experiment to ensure detection of many activated chromosomes in each case.

- 26. Immunostaining of polytene chromosomes with antibodies against tetra-acetylated histone H4 was carried out in the LW-1 line. This line contains the pU/IS construct inserted at the 93B cytological location and hsGAL4⁷⁻¹ balanced over the CyO chromosome. Larvae raised from control embryos grown at 18°C or from embryos submitted to an embryonic GAL4 pulse showed the same pattern. In contrast, a transient hyperacetylation of histone H4 could be observed at 93B upon a 45-min 37°C heat shock at third instar larvae. The signal was lost 100 min after the end of the GAL4 pulse (30). Therefore, a line that does not show trxG-mediated inheritance of active chromatin states does not show stable H4 hyperacetylation.
- 27. Association of RNA polymerase II during transcriptional activation of the UAS-lacZ reporter in the Fab-7 template of the FLFW-1 line was studied by immunostaining polytene chromosomes in a time course experiment of heat shock GAL4 induction. Strong recruitment of RNA polymerase II was observed 40 and 80 min after the end of a 45-min 37°C heat shock (30). This suggests that hyperacetylation

at the same template could have been observed (note the absence of hyperacetylated H4 signal at Fab-7 in Fig. 3, K and L) if it did occur to a substantial degree.

28. The line FLFW-1, carrying a construct with two Fab-7 elements, is very inefficient in the meiotic transmission of the activated state. The FLW-1 line, with the Fab-7 transgene p5F24 at cytological position 13F, showed effective meiotic transmission of active states. Flies of the FLW-1 line were activated by an embryonic pulse of GAL4. Twenty red-eyed Fo females were crossed with thirty males of the 5F24 25,2 line (9), carrying the same Fab-7 transgene but no GAL4-expressing construct. GAL4less F1 flies were selected for strong eye pigmentation (25 to 30% of the total progeny) and recrossed further to obtain F_2 and $F_3.~\beta-Gal$ staining of F2 and F3 embryos was performed as described by B. Zink, Y. Engström, W. J. Gehring, and R. Paro [EMBO J. 10, 153 (1991)]. The staining pattern was compared with control FLW-1 embryos at 18°C or upon a 45-min heat shock followed by 2 hours of recovery or with embryos of the lines U/l5 1,1 and U/l5 2,1 grown at 18°C. Further proof of the absence of the hsp70-GAL4 transgene from acti-

A Direct Estimate of the Human $\alpha\beta$ T Cell Receptor Diversity

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Generation and maintenance of an effective repertoire of T cell antigen receptors are essential to the immune system, yet the number of distinct T cell receptors (TCRs) expressed by the estimated 10^{12} T cells in the human body is not known. In this study, TCR gene amplification and sequencing showed that there are about 10^6 different β chains in the blood, each pairing, on the average, with at least 25 different α chains. In the memory subset, the diversity decreased to 1×10^5 to 2×10^5 different β chains, each pairing with only a single α chain. Thus, the naïve repertoire is highly diverse, whereas the memory compartment, here one-third of the T cell population, contributes less than 1 percent of the total diversity.

Adaptive immunity is dependent on a genetic recombination machinery that assembles a diverse set of functional immunoglobulin or TCR genes from a pool of discontinuous gene segments. The available pool, for the human $\alpha\beta$ TCR, consists of 42 variable (V) and 61 joining (J) segments in the α locus and 47 V, two diversity (D), and 13 J segments in the β locus. During the V_{α} -J_{α} or V_{β} -D_{β}-J_{β} rearrangement, nucleotide additions or deletions at the junctions add to the diversity (1, 2). As a result, most of the variation in each chain lies in the complementarity-determining region 3 (CDR3), which is encoded by the V(D)J junction and interacts with the antigenic peptide presented by the major histocompatibility complex molecule (3). A further diversifying factor is the pairing of an α chain to a β chain to form the TCR heterodimer. The potential diversity thus created has been calculated to be perhaps 10¹⁵ (2). Obviously, not all of it is used, but the T cell repertoire remains complex enough to have precluded any attempts to directly measure it. Here, we have analyzed a fraction of the repertoire in a way that allowed us to extrapolate the results to the whole repertoire (4).

To determine the diversity of the TCR β chain, we selected a V-gene family with a single member, $V_{\beta}18$, and studied its rearrangement to the $J_{\beta}1.4$ segment. Complementary DNA from 10⁸ peripheral blood T cells from a healthy donor (male, between 20 and 30 years old) was amplified with $V_{\beta}18$ -and $J_{\beta}1.4$ -specific primers and separated on an acrylamide gel, producing a pattern of eight bands spaced by three nucleotides that correspond to in-frame TCR transcripts with different CDR3 lengths (Fig. 1A). The band corresponding to a CDR3 with a length of 12 amino acids was purified and cloned, and all of the different sequences within it were then

vated FLW-1 flies was obtained by demonstrating that β -Gal staining of F₂ embryos from activated FLW-1 flies was now independent of a heat shock treatment. Furthermore, the absence of the GAL4 transgene was directly demonstrated by Southern (DNA) analysis of genomic DNA of activated FLW-1 flies (30).

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2 April 1999; accepted 16 September 1999

identified by sequencing (Fig. 1B) (5). The number of different sequences, 17, was used to calculate the β -chain diversity in the sample (Table 1). The intensity of the bands in a V-J profile is proportional to the diversity within them (6), so the 12-amino acid band contained 9.3% of the total V_{β} 18-J_{β}1.4 diversity. The $J_{\beta}1.4$ gene is used, on the average, by 3.0% of T cells (7), and the frequency of $V_B 18^+$ cells in our donor was 0.8%. Together, these give an average frequency of $(0.093 \times 0.03 \times 0.008)/17 = 1.3 \times 10^{-6}$ for any one β sequence; that is, the sample contains 0.8×10^6 different β chains. This was confirmed by an analysis of the $V_\beta 16\text{-}J_\beta 2.2$ rearrangement in the same sample. The $V_\beta 16$ family also consists of only one member, but unlike the $J_{\beta}1.4$ gene, the $J_{\beta}2.2$ gene may be rearranged to both D_{β} genes and thus has, in principle, more potential to generate diversity. We found 15 different sequences with a 13-amino acid CDR3 and a total diversity of $0.8\,\times\,10^6$ different β chains. In a second donor (female, 26 years old), the $V_{B}16$ -J_B2.2, 13-amino acid band contained 14 different sequences, with the total diversity in this sample of 10^8 T cells being 1.2×10^6 . Thus, analysis of three rearrangements, from two donors, produces estimates that are in close agreement and indicates that the repertoire in the blood consists of at least 10^6 different β chains.

To determine how well our sample reflected the whole diversity in blood, we analyzed the $V_{\beta}18$ - $J_{\beta}1.4$ 12–amino acid rearrangement in two more samples of 10⁸ T cells from the first donor. Overall, 69% of the distinct sequences were shared between the three samples. The second sample contained four previously unidentified sequences, and the third sample contained only one. This suggests that together these three samples contain most of the total β -chain diversity in the blood. Thus, there are probably less than

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30 different 12–amino acid V_{β} 18-J_{β}1.4 sequences present in the blood of this donor, or, calculated as above, no more than 1.3 × 10⁶ different β chains.

Nevertheless, it could still be argued that by random sequencing we might, despite the apparent plateau in the appearance of new sequences, miss less frequent clones. Indeed, a recent estimate of the human β-chain diversity in the CD4⁺ population, based on limiting dilution analysis of the frequency of arbitrarily selected B-chain sequences, suggests a diversity that is an order of magnitude higher than that observed by sequencing (8). To address this possibility, we analyzed the second sample from the first donor by colony hybridization. We designed a panel of oligonucleotides, specific to the $V_{\beta}18$ -J $_{\beta}1.4$ 12amino acid CDR3 sequences already found by random sequencing, to look for colonies that did not give a positive signal and might



Fig. 1. Analysis of the $V_{\beta}18\text{-}J_{\beta}1.4$ rearrangement. Complementary DNA from 10^8 T cells was amplified by V_{β} 18- and C_{β} -specific primers for 40 cycles, followed by a run-off reaction with a fluorescent J_{β} 1.4-specific primer. (A) Electrophoresis of the PCR products. The denatured amplification products were separated on a 6% acrylamide gel, and the bands are shown as converted to peaks (4). The band corresponding to CDR3 with a length of 12 amino acids (aa) (arrow) was excised after silver staining and cloned, after 20 PCR cycles, to pCR2.1 vector with the TOPO-TA cloning system (Invitrogen). (B) Sequencing of the clones. The inserts were amplified with M13-40 and reverse primer, and the product was treated with exonuclease I and shrimp alkaline phosphatase. The sequencing reaction was done with M13-20 primer and Big Dye Terminator mix and analyzed with an Applied Biosystems 377 sequencer. Sequencing was continued until it was obvious that no new distinct sequences would be found. The sequences are plotted in the order of appearance.

thus contain new CDR3 sequences. Among >3000 colonies, 150 did not give a signal and were sequenced, but no previously unidentified sequences were found (9). Another panel of oligonucleotides was used, specific to CDR3 sequences apparently absent from the second sample but present in the other samples from the same donor. By using this panel, we tried to determine whether these sequences were truly absent or simply not yet found. Among >2500 colonies, 16 were positive and were sequenced, but none contained new CDR3 sequences. Thus, even by increasing the number of analyzed clones by 10fold, no further distinct sequences were found, including those present in other samples from the same donor. A further indication that our method detected practically all of the sequences present in the sample was that, within a sample of 750,000 cells, we measured a diversity of 500,000 different β chains (10).

Another layer of diversity is introduced by the heterodimerization of TCR chains. To estimate how freely a given β chain may associate with different α chains, we isolated $4 \times 10^6 V_{\alpha} 12^+$ T cells (11) and determined the β -chain diversity within this sample. Two β rearrangements were sequenced, indicating a diversity of 0.5×10^6 to 0.7×10^6 different β chains in the V_{\alpha}12⁺ sample (Table 1). The frequency of the V_{α} 12 gene in this donor was 2.5%, or one-fortieth of the total α -chain repertoire. Therefore, the total $\alpha\beta$ TCR diversity must be at least 40 times the B-chain diversity observed in the $V_{\alpha}12^+$ fraction alone, that is, 25×10^6 . Comparison with total β -chain diversity, 10⁶, shows that each β chain must, on the average, pair with at least 25 different α chains. This is probably an underestimate, if only because it assumes that every β chain within the V_{α}12⁺ population represents a clone, which is unlikely to be the case. We also determined the α -chain diversity itself, although it is not needed for the estimate of $\alpha\beta$ TCR diversity. Analysis of two CDR3 lengths of the $V_{\alpha}12$ -J_{α}20 rearrangement, performed as described for the β chain, indicated a repertoire of ~0.5 × 10⁶ different α chains (Table 1).

Finally, we analyzed 15×10^6 CD45RO⁺ memory T cells (11) from a healthy 38-yearold female in whom this subset comprised 37% of T cells. Sequencing of two rearrangements (12) indicated a β -chain diversity of 0.1×10^6 to 0.2×10^6 , or 10 to 20% of that in the total population (Table 1). Moreover, unlike in the total population, the α to β pairing was highly restricted. Within the CD45RO⁺ population, sorting of $V_{\alpha}12^+$ cells drastically decreased the β -chain diversity. In this donor, the $V_{\alpha}12$ was expressed by 12%, or one-eighth of the memory cells. At least 75% of V_{β} -J_{β} rearrangements observed in the $V_{\alpha}12^{-}$ population were absent in the $V_{\alpha}12^+$ cells (Fig. 2), and sequencing of the nine-amino acid peak of the V_B17-J_B2.7 rearrangement showed that, within a given rearrangement, the diversity was further decreased fourfold. Thus, within the memory compartment, each β sequence is probably paired with only one α chain, and the memory $\alpha\beta$ TCR repertoire of this donor is not larger than 2×10^5 . Although factors such as age and antigenic exposure may cause individual variation, they are unlikely to change this difference between naïve and memory repertoire.

Our findings firmly place a lower limit to the total $\alpha\beta$ TCR diversity in the blood at 25×10^6 different TCRs. The upper limit is set by the number of different α chains that each of the $10^6 \beta$ chains can pair with. In both humans and mice, during thymic development, the β chain is rearranged first, after which the cells proliferate until the α rearrangement (13). In mice, this proliferation results in a 20- to 50-fold expansion in thymocyte numbers, with an interval between β and α rearrangement of ~ 2 days (14). Not all of the potential pairs will be functional or survive selection, and in the mature reper-



Fig. 2. The β -chain diversity in $V_{\alpha}12^+$ and $V_{\alpha}12^-$ memory T cells. Peripheral blood lymphocytes were enriched for CD45RO⁺ cells by immunoaffinity chromatography, and then the CD45RO⁺ $V_{\alpha}12^+$ population was isolated to a purity of 95% by cell sorting. Complementary DNA from 150,000 sorted $V_{\alpha}12^+$ or $V_{\alpha}12^-$ memory cells was amplified with $V_{\beta}17$ - and C_{β} -specific primers, followed by a run-off reaction with fluorescent primers that were specific for each of the 13 J_{β} genes. Detectable rearrangements are shown as black squares if shared by the two populations and as gray squares if otherwise. Three-quarters of the rearrangements found in the $V_{\alpha}12^-$ population are absent from the $V_{\alpha}12^+$ population. The $V_{\beta}16-J_{\beta}$ and $V_{\beta}18-J_{\beta}$ rearrangements were also analyzed, with results similar to those shown here.

Table 1. Determination of TCR diversity. The average frequency of a given β or α sequence was calculated from these values and the number of different sequences found, as described in the text.

Rearrangement	CDR3 length	Frequency of V gene (%)	Frequency of J gene (%)	Size of CDR3 peak* (%)	Total number of sequences analyzed	Number of different sequences	Total size of repertoire (×10 ⁶)
				β chain			
V ₆ 18-J ₆ 1.4	12 aa	0.8†	3.0‡	9.3	190	17	0.8
V _a 16-J _a 2.2	13 aa	0.4†	8.9‡	5.3	201	15	0.8
V _B 16-J _B 2.2	13 aa	0.5	8.9‡	2.6	479	14	1.2
р -р				α chain			
V_12-J_20	11 aa	2.5†	2.2	2.5	22	5	0.4
V 12-J 20	10 <u>a</u> a	2.5†	2.2	13.5	150	34	0.5
u -u			β chain	in V_12 ⁺ subset			
V _e 16-J _e 2.2	13 aa	0.5	8.9‡	ື 2.5	231	7	0.7
V ₆ 23-J ₆ 2.4	11 aa	0.8	1.6‡	9.6	107	6	0.5
μ-μ			β chain	in memory subset			
V _e 17-J _e 1.3	10 aa	3.0†	1.0	13.3	38	6	0.2
V_{β}^{μ} 17- J_{β}^{μ} 1.3	11 aa	3.0†	1.0	26.5	88	10	0.1

*Size was calculated by comparing the area of the corresponding peak to the combined area of all peaks. V-gene frequencies were based on a published average value for healthy donors. frequencies were based on random sequencing of TRC V_{β} - C_{β} sequences; other J-gene frequencies were measured by semiquantitative PCR.

toire, each β chain pairs, on the average, with only three or four different α chains (15). The scanty existing data for humans suggest a longer period of perhaps 5 days between the β and α rearrangement (16), which could allow an ~1000-fold expansion. In the mature repertoire, the upper limit of average pairing may therefore be ~100 different α chains per each β chain. Other mechanisms that might modify the α to β pairing and contribute to the difference between humans and mice include less stringent allelic exclusion of the α chain or more extensive editing of the α chain in humans than in mice (17).

The naïve repertoire consists of cells that have survived the negative and positive selection in the thymus, perhaps only 5% of the thymocyte population (18). From this pool, some cells are selected by antigen to proliferate. At the height of the response, the antigen-specific T cells may account for 25% of the population in the spleen and even more locally (19). Although most have a life-span of only a few days, some will survive as long-lived memory cells. Another feature of the response is its relative oligoclonality, shown, for example, for influenza and Epstein-Barr viruses (20). Our results reflect these facts in that although in our donor the memory compartment comprised one-third of the total T cell population, it contributed <1% to the total diversity. The overall diversity may be preserved by independent homeostatic regulation of the naïve and memory populations (21) and, perhaps, by preferred survival of recent thymic migrants (22). Indeed, it has been reported that the thymus retains its function as a primary lymphoid organ well into adulthood, albeit with a decreasing output (23). The maintenance of a stable level of total diversity is also indirectly supported by the convergent values we obtained from two different donors. Thus, by maintaining two pools of T cells with a very different repertoire, the immune system combines two conflicting needs: a recognition of a wide array of antigens and an efficient and timely response.

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- 5. The CDR3 sequences were extracted from the raw sequence data with software developed by E. Beaudoing and others at Information Genetique et Structurale, CNRS, Marseille, France. Because of the infidelity of the Taq DNA polymerase, we excluded from the analysis sequences that were likely to represent polymerase chain reaction (PCR) mistakes, defined as sequences differing from another sequence by a single nucleotide. Analysis of conserved areas in the V gene showed that the actual rate of PCR mistakes was 1.6 per 1000 base pairs, that is, a mistake in 5% of a set of 10-amino acid segments. Our criterium resulted in the exclusion of 6% of the CDR3 sequences, a rate slightly in excess of the predicted amount. Thus, the data reported may be a slight underestimate.
- 6. The relative intensity of a band was calculated by comparing it to the combined intensity of all bands in the V-J rearrangement. To test the correlation be tween the intensity of the band and the sequence diversity within it, we isolated two bands from the

same V-J rearrangement. In bands with relative intensities of 2.5 and 13.5%, we found 5 and 34 different sequences, respectively. Thus, the differences in the intensity and in the diversity were 5.4- and 6.8-fold, respectively. In another experiment, peaks of 4 and 11% contained 45 and 150 different sequences, respectively (15), that is, a 2.8-fold difference in intensity and a 3.3-fold difference in diversity.

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- 11. We used specific monoclonal antibody and goat antimouse Dynabeads, with a ratio of four beads per target cell, for positive selection. For V_{α} 12⁺ cells, the purity was 99%; for CD45RO⁺ cells, the purity was 95%.
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Arabidopsis NPH3: A NPH1 Photoreceptor-Interacting **Protein Essential for Phototropism**

Andrei Motchoulski and Emmanuel Liscum*

Phototropism of Arabidopsis thaliana seedlings in response to a blue light source is initiated by nonphototropic hypocotyl 1 (NPH1), a light-activated serinethreonine protein kinase. Mutations in three loci [NPH2, root phototropism 2 (RPT2), and NPH3] disrupt early signaling occurring downstream of the NPH1 photoreceptor. The NPH3 gene, now cloned, encodes a NPH1-interacting protein. NPH3 is a member of a large protein family, apparently specific to higher plants, and may function as an adapter or scaffold protein to bring together the enzymatic components of a NPH1-activated phosphorelay.

Plants are able to sense and respond to changes in light quality, quantity, and direction through the action of a number of photoreceptors and associated signal-response systems. A variety of photoreceptor molecules, such as the red or far-red light-absorbing phytochromes (phy) and blue light-absorbing cryptochromes (cry) (1, 2) have been characterized. Components functioning downstream of such photoreceptors include two photoreceptor-interacting proteins PIF3 and PKS1, which are both phytochromeinteracting proteins (3). Potential postperception signaling components identified through mutational analyses (1, 2) include a set of genes in Arabidopsis (NPH2, RPT2, and NPH3) that is required for phototropism, or the bending response of plant organs toward or away from directional light stimuli (4, 5).

Null mutations in the NPH3 locus abolish phototropic responses of etiolated seedlings to blue light at a low fluence rate (4) (Fig. 1A). A similar aphototropic phenotype is observed with seedlings carrying null mutations at the NPH1 locus (4) (Fig. 1A), which encodes NPH1, a primary photoreceptor for phototropism (6-8). However, mutations in neither NPH1 nor NPH3 affect other light-dependent responses, such as blue light- and red lightdependent hypocotyl growth inhibition (Fig. 1,

B and C). Moreover, despite efforts to identify additional alterations in development, the only clear phenotypic changes observed in nph1 and nph3 mutants are those associated with phototropism (9). The phototropism-specific pheno-

types of the *nph1* and *nph3* mutants imply that

NPH1 and NPH3 act in the same genetic path-

way and suggest that NPH3 may function bio-

chemically close to the photoperception event

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4 June 1999; accepted 20 September 1999

mediated by NPH1.

We have cloned the NPH3 gene by positional cloning (Fig. 2A). Several predicted genes mapping to the region containing the NPH3 locus (Fig. 2A) were sequenced in mutant backgrounds to identify the NPH3 gene (Fig. 2B). A full-length NPH3 cDNA was isolated (10) and found to encode a protein of 745 amino acids (11) (Fig. 2C). NPH3 is, however, part of a family of proteins in Arabidopsis (12). Although NPH3-related sequences have also been found in other plant species, no paralogous sequences have been found outside the plant kingdom (9).

Four regions of sequence conservation have been identified within the NPH3 family (12) (Fig. 2C). Region IV exhibits the highest level of sequence identity within the family $(\geq 52.5\%$, relative to NPH3), with two motifs being most prominent: LYRAID and HAAQNERLPL (13) (Fig. 2C). The functional importance of these conserved sequence motifs is currently unknown. However, Tyr⁵⁴⁵ within the LYRAID motif is part of a consensus phosphorylation site ([RK]-x(2,3)-[DE]-x(2,3)-Y; where x(2,3) can be any two or three amino acids) (14), in which the Arg, Asp, and Tyr are invariant across the entire NPH3 family (12), and deletion of this residue in the nph3-2 mu-



Fig. 1. Physiological characteristics of nph1 and nph3 mutants. (A) Hypocotyl phototropism in 3-day-old etiolated wild-type (WT) and mutant seedlings exposed to 8 hours of unilateral blue light (25). (B) Blue light- and (C) red lightdependent hypocotyl growth inhibition (25) in wild-type and mutant seedlings. The cry1-101 (26) and phyB-9 (27) mutants are shown as negative controls for (B) and (C), respectively. Because symbols often overlap, some symbols and error bars (standard error) are not visible.



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T. Petteri Arstila; Armanda Casrouge; Veronique Baron; Jos Even; Jean Kanellopoulos; Philippe Kourilsky *Science*, New Series, Vol. 286, No. 5441. (Oct. 29, 1999), pp. 958-961. Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0036-8075%2819991029%293%3A286%3A5441%3C958%3AADEOTH%3E2.0.C0%3B2-0

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¹The Complete 685-Kilobase DNA Sequence of the Human b T Cell Receptor Locus

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