

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A horseshoe crab Factor C having activity of Factor C.

44. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which is a recombinant protein.

45. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which contains (α -2,3) linked terminal sialic acid.

46. (New) The Factor C according to claim 45, which contains (α -2,3) linked terminal sialic acid in a greater amount, as compared with a native Factor C and/or a horseshoe crab Factor C expressed in Sf9 as a host cell.

47. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which exhibits a residual activity of 10% or higher in the presence of 21 mM sodium citrate.

48. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which has a molecular weight of 115 kDa to 140 kDa or a molecular weight of 127 kDa $\pm$ 5 kDa, as measured through SDS-PAGE under a non-reducing condition.

49. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which is a protein shown in the following (A), (B), (C), or (D):

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(B) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 but which includes substitution, deletion, insertion, or addition of one or several amino acid residues, and having activity of Factor C;

(C) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4;

(D) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 but which includes substitution, deletion, insertion, or addition of one or several amino acid residues, and having activity of Factor C.

50. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which is water-soluble.

51. (New) A method for producing a horseshoe crab Factor C, the method comprising expressing the horseshoe crab Factor C in a mammalian cell as a host cell.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the mammalian cell is selected from the group consisting of:

(A) a mammalian cell other than COS-1;

(B) a cell of a mammal selected from the group consisting of a primate and a rodent, other than monkey;

(C) a Chinese hamster cell or a human cell;

(D) CHO or HEK; and

(E) CHO DG44 or HEK293.

53. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the Factor C is a protein shown in the following (A), (B), (C), or (D):

(A) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2;

(B) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 but which includes substitution, deletion, insertion, or addition of one or several amino acid residues, and having activity of Factor C;

(C) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4;

(D) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4 but which includes substitution, deletion, insertion, or addition of one or several amino acid residues, and having activity of Factor C.

54. (New) A horseshoe crab Factor C producible by the method according to claim 51.

55. (New) The Factor C according to claim 43, which is producible by a method comprising expressing the horseshoe crab Factor C in a mammalian cell as a host cell.

56. (New) An endotoxin assay agent containing the Factor C according to claim 43.

57. (New) An endotoxin assay kit comprising the assay agent according to claim 56.

58. (New) A method for measuring endotoxin in a test specimen, the method comprising a step of mixing the assay agent according to claim 56 and the test specimen, and a step of measuring the progress of a cascade reaction.

59. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the test specimen contains at least one of:

(A) an ion;

(B) a cation;

(C) a metal ion;

(D) an alkali metal ion or an alkaline earth metal ion; and

(E) one or more kinds of ions selected from the group consisting of sodium ion, potassium ion, calcium ion, and magnesium ion.

60. (New) The method according to claim 59, wherein the contained amount of the ion in the test specimen is such an amount that the concentration of the cation derived from the test specimen becomes 1 mM or higher, as a final concentration in the reaction system after mixing the test specimen with the assay agent.

- 61. (New) The method according to claim 58, wherein the test specimen is an injection.
- 62. (New) An endotoxin assay agent containing the Factor C according to claim 54.
- 63. (New) An endotoxin assay kit comprising the assay agent according to claim 62.
- 64. (New) A method for measuring endotoxin in a test specimen, the method comprising a step of mixing the assay agent according to claim 62 and the test specimen, and a step of measuring the progress of a cascade reaction.