Erratum

Nuleotide sequence of the *celA* gene encoding a cellodextrinase of *Ruminococcus flavefaciens* FD-1

Wenyen Wang and Jennifer A. Thomson

Department of Microbiology, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa

The sequence of the *celA* gene of *Ruminococcus flavefaciens* was incorrectly reported. The correct sequence has been lodged with GenBank (accession no. X51944). The error was detected when the enzyme was purified, subjected to N-terminal sequencing and the sequence MLKSRGII found. The corresponding DNA sequence was located in the same region of the cloned DNA but in a different reading frame (Fig. 1). A repeat of the dideoxynucleotide sequencing of this region revealed four errors which converted the incomplete ORF in frame 2 (Fig. 1A) to a complete ORF (Fig. 1B). Coincidentally, both the correct and incorrect ORFs are located on the same *Pvu*II–*Pst*I fragment that was subcloned into Bluescript SK for sequencing and both encode proteins of ca. 39 kDa. A protein of this apparent M_r had been found when plasmids containing the *Pvu*II–*Pst*I fragment were expressed both in *vitro* and in *vivo*. The calculated molecular weight of the polypeptide predicted from the correct sequence is 39.4 kDa and it does not carry a signal peptide. The deduced amino acid sequence shows 35% identity with the endoglucanase encoded by the *celC* gene of *Clostridium thermocellum*, which places it in the subfamily A 3 as identified by Henrissat et al. (1989). Interestingly enough, although the incorrect ORF is preceded by typical −35 and −10 consensus sequences, the correct one is not.

Reference

Henrissat B, Claeyssens M, Tomme P, Lemesle L, Mornon J-P (1989) Cellulase families revealed by hydrophobic cluster analysis. Gene 81:83–95
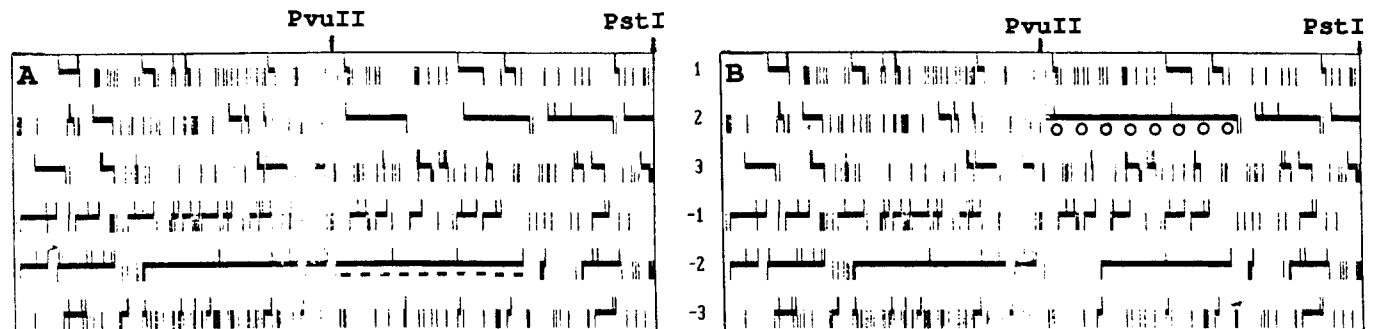

Fig. 1. Open reading frames in the cloned *R. flavefaciens* DNA. The incorrect ORF is indicated by *dashes*, the correct ORF by *open circles*