Title: A Gamma-adapted subunit vaccine induces broadly neutralizing antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 variants and protects mice from infection.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Supplementary Figure 1.



Supplementary Figure 1. Antibody responses induced by different recombinant vaccine formulations in mice. BALB/c mice were immunized i.m with i) Gamma RBD+Alum (blue circles, n= 5 mice), ii) Ancestral RBD+Alum (red circles, n= 5 mice) or iii) Spike 2P+Alum (green circles, n= 5 mice) on days 0 and 14. **a**. At day 42 specific antibody responses against RBD (Gamma, Ancestral or Omicron BA.4/5) were evaluated in serum by ELISA. Error Bars are Mean ± SD values. Kruskal Wallis test. *p<0.05, **p<0.01. Exact P values are shown. **b**. Neutralizing antibody response in serum were measured at 42 days post prime immunization (dpp). Neutralization titers against SARS-CoV-2 variants (Ancestral, Gamma, Alpha, Delta, Omicron BA.1 and BA.5) was determined by live virus assay. Neutralization titer was defined as the serum dilution that reduces 50% of the cytopathic effect (NT50). Points represent data of individual mice. Error Bars are GMT ± SD values. Kruskal Wallis test. *p<0.01. Exact P values are shown. Representative of two independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 2.



Supplementary Figure 2. Gating strategy of flow cytometry results presented in Figure 2. **a**. Gating strategy for the analysis of B cells and plasmablasts in spleen presented inf Fig.2e. Dot plots with gates are shown in sequential order. **b**. Gating strategy for the analysis of Germinal Centre cells in spleen presented in figure 2f. Dot plots with gates are shown in sequential order. **c**. Gating strategy for analysis of T follicular helper cells in spleen presented in figure 2g. Dot plots with gates are shown in sequential order.

Supplementary Figure 3.



Supplementary Figure 3. Long-lived plasma cells are present in bone marrow after mice immunization with the Gamma RBD vaccine. BALB/c mice were immunized i.m with Gamma RBD+Alum (n=5 mice) or placebo (n= 3 mice) on days 0 and 14.a. Gating strategy for evaluation of LLPCs and isotype-switched LLPCs specific for RBD. b. LLPCs were evaluated in the bone marrow at day 42 after mice immunization by flow cytometry. Cells suspensions were obtained, and live cells were stained with Zombie Acqua dye, then specific mAbs against B220, CD138 and IgG were used. Specificity was evaluated labelling cells with a fluorescent RBD antigen. Total (CD138⁺ B220⁻) or specific (CD138⁺ B220⁻ RBD⁺) LLPCs and total (CD138⁺ B220⁻ IgG⁺) or specific (CD138⁺ B220⁻ IgG⁺ RBD⁺) isotype-switched LLPCs frequencies are shown. Points are frequencies of the live cell population for each mouse. Error bars are means ± SEM values. Two-sided Mann Whitney test. *p<0.05 Exact P value is shown. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 4.



a. Gating strategy used for the evaluation of cytokine producing T cells:

b. Representative dot plots of the FMO control.



FMO control (only include Zombie Acqua dye and anti-CD4 and CD8 antibodies.)

c. Representative dot plots of the flow cytometry data shown in Figure 4a.



Gamma RBD formulation- CD4+ T cells











Supplementary Figure 4. Gating strategy of intracellular flow cytometry results presented in Figure 4a. **a**. Gating strategy used for the evaluation of cytokine producing CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells. Dot plots with gates are shown in sequential order. **b**. Dot plots of the fluorescence minus one (FMO) control used to set negative populations of cytokine producing CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T cells. **c**. Representative dot plots of the intracellular flow cytometry data shown in Figure 4a. Representative dot plots for each vaccinated group and each stimulus condition (medium, RBD ancestral peptides and RBD gamma peptides) is shown for each cytokine (IFN- γ , TNF- α and IL-2).

Supplementary Figure 5



CD4⁺ T cell response

Supplementary Figure 5. T cell immune responses elicited in C57BL/6 mice after vaccination with the Gamma and Ancestral RBD adjuvanted formulations. C57BL/6 mice were i.m. inoculated on days 0 and 14 with Gamma RBD + Alum (blue circles, n=5 mice) or Ancestral RBD + Alum (red circles, n=5 mice). Cellular responses were evaluated in spleen 28 days after last immunization. Intracellular flow cytometry analysis of cytokine secreting T cells. Splenocytes were stimulated with complete media or a peptide pool derived from RBD (gamma or ancestral) and then brefeldin A was added. Afterward, cells were harvested and stained with specific Abs including anti-CD8, and anti-CD4, fixed, permeabilized, and stained intracellularly with anti–IFN- γ , TNF- α and anti-IL-2. Results are presented as percentage of cytokine-producing CD4⁺ (upper panel) or CD8⁺ (lower panel) T cells. Bars are means ± SEM. *p < 0.05 vs. medium. **p < 0.01 vs. medium. Exact p values are shown. Kruskal Wallis test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 6.



Supplementary Figure 6. Assessment of polyfunctional T cells induced by vaccine formulations. BALB/c mice were i.m. inoculated on days 0 and 14 with Gamma RBD + Alum (blue circles, n=5 mice) + Ancestral RBD + Alum (red circles, n=5 mice). Frequency of CD4⁺ T cell populations from splenocytes that produce one, two or three cytokines after gamma (left panel) or ancestral (right panel) RBD peptides stimulation were plotted for each group of mice Bars are means ± SEM. *P=0.0411. Kruskal Wallis test. Representative of two independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 7.



Supplementary Figure 7. K18-hACE2 transgenic mice weight loss and survival after intranasal BA.5 SARS-CoV-2 infection. Mice were i.m. inoculated on days 0 and 14 with: i) placebo (n=12 mice, black circles), ii) Gamma RBD + Alum (n=12 mice, blue circles), iii) Ancestral RBD + Alum (n=12 mice, red circles) or iv) bivalent BNT162b2 (n=12, green circles). Two weeks following immunization, mice were intranasally infected with 1×10^4 PFU of Omicron BA.5. **a**. Weight changes in mice were monitored daily until day 5 after infection. Points are means ± SEM of percentage of original weight. **b**. Survival were monitored daily until day 5. Each point represents the percentage of mice alive at that time. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Figure 8.



Supplementary Figure 8. Vaccination with Gamma RBD + Alum protects K18-hACE2 transgenic mice against intranasal SARS-CoV-2 infection. Mice received PBS (Control, n=8 mice) or Gamma RBD + Alum (n=9 mice) administered via i.m. route on days 0 and 14. Four weeks following immunization, K18-hACE2 mice were intranasally infected with 2×10^5 PFU of SARS-CoV-2. a. Weight changes in mice were monitored daily until day 14 after infection. Points are means ± SEM of percentage of original weight. b. Survival were monitored daily until day 14. Each point represents the percentage of mice alive at that time. Survival curves were analyzed with Log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test. P=0.0208 vs placebo. c. Five days after infection lungs and brains (n=3) were obtained from groups of mice and SARS-CoV-2 virus was titrated. Bars represent the mean ± SEM. **P < 0.01 and ***P < 0.001. Unpaired T test. d. Histopathologic studies were performed on lung samples from the indicated groups, and pathological scores were calculated for each parameter (alveolar cellularity, alveolar macrophages, edema and type 2 pneumocyte hyperplasia). Statistical analysis was conducted using Two-sided Mann-Whitney test. *P < 0.05. e. Hematoxylin and eosin staining of lung sections from K18-hACE2 infected mice at 5 dpi. Scale bars=50 µm. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Supplementary Table 1. Antigenic distances calculated from vaccinated mouse sera obtained 28 days after the second dose. 1 unit of antigenic distance is equivalent to a two-fold dilution in neutralization titers. The lowest distance among the groups is colored in grey.

Antigenic distances									
SARS-CoV-2 variants	Gamma RBD vaccine	Ancestral RBD vaccine							
Ancestral-Gamma	0.60	1.87							
Ancestral-Alpha	3.56	3.69							
Ancestral-Delta	2.35	4.68							
Ancestral-Omicron BA.1	2.62	4,50							
Ancestral-Omicron BA.5	3.45	6,28							
Gamma-Alpha	2.96	5.19							
Gamma-Delta	1.94	4.49							
Gamma-Omicron BA.1	2.33	3.79							
Gamma-Omicron BA.5	2.86	8.14							
Alpha-Delta	2.05	8.16							
Alpha-Omicron BA.1	3.42	8.16							
Alpha-Omicron BA.5	0.86	7.10							
Delta-Omicron BA.1	3.76	1.32							
Delta-Omicron BA.5	1.42	6.12							
Omicron BA.1-Omicron BA.5	3.89	7.22							

Supplementary Table 2. Best linear (continuous) B-cell epitopes of the RBD of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein (Ancestral and Gamma variant) predicted by IEDB analysis of resources. BepiPred 2.0 was used to predict the linear B-cell epitopes of the RBD domain with a threshold of 0.5. Sequence of linear B cell epitopes, starting and end position, score and antigenicity predicted by Vaxijen 2.0 is shown. Residue substitution N501Y in the Gamma VOC sequence is shown in red. NA: no antigenic. A: antigenic. RBD protein sequence correspond to residues 319 to 537 of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

No.	Start position	End position	Peptide	Length	Score	Antigenicity					
-Ancestral RBD sequence											
3	344	349	ATRFAS	6	0.1511	NA					
4	351	363	YAWNRKRISNCVA	13	0.3936	NA					
5	372	378	ASFSTFK	7	0.0865	NA					
9	494	506	SYGFQPTNGVGYQ	13	0.7632	А					
10	524	534	VCGPKKSTNLV	11	0.1358	NA					
-Gamma RBD sequence											
3	344	349	ATRFAS	6	0.1511	NA					
4	351	363	YAWNRKRISNCVA	13	0.3936	NA					
5	372	378	ASFSTFK	7	0.0865	NA					
9	496	506	SYGFQPT Y GVGYQ	13	0.8457	А					

10	524	534	VCGPKKSTNLV	11	0.1358	NA	
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Supplementary Table 3. In silico screening of MHC class II restricted T-cell based epitopes of the RBD protein from SARS-CoV-2. Using netMHCpan 3.2 MHC-II (I-A/E) restricted epitopes of 9 residues in length in the two more common mouse haplotypes (d and b) were selected and scored by Vaxijen 2.0. WB= Weak binding. SB= Strong Binding. New epitopes generated are colored in grey.

	MHCII allelles														
			1.4.4												
	1	-	HAd DDD antigen			mma PPD	antigon			200	FAD	ntigon		mma PPD a	ntigon
Position	Pentide	Score	Binding	Vavilen	gamma RB		gamma RBD antigen		Pentide	Score	Binding	Vavi lon	Score	Binding	Vavi len
20	FGEVENATREASVVA	6.00	WR	0.0415 (NA)	6.00	WB	0.0415 (NA)	18	CREGEVENATREASY	5.00	WB	0.2075	3.00	WB	0 2075
21	GEVENATREASVYAW	4.00	WB	-0 1202 (NA)	4.00	WB	-0 1202 (NA)	10	PEGEVENATREASVY	4.00	WB	0.0331	1.70	SB	0.0331
22	EVENATREASVYAWN	4.00	WB	0.0832 (NA)	4.00	WB	0.0832 (NA)	20	EGEVENATREASVYA	3.50	WB	0.0415	1.70	SB	0.0415
23	VENATREASVYAWNR	3.00	WB	0.0745 (NA)	3.00	WB	0.0745 (NA)	21	GEVENATREASVYAW	3.50	WB	-0.1202	1.20	SB	-0.1202
24	FNATRFASVYAWNRK	3.50	WB	0.4491 (A)	3.50	WB	0.4491 (A)	22	EVENATREASVYAWN	5.00	WB	0.0832	1.30	SB	0.0832
25	NATRFASVYAWNRKR	5.50	WB	0.4062 (A)	5.50	WB	0.4062 (A)	23	VENATREASVYAWNR		=		1.60	SB	0.0745
26	ATREASVYAWNRKRI	7.00	WB	0.3489 (NA)	7.00	WB	0.3489 (NA)	24	FNATRFASVYAWNRK				3.00	WB	0.4491
46	DYSVI YNSASESTEK	9.50	WB	0.2080 (NA)	9.50	WB	0.2080 (NA)	25	NATREASVYAWNRKR				6.00	WB	0.4062
47	YSVLYNSASFSTFKC	9.50	WB	0.1176 (NA)	9.50	WB	0.1176(NA)	26	NATRFASVYAWNRKR				7.00	WB	0.4062
192	VVVI SEELI HAPATV	9.00	WB	0.8083 (A)	9.00	WB	0.8083 (A)	27	TREASVYAWNRKRIS	7.00	WB	0.4963	10.00	WB	0.4963
193	VVI SEELLHAPATVC	8.00	WB	0.8618 (A)	8.00	WB	0.8618 (A)	28	RFASVYAWNRKRISN	8.50	WB	0.4243			
194	VI SEELI HAPATVCG	8.00	WB	0.4784 (A)	8.00	WB	0.4784(A)	29	FASVYAWNRKRISNC	9.50	WB	0.3676			
195	I SFELLHAPATVCGP	9.00	WB	0.5062 (A)	9.00	WB	0.5062 (A)	30	ASVYAWNRKRISNCV	9.50	WB	0.3086			
				0.000-()		=		44	VADYSVI YNSASEST	8.00	WB	0.2729	5.50	WB	0.2729
								45	ADYSVI YNSASESTE	5.00	WB	0.2252	3.00	WB	0.2252
								46	DYSVI YNSASESTEK	4 50	WB	0.2080	2.50	WB	0.2080
			LEd					47	VSVI VNSASESTEKC	5.00	WB	0.1176	3.00	WB	0.1176
	9	costral RBD a	ntigen	aamr	na PBD ai	ntigen		47	SVI VNSASESTEKCY	6.50	WB	0.1871	4.50	WB	0.1871
Position	Bontido	Score	Binding	Varilon	Score	Binding	Varilan	40	VI VNSASESTEKOVO	0.00	WB	0.1071	7.50	WP	0.1071
10311011	PEGEVENATREASVV	9.00	WR	0.0331 (NA)	9.00	WB	0.0331 (NA)		SESTEKCYGVSPTKI	8.00	WB	0.9327	6.00	WB	0.0327
20	ECEVENATREASVVA	7.50	WB	0.0331 (NA)	7.50	WB	0.0331 (NA)	55	ESTERCYCUSPTRIN	4.00	WB	1.0042	5.00	WP	1.0042
20	GEVENATREASVYAW	9.00	WB	-0.1202 (NA)	9.00	WB	-0.1202 (NA)	57	STEKCYGVSPTKLND	4.00	WB	1.0042	6.00	WB	1.0042
23	VENATREASVYAWNR	8.00	WB	0.0745 (NA)	8.00	WB	0.0745 (NA)	58	TEKCYGVSPTKI NDI	5.50	WB	1.4626	6.00	WB	1,2022
20	ENATREASYVANANDK	7.50	WB	0.0743 (NA)	7.50	WB	0.4401 (A)	50	EKCYGV/SBTKLNDLC	8.00	WB	1,7120	0.00	110	1.4020
24	NATREASVYAWNRKR	4.00	WB	0.4062 (A)	1.00	WB	0.4491 (A)	1/0	DISTEIVOAGSTRCN	3.50	WB	0.1568	5.00	WB	0 1568
20		1.00	CD CD	0.4002 (NA)	1.00	CD CD	0.4002 (MA)	140	ISTEIVOAGSTRONG	3.00	WB	0.1500	4.00	WP	0.1500
27	TREASVYAW/NRKRI	0.60	SB	0.3964 (NA)	0.60	SB	0.3964 (NA)	150	STEIVOAGSTPCNGV	3.00	WB	-0.1510	2.50	WB	-0.1510
27	REASVVAWNRKRISN	0.00	SB	0.4243 (A)	0.00	SB	0.4243 (A)	152	TEIVOAGSTPCNGVE	3.00	WB	-0.0013	3.00	WB	-0.0513
20	FASVYAWNRKRISNC	0.00	SB	0.3676 (NA)	0.00	SB	0.3676 (NA)	152	EIVOAGSTPCNGVEG	4.00	WB	-0.0020	4.00	WB	0.0218
30	ASVVAWNRKRISNCV	1 10	SB	0.3086 (NA)	1 10	SB	0.3086 (NA)	154	IVOAGSTPCNGVEGE	5.50	WB	-0.1715	6.50	WB	-0.1477
31	SVYAWNRKRISNCVA	1.10	SB	0.3301 (NA)	1.10	SB	0.3301 (NA)	171	YEPLOSYGEOPTNGV	9.50	WB	0.6881	0.50	110	-0.1477
32	VYAWNPKPISNCVAD	4.00	WB	0.1768 (NA)	4.00	WB	0.1768 (NA)	172	EPI OSYGEOPTNGVG	9.00	WB	0.5697			
125	KVGGNYNYI YRI FRK	3.50	WB	-0 2292 (NA)	3.50	WB	-0 2292 (NA)	172	PLOSYGEOPTNGVGY	7.50	WB	0.3415	6.50	WB	0.4135
126	VGGNYNYI YRI FRKS	1.30	SB	-0.0193 (NA)	1.30	SB	-0.0193 (NA)	174	LOSYGEOPTNGVGYO	8.00	WB	0.5299	5.50	WB	0.6057
127	CONVNVI VRI ERKSNI	0.80	SB	0.0207 (NA)	0.80	SB	0.0207 (NA)	175	OSVGEOPTYGYGYOP				6 50	WB	0 7291
127	GNYNYI YRI FRKSNI	0.00	SB	0.1801 (NA)	0.30	SB	0.1801 (NA)	176	SYGEOPTYGVGYOPY				8.00	WB	0.8603
120		0.50	SB	0.1089 (NA)	0.50	SB	0.1089 (NA)	181	PTYCYCYCPYPYYYI	-			9.50	WB	0.6453
120		0.15	SB	0.2254 (NA)	0.15	SB	0.2254 (NA)	182	TNGVGYOPYPV////	9.50	WB	0.5763	7.00	WB	0.8573
131	NVI VRI ERKSNI KRE	0.13	SB	0.0415 (NA)	0.13	SB	0.0415 (NA)	183	YGVGYOPYRVVVI SE	3.50	110	0.5705	6.00	WB	1.0888
137	VI VRI ERKSNI KREF	0.12	SB	0.0413 (NA)	0.12	SB	0.0413 (NA)	184	GVGYOPYPV//// SEE				6.50	WB	1,0000
133		0.20	SB	-0.0204 (NA)	0.20	SB	-0.0294 (NA)	185	VGYOPYRVVVI SEEL				8.50	WB	1 3858
133		1.00	SB	0.0294 (NA)	1.00	SB	0.0254 (NA)	100	RV/V/ISEELIHAPAT	9.50	WB	0 7485	6.00	WB	0.7485
134		3.50	WB	0.1301 (NA)	3.50	WB	0.1301 (NA)	102	V//// SEELLHAPATV	4.50	WB	0.8083	3.00	WB	0.8083
136		8.50	WB	0.4350 (A)	8.50	WB	0.4350 (A)	192	V/VI SEELLHAPATVC	3.00	WB	0.8618	2.50	WB	0.8618
130	LENNONLINPFERDIO	8.50	VD	0.4000 (A)	0.00		0.7000 (A)	193	VISELLHAPATVCG	1.80	SB	0.4784	1.70	SB	0.0010
								104	I SEELLHAPATVCGP	1.00	SB	0.4704	1.00	SB	0.5062
								195	SEELLHAPATVCGPK	2.50	WB	0.0002	1.00	SB	0.0002
								190	FELL HARATVCGPK	2.00	WB	0.2003	3.50	WB	0.2003
								197		8.50	WB	-0.1250	3.30	WD	0.1100
								130	LEEUNEALAGENUS	0.00	110	0.1203		I	11

Supplementary Table 4. In silico screening of MHC class I restricted T-cell based epitopes of the RBD protein from SARS-CoV-2. Using netMHCpan 4.1 MHC-I (H-2-D/K) restricted epitopes of 9 residues in length in the two more common mouse haplotypes (d and b) were selected and scored by Vaxijen 2.0. WB= Weak binding. SB= Strong Binding. New epitopes generated are colored in grey.



Supplementary Methods.

Prediction of restricted B and T-cell epitopes in the antigen sequences

Linear B-cell epitopes of the SARS-CoV-2 S protein were predicted by with a threshold of 0.5, and only the epitopes with a length between 5-25 residues were considered for subsequent antigenicity analysis. Antigenicity was evaluated via the VaxiJen v2.0 server online tool (VaxiJen v2.0., The Jenner Institute, Oxford, UK). Peptides with a score \geq 0.4 were considered antigenic. Discontinuous B-cell epitopes were predicted via the DiscoTope 1.1 server tool in IEDB with a default threshold of -7.7 (corresponding specificity > 0.75 and

sensitivity < 0.47), based on the 3-dimensional (3D) structures of the SARS-CoV-2 RBD proteins obtained with Swiss model.

HTL- cell epitopes, were predicted based on the Net MHC pan 3.2 algorithm in IEDB. The 2 haplotypes chosen, H-2-IA^{d/b} and H-2-IE^{d/b}, are common in laboratory mice strains. The algorithm was asked to predict peptides between 8 and 11 amino acids in length, for each haplotype. CD8⁺ T-cell epitopes were predicted based on the Net MHC pan 4.1 algorithm in IEDB, the peptide length selected was of 15 residues. As mentioned before, the haplotypes for the MHC class I molecules, were chosen according to the most prevalent in common laboratory mice strains (H-2-D^{d/b}, H-2-K^{d/b}). The prediction values are given in IC50 values (in nanoMolars) and as %Rank. The percentile rank for a peptide is generated by comparing its score against the scores of 200,000 random natural peptides of the same length of the query peptide. Strong and weak binding peptides are identified based on %Rank (Threshold strong binder: 2, Threshold weak binder: 10).