

# 臺灣二〇〇三年國際科學展覽會

科 別：生物化學科

作品名稱：解開神秘果的奧秘-檸檬變柳丁的原因

得獎獎項：生物化學第一名

美國第五十四屆國際科技展覽會

學 校：國立臺中女子高級中學

作 者：吳佩珊

## 作者簡介



我現在就讀台中女中二年級，很喜歡參加比賽、活動，像是即席演說、相聲、歌唱、或是科展、科學趣味競賽等等。倒不是爲了得獎或什麼「要有些收穫」的目的，我只是很純粹的喜歡參加比賽，不想讓自己的生活淹沒在考試和書本中，除了念書之外就一無所有而已。我希望自己的生活是多采多姿的。這次能參加國際科展，真的積聚了太多太多人的幫忙及緣分！我感激交大的許千樹教授、李耀坤教授、心怡學姊、衷核學長，還有聖果農場林美玲小姐的鼎力相助！沒有你們幫忙，我不可能辦到這一切！

# 研究報告

## 摘要

原產於西非的「神秘果」，嘗了之後，30~200 分內，所有酸苦的東西嘗起來都是甜的。

在深入蒐集相關資料後，我們發現神秘果有多種特殊效果，僅擷取以下幾種感興趣之方向來研究。〈1〉使酸苦的感覺變甜〈2〉解酒〈3〉消除蚊蟲叮咬之腫、癢〈4〉抗氧化能力極強。用食鹽水可萃取出 miraculin 這種醣蛋白，經由生化實驗，推測使酸味變甜為其 cover 舌尖甜味蕾之結果，分子量約為 40000 左右；但在檢測過程中，發現對咖啡、黃連和肉桂，都沒有太顯著的效果，只有酸味有顯著的改變，和以往所閱讀的研究報告有出入，因此懷疑有氧化還原等其他化學效果，將再做深一層研究。消除蚊蟲叮咬之腫癢的成分確定為小分子所致。經由 Prolox 當量測定法檢測神秘果抗氧化能力數值高達 4974g/nmol，比一般中草藥及蔬菜多 3000 左右。

使酸變甜的原因若深入研究對糖尿病患者和減肥者都是一大福音，塗抹蚊蟲叮咬藥膏也可用天然物質製作，而抗氧化能力高更對人體健康有所幫助。當台灣已大量栽植，相對於日本及美國因地寒而無法培育成功，神秘果研究可成為另一項產業發展契機。

## Abstract

"Miracle fruit" is a fruit from West Africa. Though it's not sweet itself, if you eat anything that is sour or bitter after eating miracle fruit, the taste will turn sweet. After researching further material, we discovered that there are many amazing functions in miracle fruit, and decided to pick up some of which to study. (1) Turning the sour and bitter tastes into sweetness (2) Relieving alcohol (3) Relieving the hurt from mosquitoes and bugs (4) An excellent antioxidant. We can extract the miraculin that changes the taste from NaCl (aq), and through the biological experiment, we guess that's because miraculin covers the sweet sensor. The molecular weight of miraculin is about 40000. According to the experiment, we found out that miraculin doesn't have a great effect on the taste other than sourness, such as the bitterness of black coffee, *Coptis chinensis*, and cinnamon. . It is much more different from the former report we read. So we doubt that there are some other reactions. The thing, which relieves the hurt from mosquitoes and bugs, are sure to be a simple molecule, not a protein. By the Prolox equivalent weight experiment, we found that the ability of antioxidation got to 4974g/nmol, which is much higher than the normal vegetables and fruits.

The effect of taste changing is really good news for diabetics and weight reducers. And the medicine can also be made by natural material. The excellent antioxidation is helpful for our health, too. Since Japan and America cannot grow the miracle fruit because of the cold weather, developing the functions of miracle fruit seems to be another chance for Taiwan to stand out in the world.

## 一、前言

### （一）研究動機

#### 1.緣起：

基礎化學中提到「人工甜味」物質，例如阿斯巴甜之甜度為蔗糖的 180 倍，糖精為 300 倍。而老師在上課的時候，曾提到一種產於西非地區的植物果實，「**神秘果**」，嘗了之後，30 分到 200 分鐘內，所有酸苦的東西嘗起來都是甜的。當時聽了極感興趣，便進一步翻查相關文獻資料，意外發現神秘果中許多神秘的特殊的功能和人體息息相關，對人體有極大助益，但原因卻神秘未知，因此想從事相關研究，萃取神秘果的化學成分，以解開神秘果之謎。

#### 2.神秘果簡介：

〈1〉學 名：*Synsepalum dulcificum* Denill

〈2〉俗 名：神秘果 (Miracle Fruit)

〈3〉原產地：西非

〈4〉可將酸澀的水果轉化成甜美的口感，此種效果可保持 30~200 分鐘。

〈5〉食用方法：拔除蒂頭→整顆放入口中→咬破果皮→咀嚼→充分翻滾 2-3 分鐘→滲入舌頭的味蕾和口腔內壁細胞→吐出種子

\* 神秘果之圖片請見附錄

#### 3.蚊蟲叮咬

在果園的農民平常飽受蚊蟲叮咬之苦，隨手摘下果園中結實累累的神秘果隨意塗抹，發現其果汁有清涼效果，還能消炎消腫，在 1-2 小時間及完全復原，且不會有麻癢的感覺。

### （二）研究目的

因為對神秘果產生了興趣，上網檢索，發現許多美國及日本教授做了一些相關的研究，但仍有一些謎題尚未解開，因此想再既有的基礎上做更深一步的探討，分析神秘果內各種化學成分，看看前述的成分是否相同，找出其原因何在。而美國和日本因地處溫帶或寒帶，神秘果樹無法生長，但在台灣卻已成功培植出幾萬棵神秘果樹，且生長良好，倘若能分析出其中對人體有益的成分，可以幫助我們吃下某些對人體有助益卻難以入口的食物，或在醫療上有所貢獻，在世界上有其經濟價值，可以成為台灣的另一商業契機。主要的研究方向有以下幾點：

- 1.分析純化出台灣種的神秘果素(Miraculin)，並測試其對各種不同味覺所產生的改變效果差別，是否如期刊 *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta*,1079(1991) 303-307 中寫的，也為一種醣蛋白。
- 2.朝基因轉殖方向發展，也許能發展出種植甜的檸檬的技術，使我們能輕鬆吃檸檬並吸收大量的維他命 C。
- 3.分析純化出消炎止痛之成分，是否為相同之醣蛋白。

## 二、研究想法及方法

### （一）研究想法

神秘果為可食用的水果，因為可以感覺到甜味，表示其成分可能為水溶性的，應可利用水溶液將其萃取出來；而此種成分關係到人的味覺，所以不能用一般的化學實驗方式測試結果。即當發現某種成分因反應失去了，也不能證明其為使酸味變甜的物質。所以將採用人體實驗的方式，親自去測試萃取出來的物質，是否有活性。

實驗比照以前美國、日本教授所做過的相關研究，修改其實驗過程，萃取出實驗用的醣蛋白，並測試其他報告中所不曾提過的味道，以找出真正神秘果使酸變甜的原因。另外，再以一些初步的實驗，檢測蚊蟲叮咬、抗氧化等成分的特性，確定其是否為同樣的蛋白質。

### （二）實驗步驟

#### 〈初步實驗--甜味部分〉

#### 1.確定分子(Miraculin)之性質，及其改變各種味道之程度

〈1〉材料：神秘果、檸檬片、黑咖啡、黃連粉、肉桂粉、無糖綠茶

〈2〉步驟：

- 1.嘗原味(檸檬片、黑咖啡、黃連粉、肉桂粉、無糖綠茶)
- 2.吃半顆神秘果。
- 3.分“剛吃”、“十分”、“三十分”檢測味覺之改變。
- 4.煮熟半顆神秘果(3—5 分)。
- 5.重複 2.3.之步驟，檢測其效果是否相同。
- 6.無法改變味覺—大分子  
可以改變味覺—小分子

## 〈初步實驗—蚊蟲叮咬〉

### 確定此成分之性質及效果

- 〈1〉 將粉末 1g 加水稀釋至 10mL，還原至近似於原本之果汁。
- 〈2〉 塗抹於蚊蟲叮咬之部位，觀察其 1~2 小時內之效果。
- 〈3〉 另配〈1〉之溶液一次，加熱至 100°C，放冷後再塗抹於另一處蚊蟲叮咬之部位視其效果。
- 〈4〉 若皆有消炎止癢之效—小分子；步驟〈2〉有而〈3〉無—可能為蛋白質等大分子

## 〈純化 miraculin〉(此實驗均需於 4°C 以下進行)

### 1. 萃取神秘果素〈Extraction of miraculin〉

- 〈1〉 取 3g 粉末〈由聖果農場冷凍乾縮果汁後的粉末〉置於 30ml 水中均勻震盪 2 分鐘。
- 〈2〉 將此均勻液體離心 4°C，13000rpm，30 分鐘。
- 〈3〉 將含粉紅色懸浮物（無甜味誘導性質的）的上層液丟棄。
- 〈4〉 仿照〈2〉〈3〉以清水將沈澱物完全的洗淨，使看起來呈白色，無任何紅色懸浮物殘留。
- 〈5〉 加入 0.5M 的 NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub> 18ml，均勻震盪 2 分鐘，並放於冰箱中萃取過夜。
- 〈6〉 隔天將此均勻液體以 4°C，13000rpm 離心 30 分。
- 〈7〉 將上澄清液(有高甜味誘導活性)收集起來，此收集後的溶液為無色且 pH=4(第一次萃取)。
- 〈8〉 仿照〈5〉~〈7〉再對沉澱物作 2 次 NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub> 萃取，即可得含 miraculin 的 NaCl<sub>(aq)</sub>

### 2. 銨鹽沉澱—分離蛋白質

- 〈1〉 將 1.—〈7〉的上澄清液至於冰浴中，加入硫酸銨至 50%的飽和度(即每公升加入 314 克硫酸銨)，在 4°C 下分次緩緩加入並攪拌(冰浴中進行)，至硫酸銨完全溶解後，並多攪拌 30 分鐘使蛋白質完全鹽析出。
- 〈2〉 以 13000×g 轉速離心 40 分鐘至沉澱物與上層液完全分開，丟棄上層液，沉澱物即為蛋白質，加入最少的無菌水完全溶解蛋白質，於 4°C 冰存。



### 3.除鹽〈爲了防止蛋白質在濃度過高的鹽中變形分解，將蛋白質除鹽可保存較久〉：

- 〈1〉 2.〈2〉之沉澱後的蛋白質以 Mini-Q 水溶解。
- 〈2〉 將溶液導入預先以 Mini-Q 水平衡之除鹽管柱(desalting columne) 中去除鹽類(以 Mini-Q 水約 18 毫升洗 Desalting column)。
- 〈3〉 將 3.〈1〉之 1.5mL 溶解液體，注入 Desalting column 中，然後注入 2mL 的水將液體流洗出來，收集於試管中。

### 4.純化 miraculin—利用 FPLC 進行 HiTrap SP 陽離子交換樹脂管柱的層析

- 〈1〉 除鹽過後 3.之〈1〉溶液導入預先以磷酸鈉緩衝液( $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4(\text{aq})0.005\text{M} + \text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4(\text{aq})0.005\text{M}$ )平衡 HiTrap SP 陽離子交換樹脂，進行層析分離。
- 〈2〉 以流速 2mL/min，NaCl 梯度爲 0mM~1000mM。
- 〈3〉 收集方式爲每管收集 2mL 流出液。
- 〈4〉 收集完畢後，則以下節活性測試方法測各管活性。

### 〈檢測純化 miraculin 之特性〉

#### 1.酸味→甜味檢測

- 〈1〉 配置 0.1M 檸檬酸水溶液 250mL。
- 〈2〉 將 FPLC 圖中  $\text{OD}_{280}$  檢測有吸收峰〈蛋白質上苯環結構造成〉的部分取出測試。
- 〈3〉 先嘗檸檬酸水溶液，再將 200ul 的試液滴於舌尖 1 分鐘後，然後嘗檸檬酸水溶液 200ul，視其是否改變味覺。
- 〈4〉 確定爲所找尋之蛋白質之後，仿上述萃取純化之步驟，以 20g 粉末萃取出較大量之蛋白質，再作檢測。
- 〈5〉 配置 0.1M~1.0M 之蔗糖水溶液共十瓶，在〈4〉之後嘗 200ul，視其甜度約分布於何種濃度之間，而得其相對活性。

#### 2.SDS PAGE 電泳測定分子量

SDS-PAGE 決定法原理：

- 〈1〉 量測各蛋白質標準品的相對移動距離，相對移動距離的定義是自電泳跑到終點線為原點，與到各蛋白質帶的中心之直線距離。
- 〈2〉 同法量測預測蛋白質的相對移動距離。
- 〈3〉 以各蛋白質標準品的相對移動距離對分子量的對數值作圖，舉分子量與預測蛋白質相鄰的二個蛋白質標準品為標準，內插求欲測蛋白質分子量。

#### 方法：

- 〈1〉 製作 stacking gel 為 7%，running gel 為 17.5%之電泳膠片，規格為 10cm\*7.4cm\*1mm。
- 〈2〉 各步驟純化之蛋白質溶液、與 FPLC 純化過產生 peak 的試管溶液取適量與適量 Sample loading buffer (5uL 0.1% bromophenol blue) 混合後，在 100 °C 水浴中 2 分鐘，置入電泳膠片上端之樣品槽。
- 〈3〉 以 150 伏特固定電壓，Tris-glycine running buffer 的系統通電約 1.5~2 小時。
- 〈2〉 將膠片取出，浸泡於適量 stain 溶液中(醋酸 200mL、異丙醇 500mL、0.6g comassie blue、水 1.3L)1~2 小時後，換成 destain 顯影，觀測其結果。

### 3.檢測 miraculin 之含量及其分布

- 〈1〉 測以水、食鹽水萃取、鉍鹽沉澱後等各步驟之水溶液，以 1.的方式檢測是否有 miraculin 之存在。

### 4.測試 miraculin 對各種不同的味覺改變之效果

- 〈1〉 用黑咖啡、黃連粉、肉桂粉、無糖綠茶、胡椒粉作實驗。
- 〈2〉 以 2.中測出有反應之試液檢測黑咖啡、黃連粉、肉桂粉、無糖綠茶。

### 三、研究結果及討論

#### 〈一〉研究結果

##### 〈初步實驗-甜味部分〉

1. 神秘果本身嘗起來酸味頗重，有一種水果的清香，但幾乎吃不出什麼甜味。

2. 食用各種食物之效果：

食物 \ 時間	剛吃	10 分鐘後	30 分鐘後
檸檬片—約 1cm 薄片 (極酸，嘴角差點破皮)	非常明顯的變甜，有點像葡萄柚的味道。	可以感覺到一些酸味，甜味不似之前重。	還有一點甜，但效力已很薄弱。
黑咖啡—20c.c. (非常的苦，偶而有酸味後勁)	咖啡的酸味還在，但比較不苦，有一絲甜，較易入口。	比剛吃時苦一些，但快感覺不出有甜味。	越來越苦，但比未吃時仍好一些。
黃連粉—水溶液 20c.c. (非常非常的苦！)	沒有太大改變，仍會嘗到苦味，也不太有甜味感。	就像是本來的黃連粉一樣。	就像是本來的黃連粉一樣。
肉桂粉--水溶液 20c.c. (肉桂的味道)	肉桂的味道很濃，不太有什麼改變。	就像是本來的肉桂粉一樣。	就像是本來的肉桂粉一樣。
無糖綠茶—20c.c. (微澀，不甜，有回甘)	喝起來像是含糖綠茶，但並非糖水，仍有茶味。	比剛吃時不甜，但仍比未吃時好多了。	慢慢無甜味，回到無糖綠茶的感覺。

3. 若用沸水煮過，神秘果吃起來更酸，有一種變質的味道，且無上列表格的效果，顯示食物並未發生改變，而此種欺騙味蕾的物質必為大分子〈蛋白質〉，顯示必須朝向抽取蛋白質邁進。

4. 若用神秘果直接浸入檸檬汁等溶液中，反而無效，並不能有變甜之功用。

##### 〈初步實驗—蚊蟲叮咬〉

1. 效果：擦起來涼涼的，無果汁的黏膩感，且在 1 小時內不癢不痛，紅腫自然慢慢褪去。

2. 煮沸放涼後：塗抹仍有其效果，和 1. 所示差不多，證明其為小分子，不受溫度影響而變性。

## 〈萃取純化 miraculin〉

### 1. 萃取

- 〈1〉 用水萃取後溶液成淡粉紅色，有些白色、淡紅色懸浮物，聞起來有果香。
- 〈2〉 以食鹽水萃取可萃出大部分之 miraculin，期刊上說三次加起來約可得 98% 以上的萃取量。

2. 鉍鹽沉澱離心之後有極少的沉澱物，需用最少量倍數的水(1.5mL 之整數倍)予以溶解。

3. 除鹽後混濁液轉為澄清，以味覺測試步驟檢測確有其活性。

### 4. 純化 miraculin

- 〈1〉 由 FPLC 之圖中，分離時間 80 分鐘，收集 80 管，於 6-10、28-34 間有明顯大 UV 吸收，取出檢測其是否有活性。
- 〈35 管〉 4-6，23-24 間有明顯大 peak，需取出檢測。
- 〈80 管〉 10-12，28-34 間有明顯大 peak，需取出檢測。

## 〈檢測 miraculin 之特性〉

### 1. FPLC 圖中 OD<sub>280</sub> 檢測數據〈供參考〉

mira1_ConcB_01		mira1_M1_UV_280nm_01		
min	%	min	AU	
0.000	0.000000	0.000	0.001000	
0.320	0.000000	0.320	0.001000	
0.640	0.000000	0.640	0.000900	
0.960	0.000000	0.960	0.001100	
1.280	0.000000	1.280	0.001200	
1.600	0.000000	1.600	0.001100	
1.920	0.000000	1.920	0.001000	
2.240	0.000000	2.240	0.001000	
2.560	0.000000	2.560	0.001100	
2.880	0.000000	2.880	0.001300	
3.200	0.000000	3.200	0.001500	
3.520	0.000000	3.520	0.001600	

3.840	0.000000	3.840	0.001400	
4.160	0.000000	4.160	0.001300	
4.480	0.000000	4.480	0.001200	
4.800	0.000000	4.800	0.001100	
5.120	0.000000	5.120	0.001000	
5.440	0.000000	5.440	0.001000	
5.760	0.000000	5.760	0.001000	
6.080	0.000000	6.080	0.001000	
6.400	0.000000	6.400	0.001000	
6.720	0.000000	6.720	0.001000	
7.040	0.000000	7.040	0.001000	
7.360	0.000000	7.360	0.000900	
7.680	0.000000	7.680	0.000900	
8.000	0.000000	8.000	0.000900	
8.320	0.000000	8.320	0.000900	
8.640	0.000000	8.640	0.000900	
8.960	0.000000	8.960	0.000900	
9.280	0.000000	9.280	0.000900	
9.600	0.000000	9.600	0.000900	
9.920	0.000000	9.920	0.000900	
10.240	0.000000	10.240	0.000900	
10.560	0.000000	10.560	0.000900	
10.880	0.000000	10.880	0.000800	
11.200	0.000000	11.200	0.000800	
11.520	0.000000	11.520	0.000800	
11.840	0.000000	11.840	0.000800	
12.160	0.000000	12.160	0.000800	
12.480	0.000000	12.480	0.000800	
12.800	0.000000	12.800	0.000800	
13.120	0.000000	13.120	0.000700	
13.440	0.000000	13.440	0.000700	
13.760	0.000000	13.760	0.000700	
14.080	0.000000	14.080	0.000700	
14.400	0.000000	14.400	0.000700	
14.720	0.000000	14.720	0.000700	

15.040	0.600000	15.040	0.000700	
15.360	3.700000	15.360	0.000700	
15.680	7.000000	15.680	0.000700	
16.000	10.200000	16.000	0.000600	
16.320	13.300000	16.320	0.000600	
16.640	16.600000	16.640	0.000600	
16.960	19.700000	16.960	0.000600	
17.280	22.900000	17.280	0.000600	
17.600	26.100000	17.600	0.000600	
17.920	29.300000	17.920	0.000600	
18.240	32.500000	18.240	0.000600	
18.560	35.800000	18.560	0.000600	
18.880	38.900000	18.880	0.000500	
19.200	42.100000	19.200	0.000500	
19.520	45.300000	19.520	0.000400	
19.840	48.600000	19.840	0.000300	
20.160	51.800000	20.160	0.000300	
20.480	54.900000	20.480	0.000300	
20.800	58.200000	20.800	0.000500	
21.120	61.300000	21.120	0.000900	
21.440	64.500000	21.440	0.001600	
21.760	67.700000	21.760	0.002700	
22.080	70.900000	22.080	0.003800	
22.400	74.200000	22.400	0.003900	
22.720	77.300000	22.720	0.003000	
23.040	80.500000	23.040	0.001900	
23.360	83.700000	23.360	0.001000	
23.680	86.900000	23.680	0.000500	
24.000	90.100000	24.000	0.000200	
24.320	93.300000	24.320	-0.000100	
24.640	96.600000	24.640	-0.000200	
24.960	99.700000	24.960	-0.000300	
25.280	100.000000	25.280	-0.000400	
25.600	100.000000	25.600	-0.000500	
25.920	100.000000	25.920	-0.000600	

26.240 100.000000	26.240 -0.000700	
26.560 100.000000	26.560 -0.000700	
26.880 100.000000	26.880 -0.000800	
27.200 100.000000	27.200 -0.000800	
27.520 100.000000	27.520 -0.000900	
27.840 100.000000	27.840 -0.000900	
28.160 100.000000	28.160 -0.001000	
28.480 100.000000	28.480 -0.001100	
28.800 100.000000	28.800 -0.001100	
29.120 100.000000	29.120 -0.001100	
29.440 100.000000	29.440 -0.001300	
29.760 100.000000	29.760 -0.001200	
30.080 100.000000	30.080 -0.001200	
30.400 100.000000	30.400 -0.001200	
30.720 100.000000	30.720 -0.001200	
31.040 100.000000	31.040 -0.001200	
31.360 100.000000	31.360 -0.001200	
31.680 100.000000	31.680 -0.001300	
32.000 100.000000	32.000 -0.001200	
32.320 100.000000	32.320 -0.001300	
32.640 100.000000	32.640 -0.001300	
32.960 100.000000	32.960 -0.001300	
33.280 100.000000	33.280 -0.001300	
33.600 100.000000	33.600 -0.001300	
33.920 100.000000	33.920 -0.001300	
34.240 100.000000	34.240 -0.001300	
34.560 100.000000	34.560 -0.001400	
34.880 100.000000	34.880 -0.001400	

mira_2_ConcB_01		mira_2_M1_UV_280nm_01		
min		min		
%		AU		
0.000	0.000000	0.000	0.000000	

0.640	0.000000	0.640	-0.000100	
1.280	0.000000	1.280	-0.000100	
1.920	0.000000	1.920	0.000000	
2.560	0.000000	2.560	0.000100	
3.200	0.000000	3.200	0.000100	
3.840	0.000000	3.840	0.000200	
4.480	0.000000	4.480	0.000400	
5.120	0.000000	5.120	0.000700	
5.760	0.000000	5.760	0.001100	
6.400	0.000000	6.400	0.001500	
7.040	0.000000	7.040	0.001900	
7.680	0.000000	7.680	0.001900	
8.320	0.000000	8.320	0.001600	
8.960	0.000000	8.960	0.001400	
9.600	0.000000	9.600	0.000900	
10.240	0.430000	10.240	0.000700	
10.880	1.480000	10.880	0.000500	
11.520	2.540000	11.520	0.000400	
12.160	3.630000	12.160	0.000200	
12.800	4.680000	12.800	0.000100	
13.440	5.740000	13.440	0.000100	
14.080	6.810000	14.080	0.000100	
14.720	7.860000	14.720	0.000000	
15.360	8.940000	15.360	0.000000	
16.000	10.010000	16.000	0.000000	
16.640	11.080000	16.640	0.000000	
17.280	12.160000	17.280	0.000000	
17.920	13.230000	17.920	0.000000	
18.560	14.280000	18.560	0.000000	
19.200	15.340000	19.200	-0.000100	
19.840	16.410000	19.840	-0.000100	
20.480	17.460000	20.480	-0.000100	
21.120	18.540000	21.120	-0.000100	
21.760	19.630000	21.760	0.000000	
22.400	20.680000	22.400	0.000000	
23.040	21.760000	23.040	0.000000	
23.680	22.830000	23.680	0.000000	



24.320	23.890000	24.320	0.000100	
24.960	24.960000	24.960	0.000100	
25.600	26.030000	25.600	0.000400	
26.240	27.090000	26.240	0.000600	
26.880	28.160000	26.880	0.000600	
27.520	29.210000	27.520	0.000800	
28.160	30.290000	28.160	0.001000	
28.800	31.360000	28.800	0.001300	
29.440	32.430000	29.440	0.001600	
30.080	33.480000	30.080	0.001900	
30.720	34.560000	30.720	0.001900	
31.360	35.630000	31.360	0.001800	
32.000	36.690000	32.000	0.001600	
32.640	37.760000	32.640	0.001100	
33.280	38.830000	33.280	0.000800	
33.920	39.890000	33.920	0.000500	
34.560	40.960000	34.560	0.000300	
35.200	42.030000	35.200	0.000200	
35.840	43.110000	35.840	0.000100	
36.480	44.160000	36.480	0.000000	
37.120	45.240000	37.120	-0.000100	
37.760	46.310000	37.760	-0.000200	
38.400	47.380000	38.400	-0.000300	
39.040	48.440000	39.040	-0.000300	
39.680	49.510000	39.680	-0.000300	
40.320	50.580000	40.320	-0.000400	
40.960	51.640000	40.960	-0.000400	
41.600	52.710000	41.600	-0.000400	
42.240	53.760000	42.240	-0.000400	
42.880	54.830000	42.880	-0.000400	
43.520	55.910000	43.520	-0.000200	
44.160	56.960000	44.160	-0.000400	
44.800	58.040000	44.800	-0.000300	
45.440	59.110000	45.440	-0.000400	
46.080	60.180000	46.080	-0.000400	
46.720	61.240000	46.720	-0.000500	
47.360	62.310000	47.360	-0.000600	

48.000	63.380000	48.000	-0.000600	
48.640	64.440000	48.640	-0.000600	
49.280	65.510000	49.280	-0.000700	
49.920	66.560000	49.920	-0.000700	
50.560	67.630000	50.560	-0.000700	
51.200	68.710000	51.200	-0.000700	
51.840	69.780000	51.840	-0.000800	
52.480	70.840000	52.480	-0.000800	
53.120	71.910000	53.120	-0.000800	
53.760	72.980000	53.760	-0.000800	
54.400	74.040000	54.400	-0.000800	
55.040	75.110000	55.040	-0.000900	
55.680	76.160000	55.680	-0.000900	
56.320	77.240000	56.320	-0.000900	
56.960	78.310000	56.960	-0.000900	
57.600	79.360000	57.600	-0.000600	
58.240	80.440000	58.240	-0.000800	
58.880	81.510000	58.880	-0.000800	
59.520	82.580000	59.520	-0.000900	
60.160	83.660000	60.160	-0.000900	
60.800	84.720000	60.800	-0.001000	
61.440	85.770000	61.440	-0.001100	
62.080	86.820000	62.080	-0.001100	
62.720	87.910000	62.720	-0.001200	
63.360	88.990000	63.360	-0.001200	
64.000	90.040000	64.000	-0.001200	
64.640	91.110000	64.640	-0.001200	
65.280	92.190000	65.280	-0.001200	
65.920	93.260000	65.920	-0.001300	
66.560	94.320000	66.560	-0.001300	
67.200	95.410000	67.200	-0.001300	
67.840	96.460000	67.840	-0.001300	
68.480	97.520000	68.480	-0.001000	
69.120	98.590000	69.120	-0.001200	
69.760	99.660000	69.760	-0.001200	
70.400	100.000000	70.400	-0.001300	
71.040	100.000000	71.040	-0.001400	

71.680 100.000000	71.680 -0.001400	
72.320 100.000000	72.320 -0.001400	
72.960 100.000000	72.960 -0.001400	
73.600 100.000000	73.600 -0.001400	
74.240 100.000000	74.240 -0.001500	
74.880 100.000000	74.880 -0.001500	
75.520 100.000000	75.520 -0.001500	
76.160 100.000000	76.160 -0.001500	
76.800 100.000000	76.800 -0.001500	
77.440 100.000000	77.440 -0.001500	
78.080 100.000000	78.080 -0.001400	
78.720 100.000000	78.720 -0.001500	
79.360 100.000000	79.360 -0.001500	

mira_3_ConcB_01		mira_3_M1_UV_280nm_01		
min		min		
%		AU		
0.000	0.000000	0.000	-0.001200	
0.640	0.000000	0.656	-0.001000	
1.280	0.000000	1.312	-0.001100	
1.920	0.000000	1.968	-0.001100	
2.560	0.000000	2.624	0.000600	
3.200	0.000000	3.280	0.001000	
3.840	0.000000	3.936	-0.000500	
4.480	0.000000	4.592	-0.000800	
5.120	0.000000	5.248	-0.000500	
5.760	0.000000	5.904	-0.000100	
6.400	0.000000	6.560	0.000300	
7.040	0.000000	7.216	0.001000	
7.680	0.000000	7.872	0.001500	
8.320	0.000000	8.528	0.000700	
8.960	0.000000	9.184	-0.000100	

9.600	0.000000	9.840	-0.000600	
10.240	0.390000	10.496	-0.000800	
10.880	1.480000	11.152	-0.000900	
11.520	2.530000	11.808	-0.000900	
12.160	3.590000	12.464	-0.001000	
12.800	4.680000	13.120	-0.001000	
13.440	5.730000	13.776	-0.001000	
14.080	6.810000	14.432	-0.001000	
14.720	7.860000	15.088	-0.001000	
15.360	8.930000	15.744	-0.001000	
16.000	10.010000	16.400	-0.001000	
16.640	11.060000	17.056	-0.001000	
17.280	12.140000	17.712	-0.001000	
17.920	13.190000	18.368	-0.000900	
18.560	14.280000	19.024	-0.001000	
19.200	15.330000	19.680	-0.000900	
19.840	16.390000	20.336	-0.000900	
20.480	17.480000	20.992	-0.000800	
21.120	18.530000	21.648	-0.000700	
21.760	19.590000	22.304	-0.000500	
22.400	20.660000	22.960	-0.000500	
23.040	21.730000	23.616	-0.000500	
23.680	22.790000	24.272	-0.000600	
24.320	23.860000	24.928	-0.000600	
24.960	24.930000	25.584	-0.000500	
25.600	25.990000	26.240	-0.000100	
26.240	27.080000	26.896	0.000000	
26.880	28.130000	27.552	-0.000100	
27.520	29.190000	28.208	-0.000100	
28.160	30.280000	28.864	-0.000100	
28.800	31.330000	29.520	-0.000100	
29.440	32.410000	30.176	0.000000	
30.080	33.460000	30.832	0.000000	
30.720	34.530000	31.488	-0.000100	
31.360	35.590000	32.144	-0.000100	
32.000	36.660000	32.800	-0.000300	
32.640	37.740000	33.456	-0.000400	

33.280	38.790000	34.112	-0.000600	
33.920	39.880000	34.768	-0.000700	
34.560	40.940000	35.424	-0.000700	
35.200	42.010000	36.080	-0.000700	
35.840	43.080000	36.736	-0.000700	
36.480	44.160000	37.392	-0.000800	
37.120	45.210000	38.048	-0.000900	
37.760	46.280000	38.704	-0.001000	
38.400	47.340000	39.360	-0.001100	
39.040	48.430000	40.016	-0.001100	
39.680	49.480000	40.672	-0.001200	
40.320	50.560000	41.328	-0.001200	
40.960	51.610000	41.984	-0.001200	
41.600	52.680000	42.640	-0.001200	
42.240	53.760000	43.296	-0.001200	
42.880	54.810000	43.952	-0.001200	
43.520	55.890000	44.608	-0.001200	
44.160	56.940000	45.264	-0.001200	
44.800	58.010000	45.920	-0.001200	
45.440	59.080000	46.576	-0.001300	
46.080	60.140000	47.232	-0.001300	
46.720	61.210000	47.888	-0.001300	
47.360	62.280000	48.544	-0.001300	
48.000	63.360000	49.200	-0.001300	
48.640	64.410000	49.856	-0.001300	
49.280	65.480000	50.512	-0.001300	
49.920	66.560000	51.168	-0.001300	
50.560	67.610000	51.824	-0.001300	
51.200	68.690000	52.480	-0.001200	
51.840	69.740000	53.136	-0.001300	
52.480	70.810000	53.792	-0.001300	
53.120	71.880000	54.448	-0.001300	
53.760	72.940000	55.104	-0.001300	
54.400	74.010000	55.760	-0.001400	
55.040	75.080000	56.416	-0.001400	
55.680	76.130000	57.072	-0.001400	
56.320	77.210000	57.728	-0.001500	

56.960	78.280000	58.384	-0.001500	
57.600	79.340000	59.040	-0.001500	
58.240	80.410000	59.696	-0.001500	
58.880	81.490000	60.352	-0.001500	
59.520	82.540000	61.008	-0.001500	
60.160	83.590000	61.664	-0.001600	
60.800	84.670000	62.320	-0.001400	
61.440	85.740000	62.976	-0.001600	
62.080	86.810000	63.632	-0.001600	
62.720	87.870000	64.288	-0.001300	
63.360	88.960000	64.944	-0.001400	
64.000	90.010000	65.600	-0.001500	
64.640	91.090000	66.256	-0.001600	
65.280	92.160000	66.912	-0.001600	
65.920	93.240000	67.568	-0.001600	
66.560	94.310000	68.224	-0.001700	
67.200	95.360000	68.880	-0.001700	
67.840	96.440000	69.536	-0.001700	
68.480	97.510000	70.192	-0.001700	
69.120	98.570000	70.848	-0.001700	
69.760	99.640000	71.504	-0.001700	
70.400	100.000000	72.160	-0.001700	
71.040	100.000000	72.816	-0.001700	
71.680	100.000000	73.472	-0.001800	
72.320	100.000000	74.128	-0.001700	
72.960	100.000000	74.784	-0.001700	
73.600	100.000000	75.440	-0.001800	
74.240	100.000000	76.096	-0.001800	
74.880	100.000000	76.752	-0.001800	
75.520	100.000000	77.408	-0.001800	
76.160	100.000000	78.064	-0.001800	
76.800	100.000000	78.720	-0.001800	
77.440	100.000000	79.376	-0.001900	
78.080	100.000000			
78.720	100.000000			
79.360	100.000000			

mira4_ConcB_01		mira4_M1_UV_280nm_01		
min %		min AU		
0.000	0.000000	0.000	-0.000700	
0.640	0.000000	0.640	-0.000600	
1.280	0.000000	1.280	-0.000300	
1.920	0.000000	1.920	0.000550	
2.560	0.000000	2.560	0.000700	
3.200	0.000000	3.200	0.000450	
3.840	0.000000	3.840	-0.000100	
4.480	0.000000	4.480	-0.000150	
5.120	0.000000	5.120	0.000050	
5.760	0.000000	5.760	0.000350	
6.400	0.000000	6.400	0.000700	
7.040	0.000000	7.040	0.000800	
7.680	0.000000	7.680	0.000600	
8.320	0.000000	8.320	0.000100	
8.960	0.000000	8.960	-0.000250	
9.600	0.000000	9.600	-0.000500	
10.240	0.000000	10.240	-0.000600	
10.880	0.000000	10.880	-0.000600	
11.520	0.000000	11.520	-0.000700	
12.160	0.000000	12.160	-0.000650	
12.800	0.000000	12.800	-0.000650	
13.440	0.000000	13.440	-0.000700	
14.080	0.000000	14.080	-0.000700	
14.720	0.000000	14.720	-0.000700	
15.360	0.610000	15.360	-0.000700	
16.000	1.680000	16.000	-0.000700	
16.640	2.740000	16.640	-0.000750	
17.280	3.810000	17.280	-0.000700	
17.920	4.880000	17.920	-0.000700	
18.560	5.930000	18.560	-0.000750	
19.200	7.010000	19.200	-0.000700	
19.840	8.080000	19.840	-0.000700	

20.480	9.140000	20.480	-0.000700	
21.120	10.210000	21.120	-0.000700	
21.760	11.260000	21.760	-0.000700	
22.400	12.340000	22.400	-0.000700	
23.040	13.410000	23.040	-0.000750	
23.680	14.480000	23.680	-0.000750	
24.320	15.540000	24.320	-0.000700	
24.960	16.590000	24.960	-0.000650	
25.600	17.680000	25.600	-0.000500	
26.240	18.740000	26.240	-0.000350	
26.880	19.810000	26.880	-0.000250	
27.520	20.860000	27.520	-0.000250	
28.160	21.940000	28.160	-0.000150	
28.800	23.030000	28.800	-0.000200	
29.440	24.080000	29.440	-0.000150	
30.080	25.140000	30.080	-0.000050	
30.720	26.210000	30.720	0.000600	
31.360	27.280000	31.360	0.001400	
32.000	28.340000	32.000	0.001400	
32.640	29.410000	32.640	0.001600	
33.280	30.490000	33.280	0.002250	
33.920	31.540000	33.920	0.002900	
34.560	32.610000	34.560	0.003600	
35.200	33.680000	35.200	0.004450	
35.840	34.740000	35.840	0.004900	
36.480	35.830000	36.480	0.005050	
37.120	36.880000	37.120	0.004450	
37.760	37.960000	37.760	0.003300	
38.400	39.010000	38.400	0.002500	
39.040	40.080000	39.040	0.001850	
39.680	41.140000	39.680	0.001300	
40.320	42.210000	40.320	0.000850	
40.960	43.290000	40.960	0.000550	
41.600	44.340000	41.600	0.000300	
42.240	45.440000	42.240	0.000200	
42.880	46.510000	42.880	0.000000	
43.520	47.580000	43.520	-0.000100	

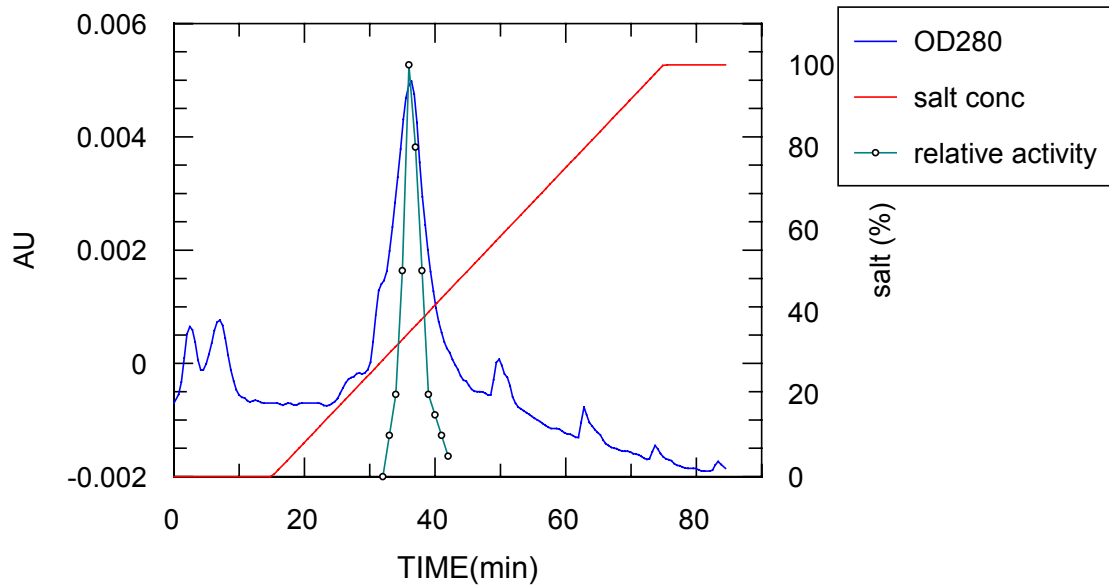


44.160	48.640000	44.160	-0.000300	
44.800	49.690000	44.800	-0.000300	
45.440	50.760000	45.440	-0.000450	
46.080	51.830000	46.080	-0.000500	
46.720	52.890000	46.720	-0.000500	
47.360	53.980000	47.360	-0.000500	
48.000	55.030000	48.000	-0.000550	
48.640	56.090000	48.640	-0.000600	
49.280	57.160000	49.280	0.000050	
49.920	58.230000	49.920	0.000100	
50.560	59.290000	50.560	-0.000200	
51.200	60.360000	51.200	-0.000250	
51.840	61.430000	51.840	-0.000600	
52.480	62.490000	52.480	-0.000750	
53.120	63.560000	53.120	-0.000800	
53.760	64.630000	53.760	-0.000850	
54.400	65.690000	54.400	-0.000900	
55.040	66.760000	55.040	-0.000950	
55.680	67.830000	55.680	-0.001000	
56.320	68.890000	56.320	-0.001050	
56.960	69.980000	56.960	-0.001100	
57.600	71.030000	57.600	-0.001150	
58.240	72.110000	58.240	-0.001150	
58.880	73.160000	58.880	-0.001150	
59.520	74.230000	59.520	-0.001200	
60.160	75.290000	60.160	-0.001250	
60.800	76.380000	60.800	-0.001250	
61.440	77.430000	61.440	-0.001300	
62.080	78.510000	62.080	-0.001350	
62.720	79.580000	62.720	-0.000650	
63.360	80.630000	63.360	-0.001000	
64.000	81.690000	64.000	-0.001100	
64.640	82.760000	64.640	-0.001200	
65.280	83.820000	65.280	-0.001250	
65.920	84.890000	65.920	-0.001400	
66.560	85.960000	66.560	-0.001450	
67.200	87.040000	67.200	-0.001500	

67.840	88.090000	67.840	-0.001500	
68.480	89.170000	68.480	-0.001550	
69.120	90.220000	69.120	-0.001550	
69.760	91.310000	69.760	-0.001550	
70.400	92.360000	70.400	-0.001600	
71.040	93.440000	71.040	-0.001600	
71.680	94.510000	71.680	-0.001650	
72.320	95.570000	72.320	-0.001700	
72.960	96.640000	72.960	-0.001700	
73.600	97.710000	73.600	-0.001400	
74.240	98.770000	74.240	-0.001550	
74.880	99.840000	74.880	-0.001650	
75.520	100.000000	75.520	-0.001700	
76.160	100.000000	76.160	-0.001700	
76.800	100.000000	76.800	-0.001800	
77.440	100.000000	77.440	-0.001800	
78.080	100.000000	78.080	-0.001850	
78.720	100.000000	78.720	-0.001850	
79.360	100.000000	79.360	-0.001850	
80.000	100.000000	80.000	-0.001850	
80.640	100.000000	80.640	-0.001900	
81.280	100.000000	81.280	-0.001900	
81.920	100.000000	81.920	-0.001900	
82.560	100.000000	82.560	-0.001900	
83.200	100.000000	83.200	-0.001700	
83.840	100.000000	83.840	-0.001800	
84.480	100.000000	84.480	-0.001850	

## 2.酸味→甜味檢測

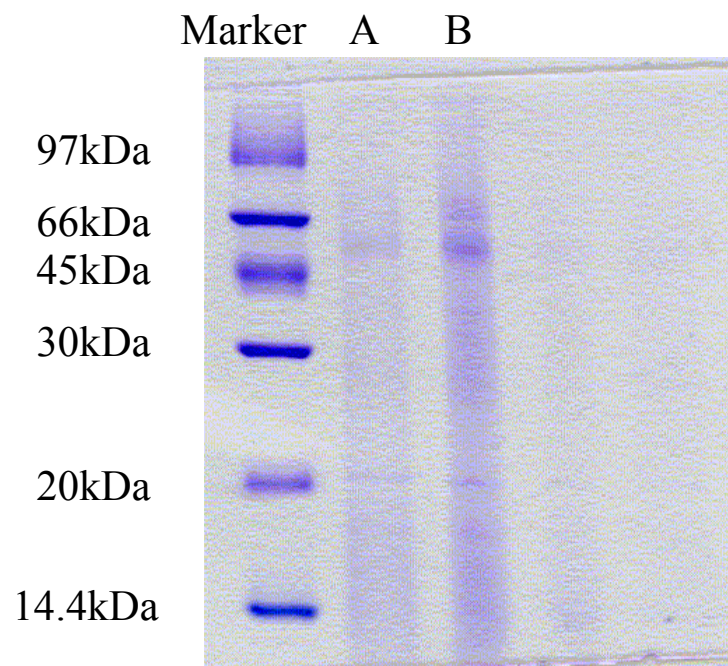
〈1〉 下圖為純化出之 FPLC 和其活性區之相對活性結果，在第二個 peak 處會有甜味，於 28-34 分鐘間，可測出活性，一滴在舌尖就感覺變甜。



活性與 miraculin 分布圖

### 3.SDS PAGE 電泳測定分子量

#### (1)最初的神秘果粉末

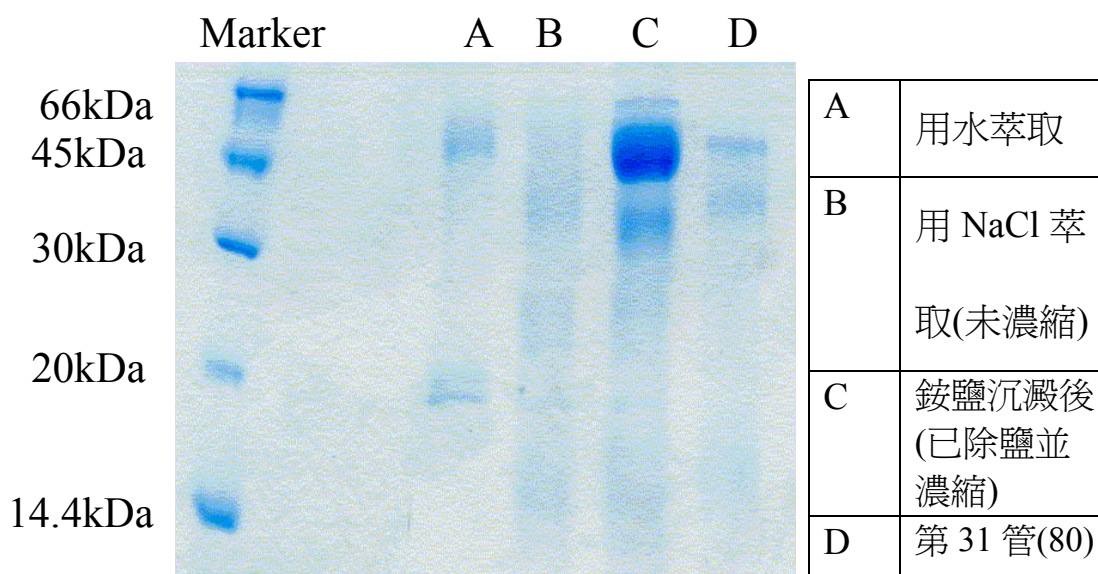


A：1g 粉末加水溶解之液體部分

B：3g 粉末加水溶解部分

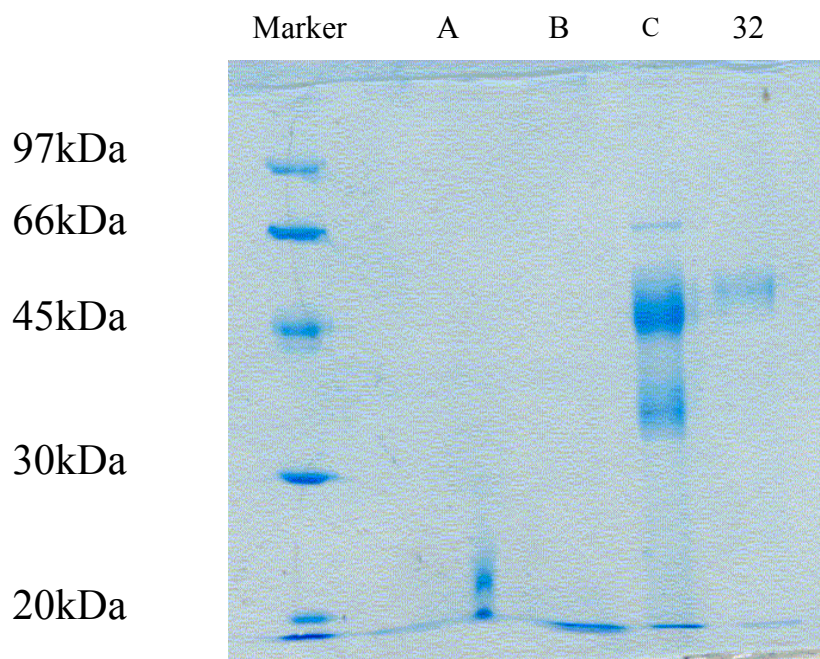
〈說明〉可看見本來的果汁部分含有許多不同的蛋白質和其他成分，濃度越濃，看得越明顯。

#### (2)萃取各步驟所得成分之電泳圖-1



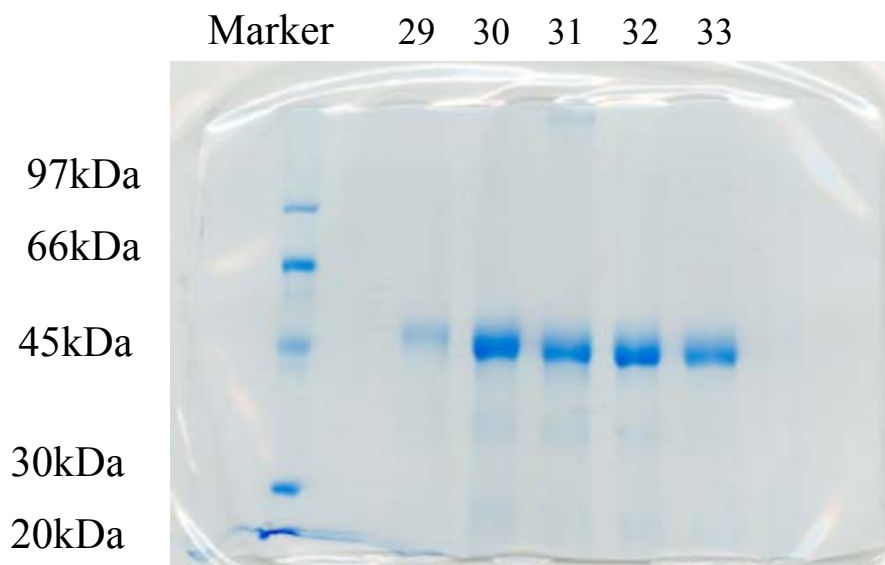
〈說明〉由此可見水萃取部分含少量的 miraculin，而在分子量 20000 左右有另一個不為 miraculin 的蛋白質，可在萃取的過程中先行被去除掉。而以食鹽水萃取部分因 sample 未濃縮，故 miraculin 看得不甚明顯。但在經鉍鹽沉澱過後的 sample，又經過真空濃縮 40 倍，故有相當明顯的 band 落在 40000 左右。以〈80 管〉萃取出來的 28-34 管為 miraculin zp 分布範圍，故取出 31 互相印證，可知其分子量的確落在 40000 左右。

### (3)萃取各步驟所得成分之電泳圖-2



〈說明〉此為另一張萃取各步驟所得成分之電泳圖，A、B、C 皆同上一張電泳圖，但其間距拉得較開，可發現鉍鹽沉澱後的 sample 在 66kDa 的部分還有一條很細的 band，但在 FPLC 層析過後的 32 管並不見它，故推測其為層析時另一個 peak 所代表的蛋白質。而因食鹽水的部分未除鹽，鹽的濃度太高而擠壓到水的 band，在實驗技巧上也獲得“需注意鹽的濃度”之經驗。

#### (4)FPLC 層析後含 miraculin 之試液



〈說明〉此為〈80 管〉FPLC 層析出來，經由味覺測試後，確有味覺改變之管數，可知 miraculin 分子量約為 40000 左右，並知其蛋白質分布範圍頗廣〈橫跨的管數不少〉。

#### 4.檢測 miraculin 之含量及其分布

溶液	溶液	水萃取 之上層液	食鹽水萃取 之上層液	銨鹽沉澱後 之上層液	FPLC 之試液
本身食用效果		喝起來甜甜的，反 倒沒有神秘果的 酸味，有果香	鹹鹹的，不甜，無 特別酸味或其他 味道。	嘗起來苦苦的難 以入口。	前 10 多管無鹽， 像白開水，越往後 越有鹽的苦味。
改變檸檬酸水 溶液之效果		可以覺察得出一 點點變甜的效 果，但並不明顯。	變甜的效果非常 明顯！尤其是第 一次濃度極高！	無任何效果。	除了第 2 段 peak 外，其他皆無變甜 之效。

#### 5.測試 miraculin 對各種不同的味覺改變之效果

同上〈初步實驗—甜味檢測〉2.之結果。

### 〈二〉實驗討論

#### 〈初步實驗-甜味部分〉

1. 咖啡、黃連和肉桂，都沒有太顯著的效果。而黑咖啡會消除苦味，卻無法感覺到甜味；就算有，也非常非常的稀少！並非每一種味覺都能改變。只有檸檬酸有顯著的酸變甜的效果。

2. 因為神秘果本身不太甜，且有酸味，所以可推得之並非因其過甜而蓋掉其他味覺而使檸檬之味道發生改變。

### 〈蚊蟲叮咬〉

1. 已確定為小分子，萃取之步驟便不能如同 miraculin 之方式。
2. 聖果農場曾拿冷凍乾縮處理過後的錠劑去測酸鹼值，是 11.13，可能因為能酸鹼中和蟻酸等物質，而達到消腫止癢之效，但令人存疑的是，實驗時 miraculin 應該是在 pH6.82 的 buffer 中做的，並不是鹼性。

### 〈萃取純化 miraculin〉

1. 萃取出的為一種名為 miraculin，且經過日本厚生省認證的蛋白質，在吃的時候可以快速 cover 甜味及酸味味蕾，而使舌頭甜味的感覺被放大，並縮小其他味道的效果。
2. 就相關文獻而言，如果 miraculin 只是純粹的 cover 甜味味蕾，應該可以明顯的感覺到甜味，但在甜味測試中，可發現除了酸味→甜味效果顯著，其他只能稍作改善。因此我們猜測，可能同時還有其他的化學反應作用產生，或是蛋白質結構只能欺騙酸味細胞。
3. 若把神秘果放進檸檬汁中，就無法產生改變味覺的效果，因此可知其不為普通化學反應，且蛋白質 pH 值呈中性，在過酸的環境中會降解掉。
4. 由電泳圖可知，原本在神秘果內有不少蛋白質，但經過萃取和實驗檢測後可得單一的蛋白質，判斷應為改變味覺的主因。



## 四、結論與應用

### 〈甜味部分〉

1. 將 miraculin 大量提煉後，可作成丸劑出售〈現已有西非一公司從事此種生產〉，取代可能致癌的代糖，可攝取甜味又不至於攝取過多糖分，為糖尿病患者之一大福音。
2. 可幫助食用不加糖的蛋糕、冰淇淋、或是原味優酪乳，和檸檬、酸梅等酸味高，富含維他命 C 的水果，減少糖分攝取有可平衡體內酸鹼值，收減肥之效。現甚至有某些高級餐廳推出神秘果大餐，讓顧客可以輕鬆吃下許多不同的水果。
3. 日本、美國雖有從事相關之研究，但因地處溫、寒帶，無法大量種植，光原料要價就極其昂貴，倘若台灣能研發萃取技術，必可成為競爭力極高的產業。

### 〈蚊蟲叮咬〉

此種天然清涼且不黏膩的消腫止癢成分，倘若能作成噴劑或軟膏，可成為另一天然的擦蚊蟲叮咬之藥品，對人體較無副作用或損傷。



## 五、展望

### 神秘果的其他特殊效果：

#### 〈1〉抗氧化能力極強

神秘果本身食用期大約一個禮拜左右，但將果汁冷凍乾縮後，其使酸澀味變甜能力的效果，可長達幾年之久；而將神秘果的果汁塗抹在鮮豬肉上，和另一塊沒塗抹的放在室外陽光下做對照實驗，發現後者很快就發臭，吸引許多蒼蠅、螞蟥，但塗抹神秘果果汁的豬肉塊，卻可以放好幾天不致腐壞，且神秘果的甜味並未吸引螞蟥。

聖果農場將冷凍乾縮後的果汁粉末，摻入 3 倍的玉米澱粉，製成錠劑，送往食品工業研究所，以 Trolox 當量測定法檢測其抗氧化能力數值。

送測結果此錠劑之抗氧化值高達 4974n mole Trolox/g！一般抗氧化能力高的食品，其值皆可到達 4 位數左右，能力強的如某些中草藥、蔬果和維他命 C 也只到 1000 多而已。

這樣的成分不多見，將做後續深入研究，而其不黏膩及抗氧化之效，可能可以成為天然的化妝品成分，或在防腐劑上有所貢獻。

#### 〈2〉解酒

在高雄曾有高階警官，召開記者會證明，喝酒後，酒精檢測為 1 以上，但吃了神秘果後，酒精濃度驟降，再測只在 0.2 以下（0.25 以下即為標準值）。但身體內的酒精卻未被分解，僅限於口中偵測不到，而逃過檢測。若先食用神秘果後再喝酒，可以將酒的酸澀轉化成香醇可口，亦可提昇酒量，隔天也較無宿醉情形。

#### 〈3〉種子的神秘效果

神秘果的種子又稱陰陽子，有一半邊被一層白白的膜緊緊的包覆著，嚼食時有苦味，會使舌頭髮麻，但能紓解心絞痛、頭痛、喉嚨痛，甚至治療關節炎，和降低類固醇用量等醫療上極具價值的效果。想分析種子的化學成分，是否與市面上所販售之藥劑相同，或是對上述的病痛有更佳的治疗效果。

## 六、附錄

### 1.buffer 溶液配製

buffer A :  $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4(\text{aq})0.005\text{M} + \text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4(\text{aq})0.005\text{M}$

buffer B :  $\text{NaCl}(\text{aq}) 1\text{M} + \text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4 0.005\text{M} + \text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4 0.005\text{M}$

### 2.電泳膠片配製成分表

	Running gel (17.5%)x2	Stacking gel (1.0%)x2
Acrylamide(50%) Bisacrylamide 高分子聚合物	3.062mL	0.69mL
H <sub>2</sub> O	3.92mL	3.5595mL
2M Tris-H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	1.645mL	
10%SDS 陰離子界面活性劑	88.166uL	49.5uL
TEMED 催化劑	13.34uL	7uL
1M Tris-H <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> pH=6.5		625.5uL
APS(10%) 誘導劑	43.75uL	25.5uL

### 3.儀器、材料

材料：藥品購自 Merck、Aldrich 以 Mini-Q 配製。

儀器：

搖動培養箱 (Firstek, Scientific, orbital shaking incubator Model-s302R)

高速離心機 (Kabata 7820)

微量離心機 (Hermle)

真空濃縮機 (EYELA rotary vacuum evaporator N-N series)

HiTrap Desalting column (Pharmacia, 5mL)

EPLC system (Pharmacia Biotech EPLC System)

SDS-PAGE 系統材料：

Acylamide-Biscrylamide 購自 Aldrich

Tris-H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 購自 STRATAGENE

SDS(Dodecyl sulfate sodium salt)購自 Aldrich

APS(Ammonium persulfate)購自 Aldrich

THEMD(N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylene)購自 BDH

Glycine 購自 Lancaster

#### 4.神秘果照片



神秘果樹，果實叢生  
於葉腋下。

市面推出之神秘果禮  
盒，一顆要價 100 元。



大量的神秘  
果採收。

## 七、参考文献

- 1.Escribano, J.; Rubio, A.; Alvarez-Orti, M.; Molina, A.; Fernandez, J. A.; 2000;  
Purification and Characterization of a Mannan-Binding Lectin Specifically Expressed in Corms of  
Saffron Plant (*Crocus sativus* L.)  
J. Agric. Food Chem.; (Article); 48(2); 457-463.
- 2.Hexiang Wang, T. B. Ng;2001  
Isolation of a Novel Deoxyribonuclease with Antifungal Activity from *Asparagus officinalis* Seeds  
Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications; Vol. 289, No. 1, pp. 120-124
- 3.Igeta H. Tamura Y. Nakaya K. Nakamura Y. Kurihara Y.;1991;  
**Structure of Taste-Modifying Protein,Miraculin**  
**Biochimica et Biophysica Acta(Journal Article);1079;303-7**
- 4.Kochhar, S.; Gartenmann, K.; Juillerat, M. A.; 2000;  
Primary Structure of the Abundant Seed Albumin of *Theobroma cacao* by Mass Spectrometry  
J. Agric. Food Chem.; (Article); 48(11); 5593-5599
- 5.Marchal, R.; Bouquelet, S.; Maujean, A.; 1996;  
Purification and Partial Biochemical Characterization of Glycoproteins in a Champenois Chardonnay  
Wine  
J. Agric. Food Chem.; (Article); 44(7); 1716-1722.
- 6.Roberta Spadaccini, Orlando Crescenzi, Teodorico Tancredi, Natasha De Casamassimi, Gabriella  
Saviano, Roberta Scognamiglio, Alberto Di Donato, Piero A. Temussi;2001;  
Solution Structure of a Sweet Protein: NMR Study of MNEI, a Single Chain Monellin  
Journal of Molecular Biology; Vol. 305, No. 3; pp. 505-514

## 評 語

能夠以實驗證明純化的蛋白質成分具有與複合物相當的反應現象，具備科學家追根究底的精神。應該深入瞭解該蛋白質的分子量與成份，以及相關的生化反應，方能進一步研究其與味蕾的作用及反應機制。

**Isolation and Characterization of the Sour  
Taste-modifying Protein, Miraculin, from *Richadella  
dulcifica***

Pei-Shan Wu

National Taichung Girls' Senior High School, Taichung, Taiwan

42, Hsing Chung Street, Taichung, Taiwan

2003.4.

<b><u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Title page	0
Table of contents	1
Abstract	2
Introduction	3
Problems	4
Hypothesis	4
Materials and Methods	5
Result and Discussion	9
Conclusion	14
Acknowledgement	15
References	16

## Abstract

*Richadella dulcifica*, a native plant in tropical West Africa, bears red berries which contain protein assigned as miraculin and has the unusual property of modifying a sour taste into a sweet taste.

Miraculin is extracted with 0.5 M sodium chloride solution, and purified from the extracts by 50% ammonium sulfate fractionation, sulfopropyl ion-exchange column chromatography, and concanavalin A-Sepharose affinity column chromatography.

Previously, primary structure analysis of miraculin revealed that it consists of 191 amino acid residues with 7 cysteine residues and was found to be a basic protein with PI value of ~9. This taste-modifying protein, miraculin, is also a glycoprotein with Asn-linked oligosaccharide moieties located at Asn-42 and Asn-186.

It is interesting to find that the M.W. of miraculin is 28,000 by nucleotide sequence analysis of its cDNA as reported previously, but the present investigation showed that the M.W. of purified miraculin is 55,000 by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. By reduction of the miraculin with 5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, the M.W. of miraculin is reduced to 28,000, and it suggests that miraculin is a homodimer linked by disulfide bond(s). To investigate whether the dimeric form is essential to its function of modifying the sourness into sweetness, the miraculin was reduced with  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol and then alkylated with iodoacetate to address this issue.

Furthermore, in order to study whether the carbohydrate moiety of miraculin, is essential for its function, the cDNA of miraculin was cloned into pGEX-2T vector and expressed in *E. Coli.*



## Introduction

In chemistry class of my senior high school, the teacher has mentioned that there is a kind of fruit, which can modifying your taste. I was really interested in that.

The fruit's name is *Richadella dulcifica*, a native plant in tropical West Africa, bears red berries that contain miraculin. Another name of *Richdella dulcifica* is miracle fruit.

According to the materials, the reason of taste-modifying function is because miraculin can cover your sour sensor and let the sourness turn into sweetness. The function works obviously when tasting lemons. The crude extracts of fruits have been used as sour-taste modifying agent and are commercially available.

After literature survey of miraculin, it indicates that there were two different molecular weight (M.W.) of miraculin. One is 48 kDa, and another one is 28 kDa. It drew my attention to syudy it.

Miracle fruit is not a plant that is not easy to take care of. It can only grow well under high temperature and enough sunshine. And the fact affects the price very much. Miracle fruit is expensive and hard to buy in normal market. If recombinant miraculin can still has the biological function, the price will be lower a d it is truly a welfare fore people. The effect of taste modifying function is really good news for diabetics and weight reducers. They can reduce the ingestion of sugar. And the medicine can also be made by natural material.



The photograph of miracle fruit which is grown in southern Taiwan.

## Problems

1. In my preliminary experiments, I found that miraculin is a dimeric form, and that will explain why previous paper reported two different M.W.. Therefore, it is interesting to study whether the dimeric form is essential for its biological activity of modifying the sourness into sweetness.
2. The proposal is to study whether miraculin can be produced by recombinant technology in *E. coli* to study whether the carbohydrate moieties of miraculin are indispensable for its taste modifying activity.

## Hypothesis

1. The dimeric form of native miraculin is essential for its biological function.
2. Carbohydrate moieties of miraculin are indispensable for its biological function.

## Materials and Methods

### Materials:

1. The crude extract of miracle fruit was from Sen Yuh Farm Science Co., LTD., Taiwan.
2. Disodium hydrogenphosphate, potassium dihydrogenphosphate, ammonium sulfate, citric acid anhydrous (Showa Chemical Co. Ltd, Japan), and sodium chloride (WakoChemical Industries, Ltd, Japan) were used for purification of miraculin. Distilled water was used for all the aqueous solution.
3. Acrylamide, N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylene (TEMED), Coomassie brilliant blue (GIBCO BRL), Tris, ammonium persulfate (APS), SDS,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, and bromophenol blue (Merck) were used for SDS-PAGE.
4. Sulfopropyl (SP) ion-exchange column chromatography, Hitrap Desalting column and concanavalin A-Sepharose (Con A) affinity column chromatography were obtained from Pharmacia Biotech (Uppsala, Sweden). And RNeasy column was purchased from Qiagen Inc. (Valencia, CA).
5. Isopropyl-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG), glutathione, restriction enzymes and ampicillin were acquired from Boehringer Mannheim Co..P-GEX-2T vector was from Pharmacia. Bacto-tryptone, bacto-yeast-extract and agar were obtained from Difco Co..
6. Equipments:
  1. Beckman J2/21 M/E centrifuge
  2. Beckman L8-80M centrifuge
  3. Sigma 2K15 centrifuge
  4. Pharmacia FPLC
  5. Hitachi U-3200 spectrophotometer
  6. Jasco Model 715 Spectropolarimeter

### **Purification of miraculin:**

5g of the crude extracts of miracle fruits crude was homogenized for 2 min in 30 ml of 0.5 M NaCl solution and then extracted overnight. The homogenate was centrifuged at 13,000 rpm for 40 min. The supernatants which showed high sweet-reducing activity were collected. Ammonium sulfate fractionation was carried out by addition of solid ammonium sulfate to the pooled solution to bring about 50% saturation. The precipitate from the solution was collected by centrifugation at 13,000 rpm for 40 min and suspended in 0.01M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffer (pH 6.8).

The sample was applied to SP ion-exchange column equilibrated with 0.01 M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffer. The column was eluted first with the phosphate buffer, and the adsorbed substances were eluted with a liner gradient of NaCl (0-0.5 M) in the buffer. The total volume of the gradient solution was 80 ml and fractionations of 10 ml were collected with a flow rate of 1 ml/min. The active fractions were pooled and concentrated. The concentrated solution was subjected to the following affinity chromatography.

The sample obtained above was applied to Con A-Sepharose 4B column equilibrated with 0.01 M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffer containing 0.5 M NaCl. The column was eluted first with 0.01 M  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$ - $\text{Na}_2\text{HPO}_4$  buffer, and the adsorbed substances were eluted with a liner gradient of methyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucoside (0-0.15 M) in the starting buffer at a flow rate of 1ml/min. The active fractions were pooled.

The sweet-inducing activity of miraculin was assayed by tongue myself. 400 ul of miraculin solution were held in the mouth for 2 minutes and spat out. The mouth was rinsed with water and then 0.02 M citric acid was tasted. The protein which had the biological function can be confirmed to be miraculin.

The homogeneity and molecular weight ( M.W. ) of purified miraculin were determined by sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).

### **Biological function test of dimer and monomer miraculin:**

The SDS-PAGE was used to analyze which is the best concentration of  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol to break the disulfide bond that is only between molecules but not in the molecular structure of miraculin. After finding the most appropriate concentrate,  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol was added into native miraculin to break the disulfide bond. Then the same method that has metioned above was used to assay the biological function of dimmer and monomer miraculin.

### **Preparation of recombinant miraculin:**

The pulp and seed of miraculin were grinded under liquid nitrogen to a fine powder using a mortar and pestle. The sample was lysed by adding 20 ml Buffer RLT. The lysate was centrifuged at room temperature at 3000 rpm for 10 min. 0.5 volumes of 96-100% ethanol was added to the cleared lysate. The sample was applied to an RNeasy maxi column and centrifuged for 5 min at 5000 rpm. The flow-through was discarded. 15 ml Buffer RW1 was added to the RNeasy column and centrifuged for 5 min at 5000 rpm. The flow-through was discarded. 10 ml Buffer RPE was added to the RNeasy column and centrifuged for 10 min at 5000 rpm to wash the column. The flow-through was discarded. The appropriate volume of RNase-free water was pipeted directly onto the RNeasy silica-gel membrane. The sample was stood for 1 min, and then centrifuged for 3 min at 3000-5000 rpm. The elution step was repeated as described with a second volume of RNase-free water. The total RNA was isolated in the solution.

The reverse transcriptase was used to produce the first strand cDNA from the total RNA. And the cDNA of miraculin was obtained by Polymerize Chain Reaction (PCR) with forward and reversed primers.

Forward primer: 5'-GGA TCC GAT TCG GCA CCC AAT CCC GTT -3'

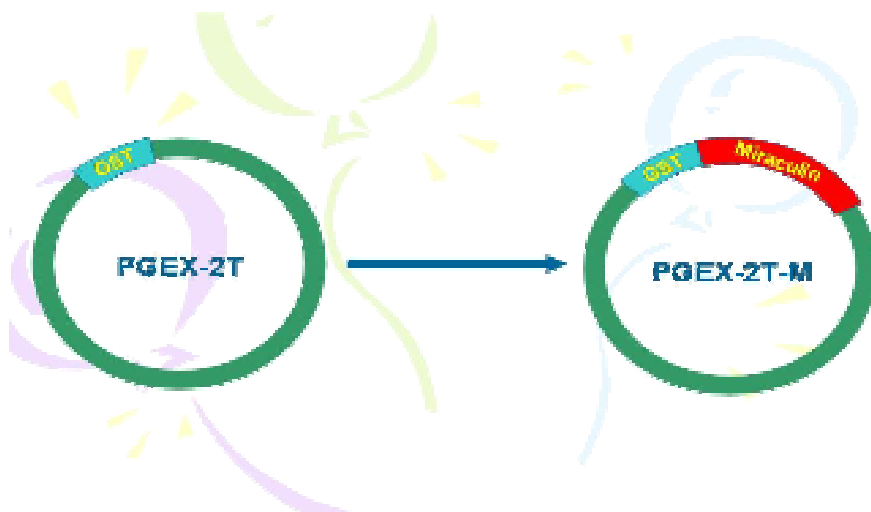
Reversed primer: 5'-GAA TTA TTA GAA GTA TAC GGT TTT GTT GAA -3'

5 ul 10 x PCR buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 9.0, 25 mM  $MgCl_2$ , 500 mM KCl, 0.1 % Gelatin), 2 ul 10 mM dNTPs, specific primers, 0.5 ul *Taq* DNA polymerase, and distilled

water were added to 2 ng template cDNA for total 50ul.

Reaction program: 95°C for 1 min, 45 °C for 1 min, 65°C for 2 min. After 35 cycles were finished, the sample reacted at 65°C for 7 min.

The plasmid from competent *E. coli* was reacted with restriction enzymes *Bam*H I and *Eco*R I. The cDNA of miraculin was cloned into pGEX-2T vector to get pGEX-2T-M, and transformed into *E. coli*, incubating at 37°C. When the optical density at 600 nm of culture reached 0.5; the culture was induced with 0.5mM IPTG, and incubated at 4°C for 16 hr. The *E. coli* was centrifuged at 4000 rpm for 10 min. Resuspension buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl, pH7.5, 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 1mM DTT) and 100 ul lysozyme (10 mg/ml) were added. The cells were lysed with sonicator.



### **Construction of pGEX-2T vector and pGEX-2T-M.**

The sample was applied to Glutathione-Sepharose 4B column equilibrated with PBS (150 mM NaCl, 16 mM Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 4 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, pH7.3) and 1 mM DTT. The column was eluted first with PBS buffer, and the fusion protein of recombinant glutathione-S-transferase (GST)-miraculin was eluted with Elution buffer (5 mM Glutathione, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0) at a flow rate of 1ml/min.

Periodic acid-Schiff stain (PAS) was used to confirm that fusion protein, GST-miraculin, which was not a glycoprotein. Then the same method that has mentioned above was used to assay the biological function of GST-miraculin.

## Results and discussion

### I. Purification of miraculin from the red berries of *Richadella dulcifica*

Miraculin was isolated and purified from the red berries of *Richadella dulcifica*. The Sp ion-exchange column and Con affinity column graphs from FPLC were shown as 1A and B.

Miraculin was purified and shown to be homogenized, and the apparent M.W. of miraculin was shown to be 55,000 (Fig. 2). The yield is 2.2 mg/kg from red berries.

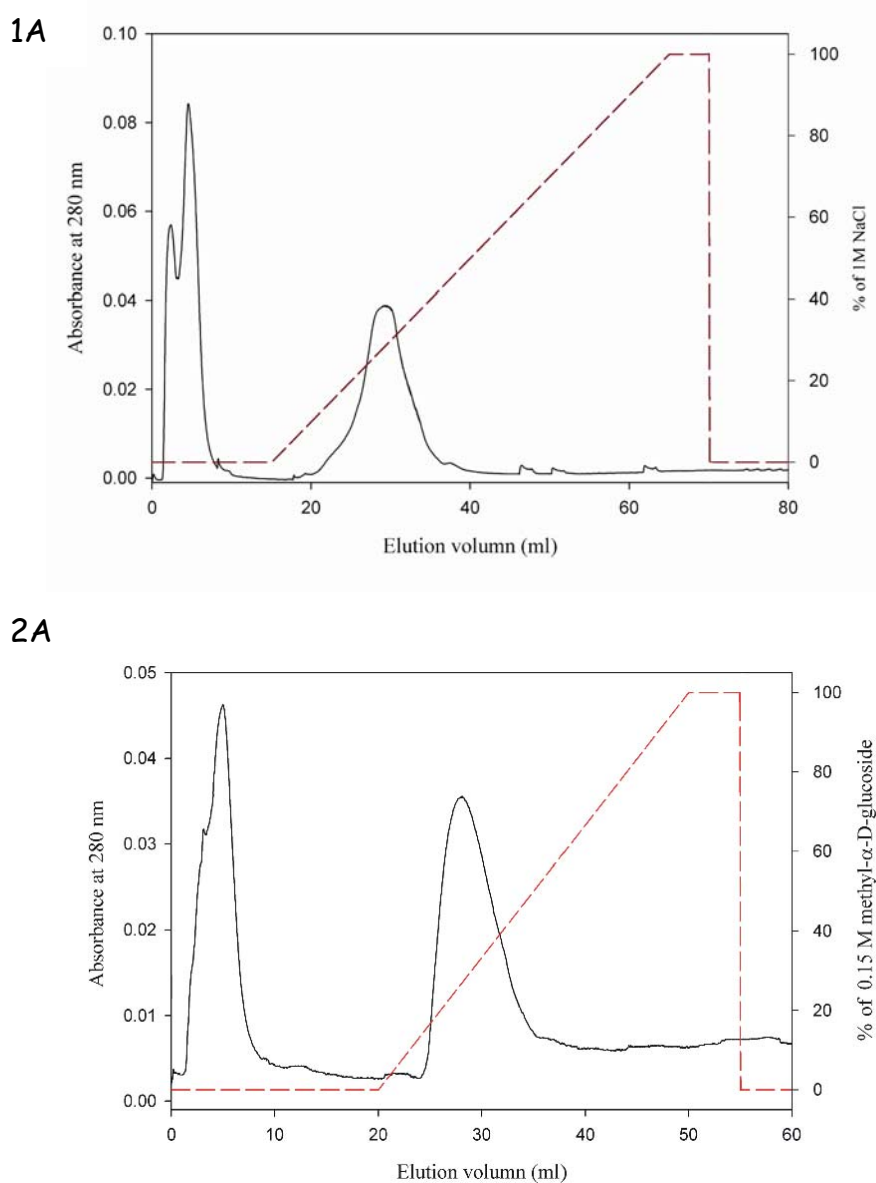


Fig. 1A: Purification of miraculin by SP ion-exchange column chromatography.  
1B: Purification of miraculin by Con A affinity column chromatography.

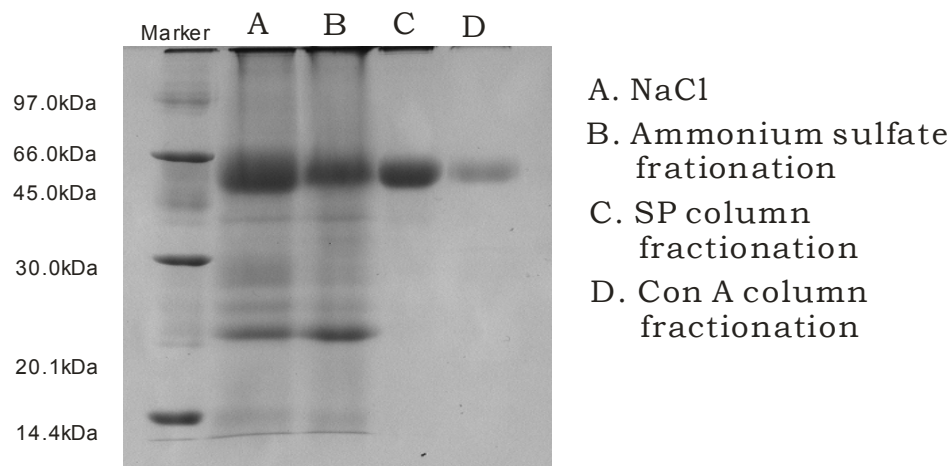


Fig. 2: Purification of miraculin analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

## II. Miraculin is a homo-dimer

When the purified miraculin was reduced with 5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol, the apparent M.W. of miraculin was reduced to 25,000 (Fig. 3). It indicates that miraculin is a homodimer. 0.1% of  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol was the most appropriate concentration to break the disulfide bond of dimer miraculin, and miraculin can just become a monomer (Fig. 4).

When miraculin was reduced with 5%  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol and alkylated with iodoacetate, the reduced alkylated miraculin lost its sour taste-modifying activity, and it suggested that the dimeric form is essential for its biological activity.

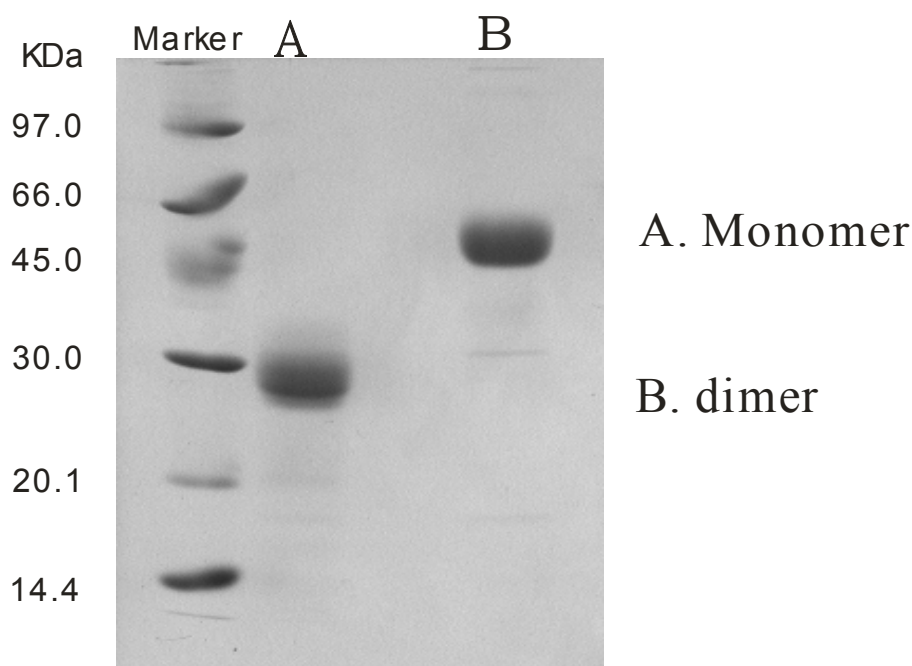


Fig. 3: SDS-PAGE of dimer and monomer miraculin.



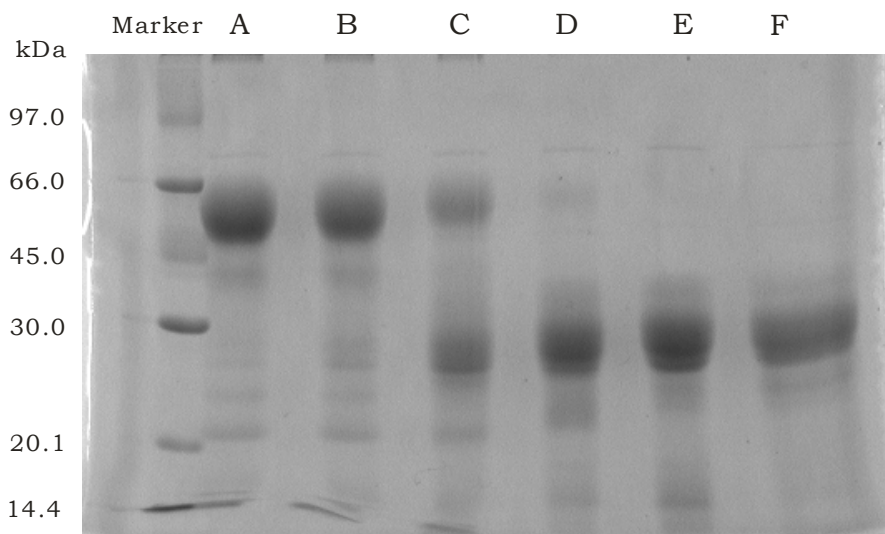


Fig. 4: Demostration of miraculin of different concentrations of  $\beta$ -mercaptoethanol.

### III. Preparation of recombinant miraculin

The cDNA of miraculin was obtained by PCR, and the nucleotide sequence of miraculin cDNA was shown in Fig. 5. The amino acid sequence of miraculin was deduced from the cDNA sequence, and indicates that miraculin contains 191 amino acid with 7 cysteine residues. Two putative glycosylation sites were found at Asn-42 and Asn-186.

The cDNA of miraculin was ligated into the expression vector, pGEX-2T, and expressed in *E. coli*. The fusion protein, GST-miraculin, was purified from the lysate of expressed cells with a glutathione-Sepharose 4B affinity column. The result was shown in Fig. 6. SDS-PAGE of periodic acid-Schiff stain of miraculin and GST-miraculin was shown in Fig. 7. The recombinant miraculin completely lost its taste-modifying activity.

```

1  GAT TCG GCA CCC AAT CCG GTT  CTTGAC ATA GAC GGA GAG AAA CTC CGG ACG GGG ACC AAT
   D  S  A  P  N  P  V  L  D  I  D  G  E  K  L  R  T  G  T  N  20
61  TAT TAC ATT GTG CCG GTG CTC CGC GAC CAT GGC GGC GGC CTT ACA GTA TCC GCC ACC ACC
   Y  Y  I  V  P  V  L  R  D  H  G  G  G  L  T  V  S  A  T  T  40

```

121 CCC AAC GGC ACC TTC GTT TGT CCA CCC AGA GTT GTC CAA ACA CGA AAG GAG GTC GAC CAC  
P N G T F V C P P R V V Q T R K E V D H 60

181 GAT CGC CCC CTC GCT TTC TTT CCA GAG AAC CCA AAG GAA GAC GTT GTT CGA GTC TCC ACC  
D R P L A F F P E N P K E D V V R V S T 80

241 GAT CTC AAC ATC AAT TTC TCG GCG TTC ATG CCC TGT CGT TGG ACC AGT TCC ACC GTG TGG  
D L N I N F S A F M P C R W T S S T V W 100

301 CGG CTC GAC AAA TAC GAT GAA TCC ACG GGG CAG TAC TTC GTG ACC ATC GGC GGT GTC AAA  
R L D K Y D E S T G Q Y F V T I G G V K 120

361 GGA AAC CCA GGT CCC GAA ACC ATT AGT AGC TGG TTT AAG ATT GAG GAG TTT TGT GGT AGT  
G N P G P E T I S S W F K I E E F C G S 140

421 GGT TTT TAC AAG CTT GTT TTC TGT CCC ACC GTT TGT GGT TCC TGC AAA GTA AAA TGC GGA  
G F Y K L V F C P T V C G S C K V K C G 160

481 GAT GTG GGC ATT TAC ATT GAT CAG AAG GGA AGA AGG CGT TTG GCT CTC AGC GAT AAA CCA  
D V G I Y I D Q K G R R R L A L S D K P 180

541 TTC GCA TTC GAG TTC AAC AAA ACC GTA TAC TTC TAA  
F A P E P N K T V Y F \*

Fig.5: Nucleotide sequence of miraculin cDNA

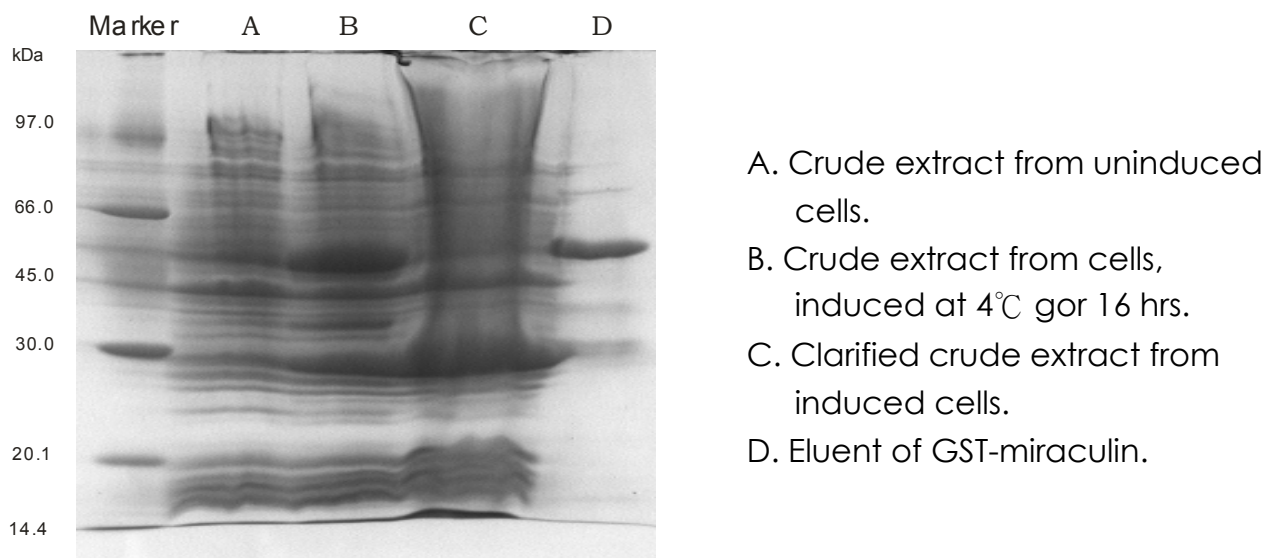


Fig. 6: Purification of GST-miraculin analyzed by SDS-PAGE.

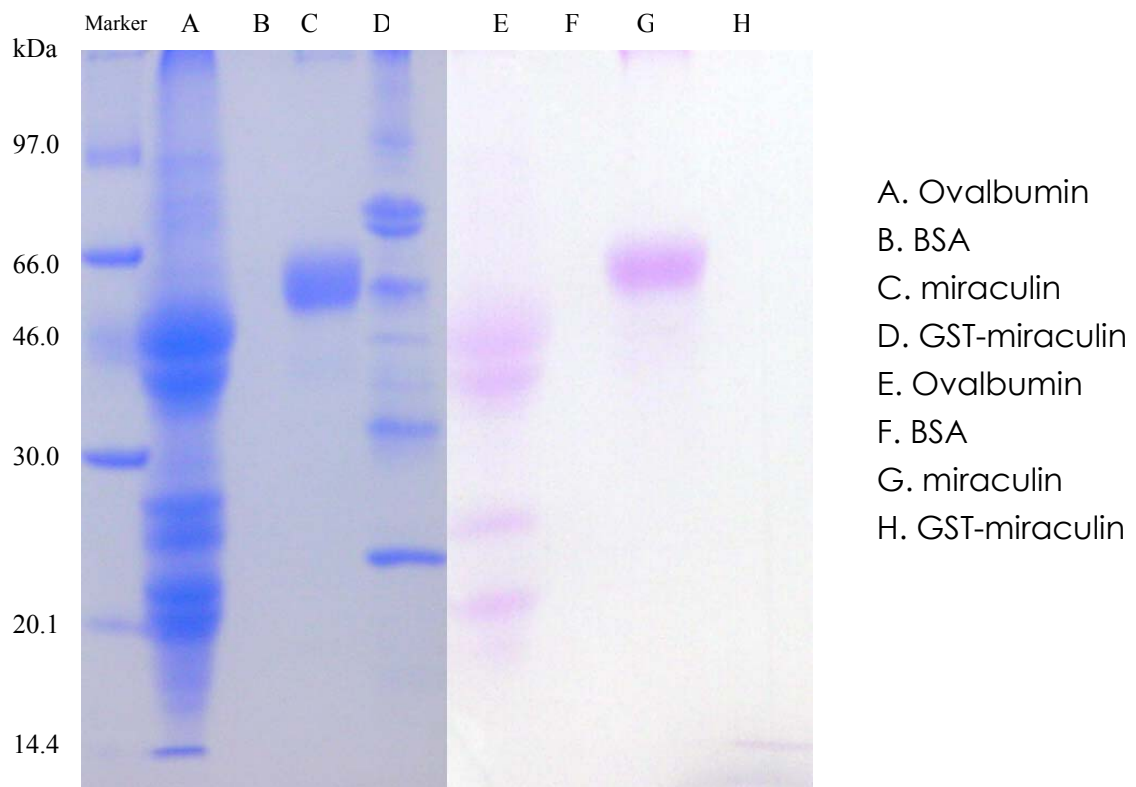
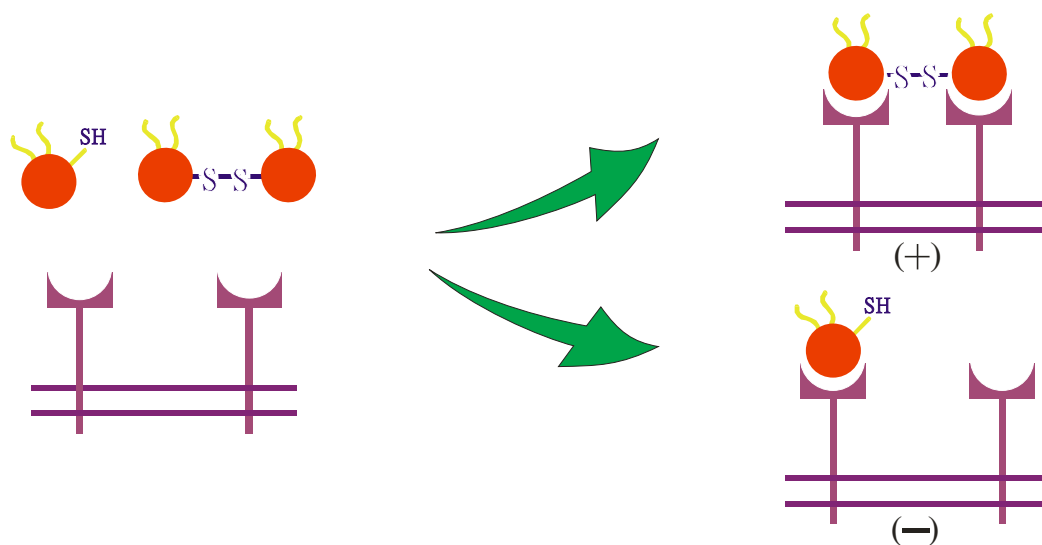


Fig. 7: Staining for carbohydrates and proteins after SDS-PAGE analysis of miraculin and *GST-miraculin*.

## Conclusion

Miraculin was purified from red berries of *Richadella dulcifica*, and shown to be homogenous by SDS-PAGE analysis. The M.W. of native miraculin was found to be 55,000. After reduction and alkylation of native miraculin, the monomer of miraculin lost its taste-modifying activity. It indicated that the dimeric form is essential to the taste-modifying activity, and suggests that the receptor of the miraculin on the cell membrane of tongue membrane could be a dimer to exert its activity.



Nucleotide sequence of miraculin showed that it is a glycoprotein with two putative glycosylation sites at Asn-42 and Asn-186. The recombinant protein prepared from *E. coli* express system lost its taste-modifying activity. It suggests that the glycosylation of miraculin is indispensable to its taste-modifying activity.

## Acknowledgement

I would like thank for many people for helping me to do this project about miraculin. The greatest appreciations are for Professor Jung-Yaw Lin and Ms. Yui-Ping Weng. They truly directed my study questions, poster presentation and taught me the experimental technology. Also, I am grateful for Mr. Yi-Da Chung who helped me with the computer skills to present a nice poster and project. Ms. Mai-Ling Lin is another person I thank a lot. She supported me all the materials I need about miracle fruit or its crude extract. I thank to Wen-Hsin Chang, Hong-Ren Lee, Fa-Han Lee and all the members in the lab of professor Jung-Yaw Lin who took care of me during the experiment.

On the other hand, I appreciate Professor Y-K Lee, C-S Hsu, and Ms. Hsin-Yi Huang who leaded me at the first step of my experiment and taught me the background of biological chemistry.

Your helps made me brave and interested to complete the study about miraculin. And you also let me got involved into the situation easily. I do thank all of you!

## References

1. Kurihara, K. and Beidler, L. (1968) Taste-modifying protein from miracle fruit. *Science*, **161**, 1241-1243.
2. Brouwer, J. N., Wel, H., Francke, A. and Henning G. J. (1968) Miraculin, the sweetness-inducing protein from miracle fruit. *Nature*, **220**, 373-374.
3. Theerasilp, S. and Kurihara, Y. (1988) Complete purification and characterization of the taste-modifying protein, miraculin, from miracle fruit. *J. of Biological Chemistry*; **263**, 11536-11539.
4. Theerasilp, S., Histotsuyas, H., Nakajo, S., Nakaya, K., Nakamura, Y. and Kurihara Y. (1989) Complete amino acid sequence and structure characterization of the taste-modifying protein, miraculin. *J. of Biological Chemistry*; **264**, 6665-6669.
5. Masuda, Y., Nirasawa, S., Nakaya, K. and Kurihara, Y. (1995) Cloning and sequencing of a cDNA encoding a taste-modifying protein, miraculin. *Gene*; **161**, 175-177.