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Author(s)	Kihara, Akihiko; Saburi, Wataru; Wakuta, Shinji; Kim, Myung-Hee; Hamada, Shigeki; Ito, Hiroyuki; Imai, Ryojo; Matsui, Hirokazu
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1 Running title: Characterization of Three Rice NDPK Isozymes

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3 **Physiological and Biochemical Characterization of Three**  
4 **Nucleoside Diphosphate Kinase Isozymes from Rice (*Oryza sativa***  
5 **L.)**

6

7 Akihiko KIHARA,<sup>1</sup> Wataru SABURI,<sup>1,†</sup> Shinji WAKUTA,<sup>1</sup> Myung-Hee  
8 KIM,<sup>2</sup> Shigeki HAMADA,<sup>1</sup> Hiroyuki ITO,<sup>1</sup> Ryozo IMAI,<sup>2</sup> and Hirokazu  
9 MATSUI<sup>1</sup>

10

11 <sup>1</sup>*Laboratory of Biochemistry, Research Faculty of Agriculture,*  
12 *Hokkaido University, N-9, W-9, Kita-ku, Sapporo 060-8589, Japan*

13 <sup>2</sup>*Crop Cold-Tolerance Research Team, National Agricultural Research*  
14 *Center for the Hokkaido Region, 1 Hitsujigaoka, Toyohira-ku, Sapporo*  
15 *062-8555, Japan*

16

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19 <sup>†</sup> To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: +81-11-706-2508;  
20 Fax: +81-11-706-2508; E-mail: saburiw@chem.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

21

22 *Abbreviations:* NDPK, nucleoside diphosphate kinase; OsNDPK, *Oryza*  
23 *sativa* NDPK; AtNDPK, *Arabidopsis thaliana* NDPK; ATPD, ATPase  
24 delta gene from sweet potato; GFP, green fluorescence protein; RT-  
25 PCR, reverse transcription PCR; RFP, red fluorescence protein

26

1 Nucleoside diphosphate kinase (NDPK) is a ubiquitous enzyme that  
2 catalyzes the transfer of the  $\gamma$ -phosphoryl group from a nucleoside  
3 triphosphate to a nucleoside diphosphate. In this study, we examined  
4 the subcellular localization, tissue-specific gene expression, and  
5 enzymatic characteristics of three rice NDPK isozymes (OsNDPK1-  
6 OsNDPK3). Sequence comparison of the three OsNDPKs suggested  
7 differential subcellular localization. Transient expression of green  
8 fluorescence protein-fused proteins in onion cells indicated that  
9 OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 are localized to plastid and mitochondria  
10 respectively, while OsNDPK1 is localized to the cytosol. Expression  
11 analysis indicated that all the OsNDPKs are expressed in the leaf, leaf  
12 sheath, and immature seeds, except for OsNDPK1, in the leaf sheath.  
13 Recombinant OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 showed lower optimum pH and  
14 higher stability under acidic pH than OsNDPK1. In ATP formation, all  
15 the OsNDPKs displayed lower  $K_m$  values for the second substrate,  
16 ADP, than for the first substrate, NTP, and showed lowest and highest  
17  $K_m$  values for GTP and CTP respectively.

18

19 **Key words:** nucleoside diphosphate kinase; subcellular localization;  
20 ping-pong mechanism; gene expression; enzyme characteristics

21

22

23 Nucleoside diphosphate kinase (NDPK; EC 2.7.4.6)<sup>1, 2)</sup> is a  
24 ubiquitous enzyme that catalyzes the transfer of the  $\gamma$ -phosphoryl  
25 group from nucleoside triphosphate (NTP) to nucleoside diphosphate  
26 (NDP) through a ping-pong mechanism.<sup>3)</sup> Since it catalyzes reversible  
27 reactions, it has been considered a housekeeping enzyme that regulates  
28 nucleotide pools within the cells. However, recent studies have

1 suggested that NDPKs play more specific roles in signal transduction  
2 in diverse organisms, from bacteria to mammals. For instance, an  
3 NDPK is involved in the regulation of G protein activity by changing  
4 the availability of GTP in the vicinity of G protein.<sup>4,5)</sup> Genes encoding  
5 NDPK are associated with the suppression of tumor metastasis<sup>6)</sup> and  
6 *Drosophila* development.<sup>7)</sup> Furthermore, a function as a transcription  
7 factor that regulates *c-myc* gene expression has been demonstrated for  
8 a human NDPK.<sup>8)</sup>

9 Three types of NDPKs have been identified in plants based on their  
10 amino acid sequences.<sup>9-14)</sup> Type I NDPK is a cytosolic protein,<sup>11,14)</sup>  
11 while type II and type III NDPK bear an N-terminal extension likely to  
12 be involved in targeting of the proteins to chloroplasts<sup>15-18)</sup> or  
13 mitochondria.<sup>19,20)</sup> Plant NDPKs have also been found to be multi-  
14 functional proteins, and to be strongly related to signal transduction,  
15 differentiation, and development. *Arabidopsis* type II NDPK  
16 (AtNDPK2) regulates auxin action<sup>21)</sup> and phytochrome-mediated signal  
17 transduction.<sup>9)</sup> AtNDPK2 is thought to regulate the activity of G  
18 protein, since AtNDPK2 directly interacts with pea small G-proteins,  
19 Pra2 and Pra3, and controls their activities.<sup>22)</sup>

20 In rice, only type I NDPK (OsNDPK1) has been characterized to  
21 date. The amount of the OsNDPK1 protein in the embryo increases  
22 during imbibition, while it decreases in the endosperm.<sup>23)</sup> OsNDPK1  
23 has been implicated in the cell elongation process in coleoptiles. The  
24 activity of NDPK in coleoptiles correlates with their length in *NDPK1*  
25 knock-down mutants.<sup>24)</sup> Furthermore, *NDPK1* expression was strongly  
26 induced by a plant pathogen (*Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*),  
27 salicylic acid, jasmonic acid, and abscisic acid.<sup>25)</sup>

28 The three-dimensional structure of OsNDPK1 has been solved in a

1 multimeric form (two hexamers).<sup>26)</sup> The OsNDPK1 monomer consists  
2 of a four-stranded anti-parallel  $\beta$ -sheet, surrounded by six  $\alpha$ -helices.  
3 The nucleotide-binding site in a cleft is formed by an area of highly  
4 positive potential. Two crucial, conserved active site residues, Phe58  
5 and His115, are located on  $\alpha$ A and  $\beta$ 4 respectively (the names of  
6 structural elements used here follow a report of Huang *et al.*<sup>26)</sup>).

7 In spite of extensive studies on the structure and physiological  
8 functions of OsNDPK1, the enzymatic properties of rice NDPK  
9 isozymes, including OsNDPK1, have not been elucidated in detail.  
10 Here, we report subcellular localization, gene expression, and  
11 enzymatic properties of three OsNDPKs.

12

13

## 14 **Materials and Methods**

15

16 *Plant materials.* Rice plants (*Oryza sativa* L. cv. Kitaake) were  
17 grown in the experimental field of Hokkaido University. Tissues from  
18 rice plants at the grain-filling period were collected and stored at -  
19 80°C until analysis.

20

21 *Cloning of genes encoding OsNDPKs.* Three OsNDPK genes,  
22 OsNDPK1 (Os07g0492000), OsNDPK2 (Os12g0548300), and  
23 OsNDPK3 (Os05g0595400), are predicted in the rice genome  
24 according to the rice annotation project database. The cDNAs of these  
25 genes were amplified by reverse transcription PCR (RT-PCR) from  
26 immature seeds, as follows: Total RNA was extracted from immature  
27 seeds using ISOGEN (Nippon Gene, Tokyo), and reverse transcription  
28 was performed with BcaBEST RNA PCR Kit (Takara, Shiga, Japan)

1 using an oligo dT primer (Takara). RT-PCR was performed with  
2 PrimeSTAR HS DNA polymerase (Takara) and the following primers:  
3 for OsNDPK1, 5'-ATCCTCCTCATCGCCTCCGCTTCTG-3' (sense) and  
4 5'-CTTGGATGAACCTAGGGAAAGAGCATG-3' (antisense); for  
5 OsNDPK2, 5'-TCATCATCTTCTTCTTCTCCGCTCTCC-3' (sense) and  
6 5'-CACCTCTGCTGGGAGCTATAGTACAAC-3' (antisense); and for  
7 OsNDPK3, 5'-GTACATACTAGTACAAGACTGGAGGGC-3' (sense)  
8 and 5'-TGATTACTCAGTGCACGCTCTACAATC-3' (antisense).  
9 Amplified DNA fragments were cloned into pBluescript SK II  
10 (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) using DNA Ligation Kit Mighty Mix  
11 (Takara), and were sequenced with an ABI PISM 310 Genetic Analyzer  
12 (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) with a Big Dye Terminator 3.1  
13 Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems). Propagation of plasmid DNA  
14 was performed in *Escherichia coli* DH5 $\alpha$ , and plasmid DNA was  
15 purified by alkaline lysis methods.<sup>27)</sup>

16  
17 *Transient expression of OsNDPKs fused with green fluorescent*  
18 *protein (GFP).* By PCR, *Bam*HI and *Nde*I sites were introduced into  
19 the 5'- and 3'-termini of the OsNDPK genes using the following  
20 primers (*Bam*HI and *Nde*I sites underlined): for OsNDPK1, 5'-  
21 GTTCTTTGGATCCATGGAGCAGTC-3' (sense) and 5'-  
22 GCGCGAACATATGAGACTCATAGATCCAAG-3' (antisense); for  
23 OsNDPK2, 5'-GAGAAGCAGCTGGATCCATGGACGCC-3' (sense) and  
24 5'-GCACTGATCTGGGACATATGCTCTACAAG-3' (antisense); and for  
25 OsNDPK3, 5'-CCCTAGCCAAGGATCCATGAGCAAGC-3' (sense) and  
26 5'-GGGAGATGATTCGCCATATGGTTGACCC-3' (antisense). The GFP  
27 gene was isolated from the 35S-sGFP plasmid, the kind gift of Dr.  
28 Yasuo Niwa (University of Shizuoka), by double digestion of *Nde*I and

1 *SacI*, and was fused to the *OsNDPK* genes on binary vector pTH-1, a  
2 derivative of pBE2113.<sup>28)</sup> The plastidial localization marker,  
3 *AtCHL27:RFP*, was created by inserting *Arabidopsis* CHL27 cDNA<sup>29)</sup>  
4 into the pH7RWG2 vector.<sup>30)</sup> The mitochondrial marker construct,  
5 *ATPD:RFP*, which utilizes the signal peptide of sweet potato ATPase  
6 delta,<sup>31)</sup> was also prepared with pH7RWG2.

7 Introduction of expression vectors into onion epidermal cell layer  
8 was performed by particle bombardment.<sup>32)</sup> Gold particles coated with  
9 2.5 µg of the respective plasmid(s) were delivered into onion  
10 epidermal cells using a Biolistic PDS-1000/He system (Bio-Rad,  
11 Hercules, CA) with a rupture setting of 1,100 psi. After bombardment,  
12 the epidermal cell layer was incubated on Murashige and Skoog  
13 medium<sup>33)</sup> at 25°C overnight. Subcellular localization of the GFP-  
14 fusion proteins was visualized by fluorescence microscopy DM6000B  
15 (Leica, Solms, Germany). Images were processed with imaging  
16 software FW4000 (Leica).

17  
18 *Expression analysis of OsNDPK genes.* The transcription levels of  
19 *OsNDPKs* in the leaf, leaf sheath, and immature seeds were examined  
20 by RT-PCR. Total RNA from these tissues was extracted, and first-  
21 strand cDNA was synthesized as described above. PCR was conducted  
22 with the following primers: for *OsNDPK1*, 5'-  
23 GCCTCCTGAGTCACCATTATAATTCTG-3' (sense) and 5'-  
24 CTTGGATGAACCTAGGGAAAGAGCATG-3' (antisense); for  
25 *OsNDPK2*, 5'-CCGATTACTCTCTGTTGTCAAATCTCC-3' (sense) and  
26 5'-CACCTCTGCTGGGAGCTATAGTACAAC-3' (antisense); and for  
27 *OsNDPK3*, 5'-CATCTCCCCTGTTTGTGTTTTTTTTTTTC-3' (sense)  
28 and 5'-TGATTACTCAGTGCACGCTCTACAATC-3' (antisense).

1 Twenty-eight, 30, and 27 cycles (98°C for 5 s, 55°C for 5 s, and 72°C  
2 for 1 min) for OsNDPK1, 2, and 3 respectively were performed.  
3 Ubiquitin mRNA was used as internal control with a pair of primers:  
4 sense, 5'-CCAGGACAAGATGATCTGCC-3'; antisense, 5'-  
5 CCAGTCCATGAACCCGGCGAGTGACG-3'.

6  
7 *Construction of expression plasmids for OsNDPKs.* Plasmid vector  
8 pET23a (Novagen, Darmstadt, Germany) was used to produce  
9 recombinant OsNDPKs in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) pLys. Recombinant  
10 OsNDPK2 and 3 were produced as N-terminal-truncated forms starting  
11 from the 73th and 88th amino acids respectively. Recombinant  
12 OsNDPK1 was produced in intact form. A histidine tag from the vector  
13 consisting of six histidine residues was attached to the C-terminal of  
14 each recombinant protein and utilized for affinity chromatography.

15 To clone the cDNA of OsNDPKs into pET23a, *NheI* and *XhoI* sites  
16 were introduced into the 5'- and 3'-termini of the cDNA by PCR with  
17 the following primer sets (*NheI* and *XhoI* sites underlined): for  
18 OsNDPK1, 5'-GAGAGATGGGCTAGCTCCTTCATCATG-3' (sense) and  
19 5'-GGCGCGAAACTCGAGAGACTCATAGATCC-3' (antisense); for  
20 OsNDPK2, 5'-CGTCGTCGGTTGCTAGCTCCTATATTATG-3' (sense)  
21 and 5'-GCACTGATCTGGGACTCGAGCTCTACAAG-3' (antisense);  
22 and for OsNDPK3, 5'-CGCATGCTGCAGGCTAGCGGAGCGCACC-3'  
23 (sense) and 5'-GAGATGATTCGCCTCGAGGTGACCCC-3'  
24 (antisense). The amplified DNA fragments and pET23a were digested  
25 with *NheI* and *XhoI* and ligated as described above.

26  
27 *Production and purification of recombinant OsNDPKs.* Recombinant  
28 OsNDPKs were produced in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) pLys cells carrying



1 the expression plasmids. The transformants were cultured at 37°C in 1  
2 L of Luria-Bertani medium with 100 µg/mL ampicillin until  $A_{600}$   
3 reached 0.8. Then 1 mL of 0.1 M isopropyl  $\beta$ -thiogalactopyranoside  
4 was added to the culture, and the cells were grown further at 20°C for  
5 16 h. The bacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation and  
6 suspended in 50 mL of 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) containing 20  
7 mM imidazole and 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride. They were  
8 disrupted by sonication with Sonifier 450 (Branson, Danbury, CT), and  
9 the lysate was centrifuged to remove cell debris. The cell-free extract  
10 obtained was applied to Ni-chelating column chromatography using  
11 Chlating Sepahrose Fast Flow (GE healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). The  
12 adsorbed protein was eluted with a linear gradient of imidazole (20-  
13 500 mM) in 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) with 10% glycerol after  
14 thorough washing with 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) containing 20  
15 mM imidazole. The purity of the recombinant OsNDPK isozymes was  
16 confirmed by SDS-PAGE.<sup>34)</sup> The collected fraction was dialyzed  
17 against 20 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) with 10% glycerol, and then  
18 more glycerol was added to 40% before storage at -20°C. The protein  
19 concentration of purified enzymes was measured by the Bradford  
20 method,<sup>35)</sup> and bovine serum albumin F-V (Nakalai Tesque, Kyoto,  
21 Japan) was used as standard.

22

23 *Enzyme assay.* NDPK activity was determined based on the initial  
24 velocity of ATP formation from ADP and GTP. A reaction mixture of  
25 100 µL consisting of an appropriate concentration of the enzyme, 2 mM  
26 ADP (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO), 2 mM GTP (Wako, Osaka,  
27 Japan), 4 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5), 100 mM KCl, and 25 mM  
28 MgCl<sub>2</sub> was incubated at 25°C for 10 min. The enzymatic reaction was

1 stopped by boiling for 5 min, and the ATP produced was measured by  
2 HPLC under the following conditions: column, Capcell Pak NH<sub>2</sub> UG80  
3 (φ4.6 x 50 mm, Shiseido, Tokyo); column temperature, 40°C; injection  
4 volume, 20 μL; detection, A<sub>254</sub>; flow rate, 0.8 mL/min; elution, linear  
5 gradient of 0-300 mM ammonium phosphate dibasic (pH 3.0). As  
6 standard, 0-2.0 mM ATP (Sigma-Aldrich) was used.

7 The optimum pH values of the OsNDPKs were determined by  
8 measuring ATP-forming velocities at the indicated pH values. Fifty mM  
9 sodium acetate buffer (pH 4.0 and 5.0), 50 mM MES-NaOH buffer (pH  
10 5.5-7.0), 50 mM glycine-NaOH buffer (pH 10.0 and 11.0) were used as  
11 the reaction buffer.

12 The temperature and pH stabilities of the OsNDPKs were evaluated  
13 based on residual activity after temperature and pH treatments. The  
14 range of pH and temperature, where the enzymes retained more than  
15 90% of original activity after treatment, were considered to be stable  
16 ranges. Temperature treatment was done by incubation of OsNDPK  
17 solution (OsNDPK1, 29 ng/mL; OsNDPK2, 17 ng/mL; and OsNDPK3,  
18 47 ng/mL) at 10-70°C for 15 min. For pH treatment, OsNDPKs  
19 (OsNDPK1, 0.9 mg/mL; OsNDPK2, 1.8 mg/mL; and OsNDPK3, 1.4  
20 mg/mL) were diluted 10-fold with 0.5 M Britton-Robinson buffer (pH  
21 2.0-12.0) and incubated at 4°C for 16 h.

22 The kinetic parameters of the OsNDPKs for ADP and various NTPs  
23 (GTP, TTP, and CTP) were calculated based on the following reaction  
24 equation for the ping-pong mechanism:

$$25 \quad v = k_{\text{cat}} \cdot a \cdot b / (K_{\text{mb}} \cdot a + K_{\text{ma}} \cdot b + a \cdot b)$$

26 where  $v$  is the reaction rate,  $k_{\text{cat}}$  is the molecular activity,  $a$  and  $b$  are  
27 concentrations of NTP and ADP respectively, and  $K_{\text{ma}}$  and  $K_{\text{mb}}$  are the  
28 affinity constants for NTP and ADP respectively. The initial velocities

1 of ATP formation at various concentrations of ADP (0.031-0.083 mM)  
2 and NTP (0–1 mM) were measured under the conditions described  
3 above. The reactions toward TTP and CTP were also analyzed with  
4 HPLC as the reaction to GTP.

5

6

## 7 **Results**

8

### 9 *Phylogenetic analysis of the OsNDPKs*

10 Three OsNDPK genes, OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3, are predicted in the  
11 rice genome. A comparison of the amino acid sequences of these  
12 OsNDPKs revealed that in addition to a highly conserved C-terminal  
13 region (about 50% identity), OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 contained  
14 putative signal sequences at the N-terminus. Phylogenetic analysis was  
15 done with the sequences of the conserved regions available for *O.*  
16 *sativa*, *A. thaliana*, *Zea mays*, *Pinus sativum*, *Arachis hypogaea*,  
17 *Nicotiana tabacum*, and *Brassica rapa*. The NDPKs divided into three  
18 types, and OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 fell into types I-III respectively (Fig.  
19 1).

Fig. 1

20

### 21 *Subcellular localization of the OsNDPKs*

22 In order to determine the specific functions of the OsNDPKs,  
23 subcellular localization was determined using GFP-fused proteins. The  
24 full-length cDNAs of the respective NDPKs were amplified by RT-  
25 PCR, and the GFP gene was fused to the C-terminus.

26 The fusion genes were transiently expressed in onion epidermal  
27 cells. The fluorescence signals of the OsNDPK1:GFP protein were  
28 detected in the nucleus and the cytoplasm (Fig. 2A). In contrast, the

1 OsNDPK2:GFP and OsNDPK3:GFP proteins were detected as dot-like  
2 subcellular structures (Fig.2B and E). Co-expression experiments with  
3 marker genes for plastidial (AtCHL27:RFP) and mitochondrial  
4 (ATPD:RFP) targeting indicated localization of OsNDPK2:GFP and  
5 OsNDPK3:GFP to plastids and mitochondria respectively (Fig. 2D and  
6 G).

7

### 8 *Expression of the OsNDPK genes in various tissues*

9 Expression of the *OsNDPKs* was determined in leaf, leaf sheath, and  
10 immature seeds by RT-PCR (Fig. 3). The expression level of *OsNDPK1*  
11 was almost the same in leaf and immature seed, but was fairly low in  
12 the leaf sheath. In the case of *OsNDPK2*, high transcript levels were  
13 observed in the leaf and leaf sheath, and a lower level was detected in  
14 immature seed. *OsNDPK3* was strongly expressed in every tissue  
15 examined, and no difference in expression level was observed, unlike  
16 other isozymes.

17

### 18 *Production and purification of recombinant OsNDPKs*

19 Recombinant OsNDPKs were produced as C-terminal His-tag  
20 proteins. For OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3, the N-terminal hydrophobic  
21 regions (Met1-Ala72 and Met1-Ser87 respectively) were deleted  
22 because the corresponding full-length proteins were predominantly  
23 produced in the insoluble fractions (data not shown). Recombinant  
24 OsNDPKs were purified from *E. coli* cell-free extracts to homogeneity  
25 by Ni-chelating column chromatography (Fig. 4). The molecular  
26 masses of OsNDPK1- OsNDPK3, estimated by SDS-PAGE,  
27 corresponded to the theoretical masses calculated from the amino acid  
28 sequences (17.9, 17.4, and 18.0 kDa respectively).

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

1 *Enzymatic properties of recombinant OsNDPKs*

2 The recombinant OsNDPKs were characterized based on ATP-  
3 forming activity from ADP and GTP. OsNDPK1 and OsNDPK2 were  
4 stable up to 25°C. On the other hand, OsNDPK3 was stable up to 30°C  
5 (Fig. 5). OsNDPK1 showed the highest activity at pH 8.4, while the  
6 optimum pH values for both OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 were 6.2 (Fig.  
7 6). The stable pH ranges for OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 were different, as  
8 follows: OsNDPK1, 7.0-9.0; OsNDPK2, 6.0-9.0; and OsNDPK3, 4.0-  
9 9.0 (Fig. 7).

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7

10 The kinetic parameters of the OsNDPKs for ATP formation from  
11 ADP and NTP were determined by double reciprocal plots (Table 1).  
12 Figure 8 shows the lines obtained from the initial velocities of ATP  
13 formation at various concentrations of GTP and ADP. The lines for  
14 respective ADP concentrations were parallel in all the OsNDPKs,  
15 indicating that NDPKs obeyed the ping-pong mechanism, as reported  
16 for human NDPK.<sup>3)</sup> All the OsNDPKs displayed lower  $K_m$  values for  
17 the second substrate, ADP, than for the first substrate, NTP, and  
18 showed lowest and highest  $K_m$  values for GTP and CTP respectively  
19 (Table 1). OsNDPK1 exhibited higher  $K_m$  values than OsNDPK2 and  
20 OsNDPK 3 for all the substrates examined.

Table 1

Fig. 8

21

22

23 **Discussion**

24 Plant NDPKs are involved in multiple signaling steps in the  
25 regulation of differentiation and development. In rice, the  
26 physiological functions and three-dimensional structure of OsNDPK1  
27 have been elucidated.<sup>23-26)</sup> But the enzymatic characteristics of plant  
28 NDPKs, including OsNDPKs, are poorly understood. Here, we

1 investigated the enzymatic properties of three OsNDPKs along with  
2 subcellular localization and gene expression.

3 Phylogenetic analysis indicated that plant NDPKs are to be  
4 classified into three structural groups (types I-III) (Fig.1).  
5 Phylogenetic analysis also suggested that these three groups of NDPKs  
6 diverged before monocot and dicot separation. OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3  
7 represent each group, suggesting that each OsNDPK has a distinctive  
8 function that is conserved among plant species.

9 The subcellular localization of type II and type III NDPKs in plants  
10 is controversial. AtNDPK2 was first reported as a cytosolic protein  
11 that interacts with phytochrome A<sup>9)</sup> and several other cytosolic  
12 proteins including mitogen-activated protein kinases<sup>36)</sup> and subgroup 3  
13 sucrose-nonfermenting-related kinases.<sup>37)</sup> However, a later report  
14 confirmed that AtNDPK2 is localized to the chloroplasts.<sup>15)</sup>  
15 Furthermore, a type II NDPK from pea was purified from the leaf  
16 chloroplast.<sup>16)</sup> Localization of AtNDPK3 is also unclear, because three  
17 groups have reported differently that AtNDPK3 is localized to the  
18 mitochondria, the chloroplasts, and both.<sup>20,38,39)</sup> Alignment of the  
19 OsNDPK sequences indicated that OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 contain a  
20 putative N-terminal targeting sequence, while the C-terminal of the  
21 three OsNDPKs are well conserved (data not shown). The N-terminal  
22 targeting sequences appear to have features typical of both plastidial  
23 and mitochondrial localization. Hence, prediction servers returned  
24 different localization results. For example, TargetP  
25 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TargetP/>) predicted plastid  
26 localization for both OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3, while PSORT  
27 (<http://psort.hgc.jp/>) predicted mitochondrial localization. According  
28 to our data for the C-terminal GFP fusion proteins, the subcellular

1 localizations of OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 were clearly distinguished.  
2 OsNDPK2 was localized to the plastids (Fig.2B) and OsNDPK3 to the  
3 mitochondria (Fig. 2E).

4 The recombinant OsNDPK2 and OsNDPK3 showed higher activity  
5 and stability at lower pH values than OsNDPK1 (Figs. 6 and 7). This  
6 can be attributed to adaptation to the localized organelle, plastids, and  
7 mitochondria respectively, in which the pH values are more labile than  
8 that of cytosol due to excess accumulation of protons. Kinetic analysis  
9 of the OsNDPKs revealed that all the isozymes exhibited lowest  
10 affinity constants for GTP among NTP (Table 1). The higher  
11 preference for GTP suggests a possible role of OsNDPKs in  
12 maintaining GTP levels. Such a mechanism might be involved in  
13 regulatory processes, as found for *Drosophila*, in which NDPK  
14 controls GTP levels in the vicinity of a G protein that regulates cell  
15 signaling.<sup>4, 5)</sup>

16

17

## 18 **Acknowledgment**

19

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23

24

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1 **Figure legends**

2

3 **Fig. 1.** Phylogenetic Tree of Plant NDPKs.

4 A phylogenetic tree of plant NDPKs was constructed using the  
5 Clustal X program (ver. 2.0.11), and visualized with TreeView 1.6.6  
6 software. Numbers in the figure indicate bootstrap values. Os, *Oryza*  
7 *sativa*; At, *Arabidopsis thaliana*; Zm, *Zea mays*; Ps, *Pinus sativum*;  
8 Ah, *Arachis hypogaea*; Nt, *Nicotiana tabacum*; Br, *Brassica rapa*.

9

10 **Fig. 2.** Subcellular Localization of OsNDPKs in Onion Epidermal  
11 Cells.

12 A, Fluorescent images of an onion cell expressing OsNDPK1:GFP.  
13 B-D, fluorescent images of an onion cell co-expressing OsNDPK2:GFP  
14 and AtCHL27:RFP. E-G, fluorescence images of an onion cell co-  
15 expressing OsNDPK3:GFP and ATPD:RFP. B, GFP fluorescence image  
16 of OsNDPK2; C, RFP fluorescence image of AtCHI27; D, overlay  
17 image of B and C; E, GFP fluorescence image of OsNDPK3; F, RFP  
18 fluorescence image of ATPD; G, overlay image of E and F. Scale bars  
19 are 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20

21 **Fig. 3.** RT-PCR Analysis for Gene Expression of *OsNDPKs* in Leaf,  
22 Leaf Sheath, and Immature Seed Tissues.

23 Semi-quantitative RT-PCR was performed to evaluate the expression  
24 levels of *OsNDPKs* in leaf, leaf sheath, and immature seed tissues. The  
25 ubiquitin gene was used as control.

26

27 **Fig. 4.** SDS-PAGE Analysis of Purified Recombinant OsNDPKs.

1 Purified enzyme (2  $\mu$ g) was separated on a 15% w/v polyacrylamide  
2 gel. The molecular masses of standard proteins are shown on the left.  
3 M, size marker; 1, OsNDPK1; 2, OsNDPK2; 3, OsNDPK3.

4

5 **Fig. 5.** Temperature Stability of Recombinant OsNDPKs.

6 The residual activities of recombinant OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 were  
7 measured after 15 min incubation at indicated temperatures. Solid  
8 circle, hollow circle, and solid triangle indicate OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3  
9 respectively. Data are the mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent  
10 experiments.

11

12 **Fig. 6.** pH Activity Curves of Recombinant OsNDPKs.

13 The reaction velocities of recombinant OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 at  
14 indicated pH values were measured. Solid circle, hollow circle, and  
15 solid triangle indicate OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 respectively. Data are the  
16 mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.

17

18 **Fig. 7.** pH Stability of Recombinant OsNDPKs.

19 The residual activities of recombinant OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 were  
20 measured after pH treatment at 4°C for 16 h. Solid circle, hollow  
21 circle, and solid triangle indicate OsNDPK1-OsNDPK3 respectively.  
22 Data are the mean  $\pm$  SD for three independent experiments.

23

24 **Fig. 8.** Lineweaver-Burk Plots for the Reaction of Recombinant  
25 OsNDPKs toward ADP and GTP.

26 The double reciprocal plots were obtained from the initial velocities  
27 of recombinant OsNDPKs to various concentrations of ADP and GTP.  
28 Hollow triangle, solid triangle, hollow circle, and solid circle indicate

1 the  $1/v$  values for 0.042, 0.05, 0.063, and 0.083 mM ADP respectively.  
2 GTP concentrations were 0.25, 0.33, 0.5, and 1.0 mM. A, OsNDPK1; B,  
3 OsNDPK2; C, OsNDPK3. Data are the mean  $\pm$  SD for three  
4 independent experiments.  
5

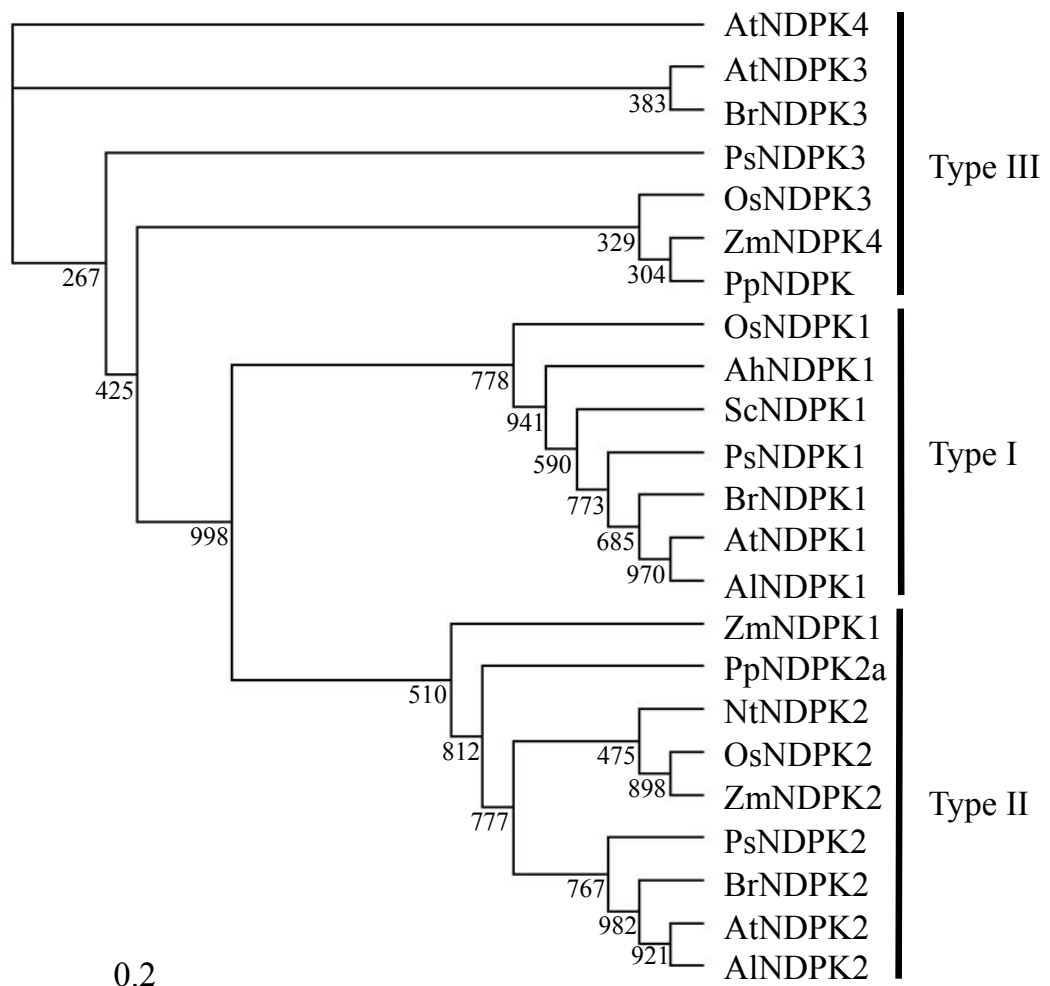


Fig. 1, Kihara *et al.*

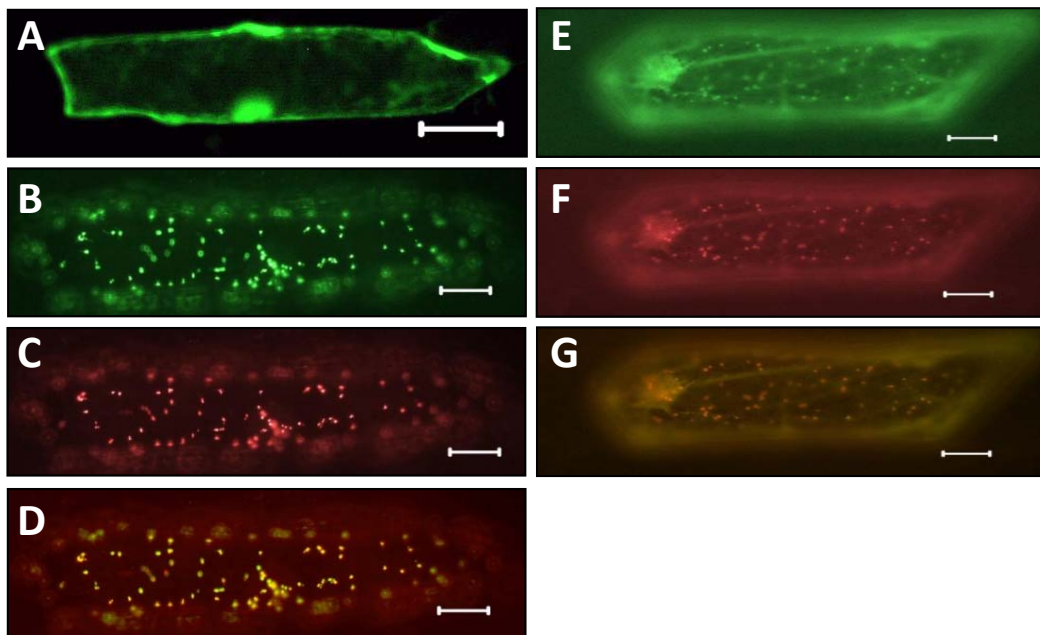


Fig. 2, Kihara *et al.*  
Color print

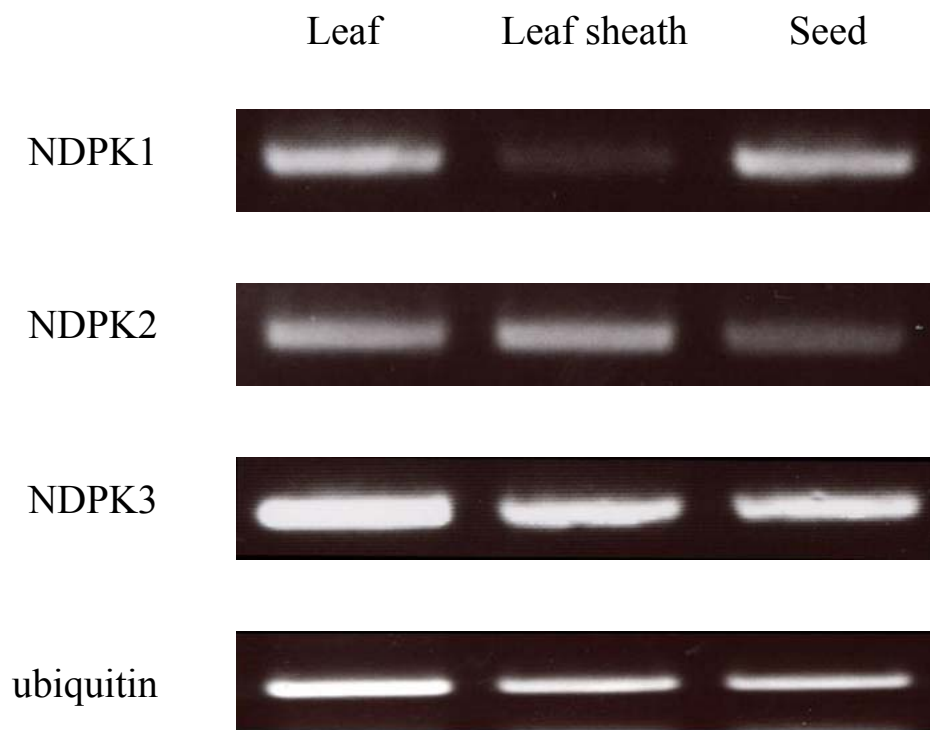


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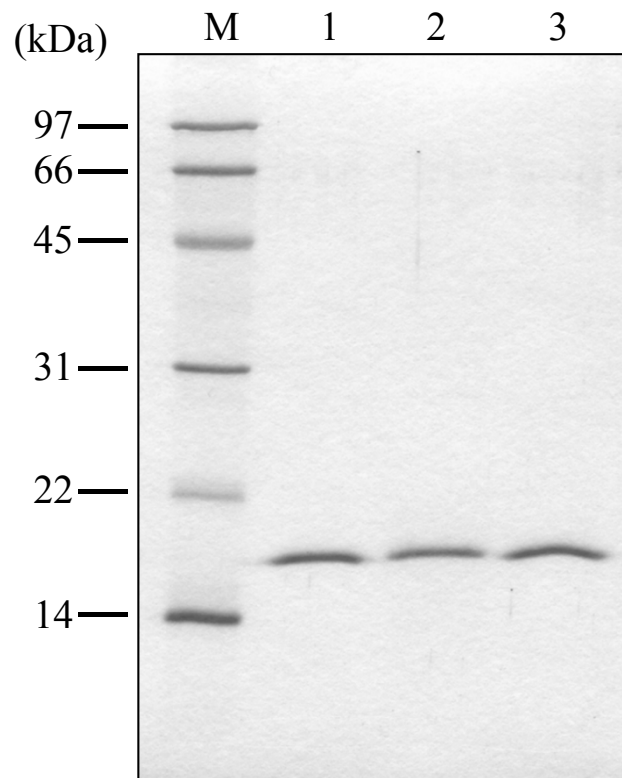


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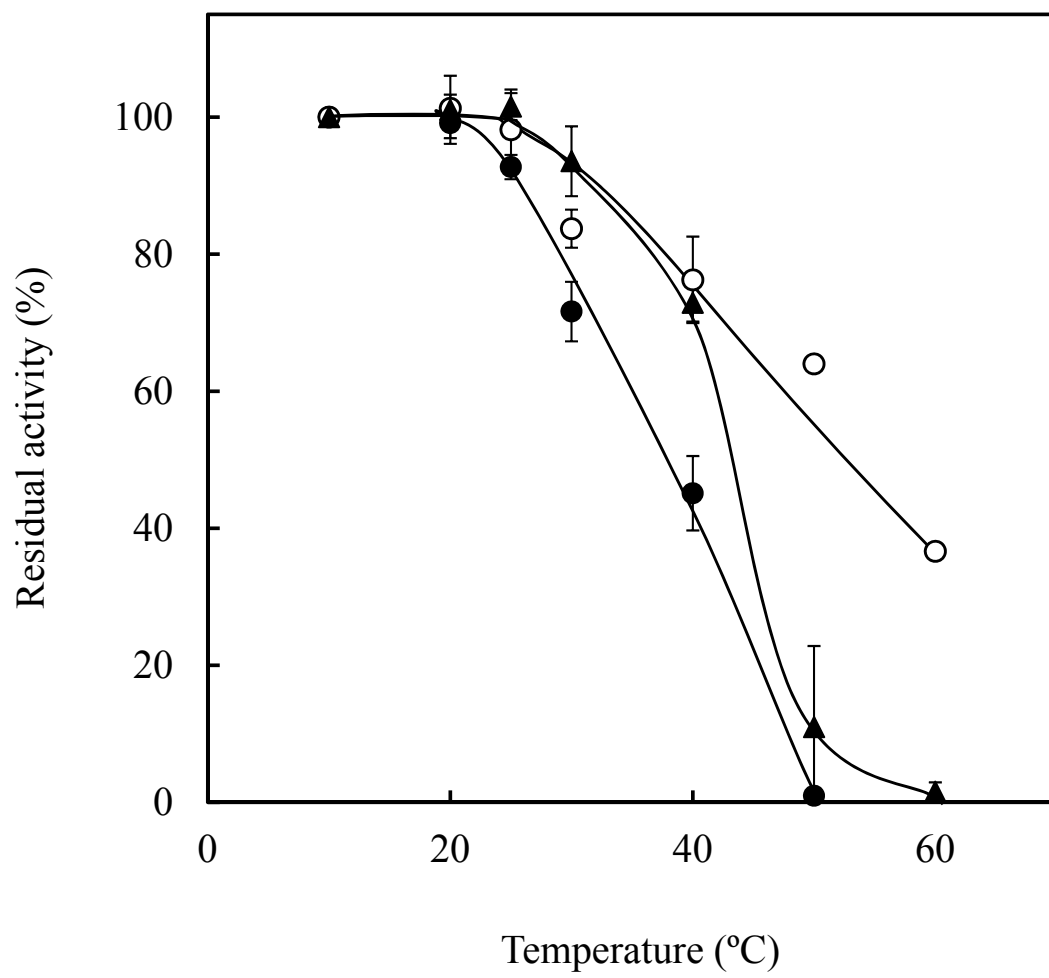


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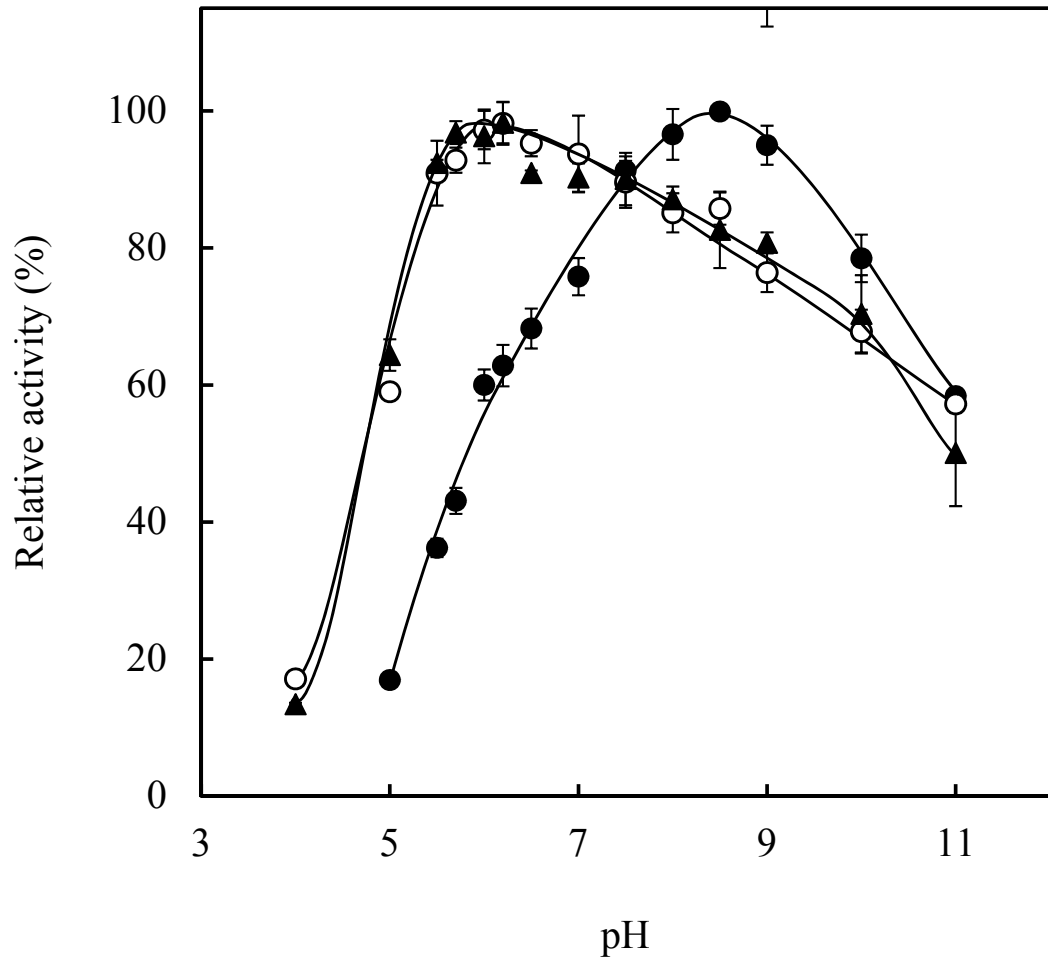


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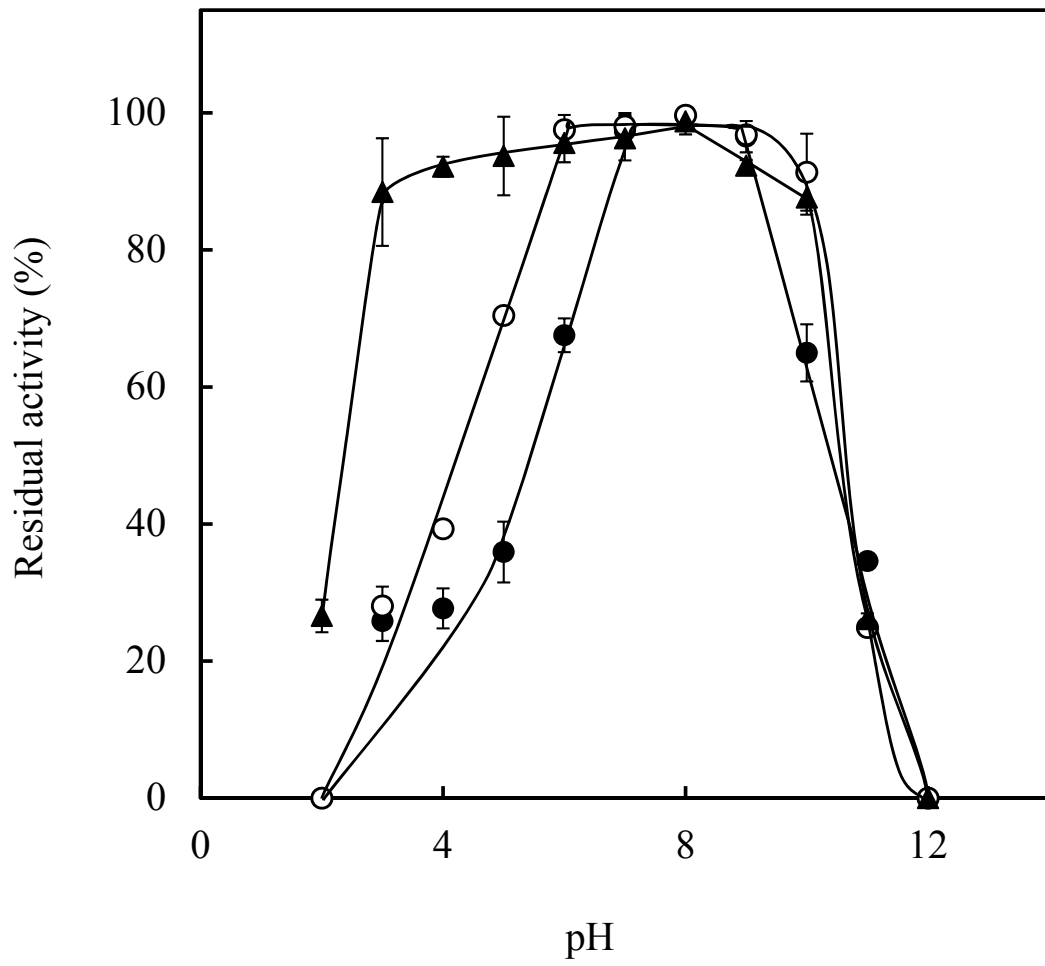


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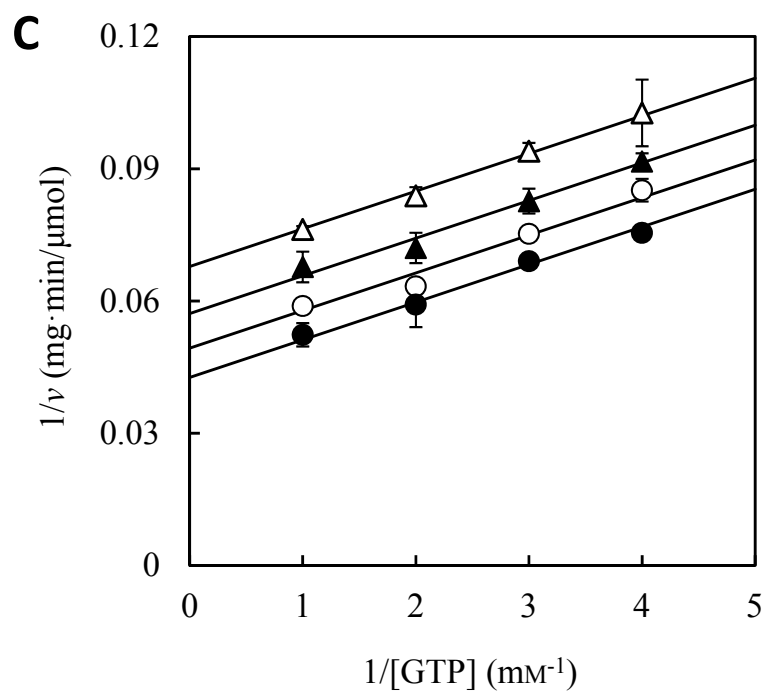
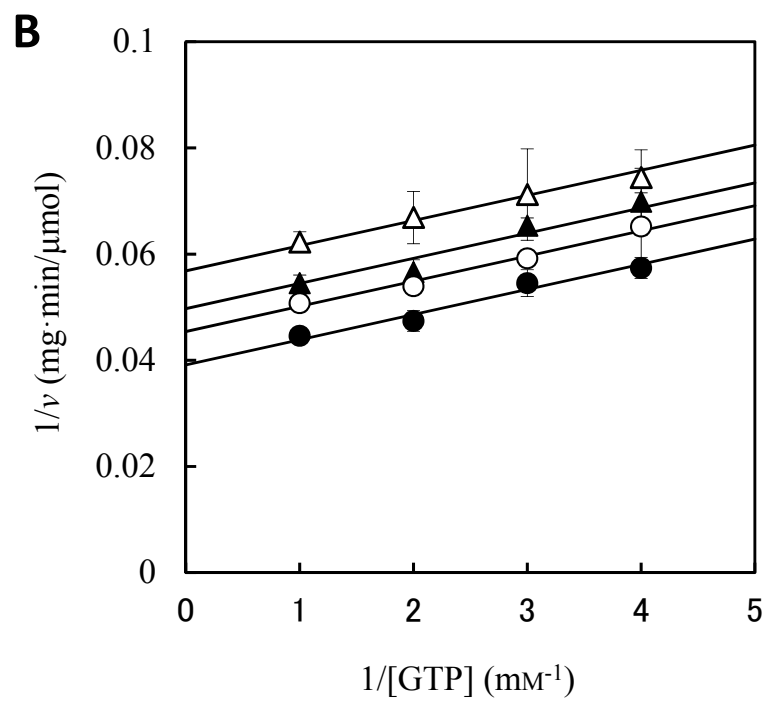
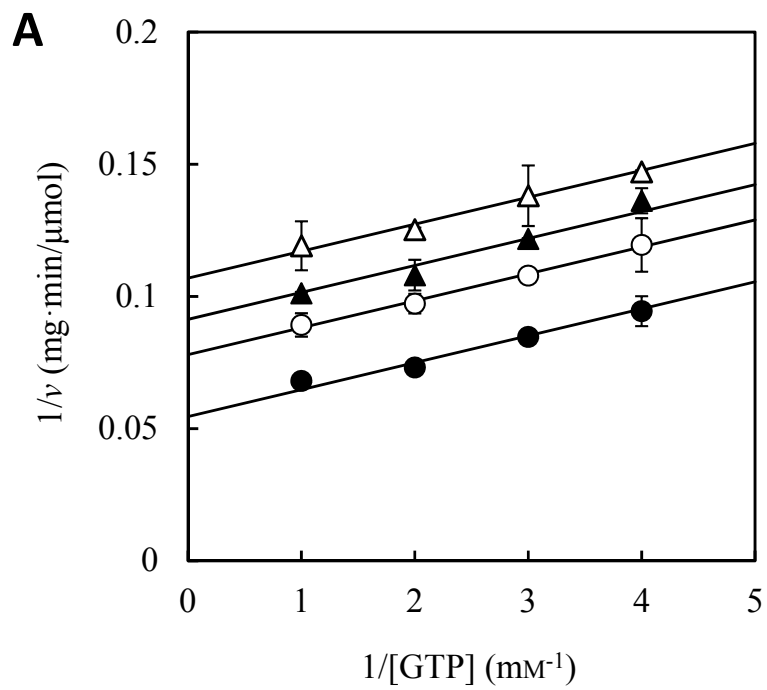


Fig. 8, Kihara *et al.*

Table 1. Kinetic Parameters of Recombinant OsNDPKs

(a) OsNDPK1

Substrate	$k_{\text{cat}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$K_{\text{ma}}^{\text{a}}$ (mM)	$K_{\text{mb}}^{\text{b}}$ (mM)	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{ma}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{mb}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )
CTPP	229	6.72	0.552	34.1	415
GTP	49.4	1.69	0.707	29.2	69.9
TTP	55.0	5.28	0.392	10.4	140

(b) OsNDPK2

Substrate	$k_{\text{cat}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$K_{\text{ma}}^{\text{a}}$ (mM)	$K_{\text{mb}}^{\text{b}}$ (mM)	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{ma}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{mb}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )
CTPP	85.2	9.37	1.26	9.10	67.6
GTP	27.7	0.450	0.138	61.6	210
TTP	14.2	0.890	0.0790	16.0	180

(c) OsNDPK3

Substrate	$k_{\text{cat}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}$ )	$K_{\text{ma}}^{\text{a}}$ (mM)	$K_{\text{mb}}^{\text{b}}$ (mM)	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{ma}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )	$k_{\text{cat}}/K_{\text{mb}}$ ( $\text{s}^{-1}\text{mM}^{-1}$ )
CTPP	89.0	5.28	0.578	16.9	154
GTP	17.9	0.510	0.125	35.1	143
TTP	33.5	1.34	0.108	25.0	310

a, Affinity constant for NTP

b, Affinity constant for ADP