Chloroplast phosphoglycerate kinase, a gluconeogenetic enzyme, is required for efficient accumulation of Bamboo mosaic virus

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ABSTRACT

The tertiary structure in the 3'-untranslated region (3'-UTR) of Bamboo mosaic virus (BaMV) RNA is known to be involved in minus-strand RNA synthesis. Proteins found in the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) fraction of BaMV-infected leaves interact with the radio labeled 3'-UTR probe in electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA). Results derived from the ultraviolet (UV) cross-linking competition assays suggested that two cellular factors, p43 and p51, interact specifically with the 3'-UTR of BaMV RNA. p43 and p51 associate with the poly(A) tail and the pseudoknot of the BaMV 3'-UTR, respectively. p51-containing extracts specifically down-regulated minus-strand RNA synthesis when added to in vitro RdRp assays. LC/MS/MS sequencing indicates that p43 is a chloroplast phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK). When the chloroplast PKG levels were knocked down in plants, using virus-induced gene silencing system, the accumulation level of BaMV coat protein was also reduced.

INTRODUCTION

Small genome sizes restrict coding capacity in all RNA viruses, therefore, most processes of the infection cycle rely on factors present/available in their hosts (1,2). In addition to the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp), encoded by the RNA viruses, host factors are required for the formation of the replicase complex. In bacteriophage QB-infected cells, the best-studied case, the replication complex needed to synthesize the plus-strand RNA consists of not only the viral RdRp but also the host translation elongation factors EF-Ts and -Tu and the ribosomal protein S1 (3). Moreover, a ribosome-associated protein, HF1, binding to the 3' end of the QB genomic RNA, is required for the synthesis of the minus-strand RNA (4). Translation factors also participate in viruses replicating in eukaryotic cells; e.g. translation elongation factor-EF1a was claimed to be involved in some viruses including Tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), West Nile virus (WNV) and Turnip yellow mosaic virus (TYMV; (5–7)).

Many host factors have been reported to be involved in virus translation and RNA replication processes (5,8–18). In addition, many host factors were demonstrated to physically interact with the cis-acting elements of the viral RNA in viruses including poliovirus, WNV and Brome mosaic virus (BMV; (5,19–21)). In positive-sense RNA viruses, translation and replication of the same RNA templates must be regulated since the 5’ to 3’ movement of ribosomes on the RNA conflicts with the 3’ to 5’ movement of the RdRp on the template RNA. This could be achieved by the interaction of host and viral factors at both ends of and sometimes along the viral RNA (7,22,23).

Bamboo mosaic virus (BaMV), a member of Potexvirus, is a single-stranded positive-sense RNA virus with flexuous rod morphology (24). The RNA genome of BaMV consisting of 6366 nt [excluding the poly(A) tail], encoding five open reading frames (ORFs), is 5’-capped and 3’-polyadenylated (25). ORF1 encodes a 155 kDa replication-related protein that contains capping enzyme domain (26,27), helicase-like domain (28) and RdRp core domain (29). This protein may assemble on membrane along with some host factors into a replication complex (30). ORFs 2–4 are arranged within the triple gene block, which encodes proteins involved in cell to cell virus movement. ORF5 encodes the 25 kDa viral coat protein. Two major subgenomic RNAs, 2 and 1 kb in length, are produced to express proteins for the movement and encapsidation of viral RNA (25,31,32).

The 3’-UTR of the positive-strand RNA viruses contains essential cis-acting elements for the initiation of the minus-strand RNA synthesis. The 3'-UTR of BaMV RNA was determined to fold into a cloverleaf-like ABC domain, a major stem–loop (D domain), and a pseudoknot (E domain) containing part of the poly(A) tail [Figure 1; (33)]. The importance of these structures in the BaMV replication has been demonstrated in vivo and in vitro (30,33–35). The

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**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Templates for in vitro transcription and plasmid construction for virus-induced gene silencing**

The DNA templates for transcript r138/40A, r84/40A and r34/40A were PCR amplified with 5’ primers BaMV-T7+6228 (5’T-TAATACGACTCATATAGGGCTTGTAGCAGCAGCGCTTTGATG-3’; T7 promoter was underlined), BaMV-T7+6282 (5’T-TAATACGACTCATATAGGGCTTGTAGCAGCAGCGCTTTGATG-3’) and BaMV-T7+6333 (5’T-TAATACGACTCATATAGGGCTTGTAGCAGCAGCGCTTTGATG-3’), respectively, and a common 3’ primer T40GG (5’T-AAGACCTTTT-3’) from a BaMV 3’-UTR cDNA clone, pBa6228/Bam (30). The templates for transcription r34/10A and r34/noA were also amplified from pBa6228/Bam with a common 5’ primer BaMV-T7+6333 and specific 3’ primer BaMV 3’ 10A (5’T-TTTTTTTTTTGGAAAAACTGTAAGAAA-3’) and BaMV 3’ noA (5’T-GGAAAACACTTGTAAGAAA-3’), respectively. Template for transcript Ba-77 of BaMV minus-strand 3’-terminal 77 nt was amplified from the pBaMV-O (33) with the 5’ primer BaMV-T7(−)77 (5’T-TAATACGACTCATATTAGGGCTTGTAGCAGCAGCGCTTTGATG-3’) and the 3’ primer BaMV 5’ +1 (5’T-GAAAAACACCTCCAAACGAGGA-3’). Finally, pT7CMV/CRNA (30) was linearized with BamHI and used for transcribing the 3’ tRNA-like structure of Cucumber mosaic virus, CMV/3’TLS.

**Tobacco rattle virus** (TRV) based VIGS system was used to knock down the expression of host genes. Plasmids pTRV1, pTRV2 and pTRV2 with PDS (phytoene desaturase) gene were kindly provided by Dr Baulcombe (Sainsbury Laboratory, John Innes Centre, UK). The cDNA fragment corresponding to Nicotiana benthamiana chloroplast PGK was PCR amplified using primer pairs designed according to the sequences acquired from expressed sequence tag library of *N.benthamiana* deposited in the GenBank and cloned into pTRV2. Two plasmids pTRV2/PGK-5 and pTRV2/PGK-3 containing 482 and 471 bp insert, respectively, were constructed to knock down chloroplast PGK. The 482 and 471 bp fragments corresponding to 543–557 nt and 1039–1509 nt of tobacco chloroplast PGK were RT–PCR amplified and cloned into pTRV2 using primer set PGK-5, with forward primer (5’-GGCATCAGCTACAGCTTCTC-3’) and reverse primer (5’-GCAGTTCGGATG GCC-3’), and PGK-3, with forward primer (5’-GAGAAGGCCAACGGGA-3’) and reverse primer (5’-GTACAAATTGTGTTTACACAGCAAC-3’), respectively. For VIGS assay, pTRV1 and pTRV2 or its derivatives were introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens strain C58C1 by electroporation.

**In vitro transcription**

To uniformly label the RNA transcripts, 10 µl of *in vitro* transcription reaction mixtures containing 50 mM Tris–HCl (pH 8.0), 8 mM MgCl₂, 125 mM NaCl, 2 mM spermidine, 10 mM DTT, 3 mM each of ATP, CTP and GTP, 30 µM UTP, 40 µCi of [α-32P]UTP (3000 Ci/mmole; Amersham), 10 U of RNasin (Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals), 0.5 µl of T7 polymerase (New England Biolabs) and 1 µg of DNA template were incubated at 37°C for 2 h. The labeled-RNAs were electrophoresed and purified from polyacrylamide gel. To synthesize unlabeled transcripts, 200 µl of reaction mixture was set at the same condition described above with normal 3 mM UTP, 20 U of RNasin, 10 µl of T7 polymerase and 20 µg of DNA template. RNA transcripts were treated with RNase-free DNase I (Roche) and gel purified.

**RdRp extract preparation and activity assay**

The purification of BaMV RdRp extract was described previously (30). In brief, the leaves of infected *N.benthamiana* plants were collected 5 days post-inoculation and stored at the −80°C. The frozen leaves were homogenized in buffer A (50 mM Tris–HCl (pH 7.6), 15 mM MgCl₂, 120 mM KCl, 1 mM pepstatin A, 0.1 mM phenylmethlysulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), 0.1% β-mercaptoethanol and 20% glycerol), filtered, and ultracentrifuge at 30 k g for 2 h at 35°C. To further purify the viral RdRp extract, P30 was fractionated through a 20–60% sucrose-gradient ultracentrifugation. Ten fractions were collected and numbered from top-to-bottom.

RdRp activity assays, using endogenous RNA templates bound to the enzyme complex when isolated or with the exogenous RNA templates (templates added externally after the removal of endogenous RNAs), were performed as described previously (30). For the exogenous template activity assay, the detergent-solublized RdRp preparation was treated with micrococcal nuclease and subsequently used in the reaction containing [α-32P]UTP and RNA templates.
The RNA products were electrophoresed on a 5% native polyacrylamide gel, and the radioactive signals were analyzed with the PhosphorImager (Fujifilm BAS-1500).

**EMSA**

About 20 fmol of α-32P-labeled RNA probe along with binding buffer [20 mM Tris–HCl (pH 7.9), 3 mM MgCl2, 25 mM KCl, 20 U of RNasin, 0.1 mM EDTA, 2 mM DTT, 1 μg of yeast total RNA and 4% glycerol] was added to the extracts derived from the first fraction of RdRp preparation (P30) of the sucrose-gradient, and incubated at 25°C for 10 min.

After incubation, the reaction mixtures were electrophoresed on a 5% native polyacrylamide gel, dried and autoradiographed. The radioactivity emitted by the probes was scanned and quantified using a PhosphorImager (Fujifilm BAS-1500).

**UV cross-linking and competition assay**

The reactions were performed as in EMSA before irradiated with a 254 nm-wavelength UV lamp (STRATAGENE, UV stratalinker TM 1800) on ice for 20 min. After irradiation, the samples were treated with 40 μg of boiled RNase A for 20 min at 37°C, boiled in Laemml buffer, and electrophoresed on a 12% SDS–polyacrylamide gel. In the competition reactions, the various amounts of unlabeled competitor RNAs were pre-incubated with the proteins for 10 min prior to the addition of 32P-labeled RNA probe.

**Purification and identification of host factors**

The soluble fraction S30 from healthy plants was prepared as for RdRp extraction except replacing the buffer A to Heparin-buffer [50 mM Tris–HCl (pH 7.9), 20 mM KCl, 2.7 mM MgCl2 and 10% glycerol], filtered, and passed through Heparin–Sepharose column (column volume, 5 ml; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) with the flow rate of 2 ml/min. After washing with 50 mM NaCl, the bound proteins p43 and p51 were eluted with 50 ml of 50–350 mM NaCl gradient. Eluted p43 and p51 were dialyzed in binding buffer [50 mM Tris–HCl (pH 7.9) and 15 mM KCl] and subsequently passed through Q-column (column volume, 1 ml; Amersham Pharmacia Biotech) with the flow rate of 1 ml/min. The flow-through fraction contains p51 and was used in the exogenous RdRp assay. The bound p43 was eluted with 12 ml of 0–400 mM NaCl gradient. For all chromatography, 1 ml fractions were collected and the RNA-binding proteins were traced by UV cross-linking assay. The band corresponding to p43 (the fifth fraction) was used in the RdRp assay and also subjected to LC/MS/MS (Mission Biotech, Taiwan).

**VIGS and virus challenging**

*N.benthamiana* plants were grown in pots at 28°C in a growth chamber under 16 h light/8 h dark cycle. *A. tumefaciens* cultures at OD₆₀₀ = 1 containing pTRV1 or pTRV2 derivative plasmids were mixed in 1:1 ratio and infiltrated with a syringe onto three leaves of each plant. Ten days after infiltration, 10 μl of 1 μg BaMV or cytomegalovirus (CMV) virion RNA was mechanically inoculated on to the fourth leaf above the infiltrated leaves. Two days later, total protein was extracted from the virus-inoculated leaves of three independent plants. BaMV and CMV coat protein accumulation was determined by western blot assay individually.

**RNA isolation and real-time PCR**

Total RNA was extracted from *N.benthamiana* plants using hot phenol extraction and LiCl precipitation (38). First strand cDNA was synthesized using 1 μg of total RNA, 39 d(T) oligo primer and reverse transcriptase. In the real-time PCR experiment, the chloroplast-specific PGK is amplified and detected by a forward primer (5’-GGCATCAGCTACGCTCTC-3’) located in the transit peptide region and a reverse primer (5’-GCAGTTCCGATAGCCTGG-3’). PCR without prior reverse transcription was performed as a negative control. The levels of actin mRNA were also determined by real-time PCR using a forward primer (5’-GATGAAAGATAC-TCACAGAAAAGA-3’) and a reverse primer (5’-GTGGTTTC-ATGAATGCGCGA-3’) for the normalization of specifically silenced gene.

**RESULTS**

Two cellular proteins interact with the 3′-UTR of BaMV RNA

To identify and characterize the BaMV 3′-UTR RNA-binding proteins, the potential minus-strand RNA synthesis regulators, protein extracts derived from BaMV-infected *N.benthamiana* leaves were prepared for the protein–RNA interaction studies. The top 10 top-to-bottom fractions (F1–F10) collected from a 20–60% sucrose-gradient of P30 were tested for the endogenous RdRp activity and electrophoretic mobility shift (EMS) activity. Interestingly, the EMS activity colocalized with the RdRp activity in some fractions, with the endogenous RdRp activity found mainly in F5–F7 (Figure 2A) and the EMS activity mainly in F1 (F1) as well as in F5 to F7 but less prominent (Figure 2B). F1 which contains the most prominent EMS activity was further characterized. EMSA-based competition experiment was conducted using F1 as the protein source to analyze the specificity of RNA–protein interaction. Results showed that the EMS signals of the RNA–protein complexes can be competed out efficiently by r138/40A RNA, compared to the negative control, CMV 3′ tRNA-like RNA structure (CMV/3′TLS; Figure 3A). r34/40A, which contains a portion of stem–loop D and pseudoknot structure (Figure 1), performed as efficient as r138/40A. However, the EMSA competition ability of r34/40A was diminished when the poly(A) tail was removed (r34/noA). Furthermore, the EMS signals of the complexes were also competed out efficiently by poly(A) RNA but not by double-strand poly(I/C) RNA (Figure 3B).

These results suggest that the 3′-poly(A) tail is essential for the formation of the RNA–protein complex.

The fact that the top fraction F1 appears to contain the most EMS signal implies that the RNA-interacting proteins may exist largely in the soluble fraction. Subsequently, EMS activity comparable to that of F1 was detected in the soluble fractions (S30) prepared from the BaMV-infected as well as from the healthy plants, indicating that the RNA-binding proteins are not virally encoded. UV cross-linking experiments were then performed to detect the presence of
any 3’-UTR-binding proteins in the S30 fraction from uninfected leaves and in the membrane-associated RdRp fraction (F6) from BaMV-infected leaves (Figure 4A). A 51 kDa and a 43 kDa protein, designated p51 and p43, respectively, were observed in both F6 and S30 fractions, indicating that they are present in cells as membrane-associated (F6) as well as soluble proteins (S30).

The pseudoknot domain in the 3’-UTR is responsible for p51 and p43 binding

To enrich the host factors, S30 was passed through a heparin column. The host proteins p51 and p43 were eluted in the same fractions from a salt gradient and used for later analysis. To localize the RNA region responsible for protein binding, several RNA probes, representing different regions of the 3’-UTR, were prepared for the UV cross-linking experiment (Figure 4B). r34/40A containing the pseudoknot domain retained the protein-binding activity. In addition, a stronger signal of p43 was observed using a shorter poly(A) tailed RNA probe, i.e. r34/10A (lane 3), r34/noA (lane 4), CMV/3’TLS (lane 5) and FMV3’-UTR/40A (lane 6). Based on these observations, it is likely that p43 is a poly(A)-binding protein.

The 3’-UTR (107 nt) of Foxtail mosaic virus (FMV), (which is genetically close to BaMV) RNA with 40As could also be cross-linked with p51 and p43; however, CMV/3’TLS [a genetically unrelated virus RNA that has no poly(A) tail] could not be cross-linked with p43, though weakly with p51 (Figure 4B).

**p43 is a poly(A)-specific binding protein**

Since the 3’ poly(A) tail appeared to be the target binding site for p43, four homoribopolymers used as competitors in two concentrations (0.5 and 5.0 ng in a 10 μl reaction; Figure 5) were examined by UV cross-linking competition.
only poly(A) RNA can compete out p43 from binding to the labeled RNA probe (r34/10A) at a lower concentration. However, the competing activity of poly(U) RNA at a higher concentration observed in the reaction could be due to the annealing of the competitor to the poly(A) tail of the probe. The results strongly support the conclusion that p43 is a novel poly(A)-specific binding protein. In addition, probe binding to p51 was also partially competed out at higher concentration of unlabeled poly(A) RNA, suggesting that the poly(A) tail may also be involved in the p51–RNA interaction.

p51 could specifically interact with the 3′-UTR of BaMV RNA

The interaction between p51 and the 3′-UTR of BaMV RNA was characterized by the UV cross-linking competition assay (Figure 6A). At 2-fold molar excess of the cold competitor r138/40A (about 40 fmol), 85% of the 32P-labeled probe (r138/40A) was competed out, whereas only 10% competition was observed with the CMV/3TLS or Ba-77 (the 3′ end 77 nt of minus-strand BaMV RNA) as the competitor, suggesting specific interactions between p51 and BaMV 3′-UTR.

To localize the p51-binding region, 3′-UTR deletion RNAs, r84/40A and r34/40A were also used as competitors. Results indicated that the competing ability of r34/40A did not differ from that of r138/40A and r84/40A, but is much more efficient than that of r34/noA RNA (Figure 6B). Taken together, these results suggested that p51 mainly binds to the 3′ pseudoknot region, although r34/40A contains about 11 nt derived from stem D, which might contribute some interaction with p51.

p51-containing fraction inhibited the minus-strand RNA synthesis in vitro

It has been reported that the poly(A) region within the pseudoknot structure in the 3′ end of BaMV RNA (Figure 1) could specifically interact with the recombinant RdRp(Δ893) protein in vitro (30). In addition, the minus-strand RNA initiation sites were located at the 3′ poly(A) tail of the BaMV genomic RNA (37). As the results of our previous experiments indicate that host factors p51 and p43 interact with the pseudoknot and the poly(A) tail region, respectively, it raised the question that whether p51 and p43 are involved in minus-strand RNA synthesis. To investigate this possibility, we used an in vitro RdRp assay to test if the addition of the fractions containing p51 and p43 has an effect on the RNA synthesis of minus-strand. Q-column chromatography was used to separate p51 and p43. The addition of the p51-fraction (Q-FT, unbound fraction) reduced the minus-strand RNA synthesis from the r138/40A template to 42% of the control reaction that did not receive any supplements (Figure 7, lanes 1 and 2). In addition, this inhibition was dose-dependent (data not shown). In contrast, the addition of the same amount of p51-fraction exerted only a minor effect on the plus-strand RNA synthesis. The p43-fraction included in the reaction did not affect the synthesis of minus-strand RNA (data not shown).
p43 was identified as the chloroplast phosphoglycerate kinase

After heparin column purification, p43 protein was further purified by an anionic exchange column (Q-column). UV cross-linked and silver-stained (Figure 8) protein bands were aligned. Although the products of fractions 5 and 6 eluted from a Q-column (Figure 8, lanes 1 and 2, respectively) contained a 100 kDa unknown protein, a clear protein band with 43 kDa in size was observed. Then the band corresponding to p43 in the fraction 5 was subjected to LC/MS/MS analysis. Sequence analysis with results obtained from p43 LC/MS/MS results show perfect similarity to the nucleus-encoded chloroplast PGK of Nicotiana tabacum (Supplementary Figure S1). Although the predicted size of the chloroplast PGK precursor of N. tabacum is 50.1 kDa, the mature PGK excluding the transit peptide is 42.6 kDa, in close agreement with the observed size of p43.

Chloroplast PGK is involved in BaMV accumulation in plants

The TRV-based VIGS system was used to generate specific gene-knockdown plants to investigate the importance of these host factors in BaMV RNA accumulation in plants. Two constructs were created for the chloroplast PGK (the 5' and 3' targeting regions, designated as PGK-5 and PGK-3) as described in Materials and Methods. The phytoene disaturase (PDS) gene construct was used as the knockdown control. Six days after the infiltration process, the PDS-knockdown plants started to display the photobleaching phenotype on the fourth leaf above the infiltrated leaves. All of the chloroplast PGK-knockdown plants grew normally and had only minor visible changes on their leaves (Supplementary Figure S1). Real-time PCR results showed that the levels of the chloroplast PGK mRNA in the PGK-5 and PGK-3 knockdown plants were reduced to about 50 and 10% to those of the control plants, respectively (Figure 9A and Table 1). To investigate the effects of the chloroplast PGK-knockdown plants on the BaMV replication, about 1 μg of the BaMV or CMV RNA purified from virions was inoculated onto the fourth leaf above the infiltrated leaves. Total proteins were extracted 48 h post-inoculation and analyzed on the western blots for the accumulation of viral coat protein. Comparative analysis of the protein extracts indicated a reduced level (45%) of BaMV coat protein in the PGK-3 knockdown plants, and no significant alteration in the control plants and the PDS-knockdown plants (Figure 9B). However, the amount of PGK required for an efficient accumulation of BaMV is relatively low since BaMV can accumulate to wild-type level in PGK-5 with 50% PGK-knockdown and accumulate to 45% in PGK-3 with almost 90% PGK-knockdown. On the other hand, a minor non-specific interference on the accumulation of CMV coat protein was observed in any host gene-knockdown plants (Figure 9C). Taken together, these results suggested that the chloroplast PGK is required for efficient BaMV accumulation, but not important for unrelated viruses, such as CMV.
DISCUSSION

Host-derived components were shown to be involved in the replication of RNA viruses (39,40). Translational factors EF-Tu, -Ts and the ribosomal protein S1 were shown to play a structural role in the formation of stable and active replicase complex of bacteriophage Qβ (3,41). Translation factors were also shown to bind viral proteins or RNAs. The barley homolog of eIF-3 p41 subunit was shown to be co-purified with the BMV replication complex from infected plants and to enhance the RdRp activity in vitro (42). Translational elongation factor 1a, EF1a, was reported to bind the viral polymerase of Vesicular stomatitis virus (17) and the 3’ end viral RNAs including TMV, TYMV and WNV (5,43–45).

For positive-sense RNA viruses, the translation process conflicts with the viral RNA replication. It is obvious that the translating ribosomes on the RNA template moving from the 5’ toward to the 3’ would somehow inhibit the viral RNA replication which moves in the opposite orientation to prevent collision (46–49). This conflict apparently can be solved through the coordination of the viral and host factors. In Alfalfa mosaic virus, the viral coat protein binding to the 3’-terminal region of the genomic RNA can inhibit the minus-strand RNA synthesis in vitro (50,51). The minus-strand RNA synthesis of TYMV was claimed to be repressed upon the binding of EF1a to the valylated viral RNA (7).

Using EMSA and UV cross-linking competition technique, host proteins p51 and p43 were demonstrated to bind specifically to the 3’-UTR of BaMV RNA. Results of the RdRp assay indicated that p51-containing extract specifically inhibited the minus-strand RNA synthesis in vitro. Regrettably, we were unable to attribute this inhibitory effect to p51 since we couldn’t purify p51 to homogeneity. However, the band corresponding to the size of p51 in silver-stained gel was also subjected to LC/MS/MS and matched to the EF1a of Nepenthes paniculata (Supplementary Figure S1). EF1a, a 50 kDa protein, has been claimed to function in the negative-regulation of TYMV minus-strand RNA synthesis (7) and also been reported to bind the tRNA-like structure of BMV (52). CMV/3TLS has the similar structural properties as that of BMV, therefore, the interaction with p51 (Figure 4B) implies that the identity of p51 is EF1a. However more effort is needed for the purification and identification of p51 which consequently will reveal how the conflict between virus translation and virus replication is modulated.

Results of LC/MS/MS and BLAST indicate that the protein sequences of p43 matched to the host chloroplast PGK. Cytosolic PGK, a cytosolic isozyme of chloroplast PGK, is a ubiquitous monomeric protein that has been isolated from diverse species ranging from human, plants to bacteria (53). Some glycolytic enzymes appear to possess multiple functions in addition to glycolysis. For example, PGK and lactate dehydrogenase were found to reside in nuclei of mammalian cells and exert functions other than glycolysis (54,55). PGK was identified to be a subunit of primer recognition proteins, which are cofactors of DNA polymerase α and may have a role in lagging strand DNA synthesis in nuclei (55,56). In Sendai virus replication, PGK was reported to stimulate...
mRNA transcription at the elongation step, probably through the interaction with tubulin that has been integrated into the replication complex (57). PGK was also found to bind the urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor mRNA for a post-transcriptional regulation (58). These observations suggest that PGK, a glycolytic enzyme, may regulate cellular as well as viral processes in addition to glycolysis.

PGK is a well known ATP-generating enzyme that is part of the glycolytic, gluconeogenic and photosynthetic pathways (59,60). The chloroplast PGK gene, which is nucleus-encoded, is translated to produce a 50 kDa PGK precursor protein, and then processed into the mature 43 kDa PGK in the chloroplast. PGK precursor may have a half-life too short to detect. In VIGS experiment, PGK was shown to be required for efficient BaMV accumulation. Results derived from real-time PCR and western blot analyses indicated that the reduction of chloroplast PGK reduced the accumulation of BaMV coat protein.

It has been speculated that the replication complex of BaMV RNA is associated with chloroplast (N.-S. Lin). The interaction between the chloroplast PGK and the BaMV RNA seems to suggest that chloroplast PGK could assist the viral RNA in targeting it to the chloroplast membrane. Features of chloroplast PGK namely poly(A) binding and chloroplast localization will lead to further investigation into the possible functions of chloroplast PGK in viral protein translation and viral RNA localization.

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA
Supplementary Data are available at NAR online.

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