gtc caa	gag gat	8597
Asp Asp Leu	Val Val Ile Cys Glu	Ser Gln Gly Val Gln	Glu Asp	
	2740	2745	2750	
aca gcg agc	ctg aga gcc ttc acg	gag gct atg acc agg	tac tcc	8642
Thr Ala Ser	Leu Arg Ala Phe Thr	Glu Ala Met Thr Arg	Tyr Ser	
	2755	2760	2765	
gct ccc ccc	ggg gac ccc ccc caa	cca gaa tac gac ttg	gag ctc	8687
Ala Pro Pro	Gly Asp Pro Pro Gln	Pro Glu Tyr Asp Leu	Glu Leu	
	2770	2775	2780	
ata aca tcg	tgc tcc tct aac gtg	tca gtc gcc cac gac	gac act	8732
Ile Thr Ser	Cys Ser Ser Asn Val	Ser Val Ala His Asp	Asp Thr	
	2785	2790	2795	
gga aag agg	gtc tat tac ctt acc	cgt gac cct aca act	ccc ctc	8777
Gly Lys Arg	Val Tyr Tyr Leu Thr	Arg Asp Pro Thr Thr	Pro Leu	
	2800	2805	2810	

gcg aga gcc	gcg tgg gag	aca gca	aga cac act	cca gtc	aat tcc	8822
Ala Arg Ala	Ala Trp Glu Thr	Ala	Arg His Thr Pro	Val	Asn Ser	
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Trp Leu Gly	Asn Ile Ile Met	Phe	Ala Pro Thr Leu	Trp	Val Arg	
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atg ata ctg	ctg ccc cac ttc	ttc	agt gtc ctc	atg gcc	agg gac	8912
Met Ile Leu	Leu Pro His Phe	Phe	Ser Val Leu Met	Ala	Arg Asp	
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Gln Leu Glu	Gln Ala Leu Asp	Cys	Glu Ile Tyr Gly	Ala	Cys Tyr	
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Ser Ile Glu	Pro Leu Asp Leu	Pro	Pro Ile Ile Gln	Arg	Leu His	
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Gly Leu Ser	Ala Phe Ser Leu	His	Ser Tyr Ser Pro	Gly	Glu Ile	
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Asn Arg Val	Ala Ala Cys Leu	Arg	Lys Leu Gly Val	Pro	Pro Leu	
2905		2910		2915		
cga gct tgg	aga cac cgg gcc	cgg	agc atc cgc	gct aag	ctt ctg	9137
Arg Ala Trp	Arg His Arg Ala	Arg	Ser Ile Arg Ala	Lys	Leu Leu	
2920		2925		2930		
tcc aga gga	ggc agg gct gcc	acg	tgt ggc aag	tac ctc	ttc aat	9182
Ser Arg Gly	Gly Arg Ala Ala	Thr	Cys Gly Lys Tyr	Leu	Phe Asn	
2935		2940		2945		
tgg gca gta	aga aca aag ctc	aaa	ctc act cca	ata gcg	gcc gct	9227
Trp Ala Val	Arg Thr Lys Leu	Lys	Leu Thr Pro Ile	Ala	Ala Ala	
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agc cag ctg	gac ttg tcc ggt	tgg	ttc acg gct	ggc tac	agc ggg	9272
Ser Gln Leu	Asp Leu Ser Gly	Trp	Phe Thr Ala Gly	Tyr	Ser Gly	
2965		2970		2975		
gga gac att	tat cac agc gtg	tct	cgt gcc cgg	ccc cgc	tgg ttc	9317
Gly Asp Ile	Tyr His Ser Val	Ser	Arg Ala Arg Pro	Arg	Trp Phe	
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Trp Phe Cys	Leu Leu Leu Leu	Ala	Ala Gly Val Gly	Ile	Tyr Leu	
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ctc ccc aac	cga tgaaggttgg	ggtaaact	ccggcctctt	aggccattcc		9414
Leu Pro Asn	Arg					
3010						

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 Gly Val Tyr Leu Leu Pro Arg Arg Gly Pro Arg Leu Gly Val Arg Ala  
 35 40 45  
 Thr Arg Lys Thr Ser Glu Arg Ser Gln Pro Arg Gly Arg Arg Gln Pro  
 50 55 60  
 Ile Pro Lys Ala Arg Arg Pro Glu Gly Arg Thr Trp Ala Gln Pro Gly  
 65 70 75 80  
 Tyr Pro Trp Pro Leu Tyr Gly Asn Glu Gly Cys Gly Trp Ala Gly Trp  
 85 90 95  
 Leu Leu Ser Pro Arg Gly Ser Arg Pro Ser Trp Gly Pro Thr Asp Pro  
 100 105 110  
 Arg Arg Arg Ser Arg Asn Leu Gly Lys Val Ile Asp Thr Leu Thr Cys  
 115 120 125  
 Gly Phe Ala Asp Leu Met Gly Tyr Ile Pro Leu Val Gly Ala Pro Leu  
 130 135 140  
 Gly Gly Ala Ala Arg Ala Leu Ala His Gly Val Arg Val Leu Glu Asp  
 145 150 155 160  
 Gly Val Asn Tyr Ala Thr Gly Asn Leu Pro Gly Cys Ser Phe Ser Ile  
 165 170 175  
 Phe Leu Leu Ala Leu Leu Ser Cys Leu Thr Val Pro Ala Ser Ala Tyr  
 180 185 190  
 Gln Val Arg Asn Ser Ser Gly Leu Tyr His Val Thr Asn Asp Cys Pro  
 195 200 205  
 Asn Ser Ser Ile Val Tyr Glu Thr Ala Asp Thr Ile Leu His Ser Pro  
 210 215 220  
 Gly Cys Val Pro Cys Val Arg Glu Asp Asn Ala Ser Arg Cys Trp Val  
 225 230 235 240  
 Pro Val Ala Pro Thr Val Ala Thr Arg Asp Gly Lys Leu Pro Thr Thr  
 245 250 255  
 Gln Leu Arg Arg His Ile Asp Leu Leu Val Gly Ser Ala Thr Leu Cys  
 260 265 270  
 Ser Ala Leu Tyr Val Gly Asp Leu Cys Gly Ser Val Phe Leu Val Ser  
 275 280 285  
 Gln Leu Phe Thr Phe Ser Pro Arg Arg His Trp Thr Thr Gln Asp Cys  
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 Asn Cys Ser Ile Tyr Pro Gly His Ile Thr Gly His Arg Met Ala Trp  
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 Asp Met Met Met Asn Trp Ser Pro Thr Val Ala Leu Val Met Ala Gln  
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Trp Gly Val Leu Ala Gly Ile Ala Tyr Phe Ser Met Val Gly Asn Trp  
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 Glu His Arg Pro Tyr Cys Trp His Tyr Pro Pro Lys Pro Cys Gly Ile  
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gat gca atg cgg cgg ctg cat acg ctt gat ccg gct acc tgc cca ttc	788
Asp Ala Met Arg Arg Leu His Thr Leu Asp Pro Ala Thr Cys Pro Phe	
135 140 145	
gac cac caa gcg aaa cat cgc atc gag cga gca cgt act cgg atg gaa	836
Asp His Gln Ala Lys His Arg Ile Glu Arg Ala Arg Thr Arg Met Glu	
150 155 160 165	
gcc ggt ctt gtc gat cag gat gat ctg gac gaa gag cat cag ggg ctc	884
Ala Gly Leu Val Asp Gln Asp Asp Leu Asp Glu Glu His Gln Gly Leu	
170 175 180	
gcg cca gcc gaa ctg ttc gcc agg ctc aag gcg cgc atg ccc gac ggc	932
Ala Pro Ala Glu Leu Phe Ala Arg Leu Lys Ala Arg Met Pro Asp Gly	
185 190 195	
gag gat ctc gtc gtg acc cat ggc gat gcc tgc ttg ccg aat atc atg	980
Glu Asp Leu Val Val Thr His Gly Asp Ala Cys Leu Pro Asn Ile Met	
200 205 210	
gtg gaa aat ggc cgc ttt tct gga ttc atc gac tgt ggc cgg ctg ggt	1028
Val Glu Asn Gly Arg Phe Ser Gly Phe Ile Asp Cys Gly Arg Leu Gly	
215 220 225	
gtg gcg gac cgc tat cag gac ata gcg ttg gct acc cgt gat att gct	1076
Val Ala Asp Arg Tyr Gln Asp Ile Ala Leu Ala Thr Arg Asp Ile Ala	
230 235 240 245	
gaa gag ctt ggc ggc gaa tgg gct gac cgc ttc ctc gtg ctt tac ggt	1124
Glu Glu Leu Gly Gly Glu Trp Ala Asp Arg Phe Leu Val Leu Tyr Gly	
250 255 260	
atc gcc gct ccc gat tcg cag cgc atc gcc ttc tat cgc ctt ctt gac	1172
Ile Ala Ala Pro Asp Ser Gln Arg Ile Ala Phe Tyr Arg Leu Leu Asp	
265 270 275	



gag ttc ttc tgagtttaaa ccctctccct ccccccccc taacgttact 1221  
 Glu Phe Phe  
 280

ggccgaagcc gcttgggaata aggccggtgt gcgtttgtct atatgttatt ttccaccata 1281  
 ttgccgtcct ttggcaatgt gagggcccgg aaacctggcc ctgtcttctt gacgagcatt 1341  
 cctagggggtc ttccccctct cgccaaagga atgcaaggtc tgttgaatgt cgtgaaggaa 1401  
 gcagttcctc tggaagcttc ttgaagacaa acaacgtctg tagcgaccct ttgcaggcag 1461  
 cggaaccccc cacctggcga caggtgcctc tgcggccaaa agccacgtgt ataagataca 1521  
 cctgcaaagg cggcacaacc ccagtgccac gttgtgagtt ggatagttgt ggaaagagtc 1581  
 aatggctct cctcaagcgt attcaacaag gggctgaagg atgccagaa ggtaccccat 1641  
 tgtatgggat ctgatctggg gcctcgggtgc acatgcttta catgtgttta gtcgaggtta 1701  
 aaaaacgtct agggcccccg aaccacgggg acgtgggtttt cctttgaaaa acacgataat 1761

acc atg gcg ccc atc acg gcg tat gcc cag cag aca agg ggc ctc ctg 1809  
 Met Ala Pro Ile Thr Ala Tyr Ala Gln Gln Thr Arg Gly Leu Leu  
 285 290 295

gga tgc ata att act agc ctg acc ggc cgg gac aaa aac cag gtg gag 1857  
 Gly Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val Glu  
 300 305 310

ggt gag gtc cag att gtg tca act gct gcc cag acc ttc ctg gca acc 1905  
 Gly Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr  
 315 320 325

tgc atc aac gga gtg tgc tgg act gtc tac cac ggg gcc gga aca agg 1953  
 Cys Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg  
 330 335 340

acc atc gcg tca ccc aaa ggt ccc gtc atc cag atg tat act aat gta 2001  
 Thr Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr Asn Val  
 345 350 355

gac caa gac ctt gta ggc tgg ccc gct ccc caa ggt gcc cgc tca ttg 2049  
 Asp Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro Gln Gly Ala Arg Ser Leu  
 360 365 370 375

aca ccc tgc act tgc ggc tcc tcg gac ctt tac ttg gtc acg agg cac 2097  
 Thr Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His  
 380 385 390

gcc gat gtc att ccc gtg cgc cgg cgg ggt gat agc agg ggc agc ctg 2145  
 Ala Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu  
 395 400 405

ctc tcg ccc cgg cct atc tct tac ttg aaa ggc tct tcg ggg ggc cca 2193  
 Leu Ser Pro Arg Pro Ile Ser Tyr Leu Lys Gly Ser Ser Gly Gly Pro  
 410 415 420

ttg ctg tgc ccc gcg gga cac gcc gta ggc ata ttc agg gcc gcg gtg 2241  
 Leu Leu Cys Pro Ala Gly His Ala Val Gly Ile Phe Arg Ala Ala Val  
 425 430 435

tgc acc cgt gga gtg gct aag gcg gtg gac ttt atc ccc gta gag agc	2289
Cys Thr Arg Gly Val Ala Lys Ala Val Asp Phe Ile Pro Val Glu Ser	
440 445 450 455	
cta gag aca acc atg agg tcc ccg gtg ttc aca gac aac tcc tcc cca	2337
Leu Glu Thr Thr Met Arg Ser Pro Val Phe Thr Asp Asn Ser Ser Pro	
460 465 470	
cca gca gtg ccc cag agc ttc cag gtg gcc cac ctg cat gct ccc acc	2385
Pro Ala Val Pro Gln Ser Phe Gln Val Ala His Leu His Ala Pro Thr	
475 480 485	
ggc agc ggt aag agt acc aag gtc ccg gcc gca tac gcg gct cag ggc	2433
Gly Ser Gly Lys Ser Thr Lys Val Pro Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala Gln Gly	
490 495 500	
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Tyr Lys Val Leu Val Leu Asn Pro Ser Val Ala Ala Thr Leu Gly Phe	
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Gly Ala Tyr Met Ser Lys Ala His Gly Ile Asp Pro Asn Ile Arg Thr	
520 525 530 535	
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Gly Val Arg Thr Ile Thr Thr Gly Ser Pro Ile Thr Tyr Ser Thr Tyr	
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Gly Lys Phe Leu Ala Asp Gly Gly Cys Ser Gly Gly Ala Tyr Asp Ile	
555 560 565	
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Ile Ile Cys Asp Glu Cys His Ser Thr Asp Ala Thr Ser Val Leu Gly	
570 575 580	
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Ile Gly Thr Val Leu Asp Gln Ala Glu Thr Ala Gly Ala Arg Leu Val	
585 590 595	
gtg ctc gcc acc gct acc cct ccg ggc tct gtc act gtg ccc cat cct	2769
Val Leu Ala Thr Ala Thr Pro Pro Gly Ser Val Thr Val Pro His Pro	
600 605 610 615	
aac atc gag gag gtt gct ctg tcc acc acc gga gag atc ccc ttt tac	2817
Asn Ile Glu Glu Val Ala Leu Ser Thr Thr Gly Glu Ile Pro Phe Tyr	
620 625 630	
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Gly Lys Ala Ile Pro Leu Glu Ala Ile Lys Gly Gly Arg His Leu Ile	
635 640 645	
ttc tgc cat tca aaa aag aag tgc gac gag ctc gct gca aag ctg gtc	2913
Phe Cys His Ser Lys Lys Lys Cys Asp Glu Leu Ala Ala Lys Leu Val	
650 655 660	

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gtc atc cca acc agt ggc gat gtt gtc gtc gtg gca act gat gcc ctc Val Ile Pro Thr Ser Gly Asp Val Val Val Val Ala Thr Asp Ala Leu 680 685 690 695	3009
atg acc ggc tat acc ggc gac ttt gac tcg gtg ata gac tgc aac acg Met Thr Gly Tyr Thr Gly Asp Phe Asp Ser Val Ile Asp Cys Asn Thr 700 705 710	3057
tgt gtc acc cag aca gtc gac ttc agc ctt gac cct acc ttc acc att Cys Val Thr Gln Thr Val Asp Phe Ser Leu Asp Pro Thr Phe Thr Ile 715 720 725	3105
gag aca acc acg ctc ccc cag gac gct gtc tcc cgc act caa cgt cgg Glu Thr Thr Thr Leu Pro Gln Asp Ala Val Ser Arg Thr Gln Arg Arg 730 735 740	3153
ggc agg act ggc agg ggg aag cca ggc atc tac aga ttt gtg gca ccg Gly Arg Thr Gly Arg Gly Lys Pro Gly Ile Tyr Arg Phe Val Ala Pro 745 750 755	3201
ggg gag cgc ccc tcc ggc atg ttt gac tcg tcc gtc ctc tgt gag tgc Gly Glu Arg Pro Ser Gly Met Phe Asp Ser Ser Val Leu Cys Glu Cys 760 765 770 775	3249
tat gac gcg ggc tgt gct tgg tat gag ctc aca ccc gcc gag acc aca Tyr Asp Ala Gly Cys Ala Trp Tyr Glu Leu Thr Pro Ala Glu Thr Thr 780 785 790	3297
gtt agg cta cga gca tat atg aac acc ccg ggg ctc ccc gtg tgc caa Val Arg Leu Arg Ala Tyr Met Asn Thr Pro Gly Leu Pro Val Cys Gln 795 800 805	3345
gac cat ctt gaa ttt tgg gag ggc gtc ttc acg ggt ctc acc cat ata Asp His Leu Glu Phe Trp Glu Gly Val Phe Thr Gly Leu Thr His Ile 810 815 820	3393
gac gcc cat ttc cta tcc cag aca aag cag agt ggg gaa aac ctt cct Asp Ala His Phe Leu Ser Gln Thr Lys Gln Ser Gly Glu Asn Leu Pro 825 830 835	3441
tac ctg gta gcg tac caa gcc acc gtg tgc gct agg gct cag gcc ccc Tyr Leu Val Ala Tyr Gln Ala Thr Val Cys Ala Arg Ala Gln Ala Pro 840 845 850 855	3489
ccc cca tcg tgg gac cag atg tgg aag tgc ttg atc cgc ctc aag ccc Pro Pro Ser Trp Asp Gln Met Trp Lys Cys Leu Ile Arg Leu Lys Pro 860 865 870	3537
acc ctt cat ggg cca aca cct ctg cta tac aga ctg ggc gct gtt cag Thr Leu His Gly Pro Thr Pro Leu Leu Tyr Arg Leu Gly Ala Val Gln 875 880 885	3585

aat gaa gtc acc ctg acg cac cca atc acc aag tac atc atg aca tgc	3633
Asn Glu Val Thr Leu Thr His Pro Ile Thr Lys Tyr Ile Met Thr Cys	
890 895 900	
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Met Ser Ala Asp Leu Glu Val Val Thr Ser Thr Trp Val Leu Val Gly	
905 910 915	
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Gly Val Leu Ala Ala Leu Ala Ala Tyr Cys Leu Ser Thr Gly Cys Val	
920 925 930 935	
gtc ata gta ggc agg att gtc ttg tcc ggg aag ccg gct atc ata cct	3777
Val Ile Val Gly Arg Ile Val Leu Ser Gly Lys Pro Ala Ile Ile Pro	
940 945 950	
gac agg gaa gtc ctc tac cgg gag ttc gat gag atg gaa gag tgc tct	3825
Asp Arg Glu Val Leu Tyr Arg Glu Phe Asp Glu Met Glu Glu Cys Ser	
955 960 965	
cag cac ttg ccg tac atc gag cag ggg atg atg ctc gcc gag cag ttc	3873
Gln His Leu Pro Tyr Ile Glu Gln Gly Met Met Leu Ala Glu Gln Phe	
970 975 980	
aag cag aag gcc ctc ggc ctc ctg cag acc gcg tcc cgc cag gca gag	3921
Lys Gln Lys Ala Leu Gly Leu Leu Gln Thr Ala Ser Arg Gln Ala Glu	
985 990 995	
gtc atc gcc cct acc gtc caa acc aac tgg cag aga ctc gag gcc	3966
Val Ile Ala Pro Thr Val Gln Thr Asn Trp Gln Arg Leu Glu Ala	
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ttc tgg gcg aag cat atg tgg aac ttc atc agt ggg ata caa tat	4011
Phe Trp Ala Lys His Met Trp Asn Phe Ile Ser Gly Ile Gln Tyr	
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ctg gcg ggc ctg tca acg ttg cct ggt aat ccc gcc att gca tca	4056
Leu Ala Gly Leu Ser Thr Leu Pro Gly Asn Pro Ala Ile Ala Ser	
1030 1035 1040	
ttg atg gct ttt aca gct gcc gtc acc agc cca cta acc acc ggc	4101
Leu Met Ala Phe Thr Ala Ala Val Thr Ser Pro Leu Thr Thr Gly	
1045 1050 1055	
caa act ctc ctc ttc aac att ttg ggg ggg tgg gtg gct gcc cag	4146
Gln Thr Leu Leu Phe Asn Ile Leu Gly Gly Trp Val Ala Ala Gln	
1060 1065 1070	
ctc gca gcc ccc ggt gcc gct acc gcc ttt gtg ggc gct ggc tta	4191
Leu Ala Ala Pro Gly Ala Ala Thr Ala Phe Val Gly Ala Gly Leu	
1075 1080 1085	
gcc ggc gcc gcc atc ggc agt gtt gga ctg ggg aag gtc ctc gtg	4236
Ala Gly Ala Ala Ile Gly Ser Val Gly Leu Gly Lys Val Leu Val	
1090 1095 1100	



gac	atc	ctt	gca	ggg	tat	ggc	gcg	ggc	gtg	gcg	gga	gct	ctt	gta	4281
Asp	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gly	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val	Ala	Gly	Ala	Leu	Val	
1105					1110					1115					
gca	ttt	aag	atc	atg	agc	ggt	gag	gtt	ccc	tcc	aca	gag	gac	ctg	4326
Ala	Phe	Lys	Ile	Met	Ser	Gly	Glu	Val	Pro	Ser	Thr	Glu	Asp	Leu	
1120					1125					1130					
gtc	aat	cta	ctg	cct	gcc	atc	ctt	tcg	ccc	gga	gcc	ctt	gta	gtc	4371
Val	Asn	Leu	Leu	Pro	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ser	Pro	Gly	Ala	Leu	Val	Val	
1135					1140					1145					
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Gly	Val	Val	Cys	Ala	Ala	Ile	Leu	Arg	Arg	His	Val	Gly	Pro	Gly	
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Glu	Gly	Ala	Val	Gln	Trp	Met	Asn	Arg	Leu	Ile	Ala	Phe	Ala	Ser	
1165					1170					1175					
cgg	ggg	aac	cac	gtt	tcc	ccc	acg	cac	tac	gtg	ccg	gag	agc	gat	4506
Arg	Gly	Asn	His	Val	Ser	Pro	Thr	His	Tyr	Val	Pro	Glu	Ser	Asp	
1180					1185					1190					
gca	gct	gcc	cgc	gtc	act	gcc	ata	ctc	agc	agc	ctc	act	gtg	acc	4551
Ala	Ala	Ala	Arg	Val	Thr	Ala	Ile	Leu	Ser	Ser	Leu	Thr	Val	Thr	
1195					1200					1205					
cag	ctc	ctg	agg	cga	cta	cac	cag	tgg	cta	agc	tcg	gag	tgt	acc	4596
Gln	Leu	Leu	Arg	Arg	Leu	His	Gln	Trp	Leu	Ser	Ser	Glu	Cys	Thr	
1210					1215					1220					
act	cca	tgc	tcc	ggt	tcc	tgg	cta	agg	gac	atc	tgg	gac	tgg	ata	4641
Thr	Pro	Cys	Ser	Gly	Ser	Trp	Leu	Arg	Asp	Ile	Trp	Asp	Trp	Ile	
1225					1230					1235					
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Cys	Glu	Val	Leu	Ser	Asp	Phe	Lys	Thr	Trp	Leu	Lys	Ala	Lys	Leu	
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Met	Pro	Gln	Leu	Pro	Gly	Ile	Pro	Phe	Val	Ser	Cys	Gln	Arg	Gly	
1255					1260					1265					
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Tyr	Arg	Gly	Val	Trp	Arg	Gly	Asp	Gly	Ile	Met	His	Thr	Arg	Cys	
1270					1275					1280					
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Pro	Cys	Gly	Ala	Glu	Ile	Ala	Gly	His	Val	Lys	Asn	Gly	Thr	Met	
1285					1290					1295					
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Arg	Ile	Val	Gly	Pro	Lys	Thr	Cys	Arg	Asn	Thr	Trp	Ser	Gly	Thr	
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Phe	Pro	Ile	Asn	Ala	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Gly	Pro	Cys	Thr	Pro	Leu	Pro	
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gcg	ccg	aac	tat	acg	ttc	gcg	ctg	tgg	agg	gtg	tct	gcg	gag	gaa	4956
Ala	Pro	Asn	Tyr	Thr	Phe	Ala	Leu	Trp	Arg	Val	Ser	Ala	Glu	Glu	
1330					1335					1340					
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Tyr	Val	Glu	Ile	Arg	Gln	Val	Gly	Asp	Phe	His	Tyr	Val	Thr	Gly	
1345					1350					1355					
atg	act	gct	gac	aac	ctt	aag	tgc	cca	tgc	cag	gtc	cca	tcg	ccc	5046
Met	Thr	Ala	Asp	Asn	Leu	Lys	Cys	Pro	Cys	Gln	Val	Pro	Ser	Pro	
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Glu	Phe	Phe	Thr	Glu	Leu	Asp	Gly	Val	Arg	Leu	His	Arg	Phe	Ala	
1375					1380					1385					
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Pro	Pro	Cys	Lys	Pro	Leu	Leu	Arg	Asp	Glu	Val	Ser	Phe	Arg	Val	
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Gly	Leu	His	Asp	Tyr	Pro	Val	Gly	Ser	Gln	Leu	Pro	Cys	Glu	Pro	
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Glu	Pro	Asp	Val	Ala	Val	Leu	Thr	Ser	Met	Leu	Thr	Asp	Pro	Ser	
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His	Ile	Thr	Ala	Glu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Arg	Arg	Leu	Ala	Arg	Gly	Ser	
1435					1440					1445					
ccc	cct	tct	ctg	gcc	agc	tcc	tcg	gcc	agc	cag	ctg	tcc	gct	cca	5316
Pro	Pro	Ser	Leu	Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ser	Gln	Leu	Ser	Ala	Pro	
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Ser	Leu	Lys	Ala	Thr	Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn	His	Asp	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ala	
1465					1470					1475					
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Glu	Leu	Ile	Glu	Ala	Asn	Leu	Leu	Trp	Arg	Gln	Glu	Met	Gly	Gly	
1480					1485					1490					
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Asn	Ile	Thr	Arg	Val	Glu	Ser	Glu	Asn	Lys	Val	Val	Val	Leu	Asp	
1495					1500					1505					
tcc	ttc	gat	ccg	ctt	gtg	gca	gaa	gag	gac	gaa	cgg	gag	atc	tcc	5496
Ser	Phe	Asp	Pro	Leu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Asp	Glu	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ser	
1510					1515					1520					

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Val	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ile	Leu	Arg	Lys	Ser	Arg	Arg	Phe	Ala	Pro	Ala	
1525					1530					1535					
ctg	ccc	att	tgg	gca	cgg	ccg	gac	tac	aac	ccc	ccg	tta	ctg	gag	5586
Leu	Pro	Ile	Trp	Ala	Arg	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Pro	Leu	Leu	Glu	
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Thr	Trp	Lys	Lys	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Pro	Pro	Val	Val	His	Gly	Cys	
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ccg	ctt	cca	cct	cca	aag	tcc	cct	cct	gtg	cct	ccg	ccc	cgg	aag	5676
Pro	Leu	Pro	Pro	Pro	Lys	Ser	Pro	Pro	Val	Pro	Pro	Pro	Arg	Lys	
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Lys	Arg	Thr	Val	Val	Leu	Thr	Glu	Ser	Thr	Val	Ser	Thr	Ala	Leu	
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gct	gag	ctt	gct	acc	aag	agc	ttt	ggc	agc	tct	tca	act	tcc	ggt	5766
Ala	Glu	Leu	Ala	Thr	Lys	Ser	Phe	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser	Gly	
1600					1605					1610					
ata	acg	ggc	gac	aac	acg	aca	gcg	tcc	tct	gag	ccc	gcc	ccc	tct	5811
Ile	Thr	Gly	Asp	Asn	Thr	Thr	Ala	Ser	Ser	Glu	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ser	
1615					1620					1625					
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Val	Cys	Pro	Pro	Asp	Ser	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Met	Pro	
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ccc	ctg	gag	ggg	gag	cct	ggg	gat	ccg	gat	ctc	agc	gac	ggg	tca	5901
Pro	Leu	Glu	Gly	Glu	Pro	Gly	Asp	Pro	Asp	Leu	Ser	Asp	Gly	Ser	
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Trp	Ser	Thr	Val	Ser	Ser	Gly	Ala	Gly	Thr	Glu	Asp	Val	Val	Cys	
1660					1665					1670					
tgc	tca	atg	tcc	tat	tcc	tgg	aca	ggc	gca	ctc	atc	acc	ccg	tgt	5991
Cys	Ser	Met	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Trp	Thr	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Thr	Pro	Cys	
1675					1680					1685					
gcc	gcg	gaa	gaa	caa	aaa	ttg	cct	atc	aac	gca	ctg	agc	aac	tca	6036
Ala	Ala	Glu	Glu	Gln	Lys	Leu	Pro	Ile	Asn	Ala	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ser	
1690					1695					1700					
tta	ctg	cgt	cac	cac	aac	ctc	gtg	tat	tcc	acc	acc	tca	cgc	agt	6081
Leu	Leu	Arg	His	His	Asn	Leu	Val	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ser	Arg	Ser	
1705					1710					1715					
gct	tgc	caa	agg	cag	aag	aaa	gtc	aca	ttt	gac	aga	ctg	caa	gtt	6126
Ala	Cys	Gln	Arg	Gln	Lys	Lys	Val	Thr	Phe	Asp	Arg	Leu	Gln	Val	
1720					1725					1730					

ctg	gac	aac	cac	tac	cag	gac	gtg	ctc	aag	gag	gtt	aag	gcg	gcg	6171
Leu	Asp	Asn	His	Tyr	Gln	Asp	Val	Leu	Lys	Glu	Val	Lys	Ala	Ala	
1735					1740					1745					
gcg	tca	aaa	gtg	aag	gct	aac	ttg	cta	tcc	gta	gag	gaa	gct	tgc	6216
Ala	Ser	Lys	Val	Lys	Ala	Asn	Leu	Leu	Ser	Val	Glu	Glu	Ala	Cys	
1750					1755					1760					
agc	ctg	acg	ccc	cca	cat	tca	gcc	aga	tca	aaa	ttt	ggc	tat	ggg	6261
Ser	Leu	Thr	Pro	Pro	His	Ser	Ala	Arg	Ser	Lys	Phe	Gly	Tyr	Gly	
1765					1770					1775					
gca	aaa	gac	gtc	cgt	tgc	cat	gcc	aga	aag	gcc	gta	aac	cac	atc	6306
Ala	Lys	Asp	Val	Arg	Cys	His	Ala	Arg	Lys	Ala	Val	Asn	His	Ile	
1780					1785					1790					
aac	tcc	gtg	tgg	aaa	gac	ctt	ctg	gaa	gac	agt	gtt	aca	cca	ata	6351
Asn	Ser	Val	Trp	Lys	Asp	Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Ser	Val	Thr	Pro	Ile	
1795					1800					1805					
gac	aca	acc	atc	atg	gct	aag	aac	gaa	gtt	ttc	tgc	gtt	cag	cct	6396
Asp	Thr	Thr	Ile	Met	Ala	Lys	Asn	Glu	Val	Phe	Cys	Val	Gln	Pro	
1810					1815					1820					
gag	aag	ggg	ggt	cgt	aag	cca	gct	cgt	ctc	atc	gtg	tac	cct	gac	6441
Glu	Lys	Gly	Gly	Arg	Lys	Pro	Ala	Arg	Leu	Ile	Val	Tyr	Pro	Asp	
1825					1830					1835					
ctg	ggt	gtg	cgc	gtg	tgc	gag	aaa	atg	gcc	ctg	tac	gac	gtg	gta	6486
Leu	Gly	Val	Arg	Val	Cys	Glu	Lys	Met	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asp	Val	Val	
1840					1845					1850					
aaa	aaa	ctc	ccc	ctg	gcc	gtg	atg	gga	agc	tcc	tac	gga	ttc	cag	6531
Lys	Lys	Leu	Pro	Leu	Ala	Val	Met	Gly	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Gly	Phe	Gln	
1855					1860					1865					
tac	tca	cca	gga	cag	cgg	gtt	gaa	ttc	ctc	gtg	caa	gcg	tgg	aag	6576
Tyr	Ser	Pro	Gly	Gln	Arg	Val	Glu	Phe	Leu	Val	Gln	Ala	Trp	Lys	
1870					1875					1880					
tcc	aag	ggg	acc	cca	atg	ggg	ttc	tcg	tat	gat	acc	cgc	tgc	ttt	6621
Ser	Lys	Gly	Thr	Pro	Met	Gly	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Asp	Thr	Arg	Cys	Phe	
1885					1890					1895					
gac	tct	aca	gtc	act	gag	agc	gat	atc	cgt	acg	gag	gag	gca	atc	6666
Asp	Ser	Thr	Val	Thr	Glu	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Thr	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ile	
1900					1905					1910					
tac	cag	tgt	tgt	gac	ctg	gac	ccc	caa	gcc	cgc	gtg	gcc	atc	aag	6711
Tyr	Gln	Cys	Cys	Asp	Leu	Asp	Pro	Gln	Ala	Arg	Val	Ala	Ile	Lys	
1915					1920					1925					
tcc	ctc	acc	gag	agg	ctt	tat	gtc	ggg	ggt	cct	ctt	acc	aat	tca	6756
Ser	Leu	Thr	Glu	Arg	Leu	Tyr	Val	Gly	Gly	Pro	Leu	Thr	Asn	Ser	
1930					1935					1940					



agg Arg 1945	ggg Gly	gaa Glu	aac Asn	tgc Cys	ggc Gly 1950	tat Tyr	cgc Arg	agg Arg	tgc Cys	cgc Arg 1955	gca Ala	agc Ser	ggc Gly	gta Val	6801
ctg Leu 1960	aca Thr	act Thr	agc Ser	tgt Cys	ggt Gly 1965	aac Asn	acc Thr	ctc Leu	act Thr	tgc Cys 1970	tac Tyr	atc Ile	aag Lys	gcc Ala	6846
cga Arg 1975	gca Ala	gcc Ala	tgt Cys	cga Arg	gcc Ala 1980	gca Ala	ggg Gly	ctc Leu	cgg Arg	gac Asp 1985	tgc Cys	acc Thr	atg Met	ctc Leu	6891
gtg Val 1990	tgt Cys	ggc Gly	gac Asp	gac Asp	tta Leu 1995	gtc Val	gtt Val	atc Ile	tgt Cys	gaa Glu 2000	agc Ser	cag Gln	ggg Gly	gtc Val	6936
caa Gln 2005	gag Glu	gat Asp	aca Thr	gcg Ala	agc Ser 2010	ctg Leu	aga Arg	gcc Ala	ttc Phe	acg Thr 2015	gag Glu	gct Ala	atg Met	acc Thr	6981
agg Arg 2020	tac Tyr	tcc Ser	gct Ala	ccc Pro	ccc Pro 2025	ggg Gly	gac Asp	ccc Pro	ccc Pro	caa Gln 2030	cca Pro	gaa Glu	tac Tyr	gac Asp	7026
ttg Leu 2035	gag Glu	ctc Leu	ata Ile	aca Thr	tcg Ser 2040	tgc Cys	tcc Ser	tct Ser	aac Asn	gtg Val 2045	tca Ser	gtc Val	gcc Ala	cac His	7071
gac Asp 2050	gac Asp	act Thr	gga Gly	aag Lys	agg Arg 2055	gtc Val	tat Tyr	tac Tyr	ctt Leu	acc Thr 2060	cgt Arg	gac Asp	cct Pro	aca Thr	7116
act Thr 2065	ccc Pro	ctc Leu	gcg Ala	aga Arg	gcc Ala 2070	gcg Ala	tgg Trp	gag Glu	aca Thr	gca Ala 2075	aga Arg	cac His	act Thr	cca Pro	7161
gtc Val 2080	aat Asn	tcc Ser	tgg Trp	cta Leu	ggc Gly 2085	aac Asn	ata Ile	atc Ile	atg Met	ttt Phe 2090	gcc Ala	ccc Pro	aca Thr	ttg Leu	7206
tgg Trp 2095	gtg Val	aga Arg	atg Met	ata Ile	ctg Leu 2100	ctg Leu	ccc Pro	cac His	ttc Phe	ttc Phe 2105	agt Ser	gtc Val	ctc Leu	atg Met	7251
gcc Ala 2110	agg Arg	gac Asp	caa Gln	ctt Leu	gaa Glu 2115	cag Gln	gcc Ala	ctt Leu	gat Asp	tgc Cys 2120	gaa Glu	atc Ile	tac Tyr	gga Gly	7296
gcc Ala 2125	tgc Cys	tac Tyr	tcc Ser	ata Ile	gaa Glu 2130	cca Pro	ctg Leu	gac Asp	cta Leu	cct Pro 2135	cca Pro	atc Ile	att Ile	caa Gln	7341
aga Arg 2140	ctc Leu	cat His	ggc Gly	ctt Leu	agc Ser 2145	gca Ala	ttt Phe	tca Ser	ctc Leu	cac His 2150	agt Ser	tac Tyr	tct Ser	cca Pro	7386

ggt gaa atc aat agg gtg gcc gca tgc ctc aga aaa ctt ggg gtc 7431  
 Gly Glu Ile Asn Arg Val Ala Ala Cys Leu Arg Lys Leu Gly Val  
 2155 2160 2165

ccg ccc ttg cga gct tgg aga cac cgg gcc cgg agc atc cgc gct 7476  
 Pro Pro Leu Arg Ala Trp Arg His Arg Ala Arg Ser Ile Arg Ala  
 2170 2175 2180

aag ctt ctg tcc aga gga ggc agg gct gcc acg tgt ggc aag tac 7521  
 Lys Leu Leu Ser Arg Gly Gly Arg Ala Ala Thr Cys Gly Lys Tyr  
 2185 2190 2195

ctc ttc aat tgg gca gta aga aca aag ctc aaa ctc act cca ata 7566  
 Leu Phe Asn Trp Ala Val Arg Thr Lys Leu Lys Leu Thr Pro Ile  
 2200 2205 2210

gcg gcc gct agc cag ctg gac ttg tcc ggt tgg ttc acg gct ggc 7611  
 Ala Ala Ala Ser Gln Leu Asp Leu Ser Gly Trp Phe Thr Ala Gly  
 2215 2220 2225

tac agc ggg gga gac att tat cac agc gtg tct cgt gcc cgg ccc 7656  
 Tyr Ser Gly Gly Asp Ile Tyr His Ser Val Ser Arg Ala Arg Pro  
 2230 2235 2240

cgc tgg ttc tgg ttt tgc cta ctc ctg ctt gct gca ggg gta ggc 7701  
 Arg Trp Phe Trp Phe Cys Leu Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Gly Val Gly  
 2245 2250 2255

atc tac ctc ctc ccc aac cga tgaagggttg ggtaaact ccggcctctt 7752  
 Ile Tyr Leu Leu Pro Asn Arg  
 2260 2265

aggccattcc tgtttttttt ttttttttct tttgtttttt ttgttttttt tttttttttt 7812  
 cctttctttt tttttttttt tcctttcttc tttaatggtg gctccatctt agccctagtc 7872  
 acggctagct gtgaaaggtc cgtgagccgc atgactgcag agagtgctga tactggcctc 7932  
 tctgcagatc atgt 7946

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 <211> 280  
 <212> PRT  
 <213> Artificial sequence

<220>  
 <223> Synthetic Construct

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 Met Ile Glu Gln Asp Gly Leu His Ala Gly Ser Pro Ala Ala Trp Val  
 20 25 30  
 Glu Arg Leu Phe Gly Tyr Asp Trp Ala Gln Gln Thr Ile Gly Cys Ser  
 35 40 45  
 Asp Ala Ala Val Phe Arg Leu Ser Ala Gln Gly Arg Pro Val Leu Phe  
 50 55 60

Val Lys Thr Asp Leu Ser Gly Ala Leu Asn Glu Leu Gln Asp Glu Ala  
 65 70 75 80  
 Ala Arg Leu Ser Trp Leu Ala Thr Thr Gly Val Pro Cys Ala Ala Val  
 85 90 95  
 Leu Asp Val Val Thr Glu Ala Gly Arg Asp Trp Leu Leu Leu Gly Glu  
 100 105 110  
 Val Pro Gly Gln Asp Leu Leu Ser Ser His Leu Ala Pro Ala Glu Lys  
 115 120 125  
 Val Ser Ile Met Ala Asp Ala Met Arg Arg Leu His Thr Leu Asp Pro  
 130 135 140  
 Ala Thr Cys Pro Phe Asp His Gln Ala Lys His Arg Ile Glu Arg Ala  
 145 150 155 160  
 Arg Thr Arg Met Glu Ala Gly Leu Val Asp Gln Asp Asp Leu Asp Glu  
 165 170 175  
 Glu His Gln Gly Leu Ala Pro Ala Glu Leu Phe Ala Arg Leu Lys Ala  
 180 185 190  
 Arg Met Pro Asp Gly Glu Asp Leu Val Val Thr His Gly Asp Ala Cys  
 195 200 205  
 Leu Pro Asn Ile Met Val Glu Asn Gly Arg Phe Ser Gly Phe Ile Asp  
 210 215 220  
 Cys Gly Arg Leu Gly Val Ala Asp Arg Tyr Gln Asp Ile Ala Leu Ala  
 225 230 235 240  
 Thr Arg Asp Ile Ala Glu Glu Leu Gly Gly Glu Trp Ala Asp Arg Phe  
 245 250 255  
 Leu Val Leu Tyr Gly Ile Ala Ala Pro Asp Ser Gln Arg Ile Ala Phe  
 260 265 270  
 Tyr Arg Leu Leu Asp Glu Phe Phe  
 275 280

<210> 5  
 <211> 1986  
 <212> PRT  
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<220>  
 <223> Synthetic Construct

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 1 5 10 15  
 Cys Ile Ile Thr Ser Leu Thr Gly Arg Asp Lys Asn Gln Val Glu Gly  
 20 25 30  
 Glu Val Gln Ile Val Ser Thr Ala Ala Gln Thr Phe Leu Ala Thr Cys  
 35 40 45  
 Ile Asn Gly Val Cys Trp Thr Val Tyr His Gly Ala Gly Thr Arg Thr  
 50 55 60  
 Ile Ala Ser Pro Lys Gly Pro Val Ile Gln Met Tyr Thr Asn Val Asp  
 65 70 75 80  
 Gln Asp Leu Val Gly Trp Pro Ala Pro Gln Gly Ala Arg Ser Leu Thr  
 85 90 95  
 Pro Cys Thr Cys Gly Ser Ser Asp Leu Tyr Leu Val Thr Arg His Ala  
 100 105 110  
 Asp Val Ile Pro Val Arg Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Arg Gly Ser Leu Leu  
 115 120 125

Ser	Pro	Arg	Pro	Ile	Ser	Tyr	Leu	Lys	Gly	Ser	Ser	Gly	Gly	Pro	Leu
	130					135					140				
Leu	Cys	Pro	Ala	Gly	His	Ala	Val	Gly	Ile	Phe	Arg	Ala	Ala	Val	Cys
145					150					155					160
Thr	Arg	Gly	Val	Ala	Lys	Ala	Val	Asp	Phe	Ile	Pro	Val	Glu	Ser	Leu
				165					170						175
Glu	Thr	Thr	Met	Arg	Ser	Pro	Val	Phe	Thr	Asp	Asn	Ser	Ser	Pro	Pro
			180					185					190		
Ala	Val	Pro	Gln	Ser	Phe	Gln	Val	Ala	His	Leu	His	Ala	Pro	Thr	Gly
		195					200					205			
Ser	Gly	Lys	Ser	Thr	Lys	Val	Pro	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Ala	Gln	Gly	Tyr
	210					215					220				
Lys	Val	Leu	Val	Leu	Asn	Pro	Ser	Val	Ala	Ala	Thr	Leu	Gly	Phe	Gly
225					230					235					240
Ala	Tyr	Met	Ser	Lys	Ala	His	Gly	Ile	Asp	Pro	Asn	Ile	Arg	Thr	Gly
				245					250						255
Val	Arg	Thr	Ile	Thr	Thr	Gly	Ser	Pro	Ile	Thr	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Tyr	Gly
			260					265						270	
Lys	Phe	Leu	Ala	Asp	Gly	Gly	Cys	Ser	Gly	Gly	Ala	Tyr	Asp	Ile	Ile
		275					280					285			
Ile	Cys	Asp	Glu	Cys	His	Ser	Thr	Asp	Ala	Thr	Ser	Val	Leu	Gly	Ile
	290					295					300				
Gly	Thr	Val	Leu	Asp	Gln	Ala	Glu	Thr	Ala	Gly	Ala	Arg	Leu	Val	Val
305					310					315					320
Leu	Ala	Thr	Ala	Thr	Pro	Pro	Gly	Ser	Val	Thr	Val	Pro	His	Pro	Asn
				325					330						335
Ile	Glu	Glu	Val	Ala	Leu	Ser	Thr	Thr	Gly	Glu	Ile	Pro	Phe	Tyr	Gly
			340					345						350	
Lys	Ala	Ile	Pro	Leu	Glu	Ala	Ile	Lys	Gly	Gly	Arg	His	Leu	Ile	Phe
		355					360					365			
Cys	His	Ser	Lys	Lys	Lys	Cys	Asp	Glu	Leu	Ala	Ala	Lys	Leu	Val	Ala
	370					375					380				
Met	Gly	Val	Asn	Ala	Val	Ala	Tyr	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Leu	Asp	Val	Ser	Val
385					390					395					400
Ile	Pro	Thr	Ser	Gly	Asp	Val	Val	Val	Val	Ala	Thr	Asp	Ala	Leu	Met
				405					410						415
Thr	Gly	Tyr	Thr	Gly	Asp	Phe	Asp	Ser	Val	Ile	Asp	Cys	Asn	Thr	Cys
			420					425						430	
Val	Thr	Gln	Thr	Val	Asp	Phe	Ser	Leu	Asp	Pro	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ile	Glu
		435					440						445		
Thr	Thr	Thr	Leu	Pro	Gln	Asp	Ala	Val	Ser	Arg	Thr	Gln	Arg	Arg	Gly
						455						460			
Arg	Thr	Gly	Arg	Gly	Lys	Pro	Gly	Ile	Tyr	Arg	Phe	Val	Ala	Pro	Gly
465					470					475					480
Glu	Arg	Pro	Ser	Gly	Met	Phe	Asp	Ser	Ser	Val	Leu	Cys	Glu	Cys	Tyr
				485					490						495
Asp	Ala	Gly	Cys	Ala	Trp	Tyr	Glu	Leu	Thr	Pro	Ala	Glu	Thr	Thr	Val
			500					505						510	
Arg	Leu	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Met	Asn	Thr	Pro	Gly	Leu	Pro	Val	Cys	Gln	Asp
			515				520						525		
His	Leu	Glu	Phe	Trp	Glu	Gly	Val	Phe	Thr	Gly	Leu	Thr	His	Ile	Asp
	530					535					540				
Ala	His	Phe	Leu	Ser	Gln	Thr	Lys	Gln	Ser	Gly	Glu	Asn	Leu	Pro	Tyr
545					550					555					560
Leu	Val	Ala	Tyr	Gln	Ala	Thr	Val	Cys	Ala	Arg	Ala	Gln	Ala	Pro	Pro
				565					570						575



Pro Ser Trp Asp Gln Met Trp Lys Cys Leu Ile Arg Leu Lys Pro Thr  
 580 585 590  
 Leu His Gly Pro Thr Pro Leu Leu Tyr Arg Leu Gly Ala Val Gln Asn  
 595 600 605  
 Glu Val Thr Leu Thr His Pro Ile Thr Lys Tyr Ile Met Thr Cys Met  
 610 615 620  
 Ser Ala Asp Leu Glu Val Val Thr Ser Thr Trp Val Leu Val Gly Gly  
 625 630 635 640  
 Val Leu Ala Ala Leu Ala Ala Tyr Cys Leu Ser Thr Gly Cys Val Val  
 645 650 655  
 Ile Val Gly Arg Ile Val Leu Ser Gly Lys Pro Ala Ile Ile Pro Asp  
 660 665 670  
 Arg Glu Val Leu Tyr Arg Glu Phe Asp Glu Met Glu Glu Cys Ser Gln  
 675 680 685  
 His Leu Pro Tyr Ile Glu Gln Gly Met Met Leu Ala Glu Gln Phe Lys  
 690 695 700  
 Gln Lys Ala Leu Gly Leu Leu Gln Thr Ala Ser Arg Gln Ala Glu Val  
 705 710 715 720  
 Ile Ala Pro Thr Val Gln Thr Asn Trp Gln Arg Leu Glu Ala Phe Trp  
 725 730 735  
 Ala Lys His Met Trp Asn Phe Ile Ser Gly Ile Gln Tyr Leu Ala Gly  
 740 745 750  
 Leu Ser Thr Leu Pro Gly Asn Pro Ala Ile Ala Ser Leu Met Ala Phe  
 755 760 765  
 Thr Ala Ala Val Thr Ser Pro Leu Thr Thr Gly Gln Thr Leu Leu Phe  
 770 775 780  
 Asn Ile Leu Gly Gly Trp Val Ala Ala Gln Leu Ala Ala Pro Gly Ala  
 785 790 795 800  
 Ala Thr Ala Phe Val Gly Ala Gly Leu Ala Gly Ala Ala Ile Gly Ser  
 805 810 815  
 Val Gly Leu Gly Lys Val Leu Val Asp Ile Leu Ala Gly Tyr Gly Ala  
 820 825 830  
 Gly Val Ala Gly Ala Leu Val Ala Phe Lys Ile Met Ser Gly Glu Val  
 835 840 845  
 Pro Ser Thr Glu Asp Leu Val Asn Leu Leu Pro Ala Ile Leu Ser Pro  
 850 855 860  
 Gly Ala Leu Val Val Gly Val Val Cys Ala Ala Ile Leu Arg Arg His  
 865 870 875 880  
 Val Gly Pro Gly Glu Gly Ala Val Gln Trp Met Asn Arg Leu Ile Ala  
 885 890 895  
 Phe Ala Ser Arg Gly Asn His Val Ser Pro Thr His Tyr Val Pro Glu  
 900 905 910  
 Ser Asp Ala Ala Ala Arg Val Thr Ala Ile Leu Ser Ser Leu Thr Val  
 915 920 925  
 Thr Gln Leu Leu Arg Arg Leu His Gln Trp Leu Ser Ser Glu Cys Thr  
 930 935 940  
 Thr Pro Cys Ser Gly Ser Trp Leu Arg Asp Ile Trp Asp Trp Ile Cys  
 945 950 955 960  
 Glu Val Leu Ser Asp Phe Lys Thr Trp Leu Lys Ala Lys Leu Met Pro  
 965 970 975  
 Gln Leu Pro Gly Ile Pro Phe Val Ser Cys Gln Arg Gly Tyr Arg Gly  
 980 985 990  
 Val Trp Arg Gly Asp Gly Ile Met His Thr Arg Cys Pro Cys Gly Ala  
 995 1000 1005  
 Glu Ile Ala Gly His Val Lys Asn Gly Thr Met Arg Ile Val Gly  
 1010 1015 1020

Pro	Lys	Thr	Cys	Arg	Asn	Thr	Trp	Ser	Gly	Thr	Phe	Pro	Ile	Asn
	1025					1030					1035			
Ala	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Gly	Pro	Cys	Thr	Pro	Leu	Pro	Ala	Pro	Asn	Tyr
	1040					1045					1050			
Thr	Phe	Ala	Leu	Trp	Arg	Val	Ser	Ala	Glu	Glu	Tyr	Val	Glu	Ile
	1055					1060					1065			
Arg	Gln	Val	Gly	Asp	Phe	His	Tyr	Val	Thr	Gly	Met	Thr	Ala	Asp
	1070					1075					1080			
Asn	Leu	Lys	Cys	Pro	Cys	Gln	Val	Pro	Ser	Pro	Glu	Phe	Phe	Thr
	1085					1090					1095			
Glu	Leu	Asp	Gly	Val	Arg	Leu	His	Arg	Phe	Ala	Pro	Pro	Cys	Lys
	1100					1105					1110			
Pro	Leu	Leu	Arg	Asp	Glu	Val	Ser	Phe	Arg	Val	Gly	Leu	His	Asp
	1115					1120					1125			
Tyr	Pro	Val	Gly	Ser	Gln	Leu	Pro	Cys	Glu	Pro	Glu	Pro	Asp	Val
	1130					1135					1140			
Ala	Val	Leu	Thr	Ser	Met	Leu	Thr	Asp	Pro	Ser	His	Ile	Thr	Ala
	1145					1150					1155			
Glu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Arg	Arg	Leu	Ala	Arg	Gly	Ser	Pro	Pro	Ser	Leu
	1160					1165					1170			
Ala	Ser	Ser	Ser	Ala	Ser	Gln	Leu	Ser	Ala	Pro	Ser	Leu	Lys	Ala
	1175					1180					1185			
Thr	Cys	Thr	Thr	Asn	His	Asp	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ala	Glu	Leu	Ile	Glu
	1190					1195					1200			
Ala	Asn	Leu	Leu	Trp	Arg	Gln	Glu	Met	Gly	Gly	Asn	Ile	Thr	Arg
	1205					1210					1215			
Val	Glu	Ser	Glu	Asn	Lys	Val	Val	Val	Leu	Asp	Ser	Phe	Asp	Pro
	1220					1225					1230			
Leu	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Asp	Glu	Arg	Glu	Ile	Ser	Val	Ala	Ala	Glu
	1235					1240					1245			
Ile	Leu	Arg	Lys	Ser	Arg	Arg	Phe	Ala	Pro	Ala	Leu	Pro	Ile	Trp
	1250					1255					1260			
Ala	Arg	Pro	Asp	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Pro	Leu	Leu	Glu	Thr	Trp	Lys	Lys
	1265					1270					1275			
Pro	Asp	Tyr	Glu	Pro	Pro	Val	Val	His	Gly	Cys	Pro	Leu	Pro	Pro
	1280					1285					1290			
Pro	Lys	Ser	Pro	Pro	Val	Pro	Pro	Pro	Arg	Lys	Lys	Arg	Thr	Val
	1295					1300					1305			
Val	Leu	Thr	Glu	Ser	Thr	Val	Ser	Thr	Ala	Leu	Ala	Glu	Leu	Ala
	1310					1315					1320			
Thr	Lys	Ser	Phe	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Ser	Gly	Ile	Thr	Gly	Asp
	1325					1330					1335			
Asn	Thr	Thr	Ala	Ser	Ser	Glu	Pro	Ala	Pro	Ser	Val	Cys	Pro	Pro
	1340					1345					1350			
Asp	Ser	Asp	Ala	Glu	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ser	Met	Pro	Pro	Leu	Glu	Gly
	1355					1360					1365			
Glu	Pro	Gly	Asp	Pro	Asp	Leu	Ser	Asp	Gly	Ser	Trp	Ser	Thr	Val
	1370					1375					1380			
Ser	Ser	Gly	Ala	Gly	Thr	Glu	Asp	Val	Val	Cys	Cys	Ser	Met	Ser
	1385					1390					1395			
Tyr	Ser	Trp	Thr	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ile	Thr	Pro	Cys	Ala	Ala	Glu	Glu
	1400					1405					1410			
Gln	Lys	Leu	Pro	Ile	Asn	Ala	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ser	Leu	Leu	Arg	His
	1415					1420					1425			
His	Asn	Leu	Val	Tyr	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ser	Arg	Ser	Ala	Cys	Gln	Arg
	1430					1435					1440			

Gln	Lys	Lys	Val	Thr	Phe	Asp	Arg	Leu	Gln	Val	Leu	Asp	Asn	His
	1445					1450					1455			
Tyr	Gln	Asp	Val	Leu	Lys	Glu	Val	Lys	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ser	Lys	Val
	1460					1465					1470			
Lys	Ala	Asn	Leu	Leu	Ser	Val	Glu	Glu	Ala	Cys	Ser	Leu	Thr	Pro
	1475					1480					1485			
Pro	His	Ser	Ala	Arg	Ser	Lys	Phe	Gly	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Lys	Asp	Val
	1490					1495					1500			
Arg	Cys	His	Ala	Arg	Lys	Ala	Val	Asn	His	Ile	Asn	Ser	Val	Trp
	1505					1510					1515			
Lys	Asp	Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Ser	Val	Thr	Pro	Ile	Asp	Thr	Thr	Ile
	1520					1525					1530			
Met	Ala	Lys	Asn	Glu	Val	Phe	Cys	Val	Gln	Pro	Glu	Lys	Gly	Gly
	1535					1540					1545			
Arg	Lys	Pro	Ala	Arg	Leu	Ile	Val	Tyr	Pro	Asp	Leu	Gly	Val	Arg
	1550					1555					1560			
Val	Cys	Glu	Lys	Met	Ala	Leu	Tyr	Asp	Val	Val	Lys	Lys	Leu	Pro
	1565					1570					1575			
Leu	Ala	Val	Met	Gly	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Gly	Phe	Gln	Tyr	Ser	Pro	Gly
	1580					1585					1590			
Gln	Arg	Val	Glu	Phe	Leu	Val	Gln	Ala	Trp	Lys	Ser	Lys	Gly	Thr
	1595					1600					1605			
Pro	Met	Gly	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Asp	Thr	Arg	Cys	Phe	Asp	Ser	Thr	Val
	1610					1615					1620			
Thr	Glu	Ser	Asp	Ile	Arg	Thr	Glu	Glu	Ala	Ile	Tyr	Gln	Cys	Cys
	1625					1630					1635			
Asp	Leu	Asp	Pro	Gln	Ala	Arg	Val	Ala	Ile	Lys	Ser	Leu	Thr	Glu
	1640					1645					1650			
Arg	Leu	Tyr	Val	Gly	Gly	Pro	Leu	Thr	Asn	Ser	Arg	Gly	Glu	Asn
	1655					1660					1665			
Cys	Gly	Tyr	Arg	Arg	Cys	Arg	Ala	Ser	Gly	Val	Leu	Thr	Thr	Ser
	1670					1675					1680			
Cys	Gly	Asn	Thr	Leu	Thr	Cys	Tyr	Ile	Lys	Ala	Arg	Ala	Ala	Cys
	1685					1690					1695			
Arg	Ala	Ala	Gly	Leu	Arg	Asp	Cys	Thr	Met	Leu	Val	Cys	Gly	Asp
	1700					1705					1710			
Asp	Leu	Val	Val	Ile	Cys	Glu	Ser	Gln	Gly	Val	Gln	Glu	Asp	Thr
	1715					1720					1725			
Ala	Ser	Leu	Arg	Ala	Phe	Thr	Glu	Ala	Met	Thr	Arg	Tyr	Ser	Ala
	1730					1735					1740			
Pro	Pro	Gly	Asp	Pro	Pro	Gln	Pro	Glu	Tyr	Asp	Leu	Glu	Leu	Ile
	1745					1750					1755			
Thr	Ser	Cys	Ser	Ser	Asn	Val	Ser	Val	Ala	His	Asp	Asp	Thr	Gly
	1760					1765					1770			
Lys	Arg	Val	Tyr	Tyr	Leu	Thr	Arg	Asp	Pro	Thr	Thr	Pro	Leu	Ala
	1775					1780					1785			
Arg	Ala	Ala	Trp	Glu	Thr	Ala	Arg	His	Thr	Pro	Val	Asn	Ser	Trp
	1790					1795					1800			
Leu	Gly	Asn	Ile	Ile	Met	Phe	Ala	Pro	Thr	Leu	Trp	Val	Arg	Met
	1805					1810					1815			
Ile	Leu	Leu	Pro	His	Phe	Phe	Ser	Val	Leu	Met	Ala	Arg	Asp	Gln
	1820					1825					1830			
Leu	Glu	Gln	Ala	Leu	Asp	Cys	Glu	Ile	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Cys	Tyr	Ser
	1835					1840					1845			
Ile	Glu	Pro	Leu	Asp	Leu	Pro	Pro	Ile	Ile	Gln	Arg	Leu	His	Gly
	1850					1855					1860			

Leu Ser Ala Phe Ser Leu His Ser Tyr Ser Pro Gly Glu Ile Asn  
 1865 1870 1875  
 Arg Val Ala Ala Cys Leu Arg Lys Leu Gly Val Pro Pro Leu Arg  
 1880 1885 1890  
 Ala Trp Arg His Arg Ala Arg Ser Ile Arg Ala Lys Leu Leu Ser  
 1895 1900 1905  
 Arg Gly Gly Arg Ala Ala Thr Cys Gly Lys Tyr Leu Phe Asn Trp  
 1910 1915 1920  
 Ala Val Arg Thr Lys Leu Lys Leu Thr Pro Ile Ala Ala Ala Ser  
 1925 1930 1935  
 Gln Leu Asp Leu Ser Gly Trp Phe Thr Ala Gly Tyr Ser Gly Gly  
 1940 1945 1950  
 Asp Ile Tyr His Ser Val Ser Arg Ala Arg Pro Arg Trp Phe Trp  
 1955 1960 1965  
 Phe Cys Leu Leu Leu Leu Ala Ala Gly Val Gly Ile Tyr Leu Leu  
 1970 1975 1980  
 Pro Asn Arg  
 1985

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<220>  
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17

<210> 7  
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<400> 7  
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19

<210> 8  
 <211> 21  
 <212> DNA  
 <213> Artificial sequence

<220>  
 <223> probe

<400> 8  
 ctgcggaacc ggtgagtaca c

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CLAIMS:

1. A polynucleotide which encodes an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity to the full length of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, in which the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 is replaced  
5 with glycine and wherein said polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins and structural proteins of hepatitis C virus (HCV).
2. The polynucleotide according to claim 1, in which the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1202 of SEQ ID NO:2 is replaced with glycine, the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 1056 is replaced with valine, and the  
10 amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 2199 is replaced with threonine.
3. The polynucleotide according to claim 1 or 2, in which the amino acid corresponding to serine at position 2321 of SEQ ID NO:2 is replaced with proline and/or the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 2889 is replaced with phenylalanine.
4. The polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said  
15 polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleotide sequence having not less than 95% identity to the full length of the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein, in cases where the polynucleotide is RNA, the nucleotide "t" in SEQ ID NO:1 is read as "u".
5. A recombinant hepatitis C virus particle comprising the polynucleotide  
20 according to any one of claims 1 to 4.
6. A cell to which the polynucleotide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 has been introduced and which produces a recombinant HCV.
7. A method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising administering or adding  
25 said drug candidate substance to the cell according to claim 6 and evaluating replication capacity of HCV or capacity of translation of HCV protein.

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8. A polynucleotide which encodes an amino acid sequence having not less than 98% identity to the full length of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:5, in which the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 is replaced with glycine and wherein said polynucleotide can express nonstructural proteins of HCV.
- 5 9. The polynucleotide according to claim 8, in which the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 177 of SEQ ID NO:5 is replaced with glycine, the amino acid corresponding to glutamic acid at position 31 is replaced with valine, and the amino acid corresponding to alanine at position 1174 is replaced with threonine.
- 10 10. The polynucleotide according to claim 8 or 9, in which the amino acid corresponding to serine at position 1296 of SEQ ID NO:5 is replaced with proline and/or the amino acid corresponding to leucine at position 1864 is replaced with phenylalanine.
11. The polynucleotide according to any one of claims 8 to 10, further comprising an IRES sequence.
- 15 12. The polynucleotide according to any one of claims 8 to 11, further comprising a selection marker gene or a reporter gene.
- 20 13. The polynucleotide according to any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or a polynucleotide which is able to hybridize with the complementary sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 under stringent conditions comprising washing at 68°C in 0.1×SSC, 0.1% SDS, and wherein, in cases where the polynucleotide is RNA, the nucleotide “t” in SEQ ID NO:3 is read as “u”.
14. The polynucleotide according to any one of claims 8 to 13, wherein said polynucleotide is a replicon RNA.
15. A replicon-replicating cell prepared by introducing the replicon RNA according to claim 14.
- 25 16. The replicon-replicating cell according to claim 15, wherein the cell is a human liver-derived cell, human uterine cervix-derived cell or human fetal kidney-derived cell.

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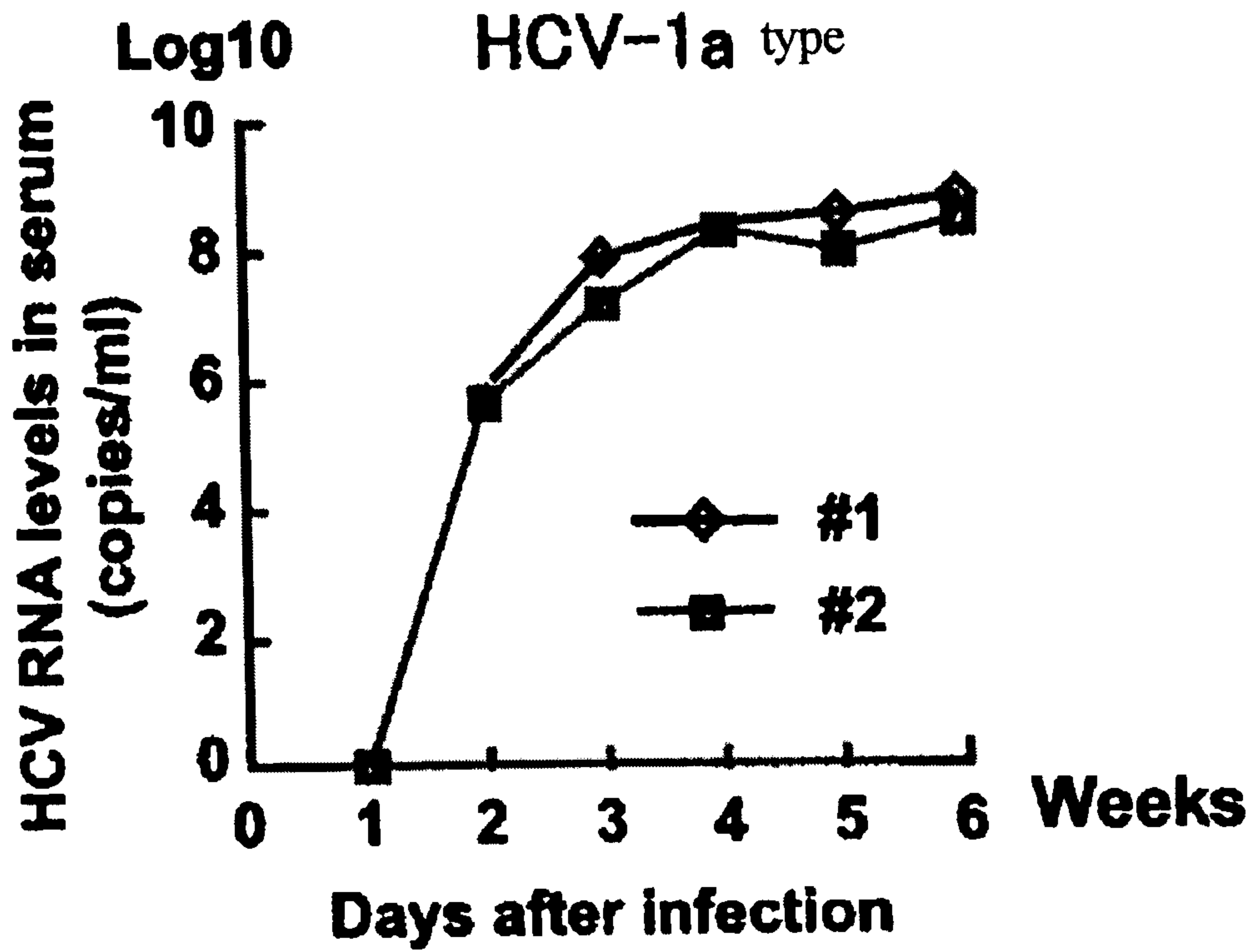
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17. The replicon-replicating cell according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the cell is a Huh7 cell, HepG2 cell, IMY-N9 cell, HeLa cell or 293 cell.

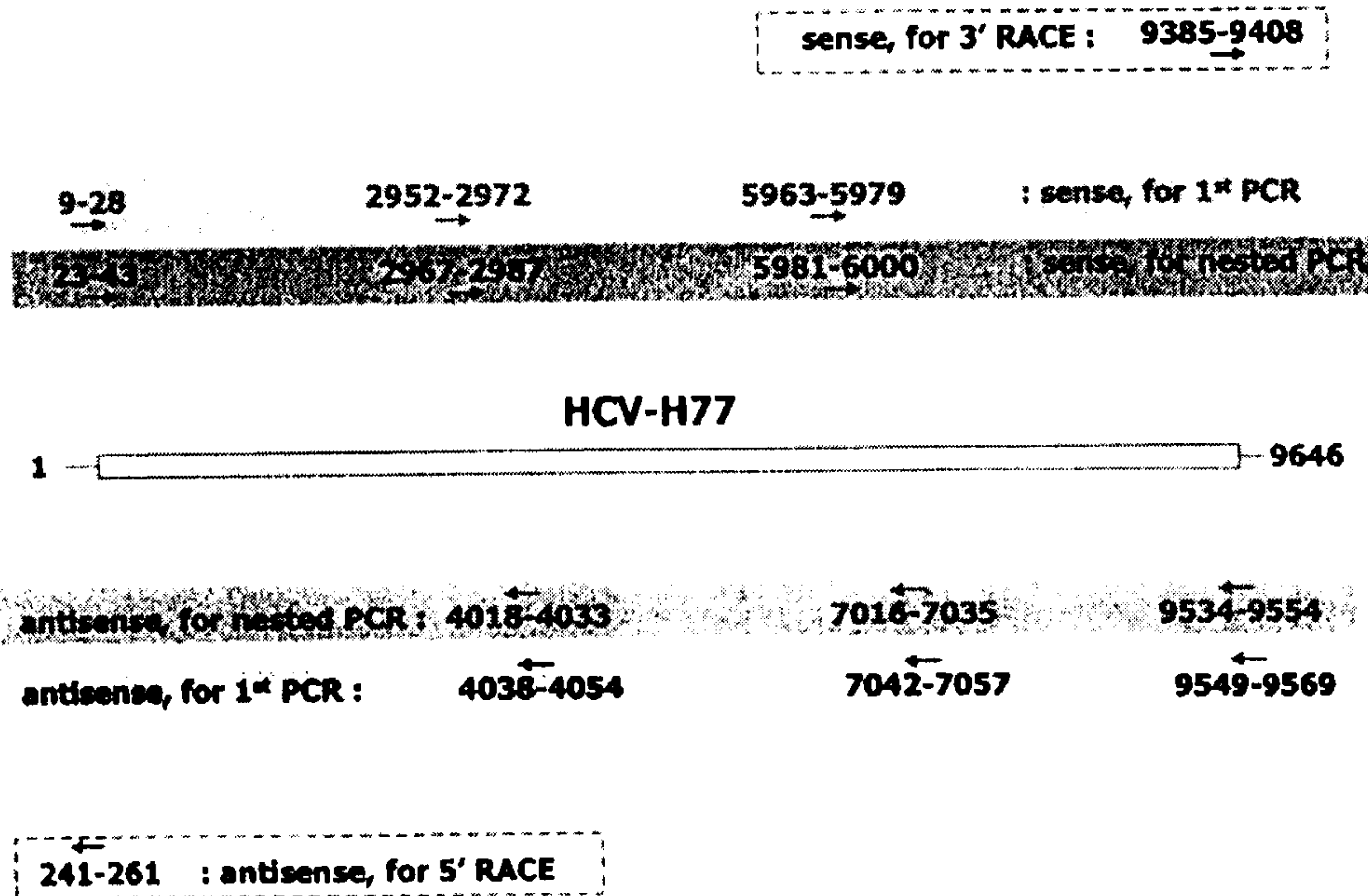
18. A method of screening or evaluating a drug candidate substance which inhibits replication or protein translation of HCV, said method comprising adding a drug candidate  
5 substance to the replicon-replicating cell according to any one of claims 15 to 17 and evaluating replication capacity or protein translation of said replicon RNA.



[Fig. 1]

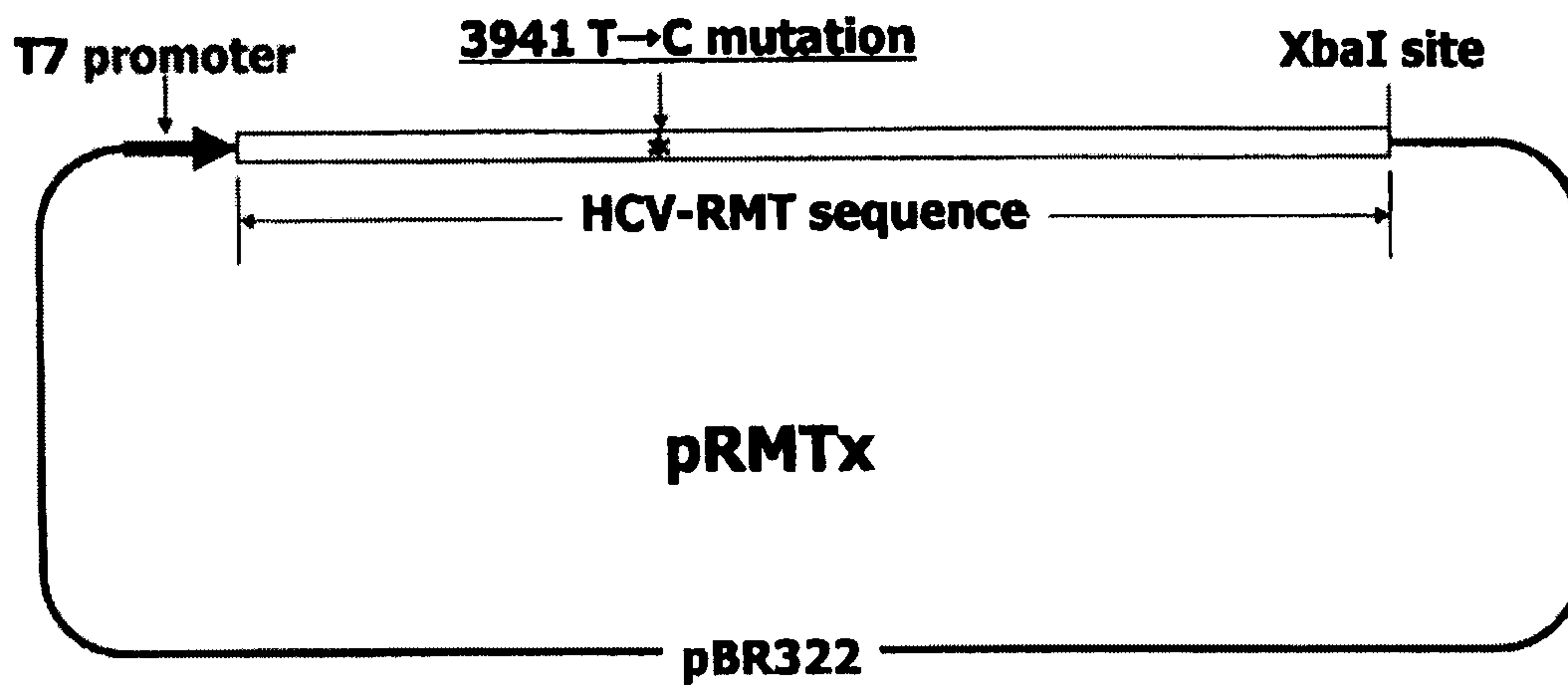


[Fig. 2]

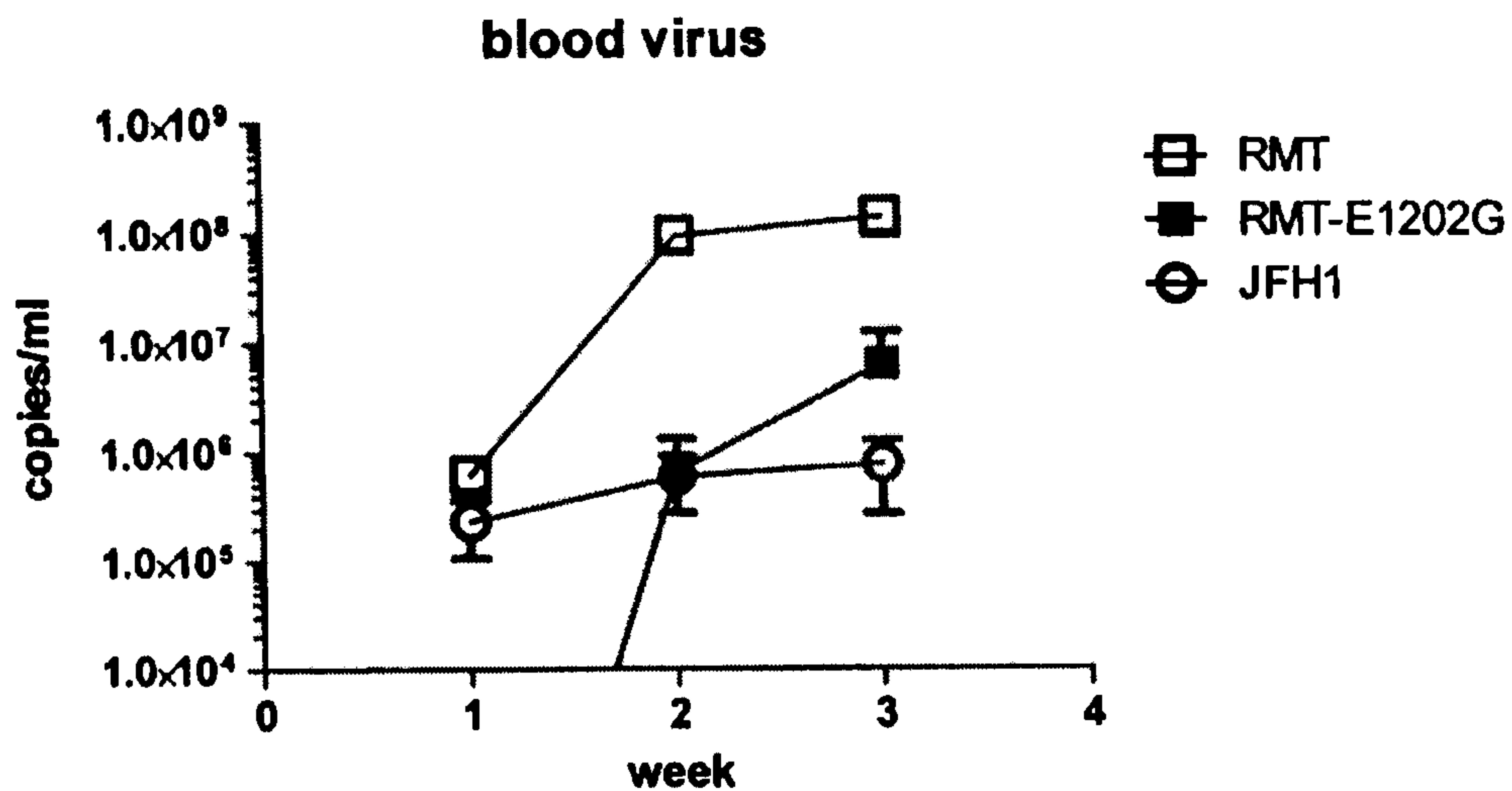




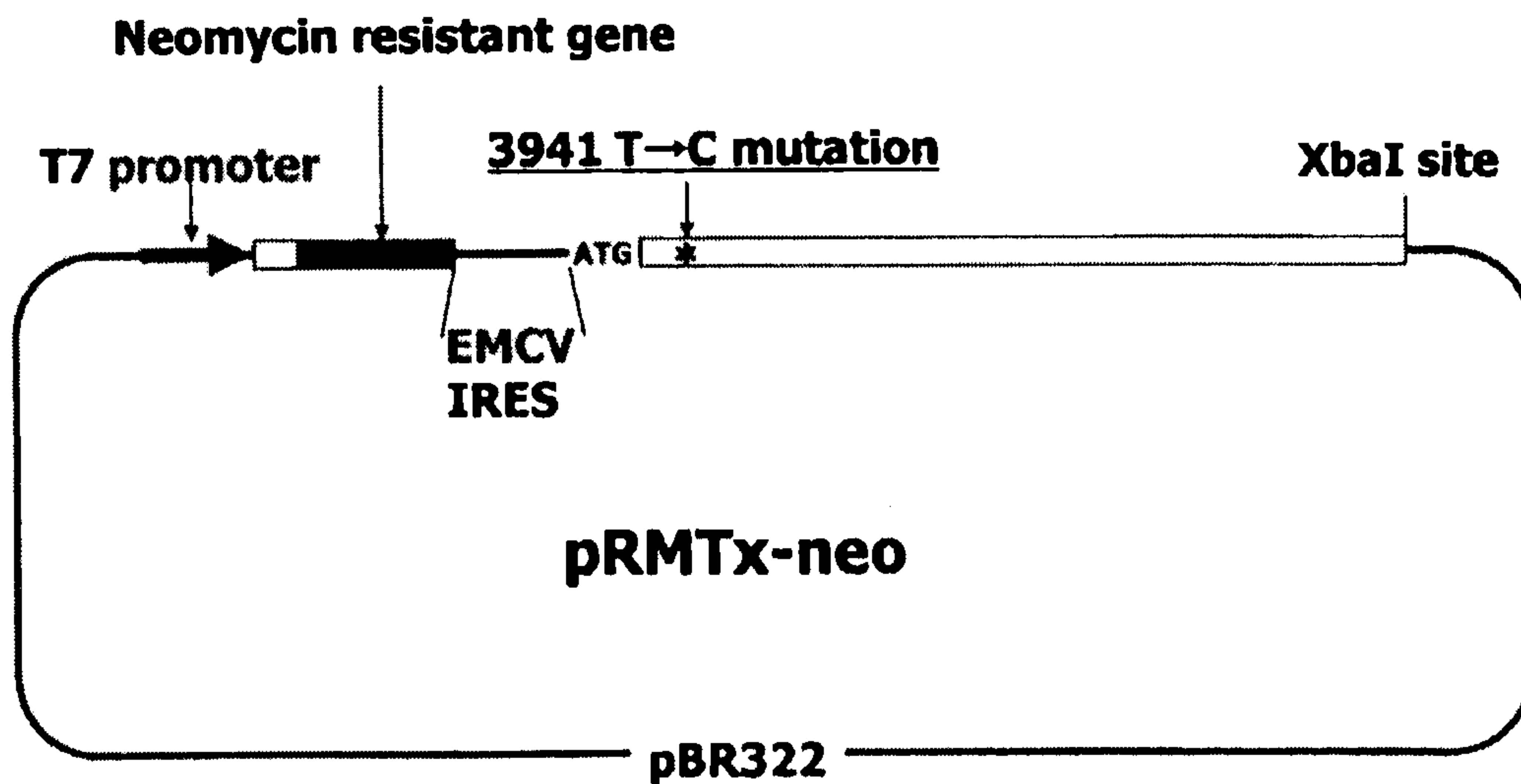
[Fig. 3]



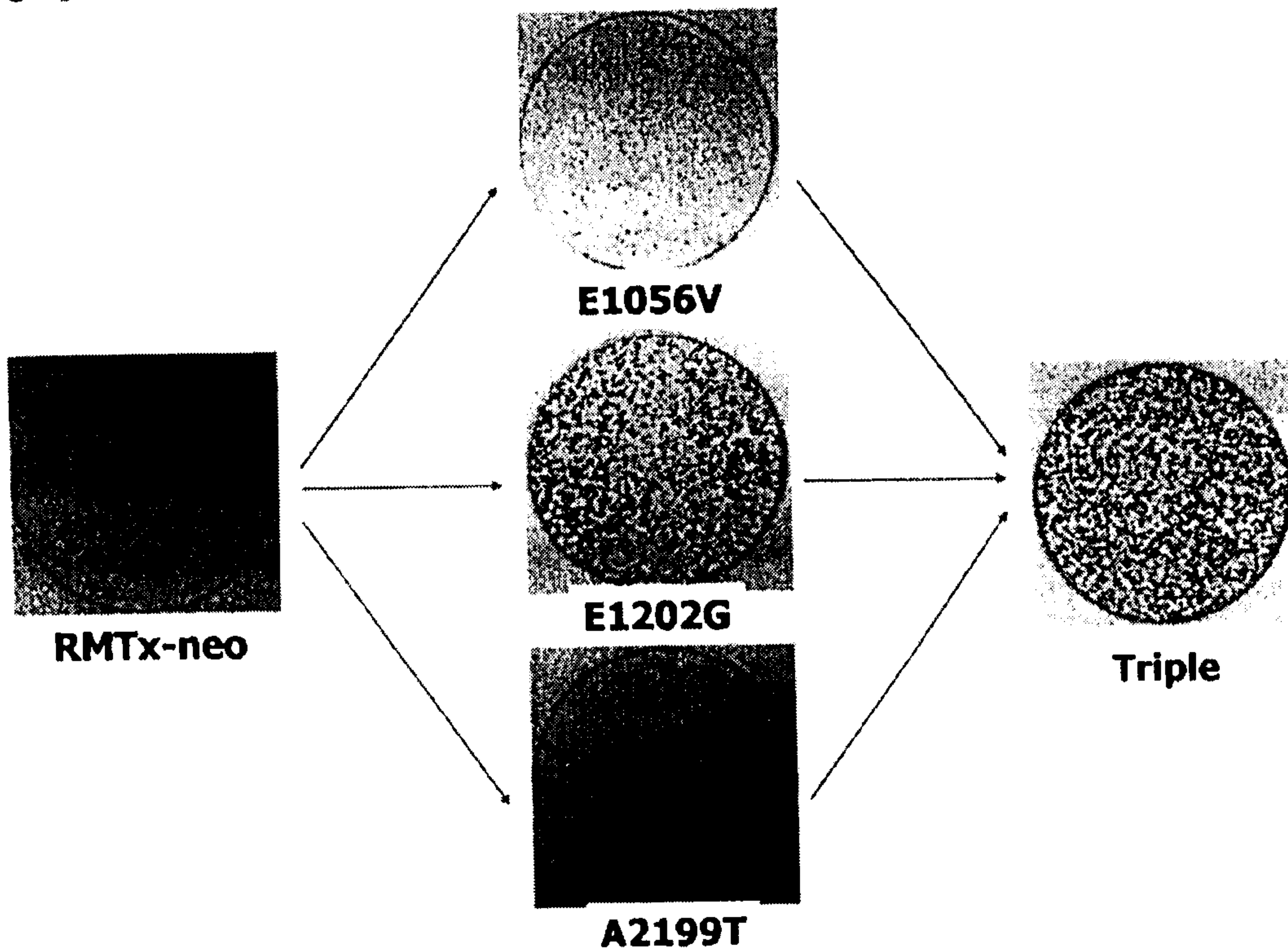
[Fig. 4]



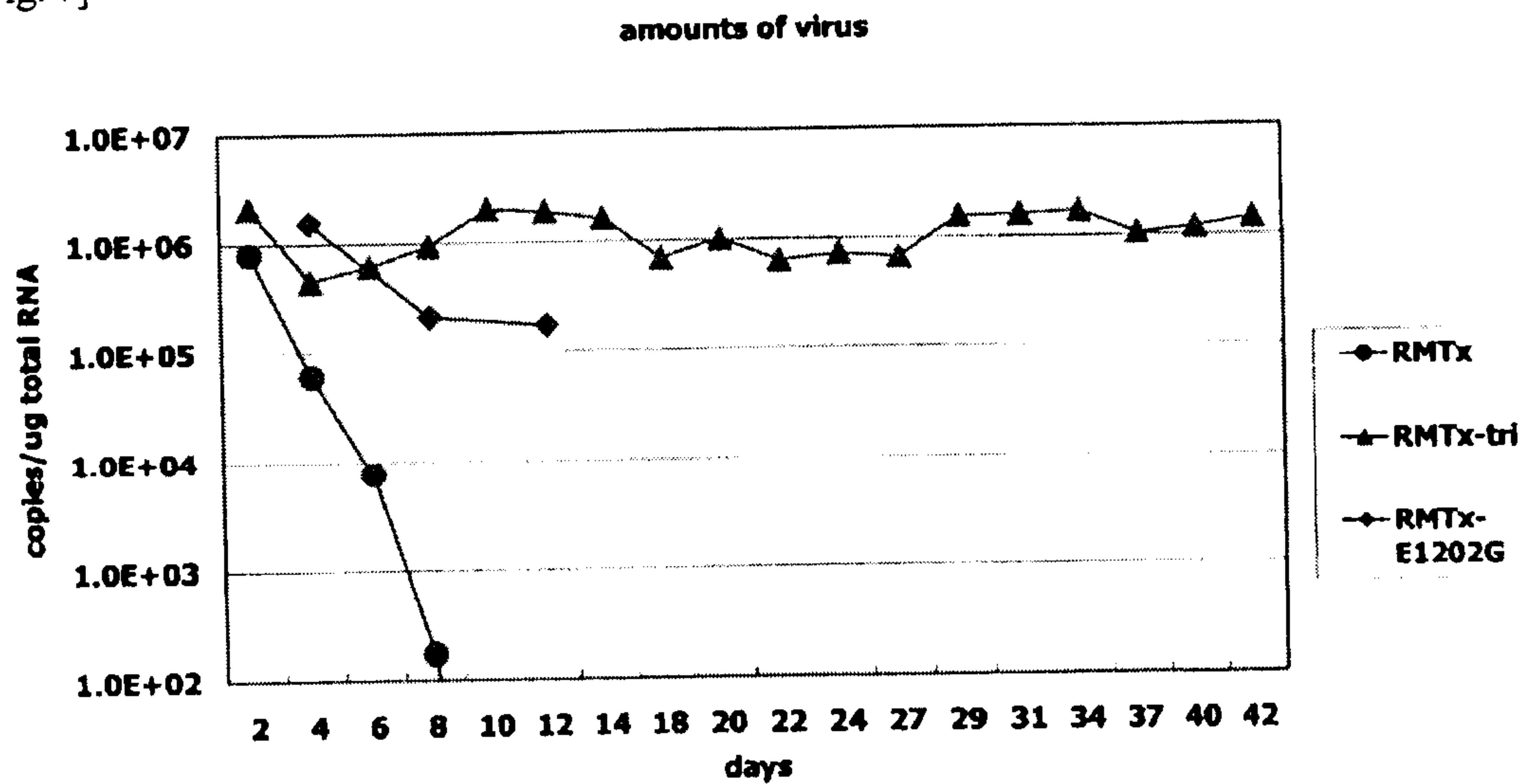
[Fig. 5]



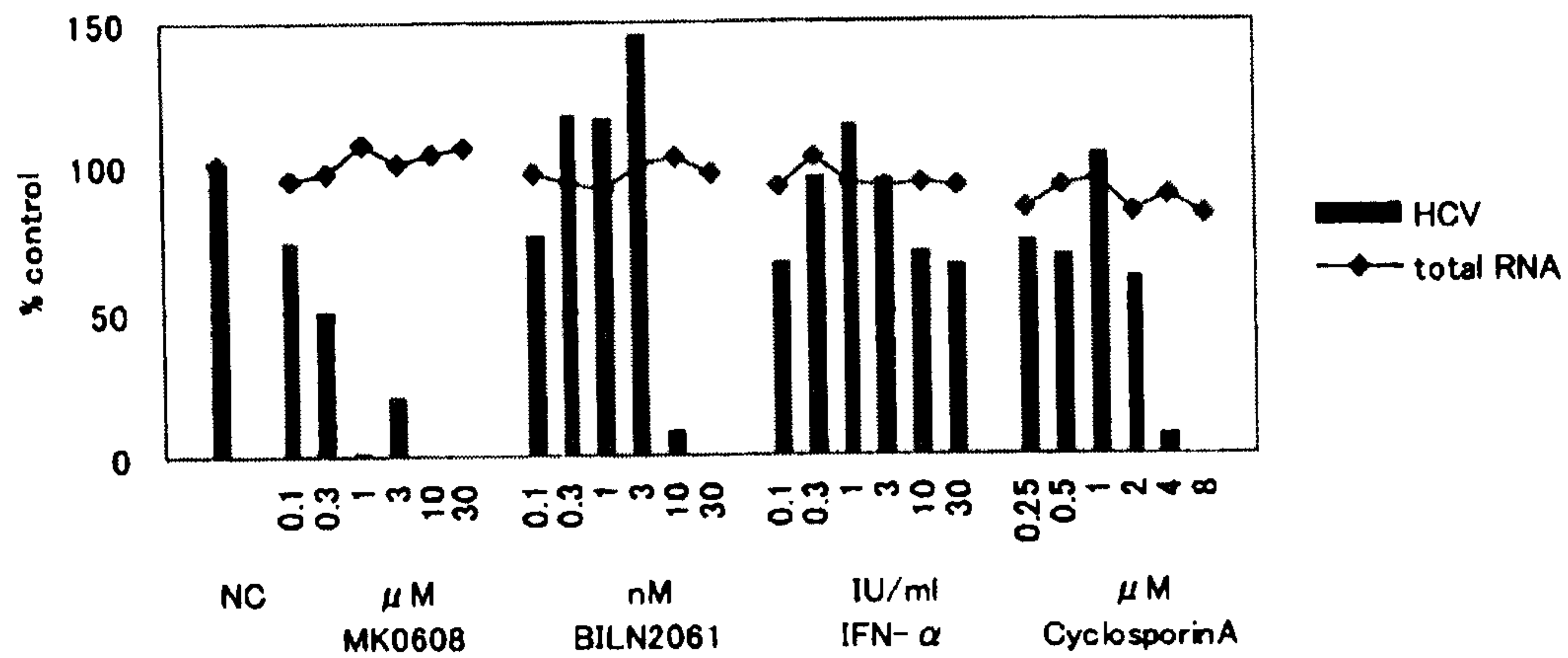
[Fig. 6]



[Fig. 7]



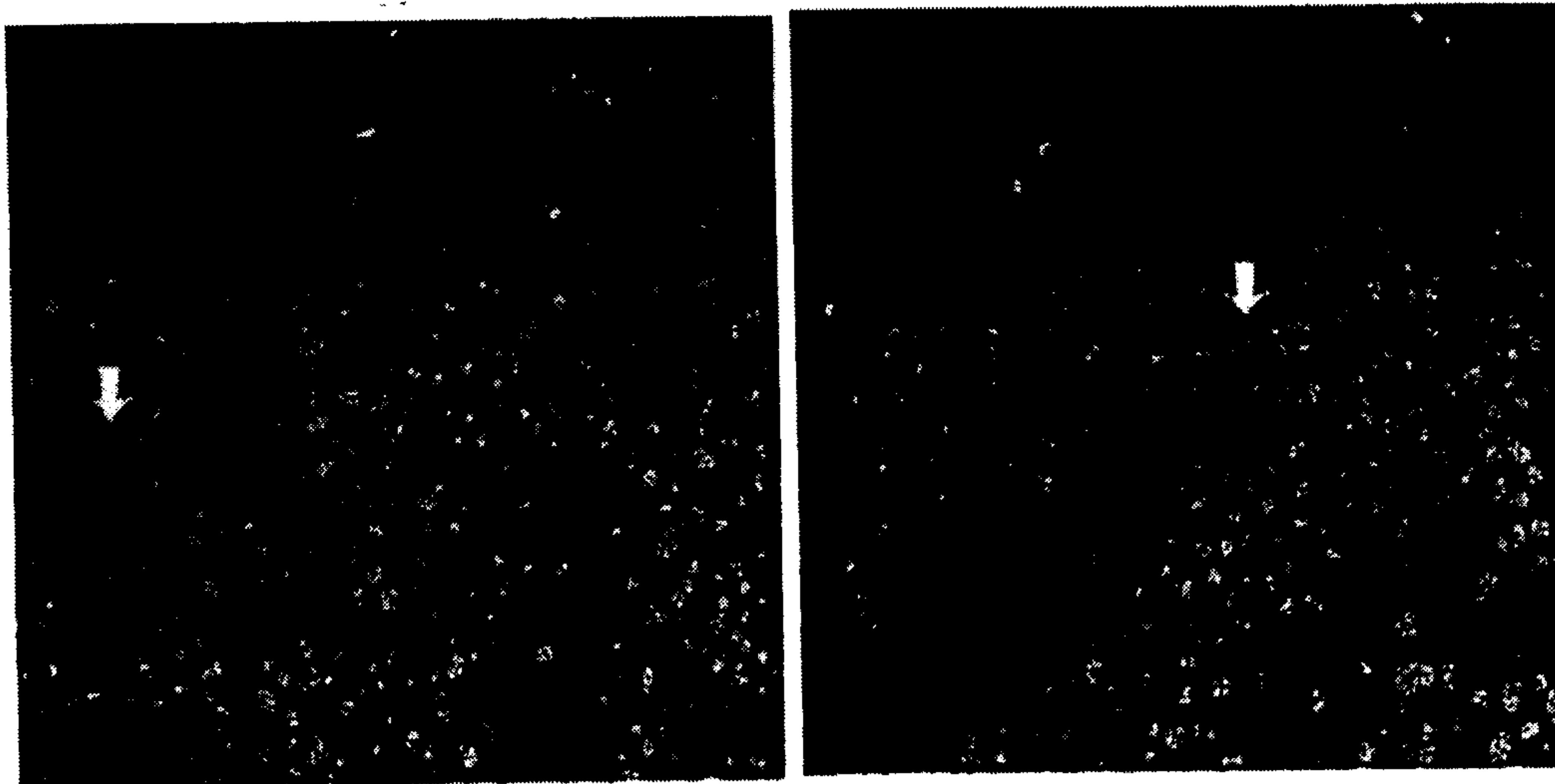
[Fig. 8]



[Fig. 9]

Huh7 infected with #11 cell culture supernatant

Huh7 infected with concentrated #11 cell culture supernatant



# blood virus

