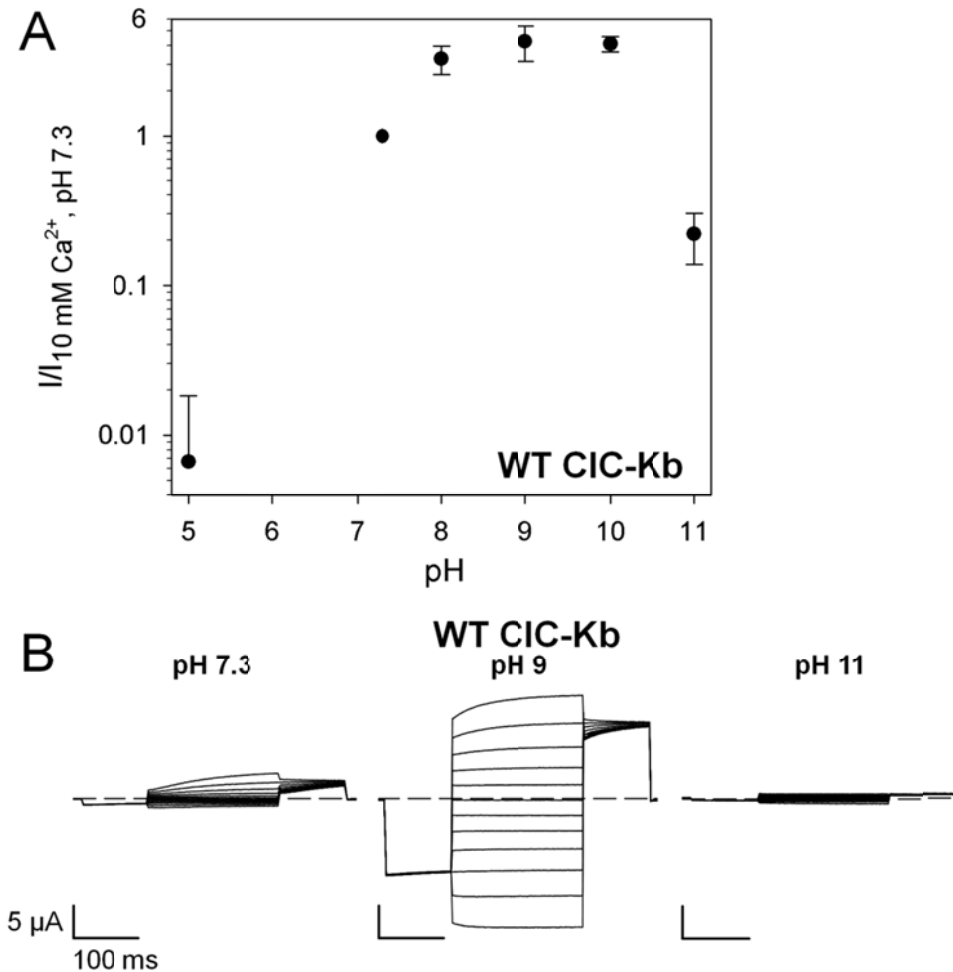


## Supporting Material

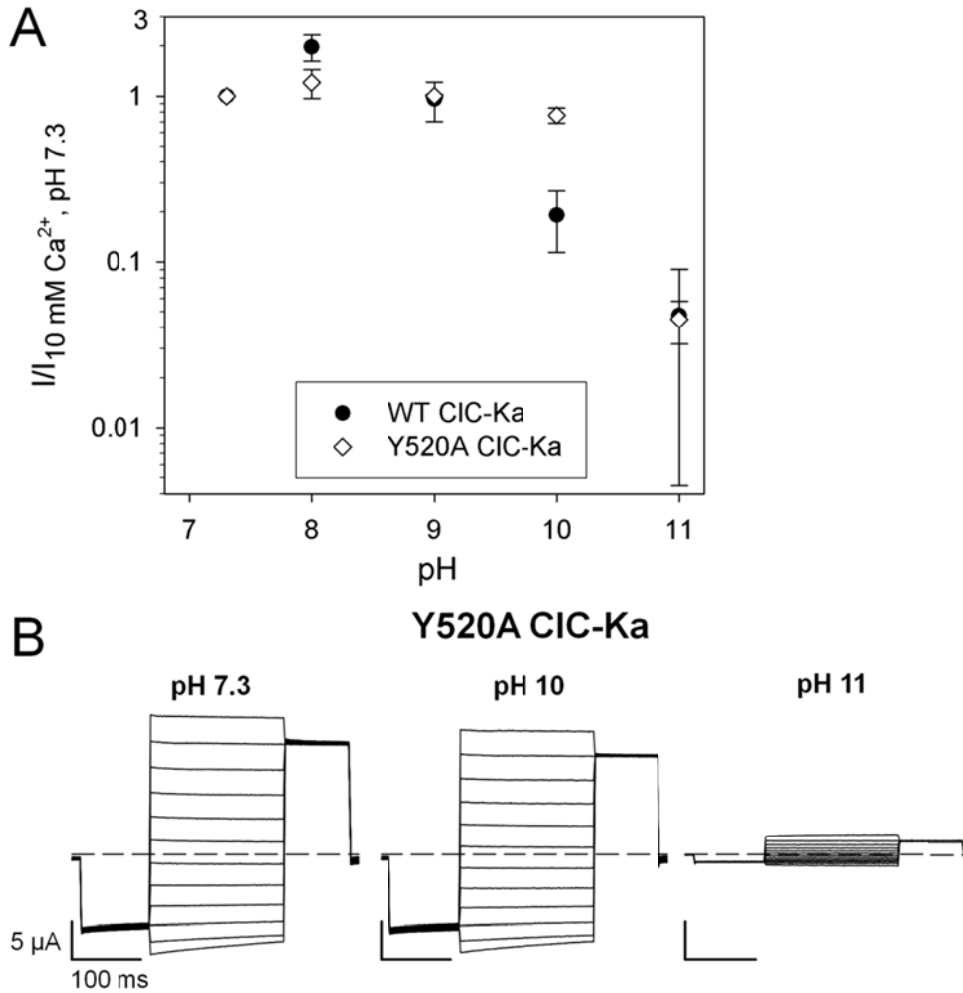
Alkaline pH block of CLC-K kidney chloride channels mediated by a pore lysine residue.

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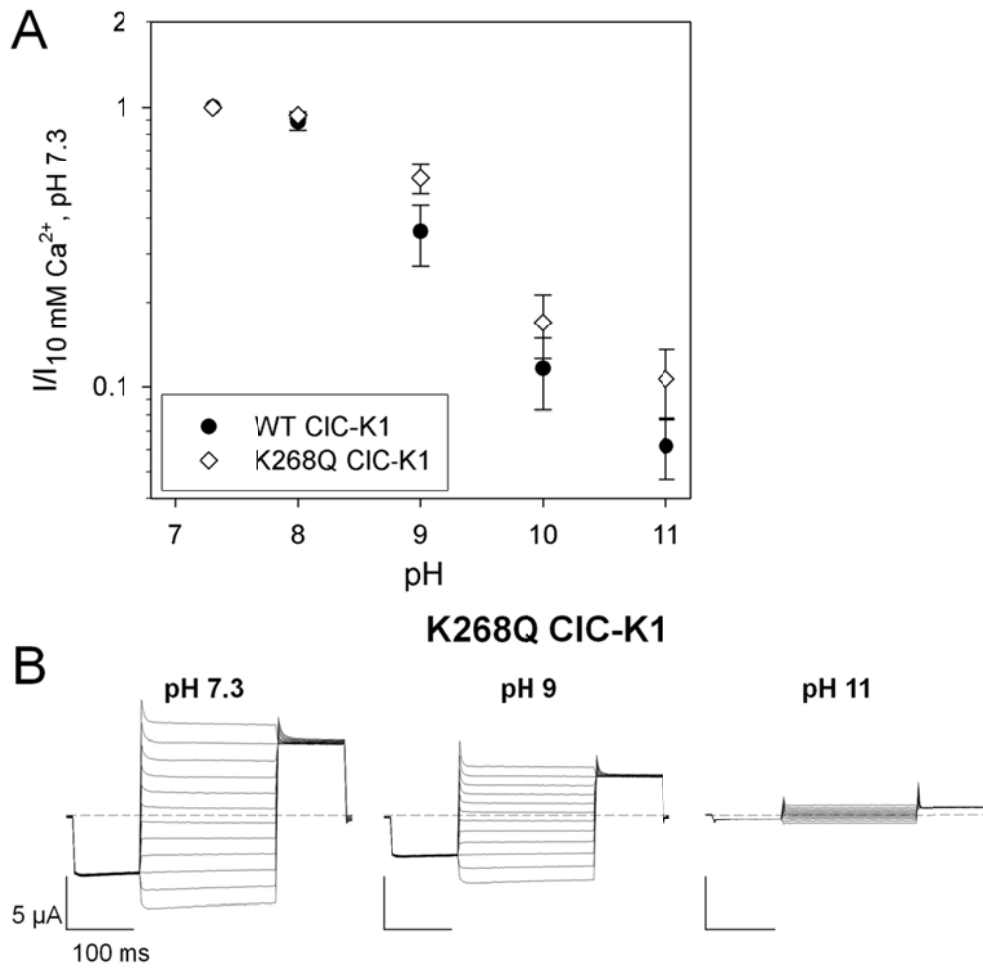
<sup>1</sup> Istituto di Biofisica, CNR, Via De Marini 6, 16149 Genoa, Italy.



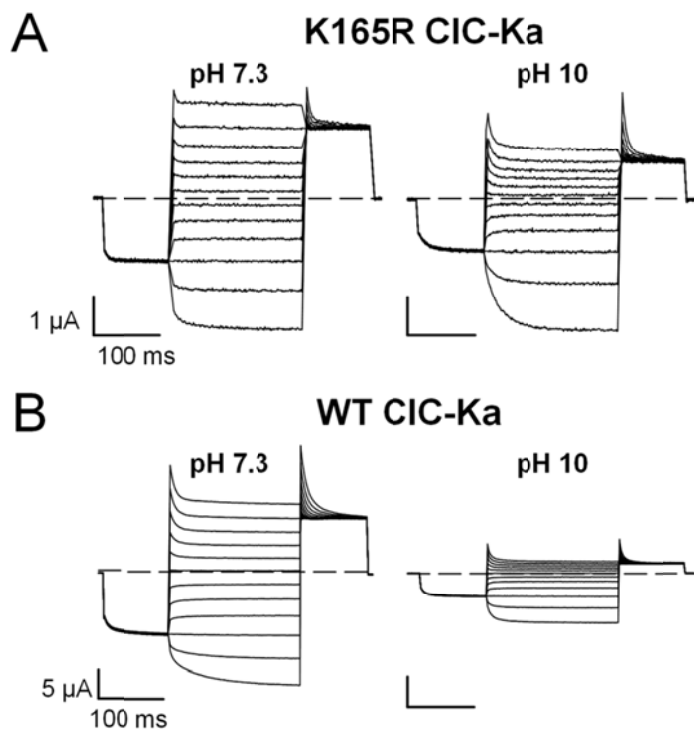
**FIGURE S1. Effect of alkaline pH on WT CIC-Kb.** CIC-Kb is inhibited by alkaline pH with currents at pH 11 that are ~ 22% of the currents at pH 7.3, but only 5% of the maximum level of current recorded at pH 9. (A) Mean currents of CIC-Kb at 60 mV as a function of pH, normalized to the current at pH 7.3 (n = 4, except pH 5 for which n = 3). Error bars indicate SD. (B) Typical current traces of WT CIC-Kb in response to the “IV pulse” protocol at pH 7.3, 9, and 11.



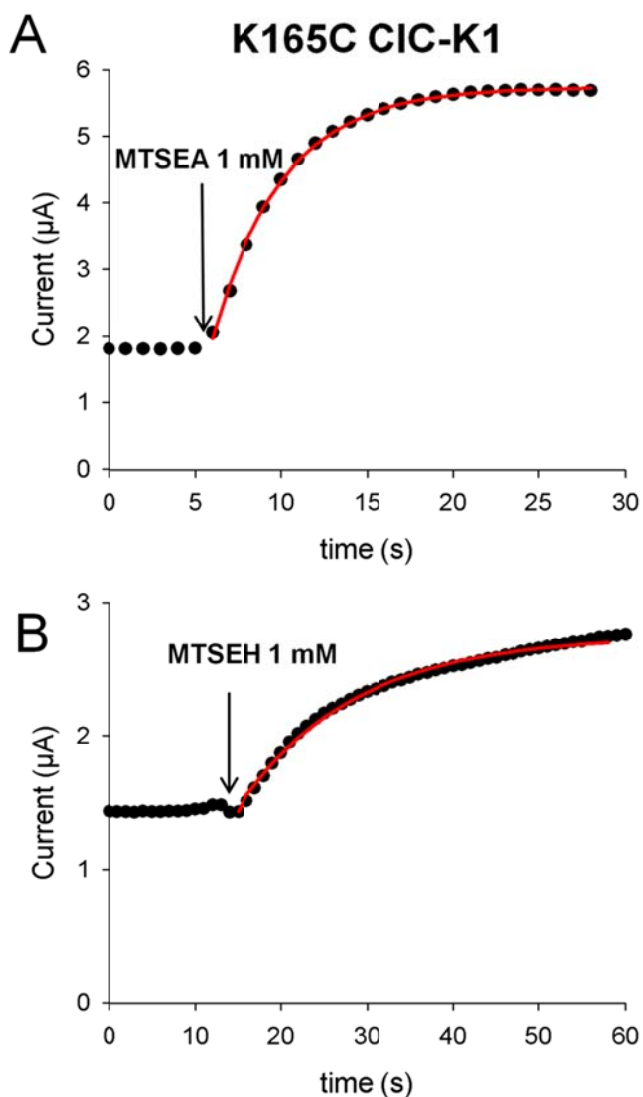
**FIGURE S2. Y520A CIC-Ka currents are affected only by extreme alkaline pH.** (A) Mean currents of WT CIC-Ka ( $n \geq 11$ ; filled circles) and Y520A CIC-Ka ( $n \geq 4$ ; empty rhombi) recorded at 60 mV were normalized to current at pH 7.3 and plotted versus pH values. Data for WT CIC-Ka are the same as in Fig. 1A. Error bars indicate SD. (B) Representative current traces for Y520A CIC-Ka in response to the “IV pulse” protocol at different pH values.



**FIGURE S3. K268Q CIC-K1 currents are affected by alkaline pH similarly to WT.** (A) Mean currents of WT CIC-K1 ( $n = 10$ ; filled circles) and K268Q CIC-K1 ( $n = 3$ ; empty rhombi) recorded at 60 mV were normalized to current at pH 7.3 and plotted versus pH values. Error bars indicate SD. Data for WT CIC-K1 are the same as in Fig. 1A, Fig. 5B, Fig. 6C, Fig. 7C, and Fig. 8B. (B) Current traces of K268Q CIC-K1 in response to the “IV pulse” protocol at different pH values.



**FIGURE S4. The mutant K165R CIC-Ka is less affected by alkaline pH than WT.** At all pH tested this mutant shows a minor response to alkaline pH, for example at pH 10 the K165R currents are ~ 50% of the currents in control conditions, while the currents of WT CIC-Ka are only ~ 19% of the current at 7.3. Voltage clamp traces of oocytes expressing K165R CIC-Ka (A) and WT CIC-Ka (B) in response to the “IV pulse” protocol (see Materials and Methods) at pH 7.3 and 10.



**FIGURE S5. Modification by MTS reagents of K165C CIC-K1.** The channels were stimulated with repetitive pulse to 60 mV and 1 mM MTS reagent was continuously applied. The current response of the mutant was plotted as function of time. Red lines represent exponential fits. (A) For MTSEA time constant  $\tau = (4.9 \pm 1.0)$  s and reaction rate  $k = (206 \pm 40)$   $\text{s}^{-1} \text{M}^{-1}$  came from  $n = 5$  experiments. (B) For MTSEH  $\tau = (8.9 \text{ s} \pm 1.8)$  s,  $k = (112 \pm 23)$   $\text{s}^{-1} \text{M}^{-1}$  were estimated by  $n = 3$  experiments. All errors are SD.