

**GENE ORGANIZATION AND EXPRESSION  
OF  
CHLOROPLAST DNA  
FROM  
A LIVERWORT, *MARCHANTIA POLYMORPHA***

**TAKAYUKI KOHCHI**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

bp	base pair
BSA	bovine serum albumin
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
kb	kilobase
kDa	kilodalton
MOPS	3-(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid
$M_r$	molecular weight
nt	nucleotide
ORF	open reading frame
PIPES	piperazine-N,N'-bis(2-ethanesulfonic acid)
Pu	purine nucleotide
Py	pyrimidine nucleotide
RNA	ribonucleic acid
mRNA	messenger RNA
rRNA	ribosomal RNA
tRNA	transfer RNA
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulfate
<u>A. nidulans</u>	<u>Anacystis nidulans</u>
<u>As. nidulans</u>	<u>Aspergillus nidulans</u>
<u>Az. vinelandii</u>	<u>Azotobacter vinelandii</u>
<u>Az. chroococcum</u>	<u>Azotobacter chroococcum</u>
<u>C. reinhardtii</u>	<u>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</u>
<u>Cy. paradoxa</u>	<u>Cyanophora paradoxa</u>
<u>E. coli</u>	<u>Escherichia coli</u>
<u>Eu. gracilis</u>	<u>Euglena gracilis</u>
<u>L. tarentolae</u>	<u>Leishmania tarentolae</u>
<u>M. polymorpha</u>	<u>Marchantia polymorpha</u>
<u>N. tabacum</u>	<u>Nicotiana tabacum</u>
<u>P. sativum</u>	<u>Pisum sativum</u>
<u>R. capsulata</u>	<u>Rhodopseudomonas capsulata</u>
<u>S. typhimurium</u>	<u>Salmonella typhimurium</u>

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## INTRODUCTION

Chloroplasts are photosynthetic organelles which have their own genetic system. The non-Mendelian inheritance of chloroplast characters suggested that there is cytoplasmic transmission of the genetic information. Sager & Ishida (1963) first demonstrated that C. reinhardtii chloroplasts contain DNA molecules distinct from those of the nuclear genome. Chloroplast genomes are double-stranded, circular DNA molecules, ranging 120-160 kb in size (depending on the species). Chloroplast DNA has a set of large inverted repeat sequences (IR) separated by a large single-copy (LSC) region and a small single-copy (SSC) region. There are now several reports dealing with the physical structure of chloroplast DNA. Expression of chloroplast genome is genetically controlled, not only by their own genes but also by nuclear genes. Nuclear-encode proteins are synthesized in cytoplasm as precursor molecules with transit sequences and then transported into chloroplast as processed molecules. The chloroplast-encoded proteins are expressed within the chloroplasts via their own machinery, although the machinery is also composed partly of nuclear-encode proteins (Ellis, 1981; Whitfeld & Bottomley, 1983; Crouse et al., 1985; Palmer, 1985).

The author has focused on the chloroplast gene organization of a liverwort, M. polymorpha, a bryophyte, for several reasons. (i) Established cell cultures are available that are highly active in photosynthesis (Ohta et al., 1977). (ii) The cells are haploid ( $n = 9$ ; Ono, 1976), and can be reversibly converted into protoplasts (Ono et al., 1979), which makes them suitable for experiments in genetics and cell biology. (iii) Chloroplast DNA and RNA molecules can be highly purified from cultured cells (Ohyama et al., 1982; Ohyama et al., 1983; Yamano et al., 1984, 1985). (iv) Chloroplast DNA is about 120 kb long (Ohyama et al., 1983), one of the smallest chloroplast genomes so far examined (Palmer, 1985). A liverwort, M. polymorpha, is a model organism to study chloroplast genetic system.

Considerable progress has been made in understanding molecular

aspect of chloroplast genetic system. Studies on DNA synthesis in liverwort chloroplast were performed by Dr. Akira Tanaka (Tanaka, A., PhD thesis, 1984). Construction of the physical map and studies on chloroplast small RNAs (4.5S rRNA, 5S rRNA, and tRNA(Ser) in liverwort chloroplasts were performed by Dr. Yosiaki Yamano (Yamano, Y., PhD thesis, 1985). Studies on the transcriptional promoters and the structural analysis of the chloroplast genome were by Dr. Hideya Fukuzawa (Fukuzawa, H., PhD thesis, 1986).

### The aim of this study

To improve our understanding of the chloroplast genetic system, the best strategies are to determine the entire nucleotide sequence of the chloroplast DNA and to deduce the gene organization. Although the nucleotide sequences of many chloroplast genes have been determined, the entire gene organization of chloroplast genome had not been elucidated for any species of plants. In this study, entire gene organization of chloroplast genome in liverwort is clarified (Chapter I). Based on the deduced gene organization, some unique feature and problem have arisen about gene expression, especially RNA processing. A presence of divergently overlapping transcript in chloroplasts and its control are shown (Chapter II). The processing order of polycistronic transcript containing two introns is analyzed for ORF203-rps12' region as an example (Chapter III). It had been shown that the ribosomal protein S12 gene in chloroplast is trans-split (Fukuzawa et al., 1986). The author analyzed transcripts of the S12 gene and deduced possible mechanism of trans-splicing depending on the secondary structure of introns (Chapter IV). These studies described above will give us the basic information on the genetic system and molecular evolution in chloroplasts.

## CHAPTER I Gene organization of the liverwort chloroplast genome

### INTRODUCTION

Chloroplasts are the photosynthetic organelles in green plants and contain their own unique DNA. Genetic control of chloroplasts is performed not only by their own genes, but also by the nuclear-encoded genes. The chloroplast genes are expressed by transcription-translation machinery in chloroplasts.

In chapter I-1, the author focuses genetic system of chloroplasts for their gene expression. The nucleotide sequences of the chloroplast DNA in a liverwort, M. polymorpha, was determined to clarify the genetic contribution of chloroplast genome in plant cells.

In chapter I-2, the author describes genes and their characteristics deduced from the complete nucleotide sequence of the inverted repeat (IR) and small single copy (SSC) regions in the liverwort M. polymorpha chloroplast genome. The large inverted repeat sequences are identical by mutation analysis of C. reinhardii chloroplast DNA (Myers et al., 1982). In the SSC region, the leucine tRNA gene only has been mapped in land plants (Bergmann et al., 1984; Kato et al., 1985).

### I-1 Structure and organization of Marchantia polymorpha chloroplast genome — Cloning and gene identification

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

##### Cells and culture medium for M. polymorpha

Callus tissue of the liverwort M. polymorpha was originally derived from female gemma cultures (Ono, 1973). Cells were grown in liquid medium of 1M51C (Gamborg et al., 1968) on a gyratory shaker (150 rpm) under continuous illumination (3,000 lux). Cells from 7- to 10-day-old cultures were used for preparation of chloroplasts and its DNA (Ohyama et al., 1982).

##### Phages, plasmids, bacterial strains, and biochemicals

The fragments of liverwort chloroplast DNA were cloned into E. coli vectors of plasmids pBR322, pKC7, pUC13, pUC18, and pUC19. Phages M13mp8, M13mp9, M13mp10, MP13mp11, M13mp18, and M13mp19 were used for the cloning and sequencing of fragments with their



Table 1  
Clones and chloroplast DNA fragments used for DNA sequencing

Clones	Chloroplast DNA fragments	Vectors	Position		Clones	Chloroplast DNA fragments	Vectors	Position	
			from	to				from	to
pMP389	Bg 4	pKC7	117691	6548	pMP102	Bc22	pUC18*	98780	99915
pMP589	Bg16	pKC7	6549	8772	pMP101	Bc27	pUC18*	99916	100470
pMp594	Dg18	pKC7	8773	10405	pMP103	Bc15	pUC18*	100471	104291
pMP561	Bg17	pKC7	34137	35861					
pMP591	Bg 9	pKC7	35918	40988	pMP151	C115	pUC18*	103976	105049
pMP314	Bg14	pKC7	44526	47294	pMP152	C111	pUC18*	105050	107462
pMP593	Bg10	pKC7	51612	55380					
pMP452	Bg 8	pKC7	55381	61569	pMPX520	Xh 7	pUCX8	129	6196
pMP713	Dg13	pUC18*	61570	64474	pMPX501	Xh 8	pUCX8	6197	12217
pMP310	Dg 5	pKC7	65514	73011					
pMP376	Bg 3	pKC7	73012	84425	pMP603	Ild16b(1R <sub>B</sub> )	pBR322	83734	86627
pMP321	Bg21b	pKC7	85138	85860	pMP699	Ild 9	pUC18*	106418	110391
pMP318	Bg 7	pKC7	85861	92236	pMP802	Ild16a(1R <sub>A</sub> )	pBR322	115489	118382
pMP323	Dg 6	pKC7	109353	116255					
					pMP781	Bg 1-Ps 1	pUC13**	10824	12389
pMP238	Ba11	pBR322	119934	1135	pMPX601	Xh 2-Kp 3	pUCX8	12217	17178
pMP222	Ba 9	pBR322	29633	32566	pMP801	Ps 4-Ba 1	pUC13**	28629	29632
pMP209	Ba12	pBR322	32567	34489	pMP721	Bg 2-Ps 2	pBR322	94522	97652
pMP217	Ba13	pBR322	34490	35740		Ps 1-Bg 2		108989	109352
pMP220	Ba 8	pBR322	35741	39778	pMP171	Ps 5-Bc26	pUC18	98118	98779
pMP227	Ba 7	pBR322	39779	44648	pMP172	Cl 3-Ps 5	pUC18	107463	108988
pMP228	Ba 5	pBR322	47156	57496	pMP173	Bc18-Xb 4	pUC18	104292	105104
pMP206	Ba 6	pBR322	76398	82182					
pMP055	Ba 4	pBR322	82183	96252	pMPm179	A1179	M13mp18	97648	97866
					pMPm120	A1120	M13mp18	98477	98815
pMP768	Ps 8	pBR322	12390	18106	pMPm 46	A1 46	M13mp18	99693	100278
pMP773	Ps 7	pBR322	18107	23831					
pMP795	Ps10	pBR322	23832	28628					
pMP708	Ps 9	pBR322	57087	62372					
pMP727	Ps 6	pBR322	62373	69319					
pMP710	Ps11	pBR322	69809	73525					
pMP703	Ps17	pBR322	97653	98117					

The clones pMP pMPm indicate recombinant plasmid and M13 phage, respectively. The restricted fragments obtained with BglII, BamHI, PstI, BclII, ClaI, XhoI, XbaI, and AluI restriction endonucleases are shown as Bg, Ba, Ps, Cl, Xh, Xb and Al, respectively. Transformation has been done with E. coli strain HB101. Single and double asterisks indicate host strain of E. coli JM109 and JM105, respectively. The 1st position number was given to the 1st nucleotide of the LSC region in the junction (J<sub>LA</sub>, see Fig. 2) and the numbering proceeds counterclockwise to the last nucleotide of IR<sub>A</sub> region.

bacterial hosts, E. coli strains JM105 and JM109.

### Nucleotide sequencing

Nucleotide sequences were determined for chloroplast DNA fragments subcloned from the recombinant DNA plasmids described above. Occasionally, chloroplast DNA fragments were directly cloned from chloroplast DNA into M13mp18 and M13mp19 vectors (Table 1). Nucleotide sequencing was done as follows. (i) Fragments of chloroplast DNA cloned in pBR322 or pKC7 were prepared by sonication (Messing et al., 1981) and treated with nuclease P1 followed by DNA polymerase (Klenow fragment) to form blunt ends. Fragments larger than 600 bp were collected by electrophoresis through disc agarose gels, ligated into M13mp18 or M13mp19 vectors, cut at the HincII site, and introduced into cells of E. coli strain JM109 treated with calcium. M13 phages containing chloroplast fragments were identified by plaque hybridization with chloroplast DNA probes. Single-stranded DNA of M13 phages, precipitated by the polyethyleneglycol method, was used for sequencing of nucleotides by the dideoxy-chain termination technique (Sanger et al., 1977a). At times, chloroplast DNA fragments recovered from recombinant DNA were self-ligated to form circular molecules and sonicated as described above. Enzymatically selected chloroplast fragments were used instead of shotgun-clones to close gaps. (ii) Selected chloroplast DNA fragments were directly cloned into appropriate cloning sites of the pUC18 or pUC19 vector. Deletion mutants were obtained as described by Yanisch-Perron et al. (1985). DNA from these deletion mutants was sequenced by the procedures described above. With small DNA fragments, double-stranded DNA of M13mp18 or M13mp19 was used instead of a pUC vector to generate the deletion mutants.

### Nomenclature of chloroplast genes

The nomenclature for the chloroplast genes identified followed that used in the review article of Crouse et al. (1985). Unidentified open reading frames (ORFs) are shown as ORF(n) depending on the number (n) of amino acids in the ORFs. We tentatively designated chloroplast ORFs with homology to those found in human mitochondria as ndh, ORFs with homology to Fe-proteins as frx, inner membrane permease protein found in E. coli as mbp, initiation factor 1 as infA, and a functionally unidentified protein expressed in E. coli as secX (X gene, Cerretti et al., 1983), protein of which has been identified as a ribosomal protein of the 50S subunit (Wada & Sako, 1987). The symbol lhca was given to the ORF with much homology to antenna proteins of the light harvesting complex (LHC) found in photosynthetic bacteria.

## RESULTS

### Physical maps of chloroplast DNA

Chloroplast DNA was prepared from purified chloroplasts from cell suspensions of M. polymorpha cultures (Ohshima et al., 1982). Physical

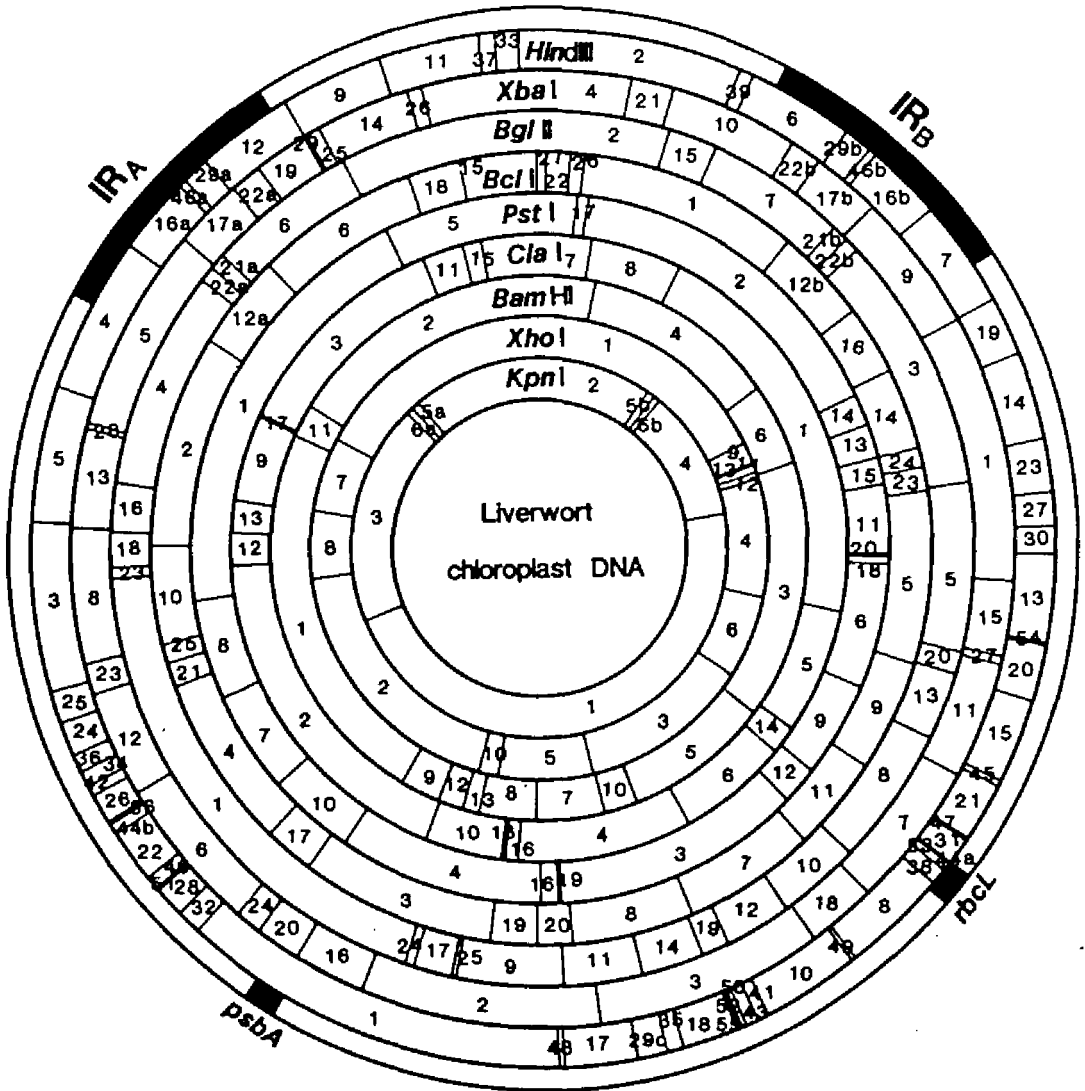


Fig. 1. Physical map of liverwort chloroplast DNA.

$IR_A$  and  $IR_B$  indicate a set of large inverted repeats. The genes *rbcl* and *psbA* are given as landmarks on the liverwort chloroplast genome. Restriction fragments are numbered in decreasing size; symbols a, b, and c are given to fragments of the same size.

maps of the DNA previously constructed with the restriction endonucleases BamHI, SmaI, KpnI, and XhoI showed it to be a circular molecule of about 121.0 kb (Ohyama et al., 1983; Umesono et al., 1984). Physical maps constructed for DNA cloning and sequencing coincided well with those obtained from the complete nucleotide sequence (Fig. 1).

A set of large inverted repeats predicts the presence of two isomeric molecules in the chloroplast DNA formed by recombination across the repeated sequences (Palmer, 1985). A physical map of one of the isomeric molecules was shown although two isomeric molecules were detected by digestion with the restriction endonuclease PstI, which does not cleave within the large inverted repeat (IR) regions. The nucleotide sequence was determined using independent clones from each IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub> region. Nucleotide sequences were identical in the IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub> regions (Fig. 1).

#### Gene detection strategy for protein coding sequence

Significant ORFs were identified with use of the universal codon table with the initiation codons ATG or GTG and with consideration that the ORFs are framed as long as possible (Crick, 1966a). ORFs can be considered to have introns if there are a 5'-consensus sequence (GTGPyG) and 3'-consensus secondary structure of introns in their coding regions. Proteins homologous to ORFs satisfying these conditions were found in a search by a FACOM M-160 computer (National Institute of Genetics, Mishima, Japan) with a program by Wilbur & Lipman (1983) from an NBRF (Release 8 - 12) database. Extensive computer analysis of the complete nucleotide sequence was done on a FACOM M-380 computer (Institute of Chemical Research, Kyoto University) and FACOM M-382 (Data Processing Center, Kyoto University) using the program IDEAS and on a personal computer PC-9801 (NEC Corp.) with the Hitachi DNASIS program (Hitachi SK. Ltd.).

The entire gene organization and the information obtained from it are shown in Fig. 2 and Tables 2, 3, and 4. The numbering of the

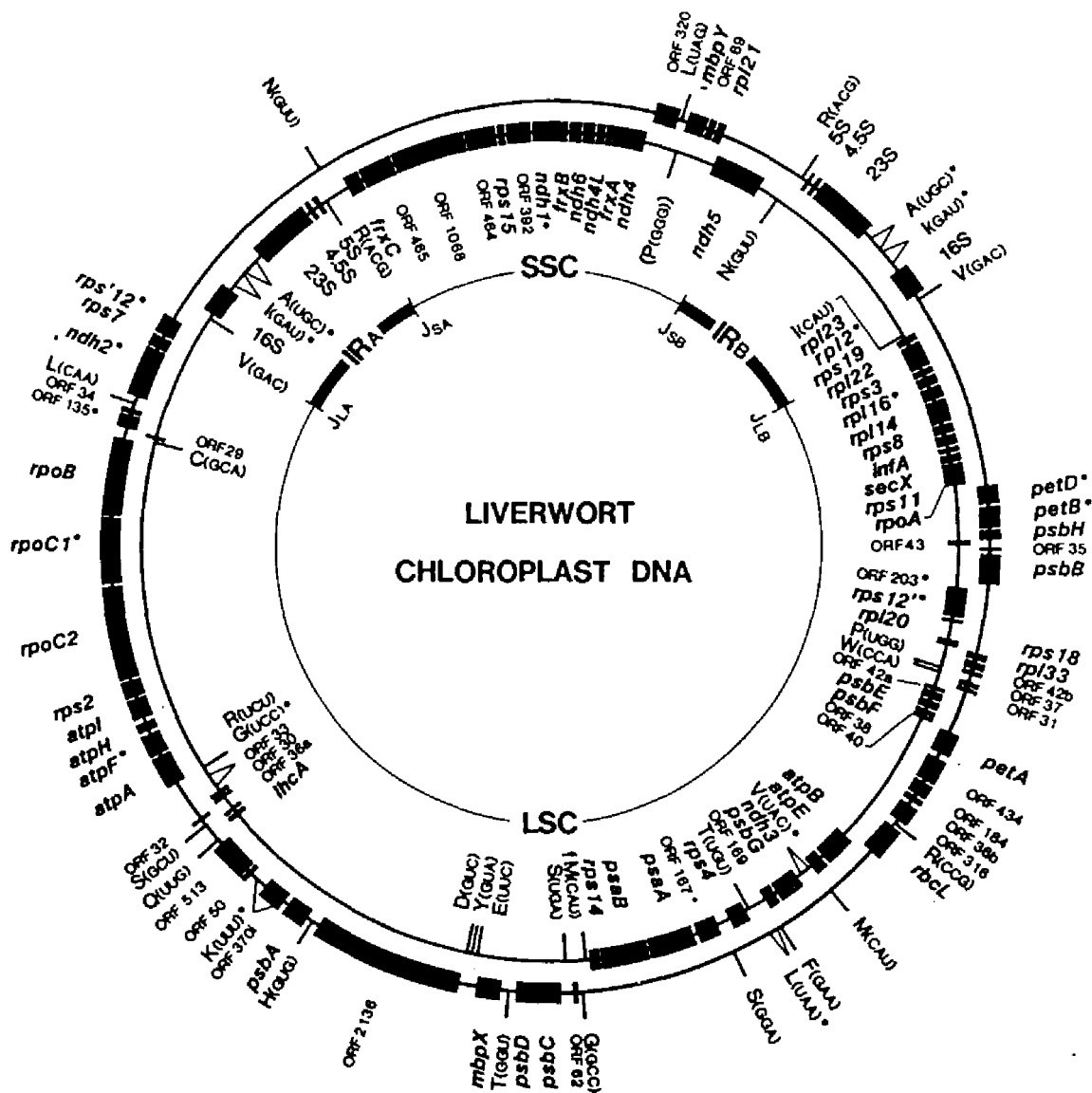


Fig. 2. Gene organization of the liverwort chloroplast genome.

Genes shown on the outside map are transcribed counterclockwise; those inside are transcribed clockwise. Thick lines inside the map indicate a set of large inverted repeats ( $IR_A$  and  $IR_B$ ). SSC and LSC indicate the small single copy region and large single copy region, respectively. Asterisks indicate genes having introns in their coding sequences. The tRNA genes are shown by the one-letter code for amino acids with their anticodons in parentheses. Abbreviations for genes follow the nomenclature of Crouse *et al.* (1985). We designate chloroplast ORFs that have homology to those found in human mitochondria as *ndh*, ORFs homologous to Fe-proteins as *frx*, and ORFs homologous to inner membrane permease protein found in *E. coli* as *mbp*. ORFs that show homology to genes for initiation factor 1 and a functionally unknown protein expressed in *E. coli* are designated *infA* and *secX*, respectively. The genetic symbol *lhca* is given to the ORF that has homology to antenna proteins in bacterial light harvesting complexes (LHC).

Table 2  
Ribosomal and transfer RNA genes on the liverwort chloroplast genome

Genes	DNA strand	Position From	Position To	Length (bp)	Promoter (-35, -10)	Remarks	Genes	DNA strand	Position From	Position To	Length (bp)	Promoter (-35, -10)	Remarks
<b>(a) Ribosomal RNA genes</b>							<b>(b) Transfer RNA genes</b>						
16S rRNA	+	82109	83604	1,496	+		*trnL(UAA)	+	50522	50921	400	+	intron 315 bp
23S rRNA	+	85912	88722	2,811	-		(exon 1)		50522	50556	35		
4.5S rRNA	+	88830	88932	103	-		(exon 2)		50872	50921	50		
5S rRNA	+	89159	89277	119	-		trnF(GAA)	+	50998	51070	73	-	
5S rRNA	-	112961	112843	119	-		*trnY(UAC)	-	53652	53051	602	+	intron 530 bp
4.5S rRNA	-	113290	113188	103	-		(exon 1)		53652	53616	37		
23S rRNA	-	116208	113398	2,811	-		(exon 2)		53085	53051	35		
16S rRNA	-	120011	118516	1,496	+		trnM(CAU)	+	53801	53874	74	+	
							trnR(CCG)	+	57877	57950	74	-	
							trnW(DCA)	-	64626	64553	74	-	
							trnP(UCC)	-	64788	64715	74	+	
							trnI(CAU)	-	81057	80984	74	+	
							trnY(GAC)	+	81814	81885	72	+	
							*trnI(CAU)	+	83878	84835	958	-	intron 886 bp
							(exon 1)		83878	83914	37		
							(exon 2)		84801	84835	35		
							*trnA(UCC)	+	84912	85752	841	-	intron 768 bp
							(exon 1)		84912	84949	38		
							(exon 2)		85718	85752	35		
							trnR(ACC)	+	89482	89555	74	-	
							trnW(GUU)	-	90332	90261	72	+	
							trnP(GCG)	-	95213	95145	69	-	pseudogene
							trnL(UAG)	+	95274	95353	80	+	
							trnW(GUU)	+	111788	111859	72	+	
							trnR(ACC)	-	112638	112565	74	-	
							*trnA(UCC)	-	117208	116368	841	-	intron 768 bp
							(exon 1)		117208	117171	38		
							(exon 2)		116402	116368	35		
							*trnI(CAU)	-	118242	117285	958	-	intron 886 bp
							(exon 1)		118242	118206	37		
							(exon 2)		117319	117285	35		
							trnY(GAC)	-	120306	120235	72	+	

DNA strand (+/-) shows normal and reverse DNA strands, respectively, in our file. Promoter (+) indicates the presence of typical promoter sequences (-35 and -10) upstream from the coding sequences. Asterisks indicate the presence of introns in coding sequences. Position numbers are the same as in Table 1.

**Table 3**  
**Genes for coding proteins on the liverwort chloroplast genome**

Genes	DNA strand	From	To	Length (bp)	Amino acid residues	Molecular weight	Promoter (-35, -10)	SD sequence	Remarks
<b>(a) Ribosomal protein genes</b>									
<i>*rps'12</i>	+	-	842	-	123	(13,797.0)	+	-	trans-split gene
(exon 2)		85	316	232	77				(see <i>*rps'12'</i> )
(exon 3)		817	842	26	8				Intron 2:500 bp
<i>rps7</i>	+	892	1359	468	155	17,821.9	-	-	
<i>rps2</i>	+	16055	16762	708	235	26,776.8	-	-	double stop TAA
<i>rps14</i>	-	42635	42333	303	100	11,879.8	+	-	
<i>rps4</i>	-	50033	49425	609	202	23,639.6	+	+	
<i>rpl33</i>	+	65273	65470	198	65	7,782.1	-	-	
<i>rps18</i>	+	65498	65725	228	75	8,879.5	-	-	
<i>rpl20</i>	-	66157	65807	351	116	12,773.0	-	-	
<i>*rps'12</i>	-	67057	-	-	123	(13,797.0)	-	-	trans-split gene
(exon 1)		67057	66944	114	38				(see <i>*rps'12</i> )
<i>rps11</i>	-	75249	74857	393	130	14,172.5	-	-	
<i>rps8</i>	-	76171	75773	399	132	14,921.4	-	+	
<i>rpl14</i>	-	76621	76253	369	122	13,496.6	-	-	
<i>*rpl16</i>	-	77685	76719	967	143	16,149.8	-	-	Intron 535 bp
(exon 1)		77685	77677	9					
(exon 2)		77141	76719	423					
<i>rps3</i>	-	78396	77743	654	217	25,055.0	-	-	
<i>rpl22</i>	-	78804	78445	360	119	13,580.8	-	+	
<i>rps19</i>	-	79100	78822	279	92	10,553.3	-	+	
<i>*rpl2</i>	-	80514	79137	1,378	277	31,162.9	-	-	Intron 544 bp
(exon 1)		80514	80118	397					
(exon 2)		79573	79137	437					
<i>rpl23</i>	-	80825	80550	276	91	10,768.5	-	+	
<i>rpl21</i>	+	93469	93819	351	116	13,626.1	+	-	
<i>rps15</i>	-	103699	103433	267	88	10,428.2	+	+	
<b>(b) RNA polymerase subunit genes</b>									
<i>rpoB</i>	+	5859	9056	3,198	1,065	120,445.6	+	+	
<i>*rpoC1</i>	+	9087	11737	2,651	684	78,959.6	-	+	Intron 596 bp
(exon 1)		9087	9518	432					
(exon 2)		10115	11737	1,623					
<i>rpoC2</i>	+	11811	15971	4,161	1,386	160,153.4	-	+	
<i>rpoA</i>	-	74824	73802	1,023	340	39,240.2	-	-	
<b>(c) Genes for photosystems I and II</b>									
<i>psbA</i>	+	28368	29429	1,062	353	38,764.8	+	-	
<i>psbD</i>	+	38855	39916	1,062	353	39,388.6	+	+	
<i>psbC</i>	+	39864	41285	1,422	473	51,784.8	-	-	overlap to psbD
<i>psaB</i>	-	44928	42724	2,205	734	82,413.7	-	+	
<i>psaA</i>	-	47207	44955	2,253	750	83,212.4	+	+	
<i>psbG</i>	-	52524	51793	732	243	27,609.6	-	-	
<i>psbF</i>	-	63293	63174	120	39	4,468.3	-	+	
<i>psbK</i>	-	63554	63303	252	83	9,493.5	-	+	TAG stop
<i>psbH</i>	+	69026	70552	1,527	508	56,191.5	+	+	
<i>psbI</i>	+	71092	71316	225	74	7,928.3	-	-	double stop TAA

Table 3 (continued)

<b>(d) Genes for H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase subunits</b>									
<i>atpI</i>	+	16890	17636	747	248	27,742.0	-	+	double stop TAA
<i>atpH</i>	+	18014	18259	246	81	8,004.4	+	+	
* <i>atpF</i>	+	18468	19609	1,142	184	21,080.8	+	+	intron 587 bp
(exon 1)		18468	18612	145					
(exon 2)		19200	19609	410					
<i>atpA</i>	+	19654	21177	1,524	507	55,311.7	-	-	
<i>atpE</i>	-	54362	53955	408	135	15,054.3	-	+	
<i>atpB</i>	-	55846	54368	1,479	492	53,137.2	+	-	
<b>(e) Genes for proteins in the photoelectron transport</b>									
<i>petA</i>	+	61641	62603	963	320	33,482.6	-	-	
* <i>petB</i>	+	71424	72566	1,143	215	24,306.5	-	+	intron 495 bp
(exon 1)		71424	71429	6					
(exon 2)		71925	72566	642					
* <i>petD</i>	+	72715	73690	976	160	17,413.5	-	+	intron 493 bp
(exon 1)		72715	72722	8					
(exon 2)		73216	73690	475					
<b>(f) Gene for ribulose biphosphate carboxylase large subunit</b>									
<i>rbcL</i>	+	56355	57782	1,428	475	5,2790.0	+	+	
<b>(g) Genes for NADH-PQ oxidoreductase subunits</b>									
* <i>ndh2</i>	+	1514	3555	2,042	501	5,6189.3	+	+	intron 536 bp TAC stop
(exon 1)		1514	2239	726					
(exon 2)		2776	3555	780					
<i>ndh3</i>	-	52877	52515	363	120	1,4188.7	+	+	overlap to <i>psbC</i>
<i>ndh5</i>	-	93179	91101	2,079	692	79,277.9	+	-	
<i>ndh4</i>	-	98164	96665	1,500	499	56,665.9	-	-	
<i>ndh4L</i>	-	99059	98757	303	100	11,197.3	-	+	double stop TAA.TAC
<i>ndh6</i>	-	99688	99113	576	191	21,606.7	-	-	URF6, URF6, TCA stop
* <i>ndh1</i>	-	102200	100382	1,819	368	41,509.6	-	+	intron 712 bp
(exon 1)		102200	101645	556					
(exon 2)		100932	100382	551					
<b>(h) Genes for ferredoxin proteins and others</b>									
<i>frxA</i>	-	98534	98289	246	81	8,941.2	+	+	
<i>frxB</i>	-	100330	99779	552	183	21,196.2	-	+	
<i>frxC</i>	-	110973	110104	870	289	31,944.5	+	-	TAC stop
<i>hcaA</i>	-	23605	23438	168	55	6,441.5	+	+	light harvesting complex
* <i>mbpX</i>	+	37012	38124	1,113	370	42,798.8	+	+	double stop TAA
* <i>mbpY</i>	+	94183	95049	867	288	32,561.6	-	+	
<i>secX</i>	-	75413	75300	114	37	4,521.5	-	+	
<i>infA</i>	-	75686	75450	237	78	8,078.4	-	+	

Asterisks indicate the presence of introns in the coding sequences. Gene symbols are the same as in Fig. 2. Marks (+/-) in the columns of promoter and SD sequences indicate the presence and absence of typical prokaryotic promoter and SD sequences as seen in *E. coli* upstream from the coding sequences. The position number are the same as in Table 1.



Table 4  
Unidentified open reading frames in the liverwort chloroplast genome

Gene	DNA strand	From	To	Length (bp)	Amino acid residues	Molecular weight	Promoter (-35, -10)	SD sequence	Remarks
ORF34	+	4001	4105	105	34	3,740.5	-	-	
ORF135	+	4236	5128	893	135	16,043.9	+	-	intron 485 bp
(exon 1)		4236	4341	106					TAG stop
(exon 2)		4827	5128	302					
ORF29	-	5257	5168	90	29	3,225.0	-	+	
ORF33	-	22263	22162	102	33	3,386.2	-	+	
ORF30	-	22425	22333	93	30	3,841.7	-	-	
ORF32	+	22516	22614	99	32	3,566.3	+	+	
ORF36a	-	23107	22997	111	36	4,152.9	-	+	
ORF513	+	24053	25594	1,542	513	58,326.9	-	+	
ORF50	+	25769	25921	153	50	6,382.5	-	+	
ORF370i	+	26976	28088	1,113	370	45,407.0	-	-	in trnK intron
ORF2136	+	29909	36319	6,411	2,136	259,908.8	-	-	
ORF62	+	41647	41835	189	62	6,538.8	+	+	
ORF167	-	48599	47488	1,112	167	19,509.5	+	-	intron 608 bp
(exon 1)		48599	48476	124					
(exon 2)		47867	47488	380					
ORF169	-	51742	51233	510	169	20,084.8	-	-	
ORF316	+	58065	59015	951	316	35,826.3	-	+	
ORF36b	+	59193	59303	111	36	4,017.8	-	+	
ORF184	+	59525	60079	555	184	21,533.1	-	+	
ORF434	+	60151	61455	1,305	434	51,866.2	-	-	
ORF40	-	62916	62794	123	40	4,101.8	-	+	
ORF38	-	63152	63036	117	38	4,479.1	-	-	
ORF42a	-	63684	63556	129	42	5,101.9	+	-	
ORF31	+	64152	64247	96	31	3,466.4	+	+	
ORF37	+	64370	64483	114	37	4,075.9	-	-	
ORF42b	+	65027	65155	129	42	4,746.6	+	+	TAG stop
ORF203	-	68640	67130	1,511	203	22,685.0	+	+	
(exon 1)		68640	68570	71					intron 1: 518 bp
(exon 2)		68051	67760	292					intron 2: 380 bp
(exon 3)		67378	67130	249					
ORF35	+	70669	70776	108	35	3,958.8	-	-	
ORF43	-	70994	70863	132	43	4,875.0	+	+	
ORF69	+	93886	94095	210	69	7,838.1	-	+	ribosomal protein
ORF320	+	95482	96444	963	320	37,169.7	-	-	
ORF392	-	103380	102202	1,179	392	45,371.4	-	+	
ORF464	-	105267	103873	1,395	464	57,164.9	-	-	
ORF1068	-	108535	105329	3,207	1,068	127,654.8	-	+	
ORF465	-	110064	108667	1,398	465	53,097.0	-	+	

DNA strand (+/-) indicates the coding sequences on either the normal or reverse strand in our file. The presence of typical prokaryotic promoter and SD sequences are shown as (+) when it can be seen upstream from the coding sequences. The position numbers given are the same as in Table 1.

Table 5

## Sequences of transfer RNA genes in the liverwort chloroplast genome

	AMINOACYL-STEM	D-STEM	D-LOOP	D-STEM	ANT.-STEM	ANT.-LOOP	ANT.-STEM	EXTRA-ARM	T-STEM	T-LOOP	T-STEM	AMINOACYL-STEM
1. Ala(UGC)	GGGGATA *****	TA GCTC	AGTT GGT	A GAGC	G CCGCC	CTTGCAA	GGCGG	ATGT	C AGCGG	TTCGAGT	CCCGT	TATCTCC *****
2. Arg(ACG)	GGGTTTG ****	TA GCTC	AGA GGATTA	GAGC A	CGTGG	CTACGAA	CCACG	GTGT	C GGGGG	TTCGAAT	CCCTC	CTTGCCC *****
3. Arg(CCG)	GGGTTTG *****	TA GCTC	AGT GGATTA	GAGC T	CATGG	TTCCGAA	TCATG	AAGT	C AAGGG	TTCGAAT	CCCTT	CTAACCC *****
4. Arg(UCU)	GGGTCCA *****	TC GTCT	AAA GGAT A	GGAC A	GAGGT	TTTCTAA	ACCTC	CAG	T ATAGG	TTCGAAT	CCAT	TGGAGT *****
5. Asn(GUU)	TCCTTAG *****	TA GCTC	AGT GGT A	GAGC G	GTCGG	CTGTAA	CCGAT	TGTT	C GTAGG	TTCAAAT	CCCTAC	CTGAGGA *****
6. Asp(GUC)	GGGATTG *****	TA GTTC	AATT GGT A	GAGT A	CCGCC	CTGTCAA	GACGG	AAGT	T GCGGG	TTCGAGC	CCCGT	CAATCCC *****
7. Cys(GCA)	GGCGACA *****	TG GCCA	AGT GGT A	AGGC A	GAGGA	CTGCAA	TCCTT	TAT	C CCCAG	TTCAAAT	CTGGG	TGTCCT *****
8. Gly(GCC)	GGGGTA *****	TA GTTT	AAT GGT A	AAAT T	CTCC	TTGCCAA	GGAGA	ATA	T GCGGG	TTCGATT	CCCGC	TAGCCGC *****
9. Gly(UCC)	GGGGTA *****	TA GTTT	AGT GGT A	AAAC C	TTAGC	CTTCAA	GCTAA	CGA	T GCGGG	TTCGATT	CCCGC	TAGCCGC *****
10. Gln(UUG)	TGGGGCG *****	TC GCEA	AGT GGT A	AGGC T	GCAGG	TTTTGGT	CCTGT	TATT	C GGAGG	TTCGAAT	CCCTC	CGTCCCA *****
11. Glu(UUC)	GGCCCCA *****	TC GTCT	AGT GGCCTA	GGAC A	CTCT	CTTCAA	GGAGG	CGA	C GGGGA	TTCGAAT	TCCCC	TGGGGT *****
12. His(GUG)	GGCGGAG *****	TA GCCA	AGT GGATTA	AGGC A	GTGGA	TTGTGGA	TCCTC	TAGC	C GCGGG	TTCAAT	CCCGT	GGTCCG *****
13. Ile(CAU)	GCATCCA *****	TG GGTG	AAT GGT A	AAGC A	CCCAA	CTCATA	TTGGC	GAATT	C ACAGG	TTCAAT	CCCTT	TGGATCC *****
14. Ile(GAU)	GGGCTAT *****	TA GCTC	AGT GGT A	GAGC G	CGCCC	CTGATA	GGGCG	AGGT	C TCTGG	TTCAAGT	CCAGG	ATAGCC *****
15. Leu(CAA)	GCCTTGA *****	TG GTGA	AAT GGTA G	ACAC G	CGAGA	TTCAAAA	TTTCG	TGCTAAAGCA	T GGAGG	TTCGAGT	CCCTT	TGAAGGC *****
16. Leu(UAA)	GGGGTA *****	TG GCGA	AATT GGTA G	ACGC T	GGGGA	CTTAAAA	TCCGT	TGGCTTAAAGCCG	T GAGGG	TTCAAGT	CCCTC	TACCCCC *****
17. Leu(UAG)	GGCGCTA *****	TG GTGA	AATT GGTA G	ACAC G	CTGCT	CTTAGGA	AGCAG	TCCTAAGGCT	T CTCGG	TTCGAAT	CCGAG	TAGCCGC *****
18. Lys(UUU)	GGGTTGC *****	TA ACTC	AAT GGT A	GAGT A	CTCGG	CTTTAA	CCGAC	GAGT	T CCGGG	TTCGAGC	CCCGG	GCAACCC *****
19. Met(CAU)	ACCTACT *****	TA ACTC	AGT GGTTA	GAGT A	TGCTT	TTCATA	GGCGA	GAGT	C ATTTG	TTCAAAT	CCAA	AGTAGGT *****
20. PMet(CAU)	CGCGGAG *****	TA GAGC	AGTCTGGT	A GCTC	G CAAGG	CTCATA	CCTTG	AGGT	C ATAGG	TTCAAAT	CCCTT	CTCCGCC *****
21. Phe(GAA)	GGCGGTA *****	TA GCTC	AGTT GGT A	GAGC A	GAGGA	CTGAAA	TCCTC	GTGT	C ACCAG	TTCAAAT	CTGTT	TTCTGG *****
22. Pro(GGG) <sup>+</sup>	CGGAGTA *****	TA GT	TTGGT A	GTGT A	TCATC	TTGGGTT	GATGA	AAGT	C GTGGG	TTCAAAT	CCCGC	TACTCAA *****
23. Pro(UGG)	AGGGATG *****	TA GCGC	AGTTTGGT	A GCGC	G TTTGT	TTTGGTT	ACAAA	ATGT	C GCGAG	TTCGAAT	CCCTT	CATCCCT *****
24. Ser(GCU)	GGAGAGA *****	TG GCGC	AGT GGACGA	AAGC G	GCGGA	TTGCTAA	TCCGT	TGTACAAGCTTTTGTACC	GAGGG	TTCGAAT	CCCTC	TCTCTCC *****
25. Ser(GGA)	GGAAAGA *****	TG GTTG	AGT GGTTA	AGGC G	TAGCA	TTGAAA	TGCTA	TGTAGGCTTTTGTCTATC	GAGGG	TTCGAAT	CCCTC	TCTTTC *****
26. Ser(UGA)	GGAGAGA *****	TG GCGC	AGT GGTTA	TGGC G	TGGTT	CTTGAAA	ACCGA	TATAGTTTTAAGATTATC	GAGGG	TTCAAAT	CCCTC	TCTCTCC *****
27. Thr(GGU)	GGCTTTT *****	TA ACTC	AGT GGT A	GAGT A	ACGCC	ATGGTAG	GGCGT	AAGT	C ATCGG	TTCAAAT	CTGAT	AAAGGCC *****
28. Thr(UGU)	GGCTTTT *****	TA GCTC	AGA GGTC A	GAGC G	TGCGA	CTGTAA	TGCGA	TGGT	C ATCGG	TTCGACT	CCGAT	AGCGGCC *****
29. Trp(CCA)	GGCTTTT *****	TA GTTC	AGTTCCGT	A GAAC	G TAGGT	CTCAAAA	ACCTA	ATGT	C GTAGG	TTCAAAT	CCCTAC	AGAGCGT *****
30. Tyr(GUA)	GGGTCCA *****	TG CTCG	AGT GGTTAA	TGGG G	ACGGGA	CTGTAAA	TCCCG	TGGCAATGCCTA	C GCTGG	TTCAAAT	CCAGC	TGACCC *****
31. Val(GAC)	AGGGATA *****	TA ACTC	AGC GGT A	GAGT A	TCAAC	TTGACGT	GGTGG	AAGT	C ATCAG	TTCGAAC	CTGAT	TATCCCT *****
32. Val(UAC)	AGGGCTA *****	TA GCTC	AGC GGT A	GAGC G	CCTCG	TTTACAC	CGAGA	ATGT	C TACGG	TTCAAAT	CCGTA	TAGCCCT *****

The marks \*, \*\*, ---, and = show the position of stem-loop structure conformation. Pro(GGG)<sup>+</sup> has an incomplete aminoacyl stem structure, which was not detected by Northern hybridization. Arrowheads indicate the splicing sites of introns.

complete liverwort nucleotide sequence starts at the first nucleotide of the large single-copy (LSC) region in the junction ( $J_{LA}$ ). The numbering proceeds counterclockwise around the chloroplast genome and ends at the last nucleotide in the  $IR_A$  region (Fig. 2).

#### Identification of coding sequences for RNA and protein genes

The coding sequences for four kinds of rRNA genes (16S, 23S, 4.5S, and 5S), 31 species of tRNA genes, and a proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence in which the amino-acyl stem structure is incomplete were identified (Table 2). Coding sequences for tRNAs were searched for using the T $\psi$  loop sequence (GTT CRA) and identified by construction of the familiar clover-leaf structure. The coding sequences of the 31 species of tRNAs and the proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence are listed in Table 5. None of them had a CCA sequence at the 3'-end of their coding sequences. Six species, alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub>, isoleucine tRNA<sub>GAU</sub>, glycine tRNA<sub>UCC</sub>, lysine tRNA<sub>UUU</sub>, leucine tRNA<sub>UAA</sub>, and valine tRNA<sub>UAC</sub>, had introns in their coding sequences. Their codon-anticodon table is shown in Table 6. The tRNAs encoded by the chloroplast genome were sufficient to read all codons taking into account the expanded wobble and modification in the anticodons (Crick, 1966b).

As shown in Table 3, there are coding sequences for 19 ribosomal proteins (large subunit proteins L33, L20, L14, L16, L22, L2, L23, and L21, and small subunit proteins S7, S2, S14, S4, S18, S12, S11, S8, S3, S19, and S15; Post & Nomura, 1980; Zurawski & Zurawski, 1985; Posno et al., 1986). In addition, the genes infA (Pon et al., 1979) and secX (X gene, Cerretti et al., 1983) and the rpo genes for  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\beta'$  subunits of RNA polymerase were identified by correspondence to E. coli genes (Bedwell et al., 1985). Two ORFs (mbpX and mbpY) showed homology to inner membrane permease proteins found in S. typhimurium (Higgins et al., 1982, 1986).

Genes for photosynthesis were identified by comparison of the amino-acid sequences deduced to those deduced from chloroplast genes of

**Table 6**  
*Codon table and unmodified anticidons of tRNAs  
 coded by liverwort chloroplast*

Codon	Anticodon	Codon	Anticodon	Codon	Anticodon	Codon	Anticodon
UUU	Phe	UCU		UAU	Tyr	UGU	Cys
UUC	GAA	UCC	Ser	UAC	GUA	UGC	GCA
UUA	UAA*	UCA		UAA	Ter	UGA	Ter
UUG	CAA	UCG		UAG	Ter	UGG	Trp
CUU		CCU		CAU		CGU	ACG
CUC	Leu	CCC	Pro	CAC	His	CGC	Arg
CUA	UAG	CCA		CAA	Gln	CGA	
CUG		CCG		CAG		CGG	CCG
AUU		ACU		AAU	Asn	AGU	Ser
AUC	Ile	ACC	Thr	AAC	GUU	AGC	GCU
AUA	CAU	ACA		AAA	UUU*	AGA	UCU
AUG	Met fMet	ACG		AAG	Lys	AGG	Arg
GUU		GCU		GAU		GGU	
GUC	Val	GCC	Ala	GAC	Asp	GGC	Gly
GUA	UAC*	GCA	UGC*	GAA	Glu	GGA	GCC
GUG		GCG		GAG		GGG	UCC*

The AUG codon is an initiation codon. Termination codon (UAA, UAG and UGA) are indicated by Ter. Asterisks indicate the tRNA genes with introns in their coding sequences. Amino acids are shown by 3-letter symbols.

various sources as reported previously (Crouse et al., 1985; Hird et al., 1986; Westhoff et al., 1986). Seven of the identified ORFs had high homology to NADH dehydrogenase genes (ND1, ND2, ND3, ND4, ND4L, ND5, and ND6) found in human mitochondria (Chomyn et al., 1985, 1986), and two ORFs (frxA and frxB) had high homology to bacterial 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin proteins (Yasunobu & Tanaka, 1980). The frxA gene product has been identified as a component of the photosystem I particles (Oh-oka et al., 1987). An ORF (frxC) consisting of 289 amino acids showed extensive homology to the nifH gene of Az. vinelandii (Howard et al., 1983) and ORF202 of R. capsulata (Hearst et al., 1985). The ORF55 (lhcA) had homology to antenna proteins of LHC of photosynthetic bacteria (Youvan et al., 1984).

#### Physicochemical characteristics

Liverwort chloroplast DNA contained genetic information encoding 136 possible genes with short spacer regions very rich in A + T. The total G + C content of the liverwort chloroplast genome was 28.8% (G, 17,556; C, 17,308; A, 42,898; and T, 43,263 in normal (+)-strand DNA (Tables 2 - 4). However, the coding sequences of rRNA and tRNA genes had higher G + C contents, 52.6% and 52.1%, respectively, and that in the coding sequences for proteins was 28.5%. The spacer regions between the coding sequences had much proportions of G + C content (19.5%; Fig. 3).

Conservation of high free energy,  $\Delta G$ , calculated for stem-loop structures deduced from a nucleotide sequence may give information on the termination sites of transcription and sites of processing. Free energy conservation in stem-loop structures was greater at the positions between the genes of ends transcribed convergently from opposite strands of the liverwort chloroplast genome (Table 7).

Thirty-three ORFs remain unidentified with use of the NBRF database (Table 4). Membrane spanning analysis was done using the program of Klein et al. (1985). This program gives precise trans-

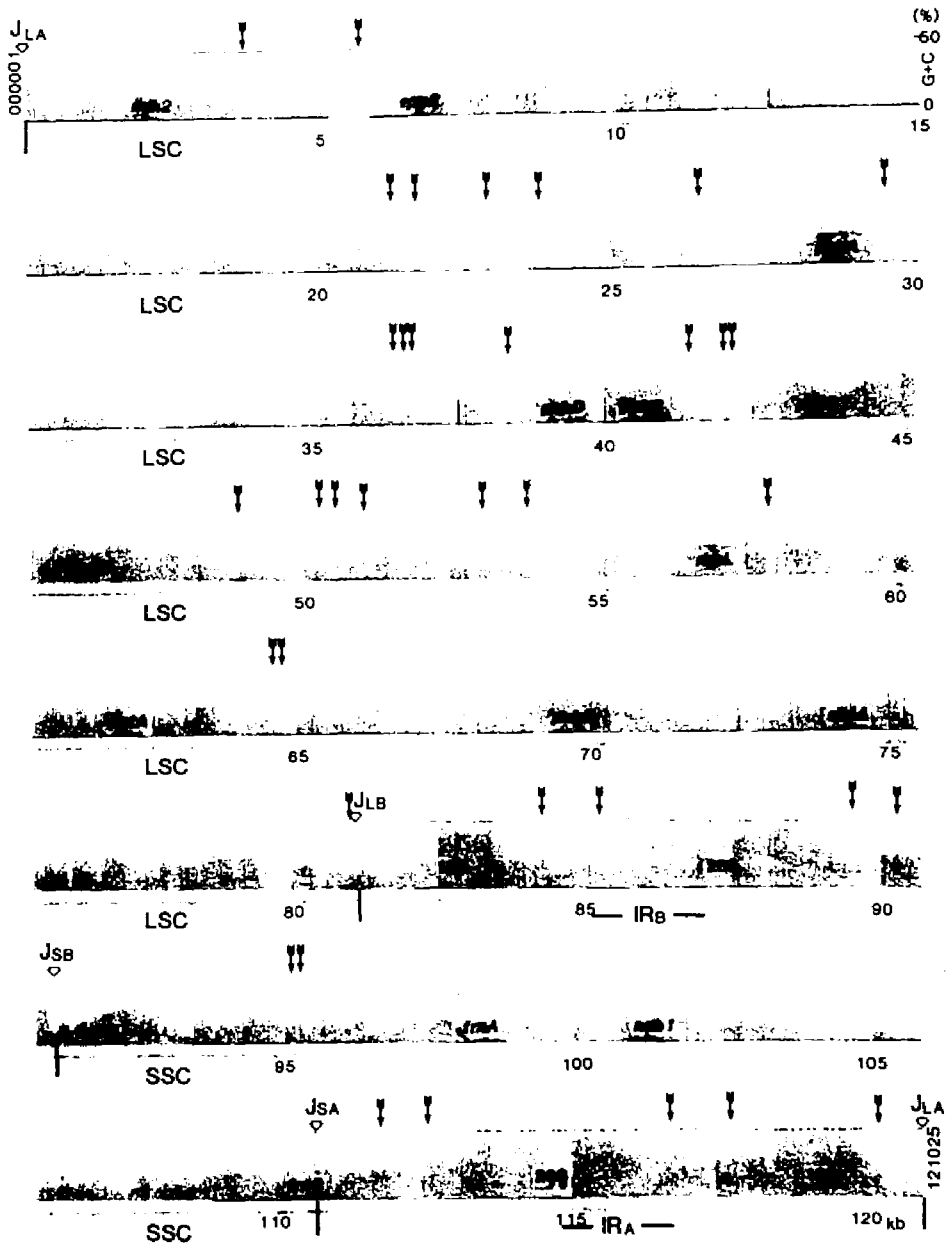


Fig. 3. G + C content throughout the liverwort chloroplast genome. The G + C content in every 25 nucleotides (1 to 121025) are shown as percentages. Major genes are drawn as landmarks. The abbreviations IR, LSC, SSC are the same in Fig. 2. J<sub>LA</sub>, J<sub>LB</sub>, J<sub>SA</sub>, and J<sub>SB</sub> indicate junctions between IR<sub>A</sub> and LSC, IR<sub>B</sub> and LSC, IR<sub>A</sub> and SSC, and IR<sub>B</sub> and SSC, respectively. Open regions in the bottom line indicate the spacer (non-coding) regions. Arrows indicate coding regions for transfer RNA genes, which in most cases have higher G + C content.

Table 7  
stem-loop structures at the end of convergent transcriptional units

Location	Number of stem-loop structures (no. base-pairs)	Free energy ( $\Delta G$ )
ORF135-ORF29	1 (17)	-20.6
<i>atpA-trnR</i> (UCU)	1 (12)	-5.0
<i>trnS</i> (GCU)-ORF36a	1 (7)	-11.4
ORF2136- <i>trnD</i> (GUC)	1 (23)	-35.4
<i>pabC-trnS</i> (UGA)	1 (43)	-50.4
<i>trnG</i> (GCC)- <i>trnM</i> (CAU)	1 (11)	-8.0
<i>trnS</i> (GGA)- <i>rps4</i>	6 (42, 7)	-86.3, -6.3
	20, 17, 7)	-20.0, -18.8, -0.3
<i>trnF</i> (GAA)-ORF100	2 (35, 10)	-45.8, -6.9
<i>trnM</i> (CAU)- <i>atpB</i>	1 (18)	-28.0
<i>petA</i> -ORF40	3 (12, 20, 9)	-7.2, -30.1, -3.3
ORF37- <i>trnW</i> (CCA)	1 (10)	-13.2
<i>rps18-rpl20</i>	1 (13)	-23.6
ORF35-ORF43	2 (13, 26)	-7.0, -30.9
<i>petD-rpoA</i>	2 (7, 38)	-9.0, -55.4
<i>trnR</i> (ACG)- <i>trnN</i> (GUU)	1 (36)	-21.7
ORF320- <i>ndh4</i>	1 (30)	-36.6
<i>trnN</i> (GUU)- <i>trnR</i> (ACG)	1 (36)	-21.7

Free energy conserved in the stem-loop structure was calculated as described by Tinoco et al. (1973) and Salser (1977) and expressed as G (kcal:1kcal=4.184kJ).

Table 8  
Membrane-spanning analysis of all liverwort chloroplast genes

Peripheral location			Integral location		
Confirmed		Predicted	Confirmed		Predicted
<i>atpA</i>	<i>rpl2</i>	<i>frxA</i>	<i>atpF</i>	<i>frxB</i>	ORF36a
<i>atpB</i>	<i>rpl14</i>	<i>pabG</i>	<i>atpH</i>	<i>frxC</i>	ORF50
<i>atpE</i>	<i>rpl16</i>	<i>rpoA</i>	<i>atpI</i>	<i>mbpX</i>	ORF2136
<i>rbcL</i>	<i>rpl20</i>	<i>rpoC1</i>	<i>petA</i>	<i>mbpY</i>	ORF82
<i>rps2</i>	<i>rpl21</i>	<i>rpoC2</i>	<i>petB</i>	<i>ndh1</i>	ORF36b
<i>rps3</i>	<i>rpl22</i>	ORF513	<i>petD</i>	<i>ndh2</i>	ORF184
<i>rps4</i>	<i>rpl23</i>	ORF370i	<i>psaA</i>	<i>ndh3</i>	ORF434
<i>rps7</i>	<i>rpl33</i>	ORF167	<i>psaB</i>	<i>ndh4L</i>	ORF40
<i>rps8</i>	<i>secX</i>	ORF169	<i>pabA</i>	<i>ndh4</i>	ORF38
<i>rps11</i>	<i>infA</i>	ORF316	<i>pabB</i>	<i>ndh5</i>	ORF31
<i>rps12</i>		ORF42a	<i>pabC</i>	<i>ndh6</i>	ORF37
<i>rps14</i>		ORF60	<i>pabD</i>	<i>lhcA</i>	ORF42b
<i>rps15</i>		ORF392	<i>pabE</i>	<i>rpoB</i>	ORF203
<i>rps18</i>		ORF404	<i>pabF</i>		ORF29
<i>rps19</i>			<i>pabH</i>		ORF34
					ORF135
					ORF33
					ORF1068
					ORF30
					ORF465
					ORF32

Computer analysis was done with the program of Klein et al. (1985). Peripheral and integral in the columns Confirmed indicate the location of stromal proteins and proteins bound to the thylakoid membrane, respectively.

membrane characteristics to the known gene products in the thylakoid membrane except for the psbG gene product, which appears as a peripheral protein. Therefore, this analysis may indicate whether unidentified proteins are present in the membrane complex of the chloroplasts (Table 8). All ndh genes were categorized into this group of proteins with transmembrane characteristics.

## DISCUSSION

### Inverted repeats and gene rearrangements

The liverwort chloroplast DNA was composed of 121,025 bp, which is comparatively smaller than chloroplast genomes from other sources. The inverted repeats (IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub>, each 10,058 bp) were smaller than those (some 26 kb) of tobacco (Shinozaki et al., 1986b). This suggests that there were rearrangements in the chloroplast genome in the vicinity of the IR regions. The IR regions in the liverwort chloroplast DNA did not have the clustered ribosomal protein operons present in both IR regions in tobacco (Shinozaki et al., 1986b). Palmer & Stein (1986) have reported that a fern chloroplast genome, which has IRs of similar size with that of the liverwort, has lost one of the the clusters of ribosomal protein genes. There are no ORF within the IR regions of the liverwort chloroplast genome.

### Introns

Introns are present in the genes of eukaryotic cells. Chloroplasts are organelles in photosynthetic eukaryotic cells with a prokaryotic type of gene expression mechanism and introns in their coding sequences were first reported in chloroplasts of C. reinhardtii by Rochaix & Malnoe (1978). The leucine tRNA<sub>UAA</sub> gene had a group I intron that forms the secondary structure typical of group I introns (Bonnard et al., 1984). Introns in coding sequences were predicted using the 5'-consensus sequence (GTGPyG) and 3'-consensus secondary structures (PuAGCCGNATGAANNGA AANNTTCATGTNCGGTTPy and CTAPyPyNYNAPy) that are characteristic



of group II introns found in fungal mitochondrial genes (Michel & Dujon, 1983). There were 22 introns in the chloroplast genome (Table 9; genes for alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub> and isoleucine tRNA<sub>GAU</sub> with introns were duplicated in IR regions). Ribosomal protein S12 gene (rps12) has two introns, one of which is far away on the opposite DNA strand (Fukuzawa et al., 1986). The ORF203 also had two introns in its coding sequence just upstream from the rps12' gene. The 5'-exon boundary sequences in the ORF203 introns (ATGCG in the first and TTGTG in the second) were different from the typical 5'-consensus sequence of GTGPyG. However, Northern hybridization experiments with synthetic probes that have sequences of the two connecting exons showed that the splicing site was exactly at the predicted junctions (Kohchi et al., 1988d).

Group II introns also were found in the coding sequences for tRNA genes (isoleucine tRNA<sub>GAU</sub>, alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub>, glycine tRNA<sub>UCC</sub>, lysine tRNA<sub>UUU</sub>, and valine tRNA<sub>UAC</sub>). Introns in alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub> and isoleucine tRNA<sub>GAU</sub> had different 5'-exon boundary sequences (TTGGG and TTGCG, respectively); however, the introns belonged to the category of group II introns because of the presence of consensus secondary structures in the introns. Group II introns in tRNA genes were characteristic of the chloroplast genome of land plants.

Coding sequences for protein in photosystems I and II did not contain introns, although genes for a subunit of H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase (atpF) and for proteins in the photoelectron transport system (petB and petD) had introns in their coding sequences. Interestingly, the first exons in both (petB and petD) genes consist of only a few amino acids and these introns are precisely spliced out (Fukuzawa et al., 1987).

### Codon usage

As described above, there are coding sequences for 31 species of tRNA that can read all sense codons by expanded wobble codon-anticodon recognition, as seen in yeasts. Therefore, it is not needed to assume that there is transport of tRNA from the cytoplasm. The codon usages

**Table 9**  
*The 5'- and 3'-consensus sequences of introns  
found in liverwort chloroplast genome*

Group I intron		5' intron	3' intron	
Leu(UAA)	ACTT/AATTTAATTAGCTTTAGTTGAGAAATTTACTAAATGATT.....TACAAGTTAA	TTAACAACAATGCAAAATGTAGTAAAAATG/AAAA		315
Group II introns				
	5' intron		3' intron	
Gly(UCC)	AAAA/GTGGCAGT-TCGT.....AAGGAGCCGAATGAAAG-AAAACTTTCACGTTCCGGTTTTGAAATAGAGGC..	(20) ..GTCGACTATAAC/CCCT		593
Lys(UUU)	TTAA/GTGGCAG-TTGG.....AGAAAGCCGATGCAAGT-AAAAATTGCAAGTACGGTTTGGGAAGAGATGA..	(29) ..ATCTACT-TCAT/CCGA		2, 111
Val(UAC)	ACAC/GTGGCCCAATGC.....AACGAGCCCAATGCATA-AAAACATGCATGTTGGGTTCTTAAAGCAGTTC..	(12) ..AACTGTT-TTAC/CGAG		530
Ile(GAU)	ATAA/TTGCGTCGTTGT.....GGAGAGCCGAGTACAACGGAAAGTTGTATGCTGCGTTCGGGAAGGATGAA..	(64) ..ATTACT-TCAC/GGCG		886
Ala(UGC)	GCAA/TTGGGTCGTTGC.....GGAGAGCAGTACGAT-GAAAGTTGTAAGCTGTGTTTGGGGGGGAGTTA..	(55) ..GCTTACC-CTGT/GGCG		768
ndh2	AGGA/GTGGCAGT-TCGT.....TAGGAGCCGTGTGAATY-GAAAATCTCATGCACGGTTTTGAAATGAGAGAA..	(16) ..TTCGACTCTAAC/TCAC		536
ORF135	AGAG/GTGTGAT-TTAA.....TTTAAGCCATACAGAGTTGAAAATATCATATATGTTTCAAGGGGGGAA..	(20) ..ACCTATCCTAAT/ATTA		485
rpoC1	CGAT/GTGTGAC-TTGA.....TTTGAGCCGGATGACGG-AAAACTTTCATGTCGGATTCCTTAGGGGGGAA..	(11) ..ACCTATCCCAAT/CTCT		596
atpF	GTGT/GTGGCGG-GTTGA.....AGAAAGCCGAATGAATY-GAAAAGTTTCATGTTCCGGTTTGGGAAGAGATTA..	(15) ..ATCTACTTTCAT/TAAG		587
ORF167	GATG/GTGTGAT-TTGA.....GAGGAGCCGATGAAGT-TTAAACTTCATGTACGGTTTTGAAAACGGAGTT..	(15) ..AACACCGTAAAC/GAAT		608
petB	GGGT/GTGGCAG-TTGT.....TTTAAGCTGTAAGATTA-TAAATAATCATTTACGGTTTTTCGAGGGGGAA..	(8) ..ACCTATCTCAAT/AAAG		495
petD	GAGT/GTGTGACTTTAT.....TTGGAGCCGGATGATAT-TAAATATCATGTCGGATTCCTTAGGGGGGACT..	(6) ..ATCTACCTTAAAT/AACA		493
rp116	TAGT/GTGTGAC-TCGT.....GAGGAGCCGGATGAATC-AAAA-TTTCATGTCGGTTTTGAAAGTACGGAT..	(3) ..ATCGACTATAAC/CCTA		535
rp12	TTGA/GTGGCGG-TTGA.....GAAAAGCTGTATGC-TT-GAAAAAAGCTGTACAGTTTGGGAAGAGATTT..	(18) ..ATCTACT-TCAA/CCAA		544
ndh1	CTAC/GTGTGAT-TCGT.....GAGGAGCCGATGAAAT-GAAAATTCATGTACGGTTTTGCAATAGAGAT..	(18) ..ATCGACTATAAT/TATC		712
rps12-1	GTAT/GTGGCAG-TTGT...//..GAGAAGCCGATGAAAT-GAAAATATCAAGTACGGTTTTGTAAGTGACA..	(17) ..GTCAACTTTTCC/ACTA		???
rps12-2	TCTA/GTGGCG---TTGT.....AAAAAGCCGATTCGTT-GAAAATCCGATGTACGGTTTGGAGGGAGATAA..	(4) ..ATCCACC-CTAC/AATA		500
ORF203-1	TATA/ATGGCCG-TTAT.....CTTAAGCTGTATGCGCTTAAAAAGTGCCTGTACAGTTTTATAAGAAAAAA..	(7) ..AATTATCTTAAAT/CAAT		518
ORF203-2	CGCT/TTGTGCCAATGA.....ATAGAGCTGTATGCAAC-TAAAAATGCATGTACAGTTTCGTTTCATTTAT..	(27) ..ATATTTTAAAT/AGGG		380
CONSENSUS	/GTGYG	RAGCCGNATGAANN-GAAANNHTCATGTNCGGTTY	CTAYYNNAY	

Numbers in the right column show the length of the introns. The letters Y and R indicate pyrimidine and purine nucleotide, respectively. Numbers in the parentheses indicate the length of nucleotides deleted in this Table. The abbreviations Leu(UAA), Gly(UCC), Lys(UUU), Val(UAC), Ile(GAU) and Ala(UGC) are used for genes of leucine tRNA<sup>UAA</sup>, glycine tRNA<sup>UCC</sup>, lysine tRNA<sup>UUU</sup>, valine tRNA<sup>UAC</sup>, isoleucine tRNA<sup>GAU</sup>, and alanine tRNA<sup>UGC</sup>, respectively.

of all of the genes, including the unidentified ORFs, were analyzed. The results showed that 88.1% of the third position of codons was either A or T (Table 10). This A or T preference could also be seen in the non-sense codon usage in the liverwort chloroplast genome. Of the 91 stop codons in the entire genome, 84 TAA codons were used. It was of interest that a TGA stop codon was used only twice (ORF135 and ndh6 genes) (Table 10). In the mitochondrial genome of yeast (Bonitz et al., 1980) and humans (Anderson et al., 1981), the TGA codon is used for the recognition of tryptophan tRNA. From the evolutionary point of view, the rare usage of the TGA stop codon in the liverwort genome indicates the tendency of the TGA stop codon to convert to a codon for tryptophan tRNA in the organelle genome (Jukes et al., 1987; Osawa & Jukes, 1988). This A or T preference pressure in the third position of codons with the exception of the psbA gene also coincided with the overall high A + T content in the liverwort chloroplast genome and has facilitated ORFs throughout the genome.

#### Membrane spanning analysis

The membrane spanning analysis on a computer showed that the gene products of atpH, atpI, and atpF had sequences with the transmembrane character, but that those of atpA, atpB, and atpE did not. These results coincided well with the identification of the location of the gene products of atpH, atpI, and atpF as being the thylakoid membrane. The liverwort chloroplast gene organization clearly had clustering of similar functional genes and we can use this together with the properties of the sequences to suggest possible functions of unidentified ORFs. For example, ORF38 and ORF40 may be gene products for photosystem II because of their transmembrane characteristics and their location in the identified psb gene cluster (psbE and psbF) of C. paradoxa cyanelle (Cantrell & Bryant, 1988).

Among the unidentified ORFs, two large ORFs (ORF1068 and ORF2136) in the category of membrane association have a high basic

**Table 10**  
*Total codon usage including ORFs of liverwort chloroplast genome*

	Codon	Total	Codon	Total	Codon	Total	Codon	Total			
Phe	UUU	1,547	Ser	UCU	628	Tyr	UAU	826	Cys	UGU	219
	UUC	97		UCC	71		UAC	95		UGC	41
Leu	UUA	1,867	Pro	UCA	359	Ter	UAA	84	Ter	UGA	2
	UUG	203		UCG	48		UAG	5		Trp	UGG
Leu	CUU	524	Gln	CCU	477	His	CAU	388	Arg	CGU	357
	CUC	25		CCC	39		CAC	62		CGC	47
	CUA	143		CCA	367		CAA	887		CGA	258
	CUG	25		CCG	49		CAG	53		CGG	22
Ile	AUU	1,519	Thr	ACU	616	Asn	AAU	1,256	Ser	AGU	414
	AUC	101		ACC	57		AAC	175		AGC	46
	AUA	708		ACA	499		AAA	1,764		AGA	382
Met	AUG	521		ACG	42	Lys	AAG	78	Arg	AGG	24
Val	GUU	648	Ala	GCU	779	Asp	GAU	735	Gly	GGU	627
	GUC	47		GCC	66		GAC	72		GGC	82
	GUA	450		GCA	452		GAA	1,133		GGA	678
	GUG	48		GCG	50		GAG	85		GGG	88

Numbers indicate frequency of codons used. Amino acids are shown by 3-letter symbols.

amino acid composition. ORFs of similar size in tobacco have also been described (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986b), and to some extent, the nucleotide sequences of liverwort and tobacco are similar (data not shown), so they may be functional genes. However, protein molecules corresponding to such large ORFs have not been detected in chloroplasts, indicating the possibility of either the presence of introns or protein processing if these genes are transcribed and translated.

### Gene clusters and transcriptional units

Typical prokaryotic promoter sequences were found upstream of gene clusters although the rest of the genes in the cluster had no promoter sequences but sometimes had SD sequences (Table 11).

Gene clusters observed in the liverwort chloroplast genome are very similar to those in *E. coli* (rif, unc, str, spc, S10,  $\alpha$ , and rrn operon (Umesono et al., 1988; Fukuzawa et al., 1988; Kohchi et al., 1988a). On the other hand, tRNA genes were scattered throughout the liverwort chloroplast genome. In addition to this structural similarity of gene organization, sequence homologues of the genes also indicate the prokaryotic characteristics of the machinery of chloroplast protein synthesis.

### Conserved gene contents in chloroplasts

The gene organization of the liverwort chloroplast genome was very compact. The liverwort chloroplast genome contains all of the chloroplast genes described for other species except for the genes for ribosomal protein S16 of tobacco (Shinozaki et al., 1986a) and elongation factor (tufA) of *Eu. gracilis* (Montandon & Stutz, 1983), although most higher plant chloroplast genomes are much larger (about 160 kb). The nucleotide sequence of the *N. tabacum* chloroplast genome has been described (Shinozaki et al., 1986b). The genome size (approximately 121 kb) of the liverwort chloroplasts is smaller than that (approximately 155 kb) of tobacco chloroplasts, but the number of gene species coded on their genome is almost the same (127 = 136 minus 9 duplicates in liverwort; 128 = 156 minus 26 duplicates in tobacco). This indicates that liverwort chloroplast genome has at least an indispensable gene composition among the green plants. Therefore, in addition to well-established cultured cells being available (Ohta et al., 1977; Ono et al., 1979), the liverwort chloroplast has other excellent features for use as a model system for studying the molecular basis of chloroplast gene expression and photosynthesis of green plants.

**Table 11**  
**Promoters (-35 and -10 sequences) and SD sequences detected**  
**in the liverwort chloroplast genome**

Genes	Promoters		SD sequences	Genes	Promoters		SD sequences
	-35 sequence	-10 sequence			-35 sequence	-10 sequence	
<b>(a) Ribosomal RNA genes</b>				<b>(d) Genes for photosynthesis</b>			
<i>rnaA/rnaB</i>	TTGACA---(18)---TATACT		(1K <sub>A</sub> and 1K <sub>B</sub> )	<i>rbcL</i>	TTGCAT---(18)---TACAAT		GCAGC
<b>(b) Transfer RNA genes</b>				<i>psbA</i>	TTGACA---(20)---TACTAT		-
<i>trnG(GCA)</i>	TTGAAT---(17)---TATTAAT			<i>psbD</i>	TTCAAA---(19)---TACAAT		AGCAG
<i>trnS(GCU)</i>	TTGAAA---(18)---TATAAT			<i>psaB</i>	-		ACGA
<i>trnQ(UK)</i>	TTGACA---(18)---TTTACT			<i>psaA</i>	TTCAAG---(20)---TATAAT		ACGAG
<i>trnK(UHK)</i>	TTGACA---(17)---TATAAT			<i>psbC</i>	-		ACGAG
<i>trnP(UHK)</i>	TTGACA---(17)---TAACAT			<i>psbF</i>	-		ACGACG
<i>trnT(GCI)</i>	TTGACA---(18)---CACAAAT			<i>psbE</i>	-		GCAG
<i>trnS(LGA)</i>	TTTAA---(18)---TATAAT			<i>psbB</i>	TTTCLA---(15)---TAGAAA		AGC
<i>trnC(GCC)</i>	TTATAT---(17)---TATAAT			<i>petB</i>	-		ACGA
<i>trnM(CAU)</i>	TTGTTT---(18)---TATACT			<i>petD</i>	-		ACGA
<i>trnS(GCA)</i>	TTGCTA---(18)---TACAAT			<i>atp1</i>	-		ACGAG
<i>trnT(UGU)</i>	TTGCTT---(17)---TATAAT			<i>atpH</i>	TTCTTT---(18)---TATAAT		ACGAG
<i>trnL(UAA)</i>	TTGCAT---(17)---TATAAT			<i>atpF</i>	TTGACT---(20)---TTCAAT		GAGC
<i>trnV(UAC)</i>	TTGTAT---(15)---TATAAC			<i>atpE</i>	-		GCAG
<i>trnM(CAU)</i>	TTGCAT---(18)---TATAAT			<i>atpB</i>	TTCTCA---(17)---TTTAAAT		-
<i>trnP(UKC)</i>	TAGGCA---(17)---TACAAT			<i>ndh2</i>	TTCTTT---(17)---TTTAAAT		GCA
<i>trnI(CAU)</i>	TTTAAG---(18)---TATAAT			<i>ndh3</i>	TTGACC---(17)---TATAAA		ACGAC
<i>trnV(GAC)</i>	TTCTTT---(18)---TATAAT*		(1K <sub>A</sub> and 1K <sub>B</sub> )	<i>ndh5</i>	TTATAA---(17)---TATAAA		-
	TTCAAT---(16)---TATTAT*			<i>ndh4L</i>	-		ACGA
<i>trnM(GUH)</i>	TTGCTA---(17)---TATAAT		(1K <sub>A</sub> and 1K <sub>B</sub> )	<i>ndh1</i>	-		GCAGC
<i>trnL(UAG)</i>	TTAAAA---(19)---TATAAT						
<b>(c) ribosomal protein genes and others</b>				<i>rpsA</i>	TTGATA---(17)---TATAAA		ACGAG
<i>rps12</i>	TTTAAG---(18)---TATAAT		(1K <sub>A</sub> )	<i>rpsB</i>	-		ACGA
<i>rps14</i>	TTGAAA---(17)---TTTAAAT		-	<i>rpsL</i>	TTTATC---(18)---TACACT		-
<i>rps4</i>	TTGATT---(19)---TATAAT*			<i>rbcA</i>	TTGTAG---(19)---TATACT		GCAG
	TTCTTT---(16)---TATACT*		ACGAG				
<i>rps8</i>	-		ACGAG	<b>(e) Unidentified ORFs</b>			
<i>rps22</i>	-		ACGAG	ORF29	-		ACGA
<i>rps19</i>	-		ACGA	ORF175	TTCAAA---(18)---TATATT		-
<i>rps23</i>	-		ACGAG	ORF11	-		GAGC
<i>rps21</i>	TTGAAA---(16)---TCTACT		-	ORF32	TTGCAT---(20)---TATATT		ACGAG
<i>rps15</i>	TTGTAT---(18)---TTTACT		ACGAG	ORF36A	-		GCAG
<i>infA</i>	-		ACGAG	ORF517	-		ACGAG
<i>secX</i>	-		GAG	ORF50	-		ACGAG
<i>rpsB</i>	TTTAAG---(17)---TATAAC		GAGC	ORF62	TTGATA---(17)---TTTGAT		GCAG
<i>rpsL1</i>	-		GCA	ORF167	TTCAAT---(17)---TTCAAT		-
<i>rpsL2</i>	-		GAGC	ORF116	-		GAGC
<i>mbpX</i>	TTGAAT---(20)---TCTTAT		ACGAG	ORF36b	-		AGC
<i>mbpY</i>	-		AGC	ORF184	-		ACGAG
				ORF40	-		ACGAG
				ORF42a	TTGAGC---(18)---TATATT		-
				ORF31	TTCTCA---(17)---TAATAT		ACGA
				ORF42b	TTCTTT---(14)---CATAAT		ACGAG
				ORF201	TTGTAT---(22)---TATAAT		GCA
				ORF43	TTGAGA---(15)---TATAT		GCA
				ORF49	-		AGC
				ORF392	-		ACGAG
				ORF106B	-		GAGC
				ORF465	-		ACGA

Genes have either promoter or SD sequences are listed. Numbers in parentheses indicate the nucleotide base-pairs between -35 and -10 sequences. The sequence of the 3' end of liverwort 16S rRNA, CCTCCT, is complementary to SD sequences listed above. Asterisks indicate 2 possible promoter sequences.

I-2 Structure and organization of *Marchantia polymorpha* chloroplast genome — Inverted repeat and small single copy regions

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Procedures for chloroplast DNA preparation and cloning and sequencing methods were as described in the chapter I-1. The open reading frames (ORF) were identified by the program IDEAS with the protein database NBRF (release 8 to 10).

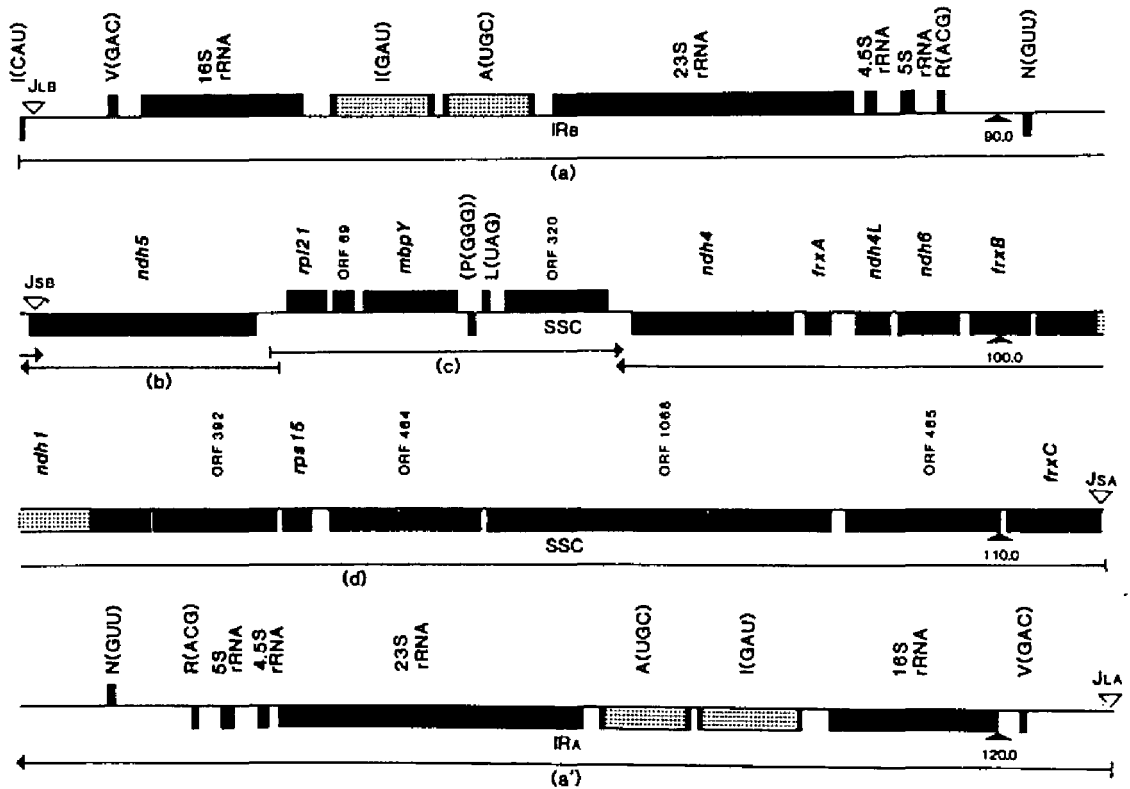


Fig. 1. Gene organization in the IR<sub>A</sub>, SSC, and IR<sub>B</sub> regions. The coding region of genes are shown as boldface boxes. Introns are indicated by hatched boxes. Genes shown on the lines are transcribed to the right, and those under the lines are transcribed to the left. Blocks a to d shown by the arrows correspond to the nucleotide sequence files in Fig. 2a to d. Abbreviations for the genes are the same as described in the preceding chapter.

## RESULTS

### Gene organization of the IR region

A schematic diagram of the gene organization of the IR regions is given in Fig. 1a and a'. The DNA sequences of both the IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub> regions were identical (10,058 bp; Fig. 2a). There were genes for nine stable RNA species in each IR region. The nucleotide sequence and deduced information (genes, introns, promoters, and stem-loop structures) are also presented in Fig. 2.

It has been mapped that the region of the liverwort chloroplast genome coding for rRNAs by Southern hybridization with <sup>32</sup>P-labelled rRNAs (23S, 16S, 4.5S, and 5S; Ohyama et al., 1983). The 5'- and 3'-termini of 16S and 23S rDNA were determined by comparison with the 16S and 23S rDNA sequences of maize (Schwarz & Kössel, 1980; Edwards & Kössel, 1981) and tobacco (Tohdoh & Sugiura, 1982; Takaiwa & Sugiura, 1982b). The 16S rRNA (1496 bases) of liverwort chloroplasts shows high homology with that in E. coli (78.7%, Brosius et al., 1978), A. nidulans (84.8%, Tomioka & Sugiura, 1983), maize chloroplasts (94.2%, Schwarz & Kössel, 1980), and tobacco chloroplasts (95.5%, Tohdoh & Sugiura, 1982). The 3'-terminal region of the liverwort 16S rRNA gene also contains the sequence of CCTCCT that is complementary to prokaryotic SD sequences (Shine & Dalgarno, 1974). The existence of a sequence complementary to the SD sequence in 16S rRNA is a feature of prokaryote, and this may influence the translation efficiency of mRNA. The 23S rRNA (2811 bases) of liverwort chloroplasts also shows high homology with that in E. coli (67.9%, Brosius et al., 1980), A. nidulans (81.4%, Kumano et al., 1983), maize chloroplasts (92.5%, Edwards & Kössel, 1981), and tobacco chloroplasts (94.5%, Takaiwa & Sugiura, 1982a), although the 3'-terminal regions of the E. coli and A. nidulans 23S rRNAs include the coding sequence for the 4.5S rRNA found in land plant chloroplasts. The RNA sequences of 5S rRNA (Yamano et al., 1984) and 4.5S rRNA (Yamano et al., 1985) have been reported, and these are confirmed by the DNA sequence. Replacements, insertions, and deletions of nucleotides in the







GTAACATAACGGTCTAAGGTAGCGAAAATCTCTGTGGTAAAGTTCGGACCCGACCAAGGCGGTAACGATCTGGGCACCTGTCTGGAGAGAGACTCGGTGAAATAGACTGTCTGG 87960  
 GUAAACUUAACGGUCUUAAGGUAGCGAAAUUCUUGUCGGGUAGUUCGACCCGACCGAAAGCGUUAACGAUCUGGGCACUCUCUGGAGAGAGACUCGGGAAAUAGACAUUCUGUG (114160)

AAGATGCGGACTACCTGCACTGGACAGAAAGCCCTATGAAGCTTTACTGTTCCCTGGGATTGGCTTTGGGTTTTCTTGGCAGCTTASGTGGAAGGCAAAAGAGCCCTCTTGGGG 88080  
 AAGAUCCGGACUACCGUCAGCAGCAGGACAGAAAGCCUUAAGAAAGUUCUUCUGUCUGGGUAGUGGCUUUGGCUUUCUUGCGAGCUUAGGUGGAAGGCAAAAGAGCCCCUUCUGGGC (114040)

GGTTGGGAGCAGTCAAGTACCACTCTAGAAAGAGCTAGAAATCTTAACCTTGTGTCAAAATTTACGGGCAAGGGACATTTCCAGTAGACAGTTTCTATGGGGCGTAGGCCCTCCAAAA 88200  
 GGUGGAGCAUCAGUGAAAUACCAUCUAGAAGAGCUAGAAUUCUUAACCUUGUCUAAAAUUAACGGGCAAGGGCAUUCUCAGGUAAGACAGUUCUUAUGGGGCGUAGGCCUCCAAAA (113920)

GGTAAACGGAGGTGTCAAAGGTTTCTCTAGCGTGGACGGAAATCAGCCTTCAGTGCAAAGGGAAGAGGAGCTTACTGCAAGACATACCCGTCGAGCAGGGACGAAAGTCCGGCTTAG 88320  
 GGUUACCGGAGGUGCAAAGGUUUCUAGCGCUGGACGGAAUUCAGCCUUCUGAGUCGAAAGGCAGAGGAGCAGUUCAGUCGCAAGACAUACCCGUCGAGCAGGGACGAAAGUCGGCCUUG (113800)

TGATCCGACGGTACCAAGTGAAGGGCCGTCTCTCAACGGATAAAAGTTACTCTAGGATTAACAGSGTGATCTTCCCAAGAGTTCACATCGACGGGAAGGTTGGCACCTCGATGTCGG 88440  
 UGAUCGACGGUACCAAGUGGAAGGGCCGUCGUCUACCGGAAUAAAGUUCUUCUAGGGAUACAGGCGUUCUCCCAAGAGUUCACUACGAGCGGAAGUUGGCGACUCGUCUGG (113680)

CTCTTCCGACCTGGGGGGTAGTACGTTTCAAGGGTTGGGCTGTTCGCCATTAAAGCGGTACGTGAGCTGGGTTGAGAACGTCGTGAGCAGTTCGGTCCATATCCGGTGTGGGCGTT 88560  
 CUUCUCCGACCCUGGGGGGUAUCUUCUACAGGUGGGGUCUGUCGCCUUAUAAAGCGGUCGUGAGCUGGGUUCAGAAUCGUCGAGCAGUUCGGUCCAUUACCGUGUGGGCGU (113560)

AGAGCATTGAGAGGACTTCCCTAGTACGAGAGGACGGGAAGGACGCACTCTGGTTACCAGTTACTGTCCACGGTAAACGCTGGGTAGCCAACTGCGGACGGATAACTGTGAA 88680  
 AGAGCAUUGAGAGGACCUUCCCUAGUACGAGAGGACCGGAAGGACGCAUCUGGGUUCAGUUAUCUGUCGCAAGGUAACCGUGGUAAGCAGAGGCGGACGGUAAUCUGUGAA (113440)

AGCATCAAGTAGGAGGCGCACTCAAGATGAGTCTCTCTATTCTTCTCTCTGAAAGCAGTCTTTGGTAATAAACACTACTCAAGCAGCTAGATATTTCTGTCTGTGCAAGAAAT 88800  
 AGCAUCUAGUAGGAAGCCACUCUCAAGUAGAGUCUCUCU-3' (113200)

GAAACGACAAAAGTCTTGAATCAAGATAAGTCAAGGCAAGCAGTACGCTTTATTTTACGATAGGTCGCAAGTGGAAAGTGCAGTAATGTATGTAGCTGAGGCATCTCAACAGACCG 88920  
 4.5S rRNA 5'-UAAGGUCACGGCAAGACUAGCGGUUUAUUUUAACUAGUAGGUCGCAAGGGAAGUGCAGUUAUUGUAGUCUGAGCAUCUUAACAGACCG (113200)

AGAGATTTGAACTTGTTCGCCATGACCTGATAAAAATTAATCAGGTATAGCCCAACCTTCACTGTTCAATGTTGGAACAATAAACCTAACACCTTACCTGCTCTTATTTGGG 89040  
 AGAGAUUGAAC-3' (113080)

CAGGGTTTCAAAGGGTTTTTTCTGGAAAGGACACTTCTAGTCCCTTCCAGAATAAAGACTCAAACTACTTGGTTTTTTTTTATATACTTTCTTTGTTCAAGGTTGATAT 89160  
 5S rRNA 5'-UU (112960)

CTGGTGTCTTAGCGGTAGAGGAACACACCATCATCCGAACCTGGTGGTGAACACTTATGGGTGCAATACTTTAGGGGAAGCCCTATGGAAAAATAGCTCGACGCCAGGATGAA 89280  
 CUGGUCUUAAGCGGUAAGAGAAACACACCAUUCUUCGGAACUUGGUGUAAACUUAUUGCGGUGACAAUACUUAAGGGAAGCCUUAUGAAAAUAGCUCGACGCCAGGAU-3' (112840)

AAAATTAATGTCTCTATTATAGTCAAATACCATACATACCAATTTTACCTCCTTATTTCTCTACCTCCACACTTCAAAATGCATATATTTTTTTTGAATAACAATCTTAAATTT 89400  
 (112720)

CCGCGCATCTCTTAGTCTTGAATGGCTAAAGAGAAAAGATTGCTTTTGGAAAAGGCTCTAGAACAGATTAGTGGAGGCGGGTTTTGTAGCTCAGAGGATTAGAGCAGCTGGCTACGAA 89520  
 Arg-ACG 5'-GGGUUUGUAGCUCAGAGGAAUAGAGCAGGUCUACGAA (112600)

CCACGGTCTGGGGTTCGAAATCCCTCCTTCCCAACAACCTTCAGAGGTTTTTACATGTTAGGAGGTTCAACGATTTAGGAAAGCCCAACGGCGGGACTTATGGTATTTTTTT 89640  
 CCACGGGUCGGGGUCCGAUCCUUCUUGCCA-3' (112480)

TAAGCAGGCTTTTACTCAAATACTAAAATAATACATTAACCTACTCTTTATGTATAGTACACTTAATTAATTAACAACAATTTTGTGTTCCCTCTGCAACTTGTATTACCCT 89760  
 (112360)

GTCAGGATTGAGCAAAGTTTAGTAATAATAAATTCGCATAAATAAGTGGTTGTTTAGATAAGGCAATGAAATGTTGGTAATAATAATTTACTAAAATTTATGACTGCATCTTGTAT 89880  
 (112240)

AAATGCTGTAAATATTAGTAGAAGTATCTATAGTATAGTGAAGAACTAATAGAACATTCAAATTTATAGCCAAATTTATAGTGGTACTCCGAGTAACTTATTATCAATGCT 90000  
 (112120)

TTTTAAGCAAAAATCTACATTGTTACTAGTTAGTCAAGTCTCAACAAATAGAAAGCTTCACTCAAAATAGTCTAATACTTTCATCAAAAAAAAATAATCCATTTGCTTTCTTAG 90120  
 (112000)

TTTTTCAGTCTCCATAGATCATTGTTTCTCATTTTTTAGATTACGGATAATCATCAGTACATTTTTTTTGTGCAATTTGACATTAGTATAACAATGAAAAAGAACACTAGTT 90240  
 (111880)

CTAAGAGTCAAAAACAGCACTCTCCTCAGTGGATTGAACCTACGACCAATCGGTTAAACAGCCBACCGCTCTACACTGAGCTACTAAGGAACAATGAGTTAAATCTAAAAGATTCA 90360  
 3'-GAGGAGUCCAUUCUUAACUUGGAGUCUGGUUAGCCAAUUGUCGGCUGGCGAGUAGGUGACUCGUAUUCU-5' <Asn-GUU (111760)

AAAACTTTTCAACCTAAAATAGCCATAAAGCTGTCAAAGAACCAAAAAATCTTGGATTAAGAATGGAAATAACTTTTCACTACTCTCCTCTTTTATTAAGGGTAAAAGATAA 90480  
 <TAATAT (111640)

CGATAGCAATCCCTTAACTCTACATCGAAAAATTTTGAACAAGGGGAGGGGCTCAACATCACTATGATCTTCCAGTGTCTCCGCGAGATGCTTATTGATTAAGCAAGTCAAT 90600  
 <ATCGTT TTGAT> (111520)

GATGCTACAATCTTAACGATTTGCTAAGTCAACTATTCTCCGAGGGGTACAATAACTCTTCTACAAAAAAAGTATCTTTTATCTAAAAGTGAAGCAGATCATGGTGAACGGTT 90720  
 TACAAT> (111400)

TTAACCGACTTTACCTATTTTCCGATCTCTTCTTTAATAAAAACAAGCAGATTTTATAGCACTGGAAATATTTTCAATCAGAAATCTCTTCAAAATCCCTTTCTCGTTTGTG 90840  
 (111280)

CTTTGCCTCTTGTCTACTTCACTGTTTAGAGTCTTGGGTTATAGACTAAATGTTAGATAGTAACTTCTACTGATCTACTCCGGTTTTTGTAAATCAAGTAGTAAAGTGTGGAA 90960  
 TTCATG> TAGACT> (111160)

AAGTAGCAAGTCAAAAACTCCATATTACBATTGTAICTTATCTTGAAGAATTTAAAAGAAATTTAAATTTACTTAATAAATTAATCAAAAGCTCATAATAACATAAAATATG 91080  
 (111040)

TTATCATAAATAATATTATTAATAATATAGCTATATAAAAAACAACAATAAAAAATTGAAAAAaataatagaagaatctcactcctctctatatatttaactctca 91200

Fig. 2, cont.

(b) *ndh5*

AAACATATCTTTAGTTCAAAACATAAAAAAGATATATAAATATTATATTACTTTTATATTAAGTATCTTTTGTAGTTTTTTATTACTTAAAAAGAAAAATTAATTTATTTTATA 93241

TTTTTGAATTATAAACGAAAATTTATAAAAAATATAAGGTTTATTTTAAATAAAAAATGTTTTATGGAACCTTATATTTCAAATGTTGGTTTGTACCATTGTTCCATTTTAGCTCTAT 93121  
TTATAA> TATAAA> ndh5> M E L I F Q N V W F V P L F P F L A S I

TTTATTAGGAATCGGATTTTTCCTCAAAATTCATATAAAAAATTCGTCGTCTATCTCTTTTATTAGTATTATGTTTTTAAACATAGCTATGTTACTCTCATTTCATTTTTTTG 93001  
L L G I G L F F P N S I K K F R R L S S F I S I M F L N I A M L L S F H F F W

GCAACAAATACAGGTAGTCCAATTCATAGATTTATGGTCTTGGGTTCTTTATAAAAAATTTGTTTTAGAAAATAGGCTTTTACTTGTACCACCTTACTCAATATGTTAGTTTT 92881  
Q Q I T G S P I H R Y L W S W V L Y K N F V L E I G Y L L D P L T S I M L V L V

AACTACAGTAGCAGTTATGGTATGATTTATAGTATAGTATATGTTTATGATGAAGGATATAAAAAATTTTTGTTTAAAGTCTTTTACTGCATCAATGTTAGGTTAGTCT 92761  
T T V A V M V M I Y S D S Y M F Y D E G Y I K F F C Y L S L F T A S M L G L V L

TAGTCCYAAATTAATAACAAGTTTATTTTTTGGGAATAGTGGAAATGTTTCATATTTTAAATGGTTTTTGGTTTACTAGACCAAGTGCAGCTAATCGGTGTCAAAGCTTTTGT 92641  
S P K L I Q V Y I F W L F L V G M C S Y L L I G F W F T R P S A A M A C Q K A F V

TACAATCGCATTTGGTATTTGGATTATYATTAGGCATTTAGGATTTTATGGATAACAGGTAGTTTGGATTTCACAATAATCAAACGATTTTTGAAATCTACTAGCTATAATCA 92521  
T N R I G D F G L L L G I L G F Y W I T G S F D F Q Q L S K R F F E L L S Y M

AAATTAATAGTTTTTGTACTTTGCTCTATTTTGTTTTTAGGTCAGTAGCTAAATCTGCACAAATTCACATATATGTTACCAGTGTACTGGAAGACCTACACCCAT 92401  
I N L V I Q V Y I F W L F L V G P V A K S A Q F P L H I W L P D A M E G P T P I

TTACAGCCTTATTCATGCTGCAACTATGGTTCAGCTGGTATTTTCTAGTTCCTGCAATGTTCTCTTTTTCAAATGTTACCATTGTCATGAGTATCATTCTTGGACAGGTGCCAT 92281  
S A L I H A A T M V A A G I F L V A R M F P L F Q M L P F V M S I I S W T G A I

TACAGCTTATTAGGAGCTACTATGCTTTAGCTCAAAAAGATCTTAAAAAGGTTTAGCTTATCAACAATGTCACAATTAGGATATATGATGTTAGCATTAGGCATCGGATCTTCAA 92161  
T A L L G A T I A L A Q K D L K K G L A Y S T M S Q L G Y M M L A L G I G S Y K

AGCTGGTTATTCATCTTATACACTGCTTTCAAAGCTTTACTATTTCTGGTCTGGTTCAGTATTCAATCAAGTAACTATGAGTATCTCGGAATAAAAGTCAAAA 92041  
A G L F I H L I T H A Y S K A L L F L G S G S V I H S M E P I V G Y H P N K S Q N

TATGATTTTATGGTGGTTTAAAGACAATATGCGCAATACGCAATAACTTTTTGTTTGGTACACTTCTTTATGTTGGAATTCACCTTTTGTCTGTTTGGTCCAAAGATGAAAT 91921  
M I F M G G L R Q Y M P I T A I Y F L F G T L S L C G I P P F A C F N S K D E I

TTTAGTAATAGTTGGTACATTTTCTCTATTTTAGGGCTATTGCTTTTTTACAGCTGGTTTAACTGCTTTTATATGTTTCGTATATTTTTAACTTTGAGGGAGATTTTCGTGG 91801  
L V N S W L H F P I L G S I A F F T A G L T A F Y M F R I Y F L T F E G D F R G

TCAATTTTTGATCGCTAAAAAATTTCTCTATTTCAATGGGGAGTTTAGAATTTAACAAAGAACAAATTAACCTAGACAAAAATCTACATATATCTCGAAGAGCTAATAA 91681  
H F F D G V K K L S I S I W G S L E F N X E Q F K L D K K S T L Y P K E A N N

TATAATGTTATTCCTTTAATAATATAACAATACCTACTGATTTATAGGTTTTATAGGAAATTTATTTGATGAAAATAAAAGAAATGATGTTCTTTCTTATGCTTACTTTATC 91561  
I M L F P L I I L T I P T V F I G F I G I L F D E N K M N V D S L S Y W L T L S

CATAAATCTTTAATACAGTAATTCGAAAAGTTTTAGAAATTTTATTAATGCAATTCCTCTGTAGTATAGCTTTTTTGGAAATTAATGCTTTTTTATTTATGCTCTAA 91441  
I N S F H Y S N S E K F L E F L F N A I P S V S I A F F G I L I A F Y L Y G P N

TTTTTCTTTTTAAAAAAGAAAAAATTTACAATGAAATCTGAAATAGATGTTTTAAAAAGTTTTCAAATTTTATTTATAATGGCTTATATCGAGCTTATATAGATGG 91321  
F S F L K K E K K K L Q L K S E I D I V L K S F S M F I Y N W S Y R A Y I D G

GTTTTATCTCTTTTTTTAATAAGGTTTTAAGGTTTTAATAAATAGTTCTTTTATGATGATGGATTATGATGGAATATAAATGGAATGGCATTTTTGTGTTTTTTGGAGG 91201  
F Y S S F F I K G L R F L I K I V S F I O R W I I D G I I N G I G I F S F F G G

TGAGAGTTTAAAAATATAGAAAGGAGGTAGAAATTTCTCTTATTTATTTTCTAATTTTTTGTATGTTTTTTTTTATATGCTTTTTTTTATGCTTTTTTATGCTTAA 91081  
E S L K Y I E G G R I S S Y L F F I I F C M F L F F L Y S Y I I ---

(c) *rpl21 - ORF320*

TATAAAAAATTAATATTTTTTCTTTTTTAAAGTATAAAAAAACAATAAAGATACTTATAATATAAAGTAAATATAATATTATATATCTTTTTTTAGTTTTGAACATAAAGATATGTT 93360

TTTTTTATAAAAAAATAATTTGAAAAATATTTGTTCTATCTCTAGTTTAAAAATTTAAATTAATTTTTTTTAAAAACAATTAATAAAAATAAAACATTTATAACATAATGAGTAAATC 93480  
TTGAAA> TCTAGT> rpl21> M S K Y

GCAATAATGAAACCGGAGGGCAGCACTCCGAGTAGAACCTGGGAAGATTTATAAATTCGTCATTTGTCTCATTAAACCAAAATGAATTAGAACAACCAACAAAAATTAATTTAT 93600  
A I I E T G G Q Q L R V E P G R F Y N I R H F V S L T P H E L E Q N T K I L I Y

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R V L M I R Q E S T I K M G H P W L K G A I V K G R I L H S C L E K K I T I Y K

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M I S K K K T R R K L G H R Q K S T R F I V D S I F L N G K E I ---

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ORF69> AGG M A V P K K R T S K S K T R I R K A I W K H K A N

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K S A L R A F S L A K S I L T H R S K S F Y Y T I N D K L L N S K S I S T S K

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L D E S --- mbp1> AGG M I P L F F

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Fig. 2, cont.

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ACTTAAAGCTGTATTAAATGAAGGATGGAAAACTATTGGTTCAGTGGTAAATAAAAAAGTTTAACTCTTAGGAGTGCCTTTAGCAATGATTTTGTATCTTACT 94680  
 TLMYTFNFKDKGFKPIKPTSCALWLMIKIVFNPIGVLLLAHIFVSLP

TTGTAGTACGCACCATACAAACCGTITTAACAAAACATGGAAGAAAGATTAGAAGAAGCTGCATGGTGTTAGGTGCATCACATGGACAACTTTTGGCATATTTTGGTCCACCATT 94800  
 FVVRTIQPV LQNHKEEDLEEA AAWCLGAS PWTTFWHILFPPL

ACTCCATATTTAACTGGAACTACTTATGGTTTTCTAGAGCTTTAGGTGAATATGGTTCATAGTTTAAATAGCGTCAATATCCAAATGAAGAATTTAGTAATTTCTGTACTTCT 94920  
 T P S L L T G T T L G F S R A L G E Y G S J V L I A S N I P M K D L V L S V L L

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 FQKLEQYDYKWSATYIAASFVLIISFTA LFFINKIQLWKKT F

CATAATAAATCTTTGAAAGAAATAAAATGGAAAAAGTATTTTCATAAAAACATGAAATACACTTTTCCATTTTAAATAGTAAATTAATATAATTTTATTTAGTAGCGGGATT 95160  
 HK ←-----→ ←-----→ 3'-AACUCUACGCCCUAA

TGAACCCAGCAGCTTTCACCCCAAGATGATACACTACCAAACCTATATGCTTTTATATAAAAAGTAAAAATTTTTAAAAATATAGTATAAATAAATAAGCCGCTA 95280  
 ACUUGGGUGUGAAGAAAGUAGGGUGUCUACUUGUAGUGUUGUUAUUGAGGC-5' <Pro-GGG TAAAA> <Leu-UAG> TATAAT> 5'-GCCGCUA

TGGTAAATTTGGTAGACACGCTGCTCTTAGAAGCAGTGCTAAGGCTTCGGTTCGAAATCCGAGTAGCGGCATAAAATTTTTTATTAATAAATATGTTTTATAATATCTTTGTCTTT 95400  
 UGGUAAAUGGUAGACACGUGUCUUAUGGAAGCAGUGUCUUAUGGUCUUCUGGUUGCAUCCGAGUAGCGGCA-3' ←-----→ ←-----→

TTATTTATTAATAACAGTATTATATAATTTTTTTAAATCAATTTGTATACACTAAAAAATTTAAATTTTTTATATGCCATTATAACCTTAGAGCGTATTTAGCACATACA 95520  
 ORF320> ←-----→ ←-----→ M P F I T L E R I L A H T

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 L T S Y F N F P F W S F I F K N L L Q P M E N E I L S Y K T Q K V F S F I N F R

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 Y W N W D P K E T W A L I T W L I F A I Y L H T R M I K G W Q G K K P A I I A S

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 L G F F I V M I C Y L G V N L L G K G L S Y G W L I ←-----→

ATTATTTCAATAGTGGATTATAGATAAGTTATTATATAATCCCACTATTGAATAATGAAAACCTAGTTCACITTTTTAGTAAATATAACAATTTAAATGTTTTCAAATTA 96600  
 ←-----→ ←-----→

**(d) frxC - ndh4**

#####caccaaacatcaccaaaattatgaaatagcagtttatgggaaagtgccataggaatactcaaaactagttgtaatttctattggcatagcaagacgtgggaaaaaagtt 110881  
*frxC* M K I A V Y G K G G I G K S T T S C N I S I A L A R R G K K V

TTACAAATCGBTGTGATCCAAAACATGACAGTACATTCACACTTACAGGATTTTAAATCTCAATATATAGATCTTTACAATCAAAAAGATTATCATTCAGGAAGATTTGGCCGTGA 110761  
 L Q I G C D P K H D S T F T L T G F L I P T I I D T L Q S G A Y W A H E A W G S

GATGTAATATAAAGGTTATGGCCGGTGTGATGTTGATGAAAGCTGGAGGACCTCTGCTGGAGCTGGATGGGGGGTTATGTTGGGGAAGAAGTGTAAATTAATAAAGAAATTAAT 110641  
 D V I Y K G Y G R C D C V E A G G P P A G A G C G G Y V V G E T V K L L K E L N

GCTTTTTATGAATGATATATTTATTTGATGTTCTAGGGGATGATGATGGCGGGCTTGGCTGCTCATAAATTAAGCAGATATTTGATTATTTACAGATAATGGAATTTGAT 110521  
 A F Y E Y D I I L F D V L G D V V C G G F A A P L N Y A D Y C I I I T D N G F D

GGGTTATTTGCTGCTAATAAGATAGCAGCTTCAGTAAGAAAAAGCTCGTACACATCCCTTAGATAGCAGGCTTAGTGGAAATCGTACATCAAAACGAGATTTAATTTGATAAAT 110401  
 A L F A A N R I A A S V R E K A R T H P L R L A G L V G N R T D K Y

GTGAGCTGTGCAATGECAGTCTAGAAATATTACCTCTATTGAAGATATCGAGTTCTAGAGTTAAAGTAAAACTTTATTTGAAATGGTAGAATTAACACCCAGCTCTTAATAAT 110281  
 V E A C P M P V L E V L P L I E D I R V S R Y K G K T L F E M V E L Q P S L X Y

GTGTTGATTTTATTAATAATAGCAGATCAAAATTTATGAAACCAGAAAGAAATTTTCAAAGAAAGTTCCAGATCGAAGATTTATTTAGTTACITTCAGATTTTTATTAATCTCT 110161  
 V C D F Y L N I A D Q I L S K P E G I I P K E V P D R E L F S L L S D F Y L N P

GTAACACTGTAAATGAAAAAATAAACCAAAATTAATTTGATTTTATGATAATTAAGAAAAAATTTTTGTTTTAGTTAAGGAAATATAAATAATGTCAATAAATAATCTGCAAACT 110041  
 V N T V N E K N K P N L I D F H I I ←-----→ ORF465> AGGA MSIKISEET

CTCACTTTGAAATGGAAACAGGTAATATCATACATTTTCTCTATGTTGGTAGTATATCAAAAAATGAAGATAGTTTTTTTTAGTAGTGGTACAAAAACATGTGGT 109921  
 L T F E C E T G N Y H T F C P I S C V A W L Y Q K I E D S F F L V V G T K T C G

TATTTTTACAAAATGCTCTGGAGTTATGTTTTCGTAACCTGTTATGCTATGGCAAAATAGAAAGAGGTGATTTCSAGTCAAATGAATGATTAGAAGAAATGAAAGGATTA 109801  
 Y F L Q N A L G V M I F A E D Q I L S G E A L E E G D I S A Q L N D Y E E L K R L

TGTGTTCAAATAAAAAGATAGAACCCTAGTGAATTTTGGATTTGACTGTACAAACAGAAATAATAAATGGAATTAAGAAAGGACCCAAAATTTGAAAAAGGAAATCGAA 109681  
 C V Q I K K D R N P S V I I W I G T C T T E I I X K D L E G H A P K L E N E I E

Fig. 2, cont.

ATTCCAATGTTGTCGAAGAGCTAATGGTCTAGATTATGCTTTTACTCAAGGAGAAGATACTGTTTATAGCTGCTATGGCACAATCGTTGCTGAACAAAAAAGTAAATTTGAAAAAAA 109561  
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 ATAGATGATAAATCTACAGAATAATTTCTTTCTCTCTTAAAAACAAAAAATCCAATAATCTTTTACTTTAAAAAATACATTTCTTTAGTCTTTTGGTCTTTTACTCT 109441  
 I D D K S I O E L F S F L P L K T K E K S N K S F T L K N T F S L V L F G S L P  
 TCAACAGTAGCTTCTCAGCTTAGTTTGAATTAAGAAACGTCATCTATTCATGTTTCCAGGTTGGCTACCTGCTCAAGATATACAGATCTCCGATATGGGAGATAAAGTTTACGTTTGT 109321  
 S T V A S Q L S L E L K R Q S I H V S G W L P A Q R Y T D L P I L G D K V Y V C  
 GGTSTAATCCTTTTTAAGTCGAACAGCAACTACTTTAATGAGGCGTCGAAAATGATAAATTAATGGAGCTCCTTTTCAATTTGGTCTGCTGGAACCTGTCAGTGGATTTGAAAAAAT 109201  
 G V M P F L S T A T T L M R R R K C K L I G A P F P I G P O G T R A W I E K I  
 TGTTCAAGTTTAAATATGAAACACAAGGTTAGAAAGAAAGAAACAACAAGTGGGAAAGTTAAAAAATATCTTAATTTAGTACGTCGAAAAATCTGTTTTTTTATGGGAGATAAT 109081  
 C S V F N I E T Q G L E E R E Q Q V W E S L K N Y L M L V R G K S V F F M G D H  
 CTTTTAGAAATCTCTTAGCAAGATTTTTAAATCCGATGGTATGATGTTTATGAAATGGAAATCCATATATGGATAAAGATATCAAGCTGCAGAAATTAACACTTTTGAAGAACT 108951  
 L L E I S L A R F L I R C G M I V Y E I G I P Y M D K R Y Q A A E L T L L Q E T  
 TGTAAAAATGTTGATACCAATCCCTCGAATTTGTTGAAAAACCTGATAATATAATCAAATACAGCGTATGGGTGAATTAACAACCGGATTTAGCTATTACAGGAATGGCTCATGCAAAAT 108841  
 C K K K K I P M P R I V E K P D N Y N Q I Q R M R E L O P D L A I T T G M A H A N  
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 P L E A R G I N T K W S V E F T F A Q I H G F T M A K D V L E L V T R P L R R N  
 AATAATTTAGAAATTTAGGTTGGACTAAATTAATAAAAAACAAAAAAGATAAAAAAAGACTATTCTAGTAGACTAAATTTATATTAATTAAGTAAGTCTTTTTTACAAA 108601  
 N H L E N L G M T H L I K I Q K R  
 TATTGGGTTTTCTTAATAATTTATTCTAATTTTAACTCTATTTTATGAGGAAGGTTTTTATTATGATAACAAGCATTCCCTTATYGCITTCGTGCTATGGGTCCAATATTATCAT 108481  
 ORF1068> GAGG M I T S I P L L L S V L W V P I L S W  
 GGATAAATTTTCAAGTACATTTTTTTTGGTTGGAATATATATGAGATTCTGACTACTTTACCTATTTGGTCCCTCAACTGTTATCTATAAGAGCTTTTCTGTTAGAAAGAAATTTTA 108361  
 I N F S S T F F L F G I Y Y G F L T T L P I G P S Q L L S I R A F L L E G N F S  
 GTGGTATAGCAGCTGTAGTGACTAATACAGCAACAATTTGATGATTTTATCAATTTTATTACCATTGTATGTTCTAATAAAGACTCCTACTTTAACTTTGTTGGTTTTAC 108241  
 G I A A V S G L I T G O L L I F L S I F Y S P L Y V L L I K P H L L T L L V L P  
 CATATATTTATTCTTAGGATAAATTAAGATTTAATAGATATCAATCTTTAAAACCTATAACACTTATAAGATCTCGAAATTTCTAAATTTTGGTATGTTTATATTTTC 108121  
 Y I L F Y W Y K I K L L I D Y Q S L K P I T S I K D T R I S X I F F D S F I F Q  
 AATTATTAATCTGTTGATTTACCAAGTCTGTATTAGCAAGATTACTAAATATTTCTTTTTTCGTTATAGTAATAATTTTATTTTTTTACTAAGTAGTTTTTTAGGTTGGTGTG 108001  
 L F N P V V L P S P V L A R L L N I F L F R Y S N N F I F L L S S F L G W C F G  
 GTCATTTTATTGTAAGTTTAGGCAATTTACTTCTATTTCGTATGAAATCGGATTCACCTCTTTTATCTTTTAGTTAAGACTATTATTCGAACTTTTAGTATTATTATATTA 107881  
 F L L F V L G L L L F R I E S D S P I L Y L L V K R I I Y R T F S I I L S  
 GTTTTTATTACATTTAGTAGAGCTCAGTACCTTTTATCAAAAAAATTAATGATAAATTTGCAATTTAATTTATCAAAACAGAGGATCTTTGTTATTAACAAATCTTGGC 107761  
 F S L L H L S R A P V P F I T X K L H D H L Q F H L S K P E O S F V L T X S M P  
 CGACTCTTTTTTGGATATCGCAAAATGGAAATAGACATTACGATATATAGAAAATAGTAGATTAGTAGTCAAGCTCTATAAAAAAAGTATCTCAATATTTTTTAAATTTCTT 107641  
 T L F F D Y R K W N R P L R Y I E N S R F S S Q S P I K K K V S Q Y F F N I S L  
 TAAGTGTGAAACCAAGACTCTTTTACATTTTACCAGTTTGTATTTTAAAAAATTTGCAAAAAATCCTCTATTAATTTCAATCTTTTTTCTCATGAAATTTATGAAA 107521  
 S D G K P R L S T Y L F Y F E X N L Q K S S I N H N L F S S N E I Y E K  
 AATGGATTAATAAAAAAATAAAAAAATAAAGATATAAAGAATTTAAAAATCGAATTTAAATTTTTAGATAATGGATTTTTTTAGCAGAAATTTGAAAAAACAATATTGT 107401  
 W I K N K K N K K L K I Y X E F K N R F K F L D N G F F L A E I I E K K N I L S  
 CACTTTTGAAGAAATTTTACAAAAATTTGATGCTTTGTTAATTAACAATATGATAAAAAATGATAGTATCAAAATCACCATGGCTTTAAGCAGAAAAATCTTATAAATTA 107281  
 T F E G N I F T K I C D P L L I K Q Y D K K M I V S K S P W L L T E K S Y K L T  
 CAAAAACGCAAAACACTTACTTTCTAAAAAAGATAAATAACTGAAAAAGTGGATTTCTAATCAATGTCGAAGATTTGAAGATAAAAAATTTCAATTTTACCTTGGGAACCTTAACTC 107161  
 K T Q X T L T F S X K L D N K L K K W I S N Q C Q E F E D K N F I L P W E L T Q  
 AAGATGCTAGGCGCATTTAAGTTTACTATTAAACAAATCAAAAAAACAATAATGATACAAATTTGAAACAAATGAATTTTTTGTATGAAAAATGCAACCCAATTTGATTAACAAA 107041  
 D A R R I L S L L I N K S K K T K I O T N L K Q M N F F D E N A T Q L L N K Q N  
 ATCTTCTCAATGAAAAATACAGTAAAAAATAAATAGAAATCAAAATCAAAATTTGGGAACCTATTTTTTAAATTTATCTCTCGECAAATAATTTATTTTTGAATATTACAAAAAG 106921  
 L S S I R T R K K I N R K S N L H W E L I L N L S P R Q K I L F L N Y L Q K D  
 AATAATGGAAACGCTTAAATTTCTGGAAAAATTTTTTTAGGTGATTTTACTCAAAATAAAAATATTCTTTTTTAAACAAGATAAATTAACCTGATCAAAATCTCAATTTTC 106801  
 K W H T L K I S M K N F L F D F T Q I K N I L F L L T K I I K P D Q N Y Q F Q  
 AAGAAATAAATAAGAAATAACAAGATGAACTTCAAAATTAATAATGATAAATTTGAGCTTATAGCTATCGGAGTACTGATATTGCTCAAGAAAAAGTTAAAAATTTAGGATATTTAA 106681  
 E I N K E I P R W T S K L K N D K F D V J A I G V Y T D I R Q R K V K N L G Y L I  
 TAAAAAGAAAGATAAAGAAAGAAAAATAAAGACGTTTTTCAACAATCTGATTTTCTGTCGAAAAATTTAGTAAAAAGGATCTATGCGTCTGACGACGCTAAAACTTTAATATGAAAA 106561  
 K G K D K R R X I I R R F S Q S D F R R K L V K G S M R A R R R K T L I W K I  
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 F Q V K I N S P F F L R I M D K P H L N V N H V L K I K P T F Q N I L E K K K K K  
 AAGATCGCTAAATCAAAAGCTTTGTTTAAAAAGAACAAAAGCAGATCGTTTGTATAGCAAAACAGATGGGATTTTCCATTAGCTCAGTGGGGAAGAGTTGGTTACTACTTATTC 106321  
 E S L N Q K A L F I K R T X A D R F A I A N R W D F P L A Q W G R S W L L L I Q  
 AATCAGCTAAGAAAAATATATTTACTTATTAATTAATTTAAAAATGTCATGTTTGTTTTTTCAAAATTCGGAATGGAATCAAGATGGAATGGAATGGAATGGAATGGAAT 106201  
 S H L R K Y I L L P I L I R F S I I F X N V I R L L F L F Q I P E W N Q D W Y E W N K E I  
 TTCATATAAGATGATACATATGATGGCAGTAAATTTGAAAAAAGATAAACAACAATGGCTTAGAGATGGTCTTCAAAATAAAAATTTATCTTTTTTAAAAACCTGGCATA 106081  
 H I R C T Y D G T E V S E X E L P E Q W L R D G L Q I K I I Y P F Y L K P W H N

Fig. 2, cont.







TTTTCTATTTTATATAGCCATCGTGGCTGCTGAAGCCACTATAGGATAGCTATTTAGCTATTATCGAAATAGAAAAACAACCTCGTATTGATCAATTTAATTTGCTAAAATG 98761  
 F S I F I I A I A A A E A T I G L A I V L A I Y R N R K S T R I D Q F N L L K W  
 GTAATAGTCTTTATAAAAATTTAATATAGAAAATATAGAAAACAAATATATAGATATGATATATAGTATTAAATATTTTATATATAGTTTTTATATAGAAAATAGAAAA 98641  
 -----  
 AGTTTGATGTATATAAATTTAATATATAAAAAATAAATAAAAAAATATATATATATGTTTTATTAAATTAAGGTTTTTCCAAATTAGGGTAAATAAATGGCACATCGAGT 98521  
 TTGATA> TATAAA> ----- frxC> AGGAG MAHAV  
 CAAAATTTATGATACATGTAATGGTTGACTCAATGTGAAGAGCTGTGCGACAGATGTTAGAAAATGATACCTGGGATGGATGAAGCTAATCAAATAGCTTCTGCTCCTCGAAC 98401  
 K I Y D T C I G C T Q C V R A C P T D V L E M I P W D G C K A N Q I A S A P R T  
 AGAAGATTGTAGGTTGTAAGATGTGAATCTGCTGCTCAACAGATTTTTAAGTGTACGTGTTTATTAGGAAATGAGACTACTCGTAGTATGGGCTAAGTATTAAATTTACT 98281  
 E D C V G C K R C E S R C P T D F L S V R V Y L G N E T T R S M G L S Y ---  
 ATTGAAAAATAGTTAATAACTAAATAGTAAATACAAAATTTTTATTATTTTTAATAAGAACTATATATATATATATATACAGGTTCTTTAATAACTTTTTTTTATCTTTATTATGA 98161  
 ----- ndh4> M N  
 ACCATTTTCTTGGCTAACTATTATGTTCTTTTCTATATCTGCAGGTTAGTAATCCGGTTTTTACCTCTACAGGGAACAAAATTTTCGATGGTACTTTAGGTGTTTGTAT 98041  
 H F P W L T I I V L F P I S A G L V I P F L P S T G H K I I R W Y T L G V C L L  
 TAGAATTTCTTTAATAACTTATATTTTTGTTTCAATTAATGATCATTTAAATCAATTAAGAAAGATTAAATGGATTAGTTTATTAATTTTCATTGGAGTTAGGAA 97921  
 E F L L I T Y I F C Y K H Y Q F N D H L I Q L K E D Y H W I S F I M F H W R L G I  
 TTGATGGATTTCAATAGGACTATTATTAACAGGATTTATAACTACTTACTGCTACTGCTGCTGGCCGTAACAAGAAATCCAGATATTATTATTTTTGATGTTAGCAATGT 97801  
 D G F S I G L I L L T G F I T T L A T L A A W P Y T R N P R L F Y F L M L A M Y  
 ATAGTGACAATTTGGACTATTGCTCTCAGATATTTACTCTTTTTTATGTTGGGAGTTAGAATTACTTCTGTTTATTGCTTTTAGCAATGGGGAGGAAAAAGCAGCTTAT 97681  
 S G Q I G L F A S Q D I L L F F F M W E L E L L P V Y L L L A M W G G K R R L Y  
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 A A T K F I L Y T A A G S L F I L I G L I M A F Y N S H E F T F D F Q F L I N  
 AAAAAAATCTCTTGGAAATAGAAAATAATATATTTAAGTTTTTAAATAGCTTATGACAGTAAATACCAATAACTTTCCATACTGGTACCAGATACACATGGAGAAGCAC 97441  
 K K Y P L E L E I I I Y L S F L I A Y A V K L P I I P F H T W L P D T H G E A H  
 ACTATAGTACATGATGCTTTAGCTGGAATACTTTAATAAGGGAGCCATGGAATTAATAGAAATTAATGGAATTACTTCTCATGACACTCTTTTTTCTGCAATGGTATAGTAA 97321  
 Y S T C M L L A G I L L K M G A Y G L I R I M M E L L P H A H S F F A P W L V I  
 TTGATGGCAATTTCAATAGTTTATGAGCTTTAATCTCTCAAGTCAACGCAATTTAAAGAAGAATGCTTATTCTCAGTATCACATATGGGATTTGTTCTTATCGAATTTGGAT 97201  
 V G A I Q I V Y A A L T S L S Q R N L K R R I A Y S S V S H M G F V L I G I G S  
 CGATCACAATTTAGGGCTAATGGTGTCTATTACAAAATGATTTACATGGTTAATGGTCTTCAGTTTTTCTTAGCAGGAATAAGTTATGATGCAACAGGACTTTGGTTTTAG 97081  
 I T N L G L N G A I L Q M I S H G L I G A S L F F L A G I S Y D R T R T L V L D  
 ATCAAATGGGTGGAATAGGTAATCTATGCAACAAAATTTACATATTTACTAGTTGTCAGTGGCATTTAGCTTTGCGCAGTATGAGTGGTTTTATAGCCGAATTAATGATTTTT 96961  
 Q M G G I G N S M P K I F T L F T S C S M A S L A L P G M S G F I A E L M I F L  
 TAGGAGTAATGATAATCCTAATATTCTTCTATTATTAATAATAATATTATAAATCAAGAAATGGTATTATTTGACTCCTATTATTATTATTCATGTTACGTCAAATGTTT 96841  
 G V I D N P N Y S S L F K I I I I I Q G I G I I L T P I Y L L S M L R Q M F Y  
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 G Y K F N T L E P Y F M D A G P R E I F I L I C L F P I I S I G I Y P N F V  
 TTTATCTATTGGAATAGTAAAGTAAATTTCTTTTATCTAATAATTTTTCTAAAATCTAGAAAATTTAGTATTCTTTGAAATGCAAAAATGAAAGTTCTATAATTTCTAATAAA 96601  
 L S I W N S K V H F L L S H N F F ---  
 TAAATTTGAAACATTTAAATGTTAATAATTTACTAAAAATAAGTGAACCTAGTTTTCTAATTTCAAATAGTGGATTTATAAATAACTTATCTATAAATCCACTATTGAAATAAT 96481  
 -----

Fig. 2. Nucleotide sequences and deduced information of IR<sub>B</sub> (IR<sub>A</sub>) and SSC regions. Nucleotide sequences are shown in the direction of transcription except for tRNA transcripts. RNA transcripts for ribosomal and transfer RNAs (unmodified) are given under the DNA sequences. Genes (bold letters) with arrowhead (> or <) indicate the direction of transcription) are shown at the front of their coding sequences. Putative promoter sequences (-35 and -10 sequence) together with SD sequences, if any, are indicated by capitals with arrowheads. Dotted arrows indicate inverted repeated sequences. Double underlining indicates termination codons. Deduced amino acid sequences are shown by one-letter symbols. Transfer RNA genes are shown by the accepting amino acid in three-letter-symbols with anti-codons in parentheses. The 5' and 3' consensus sequences of introns are shown by small letters under the sequence with dotted lines. Gene abbreviations are the same as in the legend of Fig. 1. (a) Nucleotide sequence of the large inverted repeat region (IR<sub>B</sub>). The nucleotide sequence of the (-) DNA strand in the IR<sub>A</sub> region was the same as that of the (+) DNA strand of IR<sub>B</sub> region. (b) Nucleotide sequence of *ndh5* ((-) strand, on our file). (c) Nucleotide sequence from *rpl21* to ORF320. (d) Nucleotide sequence from *frxC* to *ndh4* ((-) strand, on our map).

rDNA sequence were observed by comparison with rRNA genes of other species, but the liverwort chloroplast rRNAs retain the characteristic secondary structures described by Glotz et al. (1981). Putative promoters for rrn operons (rrnA and rrnB) were located upstream from the 16S rRNA gene. There are several reports on the transcriptional unit of the chloroplast rrn operon. S1 mapping experiments were done to identify the initiation site of rrn gene transcripts using a 5'-labelled probe that contained genes for 16S rRNA and valine tRNA<sub>GAC</sub>. The results showed only two signals. One of them was for the 5'-end of mature 16S rRNA and the other was for the 5'-end of the primary transcript of the rrn gene, at a position about 130 bases upstream from the 16S rRNA gene (Umesono et al., unpublished result). This position is in very good agreement with the transcription starting point in maize (Strittmatter et al., 1985). No precursor RNA molecule that would have indicated co-transcription of the trnV(GAC) and rRNA genes was detected; 16S rRNA and valine tRNA(GAC) primary transcripts were different, although transcription of the rrn operon in vitro by E. coli RNA polymerase was reported to initiate at the promoter upstream from trnV(GAC) in tobacco chloroplasts (Tohdoh et al., 1981). Our results support the idea that the primary transcript of the rrn operon is synthesized from its own promoter just upstream from the 16S rRNA gene, as in maize (Strittmatter et al., 1985).

Five tRNA genes were detected in the IR region. None of the tRNA genes encoded the mature CCA sequence at its 3'-terminus. The trnI(GAU) and trnA(UGC) genes have 886-bp and 768-bp group II introns, respectively (Michel & Dujon, 1983). Introns in these tRNA genes have been reported in maize chloroplasts (Koch et al., 1981) and tobacco chloroplasts (Takaiwa & Sugiura, 1982b), but the splice junctions were not accurately identified. The exon-intron junctions of the liverwort genes were located from the deduced 5'- and 3'-consensus sequences of group II introns in liverwort chloroplasts (Ozeki et al., 1987; Ohyama et al., 1988a). For trnI(GAU), the liverwort DNA sequence was compared with

the isoleucine tRNA sequences of maize and spinach chloroplast (Guillemaut & Weil, 1982). These tRNA genes are split in the anticodon-loop and anticodon-stem junction; that is, at A<sub>38</sub>-G<sub>39</sub> for trnA(UGC) and A<sub>37</sub>-G<sub>38</sub> for trnI(GAU). The trnA(UGC) gene is the only gene for alanine tRNA in the chloroplast genome, and alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub> would recognize four GCN-alanine codons by an expanded wobble mechanism. The gene trnR(ACG) contained two mismatched base pairings in its aminoacyl stem with T<sub>5</sub>-T<sub>69</sub> and T<sub>6</sub>-T<sub>68</sub>, and had a highly conserved sequence (80% identical) with respect to trnR(CCG) in the LSC region (Fukuzawa et al., 1988). The trnN(GUU) gene is the only gene for asparagine tRNA in the chloroplast genome, and asparagine tRNA<sub>GUU</sub> recognizes two codons (AAU and AAC) in the chloroplasts (Ohyama et al., 1988a). The gene trnV(GAC), one of two chloroplast valine tRNA genes, is located upstream from the rrn operon in the IR regions, and the other trnV(UAC) has been mapped in the LSC region (Fukuzawa et al., 1988).

#### Gene arrangement near the junction between inverted repeats (IR) and large and small single copy (LSC and SSC) regions

In most chloroplast genomes, the IR regions contain both the rps'12-rps7 and trnL(CAA) gene cluster and the trnI(CAU) and rpl2-rps19 gene cluster, although the site of the junction between the IR and single copy regions varies somewhat in the plant species (Zurawski et al., 1984; Sugita et al., 1984). However, the liverwort rps'12 gene cluster and trnI(CAU) gene cluster were located separately in the LSC region near the junctions, and each gene was present as a single copy gene. The promoter sequences of these genes were located in the IR region near the junction J<sub>LA/LB</sub> (Fig. 2a). Stein et al. (1986) reported that the chloroplast genome of a fern (Osmunda) has relatively short inverted repeats similar to the liverwort chloroplast genome. This may be a feature of the gene organization of lower land plant chloroplast DNA, although the location of the rps'12, rps7, and trnL(CAA) genes is not

given.

Genes ndh5 (Fig. 2b) and frxC (Fig. 2d) were located across the junction sites  $J_{SB}$  and  $J_{SA}$ , respectively. The characteristics of frxC and ndh5 are described below. The junction ( $J_{SA}$ ) was located at the third codon after the initiation codon of the frxC gene. The other junction ( $J_{SB}$ ) was at the eighteenth codon from the termination codon of ndh5. Although the transcribable DNA sequences for each gene are physically separated, that portion of the IR next to the SSC region contained parts of both genes on the opposite strands. Preliminary Northern hybridization analysis indicated the expression of both frxC and ndh5 genes in liverwort chloroplasts (data not shown).

#### Genes in the SSC region

In the SSC region, there were 19,813 bp that made up 17 ORFs, the trnL(UAG) gene, and a trnP(GGG)-like sequence. The ORFs have been identified by comparison with a protein database (NBRF release 8 - 10). These genes were classified into five categories of coding sequences for iron-sulfur proteins, proteins homologous to mammalian mitochondrial components of NADH dehydrogenase, ribosomal proteins, other ORFs, and tRNAs. A schematic diagram of the gene organization in the SSC region is given in Fig. 1b to d. The nucleotide sequence and deduced information are shown in Fig. 2b to d. Promoter sequences can be seen upstream from the individual genes frxC, rps15, frxA, ndh5, rpl21, and trnL(UAG).

#### (i) 4Fe-4S protein genes (frxA, frxB, and frxC)

The frxA (98543-98289) gene product would be a hydrophilic polypeptide of 81 amino acid residues, rich in cysteine (9 residues, 11.1% of the total amino acids). This protein can be aligned with bacterial 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin. The amino acid sequence derived from the frxA gene shows local homology with 4Fe-4S proteins found in several microorganisms (Fig. 3a; Howard et al., 1983; Minami et al., 1985b; Tanaka et

(a) *frxA* and *frxB*

	MAMA-VK YDCIGCT--OCVRAQPTDVLHPIWD---GGKANO-IASAPRT-ED-CVGCK-----RCESRCPDFLSVRYVYLGNETTRSMGLSY	81	
<i>frxA</i>		183	29.3%
<i>frxB</i>	(60) F:K::A:E--V::V::IN--PVVD:ELKKT:KK--LKNYSIDFGV--:IF:G-----N:VEY:::NC::MTEEYELs:YNRHE:N: (46)	103	19.8%
<i>Sulfolobus</i>	(41) DF:L::ADG--S:IT:::VN:FQMYETP---:HP:SEKKADPVNO-QA---:IF:M-----A:VNV::VAAID:KPP	55	23.5%
<i>Clostridium</i>	:Y::A:S:VS:G--A:ASE::--:NA:S-Q---:-DSIFV:-D::--DT:::ID:G-----N:ANV::VGAPVQE	60	18.5%
<i>Chlorobium</i>	:LY-I:TEE:TY:G--A:EPE::--:TA:S-A---:-DDIYV:-D::--NT:::NE:AGLDEOA:YAV::AECIVQG	106	23.5%
<i>Azotobacter</i>	:f:V-T:N::K:KYTD::EV:---:-OCFY-E---:-PNFLV:-HP---DE:::ID:A-----L:PE::AEALFSEDEVPEMQEFQLN (36)		
Typical repeating units	C..C .C...CP C..C .C...CP		

(b) *frxC*

<i>frxC</i>	MK AVYVGGGIGKSTTSCN SIALARRGKVKLQIGCDPKHDS-FTLGTGLIPTI DTLOS KDYHYEDVYVPE VIYKVGRCOCVEAGGPPAGAGCG		
F202	MSAARACSM:A:::S:L:A:F SLL::R:::R:QE:V::I:KQVHF:P:ELR::YVTE:FNGVM:::~::~T::		
<i>nifH</i>	AMRQCAT:::~:::TQ:LVA::EM:::MIV:::A:::RL :Hskaon::ME-HAAEAGTV::LEL::LKA::GVK::S::EP:V::A		
<i>nifH*</i>	MALRQCAI:::~:::TQ:LVA::EA:::MIV:::A:::RL :Hskaon:VME-HAASAGSG::LEL::LQI::GVK::S::EP:V::A		
	GYVVGETVXLLKELNAFYE-YDI LFDVLGDVYVCGGFAAPL-HY-ADYCI ITONGFDALFAAHRI AASVREKARTHPLRLAGLV-GNRTSKR-D-LIDK		
	:::Q:::Q:::QHMLED-T:VVY:::~:::~:::OH--:RAL:V:A:D::SIY:NM:::I:A:QA:SVNYKV:::C:-A::SRET-N-EV:R		
	:RG:ITAINF::E:EG:YEDDL:FVYF:::~:::~:::M:IRENK:QEIY:VCSGEMM:MY:::N:SKGIVKY:NSGSV::G::ICNS:NTD:E:E:JA		
	:RG:ITAINF::E:EG:YSDDL:FVYF:::~:::~:::M:IRENK:QEIY:VCSGEMM:MY:::N:KGIYKY:HSOSV::G::ICNS:KTD:E:E:MA		
	YYEACPMPLVLEPLIEDIRVSRVKGKTLFEMVELOPSLKYVCDPY-LNIADO LSKPEGI PKVEVDRELFSLSDFYLNRPVNTVNEKNKPNLIDFMI	289	
	:C::ANFKRIAHM:DLDS::R::L:XR:::DOAEDVVMARAEYIR:AETLWRSTGEP:LT:EPLT::HI:E::GED	271	44.3%
	LANKLGTOMIHVF:-RQNV-Q:AEIRRM-TVI:YD:KA:QA--E:RAL--RKVVDNKLIV:NPITMDE:EE::ME:GIME:EDESIYG:TAEVY	289	34.6%
	LAAXIGTOMIHVF:-RQNV-Q:AEIRRM-TVI:YD:KA:QA--E:RAL--OK::NNKLLV::NPGTMED:EE::ME:GIMEAEDESIYG:AGAEG	290	35.3%

Fig. 3. Comparison of amino acid sequences of ORFs identified as iron-sulfur proteins (*frxA*, *frxB*, and *frxC*). (a) Homology of *frxA* and *frxB* gene products to bacterial 4Fe-4S ferredoxin proteins (*Sulfolobus* in Minami *et al.*, 1985b; *Clostridium* in Tanaka *et al.*, 1966; *Chlorobium* in Tanaka *et al.*, 1974; *Azotobacter* in Howard *et al.*, 1983). (b) Homology of the *frxC* gene product to ORF(F202) of *R. capsulata* (Hearst *et al.*, 1985), *nifH* of *Az. vinelandii* (Hausinger & Howard 1982), and *nifH\** of *Az. chroococcum* (Robson *et al.*, 1986).

*al.*, 1966; Tanaka *et al.*, 1974). The sequence Cys-X-X-Cys-X-X-Cys-X-X-X-Cys-Pro, which is a characteristic repeating unit of 4Fe-4S ferredoxin, was found in the amino acid sequence of the *frxA* gene product (Fig. 3a).

The *frxB* (100330-99779) product would be 183 amino acid residues long. This product would also contain 9 cysteine residues, as seen in the *frxA* product. This protein can also be aligned with bacterial 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin. The amino acid sequence of *frxB* also shows localized homology to 4Fe-4S proteins in microorganisms (Fig. 3a) and also contains two copies of the typical repeating sequence. To some extent, homology in the amino acid sequences of *frxA* and *frxB* was seen, although the *frxB* gene product had more amino acids residue at the N- and C-termini.

The frxC (110973-110104) gene product would be a polypeptide of 289 amino acid residues. Significant homology with the bacterial nitrogenase component encoded by nifH, for example, in Az. vinelandii (31.5%; Hausinger & Howard, 1982), is observed. Much higher homology (44.3%) was seen with a putative protein (F202) encoded in the R. capsulata photosynthetic gene cluster (Youvan et al., 1984, Hearst et al., 1985). The alignment of these sequences is shown in Fig. 3b. The frxC gene product also had nine cysteine residues, four of which were located in significantly homologous regions of the nifH product or the R. capsulata F202 gene product. These cysteine residues may be important in holding four iron atoms and four sulfur atoms. The sequence Gly-X-X-X-X-Gly-Lys-Ser is located in the N-terminal region of these proteins. This sequence contains amino acid residues conserved in the nucleotide binding site of a variety of ATP-binding proteins (Higgins et al., 1986).

(ii) Liverwort chloroplast genes homologous to human mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase components encoded in the SSC region (ndh1, ndh4, ndh4L, ndh5, and ndh6)

Human mitochondrial "URFs" have been identified as components of NADH dehydrogenase and have been named "NDs" (Chomyn et al., 1985; 1986). There were five ORFs named ndh1, ndh4, ndh4L, ndh5, and ndh6 homologous to human mitochondrial URFs in the SSC region of the liverwort chloroplast genome. Two related genes (ndh2 and ndh3) encoded in the LSC region are described in Umesono et al. (1988).

The product of ndh1 (102200-100382, interrupted by a 712-bp group II intron) would be a polypeptide of 368 amino acid residues. The amino acid sequence deduced from the ndh1 gene had homology with the mammalian mitochondrial component of NADH dehydrogenase ND1 (URF1). The alignment of liverwort ndh1 and human ND1 (Chomyn et al., 1985) is shown in Fig. 4a. In comparison with ND1, the liverwort ndh1 reading frame may start at the second methionine codon (102089) to produce a polypeptide of 331 amino acid residues of  $M_r$  36,997.3, which coincides to

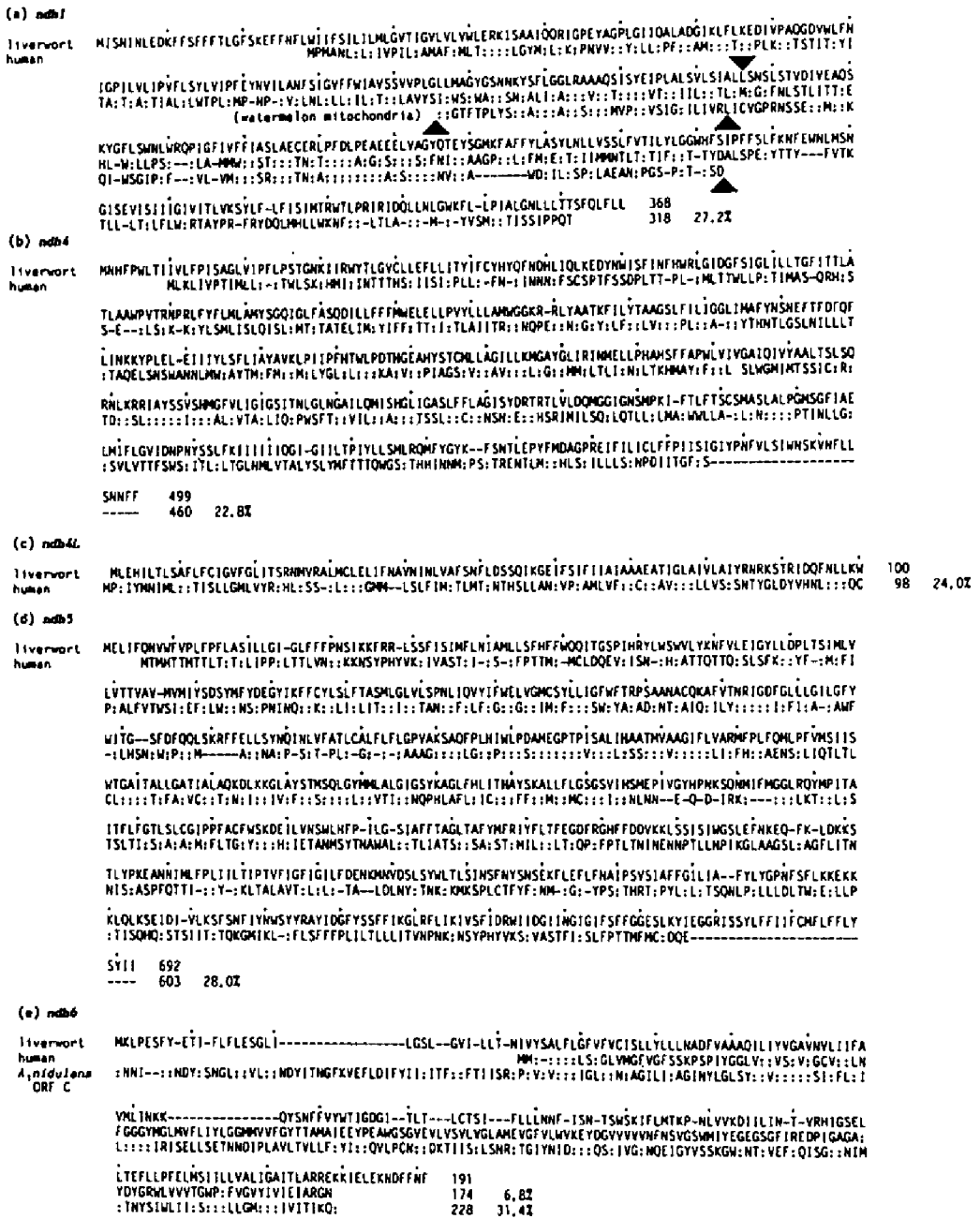


Fig. 4. Comparisons of amino acid sequences of ORFs identified as *ndh* subunits (*ndh1*, *ndh4*, *ndh4L*, *ndh5*, and *ndh6*). (a) Homology of *ndh1* to ND1 of human mitochondria. Arrowheads indicate the presence of the introns in the genes. (b) Homology of *ndh4* to ND4 of human mitochondria. (c) Homology of *ndh4L* to ND4L of human mitochondria; (d) homology of *ndh5* to ND5 of human mitochondria. (e) Homology of *ndh6* to ND6 of human mitochondria (Chomyn *et al.*, 1986) and URPC of *As. nidulans* (Netzker *et al.*, 1986). Invariant histidine residues required for heme-binding as reported for mitochondrial ND4 and ND5 (de la Cruz *et al.*, 1984) are shown by bold letters.

the size of the ND1 product. The ndh4 (98164-96665) product would be 499 amino acid residues long. Homology with mammalian mitochondrial component of NADH dehydrogenase ND4 (URF4) was seen. The alignment of liverwort ndh4 and human mitochondrial ND4 is shown in Fig. 4b. The ndh4L (99059-98757) product would be a polypeptide of 100 amino acid residues. By a search of the protein data-base, homology with the mammalian mitochondrial component of NADH dehydrogenase ND4L (URF4L) was detected. The alignment of liverwort ndh4L and human mitochondrial ND4L is shown in Fig. 4c. The ndh5 (93179-91101) product would be a polypeptide of 692 amino acid residues. Amino acid sequence homology with the mammalian mitochondrial component of NADH dehydrogenase ND5 (URF5) was significant. The alignment of liverwort ndh5 and human mitochondrial ND5 is shown in Fig. 4d. The ndh6 (99688-99113) product would be a polypeptide of 191 amino acid residues. This gene was named URF6 (Ohyama et al., 1986) based on its homology with human mitochondrial URF6, although greater homology can be detected with the As. nidulans mitochondrial ORF C (Netzker et al., 1982). I renamed this URF6 as ndh6 because the human URF6 gene has been shown to encode a component (ND6) of respiratory chain NADH dehydrogenase complex (Chomyn et al., 1986). This protein is aligned with human mitochondrial ND6 (URF6) (6.8% identity; Chomyn et al., 1986) and As. nidulans mitochondrial ORF C (31.4% homology; Netzker et al., 1982) as shown in Fig. 4e. As. nidulans mitochondrial ORF C is related to ND6 ("URF6") of animal mitochondria.

(iii) Ribosomal protein genes (rps15 and rpl21) encoded in the SSC region

The rps15 (103699-103433) product would be a hydrophilic polypeptide of 88 amino acid residues, with an arginine plus lysine content of 21.6%. This protein can be aligned with E. coli ribosomal protein S15 (Takata et al., 1984) as shown in Fig. 5a. The amino acid sequence of the liverwort rps15 gene product shows 35.2% homology to that of E. coli ribosomal protein S15.



(a) *rpl15* (S15)

liverwort MSKNLFDLSSISEKEK-----GSVEFQIFRLTNRVVVKLYHFKKHGKDYSSORGLWKILGKRKRLLAYLFKTNFVSYENLIIQLGIRGLKKN 88  
*E. coli* M:LSTEATAKIV::FGRDANDT::T:V:VAL::AQINH:QG::AE::K::HH:R:::LRMYSQ:RK::D::KRKDVAR:TQ::ER::L:R: 90 35.2%

(b) *rpl21* (L21)

liverwort MSKYAIETGGQQLRVEPGRFYNIHFVSLTPNELEQNTKILJYRVLMIRQESTIKMGHPWLKGAIVKGRIL-HSCLEKKITIKMISKKKTRRKL-GHR  
*E. coli* M::VFQS::K:H::SE:-----QT:R:EKLDIATGETVEFAE:::ANGEEV: I:V:FVD:GVI:AEVVA:GRG::-VK:V:F-RRR:HY::QQ:::  
QKSTRFIVDSIFLNGKEI 116  
:WF:DVKITG:SA 110 28.4%

Fig. 5. Amino acid alignments of liverwort chloroplast and *E. coli* ribosomal proteins. (a) Ribosomal protein S15 (Takata *et al.*, 1984). (b) Ribosomal protein L21 (Helland & Wittmann-Liebold, 1979).

The *rpl21* (93469-93819) product would be a hydrophilic polypeptide of 116 amino acid residues, with an arginine plus lysine content of 22.4%. This protein can be aligned with *E. coli* ribosomal protein L21 (Helland & Wittmann-Liebold, 1979), as shown in Fig. 5b. The homology between the amino acid sequence of the liverwort *rpl21* gene product and *E. coli* ribosomal protein L21 is 28.4%. This ribosomal protein gene has not been detected in the tobacco chloroplast genome (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986b).

(iv) Other ORFs in the SSC region

There were seven unidentified open reading frames, ORF1068 (108535-105329), ORF465 (110064-108667), ORF464 (105267-103873), ORF392 (103380-102202), ORF320 (95482-96444), ORF288 (94183-95049), and ORF69 (93886-94059), in the SSC region. Two ORFs gave a significant homology score in computer analysis with functionally unknown ORFs reported in other organisms.

The ORF392 product would be a polypeptide of 392 amino acid residues. Significant homology with LtORF3 (46.2%) and LtORF4 (26.3%) encoded in *L. tarentolae* kinetoplast maxicircle DNA (de la Cruz *et al.*, 1984) are shown in Fig. 6a. These two ORF genes can be converted to one ORF gene by an RNA editing mechanism (Simpson, L., personal communication).

(a) ORF392

```
ORF 392      MMILTKNKPMIVSMGPHHPMSMHGVLRLIVTL DGEVDLDCÉPVLGYLHRGMEKIAENRTI VOYLPYVTRW--DYLATMFTEAITYNAPEKLTNI
LORF 3      FKFYLADYT:NI:RHLYRFTF::Q::AA:::CCLLY:S::FIT YIDVI I::: :T::LC:YK:VE:C::MKTGLCKCSL
              LORF 4      SS:Y::RL::VSVVCH:HLLSLCF:YMLRC
OVPKRASYIRIIMLELSRIASHLLWLGPFMADIGAOTPFYIFREREMIDYLFESATGHRMMHNYFRIGGVAVOLPYGWIDKCLDFCDYFLPKINEYERL
CLAI:CAFML:LL:C:FT:CFNG::CCSCVMV::SLS:MLWS:E::DKLMTF:DLCC:C::MLAFMCL:LLD:FVF:F::FL:ML:ISC:FVLDL:DL:
ITHNPIFLKRVVEGIGTVTREAENWGLSGPMRASGVQWDLRKVDHYECYDELQWKIQWQEGDSLARYLYRIGEMKESVKI IQOAL-KAIPGGPFENL-
FVG:RLLYL:LR:LAFDFIDLCFNSI::CLS:SL:MV::V:LYSC::L:FM:VFDYCFYLG::FD:LF:LF:DF:RM: [LCK:CFVGFVFG:VC:F
ÉARRLNOGKNSEWNLFEYQFISKKPSPTFKL PKOEHYVVRVÉAPKGLGIFLIGDVSFVFWLRKISPGGFINLOILPQLVKGMKLDADIMTILGSDIIMGE
DYMVYDVTIETIIS:::SL-W--C-CI--:GCS-FAN::H:::YSL::CFLYG--IS::R::CAD:VHICL:DVMMR:FM:H:LVAVI:NV:VVF:S
VDR
:::
```

(b) *mbpY*

```
mbpY (68) VLSAYGFTFLTALLATIINAIFGLIAWVLRVRE-FPGKLLDATV-DLPF-ALPTS-V-G--GLTMT-VFND-KGWIKPI-CSWLN I-KIV-F-NP-IG
hisQ      M:YFGSGVI:QGAIV:LÉL:LSSVY:::IGLV-GA:A:SONR:TG:I:EGYT:LIR:VPD:V::LLI:YGLQIALNVV-TDS:G:DQ:D-I-D:MVA
malF (276) F:AIFVW:VVFVS:ITVFLTAV:MV:-C:QW:ALR:AVYRVLL-I:Y-V:SFI-S--I:IFKG-L::QSF:E:NMMLSALFGV--PAW:SD:TTA
-VLLAM I--FVSLPFVVRTIQPVLQNMÉEDLEEAACL-GASPWITFWHILFPPLTPSLLTGTTLGFSRALGEYGSIVLIASNI PMKO (49) 288
-GIITLG--:IYGAYFTE:FRGAFMAVPGKH)::TAF--:FTHGQ::RR:M::AMRYA:P:IGNNHOVI:KATALVS:LGLEDVV:A (50) 228
RTM:ITVNTWLG Y:YMMILCMGL:KATPD::Y::S-AMD::G:FQN:FK:TL:L:IKP:TPLMIAS:AFNFNFVL:Q:LTNGG:DRL (59) 514
```

Fig. 6. Amino acid sequence comparison of other ORFs. (a) ORF392 to LtORF3 and LtORF4 of *L. tarentolae* kinetoplast maxicircle DNA (de la Cruz *et al.*, 1984). (b) *mbpY* (ORF288) to *hisQ* in *S. typhimurium* (Higgins *et al.*, 1982) and *malF* in *E. coli* (Froshauer *et al.*, 1984).

The amino acid sequence of ORF288 showed some homology to the inner membrane permease component encoded by *hisQ* in *S. typhimurium* (Higgins *et al.*, 1982) or by *malF* in *E. coli* (Froshauer & Beckwith, 1984). The amino acid sequence homology between *hisQ* and *malF* was not very high, but these components seemed to correspond to each other. I tentatively renamed this ORF288 as the *mbpY* gene. Hydropathy analysis of the *mbpY* gene product showed extensive similarity to that of the *malF* gene product in *E. coli* and of the *hisQ* gene product in *S. typhimurium* (Fig. 7), although the number of amino acid residues was variable. In the liverwort chloroplast genome, there is the *mbpX* gene that encodes a very similar protein to bacterial permease components encoded by *hisP* in *S. typhimurium* or by *malK* in *E. coli* (Ohyama *et al.*, 1986; Umesono *et al.*, 1988). These observations may indicate an association of the *mbpX* and *mbpY* gene products in a chloroplast membrane complex.

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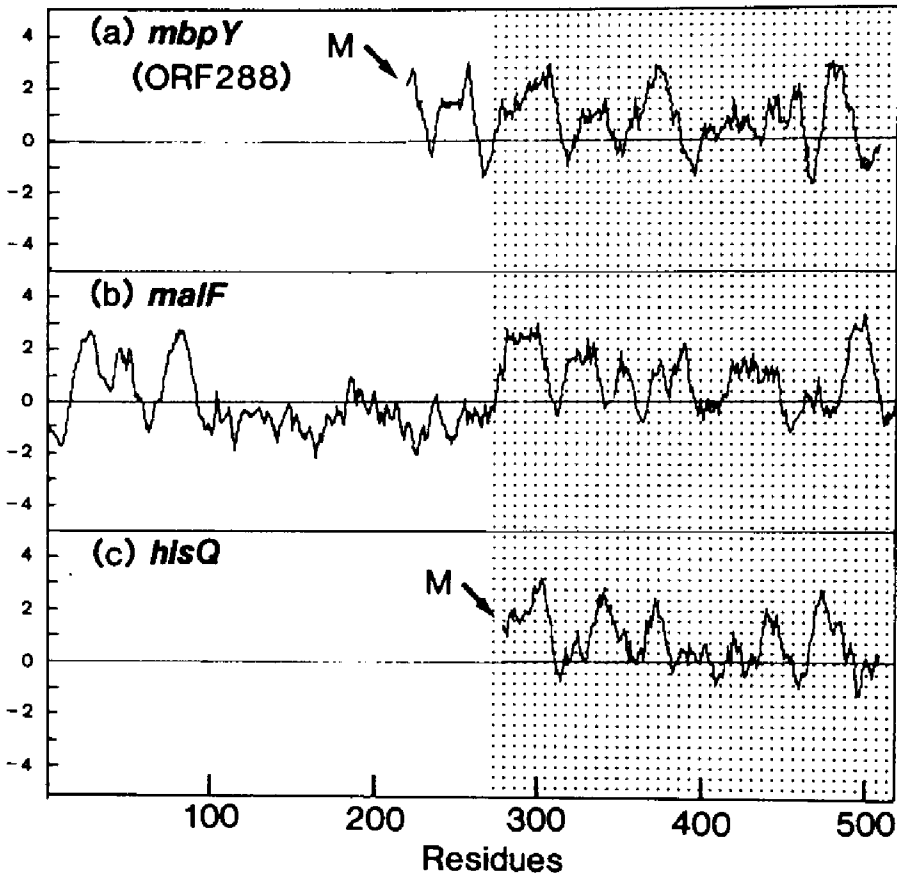


Fig. 7. Hydropathy of the *mbpY* (ORF288) gene product of the liverwort chloroplast genome. (a) *mbpY* (ORF288) in liverwort chloroplast. (b) *malF* in *E. coli* (Froshauer *et al.*, 1984). (c) *hisQ* in *S. typhimurium* (Higgins *et al.*, 1982). The hydropathy is plotted from the N- to C-terminus by the averaging the hydropathy value over a window of 11 residues using the Kyte-Doolittle assignments (1982) and the program DNASIS (HITACHI SK). M denotes the position of the first methionine residue in the reading frames. The region of homology is indicated by the stippled blocks.

The protein of ORF69 was a hydrophilic polypeptide, with an arginine plus lysine content of 26.1%. This ORF could not be identified by computer analysis using the protein database. Chloroplast ribosomal proteins are hydrophilic polypeptides with relatively high levels (more than 20%) of basic amino acids (arginine plus lysine), and more species of ribosomal proteins are reported to be present in chloroplasts than in *E. coli* (Eneas-Filho *et al.*, 1981). ORF69 was located downstream of rpl21 and can be expected to be co-transcribed with rpl21. Further study is required before it can be concluded that ORF69 is the gene for a chloroplast ribosomal protein.

(v) Transfer RNA genes encoded in the SSC region

There were two putative tRNA genes deduced from the DNA sequence in the SSC region. The typical clover-leaf structure could be deduced from the leucine tRNA<sub>UAG</sub> gene (95274-95353). This was the only tRNA for CUN-leucine codons and expanded wobble will be required for the codon recognition as seen in mitochondria (Barrell *et al.*, 1980).

A proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence (95213-95145) was located on the opposite DNA strand between the trnL(UAG) and mbpY genes. The secondary structure may be constructed except that both the aminoacyl stem and D-loop are incomplete, although invariant or semi-invariant nucleotides are conserved as shown in Fig. 8a and Table 5 in the preceding chapter. The normal structure of the D-loop can be constructed as shown in Fig. 8b without the formation of the aminoacyl stem. The nucleotide sequence of the reconstructed molecule had homology to liverwort proline tRNA<sub>UGG</sub> (Fukuzawa *et al.*, 1988), especially the nucleotide sequences in the loop portion, except for the first nucleotide in the anticodon and a nucleotide in the T $\psi$ loop. However, sequence homology of the proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence was not detected with proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub> in Salmonella (Kuchino *et al.*, 1984) or Halobacterium (Gupta, 1984). Another possible structure in Fig. 8c would produce an abnormal tRNA structure with no D-stem as seen in mitochondrial serine tRNA<sub>GCU</sub>

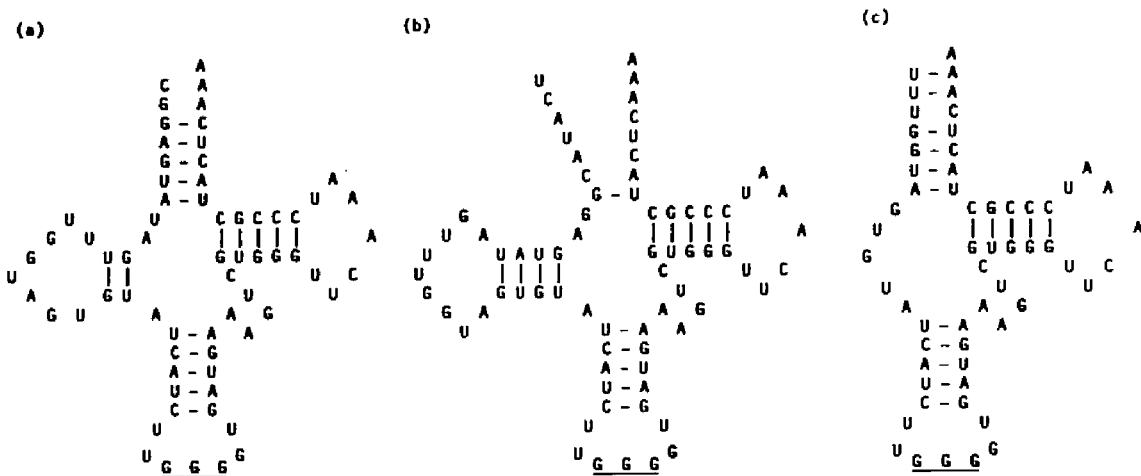


Fig. 8. Secondary structures for proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence with 2-bp D-stem (a), structure with normal D-loop (b), and structure with no D-loop, like animal mitochondrial serine tRNA<sub>AGY</sub> (c).

(Arcari & Brownlee, 1982; de Bruijn et al., 1982). None of these three structures is a complete tRNA molecule. No proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub> molecules could be detected by preliminary Northern blot hybridization of liverwort chloroplast RNA, indicating the possibility of a pseudogene or very weak expression (data not shown). In the chloroplast genome, the presence of pseudogenes for tRNA has been reported (Howe, 1985; El-Gewely et al., 1984). If the tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence is a pseudogene, proline-specific tRNA would be represented by only one species (tRNA<sub>UGG</sub>) in liverwort chloroplasts and expanded wobble might operate to recognize the four proline codons as in mammalian mitochondria (Barrell et al., 1980), and as with the liverwort chloroplast CUN-leucine and GCN-alanine codons described above.

## DISCUSSION

Chloroplast IR regions generally contain rrn operons. The liverwort genome has two rrn operons in the IR region that is smallest (10,058 bp) in plant chloroplasts. Chloroplast rrn operons of the fern Osmunda were shown to be located in the IR region (10 kb) of similar size (Stein et al., 1986). Eukaryotic genomes often have multiple rRNA genes (Long & Dawid, 1980) and there are seven rrn operons in E. coli (Lindahl & Zengel, 1982; Fournier & Ozeki, 1985), although some legume chloroplast genomes contain only one rRNA operon. Genes encoded in the higher plant chloroplast IR region such as rpl2, rps'12, rps7, trnL(CAA), and trnI(CAU) were located in the LSC region near the IR region of the liverwort chloroplast genome. No gene located in the higher plant chloroplast IR region had been lost from the liverwort chloroplast genome.

Several interesting features caused by the inverted repeat sequence were observed at the junctions of the inverted repeat and single copy regions. The rps'12 gene and the isoleucine tRNA(CAU) structural gene could be seen in the LSC region immediately next to the IR sequence. The 5' regions of these genes (each in IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub>) had common sequences although they are physically separated. The promoter sequence in the IR region must be functional for gene expression both for the rps'12-rps7-ndh2-trnL(CAA) cluster near junction J<sub>LA</sub> and for the trnI(CAU)-rpl23-rps19-rps22-rps3-rpl16-rpl14-rps8-infA-secX-rps11-rpoA cluster near junction J<sub>LB</sub>. It may be advantageous to regulate the transcripts of these functionally related genes by the same promoter.

The gene locations at the other ends of the IR region near the junctions (J<sub>SA</sub> and J<sub>SB</sub>) with the SSC region were also of interest. The frxC gene may be transcribed from the IR<sub>A</sub> region through the junction J<sub>SA</sub> into the SSC region by a promoter found in the IR<sub>A</sub> region. On the other hand, the ndh5 gene may be transcribed from the SSC region through the junction J<sub>SB</sub>, and transcription may be terminated in the IR<sub>B</sub> region by a stem-loop structure. If transcripts for both frxC and ndh5

exist, the nucleotide sequence at the 5'-end of the frxC mRNA molecules would be complementary to that at the 3'-end of the ndh5 mRNA molecules. Translational regulation by complementary RNA is known as mic (mRNA-interfering complementary) RNA (Mizuno et al., 1984). This suggests that frxC mRNA activity may be interfered with the ndh5 mRNA, although the actual gene products and the developmental stage for the expression of each gene are unknown. The promoter sequence for frxC in the IR<sub>A</sub> region was also present in the IR<sub>B</sub> region. Therefore, anti-mRNA molecules for ndh5 mRNA could be synthesized from the IR<sub>B</sub> region. Preliminary Northern hybridization analysis indicated the presence of transcripts of both genes in chloroplasts of liverwort cultured cells (data not shown).

The chloroplast genome encodes all of the ribosomal RNAs and enough kinds of tRNAs to recognize any sense codon. If the chloroplast genome codes for all required RNA species, it may also code for RNA components of certain enzymes such as RNase P for tRNA processing (Stark et al., 1978) and DNA primase for DNA replication (Wong & Clayton, 1986). In fact, RNase P activity has been detected in chloroplasts (Gruissem et al., 1983). The yeast mitochondrial genome has a locus encoding an RNA molecule necessary for tRNA biosynthesis (Miller and Martin, 1983). It is difficult to identify such genes from the nucleotide sequence of the liverwort chloroplast genome because the primary structures of RNA necessary for tRNA synthesis may not be conserved among species. However, a large G + C-rich spacer region was in the IR regions between the trnN(GUU) and the junctions J<sub>SA</sub> and J<sub>SB</sub>. The IR region of the liverwort chloroplast genome contains only RNA genes. These results suggest that other specific RNA molecules are encoded in the IR regions.

There were two genes (frxA and frxB) encoding proteins that have features of bacterial 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin. Ferredoxins generally mediate electron transfer. Chloroplasts contain a 2Fe-2S-type soluble ferredoxin, which is key in photosynthetic electron transport and NADP<sup>+</sup>-

reduction (Neumann & Drechsler, 1984). This 2Fe-2S-type ferredoxin has also been detected and well-characterized in *M. polymorpha* chloroplasts (Minami et al., 1985a). The complete nucleotide sequence of liverwort chloroplast DNA did not show a coding sequence for a 2Fe-2S-type of ferredoxin protein. There have been a few reports on other iron-sulfur proteins in chloroplasts. An iron-sulfur protein ( $M_r$  8,000) that functions as the primary electron acceptor in photosystem I has been isolated from photosynthetic membranes (Malkin et al., 1974). A spinach photosystem I particle contains an 8-kDa protein that has been tentatively identified as the apoprotein of the iron-sulfur centers of photosystem I (Lagoutte et al., 1984). There are slight differences in the amino acid composition of the liverwort frxA product and the 8-kDa cysteine-rich protein in spinach photosystem I. Membrane spanning analysis of the frxA product ( $M_r$  8,941.2) showed that it is a peripheral soluble protein (see Table 8 in the preceding chapter). This result is not in agreement with the possibility of the frxA protein being an apoprotein of the photosystem I membrane complex. However, the surrounding proteins may provide a special environment so that a soluble protein could be a member of a membrane-bound complex. The chloroplast frxA protein was recently found to be a component in the iron-sulfur center of photosystem I, named psaC (Ohoka et al., 1987; Høj et al., 1987). The liverwort chloroplast frxB protein probably has properties similar to those of the frxA protein except for its size.

Our preliminary Northern hybridization experiments indicate that there was active transcription of the frxC genes in liverwort chloroplasts. A second sequence of nifH (nifH\*, homologous to nifH) has been found in *Az. chroococcum* (Robson et al., 1986). Surprisingly the nifH\* gene was in an operon coding for a bacterial 4Fe-4S-type of ferredoxin protein. Bishop et al. (1980) have presented evidence that *Az. vinelandii* contains two  $N_2$ -fixing systems, and Premakumar et al. (1984) also suggested that a second Fe-protein is involved in the alternative pathway for  $N_2$ -fixation. These comprehensive results imply that the liverwort chloroplast



genome has retained a gene (frxC) of the alternative pathway for  $N_2$ -fixation during chloroplast evolution. However, the R. capsulata F202 ORF homologous to the frxC is located in a photosynthetic gene cluster and therefore frx genes may be involved in electron transfer in photosynthesis.

The ndh1, ndh4, ndh4L, ndh5, and ndh6 genes were encoded in the SSC region of the chloroplast genome. In the ndh4 and ndh5 gene products, the protein domains contained invariant histidine residues required for heme-binding as reported for chloroplast cytochrome b6 (Widger et al., 1984) and mitochondrial ND4 and ND5 (de la Cruz et al., 1984). Although human mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase (complex I) consists of more than 15 hydrophobic polypeptides, only seven components are encoded in the human mitochondrial genome (Chomyn et al., 1985; 1986). Components of liverwort chloroplast complex are probably encoded in either the chloroplast or the nuclear genome. So far only seven reading frames could be predicted from the nucleotide sequence of the chloroplast genome. A partial nucleotide sequence of a plant mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase component was reported for watermelon mitochondria (Stern et al., 1986). Local homology of 38.4%, 36.8%, and 35.3% was seen between human mitochondrial ND1 and the liverwort chloroplast ndh1 genes, human mitochondrial ND1 and the watermelon mitochondrial ND1 genes, and liverwort chloroplast ndh1 and the watermelon mitochondrial ND1 genes, respectively (Fig. 9). The divergence between the three species suggests that the chloroplasts ndh genes are not pseudogenes of mitochondrial origin. There have been no reports dealing with these gene products. However, NADPH-plastoquinone oxidoreductase activity has been detected in C. reinhardtii (Neumann & Drechsler, 1984) indicating the possibility that products of these ndh genes are components of the NADH-PQ oxidoreductase in liverwort chloroplasts.

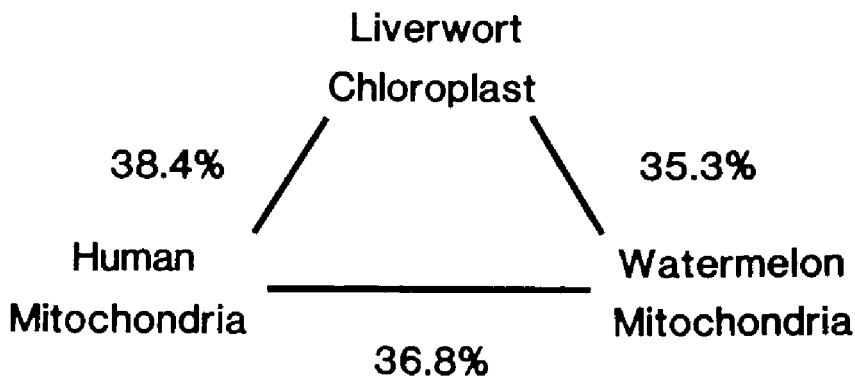


Fig. 9. Scheme of divergence in genes of mammalian mitochondrial ND1, plant mitochondrial ND1, and liverwort chloroplast *ndh1*. The numbers indicate percentages of amino acid sequence homology between them in the region reported in watermelon mitochondria (Stern *et al.*, 1986).

The chloroplast genome shows some similarity to the human mitochondria genome in the genes encoding components of the transcription-translation system (rRNAs and tRNAs) and the electron-transport system ( $H^+$ -ATPase subunits, NADH dehydrogenase components, and cytochrome complex). These results suggest some relationship between chloroplast genomes and mitochondrial genomes. However, mitochondrial genomes contain genes for respiratory polypeptides (COI to III) as the specialized organelles for respiration, and chloroplast genomes contains genes for photosynthetic polypeptides (*rbcL*, *psaA* to *psaC*, *psbA* to *psbG*) as the specialized organelles for photosynthesis.

## Chapter II Divergent mRNA transcription in the chloroplast psbB operon

### INTRODUCTION

Chloroplasts have their own genetic system (Whitfield & Bottomley, 1983; Ohyama et al., 1986; 1988c; Shinozaki et al., 1986b; Umesono & Ozeki, 1987; Ozeki et al., 1987). The entire gene organization of the chloroplast genome has been elucidated for a liverwort, M. polymorpha (Ohyama et al., 1986) and for a tobacco, N. tabacum (Shinozaki et al., 1986b) by the determination of complete nucleotide sequences. Most functionally related genes are clustered as seen in prokaryotic operons. For instance, the clusters of chloroplast ribosomal protein genes have similar orders to the S10- (Zurawski & Zurawski, 1985), spc- (Cerretti et al., 1983),  $\alpha$ - (Bedwell et al., 1985), and str- (Post & Nomura, 1980) operons in E. coli. The H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase genes in chloroplasts are also clustered as are the unc operon in E. coli and the gene clusters in cyanobacteria (Cozens et al., 1986). The genes for the components of photosystems and the photoelectron transfer complex, such as psaA-B, psbD-C, and psbE-F in chloroplasts, are also clustered. One typical gene cluster in spinach, psbB operon, has been well-characterized (Westhoff et al., 1983), and the gene organization is well conserved in land-plant chloroplasts (Courtice et al., 1985; Ohyama et al., 1986; Shinozaki et al., 1986b; Rock et al., 1987).

Genes on the same DNA strand have been found to overlap in several genomes such as those of coliphages  $\phi$ X174 and G4 (Sanger et al., 1977; Godson et al., 1978) and virus SV40 (Fiers et al., 1978). The bovine mitochondrial genes A6L and ATPase-6 also overlap by 40 nucleotides (Fearnley & Walker, 1986). In chloroplasts, except for liverwort (Ohyama et al., 1986) and pea (Zurawski et al., 1986), the stop codon of the gene encoding the  $\beta$  subunit of H<sup>+</sup>-ATPase, atpB, overlaps the initiation codon for the  $\epsilon$  subunit, atpE (Krebbbers et al., 1982; Zurawski et al., 1982). In these genes, the overlapping patterns can be

seen either in a single transcript for multiple genes or within two transcripts of the same DNA strand. On the other hand, few genomes have been found to have divergently overlapped genes, which are encoded on both DNA strands in the same region. RNA I and RNA II involved in ColEI plasmid replication have complementary sequences that control the function of the other sequence (Tomizawa et al., 1981; Tomizawa & Itoh, 1981). The O protein gene in the early transcripts from the right promoter in bacteriophage  $\lambda$  overlapped the oopRNA coding sequence in the complementary DNA strand (Schwarz et al., 1978). Schwarz et al. (1981) have reported the presence of overlapping transcripts in the in vitro transcription system of maize chloroplasts. The liverwort ORF43 gene was located on the complementary DNA strand between psbB and psbH genes in the psbB operon. The genes in the psbB operon were co-transcribed as a single transcription unit. Recently Tanaka et al. (1987) observed a transcription initiation site upstream from psbB gene, but did not detect a transcription initiation site in the spacer region between psbB and psbH genes. However, the ORF43 gene on the complementary DNA strand to the psbB operon was actively transcribed in the liverwort chloroplasts in vivo. This is the first report to demonstrate divergently overlapping transcription in chloroplasts.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### Isolation of chloroplast RNA

Chloroplast RNA was prepared and purified by repeated Sarkosyl-phenol extraction, LiCl precipitation, and ethanol precipitation from a suspension of cultured cells of a liverwort, M. polymorpha (Ohyama et al., 1982; Yamano et al., 1984). Total RNA of the pea P. sativum var. Alaska from the seedlings illuminated for a certain time was provided by Dr. Y. Sasaki (Sasaki et al., 1985).

### Preparation of DNA fragment

Plasmid pMP710 consisted of PstI eleventh fragment of liverwort chloroplast DNA and a cloning vector pUC18 (Ohyama et al., 1988a). Restricted DNA fragments were run on 0.7-1.2% preparative agarose gels or 3.5-8% polyacrylamide gels and eluted from the gels electrophoretically (Maniatis et al., 1982).

### Labeling of nucleic acids

For probes of S1 nuclease protection analysis, the 5'-ends of restricted DNA fragments were labelled with [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P] ATP (5000 Ci/mM,

Amersham) by polynucleotide kinase (Takara Shuzo). The 3'-ends of DNA fragments were labelled with [ $\alpha$ - $^{32}$ P] dCTP (3000 Ci/mM, Amersham) by Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I (Takara Shuzo). The labelled double-stranded DNA fragments were digested with a restriction endonuclease. Either the 5'- or the 3'-end-labelled DNA fragments were separated electrophoretically. For the hybridization probe, in vitro  $^{32}$ P-labelled transcripts from pSP64 vector (Melton et al., 1984) containing appropriate chloroplast DNA fragments were used.

#### Filter hybridization

Liverwort chloroplast RNA or total pea RNA (10  $\mu$ g/lane) was dissolved in 20 mM 3-(N-morpholino)propanesulfonic acid (MOPS) buffer (pH 7.0) containing 1 mM EDTA, 2.2 M formaldehyde and 50% formamide, heated at 65°C for 5 min and quenched on ice. Electrophoresis was then done on 1% agarose gel in 20 mM MOPS buffer containing 1 mM EDTA and 2.2 M formaldehyde. Fractionated RNA was blotted to membrane filters (Zeta probe, Bio-Rad Laboratories) by capillary action with 20 X SSC buffer, and fixed by being baked at 80°C for 2 hours in vacuo. Prehybridization was done at 45°C for 4 hours in 6 x SSC buffer containing 50% formamide, 0.5% SDS, 0.1% Ficoll, 0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.1% BSA, and 200  $\mu$ g/ml heat-denatured calf thymus DNA. Hybridization was performed at 45°C overnight in the same buffer. The membrane filters were then washed with 2 X SSC buffer containing 0.1% SDS at room temperature, with 1 X SSC buffer containing 0.1% SDS at 65°C, and again at 65°C with 0.1 X SSC buffer containing 0.1% SDS. Autoradiography was done with exposures of from 1 hour to 3 days on X-ray films (RX, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.).

#### S1 nuclease protection analysis

S1 nuclease protection analysis was involved the procedure of Berk and Sharp (1977) with a slight modification. DNA probes were labelled and purified as described above. For hybridization, 30  $\mu$ g chloroplast RNA preparations were incubated with labelled probes in 40 mM piperazine-N,N'-bis(2-ethanesulfonic acid) (PIPES) buffer (pH 6.4) containing 80% formamide, 0.4 M NaCl, and 1 mM EDTA for 30 min at 75°C and then for 4 hours at 20°C. The mixture was diluted (1:10) with 30 mM NaOAc buffer (pH 4.6) containing 250 mM NaCl and 4 mM ZnSO<sub>4</sub>, and incubated with S1 nuclease (1000 units/ml, Takara Shuzo) at 20°C for 30 min. After repetitive phenol extraction and iso-propanol precipitation, the samples were electrophoresed on 6% polyacrylamide gel containing 50% urea together with size markers ( $^{32}$ P-labelled HpaII-generated pBR322 DNA fragments) and with chemically cleaved sequence ladders (Maxam & Gilbert, 1977).

#### In vitro capping analysis of chloroplast RNA in vivo

The conditions of the in vitro capping reaction were generally as described by Monroy et al. (1978) and Strittmatter et al. (1985). First, 100  $\mu$ g of liverwort chloroplast RNA was capped at the triphosphate-bearing 5'-ends in 100  $\mu$ l of reaction mixture containing 50mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.9, 1.25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 6 mM KCl, 2.5 mM DTT, 200  $\mu$ Ci of [ $\alpha$ - $^{32}$ P] GTP (400Ci/mM, Amersham), and 8 units guanylyltransferase (Bethesda Research Laboratories) for 120 min at 37°C. The reaction was stopped by

the addition of 5  $\mu$ l of 10% SDS followed by repeated phenol/chloroform extraction. The mixture was precipitated by ethanol with ammonium acetate two times to remove free radioactive GTP.

The hybridization method "Southern Cross" (Potter & Dressler, 1986) was modified. The labelled RNA was separated on agarose gel and blotted on a nylon membrane (Gene Screen, New England Nuclear Corp.) as described above. On the other hand, non-radioactive DNA fragments containing the psbB, ORF43, psbH, and petB/D regions were generated by RsaI digestion of the Pst-eleventh fragments of chloroplast DNA (see Fig. 4), separated on agarose gel and blotted onto Zete-probe membrane in the usual way. The membrane was baked for 2 hours at 80°C and prehybridized with hybridization buffer containing 50% formamide for 16 hours at 45°C. Then the radioactive membrane and non-radioactive membrane sandwich was constructed, heated for 20 min at 80°C, and hybridized for 16 hours at 42°C as described by Potter and Dressler (1986). The recipient membrane was washed for 4 X 5 min at room temperature in 2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS, and then for 2 X 40 min at 48°C in 1 X SSC, 0.1% SDS, after which the membrane was dried and autoradiographed.

## RESULTS

### Gene organization of the chloroplast psbB gene cluster and ORF43 loci.

The genes psbB, psbH, petB, and petD encode the 51-kDa chlorophyll a binding protein (Morris & Herrmann, 1984), the 10 kDa photosystem II phosphoprotein (Westhoff et al., 1986; Hird et al., 1986), cytochrome b6, and subunit IV of the cytochrome b6/f complex (Westhoff et al., 1983), respectively. The order and orientation of these genes are well-conserved among chloroplast genomes in spinach (Westhoff et al., 1983), pea (Courtice et al., 1985), tobacco (Shinozaki et al., 1986b), maize (Rock et al., 1987), and liverwort (Ohyama et al., 1986; Fukuzawa et al., 1988). These genes grouped together have been designated as the psbB operon (Westhoff et al., 1986). No gene has been mapped in the spacer region between psbB and psbH genes; nevertheless, there is a fairly large spacer region. The results of overall DNA sequence analyses of liverwort chloroplasts, such as the G/C content, codon usage pattern (extremely high A/U preference for the third letter in the codons), and secondary structure of nucleotide sequence, suggest that there are two possible reading frames between psbB and psbH (Fig. 1). They are designated as ORF35 and ORF43, and consist of 35 and 43 amino acid



residues, respectively. Surprisingly, ORF43 was on the DNA strand opposite to that of the psbB operon. Thus, the nucleotide sequence between the psbB and psbH genes in the liverwort chloroplast genome is efficiently filled with genetic information such as reading frames, stem-loop structures, and promoter elements.

#### Transcription of the ORF43 gene and psbB operon in liverwort chloroplasts

Systematic Northern hybridization has performed to detect the transcripts of the ORF43 gene and psbB operon. Strand-specific hybridization riboprobes were prepared for psbB (EcoRI-PstI fragment), anti-ORF43 (RsaI-RsaI fragment), and petB/D (RsaI-RsaI fragment) in the psbB operon, and for ORF43 (RsaI-RsaI fragment) encoded on the complementary DNA strand of the psbB operon (Fig. 2). A primary transcript was detected (4.9 kb, lanes 1-3 in Fig. 2 and also see band a in Fig. 4) for the psbB operon. The size of the primary transcript was in good agreement with the results of our S1 protection analyses done to identify the initiation and termination sites of the primary transcript in the psbB operon (unpublished data). The presence of introns in the petB and petD genes (Fukuzawa *et al.*, 1987) and various processing sites gave complicated hybridization patterns in the transcripts of the psbB operon (see also Fig. 4). The hybridization patterns of psbB, petB, and petD in liverwort were similar to those reported for other plant species (Westhoff *et al.*, 1983; Morris & Herrmann, 1984; Rock *et al.*, 1987; Westhoff *et al.*, 1986). On the other hand, Northern hybridization with a strand-specific probe for the ORF43 gene gave a simple hybridization pattern consisting of two bands (230 and 350 nucleotides long; lane 4 in Fig. 2). The DNA region containing ORF43 is unique in the chloroplast genome. It was confirmed by the homology analysis of the entire chloroplast sequence and excluded the possibility that the transcripts for ORF43 do not originate from another loci of the chloroplast genome. These sizes are long enough to encode a polypeptide with 43 amino acid residues.



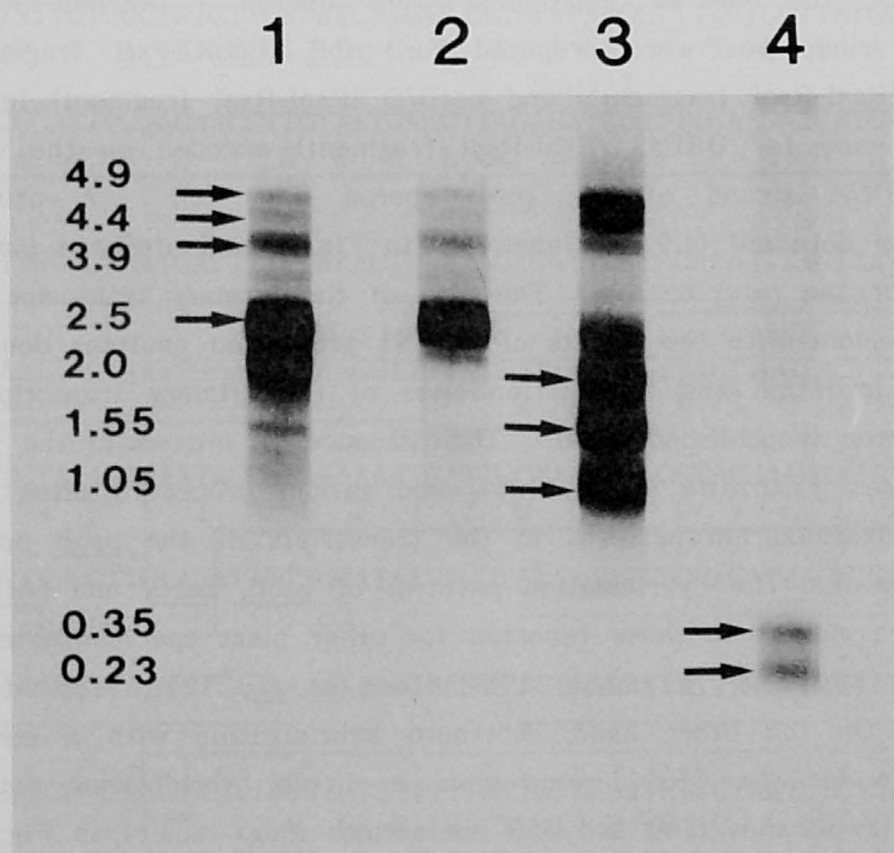
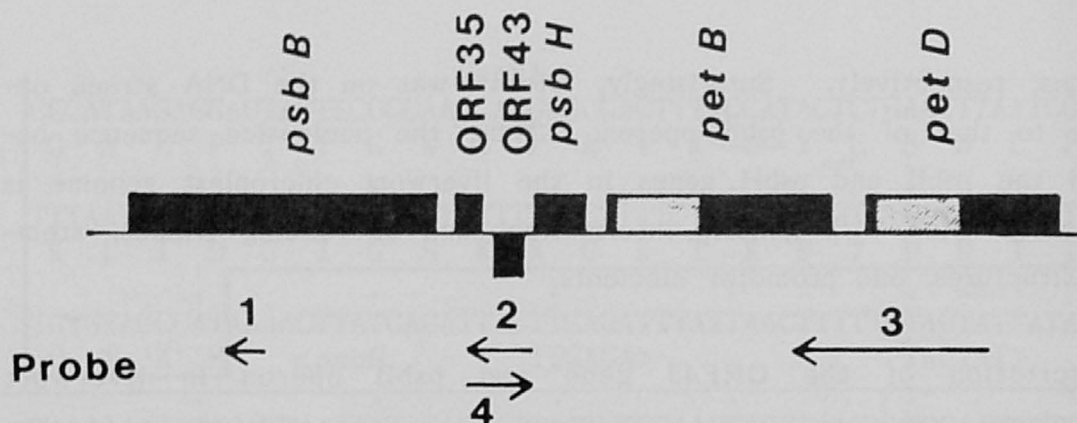


Fig. 2. Northern blot hybridization of the liverwort chloroplast RNA with specific riboprobes. A. Gene organization of liverwort chloroplast *psbB* operon and ORF43 gene. B. Northern hybridization analysis. Lane 1, *psbB* probe containing an internal portion in the *psbB* coding sequence; lane 2, anti-RNA probe of ORF43 containing *RsaI*-generated fragment (298 bp); lane 3, *petB/D* probe covering from the *petB* second exon to the *petD* second exon; lane 4, ORF43 probe containing *RsaI*-generated fragment (298 bp) in the opposite direction from the probe in lane 2. Numbers (kb) indicate the size of various transcripts (see also Fig. 4).

S1 protection analysis of ORF43 mRNA showed a single initiation site and two termination sites (Fig. 3). The initiation site was 47 nt upstream from the first AUG codon of ORF43 (panel A in Fig. 3). The termination sites were 50 nt and 170 nt downstream of the termination codon (arrows in panel B, Fig. 3). A signal 50 nt downstream was at the root of a long stem-and-loop structure, and another signal 170 nt downstream was within the ORF35 gene with the opposite orientation. To locate the overlapping region of the ORF43 transcript in processed mRNA for the psbH gene, S1 nuclease protection analysis was done with 5'-end-labelled DNA fragment covering psbH and upstream (panel C in Fig. 3). There were four signals derived from the different lengths of the 5'-leader sequences of the psbH gene. The major nearest signal from the translational initiation codon was about 50 nt upstream (arrow in panel C, Fig. 3) and overlapped divergently by a few nucleotides with the 5'-leader sequences of the ORF43 mRNA.

To locate the primary transcription initiation sites in the psbB operon and ORF43 gene on the complementary DNA strand, in vitro chloroplast RNA-capping and hybridization experiments were done (Fig. 4). The primary transcript (4.9 kb: band a) was not observed in the autoradiogram because probably of less efficient transfer of large capped molecules from membrane to membrane. There were two slightly capped molecules corresponding to precursor transcripts; the mRNA in which the first intron in petB gene was spliced (4.4 kb: band b) and the mRNA in which both introns in petB and petD genes were spliced out (3.9 kb: band c). This observation also coincides with that of the ordered splicing of the introns in the maize psbB operon (Rock et al., 1987). Major capped molecules corresponded to the mRNA encoding for psbB to psbH (2.5 kb: band d) and the mRNA encoding for psbB and ORF35 (2.0 kb: band e). These results indicate that rapid processing of the primary transcript occurred at both the 3'-flanking region of ORF35 gene and the 3'-flanking region of psbH gene (Fukuzawa et al., 1987). This fact coincides with presence of monocistronic mRNA for psbH gene (Westhoff et al., 1986).

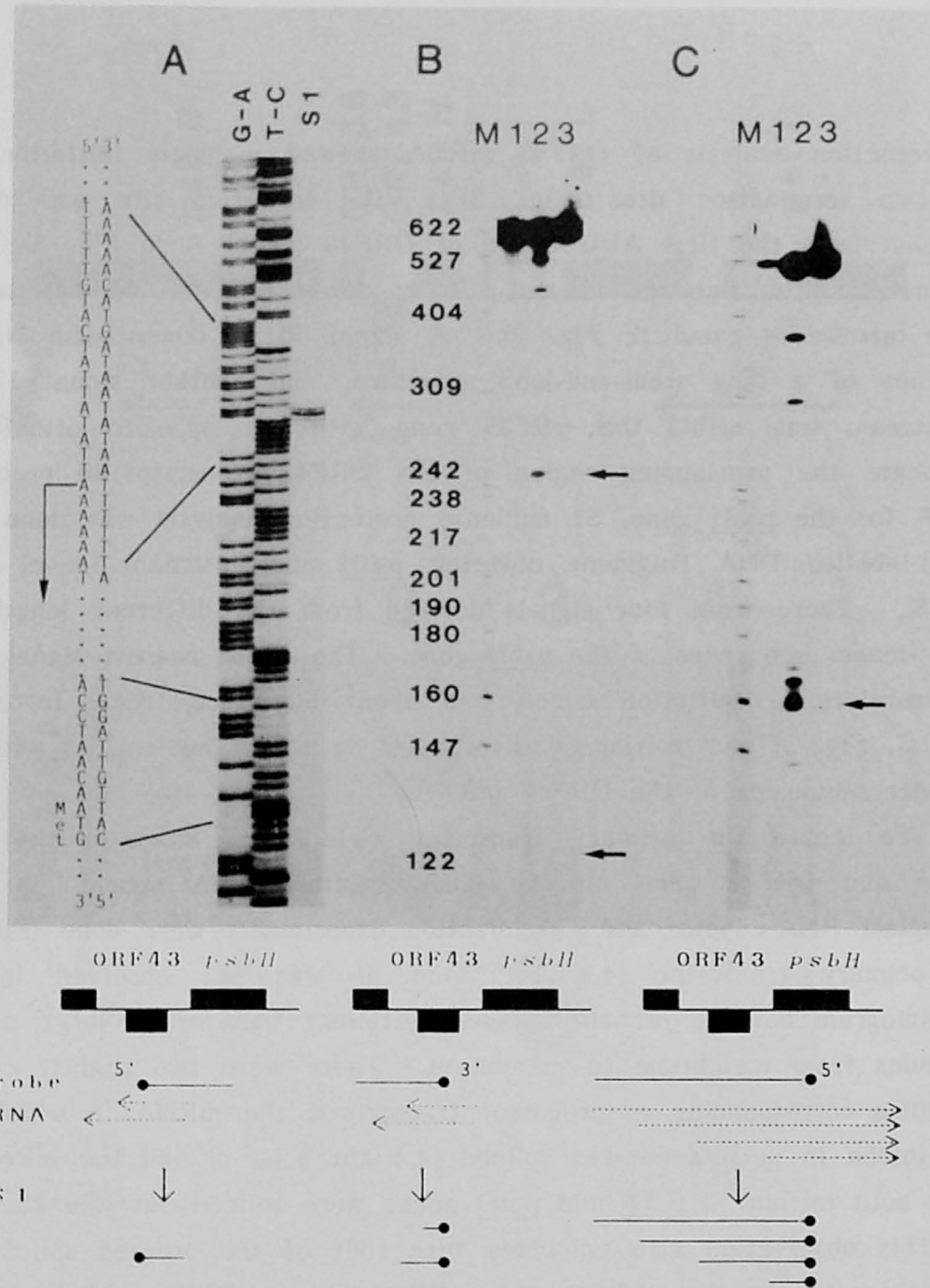


Fig. 3. S1 nuclease protection analysis of ORF43 transcripts and the 5'-terminal of *psbH* mRNA. (A) 5'-end of ORF43 transcript. The 5'-labeled *Sau*3AI-*Bst*NI fragment (310 bp) covering ORF43 and *psbH* was used as a hybridization probe. Lanes G-A and T-C indicate the chemical cleavage ladders specific to the respective bases; lane S1 is for S1 nuclease treatment with chloroplast RNA. The arrow shows the initiation site and the direction of the transcript. (B) 3'-ends of ORF43 transcripts. The 3'-end labeled *Hind*III-*Tag*I fragment covering ORF 43 and *psbB* was used as a probe. Lane M, the size standard of the pBR322-*Hpa*II digest; lane 1, S1 nuclease treatment without chloroplast RNA; lane 2, S1 nuclease treatment with chloroplast RNA; lane 3, probe prepared without S1 nuclease treatment. Arrows indicate major signals. (C) 5'-end of mRNA processed for the *psbH*. The 5'-end-labeled *Bst*NI-*Hin*fI fragment was used as a probe. Lanes M, 1, 2, and 3 are the same as in panel B. Arrows indicate a signal for major processed *psbH* mRNA.

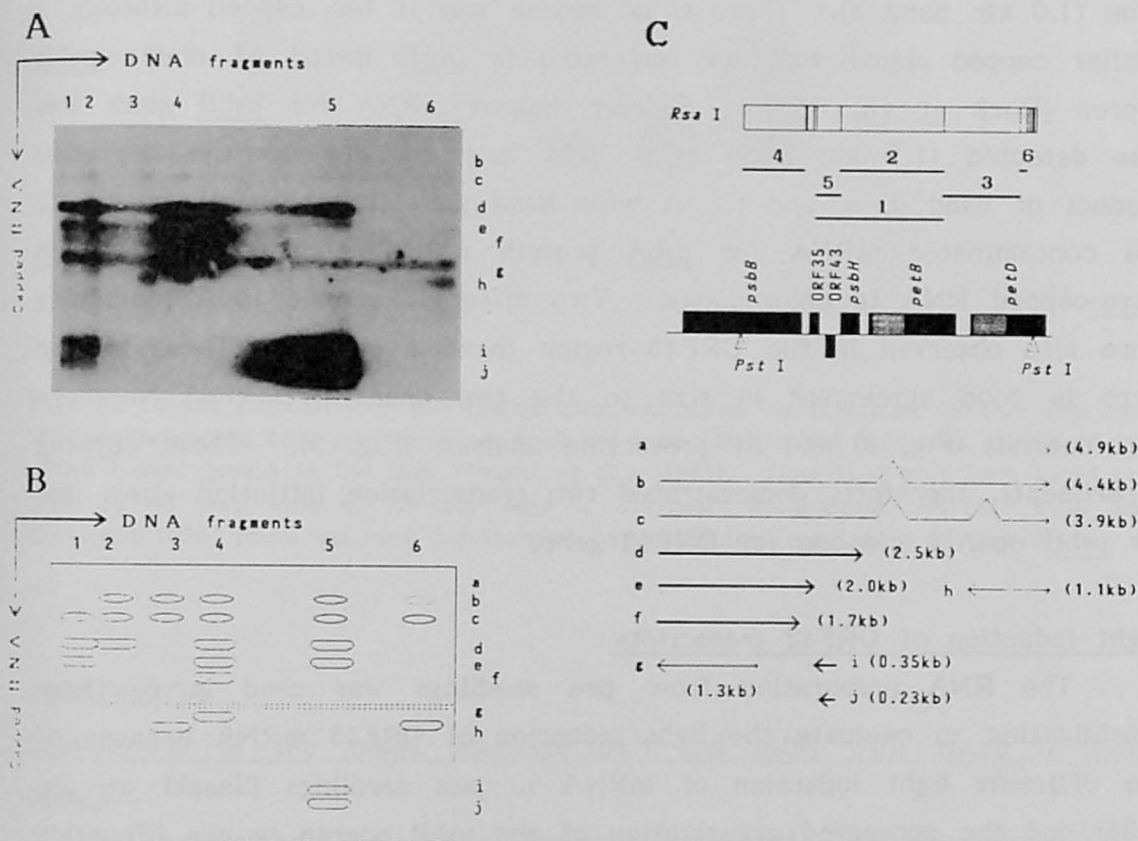


Fig. 4. Southern-cross hybridization of *in vitro* capped transcripts for *psbB* operon and ORF43. A. An autoradiogram. DNA fragments were run from left to right in agarose gel and blotted onto membrane. The *in vitro* capped chloroplast RNA was run from top to bottom and blotted on membrane. B. A schematic presentation of the autoradiogram. C. Physical map, gene organization, and alignment of the detected transcripts. The *Pst*I-eleventh fragment of liverwort chloroplast DNA covering from the *psbB* gene to the *petD* gene was digested by *Rsa*I. The resulting fragments except the small fragments are shown. 1, the DNA fragment from the ORF35 gene to *psbH* gene; 2, from *psbH* to *petB*; 3, from *petB* to *petD*; 4, *psbB*; 5, from ORF35 to ORF43; 6, *petD*. See the text for the explanation of the bands (a to i).

A significant capped molecule (1.7 kb: band f) containing only psbB coding region was also observed. It was not expected that a significant capped molecule appeared in the intron and coding region for the petD gene (1.0 kb: band h). There is no reason why it was capped although a similar capped signal was also suggested in petD intron of maize psbB operon (Rock et al., 1987). Shorter capped mRNA for psbB gene was also detected (1.3 kb: band g). This may be due to the degraded product of band d, e, and f. A wide band with 1.4 kb length is due to the contaminated mRNA for psbA protein which is most abundant in in vitro-capped RNA in chloroplasts. Two different capped RNA molecules were also observed in the ORF43 region (band i and j). These signals were in good agreement in size to the two bands in ORF43 Northern blot analysis (Fig. 2) and SI protection analysis (Fig. 3). These capping experiments, therefore, demonstrated two transcription initiation sites: one for psbB operon and one for ORF43 gene.

#### Light induction of ORF43 transcripts

The RNA preparation from pea seedlings was used in Northern hybridization to evaluate the light induction of ORF43 mRNA because of the efficient light induction of mRNA in pea seedlings (Sasaki et al., 1985) and the conserved organization of the psbB operon in pea (Courtice et al., 1985). A single species of ORF43 mRNA was detected in pea by Northern hybridization with a liverwort ORF43 probe, although liverwort ORF43 mRNAs were composed of two heterogeneous RNAs in terms of their 3'-termini. The amount of ORF43 mRNA that accumulated as the period of illumination increased is shown in Fig. 5. There is no detectable mRNA for ORF43 in pea seedlings grown in the dark. The transcript for ORF43 gene is accumulated under light illumination in chloroplasts.

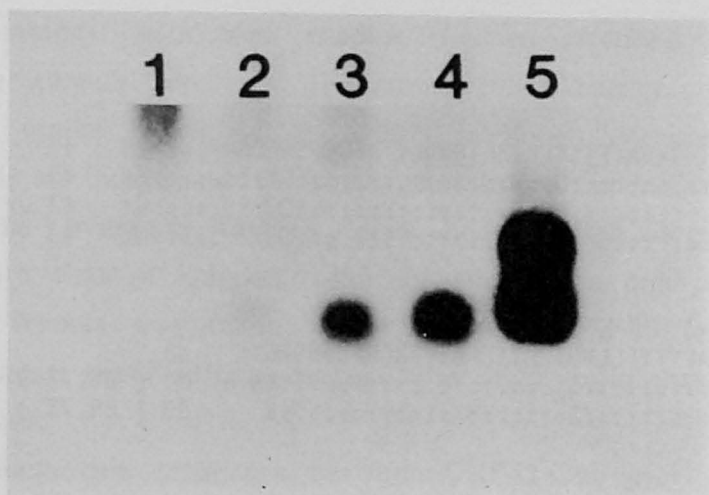


Fig. 5. Light induction of pea transcripts homologous to liverwort ORF43. Pea total RNA was extracted from pea seedlings that had been illuminated different amount of time after 7 days growth in the dark (Sasaki *et al.*, 1985). Lane 1, 0 hr.; lane 2, 24 hr.; lane 3, 48 hr.; lane 4, 72 hr.; lane 5, liverwort chloroplast RNA ( $0.5 \times 10^{-3}$  mg). Liverwort ORF43 probe was used for Northern hybridization (see lane 4 in Fig. 3).

## DISCUSSION

### Comparison of the genes between *psbB* and *psbH* with those in other plants

The nucleotide sequences between *psbB* and *psbH* have been determined in spinach (Morris & Herrmann, 1984; Westhoff *et al.*, 1986), in tobacco (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986b), in maize (Rock *et al.*, 1987), and partially in wheat (Hird *et al.*, 1986). The genes homologous to liverwort ORF43 and ORF35 could be deduced from their DNA sequences. The amino acid sequences in liverwort ORF43 and ORF35 are compared to those of the ORFs from other species in Fig. 6. The amino acid sequence of liverwort ORF35 had high homology (85.7%) with that in tobacco and maize, although the reading frame in tobacco is composed of 34 amino acid residues and that in maize is 33 amino acid residues. The amino acid sequence of liverwort ORF43 showed 86.0%, 86.0%, and

ORF43

Liverwort	METATFVAIFISCLLISFTGYALYTAFGQPSNELRDPFEEHED	43	
Spinach	:::::L:::::G::V:::::QO:::::G:	43	( 86.0% )
Tobacco (MIR)	:::::L:::::G::V:::::QO:::::G:	43 or 46	( 86.0% )
Maize	:::::L:::::S::G::V:::::QO:::::G:	43	( 83.7% )

ORF35

Liverwort	MEALVYTFLLVGTGLGIFFAIFFREPPKVPKSGKK	35
Tobacco	:::::S:::::T:KN	34 ( 85.7% )
Maize	:::::S:::::T:K	33 ( 85.7% )

Fig. 6. Comparison of amino acid sequences deduced from the nucleotide sequence of liverwort ORF43 and ORF35 with those of the corresponding ORFs from the following species: spinach (Morris and Hermann, 1984; Westhoff *et al.*, 1986); tobacco (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986); maize (Rock *et al.*, 1987). The numbers of amino acid residues are shown at the end of the sequences.

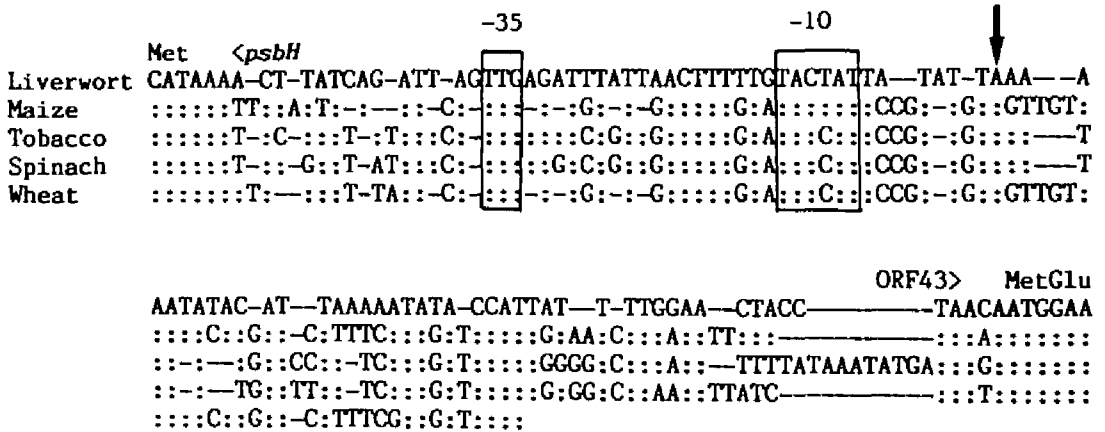


Fig. 7. Comparison of nucleotide sequences of the 5'-flanking region of ORF43. Liverwort nucleotide sequence upstream ORF43 is compared with that of other plants (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986; Rock *et al.*, 1987; Westhoff *et al.*, 1986; Hird *et al.*, 1986). Promoter sequences (-10 and -35 regions) are boxed. The arrow indicates the initiation site of ORF43 mRNA in liverwort.

83.7% homology with the reading frames deduced from the DNA sequences in spinach (Morris & Herrmann, 1984), tobacco (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986b), and maize (Rock *et al.*, 1987), although corresponding frame in tobacco and an additional in-frame methionine codon in the upstream region. The liverwort ORF43 locus had a high degree of sequence homology with that of spinach, tobacco, and maize only when one of the six reading frames was taken. The liverwort ORF35 locus gave similar results. These observations suggest the high reliability of small open reading frames.

The nucleotide sequences between ORF43 and psbH are compared in Fig. 7. The transcription initiation site in liverwort ORF43 was identified by S1 nuclease protection analysis. *In vitro* capping experiments for the ORF43 gene also showed that there was primary transcription initiation site in the region of the opposite DNA strand of the psbB operon. The promoter elements (-35 and -10 regions) for ORF43 gene were well-conserved among green plants. The stem-and-loop structure could be constructed on the mRNA for ORF43 as shown in Fig. 8A. This structure may correspond to the termination signal for ORF43 transcription. On the other hand, the precursor mRNA for the psbB operon also form one stem-and-loop structure ( $-\Delta G = 23.0$  kcal) between ORF35 and the psbB, two structures ( $-\Delta G = 38.3$  kcal;  $-\Delta G = 9.24$  kcal) between ORF35 and psbH. These structures may correspond to the processing signals for the primary transcripts.

#### Possible function of divergent transcripts in an operon

There have been reports describing that gene expression in plastids of higher plants can be efficiently controlled by the RNA stability in post-transcriptional level as a result of environmental changes and/or developmental process (Mullet & Klein, 1987; Deng & Grissem, 1987). Our experimental results obtained from the liverwort cultured cells grown photomixotrophically under continuous illumination (Kato, 1983) imply that gene expression in the psbB operon consisting of two differentially



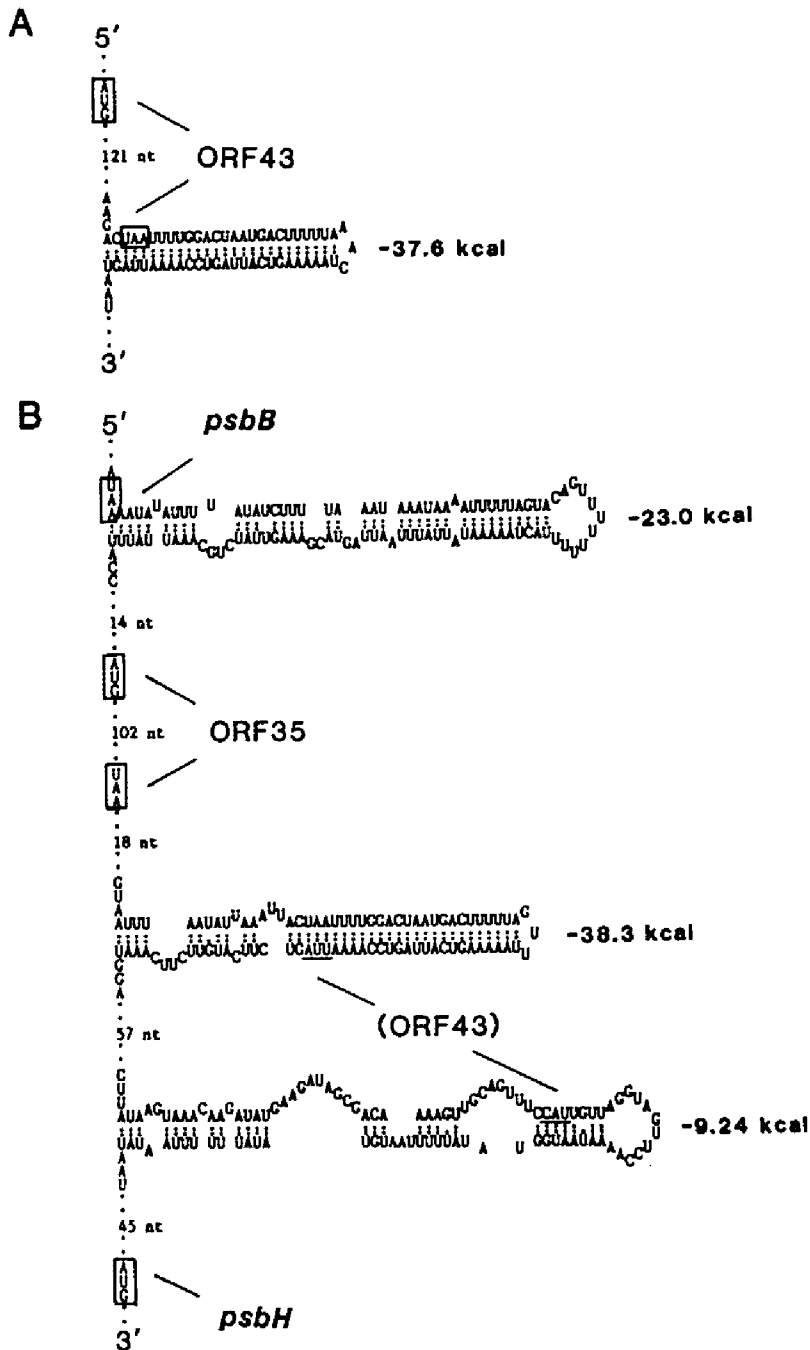


Fig. 8. Possible secondary structures in the spacer regions of ORF43 mRNA (A) and precursor mRNA for *psbB* operon (B). Base pairings are shown by one dot for G-U pairing and two dots for G-C and A-U pairings. Computer analysis was done by IDEAS-SEQ program (Kanehisa, 1982) with parameters (GMAX, -5.0; LWID, 80; LHMAX, 25; LIMAX, 15; LBMAX, 10; LEN, 100). The stem-and-loop structure with the highest free energy was shown when the overlapped secondary structure can be formed. Numbers indicate free energy (- G).

expressed groups of genes, for components of photosystem II and cytochrome b6/f complex, is regulated by the divergently overlapped transcription as well as developmental stages.

Divergently overlapping transcripts within an operon have several effects on gene expression during either transcription or translation. The complementary RNA is a highly specific inhibitor that helps to regulate in plasmid replication (Tomizawa et al., 1981; Tomizawa & Itoh, 1981; Rosen et al., 1981) and bacterial or phage gene expression (Mizuno et al., 1984; Green et al., 1986). In chloroplasts, the expression of the psbB gene has been said to be light inducible (Westhoff et al., 1983). In our experiments, the pea chloroplast ORF43 gene was also found to be actively transcribed with the light. On the other hand, mRNA for the psbH, petB, and petD genes has been reported to be present in etioplasts in the dark (Westhoff et al., 1983; Westhoff et al., 1986). In vitro capping experiments showed that there was a single transcriptional initiation site upstream from the psbB gene in the psbB operon (Fig. 4). These observations suggest the presence of controlled mRNA processing or premature transcription termination for gene expression in the psbB operon.

There are several possible explanations of the regulation of mRNA processing. RNA is generally transcribed unidirectional from double-stranded DNA by RNA polymerase. When different messages are encoded on both strands in the same region, RNA polymerase molecules faces each other in simultaneous transcription, resulting in the inhibition of mRNA synthesis. However, this possibility is unlikely because of the high copy number of the genome in chloroplasts. Another possibility is that the ORF43 mRNA acts as a  $\rho$ -independent terminator (Yanofsky, 1981) for premature termination in the psbB operon because light-inducible transcripts for ORF43 form double-stranded RNA structure with the primary transcripts of the psbB operon. The transcription of the following psbH, petB, and petD genes will be then repressed during illumination. Consequently, this explanation coincides with the fact that amounts of

transcripts for these genes (psbH, petB and petD) do not change under light illumination. Finally, translational regulation by anti-sense RNA is also one function of messenger RNA interfering complementary (mic) RNA (Mizuno et al., 1984). The primary transcripts of psbB operon may have the function of micRNA for ORF43 gene expression. The transcripts of the psbB operon are processed to make a monocistronic mRNA for the psbH gene and two dicistronic mRNA for the psbB-ORF35 and petB-petD genes as translatable mRNA (Westhoff et al., 1986; Rock et al., 1987; Fukuzawa et al., 1987; and this chapter). This fact suggests that the ORF43 mRNA is present as a translatable mRNA, probably because of rapid RNA degradation of antisense RNA. On the other hand, our experimental results that the 5'-end of mature mRNA for psbH overlapped the 5'-end of ORF43 mRNA by only a few nucleotides indicate that the ORF43 mRNA may not function as micRNA for monocistronic mRNA of psbH. There is no evidence for micRNA regulation in chloroplasts.

## CHAPTER III Ordered processing and splicing in a polycistronic transcript in liverwort chloroplasts

### INTRODUCTION

In the previous paper, reporting the first case of a trans-split gene in chloroplasts (Fukuzawa et al., 1986), two ORFs, ORF47 and ORF80, were described in the upstream region of rps12'. Later, however, we re-interpreted these ORFs as exons of a split gene that, together with a third ORF, form a gene designated ORF203 (Ohyama et al., 1986). The ORF203 was a unique gene with two cis-introns, 518 and 380 nucleotides long. The second intron is the smallest group II intron in the liverwort chloroplast genome.

In the case of "eukaryotic" (nuclear-encoded) split genes, the processing order of transcripts has been characterized in detail (Padgett et al., 1986). The 5'-end of the precursor RNA is immediately modified by a capping enzyme after the initiation of transcription and the 3'-end of the RNA is generated by poly(A) addition after transcription is terminated. These processing events commonly precede RNA splicing, although poly(A) addition and RNA splicing are not mechanistically coupled (Zeevi et al., 1981). On the other hand, nothing is known about the processing and splicing of multiple introns in the chloroplast genes of land plants. The order of processing of polycistronic precursor mRNA molecules, including the splicing of multiple introns, in the ORF203-rps12'-rpl20 gene cluster transcripts of M. polymorpha chloroplasts.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Preparation of recombinant plasmid DNA

Plasmid pMP727 consists of a DNA fragment (PstI fragment 6 in Fig. 1A) from liverwort chloroplast DNA and pBR322. Plasmid DNA was prepared as described by Maniatis et al., (1982). DNA restriction fragments were recovered by electrophoresis on an agarose gel with a low melting point (BRL).

#### Preparation of liverwort chloroplast RNA

Liverwort chloroplasts were isolated either from a two-week-old suspension of cultured cells or from one-day-old exponentially growing cells in fresh medium (Ohyama et al., 1982). Chloroplast RNA was ex-

tracted and purified by repetitive phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation as described by Yamano *et al.*, (1984). For primer extension analysis, chloroplast DNA in the RNA preparation was removed by repetitive LiCl precipitation (final concentration of LiCl was 2 M, at 4°C) and ethanol precipitation.

#### Northern blot hybridization analysis

Oligodeoxyribonucleotides (15-mer) were used as specific probes to each exon and intron. Splicing probe for spliced RNA molecules consisted of 8 nucleotides complementary to the 3' end of an exon and 8 nucleotides complementary to the 5' end of the next exon. The probes were synthesized with a Shimadzu NS-1 DNA synthesis apparatus and labelled with [ $\gamma$ - $^{32}$ P]ATP (Amersham International, Inc., 5000 Ci/mmol) using T4 polynucleotide kinase (Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd.). Each probe was purified by 15% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. The locations and nucleotide sequences of the probes are shown in Fig. 2. Liverwort chloroplast RNA (about 10  $\mu$ g/lane) with chloroplast DNA was heat-denatured, fractionated by electrophoresis in a 1% agarose gel containing 6% formaldehyde, and transferred to a nylon filter (Kohchi *et al.*, 1988b). Prehybridization was done at 65°C for 4 hours in 6 X SSC buffer containing 0.5% SDS, 0.1% Ficoll, 0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.1% BSA, and 200  $\mu$ g/ml heat-denatured calf thymus DNA. Hybridization with individual  $^{32}$ P-labelled probes was performed at 42°C overnight in the same buffer. The membrane filters were washed with 2 X SSC buffer containing 0.1% SDS at room temperature and finally with 1 X SSC buffer containing 0.1% SDS at 42°C for 30 min. Autoradiography was carried out by 1- to 3-day exposures of X-ray film (RX type, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.).

#### S1 nuclease protection analysis

S1 nuclease protection analysis was done by a slight modification of the procedure of Berk & Sharp (1977). DNA probes were labelled and purified as described above. For hybridization, the chloroplast RNA (30  $\mu$ g) was incubated with  $^{32}$ P-labelled probes and S1 nuclease was added (1000 units/ml) as described by Kohchi *et al.*, (1988b). The samples were electrophoresed on a 6% polyacrylamide gel containing 50% urea with size markers ( $^{32}$ P-labelled HpaII-digested pBR322 DNA fragments) and with chemically cleaved sequence ladders (Maxam & Gilbert 1980).

#### Primer extension and cDNA sequencing

The primer extension and cDNA sequencing experiments were carried out with 5'-end-labelled oligonucleotide as a primer for 30  $\mu$ g of chloroplast RNA by a procedure described before (Williams & Mason 1985, Fukuzawa *et al.*, 1987).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Gene Organization

The gene organization and the nucleotide sequence in the ORF203 region are shown in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. The coding sequence for

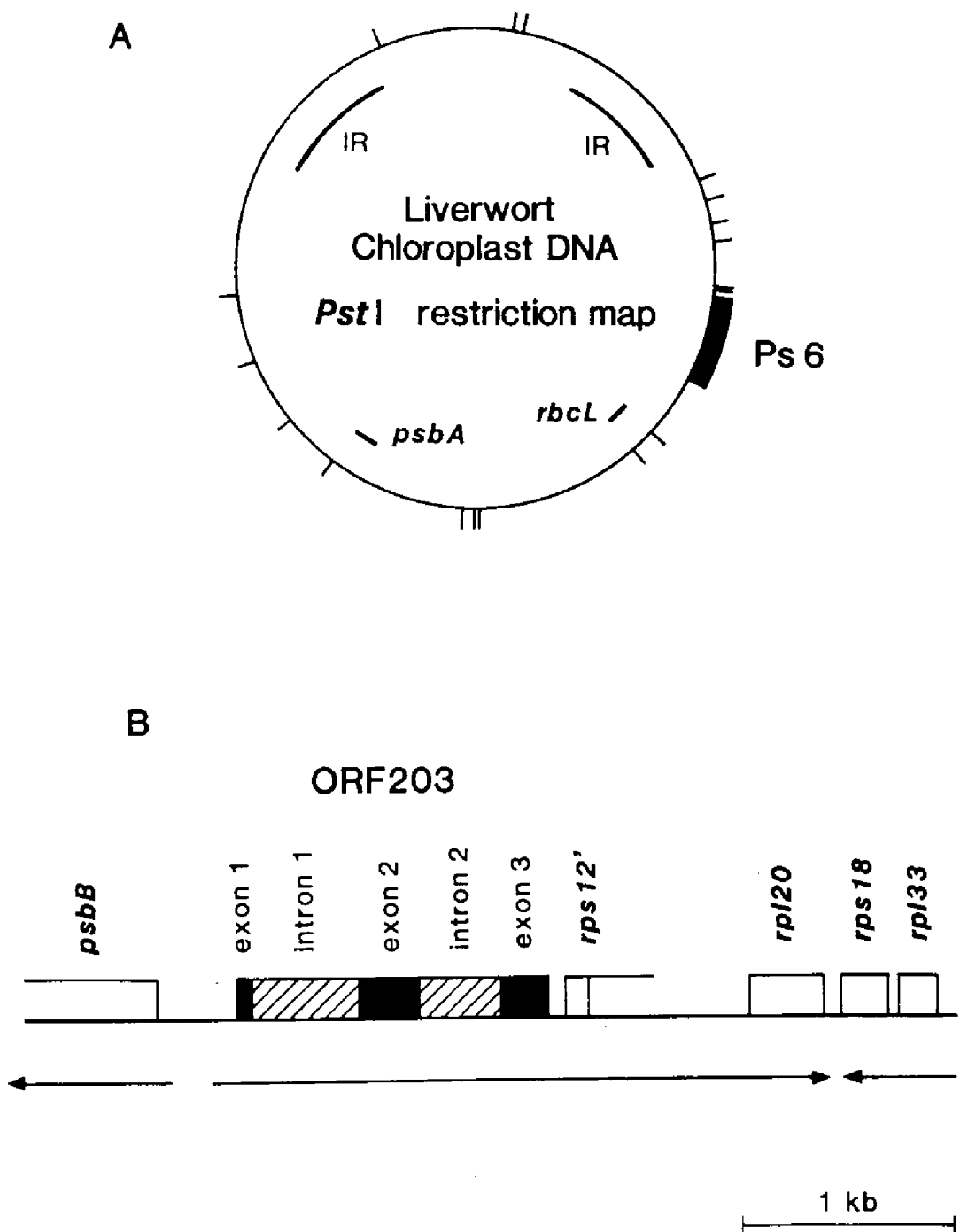


Fig. 1. A, Location of ORF203 gene on the *Pst*I restriction map of a liverwort chloroplast DNA. IR shows an inverted repeat. Genes *psbA* and *rbcL* are shown as landmarks. A *Pst*I fragment (Ps6) contains the ORF203 gene. B, The organization of the ORF203 gene cluster in liverwort chloroplast genome. The arrows indicate the direction of transcription. The hatched boxes indicate the regions of introns. ORF203, open reading frame consisting of 203 amino acid residues; *rps12'*, ribosomal protein S12 first exon; *rpl20*, ribosomal protein L20; *rps18*, ribosomal protein S18; *rpl33*, ribosomal protein L33; *psbB*, 51-kDa chlorophyll *a* apoprotein in the photosystem II.

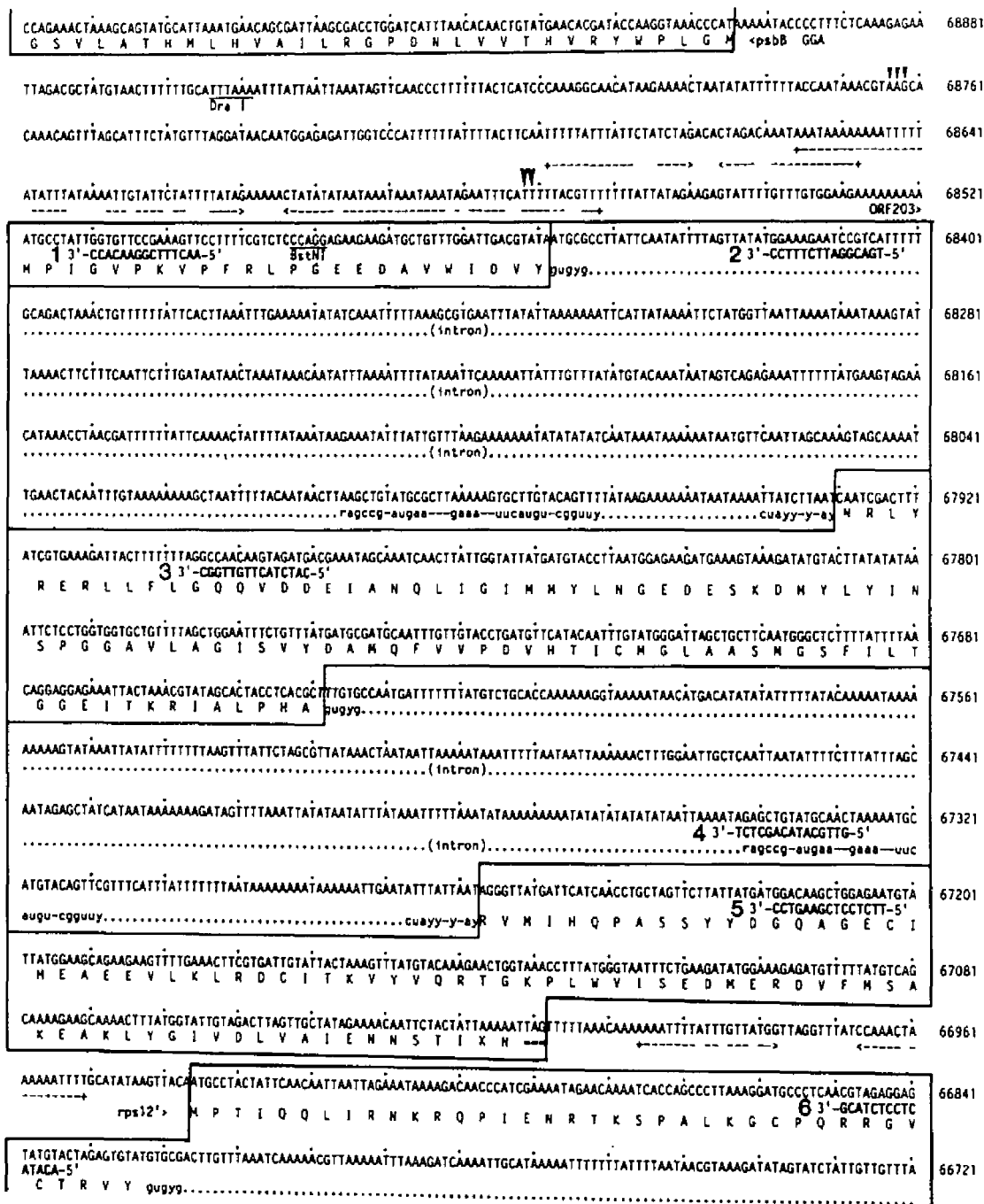


Fig. 2. Nucleotide sequence of ORF203 region. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences deduced for the ORF203 gene are shown. Stem-loop structures are shown by underlining with arrows. The consensus sequence of group II introns in the liverwort chloroplasts is shown by small letters under the DNA sequence. The vertical arrowheads indicate the sites of S1 nuclease protection analysis. The probes and primers are under the recognition sequence for each oligodeoxyribonucleotide sequence.

ORF203 is followed by the first exon of ribosomal protein S12 (rps12') and the ribosomal protein L20 gene (rpl20). On the opposite DNA strand, upstream from the gene cluster, there is a gene (psbB) for the photosystem II 51-kDa polypeptide. Downstream from the ribosomal protein L20 gene (rpl20), a gene cluster of the ribosomal proteins L33 (rpl33) and S18 (rps18) is present, as on the opposite strand.

### RNA processing

To examine the RNA processing and splicing of an ORF203 transcript, Northern blot hybridization was done with radioactively labelled synthetic oligodeoxyribonucleotides as probes. All probes specific to nucleotide sequences for ORF203 and rps12' (exon 1) hybridized to the primary precursor RNA molecules (3.00 kb, P1 in Fig. 3), which were long enough to cover the coding sequences from the ORF203 first exon (exon 1) to the rpl20 genes. These results indicate that the ORF203 gene was co-transcribed with the genes downstream. An RNA band (1.55 kb, a in Fig. 3) was detected by the probes of the ORF203 exons (exons 1, 2, and 3) and by those of the introns (introns 1 and 2). A second RNA band (1.05 kb, b in Fig. 3) was detected by the probes of each exon (exons 1, 2, and 3) and by intron 2 of ORF203, but not intron 1. A third RNA band (0.70 kb, m in Fig. 3) was detected only by the probes of the exons (exons 1, 2, and 3) of ORF203. These results indicate that the ORF203 gene was interrupted by two introns and that the RNA band (0.70 kb) was the mature mRNA for the ORF203 gene. The hybridization pattern of the rps12' probe was quite different from the patterns of ORF203 probes, indicating the processing between ORF203 and rps12'. The processing point between ORF203 and rps12' was detected by S1 nuclease mapping (Kohchi et al., 1988d).

To detect spliced RNA molecules directly, Northern hybridization was performed using two kinds of probes made of oligodeoxyribonucleotides complementary to the spliced RNA junction (Fig. 4). One splicing probe (exon 1 connected to exon 2) hybridized to both



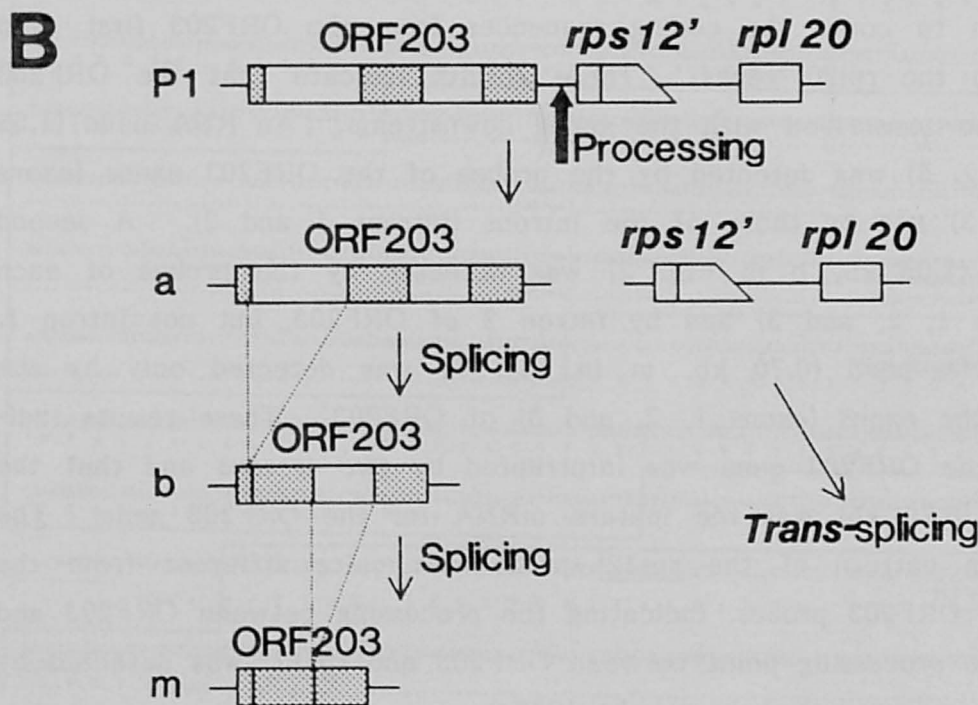
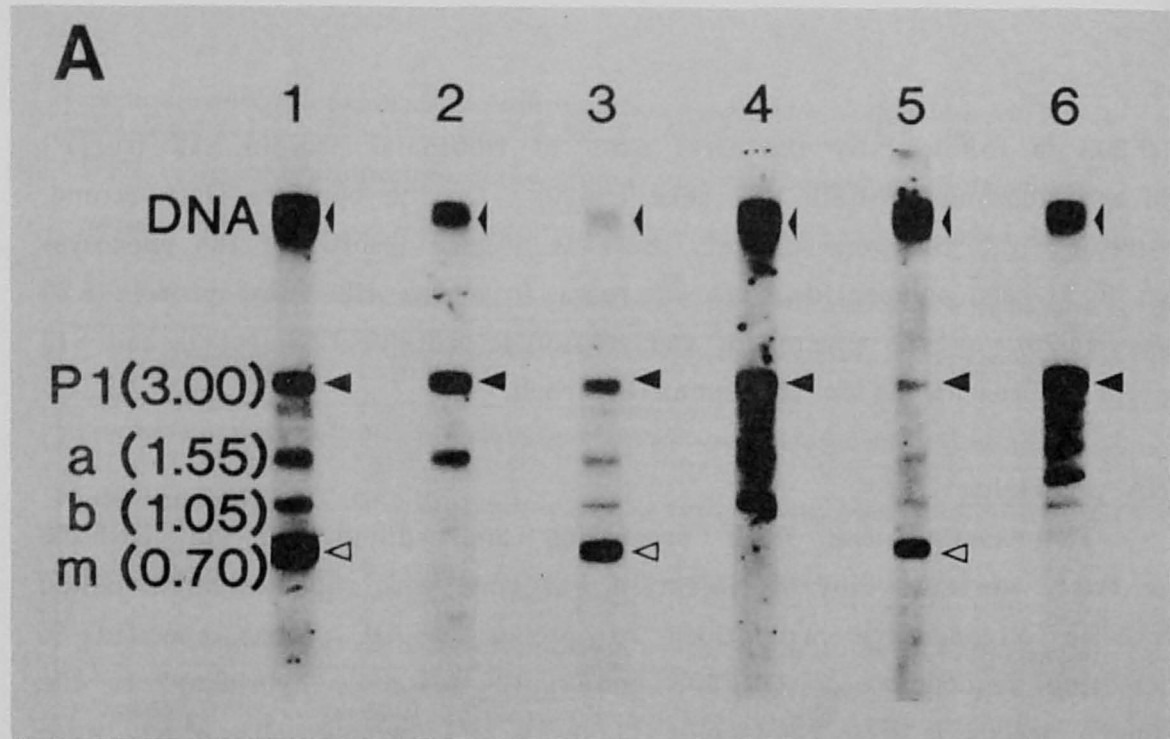


Fig. 3. Northern blot hybridization to chloroplast RNA with probes specific to each region. A. lane 1, ORF203 first exon (exon 1); lane 2, ORF203 first intron (intron 1); lane 3, ORF203 second exon (exon 2); lane 4, ORF203 second intron (intron 2); lane 5, ORF203 third exon (exon 3); lane 6, *rps12'* (*S12* first exon). P1 with an arrowhead indicates precursor mRNA, m with an open arrowhead shows mature mRNA for ORF203. The position and sequence of each probe are shown in Fig. 2. The sizes, in kilobases, are calculated from the size markers (BRL RNA ladders) in gel stained with ethidium bromide. B. Main scheme of ordered processing of ORF203 mRNA. The thick arrow indicates the intercistronic processing site. Dotted boxes indicate the exons of ORF203 transcripts.

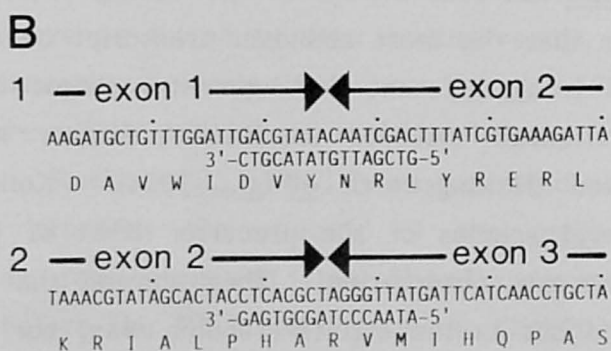
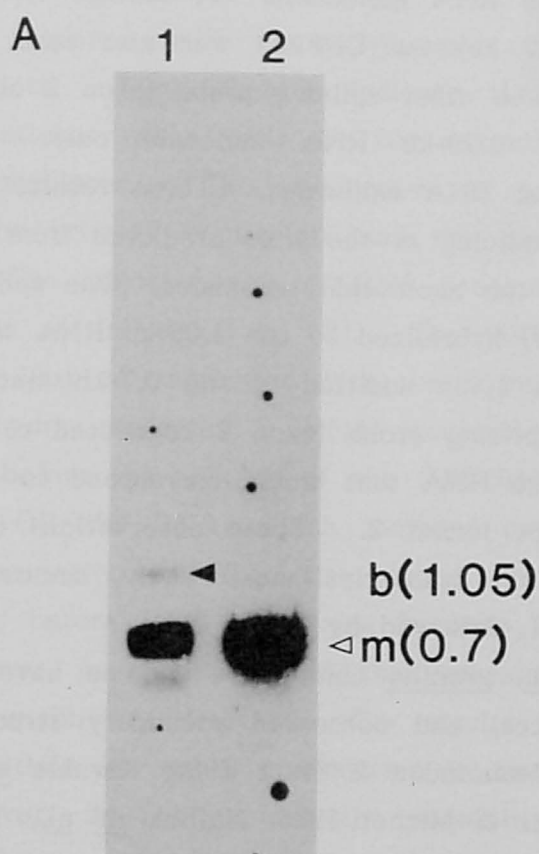


Fig. 4. Northern blot hybridization to chloroplast RNA with specific probes (splicing probes). A. Lane 1, oligodeoxyribonucleotide (16-mer) probe composed of 8 nucleotides complementary to the 5'-end of the ORF203 second exon and 8 nucleotides complementary to the 3'-end of the ORF203 first exon; lane 2, oligodeoxyribonucleotide (16-mer) probe composed of 8 nucleotides complementary to the 5'-end of the ORF203 third exon and 8 nucleotides complementary to the 3'-end of the ORF203 second exon. B. Sequences of each probe are shown.

the 1.05-kb and 0.70-kb RNA molecules. A smaller RNA molecule than the mature mRNA (0.7 kb) for ORF203 was also seen. This molecule may be an artifact. The other splicing probe (exon 2 connected to exon 3) hybridized to the 0.70-kb RNA molecule only. Neither probe hybridized to chloroplast DNA molecules. These results indicate the occurrence of accurate splicing at the sites predicted from the primary and secondary structure of the nucleotide sequences. The splicing probe (exon 1 connected to exon 2) hybridized to the 1.05-kb RNA which contains intron 2, but not intron 1, in addition to the 0.7-kb mature mRNA. On the other hand, the splicing probe (exon 2 connected to exon 3) did not hybridize to any 1.25-kb RNA that would correspond to a precursor RNA with intron 1, but not intron 2. These observations indicate that the splicing of the ORF203 transcript most likely occurred in sequence, beginning with intron 1, followed by intron 2.

Genes in the Eu. gracilis chloroplast genome have multiple introns in the coding sequences, and conserved secondary structures on introns have been described (Montandon & Stutz 1983; Karabin et al., 1984; Koller et al., 1984; Keller & Michel 1985; Hallick et al., 1985). The gene psbA of Eu. gracilis has four introns in the coding sequence. The Northern analysis shows that the most abundant transcript of the psbA gene in RNA preparations from different developmental stages of Eu. gracilis is mature mRNA, although multiple unspliced precursor mRNA transcripts have been detected (Hollingsworth et al., 1984). Koller et al., (1985) detected the several species of the precursor RNA of Eu. gracilis psbA by electron microscopic observation. They showed that the four introns are neither spliced out in the strictly random way, nor in a 5'-3' or 3'-5' direction. However, introns found in Eu. gracilis were often smaller than group II introns of land-plants.

I have observed different ratios of mature RNA to precursor RNA in different stages of cultured cells. For example, chloroplast RNA prepared from the stationary stage of cultured cells accumulated higher proportion of precursor mRNA than of the mature mRNA (data not

shown). The major portion of chloroplast RNA was then mature mRNA in chloroplasts prepared from 1 to 2-day-old cultured cells transferred into fresh medium. Such changes indicate that the variety of RNA species from stationary-stage cells are not degradation products but RNA processing intermediates. This facilitates us to investigate both the processing of the primary transcripts and the splicing of introns in the ORF203 gene. The major scheme of RNA processing including the splicing reaction was as follows (Fig. 3B). The ORF203 gene including its two introns was first co-transcribed with the downstream rps12' and rpl20 genes as a primary transcript. RNA processing between ORF203 and rps12' occurred before the splicing of the ORF203 introns was completed. The monomeric ORF203 RNA, which included two introns, was spliced, deleting the first intron and then the second intron. A trace of RNA that was spliced before RNA processing between ORF203 and rps12' was detected. However, no trace of RNA that contained the first intron but not the second intron was detected. Our results indicate that the splicing order of multiple introns is consecutive in the liverwort chloroplasts. Our data, however, do not exclude the possibility that the introns are spliced with different efficiencies rather than a fixed order. The petB and petD genes have an intron in their coding region, and the mRNA is present as a dicistronic molecule (Fukuzawa *et al.*, 1987). This is also an example of pre-mRNA splicing of multiple introns in one transcript of chloroplast genes. Rock *et al.*, (1987) have suggested that the splicing of the petB intron precedes the splicing of the petD intron in maize chloroplasts. Our results showed that 3'-end cleavage of the ORF203 mRNA precedes before the RNA splicing of the ORF203 is completed, although a small fraction of the primary transcripts was also spliced. The 5'-ends of multiple rps12' transcripts observed in the tobacco chloroplasts (Koller *et al.*, 1987; Hildebrand *et al.*, 1988) may correspond to inter-cistronic processing products as describes here.

### Transcription Initiation

To identify the initiation site of transcription for an ORF203 gene cluster, S1 nuclease mapping was done in the region between the ORF203 and psbB genes. As a probe, 5'-end-labelled DNA fragments covering the spacer region between the ORF203 and psbB genes were hybridized with chloroplast RNA prepared from exponentially growing cultured cells. The broad multiple signal (P1) was seen at about 52 nt upstream from the first methionine codon of ORF203 (Figs. 5A and 5B). A faint single band (arrowhead, P0) was also seen at around 240 nt upstream from the first codon (Fig. 5A). Primer extension experiments were done with a <sup>32</sup>P-labelled synthetic primer (AACTTTCGGAACACC, corresponding to exon 1 of ORF203). There was one major signal (P1) from the 5'-end of a transcript that exactly corresponded to 52 nt upstream from the first methionine codon obtained by S1 nuclease protection analysis (arrowhead, Fig. 5C). Therefore, the ORF203 gene cluster was co-transcribed polycistronically with the genes rps12' (exon 1) and rpl20 by the promoter found at around 240 or 52 nt upstream from the ORF203 coding region. The 52-nt upstream band was probably a major initiation site of transcription for the ORF203 gene cluster, although the 52-nt leader sequences may have been the result of processing from the 240-nt leader sequence.

### Secondary structures of the introns

The consensus boundary sequences of liverwort chloroplast introns of group II are 5'-GUGPyG ..... CUAPyPyNPyAPy-3' (Ohyama *et al.*, 1986). However, the 5'-end sequence of the ORF203 first intron (intron 1) is AUGCG, and that of the ORF203 second intron (intron 2) is UUGUG. The 3'-end sequences of ORF203 introns also differ from the 3'-consensus sequences found in other introns. Group II introns generally have the configuration of 6 major stem-and-loop structures (Michel & Dujon 1983). Intron 2, especially the stem I portion, is rich in A + U and is the smallest intron in the liverwort chloroplast genome. Nevertheless, the in-

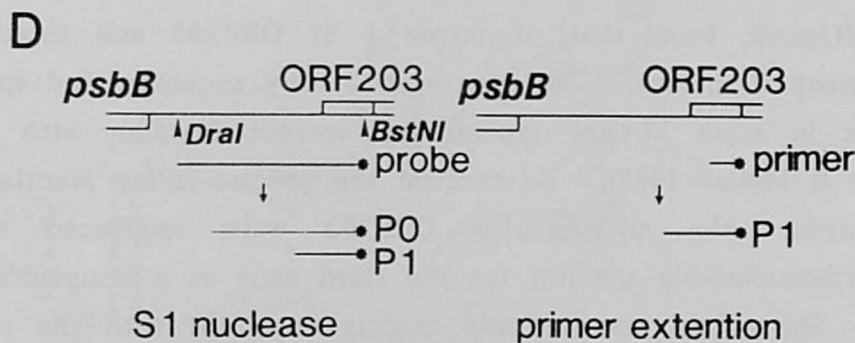
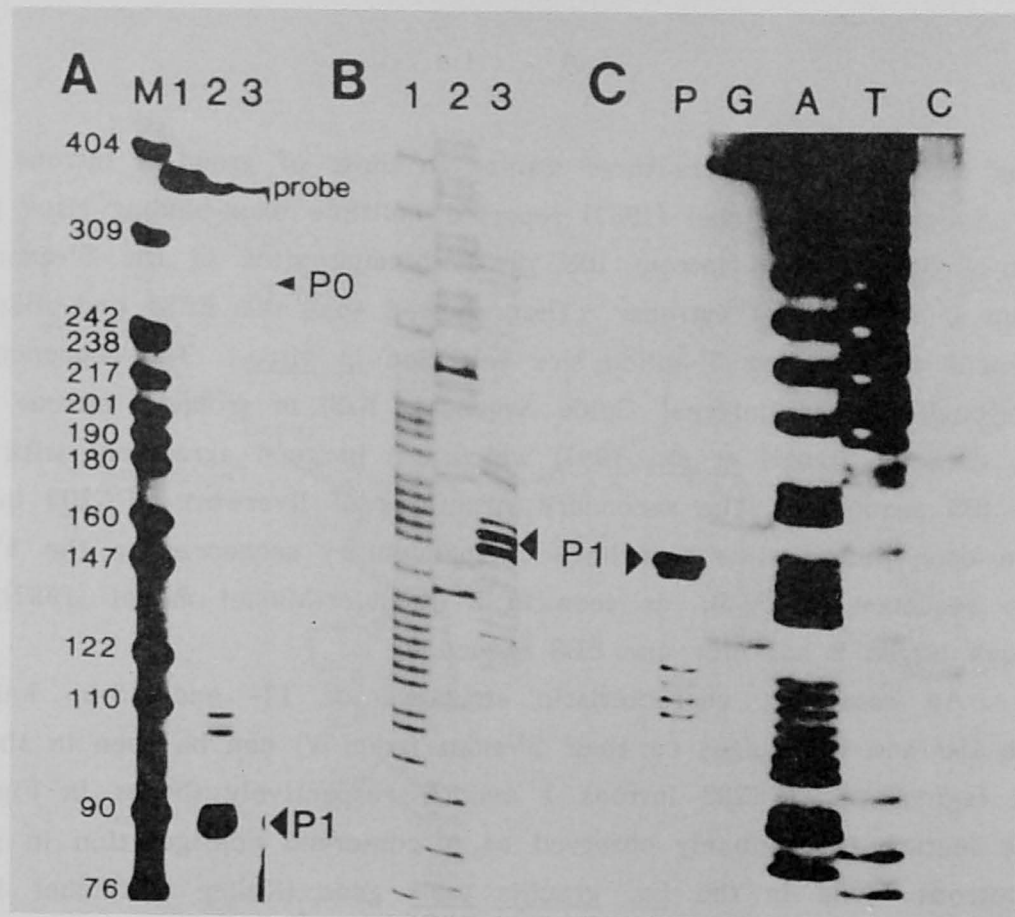


Fig. 5. S1 nuclease protection and primer extension analyses. A DNA restriction fragment (371 bp) was prepared by *Bst*NI and *Dra*I digestion, and labeled at the 5'-end of the *Bst*NI site. Panel A shows patterns of DNA fragments protected from S1 nuclease digestion. Lane M, *Hpa*II-digested pBR322 DNA fragments as size markers; lane 1, DNA probe prepared; lane 2, S1 nuclease treatment with chloroplasts RNA. P0 corresponds to a minor primary transcript. P1 indicates a major protected band of S1 nuclease corresponding to the processed 5' end of ORF203 transcripts; lane 3, S1 nuclease treatment without chloroplast RNA. Panel B is a pattern of S1 nuclease protection analysis of panel A in the high-resolution gel with Maxam-Gilbert sequence ladders; lane 1 shows a base specific ladder (G + A), lane 2 shows another base specific ladder (T + C), and lane 3 shows major protected product of S1 nuclease (P1). Panel C shows primer extension analysis. The 16-mer oligodeoxyribonucleotide complementary to ORF203 exon 1 was used as a primer; lane P is the major product (P1) of primer extension. Lanes G, A, T and C indicate the dideoxy sequencing ladders as a site indicator. Panel D shows schematic diagram of S1 protection and primer extension analyses.

trons form secondary structures similar to those of group II introns (Fig. 6). Jacquier and Michel (1987) reported multiple exon-binding sites (EBS, exon-binding sites in intron; IBS, intron-binding sites in the 5'-exon) in group II self-splicing introns. They showed that the EBSs and IBSs are essential in affecting 5'-splice site selection in vitro. The sequences of exon-binding sites (Internal Guide Sequence, IGS) in group II introns were also detected (Ozeki et al., 1987) which are in good agreement with EBS and IBS sequence. The secondary structures of liverwort ORF203 introns have exon-binding sites that have complementary sequences to the 5' exonic sequence (Fig. 6), as seen in a Jacquier-Michel model (1987), although intron 2 has only one EBS sequence.

An especially characteristic structure of 12- and 15-bp hairpins with UU and UA bulges on their 3'-sides (stem V) can be seen in the 3'-end regions of ORF203 introns 1 and 2, respectively (boxes in Fig. 6). This feature is commonly observed as a conserved configuration in group II introns found in the Eu. gracilis psbA gene (Keller & Michel 1985). However, intron 2 of ORF203 has an extra hairpin structure at stem VI that is different from that of intron 1 of ORF203 and those of the reported group II introns. The conserved 3'-APy sequence and spatial arrangements in stem VI are crucial for correct 3'-splice site selection (Schmelzer & Muller 1987). To confirm the precise splice junction of the second intron, the mRNAs for ORF203 were sequenced using an oligodeoxyribonucleotide specific for the third exon as a sequencing primer (Fig. 7). The splice junction was exactly coincided with the results of Northern hybridization analysis and the alternative 3' splice site was not seen. The secondary structure was unusual, but our results demonstrated that the 3'-splicing junction was positioned at a distance of 2 to 3 nt from the last stem-loop structure, and a mismatched adenosine residue that is a possible branching point was observed in the last stem-loop structure.

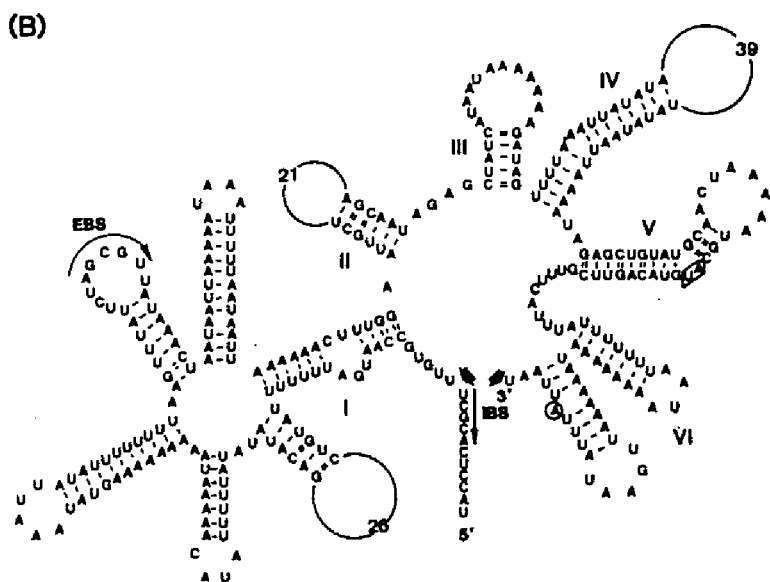
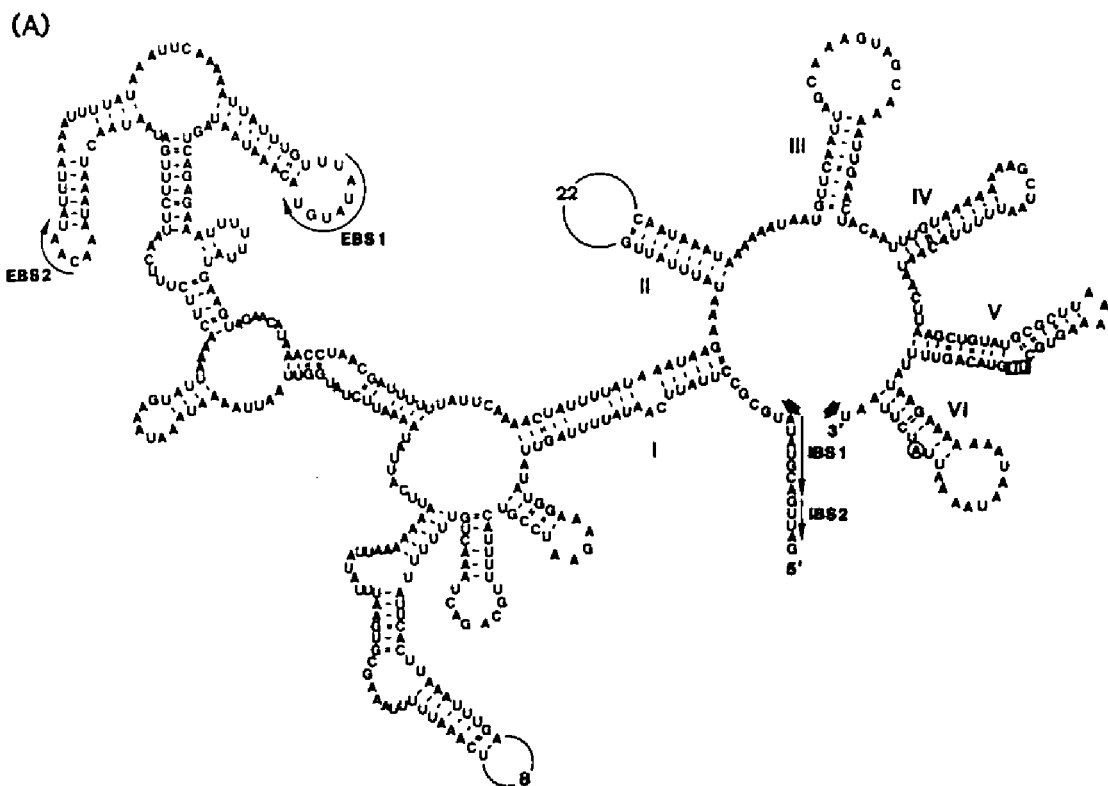
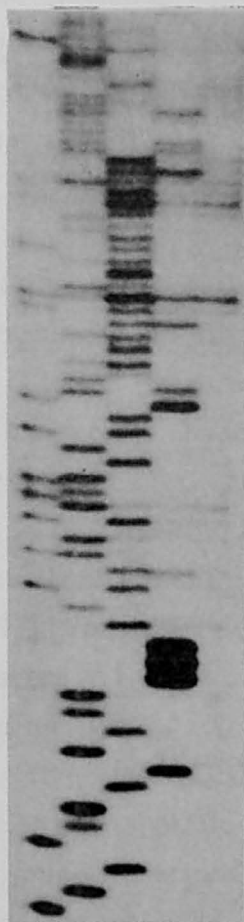


Fig. 6. Secondary structures of introns in the ORF203 gene. (A) First intron of ORF203. (B) Second intron of ORF203. The arrows indicate the 5'- and 3'- splice sites. Possible branching adenine residues are marked by circles. The number in the circles indicates the length of nucleotides. Abbreviations: IBS, indicate intron-binding site, and EBS, exon-binding site (Ozeki et al. 1987; Jacquier and Michel 1987).



GATCO



CDNA 5' -GATGAATCATAACCCCT- ATTAATAAATATTCAATTTTTTATTTTTTTTATTAATAAAAAAT -3'  
 AGCGTGAGGTAGTGCTATACGTTTAGTAAATTTCTCCCTCCTGT -3'

pre-mRNA  
(Unspliced)

UAUUUUUUUAAGUUAAAAAAAAUUUUUUUA -5'  
 (Intron 2)

mature mRNA  
(Spliced)

Deduced mRNA 3' -CUACUUAGUUGGGA- UGGCACUCCAUCCAGCAUUGCAAUUAUUAAAGAGGAGGACU -5'  
 (Exon 3) (Exon 2)

Fig. 7. Sequences of ORF203 mRNA. Primer specific for the third exon (Fig. 2) was extended with the use of reverse transcriptase in the chain terminator procedure. In lane 0, no dideoxynucleotide was added. In lanes G, A, T, and C, dideoxynucleotide was added. The cDNA sequence derived from the autoradiogram is given for comparison to the deduced mRNA sequences.

		60
liverwort	MPIGVPKVPFRLPGEEDAVWIDVYNRLYRERLLFLGQQVDDEIANQLIGIMMYLNGEDES	
tobacco	:::S:::S:V:::E::S::S:::L:V::SI::T	
spinach	:::S:::S:V:::	
		120
liverwort	KDMYLYINSPGGAVLAGISVYDAMQFVVPDVHTICMGLAASMGSFILTGGEITKRIALPH	
tobacco	::L:F:::W:IP:VAI::T:::R:::V:::L:F::	
		180
liverwort	ARVMIHQPASSYYDQGAGECIMEAEEVLKLRDCITKVYVQRTGKPLWVISEDMERDVFMS	
tobacco	:::F:EA:T::FVL::L:::ETL:R:::V::::	
		240
liverwort	AKEAKLYGIVDLVAIENNSTIKN	
tobacco	:T::QA:::V:	76.4%

Fig. 8. Comparison of the amino acid sequence of liverwort ORF203 to the amino acid sequence deduced from tobacco chloroplasts (Shinozaki et al. 1986, Databank-EMBL release 12.0, complementary strand of position 72,465 - 74,504) and spinach X-gene (Westhoff 1985). Amino acid residues are shown by one-letter symbols and identical amino acid residues are replaced by colons. Sequence homology (%) to liverwort gene product is given at the end of the sequence. Arrows indicate the splicing junctions in their sequences.

### Characterization of the ORF203 gene product

The characteristics of the ORF203 gene product were analyzed by a computer for hydrophathy of the protein. A putative trans-membrane domain (Klein et al., 1985) was found at positions 91-107 of the amino acid sequence (thickbar in Fig. 8) indicating that ORF203 gene product could be associated with a chloroplast membrane. Generally, functionally related genes form a cluster in the chloroplast genome (Ohyama et al., 1986). The ORF203 gene product is not likely to be a chloroplast ribosomal protein, although it is located in a ribosomal protein gene cluster (rps12' and rpl20). Cluster analysis in a computer by the method of Ward (1963) showed that the ORF203 gene product was related into photosynthetic genes on the basis of amino acid composition (Sano & Ohyama, unpublished results). In chloroplasts, thylakoid polypeptides are translated on thylakoid-bound ribosomes and stromal polypeptides are translated on stromal ribosomes (Minami & Watanabe 1984). This strongly suggests that major RNA processing between ORF203 and rps12' would be

responsible for the sorting of membrane-bound ORF203 mRNA from the mRNA for stromal ribosomal proteins S12 and L20.

The tobacco chloroplast genome has been sequenced (Shinozaki *et al.*, 1986b). The region containing two ORFs (ORF74B and ORF73) in the tobacco chloroplast genome corresponds to liverwort ORF203 when our consensus sequences for introns are introduced in the tobacco chloroplast sequence. The derived amino acid sequence of the corresponding tobacco frame showed high homology (76.4%) to the liverwort ORF203 gene product (Fig. 8). Twenty out of the 23 amino acids in exon I of ORF203 are identical to a reading frame from the spinach 'X-gene', which gives an unidentified transcript and is also on the opposite DNA strand of the psbB gene (Westhoff 1985). S1 nuclease protection analysis of the X-gene suggested that there is active expression of liverwort ORF203 homologue in spinach chloroplasts, although the presence of introns in the X-gene has not been described (Westhoff 1985). Northern hybridization also shows an abundance of mature mRNA for the ORF203 gene in the liverwort chloroplasts. These results suggest that the product of ORF203 in the liverwort chloroplast genome is functional in chloroplasts, associating with a chloroplast membrane.

## CHAPTER IV A nicked group II intron and trans-splicing in liverwort, Marchantia polymorpha, chloroplasts

### INTRODUCTION

A number of chloroplast genes are interrupted by introns and thus require post-transcriptional RNA splicing for the gene expression (Ohyama et al., 1986; Ozeki et al., 1987; Umesono & Ozeki, 1987; Shinozaki et al., 1986b). Chloroplast introns belong to either group I or group II depending on their secondary structures, which was first elucidated in mitochondria (Michel & Dujon, 1983). Both of these intron families are accounted as self-splicing types, which suggests that catalytic activity resides in the intron RNA itself even if some protein factors are required for efficient splicing. Twenty different introns have been detected in the chloroplast genome of a liverwort, M. polymorpha; only one intron, in the trnL(UAA) gene, belongs to group I, and the other 19 in group II (Ohyama et al., 1986; Ozeki et al., 1987). Among these split genes, there was an unusual organization for the rps12 gene that encodes the 30S ribosomal protein S12; the gene consists of three exons and two introns, and exon 1 is far (some 60 kb) from the other two exons on the opposite DNA strand (Fukuzawa et al., 1986). Fig. 1 illustrates the genes neighboring the two separated parts, designated as rps12' (A) and rps'12 (B). Essentially the same gene organization as that of rps12 has also been reported for the tobacco chloroplast genome, although the portion of gene containing exons 2-3 (rps'12) is duplicated in the inverted-repeat regions (Shinozaki et al., 1986b; Fromm et al., 1986; Torazawa et al., 1986; Zaita et al., 1987; Hildebrand et al., 1988). This gene organization suggests that the two parts of rps12 are transcribed separately and then spliced trans to assemble exons 1 and 2. Electron microscopic analysis of RNA-DNA hybrids in tobacco showed that there are separate transcripts of exon 1 and 2-3 of the rps12 gene in the chloroplast as well as spliced RNA molecules in which exon 1 is joined to exon 2 (Koller et al., 1987). The gene ps1A1 for photosystem I P700 protein in

C. reinhardtii chloroplasts has been reported to be a discontinuous gene split into three separated locations, suggesting the operation of trans-splicing (Klück et al., 1987; Choquet et al., 1988).

Two separate RNA molecules can be joined by trans-splicing in vitro in nuclear extracts of HeLa cells (Solnick, 1985; Konarska et al., 1985). In yeast, efficient trans-splicing in vitro of the mitochondrial group II intron suggests that interaction between the 3'-end of the 5'-exon and intron is needed (Jacquier & Rosbash, 1987). Recently several cases of trans-splicing in vivo have been reported (see review: Sharp, 1987). Unlike these cases, however, the chloroplast gene for ribosomal protein S12 involved the trans-splicing of the coding region for a single protein.

There were various RNA molecules derived from the two regions of the liverwort chloroplast genome shown in Fig. 1. Maturation pathways were postulated for mRNAs from the primary RNA transcripts via RNA processing and splicing cis and trans, and a bimolecular interaction model was proposed for trans-splicing according to the folding model of group II introns of Michel and Dujon (1983).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

### Preparation of liverwort chloroplast RNA

Liverwort chloroplasts were isolated from the cells of two-week-old suspension cultures grown under continuous illumination (Ohyama et al., 1982). Chloroplast RNA was prepared as described before (Kohchi et al., 1988b).

### Northern hybridization analysis

Oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes (16 nucleotides long) were synthesized with a DNA synthesis apparatus (Shimadzu NS-1) and labelled with [ $\gamma$ - $^{32}$ P]ATP (Amersham, 5000 Ci/mmol) and T4 polynucleotide kinase (Takara Shuzo). RNA probes were prepared with in vitro transcription of SP6 vectors containing liverwort chloroplast DNA fragments by the use of [ $\alpha$ - $^{32}$ P]UTP (Amersham, 800 Ci/mmol). Northern hybridization was done at 45°C for oligonucleotide probes and in the presence of 50% formamide for riboprobes by a procedure described previously (Kohchi et al., 1988b).

### S1-nuclease protection analysis

DNA probes for S1-nuclease protection analysis were obtained from recombinant plasmids containing liverwort chloroplast DNA. The probes were labelled at the 5'-end as described above and at the 3'-end with [ $\alpha$ - $^{32}$ P]dCTP (Amersham, 3000 Ci/mmol) and Klenow fragment of DNA

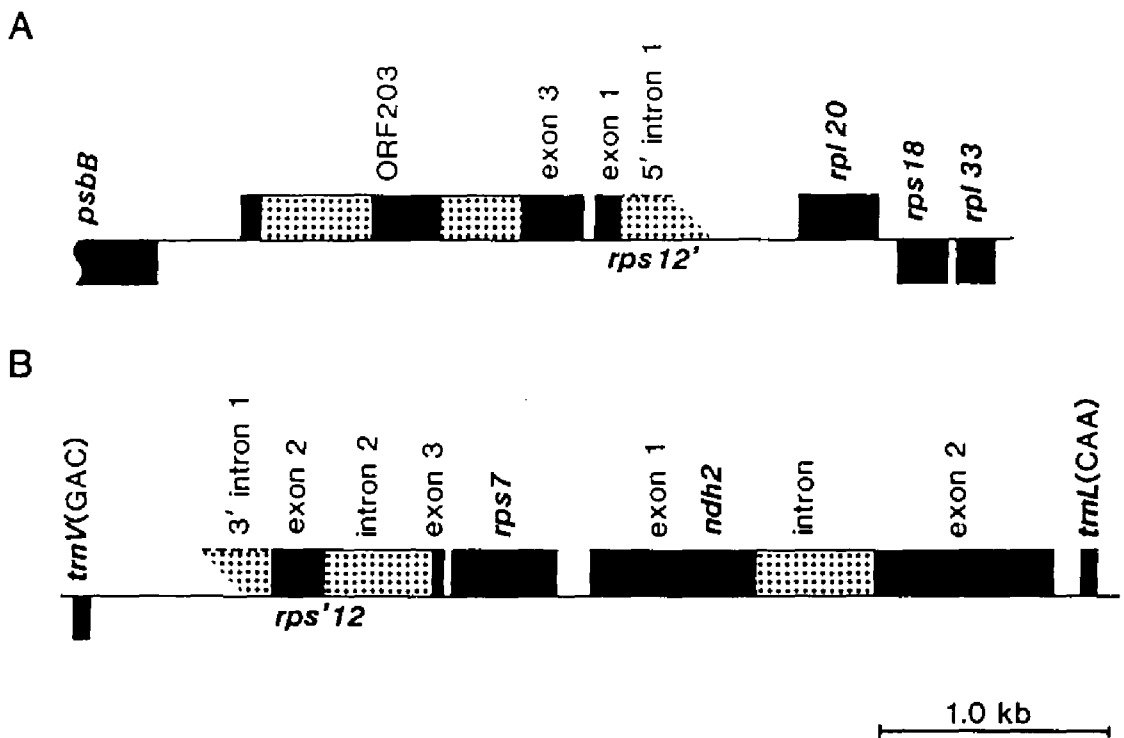


Fig. 1. Gene organization of the *rps12* gene. (A) Gene organization in the region coding for *rps12'*. Symbols are: *psbB* for the 47-kDa chlorophyll *a* apoprotein in photosystem II; ORF203 for an open reading frame of 203 amino acids; and *rps12*, *rpl20*, *rps18*, and *rpl33* for ribosomal proteins S12, L20, S18, and L33, respectively. (B) Gene organization of the region coding for *rps'12*. Symbols: *rps7* for ribosomal protein S7; *ndh2* for NADH dehydrogenase (ND2); and *trnV(GAC)* and *trnL(CAA)* for valine tRNA(GAC) and leucine tRNA(CAA), respectively. Genes shown above the lines are transcribed to the right, and those under the lines are transcribed to the left. Hatched boxes are introns.

polymerase I (Takara Shuzo). S1-nuclease protection analysis was done by a published procedure (Berk & Sharp, 1977).

## RESULTS

### Primary RNA transcripts of *rps12'* and *rps'12* and the processing products

The 5'-portion of *rps12* gene (*rps12'*) was preceded by an unidentified ORF203 that carried two introns, and followed by the *rpl20* gene for the 50S ribosomal protein L20 (Fig. 1A). The remaining 3'-portion of *rps12* (*rps'12*) was followed by the *rps7* gene for the 30S ribosomal protein S7, *ndh2* (a counterpart of human mitochondrial ND2), and

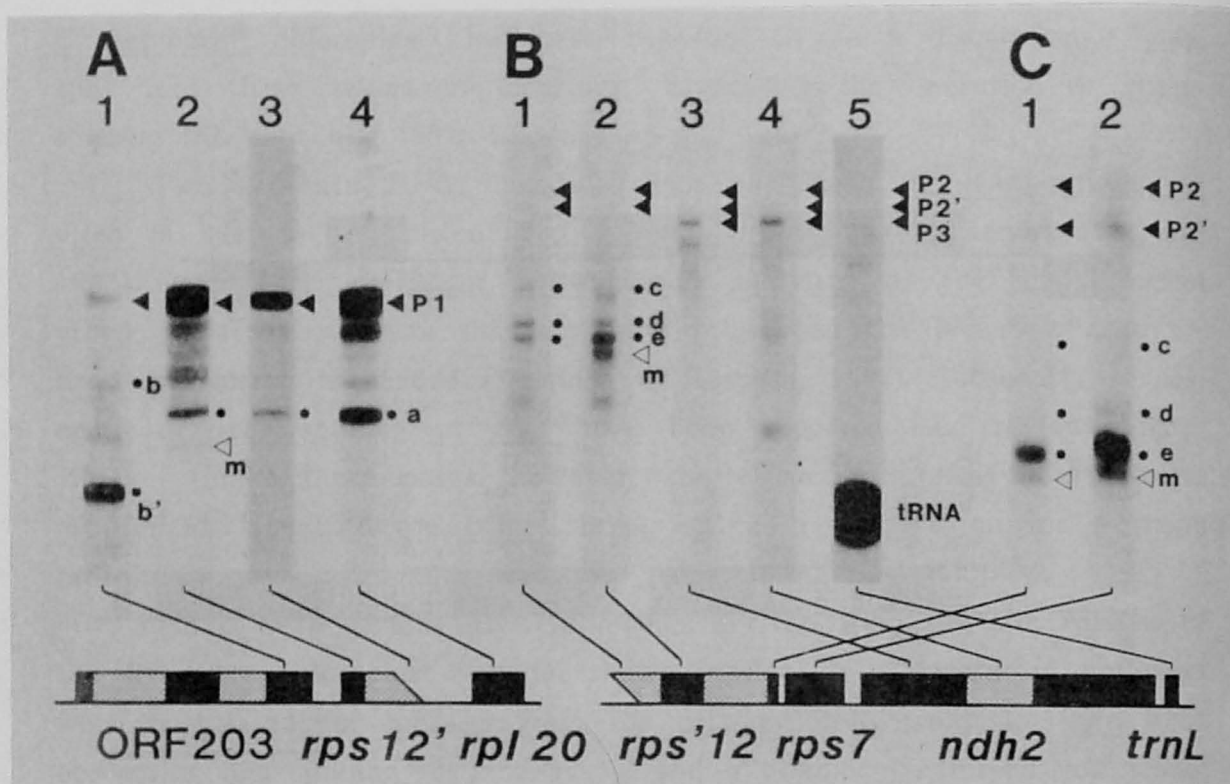


Fig. 2. Northern hybridization with a variety of probes. (A) Probes specific to exon 3 of ORF203 (lane 1), exon 1 of *rps12'* (lane 2), 5'-intron 1 of *rps12'* (lane 3), and the coding region of *rpl20* (lane 4). P1 with an arrowhead indicates primary transcripts including ORF203 to *rpl20*; band a indicates processed mRNA containing *rps12* (exon 1) and *rpl20* genes; band b indicates processed mRNA for ORF203 with introns, and band b' indicates spliced mature mRNA of ORF203. Band m (open triangle) indicates mature mRNA for *rps12* gene products. (B) Probes specific to 5'-intron 1 (lane 1), exon 2 (lane 2) of *rps'12* gene, exon 1 (lane 3) and intron (lane 4) of *ndh2* gene, and for the coding region (lane 5) of the *trnL*(CAA) gene. P2 and P2' with arrowheads indicate the two kinds of transcripts described in the text. P3 with an arrowhead indicates an additional transcript for *ndh2*. Band m with an open arrowhead indicates mature mRNA for the *rps12* gene. (C) Probes specific to coding regions for exon 3 of the *rps'12* and *rps7* genes. Lane 1, probe for exon 3 of the *rps12* gene; lane 2, for the *rps7* gene. Band m with an open arrowhead indicates mature mRNA for the *rps12* gene product.

(CAA) for the leucine tRNA(CAA) in this order (Fig. 1B). Chloroplast RNAs were extracted from the cultured liverwort cells liverwort, and Northern hybridization experiments were done with appropriate probes. Two separate transcripts for *rps12'* and *rps'12* were detected (Fig. 2).

The results obtained with the probes for the ORF203 (exon 3), the rps12 exon 1, the 5'-portion of rps12 intron 1, and the rpl20 gene are presented in Fig. 2A. The rps12' was transcribed together with the upstream ORF203 and the downstream rpl20 as a primary RNA of 3.0 kb (band P1, Fig. 2A). I also detected a 1.55-kb RNA (band b) that was hybridized only with the ORF203 probe and a 1.45-kb RNA (band a) hybridized only with the rps12' and rpl20 probes (Fig. 2A). These two RNA species may be cleaved products of the 3.0-kb primary RNA transcript that was processed at a specific site between ORF203 and rps12'. Several bands were observed between bands P1 and a, which may be partially spliced molecules of primary transcripts (lane 2, 3 and 4, Fig. 2A). The size of band b' RNA corresponded to that of the mature mRNA of ORF203 after the splicing of its introns (Kohchi *et al.*, 1988c). There was no unique band that was exclusively hybridized with the probe of rpl20. However, S1-nuclease protection analysis with a 5'-<sup>32</sup>P-labelled DNA probe of the rpl20 coding region gave smeared bands, suggesting that there was no particular fixed end for the 5'-leader of rpl20 mRNA (data not shown).

Northern hybridization was done with a variety of probes for the 3'-portion of intron 1 (the 5'-leader sequence of exon 2), exon 2 of the rps12 gene, exon 1 of ndh2 gene, an intron of ndh2 gene, and the trnL(CAA) gene (Fig. 2B). The results showed that: (i) the primary transcripts (4.2 kb, band P2; 4.0 kb, band P2') correspond in their entire region from rps12 (exons 2 and 3) to the trnL(CAA) gene; (ii) the major bands (1.9 kb, 1.4 kb, and 1.2 kb; bands c, d, and e, respectively; Fig. 2B) were mRNA molecules processed upstream from the ndh2 gene; and (iii) there was an additional transcript for the ndh2 gene (band P3 in lanes 3 and 4, Fig. 2B). A large amount of trnL(CAA) gene product was found in the RNA preparation (lane 5, Fig. 2B). This may not reflect only the stability of tRNA molecules but also the presence of additional initiation sites for trnL(CAA) transcription alone. Northern hybridization with probes specific to the coding region for rps12 exon 3 and rps7 gave



the same pattern, indicating that there was no RNA processing between them (lanes 1 and 2, Fig. 2C). The linkage of rps12 and rps7 was maintained on the mRNA, like that in E. coli (Post & Nomura, 1980).

#### Processing of two separate rps12 transcripts (exon 1 and exons 2-3)

S1-nuclease protection analysis at the 5'-flanking region of the rps12 exon 1 showed that the processing site was between the ORF203 and the rps12 exon 1 (Fig. 3A). This result coincided with Northern hybridization analysis, which showed that there were major processed mRNA molecules for the ORF203 gene (see band b, Fig. 2A) and for rps12'-rpl20 (see band a, Fig. 2A). The major termination site was 45 nt downstream from the rpl20 gene, although two minor signals (110 nt and 220 nt downstream) were also observed (Fig. 3B). To identify the initiation site of transcripts in the gene cluster of rps'12, S1-nuclease protection analysis was done with a DNA probe containing the HphI-EcoRV fragment, giving four bands (Fig. 3C). One could correspond a spliced RNA (band s, Fig. 3C). A minor band c (Fig. 3C) corresponded to the junction site (83 nt upstream from the 5'-terminal of exon 2) of inverted repeat and large single copy regions, probably because of competitive hybridization with transcripts in the other inverted repeat region. This band, therefore, did not correspond to the initiation site of the transcription. Two additional major bands were detected: one corresponded to the RNA molecule that started 500 nt upstream from the 5'-terminal of exon 2 of rps12 (band a, Fig. 3C), and the other was 310 nt upstream from exon 2 (band b, Fig. 3C). The former could be for the initiation of transcripts of the gene cluster, because of the presence of promoter-like sequences upstream ("TTGACC" and "TAAAAT" as "-35"- and "-10" - sequences, respectively). RNA molecules corresponding to these signals in size were found in the Northern hybridization analysis (see bands P2 and P2', Fig. 2B). S1-nuclease protection analysis to detect the processing site between the rps7 and ndh2 genes gave evidence of two major processed RNA molecules (40 and 90 nt downstream from the termination

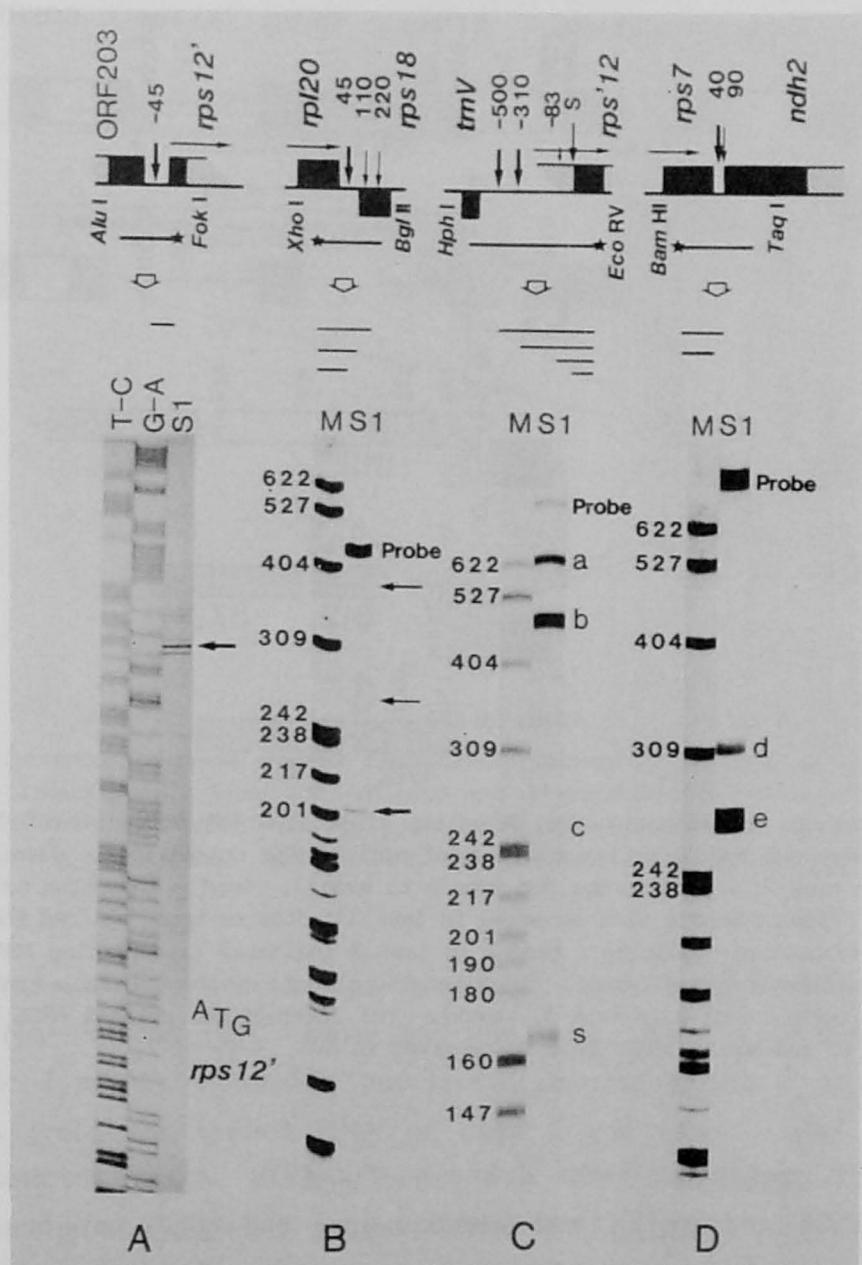


Fig. 3. S1-nuclease protection analysis of transcripts. (A) DNA probe (AluI-FokI fragment) between the ORF203 (exon 3) and *rps12'* (exon 1) genes. (B) DNA probe (XhoI-BglII fragment) between the *rpl20* and *rps18* genes. (C) DNA probe (HphI-EcoRV fragment) covering the spacer region between the *trnV*(GAC) and *rps'12* genes. (D) DNA probe (BamHI-TaqI fragment) covering the *rps7* and *ndh2* genes. Above each panel, signals from S1-nuclease protection analysis are shown with the gene organization. Numbers with arrows indicate the site of signals from the following exons or the coding region of the respective genes. Asterisks indicate the site of <sup>32</sup>P-labeled ends. Hatched boxes are introns.

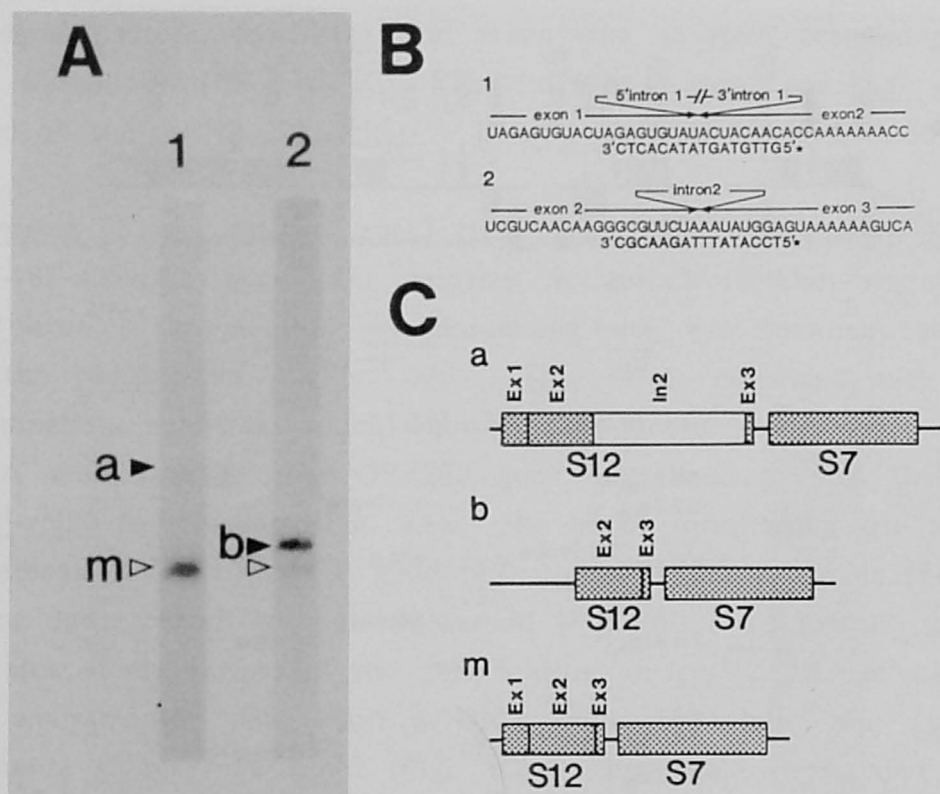


Fig. 4. Northern hybridization for detection of spliced RNA molecules of the *rps12* gene. (A) Northern hybridization analysis of spliced RNA transcripts. Lane 1, probe for exon 1 to exon 2; lane 2, probe for exon 2 to exon 3. Band *m* indicates mature mRNA for the *rps12* gene. Band *a* with an arrow in lane 1 indicates *trans*-spliced RNA (exon 1 and exon 2) without *cis*-splicing. Band *b* in lane 2 indicates *cis*-splicing RNA (exon 2 and exon 3) without *trans*-splicing. (B) Synthetic oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes (exon 1 to exon 2, upper; exon 2 to exon 3, lower). (C) Intermediate spliced mRNA molecules (bands *a* and *b*) and mature mRNA (band *m*) observed in A.

codon of the *rps7* gene, bands *d* and *e*, Fig. 3D). Major processings between ORF203 and *rps12'*, and between *rps7* and *ndh2* may be required for the folding of the two separate transcripts described below.

Independent trans- and cis-splicing in the *rps12* gene.

To confirm the presence of *trans*- and *cis*-spliced mRNA molecules, synthetic oligodeoxyribonucleotides 16 nucleotides long consisting of 8 nucleotides complementary to the 3'-end of a 5'-exon and 8 nucleotides complementary to the 5'-end of the following 3'-exon were used as probes for Northern hybridization (Fig. 4B). Spliced RNAs of

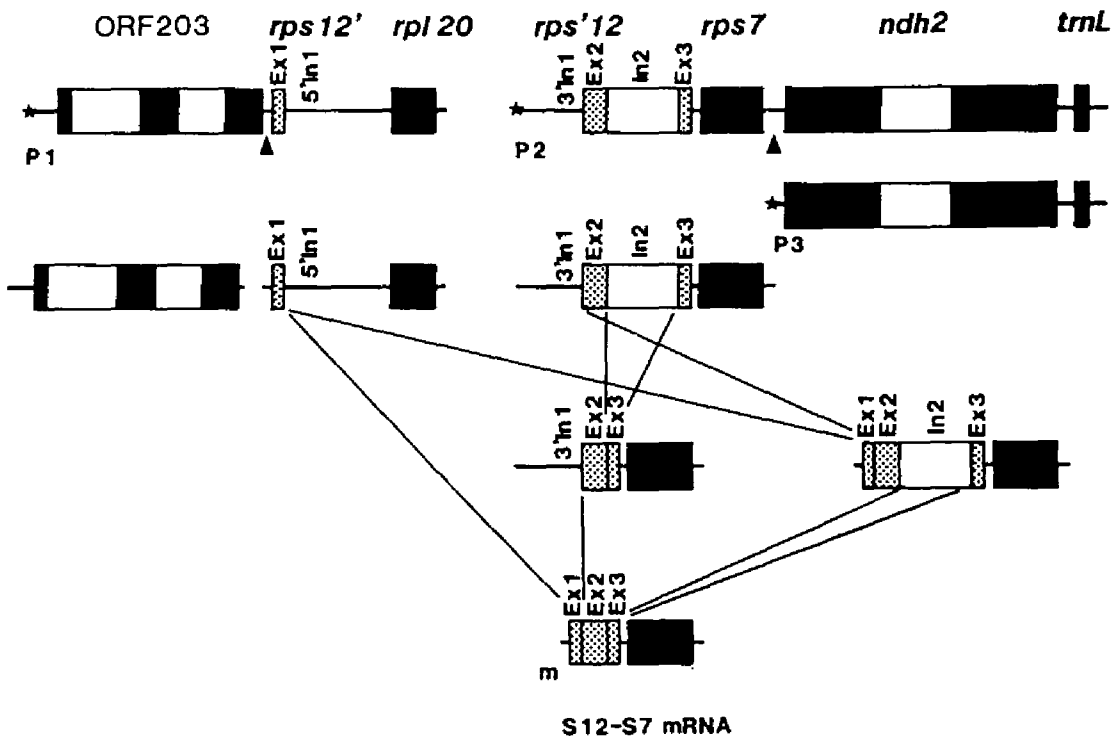


Fig. 5. Schematic pathways of mRNA maturation. Arrowheads indicate major processing sites of transcripts. Asterisks indicate the 5'-terminals of primary transcripts. Dotted boxes indicate exons of the *rps12* gene. In other genes, solid boxes are exons and white boxes are *cis* introns. Lines indicate the processes of *trans*- and *cis*-splicing.

exon 1 and exon 2 were seen as two bands: the major band m was mature mRNA for the *rps12* gene, and the minor band a corresponded to *trans*-spliced mRNA molecules, but it still carried intron 2 (lane 1, Fig. 4A). A probe for spliced RNA of exon 2 and exon 3 also gave two bands, with the major band b having the 3'-half of intron 1, and the minor band m corresponding to the mature RNA for the *rps12* gene (lane 2, Fig. 4A). These results indicate the independent occurrence of *trans*- and *cis*-splicing in the transcripts of the *rps12* gene (Fig. 4C), although *cis*-splicing was apparently more efficient than *trans*-splicing in the liverwort chloroplast.

## DISCUSSION

The results obtained are summarized in Fig. 5, which is a probable

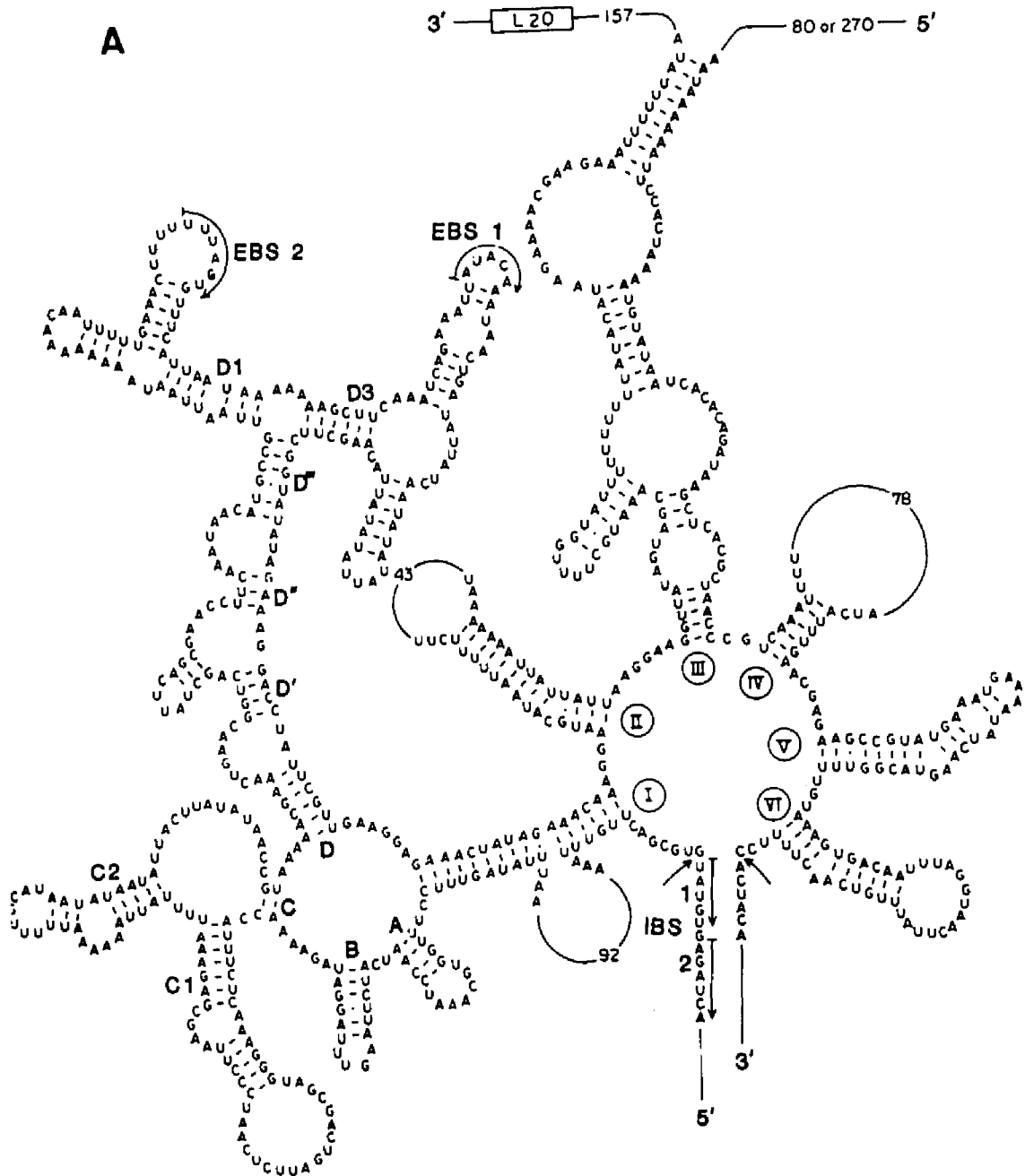
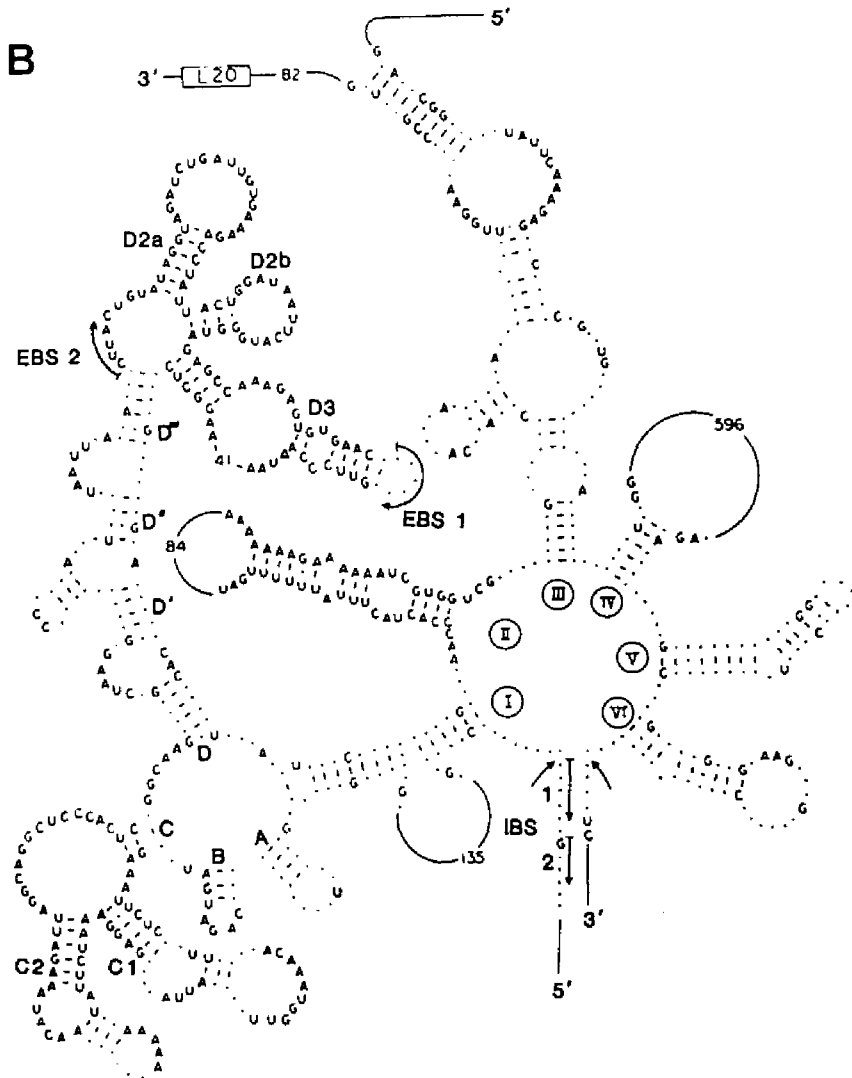


Fig. 6. A model of secondary structure of trans-split introns in the rps12 gene. (A) Liverwort; (B) Tobacco (dots indicate the same nucleotides as liverwort). Arrows indicate splicing sites. Abbreviations IBS and EBS with arrows indicate the intron-binding and exon-binding sites (Ozeki *et al.*, 1987; Jaquier & Michel, 1987; Michel & Jaquier, 1987). The nomenclature of stem-loop structure follows that of the model of Jaquier and Michel (1987).



scheme for the mRNA maturation pathways in the chloroplasts. Note that in this analysis there are a variety of precursor RNAs relatively abundant compared to the amount of matured mRNAs. This is mainly because the liverwort chloroplasts from the cell cultures in the late growth stage were used (2 weeks old, and grown under continuous illumination). If the cells were transferred to fresh medium, mature mRNAs in the chloroplasts became predominant within a day or two, suggesting the conversion of accumulated intermediate RNAs to mRNAs (Kohchi *et al.*, 1988c).

Fig. 6A illustrates a folding model of intron 1 of the *rps12* gene

for its trans-splicing. On the identified precursor RNAs of rps12' and rps'12, there are stretches of nucleotide sequences complementary with each other as deduced from the DNA sequence, and the model was constructed by assuming base pairings between them. A simplified form of this model has been published by elsewhere (Ozeki et al., 1987). The overall structure has characteristics of group II introns, with its six stem-loop domains (5), but with an interruption in the third loop region. The exon- and intron-binding sites (the EBS and IBS sequence elements) are also indicated in Fig. 6; they are complementary with each other and essential for the splicing (Jacquier & Michel, 1987; Michel & Jacquier, 1987). A structure comparable to the tobacco intron 1 of rps12 can be deduced from the published sequence (Fig. 6B). Zaita et al. (1987) has reported the presence of complementary sequences ("transon 1" and "transon 2"). The sequence transon 1 corresponds to the regions from A to C in stem-loop I, and transon 2 is in the loop portion of stem-loop IV in our model. In the liverwort genome, a complementary structure could not be formed in the regions corresponding to the tobacco transons. Evidence for our model was the compensatory base substitutions observed between liverwort and tobacco to keep base pairings at the stem regions. Two mutations that disrupt the splicing of bII intron in yeast mitochondria have been mapped in the stem portion of stem III (Schmelzer et al., 1983), indicating the importance of the stem structure for splicing. The intermolecular base pairings may participate in the folding of group II intron as a "ribozyme" and in the selection of an adequate partner molecule. There was no complementary sequence to the stem portion of stem-loop III of the trans-split intron in any other introns of the liverwort chloroplasts (Ohyama et al., 1986). Thus, the exon shuffling in chloroplast RNA splicing could not be taken into account. Self-splicing of chloroplast group II intron has not yet reported, but catalytic activity would essentially reside in the introns, depending on the tertiary folding structure. The resultant RNA complex may be essential for the removal of trans-split intron.

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## SUMMARY

### CHAPTER I Gene organization of the liverwort chloroplast genome

#### I-1 Structure and organization of Marchantia polymorpha chloroplast genome --- Cloning and gene identification

The complete nucleotide sequence of chloroplast DNA from a liverwort, M. polymorpha, was determined using a clone bank of chloroplast DNA fragments. The circular genome consisted of 121,025 base pairs (bp) and includes two large inverted repeats (IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub>, each 10,058 bp), a large single-copy region (LSC, 81,096 bp), and a small single-copy region (SSC, 19,813 bp). The nucleotide sequence was analyzed with a computer to deduce the entire gene organization, assuming the universal genetic code and the presence of introns in the coding sequences. 136 possible genes were detected, 103 gene products of which are related to known stable RNA or protein molecules, as reported in brief earlier (Ohyama et al., 1986). Stable RNA genes for four species of ribosomal RNA and 32 species of transfer RNA (tRNA) were located, although one of the tRNA genes may be defective. Twenty genes encoding polypeptides involved in photosynthesis and electron transport were identified by comparison with known chloroplast genes. Twenty-five open reading frames (ORFs) showed structural similarities to E. coli RNA polymerase subunits, 19 ribosomal proteins and two related ones. Seven ORFs were comparable with human mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase genes. A computer-aided homology search predicted possible chloroplast homologues of bacterial proteins; two ORFs for bacterial 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin, two for distinct subunits of a protein-dependent transport system, one ORF for a component of nitrogenase, and one for an antenna protein of a light harvesting complex. The other 33 ORFs consisting of 29 to 2,136 codons remain to be identified, but some of them seem to be conserved in evolution. There were 22 introns in 20 genes (8 tRNA genes and 12 ORFs), which may be classified into the groups I and II found in



fungus mitochondrial genes. The structural gene for ribosomal protein S12 is trans-split on the opposite DNA strand (Fukuzawa et al., 1986). The universal genetic code was confirmed by the substitution pattern of simultaneous codons and also by possible codon recognition of the chloroplast-encoded tRNA molecules, assuming no importation of tRNA molecules from the cytoplasm. The nucleotide residue A or T was preferred at the third position of the codons (G + C, 11.9%) and in intergenic spacers (G + C, 19.5%), resulting in an overall G + C content that was low (28.8%) throughout the liverwort chloroplast genome. Possible gene expression signals such as promoters and terminators for transcription, and predicted locations of gene products were discussed.

## I-2 Structure and organization of Marchantia polymorpha chloroplast genome --- Inverted repeat and small single copy regions

The genes in the regions of large inverted repeats (IR<sub>A</sub> and IR<sub>B</sub>, 10,058 base pairs each) and a small single copy (SSC, 81,095 bp) of chloroplast DNA from M. polymorpha were characterized. The IR regions contained genes for four ribosomal RNAs (16S, 23S, 4.5S, and 5S rRNAs) and five transfer RNAs (valine tRNA<sub>GAC</sub>, isoleucine tRNA<sub>GAU</sub>, alanine tRNA<sub>UGC</sub>, arginine tRNA<sub>ACG</sub>, and asparagine tRNA<sub>GUU</sub>). The gene organization of the IR regions in the liverwort chloroplast genome was conserved, although the IR regions were smaller (10,058 bp) than any reported in higher plant chloroplasts. The SSC region (19,813 bp) encoded genes for 17 open reading frames (ORFs), a leucine tRNA<sub>UAG</sub>, and a proline tRNA<sub>GGG</sub>-like sequence. Twelve ORFs were identified by homology of their coding sequences with a 4Fe-4S-type ferredoxin protein, a bacterial nitrogenase reductase component (Fe-protein), five human mitochondrial components of NADH dehydrogenase (ND1, ND4, ND4L, ND5, and ND6), two E. coli ribosomal proteins (S15 and L21), two putative proteins encoded in the kinetoplast maxicircle DNA of L. tarentolae (LtORF 3 and LtORF 4), and a bacterial permease inner membrane com-

ponent (encoded by malF in E. coli or hisQ in S. typhimurium).

## CHAPTER II Divergent mRNA transcription in the chloroplast psbB operon

The genes psbB, psbH, petB, and petD for the components in photosystem II and the cytochrome b6/f complex are clustered and co-transcribed in liverwort M. polymorpha chloroplasts. On the opposite DNA strand in the spacer region between the genes psbB and psbH, an open reading frame consisting of 43 sense codons was deduced and designated as the ORF43 gene. The ORF43 gene was actively transcribed in liverwort chloroplasts. The ORF43 transcripts were entirely complementary to a part of the primary transcripts of the psbB operon. Heterogeneous Northern hybridization showed that the mRNA transcripts for the ORF43 gene increased with the greening in pea seedlings. This is the first demonstration of a divergent overlapping transcription in chloroplasts.

## CHAPTER III Ordered processing and splicing in a polycistronic transcript in liverwort chloroplast

From the complete sequence of the chloroplast DNA in a liverwort, M. polymorpha, an unidentified open reading frame, ORF203, was found between the psbB and rps12' (trans-split) genes. ORF203 was a split gene consisting of three exons and two group II introns. Multiple transcripts for ORF203 were detected on Northern blots of the chloroplast RNA preparation. The ORF203 locus was primarily co-transcribed with the downstream genes rps12' and rpl20, and then processed into a monomeric precursor. S1 nuclease mapping gave the transcription initiation site 52 nucleotides upstream from the coding sequence of ORF203. The spliced RNA molecules were identified, as predicted, by the use of synthetic oligodeoxyribonucleotide probes specific to ligated exon sequences. The splicing reaction proceeded successively from the 5' to 3' direction. These results indicate that ordered RNA

processing occurs in the chloroplasts of land plants. Trans-membrane analysis by a computer indicated that ORF203 gene product could be associated with a chloroplast membrane.

#### CHAPTER IV Nicked group II intron and its trans-splicing in the liverwort chloroplasts

The chloroplast gene rps12 for ribosomal protein S12 in a liverwort, M. polymorpha, is split into three exons by two introns, one of which (intron 1) is discontinuous. Exon 1 of rps12 for the N-terminal portion of the S12 protein is far from exons 2 and 3 for the C-terminal portion on the opposite DNA strand. S1-nuclease protection analysis and Northern hybridization with RNA isolated from the liverwort chloroplasts showed that: (i) the exons 1 and 2-3 of the rps12 gene with the neighboring genes were transcribed separately, (ii) the trans-splicing of intron 1 occurred after the processing of two primary transcripts to two pre-mRNAs, and (iii) there was no particular order for the splicing of intron 1 (trans) and intron 2 (cis) in the rps12 gene. A bimolecular interaction model was proposed for trans-splicing by assuming that intermolecular base pairings between two pre-mRNAs result in the formation of the structure typical of group II introns except for disruption in the loop III region. This structure could be constructed in intron 1 of tobacco rps12 gene.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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Chapter I-1 is described in reference (K).

Chapter I-2 is described in reference (N).

Chapter II is described in reference (G).

Chapter III is described in reference (J).

Chapter IV is described in reference (O).

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