Herpes Simplex Virus Specifies Two Subunits of Ribonucleotide Reductase Encoded by 3'-Coterminal Transcripts

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We have previously described a transcription unit located between map coordinates 0.558 and 0.595 on the herpes simplex virus type 2 strain 333 genome which encodes two mRNAs of 5.0 and 1.2 kilobases that share a common 3' terminus, and we have determined the nucleotide sequence of a 38,000-dalton protein specified by the smaller RNA (D. A. Galloway and M. A. Swain, J. Virol. 49:724–730, 1984). The entire nucleotide sequence of the 140,000-dalton protein specified by a 3,432-base-pair open reading frame within the large mRNA is presented, as are transcriptional regulatory sequences upstream of the RNA. The 140,000-dalton protein shows strong homology with the large subunit of well-characterized ribonucleotide reductase enzymes from the mouse and from *Escherichia coli* and with an Epstein-Barr virus gene. The 38,000-dalton protein has been shown previously to have homology with the small subunit of these enzymes (B.-M. Sjoberg, H. Eklund, J. A. Fuchs, J. Carlson, N. M. Standart, J. V. Ruderman, S. J. Bray, and T. Hunt, FEBS Lett. 183:99–102, 1985). This is the first example of a herpesvirus transcriptional unit that encodes functionally related proteins.

The herpesviruses are large DNA viruses which encode a number of enzymes required for their biosynthesis, e.g., DNA polymerase and thymidine kinase. Upon infection, herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 (HSV-1 [8] and HSV-2 [9]), equine herpesvirus type 1 (10), Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) (21), and pseudorabies virus (26) all induce a ribonucleotide reductase activity which is distinct from that of the cellular enzyme. Ribonucleotide reductase is an essential component of living cells, providing the precursors for DNA synthesis by catalyzing the reduction of all four ribonucleotides to their respective deoxyribonucleotides (38). In many cases the enzyme is encoded by two nonidentical subunits (33).

Evidence that ribonucleotide reductase activity is virally encoded has come from three sources. First, an HSV-1 strain 17 temperature-sensitive (ts) mutant failed to induce reductase activity at the nonpermissive temperature (12), and the mutation in ts1207 was mapped to sequences encoding a polypeptide referred to as Vmw136 (32). This protein, also referred to as ICP6 (22) and 140K (1) has been shown to be encoded by a 5.0-kilobase (kb) message located between map coordinates 0.558 and 0.595 (1, 28, 29). Analysis of the HSV-2 genome has revealed a colinear organization including a protein of 140,000 (140K) daltons (15) that is referred to in other studies as ICP10 (31) and 144K (23). A comparison of the DNA sequence encoding the carboxy termini of the HSV-1 and HSV-2 140K proteins has suggested that these proteins are homologous (17, 30).

The second indication that the reductase activity is virally encoded comes from studies which characterize the virally induced enzyme and use antibodies directed against viral proteins to inhibit enzymatic activity. Ribonucleotide reductase from HSV-2-infected cells was purified and used to produce antibodies which reacted primarily with a 144K protein and other minor components (24). By using monoclonal antibodies which had previously been shown to precipitate hybrid-selected, in vitro-translated proteins (15), it was possible to demonstrate that the 144K and 38K proteins associated with reductase activity were equivalent to the 140K and 38K proteins mapping to 0.558 to 0.595 on the HSV genome (4). By using monoclonal antibodies directed against Vmw136 and an oligopeptide serum directed against Vmw38, there is evidence that the HSV-1 proteins form a complex to function as the large and small subunits of the HSV-induced enzyme (13).

The evidence that the 38K protein is a subunit of ribonucleotide reductase comes from an analysis of the DNA sequence of the HSV-1 and HSV-2-encoded 38K proteins. Both the HSV-1 (11) and HSV-2 (17, 30) 38K proteins have been sequenced, and a comparison of the two sequences has revealed that the carboxy-terminal 307 amino acids are highly homologous and only the amino-terminal 30 amino acids show significant intertypic diversity. Recently, the small subunit of *Escherichia coli* reductase was compared with the HSV-2 38K protein, and they were found to be distantly related (16%) when comparing identical amino acids (36). This analysis revealed a related protein in EBV and in the clam *Spisula solidissima* and showed that in all four proteins a few specific regions, presumed to be of functional importance, showed striking similarities.

In this study we completed the nucleotide sequence of the region of HSV-2 encoding the 140K protein and its upstream regulatory sequences. By computer-assisted analysis we compared the amino acid sequence of the 140K protein with the large subunit of the *E. coli* (7) and mouse (6) ribonucleotide reductases and found significant homology among these proteins and with a gene from EBV. In addition we compared the HSV-2 140K protein with the sequence available (29) for the HSV-1 140K homolog and found that the carboxy terminus is far better conserved than the amino terminus.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Construction of recombinant M13 bacteriophage. The pBR322 recombinant plasmid pBamE containing the *Bam*HI E fragment (0.532 to 0.583 map units) of HSV-2 strain 333 was digested with either *SalI* or *PstI*, or in one case with *PstI-Eco*RI-*HpaI*. Specific fragments were purified from low-melting-point agarose and were ligated to the appropri-

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FIG. 1. Organization of the region of the HSV-2 genome encoding ribonucleotide reductase. (A) Location of these genes on the HSV-2 genome relative to the *Bg*/II C and N fragments and the *Bam*HI E and T fragments. (B) An expansion of this region showing relevant restriction enzyme sites. (C) Positions of the mRNAs (arrows) and the proteins (boxes) they encode. (D) Map coordinants along the HSV-2 genome.

ately cleaved vectors M13mp11 or mp19. The M13 recombinant phage constructed in this way contained a 2.75-kb Sall fragment (0.567 map units to the Sall site in the pBR322 portion of pBamE), a 1.15-kb SalI fragment (0.559 to 0.567 map units), a 0.65-kb SalI fragment (0.555 to 0.559 map units), a 1.29-kb PstI fragment (0.562 to 0.57 map units), and a 1.3-kb PstI fragment (0.553 to 0.562 map units). The identities and orientations of these clones were confirmed by sizing and restriction analysis of M13 replicative form DNA on agarose gels and by hybridization of M13 single-strand DNAs to each other to establish pairs. The replicative form DNAs of M13 recombinant phages containing HSV-2 DNA were linearized with pairs of enzymes (BamHI-SstI or BamHI-KpnI or XbaI-SstI) and deleted subclones obtained by the method of Henikoff (20) as previously described (37). Selection and growth of recombinant phage and preparation of phage DNA were done by standard techniques (35). Recombinants were characterized by T-track analysis (2) before running full sequencing reactions.

DNA sequencing methods and analysis. Dideoxynucleoside triphosphate chain termination sequencing methods (34) were performed with M13 recombinant phage DNA templates as previously described (37). DNA sequence data were obtained from both strands of a 4.0-kb region and were compiled and analyzed on a DEC Rainbow computer with the Genepro software written by J. Brown and J. Wallace. Homology searches on DNA and amino acid sequences used the method of Wilbur and Lipman (40).

RESULTS

To obtain the complete nucleotide sequence of the segment of DNA encoding the HSV-2 140K protein, we sequenced the region from the *Sal*I site (map coordinate 0.555) to the *Bam*HI site of the *Bam*HI E-T border (map coordinate 0.583). The overall strategy was to clone specific restriction fragments into appropriate M13 vectors. In all cases, two sets of fragments were used to obtain data spanning each restriction site. To provide templates of suitable length for sequencing, the replicative form of the recombinant M13 phage was purified, cleaved at two sites within the polylinker to leave a 5' extension proximal to the insert and a distal 3' extension, treated with exonuclease III for various intervals, and treated with S1 nuclease, Klenow polymerase, and T4 DNA ligase by the method of Henikoff (20). The details of the recombinant plasmids used and the construction of the M13 phage is given in Materials and Methods. We had previously sequenced the segment from the BgIII (0.58) to the *Bam*HI (0.583) site which contains the start of translation of the 38K protein and the start of transcription of the 1.2-kb message, and we tentatively identified the termination of translation and the carboxy-terminal 163 amino acids of the 140K protein (17). This region, including the relevant restriction enzyme sites, the location of the 5.0- and 1.2-kb RNAs, and the location of the coding sequences for the 140K and 38K proteins, is summarized in Fig. 1.

The nucleotide sequence of the noncoding strand of the HSV-2 140K gene is shown in Fig. 2. An open reading frame of 3,432 bp is seen (from nucleotide 419 to 3850) which gives rise to a protein of 1,144 amino acids. The translated protein predicted from the DNA sequence is shown above the appropriate nucleotides. The open reading frame is consistent with our previously published assignment of the carboxy terminus of the protein (17) and confirms an interesting organization of the sequences encoding the 38K and 140K proteins. The start of transcription for the 1.2-kb message has been mapped to nucleotide 3769 (30) which would place it and 80 nucleotides of the 1.2-kb RNA leader sequence within the translated portion of the 140K protein.

The start of transcription of the HSV-1 5.0-kb RNA has been mapped to nucleotide 176 (14). Upstream (nucleotides 148 through 153) is the canonical TATA homology ATAAAA. A comparison of these transcriptional regulatory sequences with those of HSV-1 strain KOS (11) show both regions of strong homology and regions with little or no homology. Of the 50 nucleotides surrounding TATA (123 through 173), 42 are identical whereas the next 36 nucleotides upstream (87 through 122) show no intertypic homology. This is followed by a 22-bp sequence (66 through 87) in which 20 nucleotides are identical between HSV-1 and HSV-2. The 22-bp conserved sequence is A-C rich, a feature shared with many other HSV early promoters (39). In the untranslated leader sequence there are regions of

,	10 616161116666	2 10101010	0	30 CÉGAAACCCA	40 CÁTCCAAAT	50	60 100100111	70	80	90
181	TIACATICACIC		ATCCCACC			GGGATTCA	GGALACGITA		GACTCAGGAGA	TAGGCATATCCTCC
201	ACTICACCOLCO					CATACCTO			AUCACAACAGG	
301					TUGUULAUU	.GATICLIG			GCTGTCCTGTC	GACAGATIGIIGGC
301	GACTGUUGGGT	GATTEGIE	LAIdAsnA	rgProAlgAl	aSerAlaLe	UALOGIYA	GCCTCCCACGG	SerGluArg	TGTTTCCGTTC GInGiuProAr	ATCGCGTCCGAGCC gG1úProG1uVa1A
401	ACCGTCACCTTG	GTTCCAA IyAspHis	ValPheCy	GCCCTGCCGC sArgLysVal	ATCCGCCCT SerGiyVal	CGCCGGAG MetvalLe	CGCGGTCTCCG uSerSerAspP	TCCGAACGĂ TOPTOGIVP	CAGGAACCCCG	GGAGCCCGAGGTCG ArgiluSerAspSe
195	rSerPhevalGI	GCGACCAC nCysGlyS	GTGTTTTG ierAsnÇys'	CAGGAAAGTC SerMetilul	AGCGGCGTG	SATGGTGCT Spvalala	TTCCAGCGATC ArgGİyHisLe	CCCCCCGGCC uArgAsple	CCGCGGGCCTÁC uGluGivAlaT	CGCATTAGCGĂCĂĞ hrSerThrGivAlo
601	CAGCTTTGTTCA/	ATGCGGCT SerAsnVa	CCAACTGC	AGTATGATAA IygiyAspgi	TCGACGGAG yÅrgThrAl	aValValA	CGCGGTCATTT IaleuGIyGIy	GCGTGÅCCT ThrSerGIv	CGAGGGCGCTA ProSerAlaTh	CGTCCACCGGCGCC rThrSerValGivT
701	hrGinThrSerG	TCAAACGT IyGluPhe	CGCAGCCG	GCGGGGGATGG yÅsnProArg	CCGAACCGC	CGTCGTGG	CGCTCGGCGGÂ yProĠinAlav	ACCTCGGGC	CCGTCCGCGAC	TACATCCGTGGGGA Propheprotrogi
801	CCCAGACGTCCG	GGGAGTTC salaargÅ	CTCCACGG	GAACCCAAGG ArgGiyGiyA	ACCCCCGAA	CCCCAAGG	ACCCCAGGCTG AlgAlgGluSe	TCCCCCCCGC	CCCCTCCTCCC DGIvProSerS	CCCTTTCCATGGGG erAspSerGluThr
901	CCACGAGTGCTG	CGCCCGTC SerSerAs	GCGATGCC.	AGĞGGCGGCG hrgivSergi	CCGAGĂÂĠG vŜergiuth	ACGTCGGG Ir Leu Ser A	GCČGCĞĞAĞŤĊ raSerSerSer	ATGGTČAGĂ	ČĞĞĆĊĊĞŤČĠŤ AlgGivAlgTh	CCGACTCCGAAACG
1001	GAGGACTCGGAC	TCCTCGGA erAroSer	CGAGGATA AsdAsdSe	CGĠGĆŤĊGĠG r ValGinPra	TCGGAGAC	GCTGTCTC Volaroar	GĂŤĊĊŤĊŤŤČĠ MaratroSera	ATCTGGGCC	GCAGGGGGGGGAC	TGACGACGATGACA
1101	GCGACTCCGACT	CGCGGTCG	GACGACTO	CGTGCAGCCC GivienGiva	GĂCĠŤŤĠŤĊ	GTTCGTCG	CAGATGGAĞCG Secalatbras	ACGGCCCTG	000000000000000000000000000000000000000	TTTCCCAAGCCCCG
1201	GCGCCCCGGCGA	CTCCCCCC	GAAACCCC	ĞĞĊĊŤĞĞĞĊĞ	CCGGCACCG	BCCCCCCCC	TCCGCGACGGA		GTEGGEEGAET	CCGATTCCGCGGCC
1301	CACGCCGCCGCA	CCCCAGGO	GGACGTCG	ĊĠĊĊĠĠŦŦĊŦ	GGACAGCCA	GCCCACTG	TGGGAACGGAC	CCCGGCTAC	CCAGTCCCCCT	AGAACTCACGCCCG
1401	AGAACGCGGAGG	CGGTGGCG	CGGTTTCT	GGGGGGACGCC	GTCGACCGC	GAGCCCGC	GCTCATGCTGG	AGTACTICT	GTCGGTGCGCC	CGCGAGGAGAGCAA
1501	GCGCGTGCCCCC	ACGAACCT	TCGGCAGC	GCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCC	TCACGGAGG	ACGACITI	GIVLEULEUAS GGGCTCCTGAA	CTACGCGCT	uAlaGiuMetA CGCTGAGATGC	GACGCCTGTGCCTG
1601	GACCTTCCCCCG	GICCCCC	CAACGCAT	ACACGCCCTA	TCATCIGAG	GGAGTATG	CGACGCGGCTG	GTTAACGGG	PheLysProLe	uvalArgArgSerA GGTGCGGCGGTCCG
1701	CCCGCCTGTATC	GCATCCTO	GGGGATTCT	uValHisLeu GGTTCACCTG	CGCATCCGT	ACCCGGGA	GGCCTCCTTG	AGGAATGGA	etArgSerLys TGCGCTCCAAG	GIUVOIASPLEUAS GAGGTGGACCTGGA
1801	pPheGIyLeuTh CTTCGGGCTGAC	rGluArgL GGAAAGGC	euArgGlu TTCGCGAA	HISGIUAIOG CACGAGGCCC	AGCTAATGA	TCCTGGCC	GINAIOLeuAs CAGGCCCTGAA	nProTyrAs CCCCTACGA	DCysLeulluH CTGTCTGATCC	isSerThrProAsn ACAGCACCCCGAAC
1901	ACGCTCGTCGAG	ArgGlyLe CGGGGGCT	GCAGTCGG	CGCTGAAGTA	CGAAGAGTT	TTACCTCA	ysArgPheGly AGCGCTTCGGC	GIVHISTUR	MetGluSerVo ATGGAGTCCGT	IPheGInMetTvrT CTTCCAGATGTACA
2001	hrArgiluAlaG CCCGCATCGCCG	GGTTCCTC	GCGTGCCG	GGCGACCCGC	GiyMetArg GGCATGCGC	HisliuAld	CCTGGGGCGAC	AGGGGTCGT	rpTrpGluMet GGTGGGAAATG	PheLysPhePhePh TTCAAGTTCTTTTT
2101	eHisArgLeuTy CCACCGCCTCTA	r AspHisG CGACCACC	AGATCGTG	ProSerThrP	CCGCCATGC	euAsnLeu TGAACCTC	GIYTHRARGAS GGAACCCGCAA	CTACTACAC	rSerSerCysT GTCCAGCTGCT	yrLeuValAsnPro ACCTGGTAAACCCC
2201	GINAIaThrThr CAGGCCACCACT	AsnGinAİ AACCAGGC	aThrLeuA CACCCTCC	GGGCCATCAC	r G I y Asn Va CGGC AACGT	GAGCGCCA	LuLeuAlaArg	AsnĠlyGly AACGGGGGGC	IIuGIyLeuCy ATCGGGCTGTG	SMetGInAlaPheA CATGCAGGCGTTCA
2301	snAspAlaSerP ACGACGCCAGCC	CCGGCACC	AlaSerli	uMetProAlo CATGCCGGCC	LeuLysVal CTGAAGGTC	LeuAspSe CTGGACTC	r LeuÝa I A I a A CCTGGTGGCGG	I aHi sAsnL	ysGInSerThr AACAGAGCACG	ArgProThrGlyAl CGCCCCACCGGGGC
2401	aCysValTyrLei GTGCGTGTACCTI	uGluProt GGAACCCT	rpHisSer GGCACAGC	ASDVQ LATQA GACGTTCGGG	LaVa LeuA	GAATGAAG	GIYValLeuAI GGCGTCCTCGC	aGIYGIUGI CGGCGAGGA	uAlaGinAraC GGCCCAGCGCT	ysAspAsniiuPhe GCGACAACATCTTC
2501	SerAlaLeuŤrpl AGCGCCCTCTGG	MetProAs ATGCCGGA	pLeuPhePi CCTGTTCT	helysArgle TCAAGCGCCT	UI LUA raHi GATCCGCCA	SLeuAspG CCTCGACG	I yG I uL ys Asn GCGAGAAAAAC	Val Ťhr Trp GTCACCTGG	SerLeuPheAs TCCCTGTTCGA	pArgAspThrSerM CCGGGACACCAGCA
2601	etSerLeuAlaA TGTCGCTCGCCG	spPheHis ACTITCAC	GIYGIUGI GGCGAGGA	uPheGluLys GTTCGAGAAG	LeuTyrGlu CTGTACGAG	HisLeuGI	uAlo MetGlyP GGCCATGGGGT	heGİYGIUT TCGGCGAAA	hriluProllu CGATCCCCATC	GINÁSPLEUAIOTY CAGGACCTGGCGTA
2701	rAlalluValAr CGCCATCGTGCG	gSerAlaÅ CAGCGCGG	aThrThr	GiySerProP GGAAGCCCCT	helluMetP TCATCATGT	heLysAsp. TTAAGGAC	AlaValAsnAr GCGGTAAACCG	GHISTYTII	uTyrÅspThrG CTACGACACGC	Ingivalaalallu AAGGGGCGGCCATT
2801	AlaGiySerAsni GCCGGCTCCAAC	LeuCysTh CTCTGCAC	GGAGATCG	alHisProSe TCCACCCGTC	rŠerLysAr CTCCAAACG	gSerSerG CTCCAGCG	I yVa İ ÇysAsn GGGTCTGCAAC	LeuGlySer CTGGGCAGC	ValAsnLeuAl GTGAATCTGGC	aArgCysValSerA CCGATGCGTCTCCC
2901	rgArgThrPheAs GGCGGACGTTCG	spPheG1y ATTTTGGC	MetLeuAr	GACGCCGTG	GINAIOCYS	VaiLeuMe GTGCTAAT	t VolÅsniluM GGT TAATATCA	let liuAspS TGATAGACA	erThrLeuGin GCACGCTGCAG	ProthrProGinCy CCGACGCCCCAGTC
3001	sAloArgGlyHis CGCCCGCGGCCA	SASPASNÍ CGACAACO	euArgSerl	MetGlylluG	U yMetGinG GCATGCAGG	JyLeuHis GCCTGCAC	ThrAloCysLe ACGGCGTGCCT	uLvsMetGI GAAGATGGG	yLeuAspLeuG CCTGGATCTGG	IuSerAlaGluPhe AGTCGGCCGAGTTC
3101	ArgAspLeuÅsn CGGGACCTGAAC	ThrHisl Acacacat	UA LOGIUV	o i MetLeuLe IGATGCTGCT	UALOALOME CGCGGCCAT	LysThrS	erAsnAlaLeu GTAACGCGCTG	CysValArg TGCGTTCGC	GlyAlaArgPr GGGGCGCGTCC	oPheSerHisPheL CTTCAGCCACTTTA
3201	ysArgSerMetT AGCGCAGCATGT	yr Arg Ala ACCGGGCC	GIVArgPh	eHisTrpGlu TCACTGGGAG	ArgPheSer	AsnAlaSe	r ProÅrg TyrG CCCGCGGTACG	AGGGCGAGT	rpGluMetLeu GGGAGATGCTA	ArgGInSerMetMe CGCCAGAGCATGAT
3301	tLysHisGlyLei GAAACACGGCCTI	uArqAsnŠ GCGČAACA	erGInPhe GCCAGTTC	I LUA LOL CUN	etProThrA	laAlaSer SCCGCCTCG	AlaGinlluSe GCCCAGATCTC	r AspVa I Se GGACGTCAG	rGluGlyPheA CGAGGGCTTTG	In ProLeuPheThr CCCCCCTGTTCACC
3401	AsnLeuPheSerl	LysValTh AAGGTGAC	r ArgAspG	I YGI UTHILE	uArgProAs GCGCCCCAA	nThrLeuL CACGCTCT	euLeuLysGlu TGCTGAAGGAA	LeuGluArg	ThrPheGlyGI ACGTTCGGCGG	yLysArgLeuLeuA GAAGCGGCTCCTGG
3501	spAlaMetAspG ACGCGATGGACG	IyLeuGlu GGCTCGAG	AloLysGI	n TrpSerVal GTGGTCTGTG		LeuProCy	sLeuÅspProA CCTGGACCCCG	I OH SP TOL	euArgArgPhe TCCGGCGGTTC	Lys Thr Al a PheAs AAGACGGCCTTCGA
3601	pTyrAspGInGI CTACGACCAGGA	uLeuLeu İ ACTGCTGA		CysAldAspA TGTGCAGACC	GCGCCCCCT	yr Vol Asp Atgitgat	HisSerGinSe CACAGCCAATC	MetThrLe CATGACTCT	uTyrValThrG GTATGTCACAG	IuLysAlaAspGly AgaaggCggaCggg
3701	ThrLeuProAla ACGCTCCCCGCC	Ser Thr Le	uValAraL GGTCCGCC	euLeuValHi TTCTCGTCCA	SÁLOTVELV CGCATATAA	SArgGI yL	euLysThrGly TGAAGACGGGG	MettyrTyr ATGTACTAC	CysLysValAr TGCAAGGTTCG	gLysAlaThrAsnS CAAGGCGACCAACA
3801	erGlyVolPheA GCGGGGTGTTCG	I G I YASP	AspAsnii	uValCysThr CGTCTGCACA	SerCysAla		AACAGCGCTCC	GATCGGGGT	CAGGCGTCGCT	CTCGGTCCCGCATA
3901	TCGCCATCGATC	roAlavai CCGCCGTC	SerProAl	oSerThrAsp GAGCACCGAC	ProLeuAsp	ThrHisAl	aSerĠlyAlaG GTCGGGGGGCCG	IVAI aA LaP	rolluProvol CGATTCCGGTG	CysProThrPro TGCCCCACCCCC

Δ MANRPAASALAGARSPSERQEPREPEVAPPGGD--HVFCRKVSGVMVLSSDPPGPAAYRISDSSFVQCGSNCS 70 HSV-2 MASRPAASSPVEARAPVGGQEAGGPSAATQGEAAGAPLAHGHHVYCQRVNGVMVLSDKTPGSASYRISDSNFVQCGFNCT 80 HSV-1 HSV-2 MIIDGD-VARGHLRDLEGATSTGAFVAISNV 101 MIIDGRRGARAPQTRGPAGIPRSLRCCDKHR 111 HSV-1 BHSV-2 NLFSKVTRDGETLRPNTLLLKELERTFGGKRLLDAMDGLEAKQWSVAQALPCLDPAHPLRRFKTAFDYDQELLIDLCADR 1074 NLFSKVTRDGETLRPNTLLLKELERTFSGKRLLEVMDSLDAKOWSVAQALPCLEPTHPLRRFKTAFDYDQKLLIDLCADR HSV-1 APYVDHSQSMTLYVTEKADGTLPASTLVRLLVHAYKRGLKTGMYYCKVRKATNSGVFAGDDNIVCTSCAL 1144 HSV-2 HSV-1 APYVDHSQSMHLYDTEKADGTLPASTLVRLLVHAYKRGLKTGMYYCKVRKATNSGVFGGDDNIVCMSCAL

FIG. 3. Comparison of the amino and carboxy termini of the HSV-2 and HSV-1 140K proteins. The amino acid sequence of the HSV-2 protein predicted from our sequence and for the HSV-1 protein predicted from the sequence of McLaughlin and Clements (29) is shown for the amino termini (A) and carboxy termini (B) of the proteins. The numbers at the right are the numbers of amino acids (no numbers are given for the HSV-1 C terminus because the complete sequence is not known). The single letter amino acid code is used.

strong intertypic homology (e.g., nucleotides 179 through 228), moderate homology (e.g., nucleotides 256 through 283), and little or no homology preceding the start of translation (e.g., nucleotides 354 through 418).

Only a portion of the sequences encoding the HSV-1 140K protein are available, encompassing 111 residues of the amino terminus and 150 residues of the carboxy terminus (29). A comparison of the termini of the HSV-1 strain 17 and HSV-2 strain 333 140K protein is shown (Fig. 3). The carboxy termini of the proteins are highly conserved (92%), whereas the amino termini are much less similar. The HSV-1 protein has a segment of nine amino acids which are not present in the HSV-2 protein, and residues 80 through 101 of the HSV-2 protein show no homology to residues 91 through 111 of the HSV-1 protein. Until the complete sequence of the HSV-1 gene is available it is impossible to determine whether this difference represents an insertion or just a region of nonhomology, and it is not possible to establish where the protein conservation will begin. Of the remaining 80 amino acids of the HSV-2 amino terminus, there is 60% homology, indicating the overall functional relatedness of the HSV-1 and HSV-2 140K proteins.

It was recently demonstrated that the EBV genome encoded a protein which shows significant homology to the HSV-1 and HSV-2 38K proteins (18) and that these proteins are homologous to the small subunit of the wellcharacterized ribonucleotide reductase of *E. coli* (36). The DNA sequence encoding the large subunit of the *E. coli* reductase, designated B1, has been determined (7) as has the sequence of the large subunit of the mouse reductase, designated M1 (6). In addition the entire sequence of the EBV genome has been completed (5).

A computer-assisted analysis of a comparison of the sequence of the HSV-2 140K protein with those of the three other genes was done (Fig. 4). The HSV-2 protein is the largest, having 1,144 amino acids. The amino terminus of the

HSV-2 protein contains a domain of 350 through 400 residues which is not shared with the other reductases, suggesting an additional function for this segment of the protein. By secondary structure analysis (data not shown) this region is extremely rich in hydrophilic residues and appears structurally distinct from the rest of the protein. At least a portion of this domain is present in the HSV-1 protein, although there is less conservation than in the carboxy terminus of the 140K protein. Perhaps this domain is required for binding to the respective 38K proteins or alternatively to other enzymes in an HSV replication complex. The three other reductases show a longer carboxy terminus than does HSV-2. The figure highlights the homologous regions by showing in reverse print residues which are identical or which show conservative changes in at least three of four proteins when all four sequences are aligned or in all of the proteins when either two or three sequences are available. By these criteria nearly 40% of the shared amino acids are conserved. This is in close agreement with the overall relatedness (38%) of the E. coli, clam, EBV, and HSV-2 small subunits when comparing conserved residues (data not shown). The HSV-2 gene is more closely related to the EBV gene than to that of E. coli or the mouse, nevertheless, blocks of homology are common to all four proteins. Biochemical analysis of the large subunit of other reductases has indicated the importance of two thiols that are oxidized to a disulfide during the enzymatic reaction (38) and has shown that the reaction is catalyzed by either thioredoxin or glutaredoxin. The active site of thioredoxin or glutaredoxin contains two cysteines separated by two amino acids, which allows the formation of a stable 15-member ring structure containing the disulfide. This structure should be present on the large subunit, and this sequence was found only once in the E. coli protein (7) at residues 667 and 670 (see Fig. 4). In the HSV-2 protein this sequence is also present only once at residues 1139 and 1142, two amino acids away from the carboxy terminus. Interest-

FIG. 2. Nucleotide sequence of the noncoding strand of the region encoding the 140K protein. The signals for the initiation (nucleotides 419 through 421) and termination (3851 through 3853) of translation of the 140K protein are shown in reverse print, and the translated amino acid sequence is shown above the nucleotide sequence. The amino terminus of the 38K protein is shown beginning with its initiation codon (3906 through 3908). The TATA homologies for the 5.0-kb message (148 through 153) and the 1.2-kb message (3742 through 3747) are also shown in reverse print.

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HSV-2	MANRPAASALAGARSPSERGEPREPEVAPPGGDHVFCRKVSGVMVLSSDPPGPAAYRISDSSFVQCGSNCSMIIDGDVARGHLRDLEGATSTGAFVAISN	100
H5V-2		200
HSV-2	DEDTGSGSETLSRSSSIWAAGATDDDDSDSDSRSDDSVQPDVVVRRWSDGPAPVAFPKPRPGDSPGNPGLGAGTGPGSATDPRASADSDSAAHAAAPQ	200
E. COLI		45
MOUSE	MHVIKRDGRQERVWFDKITSR QKLCY OLNWDFVDP QITM	41
HSV-2	ADVAPVLDSQPTVGTDPGYPVPLELTPENAEAVARFLGDAVDREPALMLEYFCRC A REESKR VPPRTFGSAPRLTEDDFGULNYALAEMRRLCLDUPPV P	400
E COLI	H-10F-10DGIKISDIHETHIKAAADUISRDAPDYQYLAARIAIFHLEKKATSLRPPAUYDHVVKNVEMGKYONHUUEDYTEEEFKOMDTFIDHOR	139
EBV	MATUSHUEHELUSKUI-DELKVKANSDEADVLAGRLIHRUKAESVTHTVAEYLEVFSDKFYDBEFFOZHRDELETRVSAFAQSPAYER	88
HSV-2	₽ŊŊŸŦ₽Ŋ-HŨREŸAŤŔĹVŊĠĔKĔŨ-VŔŔSAŔŨŸŔĨŨĠĨĨŢŶĦĿŔĨŊŦŔĔŊSĔĔŴŊŔSKĔVDŨĎĔĠĹŦĔŔĹŔĠĦĔĂŎŨŢĬĬĂŎĂĹŊ₽ŶĎĊĹĬĦSŦĔŇŤ	495
F COL 1		
MOUSE	ULUFSMAANKULUUKUUVUNKYIGETTUSKUFULULUVAKUUFSNTPREGUUTUKKFMUUVSTFKTSLPIPILSGVRTPUKGFSSGVLIEUGUSLUSTN DFGYNNFGFKTLURSYULKINGXVAUKPOHLIXIXVOUHKEDIDAANETYNULSEKWFTHASPTUANAGTNRPQLSSGFLLSXKUDSIEGI	231
EBV HSV-2	IVSSGVLSALRYYDTYLYV-GRSCK-OESYCHFYYRLAGFCASTTCLYAGLRAALORARPEIESDMEVFDYYFEHLISOTVCOSTPFYRFAGVENS	182
		204
E COLI	ATBSAIDKYVSQRQGIASTPGVFV-DWVARFXVKRSIPAAFRSTTFPDSGESCSRRCAGBRCBNVFVPM-DELEVESLUVUXNN	320
MOUSE	YDULKOGALTSKSÅGGIGVAVSCU-RATGSTTÄGTNÖNSNGLÖPYURÖYNNTARYÖDÖGGNKREGÅFATYLEPNHLDIFEFUDUKKN	317
HSV-2	Y-U-SSQYLVNPOQTTNOATLRAITGNUSAILA-RNGGIGLCUOQTNOASODGKHISLLAKUNSKVETHNTCCKANVSVAANLEANSOUPKTETALP	681
E. COLL	R-BYEG TRYRH TOY BYOLINK UMYTRILKGEDIT ISS BYPGUYDAFFADOEEFERLYT BYEKDDSIRKORYK AVEU-BSUTMOER SIGRIYIONV	415
EBV	E-NHERCPGIIIT OLAVELIFIK-UFROTPWSOWYUFDOROAGOU-GERUYOEEFEREYYOLVTAGKFCG-RVSIKSUMFSUVNC-AKKAGSPFTULK	367
HSV-2	LAGEGAOBCONILISALUMPOLIFIKRUIBHLOGEKNVTÜSLFÖRDTSMSLADFHGEEFEKLYEÜLGAMGFGETÖPÜQDÜAMALVRS-AATTGSPFIMFÄ	778
E. COLI		511
MOUSE	DSOLR ISNOGNLOT - IKCONLOTETVEYIS TOEVAVONLASE - AUNMYYTPEHTYDF EKLAEVTKYTVRNUNKI ID INYYD I BEAHL SNKRH BP	501
HSV-2	BAGNA 11 WR JLOGEALNAAN LOAEVUOPSRI-SVATON LANHOUPROUVNAPLAVRAORADTOGDEULUALPRUSVTL-PGEGAVGDGFSLARLRDA DAVNRIYIYDTOGAAHAGSNLGTEIVHPSSIIRSSOVON LOSUN LARCUSRRTFDFG-MURDAVOACVU MVNI MIDS-TLOQTGOCARGHDNL 3	462 871
		-
E. COLI		583
EBV	IGIGVQGLADAFIL XYYPIESPEAQLUNXQLFETIYYGALEASCEUA-XEYGPYETYEGSPVSKGILOY-OMWN TQCATFVVACSILQGSPTYDSRDMASMGLGVQGUADWFADUGWOYTDPPSRSLNXEILEH YYBTALCTSSLIGUETRKIBPGBKOSKYAGGWFHWHWAG	573
HSV-2	SMGTGMQGUHTACUK TGLDLESAEFROUNTHTAEVALLAAMKTSNAUGVRGARPESHEKRSMYRAGRFHM-ERES	944
r		
MOUSE	NUW IPSLMSRCIIIGXUCVSQSR ATVCVMPTLSALMPSETASDIS-NATNGIERRANTSASKRRKTVFCA	665
EBV HSV-2	TOLSIPREI SRUSE ZIVRD-CUFNSO-FIALMPT SCCAOVICS DAFY FYAVASTKV-INKEEAUR NZSFWR VRUDDREAUN	645
	NEW KIEGE WEWERUSTENN OM DE SUUS AND DE SUUS AND DE SUUS ANDER DE SUUS ANDE EN ANDE EN ANDE EN ANDE EN ANDE EN	1034
E COLI	PMSCCGK@RVIII.VICNWWVSCRN	736
MOUSE	KNOI I A ONGSTOSI PETEDDLKOUWKIVWEISOKTVEK MAAERGAFIDOSOSENIHIAEPNYOKETSKHFYGWOOGEKTGYYYLOTRPAA	745
HSV-2	GTOON JGGIEALAWITG-KUDIALUTNDEDIDU JSKOKAPIAYDOSOSHSUFURBEDAARASTUANLLVRSVELOUKTI AYVCRIEKAA AKOWSYAQALECLDPAJPURRIKTAFOYDOELUIDU ADRAPYYDHSOSWTUYYTEKADGTUPASTUVRLLVHAYKRGUKTGYYYCXVRKAT	733
E COLI MOUSE	KDDODDLGAVNPGRWLETDHVRSDIEMRIGKRLIPVRLGL	776
EBV	DL OVMECKASAAUSVPREQNERSPAEOMPPRPMEPAOVAGPVDIMSKGPGEGPGGWCVPGGLEVCYKYROLFSEDDLLETDGFTERACESCO	792
HSV-2	NS OVFACODNIVCTSC-	1144

FIG. 4. Comparison of the HSV-2 140K protein sequence with those of the ribonucleotide reductases of *E. coli*, mouse, and EBV. The sequence of the *E. coli* B1 subunit was taken from reference 7, the mouse M1 subunit was from reference 6, and the EBV sequence was from reference 5. The sequences were aligned with that of the HSV-2 140K protein to maximize homology. Reverse print is used at positions where three of four, four of four, three of three, or two of two proteins have identical residues or show conservative changes of amino acids. Substitutions between chemically similar residues that were allowed were: ILMVA, RKH, YFW, DE, TS, GA, QN. No substitutions were allowed for P and C. The numbers to the right indicate the position of the amino acids.

ingly, in both the EBV and mouse proteins the same structure was present only once close to the C terminus (residues 822 and 825 in EBV and 787 and 790 in mouse proteins).

DISCUSSION

The sequence of the HSV-2 140K protein is an important step in the long-term goal of understanding the catalytic mechanism of ribonucleotide reductase. By site-directed mutagenesis it will be possible to determine the functional domains of this enzyme. Data obtained from studies of the mutant ts1207 suggest that a defect in ribonucleotide reductase has a lethal effect which strengthens the value of this gene as a target for antiviral therapy. The development of antiviral agents directed against the HSV ribonucleotide reductase will be aided by knowledge of the primary structure of this enzyme.

DNA sequence data has provided firm evidence that both the 140K and 38K proteins show significant homology with the large and small subunits of other ribonucleotide reductases. In the case of HSV-1 and HSV-2 these genes are encoded by two transcripts which share a 3' terminus, providing the first example in the herpesvirus genome of functionally related genes sharing a transcriptional unit. In EBV the genes which encode the large and small subunits are encoded by 93K and 34K proteins which are located in tandem and appear to be coded by distinct mRNAs (18). The genes, designated nrdA and nrdB, which encode the bacterial reductase genes are also adjacent to each other on the *E*. *coli* genome (7).

It is intriguing that many of the monoclonal antibodies which react with one of the components of the viral enzyme also react to some extent with the other component and frequently the antibody recognizes a type-specific epitope (4, 16, 19). There are two possible and nonexclusive explanations for this observation. The first is that the two proteins form a complex which can be immunoprecipitated. By using a monoclonal antibody directed against HSV-1 Vmw136, and an oligopeptide serum directed against the carboxy terminus of Vmw38, Frame et al. (13) present good evidence that coprecipitation with these antibodies is caused by the formation of a complex. Another possibility which could explain the coprecipitation is that the HSV-2 140K and 38K proteins contain related epitopes. We have suggested that this could be a contributory factor based on two lines of evidence. First, the monoclonal antibodies 6A6 and 6H11 react with both the 140K and 38K proteins, not only in immunoprecipitation reactions but also in immunoblot reactions (19). Also, K. Shriver and L. Goldstein (unpublished data) have isolated a 6A6 monoclonal antibody-resistant mutant of HSV-2 which does not immunoprecipitate the 140K protein but still retains the same degree of reactivity with the 38K protein as does wild-type virus. These data support the notion that certain antigenic sites (or a site) may be related. By computer-assisted analysis we looked for antigenic sites shared by the 140K and 38K proteins, and the results were largely inconclusive. We found 3 examples where 4 of 4 amino acids were identical, 10 in which 4 of 5 matched, 1 in which 5 of 6 matched, etc. One example which was of particular interest is the sequence Pro-Ala-Ser-Thr which is located at position 7 through 10 in the HSV-2 38K protein and at position 1097 through 1100 in the HSV-2 140K protein. Based on predicted secondary structures (data not shown) this sequence is in a potentially very antigenic site of the amino terminus of the 38K protein which differs in sequence from the type 1 equivalent. The same sequence is present in the HSV-1 140K protein. It is interesting to speculate that this could be the epitope recognized by the antibody 6H11. The antibody recognizes predominantly the HSV-2 38K protein and to a lesser extent the HSV-2 140K protein, a difference in avidity which could be attributable to less accessibility because of secondary structure of the epitope in the 140K protein. Reactivity to the HSV-1 140K protein at high antibody concentrations, but not to the HSV-1 38K protein, has been reported (4). Experiments with tryptic and synthetic peptides to prove which epitopes are recognized by the antibodies 6A6 and 6H11 will be needed to determine whether shared antigenic sites play a role in the coprecipitation of the subunits of HSV-2 ribonucleotide reductase.

It has been suggested that the HSV ribonucleotide reductase genes may play a role in morphological transformation (23) and in cervical carcinoma (3). Experiments with deletions of the Bg/II N fragment have shown that the region with transforming activity maps to around position 0.60, outside of the sequences encoding 38K (16), thus excluding a role for the small subunit of ribonucleotide reductase in morphological transformation. In experiments in which tumorigenic transformation was achieved by continuous passage of cells exposed to the Bg/II C-HpaI fragment (See Fig. 1), the 140K protein was detected in the transformed cells as judged by a complement fixation assay (25). From the DNA sequence data we now know that such a fragment only encodes approximately one-third of the large subunit of ribonucleotide reductase and apparently not the domain encoding the catalytic site, so it appears unlikely that either subunit of ribonucleotide reductase is involved in morphological transformation. There is contradictory evidence as to whether the 140K protein is expressed on the plasma membrane of cervical carcinoma cells, with positive results in some cases (3) and negative results in a study with the monoclonal antibodies 6A6 and 6H11 (27). At this time it is clear that both HSV-1 and HSV-2 encode two subunits of ribonucleotide reductase, that the activity of the enzyme complex is required for viral replication, and that there is little reason to believe these genes are required for morphological transformation.

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