

Characterization of Elicitor-inducible Tobacco Genes Isolated by Differential Hybridization

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ABSTRACT

Inducible responses in plants against pathogen attack play a major role in resistance to disease. The defense responses are mostly associated with the expression of various kinds of inducible genes. We employed differential hybridization to isolate elicitor-inducible genes (EIGs) of tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* cv. Samsun NN) using the tobacco-fungal elicitor system. A cDNA library was constructed from tobacco leaves treated for 12 hr with hyphal wall components (HWC) prepared from *Phytophthora infestans*, and six EIGs were identified. Expression of all EIGs was induced after inoculation with the soybean pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *glycinea* (nonpathogenic on tobacco) or treatment with salicylic acid, and a variety of expression patterns of EIG mRNAs was observed. Sequence analysis of EIG cDNAs revealed similarities to genes for SAR8.2 (*EIG-B39* and *EIG-D14*), glycine-rich protein (*EIG-G7*), extensin (*EIG-I30*), acyltransferase (*EIG-I24*) and unknown protein (*EIG-J7*). Possible roles of EIG products in disease resistance are discussed.

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Key words : differential hybridization, elicitor-inducible genes, hyphal wall components, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *glycinea*, salicylic acid, tobacco.

INTRODUCTION

Plants have evolved an array of defense strategies to combat attack from microbes. They have developed physical barriers and antimicrobial compounds that are preformed in advance of pathogen attack²¹. After plants are attacked by microbes, these constitutive defenses are accompanied by a variety of induced resistance mechanisms. Typically, this response includes superoxide anion generation ; hypersensitive cell death, which is triggered to isolate the pathogens from the healthy part of the plant ; cell wall fortification ; accumulation of pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins and other antimicrobial proteins ; and biosynthesis of phytoalexins, low molecular-weight antimicrobial compounds. The defense responses cooperatively act to limit invasion of pathogens¹¹.

Various physiological changes associated with defense responses are induced at the transcriptional level. It is well known that the transcription of various genes encoding enzymes involved in secondary metabolism, including phenylalanine ammonia-lyase, cinnamate 4-hydroxylase

and 5-epi-aristolochene synthase, are activated during plant defense responses^{6,9,14,16}. These enzymes in secondary metabolism catalyze biosynthesis of wall appositions and phytoalexins that accumulate in cells that are in direct contact with the pathogen and in the surrounding cells.

Genes for PR-proteins are well characterized as disease resistance-inducible genes. Some kinds of PR-proteins, such as chitinase (PR-3) and β -1, 3-glucanase (PR-2), have enzymatic activities and have been shown to possess antifungal and antibacterial properties from the degradation of cell wall structural polysaccharides¹⁵. Other PR-proteins may also have antimicrobial activities^{18,20}. The expression of genes encoding PR-proteins is generally used as an index of disease responses in plants²⁶.

The characterization of genes expressed in a plant that is activating disease resistance responses is an initial step towards understanding the protective changes induced in plants. For example, some elicitor-inducible cytochrome P450 genes, cloned by PCR-based differential screening, were identified as enzymes involved in phytoalexin biosynthesis^{1,23}.

Tobacco plants injected with hyphal wall components

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(HWC) prepared from *Phytophthora infestans*, the potato late blight fungus, have typical defense responses²⁷. After this elicitor treatment, differential hybridization was used to isolate six elicitor-inducible genes (EIGs). The expression of these genes was also induced by inoculation of the soybean pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *glycinea*, which is avirulent on tobacco. In this paper, we report the use of differential hybridization to isolate elicitor-inducible genes of tobacco. We compare the expression profiles of these genes in several stress responses in tobacco and discuss the possible roles of the cloned EIGs during the activation of plant disease resistance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plants and bacterial strains Tobacco plants carrying the *N* gene (*Nicotiana tabacum* cv. Samsun NN) were cultivated at 25°C for 6 weeks after sowing in continuous light. *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* 801 was provided by Dr. Yuichi Takigawa, Faculty of Agriculture at Shizuoka University, Japan. The bacteria were cultured at 25°C in King's B medium⁵, harvested by centrifugation, resuspended in water and used for inoculation.

Elicitor treatment and wounding of tobacco leaves HWC were prepared from mycelia of *P. infestans* that had been grown in liquid medium for 2 weeks at 20°C in darkness as described previously⁷. Leaves of 6-week-old tobacco plants were injected with water, 1 mg/ml HWC, 0.5 mM salicylic acid (SA) or *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* at 3×10^6 cfu/ml. Solutions were injected into the intercellular space of tobacco leaves using a syringe without a needle. Leaves were superficially wounded with a needle to improve injection. The injected areas were harvested at defined times for RNA extraction. For the wounding experiment, intact leaves of 6-week-old tobacco plant were wounded by rubbing the surface of the leaves with carborundum (600 mesh). Tobacco plants were incubated at 25°C until harvesting over a time course.

Northern hybridization Twenty μ g of total RNA was separated on a 1% formaldehyde agarose gel and transferred onto a Hybond N (+) membrane (Amersham Pharmacia, Sweden). The isolated EIG cDNAs, cDNA for the 3'-untranslated region of *PR-2*¹³ and *PR-P*¹⁹ were labeled with [α -³²P] dCTP using a random-primed DNA labeling kit (Megaprime; Amersham Pharmacia). Hybridizations were performed at 42°C for 20 hr in $5 \times$ SSPE (20 \times SSPE; 3 M NaCl, 173 mM NaH₂PO₄·2H₂O, 25 mM EDTA), 50% formamide, 5 \times Denhardt's solution, 1% SDS and 100 μ g/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA. Membranes were washed with 1 \times SSPE and 0.2% SDS at 60°C for 30 min, and 0.1 \times SSPE and 0.1% SDS at 60°C for 5 min and then subjected to autoradiography.

Construction of a cDNA library and differential hybridization Poly(A)⁺ RNA was prepared from tobacco leaf tissue by chromatography on oligo(dT)-cellulose 12 hr after HWC treatment as described by Aviv and Leder³. A cDNA library in pBluescript II SK (Stratagene, USA) was constructed with poly (A)⁺ RNA and the vector-primer as described previously¹⁷. *Escherichia coli* cells (DH5 α) were transformed with the library. Plasmid DNA prepared from each colony containing cDNA was isolated, and 200 μ g of the plasmid DNA was transferred onto a Hybond N (+) membrane (Amersham Pharmacia). Probe cDNA was synthesized in a 20- μ l reaction containing 1 \times RNA buffer (Takara, Japan), 1 mM dNTP, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 unit/ μ l RNase inhibitor, 1 μ g of total RNA and 0.125 μ M oligo dT-adapterprimer (Takara) and 0.25 unit/ μ l AMV reverse transcriptase XL (Takara) at 45°C for 30 min. Unincorporated dNTP and primers were removed using Suprec-02 (Takara). Labeling of probes, hybridization and autoradiography were performed under the same conditions as described for northern hybridization.

Nucleotide sequencing and data analysis DNA sequence analysis was performed with an automatic DNA sequencer (model 373A; Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The nucleotide and the deduced amino acid sequences were analyzed with DNA analytical software (DNASYS; Hitachi Software, Japan). The alignments of amino acid sequences were made using the CLUSTAL W program²⁸.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Differential screening for tobacco EIGs

A bacterial cDNA library made from tobacco leaves treated with HWC for 12 hr was used for differential screening. Plasmid DNAs prepared from each colony containing a cDNA were isolated, and 200 μ g of plasmid DNAs were transferred onto nylon membranes. Duplicate membranes were hybridized with either the control probe (made from a mixture of RNA prepared from tobacco leaves treated with water for 6 and 12 hr) or the post-induction probe (made from a mixture of RNA prepared from tobacco leaves treated with HWC for 6 and 12 hr). Eight out of 200 cDNA clones hybridized stronger to the cDNA probe from HWC-treated leaves than to the probe from water-treated leaves. A typical example is shown in Fig. 1. To confirm that the expression of eight cDNA clones was actually induced by HWC treatment, accumulation of these transcripts in tobacco leaves treated with HWC was investigated by northern hybridization. The expression of six clones was activated by HWC, while two clones were identified as false positives (data not shown). These differentially hybridizing cDNAs appeared to be

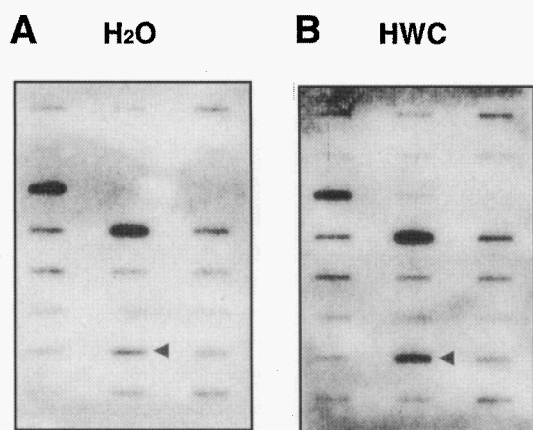


Fig. 1. Representative result of differential hybridization. Randomly chosen cDNAs from a cDNA library from tobacco leaves treated with HWC were blotted onto a couple of nylon membranes. The membranes were hybridized with labeled cDNAs from tobacco leaves treated with water (H₂O) (A) or HWC (B) for 6 and 12 hr. The position of the cloned elicitor-inducible gene (*EIG-I30*) is indicated by the arrowhead.

specifically expressed in tobacco leaves treated with HWC elicitor, designated EIGs (Elicitor-Inducible Genes). The estimated size of hybridized bands for EIGs correlated well with the size of the cloned EIGs cDNAs.

The expression and sequence analysis of EIGs

The expression of cloned EIGs in tobacco leaves inoculated with nonpathogen, *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea*, was examined by northern hybridization. For comparison, the accumulation of *PR-2* (β -1,3-glucanase) and *PR-3* (chitinase) transcripts was also demonstrated. We confirmed that the expression of six EIGs was actually induced during disease resistance responses activated in the tobacco plant (Fig. 2).

The nucleic acid sequences of six EIG clones were determined and subjected to a database homology search for similarities to registered plant genes. General fea-

tures of the EIG clones, including their nearest match with other sequences in the databases, are given in Table 1.

EIG-B39 and *-D14*

The expression pattern of *EIG-B39* and *-D14* genes resembled each other. Expression of *EIG-B39* and *-D14* increased, almost reach a maximum within 6 hr, and remained at the same level through 36 hr in response to *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* (Fig. 2). The *EIG-B39* and *-D14* cDNAs encodes putative small, highly basic proteins containing N-terminal hydrophobic signal peptides and a cysteine-rich C-terminal domain and shows significant sequence homology with *SAR8.2* genes isolated from tobacco (Table 1).

SAR8.2 genes were isolated as genes induced systemically in tobacco plants inoculated with tobacco mosaic virus (TMV)^{2,30}. The *SAR8.2*-gene family is also known to consist of 10–12 members². Interestingly, although there are a number of *SAR8.2*-family in tobacco, there is no report on any other homologous sequences to *SAR8.2* genes in other plants. The nucleic acid sequence of *EIG-B39* is 100% identical with *SAR8.2m* except for an additional 19-base extension at the 5' end of cDNA and five bases at the 3' end (data not shown). This result indicated that *EIG-B39* cDNA is a longer version of *SAR8.2m* cDNA. The *EIG-D14* sequence has a deletion of 59 bases relative to *SAR8.2c* in the 3' UTR, and the overlapping sequences have 98% identity, indicating that *EIG-D14* is a new member of the *SAR8.2* gene family (Fig. 3A). It is interesting that the N-terminal of the amino acid sequences of *EIG-B39* and *-D14* has similarity with those of cell wall proteins that will be discussed next (Fig. 3B). The function of the products of *SAR8.2* genes, however, has not been identified.

EIG-G7

Within 24 hr of inoculation with *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea*, *EIG-G7* transcripts were detected and had slightly increased by 36 hr (Fig. 2). The *EIG-G7* cDNA encodes a putative protein of 109 amino acids with an N-terminal signal peptide and high proportion of glycine (21%). For *EIG-G7* cDNA, significant identity was found

Table 1. Summary of elicitor-inducible genes isolated by differential hybridization

Clone	Length	M.W. ^{a)}	Matching sequence from database (Accession nos.)	Origin of matching sequence	DNA % match	Protein % match	Accession nos.
<i>EIG-B39</i>	487 bp	7184 Da	<i>SAR8.2m</i> (U89604)	<i>N. tabacum</i>	94.9	100	AB040408
<i>EIG-D14</i>	482 bp	10137 Da	<i>SAR8.2c</i> (M97360)	<i>N. tabacum</i>	85.2	98.9	AB040145
<i>EIG-G7</i>	572 bp	11586 Da	glycine-rich protein (M37152)	<i>N. tabacum</i>	94.8	99.1	AB041513
<i>EIG-I24</i>	1410 bp	50009 Da	putative protein (AAF24555)	<i>A. thaliana</i>	61.8	55.5	AB041514
<i>EIG-I30</i>	714 bp	15589 Da	extensin-like protein (D83226)	<i>P. nigra</i>	53.4	64.9	AB041516
<i>EIG-J7</i>	743 bp	19578 Da	TMV-induced protein I (AF242731)	<i>C. annuum</i>	60.3	58.2	AB040407

a) Molecular weight calculated from protein sequence deduced from the cDNA sequence.

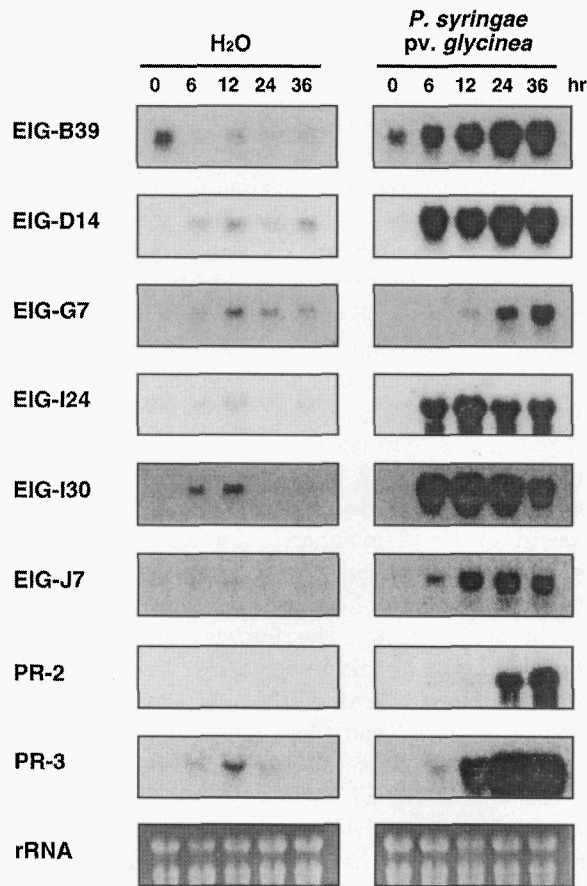


Fig. 2. The expression of EIGs in nonpathogen inoculated leaves. Whole areas of tobacco leaves, treated with water (H₂O) or inoculated with *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea* (3×10^6 cfu/ml), were harvested at indicated times and total RNAs were extracted. Twenty μ g of the total RNAs was fractionated on a 1% agarose gel containing formaldehyde and then transferred to a nylon membrane. The membrane was allowed to hybridize with individual cDNA probes indicated on the left of panels. The rRNA band stained with acridine orange is shown to verify that similar amounts of RNA were loaded per lane.

with the glycine-rich protein (GRP) of tobacco (Table 1). Van Kan *et al.*²⁹⁾ reported that the tobacco genome contains approximately eight GRP genes, indicating *EIG-G7* is a new member of the GRP gene family in tobacco. Amino acid sequence similarity for *EIG-G7* was also found with GRP of petunia and tyrosine- and lysine-rich protein (TLRP) of tomato, with 65% and 53% identity respectively^{8,12)}. It was also shown that TLRP is localized in the cell wall⁸⁾. Because of the high similarity of *EIG-G7* with TLRP at the N-terminal of the amino

acid sequences, *EIG-G7* may be a cell wall component (Fig. 3B). The GRPs are most likely structural proteins that may have an important function with respect to the plant's vascular system and wound healing²⁴⁾. GRPs were also reported to be expressed in response to a variety of stress conditions, including wounding, drought stress, viral infection and SA treatment. The *EIG-G7* protein that accumulates in the cell wall is presumably involved in repair of the injured wall or reinforcement of the wall structure for disease resistance.

EIG-I24

Expression of *EIG-I24* increased within 6 hr, rose to a peak at 12 hr and slightly decreased after nonpathogen inoculation (Fig. 2). The deduced amino acid sequence of *EIG-I24* displays the highest degree of homology with *Arabidopsis thaliana* sequences for which no function have yet been determined (Table 1). *EIG-I24* also has low degrees of amino acid identity with tobacco hsr201 (induced after inoculation with phytopathogenic bacteria) (26% identity)⁴⁾, carnation hydroxycinnamoyl/benzoyl-transferase (the enzyme for phytoalexin biosynthesis) (25% identity)³¹⁾, taxadienol acetyl transferase of yew tree (38%, accession no. AF190130) and many other hypothetical proteins of *A. thaliana*. The amino acid sequence of *EIG-I24* contains a conserved sequence among plant acyltransferases, suggesting that *EIG-I24* encodes a novel acyltransferase of tobacco (Fig. 3D). However, we were unable to propose an enzymatic activity for *EIG-I24* based on the gene structure.

EIG-I30

The *EIG-I30* transcripts increased rapidly, reached a maximum within 6 hr and decreased at 36 hr in response to nonpathogenic bacteria (Fig. 2). The *EIG-I30* cDNA encodes a deduced protein of 148 amino acids with a high proportion of proline (13%) and an N-portion motif containing proline, serine, tyrosine, histidine lysine and threonine. The highest identity was found with extensin-like protein of *Populus nigra* (Poplar) (Sakuma *et al.* 1996, unpublished data) (Fig. 3C). The *EIG-I30* has no significant amino acid similarity with tobacco extensin, suggesting *EIG-I30* is a gene for a novel extensin (or proline-rich protein) of tobacco. Extensins, hydroxyproline-rich glycoproteins in the cell walls of higher plants, have been proposed to be structural proteins that may function in development, wound healing and plant defense²⁴⁾. After elicitor treatment of cultured bean cells, extensin in the cell walls was rapidly cross linked, suggesting that extensin is involved in impeding pathogen infection by contributing to a more impenetrable cell wall barrier²⁴⁾. The expression of extensin genes is also known to be induced by various kinds of stresses, such as wounding, fungal infection, viral infection, endogenous elicitors, ethylene and heat shock²⁴⁾.

A

EIG-D14 1:.....CTCCAAATAGTCATCAAAATGTTTC
 Nt-SAR8.2c 1:GACAGTAAAAACCTGAAACCTCCAAATAGTCATCAAAATGTTTC

EIG-D14 28:CAAAACTAACCTTTTCTTTGCTTTCTTTGGCTATTTTGCTAAT
 Nt-SAR8.2c 46:CAAAACTAACCTTTTCTTTGCTTTCTTTGGCTATTTTGCTAAT

EIG-D14 73:TGTAATATCCCTCACAAGCTGATGCAAGGCAGATACTAAGCGCGC
 Nt-SAR8.2c 91:TGTAATATCCCTCACAAGCTGATGCAAGGCAGATACTAAGCGCGC

EIG-D14 118:TGCTCCAATTACCCAAGCAATGAATCAACAACATTAATAATCA
 Nt-SAR8.2c 136:TGCTCCAATTACCCAAGCAATGAATCAACAACATTAATAATCA

EIG-D14 163:GAAGACGGGTGCCGGAATCATCCGTAAGATACCGGGTTGGATACG
 Nt-SAR8.2c 181:GAAGACGGGTGCCGGAATCATCCGTAAGATACCGGGTTGGATACG

EIG-D14 208:AAAAAGGTGCAAAACCCAGGAGGCAAAAGTCGCGCGCAAAAGCTGTAA
 Nt-SAR8.2c 226:AAAAAGGTGCAAAACCCAGGAGGCAAAAGTCGCGCGCAAAAGCTGTAA

EIG-D14 253:AAATTTGCTCATGTAATACCAGATTTGCAGCAAAATGCTCTAATG
 Nt-SAR8.2c 271:AAATTTGCTCATGTAATACCAGATTTGCAGCAAAATGCTCTAATG

EIG-D14 298:TCATGACTAAAGTTAGGCTTGAGACTATGACTTTGCTGGTGT
 Nt-SAR8.2c 316:TCATGACTAAAGTTAGGCTTGAGACTATGACTTTGCTGGTGT

EIG-D14 343:GAGTTTACTTTTTCAGAGTAAAGGAAAGTATGAAATAGCCTAATA
 Nt-SAR8.2c 361:GAGTTTACTTTTTCAGAGTAAAGGAAAGTATGAAATAGCCTAATA

EIG-D14 388:TAATTCATTA.....
 Nt-SAR8.2c 406:TAATTCATTA.....

EIG-D14 398:.....GTACCACTTGCTTGTAGTCT
 Nt-SAR8.2c 451:TTTGAACAAGTCTTTGGTCAAAATGACCTCTGCTGTAGTCT

EIG-D14 419:TTTCAACTGTATGGTATTGTACTGTATTTTCTTTAGCCACTTGA
 Nt-SAR8.2c 496:TTTCAACTGTATGGTATTGTACTGTATTTTCTTTAGCCACTTGA

EIG-D14 464:TATCAAAATCCGATTAATCT
 Nt-SAR8.2c 541:TATCAAAATCCGATTAATCT

B

EIG-G7 1:MGSRALFFLGLCLAFFFLYSSVVVGLIA.ETSNFMKLDNEGV
 Le-TILP 1:MGSRALFFLGLCLAFFFLYSSVVVGLIA.ETSNFMKLDNEGV
 EIG-B39 1:MFRTNFFLFCFLALDVMVSSQADAREMSRAAFPTQAMDSNMI
 EIG-D14 1:MFRTNFFLFCFLALDVMVSSQADAREMSRAAFPTQAMDSNMI

EIG-G7 44:DVDRGGYNDVVGDCVYSGGRGGGQYKRRGCRNVCRRRQYNGC
 Le-TILP 45:NVD.....HYVGRMGK.....RKKCMSCKNRYKYG
 EIG-B39 46:SDQ.....SGAGARRAF.....C
 EIG-D14 46:TNQK.....TGAGITRKKIPQWI.RRGAKPGGKRVAGKAC

EIG-G7 89:RRCCSYAGSAMDKVYEAQPHN
 Le-TILP 72:KRYCCSMYVAAQVQN.....
 EIG-B39 59:AFRCR.....GVK.....
 EIG-D14 78:RIGSCKVQICSMKCFKCHD.....

C

EIG-I30 1:MAKFAISSTALLLTLLNLLFFTTVVSSTNVPCPPFPKSPKPKPKPK
 Pn-ELP 1:MASRSTSLALFALNLLFFSLVTCGGGCPSE...KPKPKPKPK
 At-PRP 1:WASKALAVTALLTLLNLLFFTTVVS...TKCPET.....PKPK.

EIG-I30 46:PKPPTPTPTPTSSKGGCKSDTLKLVKCANLNLVLLVHVSDF
 Pn-ELP 43:PKPPTPTPTPTSSGCKGKSDTLKLVKCANLNLVLLVHVSDF
 At-PRP 36:PKPPTPKS...KKAQAVPTCETDTLKLVKCADLLG.LVNVVVSDF

EIG-I30 91:AKTPCCSLIEGLADLDAVCLCTAIAKANLGINLNVPLSLSLLLN
 Pn-ELP 85:VQ.PCCSVIQLDLEAAVCLCTAIAKANLGINLNVPLSLSLLLN
 At-PRP 78:KT.PCCALDQGLANLEAAVCLCTAIAKANLGINLNVPLDQLLLN

EIG-I30 136:NCGRYVVKDPOCA
 Pn-ELP 129:VCGKRVKDKPOCS
 At-PRP 122:VCGKRVKDKPOCS

D

EIG-I24 1:..MEVTHHTTIF.....SKP.FFSENVVPLSLHLDTRDNL
 Nt-HSR201 1:MDSKQSSSELVFVRRQKPELLAPKPTFRKFLSDIDQSGLRP
 Tc-TAT 1:..MERDLHVNLIK.....VMVGSSEPPKRTTQLSLSIDNLPQVGR
 Dc-HCBT 1:..MSIEHKQSMVRR.....A.EEFPNKSLLVLSIDMLLRTFP

EIG-I24 38:TFR.VRVVNVHTT...QQLDP.....YEVLTSSLSALVFPY
 Nt-HSR201 46:QTP.VIOFVHKDS...MGRKDP.....VKVKKRAIAETLVFPY
 Tc-TAT 41:STFNALLIYNASPSPTMISADP.....AKPIREALARILVFPY
 Dc-HCBT 36:SHTOAVLIYKQPDN.NEDNIQSSSMYFDANILIEALSALVFPY

EIG-I24 72:QFAGCLRRRPSDMRLELYOVGNQIPVILSTVCTLASINYLDDP
 Nt-HSR201 81:PFAGRLREG.NGRKMLVDC.TGECIMFVEADADVLEQFGDELQF
 Tc-TAT 79:PFAGRLRENG.DLEVCT.GECAMFLEAMADNEISVIGDEDFD
 Dc-HCBT 80:PMAGRKIN..GDRVETDCN.GECAMFVEASSSHVEDFGDRFN

EIG-I24 116:..DYVFAKLVLPDR.YDEALTOP.LILOLFRFCGGVFGTAVHH
 Nt-HSR201 124:PFCELELLYDVPD.SAGVENCPLLLQVFRRCGGFVLRLLNH
 Tc-TAT 121:..NESFQQLFSLDEL.DTNFKDLSLLVQVFRFCGGFVVSFHH
 Dc-HCBT 121:..DELHRVMPVPCDSSKQISFFPLMLVQLFRFCGGVVSIFQHH

EIG-I24 159:AMCDGMGSLFFPHAMAEARGGNEMKVEPVNRSLLGPRNPPV
 Nt-HSR201 168:TMSDAFGLVQFMTAVGEMARGGSAFSLIPVWCR..EFLNARNPPV
 Tc-TAT 165:GVCDGRGAAQFLKGLAEMARGEVKLSLEPWNR..ELVLLDPPKYL
 Dc-HCBT 165:HVCDRSHFENNSWARTKGLLEALEPVDRLYLDCPRNPPV

EIG-I24 204:EFVHVEFLSLDKDL.SPVIESGKTAVRCEFEVKDEWLDRLKGLN
 Nt-HSR201 212:CTHHEVDEVRDTK.GTII.PLDDMVKSSFFFGPSEVSAARRRVP
 Tc-TAT 209:QFFHFFDRAPS.....IVEKIVQTYIIFDFEINNYKQSVMP
 Dc-HCBT 209:KYTHSQEPEFFVPSLPEKIDDKTKSKSOTLKLRSREINNYKQKLD

EIG-I24 248:EQSGLN.FTFEALGAFIWRKAKAKSKITPQDEIVKVAYLNTIIRT
 Nt-HSR201 255:HLRK..CSTFELTAVLWCRRTMSLRKDPDEBEVRAICTVQNAKRS
 Tc-TAT 246:BECKEP.CSFEVAVASMTWARTARFOIPSEBYVITLFGMDMRS
 Dc-HCBT 254:WSNTTTLSTVEVAVAGHVRVSKARGLSDHEBEKILIMVWDRSR

EIG-I24 292:VK.FALFAGYVGNQCVFYVQLLAKDITNOEIKWTADAIKKSXI
 Nt-HSR201 298:FN.FPLPFGYGNAFAPVAVTAAARSKNPLQYALELVKKTQSD
 Tc-TAT 290:FN.FPLPSGYGNISGTACAVDNDQDLGSLRLARMIKKSXV
 Dc-HCBT 299:INNESLSEKGYCGNVVFLAVCTAVGDEACNPLDTAGKVEALKG

EIG-I24 336:ITDEYVRSLLIDFQLHLYDEGITAGNR.....VSAFTDWRVGG
 Nt-HSR201 342:VTEBYMKSVADLMLVLRGPHFVVR.....EFLVSDVTRGGF
 Tc-TAT 334:INDN.FKSRVAVKPELVDNMNEN.....VVAFADWSRIFP
 Dc-HCBT 344:IDDVYLRSAIDHTESRIPDLVPEYMGSPKKTLYPLVNVSNQRIY

EIG-I24 374:ETVDFGWGGVTVFPLSRHLVGSVEPCFPLPYSATEKKNQGGKV
 Nt-HSR201 376:GEVDFGWGRVAVYGGPAKG.GVGAIPGVASFIYIPKKNKGGNIVV
 Tc-TAT 370:DEVDFGWGNVAVSVPVQQSALAMQNYLPLKPKSKNR..PDGIKI
 Dc-HCBT 389:QAMDFGWN.....PFFFGISNIFVYDQCCFLIPSONG..DGSMTL

EIG-I24 419:IVCQENAMPVFKEEMKQLEHGLSFTIYAGPL.....
 Nt-HSR201 423:ICLCPGAMRTVKELDGMLRVDAPLVNSYAIRPAL
 Tc-TAT 413:IMFLELSKMKSKFIENEMMKRYVAKV.....
 Dc-HCBT 427:ANNFSSHLSLFKKHFDYF.....

E

EIG-J7 1:MGVAHQVNOQWFFIILLLSITISSTGASBNVCYTAATRTGPFM
 Ca-TIP I 1:..MSNQFWRLLTILISIVSSISGSELNQVHYVQVQCGE
 At-T19P19 1:..MARRDVLFP.FFLALAVSAVAFADDELCVYFPLRRCSEW
 At2g22170 1:..MARRDVLFLSLLVIAITVSAVALADDEADCVYFPLRRCSEW

EIG-J7 46:EDATDSRISLTYDASGYCHRTKRVAVMGGLMGSYNYFREDSD
 Ca-TIP I 41:CAQDTSRISLTYDASGYCHRTKRVAVMGGLMGSYNYFREDSD
 At-T19P19 42:KAGTDSRISARVYDKGDTYCHRNLEAWGGLMGPYNYFERGND
 At2g22170 44:KAGTDSRISARVYDKGDTYCHRNLEAWGGLMGPYNYFERGND

EIG-J7 91:MSGHCFCITGPHKVMVLSDEGCRQSAWYCYVVEVSTGPHRC
 Ca-TIP I 86:LFTRGRCGLMCPVCKNMLRSDEGCHAGWYCYVVEVSTGPHRC
 At-T19P19 87:TFSGRACFLSFCALNLSRDEGSDHGHGWYVYVEVSTGPHRC
 At2g22170 89:TFSGRACFLSFCALNLSRDEGSDHGHGWYVYVEVSTGPHRC

EIG-J7 136:SQOLEVNDQWLSDRSPYQITARRNCRMSGD.....QQPIV
 Ca-TIP I 131:QOOLEVNEKWLQAGEFDCITARRNCRMSGD.....QQPIV
 At-T19P19 132:SQOLEVNEKWLQAGEFDCITARRNCRMSGD.....QQPIV
 At2g22170 134:SQOLEVNEKWLQAGEFDCITARRNCRMSGD.....QQPIV

EIG-J7 174:VDVH.
 Ca-TIP I 176:VDVL.
 At-T19P19 177:LSWV.
 At2g22170 179:LSWV.

Fig. 3. A) Alignment of nucleotide sequences of *EIG-D14* and *SAR8.2c*²⁾. B) Comparison of putative amino acid sequences of *EIG-G7*, *EIG-B39*, *EIG-D14* and tomato tyrosine- and lysine-rich protein (Le-TLRP)⁸⁾. C) Comparison of putative amino acid sequences of *EIG-I30*, poplar extensin-like protein (Pn-ELP) and Arabidopsis putative proline-rich protein (At-PRP). D) Comparison of putative amino acid sequences of *EIG-I24*, tobacco hsr201⁴⁾, yew tree taxadienol acetyl transferase (Tc-TAT) and carnation hydroxycinnamoyl/benzoyltransferase (Dc-HCBT)³¹⁾. E) Comparison of putative amino acid sequences of *EIG-J7*, hot pepper TMV-induced protein I (Ca-TIP I) and Arabidopsis T19P19 and At2g22170. Identical nucleotides or amino acids are shown in reverse. The sequences were aligned using the CLUSTAL W program²⁸⁾.

EIG-J7

The *EIG-J7* transcripts, weakly detected within 6 hr, had slightly increased to a peak by 24 hr in tobacco leaf inoculated with a nonpathogen (Fig. 2). The putative amino acid sequence of *EIG-J7* displays 58% identity with TMV-induced protein I isolated from the hot pepper *Capsicum annuum* (Shin *et al.* 2000, unpublished data) (Table 1, Fig. 3E). In addition, 43 and 41% amino acid identities were found with two hypothetical proteins of *A. thaliana* (Fig. 3E). However, the amino acid sequence of *EIG-J7* has no similarity with any functional motifs in the database.

Expression patterns of EIGs in response to wounding or SA

The expression patterns of EIGs in tobacco leaves either wounded or treated with SA were examined (Fig. 4). Upon wounding, the transcripts of five EIGs (*EIG-B39*, *-D14*, *-G7*, *-I24* and *-J7*) and *PR* genes increased slightly. This increase was transient, as in the control, whereas the expression of *EIG-I30* increased considerably with a maximum at 12–24 hr after wounding (Fig. 4). The *EIG-I30* cDNA encodes a putative cell wall protein, implying the product of *EIG-I30* is involved in healing of injured cell wall. SA is well known as an important component of the signal transduction pathway leading to disease resistance and can lead to the elaboration of systemic signals that immunize distal parts of the plant to pathogen infection^{10,22}. The SA treatment increased the expression of all cloned EIGs, supporting the central role of SA in regulating disease stress-inducible genes (Fig. 4). The induction of *EIG-B39* and *-D14* by SA had a pattern quite similar to that after inoculation with the nonpathogen, *P. syringae* pv. *glycinea*. This result indicated the expression of *EIG-B39* and *-D14* gene is SA-dependent like acidic *PR* genes. The expression pattern of *EIG-G7* after treatment with SA also resembled that after a nonpathogen (Fig. 4). In contrast, the induction pattern of *EIG-I24*, *-I30* and *-J7* by SA was unlike that after a nonpathogen. The expression of *EIG-J7* was induced strongly within 6 hr after SA treatment, while the expression of this gene at the same time was slight in the case of nonpathogen, implying that there is positive and negative regulation of *EIG-J7* expression. The individual expression pattern of EIGs varies during disease responses, indicating that transcriptional activation of EIGs is regulated by a complex of various signals and the products of EIGs are involved in different processes at different stages in the plant defense responses. It is also possible that the results of the northern hybridizations for EIGs reflect the expression of more than one homologous gene. Additional investigation, such as characterization of each EIG family, is needed to elucidate the regulation of EIG expression in disease resistance of

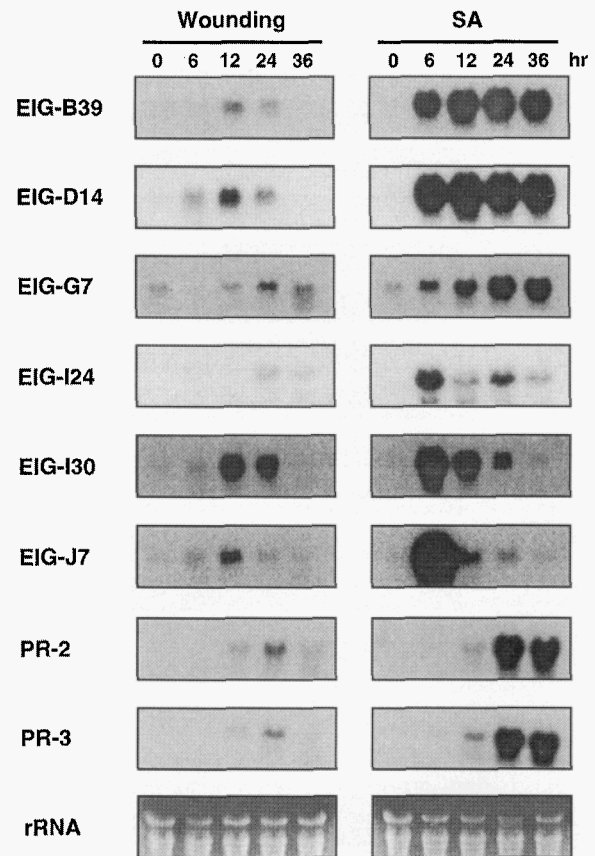


Fig. 4. The expression of EIGs in wounded or salicylic acid treated leaves. Whole areas of tobacco leaves were wounded with carborundum (Wounding) or treated with 0.5 mM salicylic acid (SA). They were harvested at indicated times and total RNAs were extracted. Twenty μ g of total RNAs was fractionated on a 1% agarose gel containing formaldehyde and then transferred to a nylon membrane. The membrane was allowed to hybridize with individual cDNA probes indicated on the left. The rRNA band stained with acridine orange is shown to verify that similar amounts of RNA were loaded per lane.

tobacco plant.

Activation of plant defense genes is an important element in the outcome of a plant-pathogen interaction. Isolation of elicitor-inducible genes, characterization of activation profiles and identification of their putative functions make these genes good candidates for understanding early and late events in plant disease resistance responses. However, further investigation is necessary to reveal the function of the EIGs products.

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