# The Mitochondrial Genome Integrity Gene, MGI1, of Kluyveromyces lactis Encodes the $\beta$ -Subunit of F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase

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#### ABSTRACT

In a previous report, we found that mutations at the mitochondrial genome integrity locus, *MGI1*, can convert *Kluyveromyces lactis* into a petite-positive yeast. In this report, we describe the isolation of the *MGI1* gene and show that it encodes the  $\beta$ -subunit of the mitochondrial F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase. The site of mutation in four independently isolated *mgi1* alleles is at Arg435, which has changed to Gly in three cases and lle in the fourth isolate. Disruption of *MGI1* does not lead to the production of mitochondrial genome deletion mutants, indicating that an assembled F<sub>1</sub> complex is needed for the "gain-of-function" phenotype found in *mgi1* point mutants. The location of Arg435 in the  $\beta$ -subunit, as deduced from the three-dimensional structure of the bovine F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase, together with mutational sites in the previously identified *mgi2* and *mgi5* alleles, suggests that interaction of the  $\beta$ - and  $\alpha$ - (*MGI2*) subunits with the  $\gamma$ -subunit (*MGI5*) is likely to be affected by the mutations.

Caccharomyces cerevisiae and some related yeasts readily **J** produce respiratory deficient mutants (petites) spontaneously and on treatment with DNA targeting drugs (Ephrussi 1953; Bulder 1964a,b; DE DEKEN 1966; CLARK-WALKER et al. 1981). Such mutants lack mtDNA or have large deletions in this genome (FAYE et al. 1973). By contrast, most yeasts and all other eukaryotes do not lose their mtDNA on exposure to mutagens (BULDER 1964a,b; DE DEKEN 1966). However, it has been found in the petite-negative yeasts Kluyveromyces lactis (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993) and Schizosacchromyces pombe (HAFFTER and FOX 1992) that mutations in nuclear genes permit mitochondrial genome deletion mutants to be obtained. For K. lactis, we named these nuclear genes MGI for mitochondrial genome integrity because we imagined that their function could be to prevent ectopic recombination in mtDNA leading to deletions (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993). However, contrary to our expectations, we have found that two MGI genes in K. lactis encode the  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits of the mitochondrial inner membrane F<sub>1</sub>F<sub>0</sub>-ATP synthase (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995).

The mitochondrial  $F_1F_o$ -ATP synthase is involved in energy conversion in eukaryotic cells by using a protonmotive force, generated across the inner membrane during respiration, to drive the synthesis of ATP (for review, see CROSS 1981; SENIOR 1988; FUTAI *et al.* 1989; FILLINGAME 1990; COX *et al.* 1992; HATEFI 1993). Yeast mitochondrial  $F_1F_o$ -ATP synthase consists of two essential domains, namely, the extrinsic and intrinsic membrane complexes,  $F_1$  and  $F_0$ . When protons move from the intermembrane space to the matrix side of the inner membrane through Fo, the released energy is transmitted to F1 by conformational changes in the complex to catalyze ATP synthesis. The F<sub>1</sub> portion of the complex contains the catalytic site for ATP synthesis and is composed of five proteins with the stoichiometry  $3\alpha:3\beta:1\gamma:1\delta:1\epsilon$ . In contrast to the F<sub>o</sub> sector, where three genes for subunits 6, 8 and 9 are present in yeast mtDNA, all five subunits of  $F_1$  are encoded by the nuclear genome. In *Escherichia coli*, the  $\alpha$ -subunit of F<sub>1</sub> has been proposed to be involved in nucleotide binding and enzyme cooperativity as well as in the binding of F<sub>1</sub> to F<sub>o</sub> (MAGGIO et al. 1988; SOGA et al. 1989) while the  $\beta$ -subunit contains the catalytic site (FUTAI and KANAzawa 1983). The  $\gamma$ -subunit has been implicated in the assembly of the ATP synthase in yeast (PAUL et al. 1994), the synthesis or hydrolysis of ATP and the control of proton flow through the membrane via F<sub>o</sub> in chloroplasts and E. coli (WEISS and MCCARTY 1977; MORONEY and MCCARTY 1979; MORONEY et al. 1980; IWAMOTO et al. 1990; SHIN et al. 1992).

At present, it remains unclear how mutations in  $F_1$  subunits of the mitochondrial ATP synthase affect recovery of petites in *K. lactis.* However, it has been found that specific mutations in *MGI2*, encoding the  $\alpha$ -subunit, and *MGI5*, encoding the  $\gamma$ -subunit are needed as disruption of either gene does not lead to a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). These observations qualify the *mgi2* and *mgi5* alleles as "gain-offunction" mutations. In other words, the  $F_1$  complex with a mutant  $\alpha$ - or  $\gamma$ -subunit, has gained a novel function that permits the recovery of petites.

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TABLE 1	
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Genotype and source of yeast strains

Strain	Relevant genotype	Source or reference
K. lactis		
2359/152	<b>a</b> , metA1	WESOLOWSKI-LOUVEL et al. (1982)
WM52	$\alpha$ , ade1, adeX, his7	TINGLE <i>et al.</i> (1968)
WM52/Gly <sup>-</sup> 2.10	as above, but mgil-1, $[\rho^{\circ}]$	CHEN and CLARK-WALKER (1993)
WM52/Gly <sup>-</sup> 23.4	as above, but mgi1-2, $[\rho^{\circ}]$	CHEN and CLARK-WALKER (1993)
PM6-7A	<b>a</b> , adeT-600, uraA1	CHEN et al. (1992)
PM6-7A/UV1	as above, but mgi1-3, $[\rho^{\circ}]$	This study
PM6-7A/ER27	as above, but mgi1-4, $[\rho^{\circ}]$	This study
CW1	as above, but mgi1::URA3	This study
CW10	α/ <b>a</b> , ade1/+, lysA1/+, uraA1/uraA1, +/adeT-600, MGI1/mgi1- 1::pMGI1/2.10	This study
CK14-1A	<b>a</b> , <i>his</i> 7	This laboratory
CK24-1D	<b>a</b> , Ade <sup>-</sup> , his7, uraA1, mgi1-2	CHEN and CLARK-WALKER (1993)
CK56-7A	$\alpha$ , ade1, lysA1, uraA1, mgi1-1	This study
CK56-7A/tr3	α, ade1, hysA1, uraA1, mgi1-1::pMGI1/2.10	This study
CK56-16C	$\alpha$ , ade1, lysA1, uraA1	This laboratory
CK98-8A	$\alpha$ , ade1, metA1, uraA1, mgi1-3	This study
CK98-8A/tr1	α, ade1, metA1, uraA1, mgi1-3::pMGI1/2.10	This study
CK145-22A	$\alpha$ , ade1, uraA1, mgi5-1	CHEN and CLARK-WALKER (1995)
CK151-1	α, ade1, lysA1, uraA1, mgi1-4	This study
CK188b	α,, ade1, metA1, uraA1, mgi1-3, MGI2::pURA-MGI2/HP1	This study
CK197	$\alpha/\mathbf{a}$ , $ade1/+$ , $lysA1/+$ , $+/adeT-600$ , $uraA1/uraA1$ , $+/mgi1-4$	This study
CK197-4D	a, lysA1, uraA1, mgi1-4	This study
CK197-13A	$\alpha$ , ade1, uraA1, mgi1-4	This study
CK208	α, ade1, metA1, uraA1, mgi1-3, MGI5::pURA-MGI5	This study
CK218-11C	<b>a</b> , his7, mgi1-4	This study
CK217	α, ade1, uraA1, mgi5-1, mgi1::URA3	This study
CK218	$\alpha/a$ , $ade1/+$ , $uraA1/+$ , $+/his7$ , $mgi1-4/+$	This study
CK225	α, ade1, lysA1, uraA1, mgi1-1, mgi5::URA3	This study
CK226	$\alpha$ , ade1, metA1, uraA1, mgi1-3, mgi5::URA3	This study
CK227	$\alpha$ , ade1, uraA1, mgi1-4, mgi5::URA3	This study
CK261	$\alpha/\mathbf{a}$ , $ade1/+$ , $metA1/+$ , $uraA1/uraA1$ , $+/adeT-600$ , $mgi1-3/mgi1-4$	This study
CK277	α/ <b>a</b> , ade1/+, metA1/+, uraA1/uraA1, +/adeT-600, MG11/mgi1- 3::pMG11/2.10	This study
S. cerevisiae		
MDY2102	<b>a</b> , leu2-3, 112, ura3-52, suc2-9, his4-519, gal2, atp2::LEU2	M. DOUGLAS
AH22	<b>a</b> , leu2-3, 112, his4	G. Fink

As the  $F_1$  complex is composed of five different subunits our observations raise a question as to whether *mgi* mutations are confined to the  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunit proteins? Here we report that mutations occurring in the  $\beta$ -subunit also produce a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype. This result supports the idea that a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype is conferred by an assembled but abnormal  $F_1$  particle. The location of the mutations in the central core regions of the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -subunit proteins suggests that their interaction with the  $\gamma$ -subunit is affected.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Strains and media: Yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. The *S. cerevisiae* strain, MDY2102, contains an insertional mutation of *ATP2* and was kindly provided by D. M. CYR from the collection of M. G. DOUGLAS.

The complete medium (GYP) contains 0.5% Bacto yeast extract, 1% Bacto Peptone, and 2% glucose. Glycerol medium (GlyYP) contains 2% glycerol in place of glucose. Minimal medium (GMM) contains 0.67% Difco yeast nitrogen base without amino acids and 2% glucose. Nutrients essential for auxotrophic strains were added at 25  $\mu$ g/ml for bases and 50  $\mu$ g/ml for amino acids. Ethidium bromide (EB) medium is GYP plus EB at 16  $\mu$ g/ml. For sporulation of *K. lactis*, ME medium contains 5% malt extract and 2% Bacto agar.

Isolation of additional mgil mutants and nomenclature: In a previous report, we described the isolation of two mutant alleles, mgi1-1 and mgi1-2, derived from WM52/gly<sup>-2.10</sup> and WM52/gly<sup>-</sup>23.4 (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993). In this study, we identified two novel mgil isolates. The first one, PM6-7A/UV1, was identified as a Gly<sup>-</sup>,  $[\rho^{\circ}]$  colony after ultraviolet light mutagenesis of PM6-7A followed by EB-margin-ofgrowth treatment as described in a previous paper (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). Lack of mtDNA in the isolates was confirmed by gel electrophoresis of DNA digested with HaeIII followed by Southern transfer and hybridization with [<sup>32</sup>P]labeled K. lactis mtDNA. The presence of a mgi mutation in PM6-7A/UV1 was demonstrated by crossing to the wild-type strain WM52, followed by successive crossing of the resulting Mgi<sup>-</sup> segregants to 2359/152 and PM6-7A. In the three crosses, the Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype segregated 2<sup>+</sup>:2<sup>-</sup> in all 26 tetrads

analyzed, indicating that the mgi mutation is a nuclear monogenic trait. As this mgi isolate is allelic to mgi1 (see below), it was designated mgi1-3. The second mgi1 isolate, PM6-7A/ ER27, was obtained as a EB-resistant colony after incubation of PM6-7A for 19 days at 28° on GYP medium containing 16  $\mu$ g/ml EB. For the purification of the mgi allele, PM6-7A/ ER27 was crossed to the wild-type strain CK56-16C. After sporulation, one of the random spores, CK151-1, was crossed to PM6-7A to give the diploid CK197. After sporulation of the diploid CK197 a Mgi<sup>-</sup> segregant, CK197-13A, was crossed to CK14-1A to produce the diploid CK218. The mgi mutation segregated 2<sup>+</sup>:2<sup>-</sup> in all tetrads analyzed (21 from CK197 and 20 from CK218). This mutation also fell into the MGI1 locus (see below) and was designated mgi1-4.

Manipulations of K. lactis: Genetic techniques used to construct and analyze K. lactis strains have been described in a previous paper (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1994). Random spore analysis was performed as previously reported (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). Spontaneous petite frequency was determined according to CHEN and CLARK-WALKER (1993). Transformation of K. lactis was performed by the lithium acetate-dimethyl sulfoxide method (HILL et al. 1991; GIETZ et al. 1992) as described in detail (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1994). Total DNA from K. lactis was extracted as described by SHER-MAN et al. (1983).

**DNA manipulation and plasmid construction:** Standard techniques were used for generating recombinant DNAs and performing DNA and RNA blot hybridizations (SAMBROOK *et al.* 1989). Construction of the integrative plasmids pURA-KIMGI2/HP1 and pURA-MGI5, containing the *MGI2* and *MGI5* genes, have been described in a previous paper (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). To construct the plasmid pCXJ22-MGI1, the *S. cerevisiae/K. lactis/E. coli* shuttle vector pCXJ22 (CHEN 1996) was digested with *Sal*I followed by cloning of the 4-kb *Xho*I fragment containing *MGI1* (isolated from pMGI1/B19, see below).

Isolation of the MGII gene: Strain CK56-7A containing mgi1-1 was transformed with a K. lactis partial Sau3AI genomic library (WESOLOWSKI-LOUVEL et al. 1986) cloned in the K. lactis/E. coli shuttle vector KEp6 (CHEN et al. 1988). About 5400 Ura<sup>+</sup> transformants were scored. After incubation at 4° for 7 mon, colonies were replica-plated onto GlyYP and incubated for 3 days at 35°. Three survivors were scored from which plasmids were rescued by transformation of E. coli with total DNA extracted from the yeast transformants. Digestion by restriction enzymes revealed that the three plasmids contain an identical insert of 6.1 kb. One of the plasmids, pMGI1/ 601, was subjected to further analysis. Restriction fragments from the inserted DNA were subcloned into the K. lactis integrative vector pCXJ4 (X. J. CHEN, unpublished data). pCXJ4 contains URA3 and K. lactis LEU2 genes so that the resulting plasmids can be opened at the unique ClaI site within KlLEU2 and targeted onto the chromosome of CK56-7A by selecting for Ura<sup> $\tilde{+}$ </sup> transformants. Complementation of the *mgi1-1* mutation was examined by measuring the spontaneous petite frequency of stable integrants.

By a similar strategy we obtained the plasmid pMGI1/B19 after complementation of the *mgi1-4* mutant CK197-4D. pMGI1/B19 was confirmed to contain *MGI1* and to overlap with the insert in pMGI1/601.

**Nucleotide sequence determination:** For nucleotide sequence analysis of *MGI1*, appropriate DNA fragments were subcloned into the sequencing vectors pTZ18U and pTZ19U (Pharmacia). Single- and double-stranded DNA templates were prepared for sequencing by the dideoxy-chain termination method (SANGER *et al.* 1977) using "universal primer" (Amersham) and a series of synthetic oligonucleotides covering the total coding sequence of the gene (data not shown).

The deduced protein sequence was compared with sequences in the Swissprot data bases by access through the Australian National Genomic Information Service. The entire coding region of the four mutant *mgi1* alleles were directly sequenced using PCR-amplified DNAs as templates and synthetic oligonucleotides as primers. Primers used for PCR amplification are shown in Figure 3. To confirm mutated bases, two or three independent PCR products were sequenced in the region containing the mutations. The sequence of *MGI1* in the parental strains PM6-7A and WM52, used for generating the *mgi1* mutants, were also determined and found to be identical to that from the genomic library (2359/152).

Gene disruption: Gene disruption was carried out by the one-step replacement method of ROTHSTEIN (1983). A plasmid containing a disrupted MGI1 gene was constructed by taking advantage of a unique EcoRV site, which is located within the coding region of the gene. A 1.55-kb Accl fragment, including the 3' half of the MGI1 sequence, was inserted into Accl cut pTZ18U (Pharmacia). The resulting plasmid, pKIMGI1.2, has a unique EcoRV site that was used for insertion of a 1.1-kb fragment containing URA3 that had been blunt ended by Klenow polymerase. Disruption of MGI1 in the wildtype strain PM6-7A and the mgi5-1 mutant CK145-22A was achieved by a mgi1:: URA3 cassette produced by MscI and SphI digestion of the resulting plasmid. Transformants were selected for Ura<sup>+</sup> and correct insertion was verified by digestion of genomic DNA with XhoI and hybridization with [32P]-labeled pKIMGI1.2.

Disruption of MGI5 in both CK56-7A (mgi1-1) and CK98-8A (mgi1-3) was performed as follows. The mgi5::URA3 cassette, containing the MGI5 coding region disrupted by the insertion of URA3, was isolated from pMGI5::URA3 (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995) and introduced into CK56-7A and CK98-8A by transformation. Stable Ura<sup>+</sup> Gly<sup>-</sup> transformants were scored and correct chromosomal integration of the construct was confirmed by PCR amplification using primers MGI5P1 and MGI5P4 matching to the MGI5 sequence (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995).

**Integration of MGI1 into chromosomal DNA:** A 3-kb fragment, obtained from plasmid pTZ-MGI1/X2 (a subclone of pMGI1/B19 in pTZ19U) by digestion with *Eco*RI and partial digestion with *Hin*dIII, was cloned into the integrative plasmid pUC-URA3/4 (CHEN and FUKUHARA 1988) cut with *Eco*RI and *Hin*dIII. The resulting plasmid, pMGI1/2.10, was cut at the unique *Msc*I site in the *MGI1* gene followed by transformation of strains CK56-7A (*mgi1-1*) and CK98-8A (*mgi1-3*). Correct integration was determined by digesting genomic DNA with *Xho*I and hybridization with a *S. cerevisiae ATP2* gene obtained by PCR amplification.

Amplification by polymerase chain reaction: Amplification of *MG11* and its mutant alleles was carried out as described by MULLIS and FALOONA (1987) using the thermostable *Taq* DNA polymerase kit provided by Promega. Target DNAs used for amplification of the mutant *mgi1* alleles were from strains CK56-7A (*mgi1-1*), CK24-1D (*mgi1-2*), CK98-8A (*mgi1-3*) and CK197-13A (*mgi1-4*). The forward primer sequence located just upstream of the gene and the reverse primer located downstream of the gene are shown in Figure 3. The amplified DNAs were separated from the reaction buffer using the PCR Spinclean DNA purification kit (Progen).

Amplification of the *S. cerevisiae ATP2* gene was carried out as above using 50 ng of DNA from AH22 and oligonucleotide primers ScATP2P1 [5'-(+238)GTTTTGGAAGT(A/T)GC(T/ C)CAAC(+256)-3'] in the forward direction and ScATP2P2 [5'-(+1482)ACCAACCATATAGAAGC(+1465)-3'] in the reverse orientation.

Nucleotide sequence accession number: The nucleotide

sequence of *MGI1* has been assigned GenBank accession number U37764.

### RESULTS

Isolation of mgil alleles: In addition to the mgil-1 and mgi1-2 alleles described in our previous report (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993), we identified two other mutants, PM6-7A/ER27 and PM6-7A/UV1, that are allelic to mgil. The first step in identification of the mutants was achieved by eliminating mgi2 and mgi5 mutants. By introduction of plasmids containing MGI2 or MGI5 into the unclassified mgi mutants, we have been able to establish that the mgi mutation in CK98-8A (derived from PM6-7A/UV1) does not occur at either locus. For example, the integrative plasmids pURA-MGI2/HP1 and pURA-MGI5, containing the complete MGI2 and MGI5 genes, were linearized by Bg/II (which cuts both the MGI2 and MGI5 coding regions) and introduced into CK98-8A by selecting Ura+ transformants. The correct chromosomal targeting of the plasmids was confirmed by Southern-blot analysis (data not shown). The resulting strains, CK188b and CK208, were examined for production of spontaneous petite mutants. In 4000-5000 colonies screened for each strain, CK188b and CK208 were found to form spontaneous petite mutants at frequencies of 0.3 and 0.4%, respectively, which do not differ significantly from the parental strain (0.2%). In other words, the Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype of CK98-8A is not complemented by either of the wild-type MGI genes. This is based on the observation that the mgi mutation in CK98-8A is recessive so that spontaneous petites are not observed in a heterozygous diploid MGI/mgi strain. Similar experiments showed that the mgi mutation derived from PM6-7A/ER27 also cannot be complemented by the MGI2 and MGI5 genes (data not shown).

Allelism testing between the two isolates was performed by crossing CK218-11C, a *mgi* derivative of PM6-7A/ER27, to CK98-8A derived from PM6-7A/UV1. As the resulting diploid, CK261, showed poor sporulation, only four tetrads were dissected. However examination of the segregants showed that the Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype segregated  $4:0^+$ . Analysis of random spores revealed that 80 isolates, marked by the red *ade1* mutation, were all Mgi<sup>-</sup>. As previous genetic analysis indicated that *ade1* is not linked to these *mgi* mutations, we concluded that the two *mgi* mutations are allelic.

Allelism of the two novel *mgi* mutations to the previously described *mgi1-1* and *mgi1-2* (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993) was demonstrated by complementation of the *mgi* mutation derived from the four independent isolates by the cloned *MGI1* gene and the genetic linkage between the *MGI1* gene and the chromosomal *mgi* loci (see below). The mutation in PM6-7A/UV1 was thus designated as *mgi1-3* and that in PM6-7A/ER27 as *mgi1-*4. Both *mgi1-3* and *mgi1-4* mutants are respiratory compePM6-7A (wild-type) CK98-8A (*mgi1-3*)



FIGURE 1.—Production of petites from CK98-8A (*mgi1-3*) after treatment with EB. The wild-type parental strain PM6-7A was included as a control. Yeast strains were grown in GYP to stationary phase and streaked across a 25  $\mu$ l drop of EB (2.5 mg/ml). After incubation for 24 hr at 28°, the surviving cells on the margin between growth and nongrowth were substreaked down the plate, followed by incubation for 4 days before photography. The big colonies produced from the wild-type strain PM6-7A are respiratory competent and have an intact mitochondrial genome. The small colonies (petites) produced from CK98-8A are respiratory deficient (Gly<sup>-</sup>) and have either lost mtDNA or have a deleted mitochondrial DNA as revealed by Southern blot analysis (not illustrated).

tent and form spontaneous petites on GYP plates at frequencies of 0.2 and 2.1%, respectively. The production of petites from CK98-8A (mgi1-3) by the margin-ofgrowth technique using EB is illustrated in Figure 1.

**Cloning of MGI1:** Cloning of the MGI1 gene was based on the observation that colonies of the mgi1 mutants have a very low viability on plates after a long period of incubation at 4°. By using the two different host strains, CK56-7A (mgi1-1) and CK197-4D (mgi1-4), two overlapping plasmids, pMGI1/601 and pMGI1/B19, were identified that allow cells to survive at low temperature.

To map the location of the complementing activity on the insert DNA of pMGI1/601, DNA fragments were subcloned into the *K. lactis* integrative vector pCXJ4. The resulting plasmids were linearized by *Cla*I within the *KILEU2* gene of the vector and targeted into the chromosomal *LEU2* locus of the *mgi1-1* mutant CK56-7A. Transformants with a stable Ura<sup>+</sup> phenotype were selected and examined for spontaneous petite frequency. If a fragment of DNA complements the *mgi1* mutation, we would expect that no spontaneous petites should be produced because the *mgi1-1* allele is recessive (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993). As shown in Fig-



FIGURE 2.—Physical map of K. lactis genomic DNA containing the MGI1 gene and complementation of the mgi1-1 mutation by subclones derived from the DNA of pMGI1/601. The arrow represents the MGI1 ORF and indicates the direction of transcription. Bm, BamHI; Bg, BgII; H, HindIII; Ms, Msd; RV, EcoRV; Sa, SaI; Sp, SphI; Xb, XbaI; Xh, XhoI. DNA fragments from pMGI1/601 were cloned into the K. lactis integrative vector pCXJ4. The resulting plasmids, from pCXJ4MGI1/1 to pCXJ4MGI1/7, were linearized by digestion with ClaI within the KILEU2 gene of the vector and targeted to the LEU2 locus of the mgi1-1 mutant CK56-7A. Stable Ura<sup>+</sup> transformants were selected and examined for spontaneous petite frequency by plating onto GYP plates. Petites were scored as small and white colonies as CK56-7A carries the adel mutation and forms red colonies on GYP plates. The genomic structure of the mgi1 allele, disrupted by the insertion of URA3, is also illustrated. N/A, not applicable.

ure 2, the plasmid pCXJ4-MGI1/7, containing a 3.0-kb fragment, is able to complement the *mgi1-1* mutation as the transformed cells carrying this fragment do not produce spontaneous petites.

The ability of the cloned gene to prevent production of spontaneous petites in the mgi mutants CK24-1D (mgi1-2), CK98-8A (mgi1-3) and CK197-13A (mgi1-4), which are derived from three other independent isolates, was examined by integrating the plasmid pCXJ4-MGI1/7, containing MGI1, into the LEU2 locus as described above. In each case, the integrants did not show spontaneous petites in 5000 colonies scored. The data indicate that the mutations in the four isolates described above can be complemented by MGI1.

Confirmation that the complementing fragment contains MGII was obtained by genetic linkage analysis. Plasmid pMGI1/2.10, containing URA3 and MGI1, was targeted onto the mgil locus after cleavage in MGI1. The resulting stable transformants, CK56-7A/tr3 and CK98-8A/tr1 containing URA3 integrated at the mgi1-1 and mgi1-3 loci, were crossed to wild type PM6-7A. Sporulation and tetrad analysis of the resulting diploids CK277 and CW10 showed that Ura<sup>+</sup> cosegregated with a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype in 21 and 23 tetrads respectively. As previously observed (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993), a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype in heterozygous MGI/mgi strains is dominant in the presence of EB induction and is manifested by growth of petite mutants on 16  $\mu$ g/ml EB. We conclude that pMGI1/2.10 containing the URA3 gene has integrated at mgi1-1 and mgi1-3, and that MGI1 is allelic to the mutant gene at this locus.

*MGI1* encodes the β-subunit of F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase: Sequence determination of the MGI1 gene showed the presence of a 1515-bp open reading frame encoding a protein of 505 amino acids (Figure 3). The deduced Mgil protein is six amino acids shorter than the F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase  $\beta$ subunit from S. cerevisiae. However the two proteins are identical at 449 positions, with the greatest variation located at the amino terminal. This region has characteristics of a mitochondrial targeting signal, being rich in basic and hydrophobic amino acids. Starting at position 184 is a sequence, GlyGlyAlaGlyValGlyLysThr, termed the P-loop that is conserved between  $\beta$ -subunits from E. coli to mammals. Also present is a motif starting at 215, GlyGluArgThrArgGlu, with the underlined amino acids being highly conserved and implicated in the catalytic activity of the  $\beta$ -subunit.

To confirm that MGII is the functional homologue of the  $\beta$ -subunit of F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase, *S. cerevisiae* strain MDY2102, disrupted in the  $\beta$ -subunit encoding gene *ATP2*, was transformed with the plasmid pCXJ22-MGI1 that carries the *MGI1* gene. The transformants were found to be respiratory competent as they grew on GlyYP, indicating that *MGI1* complements the *ATP2* deficiency in *S. cerevisiae* (data not shown).

Southern-blot hybridization indicates that MGI1 is a unique gene in K. lactis. Northern (RNA) blot analysis, using the MGI1 coding sequence as a probe, detected a single mRNA of  $\sim$ 2.0 kb (data not shown). There was no significant difference in mRNA levels in cells grown in GYP or GlyYP, indicating that there is no glucose repression of MGI1 transcription.

TCGAGAACGTC											-435									
CTC	AAAA	TCCA	CAGA	AAGA	ACTG	TAGA	AAAT	ACCCG	TGTG	PPPT		AAAA		2004	CAA IV	CAN	12121211 1 A A A A	CTC:	mm	-356
CGC	CTT	rccc	AGGTY	TAAG	GCT	יייעמיי	PTGTO	ייתיבתי	TCAN	። በተካልጥያ	1002 1979 1979	מ ברדים מ ברדים	V THEFT	ann.	L T T C			CATT	CCA	-198
TTTTCCCGGTTTTTCGGGTTTCGATCAAAAGGTTCAAAAAAAA												-119								
ማስተልማ የሚያስት የሚያ												-10								
CGA'	TAAG	GATT	TAGG'	TAAG	ACAA	GAC	AATT	PTTT/	AAGA	ATG	GTC	TTG	CCA	AGA	ግግግ የ	TAT	GCT	GCT		+30
						00110				M	v	L	P	R	F	Y	A	A	S	10
TCT	CGT	GCA	GCT	TTG	CAA	GCT	GCG	AGA	CGT	GCT	GTT	ccc	TTC	ACC	GGT	GTG	AGA	GGT	ТАТ	+90
s	R	A	A	L	0	A	A	R	R	A	v	P	F	т	G	v	R	G	Y	30
GCT	GCT	GCT	GCC	TCT	TCT	CAA	GGT	AAG	GTT	AGA	GCC	GTT	ATT	GGT	GCT	ATT	GTT	GAT	GTT	+150
A	A	A	A	s	5	0	G	к	v	R	A	v	Т	G	A	I	v	D	v	50
CAA	TTT	GAA	CAA	GGT	CAA	TTG	CCA	GCT	ATT	TTG	AAC	GCT	TTG	GAA	ATC	GAC	ACT	CCA	GAA	+210
Q	F	Е	Q	G	Q	L	Р	А	I	L	N	А	L	Е	I	D	т	P	E	70
GGA	AAG	TTG	GTT	TTG	GAA	GTC	GCT	CAA	CAT	TTG	GGT	GAA	AAC	ACT	GTC	AGA	ACC	ATT	GCT	+270
G	к	L	v	г	Ē	v	А	Q	Н	L	G	Е	N	т	v	R	т	I	А	90
ATG	GAT	GGT	ACT	GAA	GGT	TTA	GTC	CGT	GGT	GAA	AAC	GTT	TCT	GAC	ACT	GGT	GCT	CCA	ATT	+330
м	D	G	т	Е	G	L	v	R	G	Е	N	v	s	D	т	G	А	Р	I	110
TCC	GTC	CCA	GTT	GGT	AGA	GAA	ACC	TTG	GGT	AGA	ATT	ATC	AAC	GTT	ATT	GGT	GAG	CCA	ATT	+390
S	v	Ρ	v	G	R	Е	т	L	G	R	I	I	N	v	I	G	Е	P	I	130
GAC	GAA	AGA	GGT	CCA	ATC	AAC	TCC	AAG	ATG	AGA	AAG	CCA	ATT	CAT	GCT	GAT	CCT	CCA	тта	+450
D	E	R	G	Ρ	I	N	S	к	М	R	к	Ρ	I	Н	А	D	Ρ	Р	L	150
TTC	$\mathbf{GTT}$	GAA	CAA	TCC	ACT	GCT	GCT	GAA	GTT	TTG	GAA	ACT	GGT	ATC	AAG	GTT	GTC	GAC	TTG	+510
F	v	Е	Q	s	T	А	А	Е	v	L	Е	т	G	I	к	v	v	D	L	170
TTG	GCC	CCA	TAC	GCC	AGA	GGT	GGT	AAG	ATT	GGT	TTG	TTC	GGT	GGT	GCC	$\mathbf{GGT}$	GTC	GGT	AAG	+570
L	А	Р	Y	А	R	G	G	К	I	G	L	F	G	G	A	G	v	G	к	190
ACC	$\mathbf{GTT}$	TTC	ATC	CAA	GAA	TTG	ATT	AAC	AAC	ATT	GCC	AAG	GCT	CAT	GGT	$\operatorname{GGT}$	TTC	TCT	GTC	+630
т	v	F	I	Q	E	$\mathbf{L}$	I	N	N	I	А	к	A	H	G	G	F	s	v	210
TTC	ACT	GGT	GTC	GGT	GAA	AGA	ACC	AGA	GAA	GGT	AAC	GAT	TTG	TAC	CGT	GAA	ATG	AAG	GAA	+690
F	т	G	v	G	Е	R	т	R	Е	G	N	D	L	Y	R	Е	М	к	Е	230
ACT	GGT	GTT	ATC	AAC	TTG	GAA	GGT	GAT	TCT	AAG	GTC	GCG	TTG	GTT	TTC	GGT	CAA	ATG	AAC	+750
т	G	v	I	N	$\mathbf{L}$	Е	G	D	s	К	v	А	$\mathbf{L}$	v	F	G	Q	м	N	250
GAA	CCT	CCT	GGA	GCT	AGA	GCT	AGA	GTC	GCC	TTG	ACT	GGT	TTG	ACC	ATC	GCT	GAA	TAC	$\mathbf{TTC}$	+810
Е	Р	Ρ	G	A	R	A	R	v	А	L	Т	G	L	т	I	Α	Е	Y	F	270
AGA	GAT	GAA	GAA	$\mathbf{GGT}$	CAA	GAT	GTC	TTG	TTG	$\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}$	ATC	GAC	AAC	ATT	TTC	AGA	TTC	ACA	CAA	+870
R	D	Е	Е	G	Q	D	v	$\mathbf{L}$	$\mathbf{L}$	F	I	Ð	N	I	F	R	F	т	Q	290
GCC	GGT	TCC	GAA	GTG	TCC	$\mathbf{GCT}$	TIG	TTG	GGT	CGT	ATT	CCA	TCC	GCT	GTC	GGT	TAT	CAA	CCA	+930
А	G	S	Е	v	S	А	L	L	G	R	I	Р	S	А	v	G	Y	Q	Ρ	310
ACT	TTG	GCC	ACC	GAT	ATG	GGT	TTG	TTG	CAA	gaa	AGA	ATT	ACT	ACC	ACC	AAG	AAG	GGT	TCC	+990
т	L	Α	т	D	м	G	L	L	Q	Е	R	I	т	т	т	K	K	G	S	330
GTC	ACT	TCT	GTC	CAA	GCC	GTT	TAC	GTG	CCA	GCT	GAT	GAT	TTG	ACT	GAT	CCT	GCT	CCA	GCT	+1050
v	т	S	v	Q	Α	v	Y	v	Ρ	А	D	D	L	Т	D	Ρ	Α	Р	А	350
ACC	ACT	TTC	GCG	CAT	TIG	GAT	GCC	ACC	ACT	GTG	TTG	TCC	AGA	GGG	ATC	TCT	GAA	TTG	GGT	+1110
т	т	F	A	н	L	D	A	т	т	v	$\mathbf{r}$	s	R	G	Ι	s	E	L	G	370
ATC	TAC	CCA	GCT	GTC	GAT	CCT	TTG	GAT	TCC	AAA	TCT	AGA	TTG	TTG	GAT	GCT	GCC	GTC	GTT	+1170
I	Y	Р	Α	v	D	Ρ	L	D	s	ĸ	S	R	$\mathbf{r}$	L	D	A	A	v	v	390
GGT	CAA	GAA	CAT	TAC	GAT	GTC	GCT	ACT	CAA	GTT	CAA	CAA	ACT	TTG	CAA	GCT	TAC	AAG	TCT	+1230
G	Q	Е	н	Y	D	v	A	т	Q	v	Q	Q	т	L	Q	A	Y	ĸ	S	410
TTG	CAA	GAT	ATC	ATT	GCC	ATT	TTG	GGT	ATG	GAT	GAA	TTG	TCC	GAA	CAA	GAT	AAG	TTG	ACC	+1290
L	Q	D	I	I	A	I	L	G	м	D	E	L	S	Е	Q	D	ĸ	L	т	430
GTC	GAA	AGA	GCT	AGA	AAG	ATT	CAA	AGA	TTC	TTG	TCT	CAA	CCT	TIC	GCT	GTC	GCT	GAA	GTC	+1350
v	E	R	A	R	ĸ	I	Q	R	F	L	S	Q	Р	F	A	v	A	Е	v	450
TTC	ACT	GGT	ATC	CCA	GGT	AGA	TIG	GTC	AGA	TTA	AAG	GAC	ACC	ATC	TCT	TCT	TTC	AAG	GCT	+1410
F	Т	G	I	P	G	R	L	V	R	Ĺ	K	D	T	I	S	S	F	K	A	470
GTC	TTG	GAC	GGT	AAG	TAC	GAT	CAC	TTG	CCA	GAA	AAC	GCC	TTC	TAC	ATG	GPT	GGT	GGT	ATTA	+14/0
V	Ĺ	D	G	K	Y	D	В	Ĺ	P	E	N	A	F	Y	M	V	G	G	L	490
GAA	GAT	GTT	GTT	GCT	AAG	GCT	GAA	AAG	TTG	GCT	GCT	GAA	GCT	AAT	TAA	JAAC	JTCT	ACT	LUCT	+1220
E	D	V	V	A	K	A	E	K	L	A	A	E	A	N	*					-1505
CTG	J.I.C.L.	I.I.I.V	ATTO	JAAAL	GAA	AGA	IGAC/	<b>JGAA</b>	ACTAC	JAAG	'AA'	CAAT	ACA.	TUTC						+1282

FIGURE 3.—Nucleotide sequence of the K. lactis MGII gene and deduced amino acid sequence. Underlined are sequences corresponding to the oligonucleotides used for PCR amplification of MGII and mgil alleles. Genebank accession U37764.

**Disruption of MGI1:** Stable Ura<sup>+</sup> transformants of PM6-7A were shown to have URA3 inserted in the MGI1 gene by analysis of chromosomal DNA (Figure 4A). Such disrupted strains are respiratory deficient although they still retain intact mtDNA as demonstrated by hybridization (not illustrated). However, disrupted strains do not grow on 16  $\mu$ g/ml EB (Figure 4B) and no loss of mtDNA occurs when cultures are treated with the drug by the margin-of-growth technique (see Figure 1; CLARK-WALKER 1972; HARDY *et al.* 1989). Consequently it appears from these observations that disruption of MGI1 produces respiratory deficiency but does not result in a Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype.

Previous work has shown that an assembled  $F_1$  is required for the expression of the Mgi<sup>-</sup> phenotype of mgi mutants. To see whether the  $\beta$ -subunit of  $F_1$ -ATPase is required for the recovery of petites from a mgi strain, MGI1 was disrupted in the mgi5-1 mutant CK145-22A. The mgi5-1 mutation is a conversion of Thr275→Ala in the  $\gamma$ -subunit of  $F_1$ -ATPase (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). Correct disruption of MGI1 was confirmed by PCR amplification of the disrupted locus (not illustrated). The mgi5-1, mgi1::URA3 double mutant, CK217, was respiratory deficient but did not grow on EB at 16  $\mu$ g/ml on GYP plates. Treatment with EB by the "margin-of-growth" technique did not produce peMGI1 gene of Kluyveromyces lactis



FIGURE 4.—Southern-blot analysis of *K. lactis MGII*-disrupted strains and phenotype of the cells on EB medium. (A) Autoradiography showing the disruption of *MGII*. Genomic DNA from the wild-type PM6-7A (lane 2) and the *MGII*-disrupted strain CW1 (lane 1) was digested with *Xho*I, transferred to nylon membrane and hybridized with [<sup>32</sup>P]-labeled pKlMGI1.2. Sizes of the hybridizing bands correspond to 4 and 5.1 kb in the wild-type and *MGII*-disrupted strains respectively. (B) Sensitivity of *K. lactis* strains to EB. Cells were grown to stationary phase, diluted to  $2 \times 10^6$  cells/ml, and  $10 \ \mu$ l aliquots were applied to GYP, GlyYP and GYP plus EB at 16  $\mu$ g/ml. Plates were incubated at 28° for 4–6 days before being photographed.

tites with deletions in mtDNA, indicating that CK217 is Mgi<sup>+</sup> and unable to form mitochondrial deletion mutants. Likewise, the  $\gamma$ -subunit encoding *MGI5* was disrupted by insertion of the *URA3* gene in the strains CK56-7A (*mgi1-1*), CK98-8A (*mgi1-3*) and CK197-13A (*mgi1-4*) as previously described (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1995). The resulting strains CK225, CK226 and CK227 were also respiratory deficient, EB sensitive and exhibit a Mgi<sup>+</sup> phenotype.

Α

**Mutations in the mgil alleles:** The coding region of the mgil mutant alleles were amplified by PCR from the strains CK56-7A (mgil-1), CK24-1D (mgil-2), CK98-8A (mgil-3) and CK151-1 (mgil-4). Sequence analysis revealed that the mgil allele in CK56-7A, CK24-1D and CK151-1 have the same mutation that converts the codon 435 from AGA to GGA and results in the substitution of Arg435 by a Gly residue in the stretch 434-AlaArgLysIleGln-438 (Figures 5 and 6). The mutation in the mgil-3 allele in CK98-8A was found in the same codon, but the change from AGA to ATA converts Arg435 to Ile (Figures 5 and 6).

## DISCUSSION

In this paper, we describe the cloning of the *MGI1* gene of the petite-negative yeast *K. lactis*, by complementation of reduced viability of *mgi1* mutants at low temperature after a long period of incubation. *MGI1* is a nuclear gene that encodes a polypeptide of 505 amino acids with high homology to the  $\beta$ -subunit of the mitochondrial F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase from others species. The cloned *MGI1* gene can functionally complement a null mutant of the *ATP2* gene in *S. cerevisiae* that encodes the  $\beta$ -subunit of F<sub>1</sub>. Creation of a null mutation in *MGI1* by insertion of an auxotrophic marker gene leads to a

respiratory deficient phenotype. It is thus concluded that the *MGI1* gene of *K. lactis* encodes the  $\beta$ -subunit of the mitochondrial F<sub>1</sub>-ATPase.

In a previous paper, we proposed a model to explain how mgi mutations allow recovery of mtDNA deletion mutants in K. lactis (CHEN and CLARK-WALKER 1993). In this model, we suggest that the presence of one (or more) of the mitochondrially encoded ATP6, 8 and 9 subunits is critical for cell viability. Loss of these subunits, caused by mtDNA elimination by DNA targeting drugs or large scale deletions in the mitochondrial genome, is lethal due to the creation of a proton permeable pore on the mitochondrial inner membrane through the interaction of a wild-type F1 with the membrane lacking the three Fo subunits. However, lethality can be suppressed by mgi mutations through the interaction between an altered  $F_1$  particle and the inner membrane. Consistent with this model are data described in this paper. We found that only specific point mutations in MGI1, but not a null allele, predisposes cells to the formation of mtDNA deletion mutants. The mgil alleles are thus "gain-of-function" mutations. The  $F_1$  complex with an altered  $\beta$ -subunit must have gained a novel function that is likely to block the proton permeable pore on the membrane created by the loss of mtDNA-encoded Fo subunits. In addition, when the MGI5 gene, encoding the  $\gamma$ -subunit of F<sub>1</sub>, is disrupted in the mgi1-1 and mgi1-3 background, the resulting strains showed a Mgi<sup>+</sup> phenotype and do not form mtDNA deletion mutants upon treatment with EB. Likewise, when the MGI1 gene is disrupted in a mgi5-1 strain, the disruptants are also Mgi<sup>+</sup>. These data clearly indicate that the novel function of the mgi mutations is through an assembled F<sub>1</sub>. Disrupting one of the three large subunits of  $F_1$  might affect the assembly of the

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FIGURE 5.—Identification of mutations in mgil-1 and mgil-3 alleles. PCR products from CK56-7A (mgil-1), CK98-8A (mgil-3) and the wild-type strain PM6-7A were directly sequenced using the synthetic oligonucleotide KIATP2P11 [5'-(+1188)TGTCGCTACTCAAGTTC(+1204)-3'] as primer. The codon Arg435 in the wild-type strain and the mutant codons in mgil-1 and mgil-3 are boxed.

complex or a subcomplex and the interaction with the membrane. Hence null mutants of a  $F_1$  subunit gene do not have the same phenotype as point mutations. The "gain-of-function" model is also consistent with the dominant feature of the *mgil* alleles in a heterozygous *MGI/mgi* strain in the presence of EB. However, it remains unclear why in such strains *mgi* alleles are recessive in the absence of the drug and spontaneous petite mutants are not formed.

A striking aspect of the *mgi1* alleles described in this

E.coli	387	-	KLWVARARKIQRFLS	-	401	
Cow	401	-	KLTVSRARKIQRFLS	-	415	
S. cerevisiae	434	-	KLTVERARKIQRFLS	-	448	
K.lactis	428	-	KLTVERARKIQRFLS	-	442	
mgil-1	428	-	KLTVERA <b>G</b> KIQRFLS	-	442	
mgi1-3	428	-	KLTVERATKIQRFLS	-	442	

FIGURE 6.—Comparison of amino acid sequences from various organisms corresponding to the flanking regions of the mutational sites in *mgi1-1* and *mgi1-3*. Bold letters are the mutated Arg435s in the mutant alleles.

paper is that the four independent isolates have a mutation in the same codon. Three of them, mgi1-1, -2 and -4, have a substitution of Arg435 by Gly while the mgil-3 allele has a conversion of the same Arg residue to Ile. Comparison of the amino acid sequences flanking this residue from E. coli, Cow, S. cerevisiae, and the wild-type K. lactis is illustrated in Figure 6. In fact, examination of all  $F_1 \beta$ -subunit sequences from 72 different species, including those from chloroplasts, bacteria and mammalian mitochondria, reveals that this Arg residue is totally conserved. According to the secondary structure prediction of the F<sub>1</sub>  $\beta$ -subunit (DUCAN et al. 1986) and the crystal structural analysis of the bovine mitochondrial F<sub>1</sub> complex (ABRAHAMS et al. 1994), Arg435 of the K. lactis gene, corresponding to Arg408 in the bovine protein, is located in helix 2 at the carboxyl terminus (ABRAHAMS et al. 1994). Close to this helix is a loop that has been proposed by the same authors to contain a "catch" that forms hydrogen bonds with the  $\gamma$ -subunit. Thus it is possible that mutations in mgil-1 and mgil-3



FIGURE 7.—Approximate locations of *mgi* mutations in the  $F_1$  complex. The three patches, representing the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits in a diagrammatic cross-section of the bovine mitochondrial  $F_1$ -ATPase, are drawn according to the crystal structure reported by ABRAHAMS *et al.* (1994). The black circles represent the positions of the *mgi* mutations.

in Arg435 affect the interaction between the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ - subunits.

The approximate positions of the mgil mutations in the  $F_1$  complex, together with those of the previously identified mgi2 and mgi5 alleles, are shown in Figure 7. One can see from this diagram that the mgi2-1, mgi2-2 and mgi5-1 mutations are all located on the interface between  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits. The mgi2-2 and mgi5-1 mutations probably represent the same contact point between the two subunits. Although the Arg residue where the mgi1-1 and mgi1-3 mutations occur is not in direct contact with the  $\gamma$ -subunit, these mutations may alter the structural conformation in the carboxyl terminus of the  $\beta$ -subunit and affect its interaction with the  $\gamma$ subunit. Taken together, it seems that altering interaction between  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits or between  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ subunits could be the common feature of the five identified mgi alleles.

Although the three *MGI* genes so far characterized encode the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits of the F<sub>1</sub> complex, it is known that the yeast mitochondrial F<sub>1</sub>F<sub>0</sub>-ATP synthase is composed of at least eleven different subunits. Eight of the subunits are encoded by the nuclear genome, including the five subunits of F<sub>1</sub> ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$  and  $\epsilon$ ) and three F<sub>0</sub> proteins namely P25 (*ATP4*, VELOURS *et al.* 1988), OSCP (*ATP5*, UH *et al.* 1990) and P18 (*ATP7*, NORAIS *et al.* 1991). It will be important to determine, in the context of our model for proton permeability of the ATP synthase, whether *mgi* mutations are confined to the  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -subunits of F<sub>1</sub> or if other components of the complex can be involved.

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