



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***PRODUCTION AND PURIFICATION OF NIPAH VIRUS GLYCOPROTEIN IN  
Spodoptera frugiperda 9 (J.E. SMITH) INSECT CELL***

**RAKSHA SUNHARE**

**IB 2013 9**



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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY  
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**By**

**RAKSHA SUNHARE**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,  
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Doctor of Philosophy**

**October 2013**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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**October 2013**

**Chairman: Associate Professor Tey Beng Ti, PhD**

**Institute: Institute of Bioscience**

Nipah virus glycoprotein (NiVG) expressed in *Spodoptera frugiperda* 9 [*Sf9* (J.E. Smith)] induces neutralizing antibodies and could be used as an early detection reagent against NiV infection to prevent. Several industrial problems during the development of recombinant truncated glycoprotein of NiV (tNiVG) of baculovirus expression vector system (BEVs) from *Sf9* insect cells were investigated in this study that included production, cell disruption techniques and purification.

The production of recombinant tNiVG was enhanced by investigating the preferred medium and fermentation conditions of *Sf9* cells. The maximum production of tNiVG was achieved by infecting *Sf900* III serum free medium (SFM) developed middle exponential  $5.0 \times 10^6$  cells/mL with quaternary amplified recombinant baculovirus at a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 5. At the preferred condition, about 1.43 mg of tNiVG per  $5.0 \times 10^6$  cells was obtained after 3 days of post-infection. The amount of tNiVG produced was equivalent to 40% of total cellular protein and thus maximum production was achieved from the insect cell-baculovirus

expression vector system. Subsequent replacement of fresh *Sf900 III* SFM (every 3 days) reduced the doubling time (22 h) and achieved the maximum density ( $15.7 \times 10^6$  cells/mL) of *Sf9* cells after 4 days. Hence, fresh *Sf900 III* SFM was used to study the effect of amplification of recombinant baculovirus, MOI and time of infection (TOI) on tNiVG production.

The chemical lysis, freeze-thawing, high-pressure homogenisation and ultrasonication cell disruption methods were investigated to release the recombinant tNiVG from *Sf9* cells. Among the investigated methods, high-pressure homogenisation with a single-pass successfully released 1.64 mg/mL tNiVG per  $5.0 \times 10^6$  insect cells with a purity of 45% at high sample volume.

Comparative evaluations of three immobilised affinity chromatography methods HisTrap™ FF 1 mL prepacked column, Ni SepFast™ MAG 1 mL adsorbent and conventional method for the recovery of tNiVG from *Sf9* cells homogenate were investigated. The adsorption efficiency of applied clarified and unclarified feedstock onto HisTrap™ FF 1 mL prepacked column and Ni SepFast™ 1 mL MAG adsorbent was performed at 20 sodium phosphate mM, 500 mM sodium chloride, 20 mM imidazole and 5% glycerol containing pH 8 buffer. A single-step elution of bound tNiVG was performed with 20 mM sodium phosphate containing 250 mM sodium chloride, pH 7 buffer in the presence of 200 and 300 mM imidazole from HisTrap™ prepacked column and SepFast™ MAG adsorbent, respectively. Both IMAC operations achieved 94% purity and 92% recovery yield of tNiVG. Additionally, the unclarified feedstock application onto IMAC shortened the total processing time by about 13-fold as compared to the conventional method.

Followed by a single-step purification strategy, SepFast™ Supor Q column of strong anion-exchange chromatography (AEC) was used to purify tNiVG produced in *Sf9* insect cells. The preferred conditions of buffer to bind and to elute tNiVG were 50 mM sodium carbonate, pH 9 and 50 mM sodium citrate, pH 5. The use of elution buffer without sodium chloride separated the loosely bound tNiVG from the tightly bound major host proteins and subsequently avoided the desalting step as one of the further downstream processes. The developed method has recovered 89% tNiVG from the original supernatant with a protein purity of 90%. SDS-PAGE, Western blot and ELISA conformed purity and immunogenicity of single-step salt-free tNiVG (57 kDa). Further, the results of mass spectrometry confirmed the identity of tNiVG.

Information obtained from these studies was useful for development of efficient production and single-step purification of recombinant tNiVG from *Sf9* cells. The overall recovery yield and purity throughout the studies proposed unit operations as simple, economic and fast method for the development of tNiVG. Along with these, the single-step purified tNiVG could be used as a potential agent for the development of an immunoassay for NiV antibodies.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENGHASILAN DAN PENULENAN GLIKOPROTEIN VIRUS NIPAH  
YANG TERDAPAT DALAM SEL SERANGGA *Spodoptera frugiperda* 9  
(J.E.SMITH)**

Oleh

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**October 2013**

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Glikoprotein virus Nipah (NiVG) ungkapan dalam *Spodoptera frugiperda* 9 [*Sf9* (J.E. Smith)] mengaruhkan antibodi penutralan dan boleh digunakan sebagai pengesanan awal bagi melawan jangkitan NiV. Beberapa masalah industry semasa membangunkan glikoprotein rekombinan terpankask NiV (tNiVG) daripada baculovirus ungkapan sistem vektor (BEVs) daripada sel-sel serangga *Sf9* telah disiasat dalam kajian ini yang dimasukkan penghasilan, teknik-teknik gangguan sel dan penulenan.

Penghasilan protein rekombinan tNiVG telah dipertingkatkan dengan mengoptimumkan medium pilihan dan keadaan-keadaan penapaian sel-sel *Sf9*. Penghasilan maksimum protein tNiVG telah dicapai dengan menjangkitkan medium bebas serum (MBS) *Sf900* II dibangunkan eksponen pertengahan  $5.0 \times 10^6$  sel/mL dengan bakulovirus diperkuatkan kuarterner pada kegandaan jangkitan (MOI) 5. Pada keadaan pilihan, kira-kira 1.43 mg protein tNiVG per  $5.0 \times 10^6$  sel telah diperolehi setiap 3 hari selepas pasca-jangkitan. Jumlah protein tNiVG yang telah dihasilkan adalah bersamaan 40% daripada jumlah protein selular dan dengan itu



penghasilan maksimum telah dicapai daripada ungkapan sistem vektor sel serangga-bakulovirus. Penggantian Sf900 III SFM segar berikutnya (setiap 3 hari) telah mengurangkan waktu penggandaan (22 j) dan telah mencapai ketumpatan maksimum ( $15.7 \times 10^6$  sel/mL) bagi sel-sel Sf9 selepas 4 hari. Oleh yang demikian, Sf900 III SFM segar telah digunakan untuk mengkaji kesan amplifikasi bakulovirus rekombinan, MOI dan waktu jangkitan terhadap penghasilan protein tNiVG. Lisis kimia, pencairan pembekuan, penghomogenan tekanan tinggi dan kaedah ultrasonikasi gangguan sel telah disiasat untuk membebaskan protein rekombinan tNiVG daripada sel-sel Sf9. Antara kaedah-kaedah yang telah dikaji adalah penghomogenan tekanan tinggi dengan dengan laluan tunggal telah berjaya membebaskan 1.64 mg/mL protein tNiVG per  $5.0 \times 10^6$  sel-sel serangga dengan ketulenan 45% pada jumlah sampel yang tinggi.

Penilaian perbandingan terhadap tiga kaedah kromatografi keafinan pegun turus siap dibungkus HisTrap<sup>TM</sup> FF 1 mL, penjerap Ni SepFast<sup>TM</sup> MAG dan kaedah konvensional bagi pemulihan protein tNiVG dari homogenate sel-sel telah diselidik. Kecekapan pengikatan bagi stok suapan dijernihkan dan tidak dijernihkan yang digunakan ke atas turus siap dibungkus HisTrap<sup>TM</sup> FF 1 mL dan penjerap Ni SepFast<sup>TM</sup> MAG telah dijalankan pada 20 natrium fosfat mM, 500 mM natrium klorida, 20 mM imidazole dan 5 % gliserol yang mengandungi penimbal pH 8. Elusi langkah tunggal telah dijalankan ke atas protein tNiVG yang terikat dengan 20 mM natrium fosfat yang mengandungi 250 mM natrium klorida, penimbal pH 7 dengan kehadiran 200 dan 300 mM imidazole daripada turus siapdibungkus HisTrap<sup>TM</sup> dan penjerap SepFast<sup>TM</sup> MAG masing-masingnya. Kedua-dua operasi IMAC telah mencapai 94% ketulenan dan 92% hasil pemulihan protein tNiVG. Selain itu,

penggunaan stok suapan tidak dijernihkan ke atas IMAC telah memendekkan jumlah masa pemrosesan sehingga 13-kali ganda jika dibandingkan dengan kaedah konvensional.

Diikuti dengan satu langkah strategi penulenan, turus kromatografi pertukaran anion (AEC) SepFast™ Supor Q yang kuat telah digunakan untuk menulenan tNiVG yang telah dihasilkan oleh sel-sel serangga *Sf9*. Keadaan penimbal yang dipilih untuk mengikat dan menanggalkan protein tNiVG adalah 50 mM natrium karbonat, pH 9 dan 50 mM natrium sitrat, pH 5. Penggunaan penimbal elusi tanpa natrium klorida mengasingkan protein tNiVG yang terikat secara longgar daripada protein hos utama yang terikat dengan kuat dan seterusnya mengelakkan langkah penyahgaraman sebagai salah satu proses hiliran berikutnya. Kaedah yang telah dibangunkan telah mendapatkan kembali 89% protein tNiVG daripada supernatant dengan ketulenan protein 90%. SDS-PAGE, ujian pembedaan Western dan ELISA mengesahkan ketulenan dan keimmunogenan bagi langkah-tunggal protein tNiVG bebas-garam (57 kDa). Tambahan lagi, keputusan spektrometri jisim mengesahkan identiti protein tNiVG.

Maklumat yang diperolehi daripada kajian ini berguna untuk pembangunan pengeluaran yang cekap dan penulenan langkah tunggal bagi rekombinan protein tNiVG dari sel-sel *Sf9*. Hasil pemulihan dan ketulenan keseluruhan di sepanjang kajian mencadangkan bahawa operasi unit adalah mudah, ekonomi dan merupakan kaedah pantas bagi pembangunan protein tNiVG. Pada masa yang sama, penulenan protein tNiVG satu-langkah boleh digunakan sebagai agen yang berpotensi untuk pembangunan satu imunocerakinan bagi antibodi-antibodi NiV.

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*“Failures are part of life. If don’t fail, don’t learn. If don’t learn, we’ll never change”*

(Source: Unknown Quotes)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	i
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vii
<b>APPROVAL</b>	viii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	x
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xv
<b>LIST OF APPENDIX</b>	xvii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xviii
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	6
2.1 Nipah virus (NiV)	8
2.1.1 Nipah virus glycoprotein (NiVG)	9
2.1.2 Studies on the NiVG	10
2.2 Studies on recombinant protein expression and production	11
2.2.1 Glycoprotein expression technologies	12
2.2.2 Insect cell–Baculovirus expression vector system	15
2.2.3 Effects of factor affecting protein production	17
2.3 Studies on recombinant protein purification	18
2.3.1 Cell disruption method	20
2.3.2 Immobilised metal affinity chromatography (IMAC)	24
2.3.3 Ion–exchange chromatography (IEC)	29
2.4 Concluding remarks	33
<b>3 GENERAL MATERIALS AND METHODS</b>	35
3.1 Maintenance of cell lines	35
3.1.1 Cell thawing and freezing	35
3.1.2 Subculture and counting of cells	36
3.1.3 Adapting monolayer to suspension culture	37
3.1.4 Sequential development of serum free <i>Sf9</i> cells	37
3.2 Generation of recombinant baculovirus	38
3.2.1 Competent DH10 Bac cell preparation	38
3.2.2 Transposition	38
3.2.3 Transfection	39
3.2.4 Recombinant virus propagation	40
3.3 Analytical methods	40
3.3.1 PCR analysis of bacmid DNA	40
3.3.2 Virus titration by plaque assay	41

3.3.3	Bradford Assay	42
3.3.4	Sodium dodecyl sulphate–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS–PAGE)	42
3.3.5	Western blotting	43
3.3.6	Quantitative analysis of tNiVG	44
3.3.7	Enzyme–linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)	44
3.4	Calculations	45
3.4.1	Calculations for inoculums volume	45
3.4.2	Subculture and growth related calculations	46
3.4.3	Calculations for adsorption analysis	47
3.4.4	Calculations for purification profile analysis	48
<b>4</b>	<b>EFFECT OF MEDIUM AND INFECTION CONDITION OF <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> 9 (J.E. Smith) FOR THE PRODUCTION OF NIPAH VIRUS GLYCOPROTEIN</b>	<b>50</b>
4.1	Introduction	50
4.2	Materials and methods	52
4.2.1	Effect of media over <i>Sf9</i> cell densities	52
4.2.2	Identification and amplification of tNiVG	53
4.2.3	Effect of MOI on production of tNiVG	54
4.2.4	Effect of TOI on production of tNiVG	54
4.2.5	Protein qualitative and quantitation analysis	56
4.3	Results and discussion	56
4.3.1	Effect of media over <i>Sf9</i> cell densities	56
4.3.2	Identification and amplification of tNiVG	58
4.3.3	Effect of MOI on production of tNiVG	59
4.3.4	Effect of TOI on production of tNiVG	61
4.4	Summary	63
<b>5</b>	<b>COMPARISON OF THE PERFORMANCE OF TWO IMMOBILISED METAL AFFINITY CHROMATOGRAPHY SYSTEMS FOR THE PURIFICATION OF NIPAH VIRUS GLYCOPROTEIN</b>	<b>64</b>
5.1	Introduction	64
5.2	Materials and methods	66
5.2.1	Materials	66
5.2.2	Feedstock preparation	67
5.2.3	Cell disruption	67
5.2.4	Investigation of binding and elution of tNiVG	68
5.2.5	Dynamic binding capacity and batch adsorption	69
5.2.6	Protein qualitative and quantitation	70
5.3	Results and discussion	71
5.3.1	Cell disruption	71
5.3.2	Protein adsorption condition of tNiVG	74

5.3.3	Elution condition of tNiVG	76
5.3.4	Determination of loading condition	79
5.3.5	Purification of tNiVG and analysis	81
5.4	Summary	89
<b>6</b>	<b>A SINGLE STEP PURIFICATION OF GLYCOPROTEIN OF NIPAH VIRUS IN INSECT CELLS USING AN ANION-EXCHANGE CHROMATOGRAPHY METHOD</b>	<b>90</b>
6.1	Introduction	90
6.2	Materials and methods	92
6.2.1	Materials	92
6.2.2	Feedstock preparation	92
6.2.3	Investigation of binding and elution of tNiVG	93
6.2.4	Determination of dynamic binding capacity and protein adsorption efficiency	94
6.2.5	Protein qualitative and quantitation analysis	94
6.2.6	Identification of tNiVG by Mass spectrometry	94
6.3	Results and discussion	95
6.3.1	Protein adsorption condition of tNiVG	95
6.3.2	Elution condition of tNiVG	96
6.3.3	Determination of loading condition	98
6.3.4	Purification of tNiVG and analysis	100
6.4	Summary	105
<b>7</b>	<b>GENERAL DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES</b>	<b>106</b>
7.1	General discussion	106
7.2	General conclusion	110
7.3	Future prospects	111
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>113</b>
	<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>133</b>
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	<b>139</b>
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	<b>140</b>