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**The complete nucleotide sequence of a common cold virus: human rhinovirus 14**

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**ABSTRACT**

The complete nucleotide sequence of the single-stranded RNA genome of human rhinovirus 14, one of the causative agents of the common cold, has been determined from cDNA cloned in *E. coli*. The genome is typical of the picornaviridae family, comprising a 5' non-coding region of 624 nucleotides, a long open reading frame of 6537 nucleotides (90.8 % of the genome) and a 3' non-coding region of 47 nucleotides. Comparison of the nucleotide sequence and the predicted amino acid sequence with those of the polioviruses reveals a surprising degree of homology which may allow recognition of regions of antigenic importance and prediction of the virus polyprotein cleavage sites. The results presented here imply a closer genetic relationship between the rhinovirus and enterovirus genera than previously suspected.

**INTRODUCTION**

Human rhinoviruses are the major causative agents of the upper respiratory tract infections collectively known as the common cold, one of the most common virus infections of man (1). The high incidence of the disease can be explained, at least partially, by the fact that several of the 115 immunologically distinct known rhinovirus serotypes can co-circulate within a community (2,3). Since this serotype diversity effectively precludes a vaccination program based on conventional methods, the elucidation of its molecular basis is one of the most important problems in rhinovirus research.

Rhinoviruses, including human rhinoviruses, form one genus of the family picornaviridae (4). They share the common features of this family, namely a 25nm capsid of icosohedral symmetry, made up of 60 copies of each of 4 virus coded proteins (VP1-4) and enclosing a single-stranded RNA genome of approximately 7500 nucleotides (5-7). The RNA is of positive polarity, is poly-adenylated at its 3' terminus and has a small protein, VPg, covalently attached to the 5' terminus (8,9). The genomes of representatives of each of the other three genera of picornaviridae, enterovirus (10-14), aphthovirus

(15), and coronavirus (16), have been sequenced, but to date no complete sequence of a rhinovirus genome has been published. As part of a study into the molecular basis of serotype diversity of rhinoviruses, we have determined the complete nucleotide sequence of human rhinovirus 14 (HRV-14). The sequence presented here allows comparisons to be made between each of the picornaviridae genera and our results indicate that HRV-14 is closely related to the enteroviruses.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Virus

Human rhinovirus 14 (HRV-14), obtained from the MRC Common Cold Unit, Salisbury, U.K., was propagated at 33°C in Ohio HeLa cells grown in roller tubes. The virus was purified by adding 1% NP40 to the cleared tissue culture supernatant and centrifuging (100,000g, 4hours) through a 15-45% sucrose gradient.

#### Molecular cloning

The purification of RNA from HRV-14 and the cloning of cDNA.RNA hybrids into *E.coli* JA221 were as described previously (17,18). Transformants of phenotype Tet<sup>r</sup>Amp<sup>s</sup> were tested for the presence of HRV-14 specific cDNA by hybridization using the method of Grunstein and Hogness (19). Initially, a radioactive probe was synthesized by using random oligonucleotides, generated by DNaseI digestion of salmon sperm DNA, to prime reverse transcription of HRV-14 RNA. Subsequently, probes were produced by labelling cDNA by nick translation.

#### Nucleotide Sequence Analysis

Five overlapping cDNAs, together representing the entire genome of HRV-14, were excised from the plasmid vector pAT 153 with PstI and the virus specific fragments isolated. The cDNA fragment representing the 3' terminus was sub-cloned into PstI-digested M13 mp9. The four remaining fragments were each circularized by ligation and then sheared by sonication. The random fragments thus generated were end-repaired by treatment with T<sub>4</sub> DNA polymerase I and fractionated on a 1.5% agarose gel. DNA in the size range 300-1000 base pairs was electroeluted, sub-cloned into SmaI-digested, phosphatase-treated M13 mp8 and sequenced by the dideoxynucleotide method (20,21).

Nucleotide sequence data thus obtained were collated and assembled with the aid of a Digital PDP 11/44 computer using programs developed by Staden (22).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Molecular Cloning**

RNA extracted from HRV-14 was analyzed by gel electrophoresis on a 1% agarose gel and shown to consist of a discrete band corresponding to full length RNA, although considerable degradation was also observed (data not shown). An estimated 1.5µg of this material was reverse transcribed, yielding 350ng of cDNA. After dC-homopolymeric tailing of the cDNA.RNA hybrid molecules, 40% of the material (140ng of cDNA) was annealed to 300ng of dG-tailed, PstI-cut pAT 153 and used to transform competent *E.coli* JA221. 674 colonies of phenotype Tet<sup>r</sup> Amp<sup>s</sup> were produced, equivalent to 1.1x10<sup>3</sup> /µg of RNA. This result is typical for the cloning of RNA virus genomes using this method when *E.coli* JA221, with a routine transformation efficiency of 5x10<sup>5</sup>/µg of supercoiled pAT 153, is used as the host strain (17,18).

Analysis of the colonies by filter hybridization, using the randomly-primed cDNA probe prepared as described in Methods, identified the clones pAM 1-4 and pAM 6-9 represented in Fig.1 (in addition to several others not shown). These were positioned relative to each other by cross hybridization and restriction enzyme mapping and were found to overlap to give a contiguous stretch of DNA approximately 7200 nucleotides in length. The orientation of the cloned DNA was determined by using a cDNA probe enriched for 3' sequences (17). pAM 4 was found, by sequence analysis, to terminate short of the 3' terminus since it did not contain a poly A tract. When pAM 5, selected on the basis of its hybridization with the 3'-enriched

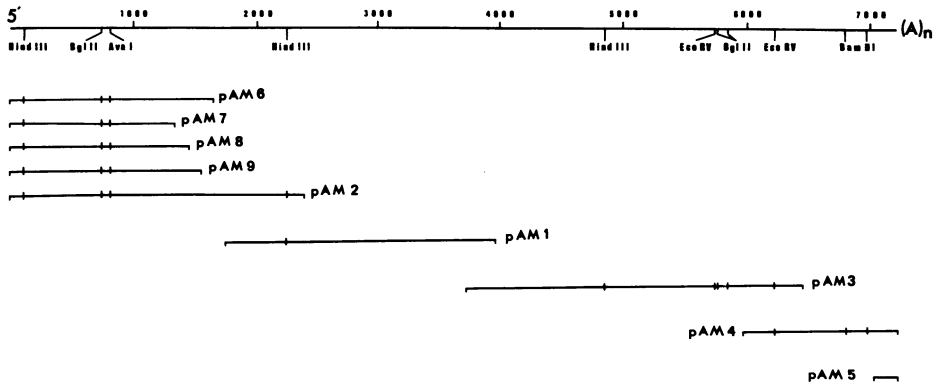


Figure 1. Overlapping cDNA clones produced by the cDNA.RNA method, spanning the genome of HRV-14. pAM 6-9 terminate at the same point, presumed to be the 5' terminus. pAM 1-5 were used to determine the complete genome sequence.

probe, was sequenced, it was found to contain a poly A tract of 20 residues and was therefore deemed to include the 3' terminus. Five of the clones analyzed were found, by restriction enzyme mapping, to form a nested set at the 5' terminus of the cDNA. Sequence analysis revealed that these terminated at a point, which by its extensive homology with poliovirus (the final 10 bases are identical [10-14]) was presumed to be the 5' terminus of the genome.

### Nucleotide sequencing

The majority of the nucleotide sequence of the cloned cDNA was determined from the clones pAM 1-4. The sequence of the 3' terminal 15 bases was obtained from pAM 5. The complete genome sequence of HRV-14, together with the predicted amino acid sequence of the major open reading frame is presented in Fig.2 (protein nomenclature is in accordance with the L434 system proposed by Rueckert and Wimmer [23]). The nucleotide sequence was derived from 140 individual gel readings and approximately 75% of the genome was sequenced in both orientations. Other regions were sequenced at least twice and contained no compressions or otherwise ambiguous regions. In addition, comparison with the other picornaviruses completely sequenced in our laboratory provided a useful reading frame check (13,14,unpublished). We are therefore confident that the presented sequence is accurate. The HRV-14 genome consists of 7208 nucleotides plus a 3' poly A tract previously estimated to be 74-150 residues in length (8,24-26). The overall proportion of the nucleotides is A=32.1%, C=20.2%, G=20.4% and T=27.3%.

### Comparison with other picornaviruses

The presented nucleotide sequence allows detailed comparisons with representatives of the other genera of picornaviridae. There is no detectable nucleotide sequence homology with encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV)(16) or foot-and-mouth-disease virus (FMDV)(15) but the genome is highly homologous to all 3 serotypes of poliovirus, members of the enterovirus genus (10-14). The similarity to these viruses implies that the genome organization is identical and that the corresponding viral proteins are closely related. A schematic representation of the HRV-14 genome, based on this comparison is shown in Fig.3. In the following discussion, the comparisons refer to poliovirus type 3 (13,14), although similar conclusions could be drawn from comparisons with either of the other two serotypes.

The 5' terminal region of the genome is of unknown function but by analogy with the polioviruses this region is presumed to be non-coding (10). This is the first nucleotide sequence to be presented for the 5' region of a

TTAAAACA6666TATCCCACCATTCCGACCATTG666TGTAGTACTCTG6TACTGTG6TACTGTACCTTTGTACG6CTGTCTCCCAACACACCTTCCTTAAATTTCCACCCATGAAC  
10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110 120

6TTAGA6CTT6ACATTAAGTACAATAAGT666C6CCATAATCCAATG66TGTCTATGTACAA6CACCTTCTGTTTTCC666G66A66TATAG66CTGTACCCACT6CCAAA66CCTTTAACC  
130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 210 220 230 240

6TTATCG6CCAAACAACGTAACAGTTAGTACCATCTT6TCTT6ACT66ACGTT6CATCA66T66GATTTTCCCTCCCACTAGTTT66T6CATG666CTAG666AATTTCCCA66666T6AC  
250 260 270 280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360

6GTGTCTAGCCTG66CG66CAACAGCCTTATGCTG66AC66CCCTTTTAA66ACATG6T6TGA6GACTG6CATG6T66T6T6AGTCTC666CCCT6AAT6C666CTAACCTTAAC  
370 380 390 400 410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480

CCT66A66CCTTATGCCAC6TCCAGT66TGTAA66TGTAAATG66CAATCC66G66G666C66G66C66GACTTCTT666T6TCC66TGTCTCAATTTTCTTCTATAT6TCTTAT66T6C6ACAG  
490 500 510 520 530 540 550 560 570 580 590 600

→ **VP4**

M G A O V S T Q K S G S H E M Q N I L T N G S N Q T F T V I N Y

CATATATACATATACCTGTGATCATGG66CCTCAGGTTTCTACAGAAAAGTGGATCTCAG6AAATCAAACAATTTTGACCAATGGATCAAATCAGACTTTCCACAGTTATAAATTAC  
610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 710 720

Y K O A A S T S A G Q S L S H D P S K F T E P V K D L H L K G A P A L M S P N  
TATAAGGATGCAGCAAGTACATCAGCT66TCAATG66ACCATCTAAGTTTACAGAACCAAGTAAAGATCTCATGCTTAA66GT6CACCAG66CTTGAATTCACCCCAAT  
730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800 810 820 830 840

V E A C G Y S D R V Q O I T L G M S T I T T Q E A A M A V V C Y A E M P E Y L P  
GTTGAG66CCTG66TTATAGTATAGAGTACAACAAATCACACTCG66AATCAACAATAACAACAG66C66G66C66GACTGTTGTGTTATGCTGAAATG66C66GACTTCCCA  
850 860 870 880 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960

D V O A S D V N K T S K P D T S V C R F Y T L D S K T M T T G S K G M C W K L P  
GATG66ACGCTAGT6TCAATAAAAACCTCAAACACAGACTTCTGCTGTAG66TTTACACATTG66ATAGACATG66ACAACAG66TCAAAG66CTTAAAG66CTG66T66G66AAATTTACCA  
970 980 990 1000 1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080

D A L K D M G V F G Q N M F H S L G R S G Y T V H V Q C M A T K F H S G C L L  
GATGCACTCAAAGATAG66TGTTC66G66AAAACATGTTTTCCACTCACTAG66AAGATCAGGTTACACAGTACAGTTCAAGTGGCAATGCCAAAAATTCACAGCGTTGCTACTT  
1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200

V V V I P E H Q L A S H E G G N V S V K Y T F T H P G E R G I D L S S A M E V G  
GTA6T6TAAATACCAGAACCACTG66TTCACATG66G66TGGCAATGTTTCCAGTTAAATACACATTTCACGATTCACG66TGAAGT66T66TATAGATTTATCATCTGCAATGAA66T66GA  
1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320 1330 1340

666CCTGTCAAAGGATGTCATATACAATGAATGCTACTTTATTAGGAATCTGCTCATTTTCCCTCACCAGTTTCATTAATCTAAGAACCATAATACAGCCACAATAGTGTACCATAC  
 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440  
 I N S V P I D S M T R H N M V S L M V I P I A P L T V P T G A T P S L P I T V T  
 ATAACTCAGTACCATTGATTAATGACACGTCAACAATGCTCAGTATGCTCCTTATTCAGTACCAACTGGAGCAACTCCTCACTCCCTATAACAGTCA  
 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 156  
 I A P M C T E F S G I R S K S I V P Q G L P T T L P G S G Q F L T T D D R Q S  
 ATAGCCTATGTGCACGTGATCTGAGGATAAGGTCGAAGTCAATTTGCCAACTCAACTTTTCCGCGGGTCAAGGACAAATCTTGTGACCACAGATGACAGGCAATCC  
 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680  
 P S A L P N Y E P T P R I H I P G K V H N L L E I I Q V D T L I P H M N H T H T K  
 CCCAGTGCACGTCCAAATTATGACCACTCAAGATACACATACCAGGAAAGTTTCATACTCTAGAAATATACAGGTAGACTCATTCCTATGAAACACAGCAGCATACAAAA  
 1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800  
 D E V N S Y L I P L M A N R Q M E Q V F G T M L F I G D G V F K T T L L G E I V  
 GATGAGTTAACAGTTACCTACCTAAATGCAACAGGCAAAATGAGCAGGTTTTTGGGACAAACCTGTTTATTGGTGTGATGGGGTCTTCAAACACTCTTCTGGGTGAAAATGTT  
 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920  
 Q Y Y T H M S G S L R F S L M Y T G P A L S S A K L I L A Y T P G A R G P Q D  
 CAGTACTATACACATTGGTCTG6ATCAGATTCTCTTTGATGTACTG6TCTGCTTGTCCAGTGTAACTCATTCTAGCATAACCCCGGCTG6TCTG6TCCACAG6AC  
 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040  
 R R E A H L G T H V V W D I G L Q S T I V H T I P W T S G V Q F R Y T D P D T Y  
 AGGAGAGCAATGCTAGGTACTGTTGCTG6GATATTGGTCTGCAATCCACCATAGTAATGACAAATACCATG6GACATCAGGGGTGCACTTTAGATATACTGATCCAGATACATAC  
 2050 2060 2070 2080 2090 2100 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150 2160  
 T S A G F L S C M Y O T S L I L P P E T T G O V Y L L S F I S A C P O F K L R L  
 ACCAGTCTG6CTTTATCATGTTG6TATCAAACCTCTTATACTTCCCAAGAACGACG6GCTACTTATTATTCATTAAGTGCATG6TCCAGATTTTAAAGCTAGGCTG  
 2170 2180 2190 2200 2210 2220 2230 2240 2250 2260 2270 2280  
 H K D T O T I S Q T V A L T E G L G D E L E E V I V E K T K Q T V A S I S S G P  
 ATGAAAGATCAACTATCTACAGACTTGCACCTCACTGAAGGCTTAGG6TGAATGAGAAGATCATCGTTG6AAGAAACGAAACAG6AG6G6GCTCAATCTCATCTG6GTC  
 2290 2300 2310 2320 2330 2340 2350 2360 2370 2380 2390 2400  
 K H T O K V P I L F A M E T G A T M P V L P S D S I E T R T T Y M H F N G S E T  
 AAACACACAAAAGTCCCATACTAACTGAAACGAAACAGG6G6CACAATGCTGTTCTTCCATCAGACAGCATAGAAACAGAACTACCTACATGCACTTTAATG6TTCAGAACT  
 2410 2420 2430 2440 2450 2460 2470 2480 2490 2500 2510 2520

D V E C F L G R A A C V H V T E I Q N K D A T G I D M H R E A K L F M D W K I M  
 6ATGTAGAAATGCTTTTGGGTCGACAGCTTGTGTCATGTAACATAAACAACAAGATGCTACTG6AATAGATAATCACAGAGAAGCAAAAATTTGTCATGATTG6AAAATCAAC  
 2530 2540 2550 2560 2570 2580 2590 2600 2610 2620 2630 2640  
  
 L S S L V Q L R K K L E L F T Y V R F D S E Y T I L A T A S Q P D S A N Y S S M  
 CTGTCAGCCCTTGCCAACTTAGAAGAACAATACTTCACTTATGTTAGGTTGATTCAGTATACCATACTG6CCACTGCATCTCAACCTGATTCAGCAAACTATTCAAGCAAT  
 2650 2660 2670 2680 2690 2700 2710 2720 2730 2740 2750 2760  
  
 L V V Q A M Y V P P G A P N P K E W D D Y T M Q S A S N P S V F F K V G D T S R  
 TTG6TGGTCCAAGCCATGATTTCCACCTG6TCCCAAGTCCAAAGAGTGGGACGATTACACATG6CAAAAGTCTTCAAAACCCCAAGGATGTTCTTCAAG6T6666ATACATCAAG6  
 2770 2780 2790 2800 2810 2820 2830 2840 2850 2860 2870 2880  
  
 F S V P Y V G L A S A Y N C F Y D G Y S H D D A E T Q Y G I T V L N H M G S M A  
 TTTAGTGTCCCTTATGTAGATTGGCATCAGCATATAATGTTTTATGATGGTTACTCATGATGATGAGAACTCAGTATGGCATACTGTTCTAAACCATATGGGTAGTAGTGGCA  
 2890 2900 2910 2920 2930 2940 2950 2960 2970 2980 2990 3000  
  
 F R I V N E H D E H K T L V K I R V Y H R A K H V E A M I P R A P R A L P Y T S  
 TTCAGAAATAGTAAATGAACATGATGAACATAAAAACCTCTTGTCAAGATCAGAGTTTTATCACAG66CAAGCACGTTGAA6CATGGATTCCAAAGCACC6CAAGCAGCTACCCCTACACATCA  
 3010 3020 3030 3040 3050 3060 3070 3080 3090 3100 3110 3120  
  
 I G R T N Y P K N T E P V I K K R K G D I K S Y G L G P R Y G G I Y T S N V K I  
 ATAG66CCACAAAATTCCTAAGAAATACAGAACCAAGTAAATTAAGAGAG6AAAG6T6ACATTAATCCCTAT66TTTAA66ACCTAG6GTAC66T666ATTTATACATCAAAATGTTAAATA  
 3130 3140 3150 3160 3170 3180 3190 3200 3210 3220 3230 3240  
  
 M N Y H L M T P E D H H N L I A P Y P N R D L A I V S T G G H G A E T I P H C M  
 ATGAATTCACCTTGATGACACAGAGACACCATAATCTGATAGCACCCCTTCAAAATAGAGATTAGCAATAGTCTCAACAGGAGGACATGGTGCAGAAACAATACACACTTAAC  
 3250 3260 3270 3280 3290 3300 3310 3320 3330 3340 3350 3360  
  
 C T S G V Y Y S T Y Y R K Y Y P I I C E K P T M I M I E G N P Y Y P S R F O A G  
 TGATACAG6TGTACTTCCACATATTACAGAAAGTATTACCCCATAAATTTGTAAGAA6CCCAACCACTCTG6ATTGAA66AAACCCCTTATTACCCCAAGTAGATTCCAA6CAG6A  
 3370 3380 3390 3400 3410 3420 3430 3440 3450 3460 3470 3480  
  
 V H K G V G P A E P G D C G G I L R C I H G P I G L L T A G G S G Y V C F A D I  
 GTGATGAAG666TGGCCAGCAGAACCCAGGAGACTGG6TGGGATTTGAGATGCATAG6TCCCATGGATTTAAACAGCTGGAGG6TAGTGGATGTTGTTTCTGCTGACATA  
 3490 3500 3510 3520 3530 3540 3550 3560 3570 3580 3590 3600  
  
 R Q L E C I A E E Q G L S D Y I T G L G R A F G V G F T D Q I S T K V T E L Q E  
 CGACAGTTGGAGTGTATCGCAGAGGCAACAGGGGCTGAGTGATTACATCACAG6TTTGGGTAGAGCTTTTGGTGTGGGTTCACTGACCAAAATCTCAACAAAAGTCCACAGAACTACAGAA  
 3610 3620 3630 3640 3650 3660 3670 3680 3690 3700 3710 3720

↓ ? P2-A

↓ ?

↓ P2-B

V A K O F L T T K V L S K V V K M V S A L V I I C R N H D D L V T V T A T L A L  
 6T66CAAAGATTTCCACCAAAAAGTTTTGTCCAAAGTGGTCAAAATGGTTTCAGCTTTAGTATCATTTGCAGAAATCATGATGACTTGGTCACTGTTACG66CCACTCTAGCAGCTA  
 3730 3740 3750 3760 3770 3780 3790 3800 3810 3820 3830 3840

L G C O G S P W R F L K M Y I S K H F Q V P Y I E R Q A N D G W F R K F N D A C  
 CTTGGATGTGATCCCTCGAGATTTCTGAAAGTGTACATTTCCAAACACTTTCAGGTCCCTTACATTTGAAAGACAA6CAAATGATGGATGGTTTCAGAAAGTTTAATGATGCATGT  
 3850 3860 3870 3880 3890 3900 3910 3920 3930 3940 3950 3960

N A A K G L E W I A N K I S K L I E W I K N K V L P Q A K E K L E F C S K L K Q  
 AAT6CTGAAAG6GATGG6ATGGATTGCTAATAAGATTTCCAAACTGATGAAAGTAAACAAAGTACTTCCCAAGCCAAAGAAAAGTAACTAGAAATTTTGTAGTAAACTCAAAACA  
 3970 3980 3990 4000 4010 4020 4030 4040 4050 4060 4070 4080

L D I L E R Q I T M H I S N P T Q E K R E O L F N N V L W L E O M S Q K F A P  
 CTTTATAGAGACAAAATAACACCATTGCTATCTCGAATCCAAACACAGAAAACGAGACAGTTGTTCAACACACTGTTGGTTG66AAACAAATGTCGCAAAAAGTTTGGCCCA  
 4090 4100 4110 4120 4130 4140 4150 4160 4170 4180 4190 4200

L Y A V E S K R I R E L K N K M V N Y M Q F K S K Q R I E P V C V L I H G T P G  
 CTTTATGCCGTTGAATCAAAAAGAAATCAG66AACTCAAGAACAAAATGGTAAATATATGCAATTTAAAAGTAAACAAAGAAATTTGAACAGCTGTGTGTTAATCCATGGTACACCCCGT  
 4210 4220 4230 4240 4250 4260 4270 4280 4290 4300 4310 4320

S G K S L T T S I V G R A I A E H F N S A V Y S L P P O P K H F D G Y Q Q O E V  
 TCTG6TAAATCAATCAACATCCATTTG666AGCTGCAATTCAGAACACTTCAATTCAGCAGTATATTCACCTCCACCAGATCCCAAGCAGCTTTGATGGTTATCAGCAACAG66AAGTT  
 4330 4340 4350 4360 4370 4380 4390 4400 4410 4420 4430 4440

V I M D D L N Q N P D G Q D I S M F C O M V S S V D F L P P M A S L D N K G M L  
 GTGATTTGGATGATCGAACAAAATCCAGATGGACAGGATATAAGCATGTTTTGTCAAATGGTTCTTCAGTGGATTTCTG66CCTCAATGGCTAGTTAGATAACAG66GCATGTTA  
 4450 4460 4470 4480 4490 4500 4510 4520 4530 4540 4550 4560

F T S N F V L A S T N S N T L S P T I L N P E A L V R R F G F D L D I C L H T  
 TTCACCAATATTTTGTAGCTCCACAAATTAACACACTAAGCCCAACAACTTGAATCCCTG66AGCTTTAGTCAGGAGATTTGGTTTTGACCTG66ATATATGTTGGCATACT  
 4570 4580 4590 4600 4610 4620 4630 4640 4650 4660 4670 4680

T Y T K N G K L M A G M S T K T C K D C H Q P S M F K K C C P L V C G K A I S L  
 ACCTACAAAAGATG66AACTCAATG66CAG6CATGTCACCAAGACATGCAAGATGGCATCAACCATCTAATTTCAAGAAATTTGCCCTGGCTGGAAAAGCTATTAGCTTTG  
 4690 4700 4710 4720 4730 4740 4750 4760 4770 4780 4790 4800

V D R T T N I R Y S V D Q L V T A I I S D F K S K M Q I T D S L E T L F O G P V  
 GTAGACAGAATCAACATTTAGGTAGTGGATCAACTGGTCCACAGCTATTATAAGTGGATTTCAAGAGCAAAATGCAAAATTCAGATTTCCCTAGAAAACACTGTTTCAAG66CAGCTG  
 4810 4820 4830 4840 4850 4860 4870 4880 4890 4900 4910 4920



Y K D L E I D V C M T P P E C I N D L L K S V D S E E I R E Y C K K K M I I  
TATAAGATTAGAGATTGTTGCAACACACCCTCCAGATGTATCAACGATTACTGAAATCTGTAGATTGAGAAAGATTAGGGAATTTGTAAGAAGAAGAAATGGATTATA  
4930 4940 4950 4960 4970 4980 4990 5000 5010 5020 5030 5040

P E I P T N I E R A M N O A S M I I N T I L M F V S T L G I V Y V I Y K L F A Q  
CCTGAAATTCCTACCAATAGAAAGAGCTATGAATCAAGCCACGATGATTATTAATCTATCTGATGTTGTCAGTACATAGGATTTGTTATGTCATTTATAAATGTTTGTCTCAA  
5050 5060 5070 5080 5090 5100 5110 5120 5130 5140 5150 5160

↓ VPS ↓ PROTEASE  
T Q G P Y S G N P H M K L K A P T L R P V V V Q G P N T E F A L S L L R K M I  
ACTCAAGGACCATTTCTGTAACCCGCTCACAAATAAAAGCCCACTTACGCCCA6TTGTTGTCAAAG6ACCAACACAGAAATTTGCACTATCCCTGTTAA6GAAAAACATA  
5170 5180 5190 5200 5210 5220 5230 5240 5250 5260 5270 5280

M T I T S K G E F T G L G I H D R V C V I P T H A Q P G D D V L V N G O K I R  
ATGACTATAACACCTCAAAGGAGTTACAGGGTTACAGGGTTAGGCATACATGATCGTCTGTGTGATACCCACACAGCCAGCCTGGTGTGATGATGACTAGTGAATGGTCAGAAAAATTAGA  
5290 5300 5310 5320 5330 5340 5350 5360 5370 5380 5390 5400

V K D K Y K L V D P E N I N L E L T V L T L D R N E K F R D I R G F I S E D L E  
GTTAAGGATAAGTACAAATTAGTAGTCCAGAGAACATTAATCTAGAGCTTACAGTGTGACTTTAGTAGAAATGAAAAATTCAGAGATATCAGGGGATTTATATCAGAAAGATCTAGAA  
5410 5420 5430 5440 5450 5460 5470 5480 5490 5500 5510 5520

G V D A T L V V H S N M F T N T I L E V G P V T M A G L I N L S S T P T N R M I  
GGTGGATGCCACTTGGTAGTACATTCAAATAACTTACCACACTATCTAGAAGTTGGCCCTGTAACAATGGCAGGACTTATAATTTGAGTAGCACCCCCACTAACAGAAATGATT  
5530 5540 5550 5560 5570 5580 5590 5600 5610 5620 5630 5640

R Y D Y A T K T G Q C G G V L C A T G K I F G I H V G G N G R O G G F S A Q L K K K  
CGTTATGATTCAACAAAACGGGCGAGTGT66AG6GTGCTGTGCTACTG6TAAAGATCTTTGGTATTCATGTTGGCGGTAATGGAAGCAAGAGATTTTCAGCTCAACTTAAAAA  
5650 5660 5670 5680 5690 5700 5710 5720 5730 5740 5750 5760

Q Y F V E K Q G Q V I A R H K V R E F N I M P V N T P T K S K L H P S V F Y D V  
CAATATTTGTAGAAACAAGCCCAAGTAACTAGACATAAGGTTAGGGGTTTAACTAAATCCAGTCAACACGGCCCAACCAAAATTAATCCAGTATCCCCAGTGTATCTATGATGTT  
5770 5780 5790 5800 5810 5820 5830 5840 5850 5860 5870 5880

↓ POLYMERASE  
F P G D K E A V L S D M D P R L E V K L T E S L F S K Y K G M V N T E P T E M  
TTCCAGGTGCAAGGAACTGCTGATTGAGTGAATGATCCAGACTGGAAGTTAAATGACTGAATCATTATCTTAAGTACAAGGGAAATGTAATAACGGAACCCACTGAAAT  
5890 5900 5910 5920 5930 5940 5950 5960 5970 5980 5990 6000

M L V A V D H Y A G Q L L S L D I P T S E L T L K E A L Y G V D G L E P I D I T  
ATGCTTGGCTGATGACCATTTGCAAGGCAACTATTATCAGTAGATATCCCACTTCTGAACTTACACTAAAAGAACATTATATGGAGTAGATGGACTAGAACTATAGATATTACA  
6010 6020 6030 6040 6050 6060 6070 6080 6090 6100 6110 6120

T S A G F P Y V S L G I K K R D I L N K E T Q D T E K K F Y L D K Y G I D L P  
 ACCAGTGCAG66ATTCCCTATGT6AGTCTT666ATCAAAAAGAGACATTCT6AATAAGAGAGACCCAGACACAGAAAAGATGAAGTTTCTAGACAAAGTAT66CATT6ACTTGCCT  
 6130 6140 6150 6160 6170 6180 6190 6200 6210 6220 6230 6240

L V T Y I K D E L R S V D K V R L G K S R L I E A S S L M D S V N M R M K L G N  
 CTAGTTACATATATTAGGATGAATTAAGAAGTGTGACAAAAGTCGATTAG66AAAGTAGATTAAATGAAGCCTCCAGTTTGAATGATTCTGTTAACATGAGAAATGAACCTAG66CAAC  
 6250 6260 6270 6280 6290 6300 6310 6320 6330 6340 6350 6360

L Y K A F H Q M P G V L T G S A V G C D P D V F W S V I P C L M O G H L H A F D  
 CTTTACAAGCATTCCATAAAATCCC66TCTGACT66ATCAGCAGT66GTTGATCCTGATG6TGTGTTT66TCTGTCATCCCTTGTTAAT66AT666CACCTGAT66CATTGAT  
 6370 6380 6390 6400 6410 6420 6430 6440 6450 6460 6470 6480

Y S N F D A S L S P V W F V C L E K V L T K L G F A G S S L I Q S I C N T H I  
 TACTCTAATTTGATGCCCTCTTTGTCACCAGTTT66TTGCTGCTAGAGAAGGTTT66CAGGTTAG66CTTTGAG66CTTTCATTAATCAATCAATTTGTAATACCATCATATC  
 6490 6500 6510 6520 6530 6540 6550 6560 6570 6580 6590 6600

F R D E I Y V V E G G M P S G C S G T S I F N S M I N I I R T L I L D A Y K  
 TTTAG66ATGAATATATGT66TTGAAG66T66CATGCCCTCA66GTGTTCA66AACCCAGCATATTCAATTCATGATCAACAACATAATAGGACTTTT6ATTAATAGATGCATATAA  
 6610 6620 6630 6640 6650 6660 6670 6680 6690 6700 6710 6720

G I D L D K L K I L A Y G D D L I V S Y P Y E L D P Q V L A T L G K N Y G L T I  
 GGAATAGATTTAGACAAACTTAAAACTTAGCTTACGGT6ATGTTGATTTGTTTCTTATCCTTATGAACTGGATCCACAAAGT6TT66CAACTCTT66TAAAAAATTAT66ACTAACCATC  
 6730 6740 6750 6760 6770 6780 6790 6800 6810 6820 6830 6840

T P D K S E T F T K M T W E N L T F L K R Y F K P D Q Q F P F L V H P V M P H  
 ACACCCAGACAAATCTGAAACTTTTACAAAAATGACATG66AAACTT6GACATTTTAAAGAGATCTTCAAGCCTGATCAACAATTTCCCTTTTGGTTCCACCAATATGCCCCATG  
 6850 6860 6870 6880 6890 6900 6910 6920 6930 6940 6950 6960

K D I H E S I R W T K D P K N T Q D H V R S L C M L A W H S G E K E Y N E F I Q  
 AAAGATACATGATGATCAATGACAGATGACAAAGGATCTTAAAAACACACAGGATCAGTCCGATCATTTGATGTTAGCATG66CATG66CACTCAGGAGAAAAGAGTCAATGAATTCATTCAG  
 6970 6980 6990 7000 7010 7020 7030 7040 7050 7060 7070 7080

K I R T D I G K C L I L P E Y S V L R R R W L D L F \*  
 AAGATCAGAACTACTGACATTTG66AAATGCTAATTTCCCAAGAAATACAGCCTACTT66AG66CCTGTT66T66ACCTCTTTT66GTTAACAATATAGACACTTAATTTGAGTAGAAGTAG  
 7090 7100 7110 7120 7130 7140 7150 7160 7170 7180 7190 7200

GAGTTTAT - poly A  
 7205

picornavirus other than the polioviruses and thus provides important information about the sequence conservation of this region which may give an indication of function. The homology between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 in the non-coding region is remarkable. The nucleotide sequences can be aligned, by taking into account several small deletions or insertions, to give 63% homology. This includes completely conserved stretches of 20, 23 and 27 nucleotides starting at positions 61, 452 and 542 respectively in HRV-14. These matches are all in regions which are highly homologous between polioviruses, the latter two being identical in the three serotypes (10-14). No matches greater than 17 nucleotides have been observed in the coding regions of HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3. The level of nucleotide homology of the 5' presumed non-coding region is similar to that of the region of the genome coding for the polymerase protein, the most highly conserved protein at the amino acid level. Here the nucleotide sequence homology is 60%. These results imply that there is a strong pressure to conserve the nucleotide sequence of the non-coding region. The reason for this is not clear since the function of the region is unknown. One possible explanation is that there is a hitherto unsuspected coding capacity. In HRV-14 this region does contain several open reading frames, including one of 77 codons (starting position 492) and one of 64 codons (starting position 165). In neither case is there an equivalent open reading frame in poliovirus and these are therefore of questionable significance. One potential reading frame (starting at position 433), coding for a peptide of 29 amino acids, is conserved between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 and this contains the stretch of 23 identical nucleotides (13,14). However, the initiating methionine codon is absent in the other two poliovirus serotypes and therefore this observation is again difficult to interpret (12). The fact that insertions or deletions have to be inserted to align the 5' sequences of poliovirus type 3 and HRV-14 suggests that the region is under pressure to be conserved for reasons other than protein coding. In this connection it is interesting to note that the nucleotide composition of the region (A=22.4%, C=26.0%, G=22.8%, T=28.8%) is different from that of the rest of the genome (A=33.0%, C=19.6%, G=20.2%, T=27.2%). The higher G+C content possibly suggests that secondary structure in the 5' untranslated region plays some part in the

Figure 2. The complete nucleotide sequence of the cDNA representing the genome of HRV-14 together with the predicted amino acid sequence of polypeptides encoded by the major open reading frame. Vertical arrows indicate the positions of probable polyprotein cleavage sites based on homology with poliovirus. Proteins are named in accordance with the L434 nomenclature proposed by Rueckert and Wimmer (23).

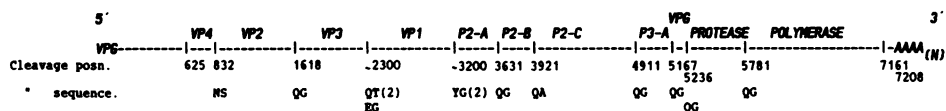


Figure 3. Schematic representation of the HRV-14 genome showing the position of the virus proteins and the predicted cleavage sites.

replicative cycle of the virus.

The 5' regions of HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 align for approximately 600 nucleotides. Around this point however, there is a divergence of sequence and at position 625 in HRV-14 there is a methionine codon at the start of the long open reading frame. In poliovirus type 3 the non-coding region extends for a further 140 nucleotides. This relative deletion in HRV-14 is a notable feature in view of the otherwise close homology and it was therefore thought necessary to ensure that this was not an artefact produced during cDNA cloning. Restriction enzyme mapping of pAM 6-9 over this region confirmed that these clones are identical in this respect to pAM 2, from which the sequence was derived, and therefore there is a radical difference between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 at this point.

A methionine codon located at position 625 initiates a long open reading frame of 2178 codons and this is sufficient to code for all the known virus proteins (27). The most striking feature of the coding region is again the close homology with the polioviruses. The overall amino acid homology with poliovirus type 3 varies from 43% in VP1 and VP3 to 65% in the polymerase protein suggesting that the virus proteins have closely related functions. The homologies are slightly less than those between the polioviruses and another enterovirus, enterovirus 70 (Ryan et al in preparation), but much greater than those between HRV-14 and EMCV (16) or FMDV (15)(see Table 1). Previous studies based on RNA hybridization have suggested that there is little homology between poliovirus and human rhinoviruses, including HRV-14, at the nucleotide sequence level (28) and therefore the extensive amino acid homology found here is unexpected. However, it has been shown that HRV-14 and some of the other rhinoviruses share a common cellular receptor with the enterovirus, coxsackie A21 (29). These viruses may therefore be related to some extent, at least in the region of the cellular receptor binding site.

The homology with the polioviruses facilitates the prediction of the cleavage sites in the polyprotein recognized by the virus protease to generate the viral proteins and these are summarized in Table 2. As in the

Table 1. Homologies between the proteins of HRV-14 and the equivalent proteins of other picornaviruses.

HRV-14 protein	% Homology with:		
	poliovirus type 3 (enterovirus)	EMCV (cardiovirus)	FMDV (aphthovirus)
VP4	58	n.h.d.	n.h.d.
VP2	56	"	"
VP3	43	"	"
VP1	43	"	"
P2-A	49	"	"
P2-B	49	"	-
P2-C	61	27	22
P3-A	52	19	n.h.d.
VPg	48	30	35 (VPg <sup>1</sup> )
Protease	46	21	14
Polymerase	65	33	33

n.h.d. =no homology detected.

case of polioviruses, many of these seem to occur between glutamine and glycine residues (10). This sequence is not present, however, at the VP3/VP1 and P2-B/P2-C boundaries. In the case of the former, the sequence glutamine-threonine occurs twice and glutamic acid-glycine once in the area likely to be the cleavage junction, but it is not known which if any of these is recognized by the HRV-14 protease. In FMDV (15), the VP3/VP1 cleavage is at glutamine-threonine and this possibly suggests that one of these two potential cleavage sites is used in HRV-14. The most likely cleavage site in the predicted region of the P2-B/P2-C boundary would seem to be glutamine-alanine. These results imply that the rhinovirus encoded protease is less stringent in its substrate specificity than that of the

Table 2. Predicted cleavage sites of the HRV-14 polyprotein.

Protein boundary	Probable cleavage
VP4/VP2	ALN SPN
VP2/VP3	VPQ GLP
VP3/VP1	DTQ TIS?
	ISQ TVA?
	LTE GLG?
VP1/P2-A	KSY GLG?
	PRY GGI?
P2-A/P2-B	EEQ GLS
P2-B/P2-C	ERQ AND
P2-C/P3-A	LFQ GPV
P3-A/VPg	QTQ GPY
VPg/Protease	VVQ GPN
Protease/Polymerase	EKQ GQV

polioviruses. In general, the regions around the cleavage sites show the greatest divergence between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 with the presence of several small deletions or insertions and this also may be a reflection of the differing substrate specificities. It is noteworthy that there is only 46% homology at the amino acid level between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 in the region of the protease. In contrast, at the VP4/VP2 boundary, whose processing is unique in that it occurs during the maturation of the virion (30), 18 amino acids around the cleavage junction are exactly conserved between HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 (13,14). The distinctive nature of the cleavage site (asparagine-serine) and the time-scale of the processing suggest that this is performed by a second virus protease or one specified by the host. As with the polioviruses, the VP1/P2-A cleavage probably occurs at tyrosine-glycine. This sequence appears twice in the appropriate region of HRV-14 and comparison with enterovirus 70 (Ryan et al, in preparation) suggests that the most C-terminal is used.

In poliovirus type 3, a major antigenic site for virus neutralization has been located at amino acid position 92-99 of VP1 (31). By aligning homologous amino acids flanking this sequence, a corresponding region can be identified in HRV-14 (nucleotide position 2557-2613) which has a completely different primary structure. Hydrophilicity profiles of the capsid proteins of HRV-14 and poliovirus type 3 are remarkably similar and show this region to be hydrophilic in both cases (32, data not shown). These observations suggest that this region may be an antigenic site in HRV-14 against which neutralizing antibodies are directed. There is evidence for the involvement of at least two other antigenic regions of the capsid in neutralization of polioviruses 1 and 3 (33, P.D. Minor, unpublished). These are located at position 55-70 in VP3 and 284-291 in VP1 of poliovirus. In HRV-14 the corresponding regions are again hydrophilic and have a primary structure distinct from those of the polioviruses. It will be interesting to test whether synthetic peptides corresponding to these regions induce antibodies which neutralize HRV-14.

### Comparison with human rhinovirus 2

On the basis of neutralization by reference antisera, at least 115 serotypes of human rhinoviruses are believed to exist (3). Some of these serotypes can be grouped on the basis of low-level, one-way or reciprocal cross-reactivity and there is some evidence for the existence of intertypes which are related to two serotypes (34,35). However, little is known about the overall degree of homology between serotypes at the nucleotide or amino

acid sequence level although one hybridization study has indicated that HRV-1A, HRV-2 and HRV-14 share no more homology with one another than each does with poliovirus type 2 (28). Recently the sequence of 1425 nucleotides from the 3' terminus of the genome of HRV-2 has been determined (36). This comprises the polymerase gene and the 3' non-coding region. Comparison with the sequence of HRV-14 presented here provides a preliminary estimate of diversity within the rhinovirus genus. In contrast to the different poliovirus serotypes which are 97% homologous to each other in the polymerase gene (17), HRV-2 and HRV-14 are only 55% homologous at the amino acid level. This is to be expected from the previous report of the low level of nucleotide sequence homology among the rhinoviruses (28). More surprising however, is the fact that HRV-14 is more homologous, at the level of predicted amino acid sequence, to poliovirus (65%) than it is to HRV-2. These results would seem to indicate that in contrast to the wide diversity between the enteroviruses, cardioviruses and aphthoviruses (15,16), there is a considerable degree of overlap between the enterovirus and rhinovirus genera in terms of nucleotide and amino acid sequence homology. This finding casts doubt on the genetic basis for separating the enteroviruses and rhinoviruses and it may be more appropriate to consider them as members of one genus of the picornaviridae family.

One of the interesting features evident on comparison of the sequences of the two rhinoviruses is the homology of the 3' non-coding regions. At 47 nucleotides this region of HRV-14 is of a similar size to HRV-2 (42 nucleotides) and is in contrast to poliovirus (72 nucleotides). Moreover, despite the divergence in the polymerase gene, there is some homology in the non-coding region between the two rhinoviruses. There are blocks of identity of 7 (at position 7172 in HRV-14) and 5 nucleotides (at position 7196), together with some homology in the intervening region. There are no such blocks of homology with the polioviruses where this region is almost perfectly conserved between the three serotypes (10-14). The comparative features of the non-coding regions which have been described in this paper, namely the relative deletion in the HRV-14 5' non-coding region and the homology between HRV-2 and HRV-14 in the 3' region, raise the intriguing possibility that these regions of the rhinovirus genome are involved in defining the distinctive characteristics of the rhinoviruses. This point may be elucidated as more complete rhinovirus sequences become available.

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