

FORMATION OF 6-*O*- α -MALTOSYLCYCLOMALTO-OLIGOSACCHARIDES BY TRANSFER ACTION OF THREE DEBRANCHING ENZYMES

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ABSTRACT

O-Maltosylcyclomaltohexaoses (G_2 -c G_6) were formed in yields of 24.3 and 23.2 mmol from 40 mmol of α -maltosyl fluoride (α - G_2 F) and 90 mmol of cyclomaltohexaose (c G_6) by the transfer action of pullulanase from *Aerobacter aerogenes* (A-pullulanase) and isoamylase from *Pseudomonas amyloclavata*, respectively. These yields were three times that given by pullulanase from *Bacillus acidopullulyticus* (B-pullulanase). The yields of *O*-maltosylcyclomalto-oligosaccharides were changed according to the origin of the enzymes and the kind of cyclomalto-oligosaccharide (c G_6 , c G_7 , or c G_8) used as the acceptor. By the reaction with 40 mmol of α - G_2 F and 90 mmol of c G_6 , 20 mmol of α - G_2 F and 30 mmol of c G_7 , or 40 mmol of α - G_2 F and 90 mmol of c G_8 , the amounts of *O*-maltosylcyclomalto-oligosaccharides produced and the transfer ratios of α - G_2 F to the acceptors were as follows. By A-pullulanase, 24.3 mmol of G_2 -c G_6 was produced in a 60.8% transfer ratio, whereas the yields of G_2 -c G_7 and G_2 -c G_8 were 1.7 mmol (8.5%) and 8.4 mmol (21.0%), respectively. The yields of G_2 -c G_6 , G_2 -c G_7 , and G_2 -c G_8 by B-pullulanase were 8.8 mmol (22.0%), 1.2 mmol (6.0%), and 11.7 mmol (29.3%), respectively. In the case of isoamylase, G_2 -c G_7 (9.2 mmol, 46.0%) and G_2 -c G_8 (20.9 mmol, 52.3%) were produced, as much as for G_2 -c G_6 (23.2 mmol, 58.0%). It was suggested that the difference in the amounts of G_2 -c G_6 produced by these three debranching enzymes is based on the difference in the mode of action on the α - G_2 F used as the substrate, either a transfer action or a hydrolytic action.

INTRODUCTION

Branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides (cyclodextrins, cycloamyloses) are homogeneous oligosaccharides in which glucose and such maltooligosaccharides as maltose, maltotriose, and so on, are bound to cyclomalto-oligosaccharides by (1 \rightarrow 6)- α -D-glucosidic linkages¹. Recently, they have become of interest because of their high solubility compared with that of the cyclomalto-oligosaccharides^{2,3}, and

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several methods for preparing them have been reported. *O*-D-Glucosylcyclomalto-oligosaccharides are produced by the action of cyclodextrin glucanotransferase^{1,2,4,5} (EC 2.4.1.19) on amylopectin, following digestion by glucoamylase (EC 3.2.1.3). *O*-Maltosyl- or *O*-maltotriosyl-cyclomalto-oligosaccharides are formed by condensation of maltose or maltotriose with cyclomalto-oligosaccharides in the presence of pullulanase^{6,7} (EC 3.2.1.41) or isoamylase⁸ (EC 3.2.1.68), respectively.

We had previously⁹ shown that *O*-maltosylcyclomalto-oligosaccharides are efficiently produced from α -maltosyl fluoride (α -G₂F) and cyclomalto-oligosaccharides by the transfer action of pullulanase from *Bacillus acidopullulyticus* (B-pullulanase). Recently, we found that pullulanase from *Aerobacter aerogenes* (A-pullulanase) and isoamylase from *Pseudomonas amyloclavata* produce *O*-maltosyl-cyclomalto-oligosaccharides more efficiently than does B-pullulanase. We now describe the differences in reactivities of these three debranching enzymes.

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials. — Both crystalline and partially purified preparations of pullulanase from *Bacillus acidopullulyticus*¹⁰ were donated by Novo Industri Japan Ltd. Pullulanase from *Aerobacter aerogenes*, and isoamylase from *Pseudomonas amyloclavata*, were purchased from Seikagaku Kogyo Co., Ltd.

Cyclomaltohexaose, cyclomaltoheptaose, cyclomalto-octaose, and pullulan were supplied by Hayashibara Biochemical Laboratories, Inc. Amylopectin from potato was purchased from Sigma Chemical Co.

Hepta-*O*-acetyl- α -maltosyl fluoride, m.p. 173.5–177°, $[\alpha]_D^{25} +111.8^\circ$ (c 0.8, chloroform), was synthesized by treating maltose octaacetate with cold, anhydrous hydrogen fluoride, according to the procedures previously described^{11,12}. α -G₂F was generated by deacetylating the heptaacetate at 0° with fresh sodium methoxide in dry methanol. Solutions, of known concentration in dry methanol, were kept in a desiccator at –20°.

Assay of pullulanase and isoamylase activity. — For the assay of pullulanase activity, a reaction mixture containing 0.3 mL of 4% pullulan in 0.1M acetate buffer (pH 5.6 for A-pullulanase or pH 5.0 for B-pullulanase) and 0.3 mL of enzyme solution was incubated at 40°. In the case of isoamylase, 0.3 mL of 4% amylopectin in 0.1M acetate buffer (pH 4.0) was used as substrate. After 30 min, the reaction was stopped by adding 0.9 mL of 0.5M carbonate buffer (pH 10.0), and the reducing sugars released were measured in 0.5-mL aliquots by the Somogyi–Nelson method^{13,14}, with D-glucose as the standard. One unit of the activity was defined as the amount which liberated one μ mol of reducing sugars as D-glucose per minute under the aforementioned conditions.

Assay for inhibition of debranching enzymes by cG₆. — Reaction mixtures containing 0.2 mL of 4% pullulan in acetate buffer (final concentration 70mM; pH 5.6 for A-pullulanase, or pH 5.0 for B-pullulanase), 0.2 mL of pullulanase solution (0.04 U), and 0.2 mL of various concentrations of cG₆ (in the range of 0.1–10mM)

were incubated at 40°. After 20 min, the amount of reducing sugars liberated was determined by the Somogyi–Nelson method. The inhibition of isoamylase action on amylopectin by cG_6 was determined at pH 4.0 in a similar manner.

Thin-layer chromatography. — Thin-layer chromatography (t.l.c.) of the reaction products was conducted on HPTLC NH_2F_{254s} plates (Merck Co., Ltd.; length 10 cm), using 13:7 (v/v) acetonitrile–water as the solvent, with two developments. The carbohydrates on t.l.c. plates were revealed by heating at 110–120° after spraying with sulfuric acid–methanol.

Liquid chromatography (l.c.). — Liquid chromatography was performed under the following conditions; column, Polygosyl 10- NH_2 (4 \times 300 mm); solvent system, 13:7 (v/v) acetonitrile–water; flow rate, 2 mL/min; and detector, Shodex RE-11 refractometer.

Fluoride determination. — Fluoride anion concentrations were measured in the presence of TISAB buffer [M acetate buffer, pH 5.2; M sodium chloride; 0.4% of 1,4-cyclohexanebis(dinitrilotetraacetic acid) monohydrate] with a specific fluoride-ion probe (Iwaki specific ion meter, Model 225, and Orion combination fluoride electrode, Model 96-09).

Isolation of G_2 - cG_6 and $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 . — Four milliliters of 100mM acetate buffer (pH 5.6) containing 40mM α - G_2F , 90mM cG_6 and 3 U of A-pullulanase per mL was incubated for 1 h at 40°. To inactivate the enzyme and decompose the G_2 released, the reaction mixture was heated in boiling water for 30 min after adjusting the pH to 11.5–12.0 with M sodium hydroxide^{15,16}. Then, the solution was decolorized, and de-ionized by means of an ion-exchange resin. The de-ionized solution was concentrated to ~4 mL and the concentrate was applied to a chromatographic column (2.2 \times 120 cm) of Toyopearl HW-40S, and eluted with water at a flow-rate of 18 mL/h. G_2 - cG_6 and $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 fractions were pooled separately, and lyophilized: the yields of G_2 - cG_6 and $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 were 105 mg and 25 mg, respectively.

Identification of multi-branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides. — Such multi-branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides as $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 , $(G_2)_3$ - cG_6 , $(G_2)_2$ - cG_7 , $(G_2)_3$ - cG_7 , and $(G_2)_2$ - cG_8 , formed by debranching enzymes, were isolated by l.c. After each branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharide had been digested by glucoamylase and pullulanase, the amounts of products in the digests were determined by l.c., and the structures of the branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides were identified by calculating the ratios of products as previously described⁹.

RESULTS

Action of debranching enzymes on α - G_2F in the presence of cG_6 . — Debranching enzymes were separately incubated with the mixture of α - G_2F and cG_6 .

As shown in Table I, there was no difference in the amount of G_2 - cG_6 produced, as between purified and crude enzyme preparations. A-Pullulanase and isoamylase had about three times the ability to form G_2 - cG_6 as B-pullulanase. The yield of G_2 - cG_6 , the main transfer-product, was ninety times that given by the condensation reaction of cG_6 and maltose (G_2) with A-pullulanase.

TABLE I

FORMATION OF BRANCHED cG_6 BY DEBRANCHING ENZYMES^a

<i>Debranching enzymes</i>		G_2 - cG_6 (mM)
<i>Name</i>	<i>State</i>	
A-Pullulanase	crystalline	25.0
	partially purified	25.0
B-Pullulanase	crystalline	9.0
	partially purified	9.4
Isoamylase	crystalline	25.7
	partially purified	27.4
Condensation ^b	crystalline	0.28

^aEach enzyme preparation (3 U/mL) was incubated with a mixture of α - G_2 F (40mM) and cG_6 (90mM) for 1 h at 40°. ^b G_2 (40mM) and cG_6 (90mM) were used for the condensation reaction by A-pullulanase.

When amylase activity (in the enzyme preparations) that hydrolyzes α - G_2 F to maltose was checked with maltopentaose (G_5) as the substrate, a slight activity was found only in the crude preparation of A-pullulanase. These results show that such differences in reactivity among these debranching enzymes are not based on the purity of the enzymes.

In the following experiments, however, crystalline preparations of three of the enzymes were used in order to avoid an interfering factor.

Effect of concentration of cG_6 on branched cG_6 formation. — For the purpose of investigation of the effect of cG_6 concentration on branched cG_6 formation, each debranching enzyme and α - G_2 F were incubated with various concentrations of cG_6 . After 1 h, the amounts of G_2 and branched cG_6 produced in the reaction mixtures (0.2 mL) were determined by l.c.

The amounts of G_2 - cG_6 formed by A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase attained constant values at ~ 90 mM cG_6 , as shown in Fig. 1. These two enzymes formed $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 more than G_2 - cG_6 under the conditions of low concentration of cG_6 . A-Pullulanase also produced a slight amount of $(G_2)_3$ - cG_6 . On the other hand, in the case of isoamylase, the amounts of G_2 - cG_6 increased linearly with increase of cG_6 concentration up to 60mM, and then gradually continued to increase, even at 150mM cG_6 . The amounts of G_2 - cG_6 formed from 40mM α - G_2 F and 90mM cG_6 by A-pullulanase, B-pullulanase, and isoamylase were 24.0 mmol, 7.1 mmol, and 25.1 mmol, respectively.

The G_2 - cG_6 / $(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 ratios at 90mM cG_6 of A-pullulanase, B-pullulanase and isoamylase were respectively calculated to be 5.2, 8.9, and 10.0 from the results shown in Fig. 1.

The amounts of G_2 released (hydrolyzate of α - G_2 F) decreased with an increase of cG_6 concentration. Especially in the case of isoamylase, the amount of G_2

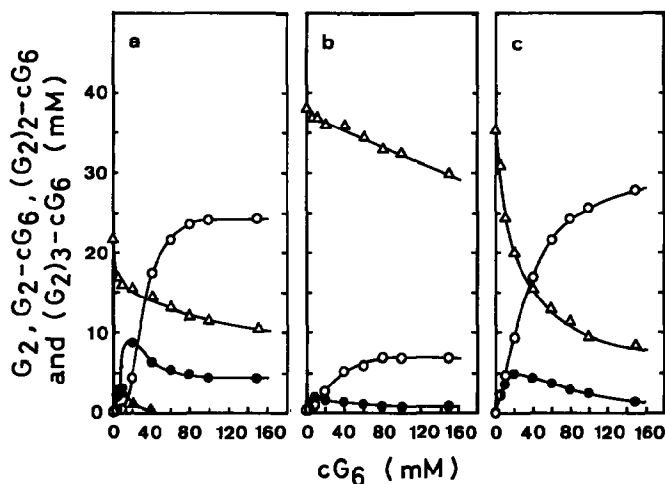


Fig. 1. Effects of concentration of cG₆ on branched cG₆ formation. [Each debranching enzyme (3 U/mL) and α -G₂F (40mM) were incubated with various concentrations of cG₆ for 1 h at 40°: (a) A-pullulanase; (b) B-pullulanase; (c) isoamylase; ○, G₂-cG₆; ●, (G₂)₂-cG₆; ▲, (G₂)₃-cG₆; and △, G₂.]

released was changed drastically from 35.5 mmol (in the absence of cG₆) to 8.6 mmol (at 150mM cG₆).

Effect of α -G₂F concentration on formation of branched cG₆. — An enzyme (A-pullulanase, B-pullulanase, or isoamylase) was incubated with various concentrations of α -G₂F in the presence of cG₆. The amounts of G₂ and branched cG₆ produced in the reaction mixtures (0.2 mL) were determined by l.c. (see Fig. 2).

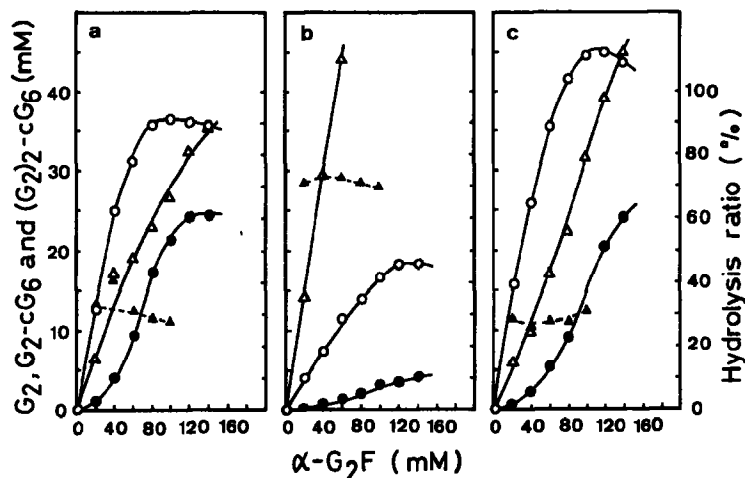


Fig. 2. Effects of concentration of α -G₂F on branched cG₆ formation. [Each debranching enzyme (3 U/mL) was incubated with various concentrations of α -G₂F in the presence of cG₆ (90mM) for 1 h at 40°: (a) A-pullulanase; (b) B-pullulanase; (c) isoamylase; ○, G₂-cG₆; ●, (G₂)₂-cG₆; △, G₂; and ▲, hydrolysis ratio (G₂ released/ α -G₂F used).]

In each case, the amounts of G_2 - cG_6 attained a maximum at 100–120mM α - G_2F . The maximum yield of G_2 - cG_6 formed by A-pullulanase, B-pullulanase, and isoamylase was 36.5, 18.5, and 44.9 mmol, respectively. The ratio of hydrolysis (G_2 released/ α - G_2F used) of the three enzymes was not affected by the change of α - G_2F concentration in the range of 20–100mM. This ratio of B-pullulanase was an extremely high level (70–75%) compared with those of A-pullulanase (~30%) and isoamylase (25–30%).

Formation of branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides from cG_6 , cG_7 , and cG_8 .— In order to investigate the acceptor specificity of the debranching enzymes, three debranching enzymes were incubated with α - G_2F and an acceptor (cG_6 , cG_7 , or cG_8). Appropriate aliquots (0.02–0.05 mL) of the reaction mixtures were removed, in order to analyze them by i.c. (see Table II).

A-Pullulanase formed 24.3mM G_2 - cG_6 from 40mM α - G_2F , and the ratio of transfer (G_2 - cG_6 produced/ α - G_2F used) was 60.8%, whereas this enzyme formed 1.7mM G_2 - cG_7 from 20mM α - G_2F and 8.4mM G_2 - cG_8 from 40mM α - G_2F in the lower ratio of transfer (8.5 and 21.0%). B-Pullulanase produced G_2 - cG_6 , G_2 - cG_7 , and G_2 - cG_8 in the lower ratio of transfer (22.0, 6.0, and 29.3%). In the case of iso-

TABLE II

BRANCHED CYCLOMALTO-OLIGOSACCHARIDES FORMATION FROM cG_6 , cG_7 , AND cG_8 ^a

Debranching enzyme	α - G_2F (mM)	Acceptor (mM)	G_2 - cG_6 (mM)	$(G_2)_2$ - cG_6 (mM)	G_2 - cG_7 (mM)	$(G_2)_2$ - cG_7 (mM)	G_2 - cG_8 (mM)	$(G_2)_2$ - cG_8 (mM)
A-Pullulanase								
	20 cG_6	30	8.7	0.9				
	40	90	24.3	4.0				
	20 cG_7	30			1.7	1.2		
	20 cG_8	30					ND ^b	ND ^b
	40	90					8.4	1.5
Condensation ^c (G_2 40, cG_6 90)			0.3	ND ^b				
B-Pullulanase								
	20 cG_6	30	4.2	0.3				
	40	90	8.8	0.7				
	20 cG_7	30			1.2	0.6		
	20 cG_8	30					4.3	0.4
	40	90					11.7	1.6
Condensation ^c (G_2 40, cG_6 90)			0.3	ND ^b				
Isoamylase								
	20 cG_6	30	8.7	0.7				
	40	90	23.2	2.0				
	20 cG_7	30			9.2	2.0		
	20 cG_8	30					6.1	1.5
	40	90					20.9	3.0
Condensation ^c (G_2 40, cG_6 90)			0.2	ND ^b				

^aEach debranching enzyme (20 U/mL, 0.03 mL) was incubated with 0.17 mL of a reaction mixture containing α - G_2F (20mM or 40mM) and cG_6 (30mM or 90mM), cG_7 (30mM), or cG_8 (30mM or 90mM) for 1 h at 40°. ^bNot detected. ^c G_2 (40mM) and cG_6 (90mM) were used for the condensation reaction.

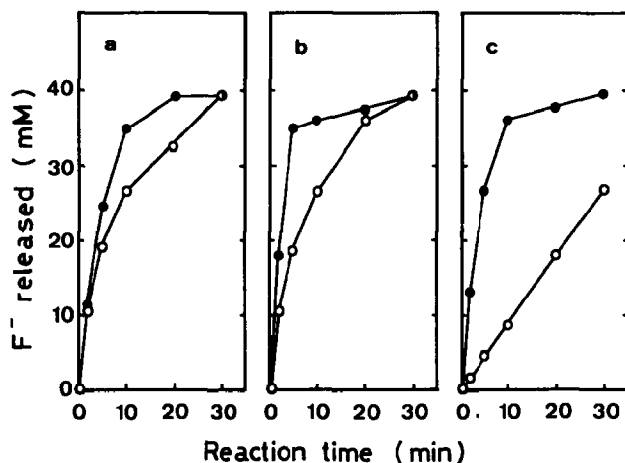


Fig. 3. Effects of addition of cG₆ on the release of fluoride anion from α -G₂F. [Each debranching enzyme (3 U/mL) was incubated with α -G₂F (40mM) in the presence or absence of cG₆ (90mM) at 40°: (a) A-pullulanase; (b) B-pullulanase; (c) isoamylase; ○, in the absence of cG₆; and ●, in the presence of cG₆ (90mM).]

amylase, G₂-cG₇ (9.2mM, 46.0%) and G₂-cG₈ (20.9mM, 52.3%) were produced as much as G₂-cG₆ (23.2mM, 58.0%).

By the condensation reaction of each enzyme with 40mM G₂ and 90mM cG₆, a slight amount of G₂-cG₆ (0.2-0.3 mmol) was formed. (G₂)₂-cG₆, (G₂)₂-cG₇, and (G₂)₂-cG₈ were also produced. The ratios of these products [(G₂)₂-cG₆/G₂-cG₆, (G₂)₂-cG₇/G₂-cG₇ and (G₂)₂-cG₈/G₂-cG₈] lay almost between 1:10 to 2:10, except

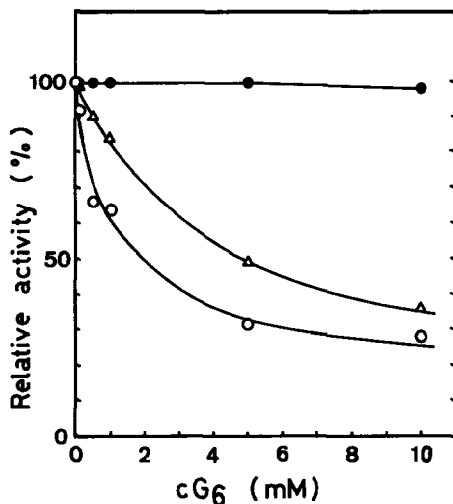


Fig. 4. Inhibition of debranching enzymes by cG₆. [The hydrolysis rates of pullulan by A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase, and of amylopectin by isoamylase, were measured in reaction mixtures containing substrate (1.3%) and cG₆ (0.1-10mM) as an inhibitor: ○, A-pullulanase; △, B-pullulanase; and ●, isoamylase.]

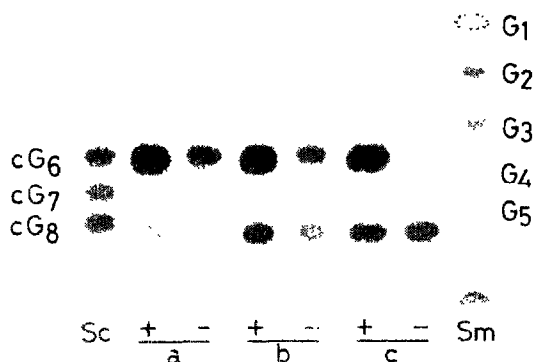


Fig. 5. Thin-layer chromatogram of the reaction products from G_2 - cG_6 by debranching enzymes. [Debranching enzymes (2.9 U/mL) were incubated with G_2 - cG_6 (5.7 mM) in the presence (+) or absence (-) of cG_6 (43 mM) for 1 h at 40°C: (a) A-pullulanase; (b) B-pullulanase; (c) isoamylase; Sc, standards of cyclomaltohexaose (cG_6), cyclomaltoheptaose (cG_7), and cyclomaltooctaose (cG_8); Sm, standards of malto-oligosaccharides: G_1 , G_2 , etc. are D-glucose, maltose, etc.]

that the $(G_2)_2$ - cG_7 / G_2 - cG_7 ratios using A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase were in significantly high level: 7:10 and 5:10, respectively.

Effect of cG_6 on release of fluoride anion from α - G_2 F. — Each debranching enzyme was incubated with α - G_2 F in the presence or absence of cG_6 . After 2, 5, 10, 20, and 30 min, 0.1-mL aliquots of the reaction mixture were removed for examination of the concentration of fluoride anion released (see Fig. 3).

In the absence of cG_6 , A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase decomposed α - G_2 F and released fluoride anion more rapidly than isoamylase. By the addition of cG_6 , the release of fluoride anion was stimulated, especially in the case of isoamylase, and the rates became almost the same.

Effect of cG_6 on hydrolysis of pullulan or amylopectin. — It was already known that the hydrolysis of pullulan by pullulanase is inhibited¹⁷ by the addition of cG_6 . In order to find a difference in the affinity of A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase for cG_6 , the effect of the concentration of cG_6 on the inhibition was examined. As shown in Fig. 4, the addition of 10 mM cG_6 inhibited the activity of both pullulanases by >60%, but inhibited the hydrolysis of amylopectin by isoamylase very little. The K_i values of cG_6 for A-pullulanase and B-pullulanase were evaluated from Dixon plots¹⁸ as 0.10 mM and 0.32 mM, respectively.

Effect of cG_6 on hydrolysis of G_2 - cG_6 . — Figure 5 shows the thin-layer chromatogram of the hydrolyzates of G_2 - cG_6 . By A-pullulanase, G_2 - cG_6 was completely hydrolyzed to maltose and cG_6 in the absence of cG_6 , but in the presence of cG_6 the hydrolysis of G_2 - cG_6 was incomplete. The hydrolyzing activity of B-pullulanase for G_2 - cG_6 was lower than that of A-pullulanase, and the hydrolysis was almost completely inhibited by the addition of cG_6 . In the case of isoamylase, G_2 - cG_6 was scarcely hydrolyzed even in the absence of cG_6 .

These results show that the low yield of G_2 - cG_6 produced by B-pullulanase is not due to hydrolysis of the G_2 - cG_6 formed.

DISCUSSION

Three debranching enzymes gave branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides in different yields. These enzymes seem to have different reactivities towards α -G₂F, and different acceptor specificities towards cyclomalto-oligosaccharides. The yields of G₂-cG₆ produced by A-pullulanase and isoamylase were about three times that obtained by B-pullulanase.

The reason why B-pullulanase gave a low yield of G₂-cG₆ was not explained by contamination by amylase in the enzyme preparation and not by the hydrolytic activity of this enzyme for the G₂-cG₆ formed. No significant difference in the affinity of pullulanases for cG₆ was found even though the *K_i* value of A-pullulanase was different from that given in the literature¹⁷.

B-Pullulanase hydrolyzed 95% of α -G₂F in the absence of cG₆, and 70–80% of α -G₂F even in the presence of 100mM cG₆. In contrast, A-pullulanase exhibited high transfer-activity for α -G₂F even in the absence of cG₆. The transfer products were presumed to be fluorides of branched oligosaccharides, such as *O*- α -maltosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- α -maltosyl fluoride and *O*- α -maltosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)-[*O*- α -maltosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)]_{*n*}- α -maltosyl fluoride (*n* = 1, 2, 3, ...) by their *R_F* values in t.l.c. (data not shown herein). The amount of these products was decreased by the addition of cG₆; however, it was no longer detectable at 40mM cG₆. In other words, transfer products in the presence of cG₆ are only branched cG₆.

In the case of isoamylase, the mode of action on α -G₂F was drastically changed by the addition of cG₆, from a hydrolytic reaction to a transfer reaction.

These results suggest that the difference in the amounts of G₂-cG₆ production by debranching enzymes is based on the difference in the mode of action on α -G₂F used as the substrate, either a transfer action or a hydrolytic action.

G₂-cG₆ is formed by such mechanisms as follow. At first, cG₆ stimulates the α -G₂F decomposition and the G₂-cG₆ production by debranching enzymes, and then residual cG₆ inhibits the hydrolysis of the G₂-cG₆ formed.

The yields of branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides are changed not only by the origin of the enzymes but also by the kinds of cyclomalto-oligosaccharides. It is noteworthy that isoamylase efficiently produces G₂-cG₇, little of which was produced by pullulanases. G₂-cG₈ is also produced in high yield, as well as G₂-cG₆, by isoamylase. Therefore, isoamylase is the most suitable enzyme for the purpose of the formation of *O*-maltosylcyclomalto-oligosaccharides.

Isoamylase catalyzes the splitting of certain α -D-(1 \rightarrow 6) linkages in amylopectin, glycogen, and suitable branched oligosaccharides^{19,20}. It is well known that pullulan and the (1 \rightarrow 6)- α -maltosylic linkage in such G₂-branched oligosaccharides as 6-*O*- α -maltosylmaltotriose are scarcely hydrolyzed by isoamylase^{21–23}, whereas α -G₂F is readily decomposed by isoamylase.

The ratios of (G₂)₂-cG₆/G₂-cG₆ and (G₂)₂-cG₇/G₂-cG₇, produced by A-pullulanase, were higher than those given by B-pullulanase and isoamylase. These results show that A-pullulanase is a suitable enzyme in order to synthesize such

multi-branched cyclomalto-oligosaccharides as $(G_2)_2\text{-cG}_6$, $(G_2)_3\text{-cG}_6$, $(G_2)_2\text{-cG}_7$, and $(G_2)_3\text{-cG}_7$.

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