# Saccharomyces cerevisiae Contains a Complex Multigene Family Related to the Major Heat Shock-Inducible Gene of Drosophila

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Saccharomyces cerevisiae contains a family of genes related to the major heat shock-induced gene of Drosophila (hsp 70). Two members of the multigene family (YG100 and YG101) were isolated. The primary DNA sequences of more than one-half of the protein-encoding regions of YG100 and YG101 were determined and compared with the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene sequence; the predicted amino acid sequences were 72 and 64% homologous to the sequence of the Drosophila hsp 70 protein, respectively. The predicted amino acid sequences of the yeast genes were 65% homologous. Our results demonstrate a striking sequence conservation of hsp 70-related sequences in evolution. Hybridization of the S. cerevisiae genes to total S. cerevisiae DNA indicated that the multigene family consists of approximately <sup>10</sup> members. Hybridization of labeled RNAs from heatshocked and control cells suggested that, like transcription of the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene, transcription of YG100 or a closely related gene is enhanced after heat shock. However, the amount of RNA sequences homologous to YG101 was reduced after heat shock. A multigene family related to the hsp <sup>70</sup> gene exists in Drosophila; transcription of some members is induced by heat shock, whereas transcription of others is not. Our results suggest that S. cerevisiae, like Drosophila, contains a multigene family of hsp 70-related sequences under complex transcriptional regulation and that the differential control, as well as the nucleotide sequence, has been highly conserved in evolution.

Heat shock and certain other stimuli result in a dramatic change in the pattern of gene expression in Drosophila. Transcription of most genes is suppressed, and expression of a small set of relatively inactive genes is greatly enhanced (2). The major polypeptide expressed after heat shock in Drosophila melanogaster is a 70,000 dalton protein (hsp 70). Furthermore, the most abundant species that accumulates after heat treatment is the mRNA encoding hsp <sup>70</sup> (25). In Drosophila, a multigene family related to the hsp 70 gene has been identified (14). Five distinct members of this family have been characterized. Two of the characterized members, the hsp 70 and hsp 68 genes, are induced by heat shock (2, 13). Three others, which are dispersed on chromosome 3, are transcribed at normal temperatures and not induced by heat treatment. A partial DNA sequence of the protein-encoding region has been determined for each gene. The predicted amino acid sequences are conserved about 75% among the five members of the multigene family (14; unpublished data).

A heat shock response has been observed in cells of taxa as diverse as Saccharomyces cerevisiae (24, 26), Dictyostelium (21), hamsters, chickens, humans (16), tobacco, and soybean (3, 18). Recovery from anoxia, as well as from agents which interfere with oxidative phosphorylation, elicits the heat shock response in a number of species (1, 21, 29, 34). Therefore, the alteration in gene expression is thought to be a general response to metabolic disturbance, not merely a response to an alteration in temperature.

When S. cerevisiae cells are subjected to a sudden increase in temperature, extreme alterations occur in the synthesis of particular proteins (20, 24, 26). Synthesis of some proteins is greatly enhanced, whereas synthesis of others is repressed. The major heat shock-inducible proteins of S. cerevisiae range in molecular weight from 70,000 to 85,000 (23). In this paper we report the identification in S. cerevisiae of a multigene family which is related to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

General methods. Restriction enzyme digestion, agarose and acrylamide gel electrophoresis, selection of polyadenylic acid-containing RNA, blotting of genomic DNA to nitrocellulose, DNA-DNA hybridization, plasmid DNA isolation, labeling of DNA by polynucleotide kinase and nick translation (7, 15), DNA sequence analysis (22), and cDNA extension and S1 nuclease digestion (4, 14) were carried out as described previously.

Isolation of YG100 and YG101. YG100 and YG101 were isolated from a library of S. cerevisiae strain S288C DNA. The DNA was partially digested with SauIIIA, and the fragments were cloned by using the BamHI arms of Charon 28 (28a). This S. cerevisiae library was screened by probing with a labeled plasmid (B8) which contains a copy of the Drosophila hsp 70 gene inserted into the BamHI site of pBR322 (7). The hybridization solution contained 30% formamide, 0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 1.0 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris (pH 7.5), and  $1 \times$ Denhardt solution (9) and was incubated at 37°C for 24 h. In the initial screening two phages  $(\lambda 100$  and  $\lambda 101)$ which hybridized with B8 were isolated. The regions containing homology with B8 were subcloned into pBR322. An 8-kilobase (kb) BamHI-HindIII fragment of X100 was subcloned, and the resulting plasmid was designated YG100; and 3-kb HindIll fragment of  $\lambda$ 101 was subcloned, and the resulting plasmid was designated YG1O1.

Growth of S. cerevisiae and heat shock procedure. S. cerevisiae was grown in YPD broth (2% peptone [Difco Laboratories], 2% glucose, 1% yeast extract [Difco]) at 23°C in 30-ml portions. Each culture to be heat shocked was placed in a 50°C bath until the temperature of the culture reached 37°C, usually within 2 min. The culture was then incubated with shaking for 20 min at 37°C before harvesting.

RNA isolation and labeling. The RNA used in the dot blot experiments was isolated essentially by the method of Lindquist (20). Briefly, S. cerevisiae cells suspended in 0.1 M Tris (pH 7.5)-0.1 M LiCl-0.01 M dithiothreitol were broken by blending in a Vortex mixer in the presence of glass beads, phenol, chloroform, and 0.5% sodium dodecyl sulfate. After several phenol extractions, the nucleic acid was precipitated with ethanol several times before use. RNA was partially degraded by alkali and labeled with <sup>32</sup>P by using T4 polynucleotide kinase, as described previously (5). The RNA used in the cDNA extension and S1 nuclease experiments was isolated by the guanidine thiocyanate extraction procedure (6) after spheroplasts had been formed by incubation in the presence of Zymolyase (Miles Biochemicals).

DNA dot blots. DNA was placed on nitrocellulose filters (pore size,  $0.45 \mu m$ ; Schleicher & Schuell Co.) essentially under the conditions described by Thomas (31). Before blotting, plasmid DNA was digested with HindlIl, phenol extracted, and ethanol precipitated. The DNA was suspended in water, denatured by boiling, and adjusted to  $10 \times$  SSC ( $1 \times$  SSC is 0.15 M NaCl plus  $0.015$  M sodium citrate), and  $0.5 \mu g$  was applied to the filter in a volume of  $5 \mu l$ . Hybridization was carried out in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5x SSC, 0.2% sodium dodecyl sulfate, <sup>10</sup> mM EDTA, and <sup>10</sup> mM Tris-hydrochloride (pH 7.5) at 40°C.

### RESULTS

Primary sequence of YG100 and YG1O1. We previously described the primary sequence of the protein-encoding region of one copy of the Drosophila hsp 70 gene (15). One reading frame is devoid of stop codons for more than 2,000 base pairs; the region between the first ATG and the first stop codon could encode a protein of 70,270 daltons. The recombinant plasmids YG100 and YG101 containing S. cerevisiae DNA were isolated on the basis of homology to a D. melanogaster hsp 70 gene (see above). Partial restriction maps of the clones are shown in Fig. 1. Primary sequences were determined by using the chemical cleavage method (22). The regions analyzed are indicated in Fig. 1 in the enlarged portions of the restriction maps.

Regions of homology among YG100, YG1O1, and the Drosophila hsp 70 gene were identified. The primary DNA sequences were determined for 76 and 56% of the protein-encoding regions of YG100 and YG101, respectively (Fig. 2). The predicted Drosophila hsp 70 protein contains <sup>641</sup> amino acids (Fig. 3). DNA sequences were determined in the following regions: in YG100, amino acids <sup>1</sup> through 342 and 393 through 541; in YG101, amino acids <sup>1</sup> through 73, 175 through 242, 256 through 397, and 438 through 529. Therefore, a sequence was obtained for both yeast genes in the following regions (using the predicted Drosophila hsp 70 amino acid sequence as a reference): amino acids <sup>1</sup> through 73, 175 through 242, 256 through 342, 393 through 397, and 438 through 529. This amounted to 50% of the coding region of the Drosophila gene. No termination codons, insertions, or deletions which would result in a change in the reading frame were found. However, several insertions or deletions of multiples of three bases were found in both genes. In the regions analyzed, YG100 contained four single amino acid deletions compared with the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene, whereas YG101 contained four single amino acid deletions and one single and two double amino acid insertions compared with the Drosophila gene. The predicted amino termini differed among the three genes. YG100 had one additional amino acid, and YG101 had six additional amino acids. This type of heterogeneity in amino termini has been observed among Drosophila genes related to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene (14; unpublished data). Because of this heterogeneity, our analysis of homology began at amino acid 3.

The two S. cerevisiae genes had the same amino acids at 210 of the 322 positions analyzed (65%). In the regions analyzed, the predicted amino acid sequences of YG100 and YG101 were 72 and 64% homologous, respectively, to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene. If only the regions for which data were available for both S. cerevisiae genes were considered, the same values of homology to the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene were found. Often, the amino acids substituted in the

YG 100



FIG. 1. Restriction map and strategy used to determine the nucleotide sequences of regions of YG100 and YG101. The restriction maps were deduced as previously described (7). The solid portions of the arrows above the maps indicate the regions which have been directly shown to be homologous to the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene. In the case of YG100, the dashed region represents regions of homology predicted if an entire gene hsp 70-related gene exists in a continuous segment, and in the case of YG101, the dashed line indicates that the  $3<sup>7</sup>$  end of the gene is not contained within the fragment. DNA sequencing was carried out from each of the sites indicated by the arrows underneath the enlarged portions of the maps. The lengths of the arrows are proportional to the number of nucleotides actually sequenced from each start. In the analysis of YG100 and YG101, four restriction fragment junctures were not crossed; therefore, the sequences must be considered tentative. In YG100 these junctures were the EcoRI site at amino acid (aa) 241 and the BgIII site at amino acid 309. The ClaI site at amino acid 7 and the BgIII site at amino acid 324 are the junctures in YG101 which were not crossed.

FIG. 2. Comparison of the primary sequences of <sup>a</sup> Drosophila hsp <sup>70</sup> gene, YG100, and YG101. The DNA sequences are aligned with the *Drosophila* 87C hsp 70 sequence, which is taken from Ingolia et al. (15). Each dot indicates that the aligned DNA contains the same base as the Drosophila gene. Each dash indicates a deletion relative to the aligned DNA. The solid lines indicate that the DNA sequence was not determined. A triplet is underlined if the base change(s) results in an amino acid (aa) change. The first ATG of the *Drosophila* hsp 70 gene was designated amino acid 1.



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S. cerevisiae genes compared with the Drosophila hsp 70 gene were found to be of the same class (i.e., uncharged, aromatic, nonpolar, acidic, or basic). If amino acid substitutions of the same class were counted as homologies, the homologies to the Drosophila 70,000-dalton protein rose to 83 and 79% for YG100 and YGlO1, respectively. The amino termini were more homologous than the other portions of these genes analyzed. YG100 and YG101 were 75 and 73% homologous, respectively, to Drosophila hsp 70 in the amino-terminal segment (71 amino acids), compared with 72 and 64% if all segments analyzed were considered. In this same region YG100 and YG101 were 79% homologous, compared with an overall homology of 65%.

The *S. cerevisiae* genes were also compared with another member of the Drosophila multigene family. One of the Drosophila genes, which is located at cytological locus 70C, has been isolated and partially characterized (14). This gene, which is related to the hsp 70 gene, is transcribed at normal temperatures and is not induced by heat shock. The predicted sequence of the first 201 amino acids of this gene has been determined. The sequence data available allowed a comparison of 122 amino acids among the four genes (amino acids <sup>1</sup> through 73, 201 through 242, and 256 through 311). In these regions both the Drosophila hsp 70 gene and the gene contained within YG100 encode the same amino acid as the 70C Drosophila gene in 95 of 122 positions  $(78%)$ . YG101 and the 70C Drosophila gene encode the same amino acid at 70 (65%) of the positions.

As expected, the two S. cerevisiae genes were also homologous with the hsp 70 gene at the nucleotide level. The genes contained within YG100 and YG1O1 were 63 and 59% homologous, respectively, to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene. The genes of YG100 and YG101 were 69% homologous at the nucleotide level. Some of this divergence in nucleotide sequence may be explained by a different codon preference of the two organisms; for example, *Drosophila* hsp 70 arginine residues are often encoded by CGC, whereas the S. cerevisiae genes tend to use the AGA codon.

Expression of RNAs homologous to YG100 and YG101. The transcription of YG100 and YG101 homologous sequences was analyzed under normal growth conditions and after heat shock. RNA was isolated from cultures growing at 23°C and from cultures rapidly shifted to 37°C and incubated for 20 min. Polyadenylic acid-contain-

ing RNA from equal numbers of cells was labeled in vitro with  $32P$  by using polynucleotide kinase and hybridized to YG100, YG101, or vector pBR322 DNA dotted onto nitrocellulose filters (31). The resulting autoradiograph is shown in Fig. 4. The intensity of the spot containing YG100 was greater when the DNA was hybridized to heat-shocked RNA than when it was hybridized to control RNA. This difference in intensity indicates that the heat-shocked cells contained more RNA homologous to YG100 than the normally growing cells did. This result suggests that transcription of RNA homologous to YG100 is increased after heat shock. Alternatively, the increased intensity could have been due to a preferential stability of YG100 homologous RNA in heat-shocked cells compared with control cells.

The heat shock-inducible sequences were localized to a portion of YG100. An analogous hybridization experiment used as a source of DNA <sup>a</sup> plasmid containing <sup>a</sup> 1.2-kb PstI-EcoRI fragment of YG100. This fragment encompassed the amino terminus, extending from the codon of amino acid 242 to approximately 600 bases up-



FIG. 4. Hybridization of control and heat-shocked RNAs to YG100 and YG101. A  $0.5$ - $\mu$ g amount of pBR322, YG100, or YG101 DNA was linearized by cleavage with HindlIl, denatured, and spotted onto a nitrocellulose filter. Identical filters were hybridized as described in the text with polyadenylic acid-containing selected RNAs from untreated cells (control) and heat-shocked cells which had been labeled with <sup>32</sup>P in vitro. A total of 7.5  $\times$  10<sup>6</sup> cpm of each RNA (5  $\times$  $10^7$  cpm/ $\mu$ g) was hybridized in each case.

FIG. 3. Comparison of the proposed amino acid (aa) sequences of a Drosophila hsp 70 gene, YG100, and YG101. The amino acid sequences were deduced from the primary sequences shown in Fig. 2. The amino acids encoded by YG100 and YG101 are shown only at positions where differences occur relative to the Drosophila protein.



FIG. 5. Detection of RNA homologous to YG100 by cDNA synthesis. A HincII-KpnI fragment that was labeled with  $32P$  at the HincII site (see Fig. 1) was used as <sup>a</sup> primer for cDNA synthesis. The cDNA was electrophoresed in <sup>a</sup> 6% acrylamide gel in <sup>8</sup> M urea. Lane a, <sup>32</sup>P-labeled HaeIII-digested pBR322 size standard; lane b, 50  $\mu$ g of *S. cerevisiae* RNA; lane c, RNA control. The primer ran off the gel.

stream from the codon of amino acid <sup>1</sup> (Fig. 1). This DNA showed the same differential hybridization to control and heat-shocked RNA as YG100 (Craig, unpublished data). This result supports the idea that the heat-inducible transcripts are homologous to those YGI00 sequences which show homology to the Drosophila hsp 70 sequences.

The intensity of the YG101-containing spot was lower when the DNA was hybridized to heat-shocked RNA than when it was probed with control RNA, indicating that heat-shocked cells contain less RNA homologous to YG101 than control cells do. This difference is consistent with either a decrease in the transcription level or a preferential degradation of sequences homologous to YG101 upon heat shock.

The experiments described above demonstrated that RNAs homologous to recombinant plasmids YG100 and YG1O1 show regulation associated with heat shock. S1 nuclease and cDNA extension experiments were carried out to demonstrate more directly that sequences homologous to the putative protein-encoding regions are transcribed. A HincII-KpnI fragment of YG100 which spans the protein-encoding region from the codon of amino acid 94 to the codon of amino acid 160 was  $5'$  end labeled with  $32P$ . The fragment was then denatured, hybridized under stringent conditions to S. cerevisiae RNA, and used as <sup>a</sup> primer for the synthesis of cDNA by reverse transcriptase. The size of the cDNA synthesized was determined by electrophoresis on acrylamide gels in <sup>8</sup> M urea. The 200-base primer was extended to approximately 510 bases (Fig. 5); in the absence of yeast RNA, no extension occurred. This result indicates that sequences homologous to the protein-encoding region are transcribed and that the size of the cDNA is consistent with an extension of about 25 bases beyond the codon for amino acid 1.

An Si nuclease digestion experiment was performed with a ClaI fragment of YG101 (Fig. 6). This fragment extends from the codon for amino acid 12 to about 700 base pairs upstream from the bases that encode the amino terminus of the protein. After hybridization of the labeled ClaI fragment with RNA and subsequent cleavage with S1 nuclease, <sup>a</sup> 68-base fragment of DNA, which included 29 bases <sup>5</sup>' proximal to the codon for amino acid 1, remained. We conclude that YG1O1 or a very similar gene is transcribed in S. cerevisiae cells. Another strong band, 39 bases long, was also observed; 39 bases is the distance from the ClaI site to the ATG of codon



FIG. 6. Detection of RNA homologous to YG101 by S1 nuclease digestion. A ClaI fragment was labeled with 32P, hybridized with RNA, and treated with SI nuclease. Lane a, 50  $\mu$ g of S. cerevisiae RNA; lane b, RNA control. The intense band in both lanes is the intact ClaI fragment. The sizes indicated on the left were determined from the sizes of fragments generated from <sup>a</sup> G-specific sequencing reaction carried out on the same ClaI fragment and run in an adjacent lane.



FIG. 7. Hybridizaton of YG100 and YG101 to S. cerevisiae genome DNA. A 3-µg portion of S. cerevisiae DNA was digested with EcoRI (lanes <sup>1</sup> and 4), BamHI (lanes <sup>2</sup> and 5), or HindlIl (lanes <sup>3</sup> and <sup>6</sup> through 8), electrophoresed on <sup>a</sup> 1% agarose gel, and transferred to filters. YG1l1 (lanes <sup>7</sup> and 8) and fragments of YG100 encompassing the codons of amino acids 160 through 305 (lanes 1 through 6) were labeled with <sup>32</sup>P by nick translation and end labeling, respectively, and hybridized to the filters in either 50% formamide (lanes 1 through 3 and 7) or 30% formamide (lanes 4 through 6 and 8) at 37°C. Hybridization in 50% formamide was referred to as stringent (S) conditions, whereas hybridization in 30% formamide was referred to as nonstringent (NS) conditions. The sizes of the HindIII fragments were determined by comparison with HindIII-digested adenovirus type <sup>2</sup> DNA run in parallel in these and other experiments. The sizes of these fragments were as follows (in kilobases): band A, 2.0; band B, 2.3; band C, 3.5; band D, 4.0; band E, 5.3; band F, 6.3; band G, 6.6; band H, 9; and band I, 10.5.

1, and this distance probably resulted from hybridization of an RNA transcribed from another member of the multigene family which was not homologous in the <sup>5</sup>' noncoding region. These cDNA extension and S1 nuclease digestion results indicate that RNAs are transcribed from these portions of YG100 and YG101 or from very similar genes which are also related to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene.

hsp 70-related sequences in the S. cerevisiae genome. To estimate the number of hsp 70 related sequences in the S. cerevisiae genome, S. cerevisiae DNA was digested with several restriction enzymes, subjected to electrophoresis in an agarose gel, transferred to nitrocellulose by the method of Southern (30), and hybridized with all or portions of the protein-encoding region of YG100 or YG101 (Fig. 7). If sequences homologous to hsp 70 reside in different flanking sequences, restriction fragnents homologous to hsp 70 which have at least one end in non-hsp 70 DNA are likely to be unique in size. Therefore,

the number of bands detected allowed an estimate to be made of the reiteration of hsp 70 related sequences in the S. cerevisiae genome.

End-labeled fragments of YGlO0 (spanning the segment of DNA which encoded amino acids 160 to 304) were hybridized to S. cerevisiae DNA cleaved with EcoRI, BamHI, and HindIll. Multiple bands were observed in the digests of each of the enzymes, but the Hindlll digest was the most informative. The BamHI fragments which hybridized were large and therefore were not clearly resolved in this experiment. The EcoRI-generated restriction fragment which hybridized probably reflected an overestimate of the gene copy number because the probes from YG100 spanned an *EcoRI* site. The probe from YG100 did not contain a HindIII site; the eight bands in Fig. 7, lane 6, constitute an estimate of the gene redundancy in the S. cerevisiae genome. Figure 7, lane 8, shows that the pattern of hybridization of genomic HindIII-cleaved DNA was identical to the pattern obtained with

YG100 when YG101 was used as a probe, except that one additional band (band E) was observed. Band E was also observed after longer exposure of the filter after hybridization with the YG100 probe. Also, hybridization to a 1.2-kb fragment was detected with both YG100- and YG101 specific probes. The hybridization signal was weak, and this band is not visible in Fig. 7. The same pattern was also observed when a 345-base pair EcoRI fragment from YG101 (spanning the codons for amino acids 341 to 456 in the predicted protein-encoding region) was hybridized to a similar blot (M. Ellwood, unpublished data).

Since the EcoRI fragment from YG101 and the probes from YG100 represented nonoverlapping regions of the protein-encoding sequence but resulted in similar hybridization patterns, we excluded the possibility that internal HindIll sites in any of the sequences homologous to hsp 70 generated multiple bands from the same locus. We conclude from these experiments that the S. cerevisiae genome contains at least 10 sequences that are homologous to the Drosophila hsp 70 gene.

Although the positions of the bands were the same whether DNA from YG100 or YG101 was used as probe, the relative intensities of the bands were not the same. This is shown clearly in Fig. 7, lanes 3 and 7, where hybridization was performed under more stringent conditions. For instance, bands B and <sup>I</sup> were relatively intense when DNA was hybridized to YG100, whereas bands A, D, and F were more intense when YG101 was used as the probe. Clearly, the hsp 70-related sequences in S. cerevisiae differ in the extent of homology to YG100 and YG101.

## **DISCUSSION**

Two members of an S. cerevisiae multigene family which are homologous to the gene encoding the major heat-inducible protein of Drosophila (hsp 70) were isolated. Our evidence suggests that transcription of one of these genes (YG100) or a closely related gene is enhanced by heat shock and that the amount of RNA homologous to the other gene (YG101) is reduced. The primary DNA sequences of YG100 and YG101 determined thus far resemble the sequences of functional genes in that distinguishing characteristics of pseudogenes, such as frameshift mutations and large deletions or insertions, have not been found. Although no mutations which would disrupt the reading frame have been found, the several small insertions or deletions found cause the addition or loss of one or two amino acids compared with the Drosophila hsp <sup>70</sup> protein. A comparison of three-fourths of the predicted amino acid sequences of YG100 and Drosophila hsp 70 showed 72% homology, thus demonstrating remarkable sequence conservation. Other conserved proteins of Drosophila and S. cerevisiae have been sequenced either directly or indirectly by nucleic acid analysis. Comparisons have shown that actin, cytochrome  $c$ , and histone H2B are conserved approximately 88, 58, and 69%, respectively, between the two species (8, 10, 12, 33; S. Tobin, personal communication).

The isolation of a gene from S. cerevisiae by homology to a heat shock-inducible Drosophila gene and the enhancement of the transcription of this gene by heat treatment demonstrate that at least one gene inducible by heat shock has been conserved in evolution. This conclusion is consistent with previous observations that a heat shock response, which is defined as an increase in synthesis of a limited number of proteins and a decrease in synthesis of most others, occurs in a wide variety of plant and animal species (3, 16, 21, 26). Major induced proteins in Dictyostelium, hamsters, chickens, humans, tobacco, and soybean with molecular weights between 70,000 and 75,000 have been observed. The isoelectric points of these proteins are very similar to the isoelectric point of the Drosophila hsp 70 protein. Furthermore, the tryptic maps of the major heat shock proteins of two diverse species (chickens and hamsters) are very similar (34). Also, Kelley and Schlessinger (17) recently demonstrated that antibodies to the chicken 70,000 dalton heat shock protein cross-react with proteins of Drosophila, Xenopus, mice, humans, and yeasts.

The function of heat shock proteins has not been determined. However, it has been shown in yeasts, Dictyostelium, and Drosophila that a pretreatment at nonlethal temperatures which results in induction of heat shock proteins dramatically improves the ability of cells to withstand a normally lethal heat shock (21, 23, 27). This increase in the ability to survive a stress suggests a physiological function for the heat shock-inducible proteins. The maintenance of a gene for a heat shock protein in evolution also indicates a probable biological importance for the heat shock response.

The results reported here indicate that S. cerevisiae contains a multigene family of sequences, about 10 in number, which are related to the hsp 70 gene of Drosophila. This is an unusually large multigene family for a yeast; the previously identified multigene families which encode proteins contain only a few members. For instance, S. cerevisiae contains only one actin gene (12, 28), whereas Drosophila contains six (11, 32). S. cerevisiae contains two copies of the histone H2B gene (33), whereas Drosophila contains approximately 100 copies (19). At least one member of the S. cerevisiae hsp 70-related multigene family, YG100 or a closely related VOL. 2, 1982

gene, is heat inducible; transcription of another member, YG101 or a closely related gene, is not enhanced by heat shock and is perhaps repressed. Recently, in Drosophila we have found a multigene family that is related to the hsp 70 gene (14; unpublished data). This multigene family contains both heat-inducible members (hsp 70, hsp 68) and at least three members which are transcribed under normal growth conditions and not induced by heat shock. We conclude that an analogous multigene family exists in S. cerevisiae. YG101 has been identified as a member which is transcribed at normal growth temperatures and is not induced by heat shock. The protein products of the genes transcribed at normal growth temperatures may perform the same or analogous functions under normal growth conditions as hsp 70 performs under conditions of stress. These results suggest that the members that are not inducible by heat shock are also conserved in evolution. Such multigene families of hsp 70-related sequences under complex transcriptional control may well be found in many plant and animal species.

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