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Shadariah *et al.*

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## Isolation and Molecular Cloning of Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM40) From *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 Neuraminidase

Shadariah M and Nadiawati A\*

School of Agriculture Sciences and Biotechnology,  
Faculty of Bioresources and Food Industry,  
Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Besut Campus,  
22200 Besut, Terengganu, Malaysia.

### Corresponding author; Nadiawati A.

School of Agriculture Sciences and Biotechnology,  
Faculty of Bioresources and Food Industry,  
Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Besut Campus,  
22200 Besut, Terengganu, Malaysia.

\*Corresponding author; Email: [nadiawati@unisza.edu.my](mailto:nadiawati@unisza.edu.my)

### Keywords:

Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM)  
*Vibrio cholerae* Non-01  
Neuraminidase  
Cloning

## ABSTRACT

Carbohydrate binding modules (CBMs) are discrete contiguous amino acid sequence within a carbohydrate-active enzyme which are, non-catalytic modules that primarily exist to target parent enzyme to its substrate for efficient hydrolysis. Although many sialidase proteins have been identified from various pathogenic bacteria, only a few enzymes are commercially available which have been used for chemoenzymatic syntheses and therapeutics application. In order to study family 40 CBM domain, a number of bacteria have been screened including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862, *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028 and *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1. A gene encoding CBM40 domain was screened from all the bacteria strains and subjected to PCR amplification. From all the samples tested, only *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 amplified a PCR product with approximate size of 530 bp. From BLAST sequence analysis, result has shown 99% similarity with the target *Vibrio cholerae* neuraminidase, NanH (M83562). Next, the confirmed CBM40 gene was further ligated into pGEMT Easy Vector system and transformed into *E. coli* JM109 host to secure the clone before re-ligated into suitable expression vector.

**Keywords:** Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM), *Vibrio cholerae* Non-01, Neuraminidase, Cloning

## ABSTRAK

Domain perlekatan karbohidrat (CBM) adalah merupakan turutan asid amino yang berada pada enzim aktif karbohidrat yang merupakan modul bukan katalitik yang wujud untuk mensasarkan substrat kepada enzim induk untuk tujuan hidrolisis. Walaupun terdapat protein sialidase yang telah dikenalpasti dari pelbagai bakteria patogen, hanya beberapa jenis enzim sahaja yang telah dikomersialkan dan telah digunakan untuk sintesis kemoenzimatik dan aplikasi terapeutik. Dalam usaha untuk mengkaji keluarga 40 CBM, saringan telah dibuat terhadap beberapa jenis bakteria seperti *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862, *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028 dan *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1. Kehadiran domain CBM40 telah disaring dari semua jenis bakteria tersebut melalui teknik PCR. Daripada semua sampel yang diuji, hanya sampel dari *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 menunjukkan hasil amplifikasi PCR dengan anggaran saiz 530 bp. Dari analisis urutan gen melalui BLAST, hasilnya menunjukkan 99% kesamaan dengan *Vibrio cholerae* neuraminidase, NanH (M83562). Selepas itu, gen CBM40 yang telah disahkan akan di sambungkan ke vektor yang dikenali sebagai pGEMT Easy Vector dan menggunakan *E. coli* JM109 sebagai host sebelum menggunakan vektor ekpresi lain yang lebih sesuai.

**Kata Kunci:** Domain perlekatan karbohidrat (CBM), *Vibrio cholerae* Non-01, Neuraminidase, pengklonan

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## INTRODUCTION

Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM) is defined as a contiguous amino acid sequence within a carbohydrate-active enzyme with a discrete fold having carbohydrate binding activity. Currently, it is separated into 83 defined families based on CAZy website. It can be found in any proteins domain that recognize polysaccharides such as cellulose, chitin,  $\beta$ -glucans, starch, glycogen, inulin, pullulan, xylan, and other different sugars such as arabinofuranose, mannan, fucose, lactose, galactose, polygalacturonic acid,  $\beta$ -D-galactosyl-1,4- $\beta$ -D-N-acetylglucosamine, lipopolysaccharides, blood group A/B antigens (Guillén *et al.*, 2009). CBMs can be found to be localized at the N- or C-terminal end of these proteins and between two catalytic modules (Abe *et al.*, 2004; Tabuchi *et al.*, 2010). Besides, CBM domain from alpha, beta-amylase from *Paenibacillus polymyxa* was found as a single unit of CBM or arranged in tandem (Kawazu *et al.*, 1987). These domains could be identical among each other or very homologous (Mehta *et al.*, 2016), as reported by Cameron *et al.* (2012) for *Lactobacilli* alpha-amylases; but in some cases, tandem CBMs can include modules with different substrate specificity.

The main role of CBMs is to recognize and bind specifically to carbohydrates and serve to bring the substrate to the active site for hydrolysis (Várnai *et al.*, 2013; Duan *et al.*, 2015). Some of the glycoside hydrolases possess CBMs that help target these enzymes to appropriate substrates and increase their catalytic efficiency (Herve *et al.*, 2010). In addition, the interaction between CBM and its substrate may result in different functions, such as enhanced hydrolysis of insoluble substrates, bringing the catalytic domain in close proximity to the substrate, polysaccharide structure disruption and cell surface protein anchoring (Guillén *et al.*, 2009; Herve *et al.*, 2010).

*Escherichia coli* (gram-negative gamma proteobacterium) is presently the best-understood organism which is used as a key tool in many genetic manipulations. Molecular cloning into one of many *E. coli* vector and host such as JM109 is a standard procedure in most molecular biology and biotechnology laboratories (Chronan, 2007). *E. coli* is also known as the workhorse of recombinant protein production since conditions have been found that allow proteins from across biology to be efficiently expressed in and purified from *E. coli* (Idalia, 2017). The *E. coli* JM109 strain is also a useful host for transformation of pGEM Vectors and for production of single-stranded DNA and blue/white screening.

In this study, screening and isolation of carbohydrate binding module (CBM) from bacteria was carried out using basic molecular biology approach. Moreover, TA cloning strategy was carried out using a suitable vector and transformed in *E. coli* host. This approach was carried out before hand in order to secure the gene of interest before conducting more studies on its protein expression, purification and characterization. Although many sialidase proteins have been identified from various pathogenic bacteria, only a few enzymes are commercially available due to the limited enzyme availability and low synthetic yield. Moreover, their therapeutics potential of this CBMs are not quite yet been explored.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Genomic DNA Extraction

An overnight bacteria cultures of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862, *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028 and *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 were subjected to DNA extraction using Wizard genomic DNA purification kit (Promega). The cultures were centrifuged 13000-16000 x g for 2 min to obtain pellet. The nuclei lysis solution was added to lyse the cells by gently pipetting and then incubated for 5 min at 80 °C. About 3 µl of RNase solution was added and incubated at 37 °C for 15-60 min to remove RNA. In order to remove protein in the precipitate, about 200 µl of protein precipitation solution was added and vortex few times before incubated on ice for 5 min. The samples were then centrifuged at 13000-16000 x g for 3 min. The supernatant was transferred into tube containing 600 µl of room temperature isopropanol and proceed to centrifugation. The supernatant was decanted. About 600 µl of room temperature 70% ethanol was added and mixed before centrifuged at 13000-16000 x g for 2 min. The ethanol was aspirated and pellet was air-dried for 10-15 min. Lastly, the DNA pellet was rehydrated in 50 µl Rehydration solution for 1 h at 65 °C or overnight at 4 °C. Samples concentration were calculated using Biophotometer and the ratio of  $A_{260}/A_{280}$  was used to indicate the purity of nucleic acid.

### DNA Electrophoresis

DNA samples were separated by gel agarose electrophoresis method adapted from Sambrook (1989) with a slight modification. About 1% agarose gel and 1X GelRed was added as a staining agent. The electrophoresis was conducted at 80 Votts, 500 mA for 60 min. Next, the gel was visualized under the gel documentation system (Luminescent Image Analyzer) to view and analysed the genomic DNA fragments from all samples.

### PCR amplification optimization of CBM40 domain

Gradient PCR amplification was carried out in a final volume of 25 µl reaction mixtures containing 1X buffer PCR, 2 mM of MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10 mM dNTP, 1.25 U *Taq* DNA Polymerase (Promega), 300 ng template DNA, 1 µM of primers (Table 1). About 35 cycles of amplification reactions were conducted according to the following parameters 95°C for 2 minutes (pre-denaturation), 95°C for 1 minute (denaturation), 50-58°C for 1 minute (annealing), 72°C for 5 minutes (extension) and 72°C for 5 minutes (final extension). Two primers were used which were 1F2 and 1R2 primer (Table 1). Successfully amplified fragments were visualized under the gel documentation system (Luminescent Image Analyzer). Next, the fragments were sent for sequencing service at 1<sup>st</sup> Base Laboratory Sdn Bhd for sequence confirmation.

Table 1. Primers for CBM40 gene amplification

Primer	T <sub>m</sub> (°C)	GC content (%)	Sequence of primer
1F2 (F)	51.9	40.9	5'- GTC CAC TTT TTG ACT ATA ACG C-3'
1R2 (R)	58.6	48.0	5'- CGG CTA GTC GCC TTG AAT TTC AAA C-3'

### Preparation of competence cell

The following procedure is a modified method of Cohen *et al.* (1972) for the preparation of *E. coli* competent cells. About 10 ml of LB broth was inoculated with a single colony of *E. coli* JM109 and incubated overnight at 37 °C, 150 rpm. Next, 0.4 ml of the overnight culture was then inoculated into 40 ml (1:100 dilutions) LB broth and incubated at 37 °C with vigorous shaking until A<sub>600</sub> reached 0.5. Then, the cells were centrifuged at 6000 rpm for 5 min at 4 °C. The supernatant was removed and about half of the original volume of 100 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub> was added and the pellet was resuspended gently. This mixture was then incubated on ice for 20 min followed by centrifugation for 5 min at 6000 rpm at 4 °C. The supernatant was decanted and the pellet was resuspended in 0.1 of original volume of 100 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>. Glycerol was added to a final concentration of 20 % (v/v). The competence cells were then aliquoted into 200 µl volume in sterile tubes and kept at -80 °C until used.

### Ligation of DNA

Using the pGEM-T Easy Vector System (Promega), the PCR products were directly cloned into the vector without being digested. The ratio of vector: insert of 1:3 was used. About 50 ng of pGEM-T Easy vector was mixed with 1 µg of PCR products, 1X T4 DNA ligase buffer and 0.3 U of T4 DNA ligase. Sterile dH<sub>2</sub>O was added up to 10 µl of the final volume and the mixture was incubated overnight at 4 °C. The next day, the mixture was briefly centrifuged and used to transform competent cells.

### Transformation into *E. Coli* JM109 by heat shock method

The frozen competent cells were thawed to room temperature and immediately placed on ice. About 5 µl of the ligation reaction was added to 200 µl of competent cells. The mixture was gently flicked and incubated on ice for 20 min. The cells were then heat-shocked at 42 °C for 45 sec and returned to the ice bath for another 2 min. Then, 800 µl of LB broth was added to the mixture and incubated at 37 °C for 90 min with shaking at 150 rpm. The mixture was centrifuged at 8000 rpm at room temperature and about 800 µl of the supernatant was removed

out. About 100  $\mu$ l of each transformation was plated onto LB plates containing 100  $\mu$ g/ml of ampicillin. The plates were incubated overnight at 37 °C.

### Confirmation of insert by colony PCR

Colonies containing recombinant vector DNA were screened using colony PCR amplification. Several colonies were randomly picked by sterile toothpicks and each was resuspended in 10  $\mu$ l of distilled water and was heated at 99 °C for 5 minutes before cell debris was removed by centrifugation for 1 minute. An aliquot of 10  $\mu$ l of the supernatant was transferred to a fresh 0.5 ml tube for PCR. The tube was stored on ice before used. PCR amplification was carried out based on protocol mentioned earlier. Colony with the presence of the correct insert size was subjected to sequencing service at 1<sup>st</sup> Base Laboratory Sdn Bhd.

### Sequence Alignment

Complete gene sequence derived from the sequencing analysis was aligned with several reference bacterial neuraminidases (Accession number: APF83226, 2W68\_A, CSB55961 and M83562) based on BLAST analysis result. For the sequence alignment analysis, Clustal Omega software was used.

### Statistical analysis

Experimental data were analyzed using Statistical data analysis for Excel. The reported results in the present study were represented as the mean values of triplicates  $\pm$  the standard deviation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DNA extracted from all five bacteria strains were shown in Figure 1 and the purity of all DNA samples were analysed at  $A_{260}/A_{280}$  with all the samples were within the range of good quality DNA 1.7–2.0. In order to amplify CBM40 region, gradient PCR amplifications optimization were carried out using temperature range of 50 °C to 58 °C as showed in Figure 2. It shows no amplified product at temperature 50°C to 58°C for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862 and *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028. However, Figure 3 shows PCR products with approximate size of 530 bp was successfully amplified at all annealing temperature from *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1. Sample duplication was done to further confirm the results. The fragment was analysed by DNA sequencing and analysed by BLAST software. The DNA fragment was identified encoding for Family 40 carbohydrate binding module (CBM) was then proceed to ligate into pGEM-T Easy vector and were transformed into *E. coli* JM109 using heat shocked method.

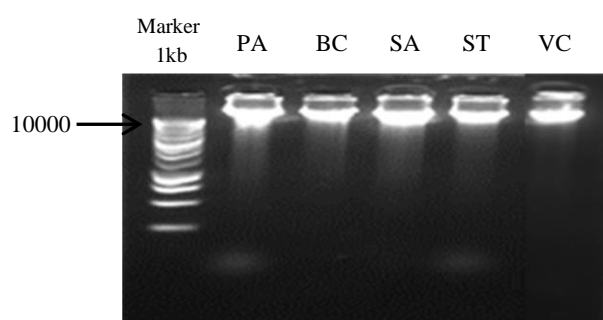


Figure 1. DNA extraction from all bacteria; *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 (PA), *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579 (BC), *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862 (SA), *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028 (ST) and *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 (VC).

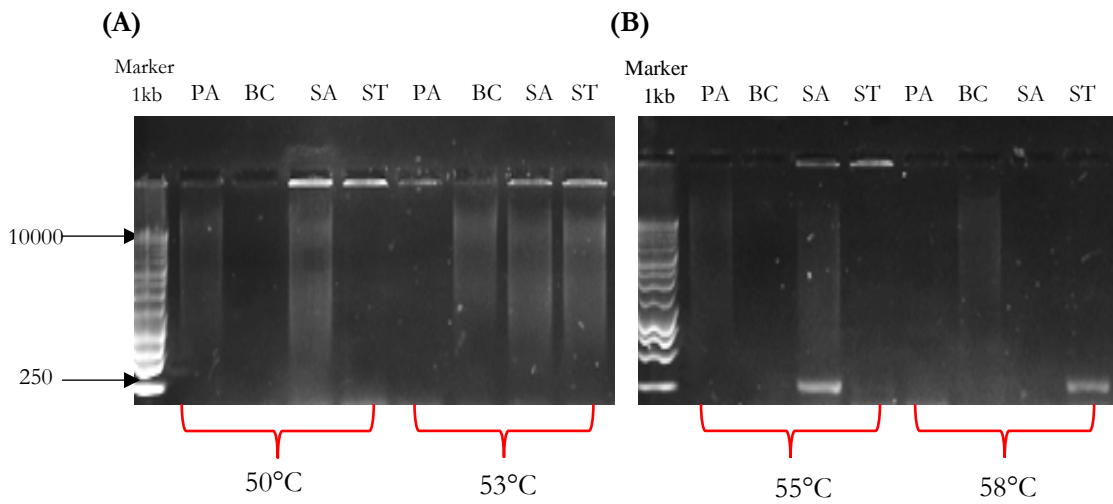


Figure 2. Gradient PCR amplification at (A) 50°C and 53°C and (B) at 55°C and 58°C. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 (PA), *Bacillus cereus* ATCC 14579 (BC), *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 33862 (SA) and *Salmonella thypii* ATCC 14028 (ST).

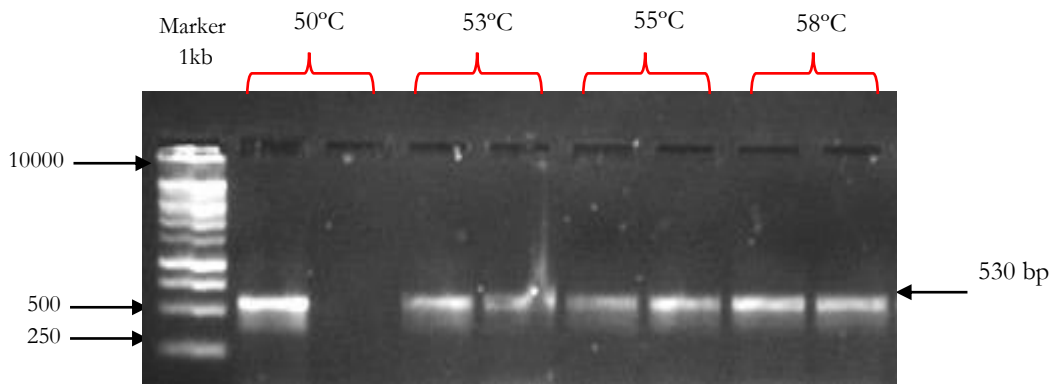


Figure 3. Gradient PCR amplification of *V. cholerae* Non-O1 at annealing temperature of 50, 53 °C, 55 °C.

pGEM-T Vector is one of the vector with T-overhang at both ends which is suitable for TA cloning strategy. TA cloning is a popular method of cloning without the use of restriction enzymes. Instead, PCR products are amplified with only Taq DNA polymerase and other polymerases (Zhou *et al.*, 2000). These polymerases lack 5'-3' proofreading activity and add an adenosine triphosphate residue to the 3' ends of the double-stranded PCR products. Such PCR amplified products can thus be cloned in a linearized vector that has complementary 3' thymidine triphosphate overhangs. The major problem is that, the gene has a 50% chance of getting cloned in the reverse direction (Zuo and Rabie, 2010).

For further confirmation of the insert, colony PCR was carried out on the putative clones to re-confirm the presence of CBM40 (Figure 4). Colony PCR is a high-throughput and reliable method used to detect a recombinant insert using the DNA within the transformed cells as a template (Walch *et al.*, 2016). In brief, a sterile pipet tip is used to collect a small amount of cells. These cells are heated to 94°C to release the plasmid DNA from the cell which served as template for the amplification reaction. Primers usually designed to specifically target the insert DNA or alternatively, targeting vector DNA flanking the insert (Walch *et al.*, 2016). In this study, primer 1F2 and 1R2 were designed based on the conserved region flanking the N-terminal and C-terminal domain of carbohydrate binding domain from bacteria neuraminidases from the NCBI database.

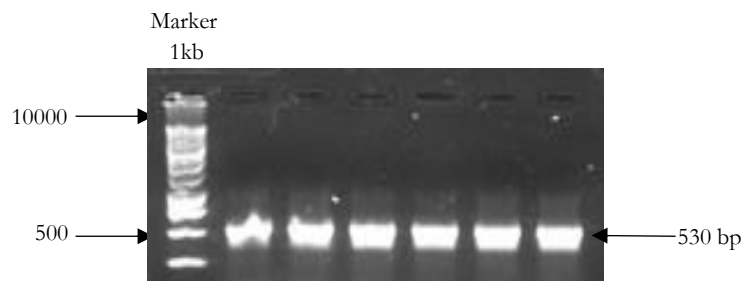


Figure 4. Colony PCR performed on the putative clones carrying gene of interest with amplification product approximate size of 530 bp.

APF83226	MRFKNVKKTALMLAMFGMATSSNAALFDYNATGDTEFDSPAKQGWMQDNTNNGSGVLTNA	60
2W68_A	-----AAMALFDYNATGDTEFDSPAKQGWMQDNTNNGSGVLTNA	39
CSB55961	MRFKNVKKTALMLAMFGMATSSNAALFDYNATGDTEFDSPAKQGWMQDNTNNGSGVLTNA	60
PA01	-----QGWMQDNTNNGSGVLTNA	18
M83562	MRFKNVKKTALMLAMFGMATSSNAALFDYNATGDTEFDSPAKQGWMQDNTNNGSGVLTNA	60
	*****	
APF83226	DGMPAWLVQGIGGRAQWTYSLSTNQHAQASSFGWRMTTEMKVLSSGGMITNYYANGTQRVL	120
2W68_A	DGMPAWLVQGIGGRAQWTYSLSTNQHAQASSFGWRMTTEMKVLSSGGMITNYYANGTQRVL	99
CSB55961	DGMPAWLVQGIGGRAQWTYSLSTNQHAQASSFGWRMTTEMKVLSSGGMITNYYANGTQRVL	120
PA01	DGMPAWLVQGIGGRAQWTYSLSTNQHAQASSFGWRMTTEMKVLSSGGMITNYYANGTQRVL	78
M83562	DGMPAWLVQGIGGRAQWTYSLSTNQHAQASSFGWRMTTEMKVLSSGGMITNYYANGTQRVL	120
	*****	
APF83226	PIISLDSSGNLVVEFEGQTGRTVLATGTAATEYHKFELVFLPGSNPSASFYFDGKLIRDN	180
2W68_A	PIISLDSSGNLVVEFEGQTGRTVLATGTAATEYHKFELVFLPGSNPSASFYFDGKLIRDN	159
CSB55961	PIISLDSSGNLVVEFEGQTGRTVLATGTAATEYHKFELVFLPGSNPSASFYFDGKLIRDN	180
PA01	PIISLDSSGNLVVEFEGQTGRTVLATGTAATEYHKFELVFLPGSNPSASFYFDGKLIRDN	138
M83562	PIISLDSSGNLVVEFEGQTGRTVLATGTAATEYHKFELVFLPGSNPSASFYFDGKLIRDN	180
	*****	
APF83226	IQPTASKQNMIWVWNGSSNTDGVAAYRDIKFEIQGDVIFRGPDRIPSIVASSVTPGVVTA	240
2W68_A	IQPTASKQNMIWVWNGSSNTDGVAAYRDIKFEIQGD-----	195
CSB55961	IQPTASKQNMIWVWNGSSNTDGVAAYRDIKFEIQGDVIFRGPDRIPSIVASSVTPGVVTA	240
PA01	IQPTASKQNMIWVWNGSSNTDGVAAYRDIKFEIQD-----	174
M83562	IQPTASKQNMIWVWNGSSNTDGVAAYRDIKFEIQGDVIFRGPDRIPSIVASSVTPGVVTA	240
	*****	

Figure 5. Amino acid sequence alignment of Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM40) from *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 with bacterial Neuraminidases with Accession No. APF83226, 2W68\_A, CSB55961 and M83562 by Clustal Omega software.

1	CAG	GGC	TGG	ATG	CAG	GAC	AAC	ACC	AAC	AAC	GGC	AGC	GGC	GTG	CTG	ACC	AAC	GCC	GAC	GGC	60
1	Q	G	W	M	Q	D	N	T	N	N	G	S	G	V	L	T	N	A	D	G	20
61	ATG	CCC	GCC	TGG	CTG	GTG	CAG	GGC	ATC	GGC	GGC	AGG	GCC	CAG	TGG	ACC	TAC	AGC	CTG	AGC	120
21	M	P	A	W	L	V	Q	G	I	G	G	R	A	Q	W	T	Y	S	L	S	40
121	ACC	AAC	CAG	CAC	GCC	CAG	GCC	AGC	AGC	TTC	GGC	TGG	AGG	ATG	ACC	ACC	GAG	ATG	AAG	GTG	180
41	T	N	Q	H	A	Q	A	S	S	F	G	W	R	M	T	T	E	M	K	V	60
181	CTG	AGC	GGC	GGC	ATG	ATC	ACC	AAC	TAC	TAC	GCC	AAC	GGC	ACC	CAG	AGG	GTG	CTG	CCC	ATC	240
61	L	S	G	G	M	I	T	N	Y	Y	A	N	G	T	Q	R	V	L	P	I	80
241	ATC	AGC	CTG	GAC	AGC	AGC	GGC	AAC	CTG	GTG	GTG	GAG	TTC	GAG	GGC	CAG	ACC	GGC	AGG	ACC	300
82	I	S	L	D	S	S	G	N	L	V	V	E	F	E	G	Q	T	G	R	T	100
301	GTG	CTG	GCC	ACC	GGC	ACC	GCC	GCC	ACC	GAG	TAC	CAC	AAG	TTC	GAG	CTG	GTG	TTC	CTG	CCC	360
101	V	L	A	T	G	T	A	A	T	E	Y	H	K	F	E	L	V	F	L	P	120
361	GGC	AGC	AAC	CCC	AGC	GCC	AGC	TTC	TAC	TTC	GAC	GGC	AAG	CTG	ATC	AGG	GAC	AAC	ATC	CAG	420
121	G	S	N	P	S	A	S	F	Y	F	D	G	K	L	I	R	D	N	I	Q	140
421	CCC	ACC	GCC	AGC	AAG	CAG	AAC	ATG	ATC	GTG	TGG	GGC	AAC	GGC	AGC	AGC	AAC	ACC	GAC	GGC	480
141	P	T	A	S	K	Q	N	M	I	V	W	G	N	G	S	S	N	T	D	G	160
481	GTG	GCC	GCC	TAC	AGG	GAC	ATC	AAG	TTC	GAG	ATC	CAG	GGC	GAC	522						
161	V	A	A	Y	R	D	I	K	F	E	I	Q	G	D	174						

Figure 6. Carbohydrate Binding Module; Family 40 (CBM40) sequence from *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1. Deduced amino acid sequence is shown in one-letter code under the DNA sequences.



The amplified fragment with approximate size of 530 bp was sent out for sequencing service and the sequences were analysed using BLASTN and BLASTX softwares from NCBI database. The result showed 99% similarity to *Vibrio cholerae* Neuraminidase with Accession No. APF83226, 2W68\_A, CSB55961 and M83562 (Figure 5). The analysis and comparisons were performed with EMBOSS WATER, CLUSTALW, SEQUENCE MANIPULATION SUITE (SMS), MUSCLE and BLAST programs. After analyses were done on the sequence, the deduced amino acid sequence of CBM 40 domain from *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 consist about 174 amino acid (522 bp) as shown in Figure 6.

Bacteria neuraminidase/sialidase can contain accessory modules attached to the catalytic core of the protein. For example, the *NanH* sialidase from *Vibrio cholerae* is known to be composed of a canonical six-bladed  $\beta$ -propeller catalytic domain that has two CBMs that flank the catalytic domain (Crennell *et al.*, 1994). Both CBM domains share the same structure topology despite sharing only 23% sequence identity (Moustafa *et al.*, 2004). Other bacteria, for example *Clostridium perfringens* NanJ sialidase also possess the same domain but its displayed lower affinity towards sialic acid as compared to *V. cholerae* CBM40 domain (Boraston *et al.*, 2007). Besides that, several other bacteria, including *Arthrobacter nicotianae*, *Arthrobacter ureafaciens*, *Clostridium perfringens*, *Pasteurella multocida* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* produce more than one neuraminidase as isoenzymes with different biochemical features. Although, some of the biological functions of these isoenzymes are still unclear, their substrate specificities and expression patterns have been studied and display important roles in the interaction with other organisms or in the infection of a specific tissue (Manco *et al.*, 2006; Uchiyama *et al.*, 2009).

## CONCLUSIONS

We have successfully isolated Family 40 Carbohydrate Binding Module (CBM) from *Vibrio cholerae* Non-O1 strain. The CBM40 gene isolated has been confirmed by sequencing service and possessed 99% similarity to the *Vibrio cholerae* neuraminidase as reported on the NCBI database. The recombinant construct was kept as glycerol stock for future protein expression and purification study. Although many sialidase proteins have been identified from various pathogenic bacteria, only a few commercially available enzymes have been used for the chemoenzymatic syntheses of sialoglycoconjugates and for therapeutics approach.

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