

1 Nomenclature

EC number

1.14.19.6

Systematic name

acyl-CoA,hydrogen donor:oxygen Δ^{12} -oxidoreductase

Recommended name

Δ^{12} -fatty-acid desaturase

Synonyms

Δ^{12} Des <29> [28]

Δ^{12} desaturase <7,15> [21,29]

Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase <1,12,17> [25,27,32]

Δ^{12} oleate hydroxylase <4> (<4> shows Δ^{12} desaturase activities on ^{16}C and ^{18}C monounsaturated fatty acids [26]) [26]

$\Delta^{12}(\omega^6)$ -desaturase <11> [13]

Δ^{12} -FAD <25> [22]

Δ^{12} -desaturase <29> [28]

Δ^{12} -desaturase system | <3> (<3> enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase <15,25> [5,22]

Δ^{12} -fatty acyl-CoA desaturase <11> [13]

Δ^{12} DS <24> (<24> bifunctional enzyme with strong Δ^{12} and low Δ^{15} desaturase activities [16]) [16]

FAD2 <5,10,12,17,28,30> (<10> Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase 2 [15]) [15,24,27,30,31,32]

FAH <4> [26]

Fm2 <23> [18]

KIFAD2 <12> [20]

Le-FAD2 <21> [17]

PtFAD2 <11> [13]

PtFAD6 <11> [13]

Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturases <28> [24]

Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase <30> [30]

fatty acid desaturase-2 <5> [31]

oleoyl coenzyme A desaturase <11> [13]

oleoyl-CoA Δ^{12} desaturase <11> [13]

oleoyl- Δ^{12} desaturase <26> [23]

oleoyl- Δ^{12} /linoleoyl- Δ^3 desaturase <27> [23]

CAS registry number

84628-81-9

2 Source Organism

- <1> *Arachis hypogaea* [25]
- <2> *Caenorhabditis elegans* [2]
- <3> *Lipomyces starkeyi* [9]
- <4> *Claviceps purpurea* [26]
- <5> *Gossypium hirsutum* [31]
- <6> *Chlorella vulgaris* [8]
- <7> *Hevea brasiliensis* [21]
- <8> *Acanthamoeba castellanii* [7,10]
- <9> *Aspergillus parasiticus* [1]
- <10> *Linum usitatissimum* [15]
- <11> *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* [13]
- <12> *Kluyveromyces lactis* [20,32]
- <13> *Synechococcus sp. PCC 7002* [11]
- <14> *Periplaneta americana* [3,6]
- <15> *Mortierella alpina* [5,29]
- <16> *Borago officinalis* [12]
- <17> *Lachancea kluyveri* [27]
- <18> *Cadra cautella* [4]
- <19> *Spinacia oleracea* (UNIPROT accession number: Q8H943) [14]
- <20> *Acheta domesticus* [6]
- <21> *Lentinula edodes* (UNIPROT accession number: Q65YX3) [17]
- <22> *Umbelopsis isabellina* (UNIPROT accession number: P59668) [19]
- <23> *Gibberella moniliformis* (UNIPROT accession number: Q27ZJ7) [18]
- <24> *Coprinopsis cinerea* (UNIPROT accession number: A2A₁C4) [16]
- <25> *Triadica sebifera* (UNIPROT accession number: A5J295) [22]
- <26> *Emericella nidulans* (UNIPROT accession number: Q5BEJ3) [23]
- <27> *Emericella nidulans* (UNIPROT accession number: Q5AWX6) [23]
- <28> *Gossypium hirsutum* (UNIPROT accession number: Q8W2B9) [24]
- <29> *Acheta domesticus* (UNIPROT accession number: B7SB91) [28]
- <30> *Gossypium hirsutum* (UNIPROT accession number: B0FYE4) [30]

3 Reaction and Specificity**Catalyzed reaction**

acyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ = Δ^{12} -acyl-CoA + acceptor + 2 H₂O

Natural substrates and products

- S (Z)-9-tetradecenoic acid + ? <18> (<18> biosynthetic pathway for producing the sex pheromone component (Z,E)-9,12-tetradecadienyl acetate in moths involves a Δ^{12} desaturase [4]) (Reversibility: ?) [4]

- P** tetradec-9,12-dienoic acid
- S** cis-9-octadecenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> PtFAD2 is involved in the biosynthesis of eicosapentaenoic acid [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-9,12-octadecadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** oleic acid + ? <9,10,12,21,23,24> (<9> Δ^{12} -desaturase mutant shows delayed spore germination, a twofold reduction in growth, a reduced level of conidiation and complete loss of sclerotial development, compared with the wild-type enzyme [1]; <21> expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* leads to endogenous production of linoleic acid [17]; <23> linoleic acid was detectable when expressing Fm2 in Δ^{12} desaturase knockout *Yarrowia lipolytica* [18]) (Reversibility: ?) [1,15,16,17,18,20]
- P** linoleic acid + ?
- S** oleoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <1,26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23,25]
- P** 9,12-octadecadienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** oleoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <14> (<14> the Δ^{12} desaturase provides the key step for the cockroach to become nutritionally independent of dietary lipid and to synthesize eicosanoids de novo [3]) (Reversibility: ?) [3]
- P** octadec-9,11-dienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** Additional information <8,11,13> (<8> oxygen availability alone can regulate de novo Δ^{12} -desaturase synthesis in *Acanthamoeba castellanii* and oxygen can limit the activity of preexisting Δ^{12} -desaturase [10]; <11> PtFAD6 is involved in the biosynthesis of hexadecatrienic acid [13]; <13> synergistic effect of high-light and low temperature on cell growth of the Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase mutant [11]; <8> the main transition in fatty acid metabolism of *Acanthamoeba castellanii* during batch growth appears to be primarily related to a rapid decline in Δ^{12} -desaturase activity after 24 h. The resultant large growth-dependent changes in the degree of fatty acid unsaturation would be expected to affect the physical state and/or fluidity of membranes, and may be related to many of the distinctive physiological and biochemical characteristics displayed by *Acanthamoeba castellanii* in different stages of batch growth [7]) (Reversibility: ?) [7,10,11,13]
- P** ?

Substrates and products

- S** (Z)-9-tetradecenoic acid + ? <18> (<18> biosynthetic pathway for producing the sex pheromone component (Z,E)-9,12-tetradecadienyl acetate in moths involves a Δ^{12} desaturase [4]) (Reversibility: ?) [4]
- P** tetradec-9,12-dienoic acid
- S** 5,8,11,14-eicosadecatetraenoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** 5,8,11,14,17-eicosadecapentaenoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** 6,9,12-octadecatrienoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** 6,9,12,15-octadecatetraenoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O

- S** 9,12-octadecadienoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (<26,27> high activity [23]) (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** 9,12,15-octadecatrienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** 9-hexadecenoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (<26,27> low activity [23]) (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** 9,12-hexadecadienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** 9-octadecenoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** 9,12-octadecadienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** acyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23]
- P** Δ^{12} -acyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** cis-7-hexadecenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> 5.2% desaturation [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-7,10-hexadecadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** cis-9-heptadecenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> 22.3% desaturation [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-9,12-heptadecadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** cis-9-hexadecenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> 14.7% desaturation [13]; <11> 70.3% desaturation [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-9,12-hexadecadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** cis-9-icosenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> 4.1% desaturation [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-11,14-icosadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** cis-9-octadecenoic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <11> (<11> PtFAD2 is involved in the biosynthesis of eicosapentaenoic acid [13]; <11> 20.6% desaturation [13]; <11> cis-9-octadecenoic acid is the most efficient substrate for PtFAD2, 50.3% desaturation [13]) (Reversibility: ?) [13]
- P** cis,cis-9,12-octadecadienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** oleic acid + ? <9,10,12,21,23,24> (<9> Δ^{12} -desaturase mutant shows delayed spore germination, a twofold reduction in growth, a reduced level of conidiation and complete loss of sclerotial development, compared with the wild-type enzyme [1]; <21> expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* leads to endogenous production of linoleic acid [17]; <23> linoleic acid was detectable when expressing Fm2 in Δ^{12} desaturase knockout *Yarrowia lipolytica* [18]) (Reversibility: ?) [1,15,16,17,18,20]
- P** linoleic acid + ?
- S** oleic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <4,5,9,12,15,22,28,29,30> (<5> FAD2 introduces a double bond in position Δ^{12} in oleic acid (18:1) to form linoleic acid (18:2 n-6) [31]) (Reversibility: ?) [1,19,24,26,28,29,30,31,32]
- P** linoleic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** oleoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <1,26,27> (Reversibility: ?) [23,25]
- P** 9,12-octadecadienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O
- S** oleoyl-CoA + reduced acceptor + O₂ <14> (<14> the Δ^{12} desaturase provides the key step for the cockroach to become nutritionally independent of dietary lipid and to synthesize eicosanoids de novo [3]) (Reversibility: ?) [3]
- P** octadec-9,11-dienoyl-CoA + acceptor + H₂O

- S** palmitoleic acid + reduced acceptor + O₂ <4> (Reversibility: ?) [26]
- P** hexa-deca-9,12-dienoic acid + acceptor + H₂O
- S** Additional information <3,8,11,13,24,25,26,27> (<8> oxygen availability alone can regulate de novo Δ^{12} -desaturase synthesis in *Acanthamoeba castellanii* and oxygen can limit the activity of preexisting Δ^{12} -desaturase [10]; <11> PtFAD6 is involved in the biosynthesis of hexadecatrienic acid [13]; <13> synergistic effect of high-light and low temperature on cell growth of the Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase mutant [11]; <8> the main transition in fatty acid metabolism of *Acanthamoeba castellanii* during batch growth appears to be primarily related to a rapid decline in Δ^{12} -desaturase activity after 24 h. The resultant large growth-dependent changes in the degree of fatty acid unsaturation would be expected to affect the physical state and/or fluidity of membranes, and may be related to many of the distinctive physiological and biochemical characteristics displayed by *Acanthamoeba castellanii* in different stages of batch growth [7]; <11> no activity with cis-13-docosenoic acid [13]; <3> the Δ^{12} -desaturase enzymatic complex shows a preference towards oleoyl-CoA versus elaidoyl-CoA. Study of substrate specificity of the Δ^{12} desaturase system is difficult due to the involvement of numerous enzymes. At least two activities are involved: in a first step, acyl CoA synthetase catalyzes the formation of oleoyl-CoA from olic acid and CoA, then oleoyl-CoA is desaturated into linoleoyl-CoA. No desaturation occurs when CoA is absent in the reaction medium [9]; <25> gene Ssd12 encodes a Δ^{12} -FAD, which can convert 16:1 and 18:1 into 16:2 and 18:2 fatty acids, substrate specificity, overview [22]; <27> one of two membrane-bound fatty acid desaturases occurring in *Aspergillus nidulans*, a processive bifunctional oleoyl- Δ^{12} /linoleoyl- Δ^3 desaturase, substrate specificity of the recombinant enzyme, overview [23]; <26> one of two membrane-bound fatty acid desaturases occurring in *Aspergillus nidulans*, a strictly monofunctional oleoyl- Δ^{12} desaturase, substrate specificity of the recombinant enzyme, overview [23]; <24> the enzyme is a bifunctional fatty acid desaturase with both high Δ^{12} desaturase activity and unusual Δ^{15} desaturase activities [16]) (Reversibility: ?) [7,9,10,11,13,16,22,23]
- P** ?

Inhibitors

- EDTA <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- Hg²⁺ <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- N-bromosuccinimide <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- N-ethyl-5-phenylisoxazolium 3'-sulfonate <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- NEM <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- iodine <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- iodoacetic acid <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]
- trifluoroacetic acid <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Metals, ions

Mg²⁺ <3> (<3> activation, Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Mn²⁺ <3> (<3> activation, Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Zn²⁺ <3> (<3> activation, Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Specific activity (U/mg)

Additional information <21,22> (<22> optimal condition for expressing Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is 3% galactose induction for 24 h at 15°C [19]; <21> the proportion of linoleic acid in the total fatty acids produced by transformed *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* increases from 1.1 mol% when grown at 30°C to 2.9 mol% when grown at 15°C [17]) [17,19]

pH-Optimum

7-8 <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

Temperature optimum (°C)

20 <1> (<1> assay at [25]) [25]

40 <3> (<3> Δ^{12} -desaturase system, enzymatic complex [9]) [9]

4 Enzyme Structure**Molecular weight**

43000 <22> (<22> SDS-PAGE of cell membranes of transformed *Escherichia coli* [19]) [19]

Subunits

? <1> (<1> x * 43000, recombinant enzyme, SDS-PAGE [25]) [25]

5 Isolation/Preparation/Mutation/Application**Source/tissue**

cell culture <8> [7]

cotton fiber <30> [30]

cotyledon <28> (<28> very low expression level in roots [24]) [24]

epidermis <14> (<14> low activity [3]) [3]

fat body <14> (<14> most of the activity [3]) [3]

flower bud <30> [30]

fruitbody <21> (<21> 4.2fold increase in mRNA level in mature fruiting bodies compared to mycelium [17]) [17]

hypocotyl <30> [30]

leaf <28,30> (<28> very low expression level in new leaves [24]) [24,30]

mycelium <21> (<21> 3.5fold increase in mRNA level in fruiting body primordia and 4.2fold increase in mRNA level in mature fruiting bodies compared to mycelium [17]) [17]

primordium <21> (<21> 3.5fold increase in mRNA level in fruiting body primordia compared to mycelium [17]) [17]
root <28,30> [24,30]
sclerotium <4> [26]
seed <9,16,25> (<25> composition of major fatty acids in *Sapium sebiferum* seeds, overview [22]) [1,12,22]
stem <30> [30]
Additional information <10,14> (<14> no activity in thorax and gut tissue [3]; <10> high expression level in bolls between 12 and 16 days after anthesis [15]) [3,15]

Localization

chloroplast <30> (<30> endomembrane network-like distribution around chloroplasts [30]) [30]
cytoplasm <30> [30]
endoplasmic reticulum <14,20> [6]
membrane <16,26,27> (<16> bound to, solubilization of membrane bound enzyme [12]) [12,23]
microsome <3,8,11,14,16> (<8> enzyme activity is increased by up to 10fold during aeration of cultures [10]; <8> greatest in microsomal membranes isolated from early-exponential to mid-exponential phase cells, declines by approximately 50% as cultures progress towards stationary phase [7]; <3> localization of the Δ^{12} -desaturase system [9]; <11> PtFAD2 [13]) [3,7,9,10,12,13]
plastid <11> (<11> PtFAD6 [13]) [13]

Purification

<1> (soluble recombinant enzyme from *Escherichia coli* strains JM109 and BL21(DE3)) [25]

Cloning

<1> (DNA and amino acid sequence determination and analysis, high level expression in *Escherichia coli* strains JM109 and BL21(DE3)) [25]
<2> (expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) [2]
<4> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and in *Arabidopsis thaliana*) [26]
<5> (expressed in *Mus musculus* strains C57BL/6 and DBA/2) [31]
<7> (expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain BYdesa) [21]
<11> (heterologous expression in yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Synechococcus*) [13]
<12> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) [32]
<12> (expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain YHU3046-4A results in endogenous production of linoleic acid, increasement in production of linoleic acid from 0.66 to 1.19 microg/mg dry cell weight when 0.5 microM oleic acid as a substrate was exogenously added) [20]
<15> (heterologous expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Aspergillus oryzae*) [5]
<17> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain IFO10150) [27]

<19> (functional expression of a Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase gene from *Spinacia oleracea* in transgenic *Sus scrofa*. Levels of linoleic acid (18:2n-6) in adipocytes that have differentiated in vitro from cells derived from the transgenic pigs are about 10times higher than those from wild-type pigs. In addition, the white adipose tissue of transgenic pigs contained about 20% more linoleic acid (18:2n-6) than that of wild-type pigs) [14]

<21> (expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* leads to endogenous production of linoleic acid, the proportion of linoleic acid in the total fatty acids produced by transformed *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* increases from 1.1 mol% when grown at 30°C to 2.9 mol% when grown at 15°C) [17]

<22> (expression of Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase genes in *Escherichia coli* strain BL21 and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain IN-VSc1 leads to production of an active enzyme which converts 17.876% and 17.604% of oleic acid to linoleic acid, GC-MS detection in vitro and in vivo) [19]

<23> (expressed in wild-type *Yarrowia lipolytica* and its Δ^{12} desaturase knockout mutant, 62.6 weight percent of total fatty acid was linoleic acid produced in the mutant) [18]

<24> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* EH1315, 7.9% oleic acid and 29% linoleic acid in yeast expressing Δ^{12} desaturase compared with 37% oleic acid and no detectable linoleic acid in control yeast, fatty acid composition analyzed by gas-liquid chromatography) [16]

<24> (gene *Cop-odeA*, DNA and amino acid sequence determination and analysis, functional expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain EH1315) [16]

<25> (gene *Ssd12*, DNA and amino acid sequence determination and analysis, two genomic copies, expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) [22]

<26> (gene *An2*, DNA and amino acid sequence determination and analysis, functional expression in *Arabidopsis thaliana*) [23]

<27> (gene *An1*, DNA and amino acid sequence determination and analysis, functional expression in *Arabidopsis thaliana*) [23]

<29> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) [28]

<30> (expressed in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and in the *Arabidopsis thaliana* *fad2-1* mutant (knockout mutants lacking the single *FAD2* gene)) [30]

Engineering

Additional information <7,15,24,27> (<24> a recombinant *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain EH1315 expressing gene *Cop-odeA* accumulates four additional fatty acids identified as 9,12-hexadecadienoic acid, 9,12,15-hexadecatrienoic acid, linoleic acid, and alinolenic acid, which comprised 8.8%, 1.0%, 29.0%, and 0.6% of the total fatty acids, respectively, overview [16]; <7> a transgenic *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain BYdesa, expressing the enzyme from *Helvea brasiliensis*, produces up to 15% polyunsaturated fatty acids, mostly 9Z,12Z-C18:2, linoleic acid, but also 9Z,12Z-C16:2 fatty acid under inducing conditions, production of 4-hydroxy-2-nonenal, one of the major end products of n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid peroxidation. Desaturase expression causes adaptation to oxidative stress but not to hyperosmotic stress, phenotype, overview [21]; <27> the seed oil fatty acid composition of *Arabi-*

dopsis plants expressing An1 is altered, overview [23]; <15> the Δ^{12} desaturase-defective mutant, Mut48, derived from *Mortierella alpina* 1S-4 produces several fatty acids of the n-9 family such as 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2n-9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2n-9), and mead acid. The mutants SR88 and TM912 exhibit a complete Δ^{12} desaturation deficiency with no arachidonic acid accumulation [29]) [16,21,23,29]

Application

nutrition <19> (<19> after functional expression of a Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase gene from *Spinacia oleracea* in transgenic *Sus scrofa* levels of linoleic acid (18:2n-6) in adipocytes that have differentiated in vitro from cells derived from the transgenic pigs are about 10 times higher than those from wild-type pigs. In addition, the white adipose tissue of transgenic pigs contained about 20% more linoleic acid (18:2n-6) than that of wild-type pigs. These results demonstrate the functional expression of a plant gene for a fatty acid desaturase in mammals, opening up the possibility of modifying the fatty acid composition of products from domestic animals by transgenic technology, using plant genes for fatty acid desaturases [14]) [14]

References

- [1] Wilson, R.A.; Calvo, A.M.; Chang, P.K.; Keller, N.P.: Characterization of the *Aspergillus parasiticus* Δ^{12} -desaturase gene: A role for lipid metabolism in the *Aspergillus*-seed interaction. *Microbiology*, **150**, 2881-2888 (2004)
- [2] Peyou-Ndi, M.M.; Watts, J.L.; Browse, J.: Identification and characterization of an animal Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase gene by heterologous expression in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Arch. Biochem. Biophys.*, **376**, 399-408 (2000)
- [3] Borgeson, C.E.; De Renobales, M.; Blomquist, G.J.: Characterization of the Δ^{12} desaturase in the American cockroach, *Periplaneta americana*: the nature of the substrate. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **1047**, 135-140 (1990)
- [4] Jurenka, R.A.: Biosynthetic pathway for producing the sex pheromone component (Z,E)-9,12-tetradecadienyl acetate in moths involves a Δ^{12} desaturase. *Cell. Mol. Life Sci.*, **53**, 501-505 (1997)
- [5] Sakuradani, E.; Kobayashi, M.; Ashikari, T.; Shimizu, S.: Identification of Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase from arachidonic acid-producing *Mortierella* fungus by heterologous expression in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and the fungus *Aspergillus oryzae*. *Eur. J. Biochem.*, **261**, 812-820 (1999)
- [6] Borgeson, C.E.; Blomquist, G.J.: Subcellular location of the Δ^{12} -desaturase rules out bacteriocyte contribution to linoleate biosynthesis in the house cricket and the American cockroach. *Insect Biochem. Mol. Biol.*, **23**, 297-302 (1993)
- [7] Avery, S.V.; Lloyd, D.; Harwood, J.L.: Changes in membrane fatty acid composition and Δ^{12} -desaturase activity during growth of *Acanthamoeba castellanii* in batch culture. *J. Eukaryot. Microbiol.*, **41**, 396-401 (1994)

- [8] Nugier-Chauvin, C.; Fauconnot, L.; Daligault, F.; Patin, H.: Enantioselective oxidation of thiafatty acids by an algal Δ^{12} -desaturase. *J. Mol. Catal. B*, **11**, 1007-1012 (2001)
- [9] Lomascolo, A.; Dubreucq, E.; Galzy, P.: Study of the Δ^{12} -desaturase system of *Lipomyces starkeyi*. *Lipids*, **31**, 253-259 (1996)
- [10] Avery, S.V.; Rutter, A.J.; Harwood, J.L.; Lloyd, D.: Oxygen-dependent low-temperature Δ^{12} (n6)-desaturase induction and alteration of fatty acid composition in *Acanthamoeba castellanii*. *Microbiology*, **142**, 2213-2221 (1996)
- [11] Sakamoto, T.; Bryant, D.A.: Synergistic effect of high-light and low temperature on cell growth of the Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase mutant in *Synechococcus* sp. PCC 7002. *Photosynth. Res.*, **72**, 231-242 (2002)
- [12] Galle, A.M.; Oursel, A.; Joseph, M.; Kader, J.C.: Solubilization of membrane bound Δ^{12} - and Δ^6 -fatty acid desaturases from borage seeds. *Phytochemistry*, **45**, 1587-1590 (1997)
- [13] Domergue, F.; Spiekermann, P.; Lerchl, J.; Beckmann, C.; Kilian, O.; Kroth, P.G.; Boland, W.; Zahringer, U.; Heinz, E.: New insight into *Phaeodactylum tricornutum* fatty acid metabolism. Cloning and functional characterization of plastidial and microsomal Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturases. *Plant Physiol.*, **131**, 1648-1660 (2003)
- [14] Saeki, K.; Matsumoto, K.; Kinoshita, M.; Suzuki, I.; Tasaka, Y.; Kano, K.; Taguchi, Y.; Mikami, K.; Hirabayashi, M.; Kashiwazaki, N.; Hosoi, Y.; Murata, N.; Iritani, A.: Functional expression of a Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase gene from spinach in transgenic pigs. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **101**, 6361-6366 (2004)
- [15] Fofana, B.; Cloutier, S.; Duguid, S.; Ching, J.; Rampitsch, C.: Gene expression of stearoyl-ACP desaturase and Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase 2 is modulated during seed development of flax (*Linum usitatissimum*). *Lipids*, **41**, 705-712 (2006)
- [16] Zhang, S.; Sakuradani, E.; Ito, K.; Shimizu, S.: Identification of a novel bifunctional Δ^{12}/Δ^{15} fatty acid desaturase from a basidiomycete, *Coprinus cinereus* TD#822-2. *FEBS Lett.*, **581**, 315-319 (2007)
- [17] Sakai, H.; Kajiwara, S.: Cloning and functional characterization of a Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase gene from the basidiomycete *Lentinula edodes*. *Mol. Genet. Genomics*, **273**, 336-341 (2005)
- [18] Damude, H.G.; Zhang, H.; Farrall, L.; Ripp, K.G.; Tomb, J.F.; Hollerbach, D.; Yadav, N.S.: Identification of bifunctional Δ^{12}/ω^3 fatty acid desaturases for improving the ratio of ω^3 to ω^6 fatty acids in microbes and plants. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **103**, 9446-9451 (2006)
- [19] Li, M.C.; Li, H.; Wei, D.S.; Xing, L.J.: Cloning and molecular characterization of Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase gene from *Mortierella isabellina*. *World J. Gastroenterol.*, **12**, 3373-3379 (2006)
- [20] Kainou, K.; Kamisaka, Y.; Kimura, K.; Uemura, H.: Isolation of Δ^{12} and ω^3 -fatty acid desaturase genes from the yeast *Kluyveromyces lactis* and their heterologous expression to produce linoleic and α -linolenic acids in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Yeast*, **23**, 605-612 (2006)

- [21] Cipak, A.; Jaganjac, M.; Tehlivets, O.; Kohlwein, S.D.; Zarkovic, N.: Adaptation to oxidative stress induced by polyunsaturated fatty acids in yeast. *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, **1781**, 283-287 (2008)
- [22] Niu, B.; Ye, H.; Xu, Y.; Wang, S.; Chen, P.; Peng, S.; Ou, Y.; Tang, L.; Chen, F.: Cloning and characterization of a novel Δ^{12} -fatty acid desaturase gene from the tree *Sapium sebiferum*. *Biotechnol. Lett.*, **29**, 959-964 (2007)
- [23] Hoffmann, M.; Hornung, E.; Busch, S.; Kassner, N.; Ternes, P.; Braus, G.H.; Feussner, I.: A small membrane-peripheral region close to the active center determines regioselectivity of membrane-bound fatty acid desaturases from *Aspergillus nidulans*. *J. Biol. Chem.*, **282**, 26666-26674 (2007)
- [24] Kargiotidou, A.; Deli, D.; Galanopoulou, D.; Tsaftaris, A.; Farmaki, T.: Low temperature and light regulate Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturases (FAD2) at a transcriptional level in cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*). *J. Exp. Bot.*, **59**, 2043-2056 (2008)
- [25] Yin, D.; Cui, D.; Jia, B.: Construction of a high-efficient expression vector of Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase in peanut and its prokaryotical expression. *J. Genet. Genomics*, **34**, 81-88 (2007)
- [26] Meesapyodsuk, D.; Qiu, X.: An oleate hydroxylase from the fungus *Claviceps purpurea*: cloning, functional analysis, and expression in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant Physiol.*, **147**, 1325-1333 (2008)
- [27] Oura, T.; Kajiwara, S.: Substrate specificity and regioselectivity of Δ^{12} and ω^3 fatty acid desaturases from *Saccharomyces kluyveri*. *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.*, **72**, 3174-3179 (2008)
- [28] Zhou, X.R.; Horne, I.; Damcevski, K.; Haritos, V.; Green, A.; Singh, S.: Isolation and functional characterization of two independently-evolved fatty acid Δ^{12} -desaturase genes from insects. *Insect Mol. Biol.*, **17**, 667-676 (2008)
- [29] Sakuradani, E.; Abe, T.; Matsumura, K.; Tomi, A.; Shimizu, S.: Identification of mutation sites on Δ^{12} desaturase genes from *Mortierella alpina* 1S-4 mutants. *J. Biosci. Bioeng.*, **107**, 99-101 (2009)
- [30] Zhang, D.; Pirtle, I.L.; Park, S.J.; Nampaisansuk, M.; Neogi, P.; Wanjie, S.W.; Pirtle, R.M.; Chapman, K.D.: Identification and expression of a new Δ^{12} fatty acid desaturase (FAD2-4) gene in upland cotton and its functional expression in yeast and *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants. *Plant Physiol. Biochem.*, **47**, 462-471 (2009)
- [31] Chen, Q.; Liu, Q.; Wu, Z.; Wang, Z.; Gou, K.: Generation of fad2 transgenic mice that produce ω -6 fatty acids. *Sci. China C Life Sci.*, **52**, 1048-1054 (2009)
- [32] Yazawa, H.; Iwahashi, H.; Kamisaka, Y.; Kimura, K.; Uemura, H.: Production of polyunsaturated fatty acids in yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and its relation to alkaline pH tolerance. *Yeast*, **26**, 167-184 (2009)