

Molecular cloning of a novel rat G-protein-coupled receptor gene expressed prominently in lung, adrenal, and liver

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A gene and cDNA (named G10d) encoding a novel member of the G-protein-coupled receptor (GCR) superfamily has been isolated from a rat genomic library and a rat liver cDNA library by tandom polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification and hybridization screening. Comparison of the sequence of the encoded protein to other members of the rhodopsin family of the GCR superfamily suggests that this new member is a peptide receptor. The G10d gene is present as a single copy in the rat genome and its translational open reading frame is intronless. Northern analysis demonstrates a wide and uneven distribution of G10d mRNA in the adult rat, with the highest mRNA abundance in lung, liver and adrenal gland extracts.

G-protein-coupled receptor; Putative G-protein-coupled receptor; Orphan receptor; Rhodopsin family; GCR

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of cell surface G-protein-coupled receptors (GCRs) has been facilitated greatly by molecular cloning techniques. From these studies it has become apparent that there exists a large gene superfamily encoding receptors for a wide variety of hormones and neurotransmitters. The primary structure of these receptors are characterized by the presence of seven stretches of hydrophobic amino acids supposedly capable of forming transmembrane (TM) domains. These regions are separated by variable stretches of hydrophilic amino acids predicted to form intra- and extracellular regions. Most of the conserved amino acids are found within the putative transmembrane domains, particularly TM3 and TM6. This conservation has provided a basis from which additional members of this gene family have been isolated [1–10]. Herein we describe the molecular cloning of a novel member of the GCR family. We report the sequence of this putative receptor and the tissue distribution of its mRNA. Although we have not yet identified the ligand for the G10d receptor, we predict that it recognizes a peptide ligand.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Polymerase chain reaction amplification, genomic library screening and DNA sequencing

Two degenerate oligonucleotides (5'-CTCACGTGYMTSAGCPT-SGAYCGCTA-3' and 5'-TGGTAGGGGASCCAGSAMAMGAPP-AA-3'; Y = T or C; M = A or C; S = G or C; and P = A or G) were

synthesized and used to amplify from rat liver or brainstem cDNA, by PCR, fragments encoding novel members of the rhodopsin GCR family. The oligonucleotide sequences were based primarily on the sequences of TM3 and TM6 from the angiotensin (AT1) receptor [11] and RDC-1 [1] cDNAs. cDNA synthesized from rat liver and rat brainstem poly(A)⁺ RNA served as the template in the reactions. The conditions of the PCR were as follows: 94°C, 1 min (denaturation); 40°C, 2 min (annealing); 72°C, 3 min (primer extension); 30 cycles. Products of the reaction were subjected to the action of the Klenow fragment of DNA *Poll* (in the presence of dNTPs), and then treated further with T4 polynucleotide kinase (in the presence of ATP). The products were then subcloned into the *Sma*I site of pGEM7Zf(+) (Promega) for sequence analysis (Sanger dideoxy chain termination, Sequenase kit, IBI).

A 360 bp fragment (jh10) predicted by sequence analysis to be a portion of a member of the GCR family was labelled (random primer method) to a specific activity of approximately 1×10^9 dpm/ μ g and used to screen 7.5×10^5 recombinants of an *Hae*III partialled Sprague–Dawley rat genomic DNA library (λ Charon 4a, gift of T. Sargent, [12]). The bacteriophage responsible for one signal was plaque purified (λ G10d). Phage DNA was isolated by standard procedures and subjected to restriction enzyme digestion. A 3 kb *Hind*III fragment (G10d) hybridizing to the jh10 DNA was subcloned to the same site in pGEM7Zf(+) and subjected to sequence analysis.

Two oligonucleotides (5'-CAGACACAAGCTTGCCCTCATGT-C-3' and 5'-TGTCTCGAGTCTACCTTAGCTGGCTAT-3') were synthesized and used to amplify by PCR (rat liver cDNA as template) the entire coding region of G10d. This PCR product was restriction digested with *Hind*III and *Xho*I and subcloned to the *Hind*III/*Xho*I sites of pCDM8 (Invitrogen). The resultant insert DNA was subjected to sequence analysis. The plasmid was also used to transfect *COS-1* cells as described previously [13]. Plasmid was linearized with *Xho*I, subjected to in vitro transcription, and injected into stage V or VI *Xenopus laevis* oocytes. Oocyte responses ($I_{Cl(C^a)}$) were recorded as described previously [14].

2.2. Hybridization analysis of rat genomic DNA and RNA

Sprague–Dawley rat genomic DNA was isolated by standard procedures [15]. Restriction digested rat genomic DNA (15 μ g) was subjected to Southern blot analysis. A 1.2 kb *Hind*III/*Xho*I DNA frag-

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ment containing the entire coding region of G10d was labelled by the random primer method ($1-2 \times 10^9$ dpm/ μ g) and used as a hybridization probe using the method of Church and Gilbert [16]. Final wash temperature was 65°C. Exposure to Kodak XAR film was 2 days at -70°C with intensifying screen.

Total cellular RNA from a variety of rat tissues was isolated by the guanidine isothionate/CsCl method [15]. Poly(A)⁺-selected RNA was prepared by oligo(dT) cellulose chromatography. RNA (4-5 μ g) was electrophoresed through denaturing 1.2% agarose and subjected to Northern analysis [16] using the same 1.2 kb DNA fragment described above. Final wash temperature was 65°C. Exposure to Kodak XAR film was for 5 days at -70°C with intensifying screen.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PCR products were generated from either rat brainstem or liver cDNAs using degenerate oligonucleotides corresponding to sequences found in TM3 and TM6 of the angiotensin (AT1) receptor and RDC-1 cDNAs. Sequence analysis suggested that one set of clones (jh10) contained sequences encoding a fragment of a novel member of the rhodopsin branch of the GCR superfamily. The predicted polypeptide sequence was similar to

	TAGCTGGCCCTCATGTCTAGTCATACCCAGCTCCAGGCCGGTCTCCACCTTGGCACCTGAC	60
	* M S V I P S S R P V S T L A P D	
17	AATGATTTTAGAGAGATCCACAACCTGGACAGAGCTGCTCCATCTCTTCAACCAACCTTT	120
	N D F R E I H N W T E L L H L F N Q T F	
37	TCTGATTGCCACATGGAACCTCAATGAGAACCACCAACAAGTGGTCTCTTTGTCTCTTAC	180
	S D C H M E L N E N T K Q V V L F <u>V F Y</u>	
57	CTGGCCATCTTTGTGGTAGGGTTAGTGGAGAACGTCCTGGTGATATGTGTCAACTGCCGC	240
	<u>L A I F V V G L V E N V L V I C V N C R</u>	
77	CGCTCAGGCCGGGTGGGGATGCTGAACCTTATACATCCTCAACATGGCCGTCGCGGACCTG	300
	R S G R V G M L N L <u>Y I L N M A V A D L</u>	
97	GGCATCATCCTGTCTCTGCTGTTTGGATGCTGGAGGTCATGCTGGAGTACACCTGGCTC	360
	<u>G I I L S L P V W M L E V M L E Y T W L</u>	
117	TGGGGCAGCTTCTCCTGTCTGCTTCATTCTATTTCTACCTTGCCAACATGTACAGCAGC	420
	W G S F S C R <u>F I H Y F Y L A N M Y S S</u>	
137	ATCTTCTTCTCCTCACCTGCCTCAGCATTGACCGCTACGTCACCCCTCACCAATACCTCTCCC	480
	<u>I F F L T C L S I D R Y V T L T N T S P</u>	
157	TCCTGGCAGCGCCACCAGCACCGAATACGGAGGCCGTGTGCGCAGGCGTCTGGGTCCTC	540
	S W Q R H Q H R I R <u>R A V C A G V W V L</u>	
177	TCCGCCATCATCCCACTGCCTGAGGTGGTACATATCCAGCTGTGATGGCTCCGAGCCC	600
	<u>S A I I P L P E V V H I Q L L D G S E P</u>	
197	ATGTGCCTCTTCTAGCACCTTTTGAACGTACAGCGCCTGGGCCCTGGCAGTGGCCCTG	660
	M C L F L A P F E T Y S A W A L A <u>V A L</u>	
217	TCGGCTACCATCTGGGCTTCTACTGCCTTTCTCTCATCGCAGTGTTAATATCCTG	720
	<u>S A T I L G F L L P F P L I A V F N I L</u>	
237	TCAGCCTGCCGGCTTCGGAGGCAAGGCGAGACAGAGCAGGCGCCACTGTCTGTGATG	780
	S A C R L R R Q G Q T E S R R H C L <u>L M</u>	
257	TGGGCTTACATAGTTGTCTTTGCCATCTGCTGGCTGCCCTACCACGTGACTATGCTGCTG	840
	<u>W A Y I V V F A I C W L P Y H V T M L L</u>	
277	CTCACTCTGCACACAACCCACATCTTCTTCACTGCAACCTGGTTAACTTCTCTACTTC	900
	L T L H T T H I F L H C N L V N F L Y <u>F</u>	
297	TTCTACGAAATCATTGACTGCTTCTCCATGCTACACTGTGTGCGCAACCCCATCCTCTAC	960
	<u>F Y E I I D C F S M L H C V A N P I L Y</u>	
317	AACCTTCTCAGCCCCGAGCTTCCGGGGCCGACTGCTGAGCCTTGTGGTCCGTTACCTTCCC	1020
	N F L S P S F R G R L L S L V V R Y L P	
337	AAGGAGCAGGCCAGGCGAGGCGGTCGAGCCTCCTCTTCATCTTCCACCCAGCACTCC	1080
	K E Q A R A A G G R A S S S S S T Q H S	
357	ATCATCATTACCAAGAGGGCAGCCTGCCGCTGCAGCGGATCTGCACACCCACGCCATCA	1140
	I I I T K E G S L P L Q R I C T P T P S	
377	GAAACGTGCAGGCCTCCTCTCTGCTCCGAACCTCACTTCACTCTGCAATTCCATAG	1200
	E T C R P P L C L R T P H L H S A I P *	395

Fig. 1. The amino acid sequence (single-letter code) of the G10d protein as conceptualized from the G10d genomic and cDNA clones. The putative transmembrane-spanning domains are underlined. Asn residues in the context of N-linked glycosylation consensus sequences are boldfaced. The sequence of G10d has been deposited to the Genbank database (Accession: L09249).

	1						60
RAT G10d	.....M	SVIPSSRPVS	TLAPDNDFRE	IHNWTELLHL	FNQT...FSD	CHMELNENTK	
DOG RDC1	.....	.....	MDLHLFDYAE	PGNFSDISWP	CNSSDCIVVD	TVLCPNMPNK	
RAT AT1	.....	.....	.....	.....MALN	SSAE.DGIKR	IQDDCPKAGR	
RAT BK2	MDTRSSLCPK	TQAVVAVFWG	PGCHLSTCIE	MFNITTQALG	SAHN.GTFSE	V..NCPDTEW	
HUM IL8	.....	.....	...MESDSFE	DFWKGEDLSN	YSYS.STLPP	FLLDAAPCEP	
RAT SOM	.....	.....	....MELTSE	QFNGSQVWIP	SPFDLNGSLG	PSNGSNQTEP	
	61						120
RAT G10d	QVVLFF...VF	...YLAIFVV	GLVENVLVIC	VNCRRSGRVG	MLNLYILNMA	VADLGIILSL	
DOG RDC1	SVLLY...TL	SFIYIFIFVI	GMIANSVVVW	VNIQAKTTGY	DTHCYILNLA	IADLVVVVTI	
RAT AT1	HSYIFV..MI	PTLYSIIFVV	GIFGNSLVVI	VIYFYMKLKT	VASVFLNLNA	LADLCFLLTC	
RAT BK2	WSWLNA..IQ	APFLWVLFLL	AALENIFVLS	VFCLHKTNCT	VAEITYLGNLA	GADLILACGL	
HUM IL8	ESLEINKYFV	VIIYALVFL	SLLGNSLVML	VILYSRVGRS	VTDVYLLNLA	LADLLFALTL	
RAT SOM	YYDMTSNAVL	TFIYFVVCVV	GLCGNTLVII	VILRYAKMKT	ITNIYILNLA	IADELFMLGL	
	121						180
RAT G10d	PVWMLEVMLE	YTWLWGSFSC	RFIHYFYLAN	MYSSIFFLTC	LSIDRYVTLT	NTSPSWQRHQ	
DOG RDC1	PVWVVSIVQH	NQWPMGELTC	KITHLIFSIN	LFSGIFFLTC	MSVDRLYSIT	YFASTSSRRK	
RAT AT1	PLWAVYTAME	YRWPFGNHLC	KIASASVTFN	LYASVFLTL	LSIDRYLAIV	HPMKSRRLRT	
RAT BK2	PEWAITIANN	FDWLFGEVLC	RVVNTMIYMN	LYSSICFLML	VSIDRYLALV	KTMSMGRMRG	
HUM IL8	PIWAASKVNG	..WIFGTFLC	KVVSLLKEVN	FYSGILLAC	ISVDRYLAIV	HATR.TLTQK	
RAT SOM	PFLAMQVAL.	VHWPFKAIC	RVVMTVDGIN	QFTSIFCLTV	MSIDRYLAVV	HPIKSAKWRR	
	181						240
RAT G10d	HRIRRAVCAG	VWVLSAIIPL	PEVVH..IQL	LDGS...EPM	CLFLAPFETY	SAWALAVALS	
DOG RDC1	KVVRRAVCVL	VWLLAFCVSL	PDTYY..LKT	VTSASNNETY	CRSFYPEHSV	KEWLISMELV	
RAT AT1	MLVGKVTCTI	IWLMAGLASL	PAVIHRNV..	YFIENTNITV	CAFHYESRNS	TLPIGLG.LT	
RAT BK2	..NLVGFLPL	SI..TFCTVR	IMQVL..RNNE	MKKFKEVQTE	KKATVVLVAV	LGLEFVLCWFP	
HUM IL8	RYLVKFICLS	IWGLSLLLAL	PVLLFRRT..	V..YSSNVSPA	CYEDM.GNNT	ANWRMLLRIL	
RAT SOM	PRTAKMINVA	VWGVSLVL	PIMIIYAGL..	.RSNQWGRSS	CTINWPGESG	AWYTGF.I.Y	
	241						300
RAT G10d	ATILGFLLPF	PLIAVFNILS	ACRLRRQGOT	ESRRHCL...	.....LMWAY	IVVFAICWLP	
DOG RDC1	SVVLGFAIPF	CVIAVFYCLL	ARASASSDQ	EKQSSRK...	.....IIFS	VVFLVLCWLP	
RAT AT1	KNILGFLFPF	LIILTSYTLI	WKALK.KAYE	IQKNKPRNDD	..IFRIIMAI	VLFFFWSWVP	
RAT BK2	..NLVGFLPL	SI..TFCTVR	IMQVL..RNNE	MKKFKEVQTE	KKATVVLVAV	LGLEFVLCWFP	
HUM IL8	PQSFGFIVPL	LIMLFYGYFT	LRTLF.KAHM	GQKHR.....	..AMRVIFAV	VLIFLLCWLP	
RAT SOM	AFILGFLVPL	TIICLCYLF	IIKVKSSGIR	VGSSKRKKSE	KKVTRMVSI	VAVFIFCWLP	
	301						360
RAT G10d	YHVTMLLLTL	HTTH..IFLHC	NLVNFLYFFY	EIIDCFMSMLH	CVANPILYNF	LSPSFRGRLL	
DOG RDC1	YHVVLDDIF	SILHYIPFTC	QLENFLFTAL	HVTQCLSLVH	CCVNPVLYSF	INRNYRYELM	
RAT AT1	HQIFTFLDVL	IQLGVIHD.C	KISDIVDTAM	PITICIAYFN	NCLNPLFYGF	LGKKFKKYFL	
RAT BK2	FQISTFLDTL	LRLGVLSG.C	WNERAVDIVT	QISSVAYSN	SCLNPLVYVI	VGKRFRKKSR	
HUM IL8	YNLVLLADTL	MRTQVIQETC	ERRNHIDRAL	DATEILGILH	SCLNPLIYAF	IGQKFR...H	
RAT SOM	FYI.....	FNVS SVVAI	SPTPALKGMF	DFVVILTYAN	SCANPILYAF	LSDNFKKSQ	
	361						420
RAT G10d	SLVVRYLPKE	QARAAGGRAS	SSSSTQHSII	ITKEGSLPLQ	RICTPTPSET	CRPPLCLRTP	
DOG RDC1	KAFIFKYSAK	TGLTKLIDAS	RVSETEYSAL	EQNAK.....	.....	.....
RAT AT1	QLLYIYPKA	KS.....H	SSLSTKMSTL	SY..RPSDNMS	SSAKKPASCF	EVE.....	
RAT BK2	EVYQAICRKG	GCMGESVQME	NSMGTLRTSI	SVDRQIHLQ	DWAGNKQ...	.....
HUM IL8	GLLKILAIHG	LISKDSLPKD	SRPSFVGSSS	GHTSTTL...	.....	.....
RAT SOM	NVLCLVKVSG	AEDGERSDSK	QDKSRLNETT	ETQRTLLNGD	LQTSI.....	.....
	421						
RAT G10d	HLHSAIP						

Fig. 2. Alignment of the orphan receptors rat G10d and dog RDC-1, with the rat angiotensin II (AT₁), rat B₂-bradykinin, human interleukin (IL-8), and rat somatostatin receptors. Alignment was achieved using the PILEUP algorithm of the GCG package [23]. Gaps (.) were introduced to maximize the alignment.

corresponding sequences of other members of the family (i.e. TM4 and TM5). This DNA fragment was used subsequently to screen (under conditions of high stringency) 7.5×10^5 recombinants of a rat genomic DNA library. A single clone was isolated and analyzed further. Sequence analysis of a 3 kbp *Hind*III fragment (G10d) identified a translational open reading frame

(orf) encoding a protein of 395 amino acids. The sequence of the PCR product (jh10) was entirely contained within this orf. Fig. 1 shows the conceptualized amino acid sequence and the underlying nucleotide sequence. A termination codon is found in front of, and in frame with, the putative initiator methionine. In addition, the ATG encoding this methionine is embedded

within a consensus sequence for optimal translational initiation. Hydropathy analysis indicated the presence of seven stretches of hydrophobic amino acids predicted to form the transmembrane domains. Structural features of G10d shared by other members of the gene family include the presence of *N*-linked glycosylation consensus sequences (Asn-Xaa-Ser/Thr: Asn-24 and Asn-33) near the N-terminus, cysteine residues in the putative exofacial loops, as well as the presence of a number of serine or threonine residues in the C-terminal tail that might serve as potential sites of phosphorylation. The only unusual feature of the G10d sequence is that a highly conserved leucine found in TM2 is replaced by a methionine residue.

A search (FASTA [17]) of the Genbank (release #74) database reveals that the sequence of G10d is most similar to receptors for the peptides angiotensin II [11], bradykinin [18], somatostatin [19], interleukin-8 [20], fMLF [21], and C5a [22]. However, the highest degree of similarity was found between G10d and the orphan (i.e. ligand unknown) receptor, RDC-1 (33% identity). Fig. 2 shows a multiple alignment of the orphan receptors, G10d and RDC-1, with receptors for angiotensin II (AT₁), bradykinin, interleukin-8, and somatostatin. Most of the similarity between these receptors lies within the putative transmembrane domains. Very recently, we became aware of a Genbank release (accession number L04672, 3 Dec. 1992) indicating that Eva and Sprengel have identified what is probably the same orf.

Southern blot analysis of restriction-digested rat genomic DNA using a radiolabelled G10d DNA fragment containing the entire coding region showed hybridization to 9 kbp *Bam*HI, 5.5 kbp *Eco*RI, and 3 kbp *Hind*III genomic fragments (Fig. 3). The *Hind*III fragment is consistent with that obtained in the isolation of the genomic clone (λ G10d). Amplification (by PCR) of the coding region of G10d (using cDNA synthesized from rat liver poly(A)⁺ RNA) and subsequent sequencing revealed that the cDNA and genomic sequences were entirely contiguous. Taken together, these data suggest that the rat genome contains a single copy, intronless (as regards the translational orf) gene encoding the G10d protein.

Northern blot analyses were performed to determine the tissue distribution of G10d mRNA (Fig. 4). G10d mRNA accumulation was widely and unevenly distributed in the adult rat. Hybridization was most prominent in extracts of lung, liver, and adrenal. G10d mRNA accumulation was detected also in kidney, aorta, heart, spinal cord, gut, and testes. Very little hybridization was detected in extracts of discrete regions of the rat brain,

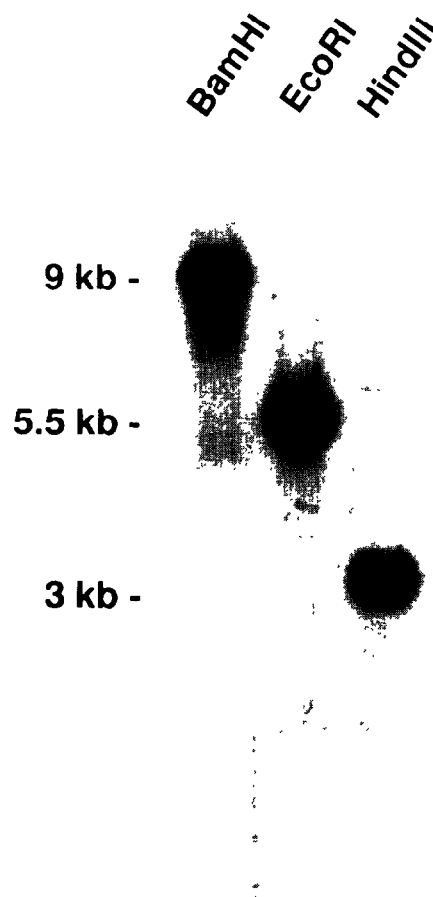
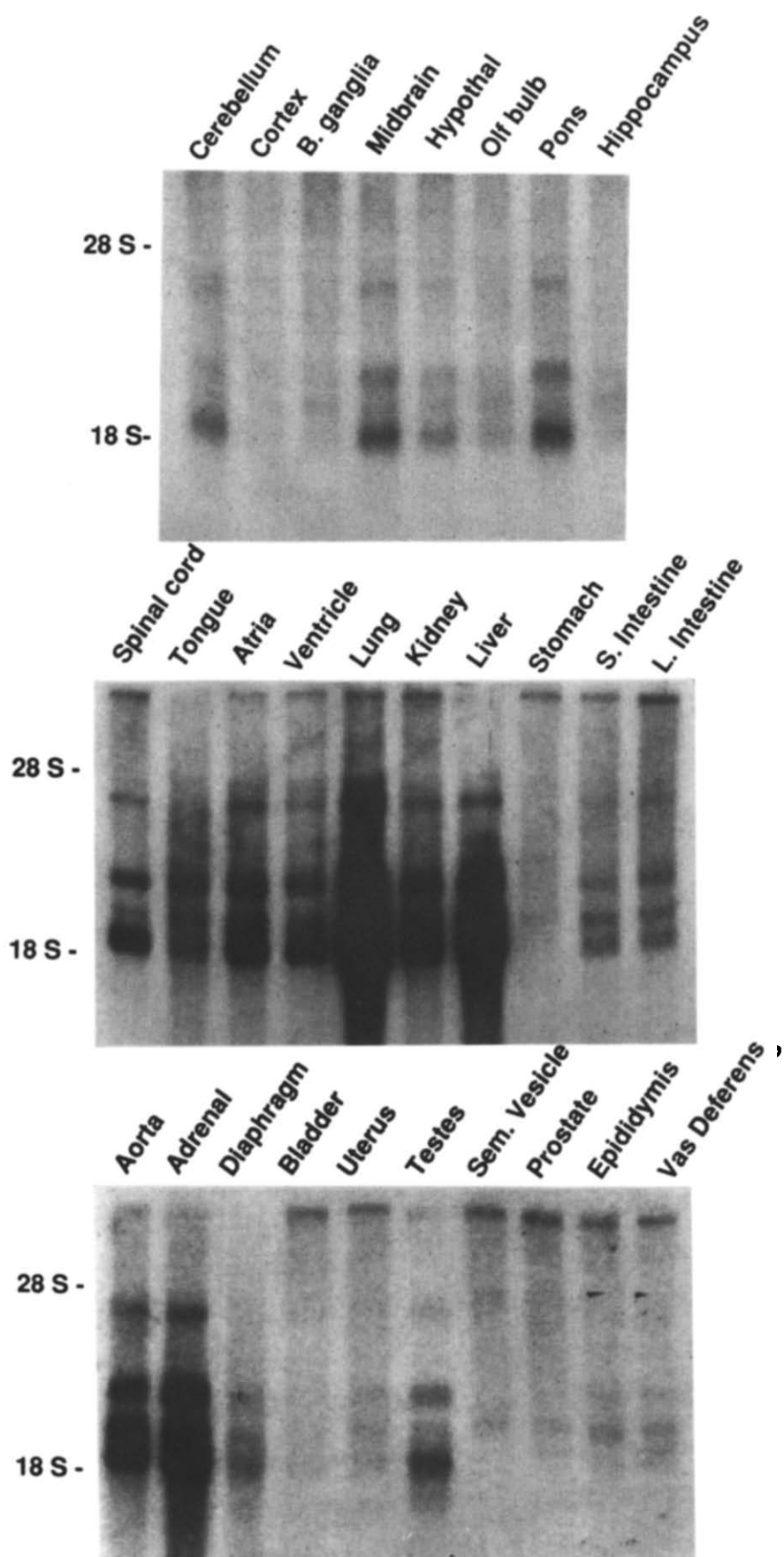


Fig. 3. Southern blot analysis of restriction endonuclease-digested rat genomic DNA. Sprague-Dawley rat genomic DNA (15 μ g) was digested completely with *Bam*HI, *Eco*RI and *Hind*III and then subjected to Southern blot analysis as described in section 2. The individual band sizes are indicated and were estimated by comparison to the BRL 1-kbp ladder.

although some signal was detected in midbrain and pons. In the tissue extracts where G10d mRNA was detected, multiple size transcripts (2.2, 2.4, 2.8, 4.3, and 7.5 kb) were present. The hybridization and wash conditions were identical for the Northern and Southern analysis, and therefore it is likely that the RNA species detected arise from a single loci of the rat genome. Since the G10d gene is without introns within the translational orf, it is likely also that the differences in the sizes of the mRNAs detected is due to multiple polyadenylation sites along the G10d gene.

To characterize the nature of the G10d protein, the coding region cDNA was transiently expressed in *COS-1* cells. Membranes from transfected cells were prepared and a number of radiolabelled ligands were tested for

Fig. 4. G10d mRNA accumulation throughout the rat. Poly(A)⁺-selected RNA from rat tissue (4 μ g from brain extracts; 5 μ g from all others) was subjected to Northern analysis as described in section 2. All RNA was from adult animals, except tongue RNA was from 1-day-old animals. The positions of the migration of 18 S and 28 S ribosomal RNA are shown.



specific binding. No significant difference in binding to transfected membranes compared to untransfected membranes was detected with [125 I]angiotensin II, [3 H]Dup 753 (losartan, an angiotensin II receptor antagonist), [3 H]naloxone, [3 H]leukotriene C4, [3 H]leukotriene D4, [3 H]bradykinin, [125 I]galanin, or [3 H]WEB2086 (a platelet-activating factor receptor antagonist). In addition, *Xenopus laevis* oocytes injected with in vitro transcribed (m)RNA prepared from G10d did not respond (Ca^{2+} -activated Cl^- current) to application of angiotensin II, bradykinin, IL-8, MCAF, MIP-1 α , MIP-1 β , RANTES, TNF- α , ATP, leukotriene C4 or leukotriene D4.

In summary, we have isolated the gene and cDNA for a novel member of the GCR superfamily. The encoded protein is most similar to a set of receptors that are activated by peptide ligands. The mRNA for G10d accumulates in a wide variety of peripheral tissues in the adult rat with predominate expression in lung, liver, and adrenal gland. While we have failed to date to determine the nature of the ligand that binds to, and activates, this putative receptor, we speculate that the G10d protein is a receptor for a peptide ligand.

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