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Structural Analysis of Δ^1 -Pyrroline-5-carboxylate Synthetase Gene from *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*^{*1}

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Mangrove plants differ in an ability growing in high salt concentration from any other plants. On the mechanism of their salt tolerance, there are many physiological and morphological reports so far, but few reports on the mechanism at molecular level. In some mangrove species, proline is accumulated in cells in response to salt stress¹. Proline can be synthesized by a pathway from glutamate in higher plants under the condition of salt stress. The key enzyme in the pathway is Δ^1 -pyrroline-5carboxylate synthetase (P5CS) which catalyzes the first two steps of proline biosynthesis^{2,3)}. In this paper, we describe the cloning and sequence analysis of P5CS gene (*BgP5CS*) fragments isolated from mangrove (*Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*) genome by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Four grams of mangrove leaves (B. gymnorrhiza) were pulverized with liquid nitrogen to fine poweder. Genomic DNA was extracted from the pulverized tissue with CTAB (Cetyltrimethl ammonium bromide) extraction solution (2% CTAB, 0.1 M Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 20 mM EDTA, 1.4 M NaCl, 2% 2-mercaptoethanol) and purified. The purified DNA was amplified with specific primers for P5CS gene by PCR. The primers were constructed on the basis of the sequence of P5CS genes of Arabidopsis⁴⁾, mothbean²⁾, $grape^{5)}$, tomato⁶⁾, rice⁷⁾, kiwifruit⁸⁾ and alfalfa⁹⁾. The condition of PCR was thirty-five cycles of 30 sec at 95°C, 30 sec at 58°C, 2 min at 68°C. The PCR products were separated on agarose gel and successively were subcloned into a plasmid pGEM-T Vector System (Promega). The insert DNA in plasmids were sequenced by dideoxy chain termination method¹⁰⁾

Among the DNA fragments amplified by PCR, two clones were selected as BgP5CS-related fragments (2.0 kbp and 2.5 kbp in length). The full-length P5CS genomic DNA (AtP5CS) from Arabidopsis has been reported to be organized into 20 exons interrupted by 19 introns⁴). According to nucleotide sequence analysis, the two BgP5CS fragments cloned in this study harboured 13 exons and 12 introns and corresponded to the truncated region from the second to the fourteenth exon of AtP5CS, overlapping on the sixth exon. It was found that BgP5CS genomic gene is about 1 kbp longer than that of Arabidopsis in the region.

Each exon of BgP5CS was the same size as that of AtP5CS, but most of the introns in mangrove were longer than those in *Arabidopsis*. It was conceivable that genes of woody plants have extremely long introns with large genome size.

Although all the junction dinucleotides of AtP5CS are constituted of GT-AG splice sequence, there were two locations of GC-AG in splicing region of BgP5CS. The GC-AG non-canonical splice sequences are found to be in the equivalent introns of P5CS gene from the other mangrove species, *B. sexangula* reported previously¹¹.

The deduced amino acid sequence of BgP5CS showed partially high identity with that in various plants⁴⁻⁶⁾ (Fig.1). The deduced amino acid sequence from BgP5CS third exon contains putative ATP-binding domain (GAVGLGR) for γ -glutamyl kinase activity and shows higher similarity (71-74%) with those of known plants than the other exons. While, the eleventh and the twelfth exons contained putative NADPH-binding domain for γ glutamyl phosphate reductase activity and was similarity between 75% and 97% at the level of deduced amino acid sequence. On the sixth exon, there were putative leucine zipper motif and γ -glutamyl kinase motif with highly conserved sequence (81-88% amino acid homology). The leucine zipper in P5CS in plants may function to allow close association even between the originally separate enzymes, γ -glutamyl kinase and γ -glutamyl phosphate reductase, as in prokaryotes²⁾. These evidences strongly suggest that BgP5CS should be a bifunctioanal enzyme which catalyzes the first two steps in proline biosynthesis from glutamate.

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	BgP5CS	grlalgrlgslc eqixelw sqgfeiilvts <mark>g</mark> avglgfhrlkyrrfinssl	50
	AtP5CS	*********A****LA****D***V***S**************************	50
	VvP5CS	********A***A*************************	50
	LeP5CS	**************************************	50
	BgP5CS	ADLQKPQVDLEGKGCAAVGQNSLMALYDTLFSQLDVTSAQLLVTDNDFRD	100
	AtP5CS	******TE*D**A**G***S***Y*E*M*D****A****N*SS***	100
	VvP5CS	******AB*D**A*****N*********************	100
	LeP5CS	L*****TE*D**A*****G*****S***********************	100
	Bapses	FISTER FOR A CONTRACT OF THE STREET STRE	150
• •	AtDSCS	**************************************	150
	VyPSCS	ED**N**TO**D***D*************************	150
	LeP5CS	P******D**N****K*******	150
	BoPSCS	ALLALELEADILULLSDURGLYSCOOSDODSELLOTVURFIRONGITED	200
	AtPSCS	***************************************	200
	VwD5CS		200
	I aPSCS	***************************************	200
• • •	1000		200
	BgP5CS	KSRVGRGGMTAKVKAAVSAANAGTPVVITSGNAPENIIKVLOGERVGTLF	250
· ·	AtPSCS	**************************************	250
	VvP5CS	**************************************	250
de e	LeP5CS	***************************************	250
	BoPSCS	RKDAHLWASVKRUGPREMALAARRSSROLOALSSODRKKTLLGTARALRA	300
	AtPSCS	HO**R***PTTDSNA*D**V*********************************	300
	VvPSCS	HR**YK*VO*********************************	300
	LeP5CS	HC**NK***IG*TDA****V***AC**R******E*S***QD**D****	300
÷.,	Babses		250
,	ArDSCS		350
	V-DSCS	**************************************	250
	LeP5CS	**KA*LA******V***QA*Y*************************	350
	Bopses	ND I GH TI KRYRVANGI. LI RKYCSDI GVI I. TUFRADDRALVATASI. A TOSG	400
	AtPSCS	D***RV**K******V****S********************	400
	VyP5CS	R****V********************************	400
	LeP5CS	E*L**T****I***FI***SS**********************	400
	BgP5CS	MGLLLKGGKEAMRSNAILHKVITEAIPDTIGAGLIGUVTSREEIPDLLKL	450
	AtP5CS	**************************************	450
•	VvP5CS	**************************************	450
	LeP5CS	<u>+**M**********************************</u>	450
	BgP5CS	DDVIDLVIPRGSNRLVTQIKESTKIPVLGHADGICHVYIDKSANMEMASR	500
	AtP5CS	**************************************	500
	VvP5CS	**************************************	500
	LeP5CS	**************************************	500
	BgP5CS	VVLDAKLDYP*****	516
	AtP5CS	I*S******	516
	VvP5CS	I*L*******	516
	LeP5CS	ITV***I********	516
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Fig. 1.

1. Comparisons of the predicted BgP5CS amino acid sequence of *B. gymnorrhiza* with other plant P5CS. The sequence of BgP5CS is aligned with AtP5CS predicted from *Arabidopsis* genomic Gene⁴), with VvP5CS from grape cDNA clone⁵), and with LeP5CS from tomato cDNA clone⁶). Asterisks are identical with the amino acid residue of *B. gymnorrhiza* BgP5CS. Boxes indicated a putative ATP-binding domain with thick solid line, a putative NADPH-binding domain with light solid line, a luccine zipper with thick dotted line, and a putative γ -glutamyl kinase motif with light dotted line.