Constituents of Crinoidea. 2. Isolation and Structure of the Novel Type Gangliosides from the Feather Star *Comanthus japonica*

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Two novel type gangliosides CJP2 and CJP3 have been obtained from the feather star *Comanthus japonica***. On the basis of methylation linkage analysis combined with ammonolysis and other chemical and spectroscopic** evidence, the chemical structures of CJP2 and CJP3 were determined to be α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→3)-inosi- to **tolphosphoceramide and** α **-9-** O -Me-NeuGc-(2→11)- α -9- O -Me-NeuGc-(2→3)-inositolphosphoceramide, respec**tively. These gangliosides are unique in that they are inositolphosphoceramide derivatives possessing sialic acid; such gangliosides have not previously been identified. The presence of 9-***O***-methyl-***N***-glycolyl-neuraminosyl residues is also unique in naturally occurring gangliosides.**

Key words echinodermata; feather star; ganglioside; glycosphingolipid; inositolphosphoceramide; 9-*O*-methyl-*N*-glycolyl-neuraminic acid

A series of studies on the isolation and structure elucidation of biologically active glycosphingolipids (GSLs) from the echinodermata has been performed in our laboratory.¹⁾ In the study of the GSLs of the feather star, we reported on the isolation and structure of a D-*myo*-inositol-1-*O*-phosphoceramide, CJP1, from *Comanthus japonica.*2) Continuing this work, the more polar GSLs from *C. japonica* were isolated and characterized. In this paper, we report on the isolation and structure of the novel type gangliosides, tentatively called CJP2 and CJP3, from the whole bodies of *C. japonica.*

The water-soluble lipid fraction, obtained from the CHCl3/MeOH extract of the whole bodies of *C. japonica*, was subjected to reversed-phase and subsequently normalphase column chromatography to give CJP2 and CJP3. They showed a single spot on normal-phase TLC and exhibited a positive reaction with Dittmer-Lester reagent, 3) which indicated the presence of a phosphate group. In their IR spectra, strong hydroxyl, amide and phosphate absorption was observed. When CJP2 and CJP3 were hydrolyzed with 5% acetic acid, CJP1, D-*myo*-inositol-1-*O*-phosphoceramide, was obtained from both compounds. Therefore, CJP2 and CJP3 were suggested to be the derivatives of CJP1.

Structure of CJP2 In the negative ion FAB-MS spectrum, CJP2 showed quasi-molecular ion peaks due to $(M-H)^{-}$ at m/z 1155 and 1183 together with fragment ion peaks similar to those of $CJP1²$ as shown in Fig. 1. The loss of 321 mass units from the molecular ion suggested the existence of a monomethylated *N*-glycolyl-neuraminic acid residue.

The structure of the sialic acid residue in CJP2 was analyzed as follows. CJP2 was methylated with $CD₃I$ according to the Ciucanu and Kerek method 4 and afforded the perdeuteromethylated product. The product was methanolyzed, and the methanolysate was acetylated to give the sialic acid derivative. GC-MS analysis of the sialic acid derivative revealed the presence of terminal 9-*O*-methylated *N*-glycolylneuraminic acid (9-*O*-Me-NeuGc) residue as shown in Fig. 2A.

The position of the 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc linkage site to the *myo*-inositol part was elucidated by methylation linkage analysis combined with ammonolysis.⁵⁾ The permethylated $CJP2$ was hydrolyzed with NH₄OH to give the partially methylated inositol derivative. GC-MS analysis of its TMS ether revealed that it was tetramethylated. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum of the tetramethylated inositol, four kinds of oxymethin and three kinds of methoxyl proton signals were observed and could be assigned as shown in Table 1 on the basis of *J* values, which indicated the symmetrical structure of the tetramethylated inositol. Furthermore, the NOE correlations of methoxyl groups and oxymethin proton signals (Fig. 3) revealed that the inositol derivative was 2,4,5,6 tetramethylated *myo*-inositol. Consequently, 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc residue must be linked at the C3-OH group of the inositol part as shown in Fig. 1.

The anomeric configuration of 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc residue was determined as below. When CJP2 was subjected to mild alkaline hydrolysis with $1 \times$ KOH, the sugar part and ceramide (CJP2Cer) were obtained (Fig. 1). In the ¹H-NMR spectrum of this sugar part, the signal due to $H-3_{eq}$ of 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc was observed at 2.73 ppm (1H, dd, $J=12.5$, 4.7 Hz), which suggests the α -configuration of 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc.⁶⁾ This part of CJP2 was therefore characterized as α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→3)-inositolphosphate.

Next, the detailed structure of the ceramide moiety was examined using CJP2Cer obtained as above. When CJP2Cer was methanolyzed, fatty acid methyl ester (FAM) and the

Fig. 1. Structure of CJP2

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Fig. 2. Positive Ion EI Mass Spectral Fragmentation of NeuGc Derivatives

Fig. 3. NOE Correlations Obtained from NOESY Spectrum of Tetramethylated Inositol Derivative

Fig. 4. Structure of CJP3

long chain base (LCB) mixture were obtained. GC-MS analysis of the FAM mixture indicated the presence of $C_{22:0}$ and $C_{24:0}$ normal fatty acids. On the other hand, the LCB mixture was converted to their TMS ether and analyzed by GC-MS. The result showed that the LCB mixture was composed of $C_{16:1}$ sphingosine as major component, and a small amount of $C_{16:0}$ and $C_{18:0}$ phytosphingosines.

The relative stereochemistry of CJP2Cer could be characterized as 2,3-*erythro*-4*E*, because the ¹H-NMR spectrum was in good agreement with that of the ceramide obtained from the gorgonian *Acabaria undulata*7) possessing 2,3-*erythro-4E* configuration. Furthermore, in the 13 C-NMR spectrum of CJP2, the signals of the terminal methyl group are observed at 13.7 ppm, which indicates both long alkyl chains are straight chains.

Consequently, if LCB and NeuGc are assumed to belong to the most commonly found D-*erythro* (2*S*,3*R*) and D series, and *myo*-inositol-1-*O*-phosphate is also assumed to be D-series, as true of the co-existing CJP1, then CJP2 is α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc- $(2\rightarrow)$ -inositolphosphoceramide as shown in Fig. 1.

Structure of CJP3 In the negative ion FAB-MS spectrum, CJP3 revealed the quasi-molecular ion peaks due to $(M+K-2H)^{-}$ at m/z 1514, 1540, 1542 (Fig. 4), which indicate CJP3 contains one additional mole of monomethylated *N*-glycolyl-neuraminic acid compared with CJP2. The structure of these sialic acids and the linkage sites of the sialic acid and inositol residues were analyzed in the same manner as CJP2, as follows.

GC-MS analysis of sialic acid derivatives, prepared from perdeuteromethylated CJP3, revealed the existence of terminal 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc and 11-linked 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc as shown in Fig. 2A and 2B. Therefore, 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc must be linked at C11-OH of another 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc residue (Fig. 4). The inositol derivative prepared from permethylated CJP3 was identified as $2,4,5,6$ -tetramethylated *myo*-inositol by the ¹H-NMR and NOESY spectra, which suggested that 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc residue was linked at C3-OH of the inositol part as true of CJP2. In the 13 C-NMR spectrum of CJP3, two anomeric carbon signals due to two sialic acid residues were observed at δ 99.8 and 100.3, indicating their α -configurations.8) Consequently, the sugar part of CJP3 was determined to be α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→11)- α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→3)inositolphosphate.

For the analysis of the ceramide moiety, CJP3Cer was obtained by means of alkaline hydrolysis of CJP3. CJP3Cer was methanolyzed and FAM and TMS ether of LCB were analyzed by GC-MS. The results indicated the presence of $C_{22:0}$, $C_{24:0}$, and $C_{24:1}$ normal fatty acid and $C_{16:1}$ sphingosine as major components. The relative stereochemistry of ceramide was determined to have 2,3-*erythro*-4*E* configuration with the aid of the ¹H-NMR spectrum of CJP3Cer.

Consequently, if LCB, NeuGc and *myo*-inositol-1-*O*-phosphate are assumed to belong to the D-*erythro* (2*S*,3*R*) and D series as CJP2, CJP3 is characterized to be α -9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→11)-a-9-*O*-Me-NeuGc-(2→3)-inositolphosphoceramide as described in Fig. 4.

Many kinds of gangliosides of echinodermata have been obtained from species of starfish, sea cucumber, sea urchin and brittle star. This is the first report of isolation and characterization of gangliosides from the feather star. The gangliosides obtained this time, CJP2 and CJP3, are specially novel in the respect that they are inositolphosphoceramide derivatives containing a sialic acid residue. To the best of our knowledge, such unique gangliosides have not previously been reported. Furthermore, the presence of the 9-*O*-methyl-*N*-glycolyl-neuraminic acid residues is also unique in the naturally occurring gangliosides. The biological activity of these gangliosides will be examined.

Experimental

Melting points were determined on a micromelting point apparatus (Yanaco MP-3) without correction. IR spectra were obtained on a Jasco FT/IR-410 infrared spectrophotometer. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were recorded on a Jeol GX-270 spectrometer (270 and 67.8 MHz) or a Varian Unity spectrometer (500 and 125 MHz). Negative ion FABMS spectra were acquired with a Jeol SX/SX102A tandem mass spectrometer (xenon atom beam, 5 kV; ion source accelerating potential, 10 kV; matrix, triethanol amine). GC-MS was taken with a Shimadzu QP-5050A [EI mode; ionization potential: 70 eV; column: high resolution capillary column (ϕ 0.25 mm \times 30 m), liquid phase: TC-1701; carrier gas: He (100 kPa, split mode)], or a Shimadzu QP-1000 [EI mode; ionization potential: 70 eV; separator and ionsource temperature 250 °C; column: a glass column (ϕ 2.6 mm×1.1 m) packed with 2% OV-17 on Chromosorb W (80—100 mesh) or capillary column, Shimadzu CBP-10-W12-100 (ϕ 0.53 mm×12 m) carrier gas, He (30 ml/min)].

Separation of CJP2 and CJP3 Whole bodies of the feather star *Comanthus japonica* (7.6 kg), collected in 1995 at Koinoura, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan, were homogenized and extracted with CHCl₃/MeOH (1 : 2, 8 l, three times). The CHCl₃/MeOH solution was concentrated *in vacuo* to give an aqueous suspension (11). The suspension was diluted with $H₂O$ (21) and extracted with AcOEt/*n*-BuOH (2 : 1) for separation of less polar lipids. The aqueous layer was washed with n -BuOH saturated with H_2O , and concentrated *in vacuo* to 1 l. Then, 1 l of MeOH was added to the aqueous layer and the mixture was chromatographed on reversed-phase column chromatography [Cosmosil 140 C_{18} -PREP (Merck), solvent 80% MeOH, 100% MeOH and CHCl₃/MeOH (3 : 7)]. The 100% MeOH and CHCl₃/MeOH (3 : 7) eluate were combined and concentrated *in vacuo* to give a residue (4.1 g), which was then chromatographed on silica gel [silica gel 60 (70-230 mesh, Merck), solvent CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O (6.5:3.5:0.2, 6.5:3.5:0.3, 6.5:3.5: 0.5, $6.5:3.5:0.55$, $6:4:0.7$, $6:4:0.85$, $6:4:1$, $5:5:1$) to give seven fractions. CJP2 (170.6 mg) was obtained from frs. 2 and 3 with silica gel column chromatography [Iatrobeads (6RS-8060, Iatron Lab.), solvent CHCl₃/ MeOH/H₂O (6:4:0.35)]. CJP3 (568.5 mg) was obtained from frs. 3 and 4 [silica gel 60 (230—400 mesh), solvent CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O (7:3:0.6)]. It was detected with 5% H₂SO₄/MeOH or Dittmer–Lester reagent on silica gel TLC [solvent CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O (6 : 4 : 1)], *Rf*=0.50 (CJP2), 0.40 (CJP3).

CJP2: Amorphous powder. mp 203—208 °C. IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3365 (OH), 2923, 2853 (alkyl chain), 1646, 1554 (amide), 1227 (phosphate). Negative ion FAB-MS *m*/*z*: 79, 97 (phosphate), 241, 259, 580 (sugar part), 672, 700 $(M-H-162-321)^{-}$, 834, 862 $(M-H-321)^{-}$, 1155, 1183 $(M-H)^{-}$. ¹³C-NMR $[CDCl₃/CD₃OD (3:1)]$ δ : 13.7 (terminal methyl groups), 29.3 (alkyl chain).

CJP3: Amorphous powder. mp 203—208 °C. IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3854 (OH), 2923, 2853 (alkyl chain), 1636, 1558 (amide), 1231 (phosphate). Negative ion FAB-MS *m*/*z*: 79, 97 (phosphate), 241, 259, 580 (sugar part), 1193, 1219, 1221 $(M+K-2H-321)^{-}$, 1514, 1540, 1542 $(M+K-2H)^{-}$. ¹³C-NMR [C₅D₅N/D₂O (20 : 7)] δ : 14.0 (terminal methyl groups), 29.6 (alkyl chain), 99.8, 100.3 (Neu5Gc9Me C-2).

Methylation (Trideuteriomethylation) of CJP2 (Ciucanu and Kerek Method) NaOH/DMSO suspension (0.25 ml), which was prepared from powdered NaOH (40 mg) and DMSO (1 ml), and CD₃I (0.25 ml) was added to CJP2 (0.8 mg), and the mixture was sonicated for 30 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with $H₂O$ and extracted with CHCl₃ three times to give

perdeuteromethylated CJP2. **Preparation and GC-MS Analysis of Acetate of Partially Trideuteromethylated Sialic Acid from Perdeuteromethylated CJP2** Perdeuteromethylated CJP2 was methanolyzed with 5% HCl in MeOH (1 ml) at 85 °C for 12 h in a small-volume sealed vial, and dried with a N_2 stream. The reaction mixture was heated with Ac_2O/py ridine (1:1, 0.5 ml) at 85 °C for 2 h, and dried with a N₂ stream. The residue was subjected to GC-MS (QP-1000, capillary column) [column temperature: 180—250 °C (rate of temperature increase 4 °C/min)]: t_R [min]=5.7, m/z : 168, 204, 293, 313, 337, 360, 393 [methyl *N*-glycolyl-*N*-trideuteromethyl-2,9-di-*O*-methyl-4,7,8,11-tetra-*O*-trideuteromethyl-neuraminate (from terminal 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc)].

Methylation of CJP2 (Ciucanu and Kerek Method) NaOH/DMSO suspension (0.5 ml) and CH₃I (0.1 ml) were added to CJP2 (7.9 mg) , and the mixture was sonicated for 30 min. The reaction mixture was diluted with $H₂O$, acidified with 2 N HCl, and extracted with CHCl₃ three times to give permethylated CJP2.

Ammonolysis of Permethylated CJP2 Permethylated CJP2 was heated with NH₄OH (1.5 ml) for 12 h at 150 °C in a sealed pressure tube (25.4) $mm \times 10.2$ cm, Ace Glass Incorporated). The reaction mixture was evaporated and dried with an air stream to give the residue containing partially methylated inositol derivative. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel [Iatrobeads, solvent CHCl₃/acetone $(6.5:3.5)$] to give an inositol derivative (2,4,5,6-tetramethylated *myo*-inositol, 0.21 mg), *Rf*=0.16 [silica gel TLC, CHCl \sqrt{a} cetone (6.5 : 3.5)].

2,4,5,6-Tetramethylated *myo*-Inositol: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 3.39 (2H, dd, *J*=9.5, 2.8 Hz, H-1, 3), 3.71 (1H, t, *J*=2.8 Hz, H-2), 3.29 (2H, t, *J*=9.5 Hz, H-4, 6), 2.96 (1H, t, *J*59.0 Hz, H-5), 3.59 (3H, s, *O*-Me), 3.63 (6H, s, *O*-Me), 3.64 (3H, s, *O*-Me). NOESY: see Fig. 3. The inositol derivative (0.1 mg) was heated with 1-(trimethylsilyl)imidazole/pyridine $(1:1, 10 \,\mu$ l) for 15 min at 70 \degree C and the reaction mixture was subjected to GC-MS (OP-5050A) [column temperature: 100 °C (2 min)—250 °C (rate of temperature increase 5 °C/min)]. The results were as follows: 2,4,5,6-tetramethylated inositol TMS ether: t_R [min]=17.3, m/z (rel. int. %) 380 (M⁺, 1.7), 217 (32.6), 202 (46.9), 191 (17.0), 189 (22.9), 172 (16.6), 159 (83.2), 146 (29.9), 144 (49.6), 133 (96.1), 114 (37.6), 101 (100), 89 (75.5), 75 (98.7).

Alkaline Hydrolysis of CJP2 CJP2 was hydrolyzed with 1 ^N KOH at 35 °C for 31 h. Hydrolysate was neutralized with Dowex 50W-X8 $(H⁺)$ resin, and partitioned between H_2O and CHCl₃. The H_2O layer was diluted with the same quantity of MeOH, and then passed through Cosmosil 140 C_{18} -PREP (solvent 50% MeOH). The eluate was evaporated *in vacuo* to give a residue and the residue was applied to a Sephadex LH-20 column (solvent 50% MeOH) to give the sugar part of CJP2. The CHCl₃ layer was evaporated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography [Iatrobeads, solvent CHCl₃/MeOH (9 : 1)] to give CJP2Cer.

Sugar Part of CJP2: Negative FAB-MS m/z : 580 (M)⁻, 562 (M-H₂O)⁻, 259, 97, 79. ¹H-NMR (D₂O) δ: 2.73 (dd, J=12.5, 4.7 Hz, 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc H-3_{eq}), 1.80 (t, $J=12.1$ Hz, 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc H-3_{ax}).

CJP2Cer: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 3.70 (m), 3.91 (m, H-2), 3.96 (dd, J=13.5, 3.3 Hz, H-1), 4.33 (br s, H-3), 5.53 (dd, J=15.3, 6.4 Hz, H-4), 5.78 (dt, *J*=14.8, 7.3 Hz, H-5), 6.22 (d, *J*=6.9 Hz, NH), 2.23 (t, *J*=7.6 Hz, H-2'), 1.25 (alkyl chain), 0.88 (t, $J=6.6$ Hz, terminal methyl groups).

Methanolysis of CJP2Cer CJP2Cer was methanolyzed with 5% HCl in MeOH at 70 °C for 2 h in a small-volume sealed vial. The reaction mixture was extracted with *n*-hexane, and the extract was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a mixture of fatty acid methyl esters (FAM). The MeOH layer was neutralized with Ag₂CO₃, filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a mixture of long chain bases (LCB).

GC-MS Analysis of FAM from CJP2Cer The FAM mixture derived from CJP2Cer was subjected to GC-MS (QP-1000, OV-17) [column temperature 150—250 °C (rate of temperature increase 8 °C/min)]. The results were as follows: FAM-1 (methyl docosanoate), t_R [min] (ratio of peak areas): 11.3 (34), m/z : 354 (M)⁺, 311 (M-43)⁺; FAM-2 (methyl tetracosanoate), t_R : 13.3 (66) , *m*/*z*: 382 (M)⁺, 339 (M-43)⁺.

GC-MS Analysis of TMS Ethers of LCB from CJP2Cer The mixture of LCB derived from CJP2Cer was heated with 1-(trimethylsilyl) imidazole/pyridine (1 : 1, 50 μ l) for 10 min at 70 °C and the reaction mixture was subjected to GC-MS (QP-1000, OV-17) [column temperature 180— 250 °C (rate of temperature increase 8 °C/min)]. The results were as follows:

Preparation and GC-MS Analysis of Acetate of Partially Trideuteromethylated Sialic Acid Derived from CJP3 CJP3 was trideuteromethylated according to the Ciucanu and Kerek method, then methanolyzed and acetylated in the same manner as for CJP2. The residue was subjected to GC-MS (QP-5050A) [column temperature 200 °C (2.0 min)—250 °C (rate of temperature increase 2.5 °C/min)]: t_R [min]=23.1, *m*/*z*: 168, 204, 293, 313, 337, 360, 393 [methyl *N*-glycolyl-*N*trideuteromethyl-2,9-di-*O*-methyl-4,7,8,11-tetra-*O*-trideuteromethyl-neuraminate (from terminal 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc)]: t_R [min]=29.2, m/z : 193, 204, 318, 362, 385, 418 [methyl *N*-glycolyl-*N*-trideuteromethyl-11-*O*-acetyl-2,9 di-*O*-methyl-4,7,8-tri-*O*-trideuteromethyl-neuraminate (from 11-linked 9-*O*-Me-NeuGc)].

Methylation Linkage Analysis Combined with Ammonolysis of CJP3 CJP3 (10.0 mg) was permethylated and ammonolyzed in the same manner as for CJP2. The reaction mixture was evaporated and dried to give a residue containing a partially methylated inositol derivative. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to give an inositol derivative (2,4,5,6-tetramethylated *myo*-inositol, 0.45 mg).

Alkaline Hydrolysis of CJP3 CJP3 was hydrolyzed with 1 N KOH. The hydrolysate was neutralized with 2 N HCl, and extracted with CHCl₂ three times, and evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography to give CJP3Cer.

CJP3Cer: ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 3.71 (dd, *J*=11.2, 2.6 Hz, H-1), 3.92 (m, H-2), 3.96 (dd, J=11.2, 3.3 Hz, H-1), 4.33 (br s, H-3), 5.53 (dd, J=15.5, 6.1 Hz, H-4), 5.79 (dt, $J=15.5$, 7.4 Hz, H-5), 6.26 (d, $J=6.3$ Hz, NH), 2.23 $(t, J=7.6 \text{ Hz}, \text{ H-2}')$, 1.25 (alkyl chain), 0.88 (t, $J=6.6 \text{ Hz}$, terminal methyl groups).

Methanolysis of CJP3Cer CJP3Cer was methanolyzed and the reaction mixture was extracted with *n*-hexane. The extract was concentrated *in vacuo* to yield a mixture of fatty acid methyl esters (FAM). The MeOH layer was dried with a $N₂$ stream to give a mixture of long chain bases (LCB).

GC-MS Analysis of FAM from CJP3Cer The FAM mixture derived from CJP3Cer was subjected to GC-MS (QP-5050A) [column temperature 150 (2 min)—250 °C (rate of temperature increase 5 °C/min)]. The results were as follows: FAM-1 (methyl hexadecanoate), t_R [min] (ratio of peak areas)=12.9 (9), m/z : 270 (M)⁺, 227 (M-43)⁺; FAM-2 (methyl octadecanoate), t_R =16.6 (9), m/z : 298 (M)⁺, 255 (M-43)⁺; FAM-3 (methyl docosanoate), t_{R} =23.5 (37), m/z : 354 (M)⁺, 311 (M-43)⁺; FAM-4 (methyl tetracosenoate), t_R =27.8 (14), m/z : 380 (M)⁺, 348, 349; FAM-5 (methyl tetracosanoate), t_R =28.1 (24), *m*/*z*: 382 (M)⁺, 339 (M-43)⁺.

GC-MS Analysis of LCB TMS Ethers from CJP3Cer The mixture of LCB derived from CJP3Cer was trimethylsilylated and the reaction mixture was subjected to GC-MS (QP-5050A) [column temperature 180 (2 min)— 250 °C (rate of temperature increase 5 °C/min)]. The results were as follows: LCB-1 (2-amino-hexadec-4-ene-1,3-diol), t_R [min]=13.9, m/z : 312 $(M-103)^{+}$, 310 $(M-105)^{+}$, 283 $(M-132)$, 132.

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