

1 **Quantitative analysis and medium components optimizing for**
2 **culturing a fastidious bacterium *Christensenella minuta***

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7
8 **Abstract**

9 *Christensenella minuta* is a heritable bacterium with controversial physiologies
10 associating with both obesity and potential pathogenicity. Since this bacterium is
11 fastidious to culture, it is hardly to well understand its biological feature. We develop a
12 strategy for statistical analysis of this low abundant strain and optimize culture
13 condition to make a significant improvement on its biomass and facilitate the researches
14 about the metabolism and function of this bacterium. Basing on the fluorogenic
15 quantitative technology, a quantitative approach was successfully constructed for
16 *Christensenella minuta* by plotting Ct value from fluorescence quantitative PCR against
17 the logarithm of concentration gradient of plasmids containing 16S rDNA of the strain.
18 This method exhibited to have specificity on analyzing the strain biomass statistically.
19 For improving the strain biomass, “komodo” predicted to optimize medium
20 components and metabonomics analysis explored the catabolites addition effects on
21 culture improvement. With the aid of Plackett-Burman and Box-Behnken in Design-
22 Expert 8.0.6, the PB and response surface experiment were designed and analyzed from
23 the single factor results. On the modified GAM medium, the strain concentration was

24 found increasing markedly by 10 times. The addition of some amino acids, vitamins
25 and inorganic salts has contributions for the strain multiplication, especially L-cysteine,
26 VB6 and NaCl. The addition of 55 mg/L of L-cysteine, 20.5 mg/L VB6 and 55 g/L
27 NaCl into the modified GAM medium increased the biomass by 3.59 times compared
28 to the biomass on only modified GAM medium according to the response surface
29 experiment. Through the newly constructed method, we successfully analyzed the
30 amount of *Christensenella minuta* and obtained a novel medium to increase biomass
31 significantly.

32 **Keywords** *Christensenella minuta*, Fastidious bacterium, Statistical analysis,
33 Fluorescence quantitative PCR, Medium components optimizing, Metabonomics
34 analysis

35 **Importance**

36 *Christensenella minuta* is a heritable bacterium with controversial physiologies
37 associating with both obesity and potential pathogenicity. Since this bacterium is
38 fastidious to culture, it is hard to well understand its biological feature. We develop a
39 strategy for statistical analysis of this low abundant strain and optimize culture
40 condition to make a significant improvement on its biomass and facilitate the researches
41 about the metabolism and function of this bacterium. This work combined the
42 prediction tools and experiments to improve the medium components of *C. munita* and
43 successfully enhance the culturing and increase biomass by more than 10-fold. From
44 this perspective, the project throws some new ideas and also enables access to new
45 knowledge and information in uncultured microbial resources.

46 INTRODUCTION

47 Microbes are the most life forms on the earth and have been applied widely in medicine,
48 environmental protection and other fields. In fact, most microbial lineages have not
49 been isolated in pure culture and it was estimated that only 1% of microbes can be
50 cultured on laboratory media (1). Furthermore, it is still unknown that the abundances
51 and viability of uncultured microbes at different levels of phylogenetic divergence from
52 their cultured relatives. With greater phylogenetic distance correlating with higher
53 levels of evolutionary changes, uncultured groups may have novel undiscovered
54 functions and applications.

55 Although the culture-independent technologies on uncultured microbes expanding,
56 such as metagenomics and metatranscriptomics, the information about the microbial
57 diversity and distribution can be available. However, the growth requirements and
58 physiological functions of many uncultured microorganisms remain unexplored. For
59 clearly exploring the biological mechanism of individuals from uncultured group,
60 developing the methods on the pure culture, qualitative and quantitative analysis are
61 more realistic (2, 3).

62 *Christensenella minuta* (*C. minuta*) is a gram-negative gastrointestinal bacterium (4).
63 It was discovered originally associating with obesity through an unknown biological
64 mechanism (5). Most interestingly, the genome of *C. minuta* is highly heritable (6) and
65 presents a valuable application on future obesity therapy (7). Nevertheless, some recent
66 researches have demonstrated that *C. minuta* might be a potential pathogen and have
67 high-risk for its application in the obesity therapy (8). *C. minuta* was isolated from the

68 blood of a patient with a diagnosis of acute appendicitis and this bacterium is one of
69 suspects to cause this disease. From all present studies, the conclusion about the
70 physiological characteristics and pathogenicity of *C. minuta* remain elusive.

71 *C. minuta* is a strictly anaerobic bacterium (4) and its coefficient of culturing
72 difficulty is extremely high on the laboratory media. Establishing feasible methods for
73 analyzing and culturing *C. minuta in vitro* is conducive to understand its physiological
74 function. We developed a quantifying method using fluorescence quantitative RT-PCR
75 to valuate microbial population; Furthermore, we combined its metabolomic
76 background and positive growth factors to accelerate *C. minuta* growing and increase
77 its biomass. In this paper, our work will be detailed.

78 **RESULTS**

79 **Specific quantitative measurement of *C. minuta* population basing on**
80 **fluorescence quantitative PCR.** *C. minuta* is hardly to observe when inoculating on
81 the laboratory media and we have trouble to calculate the strain population using
82 conventional quantitative methods such as cell counting, turbidimetry. Quantifying the
83 cellular abundance in our sample is challenging. Since in the microbial culture, there
84 still have some other microbes except *C. minuta*, the specific method for measuring the
85 number of *C. minuta* was our foremost requirement for assessing the bacterial growing
86 improvement.

87 Fluorescent quantitative real-time PCR (FQ-PCR) has been used widely to quantify
88 the number of genomic copies of microorganisms (9). For distinguishing our target
89 microbe, the method combining specific sequence of microbial 16S rDNA with FQ-

90 PCR is promising to provide a way to quantitate our strain accurately.

91 From the public databank, 16S rDNA in *C. minuta* is a 1497 bp sequence containing
92 one constant region and one variable region. Its constant region sequence is identified
93 as following: ATCTCAAAAAGCCGGTCCCAGTTCGGATTGTGGGCTGCAACCC
94 GCCCACATGAAGTCGGAGTTGCTAGTAATCGCGAATCAGCATGTCGCGGTG
95 AATGCGTTCCCGGGCCTTGTACACACCGCCCGTCACACCACGGAAGTTGG
96 GAGCACCCGAAGCCAGTGGCTTAACCGTAAGGAGAGAGCTGTCGAAGGTG
97 AGATCAATGACTGGGGTGAAG. After comparing 16S rDNA sequences of three
98 strains from *Christensenella* family, three pairs of primers were designed and sequences
99 were listed in Table 1. To ensure the cloning is specified for *C. minuta*, the
100 electrophoresis and FQ-PCR assessment was performed (Figure 1 and 2). The target
101 band can be observed on *C. minuta* lanes with all primers 1, 2 and 3, but is invisible on
102 *E. coli* lanes and other microbial lanes. As compared to prime 2 and 3, prime 1 had less
103 false positive and smear. From the intensity of cloning and the amplification curve of
104 fluorescence quantification PCR, primer 1 is highly specific and sensitive for cloning
105 16S rDNA of *C. minuta*.

106 As to the quantitative measurement, the principle is the linear relationship between the
107 C_t value of each template and the logarithm of the initial copy number of the template
108 is as following.

$$109 \quad C_t = -1/\lg(1+Ex) \times \lg X_0 + \lg N / \lg(1+Ex)$$

110 (X_0 is the initial template amount; Ex is the amplification efficiency; and N is the
111 amount of amplified product when the fluorescence amplification signal reaches the

112 threshold intensity).

113 In this equation, the initial copy number increases with C_t value getting lower. A
114 standard curve can be made using a standard with a known initial copy number, where
115 the abscissa represents the logarithm of the initial copy number and the ordinate
116 represents the C_t value. Therefore, as long as C_t value of the unknown sample is
117 obtained, the initial copy number of the sample can be calculated from the standard
118 curve. The plasmid cloned by primer 1 from *C. minuta* was extracted and concentration
119 was measured, then the plasmid was cloned on fluorescence quantitative PCR. The
120 calibration curve is constructed by the plasmid concentration logarithm against C_t value
121 (Figure 3) and will be used in subsequent studies.

122 **Predicting new culturing media with KOMODO.** Culturing microorganisms is a
123 challenge that is critical for tapping the biotechnological potential of microbes. For
124 normal microbes, culturing new organisms can be guided by protocols such as Bergey's
125 Manual of Systematic Bacteriology. However, even with these guides, the culturing for
126 uncultured microorganisms still requires a great deal of trials. A most accepted reason
127 for their unculturability is the absence of key growth factors in artificial media (10),
128 therefore it has a lot of space to improve the media components for culturing fastidious
129 microbes.

130 The Known Media Database (KOMODO) is a database of microbial media with
131 almost all DSMZ collection (11). KOMODO includes 3,335 media variants, 1,324
132 metabolic components composing the media and 20,824 media–strain pairings. It has
133 been an online tool that can predict optimized media that microorganisms can grow on

134 by inputting microbial 16S rDNA sequence or an NCBI taxon ID. With the prediction
135 of KOMODO, the options "non-strict aerobic", "inorganic salt in the medium" and
136 "evolution distance is less than 0.04" were defined and 16S rDNA sequence of *C.*
137 *minuta* (sequence similarity > 85%) was introduced to predict media formula that has
138 improvement on bacterial growing. According to the KOMODO score, three media
139 were recommended including caldicoprobacter medium (score 400), modified GAM
140 medium (score 62.9) and EG medium (score 35.6). *C. minuta* was inoculated on three
141 recommended media to confirm the growth-promoting effect experimentally. The
142 results in Figure 4 have shown that modified GAM medium is the optimal medium for
143 *C. minuta* and the composition of the medium is detailed in Table 2. On the modified
144 GAM medium, the cell amount of *C. minuta* dramatically increased by 16-fold
145 compared to that on basic medium.

146 **Medium optimizing basing on metabolomics analysis.** In recent years, some
147 culturing efforts, particularly for difficult-to-culture organisms, have begun to include
148 genome and pathway analysis (12,13), as well as high-throughput technologies for
149 determining microbial nutrient needs (14).

150 KEGG (Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes) is a collection of databases by
151 annotating the reads to known functional gene (15). KEGG is utilized for bioinformatics
152 research including data analysis in genomics, metagenomics, metabolomics and other
153 omics studies. This database provides a comprehensive understanding of the
154 community structure at a high resolution and potential metabolism pathway associated
155 with microbial community.

156 After the genome sequencing of *C. minuta* was completed, the KEGG map of the
157 carbon metabolism pathway was analyzed and some characteristics *C. minuta*
158 metabolism have been found. Figure 5a shows that in furfural metabolism, the direct
159 pathway of xanthine to amino acids (such as glycine and serine) was substituted by a
160 more complicated path, which may result to the difficult growth of *C. minuta*.
161 Supplementing the medium with the appropriate amount of glycine and serine may
162 increase the culture abundance of *C. minuta*. In the pyrimidine metabolism of figure 5b,
163 it can be seen that UDP, DTP and CTP are the starting materials for the reaction, but the
164 key enzyme (3.6.1.8 ATP pyrophosphatase) lacks. Figure 5c showed the cysteine
165 metabolism of *C. minuta*. In these pathways, the lack of enzymes that converts cysteine
166 and cystine reminded us of supplying cystine to enhance *C. minuta* biomass in culture.
167 Figure 5d shows that the lack of enzymes for the conversion of imidazole-4-acetic acid
168 to aspartic acid in the histone metabolism may also be responsible for the low
169 abundance of culture of *C. minuta*. The product aspartic acid may increase the culture
170 abundance of *C. minuta*. In Figure 5e, the amino acid and nucleotide sugar metabolic
171 pathways of *C. minuta* lack the enzyme (UDP-glucuronate 5'-epimerase) for the
172 conversion of UDP-GlcA (glucuronide) to UDP-L-IdoA. Figure 5f shows that in the
173 metabolism of *C. minuta*, VB12 is an important intermediate in the reaction. There are
174 two synthetic pathways, but none of the related enzymes 1.16.1.6 (cyanocobalamin
175 reductase) or 1.16.1.4 (cob(II) alamin reductase) . If VB12 is added directly to the
176 culture medium, it is expected to improve the culturability of *C. minuta*. The predicted
177 results in Figure 5g show that *C. minuta* lacks an important pathway in the VB6

178 metabolism of pyridoxine, isopyridoxal, hydroxymethyl succinate semialdehyde,
179 which lacks key enzymes 99.9 (pyridoxine 5-dehydrogenase), 1.14.12.5 (5-pyridoxate
180 dioxygenase), 3.5.1.66 (2-(hydroxymethyl) -3-(acetamidomethylene) succinate
181 hydrolase), the deletion of this pathway gene may also lead to the difficulty of *C. minuta*
182 in culturing, if the key metabolites in the above pathway are added to the medium, the
183 culture abundance may be increased.

184 According to the metabolic pathway map analyzed above, serine and glycine were
185 selected to verify the metabolism of furfural, cystine and cysteine to verify cysteine
186 metabolism, aspartic acid to verify histidine metabolism, UMP, CMP to verify
187 pyrimidine Metabolism, VB12 verifies VB12 metabolism, and VB6 verifies VB6
188 metabolism. Refer to the amino acid concentration in DMEM medium (L-serine 42.00
189 mg / L, glycine 30.00 mg / L, L-cystine 63.00 mg / L, L-HCl cysteine 80.00 mg / L, L-
190 winter The amino acid was added at 16.00 mg/L, and the VB6 (pyridoxine
191 hydrochloride) in this formulation was 4.00 mg/L. Vitamins were added with reference
192 to human serum VB12 concentration (70 to 590 pmol/L) and VB6 (14.6 to 72.9 nmol/L).
193 UMP and CMP were added with reference to yeast synthesis UMP concentration (14.3
194 g/L). As shown in Table 3, after adding each test substance to the medium, the growth
195 of *C. minuta* showed a certain promotion effect (Multiples > 1).

196 Once the basic culture conditions were determined by single factor experiments, PB
197 experiments were performed to determine which factor concentration changes had a
198 significant effect on the multiples of *C. minuta*. The results are shown in Table 4 that
199 the three most important factors among the many influencing factors are L- Cysteine,

200 VB6 and NaCl, the corresponding P-value values were 0.0001, 0.0006 and 0.0036,
201 respectively, indicating a significant difference.

202 The response surface test was carried out with concentrations and combinations of
203 three factors with significant differences of NaCl, L-cysteine and VB6. The results
204 (Table 5) showed that the addition of 55 mg/L of L-cysteine, 20.5 mg/L VB6 and 55
205 g/L NaCl into the modified GAM medium were optimized and improved the growth of
206 *C. minuta*, which increased the biomass of strains by 3.59 times, with significant
207 differences.

208 The significance of the above factors is analyzed by the contour and 3D graphs of
209 the AB, AC, and BC interaction results. The concentric center of the contour (the red
210 dot in the graph) falls within the common values of the factors AB, AC, and BC (Fig.
211 6). Therefore, the maximum value of the dependent variable was obtained in the range
212 of the common concentration, indicating that the optimal composition of the *C. minuta*
213 medium was optimized in this experiment.

214 **CONCLUSION**

215 At present, the microorganisms that can cultivate in the laboratory account for only 1%
216 of the microbial species, which means most of the microorganisms in nature cannot be
217 cultured in the laboratory. Since that, most microbes cannot be scientifically studied.
218 Although the development of metagenomics, transcriptomes, etc., has enabled
219 researchers to conduct taxonomic and gene-based informatics analysis of difficult-to-
220 cultivate or non-cultivable microorganisms, it is still necessary to conduct functional
221 research and resource development for a specific microbial individual. In the

222 development of microbial culture methodology, scientists can only conduct in-depth
223 research on target microbial resources on the basis of cultivable conditions.

224 In this work, we combined the prediction tools and experiments to improve the media
225 components of *C. minuta* and successfully enhance the culturing and increase biomass
226 by more than 10-fold. From this perspective, the project throws some new ideas and
227 also enables access to new knowledge and information in uncultured microbial
228 resources.

229 In addition, microbes are the source of important biosynthetic resources.
230 Uncultivated microorganisms not only contain a large number of unexploited material
231 resources in terms of quantity and species, but these microbial populations that are not
232 recognized by humans are a treasure house. Providing new functional molecules for
233 biological applications, and has great potential for development in new drugs and new
234 enzymes.

235 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

236 ***Christensenella minuta* and its basic culture.** *C. minuta* was obtained from feces
237 sample. The single colony was screened and identified with 16S rRNA. The strain was
238 basically cultured on Gifu anaerobic medium (Nissui Pharmaceutical). Each inoculated
239 sample was incubated at 37°C for 3 days in an anaerobic glovebox (Coy Laboratory
240 Products), which contained 88% nitrogen, 7% hydrogen and 5% carbon dioxide.

241 **Cloning of specific fragments in *C. minuta* and PCR product transforming.** The
242 gene of *C. minuta* was extracted with TIANGEN MiniElute DNA Kit (DP316) and 16S
243 rDNA fragment was cloned with the template of total DNA by specific designed primers.

244 PCR procedure was followed as the introduction in QIAGEN PCR kit (VI102). PCR
245 reaction is 95°C 5 min; 95°C 30 s, 60°C 30 s, 72°C 30 s, 30 cycles; 72°C 10 min.
246 pClone007 Blunt Simple Vector Kit was used for the gene linking to make recombinant
247 plasmids. The recombinants were transformed into *E. coli* competent and the procedure
248 was shown in Figure 7.

249 **Fluorescence quantitative PCR and calibration curve construction.** All
250 recombinants were extracted and concentration was measured. A 10-fold gradient
251 dilution of the positive plasmid was used to construct a calibration curve against C_t
252 value from the fluorescence quantitative PCR. Use 2×T5 Fast qPCR Mix(SYBRGreenI)
253 to perform qPCR and the reaction system configuration is 2×T5 Fast qPCR Mix 10 μL,
254 upstream and downstream primer 0.4 μL respectively, 50×ROX reference dye 0.4 μL,
255 DNA sample 2.0 μL and 6.8 sterile water. PCR reaction procedure is 95°C 30 s; 95°C
256 15 s, 61°C 60 s, 40 cycles. Fluorescence was detected in each cycle.

257 **KOMODO prediction and metabolite analysis.** On Komodo page ([http://delta-](http://delta-tomcat-vm.cs.tau.ac.il:40678/Komodo/growrec.htm)
258 [tomcat-vm.cs.tau.ac.il:40678/Komodo/growrec.htm](http://delta-tomcat-vm.cs.tau.ac.il:40678/Komodo/growrec.htm)), the optimal media were
259 predicted for *C. minuta*. The conditions were limited: Is organism Aerobic
260 (Yes/No/Unknown): No; Does Organism grow in Salty Media (Yes/No/Unknown):
261 Yes; Maximal phylogenetic distance (range:0.0 - 1.0, default:0.04): default. 16S rRNA
262 data of *C. minuta* was inputted and blast 'Identities' Low Limit %: 85%. *C. minuta*
263 was inoculated on predicted media from KOMODO database. After culturing for 7
264 days, the samples were determined by fqPCR to evaluate the optimal medium.

265 The metabolite analysis was performed with KEGG (<https://david.ncifcrf.gov>

266 [/home.jsp](#);) combining genomics data of *C. minuta* from NCBI (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). Choose “GO ONTOLOGY and PATHWAY” and the prediction results were
267 obtained. *C. minuta* was inoculated on modified GAM media supplying with
268 metabolites predicted from KEGG. After culturing for 7 days, the samples were
269 determined by fqPCR to evaluate the optimal medium.
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275 **Conflict of interest**

276 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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319 genomes to life and the environment. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 36: D480–D484.

320

321 Table 1 Sequence of specific primers for cloning the constant region in *Christensenella*
322 *minuta* 16S rDNA

Primer	Sequence
1	5'-AGTCGAACGAGGTTGCCC-3' 5'-ATGCGTTTCGTGGTCTCAT-3'
2	5'-AGCGAACCCGTAAGGGGA-3' 5'-CACTGGCTTCGGGTGCTC-3'
3	5'-TATTGAGGCGGATGTTGACG-3' 5'-CTGGGGATACCGGCTTTG-3'

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325 Table 2 The composition of modified GAM medium (pH 7.2)

Name	Concentration (g/L)	Name	Concentration (g/L)
peptone	15.0	casein Tryptone	10.0
soytone	3.0	potassium dihydrogen phosphate	2.5
sodium chloride	3.0	soluble starch	0.3
L- cysteine	0.3	sodium thioglycolate	0.15
beef Liver extract Powder	1.2	glucose	3.0
yeast extract	5.0	beef extract	2.0
digestive serum powder	13.5		

326 note: 60.0 g of modified GAM medium was dissolved in 1 L sterile water, autoclaved for 20 min.
 327 Cooling down to RT and then add sterilized 1 ml vitamin K1 solution (0.1%), 2.5 g hemin, 70 ml
 328 defibrotic rabbit blood, 100 mg kanamycin, 100 mg neomycin, 1mg vancomycin, vortex and store.
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333 Table 3 Effects of each test substance on the proliferation of *Christensenella minuta*

Test substance	Conc (mg/L)	Multiples	Conc (mg/L)	Multiples	Conc (mg/L)	Multiples
L-serine	100	1.75	40	1.65	10	1.79
L-glycine	100	1.29	30	1.75	10	1.78
L-cystine	100	1.79	60	1.45	10	1.11
L-cystine	100	1.03	80	1.87	10	1.64
L-aspartate	100	1.67	20	1.52	10	1.34
5-uridine monophosphate disodium salt (UMP)	-		10000	1.35	1000	1.24
Cytidine-5-disodium phosphate (CMP)	-		10000	1.67	1000	1.56
Pyridoxine hydrochloride (VB6)	40	0.87	4	1.73	1	1.66

Cobalamin (VB12)	40	0.46	4	1.38	1	1.59
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355 Table 4 Analysis of variance of selected factors

Source	Sum of Squares	df	F Value	p-value	Prob > F
L-serine	3.234E-003	1	19.91	0.0467	
L-glycine	4.294E-003	1	26.44	0.0358	
L-cystine	4.840E-003	1	29.80	0.0320	
L-cystine	0.28	1	1738.98	0.0006	significant
L-aspartate	3.710E-003	1	22.84	0.0411	
UMP	0.023	1	139.27	0.0071	
CMP	0.014	1	88.37	0.0111	
VB6	1.20	1	7366.10	0.0001	significant

L-NaCl	0.045	1	277.18	0.0036	significant
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378 Table 5 Response surface experiment result

Run	Factor 1 L-cystine mg/L	Factor 2 VB6 mg/L	Factor 3 NaCl g/L	Multiples
1	10.00	20.50	10.00	3.15
2	55.00	20.50	55.00	3.53
3	55.00	20.50	55.00	3.54
4	100.00	20.50	100.00	3.38
5	10.00	40.00	100.00	3.21
6	55.00	1.00	10.00	3.23
7	100.00	20.50	10.00	3.42
8	55.00	20.50	55.00	3.59
9	10.00	20.50	100.00	3.25
10	55.00	1.00	100.00	3.18

11	100.00	40.00	55.00	3.39
12	55.00	20.50	55.00	3.56
13	100.00	1.00	55.00	3.3
14	55.00	40.00	100.00	3.42
15	10.00	1.00	55.00	3.08
16	55.00	40.00	10.00	3.43
17	55.00	20.50	55.00	3.57

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391 Figure legends:

392 **Fig. 1 a** Electrophoretic of PCR products from three pairs of specific primers in
393 different strains. **a** 1~12: Normal PCR reaction; 14~25: Fluorescence quantitative PCR
394 reaction; 13: marker. 1~3 and 14~15: *C. minuta*, primers are 1, 2 and 3; 4~6 and 17~19:
395 *E. coli*, primers are 1, 2 and 3; 7~9 and 20~22: yeast, The primers were 1, 2 and 3; 10-
396 12 and 23-25: soil samples, and the primers were 1, 2 and 3. **b** The amplification of
397 qPCR by primer1. The curve is from *C. minuta*; The straight lines include negative
398 control (ddH₂O); *E. coli* DH5 α ; *Agrobacterium* EHA105; *Peptostreptococcus*
399 *anaerobius*; *Anaerovorax odorimutana*; *Bacillus subtilis*.

400 **Fig. 2** Sensitivity test of FQ-PCR measurement. **a**. The amplification curve of qPCR

401 for *C. minuta* DNA, from left to right: concentration of *C. minuta* DNA is from
402 5.58×10^{10} copies/ μL to 5.58×10^4 copies/ μL . b. Electrophoretic of *C. minuta* DNA, from
403 left to right: DNA marker, *C. minuta* DNA and concentration from 5.58×10^{10} copies/ μL
404 to 5.58×10^4 copies/ μL .

405 **Fig. 3** Calibration curve of plasmid concentration logarithm against *Ct* value

406 **Fig. 4** The biomass of *C. minuta* growing on three KOMODO recommended media.

407 **Fig. 5** Metabolome map of *Christensenella minuta*

408 **Fig. 6** Contour and 3D plots of significant results for AB, AC, and BC interactions

409 **Fig. 7** The map of pClone007 Blunt Simple Vector and its link with 16S rDNA of *C.*
410 *minuta*.

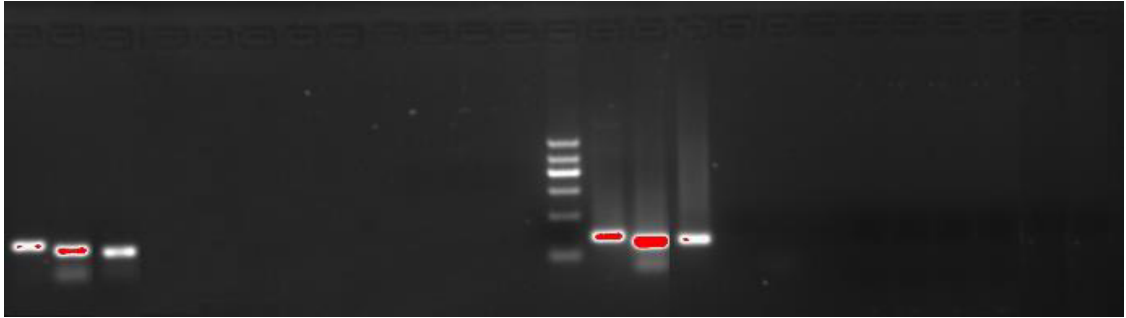
411

412

413

a

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25



b

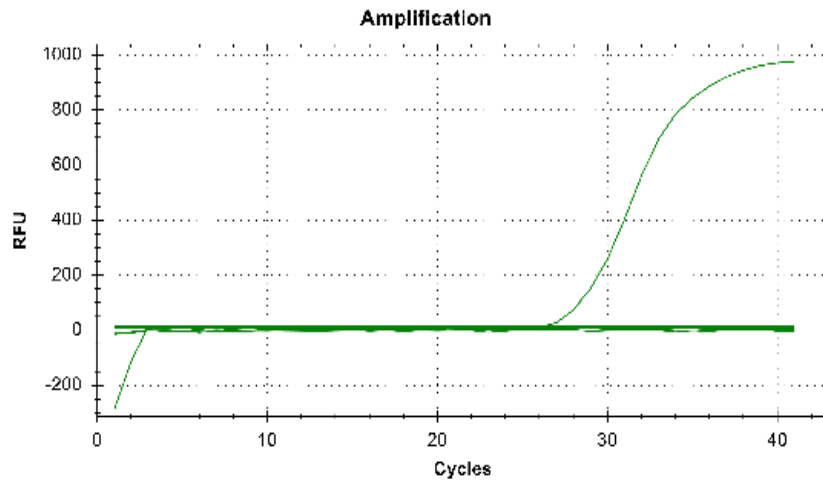


Fig. 1

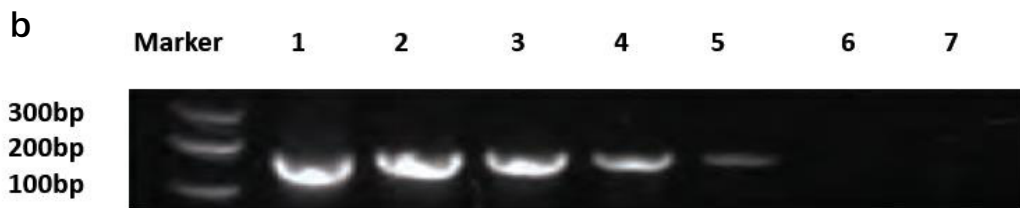
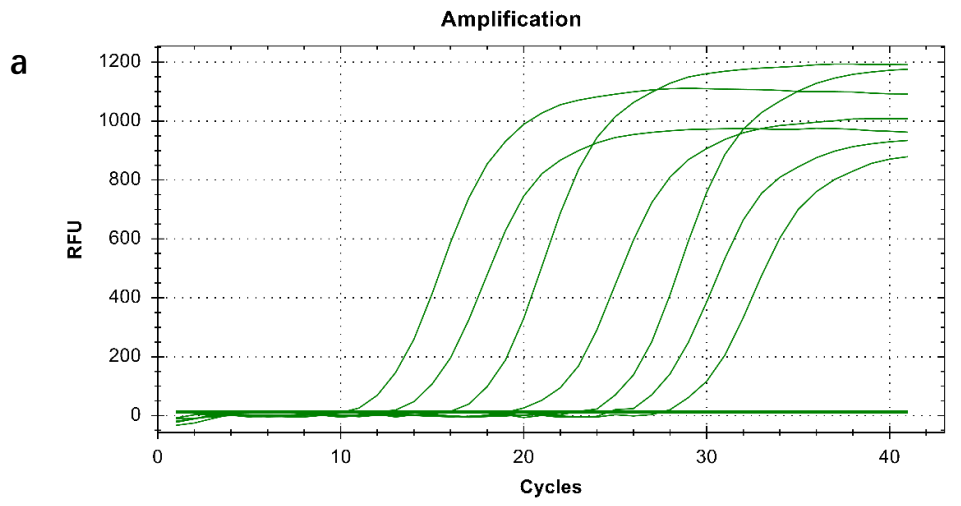


Fig. 2

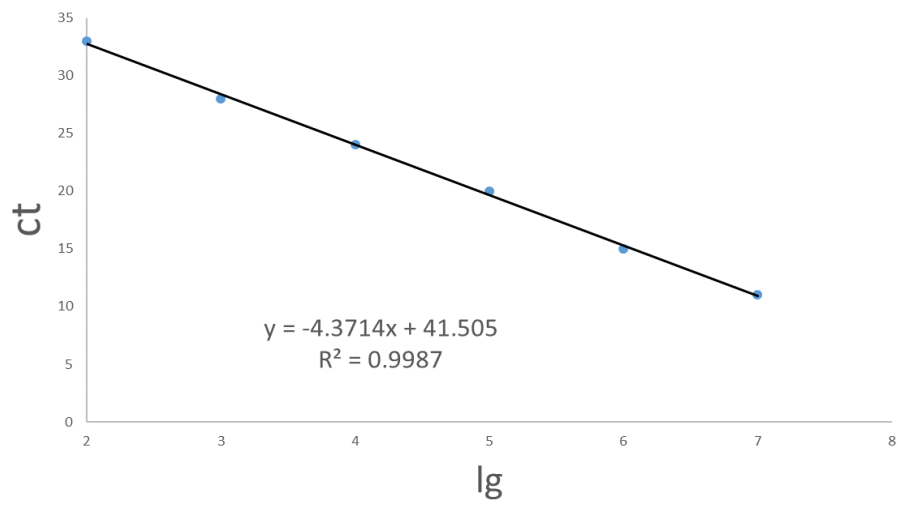


Fig. 3

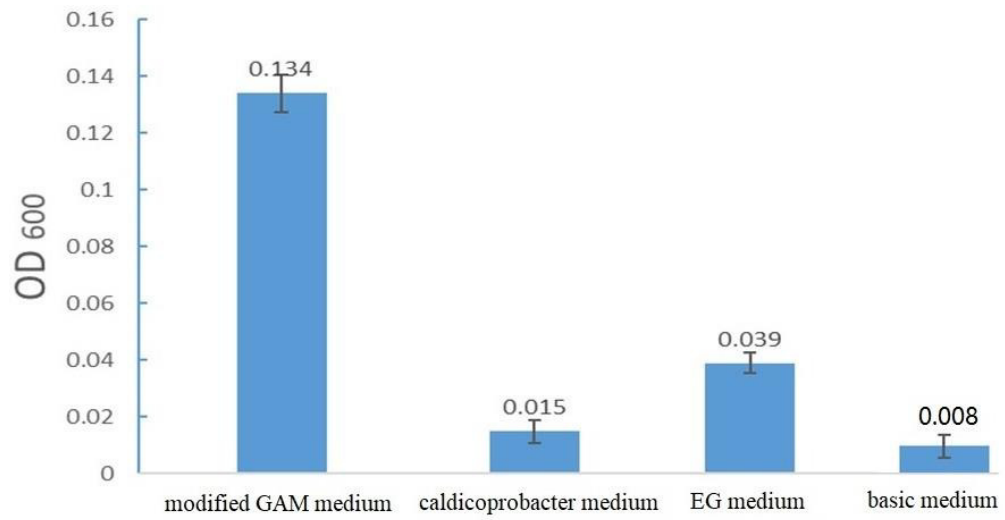
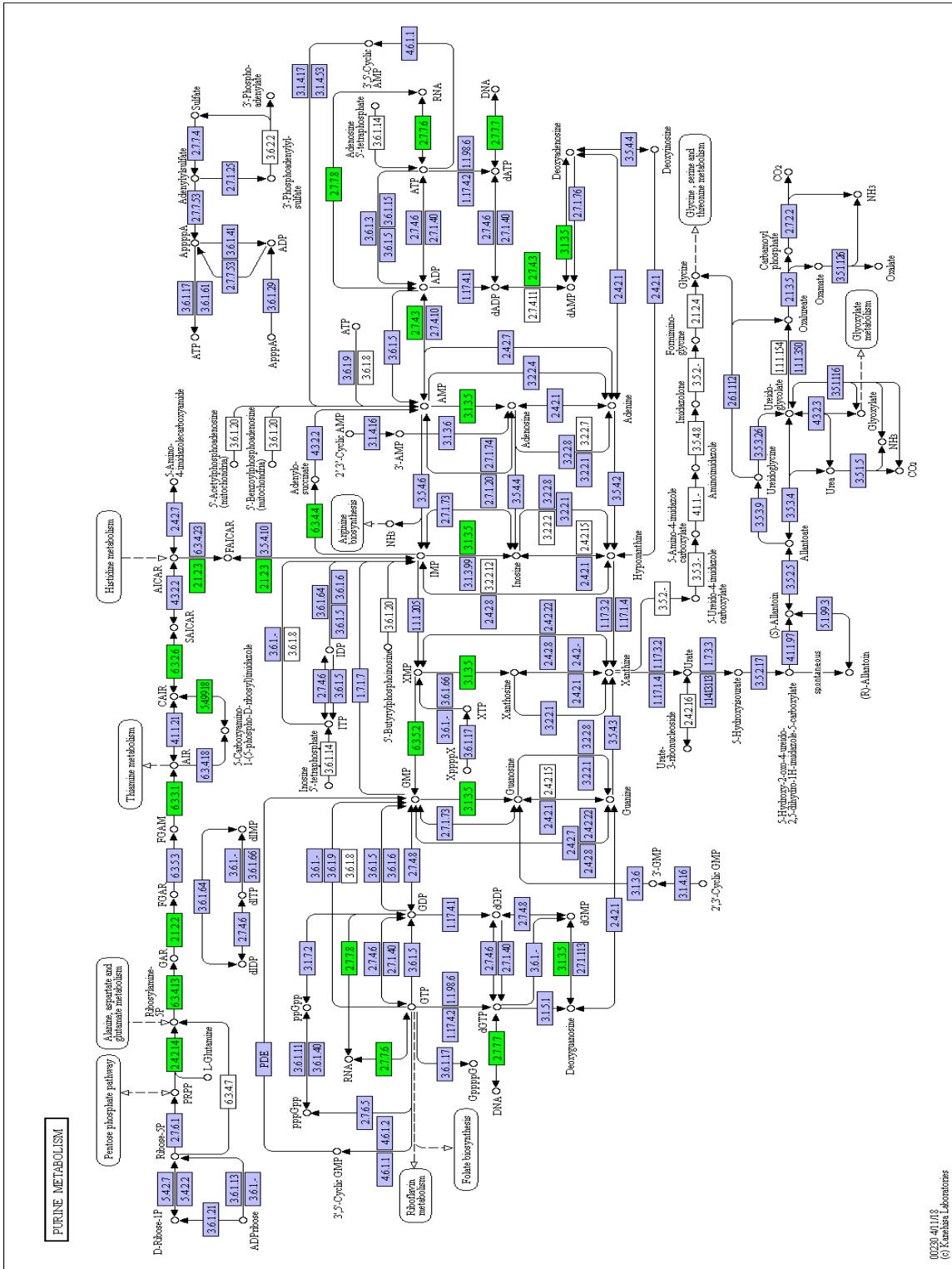


Fig. 4



a Furfural metabolism

Fig. 5a

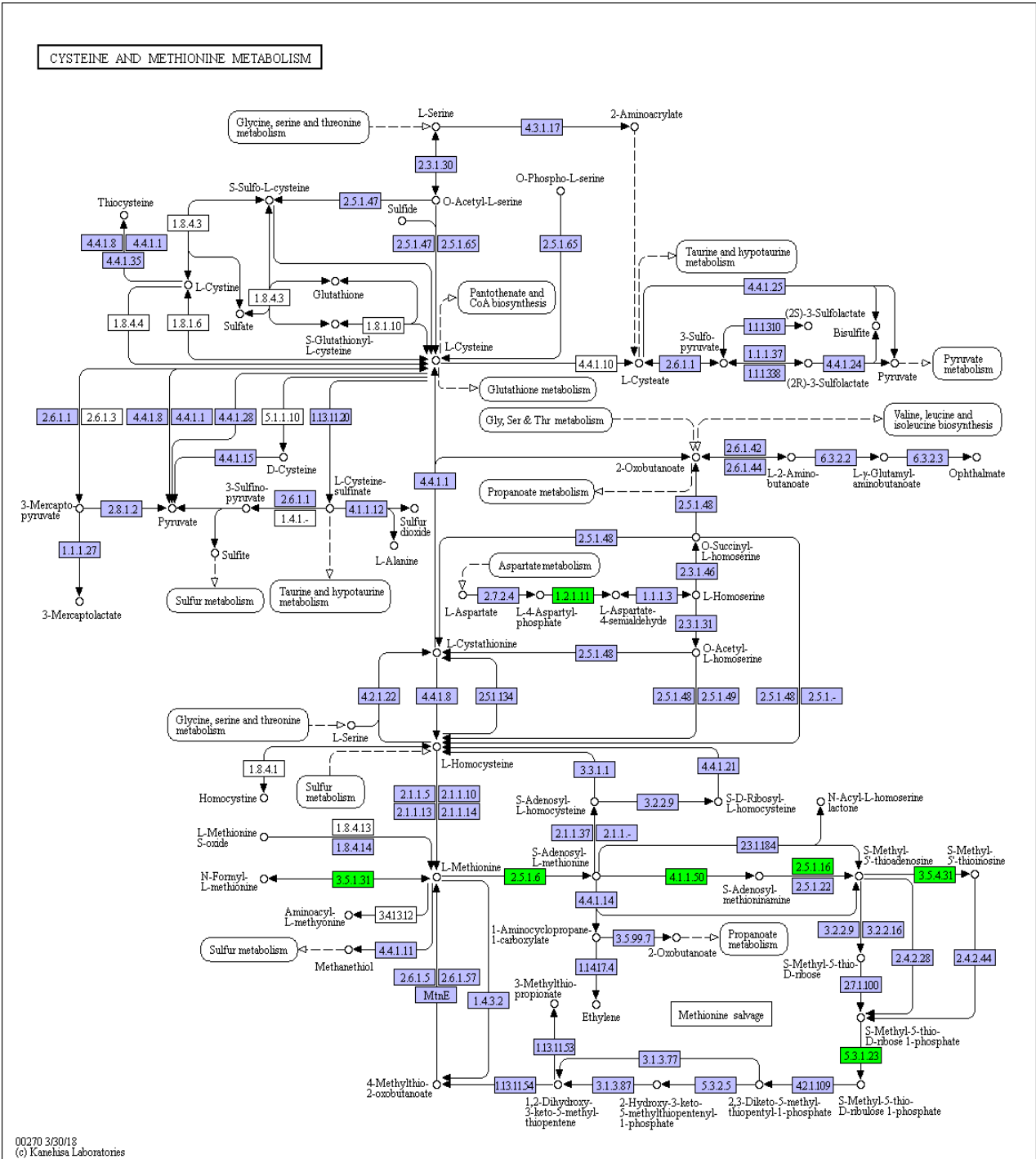


Fig. 5c

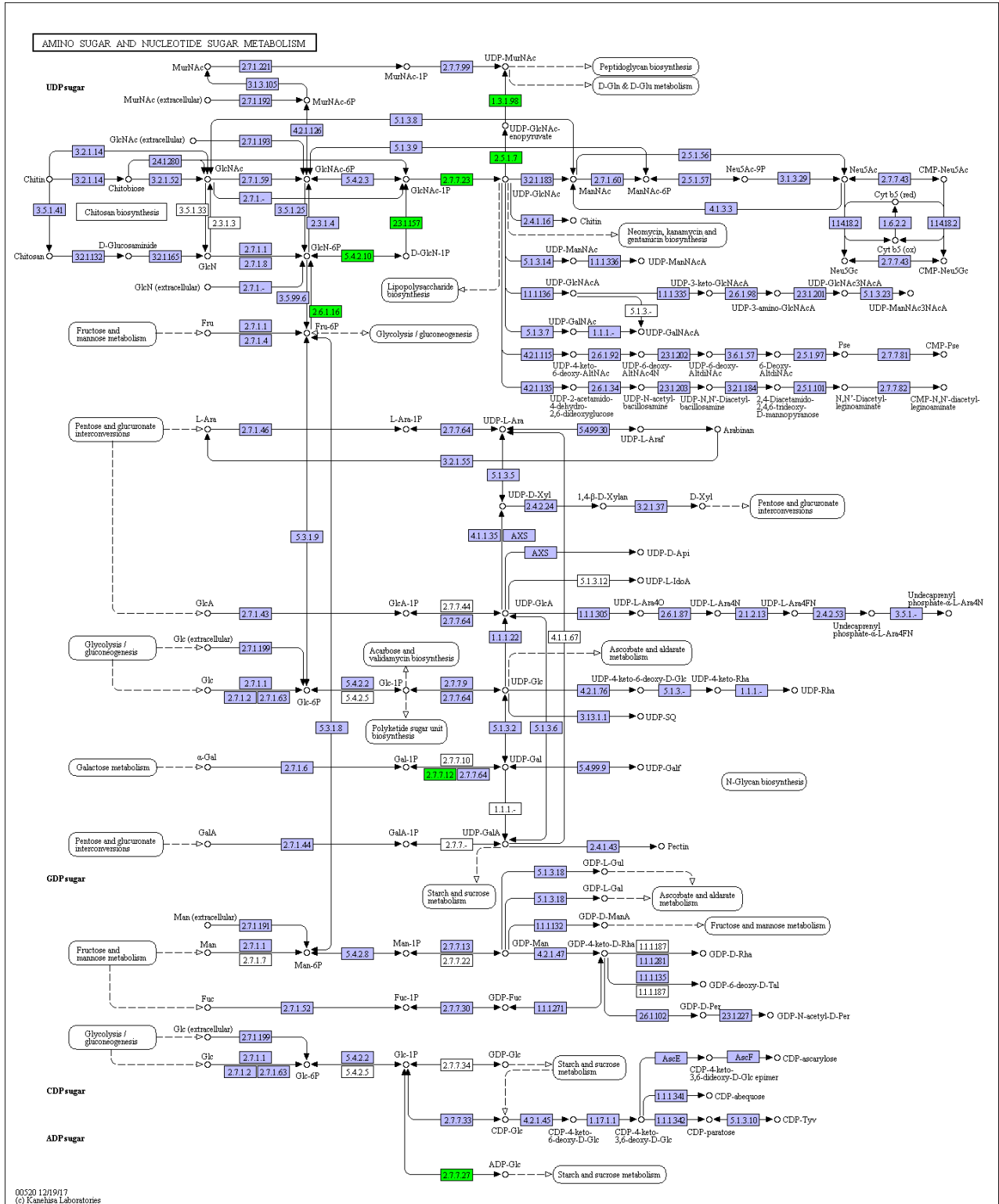
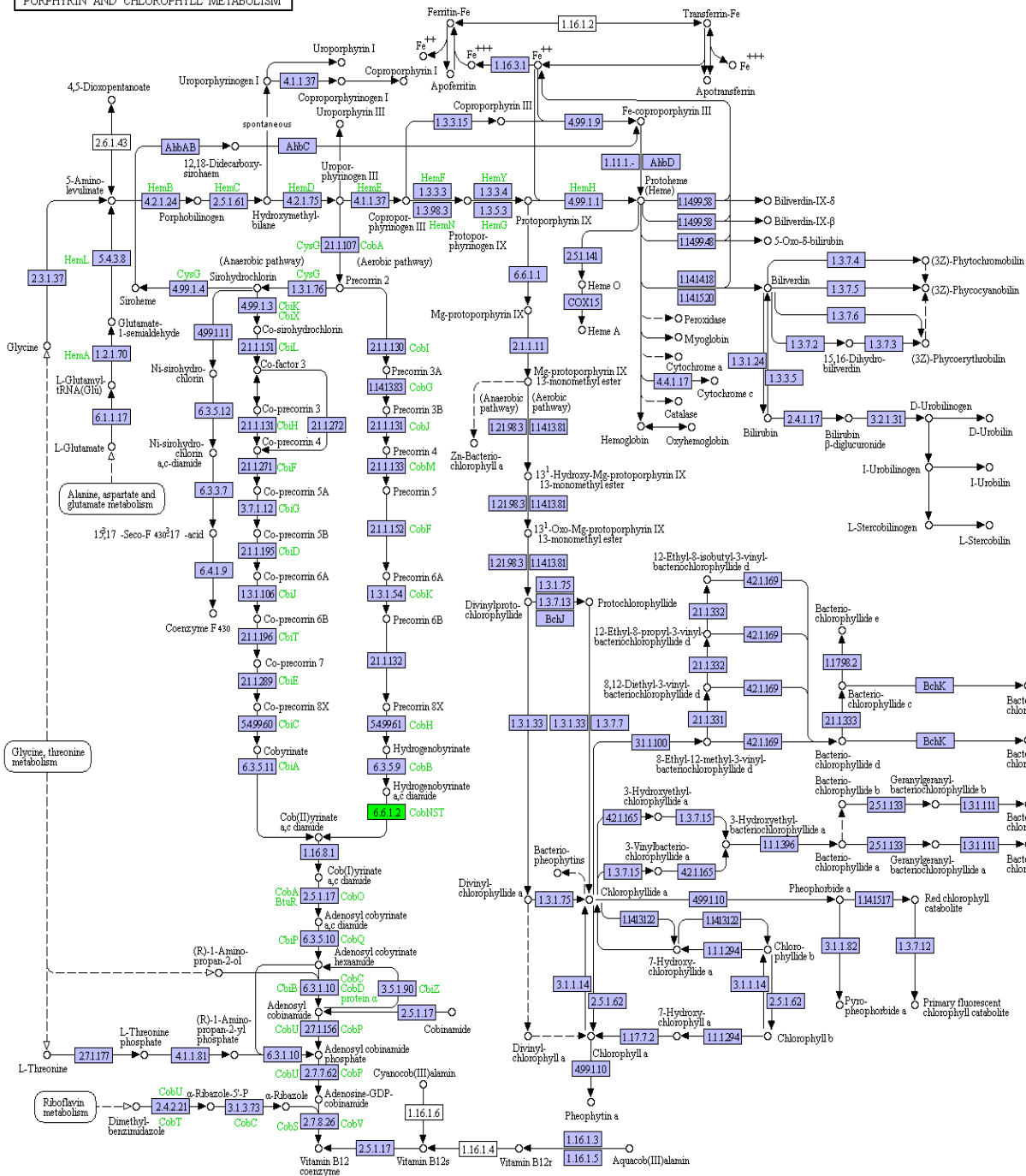


Fig. 5e

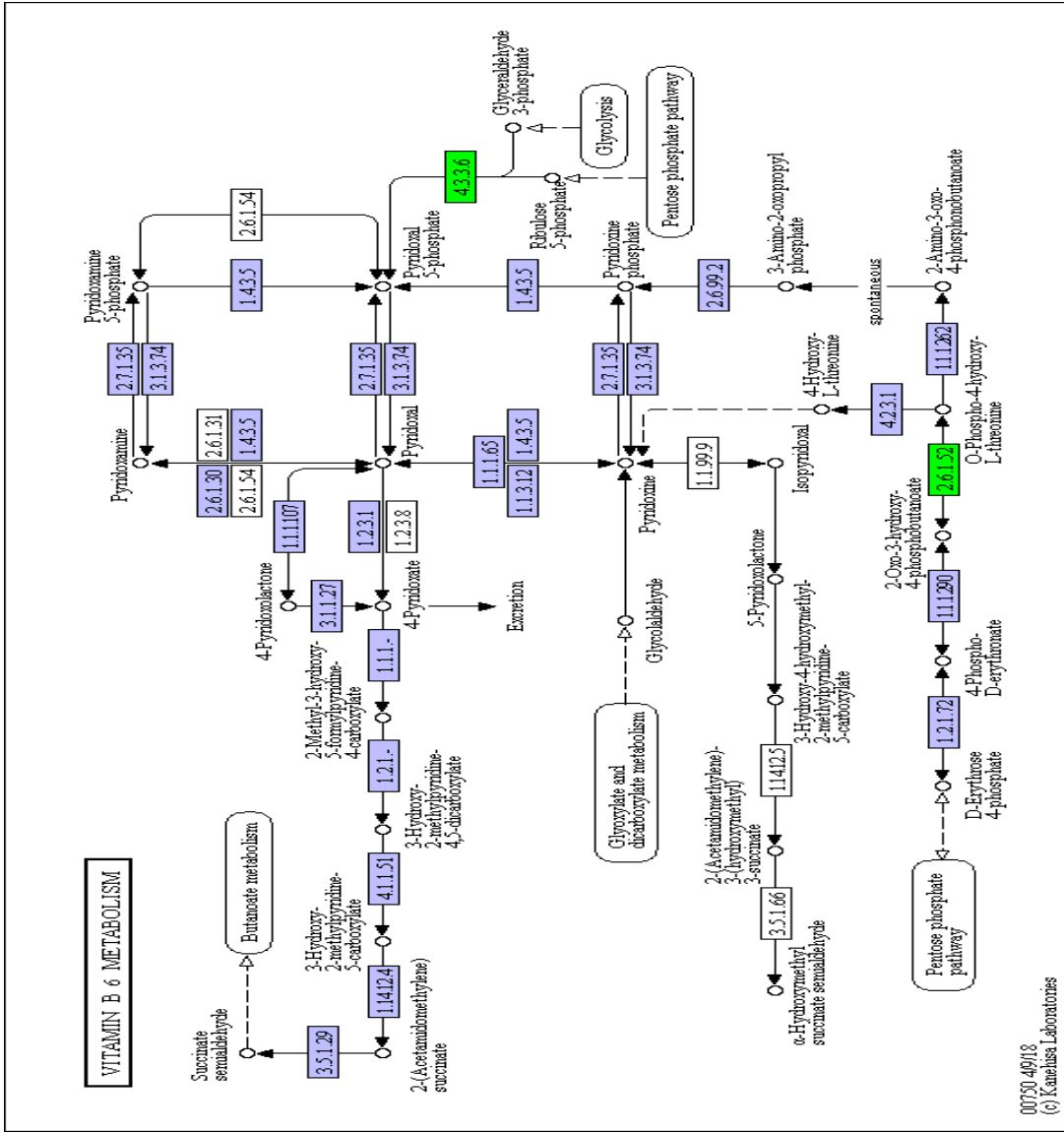
PORPHYRIN AND CHLOROPHYLL METABOLISM



00860 S1018
 (c) Kanehisa Laboratories

f VB12 metabolism

Fig. 5f



00730 4/9/18
 (c) Kanehisa Laboratories

g VB6 metabolism

Fig. 5g

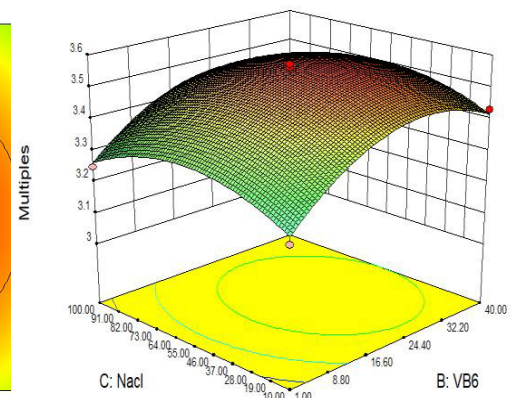
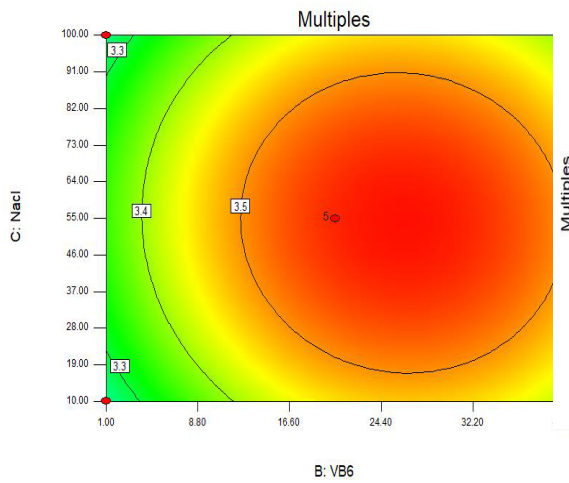
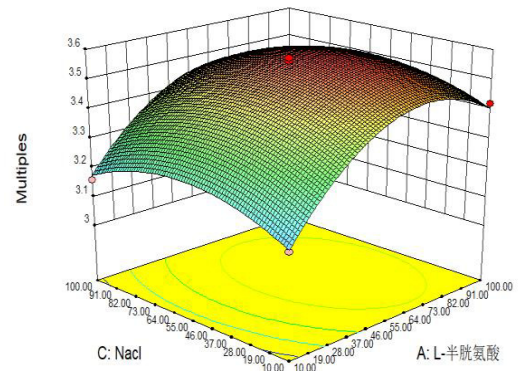
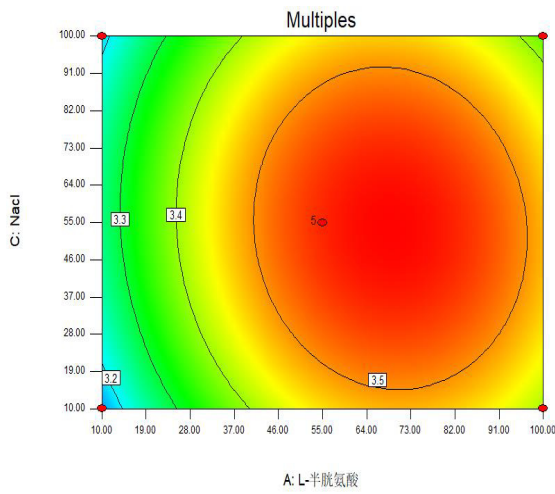
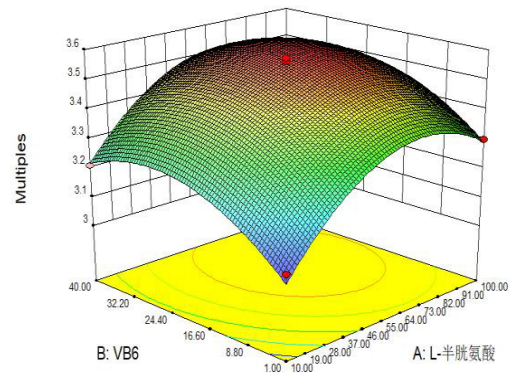
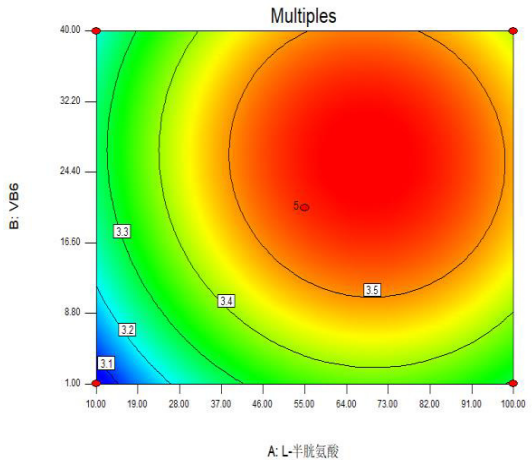


Fig. 6

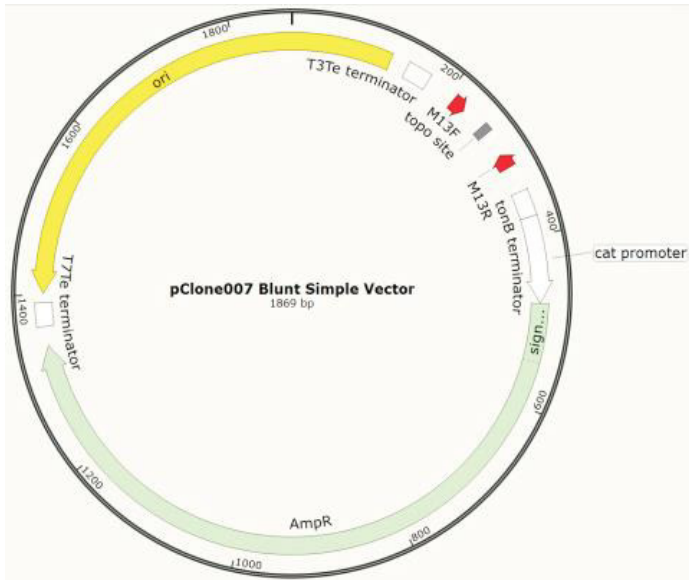


Fig. 7