

Cherry leaf roll virus (CLRV): genome organisation of the RNA1



S. von Bargen¹, J. Langer¹, A. Rumbou¹, J. Gentkow², C. Büttner¹

¹ Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, Section Phytomedicine, Lentzeallee 55/57, 14195 Berlin, Germany, susanne.von.bargen@agrar.hu-berlin.de

² present address: Leibniz-Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Weinberg 3, 06120 Halle, Germany

Introduction

The complete organisation of the *Cherry leaf roll virus* genome, a virus which affects many fruit trees and other woody hosts, has not been determined to date. However, partial sequence information of the bipartite virus which is available of the 3' proximal portion including the complete 3' non-coding region (NCR) of the genomic RNA1 and RNA2 has led to the classification as a subgroup c nepovirus.

Methods and Results

Sequences of the RNA1 of two CLRV isolates from different host plants (CLRV-E395 originating from *Rheum rhabarbarum* and CLRV-E326 from *Juglans regia*) were obtained. The genomic structure of the CLRV-RNA1 coding for a polyprotein (PP1) was compared with other established subgroup c nepoviruses like *Tomato ringspot virus* (ToRSV), *Blackcurrant reversion virus* (BRV) and *Peach rosette mosaic virus* (PRMV). The polyprotein of the rhubarb isolate (ORF_{12-6350 nt}; 2112 amino acids) contains a N-terminal protease cofactor (**PCo**), adjacent is a nucleotide-binding protein-domain (**NTBp**), followed by the sequences coding for the genome-linked viral protein (**VPg**), a protease (**Pro**) and the viral replicase (**RdRp**). Putative protein functions were predicted by identification of characteristic sequence motifs. The region coding for the CLRV-VPg protein was identified with the computer programs NetPicoRNA V1.0 and NetCorona V1.0., and exhibited highest similarities with the corresponding ToRSV-VPg. Predicted specific protease recognition sequences in the CLRV isolates (Q₁₁₂₁/S₁₁₂₂ and Q₁₁₅₀/S₁₁₅₁) also corresponded to TORSV.

Conclusion

The genome organisation of the RNA1 of CLRV strains E395 from rhubarb and E326 from the woody host walnut corresponds with other subgroup c nepoviruses.

References

- Argos (1988) NAR 16, 9909-9919;
 Gorbalenya et al. (1989a) J. Mol. Evol. 24, 256-268; Gorbalenya et al. (1989b) FEBS letters 243, 103-114; Rott et al. (1995) JGV 76, 465-473; Wang et al. (1999) JGV 80, 799-809.

Genome organisation of CLRV-E395

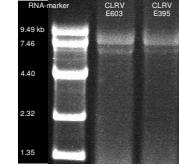
RNA1, 7918 nt (ORF nucleotides: 12-6350; polyprotein 1: 2112 amino acids)



RNA2, approx. 6800 nt

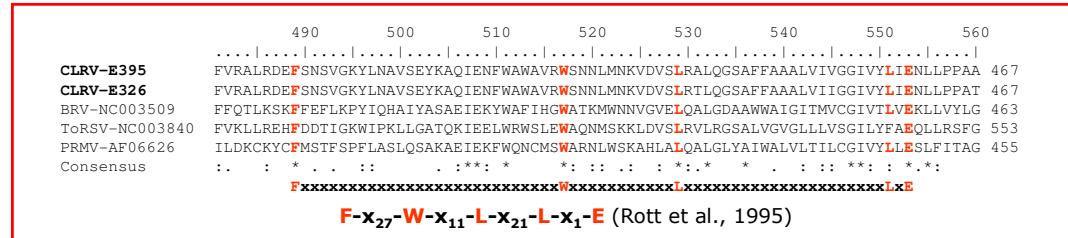


viral RNAs

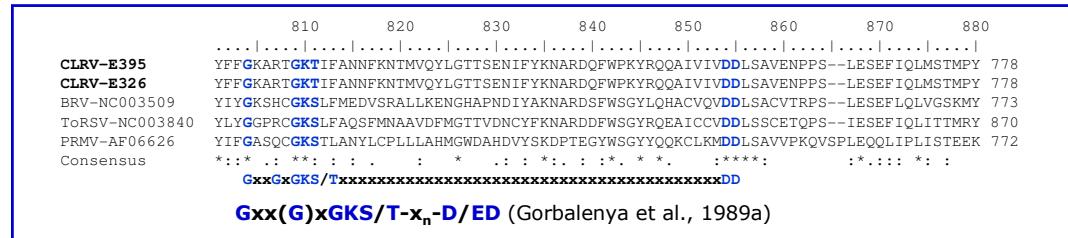


Viral RNAs of CLRV strains E603 and E395 separated by denaturing agarose gel electrophoresis.

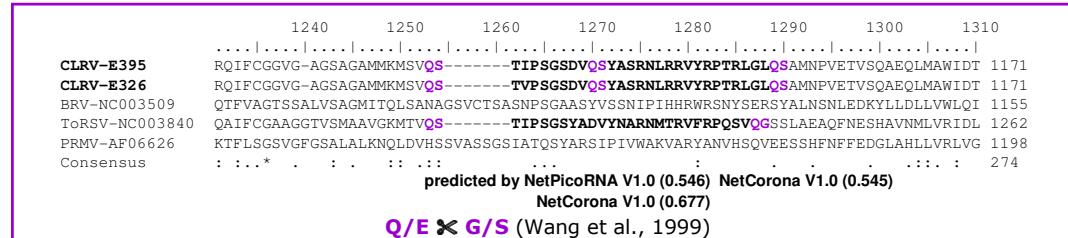
protease-cofactor (PCo) motif



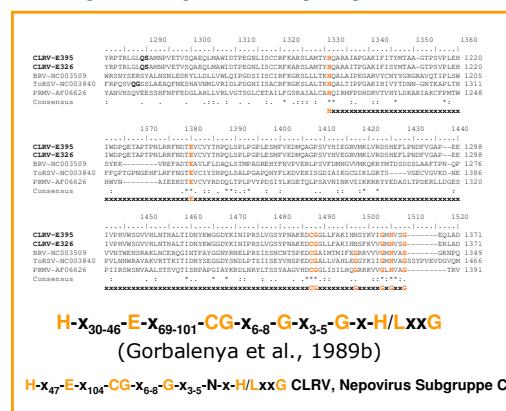
NTB protein (NTBp) motif



putative VPg (M: 3.28 kDa) with flanking 3C-like protease (Pro) recognition sites



viral cysteine protease (Pro) motif



viral replicate (RdRp) core motif



Acknowledgements

Research was funded by the DFG projects Bu890/8-1 and Bu890/8-2.