
Vertebrate GLD2 poly(A) polymerases in the germline and the brain

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ABSTRACT

Cytoplasmic polyadenylation is important in the control of mRNA stability and translation, and for early animal development and synaptic plasticity. Here, we focus on vertebrate poly(A) polymerases that are members of the recently described GLD2 family. We identify and characterize two closely related GLD2 proteins in *Xenopus* oocytes, and show that they possess PAP activity in vivo and in vitro and that they bind known polyadenylation factors and mRNAs known to receive poly(A) during development. We propose that at least two distinct polyadenylation complexes exist in *Xenopus* oocytes, one of which contains GLD2; the other, maskin and Pumilio. GLD2 protein interacts with the polyadenylation factor, CPEB, in a conserved manner. mRNAs that encode GLD2 in mammals are expressed in many tissues. In the brain, mouse, and human *GLD2* mRNAs are abundant in anatomical regions necessary for long-term cognitive and emotional learning. In the hippocampus, mouse *GLD2* mRNA colocalizes with *CPEB1* and *Pumilio1* mRNAs, both of which are likely involved in synaptic plasticity. We suggest that mammalian GLD2 poly(A) polymerases are important in synaptic translation, and in polyadenylation throughout the soma.

Keywords: poly(A) polymerase; GLD2; translational control

INTRODUCTION

Control of the movement, translation and stability of mRNAs determines when, where, and how much protein an mRNA generates (for reviews, see Sonenberg 1994; Hentze 1995; Wickens et al. 2002; Kuersten and Goodwin 2003). A tract of adenosines at the 3' end of the mRNA—the poly(A) tail—plays a key role in these events. Cytoplasmic lengthening of the tail can activate translation and stabilize the mRNA, while poly(A) removal can cause translational repression and mRNA decay. Regulated changes in the length of the poly(A) tail are critical during early development; for example, they control the meiotic and mitotic cell cycles of *Xenopus* oocytes and embryos by regulating specific mRNAs (for reviews, see Mendez and Richter 2001; Wickens et al. 2002). In the nervous system, repeated stimulation of synapses activates polyadenylation

and local translation (Wu et al. 1998; Huang et al. 2002; Si et al. 2003a; Theis et al. 2003). These polyadenylation events are thought to be important in long-term potentiation (LTP) and learning (Wu et al. 1998; Alarcon et al. 2004).

Cytoplasmic polyadenylation in frog oocytes requires multiple protein components, including Cytoplasmic Polyadenylation Element Binding Protein (CPEB) and Cleavage and Polyadenylation Specificity Factor (CPSF) (for reviews, see Mendez and Richter 2001). CPEB binds directly to specific sequences in the 3'UTRs of target mRNAs (Hake et al. 1998). CPSF, a multiprotein complex, binds the sequence AAUAAA and is necessary for both nuclear and cytoplasmic polyadenylation (Bilger et al. 1994). CPEB binds CPSF, which is thought then to recruit the enzyme that adds the poly(A), a cytoplasmic poly(A) polymerase (PAP) (Mendez et al. 2000; Dickson et al. 2001). Although oocytes contain cytoplasmic PAPs related to the nuclear enzyme (Ballantyne et al. 1995; Gebauer and Richter 1995), their role in cytoplasmic polyadenylation is unclear.

GLD-2, a divergent cytoplasmic PAP, was identified in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Wang et al. 2002), and is related to the Cid1 and Cid13 PAPs of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*

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(Read et al. 2002; Saitoh et al. 2002). GLD-2 polymerization activity is stimulated by interaction with an RNA binding protein, GLD-3 (Wang et al. 2002). Together GLD-2 and GLD-3 are thought to form a novel heterodimeric PAP, in which the RNA binding component, GLD-3, recruits the catalytic subunit, GLD-2, to specific mRNAs (Wang et al. 2002; Kwak et al. 2004). Homologs of GLD-2 that possess polyadenylation activity recently were identified in mice and humans (Kwak et al. 2004). Similarly, a *Xenopus* protein related to GLD-2 was identified by virtue of its association with CPEB and shown to participate in cytoplasmic polyadenylation in oocytes (Barnard et al. 2004).

Repression of specific mRNAs in oocytes and embryos involves multiple RNA binding proteins. In *Xenopus* oocytes, maskin, Pumilio, and Nanos (Xcat-2) all appear to be bound to repressed RNAs and involved in repression (Stebbins-Boaz et al. 1999; Nakahata et al. 2001, 2003; for review, see Richter 2000). Maskin binds CPEB on the 3'UTR, and sequesters eIF4E to repress translation (Stebbins-Boaz et al. 1999; for review, see Richter 2000). Similarly, Nanos and PUF (e.g., Pumilio) proteins interact physically and assemble on specific sequences in the 3'UTR (Kraemer et al. 1999; Sonoda and Wharton 1999; Nakahata et al. 2001; for review, see Wickens et al. 2002). These multiprotein complexes are required for repression. Release from repression is accompanied by cytoplasmic polyadenylation.

Translational regulation of dendritic mRNAs is important in synaptic plasticity. Stimulation of synapses results in locally increased protein synthesis, which requires cytoplasmic polyadenylation and CPEB (Si et al. 2003a). This local translation is required for the late phase of LTP, an electrophysiological, cellular correlate of memory (Nguyen et al. 1994; Frey et al. 1988; Liu and Schwartz 2003; for reviews, see Wells et al. 2000; Richter 2001; Tang and Schuman 2002). Four isoforms of CPEB are found in the hippocampus (Wu et al. 1998; Theis et al. 2003). Knockout mice lacking one of these, mCPEB1, exhibit a modest deficit in LTP (Alarcon et al. 2004). After LTP induction, cytoplasmic polyadenylation regulates the translation of proteins enriched in synaptic spines, including α CaMKII (Wu et al. 1998; Miller et al. 2002; Otmakhov et al. 2004), cytoskeletal actin (Fukazawa et al. 2003; Liu and Schwartz 2003; Matsuzaki et al. 2004), Erg1 (Simon et al. 2004), and tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) (Shin et al. 2004). Both Erg1 and TPA are necessary for LTP and long-term memory formation (Jones et al. 2001; Pawlak et al. 2002; Malkani et al. 2004; Pang et al. 2004).

In this paper, we focus on GLD2 in vertebrates. We identify two *Xenopus* GLD-2 enzymes and analyze their interaction with known polyadenylation factors, confirming and extending the work of Barnard et al. (2004). We demonstrate that the mammalian enzymes associate with *Xenopus* polyadenylation factors, and that they are

expressed in regions of the hippocampus associated with learning and memory. Their expression pattern in the hippocampus parallels that of CPEB1 and Pumilio1, both of which are implicated in synaptic plasticity. Based on these findings, we suggest the existence of two distinct translational control complexes in oocytes, and propose that the GLD2 PAP participates in translational activation at synapses.

RESULTS

Vertebrate GLD2 homologs: proteins and mRNAs

We recently identified *C. elegans*, murine, and human homologs of *C. elegans* GLD-2 (Wang et al. 2002; Kwak et al. 2004). To identify the enzyme that catalyzes cytoplasmic polyadenylation in frog oocytes, we designed degenerate primers directed against regions conserved among GLD2 homologs, and performed PCR to identify GLD2-related cDNAs in a *Xenopus* oocyte cDNA library. We determined the sequences of two independent isolates of *Xenopus* GLD-2 cDNA that comprised the entire ORF, and six cDNAs from the NIBB (Japan) and the IMAGE consortium. These sequences were consolidated with those of 40 fragmentary ESTs (see Materials and Methods).

Two different isoforms of *Xenopus laevis* GLD-2, termed XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B, were identified. The two predicted proteins are 88% identical and differ in nucleotide sequence at multiple locations throughout their length. All cDNAs and ESTs belonged to one group or the other, suggesting that XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B are different genes. XIGLD-2B corresponds to the protein recently shown to be involved in cytoplasmic polyadenylation (Barnard et al. 2004). XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B each are 62% identical to human and mouse GLD-2 (hGLD2 and mGLD2) (Kwak et al. 2004) and 42% identical to catalytic and central domains of the *C. elegans* protein. The predicted *Xenopus* proteins possess the hallmarks of the β -nucleotidyl transferase superfamily, including specific amino acids that participate in catalysis and bind the nucleotide (Fig. 1A, red and green residues; Aravind and Koonin 1998; Martin et al. 2004).

We analyzed by Northern blotting the mRNA produced from the XIGLD-2 genes, and compared it to the mouse and human GLD2 mRNAs. In all three species, two mRNA forms were detected, which we term *GLD2(L)* and *GLD2(S)* (Fig. 1B,C). Each apparent 3' end was deduced from the location of poly(A) on multiple cDNAs and ESTs, and was preceded by a polyadenylation signal (Fig. 1B). The two mRNAs produced from one gene in each species are identical in the protein coding region but differ in the length of their 3'UTRs. This was deduced from multiple cDNAs and corroborated by using a probe that was predicted to detect only *mGLD2(L)* form (Fig 1D). In *Xenopus*, XIGLD-2A produces two forms;

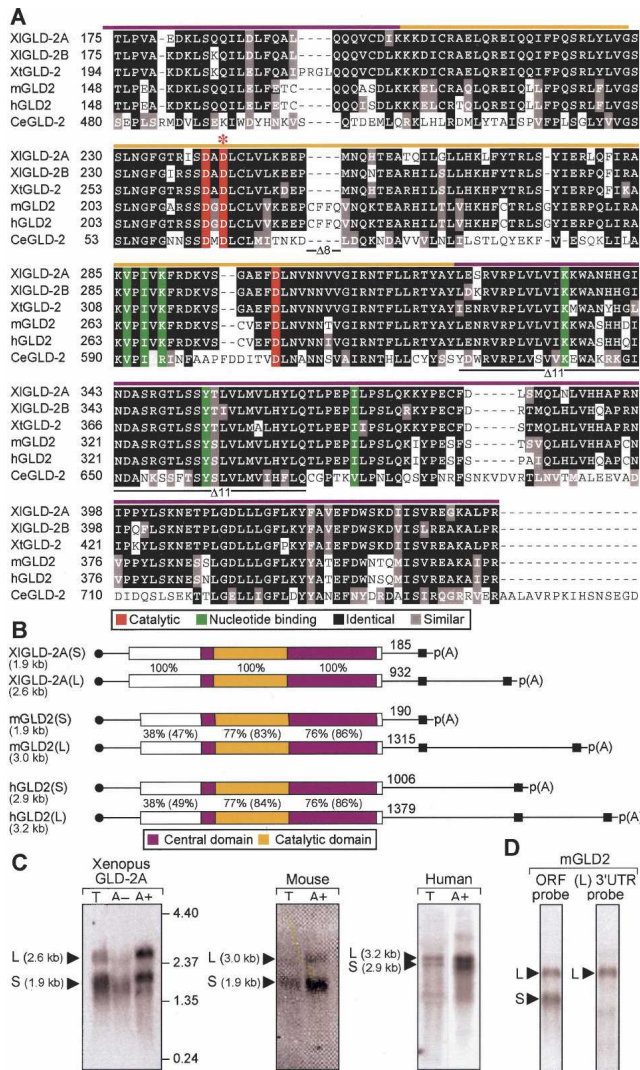


FIGURE 1. *XIGLD-2*, *mGLD2*, and *hGLD2* mRNAs and proteins. (A) Predicted protein sequences in the catalytic and central domains of GLD2 homologs. The sequences from five animal different species (*X. laevis*, *X. tropicalis*, mouse, human, and *C. elegans*) are presented. Black indicates amino acid identity; red, three carboxylate side-chains required for catalysis; green, six residues that position the nucleotide (Martin et al. 2000; Wang et al. 2002); and red asterisk, location of the active site mutation, D242A. Colored bars above the sequence indicate the central (purple) or catalytic (yellow) domains. Black lines below the sequence indicate the regions missing in $\Delta 8$ and $\Delta 11$ forms of the human protein. (B) Vertebrate *GLD2* mRNAs. Approximate lengths of mRNAs, as calculated by cDNA sequencing and confirmed by Northern blotting, are shown to the left of each panel. Purple indicates PAP central domain; yellow, PAP catalytic domain (corresponding to Fig 1A). Percentage of amino acid sequence identity relative to *XIGLD-2A* is given (percentage similarity is in parentheses). Black circles and boxes indicate 5' cap and 3' cleavage and polyadenylation signal (AAUAAA and AAUACA). Distances from the termination codon to the poly(A) tail are indicated. (C) Two mRNA forms. RNAs from *Xenopus* oocytes, mouse 3T3 cells, and human spleen were analyzed by Northern blotting. T indicates total RNA; A+, RNA retained by oligo(dT) cellulose; and A-, RNA not retained by oligo(dT). Amounts of RNA and hybridization probes are described in Materials and Methods. (D) *mGLD2(L)* and *mGLD2(S)* mRNAs differ by their 3'UTRs. Total RNA from spleen was analyzed by using either a probe complementary to the entire ORF (left) or just the 3'UTR of the long form of mRNA, *mGLD2(L)* (right).

XIGLD-2B expresses one mRNA with a long 3'UTR (data not shown). Human cDNAs representing alternatively spliced variants that lack exon 8 or exon 11 were detected among ESTs ($\Delta 8$ and $\Delta 11$; indicated in Fig. 1A). Throughout the protein coding region, each of the vertebrate genes display identical exon-intron organizations (data not shown).

We next focused on the activity and biological role of GLD2 protein in *Xenopus* oocytes. Antibodies raised against *XIGLD-2A* were used to examine the abundance and subcellular distribution of endogenous *XIGLD-2* protein. The antibodies were specific: In vitro translation of an mRNA encoding HA-tagged *GLD-2A* yielded a single protein of ~60 kDa that was detected by α -*XIGLD-2* and α -HA antibodies (Fig. 2A, lanes 2,5). This protein comigrates with the endogenous oocyte protein (Fig. 2, lanes 2,3). The antibody recognizes both *XIGLD-2A* and *XIGLD-2B* proteins (data not shown). A single prominent polypeptide was detected throughout oogenesis, oocyte maturation, and post-fertilization development (Fig. 2B; data not shown).

The factors needed to catalyze regulated polyadenylation during oocyte maturation are cytoplasmic (Fox et al. 1989). *XIGLD-2* protein was detected in the oocyte cytoplasm, as well as the nucleus (Fig. 2C). α -*XIPABP2* antibodies confirmed that the manual separation of nuclei and cytoplasm was successful, since nPABP2 was predominantly nuclear (Good et al. 2004).

XIGLD-2 is a PAP

To test whether the *Xenopus* GLD2 proteins possessed PAP activity, we tethered *XIGLD-2A* to an mRNA reporter using MS2 coat protein. Oocytes first were injected with mRNAs that direct the synthesis of MS2-*XIGLD-2A* fusion proteins. After allowing time for protein to accumulate, the same oocytes were injected with luciferase reporter mRNAs containing MS2 sites. A β -galactosidase reporter mRNA lacking MS2 sites was coinjected as a control. MS2-*XIGLD-2A* and MS2-*XIGLD-2B* proteins stimulated translation of mRNAs containing MS2 sites but did not affect translation of mRNAs lacking them (Fig. 3A-C). A putative active site mutation, D242A, abolished translational stimulation but accumulated to the same level as did the wild-type protein (Fig. 3B). To analyze polyadenylation directly, we injected 32 P-labeled RNAs bearing MS2 sites. The labeled RNA was polyadenylated in oocytes containing wild-type MS2-*XIGLD-2A*, but not the D242A, form of fusion protein (Fig. 3D). Furthermore, we purified recombinant, full-length human GLD2 and *XIGLD-2A* proteins from bacteria. These enzymes added long tails to 32 P-labeled RNAs in vitro, while a D242A mutant form of *XIGLD-2A* protein did not (Fig. 3E). The added tails were composed of poly-

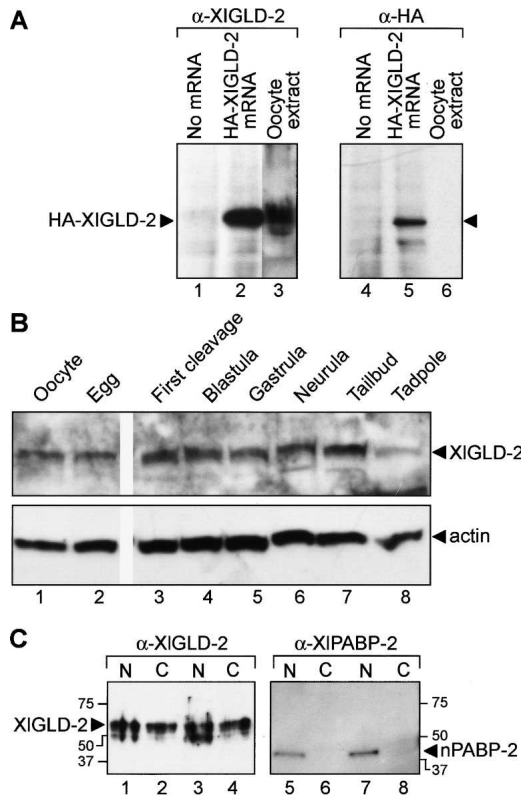


FIGURE 2. XIGLD-2 is present throughout embryogenesis and is in the cytoplasm. (A) Antibody specificity. mRNA encoding HA-XIGLD-2A was translated in vitro, and the products were analyzed by Western blotting using α -XIGLD-2 antibodies. A predominant protein of 60 kDa is detected by α -XIGLD-2 (lanes 1–3) and α -HA antibodies (lanes 4–6). The in vitro translated protein (lane 2) roughly comigrates with endogenous XIGLD-2 protein in oocyte extracts (lane 3). (B) XIGLD-2 protein abundance. Proteins extracted from the indicated stages were analyzed by Western blotting using either α -XIGLD-2 or α -actin. (C) XIGLD-2 subcellular distribution. Nuclear and cytoplasmic fractions prepared manually from stage VI oocytes were analyzed by Western blotting with α -XIGLD-2 (lanes 1–4). α -XIPABP-2 (lanes 5–8), which detects a nuclear poly(A) binding protein (Good et al. 2004), was used to control for proper enucleation and a lack of leakage into the cytoplasm. N and C indicate nucleus and cytoplasm, respectively.

adenosine, as they were removed by oligo(dT)/RNase treatment (data not shown).

We conclude that the two *Xenopus* proteins, XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B, as well as human GLD2, possess PAP activity. In the following experiments, we focus first on the interaction of XIGLD-2A with proteins involved in cytoplasmic polyadenylation and translational control, and then turn to mouse and human GLD2.

XIGLD-2A interacts with polyadenylation factors and target mRNAs

To test whether XIGLD-2 interacted with CPEB or CPSF, recombinant GST-XIGLD-2A was attached to Sepharose-glutathione beads and incubated with crude lysates of stage

VI oocytes. The beads were washed with buffer, and bound proteins were eluted and analyzed by Western blotting (Fig. 4A). CPEB bound to GST-XIGLD-2A but not to either GST-PUF-8 or GST alone, used as controls (Fig. 4A). A subunit of CPSF, CPSF⁷³, also bound specifically to GST-XIGLD-2A.

Maskin and Pumilio proteins, both of which are involved in translational repression, physically interact with CPEB in resting oocytes (Stebbins-Boaz et al. 1999; Nakahata et al. 2003). In contrast, GST-XIGLD-2A binds CPEB, but it did not bind either maskin or Pumilio proteins (Fig. 4A).

To test whether endogenous XIGLD-2 interacts with CPSF, we performed coimmunoprecipitation experiments (Fig. 4B). α -XIGLD-2 antibodies were incubated with crude oocyte lysates, and the bound proteins were analyzed by Western blotting. Oocytes first were injected with mRNA encoding HA-XIGLD-2A. As expected, HA-tagged XIGLD-2A was efficiently immunoprecipitated by the α -XIGLD-2 antibodies (Fig. 4B, “ α -HA”). Endogenous CPSF¹⁰⁰ and CPSF⁷³ were immunoprecipitated by α -XIGLD-2; maskin and Pumilio were not (Fig. 4B).

In a reciprocal experiment, we used α -CPEB antibodies to immunoprecipitate complexes from oocyte lysates (Fig. 4C). α -CPEB antibodies efficiently precipitated HA-XIGLD-2A from the extracts, confirming that CPEB and XIGLD-2 interact (Fig. 4C). The coimmunoprecipitation of the two proteins was resistant to digestion with RNaseA that was sufficient to degrade the endogenous RNA (Fig. 4D; data not shown). Thus the coimmunoprecipitation of CPEB and XIGLD-2 was not due to co-occupancy of a single RNA. α -CPEB also immunoprecipitated CPSF and maskin, as reported previously (Fig. 4C; Dickson et al. 1999; Stebbins-Boaz et al. 1999; data not shown). Together, the interaction data demonstrate that XIGLD-2 binds CPSF and CPEB, consistent with the results of Barnard et al. (2004). We conclude that XIGLD-2 interacts with CPEB and CPSF, but does not interact with maskin or Pumilio.

To test whether these interactions between GLD-2 and *Xenopus* polyadenylation components were conserved, we expressed wild-type human GLD2, and the Δ 8 and Δ 11 forms of human GLD2, in oocytes. The wild-type and Δ 8 forms of hGLD2 were immunoprecipitated by α -CPEB; the Δ 11 form was not (Fig. 4E). Similarly, the Δ 8 form was active in polyadenylation assays, while Δ 11 was inactive (data not shown).

If XIGLD-2 catalyzes cytoplasmic polyadenylation, then it must associate with mRNAs that receive poly(A). We asked whether cyclin B1 mRNA, an mRNA that is polyadenylated during oocyte maturation, was bound to XIGLD-2 in stage VI oocyte (Fig. 5). Oocyte lysates were incubated with α -XIGLD-2 antibodies, and the immunoprecipitated RNAs were extracted and analyzed by RT-PCR (Fig. 5). Cyclin B1 mRNA was readily detected in immunoprecipitates obtained with α -XIGLD-2, but not with

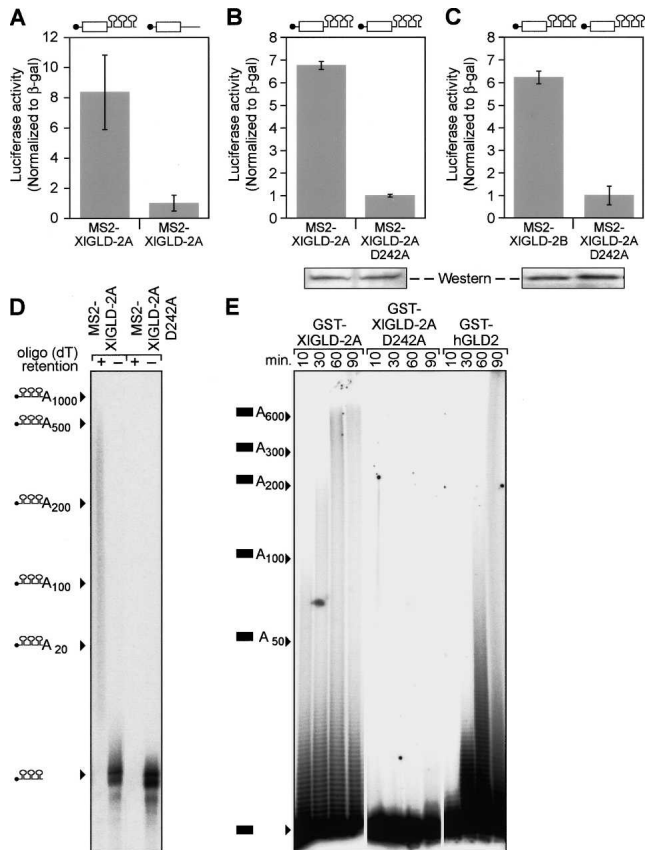


FIGURE 3. Vertebrate GLD2 homologs are poly(A) polymerases in vivo and in vitro. (A) Translational stimulation in vivo. Oocytes containing MS2/XIGLD-2A protein increase the expression of a luciferase reporter mRNA that contains MS2 binding sites in its 3'UTR (left), but does not increase expression with an mRNA reporter that lacks MS2 binding sites (right). Luciferase activity is normalized to that of β -galactosidase, generated from a coinjected mRNA that lacks MS2 binding sites. (B) An active site mutation abolishes translational stimulation. Oocytes containing MS2-XIGLD-2A protein with an active site mutation, D242A, do not stimulate translation of the luciferase reporter mRNA that contains MS2 sites. The wild-type protein was used as a control. Western blotting with α -HA antibodies demonstrates the wild-type and mutant proteins are comparable in abundance (shown below the histogram). (C) XIGLD-2B is active in vivo. Oocytes containing MS2-XIGLD-2B protein increase the expression of a luciferase reporter mRNA that contains MS2 binding sites in its 3'UTR (left). The point mutant protein was used as a control and is inactive. Western blotting with α -HA antibodies demonstrated the wild-type and mutant proteins are comparable in abundance (shown below the histogram). (D) Polyadenylation in vivo. A 32 P-labeled RNA containing three MS2 sites was injected into oocytes expressing either MS2-XIGLD-2 or MS2-XIGLD-2A (D242A). Oocytes were collected after 16 h, and the RNA was extracted and fractionated using biotinylated oligo(dT). + indicates RNAs that bound the resin; -, RNAs that did not bind the resin. Positions of RNAs carrying various lengths of poly(A) (determined by using markers) are shown to the left. (E) Polyadenylation in vitro. Recombinant GST-XIGLD-2A, GST-XIGLD-2A (D242A), and GST-hGLD2 proteins, purified from *Escherichia coli*, were incubated at 24°C with L1 RNA (see Materials and Methods) and a mixture of all four ribonucleoside triphosphates at 1 mM. Samples were collected at the indicated time points and analyzed by denaturing gel electrophoresis. Positions of RNAs carrying various lengths of poly(A) (determined by using markers) are shown to the left.

control, preimmune antibodies (Fig. 5). Actin and ribosomal protein L1 mRNAs were not specifically immunoprecipitated by α -GLD2, as they were present at equivalent, low levels in the α -XIGLD-2 and preimmune immunoprecipitates (Fig. 5). *c-mos* mRNA, which also receives poly(A) during maturation, was associated with XIGLD-2 as well (data not shown).

Taken together, our findings imply that at least two complexes exist in resting, stage VI oocytes (Fig. 4F). One, which we term the G complex (for GLD-2), contains GLD-2 and CPEB. The other complex, which we term MP (for maskin and Pumilio), contains CPEB, maskin, and Pumilio. CPSF is present in one or both complexes. The finding that XIGLD-2 associates with symplekin, and is stimulated by that protein in combination with CPSF, implies that symplekin and CPSF are in the G complex (Barnard et al. 2004).

Expression of mammalian GLD2 homologs

Our findings that mouse and human GLD2 are PAPs and that they interact with polyadenylation factors in the *Xenopus* oocyte cytoplasm, suggested that the mammalian proteins were involved in regulated polyadenylation. We examined the tissue distribution of GLD2 mRNAs in mouse and human tissues by Northern blotting (Fig. 6). *GLD2* mRNAs are expressed in a wide range of tissues, including the ovary, brain, and testes. Both *mGLD2(S)* and *mGLD2(L)* were detected in each tissue. Their relative abundance varied: for example, in the mouse brain, *mGLD2(L)* mRNA was much more abundant than *mGLD2(S)*, while the opposite is true in placenta. *GLD2(L)* mRNAs also were detected in RNA from human brain and in RNAs prepared from isolated human cerebellum, hippocampus, and medulla (Fig. 6B). Again, the *GLD2(L)* form predominated (Fig. 6B). Subcellular fractionation studies suggested that *mGLD2* mRNA was enriched in synaptic fractions (data not shown).

To determine more precisely the distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA within mouse brain, we performed in situ hybridization on sagittal sections by using 35 S-labeled RNA probes (Fig. 7A). An antisense probe that detects both *mGLD2* mRNA isoforms yielded signal throughout the brain in a pattern consistent with the presence of *mGLD2* transcripts within neurons. The distribution of *mGLD2(L)* mRNA, detected by using an L-form-specific probe, was identical (Fig. 7, cf. A and B). As expected, a sense-strand probe yielded no significant signal (Fig. 7C). The abundance of *mGLD2* mRNA was highest in the cerebral cortex, cerebellum, hippocampus, and olfactory bulb. *mGLD2* mRNA abundance paralleled neuronal density. In the hippocampus and cerebellum, for example, intense *mGLD2* mRNA expression was evident in the cell-dense, granule cell layers of the dentate gyrus and cerebellar cortex. We analyzed several other mRNAs in

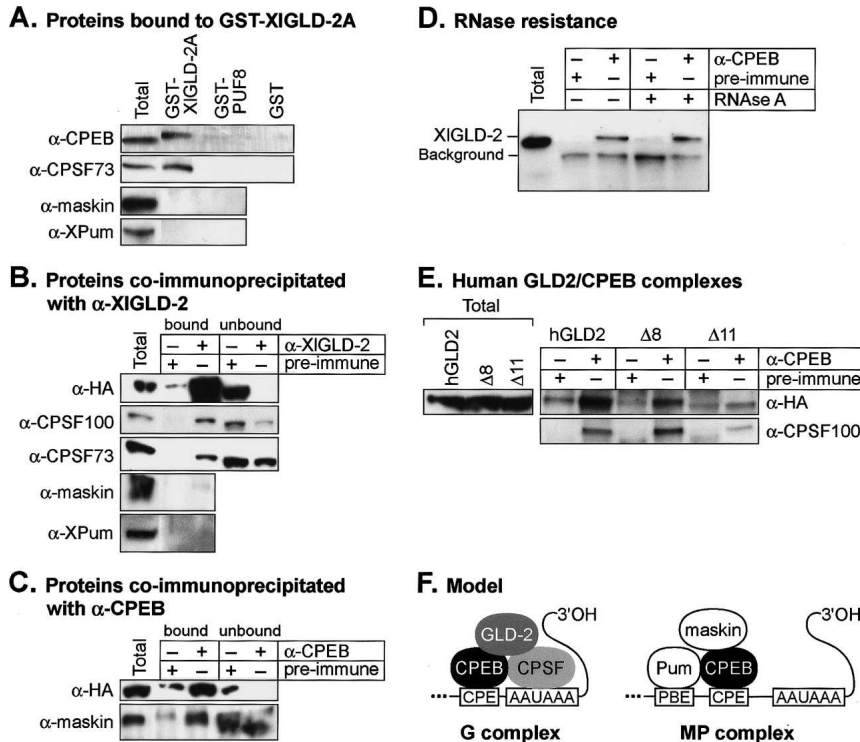


FIGURE 4. XIGLD-2 interacts with polyadenylation factors. (A) Proteins bound to GST-XIGLD-2A. Stage VI oocyte lysate was incubated with purified GST-XIGLD-2A, GST-PUF-8, or GST, bound to glutathione-Sepharose. Proteins retained on beads after three washes were analyzed by Western blotting with antibodies specific to CPEB, CPSF-73, maskin, and XIPumilio. Total indicates unfractionated lysate (fourfold less starting material than in the other lanes). (B) Proteins coimmunoprecipitated with α -XIGLD-2. Crude lysates were prepared from oocytes that were expressing HA/XIGLD-2. Lysates were incubated with α -XIGLD-2 (top panel) or α -CPEB (bottom panel), or with respective preimmune sera, as indicated above each lane. Proteins were detected by Western blot analysis using α -CPSF100, α -CPSF73, α -maskin, and α -XIPumilio. Western analysis using α -HA as probe demonstrated that the α -XIGLD-2 antibody efficiently immunoprecipitates the endogenous protein. Bound indicates proteins that bound to the beads; unbound, proteins that did not bind to the beads. Total indicates unfractionated lysate (threefold less starting material than in bound, and equal starting material to unbound). (C) Proteins coimmunoprecipitated with α -CPEB. Oocytes were injected with mRNAs that encode HA-XIGLD-2. Oocyte lysates were incubated with α -CPEB, or with preimmune serum. Both XIGLD-2 and maskin are associated with α -CPEB. Total indicates unfractionated lysate (threefold less starting material than in bound, and equal starting material to unbound). (D) Ribonuclease-resistance of the CPEB/GLD-2 interaction. *Xenopus* oocyte extracts, prepared as in B, were treated with RNaseA. Gel electrophoresis demonstrated that the RNA had been degraded (data not shown). Coimmunoprecipitations were performed with α -CPEB or preimmune sera, on *X. laevis* oocyte extracts as in B. The two proteins continue to coimmunoprecipitate after RNase treatment. (E) Human GLD2/CPEB complexes. Immunoprecipitations using either α -CPEB or preimmune antibodies were incubated with *X. laevis* oocyte extracts prepared from oocytes expressing either HA-hGLD2, HA-hGLD2 $\Delta 8$, or HA-hGLD2 $\Delta 11$. Total indicates crude lysate. (F) Model of polyadenylation complexes in resting oocytes. See text for details. CPSF and CPEB are shown interacting in the resting oocyte (Mendez et al. 2000; Dickson et al. 2001). However, CPEB phosphorylation increases binding affinity to CPSF (Mendez et al. 2000). Symplekin is likely to be in the G complex, as inferred from the data of Barnard et al. (2004).

used as a control, differs substantially, and is abundant in many regions of the brain (Fig. 7G).

Since the hippocampus mediates certain types of long-term memory formation (Scoville and Milner 1957; for review, see Eichenbaum 2004), we examined the distribution of *GLD2* transcripts in the hippocampus at higher resolution. After hybridization, sections were treated with radiographic emulsion and visualized by darkfield microscopy (Fig. 8). *mGLD2* mRNA was specifically detected in the granule cell layer of the dentate gyrus (GCL) and the pyramidal cell layer of the hippocampus (CA1, CA2, and CA3) (Fig. 8A). The distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA in the hippocampus was nearly identical to that of *mCPEB1* and *Pumilio1* mRNAs, which were analyzed in parallel sections (Fig. 8B,C). The distribution of mRNA for the activity-regulated protein, *ARC*, was also similar to *mGLD2* except that fewer cells in the granule cell layer expressed *ARC* mRNA, compared with *mGLD2* and *Pumilio1* mRNAs (Fig. 8D). In contrast, the distribution of mRNA for the RNA binding protein, *Quaking* (Ebersole et al. 1996), differed dramatically from the other mRNAs analyzed (Fig. 8E). Induction of seizures using pentylentetrazole (PTZ) did not affect either the abundance or distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA, but dramatically increased the abundance of *ARC* mRNA, as expected (Fig. 8F,G; Steward and Worley 2001).

We next focused on the cerebellum, where *mGLD2* mRNA also is abundant (Fig. 7). *mGLD2* mRNA was present at the highest levels in the granule (GCL) and Purkinje (PCL) cell layers of cerebellar cortex (Fig. 7A). *mGLD2* mRNA was also present at a lower level, and in a diffuse distribution, throughout the molecular cell layer (MCL) (Fig. 9A). *mCPEB1* mRNA, in contrast, was expressed almost exclusively within the large Purkinje neurons in the cerebellum (Fig. 9B). Interestingly, the pattern of *mGLD2* expression in the cerebellum was more similar to *mCPEB2*, 3, and 4, all of which were present in the major cerebellar neuronal layers (Fig. 9C–E). These data imply regional specificity of cytoplasmic polyadenylation mechanisms in the brain.

parallel sections. The distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA was almost identical to the distribution of mouse *Pumilio1* mRNA and was very similar to *mCPEB1* in the hippocampus and to *mCPEB4* in the cerebellum and olfactory bulb (Fig. 7D–F). The distribution of *Quaking* mRNA,

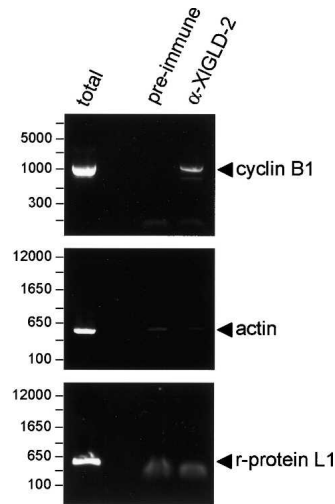


FIGURE 5. XIGLD-2 interacts with target, but not nontarget, mRNAs. Oocyte extracts were incubated with α -XIGLD-2 or pre-immune guinea pig serum and bound to Protein A–Sepharose. Bound material was eluted and the RNA recovered. mRNAs were detected by semiquantitative PCR, using oligo(dT)-primed reverse transcription reactions, followed by PCR using gene-specific primers. Cyclin B1 mRNA receives poly(A) during oocyte maturation, and is immunoprecipitated by α -XIGLD-2. Cytoskeletal actin and ribosomal protein L1 mRNAs do not receive poly(A) during maturation and are not immunoprecipitated.

DISCUSSION

We have focused in this paper on three vertebrate GLD2 proteins. The *Xenopus* enzyme, which exists in two closely related forms, polyadenylates RNAs to which it is tethered and enhances their translation. Furthermore, it interacts with cytoplasmic polyadenylation factors, including CPSF and CPEB, and with target mRNAs. These findings confirm and extend a recent report that a GLD2 enzyme is the long-sought PAP responsible for cytoplasmic polyadenylation in oocytes (Barnard et al. 2004). Previous work identified cytoplasmic PAPs closely related to the nuclear enzyme, but their biological roles have not been identified unambiguously (Ballantyne et al. 1995; Gebauer and Richter 1995).

XIGLD-2 protein is both cytoplasmic and nuclear (Fig. 2). The role of the nuclear enzyme is unclear. However, the two GLD2 homologs in *S. cerevisiae*, TRF4 and TRF5, both are nuclear proteins (Huh et al. 2003), and have been strongly implicated in RNA quality control. They appear to polyadenylate aberrant initiator tRNA molecules, triggering their decay by the nuclear exosome (Kadaba et al. 2004). Nuclear GLD2 protein in oocytes may have an analogous role. It is unlikely that the nuclear enzyme is required for cytoplasmic polyadenylation events after nuclear breakdown during oocyte maturation, since those reactions proceed unabated in enucleated oocytes (Fox et al. 1989).

XIGLD-2 interacts with CPEB and CPSF but does not interact with maskin or Pumilio. Maskin, Pumilio, and CPEB are associated with repressed mRNAs in the oocyte (for review, see Mendez and Richter 2001; Nakahata et al. 2001). Our findings imply that at least two complexes exist in resting, stage VI oocytes (Fig. 4F). One contains GLD2, CPEB, and CPSF. We term this the G complex (for GLD2). The other complex contains CPEB, maskin, and Pumilio, and so is termed MP (for maskin and Pumilio). The finding that XIGLD-2 associates with symplekin implies that it too is in the G complex, which may contain other polyadenylation factors as well (Barnard et al. 2004).

Cyclin B1 mRNA is associated with GLD-2, and thus the G complex (the current study). It also may be present in the MP complex, since the cyclin B1 3'UTR can bind Pumilio in extracts of stage VI oocytes (Nakahata et al. 2001). Although cyclin B1 mRNA is polyadenylated and activated during oocyte maturation (Sheets et al. 1994), some cyclin B1 mRNA molecules must already be active in oocytes since oocytes contain cyclin B1 protein (Kobayashi et al. 1991). Active and inactive mRNA molecules may be partitioned differently between G and MP complexes. For example, the G complex may contain actively translated mRNAs. Alternatively, the mRNAs in G and MP complexes may be regulated differently during maturation.

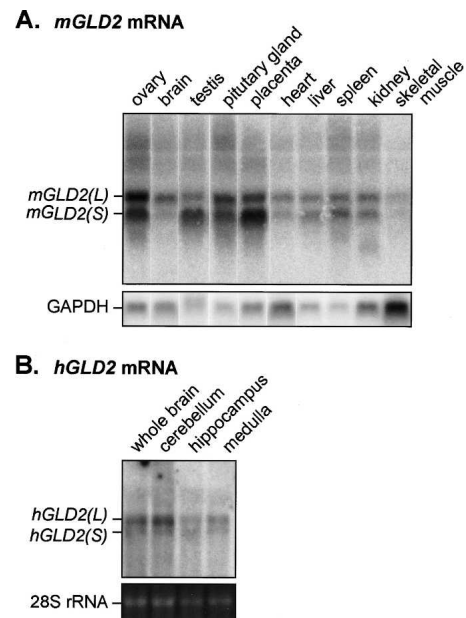


FIGURE 6. Analysis of *mGLD2* and *hGLD2* mRNAs. (A) Tissue distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA; 10 μ g of total RNA from each of the indicated tissues was analyzed by Northern blotting, using a probe directed against the entire ORF region of *mGLD2*. GAPDH mRNA served as a loading control. (B) Distribution of *hGLD2* mRNAs within human brain; 2 μ g of RNA prepared from each of the indicated regions of the brain (Ambion) was analyzed by hybridization with a probe directed against a portion of the *hGLD2* ORF. 28S rRNA stained with ethidium bromide served as a loading control.

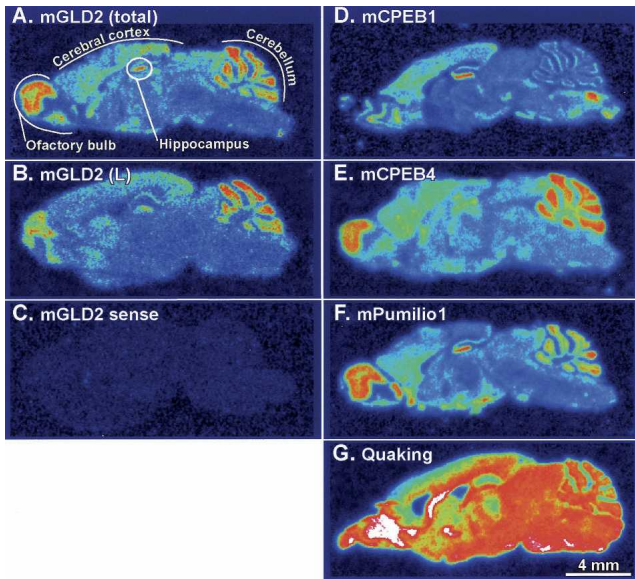


FIGURE 7. The pattern of *mGLD2* mRNA abundance in neuronal cell populations in the mouse brain is similar to those of *mCPEB1* and *mPumilio1* mRNAs. (A) In situ hybridization on sagittal mouse brain sections using an ^{35}S -labeled *mGLD2* RNA probe that detects total *mGLD2* mRNA (i.e., *mGLD2(L)* plus *mGLD2(S)*). The detected pattern of *mGLD2* mRNA is consistent with expression in the major neuronal cell layers in the olfactory bulb, cerebral cortex, cerebellum, and hippocampus, each of which is labeled. (A–G) Bar, 4 mm. (B) Same as A, but using a probe specific to the unique region of the 3'UTR of *mGLD2(L)*. (C) Same as A, but hybridized to a probe with the same sense as *mGLD2* mRNA. (D–G) Adjacent sections hybridized with the indicated probes to detect *mCPEB1* (D), *mCPEB4* (E); *Pumilio1* (F) and *Quaking* (G) mRNAs.

The presence of XI_{GLD}-2 on mRNAs destined to receive poly(A), but not yet doing so, implies that the enzyme is kept inactive in the G complex prior to the onset of meiotic maturation. Activation could involve the removal of inhibitory modifications of GLD2; recombinant, presumably unmodified GLD2, purified from bacteria, is active. Alternatively, the G complex may contain specific repressors of GLD2's enzyme activity, whose action is relieved during oocyte maturation. In *C. elegans*, protein partners of GLD-2 have been identified that stimulate its activity and interact with *gld-2* genetically (Wang et al. 2002). Whatever the repression mechanism, it is striking that XI_{GLD}-2 produced in oocytes and tethered to an mRNA is active, and so must escape the inhibition.

The widespread distribution of mammalian *GLD2* mRNA suggests that regulated polyadenylation occurs in many tissues. In cultured somatic cells, repressed mRNAs are deadenylated and almost certainly can be readenylated and reactivated (Muckenthaler et al. 1997). Likely examples of regulated increases in poly(A) length on cellular and viral mRNAs have been described (for example, Dehlin et al. 1996). It will be of interest to determine whether the GLD2 PAP is required for these events.

We focused on mammalian *GLD2* mRNAs in the brain, because the clearest instances of regulated cytoplasmic polyadenylation in the soma occur in the nervous system (see Introduction). Three lines of evidence suggest that the mammalian *GLD2* plays an important role in synaptic plasticity. First, human *GLD2* protein physically interacts with *Xenopus* CPEB and is active in vitro (Figs. 3, 4). Further, as tethered proteins, mouse and human *GLD2* potentiate translation in the oocyte via polyadenylation and are PAPs in vitro (Fig. 3; Kwak et al. 2004). Second, the spatial distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA in the hippocampus strikingly parallels that of *mCPEB1* and *Pumilio1* (Fig. 8); in the cerebellum, *mGLD2* mRNA colocalizes with those of other CPEB isoforms (Fig. 9). Proteins related to *Pumilio* (PUF proteins) are required for learning in *Drosophila* (Dubnau et al. 2003), are found in complexes with CPEB in *Xenopus* (Nakahata et al. 2001), and localize to dendrites in

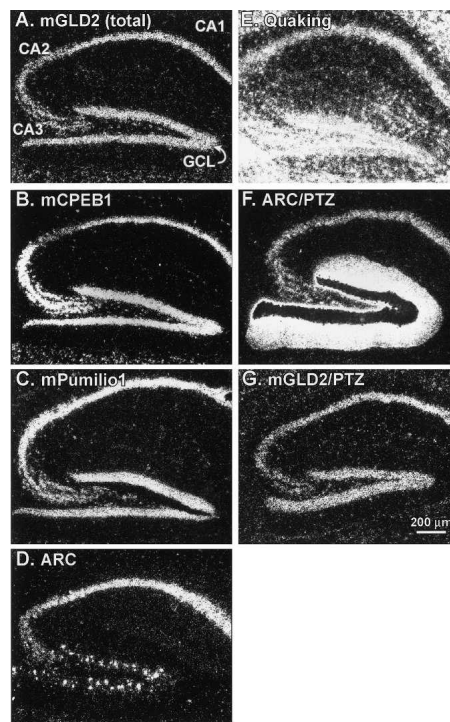


FIGURE 8. The distribution of *mGLD2* in hippocampus is nearly identical to those of *mCPEB1*, *mPumilio1*, and *ARC*. Darkfield microscopy of ^{35}S -labeled RNA probes on radiographic emulsion-coated sections. (A–G) Bar, 200 μm . (A–E) *mGLD2* mRNA was detected in the pyramidal cell layers (CA1 through CA3) of the hippocampus and granule cell layers (GCL) of the dentate gyrus (A). Nearly identical distributions were detected in adjacent sections hybridized with probes complementary to *mCPEB1* (B), *Pumilio1* (C), or *ARC* (D). The mRNA for the RNA binding protein *Quaking*, which is expressed primarily in glial cells, was more abundant and distributed differently than *mGLD2* (E). (F, G) Three hours of seizure activity induced by pentylentetrazole (PTZ; 50 mg/kg intraperitoneal), increased *ARC* expression in dendritic and cellular layers of the dentate gyrus (F). (The dark area over the granule cell layer is overexposed silver grains). In contrast, PTZ treatment did not change the abundance or distribution of *mGLD2* mRNA (G).

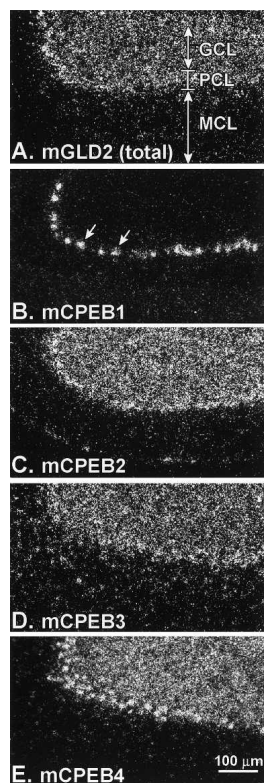


FIGURE 9. mRNAs encoding CPEB isoforms are differentially expressed in mouse cerebellum. Darkfield microscopy of ^{35}S -labeled RNA probes on emulsion-coated sections. (A–E) Bar, 100 μm . (A) *mGLD2* mRNA is found in the major neuronal cell populations in the cerebellum, including the granule cell layer (GCL) and the Purkinje cell layer (PCL), with less prominent expression in the cell-sparse molecular cell layer (MCL). (B) *mCPEB1* expression was confined to Purkinje neurons (arrows). (C) *mCPEB2* was expressed in a similar pattern to *mGLD-2*. (D) *mCPEB3* was expressed in a similar pattern to *mGLD-2* except that more prominent labeling was evident in cells of the MCL. (E) *mCPEB4* was expressed in a similar pattern to *mGLD-2* except that more prominent labeling was present in cells within the PCL.

mammals (Ye et al. 2004). Third, *mCPEB1*, whose mRNA colocalizes with that of *mGLD2* in the hippocampus (Fig. 8), is required for the late phase of long-term potentiation (Alarcon et al. 2004).

The colocalization in the brain of *GLD2* mRNA with *Pumilio* and *CPEB* mRNAs is striking. We suggest that *Pumilio*-mediated repression is coordinated with cytoplasmic polyadenylation via *GLD2* and *CPEB*. The proteins could co-occupy an mRNA, silence its translation until synaptic stimulation, and then activate it. Alternatively, as appears to be the case in *Xenopus* oocytes (Figs. 4, 5), *GLD2* and “repression” proteins may reside in distinct complexes prior to stimulation, perhaps associated with different mRNA targets. The fact that *mCPEB1* colocalizes with *mGLD2* in the hippocampus, while *mCPEB2*, 3, and 4 colocalize in the cerebellum, implies regional differences in *GLD2/CPEB* complexes. Region-specific interactions of the multiple *CPEBs* with *GLD2* may yield special

properties. For example, *mCPEB3* mRNA increases dramatically in abundance after drug-induced seizures (Theis et al. 2003) and resembles the *Aplysia* neuronal *CPEB*, which possesses prion-like properties (Si et al. 2003b). We suggest that *GLD2* is required for regulated polyadenylation and sustained translation of dendritic mRNAs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cloning *Xenopus* GLD-2

Degenerate primers for *Xenopus* *GLD-2* were designed based on multiple sequence alignment of *C. elegans* *GLD-2* and known homologs (Wang et al. 2002). The template used for PCR was DNA from an oligo(dT)-primed, *Xenopus* oocyte cDNA library (Romanowski et al. 1996). Seminested PCR was performed using primers DG1 and DG3, and then DG2 and DG3, at 50°C (for primer sequences, see Table 1). A single prominent DNA product was obtained, cloned into pT7Blue (Novagen), and sequenced. Two clones sequenced in their entirety were identical and showed extensive similarity to *C. elegans* and mammalian *GLD-2* proteins (Kwak et al. 2004), but little similarity to conventional PAPs. To identify the 5' and 3' ends of the cDNA, PCR was performed with primer pairs that anneal to the 5' end of the cDNA (XGLD-2-5) and 5' flanking vector (pVP16-1); or to 3' end of the cDNA (xgld2-10) and to 3' flanking vector sequences (pVP16-2). The full-length ORF was then amplified by high-fidelity PCR from the cDNA library, using primers xgld2SmaN and xgld2SmaC, and inserted into the *Sma*I site of pGEX6P1, to generate pLW071.

The cDNA XIGLD-2 sequence was used as a reference sequence in BLAST to search databases from National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST>), the National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB), and the *X. laevis* EST project (<http://xenopus.nibb.ac.jp>). These searches yielded multiple ESTs that were members of either Contig026310 (11 EST sequences) or Contig029930 (six EST sequences) from the NIBB database; UniGene cluster Xl.1354 (42 EST sequences) or Xl.15643 (19 EST sequences) from the NCBI database. ESTs of each group were obtained from NIBB, purchased for the IMAGE consortium (Open Biosystems), and fully sequenced. Clones NIBB:XL084p08, NIBB:XL080o08, IMAGE:5084876, and IMAGE:6638921 are representative of NIBB Contig026310 and UniGene cluster Xl.1354, which represent our original clone, and whose gene was called XIGLD-2A. Clones NIBB:XL074e24, IMAGE:5077998, and IMAGE:6643643 are representative of NIBB Contig029930 and UniGene cluster Xl.15643, whose gene was called XIGLD-2B. XIGLD-2B corresponds to the clone described in Barnard et al. (2004). ESTs representative short and long 3'UTRs also were identified. These include XL009c13 and XL058d09 (*XIGLD-2(S)*), and XL084p08 and IMAGE:35492925 (*XIGLD-2(L)*). Both XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B encode a 509-amino-acid-long protein.

XIGLD-2A and XIGLD-2B ORFs were tested for sequence similarity to *Xenopus tropicalis* cDNA and ESTs via BLAST searching against the Sanger *X. tropicalis* EST database (www.sanger.ac.uk/cgi-bin/blast/submitblast/x-tropicalis). Both *X. laevis* proteins were related to NCBI Unigene XP-342174.1 (i.e., TEgg044c10, TEgg130h16, and TEgg037n22).

TABLE 1. Oligonucleotides

	Oligo	Sequence	Use
1	DG1	GCIAARGTICCIATHRTIAARTTY	degenerate PCR
2	DG2	CCiyTIGTIYtNGTIRTIARAARTGG	degenerate PCR
3	DG3	RTCRAAIGGITCYTCIAYRCAIAY	degenerate PCR
4	xgld2-10	TTGACTGGAGCAAAGACATC	Forward primer, XIGLD-2A (1448-1267)
5	xgld2-5	TGGCCCACTTTTTAATGACC	Reverse primer, XIGLD-2A (1170-1189)
6	pVP16-1	CTACGGCGCTCTGGATATGG	XIGLD-2 identification (pVP16 MCS)
7	pVP16-2	CCTCTACAAATGTGGTATGG	XIGLD-2 identification (pVP16 MCS)
8	xgld2SmaN	CGCCCGGGGATGTACCCTAACTCCCCGAGCC	Forward primer, XIGLD-2A (178-199)
9	xgld2SmaC	CGCCCGGGTCATAAAGAGTTCATTTTTTCACG	Reverse primer, XIGLD-2A (1683-1707)
10	xD242f	GAATCAGTGATGCAGcTTTGTGCCTGGTTTTAAAAGAG	Forward primer, XIGLD-2A active-site mutagenesis (887-924)
11	xD242r	CTTTTTTAAACCAGGCACAAAgCTGCATCACTGATTC	Reverse primer, XIGLD-2A active-site mutagenesis (887-924)
12	Xlgld-2aNheI	CCGCTAGCGCTAGCATGTACCCTAACTCCCCAGCC	Forward primer, XIGLD-2A (178-199)
13	Xlgld-2aXhoI	CCCCTCGAGCTCGAGTCATAAAGAGTTCATTTTTTCACG	Reverse primer, XIGLD-2A (1683-1707)
14	Xlgld-2bNheI	CCGCTAGCGCTAGCATGTACCCTAACTCCCCAGCCTGGGCCGC	Forward primer, XIGLD-2B (139-168)
15	Xlgld-2bXhoI	CCCCTCGAGCTCGAGTCATAACGAGTGCATTTTTTTCATGATCC	Reverse primer, XIGLD-2B (1639-1568)
16	cycB1-74	GCAGGTTTGGCCTTGAGAAAATGTCAC	Forward primer, cyclin B1 (accession no. J03166, 74-100)
17	cycB1-1010anti	GGAGGAAGCAGCTGCTATTTGGGAAGGCC	Reverse primer, cyclin B1 (accession no. J03166, 1010-1038)
18	cmos-361	TACAGAGGGGAGACGGTGGCGCTG	Forward primer, cmos (accession no. X13311, 361-384)
19	cmos-3'anti	CCACTTAAACAGCAATGCAACAC	Reverse primer, cmos (accession no. X13311, 3073-3095)
20	Actin-1801	CAACTGGAATAAGGGCAGACTTCC	Forward primer, actin (accession no. M24769, 1801-1824)
21	Actin-2227anti	GGGCCTCAGTATCAATTCCAACC	Reverse primer, actin (accession no. M24769, 2227-2251)
22	L1-1033	GCTGAACCCATATGCAAAGACCGC	Forward primer, L1 (accession no. BC054956, 1033-1056)
23	L1-3'anti	ACAGAATTTATTGAGTAAATCC	Reverse primer, L1 (accession no. BC054956, 1279-1300)
24	GLD-2(L) F	TTATGGCATGACTTTTCAGCA	Forward primer, mGLD-2(L) (1907-1928)
25	GLD-2(L) R	GGCCAGTGAATTGTAATAGCACTACTATAGGGAGGCGTCC GTTTTCTGCTGTTTCT	Reverse primer, mGLD-2(L) probe (2484-2504)
26	CPEB-1 F	CATCTTGGGACCTTCTTGA	Forward primer, CPEB1 (808-828)
27	CPEB-1 R	AAGACCCAAGGGATTACC	Reverse primer, CPEB1 (1246-1266)
28	CPEB-2 F	GGTCGCTCTCCCTATTCC	Forward primer, CPEB2 (773-793)
29	CPEB-2 R	TCCAAAGGCTGAGAACCATC	Reverse primer, CPEB2 (1198-1218)
30	CPEB-3 F	CCCTTCTCCAGCAATGTGAT	Forward primer, CPEB3 (958-978)
31	CPEB-3 R	CTCGTCCCAATTTGACAT	Reverse primer, CPEB3 (1412-1432)
32	CPEB-4 F	CCTCACTGCTTCACTACCA	Forward primer, CPEB4 (97-117)
33	CPEB-4 R	AACAAAGCGGGCACTGATAG	Reverse primer, CPEB4 (643-663)

Numbering of sequences (last column) are based on the following: oligonucleotides 4, 5, and 8–13, GenBank accession BC082438 (IMAGE: 50848776); oligonucleotides 14 and 15, GenBank accession BC076832 (IMAGE:6643643); oligonucleotides 16–23, indicated GenBank accession numbers; and oligonucleotides 24–33, sequences in the Unigene database.

Cloning mGLD2 and hGLD2

Clones corresponding to full-length mGLD2 and hGLD2 proteins have been described (Kwak et al. 2004). hGLD2 Δ 8 and hGLD2 Δ 11 cDNAs were obtained by reverse transcription and PCR from total RNA, using *hGLD2* gene-specific primers. mRNA and EST sequences representative of *mGLD2* are represented in UniGene cluster Mm.242865, with polyadenylated representatives for *mGLD2(S)* (IMAGE:3595512 and NM-133905), and for *mGLD2(L)* (BB787817). mRNA and EST sequences representative of *hGLD2*

are represented in UniGene cluster Hs.418198, with polyadenylated representatives for *hGLD2(S)* (GenBank entry NM-173797), and for *hGLD2(L)* (IMAGE:4824607 and GenBank entry BC047581.1).

DNA constructs

pLW071

To express GST-XIGLD-2A in bacteria, the entire XILD-2A ORF was inserted into SmaI-digested pGEX6P-1.

pLW071(D242A)

To generate the active site mutant of GST-XIGLD-2A, site-directed mutagenesis was performed on pLW071 and primers xD242f and xD242r.

pLW073

To express MS2/XIGLD-2A in *Xenopus* oocytes, the XIGLD-2A ORF was amplified with Xlgld-2aNheI and Xlgld-2aXhoI, and inserted into the NheI and XhoI sites of p3HA-MSP-CeGLD-2 (Kwak et al. 2004). This replaces CeGLD-2 with XIGLD-2A. Transcripts were produced by using a T7 promoter.

pLR073

To express MS2-XIGLD-2B in *Xenopus* oocytes, the XIGLD-2B ORF was amplified with Xlgld-2bNheI and Xlgld-2bXhoI primers, and inserted into the NheI and XhoI sites of p3HA-MSP-CeGLD2 (Kwak et al. 2004). This replaces CeGLD-2 with XIGLD-2B. The mRNA was transcribed from a T7 promoter.

pLW078

To generate the active site mutant of MS2-XIGLD-2A, site-directed mutagenesis was performed on pLW073 and primers xD242f and xD242r.

pCS2+/HA/XIGLD-2A

To express HA-XIGLD-2A in *Xenopus* oocytes, the XIGLD-2A ORF preceded by two HA epitope tag sequences, was inserted into EcoRI digested pCS2+, and can be transcribed from a SP6 promoter.

pCS2+/MS2/hGLD2

To express MS2-hGLD2 in *Xenopus* oocytes, a PCR fragment from p3HA-hGLD2 (Kwak et al. 2004), which contained MS2/hGLD2 ORF, was inserted into BamHI and XhoI sites of pCS2+ and can be transcribed from SP6 promoter.

pCSMS2-hGLD2

To detect the expression of MS2-hGLD2 protein in *Xenopus* oocytes, triple HA tags were inserted into pCS2+/MS2/hGLD2 at the BamHI site.

pCSMS2-hGLD2Δ8 and pCSMS2-hGLD2Δ11

To express and detect alternative splicing variants of hGLD2 in *Xenopus* oocytes, hGLD2 ORF in pCSMS2-hGLD2 was replaced with spliced variants hGLD2Δ8 and hGLD2Δ11 ORFs, using NheI and XhoI, and can be transcribed from a SP6 promoter.

Constructs for tethered assay reporters are pLG-MS2, pLGMS2-LucHS, and pJK350, which have been previously described (Kwak et al. 2004).

In vitro transcription

pCS2+ based constructs were linearized with NotI and transcribed with Megascript SP6 transcription kit (Ambion).

pLW073, pLR073, and pLW078 were linearized with EcoRI and transcribed with Megascript T7 transcription kit (Ambion).

Oocyte manipulations, injections, and tethered assays

Oocyte injection and progesterone treatment were performed as described previously (Ballantyne et al. 1997), as were tethered function assays (Kwak et al. 2004). mRNAs were injected at 0.7 μg/μL. Enucleations were performed under mineral oil (Lund and Paine 1990; Dickson et al. 2001).

Northern blotting

One microgram of total RNA (unless otherwise stated) was electrophoresed in individual lanes on a 1.2% agarose/formaldehyde/1 × MOPS gel. The gel was transferred to GeneScreen plus (Perkin Elmer Life Sciences, Inc.) using Stratagene's PosiBlotter (Stratagene, Inc.). ³²P-labeled cDNA (2 × 10⁶ c.p.m./mL) was hybridized to the membrane in Hybrisol I (Interogen, Inc.). Northern blots were washed and exposed to a phosphorimager screen for 1 d. Screens were scanned on a Storm phosphorimager (Molecular Dynamics Inc.).

XIGLD-2

Northern blotting was performed using 25 μg of total RNA, 25 μg of nonpolyadenylated RNA, and 800 ng of oligo(dT)-purified oocyte RNA. The ³²P-dCTP-labeled DNA probe comprised the entire XIGLD-2A ORF.

mGLD2

Northern blotting was performed by using 20 μg of total RNA or oligo(dT)-purified RNA from NIH-3T3 cells, 10 μg of total RNA from various mouse tissues, and on 1 μg of total RNA from mouse brain, cerebellum, P1, and synaptosomal preps.

hGLD2

Northern blotting was performed by using 2 μg of total RNA from various human tissues (Ambion), and a ³²P-UTP-labeled probe anti-sense to the entire hGLD2 ORF.

In vitro PAP assay

One hundred nanograms of purified recombinant GST-XIGLD-2A, GST/XIGLD-2A(D242A), or GST/hGLD2 proteins, were incubated with ³²P-end-labeled L1 RNA substrate (sequence UUAUCUCAU GUUCAGCACUUUGGAUUUACUCAAAUAAAUUCUGUU (Integrated DNA Technologies), 20 U RNAsin (Promega), and 1 mM rNTPs, in PAP buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl at pH 7.0, 40 mM KCl, 0.5 mM MnCl₂, 0.05 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM DTT, and 0.2 mg/mL BSA; USB). Reactions were stopped by with 2 × RNA loading dye (Ambion).

α-XGLDLD-2A antibodies

Recombinant GST-XIGLD-2A was purified as described for GST-FBF-1 in Bernstein et al. (2005). Purified protein was injected into guinea pigs (Cocalico Biologicals). Antibody specificity was tested

by using the TnT T7-Quick couple transcription/translation system (Promega). This antibody is referred to in the text as α XIGLD-2.

Interactions with GST fusion proteins

All steps were performed at 4°C; 4 μ g of GST-XIGLD-2A, GST-PUF-8, or GST was bound to glutathione-Sepharose 4B (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) and equilibrated with MSB. Twenty stage VI oocytes were homogenized in 200 μ L MSB and centrifuged at 3000 rpm in a Eppendorf 5415C microcentrifuge for 10 min. The soluble fraction was incubated overnight with recombinant protein bound to 20 μ L of glutathione beads. Samples were then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 5 min and washed thrice with 500 μ L of MSB, and the fraction associated with glutathione beads was eluted by boiling in 50 μ L of SDS-PAGE loading dye for 5 min.

Westerns

The presence of XIGLD-2 protein in stage VI oocytes, eggs, and different stages of embryogenesis was monitored by lysing groups of 10 oocytes, eggs, or embryos in 100 μ L of MSB; centrifuging 3000 rpm in a eppendorf 5415C microcentrifuge for 10 min at 4°C; and mixing the soluble fraction with 2 \times SDS loading dye. Westerns were done for protein representative of one oocyte/egg/embryo. α XIGLD-2 antibody was used at 1:1000 dilution in blotto. HRP-conjugated anti-Guinea pig secondary antibody (Sigma) was used at a 1:10,000 dilution. Western blotting with other antibodies were done following the providers' protocol.

Immunoprecipitations

For immunoprecipitations, antibodies were purified and bound on Protein A-Sepharose (Sigma). 15 μ L of serum was incubated with 25 μ L of Protein A-Sepharose following in 150 μ L of PBS, for 4 h at 4°C. Sepharose was then centrifuged at 3000 rpm and washed three times with PBS.

Antibodies directed against the following proteins have been described previously and were gifts of the indicated laboratories: α -CPEB (Dickson et al. 2001), α CPSF¹⁰⁰ (Jenny et al. 1994); α -CPSF⁷³ (gift of Dr. D.L. Bentley, University of Colorado HSC), α Xenopus Pumilio (Nakahata et al. 2003), α -XIPABP2 (Good et al. 2004), and α -maskin (gift of Dr. C. Wiese).

Protein A-Sepharose bound antibodies were equilibrated with MSB (150 mM NaCl, 0.1% NP-40, 50 mM Tris-Cl at pH 8) and a protease inhibitor cocktail (Boehringer Mannheim) (Dickson et al. 2001) and incubated overnight at 4°C with oocyte extract (0.1 oocyte/ μ L). Samples were centrifuged at 3000 rpm in a Eppendorf 5415C microcentrifuge for 5 min and washed three times with 500 μ L modified MSB, and the bound fraction was eluted by boiling in 50 μ L of SDS loading dye for 5 min.

For RNA coimmunoprecipitations and RNA dependence analysis of the CPEB-XIGLD2 interaction, modified MSB was made with DEPC-treated water, 1 mM DTT, and 1 U/ μ L rRNasin, with or without 1 μ L RNaseA/T1 mix (Ambion) per 10 μ L of lysate. The Protein A-Sepharose bound antibodies were incubated with oocyte lysate (0.04 oocytes/ μ L) 5 h at 4°C and washed three times with 200 μ L of DEPC-based MSB. RNA was eluted from beads by

extraction with TRI reagent (Sigma) and solubilized in 20 μ L of DEPC water.

Where indicated, oocytes were injected with mRNAs coding for tagged forms of GLD2 and incubated at room temperature for 6 h, prior to preparation of extracts.

RT-PCR

Reverse transcriptase reactions were performed using one third of the total coimmunoprecipitated sample or 1 μ g of total oocyte RNA. Oligo(dT)-primed reverse transcription reactions were performed by using the GeneRacer Superscript II reverse transcription module (Invitrogen), as described by manufacturer. Three microliters of the Reverse transcription reaction was used for PCR with gene-specific primers for 35 cycles with annealing temperatures of 55°C (*c-mos* and actin), 65°C (cyclinB1), and 45°C (L1).

In situ hybridizations

Sections on slides were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS for 2 h at 4°C. Slides were then washed for 5 min in 2 \times SSC three times, and incubated in 0.2 μ g/mL Proteinase K (Qiagen) in 0.1 M Tris base and 50 mM EDTA (pH 8.1) for 10 min at 37°C. Slides were washed in 2 \times SSC at room temperature for 2 min and incubated in 0.1 M TEA at room temperature with rapid stirring, and acetic anhydride was added to a final concentration of 0.25% (v/v) with rapid stirring for 10 min. Slides were then washed in 2 \times SSC for 5 min. Finally, sections were dehydrated in an ascending ethanol series and air-dried for 15 min.

Templates for generating ³⁵S-labeled RNA probes were generated by PCR of a mouse brain cDNA library using T7 anchored primer pairs (Table 1). In vitro transcription was carried out in 1 \times Transcription Optimized Buffer, 10 mM DTT; 1 U/mL RNasin; 0.375 mM ATP, CTP, and GTP; 1 U/mL T7 RNA polymerase (all Promega); 3.5 mCi/mL [α -³⁵S]UTP (PerkinElmer); and 100 ng template DNA and incubated for 2 h at 37°C. RQ1 RNase free DNase (Promega) was added at a concentration of 0.15 U/mL and incubated for an additional 15 min at 37°C. The labeled probes were purified using ProbeQuant G-50 Micro columns (Amersham Biosciences). Probes were diluted in hybridization solution (3 \times SSC, 10% dextran sulfate, 1 \times Denhardt's solution, 0.2 mg/mL tRNA, 50 mM NaPO₄ buffer, and freshly added DTT to 50 mM final concentration) to \sim 10⁶ cpm/100 μ L). One hundred microliters of the hybridization solution at 55°C with labeled probe was applied to each slide. Slides were then covered with coverlips and incubated at 55°C in a hybridization chamber saturated with 75% formamide for 16 h.

After hybridization, coverslips were removed and slides were washed three times in 2 \times SSC with 2 mM DTT at room temperature for 10 min. Slides were incubated in 1.5 U/mL RNase A (Qiagen) in RNase buffer (10 mM Tris-HCl and 0.5 M NaCl at pH 8.0) at 37°C for 1 h followed by washes in 1 \times SSC with 1 mM DTT at room temperature for 5 min, 0.5 \times SSC with 1 mM DTT at room temperature for 5 min, and 0.1 \times SSC with 2 mM DTT at 70°C for 1 h. The sections were then dehydrated in an ascending series of ethanol and then were air-dried. Sections were exposed to a phosphorimager screen and were subsequently scanned on a Storm phosphorimager. Slides were then covered with NTB2 emulsion (Eastman Kodak Co.) and exposed for 28 d for analysis of silver grain distribution. After development, slides were

counterstained with Nissl stain and dehydrated through a graded series of ethanol and xylene. A coverslip was then applied. Images were taken with a Leica DC 300F digital camera linked to Image Pro-Plus software on a PC through a Leica DMRX microscope.

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