Introduction

A popular method for obtaining large amounts of a desired protein is to express the foreign gene in *Escherichia coli*. Glutathione S-transferase (GST) gene fusion systems have been widely used for this purpose. The overexpressed GST fusion protein, which contains a GST “tail,” can be purified from the bacterial lysate in a single step by affinity chromatography on glutathione agarose.1-7 To facilitate these studies, Molecular Probes has prepared a highly purified anti-GST IgG fraction that is especially designed for specific immuno-precipitation and immunodetection of GST fusion proteins from cell lysates. Anti-GST antibody can also be used for screening and selecting clones that express the gene encoding glutathione S-transferase. In addition to the unlabeled anti-GST antibody, we offer anti-GST labeled with our superior Alexa Fluor® 488 dye. The Alexa Fluor 488 fluorophore, which has excitation and emission maxima similar to fluorescein, yields conjugates that are brighter and more photostable than fluoro- rescin conjugates. We expect that the Alexa Fluor 488 dye–labeled anti-GST antibody will have great utility for determining the cellular location of GST and GST fusion proteins in *situ*.

Materials

Contents

Unlabeled Anti-GST

The unlabeled antibody is supplied in a unit size of 0.5 mL as a 3 mg/mL solution in phosphate buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.2, containing 5 mM sodium azide.

Abs/Em of A-11131: 495/519 nm

Alexa Fluor 488 Anti-GST Conjugate

The Alexa Fluor 488 conjugate of anti-GST is supplied in a unit size of 0.5 mL as a 2 mg/mL solution in 0.1 M sodium phosphate, 0.1 M NaCl, pH 7.5, containing 5 mM sodium azide.

Storage and Handling

These products are stable for at least three months when stored undiluted at 4°C. For longer storage, divide into aliquots and freeze at -20°C. AVOID REPEATED FREEZING AND THAWING. PROTECT THE ALEXA FLUOR 488 CONJUGATE FROM LIGHT.

Properties

The anti-GST antibody was raised in rabbit against GST isolated from *Schistosoma japonicum* and is determined to be >95% IgG by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.

The Alexa Fluor 488 dye–labeled anti-GST antibody is certified to be free of unconjugated dye and has absorption and fluorescence emission maxima of approximately 495 nm and 519 nm, respectively.

Applications

For Western blot analysis of GST fusion proteins, we recommend using a 1:300 to 1:600 dilution of the unlabeled anti-GST IgG. The labeled and unlabeled anti-GST antibodies are potentially useful for the detection of GST and GST fusion proteins in cells. Because protocols vary with application, the appropriate dilution of anti-GST should be determined empirically. It is a good practice to centrifuge the protein conjugate solution briefly in a microcentrifuge before use; only the supernatant should then be added to the experiment. This step will eliminate any protein aggregates that may have formed during storage, thereby reducing nonspecific background staining.
Labeled and Unlabeled Anti-Glutathione S–Transferase Antibodies

**Product List**  Current prices may be obtained from our Web site or from our Customer Service Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat #</th>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Unit Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-5800</td>
<td>anti-glutathione S-transferase, rabbit IgG fraction <em>3 mg/mL</em></td>
<td>0.5 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-11131</td>
<td>anti-glutathione S-transferase, rabbit IgG fraction, Alexa Fluor® 488 conjugate <em>2 mg/mL</em></td>
<td>0.5 mL</td>
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</tbody>
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**Contact Information**

Further information on Molecular Probes’ products, including product bibliographies, is available from your local distributor or directly from Molecular Probes. Customers in Europe, Africa and the Middle East should contact our office in Leiden, the Netherlands. All others should contact our Technical Assistance Department in Eugene, Oregon.

Please visit our Web site — [www.probes.com](http://www.probes.com) — for the most up-to-date information.

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**References**


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Introducing Glutathione Agarose, Linked through Sulfur

**Quick Facts**

**Storage upon receipt:**
- 4°C
- Do not freeze
- Protect from light

**Introduction**

A popular method for obtaining large amounts of a desired protein is to express the foreign gene in *Escherichia coli*. Glutathione S-transferase (GST) gene fusion systems have been widely used for this purpose. The overexpressed fusion protein, which contains a GST “tail,” may be purified from the bacterial lysate in a single step by affinity chromatography on glutathione agarose. Molecular Probes' glutathione agarose is especially designed for the purification of GST recombinant proteins and other glutathione-binding proteins (Figure 1). To aid researchers purifying GST-fusion proteins, Molecular Probes also offers a highly purified and high-titer anti-GST polyclonal IgG antibody (A-5800). This antibody can be used for the specific detection of GST-fusion proteins by Western blot before and after purification. We also offer this anti-GST antibody conjugated to our green-fluorescent Alexa Fluor® 488 dye (A-11131) for detection of GST-fusion proteins.

GST-fusion proteins are typically eluted from glutathione agarose with excess glutathione. Alternatively, the GST-fusion expression vector can be engineered to encode a recognition site for a specific protease, such as thrombin or factor Xa, between the GST structural gene and the gene of interest. Once the fusion protein is bound to the affinity matrix, the site-specific protease can be added to release the desired protein, leaving the GST bound to the matrix.

**Materials**

Molecular Probes' glutathione agarose consists of glutathione linked via the sulfur atom to crosslinked beaded agarose. Each mL of gel can bind approximately 5–6 mg bovine liver GST. Adding excess free glutathione liberates the GST fragment from the matrix, which can then be regenerated by washing with a high-salt buffer.

**Contents and Storage**

Glutathione agarose is provided in either a 10 mL or a 100 mL unit size as a sedimented bead suspension equilibrated in 10 mM potassium phosphate, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.2 (PBS), containing 2 mM sodium azide to inhibit bacterial growth. The material should be stored at 4°C, protected from light. DO NOT FREEZE. When stored properly, the product should remain stable for at least six months.

**Affinity Chromatography**

The following protocol briefly describes the methodology for affinity chromatography with glutathione agarose. It is intended as an introductory guide only and may need modification to suit particular experimental conditions and buffer systems.

1.1 After cell lysis, the sample must be centrifuged to remove any undissolved membranes and cellular debris before being applied to the column. Much of the fusion protein may be inadvertently discarded with the pellet in this step. If analysis of the pellet indicates the presence of a substantial amount of the desired protein, the fusion protein may often be recovered by resuspending the pellet in a solution comprising 1.5% N-lauroyl-sarcosine, 25 mM triethanolamine and 1 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, mixing for 10 minutes and then recentrifuging at 10,000 × g for 10 minutes at 4°C. Addition of Triton® X-100 to the supernatants may help to keep the fusion protein in solution.

1.2 Wash the column with 5–10 bed volumes of PBS to remove azide.
1.3 Equilibrate the gel bed with 3–5 bed volumes of PBS containing 1% Triton X-100.

1.4 Apply the appropriate amount of sample to the column. The flowthrough (and the wash fraction of step 1.5) may be collected as a control.

1.5 Wash the column with 10 bed volumes of PBS, or until no protein can be detected in the eluate.

1.6 Elute the bound proteins with 5 bed volumes of 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8, containing 5 mM glutathione (approximately 1.5 mg/mL glutathione) and collect the fractions.

1.7 If the gel is to be used again, it should be regenerated immediately after step 1.6 by washing the column with PBS containing 3 M NaCl. After thorough washing, the column should be equilibrated in PBS containing 2 mM sodium azide and stored at 4°C. Repeat step 1.2 prior to the next use.

References


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<td>0.5 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-2879</td>
<td>glutathione agarose, linked through sulfur &quot;sedimented bead suspension&quot;</td>
<td>10 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-21800</td>
<td>glutathione agarose, linked through sulfur &quot;sedimented bead suspension&quot; &quot;bulk packaging&quot;</td>
<td>100 mL</td>
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