

This is a repository copy of *Substrate induction and glucose repression of maltose utilization by Streptomyces coelicolor A3(2) is controlled by malR, a member of the lacI-galR family of regulatory genes.*

White Rose Research Online URL for this paper:
<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/408/>

Article:

Van Wezel, G.P., White, J., Young, J.P.W. orcid.org/0000-0001-5259-4830 et al. (2 more authors) (1997) Substrate induction and glucose repression of maltose utilization by *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) is controlled by malR, a member of the lacI-galR family of regulatory genes. *Molecular Microbiology*. pp. 537-549. ISSN 0950-382X

Reuse

Items deposited in White Rose Research Online are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved unless indicated otherwise. They may be downloaded and/or printed for private study, or other acts as permitted by national copyright laws. The publisher or other rights holders may allow further reproduction and re-use of the full text version. This is indicated by the licence information on the White Rose Research Online record for the item.

Takedown

If you consider content in White Rose Research Online to be in breach of UK law, please notify us by emailing eprints@whiterose.ac.uk including the URL of the record and the reason for the withdrawal request.

Substrate induction and glucose repression of maltose utilization by *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) is controlled by *malR*, a member of the *lacI*–*galR* family of regulatory genes

Gilles P. van Wezel,¹ Janet White,¹ Peter Young,² Pieter W. Postma³ and Mervyn J. Bibb^{1*}

¹John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, Colney, Norwich, NR4 7UH, UK.

²Department of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York, YO1 5YW, UK.

³EC Slater Institute for Biochemical Research, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Muidergracht 12, 1018 TV, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Summary

malR of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) encodes a homologue of the LacI/GalR family of repressor proteins, and is divergently transcribed from the *malEFG* gene cluster, which encodes components of an ATP-dependent transport system that is required for maltose utilization. Transcription of *malE* was induced by maltose and repressed by glucose. Disruption or deletion of *malR* resulted in constitutive, glucose-insensitive *malE* transcription at a level markedly above that observed in the parental *malR*⁺ strain, and overproduction of MalR prevented growth on maltose as carbon source. Consequently, MalR plays a crucial role in both substrate induction and glucose repression of maltose utilization. *malR* is expressed from a single promoter with transcription initiating at the first G of the predicted GTG translation start codon.

Introduction

Members of the genus *Streptomyces* are Gram-positive, mycelial soil bacteria with a high genomic G+C content, and undergo a complex process of morphological development that normally results in sporulation (Chater and Losick, 1996). They also produce a wide variety of secondary metabolites, many of which are used as antibiotics in human medicine and agriculture (Miyadoh, 1993).

Received 27 September, 1996; revised 18 November, 1996; accepted 21 November, 1996. *For correspondence. E-mail mervyn.bibb@bbsrc.ac.uk; Tel. (01603) 452571; Fax (01603) 456844.

Streptomycetes are saprophytes, obtaining nutrients and energy by solubilizing organic material in the soil through the production of extracellular hydrolytic enzymes that include amylases, xylanases, cellulases and proteases (McCarthy and Williams, 1992). Alpha-amylase genes (*aml*) have been cloned from a variety of streptomycetes, and the regulation of α -amylase production has been studied in *Streptomyces limosus* (Long *et al.*, 1987; Virolle *et al.*, 1988), *Streptomyces venezuelae* (Virolle and Bibb, 1988), *Streptomyces thermoviolaceus* (Bahri and Ward, 1990), *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* (Graefe *et al.*, 1986) and *Streptomyces kanamyceticus* (Flores *et al.*, 1993). Transcription of at least some of these genes is induced by starch-derived di- and oligosaccharides, such as maltose and maltotriose, and *aml* genes probably belong to the maltose regulons of most, if not all, streptomycetes. While induction of *aml* transcription in *S. venezuelae* is repressed by glucose, it is not repressed by this sugar in *S. limosus* (Virolle *et al.*, 1988) and *S. thermoviolaceus* (Bahri and Ward, 1990); in both of the latter strains, mannitol acts as a repressing carbon source. However, when cloned in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) or in *Streptomyces lividans*, *aml* of *S. limosus* adopts the regulatory characteristics of its surrogate host, with induction of *aml* transcription being repressed by glucose and not by mannitol (Virolle *et al.*, 1988).

The mechanism of glucose repression in streptomycetes is not understood. While phosphoenolpyruvate (PEP)-dependent fructose phosphotransferase systems occur in some streptomycetes (Titgemeyer *et al.*, 1995), attempts to identify PEP-dependent glucose phosphotransferase systems in several *Streptomyces* species have failed (Sabater *et al.*, 1972; Novotná and Hostálek, 1985). This, and the absence of fluctuations in cAMP levels with changes in carbon source in *S. coelicolor* (Hodgson, 1980) and in *S. venezuelae* (Chatterjee and Vining, 1982), suggest that the mechanism of glucose repression is markedly different from that in *Escherichia coli* (Postma *et al.*, 1993; 1996). In other Gram-positive bacteria with genomic DNA of lower G+C content, such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus megaterium* and *Staphylococcus xylosus*, CcpA, a homologue of the LacI–GalR family of regulatory proteins, acts

A

spnmalrMPVTTIKDVA	KAAGVSVSPSTV	TRVIVQNKSTRT	SDQTKKRVK	AMKDS	TTTQT	49
skymalrMVTTRTIAA	QAANVSVSTSTV	SRVVISGNDKRT	SMQTRRQVKA	TMKSD	NTVFP	48
samslrMTRRRLLAQA	KKVGVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	SEATRQRQV	ALDDV	LVYERP	49
samihsMTRRRLLAQA	KKVGVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	SEATRQRQV	ALDDV	LVYERP	49
slilmdrMTRRRLLAQA	KKVGVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	SEATRQRQV	ALDDV	LVYERP	49
slirldrMTRRRLLAQA	KKVGVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	SEATRQRQV	ALDDV	LVYERP	49
scomalrMTRRRLLAQA	KKVGVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	SEATRQRQV	ALDDV	LVYERP	49
slimorf	MTLPAPRDGS	PAVPTRLAQA	AQAASVSVSEATV	SRVVLNGGKGGV	AASRQSSRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	60
bmeccpaMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
lcaccpaMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
skycppaMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
ecocytrMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
ecogalrMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
ecomaliMNTVTTIDVA	REANVSVSEATV	SRVVVNGGKGGV	KPTTRRQV	ALDDL	LVYERP	49
spnmalr	STLVAVWLSY	TQVTTGLVLD	DSDAFYVONPF	PLPSVLRSQ	VASENHVYATQ	IATTKGDKFR	109	
skymalr	RAARLGERAR	SNTEGLVLD	ASIEDLONBPI	VLDDVLSGS	KCKNHGATT	STTKGQSBI	108	
samslr	TQLRGERAR	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
samihs	TQLRGERAR	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
slilmdr	TQLRGERAR	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
slirldr	TQLRGERAR	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
scomalr	VRLRQRSEG	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
slimorf	TRRLRRRSAG	..LVGLVLP	..LONBPI	FPAPFAEVGG	ALAQOQGLTPV	LCTTQTKGVS	101	
bmeccpa	AVARGGLASKK	TTTVGVITP	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	104	
lcaccpa	AVARGGLASKK	TTTVGVITP	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	105	
skycppa	AVARGGLASKK	TTTVGVITP	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	106	
ecocytr	AVARGGLASKK	TTTVGVITP	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	104	
ecogalr	PMGRNVKRNE	TRTVGLV	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	111	
ecomali	ROASRALRGG	SGVTGLV	..DLSNIF	FAELARGED	IATMYKKNII	LNSNSDQNDK	103	
spnmalr	LNAISQMVY	KRVVDGLVLY	A..QE	DPLVKLVABE	QFPFYLLTGK	LSP.FITLV	162	
skymalr	LELVQEMHY	HSVDGGLVLY	S...KKS	PIIDILKASH	AMPVVLINAA	LADLDFCTA	160	
samslr	EADYVVEE	QOVSGVVAAG	G.LFAQADAP	HDHYRLLAER	NIPVVLNAA	IADLDFCTA	160	
slilmdr	EADYVVEE	QOVSGVVAAG	G.LFAQADAP	HDHYRLLAER	NIPVVLNAA	IADLDFCTA	160	
slirldr	EADYVVEE	QOVSGVVAAG	G.LFAQADAP	HDHYRLLAER	NIPVVLNAA	IADLDFCTA	160	
scomalr	EDELTEMLVD	RGVNGGLVLS	G.GLHADTTAD	MQRVYERAR	GVPFVVLNGY	NERIRAEFV	171	
slimorf	EDELTEMLVD	RGVNGGLVLS	G.GLHADTTAD	MQRVYERAR	GVPFVVLNGY	NERIRAEFV	171	
bmeccpa	ELHLLNMLG	KQVVDGGLV	G..NVT	EEHVVEEKK	PVPPVVLASV	ESTNQVSVV	158	
lcaccpa	ELHLLNMLG	KQVVDGGLV	G..NVT	EEHVVEEKK	PVPPVVLASV	ESTNQVSVV	159	
skycppa	ELHLLNMLG	KQVVDGGLV	G..NVT	EEHVVEEKK	PVPPVVLASV	ESTNQVSVV	160	
ecocytr	ELHLLNMLG	KQVVDGGLV	G..NVT	EEHVVEEKK	PVPPVVLASV	ESTNQVSVV	158	
ecogalr	BRQALDITR	KRCADGLVLA	K...TIS	EEIKDLNKK	SVPPVVSSTN	GKDEGTVMV	165	
ecomali	LAQRFLDIN	QGVVGLVLA	A..AG..SS	DDLRRMAEK	AIPVVAASRA	SYLDDVDVTR	163	
spnmalr	NDNVQA.GFD	AATEYIKKGC	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
skymalr	NDNVSA.SQS	LTRYLLIDKGC	NKFLFVLCFG	DHLPSRR..	.IAGHLNAV	EQTGSLDIT	217	
samslr	CDDAVAVEQ	SWRHLASLGH	ERIGLVLCPG	DHIPSRRKLA	..AAQATA	QAMGAALPA	215	
slilmdr	CDDAVAVEQ	SWRHLASLGH	ERIGLVLCPG	DHIPSRRKLA	..AAQATA	QAMGAALPA	215	
slirldr	CDDAVAVEQ	SWRHLASLGH	ERIGLVLCPG	DHIPSRRKLA	..AAQATA	QAMGAALPA	215	
scomalr	CDDAVAVEQ	SWRHLASLGH	ERIGLVLCPG	DHIPSRRKLA	..AAQATA	QAMGAALPA	215	
slimorf	CDDAVAVEQ	SWRHLASLGH	ERIGLVLCPG	DHIPSRRKLA	..AAQATA	QAMGAALPA	215	
bmeccpa	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
lcaccpa	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
skycppa	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
ecocytr	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
ecogalr	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
ecomali	LDYVQAAYD	AVKLLDGLGH	KRIAFVIGSK	KLFTVKDR..	.LTYGEOAL	KHYKLTDDN	217	
spnmalr	RYFADEFLR	EKGYKFSKRL	RKHDPOIDAT	ITDSDLLAFG	VNVIYAKHQL	DVVP..VLS	273	
skymalr	RYFAKNRHYL	EKGYKFSKRL	RKHDPOIDAT	ITDSDLLAFG	VNVIYAKHQL	DVVP..VLS	273	
samslr	LVERMFSLE	.GGQAAASRRL	LE..RGVAGI	ICASDPLALG	AVRAAARRRGL	HVPPRDVSV	272	
slilmdr	LVERMFSLE	.GGQAAASRRL	LE..RGVAGI	ICASDPLALG	AVRAAARRRGL	HVPPRDVSV	272	
slirldr	LVERMFSLE	.GGQAAASRRL	LE..RGVAGI	ICASDPLALG	AVRAAARRRGL	HVPPRDVSV	272	
scomalr	LVERMFSLE	.GGQAAASRRL	LE..RGVAGI	ICASDPLALG	AVRAAARRRGL	HVPPRDVSV	272	
slimorf	LVERMFSLE	.GGQAAASRRL	LE..RGVAGI	ICASDPLALG	AVRAAARRRGL	HVPPRDVSV	272	
bmeccpa	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
lcaccpa	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
skycppa	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
ecocytr	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
ecogalr	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
ecomali	YFVEGDTYD	.SGIEALVHQL	LEEDKPTAT	FVGTDEMALG	VIHGAQDQGGV	NVPNDLEII	273	
spnmalr	FDS..VNPK	LNLAAVDIN	SLELGRVSALE	TILQITN.DN	KNNKQICYP	LIAHKIIEK	328	
skymalr	FDS..VNPK	LNLAAVDIN	SLELGRVSALE	TILQITN.DN	KNNKQICYP	LIAHKIIEK	328	
samslr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
slilmdr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
slirldr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
scomalr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
slimorf	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
bmeccpa	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
lcaccpa	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
skycppa	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
ecocytr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
ecogalr	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
ecomali	FDDSAEMTCT	EPPPLTWRQP	IEAMRAAVD	LLCAQOQGT	VPHRELLFEP	ELVVRSTAQ	332	
spnmalr	IQEV.....	..328						
skymalr	ASAK.....	..332						
samslr	ASAK.....	..336						
slilmdr	PAAR.....	..336						
slirldr	VSTR.....	..337						
scomalr	APRERGRP..	..344						
slimorf	WVPG.G.....	..351						
bmeccpa332						
lcaccpa334						
skycppa332						
ecocytr	LP.....	..340						
ecogalr	PSLEASHHAT	SD343						
ecomali325						

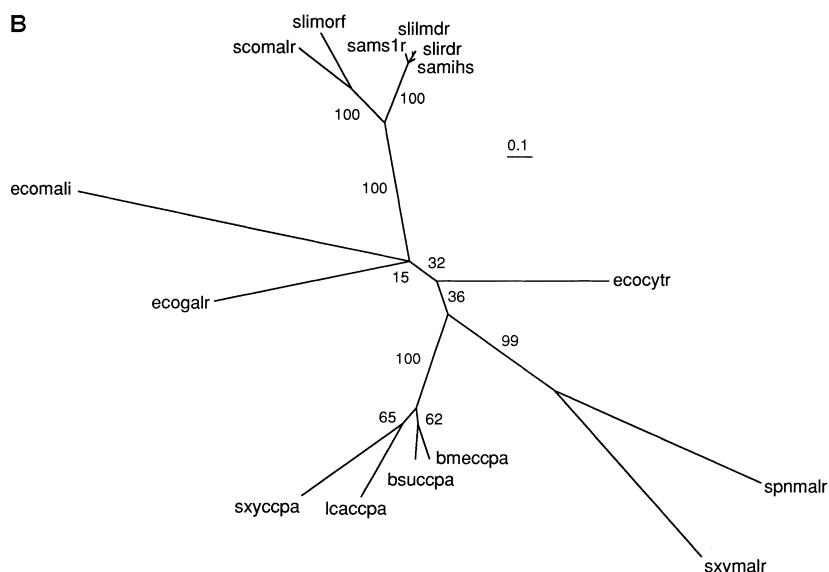


Fig. 1. A. Alignment of the amino acid sequences of a selection of MalR homologues: spnmalr, MalR of *Sta. pneumoniae* (SWISSPROT Q08511); skymalr, MalR of *Sta. xylosus* (PIR S44187); samihs, product of the left direct repeat of AUD6 of *S. ambofaciens* (PIR S33360); sams1r, product of the right direct repeat of AUD6 of *S. ambofaciens* (PIR S33361); slilmr, products of the left and middle direct repeats of AUD1 of *S. lividans* (PIR S21351/2); slidr, product of the right direct repeat of AUD1 of *S. lividans* (PIR S21353); scomalr, MalR of *S. coelicolor* (this study; EMBL Accession no. Y07706); slimorf, product of ORF-SI of *S. limosus* (this study; EMBL Accession no. Y08304); bmeccpa, CcpA of *B. megaterium* (EMBL L26052); bsuccpa, CcpA of *B. subtilis* (EMBL Accession no. M85182); lcaccpa, CcpA of *L. casei* (GenBank Accession no. M85182); sxyccpa, CcpA of *Sta. xylosus* (EMBL Accession no. X95439); ecocytr, CytR of *E. coli* (SWISSPROT P06964); ecogalr, GalR of *E. coli* (SWISSPROT P03024); ecomali, Mall of *E. coli* (SWISSPROT P18811).

B. Phylogenetic tree of the sequences aligned in (A). The number of supporting bootstrap replicates (out of 100) is shown for each internal branch.

as a pleiotropic effector of glucose repression (Hueck and Hillen, 1995; Henkin, 1996; Egeter and Brückner, 1996). In *S. coelicolor*, the most genetically characterized streptomycete, inactivation of an ATP-dependent glucose kinase encoded by *glkA* results in the inability to utilize glucose and in a pleiotropic loss of glucose repression (Hodgson, 1982; Seno and Chater, 1983; Kwakman and Postma, 1994), but has no effect on glucose transport (Hodgson, 1982). Moreover, replacement of GlkA with an unrelated glucose kinase from *Zymomonas mobilis*, or with a normally cryptic glucose kinase of *S. coelicolor*, conferred glucose utilization, but not glucose repression (Angell *et al.*, 1994). Thus, *glkA* plays a key regulatory role in mediating glucose repression in *S. coelicolor*, and its homologue in *Sta. xylosus* appears to have a similar function (Wagner *et al.*, 1995).

Earlier studies of the *aml* genes of *S. limosus* (Long *et al.*, 1987) and *S. venezuelae* (Virolle *et al.*, 1988) identified the 3' end of a gene located immediately upstream of *aml* in both strains that appeared to encode a member of the LacI–GalR family of regulatory proteins. In this study we report the sequence of this upstream gene from *S. limosus*, and its use to isolate and characterize a homologue from *S. coelicolor*, *malR*, that is required for both substrate induction and glucose repression of maltose utilization.

Results

Isolation and sequence analysis of members of the lacI–galR family of regulatory genes from *S. limosus* and *S. coelicolor*

Sequence analysis of the *aml* genes of *S. limosus* and *S. venezuelae* revealed the 3' end of an upstream open reading frame (ORF) whose predicted product showed significant amino acid sequence identity to the LacI–GalR family of regulatory proteins. The sequence (EMBL, Accession no. Y08304) of a 2.3 kb region upstream of *aml* of *S. limosus* was determined and revealed a complete ORF (ORF-SI) that would encode a protein of 351 amino acids (39 kDa) with a significant degree of sequence identity to members of the LacI–GalR family (e.g. 29% and 30% amino acid sequence identity to LacI and GalR, respectively; Fig. 1A). Upstream of ORF-SI lies the 3' end of an ORF (*aglA*) whose predicted product is a homologue (57% identity over 330 amino acids) of an α -glucosidase from the actinomycete *Thermomonospora curvata* (EMBL, Accession no. U17917). *aglA* and ORF-SI are co-transcribed (J. White, unpublished results) and apparently translationally coupled, with the TGA stop codon of *aglA* overlapping the ATG start codon of ORF-SI.

As *S. limosus* is not a genetically well-characterized and

manipulable strain, further attempts to analyse the role of ORF-*SI* were carried out by isolating and studying its homologue in *S. coelicolor*. To obtain the ORF-*SI* homologue of *S. coelicolor*, a 32-fold degenerate oligonucleotide corresponding to the C-terminal segment of the helix-turn-helix motif of ORF-*SI* (see below) was used to screen the ordered *S. coelicolor* cosmid library (Redenbach *et al.*, 1996) by colony hybridization. DNA was isolated from 16 positive clones, digested with *Bam*HI and *Sal*I, and subjected to Southern analysis using the 1300 bp *Aat*II fragment (EMBL, Accession no. Y08304) containing most of ORF-*SI* and part of *aglA* as probe. One cosmid (10B7) gave a strong hybridization signal, which was subsequently localized to a 13 kb *Bam*HI fragment. This fragment was

cloned in the *Bam*HI site of pBR329, yielding pIJ2564. Double-strand sequencing of this plasmid using the oligonucleotide used to probe the ordered cosmid library revealed a close homologue of ORF-*SI*. Sequencing of appropriate subcloned fragments from pIJ2564 revealed an ORF (*malR*) that would encode a protein of 344 aa (39 kDa). The cosmid maps at approx. 11 o'clock, on *Asel* fragment C, of the combined physical and genetic map of the *S. coelicolor* chromosome (Redenbach *et al.*, 1996).

A restriction map of the 2.2 kb *Fok*I fragment containing *malR* is shown in Fig. 2A. Upstream of and in the opposite orientation to *malR* lies a gene (*malE*) encoding a homologue of the maltose-binding protein found in other bacteria (Duplay *et al.*, 1984; Puyet and Espinosa, 1993).

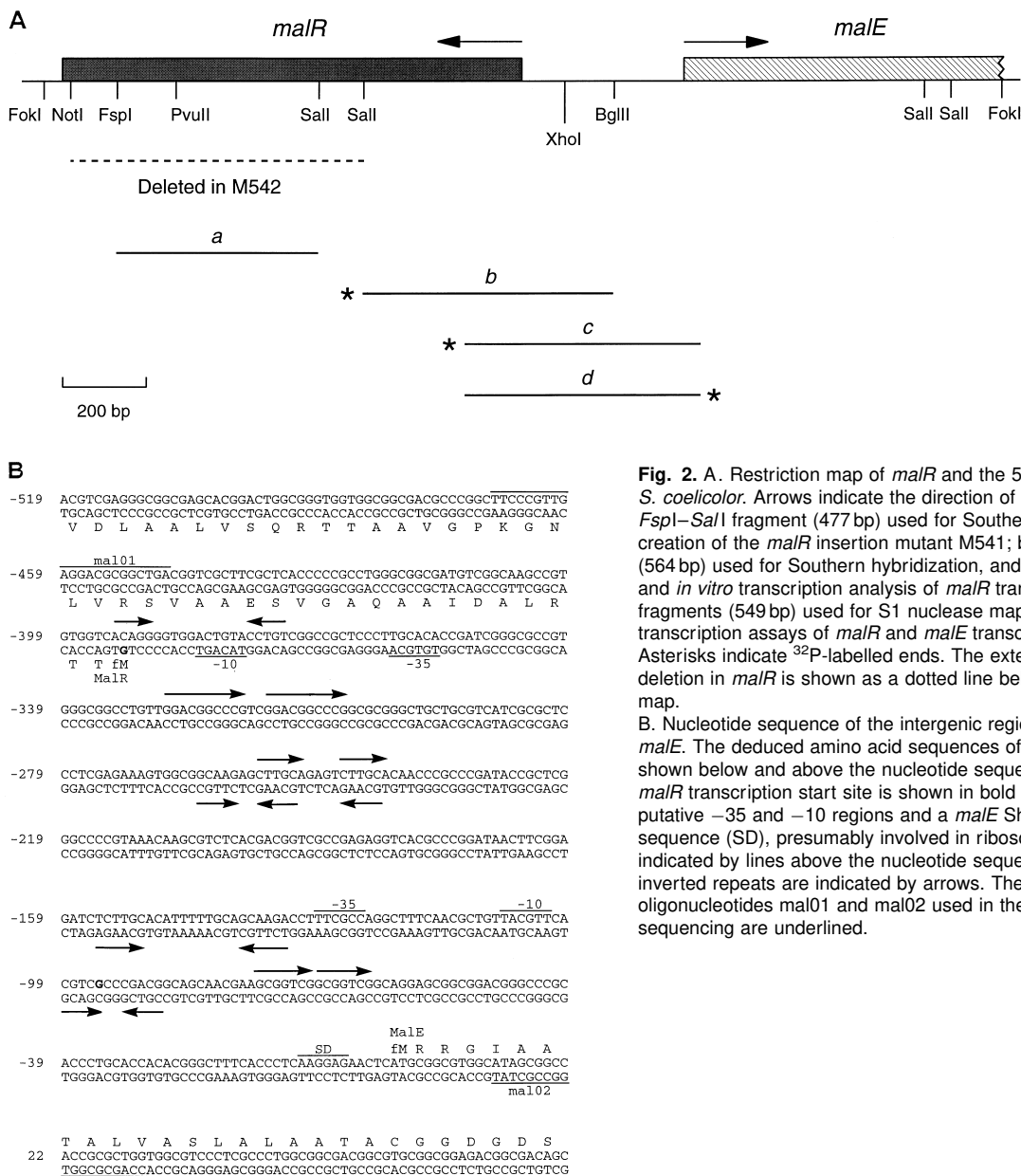


Fig. 2. Restriction map of *malR* and the 5' region of *malE* of *S. coelicolor*. Arrows indicate the direction of transcription. a, *Fsp*I-*Sal*I fragment (477 bp) used for Southern hybridization and creation of the *malR* insertion mutant M541; b, *Sal*I-*Bgl*II fragment (564 bp) used for Southern hybridization, and S1 nuclease mapping and *in vitro* transcription analysis of *malR* transcripts; c and d, PCR fragments (549 bp) used for S1 nuclease mapping and *in vitro* transcription assays of *malR* and *malE* transcripts, respectively. Asterisks indicate ³²P-labelled ends. The extent of the in-frame deletion in *malR* is shown as a dotted line below the restriction map. B. Nucleotide sequence of the intergenic region between *malR* and *malE*. The deduced amino acid sequences of MalR and MalE are shown below and above the nucleotide sequence, respectively. The *malR* transcription start site is shown in bold at position -392; putative -35 and -10 regions and a *malE* Shine-Dalgarno sequence (SD), presumably involved in ribosome binding, are indicated by lines above the nucleotide sequence. Direct and inverted repeats are indicated by arrows. The sequences of the oligonucleotides mal01 and mal02 used in the PCR and for sequencing are underlined.

Disruption of *malE* prevented the utilization of maltose as carbon source (G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted). The sequence of the *malR*–*malE* intergenic region and the predicted translation start sites for *malR* and *malE* are shown in Fig. 2B.

Relationship of MalR to other members of the LacI–GalR family

In addition to ORF-*SI*, the complete nucleotide sequences of five other streptomycete homologues of *malR* are available. Three occur as part of the amplifiable element AUD1 of *S. lividans* (Piendl *et al.*, 1994), where they appear to play a role in DNA amplification (Volf *et al.*, 1996), and two occur as part of the amplifiable element AUD6 of *Streptomyces ambofaciens* (Aubert *et al.*, 1993); pairwise comparisons between the products of the six ORFs reveal 92–100% amino acid sequence identity (two of the homologues in AUD1 are identical). MalR and the product of ORF-*SI* show a higher level of similarity to each other (63% identity) than to the products of the *S. ambofaciens* and *S. lividans* ORFs (53–55% identity). An alignment of the *Streptomyces* MalR homologues with members of the LacI–GalR family of proteins from other bacteria is shown in Fig. 1A, and a phylogenetic tree is shown in Fig. 1B. The *Streptomyces* homologues all group closely together, with MalR and the product of ORF-*SI* forming a separate branch from the *S. lividans* and *S. ambofaciens* homologues. Both the protein sequence comparison and the phylogenetic tree indicate that MalR and the product of ORF-*SI* are not significantly more similar to specific regulatory proteins for maltose utilization (e.g. MalR from *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Puyet *et al.*, 1993) and *Sta. xylosus* (Egeter and Brückner, 1995), and Mall from *E. coli* (Reid *et al.*, 1989)) than they are to the pleiotropic regulatory proteins CcpA (from *B. subtilis* (Henkin *et al.*, 1991), *B. megaterium* (Hueck *et al.*, 1994), *Sta. xylosus* (Egeter and Brückner, 1996) and *Lactobacillus casei* (GenBank, Accession no. U28137), and CytR (from *E. coli*; Valentin-Hansen *et al.*, 1986). A feature shared by all members of this family of repressor proteins is a well-conserved N-terminally located helix-turn-helix motif responsible for DNA binding (Weickert and Adhya, 1992); such a motif is also present in the products of *malR* (Fig. 1A, scomalr, amino acid residues 5–24) and ORF-*SI* (Fig. 1A, slimorf, amino acid residues 16–35).

The *malR* transcript lacks an untranslated leader sequence

To determine the transcription start site of *malR*, RNA was isolated from *S. coelicolor* M145 grown in liquid minimal medium (SMM) containing glucose as carbon source and

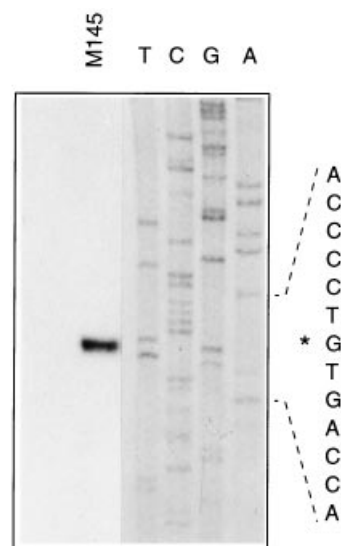


Fig. 3. Determination of the transcription start site of *malR*. TCGA, *malR* nucleotide sequence ladder. M145, RNA-protected fragment derived from RNA isolated from M145 grown in SMM containing glucose as carbon source; the asterisk indicates the most probable transcription start site, and coincides with the first G of the predicted translation start codon GTG.

subjected to S1 mapping. A single transcription start site was located corresponding to the first G of the predicted GTG translation start codon (Fig. 3). Thus, the *malR* transcript appears to lack a conventional ribosome-binding site, a property shown by several other streptomycete mRNAs (Janssen, 1993; Strohl, 1992). *In vitro* transcription assays using *S. coelicolor* RNA polymerase with a 564 bp *SalI*–*Bgl*III fragment and a 549 bp polymerase chain reaction (PCR) product (Fig. 2A; fragments b and c, respectively), each containing the *malR* promoter region as templates, gave the expected run-off transcripts of \approx 330 nucleotides (nt) and 120 nt, respectively. The transcriptional start site of *malR* is preceded by sequences (Fig. 2B, 5′-TGTGCA–17 bp–TACAGT-3′) that are similar to the proposed consensus sequence (5′-TTGACN–16–18 bp–TAGAPuT-3′; Strohl, 1992) for promoters recognized by the major RNA polymerase holoenzyme of *Streptomyces*.

S1 nuclease protection studies using RNA isolated from M145 grown in SMM containing glucose revealed *malR* transcripts throughout growth, but with maximal levels during mid- and late-exponential phases (Fig. 4).

Inactivation of *malR* causes constitutive, enhanced and glucose-insensitive transcription of *malE*

To determine the function of *malR* and its possible role in the regulation of *malE*, an in-frame deletion was made that removed the C-terminal two-thirds of the *malR*-coding region (corresponding to amino acid residues 112–341

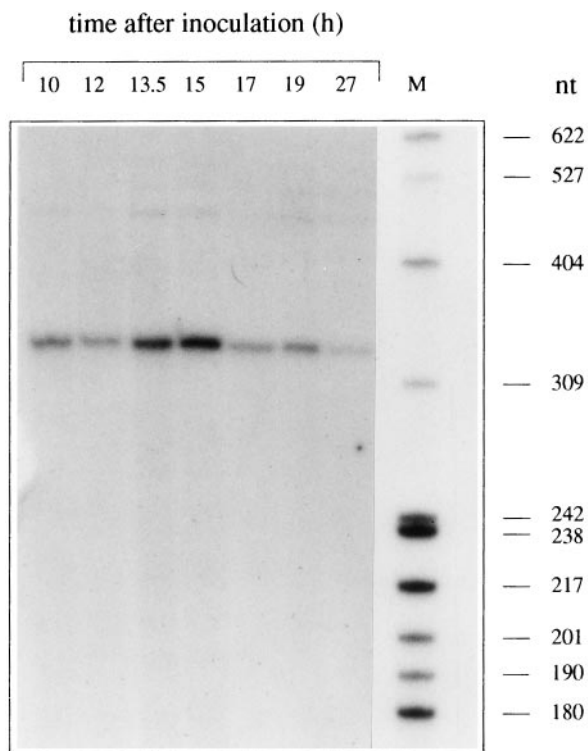


Fig. 4. Transcription of *malR* during growth in SMM containing glucose as carbon source. M, 32 P-end-labelled *Hpa*I-digested pBR322 size markers; nt, nucleotides. The culture entered stationary phase after \approx 22 h.

out of 344). Such a mutation should not have a polar effect on the expression of genes 3' of *malR*. *S. coelicolor* J1501 was transformed with single-stranded DNA derived from pIJ2591 (Fig. 5), which carries *tsr* conferring thiostrepton-resistance (Thio^R). One Thio^R isolate, which had probably arisen by single cross-over integration of pIJ2591 into the *malR* region of the chromosome, was subjected to three rounds of sporulation on non-selective SFM agar plates to allow a second cross-over to occur, resulting in loss of *tsr*. DNA was isolated from 40 Thio^S colonies, digested with *Not*I and analysed in two Southern blots. In the first hybridization, using the 564 bp *Sal*I–*Bgl*III fragment corresponding to the N-terminal part of *malR* as probe (Fig. 2A, fragment b), the 2.2 kb *Not*I fragment containing *malR* should have been 700 bp smaller in the deletion mutant, while in the second hybridization, using the 477 bp *Fsp*I–*Sal*I probe (Fig. 2A, fragment a) recognizing the part of *malR* that should have been deleted, no hybridization signal was expected in the mutant. One of the Thio^S clones (M542) gave the correct patterns. A second *malR* mutant (M541) was made by integrating pIJ2587 containing the 477 bp *Fsp*I–*Sal*I fragment internal to *malR* (Fig. 2A, fragment a) in the chromosome of M145; disruption of *malR* was confirmed by Southern analysis.

In agreement with data obtained for other *S. coelicolor* strains (Hodgson, 1980), maltose proved to be a poor carbon source for *S. coelicolor* M145 and J1501, giving growth rates and final biomass accumulations that were consistently lower than those obtained with glucose (data for M145 are shown in Fig. 6A). In contrast, the growth rates of the *malR* mutants M541 and M542 on maltose were comparable to those for glucose-grown cultures and significantly higher than the congenic *malR*⁺ parental strains (data for M542 are shown in Fig. 6B). Furthermore, the final biomass accumulation of M541 and M542 grown on maltose approached that obtained with glucose (Fig. 6B), indicating an increased ability to use maltose as carbon source.

To assess whether this might reflect derepression of *malEFG* and elevated levels of maltose uptake, transcription of *malE* in M145 and in M542 was analysed by S1 nuclease protection assays using RNA isolated from liquid minimal medium (NMMP) cultures containing maltose, glucose or a combination of maltose and glucose (earlier studies had shown that transcription of *malE* was barely detectable when mannitol was used as a non-repressing carbon source, but markedly induced on addition of maltose (G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted)). In M145, transcription of *malE* was strongly induced by maltose, and this induction was completely repressed when glucose was present as an additional carbon source (Fig. 7). However, in M542 transcription of *malE* was constitutive and occurred at levels much greater than the induced level in M145. Moreover, transcription of *malE* was no longer repressed by

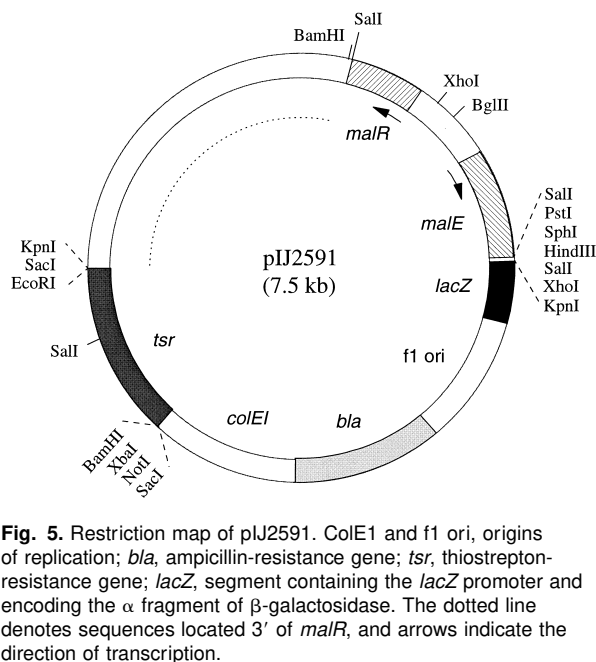


Fig. 5. Restriction map of pIJ2591. ColE1 and f1 ori, origins of replication; *bla*, ampicillin-resistance gene; *tsr*, thiostrepton-resistance gene; *lacZ*, segment containing the *lacZ* promoter and encoding the α fragment of β -galactosidase. The dotted line denotes sequences located 3' of *malR*, and arrows indicate the direction of transcription.

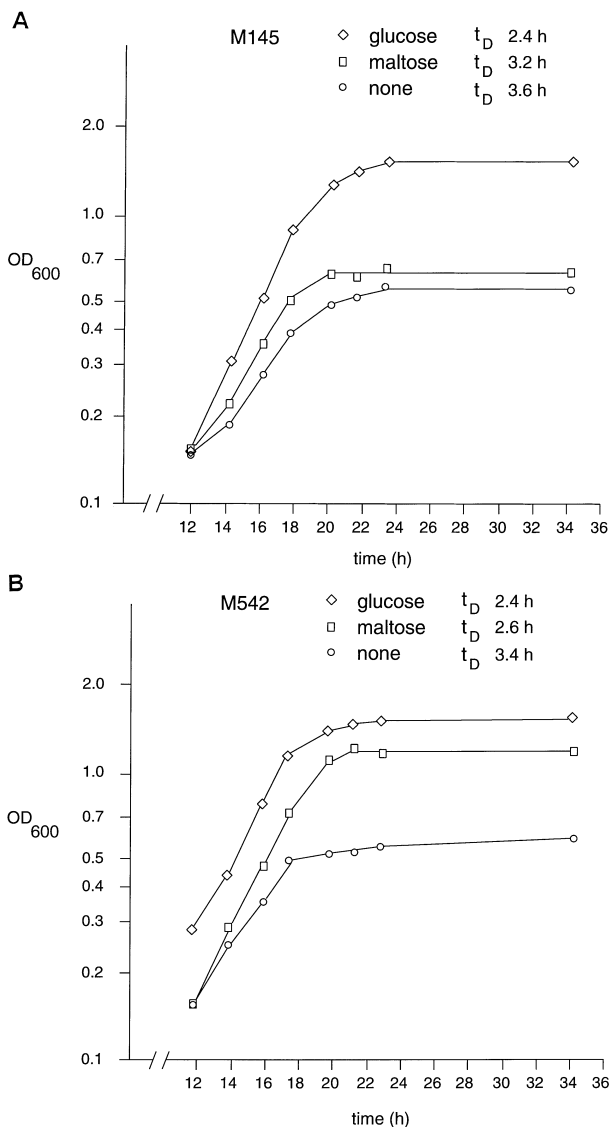


Fig. 6. Growth of *S. coelicolor* M145 (*malR*⁺) (A) and *S. coelicolor* M542 (Δ *malR*) (B) in the liquid minimal medium SMM containing 0.1% (w/v) casamino acids supplemented with 1% (w/v) glucose, maltose or no additional carbon source. t_D , doubling time.

glucose, indicating a role for MalR in both substrate induction and catabolite repression of maltose utilization. Similar results were obtained with M541.

To confirm that the enhanced ability of M542 to utilize maltose was due solely to deletion of *malR*, the 2.2 kb *FokI* fragment containing the *malR*-coding region and promoter (Fig. 2A) was cloned in the conjugative vector pSET152 yielding pJ2593, which was subsequently integrated at the chromosomal ϕ C31-attachment site, resulting in M543. The growth rate and biomass accumulation of M543 in SMM containing maltose were essentially the same as those of M145, confirming restoration of the wild-type phenotype.

Inactivation of *malR* represses agarase production

Expression of the agarase gene (*dagA*) of *S. coelicolor* is subject to carbon catabolite repression (Hodgson, 1980; Bibb *et al.*, 1987; Kwakman and Postma, 1994), and *dagA* transcription is strongly repressed by glucose (Servín-González *et al.*, 1994; Angell *et al.*, 1994). Agarase production by M145, the *glkA* mutant J1915, and the *malR* mutants M541 and M542, was readily detected on MM plates containing agar as sole carbon source (Fig. 8; upper left plate); as expected, agarase production by all except J1915 was effectively repressed by glucose (Fig. 8; upper right plate). Unexpectedly, while agarase production by M145 and J1915 was readily detected on plates containing 1% (w/v) maltose, agarase production by M541 and M542 was undetectable (Fig. 8; bottom left plate). This apparent repression of agarase activity in the *malR* mutants might reflect higher levels of intracellular glucose which could arise from elevated levels of maltose uptake upon the observed derepression of *malEFG* (Fig. 7). Agarase production in glucose-grown agar cultures of M543 was restored, confirming that repression did indeed result from inactivation of *malR*.

Overexpression of *malR* prevents maltose utilization

The 2.2 kb *FokI* fragment containing *malR* was cloned in the multicopy vector pJ486 (*c.* 50–100 copies per genome), yielding pJ2592. Introduction of pJ2592 into M145 prevented growth in liquid minimal medium (NMMP lacking casamino acids) containing maltose as sole carbon source, presumably because of overexpression of

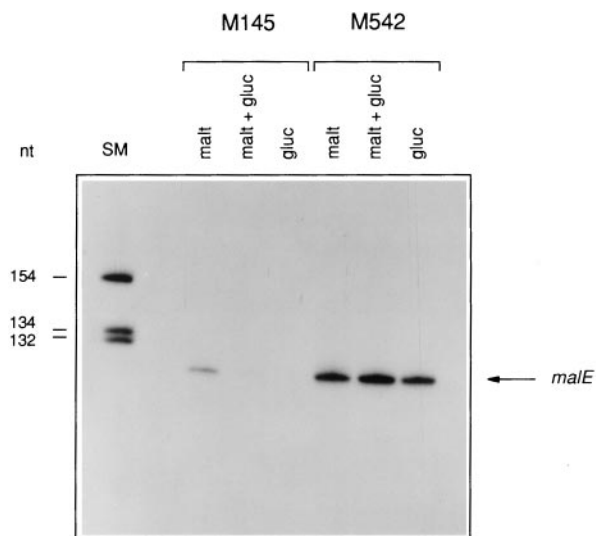


Fig. 7. Transcription of *malE* in SMM-grown cultures of M145 and M542, using maltose (malt), maltose plus glucose (malt + gluc) or glucose (gluc) as carbon sources. SM, ³²P-end-labelled *Hpa*II-digested pBR322 size markers; nt, nucleotides.

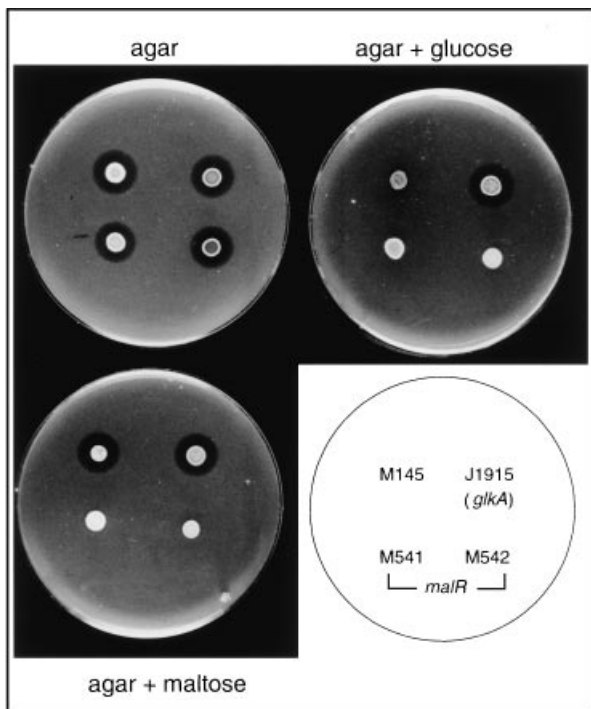


Fig. 8. Effect of carbon source on agarase production by M145, J1915 (M145 *glkA*), and the *malR* mutants M541 and M542. A volume of 4 μ l of a titred spore preparation of each of the four strains was spotted on MM plates, and agarase activity detected as zones of clearing of the agar.

malR and enhanced repression of *malE*. No growth inhibition was detected when glucose, glycerol, mannitol, arabinose or galactose were used as carbon sources.

Identification of MalR using antibodies raised against CcpA from *B. megaterium*

As MalR and CcpA from *B. megaterium* are 30% identical (Fig. 1A), we assessed whether antibodies raised against CcpA would cross-react with MalR. S30 supernatants derived from total-protein extracts prepared from 36 h TSB-grown cultures of *S. coelicolor* were analysed by Western blotting using antibodies raised against CcpA of *B. megaterium* (Küster *et al.*, 1996). Two proteins of approx. 55 kDa and 43 kDa were detected in extracts from M145; bands of a similar mobility were noted in extracts of *S. coelicolor* DSM 40233 by Küster *et al.* (1996). The 43 kDa band is approx. the same size as that predicted for MalR (39 kDa). It was not observed in extracts from the *malR* deletion mutant M542, but reappeared in an extract from M542 containing pIJ2592 at a level several times higher than in M145. We therefore believe that the 43 kDa protein is MalR. The 55 kDa protein (\approx 500 amino acids) is significantly larger than any known member of the LacI–GalR family of proteins.

Discussion

Members of the *lacI–galR* family of regulatory genes were identified in *S. limosus* (ORF-SI) and *S. coelicolor* (*malR*), located upstream of *ami* (encoding an α -amylase; Long *et al.*, 1987) and *malE* (probably encoding a maltose-binding protein; G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted), respectively. The degree of similarity of the two gene products (63% amino acid sequence identity) is consistent with the notion that they are functionally homologous proteins. As attempts at phage-mediated disruption of ORF-SI in *S. limosus* failed (J. White, unpublished results), we focussed on its homologue from the genetically more amenable *S. coelicolor*.

Transcription of *malE* (and probably of *malFG*, both of which appear to be required for maltose uptake; G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted) was induced by maltose in *S. coelicolor* M145 (G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted; this study), but was constitutive in the *malR* mutants M541 and M542. Presumably, in the wild-type strain, maltose or a maltose metabolite binds to MalR and prevents it from repressing transcription initiation at the *malE* promoter. Disruption or deletion of *malR* also relieved glucose repression of *malE* transcription. Thus, MalR is required for both substrate induction and glucose repression of *malE* expression. While *S. coelicolor* grows poorly on maltose as sole carbon source (Hodgson, 1982; G. P. van Wezel, J. White, M. J. Bibb and P. O. Postma, submitted), the *malR* mutants grew much better than the parental strain, perhaps because of elevated levels of maltose uptake. Consistent with this, the level of *malE* transcription in the *malR* mutant M542 far exceeded the induced level observed in M145 on all carbon sources tested. Furthermore, in contrast to M145, agarase production by the *malR* mutants was repressed by maltose, perhaps reflecting higher levels of intracellular glucose, a potential consequence of improved maltose uptake. While compatible with its role as a repressor, the ability of 50–100 copies of *malR* (in the form of pIJ2592) to prevent growth of *S. coelicolor* M145 on maltose is surprising. This may reflect the ability of enhanced levels of MalR to completely repress *malE* transcription, preventing inducer uptake.

Notwithstanding the ability of antibodies raised against CcpA of *B. megaterium* to cross-react with MalR, disruption of *malR* had no apparent pleiotropic effect on carbon source utilization, and we have no evidence to suggest that MalR is a functional homologue of CcpA. Homologues of MalR occur in *Sta. pneumoniae* (Puyet *et al.*, 1993) and in *Sta. xylosus* (Egeter and Brückner, 1995). While MalR of *S. coelicolor* and *Sta. pneumoniae* acts to repress maltosaccharide and maltose utilization, respectively, inactivation of *malR* in *Sta. xylosus* reduces the level of maltose

transport and utilization. The role that these latter two homologues play in glucose repression of maltosaccharide and maltose catabolism in their respective hosts was not reported.

The ability of *malR* to mediate both substrate induction and catabolite repression of *malE* transcription resembles the role of the phylogenetically unrelated GylR, the repressor of the glycerol operon *gylCABX* of *S. coelicolor* (Hindle and Smith, 1994). The level of *gylCABX* transcription in *gylR* null mutants is markedly increased in both uninduced and glucose-grown cultures, and the presence of *gylR* on a multicopy plasmid prevents glycerol utilization (F. Amini, M. S. B. Paget and C. P. Smith, personal communication). Whether the dual roles that GylR and MalR play in the regulation of catabolic pathways in *S. coelicolor* is a common occurrence in streptomycetes remains to be determined.

The existence of a regulatory protein that mediates both substrate induction and glucose repression of *malE* transcription predicts the existence of *cis*-acting sequences that are required for both aspects of regulation. Direct and inverted repeats that might fulfill such a function occur 5' and 3' of the *malE* promoter (Fig. 2B). The 5' direct repeat CTTGCA and the inverted repeat 5'-TCTTGC-11 bp-GCAAGA-3', which occurs just upstream of the putative -35 region of *malE*, are also found in the promoter region of *aml* of *S. limosus*. The direct repeat appears to play a role in the induction of *aml* transcription by maltose, and deletion of the inverted repeat resulted in constitutive expression that was insensitive to glucose repression (Virolle and Gagnat, 1994). Consequently, this inverted repeat is a probable binding site for MalR. Direct repeats that show no sequence similarity to the direct and inverted repeats present in the *malE* promoter region are also required for both substrate induction and glucose repression of a chitinase gene (*chi63*) of *Streptomyces plicatus* (Delić *et al.*, 1992), again consistent with the notion of a single regulatory protein with dual functions in chitinase gene regulation.

The role of a repressor in both induction and glucose repression of *malE* transcription could be readily explained if glucose repression was mediated by inducer exclusion, i.e. if glucose, directly or indirectly, prevented the uptake of maltose. Interestingly, glucose repression of lactose utilization during growth of *E. coli* on both sugars appears to be totally attributable to inducer exclusion and to the level of active LacI, the repressor of the *lac* operon, with cAMP and CRP (cyclic AMP receptor protein) playing no role (Inada *et al.*, 1996). Although there is no evidence either for or against the role of inducer exclusion in regulating *malE* expression, constitutive expression of *aml* of *S. limosus* in *S. lividans*, achieved by cloning the gene on a high-copy-number plasmid, was still subject to glucose repression (Virolle and Bibb, 1988), i.e. under conditions where *aml* transcription was inducer independent, glucose

repression was still operative. If applicable to the closely related *S. coelicolor*, and to other genes in the maltose regulon, this suggests that inducer exclusion does not play a major role in glucose repression of *malE* transcription (similar conclusions were drawn for glucose repression of *dagA* expression in *S. coelicolor* (Servín-González *et al.*, 1994)). How else might glucose repression of *malE* transcription be mediated in a MalR-dependent manner? There is evidence in *Bacillus* species that glucose-6-phosphate acts as an anti-inducer of XylR, the repressor of the xylose-utilization operon, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, by competing with xylose for binding to XylR (Scheler and Hillen, 1993; Dahl *et al.*, 1995); although inactivation of *xylR* reduces glucose repression only about twofold in *B. megaterium* (Schmiedel and Hillen, 1996), much less than the apparent effect of deleting *malR* on glucose repression of *malE* transcription (Fig. 7), it is possible that a similar mechanism operates in *S. coelicolor*. Alternatively, perhaps an unidentified pleiotropic regulatory protein responsible for glucose repression, and functionally analogous to CcpA, requires the presence of MalR to bind to the *malE* promoter region. Finally, as the glucose kinase gene (*glkA*) of *S. coelicolor* plays a pleiotropic role in carbon catabolite repression, and because GlkA is required for glucose repression of the *aml* genes of *S. limosus* and *S. venezuelae* when cloned in *S. coelicolor* (Virolle and Bibb, 1988; Virolle *et al.*, 1988), glucose repression of *malE* may be mediated by MalR through interaction with, or modification by, GlkA.

malR is transcribed constitutively during growth of *S. coelicolor* in liquid culture, with transcript levels peaking during mid- to late-exponential phase. The transcription start site of the *malR* promoter coincides with the first G of the predicted GTG translational start codon, and thus the *malR* transcript lacks a conventional untranslated leader sequence and ribosome-binding site, consistent with the absence of a purine-rich Shine-Dalgarno sequence complementary to the 3' end of the 16S RNA upstream of the *malR*-coding region. Although several streptomycete mRNAs lack untranslated leader sequences (Janssen, 1993; Strohl, 1992), the *malR* transcript appears to be only the second example of a leaderless mRNA involved in primary metabolism, the other being that derived from the histidase gene of *Streptomyces griseus* (Wu *et al.*, 1995).

Experimental procedures

Bacterial strains, culture conditions, plasmids and phages

E. coli K-12 strains JM101 and JM109 (Messing *et al.*, 1981), and ET12567 mini-F'Km (MacNeil *et al.*, 1992; M. J. Bibb, unpublished) were used for routine subcloning and for the preparation of single-stranded DNA, respectively, and were

grown and transformed by standard procedures (Sambrook *et al.*, 1989); transformants were selected with carbenicillin at a final concentration of 200 µg ml⁻¹. Luria (L) broth containing 50 µg ml⁻¹ kanamycin was used to grow ET12567 mini-F⁺Km to isolate single-stranded DNA using M13KO7 as helper phage (Sambrook *et al.*, 1989). *S. coelicolor* A3(2) strains used were M145 (Hopwood *et al.*, 1985), J1501 (Chater *et al.*, 1982) and J1915 (Kelemen *et al.*, 1995). Protoplast preparation and transformation were as described by Hopwood *et al.* (1985). SFM medium (mannitol, 20 g l⁻¹; soya flour, 20 g l⁻¹; agar, 20 g l⁻¹, dissolved in tap water and autoclaved twice) is a modified version of that reported by Hobbs *et al.* (1989) and was used to make spore suspensions. Liquid minimal medium (NMMP; Hopwood *et al.*, 1985) containing 1% (w/v) glucose, mannitol, maltose or maltose plus glucose, and unless otherwise stated 0.05% (w/v) casamino acids, or SMM (Strauch *et al.*, 1992) containing 0.1% (w/v) casamino acids and 1% (w/v) glucose or maltose, were used to assess carbon-source utilization and for RNA isolation. MM plates (Hopwood *et al.*, 1985) were used to assess agarase production, which was detected as zones of clearing of the agar. TSB (Oxoid Tryptone–Soya broth powder; 30 g l⁻¹) was used to grow *S. coelicolor* strains for Western analysis.

pUC18 (Yanisch-Perron *et al.*, 1985), pBluescript-II SK+ (Stratagene), and pSET152 (Bierman *et al.*, 1992) were used for cloning experiments. pJ486 (Ward *et al.*, 1986) was used as a high-copy-number vector (≈50–100 copies per chromosome; T. Kieser, personal communication) in *S. coelicolor*. The 2.2 kb *FokI* fragment (Fig. 2A) containing *malR* and part of *malE* of *S. coelicolor* was cloned in pUC18, pJ486 and pSET152, resulting in pJ2588, pJ2592, and pJ2593, respectively. Standard procedures were used to isolate plasmid DNA from *E. coli* (Sambrook *et al.*, 1989), and to isolate plasmid and total DNA from *S. coelicolor* (Hopwood *et al.*, 1985).

pJ2564 was made by cloning a 13 kb *Bam*HI fragment containing *malR* from cosmid 10B7 in pBR329 (Covarrubias and Bolivar, 1982). pJ2587, which was used to make the *malR* disruption mutant M541, is a pUC18 derivative containing the internal 477 bp *Fsp*I–*Sal*I fragment of *malR* (Fig. 2A, fragment a) and *tsr*. pJ2591 (Fig. 5), which was used to make the *malR* deletion mutant M542, is a pBluescript-II SK+ derivative containing *tsr* and a 3.5 kb segment from which the internal *Sal*I–*Not*I region of *malR* (Fig. 2A) had been deleted. Double- and single-stranded DNAs derived from pJ2587 and pJ2591, respectively, were used to transform protoplasts of *S. coelicolor* M145 and J1501, respectively, and integrants selected with a final concentration of 50 µg ml⁻¹ Thio. Southern analyses were performed to confirm the mutations present in M541 and M542 using the appropriate ³²P-labelled probes (Sambrook *et al.*, 1989) and previously described hybridization conditions (van Wezel *et al.*, 1991).

DNA sequence analysis

The nucleotide sequence of *malR* was determined using the Promega TaqTrack and Pharmacia T7 sequencing kits and double-stranded DNA templates derived by subcloning DNA fragments from pJ2588 and pJ2564 in pUC18. For ORF-*SI* and *aglA*, sonicated fragments of the 2.2 kb *Eco*RI–*Bcl*I

chromosomal segment containing the genes (Virolle and Bibb, 1988) were cloned in the *Sma*I site of M13mp18, and nucleotide sequences determined using single-stranded DNA templates and the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I (Sanger *et al.*, 1977). Synthetic oligonucleotides were used to close gaps in the sequences. The sequences of *S. coelicolor malR* (Accession no. Y07706) and *S. limosus* ORF-*SI* with part of *aglA* (Accession no. Y08304) were deposited in the EMBL nucleotide sequence database.

Nuclease S1 protection assays

RNA was purified as described by Hopwood *et al.* (1985), except that DNase I treatment was used in addition to salt precipitation to eliminate DNA from the nucleic acid preparations. For each nuclease S1 protection assay, approx. 0.02 pmol (≈10⁴ Cerenkov counts min⁻¹) of labelled probe was hybridized to 20 µg of RNA in Na-TCA buffer (Murray, 1986) at 45°C overnight after denaturation at 65°C for 15 min. All subsequent steps were carried out as described previously (Strauch *et al.*, 1991), using an excess of probe. All of the nuclease S1 protection experiments were carried out at least twice using RNA isolated from independent cultures, and the results presented were shown to be reproducible. The probes used are shown in Fig. 2A. The 564 bp *Sal*I–*Bgl*II fragment of pJ2588 (Fig. 2A, probe b), ³²P-end-labelled at the *Sal*I site, and the 549 bp polymerase chain reaction (PCR) product (Fig. 2A, probe c) made using oligonucleotides mal02 and ³²P-end-labelled mal01 (Fig. 2B), were used for mapping *malR* transcripts. The same PCR product, but made using unlabelled mal01 and ³²P-end-labelled mal02, was used for determining the level of *malE* transcripts. PCRs contained 1× PCR buffer (Boehringer Mannheim), 0.2 mM of each dNTP, 25–50 pmol of each primer, 10 ng of pJ2564, 5 U Taq polymerase (Boehringer Mannheim) and 5% (v/v) glycerol in a total volume of 100 µl. Samples were subjected to 30 cycles of 60 s at 94°C, 60 s at 54°C and 60 s at 72°C.

In vitro transcription analysis

RNA polymerase was isolated from cultures in the transition phase between exponential growth and stationary phase, as described previously (Buttner and Brown, 1985). *In vitro* run-off transcription experiments were performed as described by Buttner *et al.* (1987) using the 564 bp *Sal*I–*Bgl*II fragment and the 549 bp PCR product (Fig. 2A, fragments b and c) as templates. Products were analysed on denaturing 6% (w/v) polyacrylamide gels using ³²P-end-labelled *Hpa*II fragments of pBR322 as size markers.

Western blots

Western analyses were conducted as described by Vijgenboom *et al.* (1994) using a 1:1000 dilution of antibodies raised against CcpA of *B. megaterium*.

Amino acid sequence analysis

The program CLUSTALW (Thompson *et al.*, 1994) at the SEQNET facility (Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire, UK) was

used to align the sequences, calculate distances using the Kimura correction, and construct the tree by the neighbour-joining method (Saitou and Nei, 1987) with 100 bootstrap replicates. TreeView (R. D. M. Page, University of Glasgow) was used to display the tree.

Acknowledgements

We thank Elke Küster (University of Erlangen, Germany) for providing antibodies against CcpA, Sarah K. Grimley for help with the phylogenetic analysis, and Mark Buttner, Keith Chater and David Hopwood for comments on the manuscript. This work was supported by an EU Human Capital and Mobility Grant (ERBCHBGCT930459) to M.J.B. and P.P., and grants to the John Innes Centre from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and the John Innes Foundation.

References

- Angell, S., Lewis, C.G., Buttner, M.J., and Bibb, M.J. (1994) Glucose repression in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2): a likely regulatory role for glucose kinase. *Mol Gen Genet* **244**: 135–143.
- Aubert, M., Weber, E., Schneider, D., Simonet, J.M., and Decaris, B. (1993) Primary structure analysis of a duplicated region in the amplifiable AUD6 locus of *Streptomyces ambifaciens* DSM40697. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **113**: 49–56.
- Bahri, S.M., and Ward, J.M. (1990) Regulation of a thermostable α -amylase of *Streptomyces thermoviolaceus* CUB74 – maltotriose is the smallest inducer. *Biochimie* **72**: 893–895.
- Bibb, M.J., Jones, G.H., Joseph, R., Buttner, M.J., and Ward, J.M. (1987) The agarase gene (*dagA*) of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2): affinity purification and characterisation of the cloned gene product. *J Gen Microbiol* **133**: 2089–2096.
- Bierman, M., Logan, R., O'Brien, K., Seno, E.T., Rao, R.N., and Schoner, B.E. (1992) Plasmid cloning vectors for the conjugal transfer of DNA from *Escherichia coli* to *Streptomyces* spp. *Gene* **116**: 43–49.
- Buttner, M.J., and Brown, N.L. (1985) RNA polymerase–DNA interactions in *Streptomyces*. *In vitro* studies of a *S. lividans* plasmid promoter with *S. coelicolor* RNA polymerase. *J Mol Biol* **185**: 177–188.
- Buttner, M.J., Fearnley, I.M., and Bibb, M.J. (1987) The agarase gene (*dagA*) of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2): nucleotide sequence and transcriptional analysis. *Mol Gen Genet* **209**: 101–109.
- Chater, K.F., and Losick, R. (1996) The mycelial life-style of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) and its relatives. In *Bacteria as Multicellular Organisms*. Shapiro, J.H., and Dworkin, M. (eds). New York: Oxford University Press, in press.
- Chater, K.F., Bruton, C.J., King, A.A., and Suarez, J.E. (1982) The expression of *Streptomyces* and *Escherichia coli* drug resistance determinants cloned into the *Streptomyces* phage ϕ C31. *Gene* **19**: 21–32.
- Chatterjee, S., and Vining, L.C. (1982) Catabolite repression in *Streptomyces venezuelae* – induction of β -galactosidase, chloramphenicol production, and intracellular cyclic adenosine-3',5'-monophosphate concentrations. *Can J Microbiol* **28**: 311–317.
- Covarrubias, L., and Bolivar, F. (1982) Construction and characterisation of new cloning vehicles, VI. Plasmid pBR329, a new derivative of pBR328 lacking the 482 base pair inverted duplication. *Gene* **17**: 79–89.
- Dahl, M.K., Schmiedel, D., and Hillen, W. (1995) Glucose and glucose-6-phosphate interaction with Xyl repressor proteins from *Bacillus* spp. may contribute to regulation of xylose utilization. *J Bacteriol* **177**: 5467–5472.
- Delić, I., Robbins, P., and Westpheling, J. (1992) Direct repeat sequences are implicated in the regulation of two *Streptomyces* chitinase promoters that are subject to carbon catabolite control. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **89**: 1885–1889.
- Duplay, P., Bedouelle, H., Fowler, A., Zabin, I., Saurin, W., and Hofnung, M. (1984) Sequences of the *malE* gene and of its product, the maltose-binding protein of *Escherichia coli* K-12. *J Biol Chem* **259**: 10606–10613.
- Egeter, O., and Brückner, R. (1995) Characterization of a genetic locus essential for maltose-maltotriose utilization in *Staphylococcus xylosus*. *J Bacteriol* **171**: 2408–2415.
- Egeter, O., and Brückner, R. (1996) Catabolite repression mediated by the catabolite control protein CcpA in *Staphylococcus xylosus*. *Mol Microbiol* **21**: 739–749.
- Flores, M.E., Ponce, E., Rubio, M., and Huitron, C. (1993) Glucose and glycerol repression of α -amylase in *Streptomyces kanamyceticus* and isolation of deregulated mutants. *Biotechnol Lett* **15**: 595–600.
- Graefe, U., Bormann, E.J., Roth, M., and Neigenfind, M. (1986) Mutants of *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* deregulated in amylase and α -glucosidase formation. *Biotechnol Lett* **8**: 615–620.
- Henkin, T.M. (1996) The role of the CcpA transcriptional regulator in carbon metabolism in *Bacillus subtilis*. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **135**: 9–15.
- Henkin, T.M., Grundy, F.J., Nicholson, W.L., and Chambliss, G.M. (1991) Catabolite repression of α -amylase gene expression in *Bacillus subtilis* involves a *trans*-acting gene product homologous to the *Escherichia coli* *lacl* and *galR* repressors. *Mol Microbiol* **5**: 575–584.
- Hindle, Z., and Smith, C.P. (1994) Substrate induction and catabolite repression of the *Streptomyces coelicolor* glycerol operon are mediated through the GylR protein. *Mol Microbiol* **12**: 737–745.
- Hobbs, G., Frazer, C.M., Gardner, D.C.J., Flett, F., and Oliver, S.G. (1989) Dispersed growth of *Streptomyces* in liquid culture. *Appl Microbiol Biotechnol* **31**: 272–277.
- Hodgson, D.A. (1980) Carbohydrate utilisation in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2). PhD thesis. University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.
- Hodgson, D.A. (1982) Glucose repression of carbon source uptake and metabolism in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) and its perturbation in mutants resistant to 2-deoxyglucose. *J Gen Microbiol* **128**: 2417–2430.
- Hopwood, D.A., Bibb, M.J., Chater, K.F., Kieser, T., Bruton, C.J., Kieser, H.M., Lydiate, D.J., Smith, C., Ward, J.M., and Schrepf, H. (1985) *Genetic Manipulation Of Streptomyces: A Laboratory Manual*. Norwich, UK: John Innes Foundation.
- Hueck, C., and Hillen, W.D.R. (1995) Catabolite repression in

- Bacillus subtilis*: a global regulatory mechanism for the Gram-positive bacteria? *Mol Microbiol* **15**: 395–401.
- Hueck, C., Kraus, A., and Hillen, W.D.R. (1994) Sequences of *ccpA* and two downstream *Bacillus megaterium* genes with homology to the *motAB* operon from *Bacillus subtilis*. *Gene* **143**: 147–148.
- Inada, T., Kimata, K., and Aiba, H. (1996) Mechanism responsible for glucose-lactose diauxie in *Escherichia coli*: challenge to the cAMP model. *Genes Cells* **1**: 293–301.
- Janssen, G.R. (1993) Eubacterial, archaeobacterial, and eukaryotic genes that encode leaderless mRNA. In *Industrial Microorganisms: Basic And Applied Molecular Genetics*. Baltz, R.H., Hegeman, G.D., and Skatrud, P.L. (eds). Washington DC: American Society for Microbiology, pp. 59–67.
- Kelemen, G.H., Plaskitt, K.A., Lewis, C.G., Findlay, K.C., and Buttner, M.J. (1995) Deletion of DNA lying close to the *glkA* locus induces ectopic sporulation in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2). *Mol Microbiol* **17**: 221–230.
- Küster, E., Luesink, E.J., de Vos, W.M., and Hillen, W. (1996) Immunological crossreactivity to the catabolite control protein CcpA from *Bacillus megaterium* is found in many Gram-positive bacteria. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **139**: 109–115.
- Kwakman, J.H.J.M., and Postma, P.W. (1994) Glucose kinase has a regulatory role in carbon catabolite repression in *Streptomyces coelicolor*. *J Bacteriol* **176**: 2694–2698.
- Long, C.M., Virolle, M.J., Chang, S.Y., Chang, S., and Bibb, M.J. (1987) α -amylase gene of *Streptomyces limosus* – nucleotide sequence, expression motifs, and amino acid sequence homology to mammalian and invertebrate α -amylases. *J Bacteriol* **169**: 5745–5754.
- McCarthy, A.J., and Williams, S.T. (1992) Actinomycetes as agents of biodegradation in the environment – a review. *Gene* **115**: 189–192.
- MacNeil, D.J., Gewain, K.M., Ruby, C.L., Dezeny, G., Gibbons, P.H., and MacNeil, T. (1992) Analysis of *Streptomyces avermitilis* genes required for avermectin biosynthesis utilising a novel integration vector. *Gene* **111**: 1–68.
- Messing, J., Crea, R., and Seeburg, P.H. (1981) A system for shotgun DNA sequencing. *Nucleic Acids Res* **9**: 309–321.
- Miyadoh, S. (1993) Research on antibiotic screening in Japan over the last decade: a producing-microorganisms approach. *Actinomycetol* **7**: 100–106.
- Murray, M.G. (1986) Use of sodium trichloroacetate and mung bean nuclease to increase sensitivity and precision during transcript mapping. *Anal Biochem* **158**: 165–170.
- Novotná, J., and Hostálek, Z. (1985) Phosphorylation of hexoses in *Streptomyces aureofaciens*: evidence that the phosphoenolpyruvate: sugar phosphotransferase system is not operative. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **28**: 347–350.
- Piendl, W., Eichenseer, C., Viel, P., Altenbuchner, J., and Cullum, J. (1994) Analysis of putative DNA amplification genes in the element AUD1 of *Streptomyces lividans* 66. *Mol Gen Genet* **244**: 439–443.
- Postma, P.W., Lengeler, J.W., and Jacobson, G.R. (1993) Phosphoenolpyruvate: carbohydrate phosphotransferase systems of bacteria. *Microbiol Rev* **57**: 543–594.
- Postma, P.W., Lengeler, J.W., and Jacobson, G.R. (1996) Phosphoenolpyruvate: carbohydrate phosphotransferase systems. In *Escherichia coli and Salmonella typhimurium. Cellular and Molecular Biology*. Neidhardt, F.C. (ed.). Washington, DC: American Society for Microbiology, pp. 1149–1174.
- Puyet, A., and Espinosa, M. (1993) Structure of the maltodextrin-uptake locus of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. *J Mol Biol* **230**: 800–811.
- Puyet, A., Ibanez, A.M., and Espinoza, M. (1993) Characterization of the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* maltosaccharide regulator MalR, a member of the LacI–GalR family of repressors displaying distinctive general features. *J Biol Chem* **268**: 25402–25408.
- Redenbach, M., Kieser, H.M., Denapaite, D., Eichner, A., Cullum, J., Kinashi, H., and Hopwood, D.A. (1996) A set of ordered cosmids and a detailed genetic and physical map for the 8 Mb *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) chromosome. *Mol Microbiol* **21**: 77–96.
- Reidl, J., Roemisch, K., Ehrmann, M., and Boos, W. (1989) Mall, a novel protein involved in regulation of the maltose system of *Escherichia coli*, is highly homologous to the repressor proteins GalR, CytR, and LacI. *J Bacteriol* **171**: 4888–4899.
- Sabater, B., Sebastian, J., and Asensio, C. (1972) Identification and properties of an inducible and highly specific fructokinase from *Streptomyces violaceoruber*. *Biochim Biophys Acta* **284**: 414–420.
- Saitou, N., and Nei, M. (1987) The neighbor joining method: a new method for reconstructing phylogenetic trees. *Mol Biol Evol* **4**: 406–425.
- Sambrook, J., Fritsch, E.F., and Maniatis, T. (1989) *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*. Cold Spring Harbor, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press.
- Sanger, F., Nicklen, S., and Coulson, A.R. (1977) DNA sequencing with chain-terminating inhibitors. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* **74**: 5463–5467.
- Scheler, A., and Hillen, W. (1993) Glucose is an anti-inducer for the *Bacillus licheniformis* encoded Xyl repressor. *FEMS Microbiol Lett* **107**: 299–302.
- Schmiedel, D., and Hillen, W. (1996) Contributions of XylR, CcpA and *cre* to diauxic growth of *Bacillus megaterium* and to xylose isomerase expression in the presence of glucose and xylose. *Mol Gen Genet* **250**: 259–266.
- Seno, E.T., and Chater, K.F. (1983) Glycerol catabolic enzymes and their regulation in wild-type and mutant strains of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2). *J Gen Microbiol* **129**: 1403–1413.
- Servín-González, L., Roland Jensen, M., White, J., and Bibb, M.J. (1994) Transcriptional regulation of four promoters of the agarase gene (*dagA*) of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2). *Microbiol* **140**: 2555–2565.
- Strauch, E., Takano, E., Baylis, H.A., and Bibb, M.J. (1991) The stringent response in *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2). *Mol Microbiol* **5**: 289–298.
- Strohl, W.R. (1992) Compilation and analysis of DNA sequences associated with apparent streptomycete promoters. *Nucleic Acids Res* **20**: 961–974.
- Thompson, J.D., Higgins, D.G., and Gibson, T.J. (1994) CLUSTAL W: improving the sensitivity of progressive multiple sequence alignment through sequence weighting, position-specific gap penalties and weight matrix choice. *Nucleic Acids Res* **22**: 4673–4680.
- Titgemeyer, F., Walkenhorst, J., Reizer, J., Stuiver, M.H.,

- Cui, X., and Saier, M.H. (1995) Identification and characterization of phosphoenolpyruvate: fructose phosphotransferase systems in three *Streptomyces* species. *Microbiol* **141**: 51–58.
- Valentin-Hansen, P., Larsen, J.E.L., Hojrup, P., Short, S.A., and Barbier, C.S. (1986) Nucleotide sequence of the *cytR* regulatory gene of *E. coli* K-12. *Nucleic Acids Res* **14**: 2215–2228.
- Vijgenboom, E., Woudt, L.P., Heinstra, P.W.H., Rietveld, K., van Haarlem, J., van Wezel, G.P., Shochat, S., and Bosch, L. (1994) Three *tuf*-like genes in the kirromycin producer *Streptomyces ramocissimus*. *Microbiol* **140**: 983–998.
- Virolle, M.-J., and Bibb, M.J. (1988) Cloning, characterization and regulation of an α -amylase gene from *Streptomyces limosus*. *Mol Microbiol* **2**: 197–208.
- Virolle, M.-J., and Gagnat, J. (1994) Sequences involved in growth-phase-dependent expression and glucose repression of a *Streptomyces* α -amylase gene. *Microbiol* **140**: 1059–1067.
- Virolle, M.-J., Long, C.M., Chang, S., and Bibb, M.J. (1988) Cloning, characterization and regulation of an α -amylase gene from *Streptomyces venezuelae*. *Gene* **74**: 321–334.
- Volff, J.-N., Eichenseer, C., Viell, P., Piendl, W., and Altenbuchner, J. (1996) Nucleotide sequence and role in DNA amplification of the direct repeats composing the amplifiable element AUD1 of *Streptomyces lividans* 66. *Mol Microbiol* **21**: 1037–1047.
- Wagner, E., Marcandier, S., Egeter, O., Deutscher, J., Götz, F., and Brückner, R. (1995) Glucose kinase-dependent catabolite repression in *Staphylococcus xylosus*. *J Bacteriol* **177**: 6144–6152.
- Ward, J.M., Janssen, G.R., Kieser, T., Bibb, M.J., Buttner, M.J., and Bibb, M.J. (1986) Construction and characterisation of a series of multi-copy promoter-probe plasmid vectors for *Streptomyces* using the aminoglycoside phosphotransferase gene from Tn5 as indicator. *Mol Gen Genet* **203**: 468–475.
- Weickert, M.J., and Adhya, S. (1992) A family of bacterial regulators homologous to Gal and Lac repressors. *J Biol Chem* **267**: 15869–15874.
- van Wezel, G.P., Vijgenboom, E., and Bosch, L. (1991) A comparative study of the ribosomal RNA operons of *Streptomyces coelicolor* A3(2) and sequence analysis of *rrnA*. *Nucleic Acids Res* **19**: 4399–4403.
- Wu, P.C., Srinivasan, K.V., and Kendrick, K.E. (1995) Regulated expression of the histidase structural gene in *Streptomyces griseus*. *J Bacteriol* **177**: 854–857.
- Yanisch-Perron, C., Vieira, J., and Messing, J. (1985) Improved M13 phage cloning vectors and host strains: nucleotide sequences of the M13 mp18 and pUC19 vectors. *Gene* **33**: 103–119.