



Site-Specific N-Glycan Characterization of Grass Carp Serum IgM

Yi-Ling Su^{1†}, Bing Wang^{1†}, Meng-Die Hu^{1†}, Zheng-Wei Cui^{2,3†}, Jian Wan¹, Hao Bai¹, Qian Yang¹, Yan-Fang Cui⁴, Cui-Hong Wan¹, Li Xiong¹, Yong-An Zhang^{2,5,6*} and Hui Geng^{1*}

¹ Hubei Key Laboratory of Genetic Regulation and Integrative Biology, School of Life Sciences, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, ² State Key Laboratory of Freshwater Ecology and Biotechnology, Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuhan, China, ³ College of Modern Agriculture Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, ⁴ Key Laboratory of Pesticide and Chemical Biology, Ministry of Education, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China, ⁵ State Key Laboratory of Agricultural Microbiology, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China, ⁶ Laboratory for Marine Biology and Biotechnology, Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, Qingdao, China

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*Correspondence:

Hui Geng
genghui@mail.ccnu.edu.cn
Yong-An Zhang
yzhang@ihb.ac.cn

[†]These authors share first authorship

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Immunoglobulin M (IgM) is the major antibody in teleost fish and plays an important role in humoral adaptive immunity. The N-linked carbohydrates presenting on IgM have been well documented in higher vertebrates, but little is known regarding site-specific N-glycan characteristics in teleost IgM. In order to characterize these site-specific N-glycans, we conducted the first study of the N-glycans of each glycosylation site of the grass carp serum IgM. Among the four glycosylation sites, the Asn-262, Asn-303, and Asn-426 residues were efficiently glycosylated, while Asn-565 at the C-terminal tailpiece was incompletely occupied. A striking decrease in the level of occupancy at the Asn-565 glycosite was observed in dimeric IgM compared to that in monomeric IgM, and no glycan occupancy of Asn-565 was observed in tetrameric IgM. Glycopeptide analysis with liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry revealed mainly complex-type glycans with substantial heterogeneity, with neutral; monosialyl-, disialyl- and trisialylated; and fucosyl- and non-fucosyl-oligosaccharides conjugated to grass carp serum IgM. Glycan variation at a single site was greatest at the Asn-262 glycosite. Unlike IgMs in other species, only traces of complex-type and no high-mannose glycans were found at the Asn-565 glycosite. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization analysis of released glycans confirmed the overwhelming majority of carbohydrates were of the complex-type. These results indicate that grass carp serum IgM exhibits unique N-glycan features and highly processed oligosaccharides attached to individual glycosites.

Keywords: teleost, grass carp, immunoglobulin M, N-glycan, liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS/MS), glycosylation, matrix assisted laser desorption/ionization-time-of-flight-MS (MALDI-TOF-MS)

INTRODUCTION

Glycosylation represents a major post-translational modification of proteins involved in various biological processes, including transcription, differentiation, apoptosis, cell adhesion, receptor-ligand binding, as well as oncogenic transformation and immune response (1–4). Almost all proteins in the immune system are glycoproteins, the attached glycans are thought to be crucial to their structure and the immune effector mechanism (5, 6).

The two main types of glycan linkages to proteins are the N-linked and O-linked types. The N-linked oligosaccharide is covalently bonded with nitrogen of asparagine when it occurs in the sequence Asn-X-Ser/Thr or, more rarely, as part of an Asn-X-Cys motif (where X ≠ Pro) (7). N-linked oligosaccharides have been classified into three most common ones, being the high-mannose, hybrid, and complex types. All have a basic core structure of conserved pentasaccharide (GlcNAc₂Man₃) backbone but vary with respect to the structures attached to this core (8).

The N-linked oligosaccharides presenting on immunoglobulins have received particular attention because changes in the attached glycans can impact immunoglobulin solubility, structural stability, and biological function (9). In human IgG, differential of single monosaccharide at Asn-297 glycosite at the Fc fragment can drastically affect IgG binding to FcγR (10, 11) and affecting complement action (12). In human IgM, there are five putative glycosylation sites (Asn-171, Asn-332, Asn-395, Asn-402, and Asn-563) on the heavy chain. The glycans linked to each glycosites of IgM have been demonstrated to be involved in various biological functions, including B-cell maturation (Asn-171) (13), complement activation (Asn-402) (14, 15), and J-chain incorporation (Asn563) (16, 17).

In teleosts, IgM is the major antibody in serum, and it plays a key role in humoral adaptive immunity. Similar to mammalian IgM, teleost IgM consists of two identical heavy and two identical light chains (2H+2L). The heavy chain possesses four constant domains, CH1–CH4, containing the sites for the binding of effector cells (18), cytotoxic cells (19), or molecules such as complement system components (20). Bioinformatics analysis of teleost IgM has indicated the presence of 4–5 N-linked glycosylation sites in CH2, CH3, and CH4, while there is no glycosylation at CH1 (21, 22). The reported carbohydrate content was estimated to be approximately 12.5% for Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and 10% for Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) IgM (23, 24). Atlantic cod IgM contains oligosaccharides with N-acetylneuraminic acid and a core-fucose unit (24). A study of the IgM of the nurse shark (*Ginglymostomacirratum*), a cartilaginous fish, revealed that the most abundant glycan was high-mannose type. Moreover, the structures of both complex glycans and high-mannose on nurse shark IgM were very similar to the vertebrate species (25).

Compared to mammalian IgM, teleost IgM displays a significant degree of structural diversity, with different polymerization states, including monomers, dimers, trimers, and tetramers, being revealed (26–29). Structural diversity appears universal among teleost IgMs, the cause of the structural diversity has remained elusive for decades. The C-terminal

tailpiece of secretory IgM is highly conserved, cysteine residue and a N-glycan Asn-X-Ser/Thr sequence have been found in all species sequenced thus far, including human (30), mouse (31), bovine (32), rabbit (33), chicken (34), hamster (35), frog (36), and fish (22). The C-terminal tailpiece contains crucial information for mammalian IgM assembly, as IgM polymers are influenced by the presence of glycans linked to Asn-563 in human IgM (37, 38). Furthermore, glycans linked to conserved glycosite at the C-terminal tailpiece has been demonstrated to influence the binding of joint chains and also mammalian IgM polymerization (16). A recent report revealed that replacement of Asn-563 with alanine (Ala) in human IgM prevents the attachment of N-glycans on IgM, resulting in the secretion of higher molecular weight hexameric, rather than pentameric, IgM complexes. This suggests that Asn-563 glycans at the C-terminal tailpiece play important roles in the process of IgM polymerization (39). Taken together, these findings indicate that glycosylation at conserved C-terminal tailpieces maybe an interesting field of study for analyzing the incorporation and formation of polymeric IgM differences in teleosts.

Thus far, however, no data have been reported on the site-specific N-glycan of teleost IgM. In order to characterize these site-specific N-glycans, we conducted the first comprehensive study of the carbohydrates conjugated at each N-glycosylation site, as well as the occupancy at the Asn-565 residue in the conserved C-terminal tailpiece, among grass carp IgM isoforms. These data expand the limited information currently available concerning teleost IgM glycosylation and provide a knowledge base for understanding the biological significance of glycosylation on teleost IgM.

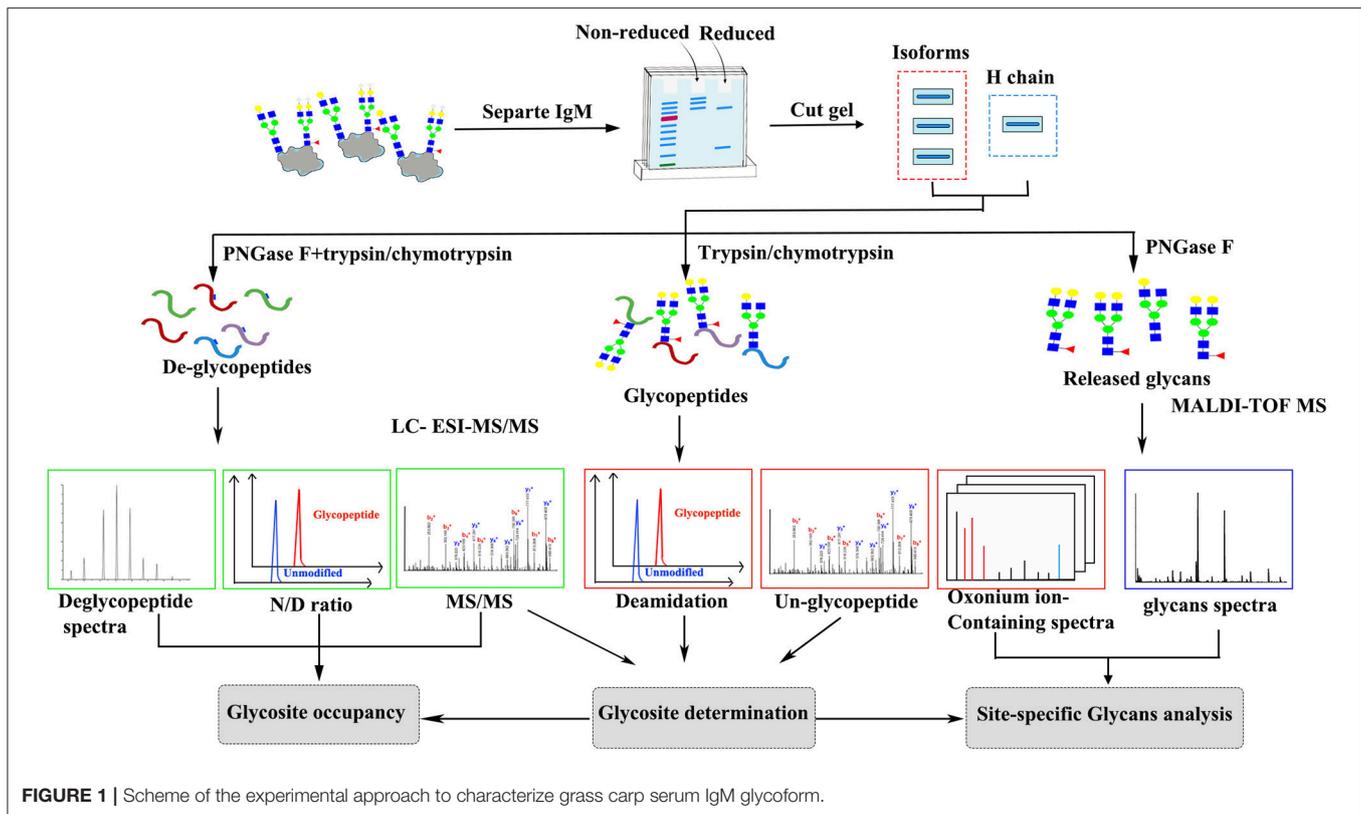
MATERIALS AND METHODS

Analytical Approach

The general approach to characterizing IgM glycosylation structures is shown in **Figure 1**. First, liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS/MS) was used to map tryptic/chymotryptic deglyco-peptides and to identify the N-linked glycosylation sites. N-glycan occupancy at Asn-565 residues between monomeric, dimeric and tetrameric IgM were determined by comparing deglycosylated and non-glycosylated N-565 peptides peak areas. LC-ESI-MS/MS analysis with in-source higher energy collision dissociation (HCD) was used to locate glycopeptides and for site specific glycoform characterization. Glycoform characterization was further confirmed by MALDI-TOF MS analysis of release glycans.

The Fish and Serum Collection

Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella idella*) 350–500 g, were bred and kept in 1,000-L tanks with recirculating and UV-sterilized water. Fish were anesthetized with 10 ppm Benzocaine (Beijing, China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation) for 3–5 min, blood was collected from the caudal vein from 10 naïve grass carp, allowed to clot for 1 h at room temperature and overnight at 4°C, serum was collected after centrifuging at 4,000 rpm for 10 min, pooled and stored at –80°C. All animal



experiments were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Central China Normal University.

Preparation of IgM

IgM was purified from pools of 10 individuals using a combination of polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation and ion-exchange chromatography as described previously (40). Briefly, Grass carp plasma was precipitated by added 16% (w/v) PEG (final concentration), stirring at 4°C for 30 min. The precipitated proteins were collected by centrifugation at $10,000 \times g$ for 15 min. The collected protein were dialyzed against 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5) containing 5 mM EDTA at 4°C overnight, the dialyzed buffer was changed for 3 times. The protein samples were passed through Source Q anion column (Amersham Biosciences) with 10 mM sodium phosphate buffer (PBS 0.01 M, pH 7.5) containing 5 mM EDTA. Bound proteins were eluted with a 0–1M linear NaCl gradient at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. Fraction containing grass carp IgM was collected and dialyzed against 10 mM sodium phosphate (pH 5.9), and further polished by pass through Source S cation exchange resin (Amersham Biosciences). Purity and size of IgM were checked by SDS-PAGE analysis and Coomassie Brilliant Blue G250 staining.

Gel Electrophoresis

To isolate the heavy and light chains of grass carp IgM, 4 μ g of purified IgM was mixed with denatured loading buffer and loaded onto 4–10% gradient SDS-polyacrylamide gel, then subjected to electrophoresis at 25 mA till the dye reached

the bottom of the gel. The gel was stained with Coomassie Brilliant blue (Sigma) and the heavy and light chains was determined according to molecular weight markers. Previously electrophoretic analysis revealed carp fish serum containing different populations as monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric forms of IgM (41, 42). To verify of the oligomerization state of the grass carp serum IgM, 8 μ g of purified IgM was mixed with loading buffer without β -mercaptoethanol and characterized by 6% SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis at 30 mA for about 2.5 h. The gel was stained with Coomassie Brilliant blue and the molecular band of monomer, dimer, and tetramer was estimated.

Glycosylation Site Determination

To determination the glycosylation site on grass carp IgM, coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gel pieces containing IgM heavy chain were destained with a solution of 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate in 50% acetonitrile (1:1, vol/vol) with shaking, and followed by 100% acetonitrile. The sample pieces were reduced by incubating with 64 mM DTT at 56°C for 60 min, followed by alkylation with 130 mM iodoacetamide at R.T. for 45 min in the dark. The samples were washed with 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate and dehydrated in acetonitrile, dried in a SpeedVac centrifuge, rehydrated in 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate. N-glycans were released by incubating the sample with 100 Units/ml of PNGase F for 12 h at 37°C, the N-linked glycans were collected for further MALDI-TOF analysis. Gel piece was dehydrated in acetonitrile, rehydrated in 50 mM

ammonium bicarbonate and treated with trypsin (Promega) at an enzyme/substrate ratio of 1:20 (w/w) or with chymotrypsin (Promega) at an enzyme/substrate ratio of 1:13 (w/w) overnight at 37°C. Peptides were extracted from the gel pieces with 50% acetonitrile in 5% formic acid. The resulting peptides were then extracted and desalted with a C18 tip (Millipore) for analysis by LC-ESI-MS/MS. Glycosylation site were determined by mass of deglycopeptide-peptide (Asn to Asp; $\Delta m = +0.984$ Da). Sequence and potential N-glycosylation sites for grass carp serum IgM were obtained from GenBank (accession No ABD76396.1).

N-Glycopeptide Enrichment by HILIC

The digested peptides were enriched with Unisol-Amide HILIC media as previously described with slight modifications (29, 43). Briefly, the gel band corresponding to the IgM heavy chain (approximately 4 μ g) was excised, destained and digested with trypsin (Promega) or chymotrypsin (Promega) overnight. Unisol-Amide HILIC resin (Agela, China, 10 μ m particle size, 200 Å pore size) were packed on top of a 200 μ L C18 tip (Millipore) to an approximate column height of 5 mm. The column was washed with 1% formic acid followed by 1% formic acid in 80% acetonitrile. The trypsin or chymotrypsin digested peptide mixtures were dissolved with 20 μ L 80% acetonitrile and loaded onto the column, the flow through fraction was reloaded onto the column twice to maximize the glycopeptide binding, the column was then washed thrice with 1% formic acid in 80% acetonitrile. The bound glycopeptides were eluted twice with 1% formic acid, and subsequent elution with 20 μ L 1% formic acid in 80% acetonitrile was performed to elute any glycopeptides binding to the C18 tip during the elution. The enriched glycopeptides were dried and kept at -20°C till for analysis.

LC-ESI-MS/MS Analysis

Trypsin or chymotrypsin digested grass carp IgM deglycopeptides and glycopeptides were analyzed using nanoflow HPLC instrument (EASY-nLC 1200 system, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) coupled on-line to a Q Exactive Plus mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) in positive polarity mode. Chromatography column was Acclaim PepMap, C18, 50 μ m \times 150 mm, particle size 2 μ m, 100Å (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) with buffer A (95% water and 4.9% acetonitrile with 0.1% FA) and buffer B (90% acetonitrile and 9.9% water with 0.1% FA) at a flow rate of 300 nL/min. The gradient profile was set as follows: 3–5% B for 6 min, 5–25% B for 54 min, 25–40% B for 25 min and hold 5 min, 40–80% B for 5 min, and 80–100% B for 5 min. The electrospray voltage was 2.0 kV. Peptides were analyzed with high-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) fragmentation mode by data-dependent MS/MS acquisition. In MS1, the resolution was 70,000, the AGC target was $3e^6$, and the maximum injection time was 20 ms. In MS2, the resolution was 17,500, the AGC target was $5e^4$, and the maximum injection time was 50 ms, NCE stepped set 27. The scan range was set at a resolution of 350–2,000 m/z and the 20 most intense precursors were chosen analysis by data-dependent mode.

Analysis of De-Glycopeptide and Intact Glycopeptide MS Data

N-linked-glycosylation sites were determined in de-glycosylated peptides based on converting Asn to Asp by PNGase F treatment, the corresponding glycosylated peptides were confirmed by HCD tandem MS. The obtained de-glycopeptide MS data of were searched against grass carp IgM sequence (GenBank accession No ABD76396.1) using Proteome Discoverer V2.2 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Carbamidomethylation of Cys was set as a fixed modification, oxidation of Met and converting of Asn to Asp were set as variable modifications. The mass tolerance was set at 10 ppm for precursor ions, and the MS/MS mass tolerance was set at 0.01Da. Trypsin or chymotrypsin was set with up to two missed cleavages. Annotation of the corresponding glycopeptide spectra was performed in using Byonic software v1.09 (Protein Metrics) (44). Searches were performed with the following modifications: precursor ion tolerance of 10 ppm, carbamidomethylation of Cys, protease treatment with up to two missed cleavages, and with the following variable modifications: oxidation of Met and glycosylation of Asn. The obtained grass carp IgM glycopeptide MS data were identified by Byonic software (44). Additionally, all assigned N-glycopeptide HCD spectra were then queried to ensure the presence of diagnostic oxonium ions at m/z 204.087 (HexNAc⁺), and at least one of the following oxonium ions as 186.076 (HexNAc-H₂O⁺), 168.066 (HexNAc-2H₂O⁺) and 366.140 (HexNAc-Hex⁺) within 50 ppm. The existence of peptide or peptide+HexNAc ions in MS/MS spectra was checked manually to determine the glycosite-containing peptide and glycan compositions of the glycopeptides. Spectra were also checked manually about b and y ion data from peptide portion of the corresponding glycopeptides.

MALDI-TOF MS Analysis Glycans

N-glycans released from grass carp serum IgM by PNGaseF treatment were analyzed by an Axima MALDI Resonance mass spectrometer (Shimadzu). N-glycans were dissolve in 10 μ l 0.1% TFA followed by spotting 1 μ l glycan sample with 1 μ l 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid matrix (100 mg/ml DHB in 50% acetonitrile, 0.1 mM NaCl) onto a MALDI plate. Positive ion MALDI spectra were obtained with a Bruker ultraflextremeTM Waters-MicromassToF Spec 2E time-of-flight (TOF) mass spectrometer (Waters MS Technology Ltd, Manchester, UK) operated under flexControl 3.3 (Build 108; Bruker Daltonics). Spectra were obtained in positive linear ion mode in the range 1,000–3,200 m/z, using an accelerating voltage of 2.2 kV and a laser energy of 6.5 kV. The positive control in the MALDI-TOF MS analysis was authentic complex-type glycans from mAb rituximab, 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid matrix was used as negative control. The average MS spectra (1,000 profiles) were used for glycan assignment by GlycoMod software (<http://web.expasy.org/glycomod/>) (45). N-glycans identification was set by allowing a maximum mass deviation of 0.04 Da for mainly present [M+Na]⁺ ions. Searches were conducted with the following parameters: Hexose range 3-9, HexNAc range 2-9, deoxyhexose range 0-4, NeuAc range 0-4, NeuGc no, Pentose

no, Sulfate/Phosphate no, KDN no, HexA no, UniCarbKB entries were listed separately.

RESULTS

Purification of IgM and Analysis of N-Glycosylation Assignments

To determine the glycosylation status of grass carp IgM, IgM was purified by polyethylene glycol (PEG) precipitation and ion-exchange chromatography from serum. Purified IgM migrated two major protein bands with molecular weights of 75 kDa and 23 kDa under reducing conditions, representing the heavy and light chains, respectively (**Figure 2A**). To identify different isoforms of grass carp serum IgM, intact IgM molecules were resolved using non-reduced PAGE. Grass carp serum IgM migrated three protein bands larger than 170 kDa under non-reduced conditions (**Figure 2B**), which could represent variable polymerization into monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric forms, as reported previously in common carp and Indian major carp (41, 42). A decrease in the molecular size after PNGase F digestion was apparent in the heavy chains of grass carp IgM, while the band corresponding to the light chain was not affected by PNGase F treatment (**Figure 2C**). This suggests that N-linked oligosaccharides are present on the grass carp IgM heavy chain but not on the light chain.

Bioinformatics analysis of the amino acid sequences of the light chain (GenBank No. AEH76780.1 and AEH76777.1) also indicated no N-linked carbohydrate attached to the grass carp IgM light chain (data not shown). Analysis indicated that each of the heavy chains contains four potential N-glycosylation sites

restricted to the constant regions. Two of these are located at Asn-262 and Asn-303 in the CH2 domain, one at Asn-426 in the CH3 domain, and one at the Asn-565 residue within the conserved C-terminal tailpiece of the CH4 domain (**Figure 2D**).

Site Occupancy of Four Putative N-Glycosylation Sites

The occupancy at each glycosylation site was first checked via PNGase F digestion using LC-ESI-MS/MS. Treatment with PNGase F specifically releases N-glycans attached to the nitrogen of Asn, thereby converting Asn residue to Asp with mass increasing of 0.984 Da; thus, glycosylation sites can be deduced by amino acid sequence analysis after PNGase F treatment (30, 46, 47). Overall, tryptic peptides accounted for 72.74% of the total heavy chain amino acid sequence and 86.99% of the constant region, and the identified region spanning the four N-glycosylation sites on the heavy chain (**Figure 3**). The observed tryptic peptide masses derived from the Asn-262, Asn-303, and Asn-426 glycosylation sites exhibited increases of 0.9846–0.9850 Da compared with their theoretical mass weights, indicating that the Asn-262, Asn-303, and Asn-426 residues were glycosylated and converted to aspartic acid after PNGase F digestion (**Figure 4A**, **Table 1**). In contrast, both de-glycosylated and non-glycosylated Asn-565 sites were detected, with the tryptic peptide $^{553}\text{S}-^{575}\text{K}$ being observed in both forms in the dimer-isotopic mass (2512.2140 Da/2513.2232 Da) and with the additional oxidation at the methionine residue (2528.2104 Da/2529.2130 Da) (**Table 1**). Furthermore, $^{553}\text{S}-^{576}\text{D}$, with one trypsin digest missing, was also observed in the dimer-isotopic mass (2627.2428 Da/2628.2347 Da) and with methionine

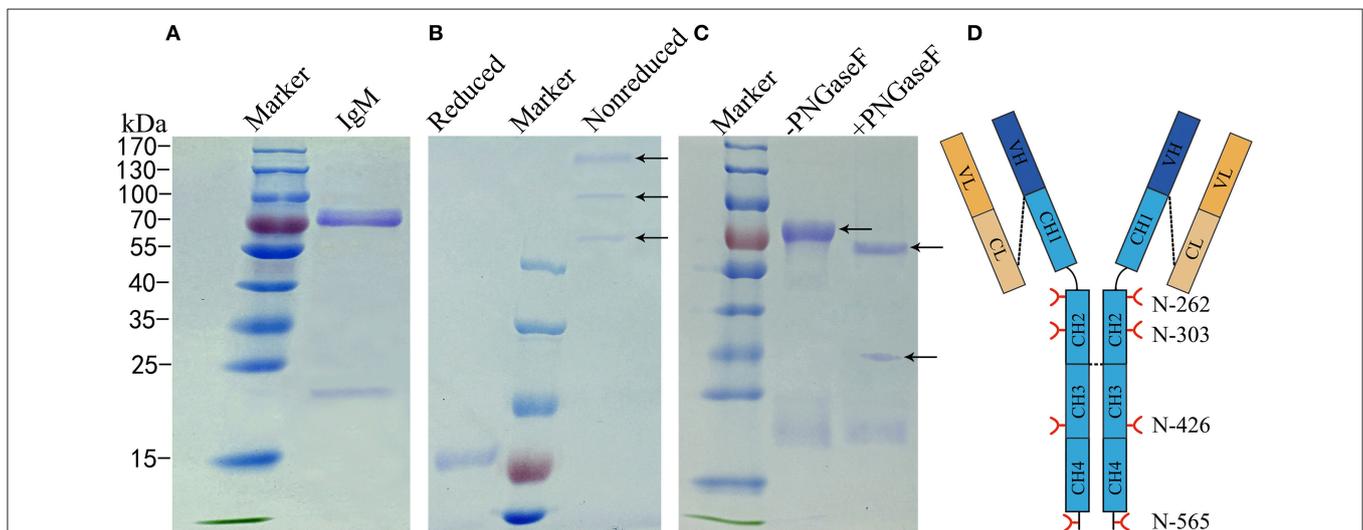


FIGURE 2 | Analysis of N-glycans assignments on grass carp serum IgM. **(A)** A 4–10% uncontinued SDS-PAGE of reduced samples to show 75–80 kDa heavy chain band and 23 kDa light chain band of grass carp IgM. **(B)** A 6% SDS-PAGE stained Coomassie Blue with showing different grass carp IgM isoforms, in the non-reduced samples lane, from up to down, the tetramer, dimer, and monomer were marked by arrow. **(C)** IgM digested with (+) or without (-) PNGase F, arrow at the bottom indicate PNGase F. **(D)** Schematic of four N-glycosylation sites on grass carp IgM, red forks represent four putative N-glycosylation sites on heavy chain, black lines at the end of CH4 domain indicating 16–18 amino acid residue at the C-terminal tailpiece, possible inter-subunit disulfide bridges between heavy chains and covalently link the light chain are shown with black dash lines.

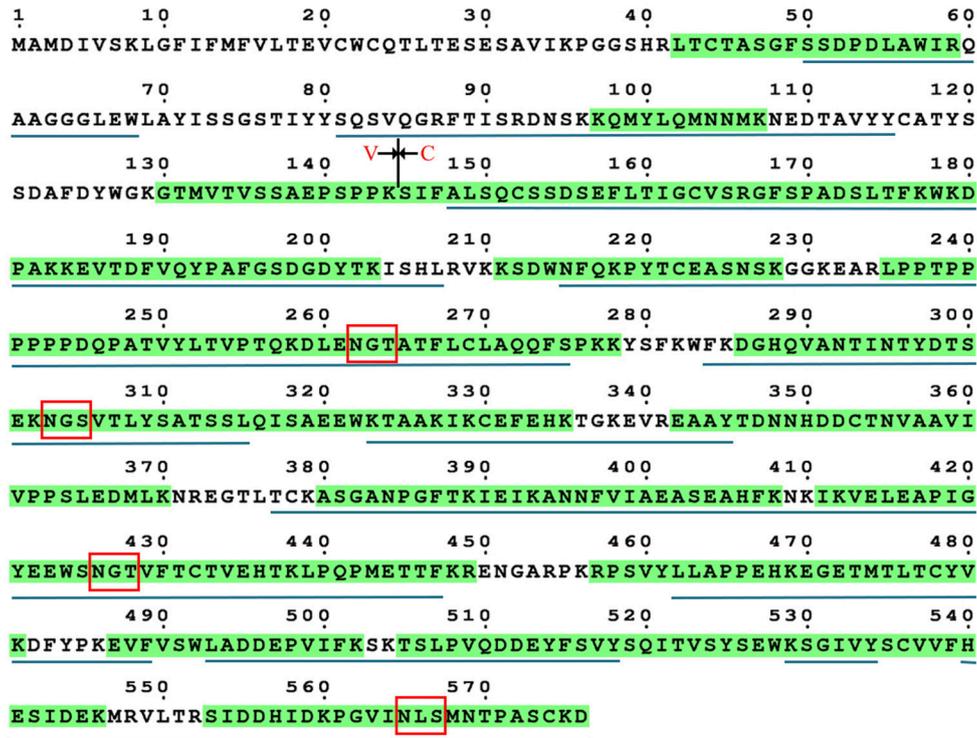


FIGURE 3 | Sequence coverage of grass carp IgM heavy chain. The identified tryptic peptides are indicated by green shadow, four putative N-glycosylation sites are marked by red box. The identified chymotryptic peptides are indicated by black underline.

oxidation (2643.2383 Da/2644.2287 Da) (Figure 4B, Table 1), indicating that the Asn-565 residue is not completely utilized.

Comparison of N-Glycan Occupancy at Asn-565 Between Monomeric, Dimeric, and Tetrameric IgM

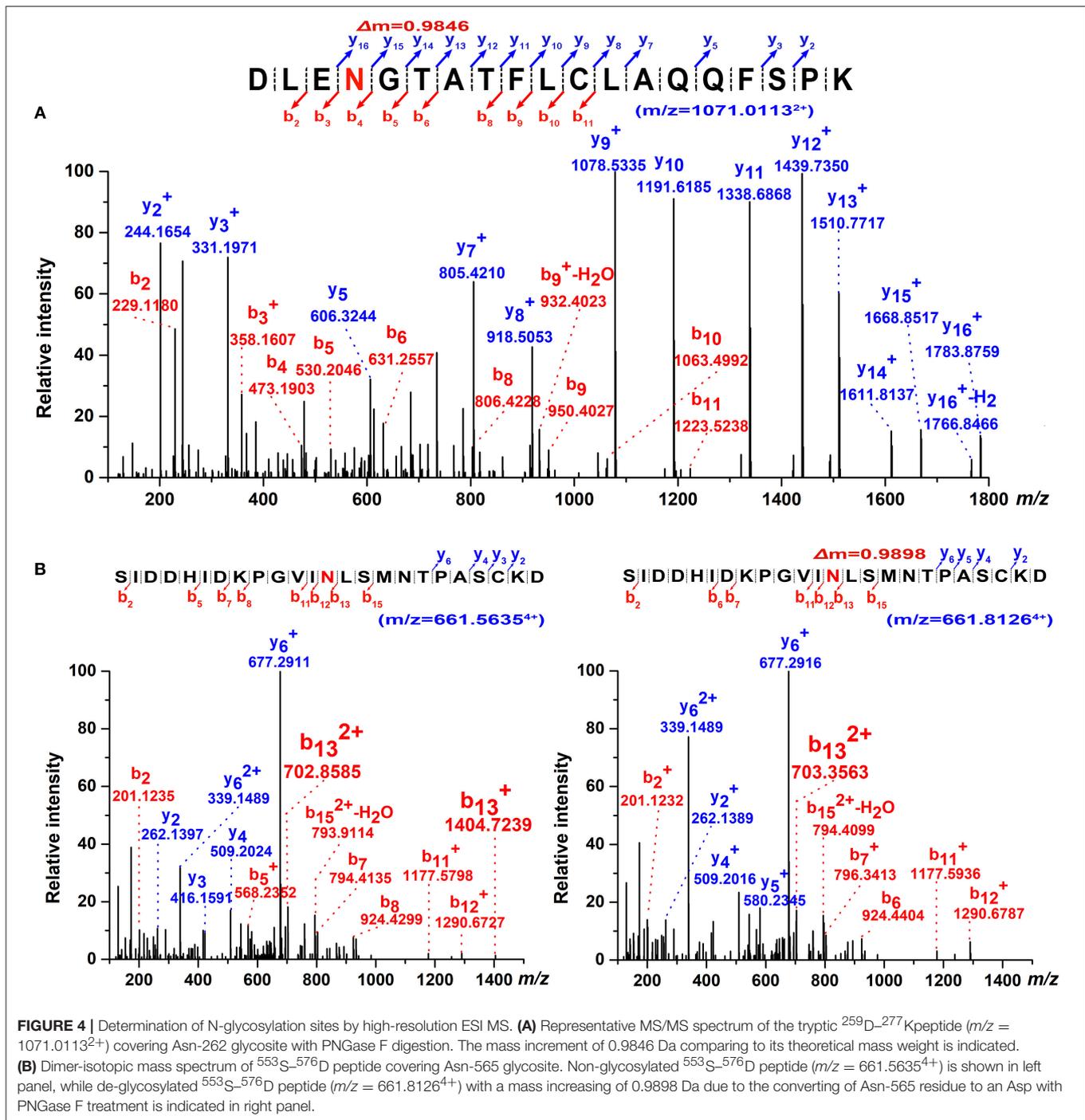
To assess the glycosylation occupancy at the Asn-565 site among different IgM isoforms, the monomeric, dimeric, and tetrameric IgM bands (seen in Figure 1B) were excised and de-glycosylated by PNGase F. Then, the occupancy of this site was estimated by comparing the relative amounts of de-glycopeptide and non-glycopeptide. Although isotopic clusters of PNGaseF de-glycosylated peptides ($\Delta m = 0.984$ Da) could be clearly determined in comparison with non-glycosylated Asn-565 peptides via mass spectrometry (Figure 5A), some de-glycosylated peptide peaks overlapped with non-glycosylated peptides peak, making it difficult to estimate the peak areas between de-glycosylated and non-glycosylated Asn-565 peptides. Occupation was then estimated by comparing the peptide spectral matches (PSMs) of de-glycosylated and non-glycosylated Asn-565 peptides. A striking decrease in de-glycosylated peptides was observed for dimeric IgM as compared with that for monomeric IgM, with the glycan occupancy at the Asn-565 site estimated to be approximately 36.34% for monomeric IgM and about 20.10% for dimeric IgM (Figures 5B,C). Moreover, no de-glycosylated Asn-565 peptide was detected on tetrameric IgM in

three separate analyses, suggesting that Asn-565 is unoccupied by N-glycans on tetrameric IgM.

Identification of Glycopeptides

To determine site-specific glycan profiles at each of the four sites of the grass carp serum IgM, tryptic glycopeptides were investigated with LC-ESI-MS/MS by employing HCD fragmentation. Analysis of the grass carp IgM glycopeptides could provide site-specific glycans information. A typical LC-ESI-MS/MS base peak intensity chromatogram for individual tryptic glycopeptide family is shown in Figure 6. Compared with de-glycopeptide, individual glycopeptide family eluted over wider chromatographic intervals, which indicating that the retention time is influenced by the peptide and also modulated by the sugar moiety.

Three representative glycans detected on the ²⁵⁹D-²⁷⁷K (Asn-262) peptide are shown in Figure 7. The oxonium ions at m/z 204.08 (HexNAc⁺), 186.07 (HexNAc-H₂O⁺), 168.06 (HexNAc-2H₂O⁺), and 366.14 (HexNAc-Hex⁺) are readily discernible within the fragmentation pattern. The composition of each glycan was identified by data-dependent MS/MS with an accuracy of 10 ppm or less. On the basis of previous information regarding fish IgM N-glycosylation (25, 48), the deoxyhexose residue was recognized as fucose in this study. Sialylated ions, such as those at m/z 292.09 (NeuAc⁺) and m/z 657.23 (NeuAc-Hex-HexNAc⁺), indicated the presence of sialylated glycans, with fragment ions corresponding to core-fucose on



the peptide+HexNAc residue suggesting core-fucosylated glycans (Figures 7A,B). Glycan sequencing results for HexNAc-Hex-NeuAc, peptide+HexNAc, peptide+2HexNAc, peptide+HexNAc+Hex, as well as the intact peptide backbone and a set of b/y ions, confirmed the assignment of the glycan to the ²⁵⁹D-²⁷⁷K tryptic peptide fragment (Figures 7A-C). Notably, the fucose on the core-HexNAc residue, observed as a peptide+HexNAc+Fucion, was unique fucose residue observed by MS/MS, indicating the location of the fucose as

a core-fucosylation on N-glycans. Glycopeptide identification also revealed that N-acetylneuraminic acid (NeuAc), rather than N-glycolylneuraminic acid (NeuGc), was the only form of sialic acid observed in grass carp serum IgM.

Site-Specific N-Glycan Analysis

Assignments a set of glycans at each glycosite were achieved by selectively detecting tryptic glycopeptides, as shown in Tables 2, 3. Substantial heterogeneity was evident, with different

TABLE 1 | ESI-MS/MS data observed fragments containing potential N-linked glycosylation sites.

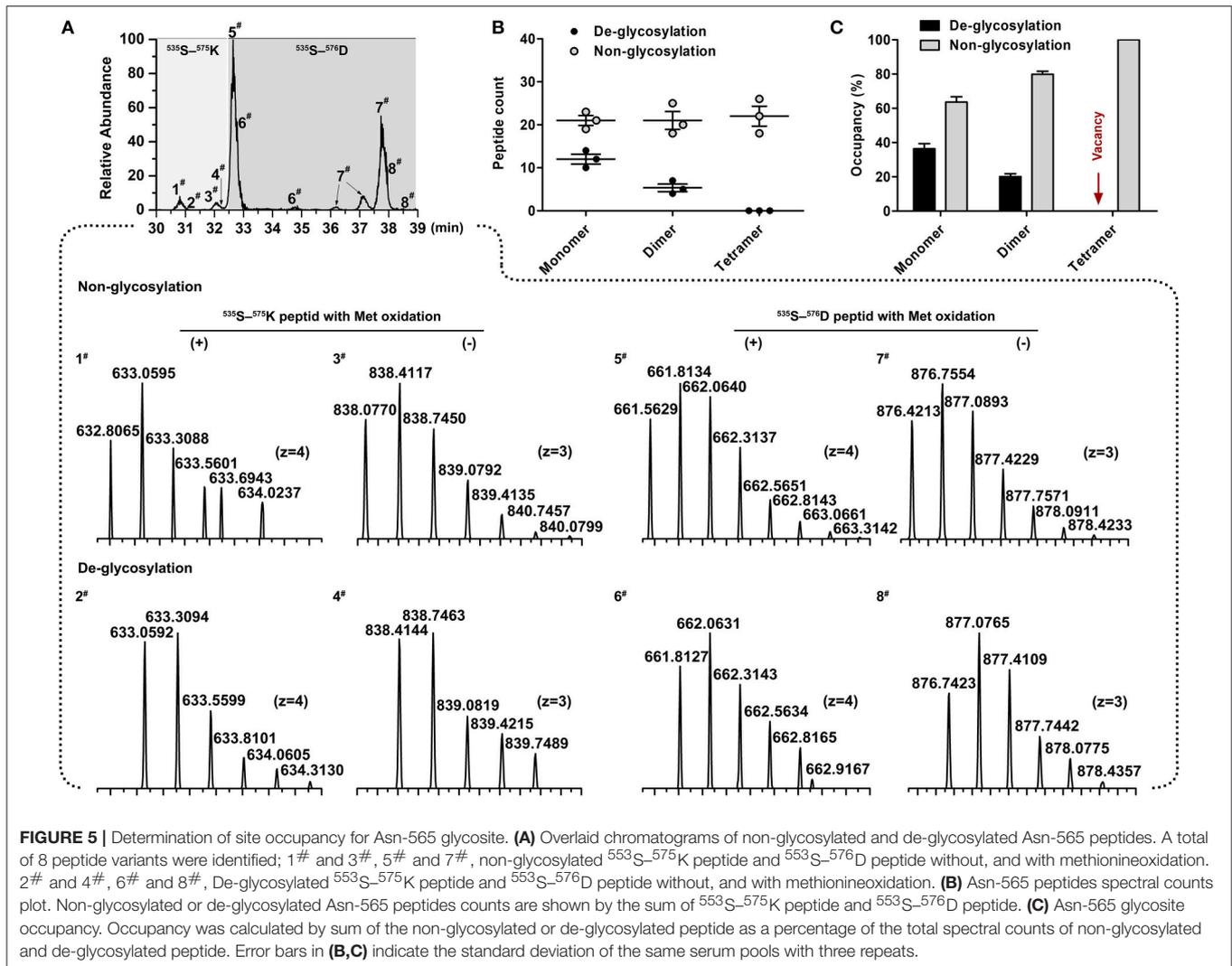
| Peptide | Glycosite | Theoretical MW(Da) | Observed MW(Da) | Difference (Da) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 259 _D -277 _K | Asn-262 | 2140.0379 ^a | 2141.0225 | 0.9846 |
| 303 _N -323 _K | Asn-303 | 2271.1139 | 2272.0982 | 0.9843 |
| 413 _V -438 _K | Asn-426 | 2996.3982 ^a | 2997.3830 | 0.9848 |
| 411 _I -438 _K | | 3237.5773 ^a | 3238.5633 | 0.9850 |
| 553 _S -575 _K | Asn-565 | 2512.2170 ^a | 2512.2140 | -0.0030 |
| | | | 2513.2232 | 1.0075 |
| | | | 2528.2104 | -0.0016 |
| 553 _S -576 _D | Asn-565 | 2627.2440 ^a | 2627.2428 | -0.0012 |
| | | | 2628.2347 | 0.9907 |
| | | 2643.2389 ^{a,b} | 2643.2383 | -0.0006 |
| | | 2644.2287 | 0.9898 | |

^aPeptide modifications with alkylation ($\Delta m = 57.0215$ Da) of the cysteine by iodoacetamide.

^bPeptide modifications with oxidation ($\Delta m = 15.9994$ Da) of the methionine.

glycan compositions detected at the four glycosites of grass carp serum IgM, including 22 forms at Asn-262, 15 at Asn-303, and 17 at Asn-426, indicating a considerable overlap in the glycoforms present at these three sites. In contrast, the Asn-565 glycosite was unique in having trace carbohydrate moieties and only three classes of glycans. In addition to trypsin, chymotrypsin digestion was also performed to increase sequence coverage and obtain more glycan information at each glycosite. The majority of glycans identified by chymotrypsin treatment were the same as those identified by trypsin digestion at the Asn-262, Asn-303, and Asn-426 glycosites, serving as a secondary verification of the site-specific glycosylation mapping (Table 4). Furthermore, chymotryptic glycopeptide analysis revealed 2–5 new glycans at each of the four glycosites, as shown in Table 4.

Of the 38 total glycan compositions observed on grass carp serum IgM by tryptic and chymotryptic glycopeptide analysis, 17 were sialylated and 21 were not. Notably, when the glycans were grouped into high-mannose, hybrid, complex types, the glycans identified on grass carp serum IgM were limited to



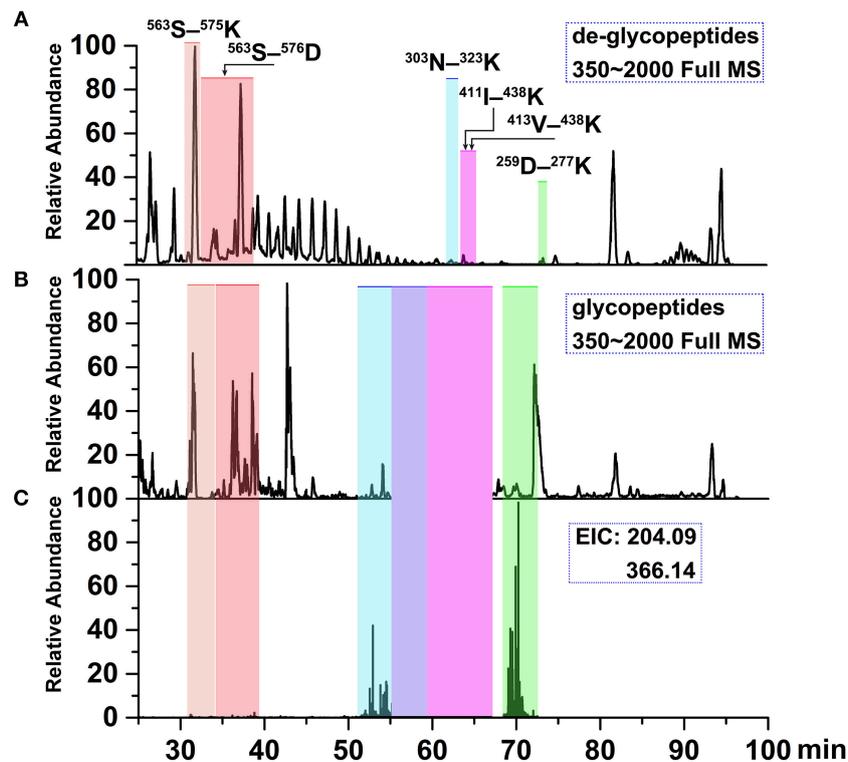
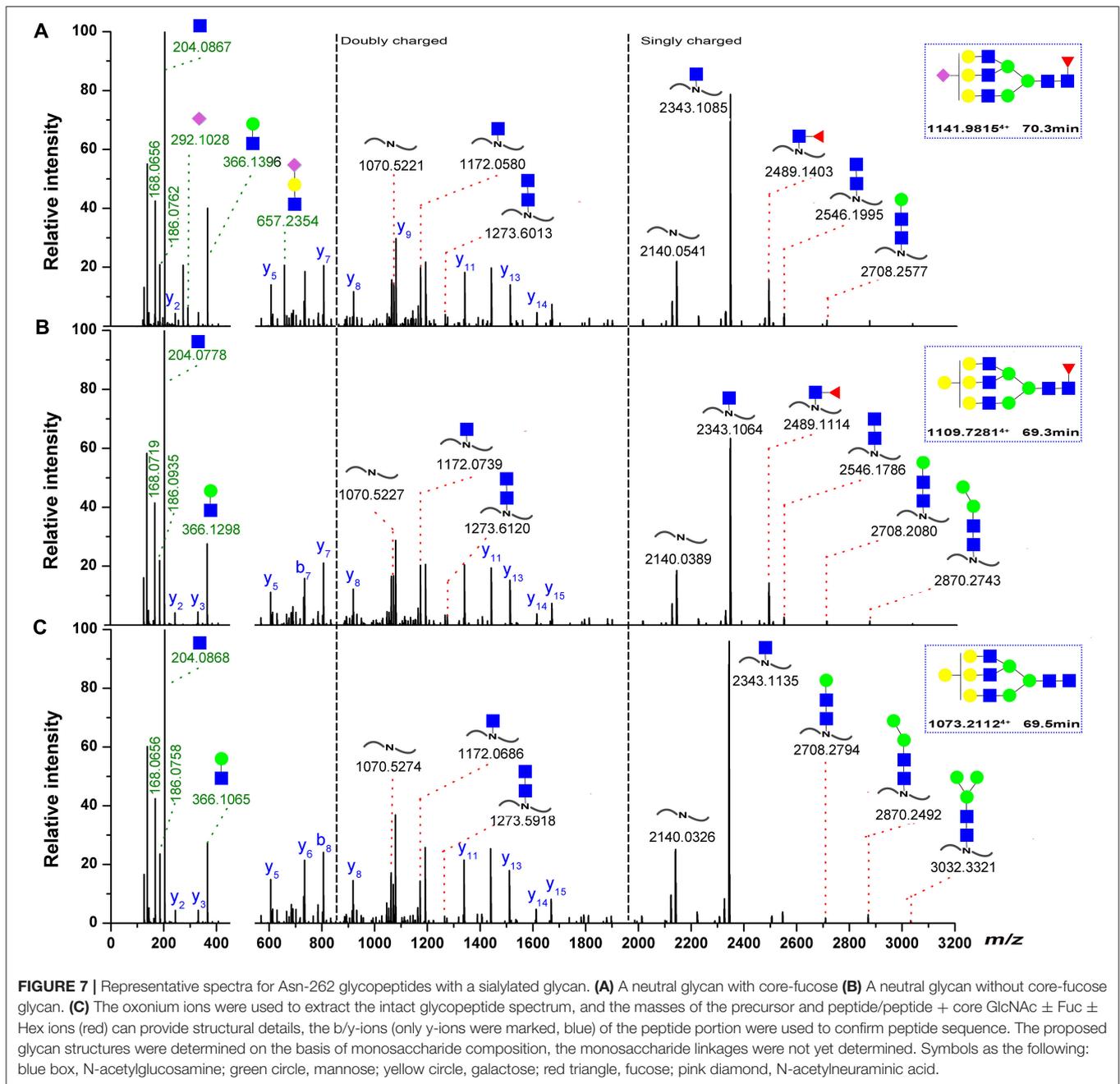


FIGURE 6 | Ion chromatograms of LC-separated tryptic peptides. **(A)** Base peak chromatogram (BPC) of the tryptic de-glycopeptides with PNGase F digestion. **(B)** BPC of tryptic glycopeptides with HILIC enrichment. **(C)** Extracted ion chromatograms (EICs) of diagnostic oxonium fragment ions at m/z of 204.09 and 366.14. The shaded regions depict the identified deglycopeptides, glycopeptide clusters and **Tables 2, 3** summarizes glycan heterogeneity at each site.

complex-type carbohydrates, with the exception of a single carbohydrate with a HexNAc₃Hex₆Fuc₁ composition on Asn-426 glycosite, for which the identification as a hybrid or complex type glycan was ambiguous. Heterogeneity was greatest at the Asn-262 glycosite, with both neutral and mono/disialylated, as well as small and large glycans, were observed. The Asn-303 and Asn-426 glycosites exhibited the next highest levels of variation. Three novel oligosaccharides, HexNAc₉Hex₃, HexNAc₉Hex₄, and HexNAc₉Hex₄Fuc₁, with redundancy in the HexNAc monosaccharide (tentatively assigned as GalNAcβ1→4GlcNAc antennae, the relatively rare lacdiNAc motif) were identified on grass carp serum IgM with a mass accuracy within 5 ppm. No other glycan composition was possible with respect to the observed m/z values, suggesting the presence of glycans on grass carp serum IgM containing the diacetylactosamine motif. Unlike IgMs in other higher vertebrates and some reported fish species, which possess major high-mannose glycans at the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite, the Asn-565 site of the grass carp serum IgM possesses exclusively complex-type N-glycans and is devoid of high-mannose structures. Together, these data indicate that the glycans on grass carp serum IgM are highly processed. It should also be pointed out that only a minority of Asn-565 peptides were conjugated with carbohydrates with both tryptic and chymotryptic glycopeptide analysis, further confirming the incomplete glycan occupancy at the Asn-565 glycosite.

MALDI-TOF MS Analysis of N-Glycans

Information from released glycans can be used to confirm the results of glycopeptide analysis and provide additional insight into the N-glycans present on grass carp serum IgM. The MALDI-TOF spectra of the released glycans revealed that the main carbohydrate moieties are HexNAc₃₋₆Hex₄₋₉Fuc₁NeuAc_{1,3} complex-type glycans (**Figure 8**), which is in general agreement with the IgM glycopeptide analysis. Of these, the four most abundant peaks corresponded to HexNAc₅Hex₇, HexNAc₆Hex₉, HexNAc₅Hex₇Fuc₁, and HexNAc₅Hex₆ glycan compositions. These four glycans were also prominent among those observed in the glycopeptide analysis, as HexNAc₅Hx₇ presented at each of the four glycosites; HexNAc₆Hex₉ and HexNAc₅Hex₇Fuc₁ appeared at the Asn-262, Asn-303, and Asn-426 sites; and HexNAc₅Hx₆ appeared at the Asn-262 and Asn-426 sites. Some sialylated glycan structures, such as HexNAc₄₋₅Hex₄₋₆Fuc₀₋₁NeuAc_{1,3}, were detected by MALDI-TOF analysis. Notably, the HexNAc₄Hex₆, HexNAc₆Hex₈, and HexNAc₆Hex₉Fuc₁ glycans, which were observed by MALDI-TOF but not glycopeptide analysis, may be, to some extent, artifactually generated forms of the HexNAc₄Hex₆NeuAc₁, HexNAc₆Hex₈NeuAc₁, and HexNAc₆Hex₉Fuc₁NeuAc₁ glycans, respectively, derived from the loss of sialic acid residues during the MALDI analysis. Data from the released



glycans also provided additional information not present in the glycopeptide analysis, as a HexNAc₆Hex₉Fuc₁ glycan with an $m/z > 2800$ was detected by MALDI-TOF MS. Overall, MALDI-TOF analysis of released glycans further confirmed that the main oligosaccharides present on grass carp serum IgM are complex-type glycans.

DISCUSSION

In this study, a detailed site-specific N-glycan profile and glycan occupancy at the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite were described

for the first time of the teleost IgM. The results revealed that grass carp serum IgM possesses primarily complex-type oligosaccharides that may be either neutral or sialylated. Glycan occupancy at the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite has significant different among grass carp IgM isoforms.

The N-linked carbohydrate moieties of carp IgM were found to be restricted to the heavy chain. The Asn-262 and Asn-303 glycosites in the CH₂ domain and Asn-426 glycosite in CH₃ were found to be fully occupied, while the Asn-565 site in the C-terminal tailpiece was incompletely occupied. It is a structural feature of teleost IgMs that a number of teleosts

TABLE 2 | Summary of N-glycans identified at Asn-262 and Asn-303 glycosites.

| Site | Theoretical glycopeptide (Da) | Observed glycopeptide (Da) | Mass error (ppm) | Glycans assignment | Chymo-trypsin support | Glycan type | |
|-----------|---|---|------------------|---|---|-------------|---------|
| Asn-262 | ²⁵⁹ D– ²⁷⁷ K Peptide only 2140.0379 | | | | | | |
| | 5545.2383 | 5545.2804 | 7.6 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₉ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₂ | | Complex | |
| | 5416.1957 | 5416.2223 | 4.9 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₁₀ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 5287.1531 | 5287.1681 | 2.8 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₁₁ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4946.0321 | 4946.0504 | 3.7 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₈ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4816.9895 | 4816.9915 | 0.4 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₉ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4783.9793 | 4783.9562 | −4.8 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₇ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 4762.0215 | 4762.9993 | −4.6 | HexNAc ₉ Hex ₄ Fuc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 4759.9681 | 4759.9622 | −1.2 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₉ Fuc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 4726.9578 | 4726.9458 | −2.5 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4615.9635 | 4615.9572 | −1.4 | HexNAc ₉ Hex ₄ | | Complex | |
| | 4597.9153 | 4597.9271 | 2.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ Fuc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 4564.9050 | 4564.9038 | −1.0 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4492.8839 | 4492.8909 | 1.6 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4453.9107 | 4453.8905 | −4.5 | HexNAc ₉ Hex ₃ | | Complex | |
| | 4435.8624 | 4435.8781 | 3.5 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4418.8471 | 4418.8540 | 1.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4289.8045 | 4289.8220 | 4.1 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 4215.7677 | 4215.8026 | 8.3 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 4127.7517 | 4127.7724 | 5.0 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 3908.6774 | 3908.6958 | 4.7 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₅ Fuc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | 3762.6195 | 3762.6502 | 8.2 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₅ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | 3600.5667 | 3600.5982 | 8.7 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₄ | | Complex | |
| | Asn-303 | ³⁰³ N– ³²³ K Peptide only 2271.1139 | | | | | |
| | | 5078.0939 | 5078.0901 | −0.7 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₈ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex |
| | | 4948.0656 | 4948.0675 | 0.4 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₉ | ✓ | Complex |
| 4786.5831 | | 4786.5823 | −0.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₉ | | Complex | |
| 4729.9750 | | 4729.9852 | 2.2 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4695.9810 | | 4695.9827 | 0.4 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4624.9439 | | 4624.9753 | 6.8 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₇ | | Complex | |
| 4584.9867 | | 4584.9779 | −1.9 | HexNAc ₉ Hex ₃ | | Complex | |
| 4582.9334 | | 4582.9300 | −0.7 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ | | Complex | |
| 4566.9384 | | 4566.9368 | 1.5 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4549.9231 | | 4549.9228 | −0.1 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4420.8805 | | 4420.8802 | −0.1 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4259.8120 | | 4259.8116 | −0.2 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 4097.7590 | | 4097.7455 | −3.3 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 3893.6955 | | 3893.7251 | 7.6 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₅ | ✓ | Complex | |
| 3732.6270 | | 3732.6080 | −5.1 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₄ | ✓ | Complex | |

HexNAc, N-acetylglucosamine; Hex, hexose (mannose and galactose); Fuc, fucose; NeuAc, neuraminic (sialic) acid.

produce heterogeneous mixtures of IgM polymers. This has been attributed to the variation in the degree of disulfide polymerization, referred to as redox forms, and has implications for teleost IgM assembly processes (26, 49). Here, we found that the occupancy at the Asn-563 site is markedly different between monomeric and dimeric IgM forms, while the site is totally unoccupied in tetrameric IgM. This is the first evidence of variable site occupancy at the C-terminal tailpiece of teleost IgM isoforms.

In the site-specific analysis, the largest heterogeneity in oligosaccharides was observed at the Asn-262 glycosite, followed by Asn-303 in the CH1 domain and Asn-426 in the CH3 domain. The main oligosaccharides were found to be complex-type glycans with considerable heterogeneity, with neutral; monosialyl-, disialyl-, and trisialylated; and fucosyl- and non-fucosyl-oligosaccharides conjugated to these three sites. Interestingly, oligosaccharides with HexNAc₉Hex₃, HexNAc₉Hex₄Fuc₁, and HexNAc₉Hex₄ compositions with

TABLE 3 | Summary of N-glycans identified at Asn-426 and Asn-565 glycosite.

| Site | Theoretical glycopeptide (Da) | Observed glycopeptide (Da) | Mass error (ppm) | Glycans assignment | Chymo-trypsin support | Glycan type | | |
|---------|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|---------|---------|
| Asn-426 | 411 _I - ⁴³⁸ K Peptide only 3237.5773 | | | | | | | |
| | 6384.6924 | 6384.7130 | 3.2 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₁₁ Fuc ₁ | | Complex | | |
| | 6244.6352 | 6243.6729 | 6.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₃ | | Complex | | |
| | 6043.5714 | 6043.6159 | 7.4 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₈ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | | |
| | 5914.5288 | 5914.5830 | 9.2 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₉ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5662.4443 | 5662.4577 | 2.4 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | | |
| | 5588.4075 | 5588.4274 | 3.6 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₅ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₂ | | Complex | | |
| | 5549.3966 | 5549.4289 | 5.8 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5533.4017 | 5533.4010 | -0.1 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5516.3864 | 5516.3737 | -2.3 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5475.3599 | 5475.3593 | -0.1 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₇ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | | |
| | 5387.3438 | 5387.3392 | -0.9 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5313.3070 | 5313.3283 | 4.0 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5225.2910 | 5225.3392 | 9.2 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5192.2808 | 5192.3053 | 4.7 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₄ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5184.2645 | 5184.2809 | 3.2 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 5063.2382 | 5063.2414 | 0.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ | ✓ | Complex | | |
| | 4965.1902 | 4965.2057 | 3.1 | HexNAc ₃ Hex ₅ Fuc ₁ | | Hybrid/Complex | | |
| | 413 _V - ⁴³⁸ K Peptide only 2996.3982 | | | | | | | |
| | | 5802.3924 | 5802.3942 | 0.3 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₈ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | | 5308.2176 | 5308.2433 | 4.8 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | | 5292.2227 | 5292.2443 | 4.1 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ Fuc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | | 5275.2074 | 5275.2091 | 0.3 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | | 5146.1648 | 5146.1955 | 6.0 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | | 5072.1280 | 5072.1532 | 5.0 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex | |
| | | 4822.0592 | 4822.0867 | 5.7 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ | ✓ | Complex | |
| | | Asn-565 | 553 _S - ⁵⁷⁵ K Peptide only 2512.2170 | | | | | |
| | | | 4587.9468 | 4587.9451 | -0.4 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex |
| | | | 553 _S - ⁵⁷⁶ D Peptide only 2627.2440 | | | | | |
| | | | 5052.1111 | 5052.1203 | 1.8 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | | Complex |
| | 4777.0106 | | 4777.0028 | -1.6 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₇ | ✓ | Complex | |

For abbreviations, see **Table 2**.

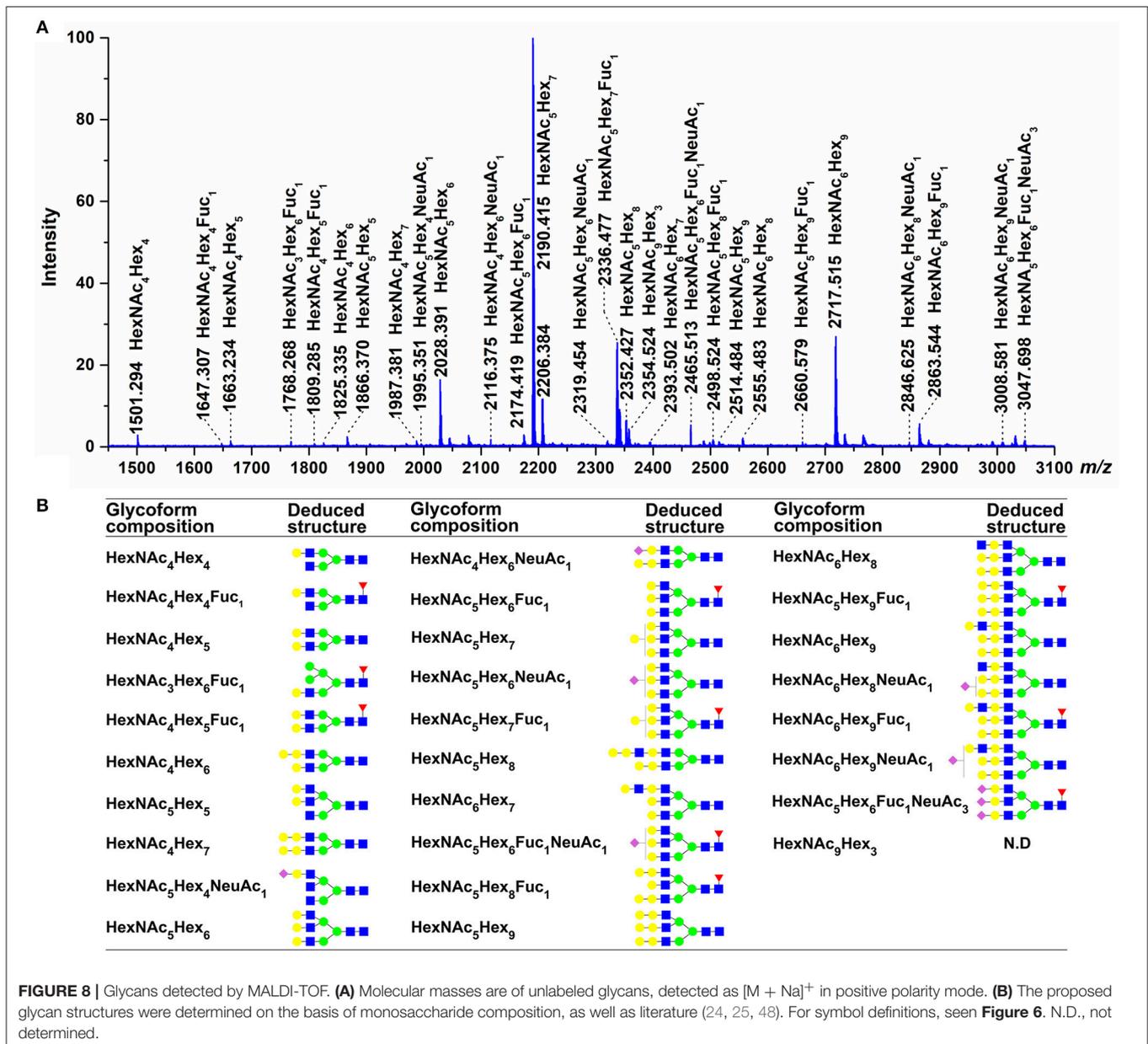
TABLE 4 | Summary of N-glycans mapping by chymotrypsin treatment.

| Sites | Glycans assignment ^a | Glycan type |
|---------|--|-------------|
| Asn-262 | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₈ Fuc ₁ NeuAc ₁ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₈ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ | Complex |
| Asn-303 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₂ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ NeuAc ₂ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ Fuc ₁ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₅ NeuAc ₁ | Complex |
| Asn-426 | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₄ Fuc ₁ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₆ Hex ₇ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₄ Hex ₆ | Complex |
| Asn-565 | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₄ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ NeuAc ₁ | Complex |
| | HexNAc ₅ Hex ₆ | Complex |

^aNew detected glycoform in each glycosite are indicated by gray shadow. Abbreviations used, see **Table 2**.

redundancy in the HexNAc monosaccharide were identified at the Asn-262 and Asn-303 glycosites by glycopeptide analysis. This indicates that Asn-262 and Asn-303 are occupied by glycans with terminal HexNAc residues, possibly lactiNAC motifs (GalNAc β 1 \rightarrow 4GlcNAcantennae), as are common on invertebrate glycans as well as the N-glycans of zebrafish embryos (48, 50, 51). Compared to the C-terminal tailpieces of glycosites in higher vertebrates, which possess major high-mannose glycans (30, 43, 52), the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite of grass carp serum IgM possesses exclusively complex-type N-glycans and is devoid of high-mannose glycans. Although the minority of Asn-565 glycosites were conjugated with carbohydrates, grass carp serum IgM possesses sialylated oligosaccharides at the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite.

Previous studies of the oligosaccharides on the C-terminal tailpiece have documented their important roles in determining IgM polymerization in mammals (38). It has been found that human IgM polymers are influenced by the presence of glycans linked to Asn-563, as replacement of Asn-563 with Ala abolishes



the attachment of glycan moieties and results in the secretion of hexameric and higher molecular weight species (39). It has been suggested that glycans linked to Asn-563, located in the tightly packed IgM core, may limit the number of subunits that can be incorporated into an oligomer or serve as a docking device for ERGIC53, a hexameric lectin shown to promote polymerization in non-lymphoid cells (53). Teleost IgM lacks J chain and tetrameric IgM was thought to polymerize by interchain disulfide linkages (26). Our observation of highly processed oligosaccharides and variable site occupancies at the C-terminal tailpiece glycosite of grass carp IgM isoforms may therefore have important biological implications. It may indicate that glycans linked to the C-terminal tailpiece have an impact on teleost IgM oligomer formation, and oligosaccharides presenting

on the C-terminal tailpiece can interfere teleost IgM oligomer formation.

Glycosylation is highly susceptible to changes of the physiological conditions and environmental factors (54), changes related to age, gender, and pregnancy have also been described for mammalian Ig glycan (55, 56). Various B-cell stimuli have been shown to modulate Ig glycosylation, as CpG oligodeoxynucleotide and IL-21 have been proved to increase Fc galactosylation and reduce bisecting GlcNAc levels. While, all-trans retinoic acid decreases galactosylation and sialylation levels (57). The transcription factor hepatocyte nuclear factor (HNF) 1a and its downstream target HNF4a have been identified as critical regulators of fucosyltransferase and fucose biosynthesis genes, thus influence N-glycan levels in plasma protein (58).

It is known teleost produce both mucosal (mlg) and serum (slg) IgM. Previous report indicated glycosylation patterns may differences between mlgM and slg IgM, as mAb reacting with mlgM H chain carbohydrate determinant not or poorly with slg, which indicating differences in carbohydrate composition or structure (41). Knowledge on teleost mlgM glycosylation is scant so far, analysis of mlgM are expected to shed light on the mlg mucosa-associate Ig glycosylation pattern.

It has been found that differential of sugar moiety influences mammalian antibody affinity to activating or inhibitory Fc γ R and thus influence antibody effector activity. IgG galactosylation has been found to be decreased in rheumatoid arthritis, and galactosylated IgG correlates with remission of arthritis during pregnancy rheumatoid arthritis patients (56, 59, 60). Changes in mouse IgG glycosylation are considered to affect the binding affinity of IgG to Fc γ R (61, 62). Absence of core fucose in human IgG was reported to alter binding affinity to Fc γ RIII, the effect of therapeutic anticancer mAb as trastuzumab with decreased fucosylation has been well recognized and is currently being harnessed in clinical trials (63, 64). Attachment of sialic acid on IgG appears to mediate the anti-inflammatory effects, in contrast, a lack of terminal sialic acid residue appears to mediate the inflammatory effect leading to osteoclast differentiation and bone loss by increases the affinity to activating Fc γ RII and Fc γ RIII (65, 66). The N-glycans on IgM are of particular interest because IgM has a relatively high carbohydrate content compared with those of other immunoglobulin classes. Until now, very little has been known specifically about the role of the carbohydrate moiety in fish IgM. Thus, it would be of considerable interest to determine whether teleost IgM N-linked glycans have functional roles in interactions with natural biological partners, such as complement system components and/or FcR on immune cells. Work along these lines is now in progress in our laboratory.

In conclusion, our study highlights the importance of performing site-specific characterization of glycoproteins at multiple glycosites, as total glycosylation characterization of the entire protein will fail to reveal differences in the glycosylation distributions of individual sites. The site-specific characterization of the N-glycans of teleost IgM described here should facilitate targeted partial de-glycosylation approaches for subsequent functional analysis in order to obtain further insight into the functional effects of glycosylation on teleost IgM.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The RAW MS data of grass carp serum IgM analysis, as well as the original search results of pGlyco 2.0 have been uploaded to the PRIDE partner repository (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/archive/>) with access codes: PXD010308.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

HG, Y-AZ, and BW conceived and designed the experiments. Y-LS, M-DH, Z-WC, and JW performed the experiments. Y-LS, QY, and HB analyzed the data. HG, Y-FC, LX, and C-HW wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

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