Abstract. *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* pas3-mutants are described which conform the pas-phenotype recently reported for the peroxisomal assembly mutants pasl-1 and pas2 (Erdmann, R., M. Veenhuis, D. Mertens, and W.-H Kunau. 1989. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 86:5419-5423). The isolation of pas3-mutants enabled us to clone the PAS3 gene by functional complementation. DNA sequence analysis revealed a 50.6-kD protein with at least one domain of sufficient length and hydrophobicity to span a lipid bilayer. To verify these predictions antibodies were raised against a truncated portion of the PAS3 coding region overexpressed in *E. coli*. Pas3p was identified as a 48 kD peroxisomal integral membrane protein. It is shown that a lack of this protein causes the peroxisome-deficient phenotype and the cytosolic mislocalization of peroxisomal matrix enzymes. Based on protease digestion experiments Pas3p is discussed to be anchored in the peroxisomal membrane by its amino-terminus while the bulk of the molecule is exposed to the cytosol. These findings are consistent with the possibility that Pas3p is one component of the peroxisomal import machinery.

Materials and Methods

Strains and Media

Bacterial and yeast strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. Yeast complete and minimal media have been described earlier (Erdmann et al., 1989). YNO medium contained 0.1% oleic acid, 0.05% Tween 40, 0.1% yeast extract, and 0.67% yeast nitrogen base without amino acids; YPO medium contained 0.15% oleic acid, 0.05% Tween 40, 0.3% bactopeptone, and 0.7% KH2PO4, adjusted to pH 6.0.

Isolation of pas3-mutants

Pas3-mutants were isolated after mutagenesis of X2180-1A (PM3-11, PM3-13) and UTL-7A cells (PM3-12) using ethyl methanesulfonate (Sherman et al., 1979). The screening protocol included replica plating on YNO-agar plates, fractionation of yeast cells, and EM as described by Erdmann et al. (1989). Mutants were characterized by standard yeast genetic techniques (Ausubel et al., 1989).
**Analytical Procedures**

Acetyl-CoA acyltransferase (3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase; EC 2.3.1.16), catalase (EC 1.11.1.6), 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA epimerase (EC 5.1.2.3), cytochrome c-oxidase (EC 1.9.3.1), and fumarate hydratase (fumarase; EC 4.2.1.2) were assayed by established procedures (Moreno de la Garza et al., 1985; Veenhuis et al., 1987).

**EM**

KMnO₄ fixation of intact yeast cells and catalase cytochemistry with 3,3′-DAB were performed as described by Erdmann et al. (1989). Immuno-cytochemistry on ultrathin sections of Lowicryl-embedded cells with anti 3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase antibodies was performed as described by Douma et al. (1985).

**Cloning and Characterization of PAS3**

To isolate the PAS3 gene, the strain PM3-11 was transformed with a genomic DNA library of Saccharomyces cerevisiae contained in the E. coli-yeast shuttle vector YCp50 (Rose et al., 1987). Transformation was done by a modified lithium acetate method (Gietz and Sugino, 1988). Ura⁺ transformants were screened on YNO-agar plates at 30°C for their ability to utilize oleic acid as sole carbon source. The complementing plasmid YCp3/7.5 was recovered by a common isolation procedure (Ausubel et al., 1989). Subclones of YCp3/7.5 were constructed by introducing defined restriction fragments and fragments obtained through partial digestion of the genomic insert with Sau3AI into the CEN4-URA3 vector pRS316 (Sikorski and Hieter, 1989). Complementation analysis involved transformation of the resulting plasmids into PM3-11, selection for Ura⁺, and subsequent screening on YNO-agar plates. Recombinant DNA techniques, including enzymatic modification of DNA, fragment purification, bacterial transformation, and plasmid isolation were performed essentially as described by either Maniatis et al. (1982) or Ausubel et al. (1989).

**DNA Sequencing**

To sequence the 2-kb overlapping region of plasmids pRSP3/2.4 and pRSP3/2.3, restriction fragments of this region were subcloned into vector pBLUESCRIPT (Stratagene Cloning Systems, La Jolla, CA). Single-stranded sequencing templates were prepared from transformed TGI bacterial cells infected with M13R408 as described (Stratagene Cloning Systems). Nucleotide sequence analysis was carried out using the dideoxy chain termination method (Sanger et al., 1977). The inferred Pas3p sequence was used to search EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database rel. 25 for similarities with other known protein sequences using the GENPRO program (Riverside Scientific Enterprise, Seattle, WA).

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**Figure 1. Screening for growth on oleic acid as sole carbon source.** In contrast to the wild-type strain, two spores of PM3-11 are not able to grow on a YNO-agar plate after incubation at 30°C for 14 d. Transformation of PM3-11 with the plasmid YCp3/7.5 results in a functional complementation of the oleic acid non-utilizing phenotype.
Integrative Disruption of PAS3

A 431-bp Sac31-EcoRI internal fragment of PAS3 was subcloned into a BamHI/EcoRI-digested shuttle vector YEp352 (Hill et al., 1986). The resultant plasmid was then digested with EcoRI/SalI and the released fragment was introduced into the integrative vector pRS306 (Sikorski and Hieter, 1989). The product of this manipulation, plasmid pRS3-GD, contained the sequence of nucleotide 408-839 of PAS3. Plasmid pRS3-GD was linearized with HindIII within the internal PAS3 sequence and subsequently used for transformation of UTL-7A. "Ura" transformants were screened for an "u"-phenotype and mated to XDC-10A. The diploids were sporulated and asci dissected into tetrads. The segregation of "Ura" and "u" was analyzed by replica plating. URA3+ pas3 transformants were mated to PM3-11 and the resultant diploids checked for complementation.

Anti-Pas3p Antibodies

A 1.4-kb PstI-PstI fragment of PRS3/2.3 was subcloned in frame into the E. coli expression vector pEPXI (Raymond et al., 1990). The resultant plasmid contained a 1,293-bp fragment of PAS3 (lacking 30-bp at the 5' end) behind the start codon of pEPXI. The construct produced a 1,293-bp polypeptide in response to the addition of isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG). Residues 1-24 are encoded by the start codon and multiple cloning site of pEPXI, whereas codons 25-455 encode amino acids 11-453 of Pas3p, nitrocellulose filters were incubated overnight in the undiluted sample buffer and loaded on a 2-mm preparative SDS-polyacrylamide gel. The obtained antiserum were affinity purified against a β-galactosidase-Pas3p fusion protein.

Membrane Preparation

Membranes were prepared from isolated peroxisomes according to Fujiki et al. (1982) and Hashimoto et al. (1986), except that 1 mM PMSF was added to each solution. Centrifugation steps were performed at 200,000 g for 1 h.

Proteinase K Treatment

The 25,000-g pellet fraction (5 mg protein) of oleic acid induced wild-type cells was resuspended in 4 ml 1.2 M sorbitol, 5 mM Mes (pH 6.0) and divided into aliquots which were incubated at 30°C in the presence or absence of 25 μg/ml agarose-coupled proteinase K (Sigma Chemical Co.) and 0.1% Triton X-100. At different time points, aliquots of each sample were precipitated in 10% TCA and prepared for gel electrophoresis.

Fractionation of Yeast Lysates

Preparation and fractionation of yeast lysates by differential centrifugation was performed as already described (Erdmann et al., 1989). For further subfractionation by isopycnic sucrose density gradient centrifugation, wild-type strain D273-10B was grown for 40 h on YPD medium, collected by centrifugation, and transferred to YPO medium (4 g wet weight per 500 ml medium). After inoculation for 18 h at 30°C, preparation and fractionation of the induced yeast cells were done as described by Erdmann et al. (1989). The resulting 25,000-g pellet fraction (35 mg protein) was resuspended in 6 ml 5 mM Mes buffer (pH 6.0) containing 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.6 M sorbitol, and 1 mM PMSF, and loaded onto a continuous 32-54% sucrose density gradient (24 ml vol) with a cushion of 1 ml 60% sucrose dissolved in 5 mM Mes (pH 6.0), 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM KCl, 0.1% Ethanol. Centrifugation was performed for 1.5 h at 1,075,000 g in a Sorvall SS 90 vertical rotor at 4°C. After fractionation of the gradient, 100 μl of each fraction (total volume of 1 ml) was diluted in 900 μl 10% TCA and precipitated for 2 h on ice. The samples were centrifuged for 10 min in a microcentrifuge and the resulting pellet was resuspended in 50 μl Laemmli sample buffer with 2% β-mercaptoethanol (Laemmli, 1970). For Western blot analysis, 0.5–2 μl of each sample were loaded on a SDS-polyacrylamide gel.

Table II. Distribution Pattern of Peroxisomal and Mitochondrial Marker Enzymes in the 25,000-g Supernatant and Pellet Fractions of Cell Lysates from Wild-type and pas3-Mutants Grown for 18 h on YNO Medium

| Strain | Enzyme  | Activity in 25,000 g |
|--------|---------|---------------------|
|        |         | Supematant fraction (A1) | Pellet fraction (A2) | A1/A2     |
|        |         | Al/A2               | Al/A2               |           |
| Wild-type | Thiolase | 4.51                | 11.51               | 0.4       |
|         | Catalase | 1.11 × 10^3         | 4.33 × 10^3         | 0.3       |
|         | Epimerase | 3.17               | 20.14                | 0.2       |
|         | Fumarase | 2.11                | 6.79                 | 0.3       |
| PM3-11 | Thiolase | 15.40               | 1.66                 | 9.0       |
|         | Catalase | 22.48 × 10^3         | 0.49 × 10^3         | 45.4      |
|         | Epimerase | 5.32              | 1.24                | 3.2       |
|         | Fumarase | 4.02                | 9.57                 | 0.4       |
| PM3-12 | Thiolase | 10.97               | 1.71                 | 6.4       |
|         | Catalase | 13.87 × 10^3         | 0.32 × 10^3         | 43.3      |
|         | Epimerase | 12.97           | 4.10                | 3.2       |
|         | Fumarase | 5.75                | 10.41                | 0.6       |
| PM3-13 | Thiolase | 27.77               | 2.85                 | 9.7       |
|         | Catalase | 22.11 × 10^3         | 2.64 × 10^3         | 8.4       |
|         | Epimerase | 12.73            | 3.60                | 3.5       |
|         | Fumarase | 1.71                | 2.95                 | 0.6       |
| PM3-11 + YEpP3/7.5 | Thiolase | 5.22                | 14.11               | 0.4       |
|         | Catalase | 1.81 × 10^3         | 3.06 × 10^3         | 0.6       |
|         | Epimerase | 2.24           | 7.49                | 0.3       |
|         | Fumarase | 2.22                | 7.52                 | 0.3       |
| GDP3-2 | Thiolase | 23.78               | 1.98                 | 12.0      |
|         | Catalase | 23.13 × 10^3         | 0.46 × 10^3         | 50.3      |
|         | Epimerase | 15.26            | 3.86                | 4.0       |
|         | Fumarase | 2.23                | 5.59                 | 0.3       |
Figure 2. (a and b) Sections of KMnO₄-fixed oleic acid grown cells of wild-type S. cerevisiae (a) and the gene-disrupted strain GDP3-2 (b). In the case of the wild-type, growth on oleic acid resulted in a marked peroxisome proliferation (a). In contrast, peroxisomes were not detectable in sections of oleic acid-induced cells of the pas3-mutant GDP3-2 (b) grown under the same conditions as the wild-type strain. (c–f) The peroxisome-deficient morphology was also demonstrated by cytochemical staining of catalase activity. After incubation with DAB and H₂O₂, positively stained peroxisomal structures were absent in the mutant PM3-11 (c), but were readily detectable in PM3-11 cells transformed with the complementing plasmid YCpP3/7.5 (d). Immunocytochemical detection of thiolase revealed the particulate localization of this peroxisomal enzyme after functional complementation of PM3-11 (f), in contrast to nontransformed PM3-11 cells (e). L, lipid droplet; M, mitochondrion; N, nucleus; P, peroxisome; V, vacuole. Bar, 0.5 μm.
Results

Isolation and Characterization of pas3-mutants

We have previously described the isolation of four peroxisomal assembly mutants (pas-mutants) after mutagenesis of yeast wild-type cells with EMS (Erdmann et al., 1989). Genetic analysis revealed that these mutants fall into three complementation groups, pasl to pas3 (Erdmann et al., 1989). In addition to the pas-defect the original pas3-mutant possessed a second mutation affecting the utilization of oleic acid as sole carbon source. As a first step to characterize the pas3-mutation a monogenic pas3-strain (PM3-11) was isolated with DAB and H2O2 for the detection of catalase activity, but, in addition, by the accumulation of peroxisomal matrix enzymes in the cytosol and by the absence of morphologically detectable peroxisomes (Erdmann et al., 1989). Therefore, the pas3-mutants were characterized with regard to these three properties before attempts to clone the PAS3 gene were initiated. The oleic acid nonutilizing phenotype (onu ) demonstrated for all three pas3-mutants is shown for PM3-11 in Fig. 1. In contrast to a wild-type strain, the mutant is not able to grow on oleic acid minimal medium plates even after incubation for 14 d at 30°C.

It has been reported that not only pas-mutants but also strains defective in individual β-oxidation enzymes are unable to utilize oleic acid (Erdmann et al., 1989). Hence, further biochemical characterization was necessary to ensure that the onu-phenotype of PM3-11, PM3-12, and PM3-13 was caused by a cytosolic mislocalization of peroxisomal enzymes. Subcellular fractionation studies were performed after induction on oleic acid medium. 3-hydroxyacyl-CoA epimerase and 3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase, components of the peroxisomal β-oxidation system in yeast, and catalase were assayed as peroxisomal marker enzymes, while the mitochondrial enzyme fumarase served as a control for the particulate nature of the isolated organelles. Results are shown in Table II. For the wild-type strain, bulk activities of the different enzymes are present in the 25,000-g pellet, indicating their particulate nature. However, after differential centrifugation of lysates of PM3-11, PM3-12, and PM3-13, peroxisomal enzymes were predominantly detected in the 25,000-g supernatant, whereas the mitochondrial marker enzyme fumarase was still sedimentable (Table II). These data indicate that the biochemical phenotype of the pas3-mutants is the same as reported for pas1 and pas2: peroxisomal enzymes are still inducible; they are mislocalized to the cytosol, and they assemble in an active form (Erdmann et al., 1989).

The morphological phenotype of the pas3-mutants was investigated by EM. Growth of the wild-type strain on oleic acid as sole carbon source results in a marked peroxisomal proliferation (Fig. 2 a). In contrast, even after incubation with DAB and H2O2 for the detection of catalase activity, peroxisomes could not be detected in oleic acid induced cells of the pas3-mutant (Fig. 2 c). Staining of mitochondria is due to the activity of cytochrome c peroxidase. The cytosolic localization of peroxisomal matrix enzymes was also demonstrated by immunocytochemistry using polyclonal anti-thiolase antibodies (Fig. 2 e). It is to conclude that the pas3-mutation causes a lack of morphologically detectable peroxisomes.

Cloning of the PAS3 Gene by Functional Complementation

The recessive nature of the pas3-mutation opens the way to clone the PAS3 gene by functional complementation. PM3-11 was transformed with a genomic library of S. cerevisiae maintained in the E. coli-yeast shuttle vector YCP50 (Rose et al., 1987). Transformed cells were selected for uracil prototrophy and subsequently screened for growth on oleic acid medium. Among 30,000 transformants, one clone was recovered that had regained the ability to utilize oleic acid as carbon source (Fig. 1). The plasmid isolated from this clone (YCpP3/7.5) contained a 7.5-kb insert that was characterized by restriction analysis (Fig. 3). To verify that this plasmid carried the complementing gene, YCpP3/7.5 was transformed into PM3-11, PM3-12, and PM3-13. Ura+ transformants of all mutant strains were again able to grow on oleic acid. Moreover, cell fractionation following oleic acid induction of the transformed mutant strains demonstrated the particulate localization of peroxisomal enzymes in these cells (Table II). The presence of peroxisomes was shown by catalase cytochemistry (Fig. 2 d) and the localization of 3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase within these peroxisomes demonstrated by immunolabeling (Fig. 2 f). To localize the pas3-complementing region of YCpP3/7.5, subclones were constructed in pRS316 (Sikorski and Hieter, 1989) by using defined restriction fragments and fragments obtained through partial digestion with...
Sau3AI. These subclones were tested for their ability to complement the ou− phenotype of strain PM3-11. The results mapped the complementing gene to a region of ~2.0 kb (overlapping region between the complementing plasmids [Fig. 3]).

To establish the authenticity of the putative PAS3 gene and to exclude the possibility that a suppressor locus was cloned, a chromosomal integration experiment was performed. A 431-bp central Sau3AI–EcoRI fragment of the overlapping region was subcloned into the yeast integrating vector pRS306. The two hydrophobic domains are shown shaded. The smallest complementing Sau3AI subclone starts at position −212 of the upstream region as was identified after partial Sau3AI digestion. For overexpression in E. coli, a portion of the gene from the PstI site at position +30 to the PstI site at +1420 was subcloned into the pEXPI expression vector.
Figure 5. Hydropathy analysis of Pas3p. A hydropathy profile of the predicted amino acid sequence of Pas3p was calculated according to Kyte and Doolittle (1982) with a window size of 19 amino acids. Two hydrophobic regions were identified. The amino-terminal sequence (amino acids 18-39), especially, has been supposed to be a transmembrane span due to a length of 22 amino acids and a hydrophobicity score of about 2.0.

Figure 6. Identification of Pas3p. The Pas3p was identified in crude extracts of oleic acid induced wild-type cells by Western blot analysis using affinity-purified anti-Pas3p antibodies (lane 2). In contrast, only a very weak signal was obtained in the crude extract of glucose grown cells (lane 1). Oleic acid induction of a wild-type carrying additional copies of PAS3 on a multiple copy plasmid revealed an enhanced signal (lane 5). After differential centrifugation of induced wild-type lysates, the Pas3p was exclusively found in the 25,000-g pellet fraction (lane 4). (Lane 3 corresponds to the 25,000-g supernatant.)

(Sikorski and Hieter, 1989). The resulting plasmid was linearized within the genomic fragment to direct integration to the homologous chromosomal locus. Subsequent transformation of haploid wild type cells yielded Ura+ transformants (GDP3-1–GDP3-9) showing pas-phenotype (Table II, Fig. 2 b). GDP3-2 was mated to a wild type strain, resulting diploids were sporulated, and the meiotic segregation was examined by tetrad analysis. An absolute cosegregation of pas- and Ura+ was observed. Moreover, a backcross of the disrupted haploid GDP3-2 to the original mutant PM3-11 led to diploids which were also not able to utilize oleic acid as carbon source. These results indicated an integration at the PAS3 locus of GDP3-2. Hence, the authentic PAS3 gene has been cloned.

Sequence Analysis of PAS3

The overlapping region between the genomic fragments of pRSP3/2.3 and 2.4 was sequenced using the dideoxynucleotide chain-termination method (Sanger et al., 1977). The sequenced stretch of 1,637 bp contains an open reading frame of 1,323 bp (Fig. 3), corresponding to a putative protein of 441 amino acids with a calculated molecular mass of 50.6 kD. Several features indicate that the first ATG codon of this open reading frame is indeed the translational start site. A putative TATA element was noted at position −74 relative to this ATG. In addition, the sequence CAAAG, which often defines the start site of transcription (Dobson et al., 1982), was identified at position −23, and the flanking sequences fit well with the eukaryotic consensus sequence of translation start (Kozak, 1984) displaying an A at position −3 and a G at +4. An A-T rich region was found downstream of the TAA stop codon of the open reading frame. Such sequences have been proposed to be involved in the 3′-end formation of yeast mRNA by Zaret and Sherman (1982). A yeast consensus sequence for pre-mRNA splicing (Green, 1986) could not be identified. A transcript corresponding to the open reading frame was shown by a Northern blot using a specific fragment of PAS3 as a radiolabeled DNA-probe. Hybridization to poly (A)+ mRNA isolated from oleic acid induced wild type cells led to the identification of a 1.5-kb mRNA species. In contrast, no signal could be detected when poly (A)+ mRNA from glucose grown cells was used (data not shown). These results indicated that the open reading frame indeed encodes a polypeptide which is expressed in response to oleic acid induction.

Searching of EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Database rel. 25 revealed no significant sequence similarity to any other known protein sequence. Hydropathy analysis according to Kyte and Doolittle (1982) with a window size of 19 amino acids led to the identification of two hydrophobic regions within Pas3p (Fig. 5). Especially the amino terminal sequence (amino acids 18–39) fulfills the requirements for a membrane-spanning domain: a sequence of at least 19 amino acids with a hydrophobicity score higher than 1.6 (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982). The second stretch from amino acid 135 to 153 is characterized by a hydrophobicity score of 1.59. The nonpolar amino acids of this segment are disrupted by a lysine residue at position 138. Thus, it seems unlikely that this sequence acts as a second transmembrane span. Based on the...
hydrophobicity analysis, we predict that Pas3p is a membrane protein anchored by at least one membrane-spanning domain.

Identification and Intracellular Localization of Pas3p
The PAS3 nucleotide sequence data predicted a molecular mass of 50.6 kD for the gene product. Furthermore, the data indicated that Pas3p might be a membrane-bound protein. Analysis of these predictions was facilitated by the preparation of a specific antiserum. The product of a truncated PAS3 gene expressed in E. coli was purified as an insoluble inclusion body and used to generate anti-Pas3p antibodies in rabbits. For the experiments described in this study, the antiserum was used after affinity purification against β-galactosidase-Pas3p fusion protein. As demonstrated in Fig. 6, the antibodies specifically react with a 48-kD polypeptide which is present in a very low amount when cells are grown on glucose (Fig. 6, lane 1) and inducible by oleic acid (Fig. 6, lane 2). Moreover, in a crude extract of oleic acid grown cells containing PAS3 on a multicopy plasmid an enhanced signal was obtained (Fig. 6, lane 5), indicating that the 48-kD protein is the predicted PAS3 gene product. After a 25,000-g centrifugation of a yeast lysate obtained from spheroplasts, the protein was exclusively detected in the pellet fraction, suggesting a particulate localization of Pas3p (Fig. 6, lanes 3 and 4). In contrast to this strong reaction in the 25,000-g pellet of the wild type lysate, it was not possible to immunologically detect the 48-kD protein in subcellular fractions of any of the three pas3-mutants PM3-11 to PM3-13 (data not shown). In addition, this was also the case for the gene-disrupted strain GDP3-2, providing further experimental evidence for the authenticity of the 48-kD protein as the PAS3 gene product. It can be concluded that the cause for the pas3-phenotype is a lack of this protein in the mutant strains. Although the experimental results strongly suggest that the immunoreactive 48-kD protein is indeed Pas3p, there is a difference of ~2.5 kD between the predicted and the apparent molecular mass. This might be explained by the frequently observed fact that hydrophobic proteins run with increased mobility in SDS-polyacrylamide gels (Biichel et al., 1980; Kamijo et al., 1990).

To further investigate the subcellular localization of Pas3p, a sucrose density gradient centrifugation was performed. The 25,000-g pellet fraction was subfractionated by isopycnic centrifugation in a 32–54% continuous sucrose density gradient. Fractions were analyzed for catalase activity as a peroxisomal marker enzyme, and cytochrome c-oxidase activity to detect mitochondria. Fig. 7 shows the distribution pattern of these enzymes. A clear separation of peroxisomes and mitochondria was achieved under these conditions. Peroxisomes were obtained at a density of 1.23 g/cm³,
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Figure 8. Immunological detection of Pas3p in the pellet fraction of carbonate-extracted peroxisomal membranes. Membranes were prepared from isolated peroxisomes by treatment with 10 mM Tris, pH 8.0. After exposure to centrifugation the resulting pellet fraction was extracted with sodium carbonate at pH 11.5 followed by a second centrifugation step (200,000 g, 1 h). The 48-kD Pas3p was identified in the pellet fractions as it is expected for an integral membrane protein. S, supernatant; P, pellet fraction.

whereas the mitochondrial fraction was found at a density of 1.18 g/cm³. The gradient fractions were further analyzed by Western blot analysis using polyclonal antibodies against the peroxisomal 3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase and the affinity-purified anti-Pas3p antibodies. As shown in Fig. 7, the distribution pattern of both the 48-kD Pas3p and thiolase exactly follow the enzyme profile of the catalase activity. Based on these data, Pas3p can be characterized as a peroxisomal protein.

Discussion

Very little is known about the functional features and structures of yeast peroxisomal membrane proteins. We report here the identification and molecular characterization of the peroxisomal integral membrane protein Pas3p which is essential for the biogenesis of peroxisomes in Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Cloning and sequencing of its gene, PAS3, became possible after the isolation of pas3-mutants.

All three reported pas3-mutants as well as the constructed null mutant revealed the same phenotype as the recently described strains pasl-1 and pas2 (Erdmann et al., 1989). This pas-phenotype is characterized by the lack of morphologically detectable peroxisomes, causing the inability of the
yeast cells to utilize oleic acid as sole carbon source. In addition, peroxisomal matrix enzymes, which are still inducible by oleic acid, are mislocalized to the cytosol. The same features have also been reported for peroxisome deficient mutants of CHO cells (Zoeller et al., 1989), and of *Hansenula polymorpha* (Cregg et al., 1990), as well as for fibroblasts of Zellweger patients (Schutgens et al., 1986; Schram et al., 1986). Interestingly, in Zellweger fibroblasts empty peroxisomal membrane structures ("ghosts") containing peroxisomal membrane proteins have been identified, indicating that defects of the peroxisomal protein import machinery cause these diseases in man (Santos et al., 1988).

Although such structures could not yet be unequivocally demonstrated in the different pas-mutants of *S. cerevisiae*, we would like to postulate that they do exist and are an inherent additional feature of the pas-phenotype. This conclusion is primarily based on the following two observations. Firstly, transformation of pas3-mutants with plasmids bearing the PAS3 gene resulted in strains with detectable peroxisomes (Fig. 2, d and f). Secondly, genetic crossing of haploid cells of pas3-mutants with strains of other pas complementation groups (e.g., pas1 or pas2) led to diploid cells containing peroxisomes. Accumulated evidence strongly suggests that peroxisomes do not form by a de novo assembly mechanism, but arise from pre-existing organelles by growth and division (Lazarow et al., 1985; Borst, 1986, 1989). In the light of this notion and the demonstration of ghosts in fibroblasts of Zellweger patients, our findings make it extremely unlikely that in yeast cells without residual peroxisomal remnants, recovery of an essential gene by itself can restore biogenesis of peroxisomes. The cloning of the PAS3 gene, encoding an integral peroxisomal membrane protein (see below) now provides the basis for strategies to search for peroxisomal ghosts in *S. cerevisiae* by means of molecular probes.

The sequence of the PAS3 gene predicts a 50.6-kD protein (Pas3p) that contains at least one stretch of amino acids 18–39 which is sufficiently long and hydrophobic to span a lipid bilayer. The predictions of the sequence analysis are strongly supported by the properties and the subcellular localization of the immunologically detected Pas3p. It is clearly identified as a peroxisomal protein of an apparent molecular mass of 48 kD and, judged by the carbonate-extraction method (Fig. 8), an integral component of the peroxisomal membrane. So far no integral peroxisomal membrane protein of *S. cerevisiae* and only three of other organisms, namely PMP70 of rat liver (Kamijo et al., 1990), PMP47 of *Candida boidinii* (McCormon et al., 1990a), and PAF-1 of CHO cells (Tsukamoto et al., 1991) have been

| Proteinase K | Time (min) | Thiolase | Pas3p |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-------|
|             | 2 10 30 60 |          |       |
| -           | -         |          |       |
| +           | 2 10 30 60 |          |       |
| -           | 2 10 30 60 |          |       |
| +           | 2 10 30 60 |          |       |

**Figure 10.** Western blot analysis using antibodies against 3-oxoacyl-CoA thiolase and Pas3p after proteinase K treatment of a crude organelar pellet fraction. Four samples of a 25,000-g pellet fraction of oleic acid-induced wild-type cells were incubated in the absence (−) or presence (+) of 25 mg/ml agarose-coupled proteinase K and 0.1% Triton X-100 at 30°C. After 2, 10, 30, and 60 min, aliquots of each sample were precipitated in 10% TCA and prepared for SDS-PAGE. In the case of the peroxisomal matrix enzyme thiolase, degradation during protease treatment was only observed when the organelles were lysed by the addition of Triton X-100. In contrast, Pas3p was accessible to the added proteinase K in the presence as well as in the absence of detergent. A 27-kD polypeptide was detected as the dominant cleavage product (indicated by arrowheads).
characterized by cloning and sequencing of the corresponding genes. Comparison of their deduced amino acid sequences with that of Pas3p revealed no significant sequence similarity. While PMP70 and PMP47 were characterized as major integral peroxisomal membrane proteins in the respective organisms, a 48-kD protein was not among the predominant polypeptides of the peroxisomal membrane of *S. cerevisiae* (McCammon et al., 1990b).

With respect to the topology of Pas3p within the peroxisomal membrane, it was an interesting observation that a 41-kD degradation product of this protein (Fig. 9) behaved like a peripheral membrane protein. It is obvious from sequence analysis that a cleavage in the hydrophilic carboxy-terminal half of Pas3p can not explain this finding (Fig. 11 a, A). However, the shift from an integral to a peripheral membrane protein and the size of the observed polypeptide could result from a cleavage between the two hydrophobic stretches of amino acids 18–39 and 135–153 (Fig. 11 a, B). The putative cleavage product would lack the first amino-terminal hydrophobic sequence which, as discussed above, possesses the properties of a membrane-spanning domain. This reasoning implies that the second hydrophobic stretch (amino acids 135–153) alone is not sufficient to anchor Pas3p in the lipid bilayer, but to peripherally associate it to the peroxisomal membrane. Further insight into the topology of Pas3p was obtained by protease treatment of a crude peroxisomal/mitochondrial pellet fraction. The easy accessibility of Pas3p to proteolytic attack even when membranes are not permeabilized by detergent (Fig. 10) suggests that the major portion of Pas3p protrudes into the cytosol. The size (27 kD) of the observed predominant degradation product corresponds well with the hydrophilic part of the Pas3-protein. Based on the presented data we have speculated about the topology of Pas3p (Fig. 11 b). It is presumably anchored in the lipid bilayer by the transmembrane domain at its amino terminus with its membrane association being supported by the second hydrophobic stretch, while the bulk of the molecule emerges from the cytosolic face of the peroxisomal membrane into the cytosol.

A search of databases failed to reveal significant sequence similarities of the deduced primary sequence of Pas3p to other known protein sequences, thus providing no insight into a possible function of this integral membrane protein. However, the discussed topology of Pas3p and its essential role for the biogenesis of peroxisomes are properties one would expect of a putative receptor on the peroxisomal membrane.

Fibroblast of Zellweger patients have been reported to contain peroxisomal membrane proteins in ghost-like structures (Santos et al., 1988), whereas soluble peroxisomal proteins were found in the cytosol of these cells (Schram et al., 1986). This seems to suggest that membrane-bound and soluble proteins are delivered to peroxisomes by separate mechanisms. It has recently been demonstrated that the tripeptide SKL and certain conservative modifications of this motif at the extreme carboxyl terminus of peroxisomal proteins function as a peroxisomal targeting signal in mammals, plants, and yeast (Gould et al., 1990). However, an SKL-like motif is absent at the carboxyl terminus of the deduced primary sequence of Pas3p as well as of PMP70 (Kamijo et al., 1990), PMP47 (McCammon et al., 1990a), and PAF-1 (Tsukamoto et al., 1991), the other known peroxisomal integral membrane proteins. Moreover, with respect to the discussed topology of Pas3p, with a membrane anchoring stretch at the extreme NH₂-terminus and the carboxyl-terminal half protruding into the cytosol, it is conceivable that the protein is directed to the peroxisomal membrane by an amino-terminal targeting signal.

Interestingly, the amino terminus of Pas3p shows a surprising structural similarity to the noncleavable NH₂-terminus of the 70-kD mitochondrial outer membrane protein of *S. cerevisiae* (Hase et al., 1984). In both cases there is only a short sequence preceding the hydrophobic transmembrane span, and this membrane spanning domain is surrounded by a number of basic residues. It was shown for the mitochondrial protein that the first 12 amino acids are sufficient for targeting to mitochondria, whereas the subsequent uncharged region up to residue 29 contains a "stop-transfer" signal.
and “anchoring” function (Nakai et al., 1989). Based on these observations PAS3p should be a useful model protein for studies of integral membrane protein sorting to yeast peroxisomes.

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