

The *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* Chromosome III Left Telomere Has a Type X, but Not a Type Y', ARS Region

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A yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* telomeric region was isolated by chromosome walking from *HML* α , the most distal known gene on the chromosome III left (IIIL) end. The terminal heterodisperse 3.3-kilobase (kb) *SalI* fragment on chromosome III, 8.6 kb distal to *HML* α , was cloned in a circular vector to generate a telomeric probe. Southern hybridization and DNA sequencing analyses indicated that 0.6 kb (± 200 base pairs) of 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' simple tandem repeat sequence, adjacent to a 1.2-kb type X ARS region, constitutes the telomere on the chromosome III end, and no type Y' ARS region homologies exist between *HML* α and the III end terminus.

Salient properties of telomeric DNA have been deduced primarily from studies conducted on amplified macronuclear DNA molecules in lower eucaryotic organisms (3, 4, 6) and a yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* telomere isolated by

chromosomes are homologous for at least the terminal 3 to 4 kilobases (kb) (16, 27). Autonomously replicating sequences (ARS), identified as types X or Y' according to relative homologies, have been mapped to the telomere-associated

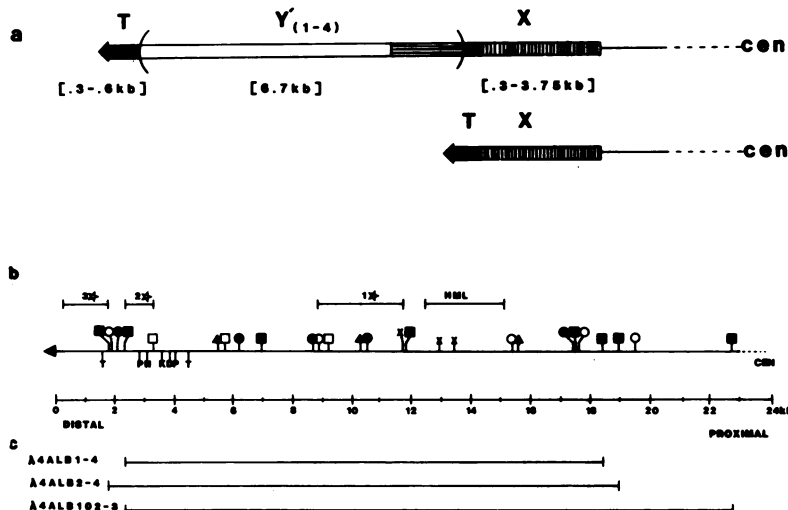


FIG. 1. Organization of telomeric repeat sequences in yeast and map of the chromosome III left telomeric region. (a) The telomeric arrangement described initially by Chan and Tye (9) and modified by Walmsley et al. (30) contains yeast ARS elements of the Y' and X classes and the T region, 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' simple repeat sequences, at the terminus and the X-Y' junction region. The T-Y'-X-class telomere has one to four conserved 6.7-kb Y' elements, consisting of Y (\square) and 131 (\square) regions, adjacent to a single, heterogeneous X element (\square). The second proposed T-X-class telomere has a single heterogeneous X element adjacent to the T region at the chromosome end. (b) Restriction maps of the chromosome III end with sites mapped with multiple enzyme digestions and Southern analyses. Symbols above the chromosome designate those enzymes mapped for the entire 23-kb region, and the letters below are sites mapped for only the distal 5-kb portion. ●, *Bam*HI; ■, *Eco*RI; ○, *Hind*III; □, *Sal*I; ▲, *Xho*I; ×, *Xba*I; T, *Bst*EII; K, *Kpn*I; N, *Nco*I; D, *Nde*I; P, *Pvu*II. Probes 1*, 2*, and 3* (1★, 2★, and 3★, respectively) represent progressive chromosome walking steps toward the chromosome III terminus. (c) Extent of yeast partial *Eco*RI insert fragments in representative phage clones, isolated with probes 1* or 2* from a λ Ch4A yeast genomic library.

selection for telomeric function with a linear plasmid vector (27). Southern hybridization with a probe prepared from the cloned yeast telomere indicates that the ends of most yeast

region of yeast chromosomes (9, 10), and yeast telomeres are categorized into two classes, according to the presence or absence of a type Y' ARS region (16, 29, 30) (Fig. 1a). The telomere previously isolated and characterized (9, 15, 16, 27) is representative of the Y'-containing telomere class, although the existence of the Y'-lacking class has been spec-

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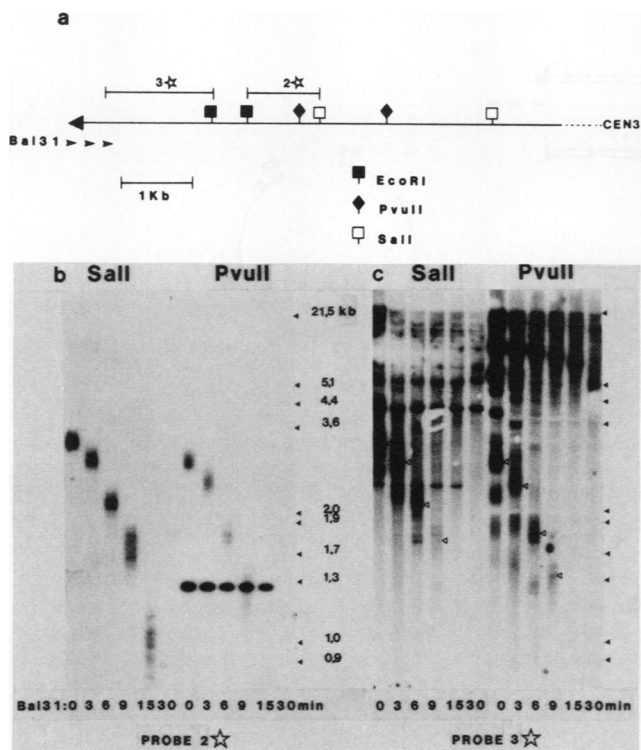


FIG. 2. Chromosome III L distal probes hybridize with BAL 31-sensitive regions in yeast genomic DNA. (a) Chromosome III L end region map indicating positions of probe 2* and 3* (2 \star and 3 \star , respectively) hybridization, salient restriction sites, and region of BAL 31 nuclease digestion. (b and c) Yeast AB20 α XP8-10B, treated with BAL 31 nuclease (0.1 U/ μ g, 30 $^{\circ}$ C) for up to 30 min, such that between 125 and 150 bp are removed per minute from the chromosome end. DNA was digested with *Sma*I or *Pvu*II and fractionated on a 0.65% agarose gel (3.3 μ g of DNA per lane). After bidirectional Southern transfer to GeneScreen plus, duplicate filters were screened with the 2* (2 \star , panel b) or 3* (3 \star , panel c) M13 probes. Size markers are λ -*Hind*III-*Eco*RI fragment positions. (c) The positions of the chromosome III L terminal fragments, (Δ) are indicated.

ulated (16, 29, 30). We report here the isolation of a T-X class telomere by chromosome walking from *HML* α to the chromosome III left (III L) end (11, 18, 19, 23). The telomeric region, localized to a heterodisperse 1.8-kb (\pm 200 base pairs [bp]) *Eco*RI fragment on III L, consists of a 1.2-kb X region adjacent to a 0.6-kb (\pm 200 bp) T region of 5'-C₁-3A-3' simple repeat sequence.

Cloning of chromosome III L telomeric region. A genomic DNA library of yeast strain AB20 α XP8-10B (24) was prepared by cloning partial *Eco*RI digest fragments (15 to 20 kb) in the λ Charon 4A (λ CH4a) vector (20, 21) and screened by plaque hybridization (1, 20) with a nick-translated *HML* α distal probe (a 2.2-kb *Hind*III-*Xba*I fragment) (24). Probe 1* (Fig. 1b) resulted in a set of similar clones (Fig. 1c), but attempts to isolate further distal telomeric clones with probe 2* (Fig. 1b, a 1-kb *Eco*RI-*Sma*I fragment 8.6 kb distal to *HML* α) were unsuccessful. Either identical inserts to those obtained with probe 1* or inserts extending in the centromeric direction (Fig. 1c, λ 4ALB 102-3) were present in all probe 2*-selected clones. Besides plaque hybridization, PIVX recombinant screening (20, 25) with a PIAN7 vector (H. Huang, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.) was used, but only clones identical to those obtained with

probe 1* were isolated. These results suggested probe 2* was very close to the telomeric region, and the terminal *Eco*RI fragment on chromosome III L was not included in the *Eco*RI partial digest genomic library.

Two properties observed for terminal restriction fragments on chromosomes are length heterogeneity, due to variable amounts of simple repeat sequences (9, 26, 29), and susceptibility to digestion with the double-stranded exonuclease BAL 31, as shown in *S. cerevisiae* (26, 29) and trypanosomes (2, 5, 12, 28, 31). Southern analysis indicated that probe 2* hybridized to a single heterodisperse 3.3-kb (\pm 200 bp) *Sma*I fragment and to two *Pvu*II fragments, a heterodisperse 3.0-kb (\pm 200 bp) fragment and a discrete-length 1.2-kb fragment. The *Pvu*II site within probe 2* (Fig. 2a) explains the dual *Pvu*II fragment hybridization, with the heterodisperse 3.0-kb fragment mapped distal and the 1.2-kb fragment mapped proximal. Only the heterodisperse *Sma*I 3.3-kb fragment and the 3.0-kb *Pvu*II fragment were readily digested with BAL 31 nuclease, and both fragments extended about 2.3 kb (\pm 200 bp) distal to probe 2*, indicating that the III L terminus was included in these probe 2* homologous fragments.

To clone the III L end, high-molecular-weight yeast DNA was treated briefly (2 and 4 min) with BAL 31 nuclease, and ends were repaired with DNA *Po*II Klenow fragment (20). After *Sma*I complete digestion and low-melting-point agarose gel fractionation, fragments in the 3- to 4-kb-size range were isolated by electroelution (Fig. 3a). *Sma*I-*Sma*I-digested M13mp9RF (22) was ligated to the yeast fragments (5 \times molar excess of insert to vector) in a 20- μ l ligation mix containing 1 mM spermidine and 2 U of T4 DNA ligase at 16 $^{\circ}$ C for 24 h of incubation. After transformation of JM101 cells (20, 22), plaques were screened for the terminus of chromosome III L with a nick-translated probe 2* fragment. Clone MTLB6411 had a 3.0-kb *Sma*I-BAL 31 insert and contained the 0.5-kb *Eco*RI fragment distal to probe 2* as well as a 1.5-kb *Eco*RI fragment, presumably the terminal fragment with 300 bp (\pm 200 bp) removed from the terminus by the BAL 31 nuclease treatment. The terminal 1.5-kb *Eco*RI-BAL 31 fragment (probe 3*, Fig. 3a) was subcloned to remove upstream probe 2* sequences that would confuse the characterization of the III L terminus. The probe 3* region was released from MTLB6411 by *Eco*RI digestion, made blunt ended with DNA *Po*II Klenow fragment, and cloned into the *Sma*I site of M13mp18RF (32). Probe 3* was thereby flanked by several restriction sites in the polycloning region of M13mp18 to facilitate DNA sequencing.

Chromosome III L end contains a class X ARS region but lacks a class Y' ARS region. As expected for a telomeric fragment which contains repetitive Y', X, or T regions, probe 3* hybridized with multiple yeast genomic fragments (Fig. 4). The two classes of yeast telomeres are distinguished either by homology with the Y' ARS region or by the distance between the X ARS region and the chromosome end. Clones with X and Y' regions have been isolated and characterized; YRp131A and YRp131B contain X and Y' ARS region *Sma*I fragments, respectively (9, 10). The telomere on chromosome III L belongs to the T-X class, as shown by hybridization of probe 3* with the X-region clone YRp131A (Fig. 4, lanes 5 and 6) and the lack of homology with the Y'-region clones Yrp131B or pSZ220 (Fig. 4, lanes 4 and 7). The relatively short telomeric repeat length on the chromosome III L end (1.8 kb \pm 200 bp) confirms the T-X classification of the telomere.

Chromosome III L terminal fragment is homologous exclusively with chromosome ends. To estimate the distances

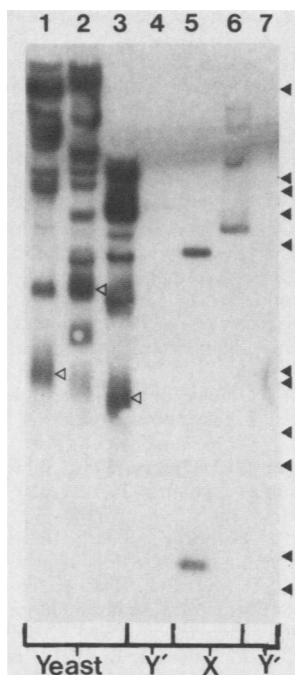


FIG. 4. Southern analysis of yeast genomic DNA and *ARS* clone restriction digests with the chromosome III L telomeric probe 3*. Lanes: 1, AB20 α XP8-10B-*Bam*HI (4 μ g); 2, AB20 α XP8-10B-*Pvu*II (4 μ g); 3, AB20 α XP8-10B-*Hind*III (4 μ g); 4, Yrp131B-*Sal*I-*Nco*I (0.12 μ g); 5, Yrp131A-*Sal*I-*Nco*I (0.12 μ g); 6, Yrp131A-*Sal*I-*Hind*III (0.12 μ g); 7, pSZ220-*Alu*I (0.25 μ g). Clones Yrp131B and pSZ220 contain a Y' region, and clone Yrp131A has an X-region insert (9, 10). The chromosome III L end fragment positions in lanes 1 to 3 (Δ) are indicated. The positions of λ -*Hind*III-*Eco*RI fragments (\blacktriangle) are indicated: 21.5, 5.1, 5.0, 4.4, 3.6, 2.0, 1.9, 1.7, 1.3, 1.0, and 0.9 kb.

between the probe 3* homologous regions and the respective chromosome ends, we used progressive BAL 31 nuclease digestion and Southern analysis with probe 3* (Fig. 2c). Only a subset of *Sal*I fragments was shortened, whereas all *Pvu*II fragments were BAL 31 nuclease sensitive. Given that BAL 31 nuclease initiates digestion at the terminus of the chromosome in high-molecular-weight DNA (2, 5, 12, 26, 28, 29, 31), all *Pvu*II bands must include the chromosome end. The difference between *Sal*I and *Pvu*II sensitivity patterns with BAL 31 nuclease is a result of restriction map differences for these enzymes in the type X *ARS* distal region. In the Y'- and X-region representative clones (9, 10), there are no *Pvu*II sites in the Y' region or the *ARS* distal portion of the X region. Conversely, *Sal*I sites separate the Y' and X regions in all isolated clones. As a result, with probe 3* telomeres of the T-Y'-X class should display BAL 31 nuclease-sensitive bands with *Pvu*II-digested DNA, while *Sal*I-

digested DNA bands homologous with probe 3* would be insensitive, at least until the T region and the 6.7-kb Y' repeat region are degraded with BAL 31 nuclease. Alternatively, chromosome ends belonging to the T-X class should show BAL 31 nuclease sensitivity with both *Pvu*II- and *Sal*I-digested DNA, assuming the restriction map in the X region, distal to *ARS*, agrees with those previously isolated (9, 10) (i.e., there are no *Pvu*II or *Sal*I sites in this region). Assuming all telomeres of the T-Y'-X class are at least 7-kb long (Fig. 1a), the *Pvu*II bands homologous with the chromosome III L X region (probe 3*) and shorter than 7 kb must represent telomeres of the T-X class. Based on this reasoning, along with the proportion of *Sal*I bands that display BAL 31 nuclease sensitivity, we estimate that at least 30% of the chromosome ends in the haploid yeast genome belong to the T-X class.

Nucleotide sequence of the chromosome III L telomere. To establish the T-region length and the position of the *ARS* consensus sequence within the X region, to search for repeat sequences within the X region, and to compare the telomeric sequence with that reported for a Y'-containing telomere, we determined the complete nucleotide sequence of the probe 3* fragment (1,539 bp). The terminal fragment contained 356 bp of 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' repeat units, or 53 repeats of the more defined 5'-C₂₋₃A(CA)₁₋₄-3' unit (Fig. 3b). A 80-nucleotide-repeat region from a Y'-containing telomere previously sequenced (26) has the same repeat unit, except a maximum of three tandem CA dinucleotides exists in these repeats. The four tandem dinucleotides observed at the chromosome III L end are present in only one repeat unit, nucleotides 152 to 163 (Fig. 3b). Telomeres are presumed to have the simple repeat region extending to the chromosomal terminus (3-6, 26, 28, 29). A section of 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' repeats adjacent to the telomere-associated *ARS* region is sufficient for telomere function in yeast (13, 26; L. L. Button and C. R. Astell, manuscript in preparation), which supports the assumption that the chromosome III L terminus removed with BAL 31 nuclease during the cloning process is additional 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' repeat sequences. Adjacent to this T region were X *ARS*-region sequences (Fig. 3b); the 260 bp adjacent to the T region is 80 to 90% homologous to that portion of X regions sequenced (30). An *ARS* consensus sequence (7, 8, 17), 5'-TTTTATGTTTTA-3', is located at nucleotides 1036 to 1048 in the cloned end, or about 1.2 kb from the intact chromosome III L end. The *ARS* consensus in the sequenced Y' region (26) is 700 bp from the chromosome end and in the opposite orientation with respect to the 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' repeat DNA strand from that on the chromosome III L end; however, the orientation effect on *ARS* activity has not been reported. The *ARS*-flanking regions do participate in *ARS* function but vary to a large extent between different *ARS* regions (7, 8, 17). Consequently, the strengths of X and Y' *ARS* regions cannot be compared by DNA sequence analysis; functionality tests are essential. Nucleotide sequence

FIG. 3. Isolation and DNA sequence of the chromosome III L terminal fragment. (a) High-molecular-weight (MW) yeast DNA was BAL 31 nuclease and DNA *Poll* Klenow fragment treated to yield clonable, blunt chromosome ends. After *Sal*I digestion, fragments encompassing the 3.3-kb (\pm 200 bp) *Sal*I-chromosome III L end fragment were cloned into the M13mp9RF-*Sal*I-*Sma*I vector (22). Probe 2* (2 \star) served to identify the telomeric clone MTLB6411, which contained a 3-kb *Sal*I fragment corresponding to the chromosome III L end lacking the terminal 0.3 kb (\pm 200 bp) due to the BAL 31 nuclease treatment. MTLB6411 was *Eco*RI digested, the ends were rendered blunt ended with DNA *Poll* Klenow fragment, and the probe 3* (3 \star), 1.5-kb fragment was cloned in the *Sma*I site of M13mp18RF (32). Abbreviations: H, *Hind*III; S, *Sal*I; R, *Eco*RI; Z, *Sma*I; B, *Bam*HI; P, *Pst*I. (b) The entire DNA sequence for the forward and reverse strands of the cloned chromosome III L telomeric region determined from the sets of exonuclease III-S1 nuclease deletion clones prepared from the MTLB6S12 and MTLB6S21 probe 3* subclones (14). A perfect *ARS* consensus sequence (7, 8, 17), is underlined (■) at positions 1036 to 1048. The T-region repeat units are described by the formula 5'-C₂₋₃A(CA)₁₋₄, and the single C₃A(CA)₄ block is at nucleotides 152 to 163.

studies with the Y'-containing clone pSZ220 (15, 27) revealed a region of tandem direct repeats which were proposed to play a role in telomeric replication, maintenance, and homogenization of telomeric sequences. No direct repeat region is apparent in the X region on chromosome III_L, and the lack of G residues in the 5'-C₁₋₃A-3'-containing strand is its only distinguishing feature.

In summary, we have isolated the telomeric region from a specific yeast chromosome and have shown that it conforms to the structure determined for a yeast DNA fragment that functions as a yeast telomere (9, 26, 27). We have shown that the telomeric region of III_L contains an X *ARS* region but lacks a class Y' *ARS* region and hence is the first reported isolation of a yeast telomeric region of the type T-X. The T-X telomeric probe hybridized with multiple genomic fragments, located exclusively at chromosome ends. Other properties of our cloned chromosome III_L telomere are that the length varies by ± 200 bp within a given yeast strain, and the average chromosome III_L end length varies among different yeast strains from that observed for AB20 α XP8-10B by ± 200 bp (data not shown). Presumably this results from variable average amounts of 5'-C₁₋₃A-3' repeat sequences, as previously described with a T-region probe (29). Finally, the telomeric fragment from chromosome III_L has been shown to function as a T-X telomere on a linear vector in yeast (Button and Astell, in preparation).

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