

Identification of a sulfur amino acid biosynthetic gene in *Cryptococcus neoformans*

Phuong Thao Nguyen, Kiminori Shimizu

Graduate School of Industrial Science and Technology, Tokyo University of Science, Japan

Cryptococcus neoformans is an environmental microorganism and causes meningitis in immunocompromised patients by its infection into lung. Since amino acid biosynthetic pathways have been reported as a factor for *C. neoformans* survival in the host, these pathways are proposed as targets for potential antimicrobial drugs. By using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* mediated mutagenesis to *C. neoformans*, 10000 transformants were obtained and screened for auxotrophy. Among these transformants, we found a mutant which requires cysteine an amino acid. This transformant, T-DNA was inserted into a gene which encodes a putative sulfite reductase which is involved in sulfur amino acid biosynthesis.