

CLONING AND COMPARATIVE MAPPING OF A HUMAN CLASS III (χ) ALCOHOL
DEHYDROGENASE cDNA

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A cDNA encoding human class III (χ , ADH5) alcohol dehydrogenase was isolated, sequenced and used to comparatively map this unusual ADH. In their coding sequences, the three major ADH classes were approximately equisimilar, class II and III ADHs sharing the highest sequence identity (67%). A class III-like ADH was mapped to mouse chromosome 3, site of the ADH gene complex, and synteny of ADH5 with four other ADH loci on human chromosome 4 was confirmed. The nearly full-length 1613 nucleotide cDNA contained 433 nucleotides of 3' nontranslated sequence and two possible initiation sites for translation. A protein of 374 amino acid residues could be synthesized using the potential initiation codon at nucleotide 59. However, use of the likely initiation codon at nucleotide 5 would produce a protein of 392 residues with 19 additional N-terminal residues as compared to the known protein sequence. The derived protein sequence also differs at residue 166, where Tyr is found. This difference, due to a single base substitution, could result from cloning artifact, polymorphism, or two expressed class III ADH genes. © 1989 Academic Press, Inc.

The human alcohol dehydrogenases (ADH: alcohol: NAD⁺ oxidoreductase) comprise a diverse group of five zinc metalloenzymes which have been assembled into three classes on the basis of sequence and function (1). The three class I ADHs (α , β and γ) are mainly expressed in the liver and associate into homo- and heterodimers. The class II ADH subunit (π) is synthesized in liver and/or stomach (2) and despite a higher K_m for ethanol (3), also plays a role in the metabolism of ethanol (4). Unlike these four ADHs, class III has a very low affinity for ethanol (5), has been found in all tissues examined (6) and does not have a well established physiologic role, although it is likely to be involved in the metabolism of long chain alcohols and ω -hydroxyfatty acids (7).

Determination of the protein and DNA sequences of class I and II ADHs (8,9) and sequencing of the class III ADH protein led to the realization that the ADH classes are approximately equidistant in terms of coding sequence identity, but it was also proposed that class III ADH, because of its resemblance to plant ADHs, is the most ancient of the mammalian ADH

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clan (10). The relationship of class III ADH to the other ADH classes can be more precisely addressed using the cloned gene. A second question is whether ADH5 resides in a gene complex. The five human ADHs have been localized to the region 4q21-25 and in the mouse, four ADH structural and regulatory genes map to chromosome 3. However, the location of mouse class III ADH is unknown. To improve our understanding of the genomic position, structure and evolution of class III ADH, we report here the molecular cloning and sequence of its cDNA and the comparative chromosomal mapping of the class III ADH locus in mouse and human.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation and sequencing of cDNA clones: Class III ADH was purified from human liver according to Wagner *et al.* (11) with a final anion exchange chromatography step. The purified active enzyme revealed a single band when separated by 10% SDS PAGE and stained with silver. The N-terminus was found to be blocked, as reported (10). Therefore, the protein was digested with Lys-specific endopeptidase (Boehringer Mannheim), and peptides were purified using reverse-phase high performance liquid chromatography (10). Eight peptides representing approximately 40% of the complete class III ADH were sequenced. The protein sequence obtained was in agreement with the full class III ADH protein sequence later reported by Kaiser *et al.* (10).

Two mixed oligonucleotides were synthesized, 5' end-labeled (12) and used to screen a human liver cDNA library constructed in lambda gt 11. Probe A corresponded to amino acids 85-95 and probe B to amino acids 347-357. Plaques were screened by the method of Hanes and Higgins (13), and positively hybridizing phages were plaque-purified to homogeneity. The cDNA inserts were ligated into the *Eco* RI site of vector pMLB 1113 (14). DNA was sequenced by the dideoxynucleotide method of Sanger *et al.* (15) using either the system developed by Messing and Vieira (16) and modified by Zagursky and Berman (14) or by the method for using double-stranded DNA as modified by Zagursky *et al.* (17). Nucleotides were labeled with [³⁵S] dATP (Amersham, approximately 300 Ci/m mol). Sequenase (United States Biochemical Corporation) reagents were employed and reaction products were separated on ultrathin wedge gels prepared with 7% acrylamide and 8M urea. All sequences were analyzed on both DNA strands and on overlapping fragments. For restriction mapping, enzyme digestions were performed as recommended by the manufacturer, and DNA fragments were resolved by electrophoresis on 0.8% agarose gels. For DNA probe analyses, cDNA probes were labeled by the random primer method and oligonucleotide probes were end-labeled.

Extraction of RNA from tissues and RNA blot hybridization: RNA was extracted by the procedure of Cathala *et al.* (18), and poly (A)+ enriched RNA was prepared by oligo(dT)-cellulose column chromatography (19). Ethanol-precipitated RNA was dissolved in a solution of 50% formamide, 20% formaldehyde, 1 mM EDTA, 150 mM sodium acetate and 20 mM MOPS, denatured by heating to 65°C for 5 min, fractionated on 1% formaldehyde agarose gels, electrotransferred to Gene Screen nylon membrane (NEN) and hybridized following the procedure of Chen-Kiang *et al.* (20). The blots were prehybridized 2 hrs with 50% formamide, 5xSSC (1xSSC = 0.15 M NaCl/0.015 M sodium citrate, pH 7), 20 mM NaH₂PO₄, pH 6.5, yeast tRNA (250 ug/ml), herring sperm DNA (250 ug/ml), 5x Denhardt's solution and 0.1% SDS. The hybridization was carried out with prehybridization buffer: dextran sulphate (4:1) with 1 x 10⁶ cpm/ml of nick-translated ADH5-14.1 cDNA. Following hybridization, RNA blots were washed twice with 2xSSC for 10 min at room temperature and with 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS for 30 min at 65°C. Blots were then used to expose X-ray film. Hybridized probes were removed with 96% formamide, 10 mM EDTA, and 10 mM Tris-HCl and blots were rehybridized with a class I ADH cDNA (ADH2) and class II-specific oligomers.

RESULTS

Isolation of cDNA clones ADH5-14.1 and ADH5-30.1: Two mixed 33-mer oligonucleotides [A, corresponding to nucleotides 256-288, and B, corresponding to nucleotides 1042-1074] were used in colony hybridization screening of a human liver cDNA library. Five of 50,000 plaques screened gave positive hybridization signals. After successive screenings, two

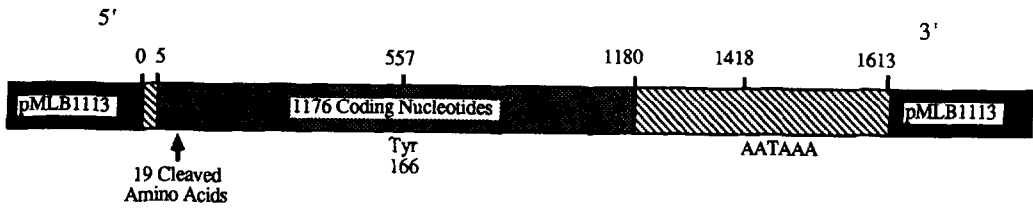


Figure 1. A physical map of the human class III ADH (ADH5) cDNA, ADH 14.1, is depicted.

strongly hybridizing clones, designated ADH5-14.1 and ADH5-30.1, were used for further analysis. The lengths of the two ADH5 cDNA inserts were approximately equal and that of ADH5-14.1 was precisely determined to be 1613 bp (Fig. 1), a size adequate to contain a full-length cDNA for the 40,000 Da class III ADH subunit.

To rule out the possibility that these clones were class I ADH cDNAs, they, as well as a full length cDNA clone for class I (β) ADH (from Dr. A. Yoshida, City of Hope, Duarte CA), were hybridized first to the class I ADH cDNA and then to the class III-specific oligonucleotides A and B. The class III ADH oligonucleotides gave strong hybridization signals with ADH5-14.1 and ADH5-30.1 but a weak signal with the class I ADH cDNA. Clones ADH5-14.1 and ADH5-30.1 revealed common internal restriction sites with *EcoR* I, *Pst* I and *Rsa* I. ADH5-14.1 was selected for initial sequencing analyses and ADH5-30.1 was used for confirmation of some sequences.

Fig. 1 depicts the overall structure of ADH5-14.1 and Fig. 2 gives the complete sequence including 433 3' flanking nucleotides and either 1122 or 1176 coding nucleotides. The 3' - nontranslated sequence contains two potential polyadenylation signals, AATAAA, 377 nucleotides downstream from the termination codon, CATAAA, 412 nucleotides downstream. However, neither is closely followed by a polyA tail. The sequences around the ATGs at positions 5 and 59, are both consistent with the consensus eukaryotic initiation sites however the ATG at position 5 is more likely to be utilized because it is further upstream (21). An open reading frame of 1122 bp extends from the ATG at position 59, encoding a protein of 374 residues. The methionine at the amino terminus would be removed making Ala the initial residue in the mature chain of 373 amino acids (10). However, the upstream ATG at position 5 initiates an open reading frame which includes 19 N-terminal amino acids which are not seen in the mature protein (10). Except for Tyr 166 of the mature chain, reported as Asp (10), the cDNA sequence and the published protein sequence are otherwise compatible.

Expression of Class III ADH in human tissues - In total RNA from liver, spleen, and cell lines mRNAs hybridizing to ADH-14.1 ranged from 1.7 kb to 5.6 kb (Fig. 3). Hybridizing bands of approximately the same sizes were detected in poly (A)+ RNA from liver. The predominant mRNA detected in all tissues was 1.7 kb, slightly smaller than 18S rRNA. The cloned class III ADH cDNAs (ADH5-14.1 and ADH5-30.1) are therefore full-length or nearly full-length. Two larger bands, 3.5 and 5.6 kb in size, generated weaker hybridization signals. Class I and II ADH probes detected different mRNA sizes in a different tissue distribution (data not shown). Hybridization with a class II ADH-specific 24-mer (5'ATTCCACTTTATGCACCTCTATGT3') revealed a band of 1.6 and 2.4 kb in human liver, with possibly some hybridization in spleen and

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | <i>Met</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Val</i> | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | GGGC | ATG | GGC | GCG | GCC | ACC | CCG | GAT | 25 |
| <i>Asp</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ala</i> | | | | |
| GTC | AGC | CCC | CCG | CGC | CGA | CCA | GAA | TCC | GTG | AAC | ATG | GCG | AAC | GAG | GTT | ATC | AAG | TGC | AAG | GCT | GCA | | | 91 | |
| <i>Val</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Trp</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Gla</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>His</i> | | | | |
| GTT | GCT | TGG | GAG | GAG | GCT | GGA | AAG | CCT | CTC | TCC | ATA | GAG | GAG | ATA | GAG | ATC | CCC | CCA | AAG | GCT | CAT | | | 157 | |
| <i>Glu</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>His</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | | | | |
| GAA | GTT | CGA | ATC | AAG | ATC | ATT | GCC | ACT | GCG | GTT | TGC | CAC | ACC | GAT | GCC | TAT | ACC | CTG | AGT | GGA | GCT | | | 223 | |
| <i>Asp</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>His</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Gly</i> | | | | |
| GAT | CCT | GAG | GGT | TGT | TTT | CCA | GTG | ATC | TTG | GGA | CAT | GAA | GGT | GCT | GGA | ATT | GTG | GAA | AGT | GTT | GGT | | | 289 | |
| <i>Glu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Glu</i> | | | | |
| GAG | GGA | GTT | ACT | AAG | CTG | AAG | GCG | GGT | GAC | ACT | GTC | ATC | CCA | CTT | TAC | ATC | CCA | CAG | TGT | GGA | GAA | | | 355 | |
| <i>Cys</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | | | | |
| TGC | AAA | TTT | TGT | CTA | AAT | CCT | AAA | ACT | AAC | CTT | TGC | CAG | AAG | ATA | AGA | GTC | ACT | CAA | GGG | AAA | GGA | | | 401 | |
| <i>Leu</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>His</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Thr</i> | | | | |
| TTA | ATG | CCA | GAT | GGT | ACC | AGC | AGA | TTT | ACT | TGC | AAA | GGA | AAG | ACA | ATT | TTG | CAT | TAC | ATG | GGA | ACC | | | 487 | |
| <i>Ser</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Pro</i> | | | | |
| AGC | ACA | TTT | TCT | GAA | TAC | ACA | GTT | GTG | GCT | GAT | ATC | TCT | GTT | GCT | AAA | ATA | GAT | CCT | TTA | GCA | CCT | | | 553 | |
| <i>Leu</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ala</i> | | | | |
| TTG | TAT | AAA | GTC | TGC | CTT | CTA | GGT | TGT | GGC | ATC | TCA | ACC | GGT | TAT | GGT | GCT | GCT | GTC | GTG | AAC | ACT | GCC | | 619 | |
| <i>Lys</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Met</i> | | | | |
| AAG | TTG | GAG | CCT | GGC | TCT | GTT | TGT | GCC | GTC | TTT | GGT | CTG | GGA | GGA | GTC | GGA | TTG | GCA | GTT | ATC | ATG | | | 685 | |
| <i>Gly</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Arg</i> | | | | |
| GGC | TGT | AAA | GTG | ACT | GGT | GCT | TCC | CGG | ATC | ATT | GGT | GTG | GAC | ATC | AAA | GAT | AAA | ATA | GCA | AGG | | | | 751 | |
| <i>Ala</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Val</i> | | | | |
| GCC | AAA | GAG | TTT | GGA | GCC | ACT | GAA | TGT | ATT | AAC | CCT | CAG | GAT | TTA | AGT | AAA | CCC | ATC | CAG | GAA | GTG | | | 817 | |
| <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Met</i> | | | | |
| CTC | ATT | GAG | ATG | ACC | GAT | GGA | GGA | GTG | GAC | TAT | TCC | TTT | GAA | TGT | ATT | GGT | AAT | GTG | AAG | GTC | ATG | | | 883 | |
| <i>Arg</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Cys</i> | <i>His</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Trp</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Ser</i> | | | | |
| AGA | GCA | GCA | CTT | GAG | GCA | TGT | CAC | AAG | GGC | TGG | GGC | GTC | AGC | GTC | GTG | GTT | GGA | GTA | GCT | GCT | TCA | | | 949 | |
| <i>Gly</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Gln</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Trp</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Phe</i> | | | | |
| GGT | GAA | GAA | ATT | GCC | ACT | CGT | CCA | TTC | CAG | CTG | GTA | ACA | GGT | CGC | ACA | TGG | AAA | GGC | ACT | GCC | TTT | | | 1015 | |
| <i>Gly</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Trp</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Pro</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Tyr</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Lys</i> | | | | |
| GGA | GGA | TGG | AAG | AGT | GTA | GAA | AGT | GTC | CCA | AAG | TTG | GTG | TCT | GAA | TAT | ATG | TCC | AAA | AAG | ATA | AAA | | | 1081 | |
| <i>Val</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>His</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Asp</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Asn</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ala</i> | <i>Phe</i> | <i>Glu</i> | <i>Leu</i> | <i>Met</i> | <i>His</i> | | | | |
| GTT | GAT | GAA | TTT | GTG | ACT | CAC | AAT | CTG | TCT | TTT | GAT | GAA | ATC | AAC | AAA | GCC | TTT | GAA | CTG | ATG | CAT | | | 1147 | |
| <i>Ser</i> | <i>Gly</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ser</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Arg</i> | <i>Thr</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Val</i> | <i>Lys</i> | <i>Ile</i> | <i>Term</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TCT | GGA | AAG | AGC | ATT | CGA | ACT | GTT | GTA | AAG | ATT | TAA | 1183 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TTCAAAGAG | AAAATAATG | TCCATCCTGT | CGTGTGTGA | TAGGAGCAGC | TTAAACAGCCA | GGGAGAAGCG | CCTCCAACCT | 1263 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CACAGCCTCG | TAGAGCTTCA | CAGCTACTCC | AGAAAATAGG | GTTATGTGTG | TCATTCATGA | ATCTCTATAA | TCAAGGACAA | 1343 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GGATAATTCA | GTTCATGAACC | TGTTTCTGG | ATGCTCCCTCC | <u>ACATAA</u> ATA | TTGCTAGTTA | TAAGGATATT | TAACATA <u>ATA</u> | 1423 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>AAAGTA</u> ATTC | TACATTGTGT | GAATTGTCTT | GTTTATGCTG | TCATCATTGT | CACGGTTTGT | CTGCCATTA | TCTTCATTCT | 1503 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCAAGGGAAA | GGGAAAGGAA | GCAGGGCAGT | GGTGGGTGTC | TGAAACCTCA | GAAACATAAC | GTTGAACTTT | TAAGGGTCTC | 1583 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AGTCCCGT | GATTAAGAA | CAGATCCCCG | 1613 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Figure 2. The complete nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequences of human class III ADH (ADH5). Tyr-166 of the mature chain, reported on the basis of amino acid sequencing to be Asp, is underlined. The 19 N-terminal amino acids which are probably coded but cleaved are italicized. Two potential polyadenylation signals are underlined.

in the neuroblastoma line, SK-N-MC [data not shown]. For class I ADH, a β cDNA probe (obtained from A. Yoshida) detected abundant message in human and hamster livers and generated a weaker signal with human spleen RNA [as previously described (22) and data not shown].

Mapping of class III-like ADH to mouse chromosome 3 - Hybridization of the ADH5 probe to Hind III-digested genomic DNA revealed hamster DNA fragments of 3.3, 1.95, 1.8 and 1.15 kb and mouse DNA fragments of 3.0, 1.65 and 0.6 kb. Because it was most readily scored, the presence of the mouse 3.0 kb fragment was followed in a set of mouse-hamster cell lines which have been characterized for the presence of mouse chromosomes (23). The 1.65 and 0.6 kb fragments showed identical distributions. As can be seen in Table I, there was no discordance

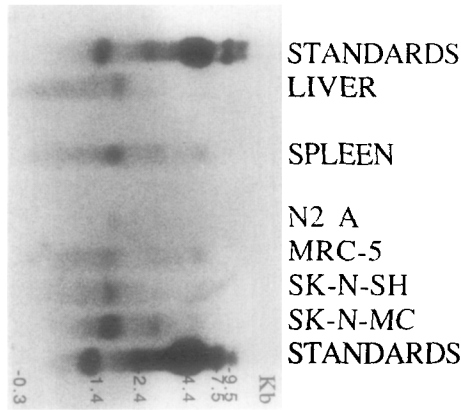


Figure 3. RNA "Northern" blot hybridization, demonstrating the occurrence of the ADH5 mRNA in human liver, spleen and various human cell lines, as indicated. Total RNA (10 µg) was electrophoresed, transferred to a nylon membrane and hybridized to the ADH5 14.1 cDNA probe labeled by the random primer method.

between chromosome 3 and the 3.0 kb class III-like ADH fragment. All other chromosomes were more than 10% discordant.

Mapping of class III ADH to human chromosome 4- Hybridization of the ADH5 cDNA probe to hamster, mouse and human genomic DNAs digested with *Hind* III revealed a 9 kb fragment distinct for the human. The fragment's presence was followed in mouse-human and hamster-human cell lines characterized enzymatically and karyotypically for the presence of human chromosomes (24). Hybrid lines with human chromosome 4 were 5.7% discordant for the 9 kb fragment and all other chromosomes were more than 10% discordant. Also, hybrid lines expressing the human form of PEPS, a chromosome 4 enzyme marker, were 5.3% discordant.

DISCUSSION

The unusualness of class III ADH was emphasized on the basis of its enzymatic properties, ubiquitous distribution (including expression in brain and testes) and closer protein sequence

Table I
Distribution of a Mouse Class III-like ADH Fragment Across Mouse/Hamster Hybrid Cell Lines

| | +/+ | +/-* | -/+ | -/- | Total | Disc** | | +/+ | +/- | -/+ | -/- | Total | Disc |
|--------|-----|------|-----|-----|-------|--------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| Chr 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 0.167 | Chr 11 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 0.500 |
| Chr 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 13 | 0.308 | Chr 12 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 0.500 |
| Chr 3 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 0.000 | Chr 13 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 0.545 |
| Chr 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 0.462 | Chr 14 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 0.615 |
| Chr 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 11 | 0.545 | Chr 15 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 0.222 |
| Chr 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 0.500 | Chr 16 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 0.636 |
| Chr 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 0.364 | Chr 17 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 0.182 |
| Chr 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 0.417 | Chr 18 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 0.417 |
| Chr 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 0.500 | Chr 19 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 0.417 |
| Chr 10 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 12 | 0.500 | Chr X | 6 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 13 | 0.154 |

* +/- The mouse class III-like ADH is present yet the chromosome is absent.

** Disc = discordance.

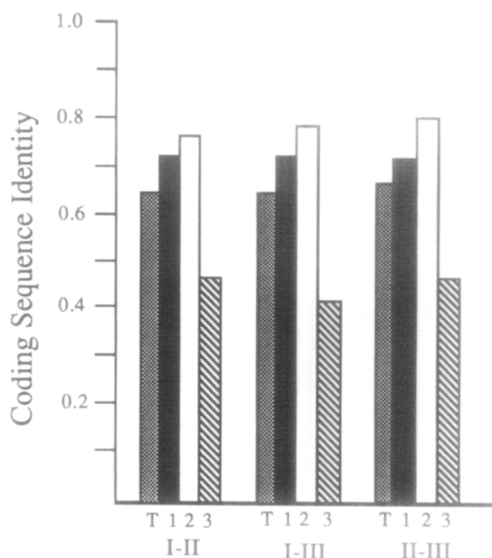


Figure 4. The extent of interclass similarity among the human ADHs. Nucleotide sequence identities are given as totals(T) and for the first, second and third bases of codons.

identity to the plant ADHs (10); however in protein sequence identity the three ADH classes are equidistant (10). DNA sequence comparisons leave open the question of whether class III ADH is in some features more functionally conserved but yield the definitive conclusion that class III ADH is closer to the other mammalian ADHs than to the plant ADHs. Coding DNA sequence identity of class III ADH was 67% to class II ADH, 65% to class I ADH (γ), and 58% to the maize ADH1-F, while the identity between class I and II ADH is 65% (Fig 4). The same relative order of similarity is observed at the first and second bases of codons where functional constraints are highest and at the third base of the codon where synonymous substitutions generally occur (Fig. 4). Therefore, the three ADH classes are approximately equidistant and the existence of greater functional constraints for a particular ADH class is not obvious at the level of overall sequence identity.

The origin of the observed multiple class III ADH mRNA transcripts is unknown, however they do not represent cross-hybridization to the larger class I and II RNAs, which are of different sizes than the larger class III ADH transcripts. We were able to detect two poly (A) addition signals in the 3' flanking region, but did not detect the site of poly (A) addition. The presence of larger unprocessed RNA transcripts ranging up to 5.6 kb in size raises the possibility that additional signal sequences are present downstream. We have not ruled out the possibility of alternative splicing, the existence of incompletely processed transcript or a polycistronic mRNA. Ikuta *et al.* recently reported the isolation of a fused human α and β ADH cDNA that may have been generated from a natural 4.3 kb class I ADH mRNA fragment (25).

Sequencing of the cDNA encoding class III ADH revealed two differences between the deduced amino acid sequence and the published protein sequence. The first is the probable existence of a 19 amino acid N-terminal sequence which would subsequently be cleaved. Second, where Asp-166 was found (10), the cDNA sequence specifies Tyr. This difference, due to a single base substitution (GAT to TAT) could be a copy error by reverse transcriptase during cDNA

preparation. A second possibility is an error in the sequencing of peptides or DNA. However, the published amino acid sequence of class III ADH at this position was from several overlapping peptides. For our DNA sequencing, sequences were confirmed on opposite strands and with a second, possibly independent, clone (ADH5-30.1). A third possibility is polymorphism.

Finally, the cloned cDNA and sequenced protein may represent different class III ADH loci. Three class I ADH loci are known, and sequence differences between the class II ADH protein and cDNA could be explained by the existence of multiple loci (9). The substitution of Tyr for Asp-166 in class III ADH would result in a detectable alteration in electrophoretic mobility and isoelectric point. The well-known electrophoretic heterogeneity of class III ADH is therefore intriguing; three bands are detected by starch gel electrophoresis (5) and by isoelectric focusing; (χ_1 , χ_2 and χ_3) having isoelectric points of 5.8, 6.1 and 6.4 (26). In this regard, the class III ADH sequenced by Kaiser *et al.* consisted largely of χ_1 . However, Adinolfi *et al.* showed that χ_1 , χ_2 and χ_3 co-vary and suggested that χ_2 and χ_3 are derived by modification of a single translation product.(6). Chemically modified forms of class I ADH have been observed (27-28).

Close clustering of class III ADH with other ADHs on human chromosome 4 and mouse chromosome 3 is strongly suggested by the conservation of synteny of these genes between the two species. The three human class I ADH loci were assigned by *in situ* hybridization to 4q21-23 (29). By analogy to other clustered genes of related sequence and function, it can be postulated that there will be important implications in the areas of gene regulation, mutation and evolution.

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