

## Properties of Lipid Anchor in Cell Adhesion Molecule, csA, from *Dictyostelium discoideum*

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### Synopsis

A cell adhesion molecule, csA, is a glycoprotein with a molecular weight of 80-kDa and is involved in EDTA-resistant cell contact at the aggregation stage of *Dictyostelium discoideum*. A 31-kDa csA with glycosylphosphatidyl-inositol (GPI) anchor was isolated from a 80-kDa csA by treatment of *Achromobacter* protease I. Comparison between the 31-kDa csA and the 80-kDa csA on treatment with phosphatidylinositol-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC) or phospholipase D (PLD) was carried out. The results indicated that the GPI-anchor in the 31-kDa csA was more sensitive to PI-PLC treatment than that in the 80-kDa csA, and that the anchor in both was easily cleaved by PLD treatment. In the presence of 1,10-phenanthroline, a PLD inhibitor, development of *Dictyostelium* was markedly inhibited, suggesting that PLD is functional in developmental regulation.

### Introduction

The cell adhesion molecule, csA, is involved in EDTA-resistant cell contact at the aggregation stage of *Dictyostelium discoideum*. CsA is a glycoprotein with an apparent molecular weight of 80 kDa and is anchored to the cell membrane by means of a glycosylphosphatidyl-inositol (GPI)-linkage with ceramide instead of the diacylglycerol, which is a general component of GPI-anchor<sup>1)</sup>. Stadler *et al*<sup>1)</sup> reported that the GPI-anchor region in csA glycoprotein was not cleaved by bacterial phosphatidylinositol-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC), although the GPI-anchor region was found to be sensitive to treatment with an endogenous PI-PLC enzyme source.

Since a common mode of membrane attachment via the GPI-anchor was first clarified<sup>2)</sup>, over one hundred membrane proteins have been found to be anchored to the membrane through a GPI-linkage. Phosphoinositides are released from GPI-anchors by attack of PI-PLC. This has led to the idea that the cleavage of GPI-anchors might be involved in receptor-mediated triggering reactions<sup>3)</sup>. However, the role of GPI-anchors in signal transduction remains unclear.

The resistance of the GPI-anchor cleavage in csA to PI-PLC treatment<sup>1)</sup> suggested that modification of the inositol ring by fatty acids conferred resistance to PI-PLC treatment as observed in human acetylcholine receptor<sup>5)</sup> or that the structure of the GPI-anchor with ceramide instead of diacylglycerol conferred resistance to PI-PLC treatment. In this study, comparison between PI-PLC and phospholipase D (PLD) treatment was carried out to clarify the resistance to cleavage of the GPI-anchor in csA by PI-PLC treatment, and the possible involvement of PLD was investigated in *Dictyostelium* development.

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### Materials and Methods

**Purification of 80-kDa csA and 31-kDa csA.** Cells of *D. discoideum* AX2-214 were cultivated at 22°C in nutrient medium with 1.8% maltose as described by Watts and Ashworth<sup>5)</sup>. Development was begun by washing the cells in 17 mM Sorensen's phosphate buffer, pH 6.1 (standard buffer), and continued for 8 h to develop aggregation-competent cells with shaking at 150 rpm at 22°C. Purified 80-kDa csA was prepared to be shown a single band by a silver staining as described previously<sup>6)</sup>. Particulate fractions from aggregation-competent cells were prepared by freezing and thawing, and by centrifugation for 20 min at 10,000 x g. Plasma membrane-enriched fractions were obtained from the particulate fractions by dextran 500/polyethylene glycol 6000 separation. The plasma membrane-enriched fractions were incubated with butanol to extract the 80-kDa csA. The butanol/water extract was subjected to DEAE-cellulose (DE-52) chromatography. The fractions containing the 80-kDa csA were pooled, suspended in sample buffer, heated for 5 min and applied to a preparative electrophoresis system (Biophoresis III, Atto). The samples were eluted with 0.37 M Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.8, containing 5% glycerol and collected in fractions of 0.5 ml. The 80-kDa csA showed a single band on SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and silver staining. Fractions containing the 80-kDa csA were pooled and precipitated with acetone, and the precipitates were dried under reduced pressure. Next, to isolate the 31-kDa csA glycopeptide<sup>7)</sup>, ca. 100 µg of purified 80-kDa csA was suspended in 200 µl of 0.1% SDS. Then, *Achromobacter* protease I (Wako Chemicals), which is highly specific for lysine<sup>8)</sup>, was added until the enzyme to substrate ratio (w/w) was 1/100 to 1/500. The reaction was carried out at 37°C for 16 h in 0.01M phosphate buffer, pH 7.8. The products were suspended in sample buffer, and heated for 5 min. They were applied to a preparative electrophoresis system, and fractions of 0.5 ml were collected. The fractions containing the 31-kDa csA were detected by dot tests using peroxidase-conjugated WGA and by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Fractions including the 31-kDa csA were collected and precipitated by addition of acetone as reported in previously<sup>9)</sup>.

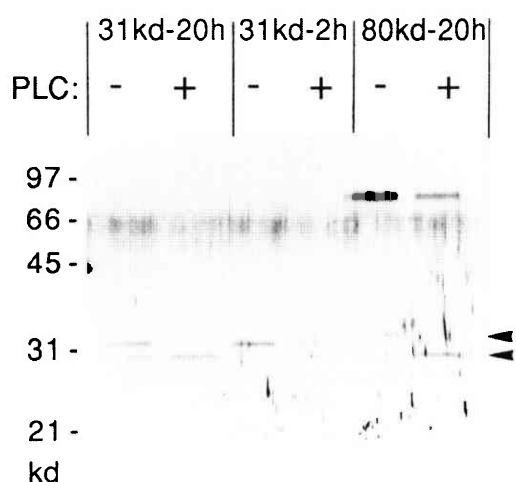
**Treatment of csA with PI-PLC or PLD** The acetone-dried samples of the 31-kDa csA or the 80-kDa csA were suspended in 10 µl of 0.1% sodium deoxycholate and reaction with PI-PLC from *Bacillus cereus* (a final conc. of 40 units ml<sup>-1</sup>, Sigma) was carried out at 37°C for 2 h or 20 h in 0.05 M Tris-HCl buffer, pH 7.5. Alternatively, PI-PLC treatment was carried out in the presence of protease inhibitors (Protease inhibitor set, Boehringer Mannheim). The acetone-dried samples of the 31-kDa csA or the 80-kDa csA were suspended in 10 µl of 0.05 M Tris-HCl buffer, pH 8.0, and reaction with PLD (a final conc. of 3 units µl<sup>-1</sup>, Sigma) was carried out at 37°C for 2 h or 20 h. Each reaction was stopped by addition of a sample buffer for SDS-PAGE. The samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE, and western blotting was carried out according to the method of Towbin *et al*<sup>10)</sup>. The nitrocellulose filters (BA 85, Schleicher and Schuell) were incubated with horseradish peroxidase-conjugated WGA (Sigma). The validity of PI-PLC or PLD in the GPI-anchor cleavage of the 80-kDa csA or 31-kDa csA was determined by the lower molecular weight shift of each csA molecule on SDS-PAGE.

**Assay of cell agglutination and chemotaxis** Cell agglutination was measured by a modification of the method of Beug *et al*<sup>11)</sup>. Cells were starved for 8 h, washed with standard buffer, adjusted to 1 x 10<sup>7</sup> ml<sup>-1</sup>, and rotated at 40 rpm for 20 min at 22°C in the presence or absence of 10 mM EDTA. Cells were counted with a hemocytometer under a light microscope. Single cells and doublets were scored as unaggregated cells. For the assay of chemotaxis toward cyclic AMP, cells were starved for 8 h,

washed with standard buffer, and transferred to the Teflon surface of a Petriperm dish (Heraeus). Micropipettes filled with  $10^{-3}$  M cyclic AMP solution were used as described by Gerisch and Keller<sup>12)</sup>.

## Results and discussion

**Treatment of 80-kDa csA and 31-kDa csA with PI-PLC** The 80-kDa csA and 31-kDa csA were incubated with phosphatidylinositol-specific phospholipase C (PI-PLC) as described in Materials and Methods. The 31-kDa csA was completely susceptible to treatment with 40 units  $\text{ml}^{-1}$  of PI-PLC (a final conc.) at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 h, as demonstrated by the lower molecular weight shift from 31 to 29 kDa on SDS-PAGE. In contrast, more than 50% of the 80-kDa csA remained amphiphilic after PI-PLC treatment under the same conditions (Figure 1). Incubation with PI-PLC at 40 units  $\text{ml}^{-1}$  (a final conc.)



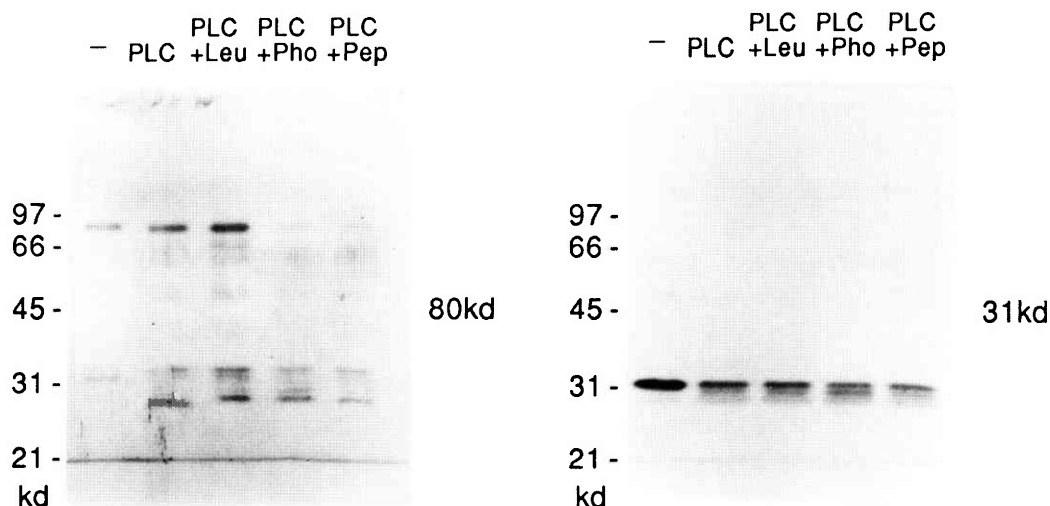
**Figure 1.** Treatment of the 31-kDa or 80-kDa csA with PI-PLC.

The 31-kDa csA or 80-kDa csA was treated with PI-PLC for 2 h or 20 h. The samples were separated by SDS-PAGE. The gels were blotted onto nitrocellulose filters and incubated with peroxidase-conjugated WGA. Arrowheads indicate the positions of the 31-kDa csA and 29-kDa csA (hydrophilic type). Positions of molecular weight markers are indicated on the left. 31kd-20h, 31kd-2h and 80kd-20h indicate PI-PLC treatment of 31-kDa csA for 20 h, 31-kDa csA for 2 h, and 80-kDa csA for 20 h, respectively.

for 2 h was not sufficient for complete conversion of the 31-kDa csA into the hydrophilic type. The differences in sensitivity to PI-PLC treatment between the 31-kDa and 80-kDa csA might have been due to the relative ease with which PI-PLC can gain access to the cleavage site in the GPI-anchor region of each molecule. Although the 31-kDa csA could be converted completely with PI-PLC, the product was not recognized by an antibody (Oxford Glycoscience Ltd.) against the cross-reacting determinant (CRD), which is a common carbohydrate epitope exposed on PI-PLC cleavage<sup>13)</sup>. In contrast da Silva and Klein<sup>14)</sup> reported that the 80-kDa csA released by endogenous PI-PLC reacted with anti-CRD antibody. It is difficult to draw a conclusion that the inconsistency between our and their results might be due to different kinds of PI-PLC. It is conceivable that a GPI-anchor structure of csA is different from GPI-anchor structures with CRD.

The csA retains a GPI-anchor with ceramide as well as glycoproteins in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Trypanosoma cruzi* whose GPI-anchor structures are studied well<sup>15),16)</sup>. The validity of PI-PLC in the GPI-anchor cleavage of the 80-kDa csA or the 31-kDa csA was determined by a shift to a lower molecular weight of each csA molecule on SDS-PAGE. In this method, however, it is possible that protease contaminants in PI-PLC enzyme sources may have been responsible for the molecular weight shift during incubation. To investigate this possibility, the 80-kDa csA or 31-kDa csA was incubated with PI-PLC at 40 units  $\text{ml}^{-1}$  (a final conc.) at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 4 h in the presence of each protease inhibitor: leupeptin (serine protease inhibitor, a final conc. of  $4.8 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); phosphoramidon (metallo endopeptidase inhibitor, a final conc. of  $194 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); pepstatin (aspartate protease inhibitor, a final conc. of  $4.8 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ) (Figure 2). In addition to these protease inhibitors, antipain dihydrochloride (an

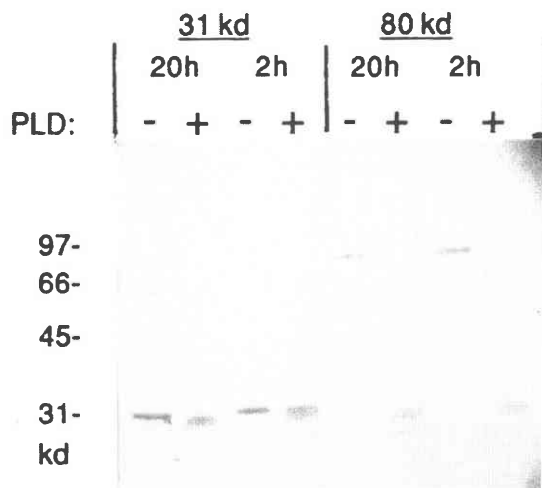
inhibitor of papain, trypsin and cathepsin A, B, a final conc. of  $200 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); bestatin (aminopeptidase inhibitor, a final conc. of  $50 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); aprotinin (serine protease inhibitor, a final conc. of  $10 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ) were used. However, the effects of PI-PLC treatment were still observed in the presence of these protease inhibitors. These results confirmed that the molecular weight shifts of the 80-kDa and 31-kDa csA were due to GPI-anchor cleavage by PI-PLC, and not digestion by protease contaminants in the PI-PLC enzyme sources.



**Figure 2.** Effects of PI-PLC in the presence of protease inhibitors. PI-PLC treatment of the 31-kDa csA or 80-kDa csA was carried out in the presence of each protease inhibitor. SDS-PAGE and staining were carried out as described in Figure 1. The upper panel shows the results of PI-PLC treatment of 80-kDa csA in the presence of protease inhibitors and lower panel shows those of the 31-kDa csA. —, without PI-PLC and protease inhibitors; PLC, with PI-PLC and without protease inhibitors; PLC+Leu, with PI-PLC and leupeptin (a final conc. of  $4.8 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); PLC+Pho, with PI-PLC and phosphoramidon (a final conc. of  $194 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ); PLC+Pep, with PI-PLC and pepstatin (a final conc. of  $4.8 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ ).

### Treatment of the 80-kDa csA or 31-kDa csA with PLD

It was possible that modification of the inositol ring with fatty acids in the GPI-anchor or the structure of the GPI-anchor with ceramide instead of diacylglycerol might have been responsible for the resistance of 80-kDa csA to PI-PLC treatment. However, the GPI-anchor with ceramides in *S. cerevisiae* and *T. cruzi* can be cleaved with PI-PLC, showing that ceramides in GPI-anchor do not confer the resistance to PI-PLC treatment<sup>15,16</sup>. Phospholipase D (PLD) treatment of the 80-kDa csA or the 31-kDa csA was carried out to investigate the effects of modification of the inositol ring with fatty acids, because PLD activity is not affected by myo-inositol acylation<sup>17</sup>. Therefore, the 80-kDa csA and 31-kDa csA were incubated separately with PLD at 3 units  $\mu\text{l}^{-1}$  (a final conc.) at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 or 20 h. The GPI-anchors in both 80-kDa csA and 31-kDa csA were clearly susceptible to PLD treatment (Figure 3). In the both cases, a glycopeptide with molecular weight of 29-kDa were observed, reacting with only WGA. The molecular weight shift was observed irrespective of the presence of protease inhibitors in the PLD treatment as well as PI-PLC treatment in the presence of protease inhibitors (*cf.* Figure 2, data not shown). These results suggested that the 29-kDa csA was the final product of PLD treatment.

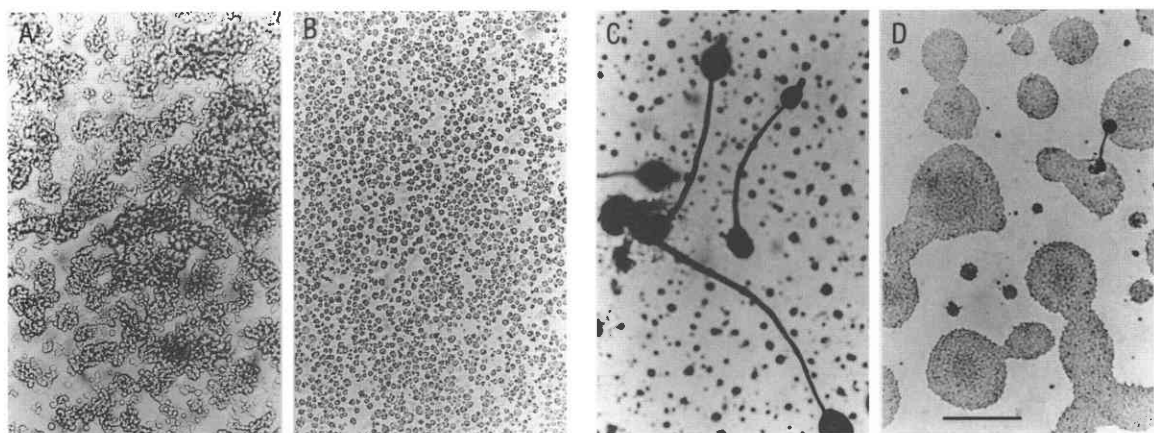


**Figure 3.** Treatment of the 31-kDa csA and 80-kDa csA with PLD.

The 31-kDa csA and 80-kDa csA were treated with PLD for 2 h or 20 h. The samples were separated by SDS-PAGE. The gels were blotted onto nitrocellulose filters, incubated with peroxidase-conjugated WGA. 31kDa -, 31-kDa csA incubated without PLD; 31kDa+, 31-kDa csA incubated with PLD; 80kDa -, 80-kDa csA incubated without PLD; 80kDa+, 80-kDa csA incubated with PLD.

**Influence of a PLD inhibitor on cell adhesion, chemotaxis and development** The sensitivity of the 80-kDa csA to PLD treatment suggested that in *Dictyostelium* the GPI-anchored proteins including the 80-kDa csA might be cleaved by an endogenous PLD *in vivo*<sup>19),20)</sup>. To investigate the possible function of PLD in *Dictyostelium* cell adhesion and development, *Dictyostelium* cells were allowed to develop for 8 h in the presence of 1,10-phenanthroline, an inhibitor of PLD, after beginning starvation. In the presence of 100  $\mu$  M 1,10-phenanthroline (a final conc.), EDTA-resistant cell contact as well as EDTA-sensitive cell contact were markedly inhibited (Figure 4B, Table 1), although the amount of 80-kDa csA was reduced to about 50% of that in untreated cells. The inhibition of EDTA-sensitive cell contact might have been due to the function of 1,10-phenanthroline as a chelator. Furthermore, when cells were allowed to develop on agar plates containing 100  $\mu$  M 1,10-phenanthroline (a final conc.), most of the cells remained as loose aggregates and they did not show any morphogenesis after this aggregation. Only a few tiny fruiting bodies were observed (Figure 4D). On the other hand, cells treated with 100  $\mu$  M 1,10-phenanthroline showed sufficient chemotaxis toward cyclic AMP. These results suggested that PLD might be functional in *Dictyostelium* development.

In future studies, we plan to investigate PLD activity during development of *Dictyostelium* and will attempt to isolate PLD knockout mutants.



**Figure 4.** Photographs of cell agglutination and morphogenesis on agar plates. Assay of cell agglutination in the presence of EDTA was carried out without (A) or with 100  $\mu$  M 1,10-phenanthroline (B) as described in Materials and Methods. *D. discoideum* morphogenesis was observed on agar plates without (C) or with 100  $\mu$  M 1,10-phenanthroline (D). Scale bar indicates 400  $\mu$  m.

Table 1 Effects of 1, 10-phenanthroline on cell agglutination

(Single cells %)

		0	1	10	100 $\mu$ M
+ EDTA	Range	17-36	16-31	48-63	90-100
	Mean	23	24	56	94
- EDTA	Range	18-32	16-28	12-31	51-76
	Mean	26	21	23	60

Cells were starved for 8 h, washed, and rotated at 40 rpm for 20 min at 22°C. The mean and range were derived from three separate experiments.

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## 粘菌細胞におけるcsAのアンカー領域の性状について

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### 摘 要

粘菌細胞における接着分子csAは集合期のEDTA-resistant cell contactに関与する分子量8.0万の糖タンパク質である。接着分子80kDa csAの*Achromobacter*プロテアーゼ I 処理によりアンカー領域を保持した31kDa csAが単離された。接着分子80kDa csAと31kDa csAのホスファチジルイノシトール特異的なホスホリパーゼ C に対する感受性は31kDa csAが80kDa

csAより強かった。一方、ホスホリパーゼ D 処理に対しては80kDa csAも31kDa csAもともに非常に高い感受性を示し、アンカー領域を遊離した。さらに、ホスホリパーゼD阻害剤1,10-フェナントロリン存在下では粘菌細胞の発生は著しく阻害された。このことはホスホリパーゼ D が発生過程での調節に重要な役割を担っていることを示唆する。