

Carbonic anhydrase-related protein is a novel binding protein for inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor type 1

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The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R) is an intracellular IP₃-gated Ca²⁺ channel that is located on intracellular Ca²⁺ stores and modulates Ca²⁺ signalling. Using the yeast two-hybrid system, we screened a mouse brain cDNA library with bait constructs for mouse IP₃R type 1 (IP₃R1) to identify IP₃R1-associated proteins. In this way, we found that carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP) is a novel IP₃R1-binding protein. Western blot analysis revealed that CARP is expressed exclusively in Purkinje cells of the cerebellum, in which IP₃R1 is abundantly expressed. Immunohistochemical analysis showed that the subcellular localization of CARP in Purkinje cells is coincident with that of IP₃R1. Biochemical analysis also showed that CARP is co-precipitated with IP₃R1. Using deletion

mutagenesis, we established that amino acids 45–291 of CARP are essential for its association with IP₃R1, and that the CARP-binding site is located within the modulatory domain of IP₃R1 amino acids 1387–1647. CARP inhibits IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 by reducing the affinity of the receptor for IP₃. As reported previously, sensitivity to IP₃ for IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in Purkinje cells is low compared with that in other tissues. This could be due to co-expression of CARP with IP₃R in Purkinje cells and its inhibitory effects on IP₃ binding.

Key words: carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), cerebellum, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate receptor, ion channel, Purkinje cell, yeast two-hybrid system.

INTRODUCTION

The inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate (IP₃) receptor (IP₃R), an IP₃-gated Ca²⁺ channel located on intracellular Ca²⁺ stores, plays a crucial role in a variety of cell functions by converting IP₃ signalling into Ca²⁺ signalling [1,2]. Molecular cloning studies have revealed that the IP₃R family consists of at least three subtypes [3–5]. Structural and functional studies have shown that IP₃Rs are composed of three functional domains: a ligand-binding domain, a modulatory domain and a channel domain [6]. An N-terminal stretch of approx. 600 amino acids in the large cytoplasmic domain is responsible for IP₃ binding [7–10]. Mutational analysis has revealed that three amino acid residues in this region [Arg-265, Lys-508 and Arg-511 of mouse IP₃R type 1 (mIP₃R1)] are critical for IP₃ binding, and that Arg-658 is a determinant of binding specificity for various inositol phosphates [10]. The six membrane-spanning segments clustered near the C-terminus correspond to the Ca²⁺ channel [11]. With the exception of the region between membrane-spanning regions 5 and 6, high sequence identity is maintained between channel domains of the IP₃R family.

The modulatory domain of IP₃R1 is located between the N-terminal IP₃-binding domain and the C-terminal Ca²⁺ channel domain. This domain contains binding sites for various modulators, such as Ca²⁺ [12,13], Ca²⁺-calmodulin [14,15], FK506-binding protein 12K (FKBP12) [16,17] and ATP [14,18], and also sites for phosphorylation by cAMP-dependent protein kinase

[19–21], cGMP-dependent protein kinase [22] and protein kinase C [23,24]. This modulatory domain may transduce IP₃ binding to channel opening. IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release may be regulated by various modifications to the modulatory domain. Interestingly, the identity of this region among members of the IP₃R family is low in comparison with that of other regions, and this results in different modifications in different subtypes, which suggests that each type of IP₃R/Ca²⁺ channel function may be modulated differently to produce unique channel properties.

In the present study, we have screened a mouse brain cDNA library using the yeast two-hybrid system to identify novel IP₃R1-binding proteins. We used six overlapping fragments within amino acids 1245–2264 of the modulatory domain of IP₃R1 as bait constructs. We have thus identified a novel interaction between IP₃R1 and carbonic anhydrase-related protein (CARP), a novel IP₃R1-binding protein. Here we report the properties of CARP as an IP₃R1-binding protein and its effects on IP₃R1 function.

EXPERIMENTAL

Yeast two-hybrid assays

Screening of the mouse brain cDNA library by the yeast two-hybrid method was performed using the MATCHMAKER™ Two-Hybrid System according to the manufacturer's protocol (Clontech Laboratories, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, U.S.A.).

Abbreviations used: FKBP, FK506-binding protein; IP₃, *D*-myo-inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate; IP₃R, IP₃ receptor; (m)IP₃R1, (mouse) IP₃R type 1; CARP, carbonic anhydrase-related protein; GST, glutathione S-transferase; GST-EL, GST-IP₃R1-(1–2217) construct.

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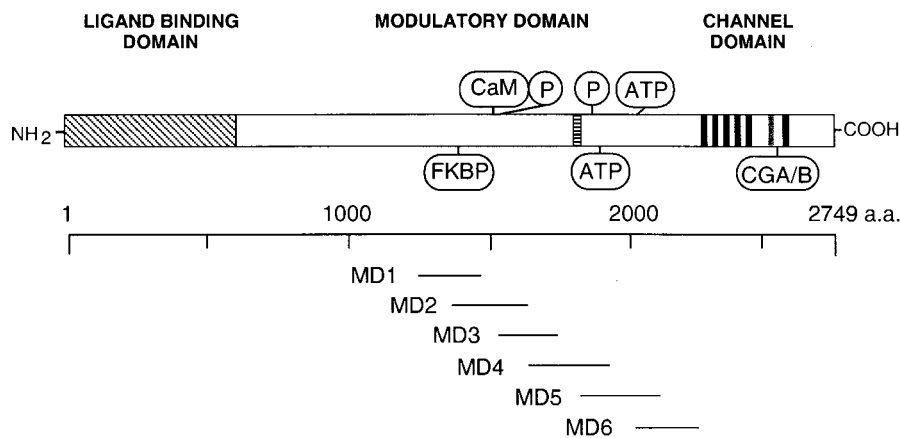


Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the baits of IP₃R1

Shown is the structure of mIP₃R1, which consists of three functional domains: a ligand-binding domain, a modulatory domain and a channel domain. The modulatory domain contains binding sites for FKBP12 (aa 1400–1401) and Ca²⁺-calmodulin (CaM; aa 1564–1585), putative ATP-binding sites (aa 1773–1778, 1775–1780 and 2016–2021) and Ser residues for phosphorylation by protein kinase A (P; residues 1588 and 1755). Binding sites for chromogranins A and B (CGA/B) are located in channel domain (between the 5th and 6th transmembrane regions). In the present study, we used a part of the modulatory domain as bait. cDNAs of six bait constructs (designated MD1–MD6) were prepared as described in the Experimental section. These constructs cover the part of modulatory domain comprising amino acids 1245–2264.

Design and synthesis of the bait constructs

We used part of the IP₃R1 modulatory domain as bait. cDNAs of six bait constructs (referred to MD1–MD6; Figure 1) were generated by PCR using the following sets of primers (the sequence from IP₃R1 is underlined), which map to amino acid residues 1245–2264 and are overlapping. MD1 (mIP₃R1 aa 1245–1464): sense strand, 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGTTGTGCAG-GCAACCAGCAGAATC-3'; antisense strand, 5'-GGGGGTCG-ACGTGTTGTTACAGGCCCTGCAGA-3'; MD2 (mIP₃R1 aa 1387–1647): sense, 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGCAAGAATG-TGTACACGGAGA-3'; antisense, 5'-GGGGGTCGACCTCAC-ATTCCTCCTGGCATC-3'; MD3 (mIP₃R1 aa 1593–1785): sense, 5'-GGGAATTCGGAGGAGGATCCAGAGACTACCGA-AATATCAT-3'; antisense, 5'-GGGGGTCGACGCTTGTGGA-ACTAGATCCAGGACC-3'; MD4 (mIP₃R1 aa 1685–1943): sense, 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGACAGAGGCTATGG-AGAGAAG-3'; antisense, 5'-GGGGGTCGACTCCCAGAC-TGGTAATGGTCA-3'; MD5 (mIP₃R1 aa 1865–2160): sense, 5'-GGGAATTCGGTGGAGGAGTGGCCAGCAGGAAATC-AA-3'; antisense, 5'-GGGGGTCGACGGTGAGCGAGGATGT-AGATG-3'; MD6 (mIP₃R1 aa 2015–2264): sense, 5'-GGG-GGTGACCCGGAGGAGGCCCTGGTCTTCTTGG-3'; anti-sense, 5'-GGGGGTCGACAGACAGGCTGGGCTCGAAGT-3'. The resulting cDNAs were digested with either *Eco*RI plus *Sal*I or *Sal*I alone, then ligated to pGBT9 (Clontech). All of the plasmid constructs were sequenced to confirm that the cloning of the appropriate cDNAs was translationally in-frame and devoid of PCR-induced errors.

Construction of cDNA library

A mouse brain cDNA library was constructed in pGAD-GL (Clontech). Briefly, total RNA from mouse brains (6-week-old ddY mice; Nippon SLC, Hamamatsu, Japan) was enriched in poly(A)⁺ mRNA using oligo(dT)-cellulose chromatography. Double-stranded cDNAs were generated using random hexamers as primers and were ligated to *Eco*RI adapters. After digestion with *Eco*RI, cDNAs over 400 bp in size were collected by size fractionation using Sepharose CL-2B (Amersham Biosciences,

Piscataway, NJ, U.S.A.), and inserted into the *Eco*RI site of pGAD GL. Approx. 5×10^5 independent clones were generated in *Escherichia coli* XL1-Blue MRF' (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, U.S.A.), and plasmid DNA was isolated after one amplification.

Preparation of antibodies

Monoclonal antibodies against mIP₃R1, i.e. 4C11, 18A10 and KM1112, were prepared as described elsewhere [25–27]. A peptide corresponding to amino acid residues 267–279 (CDGLIGDNFRPTQ) of mouse CARP, a region that shows marked variation among members of the carbonic anhydrase family, was custom-synthesized. The peptide was conjugated to keyhole-limpet haemocyanin via the N-terminal Cys residue, using *m*-maleimidobenzoyl-*N*-hydroxysuccinimide ester. A polyclonal antibody was raised to this peptide in rabbits (New England White; Hokudo Tohya Immunity Laboratory, Hokkaido, Japan). The antibody was purified from antisera using antigenic peptide-conjugated beads according to a standard protocol.

Western blot analysis

Expression of CARP in various organs was analysed by Western blotting. Each organ dissected from mice was homogenized in homogenizing buffer [0.32 M sucrose, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, protease inhibitors (0.1 mM PMSF, 10 μM leupeptin, 10 μM pepstatin A, 10 μM E-64) and 10 mM Tris/HCl, pH 7.4] with a glass/Teflon homogenizer. For preparations from heart, liver, kidney, adrenal gland, testis and muscle, these organs were minced with scissors into small pieces before homogenization. Homogenates were centrifuged at 100 000 *g* for 20 min at 4 °C. The resultant supernatant (10 μg) was separated on SDS/5%-PAGE, transferred to nitrocellulose, and immunodetected with anti-CARP antibody.

Immunohistochemistry

Preparation and immunohistochemical analyses of primary cultured Purkinje cells from the cerebellum were according to methods described elsewhere [28]. The following combinations

of primary and secondary antibodies were used for double staining: rabbit anti-CARP polyclonal antibody and FITC-conjugated anti-rabbit IgG antibody, anti-IP₃R1 monoclonal antibody, 18A10 and Texas Red-conjugated anti-rat IgG antibody.

Expression in Sf9 cells of recombinant IP₃R1 lacking the channel domain

DNA encoding the N-terminal region of mIP₃R1 (residues 1–225) was inserted into the glutathione S-transferase (GST) fusion vector pGEX-KG. The GST-IP₃R1-(1–225) fragment was subcloned into the baculovirus transfer vector pBlueBac4.5 (Invitrogen). The 3'-region downstream from the *Sma*I site of GST-IP₃R1-(1–225) was replaced with the *Sma*I/*Eco*RI fragment of mIP₃R1 (corresponding to residues 79–2217) to generate the construct GST-IP₃R1-(1–2217) (termed GST-EL). Recombinant baculovirus carrying GST-EL was generated with a Bac-N-Blue™ Transfection Kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's protocols. GST-EL was expressed in 2×10^8 Sf9 cells by infection with recombinant baculoviruses at a multiplicity of infection of 5, and incubation for 48 h. Cells expressing GST-EL were homogenized in 10 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.1% Triton X-100 and protease inhibitors with a glass/Teflon homogenizer. The homogenate was centrifuged at 20 000 g for 30 min. GST-EL was purified from the supernatant using glutathione-Sepharose 4B (Amersham Biosciences) according to the recommendations of the vendor.

Expression of recombinant CARP in *E. coli*

Full-length CARP cDNA was cloned into the *Nde*I and *Hind*III sites of the pET23a vector (Stratagene) in-frame for transcription, and the His tag was introduced into the C-terminus of recombinant CARP. A single colony of *E. coli* BL21 (DE3) transformed with the CARP expression vector was selected into 1.5 ml of Luria-Bertani medium containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 37 °C for 10 h. Then 1 ml of the culture was inoculated into 1 litre of Luria-Bertani medium containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin and incubated at 25 °C until it reached a D_{600} of 0.7, when the culture was supplemented with isopropyl β-D-thiogalactoside (final concentration 0.5 mM). Incubation was continued at 25 °C for 8 h, and cells were harvested by centrifugation, washed with 10 ml of PBS and sonicated in 50 ml of PBS at 4 °C. After centrifugation to remove insoluble material, the supernatant was applied to a High-Trap Chelating column (Amersham Biosciences). Recombinant CARP was purified first according to the manufacturer's protocol and then by Mono Q anion-exchange chromatography (Amersham Biosciences), and finally dialysed against the buffer used in the pull-down experiment or the IP₃-binding experiment to exchange buffer.

For preparation of a GST fusion protein with recombinant CARP, full-length CARP cDNA was cloned into the *Bam*HI and *Xho*I sites of pGEX-KG to generate the GST-CARP construct. GST-CARP was expressed in *E. coli* and purified using glutathione-Sepharose as described above.

Biochemical analysis of CARP binding to IP₃R1

Adult mouse cerebella were homogenized in 10 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 320 mM sucrose, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and protease inhibitors, and the homogenate was centrifuged at 1000 g for 10 min. The supernatant was centrifuged at 100 000 g for 60 min to obtain the cytosolic fraction (the

supernatant) and the crude microsome (the pellet). The cytosolic fraction was added to 100 mM NaCl and incubated with 20 µg of GST-EL or GST for 2 h at 4 °C. After addition of 10 µl of glutathione-Sepharose and another 2 h incubation, the resins were washed five times with wash buffer (10 mM Hepes, pH 7.4, 100 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and 0.01% Triton X-100), and bound proteins were eluted with 20 mM glutathione. Eluted proteins were analysed by Western blotting with anti-CARP antibody.

The crude microsomes were solubilized with 1% Triton X-100 in 50 mM Hepes (pH 7.4), 2 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol and protease inhibitors for 30 min at 4 °C, and centrifuged at 20 000 g for 30 min. The supernatants were processed for pull-down assays with 10 µg of GST-CARP or GST as described above, and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with the anti-IP₃R1 antibody KM1112.

For the direct binding assay, purified CARP-His₆ (5 µg) in wash buffer was pulled down with 20 µg of GST-EL or GST as described above, and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-CARP antibody. Experiments were repeated at least three times to confirm results.

Identification of binding sites using the two-hybrid assay

To determine binding sites, truncated constructs of IP₃R1 and CARP were prepared using pGBT9 and pGAD-GL respectively. IP₃R1 truncated constructs contained the following amino acids: pGBT9-ΔI1, aa 1387–1464; pGBT9-ΔI2, aa 1387–1520; pGBT9-ΔI3, aa 1387–1598; pGBT9-ΔI4, aa 1513–1598; pGBT9-ΔI5, aa 1513–1647. CARP truncated constructs contained the following amino acids: pGAD-GL-ΔC1, aa 1–127; pGAD-GL-ΔC2, aa 1–147; pGAD-GL-ΔC3, aa 1–170; pGAD-GL-ΔC4, aa 1–180; pGAD-GL-ΔC5, aa 1–217; pGAD-GL-ΔC6, aa 1–234; pGAD-GL-ΔC7, aa 45–291; pGAD-GL-ΔC8, aa 121–291; pGAD-GL-ΔC9, aa 184–291. All plasmid constructs were sequenced to confirm that cloning of the appropriate cDNAs was in-frame for transcription.

[³H]IP₃ binding assay

[³H]IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 was assayed by poly(ethylene glycol) precipitation in the presence or absence of CARP, as reported previously [26]. A 0.5 µg portion of purified IP₃R1 [21,29] was incubated with or without 10 µg of purified CARP-His₆ in 50 µl of a solution containing 50 mM Tris/HCl, pH 8.0, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 9.6 nM [³H]IP₃ and various concentrations of IP₃ for 10 min at 4 °C. Non-specific binding was measured in the presence of 10 µM IP₃.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

IP₃R is modulated by various agents, including Ca²⁺ [12,13], Ca²⁺-calmodulin [14,15,30–32], FKBP12 [16,17], ATP [14,18,33,34] and protein kinases [19–24]. Most of these bind or phosphorylate the central portion of IP₃R; this domain is therefore considered to modulate IP₃R function. It is relatively diverse among IP₃R family members, and is modified differently by different modulators, presumably to produce unique channel properties appropriate to distinct circumstances. In the present study, we screened a mouse brain cDNA library using the yeast two-hybrid method, with the modulatory domain of IP₃R1 as bait. We divided amino acids 1245–2264 of mIP₃R1 into six overlapping fragments (Figure 1).

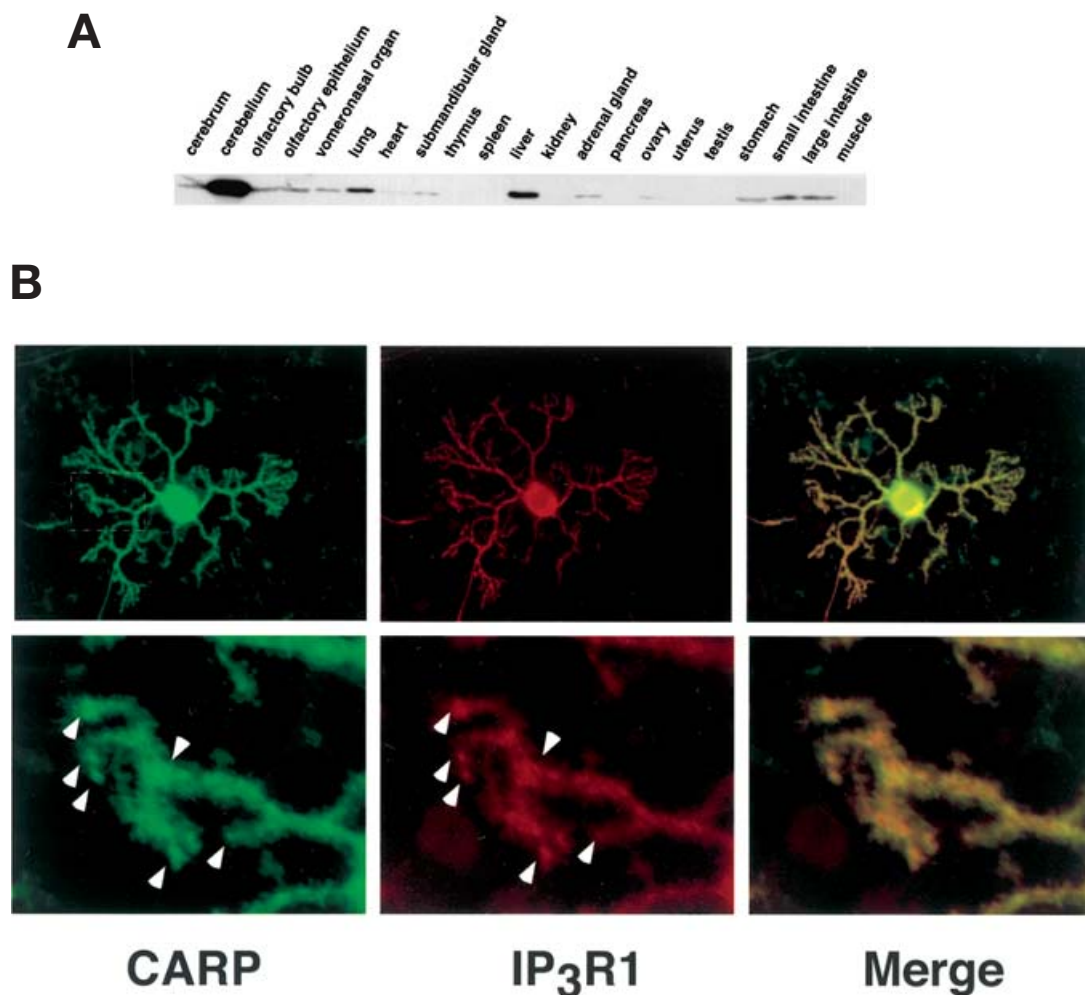


Figure 2 Tissue distribution of CARP

(A) The tissue distribution of CARP was determined by Western blot of protein from the indicated mouse tissues. The soluble fraction (10 μ g/lane) was subjected to SDS/5%–PAGE, transferred to nitrocellulose, and immunodetected with 2 μ g/ml anti-CARP polyclonal antibody. (B) Co-expression of CARP and IP₃R1 in cultured Purkinje cells. Cultured Purkinje cells were immunostained with anti-CARP antibody (left; green) and anti-IP₃R1 antibody (middle; red). Arrowheads show examples of co-localization of CARP and IP₃R1.

The primary screen with the bait constructs MD1, MD3, MD4, MD5 and MD6 yielded some tens of candidates that were unlikely to be IP₃R1-binding proteins, because of translational frame shifting or the presence of regions known to be untranslated sequences. We did, however, obtain 13 positive clones using the MD2 construct. DNA sequence analysis revealed that all encoded CARP; the clones contained different lengths of 5' untranslated region of CARP cDNA followed by the full-length coding region in-frame.

Although the MD1 and MD2 constructs included a putative FKBP12-binding site [16,17], we did not find FKBP in positive clones in this yeast two-hybrid screening. Our observation may support a recent report that FKBP12 does not bind to IP₃R1 [35]. Alternatively, it may be due to amplitude of the cDNA library (i.e. FKBP may not be in our cDNA library) or the requirement for additional protein(s) for binding of FKBP to IP₃R1. The MD2 construct also has a calmodulin-binding site. However, we did not detect binding of calmodulin in this screening, because calmodulin binding to IP₃R1 is Ca²⁺-dependent.

CARP was originally identified by the screening of Purkinje cell-specific genes [36]. CARP is predicted to be composed of

291 amino acids, and has an acidic amino acid cluster of 16 Glu and four Asp residues within the N-terminal 50 amino acids [36]. CARP has a central carbonic anhydrase motif, but lacks carbonic anhydrase activity due to the absence of catalytic zinc co-ordinating residues. Indeed, it has been reported that CARP has no carbonic anhydrase activity [36,37]. So far, the function of CARP is unknown. The human CARP gene has also been cloned [38], and shown to be evolutionarily highly conserved with its mouse orthologue (98% identical in amino acid residues), suggestive of one or more key roles in cellular function.

Tissue distribution and subcellular localization of CARP

CARP is known to be highly expressed in Purkinje cells of the cerebellum, but its tissue distribution has not been extensively studied. We first examined the tissue distribution of CARP by Western blot analysis. Figure 2(A) shows the expression of CARP in the soluble fraction from various organs. CARP was expressed predominantly in the cerebellum as reported previously, where IP₃R1 is also expressed abundantly. Low-level expression was observed in the cerebrum, olfactory bulb, olfactory epithelium,

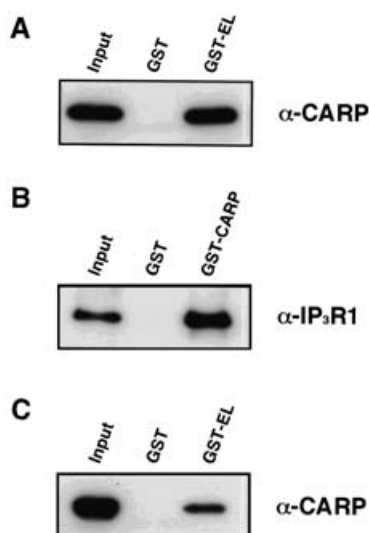


Figure 3 Biochemical analysis of the interaction of CARP with IP₃R1

(A) The mouse cerebellar cytosolic fraction was incubated with GST-EL or GST. Bound proteins were pulled down with glutathione–Sepharose, eluted with glutathione and analysed by Western blotting using anti-CARP antibody. (B) The detergent extract of mouse cerebellar microsomes was processed for a pull-down assay with GST–CARP or GST as described in (A), and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-IP₃R1 antibody KM1112. (C) Purified CARP–His₆ was pulled down with GST-EL or GST, and bound proteins were subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-CARP antibody.

vomer nasal organ, lung, submandibular gland, liver, adrenal gland, stomach, small intestine and large intestine. No signal was observed in the heart, thymus, spleen, pancreas, ovary, uterus, testis or muscle.

Immunohistochemistry of the cerebellum showed, as reported previously, that CARP is expressed predominantly in the cytoplasm of cerebellar Purkinje cells, coincident with IP₃R1 (results not shown) [3,36,39,40]. Expression of IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells is abundant and widespread, but not homogeneous, especially in dendrites, due to the formation of clusters [41]. If CARP binds to IP₃R1, the distribution of CARP also would not be homogeneous, and could co-localize with IP₃R1 clusters, although CARP is a cytosolic soluble protein. To define the subcellular localization of CARP and IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells, we prepared primary cultured Purkinje cells for immunohistochemical analysis. Figure 2(B) showed double staining of CARP (green) and IP₃R1 (red) expression in Purkinje cells. Both proteins were expressed in cytoplasm, dendrites and axons (Figure 2B). Subcellular localization revealed that CARP co-localized with IP₃R1 clusters (Figure 2B, arrowheads). Abundant and highly specialized co-expression of CARP and IP₃R1 and their co-localization in Purkinje cells suggests physiological coupling of these proteins through binding.

Biochemical analysis of the interaction of CARP with IP₃R1

We next examined the interaction between CARP and IP₃R1 by biochemical methods to obtain further evidence for the interaction, using pull-down experiments. We first developed an expression system in Sf9 cells to make soluble IP₃R1 by removing the channel domain. The soluble IP₃R1, designated GST-EL, comprises both the ligand-binding domain and the modulatory domain (amino acids 1–2217 of mIP₃R1), and has GST attached

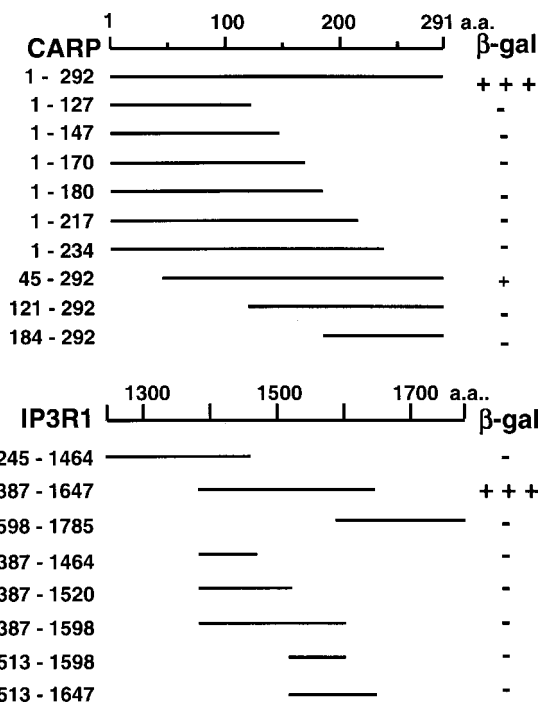


Figure 4 Determination of mutual interaction domains in CARP and IP₃R1

The structures of the N-terminal and C-terminal deletion mutants of CARP and IP₃R1 are shown. Interactions between CARP mutants and MD2, CARP and IP₃R1 mutants were analysed using the yeast two-hybrid system. The figure shows a schematic representation of the prepared deletion mutants and results of β -galactosidase (β -gal) assay in the yeast two-hybrid system ($n=3$). The β -gal assay was evaluated by the time of blue colony appearance: +++, 30 min; ++, 2 h; +, 8 h.

to its N-terminus. A mouse cerebellar cytosolic fraction was incubated with GST-EL or GST, and binding of CARP to the recombinant proteins was analysed by immunoblotting with anti-CARP antibody. Figure 3(A) shows that CARP bound specifically to GST-EL, and not to GST alone. In the reciprocal experiment, the detergent extract of mouse cerebellar microsomes was processed for pull-down assays with GST–CARP, and binding of IP₃R1 was analysed using anti-IP₃R1 antibody. IP₃R1 interacted with GST–CARP, but not with GST (Figure 3B). To determine whether the binding of CARP to IP₃R1 is direct, purified His-tagged CARP was pulled down with GST-EL. As shown in Figure 3(C), CARP–His₆ bound specifically to GST-EL, indicating that the interaction between CARP and IP₃R1 is direct. Together with the results of the yeast two-hybrid screening, these findings show that CARP is a novel IP₃R1-binding protein.

Determination of mutual interaction domains in CARP and IP₃R1

To determine the respective interaction domains of CARP and IP₃R1, truncated mutants of both genes were prepared and analysed using the yeast two-hybrid system. Figure 4 shows a schematic representation of the deletion mutants and the results of β -galactosidase assays. We detected weak binding activity following deletion of the N-terminal 44 amino acids of CARP, and any further deletions abolished binding to IP₃R1. This indicates that the minimum binding site of CARP to IP₃R1 comprises amino acids 45–291. In the case of deletion of IP₃R1, we found that amino acids 1387–1647 are necessary for binding to CARP.

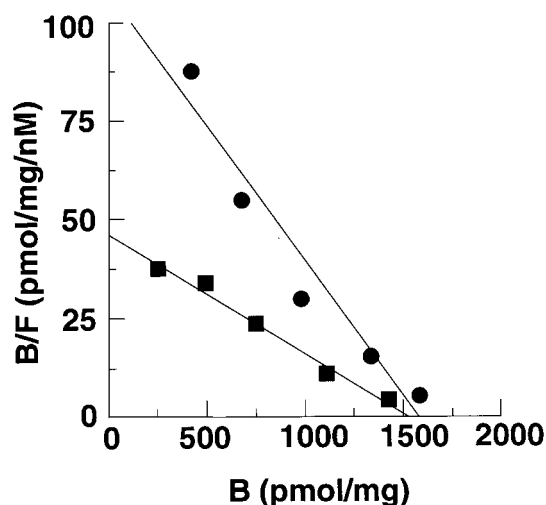


Figure 5 Inhibitory effects of CARP on IP₃ binding to IP₃R1

Scatchard analysis of the inhibition of specific [³H]IP₃ binding by IP₃ to the purified IP₃R1 in the presence (■) or absence (●) of CARP. The result of a typical experiment performed in duplicate is shown. The *K*_d values (mean ± S.D.) from three separate experiments performed in duplicate in the presence and absence of CARP were 33.5 ± 2.07 nM and 18.2 ± 4.58 nM respectively.

Effect of CARP on binding of IP₃ to IP₃R1

IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in intact Purkinje cells is known to require a much higher concentration of IP₃ (EC₅₀ 10 μM) [42] than in other tissues or with isolated IP₃R1 (EC₅₀ 100 nM–1 μM) [14,21,29,42]. Since CARP is highly expressed with IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells and binds IP₃R1, we speculated that the lower sensitivity of IP₃R1 to IP₃ in Purkinje cells might be due to an inhibitory effect of CARP on IP₃ binding, and accordingly analysed the effects of CARP on IP₃R1 in terms of IP₃ binding.

We used purified IP₃R1 in binding assays to evaluate the effects of CARP on the affinity of binding of IP₃ to IP₃R1. Purified IP₃R1 was incubated with various concentration of IP₃ in the presence or absence of purified recombinant CARP. A Scatchard plot is shown in Figure 5. Scatchard analysis indicated that the dissociation constant (*K*_d) of the binding of IP₃ to purified IP₃R1 in the presence and absence of CARP was 33.5 ± 2.07 nM and 18.2 ± 4.58 nM respectively, but that the maximal number of IP₃-binding sites was unaltered by CARP (*B*_{max} values in the presence and absence of CARP were 1630 ± 108 and 1720 ± 234 pmol/mg respectively). These results suggest that CARP inhibits IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 by lowering the affinity of the receptor for IP₃. Given that the CARP-binding site of IP₃R1 is distinct from the IP₃-binding site, it is likely that CARP changes the conformation of IP₃R1 by binding and reduces sensitivity to IP₃, rather than causing competitive inhibition between the CARP- and IP₃-binding sites. A high IP₃R1 density has been proposed to be one of the factors contributing to a low sensitivity to IP₃ for IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in Purkinje cells [43]. In addition to this, we now provide an additional explanation, i.e. that an inhibitory effect of CARP on IP₃ binding to IP₃R1 results in low sensitivity to IP₃ in Purkinje cells.

Conclusions

In conclusion, we screened a mouse brain cDNA library to identify IP₃R1-binding proteins using the yeast two-hybrid system. We

found that CARP is a novel IP₃R1-binding protein, and is expressed in Purkinje cells abundantly. CARP is co-localized with IP₃R1 in Purkinje cells. CARP binds to IP₃R1 and reduces the affinity of the receptor for its ligand, IP₃. This could be a cause of the low IP₃ sensitivity of IP₃-induced Ca²⁺ release in Purkinje cells.

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