Cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase from bovine retina

Amino acid sequence of the α -subunit and nucleotide sequence of the corresponding cDNA

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The α -subunit primary structure of cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase has been determined by parallel analysis of the protein amino acid sequence and the corresponding cDNA nucleotide sequence. The enzyme α -subunit contains 858 amino acid residues, its N-terminal amino group being acetylated. The partial primary structure of the enzyme β -subunit has also been elucidated. A significant homology has been found between the α - and β -subunits of cGMP phosphodiesterase.

Cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase; Amino acid sequence; cDNA cloning; Nucleotide sequence; (Bovine retina)

1. INTRODUCTION

Cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase (PDE) as well as rhodopsin and transducin participates in transduction and amplification of the visual signal [1]. PDE from bovine retina consists of three subunits: α , β and γ , with molecular masses of 88, 84 and 10 kDa, respectively [2]. The enzyme catalytical subunits are α and β , the γ -subunit being an internal inhibitor of the protein enzymatic activity [3,4].

The protein amino acid sequence and the corresponding cDNA nucleotide sequence were

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The nucleotide sequence presented here has been submitted to the EMBL/GenBank database under the accession number Y00699 analyzed in parallel to solve the enzyme γ -subunit primary structure [5]. The structure of large subunits was studied similarly.

The present paper describes determination of the amino acid sequence of PDE α -subunit (preliminary results published in [6]).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The enzyme was isolated, and the γ -subunit was separated from α - and β -subunits as described in [5]. The mixture of α - and β -subunits was hydrolyzed with cyanogen bromide. The fragments obtained were fractionated by gel-filtration (Toyopearl HW-40 in 10% HCOOH). 10 homogeneous peptides were isolated from the lowmolecular-mass fractions by HPLC on a reversephase column (Ultrasphere ODS, acetonitrile gradient in trifluoroacetic acid). The mixture of highmolecular-mass fragments was additionally digested with trypsin. Then the peptides were fractionated by gel-filtration and separated by HPLC

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cDNA clone libraries in vector pUC 8 were produced by a poly(A)⁺ fraction of RNA from bovine retina as described in [5]. To initiate synthesis of the first cDNA chain use was made of: (i) oligo(dT)₁₂₋₁₈; (ii) specific oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes; (iii) statistic mixture of primers (DNA hydrolysate with an average size of 10-20 nucleotides).

Oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes were synthesized by the phosphoramidite method on an Applied Biosystems synthesizer. The nucleotide sequence of DNA fragments was determined according to Maxam and Gilbert [7] and Sanger et al. [8]. The strategy of determining the nucleotide sequence was analogous to that used in [9].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The attempts to elaborate a preparative method for separating α - and β -subunits failed due to similarity of their physicochemical properties. To study the primary structure a mixture of these subunits was hydrolyzed with cyanogen bromide and trypsin. Amino acid sequences of the peptides underlay in synthesizing a number of nucleotide probes. The former were used for screening the bovine retina cDNA clone library obtained by priming the first cDNA chain with oligo(dT). The screening with probe I (5'-CATGAGGGTCTCGT CCAT-3') corresponding to cyanogen bromide peptide Asp-Glu-Thr-Leu-Hse allowed identification of three clones: $p\alpha 55$, $p\alpha 154$ and $p\alpha 225$ (fig.1).

The α - and β -subunits were analytically separated by SDS-electrophoresis in polyacrylamide gel according to Laemmli to determine the PDE subunit to which the nucleotide cDNA sequence of the isolated clones corresponded. The subunits were cleaved directly with cyanogen bromide in gel strips without pre-elution. Two peptides whose amino acid compositions and Nterminal residues corresponded exactly to sequences Asp-Glu-Thr-Leu-Met and Asn-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asn-Arg-Lys-Asp-Ile-Phe-Gln-Asp-Met, deduced from the nucleotide sequence of the fragments of cDNA clones $p\alpha 55$, $p\alpha 154$ and $p\alpha 225$, were isolated by HPLC from the α -subunit hydrolysate. These peptides were not found in the β -subunit hydrolysate. Thus the cDNA of the isolated clones encoded the PDE α -subunit.

To isolate clones containing cDNA of the α subunit N-terminal part, a cDNA clone library was created using unique oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes I, II and III for priming cDNA synthesis, their structures corresponding to the 5'-terminal DNA region of clone $p\alpha 154$ (fig.1).

Analysis of 100 000 recombinants revealed a great number of clones yielding a positive hybridization signal with probes II and III. Clones $p\alpha 17$ and $p\alpha 40$ were primarily chosen, but determination of their structure showed that neither of



Fig.1. Location of cDNA fragments of the isolated clones in the restriction map of the PDE α -subunit cDNA. The cDNA part encoding the α -subunit is shaded. Black rectangles indicate nucleotide probes used in cDNA cloning.

1- 93	GCEACACCAACGAGGTTEACAAACAAGACTEAGAGAAGTETAGGCEAGCCTCACCCCCATCTACAGAAATAGGCAGTGEAATTEECAGCE ATG
(-1)	Het
94~ 183	GGC GAG GTG ACG GCA GAG GAA GTA GAG AAG TTT CTG GAC TCA AAT GTC AGC TTT GCC AAA CAG TAC TAC AAC CTG CGC TAC C8G GCC AAG
1- 30	<u>Ac-Gly-Glu-Val-Thr-Ala-Glu-Glu-Val-Glu-Lys-Phe-Leu-Asp-Ser-Asn-Val-Ser-Phe-Ala-Lys-Gln-Tyr-Tyr-Asn-Leu-Arg-</u> Tay-A
184- 273	GTC ATC TCA GAC CTG CTG GGA CCC AGG GAG GCG GCC GTG GAC TTC AGC AAC TAC-CAT GCG CTG AAC AGC GTG GAA GAG AGT GAA ATT ATC
31- 60	Yal-Ile-Ser-Asp-Leu-Leu-Gly-Pro-Arg-Glu-Ala-Ala-Yal-Asp-Phe-Ser-Asn-Tyr-His-Ala-Leu-Asn-Ser-Yal-Glu-Glu-Ser-Glu-Ile-Ile-
274- 363	TTC GAC CTC CTG CGG GAC TTT CAG GAC AAC CTG CAG GAC GAG AAG TGC GTC TTC AAT GTC ATG AAG AAG TTG TGC TTC CTG CTG
61- 90	Phe-Asp-Leu-Leu-Arg-Asp-Phe-Gin-Asp-Asn-Leu-Gin-Ala-Giu-Lys-Cys-Yal-Phe-Asn-Yal-Met-Lys-Lys-Leu-Cys-Phe-Leu-Leu-Gin-Ala-
364- 453	GAC CGC ATG AGC CTA TTC ATG TAC AGG GCC CGG AAC GGC ATC GCA GAG CTG GCC ACC CGG CTC TTC AAC GTC CAC AAG GAT GCT GTG CTC
91- 120	Asp-Arg-Met- <u>Ser-Leu-Phe-Met-Tyr-Arg-Ala-Arg-Asn-Gly-Ile-Ala-Glu-Leu-Ala-Thr-Arg-Leu-Phe-Asn-Val-</u> His-Lys-Asp-Ala-Val-Leu-
454- 543	GAG GAG TGC CTG GTG GCG CCT GAC TCG GAG ATC GTG TTC CCC CTG GAC ATG GGA GTG GTG GGC CAT GTT GCG CTC TCT AAA AAG ATC GTC
121- 150	Glu-Glu-Cys-Leu-Val-Ala-Pro-Asp-Ser-Glu-IIe-Val-Phe-Pro-Leu-Asp-Met-Gly-Val-Val-Gly-His-Val-Ala-Leu-Ser-Lys-IIe-Val-
544- 633	AAC BTC CCC AAC ACA GAG GAG GAT GAA CAT TTC TGT GAC TTT GTG GAC ACC CTC ACA GAG TAC CAG ACT AAG AAC ATC TTG GCT TCT CCC
151- 180	Asn-Val-Pro-Asn-Thr-Glu-Glu-Asp-Glu-His-Phe-Cys-Asp-Phe-Val-Asp-Thr-Leu-Thr-Glu-Tyr-Gln-Thr-Lys-Asn-Ile-Leu-Ala- <u>Ser-Pro</u> -
634- 723	ATA ATG AAT GGG AAG GAT GTG GTG GCC ATA ATC ATG GCT GTG AAT AAA GTG GAT GGG CCC CAC TTC ACC GAG AAT GAT GAA GAG ATT CTT
181- 210	Ile-Met-Asn-Gly-Lys-Asp-Yal-Val-Ala-IIe-IIe-Met-Ala-Val-Asn-Lys-Val-Asp-Gly-Pro-His-Phe-Thr-Glu-Asn-Asp-Glu-Glu-IIe-Leu-
724- 813	CTC AAG TÁC CTC AAT TTT GCA AAT CTA ATC ATG AAG GTG TTC CAC CTG AGT TAC CTG CAC AAC TGT GAG ACT CGG CGT GGC CAG ATA CTG
211- 240	Leu-Lys-Tyr-Leu-Asn-Phe-Ala-Asn-Leu-Ile-Met-Lys-Yal-Phe-His-Leu-Ser-Tyr-Leu-His-Asn-Cys-Glu-Thr-Arg-Arg-Gly-Gln-Ile-Leu-
814- 903	TTG TGG TCT GGG AGC AAA GTC TTT GAA GAG CTT ACA GAC ATT GAG AGG CAG TTC CAC AAA GCC CTG TAC ACA GTC CGC GCC TTC CTC AAC
241- 270	Lew-Trp-Ser-Gly-Ser-Lys-Val-Phe-Glu-Glu-Lew-Thr-Asp-Ile-Glw-Arg-Gln-Phe-His-Lys-Ala-Lew-Tyr-Thr-Val-Arg-Ala-Phe-Lew-Asn-
904- 993	TGT GAC AGA TAC TCT GTG GGG CTC TTA GAC ATG ACC AMA CAG AAG GAA TTT TTT GAT GTG TGG CCA GTC CTG ATG GGG GAG GCT CCA CCC
271- 300	Cys-Asp-Arg- <u>Tyr-Ser-Val-Gly-Leu-Leu-Asp-Net</u> -Thr-Lys-Gln-Lys-Glu-Phe-Phe-Asp-Val-Trp-Pro-Val-Leu-Met- <u>Gly-Glu-Ala-Pro-Pro</u> -
994-1083	TAC GOT GGT COC AGG ACT COG GAT GGA AGG GAA ATC AAC TTT TAC AAG GTC ATT GAC TAC ATC CTG CAT GGC AAA GAA GAA ATC AAA GTC
301- 330	Tyr-Ala-Gly-Pro-Arg-Thr-Pro-Asp-Gly-Arg-Glu-IIe-Asn-Phe-Tyr-Lys-Val-IIe-Asp-Tyr-IIe-Leu-His-Giy-Lys-Glu-Asp-IIe-Lys-Val-
1084-1173	ATC CCG AAT CCT CCA CAC CAC TGG GCT TTA GTG AGC GGT CTC CCC ACT TAT GTT GCC CAA AAT GGC CTG ATT TGC AAC ATC ATG
331- 360	[le=Pro-Asn=Pro-Pro-Pro-Asp=His=Trp=Ala=Leu=Yal=Ser=Gly=Leu=Pro=Thr=Tyr=Yal=Ala=Gln=Asn=Gly=Leu=Ile=Cys=Asn=Ile=Met= <u>Asn=</u>
1174-1263	GCG CCT TCA GAG GAC TTT TTT GCA TTC CAG AAA GAG CCT CTG GAT GAG TCT GGA TGG ATG ATT AAA AAT GTC CTT TCT ATG CCA ATT GTG
361- 390	Ala-Pro-Ser-Glu-Asp-Phe-Phe-Ala-Phe-Gln-Lys-Glu-Pro-Leu-Asp-Glu-Ser-Gly-Trp-Met- <u>lle-Lys-Asn-Val-Leu-Ser-Met</u> -Pro-Ile-Val-
1264-1353	AAC AAG AAG GAG GAA ATT GTT GGG GTG GCC ACG TTT TAC AAT CGC AAA GAI GGA AAA CCC TTT GAT GAA ATG GAT GAG ACC CTC ATG GAG
391- 420	Asn-Lys-Lys-Glu-Glu-Ile-Val-Gly-Val-Ala-Thr-Phe-Tyr-Asn-Arg-Lys-Asp-Gly-Lys-Pro-Phe-Asp-Glu-Net-Asp-Glu-Net-Glu-
1354-1443	TCT TTG GCC CAG TTC CTG GGC TGG TCT GTC TTA AAT CCT GAC ACT TAT GAG TTG ATG AAC AAA CTT GAA AAC AGG AAG GAT ATT TTC CAA
421- 450	<u>Ser-Leu-Ala-</u> Gin-Phe-Leu-Giy-Trp-Ser-Val-Leu-Asn-Pro-Asp-Thr-Tyr-Giu-Leu-Met- <u>Asn-Lys-Leu-Giu-Asn-Arg-Lys-Asp-Iie-Phe-Gin</u> -
1444-1533	GAC ATG GTG AAA TAC CAC GTG AAG TGT GAC AAT GAA GAA ATC CAG ACA ATC TTG AAA ACC AGA GAG GTG TAT GGG AAG GAG CCG TGG GAA
451- 480	Asp -Net- Val-Lys-T yr-His-Val-Lys- Cys-Asp-Asn-Glu-Glu-Ile-Gln-Thr-Ile-Leu-Lys-Thr-Arg- <u>Glu-Val-Tyr-Gly-Lys</u> -Glu-Pro-Trp-Glu-
1534-1623	TGC GAG GAA GAA GAA CTG GCT GAG ATC CTG CAA GGA GAG GTG CCA GAT GCA GAC AAA TAT GAA ATT AAT AAA TTC CAC TTC AGC GAC CTG
481- 510	Cys-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Leu-Ala-Glu-Ile-Leu-Gin-Gly-Glu-Leu-Pro-Asp-Ala-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Glu-Ile-Asn-Lys-Phe-His-Phe-Ser-Asp-Leu-
1624-1713	CCC CTG ACG GAA CTG GAG CTG GTG AMA TGT GGA ATT CAG ATG TAC TAT GAG CTC AAA GTG GTG GAT AAA TTT CAC ATT CCT CAG GAG GCC
511- 540	Pro-Leu-Thr-Glu-Leu-Glu-Leu-Val-Lys-Cys-Gly-Ile-Gln-Met-Tyr-Glu-Leu-Lys-Val-Val-Asp-Lys-Phe-His-Ile-Pro-Gln-Blu-Ala-
1714-1803	CTG GTG CGG TTC ATG TAT TCC CTG AGC AAG GGC TAC CGC AGG ATC ACC TAC CAC AAC TGG CGG CAC GGC TTC AAC GTG GGG CAG ACC ATG
541- 570	Leu-Val-Arg-Phe-Met-Tyr-Ser-Leu-Ser-Lys- <u>Gly-Tyr-Arg-Arg-Ite-Thr-Tyr-His-Asn-Trp-Arg</u> -His-Gly-Phe-Asn-Val-Gly-Gin-Thr-Met-
1804-1893	TTC TTC TTG CTG GTG ACC GGA AAG CTG AAG CGA TAC TTC ACA GAC CTG GAG GCC TTG GCC ATG GTC ACC GCC GCC TTC TGC CAT GAC ATT
571- 600	Phe-Ser-Leu-Leu-Val-Thr-Gly-Lys-Leu-Lys-Arg- <u>Tyr-Phe-Thr-Asp-Leu-Glu-Ala</u> -Leu-Ala-Met-Val-Thr-Ala-Ala-Phe-Cys-His-Asp-Ile-
1894-1983	GAC CAC AGA GGC ACT AAC AAT CTC TAC CAG ATG AMA TCC CAG AAC CCA CTG GCC AAG CTC CAT GGG TCC TCC ATC TTG GAA AGA CAC CAC
601- 630	Asp-His-Arg-Gly-Thr-Asn-Asn-Leu-Tyr-Gln-Met-Lys-Ser-Gln-Asn-Pro-Leu-Ala-Lys-Leu-His-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ile-Leu-Glu-Arg-His-His-
1984-2073	TTG GAG TTT GGT AAA ACA CTG TTG AGA GAT GAG AGC CTA AAT ATC TTT CAG AAC CTC AAT CGC AGG CAG CAC GAG CAT GCA ATC CAC ATG
631- 660	Leu-Glu-Phe-Gly-Lys-Thr-Leu-Leu-Arg-Asp-Glu-Ser-Leu-Asn-Ile-Phe-Gln-Asn-Leu-Asn-Arg-Arg-Gln-His-Glu-His-Ala-Ile-His-Het-
2074-2163	ATG GAC ATC GCG ATC ATT GCT ACA GAC CTT GCC TTG TAT TGC AAG AAA AGG ACG ATG TTC.CAA AAG ATC GTG GAT CAG TCT AAG ACA TAC
661- 690	Net- <u>Asp-Ile-Ala-Ile-Ile-</u> Ala-Thr-Asp-Leu-Ala-Leu-Tyr-Cys-Lys-Arg-Thr-Met-Phe-Gln-Lys-Ile-Val-Asp-Gln-Ser-Lys-Thr-Tyr-
2164-2253	GAG ACT CAG CAG GAG TGG ACA CAG TAC ATG ATG CTG GAT CAG ACA CGG AAG GAA ATT GTC ATG GCC ATG ATG ATG ACC GCC TGT GAT CTC
691-720	Glu-Thr-Gln-Glu-Trp-Thr-Gln-Tyr-Met-Met-Leu-Asp-Gln-Thr-Arg-Lys-Glu-Ile-Yal-Met-Ala-Met-Met-Met-Thr-Ala-Cys-Asp-Leu-
2254-2343	TCA GCC ATC AAC GAG GCT TGG GAG GTG CAG AGC AAG GTG GCT CTG GTG GTT GCT GCT GAA TTC TGG GAA CAA GGT GAC CTG GAG CGC ACG
721- 750	Ser-Ala-Ile-Thr-Lys-Pro-Trp-Glu-Yal-Gin-Ser-Lys-Yal-Ala-Leu-Leu-Yal-Ala-Ala-Glu-Phe-Trp-Glu-Gin-Giy-Asp-Leu-Glu-Arg-Thr-
2344-2433	GIG EIG CAA CAG ANT ECC AIT ECC AIT GATE GAC AGA AAC AAG GAG AGA GAG GAT GAA CIT EAG GTE GAG GTE TAG GAC TIT GIT TGC
751- 780	Yal-Leu-Gin-Gin-Asn-Pro-Hel-Pro-Hel-Met-Asp-Asn-Lys-Ala-Asp-Giu-Leu-Pro-Lys-Leu-Gin-Yal-Giy-Phe-Iie-Asp-Phe-Val-Cys-
2434-2523	Acc TIT GTE TAG AAG GAA TIT TTC GAT GAT GAG GAG GAG GAT GAT CIT GTA GAT GAG ATT GAG AAG GAG GAG GAG GA
781- 810	Thr-Phe-Ya1-Tyr-Lys-Glu-Phe-Ser-Arg-Phe-His-Glu-Glu-Tie-Thr-Pho-Het-Leu-Asp-Gly-IIe-Thr-Ash-Ash-Ash-Lys-Glu-Tie-Lys-Ala-
2524-2613	CTT GCT GAT GAG TAT GAG ACC AAG ATG GAG GGG CTG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG G
B11- 840	Leu-Ala-Asp-Glu-Tyr-Glu-Thr-Lys-Met-Lys-Gly-Leu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Glu-Lys-Gln-Gln-Ala-Ala-Ash-Gln-Ala-Ala-Ash-Gly-Ser-Gln-
2614-2713	CAC GGC GGA MAG CAA CCT GGG GGC GGG CCT GCA TCC AAG TCT TCC TGC GTC CAA TAG CAGAGCGAGGACCCAGGGCCCAGGCCCAGCCCGGCCCACCCTTCACCGA
041- 858 2714-2022	N 13-019-019-193-0318-FF 0-0319-039-039-030-030-030-030-030-035-035-038-038-038-038-038-038-038-038-038-038
2833-2951	TTTCAGCTGTGAGAACTTTTTATTGAATGACAACCAACATTTTAGCTTTCACAGACTCAAACATTAGTGCCAGACTCACCTGCTTACCTAGAATCTTTTGTGTTCTTAGACTTTCATT
2952-3070	TATAGTACACAAATATGCAATCATTCACAAAAGTAGAGAATTACACAATGAATTGACTCCTACCCATCATGCAGATTCTAACATCAGGATTTTTGCTGCATTGCTTCATCTGTCCTTT
3071-3189	TAGAGTITTCTTTTTTTTTTTGTTAGCTGAAATAITTAAAAACAAACTCCAGGCATATCATTGACTCCTCCATTACGCACCCCTAAAGATGAATGGGTGTCTTCAAACACAATCACATCATGA
3190-3201	

Fig.2. Nucleotide sequence of cDNA encoding the α -subunit of cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase from bovine retina, and the corresponding protein amino acid sequence. Amino acid sequences established by the α -subunit peptide analysis are underlined.

them contained a DNA region coding for the α subunit N-terminal sequence. In search of such clones the cDNA 5'-region of clone $p\alpha 17$ structure was used for synthesizing two new oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes: IV and V (fig.1). These were utilized to screen a specific cDNA clone library. As a result, clones $p\alpha 10$, $p\alpha 14$ and $p\alpha 46$ were identified with the cDNA fragments sought.

To find the clones encoding the α -subunit Cterminal part use was made of probes VI and VII to screen the clone library created by statistic priming of the cDNA synthesis. Clones $p\alpha 24$ and $p\alpha 30$ were isolated (fig.1). Determination of the nucleotide sequence of the isolated clones allowed the reconstitution of the α -subunit cDNA sequence (3201 bp) (fig.2).

Triplet ATG (91–93) is the initiation codon of the PDE α -subunit, since on the one hand, it is the first ATG-codon located within the translation frame behind terminator TAG (70–72) and, on the other, it is a constituent of the PuCCATG sequence typical of initiation sites [10].

A peptide with a blocked N-terminal amino group was isolated from a tryptic hydrolysate.

	540	50	
alaS	HIPQEALVRE	MYSUSKGYRE	<u>स श</u> ा 1
كماد	OI PRRSWERF	LFSVSKGYRE	iltly H
- 6 5	KILD C P TILA P F		ה לעל ה א
كم	KIL PIV SCILITATE	AEALEVIGY	Y KINPY H
Dro	MIPPKTFLINF	M ST LED HYV K	Î - N P F H
Yea	LIADNKLLLL	L FIT L EIS SIY H O	ÎVÎ-NÎKÎFÎHÎ
	560	570	580
201.05		THESELUVER	
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0			
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160		iv i Auguri i na n	K D H F[Y]W
	590	600	610
کوپا ته	DLEALAMVITA	AFCHDIDHRG	IT N N <u>L</u> Y Q
Sقاء	DLEAFANVITA		IT N N <u>QIL</u> I
cūS	DMETFALFIS		T N NSF Q
CaS	ELEILAMVFA	A A T H D Y E H T G	i_T_T_N_N_F_H_
Dro	PLEVGGAL FA		<u>i</u> tin <u>a f</u> i
Yea	ŢĹŢĹŨĊ᠓ŦĨŦŴ	AIGHDVGHPC	<u>STNNQ</u> LL

Fig.3. Homologous segments of the amino acid sequence of the cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases. α -LgS and β -LgS, α - and β -subunits of the light-dependent cyclic GMP phosphodiesterase from bovine retina; cGS, cyclic GMP-stimulated cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase from bovine heart; CaS, Ca²⁺/calmodulin stimulated cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase from bovine brain; Dro, cAMP-specific phosphodiesterase from *Drosophila melanogaster*; Yea, cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase

from yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae).

Amino acid and mass spectrometry analyses showed the peptide to correspond to the Nterminal peptide (1-10, fig.2) of the α -subunit, with the N-terminal amino group being acetylated. Thus, upon α -subunit post-translation modification the methionine N-terminal residue is cleaved (-1, fig.2) and the glycine residue next to it is acetylated. The PDE α -subunit amino acid sequence deduced from the cDNA nucleotide sequence contains 858 amino acid residues (fig.2) with a molecular mass of 99 261 Da. The structure is in perfect accord with the amino acid sequences of a large number of peptides from cyanogen bromide and tryptic hydrolysates.

Comparison of cDNA structures of the clones revealed some point differences, that sometimes led to distinctions in the amino acid sequences. For example, there were 4 clones isolated coding for methionine in position 380 and 2 for valine.

A series of clones encoding the β -subunit of the enzyme was also isolated from the clone libraries. Their structural analysis made it possible to establish over 70% of the protein amino acid sequence.

The amino acid sequences of these two subunits display close homology that, apparently, testifies to the existence of a common precursor.

Comparison of the α -subunit amino acid sequence from bovine retina with the known partial amino acid sequences of cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterases from other sources [11] revealed close homology between the segments of the peptide chain of the α -subunit (535-671) and (719-778) adjoining the C-terminal and analogous segments of other phosphodiesterases located in different parts of polypeptide chains (fig.3). So the catalytical center in the α -subunit of cGMF phosphodiesterase is presumed to be located in the C-terminus of the molecule, while regulatory regions interacting with the γ -subunit of the enzyme and transducin are likely to be in the N-terminal part.

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