Status of cytoskeleton proteins during initial germination of dark-grown pea (*Pisum sativum*) seedlings

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Summary

Original homogenate, supernatant and pellet of 250 xg 27000 xg for 30, 45 and 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (*Pisum sativum* L. var. Alaska) were tested to investigate the status of cytoskeleton proteins in embryo and its different parts. All samples were treated by cytoskeleton-stabilizing buffer, electrophoresed and blotted on to membranes. Blots probed with antibodies to actin, alpha-tubulin and beta-tubulin, revealed bands with apparent molecular weights of 42 kDa, 46 kDa, and 50 kDa respectively. In all cases, sedimentable tubulin and actin were found maximally in the 27000 xg and 250 xg pellet and less in supernatant of 250 xg and 27000 xg. Amount of actin and tubulin in embryos were a highest in 30 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds and less in 45 hours and much more less in 69 hours. By 96 hours, abundance of cytoskeleton proteins in different fractions of the stems much more high than the prophylls, while in the roots there were very small amounts of all cytoskeleton proteins. Various streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP) and actin like proteins (ALP) were also found in all harvested parts. The present results suggest that cytoskeleton proteins are physiologically important and strongly indicate a crucial role for the differentiation and development of Alaska pea seedlings.

Key words: cytoskeleton, actin and tubulin.

Introduction

Actin filaments and microtubules are the major component of the plant cytoskeleton (Bershadsky and Vasilev 1988), these components associate with one another and with other cytoskeletal components (Griffith and Pollard 1978; Solomon et al. 1979; Walker et al. 1985), in animal cell with various membrane systems (Moosker and Tilney 1975; Hesketh and Pryme1988) and in plant cells (Abe and Takeda 1986, 1989; Hepeler et al. 1990).

Cytoskeleton fulfills almost all physiological metabolism in the plant cell. It acts as traffic for the movement of Golgi apparatus (Boevink et al.1998). There is a strong relation between the presence of peroxisomes and cytoskeleton elements (Mathur et al. 2002), movement of mitochondria on F-actin (Van Gestel et al. 2002). Actin filament is the main cause for myosin motor (DePina and Langford 1999) and chromosome segregation during mitosis (McIntosh 1994). Microtubules and microfilaments are intimately involved

during cell fusion (Abe and Takeda 1986, 1989). There is an intimate association between microtubules which present in the cortex and plasma membrane (Shibaoka 1994), these cortical microtubules are highly organized to provide spatial information to direct the orderly deposition of cellulose microfibrils within the plant cell wall (Williamson 1991; Cyr 1994). Mechanism of opening and closing of the stomata modulated by actin filaments (Hwang et al. 1997) and likely establish the connections between cells (Aaziz et al. 2001). Transduction stimulation of gravitropic in root cell mainly organized by actin filament (Braun et al. 2004).

To study the status of cytoskeleton proteins, cytoskeleton-stabilizing buffer (CSB) was used (Abe and Davies 1991), whereas this buffer will permit an isolation intact fragment of different cytoskeleton proteins without damaging. We used antibody generated against actin, alpha-tubulin, and beta-tubulin to know changes taking place on actin and tubulin during the early stage of germination of Alaska pea seeds (*Pisum sativum* L. var. Alaska). Cytoskeleton proteins were immunologically detected in all investigated samples, and that will give more information about the relationship between plant cell metabolism and cytoskeleton proteins during germination course of Alaska pea.

Materials and methods

Isolation of cytoskeleton proteins from germinated Alaska pea seeds

Seeds of Alaska pea (*Pisum sativum* L. var. Alaska) were imbibed for 10 hours and then germinated in vermiculite in plastic boxes in a dark room for 69 hours at 21-23 °C, as described (Abe and Davies 1991).

At each time point of 30, 45, 69 hours after germination, three grams of intact embryonic tissue or separate prophylls, stems, cotyledonary stalks and roots were dissected from the cotyledons, collected on ice, and ground with a mortar and pestle in 7 volumes of cytoskeleton-stabilizing buffer (CSB) consisting of 5 mM HEPES (N-2hydroxyethylpiperazine-N-2-ethanesulfonic acid)-KOH (pH 7.5), 10 mM Mg (OAc)2, 2 mMEGTA (ethylenebis (oxyethylenenitrilo) tetraacetic acid), and 1 **PMSF** (phenylmethylsulphonyl mMfluoride) with the addition of 0.5% PTE (polyoxyethylene-10-tridecyl ether) and homogenate was filtered through Miracloth (Calbiochem, San Diego, CA, USA). To study the sedimentability of cytoskeleton proteins, the filtrate centrifuged at 250 xg for 5 minutes and 27000 xg for 15 minutes.

Gel electrophoresis and Western blotting

Samples were electrophoresed on SDS-PAGE as described (Abe and Davies 1991, 1995). The sample buffer (10 m*M* Tris-HC1; pH 6-8, 2% 2-mercaptoethanol, and 2% lithium dodecyl sulfate) was prepared as a 2x stock. We used lithium dodecyl sulfate (LDS) instead of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) in the sample buffer because lithium dodecyl sulfate does not precipitate at a low temperature when samples were kept in the refrigerator before use. The stock was mixed with an equal volume of homogenate or resuspended pellet or supernatant and the

mixture was boiled for three minutes. After electrophoresis the gels were blotted onto a PVDF membrane (ImmobilonTM Transfer Membranes. Millipore). Monoclonal antibodies raised against actin (N. 350). alpha-tubulin (N. 356), and beta-tubulin (N. 357) in mouse ascites fluid, obtained from Amersham were used as the primary antibodies. The binding of these primary antibodies to their antigens was detected by indirect immunoblotting with biotinylated goat antibody raised against mouse Ig as the secondary antibody (Amersham). To detect the binding of the secondary antibody a streptavidin-conjugated alkaline phosphatase (Amersham) was used, using 5-bromo-3chloro-indolyl phosphate and Nilroblue tetrazolium as substrates.

Results

Alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin in embryos of 30 and 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds

Embryos dissected from cotyledons of 30 hours germinated Alaska pea were ground in cytoskeleton-stabilizing buffer and Immunodetection for cytoskeleton proteins was performed (Figure 1A). There are three major bands were apparent in uncentrifuged homogenate corresponds to 42 kD for actin, 46 kDa for alpha-tubulin and 50 kDa for beta-tubulin (lane 1). In contrast, none of these bands were apparent in 250 xg supernatant (lane 2), while a major three bands at 42 kDa, 46 kDa and 50 kDa were found in 250 xg pellet and both in 27000 xg pellet and supernatant (lanes 3, 4 and 5), 39 kDa actin like protein (ALP) appeared in uncentrifuged homogenate, 250 xg pellet, and both in 2700 xg pellet supernatant (lanes 1, 3 and 5). 78 kDa and 110 kDa streptavidin-binding proteins were apparent in uncentrifuged homogenate, 250 xg pellet and in 27000 xg pellet and 27000 xg supernatant (lanes 1, 3, 4, and 5) respectively.

Within embryos of 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 1B), two apparent bands were evident corresponding to alpha-, and beta-tubulin, while actin was detected in a very low amount in uncentrifuged homogenate (lane 1). In 250 xg supernatant, alpha-tubulin detected in a very low amount while beta-tubulin and actin were not apparent (lane 2). Alpha- and beta-tubulin were apparent within the pellet of 250 xg and 27000 xg (lanes 3, 4 and 5) respectively. 110 kDa streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP) was apparent only in 250 xg and 27000 xg supernatants (lanes 2 and 4), while 20 kDa actin like proteins was detected only at uncentrifuged homogenate and 27000 xg pellet (lanes 1 and 5).

Cotyledonary stalks and roots of 45 hours germinated embryo (Figure 1C) show very appearance of all cytoskeleton weak proteins. 110 kDa streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP) was apparent in 27000 kDa supernatant (lane 4). The amount of cytoskeleton proteins were quantified and data given in Table 1. Amount of cytoskeleton proteins mainly depend on time of germination and type of tissue, whereas cytoskeleton proteins more abundant in 30 hours germinated embryos than 45 hours, additionally there is a strong correlation between all the cytoskeleton proteins (Figure 2).

Alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin in the roots of 45 hours and both in embryos and prophylls of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea

Western blots of roots from 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 3A) show that alpha- and beta-tubulin appeared equally in uncentrifuged homogenate, 250 xg pellet, and in 27000 xg pellet (lanes 1, 3 and 5), respectively.

The blots of dissected embryos for 69 hours germinated pea seeds (Figure 3B) reveal that the intensity of alpha- and beta-tubulin appeared equally within 250 x g pellet (lane 3) and in supernatant and pellet of 27000 xg (lanes 4 and 5), and less in uncentrifuged homogenate and 250 xg supernatant (lanes 1 and 2). 20 kDa actin like proteins was evident in uncentrifuged homogenate (lane 1), 250 xg pellet (lane 3) and 27000 xg pellet (lane 5). 110 kDa streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP) were apparent both in 250 xg and 27000 xg supernatants (lanes 2 and 4).

Within the prophylls of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 3C), alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin were present in a high amount in uncentrifuged homogenate, and in 250 xg pellet and 27000 xg pellet (lanes 1, 3, and 5) respectively, but it detected in a very low amount in 250 xg supernatant (lane 2). 110 kDa streptavidinbinding proteins appeared in all fractions, while 20 kDa actin-like proteins appeared only in 250 xg pellet (lane 3).

Densitometry quantification revealed that alpha- and beta-tubulin obtained from embryos decreased during germination and unequally distributed among different organs (Tables 2 and Figure 4).

Alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin in stems, cotyledonary stalks and roots of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea

Western blots of embryos and its different including: stems, roots part and cotyledonary stalks from 69 germinated Alaska pea seeds were shown in (Figure 5). Within stems of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 5A), all cytoskeleton proteins are quite abundant in all fractions except 250 xg supernatant (lane2). 20 kDa actin-like protein was evident in uncentrifuged homogenate and 250 xg pellet (lanes 1 and 3), and 110 kDa streptavidinbinding protein was evident in 250 xg and 27000 xg supernatant (lanes 2 and 4). Within cotyledonary stalks of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 5B), all cytoskeleton proteins were present in very low amount in all fractions. 20 kDa actin-like protein present in 250 xg pellet (lane 3) and 110 kDa streptavidin-binding protein in 27000 xg supernatant (lane 4). Within roots of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (Figure 5C), only alpha- and betatubulin were detected in 250 xg pellet (lane 3), while 110 kDa streptavidin-binding protein present in 27000 supernatant (lane 4).

Densitometry quantification of different cytoskeleton bands revealed that the intensity of all cytoskeleton proteins within stems higher than cotyledonary stalks and roots of 69 hours germinated pea seeds (Table 3 and Figure 6).

Table 1. Abundance of different cytoskeleton proteins in embryos of 30 hours and 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds. The individual band corresponding to alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin from Figure 1 were quantified by densitometry and expressed as OD x area of band. "Sum" indicates the summation of all cytoskeleton proteins in each fraction.

Tissue Type	Lane No.	Fraction type	$OD \ x \ mm^2$			
			Beta- tubulin	Alpha- tubulin	Actin	Sum
Embryo of 30 hours	1	Homogenate	1.078	0.648	0.603	2.329
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.161	0.099	0.038	0.298
	3	250 xg pellet	1.074	0.711	0.668	2.453
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.57	0.422	0.327	1.319
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.608	0.823	0.755	2.186
Embryo of 45 hours	1	Homogenate	0.728	0.523	0.062	1.313
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.109	0.105	0.041	0.255
	3	250 xg pellet	0.817	0.527	0.043	1.387
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.261	0.239	0.075	0.575
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.548	0.224	0	0.772
Cotyledonary stalks and roots of 45 hours	1	Homogenate	0	0.013	0	0.013
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.007	0	0	0.007
	3	250 xg pellet	0.173	0.115	0	0.288
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.049	0.027	0.097	0.173
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.223	0.139	0	0.362
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Figure 1. Western blot analysis of cytoskeleton proteins in embryos of 30 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (A), 45 hours (B) and in cotyledonary stalks and root of 45 hours germinated seed (C). lanes: (1) original homogenate; (2) 250 xg supernatant; (3) 250 xg pellet; (4) 27000 xg supernatant; (5) 27000 xg pellet. Closed arrows point to the positions of Act (actin; 42 kDa), AT (α -tubulin; 46 kDa) and BT (β -tubulin; 50 kDa). Open arrows point to streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP), and actin-like proteins (ALP).



Table 2. Abundance of different cytoskeleton proteins in roots of 45 hours and in embryos and prophylls of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds. The individual bands corresponding to alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin from Figure 3 were quantified by densitometry and expressed as OD x area of band. "Sum" indicates the summation of all cytoskeleton proteins in each fraction.

Tissue Type	Lane No. Fra		OD x mm2			
		Fraction type	Beta- tubulin	Alpha- tubulin	Actin	Sum
Root of 45 hours	1	Homogenate	0.473	0.201	0.074	0.748
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.071	0.046	0	0.117
	3	250 xg pellet	0.515	0.187	0	0.702
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.263	0.127	0.119	0.509
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.513	0.257	0.008	0.778
	1	Homogenate	0.216	0.107	0	0.323
Embryo of 69	2	250 xg supernatant	0.045	0.023	0	0.068
bours	3	250 xg pellet	0.401	0.174	0.012	0.587
liouis	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.456	0.204	0	0.66
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.497	0.128	0	0.625
	1	Homogenate	0.849	0.274	0.083	1.206
Prophylls of	2	250 xg supernatant	0.204	0.063	0	0.267
69 hours	3	250 xg pellet	1.185	0.413	0.094	1.692
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.554	0.201	0.191	0.946
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.473	0.201	0.074	0.748
C $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow AT$ $\Rightarrow Act$ $\Rightarrow ALP$ $5 4 3 2 1$	B = = = - 5 4 3 2 1	A $\Leftrightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow SBP$ $\Rightarrow BT$ $\Rightarrow AT$ $\Rightarrow Att$ $\Rightarrow Att$ $\Rightarrow ALP$ $5 4 3 2 1$	1.6 1.4 1.2 × 1 × 0.8 0.6 0.4 0.2 0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7 8 Lane M	9 10 11 12 1 10.	BI AC AC

Figure 3. Western blot analysis of cytoskeleton proteins in roots of 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (A), embryos of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (B) and prophylls of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (C). lanes correspond to: (1) original homogenate; (2) 250 xg supernatant; (3) 250 xg pellet; (4) 27000 xg supernatant; (5) 27000 xg pellet. Closed arrow point to the positions of Act (actin; 42 kDa), AT (α -tubulin; 46 kDa) and BT (β -tubulin; 50 kDa). Open arrows point to streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP), and actin-like proteins (ALP).

Figure 4. Quantification of Figure 3. lanes $(1 \sim 5)$ relationship between individual cytoskeleton protein extracted from roots of 45 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds; lanes (6~10) relationship between individual cytoskeleton protein extracted from embryos of 69 hours; lanes (11~15) relationship between individual cytoskeleton protein extracted from prophylls of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds. Lanes (1, 6 and 11) original homogenate; (2, 7 and 12) 250 xg supernatant; (3, 8 and 13) 250 xg pellet; (4, 9 and 14) 27000 xg supernatant; (5, 10 and 15) 27000 xg pellet. BT, At, and Act refer to β tubulin, α -tubulin, and actin, respectively.

Table 3. Abundance of different cytoskeleton proteins in stems, cotyledonary stalks and roots of 69 hours of germinated Alaska pea seeds. The individual band corresponding to alpha-, beta-tubulin and actin from Figure 5 were quantified by densitometry and expressed as OD x area of band. "Sum" indicates the summation of all cytoskeleton proteins in each fraction.

Tissue Type	Lono	Fraction type	OD x mm2			
	No.		Beta- tubulin	Alpha- tubulin	Actin	Sum
्रStems of 69 hours	1	Homogenate	1.41	0.632	0.423	2.465
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.542	0.14	0	0.682
	3	250 xg pellet	1.403	0.653	0.219	2.275
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.892	0.294	0.437	1.623
	5	27000 xg pellet	1.213	0.523	0.395	2.131
Cotyledonary stalks of 69 hours	1	Homogenate	0	0	0	0
	2	250 xg supernatant	0	0	0	0
	3	250 xg pellet	0.1	0.01	0	0.11
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.024	0	0	0.024
	5	27000 xg pellet	0	0	0	0
Roots of 69 hours	1	Homogenate	0.013	0.011	0	0.024
	2	250 xg supernatant	0.013	0	0	0.013
	3	250 xg pellet	0.284	0.171	0	0.455
	4	27000 xg supernatant	0.08	0.015	0	0.095
	5	27000 xg pellet	0.142	0.034	0	0.176



Figure 5. Western blot analysis of cytoskeleton proteins in stems of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (A), cotyledonary stalks of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (B) and roots of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds (C). lanes correspond to: (1) original homogenate; (2) 250 xg supernatant; (3) 250 xg pellet; (4) 27000 xg supernatant; (5) 27000 xg pellet. Closed arrow point to the positions of Act (actin; 42 kDa), AT (α -tubulin; 46 kDa) and BT (β -tubulin; 50 kDa). Open arrows point to streptavidin-binding proteins (SBP), and actin-like proteins (ALP).

Figure 6. Quantification of Figure 5. lanes relationship between individual $(1 \sim 5)$ cytoskeleton protein extracted from stems of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds; lanes $(6 \sim 10)$ relationship between individual cytoskeleton protein extracted from cotyledonary stalks of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds; lanes (11~15) relationship between individual cytoskeleton protein extracted from roots of 69 hours germinated Alaska pea seeds. lanes: (1, 6 and 11) original homogenate; (2, 7 and 12) 250 xg supernatant; (3, 8 and 13) 250 xg pellet; (4, 9 and 14) 27000 xg supernatant; (5, 10 and 15) 27000 xg pellet. BT, At, and Act refer to β -tubulin, α -tubulin, and actin, respectively.

Alpha-tubulin, beta-tubulin and actin are predominant in 30 hours germinated Alaska pea (Figure 1A), indicating the importance of these components in the early stage of germination of Alaska pea, whereas many pivotal proteins expressed, e.g. 49 kDa apyrase (Moustafa et al. 2003). It is expect that there to be little sedimentabe tubulin and actin in 250 xg and 27000 xg supernatant under the same condition because almost all of these components retained in the pellet of 250 xg and 27000 xg (Figure 1A; lanes 2 and 4). Actin was the major cytoskeleton proteins to be found in cytoskeleton fractions isolated in cytoskeleton-stabilizing buffer and this in accordance with data using different extraction buffers (Hesketh and Pryme 1988; Lin 1982). Additionally, in these fraction, actin-like protein, (ALP) associate with the cytoskeleton forming a complex structure might also have some role in this Cytoskeleton proteins in 30 stage. germinated embryos present in a high amount (Table 1 and Figure 1), what the importance of theses components?. Embryo consider one of the distinctive regions of plants having a capacity for continuous growth and their developmental activity generates the majority of plant organs. It is confirmed that microtubules organize the positioning of multiprotein cellulose synthase complexes at the plasma membrane so it determine the site of primary cell wall biosynthesis (Paradez et al. 2006). Sheetz and Spudich (1983a,b) reported that myosin molecules can walk on the F-actin cables and the interaction of actin and myosin can be visualized directly with a fluorescence microscope in Nitella cells. The polar distrubution of an auxin transport protein may be controlled by the cytoskelton proteins (Muday et al. 2000) and a high amount of alpha- and beta-tubulin in early stage of pea seedlings may have a role in cell differentiation and morphogenesis. Cytoskeleton proteins important for a wide range of cellular functions, which include division, intracellular cell transport. organelle positioning and generating of cell polarity, and any changes in the spatial organisation of microtubules will lead to

disturbances of cell cycle progression (Yemets et al. 2005).

Since the amount of cytoskeleton proteins in root germinated for 69 hours less than 45 hours (Figures 3 and 5), this most likely those cytoskeleton proteins important for growth in the early stage of the root mrophogensis and less important at the late stage. Shevchenko et al. (2008) proved that the cytoskeleton protein have a role in gravisensing of the root elongation zone in *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants. Not only cytoskeleton proteins change with the age but also chemical lignin, root system morphology and pulling strength were related to seedling age (Scippa et al. 2006).

At the consequent stages of developmental growth of Alaska pea seeds, the amount of cytoskeleton protein in total embryo of 69 hours germinated seeds, less than 45 and 30 hours (Table 1, 2 and 3). Meristematic region of 69 hour germinated Alaska pea (Figure 5A) contains the bulk of cytoskeleton proteins than any other harvested parts and this in accordance with the recent data that propose final signaling are most likely cytoskeletontargets associated proteins (Wasteneys and Yang 2004) and organized filamentous actin control the focal assembly of exocytotic vesicles at the apices of growing tips and trichome morphogensis (Szymanski et al. 1999; Vidali et al. 2001). In addition to the known cytoskeleton proteins, there are two different molecular weight of streptavidinbinding proteins (SBP); 78 kDa and 110 kDa which identified previously (Shibata et al.1999; Moustafa et al. 2003). These SBPs predominant in all fractions includes 30 hours, 45 hours germinated Alaska pea and both in prophylls and stem of 69 hours, and probably involved in the organization of Alaska pea.

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