Bioluminescence, series 1

FIREFLY

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Luminescent organism and their principle mechanism



History of Firefly in Literature

In India;

The Sanskrit word, *khadyota*, meaning firefly or grow-worm. In the Upanishadds, the part of Brahmanas probably recorded at some time before the sixth century B.C.,

Fog, smoke, sun, fire, wind, Fireflies, lightning, a crystal, a moon There are the preliminary appearances, Which produce the manifestation of Brahma in Yoga.

The *Mahabharata*, of date and author unknown (200 B.C. –A.D. 200?), is probably the longest poem for firefly.

In the Buddhist scriptures, the *Dhammapada*, the Pali word, *khajjopakana*, is used firefly, who lived ca. 562-482 B.C.

History of Firefly in Literature

By ARISTOTLE in Greece;

It is with Aristotle (382-322 B.C.) that wide knowledge of **cold light** begins. He not only listed some well-known luminescence but realized that they were different from other bodies which had color and could be seen by day.

By PLINY in Roma;

Omission of luminescence has been in part balanced by the writing of Caius Plinius Secundus, Pliny the Elder (A.D. 23-79). Pliny's military career took him to all parts of the ancient world. His descriptions of luminescence were quite specific and complete as a scientific view. In the *Historia Naturalis*, written in the first century A.D., there is mention of the glowworm and others.

History of Firefly in Literature

In Japan;

Around the seventh century, the Japanese official historical book, *Nihon-shoki*, described the firefly as a devil god.

In the *Wa-Kan-Sansai-Zue*, Ryokan Terajima published in 1712 by the Japanese about natural products. He described that firefly belongs among the *kasei-rui*, insects transformed from decaying grasses.

The firefly festival on the Ugi River was an important event in the neighborhood of Kyoto from the early of eleventh century.

"HOTARU-Kari (firefly hunting)" in "Uki-yo-e"





"HOTARU-no-Sato" and "HOTARU-no-En"







《 蛍の宴2016 開催》

日時 6月3日(金)~6月12日(日) お申込み: 8 定 ※雨天決行

後7時開宴~午後10時まで 天野酒蔵駐車場内川床 河内長野市長野町12-18

※蛍の飛翔が遅れた場合や荒天時は中止となります。 ※酒席に付きお車での来場はご遠慮下さい。 ※飲食物の持ち込みは堅くお断りいたします。

> 各日午後8時以降は一般開放となります。 空いているお席は自由にご利用いただけます 会場内での飲食につきましては販売コーナーを ご利用ください。持ち込みはご遠慮願います。

Three key researchers for firefly research

Bacon (1627), Boyle (1668), Benjamin Franklin (1750), Lois Pasteur (1864) and others had been studied the bioluminescence.

Around 1900, three scientists researched the bioluminescence.

R. Dubois discovered the luciferin-luciferase reaction of luminescent click-beetle. (1884)

S. Kanda studied the Japanese fireflies and other luminescent organisms in Japan (1874-1939) and published the textbook of "HOTARU" in 1935.

E.N. Harvey studied lots of luminescent organism, visited to Toyama, Japan to study the sea-firefly squid in 1916, and published the textbook of "BIOLUMINESCENCE" in 1953.

Prof Osamu Shimomura discovered GFP



Prof Woodland Hastings named GFP

- Diversity of luminescent beetles
- Gene hunting for beetle luciferases
- Molecular mechanism of color
- differences
- Determining the quantum yield of
- bioluminescence reaction
- Biochemistry of luciferin synthesis

Diversity of luminescent beetles

Japanese firefly (Hotaru) Genji-botaru and Heike-botaru





Luciola lateralis (male). Photographed by Niwa (2008).

Luciola cruciata (male). Reproduced from Kanda (1935).

Luminescent beetle are consisted of three genera

Drilidae: Rhagophamidae



Firefly are distributed in world widely



Drilidae are distributed in the south America and Rhagophamidae the east Asia



Phengodid (railroad worm)

My research of bioluminescent biology; Trip in Tibet









To collect click beetle in Brazil









Diversity on bioluminescent organism



- Sex attraction (Communication)
- Threat
- Counter shedding
- Light up
- Light trap like a food







Gene hunting for beetle luciferases

Bioluminescence is a chemical reaction

• Representation of chemical reaction in vitro





My challenge for cloning several luciferases

O Ohmiya Y, Ohba N, Toh H, Tsuji FI: Cloning, expression and sequence analysis of cDNA for the luciferases from the Japanese firefly, *Pyrocoelia miyako* and *Hotaria parvula*. *Photochem. Photobiol.*, 62, 309-313, 1995

O Viviani VR, Bechara EJ, Ohmiya Y: Cloning, sequence analysis, and expression of active *Phrixothrix* railroad-worms luciferases: Relationships between bioluminescence spectra and primary structure. *Biochemistry* 38, 8271-8279, 1999

O Ohmiya Y, Sumiya M, Viviani VR, Ohba N: Comparative aspects of a luciferase molecule from the Japanese luminous beetle *Rhagophthalmus ohba*. *Sci.Rept.Yokosuka City Mus.* 47, 31-38, 2000

O Viviani VR, Arnoldi FG, Brochetto-Braga M, Ohmiya Y: Cloning and characterization of the cDNA for the Brazilian *Cratomorphus* distinctus larval firefly luciferase: similarities with European Lampyris noctiluca and Asiatic Pyrocoelia luciferases. *Comp Biochem Physiol B Biochem Mol Biol.* 139, 151-6, 2004

My history for cloning several luciferases

O Mitani Y, Futahashi R, Niwa K, Ohba N, Ohmiya Y: Cloning and characterization of luciferase from a Fijian luminous click beetle. Photobiology and Photochemistry, 89(5):1163-9, 2013

O Mitani Y, Futahashi R, Liu Z, Liang X, Ohmiya Y: Tibetan firefly luciferase with low temperature adaptation. Photochem. Photobiol. 2016 Sep 26. doi: 10.1111/php.12643



Cloning, Sequence Analysis, and Expression of Active *Phrixothrix* Railroad-Worms Luciferases: Relationship between Bioluminescence Spectra and Primary Structures^{†,‡}

Vadim R. Viviani,*,§,II Etelvino J. H. Bechara,[⊥] and Yoshihiro Ohmiya§





P V GR	1: MEEENIRHGERPRDIVHPGSAGQQLYQSLYKFASFPEAIIDAHTNEVISYAQIFETSCRI 60
Ph_{RE}	1: MEEENVVNGDRPRDLVFPGTAGLQLYQSLYKYSYITDGIIDAHTNEVISYAQIFETSCRL 60
Pv_{gr}	61: AVSIEQYGLNENNVVGVCSENNINFFNPVLAALYLGIPVATSNDMYTDGELTGHLNISKP 120
Ph _{RE}	61: Avslekygldhnnvvaicsennihffgpliaalyggipmatsndmyteremighlniskp 120
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PVGR	121: TIMESSKKALPLILRVQQNUSFIKKVVVIDSMYDINGVECVSTEVARYTDHTEDPLSETP 180
PURE	121: CTWECSKUSTSELIUKAOKHUDEUKKAIAIDINGAECAESEDSKUIDHWEDEAKENE 190
Pvcp	181: KDFDPLEKIALIMSSSGTTCLPKCVVLSHRSLTIRFVHSRDPIYGTRTVPOTSILSLVPF 240
Pher	181: KEFDPLERTALIMTSSGTTGLPKGVVISHRSITIRFVHSSDPIYGTRIAPDTSILAIAPF 240
Pv_{gr}	241: HHAFGMFTTISYFVVGLKVVMLKKFEGALFLKTIQNYKIPTIVVAPPVMVFLAKSPLVDQ 300
Ph_{RE}	241: HHAFGLFTALAYFPVGLKIVMVKKFEGEFFLKTIQNYKIASIVVPPPIMVYLAKSPLVDE 300
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Pv _{gr}	301: YDLSSLTEVATGGAPLGKDVAEAVAKRLKLPGIIQGYGLTETCCAVMITPHN-AVKTGST 359
Pv _{gr} Ph _{re}	301: YDLSSLTEVATGGAPLGKDVAEAVAKRLKLPGIIQGYGLTETCCAVMITPHN-AVKTGST 359 301: YNCSSLTEIASGGSPLGRDIADKVAKRLKVHGILQGYGLTETCSALILSPNDRELKKGAI 360
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Elaterid are distributed in the middle and south America and the Fiji islands



Cloning and Characterization of Luciferase from a Fijian Luminous Click Beetle

Yasuo Mitani*¹. Rvo Futahashi¹, Kazuki Niwa², Nobuyoshi Ohba³ and Yoshihiro Ohmiya⁴



Elaterid

Tibetan Firefly Luciferase with Low Temperature Adaptation[†]

Yasuo Mitani¹, Ryo Futahashi¹, Zichao Liu², Xingcai Liang³ and Yoshihiro Ohmiya^{4,5}*





Phylogenetic tree of luciferase genes



Molecular mechanism of color differences

My challenge for molecular mechanism of color differences on luciferin-luciferase reaction

O Ohmiya Y, Hirano T, Ohashi M: The structural origin of the color differences in the bioluminescence of firefly luciferase. *FEBS Lett.* 384, 83-86, 1996

O Ohmiya Y Tsuji FI: Mutagenesis of firefly luciferase shows that cysteine residues are not required for bioluminescence activity. *FEBS Lett.* 404, 115-117, 1997

O Viviani VR, Ohmiya Y: Bioluminescence color determinants of Phrixothrix railroad-worm luciferases: Chimeric luciferases, site-directed mutagenesis of Arg 215 and Guanidine effect. *Photochem. Photobiol.*,72, 267-271, 2000

O Viviani VR, Uchida A, Suenaga N, Ryufuku M, Ohmiya Y: Thr-226 is a keyresidue for bioluminescence spectra determination in beetle luciferases. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 280, 1286-1291, 2001

O Viviani VR, Uchida A, Viviani W Ohmiya Y: The influence of Ala243 (Gly247), Arg215 and Thr 226 (Asn230) on the bioluminescecen spectra and pH-sensitivity of Railroad worm, clicl beetle and firefly luciferases. *Photochem. Photobiol* 76, 538-544, 2002

Molecular mechanism of firefly luciferin on bioluminescence reaction



Two groups for pH-sensitivity on beetle luciferases



pH sensitivity could be due to fine structure of active site



Three dimensional structure of firefly luciferase



Luminescent colors determined by electric condition of active site



My challenge for novel reporter assay using color different luciferase

O Kitayama Y, Kondo T, Nakahira Y, Nishimura H, Ohmiya Y, Oyama T: An in vivo dual-reporter system of cyanobacteria using two railroad-worm luciferases with different color emissions. *Plant Cell & Physiology* 45, 109-113. 2004

O Nakajima Y, Ikeda M, Kimura T, Honma S, Ohmiya Y, Honma K: Role of orphan nuclear receptor ROR a in clock gene transcriptions demonstrated by a novel reporter assay system. *FEBS Lett* 565, 122-126, 2004

O Nakajima Y, Kimura T, Sugata K, Enomoto T, Asakawa T, Kubota H, Ikeda M, OhmiyaY: A multicolor luciferase assay system, one-step monitoring of multiple gene expressions with a single substrate. *Biotechniques* 38, 891-894, 2005

O Noguchi T, Michihata T, Nakamura W, Takumi T, Shimizu R, Yamamoto M, Ikeda M, Ohmiya Y, Nakajima Y: Dual-Color Luciferase Mouse Directly Demonstrates Coupled Expression of Two Clock Genes. *Biochemistry*, 49, 8053–8061,2010

O Tarnow P, Bross S, Wollenberg L, Nakajima Y, Ohmiya Y, Tralau T, Luch A: A novel dual-colour luciferase reporter assay for simultaneous detection of estrogen and aryl hydrocarbon receptor activation. Chem Res Toxicol. 2017 30(7):1436-1447

Determining the quantum yield of bioluminescence reaction

Can the cold light produce highly efficiency?



Quantum yield of firefly bioluminescence as a function of pH (McElroy and Seliger, 1961). Effect of pH and buffer on the activity of luciferase measured with the same concentration of luciferase (Green and McElroy, 1956).

pН

7

40 mM Glycine

80 mM Na-phosphate

80 mM K-phosphate

8

My challenge for measuring of photon numbers on bioluminescence reaction

O Ando Y, Niwa K, Yamada N, Irie T, Enomoto T, Kubota H, Ohmiya Y, Akiyama H: Development of a Quantitative Bio/Chemiluminescence Spectrometer Determining Quantum Yields: Re-examination of the Aqueous Luminol Chemiluminescence Standard. *Photochem Photobiol.* 83, 1205-10, 2007

O Ando Y, Niwa K, Yamada N, Irie T, Enomoto T, Kubota H, Ohmiya Y, Akiyama H.: Quantum Yield and Colour Change of Firefly Bioluminescence. *Nature Photonics* 2, 44-47, 2008

O Niwa K, Ichino Y, Ohmiya Y: Quantum yield measurements of firefly bioluminescence reactions using a commercial luminometer. *Chem.lett.* 39: 2010

O Niwa K, Ichino Y, Kumata S, Nakajima Y, Hiraishi Y, Kato D, Viviani VR, Ohmiya Y: Quantum Yields and Kinetics of the Firefly Bioluminescence Reaction of Beetle Luciferases. *Photobiology & Photochemistry*, 86, 1046-9, 2010

O Yoshita M, Kubota H, Shimogawara M, Mori K, Ohmiya Y, Akiyama H.: Lightemitting-diode Lambertian light sources as low-radiant-flux standards applicable to quantitative luminescence-intensity imaging. Rev Sci Instrum. 2017 Sep;88(9):093704. doi: 10.1063/1.5001733

Measurement system



-Calibrations-

- 1. Light-collection efficiency
- 2. Sensitivity of CCD-spectrometer system

Our measurement & calibration features

1. Light-collection efficiency

-Our system-

Using "Platelet cell" for calibration, any forms of sample cells OK!

2. Absolute sensitivity of detector

-Before-

"Point source approximation"

Semiconductor-photo-detecor technologyThermopileLight source : LaserLight source : Standard lamp

3. Detector

Cooled CCD camera Photomultiplier

4. Data

Energy-resolved or wavelength-resolved emission yield in an absolute unit of photon/eV or photon/nm & Quantum yield

Luminol (aqueous chemiluminescence)



Emission yield vs. Luminol molecule number



Firefly

-Energy-resolved emission yield-

-Quantum yield vs. pH-



Firefly luciferase : Natural "Photinus pyralis"

<u>Quantum yield : 41.0 ± 7.4 %</u> (pH 8.5)



Gaussian Fitting

-Energy-resolved emission yield-

Peak Energy

 \sim 2.2 eV (560nm) \sim 2.0 eV (620nm) \sim 1.85 eV (670nm)

Luminescence spectra of firefly can be reproduced by three gaussian components

Chemical Reaction on Bioluminescent Beetle



Possibility of the determination of bioluminescence color in the active-site of beetle luciferases;

(I) the polarity of the active-site

(II) presence of basic residues assisting oxyluciferin tautomerization (III) the active-site conformation

pH sensitivity could be due to fine structure of active site



Quantitative analysis



Biochemistry of luciferin synthesis

Stereoisomeric bio-inversion key to biosynthesis of firefly **D**-luciferin

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^b National Metrology Institute of Japan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan

^c Integrated Research Institute, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan



Fig. 1. Synthesis of firefly D-luciferin. (A) Chemical synthesis of D-luciferin. The asymmetric carbon of cysteine corresponds to that of luciferin. (B) Hypothetical biosynthetic pathways of D-luciferin from L-cysteine.



Fig. 2. Chiral analyses of in vivo luciferin and cysteine. (A) Chromatogram of luciferin in an adult firefly, obtained with a chiral column. (B) Chromatogram of ABD-labeled cysteine from four adult fireflies, obtained with a chiral column.

Fig. 3. Life stage, luciferin content, and **D**-luciferin chirality. Illustrated are the five distinctive life stages of the Japanese firefly, *L. lateralis*. L, larva; LC, larva in cocoon; P, pupa; AC, adult in cocoon; A, adult. Graphs show the total amounts of **D**- and **L**-luciferin in an individual body and the enantiomeric excess of **D**-luciferin (% ee). Error bars indicate standard deviations.



Fig. 5. Proposed biosynthetic pathway of **D**-luciferin. L-luciferin is produced from natural L-cysteine. L-Luciferin is converted into L-luciferyl-CoA that is easy to racemize by enolization. Hydrolysis of **D**-luciferyl-CoA gives the bioluminescent substrate, **D**-luciferin.

Application of beetle bioluminescence system

- Diversity of luminescent beetles
- Gene hunting for beetle luciferases
- Molecular mechanism of color

differences

- Determining the quantum yield of
- bioluminescence reaction
- Biochemistry of luciferin synthesis

My challenge for novel reporter assay using color different luciferase

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Bioluminescence is a chemical reaction between luciferin and luciferase. Light auto-put is depending to the amounts of luciferin, luciferase or cofactors (ATP etc.)



Luciferase is a powerful reporter enzyme for gene expression analysis, immune assay, and imaging!

Our group have been contributed for the basic and application of bioluminescence !!