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Primary structure, deduced from cDNA, secondary structure analysis and conclusions concerning interaction surfaces of the δ subunit of the photosynthetic ATP-synthase (E.C. 3.6.1.34) from millet (*Sorghum bicolor*) and maize (*Zea mays*)

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λ gt11 cDNA clones for the nuclear-encoded subunit δ of the chloroplast ATP-synthase from *Zea mays* and *Sorghum bicolor* were sequenced. The processing site for *S. bicolor* δ was established, and the sequence of the mature subunit δ from *Z. mays* was completed by N-terminal sequencing of the proteins isolated from chloroplasts. Only five amino acids are identical and not more than 16% conservatively exchanged in all sequences of δ subunits from higher plants and the corresponding proteins from alga, bacteria and mitochondria (OSCP) available. In binary comparison the comparatively high conservation of hydrophilic residues indicates the importance of the surface of δ . The degree in identities of surface residues correlates with the capacity in hybrid reconstitution of photophosphorylation. A hypothetical secondary structure model for a typical δ subunit can be deduced from prediction algorithms. Three putative amphipathic α helices and an antiparallel amphipathic β sheet seem to be conserved. These common secondary structure features should be significant for the function of the δ subunit of F_0F_1 ATPases.

Introduction

As in oxidative phosphorylation also for photosynthetic ATP production on the stroma side of thylakoid membranes the energy is provided by a proton motive force [1]. Protons, accumulated during illumination inside the thylakoid lumen by chloroplast electron transport components, pass back through the membrane integral CF_0 part of the enzyme, ATP-synthase (E.C. 3.6.1.34), to drive the reaction [2,3], that occurs about 90 Å away on the α and β subunits of the peripheral CF_1 domain (α_3 , β_3 , γ , δ and ϵ) [4]. Whereas the regulatory functions of γ and ϵ are established [5–7], the δ subunit, considered a mere binding protein between F_1 and F_0 [8], is not necessary for rebinding of CF_1 to CF_0 ; its essential role [9,10] is not yet

specified. Also in *Escherichia coli* the corresponding subunit δ is not required just for binding of F_1 to F_0 , provided ϵ is present [11].

Isolated CF_1 δ binds to CF_0 [10,12] and in high concentrations is able to block the proton efflux through CF_0 after removal of CF_1 from thylakoid membranes by EDTA [13,14]. The addition of subunit δ is essential for reconstitution of ATP-synthase activity of EDTA- or NaBr-treated thylakoid membranes by δ -free CF_1 [15,9,16,13]. Since antibodies against δ inhibit photophosphorylation [17], probably by displacement of this polypeptide within the ATP-synthase complex, δ seems to be involved in the transduction of some energy of the proton motive force to the active sites. CF_1 δ is in close contact to the CF_0 subunit I [18]; either protons or a conformational movement thus could proceed via the δ subunit [19,20,3].

We want to elucidate conserved (essential) elements in the primary and secondary structure of this nuclear-encoded CF_1 subunit of higher plants, and also look for additional features in CF_1 δ possibly correlated to the light regulation of the chloroplast ATP-synthase [4] or the import of this polypeptide. Therefore we have cloned and sequenced cDNAs for the δ subunits from *Pisum sativum* [21], *Sorghum bicolor* and *Zea mays*, and compared them with the sequences of the δ sub-

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The sequence data are deposited in the EMBL, GenBank and DDBJ Nucleotide Sequence databases under the accession numbers X66004 (*Sorghum bicolor*) and X66005 (*Zea mays*).

Abbreviations: OSCP, oligomycin sensitivity conferring protein of mitochondrial ATPase; RACE-PCR, rapid amplification of cDNA ends polymerase chain reaction; bp, base pair(s).

unit from *Spinacea oleracea* [22] and of the corresponding, homologous proteins from mitochondria and photosynthetic and heterotrophic bacteria. Here we report our results concerning the δ subunits of *S. bicolor* and *Z. mays*.

The sequence of δ from *Z. mays* is of special interest: hybrid reconstitution of photophosphorylation with EDTA treated thylakoids and CF_1 , including δ , from different species is possible. With the coupling factors of spinach and *E. coli* the hybrid reconstitution was only structural (for definition cp. Ref. 23); after plugging of H^+ leaks residual ATP-synthase can be energized again [24]. Hybrid reconstitution between spinach and maize led, in addition, to catalytic activity

of the readded enzyme [25]. On the other hand there is no immunological crossreaction between CF_1 δ from spinach and maize, indicating that the essential interaction surface is rather small.

Materials and Methods

Materials

Restriction endonucleases and DNA-modifying enzymes were obtained from Gibco/BRL, Pharmacia/LKB and Boehringer-Mannheim, radiolabeled nucleotides from Amersham. Oligonucleotides were synthesized on a Pharmacia Gene Assembler Plus synthesizer using the phosphoramidite method (in collabora-

NAAE	A	A	A	E	S	Y	A	S	A	L	S	E	V	A	V	E	
1	A	A	A	E	S	Y	A	S	A	L	S	E	V	A	V	E	16
1	GCC	GCG	GCG	GAG	AGC	TAC	GCA	TCC	GCG	CTG	TCG	GAG	GTG	GCC	GTC	GAG	48
17	N	G	T	L	E	Q	T	V	S	D	L	E	K	L	E	K	32
49	AAC	GGC	ACC	CTC	GAG	CAG	ACG	GTC	TCC	GAC	CTC	GAG	AAG	CTG	GAG	AAG	96
33	I	F	S	D	E	A	V	A	E	F	F	D	N	P	T	V	48
97	ATC	TTC	TCC	GAC	GAG	GCC	GTC	GCC	GAG	TTC	TTC	GAC	AAC	CCC	ACC	GTC	144
49	P	R	E	E	K	A	E	L	I	G	E	I	A	K	S	S	64
145	CCG	CGC	GAG	GAG	AAG	GCC	GAG	CTC	ATC	GGC	GAG	ATC	GCC	AAG	TCG	TCC	192
65	E	L	Q	P	H	V	V	N	F	L	N	V	V	V	D	N	80
193	GAG	CTG	CAG	CCG	CAC	GTC	GTC	AAC	TTC	CTC	AAC	GTC	GTC	GTC	GAC	AAC	240
81	F	R	A	S	I	V	P	Q	I	V	V	E	F	E	N	V	96
241	TTC	CGC	GCG	TCC	ATC	GTG	CCG	CAG	ATC	GTC	GTC	GAG	TTC	GAG	AAC	GTC	288
97	Y	N	S	L	T	G	T	E	V	A	T	V	T	S	V	V	112
289	TAC	AAC	TCG	CTC	ACG	GGC	ACC	GAG	GTC	GCC	ACC	GTC	ACC	TCC	GTC	GTG	336
113	Q	L	E	S	Q	D	L	A	Q	I	A	Q	H	V	Q	K	128
337	CAG	CTC	GAG	TCG	CAG	GAC	CTC	GCG	CAG	ATC	GCG	CAG	CAC	GTC	CAG	AAG	384
129	M	T	G	A	K	N	V	R	L	K	T	Q	L	D	P	A	144
385	ATG	ACC	GGC	GCC	AAG	AAC	GTC	CGC	CTC	AAG	ACG	CAG	CTC	GAC	CCG	GCG	432
145	L	I	A	G	F	T	V	Q	Y	G	R	D	G	S	N	L	160
433	CTC	ATC	GCC	GGC	TTC	ACC	GTG	CAG	TAC	GGC	CGC	GAC	GGC	TCC	AAC	TTG	480
161	I	D	M	S	V	R	K	Q	I	E	E	I	A	S	E	F	176
481	ATC	GAC	ATG	AGC	GTC	CGG	AAG	CAG	ATC	GAG	GAG	ATC	GCG	TCC	GAG	TTC	528
177	E	L	P	A	V	P	L	E	V	*							185
529	GAG	TTG	CCC	GCC	GTC	CCG	CTC	GAA	GTC	TGA	GGC	CGG	CTT	GAG	GCG	TCC	576
577	ATC	CTC	GCC	CTC	GAA	GCT	ATA	GGT	CCT	TTT	TCT	GCT	GCC	TCT	CTC	CCT	624
625	GCT	CTG	CTA	TTC	ATC	TGT	ATC	ATT	CTC	TGG	TTG	TTG	AAT	GTT	TTG	AGT	672
673	GAA	TGG	TGA	ATG	CTG	CAT	ACC	TGG	ATT	TTA	GGA	TTC	ATA	TTT	GAA	TGA	720
721	ATG	GTG	<u>AAT ACA</u>	CTG	CAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA		765

Fig. 1. Nucleotide sequence of the truncated cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of the CF_1 δ subunit from *Zea mays*. The potential polyadenylation signal (bp 727 to 732) is underlined. The sequence of the complete protein was determined by comparing the cDNA sequence with N-terminal sequencing data of the *Zea mays* δ protein as isolated from chloroplasts [19]; they are given in bold letters above the cDNA sequence. Combination of the two independent sets of data reveals that the mature δ protein from *Zea mays* starts with NAAEAAESY...

tion with the Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Chemistry, Ruhr-Universität Bochum). All other chemicals were of p.a. grade.

Screening of cDNA libraries

Zea mays. A *Z. mays* λ gt11 cDNA library (a gift of Prof. Dr. U. Flügge, Würzburg) was analyzed by ex-

1	GAG	CGA	GGC	CGC	ACT	CCC	CCC	CGA	GTC	CAC	TCC	GAC	CGC	ACG	CTC	CGC	48
1			M	A	A	L	R	L	A	S	F	T	L	R	P	A	14
49	<u>GAC</u>	<u>GCG</u>	<u>ATG</u>	<u>GCC</u>	GCG	CTC	CGC	CTC	GCC	TCC	TTC	ACC	CTC	CGA	CCC	GCC	96
15	A	A	A	A	A	S	A	S	S	G	A	T	P	A	A	P	30
97	GCC	GCC	GCC	GCG	GCG	TCC	GCC	TCC	TCC	GGC	GCG	ACC	CCC	GCG	GCG	CCC	144
31	R	S	A	S	F	A	R	A	A	R	G	L	P	S	L	R	46
145	CGG	TCC	GCC	TCC	TTC	GCC	CGC	GCG	GCG	CGG	GGG	CTA	CCC	TCC	CTC	CGC	192
47	L	A	P	P	R	R	R	G	D	L	V	R	P	R	A	E	62
193	CTG	GCC	CCG	CCC	CGC	CGC	CGC	GGG	GAC	CTC	GTC	AGG	CCC	CGC	GCC	GAG	240
63	A	A	A	D	S	Y	A	S	A	L	S	E	V	A	V	E	78
241	GCA	GCG	GCG	GAT	AGC	TAC	GCG	TCC	GCG	CTG	TCG	GAG	GTG	GCC	GTC	GAG	288
79	N	G	T	L	E	Q	T	V	S	D	L	E	K	L	Q	K	94
289	AAC	GGC	ACC	CTC	GAG	CAG	ACG	GTC	TCC	GAC	CTG	GAG	AAG	CTG	CAG	AAG	336
95	I	F	A	D	E	T	V	A	E	F	F	D	N	P	T	V	110
337	ATC	TTC	GCC	GAC	GAG	ACC	GTC	GCC	GAG	TTC	TTC	GAC	AAT	CCC	ACC	GTC	384
111	P	R	E	E	K	T	A	L	I	D	E	I	A	K	S	Y	126
385	CCG	CGC	GAG	GAG	AAG	ACC	GCG	CTC	ATC	GAC	GAG	ATC	GCC	AAG	TCG	TAC	432
127	E	L	Q	P	H	V	V	N	F	I	N	V	V	V	D	N	142
433	GAG	CTG	CAG	CCG	CAC	GTC	GTC	AAC	TTC	ATC	AAC	GTC	GTC	GTC	GAC	AAC	480
143	F	R	A	T	I	L	P	E	I	V	V	E	F	E	N	I	158
481	TTC	CGC	GCG	ACG	ATC	TTG	CCG	GAG	ATC	GTC	GTC	GAG	TTC	GAG	AAC	ATC	528
159	F	N	S	L	T	G	T	E	V	A	T	V	T	S	V	V	174
529	TTC	AAC	TCG	CTC	ACG	GGC	ACC	GAG	GTC	GCC	ACC	GTC	ACC	TCC	GTC	GTG	576
175	Q	L	E	S	Q	D	L	A	Q	I	A	Q	H	V	Q	K	190
577	CAG	CTC	GAG	TCG	CAG	GAC	CTC	GCG	CAG	ATC	GCG	CAG	CAC	GTC	CAG	AAG	624
191	M	T	G	A	K	N	V	R	L	K	T	Q	L	D	P	E	206
625	ATG	ACC	GGC	<u>GCC</u>	<u>AAG</u>	<u>AAC</u>	<u>GTC</u>	<u>CGC</u>	<u>CTC</u>	<u>AAG</u>	<u>ACA</u>	<u>CAG</u>	<u>CTC</u>	<u>GAC</u>	<u>CCG</u>	<u>GAG</u>	672
207	L	I	A	G	F	T	V	Q	Y	G	R	D	G	S	S	L	222
673	CTC	ATC	GCC	GGC	TTC	ACC	GTG	CAG	TAC	GGC	CGC	GAC	GGC	TCC	AGC	TTA	720
223	I	D	M	S	V	R	K	Q	I	E	E	I	T	S	E	F	238
721	ATC	GAC	ATG	AGC	GTC	CGG	AAG	CAG	ATC	GAG	GAA	ATC	ACG	TCC	GAG	TTC	768
239	E	L	P	D	V	P	L	E	V	*							247
769	GAG	TTG	CCC	GAC	GTC	CCG	CTC	GAA	GTC	TGA	CTG	GCT	TGA	GGC	GTC	CAT	816
817	CCT	CGC	CCT	TGA	AGC	TTA	GCT	GCT	ACT	GTC	TGA	CGC	AAT	GGC	ATG	AAT	864
865	CAA	GCG	GGA	ATG	TCG	GTC	CTT	TCC	CCT	TCA	TAC	CTG	CAG	ATC	AAT	GGT	912
913	GGT	GGC	TCC	AAA	TCT	CCA	ATA	CAT	ATG	AAC	GGA	CAT	TCT	TTT	TTT	GCG	960
961	TTT	CTG	TTT	TCC	TTC	TTT	TTC	TTT	TTG	GCG	GGA	ACC	TGT	GTA	ATT	CTT	1008
1009	TCT	CCT	TTT	TTC	TGT	GGT	TGA	CAG	ACA	CTG	TAA	TAT	GTT	TAA	AAC	ACT	1056
1057	CAC	TCA	TCT	<u>ATA</u>	<u>TAT</u>	AGC	TGT	GCA	CCT	CTT	CTC	TCA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	1104
1105	A																1105

Fig. 2. Nucleotide sequence of the cDNA and deduced amino acid sequence of the complete import precursor of the CF₁ subunit δ from *Sorghum bicolor*. The N-terminal amino acids determined by automated Edman degradation of the mature protein as isolated from chloroplasts are marked by bold letters. The sequence parts that correspond to the oligo nucleotide primers used in the RACE-PCR (RT, Amp), the ribosome binding site (bp 51 to 59) and the potential polyadenylation signal (bp 1065 to 1069) are underlined.

pression screening [26], using an antiserum raised against the δ subunit from *Z. mays* [27].

Sorghum bicolor. A 765 bp *EcoRI*/*EcoRI* restriction fragment containing information for the δ subunit from *Z. mays* was radiolabeled with [32 P]dATP [28]. This probe was used to screen a λ gt11 cDNA library from *S. bicolor* (a gift of Prof. Dr. P. Westhoff, Düsseldorf) [29].

PCR

It was tried to complete the 5'-ends of the *S. bicolor* and *Z. mays* cDNAs cloned by RACE-PCR [30]. The gene-specific primer oligonucleotides used correspond

to bp 648–664 (reverse transcription) and bp 634–649 (amplification) for *S. bicolor*, and bp 317–332 (reverse transcription) and bp 285–302 (amplification) for *Z. mays*, respectively.

Subcloning and DNA sequencing

The DNA of the isolated λ clones was restricted by standard techniques [31]. The restriction fragments were isolated [32], cloned into M13 mp18/19 vectors [33] and sequenced by the dideoxynucleotide method [34] using Taq DNA Polymerase and 7-deaza dGTP at 72°C (Promega).

Sor. bic.	MAALRLASFTLRP...AAAAASASSGATPAAPRSASFARAARGLPSLRL.....AP
Zea mays	.....
Pis. sat.	MASLQHTTASLHSHKIPKTTNITR.....KPI.LNLSSSTFYSPKLLKLLPLTKTR
Spi. ole.	MAALQNPVA.LQSRTTTAVALSTSTTSPPKPFLSFSSSTATFNPLRLKILTASLTA
Bos. pri.	MA.....ALAVSGLSQQVR.....CF.....STSV...VRPFAKL..
Ipo. bat.	MAMTGRARSMGFS.ILOKALSSAQRSNAHR.....SILCPTLSNSEL...LRNYATASA
Sac. cer.	M.....FNRVFTSRFSS.....LRAAASKAA
Odo. sin.	.....
Ana. 7120	.....
Scy. 6803	.....
Sco. 6301	.....
Sco. 6716	.....
Cya. par.	.....
Rps. bla.	.....
Rsp. rub.	.....
PS3	.....
Bac. meg.	.....
Bac. fir.	.....
Vib. alg.	.....
E. coli	.....

	1	10	20	30	40
Sor. bic.	PRRRGDLVRPRAEAAADS	YASALSEVAVENG	TLEQTVSDLEKLQ	.KIFADETVAEFFDNP	
Zea mays	NAEAAAE	SYASALSEVAVENG	TLEQTVSDLEKLE	.KIFSDEAVAFFDNP	
Pis. sat.	RSTGGALGARMSSLAAGS	YAAALADLANSNNT	LDAITADF	DKIE.QLFS	DPKVFDFYSSP
Spi. ole.	KPRGGALGTRMVDSTAS	RYASALADVADVTG	TLEATNSDVEKLI	.RIFSEEPVYYFFANP	
Bos. pri.	VRPPVQIYGIQGR	YATALYSAASKQNKLE	QVEKELLR.VGQILKEPK	MAASLLNP	
Ipo. bat.	SKEQKIKVPLTMYGVSG	NYASALYLAAVKSN	TLEKVESELYDLVE	ASKKSPTFSQFMRDP	
Sac. cer.	A.....PPPVRLFG	VEGTATATYQAAAK	NSSIDA	AFQSLQKVESTV	KKNPKLGHLLLN
Odo. sin.	MSINPLASKIA	APYARALFDFSVD	QNLHM	QITADFQNL	EVFLNKTPDLTEYLSNP
Ana. 7120	MTSKVANTEVA	QPYAQALLSIAKSK	SLTEFGTDARTLL	NLLTENQQLRN	FDINP
Scy. 6803	MKGSLYSSKIA	EPYQAQALIGLAQ	QQLNTEVFGDNL	RSLLTLQD	SPDLSAVLSSP
Sco. 6301	MTSTSQLFDP	YAEALMAIAREQ	GLEDRFGEDAAL	FRSTLAASAD	LRLHLENP
Sco. 6716	MMQTTIRGEL	VEPYAEALLSLAQ	SHNLADQFQD	SGLILDLLA	ASAELEFLANP
Cya. par.	MKQSAVVS	KITQPYAEALLE	MAQKYDIVETV	NNDITLILN	CLQNSTKLQQLANP
Rps. bla.	MAEAASISQ	GIAERYATALFEL	SKETGALKTLET	DDIDALKD	VLGSPDLGAMIASP
Rsp. rub.	MSSHKAGVT	GVAERYATALYEL	AEDRGALDQV	SADLRS	SLKAMLDSEGLRRVIASP
PS3	MNQEVIAK	RYASALFQIALE	QQLDRIEEDV	RAVRQALAE	NGEFLSLLSYP
Bac. meg.	MSQPAVAK	RYALALFQLATE	KQMIDEMQD	QLQIVEEV	FAKTPPELMDVLTHP
Bac. fir.	MSNQAVAN	RYRYALFQLAE	EKSILSQVQ	EMELVKEV	VNTTPEFLQLLSHP
Vib. alg.	MSDLTTIAR	PYAKAADFAL	EKDQLDQWG	.QMLSFAAE	VAKNEQMNELLTGS
E. coli	MSEFITVAR	PYAKAADF	FAVEHQSV	ERWQ.DMLA	FAAEVTKNEQMAELLSGA

+ + # # #

Fig. 3. Alignment of the deduced amino acid sequences of the CF δ subunits from *Sorghum bicolor* and *Zea mays* with the proteins corresponding in sequence from higher plants, bacteria and mitochondria using the program Clustal 4. The N-terminal residues additionally sequenced by us by Edman degradation are shown in bold. Numbering refers to the mature polypeptide δ of *Sorghum bicolor*. +, strictly conserved amino acids; #, conservative exchanges. Species abbreviations used: Sor. bic., *Sorghum bicolor*; Pis. sat., *Pisum sativum*; Spi. ole., *Spinacea oleracea*; Bos. pri., *Bos primigenius* (OSCP); Ipo. bat., *Ipomoea batatas* (F₁ δ); Sac. cer., *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (ATPase 5); Odo. sin., *Odontella sinensis*; Ana. 7120, *Anabaena* PCC 7120; Scy. 6803, *Synechocystis* 6803; Sco. 6301, *Synechococcus* 6301; Sco. 6716, *Synechococcus* 6716; Cya. par., *Cyanophora paradoxa*; Rps. bla., *Rhodospseudomonas blastica*; Rsp. rub., *Rhodospirillum rubrum*; PS3, thermophilic bacterium PS3; Bac. meg., *Bacillus megaterium*; Bac. fir., *Bacillus firmus* OF4; Vib. alg., *Vibrio alginolyticus*; E. coli, *Escherichia coli*.

	50	60	70	80	90	100
Sor. bic.	TVPREKKTALIDEI.AKSYELQPHVVNFINVVDNFRATILPEIVVEFENIF.NSLTGTE					
Zea mays	TVPREKKAELIGEI.AKSSSELQPHVVNFINVVDNFRASIVPQIVVEFENVY.NSLTGTE					
Pis. sat.	IVEDSTKRQLIGEF.ATTSGFQPHTHNFLNVLIDSKRIDMIIDIKEFEFVY.NTLTDTE					
Spi. ole.	VISIDNKRSVLDEI.ITTSGLQPHNTANFINILIDSERINLVKEILNEFEDVF.NKITGTE					
Bos. pri.	YVKRSVKVKSLSDMTAKK.FSPLTSNLINLLAENGRLTNTPAVISAFSTMM.SVHRGEV					
Ipo. bat.	SVPVDRVNAIKEICAQAK.FGDTTQNFLLILAENGRKLDHIDRIVKRFKELT.MAHRGEV					
Sac. cer.	ALSLKDRNSVIDAIVETHKNLDGYVNNLLKVLSENNRLGCFEKIASDFGVLN.DAHNGLL					
Odo. sin.	LISAKSKEEVLNKTLS..QINKETFKFLIVLVNRSRINLLEPIIASYLNLVY.NAASVK					
Ana. 7120	FIAAENKKALIKQILSE..ASP.YLRNLLLLLVDRRIFFLPEILQQYLALLR.QLNQTV					
Scy. 6803	VVKDEDEKSVLRSVLGD..GGNGYLLNFMMLLVDRRIFFLEAICEQYLALLR.QFTNTV					
Sco. 6301	TLFSSQKKAIVLNQVFGS..SVHPLVLNFMMLLVDRNRIFAFLDGIADRYQALLR.KLRNVV					
Sco. 6716	LINPDAKKNVLRQLTVD..KVHGYVLFNFMMLLVDRRIINLLAICQQYRALLR.KLRNIV					
Cya. par.	LVKKSSKKNFPEKTLAK..EIHPTTFKFLLLVIDRGRISCLEIIAQKYQSLIL.KLTKTE					
Rps. bla.	VISRGDQAKAVAAIAGKM.GLSPLMTNTLALMSEKRRFPALQVLSALAGLIA.EEKGEV					
Rsp. rub.	VIGRDDQKALTALAEKA.GFHEIVRNFLGVVAAKHSFAVPGMIGAFLERLA.ARRGEV					
PS3	KLSLDQKKALIREAFAG..VSTPVQNTLLLLLHRHFRGLVPELAGTVSRPRSTTARGIA					
Bac. meg.	KITIERKKQFVSEAF..LSPTVQHTVLVLLERHRIQIVSEMVKEY.RFLANEVRGVA					
Bac. fir.	KVTTEKKRAFIENSFKD..SLSETSLHTLLLLVENKRIESLVDMDISF.KEMSYEAQDMA					
Vib. alg.	VSADKMAEIFV..AVCGE.QVDTHGQNLKVMANGLAALPDVCTEFYTL.KKEHEKEI					
E. coli	LAPETLAESFI..AVCGE.QLDENGQNLIRVMAENGLNALPDVLEQFIHL.RAVSEATA					
	# # # # # + #					

	110	120	130	140	150	160
Sor. bic.	VATVTSVVQLESQDLAQIAQHVQK...MTGAKNVRLKTQLDPELIAGFTVQYGRDGSSLI					
Zea mays	VATVTSVVQLESQDLAQIAQHVQK...MTGAKNVRLKTQLDPALIAGFTVQYGRDGSNLI					
Pis. sat.	LVVVTSVVKLESHHLAQIAQVQK...LTGAKKVRTKTLDPISLVAGFTVRYGNTGSKFI					
Spi. ole.	VAVVTSVVKLENDHLAQIAQVQK...ITGAKNVRIKTVIDPSLVAGFTIRYGNESKLV					
Bos. pri.	PCTVTTASALNEATLTELKTVLKS..FLKKGQVLKLEVKIDPSIMGGMIVRIG...EKYV					
Ipo. bat.	KATVTTVIPLPADEEKELKATLQE..MVGQGSVQIEQKIDPTILGGLVVEFG...QKVF					
Sac. cer.	KGTVTSAEPLDPKSFKRIEKALSASKLVGQKSLKLENNVVKPEIKGGLIVELG...DKTV					
Odo. sin.	MIEVSTAYAFNTLQKNTLIKKE...LTNAREIRLVITVDSLIGGFLIKTN...SKVL					
Ana. 7120	LAEVTSVAVALTEDQQQAVTEKVL...LTKARQVELATKVDSDLIGGVIIKVG...SQVI					
Scy. 6803	LAEVTSALKLTDQKDQVKERVQK...LTGAQAVELETKVDGDLGGIVIKVG...SQVF					
Sco. 6301	RADVSSAVPLTEAQVQVITEKVQK...LTGAAGVEIESQVDADLLGGVIIKVG...SQVL					
Sco. 6716	LAEVISAVELTEQQRHAVVEKVKT...MTGAADVELAIAIDPELLGGVVIVKVG...SQIF					
Cya. par.	LAEVVTAVPLSSEQEALNNIIE...LTNANEVKLVFKIDQNLIGGFIINIG...SKVV					
Rps. bla.	TAEVTAATKLSAAQAKLAETLKA...KVG.KTVKLNTTVDESIGGLIVKLG...STMI					
Rsp. rub.	TARIVSATALTSAQKSALTALNK...ATG.NTVTIDASVDPALLGGMVVRVG...SRMV					
PS3	KAVAYSGAASTDEELRALSDVFAQ...KVGKQTLIEIENIIDPELLIGGVNVIRIG...NRIY					
Bac. meg.	DATVYSVKPLSADEKRAISQSFA...KVGKHTLNISNIVDKTVIGGVKLRIG...NRIY					
Bac. fir.	EAVVYSAPLTSSEEQAQIAVIFAK...KVNKAKLLVINNVNKKDLGGLKIRIG...DRIY					
Vib. alg.	DVEVISATELSDEQLANIGSKLEK...RLE.RKVKLNCVDETLLGGVIRAG...DLVI					
E. coli	EVDVISAAALSEQQLAKISAAMEK...RLS.RKVKLNCIDKSVMAGVIRAG...DMVI					
	#	#	#	#	# # # # + #	#

	170	180
Sor. bic.	DMSVRKQIEEITSEFELPDVPLEV (this paper)	
Zea mays	DMSVRKQIEEIASFELPAVPLEV (this paper)	
Pis. sat.	DMSVKKLEEIAAQIDLDIQLAV [21]	
Spi. ole.	DMSVKKQLEEIAAQLEMDVTLAV [22]	
Bos. pri.	DMSAKTKIQKLSRAMRQIL..... [61]	
Ipo. bat.	DMSIRTRARQMERFLREPLNF... [62]	
Sac. cer.	DLSISTKIQKLNKVLEDSI..... [63]	
Odo. sin.	DFTIKNQLQKLAKHLDVLEI... [44]	
Ana. 7120	DSSIRGQLRRLSLRLSNS..... [64]	
Scy. 6803	DSSLRGQLRRVGLSLGTAL..... [65]	
Sco. 6301	DASLRGQLKRISISLAA..... [66]	
Sco. 6716	DASLRGQLRRLSVSLAQPV..... [67]	
Cya. par.	DASLLGQLLRIGNYLGLETV.... [68]	
Rps. bla.	DTSVKSKLASLQAMKEVG..... [69]	
Rsp. rub.	DSSLSTKLKRLQLAMKVG..... [70]	
PS3	DGSVSGQLERIRRLQIG..... [71]	
Bac. meg.	DGSISSKLETIHRGLLAHRS.... [72]	
Bac. fir.	DGRVKSQDLRLERQLIAGTR.... [73]	
Vib. alg.	DDSARGRLNRLSDALQS..... [74]	
E. coli	DGSVRGRLERLADVLQS..... [75]	
	+ # # #	

Fig. 3 (continued).

Protein purification and N-terminal sequencing

S. bicolor CF₁ was isolated [35]. 30 mg of protein from the DEAE column was separated on 12.5% (w/v) SDS polyacrylamide gels [36] and stained by Coomassie Blue. The protein band at 23.5 kDa, positive in Western blots with an antiserum against the δ subunit of maize CF₁, was cut out, purified on a second 18% (w/v) SDS PAGE gel and transferred to a PVDF membrane (Millipore). Automated Edman degradation was done on an Applied Biosystems 477 A Gasphase sequencer [37] (in collaboration with Dr. H.E. Meyer, Faculty of Medicine, Ruhr-Universität Bochum).

Results and Discussion

Sequencing of CF₁ subunit δ from *Zea mays*

Screening of a λ gt11 cDNA library of *Z. mays* was done by help of antibodies against a subunit of chloroplast CF₁ from *Z. mays*, with an apparent molecular mass of 25 kDa [27], which has been concluded to be the δ subunit by N-terminal protein sequencing [19]. Six independent, but identical cDNA clones were isolated from 10⁵ λ phages analyzed.

The clones contain 555 bp of the open reading frame coding for 185 amino acids of δ and 210 bp of the 3'-untranslated region including a poly(A) tail of 29 bp (Fig. 1). The first deduced 18 amino acids are identical with residue 5 to 22 of the isolated and sequenced 25 kDa polypeptide of *Z. mays* CF₁ [19]. RACE-PCR attempts using gene-specific oligonucleotides at various reaction conditions to clone the 5'-end of the full length cDNA, including an expected transit sequence, were unsuccessful (data not shown). This was probably caused by a high GC content of the mRNA, which is 62% in the RNA for the mature δ (Fig. 1) and 85% in the corresponding transit sequence of *S. bicolor* (Fig. 2).

Adding the known four missing N-terminal amino acids for the δ subunit from *Z. mays* [19], the sequence of the complete mature protein (189 amino acids, 20 592 Da) could be established (Fig. 1).

Sequencing of the CF₁ subunit δ from *Sorghum bicolor*

Using the isolated cDNA for the δ subunit from *Z. mays*, the cDNA for the δ subunit from *S. bicolor* was isolated by DNA hybridization. A single clone, 1046 bp in length, could be isolated from 10⁵ λ phages analyzed. The information for the mature protein and part of the sequence of a transit peptide was present. Using RACE-PCR [30] under modified conditions (reverse transcription at 52°C) with mRNA from 3 weeks old *S. bicolor* plants, a 650 bp fragment could be amplified containing the 5'-end.

The combined cDNA sequence consists of 1105 bp, including 14 bp of the poly(A) tail at the 3'-end. An

open reading frame of 741 nucleotides codes for a 247 amino acids (26 736 Da) import precursor of the chloroplast δ subunit from *S. bicolor*. In addition the clone contains 54 bp of 5'-untranslated sequence with a potential ribosome binding site at bp 51 to 59 and 210 bp of 3'-untranslated sequence with a potential polyadenylation site at bp 1065 to 1069 (Fig. 2).

To localize the processing site of the import precursor, the δ subunit of *S. bicolor* CF₁ was isolated from chloroplasts; automated Edman degradation showed that the mature protein starts with the sequence AEAAADSY..., i.e., a transit peptide of 60 amino acids has been cleaved off (Fig. 2). The mature δ subunit of *S. bicolor* CF₁ consists of 187 amino acids (20 644 Da).

Common features of δ sequences from higher plant chloroplasts

Comparison [38] of the deduced amino acid sequences of the δ subunits of *S. bicolor* and *Z. mays* with the known sequences of *Pisum sativum* [21] and *Spinacea oleracea* [22] showed that 40% (75 residues) of the amino acid sequences of the mature proteins are identical; including conservative exchanges 85% of the sequences are homologous (Fig. 3). Since catalytic reconstitution of photophosphorylation with CF₀ (EDTA treated thylakoids) from *Z. mays* and CF₁ from *Sp. oleracea* is possible [25], some of the 103 residues, identical in the δ sequences of spinach and maize CF₁, are involved in the interaction with CF₀. It is reasonable to expect these among the 50 hydrophilic residues, identical between the δ sequences of spinach and maize.

The δ sequences of higher plant chloroplasts do not contain cysteines; therefore CF₁ subunit δ cannot participate directly in the thiol modulated light activation of the enzyme [4]. Cysteins involved in this regulation were found in an insertion in the primary sequence of the CF₁ subunit γ , unique to higher plants [39].

The differences in apparent molecular weights observed on SDS gels do not result from the deduced sequences (Table I) or clusters of hydrophobic residues (Fig. 3); posttranslational modifications may have occurred.

Subunit δ of the chloroplast ATP-synthase is shown to be nuclear-encoded and imported in *Spinacea oleracea* [40,41] and *Spirodela oligorhiza* [42]. An import transit sequence was deduced from cDNA for *Sp. oleracea* [22], *P. sativum* [21] and *S. bicolor* (Fig. 3); it also exists for *Nicotiana tabacum* δ (J.C. Gray, personal communication). We therefore conclude that in all higher plants CF₁ δ is nuclearencoded; also in the green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* an atpD gene coding for CF₁ δ seems to be absent from the chloroplast DNA [43]. In the diatom alga *Odontella sinensis*, however, CF₁ subunit δ is chloroplast encoded and

TABLE I

Comparison of the apparent molecular masses of the δ subunits of chloroplast ATP synthase and the protein molecular masses as deduced from the respective cDNAs

Species	Apparent molecular mass ^a (kDa)	Molecular mass calculated from cDNA	Ref.
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	23.5	20.644	this paper
<i>Zea mays</i>	24.8	20.592	this paper
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	22.0	20.598	[21]
<i>Spinacea oleracea</i>	21.6	20.486	[22]

^a Apparent molecular masses of the δ subunits were determined by running isolated CF₁ and/or isolated δ on 14% SDS polyacrylamide gels [36] with standard molecular mass markers from Bio-Rad.

accordingly the sequence of a transit peptide is missing [44].

Only ten respective amino acids are identical in the transit sequences of the δ subunits from higher plants; but they are similar in length (60–70 residues) and display the characteristics of stromal transit peptides [45], i.e., they are rich in serine, threonine, lysine and arginine and contain nearly no acidic residues. As target for the proteinase, processing the imported precursor in the chloroplast stroma, positive residues around –2 and –10 have been proposed [45]; they are present in the new δ transit sequences, however also in the homologous OSCP precursor sequences of mitochondrial ATPase from *Bos primigenius* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (mature bovine OSCP starts with FAKL..).

Analysis of amino acids in ATP-synthase subunits δ conserved during evolution suggests specific interaction surfaces

Comparison of the amino acid sequences of CF₁ subunit δ of higher plants with the sequences of the corresponding proteins from mitochondria (OSCP, not the so-called δ subunit of F₁) and bacteria using the Clustal program [38] reveals that only five amino acids out of 180 on the average (2.8%, marked by a (+) in Fig. 3) are identical among all species, in the δ sequence of *S. bicolor* Tyr-8 and Ala-11 close to the N-terminus, Arg-84, and Gly-150 and Asp-164 close to the C-terminus. Even including conservative exchanges (23 out of 180 on the average, marked by a (#) in Fig. 3), not more than 16% of the amino acids are homologous. However, the few conserved residues are clustered together with the conservatively exchanged amino acids (see below).

If a binary comparison is done considering the gaps in the alignment, i.e., species- or group-specific insertions in the polypeptides (Fig. 3), about 25% more similarities are seen between δ from plants and prokaryotes than in the comparison of the plain sequences (data not shown). Among the corresponding proteins the δ sequence of *Cyanophora paradoxa* is closer to the higher plants than δ of the diatom alga *Odontella sinensis* (Table II; cf. discussion in Ref. 44).

An inspection of the δ sequences by the program Prosite (HUSAR) revealed a potential target site for caseinkinase II, i.e., a potential phosphorylation site at T₁₀₃xxE, identical in all higher plants but otherwise only contained in the δ sequence of *C. paradoxa* (cp. Fig. 3). After hydrolysis of isolated δ from spinach we found phosphoserine instead (D. Lohse, R. Oworah-

TABLE II

Number of identical residues in the primary structure of mature subunit δ of *Spinacea oleracea*, compared as aligned in Fig. 3, with δ from *S. bicolor*, *Z. mays*, *P. sativum*, *Odontella sinensis*, *Cyanophora paradoxa* and *E. coli*

Comparison of subunits δ from	Total identities	Small AG	Hydrophilic DETSKR HNQC Y	Hydrophobic LVIMFP W
Spinach and <i>S. bicolor</i>	103 55% of 187	15 65% of 23	51 53% of 96	37 54% of 68
Spinach and <i>Z. mays</i>	103 54% of 189	16 57% of 28	50 53% of 94	37 55% of 67
Spinach and <i>Pisum sativum</i>	106 57% of 187	18 72% of 25	55 57% of 96	33 50% of 66
Spinach and <i>Odontella sin.</i>	42 23% of 187	6 38% of 16	19 20% of 97	17 23% of 74
Spinach and <i>Cyanophora par.</i>	51 27% of 186	9 45% of 20	20 22% of 93	22 30% of 73
Spinach and <i>E. coli</i>	41 23% of 177	9 26% of 35	18 22% of 81	14 23% of 61

Numbers and percentages of identities in relation to all residues within the respective group of amino acids of δ in the respective species are shown. Spinach δ contains 24 small, 95 hydrophilic and 68 hydrophobic residues.

549-554.).

hydrophilic and hydrophobic) the sequence of the mature CF₁ δ from *Sp. oleracea* was compared in detail with the new δ sequences from *S. bicolor* and *Z. mays* and with δ from *P. sativum*, *O. sinensis*, *C. paradoxa* and *E. coli* (Table II). As compared to *E. coli* δ all photosynthetic organisms have a larger δ with fewer small residues, that are well conserved among higher plants. The hydrophilicity has increased distinctly in higher plant δ . Hybrid reconstitution can be related to the detailed comparison of the δ sequence of spinach with *Z. mays* vs. *E. coli*: with 41 identities in *E. coli*

only structural reconstitution was observed [24], with 103 identical residues in δ of *Z. mays* additional catalytic reconstitution was possible [25]. The number of identical hydrophilic residues is significantly higher than of identical hydrophobic ones; between spinach and *P. sativum* δ [21] even the percentage of identical hydrophilic residues is higher (Table II). Usually, in soluble proteins the hydrophilic residues are less well conserved than the hydrophobic ones in the protein core [46]. The surprisingly high degree of conservation of hydrophilic residues indicates the importance of the

[illegible]

Fig. 4 (continued). (Last part overleaf.)

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              170      180
Sor. bic. DMSVRKQIEEITSEFELPDVPLEV
Sor. bic. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@CC^@@@
Zea mays  ^~@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@CC^@@@
Pis. sat. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@^~@@@@
Nic. tab. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
Spi. ole. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@
Bos. pri. ^~@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@.....
Ipo. bat. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@CCCC...
Sac. cer. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@eCCCC....
Odo. sin. @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@e^....
Ana. 7120  ^~L^~^~^~^~^~^~LCCC.....
Scy. 6803  TLLL^~^~^~^~^~^~^.....
Sco. 6301  @@@@^~^~^~^~^~^~CC.....
Sco. 6716  ^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^.....
Cya. par. @@@@@@@@@@^~^~L@@@@@....
Rps. bla. ----@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@C....
Rsp. rub. ---L@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@C....
PS3       TLLLLTT^~^~^~^~^~^.....
Bac. meg. TTTTCTTT@@@@@LLLE@@@CC....
Bac. fir. ^TT^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^~^C....
Vib. alg. LLCCTTTCCC@@@@@@@C.....
E. coli   LCCCTTC@@@@@@@@@.....
          +      #      #      #

model:    @@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@.....
          *****

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@:  Alpha helix
^:  Beta strand
C:  Coil
T:  Turn
L:  Loop = turn or coil
-:  unpredictable by the applied method
.:  gap in amino acid alignment

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+ : strictly conserved residue
: conservative exchanges
* : less supported prediction
in model (cp. text)

Fig. 4 (continued).

surface of δ . The function of δ and the capacity to reconstitute photophosphorylation activity seem to depend not only on its size and shape, that determine the position of the only five conserved residues in the tertiary structure, but on its specific and close interactions with other subunits within the ATP-synthase complex. Five of the 18 hydrophilic residues, identical in spinach and *E. coli* δ , are exchanged in *Z. mays* (Fig. 3 and Table II) and do therefore probably not participate in the specific interactions. Thus, the hydrophilic residues of δ , that are responsible for the additional catalytic reconstitution between spinach and *Z. mays*, should be among those 37 hydrophilic residues, which are additionally identical (Fig. 3 and Table II).

Analysis of secondary structure features conserved during evolution

Experimental data concerning the structure of the δ subunit of photosynthetic ATP-synthases are available: the location of this subunit within the ATP-synthase complex in situ was deduced from immunochemical

experiments and limited proteolysis [17,47]; it is mostly inaccessible. Subunit δ was concluded to be part of the central mass depicted by electron microscopy techniques [48]. From sedimentation velocity and small angle X-ray diffraction [49] and from rotational diffusion [50] and circular dichroism measurements [51] of the protein in solution an elongated shape (2.8×10 nm) [49,50] and a mostly α helical structure [51] was deduced.

After deduction of a reasonable secondary structure or dissection of a tertiary protein structure into secondary structure domains it may become possible to calculate the protein folding pathway (P. Argos, personal communication). We therefore tried to develop a hypothetical secondary structure model: secondary structures for each of the 21 sequenced species were calculated using three different prediction algorithms [52–54], implemented in the program PROSIS, Pharmacia LKB (data not shown). Next, consensus were deduced: a certain conformation was assumed, if at least two of the three algorithms used agreed; if one

algorithm predicted 'coil' where another predicted 'turn' at a respective position, the term 'loop' was used. The single consensus were aligned (Fig. 4) according to the amino acid alignment (Fig. 3).

In the overall consensus (model) a certain structure is proposed, if at least 12 out of the 21 individual consensus agree. This is the case for 113 residues. If at a respective position less than 12 out of 21 consensus agree, the most prevailing prediction is taken; these less supported predictions are marked by an asterisk. If the single consensus does not allow for a distinction between 'coil' and 'turn', the term 'loop' is used in the model. For seven positions the secondary structure remains unpredicted (Fig. 4).

The conserved and conservatively exchanged amino acids of δ are located in regions for which the same secondary structures are predicted for most of the species, helical secondary structures for the N-termini, the middle parts and the C-termini and three short β strands, one in the middle and two near the C-termini, connected by a turn. Helical wheel analysis [55] of the three conserved putative helical parts shows that they would have the potential to form amphipathic α helices [19,47] in all δ sequences available (Fig. 5). The two C-terminal β strands could form an antiparallel amphipathic β sheet [56] connected by a turn (Fig. 6). The conservation of these amphipathies supports the putative overall secondary structure prediction in spite of deviations in the individual consensus predictions, which we think reflect the weakness of the prediction algorithms rather than differences in the real secondary structures of δ . The conserved Tyr, Arg and Asp are found at the N-terminal start of a putative amphipathic α helix in each case.

The insertion of three residues unique for higher plant δ sequences would be an extension of the loop connecting the antiparallel amphipathic β sheet and the amphipathic C-terminal α helix conserved in all species (Figs. 3 and 4).

Thus, the CF₁ δ subunits and the corresponding proteins from mitochondria (OSCP) and prokaryotes are a family of proteins with very similar secondary structure in spite of divergent amino acid sequences, and the typical δ subunit of F₀F₁ ATPases is predicted to be an α helical protein with only a few β strand

structures; the predicted high proportion of α helical secondary structure even seems too low when compared to the values calculated from circular dichroism

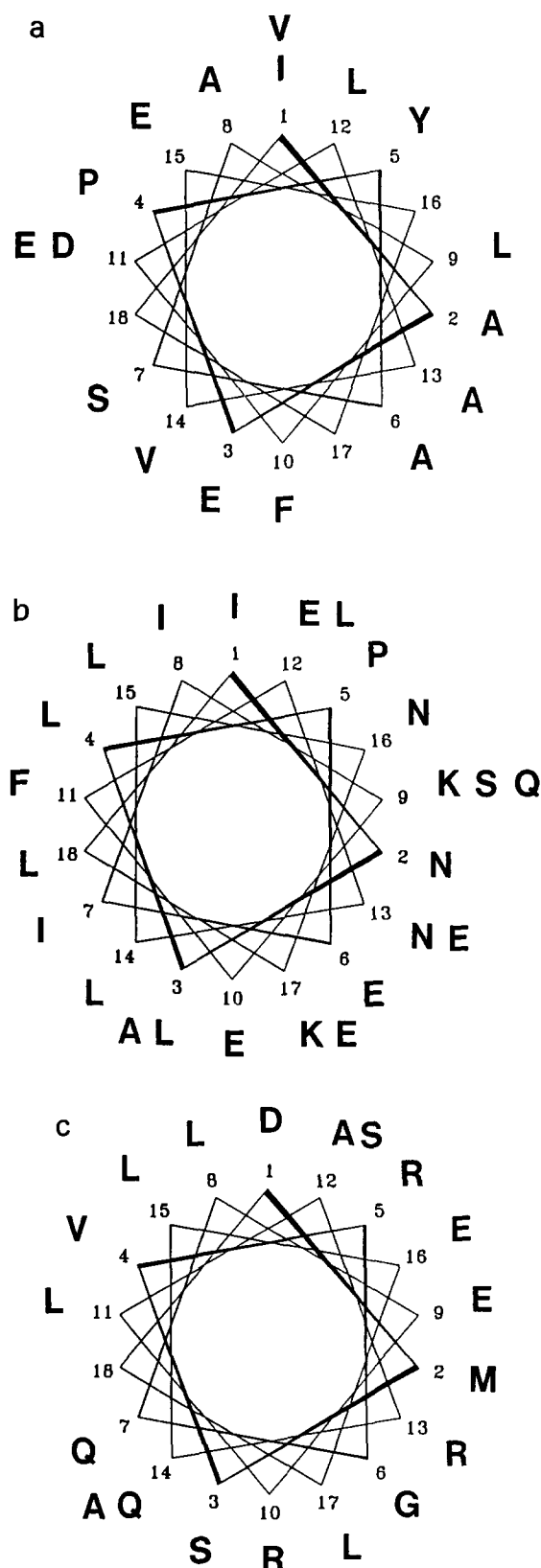


Fig. 5. Consensus helical wheels according to Schiffer and Edmundson [55] displaying the amphipathic character of the predicted N-terminal [19], middle and C-terminal [47] helices of a typical δ subunit. The amino acids were aligned as in Fig. 3 and the residue most common at each respective position was taken for the consensus wheels. (a) N-terminal putative amphipathic α helix, residues 5–19 of secondary structure consensus. (b) Middle putative amphipathic α helix, residues 87–105 of secondary structure consensus. (c) C-terminal putative amphipathic α helix, residues 164–180 of secondary structure consensus.

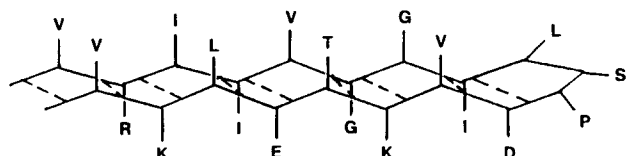


Fig. 6. Consensus β sheet and connecting turn for a typical δ subunit, displaying the amphipathic character of the putative C-terminal β sheet (residues 140–158 of alignment, Figs. 3 and 4). The amino acids were aligned as in Fig. 3 and the residue most common at the respective position was taken for the consensus sheet.

TABLE III

Comparison of the predicted secondary structure of subunit $CF_1 \delta$ (consensus in Fig. 4) with circular dichroism data [51]

Secondary structure	% Predicted consensus	% Calculated from circular dichroism	
		δ (spinach)	OSCP (bovine)
α helix	71.1	83.6 ± 6.1	85.8 ± 4.2
β sheet	16.7	8.6 ± 7.5	0.3 ± 0.7
Turn/coil (loop)	8.3	8.0 ± 4.1	13.6 ± 4.9
Unpredictable	3.9	—	—

data for spinach $CF_1 \delta$ and bovine OSCP [51] (Table III).

Although this CF_1 subunit contains several conserved hydrophilic residues, it is concealed within the quaternary structure of the enzyme, except for the C-terminus being exposed in situ [17,47]. A role in direct coupling [2,3], i.e., in H^+ translocation along the amphipathic structures [19] to the active sites, cannot be ruled out, but δ also may fulfill the structural requirements to act as a rather stiff transducer of a conformational 'wave' between the proton conducting and the ATP synthesizing moiety of the ATP-synthase: it can be crosslinked to CF_0 I [18], it also interacts with the α and β subunits of F_1 [57,58], and it is part of the central mass [48,59], where conformational movements have been depicted [60]. The specific functions of the conserved Tyr, Ala, Arg, Gly and Asp remain to be elucidated.

We have produced monoclonal antibodies against an epitope on the binding surface of *Sp. oleracea* $CF_1 \delta$ towards CF_0 (W.Finke, M.Wulf and R.J.Berzborn, unpublished); they crossreact with δ from *P. sativum*, but not with δ from *Z. mays*. Analysis of the sequences and secondary structures of this epitope in the different species is now possible and will lead to a partial characterization of the binding surface of δ .

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Note added in proof

The sequence of tobacco $CF_1 \delta$ has now been published (J.A. Napier, K.H. Larsson, F. Madueno and J.C. Gray (1992) *Plant Mol. Biol.* 20, 549–554). The recently published $CF_1 \delta$ sequence of the red alga *Antithamnion* sp. (Kostrzewa, M. and Zetsche, K. (1992) *J. Mol. Biol.* 227, 961–970) supports our speculation related to the *O. sinensis* δ sequence: it is also chloroplast-encoded and does not contain the insertion of 3 residues close to G_{156} .

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