

Schizosaccharomyces pombe glycosylation mutant with altered cell surface properties

(galactomannoprotein/core oligosaccharides/proton NMR/invertase/chromatography)

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ABSTRACT Mutagenesis of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* cells yielded a strain that made reduced amounts of invertase. A comparison of the O- and N-linked carbohydrate chains of the wild-type and mutant glycoproteins revealed that a single type of $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose was missing in the mutant. Analysis of the wild-type galactomannoprotein showed that it contained a heterogeneous small "core" oligosaccharide fraction linked to asparagine with sugar compositions that ranged from $\text{Man}_5(\text{GlcNAc})_2$ to $\text{Gal}_4\text{Man}_{10}(\text{GlcNAc})_2$. The galactose units are in terminal positions of a $\text{Man}_{10}(\text{GlcNAc})_2$ unit that is similar to the mannoprotein core of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Attached to this core in a larger oligosaccharide fraction is an $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 6$ -linked polymanose chain that is substituted at position 2 with α -linked mannose and galactose. The O-linked sugars consist of mannose, $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannose and $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked galactosylmannose, along with small amounts of tri- and tetrasaccharides. The glycosylation mutant lacks $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose on both the O-linked chains and the outer chain of the large N-linked chains, suggesting that it may be defective in regulation of an $\alpha 1,2$ -mannosyltransferase that adds mannose to glycoproteins in the Golgi.

Schizosaccharomyces pombe is a fission yeast that has attracted interest as an experimental organism for studies on control of the cell cycle (1) and glycoprotein synthesis (2). The carbohydrate component of *Sch. pombe* glycoproteins is distinctive in that it contains galactose in addition to the mannose found in most fungal glycoproteins (3), which has led to the name *galactomannoprotein* (4) for this class of molecule. Although its carbohydrate structure has not been elucidated in the same detail as that of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* mannoproteins (5), the *Sch. pombe* galactomannoproteins are known to contain both O- and N-linked carbohydrate chains.

Here we describe experiments to characterize the carbohydrate components of *Sch. pombe* glycoproteins by the methods applied to those from *Sac. cerevisiae* (5). We also report a glycosylation-defective mutant of *Sch. pombe* that fails to add a specific type of $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose to both O- and N-linked carbohydrate chains. The mutant cells are flocculant and difficult to disperse, as though their surface properties have been altered by the change in carbohydrate structure.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials. Two mating types of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* were used, ATCC nos. 24969 and 24970, and were grown and maintained on standard medium (6). Mutagenesis with ethyl methanesulfonate was done as described (7), and the cells were allowed to grow overnight on a shaker at 30°C to express any mutant phenotypes. Unsuccessful attempts

were made to enrich for cells that lacked galactose in the glycoproteins by agglutination with *Bandeiraea simplicifolia* lectin (8). During these manipulations, several flocculant isolates were obtained, and two of these made less glycosylated invertase (strains Sp331 and Sp421). Sp331 was used in the studies reported here. Genetic analysis followed standard procedures (7). Coffee bean α -galactosidase (9) was from Sigma.

Chromatography. Mannoprotein, obtained by Cetavlon (Sigma) precipitation, was fractionated on a DEAE-Sephacel column (5). The Dionex (Sunnyvale, CA) system, with a CarboPac PA1 column, and a pulsed amperometric detector (PAD) detector, was used for HPLC analysis of hexitols (solvent A, 5 mM NaOH), monosaccharides and the products of reductive β -elimination (solvent B, 25 mM NaOH), the acetolysis fragments (solvent C, 25 mM sodium acetate in 100 mM NaOH), and oligosaccharides with 10–20 hexose units (solvent D, 50 mM sodium acetate in 100 mM NaOH). Preparative separation of these small carbohydrates was done by gel filtration on a Bio-Gel P-2 or P-4 column (2 \times 190 cm; Bio-Rad) by elution with water, and the peaks were detected with the phenol/sulfuric acid reagent. Small amounts of oligosaccharide, sufficient for proton NMR, were also recovered from the effluent of material fractionated on the Dionex system. *Sch. pombe* invertase (10) was extracted, electrophoresed, and detected as described (5).

Chemical Methods. Saccharides were hydrolyzed in 2 M trifluoroacetic acid (110 for 3 hr), and the hydrolysates were evaporated under vacuum to remove the acid. Partial acetolysis (5) of oligosaccharides was done in a mixture of acetic acid/acetic anhydride/sulfuric acid, 25:25:1 (vol/vol), at 40°C for 24 hr. The resulting acetylated material was deacetylated in dry methanol by adding sodium methoxide, and the residue was dissolved in water for analysis on the Dionex system. The reaction was scaled up for larger amounts of oligosaccharide, and the product was fractionated on a Bio-Gel P-2 column. For β -elimination, the glycoprotein was dissolved in 0.1 M NaOH, and NaBH_4 was added to make a 1 M solution. After several days at room temperature, Dowex 50W (hydrogen form) was added to acidify the reaction, and the solvent was evaporated under vacuum. The boric acid was removed by addition and evaporation of methanol, the residue was dissolved in water and centrifuged through an Amicon Centricon 10 filter to remove residual glycoprotein, and the filtrate was analyzed on the Dionex system. For large-scale reactions, the product was fractionated on a Bio-Gel P-2 column. Periodate oxidation was done in 10 mM NaIO_4 in the dark for 3 days, and NMR measurements were done as described (11).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Many early studies on the soluble mannan extractable from yeast cells were done before the glycoprotein nature of such

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material was recognized. Generally, mannans were found to consist of $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 6$ -linked polymannose chains, usually with $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ - and $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 3$ -linked mannose side chains (3). Gorin *et al.* (12) showed that the mannan from *Schizosaccharomyces* species had a similar structure, but that the side chains also contained $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked galactose. We have extended these studies by analyzing the structure of the bulk glycoprotein that is extractable from *Sch. pombe* cells with hot citrate buffer (5). The glycoprotein was purified by precipitation of the Cetavlon-borate complex followed by DEAE-Sephadex chromatography (Fig. 1). The yield of glycoprotein that bound to the column was 160 mg of carbohydrate from 22 g of wet cell paste. It contained 11% protein by weight.

Structure of the O-Linked Carbohydrate. Treatment of the glycoprotein under reductive β -elimination conditions released about 20% of the carbohydrate in the form of reduced mono- and disaccharides (Fig. 2A; in solvent B). The monosaccharide component (peak 1 in Fig. 2A) was mannitol (determined by Dionex HPLC with solvent A), as expected if mannose were attached to serine and threonine in the protein. Galactitol was not observed. The disaccharide was a mixture of two compounds, the minor one (peak 3) having the elution position of reduced $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannitol (Fig. 2B; 3-O- α -D-mannopyranosyl-D-mannopyranose). The major disaccharide (peak 2 in Fig. 2A) was found to be $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked galactosylmannitol, which would be formed after release of the $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked galactosylmannose from its attachment to a hydroxyamino acid. The reduced disaccharide component was isolated by gel filtration on a Bio-Gel P-2 column, which does not separate the isomers, and a portion was hydrolyzed in acid. Analysis of this hydrolysate revealed the presence of mannose, galactose, and mannitol in the molar ratio 1:2:3.6, which is consistent with the disaccharide component being a 1:2 mixture of $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannitol and galactosylmannitol. The reduced trisaccharide (peak 4 in Fig. 2A) was converted to galactose and α Man $\rightarrow 2$ ManH $_2$ (short form, Man $\alpha 2$ ManH $_2$) by digestion with α -galactosidase. The $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ linkage between mannose and mannitol in all of these compounds was confirmed by the release of 1 mol of formaldehyde upon periodate oxidation.

Peak 5, isolated by fractionation on a Bio-Gel P-2 column, was found by HPLC after acid hydrolysis to consist of mannitol, galactose, and mannose in the molar ratio 1:2:1, consistent with it being a reduced tetrasaccharide. The HPLC retention time was not affected by treatment with jackbean α -mannosidase, whereas digestion with α -galactosidase rapidly removed one galactose and slowly removed a second to produce α Man $\rightarrow 2$ ManH $_2$. Periodate oxidation destroyed all three hexoses and released 1 mol of formaldehyde per mol of tetrasaccharide, which is consistent with $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ linkages

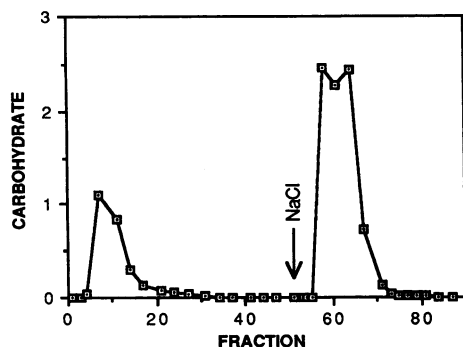


FIG. 1. Ion-exchange purification of galactomannoprotein. The material recovered from the Cetavlon-borate complex was fractionated on a DEAE-Sephadex column (5). The bound peak that was eluted by a salt gradient was dialyzed and lyophilized and used for further study.

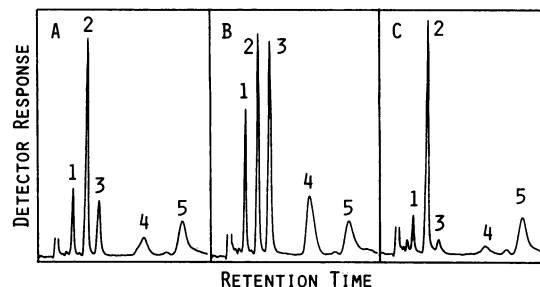


FIG. 2. Dionex pattern of reductive β -elimination fragments from *Sch. pombe* glycoprotein. Peaks: 1, mannitol; 2, $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked galactosylmannitol; 3, $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannitol; 4, reduced trisaccharides; 5, reduced tetrasaccharide. (A) Sp69 isolate. (B) Sp69 spiked with mannitol, $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannitol, and $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannitol. (C) Sp331 isolate. Solvent B was used.

between all four units. The proton NMR spectrum of peak 5 showed proton signals on C-1 (H1 signals) for three sugars, one at $\delta 5.30$ chemical shift and two at $\delta 5.22$. A correlated spectroscopy (COSY) spectrum showed that the first is coupled to an equatorial H2 signal at $\delta 4.13$, which identifies it as due to a mannose unit, whereas the other two signals are coupled to axial H2 signals at $\delta 3.76$ and $\delta 3.83$, as expected for galactose units. The probable structure is α Gal $\rightarrow 2$ α Gal $\rightarrow 2$ α Man $\rightarrow 2$ ManH $_2$.

Structure of the N-Linked Carbohydrate. Digestion of the glycoprotein with endoglycosaminidase H released about 17% of the carbohydrate in a form that was not retained when reappplied in low salt to the same DEAE column used in Fig. 1. This material was fractionated on a Bio-Gel P-4 column to give a major peak at the void (90% of the total carbohydrate) and a minor broad peak that was included (10% of the carbohydrate) (Fig. 3). Analysis of the latter (peaks B and C) on the Dionex system (solvent D) revealed several components with retention times comparable to the Man $_8$ - 15 GlcNAc standards (13). This small-core material was partially resolved on a Bio-Gel P-4 column into a low-galactose fraction (Fig. 3, peak C) with the composition GlcN:Gal:Man of 1:0.5:8 and a high-galactose fraction (Fig. 3, peak B) with the composition GlcN:Gal:Man of 1:4.5:10. The low-galactose fraction, 15% of the small-core material, is separable on the

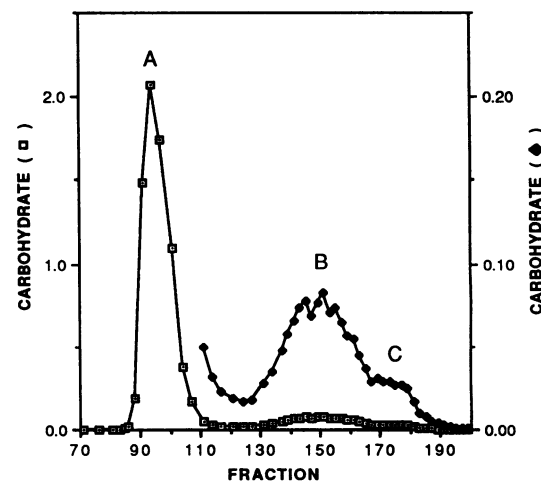


FIG. 3. Fractionation of N-linked oligosaccharides. The material, from digestion of the Sp69 galactomannoprotein with endoglycosaminidase H that failed to bind to DEAE-Sephadex was applied to a Bio-Gel P-4 (200-400 mesh) column (2×190 cm) that was eluted with water in 2-ml fractions. Carbohydrate was detected with the phenol/sulfuric acid reagent. Peaks: A, large oligosaccharides; B, small high-galactose oligosaccharides; C, small low-galactose oligosaccharides. \blacklozenge , Curve enlarged 10-fold.

Dionex system (solvent D) into six peaks with retention times of 6.0 min to 11.9 min. The high-galactose material, which represents 85% of the small core, is separable (solvent D) into at least seven peaks with retention times of 12.7 min to 33.1 min. For comparison, the retention times under these conditions for the *Sac. cerevisiae* core oligosaccharides $\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$ and $\text{Man}_{13}\text{GlcNAc}$ are 8.0 min and 21.1 min, respectively (13). None of the peaks in the low-galactose fraction corresponded to the *Sac. cerevisiae* *mnn9* $\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$, so this oligosaccharide does not appear to accumulate in *Sch. pombe*, but there was similarity to those found on the mannoproteins of other *Sac. cerevisiae* mutants (14).

The low-galactose core material was rechromatographed on a Bio-Gel P-4 column to give a galactose-free oligosaccharide with the composition $\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$ that had a proton NMR spectrum characteristic of the $\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}$ initial protein glycosylation intermediate (15), along with a signal at $\delta 4.93$ for $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 6$ -linked mannose with the intensity of one proton (Fig. 4, spectrum A). The signal at $\delta 5.05$, intensity of three protons, demonstrates that none of the terminal $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose is substituted, whereas the signal at $\delta 4.93$ shows that outer chain addition has been initiated, and the signal at $\delta 5.39$ indicates that most of the $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose D_2 (15) has not been removed (compare with figure 3 in ref. 16). This mannose is also present in the galactose-containing oligosaccharides. These data are consistent with structure A in Table 1 (see Note Added in Proof).

The high-galactose core (Fig. 3, peak B) was fractionated by Dionex HPLC to give a homogeneous oligosaccharide with the composition $\text{Gal}_4\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$. The NMR spectrum (Fig. 4, spectrum B) shows H1 signals with unit intensities at $\delta 4.77$, $\delta 4.87$, $\delta 5.12$, and $\delta 5.33$, all being characteristic

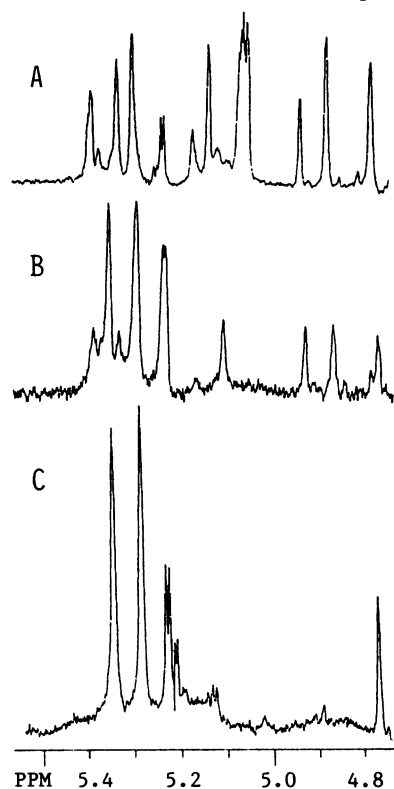


FIG. 4. Anomeric proton NMR signals for small-core oligosaccharides. Spectra: A, Spectrum of an oligosaccharide from the low-galactose fraction with the composition $\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$; B, spectrum of an oligosaccharide fraction with the composition $\text{Gal}_4\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$; C, spectrum of the product recovered after acetolysis of B oligosaccharide that had the composition $\text{Gal}_2\text{Man}_4\text{GlcNAc}$.

of mannose units in the *Sac. cerevisiae* core oligosaccharide. A signal at $\delta 5.28$ (intensity of four protons) indicates the presence of four $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannoses substituted at position 2. Completely lacking is any signal at $\delta 5.05$ for terminal mannose linked $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$, which suggests that such terminal mannoses are substituted at position 2 by α -linked galactose. This is supported by the presence of a signal with the intensity of three protons at $\delta 5.22$ and one proton at $\delta 5.36$ as expected for such terminal galactose units. A signal at $\delta 4.93$ suggests the presence of an $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 6$ -linked mannose that is not substituted at position 2. In agreement with this structure, some of the galactose was rapidly released from the oligosaccharide by digestion with coffee bean α -galactosidase, and some was released more slowly. The resistance of $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ - and $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 3$ -linked galactose to α -galactosidases has been noted (17). The recovered oligosaccharide had the composition $\text{Gal}_2\text{Man}_{10}\text{GlcNAc}$, and the H1 NMR spectrum showed a reduction in the signals at $\delta 5.22$, $\delta 5.29$, and $\delta 5.33$ and the appearance of a signal at $\delta 5.05$ with the intensity of one proton. Redigestion of this core fragment with the α -galactosidase released galactose at a rate less than 1/10th that of the first digestion.

Acetolysis (18) of the mixed high-galactose core oligosaccharide fraction yielded several fragments that contained mannose and galactose, along with one fragment that contained glucosamine as well. The latter fragment was eluted on a Bio-Gel P-2 column at the position of a heptasaccharide, and it had the composition $\text{Gal}_2\text{Man}_4\text{GlcNAc}$. This must represent the core portion that is linked to asparagine in the intact molecule. The proton NMR spectrum (Fig. 4, spectrum C) is consistent with the structure $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^3 \beta\text{Man} \rightarrow^4 \alpha\beta\text{GlcNAc}$, where $\alpha\beta$ means α or β linkage. As confirmation of this structure, the $\text{Gal}_2\text{Man}_4\text{GlcNAc}$, which had retention time $R_t = 13.9$ min (solvent C), was slowly digested with α -galactosidase to yield galactose and a new peak with $R_t = 11.1$ min, which was more slowly converted to a second peak at $R_t = 8.05$ min. The R_t of authentic $\alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^2 \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow^3 \beta\text{Man} \rightarrow^4 \alpha\beta\text{GlcNAc}$ was 8.07 min. This structure reveals the location of the fourth galactose in the $\text{Gal}_4\text{Man}_{10}(\text{GlcNAc})_2$ core oligosaccharide and accounts for the observation that, although α -galactosidase digestion removed two galactose units from the core, it uncovered a single $\alpha 1 \rightarrow 2$ -linked mannose.

The structure most consistent with these data is shown as structure B in Table 1, although the presence of other closely related homologs is suggested by the heterogeneity in the Dionex elution profile and the presence of some unassigned H1 signals. Indicative of the structure of such homologs, acetolysis of the unfractionated high-galactose oligosaccharide yielded fragments with two to five hexose units. From a study of the HPLC retention times, the sugar compositions, and the susceptibility to α -galactosidase and α -mannosidase digestion, these were identified as $\alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \text{Man}$, $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \text{Man}$, $\alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man}$, $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \text{Man}$, $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \text{Man}$, $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \text{Man}$, and $\alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Gal} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \alpha\text{Man} \rightarrow \text{Man}$. Thus, other side chains in the core may also be terminated by galactobiose as well as galactose units, with the consequence that the core could carry as many as six galactose units. We considered the possibility that the galactosidase-resistant galactose might have the furanose ring form, as reported for the galactomannan peptide from *Trichophyton* species (19). Such galactose is released by 0.01 M HCl at 80°C in 2 h but these conditions had no effect on the *Sch. pombe* core fragment. We conclude that all of the galactose is in the pyranose ring form. No NMR signal was observed that was assignable to a β -linked galactose.

The major oligosaccharide component released by endoglucosaminidase H digestion was too large for analysis on the Dionex system, so it was subjected to partial acetolysis to determine the chain composition. This reaction cleaves

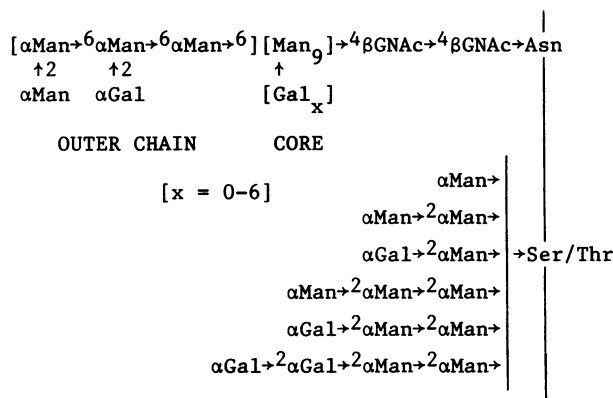


FIG. 6. Proposed structures for *Sch. pombe* galactomannoproteins. The O-linked mannose, mannosylmannose, and galactosylmannose are present in the ratio 1:1:2. Small amounts of tri- and tetrasaccharides are also present. The length of the outer chain of N-linked oligosaccharides is unknown, but the mannose, mannosylmannose, and galactosylmannose are present in the ratio 1:1:1.65. About 10% of the carbohydrate linked to asparagine is present as a heterogeneous mixture of core units without attached outer chains. Refer to Table 1 for the [Man₉] core structure.

glycosylation-defective mutants of *Sac. cerevisiae*, only the *mnn1* strain, which affects addition of terminal $\alpha 1\rightarrow 3$ -linked mannose units, is altered on both the O- and N-linked chains (5).

A large-scale acetolysate of Sp331 large oligosaccharide was fractionated on a Bio-Gel P-4 column to give five peaks with retention times of mono- to pentasaccharide. The monosaccharide peak contained only mannose; the disaccharide peak on hydrolysis gave equimolar amounts of galactose and mannose as expected for $\alpha 1\rightarrow 2$ -linked galactosylmannose. Analysis of the trisaccharide hydrolysate revealed galactose and mannose in a 2:1 ratio, indicative of $\alpha\text{Gal}\rightarrow^2\alpha\text{Gal}\rightarrow^2\text{Man}$, whereas the tetrasaccharide peak gave equimolar amounts of galactose and mannose that is consistent with the structure $\alpha\text{Gal}\rightarrow^2\alpha\text{Gal}\rightarrow^2\alpha\text{Man}\rightarrow^2\text{Man}$. Consistent with the assigned structures, the di- and trisaccharides were converted to monosaccharides through the action of α -galactosidase alone, whereas the tetrasaccharide yielded $\alpha 1\rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannose. Owing to the mutation in Sp331, the oligosaccharides that contain only mannose are absent.

The binding of alcian blue dye by whole yeast cells is a reflection of the amount of esterified phosphate in the wall mannoproteins (5), and some *Sac. cerevisiae* mutants (*mnn4* and *mnn6*) that bind the dye poorly are characterized by defects in the addition of mannosylphosphate to their glycoproteins (20). When grown on yeast extract (YE) medium, which contains about 2 mM phosphate, Sp69 cells bind the dye as well as *Sac. cerevisiae* X2180, whereas Sp331 binds it only weakly. When grown on YE medium supplemented with 7 mM phosphate, however, both Sp69 and Sp331 show strong binding. The results suggest that the glycosylation defect in Sp331 cells also interferes with the phosphorylation of cell wall macromolecules and that this effect can be reversed by

increasing the concentration of orthophosphate in the medium.

Our results are consistent with the structure in Fig. 6 for the carbohydrate components of *Sch. pombe* glycoproteins. Gorin *et al.* (12) first demonstrated the presence of $\alpha 1\rightarrow 2$ -linked mannosylmannose and galactosylmannose in the galactomannan from *Schizosaccharomyces* species, and the outer chain structure we propose for the galactomannoprotein of *Sch. pombe* is consistent with the earlier results (3). Our study provides detailed analysis of the O-linked and the small N-linked core oligosaccharides. It was reported (2) that the surface of an *Sch. pombe* mutant defective in synthesis of acid phosphatase, a glycosylated enzyme localized in the cell wall, shows a change in the surface appearance, and the binding of α -galactose-specific lectins to *Sch. pombe* cells shows that the galactomannoprotein is exposed on the cell surface. Perhaps the packing of the "hair-like structures" observed by electron microscopy on *Sch. pombe* cells (4) is also affected by this mutation.

Note Added in Proof. After submission of our paper, a report appeared that also noted the incomplete trimming of the *Sch. pombe* core oligosaccharide (21).

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