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# Origin and evolution of gene for prolactin-induced protein

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#### Abstract

Prolactin-induced protein (PIP) is a small protein secreted into the fluid in several glands. We determined the *PIP* coding sequences of 5 hominoid species and estimated the numbers of synonymous and nonsynonymous substitutions for each branch of the mammalian *PIP* gene tree. The branch connecting hominoids and Old World monkeys showed significantly higher nonsynonymous than synonymous substitutions. These changes tended to be accumulated in the fibronectin-binding domain. Many other primate branches also showed higher nonsynonymous than synonymous substitutions, thus suggesting that the *PIP* genes of primates have experienced some kind of positive selection. We also considered the phylogenetic relationship of the *PIP* gene with the alpha-2-macroglobulin gene family. The results indicate that the *PIP* gene arose by partial gene duplication from a member of the alpha-2-macroglobulin gene family after the divergence between amphibians and other tetrapods. © 2006 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Phylogenetic tree; Nonsynonymous substitution; Positive selection; Mammal; Gene duplication

### 1. Introduction

The hormonally responsive prolactin-induced protein (PIP) is expressed in various normal exocrine organs such as sweat, salivary, and lacrimal glands, as well as in seminal plasma (Haagensen and Mazoujian, 1986). Although its functions in secretory fluids are not well understood, the protein is reported to be a potent inhibitor of T lymphocyte programmed cell death induced by cross-linking of CD4 and T cell receptor (Gaubin et al., 1999). It was also reported that the protein is an aspartyl proteinase with specific fibronectin-degrading ability (Caputo et al., 2000). The CD4-binding domains and fibronectin-binding domains on the protein have been identified (Basmaciogullari et al., 2000; Caputo et al., 2003). The human *PIP* gene is located on chromosome 7q32–36 (Myal et al., 1989), and the entire gene is about 7 kb long. The gene has 4 exons (Myal et al., 1991) comprising 146 amino acids (Murphy et al., 1987). PIP shares homology with another secretory protein, the seminal vesicle autoantigen (SVA). SVA, a secretory protein present in mouse seminal plasma, exerts an inhibitory effect on the motility of spermatozoa by interacting with the cell membrane phospholipid (Huang et al., 1999).

Evolutionary studies on the *PIP* genes have yielded limited data (Osawa et al., 2004; Clark and Swanson, 2005), with the results suggesting the operation of positive selection on the gene. Thus, in this study, we sequenced the *PIP* coding sequences (CDS) of 5 primate species, and carried out a more detailed evolutionary analysis of this gene. We also examined the phylogenetic relationship of the *PIP* gene with other genes having homologous sequences, such as those of alpha-2-macroglobulin (A2M), pregnancy-zone protein (PZP), alpha-2-macroglobulin-like 1 (A2ML1), and ovostatin 2 (OVOS2), and considered the origin of the mammalian *PIP* gene.

Abbreviations: PIP, prolactin-induced protein; A2M, alpha-2-macroglobulin; FN, fibronectin.

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### 2. Materials and methods

#### 2.1. DNA sequencing of primate PIP genes

Genomic DNAs from 2 common chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes), 3 gorillas (Gorilla gorilla), 1 orangutan (Pongo pygmaeus), 1 agile gibbon (Hylobates agilis), and 1 siamang (Symphalangus syndactylus) were used for DNA sequencing. PCR amplification was performed in a volume of 20 µl containing 50 ng of DNA, 1× PCR buffer, 0.2 mM concentration of each dNTP, 0.5 µM concentration of each oligonucleotide primer, 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, and 1 U of AmpliTag Gold polymerase (Applied Biosystems). All PCR primers were designed based on intron regions to amplify full CDSs, based on the human (NC\_000007) and chimpanzee (AB098482) sequences in the DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank international nucleotide sequence database. A list of primers used in this study is available from one of the authors (TK). The typical PCR conditions used in this study consisted of 40 cycles of 30-s denaturation at 95 °C, followed by 15-s primer annealing at 55 °C and 1-min extension at 72 °C. Immediately proceeding these cycles, a 10-min hot-start step at 95 °C was included. The PCR products were confirmed by 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis and purified by using a QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen). The purified PCR products were sequenced with a BigDye terminator cycle sequencing kit version 1.1 and an ABI Prism 3100 genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Both strands were sequenced, and 2 overlapping peaks on a site were regarded to indicate heterozygosity, and the site was designated by following Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry (NC-IUB).

### 2.2. Analysis of PIP coding sequences

The CDSs of the PIP gene for the following 8 mammals were retrieved from the nucleotide sequence database: human (Homo sapiens, J03460), chimpanzee (AB098482), Japanese macaque (Macaca fuscata, AB098481), cow (Bos taurus, AB098480), rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus, AB098478), guinea pig (Cavia porcellus, AB098479), mouse (Mus musculus, S73282), and rat (Rattus norvegicus, AF054270). The CLUS-TALW program (Thompson et al., 1994) was used for the multiple alignment. Aligned regions without gaps were used for subsequent analyses. A phylogenetic tree was constructed by using the neighbor-joining method (Saitou and Nei, 1987) along with the two-parameter method (Kimura, 1980). MEGA3 software (Kumar et al., 2004) was used for the tree construction. The ancestral sequences on the tree were reconstructed by the likelihood-based Bayesian method (Yang et al., 1995) using the BASEML program in the PAML package (Yang, 1997). The numbers of synonymous and nonsynonymous substitutions for each branch were estimated by using the modified Nei and Gojobori's method (Nei and Gojobori, 1986; Zhang et al., 1998). The ratio (R) of transitional changes to transversional changes for the data set was obtained by counting the total numbers of transitional and transversional changes that were observed in the entire phylogenetic tree. This method yielded R=296/254=1.17; therefore, we assumed R=1 in subsequent computations. Fisher's exact tests for synonymous and nonsynonymous substitutions were performed according to Zhang et al. (1998).

### 2.3. Polymorphism data for the human PIP gene

We used genomic DNAs from 30 Japanese and 30 Germans to sequence 2 regions (I and II) of the human *PIP* gene. The regions I (615 bp) and II (664 bp) contained exon 2 and exons 3–4, respectively (Supplementary Fig. 1). PCR and sequencing were done as described above. Chimpanzee (NW\_109346) and Japanese macaque (AB098481) sequences were used in order to determine ancestral states for each SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism). Two measures of nucleotide variability,  $\pi$  (Nei, 1987) and  $\theta_W$  (Watterson, 1975), were calculated. Tajima's (1989) *D* and Fay and Wu's (2000) *H* were calculated to test for deviations from the standard neutral model by using the allele frequency spectrum. A program for performing these statistics, kindly provided by J.C. Fay, was used.

# 2.4. Analysis of the relationship between PIP and its related genes

We performed PSI-BLAST (Altschul et al., 1997) with 10 passes against the NCBI non-redundant protein database. The human PIP (NP\_002643) was used as a query for the homology search. From the PSI-BLAST result, we collected amino acid sequences that gave hit length of more than 100 amino acid residues and higher than 30% positive (meaning identical or similar) residues without alignment gaps. Human, cow, dog, and mouse were used as representative mammals, with the chicken (Gallus gallus) for birds, African clawed frog (Xenopus laevis) for amphibians, and pufferfish (Tetraodon nigroviridis) and zebrafish (Danio rerio) for fish. We also obtained homologous sequences from the Japanese lamprev (Lethenteron japonicum) and 7 invertebrate species, i.e., purple sea urchin (Strongylocentrotus purpuratus), sea scallop (Chlamys farreri), horseshoe crab (Limulus sp.), red flour beetle (Tribolium castaneum), honey bee (Apis mellifera), soft tick (Ornithodoros moubata), and kuruma shrimp (Marsupenaeus japonicus). The list of these sequences is given in Supplementary Table 1. Redundant sequences and sequences that contained an alignment gap of more than 5 contiguous amino acid residues were not used for the analysis (see Supplementary Table 1). In total, 92 amino acid sequences were used for the tree reconstruction of the PIP genes and their related genes. Furthermore we carried out tBLASTn searches against gss (genome survey sequence), wgs (whole genome shotgun sequence), and htgs (unfinished high throughput genomic sequences) databases for chicken, African clawed frog, zebrafish, and pufferfish (Takifugu rubripes) by using the human PIP (NP\_002643) as a query. However, any other additional sequences were not observed. The T-Coffee program (Notredame et al., 2000) was used for the multiple alignment. For maximum likelihood phylogenetic inference, first, a neighbor-joining tree was constructed with the JTT model (Jones et al., 1992), followed by the branch swapping (nearest neighbor interchange) method,

with the neighbor-joining tree used as the initial tree. The PROTML program in the MOLPHY package (Adachi and Hasegawa, 1996) was used.

### 3. Results and discussion

# 3.1. Synonymous and nonsynonymous substitutions in mammalian PIP genes

We sequenced the *PIP* genes from 2 common chimpanzees, 3 gorillas, 1 orangutan, 1 siamang and 1 agile gibbon (DDBJ/ EMBL/GenBank International Nucleotide Sequence Database accession numbers are AB251899–AB251906). Fig. 1 shows a multiple alignment of translated amino acid sequences of the mammalian PIP proteins. The chimpanzee sequences determined in this study were identical to the sequence encoded by the chimpanzee *PIP* gene deposited in the database except for 1 synonymous change (T342C). In the gorillas, 2 polymorphic sites were observed (G343A and A359G). Both substitutions could change the type of amino acid and were located in the neighborhood of each other (Fig. 1). We used 343=G and 359=A for the following analyses as a representative of gorillas.

Fig. 2 shows the phylogenetic relationship among mammalian *PIP* genes and the numbers of synonymous and nonsynonymous substitutions on each branch. The dN/dSratio of the number of nonsynonymous substitutions per nonsynonymous site (dN) to the number of synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (dS) was estimated for each branch. Nine branches showed a dN/dS value higher than 1, and 8 of them were in the primate lineages. Application of Fisher's exact test showed that the number of nonsynonymous substitutions was significantly higher than that of the synonymous ones (p=0.02) in the branch that connected hominoids and an Old World monkey, where 18 nonsynonymous substitutions (n), 1 synonymous substitutions (s), 112.7 potential synonymous sites (S), and 310.3 potential nonsynonymous sites (N) were estimated. Table 1 shows the numbers of amino acid changes for each domain among the primate PIP proteins. On the branch of Node b-Node c, 5 out of 18 amino acid changes were clustered in the FN-1 domain. The rate of amino acid changes in this domain was 2 to 3 times higher than that for the other regions. This domain also accumulated amino acid changes in the branch that connected to an Old World monkey (Node *b*-Macaque). In contrast, amino acid changes in hominoids tended to accumulate in the FN-2 domain. The NH2terminal region, which is the first CD4-binding domain, was conserved among the primate PIP proteins. Furthermore, 4 cysteine residues for 2 pairs of disulfide bonds (Schaller et al., 1991) were conserved among the mammals examined (Fig. 1). By using site-specific mutagenesis, Caputo et al. (2000) demonstrated that an aspartate residue (they called it Asp<sup>22</sup>) was required for proteinase activity. This aspartate residue is located in the FN-1 domain (Fig. 1), and is shared by human and

	1	*	79
Human	LL	KNFD ISVRP.DAA	s
Chimpanzee	LF.L	HNFD ISVRP.DAA	s
Gorilla	LL	KNFD ISVRP.DAA	
Orangutan	.HLL	K.FD ISVRP.DAA	
Siamang	LL	K.FD ISVRPAT.A	
Agile	LL	K.FD ISVRPAT.A	.R
Macaque	LHA	QNF. I.TT.NRDAQ	.KA.VT.DV.
Node c	LL	K.FD ISVRP.DAA	
Node b	LI	K.F. IT.SPA	V.
Node a	MRSLQFLFRASPATLLLVLCLQLGTNKAQENTTSRKM	IIMDLE MPKIATANEEVTVVLE	VQTELKECMVVKAYLISNIP
Rabbit	AL.VFEIE.SIW.V	.QQTV.VK.G	IQ
Guinea pig	.LTFDRT	LST. L.QEVLT.LK.K	.ERIV.SK.
Mouse	.QG.S.TAVFIIES.DDENVP	LLIEID V.ST.QE.Q.IQVT	.E.QYRIVE.
Rat	.QG.S.TSTAFFI.EG.D.E.IPQP	LLFQ.N V.STPDE.QDMS.T	LQYLT.
Cow	.YHL.LAITDQL	MTQ .LQ.D.SA	.S.D.RL
	CD4-1	FN-1	
	0011		
	80		148
Human		V A N	148 EI K E
Human	30 LQAD.N.KFY R Q LQ	VAN.	148 EI.K.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla	80 LQAD.N.KFY. R. Q LQAD.N.KFY. R. Q LQA. D.N.K. FYA R. Q	VAN. V.QAN.	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan	B0 LQAD.N.KFYRQ LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q LQAD.N.KFYA.R.Q. LADEN.KFYA.R.Q.	VAN. V.QAN. I.V.QAN. V.	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang	B0         LQAD.N.KFY R Q         LQAD.N.KFY. R Q         LQAD.N.KFYA. R Q         LADEN.KFY. R. Q         LADEN.KFY. R.	VAN. V.QAN. I.V.QAN. VAN. VAN	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E TET.E.E E.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile	B0         LQAD.N.KFY         LQAD.N.KFY.         LQAD.N.KFYA.         LQAD.N.KFYA.         LQAD.N.KFYA.         LAD.N.KFYA.         LAD.N.KFY.         LAD.N.KFY.         LAD.N.KFY.         LAD.N.KFY.         LAAD.N.K.         LA	VAN. V.QAN. I.V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAN.	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E TET.K.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macague	B0         LQAD.N.KFYR.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFYA.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFYA.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GAADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GANN.KFY.R.Q         L.GANN.KFY.R.Q	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAN. VAS.	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E TET.E.E TET.K.E KT.V.A
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i>	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFYA.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.Y.FH.R.Q.         LAD.N.K.FY.R.O.	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAN. VAS. N.AT.SK. VAN.	148 EI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E ET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node c Node b	B0         LQAD.N.KFYR.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFYA.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADN.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GAD.N.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.K.FY.R.Q         VAD.N.K.FY.R.Q	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAS. AS. AS. AN. AN.	148 EI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E TET.K.E TET.E.E TET.E.E TT.E.E KT.E.E
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i>	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LG.AADEN.KFY.R.Q         LG.AEN.KFY.R.Q         LG.AD.N.KFY.R.Q         LG.AD.N.KFY.R.Q         LG.AD.N.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.Y.FH.R.Q         VD.N.KFY.R.Q         MEGAFNYKYTGCLCNDYPRTFYMDLOTN STV RIAA	V      AN.        V.Q      AN.        V.Q      AN.        V.      AN.        AN.        AN.        AN.        AK.	148 EI.K.E TEI.K.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E TET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E KT.E.E RFYTINSLNVN
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i> Node <i>a</i> Rabbit	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LG.ADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.G.ANN.KFY.R.Q         L.G.ANN.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.Y.FH.R.Q         L.G.AD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AD.N.Y.FH.R.Q         L.G.AD.N.K.FY.R.Q         D.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         D.P.R.S.D.N.Y.FH.R.Q	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAS. AS. AS. AN. VVDIIR ELGICPDDRAVIPIKAN AS.	148 EI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E TET.E.E TET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E KT.E.E RFYTINSLNVN Y.VLHRS
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i> Node <i>a</i> Rabbit Guinea pig	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.ADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.G.ANN.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.Y.FH.R.Q         L.A.D.N.KFY.R.Q         L.M.G.ANN.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.K.FY.R.Q         L.A.P.N.K.FY.R.Q         L.A.P.N.SD.         L.A.P.N.R.SD.	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAS. VAS. 	148 TEI.K.E TEI.E.E TET.E.E ET.E.E TET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E KT.E.E RFYTINSLNVN .Y.VLHRS .Y.A.TD.T
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i> Node <i>a</i> Rabbit Guinea pig Mouse	B0         LQAD.N.KFYRQ         LQAD.N.KFYRQ         LQAD.N.KFYRQ         LQAD.N.KFYRQ         LQAD.N.KFYRQ         LADEN.KFYRQ         LGADEN.KFYRQ         LGADEN.KFYRQ         VRD.N.KFYRQ         VD.N.KFYRQ         LAD.N.KFYRQ         VDKFHRQ         DL.FHRQ         LD.N.KFYRQ         LAD.N.KFYRQ         LAD.N.KFYR         LAD.N.KFYR         LAD.N.KFYR         LAD.N.KFY         LAD.N.K         LAD.N.K	VAN. V.QAN. I.V.QAN. VAN. VAN. VAS. VAS. AS. AS. AS. AK. VVDIIR ELGICPDDRAVIPIKAN AS. AK. VVDIIR ELGICPDDRAVIPIKAN DEV.S. S. S.	148 tei.k.e tei.e.e tei.e.e tet.e.e tet.e.e kt.v.a kt.v.a kt.e.e RFYTINSLNVN .Y.VLHRS .Y.A.TD.T Y. Y.TVRM.
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i> Node <i>a</i> Rabbit Guinea pig Mouse Rat	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.ANNKFY.R.Q         L.G.ANN.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AN.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AN.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AN.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AN.N.KFY.R.Q         L.G.AN.N.KFY.R.R.Q         V         L.G.A	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. V.AN. V.A.N. V.A.S. A.T.SK. V.A.T.SK. A.K. VVDIIR ELGICPDDRAVIPIKAN A.K. VVDIIR ELGICPDDRAVIPIKAN A.S. N.Q.V.S. N.S.	148 EI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E TET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E RFYTINSLNVN .Y.VLHRS .Y.A.TD.T. .Y. Y.TVRM. .Y. DRTVY
Human Chimpanzee Gorilla Orangutan Siamang Agile Macaque Node <i>c</i> Node <i>b</i> Node <i>a</i> Rabbit Guinea pig Mouse Rat Cow	B0         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         LQAD.N.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         L.GADEN.KFY.R.Q         VR.D.N.KFY.R.Q         VD.N.Y.FH.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         LAD.N.K.FY.R.Q         VR.R.T.D.N.K.FY.R.Q         VR.R.T.D.N.K.FY.R.Q         VR.R.T.D.N.K.FY.R.Q         V         L	VAN. V.QAN. V.QAN. V. AN. V. AN. V. AS. 	148 EI.K.E TEI.E.E TEI.E.E ET.E.E ET.K.E KT.V.A TET.E.E RFYTINSLNVN .Y.VLHRS .Y.A.TD.T. .Y.Y.TVRM. .YF.DRTVY .SITKP

Fig. 1. Amino acid sequences for present-day and ancestral PIP proteins. Dots show the same amino acids as those of the sequence at node a. Four cysteine residues (67, 91, 93, and 125) for 2 pairs of disulfide bonds are shown on a grey background. CD4-1 and CD4-2 indicate CD4-binding domains; and FN-1 and FN-2, fibronectinbinding domains. The 2 underlined residues were polymorphic among 3 gorillas (V115I and Q120R). The aspartate residue (Asp<sup>22</sup>) is indicated by the asterisk.



Fig. 2. A phylogenetic tree of mammalian *PIP* genes. dN/dS are indicated above each branch, and a branch that has a dN/dS value higher than 1 is shown by a thick line. The numbers of nonsynonymous (*n*) and synonymous (*s*) substitutions are indicated as n/s below each branch. Three ancestral nodes are shown by *a* (common ancestor of primates, rodents, and rabbit), *b* (common ancestor of primates), and *c* (common ancestor of hominoids). The statistical significance was tested by Fisher's exact test (\*, less than 5%).

great apes. If so, the proteinase activity of PIP was acquired during the evolution of the great apes. Further study is needed to elucidate the time of acquisition of proteinase activity by PIP proteins.

Although the function of the PIP protein is not well understood, it has been suggested that PIP is a binding factor playing a role in host defense against infections (Schenkels et al., 1997; Gaubin et al., 1999). The majority of genes are considered to be evolving under neutral mutation pressure. However, some genes are evolving through positive selection. For example, several genes are considered to be positively selected by interaction between host defense systems and pathogens (Hughes and Nei, 1988, 1989; Ina and Gojobori, 1994; Kitano et al., 1998; Kitano and Saitou, 1999; Schaner et al., 2001; Baum et al., 2002; Osada et al., 2002; Sumiyama et al., 2002; Filip and Mundy, 2004; etc.). The high rate of nonsynonymous substitutions for the primate *PIP* genes also suggests the existence of positive selection on this gene, which selection might be caused by some kind of interaction between the PIP protein and pathogens.

To clarify whether the higher number of nonsynonymous substitutions of the *PIP* gene in the primate lineages was a result of positive selection or relaxation of selection, we sequenced and analyzed polymorphisms in the genome sequence of the human *PIP* gene (DDBJ/EMBL/GenBank International Nucleotide Sequence Database accession numbers are AB267097–AB267216). In total, 3 polymorphic sites in Japanese and 5 in Germans were observed in the 2 sequenced regions (I and II). Table 2 summarizes the statistics on the polymorphisms of the human *PIP* gene (see also Supplementary Fig. 1). The nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) determined by the SNP Consortium (Sachidanandam et al., 2001) for the entire human *PIP* genes reported here (Region I+II) were 0.022% for Japanese and

Table 1

Number of amino acid changes for each domain of	of primate PI	P proteins
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	CD4-1	IT-1	FN-1	IT-2	CD4-2	IT-3	FN-2	C-terminal	Total
No. of residues	35	6	16	20	28	3	10	28	146
Node <i>b</i> -Node <i>c</i>	2 (0.06)	1 (0.17)	5 (0.31)	2 (0.10)	4 (0.14)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.10)	3 (0.11)	18
Node <i>b</i> -Macaque	2 (0.06)	2 (0.33)	5 (0.31)	5 (0.25)	3 (0.11)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	5 (0.18)	22
In hominoids	2 (0.06)	2 (0.33)	2 (0.13)	3 (0.15)	7 (0.25)	0 (0.00)	5 (0.50)	6 (0.21)	27

The number of amino acid changes per residue for each domain is shown in parentheses. CD4-1 and CD4-2: 2 CD4-binding domains, FN-1 and FN-2: 2 fibronectinbinding domains, IT-1, IT-2, and IT-3: 3 interval regions, C-terminal: C-terminal region.

Table 2Polymorphisms in humans at the PIP locus

	Region I (613 bp)		Region II (664 bp)		Region I+II (1277 bp)	
	Japanese	Germans	Japanese	Germans	Japanese	Germans
S	2	1	1	4	3	5
π (%)	0.026	0.034	0.019	0.123	0.022	0.080
$ heta_{ m W}$ (%)	0.070	0.035	0.032	0.129	0.050	0.084
$D_{\text{Tajima}}$	-1.072	-0.029	-0.526	-0.105	-1.101	-0.101
H <sub>Fay &amp; Wu</sub>	-1.612**	-1.377**	-1.645**	-0.232	-3.258***	-1.609*

*S*: number of segregating sites;  $\pi$ : average number of nucleotide differences per site between 2 sequences;  $\theta_{W}$ : nucleotide diversity based on the proportion of segregating sites in a sample;  $D_{\text{Tajima}}$ : Tajima's *D* (Tajima, 1989);  $H_{\text{Fay & Wu}}$ : Fay and Wu's *H* (Fay and Wu, 2000). Asterisks indicate the significance level (\*10%, \*\*5%, \*\*\*1%).

0.080% for Germans. Although the  $\pi$  in region II of Germans was slightly high, these values are comparable with that value for the entire human genome. Tajima's *D*, which examines the difference (*D*) between  $\pi$  and  $\theta_W$ , was negative for all estimates. However, none of the *D* values differed significantly from the

neutral expectation of zero. In contrast, Fay and Wu's *H*-test showed significance values except for the region II of Germans. The results revealed an excess of derived variants at high frequency that were likely to have been influenced by hitchhiking of the derived changes under positive selection on the human *PIP* gene. Thus, our data suggest that the higher number of nonsynonymous substitutions of the *PIP* gene in the primate lineages was caused by positive selection rather than by relaxation of selection.

# 3.2. Phylogenetic relationship between the PIP gene and the A2M gene family, and origin of the PIP gene

We searched the NCBI protein database by PSI-BLAST using the human PIP amino acid sequence as a query, and observed weak homologies with the C-terminal region of members of the *A2M* gene families including *PZP*, *OVOS2*, and *A2ML1* (Supplementary Table 1). The average percent of amino acid identities between PIP and A2M, PZP, A2ML1, OVOS2 in mammalians were 16.1%, 16.3%, 17.1%, and 16.7%, respectively. Fig. 3A shows a phylogenetic tree among the *A2M* gene family with the *PIP* and *SVA* genes. The amino acid length



Fig. 3. A phylogenetic tree of the *A2M* gene family constructed by the maximum likelihood method (A). Bootstrap values greater than 80% are shown on each branch. White squares, black circles, and white circles indicate internal nodes connecting fish, frog, and chicken, respectively. A phylogenetic tree of the *A2ML1* cluster excluding the *PIP* and *SVA* genes constructed by the maximum likelihood method (B). Bootstrap values greater than 80% are shown on each branch. Arrows with numbers indicate candidate branches connecting the *PIP–SVA* cluster. A phylogenetic tree of the *A2ML1–PIP–SVA* cluster constructed by the maximum likelihood method (C). Black circles and white circles indicate internal nodes connecting fish, frog, and chicken, respectively.

compared was 92. The phylogenetic tree was constructed by using the region of exon 2 to exon 4 for the human PIP gene which corresponds to a part of exon 19 to exon 21 for the human A2M gene. In fact, A2M gene family members shared the location of exon-intron boundaries (Supplementary Fig. 2) excluding invertebrate sequences. All invertebrate sequences formed a cluster, and a lamprey sequence was located on the middle between the vertebrate and invertebrate sequences. Thus, the lamprey and invertebrates sequences can be used as out-groups of the A2M gene family for vertebrates. Two large clusters were observed in vertebrates; the A2M cluster (including A2M, PZP, OVOS2, and Murinoglobulin) and the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster. Although the branching position of the pufferfish sequence (CAG06475) did not form a cluster with other fish sequences, the fish cluster formed a cluster with the A2M cluster. There are 2 possibilities for this result; one is that fish genes homologous to the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster genes were deleted or undetected, and the other is that the branching point of the fish homologous genes is not correct. It is also possible to assume that the gene duplication between the A2M cluster and the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster occurred after the divergence between fish and other vertebrates. In any case, our data suggest that the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster emerged after the divergence between fish and other vertebrates. Frog homologous genes were observed in the both clusters.

To obtain more reliable phylogenetic relationships in the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster, we used A2M domain sequences and constructed a phylogenetic tree excluding the PIP and SVA genes (B). The amino acid length compared was 339, and the pufferfish (CAG06475) was used as an out-group. Three frog sequences formed a cluster. It is not clear whether these 3 genes were allelic or represented different loci. Three chicken sequences did not form a cluster and their genes were located at different chromosomal positions. By using this topology (Fig. 3B), we added the PIP-SVA cluster for each branch, indicated by the arrow, with number and estimated likelihood values for each tree. Fig. 3C shows the maximum likelihood tree for the A2ML1-PIP-SVA cluster. The amino acid length compared was 104. Although the likelihood values of 8 trees excluding tree number 7 were not significantly different, the PIP-SVA genes formed a cluster with the predicted chicken gene (XP\_416480), which is not probably an orthologue of the PIP-SVA genes. This predicted chicken gene was located on chromosome 1 (chr.1) in the 68,370K-68,416K region. In contrast, human and mouse synteny around the PIP gene was conserved; and the corresponding region of the chicken gene was located on chr.1 in the 71,750K-72,130K region, although the location of the probable chicken PIP orthologous gene was in the genome sequence gap. Thus it is not clear whether a chicken PIP orthologous gene exists or not. We also BLAST-searched against the chicken EST database using human PIP gene as a query, but obtained no PIP homologous sequence.

Although the exact branching point of the *PIP* gene is not clear, it is possible to predict that after the divergence between amphibians and other tetrapods, the *PIP* gene have emerged by a partial gene duplication, since mammalian *PIP* genes are shorter than other A2M gene members. After the gene duplication, the

ancestral *PIP* gene might have acquired a new specific function and might have become expressed in sweat, salivary, and lacrimal glands, and in the seminal plasma in the mammalian lineage. The gene duplications that produced *SVA* genes occurred in the mammalian lineage as described elsewhere (Yoshida et al., 2001; Osawa et al., 2004). Based on analysis of the chicken genome sequence (International Chicken Genome Sequencing Consortium, 2004), some genes such as those for casein milk proteins and salivary-associated proteins (statherin and histatins) arose in the mammalian lineage after the divergence between mammalians and birds. It is likely that the *PIP* gene is also a mammalian-specific gene and appeared during mammalian evolution.

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### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.gene.2006.07.014.

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