

Allergen Data Collection - Update:

Hen's Egg White (*Gallus domesticus*)

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Abstract

Hen's egg white is a major cause of type I allergic reactions in man, particularly in children. Its universal application as a nutrient and food additive has caused several cases of anaphylactic reactions due to incidental ingestion. The present data collection provides an overview of prevalence data, symptoms and common sources of hidden egg white allergens in tabular form. Estimations of total frequency vary considerably with patient cohorts (case history, countries of origin) and diagnostic criteria. Detailed information about chemical and molecular biological as well as allergenic features of the relatively well-characterized four major egg white allergens (ovomucoid Gal d 1, ovalbumin Gal d 2, ovotransferrin Gal d 3 and lysozyme Gal d 4) are given. Studies of B-cell and T-cell epitopes as well as immunoglobulin and cytokine production are summarized..

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1 Prevalence of Egg White Allergy

Country / Subjects	Sensitivity to	References
Australia, Melbourne 620 children at risk of atopy	egg 3.2% (SPT)	Hill et al. 1999
Australia, Victoria 100 cow's milk allergic children	egg 58% (parent reported adverse reactions)	Bishop et al. 1990
Denmark, Odense 39 cow's milk allergic infants	egg white 29% (adverse reactions)	Host & Halken 1990
Estonia 251 allergic infants	egg white 3.6% (RAST)	Julge et al. 1997
Finland, Oulu 57, 43, and 42 children with atopic dermatitis	egg 64%, 16%, and 14% in patients < 1 year, 1-3 years, and 3-15 years of age (SPT)	Hannuksela 1987
France 81 cases of anaphylactic shock to food	egg 11.6%	Moneret-Vautrin & Kanny 1995
France 80 cases of food-related anaphylaxis (from 1993-97)	egg 8.8% (reported to CICBAA databank)	European Commission 1998
France, Pierre Benite a) 580 patients with adverse reactions to food b) 60 cases of anaphylaxis (study period 1984-92)	a) egg 23% b) egg 1.7%	Andre et al. 1994
France, Toulouse 142 food allergic children	egg white 53 % (Labial food challenge)	Rance & Dutau 1997
Germany 790 children (general population)	egg 8.4% (RAST)	Nickel et al. 1997
Germany 216 children (general population) estimation based on 4082 children	egg 6% to 4% (at 1 to 6 years of age) (RAST)	Kulig et al. 1999
Germany 1235 unselected preschool children (5-6 years)	egg 2.8% (SPT)	Schafer et al. 1999
Italy 134 patients with atopic dermatitis	egg 28% (RAST)	Bonifazi et al. 1978
Italy, Florence 54 episodes of food-dependent anaphylaxis in 44 children (age of 1 month to 16 years) (from 1994-1996)	egg 11%	Novembre et al. 1998
Italy, Rome 371 children with food allergy	egg 46% (RAST)	Giampietro et al. 1992
Iceland, Reykjavik 502 unselected adults	egg 0.4% (RAST)	Gislason et al. 1999
Japan, Kyoto 55 infants with atopic dermatitis	egg white 91% (SPT)	Kusunoki et al. 1998
Japan, Okinawa 127 atopic patients	egg white 12% (MAST)	Kosugi et al. 1992
Netherlands 131 cases of food-induced anaphylaxis (from 1993-1997)	egg 7.6% (survey, reported to the TNO Nutrition and Food Research Institute)	European Commission 1998
Netherlands, Rotterdam 91 patients with atopic dermatitis	egg 72% (SAFT)	Oranje et al. 1992

Spain, Madrid 355 food allergic children	egg white 34% (SPT, RAST)	Crespo et al. 1995
Spain, Pamplona 74 patients with atopic dermatitis	egg 35% (SPT, RAST, Histamine Release)	Resano et al. 1998
Sweden a) 61 cases and b) 55 cases of food- induced anaphylaxis (from 1994-1996)	a) egg 10% (reported to the National Food Administration) b) egg 3.6% (Hospital Reports)	European Commission 1998
Sweden, Uppsala 414 unselected adults	egg 0.2% (RAST)	Gislason et al. 1999
Switzerland, Zurich 402 food allergic adults	egg white 12% (case history, SPT, RAST)	Wüthrich 1993
Switzerland, Zurich 383 food allergic patients (study period 1990-94)	egg 5.7% (case history, SPT, RAST)	Etesamifar & Wüthrich 1998
Thailand 100 asthmatic children	egg white 1% (SPT)	Kongpanichkul et al. 1997
UK, London 100 patients with food intolerance	egg 40% (repeated challenge)	Lessof et al. 1980
UK, Manchester 172 patients experienced anaphylactic reactions to foods (from 1994-1996)	egg 2.3% (suspected cause of patients' worst reaction)	Pumphrey & Stanworth 1996
USA, Baltimore, MD 196 food allergic children	egg 73% (DBPCFC, RAST)	Sampson & Ho 1997
USA, Denver, CO 180 food allergic children	egg 26% (DBPCFC)	Bock & Atkins 1990
USA, Little Rock 165 patients with atopic dermatitis	egg 35% (SPT), from which 33/56 were DBPCFC-positive	Burks et al. 1998

2 Outgrowing of Egg White Allergy

Country / Subjects	Loss of Sensitivity to	References
Germany Children at risk (subgroup of 216 children of the general population)	Annual Incidence of sensitization to egg decreased from 6% at 1 year of age to <1% at 6 years of age (RAST)	Kulig et al. 1999
USA Food allergic patients	soy, egg, milk, wheat, and peanut: 26% loss (after 1 year of onset, DBPCFC)	Sampson & Scanlon 1989

3 Symptoms of Egg White Allergy

Symptoms & Case Reports	References					
<u>systemic reactions</u> anaphylaxis (1, 7, 8, 9, 11), fatal reactions (7)	(1) Hoffmann 1983 (2) Langeland 1983a, 1983b, 1985 (3) Anet et al. 1985 (4) Clinton et al. 1986 (5) Bernstein et al. 1987 (6) Blanco-Carmona et al. 1992 (7) Sampson et al. 1992 (8) Yamada et al. 1993 (9) Bernhisel-Broadbent et al. 1994 (10) Reekers et al. 1996 (11) Urisu et al. 1997 (12) Patriarca et al. 1998 (13) Yamada et al. 1998 (14) Foucard & Malmheden Yman 1999 (15) Niggemann et al. 1999					
<u>cutaneous symptoms</u> angioedema (1, 12), atopic dermatitis (2, 9, 10, 11, 13), eczema (1, 3, 12, 15), erythema (11), urticaria (1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15)						
<u>gastrointestinal symptoms</u> abdominal pain (12), diarrhea (1, 11), flare (1), oral allergy syndrome (4), vomiting (1, 2, 3, 4, 11), in general (1)						
<u>respiratory symptoms</u> allergic rhinitis (2, 9), asthma (2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13), cough (13), dyspnea (1), hoarseness (1), laryngeal edema (2), wheeze (1, 11, 13)						
<u>other symptoms</u> convulsion (3), cyanosis (14), hypotonia (14)						
Percentage of reactions						
Symptoms / Ref.	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Cutaneous			100%	87%		83%
Angio-oedema	14%					
Atopic dermatitis	48%	89%		100%		
Allergic rhinitis	14%	72%				
Urticaria	26%					
Gastrointestinal		37%	80%		45%	
Vomiting	25%					
Respiratory		0%	42%	17%	14%	
Asthma	26%	94%				
immediate			89%	82%		
non-immediate				11%	16%	
both					2%	
No. of patients	84	18	19	92	104	62
(1), (5) after egg ingestion / oral challenge (3) children with egg allergy (without bird allergy) (6) children	(1) Langeland 1983a (2) Bernhisel-Broadbent et al. 1994 (3) Anibarro Bausela et al. 1997 (4) Sampson & Ho 1997 (5) Yamada et al. 1998 (6) Niggemann et al. 1999					
Threshold of Ingestion Amounts of whole egg inducing symptoms ranged from 50 mg to 50 g (DBPCFC, egg allergic patients) (1)	(1) Norgaard & Bindslev-Jensen 1992					

4 Diagnostic Features of Hen's Egg White Allergy

Parameters / Subjects	Outcome	References
SPT, IgE and Oral Challenge 11 egg allergic patients (1-15 years of age)	Sensitivities of tests in comparison with oral challenge test: SPT 100%, RAST 85%, MAST 71%; Specificities in comparison with oral challenge test: RAST 50%, MAST 100%; Match with oral challenge test: SPT 63%, RAST 72%, MAST 81%, Case History 63%	Roger et al. 1994
SPT and DBPCFC Children suspected of IgE-mediated symptoms to egg	Significant differences in wheal sizes between individuals who were allergic or tolerant to egg ($P<0.001$)	Eigenmann & Sampson 1998
IgG and IgE 120 atopic children	IgG to egg white strongly associated with positive specific IgE in children with and without eczema	Eysink et al. 1999
IgG Subclasses 96 children of general population (measured at birth, 6 and 18 months and 8 years by ELISA)	Ovalbumin specific subclasses: IgG1 and IgG3 peaked at 18 months and declined up to 8 years of age; antibody levels not related to exposure to egg; positive SPT and IgE levels correlated with high IgG subclass levels; atopic symptoms associated particularly with high levels of IgG subclass IgG4; difference in antibody levels between atopic and non- atopic children mostly marked at 6 months	Jenmalm & Bjorksten 1999
a) RAST and DBPCFC b) SPT and DBPCFC food-allergic children with atopic dermatitis	a) predictive values of specific IgE $> 0.35 \text{ kU/L}$ positive predictive value 84% ($>95\%$ at IgE 6 kU/L) negative predictive value 88% b) predictive values of SPT ($> 3 \text{ mm}$) positive predictive value 85% negative predictive value 90%	Sampson & Ho 1997
IgE and DBPCFC children with atopic dermatitis	a) Specific serum IgE in children with positive oral provocation: 6.4 kU/L negative oral provocation: 1.4 kU/L (Significance $P<0.001$) b) predictive value of specific IgE $> 0.35 \text{ kU/L}$ positive predictive value 79% negative predictive value 75%	Niggemann et al. 1999
OM-digest specific IgE and DBPCFC a) 18 children DBPCFC positive and b) 12 negative to egg white (all RAST positive)	No significant differences in specific IgE- binding to egg white, ovomucoid, ovalbumin, ovotransferrin, and lysozyme in a) and b); IgE binding activity to ovomucoid digests (pepsin and trypsin) significantly higher in a) than in b)	Urisu et al. 1999
Predictive Value of IgE 1314 children (general population)	Hen's egg white specific IgE at age of 12 months is a valuable marker for sensitization (asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis) to common allergens at age of 3 years	Nickel et al. 1997

5 Therapy of Hen's Egg White Allergy

Treatment*	Outcome	References
Oral Desentization 5 egg allergic patients	A diluted food extract followed by increased pure food was administered following a standardized protocol, at the beginning pretreatment with oral sodium cromoglycate, length of therapy 4 to 5 months, after therapy codfish was tolerated (maintenance dose: 2-3 eggs / week)	Patriarca et al. 1998
Treatment with DSCG 5 egg allergic children	Food challenge before and after a seven- day pre- treatment period with oral sodium chromoglycate: Full protection in 4 children	Businco et al. 1983

* Studies may be experimental, unproved, or controversial. Please notice the [disclaimer](#) !

6 Composition of Hen's Egg White

6.1 Distribution of Nutrients

Nutrients: Content per 100 g		
Energy 203 kJ (48 kcal)	Iodine 7 µg	Leu 1080 mg
Water 87.3 g	Selenium 4-10 µg	Lys 740 mg
Protein 11.1 g		Met + Cys 470 mg
Lipid 0.2 g	Vitamins	Phe 760 mg
Carbohydrate 0.4 g	Vitamin A traces	Thr 580 mg
Minerals 0.7 g	Vitamin B1 20 µg	Trp 200 mg
	Vitamin B2 320 µg	Tyr 460 mg
Minerals	Nicotinamide 90 µg	Val 980 mg
Sodium 170 mg	Pantothenic acid 140 µg	
Potassium 155 mg	Vitamin B6 12 µg	Carbohydrates
Magnesium 12 mg	Biotin 7 µg	Glucose 410 mg
Calcium 11 mg	Folic acid 16 µg	
Manganese 40 µg	Vitamin B12 traces	
Iron 200 µg	Vitamin C 300 µg	
Copper 130 µg		
Zinc 20 µg	Amino Acids	
Phosphorus 20 mg	Arg 680 mg	
Chloride 170 µg	His 280 mg	
Fluoride 10-150 µg	Ile 740 mg	

Reference: Deutsche Forschungsanstalt für Lebensmittelchemie, Garching bei München (ed), **Der kleine "Souci-Fachmann-Kraut" Lebensmitteltabelle für die Praxis**, WVG, Stuttgart 1991

6.2 Protein Fraction

Proteins / Glycoproteins	Amount of total protein (1)	Heat Coagulated Egg
Ovomucoid	11 %	14.2 +/- 11.9 mg/ml in soluble fraction of egg white (2)
Ovalbumin	54 %	
Ovotransferrin	12-13 %	
Lysozyme	3.4-3.5 %	
Ovomucin	1.5-3.5 %	
G2 Ovoglobulin	1.0 %	
G3 Ovoglobulin	1.0 %	
Ovoflavoprotein	0.8 %	
Ovostatin	0.5 %	
Cystatin	0.05 %	
Avidin	0.05 %	
Thiamin-binding protein		
Glutamyl aminopeptidase		
Minor glycoprotein 1		
Minor glycoprotein 2		

Reference: (1) [Awade 1996](#), (2) [Sakai et al. 1998](#)

7 Allergens of Hen's Egg White

Proteins / Glycoproteins	Allergen Nomenclature	References
Ovomucoid [28 kDa]	Gal d 1	Langeland T (1982b)
Ovalbumin [44 kDa]	Gal d 2	Langeland T (1982b)
Ovotransferrin [77 kDa]	Gal d 3	Langeland & Harbitz (1983)
Lysozyme [14 kDa]	Gal d 4	Hoffman 1983
Ovomucin	none	Walsh et al. 1988

7.1 Sensitization to Egg White Allergens

Country / Subjects	Sensitivity to	References
Austria, Vienna 13 patients with egg white allergy	40-45 kDa allergen 100% 35 kDa allergen 76% 70 kDa allergen 61%	Szepfalusi et al. 1994
Denmark 32 adults with suspected egg allergy	ovomucoid 34% ovalbumin 9% ovotransferrin 22% lysozyme 6% (dot-immunoblot)	Djurtoft et al. 1991
Denmark 34 egg allergic adults	ovomucoid 38% ovalbumin 32% ovotransferrin 53% lysozyme 15% (SDS-PAGE / immunoblot)	Aabin et al. 1996
France, Nancy 52 egg allergic patients	lysozyme 35% (RAST)	Fremont et al. 1997
Germany, Hamburg 33 egg allergic patients	ovomucoid 36% ovalbumin 30% (SDS-PAGE / immunoblot)	Besler et al. 1997
Japan 39 egg allergic patients	lysozyme 67% (RAST)	Yamada et al. 1993
Japan, Toyoake 72 egg allergic patients	decreasing specific serum IgE against OM>OA>>OT>LY (RAST)	Urisu et al. 1997
Norway, Oslo 68 egg allergic patients	ovomucoid 69% ovalbumin 100% ovotransferrin 54% (CRIE)	Langeland 1982b, 1983b
USA, Baltimore, MD 18 egg allergic children	ovomucoid 89% ovalbumin 78% lysozyme 61% (skin prick test)	Bernhisel-Broadbent et al. 1994
USA, Baltimore, MD egg allergic children: a) 10 persistent allergy b) 11 developed clinical tolerance	ovomucoid: a) 44.5 ng/ml b) 3.5 ng/ml ovalbumin: a) 1.6 ng/ml b) 1.5 ng/ml (specific serum-IgE)	Bernhisel-Broadbent et al. 1994
USA, NC 33 egg allergic patients	ovomucoid 97% ovalbumin 100% ovotransferrin 94% lysozyme 69% (RAST)	Hoffmann 1983

7.2 Properties of Ovomucoid

7.2.1 Molecular Biological Properties

Ovomucoid (OM)	References
Allergen Nomenclature Gal d 1	(1) King et al. 1994
Isoallergens and Variants 2 genetic variants a) whole sequence of 186 aa residues and b) deletion of Val-134-Ser-135 (1)	(1) Kato et al. 1987
Molecular Mass Mr 28.0 kDa (1, 3) 26.0-27.7 kDa in mass spectrometry (2) 25-31 kDa unresolved distribution in mass spectrometry (3)	(1) Holen & Elsayed 1990 (2) Haginaka et al. 1995 (3) Besler et al. 1997
Isoelectric Point pI 4.4 - 4.6 2 isoforms in IEF/PAGE (1)	(1) Holen & Elsayed 1990
Amino Acid Sequence, mRNA, and cDNA	
Gal d 1	
SWISS-PROT: P01005	
GenBank: J00902	(1) Lai et al. 1979
PIR: A01239	(2) Catterall et al. 1980 (3) Kato et al. 1987
Amino acids 186 residues (3)	
mRNA 821bp (2)	
cDNA 5.6 kb (1)	
recombinant Protein expression in Escherichia coli: domain I (OM 1-68) (Mr 7500) (3) domain III (OM 131-186) (1, 2)	(1) Hinck et al. 1993 (2) Kojima et al. 1994 (3) DeKoster & Robertson 1997
3D-Structure X-ray studies of enzyme complex with domain III from turkey OM (1) NMR studies of domain III from turkey OM (3, 4) NMR studies of OM-glycopeptide (2) NMR studies of a penta-antennary N-glycan (5)	(1) Bode et al. 1986 (2) Davis et al. 1994 (3) Krezel et al. 1994 (4) Hoogstraten et al. 1995 (5) Rutherford et al. 1995
Posttranslational Modifications	
Disulfide bonds 9 disulfide bonds: 5-44, 22-41, 30-62, 70-109, 87-106, 95-127, 138-168, 146-165, 154-186 (2, 6)	(1) Beeley 1971 (2) Beeley 1976a (3) Beeley 1976b (4) Yamashita et al. 1982 (5) Yamashita et al. 1983 (6) Yamashita et al. 1984 (7) Kato et al. 1987 (8) Yet et al. 1988
Glycosylation of OM: carbohydrate content: 22-29% of whole Mr (1) carbohydrate composition: 14-16% GlcNAc, 6.5-8.5% Man, 0.5-4.0% Gal and, 0.04-2.2% NeuNAc (1) 5 N-glycosylation sites: 10, 53, 69, 75 and partly 175 (3, 7) covalent multiantennary structures of glycans (sequential exoglucosidase digest, mass spectrometry) (4, 5, 8) hydrazinolysis of sialyl-oligosaccharides and sialyldase digestion (6)	

Biological Function

serin protease inhibitor, Kazal family of protease inhibitors (1)
 3 tandem domains (1):
 domain I (OM 1-68)
 domain II (OM 65-130)
 domain III (OM 131-186)
 active sites: 24-25, 89-90, 148-149 (1)

(1) [Kato et al. 1987](#)**Stability**

lower trypsin-inhibitory activity and heat denaturation stability of chemically deglycosylated OM (1)
 glycosylated first domain has increased thermal stability in comparison with recombinant domain I (2)

(1) [Gu et al. 1989](#)(2) [DeKoster & Robertson 1997](#)**7.2.2 Allergenic Properties**

Ovomucoid (OM)	References		
Frequency of Sensitization IgE-binding to OM in 34 to 97 % of patients (1)	(1) see 6.1 Sensitization to Egg White Allergens		
IgE-binding of OM Domains Average percentage of specific serum IgE*:			
Domain/Ref.	(1)	(2)	(3)
I (OM 1-68)	- **	33%	12%
II (OM 65-130)	- **	48%	16%
III (OM 131-186)	-	28%	-
glycosylated	35%	-	27%
non-glycosylated	< 4%	-	47%
No. of Patients	2 (medium percentage)	45 children with atopic dermatitis (median percentage)	9 children (medium percentage)
* total OM-specific serum IgE = 100% (RAST / EAST)			
** domains I+II (OM 1-130) = 78%			

B-Cell Epitopes

IgE binding sites located on:

OM 1-20 (synthetic peptide) (b) (3)
 OM 40-50 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)
 OM 49-56 (synthetic peptide) (b) (3)
 OM 56-66 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)
 OM 71-75 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)
 OM 81-91 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)
 OM 85-96 (synthetic peptide) (b) (3)
 OM 90-121 (trypsin digest) (a) (5)
 OM 115-122 (synthetic peptide) (b) (3)
 OM 134-186 (pepsin digest) (a) (5)
 OM 161-174 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)
 OM 175-186 (synthetic peptide) (b) (3)
 OM 179-186 (synthetic peptide) (b) (6)

- (1) [Matsuda et al. 1985](#)
- (2) [Besler et al. 1997](#)
- (3) [Cooke & Sampson 1997](#)
- (4) [Zhang & Mine 1998](#)
- (5) [Besler et al. 1999](#)
- (6) [Mine & Zhang 1999](#)

Applied methods:
 (a) SDS-PAGE / immunoblot
 (b) dot / immunoblot
 (c) EAST / RAST inhibition

Carbohydrate epitopes:

Specific serum IgE against N-glycosylated domain III (Asn-175) higher than against non-glycosylated domain III in egg allergic patients (c) (1)

Specific serum IgE against N-glycosylated domain III (Asn-175) lower than against non-glycosylated domain III in egg allergic patients (c) (4)

No difference in IgE-binding of OM and deglycosylated OM (a, c) (2)

T-Cell Epitopes

T-Cell Proliferation with:

domain I (OM 1-68)
 domain II (OM 65-130) (predominant)
 domain III (OM 131-186) (predominant)
 in 4 egg allergic patients (1)

- (1) [Eigenmann et al. 1996](#)
- (2) [Holen & Elsayed 1996](#)
- (3) [Cooke & Sampson 1997](#)

domain I (OM 1-68) in 28% '
 domain II (OM 65-130) in 55%
 domain III (OM 131-186) in 64%
 of 33 (' 29) egg allergic children with atopic dermatitis (3)

whole OM (2)

T-Cells / Cytokines

PBMC stimulation with OM: expression of IL-5 in 4 egg allergic patients, OM specific T-cell lines mainly CD3+ (of which 75-97% were CD4+ T-cells), CD8+ phenotypes < 25% (1)

- (1) [Eigenmann et al. 1996](#)

Alteration of Allergenicity

Cyanogen bromide cleavage:

no change in IgE- and IgG-binding in 6 OM allergic patients (direct ELISA) (1)
6 of 6 sera showed IgE binding OM fragments (SDS-PAGE immunoblot) (3)

Deglycosylation: see [carbohydrate epitopes](#)

Digestion

5 of 6 sera showed IgE binding to trypsin digested OM, 1 of 6 to pepsin digest, and 2 of 6 to thermolysin digest (SDS-PAGE immunoblot) (3)
pepsin, trypsin, and chymotrypsin preparations of OM showed high IgE binding activities in DBPCFC positive egg white allergic children (RAST inhibition) (4)

- (1) [Djurtoft et al. 1991](#)
- (2) [Cooke & Sampson 1997](#)
- (3) [Besler et al. 1999](#)
- (4) [Urisu et al. 1999](#)

Performic acid oxidation:

no change in IgE- (max. inhibition 93%) and decreased IgG-binding (max. inhibition 39%) in 7 egg allergic patients (EAST inhibition) (2)
increased PBMC proliferation in 11 egg allergic patients (2)

Reduction and alkylation:

IgE-binding lost in 4/6 and retained in 2/6 OM allergic patients, respectively (1)
IgG-binding lost in 4/6 and retained in 2/6 OM allergic patients, respectively (1)
decreased IgE-(max. inhibition 72%) and decreased IgG-binding (max. inhibition 82%) in 7 egg allergic patients (EAST inhibition) (2)
increased PBMC proliferation in 11 egg allergic patients (2)

7.3 Properties of Ovalbumin

7.3.1 Molecular Biological Properties

Ovalbumin (OA)	References
Allergen Nomenclature Gal d 2	(1) King et al. 1994
Isoallergens and Variants Asn / Asp replacement at residue 311 (1)	(1) Nisbet et al. 1981
Molecular Mass Mr 44.0-45.0 kDa 6 and 4 isoforms by mass spectrometry, respectively (1, 2)	(1) Kelly et al. 1996 (2) Chakel et al. 1997
Isoelectric Point pI 4.6	(1) Holen & Elsayed 1990
Amino Acid Sequence, mRNA, and cDNA	
Gal d 2	(1) McReynolds et al. 1978
SWISS-PROT: P01012	(2) Dugaiczyk et al. 1979
GenBank: J00895 , V00438 , V00383 , M34352 , M34346	(3) Gannon et al. 1979
PIR: A90455	(4) O'Hare et al. 1979
Amino acids 385 residues (6)	(5) Caterall et al. 1980
mRNA 1859 bp (1), 1872 bp (4, 7)	(6) Nisbet et al. 1981
cDNA 7.564 kb (2, 3, 5, 7)	(7) Woo et al. 1981
recombinant Protein	
expression in Escherichia coli (1)	(1) Fraser & Bruce 1978
Japanese quail OA expression in Saccharomyces cerevisiae (7)	(2) Lai et al. 1980
expression in mouse cells (2)	(3) Colman et al. 1981
expression in Xenopus laevis oocytes (3)	(4) Lai et al. 1983
OA and OA mutant expression in mouse L cells (5, 6)	(5) Sheares & Robbins 1986
expression in human breast carcinoma cell line (4)	(6) Sheares 1988
	(7) Krizkova et al. 1992
3D-Structure	
X-ray studies of OA (1, 3)	(1) Stein et al. 1990
X-ray of plakalbumin (2)	(2) Wright et al. 1990
OA 257-264 in complex with the murine MHC class I H-2K ^b molecule (4)	(3) Stein et al. 1991
	(4) Fremont et al. 1995

Posttranslational Modifications

Acetylation:

N-terminal acetylation (3)

Disulfide Bridges:

1 disulfide bond: 73-120 (3)

4 free Cys residues

- (1) [Robinson 1972](#)
- (2) [Henderson et al. 1981](#)
- (3) [Nisbet et al. 1981](#)
- (4) [Yamashita et al. 1984](#)
- (5) [Chen et al. 1988](#)
- (6) [Sheares & Robbins 1986](#)
- (7) [Sheares 1988](#)
- (8) [Burley & Vadehra 1989](#)
- (9) [Rago et al. 1992](#)
- (10) [Ekman & Jäger 1993](#)
- (11) [Kuster et al. 1997](#)
- (12) [Suzuki et al. 1997](#)
- (13) [Wei et al. 1998](#)

Glycosylation of OA:

carbohydrate content: 3.2% of whole Mr (1)

carbohydrate composition: 1.2% GlcNAc, 1.7-2.0% Man (1)

1 N-glycosylation site: Asn-292 (3)

hydrazinolysis of sialyl-oligosaccharides and sialyldase digestion (4)

isolation and mass spectrometry of OA-glycans (5)

purified glycopeptides characterized by sequential exoglycosidase digestion (9)

sequential exoglycosidase digestion and mass spectrometry of glycans (11)

transiently diglycosylated ovalbumin (Asn-292, Asn-311) in hen oviduct (12)

glycosylation of recombinant OA (6, 7)

Phosphorylation of OA:

2 phosphorylation sites: Ser-68, Ser-344 (2, 3)

phosphate content: 1.73 mol/mol OA (10)

variants: A1, A2, or A3 depending on 2, 1, or no phosphorylation, ratios A1:A2:A3 = 12:7:1 (8)

separation by capillary isoelectric focussing and mass spectrometry of mono- and diphospho-OA (13)

- (1) [Burley & Vadehra 1989](#)

Biological Function

function unknown, OA belongs to serpin family of protease inhibitors (1)

active site: 352-353

- (1) [Smith 1964](#)
- (2) [Smith & Back 1965](#)

Stability

conversion to S-Ovalbumin by heat or storage (1, 2)

5% S-form in fresh eggs, 81% in eggs stored for 6 months (1)

S-form more resistant to denaturation by heat, urea, or guanidine (2)

7.3.2 Allergenic Properties

Ovalbumin (OA)	References
<p>Frequency of Sensitization IgE-binding to OA in 9 to 100% of patients (1)</p>	(1) see 6.1 Sensitization to Egg White Allergens
<p>Immunoglobulines IgM, IgG, IgE production by OA-specific B-Cells (1) lower OA-specific IgA production in egg allergic children (2)</p>	(1) Ohshima & Yata 1991 (2) Noma et al. 1996a
<p>B-Cell Epitopes IgE binding sites located on: OA 1-10 (synthetic peptide) (c) (1) OA 11-19 (synthetic peptide) (c) (4) OA 41-171 (CNBr-fragment) (a) (3) OA 56-70 (synthetic peptide) (c) (4) OA 301-385 (CNBr-fragment) (a) (3) OA 323-339 (synthetic peptide) (b, c) (2) OA 347-385 (V8 protease digest) (a) (5) OA 347-366 (synthetic peptide) (d) (5) OA 357-366 (synthetic peptide) (e) (5) OA 357-376 (synthetic peptide) (d) (5) OA 367-385 (synthetic peptide) (d) (5)</p>	(1) Elsayed et al. 1988 (2) Johnsen & Elsayed 1990 (3) Kahlert et al. 1992 (4) Elsyed & Stavseng 1994 (5) Honma et al. 1996 Applied methods: (a) SDS-PAGE / immunoblot (b) CRIE (c) EAST / RAST-inhibition (d) Histamine Release (e) Histamine Release inhibition
<p>T-Cell Epitopes Specific T-Cell Proliferation with: OA 1-33 (synthetic peptide) (3) OA 105-122 (synthetic peptide) (2) OA 198-231 (synthetic peptide) (3) OA 201-213 (synthetic peptide) (3) OA 261-277 (synthetic peptide) (3) OA 323-339 (synthetic peptide) (1, 2) with whole OA (1, 2)</p>	(1) Shimojo et al. 1994 (2) Holen & Elsayed 1996 (3) Katsuki et al. 1996
<p>PBMC Proliferation stimulation with OA positive PBMC proliferation in 10 egg allergic patients (4) decreased proliferation during elimination diets in egg allergic patients with atopic dermatitis (2) higher proliferation in egg allergic patients with atopic dermatitis showing non-immediate symptoms to oral challenge than in patients showing immediate type symptoms (1, 3) increased proliferation in allergy developing infants (5) higher proliferation in egg allergic children with persisting symptoms of atopic dermatitis (6)</p>	(1) Kondo et al. 1990 (2) Agata et al. 1993 (3) Fukutomi et al. 1994 (4) Eigenmann et al. 1996 (5) Miles et al. 1996 (6) Shinoda et al. 1997
<p>PBMC Stimulation / Cytokines PBMC stimulation with OA: increase of PBMC proliferation and decrease in IFN-gamma in egg allergic infants with atopic dermatitis (1) increase of IL4 and decrease in IFN-gamma in egg allergic children with atopic dermatitis (not in outgrown and healthy children) (2) increase of IFN-gamma (exclusively by simultaneous IL-2 stimulation) in egg allergic patients (3) increase of IL-5 mRNA in egg allergic children (not in outgrown and healthy children) (4)</p>	(1) Warner et al. 1994 (2) Noma et al. 1996b (3) Shinbara et al. 1996 (4) Tomiita et al. 1998

T-Cell Lines (TCL) / Cytokines

OA-stimulated lymphocytes from egg allergic patients induced IL-2-responsiveness of T-Cells (CD4+), induction of T-Cell responsiveness inhibited by anti-HLA-DP and anti-HLA-DQ monoclonal antibodies (1, 3)

Antibody to CD45RA+ (CD4+ T-Cells) induced IL-2 responsiveness in lymphocytes of non-allergic patients, but did not increase responsiveness in egg allergic patients (2)

Anti-HLA-DP monoclonal antibodies inhibited T-Cell proliferation in 5 egg allergic patients, anti-HLA-DQ monoclonal antibodies restored T-Cell proliferation in 2 egg allergic patients with atopic dermatitis (5)

OA-specific TCL (CD4+, alpha beta T-Cell receptors) recognized OA presented by HLA-DR10, production of IL-5 on stimulation with OA or OA 323-339 observed (1 egg allergic patient) (4)

30 OA-specific TCL mainly CD4+ T-Cells significant production of IL-4 and IL-5, low production of IFN-gamma (6 egg allergic patients with atopic dermatitis) (6)

28 OA- or casein-specific T-Cell clones (TCC) (16 CD8+) from egg and cow's milk allergic patient, 75% of CD4+ TCC and 44% of CD8+ TCC secreted IL-4 (7)

- (1) [Noma et al. 1990](#)
- (2) [Kawano et al. 1992](#)
- (3) [Noma et al. 1994](#)
- (4) [Shimojo et al. 1994](#)
- (5) [Shinbara et al. 1995](#)
- (6) [Katsuki et al. 1996](#)
- (7) [Reekers et al. 1996](#)

Alteration of Allergenicity

Acidic treatment:

HCl, pH 3.0: increased IgE-binding in EAST (157% of binding to native OA, for IgG 122%, IgA 104%) (2)

Alkaline treatment:

NaOH, pH 11 overnight: decreased IgE-binding in EAST (0.4% of binding to native OA, for IgG 5.2%, IgA 27%) (2)

Cyanogen bromide cleavage:

decreased 50%-inhibition of IgE-binding in RAST (1)

Pepsin hydrolysis:

limited hydrolysis decreased IgE-binding (max. inhibition: 50%) in RAST (1)

Reduction and alkylation:

decreased IgE-binding (max. inhibition: 20%) in RAST (1)

no change in IgE-binding in EAST (89% of binding to native OA, for IgG 100%, IgA 111%) (2)

- (1) [Elsayed et al. 1986](#)
- (2) [Honma et al. 1994](#)

Heat denaturation:

80°C, 10 min and treatment with urea or guanidine HCl resulted in no change in RAST inhibition (1)

100°C, 3 min: decreased IgE-binding in EAST (9.4% of binding to native OA, for IgG 39%, IgA 76%) (2)

Trypsin hydrolysis:

decreased 50%- inhibition of IgE-binding in RAST (1)

Urea denaturation:

increased IgE-binding in EAST (136% of binding to native OA, for IgG 120%, IgA 133%) (2)

7.4 Properties of Ovotransferrin

7.4.1 Molecular Biological Properties

Ovotransferrin (OT)	References
Allergen Nomenclature Gal d 3	(1) King et al. 1994
Isoallergens and Variants 5 isoforms with replacement of residues: 64 (A/V), 81 (V/I), 135 (R/W), 220-221 (Q/K-L/N), 667 (S/N) (1)	(1) SWISS-PROT: P01012
Molecular Mass Mr 77.3-77.7 kDa 4 isoforms by mass spectrometry (1)	(1) Awade et al. 1994
Isoelectric Point pI 5.6 - 6.2 (1) iron-free form: pI 7.17, monoferric form: pI 6.68, 2 Fe/mol OT: pI 6.24 and pI 6.09 (cIEF) (2)	(1) Holen & Elsayed 1990 (2) Richards & Huang 1997
Amino Acid Sequence, mRNA, and cDNA	
Gal d 3	
SWISS-PROT: P02789	(1) Williams et al. 1982
GenBank: X02009 , Y00407	(2) Jeltsch & Chambon 1982
PIR: A03262 , TFCHE	(3) Jeltsch et al. 1987
Amino acids 686 residues (1)	
mRNA 2376 bp (2)	
cDNA 11068 bp (3)	
recombinant OT expression in baby hamster kidney cells (1)	(1) Mason et al. 1996
3D-Structure monoferric N-terminal half-molecule (1)	(1) Dewan et al. 1993
Posttranslational Modifications	
Disulfide bonds: 12 disulfide bonds: 10-45, 115-197, 160-174, 171-182, 228-242, 348-380, 405-680, 421-643, 454-530, 478-671, 488-502, 499-513 (2) additional bonds: 20-36 / 358-371 / 570-584 (2)	(1) Robinson 1972 (2) Williams et al. 1982 (3) Yet et al. 1990 (4) Jacquinot et al. 1994
Glycosylation of OT: carbohydrate content: 2.6% of whole Mr (1) carbohydrate composition: 1.7% GlcNAc, 0.9% Man (1) 1 N-glycosylation site: 473 structures of glycans (mass spectrometry) (3) biantennary glycans (hydrazinolysis, methanolysis, methylation analysis and, 1H-NMR spectroscopy) (4)	
Biological Function	
iron transport: domain I 1-332 domain II 342-686 active sites: iron binding 60 / 92, 191 / 250, 395 / 431, 524 / 592, anion binding: 121 / 460 (1)	(1) SWISS-PROT (2) Valenti et al. 1983
antimicrobial activity (2)	

7.4.2 Allergenic Properties

Ovotransferrin (OT)	References
Frequency of Sensitization IgE-binding to OT in 22 to 94 % of patients (1)	(1) see 6.1 Sensitization to Egg White Allergens

7.5 Properties of Lysozyme

7.5.1 Molecular Biological Properties

Lysozyme (LY)	References
Allergen Nomenclature Gal d 4	(1) King et al. 1994
Molecular Mass Mr 14.3 kDa	(1) Awade et al. 1994
Isoelectric Point pI 11	(1) Holen & Elsayed 1990
Amino Acid Sequence	
Gal d 1	
SWISS-PROT: P00698	(1) Blake et al. 1965
GenBank: M10640 , J00885 , V00428	(2) Baldacci et al. 1979
PIR: A00853 , A41423	(3) Jung et al. 1980
Amino acids 129 residues (1, 4)	(4) Imoto et al. 1981
mRNA 584 bp (3)	
cDNA 3.9 kb (2)	
recombinant LY	
Expression in Aspergillus niger (1, 8)	(1) Archer et al. 1990 (2) Inoue et al. 1992a (3) Inoue et al. 1992a (4) van de Guchte et al. 1992 (5) Fischer et al. 1993 (6) Nakamura et al. 1993 (7) Ueda et al. 1993 (8) Jeenes et al. 1994 (9) Tachibana et al. 1994 (10) Tsumoto et al. 1995 (11) Hashimoto et al. 1996 (12) Maenaka et al. 1996 (13) Ueda et al. 1996 (14) De Bernardez Clark et al. 1998
Expression in Escherichia coli (5, 14)	
Expression of LY mutants in Escherichia coli (7, 9)	
Expression in Lactococcus lactis (4)	
Expression of LY mutants in Saccharomyces cerevisiae (2, 3, 7, 11, 13)	
Expression of glycosylated mutants in yeast (6, 15) and tobacco (15)	
Expression by phage display of LY (12)	
	(15) Kato et al. 1998

3D-Structure

X-ray of LY (1)
 NMR study comparison with X-ray data (2)
 NMR of LY (4)
¹⁵N-labeled LY (NMR studies) (3)
 NMR studies of oxidized, reduced and, denatured LY (9)
 antibody-LY complexes (3, review: 8)
 antibody-LY mutant complex (6)
 LY mutants (X-ray) (7)
 murine MHC II - LY 50-62 complex (10)
 molecular modeling of murine MHC II - LY 52-61 complex (11)

- (1) [Blake et al. 1965](#)
- (2) [Redfield et al. 1988](#)
- (3) [Fischmann et al. 1991](#)
- (4) [Bartik et al. 1993](#)
- (5) [Buck et al. 1995a , 1995b](#)
- (6) [Chacko et al. 1995](#)
- (7) [Shih et al. 1995](#)
- (8) [Bentley 1996](#)
- (9) [Schwalbe et al. 1997](#)
- (10) [Fremont et al. 1998](#)
- (11) [Weber et al. 1998](#)

Posttranslational ModificationsDisulfide bonds:

4 disulfide bonds: 24-145, 48-133, 82-98, 94-112 (1)

- (1) [Haeffner-Gormley et al. 1985](#)
- (2) [Trudel & Asselin 1995](#)

Glycosylation of LY:

glycosylated LY (Mr 18 kDa): 0.3% of total LY in commercial preparation (2)

Biological Function

bacteriolytic function: muramidase and chitinase activity

- (1) [Kirby 1987](#)

1,4-beta-N-Acetyl-muramidase C (EC [3.2.1.17](#))

active sites: 35 / 52, substrate binding: 101 (1)

7.5.2 Allergenic Properties

Lysozyme (LY)	References
Frequency of Sensitization IgE-binding to OT in 6 to 69 % of patients (1)	(1) see 6.1 Sensitization to Egg White Allergens
PBMC / T-Cell proliferation lymphocyte transformation test (LTT) LY (1, 3) TCL Proliferation induced by LY (2)	(1) Pichler & Campi 1993 (2) Holen & Elsayed 1996 (3) Nyfeler & Pichler 1997

8 Isolation & Preparation

Extract / Purified Allergens	Methods	References
ovomucoid, ovalbumin, lysozyme	IEC-HPLC	Bernhisel-Broadbent et al. 1994
ovomucoid, ovalbumin, ovotransferrin, lysozyme	IEC / SEC	Awade et al. 1994 Ebbehoj et al. 1995
ovomucoid, ovalbumin, ovotransferrin, lysozyme	capillary electrophoresis	Besler et al. 1998
egg white / yolk proteins	review: liquid chromatography applications	Awade 1996

9 Cross-Reactivities

Cross-Reacting Allergens to	Subjects / Methods	References
Egg White egg yolk, chicken serum, chicken meat	egg allergic patients (quantitative immunoelectrophoresis)	Langeland 1983c
Egg White egg yolk	6 egg allergic patients (RAST inhibition)	Anet et al. 1985
Ovalbumin ovomucoid, ovotransferrin, lysozyme	6 egg allergic patients (RAST inhibition)	Walsh et al. 1987
Ovalbumin apovitellenin I (egg yolk)	4 egg allergic patients (RAST inhibition)	Walsh et al. 1987
Lysozyme alpha-lactalbumin (cow's milk)	6 egg allergic patients (RAST inhibition)	Walsh et al. 1987

10 Stability of Egg White Allergens

Treatment	Effects	References
Egg White hard-boiled (100°C, 20 min) soft-boiled (100°C, 3 min)	some antigenicity retained, ovalbumin and ovomucoid were detectable (RIEP)	Hoffmann 1983
Egg White diluted and heated (90°C, 10 min)	significantly decreased RAST for 50% of 16 egg allergic patients	Anet et al. 1985
Egg White 9 household cleaning solutions and 5 chemical detergents mixed with egg white allergen extract, incubation for 20 min at RT	Soft soap and sodium lauryl sulphate reduced IgE- binding to allergens; none of the detergents totally destroyed the allergenic activities, even in concentrations up to 10 times of recommended (CIE, CRIE, serum pool of >5 patients)	Dybendal et al. 1990
Dried Whole Egg (1) heat (120°C, 40 min) (2) succinic anhydride, sodium hydroxide and heat	(1) no significant decrease in antigenicity (2) decreased antigenicity (1/1000) (ELISA/RAST inhibition, PCA)	Hisatomi et al. 1991
Egg White (1) heat (90°C, 60 min) (2) ovomucoid-depletion of heated egg white	(1) 55% negative challenge in patients with positive challenge to freeze-dried egg white (2) 94% negative challenge in patients with positive challenge to heated egg white (DBPCFC)	Urisu et al. 1997
Egg White boiling (for 5 or 60 min)	Specific IgE, IgG1 and IgG antibody responses in ovalbumin-sensitized mice suppressed by raw egg white, not suppressed by boiled egg white fed prior to sensitization; mice spleen cell proliferation and secretion of Th2 cytokines IL-4 and IL-5 by stimulation with ovalbumin suppressed by feeding raw egg white, but not by boiled egg white	Peng et al. 1998
Pork Meat Pastes containing 2% dry egg white powder (1) raw pastes (2) pasteurized (70°C, 2 h) (3) sterilized (115°C, 90 min)	Detection of egg white allergens by patients' sera in (1) and (2), but not in sterilized paste (3) (EAST: 3 patients, IEF-PAGE immunoblot: 2 patients)	Leduc et al. 1999
of <u>ovalbumin, ovomucoid</u>		

11 Allergen Sources

Reported Adverse Reactions	References
<p>Food</p> <p>egg in hamburger roll (1) egg in meatballs containing 0.14% and 0.16% ovalbumin, in pasta containing 0.003-0.013% ovalbumin (2) lysozyme: unlabeled additive in cheese preparation (3)</p>	(1) Sampson et al. 1992 (2) Malmheden Yman et al. 1994 (3) Fremont et al. 1997
<p>Vaccines</p> <p>egg white: influenza virus vaccine (1, 4) egg white: influenza A/New Jersey/76 virus vaccines (2) ovalbumin / egg white: measles vaccine (3, 6) egg white: measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (5, 7)</p>	(1) Davies & Pepys 1976 (2) Bell et al. 1977 (3) Herman et al. 1983 (4) Yamane et al. 1988 (5) Levine & Lavi 1991 (6) Aickin et al. 1994 (7) Levy et al. 1994
<p>Other Pharmaceuticals</p> <p>lysozyme / egg white: vaginal suppository (1)</p>	(1) Pichler & Campi 1993

Allergens in Food Products	Content / Products	References
<p>Fat Substitutes</p> <p>13 (16) egg and/or cow's milk allergic patients</p>	Allergenicity of microparticulated egg and cow's milk proteins in fat substitutes (Simplesse, Beta IL): No alteration of allergenic potencies in SDS-PAGE immunoblot	(1) Sampson & Cooke 1990 (2) Sampson & Cooke 1992
<p>Ovomucoid in Egg Yolk</p> <p>Determination by ELISA and immunoblot</p>	Heat-coagulated egg yolk (boiled egg, 15 min): Ovomucoid 4.8 +/- 0.8 µg/g, content increased up to 78.8 +/- 31.3 µg/g after standing of boiled egg for 120 min; not detectable in raw egg yolk	Sakai et al. 1998
<p>Egg White Preparations</p> <p>2 egg white allergic patients (IEF-PAGE immunoblot)</p>	IgE-binding proteins in pasteurized egg white powder, frozen and pasteurized egg white, liquid pasteurized egg white and pork meat pastes containing 2% dry powder	Leduc et al. 1999

12 References

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Common Abbreviations

2D	two-dimensional
3D	three-dimensional
aa	amino acid(s)
Ab	antibody
Act c 1, 2	nomenclature of kiwi fruit allergens (<i>Actinidia chinensis</i>)
Bos d 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	nomenclature of cow's milk allergens (<i>Bos domesticus</i>)
C	concentration of N,N'-methylenbisacrylamide (crosslinker)
CAST	cellular antigen stimulation test
CICBAA	Cercle d'Investigations Cliniques et Biologiques en Allergologie Alimentaire (France)
CIE	crossed immunoelectrophoresis
CNBr	cyanogen bromide
cIEF	capillary isoelectric focussing
CLA	cutaneous lymphocyte antigen
CLIE	crossed line immunoelectrophoresis
CRIE	crossed radioimmunolectrophoresis
Cor a 1	nomenclature of hazel pollen allergens (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)
Cyn d 1	nomenclature of bermuda grass pollen allergens (<i>Cynodon dactylus</i>)
DBPCFC	double-blind, placebo-controlled food challenge
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EAST	enzyme allergosorbent test
EC	enzyme classification system
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, disodium salt
ELISA	enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
EW	egg white
Fuc	fucose
Gad c 1	nomenclature of baltic cod allergen (<i>Gadus callarias</i>)
Gal	galactose
Gal d 1, 2, 3, 4	nomenclature of egg white allergens (<i>Gallus domesticus</i>)
GlcN	glucosamine
GlcNAc	N-acetylglucosamine
Gly m 1, 2, 3	nomenclature of soybean allergens (<i>Glycine max</i>)
HLA	human leucocyte antigen
Hol l 1	nomenclature of sweet velvet grass allergens (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>)
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
HR	Histamine Release
IEC	ion exchange chromatography
IEF	isoelectric focussing
Ig	immunoglobulin
IL	interleukin
INF-gamma	interferon-gamma
Lol p 1	nomenclature of rye grass allergens (<i>Lolium perenne</i>)
LTA4	leukotriene A4
LTB4	leukotriene B4

LTC4	leukotriene C4
LY	lysozyme
Man	mannose
Mal d 1, 3	nomenclature of apple fruit allergens (<i>Malus domestica</i>)
MALDI-MS	matrix-assisted laser-induced desorption/ionization mass spectrometry
MAST	multiple allergen sorbent test
MHC	major histocompatibility complex
Mr	molecular mass
NeuNAc	N-acetylneurameric acid
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance (spectroscopy)
OA	ovalbumin
OAS	oral allergy syndrome
OM	ovomucoid
Ory s 1	nomenclature of rice allergens (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)
OT	ovotransferrin
PAGE	polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
PBMC	peripheral blood mononuclear cells
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
Phl p 1	nomenclature of timothy grass allergens (<i>Phleum pratense</i>)
pI	isoelectric point
PCA	passive cutaneous anaphylaxis (test)
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PVDF	polyvinylidene difluoride
PVPP	polyvinyl polypyrrolidone
RAST	radioallergosorbent test
RBL cells	rat basophil leukaemia cells
RIEP	radioimmuno-electrophoresis
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RT	room temperature
SAFT	skin application food test
SDS	sodium dodecylsulfate
SEC	size exclusion chromatography
SPT	skin prick test
T	total acrylamide concentration
TCC	T-cell clone
TCL	T-cell line
TGF-beta-1	transforming growth factor beta-1
TH	thermolysin
TNF-alpha	tumor necrosis factor alpha
TR	trypsin
Tris	tris-(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane
Xyl	xylose