

Sequences of the bovine and yeast ADP-ribosylation factor and comparison to other GTP-binding proteins

(cholera toxin)

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ABSTRACT The ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF) is a 21-kDa GTP-binding protein that serves as the cofactor in the cholera toxin-catalyzed activation of the stimulatory guanine nucleotide-binding protein of adenylate cyclase (G_s). An oligonucleotide probe based on the partial amino acid sequence was used to clone ARF from a bovine adrenal chromaffin cDNA library. The yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) ARF gene was then cloned from a YCp50 genomic library by cross-species hybridization by using the coding region of the bovine gene. RNA gel blots of poly(A)⁺ RNA indicate that only one ARF message size (900 and 2000 base pairs) is present in yeast and cows, respectively. Comparison of the cDNA-derived amino acid sequences of ARF to other GTP-binding proteins reveals a structural relationship between ARF and the ras family of proteins. A slightly better structural relationship is detected when ARF is compared to the α subunits of the trimeric GTP-binding proteins, including $G_{s\alpha}$. All of the biochemical characteristics of the purified ARF, including the lack of GTPase activity and the posttranslational myristoylation, are consistent with the derived sequences. Comparison of the ARF sequences to that of the chicken processed pseudogene (CPS-1), previously reported as a ras homologue, reveals that CPS-1 is actually an ARF-derived gene. These results demonstrate that ARF is a GTP-binding protein with structural features of both the ras and the trimeric GTP-binding protein families.

Covalent modification (ADP-ribosylation) of the stimulatory guanine nucleotide-binding protein of adenylate cyclase (G_s) by cholera toxin results in the irreversible activation of adenylate cyclase (1). Efficient intoxication of purified G_s has been shown to require another GTP-binding protein found in both membrane (2) and cytosolic (3) fractions. The activity of the ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF) is that of a cofactor, which is in turn regulated by GTP. The working model for the toxin reaction includes the rate-limiting binding of GTP to ARF, which allows its interaction with G_s to form the GTP-ARF- $G_{s\alpha}$ complex (where $G_{s\alpha}$ is the α subunit of G_s), the presumed substrate for cholera toxin (4). Thus, ARF appears to interact with at least one component of the adenylate cyclase complex. ARF is a protein found in every eukaryotic cell examined so far, including man, yeast, and slime mold. It is present in high abundance ($\approx 1\%$ of cell protein) in brain tissue. The occurrence of ARF in such a diverse array of organisms suggests another, more fundamental, role in cellular physiology. Such a role has not yet been identified.

Studies on the regulation of adenylate cyclase activity and visual transduction in the retina led to the identification of a family of trimeric GTP-binding regulatory proteins (G proteins) (5, 6). Members of the G protein family include G_s and G_i , the stimulatory and inhibitory proteins of adenylate

cyclase, respectively; G_o , of unknown function; and G_t , also called transducin, the activator of the light-sensitive phosphodiesterase in the retina. The α subunit of each G protein is distinct and contains a single high-affinity binding site for guanine nucleotides. It is likely that each of these membrane proteins acts as a transducer of information between the cell and the external milieu. These functions have been reviewed elsewhere (6, 7).

The ras genes all code for 21-kDa GTP-binding proteins, termed p21 (8). The ras gene family is composed of three members, termed Ha-ras, Ki-ras, and N-ras, which are expressed to different extents in different tissues and cell types. Viral or activated forms of p21 can cause transformation in cultured cells and have been detected in an estimated 20% of human tumors (9). Work on these oncogenes has led to the identification of normal cellular homologues of the ras genes, which are present in all eukaryotic cells examined. Ras proteins are thought to function as signal transducers although the activators and effectors of ras activity have yet to be identified. In the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the protein products of the RAS genes appear to regulate adenylate cyclase (10).

In addition to these two well-defined families of GTP-binding proteins, a number of related genes have more recently been described that share structural features common to the ras proteins. These genes include rho (11), ypt (12), ral (13), and R-ras (14). These genes have all been cloned, and primary sequences of the proteins they encode have been determined. The structural relationships between members of the ras family and the G protein family have been described (15-17). This relationship is limited to short stretches of sequence that are known to be involved in the binding of guanine nucleotides.

As both ARF and ras-encoded p21 have tenuous functional relationships with the adenylate cyclase system and are 21-kDa GTP-binding proteins, it has been suggested that a structural or functional relationship may exist. However, the purified proteins are immunologically distinct, and ras proteins have no activity in the ARF assay (31). To further determine the relationship between ARF and other members of the superfamily of GTP-binding regulatory proteins, we have cloned and sequenced ARF from two different species.* Comparison of the predicted amino acid sequence of ARF to those of the other GTP-binding proteins reveals that ARF is

Abbreviations: ARF, ADP-ribosylation factor; G protein, guanine nucleotide-binding regulatory protein; G_s and G_i , G proteins that mediate stimulation and inhibition, respectively, of adenylate cyclase; G_o , a G protein of unknown function; G_t , a G protein (transducin) that activates the light-sensitive phosphodiesterase in the retina; $G_{i\alpha}$ and $G_{s\alpha}$, the α subunits of G_i and G_s , respectively.

*The sequences reported in this paper are being deposited in the EMBL/GenBank data base (IntelliGenetics, Mountain View, CA, and Eur. Mol. Biol. Lab., Heidelberg) (accession nos. J03275, bovine; J03276, yeast).

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the only protein with a significant relationship to both the ras and G protein families.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Reagents. Synthetic oligonucleotides, used both for screening the cDNA library and as primers in the sequencing reactions, were the generous gift of Michael Brownstein (Laboratory of Cell Biology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD). They were synthesized on an Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA) model 380A oligonucleotide synthesizer. The bovine adrenal chromaffin cell cDNA library was constructed by Lee Eiden and Anna Iacangelo (Laboratory of Cell Biology, National Institutes of Health) in the Okayama-Berg vector. The yeast genomic library, which utilized the YCp50 vector, was constructed (18) and supplied by Mark Rose (Princeton University, Princeton, NJ). Sequencing was performed by using the dideoxy chain termination method of Sanger *et al.* (19) with deoxyadenosine 5'-[γ - 32 S]thio]triphosphate. Protein sequences were analyzed by using the ALIGN program (20). A gap penalty of 25 was used after empirically determining the optimal alignments for members of each family and minimizing random, single residue identities. No qualitative differences result from assigning a lower gap penalty.

Screening of Libraries. All hybridization protocols were performed in hybridization buffer containing $6 \times$ SSC ($1 \times = 150$ mM NaCl/15 mM sodium citrate, pH 7), $5 \times$ Denhardt's solution ($5 \times = 0.1\%$ Ficoll/0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone/0.1% bovine serum albumin), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.5), 0.1% sodium dodecylsulfate, 100 μ g of tRNA per ml, 100 μ g of herring sperm DNA per ml, 1 mM sodium pyrophosphate, and 0–50% (vol/vol) formamide. Approximately 4×10^5 colonies were screened with a 47-base-pair (bp) oligonucleotide. The original screening was performed in buffer containing 20% formamide at 37°C. Filters were washed at room temperature in $0.2 \times$ SSC/0.1% sodium dodecylsulfate/0.05% sodium pyrophosphate (wash buffer). The final screening utilized more stringent washing conditions ($1 \times$ SSC at 65°C).

The yeast genomic library was screened by cross-species hybridization with the 700-bp *Pst* I–*Pst* I fragment from the bovine cDNA, which includes all of the coding region of bovine ARF. Hybridizations were done in buffer containing 50% formamide at 25°C, and filters were washed in wash buffer at 37°C.

Hybridizations for DNA and RNA gel blotting were performed in buffer containing 50% formamide at 42°C and washed in wash buffer at 56°C, unless otherwise indicated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cloning the Bovine ARF cDNA. Purified peptides, generated by cyanogen bromide digestion of purified bovine brain ARF, were sequenced as previously described (31). Three peptides representing approximately one-third of the protein (59 residues) were sequenced. Based on the sequence of one of these peptides (Met-Val-Gly-Leu-Asp-Ala-Ala-Gly-Lys-Thr-Trp-Ile-Leu-Tyr-Lys-Leu), a synthetic oligonucleotide of 47 bp with an 8-fold degeneracy (AGCTTGTA_CGAGGATCCAG_ATCTTGCCAGCAGCATC_CAGGCCAC-CAT) was used to screen a bovine adrenal chromaffin cell cDNA library. Four independent clones each containing inserts of ≈ 2000 bp were obtained in this manner. Three of the clones had identical restriction maps, and the fourth was similar but lacked ≈ 150 bp at the 5' end. One of the longer

clones (pARF1) was selected for DNA sequencing. The restriction map and sequencing scheme are depicted in Fig. 1A. The cDNA sequence and translated open reading frame are shown in Fig. 1B. The cDNA sequence begins immediately after the guanosine tail used in the construction of the Okayama-Berg library and ends a short distance before the poly(A) tail. DNA sequencing was not possible 3' to the *Acc* I site presumably due to the presence of the poly(A) tail. The long open reading frame in pARF1 codes for a protein with 181 amino acids having a calculated molecular mass of 20,699 Da. The proposed initiating methionine conforms well to the consensus sequence for eukaryotic initiation sites (21). The presence of all three peptide sequences, obtained by protein sequencing, in the cDNA-derived amino acid sequence confirms the identity of the cDNA as that of ARF. One would predict only the three peptides previously described to result from cyanogen bromide digestion of the protein sequence shown in Fig. 1B.

The 700-bp *Pst* I–*Pst* I fragment of pARF1 includes the entire coding region of bovine ARF (see Fig. 1A). Oligo(dT)-selected RNA from bovine adrenal chromaffin cells was hybridized with the labeled *Pst* I–*Pst* I fragment in RNA gel blots. A single band of about 2000 bp was observed, which was not seen in the poly(A)⁻ RNA (not shown). Thus, it is likely that the inserts are full length.

Cloning the Yeast ARF Gene. The yeast ARF gene was obtained by cross-species hybridization using the 700-bp *Pst* I–*Pst* I fragment of the bovine ARF gene to screen a genomic yeast library constructed in the YCp50 vector. Each of the positive clones obtained in this screening included the restriction map shown in Fig. 1C as part of the insert. The sequencing strategy and location of the coding region of clone yARF1 are also shown in Fig. 1C, and the DNA and translated protein sequences are shown in Fig. 1D. The open reading frame codes for a protein with 181 amino acids and a predicted molecular mass of 20,532 Da. The proposed translation initiation start site is similar to other eukaryotic start regions, including an adenosine at position -3, a guanosine at +4, and a ribosylthymine at +6 (21). The 5' untranslated region contains four TATAA regions, at positions -34, -100, -223, and -418.

The 660-bp *Sst* I–*Xba* I fragment from yARF1 was used as a probe of RNA gel blots. Gel blots of oligo(dT)-selected yeast RNA revealed a single band at ≈ 900 bp.

As the bovine and yeast ARF proteins are each 181 amino acids in length, alignment of proteins and nucleic acids in the coding region was straightforward. Nucleic acid sequences of the coding regions are 65% identical (352 out of 543). At the amino acid level, the two ARF proteins share 76.8% (139 out of 181) identity, with many conservative substitutions (see Fig. 3). The extent of the identities between yeast and bovine ARF is greater than that for the other GTP-binding proteins having homologues in both yeast and higher eukaryotes (ras, rho, or G _{α} /GPA1).

Structural Features of ARF. ARF is the only known GTP-binding protein with a significant structural relationship to both the G protein α subunit and ras families. A more extensive relationship is seen between ARF and the α subunits of the G proteins than with the other 21-kDa GTP-binding proteins. However, the extent of the relationship is not sufficient to classify ARF as a member of either family of proteins. The significance of this level of structural relationship, intermediate between two defined families, is of undetermined significance as far as function or evolutionary origin of ARF.

These relationships can be detected by examination of the aligned sequences, as seen in Fig. 2, or by more complex algorithms, such as the ALIGN program used to generate the data in Table 1. ARF contains regions homologous to all four of the conserved regions identified by Halliday (23) for

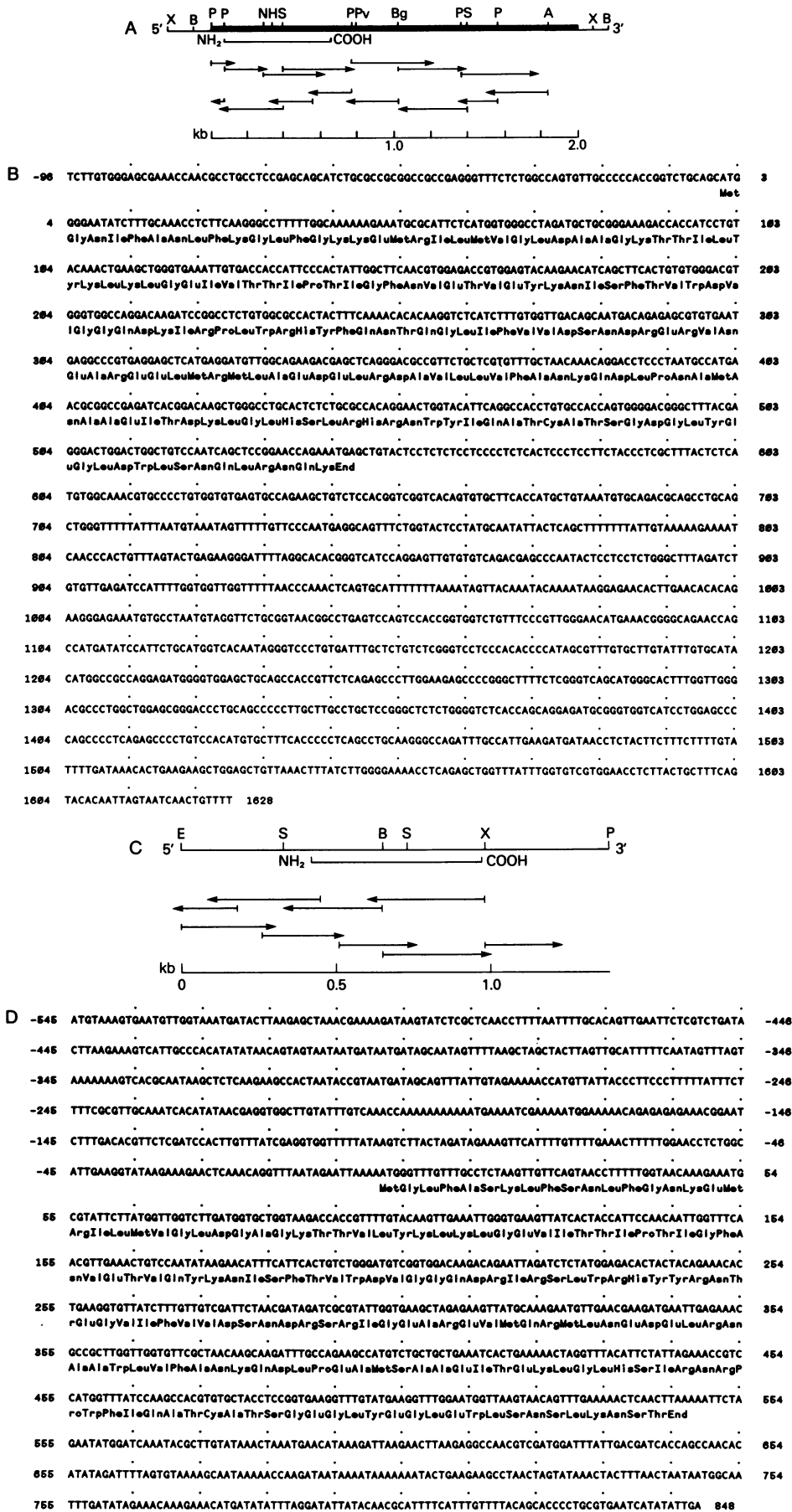


Fig. 1. (Legend appears at the bottom of the opposite page.)

I

Gta	33	LLLGAGESGRSTIVKQMR	50
Gia	37	LLLGAGESGKSTIVKQMR	54
Goa	37	LLLGAGESGKSTIVKQMR	54
Gsa	44	LLLGAGESGKSTIVKQMR	61
ARF	21	LVVGLDAAAGKTTILYKIK	38
H-RAS	6	VVVGAGGVGKSAITIQLI	23
RHO	14	VVVGAGAGGTCLLIVFS	31
YPT	12	LLVNSGVGKSCLLLRFS	29
RAL	18	LVVSGGVGKSAITLQFM	35

II

ARF	46	LEPTIG	50
H-RAS	33	DEPTIE	37
RHO	40	VETIV	44
YPT	38	ISTIG	42
RAL	44	DEPTIK	48

III

Gta	192	FRMFVGGQRSEKKNHCFEGVTCITF	219
Gia	196	FKMFDVGGQRSEKKNHCFEGVTATIF	223
Goa	197	FRLFDVGGQRSEKKNHCFEDVTATIF	224
Gsa	219	FHMFDVGGQRSEKKNHCFNDVTATIF	246
ARF	63	FTVMDVGGQDKIRPLRHYFQNTQGLTF	90
H-RAS	53	LDIITAGQEEYSAMRDQMRTEGFLC	80
RHO	61	LALWDTAGQEDYDRLRPLSYPDNVVLI	88
YPT	59	LQIWDTAGQERFRTITSSVYRGSHLII	86
RAL	64	IDIITAGQEDYAAIRDNMFVRSGEFLC	91

IV

ARF	158	TCAT	161
Gta	320	TCAT	323
Gia	324	TCAT	327
Goa	324	TCAT	327
Gsa	364	TCAT	367

V

Gta	262	LFVNRKDV	269
Gia	266	LFVNRKDL	273
Goa	267	LFVNRKDL	274
Gsa	289	LFVNRKDL	296
ARF	123	LVGNKCDL	130
H-RAS	113	LVGNKCDL	120
RHO	120	LVGCKVDL	127
YPT	118	LVGNKCDL	125
RAL	124	LVGNKSDL	131

FIG. 2. Alignment of regions of bovine ARF and eight other GTP-binding proteins. Amino acid identities between ARF and at least three other proteins are boxed. Alignments were made with the aid of the ALIGN program. G_{1α} and G_{0α}, the α subunits of G₁ and G₀, respectively. Amino acids are identified by the single-letter code.

GTP-binding proteins. Group I in Fig. 2 shows the alignment of the different proteins around the first GTP-binding domain, which is known to be involved in controlling the rate of GTP hydrolysis. Asp-26 of ARF corresponds to Gly-12 of ras proteins, which is an important determinant of GTPase activity and transformation potency (24). The lack of a glycine at this position is found only in ypt and ARF and may explain the lack of GTPase activity of purified ARF (4). Regions II and IV show the alignment of the ARF sequence with those in p21s or the G protein α subunits, respectively. In these cases, there is no region in the G protein α subunits that corresponds to region II and no region in the p21s that corresponds to region IV. These two regions are of interest because region II has been implicated as a potential effector binding region in ras proteins, and region IV contains the only cysteine in the ARF sequence. Region III shows the longest stretch of conservation without any gaps. Included in this region is the sequence Asp-Val-Gly-Gly-Gln, which is absolutely conserved in all of the G proteins and ARF. This region

bARF	MGNIFAMFKLFGKEMRILMVGLDAAAGKTTILYKIKLGEVMTTIPTIG	50
yARF	MGLFASKLFSNLFGNKEMRILMVGLDAAAGKTTILYKIKLGEVMTTIPTIG	50
CPS1	MCKVLSKTFIIGNKEMRILMVGLDAAAGKTTILYKIKLGEVMTTIPTIG	46

bARF	FNVETVYKKNISFTVMDVGGQDKIRPLRHYFQNTQGLIFVVDSDNRIRV	100
yARF	FNVETVYKKNISFTVMDVGGQDKIRPLRHYFQNTQGLIFVVDSDNRIRV	100
CPS1	FNVETVYKKNISFTVMDVGGQDKIRPLRHYFQNTQGLIFVVDSDNRIRV	96

bARF	NEAREELMRMLAEDELRDVLLVFANKQDLPEAMAAEITIKLGLHSLRH	150
yARF	GEAREVMQRMLEDELRDAAMLVFANKQDLPEAMAAEITIKLGLHSLRH	150
CPS1	DEARELHRTINDREDAITLVFANKQDLPEAMKPHETDEKLGITRID	146

bARF	RNHWYIQTACATSGDGLYEGLDWLSNLDLNRK	181
yARF	RENFIQTACATSGEGLYEGLEWLSNLSLNST	181
CPS1	RNHWYMQSCATITGDGLYEGLTWLSNYS	175

FIG. 3. Alignment of predicted primary sequences of bovine and yeast ARF and the chicken processed pseudogene CPS-1. Amino acid identities are boxed. Amino acids are identified by the single-letter code.

aligns with the sequence Asp-Thr-Ala-Gly-Gln, which is absolutely conserved in all forms of the ras proteins and all of the other 21-kDa GTP-binding proteins described to date. ARF lacks the cysteine near the carboxyl terminus, present in most of the other GTP-binding proteins, which is the site of both palmitoylation of p21s and ADP-ribosylation by pertussis toxin in all of the α subunits of the G proteins except G_s. Each ARF sequence contains a single potential glycosylation site (Asn-Xaa-Ser/Thr) at residues 60–62.

ARF also contains the consensus sequence for amino-terminal myristoylation (Met_{init}-Gly-Xaa-Xaa-Xaa-Ser/Ala/Thr) (25). Of the GTP-binding proteins mentioned above, only G₀, G₁ (26, 27), and ARF are known to contain myristic acid as an amino-terminal blocking group. These are also the only GTP-binding proteins listed that contain the consensus sequence. This type of acylation has been shown to be functionally important (28, 29), although the specific role of the fatty acid in cellular localization or enzyme activity has not been demonstrated directly.

Although the conservation of the GTP-binding sites has been described (15–17), the results shown in Table 1 suggest that no significant relationship exists between members of the G protein and ras families when the whole protein is scored. Another point emerging from this analysis is that the *rho*, *ypt*, *ral*, and *R-ras* genes code for proteins that align better than ARF with the ras family of proteins but not as well as the three ras members do among themselves.

ARF-Related Sequences. Analysis of several computer data bases for ARF-related sequences failed to produce more related sequences than those already discussed. However, a review of the literature located a processed pseudogene from chicken termed CPS-1 (30). Bovine ARF and CPS-1 share 74.1% amino acid identity over the entire length of the sequences with only one gap near the amino terminus (Fig. 3). Thus, CPS-1 is much more closely related to ARF than to either the α subunits of the G proteins or ras proteins. It is probable that CPS-1 is a processed ARF pseudogene. Since the CPS-1 sequence retains a similar degree of identity throughout the length of the sequence, it is likely that CPS-1 represents a close homologue of the expressed chicken ARF.

FIG. 1 (on opposite page). Restriction maps and sequences of bovine and yeast ARF. The restriction maps of pARF1 (A) and yARF1 (C) are shown. Arrows indicate the direction and lengths of DNA sequences determined. kb, Kilobase; X, *Xba* I; B, *Bam*HI; P, *Pst* I; N, *Nar* I; H, *Hinc*II; S, *Sau*3A; Pv, *Pvu* II; Bg, *Bgl* II; A, *Acc* I; E, *Eco*RI. The coding regions are shown with amino and carboxyl termini indicated. The nucleic acid sequences and translated coding regions of pARF1 (B) and yARF1 (D) are also shown.

Table 1. Comparisons of the amino acid sequences of GTP-binding proteins in terms of their alignment scores by using the ALIGN program

	bARF	yARF	G _s	G _i	G _o	G _t	rho	ypt	ral	R-ras	yRAS	Ha-ras	Ki-ras
bARF		84.50	9.26	14.15	10.34	10.83	6.80	8.99	6.42	8.31	6.06	7.14	8.27
yARF	84.50		10.98	11.84	11.92	9.15	6.45	11.02	8.23	5.58	7.16	6.51	5.82
G _s	9.26	10.98		55.86	62.92	72.55	0.91	1.72	0.21	1.90	0.77	2.24	2.27
G _i	14.15	11.84	55.86		137.47	125.84	0.27	0.18	-0.06	3.30	2.42	2.03	2.09
G _o	10.34	11.92	62.92	137.47		114.74	3.24	-0.32	1.87	2.79	1.59	3.26	3.28
G _t	10.83	9.15	72.55	125.84	114.74		0.81	1.07	2.04	3.22	1.19	1.96	1.62
rho	6.80	6.45	0.91	0.27	3.24	0.81		21.74	19.14	24.84	22.61	20.15	21.03
ypt	8.99	11.02	1.72	0.18	-0.32	1.07	21.74		29.98	28.11	29.91	24.19	37.58
ral	6.42	8.23	0.21	-0.06	1.87	2.04	19.14	29.98		53.41	47.28	66.98	48.50
R-ras	8.31	5.58	1.90	3.30	2.79	3.22	24.84	28.11	53.41		63.80	58.39	61.05
yRAS	6.06	7.16	0.77	2.42	1.59	1.19	22.61	29.91	47.28	63.80		61.95	57.67
Ha-ras	7.14	6.51	2.24	2.03	3.26	1.96	20.15	24.19	66.98	58.39	61.95		98.69
Ki-ras	8.27	5.82	2.27	2.09	3.28	1.62	21.03	37.58	48.50	61.05	57.67	98.69	

The ALIGN program first determines the optimal alignment and match score by using a version of the algorithm of Needleman and Wunsch (22). Numbers shown are alignment scores in standard deviation units as calculated by taking the difference between the match score and the average match score for 100 random permutations of the two sequences being compared and dividing by the standard deviation of the random scores. A gap penalty of 25 was used with a matrix bias parameter of 0. Boxes are drawn around clusters of similar scores to facilitate viewing only. It has been empirically determined that scores below three are generally considered not significant, whereas those above six are probably significant. bARF, bovine ARF; yARF, yeast ARF; yRAS, yeast RAS.

Note Added in Proof. A second ARF gene, ARF2, has recently been cloned from yeast. The amino acid sequence, the size of the message, and the restriction map are well conserved between ARF1 and ARF2.

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