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研究課題名（和文）Unrevealing the anti-obesity effects of wakame associated to sphingomyelin synthase inhibition

研究課題名（英文）Unrevealing the anti-obesity effects of wakame associated to sphingomyelin synthase inhibition

研究代表者

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研究成果の概要（和文）：本研究では、HeLa 細胞を用いたスフィンゴミレイン合成酵素(SMS)阻害スクリーニング法を、標的液体クロマトグラフィー/質量分析法を用いて確立することに成功した。次に、ワカメエキスの SMS 阻害についてスクリーニングを行った。その結果、サブフラクション7を含むワカメヘキサンエキスに SMS 阻害活性が認められた。さらに、ヘキサン画分7に含まれる活性化合物をカラムクロマトグラフィーで精製し、NMR および HRMS の特性解析により脂肪酸 WH73 と同定した。精製された化合物 WH73 は、SMS1 と SMS2 の両方に対してそれぞれ良好な阻害作用を示した。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義

Obesity is a leading risk factor for premature death worldwide. Dietary seaweed have a positive role in controlling the obesity, but the exact mechanisms are unknown. In this study, we have revealed these connections by identifying the active component of wakame that can act on lipid metabolism.

研究成果の概要（英文）：In this research study, we have successfully established a sphingomyelin synthase(SMS) inhibition screening assay using HeLa cells by a targeted liquid-chromatography/mass spectrometry. The method establishment results were published in a peer-reviewed international journal. Then, the wakame extract was screened for SMS inhibition. The results showed the wakame hexane extract with subfraction 7 was found to be active for SMS inhibition. Further, the active compound in hexane fraction 7 was purified by column chromatography and identified as a fatty acid WH73 by NMR and HRMS characterizations. Purified compound WH73 showed good inhibition for both SMS1 and SMS2 respectively. We are now performing the in vitro results of WH73 using fatty liver cell model. Overall, the possible compound from wakame that should have a possible role in obesity control associated with lipid metabolism was revealed.

研究分野：lipid chemistry

キーワード：Sphingomyelin synthase wakame LC-MS fatty acid fatty liver obesity NMR chromatography

1. 研究開始当初の背景

Obesity is a metabolic disorder characterized by increased body weight and excessive fat accumulation, which causes high health risks. Rates of overweight and obesity continue to grow in adults and children. From 1990 to 2022, the percentage of children and adolescents aged 5–19 years living with obesity increased four-fold from 2% to 8% globally, while the percentage of adults 18 years of age and older living with obesity more than doubled from 7% to 16%. Worldwide, at least 2.8 million people die each year because of being overweight or obese, and an estimated 35.8 million are suffering from obesity-associated disorders. In Japan about 33 % of adults are estimated to be overweight or obese. This percentage is significantly low compared to other countries such as Mexico (75%) and the United States (71%). The possible reason for this low is supposed to be the traditional dietary habits of the Japanese population. In particular, seaweed consumption is reported to have potential therapeutic benefits in the management of body weight and obesity. It is known that an imbalance of sphingolipid metabolism is associated with fatty liver disease and obesity. An enzyme that converts ceramide to sphingomyelin (SM) named sphingomyelin synthase (SMS1 or SMS2) is known to be the main target and its inhibition has been reported to have promising therapeutics to control obesity (**Fig. 1**). Despite the potential uses of seaweeds their action on SMSs is not well explored. Our preliminary screening of Japanese dietary seaweed methanol extracts suggested that **wakame** is a promising candidate with strong inhibition specifically towards the SMS2 enzyme. Hence, this project was designed and proposed to find the bioactive component of wakame responsible for SMS inhibition which in turn helps in obesity control.



Fig. 1 Research background and question.

2. 研究の目的

The main purpose of the proposed research is to (a) Develop a sensitive method for SMS inhibition screening assay method using liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC-MS) (b) Identify the active component of wakame responsible for SMS inhibition and characterize its chemical structure for further biological studies. Our preliminary studies showed that wakame methanol extract can inhibit the SMS1 and SMS2 >50% at 100 µg/mL concentration. The proposed study aims to (1) Develop LC-MS based SMS inhibition screening assay method (2) Perform solvent-fraction based screening to find the active sub-fraction (3) Identification and Characterization of the active compound in Wakame by LC-MS and NMR techniques (4) Perform the SMS assay for the active compound and determine IC₅₀ values for SMS1 and

SMS2. These research findings will help to develop Wakame-based nutritional supplements or pharmaceuticals to control obesity and its disorders.

3. 研究の方法

The research method involves mainly the preparation of wakame methanol extracts on a large scale and performing the liquid-liquid partitions using various solvents by using a separating funnel. The crude methanol extract was prepared from the dried wakame by stirring its powder in methanol for 24 h in 3 cycles. Later, liquid-liquid extraction was performed using hexane, methanol, ether, and ethyl acetate. The crude solvent extracts were dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide at a concentration of 10 mg/mL and an SMS inhibition screening assay was performed. To perform the assay a targeted LC-MS analysis of C6-ceramide (substrate) and C6-sphingomyelin (product) was used and the cell lines were HeLa expressing SMS1 and SMS2 independently. The details about the SMS assay method were published in an international peer-reviewed journal ([10.1039/d4an00304g](https://doi.org/10.1039/d4an00304g), Analyst 2024). Further, silica gel column chromatography was used for the separation and isolation of active compounds from each fraction. Based on the sequential screening assay for each extract the active component fraction was identified and isolated. To characterize the active component high-resolution mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance were applied.

4. 研究成果

The summary of the results was described as follows. At first, to develop a method for SMS inhibition screening assay using liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry (LC-MS), the HeLa cells expressing SMS1 and SMS2 were prepared and cultured in the laboratory. The cell lysates were prepared in 20 mM lysate buffer and were used for the SMS assay as an enzyme source. The known inhibitor ginkgolic acid was used as a positive control, and the unnatural substrates C6-ceramide and C6-sphingomyelin were used to monitor SMS activity by LC-MS. and the wakame extracts were screened for SMS inhibition using a successfully optimized LC-MS method. The results obtained from the extraction and liquid-liquid partition of the wakame extract are shown in **Fig. 2**. As consistent with our

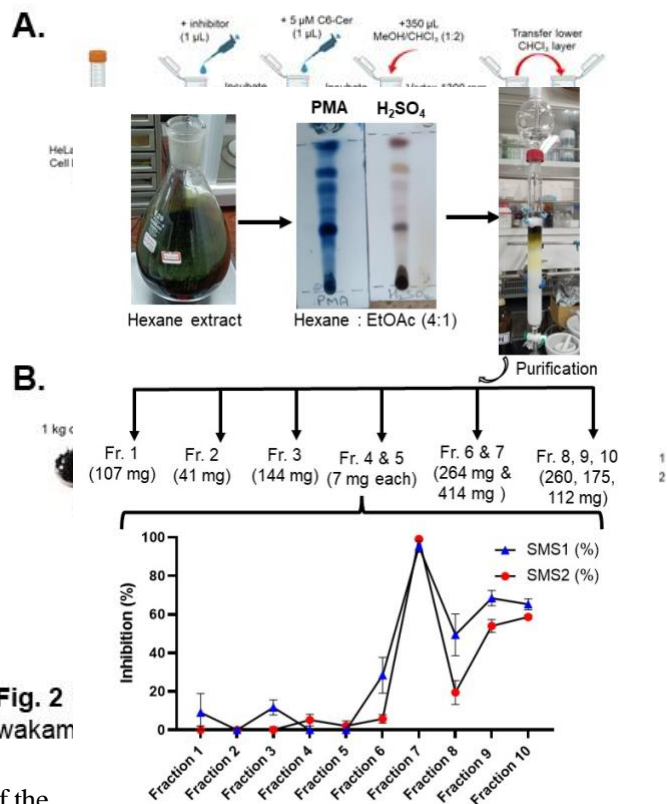


Fig. 3 Hexane sub-fractions and their SMS inhibition results

preliminary results hexane fraction showed the potential inhibition activity for SMS. Further, the hexane extract was sub-fractionated into 10 fractions using hexane: ethyl acetate (4:1) by column chromatography, and their SMS inhibition assay was conducted.

In that fraction 7 should have the highest inhibition for both SMS1 and SMS2. Additionally, fraction 7 was further fractionated into 4 fractions using hexane: ethyl acetate (4:1) and chloroform: methanol (9.5:0.5) in that fraction 7C showed the highest inhibition as shown in **Fig 3**. The active compound in fraction 7 was purified and characterized by HRMS and NMR techniques. As the results are unpublished the active compound is not revealed in this report. But it is named **WH73**, and SMS inhibition percentage was obtained for the active compound **WH73**, and the results are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: IC₅₀ of purified compound (SMS 1: 10 µM , SMS2: 6.5 µM)

Concentrations (µM)	SMS 1 Inhibition (%)	SMS 2 Inhibition (%)
100	82	97
10	49	62
1	-52	-15
0.1	-38	-7

In summary, Wakame hexane extract showed the highest inhibition against both SMS1 and SMS2. Sub-fractionation of hexane extract was further screened for SMS inhibition and results showed that fraction 7 is active. Fraction 7 was further purified by chromatography techniques and characterized by HRMS and NMR techniques. The analysis confirmed that the active compound is a fatty acid **WH73** with potential SMS inhibitory activity. The purified compound showed IC₅₀ =10 µM for SMS1 and IC₅₀ = 6.5 µM SMS2 respectively. These results will be summarized for possible publication in an internal peer-reviewed journal. The possible relationship between the seaweed wakame and lipid metabolism associated with obesity was revealed in this research study.

5 . 主な発表論文等

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2 . 論文標題 Dissecting new lipids and their composition in herbal tea using untargeted LC/MS	5 . 発行年 2024年
3 . 雑誌名 Food Chemistry	6 . 最初と最後の頁 138941 ~ 138941
掲載論文のDOI（デジタルオブジェクト識別子） なし	査読の有無 有
オープンアクセス オープンアクセスではない、又はオープンアクセスが困難	国際共著 該当する
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3 . 雑誌名 Food Research International	6 . 最初と最後の頁 114253 ~ 114253
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2. 発表標題 Detection of potential lipid biomarkers for acute kidney injury using LC/MS.
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〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

〔その他〕

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6. 研究組織

	氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考
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7. 科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相手国	相手方研究機関
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