(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
25 October 2001 (25.10.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/079563 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: C12Q 1/68

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/12701

(22) International Filing Date: 18 April 2001 (18.04.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/551,305 18 April 2000 (18.04.2000) US

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (utility model), DE, DE (utility model), DK, DK (utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (utility model), ES, FI, FI (utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
19 September 2002

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 01/079563 A3

(54) Title: DEGRADABLE NUCLEIC ACID PROBES AND NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION METHODS

(57) Abstract: Nucleic acid probes that are susceptible to chemical or enzymatic degradation are described herein. In addition, assays and methods using such probes in the detection of target nucleic acid sequences are disclosed. The target-specific hybridization region or target-complementary region of the degradable probes can be separated via a degradation process from the detectable region. The remaining portion of the degradable probes can be easily detected. The use of the degradable probes described herein improves the signal-to-noise ratio by reducing background specific or non-specific signal generation in assays and methods of nucleic acid detection.