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## Multiple recruitment of class-I aldolase to chloroplasts and eubacterial origin of eukaryotic class-II aldolases revealed by cDNAs from *Euglena gracilis*

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**Abstract** The photosynthetic protist *Euglena gracilis* is one of few organisms known to possess both class-I and class-II fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolases (FBA). We have isolated cDNA clones encoding the precursor of chloroplast class-I FBA and cytosolic class-II FBA from *Euglena*. Chloroplast class-I FBA is encoded as a single subunit rather than as a polyprotein, its deduced transit peptide of 139 amino acids possesses structural motifs necessary for precursor import across *Euglena*'s three outer chloroplast membranes. Evolutionary analyses reveal that the class-I FBA of *Euglena* was recruited to the chloroplast independently from the chloroplast class-I FBA of chlorophytes and may derive from the cytosolic homologue of the secondary chlorophytic endosymbiont. Two distinct subfamilies of class-II FBA genes are shown to exist in eubacteria, which can be traced to an ancient gene duplication which occurred in the common ancestor of contemporary gram-positive and proteobacterial lineages. Subsequent duplications involving eubacterial class-II FBA genes resulted in functional specialization of the encoded products for substrates other than fructose-1,6-bisphosphate. Class-II FBA genes of *Euglena* and ascomycetes are shown to be of eubacterial origin, having been acquired via endosymbiotic gene transfer, probably from the antecedents of mitochondria. The data provide evidence for the chimaeric nature of eukaryotic genomes.

**Key words** *Euglena gracilis* · Endosymbiosis · Endosymbiotic gene transfer · Molecular evolution

### Introduction

Fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (FBA) (EC 4.12.1.13) catalyzes the reversible aldol condensation of dihydroxyacetone phosphate and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate in the Calvin cycle, glycolysis and gluconeogenesis, and is thus essential to primary metabolism in all cells. Two very distinct types of FBA enzymes occur in nature, which differ in their catalytic mechanism and can be distinguished by biochemical means. Class-I FBA enzymes form a Schiff-base with the substrate during catalysis via condensation of the  $\epsilon$ -amino group of an active-center lysine residue with the carbonyl group of the substrate, and can be inhibited by borohydride reagents. Class-II FBA enzymes require divalent cations as co-factors which stabilize the carbanion intermediate formed during the reaction, and can be inhibited by EDTA (Rutter 1964; Lebherz and Rutter 1969). Class-I FBAs are homotetramers, whereas class-II FBAs are homodimers. The subunit size of both classes of FBA enzymes is 40 kDa but, importantly, class-I and class-II FBA monomers share no detectable sequence similarity. This suggests that class-I and class-II FBA enzymes arose independently during evolution.

The phylogenetic distribution of FBA enzymes is complex and intriguing (for a review see Schnarrenberger et al. 1992). Eubacteria, including cyanobacteria, typically possess class-II FBAs (Rutter 1964; Antia 1967), although a few clearly documented instances of class-I FBA occurrence in eubacteria are known (Witke and Götze 1993). Halophilic archaeobacteria possess either class-I or class-II FBAs (Dhar and Altekari 1986); the distribution of the enzyme across thermophilic archaeobacteria has not been studied. Among higher eukaryotes, fungi typically possess class-II FBAs whereas metazoa and higher plants possess class-I FBAs (Rutter 1964; Schnarrenberger et al. 1992). The distinct chloroplast and cytosolic FBA isoenzymes of higher plants are both of the class-I type (Anderson and Advani 1970; Krüger and Schnarrenberger 1983; Lebherz et al. 1984). The chlorophytes *Chara foetida* and *Klebsoridium flaccidum* also possess class-I FBAs in the chlo-

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roplast and the cytosol (Jacobshagen and Schnarrenberger 1988, 1990) whereas *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* possesses only a chloroplast class-I FBA (Schnarrenberger et al. 1994).

In earlier-branching protists, the distribution of class-I and class-II FBAs is more complicated (Rutter 1964; Antia 1967; Ikawa et al. 1972). *Euglena gracilis* is unique among eukaryotes studied to-date in that it possesses both class-I and class-II FBAs. The Calvin cycle enzyme of *Euglena's* chloroplasts is a class-I FBA, as in higher plants, whereas the glycolytic/gluconeogenic enzyme of the cytosol is a class-II FBA (Mo et al. 1973; Pelzer-Reith et al. 1994), as in fungi. This contrasts sharply with the situation found in the kinetoplastid *Trypanosoma brucei*, which possesses only one class-I FBA active in a specialized glycolytic microbody, the glycosome (Marchand et al. 1988). *Trypanosoma* shares a common line of nucleo-cytoplasmic descent with *Euglena* (Surek and Melkonian 1986; Sogin et al. 1989; Walne and Kivic 1989) and *Euglena's* plastids are thought to have arisen through engulfment of a eukaryotic, possibly chlorophytic, alga (Gibbs 1978; Lefort-Tran 1981). In order to determine whether the difference between *Euglena* and *Trypanosoma* with regard to FBA enzymes may have involved endosymbiotic gene transfer surrounding the origin of *Euglena's* chloroplasts, we have investigated *Euglena's* nuclear-encoded chloroplast class-I and cytosolic class-II fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolases.

## Materials and methods

**Cultivation of *E. gracilis* cells.** *E. gracilis* strain Z (No. 1224-5/25) was obtained from the Sammlung von Algenkulturen of the University of Göttingen (FRG). Heterotrophic cells were raised from autotrophic 15-I cultures in the medium described by Böger and San Pietro (1967) supplied with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in transparent polycarbonate vessels at 27°C. After transfer to darkness, the cells were additionally supplied with 5% sucrose.

**Isolation and analysis of cDNA clones.** The *E. gracilis* strain Z (1224-5/25) cDNA library previously described by Henze et al. (1995) was screened using a spinach cDNA clone for chloroplast aldolase (Pelzer-Reith et al. 1993) and a cDNA clone coding for the class-II aldolase (pGHS001) from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Schwelberger et al. 1989) as hybridization probes. Filters were hybridized overnight in 3×SSPE, 0.2% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.2% Ficoll 400, 0.1% SDS, 50 µg/ml of denatured salmon-sperm DNA and the respective radioactively labelled hybridization probe. Hybridization and washing was performed at 53°C for class-I FBA and at 49°C for class-II FBA. Filters were washed three times for 10 min with 2×SSC and 0.1% SDS at the hybridization temperature. Positive plaques were purified, cDNA inserts of positively hybridizing phages were subcloned in pUC18 and sequenced on both strands using the dideoxy method on double-stranded DNA templates with T<sub>7</sub> polymerase (Pharmacia) according to the supplier's protocol. Oligonucleotides (17-mers) were synthesized for sequencing as needed.

**Data handling.** Sequence analyses were carried out with the GCG program (Devereux et al. 1984). Amino-acid sequences were aligned with CLUSTAL W (Thompson et al. 1994), the alignment was refined by eye with the LINEUP program of GCG. Pairwise distances between sequences were estimated using the Dayhoff matrix option of PROTDIST in PHYLIP (Felsenstein 1993); trees were constructed by the

neighbor-joining method (Saitou and Nei 1987). The reliability of branches was estimated by bootstrapping.

**DNA and RNA analysis.** Genomic DNA was isolated by ethanol precipitation from the LiCl supernatant of the RNA preparation. For genomic Southern blots, 15 µg of DNA was digested with either *Bam*HI, *Hind*III, *Kpn*I, or *Pst*I, fractionated on 0.8% agarose gels, blotted onto nylon membranes overnight, and fixed by exposure to UV light. Total RNA was extracted and purified as described (Houlne and Schantz 1987). For Northern blots, 10 µg of total RNA were separated by electrophoresis on a 1.2% agarose-formaldehyde gel, blotted onto a nylon membrane, and fixed by exposure to UV light. Southern and Northern blots were probed with the corresponding *Euglena* cDNA inserts labelled by random-primed synthesis. Hybridization and washing conditions were the same as described for the screening procedures except that temperatures were increased to 65°C for all hybridization and washing steps.

## Results and discussion

Several aspects of nuclear gene structure and organization in *Euglena* differ from that in higher eukaryotes. Some of *Euglena's* nuclear-encoded chloroplast proteins are translated as multimeric polyproteins which are proteolytically processed upon import into the chloroplast, e.g. the small subunit of ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (Rubisco) (Chan et al. 1990) and the LHCII proteins (Houlne and Schantz 1988, 1993). Also, chloroplast transit peptides in *Euglena* contain an ER-specific signal sequence required for import of the cytosolic precursors across the outer of its three chloroplast membranes (Sharif et al. 1989; Kishore et al. 1993). To further investigate *Euglena's* nuclear gene organization, we isolated and characterized cDNA clones for class-I and class-II fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolases.

### Clones for chloroplast class-I FBA from *Euglena*

From 120 000 independent recombinants of the *Euglena* cDNA library, screened with a heterologous cDNA for spinach chloroplast class-I aldolase, we obtained 25 hybridizing positives. The five longest *Eco*RI inserts were subcloned and shown by terminal sequencing to represent one and the same transcript since they contained identical nucleotide sequences at their 3' and the 5' ends. The complete nucleotide sequence of the cDNA insert of plasmid pEgAlp1 is 1662 bp long (Fig. 1). Starting with the first in-frame methionine codon, pEgAlp encodes a precursor protein of 495 amino acids with a predicted molecular mass of 52.46 kDa. Comparison of the deduced protein with chloroplast aldolases from higher plants and *C. reinhardtii* suggests an N-terminus for the mature subunit at Leu<sup>139</sup> (Fig. 1). This cleavage site yields a mature protein with a predicted M<sub>r</sub> of 40.7 kDa, which is in good agreement with the molecular mass of the purified *Euglena* class-I enzyme previously determined as 40 kDa by SDS polyacrylamide-gel electrophoresis (Pelzer-Reith et al. 1994).

The putative transit peptide of 139 amino acids possesses a hydrophilic N-terminal region followed by a long stretch

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60
ctttatccaaaatgagcgcaactcaattgctgggtggttacacagaccatttctgagcgc
  M S A T Q L L G G Y Q T I S E F
120
ACTGCTCCCAGAACAGCTTGTCTGTTGGTGGCCGTGTCATTGCTGTGGCCCTCG
  T A P Q N K L A V V G A V A V I A V A S
180
GGCGTTGCAGCTGCTATGCGCTCAATCTCTATGCCCCCTCTGTTGCCCTCCGTCGCA
  G V A A G Y A L N L S M P P L L P P C A
240
CCACTTGGCAGCGGCCTATCGAGAACAACTTGGCACAGGCCAACTCCCGCTGCAGT
  P L A H G H L S R T T W H R P T P A A V
300
GCCTTTGCCTCTGCCCTGAAGGTGCTCAAACCTTTTGGCTCCTGCCCTCAGCTCTCC
  A F A S A S E G A Q T F V A P A A Q S S
360
AACACCTTTGCAACTTCTCCGTGGCTGCCCTCCATTGGTATGGTGATGGGAGCAGGCGCC
  N T F A T S S V A A S I G M V M G A A V
420
GTGCTGTGGCCGGATGAACAGAGCCAGTTGCCATGAACGCCTGGACGGCTCTGTT
  V L L A R M N Q K P V A M N A W T G S V
480
TATGGTGTCTCTCAGCTGTGGAGAAGCCATGGACCAAGTATGCTGATGAGCCTAAGA
  Y G V L S Q L W R S H G P S M L M S V R
540
<||>
CAAGATCATCTGCACCCCTGGCAAGGTATTCTTGTGCGGATGAGTCCAGACCGCAAG
  Q D H L H P W Q G I L A A D E S R P N K
600
ACCTGCGGTGCGCCCTGAAGTCAATTGGTGTGGAGAACAACAGAGGAGAAGTGCACAGT
  T C G A R L S S V A A S I G M V M G A A V
660
AGCCGAGTGTGTTTACCCGACCTGGCTTCCAGGAGAAATATTCTTGGTGTGATCATG
  S R S C V H R T W L Q R G N I L G V I M
720
TACGAGGAGACTTTTACCAGAAGGATAAAGATGGAAGCCCTTTTGTGCAATCATCAAC
  Y E E T L Y K L D K N G L R E R C Q E Y I
780
GAGGCTGGAGCTGTTGCTGGTGAAGGTGGACACTGGCATTGCACCGCTGCCAGGTCGCC
  E A G A V A G V K V D T G I A P L P G A
840
GATGATGAGGCTACACCATGGCTGGATGGCTTCCGTGAGAGGTGCCAGGAATACTAC
  D D E G Y T M G L D G L R E R C Q E Y I
900
AGACAGGTGCGCGCTTGTCAAGTGGCTGCAAGTGTCCGCATCGACTCCAAGGACTG
  R Q G A R F A K W R A V L R I D S K G L
960
CCATCTGACCCCTCCATCTGGCAATGCTACTGGTTTGGCAGATGCTGCCATCTGC
  P S D R S I L A N A T I P Y E R K P W A L
1020
CAGGAGTGTGGCTTGGTCCAAATGTTGAGCCTGAGATCCTGATGGATGGTACCATGAC
  Q E C G L V P I V E P E I L M D G D H D
1080
ATTGAGCCGACGCTGCTGCTGCCAGCTGTCTTGTGCTGTCTATGACGCTCTTGCA
  I E T A A A A A E R V L V A V Y D A L A
1140
ACACAGGAGTCTTTTGGAGGGACTCTGTGGAAGCCCAACATGGTACTCTGGTGTG
  T Q G V L L E G T L L K P N M V T P G V
1200
GACTCTGGTATCAAGCCACCCAGACATTCCTATTTTCACTTGCACCTTCTTGCC
  D S G I K A T M P E T L R I F T C A L L A
1260
ACTGTTCCAGCTGCTTGTGAGGTATCAGTTTCTTGTCCGGAGTAGTCTGAGGAGAT
  T V P A A V A G I S F L S G G S S E E D
1320
GCATCTTGAACCTGAACCCATCAATGCAATCCCATACGAGCGCAAGCCTTGGGCACTG
  A S L N L N A I N A T I P Y E R K P W A L
1380
ACCTTCTGTTTGGTGTGCTGCCCTCCAGGCTCCACCCCTCAAGACTTGGGAGGCAAGGAC
  T F S F G R A L Q A S T L K T W G G K D
1440
GAGAACATCGCGGGCTCAGAAGGTGTCGCTGAGCGTGAAGCCAAATGGCTGGCAAG
  E N I A R L R R C S L S V P S Q W P G K
1500
TACCAGGCTCTGGGAGGCTGGTGTGCTTGTGTTGTCAGGGCTACAAGTACTAAttt
  Y Q G S G Q A G E S L F V K G Y K Y *
1560
gaaacatcctgccttctcttctcaccattatctattgttggcgagaaatcccatgcta
1620
gtcagggatcacctagtgaacacaggaccatcacagaaaggctactctctgttagaccgc
1661
agcgaagaccttgaccatggggaccctgtttagcgg
    
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**Fig. 1** Nucleotide and deduced amino-acid sequence of the cDNA pEgAlp1 encoding the chloroplast class-I FBA precursor of *E. gracilis*. The putative transit peptide is indicated in *italics*, the putative processing site is indicated by “<||>”. Non-coding regions are shown in *lower case*

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FbaI  0 0      0 0+0 +      + LVVGAIVAVIAVAGVYAL 0      + + +000 ++      0 0- 0      00 0 00 0      0 0+ +      0 0+
MSATQLLGGYQIISERTAPONKLALVVGAIVAVIAVAGVYALNLSMPPLLPCCAPLHGLSRITWHRPTPAAVAFASASEGAQTFVAPAAQSNFTATSSVASIGMVGAGAVLLARMNQKPVAMNAWTGSVYGL>
Lhcp  - +      + + +0 +      0000 0+      + 0 0 0 0 +      - -00- 0 0-00 0 0 +      0 +0 +      0 +0 +      0 0 +0 +
MPNADAMKPGLAAGAAAGVIVYVLAGAASSSTSLAATHVNIQAPAVIPRMASVPSAYTIATNPIGASARVVDANVESTDYLTLPATEKSTMGSLMTAAAGVAAVAVPVKSVPRQDSVINVPPLLPSVATMATSQKKS>
RbcS  - + +0 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +
MPFDRQPLLSEKMPATISLVVGGAVIAAVCVVINTSYNGTQLSVTARPIQAAVSQVSMARFAESGVSRSNGNRVSVQAVPLMAASVGAESRSRNVASATLFPDLSGLFAAVALKMAMMKPVAAVLPPTSEKD>
Hmbs  - + +0 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +
MYCGRYETIGETRGNLSLVFGAAGVFAAVALINSGLATSFYSTPVRVAVPQVIVPSSLAASSQLPVVPKETNIQNSAQILYDPDSTVRGQERTITLVGCSFLSASLPTTWKQFGMKARTTKPADLQEVSGGRISLA>
GapA  - + +0 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +      00 00 00 +
MDAKNVVVTGLVGAACVAVGMVSSMSATTQMHVQPAVRATTRVQPTLAMRQGISRLAANSQVYAEAPAAEFQAPAAQASGVSSGLAAKVMAPVAAAAAFPAYKGGQSDAQTYEVADPAGVQTYGTELVFAMNATIGNKYPGNSNT>
IF3   +0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +      0 0 0 0 0 0 +
MVRSSCLQCDPQSQNSSTLVGGGLAAVCATGLLVLVYSPSSQTANWSAQGISTKALYPAVVPSTLLPGSAPAKHLHVWRAHAMSEATTNNSFKQSLFGYNAISSLVQLAGVAATTFPAGALAAVTORKEIAVFS>
Ps30  0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +      0 +
MSRVNLAAPANHVVPRAAQEEVQGEYQTSANNLVVAAASAGAVGAALVAMRRRATNTYEAIREDPEAVLAGAGRAMGAALIGAAVASANAASLTDELQSLSYLEVKSSGIAGT<
    
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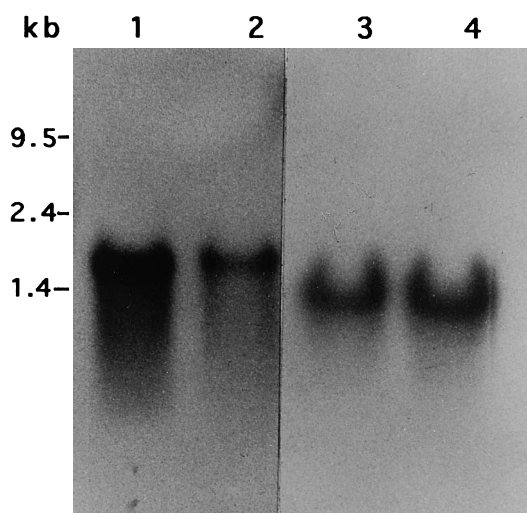
of non-polar amino acids (amino acids 23 to 44), as found in signal peptides of secreted proteins. Comparison of the transit-peptide region of class-I FBA to other transit peptides of nuclear-encoded chloroplast proteins in *Euglena* revealed that it possesses two highly hydrophobic domains separated by a roughly 60 amino-acid hydrophilic stretch rich in hydroxylated amino acids (Fig. 2). These bipartite transit peptides are much longer than those typical for higher-plant chloroplasts (von Heijne et al. 1989) and are known to contain topogenic signals for targeting to the endoplasmic reticulum during precursor import across *Euglena's* three outer chloroplast membranes (Kishore et al. 1993).

The gene for chloroplast class-I FBA in *Euglena* is transcribed and translated as a precursor which encodes a single subunit, rather than as a polyprotein as in the case of nuclear-encoded genes for the small subunit of Rubisco (Chan et al. 1990) and LHCP (Houlné and Schantz 1993). The size of the mRNA in a Northern blot (Fig. 3) corresponds to the length of the cDNA. A Southern blot of genomic DNA probed with the complete cDNA insert encoding class-I FBA shows several bands with different intensities (Fig. 4). This suggests that chloroplast FBA in *Euglena* is organized as a small multigene family, or else that the gene(s) contain(s) several introns, as has previously been described for the *RbcS*, *Lhcp* and *GapC* genes (Muchhal and Schwartzbach 1992; Henze et al. 1995; Tessier et al. 1995).

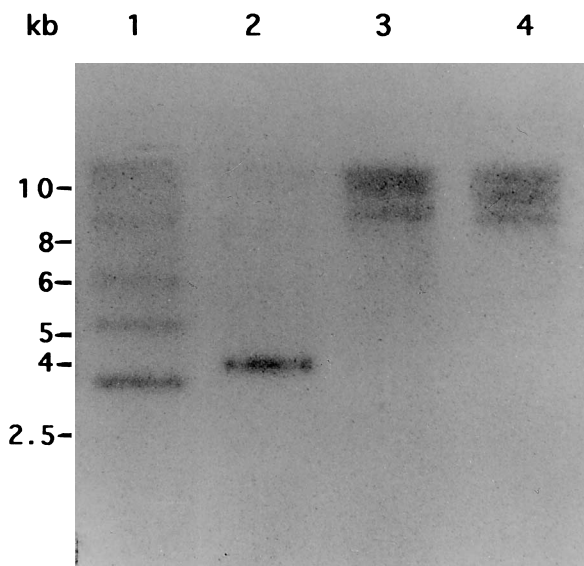
Clones for cytosolic class-II FBA from *Euglena*

From the same library we found 18 clones that hybridize to the insert for class-II FBA from yeast. The longest of these, pEgAlc1, has an insert of 1203 bp and encodes an open reading frame of 1068 bp (but lacks the start codon) plus a 3' non-coding region of about 135 bp (Fig. 5). A

**Fig. 2** Comparison of transit peptide regions for nuclear-encoded chloroplast proteins of *E. gracilis*. Sequences were taken from this paper and from the data base. Positively charged, negatively charged, and hydroxylated amino acids are indicated by “+”, “-”, and (O), respectively. Hydrophobic domains are in *bold type and double underlined*. Precursor abbreviations and accession numbers to the sequences are: *FbaI* fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (X89768); *GapA* glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (L21904); *RbcS* small subunit of Rubisco (X79154); *Lhcp* light-harvesting complex protein II (U03392); *Hmbs* hydroxymethylbilane synthase (X15743); *PS30* extrinsic 30-kDa protein (OEC30) of photosystem II (D14702); *IF3* chloroplast initiation factor 3 (P36177)



**Fig. 3** Northern-blot analysis of RNA from *E. gracilis* probed with plastidic class-I (lanes 1 and 2) and cytosolic class-II (lanes 3 and 4) aldolase cDNA. Lanes 1 and 3 contain 10  $\mu$ g each of RNA isolated from autotrophically grown cells; lanes 2 and 4 contain 10  $\mu$ g of RNA from heterotrophically grown cells



**Fig. 4** Southern-blot analysis of the class-I aldolase gene in *E. gracilis* genomic DNA; 15  $\mu$ g of nuclear DNA was digested with *Bam*HI (lane 1), *Pst*I (lane 2), *Kpn*I (lane 3), and *Hind*III (lane 4). The probe was the cDNA fragment coding for the class-I aldolase from *E. gracilis*. Numbers on the left indicate the size (kb) of DNA markers

Northern blot of *Euglena* RNA probed with pEgAlc1 (Fig. 3) reveals a single band of 1.3 kb, indicating that the cDNA clone lacks a total of about 100 bp of 5' and/or 3' UTR. The predicted molecular mass of the encoded product is 39.1 kDa, in good agreement with the molecular mass of 38 kDa previously determined for the cytosolic class-II FBA subunit in SDS-polyacrylamide gels (Pelzer-Reith et

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60
CCTGATTTTCCAAAGACCTGAAGGGTGTGTTGGACGGCAACCAAGTCCGAACCTCTGTTC
P D F P K D L K G V L D G N Q V R T L F
120
GACTTCGGCCGAGAAGAAGGGCTTCGCAATCCCTGCTGTGAAGTGCACATCGCTTCCACC
D F A Q K K G F A I P A V N C T S S S T
180
GTGAATGTGGTGTGGAACGGGCGGAGACACCCACAACCCGGTCATCATCCAGGTGTCC
V N V V L E R A R D T H N P V I I Q V S
240
CAGGGTGGTGCCTCTTATTGTGGCAAGGAGTGAAGGATGAGAAGCTGATTGCCAGT
Q G G A A F Y C G K G V K D E K L I A S
300
GTGACGGGCTCCGTGGCGTTGGCACACCACGTGGGGCCGTTGCCATACTATGGCGCCA
V D G S V A L A H H V R A V A H T M A P
360
GTTGTCGTTTCATCCGACCATGTGCAAGAAGCTGCTTCCGTGGTTCGATGGCATGTTG
V V V H S D H C A K K L L P W F D G M L
420
GATGCCGATGGAGAAATATTTTGCAGCACGGCGTCCCTCTTCTCCAGCCACATGCTC
D A D G E I F C E H G V P L F S S H M L
480
GATTTGAGTGAAGAAAATGACGAGGAGGACATTGGCACGTCGCTGAAGTATTTCACATCGA
D L S E E N D E E D I G T C V K Y F T R
540
ATGCCAAGTTGAACCTGTGGTTGGAGATGGAGATTGGTATGACTGGAGGTGTGGAAGAT
M A K L N L W L E M E I G M T G G V E D
600
GGCGTGACAACAGTGGGGTGGCCAATGACAAGCTGTACACGTCGTCGGAGCAGGTCTTT
G V D N S G V A N D K L Y T S S E Q V F
660
GCTGTCCACAAGCACTCGGGCCAGCTCGCAAATCTCCATTGCTGCTGCTTTCGGC
A V H K A L G A S S P N F S I A A A F G
720
AATGTCACGGTGTGTACAGCCAGGCAATGTGAAGTTGCAGCCCAATCTGTTGAAGGAG
N V H G V Y K P G N V K L Q P F D L K E L
780
CACCAGGATTACGCCCGGAAGCAGTTGTCTCTCTGAGGACCATCTCTACCTCTGG
H Q D Y A R K Q L S S S E D H P L Y L W
840
TTCCATGGTCTTCAGGCTCGACAGATGCAGAGATTGATGAAGCAGTGGCGAATGGGGTG
F H G P S G S T D A E I H E A V R N G V
900
GTCAAGATGAACCTTGATACTGACATGCAGTGGGCATCTGGATGGATTGGCCAGTTT
V K M N L D T D M Q W A Y W D G L R Q F
960
GAGGCAAGAACAACAGGATTATTTGCAGGACAGATTGGGAACCCGAGGGCCCTGACAAK
E A K K H D Y L Q G Q I G N P E G P D K
1020
CCGAACAAGAATTATTACGACCCACGAAAGTGGATCCGTGAGCCGAGCTTGGCATGCTG
P N K N Y Y D P R K W I R E A E L G M L
1080
GCCCGCTCAAGGTGGCCTTCAAGCGGTGAATTGCCCGTGGCCTAAGGAGTTCATT
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G I P *

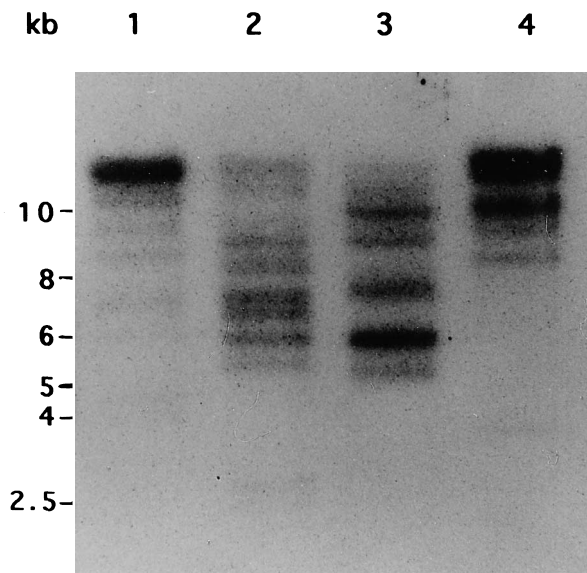
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**Fig. 5** Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino-acid sequence of cDNA pEgAlc1 encoding the cytosolic class-II FBA of *E. gracilis*. The start codon and perhaps one or two additional N-terminal residues are not contained in the cDNA as judged by comparison to the size of the isolated protein and by alignment to other class-II FBA enzymes (Pelzer-Reith et al. 1994; see also text)

al. 1994), suggesting that pEgAlc1 lacks only very few of the N-terminal residues contained in *Euglena's* class-II FBA subunit. A Southern blot probed with the insert of pEgAlc1 (Fig. 6) revealed only a few hybridizing bands, indicating a less-complex gene organization for class-II FBA than for class-I FBA in *Euglena*.

#### Origin of the gene for chloroplast class-I FBA in *Euglena*

In the most straightforward scenario for the origin of *Euglena's* nuclear-encoded chloroplast class-I FBA gene, the class-I chloroplast FBA of the endosymbiont simply could have been transferred to the kinetoplastid nucleus in the course of the degeneration of the secondary symbiont's nucleus, as was suggested for *Euglena's* *RbcS* (Martin et al. 1992) and *GapA* (Henze et al. 1995) genes. In that

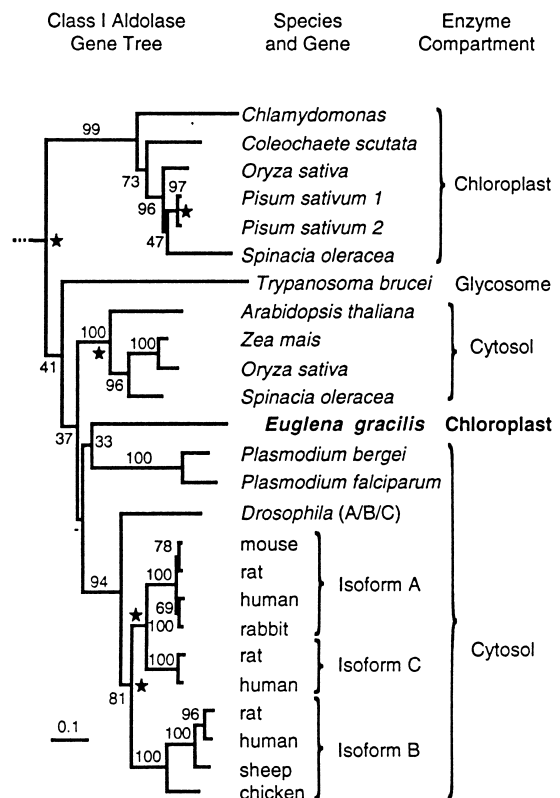


**Fig. 6** Southern-blot analysis of the class-II aldolase gene of the *E. gracilis* genomic DNA; 15  $\mu$ g of nuclear DNA was digested with the enzymes *Bam*HI (lane 1), *Pst*I (lane 2), *Kpn*I (lane 3), and *Hind*III (lane 4). The probe was the cDNA fragment of the class-II aldolase of *E. gracilis*. Numbers on the left indicate the size (kb) of DNA markers

case, the class-I FBA of *Euglena* should share a common branch with chloroplast homologues of chlorophytes. But the gene tree reveals that the chloroplast class-I FBA of *Euglena* shows no specific affinity to the chloroplast FBA enzymes of chlorophytes (Fig. 7). Rather, it branches with weak bootstrap support between the cytosolic FBA enzymes of higher plants and those of metazoa. Therefore, alternative evolutionary routes for its origin have to be considered.

A second reasonable possibility would be that *Euglena* chloroplast FBA was recruited via duplication of the pre-existing gene for cytosolic FBA from the kinetoplastid host nucleus following secondary endosymbiosis. In that case one would expect the *Euglena* class-I enzyme to share a common branch with the homologue from *T. brucei* (Sogin et al. 1989; Levasseur et al. 1994; Henze et al. 1995). This is also not the case (Fig. 7), indicating that recruitment from the cytosolic homologue of the secondary host is unlikely.

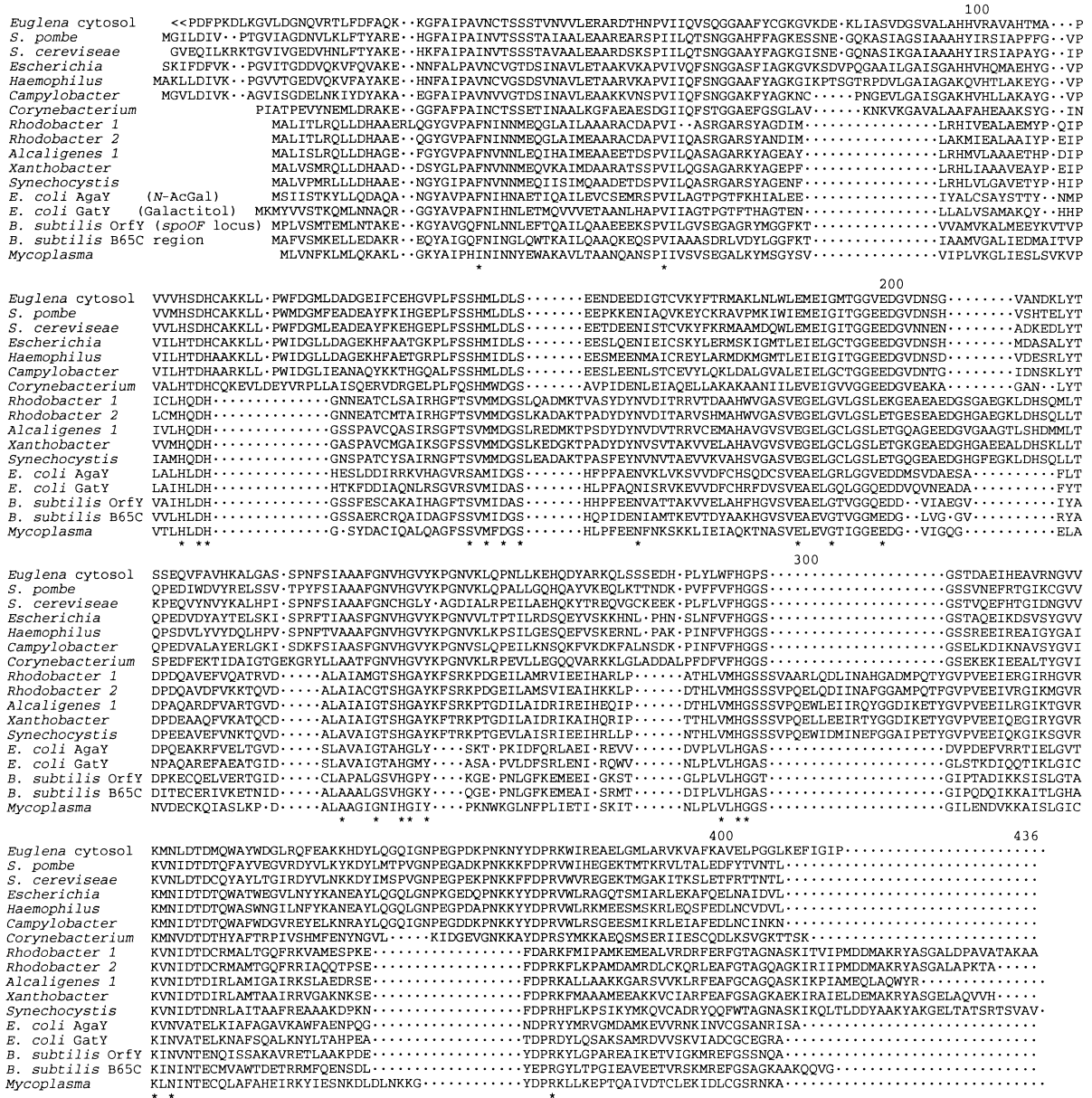
As a third possibility, the very low bootstrap values separating the *Euglena* class-I aldolase from its cytosolic homologues of chlorophytes could be reconciled with the view that *Euglena*'s chloroplast class-I FBA might have been recruited from the endosymbiotic chlorophyte's gene for cytosolic aldolase. Although the present data do not lend strong support to this notion, it is in our view the alternative that can most easily account for the data, notwithstanding the possibility of as yet unrecognized gene duplications. The very weak affinity observed between *Euglena* and *Plasmodium* aldolase genes in Fig. 7 is not detected with other distance-estimation methods (data not shown) and is probably altogether insignificant.



**Fig. 7** A class-I fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase gene tree. The tree was constructed by the neighbor-joining method for the matrix of numbers of amino-acid substitutions per site estimated with the Dayhoff matrix option of PROTDIST in PHYLIP. Numbers at branches indicate the bootstrap proportion for 100 replicates using the same distance-estimation method. Stars at nodes indicate the presence of possible gene duplications. The scale bar indicates 0.1 substitutions per site; the length of the branch bearing the *S. carnosus* outgroup is 1.4. Compartmentalization of the respective gene product is indicated. Sequences were extracted from GenBank, Swissprot and PIR data bases. Accession numbers are: *Chlamydomonas* chloroplast S48639, *Coleochaete* chloroplast (R. Kämmerer unpublished), rice chloroplast D13513, pea chloroplast 1 S29047, pea chloroplast 2 S29048, spinach chloroplast P16096, *T. brucei* P07752, *Arabidopsis* cytosol P22197, maize cytosol P08440, rice cytosol P17784, spinach cytosol P29356, *Euglena* chloroplast X89768, *Plasmodium berghei* A45610, *Plasmodium falciparum* P14223, *Drosophila* D10446, mouse A J05517, rat A P05065, human A P04075, rabbit A P00883, rat B P00884, human B P05062, chicken B P07341, sheep B S47540, rat C P09117, human C P09972

#### Independent origins of chloroplast class-I FBAs in *Euglena* and chlorophytes

Although class-I aldolases exist in both eubacteria and archaeobacteria (Dhar and Altekar 1986; Lebherz and Rutter 1973; London and Kline 1973; Stribling and Perham 1973), only the eubacterial class-I aldolase from *Staphylococcus carnosus* has been sequenced to-date (Witke and Götze 1993). The *S. carnosus* class-I enzyme shares only about 25–30% identical residues with eukaryotic class-I FBAs. Assuming that divergence between *Staphylococcus* and eukaryotic FBA sequences does reflect eubacterial-eukaryotic divergence, genes for chloroplast and cytosolic aldo-



**Fig. 8** Alignment of class-II FBA proteins. Gaps are indicated as dots, strictly conserved residues in the alignment are indicated with an asterisk. Sequences were extracted from GenBank, Swissprot and PIR data bases. Accession numbers to sequences are *Campylobacter* S52413, *Corynebacterium* P19537, *Escherichia coli fba* P11604, *Euglena* X89769, *Haemophilus* P44429, *S. pombe* P36580, yeast P14540, *B. subtilis* OrfY P13243, *B. subtilis* B65C P42420, *E. coli* AgaY P42908, *E. coli* GatY P37192, *Mycoplasma* L43967, *Alcaligenes* (plasmid) U12423, *Rhodobacter* 1 P27995, *Rhodobacter* 2 P29271, *Synechocystis* D64000, *Xanthobacter* U29134. “<” indicates that the start codon is not contained in the *Euglena* cDNA clone

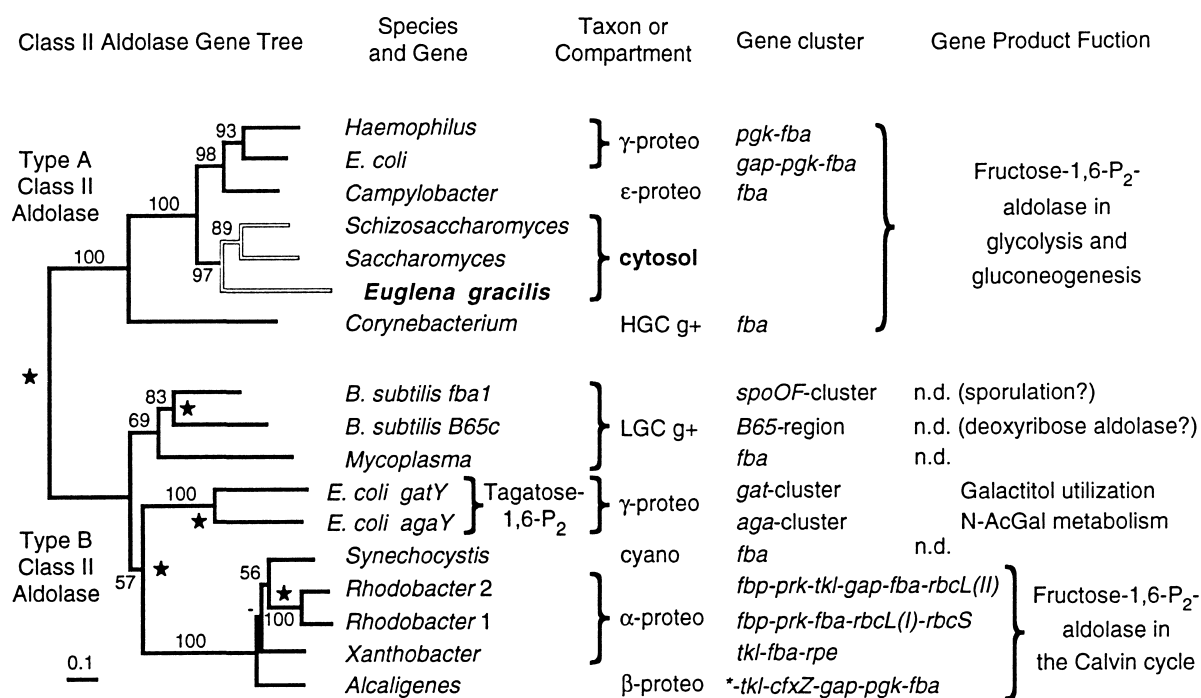
lase isoenzymes of higher plants presumably arose through gene duplication very early in eukaryotic evolution. This is in contrast to TPI, where the higher-plant chloroplast/cytosol isoenzymes arose through gene duplication of the cytosolic enzyme relatively late in early plant evolution (Henze et al. 1994; Schmidt et al. 1995), and is also in contrast to GAPDH where the chloroplast/cytosol isoforms are

related by duplication in eubacterial genomes (Martin et al. 1993). A number of later gene duplications (Fig. 7) have occurred in vertebrates (A, B, and C isoforms) and in higher plants (Kukita et al. 1988; Razdan et al. 1993).

Despite some unclarified problems, one important conclusion can be drawn. Chloroplast-localized forms of FBA arose twice during evolution: one in the lineage of chlorophytes and another in the lineage of *Euglena* because of their extensive separation in the gene tree (Fig. 7). And, notably, *neither* of these chloroplast enzymes is likely to be of cyanobacterial origin, because all cyanobacteria analyzed to-date were found to possess class-II FBAs (Rut-ter 1964; Antia 1967; Schnarrenberger et al. 1992).

**Class-II FBA: a eubacterial gene family**

Class-II aldolases have long been known to be distributed in *Euglena*, numerous fungi, numerous eubacteria and ar-



**Fig. 9** A class-II fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase gene tree. The tree was constructed by the neighbor-joining method for the matrix of numbers of amino-acid substitutions per site estimated with the Dayhoff matrix option of PROTDIST in PHYLIP. Numbers at branches indicate the bootstrap proportion for 100 replicates using the same distance estimation method. Stars at nodes indicate the presence of possible gene duplications. The scale bar indicates 0.1 substitutions per site. Gene-cluster information and the function of the encoded product where available is indicated. The accession numbers to sequences are given in the legend to Fig. 8. The plasmid and chromosomal copies of *fba* from *Alcaligenes* are nearly identical in sequence, but only the plasmid sequence is shown here. N.d. not determined. An asterisk in the *Alcaligenes* operon structure indicates the presence of six additional genes for enzymes of the Calvin cycle which are not shown here. The sequences encoded in eukaryotic genomes are indicated in open branches

chaebacteria (Dhar and Altekar 1986; Schnarrenberger et al. 1992). In order to examine the evolutionary history of class-II FBAs, we aligned sequences for eubacterial and eukaryotic class-II FBAs and related enzymes (Fig. 8) and constructed a tree of their gene evolution.

Several gene duplications for class-II FBAs occurred during eubacterial evolution (indicated with stars in the Fig. 9). One of them involved the common ancestor of gram-positive and proteobacteria and led to the separation of two families of class-II FBA enzymes, designated here as type "A" and type "B" class-II FBAs (Fig. 9). Amino-acid sequence identity between the type A and type B class-II FBA enzymes is of the order of 25–30% in individual comparisons, whereas within type A and type B comparisons it is of the order of 40% (data not shown).

The type A class-II FBA enzymes encompass those that have been characterized to-date from the three eukaryotes studied, *Corynebacterium*, and γ- and ε-proteobacteria.

For the type A class-II FBA enzymes surveyed here, the function of the encoded product is known to be fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (Alefounder and Perham 1989; Schwelberger et al. 1989; Mutoh and Hayashi 1994; Ceniempo and Fauchere 1995). By contrast, only those type B class-II FBA genes that are found in the Calvin-cycle operons of phototrophic proteobacteria are known to encode fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase (Tabita et al. 1993). Several of the other eubacterial type B class-II FBA-related proteins have other functions, e.g. tagatose-1,6-bisphosphate-accepting aldolases (Lengler 1977; Nobleman and Lengler 1995; Reizer et al. 1996) or deoxyribose aldolase activity (Yoshida et al. 1994). Because the specific fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase function is found among both the type A and type B enzymes, it seems that fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolase activity was the original function of the type A and type B enzymes.

This gene phylogeny indicates that class-II FBA enzymes existed as a eubacterial gene family very early in evolution and underwent a complex series of recurrent duplication events, similar to those found in Rubisco (Martin et al. 1992) and GAPDH (Henze et al. 1995) gene evolution. Furthermore, differential loss has obviously also occurred in eubacterial class-II FBA gene evolution, since the complete *Haemophilus* genome does not encode a type B class-II FBA and the complete *Mycoplasma* genome does not encode type A.

Eukaryotic class-II FBA genes:  
endosymbiotic rather than "horizontal" transfer

For class-II FBA, it was contended that the possession of a gene for class-II aldolase in *S. cerevisiae* represents a "likely" example of "horizontal transfer of a type II aldo-

lase gene from some eubacterium to yeast" (Smith et al. 1992). The evolutionary tree for these enzymes reveals that no inter-kingdom horizontal transfer event of the type envisaged, i.e. from bacteria to yeast, has occurred. Rather, the topology of Fig. 9 very clearly indicates that the common ancestor of *Euglena* and the two ascomycetes simply possessed a gene for a class-II FBA.

The position of the eukaryotic class-II FBA genes as a branch in the eubacteria is highly reminiscent of the situation found for eukaryotic GAPDH (Henze et al. 1995), eukaryotic fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase genes (Martin et al. 1996) and plant PGK genes (Brinkmann and Martin 1996), and the gene for class-II FBA might have been transferred from eubacteria to eukaryotes by an endosymbiotic event. The position of the three eukaryotic sequences in the eubacterial tree furthermore suggests that these nuclear genes were transferred to the nucleus during the process of mitochondrial (rather than plastid) origins. Finally, the fact that *Euglena* possesses a cytosolic class-II FBA, whereas the "homolog" from kinetoplastids is a class-I FBA enzyme, suggests that their common ancestor possessed both class-I and class-II FBAs, and that differential loss of the genes for these enzymes has occurred during the evolution of these two eukaryotes.

Chloroplast and cytosolic fructose-1,6-bisphosphate aldolases of *Euglena* are the first pair of chloroplast-cytosol isoenzymes that share no evolutionary relationship at all. This is in sharp contrast to chloroplast-cytosol isoenzymes of sugar-phosphate metabolism of higher plants, which are known to be related by gene duplications (Schnarrenberger and Martin 1997). The class-II FBA enzymes of *Euglena* and the two ascomycetes studied here appear to have been subject to endosymbiotic gene transfer from the antecedents of mitochondria during the course of endosymbiosis. The contemporary chloroplast-localized class-I FBA enzymes of higher plants and *Euglena* arose independently in evolution, but the ultimate origin of *Euglena*'s nuclear gene for chloroplast class-I FBA could not be clarified. However it seems most likely to have been recruited via duplication of the gene for the cytosolic FBA of the chlorophyte endosymbiont. But still a third independent origin of chloroplast-localized FBA must have occurred during evolution: the cyanelles (plastids) of *Cyanophora paradoxa* possess a class-II FBA (Gross et al. 1994), as do cyanobacteria.

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