Identification and Characterization of *uvrA*, a DNA Repair Gene of *Deinococcus radiodurans*

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Received 7 August 1996/Accepted 23 September 1996

Deinococcus radiodurans is extraordinarily resistant to DNA damage, because of its unusually efficient DNA repair processes. The $mtcA^+$ and $mtcB^+$ genes of *D. radiodurans*, both implicated in excision repair, have been cloned and sequenced, showing that they are a single gene, highly homologous to the $uvrA^+$ genes of other bacteria. The *Escherichia coli uvrA^+* gene was expressed in mtcA and mtcB strains, and it produced a high degree of complementation of the repair defect in these strains, suggesting that the UvrA protein of *D. radiodurans* is necessary but not sufficient to produce extreme DNA damage resistance. Upstream of the $uvrA^+$ gene. Evidence is presented that the proximal of these open reading frames may be $irrB^+$.

Deinococcus (formerly Micrococcus) radiodurans and other members of the same genus share extraordinary resistance to the lethal and mutagenic effects of UV- and ionizing radiation and chemical agents that form bulky adducts and cross-links in DNA (27, 47–49). While it is known that this extreme resistance to DNA damage is due to exceedingly efficient DNA repair, the precise repair mechanisms involved are poorly understood (33). Two mitomycin (MM)-sensitive strains of D. radiodurans, 302 and 262, carrying mutations that were in genes designated mtcA and mtcB, respectively, were obtained by chemical mutagenesis using N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine (MNNG) (34). These strains, however, were not sensitive to UV (254 nm) but were sensitive to bulky alkylating agents. The mtcA strain was further mutagenized, yielding UVsensitive isolates designated as being doubly defective in mtcA and one of the following loci: uvsC, uvsD, and uvsE (35). It was proposed that in D. radiodurans there are two endonucleases that recognize pyrimidine dimers in DNA, one encoded by *mtcA* and *mtcB* (UV endonuclease- α) and the other encoded by uvsC, uvsD, and uvsE (UV endonuclease- β) (2, 17, 35); that either of these two endonucleases is independently sufficient to endow D. radiodurans with wild-type resistance to UV; and that both had to be inactivated to obtain a UV-sensitive, excisionless phenotype. While UV endonuclease- α has not been detected in vitro, UV endonuclease- β has been identified as a 36,000-Da nuclease absent in uvsC-, uvsD-, or uvsE-mutant extracts. It has no known substrate other than pyrimidine dimers and incises as an endonuclease rather than as a glycosylase (15, 17). On the other hand, it is believed that UV endonuclease- α (*mtcA*⁺ *mtcB*⁺) not only recognizes UV-induced bipyrimidine damage but also recognizes bulky chemical adducts and interstrand cross-links (2, 17, 32, 35).

In this communication, we report that the $mtcA^+$ and $mtcB^+$ genes are a single gene that is highly homologous to the $uvrA^+$ genes of other bacteria and that its gene product is functionally similar to the UvrA protein of *Escherichia coli*.

(A preliminary account of this work was given in a review article [32].)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains, plasmids, growth conditions, and transformation. Bacterial strains and plasmids are given in Table 1. *D. radiodurans* was grown in TGY broth (0.8% Bacto-tryptone, 0.1% glucose, 0.4% Bacto-yeast; Difco Laboratories) at 32°C with agitation or on TGY plates solidified with 1.5% agar. *E. coli* was grown in Luria-Bertani broth at 37°C with agitation or on Luria-Bertani plates containing 1.5% agar. Selective concentrations of antibiotics were as follows: for *D. radiodurans*, 10 μ g of kanamycin (KM) per ml; for *E. coli*, 50 μ g of ampicillin per ml, 30 μ g of chloramphenicol per ml, and 30 μ g of KM per ml. Plasmid transformation of *E. coli* was by the CaCl₂ technique, and natural transformation of *D. radiodurans* also employed CaCl₂ as previously described (30).

DNA isolation and manipulation. Isolation of genomic DNA from *D. radiodurans*, isolation of plasmid DNA from *E. coli* DH5 α , use of enzymatic reagents, gel electrophoresis, blotting, hybridization, washing of blots, and autoradiography were as previously described (9, 29). DNA fragments cut from agarose gels were purified using the Qiaex DNA extraction kit (Qiagen, Inc.). Small DNA restriction fragments (50 to 200 bp) were separated by sodium dodecyl sulfate–8% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE).

DNA sequencing and data analysis. DNA sequencing was carried out by the dideoxy technique using α -³⁵S-dCTP on double-stranded plasmids (Fig. 1). Both strands were sequenced. Forward and reverse universal primers and 30 sequence-specific primers (each primer, 18 to 20 nucleotides long) were employed. Databases were searched using the IRX network service at the National Center for Biotechnology Institute, Bethesda, Md.

Immunoblotting of E. coli UvrA. Cells were grown in 500 ml of Luria-Bertani broth (E. coli, 37°C) or TGY broth (D. radiodurans, 32°C) overnight with vigorous shaking. The cells were pelleted and resuspended in 5 ml of Tris-HCl (15 mM, pH 8.0) containing 2-betamercaptoethanol (2 mM) and passed three times through a French pressure cell at 10,000 lb/in2 at 4°C. Protein content was measured with the Bio-Rad Protein Assay kit. Proteins in the crude extract were separated by one-dimensional 0.1% SDS-29.2% PAGE in minigels run at a constant 200 V. The gels were blotted onto an Immobilon polyvinylidene difluoride transfer membrane (Millipore, Inc.) and incubated overnight in blocking buffer (1% bovine serum albumin, 50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.5], 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% NaN₃) at 4°C. The blots were probed by incubation with a 3:1 dilution of primary monoclonal antibody A2A3 in blocking buffer lacking NaN3 for 18 h at 4°C with rocking, followed by washing three times for 20 min each at 23°C in 150 mM NaCl-50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4)-0.05% Tween 20. The blots were then incubated with secondary antibody horseradish-peroxidase goat anti-mouse immunoglobulin G (Bio-Rad Laboratories) and imaged by enhanced chemiluminescence (Amersham, Inc.) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Survival measurements. *D. radiodurans* cells were grown to stationary phase with vigorous shaking. All challenges were administered to stationary-phase cells. Following a challenge, the cells were incubated on TGY plates at 32° C, and colonies were counted after 3 to 5 days. For treatment with 4,5',8-trimethylpsoralen (Me₃psoralen) plus near-UV (360-nm) exposure, 10 ml of cells was pelleted and resuspended in 1 ml of double-distilled H₂O. A 10-µl volume of a saturated ethanol solution of Me₃psoralen was added, resulting in a final con-

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pHA17	<i>mtcB</i> ⁺ pBluescriptIISK(+) <i>Eco</i> RV::1.3-kb <i>Sty</i> I fragment from pHA17	This work; fill in of <i>Sty</i> I frag- ment with T4 DNA poly-
		merase, followed by blunt- end ligation; <i>mtcB</i> ⁺
pHA18	pBluescriptIISK(+) EcoRI::316-bp fragment of D. radiodurans DNA from pUE502	This work; In vitro ligation
pS11	16.5-kb <i>E. coli-D. radiodurans</i> shuttle vector; replicates as plasmid in <i>E. coli</i> , integrative in <i>D. radiodurans</i> ; Km ^r	45
pSST10	8.0-kb plasmid with uvrA gene under regulation of λ phage p_1 promoter	O. Kovalsky, L. Grossman 50
pHA101	pS11 Bg/III-DraI-A::3.9-kb BamHI-HindIII-fragment from pSST10 containing the E. coli uvrA gene; 19.5 kb	This work (Fig. 4)

Wild type

recAuvrA+

302ΩpS11; mtcA

262ΩpS11; mtcB

recA⁺ uvrA277::Tn10

pHA15; mtcA

302ΩpHA101; mtcA, E. coli uvrA+

262ΩpHA101; mtcB, E. coli uvrA+

2.96-kb phagemid cloning vector; Apr

3.4-kb phagemid cloning vector; Cmr

 a Ap, ampicillin; Cm, chloramphenicol; Km, kanamycin; ::, linkage; Ω , chromosomal insertion. Plasmids are described in terms of parental restriction fragments as previously suggested (37).

^b Transformations are designated recipient strain × donor DNA.

centration of 0.6 μ g of Me₃psoralen per ml (43). The cells were incubated for variable time periods at 32°C and then irradiated with agitation to 8 kJ/m². The cells were then washed, resuspended, and diluted in fresh TGY, and aliquots were plated. For treatment with far-UV (254-nm) exposure, cells were serially diluted and plated on TGY agar. The lids of the agar plates were removed, and the plates were exposed to UV at a dose rate of 1.0 J/m²/s for up to 1,500 J/m². Following irradiation, the petri dishes were covered and incubated at 32°C. For

treatment with ionizing radiation, 1.0 ml of stationary-phase culture without change of broth was irradiated with ⁶⁰Co at 1.3 Mrads (13 kGy)/h at 0°C for durations of up to 1.5 h. Following irradiation, the cells were diluted and spread on TGY plates. For treatment with MM, it was added to stationary-phase cells without a change of broth to 1 µg of MM per ml. At 30-min intervals, samples were taken, washed, diluted in fresh TGY, and spread on TGY plates. Treatment with 4-nitroquinoline-1-oxide (4NQO) was achieved by adding 0.33 ml of an



	mtcA	mar A	mtcB	
 ORFs				►TGA
X I	. A	XEE S	3	s //
pHA15 5.6 kb			pHA16 2.6 kb	
pHA15b 3.1 kb		┿┥╎╵╽		
3.1 kb			pHA17 1.3 kb	

TIDLE 1. Ducterial strains and plasmide	TABLE	1.	Bacterial	strains	and	plasmids
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Description; relevant genotype

mtcA; MNNG-mutagenized strain R1 γ ray^r UV^r Mm^s

mtcB; MNNG-mutagenized strain R1 y rayr UVr Mms

D. radiodurans chromosomal DNA in cosmid pJBFH; 26 kb; mtcA⁺ mtcB⁺

pBCSK(+) XhoI::1.1-kb XhoI fragment from pHA15; mtcA+

pBluescriptIISK(+) EcoRI::5.6-kb D. radiodurans EcoRI fragment from pUE502; mtcA+

pBCSK(+) AccI-XhoI-A::1.8-kb D. radiodurans DNA AccI-XhoI fragment from pHA15b

pBluescriptIISK(+) EcoRI::2.6-kb EcoRI fragment of D. radiodurans DNA from pUE502;

pBluescriptIISK(+) AccI-EcoRI-A::3.1-kb D. radiodurans DNA AccI-EcoRI fragment from

D. radiodurans R1

> 302 321

322

262

270

271

E. coli

DH5a

N3055

Plasmid

pUE502

pHA15

pHA15b

pHA15b.1

pHA15b.2

pHA16

pBCSK(+)

pBluescriptIISK(+)

Source or reference^b

This work; $302 \times pS11$ This work; $302 \times pHA101$

This work; $262 \times pS11$ This work; $262 \times pHA101$

Life Technologies, Inc.

Barbara Bachman, Yale University

This work; In vitro ligation

Stratagene, Inc.

Stratagene, Inc.

5

34

34

1

ethanolic solution of 4NQO to 10 ml of stationary-phase cells, giving a final concentration of 50 μ g of 4NQO per ml. Following incubation, the cells were washed and diluted in fresh TGY and spread on TGY plates.

Nucleotide sequence accession number. The sequence of the *D. radiodurans uvrA* gene has been deposited in GenBank under accession number U52145.

RESULTS

DNA and deduced protein sequence of D. radiodurans uvrA. Identification of the defective loci in strains 302 (mtcA) and 262 (mtcB) proceeded by determining which DNA fragments from wild-type D. radiodurans R1 could transform these strains to mitomycin resistance (Mm^r) as determined by the ability of transformants to grow on TGY plates containing 0.04 µg of MM per ml (20). It had previously been determined that cosmid pUE502 (26 kb) from wild-type D. radiodurans could transform both strains 302 and 262 to Mm^r (1) and that two separate EcoRI subclones of pUE502, pUE58 (D. radiodurans DNA insert which is the same as in pHA15 in the present work) and pUE59 (insert which is the same as in pHA16), could transform strains 302 and 262, respectively, but they could not transform both loci (2). These clones were unmapped with respect to the parental cosmid pUE502. We further subcloned these regions to give pHA15b.1 and pHA17 (Fig. 1), which were able to transform strains 302 and 262 to Mm^r, respectively (Fig. 1). After full sequencing of these two clones and additional sequencing of their parental clones pHA15 and pHA16, as well as pHA18 and pUE502, the uvrA sequence was completed (Fig. 2).

A computer-assisted search showed that the DNA sequence homology of the *D. radiodurans* open reading frame with *E. coli uvrA* is 59% and the deduced amino acid sequence identity is 57% (Fig. 3). *D. radiodurans* shows greater homology at the DNA level with *Micrococcus luteus* (72%) than with *E. coli uvrA*, presumably because both *D. radiodurans* and *M. luteus* DNA are G+C rich (approximately 70%). At the amino acid sequence level, the deduced identity between *D. radiodurans* and *M. luteus* is 54%. A multiple protein sequence alignment of these three genes is shown in Fig. 3. Among all three amino acid sequences, there is a 40.2% identity and a 68% homology. The length of the *D. radiodurans* gene (3,045 bp, 1,015 amino acids [aa]) is similar to those of *E. coli* (2,820 bp, 940 aa) and *M. luteus* (2976 bp, 992 aa) (24, 42).

Chromosomal insertion of the *E. coli* $uvrA^+$ gene in uvrAdefective D. radiodurans. Heterologous genes are expressed poorly in D. radiodurans because of the inability of this organism to recognize promoters from other bacteria, including E. coli and Staphylococcus and Bacillus spp. (44, 46). One means of circumventing this expression problem in D. radiodurans is to introduce a heterologous gene at high copy number, using the duplication insertion vector pS11 that we have previously described (7, 21, 22, 45). This vector is composed of a D. radiodurans chromosomal fragment covalently linked to the E. coli plasmid pMK20; pMK20 contains a kanamycin resistance (Km^r) determinant (aphA; aminoglycoside-3'-phosphotransferase type I) which is weakly expressed in D. radiodurans. While pS11 replicates as a plasmid in *E. coli* because of the pMK20 portion, in D. radiodurans it does not replicate autonomously and instead confers Kmr by integrating into the chromosome via recombination between the pS11 vector deinococcal sequence and the recipient homologous chromosomal sequence (45). The integration event yields an insertion of the heterologous DNA (the pMK20 portion) flanked by a direct repeat of the host sequence. The presence of flanking direct repeats fosters gene amplification (presumably by uneven homologous recombination of daughter chromosomes [25, 39]) and KM selection produces up to 50 tandem copies per chro-

xho1			
CTC3AGTWTGTCGCCACTCGGC	GODECOTECAGGODETOCTODEGODETOCAS	CTOCTGASGOTGATCGAGGTTGAACATCG	87
ANTONITTACCOLADICODECTEGOIGG	GOGGTITTTOUTGOUTTTADWAQUAUAPI	CASESCOLOGICAL CHUMALAATAMPELG AADECTTECKEEACADECAAADCAACCETTE	263
RTGCARGRORARCTCRTUGT/SOCIES/GCC	CREGARCACEACCITURACERCATCACCOTO	GARCTORCORCEACERCTERSEBATT	352
MetGinAspLysLecIleValArgGlyAla AccessionTrosscascocaAstroacs	ArgGLUHISAShLeuLysAsplieThrVal CROCHTFICGACACCATCTACCCCCGACCCC	GlubenProArgAspargPheVolVoll10	443
ThrGlyValSerGlySerGlyLysSerTor	LeuAlaPheAspThrIleTyrAlaGluGly	GinArgArgTyrValGluSerLenSerAla	60
TACGODAGCAGTICCTGODCCTGATGGAA TyrAlaArgGInPheLeuGlyLeuMetGlu	AAGCOGADGTGGACAGCATCACTOGICHC LysPicAspValAspSerTleThrGlyLeu	Conconstruction Cart Gald Abadaic SerProAlalleSerCleAspGinLysThr	90
AccAssCAchAchConscReverseGT	ACCETCACCOAGACTCACGACTACUTGOSC	CTOCTCTACOCCCCCGCFCF5TAC5CCFTAC	622
ThrSerHisAsnProArgSerThrValCly	ThrVsIChrCluIDeBcoAcpTyrLecAcg	LecLeuTycAlaArgValGlyThcProTyr	120
TCCCCATCTCCCCA.CCAAAATCCAAAATCCAAAATCCAAAACC	CALAGEDEAGESAAGTCACEGACEGESTE	CTOR/GOGCTTTCCCCEACAAGOEGOLATC	712
CysProlleCysGlyArqLysIleGluLys	GIRSerProSerGluValThrAspArglou	LegalaGlyPhcPrtAspLysArgAlaile	150
erectoscologicgregotggaeggaa	GGCHASTACAAGAAGCYGTTOGCTGACCTG	CGREDTSAGGGTREOCGCGASTGCGGTG	802
LeuloualaProAlaValArgGlyArglys	GlyGleCyclyclycleuPheAlaAsple.	ArgArgGluGlyTyrAlaArgValArgVal	180
GACKOCACKITTIKCGACTICGACACCACCC AspGlyThrLeuTyrGluLeuGluGluAla	GAMAACTCARCENSAMAGTECEASAAG GlubysbenbysbenGlubystheGlubys	CACCACCTOGACATCGACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCACCAC	892 210
ACTOTACSTEAGAGOGACOGCAGOCGCATC	GCCGAGTCGGTGGGAGTCGCCATCCCCCGC	GGGGAGGGCTGCTGCGGGGGGCCGCCC	982
ThrLunArgCloSer2ogArgSer2xgDle	MIaGICSerValGIuLeuGIyOleArgArg	GlySluGlyLeuLeuArgValLeuLeuPro	240
cacecoegroacaacaacaacaacaaa	dASCISTANTCESAGAADTTCECCIGCOLE	GAACACODEACCETSETSEAGAACTOCAS	1072
aspalaciyolcaspGlyGlyAlaHisGlu	GluberSynSerClubysEcollaCysPro	Clubble	270
CONCERTION TO CONCERTS AND A CONCERT	GEODENARIQUACISCERGORATORO GIYAIACYSG_YASpCysAIaGIyEleG_y	OCCAARGAG <u>GAAFTY</u> TOCETCCAACCCA N AlalysGinGluPheSerProGluArgIie	1162 300
ADUGAOGAANAAOTGAGTADUGCUGGUGGU	GCCATCATCOCCTOGACCAAAAAOGGOGIC	GACOLGODIAITTATTATTGGGACARGETC	1252
11eAepGluLysLcuScr11cAlaGlyGly	AlalloiloProtrpThrlysLysClyAla	AspAlaOlyilcTytTyTTpAsplysLou	330
AAGCCOGTODOCOACTACCTCCACTTCCAC	CTCAAAACCCCCTGGAAGGACCTCCCCCCG	AADDOOCAAAAADOOOTOPTOPACDOOCOF	1340
LysAlaLeuAlaGlufisLeuAspFheAsp	LeuLysThrProtrpLysAspLeuProAla	LysAlaGinLysAlaValLeuKisGlyPro	360
GDGAGGCTTTTGAGGTTGTCTALCGUGG	GOOGCAAGGAAGCIATGCOCTTCATGACC	GAGTTEGAGGGEGTGATEACEAACETGGAG	1452
GlyGluAlathcGloValTytArgArg	GlyGlyflysGCuThzMetAngParSerOhn	GLopheSluSlyvaliletheAstheoslu	390
ECORI COCCOCTAC SCAACACOTDOS <u>CAATTO</u> ATO ArgargTyrAlaThrProSerGluPSeXet	CORDAGNOSCIONOGANTENTONOCOS ArgolexargleusiusInieuMetGicleu	COORDINGER ACTIONOCOMOACCEDE AcqProCysRecThrOysGlyGlyTheAry	1522 420
TACAAGECCEASATTCTGGCEGTECGGETG	GGCGGCCTGAACATCTCGCAGACOAGOGGC	ATGAGEGEGEGEGAGGEGGAGGEGETETTE	1612
TyrtystheCluiccanAlayalargyal	GlyGlytesAcaTCcScrGlnfbrScrGly	MetServalLeukopAlaAspAlaPhePhe	450
CACCACTTOCACCAACCCCAACTCCATCA GingInLeuGinGluGluGluDuLeuAspHis	CONCERTORACIOPTOCTORACIONAC AlaAlaileGluProPheleurysAlaRis	ACCOCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	1702 480
TGCACTACUIAGTACUACCTSOGTACUTTC	GODGOGOGOGOGOGOGOGATTOTOGG	GCGATTOFCACCOPCTGAAGTTCTGGTS	1792
LeuflisTyrGluTyrAspleiGlyThrPhe	GIYAIAAlaValAlaAlaProlleLeuArg	MiailebrgTbrAcgLeulysPholanVa)	510
GAOGFOGGDOTOGACTACCTOTOGCTOGAC	CSCACCECCAACACGCTCTCEGGCGGCGAG	GESCAGOSCATICESCIGACEACICACEAC	1883
Acgivaticityf.org/cyrtheuSect.org/sp	ArgCimtAlsAssTibuturScrClyClyClu	AlaCoArgilcargLeuAlaThrSinVal	940
CACACCEPCTCACCCEPCTCTACCTC SLyserSlyLeuthrSlyValLeutyrVal	ONGAGGAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG	AACCRORACIECCERCICEUCECECCEC LysAspAshGlyArgLeuCleGLyThrLeu	1972 579
AAGAACTICCOICACCICCCCCAACTICCCTC	CTOSTOCTOCACCACGACGAGGACACCATS	CR3GAGGCCBACTACCTGATIGACATOGGG	2062
LysAstLeiAroAspLeuGlyAstSerLeu	LeuValValGluHisAspGluAspThrMet	LeuGluAlaAsp/pyrlcalleAspMetGly	600
CCGGCGCGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG	atestetussikestetsatasiteaas liealaserGlythrProSluSinValLys	CAGGAGAAGAAGAGGTTCAGGGGGAGAGTAG GInaapLysaanSerLeuThrGlyLysTyr	2152 630
CTGCGCGGCGAGAPSAAAATCGAGGTGCCC	SCCSAGCSCCGCCCCGCCAACGCCAACFTC	CTGARGOTOTPOSOCIATOCIA CAGAAGAAC	2242
LxcArgClyCluMetLysCleGLCValPxc	AlaGluArgArgProG_yAshGlyLysFbe	LeulysValPheGlyAlaArgGlnAsnAsn	650
TTOCAGGACGTGGACGTGTCCATTOCGCTC	GSCACCATGACGSTGSAGACTGSCCCCTCS	CSCASOEGCAAA#SCADICTSATTUROGAC	2232
LCCGInAspValAspValScrilcProlau	GJyThrNotTorValCluThrClyProSer	ArgSer01yLysSerThiLeuClellisJop	690
ATCOTOCACCOACCOSCICCCAACTS	ANEGOOGCONNONCOVEGCOGGONETRY AC	GACEGCAT COAGOCATEGAOCACCTGOAC	2422
The self: salathin coal aargCluber	ACTICLY AL af yet him the Preci ly Lon Byr	AspArgT LCC1uClyMetC LuC InterAcp	730
AACC4CECCTACATCOACCACTCOCCCATC	GOOGEACCCCCCCCCCAAMICCCCGCCACC	TACACG3969909TPCACCGAMATCC9TGAT	2512
LysVallleGluIleAspGlnSerProfle	GlyArgThrProArgSerAsnProAlgThr	TyrfhrGlyValPheThrGluileArgAsp	750
TETTCACCOGACTOCCGACGOCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	COCCOURTERCADOCODGACOOTHETCOPHC ArgGlyTyrGlnAlaGlyArgPheBerPhe	AACOTCAACCOCCCCCTCCCAACACICC AanValLysGlyGlyArgCysGluHisCys	2602 760
AAGGRGACGACGTCATGAAGATCGAGATG	AACTTOETGEOGACATETACGTGEOCTGO	GACHTCTRCCACGUGGCGCGCTACRATCGC	2692
LysGlyAspGlyValMetLysIlcOluMet	AsnPholocProAsplicTyrValProCys	GluValCygHusClyAlaargtymasnarg	810
GAUACIZINIACINIACINACIACAACIACAAG GluthrleuGiuVallysTyrAsminsLys	aCCATTOCCCACCTOCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	CACCACCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	2782 840
CCGACCATCGACCGCAGATGCAACTGCTG	CTIGACGTOGGCTGOGCTACATGAAAATC	GGCLASICETICACEACGETCTCS5GCSGE	2872
ProtfmT1C6CCGATGLys2ctClnCcuLcu	SeuAopvalGlyfxr2GlyfyrMetLyollo	G1yG1cProSerThrTbrLouSerG1yC1y	870
GACOCCEREDCATCRACCTCOCCACCEAG GluAlaGinArgIleLysLeuAlaThrSlu	CTOACEAACCONCCACCCCCCCCACACEAT LeuSerLycArgAlaThrSlyArgThrIle	TACATOCTOSACCACCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCOCCO	2962 900
CACTFEGAGGACGTECGCAAGCFGATEGAC	STRETO: AACGCCTCGCGGAAGGTGGCAAC	ACX/TOFFCATCATCSAFCACAACCTOSAC	5052
HisPheGluAspValArgDysLecNeLAsp	ValleuGInArgLe: AlaGluGIyGIyAsn	ThrLeuVallielleGluidisAmleuXop	910
GTGATGAAGTOGGO5GACTACCTCATCGAC	cresseccesAAssecsecsreesesses	ACCETCHTGOLGOTGGOLACALCOSAAGAA	3142
ValMet: gescralsågp?yrleulicage	SouthyProSluClyClyVslArgClyCly	ThrvalValAlaVolSlyThrProGluSlu	960
CHINGTHOUSACHIGAGASSTAGAGGGGG ValAiaAlaHisProThrSerTyrThrSly	CACTACCTOCCEACOCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	CCCCCCGARCCROTCCCACCGSTGAAAAG AlaAlaGlcP:cArgAlaArgGlyGlcCys	5232 990
SCUSARAGUCUS <u>CCARA</u> GUCARAGUGCUC	SUTAASAAAASSACCAASAASCASACSSAA	CTERTORAGECORACTORIA SCONTTOCS	3322
AlaClelysProAlalysAlafysAlaPro	AlalysiysArgThrLysLysDinThrSlu	LOUVAIGLUAIAASOTER	1015
GTINGAAGOOCTCAATTTTCAGCGACTCAA	CCCGACCAGAGLAGAACCAAAGAA		

FIG. 2. The nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of the *D. radio-durans uvrA* gene. Restriction enzyme recognition sites corresponding to those indicated in Fig. 1 are italicized, underlined, and labeled with the appropriate enzyme above the sequence.

mosome of the pS11 amplification unit, each unit consisting of the heterologous DNA plus flanking host sequence (45). *DraI* and *BglII* cleavage sites adjacent to the *aphA* gene in pS11 (Fig. 4) may be used to introduce a gene to be expressed in *D. radiodurans*. Transformation of *D. radiodurans* followed by KM selection produces amplification of the gene inserted at

MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	VPKNSSTTVSSAVEAHAGGLASGPGGARSGERDRIVVQGAREHNLKDVDVSFPRDAMVVFTGLSGSGKSSLAFDTIFAEGQRRYVESLSSYARMFLGRVD M	100 69 70
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	KPDVDFIEGLSPAVSIDQKSTNRNPRSTVGTITEIYDYMRLLWARVGVPHCPQCGEPVSRQTPQQIVDQLEELPERTRFQVLAPVVRGRKGEFVDLFRDL KPDVDHIEGLSPAISIEQKSTSHNPRSTVGTITEIHDYLRLLFARVGEPRCPDHDVPLAAQTVSQMVDNVLSQPEGKRLMLLAPIIKERKGEHTKTLENL KPDVDSITGLSPAISIDQKTTSHNPRSTVGTVTEIHDYLRLLYARVGTPYCPICGRKIEKQSPSEVTDRLLAGFPDKRAILLAPAVRGRKGEYKKLFADL ***** *.*****.**.**.******************	200 169 170
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	STQGFAVVDGETVQLSDPPVLKKQVKHTIAVVVDRLAMKEGIRQRLTDSVETALKLADGLVVAEFVDVEPVAEKGKKNTAEFGGRDAEGNPRYRSF ASQGYIRARIDGEVCDLSDPPKLELQKKHTIEVVVDRFKVRDDLTQRLAESFETALELSGGTAVVADMDDPKAEELLF RREGYARVRVDGTLYELEEAEKLKLEKFEKHDVDIVIDRLTLRESDRSRIAESVELGIRRGEGLLRVLLPDAGEDGGAHEELY	296 247 253
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	SEKLSCPNGHEQTVDEIEPRSFSFNNPFGACPECTGIGSRLQVDPDLVVANDELSLREGAVVPWSL-GKSTSDYWLRVLGGLGKEMGFSLDTPWKDLTEA SANFACPIC-GYSMRELEPRLFSFNNPAGACPTCDGLGVQQYFDPDRVIQNPELSLAGGAIRGWDRRNFYYPQMLKSLADHYKFDVEAPWGSLSAN SEKFACPE-HGSVLEELEPRSFSFNSPYGACGDCAGIGAKQEFSPERII-DEKLSIAGGAIIPWTKKGADAGIYYWDKLKALAEHLDFDLKTPWKDLPAK *** *.*** ***** *** . *.*	395 342 351
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	ERDAVLHGKDFKVEVTFRNRFGRERRYTTGFEGVIFYVMRKHGETESDGARERYESFMREIPCPACHGARLNPTVLNVLVGGLSIADATRLPMREA VHKVVLYGSG-KENIEFKYMNDRGDTSIRRHPFEGVLHNMERRYKETESSAVREELAKFISNRPCASCEGTRLRREARHVYVENTPLPAISDMSIGHA AQKAVLHGPGEAFEVVYRRGGKETMRFMTEFEGVITNLERRYA-TPSEFMRERLEBLMELRPCPTCGGTRYKPEILAVRVGGLNISQTSGMSVLDA	491 439 446
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	MEFFSGLRLTDRERQIADQVLKEILARLAFLLDVGLEYLNLERPAGTLSGGEAQRIRLATQIGSGLVG MEFFNNLKLAGQRAKIAEKILKEIGDRLKFLVNVGLNYLTLSRSAETLSGGEAQRIRLASQIGAGLVG DAFFQQLQEGELDHAAIEPFLKAHTGGTAKAHGPLHYEYDLGTFGAAVAAPILRAIRTRLKFLVDVGLDYLSLDRTANTLSGGEAQRIRLATQVGSGLTG ** *. *. ** **. *** ****************	559 507 546
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	VLYVLDEPSIGLHQRDNRRLIETLLRRDLGNTLIVVEHDEDTIAEADWIVDIGPRAGEYGGEVVHSGSLADLKANTRSVTGDYLSGRRSIAVPERRVP VMYVLDEPSIGLHQRDNERLLGTLIHLRDLGNTVIVVEHDEDAIRAADHVIDIGPGAGVHGGEVVAEGPLEAIMAVPESLTGQYMSGKRKIEVPKKRVPA VLYVLDEPSIGLHPKDNGRLIGTLKNLRDLGNSLLVVEHDEDTMLEADYLIDMGPGAGVHGGEVIASGTPEQVKQDKNSLTGKYLRGEMKIEVPAERRPG *.***********************************	659 607 646
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	EKGRVLTVRGAQENNLKDVSVQVPLGVLTAVTGVSGSGKSTLINEILYKVLANRLNGAKLV-PGRHRSVEGLEHLDKVVHVDQSPIGRTPRSNPATYTGV NPEKVLKLTGARGNNLKDVTLTLPVGLFTCITGVSGSGKSTLINDTLFPIAQRQLNGATTAEPAPYRDIQGLEHFDKVIDIDQSPIGRTPRSNPATYTGV N-GKFLKVFGARQNNLQDVDVSIPLGTMTVETGPSRSGKSTLIHDILHATLARELNGAK-TTPGLYDRIEGMEQLDKVIEIDQSPIGRTPRSNPATYTGV *.**.***.***.********************	758 707 744
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	FDAIRKLFAETPEAKVRGYQQGRFSFNIKGGRCEACAGDGTLKIEMNFLPDVYVPCEVCHGARYNRETLEVTYKGKNIAEVLDMPIEEAADFFSAYTRIS FTPVRELFAGVPESRARGYTFGRFSFNVRGGRCEACQGDGVIKVEMMFLPDIVVPCDQCCKGKRYNRETLEIKVKGKTIHEVLDMTIEEAREFFDAVPALA FTEIRDLFTRTPEARRRGYQAGRFSFNVKGGRCEHCKGDGVMKIEMNFLPDIVVPCEVCHGARYNRETLEVKYNHKTIADVLDLTVEDAHEFFEAIPTIE **.****. *** .******************	858 807 844
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	RYLDTLVDVGLGYVRLGQPATTLSGGEAQRVKLAAELQKRSNGRTIYVLDEPTTGLHFDDIRKLLHVLQSLVDKGNTVLTIEHNLDVIKSADHVIDLGPE RKLQTLMDVGLTYIRLGQSATTLSGGEAQRVKLARELSKRGTGQTLVILDEPTTGLHFADIQQLLDVLHKLRDQGNTIVVIEHNLDVIKTADWIVDLGPE RKMQLLLDVGLGYMKIGQPSTTLSGGEAQRIKLATELSKRATGRTIYILDEPTTGLHFEDVRKLMDVLQRLAEGGNTLVIIEHNLDVMKSADYLIDLGPE * *.****.**********************	958 907 944
MLUTE ECOLI DRAD	GGSGGGTIVATGTPEEVARAAESHTGRFLAELLA	

FIG. 3. Alignment of protein sequences of *uvrA* genes of *M. luteus, E. coli*, and *D. radiodurans*. Identical amino acids are indicated by an asterisk, and similar amino acids are indicated by a dot below the alignment. The dashed lines above the alignment corresponding to aa 32 to 46 and 678 to 692 of the *D. radiodurans* sequence indicate Walker A-type ATP recognition sequences. The pairs of short solid lines above the alignment corresponding to aa 534 to 552 of the *D. radiodurans* sequence is a helix-turn-helix motif.

these sites as a nonselected passenger within the pS11 amplification unit, resulting in substantial expression of the passenger gene by virtue of high copy number (21–23). When grown in drug-free culture, amplification units are lost from the chromosome by intrachromosomal recombination between repeats producing monomeric and multimeric circular forms of the pS11 amplification unit (30). This process results in cured Km^s isolates that have lost the chromosomal pS11 insertion and are identical to the original recipients prior to transformation.

A duplication insertion transformation construction designed to express the *E. coli uvrA*⁺ gene was generated by inserting this gene into pS11, giving pHA101 (Fig. 4). Plasmids pS11 and pHA101 were introduced to the *uvrA*-defective strains 302 and 262, and Km^r transformants were selected. Gel electrophoresis of restriction-cleaved plasmids pS11 and pHA101 (pS11::*uvrA*) (plasmids were grown in *E. coli*, since pS11 is integrative in *D. radiodurans*) and chromosomal DNA from pS11- and pHA101-transformed cell lines shows substantial amplification of these insertions (Fig. 5). This is recognized as prominent ethidium bromide-stained bands at the proper locations in the chromosomal digestions. Southern blotting and probing with an internal fragment of the *E. coli uvrA* gene show the presence of this gene in the pHA101-transformed strains (Fig. 5).

Measurement of *E. coli* UvrA by immunoblotting in *uvrA*defective *D. radiodurans*. To determine if the inserted *E. coli* $uvrA^+$ sequence was expressed in *D. radiodurans* hosts, cellular extracts were assessed for the presence of UvrA by affinity to the monoclonal antibody A2A3. This antibody recognizes the region of *E. coli* UvrA between amino acids 680 and 940, as determined by affinity to an ordered set of UvrA deletion mutants (27a, 28). Both strains 302 (Fig. 6) and 262 (data not shown) synthesized *E. coli* UvrA if the cells contained the pS11:: $uvrA^+$ insertion.

Survival of *D. radiodurans uvrA*-defective strains that contain the *E. coli uvrA*⁺ gene. Survival of strains 302 and 262 was enhanced to *D. radiodurans* wild-type or near-wild-type resistance by the presence of the pS11:uvrA duplication insertion



FIG. 4. Construction of integration vector pHA101 from pS11 and pSST10. pSST10 (not shown) was first cleaved with *Hind*III, and the resulting 5' overhang was filled in with T4 DNA polymerase. The plasmid was then cleaved with *Bam*HI. This gives a 3.9-kb fragment from pSST10 that contains the complete 2,820-bp *E. coli uvrA*⁺ gene (black segment). The fragment was inserted into pS11 that had been doubly cleaved with *DraI* and *BgIII*. Ligation resulted in a *Bam*HI-*BgIII* fusion at one end of the *uvrA* insert and a fusion between the blunt-ended *Hind*III site and the naturally blunt-ended *DraI* cleavage site in pS11 at the other end. The hatched segment of pS11 is the pMK20 portion, while the white segment is the *D. radiodurans* chromosomal DNA portion. Restriction endonuclease sites: Bg, *BgII*I; Bm, *Bam*HI; Bm/Bgl, *Bam*HI-*BgIII* fusion; C, *ClaI*; D, *DraI*; D/H, *DraI*-blunt-ended *Hind*III fusion; E, *EcoRI*; H, *Hind*III; X, *XbaI*; Xh, *XhoI*.

with respect to treatment with MM, 4NQO, and Me₃psoralen plus near-UV exposure (Fig. 7). The presence of the pS11 duplication insertion (lacking *E. coli uvrA*⁺) did not enhance survival of strain 302 or 262. Survival following UV (254-nm) exposure of strains 302 and 262 was wild type and displayed no change as a result of the duplication insertions (data not shown), since 302 and 262 contain the *uvsCDE* gene product, UV endonuclease- β (see above). Survival following ionizingradiation exposure of strains 302 and 262 was also wild type and displayed no change as the result of the duplication insertions (data not shown), consistent with the fact that cells defective in either or both UV endonuclease- α and UV endonu-



FIG. 5. Agarose gel electrophoresis and Southern blotting of transformed strains. Each lane contains 5 μ g of DNA. Chromosomal DNA from the various strains and DNA from purified plasmid preparations of pS11 and pS11::*E. coli uvrA*⁺ (pHA101) were digested with *XhoI* and *XbaI* and electrophoresed in 1% agarose at 50 V. The agarose gel was then stained with ethidium bromide (left) followed by blotting onto nitrocellulose. The gene amplification in transformed strains is evident in the ethidium bromide-stained gel from the brightness of the pS11 or pS11::*uvrA* characteristic bands. Strains 322 [3020(pS11::*uvrA*)] and 271 [262 Ω (pS11::*uvrA*)] were propagated on KM-free agar yielding Km^{*} isolates that had lost the duplication insertion [3020(pS11::*uvrA*) cured and 262 Ω (pS11::*uvrA*) cured]. The blots were probed with an internal 0.3-kb *Eco*RI fragment of the *E. coli uvrA*⁺ gene (24), end labeled with [γ -³²P]ATP.



FIG. 6. Western blot of UvrA protein using monoclonal antibody A2A3. The procedure used is described in Materials and Methods. All lanes contain 100 μ g of protein, except for the lane labeled "UvrA protein," which contains 200 ng of purified UvrA. The two *E. coli* lanes are controls with *uvrA*⁺ strain DH5 α and *uvrA* strain N3055, which contains a Tn10 insertion in the *uvrA* coding sequence. *D. radiodurans* strain 302 shows evidence of UvrA protein only if transformed with pHA101 ([pS11:*E. coli uvrA*⁺]; strain 322) and not if transformed with pS11 (strain 321).

clease- β are already wild type with respect to ionizing radiation (35). Strains 302 and 262 that had contained the pS11:*uvrA*⁺ duplication insertion but were cured of the insertion by passage on nonselective agar (Fig. 5) displayed survival to MM, 4NQO, and Me₃psoralen identical with that of the parental *uvrA*-defective strains 302 and 262 (data not shown).

DNA sequence upstream of uvrA. In most bacteria examined, the single-stranded DNA binding protein gene (ssb) is normally located 200 to 900 bases upstream of uvrA and transcribed divergently, as seen in E. coli (41), Proteus mirabilis (12), Serratia marcescens (10, 11), Salmonella typhimurium (3), Haemophilus influenzae (26), and Brucella abortus (56). An exception to this rule is Bacillus subtilis, wherein ssb is located at approximately 4° on the chromosome (38) and uvrA is located at 305° (4). The 2,000 bp that lay upstream of the D. radiodurans uvrA gene does not show any appreciable homology to ssb or any other sequences in other organisms. The two largest open reading frames are 837 and 504 bp, both in the same reading frame and divergent from uvrA. Because the novel DNA repair gene irrB has a 22% cotransformation frequency with uvrA1 (51), we suggest that the first of these reading frames, the 837-bp open reading frame, may be the $irrB^+$ gene (see Discussion on cotransformation frequency).

DISCUSSION

The DNA damage sensitivity of strains 302 (*mtcA*) and 262 (*mtcB*) was found to be due to defects in a single gene that was highly homologous with the *uvrA* genes of other bacteria. Thus, the mutations in strains 302 and 262 can now be designated *uvrA1* and *uvrA2*, respectively. Historically, it has been believed that independent transformation of two mutational markers in *D. radiodurans* indicated that the mutations were in two separate genes (33), in the present case the *mtcA* and the *mtcB* genes (2, 34). This notion is consistent with observations from work with other organisms: the average size of a DNA



FIG. 7. Survival of *D. radiodurans* strains following exposures to DNA-damaging agents. Treatments were as described in Materials and Methods. (A) MM (MMC), 1 µg/ml; (B) 4NQO, 50 µg/ml; (C) Me₃psoralen, 0.6 µg/ml for variable durations followed by a fixed near-UV exposure. Symbols: black square, wildtype R1; white square, strain 302 (*mtcA*); white circle, strain 262 (*mtcB*); white triangle, strain 311 (302 Ω pS11; *mtcA*); inverted white triangle, strain 270 (262 Ω pS11; *mtcB*); black triangle, strain 322 [302 Ω pHA101(pS11::*E. coli uvrA*⁺); *mtcA*]; black circle, strain 271 [262 Ω pHA101(pS11::*E. coli uvrA*⁺); *mtcB*].

fragment incorporated into *B. subtilis*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and *H. influenzae* during natural transformation has been estimated to be 4.3, 5, and 18 kb, respectively (13, 14, 19). However, it has recently been deduced that in *D. radiodurans* the size of the piece of DNA incorporated into the recipient strain during transformation is less than 1 kb (31). Thus, two mutations in the same gene could have very low-level or absent cotransformation efficiency. Transformation data obtained in this study indicate that the mutations in *mtcA* and *mtcB* are at least 0.9 kb and as much as 3.1 kb distant, as indicated by the ability to transform *mtcA* with pHA15b.1 and *mtcB* with pHA17 (Fig. 1).

Structural features of the D. radiodurans UvrA protein. In addition to the high homology of D. radiodurans UvrA protein and E. coli UvrA, there are striking similarities at particular small functional domains of critical importance that have been defined by mutagenesis studies of the E. coli UvrA protein. The two Walker A-type ATP binding consensus sequences, $G-X_3-GKT(S)-X_6-I(L)$ (24, 53) are completely conserved (Fig. 3), consonant with findings that both ATPase sites in E. coli UvrA have functional roles in nucleotide excision repair (50). The 20-aa helix-turn-helix motif in the midportion of the protein is very highly conserved (Fig. 3), also consistent with the observation that mutations in this motif in E. coli UvrA protein eliminate its specificity for UV-damaged DNA (54). E. coli UvrA contains two zinc finger consensus sequences (CXXCX₁₈₋₂₀CXXC [6]), each of which coordinates a zinc atom by bonding to the four cysteines (36). Zinc fingers are implicated in DNA binding (6). The C-terminal zinc finger in UvrA is fully conserved in D. radiodurans, consistent with sitespecific mutagenesis studies of E. coli UvrA that indicate that this zinc finger is necessary for UvrA protein to bind DNA (52, 55). The N-terminal zinc finger is not fully conserved in D. radiodurans, lacking a cysteine residue at aa 262. However, the function of the N-terminal zinc finger in E. coli UvrA is unknown, since site-specific mutagenesis studies of this zinc finger show modest or no changes in UvrA function or cellular survival (36, 52, 55). Thus, the meaning of this variation at the N-terminal zinc finger motif in *D. radiodurans* is uncertain.

The fact that the E. coli UvrA protein can fully or partially complement the repair defect in uvrA D. radiodurans (Fig. 7) is remarkable, in that it implies that E. coli UvrA is interacting with a hypothetical *D. radiodurans* UvrB to form the UvrA₂ \breve{B} complex integral to the UvrABC pathway (8, 18, 40). On the basis of studies of serial deletion mutants, it is believed that the first 230 aa of E. coli UvrA contains the minimal region necessary for interactions with UvrB (8). Within this region, we find that extremely high identity and similarity exist for the first 120 aa of E. coli and D. radiodurans UvrA, as well as high identity with the corresponding region of the M. luteus UvrA. Similarity among these sequences on the same order does not occur again until approximately aa 500. This leads us to suggest that the first 120 aa may form the interface between UvrA₂ and UvrB and that the failure of E. coli UvrA to fully complement uvrA D. radiodurans with respect to survival to MM and Me₃psoralen plus near UV (Fig. 7) may be due to suboptimal conformation for the requisite interface between UvrA₂ and UvrB.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Oleg Kovalsky, Lawrence Grossman, and Aziz Sancar for the generous gifts of UvrA protein and anti-UvrA antibody. This work was supported by USUHS grant RO74FM.

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