



A tomato ER-type Ca²⁺-ATPase, LCA1, has a low thapsigargin-sensitivity and can transport manganese

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ABSTRACT

Recombinant Ca²⁺-ATPase from tomato (i.e. LCA1 for *Lycopersicon esculentum* [Since the identification and naming of LCA1, the scientific name for the tomato has been changed to *Solanum lycopersicum*.] Ca-ATPase) was heterologously expressed in yeast for structure–function characterization. We investigate the differences between plant and animal Ca pumps utilizing comparisons between chicken and rabbit SERCA-type pumps with *Arabidopsis* (ECA1) and tomato plant (LCA1) Ca²⁺-ATPases. Enzyme function was confirmed by the ability of each Ca²⁺-ATPase to rescue K616 growth on EGTA-containing agar and directly via *in vitro* ATP hydrolysis. We found LCA1 to be ~300-fold less sensitive to thapsigargin than animal SERCAs, whereas ECA1 was thapsigargin-resistant. LCA1 showed typical pharmacological sensitivities to cyclopiazonic acid, vanadate, and eosin, consistent with it being a P_{11A}-type Ca²⁺-ATPase. Possible amino acid changes responsible for the reduced plant thapsigargin-sensitivity are discussed. We found that LCA1 also complemented K616 yeast growth in the presence of Mn²⁺, consistent with moving Mn²⁺ into the secretory pathway and functionally compensating for the lack of secretory pathway Ca-ATPases (SPCAs) in plants.

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Introduction

Plants, like all higher eukaryotes, regulate a variety of cellular functions using calcium-mediated processes [1–4]. Calcium can be elevated in plants by such different physiological stimuli such as red light, touch, temperature and salinity [3]. Plant cells, similar to animals, produce a distinct range of cytoplasmic Ca²⁺ signals in order to achieve the diverse spectrum of responses observed [5–7]. Consequently, it is paramount that cytoplasmic [Ca²⁺] be kept low if these signaling events are going to be controlled; this tight [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} regulation is achieved by active Ca²⁺ sequestration within intracellular compartments (e.g. endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi) or extruded to the extracellular space [8,9], similar to the molecular mechanisms observed in animal cells [10]. However, the underlying cellular and biochemical processes that intercalate to produce these Ca²⁺ dynamics in plants remain largely unresolved. Many Ca²⁺ transporters, including Ca²⁺ channels, Ca²⁺ pumps, and H⁺/Ca²⁺ antiporters are proposed to work together to regulate diverse Ca transients and oscillations required for plant development

[7,11]. However, only a small portion of these Ca²⁺ transporters have been molecularly characterized, and the vast majority of those have been solely from *Arabidopsis*.

The *Arabidopsis* genome has more than a dozen genes encoding Ca²⁺-ATPases and many of these remain to be characterized. It is this abundance of high-affinity Ca²⁺-ATPases in plants that makes characterization of an individual pump rather difficult in the endogenous tissue. Consequently, heterologous expression is usually exploited to biochemically address the functional mechanism of individual Ca²⁺ pumps. The two categories of plant Ca²⁺ pumps are (i) a plasma membrane (PM)-type Ca²⁺-ATPase, which is stimulated by calmodulin [12,13], like animal PM-type Ca²⁺ pumps, and (ii) an ER-type which mimics the SERCA-type pumps of animals [3,14]. Both types of Ca²⁺ pumps belong to the P-type ATPase family with a conserved kinetic model for ion transport. This transport cycle has been described according to a model with two major conformational states, E1 and E2. The hydrolysis of ATP proceeds via a series of reactions where the γ -phosphate of ATP is transferred to the pump, forming an acid stable anhydride with an aspartate residue (Asp³⁶⁶ in LCA1). The resulting phosphoenzyme exists in two conformations (E₁P and E₂P). The first conformation, E₁P is rapidly dephosphorylated by ADP in the reverse direction; the second conformation, E₂P is dephosphorylated by the addition of a counter-

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transported ion (likely H^+ in LCA1, but as yet undetermined) and is insensitive to ADP. Binding of the counter ion stimulates pump dephosphorylation (i.e. an E_2 autophosphatase activity) and a conformational change back to E_1 with the concomitant release of the counter ion [15,16].

Manganese is a common element in soil, which is utilized by plants for photosynthesis [17,18]. Since Mn^{2+} can compete with Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} for binding sites on proteins [19,20], cytosolic levels of Mn^{2+} must be kept low in plants. In particular, this appears to be a substantial burden in the tomato plant root system as it has been shown to accumulate Mn^{2+} from soil at a rate 10-fold higher than most plants [21]. The yeast Ca-ATPase, Pmr1, has been demonstrated to be both a Ca^{2+} and Mn^{2+} transporter [22]. Yeast Pmr1 and human SPCA pumps belong to a separate class of secretory pathway Ca^{2+} -ATPases that are localized to the Golgi and participate in protein maturation and sorting via the active transport of Ca^{2+} and Mn^{2+} [23,24]. Interestingly, to date there has not been a single secretory pathway-type Ca^{2+} -ATPase identified in plants. How then do plants accumulate the required divalent metal concentrations within Golgi? One hypothesis gaining support is that plant ER-type Ca^{2+} -ATPases have acquired this role as some *Arabidopsis* ER-type Ca^{2+} pumps have been shown to transport Mn^{2+} . Moreover, one isoform, ECA3, has been localized to the Golgi [25,26]. Whether these observations for ECA3 represent a ubiquitous adaptation retained in all plants remains to be determined.

Here, in order to study an individual tomato plant Ca^{2+} pump, we functionally expressed the *LCA1* gene in a yeast triple mutant defective in both a Golgi and vacuolar Ca^{2+} pump, K616 (*pmr1*, *pmc1*, *cnb1*) [27]. We show that *LCA1* behaves as an ER-type Ca -ATPase that is highly sensitive to the specific inhibitor cyclopiazonic acid. Interestingly, this tomato plant Ca -ATPase is only mildly sensitive to the more potent ER-type pump inhibitor thapsigargin. This mild sensitivity uniquely separates *LCA1* from both the extremely thapsigargin-sensitive animal SERCA pumps and the apparently completely insensitive *Arabidopsis* ER-type pump, ECA1. Moreover, our data suggest that *LCA1* may also act as a Mn^{2+} pump, consistent with a possible role in secretory pathway divalent cation homeostasis. This latter role may be an evolutionary physiological compensation for the absence of SPCAs in plants. Preliminary reports of this work have been presented to the Biophysical Society and the Society of General Physiologists [28,29].

Materials and methods

Construction of expression plasmids

pYES2-LCA and *pYES2-SERCA1a*

Avian SERCA1a and tomato *LCA1* were amplified via PCR using *pfu* polymerase (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA) to increase fidelity. The unique restriction endonuclease sites (underlined) *KpnI* and *NheI* (*LCA1*), or *HindIII* and *SphI* (*SERCA1a*) were engineered via incorporation into the oligomeric primers used for amplification. Specifically, the primers used were:

<u>LCAFwd</u> :	5'-GGGGC <u>GGTACC</u> ATGGAAGAAAAACCATTCCCTGC-3' <i>KpnI</i>
<u>LCARev</u> :	5'-GGGGC <u>GCTAGCG</u> CAGCTTTAGTTTAGTTCTTC-3' <i>NheI</i>
<u>SERCA1aFwd</u> :	5'-GGGGC <u>AAGCTT</u> ATGGAAAACGCGCACGCGAAAACG-3' <i>HindIII</i>
<u>SERCA1aRev</u> :	5'-GGGGC <u>GCGATGC</u> GCCTCCAGGTAATTCCGGGCGAC-3' <i>SphI</i>

The PCR products were digested using the engineered restriction sites for directional cloning and ligated with the corresponding sites in the *pYES2* vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) to achieve the desired expression vector (*NheI* and *XbaI* share a "CTAG" overhang thus the *XbaI* site in *pYES2* was utilized for *LCA1* cloning). The null *LCA1* mutant, *LCA-D366A* (changing the catalytic aspartic acid residue to alanine), was constructed by site-directed mutagenesis. Mutagenesis was performed by PCR using *Pfu* DNA polymerase via the Quick Change mutagenesis kit according to the manufacturer's protocol (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The fidelity, orientation, and junctions of all constructs were confirmed by DNA sequencing. We received cDNA clones of *LCA1* from Dr. Alan Bennett, University California-Davis [30] and avian SERCA1 from Dr. Douglas Fambrough, Johns Hopkins University [31], which served as our PCR templates for subcloning into our yeast expression vectors.

Yeast

Plasmids were transformed into yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains using the Liac/SS Carrier DNA/PEG method as described by Gietz and Woods [32]. Successful transformants were selected on SD-URA plates. Colonies were picked and the presence of the respective Ca -ATPase was confirmed by PCR using gene specific primers.

The *pYES2* vector, which contains a galactose inducible (GAL) promoter and the URA 3-selectable marker, was used to express avian *SERCA1a*, *LCA1* and *LCA1-D366A* (null mutant) in yeast *S. cerevisiae*. For control experiments with the *Arabidopsis* Ca -ATPase, ECA1, the vector *pYX112-ECA1* (gift from Dr. Harper, University Nevada-Reno) was used to express *ECA1* in *S. cerevisiae*, which contained a triose phosphate isomerase promoter (TPI) and the URA 3-selectable marker. The specific *S. cerevisiae* strains used in this paper were K601 (*MATa ade2-1*, *can1-100*, *his3-11,15*, *leu2-3,112*, *trp-1*, *ura3-1*); its triple mutant derivative, K616 (*MATa pmr1::HIS3 pmc1::TRP1 cnb1::LEU2*, *ura3*), which is devoid of endogenous Ca -ATPases (gift from Dr. K.W. Cunningham, MIT), and a protease deficient *S. cerevisiae* strain HI227 (*MATa*, *ura3-52*, *leu2-3112*, *trp1*, *his3-d200*, *lys2D*, *pep4-3*, *prb1*, *prc1*).

Media

Standard YPD medium containing: 1% Difco yeast extract, 2% Bacto-peptone, 2% glucose, was used to grow *S. cerevisiae* strains for preparation of competent cells for plasmid transformation. For *S. cerevisiae* strains, synthetic dextrose minimal medium (SD-URA) containing: 0.67% yeast nitrogen base (pH 5.5), 2% glucose, 0.008% adenine, 0.02% Arginine, 0.014% Histidine, 0.0247% Leucine, 0.044% Lysine, 0.01% Phenylalanine, 0.018% Serine, 0.008% Tryptophan, 0.003% Tyrosine, 0.038% Valine (2% bacto-agar was used in solid medium). This common medium was used to select for and maintain transformed plasmids. For protein expression experiments, the same synthetic medium was used except 2% galactose replaced 2% glucose (i.e. SG-URA).

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