

Nucleotide Sequence of the *SAC2* Gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

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A temperature-sensitive mutation *(actl-I)* in the essential actin gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can be suppressed by mutations in the *SAC2* gene. A cloned genomic DNA fragment that complements the cold-sensitive growth phenotype associated with such a suppressor mutation *(sac2-1)* was sequenced. The fragment contained an open reading frame that encodes a 641 amino acid predicted hydrophilic protein with a molecular weight of 74 445. No sequences with significant similarity to *SAC2* were found in the GenBank and EMBL databases. A *SAC2* disruption mutation was constructed which had phenotypes similar to the *sac2-1* point mutation. A haploid *SAC2* disruption strain failed to grow at low temperature and the disruption allele suppressed the temperature-sensitive *actl-1* growth defect. The suppression phenotype was dependent on the strain background. The *SAC2* sequence has been submitted to the EMBL data library (Accession Number Z29988).
KEY WORDS — Actin; cytoskeleton; *SAC2*.

INTRODUCTION

Major conserved elements of the eukaryotic cytoskeleton have been identified in yeast, among them actin, the main constituent of microfilaments (Gallwitz and Seidel, 1980; Ng and Abelson, 1980). Immunofluorescence microscopy of yeast cells reveals asymmetrically arranged actin cortical patches and actin cables (Adams and Pringle, 1984; Kilmartin and Adams, 1984). The cortical actin patches are predominantly associated with growing regions of the cell, like the bud, while the filamentous actin cables are mainly visible oriented along the mother-bud axis of the nongrowing portions of the cell. This arrangement of actin structures suggests an involvement of actin in polarized membrane growth and secretion.

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Temperature-sensitive (ts) alleles of the single essential yeast actin gene have been constructed by *in vitro* mutagenesis (Shortle *et al.,* 1982, 1984), opening the way for a genetic analysis of the actin cytoskeleton. Pseudo-revertants of the ts *actl-1* mutant were isolated to identify factors which interact with actin (Adams *et al.,* 1989; Novick *et al.,* 1989). We are studying a series of recessive suppressor mutations *(sac)* that are cold sensitive (cs) for growth in addition to being able to suppress the ts growth phenotype of *actl-1.* We report here the sequence of the *SAC2* gene and the phenotypes of a *SAC2* disruption mutation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Strains, media and DNA manipulations

The yeast strains used in this paper are listed in and the media used can be found in Sherman *et al.* Table 1. Descriptions of the genetic manipulations

(1974). Cold-sensitivity of *sac* mutants was assessed at 11, 14 and 16°C. Plates were incubated up to 10 days at 11°C. Temperature-sensitivity of $act1-1$ and suppression by $SAC2$ mutations were scored after 3 days at 37°C. Growth tests were performed by spotting suspensions of cells in water onto plates using a 32-point inoculator. Standard procedures were used for DNA manipulations (Maniatis et *al.,* 1982). The following subfragments of the SAC2 plasmid pRB397 were cloned into the vector YCp50 (Rose et *al.,* 1987). pRK4: 4-3 kb ClaI-SalI; pRK5: 2.4 kb ClaI-EcoRI; pRK6: 3.2 kb BglII-SalI; pRK7: 3.8 kb EcoRV-*SalI.* Sequences 276 bp upstream of the *SalI* site are derived from YCp50 (BamHI-SalI).

Table **1.** Yeast strains.

Disruption of the SAC2 gene

The plasmid pNB280 (provided by Peter Novick) was used for the construction of a SAC2 deletion. pNB280 had been obtained by cloning the 4.3 kb *ClaI-SalI* fragment, which is equivalent to the insert in pRK4, into the integrating vector YIp5. The 8.5 kb BgIII-PvuII fragment was isolated after digestion with BgIII and partial digestion with PvuII and ligated to the 2.5 kb $LEU2$ fragment of pRB684 cut with BamHI and *Sun.* The *SalI* end had been made blunt by treatment with Klenow polymerase. The plasmid pRK23 was recovered where the 1.6 kb BglII-PvuII fragment of the SAC2 gene is replaced by the LEU2 marker gene. Transcription of LEU2 is in the opposite direction to SAC2. This plasmid was cut with PstI and transformed into the diploid yeast strain DBY1707 by the method of Ito et *al.* (1983). Five Leu⁺ transformants were analysed by southern hybridization. EcoRI-digested chromosomal DNA was probed with a 1.3 kb *EcoRI SAC2* fragment. All five transformants were identical in that they showed, in addition to the 1.3 kb wild-type band, a 2.1 kb band which is the size expected for the fragment from the SAC2 locus with the integrated LEU2 marker gene (Figure 1B).

Sequencing *of* the SAC2 gene

The **3.8** kb EcoRV-SalI fragment was subcloned into M13 derivatives (Messing, 1983) and sequenced by standard dideoxy sequencing methods (Sanger et *al.,* 1977).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The SAC2 gene had been cloned by complementation of the cs phenotype of the sac2-l mutant (Novick et *al.,* 1989). In order to localize the SAC2 gene on the 9-7 kb insert of the original plasmid isolate (pRB397), fragments were subcloned into the low-copy centromere-containing vector YCp50. These subclones were used to transform the sac2-1 mutant strain DBY 1918 and tested for their ability to complement the cs defect of the sac2-1 mutant (Figure 1A). We sequenced the smallest insert that gave rise to cold-resistant transformants, a 3.8 kb EcoRV-SalI fragment. The sequence contained an open reading frame with the capacity to code for a 74kDa hydrophilic protein and part of another reading frame (Figure 2). The complementation data in Figure **1A** show that the longer open reading frame corresponds to the SAC2 gene. The other reading frame just upstream of SAC2 is the MNTl gene that encodes the **a-1,2-mannosyltransferase,** which had been sequenced previously by Hausler and Robbins (1992). This linkage with $MNT1$ places $SAC2$ on chromosome IV. By searching the GenBank and EMBL databases we were unable to detect any significant sequence similarities between SAC2 and other proteins, indicating that SAC2 encodes a novel protein.

To assess the SAC2 null phenotypes, we created a SAC2 gene disruption replacing most of the chromosomal SAC2 gene with the LEU2 marker gene. Only 16 N-terminal codons and about 100 codons at the C-terminus remained in the disrupted gene (Figure 1B). By transformation of the Leu2- diploid DBYl707, we produced **a**

rigure 1. (A) Mapping of the SAC2 gene by complementation. SAC2 subclones were transformed into the sac2-1 strain
DBY1918. Transformants were tested for growth at 14°C (cs+=growth, cs – =no growth). Indicated are the SAC2 *MNTI* open reading frames. The arrows point in the direction of transcription. **(B)** Disruption of the *SAC2* gene. Part of the *SAC2* gene (dark grey box) was replaced by the *LEU2* gene (hatched box) by homologous recombination between the chromosomal *SAC2* gene and the pRK23 fragment containing the truncated *SAC2* gene. The structure of the *SAC2* locus after the integration/deletion event is shown on the bottom of the diagram.

Figure *2.*

Figure 2. *Continued*

Figure 2. The *SAC2* sequence.

strain (DBY5393), which is Leu^{+} and heterozygous for this *SAC2* disruption allele. This diploid was sporulated and dissected. **As** was observed with the original *SAC2* alleles, haploid spores bearing the disruption proved to be unable to grow at 14°C. Cold-sensitivity segregated 2:2 in eight tetrads examined; as expected, all the cs spores were Leu⁺ and all the cold-resistant spores

were Leu⁻.
The ability of the *SAC2* deletion to suppress the *actl-1* ts growth defect was tested by crossing DBY 5395 *(actl-I TUB2::URA3;* the *URA3* gene is integrated near an intact *TUB2* gene) to DBY 5381 *(SAC2::LEU2).* The *URA3* gene was placed nearby to facilitate the scoring of suppression of the *actl-1* allele; *ACT1* and the *TUB2* gene are immediately adjacent to each other with only about **1** kb of DNA separating them. The diploid was sporulated and dissected. Out of 14 complete tetrads examined, 14 putative double mutant spores with the phenotype $Ura3^+$ Leu2⁺ were obtained. Roughly half of these double mutant spores were ts^+ , i.e. showed suppression of the *actl-1* ts defect. No reciprocal suppression was observed since all double mutant spores were cs, as expected from the presence of the *SAC2* deletion. Although suppression was always linked to the *SAC2* deletion (no ts⁺ Ura3⁺ Leu2⁻ spores), the presence of the *SAC2* deletion alone was not sufficient for suppression. Since only 50% of all double mutant spores showed the ts^+ phenotype, another factor must be involved in suppression. It was noted before that suppression of *actl-I* by *sac2-I* is dependent on the strain background (Novick *et al.,* 1989).

In conclusion, we have characterized the *SAC2* gene, showing that it encodes a heretofore undescribed protein. The complete loss of this gene results in two phenotypes: cs growth and suppression, in some strain backgrounds, of the ts growth phenotype of the *actl-I* mutation.

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