Identification and Localization of a Novel, Cytoskeletal, Centrosome-associated Protein in PtK2 Cells

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Abstract. Antisera raised against centrin (Salisbury, J. L., A. T. Baron, B. Surek, and M. Melkonian. 1984. J. Cell Biol. 99:962–970) have been used, here, to identify a centrosome-associated protein with an Mr of 165,000. Immunocytochemistry indicates that this protein is a component of pericentriolar satellites, basal feet, and pericentriolar matrix of interphase cells. These components of pericentriolar material are, in part, composed of 3–8-nm-diam filaments, which interconnect to form a three-dimensional pericentriolar lattice. We conclude that the 165,000-Mr protein is immunologically related to centrin, and that it is a component of a novel centrosome-associated cytoskeletal filament system.

Microtubule organizing centers such as the flagellar apparatus of algal cells, spindle pole body of yeast cells, and centrosome of mammalian cells are homologous structures essential for cytoplasmic organization and cellular proliferation. Molecular cloning studies have recently shown that the cell cycle gene product CDC31, required for spindle pole body duplication, shares 50% sequence homology with centrin (Huang, B., A. Mengersen, and V. D. Lee. 1988. J. Cell Biol. 107:133–140). The evolutionary conservation of centrin-related sequences and immunologic epitopes to microtubule organizing centers of divergent phylogeny suggests that a functional attribute(s) may have been conserved as well. Elucidation of a common thread between these related molecules may be fundamental to our understanding of cell structure and function.

The centrosome and mitotic spindle poles are the major microtubule organizing centers (MTOCs) (Pickett-Heaps, 1969) of interphase and mitotic animal cells, respectively (Brinkley, 1985; Karsenti and Maro, 1986). The functional integrity of these MTOCs is essential for the determination of cell shape and polarity (McIntosh, 1983), and for motility phenomena such as directed cell migration (Albrecht-Buehler, 1977; Gotlieb et al., 1981; Nemere et al., 1985) and cell division (McIntosh, 1987; Mazia, 1987). Depending on the phase of the cell cycle, the centrosome is characterized by the presence of two or four centrioles; each centriole pair is referred to as a diplosome or duplex. In addition to centrioles, the centrosome is defined by a convergent microtubule array, a variety of electron-opaque structures known as pericentriolar material (PCM), and smooth membrane tubules and vesicles (DeHarven, 1968; Brinkley and Stubblefield, 1970; Wolfe, 1972; Peterson and Berns, 1980; Brinkley, 1985; Karsenti and Maro, 1986).

Included under the category of PCM are the following structures: a fibrillar halo or cloud of osmophilic electron-opaque material that surrounds the centrioles (pericentriolar matrix); compact electron-opaque bodies known as pericentriolar satellites; and a variety of centriolar “appendages.” The role of PCM, not the centrioles, as the preferential site for nucleating and anchoring cytoplasmic microtubules has become well established (Tilney and Goddard, 1970; Berns et al., 1977; Berns and Richardson, 1977; Gould and Borisy, 1977; Telzer and Rosenbaum, 1979; Kuriyama and Borisy, 1981a; Rieder and Borisy, 1981). In spite of the importance of PCM in MTOC function, a precise structural characterization of (a) the various components of PCM, (b) its biochemical composition, and (c) its relationship to MTOC function have not been established.

In a previous report (Salisbury et al., 1984), we isolated and partially characterized striated flagellar roots (SFRs) from the alga Tetraselmis striata. These organelles integrate the basal bodies of the flagellar apparatus into the cytoplasm and are predominantly composed of an acidic 20,000-Mr, calcium-binding protein, which has a phosphorylated isoform. We call this protein centrin. Antisera raised against centrin have been used to screen a variety of animal and algal cells by immunofluorescence microscopy (Salisbury et al., 1986; Schulze et al., 1987). For all cells examined, the antigenic determinant(s) was localized to the flagellar apparatus or centrosome. The flagellar apparatus is the major MTOC.
of algal cells (Ringo, 1967; Johnson and Porter, 1968; Coss, 1974; Doonan and Grief, 1987), and is functionally homologous to the centrosome of animal cells. The conservation of immunologic epitopes between such divergent MTOCs poses the possibility that some structural and functional attributes of centrin may also have been evolutionarily conserved.

In this study, we describe the fine structure of the mammalian centrosome with respect to striated roots, basal feet, and pericentriolar satellites—constituents of PCM. We identify a novel component of the centrosome that is immunologically related to centrin—a protein with an $M_r$ of 165,000.

Finally, using fluorescent and gold immunocytochemistry, we determine that this molecule is a component of basal feet, pericentriolar satellites, and pericentriolar matrix of interphase PtK$_2$ cells.

**Materials and Methods**

**Cell Culture**

PtK$_2$ cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (Rockville, MD). They were grown on sterile glass coverslips in RPMI-1640 medium at 37°C and 5% CO$_2$ in air. The RPMI-1640 was supplemented with 10% FBS and penicillin-streptomycin, and buffered with 20 mM Hepes at pH 7.3. All culture reagents were purchased from Gibco Laboratories (Grand Island, NY).

**Antibody Characterization**

Antisera raised against centrin have been characterized in detail elsewhere (Salisbury et al., 1984).

**In Vivo Labeling and Immunoprecipitation**

**Cell Culture.** PtK$_2$ cells were subcultured 12 h before an experiment in 35-mm petri dishes to achieve an actively dividing population of cells at 80-90% confluence on the day of the experiment. The cells were grown as described above.

**Preincubation and Labeling.** To deplete the cells of methionine and cysteine they were washed with PBS (10 mM KH$_2$PO$_4$ and K$_2$HPO$_4$, 150 mM NaCl, pH 7.2), and preincubated in preincubation medium (DME minus methionine and cysteine, 5% dialyzed FBS, and L-glutamine) for 1 h at 37°C and 5% CO$_2$ in air. The cells were removed from preincubation medium and incubated in labeling medium (preincubation medium supplemented with $[^{35}]$S)methionine and $[^{35}]$S)cysteine [150 µCi/ml each]; Amersharn Corp., Arlington Heights, IL) for 2 h at 37°C and 5% CO$_2$ in air.

**Harvesting and Labeling.** Cells were washed with PBS, scraped from the petri dishes in PBS with a rubber policeman, transferred to microfuge tubes, and centrifuged (15,000 g; 5 min). The supernates were discarded and the cell pellets resuspended in 0.1 ml prewarmed (100°C) buffer (0.5% NP-40, 0.5% deoxycholic acid, 2.5% SDS). After vortexing vigorously, 9 vol of immunoprecipitation buffer A (50 mM Tris-Cl, 190 mM NaCl, 6 mM EDTA, 2.5% Triton X-100, 100 U/ml trasylol, pH 7.4) were added to each cell lysate. After centrifugation (1-2 min), the postnuclear supernates were transferred to fresh microfuge tubes and incubated with the appropriate antibodies (anticentrin immune serum, preimmune serum, or no antiserum; ~15 µg/ml of Ig were used per sample) at 4-0°C overnight on a tumbler. Postnuclear supernates were incubated in 20 µl of packed protein A-Sepharose (Pharmacia Fine Chemicals, Inc., Uppsala, Sweden) in immunoprecipitation buffer B (10 mM Tris-Cl, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 0.1% Triton X-100, 100 U/ml trasylol, pH 8.3) for an additional hour at 0-4°C on a tumbler. Protein A-Sepharose was pelleted by centrifugation (30 s) and washed with three changes of immunoprecipitation buffer B followed by TBS (10 mM Tris-Cl, pH 7.4, 150 mM NaCl). The final protein A-Sepharose pellets were loaded on a gel and run as described under Electrophoresis and Autoradiography.

**Electrophoresis and Autoradiography**

SDS-PAGE was carried out according to the method of Laemmli (1970) in slab gels containing 0.2% SDS and a 5-15% gradient of acrylamide. Gels were soaked in ENHANCE (New England Nuclear, Boston, MA) for 1 h, precipitated with running water, soaked in 5% glycine for 15 min, dried, and recorded with Kodak XAR film (Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, NY) at ~70°C.

**Immunofluorescence Microscopy**

**Specimen Preparation.** Cells were rinsed with Pipex wash buffer (PWB; 100 mM Pipes, 1 mM EGTA, 1 mM MgSO$_4$, pH 7.2); fixed in fixation buffer (3% formaldehyde freshly prepared from paraformaldehyde in PWB) for 60 min; permeabilized with 0.01% Triton X-100 in PWB (three changes, 5 min each); washed with PWB; rinsed with deionized water; postfixed with methanol at ~20°C (5 min); extracted with acetone at ~20°C (5 min); and air dried. Before the methanol step all solutions were at room temperature.

**Antibody Labeling.** After air drying, coverslips were immediately rehydrated with PBS; blocked to eliminate nonspecific binding of antibodies to blocking buffer (5% FBS, 5% glycine, 0.04% azide in PBS) for 1 h at 37°C; incubated in primary rabbit antibodies (1:500 dilution of anticeratin immune serum or preimmune serum) overnight at 37°C; washed with PBS; incubated in anti-rabbit rhodamine-conjugated secondary antibody (1:1,000 dilution; CooperBiomedical, Inc., Malvern, PA) for 4 h at 37°C; washed with PBS; rinsed with deionized water to remove salts; and mounted with Euvan mountant (Rubin and Deinhardt, 1969) containing 0.6 g/ml 1.4-diabicyclo-(2,2,2)-octane (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO) to reduce fading of fluorescence.

Cells destined for double labeling were prepared as described above and carried through the anticentrin labeling step. These samples were then washed with PBS; incubated in a 1:20 dilution of mouse monoclonal anti-a-tubulin (this culture supernate was a generous gift of Dr. B. Huang, Research Institute of Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, CA) for 4 h at 37°C; washed with PBS; incubated in secondary antibodies (goat anti-mouse fluorescein conjugated IgG and goat anti-rabbit rhodamine-conjugated IgG [1:1,000 dilution of each]; CooperBiomedical, Inc.) for 4 h at 37°C; washed with PBS; and mounted.

To reduce nonspecific binding, the secondary antibodies were preabsorbed and crossabsorbed against PtK$_2$ cells that were prepared as described above. Cells were rehydrated, blocked, and incubated overnight in secondary antibodies at 37°C. The antibody supernates were then collected and stored at 0-4°C until use. Just before use, the supernates were centrifuged (15,000 g, 5 min). All antibodies were diluted in PBS.

**Photography.** Micrographs were taken on a Nikon Optiphot microscope (Nikon Inc., Instrument Div., Garden City, NY) equipped with epifluorescence illumination using a 40X or 100X oil immersion objective. Images were recorded on HyperTech film (Microfluor, Ltd., Stony Brook, NY) and developed with D-19 for 4 min at 68°C.

**Electron Microscopy**

Fixation of PtK$_2$ cells for electron microscopy was carried out according to the procedure of McDonald (1984). Cells grown on sterile carbon-coated glass coverslips were rinsed with 50 mM cacodylate buffer, pH 7.4, and fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde buffered with cacodylate for 1 h at room temperature. After a buffer wash, the samples were postfixed with 0.5% osmium tetroxide and 0.8% K$_4$Fe(CN)$_6$ in cacodylate buffer for 15 min on ice. Samples were washed with buffer, mordanted with 0.15% tannic acid in cacodylate buffer for 1 min, washed with deionized water, and stained with 2% aqueous uranyl acetate for 1 h at room temperature. After washing with deionized water, the samples were dehydrated through an ethanol series, cleared with propylene oxide, and embedded in Poly/Bed-812. Blocks were polymerized at 60°C for 48 h. Silver-gold interference sections were cut using an ultramicrotome (Reichert Scientific Instruments, Buffalo, NY) and a diamond knife (Diatome-US Co., Fort Washington, PA), collected on Formvar-coated copper grids, poststained at room temperature with 2% aqueous uranyl acetate (15 min), and treated with Reynolds lead citrate for 15 min. Sections were observed and photographed on an electron microscope (model 1200; JEOL USA, Electron Optics Div., Peabody, MA).

**Immunogold Labeling for Electron Microscopy**

**Specimen Preparation.** Cells were grown as described under Electron Mi-
EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES


cytoscopy, rinsed once with PWB, and fixed with 3% formaldehyde in PWB
for 10 min at room temperature. Cells were permeabilized with 0.5% Triton
X-100 for 10 min at room temperature and washed with PBS.

Antibody Labeling. Cells were immediately blocked in blocking buffer
for 1 h at 37°C and incubated in primary rabbit antibodies (1:100 dilution
of anticientrin immune or preimmune serum) for 1 h at 37°C. The cells were
washed with PBS, incubated in 5-nm colloidal gold–conjugated secondary
antibodies (1:20 dilution; Janssen Pharmaceutica, Beerse, Belgium) for 3 h
at 37°C, washed again with PBS, and processed as described under Electron
Microscopy.

Results

Ultrastructural Characteristics of Pericentriolar Material

The cell cycle is intimately coordinated with the centrosome
cycle in cultured mammalian cells (Robbins et al., 1968;
Stubbledfield, 1968; Brinkley and Stubbledfield, 1970; Rattner
and Phillips, 1973; Rattner and Berns, 1976; Jensen et al.,
1979; Rieder et al., 1979; Tucker et al., 1979; Kuriyama
and Boris, 1981b; Rieder and Boris, 1982; Vorobjev and
Chentsov, 1982; Kuriyama et al., 1986). It is thus possible
to determine the phase of the cell cycle for a particular cell
by examining ultrastructural features of the centrosome.

Electron micrographs from two separate PtK2 cells in G1
phase of the cell cycle are shown in Fig. 1, A, B (nonserial
sections from the same cell), and C, respectively. The oldest
centriole (mother) characteristically displays a primary
cilium and various centriolar appendages; i.e., alar appen-
dages (transition fibers), basal feet, and a striated root.
The daughter centriole of the duplex is typically positioned
at a nearly orthogonal angle relative to the mother centriole
and does not bear any well-formed appendages. Other
components of PCM such as pericentriolar satellites and pericen-
triolar matrix are also illustrated.

Striated roots of PtK2 cells are composed of axially ar-
ranged filaments that have a diameter of 7–11 nm (Figs. 1
and 3). The cross-striations of this organelle are approximately
25-nm wide, have a period of 62 nm, and often consist of an
electron-lucent central region bordered by electron-opaque
regions (Fig. 1 A). At their proximal centriole-associated
dend, the filaments splay and integrate the root with basal feet
and pericentriolar matrix. Distally, the root attaches to
profiles of smooth membrane. In light of the association of
the striated root with centrioles, we consider this organelle
a filamentous elaboration of PCM.

Basal feet are conical projections that attach to the centri-
ole wall at their widest end (Figs. 1, A and C, and 2 A). In
appropriate sections they appear striated, having alternating
light and dark bands that are variable in number, periodicity,
and width. An electron-opaque cap is characteristic of their
tapered end (Fig. 1 C). Numerous microtubules attach to
these caps, identifying them as MTOCs. Examination of
basal feet, at high magnification, reveals that they are com-
posed of filaments (Fig. 2 A). These filaments fall into two
size classes; filaments having a diameter of 3–8 and 7–11 nm
are distinguishable. Thus, basal feet are composite structures
of three distinct filament classes (3–8- and 7–11-nm-diam
filaments, and cytoplasmic microtubules); they represent an-
other filamentous elaboration of PCM.

Pericentriolar satellites are irregularly shaped, filament-
tous, electron-opaque bodies that range in size from 35 to
120 nm (Fig. 2 B). They are not membrane delimited and
are indirectly connected to centrioles through the pericentri-
olar matrix. Pericentriolar satellites are similar to basal feet,
in that they are composed of and interconnected by 3–8-nm
diameter filaments (Figs. 2 B and 3). It is important to realize
that satellites seen in one thin section are connected to satel-
lites in adjacent thin sections. Pericentriolar satellites are a
third elaboration of PCM.

Basal feet and pericentriolar satellites are, in part, com-
posed of 3–8-nm-diameter filaments. These filaments are dis-
tinct in diameter from the cell’s microfilaments (5–10 nm),
intermediate filaments (8–13 nm), microtubules (22–29 nm),
and striated root filaments (7–11 nm) (Fig. 3). Basal feet and
pericentriolar satellites are thus constituents of a filamentous
three-dimensional cytoskeletal lattice, which is an integral
component of the centrosome.

Identification of a Centrosome-associated Protein in PtK2 Cells

A rabbit antiserum produced against electrophoretically
purified centrin has been used in this study to identify an im-
munologically related protein. Immunoprecipitation of [35S]-
methionine- and [35S]cysteine-labeled proteins from PtK2
cells with anticientrin immune serum (lane A), preimmune
serum (lane B), and protein A–Sepharose alone (lane C) is
illustrated in Fig. 4. Lane C shows that protein A–Sepharose
nonspecifically precipitates the band with an Mr greater
than 200,000. Comparison of A–C indicates that immune
serum specifically immunoprecipitates a protein with an Mr
of 165,000. The results suggest that an antigenic epitope
common to centrin is carried by this 165,000-Mr protein.

Indirect Immunofluorescent Localization of the 165,000-Mr Protein

Immunofluorescence microscopy of interphase PtK2 cells,
labeled by the indirect method with anticientrin antisera,
show labeling of a juxtanuclear region within the cytoplasm
that is suggestive of the cell’s major MTOC, the centrosome
(Fig. 5 A). Control cells labeled with preimmune serum
(Fig. 5 B) demonstrate no specific labeling of this region. At
higher magnification, the fluorescent pattern consists of a
constellation of spots or satellites arranged around one point
of origin (Fig. 5 C). The satellites closest to the origin are
tightly packed. Their proximity to each other and three-
dimensional organization produces a brightly fluorescent
sphere. We have confirmed the centrosomal location of the
165,000-Mr protein in interphase PtK2 cells by double label-
ing with antitubulin and anticientrin antibodies (Fig. 6). The
anticientrin labeling pattern is organized around the point of
origin of the cell’s microtubule array thereby identifying this
region as the centrosome. The results indicate that the
165,000-Mr protein is a novel centrosome-associated com-
ponent of PtK2 cells.

Ultrastructural Localization of the 165,000-Mr Protein

Control cells reacted with preimmune serum show back-
ground levels of gold label (Fig. 7, A and B). Sections
through both mother and daughter centrioles of a cell in G1
phase of the cell cycle are shown.
Figure 1. Ultrastructural features of the centrosome and PCM. Shown are sections from two separate cells in G1 phase of the cell cycle (A-C; A and B are nonserial sections from the same cell). Constituents of PCM shown are alar appendages (ap), basal feet (bf), a striated root (sr), pericentriolar matrix (pm), and pericentriolar satellites (st). Notice the cross-striations (black arrowheads) of the striated root.
Figure 2. Ultrastructural characteristics of basal feet and pericentriolar satellites. (A) This is a higher magnification of the mother centriole shown in Fig. 1 A. Basal feet (bf) have a striated morphology and are composed of filaments that have diameters of 3–8 (small arrow) and 7–11 nm (large arrow). (B) Pericentriolar satellites are indirectly connected to centrioles through the pericentriolar matrix (large arrow) and are composed of and interconnected by 3–8-nm-diam filaments (small arrows). Bar, 0.25 μm.

Immunolocalization of the 165,000-Mr protein at ultrastructural resolution with anticentrin immune serum and secondary anti-rabbit IgG conjugated to 5-nm colloidal gold is illustrated in Fig. 7, C–H. Fig. 7 C shows several labeled pericentriolar satellites in the vicinity of a G1 duplex. Fig. 7 D illustrates another G1 duplex; pericentriolar satellites, a basal foot, and material adherent to the centriole wall are labeled. In Fig. 7 E, several pericentriolar satellites and the pericentriolar matrix material attaching them to the daughter centriole of a G1 duplex are labeled. Fig. 7, F–H, shows serial sections from a cell in G2 phase of the cell cycle. Two unlabeled striated roots are seen; each root is associated with the older centriole of each duplex. Also seen is a cluster of labeled pericentriolar satellites; these are connected to a daughter centriole by labeled pericentriolar matrix material. The micrographs also demonstrate that gold label seen in one thin section may be associated with pericentriolar satellites in an adjacent section; this is a consequence of the preembedding labeling technique used here. Finally, note that the pericentriolar matrix material (intercentriolar matrix) that lies between the centrioles is unlabeled.

The immunogold localization of the 165,000-Mr protein to pericentriolar satellites, basal feet, and a component of pericentriolar matrix demonstrates that these elements constitute the centrosomal constellation seen by immunofluorescence microscopy. Standard transmission electron microscopy has demonstrated that basal feet and pericentriolar satellites are, in part, composed of 3–8-nm-diam filaments. Taken together, these observations suggest that the 3–8-nm-diam filaments common to basal feet and pericentriolar satellites may, in part, be composed of the 165,000-Mr protein identified in this study. We conclude that the anticentrin antisera used in this study identify a novel pericentriolar cytoskeletal filament system within PtK2 cells.

Discussion

The 65,000-Mr Protein Is Immunologically Related to Centrin

Antibodies raised against centrin (Salisbury et al., 1984) have been used here to identify a mammalian protein with an Mr of 165,000 in PtK2 cells. Our observations do not pre-
include the possibility that PtK₂ cells contain a low amount of the 20,000-Mᵣ centrin molecule, which is not detectable by our assays. We also acknowledge that the 165,000-Mᵣ protein may be a minor protein contained in our algal centrin preparations. However, we believe this to be unlikely as our antisera were raised against electrophoretically purified centrin, and affinity-purified anticentrin antibodies demonstrate identical immunolocalization patterns as whole immune serum in both algae and PtK₂ cells (Baron, A. T., and J. L. Salisbury, unpublished observations). At this time, we cannot reconcile the distinct molecular masses for centrin and the 165,000-Mᵣ protein although several mechanisms to account for these observations can be postulated. These mechanisms are gene duplication and fusion, gene fusion with other genes, and alternate splicing and/or developmental regulation of alternate forms. Discriminating among these possibilities will require dissection of the molecular and genetic basis for these proteins. Regardless of the different molecular masses of centrin and the 165,000-Mᵣ protein of PtK₂ cells, anticentrin antibodies demonstrate that these divergent proteins share a conserved epitope(s).

Recent molecular cloning of the centrin gene from the alga Chlamydomonas indicates that centrin shares sequence homology (50% identity) with the CDC31 gene product of Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Huang et al., 1988). Cells carrying temperature-sensitive alleles of the CDC31 gene are defective in spindle pole body duplication; the consequence of this defect is cell cycle arrest (Byers, 1981). The spindle pole body of yeast cells represents the major MTOC of these cells, and is therefore homologous to the mammalian centrosome and algal flagellar apparatus. The relationship of centrin, the 165,000-Mᵣ protein of PtK₂ cells, and the CDC31 gene product is of interest in light of the latter's importance in cell cycle progression. The association of these immunologic and sequence-related proteins to MTOCs of such divergent phylogenies support the position that a functional attribute(s) indispensable for MTOC function during cell division has been evolutionarily conserved.

Basal Feet, Pericentriolar Satellites, and Pericentriolar Matrix: Immunologic and Structural Relatives of Centrin-based Organelles

This study demonstrates that pericentriolar satellites, peri-
Figure 5. Immunofluorescence localization of the 165,000-Mr protein. Low magnification micrographs of interphase PtK₂ cells reacted with (A and C) anticentrin immune serum and (B) preimmune serum are shown. A juxtanuclear region within the cytoplasm that is suggestive of the centrosome labels with immune serum only. (C) Higher magnification of an individual cell reveals that the labeling pattern consists of a constellation of spots or satellites (arrowheads) arranged around a brightly fluorescent sphere of superimposed satellites. Bars, 10 μm.

centriolar matrix, and basal feet of PtK₂ cells share a common immunologic epitope(s) with centrin-based organelles. In addition, these components of PCM also share structural features with centrin-based fiber systems of algal flagellar apparatus.

Immunocytochemical studies have shown that centrin is a component of the nucleus–basal body connectors and distal fibers of *Chlamydomonas reinhardii* and *Spermatozopsis similis*, and the SFRs of *Tetraselmis striata* (Salisbury et al., 1984, 1986, 1987; Wright et al., 1985; McFadden et al., 1987). Ultrastructural examination has revealed that SFRs, nucleus–basal body connectors, distal fibers, pericentriolar satellites, and basal feet consist of 3–8-nm-diam filaments (Salisbury, 1983, 1987; Wright et al., 1985; this study). The striated appearance of PtK₂ basal feet with respect to variable periodicity and band width is reminiscent of the striation patterns common to SFRs and distal fibers. In addition, pericentriolar satellites are similar to the satellites that form the electron-opaque cross-striations of SFRs during calcium-induced contraction. During contraction the filaments of
SFRs twist and supercoil upon themselves to form electron-opaque satellites (Salisbury, 1983); the electron-opaque cross-striations of SFRs thus represent supercoiled filaments. Taken together, these observations suggest that pericentriolar satellites of interphase PtK$_2$ cells, like the satellites of SFRs, are supercoiled filaments.

Previous studies have demonstrated that SFRs of Tetraselmis are calcium-modulated contractile organelles, which contract under conditions of high calcium; cycles of contraction and extension are possible when ATP is supplied (Salisbury and Floyd, 1978; Salisbury, 1983). Similar observations have been made in Chlamydomonas with regard to the nucleus–basal body connector (Wright et al., 1985; Salisbury et al., 1987). McFadden et al. (1987) have recently shown that the distal fiber of Spermatozopsis is a calcium-modulated contractile organelle responsible for basal body reorientation during the photophobic response in flagellated green algae. Experiments examining the calcium sensitivity of pericentriolar satellites of interphase PtK$_2$ cells indicate that high intracellular calcium levels favor their dispersion and disappearance (Baron, A. T., and J. L. Salisbury, unpublished observations). The immunologic and structural relatedness of the pericentriolar lattice of mammalian centrosomes with centrin-based organelles of algal flagellar apparatus give credence to the possibility that a calcium-modulated function may also have been evolutionarily conserved. The pericentriolar lattice of PtK$_2$ cells may represent a calcium-modulated contractile organelle. The behavior of the pericentriolar lattice during repositioning and/or reorienting the centrosome during directional cell migration (Albrecht-Beuhler, 1977; Gotlieb et al., 1981; Nemere et al., 1985) and mitosis (Rattner and Berns, 1976), and chromosome movement (Cande, 1982; Pickett-Heaps et al., 1984) are currently being investigated in this regard.

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