

## Nucleotide sequence of a dog class I cDNA clone

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The major histocompatibility complex (MHC) of the dog, termed DLA, can be divided into three serologically defined loci, designated *DLA-A*, *DLA-B*, and *DLA-C* (Bull et al. 1987), and a fourth region (termed *DLA-D*) defined by mixed leucocyte culture reactivity (Deeg et al. 1986). The *DLA-A* antigens are characterized as class I molecules by their association with  $\beta_2$ -microglobulin (Krumbacher et al. 1986) and by the correlation of serologic *DLA-A* specificities with protein polymorphisms (van der Feltz and Ploegh 1984; Neeffjes et al. 1986). The *DLA-B* locus codes for class II antigens which are constitutively expressed on almost all circulating lymphocytes in the dog (Doxiadis et al. 1989). The *DLA-C* antigens are thought to be weakly expressed class I antigens (van der Feltz and Ploegh 1984). Recently, allelic polymorphism within the class I and class II regions of the *DLA* complex has been studied by restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis (Sarmiento and Storb 1988a, b, 1989). Based on the RFLP studies, the *DLA* class I region has been presumed to have at least eight class I genes, including the canine homologues of *HLA-A*, *-B* and *HLA-E* genes (Sarmiento and Storb 1989). Moreover, the DNA polymorphism detected by the human *HLA-B7* probe corresponded to the serologically defined *DLA-A* allelic series (Sarmiento and Storb 1989). In this report, we describe the nucleotide sequence of a cDNA clone which encodes a class I gene in the dog.

To isolate *DLA* class I cDNA clones, a lambda ZAP phage cDNA library (Stratagene, La Jolla, California) constructed from the spleen of a dog (serotyped as *DLA-A9*, *B6*, *C11*) was screened by plaque hybridization

(Benton and Davis 1977) using a  $^{32}\text{P}$ -labeled human *HLA-B7* cDNA clone (Sood et al. 1981) as a probe. The hybridization was performed in a buffer containing 50% (v/v) formamide, 0.1% Denhardt's solution,  $5\times$  saline-sodium phosphate-EDTA (SSPE; 0.9 M NaCl, 0.05 M  $\text{NaH}_2\text{PO}_4$ , 5 mM ethylenediaminetetraacetate), 5% dextran sulfate, 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), and 200  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  salmon sperm DNA overnight at 42 °C. The filters were washed twice at room temperature in  $2\times$  SSPE, once in  $2\times$  SSPE, 0.5% SDS, and once in  $0.5\times$  SSPE. Twenty clones were isolated and plaque-purified after screening over 600 000 plaques. The cDNA inserts were contained within a phagemid, pBluescript SK(-), which was excised from the lambda ZAP phage in vivo by helper virus (Short et al. 1988). Single- and double-stranded DNA preparations were made for sequencing. The sequencing primers included T3 and T7 promoters flanking the pBluescript polylinker and three synthetic oligonucleotides termed A1 (spanning codons 1–9 in the sense strand, 5'-CGAATTCCTCCCTG-AGGTATTTCTAC-3'), A2 (spanning codons 279–284 in the complementary strand, 5'-GACAATGGTGGACA-GAGG-3'), and A3 (spanning codons 201–209 in the complementary strand, 5'-AGAATTCAGCGCCAG-CACCTCAGGGT-3'). Four additional synthetic oligonucleotides (kindly provided by Y. Choo) based on the human *HLA-B27* gene sequence were used for sequencing and were termed SP83–88 (spanning codons 83–88 in the sense strand), SP171–176 (spanning codons 171–176 in the sense strand), SP246–251 (spanning codons 246–251 in the sense strand), and SPC221–226 (spanning codons 221–226 in the complementary strand). The complete sequences of six full-length clones were determined on both strands using the dideoxy chain termination procedure (Sanger et al. 1977) and Sequenase (US Biochemicals, Cleveland, Ohio).

The nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of the longest [1511 base pairs (bp)] *DLA* class I cDNA clone (pBT-I16, available to interested investigators) is illus-

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Met	Glu	Val	Val	Met	Pro	Arg	Ala	Leu	Leu	Val	Leu	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	Thr	-5
ATG	GAG	GTG	GTG	ATG	CCG	CGA	GCC	CTC	CTC	GTG	CTG	CTG	TCG	GCG	GCC	CTG	GCC	CTG	ACC	60
Pro	Thr	Arg	Ala Gly	Ser	His	Ser	Leu	Arg	Tyr	Phe	Tyr	Thr	Ser	Val	Ser	Arg	Pro	Gly		16
CCG	ACC	CGG	GCG GGC	TCC	CAC	TCC	CTG	AGG	TAT	TTC	TAC	ACC	TCC	GTG	TCC	CGG	CCC	GGC		120
Ala	Gly	Asp	Pro	Arg	Phe	Ile	Ala	Val	Gly	Tyr	Val	Asp	Asp	Thr	Gln	Phe	Val	Arg	Phe	36
GCG	GGG	GAC	CCC	CGC	TTC	ATC	GCC	GTC	GGC	TAC	GTG	GAC	GAC	ACG	CAG	TTC	GTG	CGG	TTC	180
Asp	Ser	Asp	Ala	Ala	Thr	Gly	Arg	Met	Glu	Pro	Arg	Ala	Pro	Trp	Val	Glu	Gln	Glu	Gly	56
GAC	AGC	GAC	GCG	GCC	ACT	GGG	AGG	ATG	GAG	CCG	CGG	GCG	CCG	TGG	GTG	GAG	CAG	GAG	GGG	240
Pro	Glu	Tyr	Trp	Asp	Arg	Gln	Thr	Arg	Thr	Ile	Lys	Glu	Thr	Ala	Arg	Thr	Phe	Arg	Val	76
CCG	GAG	TAT	TGG	GAC	CGG	CAG	ACG	CGG	ACC	ATC	AAG	GAG	ACC	GCA	CGG	ACT	TTC	CGA	GTG	300
Asp	Leu	Asp	Thr	Leu	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Tyr	Asn	Gln	Ser	Glu	Ala Gly	Ser	His	Thr	Arg	Gln		96
GAC	CTG	GAC	ACC	CTG	CGC	GGC	TAC	TAC	AAC	CAG	AGC	GAG	GCC GGG	TCT	CAC	ACC	CGC	CAG		360
Thr	Met	Tyr	Gly	Cys	Asp	Leu	Gly	Pro	Asp	Gly	Arg	Leu	Leu	Arg	Gly	Tyr	Ser	Gln	Asp	116
ACC	ATG	TAC	GGC	TGT	GAC	CTG	GGG	CCC	GAC	GGG	CGC	CTT	CTC	CGC	GGG	TAC	AGT	CAG	GAC	420
Ala	Tyr	Asp	Gly	Ala	Asp	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Leu	Asn	Glu	Asp	Leu	Arg	Ser	Trp	Thr	Ala	Ala	136
GCC	TAC	GAC	GGC	GCC	GAT	TAC	ATC	GCC	CTG	AAC	GAG	GAC	CTG	CGC	TCC	TGG	ACC	GCG	GCG	480
Asp	Thr	Ala	Ala	Gln	Ile	Thr	Gln	Arg	Lys	Trp	Glu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Val	Ala	Glu	Leu	Gln	156
GAC	ACG	GCG	GCG	CAG	ATC	ACC	CAG	CGC	AAG	TGG	GAA	GCG	GCA	GGT	GTA	GCA	GAG	CTA	CAA	540
Trp	Arg	Asn	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Thr	Thr	Cys	Val	Glu	Trp	Leu	Arg	Arg	Tyr	Leu	Glu	Met	Gly	176
TGG	AGG	AAC	TAC	CTG	GAG	ACG	ACG	TGC	GTG	GAG	TGG	CTG	CGG	AGG	TAC	CTG	GAG	ATG	GGG	600
Lys	Glu	Thr	Leu	Leu	Arg	Ala Asp	Pro	Pro	Ser	Thr	Arg	Val	Thr	His	His	Pro	Val	Ser		196
AAG	GAG	ACG	CTG	CTG	CGC	GCA GAC	CCC	CCA	AGC	ACA	CGT	GTG	ACC	CAC	CAC	CCC	GTC	TCT		660
Asp	His	Glu	Val	Thr	Leu	Arg	Cys	Trp	Ala	Leu	Gly	Phe	Tyr	Pro	Ala	Glu	Ile	Thr	Leu	216
GAC	CAT	GAG	GTC	ACC	CTG	AGG	TGC	TGG	GCG	CTG	GGC	TTC	TAC	CCT	GCG	GAG	ATC	ACC	CTG	720
Thr	Trp	Gln	Arg	Asp	Gly	Glu	Asp	Gln	Thr	Gln	Asp	Thr	Glu	Val	Val	Asp	Thr	Arg	Pro	236
ACC	TGG	CAG	CGG	GAT	GGG	GAG	GAC	CAG	ACC	CAG	GAC	ACA	GAG	GTT	GTG	GAC	ACA	AGG	CCT	780
Ala	Gly	Asp	Gly	Thr	Phe	Gln	Lys	Trp	Ala	Ala	Val	Val	Val	Pro	Ser	Gly	Gln	Glu	Gln	256
GCA	GGA	GAT	GGG	ACC	TTC	CAG	AAG	TGG	GCG	GCC	GTG	GTG	GTG	CCT	TCT	GGA	CAG	GAG	CAG	840
Arg	Tyr	Thr	Cys	His	Val	Gln	His	Glu	Gly	Leu	Pro	Glu	Pro	Ile	Thr	Arg	Arg	Trp Glu		276
AGA	TAC	ACG	TGC	CAC	GTC	CAG	CAT	GAG	GGG	CTG	CCG	GAG	CCT	ATC	ACG	CGG	AGA	TGG GAG		900
Pro	Ser	Pro	Leu	Ser	Thr	Ile	Val	Ile	Val	Ser	Ile	Ala	Ala	Leu	Val	Leu	Leu	Val	Val	296
CCT	TCC	CCT	CTG	TCC	ACC	ATT	GTC	ATC	GTC	AGC	ATT	GCT	GCT	CTG	GTT	CTC	CTC	GTG	GTC	960
Ala	Gly	Val	Ile	Gly	Ala	Val	Ile	Trp	Arg	Lys	Gln	Arg	Ser Gly	Gly	Lys	Gly	Pro	Gly		316
GCT	GGG	GTG	ATT	GGA	GCT	GTG	ATC	TGG	AGG	AAG	CAG	CGC	TCA GGA	GGA	AAA	GGA	CCA	GGC		1020
Tyr	Ser	His	Ala	Ala Arg	Asp	Asp	Ser	Ala	Gln	Gly	Ser	Asp	Val	Ser	Leu	Thr	Ala	Pro		336
TAC	TCT	CAT	GCT	GCA CGT	GAT	GAC	AGT	GCC	CAG	GGC	TCT	GAT	GTG	TCT	CTG	ACA	GCT	CCT		1080
Arg Val	***																			338
AGA GTG	TGA	GACCAGCTGCCTGTGGACTGACGGATGCAAGATGTGTTCCACATCTCACGTGATGACATCAACAACC																		1156
CTGGCTTGTCTCTGCAACAGTGTCCAGGATGTGCCTGTGTCCCTAGGAGCATAATGTGAGGAGGTGGGGAGATTGGCCC																				1235
ACCCTGCCACCATGACCTGTCCCTAATCTGATGTGCGCTCTCCTCTCTGATGTGCTTTCCCTGTCCAGGAGAGGCAGGG																				1314
CTGGACCATCTCCATCCCTGTCTTTGTTTCATGTTGAGTACTAATCTCTTACTATCCGATTGAAAATAAGAATCCAGAT																				1393
ATGAGTTTGTGTTTCCCTGAGTCTTGGGATGTGGGGCTGATGAGGTAATAAAAGGAGATTTGTGAAGTTGAGAGAGCAA																				1472
<u>TAAATGGAAGCCCTGAGAACCTTCAGAAAAA</u>																				1511

**Fig. 1.** Nucleotide sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of a DLA class I cDNA clone. The exon borders are indicated by vertical lines. The two putative polyadenylation signals in the 3' untranslated region are underlined. The numbers indicate the amino acid (top line) and nucleotide (bottom line) sequence positions. The asterisks represent the stop codon (TGA).

trated in Figure 1. The longest open-reading frame contains 362 codons flanked by 425 bp of the 3' untranslated region. The first of the two putative polyadenylation signals (5'-AATAAA-3') is located 349 nucleotides downstream from the termination codon (TGA) and the second polyadenylation signal is found 22 bp upstream from the poly(A) tail (Fig. 1). The signal peptide, which contains two in-frame methionine (ATG) codons at positions -24 and -20, is composed of 24 N-terminal residues. The remaining 338 amino acids represent the extracellular portion of the alpha chain ( $\alpha 1$  domain, 90 residues;  $\alpha 2$  domain, 93 residues;  $\alpha 3$  domain, 92 residues), the transmembrane region (35 residues), and the cytoplasmic tail (28 residues). The dog sequence is characterized by an insertion of 3 bp in exon 3 (at the position designated Leu-155) and by a deletion of four codons from exon 5. Four cysteines involved in disulfide bonds are present in the extracellular portion at positions 101, 165, 204, and 260. The conserved site for N-linked glycosylation, Asn-Gln-Ser, is found at positions 86-88 and the serine phosphorylation site (SD/EXSL) is present between residues 329 and 333 of the cytoplasmic domains of the

dog clone. The DLA class I sequence also contains the Arg-Phe-Asp-Ser sequence at positions 35-38 which is found in other class I antigen  $\alpha 1$  domains and in MHC class II antigen  $\beta 1$  domains (Young et al. 1987).

Figure 2 summarizes the comparison of the predicted amino acid sequences of class I genes from the dog, cat, ox, and human. In the coding region, the DLA class I clone appears to be most similar to the cat class I gene with 84.5% overall nucleotide and 77.5% amino acid sequence similarity with the *pFLA24* sequence (Yuhki et al. 1989). The dog class I sequence also has 84.4% and 82.9% nucleotide similarity with the bovine BL3-7 clone (Ennis et al. 1988) and the human *HLA-A11* allele (Cowan et al. 1987), respectively (Fig. 2). Pairwise comparison of the individual domains reveals that the  $\alpha 1$  and  $\alpha 3$  domains of the dog class I clone have 81% and 88% amino acid similarity with those of the human *HLA-A11* allele, respectively (Fig. 2). The DLA  $\alpha 2$  domain has 84.9% amino acid similarity with the BoLA BL3-7 clone, while the transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains of the DLA clone are most closely related to those of the cat class I clones with 60% and 75% protein sequence similarity,

$\alpha 1$	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	
DLA-A	GSHSLRYPYT	SVSRPGAGDP	RFIAVGYVDD	TQFVRFDSDA	ATGRMEPRAP	WVEQEGPEYW	DRQTRTIKET	ARTFRVDLDT	LRGYYNQSEA	
FLA	-----F--	A-----L-E-	---S-----	-----	PNP-E-----	-M-----	--N--IYLD-	-QIS--N-N-	F-R-----S	
BoLA	-----F--	G-----L-E-	-----	-----	-PNPR---V-	-M-----	--N--IY-D-	-QI-----N-	-----T	
HLA-A11	---M--F--	-----R-E-	-----	-----	-SQ-----	-I-----	-QE--NV-AQ	SQ-D----G-	-----	
$\alpha 2$	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	183
DLA-A	GSHTRQTMYG	CDLGPDGRLL	RGYSQDAYDG	ADYIALNEDL	RSWTAADTAA	QITQRKWEAA	GVAELOWRNY	LETTCEVWLR	RYLEMGETKL	LRA
FLA	---NI-R---	--VD--R-F-	-----S---	K-----	-----	--R-----	---/-E---	--G-----A	K--D-----	V--
BoLA	---NI-A---	--V-----	--FW-FG---	R-----E-	-----	--K-----	-A--/T----	--GE-----	----N--D--	---
HLA-A11	----I-I---	--V-S---F-	---R-----	K-----	-----M--	---K-----	HA--/-Q-A-	--GR-----	----N-----	Q-T
$\alpha 3$	193	203	213	223	233	243	253	263	273	275
DLA-A	DPPSTRVTHH	PVSDHEVTLR	CWALGFYPAE	ITLTWQRDGE	DQTQDTEVVD	TRPAGDGTFO	KWAAVVVPSG	QEQRVYCHVQ	HEGLPEPITR	RW
FLA	ES-N----R-	-I--R-----	-----	-----Q	-H-----L-E	-----	-----	E-----	-K-----NL	--
BoLA	---KAH---	SI--R-----	-----E-	-S-----E-	----M-L-E	---S-----	----L-----	E-----R--	----Q--L-L	--
HLA-A11	---K-HM---	-I----A---	-----	-----	-----L-E	-----	-----	E-----	-----K-L-L	--
TM	285	294	304	310	CYT 320	330	338	% IDENTITY WITH DLA-A		
DLA-A	EPSPLSTIVI	VSIAA/LVLL	VVAGVIGAVI	////WRKQRS	GGKGPYSHA	ARDDSAQGS	VSLTAPRV	NUCLEOTIDE	AMINO ACID	
FLA	---S-PF-T-	LG-I-GVAV-	--TV-V----	////---KC-	----I--QP	----T----	S--M--K-	84.5	78.1	
BoLA	--P/QTSFL-	MG-IVG----	---L-A----	////---K-	-E--RI-TQ-	-SS-----	----V-K-	84.4	77.8	
HLA-A11	-L-SQP--P-	-G-I-G----	/G-VIT---V	AAVM--RKS-	DR--GS-TQ-	-GS-----	----CK-	82.9	76.9	

Fig. 2. Alignment of predicted amino acid sequences and domain structures of class I molecules from dog, cat, ox, and human. The standard one-letter amino acid code is used. The numbers indicate the DLA class I cDNA amino acid sequence which is given in full (top line). Dashes indicate sequence identity with the top line. Slashes indicate gaps introduced to maximize alignment. The sequences have been published elsewhere as follows: *pFLA24* (Yuhki et al. 1989), *BoLA-BL3-7* (Ennis et al. 1988), and *HLA-A11* (Cowan et al. 1987).

respectively. Thus, the dog class I clone appears to be closely related to particular class I alleles of other species, supporting the hypothesis of trans-species evolution of MHC genes (Klein 1987). Most of the amino acid differences are found at positions reported to have high variability in other species (Fig. 2; Parham et al. 1988). The *DLA* class I sequence contains 13 dog-specific residues at Asp-19, Thr-66, Ile-67, Glu-69, Arg-72, Leu-155 (3 bp insert), Thr-163, Asp-233, Val-284, Ala-289, Gly-298, Gln-308, and Arg-337. The dog sequence shares eight residues with one or both of the *FLA* class I alleles (Yuhki et al. 1989) at Ser-114, Met-175, Arg-189, Ile-271, Leu-280, Pro-315, His-319, and Pro-336. Some of the latter substitutions may be unique to the carnivore lineage.

Further comparison of the dog and human class I sequences (Parham et al. 1989) demonstrates that the dog class I cDNA clone shares a total of 31, 25, and 22 locus-specific nucleotides with the human *HLA-A*, *-B*, and *-C* loci, respectively (data not shown). The latter finding, the percent nucleotide and amino acid similarity, and the length of the peptide encoded by the dog cDNA suggest that the *DLA* class I gene reported in this paper represents a canine homologue of the *HLA-A* locus. Based on linked polymorphisms at eight positions in exon 4, the *HLA-A* sequences have been divided into two groups: *HLA-A2/A28* family and *HLA-A1/A3/A11* family (Parham et al. 1989). The dog sequence shares six out of eight characteristic nucleotide substitutions in exon 4 with members of the *HLA-A1/A3/A11* family, in contrast to sharing only two out of eight positions with the *HLA-A2/A28* family (data not shown). This is in agreement with our previous finding of cross-reactivity between dog lymphocytes and human alloantisera to the *HLA-A1/A3/A11* family of molecules (unpublished observations). Moreover, all chimpanzee *ChLA-A* alleles described thus far have been related to alleles of the *HLA-A1/A3/A11* family (Parham et al. 1989).

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the sequence data presented here are representative of all the class I clones isolated from the dog spleen cDNA library. This finding is consistent with the expression of a single class I gene in the dog. It also suggests that the *DLA* class I clone reported here is functional despite the insertion of a codon in exon 3. The other class I genes detected by RFLP studies of dog genomic DNA may represent pseudogenes or genes that are transcribed at very low levels in the adult spleen. We propose that the dog class I gene reported in this paper be termed the *DLA-A* gene and that the sequence be designated the *DLA-A9* allele. Further sequence analysis of other *DLA-A* types will elucidate the degree of allelic variation in the class I region of the canine MHC.

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