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ONLINE ISSN : 1348-2246

PRINT ISSN : 0910-6340

Analytical Sciences

Vol. 26 (2010) , No. 7 p.821

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Visualization of Spatial Distribution of γ -Aminobutyric Acid in Eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) by Matrix-assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Imaging Mass Spectrometry

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(Received March 31, 2010)

(Accepted May 10, 2010)

We applied imaging mass spectrometry (IMS) to determine the spatial distribution of γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA). We found that GABA had a specific localization in seeds. We also visualized various biomolecules as well as GABA with higher spatial resolution than in the previous report. Our work suggests that IMS might be a powerful tool for exploring functional food factors, investigating the specific distribution of nutrients in unused natural resources, and evaluating the quality of functional foods.

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To cite this article:

Naoko GOTO-INOUE, Mitsutoshi SETOU and Nobuhiro ZAIMA, *Anal. Sci.*, Vol. 26, p.821, (2010) .

doi:10.2116/analsci.26.821

JOI JST.JSTAGE/analsci/26.821

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