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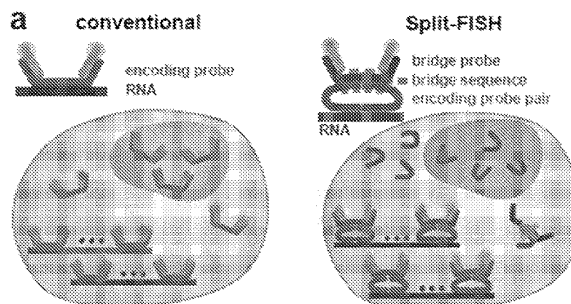
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(54) **Title: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES**



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a pair of non-naturally occurring nucleic acid probes for detecting a polynucleotide analyte for fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) wherein the probes comprise a first nucleic acid probe comprising a first probe binding arm that is complementary to a first probe target region of a bridge probe and a first polynucleotide analyte binding arm that is complementary to a first analyte target region of a polynucleotide analyte and a second nucleic acid probe comprising a second probe binding arm that is complementary to a second probe target region of the bridge probe. The binding of the pair of probes to target polynucleotides permits the binding of the bridge probe to allow detection of the polynucleotide analyte. It also provides a probe system comprising said pair of nucleic acid probes and methods of detecting polynucleotide analytes in a sample.

[Continued on next page]

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