

Conversion of vitamin D₃ to 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ by *Streptomyces griseolus* cytochrome P450SU-1[☆]

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Abstract

Streptomyces griseolus cytochrome P450SU-1 (CYP105A1) was expressed in *Escherichia coli* at a level of 1.0 μ mol/L culture and purified with a specific content of 18.0 nmol/mg protein. Enzymatic studies revealed that CYP105A1 had 25-hydroxylation activity towards vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃. Surprisingly, CYP105A1 also showed 1 α -hydroxylation activity towards 25(OH)D₃. As mammalian mitochondrial CYP27A1 catalyzes a similar two-step hydroxylation towards vitamin D₃, the enzymatic properties of CYP105A1 were compared with those of human CYP27A1. The major metabolite of vitamin D₂ by CYP105A1 was 25(OH)D₂, while the major metabolites by CYP27A1 were both 24(OH)D₂ and 27(OH)D₂. These results suggest that CYP105A1 recognizes both vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃ in a similar manner, while CYP27A1 does not. The K_m values of CYP105A1 for vitamin D₂ 25-hydroxylation, vitamin D₃ 25-hydroxylation, and 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ 1 α -hydroxylation were 0.59, 0.54, and 0.91 μ M, respectively, suggesting a high affinity of CYP105A1 for these substrates.

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A gene cluster for biosynthesis of antibiotics in *Streptomyces* often contains a cytochrome P450 gene [1–5]. The cytochrome P450 genes are also involved in the biosynthesis of polyketide epothilone [6] and daunorubicin [7] which are potential anticancer agents. These facts suggest that *Streptomyces* P450s are practically useful for the production of medicines. To date, one of the most successful applications of cytochrome P450 reaction on the industrial scale appears to be the bioconversion process for Pravastatin (Sankyo, Japan), an inhibitor of HMG-CoA reductase, formation using a *Streptomyces* P450.

[☆] **Abbreviations:** P450, cytochrome P450; CYP, cytochrome P450; ADR, NADPH-adrenodoxin reductase; ADX, adrenodoxin; 25(OH)D₃, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃; 1 α (OH)D₃, 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₃; 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃; 25(OH)D₂, 25-hydroxyvitamin D₂; 1 α (OH)D₂, 1 α -hydroxyvitamin D₂; 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂, 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₂.

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Matsuoka et al. [8,9] reported that the 6 β -hydroxylase of *Streptomyces carbophilus* for the lead compound ML-236BNa was a water-soluble P450 named P450sca (CYP105A3). Sasaki et al. [10,11] reported the transformation of vitamin D₃ to 1 α ,25-dihydroxyvitamin D₃ via 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃ using *Amycolata* sp. strains, and cloned a gene encoding 25-hydroxylase (CYP105A2) for vitamin D₃ [12]. Omer et al. [13] cloned the gene coding *Streptomyces griseolus* P450SU-1 (CYP105A1), which can metabolize sulfonylurea herbicides. They succeeded in the functional expression of CYP105A1 in the chloroplast of higher plants by the addition of a targeting signal sequence to the N-terminus of CYP105A1 [14]. Recently, Taylor et al. [15] indicated the possible application of CYP105D1 to bioremediation, because CYP105D1 is involved in degradation of agrochemicals and environmental pollutants. These studies strongly suggest that *Streptomyces* P450s have great potential for a wide range of practical applications.

In this study, we express CYP105A1 in *Escherichia coli*, and revealed that CYP105A1 had 25-hydroxylation activity towards both vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃ as well as CYP105A2 which had a 55% identity of amino acid sequence with CYP105A1. In addition, we show the production of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ by CYP105A1 from vitamin D₃ via 25-hydroxyvitamin D₃, which was not observed in the CYP105A2-dependent metabolism of vitamin D₃ [12]. As described previously [16], mitochondrial CYP27A1 has the ability to convert vitamin D₃ to 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃. In this report, the enzymatic properties of CYP105A1 toward vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃ are compared with those of human mitochondrial CYP27A1.

Materials and methods

Materials. DNA modifying enzymes and restriction enzymes were purchased from Takara Shuzo (Kyoto, Japan). Primer DNAs were purchased from GENSET KK (Kyoto, Japan). *E. coli* JM109 (Takara Shuzo) and DH5 α were used as host strains. Ferredoxin and NADPH-ferredoxin reductase from spinach were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, USA). Vitamin D₃, vitamin D₂, 1 α (OH)D₃, glucose dehydrogenase, and catalase were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries (Osaka, Japan). 25(OH)D₃ was purchased from Funakoshi (Tokyo, Japan). 1 α (OH)D₂ was purchased from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA, USA). 25(OH)D₂ and 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂ were kindly given by Dr. K. Yamamoto of Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Vitamin D receptor binding kit containing calf-thymus cytosol was purchased from Yamasa Shoyu (Chiba, Japan). *S. griseolus* CYP105A1 and ferredoxin genes were kindly provided by Sumitomo Chemical (Takarazuka, Japan). Bovine adrenodoxin and NADPH-adrenodoxin reductase were kindly given by Dr. Y. Nonaka of Koshien University. NADPH was purchased from Oriental Yeast (Tokyo, Japan). Other chemicals used were of the highest quality commercially available.

Construction of expression plasmids. The expression plasmid for CYP105A1 was constructed as follows. The PCR fragment containing CYP105A1 gene and the ferredoxin gene encoding Fd1 [13] with *Nde*I (CATATG) and *Hind*III (AAGCTT) sites was obtained using the primers 5'-ATATAAGCTTAAACATATGACCGATACCGCCACGAC-3' and 5'-ATATAAGCTTACCAGGTGACCGGGAGTT-3'. The PCR fragment was inserted into *Nde*I and *Hind*III sites of pKSNdl [17] that was obtained from pKK223-3. The resultant expression plasmid was introduced into *E. coli* JM109 cells. The expression plasmid for Fd-2 was constructed as follows. The PCR fragment containing ferredoxin gene encoding Fd-2 [13] with *Nde*I (CATATG) and *Hind*III (AAGCTT) sites was obtained using the primers 5'-TTATATAAGCTTAGGAGGCATATGCGCATCCACGTGACACAGGAC-3' and 5'-TAATTAAAGCTTTCAGTCGGTCAACGTGATCGCGGC-3'. The PCR fragment was inserted into *Nde*I and *Hind*III sites of pKSNdl. The resultant expression plasmid was introduced into *E. coli* DH5 α cells.

Cultivation of the recombinant *E. coli* cells. Recombinant *E. coli* cells were grown in TB medium [17] containing 50 μ g/ml ampicillin at 26°C under good aeration. The induction of transcription of CYP105A1 under the tac promoter was initiated by addition of isopropyl-thio- β -D-galactopyranoside (IPTG) at a final concentration of 1 mM when the cell density (OD₆₆₀) reached 0.5. δ -Aminolevulinic acid was also added at final concentration of 0.5 mM. The recombinant *E. coli* cells were gently shaken at 26°C under good aeration by bubbling for 24 h. The cultivation of the recombinant *E. coli* cells expressing Fd-2, and induction of Fd-2 were carried out according to the methods mentioned above except for no addition of δ -aminolevulinic acid.

Preparation of cytosolic fractions. Subcellular fractionation of *E. coli* cells was carried out basically according to our previous study [17]. Twenty millimolars of Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) buffer was used for all the procedures.

Measurement of reduced CO difference spectra and substrate-induced difference spectra. The reduced CO difference spectra of CYP105A1 and CYP27A1 were measured with a Shimadzu UV-2200 spectrophotometer (Kyoto, Japan) as described previously [18]. The P450 content was estimated from the reduced CO difference spectrum using a difference of the extinction coefficients at 446 and 490 nm of 91 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹ [19]. The P450 content of the purified CYP105A1 was estimated using a molar extinction coefficient of 110 mM⁻¹ cm⁻¹ at 417 nm [20]. The substrate-induced difference spectra of the purified CYP105A1 were measured in the presence of 2.0 μ M CYP105A1 and 2.0 μ M of vitamin D₃ or 1 α (OH)D₃.

Purification of CYP105A1. Cytosolic fraction was applied to a DEAE-Sephacrose CL-6B column (1.6 \times 30 cm) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and eluted by the linear gradient of NaCl (0–400 mM) in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4). The fractions with spectrophotometric index $A_{417}/A_{280} > 1.2$ were collected and concentrated by Centriprep YM-30 (Millipore, Bedford, USA) and applied to a hydroxylapatite column (Bio-Rad, Hercules, USA) equilibrated with 10 mM KPi (pH 7.4). CYP105A1, which passed through the column, was collected and used as the purified sample.

Purification of Fd-2. Cytosolic fraction was applied to a DEAE-Sephacrose CL-6B equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and eluted by the linear gradient of NaCl (0–500 mM) in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) at a flow rate of 2 ml/min. The fractions with spectrophotometric index $A_{410}/A_{280} > 0.6$ were pooled and dialyzed against 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4). Solid (NH₄)₂SO₄ was added to the dialyzed fraction at 25% saturation. After centrifugation at 10,000g for 30 min, the supernatant was applied on a TOYO PEARL phenyl-650M (3 \times 14 cm, Tosoh, Japan) equilibrated with 25% (NH₄)₂SO₄ in 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4). Fd-2, which passed through the column, was collected and brought to 90% saturation with solid (NH₄)₂SO₄. After centrifugation at 10,000g for 30 min, the precipitate was resuspended in 4 ml of 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) and applied to Sephadex G-50 (1.6 \times 40 cm) equilibrated with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min. The fractions with spectrophotometric index $A_{410}/A_{280} > 0.66$ were collected and used as the purified sample.

Comparison of Fd-2 and spinach Fdx in the CYP105A1-dependent hydroxylation of vitamin D₂. The activity of spinach Fdx and the purified Fd-2 was compared by measuring the hydroxylation activity towards vitamin D₂ in a reconstituted system containing 0.5 μ M of the purified CYP105A1, 4.0 or 20.0 μ M of spinach ferredoxin or the purified Fd-2, 0.2 or 2.0 μ M spinach ferredoxin reductase, 1 U/ml glucose dehydrogenase (Wako), 1% glucose, 0.1 mg/ml catalase, 1 mM NADPH, 5.0 or 10.0 μ M of the substrate, 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), and 1 mM EDTA at 30°C.

Measurement of the activity of CYP105A1. Each of the hydroxylation activity towards vitamin D₂, 1 α (OH)D₂, vitamin D₃, 1 α (OH)D₃, and 25(OH)D₃ was measured in the reconstituted system containing 0.5 μ M of the purified CYP105A1, 0.1 mg/ml spinach Fdx, 0.1 U/ml spinach Fdr, 1 U/ml glucose dehydrogenase (Wako), 1% glucose, 0.1 mg/ml catalase, 1 mM NADPH, 5.0 or 10.0 μ M of the substrate, 100 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), and 1 mM EDTA at 30°C. The purified Fd-2 was also used as an electron donor of CYP105A1 instead of spinach Fdx.

For the determination of K_m and V_{max} values for 25-hydroxylation towards vitamin D₂ and vitamin D₃, and 1 α -hydroxylation towards 25(OH)D₃, the concentration of CYP105A1 was reduced to 0.1 μ M, and the substrate concentrations varied from 0.5 to 10.0 μ M. The kinetic parameters were calculated by the nonlinear regression analysis using the Kaleida-Graph (Synergy software).

The reaction was initiated by addition of NADPH. Aliquots of the reaction mixture were collected after varying time intervals and extracted with four volumes of chloroform-methanol (3:1). The organic phase was recovered and dried up. The resulting residue was

solubilized with acetonitrile and applied to HPLC under the following conditions: column, YMC-Pack ODS-AM (4.6×300 mm) (YMC, Tokyo, Japan); UV detection, 265 nm; flow rate, 1.0 ml/min; column temperature, 40 °C; and mobile phase, acetonitrile/water (50: 50, v/v) for 5 min followed by a linear gradient of 70–100% acetonitrile aqueous solution per 15 min followed by 100% acetonitrile for 25 min for the analysis of the metabolites.

Preparation of membrane fraction containing human CYP27A1. The expression plasmid for mature form of human CYP27A1 was constructed as described previously [16], and the resultant plasmid pKH27A1 was introduced into *E. coli* JM109. The recombinant *E. coli* JM109/pKH27A1 cells were cultivated at 29 °C with the conditions similar to those for CYP105A1. Membrane fraction containing CYP27A1 was prepared as described previously. The P450 content in the membrane fraction was estimated to be 1.1 nmol/mg protein.

Measurement of the activity of CYP27A1. The activity of CYP27A1 was measured in the recombinant system containing the membrane fraction containing 0.5 μ M CYP27A1, 5.0 or 10.0 μ M of a substrate, 0.5 μ M NADPH-adrenodoxin reductase, 5 μ M adrenodoxin, 1.0 mM NADPH, 100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, and 1 mM EDTA at 37 °C as described previously [16]. For the determination of K_m and V_{max} values for 25-hydroxylation towards vitamin D₃ and 1 α -hydroxylation towards 25(OH)D₃, the concentrations of CYP27A1, ADX, and ADR were reduced to 0.1, 2.0, and 0.2 μ M, respectively [16]. The reaction mixture was extracted with four volumes of chloroform-methanol (3:1, v/v) and analyzed as described above.

Mass spectrometric analysis of the metabolites. Isolated metabolites from HPLC effluents were subjected to mass spectrometric analysis using a Finnegan mat TSQ-70 with atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI), positive mode. The conditions of LC were described below: column, reverse-phase ODS column (6×150 mm) (μ Bondapak C18, Waters); mobile phase, 90% methanol aqueous solution; flow rate, 1.0 ml/min; and UV detection, 265 nm.

Binding assay for calf-thymus vitamin D receptor. Displacement of [³H]-1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ from calf-thymus cytosol receptor (Yamasa Shoyu, Japan) by metabolites of 25(OH)D₃ and 25(OH)D₂, or authentic standard of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ was determined as described previously [22]. Various amounts of each of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃, 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂, 25(OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₂, and the metabolites in 20 μ l ethanol were added to 500 μ l of the calf-thymus cytosol diluted with 50 mM potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) containing 0.3 M KCl, and incubated for 1 h at 20 °C. Next, 34 fmol of [³H]-1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ in 25 μ l ethanol was added and incubated for 1 h at 20 °C. Then, 200 μ l of dextran-charcoal (0.05% dextran T-150, 0.5% charcoal decolorizing neutral) in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 7.5), which was freshly prepared and stirred well before addition, was added to separate bound and free [³H]-1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃. The assay tube was shaken with a vortex mixer and centrifuged at 1000g for 10 min at 4 °C. The radioactivity in the supernatant was measured with a liquid scintillation counter.

Other methods. The concentrations of vitamin D₃ derivatives were estimated by their molar extinction coefficient of 1.80×10^4 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹ at 264 nm [23]. Protein concentration was determined by the method of Lowry et al. [24], using bovine serum albumin as a standard. The N-terminal amino acid sequence of CYP105A1 was determined by automated Edman degradation using an Applied Biosystems (Foster City, CA, USA) Model 494 gas-phase protein/peptide sequencer.

Results

Expression of CYP105A1

Although cultivation of the recombinant *E. coli* cells at 37 °C resulted in the formation of inclusion body of

CYP105A1, cultivation at 26 °C for 48 h produced active CYP105A1 at an expression level of 1.0 μ mol/L culture. Recently, Hussain and Ward [25] reported the expression of CYP105A1 by using the modified form of *E. coli* BL21(DE3) as a host strain. In this study, *E. coli* JM109 was used as a host strain. Most of the CYP105A1 was localized in cytosolic fraction. By both DEAE cellulose and hydroxylapatite chromatography, CYP105A1 was purified as shown in Fig. 1. The specific content was increased from 2.8 to 18.0 nmol/mg protein (Table 1). The final preparation of CYP105A1 had a specific content of 18.0 nmol/mg protein. The purified sample showed almost a single band with an apparent molecular weight of 44,000 as shown in Fig. 1. The determined N-terminal 10-amino acid sequence was Thr-Asp-Thr-Ala-Thr-Thr-Pro-Gln-Thr-Thr, which coincided with that of a 2- to 11-amino acid sequence of CYP105A1 deduced from the DNA sequence [13]. The CO-reduced difference spectrum of CYP105A1 was measured in a 1.0 M potassium phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) instead of a 100 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.4) in which P450 was readily converted to P420. As shown in Fig. 2, the CO-reduced difference spectrum of CYP105A1 showed a peak at 447 nm. The oxidized spectrum showed a Soret

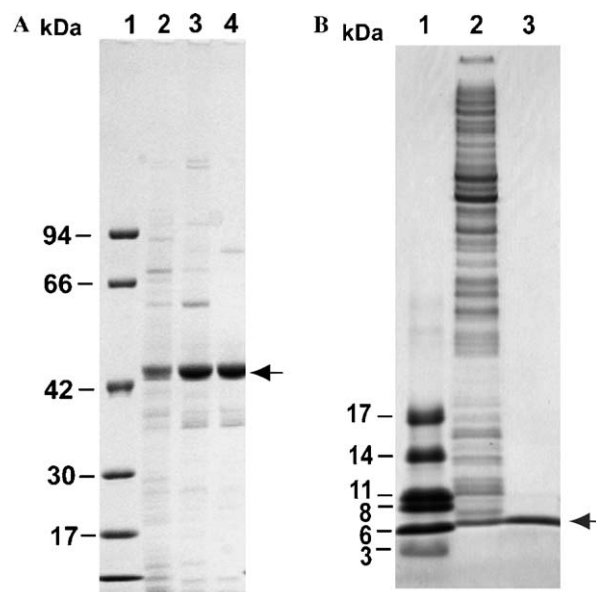


Fig. 1. SDS-PAGE analysis of cytosolic fraction of the recombinant *E. coli* cells and the purified samples of CYP105A1 (A) and Fd-2 (B). The cytosolic fraction (lane A-2) and the elute from DEAE-Sepharose CL-6B (lane A-3) and hydroxyapatite column (lane A-4) were analyzed. Lane A-1 shows relative mass molecular markers (rabbit phosphorylase b, M_r 94,000; bovine serum albumin, M_r 66,000; rabbit aldolase, M_r 42,000; bovine carbonic anhydrase, M_r 30,000; and horse myoglobin, M_r 17,000). The cytosolic fraction (lane B-2) and the purified Fd-2 (lane B-3). Lane B-1 shows peptide molecular weight markers (myoglobin, M_r 16,949; myoglobin peptides I and II, M_r 14,404; myoglobin peptides I and III, M_r 10,700; myoglobin peptide I, M_r 8159; myoglobin peptide II, M_r 6214; and myoglobin peptide III, M_r 2512).

Table 1
Purification of CYP105A1 from the recombinant *E. coli* cells

Step and fraction	P450 (nmol)	Total protein (mg)	Specific content (nmol P450/mg protein)	Yield (%)
Cytosolic fraction	491	176	2.8	100
DEAE-Sephadex	354	24	14.6	72
Hydroxylapatite	245	14	18.0	50

peak at 417 nm, suggesting that the heme iron of CYP105A1 was in a low spin state. The substrate-induced difference spectra of CYP105A1 with each of vitamin D₃ and 1 α (OH)D₃ showed Type I spectra, suggesting that the heme iron of CYP105A1 was shifted to a high spin by the substrate binding (Fig. 2). It should be noted that the magnitude of the absorbance difference between 490 and 420 nm by 1 α (OH)D₃ was twice more than that by vitamin D₃ (Fig. 2).

Expression and purification of Fd-2

The expression level of Fd-2 was 3.8 μ mol/L culture. The specific content of Fd-2 was increased from 7.0 to 75.0 nmol/mg protein by DEAE-Sephadex CL-6B, TOYO PEARL phenyl-650M column chromatography, ammonium sulfate precipitation, and Sephadex G-50 column chromatography. The purified sample showed almost a single band with an apparent molecular weight

of 7000, as shown in Fig. 1. The optical spectrum of Fd-2 showed that of typical [3Fe-4S] which has an absorption maximum near 300 and 410 nm (data not shown).

Comparison of Fd-2 and spinach Fdx in the CYP105A1-dependent hydroxylation of vitamin D₂

Under all the conditions examined, no significant difference was observed between Fd-2 and spinach Fdx in the CYP105A1-dependent 25-hydroxylation of vitamin D₂ (data not shown). These results strongly suggest that the efficiency of electron transport from spinach Fdx to CYP105A1 is nearly the same as that from Fd-2 to CYP105A1. Thus, we used spinach Fdx as an electron donor of CYP105A1 instead of Fd-2 for the further analysis of vitamin D metabolism by CYP105A1.

HPLC and LC-MS analyses of metabolites of vitamin D

The CYP105A1-dependent reaction was dramatically prolonged up to 180 min by using this NADPH regeneration system. Hydroxylation activity of CYP105A1 towards vitamin D₃, 1 α (OH)D₃, 25(OH)D₃, and 1 α (OH)D₂ was measured in the reconstituted system.

On the metabolism of vitamin D₃ and 1 α (OH)D₃, CYP105A1 showed a metabolite at the same retention time as 25(OH)₃D₃ (Fig. 3) and 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ (data not shown). The metabolite 1 (M1) showed a molecular ion at *m/z* 401 (*M* + *H*), and fragment ions at 383 (401-H₂O) and 365 (401-2H₂O) (data not shown). Ion at *m/z* 430 (*M* + *H* + 29) was also observed [16]. The spectrum coincided with that of authentic standard of 25(OH)D₃. These results strongly suggest that the metabolite 1 (M1) is 25(OH)D₃. Similarly, the metabolite from 1 α (OH)D₃ showed nearly the same mass spectrum as the authentic standard of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃. CYP27A1 showed similar metabolism to CYP105A1 towards vitamin D₃ and 1 α (OH)D₃ as described previously [16].

On the metabolism of vitamin D₂ and 1 α (OH)D₂, CYP105A1 showed metabolites at the same retention time as 25(OH)D₂ (Fig. 3) and 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂ (data not shown). The metabolite 2 (M2) showed a molecular ion at *m/z* 413 (*M* + *H*), and fragment ions at 395 (413-H₂O) and 377 (413-2H₂O) (data not shown). The spectrum coincided with that of the authentic standard of 25(OH)D₂. These results strongly suggest that the metabolite 2 (M2) is 25(OH)D₂. The mass spectrum of the

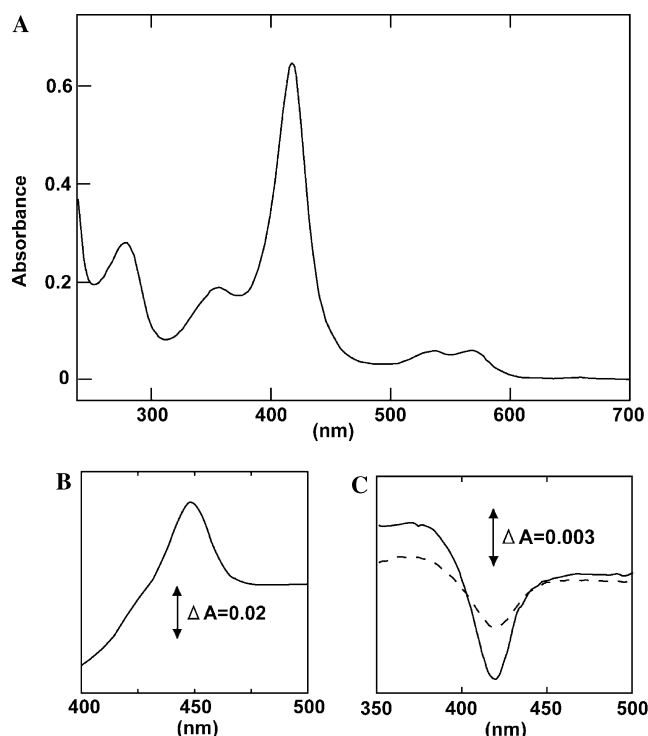


Fig. 2. Oxidized (A), reduced CO difference (B), and substrate-induced (C) spectra of the purified CYP105A1. The substrate-induced difference spectra were measured in the presence of 2.0 μ M CYP105A1 and each of 2.0 μ M vitamin D₃ (----) and 2.0 μ M 1 α (OH)D₃ (—).

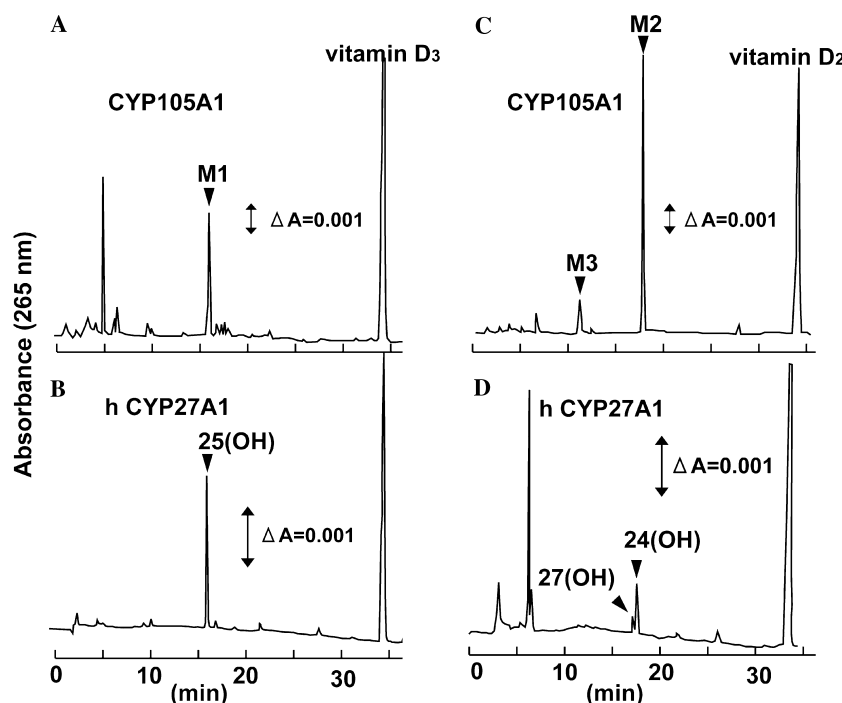


Fig. 3. HPLC profiles of vitamin D₃ and its metabolites by CYP105A1 (A) and CYP27A1 (B), and those of vitamin D₂ and its metabolites by CYP105A1 (C) and CYP27A1 (D). After incubation with 5.0 μ M vitamin D₂ (A,B) or 5.0 μ M vitamin D₃ (C,D) for 180 min (A,C) or 30 min (B,D), the reaction mixture was extracted and analyzed by HPLC under Materials and methods. 25(OH) indicates the elution position of authentic standard of 25(OH)D₃. 24(OH) and 27(OH) indicate the putative elution positions of 24(OH)D₂ and 27(OH)D₂ based on Guo et al. [26].

metabolite of 1 α (OH)D₂ was quite similar to that of the authentic standard of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂. On the other hand, CYP27A1 showed two major metabolites of vitamin D₂ distinct from 25(OH)D₂ (Fig. 3). Judging from the results described by Guo et al. [26] that the major metabolites were 27- and 24-hydroxylated vitamin D₂ in turn, the metabolites appeared to be 27(OH)D₂ and 24(OH)D₂, respectively. Mass spectra of these metabolites were clearly different from that of 25(OH)D₂. An extremely small peak at m/z 377 (413-2H₂O) of 24(OH)D₂ indicates that the 24-hydroxyl group is hardly lost. It was found that CYP105A1 and CYP27A1 were clearly different on the metabolism of vitamin D₂ and 1 α (OH)D₂. The minor metabolite 3 (M3) was considered to be a two-hydroxylated compound of vitamin D₂ on the basis of HPLC and mass analyses, and appeared to be produced via 25(OH)D₂. The metabolite 3 (M3) showed a molecular ion at m/z 429 (M + H), and fragment ions at 411 (429-H₂O), 393 (429-2H₂O), and 375 (429-3H₂O) (data not shown). The mass spectrum was clearly different from that of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₂, suggesting that a hydroxyl group was added to the side chain of 25(OH)D₂.

On the metabolism of 25(OH)D₃, CYP105A1 showed a metabolite at nearly the same retention time as 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ (Fig. 4). The metabolite 4 (M4) showed fragment ions at 399 (417-H₂O), 381 (417-2H₂O), and 363 (417-3H₂O) (data not shown). The mass spectrum

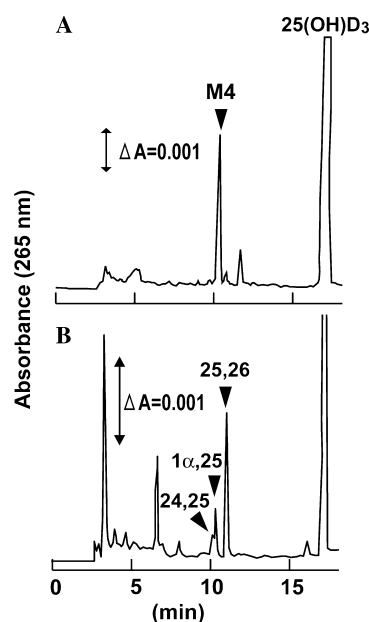


Fig. 4. HPLC profiles of 25(OH)D₃ and its metabolites by CYP105A1 (A) and those by CYP27A1 (B). After incubation with 5.0 μ M of 25(OH)D₃ for 180 min (A) or 30 min (B), the reaction mixture was extracted and analyzed by HPLC under Materials and methods. 1 α ,25 and 24,25 indicate the elution positions of authentic standards of 1 α ,25(OH)₂D₃ and 24,25(OH)₂D₃, respectively. 25,26 indicates the elution position of 25,26(OH)₂D₃ based on our previous report [16].

was nearly the same as that of the authentic standard of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$. These results strongly suggest that the metabolite 4 is $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$. Vitamin D receptor (VDR) binding assay confirmed this assumption.

Comparison of vitamin D hydroxylation activity between CYP105A1 and CYP27A1

Table 2 summarizes the hydroxylation activity of CYP105A1 and CYP27A1 towards vitamin D_3 , $1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, vitamin D_2 , and $1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ at a substrate concentration of $10\ \mu\text{M}$. The 25-hydroxylation activity of CYP105A1 towards vitamin D_3 was much lower than that of CYP27A1. The 1α -hydroxyl group of the substrate considerably increased the 25-hydroxylation activity of CYP105A1 as well as the magnitude of $\Delta A_{490-420}$ in Fig. 2. Because the displacement of H_2O as the distal ligand by the substrate is essential for P450 reaction, a good correlation between the magnitude of $\Delta A_{490-420}$ and the activity in Table 2 is quite reasonable. Interestingly, similar results showing higher activity towards $1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ were also obtained on the CYP27A1-dependent activity. It is noted that CYP27A1 catalyzes not 25-hydroxylation but 24- and 27-hydroxylation towards vitamin D_2 .

On the metabolism of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, CYP105A1 catalyzes 1α -hydroxylation, while CYP27A1 catalyzes not only 1α -hydroxylation but also 26(27)-hydroxylation

and 24-hydroxylation, as described previously [16]. In the experimental conditions used in this study, 26- and 27-hydroxylations are not distinguishable.

Table 3 shows the comparison of the kinetic parameters of CYP105A1 and CYP27A1. Judging from the V_{\max}/K_m values for vitamin D_3 and vitamin D_2 , vitamin D_2 is a better substrate for CYP105A1. It is noted that the K_m values of CYP105A1 are significantly lower than those of CYP27A1 for both VD_3 and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$. As the reconstituted system of mitochondrial CYP27A1 contains membrane fraction while the reconstituted system of soluble CYP105A1 has no lipids, the kinetic parameters of both CYPs cannot be compared directly. However, it is certain that CYP105A1 has a high affinity for these substrates.

Binding assay for calf-thymus vitamin D receptor

To examine whether the metabolites are the active forms of vitamin D or not, a binding assay using calf-thymus VDR was performed. The concentrations of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$, $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$, the metabolites M3 and M4, $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ for 50% B/B0 were 40, 28, 800, 53, and 44,000, and 70,000 pM, respectively

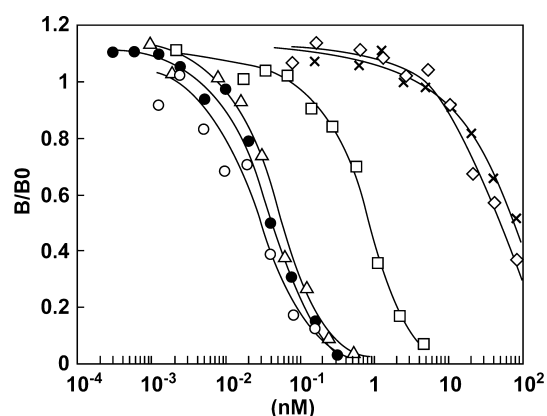


Fig. 5. VDR-binding assay of the metabolite 3 (\square), metabolite 4 (\triangle), and authentic standards of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ (\bullet), $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$ (\circ), and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ (\diamond), and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ (\times). The designated concentrations are the final concentrations of the metabolites and authentic standards in the reaction mixture. B and B0 mean the concentration of $[^3\text{H}]-1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ bound to VDR, and the concentration of $[^3\text{H}]-1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ added in the reaction mixture, respectively.

Table 2
Comparison of vitamin D hydroxylation activity between CYP105A1 and human CYP27A1

Substrate	Position	CYP105A1 activity (mmol/min/mol P450)	CYP27A1 activity (mmol/min/mol P450)
VD_2	24	—	33 ± 4
	25	78 ± 14	—
	27 (26)	—	14 ± 1
$1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$	24	—	114 ± 18
	25	131 ± 20	—
	27 (26)	—	106 ± 16
VD_3	25	20 ± 7	196 ± 31
$1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$	25	54 ± 12	473 ± 41
$25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$	1α	4 ± 1	12 ± 5

Table 3
Kinetic parameters of CYP105A1 and human CYP27A1 for vitamin D hydroxylation activity

CYP	Substrate	Position	K_m (μM)	V_{\max} (mmol/min/mol P450)	V_{\max}/K_m
105A1	VD_2	25	0.59 ± 0.08	84 ± 3	142
105A1	VD_3	25	0.54 ± 0.09	16 ± 1	30
27A1 ^a	VD_3	25	3.2 ± 0.5	270 ± 30	84
105A1	$25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$	1α	0.91 ± 0.26	3.6 ± 0.3	3.9
27A1 ^a	$25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$	1α	3.5 ± 0.4	21 ± 2	6.0

^a The values were reported in our previous study [16].

(Fig. 5). It is noted that M4 showed nearly the same affinity for VDR as $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$. Together with HPLC and LC-MS analyses, M4 was identified to be $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$. On the other hand, the metabolite M3 showed significantly lower affinity for VDR than the authentic standard of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$, indicating that M3 is not $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$. These results and the LC-MS analysis suggest that M3 is a hydroxylated product of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ at its side chain portion. If so, however, the affinity of M3 for VDR would not be so different from that of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$. The fact that M3 showed an 80-fold higher affinity for VDR than $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ might suggest that the M3 contains $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$ at a level of a few percent.

Discussion

Omer et al. [13] cloned the gene coding *S. griseolus* CYP105A1 which metabolized sulfonylurea herbicides. They succeeded in the functional expression of CYP105A1 in the chloroplast of higher plants by the addition of a targeting signal sequence to the N-terminus of CYP105A1 [14]. On the other hand, Kawauchi et al. [12] cloned a gene encoding 25-hydroxylase (CYP105A2) for vitamin D_3 from *Amycolata autotrophica*. The identity of the amino acid sequence of CYP105A1 and CYP105A2 is approximately 55%. We examined the vitamin D metabolism of CYP105A1 in the reconstituted system and revealed that CYP105A1 had a catalytic activity toward vitamin D_2 and vitamin D_3 . Our recent studies revealed that human mitochondrial CYP27A1 catalyzes the multi-step hydroxylation toward vitamin D_3 [16]. Thus, we compared the metabolism of vitamin D by CYP105A1 with that by human mitochondrial CYP27A1. As described previously [16], CYP27A1 can produce $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ from vitamin D_3 via $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, although another P450 species CYP27B1 is physiologically essential as 1α -hydroxylase of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ [26–28]. One of our interests is whether CYP105A1 can produce $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ from vitamin D_3 via $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ as well as CYP27A1. The major metabolite of vitamin D_3 by CYP105A1 was found to be $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, indicating that its enzymatic properties are similar to those of CYP27A1 and CYP105A2. When $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ was added as a substrate, the metabolite (M4) was observed (Fig. 4). Mass analysis and VDR-binding assay strongly suggested that M4 is $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$. Thus, the enzymatic properties of CYP105A1 for vitamin D_3 appear to be quite similar to those of CYP27A1. In addition, a putative trihydroxylated metabolite was observed in the metabolism of $1\alpha(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$, suggesting that CYP105A1 can add a hydroxyl group at another position besides the C-25 and C-1 α positions (data not shown). Similar results were observed in the metabolism of vitamin D_3 by CYP27A1,

showing the addition of a hydroxyl group at the C-24 and C-26 (27) positions besides the C-25 and C-1 α positions as described previously [16]. In contrast, a clear difference was observed between CYP105A1 and CYP27A1 on their substrate specificity. CYP105A1 showed a significantly higher activity toward vitamin D_2 than vitamin D_3 , opposite to that of CYP27A1. The mass spectrum indicated that the major metabolite was $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$, while the metabolites by CYP27A1 were $24(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ and $27(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$. Thus, the conformation and/or mobility of the side chain of vitamin D_2 in the substrate-heme pocket of CYP27A1 appears to be different from that of vitamin D_3 . On the other hand, CYP105A1 may recognize vitamin D_2 and vitamin D_3 in a similar manner.

Dihydroxylated metabolites were also observed in the metabolism of vitamin D_2 by CYP105A1. First, we assumed that the dihydroxylated metabolite is $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_2$ based on the formation of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ from vitamin D_3 . However, mass analysis and VDR-binding assay of the metabolite rejected this assumption. For the hydroxylation at the C-1 α position, the side chains of vitamin D_2 and D_3 should play an important role in fixing the substrate at a proper position. A significant difference in the conformation and/or mobility of the side chain between vitamin D_2 and vitamin D_3 may explain the difference of the metabolism between $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$. Judging from our results, CYP105A1 might be practically useful for the production of $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_2$ and $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$. In addition, practical application of CYP105A1 for production of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ might be also possible, although the 1α -hydroxylation activity toward $25(\text{OH})\text{D}_3$ is considerably lower than the 25-hydroxylation activity toward vitamin D_3 .

As reported by O'Keefe et al. [21], the activity of CYP105A1 with Fd-2 had been about 15 times more than that with spinach Fdx [20] in the metabolism of sulfonylurea R7402. However, in the metabolism of vitamin D_2 , no significant difference was observed between Fd-2 and spinach Fdx. These results suggest that the efficiency of electron transfer to CYP105A1 from spinach Fdx is nearly the same as that from Fd-2 in the metabolism of vitamin D_2 . Although we cannot explain the discrepancy between sulfonylurea R7402 and vitamin D_2 , it is possible to assume that the electron transport efficiency and/or the rate-determining step differ depending upon the substrate. It should be noted that the activity with $4\mu\text{M}$ spinach Fdx (or Fd-2) and $2.0\mu\text{M}$ Fdr was lower than that with $4\mu\text{M}$ spinach Fdx (or Fd-2) and $0.2\mu\text{M}$ Fdr, indicating that excessive addition of Fdr inhibits the activity. These results strongly suggest that the interaction site of spinach Fdx (or Fd-2) with CYP105A1 is the same as that with Fdr.

X-ray crystallographic analysis revealed the tertiary structures of water-soluble microbial P450s, P450cam

(CYP101) [29], P450BM-3 (CYP102) [30], P450terp (CYP108) [31], P450eryF [32], P450nor (CYP55A1) [33], CYP119 [34], CYP51 [35], and CYP154C1 [36]. Although these P450s showed low homology with each other in their amino acid sequences, they showed similar tertiary structures. Recently, Williams et al. [37] showed a tertiary structure of chimeric P450 between rabbit microsomal CYP2C3 and CYP2C5 as a first report showing the structure of membrane-bound P450. However, the tertiary structure of mammalian mitochondrial P450 has not been determined yet. As we have studied structure–function relationships of mitochondrial CYP27A1 and CYP27B1 [16,27,38–40], information on the tertiary structure of those P450s is invaluable for our studies. We expect that the tertiary structure of CYP105A1 with vitamin D₂ or D₃ will help in the understanding of the substrate binding of CYP27A1. In addition, information on the tertiary structure of CYP105A1 will help one to design a modified CYP105A1 with a higher catalytic activity or different substrate specificity.

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