

## Ingeniería Genética Genetic engineering

### Desarrollo de plantas de transgénicas frijol por el gen de la cápside del virus del mosaico dorado (BGMV)

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Diferentes plantas transgénicas han sido producidas mediante ingeniería genética, para expresar genes de la proteína de la cápside de varios virus vegetales que poseen un genoma de ARN. Estas plantas transgénicas exhiben varios niveles de protección contra virus vegetales (Wilson, 1993). Esta metodología ha sido ya aplicada a 20 virus en 10 grupos taxonomicamente diferentes. Por consiguiente, se intentó seguir esta estrategia para el control del virus del mosaico dorado del frijol (BGMV) tipo II, de gran importancia económica en la América Central y la región del Caribe.

El genoma del aislamiento guatemalteco del BGMV-tipo II ha sido clonado como pGAAZ (ADN-2) y pGAB1 (ADN-B). Los insertos completos extraídos de los plásmidos son infecciosos en plantas de frijol luego de su inoculación mediante técnicas de aceleración de partículas por descarga eléctrica (Gilbertson *et al.*, 1991).

Utilizando 'mutagenesis localizada' mediante la técnica de amplificación de ácido nucleico por polimerasa (PCR), se introdujo un sitio de restricción en el gen de la cápside del virus. El fragmento amplificado fue ligado a otro fragmento del plásmido pGAA2 y clonado en el plásmido pWRG2194. El plásmido resultante contiene el promotor 35S del CaMV, la secuencia iniciadora del gen de la capsida, la secuencia de la cápside viral con 151 bases adicionales en el terminal 3', y un sitio poly A 3' nos. Este plásmido fue linearizado y clonado en el vector pWRG2204, el cual contenía otros dos marcadores, *gus* y *bar* (Russell *et al.*, 1993).

La variedad de frijol tipo Navy (blanco pequeño) 'Seafarer' fue transformada mediante aceleración de partículas cubiertas con el vector según la técnica de descarga eléctrica por Russell *et al.*, (1993). Despues de la germinación de las semillas durante una noche, la cáscara, los cotiledones y las hojas primarias fueron removidas. Los meristemos expuestos se transfirieron a un medio rico en hormonas para ser sometidos a dos ciclos de bombardeo por descargas eléctricas. Acto seguido, se cultivaron los meristemas en diferentes medios de cultivo para fomentar el crecimiento del vástago (tallos y hojas). Los vástagos que contenían genes marcadores se transfirieron a medio de enraizamiento. Las plántulas enraizadas (planta R<sub>0</sub>) continuaron su crecimiento en invernadero, donde algunas florecieron y produjeron semilla. La semilla de la primera generación de plantas transformadas (R<sub>1</sub>) fueron autofecundadas y las semillas R<sub>2</sub> cultivadas para la evaluación de los genes introducidos así como por su resistencia al BGMV-GA. El ADN, mARN, y

la capsida proteica se analizaron usando análisis de transferencia 'Southern', 'Northern' y 'Western', respectivamente. Las plantas transgenicas fueron inoculadas mecánicamente usando extractos de plantas de 'Topcrop' infectadas por el BGMV-GA.

Las primeras plantas transgénicas de frijol han sido transformadas con los genes *gus* y *bar* (beta-glucoronidasa y resistencia al herbicida Ignite) y con el gen de la cápside viral. Catorce días después de la inoculación mecánica, se registraron los síntomas y todas las plantas fueron examinadas por la proteína de la cápside y por su ARN-m. El cuadro 1 muestra que la reacción de las ocho plantas transgénicas fue variable. La infección varió de 7 a 62% y los síntomas fueron típicos. Seis de las ocho líneas expresaron ARN-m a niveles similares a los detectados en plantas (no-transformadas) infectadas de 'Seafarer'. La proteína de la cápside no fue detectada en las plantas transgénicas. Los resultados indicaron que la línea 42-18 poseía una tasa de infectividad menor que las otras líneas. Sin embargo, todas las líneas transformadas resultaron susceptibles al BGMV transmitido por la mosca blanca *Bemisia tabaci* (Diaz, 1992).

La susceptibilidad de estas líneas al BGMV puede ser atribuida a la no expresión de la proteína de la cápside viral. Trabajos similares anteriores informaron que existe una correlación entre el nivel de expresión de la proteína de la capsida viral y el grado de protección contra el virus homólogo (Hanley-Bowdorn y Hemenway, 1992). Sin embargo, trabajos más recientes con virus de ARN (Kawchuck et al., 1990, Lindbo y Dougherty, 1992) mostraron que no siempre existe una correlación entre la expresión de la cápside proteica y el nivel de protección.

**Cuadro 1.** Evaluación de líneas transgénicas por actividad del gen *gus*, la cápside del BGMV, producción de ARN-m para el gen AV1, acumulación de la cápside y la reacción a la enfermedad.

	Cápside BGMV			Resultado inoculación BGMV	
	ADN	ARNm	Proteina	Symp./Inoc.	% Inf.
Control Seafarer	-	-	-	13/19	68
Líneas Transgénicas					
46-2	+	+	-	8/1	62
42-23	+	+	-	6/12	50
46-3	+	+	-	6/14	43
43-3	+	+	-	5/12	42
43-3	+	-	-	6/15	40
43-9	+	-	-	4/13	31
47-1	+	+	-	3/13	23
42-18	+	+	-	1/14	7

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## English Summary

### Development of Transgenic Beans with the Coat Protein Gene from BGMV-GA and their Evaluation for Resistance by Sap Inoculation

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Different plant species have been engineered to express coat protein genes from several plant viruses and these plants exhibited various levels of protection against the challenging virus (Wilson, 1993).

The genome of a Guatemalan isolate of BGMV-type II has been cloned, pGAA2 (DNA-A) and pGAB1 (DNA-B). Excised full-length inserts from the plasmids are infectious on beans when coinoculated by electric-discharge particle acceleration (Gilbertson et al., 1991).

Using site-directed mutagenesis by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) a restriction site was introduced in the coat protein open reading frame (ORF) initiation codon. The PCR amplified fragment was a fragment of pGAA2 plasmid that was cloned into pWRG2194 plasmid. The resulting plasmid contained CaMV 35S promoter, the coat protein leader sequence, the coat protein coding sequence with an additional 151 bases at the 3' end, and a 3' nos poly A site. This plasmid was cloned into the transformation vector pWRG2204 which contained the other two marker genes, *gus* and *bar* (Russell et al., 1993).

Navy beans seeds (Seafarer) were transformed with pWRG2204 by the electric discharge particle acceleration technology as described in Russell et al., (1993). After Seafarer seeds were germinated overnight, the seed coat, the cotyledons, and the primary leaves were removed. The remaining exposed meristems were then transformed onto a hormone rich medium and subjected to 2 particle accelerations. Then the meristems were grown on several different media to allow for shoot growth. Shoots that contained marker genes were transferred to bean rooting media and allowed to form roots. Rooted plantlets ( $R_1$  plants) were then grown in soil in the greenhouse where some flowered, set seeds and matured.

The bean seeds from the first generation transformants ( $R_1$ ) were selfed and  $R_2$  seeds were planted to be evaluated for the presence of introduced genes and for their resistance to BGMV-GA. DNA, mRNA, and coat protein of AV1 ORF were measured for the BGMV-introduced gene using Southern, Northern and Western blot analyses, respectively.

All bean lines were transformed with the beta-glucuronidase (*gus* reporter gene), Ignite herbicide resistance (*bar* gene), and BGMV coat protein genes. All lines express the *gus* gene and have herbicide resistance. Southern blot analysis showed that all the bean transformants contained the BGMV coat protein gene.

Fourteen days post sap inoculation, symptoms were recorded on transgenic bean lines that were challenge inoculated with BGMV-GA, and all plants were tested for coat protein and coat protein mRNA. Table 1 shows that the reaction of the eight transgenic bean lines was variable among the different lines tested. Infectivity ranged from 7-62%. Symptoms were typical golden mosaic and reduced growth. Six out of the eight lines expressed the mRNA at similar levels to those detected from the BGMV-infected non-transformant Seafarer. Coat protein mRNA was not detected in healthy non-transformant Seafarer. The protein product was easily detected in transgenic bean lines challenge inoculated with BGMV-GA by Western blot analysis, but it was not detected in any of the non-challenged transgenic lines or healthy non-transformed Seafarer. Results indicated that line 42-18 had lower infectivity rate than the other tested lines. 42-18 contain both markers and BGMV-GA coat protein gene. However, when this line and all the remaining seven lines were tested by whitefly transmission (the natural way for BGMV spread in the field), they were found susceptible to BGMV infection (Diaz, 1992).

The susceptibility of all tested lines to BGMV infection can be attributed to the failure of these lines to express the viral coat protein. Earlier reports for plant RNA virus systems indicated that there is a correlation between the level of coat protein expression in transgenic lines and the extent of protection against the homologous virus (Hanley-Bowdoin and Hemenway, 1992). Because most of the transgenic lines expressed the coat mRNA but failed to express the protein product at a detectable level, one may think that a higher BGMV coat protein expression is needed to confer resistance. However, recently, published work for some other RNA viruses (Kawchuck et al., 1990, Lindbo and Dougherty, 1992) showed that there is no correlation between coat protein expression and protection.

Several reasons for this lack of correlation can be considered. Because protein isn't "functional" enough to provide protection, perhaps it's either not produced in sufficient quantities or it's not active enough to bind to the virus. Another possibility is that the protein is produced but it's not being expressed in the right place or at the right time. This could be due to a lack of promoter activity or a mutation in the gene that's causing the protein to be produced in the wrong place or at the wrong time. It's also possible that the protein is being produced but it's not being processed correctly, which would affect its function. Finally, it's possible that the protein is being produced but it's not being transported to the right location where it needs to be to provide protection.

It's also possible that the protein is being produced but it's not being transported to the right location where it needs to be to provide protection. This could be due to a lack of signal peptides or a mutation in the gene that's causing the protein to be transported incorrectly. Another possibility is that the protein is being transported but it's not being delivered to the right location where it needs to be to provide protection. This could be due to a lack of transporters or a mutation in the gene that's causing the protein to be transported incorrectly. Finally, it's possible that the protein is being transported but it's not being delivered to the right location where it needs to be to provide protection. This could be due to a lack of receptors or a mutation in the gene that's causing the protein to be delivered incorrectly.