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Supplementary appendix

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Supplementary Appendix

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Materials and Methods

Epidemics and mutation analysis

The genome surveillance data of SARS-CoV-2 was downloaded from the GISAID database (<https://www.gisaid.org/>) on April 29, 2022. We excluded the data of viral strains with the following features from the analysis: i) a lack of collection date information; ii) sampling in animals other than humans; or iii) sampling by quarantine. The data for South Africa, France, and the USA from January 13, 2022 to April 22, 2022 (100 days) were analyzed. The epidemic dynamics of BA.1, BA.2, Delta, and the Omicron lineages harboring L452R or L452Q mutations in spike (e.g., BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5) are shown in **Figure S1A**. In this figure, the SARS-CoV-2 lineages other than above were summarized as “others”.

Amino acid differences among the S proteins of BA.2, BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 (**Figure S1B**) were extracted from the GISAID data above as follows: in the SARS-CoV-2 lineages above as well as BA.2, the prevalence of amino acid substitutions in spike compared to hCoV-19/Wuhan/WIV04/2019 (GISAID ID: EPI_ISL_402124) spike were calculated. Subsequently, amino acid substitutions that were detected in any lineages with >50% prevalence were extracted. Finally, amino acid substitutions shared in all lineages above were excluded.

Cell culture

HEK293T cells (a human embryonic kidney cell line; ATCC CRL-3216) and HOS-ACE2/TMPRSS2 cells (kindly provided by Dr. Kenzo Tokunaga),^{1,2} a derivative of HOS cells (a human osteosarcoma cell line; ATCC CRL-1543) stably expressing human ACE2 and TMPRSS2, were maintained in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) (high glucose) (Wako, Cat# 044-29765) containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) (Sigma-Aldrich Cat# 172012-500ML), 100 units penicillin and 100 ug/ml streptomycin (PS) (Sigma-Aldrich, Cat# P4333-100ML).

Plasmid construction

To construct the plasmids expressing anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies (bamlanivimab, bebtelovimab, casirivimab, cilgavimab, etesevimab, imdevimab, sotrovimab and tixagevimab), the sequences of the variable regions of these antibodies were obtained from KEGG Drug Database (<https://www.genome.jp/kegg/drug/>) and were artificially synthesized by Fasmac. The obtained coding sequences of the variable regions of the heavy and light chains were cloned into the pCAGGS vector containing the sequences of the human immunoglobulin 1 and kappa constant region (kindly provided by Dr. Hisashi Arase). Plasmids expressing the SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins of the parental D614G (B.1.1) and Omicron BA.2 were prepared in our previous studies.^{2,3} Plasmids expressing the spike protein of Omicron variants (BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1 and BA.4/5) and their derivatives were generated by site-directed overlap extension PCR using pC-SARS2-S D614G² as the template and the primers listed in **Table S1**. The resulting PCR fragment

was subcloned into the KpnI-NotI site of the pCAGGS vector⁴ using In-Fusion® HD Cloning Kit (Takara, Cat# Z9650N). Nucleotide sequences were determined by DNA sequencing services (Eurofins), and the sequence data were analyzed by Sequencher v5.1 software (Gene Codes Corporation).

Preparation of monoclonal antibodies

Eight monoclonal antibodies (bamlanivimab, bebtelovimab, casirivimab, cilgavimab, etesevimab, imdevimab, sotrovimab and tixagevimab) were prepared as previously described.^{3,5,6} Briefly, the pCAGGS vectors containing the sequences encoding the immunoglobulin heavy and light chains were cotransfected into HEK293T cells at 1:1 ratio using PEI Max (Polysciences, Cat# 24765-1). The culture medium was refreshed with DMEM (low glucose) (Wako, Cat# 041-29775) containing 10% FBS without PS. At 96 h posttransfection, the culture medium was harvested, and the antibodies were purified using NAb protein A plus spin kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cat# 89948) according to the manufacturer's protocol.

Neutralization assay

Pseudoviruses were prepared as previously described.^{1,3,7-12} Briefly, lentivirus (HIV-1)-based, luciferase-expressing reporter viruses were pseudotyped with the SARS-CoV-2 spikes. HEK293T cells (1×10^6 cells) were cotransfected with 1 µg psPAX2-IN/HiBiT,¹³ 1 µg pWPI-Luc2,¹³ and 500 ng plasmids expressing parental S or its derivatives using PEI Max (Polysciences, Cat# 24765-1) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Two days post transfection, the culture supernatants were harvested and centrifuged. The pseudoviruses were stored at -80°C until use.

Neutralization assays were performed as previously described.^{3,6,7,9,11,12} Briefly, the SARS-CoV-2 spike pseudoviruses (counting ~20,000 relative light units) were incubated with serially diluted monoclonal antibodies at 37°C for 1 h. Pseudoviruses without monoclonal antibody were included as controls. Then, an 40 µl mixture of pseudovirus and serum was added to HOS-ACE2/TMPRSS2 cells (10,000 cells/50 µl) in a 96-well white plate. Two days post infection, the infected cells were lysed with a Bright-Glo luciferase assay system (Promega, Cat# E2620), and the luminescent signal was measured using a GloMax explorer multimode microplate reader 3500 (Promega). The assay of each monoclonal antibody was performed in triplicate, and the 50% neutralization titer was calculated using Prism 9 (GraphPad Software).

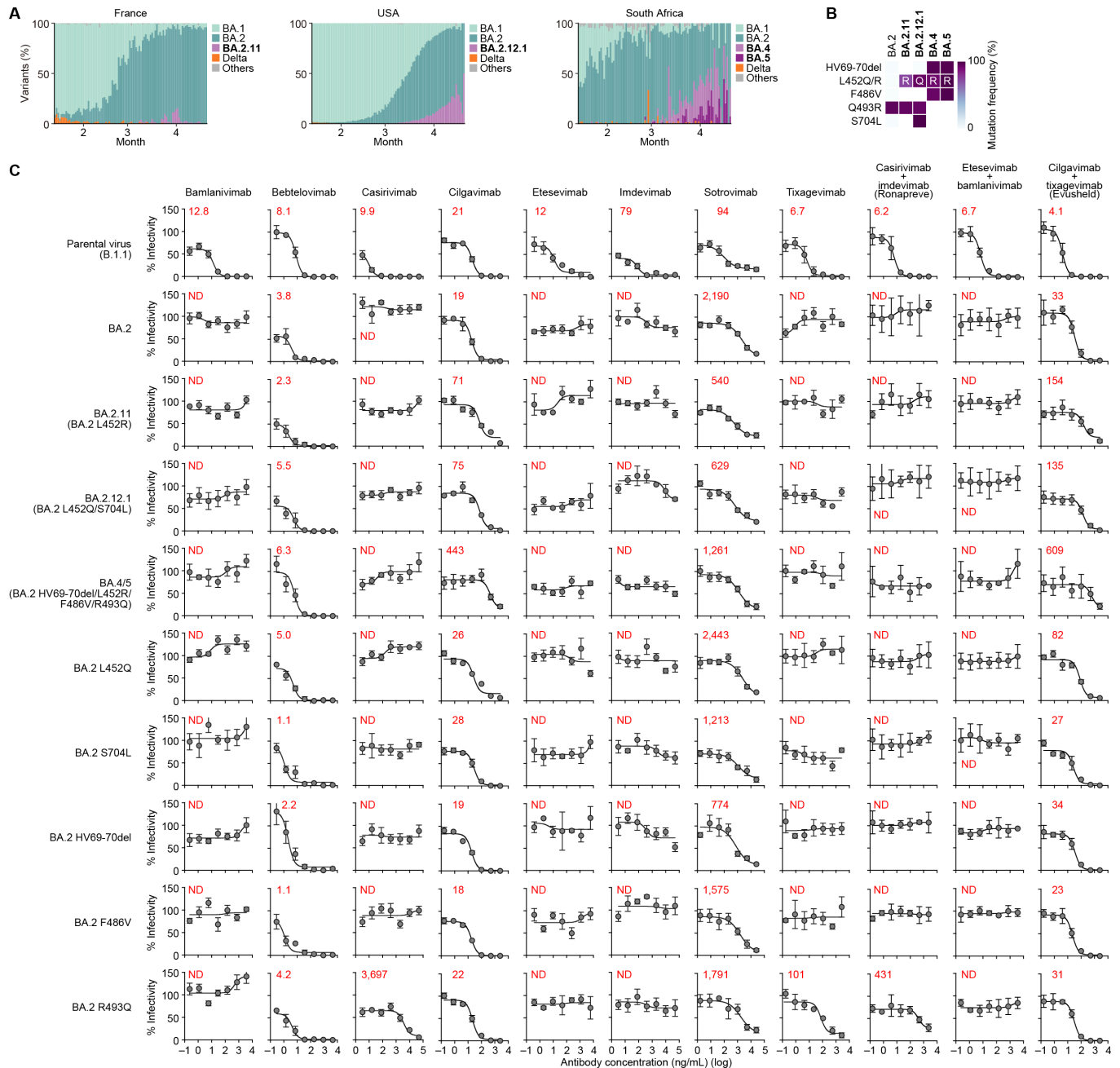


Figure 1. Neutralization sensitivity of new SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants to eight therapeutic monoclonal antibodies. (A) Epidemics of SARS-CoV-2 lineages in France, the USA and South Africa. The data from January 13, 2022 to April 22, 2022 (100 days) for France, the USA and South Africa were analyzed. In this figure, the SARS-CoV-2 lineages other than Delta and Omicron are shown as “others”.

(B) Amino acid substitutions in S. Heatmap shows the frequency of amino acid substitutions in BA.2.11, BA.2.12.1, BA.4, and BA.5 compared to BA.2. Substitutions detected in >50% of sequences of any lineage are shown.

(C) Virus neutralization assays. Assays were performed using pseudoviruses harboring the SARS-CoV-2 spike proteins of Omicron subvariants [BA.2.11 (BA.2 S:L452R), BA.2.12.1 (BA.2 S:L452Q/S704L) and BA.4/5 (BA.2 S: HV69-70del/L452R/F486V/R493Q)], their derivatives (the BA.2 S bearing L452Q, S704L, HV69-70del, F486V or R493Q, respectively) or the D614G-harboring B.1.1 lineage virus (parental virus). Eight therapeutic monoclonal antibodies (bamlanivimab, bebtelovimab, casirivimab, cilgavimab, etesevimab, imdevimab, sotrovimab and tixagevimab) and three combinations, casirivimab+imdevimab (Ronapreve), etesevimab+bamlanivimab, and cilgavimab+tixagevimab (Evusheld), were tested. The assay of each antibody was performed in sextuplicate at each concentration to determine the 50% neutralization concentration (ng/mL). The presented data are expressed as the average with standard deviation, and representative neutralization curves are shown. The red numbers in the panels indicate the 50% neutralization concentration (ng/mL). ND, not determined. Summarized data are shown in **Table 1**.

Table S1. Primers used for the construction of SARS-CoV-2 S expression plasmids.

Primer name	Sequence (5'-to-3')
Omicron universal Fw	cactatagggcgaattgggtaccatgttgtgttctctgg
BA2 Rv	agctccaccgcggtggcggccgctcagggtgtagtcagttca
pC-S_BA2_L452Q-F	caactacaactaccagtacagactgttca
pC-S_BA2_L452Q-R	tgaacagtctgtactggtagttgtagttg
pC-S_BA2_L452Q_setSL-F	gggagcagagaacctgggtggcttacagca
pC-S_BA2_L452Q_setSL-R	tgctgtaagccaccagggttctctctccc
OptS L452R F	caactacaactaccgttacagactgttcagg
OptS L452R R	cctgaacagtctgtaacggtagttgtagttg
pC-S_BA2_6970del_F	tggttccatgccatctctggcaccaatggc
pC-S_BA2_6970del_R	gccattggtgccagagatggcatggaacca
pC-S_BA2_F486V-F	tggagtggccggcgtgaactgttactttc
pC-S_BA2_F486V-R	gaaagtaacagttcacgccggccactcca
pC-S_BA2_R493Q-F	ttactttcactccaatcctatggctca
pC-S_BA2_R493Q-R	tgaagccataggattggagtggaaagtaa
pC-S_BA2_F486V_R493Q-F	tggccggcgtgaactgttactttcactccaatcctatgg
pC-S_BA2_F486V_R493Q-R	ccataggattggagtggaaagtaacagttcacgccggcca

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