Sequence and Submolecular Localization of the 115-kD Accessory Subunit of the Heterotrimeric Kinesin-II (KRP_{85/95}) Complex

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Abstract. The heterotrimeric kinesin-II holoenzyme purified from sea urchin (Strongylocentrotus purpuratus) eggs is assembled from two heterodimerized kinesin-related motor subunits of known sequence, together with a third, previously uncharacterized 115-kD subunit, SpKAP_{115}. Using monospecific anti-SpKAP_{115} antibodies we have accomplished the molecular cloning and sequencing of the SpKAP_{115} subunit. The deduced sequence predicts a globular 95-kD non-motor "accessory" polypeptide rich in alpha-helical segments that are generally not predicted to form coiled coils. Electron microscopy of individual rotary shadowed kinesin-II holoenzymes also suggests that SpKAP_{115} is globular, with a somewhat asymmetric morphology. Moreover, the SpKAP_{115} subunit lies at one end of the 51-nm-long kinesin-II complex, being separated from the two presumptive motor domains by a \(~26\)-nm-long rod, in a manner similar to the light chains (KLCs) of kinesin itself. This indicates that SpKAP_{115} and the KLCs may have analogous functions, yet SpKAP_{115} does not display significant sequence similarity with the KLCs. The results show that kinesin and kinesin-II are assembled from highly divergent accessory polypeptides together with kinesin related motor subunits (KRPs) containing conserved motor domains linked to divergent tails. Despite the lack of sequence conservation outside the motor domains, there is striking conservation of the ultrastructure of the kinesin and kinesin-II holoenzymes.

The kinesins constitute a family of microtubule-based motor proteins that play critical roles in various intracellular transport events (Vale and Goldstein, 1990; Vale, 1992; Skoufias and Scholey, 1993; Walker and Sheetz, 1993; Bloom and Endow, 1994; Cole and Scholey, 1995a). Kinesin holoenzymes are assembled from kinesin-related polypeptides consisting of conserved motor domains that hydrolyze ATP and actually move along microtubules. The motor domains are linked to non-conserved "tail" domains that serve as oligomerization and cargo-binding domains, and allow different kinesin-related polypeptides to assemble, with or without accessory polypeptides, into a variety of oligomeric states (Cole and Scholey, 1995a) and to bind to a variety of different subcellular cargoes (Vale and Goldstein, 1990).

Kinesin itself (Brady, 1985; Scholey et al., 1985; Vale et al., 1985) is an \(\alpha_2\beta_2\) heterotetramer consisting of two apparently identical heavy chains (KHC) together with two light chains (KLC) (Bloom et al., 1988; Kuznetsov et al., 1988). Both types of subunit have been cloned and sequenced from a variety of organisms (Yang et al., 1989; Cyr et al., 1991; Wright et al., 1991; Gauger and Goldstein, 1993; Wedaman et al., 1993). The amino-terminal ends of the two heavy chains fold into globular motor domains (Hirokawa et al., 1989; Scholey et al., 1989) that are juxtaposed to the associated light chains (Hirokawa et al., 1989). It is now known that the KHC is the founder member of a large family of kinesin-related polypeptides (KRPs), many of which have been sequenced and characterized using molecular genetic approaches (Goldstein, 1993). To identify KRPs in cells and cell extracts, peptide antibodies that react with highly conserved sequences in the kinesin family motor domain were generated and shown to react with multiple members of the kinesin family on immunoblots (Cole et al., 1992; Sawin et al., 1992). We used these antibodies in a biochemical screen to identify and purify kinesin-related holoenzymes via their AMPPNP-enhanced, ATP-sensitive microtubule binding (Cole et al., 1992, 1993, 1994; Cole and Scholey, 1995b).
related holoenzyme to be identified and purified this way is the heterotrimeric kinesin, previously named KRP85/95 from sea urchin (S. purpuratus) eggs (Cole et al., 1992, 1993; Rashid et al., 1995).

The heterotrimeric kinesin is an αβγ protein consisting of 1 mol 85 kD:1 mol 95 kD:1 mol 115 kD polypeptides, with a Stokes radius of 7.9 nm, a sedimentation coefficient of 9.8S and an estimated molecular mass of 300 kD (Cole et al., 1992). It binds to microtubules in an AMPNP-enhanced, ATP-sensitive fashion and moves towards the plus ends of microtubules at ∼0.4 μm/s (Cole et al., 1992, 1993). The 85- and 95-kD subunits are kinesin-related polypeptides that are hypothesized to bind together by the formation of a heterodimeric coiled coil, homodimerization of these polypeptides being destabilized by unfavorable electrostatic interactions between residues of like charge (Rashid et al., 1995). The heterotrimeric kinesin appears to be associated with vesicle-like structures in the metaphase half spindles and anaphase interzone of dividing sea urchin embryonic cells, leading us to hypothesize that it moves vesicles towards the plus ends of microtubules during mitosis in this system, possibly delivering new motors to the plus ends of microtubules at ∼0.4 μm/s (Cole et al., 1992, 1993). The 85- and 95-kD subunits are kinesin-related polypeptides associated with the “tail” end of the corresponding kinesin holoenzyme. All three of the subunits of the heterotrimeric kinesin have therefore been sequenced (Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995). As a first step towards elucidating the role of SpKAP115 we have determined its localization within the kinesin-II holoenzyme and completed the cloning and sequencing of cDNAs encoding SpKAP115. We find that the deduced amino acid sequence predicts that SpKAP115 is distinct from other motor protein-associated polypeptides including the kinesin light chains (KLCs), but like the KLCs it is associated with the “tail” end of the corresponding kinesin holoenzyme. All three of the subunits of the heterotrimeric kinesin have therefore been sequenced (Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995; this report). As this heterotrimeric kinesin is the first kinesin-related holoenzyme to be purified and characterized, we refer to it as kinesin-II.

Materials and Methods

Purification of Sea Urchin Egg Kinesin II

We developed an improved procedure for purifying kinesin-II. Sea urchins, Strongylocentrotus purpuratus, were collected from tide pools on the Pacific coast, north of Bodega Bay, and transported to the Bodega Bay marine station where they were maintained in a refrigerated, thousand-gallon holding tank. The collection of sea urchin eggs and preparation of egg cytosol were performed as described previously (Scholey et al., 1984, 1985; Bister and Scholey, 1991). Cytosol was frozen rapidly in liquid nitrogen and stored at −80°C. Starting with 200 ml frozen sea urchin egg cytosol, we depleted ATP by addition of hexokinase (10 U/ml Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) and glucose (50 mM), stirred slowly at room temperature (RT). The resulting actomyosin precipitate was removed by centrifugation at 17,000 rpm for 25 min at 10°C (Sorvall SS34 rotor). The assembly of endogenous microtubule proteins into microtubules was induced in the clarified extract by addition of GTP to 1 mM and taxol to 20 μM at RT (Scholey et al., 1984, 1985; Bister and Scholey, 1991). Binding of kinesin-related holoenzymes to the assembled microtubules was induced by addition of AMPNP to 1 mM with rocking at RT 20 min. MT-motor complex peaks, each ∼1.5 ml in volume, were eluted from the Mono Q column using a 0.05-0.7 M NaCl gradient to desorb bound proteins, and these were identified as kinesin and kinesin-II (see Fig. 1 B). Kinesin-II was separated from all other remaining proteins by running 200 μl of peak FPLC fraction through a 5 ml 20% sucrose gradient in PMEG containing 100 μM ATP at 55,000 rpm in a Beckman SW55Ti rotor, for 9 h at 4°C. This method yields highly purified kinesin-II (Fig. 1) in a yield of ∼1 μg/ml of starting cytosol and is now used routinely to prepare active kinesin-II.

Electron Microscopy and Determination of Sedimentation Coefficient

Rotary shadow electron microscopy of single kinesin-II molecules was performed using highly purified kinesin-II (Fig. 1) or sometimes kinesin-II bound to microtubules polymerized from purified sea urchin egg tubulin (Cole et al., 1992) and pelleted through a 20% sucrose cushion (identical kinesin-II molecules were observed irrespective of the microtubule binding step, indicating that kinesin-II-microtubule complexes dissociate during processing for EM). The samples were mixed with an equal volume of 80% glycerol containing 1 M ammonium acetate and sprayed onto freshly cleaved mica plates. The plates were then vacuum-dried, rotary shadowed with platinum at a 6° angle using a Balzers BAF 400T freeze fracture device and processed according to Tyler and Branton, 1980. The replicas were visualized on a Philips 410LS electron microscope at 80 kV (Philips Electronic Instrs. Co., Mahwah, NJ). The sedimentation coefficient was determined as a function of the ionic strength using methods and marker proteins as described by Cole et al. (1992).

Preparation of the SpKAP115 Antiserum

Antisera to the three subunits of the heterotrimeric kinesin-II complex were raised in rabbits using routine procedures. Briefly, the kinesin-II holoenzyme was purified as described by Cole et al. (1992, 1993) and the three subunits were separated by preparative SDS-PAGE and visualized using 0.05% Coomassie brilliant blue. Rabbits were immunized by serial injection of the excised gel bands at the UCD Animal Resource Service, one rabbit per polypeptide (no. 7115 with the 115-kD band, no. 7116 with the 95-kD band, no. 7117 with the 85-kD band). Antisera collected from these rabbits were screened for immunoreactivity against subunits of kinesin-II by immunoblotting. The resulting 115-kD antisera was used to clone bona fide SpKAP115 by immunoscreening an unfertilized sea urchin egg λ ZAP cDNA library (Wright et al., 1991).
Antibody Purification against the SpKAP115 Subunit of Native Kinesin-II

Purified kinesin-II was run on a 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel, transferred to nitrocellulose, washed in H2O 10', stained with Ponceau S, and destained with H2O to identify the 85-, 95-, and 115-kD subunits. The band at 115 kD was cut from the nitrocellulose and washed with PBS-Tween for 10' with shaking to elute the Ponceau S. The anti-115-kD rabbit polyclonal antibody was diluted 1:10 in PBS and the 115-kD band/nitrocellulose strip was rocked in this diluted antibody in a sealed tube overnight at 4°C. The strip with antibody bound to antigen was washed with rocking at 4°C in the following PBS-Tween (3 x 10'), PBS (3 x 10') and wash buffer (50 mM Tris, pH 7.5, 5 mM EDTA, 150 mM NaCl) (3 x 20').

The antibody/antigen-bound nitrocellulose was cut into 2.5-mm squares in wash buffer and concentrated to ~0.5 ml with centrifugation at 4°C. After being bated 5' on ice, the 115-kD band/nitrocellulose was run on a 7.5% SDS-PAGE gel and transferred to nitrocellulose. The anti-115-kD monoclonal antibody (Novagen, Inc.) revealed that the pRSETB vector expressed SpKAP115N, SpKAP115C and Sp108 fused to the T7-Tag in the correct translational reading frame. For large scale preparation of SpKAP115N, SpKAP115C and Sp108 fusion proteins, BL21(DE3) host cells transformed with the recombinant pRSETB expression vectors were grown at 37°C in 250-300 ml LB carbencillin liquid cultures to an optical density of ~A600 = 0.6. Protein expression was induced overnight by addition of IPTG to a final concentration of 0.4 mM. The induced cells were pelleted and the cell pellets frozen at ~80°C. Recombinant protein was extracted from the transformed cells by resuspension in 6 M guanidine hydrochloride 1 h, RT and centrifugation to pellet cell debris. Solubilized protein was applied to a 1-2-ml Ni-NTA agarose affinity column (Qiagen, Inc., Chatsworth, CA) preequilibrated in guanidine hydrochloride buffer.

Affinity Purification of Anti-SpKAP115 Antibody against Recombinant SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C

Purified SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C were subjected to 10% SDS-PAGE, electrophoretically transferred to nitrocellulose and their migration position determined by probing a strip cut from the gel with the T7-Tag antiserum. RNAs were divided into three groups with no overlapping sequence between the groups—two clones of identical sequence containing a 5' end start sequence followed by an ORF (SpKAP115N), one clone containing the ORF followed by a stop and noncoding sequence (SpKAP115C), and two clones that were false positives.

To obtain a full-length SpKAP115 cDNA or a clone containing overlapping sequence for SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C, subsequent library screens were performed using 32P-labeled DNA probes prepared from regions within SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C. Numerous positive clones were obtained which matched the previous clones, however none produced a full-length cDNA or overlapping sequence. It was hypothesized that inefficient methylation during library construction resulted in the cleavage of a full-length SpKAP115 cDNA by EcoRI at an internal site. This hypothesis was confirmed by PCR amplification and sequencing of cDNAs that span the SpKAP115N-SpKAP115C junction.

Protein Microsequencing

To confirm that the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clones was the 115-kD SpKAP115 subunit of the heterotrimeric kinesin-II complex, partial protein microsequencing of chymotryptic fragments of electrophoretically separated 115-kD subunit was performed as previously described (Cole et al., 1993).

Results

Molecular Structure of Kinesin-II Holoenzymes

We used electron microscopy to investigate the structure of kinesin-II, and to determine the position of SpKAP115 within this heterotrimeric complex. Sea urchin egg kinesin-II was highly purified (Fig. 1), sprayed onto mica, rotary shadowed and examined in the EM (Fig. 2). Many individual kinesin-II holoenzymes were visible as elongated structures 50.7 ± 2.4 nm in length (n = 100). At one end of the molecule, two small globular heads were visible, 10.3 ± 0.9 nm in diameter (n = 100). As these structures are the same size as the kinesin motor domains (Hirokawa et al., 1989; Scholey et al., 1989) and because the number of amino acids in the deduced sequences of the motor domains of SpKRP85, SpKRP95, and KHC are very similar (Wright et al., 1991; Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995), the molecular structure of kinesin-II holoenzymes...
Figure 1. Purification of kinesin-II holoenzyme from sea urchin eggs and characterization of the 115-kD antibody. (A) Coomassie stained gel (top) and corresponding anti-SpKAP115-probed immunoblot (bottom). Lanes 1 and 1', 168 μg sea urchin egg cytosol. Lanes 2 and 2', 151 μg AMP-PNP-microtubule protein. Lanes 3 and 3', 46 μg ATP-eluted microtubule-associated proteins. Lanes 4 and 4', 5 μg of the peak fractions of kinesin-II from the Biogel A1.5M column. Lanes 5 and 5', 12 μg of the peak kinesin-II fractions eluted from an FPLC Mono Q column (Pharmacia) using a linear 0-0.75 M NaCl gradient. Lanes 6 and 6', 5 μg purified kinesin-II from a 5-20% sucrose gradient. (B) Shows the separation of kinesin from kinesin-II as a result of binding the two proteins to a Mono Q FPLC anion exchange resin at low ionic strength then desorbing them with a linear gradient of NaCl (full line is absorbance at 280 nm, broken line indicates 0-1.0 M NaCl gradient). Arrows point to the peak of sea urchin kinesin (1) and kinesin-II (2). The corresponding Coomassie blue-stained gels of these fractions together with the load are shown on the left.

Isolation of SpKAP115-encoding cDNA Clones and Confirmation of their Identities

Blot affinity-purified anti-SpKAP115 antibody reacted specifically with the 115-kD polypeptide that copurified with the 85- and 95-kD subunits of kinesin-II in fractions obtained during the purification of kinesin-II (Fig. 1A). By using this antibody to immunoscreen a sea urchin unfertilized egg λ ZAP cDNA library (Wright et al., 1991) we obtained five strongly reactive putative positive SpKAP115 clones. Two of these positive clones encoded protein with identical deduced sequences. This protein, SpKAP115N (see map in Fig. 4A), corresponds to the amino terminal portion of the SpKAP115 subunit and it has the ability to affinity purify, from the crude 115-kD antiserum, monospecific antibody that reacted strongly with the 115-kD polypeptide present in purified kinesin-II preparations and with a 115-kD polypeptide which dis-
Figure 2. Rotary shadow electron micrographs of the kinesin-II holoenzyme. (A) Gallery of representative kinesin-II molecules, oriented with the 10-nm motor domains to the left and SpKAP115 to the right, linked by the central coiled-coil rod. The first four rows show extended molecules, whereas the lower row shows folded molecules. (B) Higher magnification representation of a single extended kinesin-II molecule. Small arrowheads indicate the motor domain "heads" and large arrowhead indicates the globular, asymmetric SpKAP115 subunit. Bars, 100 nm.

Figure 3. Ionic strength-dependent shift in the sedimentation coefficient of kinesin-II. On 5–20% sucrose density gradients containing PMEG with no additional salt, kinesin-II sediments as a monodisperse peak with a sedimentation coefficient of 9.8S. However, as the buffer is supplemented with incremental increases in KCl the S-value drops to ~8S.

played AMPPNP-enhanced, ATP-sensitive microtubule binding (data not shown). This affinity purified antibody behaved in a similar fashion to antibody that was affinity purified against the native 115-kD subunit of kinesin-II. An additional positive clone encoded SpKAP115C (Fig. 4 A), the carboxyl-terminal portion of SpKAP115; the product of this cDNA was also able to affinity purify anti-SpKAP115 antibody with properties similar to that purified by the native 115-kD subunit of kinesin-II. Moreover, it contained two deduced stretches of sequence that were identical to partial peptide sequences determined by Edman degradation and protein microsequencing (Fig. 4 B). Finally two clones encoding proteins of identical sequence were false positives that were unable to affinity purify anti-SpKAP115 antibody and whose deduced sequence did not match the SpKAP115 peptide sequences. Examination of the nucleotide sequence of the cDNAs encoding SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C suggested that the two cDNAs correspond to a single contiguous open reading frame as indicated in the map in Fig. 4 A, beginning with an initiator methionine preceded by three in-frame stop codons within the first 100 upstream nts, and ending in a TGA termination codon. The two cDNA fragments appeared to be linked by an EcoRI site that was only partially methylated leading to EcoRI cleavage of the intact cDNA during library construction. The hypothesis that the SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C cDNAs do indeed correspond to a single full-length contiguous open reading frame was tested by PCR amplification of cDNA (from unfertilized egg poly(A)RNA) using primers designed to anneal on opposite sides of the predicted junction (Fig. 4 A). Fragments of the predicted size were obtained; 774 nts for PCR product no. 1, 230 nts for PCR product no. 2 and 674 nts for PCR product no. 3. To confirm that the PCR products were cDNAs representative of a SpKAP115N/SpKAP115C containing a junction-forming EcoRI restriction site, two cycle sequencing reactions were performed using PCR product no. 3. Each reaction used one specific primer ~80 nts on either side of the junction. Analysis of the resulting sequences confirmed that SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C adjoin one another at the predicted EcoRI site and form one full-length cDNA which encodes the SpKAP115 subunit of the kinesin-II holoenzyme.

**Sequence Analysis of the 115-kD Subunit of Kinesin-II**

The deduced sequence of the 115-kD subunit of kinesin-II
A

Basic pl 10.24 (200-300 aa)
Coiled-coil region (220-250 aa)
Acidic pl 4.9 (500-828 aa)
Tyrosine-rich domain (700-828 aa)

PCR product 774 nts
PCR product 230 nts
PCR product 674 nts

B

1 MQADARYL RKVRGGSIDV HPTEKALYN YELEATILGE MGDPMLGERK
51 ECQKIIILRS LNSTTDAAL AREVVEKCL LHPSKLPVVE QLLYYLQNRK
101 EETQKQAKC GELQKLKDQ PPFQETDENE VANINDIEY IELYEDNPE
151 KVRGTALIQ LARNPDNLLE LQSNETVLGA LARVLREINW HSEVATNIV
201 Y1FFCPSFSS QPHSIVAHFX IGAEMVGVVE HELKIHLSW EELKKEKTA
251 EENNASKRDF EXSTKRYHGL LKQEOQLRRA SFYULLNLSIE DPKVELKMN
301 KNIIRLLIK LEODNLAEIL LVSVFLKEKL IV YVENKNEMA EQQ1IERLAK
351 LVPDCHEDIL NITLRLLNL SFOTDLRSGK IKLGMILPKF YELLDNAHL
401 VVLCVLYHVS QDDKAKSMFT YTDCIPMIMK MMLESPEDE RRVEALVGIN
451 LACKNHAQL ICEDMQLRL MRRALKFRED LLLMKMRNIS QIDGFSKAOF
501 NEY5SDYARI IKESNDEELV AVALDIINM TIPOLDYEM I NFFLVPWNI
551 KKELEQGAA DOLVLEVLML VGTADTDDC AAMLKGGII QSLIELNIAK
601 QEDDEVICQi VYVFYQVIFH EATREVIK LTQAPALLDL MHDNKEIRK
651 VCDNLDILS EDEEWEARKI KLEFKWNRN QWLEVFESOO IDDEGGLMX
701 GDESxspyIQ ESDLDRPFD FXQQTQEDQ EMXOGYGTPE YVEQGNVQN
751 GEYGRPSA MGRNQXSE IXSLQGSRVA YLLTEDQQLP EYQMPIYVX
801 ESVDQXGPRVP TPXQCGSQA QCGQPGPX

(SpKAP115) predicts an 828-amino acid residue chain with a molecular weight of 94,646 Daltons (Fig. 4). The predicted isoelectric point of SpKAP115 is 4.9; the carboxyl-terminal region from residue 500-828 is very acidic (pl ~ 3.9) whereas the first 500 residues are more basic (pl ~ 8.1) with a highly basic region between residues 200-300 (pl ~ 10.2; Fig. 4 A). The segment lying between residues 700-828 is rich in tyrosine residues (16% of the amino acids are Y), many of which are potential targets for tyrosine protein kinases which phosphorylate tyrosines that have acidic residues (usually glu) at one to five amino acids upstream (Aitken, 1990).

Secondary structure predictions suggest that SpKAP115 is a globular protein rich in alpha helical conformation (at least 54% alpha helix overall, with residues 1-690 displaying at least 65% alpha helix; see map of SpKAP115 in Fig. 5 B). The predicted alpha helical segments are joined by short stretches of b-sheet and turns. The tyrosine rich region at the carboxyl terminus is predicted to contain abundant turns, consistent with the appearance of multiple proline residues (9% of residues), and is predicted to be hydrophilic. The algorithm of Lupas et al. (1991) suggests that most of the alpha helical segments of SpKAP115 do not participate in coiled-coil formation; there is a region between residues 220 and 250 with a high probability of coiled-coil formation (Fig. 5 A) but this is much shorter than the regions of the two motor subunits of kinesin-II that are predicted to heterodimerize to form a coiled-coil stalk 35 nm in length (Fig. 5 A, and Rashid et al., 1995).

We compared the deduced sequence of SpKAP115 to those of other proteins in the sequence databases using the BLAST program. No matches to any proteins of known function were observed. In particular we observed no significant sequence similarity with kinesin light chains, kinesin, or other motor proteins or motor protein-associated polypeptides. However, the protein whose deduced amino acid sequence produced the highest scoring segment pairs with SPKAP115 was the product of a C. elegans gene, F08F8.3. This gene was cloned and sequenced during the C. elegans genome sequencing project (Wilson et al.,
Discussion

Here we have reported the molecular ultrastructure of the heterotrimeric sea urchin egg kinesin, together with the sequence, predicted structural organization, and submolecular localization of the 115-kD accessory subunit, SpKAP115. As predicted from the lack of reactivity with pan-kinesin peptide antibodies (Cole et al., 1992), SpKAP115 is not a kinesin-related polypeptide, but rather is an accessory polypeptide like the conventional kinesin light chains (Cyr et al., 1992; Wedaman et al., 1993). Previously we reported the sequences of the heterodimerized 85- and 95-kD kinesin-related motor subunits of the heterotrimeric kinesin (Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995). Thus all three of the subunits of this sea urchin egg protein, previously named KRFx595, have now been sequenced. For this reason, and because it is the first kinesin-related holoenzyme to be purified and characterized, we feel justified in referring to this heterotrimeric motor protein as kinesin-II.

Immunological and primary structural evidence confirm that cDNAs SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C encode the entire 115-kD subunit (SpKAP115) of kinesin-II. Sequencing of the SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C cDNAs themselves, as well as a PCR product that spans the junction between these two cDNAs, confirms that SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C correspond, respectively, to the amino and carboxyl-terminal portions of an entire 95-kD polypeptide. The cDNA fragments that encode SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C form a single open reading frame and are linked by an EcoRI restriction site that was presumably cut during library preparation. The full length SpKAP115 contains two stretches of deduced sequence identical to partial peptide sequences derived from chymotryptic fragments of the 115-kD subunit of kinesin-II. Both SpKAP115N and SpKAP115C are capable of immunoadsorbing monospecific antibody that reacts with a 115-kD polypeptide that copurifies extensively with kinesin-II, and displays AMP-PNP-enhanced, ATP-sensitive microtubule binding. The latter result is significant as only kinesin and kinesin-related polypeptides are known to display AMP-PNP-enhanced, ATP-sensitive microtubule binding (Cole and Scholey, 1995b). The sequence of SpKAP115 reveals that it is not a kinesin-related polypeptide, so the most plausible explanation is that its association with the 85- and 95-kD kinesin-related subunits of kinesin-II is responsible for the observed pattern of nucleotide-sensitive microtubule binding displayed by SpKAP115. Together these data provide strong evidence in support of the hypothesis that we have cloned SpKAP115.

Rotary shadow electron microscopy of individual kinesin-II molecules reveals that they have a remarkably similar ultrastructure to molecules of kinesin, with the accessory subunits associating with the divergent tails (Fig. 5 C). At one end of each kinesin-II molecule, there are two presumptive motor domains, ~10 nm in diameter, which are likely to represent the amino-terminal domains predicted from the sequence of SpKRP85 and SpKRP95 (Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995). The motor domains are linked to a 26.3-nm-long rod (shorter than that of kinesin) corresponding to the heterodimeric SpKRP85-SpKRP95 coiled-coil (Rashid et al., 1995). Based on sequence analysis we predicted a 35-nm-long rod (Rashid et al., 1995) so the slightly smaller length measured using EM might reflect the occlusion of a portion of the coiled-coil by SpKAP115 which appears to be an asymmetric structure associated with the end of the molecule opposite the motor domains. As with kinesin, the motor domains of kinesin-II can be released from the rod by limited proteolysis, suggesting that they are bound to the rod by a flexible, protease-sensitive segment (Scholey et al., 1989; Cole et al., 1993).

Kinesin-II undergoes an ionic strength-dependent change in S-value, much like kinesin, nonmuscle myosin-II and smooth muscle myosin-II (Craig et al., 1983; Hisanaga, 1989; Hackney et al., 1992). The 10S forms of kinesin and myosin-II are folded and elevating the ionic strength converts them to the 6S extended form. Kinesin-II also appears to exist in both folded and extended forms, suggesting that the ionic strength-dependent change from the 9.8S to the 8S form of kinesin-II may correlate with the extension of a folded conformer, although for technical reasons (Results), we were unable to confirm this directly by measuring the ratio of folded to extended molecules under different ionic strength conditions in the EM. The regulatory light chains of myosin-II play important roles in controlling myosin-II conformation, suggesting that the accessory SpKAP115 subunit of kinesin-II and the KLCs of kinesin may also play a role in regulating the conformation of the corresponding holoenzymes.

Our rotary shadow EM results are consistent with the EM observations of Yamazaki et al. (1995) who examined the molecular structure of murine Kif3a/b heterodimers which are homologues of SpKRP85/SpKRP95 heterodimers, and lack any accessory structures; the heterodimerized motor polypeptides were ~50 nm long consisting of two 10-nm heads attached to a short rod with a small globular structure at the end, possibly corresponding to the tails of the two motor subunits (Yamazaki et al., 1995). Molecules of the heterotrimeric kinesin-II complex are identical to Kif3a/b heterodimers, except for the large asymmetric globular structure at the end opposite the motor domains, which must correspond to SpKAP115 (Fig. 2).

Based on our electron microscopic observations, we have hypothesized that a logical site of interaction of SpKAP115 with the heterodimerized SpKRP85 and SpKRP95 subunits is through their carboxy-terminal tail regions. These tails are predicted to be extremely basic (SpKRP85 pi = 10.8, SpKRP95 pi = 9.6; Cole et al., 1993; Rashid et al., 1995), and might bind via ionic bonds to the acidic carboxyl-terminal region of SpKAP115, for example. We hypothesize that ionic bonds also stabilize SpKRP85/SpKRP95 heterodimeric coiled-coils relative to homodimers (Rashid et al., 1995). As noted above, the predicted topology of the tail regions of SpKRP85/SpKRP95/SpKAP115 heterotrimers resembles that of the conventional KHC-KLC complex (Hirokawa et al., 1989) suggesting that the KLCs and SpKAP115 may play analogous roles, for example in regulating motor protein conformation or modulat-
ing cargo-binding. However, in this context it is striking to
note that we can observe no primary structural relatedness
between SpKAP115 and the KLCs, even those from the
same organism (Wedaman et al., 1993). Similarly, we have
noted no significant similarity between SpKAP115 and
any other known motor protein-associated polypeptides
whose sequences are deposited in the sequence databases.

Homologues of the two motor subunits of kinesin-II,
SpKRP85 and SpKRP95, have been found in a variety of
organisms, including mouse (Aizawa et al., 1992; Kondo et
al., 1994; Yamazaki et al., 1995), Chlamydomonas (Walther
et al., 1994), Caenorhabditis elegans (Shakir et al., 1993;
Tabish et al., 1995) and Drosophila melanogaster (Pesa-
vento et al., 1994) leading us to hypothesize that these homo-
logues might also be components of heterotrimeric com-
plexes containing accessory polypeptides related to
SpKAP115 (Cole et al., 1993; Cole and Scholey, 1995;
Rashid et al., 1995). In support of our hypothesis,
Yamazaki et al. (1995) have recently reported that the mu-
rine homologues of SpKRP85 and SpKRP95, namely
Kif3a and Kif3b, respectively, form a heterotrimeric com-
plex with a third polypeptide, KAP3, that has not yet been
characterized. Indeed, it is remarkable that the data of
Yamazaki et al., 1995 replicate our results so exactly (Cole
et al., 1992). It seems likely, therefore, that KAP3 will turn
out to be a homologue of SpKAP115.

It is also possible that a close relative of SpKRP85 and
SpKRP95 in C. elegans, OSM-3, may interact with an ac-
cessory subunit encoded by the F08F8.3 gene that is
related by sequence to SpKAP115. The product of the
C. elegans F08F8.3 gene is the only protein in the se-
quence databases that displayed significant relatedness
with SpKAP115. The deduced sequence of this protein
was determined in the C. elegans genome project, but so
far as we know, the function of this protein has not been
determined. Interestingly, however, this gene is located
between mec14 and lin39 on the genetic map of chromo-
some III, where the osm-10 mutation is also located. This
may be significant because mutations in both osm-10 and
osm-3 cause defects in osmotic avoidance (Shakir et al.,
1993; Tabish et al., 1995) and, in the case of osm-3, this
phenotype is thought to be due to defects in motor-driven
axonal transport in chemosensory neurons open to the ex-
ternal environment (Tabish et al., 1995). Based on the
results presented here, therefore, we speculate that the
osm-10 gene corresponds to F08F8.3 and encodes a close
relative of SpKAP115, with the osm-3 and osm-10 gene
products being two subunits of a C. elegans heterotrimeric
kinesin closely related to the kinesin-II complex. This
would mean that the accessory subunit of kinesin-II equiv-
alent to SpKAP115 in C. elegans has an essential function
in axonal transport. To test this hypothesis it will be im-
portant to sequence the OSM-10 protein, to determine if
F08F8.3 can complement the osm-10 mutation, and to pu-
rify the presumptive OSM-3/OSM-10 complex from C. ele-
gans. The purification protocol for kinesin-II described
here may be a useful guide in this endeavor.

We have now purified two kinesin holoenzymes, kinesin
and kinesin-II, from sea urchin eggs and embryos, we have
categorized their molecular structures and the we have de-
determined the sequence of each of their subunits. Kinesin
and kinesin-II have generally similar structures, consisting
consists of two different kinesin-related polypeptides, SpKRP85 and SpKRP95, with amino-terminal motor domains, a central alpha-helical domain that forms a heterodimeric coiled-coil, and a globular, presumptive cargo-binding domain at the carboxyl-terminal end (Cole et al., 1992, 1993; Rashid et al., 1995). The 115-kD kinesin-II-associated polypeptide, SpKAP115 is predicted to be a highly alpha-helical, globular protein with a hydrophilic, tyrosine-rich carboxyl-terminal tail domain. (C) Model of the quaternary structure of kinesin-II based on sequence analysis and electron microscopy. The motor domains of the heterodimerized SpKRP85 and SpKRP95 motor subunits appear as globular, 10-nm "heads". The heterodimeric coiled-coil regions form a central rod that is predicted to be 35 nm long based on the Lupas et al. (1991) algorithm, but the association of SpKAP115 with the carboxyl-terminal ends of SpKRP85 and SpKRP95 appears to occlude a portion of the rod and reduces its length to ~26 nm as observed by electron microscopy.

of dimerized motor polypeptides with amino-terminal motor domains linked to coiled-coil rods, terminating in a second globular domain at the COOH-terminal end, where the accessory KLC or SpKAP115 polypeptides are localized. The coiled-coil rod of kinesin-II is heterodimeric and somewhat shorter than that of the homodimeric kinesin rod, for reasons that are unclear. Both types of kinesin move towards the plus ends of microtubule tracks at speeds of approximately half a micron per second (Cohn et al., 1989; Cole et al., 1993), and both these kinesin holoenzymes are thought to function as vesicle motors in the spindle. However, kinesin affiliates with exocytic vesicles in the spindle asters (Wright et al., 1991, 1993; Steinhardt et al., 1994) whereas kinesin-II is associated with vesicles in the metaphase half spindles and anaphase interzone (Henson et al., 1995).

An intriguing question concerns the mechanism by which kinesin and kinesin-II are targeted to vesicles located in different regions of the same spindles. Given the fact that the KLCs and SpKAP115 are highly divergent accessory polypeptides localized at the tail end of kinesin and kinesin-II respectively, we hypothesize that the accessory polypeptides play a role in targeting kinesin and kinesin-II to different classes of spindle vesicles. As all the subunits of sea urchin egg kinesin and kinesin-II have been cloned and sequenced, it may now be possible to test the role of the accessory polypeptides in targeting these two motors to different classes of spindle vesicles by switching their accessory subunits to create different types of motor-accessory subunit hybrids.

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