Figure legends

Fig.1 Time course of plasma total cholesterol (a), triglycerides (b) and body weight (c) in apoE-deficient mice fed a Western-type diet with SB209670 treatment (●, n=24) and with placebo (○, n=24), and mice fed normal chow with SB209670 treatment (■, n=23) and with placebo (□, n=23). *, $P < 0.001$ compared with control mice fed the Western-type diet.

Fig.2 Agarose gel electrophoresis of whole plasma from mice of each group, stained for neutral lipids with Fat Red 7B (a). Representative analysis of lipoprotein profiles obtained by sequential ultracentrifugation (b) in mice fed the Western-type diet with placebo (white) or SB209670 treatment (black). The cholesterol content of each density gradient fraction is indicated.

Fig.3 ET-1 content of aortic tissue (a, n=11 in each group on the Western-type diet, n=10 in each group on the chow diet, respectively), plasma ET-1 concentration (b, n=12 in each group on the Western-type diet, n=8 in each group on the chow diet, respectively) and plasma NO (c, n=24 in each group on the Westen-type diet, n=23 in each group on the chow diet, respectively) in control mice (white) and SB209670-treated mice (black) for 12 weeks.

Fig.4 (a); Aortic lesion area of each mouse group. The extent of atherosclerosis was expressed as the sudanophilic area as a percentage of the total aortic surface area. Each symbol represents one animal (n=13 in each experimental group) in control mice (white) and SB209670-treated mice (black). Bar indicates the median of the lesion area of each mouse group.

(b); Representative oil red O-stained aortas of each mouse group.

(c); Representative photomicrographs of atherosclerotic lesion in the aortic arch of apoE-deficient mice. In untreated-mice fed the Western-type diet (Top), advanced atheroma including foam cells, necrosis, cholesterin crystals and fibrous cap formation. In contrast, SB209670-treated mice fed the Western-type diet (bottom) showed an accumulation of intimal foam cells and a small amount of extracellular matrix, but rarely fibroproliferative lesion.