

intra-erythrocytic parasite. Some antigens(6) were found to also occur in sexual stages of *P.vivax* i.e. gametocytes and gametes. The location of these antigens on the parasite or the parasitised erythrocyte were defined by the IFT. Six of the MAbs were found to cross react with asexual blood stages of two other plasmodial species, *P.falciparum* and *P.cynomolgi*.

Reactivity of these MAbs with different geographical isolates of *P.vivax* in Sri Lanka revealed that 7 antigens were conserved among isolates. The rest were found to be diverse, in that the MAbs which recognise the antigens reacted only with 15% - 80% of the isolates tested. Some among the antigens defined in this study may be protective and could form candidates for a potential asexual blood stage malaria vaccine.

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References

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