ZOOLOGICAL SCIENCE 11: 153–156 (1994)


[RAPID COMMUNICATION]

# Nucleotide Sequence of the Proton ATPase Beta-Subunit Homologue of the Sea Urchin *Hemicentrotus pulcherrimus*[1]

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**ABSTRACT**—A cDNA with 2.3 kb encoding $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase (proton ATPase) beta-subunit homologue was isolated from a testis cDNA library of the sea urchin, *Hemicentrotus pulcherrimus*. The deduced amino acid sequence consisted of 523 residues which contained a 19-residue amino-terminal signal peptide and a 8-residue glycine-rich consensus sequences. Analysis of poly(A)$^+$RNA and/or total RNA from *H. pulcherrimus* testis, ovary, unfertilized eggs, and embryos by Northern blot revealed a 2.4 kb RNA.

## INTRODUCTION

A sperm-activating peptide (SAP-I: GLy-Phe-Asp-Leu-Asn-Gly-Gly-Gly-Val-Gly), isolated from the egg jelly of sea urchins, *Hemicentrotus pulcherrimus* [13] and *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus* [3], increases sea urchin sperm respiration rate and motility. It induces a $Na^+$-dependent net proton efflux and raises the intracellular pH [10]. As the result SAP-I stimulates sperm energy metabolism which depends on the oxidation of endogenous phosphatidylcholine [8]. ATP synthesis by oxidative phosphorylation is a multistep membrane-located process that occurs in the inner membranes of mitochondria. $F_0$-$F_1$ ATP synthase (proton ATPase) in membranes of mitochondria synthesizes ATP coupled with an electrochemical gradient of protons generated by the electron transfer chain. The enzyme from many different sources have been studied extensively at the molecular biological level [2]. However, no molecular biological study has been made on the enzyme from spermatozoa of any kind of animals.

In this study, we screened a *H. pulcherrimus* testis cDNA library with oligonucleotide probes synthesized based on the amino acid sequence of peptide obtained from the protease V8 digest of wheat germ agglutinin (WGA)-binding protein of *H. pulcherrimus* spermatozoa and isolated a cDNA encoding the beta-subunit homologue of mitochondrial $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase. Here, we report that the cDNA is 2259 bp long and an open reading frame predicts a protein 523 amino acids.

Accepted December 28, 1993
Received December, 1, 1993

[1] The nucleotide sequence data reported in this paper will appear in the DDBJ, GenBank and EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Databases with the following accession number D17361.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

*Cloning and sequencing of cDNA*

A cDNA library ($4.9\times10^5$ pfu) from poly(A)$^+$RNA isolated from growing testes of the sea urchin *H. pulcherrimus* was constructed in $\lambda$ gt10 using the cDNA Synthesis System and the cDNA Cloning System $\lambda$ gt10 (Amersham International plc., Amersham, UK). A 220 kDa WGA-binding protein was purified from *H. pulcherrimus* spermatozoa by affinity chromatography on a WGA-Sepharose 4B column as described previously [12], and digested by protease V8. The partial amino acid sequence of a peptide purified from the digest by preparative SDS-gel electrophoresis was determined to be V-S-S-*I-D-N-I-F-R*-V. The sequence indicated by italics was the same as the conserved sequence found in $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunit from various sources. Based on the sequence of the decapeptide, the mixed oligonucleotides (5′-GACACGGAAGATGTTGTCGATGCTGCTGAC-3′/5′-GACACGGAAGATGTTGTCGATAGAGGAGAC-3′) were synthesized and used to screen. Forty-six positive hybridizing clones were isolated from approximately $6\times10^4$ recombinants. Restriction endonuclease mapping of the inserts indicated that five different types of clones had been isolated. The insert of 2.3 kb from one member of the largest group in which fifteen clones belong was subcloned into the plasmid vector Bluescript II KS(+) (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, USA) for further analysis. Serial deletion mutants of subclones were made according to Yanisch-Perron *et al* [16]. Nucleotide sequences were determined by the dideoxy chain termination method [11] using the Sequenase Kit (United States Biochemical Co., Cleaveland, OH, USA) and the 7-DEAZA Sequencing Kit (Takara Shuzo Co., Kyoto, Japan) analyzed on DANASIS software (Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Yokohama, Japan).

*Northern blot analysis*

Total RNA was prepared from testes, ovaryies, unfertilized eggs, and embryos of *H. pulcherrimus* by the LiCl method of Cathala *et al* [1]. Poly(A)$^+$RNA was prep ared by two passage of the total RNA over a column of oligo(dT)-cellulose (Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology, Uppsala, Sweden). Northern blot analysis was carried out as follows: 2–5 $\mu$g of poly(A)$^+$RNA or total RNA was denatured

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5'CGTGACCCCTGGAAGAATTTCACATCGCCATGTTTAGCAGGGTTGCAAAGACGAGTTTTTCGGCCGTAAGGGCTGCAAAATCACAATTT   89
   *                                M  F  S  R  V  A  K  T  S  F  S  A  V  R  A  A  K  S  Q  F    20

TCACACTCATTATCACAACAGACGAGTAAAACATGGGTACCAGCAGCAACTTGTAGCAAAAGATCATATGCTGCTGAGGCAAAGACGTCG   179
 S  H  S  L  S  Q  Q  T  S  K  T  W  V  P  A  A  T  C  S  K  R  S  Y  A  A  E  A  K  T  S     50

GCAGCCCCAGTTTCGGGTCAGATCGTAGCTGTCATTGGAGCTGTCGTCGACGTTCAGTTCGAGGATGACCTCCCACCCATTCTCAATGCC   269
 A  A  P  V  S  G  Q  I  V  A  V  I  G  A  V  V  D  V  Q  F  E  D  D  L  P  P  I  L  N  A     80

TTGGAGGTTCAGGGAAGGACATCCAGGCTGGTGTTGGAAGTTGCACAGCATCTTGGTGAGAACACAGTCAGGACAATTGCCATGGACGGT   359
 L  E  V  Q  G  R  T  S  R  L  V  L  E  V  A  Q  H  L  G  E  N  T  V  R  T  I  A  M  D  G     110

ACAGAAGGTCTGATCCGAGGCCAGAAGTGCGTTGACACTGGCTCCCCCATCAGCATCCCCGTCGGCCCCGAGACGCTGGGACGCATCATC   449
 T  E  G  L  I  R  G  Q  K  C  V  D  T  G  S  P  I  S  I  P  V  G  P  E  T  L  G  R  I  I     140

AATGTCATTGGTGAACCCATTGACGAGAGAGGACCAATTGGAACAGACAGGAGATCAGCAATCCATGCAGAAGCTCCAGAGTTTGTAGAG   539
 N  V  I  G  E  P  I  D  E  R  G  P  I  G  T  D  R  R  S  A  I  H  A  E  A  P  E  F  V  E     170

ATGAGTGTAAACCAGGAAATCCTTGTTACTGGAATCAAGGTTGTAGATCTACTCGCCCCATACGCCAAGGGAGGAAAGATTGGTCTGTTT   629
 M  S  V  N  Q  E  I  L  V  T  G  I  K  V  V  D  L  L  A  P  Y  A  K  G  G  K  I  G  L  F     200

GGCGGTGCTGGTGTAGGAAAGACTGTACTCATCATGGAGCTGATTAACAACGTAGCCAAGGCCCACGGAGGTTACTCTGTGTTTGCCGGT   719
 G  G  A  G  V  G  K  T  V  L  I  M  E  L  I  N  N  V  A  K  A  H  G  G  Y  S  V  F  A  G     230

GTAGGAGAGAGGACCCGTGAGGGTAACGATCTTTACCATGAGATGATTGAAGGAGGTGTCATCTCCCTCAAGGATGACACATCAAAGGTA   809
 V  G  E  R  T  R  E  G  N  D  L  Y  H  E  M  I  E  G  G  V  I  S  L  K  D  D  T  S  K  V     260

GCGTTGGTGTACGGACAGATGAACGAGCCTCCCGGCGCCCGTGCCCGTGTCGCCTTGACCGGACTGACCGTTGCCGAATACTTCCGTGAC   899
 A  L  V  Y  G  Q  M  N  E  P  P  G  A  R  A  R  V  A  L  T  G  L  T  V  A  E  Y  F  R  D     290

CAAGAGGGACAGGATGTGCTGCTCTTCATTGACAACATCTTCCGCTTCACACAGGCTGGATCAGAGGTATCTGCTCTGCTGGGACGTATC   989
 Q  E  G  Q  D  V  L  L  F  I  D  N  I  F  R  F  T  Q  A  G  S  E  V  S  A  L  L  G  R  I     320

CCATCTGCCGTAGGATACCAGCCAACCCTGGCCACTGACATGGGTACTATGCAGGAGCGTATTACCACCACCAAGAAGGGATCCATCACT  1079
 P  S  A  V  G  Y  Q  P  T  L  A  T  D  M  G  T  M  Q  E  R  I  T  T  T  K  K  G  S  I  T     350

TCCGTACAGGCCATCTACGTGCCTGCTGACGATCTCACTGACCCTGCCCCTGCCACCACCTTCGCCCATTTGGACGCCACCACTGTGCTG  1169
 S  V  Q  A  I  Y  V  P  A  D  D  L  T  D  P  A  P  A  T  T  F  A  H  L  D  A  T  T  V  L     380

TCCCGTGGTATCGCTGAGCTGGGTATCTACCCTGCTGTGGATCCTCTGGATTCCTCCTCCCGTATCATGGACCCCAACGTCGTCGGAGAG  1259
 S  R  G  I  A  E  L  G  I  Y  P  A  V  D  P  L  D  S  S  S  R  I  M  D  P  N  V  V  G  E     410

CGTCACTACAGCATCGCTCGTGGAGTACAGAAAATCCTTCAGGACAACAAGACCCTGCAGGACATCATCGCCATCTTGGGTATGGACGAG  1349
 R  H  Y  S  I  A  R  G  V  Q  K  I  L  Q  D  N  K  T  L  Q  D  I  I  A  I  L  G  M  D  E     440

TTGTCTGAGGACGACAAACTGACCGTGTCCCGAGCCAGGAAGATCCAGAGGTTCTTGTCCCAACCCTTCCAGGTTGCCGAGGTCTTCACC  1439
 L  S  E  D  D  K  L  T  V  S  R  A  R  K  I  Q  R  F  L  S  Q  P  F  Q  V  A  E  V  F  T     470

GGCAGTCCAGGCAAGCTCGTCTCAATGGCGGAGACCATCGATGGATTCGAGTCCATTATCAAGGGCGAGTGCGACCATCTACCAGAGATT  1529
 G  S  P  G  K  L  V  S  M  A  E  T  I  D  G  F  E  S  I  I  K  G  E  C  D  H  L  P  E  I     500

GCTTTCTACATGGTAGGCAACATTCAAGATGTCAAGGATAAGGCCGACAGGCTCGCAGAAGAACTATCATAAATTATCCCCCCTCTCCCA  1619
 A  F  Y  M  V  G  N  I  Q  D  V  K  D  K  A  D  R  L  A  E  E  L  S  *                        523

AACAATGAAGTTTAGAGCTGGCATGGCTACGGGTCAGAGACACCCCTCTTGATTGTTGTTATTCAGGGCTAGTTGTCTAACACTACCCGT  1709
GCCTGGGCCCAAAGAATTTATGTTCAGAGTTATAACTTATATCAAGATTGTTTTCTAAATTGTAATTGTGAAAAATTGAGAGCAAGGGAA  1799
TTCCAACCTAGCGTACTTTTGTCATATGAATCTGTCGTTTTCCTTCTTTTTTTTGCTTGTTATCCACCATAGATTGTAAATGCACAAACA  1889
GCTTGGCAAAGTTTGTAAATTTGATCATAACCAATTATCCCAATTTAAGGCAGTACCTTTAGCACATTGGTGTGTCACCGATGCCTGATT  1979
TCATGTTTATTGTCTGATCTGATCTTACAAGAAATTGGCCGATGTCCAAACATTTCCAATGTAGATATAGACATATATCTTCACTTGATT  2069
TCTGTGTAGAGCCGTTCACGTATGACAGATGATTGGCATTTATTTTGAATGGATGTTTTAGAGCTTTACTGAACCCAGTTGCGATTGTGA  2159
TTTCCTTGTGTGAACAGAATCGCAACTGGCCTTGAAAAAGAAAAACAAGTGTATTAAAAATTATTGGAAGGTTCAAGAACCAAAAAAAAA  2249
AAAAAAAAAA 3'                                                                                  2259
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FIG. 1. Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the 2.3 kb insert. The shadowed box indicates predicted signal peptide sequence and the open box denotes glycine-rich consensus sequence. The amino acid sequence deisgnated by an underline is the same as partial sequence of the decapeptide used for synthesis of oligonucleotide probes. * denotes start or stop codon.

with 2.1 M formaldehyde, electrophoresed on a 1% agarose gel in the presence of 2.2 M formaldehyde, and transferred onto a Hybond-N-membrane. The RNA on the membrane was hybridized to the random-primed ECL labelled (Amersham International plc., Amersham, UK) or random-primed [$\alpha$-$^{32}$P]dCTP-labelled 2.3 kb cDNA insert at 65°C for 18 hr. The membrane was washed with 0.5×SSC and 0.1% SDS at 65°C for 30 min. The size of the RNA was estimated using a 0.24–9.5 kb RNA Ladder (GIBCO BRL, Baithersburg, MD, USA) as a marker.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 2.3 kb insert contained DNA sequences encoding an open reading frame of 523 amino acids including I-D-N-I-F-R which is the same as the partial sequence of the peptide used for synthesis of oligonucleotide probes (Fig. 1). The deduced amino acid sequence suggests that the protein contains a 19-residue amito terminal signal peptide which has the potential to form amphipathic helix being characteristic of mitochondrial signal peptide sequence [5] and a 8-residue (residues 201-208) glycine-rich consensus sequence (G-X-X-X-G-K-T/S) found in the $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunit, adenylate kinase, p21 *ras* protein, and other nucleotide-binding proteins [14]. The deduced amino acid sequence has 68% homology with those of chloroplast $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunits and 85% with those of mitochondrial $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunits from various

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                                10        20        30        40        50        60
Spermatozoa (sea urchin)   MFSRVAKTSFSAVRAAKSQFSHSLSQQTSKTWVPAATCSKRSYAAEAKTSA--APVSGQIVAVIGAVVDV
Mitochondria (human)    MLGFVG...AAPA.GALRRLTPSASLPPA.LLLRAA.T.VHPV.D...QTSP.PKAGAAT.R..........
Mitochondria (rat)      MLSLVG...SA.A.GALRGLNPLAALPQAHLLLRTA..GVHPA.D...QSSAAPKAGTAT............
Chloroplast (potato)                                          MRINPTTSGS.VS.VE--KKNL.R..KI..P.L..
Chloroplast (spinach)                                         MRINPTTSDPGVS.LE--KKNL.R.AQI..P.LN.

      70        80                90        100       110       120       130       140       150
QF-EDDLPPILNALEVQGR----TS---RLVLEVAQHLGENTVRTIAMDGTEGLIRGQKCVDTGSPISIPVGPETLGRIINVIGEPIDER
..-DEG.............----ET---.............S.............V....VL.S.A..K...........M..........
..-DEG.............----E.---.............S.............V....VL.S.A..K...........M..........
A.PPGKM.N.Y...V....----GNEQTNVTC..Q.L..N.R..AV..SD.D..M..MEVI...A...V...GS.....F..L.Q.V.NL
A.PPGKM.N.Y...I.K..DTAGQPM--NVTC..Q.L..N.R..AV..SA.D..T..MEVI...A.L.V...GP.....F..L...V.NL

      160       170       180       190       200       210       220       230       240
GPIGTDRRSAIHAEAPEFVEMSVNQEILVTGIKVVDLLAPYAKGGKIGLFGGAGVGKTVLIMELINNVAKAHGGYSVFAGVGERTREGND
...K.KQFAP........M....E.....................................................................
...K.KQFAP........I....E.....................................................................
..VD.NTT.P..RS..A.IQLDTKLS.FE.............RR.........................I......V...G...........
R.VD.RTT.P..RS..A.TQLDTKLS.FE......N.....RR.........................I......V...G...........

      250       260       270       280       290       300       310       320       330
LYHEMIEGGVISLKD-DTSKVALVYGQMNEPPGARARVALTGLTVAEYFRDQEGQDVLLFIDNIFRFTQAGSEVSALLGRIPSAVGYQPT
.......S...N...-A...........................................................................
.......S...N...-A...........................................................................
..L..K.S...NEENIPE.........-.......M..G..A..M......VNE.............V...........M.........
..M..K.S...NEQNIAE..................M..G..A..M......VNE.............V...........M.........

      340       350       360       370       380       390       400       410       420
LATDMGTMQERITTTKKGSITSVQAIYVPADDLTDPAPATTFAHLDATTVLSRGIAELGIYPAVDPLDSSSRIMDPNVVGERHYSIARGV
.....................................................A..............T.......I..SE..DV....
.....................................................A..............T.......I..SE..DV....
.S.E..YL.....S..E.....I..V.............................L.AK...........T.TMLQ.RI...E..ET....
.S.E..SL.....S..E.....I..V.............................L.AK...........T.TMLQ.RI...E..E..QR.

      430       440       450       460       470       480       490       500       510
QKILQDNKTLQDIIAILGMDELSEDDKLTVSRARKIQRFLSQPFQVAEVFTGSPGKLVSMAETIDGFESIIKGECDHLPEIAFYMVGNIQ
......Y.S..............E.........................HM....PLK...K..QQ.LA..Y.....Q......P.E
......Y.S..............E.........................HM....PLK...K..QQ.LA.DY.....Q......P.E
KQT..RY.E.........L.....E.R...A.....E.......F...........Y.GL....R..QL.LS..L.G...Q...L....D
KET..RY.E.........L.....E.R...A.....E.......F...........Y.GL....R..QL.LS..L.S...Q...L....D

      520               Homology
DVKDKADRLAEELS            100%
EAVA...K....H.S            85%
EAVA...K....HGS            85%
EATA..MN.KT                68%
EATA..MN.EM.SKLKK          68%
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FIG. 2. Comparison of deduced amino acid sequence of the sea urchin homologue and mitochondrial (human [9], rat [4]) and chloroplast (potato [7], spinach [17]) $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunits. Dots indicate the same amino acid residues as sea urchin homologue and positions where gap have been introduced for maximum homology are indicated by a dash.

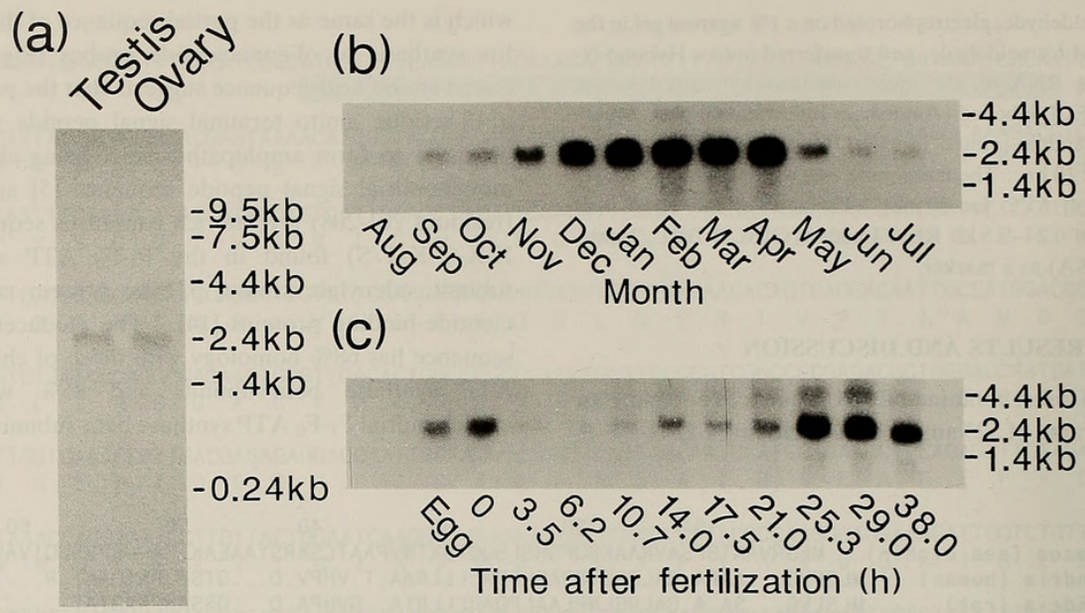


FIG. 3. Analysis of RNA prepared from *H. pulcherrimus* ovaies, testis, unfertilized eggs and embryos by Northern blot hybridization. (a): poly(A)$^+$RNA (2 $\mu$g) prepared from ovaries and testis samples collected in March, detected by ECL; (b): total RNA (5 $\mu$g) from the testis samples collected throughout the year, detected by autoradiography; (c); total RNA (5 $\mu$g) from unfertilized eggs and embryos cultured at 20°C, detected by autoradiography.

sources (Fig. 2) [4, 7, 9, 17]. This suggests that the cDNA clone isolated from the *H. pulcherrimus* testis cDNA library codes for the beta-subunit of mitochondrial $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase and the primary strucutres of the beta-subunits are highly conserved in very different species.

Norhtern blot analysis using the 2.3 kb insert as a probe indicated that the mRNA of 2.4 kb presents both in the ovary and testis of the sea urchin (Fig. 3a). In previous study, we demonstrated that *H. pulcherrimus* spermatozoa contained a large amount of membrane-bound guanylate cyclase and creatine kinase and the activities of both enzymes increased during the testis development [6]. As shown in Figure 3b, the mRNA encoding $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase beta-subunit began to the accumulated in the testis collected in November when spermatogenic cells appeared along the wall of testicular lobes, suggesting that $F_1$-$F_0$ ATP synthase is also synthesized in the testis with formation of mature spermatozoa. The mRNA was also identified in unfertilized eggs and developing embryos, while the signal of hybridizing RNA from the unfertillized eggs was weaker than that from the developing embryos (Fig. 3c). This may be due to imcomplete polyadenylation of the stored mRNA in unfertilized eggs [15]. Additional polyadenylation reaction appears to begin rapidly upon fertilization (Fig. 3c). The mRNA was not appreciably detected in the embryos during early cleavage stage and became detectable in the embryos of the gastrula stage (Fig. 3c).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported in part of by a "Grant-in-Aid-for Scientific Research (A)", No. 02404006 from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Japan.

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