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Wenzel, S., et al., (1986), "Immunoassay of Tryptase from Human Mast Cells," *Journal of Immunological Methods*, 86:139-142.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for isolating high affinity tryptase-specific polyclonal antibodies comprising:

- a) inoculating an avian with tryptase;
- b) isolating immunoglobulins from serum taken from the avian or from the yolk of eggs laid by the avian;
- c) contacting the immunoglobulins to a tryptase-immobilized affinity matrix, thereby binding tryptase-specific immunoglobulins to the affinity matrix;
- d) eluting non-tryptase-specific immunoglobulins from the affinity matrix;
- e) eluting a first fraction of low affinity tryptase-specific antibodies from the affinity matrix by washing with a first buffered solution;
- f) eluting a second fraction of high affinity tryptase-specific antibodies from the affinity matrix by washing with a second buffered solution; and
- g) collecting the second fraction of high affinity tryptase-specific antibodies.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein in step a) a chicken is inoculated.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein in step a) a turkey is inoculated.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein in step d) the non-tryptase-specific immunoglobulins are eluted from the affinity matrix using a buffered saline solution.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein in step e) the first fraction of low affinity tryptase-specific antibodies is eluted from the affinity matrix by washing with a first solution comprising an aqueous solution of  $MgCl_2$ .

6. The method of claim 5, wherein in step e) the first fraction of low affinity tryptase-specific antibodies is eluted from the affinity matrix by washing with an aqueous solution of from about 1M to about 3M  $MgCl_2$ .

7. The method of claim 1, wherein in step f) the second fraction of high affinity tryptase-specific antibodies is eluted from the affinity matrix by washing with an aqueous solution of glycine.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein in step f) the second fraction of high affinity tryptase-specific antibodies is eluted from the affinity column by washing with an aqueous solution of from about 0.01M to about 0.1M glycine.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein in step f) the second fraction of high affinity tryptase-specific antibodies is eluted from the affinity matrix by washing with an aqueous acidic buffered solution having a  $pH \leq 3$ .

10. The method of claim 1, wherein step e) further comprises collecting the first fraction of low affinity tryptase-specific antibodies.

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