

# Identification of Post-translational Modifications of *Plasmodium yoelii* Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by Mass Spectrometry

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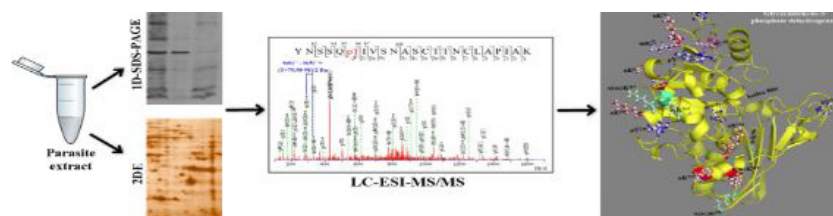
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**Citation:** Jindal N, Balaji C, Sangolgi PB, Dutta S, Jarori GK (2017) Identification of Post-translational Modifications of *Plasmodium yoelii* Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by Mass Spectrometry. Adv Proteomics Bioinform: APBI -103. DOI: 10.29011/APBI-103. 100003

**Received Date:** 11 October, 2017; **Accepted Date:** 6 November, 2017; **Published Date:** 13 November, 2017

## Abstract

Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH), a glycolytic enzyme from *Plasmodium yoelii* exhibits diverse sub-cellular distribution with a multitude of electrophoretic variants. Recent studies have implicated this protein in multiple non-glycolytic functions such as vesicular transport and facilitating host cell invasion by merozoites and sporozoites. In the absence of any organelle specific signal sequence in GAPDH, PTMs that could enlarge molecular species of a protein with distinct functions are likely to form the structural basis for its diverse localization and functions. Such considerations have enthused our interest in chemically characterizing all species of this protein in the parasite. Here, an attempt was made for a comprehensive determination of the PTMs in PyGAPDH in blood stage parasites using LC-ESI-MS/MS of peptides obtained from in-gel digestion of appropriate protein bands. Twelve residues were identified that underwent modifications. These changes consisted of four phosphorylations (pS<sup>144</sup>, pT<sup>146</sup>, pS<sup>204</sup> and pS<sup>213</sup>), five ubiquitinations (uK<sup>73</sup>, uK<sup>218</sup>, uK<sup>222</sup>, uK<sup>230</sup> and uK<sup>336</sup>), three acetylations (acK<sup>163</sup>, acK<sup>230</sup>, acK<sup>301</sup>), two methylations (mK<sup>218</sup> and mK<sup>230</sup>), one dimethylation (m2K<sup>230</sup>) and one nitrosylation (nC<sup>157</sup>). It is hoped that such comprehensive analysis of PTMs in a single protein will pave the way to correlate structure with specific functions and provide the molecular basis for diverse intracellular distribution.



Graphical Abstract

**Keywords:** Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase; Mass Spectrometry; Moonlighting Functions; *Plasmodium*; Post-Translational Modifications; Protein Species

## Abbreviations

GAPDH	:	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase
PyGAPDH	:	<i>Plasmodium yoelii</i> GAPDH
rPfGAPDH	:	Recombinant <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> GAPDH
G-3-P	:	D-Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate
2-DE	:	2-Dimensional Electrophoresis
PTM	:	Post-Translational Modification
PBST	:	Phosphate Buffer Saline Tween
PVDF	:	Polyvinylidene fluoride

## Introduction

Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH, EC 1.2.1.12) has emerged as a multifunctional protein with several moonlighting functions. In mammalian cells, involvement of GAPDH in RNA transport, DNA replication, vesicular transport, cytoskeletal reorganization, membrane fusion, apoptosis etc. is well documented [1]. The structural basis for such functional diversity has been attributed to multiple species of GAPDH arising due to multiple PTMs [2]. A few chemical modifications have been correlated to specific functions [1d,3] while majority of GAPDH species are yet to be characterized. Since each chemical modification leads to a new protein speciation, multiple PTMs in different combinations could create a vast number of species leading to complexity in cellular functions without any expansion of genome. For a complete understanding of such systems, knowledge about the structure of each protein species, its function and spatio-temporal distribution inside the cell will be needed. Recent strategies of applying the advanced proteomics technologies for protein separation and sequencing, to multiple molecular species of a single gene product is providing robust structural data laying down the foundation for understanding the cellular physiology [4].

In *P. yoelii*, GAPDH is associated with multiple organelles viz. cytosol, nuclei, cell membranes, cytoskeletal elements etc. and has a distinct organelle specific electrophoretic variant profile. 2DE western blots of *P. yoelii* sub-cellular fractions showed  $\geq 20$ -25 different species of GAPDH [5] arising due to post translational modifications. This structural diversity is forming the molecular basis for the involvement of the parasite GAPDH in multiple non-glycolytic functions such as vesicular transport and biogenesis of

the apical complex [6], likely involvement in merozoite invasion of red blood cells [7] and invasion of liver cells by sporozoites [8] etc. Thus, the observed functional and localization diversity does correlate with the underlying structural heterogeneity. For understanding the molecular basis of various cellular functions of this protein, it is essential that we determine the chemical structure of each molecular species. Initial attempts to excise the relevant spots from a 2-Dimensional gel, digest the protein with trypsin and sequence the peptides for PTM determination did not succeed largely due to low resolution of spots in 2D-gel and inadequate sensitivity of our mass spectrometer. To tide over these limitations, we took an alternative approach where the whole cell extract was fractionated in soluble and particulate fractions and proteins were analyzed on a 1D-SDS-PAGE. PyGAPDH containing protein bands were digested with trypsin and subjected to MS and MS/MS analysis. Results showed that twelve residues underwent modifications. The changes consisted of four phosphorylations (pS<sup>144</sup>, pT<sup>146</sup>, pS<sup>204</sup> and pS<sup>213</sup>), five ubiquitinations (uK<sup>73</sup>, uK<sup>218</sup>, uK<sup>222</sup>, uK<sup>230</sup> and uK<sup>336</sup>), three acetylations (acK<sup>163</sup>, acK<sup>230</sup>, acK<sup>301</sup>), two methylations (mK<sup>218</sup> and mK<sup>230</sup>), one dimethylation (m2K<sup>230</sup>) and one nitrosylation (nC<sup>157</sup>).

## Materials and Methods

### *P. yoelii* culturing and whole cell extract preparation

The lethal strain of *P. yoelii* 17XL was grown in mice as described earlier [9]. The parasite pellet isolated from infected blood was suspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 2 mM EDTA, 25 mM NaCl, 1 mM PMSF and 1x protease inhibitor cocktail) and subjected to 3-4 cycles of freeze-thaw in liquid nitrogen. This was labeled as the Whole Cell Extract (WCE). Animal experiments involving mice were approved by the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, which is constituted by the 'Committee for the Purpose of Supervision and Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA)', Government of India (Project approval no: TIFR/IAEC/2010-4 and TIFR/IAEC/2012-5).

### Generation of Anti-rPfGAPDH Serum and Immunoprecipitation

Anti-PfGAPDH sera were generated using purified recombinant PfGAPDH as described earlier [5]. For immunoprecipitation experiments, whole cell extract was centrifuged at 40,000xg and the supernatant was labeled as the 'Soluble fraction'. The pellet was dissolved in 1% NP-40 buffer and centrifuged at 40,000xg. The supernatant was collected and labeled as the 'Particulate fraction'. The protocol followed for immuno-precipitation was similar to that used earlier except that anti-rPfGAPDH IgGs were used in place of anti-rPfen IgGs [9].

### Electrophoresis and western blotting

Proteins were resolved on a 12% SDS-PAGE [10] and either stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue R-250 or were transferred to a PVDF membrane as described earlier [5]. The blots were treated with mouse anti-rPfGAPDH serum (1:1000 dilution) followed by washing and incubation with HRP conjugated secondary antibody. The immunoblots were developed using di-anilinobenzene substrate.

### In-Gel Tryptic Digestion and LC-ESI-MS/MS Analysis

Protein bands that corresponded to PyGAPDH positive in western blot were excised from a Coomassie stained gel and subjected to in-gel trypsin digestion as described earlier [9,11]. Extracted peptides were analyzed by LC-ESI-MS/MS using an Agilent 6520-Q-TOF. Details for the mass spectrometric analysis of peptides were as described earlier [9]. Briefly, the extracted peptides were re-suspended into 3  $\mu$ L 0.1% formic acid (Solvent A) of which 2.8  $\mu$ L was applied to Agilent HPLC chip (G4240-62002) (injected at a rate of 40  $\mu$ L/min). Mobile phases (A): 0.1% formic acid, (B): 90% acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid. After sample injection, the column was washed by a gradient 3-12% of phase B for 3 min and peptides were eluted with linear gradient of varying slopes viz. 12-60% B from 3 to 23 min, 60-95% of B from 23 to 27 min. Q-TOF MS conditions were: drying gas 4L/Min, 300°C; skimmer: 65 V; fragmentor: 175V; collision energy: slope 3.7 V, offset 2.5 V. The MS scan range was  $m/z$  =100-1700 and the scan rate was 5 spectra/sec. For MS/MS, scan range was  $m/z$ =100-1700 and scan rate was 3 spectra/sec. Active exclusion was set on for 0.5 min after 2 MS/MS spectra of a parent ion. For each MS, five most abundant precursor ions were sequenced. Preferred charge states were set to 2<sup>+</sup>, 3<sup>+</sup> and 4<sup>+</sup>.

### Data Analysis Using Mascot

From all the MS data files, Mascot generic files (.mgf) were extracted using Agilent Mass hunter qualitative analysis software. All mass-spectrometric data were analyzed using a Matrix Science Mascot in house server [12]. MS/MS data were searched against the NCBI database for *P. falciparum* and *P. yoelii*. Since a large fraction of *P. yoelii* than *P. falciparum* proteomes are unannotated, most proteins are marked as hypothetical. For obtaining as many proteins annotated as possible, databases for both species of *Plasmodium* were used for search. However, hits obtained against a species different from the one used in the experiments were analyzed cautiously for sequence differences before reporting the PTMs. Parameters used for the search were: peptide mass tolerance in MS was set to 10 ppm and for MS/MS to 0.6 Da; peptide charges were set to 2<sup>+</sup>, 3<sup>+</sup> and 4<sup>+</sup>; missed cleavage, 2; fixed modifications: carbamidomethyl (cysteine); variable modifications: oxidation of methionine and target modifications phosphorylation (Ser/Thr), phospho (Tyr), acetyl (Lys), methylation (Lys; mono, di and tri); nitrosylation on cysteine and Gly-Gly (Lys) for ubiquitination. All PTMs reported here were manually validated.

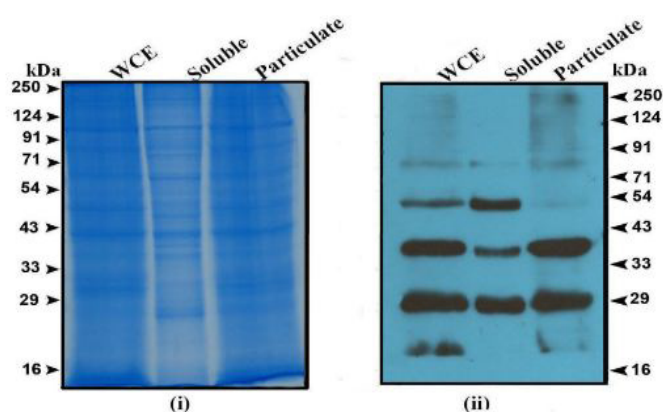
This involved examining the ions detected in MS/MS spectra and if two consecutive ions differed in mass equivalent to the modified residue, it was treated as true positive. Although this approach is time consuming, it leads to greater confidence in identification and assignment of PTMs. Cases where a signature peak was missing, and if the site of modification could not be inferred from neighboring peaks, such PTMs were not reported.

The mass spectrometric data have been deposited at the ProteomeXchange Consortium [13] via the PRIDE partner repository [14] with the dataset identifier PXD002313 and 10.6019/PXD002313. The desired pride XML files were obtained from Mascot .dat files using the PRIDE converter 2 tool [15] and inspected using the PRIDE Inspector tool [16] before uploading them. These PRIDE XML files were deposited to the repository along with the raw data files (Agilent .d files), peak lists (Mascot .mgf files) and the search results files (Mascot .dat files).

## Results

### PyGAPDH Variants With MW ~51 kDa may Be Ubiquitinated

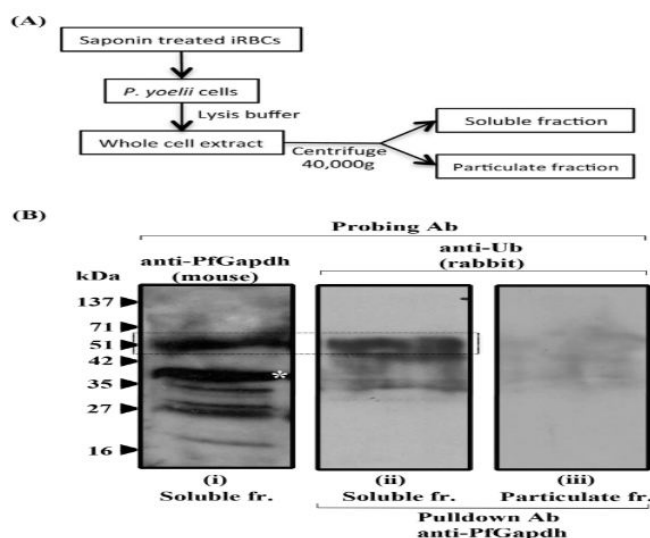
*P. yoelii* Whole Cell Extract (WCE) was subjected to centrifugation (40,000xg for 30 minutes). The supernatant was designated as the soluble fraction while the pellet containing nuclei, membrane vesicles and cytoskeletal elements was treated as the particulate fraction. All three fractions (WCE, Soluble and Particulate) were analyzed on a 12% SDS-PAGE and probed with anti-rPfGAPDH antisera in a western blot. As shown earlier [5], three major positive bands at ~27, 37 and 51 kDa were observed (Figure 1).



**Figure 1:** (i) Coomassie stained SDS-PAGE of *P. yoelii* whole cell extract (WCE) and the two fractions i.e. soluble and particulate. Fractionation was done by centrifugation at 40,000g for 30 minutes. (ii) Western blot of three fractions probed using anti-rPfGAPDH antibodies. Note the presence of PyGAPDH in three different sizes with MW ~27, 37 and 51 kDa. Absence of 51 kDa species in particulate fraction is quite evident.



Since molecular mass of PyGAPDH in its native state is 37 kDa, the lower mass band at ~27 kDa could arise as a result of controlled proteolysis. Observation of higher molecular mass species of PyGAPDH raised the possibility of post-translational modifications involving conjugation with multiple ubiquitin moieties or ubiquitin like modifiers (e.g. SUMO). To test the possibility of the higher molecular weight species of PyGAPDH in the soluble fraction of *P. yoelii* being ubiquitinated, an immuno-precipitation experiment was performed. Using purified fraction of IgGs derived from rPfGAPDH antisera, all variants of PyGAPDH present in the soluble and particulate (solubilized in 1% NP-40) fractions were pulled down (Figure 2A) and the proteins were run on a 12% SDS-PAGE. Blot of the gel (Western analysis) was probed using rabbit anti-ubiquitin antibody (Figure 2B(ii) & (iii)).



**Figure 2:** Antibody pull-down assay to determine ubiquitination of PyGAPDH. (A) Fractionation scheme for the preparation of soluble and particulate fractions. (B) (i) Soluble fractions showed three major species of PyGAPDH at MW ~27, 37 and 51 kDa. (ii) Probing a similar blot with anti-Ub antibody showed ~51 kDa band to be an ubiquitinated form of PyGAPDH (dotted box). \*Represents the ~37 kDa form of PyGAPDH which showed a faint signal for ubiquitination. (iii) Blot showing absence of ubiquitination in PyGAPDH associated with particulate fraction of *P. yoelii* cell extract.

In a parallel experiment, the soluble fraction was also ana-

lyzed by Western using mouse anti-rPfGAPDH antibody. As expected, three major protein bands at MW ~27, 37 and 51 kDa were observed (Figure 2B (i)). Certain minor bands present are likely to arise due to proteolysis. Higher molecular wt. species (MW ~51 kDa) was present only in the soluble (cytosolic) fraction (Figure 2B). This is consistent with the earlier observations of electrophoretic variant profiles in 2DE [5]. In the anti-rPfGAPDH antibody pull down sample from the soluble (i.e. cytosolic) fraction, an intense band at ~51 kDa MW was observed that was positive for ubiquitin indicating it to be the ubiquitinated form of PyGAPDH. This sample also had ubiquitin positive band at ~37 kDa albeit of much lower intensity. Such a band could arise if the ~61kDa ubiquitinated form of PyGAPDH got proteolysed yielding a ~37 kDa form that still carried ubiquitin moieties (Figure 2B (ii)). The particulate fraction did not show any ubiquitinated form of PyGAPDH (Figure 2B (iii)). From the data presented here, we conclude that the higher molecular weight species (MW ~51 kDa) of PyGAPDH observed in the soluble fraction and in 2DE of cytosol [5] arose due to ubiquitination of native PyGAPDH. The ~51 kDa band in the soluble fraction that is visualized by both antibodies (anti-PfGAPDH and anti-Ub) has an addition of mass of ~15-17 kDa to the native PyGAPDH. Conjugation of two molecules of ubiquitin (MW ~8.5 kDa) to PyGAPDH can give rise to such species.

### Detection and Sequence Coverage of PyGAPDH as Analyzed By LC-ESI-Q-TOF-MS

Identity of the three protein bands observed in Western blot analysis was further confirmed by the mass spectrometric analysis of peptides obtained from in-gel tryptic digestion of the three PyGAPDH species. Extracted peptides were separated on a reverse phase C-18 nano-chip and as the peptides eluted, MS and MS/MS spectra were acquired. The lists of matched m/z peptides for various fractions are presented in Table 1(A) to (D).

Table 1: Analysis of Post Translational Modifications in peptides derived from tryptic digests of GAPDH positive bands as shown in Figure 1. Three bands from the soluble fraction (with MW ~27, 37 and 51 kDa) and 37kDa band of particulate fraction were individually digested with trypsin and peptides were sequenced using MS/MS. All peptides that were derived from GAPDH and had post-translational modifications are listed below.

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Calculated m/z	observed	$\Delta$ (ppm)	Peptide and observed PTMs (bold)	No. of hits
1345.7466	1345.7377	-7	<sup>2</sup> AIT <b>K</b> VGINGFGR <sup>13</sup> GG(K <sup>4</sup> )	1
818.4399	818.4384	-2	<sup>6</sup> VGINGFGR <sup>13</sup>	3
2687.388	2687.391	1	<sup>26</sup> SDIEVVAINDPFMDINHLIYLLK <sup>48</sup> (Oxi-M <sup>138</sup> )	6
1807.8485	1807.8454	-2	<sup>56</sup> FPCEVTPTEGGIMVGSK <sup>72</sup>	8
1823.8434	1823.854	6	<sup>56</sup> FPCEVTPTEGGIMVGSK <sup>72</sup> (Oxi-M <sup>68</sup> )	60
1998.0687	1998.0543	-7	<sup>73</sup> KVVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	22
2112.1116	2112.0942	-8	<sup>73</sup> KVVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup> GG(K <sup>73</sup> )	1
877.4658	877.4667	1	<sup>74</sup> VVVYNER <sup>80</sup>	2
1869.9737	1869.964	-5	<sup>74</sup> VVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	9
1010.5185	1010.5164	-2	<sup>81</sup> DPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	7
1774.8924	1774.8858	-4	<sup>90</sup> HAIDVVCESTGVFLTK <sup>105</sup>	9
1307.6833	1307.6922	7	<sup>106</sup> ELNAHIKGGAK <sup>117</sup> ac(K <sup>113</sup> K <sup>117</sup> )	1
841.4731	841.4731	0	<sup>119</sup> VIMSAPPK <sup>126</sup>	2
2470.2236	2470.2148	-4	<sup>119</sup> VIMSAPPKDDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup>	9
1630.7661	1630.764	-1	<sup>127</sup> DDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup>	5
1646.761	1646.7572	-2	<sup>127</sup> DDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> (Oxi-Met)	3
2499.1734	2499.1814	3	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup>	6
2579.1397	2579.1187	-8	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup> p(T <sup>146</sup> )	2
2579.1397	2579.1187	-8	<sup>164</sup> VIHENFGIVEGLMTTVHASTANQLVVDGPS <sup>194</sup>	2
3278.6606	3278.6704	3	<sup>164</sup> VIHENFGIVEGLMTTVHASTANQLVVDGPS <sup>194</sup> (Oxi-M <sup>176</sup> )	4
1425.8191	1425.8109	-6	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAK <sup>218</sup>	6
1505.7854	1505.7738	-8	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAK <sup>218</sup> p(S <sup>204</sup> )	2
1895.084	1895.0744	-5	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGK <sup>222</sup> GG(K <sup>218</sup> )	1
1895.084	1895.0744	-5	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGK <sup>222</sup> GG(K <sup>222</sup> )	1
868.5018	868.5002	-2	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGK <sup>230</sup>	3
1654.9406	1654.9271	-8	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGKLTGVAFR <sup>237</sup> ac(K <sup>230</sup> )	1
1726.973	1726.9629	-6	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGKLTGVAFR <sup>237</sup> GG(K <sup>230</sup> )	2
762.4388	762.4381	-1	<sup>231</sup> LTGVAFR <sup>237</sup>	4
1512.8334	1512.8227	-7	<sup>238</sup> VPIGTVSVDLVCR <sup>251</sup>	15
1070.5971	1070.5974	0	<sup>265</sup> IKEASEGPLK <sup>274</sup>	3
2265.055	2265.0621	3	<sup>275</sup> GILGYTDEEVVSQDFVHDSR <sup>294</sup>	9

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808.4331	808.4311	-2	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLK <sup>301</sup>	14
1208.619	1208.6122	-6	<sup>302</sup> AGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup>	9
1787.7903	1787.7889	-1	<sup>313</sup> IVSWYDNEWGYSNR <sup>326</sup>	4
1135.6965	1135.6951	-1	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITK <sup>336</sup>	6
1249.7394	1249.7318	-6	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITK <sup>336</sup> GG(K <sup>336</sup> )	1
1272.7554	1272.7517	-3	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITKH <sup>337</sup>	8
1386.7983	1386.7882	-7	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITKH <sup>337</sup> GG(K <sup>336</sup> )	6

**Table 1A:** MW ~51 kDa species from soluble fraction (data from 2 independent samples): Protein Score: 1246; Sequence coverage: 76%.

Calculated m/z	Observed m/z	Δ (ppm)	Peptide and observed PTMs (bold)	No of hits
818.4399	818.4432	4	<sup>6</sup> VGINGFGR <sup>13</sup>	2
3583.7422	3583.7541	3	<sup>26</sup> SDIEVVAINDPFMDINHLIYLLKHDSVHGK <sup>55</sup> ac(K <sup>55</sup> ); m(K <sup>48</sup> ); Oxi (M <sup>38</sup> ); p(Y <sup>45</sup> )	1
2687.388	2687.3895	1	<sup>26</sup> SDIEVVAINDPFMDINHLIYLLK <sup>48</sup> Oxi (M <sup>38</sup> )	11
1807.8485	1807.8427	-3	<sup>56</sup> FPCEVTPTEGGIMVGSK <sup>72</sup> Oxi (M <sup>68</sup> )	42
1998.0687	1998.0646	-2	<sup>73</sup> KVVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	4
877.4658	877.4649	-1	<sup>74</sup> VVVYNER <sup>80</sup>	2
1869.9737	1869.9661	-4	<sup>74</sup> VVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	11
1010.5185	1010.5217	3	<sup>81</sup> DPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	4
1774.8924	1774.8968	2	<sup>90</sup> HADVVCESGTGVFLTK <sup>105</sup>	10
2470.2236	2470.2051	-7	<sup>120</sup> KVIMSAPPKDDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> Oxi (M <sup>123</sup> & M <sup>136</sup> )	3
2486.2185	2486.2239	2	<sup>119</sup> VIMSAPPKDDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> Oxi (M <sup>121</sup> )	5
1646.761	1646.7663	3	<sup>127</sup> DDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> Oxi (M <sup>134</sup> )	2
2499.1734	2499.1679	-2	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup>	33
3278.6606	3278.647	-4	<sup>164</sup> VIHENFGIVEGLMTTVHASTANQLVVDGPSK <sup>194</sup> Oxi (M <sup>176</sup> )	63
1425.8191	1425.8205	1	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAK <sup>218</sup>	12
1505.7854	1505.7695	-11	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAK <sup>218</sup> p(S <sup>204</sup> )	2
1505.7854	1505.7815	-3	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGK <sup>222</sup> p(S <sup>204</sup> )	2
2853.5728	2853.6265	19	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGKVLPELNGK <sup>230</sup> GG(K <sup>230</sup> ); m(K <sup>218</sup> & K <sup>222</sup> ); p(S <sup>213</sup> )	1
868.5018	868.506	5	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGK <sup>230</sup>	2
1612.9301	1612.9243	-4	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGKLTGVAFR <sup>237</sup>	2
762.4388	762.4433	6	<sup>231</sup> LTGVAFR <sup>237</sup>	2
1512.8393	1512.8334	4	<sup>238</sup> VPIGTVSVVDLVCRL <sup>251</sup>	8
3026.611	3026.598	-4	<sup>238</sup> VPIGTVSVVDLVCRLKPAKYEDVAK <sup>263</sup> ac(K); GG(K); m(K); n(C <sup>250</sup> )	1
1070.5971	1070.6003	3	<sup>265</sup> IKEASEGPLK <sup>274</sup>	1
2265.055	2265.052	-1	<sup>275</sup> GILGYTDEEVVSQDFVHDSR <sup>294</sup>	18
808.4331	808.4346	2	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLK <sup>301</sup>	18
2041.052	2041.059	3	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLKAGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup> ac(K <sup>301</sup> )	1
1208.619	1208.6233	4	<sup>302</sup> AGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup>	13
1787.7903	1787.793	2	<sup>313</sup> IVSWYDNEWGYSNR <sup>326</sup>	11
1272.7554	1272.7593	3	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITK <sup>336</sup>	30

**Citation:** Jindal N, Balaji C, Sangolgi PB, Dutta S, Jarori GK (2017) Identification of Post-translational Modifications of *Plasmodium yoelii* Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by Mass Spectrometry. Adv Proteomics Bioinform: APBI -103. DOI: 10.29011/APBI -103. 100003

1386.7983	1386.7867	-8	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITKH <sup>337</sup> GG(K <sup>301</sup> )	1
2159.1827	2159.1961	6	<sup>201</sup> AGRSALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGK <sup>222</sup>	1
2513.1526	2513.1845	13	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup> ac(K <sup>163</sup> ); n(C <sup>157</sup> )	1
2499.1734	2499.1759	1	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup>	5
2579.1135	2579.1397	-10	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup> p(S <sup>144</sup> )	1

**Table 1B:** MW ~37 kDa species from soluble fraction (data from 2 independent samples): Protein Score: 2116; Sequence coverage: 87%.

Calculated m/z	Observed m/z	Δ (ppm)	Peptide and observed PTMs (bold)	No of hits
818.4399	818.4413	2	<sup>6</sup> VGINGFGR <sup>13</sup>	2
2687.388	2687.3839	-2	<sup>26</sup> SDIEVVAINDPFMDINHLIYLLK <sup>48</sup> Oxi(M <sup>38</sup> )	5
1807.8485	1807.8507	1	<sup>56</sup> FPCEVTPTEGGIMVGSK <sup>72</sup>	5
1823.8434	1823.8386	-3	<sup>56</sup> FPCEVTPTEGGIMVGSK <sup>72</sup> Oxi(M <sup>68</sup> )	14
1998.0687	1998.0496	-10	<sup>73</sup> KVVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	1
1869.9737	1869.9661	-4	<sup>74</sup> VVVYNERDPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	3
1010.5185	1010.5174	-1	<sup>81</sup> DPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	8
1774.8924	1774.8899	-1	<sup>90</sup> HAIDVVCESTGVFLTK <sup>105</sup>	7
1590.7953	1590.8005	3	<sup>114</sup> GGAKKVIMSAPPK <sup>126</sup> GG (K <sup>117</sup> & K <sup>126</sup> ); p(S <sup>122</sup> )	1
2486.2106	2486.2185	-3	<sup>119</sup> VIMSAPPKDDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> Oxi (M <sup>121</sup> &M <sup>134</sup> )	2
1646.761	1646.761	0	<sup>127</sup> DDTPIYVMGINHEK <sup>140</sup> Oxi (M <sup>134</sup> )	3
2499.1734	2499.1799	3	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup>	7
3278.6606	3278.6497	-3	<sup>164</sup> VIHENFGIVEGLMTTVHASTANQLVVDGPSK <sup>194</sup> Oxi (M <sup>176</sup> )	5
1425.8191	1425.8195	0	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAAK <sup>218</sup>	9
1265.7343	1265.7257	-7	<sup>219</sup> AVGKVLPELNGK <sup>230</sup> ac(K <sup>230</sup> )	1
868.5018	868.5046	3	<sup>223</sup> VLPENLNGK <sup>230</sup>	6
1512.8334	1512.8344	1	<sup>238</sup> VPIGTVSVVDLVCR <sup>251</sup>	8
723.3439	723.3434	-1	<sup>258</sup> YEDVAK <sup>263</sup>	1
1070.5971	1070.5992	2	<sup>265</sup> IKEASEGPLK <sup>274</sup>	1
2265.055	2265.0405	-6	<sup>275</sup> GILGYTDEEVVSQDFVHDSR <sup>294</sup>	12
808.4331	808.4338	1	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLK <sup>301</sup>	10
2041.052	2041.0647	6	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLKAGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup> ac(K <sup>301</sup> )	2
1208.619	1208.6176	-1	<sup>302</sup> AGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup>	12
1787.7903	1787.7898	0	<sup>313</sup> IVSWYDNEWGYSNR <sup>326</sup>	8
1135.6965	1135.6921	-4	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITK <sup>336</sup>	12
762.4388	762.4388	0	<sup>231</sup> LTGVAFR <sup>237</sup>	4

**Table 1C:** MW ~27 kDa species from soluble fraction (data from 2 independent samples): Protein Score: 918; Sequence coverage: 85%.

Calculated m/z	Observed m/z	Δ (ppm)	Peptide and observed PTMs (bold)	No of hits
1998.0687	1998.0501	-9	<sup>73</sup> KVVVYNER DPAQIPWGK <sup>89</sup>	1

2159.1827	2159.1961	6	<sup>201</sup> AGRSALLNII PASTGAAKAVGK <sup>222</sup> m(K <sup>218</sup> ); p(ST <sup>213</sup> )	1
1425.8191	1425.8055	-10	<sup>204</sup> SALLNII PASTGAAK <sup>218</sup>	2
868.5018	868.5068	6	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNGK <sup>230</sup>	3
1512.8334	1512.8279	-4	<sup>238</sup> VPIGTVSVVDLVCR <sup>251</sup>	5
808.4331	808.4303	-3	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDLK <sup>301</sup>	1
1208.619	1208.6154	-3	<sup>302</sup> AGLALNDNFFK <sup>312</sup>	3
1135.6965	1135.6871	-8	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHITK <sup>336</sup>	1
1386.7983	1386.7867	-8	<sup>327</sup> LLDL AIHITKH <sup>337</sup> GG(K <sup>336</sup> )	1

**Table 1D:** MW ~37 kDa species from particulate fraction: Protein Score: 149; Sequence coverage: 26%.

Sequence coverage for soluble fraction GAPDH bands was in the range of 76-87%. Since in each case two independent samples were analyzed, in final tally the sequence coverage was 313 out of 337 residues (92.9%). Several peptide m/z matched by inclusion of certain PTMs defined as fixed and variable. For insoluble fraction, only ~37 kDa band was analyzed (Table 1(D)). The sequence coverage obtained was ~26% that largely covered the C-terminal half of the molecule. Generally high sequence coverage is obtained for the soluble proteins as compared to the membrane bound forms [17]. However, our expectation was to obtain much greater sequence coverage similar to soluble fraction (87% coverage; Table 1(B)). Membrane association of PyGAPDH is likely to be mediated through post-translational modifications involving membrane anchoring groups such as prenyl, palmitoyl or Glycosyl Phosphatidyl Inositol (GPI) etc. or those that facilitate its binding with other membrane proteins. Lack of N-terminal peptides in ~37 kDa band from particulate fraction could arise because of post-translational modifications with membrane associating hydrophobic groups. Such regions may not be cleaved by trypsin or such peptides may not have eluted from C-18 chips that we used in our chromatographic separation. Recently, the possibility of N-terminal being palmitoylated to translocate GAPDH1 to cellular cortex in *Toxoplasma gondii* has been suggested [18]. Although the soluble fraction showed extensive coverage, certain stretches of sequence did not get covered. These consisted of <sup>141</sup>IGRLVFRSAQER<sup>23</sup>, <sup>195</sup>GCKDWAGR<sup>203</sup> and <sup>261</sup>VAK<sup>263</sup>. Trypsin digestion of these segments will generate peptides that are too small in size and could have been missed detection. Thus, MS data presented in Table 1 provided direct evidence that all the three different molecular mass species detected by anti-rPfGAPDH antibodies indeed contained GAPDH.

### Identification of Post-Translational Modifications (PTMs)

Matched m/z in MS spectra led to identification of several peptides that have undergone modifications (marked in bold in Table 1). MS/MS spectra of all these peptides were manually verified and peptides that passed our acceptance criteria were selected. The peaks in MS/MS spectra were assigned to b and y ions and wherever possible, spectra for modified and unmodified forms of the peptide were compared to locate the modified residue and the PTMs. This approach is far superior and yields more reliable results as compared to most of the algorithms that automatically identify PTMs. Modified peptides identified with confidence in various fractions are listed in Table 2 along with the residue(s) (in bold) that have undergone the modification. The PTM search in PyGAPDH was set for phosphorylation of Ser, Thr and Tyr with the residue acquiring additional mass of 80 Da ( $\Delta m = 80$  Da) or a neutral loss of 98 Da ( $\Delta m = -98$  Da), acetylation ( $\Delta m = 42$  Da), methylation (mono  $\Delta m = 14$  Da; dimethylation  $\Delta m = 28$  Da and trimethylation  $\Delta m = 43$  Da) and ubiquitination ( $\Delta m = 114$  Da) of Lys and nitrosylation ( $\Delta m = 29$  Da) of Cys. Addition of 80 Da in mass also occurs on sulfation of tyrosine [19].

Sr. No.	MW (kDa)	Peptide Sequence	PTM/Residue Modified*	MWSE Score <sup>1</sup>
<i>P. yoelii</i> soluble fraction:				
1.	~51	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIAK <sup>163</sup>	pT <sup>146</sup>	35
2.	~51	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNG <b>K</b> LTGVAFR <sup>237</sup>	acK <sup>230</sup>	23
3.	~51	<sup>73</sup> <b>K</b> VVVYNERDPAQIPWK <sup>88</sup>	uK <sup>73</sup>	23



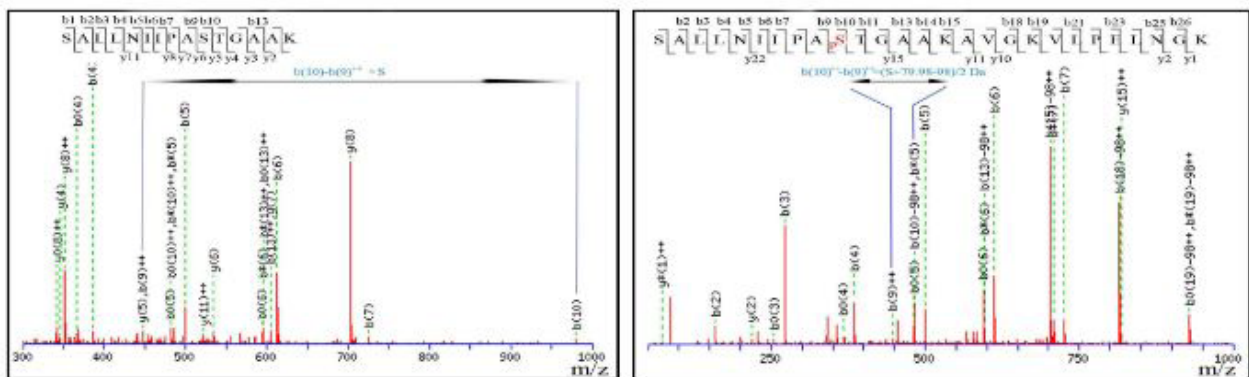
**Citation:** Jindal N, Balaji C, Sangolgi PB, Dutta S, Jarori GK (2017) Identification of Post-translational Modifications of *Plasmodium yoelii* Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by Mass Spectrometry. Adv Proteomics Bioinform: APBI -103. DOI: 10.29011/APBI -103. 100003

4.	~51	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> <sup>222</sup>	uK <sup>218</sup>	32
5.	~51	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> <sup>222</sup>	uK <sup>222</sup>	30
6.	~51	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNG <b>K</b> LTVAFR <sup>237</sup>	uK <sup>230</sup>	21
7.	~51	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHIT <b>K</b> H <sup>337</sup>	uK <sup>336</sup>	24
8.	~37	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIA <b>K</b> <sup>163</sup>	pS <sup>144</sup>	37
9.	~37	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> VLPELNG <b>K</b> <sup>230</sup>	pS <sup>213</sup> , mK <sup>218</sup> , uK <sup>222</sup> , mK <sup>230</sup>	30
10.	~37	<sup>223</sup> VLPELNG <b>K</b> LTVAFR <sup>237</sup>	m2K <sup>230</sup>	13
11.	~37	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> <sup>222</sup>	uK <sup>222</sup>	30
12.	~37	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIA <b>K</b> <sup>163</sup>	nC <sup>157</sup>	19
13.	~37	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> <sup>222</sup>	pS <sup>204</sup>	20
14.	~37	<sup>204</sup> SALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> <sup>218</sup>	pS <sup>204</sup>	29
15.	~37	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDL <b>K</b> AGLALNDNFF <b>K</b> <sup>312</sup>	acK <sup>301</sup>	14
16.	~27	<sup>295</sup> SSIFDL <b>K</b> AGLALNDNFF <b>K</b> <sup>312</sup>	acK <sup>301</sup>	39
17.	~37	<sup>141</sup> YNSSQTIVSNASCTTNCLAPIA <b>K</b> <sup>163</sup>	acK <sup>163</sup>	15
<b><i>P. yoelii</i> particulate fraction:</b>				
18.	~37	<sup>201</sup> AGRSALLNIIPASTGAA <b>K</b> AVG <b>K</b> <sup>222</sup>	pS <sup>213</sup> , mK <sup>218</sup>	9
19.	~37	<sup>327</sup> LLDLAIHIT <b>K</b> H <sup>337</sup>	uK <sup>336</sup>	16
<p>*p, phosphorylation; ac, acetylation; m, methylation; m2, dimethylation; n, nitrosylation; u, ubiquitination.  <sup>†</sup>Modified residues that were detected in multiple samples, have been listed even if the score was low.</p>				

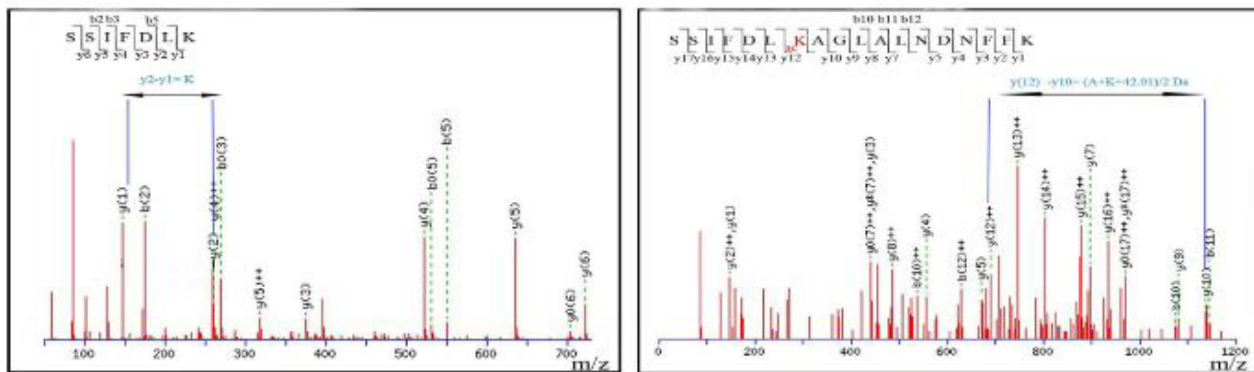
**Table 2:** Post-translational modifications in PyGAPDH. List of validated PTMs with peptide sequence. Residues modified are marked in bold.

For making distinction between tyrosine phosphorylation or sulfation, more extensive experiments will be needed [20]. Here, we assumed phosphorylation as the modifying group. Figure 3 shows a few representative MS/MS spectra of the peptides in their native and modified forms.

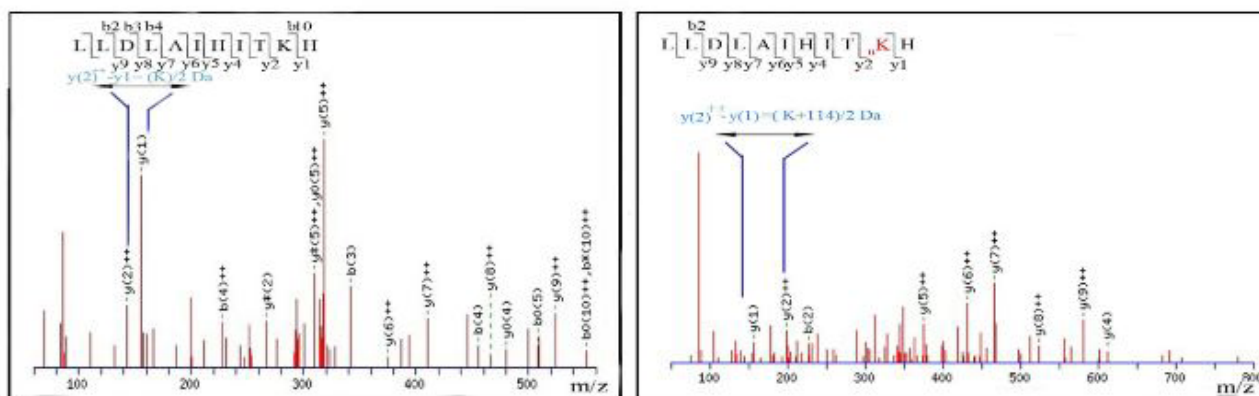
(A) Phosphorylation



(B) Acetylation



(C) Ubiquitination



**Figure 3:** Some representative MS/MS spectra of peptides in their modified and unmodified forms. Parent ion m/z and Retention Times (RT) are stated. (A) phosphorylation- unmodified (parent ion m/z = 476.2814<sup>3+</sup>; RT=22.6 minutes) and modified (parent ion m/z = 714.4139<sup>4+</sup>; RT=22.71 minutes); (B) acetylation- unmodified (parent ion m/z = 405.2241<sup>2+</sup>; RT=12.06 minutes) and modified (parent ion m/z = 681.3600<sup>3+</sup>; RT=25.00 minutes) and (C) ubiquitination- unmodified (parent ion m/z = 319.1928<sup>4+</sup>; RT=13.70 minutes) and modified (parent ion m/z = 347.7039<sup>4+</sup>; RT=13.31 minutes). Insets (blue) mark the peaks that account for unmodified and modified residue masses.

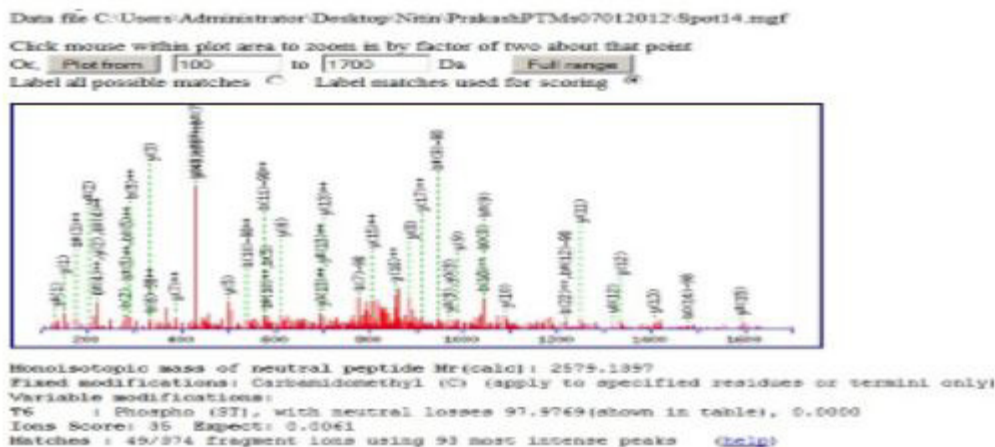
In all twelve residues were identified that underwent modifications. Different modifications included four phosphorylations (pS<sup>144</sup>, pS<sup>204</sup>, pS<sup>213</sup> and pT<sup>146</sup>), two methylations (mK<sup>218</sup> and mK<sup>230</sup>) and a dimethylation (m2K<sup>230</sup>), three acetylations (acK<sup>163</sup>, acK<sup>230</sup> and acK<sup>301</sup>), one nitrosylation (nC<sup>157</sup>) and five ubiquitinations (uK<sup>73</sup>, uK<sup>218</sup>, uK<sup>222</sup>, uK<sup>230</sup> and uK<sup>336</sup>) (Table 2). Some PTMs were detected in more than one band (Table 3).

Sr. No.	Residue	PTM*	MW of the species (kDa)	Fraction
1	K <sup>73</sup>	u	~51	Soluble
2	S <sup>144</sup>	p	~37	Soluble
3	T <sup>146</sup>	p	~51	Soluble
4	C <sup>157</sup>	n	~37	Soluble
5	K <sup>163</sup>	ac	~37	Soluble
6	S <sup>204</sup>	p	~37	Soluble
7	S <sup>213</sup>	p	~37	Particulate
				Soluble
8	K <sup>218</sup>	u	~51	Soluble
		m	~37	Particulate
9	K <sup>222</sup>	u	~37	Soluble
			~51	Soluble
10	K <sup>230</sup>	m	~37	Soluble
		m2	~37	Soluble
		ac	~51	Soluble
		u	~51	Soluble

11	K <sup>301</sup>	ac	~27	Soluble
			~37	Soluble
12	K <sup>336</sup>	u	~51	Soluble
			~37	Particulate
*p, phosphorylation; ac, acetylation; m, methylation; m2, dimethylation; n, nitrosylation; u, ubiquitination. 'Modified residues that were detected in multiple samples, have been listed even if the score was low.				

**Table 3:** List of residues in PyGAPDH that undergo post-translational modifications (PTMs). Some residues showed multiple modifications. Data are from Table 2.

Figure S1 has all the data and corresponding MS/MS spectra for the peptides listed in Table 2. Examination of missed cleavage pattern among modified lysine residues indicated that trypsin could cut at C-terminal end of mono-methylated lysine (e.g. mK<sup>230</sup>) but failed to cleave dimethylated residues. Trypsin cleavage at ubiquitinated lysines was also observed (e.g. SALLNIIPASTGAAKAVGuK<sup>222</sup>). A non-tryptic peptide (-LLDLAIHITKH-) that showed ubiquitination at K<sup>336</sup> was present in the particulate fraction. This peptide is a product of the C-terminal end of the protein.



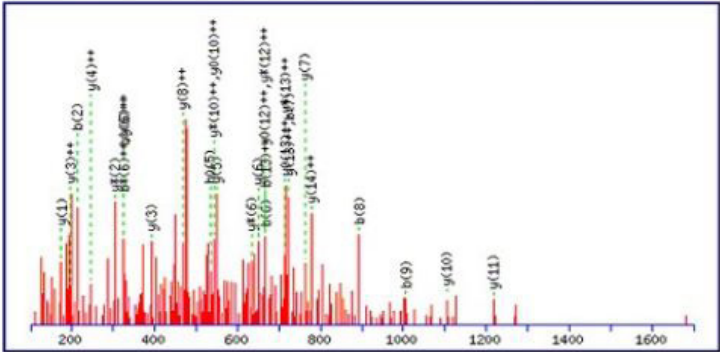


Data file C:\Users\Administrator\Desktop\Nitin\PrakashPTMs07012012\Spot14.mgf

Click mouse within plot area to zoom in by factor of two about that point

Or, Plot from 100 to 1700 Da Full range

Label all possible matches Label matches used for scoring

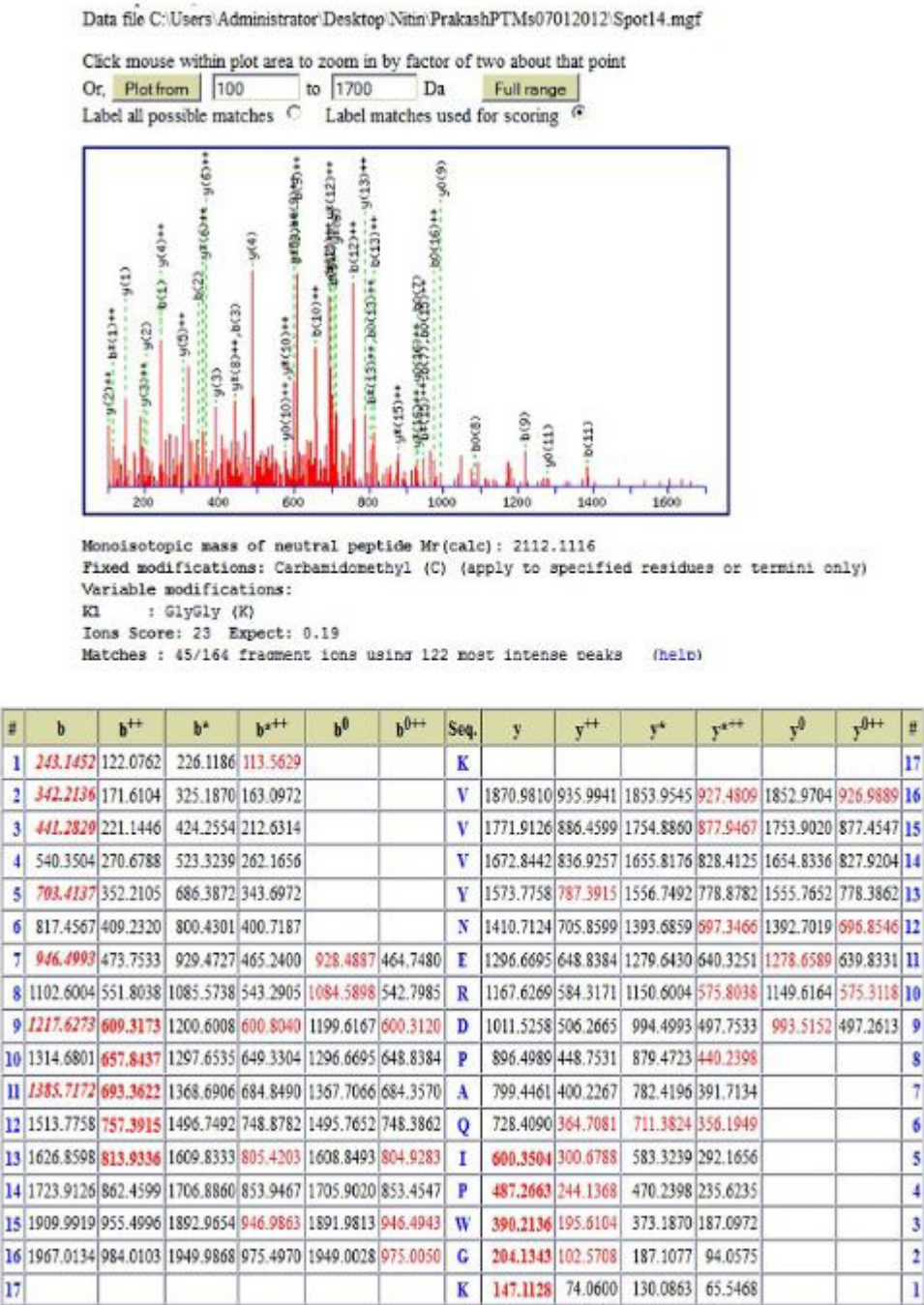


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Fixed modifications: Carbamidomethyl (C) (apply to specified residues or termini only)  
Variable modifications:  
K8 : Acetyl (K)  
Ions Score: 23 Expect: 0.016  
Matches : 30/142 fragment ions using 88 most intense peaks (help)

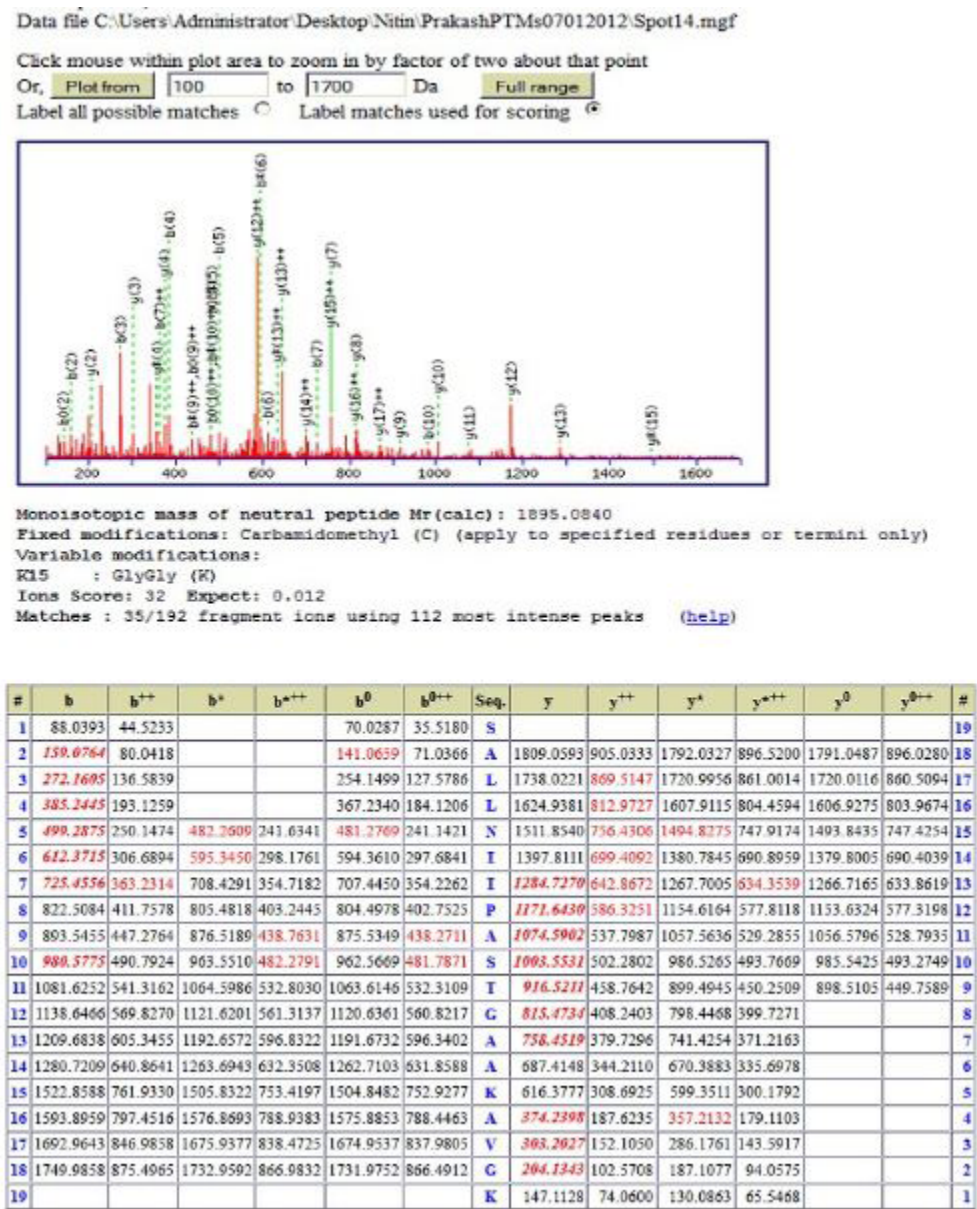
#	b	b <sup>++</sup>	b <sup>+</sup>	b <sup>+++</sup>	b <sup>0</sup>	b <sup>0++</sup>	Seq.	y	y <sup>++</sup>	y <sup>+</sup>	y <sup>+++</sup>	y <sup>0</sup>	y <sup>0++</sup>	#
1	100.0757	50.5415					V							15
2	213.1598	107.0835					L	1556.8795	778.9434	1539.8530	770.4301	1538.8689	769.9381	14
3	310.2125	155.6099					P	1443.7954	722.4014	1426.7689	713.8881	1425.7849	713.3961	13
4	439.2551	220.1312			421.2445	211.1259	E	1346.7427	673.8750	1329.7161	665.3617	1328.7321	664.8697	12
5	552.3392	276.6732			534.3286	267.6679	L	1217.7001	609.3537	1200.6735	600.8404	1199.6895	600.3484	11
6	666.3821	333.6947	649.3556	325.1814	648.3715	324.6894	N	1104.6160	552.8116	1087.5895	544.2984	1086.6055	543.8064	10
7	723.4036	362.2054	706.3770	353.6921	705.3930	353.2001	G	990.5731	495.7902	973.5465	487.2769	972.5625	486.7849	9
8	893.5091	447.2582	876.4825	438.7449	875.4985	438.2529	K	933.5516	467.2795	916.5251	458.7662	915.5411	458.2742	8
9	1006.5932	503.8002	989.5666	495.2869	988.5826	494.7949	L	763.4461	382.2267	746.4196	373.7134	745.4355	373.2214	7
10	1107.6408	554.3241	1090.6143	545.8108	1089.6303	545.3188	T	650.3620	325.6847	633.3355	317.1714	632.3515	316.6794	6
11	1164.6623	582.8348	1147.6358	574.3215	1146.6517	573.8295	G	549.3144	275.1608	532.2878	266.6475			5
12	1263.7307	632.3690	1246.7042	623.8557	1245.7202	623.3637	V	492.2929	246.6501	475.2663	238.1368			4
13	1334.7678	667.8876	1317.7413	659.3743	1316.7573	658.8823	A	393.2245	197.1159	376.1979	188.6026			3
14	1481.8362	741.4218	1464.8097	732.9085	1463.8257	732.4165	F	322.1874	161.5973	305.1608	153.0840			2
15							R	175.1190	88.0631	158.0924	79.5498			1

Peptide 2





Peptide 3



Peptide 4

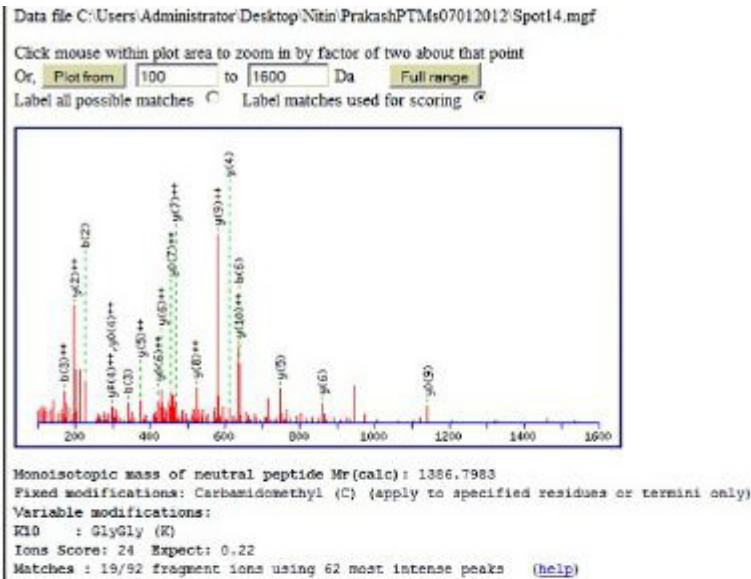
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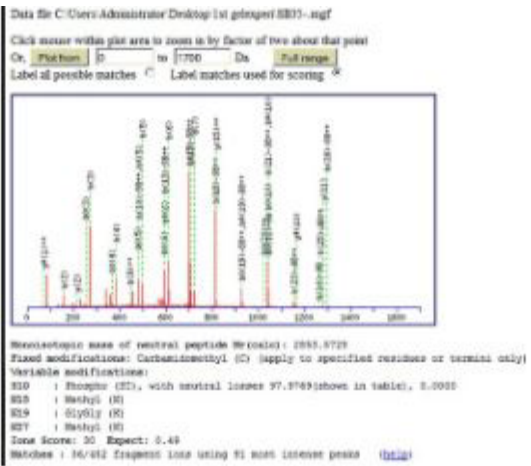


#	b	b <sup>++</sup>	b <sup>+</sup>	b <sup>+++</sup>	b <sup>0</sup>	b <sup>0++</sup>	Seq.	y	y <sup>++</sup>	y <sup>+</sup>	y <sup>+++</sup>	y <sup>0</sup>	y <sup>0++</sup>	#
1	114.0913	57.5493					L							11
2	227.1754	114.0913					L	1274.7215	637.8644	1257.6950	629.3511	1256.7110	628.8591	10
3	342.2023	171.6048			324.1918	162.5995	D	1161.6375	581.3224	1144.6109	572.8091	1143.6269	572.3171	9
4	455.2864	228.1468			437.2758	219.1416	L	1046.6105	523.8089	1029.5840	515.2956	1028.6000	514.8036	8
5	526.3235	263.6654			508.3130	254.6601	A	933.5265	467.2669	916.4999	458.7536	915.5159	458.2616	7
6	639.4076	320.2074			621.3970	311.2022	I	862.4894	431.7483	845.4628	423.2350	844.4788	422.7430	6
7	776.4665	388.7369			758.4559	379.7316	H	749.4053	375.2063	732.3787	366.6930	731.3947	366.2010	5
8	889.5506	445.2789			871.5400	436.2736	I	612.3464	306.6768	595.3198	298.1636	594.3358	297.6715	4
9	990.5982	495.8028			972.5877	486.7975	T	499.2623	250.1348	482.2358	241.6215	481.2518	241.1295	3
10	1232.7361	616.8717	1215.7096	608.3584	1214.7256	607.8664	K	398.2146	199.6110	381.1881	191.0977			2
11							H	156.0768	78.5420					1

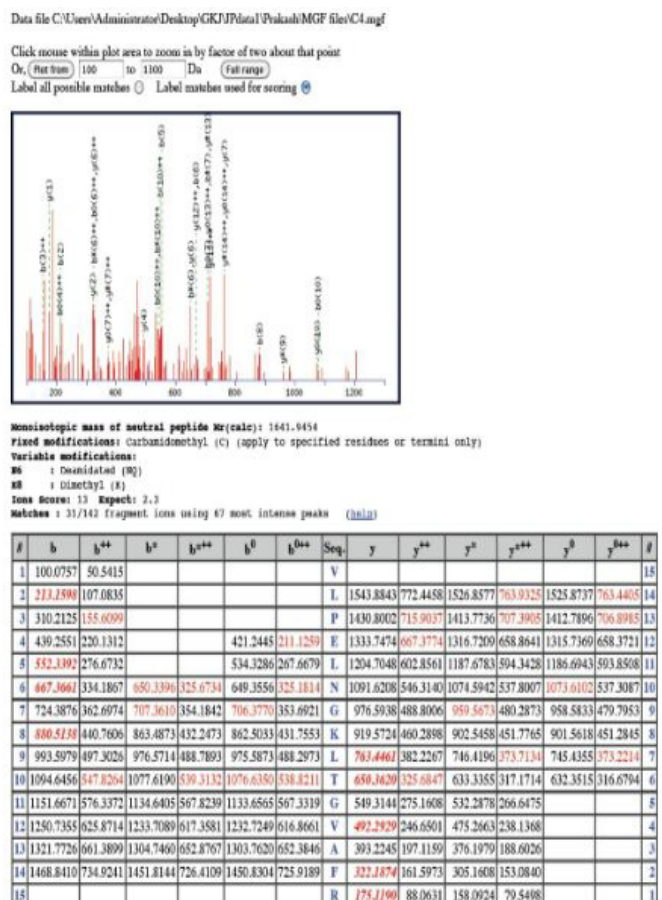
Peptide 7



19



21



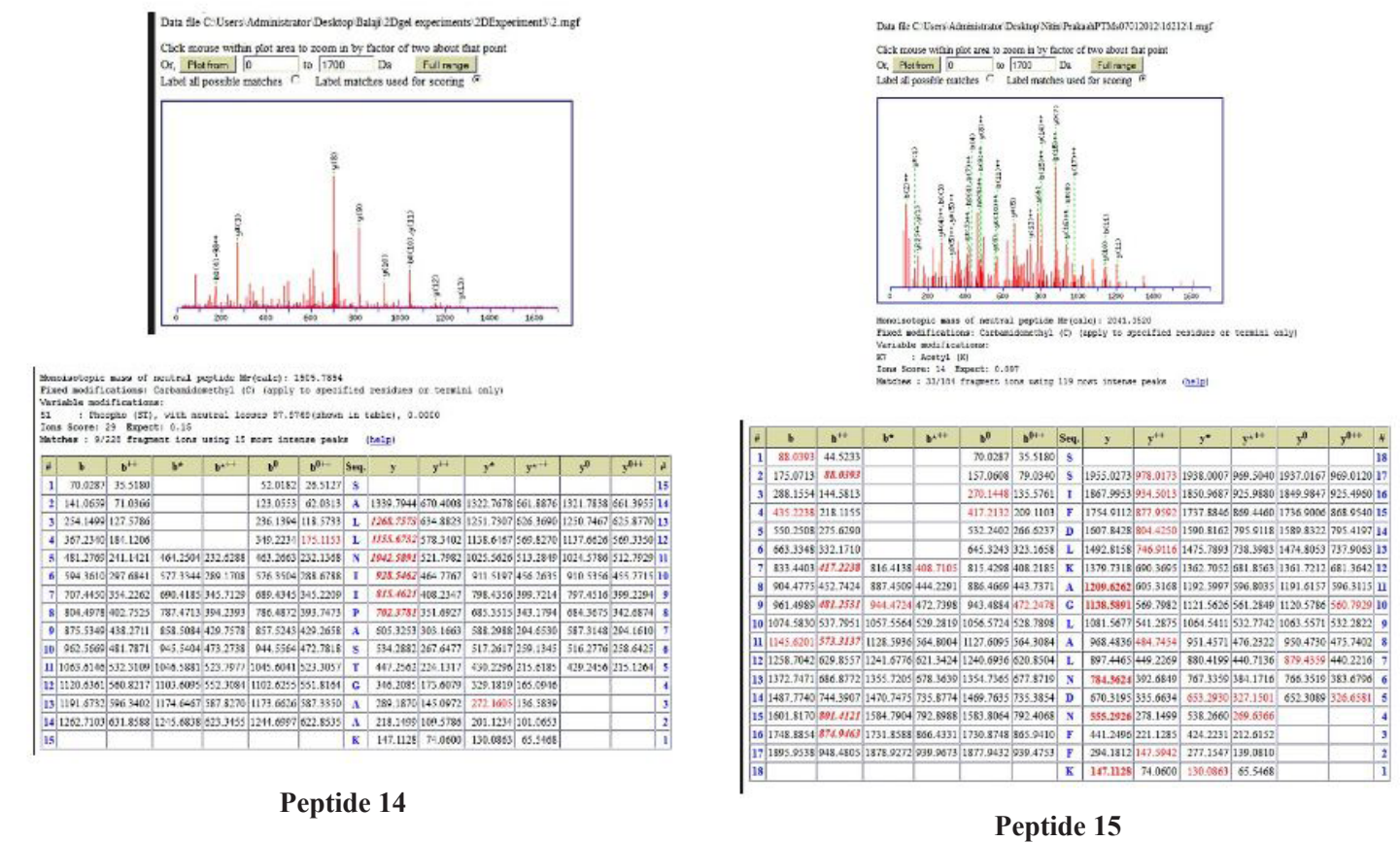
### Peptide 11



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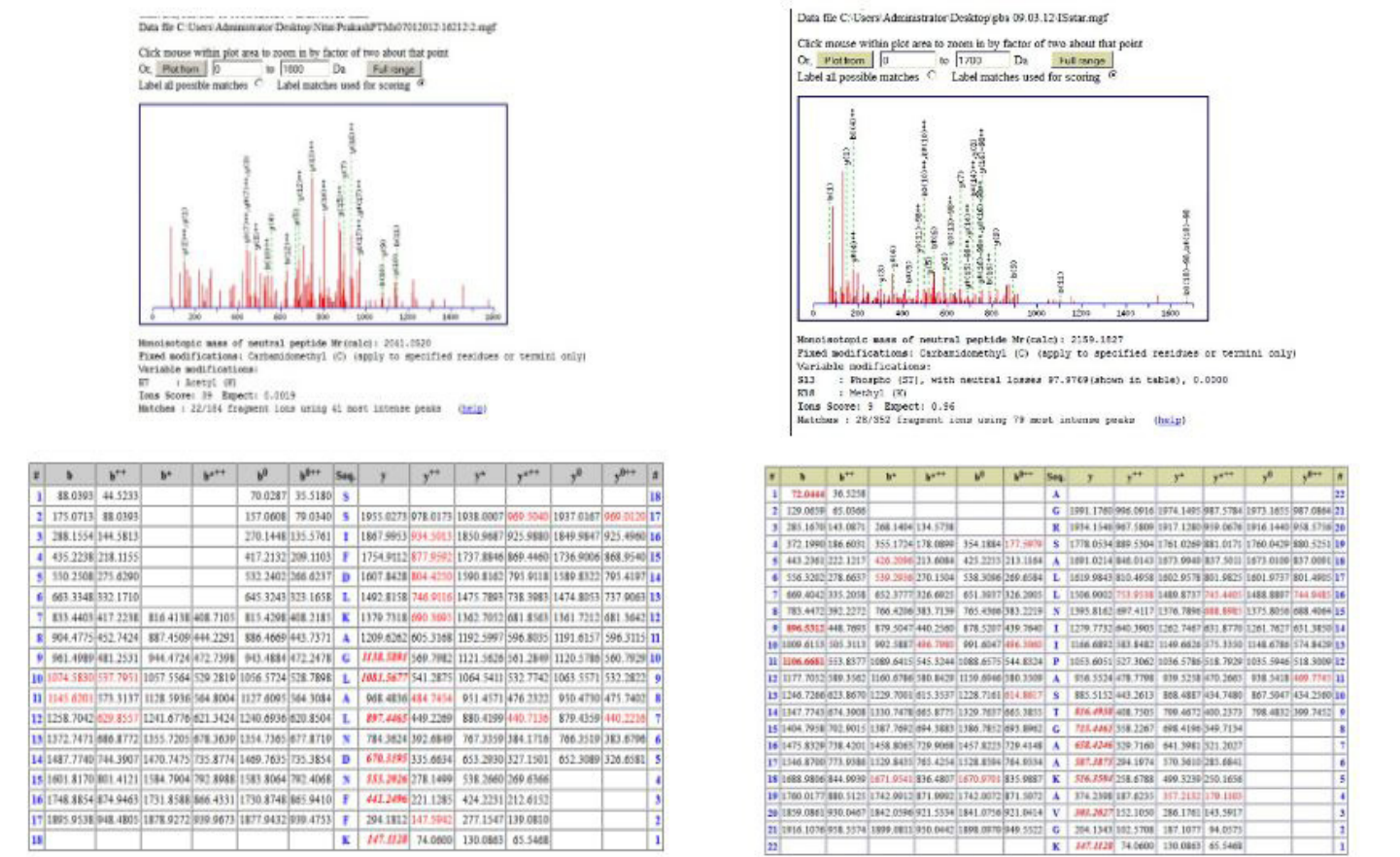
#	$b$	$b^{++}$	$b^+$	$b^{++}$	$b^{++}$	Seq	$y$	$y^{++}$	$y^+$	$y^{++}$	$y^0$	$y^{0+}$
1	70.0287	35.5180			52.0182	26.5127	S					
2	141.0659	71.0366			123.0553	62.0513	A	1339.7944	670.408	1322.7678	661.8876	1321.7838
3	254.1490	127.0786			236.1944	118.5733	L	1268.7575	634.8823	1251.7307	625.3660	1250.7467
4	367.2340	184.1206			349.2234	175.1153	L	1155.6792	578.3402	1138.5647	569.8270	1137.6626
5	481.2769	241.1421			454.2504	225.6288	X	924.5861	529.584	915.5626	519.8440	914.5768
6	594.3610	297.0747			577.3344	289.1708	B	938.5462	464.7767	911.5197	456.2635	910.5356
7	707.4450	354.2262			680.4185	345.7129	X	815.4627	408.2347	798.4356	399.1724	797.4516
8	804.4938	402.7525			787.4713	394.2393	F	762.3781	393.6927	748.3515	384.7781	747.3465
9	875.5349	438.2711			858.5064	429.7578	X	685.2988	351.1663	685.2988	354.6530	687.3144
10	962.5669	481.7871			945.5404	473.7398	A	534.2882	267.4677	517.2267	259.1345	516.2776
11	1063.6146	531.6900			1046.5881	523.7977	1046.5881	437.2592	214.1317	430.2292	215.6185	429.2456
12	1120.6361	562.8107			1108.6095	552.3048	G	346.2085	173.6079	339.1810	165.0646	
13	1191.6732	595.3402			1174.6647	587.8270	B	289.1807	145.9672	272.1605	135.0630	
14	1262.7103	631.8388			1245.6838	622.3445	A	218.1499	108.5978	201.1234	101.5653	
15							K	147.1128	74.0800	130.3883	65.5468	

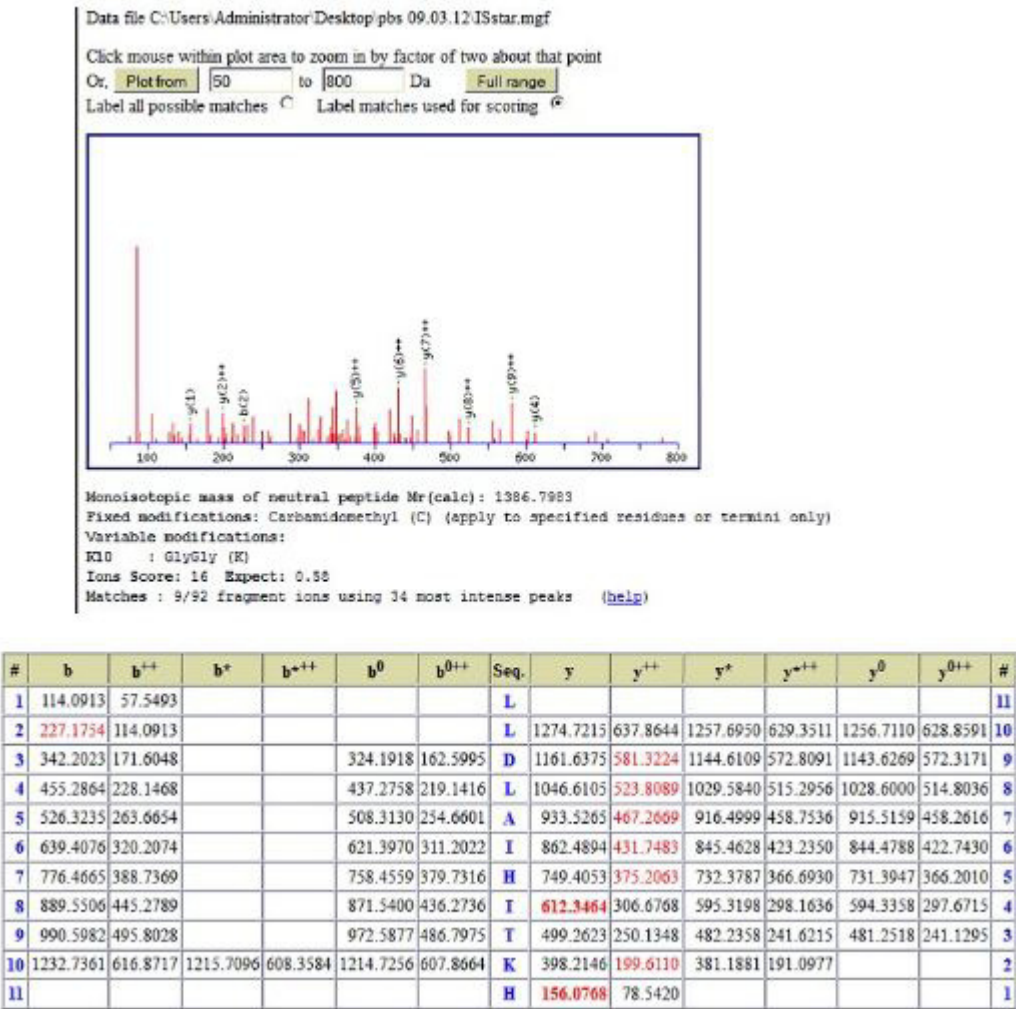
### Peptide 13





**Citation:** Jindal N, Balaji C, Sangolgi PB, Dutta S, Jarori GK (2017) Identification of Post-translational Modifications of *Plasmodium yoelii* Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase by Mass Spectrometry. Adv Proteomics Bioinform: APBI -103. DOI: 10.29011/APBI -103. 100003





Peptide 18

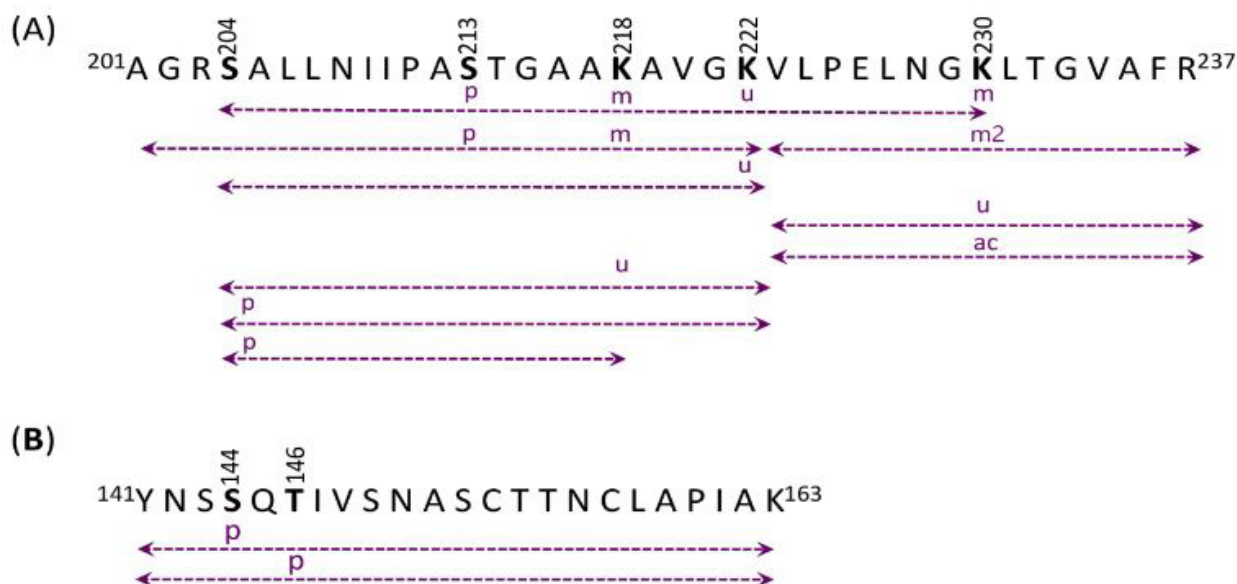
Figure S1: MS/MS spectra and fragment ion masses for all the peptides listed in Table 2.

Discussion

It is increasingly being realized that post-translational modifications and combinations thereof play an important role in determining sub-cellular distribution and functions of a protein [21]. Mass spectrometry has become the tool of choice to obtain precise chemical structures of various protein species at single protein level [9,21,22]. The ultimate objective of defining precise chemical structure is to correlate it to cellular function [4a,4b,4d]. Work presented in this manuscript has used single protein analysis approach to obtain solid chemical data about the PTMs in PyGAPDH.

Western blot analysis using anti-rPfGAPDH antibodies showed the presence of PyGAPDH in three different sizes in the parasite cell extracts. These were further confirmed by MS and MS/MS analysis of peptides obtained by trypsin digestion of the proteins. Origin of ~51 kDa form present in cytosol was found to be due to ubiquitination of the native 37 kDa species of PyGAPDH. Extensive MS/MS sequencing of peptides derived from the three bands led to identification of several PTMs in PyGAPDH. At least twelve different residues in PyGAPDH were modified with five different kinds of chemical modifications. Most modifications mapped to the C-terminal domain of the protein. There were eleven modifications in the C-terminal half while N-terminal half had only five (Table 3). Residues 201-237 had most modifications. Functionally, N-terminal domain has the NAD<sup>+</sup> binding site and the C-terminal domain forms a glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate binding site. A flexible S-loop (extending from residue 180 to 210) is believed to be the region that transmits

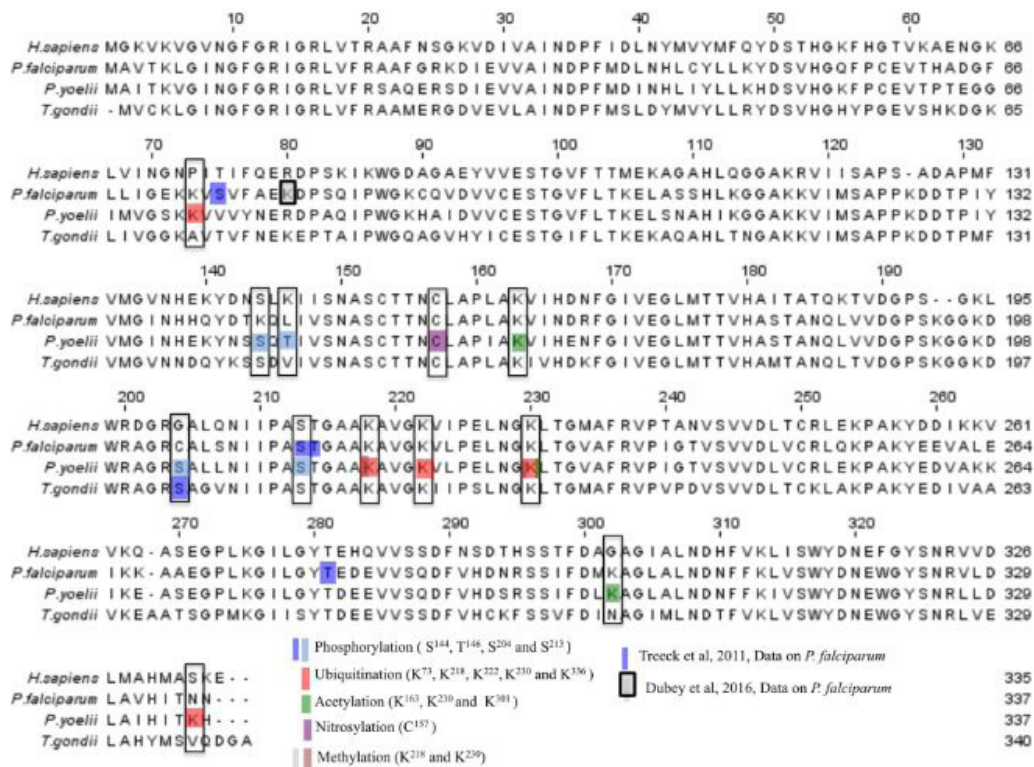
structural changes induced by substrate binding to neighboring subunits (allosteric regulation) [18,23]. Examination of the pattern of PTMs in various regions of the molecule could provide some insightful information about the regulation of underlying physiological processes (Figure 4).



**Figure 4:** Schematic representation of modifications in various peptides. (A) Peptide containing residues from 201-237 and (B) peptide containing residues 141-163 showing the PTMs that occur in combinations or in exclusion of each other in PyGAPDH.

There are two serine residues in the peptide 201-237. Both underwent phosphorylation. However, these phosphorylations were exclusive of each other i.e. in a given molecule only one of the two was phosphorylated. Further, a peptide containing pS<sup>204</sup> did not show any modifications at K<sup>218</sup> or K<sup>222</sup>. However, when S<sup>213</sup> had phosphorylation (pS<sup>213</sup>), one or more modifications at the two lysines were observed. Further, we observed that K<sup>218</sup> could either be methylated or ubiquitinated, but these modifications probably required phosphorylation of S<sup>213</sup>. A serine residue in *Toxoplasma gondii* (S<sup>203</sup>) that is homologous to S<sup>204</sup> of *P. yoelii* also undergoes phosphorylation [24]. This modification has been implicated in the regulation enzyme activity presumably by interfering with oligomerization and allosteric activation [18]. *P. yoelii* as well as *T. gondii* have two neighboring residues (S<sup>213</sup> and T<sup>214</sup>) that can be phosphorylated. Interestingly S<sup>213</sup> is phosphorylated in *P. yoelii* while T<sup>214</sup> is phosphorylated in *T. gondii* [24]. Thus, there appears to be a high degree of conservation in PTMs among the related organisms. K<sup>230</sup> is rather unusual in undergoing four different types of modifications i.e. mono or dimethylation / acetylation / ubiquitination. Although all three lysines in peptide 201-237 could undergo ubiquitination, modification occurred only at one of these lysines. In another peptide covering residues 141-163, phosphorylations of S<sup>144</sup> and T<sup>146</sup> were observed. These were also exclusive of each other. It is likely that phosphorylation of either of these two residues could mediate the similar physiological function(s). Two mono-methylations at K<sup>218</sup> and K<sup>230</sup> were detected. These could occur in the same molecule or in different molecules individually. Both these lysines are conserved in all four-species compared here (Figure S2).





**Figure S2:** Sequence homology among *P. falciparum*, *P. yoelii* and human GAPDH. Analysis of phosphoproteome of *P. falciparum* led to identification of four sites. Modified residues detected in PyGAPDH are marked. S<sup>144</sup>, S<sup>204</sup>, S<sup>213</sup> and T<sup>146</sup> that undergo phosphorylation in PyGAPDH, only S<sup>213</sup> is conserved in *P. falciparum*.

Dimethylation of K<sup>230</sup> was also detected. In a recent study, methylated lysine proteome of blood stage *P. falciparum* was analyzed. However, in this proteome-wide lysine methylation analysis, trimethylation of K<sup>80</sup> (<sup>74</sup>VSVFAEKDPSQIPGW<sup>88</sup>) [25] was the only modification reported. This residue in *P. yoelii* GAPDH is replaced by R<sup>80</sup>. All methylated residues detected in *P. yoelii* are conserved in all four species of *Plasmodia* (Figure S2) suggesting that such methylations are likely to be present in *Plasmodium falciparum* GAPDH too.

For understanding the functional significance of PTMs, it is essential to determine combinations of various PTMs that occur together and the spatio-temporal distribution of each distinct chemical species inside the cell. In the absence of such information, functional implications of PTMs will be difficult to establish. PTMs such as phosphorylations are one important mechanism by which the parasite controls the process of invasion and modification of the host cells [26]. Phosphorylation of four different residues viz. pS<sup>144</sup>, pT<sup>146</sup>, pS<sup>204</sup> and pS<sup>213</sup> were observed in *P. yoelii* 17XL GAPDH. In *P. falciparum* 3D7 GAPDH, four phosphorylation sites (pS<sup>75</sup>, pS<sup>213</sup>, pT<sup>214</sup> and pT<sup>280</sup>) have been identified [26]. Although three of these four residues (S<sup>213</sup>, T<sup>214</sup> and T<sup>280</sup>) are conserved in both species, only phosphorylation of S<sup>213</sup> is

observed in both species. Residues that are phosphorylated only in *P. yoelii* (pS<sup>144</sup>, pT<sup>146</sup> and pS<sup>204</sup>) are not conserved in *P. falciparum* (K<sup>144</sup>, L<sup>146</sup> and C<sup>204</sup>). Such variation may imply species-specific physiological roles for different modifications.

There are two Cys residues in the active site of PyGAPDH viz. C<sup>153</sup> and C<sup>157</sup>. One of these was found to be nitrosylated. Nitrosylation of GAPDH has been reported in macrophages. In mammalian cells, cysteine residue at the catalytic site (C<sup>152</sup>) undergoes nitrosylation that triggers the binding of GAPDH to Siah-1 (an E3 ubiquitin ligase) followed by nuclear translocation and apoptosis[1d]. This cascade of S-nitrosylated-GAPDH and Siah-1 may represent an important molecular mechanism of apoptotic cell death [1d,1e]. The catalytic Cys (C<sup>153</sup> and C<sup>157</sup>) are not only conserved in PyGAPDH, but one of these also undergoes nitrosylation (nC<sup>157</sup>). This raises the possibility that nitrosylation of C<sup>157</sup> may play a role in nuclear localization of PyGAPDH.

Observations of modified lysine residues at C-terminus of tryptic peptides (e.g. mK<sup>230</sup> and uK<sup>222</sup>) indicate that trypsin does cut at modified lysines. This was in contrast to earlier belief that such modified residues were not cleaved by trypsin. Cleavage at ubiquitinated lysines was also observed in the analysis of ubiquitome

of MCF-7 breast cancer cells [27]. In all, five residues (K<sup>73</sup>, K<sup>218</sup>, K<sup>222</sup>, K<sup>230</sup> and K<sup>336</sup>) were detected that were ubiquitinated of which K<sup>222</sup> and K<sup>336</sup> were present in ~37 kDa as well as ~51 kDa species (Table 3) while K<sup>218</sup> and K<sup>230</sup> were restricted to ~51 kDa species only. 51 kDa species could arise either by conjugation with a diubiquitin moiety or by bi-ubiquitination of the native 37 kDa form. Since tagging a protein for proteasomal degradation requires a K<sup>48</sup> or K<sup>11</sup> linked chain of >4-5 Ub subunits attached to a protein [28], it is unlikely that ubiquitinations observed here served as a signal for protein degradation. Di (or Bi) ubiquitinations of PyGAPDH are likely to have some other regulatory function(s) essential for maintaining the cellular homeostasis. Monoubiquitination has been shown to play a role in endocytic pathways and in some cases, single monoubiquitination was sufficient for internalization of the membrane proteins [29]. Our observation of ubiquitination in low MW forms of PyGAPDH (ubiquitination at K<sup>222</sup> and K<sup>336</sup>) would suggest their origin from 51 kDa form by limited proteolysis. There have been a few reports about ubiquitination of parasite proteins that are likely to be important in functions other than tagging for proteasomal degradation, e.g. actin [30], histone H2B [31] and enolase [9]. A recent study on *P. falciparum* ubiquitome from erythrocytic stages led to identification of 73 different proteins [32] that included the three proteins mentioned above.

## Conclusions

Results presented here provide evidence for multiple structural modifications in *Plasmodium* spp. GAPDH that could easily account for several moonlighting functions that this protein may have [33]. The main objective for the identification of PTMs was to define precise chemical structure of each species and understand their functions. This task of exact correlation between structural variant and its function and/or sub-cellular localization remains yet to be accomplished.

## Authors declare no conflict of interest

## Author contribution

GKJ conceived and designed the experiments. NJ, CB and SD performed the experiments and collected data. NJ, CB, SD and GKJ analyzed and interpreted the data. GKJ wrote the manuscript. All the authors have read the manuscript and agreed with its content.

## Funding

Financial support for the research work reported here was provided by a grant to GKJ from the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India.

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