

Functional Genomics Analysis of Singapore Grouper Iridovirus: Complete Sequence Determination and Proteomic Analysis

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Here we report the complete genome sequence of Singapore grouper iridovirus (SGIV). Sequencing of the random shotgun and restriction endonuclease genomic libraries showed that the entire SGIV genome consists of 140,131 nucleotide bp. One hundred sixty-two open reading frames (ORFs) from the sense and antisense DNA strands, coding for lengths varying from 41 to 1,268 amino acids, were identified. Computer-assisted analyses of the deduced amino acid sequences revealed that 77 of the ORFs exhibited homologies to known virus genes, 23 of which matched functional iridovirus proteins. Forty-two putative conserved domains or signatures were detected in the National Center for Biotechnology Information CD-Search database and PROSITE database. An assortment of enzyme activities involved in DNA replication, transcription, nucleotide metabolism, cell signaling, etc., were identified. Viruses were cultured on a cell line derived from the embryonated egg of the grouper *Epinephelus tauvina*, isolated, and purified by sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation. The protein extract from the purified virions was analyzed by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis followed by in-gel digestion of protein bands. Matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization–time of flight mass spectrometry and database searching led to identification of 26 proteins. Twenty of these represented novel or previously unidentified genes, which were further confirmed by reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR) and DNA sequencing of their respective RT-PCR products.

Iridoviruses are animal viruses that infect only invertebrates and poikilothermic vertebrates, such as fish, insects, amphibians, and reptiles (40). They have been implicated as causative agents of serious systemic diseases among cultured and ornamental fish, as well as wild fish. Within the family *Iridoviridae*, four genera of DNA-containing viruses are currently known to infect invertebrates (*Iridovirus* and *Chloriridovirus*) and cold-blooded vertebrates (*Ranavirus* and *Lymphocystivirus*) (36). Major characteristic features of all iridoviruses are the large icosahedral viral particles (120 to 300 nm) present in the cytoplasm. Generally, isolates from fish tend to be larger (200 to 300 nm) in size than both amphibian and invertebrate viruses (120 to 200 nm). To date, genome sequences of five iridovirus genomes have been published: *Lymphocystis disease virus* (LCDV) (genus *Lymphocystivirus*) (33), *Chilo iridescent virus* (CIV) (genus *Iridovirus*) (18), *Tiger frog virus* (TFV) (genus *Ranavirus*) (13), *Infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus* (ISKNV) (genus unassigned) (14), and *Ambystoma tigrinum virus* (ATV) (genus *Ranavirus*) (19).

Iridovirus pathogens have been regarded as a cause of serious systemic diseases among feral, cultured, and ornamental fish in the recent years. Mortalities of fish due to systemic iridovirus infection reaching 30 to 100% were observed. Histopathological signs in iridovirus-infected fish may include enlargement of cells and necrosis of the renal and splenic hematopoietic tissues (28). In 1994, a novel viral disease called

sleepy grouper disease (SGD) resulted in significant economic losses in Singapore marine net cage farms. Finally, this novel iridovirus of the genus *Ranavirus*, designated *Singapore grouper iridovirus* (SGIV), was successfully isolated in 1998 from brown-spotted grouper (6, 29). Further, it was successfully grown in an alternate grouper embryonated egg (*Epinephelus tauvina*) cell line, with good resultant titers (9) and was used as a source to purify SGIV. The physicochemical properties of SGIV have been reported previously (28). At the molecular level, only a partial sequence encoding the highly conserved major capsid protein in SGIV has been reported (28). Due to its relevance in the aquaculture industry, it is important to study the molecular mechanism of viral infection and virus-host interaction in grouper. As an initial part of these studies, we have determined the complete genomic sequence of SGIV. We have also confirmed the authenticity of some open reading frames (ORFs) using the proteomic approach and reverse transcription-PCR (RT-PCR).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Virus infection, purification, and genomic DNA extraction. Grouper embryonic cells from the brown-spotted grouper *Epinephelus tauvina* (5) were cultured in Eagle's minimum essential medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum, 0.116 M NaCl, 100 IU of penicillin G/ml and 100 μ l of streptomycin sulfate/ml. Culture media were equilibrated with HEPES to the final concentration of 5 mM and adjusted to pH 7.4 with NaHCO₃. Virus was inoculated onto confluent monolayers of the grouper cell line at a multiplicity of infection of approximately 0.1. When the cytopathic effect was sufficient, the medium containing SGIV was harvested and centrifuged at 12,000 \times g for 30 min at 4°C. The pellet comprising the virus was resuspended with the culture medium and ultrasonicated. The suspension containing the lysate, virus, and cellular debris was then centrifuged at 4,000 \times g for 20 min at 4°C. The supernatant was layered onto a cushion of 35% sucrose and centrifuged at 210,000 \times g for 1 h at 4°C. The pellet, resuspended with the TN buffer (50 mM Tris-HCl [pH 7.4], 150 mM NaCl), was

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overlaid with 30, 40, 50, and 60% (m/v) sucrose gradients and centrifuged at $210,000 \times g$ for 1 h at 4°C. Virus bands, present in 50% sucrose, were aspirated, sonicated briefly, and reloaded onto sucrose gradients. The lowest band (50% sucrose) was individually aspirated and spun down at $100,000 \times g$. The purity of virus was examined by negative staining under transmission electron microscopy (JEOL 100 CXII) and was shown to be sufficiently pure for isolation of the genomic DNA, construction of shotgun and restriction libraries, and proteomic analysis. The genomic DNA of the SGIV was treated with protease K and *N*-lauroylsarcosine, followed by phenol-chloroform extraction and alcohol precipitation (16).

Construction of libraries. Soluble genomic DNA was quantified by spectrophotometry (UV-1600; Shimadzu). Sixty micrograms of genomic DNA was diluted with TM buffer (5 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.0], 1.5 mM MgCl₂) to a final volume of 200 μ l and ultrasonicated (3-s bursts) using an ultrasonic liquid processor (model XL2020; Misonix Inc., Farmingdale, N.Y.). The appropriate viral DNA fragments (500 to 800 bp) were excised from the 1.0% agarose gel and extracted using the QIAquick gel extraction kit (QIAGEN). Genomic DNA fragments were end repaired with T4 DNA polymerase, followed by phosphorylation with T4 polynucleotide kinase. DNA fragments were purified using a High Pure PCR product purification kit (Roche) before the next enzymatic reaction. Sonicated fragments were ligated by incubation at 16°C overnight to the pUC19 vector, which had been prelinearized by SmaI followed by dephosphorylation. After purification, chimerical plasmids were transformed into electrocompetent-cell DH5 α . More than 1,000 recombinants were selected from the library by the blue/white screening assay. To construct the restriction library, DNA fragments were obtained by restriction digestion with BamHI and cloned into the corresponding site of pBluescriptII KS(+) vector. Both libraries were used to scaffold the SGIV genome.

Assembly and analysis of SGIV genome. Sequencing of the viral fragments was carried out following the standard protocol supplied by Applied Biosystems. All cycle sequencing products were loaded onto the ABI PRISM 3100 genetic analyzer to acquire nucleotide sequences from both directions. Before the scaffolds were created, high-throughput BLAST analysis was performed for all nucleotide sequences to eliminate contamination reads, followed by vector screening with the InterPhase program (University of Washington). A software package, Vector NTI Suite 7.1 (InforMax Inc., Frederick, Mass.), was applied to create the contigs, assemble the genome, identify ORFs, analyze presumptive genes, and draw the genomic map. The whole genome was also submitted to <http://www.softberry.com> (Softberry Inc., Mount Kisco, N.Y.) for identification of all potential ORFs. These ORFs were searched against the mirror site of National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) nucleotide database at the Singapore Bioinformatics Institute. The presumptive genes were submitted to the NCBI network service to search for conserved domains. Protein motifs were analyzed by using the PROSITE database, release 18.17 (8). Signal peptides and signal anchors were predicted with SignalP V2.0 (24, 25). Signal anchors exist in certain membrane proteins (type II membrane proteins) attaching to the membrane by an N-terminal sequence which shares many characteristics with a signal peptide sequence but is not cleaved. Transmembrane domains were predicted with TMPred (15).

Mass spectrometric analysis of SGIV proteins. The protein pellet of the lower band from sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation was separated by one-dimensional sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE). Thirty-nine well-separated protein bands were excised, reduced, alkylated, and digested with trypsin (31). To extract the peptides, the gel particles were twice treated with 20 mM NH₄HCO₃ and 5% formic acid in 50% acetonitrile, respectively. All supernatants were combined and dried in a vacuum centrifuge. Dried peptides were dissolved in 3 to 20 μ l of 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid in 50% acetonitrile. Dissolved peptides (0.5 μ l) were spotted onto a target plate, followed by an equal volume of 10-mg/ml α -cyano-4-hydroxycinnamic acid in 50% acetonitrile-0.1% trifluoroacetic acid. After the spots had dried, the target plate was loaded into a Voyager-DE STR BioSpectrometry workstation mass spectrometer (PerSeptive Biosystems, Framingham, Mass.). Mass spectra were acquired with 20.5 kV, 73.5% of grid, and a delayed time of 380 ns under a positive-ion reflector mode. The resulting peptide mass fingerprints were searched against the SGIV ORF database using the AutoMS-Fit search program (version 1.2.18; PerSeptive Biosystem).

RT-PCR. Total RNA was extracted from viral cultures at different infective stages using an RNeasy Mini kit (QIAGEN). After the treatment of the total RNA with the RNase-free DNase I (QIAGEN), gene-specific primers were used to amplify the target genes by using the OneStep RT-PCR kit (QIAGEN). All the steps were followed according to the manufacturer's manual. Briefly, cDNA was reverse transcribed at 50°C for 30 min. The PCR amplification segment was started with an initial heating step at 95°C for 15 min (in order to simultaneously

deactivate omniscrypt and sensiscrypt reverse transcriptases). After the activation of the HotStarTaq DNA polymerase, PCR amplification reactions were performed for 30 cycles under conditions of 95°C for 30 s, 51 to 58°C for 15 s, and 72°C for 1 min per cycle. The annealing temperature was optimized for different target genes. RT-PCR products were analyzed with 1% agarose gel and also subjected to nucleotide sequencing.

Virus abbreviations. ALIV, African lampeye iridovirus; ATV, *Ambystoma tigrinum* virus; BIV, Bohle iridovirus; BVDV, bovine viral diarrhea virus; CIV, *Chilo* iridescent virus; CV, chlorella virus; CZIV, *Costelytra zealandica* iridescent virus; EHDV, epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus; EHNV, epizootic hematopoietic necrosis virus; EHV-1, equine herpesvirus; FPV, fowlpox virus; FV3, frog virus 3; GIV, grouper iridovirus; GSIV, giant seaperch iridovirus; HVAV, *Heliothis virescens* ascovirus; IMRV, *Ictalurus melas* ranavirus; ISKNV, infectious spleen and kidney necrosis virus; LBIV, largemouth bass iridovirus; LCDV-1, lymphocystis disease virus 1; LYCIV, large yellow croaker iridovirus; MSEP, *Melanoplus sanguinipes* entomopoxvirus; OMRV, *Oncorhynchus mykiss* ranavirus; PBCV, *Paramecium bursaria* chlorella virus; RGV, *Rana grylio* virus; RRV, *Regina* ranavirus; RSBI, Red Sea bream iridovirus; SBIV, sea bass iridovirus; SCV, *Siniperca chuatsi* virus; SFAV, *Spodoptera frugiperda* ascovirus; SGIV, Singapore grouper iridovirus; SIV, *Simulium* iridescent virus; SOV, *Sciaenops ocellatus* virus; TFV, tiger frog virus; TIV, *Tipula* iridescent virus; WIV, *Wiseana* iridescent virus.

Nucleotide sequence accession number. The complete SGIV genome sequence has been deposited in GenBank under accession no. AY521625. Accession numbers of 162 annotated ORFs are from AAS18016 to AAS18177, consecutively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Determination of the SGIV genome sequence. We set out to generate $8 \times$ to $9 \times$ genome coverage of the SGIV genome. The bulk of the sequence coverage (2,065 passing reads) resulted from the shotgun library. However, 214 passing reads from the restriction library provided important intermediate-range linking information for assembly. Thirteen contigs ranging from 28,106 to 651 bp were scaffolded with the Contig Express program (CEP) of the Vector NTI suite 7.1. Final gaps were directly sequenced off the genomic DNA with custom synthetic primers and closed by 50 passing reads. In total, 2,329 cycle sequencing reaction products (free of contamination reads) from both random shotgun and restriction libraries were used to assemble the SGIV genome. Most of the genome (98.4%) was compiled by sequencing at least three times. Only 1.6% of the genome was assembled from a single recombinant. One hundred percent of the genome sequence was constructed from sequencing in both directions. Like other iridoviruses, SGIV was made up of a double-stranded DNA which is circularly permuted (30, 11). The whole SGIV genome consists of 140,131 bp with a G+C content of 48.64% (Fig. 1), which is slightly less than that of TFV (55.01%), ISKNV (54.78%), and ATV (54.02%) but substantially more than that of LCDV-1 (29.07%) and CIV (28.63%).

Coding capacity of the viral genomic DNA sequence. Prediction of presumptive genes was carried out by using the viral gene prediction program under the website <http://www.softberry.com> supplemented with Vector NTI suite 7.1. One hundred sixty-two presumptive ORFs were identified to code for proteins ranging from 41 to 1,268 amino acids on the sense (R) and antisense (L) DNA strands (Table 1). Computer-assisted analyses of the deduced amino acid sequences revealed that 23 of the ORFs share high levels of identity to iridovirus proteins which have been described previously to have specific biological functions. Fifty-one ORFs are homologous to other iridovirus genes, for which the corresponding proteins and their

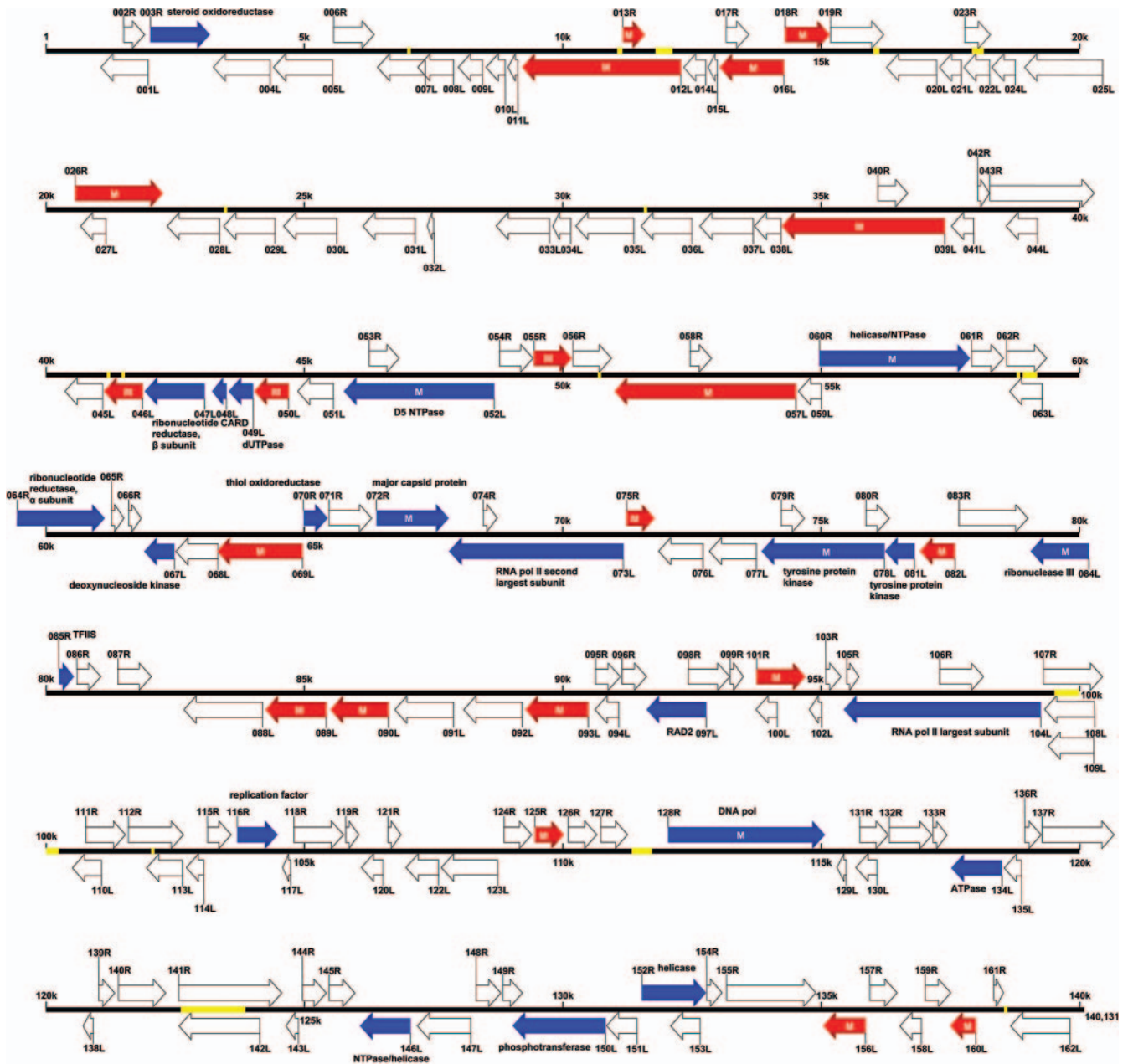


FIG. 1. Organization of the SGIV genome. The SGIV genome is shown in a linear format. A total of 162 ORFs, predicted by the FGENESV program (available through: <http://www.softberry.com>), supplemented with Vector NTI suite 7.1, are indicated by their locations, orientations, and putative sizes. Blue arrows represent ORFs with known function, while red arrows represent ORFs detected by RT-PCR. "M" represents an ORF whose expressed product was identified by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. Yellow lines represent repetitive sequence regions. The scale is in 5 kbp.

respective functions remain unknown. Additionally, three ORFs show weak homologies to genes of other viruses. Forty-two conserved domains, motifs, or signatures are identified from the NCBI CD-Search database and the PROSITE database (Table 1). A number of genes of SGIV are shown to be present in the ATV, TFV, LCDV, CIV, and ISKNV genomes. These include genes for the DNA polymerase, the DNA repair protein, the two largest subunits of DNA-dependent RNA polymerase II, the TFIIS, RNase III, ATPase, etc. (Table 1). There is no evidence of introns, and both strands are shown to

contain ORFs. Three pairs of ORFs partially overlap other ORFs.

Repetitive regions. The analysis of the genome showed the presence of 17 repetitive regions distributed throughout the genome. In total, these occupy 2.6% of the SGIV genome, varying in size from 31 to 1,119 bp. These regions encompass eight perfect and nine imperfect repetitive sequences whose match percentages range from 80 to 99% (Table 2). No homologies between those repeats were detected. The base composition of 12 repeats is found to be more than 65% G+C. The

TABLE 1. Listing of potential expressed ORFs in SGIV

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosite accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e	
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f		
ORF001L	1971–1057 (304)	34.65	9.19						TM	
ORF002R	1502–1903 (133)	14.20	8.86							
ORF003R	2018–3163 (381)	43.16	8.99	3-Beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase (pfam01073)	386	53	AAL77802	TFV054L		3-beta-hydroxy-delta 5-C27-steroid oxidoreductase-like protein, TM
ORF004L	4332–3235 (365)	41.67	8.26		45	23	AAP33232	ATV053R		
ORF005L	5542–4400 (380)	40.40	8.72	Transmembrane amino acid transporter protein (pfam01490) C-type lectin domain signature (PS00615)	76.3	23	AAF61849	<i>Mus musculus</i>		N system amino acids transporter NAT-1, TM, SA
ORF006R	5570–6349 (259)	29.15	5.25		324	67	AAP33234	ATV055R		Early 31-kDa protein, TM
					318	69	CAA07475	EHNV		
					318	68	AAL77797	TFV025R		
					261	67	CAA37177	FV3		
					115	32	NP_078713	LCDV122R		
					39.3	22	AAL98842	ISKNV118L		
ORF007L	7339–6416 (307)	30.12	6.96							TM
ORF008L	7886–7194 (230)	22.15	9.52							
ORF009L	8444–7980 (154)	16.43	6.14							TM
ORF010L	8888–8517 (123)	13.61	5.13							
ORF011L	9132–8944 (62)	6.63	8.44							TM, SP
ORF012L	12293–9219 (1024)	117.36	9.46		64	35	AAP33240	ATV061R		
ORF013R	11173–11595 (140)	14.49	6.08							TM
ORF014L	12773–12348 (141)	15.85	7.98		79	35	AAP33239	ATV060R		
ORF015L	13000–12821 (59)	6.57	9.11		33	51	AAP33181	ATV004R		TM, SA
ORF016L	14289–13048 (413)	46.26	5.08		325	40	AAP33180	ATV003R		TM
					70.5	26	AAK82090	CIV229L		
ORF017R	13172–13609 (145)	16.07	7.04							TM
ORF018R	14317–15174 (285)	32.32	6.02		178	38	AAP33179	ATV002L		
					61.2	34	NP_078687	LCDV093R		
ORF019R	15196–16224 (342)	36.82	7.44	Poxvirus proteins of unknown function (pfam03003) Glycoprotein hormones beta chain signature (PS00261)	381	70	AAP33178	ATV001L		TM
					164	37	NP_078745	LCDV160L		
					145	33	AAK82199	CIV337L		
ORF020L	17246–16278 (322)	35.37	8.66		63.20	40	AAP33250	ATV070L		
ORF021L	17725–17306 (139)	16.42	6.19		161	59	AAP33251	ATV071L		
					149	59	AAK54494	RRV		
					62.8	35	NP_078640	LCDV036R		
ORF022L	18277–17777 (166)	18.57	12.55							
ORF023R	17793–18290 (165)	18.22	5.43							TM
ORF024L	18774–18319 (151)	17.15	5.75		45	27	AAP33254	ATV073L		
ORF025L	20488–18956 (510)	56.49	7.31	SAP, putative DNA-binding (bihelical) motif (smart00513)	161	53	AAP33256	ATV075L		
					153	48	AAK54496	RRV		
					100	36	NP_078703	LCDV110L		
ORF026R	20567–22267 (566)	63.32	6.40		375	37	AAP33257	ATV076R		TM
					78.2	21	NP_078649	LCDV048R		
ORF027L	21162–20671 (163)	17.08	8.94							TM
ORF028L	23363–22350 (337)	36.67	7.99	Ig-like domain (PS50385)						TM, SP
ORF029L	24445–23447 (332)	36.58	6.42	Neural cell adhesion molecule L1 (KOG3513) Ig-like domain (PS50385)						TM, SP
ORF030L	25635–24610 (341)	37.90	9.07		33	37	NP_041033	EHV 1		Tegument protein, TM, SP
ORF031L	27160–26144 (338)	37.62	8.46	Ig-like domain (PS50385)						TM, SP
ORF032L	27516–27391 (41)	4.64	9.82							TM, SP
ORF033L	29760–28726 (344)	37.56	8.75	Ig-like domain (PS50385)						TM, SP
ORF034L	30161–29823 (112)	12.66	8.90							TM, SP
ORF035L	31388–30261 (375)	42.26	8.99	Neural cell adhesion molecule L1 (KOG3513) Ig-like domain (PS50385)	48.1	25	BAC11344	<i>Homo sapiens</i>		Unnamed protein product, TM, SA
ORF036L	32515–31526 (329)	37.29	4.95							TM, SP
ORF037L	33696–32668 (342)	37.12	8.77	Neural cell adhesion molecule L1 (KOG3513)	43.1	27	CAA40912	<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>		Fibroblast growth factor receptor, TM, SP
ORF038L	34236–33724 (170)	19.04	9.72		121	64	AAP33260	ATV079L		TM, SA
					69.3	53	NP_078769	LCDV194R		
					36.2	41	AAB94443	CIV117L		

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TABLE 1—Continued

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosit accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f	
ORF039L	37417–34262 (1051)	118.22	8.38	Protein kinase domain (PS50011)	425	36	AAP33261	ATV080L	TM
					176	45	NP_078619	LCDV010L	
					150	28	NP_078677	LCDV080R	
					96.3	24	AAK82240	CIV380R	
					65.1	23	AAL98779	ISKNV055L	
ORF040R	36123–36698 (191)	20.51	9.56						TM, SP
ORF041L	37978–37547 (143)	15.24	6.05						
ORF042R	38058–38285 (75)	8.47	6.23						TM, SP
ORF043R	38285–40288 (667)	73.66	5.36		179	38	AAP33262	ATV081R	TM
ORF044L	39213–38608 (201)	21.71	9.65						
ORF045L	41090–40362 (242)	22.94	9.80						
ORF046L	41866–41120 (248)	23.77	9.88						
ORF047L	43063–41909 (384)	43.58	5.69	Ribonucleotide reductase, beta subunit (COG0208)	580	71	AAP33216	ATV038R	Ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase beta subunit, TM
					567	70	AAL77807	TFV071L	
					331	48	NP_078636	LCDV027R	
ORF048L	43489–43214 (91)	10.50	8.73	Caspase recruitment domain (pfam00619)	57	42	AAP33218	ATV040L	CARD-like caspase
ORF049L	44002–43535 (155)	17.06	6.58	dUTPase (KOG3370)	123	46	AAL77806	TFV068R	dUTPase
					120	47	AAP33220	ATV042L	
					121	40	AAK82298	CIV438L	
ORF050L	44695–44033 (220)	23.55	8.68	Tumor necrosis factor receptor domain (cd00185)	82	32	P25119	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 1B precursor, TM, SP
ORF051L	45563–44868 (231)	26.12	7.43	Tumor necrosis factor receptor domain (cd00185)	72	30	AAO89081	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily member 14 precursor, TM, SP
ORF052L	48673–45767 (968)	109.88	7.71	Predicted ATPase (COG3378)	1414	69	AAP33258	ATV077L	D5 family NTPase, TM
				Poxvirus D5 protein (pfam03288)	607	35	NP_078717	LCDV128L	
					192	39	AAB94479	CIV184R	
					365	46	AAL98833	ISKNV109L	
ORF053R	46254–46832 (192)	20.35	9.99	Lipoprotein lipid attachment site (PS00013)					TM
ORF054R	48777–49424 (215)	25.13	4.98		265	68	AAP33259	ATV078R	TM
					101	34	AAL98780	ISKNV056L	
					81.3	41	NP_078618	LCDV006L	
					80.5	27	AAB94419	CIV067R	
ORF055R	49447–50169 (240)	22.77	10.65	Collagens (type XV) (KOG3546)	80.9	33	ZP_00122019	<i>Haemophilus somnus</i> 129PT	Hypothetical protein
ORF056R	50198–50938 (246)	22.93	6.48						
ORF057L	54510–51004 (1168)	131.30	8.83		1176	52	AAP33249	ATV069R	TM
					1165	52	AAK37740	RRV	
					340	26	NP_078748	LCDV163R	
					134	23	AAL98800	ISKNV076L	
					80.1	31	AAK82156	CIV295L	
ORF058R	52463–52876 (137)	13.75	9.22						
ORF059L	55000–54560 (146)	16.32	9.10		45	25	AAP33185	ATV008R	TM, SP
ORF060R	54967–57879 (970)	109.65	8.98	DNA repair protein, SNF2 family (KOG0390)	1214	61	AAL77795	TFV009L	Putative NTPase 1, TM
				Helicase conserved C-terminal domain (pfam00271)	1212	61	AAP33184	ATV007L	
					940	58	AAK53744	RRV	
					749	42	NP_078720	LCDV132L	
					414	32	AAL98787	ISKNV063L	
					81.3	30	AAD48148	CIV022L	
ORF061R	57914–58528 (204)	23.26	9.54	Catalytic domain of CTD phosphatases (smart00577)	187	50	AAP33244	ATV064R	
				TFIIF-interacting CTD phosphatase (KOG1605)	91.7	34	AAL98729	ISKNV005L	
					76.6	33	NP_078678	LCDV082L	
					53.5	27	AAK82216	CIV355R	
ORF062R	58593–59363 (256)	27.69	5.18	Insulin-like growth factor (smart00078)	91.3	38	BAC67672	<i>Cyanidioschyzon merolae</i>	DNA-directed RNA polymerase II largest subunit, SP
				Predicted DNA-binding protein (KOG2588)					

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TABLE 1—Continued

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosite accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f	
ORF063L	59278–58649 (209)	22.16	3.88	Transcription elongation factor (COG5164)	56.2	47	XP_220553	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Similar to charcot-marie-tooth duplicated region transcript 1, TM
ORF064R	59415–61133 (572)	63.72	8.15	Ribonucleotide reductase, alpha subunit (COG0209)	822	68	AAL77800	TFV041R	Ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase, alpha subunit-like protein, TM
ORF065R	61268–61510 (80)	9.35	8.85	Mitochondrial thymidine kinase 2 (KOG4235) Deoxynucleoside kinase (pfam01712)	827	68	AAP33245	ATV065R	TM, SA Deoxynucleoside kinase, TM
ORF066R	61603–61845 (80)	8.70	9.30		636	54	NP_078756	LCDV176L	
ORF067L	62482–61907 (191)	21.58	6.49		158	43	AAP33196	ATV019L	
					96.7	30	NP_078725	LCDV136R	
ORF068L	63334–62516 (272)	29.61	8.59	Immunoglobulins and major histocompatibility complex proteins signature (PS00290)	56.2	26	AAF44495	FPV	TM
				53.1	25	CAC84464	SFAV-1		
				48.9	24	CAC84481	HVAV-3c		
				209	50	AAP33197	ATV020L		
ORF069L	64967–63321 (548)	61.88	9.62	Erv1/Alt family (pfam04777)	100	27	AAL98836	ISKNV112R	Thiol oxidoreductase, TM
					100	27	NP_078615	LCDV003L	
					40.4	32	AAK82296	CIV436L	
					211	36	AAP33194	ATV017R	
ORF070R	64994–65452 (152)	17.03	9.32	Iridovirus major capsid protein (pfam04451)	69.7	21	NP_078643	LCDV039R	Major capsid protein, TM
					143	47	AAP33193	ATV016L	
					69.3	32	NP_078699	LCDV106L	
					65.5	37	AAL98767	ISKNV043L	
ORF071R	65483–66307 (274)	31.61	8.58	RNA polymerase II, second largest subunit (KOG0214)	38.9	26	AAK82208	CIV347L	DNA-directed RNA polymerase II second-largest subunit, TM
ORF072R	66404–67795 (463)	50.53	6.33		50	36	AAP33192	ATV015L	
					895	99	AAM00286	GIV	
					681	71	AAK55105	TFV096R	
ORF073L	71185–67874 (1103)	123.39	8.28	Purine nucleoside phosphorylase (KOG3984)	676	70	AAO32315	EHNV	Purine nucleoside phosphorylase, TM
					675	70	AAP33191	ATV014L	
					670	71	AAB01722	FRG3V	
					481	50	AAC24486.2	LCDV147L	
ORF074R	68472–68738 (88)	9.16	8.52	Putative lipopolysaccharide-modifying enzyme (smart00672)	417	45	AAK82135	CIV274L	Putative tyrosine protein kinase, TM
					374	43	AAL72276	ISKNV006L	
					1530	65	AAL77805	TFV065L	
					1533	65	AAP33221	ATV043R	
ORF075R	71239–71775 (178)	19.96	4.50	Putative tyrosine protein kinase, TM	1295	66	AAK84400	RRV	Putative tyrosine protein kinase, TM
ORF076L	72715–71858 (285)	30.35	7.17		1018	46	NP_078633	LCDV025L	
ORF077L	73747–72839 (302)	34.12	9.05		755	41	AAL98758	ISKNV034R	
ORF078L	76227–73855 (790)	88.16	8.75		71	73	AAP33222	ATV043bL	
ORF079R	74231–74680 (149)	15.13	7.78	Putative tyrosine protein kinase, TM	51	47	NP_149893	CIV430R	Putative tyrosine protein kinase, TM
ORF080R	75872–76324 (150)	15.93	9.10		44.3	37	NP_078763	LCDV185R	
ORF081L	76809–76246 (187)	21.79	9.05		305	50	NP_000261	<i>Homo sapiens</i>	
					553	43	AAP33237	ATV058R	
ORF082L	77592–76924 (222)	24.32	9.02	TM, SP	231	33	NP_078770	LCDV195R	TM, SP
ORF083R	77672–79009 (445)	50.48	9.26		177	40	AAB94478	CIV179R	
					198	49	AAL77799	TFV029R	
					191	47	AAP33237	ATV058R	
				143	50	AAK54490	RRV	Putative tyrosine protein kinase	
				86.3	32	NP_078770	LCDV195R		
				70.9	28	AAB94478	CIV179R		
ORF082L	77592–76924 (222)	24.32	9.02						
ORF083R	77672–79009 (445)	50.48	9.26						

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TABLE 1—Continued

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosite accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f	
ORF084L	80193–79066 (375)	41.64	9.17	dsRNA-specific ribonuclease (COG0571) Ribonuclease III family (smart00535)	294	45	AAL77809	TFV085L	Ribonuclease III, TM
					287	45	AAP33202	ATV025R	
					215	45	NP_078726	LCDV137R	
					120	35	AAB94459	CIV142R	
					108	37	AAL98811	ISKNV087R	
ORF085R	80251–80529 (92)	10.57	8.27	Transcription elongation factor TFIIIS (COG1594)	98.2	55	AAL77810	TFV086R	Transcription elongation factor SII
					95.9	55	AAP33201	ATV024L	
					57	60	BAA04187	CV	
					57	60	AAC96492	PBCV-1	
					56.6	42	NP_078754	LCDV171R	
ORF086R	80591–81055 (154)	17.11	8.08		108	40	AAA43825	FV3	Putative immediate- early protein, TM
					100	35	AAB47251	IMRV	
					100	35	AAP33200	ATV023L	
					99.8	38	AAL77811	TFV087R	
					99.4	37	AAB47252	OMRV	
ORF087R	81385–82032 (215)	25.22	6.64					SP	
ORF088L	84187–82667 (506)	54.01	4.89		546	55	AAK54492	RRV	TM
					542	55	AAP33230	ATV051L	
					176	31	AAL98731	ISKNV007L	
					176	30	BAC66967	RSBI	
					172	29	NP_078665	LCDV067L	
					108	29	AAB94444	CIV118L	
					82.4	26	CAC19148	Ascovirus DpA V4	
					59.3	21	AAK82318	CIV458R	
ORF089L	85420–84248 (390)	45.59	8.17		49.3	23	AAP33232	ATV053R	
					56	22	AAP33232	ATV053R	
ORF090L	86627–85506 (373)	43.48	7.74						
ORF091L	87886–86750 (378)	44.54	6.93						
ORF092L	89216–88086 (376)	44.12	7.18						
ORF093L	90497–89280 (405)	47.59	7.30						
ORF094L	91083–90622 (153)	16.24	7.92						
ORF095R	90635–91111 (158)	16.61	5.12					TM	
ORF096R	91148–91618 (156)	16.88	7.53	Tumor necrosis factor receptor domain (cd00185)	45.4	35	AAB53707	<i>Ranus norvegicus</i>	TM, SP
									Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 11b Osteoprotegerin, TM, SP
ORF097L	92774–91626 (382)	43.18	9.03	Xeroderma pigmentosum G, N, and I regions (cd00128)	400	51	AAL77816	TFV101R	Putative DNA repair protein RAD2, TM
					394	52	AAP33187	ATV010L	
					382	54	AAK53745	RRV	
					161	33	NP_078767	LCDV191R	
					130	28	AAL98751	ISKNV027L	
					128	28	BAA82754	RSBI	
					94.7	23	AAK82229	CIV369L	
ORF098R	92428–93231 (267)	30.51	9.49		191	56	AAP33188	ATV011R	TM, SP
					187	56	AAK53746	RRV	
					106	51	CAC19143	Ascovirus DpAV4	
					102	40	NP_078627	LCDV019R	
					101	50	AAL98810	ISKNV086L	
					90.5	42	AAK82168	CIV307L	
ORF099R	93244–93492 (82)	9.07	5.13						
ORF100L	94153–93740 (137)	14.89	9.13					TM	
ORF101R	93753–94694 (313)	35.03	6.13					TM	
ORF102L	95007–94774 (77)	8.54	6.93	Ubiquitin/60s ribosomal protein L40 fusion (KOG0003) Ubiquitin/40s ribosomal protein S27a fusion (KOG0004)	134	81	AAD44040	BVDV-2	Polyprotein
ORF103R	95092–95385 (97)	11.05	5.04		42	46	AAP33269	ATV088L	TM, SA
ORF104L	99252–95446 (1268)	139.16	8.30	RNA polymerase II, large subunit (KOG0260)	1477	60	AAL77794	TFV008R	DNA-dependent RNA polymerase largest subunit-like protein, TM
					1476	59	AAP33183	ATV006R	
					947	42	AAA92868	LCDV016L	
					719	37	BAA82753	RSBI	
					709	37	AAL98752	ISKNV028L	
					332	31	AAB33907	CIV176R	

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TABLE 1—Continued

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosite accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f	
ORF105R	95498–95731 (77)	8.11	10.02		40	45	AAK82205	CIV344R	TM
ORF106R	97298–98146 (282)	29.94	10.94						TM
ORF107R	99308–100453 (381)	39.06	3.90						TM, SP
ORF108L	100309–99329 (326)	33.49	11.74						TM
ORF109L	100305–99400 (301)	27.58	3.54						TM, SP
ORF110L	101067–100504 (187)	21.21	6.29						TM
ORF111R	100766–101533 (255)	29.23	5.47		148	33	AAP33270	ATV089R	
					56	22	NP_078768	LCDV193L	
ORF112R	101588–102655 (355)	34.66	6.09	Collagens (type XV) (KOG3546)	52.4	64	BAB34267	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	Putative tail fiber protein, TM, SP
ORF113L	102633–101944 (229)	21.61	6.54						TM
ORF114L	103050–102712 (112)	11.98	8.92						TM, SP
ORF115R	103122–103580 (152)	17.24	6.78	B-Cell lymphoma (smart00337)	40	32	AAF89533	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Bak protein, TM
ORF116R	103700–104476 (258)	30.13	9.11		277	58	AAP33272	ATV091R	Putative replication factor
					144	40	NP_078747	LCDV162L	
					99.4	33	AAK82143	CIV282R	
					45.8	26	AAL98785	ISKNV061L	
ORF117L	104733–104575 (52)	6.28	8.46						
ORF118R	104795–105754 (319)	35.67	8.77		275	55	AAP33268	ATV087R	
					85	27	NP_078701	LCDV108L	
					40.4	23	AAK82148	CIV287R	
					39.3	29	AAL98820	ISKNV096L	
ORF119R	105799–106050 (83)	9.09	9.36		36	29	AAP33205	ATV028L	
ORF120L	106525–106103 (140)	15.96	8.89		110	47	AAP33204	ATV027R	
					108	47	AAK84402	RRV	
					55.5	32	NP_078638	LCDV032R	
ORF121R	106615–106869 (84)	9.84	8.23						TM, SP
ORF122L	107599–106967 (210)	24.25	9.48						
ORF123L	108740–107652 (362)	41.48	8.65		169	29	AAL13097	RGV9807	TM
					169	28	AAP33224	ATV045R	
ORF124R	108863–109399 (178)	20.19	6.54						TM, SP
ORF125R	109474–110028 (184)	21.08	5.92						TM, SP
ORF126R	110101–110658 (185)	20.62	8.00						TM, SP
ORF127R	110731–111252 (173)	19.88	7.14						TM, SP
ORF128R	112041–115070 (1009)	114.95	8.63	DNA polymerase family B (pfam00136)	1374	65	AAL77804	TFV063R	DNA polymerase, TM
					1373	65	AAP33223	ATV044L	
					644	37	NP_078724	LCDV135R	
					540	63	AAK54493	RRV	
					531	34	AAL98743	ISKNV019R	
					531	34	BAA28669	RSBI	
					454	34	CAC84133	Iridovirus RMIV (IV22)	
					362	30	CAC19127	Ascovirus DpAV4	
					315	31	AAD48150	CIV037L	
					263	25	CAC84471	HVAV-3c	
					261	26	CAC19170	SFAV-1	
					258	68	AAK84401	RRV	
ORF129L	115490–115308 (60)	6.68	4.57						
ORF130L	116083–115673 (136)	14.89	6.91	TonB-dependent receptor proteins signature (PS00430)					
ORF131R	115749–116303 (184)	19.93	4.53	IG-like domain (PS0385)					TM, SP
ORF132R	116321–117148 (275)	31.36	9.50		198	48	AAP33263	ATV082R	TM
ORF133R	117168–117440 (90)	9.56	3.57						
ORF134L	118498–117527 (323)	36.50	8.33	ATPases (smart00382)	428	74	AAL77796	TFV016R	ATPase
					369	66	AAA43823	FV3	
					430	74	AAP33264	ATV083L	
					288	58	NP_078656	LCDV054R	
					259	53	AAL98847	ISKNV122R	
					259	53	AAL68652	GIV	
					259	53	BAA28670	RSBI	
					259	53	BAA96406	SBIV	
					259	53	BAA96407	GIV	
					259	53	AAL68653	GSIV	
					259	53	AAL68654	LBIV	
					259	53	AAO16492	LYCIV	
					259	53	BAA96408	ALIV	
					217	55	AAL73346	SCV	
					216	55	AAN77575	SOV	
					201	56	AAM00905	RSBI	
					194	42	AAB94422	CIV075L	

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TABLE 1—Continued

ORF	Nucleotide position (length [aa ^a])	MW ^b (kDa)	pI ^c	Conserved domain or signature ^d (CD/Prosite accession no.)	Match				Predicted structure and/or function ^e
					BlastP score	% Identity	Accession no. ^e	Species ^f	
ORF135L	118885–118547 (112)	12.95	5.98		85	43	AAP33265	ATV084L	
					33	22	NP_078646	LCDV042L	
ORF136R	118946–119260 (104)	11.61	7.66	Possible membrane-associated motif in LPS-induced tumor necrosis factor alpha factor (smart00714)	97.8	61	AAP33206	ATV029R	TM
ORF137R	119282–120667 (461)	49.69	10.07		114	35	AAP33207	ATV030R	
ORF138L	120907–120713 (64)	7.38	4.72						
ORF139R	121013–121324 (103)	11.34	10.02						
ORF140R	121397–122311 (304)	32.14	4.85						
ORF141R	122567–124558 (663)	69.45	4.59	Extracellular matrix glycoprotein Laminin subunit beta (KOG0994)	80.1	25	AAK01205	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Mage-d3, TM
ORF142L	124134–122572 (520)	54.73	3.46						TM, SP
ORF143L	124882–124643 (79)	8.87	8.55		34	49	AAP33212	ATV035L	TM, SA
ORF144R	124963–125421 (152)	16.67	9.07	Fibroblast growth factor (KOG3885)	67.8	33	NP_570107	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Fibroblast growth factor, SP
ORF145R	125480–125977 (165)	18.07	9.20	Acidic and basic fibroblast growth factor family (cd00058)	47.4	29	NP_032028	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Fibroblast growth factor, TM, SP
ORF146L	127052–126078 (324)	36.71	6.72	Predicted E3 ubiquitin ligase (KOG1814)	269	42	AAP33208	ATV031R	NTPase/helicase
					265	43	AAL77808	TFV078L	
					105	30	NP_078700	LCDV107R	
					60.8	35	AAC97709	MSEPV	
ORF147L	128221–127187 (344)	39.40	5.49		42	27	AAP33224	ATV045R	TM
					40	25	AAL13097	RGV_9807	
ORF148R	128324–128803 (159)	17.63	6.99		117	45	AAP33210	ATV033L	
					54.3	28	NP_078659	LCDV059L	
ORF149R	128843–129220 (125)	14.59	5.10						
ORF150L	130827–129301 (508)	57.28	7.88		283	34	AAP33226	ATV047L	Phosphotransferase, TM
					171	27	NP_078729	LCDV143L	
					65.9	35	AAL98737	ISKNV013R	
					39.7	27	AAK82240	CIV380R	
ORF151L	131435–130848 (195)	22.26	6.48		75	35	AAP33227	ATV048L	TM
					45	29	NP_078686	LCDV091R	
ORF152R	131534–132772 (412)	46.57	9.46	DNA or RNA helicases of superfamily II (COG1061) DEAD-like helicases superfamily (smart00487)	334	44	AAP33229	ATV050R	Helicase, SP
					328	44	CAB37349	EHNV	
					324	44	AAK55107	TFV056L	
					160	30	AAB94470	CIV161L	
					64.7	24	NP_042815	ASFV	
ORF153L	132661–132089 (190)	21.96	8.93		58	30	CAB37350	EHNV	40kDa protein
					57	29	CAA58035	FV3	
ORF154R	132788–133081 (97)	10.87	9.73						TM
ORF155R	133172–134899 (575)	64.63	5.02	Semaphorins (KOG3611)	135	26	NP_035482	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Sema domain, immunoglobulin domain (Ig), and GPI membrane anchor, (semaphorin) 7A; H-Sema K1; Semaphorin K1, TM, SP
ORF156L	135860–135048 (270)	31.12	5.61						
ORF157R	135948–136472 (174)	19.73	8.80		180	55	AAP33225	ATV046L	
ORF158L	136944–136528 (138)	15.77	6.15						
ORF159R	137020–137511 (163)	17.42	9.69						TM, SP
ORF160L	137996–137508 (162)	18.90	5.60		122	40	AAP33238	ATV059R	
					77.4	37	NP_078685	LCDV090R	
ORF161R	138345–138533 (62)	6.96	6.28		407	50	AAP33190	ATV013L	TM, SP
ORF162L	139822–138674 (382)	44.12	6.52						Immediate-early protein ICP-46
					403	50	AAK53747	RRV	
					401	49	AAL77815	TFV097R	
					362	47	PI4358	FV3	
					131	27	NP_078648	LCDV047L	
					48.5	29	AAK82253	CIV393L	
					45.4	20	AAL98839	ISKNV115R	

^a aa, amino acid.^b MW, molecular mass.^c pI, isoelectric point.^d Accession numbers starting with PS are Prosite-derived numbers, while those starting with cd, smart, pfam, COG, or KOG are CD-Search within BlastP-derived numbers.^e Accession numbers are from GenBank or SwissProt database.^f All species corresponding virus ORFs are listed; only best match is listed if species are not related to virus.^g Function was deduced from the degree of amino acid similarity to or products of known genes or by the presence of Prosite signatures; TM, transmembrane domains; SP, N-terminal signal peptide; SA, N-terminal signal anchor.

TABLE 2. Positions of repetitive sequences in SGIV genome

Nucleotide position	Period size (bp)	Copy no.	Matches (%)	G + C (%)
7019–7062	18	2.4	96	85
11054–11156	51	2.0	96	52
11798–12126	54	6.1	99	69
16006–16132	27	4.7	87	71
17912–18143	36	6.4	96	55
23472–23505	9	3.8	100	53
31605–31635	15	2.1	100	48
41205–41242	18	2.1	90	71
41489–41528	9	4.4	93	75
50701–50751	18	2.8	100	73
58827–58871	15	3.0	100	74
58907–59192	27	10.6	100	74
99529–100248	63	11.4	100	73
102058–102093	18	2.0	100	78
111355–111749	26	15.2	95	65
122638–123756	42	26.6	80	64
138581–138629	17	2.9	100	29

longest perfect repetitive region, consisting of 11.4 copy numbers and 63 bp per period, is identified at positions 99529 to 100248 in the genome, where it is situated at the position 277 bp upstream of the start codon of the largest subunit of DNA-dependent RNA polymerase II (ORF104L). The biological function of these repetitive sequences remains to be determined. However, “junk DNA” intergenic sequences have been found to exert control over recombination, DNA replication, and gene expression. Many repeats act as binding sites for proteins or as structural elements on the level of RNA (35).

DNA replication and repair. Iridovirus replication occurs in two phases: a nuclear phase and a cytoplasmic phase. A functional nucleus is an essential cellular component for virus replication. After viral DNA is synthesized in the cell nucleus, the

majority of viral DNA is transported to the cytoplasm where the packaging of DNA into the viral capsid occurs (40). SGIV encodes homologs of proteins involved in DNA replication, such as DNA polymerase (ORF128R), DNA repair protein (ORF097L), ATP-GTP binding protein (ORF052L), DNA binding/packing protein (ORF116R), and two helicases (ORF060R and ORF152R) containing highly conserved domains for DNA recombination and repair besides replication (Fig. 2).

ORF146L encodes a putative NTPase/helicase-like protein which could be a primase whose continual activity is required at the DNA replication fork. It catalyzes the synthesis of short molecules used as primers for DNA polymerase. ORF025L encodes a putative DNA binding motif—the so-called SAP motif (named after SAF-A/B, Acinus and PIAS)—which is found in a number of chromatin-associated proteins. It binds specifically to DNA elements called scaffold/matrix attachment regions, which are chromatin regions that bind to the nuclear matrix. Two proteins containing the SAP motif, SAF-A and Acinus, are targets of caspase cleavage during apoptosis, followed by chromatin degradation typical of programmed cell death (3). During apoptosis, SAF-A is cleaved in a caspase-dependent way. The cleavage occurs within the bipartite DNA-binding domain, resulting in the loss of DNA-binding activity and the concomitant detachment of SAF-A from nuclear structural sites. On the other hand, the cleavage does not compromise the association of SAF-A with hnRNP complexes, indicating that the function of SAF-A in the RNA metabolism is not affected during apoptosis (10). It may be inferred that the detachment of SAF-A, caused by the apoptotic proteolysis of its DNA-binding domain, could contribute to nuclear breakdown during host cell apoptosis.

Transcription and mRNA biogenesis. The putative SGIV gene products that are related to DNA transcription comprise

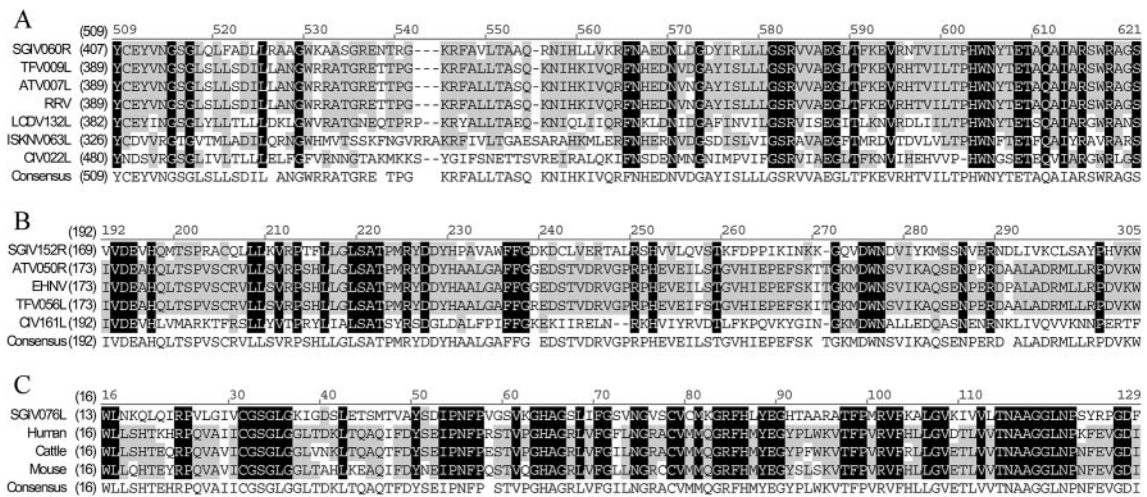


FIG. 2. Sequence alignment of selective SGIV ORF060R, ORF152L, and ORF076L with other known proteins. The homologous regions are shaded (black represents identical, grey represents conservative). The positions of the amino acid sequence are indicated on the left of the sequence. (A) Alignment of deduced amino acids of SGIV, ORF060R, accession no. AAS18075; TFV, ORF009L, accession no. NP_571991; ATV, ORF007L, accession no. AAP33184; RRV, accession no. AAK53744; LCDV, ORF132L, accession no. NP_078720; ISKNV, ORF063L, accession no. NP_612285; and CIV, ORF022L, accession no. NP_149485. (B) Alignment of deduced amino acids of SGIV, ORF152R, accession no. AAS18167; ATV, ORF050R, accession no. AAP33229; EHNV, accession no. CAB37349; TFV, ORF056L, accession no. NP_571999; and CIV, ORF161L, accession no. NP_149624. (C) Alignment of deduced amino acids of SGIV, ORF076L, AAS18091; human, *Homo sapiens*, accession no. NP_000261; cattle, *Bos taurus*, accession no. AAB34886; and mouse, *Mus musculus*, accession no. BAB25491.

the two largest subunits of DNA-dependent RNA polymerase II (ORF073L and ORF104L), one transcription elongation factor, TFIIS (ORF085R), and one RNase III enzyme (ORF084L; RNase III).

In addition, ORF063L exhibits similarity to one of the rat transcription factors which are important for transcriptional initiation. It may normally act to repress transcription at a variety of loci and may also play a role in chromatin structure or assembly (32). ORF061R encodes a TFIIF-interacting CTD phosphatase motif. It includes an NLI-interacting factor involved in RNA polymerase II regulation. ORF102L contains a fusion protein domain consisting of ubiquitin at the N terminus and ribosomal protein L40 at the C terminus. It also contains a zinc finger-like domain and is located in the cytoplasm (4). Ubiquitin is a highly conserved nuclear and cytoplasmic protein that has a major role in targeting cellular proteins for degradation by the 26S proteasome. It is also involved in the maintenance of chromatin structure, the regulation of gene expression, and the stress response.

Nucleotide metabolism. Predicted amino acid sequences of proteins required for the nucleotide transport and metabolism contain α and β subunits of ribonucleoside-diphosphate reductase (ORF064R and ORF047L), a ubiquitous cytosolic enzyme with a key role in DNA synthesis as it catalyzes the biosynthesis of deoxyribonucleotides. ORF049L encodes a dUTPase which is critical for the fidelity of DNA replication and repair. It also decreases the intracellular concentration of dUTP so that uracil cannot be incorporated into DNA (7). Purine nucleoside phosphorylase, which is involved in nucleotide transport and metabolism and encoded by ORF076L and which exists widely in mammals, was first identified in the family of *Iridoviridae* (Fig. 2).

Cell signaling. ORF078L and ORF081L encode two protein kinases that share a conserved catalytic core common with both serine/threonine and tyrosine protein kinases. There are a number of conserved regions in the catalytic domain of protein kinases. The protein corresponding to ORF067L belongs to the family of deoxynucleoside kinases that consists of various cytidine, guanosine, adenosine, and thymidine kinases (which also phosphorylate deoxyuridine and deoxycytosine). These enzymes catalyze the production of deoxynucleotide 5'-monophosphate from a deoxynucleoside.

Immune evasion function. ORF028L, ORF029L, ORF031L, ORF033L, ORF035L, and ORF131R encode homologs of the immunoglobulin (Ig)-like domains. Cellular members of the Ig superfamily include secreted and membrane-bound receptors and cell adhesion proteins (ORF029L and ORF035L) (39). ORF005L encodes a homolog of a mammalian amino acid transporter. It is also comprised of a C-type lectin signature which may bind to major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I complex antigens and may promote or inhibit immune activity through intracellular signaling pathways. Thus, it is possible that ORF005L may interfere with normal immune surveillance or host responses (2). ORF068L is composed of an Ig-MHC signature ([FY]-x-C-x-[VA]-x-H). It is known that Ig constant domains and a single extracellular domain in each type of MHC chain are related. These homologous domains are approximately 100 amino acids long and include a conserved intradomain disulfide bond (26). These genes may function in host immune evasion, immune modulation, and aspects

of cell and/or tissue tropism or perform other cellular functions (2).

ORF070R encodes a thiol oxidoreductase that impels the formation of disulfide bond. The correct formation of disulfide bonds is important for the folding and function of many secretory and membrane proteins. Organisms from all kingdoms of life have evolved a diverse range of thiol oxidoreductases (21).

ORF155R exhibits homology to mammalian semaphorin homologue. The sema domain occurs in semaphorins, which are a large family of secreted and transmembrane proteins, some of which function as repellent signals during axon guidance. Sema domains also occur in the hepatocyte growth factor receptor (41).

ORF053R encodes a prokaryotic membrane lipoprotein lipid attachment site found in prokaryotes. To our knowledge, this is a first report of this motif in iridovirus. Membrane lipoproteins are synthesized with a precursor signal peptide, which is cleaved by a specific lipoprotein signal peptidase (signal peptidase II). The peptidase recognizes a conserved sequence and cuts upstream of a cysteine residue to which a glyceride-fatty acid lipid is attached (12).

Cellular function. ORF003L is similar to 3- β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase from TFV and other poxviruses. It catalyzes the oxidative conversion of both 3- β -hydroxysteroid and ketosteroids, playing a critical role in biosynthesis of all classes of steroid hormones. ORF130L encodes a TonB-dependent receptor that interacts with outer membrane receptor proteins that carry out high-affinity binding and energy-dependent uptake of specific substrates into the periplasmic space. These substrates are either poorly permeative through porin channels or are encountered at very low concentrations. In the absence of TonB, these receptors bind to their substrates but do not carry out active transport. ORF115R encodes a homolog of a Bak protein, a member of the B-cell lymphoma (32% identity over 152 amino acids). Bcl-2 and related cytoplasmic proteins are key regulators of apoptosis, the cell suicide program critical for development, tissue homeostasis, and protection against pathogens. Bcl-2 family members are essential for maintenance of major organ systems to prevent a cellular apoptotic response to viral infection (1). ORF019R is composed of a glycoprotein hormone β chain signature. The function of ORF019R in the viral replication cycle is unknown.

Phylogenetic analysis. Iridoviruses are large cytoplasmic DNA viruses where each type has a specific insect or vertebrate host (38). One of the unifying features of this virus group is the presence of a major capsid protein (MCP) that is approximately 50 kDa in size. MCP is a suitable target for the study of viral evolution, since it contains highly conserved domains, but is sufficiently diverse to distinguish closely related iridovirus isolates (34). The amino acid sequences of the known MCPs are used in comparative analyses to elucidate the phylogenetic relationships between different cytoplasmic DNA viruses.

ORF072R encodes SGIV MCP. Phylogenetic analysis indicated that SGIV is distinct from all known iridoviruses (Fig. 3), but it is much closer to the genus *Ranavirus*. Within the MCP, amino acid identities of 73.0 (BIV), 72.8 (TFV), 72.8 (FV3), 72.4 (ATV), and 72.1% (ENHV) are noted. However, it only shows amino acid identities of 52.2 (LCDV), 45.7 (CIV), and 44.4% (ISKNV). This suggested that SGIV is a novel member of the genus *Ranavirus* within the family *Iridoviridae*. Gener-

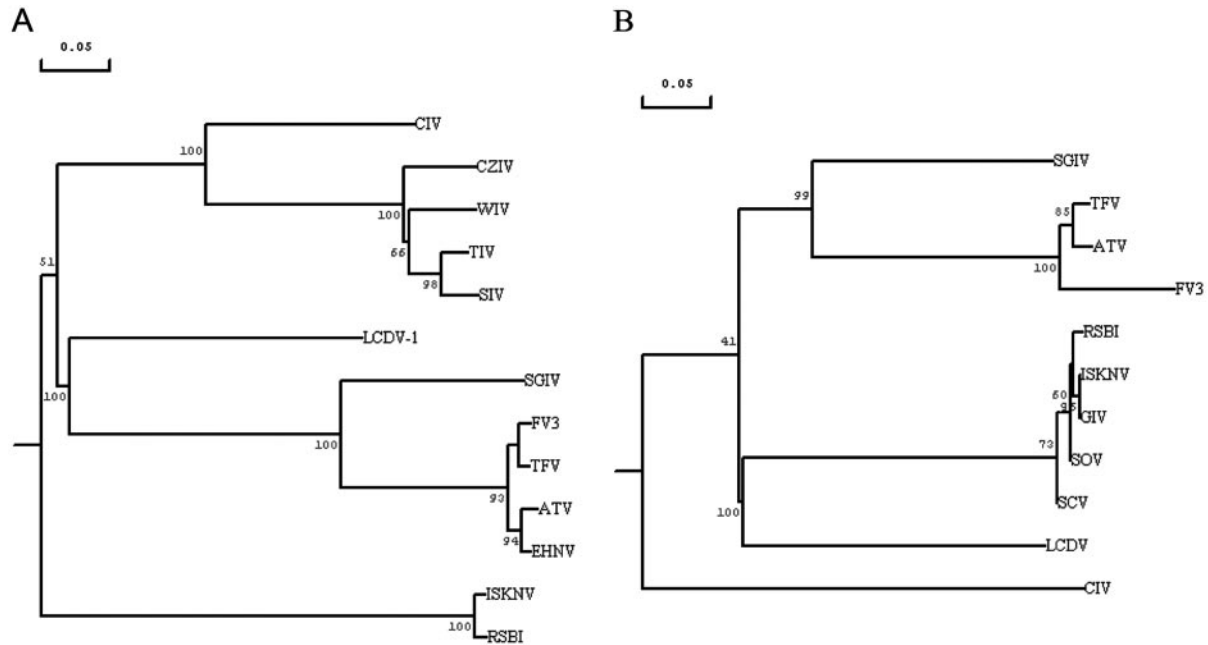


FIG. 3. Phylogenetic relationship of SGIV with representative iridoviruses. The analysis was based on the multiple alignments of the protein sequences of the major capsid protein and ATPase of iridoviruses. (A) SGIV, ORF072R, accession no. AAS18087; ATV ORF014L, accession no. AAP33191; ISKNV, ORF006L, accession no. AAL72276; TFV, ORF096R, accession no. AAK55105; FV3, accession no. AAB01722; EHN, accession no. AAO32315; LCDV-1, ORF147L, accession no. AAC24486; CIV ORF274L, accession no. AAK82135; CZIV, accession no. AAB82569; RSBI, accession no. AAP74204; WIV, accession no. AAB82568; TIV, accession no. VCXFSTI; and SIV, accession no. VCXFSTI. (B) SGIV, ORF134L, accession no. AAS18149; TFV, ORF016R, accession no. AAL77796; ATV, ORF083L, accession no. AAP33264; FV3, accession no. AAA43823; SOV, accession no. AAN77575; ISKNV, ORF122R, accession no. 98847; GIV, accession no. AAL68652; RSBI, accession no. BAA28670; SCV, accession no. AAL73346; LCDV, ORF054R, accession no. NP_078656; and CIV, 075L, accession no. AAB94422.

ally, viruses with sequence identities within a given gene of less than 80% are considered members of different species rather than strains of the same species (37). The conserved protein sequence of the ATPase was also used to determine the relationship of SGIV with other iridoviruses (Fig. 3). The phylogenetic tree of ATPase supports the view that SGIV is a novel species of the genus *Ranavirus*.

Relationship of SGIV to other iridoviruses. Conservation of synteny and of gene order can give insights to assess structural conservation among the viral genomes within the family *Iri-*

doviridae. Conservation of synteny refers to a pair of genomes in which at least some of the genes are located at similar map positions regardless of the gene order or the presence of intervening genes. When the evolutionary distance is large, scrambling of the gene order and the presence of nonsyntenic intervening genes become frequent (23). Therefore, it is necessary to account for these features when studying iridovirus evolution.

To make comparisons between SGIV and five other iridovirus genomes (ATV, TFV, LCDV, ISKNV, or CIV), we shifted

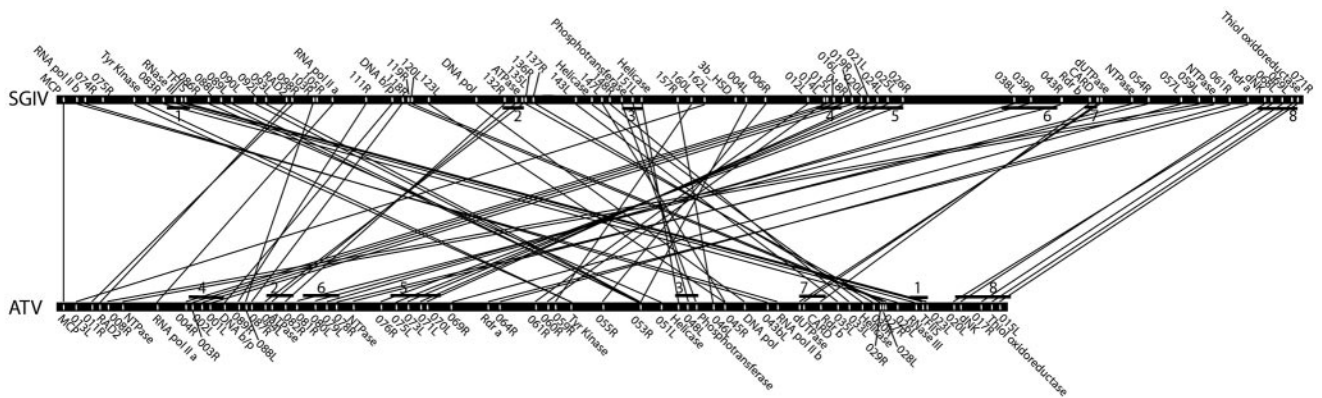


FIG. 4. Conserved segments between the SGIV and ATV genomes. Both genomes are linearized and shifted genes encoding MCP as the start point. Only linked genes or annotated ORFs are indicated. Straight lines represent the gene linkages between two species. Black bars indicate the conserved syntenic regions of both genomes.

the starting coordinates and set the start codon (ATG) of MCPs as the first base for all viral genomes. We also altered sense and antisense strands on ATV, LCDV, ISKNV, and CIV genomes in order to get the same nucleotide order on MCPs individually. However, none of the annotated ORFs were affected.

Comparing the SGIV genome to the LCDV, ISKNV, or CIV genome does not show possible clustering of genes in spite of the fact that SGIV shares 43, 22, or 29 real or annotated ORFs with the LCDV, ISKNV, or CIV genome, respectively. Although only 20 ORFs of SGIV reveal similarities to those of TFV genomes, it appears that some genes are located at similar map positions. In contrast, comparison of the SGIV genome with those of other iridoviruses shows that SGIV is much closer to ATV than other iridoviruses whose genomes are known. The sequenced genomes of the two closely related iridoviruses SGIV and ATV were compared with emphasis on genome organization and coding capacity (Fig. 4). The genome size and ORF numbers of the SGIV genome are much larger than those of ATV, which has a genome of 106,332 bp and contains 91 ORFs. Seventy-one ORFs of SGIV and ATV showed close homologies. There were some discrepancies in annotation, but inspection of DNA sequences showed that the corresponding genes are always present. Twenty-two corresponding ORFs between these two genomes are putative genes, but all remaining ORFs have no known function (Table 1). At least eight regions of conserved synteny containing more than three genes or annotated ORFs were also examined. Interestingly, TFIIS, RNase III, and one ORF (SGIV 086R, ATV 023L, and TFV 087R) are arranged in succession among SGIV, ATV, and TFV (Fig. 4). This cluster of genes may become a useful gene marker to distinguish unknown viruses from the genus *Ranavirus*. Scrambling of gene blocks was also observed between these two genomes. Two continuous conserved regions (blocks 4 and 5) in the SGIV genome were located at two separate gene blocks in the ATV genome, in which blocks 2 and 6 inserted. Orthologous genes between SGIV and ATV are quite similar in sequence conservation and also in gene order. Conserved linkages between SGIV and ATV indicate that they evolved from a common ancestor.

Identification of SGIV proteins by MALDI-TOF MS and RT-PCR. Purified viral proteins of SGIV extracted from the lowest band (50% sucrose) were separated by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 5). Thirty-nine clearly defined bands were excised and subjected to reduction, alkylation, tryptic digestion, and mass spectrometric analysis by matrix-assisted laser desorption ionization–time of flight (MALDI-TOF) mass spectrometry. Peak lists of tryptic peptide molecular weights of each band were searched against the 162-ORF database of SGIV to identify the proteins and corresponding genes. Twenty-six proteins, covering 5 to 67% of amino acid sequences, were matched with the theoretical SGIV ORF database by using the AutoMS-Fit search program (Table 3). Of those proteins matched in this study, only six are known viral proteins; these are MCP (ORF072R), DNA polymerase (ORF128R), two proteins relevant to DNA replication (ORFs 052L and 060R), RNase III (ORF084L), and tyrosine protein kinase (ORF078L). Several SDS-PAGE bands in the low-molecular-mass area (bands 35 to 39 and molecular masses around 10 kDa) matched ORF052L and ORF060R. However, the molecular weight

search scores were quite low, and the identities of these proteins cannot be confirmed from the data. Matching of multiple numbers of SDS-PAGE bands to ORF052L and ORF060R may be explained by possible degradation of these large proteins during virus purification, since no protease inhibitors were used during these procedures. We were able to verify 12 SGIV genes which exhibited homologies to genes from other iridoviruses but whose biological function remain to be established. Another eight SGIV genes of unknown function, showing no homologies to any other viruses, were also verified.

Mass spectrometry is a powerful and a high-throughput technique used to identify proteins. It has been applied to analyze the proteome of white spot shrimp virus (17). The completion of the genomic DNA sequence of SGIV greatly

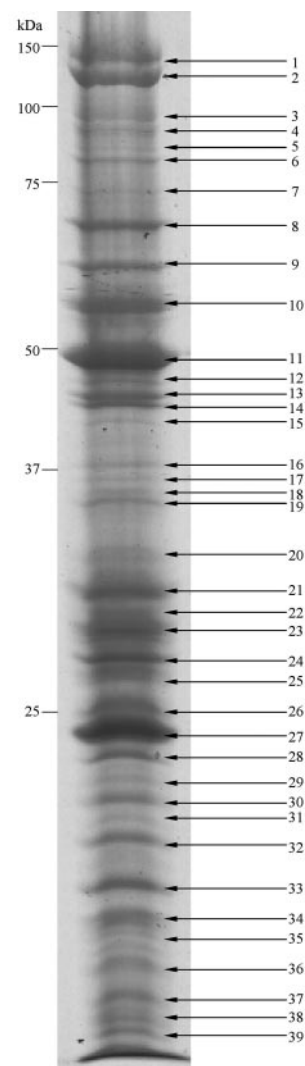


FIG. 5. SDS-PAGE of SGIV proteins. Viral proteins were purified and separated via one-dimensional SDS-PAGE. Thirty-nine visible gel-separated protein bands were excised and digested enzymatically, and their mass spectra were obtained and automatically searched against the SGIV ORF database. Twenty-six proteins were identified by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry. However, peptide signals from bands 26, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 were too low to give satisfactory identification.

TABLE 3. Identification of SGIV proteins corresponding to ORFs by MS

Band	ORF ^a	GenBank accession no.	Protein sequence coverage (%)	Confirmed by RT-PCR (48 h of infection)
1	039L	AAS18054	32	+
2	012L	AAS18027	25	+
3	078L	AAS18093	20	
4	039L		13	
	060R	AAS18075	15	
5	039L		15	
	060R		15	
6	052L	AAS18067	8	
	052L		5	
7	012L		13	
8	069L	AAS18084	24	+
9	026R	AAS18041	34	+
10	052L		6	
	128R	AAS18143	9	
11	072R	AAS18087	27	
12	016L	AAS18031	24	+
	093L	AAS18108	22	+
13	090L	AAS18105	43	+
	089L	AAS18104	19	+
14	090L		6	
15	084L	AAS18099	22	
16	060R		7	
	089L		14	
17	072R		14	
18	072R		12	
19	101R	AAS18116	24	+
20	046L	AAS18061	25	+
21	018R	AAS18033	29	+
22	082L	AAS18097	47	+
	055R	AAS18070	37	+
23	055R		67	
24	156L	AAS18171	30	+
25	160L	AAS18175	24	+
26	/			
27	075R	AAS18090	15	+
28	075R		29	
29	075R		33	
30	075R		43	
31	057L	AAS18072	10	+
32	012L		8	
33	125R	AAS18140	27	+
	013R	AAS18028	23	+
34	050L	AAS18065	16	+
35	/			
36	/			
37	/			
38	/			
39	/			

^a / refers to protein bands that did not identify any proteins reliably.

facilitated the discovery of new proteins by the proteomic approach, which proved to be an effective and sensitive way for discovering SGIV proteins. We have analyzed the SGIV proteome by one-dimensional gel. Furthermore, two-dimensional gel analysis will be used later to identify more novel proteins.

All 20 novel genes mentioned above were further checked and verified at the RNA level by RT-PCR. Total RNA (including virus and host) was extracted at 0-, 6-, 12-, 24-, 48-, and 72-h infective stages. Several genes started transcription early after the cell line was inoculated, 12 h (i.e., ORF090R and ORF093R) (data not shown). All novel genes were detected by RT-PCR after 48 h of infection (Fig. 6). Full lengths of 14 novel genes were amplified by reverse transcriptase and Hot-

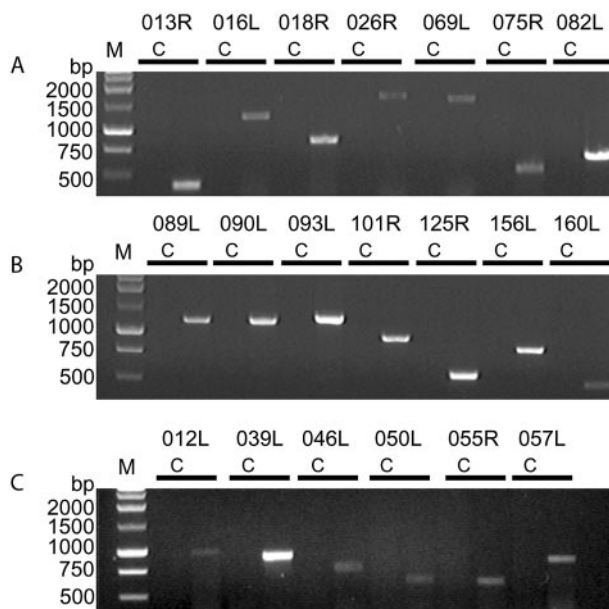


FIG. 6. Amplification of 20 novel genes of SGIV via RT-PCR. Total RNA (harvested after 48 h of infection) was isolated by using the RNeasy Mini kit and amplified by using the OneStep RT-PCR kit. Full lengths of 14 genes were amplified (A and B). Partial sequences were acquired from another six genes (C). Lanes C, control; lane M, 1-kb DNA ladder (Promega).

StarTaq DNA polymerase (Fig. 6A and 6). However, only partial sequences of ORF012L (2,107 to 3,075 bp), ORF039L (1 to 900 bp), ORF046L (17 to 747 bp), ORF050L (9 to 600 bp), ORF055R (12 to 588 bp), and ORF057L (7 to 832 bp) were amplified (Fig. 6C). Furthermore, RT-PCR products were used for DNA sequencing to confirm their respective authenticity.

Prediction of potential novel proteins. The existence of an ORF in genomic data does not necessarily imply the existence of a functional gene. Despite the advances in bioinformatics, it is difficult to predict genes accurately from the genomic data alone (27). Although the genome sequence of the SGIV will ease the problem of gene prediction through comparative genomics, the success rate for correct prediction of the primary structure is still low. Therefore, verification of a gene product by proteomic methods is an important first step in annotating the genome. We predicted the secondary protein structures for these novel or unidentified proteins. Using a protein secondary structure predicting program, PSIPRED (20, 22), for the 20 novel proteins identified by MS in this study, we found that two proteins encoded by ORF046L and ORF050L consisted of random coils. ORF012L encoded a protein containing only α helices. Another 17 proteins were categorized as α/β proteins. The prediction of transmembrane regions and orientation was also done via TMpred on the ISREC server and is listed in Table 1. We intend to elucidate the three-dimensional structures of these novel proteins by analyzing structural biology and their functions by using small interfering RNA and other related technologies.

CONCLUSION

We report a complete sequence of SGIV. Genomic analysis of SGIV provided fundamental knowledge of viral functions,

such as DNA replication and transcription, nucleotide metabolism, protein processing, manipulation of cellular responses, and virus-host interaction. We compared the SGIV genome with other five iridovirus genomes at the DNA and protein levels. Besides the conserved and known proteins, we also identified 20 novel proteins by using the proteomic approach. Proteomic analysis showed evidence of novel proteins detected at the posttranscriptional level. Our studies will provide important information on molecular mechanism of virus-host interactions and will have a broad impact on future strategies for the design of specific inhibitors or drugs to control these pathogens in general.

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