

## The Autosomal Chorion Locus of the Medfly *Ceratitis capitata*. I. Conserved Synteny, Amplification and Tissue Specificity but Sequence Divergence and Altered Temporal Regulation

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### ABSTRACT

We report the isolation, full sequence characterization, amplification and expression properties of medfly chorion genes corresponding to the autosomal chorion locus of *Drosophila*. These genes are found adjacent to the paramyosin gene and are organized in the same order and tandem orientation as their *Drosophila* homologues, although they are spaced further apart. They show substantial sequence divergence from their *Drosophila* homologues, including novel peptide repeats and a new spacing of the tyrosines, which are known to be cross-linked in Dipteran chorion. The genes are amplified and expressed during oogenesis, as in *Drosophila*. Three of them are expressed in the same relative temporal order as in *Drosophila* but the fourth gene, the homologue of *s15*, shows a clear shift to an earlier expression period. This is the first known instance of changed temporal regulation in dipteran chorion genes.

THE autosomal *Drosophila* gene cluster encoding the *s18*, *s15*, *s19* and *s16* chorion proteins is a favorite system for comparative chromosomal analysis and molecular evolution. This locus has been fully sequenced in four distant species of the genus *Drosophila* widely diverged during a period of 60–80 million years (LEVINE and SPRADLING 1985; WONG *et al.* 1985; MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990). Despite considerable sequence diversification, this locus has remained highly conserved in organization throughout the genus: the same four chorion genes are found in all four species in the same order, in a compact tandem organization spanning approximately the same length of DNA. Moreover, all four species possess an unrelated highly conserved gene just downstream of the chorion cluster; this gene, originally described as *NC-ORF* (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988), has been identified recently as the paramyosin gene (VINOS *et al.* 1991, 1992; BECKER *et al.* 1992; MAROTO *et al.* 1995, 1996). The highly conserved gene organization of the locus is paralleled by conserved developmental regulatory mechanisms. Throughout the genus, these chorion genes amplify differentially as a single unit in the follicular epithelial cells during late oogenesis (SPRADLING and MAHOWALD 1980; SPRADLING 1981; GRIFFIN-SHEA *et al.* 1982; DELIDAKIS and KAFATOS 1987; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990). Moreover, these genes are ex-

pressed at characteristic, brief periods during late oogenesis, which are gene-specific and completely conserved within *Drosophila* (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). Possibly associated with these conserved regulatory features is the presence of short conserved sequence motifs in the proximal 5' flanking DNA, embedded within otherwise highly diverged DNA sequences (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990). The autosomal chorion cluster also has been studied in more closely related taxa of Hawaiian *Drosophila*, confirming the above features and illuminating the processes of its sequence evolution, including an unusually rapid evolutionary rate of divergence of the encoded proteins (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO 1990).

Recently, the Mediterranean fruitfly *Ceratitis capitata* (Wiedermann), frequently called medfly, has become a favorite experimental system for molecular studies in Diptera, both fundamental and applied in orientation. The applied interest results from its nature as one of the most destructive and costly agricultural pests, causing immense devastation to coffee and >200 fruit crops (CHRISTENSON and FOOTE 1960). The medfly originated in eastern Africa but subsequently invaded most of the tropical and subtropical countries of the world, such as South and Central America, Australia (BACK and PEMBERTON 1918; SAUL 1986) and recently California (CAREY 1991). An effective method for its eradication or control is sterile insect technique (SIT), which involves sterilization by radiation (ANWAR *et al.* 1971). The prospects for improving the SIT by construction of a stable genetic sexing medfly strain, permitting se-

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lection and release of only male sterile flies (LOUIS *et al.* 1987), have been enhanced by the recent development of a successful transformation system for *C. capitata* (LOUKERIS *et al.* 1995). This breakthrough also makes the medfly especially attractive for fundamental comparative studies of insect gene regulation and molecular evolution. Such studies are facilitated by the ease of rearing the medfly (wherever this is not imprudent or illegal for reasons of agricultural quarantine), the ease of collecting and injecting its embryos, and its phylogenetic position, which is close enough to *Drosophila* to facilitate gene isolation by cross-hybridization or PCR but far enough to be informative. The medfly belongs to Tephritidae, a family of Diptera related to but distinct from the drosophilids, and is thought to have shared a last common ancestor with *Drosophila* ca. 120 mya (BEVERLEY and WILSON 1984) or approximately double the time since the separation of the ancestors of *Drosophila melanogaster* and *D. virilis*.

In previous studies, we have isolated four medfly chorion cDNAs. Two of them, *C2* and *C5*, were found to cross-hybridize with and correspond to the sex-linked *s36* and *s38* chorion genes of *Drosophila* (KONSOLAKI *et al.* 1990; TOLIAS *et al.* 1990); they were renamed *Ccs36* and *Ccs38*. These genes are clustered at position 70B of the 5L chromosome of *C. capitata*, which has been homologized with the X chromosome of *D. melanogaster* (ZACHAROPOULOU 1990; ZACHAROPOULOU *et al.* 1992). *Ccs36* and *Ccs38* also show sequence conservation and the same regulatory properties as their homologues in *Drosophila*: they are expressed with strict developmental specificity in early stages of choriogenesis and are differentially amplified in the ovarian follicle cells (KONSOLAKI *et al.* 1990; TOLIAS *et al.* 1990; MOUZAKI and MARGARITIS 1991).

In contrast, we had been unable to isolate the autosomal chorion genes or their cDNAs by cross-hybridization. The *C1* and *C4* chorion cDNAs are encoded by genes that are clustered at 88B of the 6L chromosome (ZACHAROPOULOU *et al.* 1992) and are amplified and expressed in late choriogenesis, as are the products of the *Drosophila* autosomal chorion cluster. However, their size and expression patterns correlate with the synthesis of polypeptides of substantially greater apparent size, and preliminary partial sequencing of *C1* and *C4* did not reveal obvious similarities to the *Drosophila* autosomal chorion cluster. Therefore, we resorted to an indirect cloning strategy, which is explained below and which proved successful. This permitted complete characterization of the structural and regulatory properties of the autosomal chorion genes of the medfly, which show both conserved and novel features relative to the *Drosophila* homologues.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Screening of the genomic library:** The medfly genomic library (RINA and SAVAKIS 1991) was a kind gift of the authors.

Approximately 300,000 plaques were screened in two batches by hybridization at 55° (CHURCH and GILBERT 1984) to an 1.7-kb *EcoRI-BamHI* genomic fragment, containing the two last exons of *D. melanogaster* paramyosin (described as *NC-ORF*) (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). Preparation of phage and plasmid DNA, agarose gel electrophoresis of DNA and labeling of DNA probes by nick-translation were carried out using standard procedures (SAMBROOK *et al.* 1989). Southern blot analysis was performed on GeneScreen nylon membrane (DuPont), using the hybridization conditions described by CHURCH and GILBERT (1984).

**Construction of cDNA clones:** The *Ccs18* and *Ccs19* cDNA clones were previously identified as *C4* and *C1* (TOLIAS *et al.* 1990) and had been selected from a *Ceratitis* ovarian cDNA library. cDNA clones of the *Ccs16* and *Ccs15* chorion genes were prepared by the rapid amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) method as described (FROHMAN 1990). Briefly, 1 µg total RNA extracted from *Ceratitis* ovaries was reverse transcribed using a primer consisting of oligo(dT) (17 residues) linked to a unique 17 nucleotide adapter. Amplification of *Ccs16* and *Ccs15* cDNAs was subsequently performed using the universal dT<sub>17</sub>-adapter primer, and a gene-specific primer corresponding to the ATG region of each gene. The sequences of the specific primers, defined from genomic sequencing, were 5' ATGCTCCGCTTCACGGTT 3' for *Ccs16*, and 5' ATGCAACGATTCATTTGC 3' for *Ccs15*. The PCR products were directly subcloned into Pcr II vector, using the TA cloning kit (Invitrogen) and amplified after transformation as described by the manufacturer.

**Sequence analysis and alignments:** Genomic and cDNA clones were mapped with various restriction enzymes and subcloned into M13mp18 and M13mp19 or pBluescript II KS (Stratagene). Further subcloning was performed after deletions of clones and subclones using Exonuclease III (HENIKOFF 1987). Clones and subclones were amplified after transformation with CaCl<sub>2</sub>/RbCl, and DNA was extracted from miniplasmid preparations by alkaline lysis (SAMBROOK *et al.* 1989). Overlapping restriction fragments were sequenced in both directions using the chain termination procedure (SANGER *et al.* 1977) with [<sup>35</sup>S-dATP] (NEN) (BIGGEN *et al.* 1983) and Sequenase V2.0 (U.S. Biochemicals) (TABOR and RICHARDSON 1987). Samples were resolved in 4 or 5% polyacrylamide, 7.5 M urea gels, and autoradiography was performed using Kodak X-Omat film. Each strand was sequenced at least three times. Sequences were identified by comparison with data from the SWISSPROT database using the BLAST program (ALTSCHUL *et al.* 1990). Other computer programs used were CLUSTAL W (THOMPSON *et al.* 1994), DNA analysis programs developed by PUSTELL and KAFATOS (1982, 1984) and the GCG secondary structure predictions programs (version 8, Genetics Computer Group, Inc).

**Amplification analysis:** Genomic DNA was prepared from male flies or hand-dissected ovaries from 3–4-day-old female flies as described (HOLMES and BONNER 1973). The DNA was restricted with *EcoRI* or *HindIII*, electrophoresed in Tris-borate agarose gels and transferred to nylon membranes (GeneScreen). The filters were hybridized (CHURCH and GILBERT 1984) with <sup>32</sup>P-labeled *EcoRI* restriction fragments containing chorion genes by nick translation (RIGBY *et al.* 1977) or random hexanucleotide priming (FEINBERG and VOGELSTEIN 1983). Hybridizations were carried out at 72°.

**RNA blot and developmental Northern analysis:** RNAs were extracted from male flies, whole ovaries or stage-specific follicles of the medfly, according to the JACOBS-LORENA protocol (1980) as modified by H. BOUHIN *et al.* (1992). For RNA dot blots, performed according to KAFATOS *et al.* (1979), 20 male flies or 10 hand-dissected ovaries were homogenized in 0.5 ml of lysis buffer (2% SDS, 0.1 M Tris-HCl, pH 9.5, 0.2 M

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Cc NGELEEVRSHLDSAVRAKRTVELQYEEAQTRINELSTVNVNVLVSLKSKLEQELSVVAADYEEVTKEL
Dm NGELEEVRSHLDSANRAKRTVELQYEEAASRINELTTANVSLVSIKSKLEQELSVVASDYEEVSKEL
612
      ∇                               ∇
Cc RISDERYQKVQVELKHTIEVVHEEQERIVKLETIKKSLEVEVKNL SIRLEEVELNAVAGSKRIISKL
Dm RISDERYQKVQVELKHVVEQVHEEQERIVKLETIKKSLEVEVKNL SIRLEEVELNAVAGSKRIISKL
679
      ∇                               ▲
Cc EARVRALELELEEEKRRHAETIKILRKKERTVKEVMVQCEEDQKNI ILLQEALDKSVAKVNLFKRQL
Dm EARIRDLELELEEEKRRHAETIKILRKKERTVKEVLVQCEEDQKNL ILLQDALDKSTAKINIYRRQL
746
      ∇
Cc AEQEGMSQQSVTRVRRFQRELEAAEDRAVSAETNLNMIRAKHRTFVTTSTIPGSQVYIQETTRTITE
Dm SEQEGVSSQQTTRVRRFQRELEAAEDRADTAESSLNIIRAKHRTFVTTSTVPGSQVYIQETTRTITE
813

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FIGURE 1.—Sequence alignment of the C-terminal regions of the deduced *D. melanogaster* and *C. capitata* paramyosin proteins. Residues identical in the two species are shaded. Amino acids are numbered relative to the *Drosophila* sequence. Intron positions of the paramyosin gene in *C. capitata* (∇) and *D. melanogaster* (▲) are indicated.

EDTA, 5% ethanol containing 2 mg of heparin and 1.5 mg of proteinase K) and extracted twice with 1 vol phenol (saturated with 1 M Tris, pH 9.5)/0.5 vol chloroform, once with 0.5 vol phenol/1 vol chloroform and once with 1 vol chloroform. After ethanol precipitation, total nucleic acids were dissolved in double distilled water, incubated for 1 hr at 37° with RNAase-free pancreatic DNAase I to a final concentration of 2 µg/ml and reprecipitated with ethanol. For developmental Northern analysis, RNAs were extracted from pools of 50 developing follicles staged according to their size, proportion of oocyte vs. nurse cells, and formation of the chorion layers (MOUZAKI and MARGARITIS 1991). Samples were resolved by electrophoresis on 1.5% agarose gels containing formaldehyde according to SAMBROOK *et al.* (1989). RNA blot analysis was performed using rapid alkaline transfer to a neutral nylon membrane (GeneScreen) as described by LOW and RAUSCH (1994). The membranes were baked at 80° for 2 hr and hybridized as previously using as probes cDNA chorion clones labeled by random hexanucleotide priming (FEINBERG and VOGELSTEIN 1983). Used blots were stripped of probes by boiling for 10–30 min in a solution of 0.010 M Tris-HCl, pH 7.5–8.0, 0.001 M EDTA, 1% SDS, before reusing.

## RESULTS

**Isolation of the autosomal chorion gene cluster in *C. capitata*:** Initial attempts to clone the medfly homologues of the *Drosophila* autosomal chorion locus by low stringency hybridization, using *Drosophila* chorion genes as probes, were unsuccessful. This was not unexpected considering the rapid rates of divergence within the genus *Drosophila* (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO 1990). On the assumption that the paramyosin gene is well conserved in the medfly as in other organisms (BECKER *et al.* 1992; VINOS *et al.* 1992) and that this gene is closely linked to a chorion gene cluster as in all *Drosophila* species examined (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989), we screened for the paramyosin gene to gain an indirect entry into the chorion locus.

The medfly genomic library was screened under permissive criteria with a genomic fragment containing the last two exons of the *D. melanogaster* paramyosin gene. Two positive lambda clones were isolated and subjected to Southern hybridization with the same probe, and the cross-hybridizing restriction fragments were mapped, subcloned and partially sequenced. Indeed they encom-

passed the 3' terminal region of the paramyosin gene, as shown by alignment of the encoded protein with the corresponding *D. melanogaster* sequence (89% identity and 97% similarity over 264 amino acid residues, aligned without gaps; Figure 1). In the sequenced region, one intron was found at the same location as in *D. melanogaster*, while two others were unique to the medfly (Figure 1). Once the position and the orientation of the *Ceratitis* paramyosin homologue had been determined by sequencing, all *EcoRI* fragments downstream of its last intron were tested for putative chorion genes (which should only be expressed in the female ovary) (TOLIAS *et al.* 1990; MOUZAKI and MARGARITIS 1991) by being used as probes in dot hybridization of RNAs from *Ceratitis* males and ovaries (see below). Four successive *EcoRI* fragments hybridized exclusively with ovarian RNA. The fragment most distant from the paramyosin gene was used to isolate a third chromosomal clone bearing one additional fragment that showed ovarian expression. Plasmid subclones were constructed, restriction mapped and partially sequenced, resulting in the detection of four putative chorion genes and their positioning on the 26-kb map of this chromosomal walk (Figure 2).

*In situ* hybridization to polytene chromosomes, with a biotinylated genomic fragment containing the 3' exons of the cloned *C. capitata* paramyosin gene, revealed a single band at position 88B of the 6L chromosome (A. ZACHAROPOULOU, personal communication), where the genes corresponding to the previously isolated *C1* and *C4* chorion cDNAs (TOLIAS *et al.* 1990) had already been localized (ZACHAROPOULOU *et al.* 1992). Indeed, hybridization and sequence analysis confirmed that two of the genes in the chromosomal walk of Figure 2 correspond to the *C1* and *C4* chorion cDNAs. For the remaining two genes, cDNAs were constructed by the RACE-PCR method, using as primers a dT<sub>17</sub> adapter and synthetic oligonucleotides, corresponding to the respective start of the ORF as determined from the partial genomic sequence (see MATERIALS AND METHODS). The cDNA and predicted protein sequences of the four chorion genes are presented in Figures 3–6,

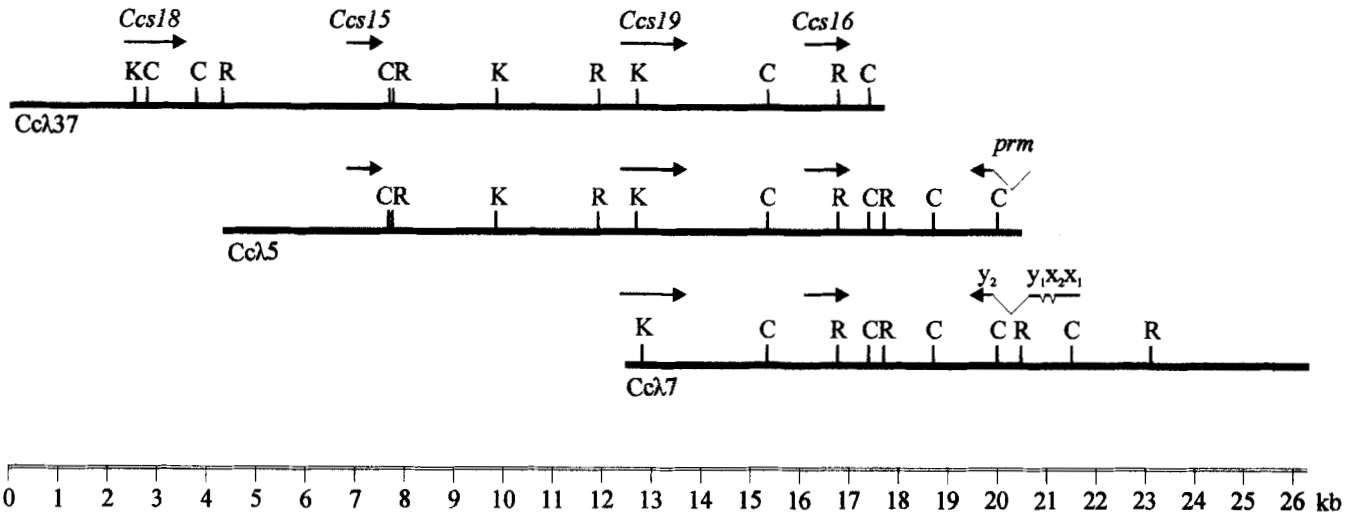


FIGURE 2.—A chromosomal walk consisting of three lambda clones and spanning five genes. Partial restriction maps of cloned segments were generated by standard procedures (E, *EcoRI*; C, *Clai*; K, *KpmI*). The location and direction of transcription of the paramyosin gene (*prm*) were defined by cross-hybridization to the *Drosophila* homologue and sequence analysis of the appropriate restriction fragments. Note that the sequenced segment of this gene contains four exons (Named x1, x2 and y1, y2 relative to the previously described x, y exons of *Drosophila*; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989), which are shown as an arrow interrupted by three introns. Chorion genes were identified downstream of *prm*, by dot blot hybridization to ovarian RNA, and then fully characterized by subcloning and sequencing. Their transcriptional orientations are indicated by solid arrows.

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+1 ATTCAATAATATTATTAACACTAGAATTACGCAAA  ATG AAT AGA TTC CTT TGT ACC TTT GCC GCT ATT GTC GCC
      M  N  R  F  L  C  T  F  A  A  I  V  A
      ↓      ↓
+74 GTT GCC AAT GGT TAC GCA GTT GGT GGA GGT GGT GGT TAT GGT GGT CGC GGT GGT AGC GGT ACC GTA
      V  A  N  G  Y  A  V  G  G  G  G  G  Y  G  G  R  G  G  S  G  T  V
+140 ATC GGT GGA CAA GCC TAC CAA ATT TTG CCT GCT TTG CAA GTG CAA ACT ATT GCT GCC GCT GGT GGC
      I  G  G  Q  A  Y  Q  I  L  P  A  L  Q  V  Q  T  I  A  A  A  G  G
+206 TCC TCA GCT GGT TAT GGT GGC TCC TCA GCT GGT TAT GGT GCA TCG TCG GGT AGC TAT GGT GCA TCG
      S  S  A  G  Y  G  G  S  S  A  G  Y  G  A  S  S  G  S  Y  G  A  S
+272 TCG GGT GGT TAC GGT GGC TCA TCG AAT GGA TAT GGT GCG TCC AGT GCA CCA TCG ATT GAT ATT GGA
      S  G  G  Y  G  G  S  S  N  G  Y  G  A  S  S  A  P  S  I  D  I  G
+338 CAA TTA TTG GCC GCC GTT GGT GGT GAC CTT ACC GCA CAA GAA GCT GCC CAA TTA GTA AAT TCT TTG
      Q  L  L  A  A  V  G  G  D  L  T  A  Q  E  A  A  Q  L  V  N  S  L
+404 CCT TCA GCT GGC GGT CCA ATC ATT GAC ACC AGT GGT TCA TCG GCT GGT AGC AGC CAT CAA GGT TCA
      P  S  A  G  G  P  I  I  D  T  S  G  S  S  A  G  S  S  H  Q  G  S
+470 TAC CCT TCG GGC GGT AAT CTA GCT TAT GTT ATT CAA TCT GGT GGT AGC TCA TAC TCT GCA CCA GCA
      Y  P  S  G  G  N  L  A  Y  V  I  Q  S  G  G  S  S  Y  S  A  P  A
+535 CCT GCT GCT TCA TAC AGT GCC CCA GCA CCA GCG CCA GCT GCT TCG TAC AGT GCT CCA GCT CCT TCT
      P  A  A  S  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  P  A  S  Y  S  A  P  A  P  S
+602 TAC AGT GCT CCA GCA CCA GCG CCA GCT CCT TCT TAC AGT GCT CCA GCT CCT TCT TAC AGT GCT CCA
      Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  P  A  P  S  Y  S  A  P  A  P  S  Y  S  A  P
+668 GCT CCT TCT TAC AGT GCT CCA GCA CCA GCG CCC GCA CCA GCT GCA TAT AGT GCT CCT GCA CCT GCT
      A  P  S  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  P  A  P  A  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A
+734 GTA TAC AGT GCT CCT GCA CCA GCT GCA TAT AGT GCT CCT GCA CCT GCT GTA TAC AGT GCT CCA GCA
      V  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  A  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  V  Y  S  A  P  A
+800 CCA GCG CCC GCA CCA GCT GCA TAT AGT GCT CCA GCA CCT GCT GCA TAC AGT GCT CCG GCT CCT GCT
      P  A  P  A  P  A  A  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A  A  Y  S  A  P  A  P  A
+866 GCA TAC AGT GCT CCT GCA TCA TCT GGC TAT GGT GCC TCA GCT CCT GCC GCC GCT GCT CCA GCT GCA
      A  Y  S  A  P  A  S  S  G  Y  G  A  S  A  P  A  A  A  A  P  A  A
+932 GCA CAT CAG CCA TCA GCA GCC GCT GCT CGC AGC TAT ATC TCA GGC AGT TAC GGT GCT GCC TAC GCA
      A  H  Q  P  S  A  A  A  A  R  S  Y  I  S  G  S  Y  G  A  A  Y  A
+998 CCC GCA CCC GCC CCT GCT GCT GGT GGT GCT TAT TAA ATCTGTGATATTAATATTTTCACTAAATTCAGTGTTCG
      P  A  P  A  P  A  A  G  G  A  Y  end
+1073 ATCAAAAGATAGAAATAAACGCGATATTTTCGAACAAAG
    
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FIGURE 3.—Complete cDNA sequence of medfly *Ccs18* (*C4* cDNA clone) and the encoded protein. Numbers refer to the nucleic acid sequence. The putative polyadenylation signal AATAAA is bold and underlined. The best conserved peptide sequence detected after alignment with all *Drosophila s18* proteins is boxed, and 14 imperfect tandem repeats of the heptapeptide SYSAPAP are bracketed; deviations from this consensus are dotted. The repeats are spaced by pure alanine and proline segments, which are also found elsewhere in the protein (dashed underlining). Tyrosines showing periodicities of six, seven, eight or nine residues are circled. Possible cleavage sites of the signal peptide are shown with vertical arrows; the most probable is that preceding a tyrosine, which is also seen in *Drosophila* chorion proteins.

1 ATG CAA CGA TTC ATT TGC ATC ATC TTT TCT ATG CTC GCT CTA GTG CAT GCT TCT CCT TAT GGA AGC  
 M Q R F I C I I F S M L A L V H A S P **Y** G S  
 67 AGC AGC GGT ACG TAC GGT GGA TCA GCT CCA GCT CCA GCA CCA GCA CCA GCG CCT TAC AGC AGT GGT  
 S S G T **Y** G G S A P A P A P A P A P **Y** S S G  
 133 CAG GTT GTG ATT TCA TAT GAA CCT CCA GTT TTA TAT AAT ATT CCG GCA CCA ACG GCT TGG AAT TTA  
 Q V V I S **Y** E P P V L **Y** N I P A P T A W N L  
 199 TCA CCA CGT CAT GCC GGT GCA GCG TTG ACA CCA GTT AAT GCT CGC ACC ATC TCA GGA GAT GGT ACA  
 S P R H A G A A L T P V N A R T I S G D G T  
 265 CCT GGC TCT TTG GTC GGC ATT TCA TCA CAG CCT AGC GCT GCT GCT GCT GCT TCC GCT AAT GTA  
 P G S L V G I S S Q P S A A A A A S A N V  
 331 CCA TTA AAT GCT GGT TCC TAT AAG CTT TGG GTG GTG CCC TCC TAT GAA GTA CCC AAT GTG GTG GGA  
 P L N A G S **Y** K L W V V P S **Y** E V P N V V G  
 397 CCT ACT AGC GGC TAT GCT GGT CAA TTA TCG TAT GGT GGT GGT CAA TCA TAC GGC GCT CAA GCA CCT  
 P T S G **Y** A G Q L S **Y** G G G Q S **Y** G A Q A P  
 463 GCC GCT CCA TCT TAT GGC GCC CAG TCA TCC AGT TAC TAA TTGTTGTCGTTGGCTGCTGAAATTTGAAATAAGG  
 A A P S **Y** G A Q S S **Y** end  
 537 GAAACTTAAATTGAAATATAAGCTCTAAGAGCAAATCCTT

FIGURE 4.—cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of medfly *Ccs15*. This cDNA was produced by the RACE-PCR method (MATERIALS AND METHODS), using as gene-specific primer the oligonucleotide ATGCAACGATTCATTTGC, defined by preliminary genomic sequencing of the beginning of the ORF. Annotations as in Figure 3.

+1 ATTAGTACGAATTGTGGAAGAAGCCAAAGAAGCTGCACACAACCTCAAACCTGCCGAACCGCTGAACCGCTGAACCGCA ATG CAT  
 M H  
 +85 ATC AAT ATG AAA CAG TTC ATG TGT CTT TCT TTG GCA CTT TTC GCT TCC GTC GCT GTG GCA CAG CCC  
 I N M K Q F M C L S L A L F A S V A V A Q P  
 +151 TAT GGA CAA TCT CCG GCA TCC TAT GGT GCA CCA GCA CCA GCA CCA GCT CCT GCT GCC AGT CTT GCC  
**Y** G Q S P A S **Y** G A P A P A P A P A P A S L A  
 +217 AGT TTG GTG AAT TTG GAG GCG CTC GAA CGG TAC CTA AAT GCT CCA GCT CCA GCT CCA GCA GCG TAT  
 S L V N L E A L E R Y L N A P A P A P A P A **Y**  
 +283 GGT GGC TCT AGC ACA TAT TCT CAG GCA AGA TAT GTT TCA GCT GGT GGT TCG CCC AGC GCA GGT CCA  
 G G S S T **Y** S Q A R Y V S A G G S P S A G P  
 +349 GTA ACT TCA ACT AGC TAC AGT GCT GCA CCA GCA TCT TCG GCT GGC AGT TCT GCG CCG TCC GGT GGT  
 V T S T S Y S A A P A S S A G S S A P S G G  
 +415 TAT GGC GGT TCA GAT GAG CCA ATT CTT TTT GTC AAT GAA ATA CCT GCC GCT GGT TAC TCA TCA TCT  
 Y G G S D E P I L F V N E I P A A G **Y** S S S  
 +481 GGC GGT TAC TCA GCA CCC GCA CCT GCA CCT GCT GCT AGC TAT TCC GCT CCA GCT CCT AGC TAC ACT  
 G G **Y** S A P A P A P A A S **Y** S A P A P S **Y** T  
 +547 GCA CCA GCT CCT AGC TAT TCC GCA CCA GCT CCA AGC TAC TCT GCT CCA GCT GCT ACC TAC TCT GCT  
 A P A P S **Y** S A P A P S **Y** S A P A A T **Y** S A  
 +613 CCA ACT GCT ACC TAC TCG GTT CCA GCT CCC AGC TAC TCT GCT CCA GCT CCT AGC TAC TCT GCA CCA  
 P T A T **Y** S V P A P S **Y** S A P A P S **Y** S A P  
 +679 GCT CCT AGC TAT TCC GCA CCA GCT CCA AGC TAT TCC GCG CCA TCT TCT AGC TAT GCT GCA CCT GCT  
 A P S **Y** S A P A P S **Y** S A P S S S **Y** A A P A  
 +745 CCA GCC AGC TAT TCA GCT CCC GCT CCC GGT CCT GCT GCT GGT TAT GGT GCT GCC CCA TCA TCT GGT  
 P A S **Y** S A P A P A P A A A G **Y** G A A P S S G  
 +811 TAT GGT GGT GCT TCT GCT GCT CCC AAA TAC ACC GTA CTC CCA GCA ACT ATT ACA CAG CTC AAC CCC  
**Y** G G A S A A P K **Y** T V L P A T I T Q L N P  
 +877 GGC AAG ACT AGC TAC AAA ACC TAC CAG TCT CCC ATC CAA TAC AGC ACT GTC ACC CTT CCA GTT ACT  
 G K T S **Y** R T **Y** Q S P I Q **Y** S T V T L P V T  
 +943 GCT GCT GGC CCT GTG GCC AAT TTG TAT GTA CPT GAG AAT GCC GGT GGT AGT TAT GGT GCA TCT GCT  
 A A G P V A N L **Y** V P E N A G G S **Y** G A S A  
 +1009 GGT TAT GGT AGC AGC TCA GGT AGC AGC TCC TAT GGT GGT TCC AGC TAT TAG AGAAAAAACAACAAAGAA  
 G **Y** G S S S G S S **Y** G G S S Y end  
 +1079 CTTAAGTCTTAAAGACGTTAGTTTTAGTTCATAATAGAACTGTTTCAGAGTCTTGTGACCAGTTATGAAAATTCCAAATTCAAAATT  
 +1166 TTACTTTGAGCGAGTTTTGTGTGTAATATTATTTGTTGGCAAATCCTTTTTATATTCTGTGTTTTGGTGAATAAATAATGAAAGA  
 +1253 TGTTTTTAAGATT

FIGURE 5.—Complete cDNA sequence of medfly *Ccs19* (*C1* cDNA clone). Annotations as in Figure 3.

```

1 ATG CTC CGC TTC ACG GTT TGC TTG GTG GCC ACG GCC GTG TGT ATA TGC ACA TCC GCG TTG GCT TCT
  M  L  R  F  T  V  C  L  V  A  T  A  V  C  I  C  T  S  A  L  A  S
67 CCA CAA TAT GGC AGC GCT CCA ACT CCA GCA GCA TCC TCG TAT GGC GGG AGT GGT GGT TAT GCC GGT
  P  Q  Y  G  S  A  P  T  P  A  A  S  S  Y  G  G  S  G  G  Y  A  G
133 GCC GGT GCG AGT GGC GCA CCA GCA GCT CAG GTA ATT GAA TTG CCC GCC AAT GTT GAA GCT CAA GCG
  A  G  A  S  G  A  P  A  A  Q  V  I  E  L  P  A  N  V  E  A  Q  A
199 GCT GCT TTG ACA AAT GCT GCC GGC GCT AAG GCG ACA GCT GCC AAA ATC AAT GCA CTC AAA TGG GAT
  A  A  L  T  N  A  A  G  A  K  A  T  A  A  K  I  N  A  L  K  W  D
265 TTG CTC AAT TTG TAC GGT TAT GAA ATC GGT TAT CCA TTG TTG GTG AAG AAA TAC GGA CCA TTG ACC
  L  L  N  L  Y  G  Y  E  I  G  Y  P  L  L  V  K  K  Y  G  P  L  T
331 TCA TTG TTC TCC GCC TCG TTG CCA CCA CGC AGT TTT GTT GGA AAG ATC GAT CCT GCT TTC TTG AAA
  S  L  F  S  A  S  L  P  P  R  S  F  V  G  K  I  D  P  A  F  L  K
397 GAC TCT TAC GGC AAG ATC AAA TAT GTC GGC GAA AGT TCG ATC GGT GTT GCG GCT ATT TAA AATCGTG
  D  S  Y  G  K  I  K  Y  V  G  E  S  S  I  G  V  A  A  I  end
464 CGCCTAAAACGCGACTTGTAAATTATTGTTAAAGTAGCTAAGAATAAAAACTATACTTTTTTAAGTGG
    
```

FIGURE 6.—cDNA sequence of medfly *Ccs16*. This cDNA was produced by the RACE-PCR method, using as gene-specific primer, the oligonucleotide ATGCTCCGCTTCACGGTT, defined by preliminary genomic sequencing of the beginning of the ORF. Annotations as in Figure 3.

according to their order in the locus relative to the paramyosin gene.

**Characterization of the medfly proteins:** The predicted polypeptides were used to search the

SWISSPROT database through the BLASTX program (ALTSCHUL *et al.* 1990). The closest matches were detected with the *Drosophila s18, s15, s19, s16* proteins, permitting the *C. capitata* genes to be renamed *Ccs18*

**s18**

<i>Dms18</i>	32...VGGYAYQVQPALTVKAI...48
<i>Dss18</i>	32...IGAYAYQVQPALTVQAI...48
<i>Dvs18</i>	30...VGGYAYQVQPALTVKAI...46
<i>Dgs18</i>	30...VGGLAYQVQPALTVSSI...46
<i>Ccs18</i>	36...IGGQAYQILPALQVQTI...52
<b>consensus</b>	<b>VGGYAYQVQPALTV-AI</b>

**s15**

<i>Dms15</i>	70...GSAAAAAASAAAVNPGTYKQYAIPSYEL...98
<i>Dss15</i>	71...SRASAAAAASAAAIAPGSYSQYAIPTYEI...99
<i>Dvs15</i>	71...PSASAAAAASAGIRPGRYEQAAVIGYDL...99
<i>Dgs15</i>	57...PSAAAAAASSGVNSGLYNQRGVIGYEL...85
<i>Ccs15</i>	99...PSAAAAAASANVPLNAGSYKLVVVPYEV...127
<b>consensus</b>	<b>PSAAAAAAS-A--NPG-Y-Q-AVP-YEL</b>

**s19**

<i>Dms19</i>	106...PRWTVQPAGATLLYPGQNNYKAYVSPPEYSKVLPIRPAAPVAKLFPEN...155
<i>Dss19</i>	107...PRWTVQPAGATLLYPGQNNYRAYVSPPEYTKVVLVPRPAEPVAKLYIPEN...156
<i>Dvs19</i>	134...PRWSVPAGTLLYPGQNSYRRYASPEYTKVVLVRAAPPVAKLYLPEN...183
<i>Dgs19</i>	139...PRFTVQPAGATLLYPGQNSYRRISPEYSKVLVRAAAPVAKLYIPQEN...188
<i>Ccs19</i>	252...PKYTVLPATITQLNPGKTSYKTYQSPIQYSTVTLVPTAAGPVANLYVPEN...301
<b>consensus</b>	<b>PRWTVQPAGATLLYPGQNSYR-Y-SPPEYSKV-LPVRAA-PVAKLY-PEN</b>

**s16**

<i>Dms16</i>	45...EAQASALTNAAGAAASAAK...63
<i>Dss16</i>	46...EAQAAALTNAAGAAASAAK...64
<i>Dvs16</i>	45...EAQAAALTNAAGAAASSAK...63
<i>Dgs16</i>	48...EAQAAALTNAAGAAASAAK...66
<i>Ccs16</i>	63...EAQAAALTNAAGAKATAAK...81
<b>consensus</b>	<b>EAQAAALTNAAGAAASAAK</b>

FIGURE 7.—Identification of the *C. capitata* (*Cc*) chorion genes, by comparison with known *D. melanogaster* (*Dm*), *D. subobscura* (*Ds*), *D. virilis* (*Dv*) and *D. grimshawi* (*Dg*) sequences. These conserved, uninterrupted segments were identified in BLASTX alignments and are shown as boxes in Figures 3–6. Shading indicates residues that do not vary in more than one sequence, and consensus is defined by three or more sequences.

TABLE 1  
Comparison of amino acid residues in chorion proteins of *C. capitata* and *D. melanogaster*

AA type	s18		s15		s19		s16	
	Cc	Dm	Cc	Dm	Cc	Dm	Cc	Dm
Nonpolar								
Ala A	96 <sup>a</sup>	28	27 <sup>b</sup>	18	73 <sup>a</sup>	23	29	29
Val V	10 <sup>b</sup>	16	2 <sup>b</sup>	7	12	10	9	9
Leu L	9	6	9 <sup>c</sup>	5	13 <sup>b</sup>	6	15	15
Ile I	10 <sup>b</sup>	4	7	4	5	8	8 <sup>b</sup>	1
Pro P	45 <sup>a</sup>	15	20 <sup>a</sup>	7	48 <sup>a</sup>	13	10	8
Met M	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	2
Phe F	2	1	2	1	3	3	4	2
Trp W	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	2
Polar								
Gly G	46 <sup>a</sup>	28	19	21	30 <sup>b</sup>	23	16	14
Ser S	54 <sup>a</sup>	18	25 <sup>a</sup>	8	63 <sup>a</sup>	16	14 <sup>b</sup>	8
Thr T	5	2	6 <sup>c</sup>	2	15 <sup>a</sup>	3	7	4
Cys C	1	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Tyr Y	29 <sup>a</sup>	17	12 <sup>c</sup>	16	33 <sup>a</sup>	19	9	10
Asn N	5	4	6	5	7	8	4	4
Gln Q	10 <sup>c</sup>	6	7 <sup>c</sup>	3	7 <sup>b</sup>	12	3	3
Acidic								
Asp D	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	6
Glu E	1	4	2	5	5	7	4	5
Basic								
Lys K	0 <sup>b</sup>	9	1	2	4	4	9	7
Arg R	3	4	3 <sup>c</sup>	7	2 <sup>b</sup>	12	2	5
His H	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	1
Total AA	332	172	166	115	326	173	151	138
kDa	30.4	17.3	16.5	12.0	31.5	18.5	15.2	14.3
pI	6.5	11.1	10.2	11.2	7.0	12.0	10.2	9.3

*a*, *b*, and *c* indicate differences in numbers of specific residues between *C. capitata* and *D. melanogaster* chorion proteins in either direction. *a*, >10 residues; *b*, >4 residues; and *c*, >3 residues.

(*C4*), *Ccs15*, *Ccs19* (*C1*), and *Ccs16*, respectively, in increasing proximity to the paramyosin gene. Figure 7 presents the most conserved peptide sequences that show diagnostic similarities to the aligned sequences of the corresponding proteins in four diverse *Drosophila* species (LEVINE and SPRADLING 1985; WONG *et al.* 1985; MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990), unequivocally establishing the identity of the medfly genes. These diagnostic sequences are boxed in Figures 3–6. Additional similarities exist, but the fruitfly and medfly genes are highly diverged for much of their length, consistent with our inability to identify them by cross-hybridization. For convenience, we will use the term “autosomal chorion locus” for this medfly gene cluster, as in *Drosophila*.

The most striking difference is that the medfly chorion proteins are invariably longer than their *Drosophila* homologues: by 9% in the case of *Ccs16*, 44% for *Ccs15*, 88% for *Ccs19* and 93% for *Ccs18* (Table 1). This disparity would be even greater if the putative signal peptides, which are usually of similar length, were omitted from the comparison (Figures 3–6). It should be noted that all *C. capitata* chorion components mi-

grate on SDS gels more slowly than their expected molecular weights, but *Ccs19* (*C1*) and *Ccs18* (*C4*) show an unusually large retardation: they behave as proteins of 68 and 59 kD, respectively (according to TOLIAS *et al.* 1990) or 66 and 61 kD (according to MOUZAKI and MARGARITIS 1991), although they are 31.5 and 30.4 kD, including the signal peptide, as determined by sequencing (Table 1). Slower migration on SDS gels has been noted in some gel systems for *D. melanogaster* chorion proteins (WARING and MAHOWALD 1979) and may largely reflect unusual features of sequence and structure. However, early attempts at detecting chorion glycosylation showed the presence of 6% sugars (PETRI *et al.* 1976), and KOCH and SPITZER (1982) reported that chorion was heavily labeled after *in vivo* incubation with radioactive sugars.

The increased length of the medfly sequences as compared with *Drosophila* is correlated with substantial enrichment in a few amino acids (Table 1). More than half the increased length of *Ccs15* is due to proline and serine. *Ccs19* and *Ccs18* are strongly enriched in these same two amino acids plus alanine and tyrosine, while they also show strong enrichment in one additional

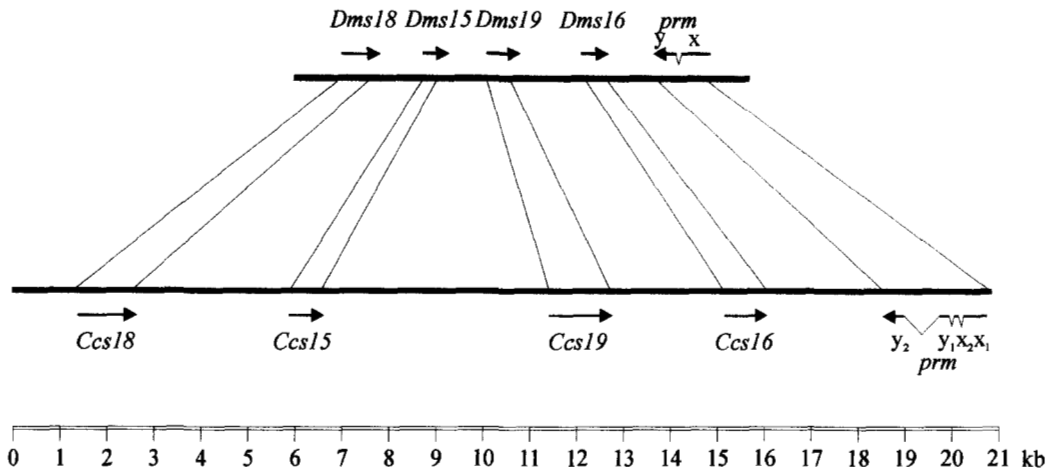


FIGURE 8.—Comparison of the autosomal chorion locus in *D. melanogaster* and *C. capitata* encompassing the paramyosin gene (*prm*) and four similarly organized chorion genes. In *Ceratitis*, the locus shows size expansion in both coding (especially *s18* and *s19*) and intergenic regions. Note that the sequenced portion of the paramyosin gene shows three introns as compared with one in the *Drosophila* homologue (see Figure 1).

amino acid each: threonine in the case of *Ccs19*, and glycine in the case of *Ccs18*. In both *Ccs19* and *Ccs18*, a substantial part of the increased length is due to a novel segment consisting of imperfect tandem repeats of the same heptapeptide consensus sequence, SYSAPAP (bracketed in Figures 3 and 5). There are 13 such repeats in the case of *Ccs19* and 14 in *Ccs18*, either directly abutting each other or separated by one to five residues, which are invariably alanine or proline (dashed underlining in Figures 3 and 5). Only one imperfect repeat of this consensus is encountered in *Ccs15* and is followed by three repeats of AP (Figure 4). The SYSAPAP consensus is not encountered in *Ccs16* (Figure 6) nor in any of these four chorion proteins in any *Drosophila* species that has been studied to date.

In addition to the interrelated differences in length, amino acid content and occurrence of SYSAPAP-like repeats, the medfly chorion proteins differ from their *D. melanogaster* homologues in isoelectric point. *Ccs18* and *Ccs19* are substantially less basic than their *D. melanogaster* homologues, and *Ccs15* is also somewhat less basic. Again, *Ccs16* is deviant in that it is actually more basic than *Dms16*.

The locus as a whole differs substantially in length, because of substantially longer intergenic DNA in *C. capitata* as compared with *D. melanogaster* or other *Drosophila* species (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988). Thus the distance from the 5' end of *s18* to the 3' end of the paramyosin gene is 6.9 kb in *D. melanogaster* and 17.2 kb in *C. capitata* (Figure 8). Nevertheless, the order and orientation of the genes, with respect to each other as well as to the neighboring paramyosin gene, are perfectly conserved (Figure 8). Each medfly gene has a single intron, at the same position as the *Drosophila* homologue (data not shown).

**The autosomal chorion genes are amplified in *C. capitata*:** In all *Drosophila* species examined, the autosomal chorion genes amplify differentially in the ovarian follicle cells during oogenesis (SPRADLING and MAHOWALD 1980; SPRADLING 1981; ORR *et al.* 1984; MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988). This is also true in *C. capitata* (Figure

9). Genomic DNA was prepared from either males or total choriogenic ovaries. Equal amounts of each DNA were digested with *EcoRI* and blot hybridized with three cloned fragments encompassing chorion genes. In each case, autoradiography revealed amplification in ovarian relative to male DNA (Figure 9A). This was confirmed (Figure 9B) by comparison of blots of *HindIII*-digested DNA hybridized with chorion probes and a single copy control probe (the *Adh2* cDNA isolated by BOURTZIS and SAVAKIS, unpublished results). Surprisingly, several amplified bands were seen with each of the chorion probes (Figure 9A), suggesting the existence of restriction fragment length polymorphism in the autosomal chorion locus of *C. capitata*; the different intensities of the bands presumably correspond to the frequencies of the alleles in the medfly population. The polymorphism was confirmed by analysis of additional *C. capitata* genomic clones and by Southern analysis from ovaries of individual females (D. VLACHOU and K. KOMITOPOULOU, unpublished results) and is interesting in view of the commonly held view that medfly populations have a low degree of polymorphism.

**The chorion genes are expressed specifically in the ovary but show some changes in temporal expression:** To test whether expression of autosomal chorion genes is ovarian-specific in the medfly, as it is in *Drosophila* (GRIFFIN-SHEA *et al.* 1982; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989), equal amounts of RNAs from choriogenic ovaries and from adult males were subjected to dot blot analysis. We used as probes the same three cloned fragments encompassing chorion genes as in the previous experiment. Indeed, expression was abundant in the ovaries but not detectable in males (Figure 10).

Detailed comparisons of the temporal specificities of the four chorion genes in *D. melanogaster* and *C. capitata* showed clear evidence of regulatory evolution (Figure 11). Staging the choriogenic follicles (egg chambers) in a comparable manner was not straightforward because their morphology differs in the two species (MARGARITIS 1985). We used the staging criteria established by MOUZAKI and MARGARITIS (1991), based on overall size,



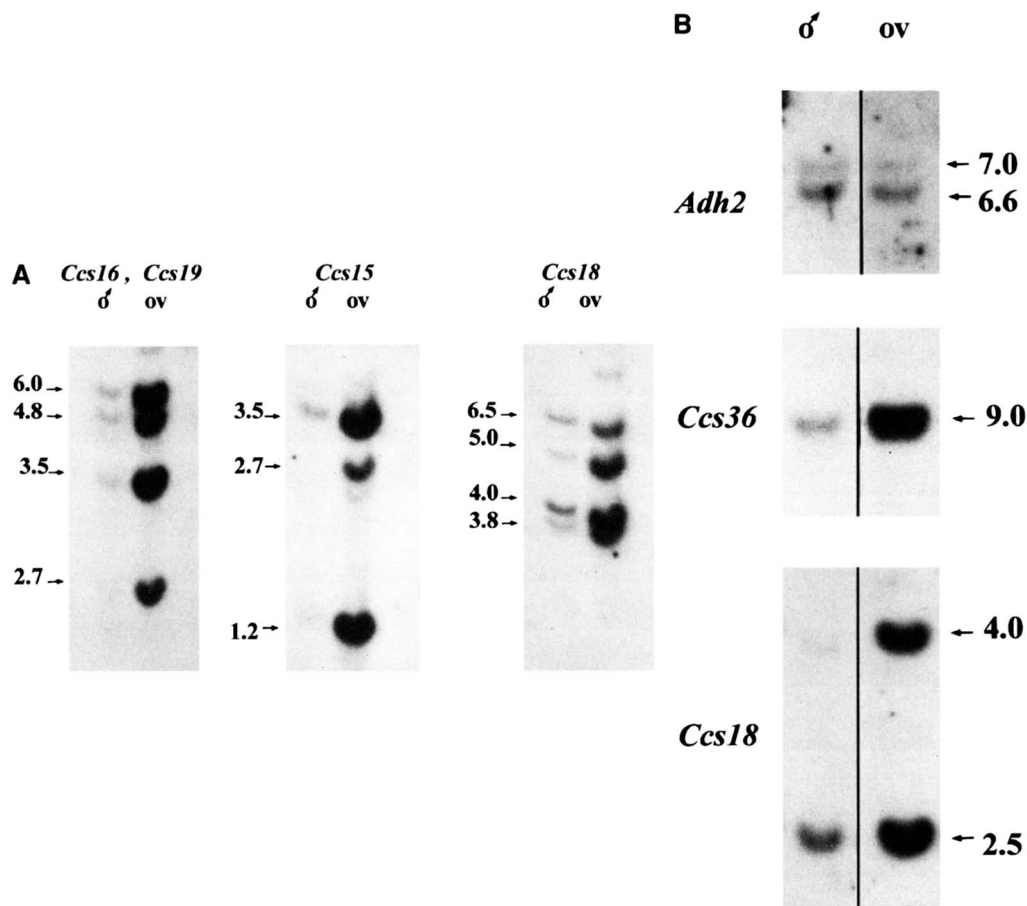


FIGURE 9.—Amplification of the medfly chorion genes in choriogenic ovaries. (A) High molecular weight genomic DNAs were isolated from males and choriogenic ovaries (ov) from *C. capitata* and digested with *EcoRI*; equal aliquots were blot hybridized as described in the text.  $^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled *EcoRI* fragments, encompassing *Ccs16* plus *Ccs19*, *Ccs15* and *Ccs18*, respectively, as defined by ovarian RNA hybridization (Figure 10) were used as probes. Note that each probe hybridizes to more than one *EcoRI* band in both males and female ovaries and that these bands are all specifically amplified in ovaries. The weakest bands seen in the ovarian lanes were also seen in the male lanes upon long exposure (data not shown). Additional studies showed that this band multiplicity is due to restriction fragment length polymorphism in the autosomal locus (data not shown). The varying intensities of hybridizing bands indicate different representation of the alleles in the *C. capitata* population. (B) An additional Southern blot hybridization experiment using *HindIII* digested genomic DNA. Note that both sex-linked (*Ccs36*) and autosomal (*Ccs18*) chorion genes are amplified in the ovary, unlike the *Adh2* single copy control.

proportion of the oocyte *vs.* nurse cells, and formation of the chorion layers. The clearly stronger stage 12 expression of *s19* in medfly as compared with *Drosophila* should be viewed with caution because of this uncertainty in *absolute* equivalence of the stages. However, we were able to compare with complete confidence the *relative* temporal specificities of the four genes relative to each other by the simple expedient of using the same RNA blot for all of them. Following the procedure described by FENERJIAN *et al.* (1989), we isolated RNAs from pools of large numbers (50) of staged follicles of *C. capitata*, fractionated the RNAs by electrophoresis, transferred them to nylon filters (MATERIALS AND METHODS), and probed the filters sequentially with the four chorion genes. Thus the temporal RNA pattern of each gene served as an internal reference for the others, permitting consistent analysis of the relative timing of gene expression. In *D. melanogaster* (Figure 11, right),

the genes are expressed in the order *s19*, *s16*, *s18* and *s15*, from earliest to latest expressed gene. In particular, the mRNA abundance ratios at stages 13 and 14 demonstrate that *s15* is expressed in an overlapping but clearly later manner relative to *s18*. The same temporal order is preserved in all *Drosophila* species (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). In contrast, repeated experiments in *C. capitata* (Figure 11, left and data not shown) revealed a clear alteration of the gene expression order. In particular, *Ccs15* has the same RNA expression pattern as *Ccs16* and is clearly earlier than *Ccs18*.

#### DISCUSSION

Extensive conservation of chromosomal linkage groups has been observed in Diptera, including both *Drosophila* and *Ceratitis* (FOSTER *et al.* 1981; LOUKAS and KAFATOS 1986; MALACRIDA *et al.* 1986; WHITING *et*

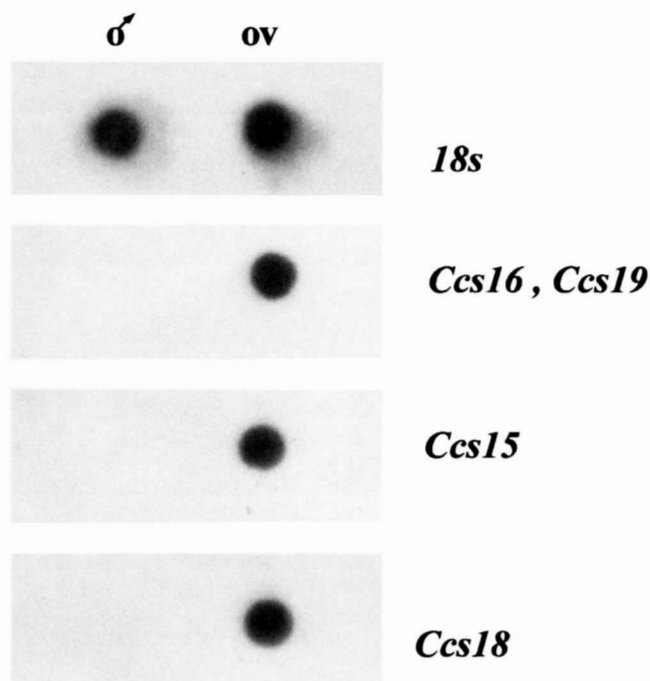


FIGURE 10.—Dot blot analysis of RNAs isolated from males and female ovaries (MATERIALS AND METHODS). All *EcoRI* restriction fragments mapping downstream of the paramyosin gene (see Figure 2) were used as probes and showed hybridization with ovarian but not male RNA, demonstrating the ovarian specificity expected of chorion genes. Ribosomal *18s* hybridization served as a control demonstrating comparable RNA loading.

*al.* 1989; ZACHAROPOULOU 1990). This synteny occurs despite the occurrence of a number of inversions and other chromosomal rearrangements; for example, the haploid female genome in the medfly includes three metacentric, two submetacentric and one acrocentric chromosome, while in *Drosophila* it includes two metacentric, one acrocentric and one dot chromosome. The possibility of retention of close linkage with the paramyosin gene was the basis of our successful strategy for cloning the chorion locus. First we cloned the paramyosin gene by homology and showed that it is extensively conserved relative to the single-copy paramyosin gene of *Drosophila* (BECKER *et al.* 1992; VINOS *et al.* 1992), which maps close to the autosomal chorion genes (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). As predicted, a short chromosomal walk and characterization of the transcription units downstream of the paramyosin gene revealed the existence of homologues of the four *Drosophila* autosomal genes, two of which were identified subsequently with the *C1* and *C4* sequences.

The study of this gene cluster complements earlier studies of the evolution of the autosomal chorion locus in diverse species of the genus *Drosophila* (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO *et al.* 1988; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989; MARTINEZ-CRUZADO 1990; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990). By comparison of the organization and sequence of the locus in a fly belonging to a non-*Drosophila* family, we have con-

firmed several highly conserved features while also detecting novel events in the evolution of the locus.

The most impressively conserved feature is the presence of the same genes in both *Drosophila* and *Ceratitis*, in the same order and orientation. This invariance for ~120 million years (BEVERLEY and WILSON 1984) is in striking contrast to the radical differences in chorion gene sequences and their chromosomal organization in flies and silkmths, which have been separated twice as long in evolution (KAFATOS *et al.* 1987). The conserved organization within the Diptera may be related to the apparently ancient invention of chorion gene amplification, a developmental mechanism that does not occur in silkmths and permits rapid eggshell formation during oogenesis with a small number of structural genes (SPRADLING and MAHOWALD 1980; SPRADLING 1981; OSHEIM and MILLER 1983; OSHEIM *et al.* 1988). Amplification has now been documented for both the autosomal (this report) and the sex-linked chorion genes of the medfly (KONSOLAKI *et al.* 1990; TOLIAS *et al.* 1990) as in *Drosophila*. Quantification of the level of amplification (as in SPRADLING 1981) indicates values of 16× for the sex-linked locus and 14× for the autosomal locus, whereas in *Drosophila* the autosomal locus is amplified more extensively. This putative difference will need to be confirmed by quantification in staged egg chambers rather than whole medfly ovaries. In *Drosophila* species, an essential amplification control element (ACE) has been mapped upstream of gene *s18* (ORR-WEAVER and SPRADLING 1986; ORR-WEAVER *et al.* 1989; SWIMMER *et al.* 1990) and accessory amplification enhancing elements (AEEs) appear to map in the DNA flanking the other genes, permitting high-level amplification of the locus as a single amplicon (DELIDAKIS and KAFATOS 1987, 1989). Detailed sequence alignments of the intergenic sequences in the autosomal chorion locus of *C. capitata* and *D. melanogaster* reveal well-conserved elements that may be candidate *cis*-regulatory elements for amplification as well as expression in late oogenesis (D. VLACHOU and K. KOMITOPOULOU, unpublished results).

Despite the conserved organization of the chorion locus, its length varies substantially, by 149%. All intergenic regions are longer in the medfly, by factors ranging from 2× for the *s19/s16* intergenic region to 5× for *s15/s19*. Sequence analysis of these regions will be reported elsewhere (D. VLACHOU and K. KOMITOPOULOU, unpublished results). The medfly paramyosin gene is also substantially longer in the medfly, showing three introns within a region where the *Drosophila* homologue has only one. If the compact nature of the *Drosophila* genome is a secondary character, this well-studied multigene locus manifests a process of compaction in *Drosophila*, eliminating presumably dispensable sequences in the intergenic regions as well as whole introns.

The proteins encoded by the chorion genes have re-

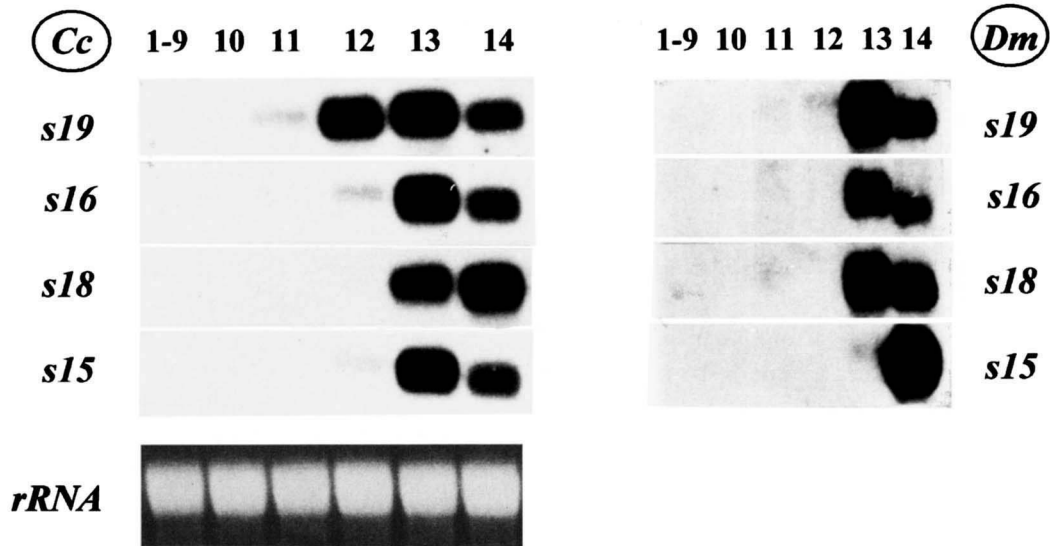


FIGURE 11.—Northern analysis of autosomal chorion gene expression in *C. capitata* and *D. melanogaster*. The relative temporal expression profiles of the four chorion genes during oogenesis are compared with confidence because the same RNA blot of the appropriate species was used for all four genes (in four cycles of hybridization, stripping of label and reuse with the next gene). Expression patterns are arranged according to the order of temporal specificity of the genes in *D. melanogaster*. Follicles were staged using criteria comparable in the two species (MATERIALS AND METHODS), and 5  $\mu$ g of total RNA was prepared from each pool, electrophoresed, blotted and probed with homospecific probes. Note the clear shift of temporal specificity of *s15*, which is later than *s18* in *D. melanogaster* but earlier in *C. capitata*, as shown by the intensity ratios of the signals at stages 13 and 14; weak expression of *s15* but not *s18* at stage 12 is also seen in the medfly experiments, making the expression pattern of *s15* as early as that of *s16*. Total RNA loading was equal in all *C. capitata* samples, as shown by the ethidium bromide stained *rRNA* control. *D. melanogaster* patterns are from FENERJIAN *et al.* (1989).

tained sufficient similarities at the sequence level to be identified with their *Drosophila* homologues but have otherwise diverged drastically, confirming the generalization that chorion proteins evolve very rapidly (MARTINEZ-CRUZADO 1990). Nevertheless, secondary structure predictions (computer program GCG) suggest that the proteins are highly structured, with  $\beta$  sheets alternating with  $\beta$  turns (data not shown), as is true for chorion proteins of other insects (HAMODRAKAS *et al.* 1985; HAMODRAKAS 1992). In line with the larger size of this locus as a whole in *Ceratitis*, the proteins are invariably longer than their *Drosophila* homologues. This difference is minimal in the case of *Ccs16*, which is the least rapidly evolving autosomal chorion protein, both between the genera and among different *Drosophila* species (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). This protein is also unusual in that the alteration of putative  $\beta$  sheets and  $\beta$  turns is interrupted centrally by a predicted  $\alpha$  helix (data not shown); this domain includes the segment that is highly conserved in all Dipteran species studied (Figure 7).

The genes of the second chorion locus, located in a separate chromosome (*Ccs36* and *Ccs38*), are conservative in both sequence and length (KONSOLAKI *et al.* 1990; TOLIAS *et al.* 1990). At the other extreme, the *Ccs18* and *Ccs19* proteins are nearly double the length of their *Drosophila* homologues. The difference is largely due to a novel tandem array of consensus SYSAPAP repeats, not encountered in *Drosophila*. This array is found in the central region of *Ccs19* and near the C

terminus in *Ccs18*; individual repeats that conform to the same consensus are also seen in the aminoterminal region of *Ccs19* as well as *Ccs15*. The repeats are often associated with extensions consisting purely of alanine and proline; similar AP-segments are also found in isolation elsewhere in the sequences (dashed underlining in Figures 3–5). Moreover, a related octapeptide repeat, Y(G or S)AAPAAS, is found in the C-terminal region of the *Ccs36* sequence (AGGELI *et al.* 1991). Because of the total absence of these features from *Drosophila*, we favor the hypothesis that the SYSAPAP repeats and AP segments evolved *de novo* during the period separating the two families of flies, although we cannot eliminate the possibility that they were lost selectively from *Drosophila*. In any case, it is notable that these features appear or disappear in a concerted manner from *s18*, *s19* and to a lesser extent *s15*, proteins which do not otherwise show extensive sequence homologies.

Another notable feature of the medfly chorion proteins is the semiregular distribution of tyrosines. In all four sequences, the vast majority of tyrosine residues are found at a distance of six to nine residues from each other, both in the SYSAPAP repeat array and elsewhere (Figures 3–6). The mature *Drosophila* chorion shows extensive tyrosine cross-links (PETRI *et al.* 1976). We suspect that the average eight-residue tyrosine periodicity in these medfly proteins reflects a species-specific dityrosine bonding pattern. Different tyrosine periodicities, related to GYGG repeats, have been noted in other

chorion proteins (HAMODRAKAS *et al.* 1989; AGGELI *et al.* 1991).

The temporal specificities of the autosomal medfly chorion genes are of special interest. Their *Drosophila* homologues are all expressed late in oogenesis in a completely conserved sequential and overlapping pattern, which is the same in four different species, ranging  $\leq 60$ –80 million years since their last common ancestor (FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989). This expression pattern, from earliest to latest, is  $s19 < s16 < s18 < s15$ , as exemplified in Figure 11 for *D. melanogaster*. Irregular low-level expression at prechoriogenic or very early choriogenic stages is sometimes seen in *Drosophila* (THIREOS *et al.* 1980; FENERJIAN *et al.* 1989), but it has no bearing on the strict sequential pattern during choriogenesis. This pattern is retained in *C. capitata* as far as *s19*, *s16* and *s18* are conserved. However, *Ccs15* shows a markedly changed temporal specificity, which is as early as that of *Ccs16* and clearly earlier than that of *Ccs18*. This is the first temporal regulatory change that has been detected for any Dipteran chorion gene. Like *s19*, *s16* and *s18*, the early chorion genes *s36* and *s38* show similar expression patterns in *Ceratitidis* and *Drosophila* (TOLIAS *et al.* 1990). In *Drosophila*, *s15* is expressed in a very short period of ca. 2 hr at the end of choriogenesis (PETRI *et al.* 1976; WARING and MAHOWALD 1979). Thus, we expect that its substantially earlier expression in the medfly is due to evolutionary change in the transcriptional *cis*-regulatory elements, or the corresponding *trans* factors, although change at a posttranscriptional level of regulation cannot be rigorously excluded.

Early transformation experiments established that the *Dms15* gene can be expressed autonomously when transferred to multiple chromosomal sites, together with its regulatory elements (WAKIMOTO *et al.* 1986). Transformation with smaller constructs established that short sequences of DNA upstream of the *Dms15* transcriptional start site are enough for normal expression (MARIANI *et al.* 1988; ROMANO *et al.* 1988). Several *cis* elements were identified as necessary for developmentally correct expression. One of them, TCACGT, is typical of all chorion genes examined to date, being found in all *Drosophila* species, in *C. capitata* (KONSOLAKI *et al.* 1990; D. VLACHOU and K. KOMITOPOULOU, unpublished results) and almost all silkmoths (SPOEREL *et al.* 1986; MITSIALIS *et al.* 1989). Deletion mutations between  $-189$  and  $-39$  of the *Dms15* promoter led to quantitatively reduced or temporally disrupted specificity, suggesting that this region encompasses many positive and negative, partially degenerate *cis*-regulatory elements that specify the highly precise expression pattern of the gene (MARIANI *et al.* 1996). Similar transformation experiments are necessary to reveal the molecular basis of the unusual evolutionary change in temporal regulation in the medfly. Importantly, such analysis can now be performed reciprocally, because of the recent estab-

lishment of a robust germ-line transformation method in the medfly (LOUKERIS *et al.* 1995).

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