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**Production of fructooligosaccharides by mycelium-bound  
transfructosylation activity present in *Cladosporium cladosporioides*  
and *Penicillium sizovae***

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Different filamentous fungi isolated from molasses and jams (kiwi and fig) were  
3 screened for fructooligosaccharides (FOS) producing activity. Two strains, identified  
4 as *Penicillium sizovae* (CK1) and *Cladosporium cladosporioides* (CF<sub>2</sub>15), were selected on  
5 the basis of the FOS yield and kestose/nystose ratio. In both strains the activity was  
6 mostly mycelium-bound. Starting from 600 g/L of sucrose, maximum FOS yield was  
7 184 and 339 g/L for *P. sizovae* and *C. cladosporioides*, respectively. Interestingly, the  
8 highest FOS concentration with *C. cladosporioides* was reached at 93% sucrose  
9 conversion, which indicated a notable transglycosylation to hydrolysis ratio. The  
10 main FOS in the reaction mixtures were identified by HPAEC-PAD chromatography.  
11 *C. cladosporioides* synthesized mainly 1-kestose (158 g/L), nystose (97 g/L), 1F-  
12 fructosylnystose (19 g/L), 6-kestose (12 g/L), neokestose (10 g/L) and a disaccharide

1 (34 g/L) that after its purification and NMR analysis was identified as blastose [Fru-  
2  $\beta(2\rightarrow6)$ -Glc]. *P. sizovae* was very selective for the formation of <sup>1</sup>F-FOS (in particular 1-  
3 kestose) with minor contribution of neoFOS and negligible of levan-type FOS.

4  
5 *Key words:* Fructooligosaccharides; transfructosylation; prebiotics; bioactive  
6 oligosaccharides; blastose;

## 8 1. INTRODUCTION

9 Inulin-type fructooligosaccharides (<sup>1</sup>F-FOS) are fructose oligomers with a  
10 terminal glucose unit in which 2-4 fructofuranosyl moieties are linked by  $\beta(2\rightarrow1)$   
11 bonds [1;2]. <sup>1</sup>F-FOS are used as food ingredients due to their properties, such as  
12 prebiotic action favouring the development of bifidobacteria and lactobacillus, low  
13 caloric intake (2 kcal/g), low glycemic index, improved gut absorption of Ca<sup>2+</sup> and  
14 Mg<sup>2+</sup>, lowering of blood lipid levels, prevention of urogenital infections and reduced  
15 risk of colon cancer [3;4].

16 <sup>1</sup>F-FOS are commonly obtained by controlled hydrolysis of inulin or other  
17 fructans (typically using inulinases, EC 3.2.1.7) [5] or by enzymatic  
18 transfructosylation of sucrose catalyzed by  $\beta$ -fructofuranosidases (EC 3.2.1.6) or  
19 fructosyltransferases (EC 2.4.1.9) [6]. Short-chain <sup>1</sup>F-FOS (1-kestose, nystose, <sup>1</sup>F-  
20 fructosylnystose, and so on) are currently produced at multi-ton scale from  
21 concentrated sucrose solutions using fungal transfructosylating enzymes from  
22 *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus oryzae* or *Aureobasidium pullulans* [7;8].

23 Other FOS containing  $\beta(2\rightarrow6)$  linkages between two fructose units (<sup>6</sup>F-FOS,  
24 also called levan-type FOS, such as 6-kestose or 6-nystose) [9-12] or between a  
25 fructose and a glucose (<sup>6</sup>G-FOS, also called neoFOS, such as neokestose or  
26 neonystose) have also been described and are commonly produced by enzymes from  
27 yeasts [13-15]. Levan-type FOS and neoFOS are reported to exhibit improved  
28 prebiotic properties and chemical stability compared to inulin-type FOS [16-18],  
29 although more studies are required to elucidate the bioactivity of the different FOS  
30 series.

31 Industrial scale production of FOS is commonly performed by either soluble  
32 enzymes in batch reactions [19] or by entrapped cells in alginate gel beads using  
33 continuous fixed-bed reactors [20;21]. Several immobilized enzymes for FOS  
34 synthesis have been also developed [6;22-24]. The use of biomass (e.g. mycelia) or  
35 immobilized biocatalysts minimizes the loss of activity during operation and allows  
36 establishing a continuous process.

37 The identification of novel microbial strains with high transfructosylation  
38 activity and/or producing a distinctive FOS pattern is currently being investigated  
39 [25]. In this work, we have screened different microorganisms able to grow on  
40 sucrose-rich substrates such as molasses or jams with the aim of identifying new  
41 transfructosylating enzymes able to produce FOS with different composition  
42 compared with already known biocatalysts.

## 1 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2 2.1. Materials

3 Sucrose, glucose, fructose and *p*-anisaldehyde were from Sigma-Aldrich.  
4 Nystose and 1-kestose were from Fluka. 1<sup>F</sup>-fructosylnystose was from Megazyme. 6-  
5 Kestose, neokestose and neonystose were synthesized as previously described  
6 [9;13;14]. Yeast extract was from Difco and barley malt flour from Diagermal. All  
7 other reagents and solvents were of the highest available purity and used as  
8 purchased.

### 9 2.2. Isolation and screening of microorganisms with transfructosylating activity

10 The fungal cultures employed in the study were isolated from molasses or from  
11 commercial and home-made kiwi and fig jams. The contents of each sample were  
12 uniformly mixed, and a sample (1.0 mL) was aseptically withdrawn, mixed with 9.0  
13 ml of sterile water, and then diluted for isolation purposes. The inoculum was  
14 transferred to Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) plates containing chloramphenicol (0.05  
15 g/L) to inhibit bacterial growth. Plates were repeatedly incubated at 28°C until  
16 obtaining homogenous morphological colonies. Identification of the best performing  
17 strains was carried out at CBS (Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures, Baarn,  
18 Holland) using standard molecular techniques. The microorganisms were routinely  
19 maintained on MYA slants (Barley malt flour 100 g/L, yeast extract 5 g/L, agar 15  
20 g/L, pH 5.5) at 4°C.

21 The screening for FOS production was performed by inoculating the strains  
22 into 1 L flasks containing 100 mL of liquid MY medium (Barley malt flour 100 g/L,  
23 yeast extract 5 g/L, pH 5.5) containing 200 g/L of sucrose. The growth was carried  
24 out on a reciprocal shaker (150 rpm) at 28°C. Sugar composition was analyzed by  
25 HPLC during the growth after filtration of the mycelium.

### 26 2.3. Biotransformations with *Cladosporium cladosporioides* and *Penicillium* 27 *sizovae*

28 Studies were carried out with mycelium obtained after growth on MY medium  
29 for different times (with and without 200 g/L sucrose) under the conditions  
30 described above. Mycelia with the highest activity were found when cultures were  
31 grown on MY medium in absence of sucrose after 96 h on a reciprocal shaker (150  
32 rpm) at 28°C. After centrifugation, cells were washed with sodium acetate buffer (20  
33 mM, pH 6.0), lyophilized and used for biotransformations.

34 The activity of mycelium-bound and extracellular enzymes was independently  
35 assayed [26]. Experiments with mycelium-free supernatant were accomplished using  
36 the liquid fraction obtained after centrifugation of the whole culture and  
37 ultrafiltration using a stirred ultrafiltration cell (Model 8050 Amicon, Millipore,  
38 capacity 50 mL) with a 10 kDa cut-off membrane. The extracellular fraction

1 containing 0.41 g/L of total protein (Bradford assay) was used for biotransformation,  
2 started by incubating the mixture at 50°C in an orbital shaker at 90 rpm after  
3 addition of 200 g/L of sucrose. Freshly suspended (40 g dry weight/L) and  
4 lyophilized mycelium (40 g/L) were added to 200-600 g/L sucrose solutions in 20  
5 mM sodium acetate (pH 6.0) in a total reaction volume of 2 mL. The mixtures were  
6 incubated at 50°C in an orbital shaker at 90 rpm. At different times, aliquots (50 µL)  
7 were withdrawn, diluted with 200 µL of water, incubated for 10 min at 90°C to  
8 inactivate the enzymes, and analyzed by HPLC to determine the total FOS yield and  
9 by HPAEC-PAD to identify the synthesized FOS.

## 10 **2.4. HPLC analysis**

11 The screening of transfructosylation activity and the measurement of the FOS  
12 production were carried out analyzing the corresponding reaction mixtures using  
13 hydrophilic interaction chromatography (HPLC-HILIC) with a Delta 600 quaternary  
14 pump (Waters). The chromatographic column used was a 5-µm Luna-NH<sub>2</sub> 100A (4.6  
15 × 250 mm) from Phenomenex and the HPLC detector was a refraction index 2410  
16 from Waters. The mobile phase was acetonitrile/water 78/22 (v/v) at 1 mL/min.  
17 The temperature of the column was set at 30°C.

## 18 **2.5. Analysis of FOS by HPAEC-PAD**

19 Analysis of FOS composition was carried out by high-performance anion-  
20 exchange chromatography coupled with pulsed amperometric detection (HPAEC-  
21 PAD) on a Dionex ICS3000 system consisting of an SP gradient pump, an  
22 electrochemical detector with a gold working electrode and Ag/AgCl as reference  
23 electrode, and an autosampler (model AS-HV). All eluents were degassed by  
24 flushing with helium. A pellicular anion-exchange 4 × 250 mm Carbo-Pack PA-1  
25 column (Dionex) connected to a 4 × 50 mm CarboPac PA-1 guard column was used  
26 at 30°C. Eluent preparation was performed with Milli-Q water and NaOH. The  
27 initial mobile phase (at 0.5 mL/min) was 100 mM NaOH. A gradient from 0 to 200  
28 mM sodium acetate was performed in 50 min at 0.5 mL/min, and 200 mM sodium  
29 acetate was maintained for 25 min. The chromatograms were analyzed using  
30 Chromeleon software. The identification of the different carbohydrates was done on  
31 the basis of standards commercially available or purified in our laboratory.

## 32 **2.6. Isolation of an unknown carbohydrate**

33 The biocatalytic reaction with the *C. cladosporioides* CF<sub>2</sub>15 enzymatic preparation  
34 was scaled up to 10 mL. At the point of maximum concentration of the unknown  
35 oligosaccharide, the reaction was stopped by inactivation at 100°C (10 min) followed  
36 by filtration. The mixture was purified by semi-preparative HPLC using a system  
37 equipped with a Waters Delta 600 pump coupled to a 5 µm Kromasil-NH<sub>2</sub> column  
38 (10 × 250 mm; Analisis Vinicos). A three-way flow splitter (model Accurate, Dionex)  
39 and a refraction index detector (Waters, model 2410) equilibrated at 30°C were used.

1 Acetonitrile/water 70:30 (v/v), degassed with helium, was used as mobile phase at  
2 4.7 mL/min for 40 min. The column temperature was kept constant at 30°C. After  
3 collecting the different oligosaccharides, the mobile phase was eliminated by rotary  
4 evaporation in a R-210 rotavapor (Buchi).

## 5 **2.7. Mass Spectrometry**

6 The unknown carbohydrate was analyzed by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry  
7 (Bruker, model Ultraflex III TOF-TOF) using 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid doped with  
8 NaI as matrix, in positive reflector mode.

## 9 **2.8. Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)**

10 The structure of the unknown carbohydrate was elucidated using a  
11 combination of <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and 2D-NMR (COSY, TOCSY, NOESY, HSQC, HMBC)  
12 techniques. The spectra of the sample (ca. 10 mM), dissolved in deuterated water,  
13 was recorded on a Bruker AVANCE DRX500 spectrometer equipped with a tuneable  
14 broadband <sup>1</sup>H/X probe with a gradient in the Z axis, at a temperature of 298 K.  
15 Chemical shifts were expressed in ppm with respect to the 0 ppm point of DSS, used  
16 as internal standard. COSY, NOESY, HSQC, HSQC-TOCSY, DEPT-HSQC and  
17 HMBC sequences were provided by Bruker. COSY, TOCSY (80 ms mixing time), and  
18 NOESY (500 ms mixing time) experiments were performed with 8, 32, and 64 scans,  
19 respectively, with 256 increments in the indirect dimension and with 1024 points in  
20 the acquisition dimension. The spectral widths were 5 ppm in both dimensions. The  
21 HSQC and related experiments (16 scans) also used 256 increments in the indirect  
22 dimension and 1024 points in the acquisition dimension. The HMBC (64 scans) used  
23 384 increments in the indirect dimension and 1024 points in the acquisition  
24 dimension. The spectral width for the heteronuclear correlations was 120 ppm in the  
25 indirect dimension and 5 ppm in the acquisition one.  
26



## 1 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 2 3.1. Screening of transfructosylation activity

3 Filamentous fungi (45 strains), isolated from sucrose-rich environments (jams  
4 and molasses), were firstly grown on a MY medium (see Experimental Section)  
5 containing 200 g/L sucrose, and FOS production was followed during the growth.  
6 The carbohydrate composition of the supernatant was analyzed by HPLC-HILIC,  
7 showing that 14 strains (Table 1) were able to produce FOS in different concentration  
8 (referred to the total amount of sugars in the sample) and composition (indicated in  
9 the table by the kestose/nystose ratio, K/N). Two strains (CF<sub>2</sub>15 and CK1, identified  
10 as *Cladosporium cladosporioides* and *Penicillium sizovae*, respectively) gave maximum  
11 FOS production in shorter times (48 h) and were selected for their ability to  
12 synthesize FOS with different K/N ratios (0.8 and 6.0, respectively), at the point of  
13 maximum FOS concentration. Notably, *Cladosporium cladosporioides* gave the highest  
14 production of total FOS, whereas *Penicillium sizovae* was very selective, furnishing  
15 kestose as the main product.

### 16 3.2. Total FOS production with lyophilized mycelium of *C. cladosporioides* and 17 *P. sizovae*

18 The extracellular and cell-bound transfructosylating activity of *P. sizovae* and *C.*  
19 *cladosporioides* to produce FOS was evaluated using cultures grown on liquid MY  
20 medium. Cell-free supernatant (broth fraction) and washed mycelium were  
21 independently assayed to locate the transfructosylating activity. The supernatant  
22 gave conversions into total FOS lower than 5% for both strains, showing that the  
23 activity was mostly mycelium-bound. No significant differences were observed in  
24 the activity of mycelium grown in the medium with or without sucrose. Therefore,  
25 mycelium of cultures grown in liquid MY medium without sucrose was used for  
26 further experiments aimed at optimization and product characterization. Mycelia  
27 did not lose any significant activity upon lyophilisation (data not shown). It is well  
28 reported that lyophilized mycelia of fungi are easy-to-handle biocatalysts often  
29 showing remarkable long-term stability [27,28]. Lyophilized mycelia of the two  
30 strains were used for FOS production using various initial sucrose concentrations  
31 (200-600 g/L), and the highest yields of total FOS were obtained with 600 g/L of  
32 sucrose (Table 2).

33 The time course of total FOS formation with *P. sizovae* and *C. cladosporioides*  
34 using 600 g/L sucrose was followed by HPLC-HILIC and is represented in Figs. 1A  
35 and 1B, respectively. *P. sizovae* mycelium produced 184 g/L of total FOS (31% w/w  
36 of total sugars, after 24 h), which was obtained at 53% sucrose conversion, whereas  
37 *C. cladosporioides* mycelium synthesized 339 g/L of FOS (56% w/w, after 72 h) at 93%  
38 sucrose conversion. The fact that maximum FOS concentration with *C. cladosporioides*

1 enzyme was obtained when only 7% of initial sucrose remains in the mixture  
2 indicates that the transglycosylation to hydrolysis ratio of this enzyme is notable  
3 [29]. The **yield of total FOS** obtained with *C. cladosporioides* is close to the maximum  
4 values reported (around 60%) for the industrial processes with *Aspergillus* or  
5 *Aureobasidium* sp. enzymes [29-31].

### 6 **3.3. Characterization of synthesized FOS**

7 HPAEC-PAD was employed for the characterization of the FOS synthesized in  
8 the reactions with *P. sizovae* and *C. cladosporioides* using 600 g/L sucrose. According  
9 to the chromatograms presented in Figure 2, we detected at least 13 different  
10 carbohydrates in the reactions mediated by *P. sizovae* (Fig. 2A) and *C. cladosporioides*  
11 (Fig. 2B) mycelia. Peaks **1**, **2**, and **3** corresponded to glucose, fructose and sucrose,  
12 respectively. As illustrated in the chromatogram 2B, the main products present in the  
13 reaction mixture with *C. cladosporioides* were peaks **4** (1-kestose) and **9** (nystose).  
14 Peaks **7**, **8** and **10** were identified as 6-kestose, neokestose and neonystose,  
15 respectively, using standards previously purified in our laboratory as described  
16 [9;13]. Peak **12** was the pentasaccharide <sup>1</sup>F-fructosylnystose. The oligosaccharides  
17 corresponding to peaks **6**, **11** and **13** could not be identified so far. Figure 3 illustrates  
18 the structures of the different carbohydrates obtained in these reactions.

19 The compound corresponding to peak **5** was purified by semi-preparative  
20 HPLC. Its mass spectrum showed that it was a disaccharide. The 1D and 2D <sup>1</sup>H NMR  
21 spectra displayed two anomeric signals, arising from the typical  $\alpha/\beta$  equilibrium and  
22 a signal pattern recognizable as fructose and glucose residues. From the combination  
23 of the signals from COSY, TOCSY, NOESY, HSQC and HMBC spectra, full  
24 assignment of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C resonance signals belonging to the different residues  
25 was achieved. The glycosylation position was determined from the existence of a  
26 crosspeak between the H6 from glucose and the quaternary carbon C2 from fructose  
27 in the HMBC spectrum. The NMR data unequivocally permitted to identify the  
28 compound as blastose [Fru- $\beta$ (2 $\rightarrow$ 6)-Glc] (Figure 4), a sucrose isomer member of the  
29 neoFOS series. Despite it is a non-conventional disaccharide, the isolation and  
30 chemical characterization of blastose was first described in submerged cultures and  
31 honeydew of *Claviceps africana* and *Claviceps shorgi* [32]. Besides forming polyfructans,  
32 the levansucrase from *Bacillus megaterium* also synthesized five different  
33 oligosaccharides including blastose [33].

### 34 **3.4. Production of the different FOS**

35 The FOS formation was analyzed in detail using HPAEC-PAD. Figure 5  
36 illustrates the profile of the biotransformation with lyophilized mycelium of *C.*  
37 *cladosporioides* starting from 600 g/L of sucrose. At the point of maximum FOS  
38 concentration (72 h), the FOS fraction was mainly composed of 1-kestose (158 g/L)  
39 and nystose (97 g/L), with formation of lower amounts of the disaccharide blastose  
40 (34 g/L), <sup>1</sup>F-fructosylnystose (19 g/L), 6-kestose (12 g/L) and neokestose (10 g/L).  
41 Neonystose was only slightly detected at the end of the reaction (96 h). The yield of



1 <sup>1</sup>F-FOS obtained with *C. cladosporioides* (approx. 46%) was lower than the reported  
2 with *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus japonicus*, *Aureobasidium pullulans* or *Penicillium*  
3 *expansum* (60-66%) [34]. However, the mixture of <sup>1</sup>F-FOS, <sup>6</sup>F-FOS and <sup>6</sup>G-FOS  
4 synthesized by *C. cladosporioides* could display a synergistic effect; a similar FOS  
5 composition enclosing products of the three families was also described with the  $\beta$ -  
6 fructofuranosidase from *Rhodotorula dairenensis* [35].

7 The concentration of neokestose never surpassed 10 g/L throughout the  
8 reaction; however, blastose concentration was significantly higher (> 30 g/L) after  
9 48 h. This result suggests that blastose is not formed by hydrolysis of neokestose, but  
10 by the transfer of fructosyl moiety to the released glucose in the medium. In fact, the  
11 biosynthetic activity detected in the *C. cladosporioides* mycelium is not very efficient  
12 to hydrolyze the  $\beta(2\rightarrow6)$  linkages between a fructose and a glucose, as the neoFOS  
13 concentration is not diminishing throughout the process, in contrast with <sup>1</sup>F-FOS  
14 (Fig. 5).

15 Figure 6 shows the formation of the different FOS with lyophilized mycelium of  
16 *P. sizovae*. At the point of maximum FOS yield (24 h), 156 g/L out of the total FOS  
17 concentration (184 g/L) corresponded to 1-kestose. The FOS fraction was completed  
18 with nystose (11 g/L), neokestose (6 g/L) and neonystose (11 g/L). The *P. sizovae*  
19 enzyme displays a more typical profile with major formation of <sup>1</sup>F-FOS, which  
20 represented a yield of 28%. However, its transglycosylation to hydrolysis ratio is less  
21 favourable than that of *C. cladosporioides*. It is interesting to note the negligible  
22 presence of blastose with the *P. sizovae* enzyme, which indicates its much lower  
23 tendency to use glucose as acceptor to form  $\beta(2\rightarrow6)$  linkages.

#### 24 25 **4. CONCLUSION**

26 The main enzymes used for industrial production of FOS generally provide a  
27 mixture of molecules with the inulin-type structure, <sup>1</sup>F-FOS, whereas those from  
28 yeasts usually form levan-type FOS (<sup>6</sup>F-FOS) or neoFOS (<sup>6</sup>G-FOS). In this work, two  
29 filamentous fungi (*Cladosporium cladosporioides* and *Penicillium sizovae*) showing  
30 mycelium-bound transfructosylating activity were isolated. Maximum FOS yields  
31 were 56% and 31% for *C. cladosporioides* and *P. sizovae* respectively. Interestingly, *C.*  
32 *cladosporioides* synthesized a mixture of <sup>1</sup>F-FOS, <sup>6</sup>F-FOS and <sup>6</sup>G-FOS, including the  
33 presence of a non-conventional disaccharide (blastose). Considering that the FOS  
34 yield with *C. cladosporioides* is close to that obtained with typical *Aspergillus* or  
35 *Aureobasidium* enzymes, the formation of a mixture of FOS with different glycosidic  
36 linkages could give rise to certain benefits regarding their bioactivity.

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**Table 1.** Initial screening of FOS-synthesizing microorganisms in fruit jams and molasses. Experimental conditions: biotransformations with growing cells in MY medium (including 200 g/L sucrose), 28°C, 150 rpm. Carbohydrates: F, fructose; G, glucose; S, sucrose; K, total kestoses; N, total nystoses; FN fructosylnystose; K/N, kestose/nystose ratio.

Strain	Time (h) <sup>a</sup>	Composition (%) <sup>b</sup>						K/N ratio
		F (%)	G (%)	S (%)	K (%)	N (%)	FN (%)	
CF <sub>2</sub> 3V	96	2	33	9	32	24	-	1.3
CF <sub>2</sub> 4V	96	8	43	9	12	18	9	0.7
CF <sub>2</sub> 15	48	5	34	6	23	27	5	0.8
CK1	48	12	25	35	24	4	-	6.0
M1A	96	4	30	13	36	17	-	2.1
CF <sub>1</sub> 1	72	2	18	50	21	9	-	4.4
CF <sub>1</sub> 2	48	11	14	69	3	-	-	-
CF <sub>2</sub> 7	96	3	12	67	13	7	-	-
CF <sub>2</sub> 9V	48	48	47	3	3	-	-	-
CF <sub>2</sub> 11	72	3	5	87	4	-	-	-
CF <sub>2</sub> 12	96	8	20	57	10	5	-	2.0
CF <sub>2</sub> 14	96	6	31	43	18	4	-	4.0
CF <sub>2</sub> 16	48	2	24	47	12	5	-	2.4
SD4	96	5	26	58	16	5	-	3.2

<sup>a</sup> Time of maximum FOS production

<sup>b</sup> Weight percentage referred to the total amount of sugars in the mixture. Standard deviations were lower than 5%.

**Table 2.** FOS production with lyophilized mycelium of *Cladosporium cladosporioides* and *Penicillium sizovae* using different sucrose (S) concentrations.

Strain	[S] (g/L)	Time (h) <sup>a</sup>	Composition (%) <sup>b</sup>					
			F (%)	G (%)	S (%)	K (%)	N (%)	FN (%)
<i>C. cladosporioides</i>	200	24	8	30	10	23	7	7
<i>C. cladosporioides</i>	400	48	4	30	18	32	11	5
<i>C. cladosporioides</i>	600	72	3	33	12	30	18	4
<i>P. sizovae</i>	200	24	19	30	25	24	2	-
<i>P. sizovae</i>	400	24	12	23	36	25	4	-
<i>P. sizovae</i>	600	24	4	17	47	27	5	-

<sup>a</sup> Time of maximum FOS production

<sup>b</sup> Weight percentage referred to the total amount of sugars in the mixture. Standard deviations were lower than 5%.

## Figure legends

**Figure 1.** Time course of the reaction of sucrose with *P. sizovae* (A) and *C. cladosporioides* (B) mycelia. Reaction conditions: 600 g/L sucrose, 40 g/L lyophilized mycelium, 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0), 50°C. Standard deviations were lower than 5%.

**Figure 2.** HPAEC-PAD analysis of the reaction of sucrose with *P. sizovae* (A) and *C. cladosporioides* (B) mycelia at the point of maximum FOS concentration. Peaks: 1: glucose; 2: fructose; 3: sucrose; 4: 1-kestose; 5: blastose; 7: 6-Kestose; 8: neokestose; 9: nystose; 10: neo-nystose; 12: <sup>1</sup>F-fructosylnystose; 6, 11, 13: unknown.

**Figure 3.** Structure of the fructooligosaccharides produced by *P. sizovae* and *C. cladosporioides* transfructosylating activity.

**Figure 4.** 2D-NMR DEPT-HSQC spectra of blastose [Fru-β(2→6)-Glc]. The signals are assigned and labelled. The key points for identifications are also shown.

**Figure 5.** Kinetics of FOS formation using 600 g/L sucrose catalyzed by lyophilized *C. cladosporioides*. Reaction conditions: 40 g/L lyophilized mycelium, 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0), 50°C. Standard deviations were lower than 5%.

**Figure 6.** Kinetics of FOS formation using 600 g/L sucrose catalyzed by lyophilized *P. sizovae* (40 g/L). Reaction conditions: 40 g/L lyophilized mycelium, 20 mM sodium acetate buffer (pH 6.0), 50°C. Standard deviations were lower than 5%.

Fig. 1

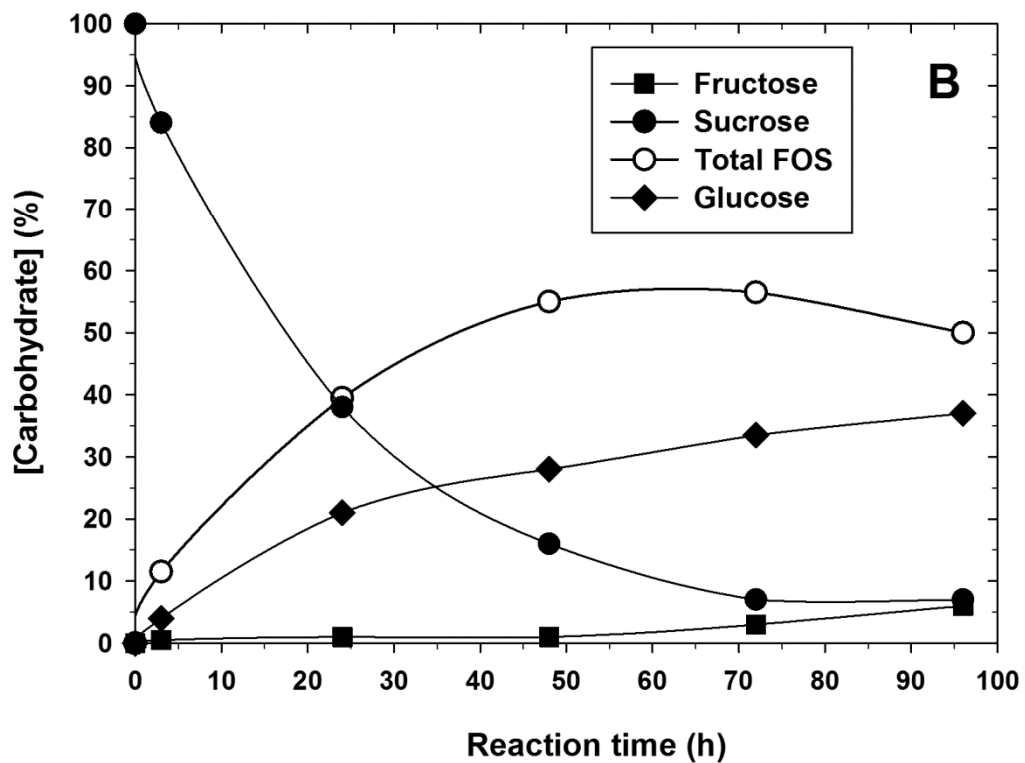
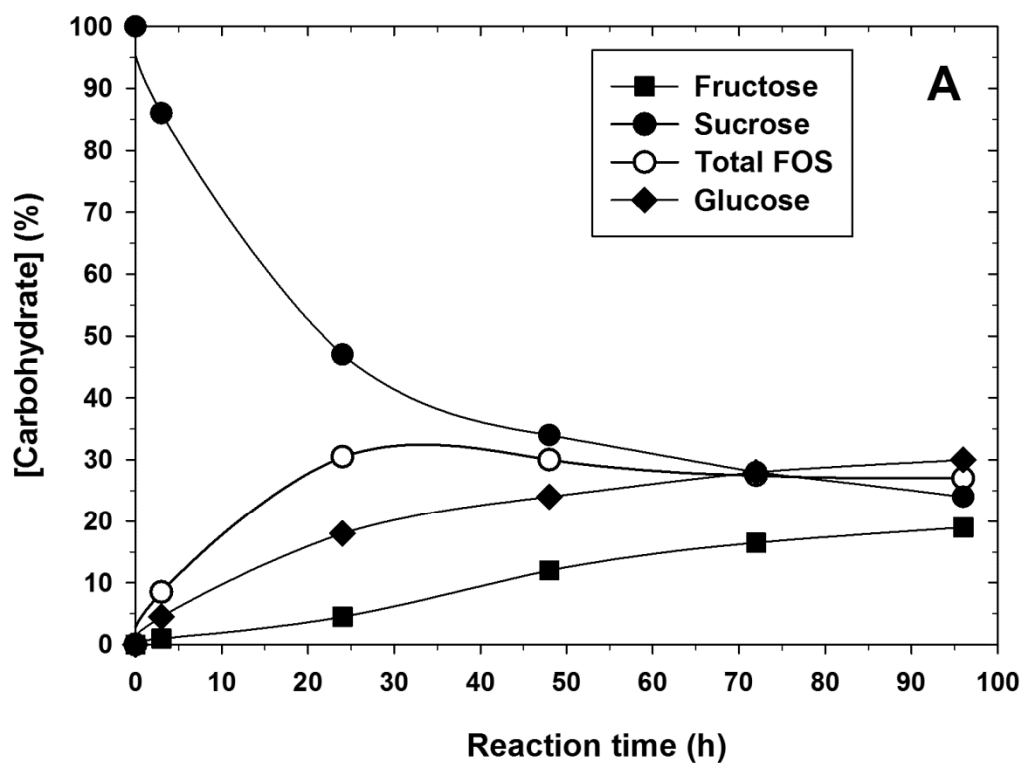


Fig. 2

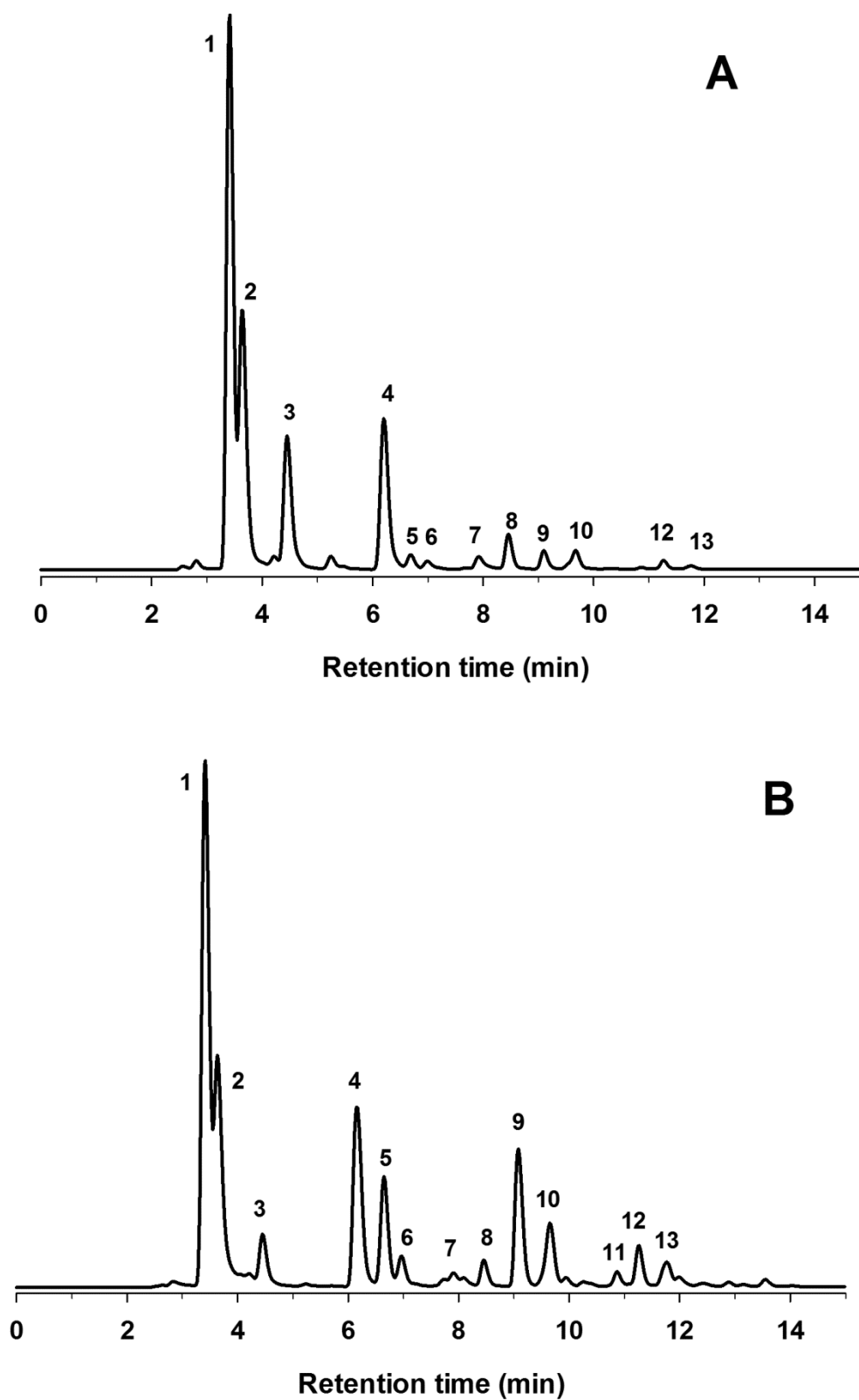


Fig. 3

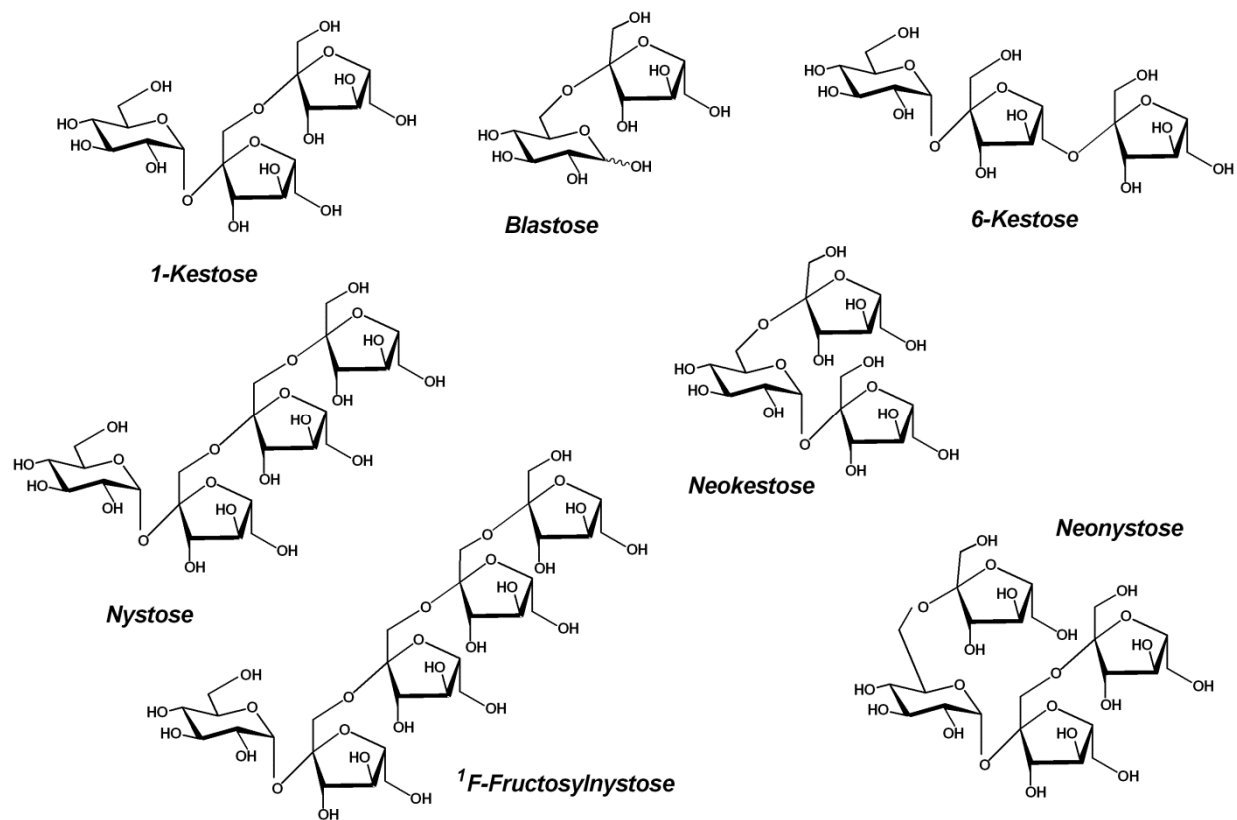




Fig. 4

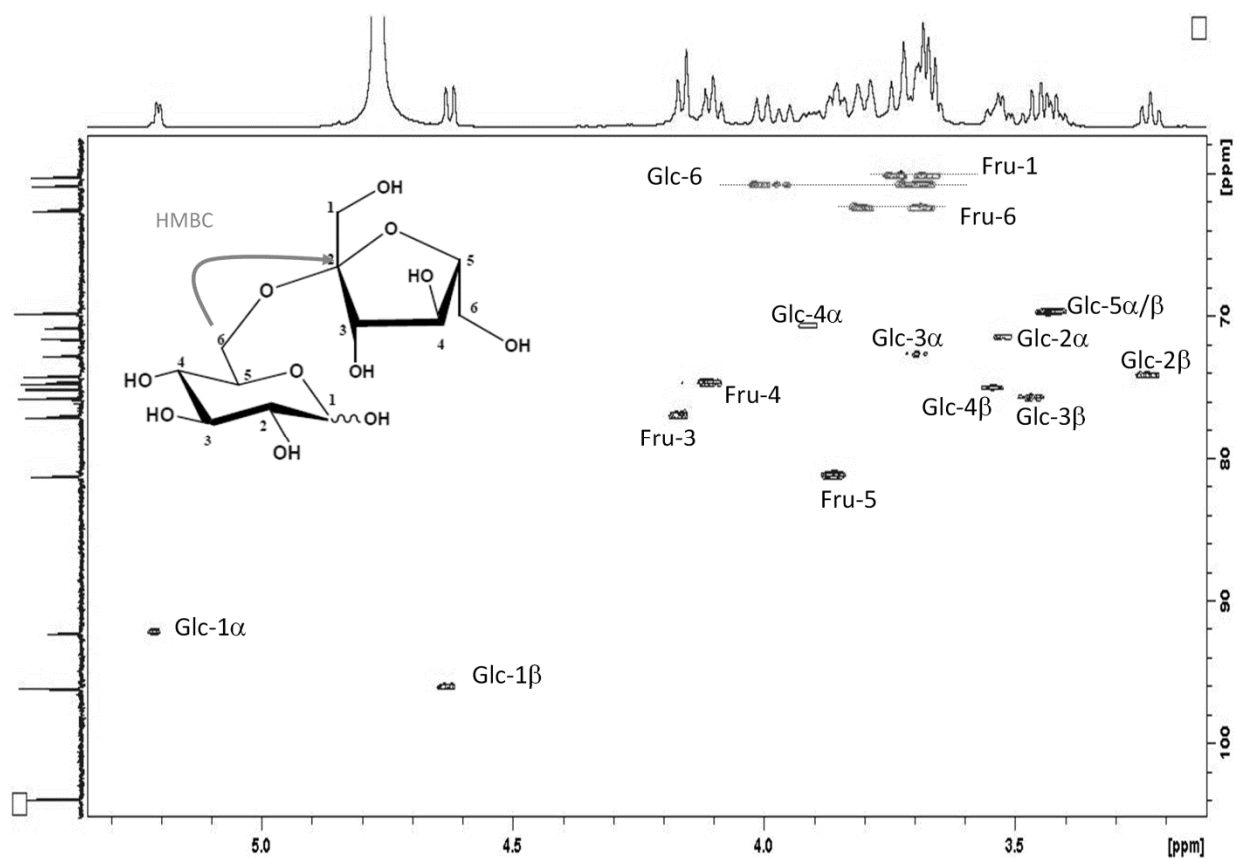


Fig. 5

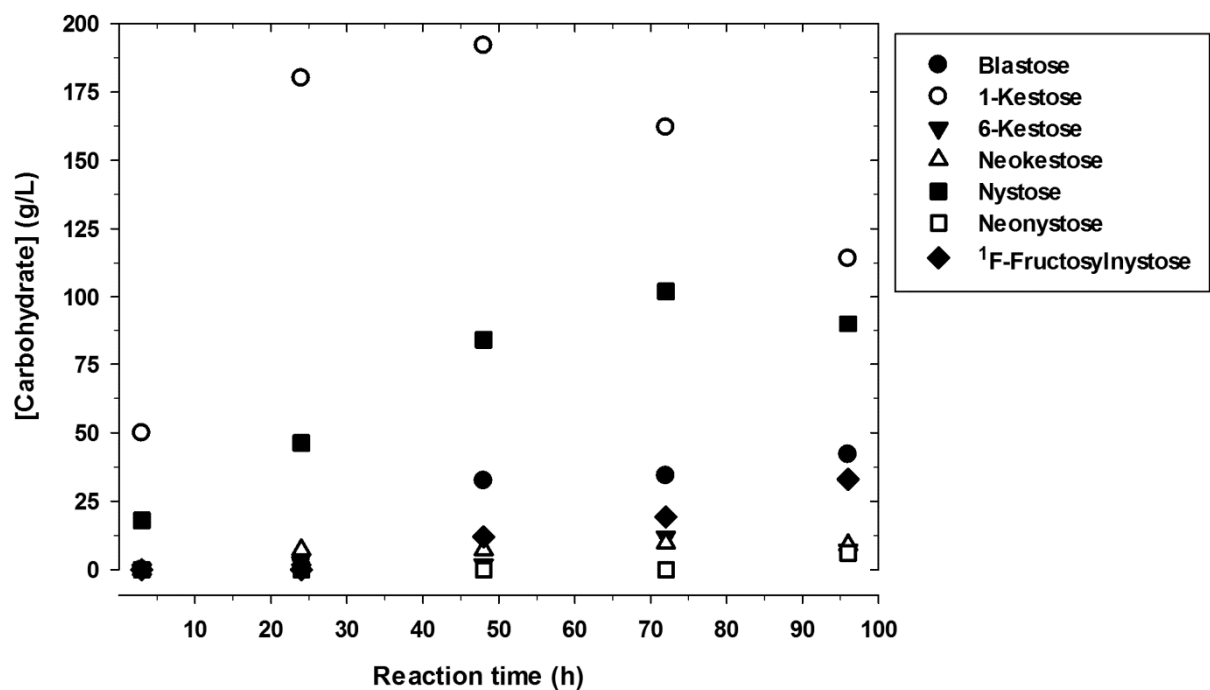


Fig. 6

