

## Cloning of a D-type cyclin from murine erythroleukemia cells

(CYL2 cDNA/cell cycle)

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**ABSTRACT** We report the complete coding sequence of a cDNA, designated CYL2, derived from a murine erythroleukemia cell library. CYL2 is considered to encode a D-type cyclin because (i) there is cross hybridization with CYL1 (a murine homolog of human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>) and the encoded protein has 64% amino acid sequence identity with CYL1 and (ii) murine erythroleukemia cell-derived CYL2 contains an amino acid sequence identical to that previously reported for the C-terminal portion of a partially sequenced CYL2. Transcripts of murine erythroleukemia cell CYL2 undergo alternative polyadenylation like that of human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>. A major 6.5-kilobase CYL2 transcript changes its expression during the cell cycle with a broad peak through G<sub>1</sub> and S phases and a decrease in G<sub>2</sub>/M phases. The present findings suggest that CYL2 plays a role in the G<sub>1</sub> to S phase progression.

A group of proteins that appear to be involved in regulating cell cycle progression, namely, the cyclins and the cyclin-associated p34<sup>cdc2/CDC28</sup>, are highly conserved among eukaryotes from yeast to human (1–4). These protein complexes, with serine/threonine kinase activity, play a critical role at the major regulatory points in cell cycle progression, the G<sub>1</sub> to S and G<sub>2</sub> to M phase transitions in the cell cycle. The *cdc2/CDC28* gene, conserved among the eukaryotes tested to date, encodes the kinase catalytic subunit (5–8). Association of the *cdc2/CDC28* protein with regulatory subunits known as cyclins activates the kinase. Cyclins were originally discovered in marine invertebrates as proteins that fluctuate in expression during cell division (9). B-type cyclins have been defined as mitotic cyclins that may trigger mitosis by activating the *cdc2/CDC28* catalytic subunit (10–13). The function of A-type cyclins is less well understood, but it has been proposed (14–16) that A-type cyclins play a role at an earlier stage of the cell cycle, perhaps during S phase. In the budding yeast CLN-type cyclins (CLN1, CLN2, and CLN3) are required for G<sub>1</sub> to S phase progression (17–19). CLN1 and CLN2 mRNA levels fluctuate during the cell cycle, peaking in late G<sub>1</sub> phase. CLN2 protein was shown to associate with p34<sup>CDC28</sup> (20), suggesting that the kinase activity activated by CLN proteins regulates progression through the G<sub>1</sub> phase start point for commitment to initiate DNA replication (S phase) (21).

Human genes for cyclins C, D, and E have been cloned that rescue mutant yeast deficient in CLN functions (22–24). These are putative mammalian G<sub>1</sub> cyclins. *PRAD1* (25) was cloned as a gene rearranged in a parathyroid tumor and is identical to human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>. Cyclin-like genes (CYL1, CYL2, and CYL3) have been isolated from murine macrophages induced with colony-stimulating factor 1 (26), and CYL1 is a murine counterpart to human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>. These putative mammalian G<sub>1</sub> cyclins, especially D-type cyclin,

could be important in regulating G<sub>1</sub> cell cycle progression, in governing S-phase commitment to differentiation, or in tumorigenesis (27, 28). We now report the isolation and nucleotide sequence of a D-type cyclin, designated CYL2,† from murine erythroleukemia cells (MELCs). The observed fluctuation in level of CYL2 mRNA during the cell cycle suggests a role in commitment to the G<sub>1</sub> to S phase transition.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Cell Cultures.** DS19/Sc9 MELCs, derived from 745A cells (29), were maintained in  $\alpha$ -modified minimal essential medium supplemented with 10% (vol/vol) fetal calf serum.

**Isolation of cDNA Clones.** A cDNA library was prepared in  $\lambda$ ZAP (Stratagene) from an uninduced logarithmic-phase culture of DS19/Sc9 cells as described (30). The library contains oligo(dT)-primed cDNAs in a unique *EcoRI* site of the vector. Approximately a million recombinant plaques were screened with the entire coding region of CYL1 (murine cyclin D<sub>1</sub>) cDNA (a generous gift from C. J. Sherr, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, TN) as a radiolabeled probe. Hybridization was performed in 5 $\times$  SSPE (1 $\times$  SSPE is 0.18 M NaCl/10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.4/1 mM EDTA) containing 5 $\times$  Denhardt's solution, 10% (wt/vol) dextran sulfate, and denatured salmon sperm DNA (0.1 mg/ml) at 58°C, and filters were washed with 1 $\times$  SSPE/0.1% SDS at 48°C. Isolated  $\lambda$  phages were converted to pBluescript plasmids (Stratagene) according to the manufacturer's instruction. Nucleotide sequences were obtained by the dideoxynucleotide chain-termination method (31) using double-strand DNA templates. Sequences in GenBank were searched (November 12, 1991) for homology with the FASTA program (32).

**Northern Blot Analysis.** Poly(A)<sup>+</sup> RNA was isolated from cells by using a FastTrack mRNA isolation kit (Invitrogen, San Diego). Total RNA was extracted by acid guanidinium thiocyanate/phenol/chloroform extraction (33). About 4  $\mu$ g of poly(A)<sup>+</sup> RNA or 10  $\mu$ g of total RNA was electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose/formaldehyde gels, transferred to nitrocellulose, and hybridized with randomly primed [ $\alpha$ -<sup>32</sup>P]dCTP radiolabeled probe in 0.1 M Pipes, pH 6.8/0.65 M NaCl/5 mM EDTA/0.1% SDS/5 $\times$  Denhardt's solution/50% (vol/vol) formamide/denatured salmon sperm DNA (0.1 mg/ml)/10% dextran sulfate at 42°C. Filters were then washed with 1 $\times$  standard saline citrate (SSC)/0.1% SDS at 65°C. After exposure to Kodak XAR films, filters were rinsed twice with distilled water at 95°C and hybridized with another probe.

**Cell Cycle Synchronization.** Approximately 4–6  $\times$  10<sup>8</sup> DS19/Sc9 cells in logarithmic-phase growth were loaded onto a Beckman JE-6B elutriation rotor as described (34), and 13 fractions were elutriated by stepwise increases in the

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Abbreviation: MELC, murine erythroleukemia cell.

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†The sequence reported in this paper has been deposited in the GenBank data base (accession no. M83749).



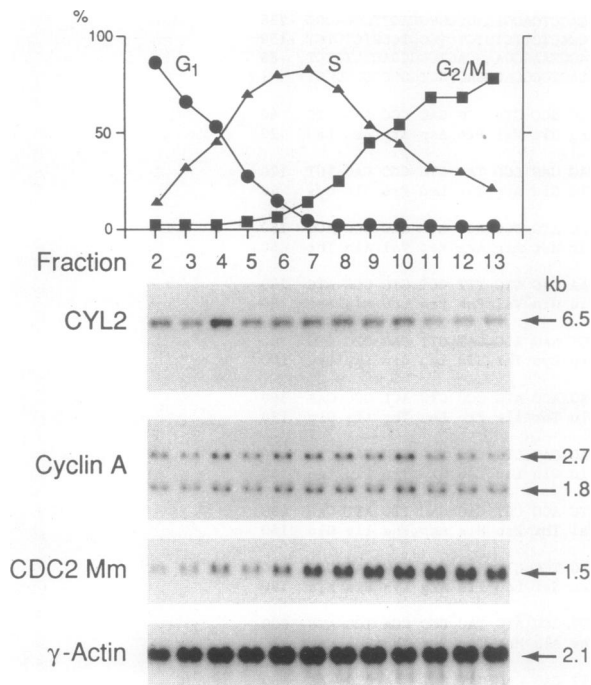


FIG. 3. Cell-cycle-dependent expression of CYL2, cyclin A, and CDC2Mm. DS19-Sc9 MELCs were fractionated by centrifugal elutriation and the nuclear DNA content of each fraction was analyzed by flow cytometry. (Upper) Percentages of cells in G<sub>1</sub> (●), S (▲), and G<sub>2</sub>/M (■) phases. (Lower) Total RNA (10 μg) isolated from each fraction was separated by electrophoresis and analyzed on a Northern blot. The calculated sizes of the transcripts are shown on the right.

6.5-kb RNA in HeLa cells under the identical condition (data not shown).

**Cell-Cycle-Dependent Expression of CYL2.** To evaluate the expression of murine CYL2 during the cell cycle, MELCs were fractionated by centrifugal elutriation. Fig. 3 shows the cell cycle distribution (by DNA content) of cells in each fraction. Expression of the major 6.5-kb CYL2 transcript fluctuated during the cell cycle. There is a broad elevation of expression during G<sub>1</sub> and S phases and a decrease in G<sub>2</sub>/M phase. Northern blot analysis with human cyclin A cDNA (35) as a probe showed two transcripts, 2.7 kb and 1.8 kb, in MELCs. The expression of both transcripts varied through the cell cycle with a peak in S phase. Cyclin A mRNA was most abundant in S, decreased in G<sub>2</sub>/M, and further decreased in G<sub>1</sub> to 40% of the peak value in S. This observation was reproduced in three experiments.

The expression of *CDC2Mm*, which encodes the kinase catalytic subunit (36, 37), forms a striking contrast with that of CYL2. *CDC2Mm* mRNA accumulates predominantly in G<sub>2</sub>/M phase, which is consistent with the observation in HeLa cells (38).

## DISCUSSION

We report the complete coding sequence of a D-type cyclin cDNA, CYL2, isolated from MELCs. The nucleotide sequence is 67% homologous to murine CYL1, now recognized as the murine counterpart of human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>. The C terminus part of the predicted amino acid sequence from Met-54 was found to be identical to the partial sequence that was reported as CYL2 by Matsushime *et al.* (26). The entire predicted sequence of 289 amino acids of CYL2 is 64% homologous to the 292-residue CYL1 sequence (26) (Fig. 4). As shown for CYL1 (26), the sequence of CYL2 is not homologous to that found in the N-terminal regions of A- and B-type cyclins and shown to facilitate ubiquitin-dependent degradation (39). CYL2 contains no apparent PEST (Pro-Glu-Ser-Thr) sequences, which were identified in rapidly degraded proteins (40) and have been found in the C-terminal regions of yeast CLN proteins (17) and human cyclins C, D<sub>1</sub>, and E (23).

The highest homology of CYL2 with other cyclins is found at amino acids 54–139, which corresponds to the N-terminal half of the evolutionarily conserved cyclin box identified in a comparison of yeast CLN cyclins with A- and B-type cyclins (17). Table 1 shows the percent identity of amino acids 54–139 of CYL2 with the corresponding regions in several other cyclins. Clearly the highest homology in this region of CYL2 is with the other murine CYL proteins, CYL1 and CYL3, and with cyclin D<sub>1</sub>, the human counterpart of CYL1, indicating that CYL2 is a member of D-type cyclins. There is much less homology with the other cyclins (Table 1), although the homology is greater with human cyclins A, B, and E than with yeast G<sub>1</sub> cyclins, CLN1, CLN2, CLN3, and *puc1*<sup>+</sup> (41).

During the screening process we did not isolate any clones identical to CYL1. Further, we did not detect CYL1 mRNA or protein in MELCs by Northern blot and immunoblot analyses using a N-terminus-specific cyclin D<sub>1</sub> antiserum (data not shown). Matsushime *et al.* (26) report that CYL1 mRNA is expressed in proliferating macrophages, but not in interleukin (IL) 2-dependent T-lymphoid, IL-7-dependent early pre-B-lymphoid, or IL-3-dependent myeloid cell lines. CYL2 mRNA was detected, however, in all four of these cell lines. CYL2 cDNA detects a 6.5-kb mRNA in human promyelocytic leukemia HL-60 cells (Fig. 2) but not in HeLa cells. These results suggest tissue-specific expression of both CYL1 and CYL2. Interestingly, CYL2 mRNA was found in all the hematopoietic cell lines tested, including erythroid, myeloid, and lymphoid cells, suggesting that CYL2 may be the G<sub>1</sub> cyclin active in hematopoietic cells.

CYL2 mRNA oscillates during the cell cycle in MELCs, increasing broadly in G<sub>1</sub> and S and decreasing in G<sub>2</sub>/M phases. This pattern is consistent with a role for CYL2 in cell cycle progression in the G<sub>1</sub> and S phases. The oscillation of CYL2 during the cell cycle differs from the pattern reported for human cyclin D<sub>1</sub> (25). PRAD1 mRNA (identical to human cyclin D<sub>1</sub>) displays in HeLa cells a broad elevation after S phase, a pattern resembling that of B-type cyclin. CYL1 is

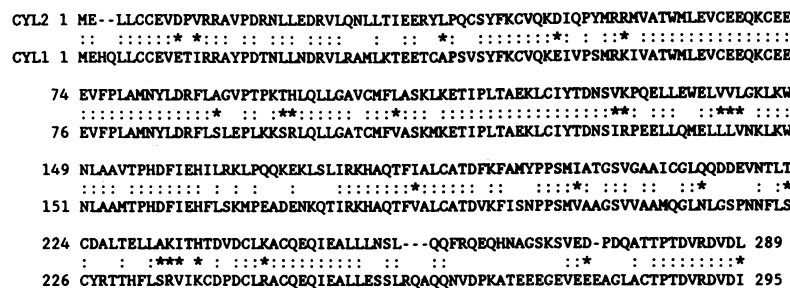


FIG. 4. Sequence comparison between murine CYL2 and CYL1 (26). Dots indicate identical amino acids and asterisks show conservative substitutions.

Table 1. Homology between murine CYL2, amino acids 54–139, and the most homologous region of other cyclins

	CYL1	humD <sub>1</sub>	CYL3	humA	humB	humC	humE	CLN1	CLN2	CLN3	puc1
Residue positions	72–157	72–157	17–102	226–311	217–302	75–161	145–231	130–220	133–223	122–210	128–213
% identity	80	80	73	37	29	21	37	13	15	14	23

CYL1, murine CYL1 (26); humD<sub>1</sub>, human cyclin D<sub>1</sub> (22, 25); CYL3, murine CYL3, partial sequence of 236 amino acids (26); humA, human cyclin A (35); humB, human cyclin B (12); humC, human cyclin C (23); humE, human cyclin E (23, 24); CLN1 and CLN2, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CLN1 and CLN2 (17); CLN3, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* CLN3 (WHI1) (19); puc1, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* puc1<sup>+</sup> (41).

induced late in G<sub>1</sub> in murine macrophages exposed to colony-stimulating factor 1 (CSF-1), and its level remains unchanged throughout subsequent cell cycles in the presence of CSF-1 (26).

Thus the present studies identifying CYL2 are consistent with it playing a role in regulation of G<sub>1</sub> to S transition. It remains to be determined whether CYL2 protein can activate p34<sup>cdc2</sup> kinase or a closely related catalytic subunit by its association, in a fashion analogous to A-, B-, and CLN-type cyclins.

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