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# Glycosylation pattern of brush border-associated glycoproteins in enterocyte-like cells: involvement of complex-type *N*-glycans in apical trafficking

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## Abstract

We have previously reported that galectin-4, a tandem repeat-type galectin, regulates the raft-dependent delivery of glycoproteins to the apical brush border membrane of enterocyte-like HT-29 cells. *N*-Acetyllactosamine-containing glycans, known as galectin ligands, were found enriched in detergent-resistant membranes. Here, we analyzed the potential contribution of *N*- and/or *O*-glycans in this mechanism. Structural studies were carried out on the brush border membrane-enriched fraction using matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) and nano-ESI-QTOF-MS/MS. The pattern of *N*-glycans was very heterogeneous, with the presence of high mannose- and hybrid-type glycans as well as a multitude of complex-type glycans. In contrast, the pattern of *O*-glycans was very simple with the presence of two major core type 1 *O*-glycans, sialylated and bisialylated T-antigen structures [Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–3Gal $\beta$ 1–3GalNAc-ol and Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–3Gal $\beta$ 1–3(Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–6)GalNAc-ol]. Thus, *N*-glycans rather than *O*-glycans contain the *N*-acetyllactosamine recognition signals for the lipid raft-based galectin-4-dependent apical delivery. In the presence of 1-deoxymanojirimycin, a drug which inhibits the generation of hybrid-type or complex type *N*-glycans, the extensively *O*-glycosylated mucin-like MUC1 glycoprotein was not delivered to the apical brush border but accumulated inside the cells. Altogether, our data demonstrate the crucial role of complex *N*-glycans in the galectin-4-dependent delivery of glycoproteins to the apical brush border membrane of enterocytic HT-29 cells.

**Keywords:** brush border; detergent-resistant membrane (DRM); galectin-4; glycosphingolipids; *N*-glycans; *O*-glycans.

## Introduction

The surface of epithelial cells is composed of apical and basolateral domains with distinct structure and function. The basolateral surface contains adhesion molecules and receptors while the apical surface expresses the markers of cellular differentiation. In intestinal cells, the apical surface forms a brush border of microvilli containing the proteins involved in intestinal digestion and uptake of nutrients. This asymmetric structure of epithelial cells implies a polarized vesicular trafficking of proteins and lipids to the apical and basolateral membrane regions (Mostov et al., 2000). Polarized protein targeting is based on apical and basolateral sorting signals, which guide the incorporation of proteins into distinct vesicles that then move specifically to the apical or basolateral membrane. Signals for basolateral targeting are encoded by tyrosine or dileucine motifs localized in the cytoplasmic domain of proteins (Matter and Mellman, 1994). These sequences are recognized by heterotrimeric adaptor complexes which then mediate the routing to the basolateral membrane (Nakatsu and Ohno, 2007). Sorting of proteins toward the apical membrane seems to be more diversified than basolateral targeting because various apical sorting signals have been found in extracellular, transmembrane or cytoplasmic domains of respective proteins (Schuck and Simons, 2004). The apical delivery can also involve the recruitment of apical glycoproteins into lipid rafts, which are membrane microdomains enriched in cholesterol and sphingolipids (Simons and Van Meer, 1988; Brown and Rose, 1992; Simons and Ikonen, 1997).

In view of the concept of the sugar code, ascribing high-density information storage to glycan chains of cellular glycoconjugates (Gabius et al., 2004; Gabius, 2008, 2009; André et al., 2009), it appears likely that *N*- and *O*-glycans can embody sorting signals. The role of *N*- and/or *O*-glycans in the apical targeting of proteins was documented by several studies carried out in polarized Madin-Darby canine kidney cells or Caco-2 or HT-29 human intestinal cells. Deletion of *N*- and/or mucin-type *O*-glycosylation sites resulted in missorting of apical glycoproteins to the basolateral surface, whereas addition of *N*-glycosylation sites targeted the proteins to the apical surface (Scheiffele et al., 1995; Yeaman et al., 1997; Gut et al., 1998; Benting et al., 1999; Jacob et al., 2000; Pang et al., 2004). Several studies were also carried out with different inhibitors of glycosylation: tunicamycin, which blocks the transfer of Glc<sub>3</sub>Man<sub>9</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> from

dolichol to Asn, 1-deoxymannojirimycin or swainsonine which inhibit the trimming by  $\alpha$ -mannosidases, and GalNAc-O-bn, which inhibits the elongation of O-glycans (Gut et al., 1998; Huet et al., 1998; Naim et al., 1999; Alfalah et al., 2002; Vagin et al., 2004; Delacour et al., 2005).

Our previous work showed the crucial role of glycosylation in the apical secretion of mucins and the apical targeting of membrane proteins in mucus-secreting or enterocytic HT-29 cells (Hennebicq-Reig et al., 1998; Huet et al., 1998). Treatment of polarized HT-29 colon carcinoma cells by the inhibitor of glycosylation (1-benzyl-2-acetamido-2-deoxy- $\alpha$ -D-galactopyranoside; GalNAc $\alpha$ -O-bn) induced a failure to deliver membrane or secreted apical glycoproteins and their abnormal storage inside the cells. Initially, this drug was considered to inhibit exclusively the elongation of the primer-like N-acetylgalactosamine O-linked to a serine or threonine residue in a competitive manner. However, we and others showed that this inhibitor was extensively converted into the disaccharide derivative Gal-GalNAc-O-bn inside the cells and that the resulting effect of GalNAc-O-bn treatment was instead an inhibition of the terminal substitution of galactose residues (Huang et al., 1992; Delannoy et al., 1996). In HT-29 cells, the major effect of GalNAc-O-bn on the biosynthesis of O-glycans was an inhibition of the sialylation of the core 1 sequence Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc-R by the  $\alpha$ 2,3 sialyltransferase ST3Gal I (Delannoy et al., 1996; Huet et al., 1998). However, in addition to the effect of GalNAc-O-bn on the glycosylation of glycoproteins, we found that this compound markedly inhibited the biosynthesis of galactosylceramides and sulfated glycosphingolipids in HT-29 cells, due to the mobilization of the substrate UDP-Gal for the production of metabolites of GalNAc-O-bn (Zanetta et al., 2000; Delacour et al., 2005). Having described evidence for a role of glycans in sorting and trafficking, we investigated the identification of a putative protein-carbohydrate recognition system, i.e., to endogenous lectins, especially with specificity to substituted  $\beta$ -galactosides, such as the galectins (Gabijs, 2006, 2008).

The research of a putative lectin receptor involved in the apical delivery in differentiated HT-29 cells brought to evidence galectin-4, a lectin expressed in the gastrointestinal tract of mammals (Delacour et al., 2005). This galectin is composed of a tandem repeat-type display of two carbohydrate recognition domains suited for potent cross-linking as probed by glycocluster reactivity (André et al., 2008). Silencing of galectin-4 expression using RNAi inhibited apical transport in the same way as previously shown to occur by GalNAc-O-bn treatment in HT-29 cells (Delacour et al., 2005). Moreover, we have demonstrated that galectin-4 directly regulates the lipid raft-dependent delivery of apical glycoproteins in these cells. Galectin-4 was first identified as a major constituent of detergent-resistant membranes (DRMs) having a high affinity for glycosphingolipids, which are typical lipid components of DRMs (Delacour et al., 2005). Galectin-4 was then shown to be a critical factor involved in the recruitment of apical glycoproteins within DRMs (Stechly et al., 2009).

The glycan analysis of DRMs in comparison to the detergent soluble membrane fraction showed that DRMs

were enriched in a series of complex type N-glycans containing the N-acetyllactosamine sequence Gal $\beta$ 1-4GlcNAc, which is a basic unit recognized by galectins, for human galectin-4 with  $\Delta G=4.8$  kcal/mol (at 27°C) as free disaccharide and  $\Delta G=7.3$  4.8 kcal/mol when presented in the complex type N-glycans of asialofetuin (Dam et al., 2005). The purpose of this work was to analyze the potential contribution of N- and/or O-glycans in the regulation of the delivery of membrane proteins to the apical brush border membrane of HT-29 5M12 cells.

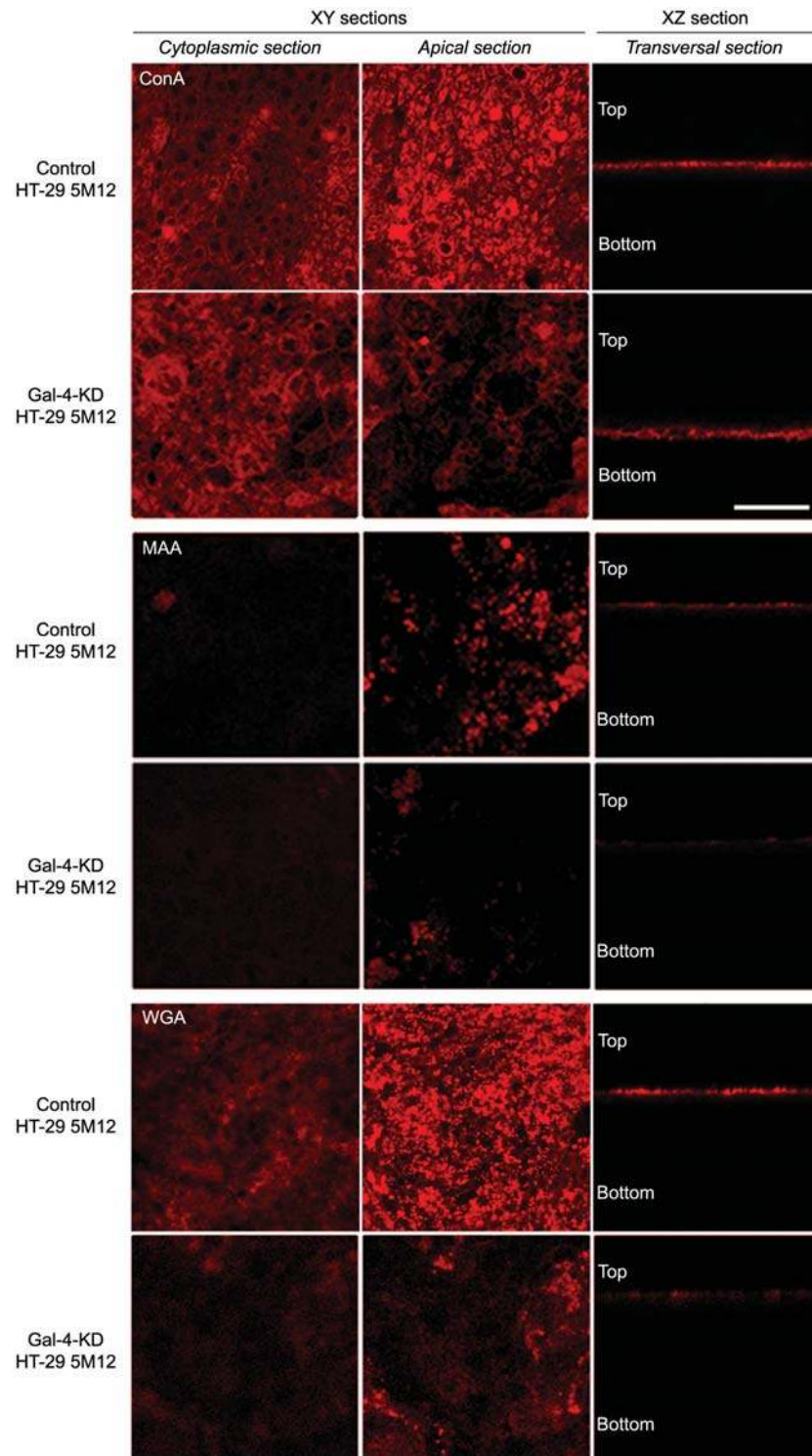
## Results

### Analysis of the cellular distribution of glycan epitopes by confocal microscopy

The distribution of glycan epitopes was analyzed in polarized enterocytic HT-29 5M12 cells using a confocal microscopy approach (Figure 1). The mannose-specific concanavalin A (ConA) lectin showed a strong reactivity at both apical and basolateral surface. In contrast, with the wheat germ agglutinin (WGA), which binds to N-acetylglucosamine, and the *Maackia amurensis* agglutinin (MAA) which reacts with NeuAc $\alpha$ 2-3Gal-R, only the apical surface was labeled. Labeling with an anti-Lewis<sup>x</sup> antibody, which reacts with the Gal $\beta$ 1-4(Fuc $\alpha$ 1-3)GlcNAc epitope, mostly stained the apical surface and also subapical compartments (Figure 2). Altogether, these data clearly showed that the apical surface was enriched in complex type N-glycans in comparison to the basolateral membrane. We have previously reported that inhibition of galectin-4 expression in HT-29 5M12 cells, by using a retrovirus-mediated RNA interference, abrogated apical targeting of brush border glycoproteins (Delacour et al., 2005). When the analyses with these lectins were carried out on galectin-4-knockdown (KD) HT-29 5M12 cells, the apical labeling disappeared and an intracellular labeling appeared, consistent with the perturbation of the apical delivery of glycoproteins and their abnormal intracellular accumulation in galectin-4-KD cells.

### Structural analysis of glycans present in the brush border-enriched membrane fraction

Glycoproteins of the brush border membrane-enriched fraction were reduced/carboxyamidomethylated and digested with trypsin to facilitate deglycosylation with peptide N-glycosidase F (PNGase F). The released N-glycans were separated from peptides and glycopeptides on a C18 Sep-Pak (Waters Ltd., Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France), and their methylated derivatives were characterized by matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF-MS) before and after sequential exoglycosidase digestions, by nano-ESI-QTOF-MS/MS, and by linkage analysis. These experiments were also supplemented by MALDI-TOF-MS of the products of hydrofluoric acid hydrolysis. O-Glycans were released by reductive elimination, permethylated, purified on a Sep-Pak cartridge, and characterized by MALDI-TOF-MS.

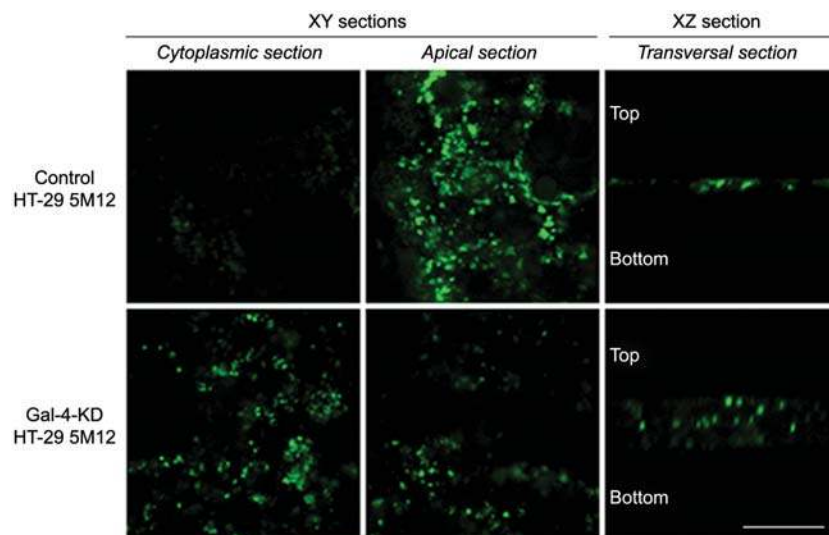


**Figure 1** Analysis of the distribution of glycan epitopes in control HT-29 5M12 and galectin-4-KD HT-29 5M12 cells by confocal microscopy using fluorescent lectins.

In control cells, the mannose-specific lectin ConA showed a strong reactivity at both apical and basolateral surface. The WGA lectin, which binds to *N*-acetylglucosamine and the MAA lectin, which reacts with NeuAc $\alpha$ 2–3Gal-R terminal sequence, showed a high staining at the apical surface. In contrast, in galectin-4-KD cells, the apical staining strongly decreased and an intracellular labeling appeared. Scale bar: 20  $\mu$ m.

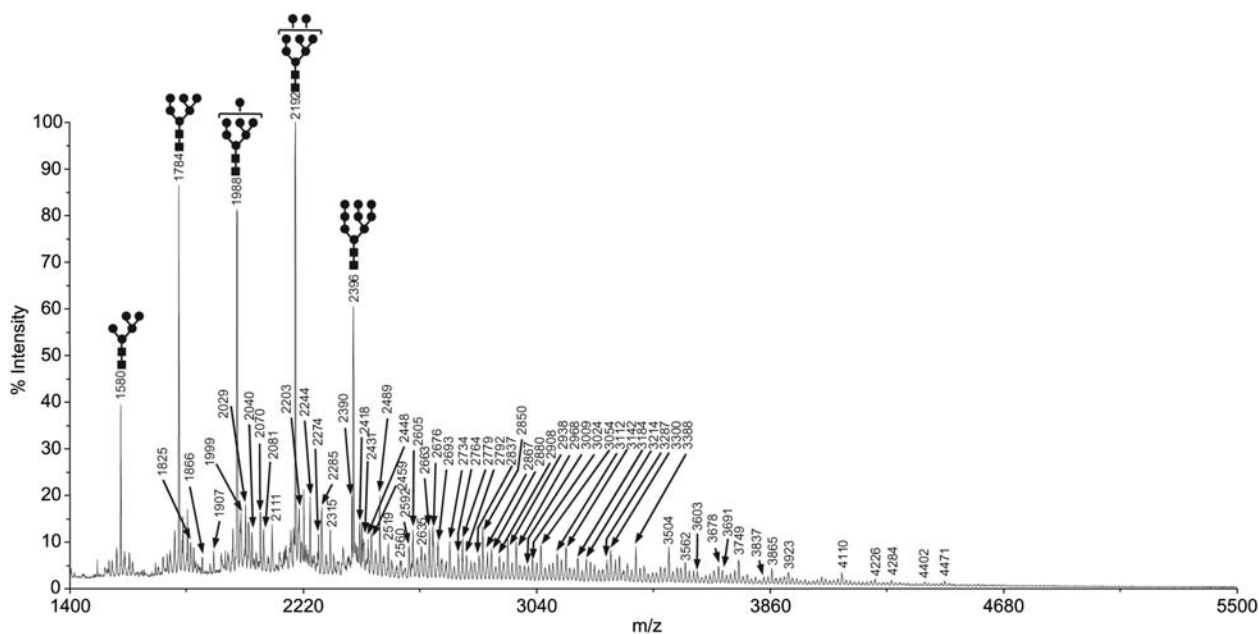
**MALDI-TOF-MS analysis of *N*-glycans** The data from the MALDI-TOF-MS analysis of the permethylated PNGase F-released glycans are shown in Figure 3 and summarized in Table 1. The spectrum indicates that *N*-glycans have compositions consistent with high mannose-type structures (Hex $_{5-9}$ HexNAc $_2$ ) and complex/

hybrid-type glycans (NeuAc $_{0-3}$ Fuc $_{0-3}$ Hex $_{3-8}$ HexNAc $_{3-9}$ ). In addition to the high mannose-type glycans Man $_5$ GlcNAc $_2$ -Man $_9$ GlcNAc $_2$  ( $m/z$  1580–2396), a large number of different complex type *N*-glycans were detected with the following characteristics: (i) several complex type *N*-glycans have compositions consistent with bisected



**Figure 2** Analysis of the distribution of the Lewis<sup>x</sup> epitope in control HT-29 5M12 and galectin-4-KD HT-29 5M12 cells using confocal microscopy.

In control cells, the anti-Lewis<sup>x</sup> antibody mostly stained the apical surface and subapical region. The apical labeling strongly decreased in galectin-4-KD cells, and an intracellular labeling appeared. Scale bar: 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .



**Figure 3** MALDI-TOF mass spectrum of permethylated *N*-glycans from brush border-enriched membrane.

*N*-Glycans were released by digestion with PNGase F, permethylated, and subjected to Sep-Pak clean-up. The permethylated derivatives were then analyzed by MALDI-TOF-MS in the positive ion reflective mode as  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ . Only the structures of the major *N*-glycans are given. Galactose (open circles), mannose (closed circles), GlcNAc (closed squares), GalNAc (open triangles), NeuAc (closed diamonds). The compositional assignment of the major signals is listed in Table 1.

structures ( $m/z$  1907, 2081, 2285, 2315, 2489, 2663, 2676, 2837, 2850, 3024); (ii) minor complex type *N*-glycans have compositions consistent with poly-*N*-acetyl-lactosamine extensions ( $m/z$  3663, 3837, 3953, 4011, 4041, 4185, 4215, 4286, 4314, 4402, 4460); (iii) several complex type *N*-glycans ( $m/z$  2418, 2592, 2663, 2779, 2837, 2867, 2908, 3024, 3112, 3228, 3269, 3287, 3317, 3358, 3403, 3474, 3491, 3562, 3590, 3678, 3719, 3764, 3923, 4011, 4185, 4215, 4284, 4460) have compositions consistent with fucose moieties being present both on the core and on the antennae, and (iv) most of the com-

plex type *N*-glycans have compositions consistent with sialylated structures.

#### Linkage analysis of PNGase F-released glycans

Linkage analysis on the PNGase F-released *N*-glycans yielded the data shown in Table 2. Several conclusions can be drawn from these data: (i) the presence of 3,6-linked Man and 4-linked GlcNAc is in accordance with them being essential constituents of the core of *N*-glycans; (ii) terminal mannose is in accordance with the presence of high mannose-type structures and less

**Table 1** Assignments of molecular  $[M+Na]^+$  ions observed in the MALDI spectrum of permethylated *N*-glycans.

| Signal<br>( <i>m/z</i> ) | Assignment   | Signal<br>( <i>m/z</i> ) | Assignment   |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| 1580                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 2880                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 1784                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 2908                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 1825                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 2921                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 1866                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 2938                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 1907                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 2968                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      |
| 1988                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3009                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      |
| 1999                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3024                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2029                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3054                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2040                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3095                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2070                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3112                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2081                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3125                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2111                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3142                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2192                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3184                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2203                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3214                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      |
| 2244                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3228                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2274                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3242                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2285                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3269                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2315                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3287                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2390                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3300                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2396                     | Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3317                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2418                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3330                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2431                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3358                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2448                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3388                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2489                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3403                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2519                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3416                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2560                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3474                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2592                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3491                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2605                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3504                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2635                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3545                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2663                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3562                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2676                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3575                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2693                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3590                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2734                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3603                     | NeuAc <sub>3</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2764                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      | 3663                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                                      |
| 2779                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3678                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2792                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3691                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 2837                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3719                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2850                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3749                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2867                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 3764                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 3779                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4185                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 3837                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 4215                     | Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 3865                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4226                     | NeuAc <sub>3</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 3923                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4284                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 3936                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4286                     | Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 3953                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4297                     | NeuAc <sub>3</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   |
| 4011                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 4314                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 4041                     | Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    | 4402                     | NeuAc <sub>1</sub> Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 4052                     | NeuAc <sub>3</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4460                     | Hex <sub>9</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 4110                     | NeuAc <sub>2</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4471                     | NeuAc <sub>3</sub> Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |

abundant hybrid type glycans; (iii) fucose and galactose are the other predominant residues at branched termini; (iv) after desialylation, 3-linked Gal and 6-linked Gal were diminished, indicating that sialic acid residues were attached at the 3- and 6-position of Gal prior to desialylation; (v) the presence of 2-linked Man is indicative of bi-antennary structures; (vi) levels of 2,4-linked Man and 2,6-linked Man suggest that tri- and/or tetra-antennary structures are also present; (vii) the presence of terminal GlcNAc and 3,4,6-linked Man confirms the presence of bisected glycans; (viii) 4,6-linked GlcNAc and terminal fucose support the presence of core  $\alpha$ 6-fucosylation; and (ix) the presence of 3,4-linked GlcNAc suggests that

some complex type glycans have antennae with a fucose residue.

**Sequential exo-glycosidase digestions and hydrofluoric acid (HF) treatment** To define the anomeric configurations as well as to confirm tentative sequences assignments, *N*-glycans released by PNGase F were subjected to digestion with  $\alpha$ -sialidase, HF treatment, and  $\beta$ -galactosidase. Aliquots were taken after each treatment, the compounds permethylated, and examined by MALDI-TOF-MS.

After neuraminidase treatment, the MALDI-TOF-MS data indicated that all sialylated components previously

**Table 2** GC-MS analysis of partially methylated alditol acetates obtained from the PNGase F-released *N*-glycans.

| Retention time (min) | Characteristic fragment ions      | Assignment           | Relative abundance |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 15.51 <sup>a</sup>   | 115, 118, 131, 162, 175           | Terminal fucose      | 0.19               |
| 20.38                | 102, 118, 129, 145, 161, 162, 205 | Terminal mannose     | 0.51               |
| 21.29 <sup>b</sup>   | 102, 118, 129, 145, 161, 162, 205 | Terminal galactose   | 0.35               |
| 24.39                | 129, 130, 161, 190                | 2-Linked mannose     | 0.48               |
| 25.31 <sup>c</sup>   | 118, 129, 161, 234                | 3-Linked galactose   | 0.01               |
| 27.27 <sup>d</sup>   | 99, 102, 118, 129, 162, 189, 233  | 6-Linked galactose   | 0.03               |
| 28.48                | 130, 190, 233                     | 2,4-Linked mannose   | 0.14               |
| 30.26                | 129, 130, 189, 190                | 2,6-Linked mannose   | 0.19               |
| 30.57                | 118, 129, 189, 234                | 3,6-Linked mannose   | 0.18               |
| 32.31                | 118, 333                          | 3,4,6-Linked mannose | 0.05               |
| 33.50                | 117, 159, 203, 205                | Terminal GlcNAc      | 0.14               |
| 37.12                | 117, 159, 233                     | 4-Linked GlcNAc      | 1.00               |
| 40.12 <sup>e</sup>   | 117, 159, 346                     | 3,4-Linked GlcNAc    | 0.03               |
| 41.42                | 117, 159, 261                     | 4,6-Linked GlcNAc    | 0.19               |

The 80% acetonitrile fractions from Sep-Pak purifications of permethylated glycans were hydrolyzed, reduced, acetylated and analyzed by gas chromatography-MS.

<sup>a</sup>Signals less intense after treatment of *N*-glycans with  $\alpha$ -neuraminidase and HF.

<sup>b</sup>Signals more intense after treatment of *N*-glycans with  $\alpha$ -neuraminidase.

<sup>c</sup>Signals less intense after treatment of *N*-glycans with  $\alpha$ -neuraminidase.

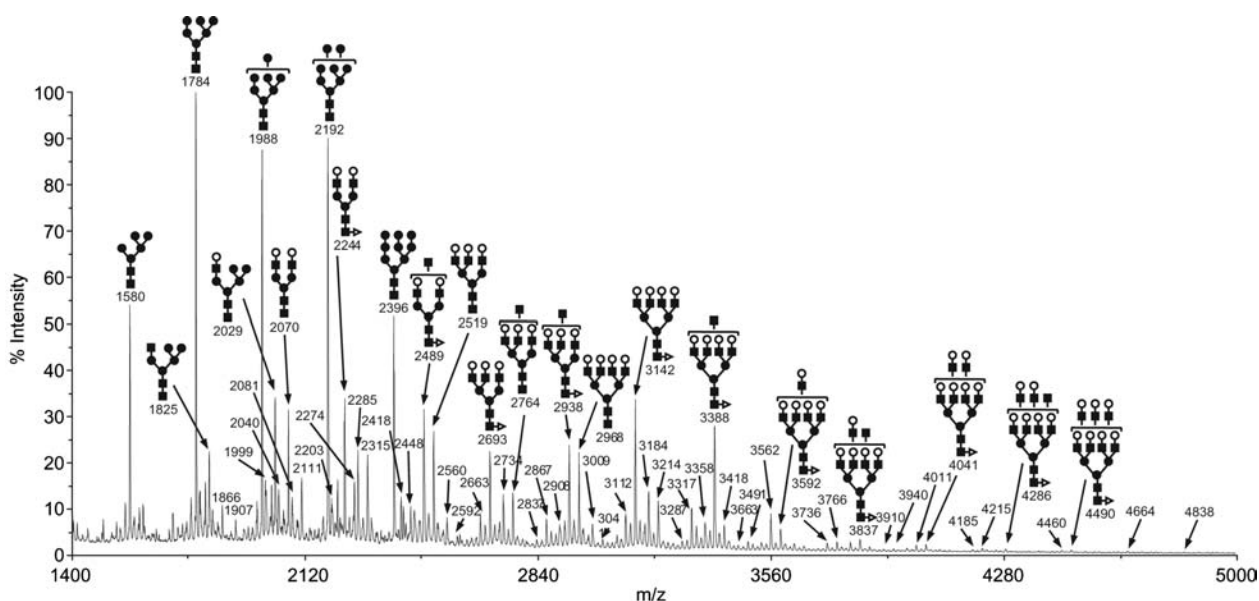
<sup>d</sup>Signals not observed after treatment of *N*-glycans with  $\alpha$ -neuraminidase.

<sup>e</sup>Signals not observed after treatment of *N*-glycans with  $\alpha$ -neuraminidase and HF.

described (Figure 3 and Table 1) were converted into other compounds of reduced molecular weight consistent with the loss of one, two, or three sialic acid residues. The  $[M+Na]^+$  ions provide evidence for this change (Figure 4 and Table 3). For example, the molecular ions at  $m/z$  3749 (NeuAc<sub>1</sub>Hex<sub>7</sub>HexNAc<sub>7</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>), 4110 (NeuAc<sub>2</sub>Hex<sub>7</sub>HexNAc<sub>7</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>), and 4471 (NeuAc<sub>3</sub>Hex<sub>7</sub>HexNAc<sub>7</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>) disappeared concomitant with a significant increase in the abundance of the molecular ion at  $m/z$  3388 (Hex<sub>7</sub>HexNAc<sub>7</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>). Thus, the NeuAc residues are conjugated in regular  $\alpha$ -linkages. Data from MALDI-TOF-MS of permethylated PNGase F-released glycans after sialidase digestion are summarized in Table 2. Compari-

son of linkage data before and after sialidase treatment indicated that removal of terminal  $\alpha$ -NeuAc residues is accompanied by the decrease of 3-linked Gal and the loss of the 6-linked Gal (Table 2). These data suggest that  $\alpha$ -NeuAc is attached both at the 3- and 6-position of Gal. The neuraminidase treatment also revealed the presence of structures with the following compositions Hex<sub>10</sub>HexNAc<sub>9</sub>dHex<sub>1-3</sub> ( $m/z$  4490, 4664, and 4838). These structures probably correspond to minor sialylated *N*-glycans not detected before the treatment.

To confirm that some complex type glycans have antennae with a fucose residue and produce fully defucosylated antennae for subsequent  $\beta$ -galactosidase

**Figure 4** MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of the permethylated PNGase F-released *N*-glycans from brush border-enriched membrane fractions after neuraminidase digestion.

An aliquot was taken after digestion, permethylated, and purified by Sep-Pak. Only the structures of the major *N*-glycans are given. Symbols are as in Figure 3. The compositional assignment of the major signals is listed in Table 3.

**Table 3** Assignments of molecular  $[M+Na]^+$  ions observed in the MALDI spectrum of permethylated *N*-glycans after neuraminidase digestion.

| Signal<br>( <i>m/z</i> ) | Assignment  | Signal<br>( <i>m/z</i> ) | Assignment   |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| 1580                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 2938                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 1784                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 2968                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 1825                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3009                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 1866                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3041                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 1907                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3112                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 1988                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3142                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 1999                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3184                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2029                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3214                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2040                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3287                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2070                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3317                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2081                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3358                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2111                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3388                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2192                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3418                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2203                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>3</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3491                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2244                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3562                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2274                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3592                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2285                     | Hex <sub>4</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3663                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                    |
| 2315                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3736                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2396                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 3766                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2418                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3837                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2448                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3910                     | Hex <sub>7</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>4</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2489                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 3940                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>7</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2519                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4011                     | Hex <sub>8</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2560                     | Hex <sub>3</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4041                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2592                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>4</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4185                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2663                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4215                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>8</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2693                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4286                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2734                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4460                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>  |
| 2764                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup>                   | 4490                     | Hex <sub>10</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>1</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2837                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4664                     | Hex <sub>10</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2867                     | Hex <sub>6</sub> HexNAC <sub>5</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> | 4838                     | Hex <sub>10</sub> HexNAC <sub>9</sub> dHex <sub>3</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |
| 2908                     | Hex <sub>5</sub> HexNAC <sub>6</sub> dHex <sub>2</sub> +Na <sup>+</sup> |                          |  |

digestion, we subjected the desialylated *N*-glycans to HF treatment. Incubation of fucosylated glycans with HF results in the rapid hydrolysis of Fuc $\alpha$ 1–3GlcNAc linkages and slower release of  $\alpha$ 1–2-linked fucose, whereas the  $\alpha$ 1–6-linked fucose residues linked to the *N*-glycan cores are relatively resistant (Haslam et al., 2000). After treatment, an aliquot was taken for permethylation, purification by Sep-Pak, and analysis by MALDI-TOF-MS (Figure 5). Data from MALDI-TOF-MS of permethylated PNGase F-released glycans after sialidase digestion and HF treatment are summarized in Table 4. Incubation with HF yielded a less complex spectrum and no evidence for signals corresponding to glycans which have more than one fucose residue. These data strongly suggest that most of the fucosylated *N*-glycans carry a fucose residue on the core.

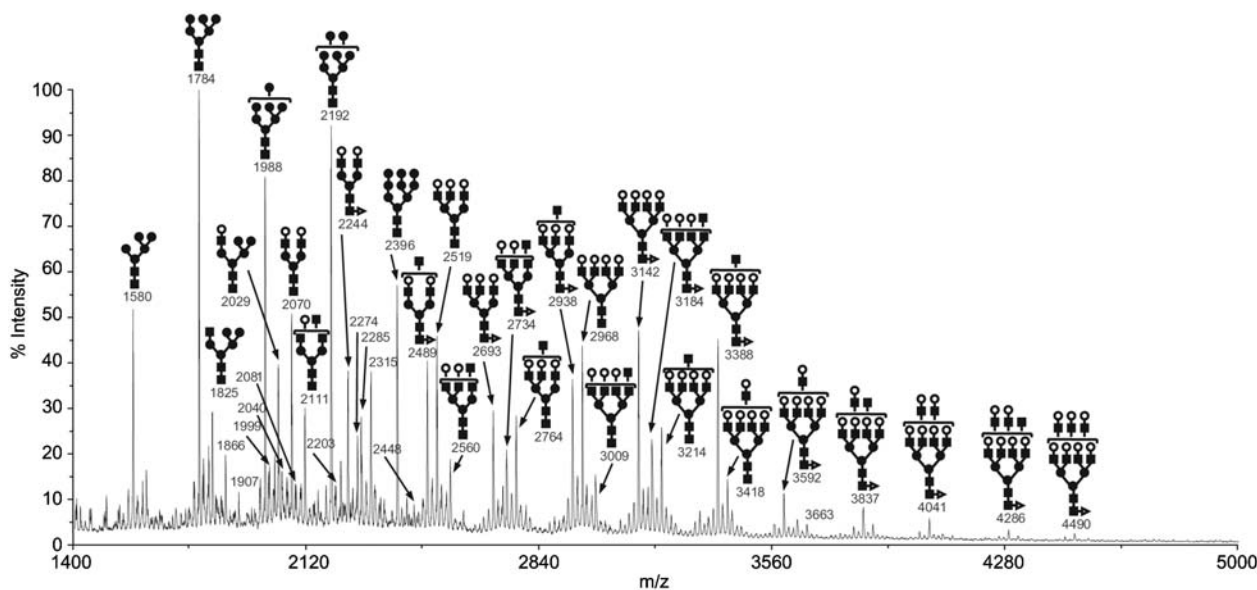
Figure 6 shows part of the MALDI-TOF-MS profile for the permethylated *N*-glycans after  $\beta$ -galactosidase treatment. The glycans that were previously observed at *m/z* 2029, 2040, 2070, 2111, 2244, 2274, 2285, 2315, 2489, 2519, 2560, 2693, 2734, 2764, 2938, 2968, 3009, 3142, 3184, 3214, and 3388 in the undigested sample were absent. These data indicated that the components were efficiently degalactosylated by  $\beta$ -galactosidase from bovine testes. This treatment confirmed the presence of tri- and tetra-antennary structures. For example, the ion at *m/z* 2968 (Hex<sub>7</sub>HexNAC<sub>6</sub>) has shifted to *m/z* 2152 (Hex<sub>3</sub>HexNAC<sub>6</sub>), which reflects the loss of four galactose units and accordingly is very likely to stem from a tetra-

antennary structure. The glycans at *m/z* 2693 (Hex<sub>6</sub>HexNAC<sub>5</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>) and 2938 (Hex<sub>6</sub>HexNAC<sub>6</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>) have also shifted to *m/z* 2081 (Hex<sub>3</sub>HexNAC<sub>5</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>) and 2326 (Hex<sub>3</sub>HexNAC<sub>6</sub>dHex<sub>1</sub>), respectively, consistent with the loss of galactose residues from tri-antennary structures. The presence of structures with poly-*N*-acetylglucosamine extensions that were partially resistant to the  $\beta$ -galactosidase digestions was also confirmed. The glycans that were previously observed at *m/z* 3418, 3592, 3663, 3837, 4041, 4286, and 4490 have shifted to *m/z* 2601, 2775, 2846, 3020, 3225, 3470, and 3674.

#### Characterization of *N*-glycan structures by ESI-QTOF-MS/MS

After desialylation, the permethylated *N*-glycans were analyzed using nano-ESI-QTOF-MS/MS. The fragments originating from both the reducing and the non-reducing ends of the glycan yield information on sequence and branching (Morelle et al., 2004). Representative data derived from the fragmentation of the  $[M+2Na]^{2+}$  of the molecular ions of the complex *N*-glycans Fuc<sub>1</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAC<sub>4</sub>, Fuc<sub>2</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAC<sub>4</sub>, and Fuc<sub>1</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAC<sub>5</sub> are shown in Figure 7A–C. Assignments of key signals are given. As shown in Figure 6A, MS/MS analysis of the  $[M+2Na]^{2+}$  at *m/z* 1134 yielded a spectrum dominated by a fragment ion at *m/z* 486 (Hex<sub>1</sub>-HexNAC<sub>1</sub>). The presence of this fragment and the low abundance of the fragment at *m/z* 660 (Fuc<sub>1</sub>-Hex<sub>1</sub>-HexNAC<sub>1</sub>) suggests that the majority of the fucose moieties is on the core rather than one of the antennae. The





**Figure 5** MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of the permethylated PNGase F-released *N*-glycans from brush border-enriched membranes after neuraminidase digestion and HF treatment.

An aliquot was taken after HF treatment, permethylated, and purified by Sep-Pak. Only the structures of the major *N*-glycans are given. Symbols are as in Figure 3. The compositional assignment of the major signals is listed in Table 4.

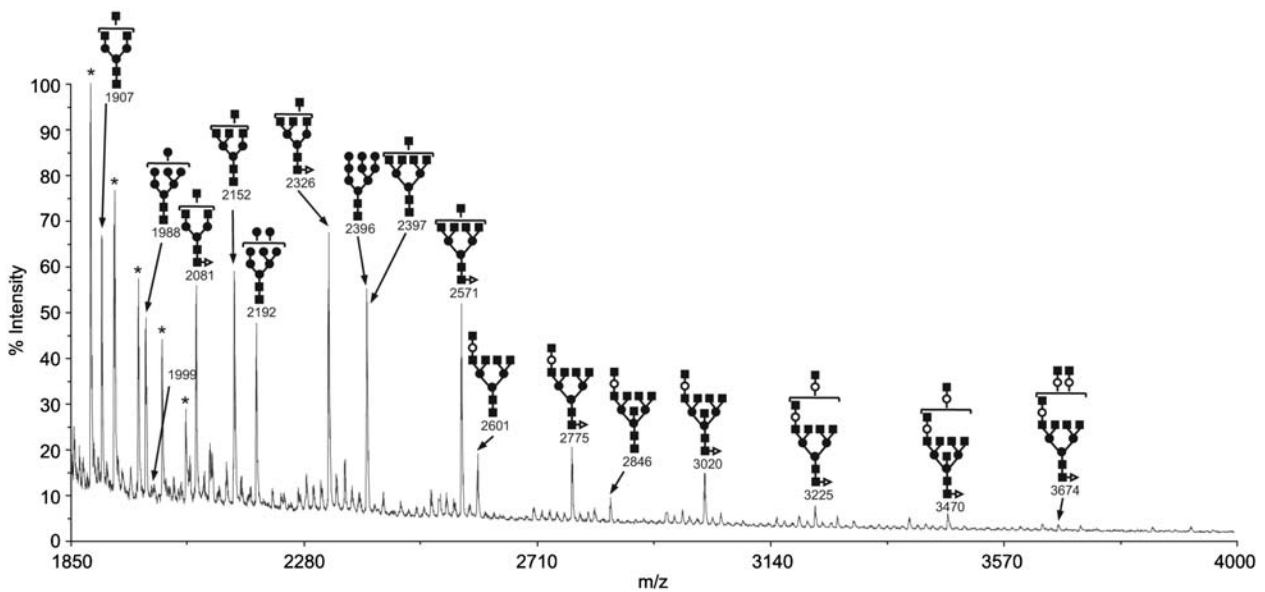
MS/MS spectrum of the *N*-glycan  $\text{Fuc}_2\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_4$  is characterized by the presence of diagnostic ions at  $m/z$  474, 486, and 660 (Figure 6B). The ion at  $m/z$  474 corresponds to the diagnostic signal for fucose being attached to the terminal GlcNAc of the core. As the major fragment ions are at  $m/z$  486 and 660, the majority of the glycans of the composition  $\text{Fuc}_2\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_4$  carry one fucose on the core and one on the antennae. In contrast, the monofucosylated glycans with the composition  $\text{Fuc}_1\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_5$  show a major signal at  $m/z$  486 and a minor signal at  $m/z$  660, indicating that these glycans are predominantly fucosylated on the core (Figure 7C).

**Structural conclusions on PNGase F-released glycans** Taking into consideration the MALDI-TOF-MS, linkage, sequential exoglycosidase, HF treatment, MS/MS data, and knowledge of the biosynthetic pathways of *N*-glycans, we conclude that the major *N*-glycans have the structures shown in Figure 8.

**O-Glycosylation analysis** Reductive elimination on de-*N*-glycosylated peptides was carried out in order to determine the major *O*-glycan structures. After Dowex purification, borate removal, the *O*-glycans were permethylated, purified on a C18 Sep-Pak cartridge, and ana-

**Table 4** Assignments of molecular  $[M+Na]^+$  ions observed in the MALDI spectrum of permethylated *N*-glycans after neuraminidase digestion and HF treatment.

| Signal ( $m/z$ ) | Assignment   | Signal ( $m/z$ ) | Assignment  |
|------------------|--|------------------|---|
| 1580             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_2+\text{Na}^+$              | 2489             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_5\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 1784             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_2+\text{Na}^+$              | 2519             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_5+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 1825             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_3+\text{Na}^+$              | 2560             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_6+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 1866             | $\text{Hex}_4\text{HexNAc}_4+\text{Na}^+$              | 2693             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_5\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 1907             | $\text{Hex}_3\text{HexNAc}_5+\text{Na}^+$              | 2734             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_6\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 1988             | $\text{Hex}_7\text{HexNAc}_2+\text{Na}^+$              | 2764             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_6+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 1999             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_3\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 2938             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_6\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2029             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_3+\text{Na}^+$              | 2968             | $\text{Hex}_7\text{HexNAc}_6+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 2040             | $\text{Hex}_4\text{HexNAc}_4\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 3009             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_7+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 2070             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_4+\text{Na}^+$              | 3142             | $\text{Hex}_7\text{HexNAc}_6\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2081             | $\text{Hex}_3\text{HexNAc}_5\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 3184             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_7\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2111             | $\text{Hex}_4\text{HexNAc}_5+\text{Na}^+$              | 3214             | $\text{Hex}_7\text{HexNAc}_7+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 2192             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_2+\text{Na}^+$              | 3388             | $\text{Hex}_7\text{HexNAc}_7\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2203             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_3\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 3418             | $\text{Hex}_8\text{HexNAc}_7+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 2244             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_4\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 3592             | $\text{Hex}_8\text{HexNAc}_7\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2274             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_4+\text{Na}^+$              | 3663             | $\text{Hex}_8\text{HexNAc}_8+\text{Na}^+$                 |
| 2285             | $\text{Hex}_4\text{HexNAc}_5\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 3837             | $\text{Hex}_8\text{HexNAc}_8\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2315             | $\text{Hex}_5\text{HexNAc}_5+\text{Na}^+$              | 4041             | $\text{Hex}_9\text{HexNAc}_8\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2396             | $\text{Hex}_3\text{HexNAc}_2+\text{Na}^+$              | 4286             | $\text{Hex}_9\text{HexNAc}_9\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$    |
| 2448             | $\text{Hex}_6\text{HexNAc}_4\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ | 4490             | $\text{Hex}_{10}\text{HexNAc}_9\text{dHex}_1+\text{Na}^+$ |



**Figure 6** MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of the permethylated PNGase F-released *N*-glycans from brush border-enriched membranes after neuraminidase digestion, HF treatment, and  $\beta$ -galactosidase digestion. An aliquot was taken after  $\beta$ -galactosidase digestion, permethylated, and purified by Sep-Pak. Only the structures of the major *N*-glycans are given. Symbols are as in Figure 3.

lyzed by MALDI-TOF-MS (Figure 9). Two major molecular ions were observed at  $m/z$  895 (Neu5Ac<sub>1</sub>Hex<sub>1</sub>HexNAcitol) and 1256 (Neu5Ac<sub>2</sub>Hex<sub>1</sub>HexNAcitol). These major *O*-glycans are consistent with sialylated and bisialylated T-antigen structures [Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc-ol and Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\alpha$ 1-3(Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-6)GalNAc-ol].

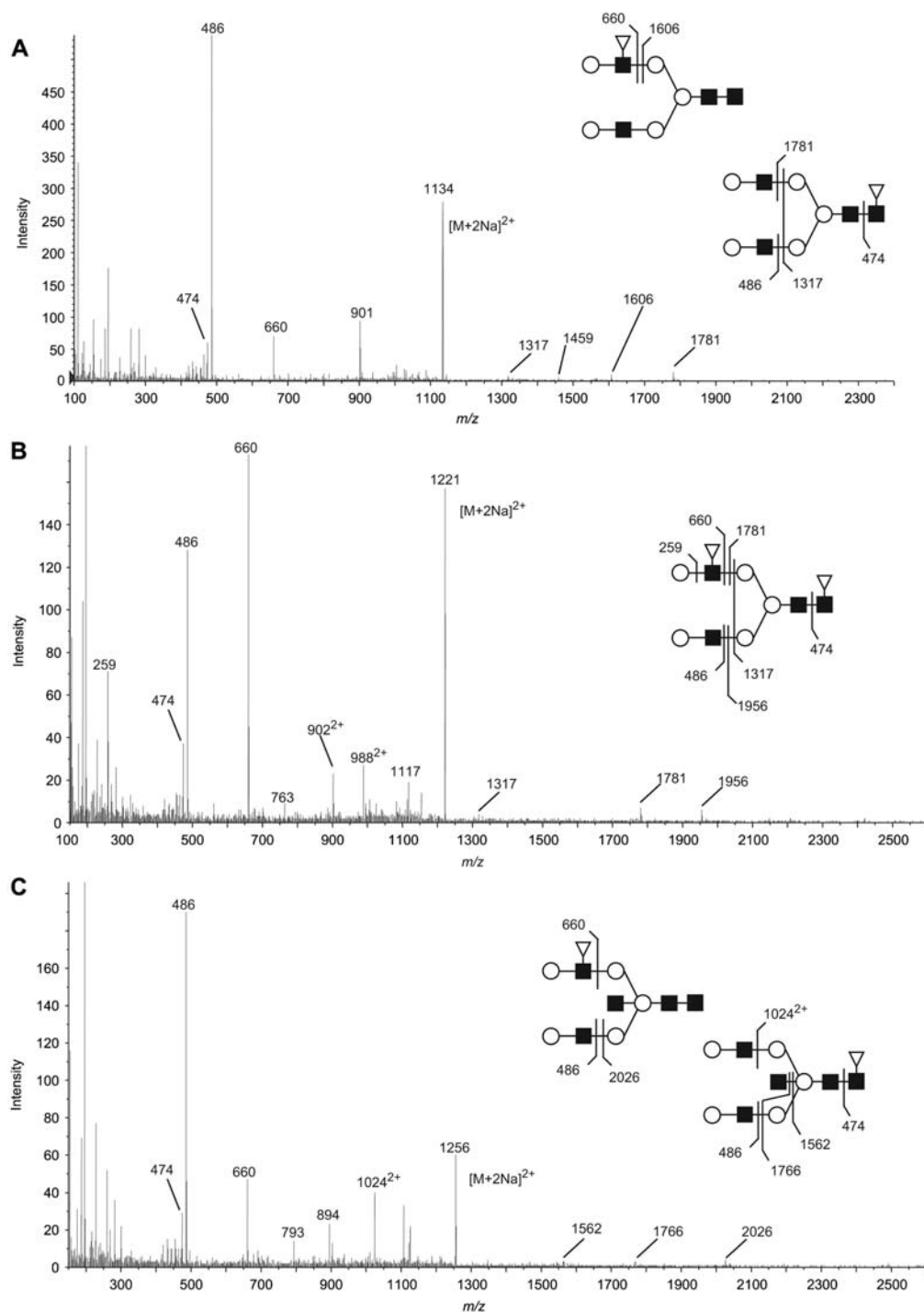
#### Inhibition of the processing of *N*-glycans abolishes the apical targeting of MUC1

MUC1 is a membrane glycoprotein which is extensively *O*-glycosylated in its extracellular domain with tandem repeats, and also carries *N*-glycan chains near the trans-membrane domain. In order to address the issue as for the role of *N*-glycans in the apical delivery of MUC1, we analyzed its trafficking in the presence of 1-deoxymannojirimycin, an inhibitor of  $\alpha$ 1-2 mannosidase I which inhibits the trimming of Man<sub>9</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> to Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>, and consequently blocks the *N*-glycan processing into hybrid type and complex type *N*-glycans. Thus, in presence of this inhibitor, the *N*-glycans are all high mannose-type glycans. HT-29 5M12 cells were treated with 1 mM 1-deoxymannojirimycin for 24 h and then processed for confocal microscopy (Figure 10A). As previously reported, MUC1 is exclusively localized at the apical brush border of HT-29 5M12 cells. In HT-29 5M12 cells treated with 1-deoxymannojirimycin, MUC1 was no longer localized at the apical surface but was retained intracellularly. In addition, the apical cell culture medium of 1-deoxymannojirimycin HT-29 5M12-treated cells contained no extracellular MUC1 ectodomain normally shed from cell surfaces (Figure 10B). These results clearly showed that the maturation of the *N*-glycans of MUC1 was essential for the apical delivery of this membrane mucin in HT-29 5M12 cells.

#### Discussion

Our previous work has demonstrated that the tandem repeat-type galectin-4 regulates the raft-dependent delivery of glycoproteins to the apical brush border membrane of enterocyte-like HT-29 cells. Silencing of galectin-4 expression using RNAi inhibited the apical targeting of the brush border glycoproteins, as shown for dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP-IV), carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), and mucin-like membrane MUC1, which remained abnormally accumulated inside the galectin-4-depleted HT-29 5M12 cells. Galectin-4, synthesized on free cytoplasmic ribosomes, is externalized from the cytosol to the apical medium, then re-internalized from the apical surface, and finally follows an apical recycling pathway which drives the raft-dependent apical pathway of newly synthesized glycoproteins to the brush border membrane. This lectin has a high affinity for glycosphingolipids, which are typical lipid components of lipid rafts, and is a major constituent of DRMs. Galectin-4 is responsible for the recruitment of apical glycoproteins within DRMs, and the avidity of galectin-4 for these raft-associated glycoproteins is supported by their high density of complex type *N*-glycans with the *N*-acetylglucosamine sequence Gal $\beta$ 1-4GlcNAc (Delacour et al., 2005; Stechly et al., 2009).

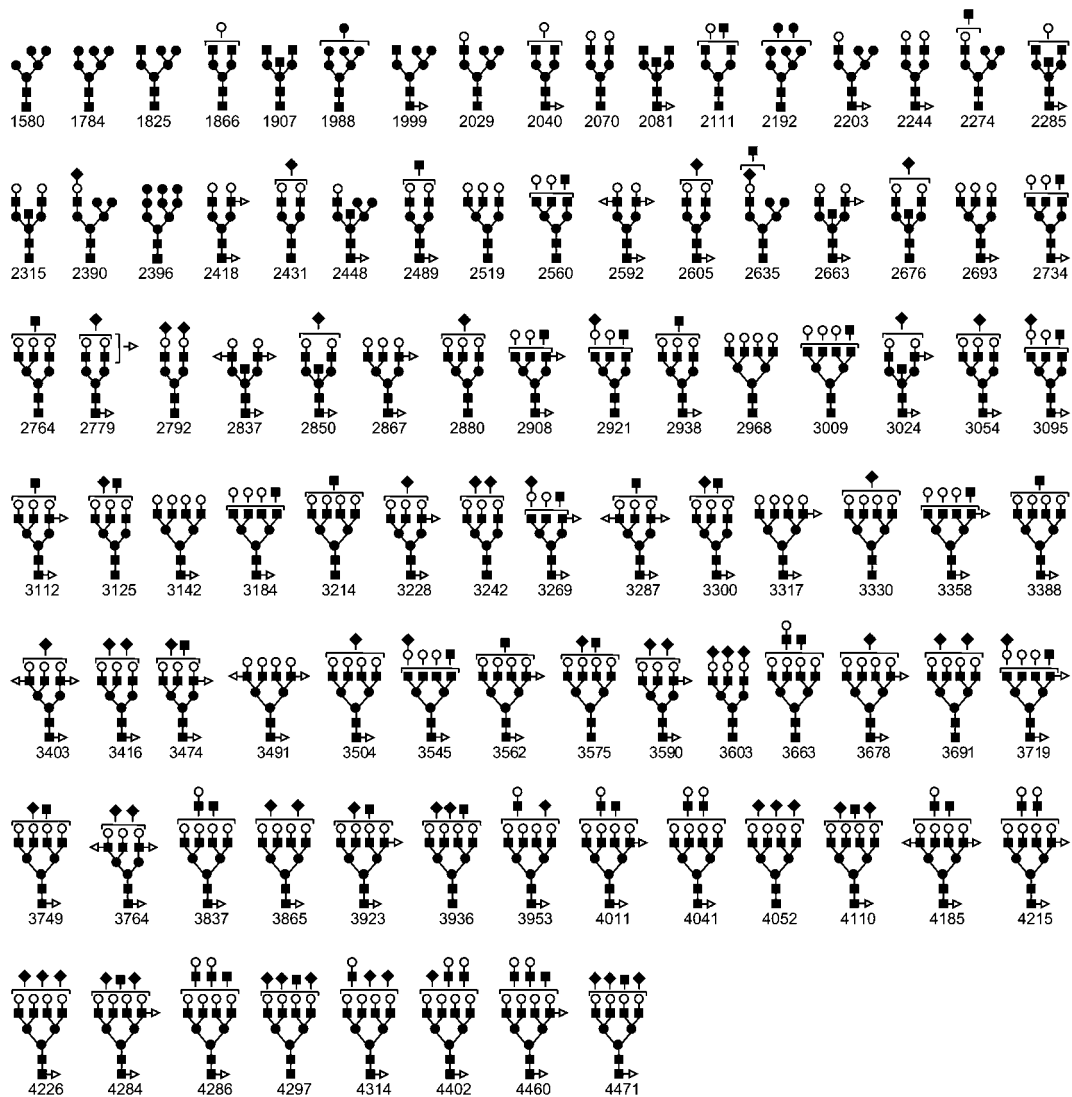
The purpose of this work was to analyze the potential contribution of *N*- and/or *O*-glycans in the galectin-4-dependent apical delivery of membrane proteins. Structural studies using MALDI-TOF-MS and nano-ESI-QTOF-MS-MS were carried out on the brush border membrane-enriched fraction isolated from enterocytic HT-29 5M12 cells. Results showed that the pattern of *N*-glycans of the brush border membrane glycoproteins was very heterogeneous, with the presence of high mannose-type glycans, hybrid type glycans, and a multitude of complex



**Figure 7** Nano-electrospray MS-MS spectra of the  $[M+2Na]^{2+}$  molecular ions of the permethylated *N*-glycans Fuc<sub>2</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAc<sub>4</sub> (A), Fuc<sub>2</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAc<sub>4</sub> (B), and Fuc<sub>1</sub>Hex<sub>5</sub>HexNAc<sub>5</sub> (C). Symbols are as in Figure 3.

type *N*-glycans. This group consisted of bi-antennary, tri-antennary, and tetra-antennary glycans, substituted by fucose and/or sialic acid. Fucose was found on the core and on the antennae. Sialic acid was found in  $\alpha$ 2–6 or  $\alpha$ 2–3 linkage to a galactose residue. Interestingly, the *N*-glycosylation pattern of the brush border membrane included the complex type *N*-glycans that were found enriched in DRMs isolated from HT-29 5M12 cells, i.e., bi-antennary ( $m/z$  2070, 2244, 2315, 2418, 2489), tri-antennary ( $m/z$  2519, 2764, 2867, 2938, 3112), and tetra-antennary ( $m/z$  2968, 3142, 3214, 3388, 3562, 3909) structures. In contrast to the diversity of *N*-glycans, the

pattern of *O*-glycans of the brush border glycoproteins was very simple with the presence of two major core type 1 *O*-glycans, i.e., sialylated and bisialylated T-antigen structures [Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–3Gal $\beta$ 1–3GalNAc-ol and Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–3Gal $\beta$ 1–3(Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2–6)GalNAc-ol]. Studies of the carbohydrate-binding specificity of galectin-4 has identified sulfated core-type 1 SO<sub>3</sub>-Gal $\beta$ 1–3GalNAc pyranoside as well as sulfated glycosphingolipids as high affinity ligands for galectin-4, but in contrast, Neu5Ac2-3Gal $\beta$ 1–3GalNAc had very weak affinity for galectin-4 (Ideo et al., 2002, 2005; Delacour et al., 2005). Therefore, the major *O*-glycans of the brush border membrane-

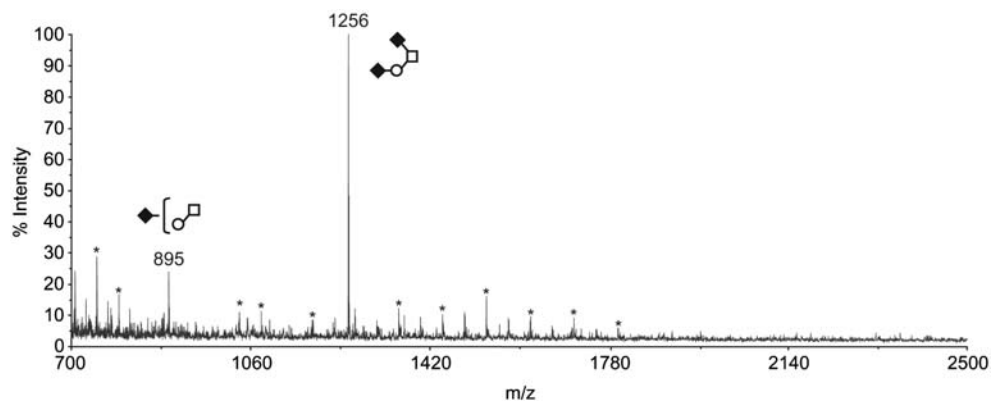


**Figure 8** Structures proposed for the major *N*-glycans released from brush border-enriched membranes. Symbols are as in Figure 3. A minor portion of the fucosylated glycans carries fucose on an antenna rather than the core.

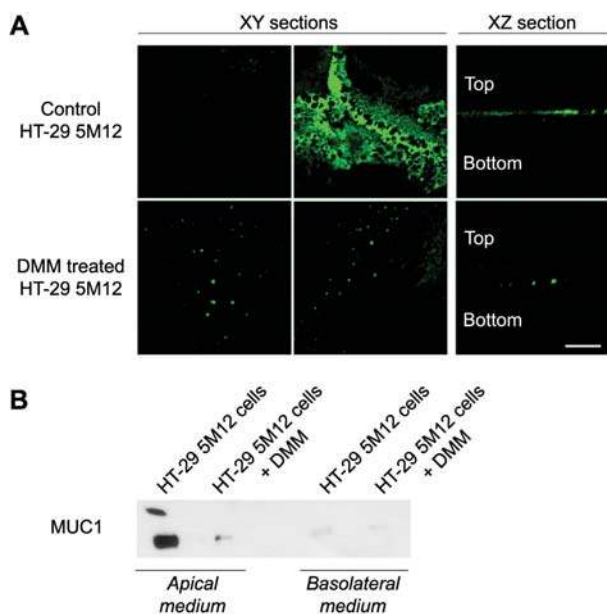
enriched fraction of HT-29 5M12 cells are apparently not ligands of galectin-4 and can consequently not be involved in the galectin-4-dependent trafficking.

The transmembrane glycoproteins DPP-IV and MUC1 and the glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored glycoproteins CD-59 and CEA are expressed at the apical

brush border of HT-29 5M12 cells and are associated with DRMs of these cells (Delacour et al., 2005; Stechly et al., 2009). These glycoproteins are known to have different degrees of *N*- and/or *O*-glycosylation. The structural study of CEA purified from liver metastases of colon cancer showed the presence of 25 *N*-glycans, including



**Figure 9** MALDI-TOF-MS spectrum of the permethylated *O*-glycans from brush border-enriched membranes. After reductive elimination on de-*N*-glycosylated peptides, Dowex purification, and borate removal, *O*-glycans were permethylated, purified on a Sep-Pak C18, and analyzed by MALDI-TOF-MS. Symbols are as in Figure 3.



**Figure 10** Analysis of the cellular distribution and extracellular release of MUC1 from 1-deoxymannojirimycin-treated HT-29 5M12 cells using confocal microscopy (A) and Western blotting of apical cell culture media (B).

MUC1, which is localized at the brush border of control cells, was no more targeted to the apical surface but was retained intracellularly after treatment by 1-deoxymannojirimycin. MUC1 is no longer detected in the apical cell culture medium of 1-deoxymannojirimycin-treated cells. Scale bar: 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

high mannose and complex type glycans with *N*-acetyl-lactosamine, with Lewis<sup>x</sup> and Lewis<sup>y</sup> antigenic determinants as major outer chains (Yamashita et al., 1987). CD-59 harbors a single *N*-glycosylation site and two potential *O*-glycosylation sites (Ninomiya et al., 1992). The structural analysis of the human erythrocyte CD-59 showed an extremely heterogeneous *N*-glycan pattern with more than 100 glycoforms, consisting mainly of bi-antennary glycans with varying numbers of *N*-acetyl-lactosamine extensions and also of tri-antennary and tetra-antennary *N*-glycans (Rudd et al., 1997). The two *O*-glycosylation sites were found to be partially occupied with the *O*-glycans Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc and Gal $\beta$ 1-3[Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-6]GalNAc. MUC1 is a mucin-like transmembrane glycoprotein that contains five consensus sites for *N*-glycosylation sites in a sequence adjacent to the transmembrane domain and a large ectodomain consisting of tandem repeats extensively *O*-glycosylated (Gendler et al., 1991; Hilkens et al., 1992). The study of the *N*-glycosylation of a recombinant epitope-tagged MUC1 from enterocyte-like Caco-2 cells revealed a rather complex mixture of *N*-glycans with high mannose-, complex-, and hybrid-type structures (Parry et al., 2006). Several structural studies have investigated the *O*-glycosylation pattern of MUC1; however, different patterns were observed according to the cell type and the MUC1 molecular form (Lloyd et al., 1996; Burdick et al., 1997; Müller et al., 1997, 1999; Silverman et al., 2001, 2002, 2003; Müller and Hanisch, 2002; Engelmann et al., 2005). Membrane-bound MUC1 from T47D breast cancer cells was found to have a rather simple glycosylation pattern with NeuAc $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc-ol, Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc-ol

and GalNAc-ol predominating (Lloyd et al., 1996). Structural studies carried out on secretory MUC1 glycoforms isolated from cell culture supernatants of different breast cancer cell lines showed that the *O*-glycosylation pattern was cell-specific with predominance of core 1- or core 2-based glycans (Müller and Hanisch, 2002). Interestingly, further studies comparing the *O*-glycosylation of membrane-bound or secretory recombinant MUC1 forms in MCF-7 cells revealed that the membrane-derived fusion proteins showed a shift from predominantly core 2 to nearly exclusive core 1 expression with NeuAc $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc predominating (Engelmann et al., 2005). Although our results cannot exclude the presence of minor *O*-glycans other than the sialylated and bisialylated T-antigen structures, they suggest that these two structures are the predominant *O*-glycans in the brush border membrane of HT-29 5M12 cells.

Altogether, these data suggested that *N*-glycans rather than *O*-glycans contained *N*-acetyl-lactosamine motifs and were thus involved in the lipid raft-based galectin-4-dependent apical delivery. In order to test this hypothesis, the distribution of MUC1 was analyzed in the presence of 1-deoxymannojirimycin, a drug which inhibits the processing of high mannose-type glycans into hybrid type or complex type glycans. Results showed that MUC1 substituted with high mannose-type glycans was not delivered to the apical brush border of HT-29 5M12 cells and that the extracellular ectodomain of shed MUC1 was no more detected in the apical medium. Instead, MUC1 accumulated inside the cells. This observation indicates that complex type *N*-glycans play a key role in the apical delivery of MUC1 in differentiated HT-29 cells. However, these results do not exclude that *O*-glycans can also have a role in apical trafficking of membrane type and/or secretory mucins in HT-29 cells. Structural studies carried out on the mucus secreted by mucus-secreting HT-29 MTX cells showed the presence of *O*-glycans elongated by the addition of type 1 Gal $\beta$ 1-3GlcNAc or type 2 Gal $\beta$ 1-4GlcNAc *N*-acetyl-lactosamine units, although the sialyl T-antigen was found as the predominant structure (41%) (Hennebicq-Reig et al., 1998). It must also be stressed that the presence of *O*-glycans is essential for cell surface expression of MUC1, as was shown by the rapid degradation of MUC1 in the absence of the addition of *O*-linked glycans to the mucin-like core of tandem repeats in Chinese hamster ovary cells (Altschuler et al., 2000).

Interestingly, we previously observed that 1-deoxymannojirimycin also perturbed the apical transport of the GPI-anchored glycoprotein CEA and of the transmembrane glycoprotein DPP-IV, but in contrast to MUC1, both CEA and DPP-IV were mistargeted to the basolateral membrane in the presence of 1-deoxymannojirimycin. This different behavior observed for MUC1 might be connected to the particular processing of the transmembrane MUC1 protein into the MUC1 heterodimeric complex. Indeed, soon after its biosynthesis, the transmembrane MUC1 protein undergoes a self-cleavage in the SEA domain which generates a large  $\alpha$  subunit containing the *O*-glycosylated tandem repeats and a smaller  $\beta$  subunit containing the membrane anchor and the cytoplasmic tail (Ligtenberg et al., 1992; Levitin et al., 2005).

These two subunits remain tightly associated and MUC1 is expressed at the cell membrane as the  $\alpha/\beta$  complex. Because the anti-MUC1 antibody used in our analyses is directed against an epitope localized in the ectodomain (Price et al., 1998), we cannot exclude the possibility that the cytoplasmic domain of MUC1, which contains binding sites for clathrin adaptor complexes, might be mistargeted to the basolateral membrane of HT-29 cells.

Altogether, our data reveal the crucial role of complex type *N*-glycan in the galectin-4-dependent delivery of glycoproteins to the apical brush border membrane of enterocytic HT-29 cells. The pattern of *N*-glycans of the brush border membrane glycoproteins was very heterogeneous, with the presence of high mannose- and hybrid type glycans as well as a multitude of complex type *N*-glycans containing the *N*-acetylglucosamine recognition signals for the lipid raft-based galectin-4-dependent apical delivery. In contrast, the pattern of *O*-glycans was very simple with the presence of two major core type 1 *O*-glycans, sialylated and bisialylated T-antigen structures [Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3GalNAc-ol and Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-3Gal $\beta$ 1-3(Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 2-6)GalNAc-ol]. Thus, the presence of mature *N*-glycans is a sugar-encoded signal for the galectin-4-dependent apical trafficking of MUC1 in enterocytic HT-29 cells.

## Materials and methods

### Antibodies and lectins

MAB directed against MUC1 (214D4) was a gift from J. Hilken (The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands). This antibody recognizes an epitope localized in the ectodomain (peptide PDTR) (Price et al., 1998). MAB directed against the Lewis<sup>x</sup> antigen (ab3358) was purchased from Abcam (Cambridge, UK). TRITC-conjugated MAA (R-7801) was from EY Laboratories (San Mateo, CA, USA), rhodamine-labeled WGA (RL-1022) and ConA (RL-1002) were purchased from Vector Laboratories (Burlingame, CA, USA).

### Cell culture

Enterocyte-like HT-29 (clone 5M12) cells were cultured as previously described. For the analysis of the conditioned media by Western blot, control HT-29 5M12 cells were cultured in serum-free medium for 24 h and apical and basolateral media were collected and concentrated by 20-fold on centricon 10. 1-Deoxymannojirimycin was used at the concentration of 1 mM for 24 h, in the presence of leupeptin (100  $\mu$ g/ml).

### Purification of brush border-enriched membrane

Enterocyte-like HT-29 5M12 cells were cultured as previously described up to day 10 and the purification of the brush border membrane was carried out using the protocol of Schmitz et al. (1973). After phosphate buffer saline (PBS) washings, cells were then sonicated in TM buffer (2 mM Tris/50 mM mannitol, pH 7.1 with protease inhibitors). The clarified supernatant was then incubated with 2 mM of CaCl<sub>2</sub> for 15 min at 4°C, and the brush border-enriched membrane was obtained after ultracentrifugation (33 500 *g*, 30 min) in a 70.1Ti rotor (Beckman, Minneapolis, MN, USA) (Schmitz et al., 1973).

### Fluorescence microscopy

Cells were processed as previously described using mAbs directed against MUC1 and Lewis<sup>x</sup> antigen. After PBS washings, cells were incubated for 2 h with secondary FITC-conjugated antibody. For labeling with fluorescent lectins, cells were incubated for 2 h with 40  $\mu$ g/ml TRITC or rhodamine-conjugated probe. Laser microscopy analyses were performed using a Leica instrument (Model TCS-NT; Leica Microsystems, New York, NY, USA). Files of microphotographs were processed with Adobe Photoshop 5.0 (San José, CA, USA).

### Western blot analysis

The cell culture media were processed as previously described (Gouyer et al., 2001). Detection was carried out by luminescence using the ECL Western blotting system (Amersham, Camarillo, CA, USA).

### Release of the *N*-linked glycans after reduction and carboxyamidomethylation of glycoproteins and clean-up procedure of the released *N*-glycans

The brush border membrane glycoproteins were dissolved in 250  $\mu$ l of 600 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.2 and denatured by guanidine hydrochloride (6 M final concentration). The sample was incubated at 45°C for 1.5 h. After addition of 500  $\mu$ g of dithiothreitol, the sample was flushed with argon and incubated at 45°C for 3 h. After addition of 3 mg of iodoacetamide, the sample was again flushed with argon and incubated at room temperature for 3 h in the dark. The sample was then dialyzed against 50 mM ammonium hydrogen carbonate at 4°C during 48 h and lyophilized. The reduced carboxyamidomethylated proteins were digested with L-1-tosylamide-2-phenylethylchloromethylketone (TPCK) bovine pancreas trypsin (EC 3.4.21.4, Sigma, Saint Quentin Fallavier, France) with an enzyme-to-substrate ratio of 1:25 (by mass), and the mixture was incubated for 24 h at 37°C in 50 mM ammonium hydrogen carbonate buffer. The reaction was terminated by boiling for 5 min before lyophilization. PNGase F digestion was carried out in ammonium hydrogen carbonate 50 mM for 16 h at 37°C. After PNGase F digestion, the reaction was terminated by lyophilization and the products were purified on a C18 Sep-Pak to separate the released *N*-glycans from the peptides. After conditioning, the C18 Sep-Pak by sequential washing with methanol (5 ml), and 5% acetic acid (10 ml), the sample was loaded onto the Sep-Pak and the *N*-glycans were eluted with 3 ml of 5% acetic acid. Peptides/glycopeptides were eluted with 3 ml of acetonitrile (ACN)/water (80:20; v/v) containing 5% v/v acetic acid. ACN was evaporated under a stream of nitrogen and the samples were freeze-dried.

### Exoglycosidase digestions

These were carried out on the released *N*-glycans using the following enzymes and conditions: neuraminidase (from *Vibrio cholerae*, EC 3.2.1.18, Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Meylan, France): 50 mU in 200  $\mu$ l of 50 mM ammonium formate buffer, pH 5.5, for 48 h;  $\beta$ -galactosidase (from bovine testes, EC 3.2.1.23, Sigma): 10 mU in 200  $\mu$ l of 50 mM ammonium formate, pH 4.6, for 48 h. All enzyme digestions were incubated at 37°C and terminated by boiling for 5 min before lyophilization. For sequential enzyme digestions, an appropriate aliquot was taken after each digestion and permethylated for MALDI-MS analysis after purification on a C18 Sep-Pak.

### Hydrogen fluoride treatment

*N*-Glycans were treated with 48% HF (Aldrich, St. Quentin Fallavier, France) at 0°C for 20 h similar to the procedure

described by Pang et al. (2007). After treatment, *N*-glycans were permethylated.

### Permethylation and mass spectrometry analysis of glycans

Permethylation of the freeze-dried *N*-glycans was performed according to the procedure developed by Ciucanu and Kerek (1984). The reaction was terminated by adding 1 ml of cold 10% (v/v) acetic acid followed by three extractions with 500  $\mu$ l of chloroform. The pooled chloroform phases (1.5 ml) were then washed eight times with water. The methylated derivatives-containing chloroform phase was finally dried under a stream of nitrogen and the extracted products were further purified on a C18 Sep-Pak (Morelle and Michalski, 2007). The C18 Sep-Pak was sequentially conditioned with methanol (5 ml), and water (10 ml). The derivatized glycans dissolved in methanol were applied on the cartridge, washed with 3 $\times$ 5 ml water, 2 ml of 10% (v/v) acetonitrile in water and eluted with 3 ml of 80% (v/v) acetonitrile in water. Acetonitrile was evaporated under a stream of nitrogen and the samples were freeze-dried. MALDI-TOF-MS and electrospray MS/MS analyses of permethylated glycans were performed as described elsewhere (Morelle and Michalski, 2007).

### Linkage analysis

The permethylated *N*-glycans were hydrolyzed in 300  $\mu$ l of 4 M trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) at 100°C for 4 h. After removing TFA by drying *in vacuo*, the permethylated compounds were then reduced at room temperature overnight by adding 200  $\mu$ l of 2 M ammonia solution containing sodium borodeuteride (4 mg/ml). The reduction was terminated by adding acetic acid and borates were eliminated under a stream of nitrogen in the presence of methanol containing 5% (v/v) acetic acid. After adding 20  $\mu$ l of pyridine and 200  $\mu$ l of acetic anhydride, per-acetylation was carried out at 100°C for 2 h. After evaporation under a stream of nitrogen, the partially methylated alditol acetates (PMAAs) were dissolved in chloroform and the chloroform phase was washed 10 times with water. This PMAA-containing phase was finally dried under a stream of nitrogen and the PMAAs were dissolved in methanol before GC-MS analysis. GC separation of PMAAs was performed using a Carbo Erba GC 8000 gas chromatograph fitted with a 25 m $\times$ 0.32 mm CP-Sil5 CB Low bleed capillary column, 0.25  $\mu$ m film phase (Chrompack France, Les Ulis, France). The temperature of the Ross injector was 260°C. Samples were analyzed using a temperature program starting by a gradient of 2°C/min from 130°C to 180°C, after 2 min at 130°C, followed by a gradient of 4°C/min until 240°C. The column was coupled to a Finnigan Automass II mass spectrometer (Thermoquest, Les Ulis, France). Analyses were performed in the electron impact mode using ionization energy of 70 eV. Quantification of the various PMAA derivatives was carried out using total ion current of the MS detector in positive ion mode.

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