Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter.

Supplemental table 1: Overview of lectin binding specificity according to manufacturer Vector laboratories.

Lectin	Acronym	Preferred sugar specificity	Comments
Concanavalin A	Con A	αMan, αGlc	Recognizes α-linked mannose present as part of a core oligosaccharide in many serum and membrane glycoproteins
Jacalin	Jacalin	Galβ3GalNAc	Binds also in the presence of conjugated sialic acid.
Wheat germ agglutinin	WGA	GlcNAc	Preferable binds to dimer and trimers of GlcNAc. Can also bind terminal GlcNAc and chitobiose.
Datura Stramonium lectin	DSL	(GlcNAc)2-4	Preferable binds to chitobiose or chitotriose over single GlcNAc residues.
Peanut agglutinin	PNA	Galβ3GalNAc	Does not bind in the presence of conjugated sialic acid.
Soybean agglutinin	SBA	α>βGalNAc	Binds to oligosaccharide structures with terminal α- or β-linked *N*-acetylgalactosamine, and to a lesser extent, galactose residues.
Vicia villosa lectin	VVL	GalNAc	Recognizes preferentially α- or β-linked terminal GalNAc, especially a single GalNAc residue linked to serine or threonine in a polypeptide.
Lens culinaris agglutinin	LCA	αMan, αGlc	Recognizes sequences containing αMan residues but recognizes additional sugars as part of the receptor structure, giving it a narrower specificity than Con A.
Ricinus communis agglutinin	RCA I	Gal, GalNAc	Binds to Gal or GalNAc residues of membrane glycoconjugates.
Griffonia (Bandeiraea) simplicifolia lectin II	GSL II	α or βGlcNAc	Is unique in its ability to recognize exclusively α- or β-linked GlcNAc residues on the nonreducing terminal of oligosaccharides.
Lycopersicon esculentum (tomato) lectin	LEL	(GlcNAc)2-4	Binds strongly to polylactosamine oligosaccharides.
Ulex europaeus agglutinin 1	UEA 1	L-Fuc	Binds to many glycoproteins and glycolipids containing α-linked fucose residues.
Dolichos biflorus agglutinin	DBA	αGalNAc	Has a carbohydrate specificity toward α-linked *N*-acetylgalactosamine.
Erythrina cristagalli lectin	ECL	Galβ4GlcNAc	Sialic acid substitution appears to prevent the lectin from binding.
Solanum tuberosum (potato) lectin	STL	(GlcNAc)2-4	Binds oligomers of GlcNAc and some bacterial cell wall oligosaccharides containing GlcNAc and *N*-acetylmuramic acid.

Sugar Abbreviations:

Fuc	L-Fucose
Gal	D-Galactose
GalNAc	*N*-Acetylgalactosamine
Glc	D-Glucose
GlcNAc	*N*-Acetylglucosamine
Man	Mannose
Neu5Ac	*N*-Acetylneuraminic acid (sialic acid)