Study and Identification of Insulin-Like Growth Factor-I Gene Polymorphisms in Zel Sheep Population

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Abstract: Problem statement: The IGFs play an important role in regulating somatic growth according to nutritional conditions. Polymorphisms of IGF gene are reported to be significantly associated with many traits. Approach: In these study 142 samples of DNA from Zel sheep were used for detecting the polymorphisms of promoter region of the Insulin-like Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) gene. Therefore DNA extracted from blood using Salting-out procedure. Results: Primers were supplied for amplifying the specific segment. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) accomplished after finding the best condition to do the reaction. The specific segment amplified well. SSCP and RFLP markers were used for detecting the polymorphisms of the segment. For SSCP analysis PCR-product was denatured and dilution was loaded onto a 12% polyacrylamide gel. RFLP analysis was performed by incubating of PCR product by HaeII restriction enzyme at 37°C for 4 h. Gels were visualized using a 3.5% agarose gel that contained ethidium bromide. The polymorphisms were the same when both methods were examined. Evaluation of result revealed 2 alleles and 3 genotypes. The alleles were A and B and their frequencies was 0.71 and 0.29 respectively. The genotyped named AA, AB and BB with the frequencies of 0.47, 0.47 and 0.06 respectively. Conclusion/Recommendations: The data were analyzed for Genetic variation statistics using PopGene32 software and no deviation from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium was observed in this study. finding the relation between genotype which is found by genetic markers with growth traits, live weight and carcass weight will be investigate by the IGFs genes.

Key words: Zel sheep, IGF-1 gene, polymorphism, RFLP, SSCP

INTRODUCTION

The Insulin-like Growth Factors (IGF-1 and 2) were discovered as skeletal growth factors produced in the liver that appeared to mediate the effects of the pituitary on whole-body somatic growth (Daughaday and Salmon, 1999). It had been shown that in addition to production in the liver, both IGF-1 and IGF-2 were produced in most, if not all, tissues. The liver has however been confirmed as by far the main source of the large amount of IGF found in the circulation and it became increasingly apparent that pituitary Growth Hormone (GH) was not the only regulator but that they were also very strongly nutritionally dependent. Nutrition has many interacting effects upon the IGF system, including direct effects of certain nutrients upon hepatic expression and indirect effects via insulin and via changes in hepatic GH receptors (Ketelslegers et al., 1995). The IGFs play an important role in regulating somatic growth according to nutritional conditions. It has also become apparent that this forms part of a very fundamental control, ensuring that the development of the organism proceeds appropriately to the nutritional supply. This control system has been conserved throughout evolution from yeast to higher mammals.

Insulin-like Growth Factor (IGF) plays an important role in lactation and is involved in a variety of physiological processes including reproduction, fetal development and growth (Adam et al., 2000; Shen et al., 2003). IGF1 gene is also considered to be a factor that regulates growth, differentiation and the maintenance of differentiated function in numerous tissues and in specific cell types of mammals through binding to a family of specific membrane-associated glycoprotein receptors (Werner et al., 1994).

The objectives of this study were to search for the same polymorphisms in sheep that was found by Yilmaz et al. (2005) analyze the 5' flanking region of
the sheep IGF-I gene that could be used for determining the relationship between polymorphisms of the gene with productive and reproductive traits in future. Detecting the relation between increasing weight in different ages and also researching in Zel sheep in order to improve growth traits, live weight and carcass weight can be investigated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Blood samples were collected from 142 Zel sheep in Shirang breeding station located at Mazandaran province, northern Iran. Genomic DNA was extracted from blood samples in the biotechnology lab at Animal Science Research Institute (ASRI).

Detection of IGF-1 gene polymorphisms was carried out according to Yilmaz et al. (2005), the 265bp fragment of the promoter region of IGF-1 gene, 467-732 bp upstream from the 5' end of Exon 1 (GenBank ID: AF492765).

Sequences of primers that were used to do the analysis were reported previously (Yilmaz et al., 2005). Sequences of IGFF and IGFR were 5’-CCCCGTTCGCTGAACATTA- 3’ and 5’-TCACATCGCTATAACACCTTACC- respectively.

PCR amplification: A 15 µL reaction mixtureconsist of 1X reaction buffer, 3.5mM MgCl2, 0.25mM of each primer, 200 mM dNTPs, 1 unit Taq polymerase (Gibco-BRL) and 100 ng genomic DNA per reaction. thermal cycle for performing PCR initiated denaturation at 95°C for 2 min. 31 cycles of 45 sec at 94°C, 30 s at 59°C as annealing temperature and 45 sec at 72°C were performed, followed by an extension at 72°C for 5 min in a DNA Thermal Cycler.

To perform RFLP analysis, a mixture of 4 µL of PCR product, 4.6 µL of distilled water, 1 µL of enzyme buffer and 0.3 µL of enzyme incubated at 37°C for 4 h. After enzymatic digestion with HaeII, gels were visualized using a 3.5% agarose gel that contained ethidium bromide.

SSCP analysis was accomplished by denaturation PCR product and loading it in polyacrilamide gel. A mixture of 10 mL PCR product, 8 mL of loading buffer and 14ml of ddH2O prepared and denatured for 5 min at 95°C and immediately plunged at ice for 5 min 30 mL of this mixture loaded at 12% polyacrilamid gel and runned for 24h at 250v and 4°C.

RESULTS

A 265 bp fragment from exon1 of the ovine IGF1 gene was amplified (Fig. 1). A total of 142 sheep were genotyped and three different kinds of bands were observed when two different kinds of markers were used to detect the polymorphisms.
Table 1: Chi-Square and G-Square for understanding the Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium

| Genotypes | Number of animals | Exp. (E) | Obs. (E) | (O-E)^2/E | DF | XT^2 | XT2 | GT^2 | Probability |
|-----------|------------------|----------|----------|------------|----|------|------|------|-------------|
| AA        | 67               | 71.0     | 58.9     | 0.47       | 0.2281 | 1    | 2.674 | 0.1019 | 2.813 | 0.093       |
| BB        | 67               | 12.0     | 12.0     | 0.06       | 1.3471 | 1    | 247.0  | 81.0000 | 841.000 | 454.000     |

CONCLUSION

Insulin-like Growth Factor I (IGF-I) is a hormone-like polypeptide related to several economically important traits including growth and reproduction in cattle (Spicer and Chamberlain, 1998). Although some experiments show that normal growth can be maintained even if circulating IGF-I levels are less than normal, these experiments do not rule out the importance of circulating IGF-I as a regulator of growth hormone concentration and its correlation with local IGF-I production in several tissues (Yakar et al., 1999). Locally produced IGF-I is more important than circulating IGF-I in maintaining tissue growth and development (Yakar et al., 1999). However, IGF-I receptors have been detected throughout the body and IGF-I deficiency is associated with growth abnormalities in cattle (Kitagawa et al., 2001). Several studies have shown a close association between male reproductive traits and IGF-I measurements (Glander et al., 1996; Vickers et al., 1999). Mehmannavaz et al. (2010) proved a significant effect of IGF-I polymorphism on EBVs for milk production traits in Holstein bulls. Tahmoorespur et al. (2009) found the positive influence of exon1 in average daily Gain from Birth to Weaning (GBW).

In Iran, the relation between genotype which is found by genetic markers with growth traits, live weight and carcass weight will be investigate in animals, especially in sheep. Also since there are many breeds of sheep that they are different genetically and phenotypically, it is suggested that other location of the IGF-1 gene and its promoter would be investigated.

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