

Identification and Molecular Characterization of β -Tubulin Gene from Dermatophyte Pathogen *Microsporium Canis*.



Aumaid U. Uthman

Department of dermatology, Vienna Medical University and College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sulaimani, Kurdistan Region / Iraq.

Abstract

Microsporium canis is the most common pathogen causing dermatophytosis in dogs and cats, which can transmit the pathogen to humans. The disease is increasing in many European countries. Studies regarding the structure, expression, and organization of *M. canis* genes have been relatively limited because of its non-aggressive and non-life threatening nature. Microtubules are essential cytoskeleton polymers in all eukaryotes. They are made of α and β -tubulin heterodimers. In this study the DNA and the structural organization of β -tubulin gene of *M. canis* is described. The DNA of 2487 bp has been identified and sequenced. The ORF of 1341 bp encoding a protein of 447 amino acids with a molecular weight of 49.8 kD is interrupted by eight introns (56-187bp). The gene is highly homologous to β -tubulin of *Trichophyton rubrum* (98%) and *Aspergillus parasiticus* (91%). This data may form one of the bases for the development of molecular investigation of dermatophyte fungi *M. canis*.

Keywords: *Microsporium canis*, Dermatophytes, β -tubulin, gene expression.

Introduction:

Microsporium canis is a member of the family of fungal dermatophytes that has the capacity to invade keratinized tissue of humans and animals. They establish infection within the cornified layers of the skin, hair and nails [1]. *M. canis* infection is most common in cats and dogs, which can transmit the pathogen to humans [2]. *Microsporium canis* is a worldwide-distributed zoophilic and zoonotic dermatophyte, which is responsible for most cases of feline ringworm. Its prevalence is on the rise in developed countries as well as in Europe [3,4]. Cats are acting mainly as reservoir for *M. canis*. Dermatophytosis in dogs caused by *M. canis* is mostly a companion by bacterial infection. The disease is transmissible to human causing a variety of skin lesions called ringworm [5]. Very little is known about the structural organization of *M. canis*.

Genes identified in *M. canis* are *actin*: a structural gene essential for assessing the viability of dermatophytes in skin [6]; *ubiquitin*: a gene necessary for cell cycle regulation [7]; MEP1, MEP2, MEP3: they are secreted Metalloprotease [8]; *Metallothionein*: is a low molecular weight protein, known for their affinity for binding heavy metals [9]; Sub1, Sub2, Sub3: are subtilisin like protease [10]; MEP4, MEP5: they are secreted metalloprotease [11]; *heat shock protein* (accession: AY521222) and *sconC*: a sulphur metabolism negative regulator [12]. These genes are the milestone in the build up information about the structural organization of dermatophytes fungus *M. canis*. In this study, I identified and characterized the structural organization of β -tubulin gene. Microtubules are essential cytoskeleton polymers in all eukaryotes.

They are made of α and β -tubulin heterodimers. I report the DNA and mRNA nucleotide sequence of the *M. canis* β -tubulin gene.

Its structure is compared with those of *T. rubrum*, *A. oryzae*, *N. crassa*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*.

Materials and Methods

Samples: *M. canis* was obtained from clinical specimens collected at the Department of Dermatology, Medical University of Vienna, and cultured in Sabouraud's glucose broth in 75 cm culture flasks at 27°C for one week.

The mycelia mass was collected by centrifugation, extra fluid removed by filtration through 0.45 μ M filter and washed twice with PBS. The mycelia mass was flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and ground to fine powder in a porcelain mortar. The powder was used for DNA and RNA preparation.

Nucleic acid extraction: High molecular weight DNA from *M. canis* was extracted with phenol/chloroform and precipitated with alcohol as described previously [9]. Briefly, the mycelia powder was digested with 300 μ g/ml proteinase K incubated at 60°C for 1 hr. The DNA was extracted by Phenol-chloroform and chlorophorm-isoamyl alcohol. The extracted DNA was precipitated by ethanol, DNA pellet is dried and dissolved in bi-distilled water and stored at -20°C. Total RNA from *M. canis* was extracted as described previously [13].

Briefly, the mycelia powder was homogenized with tissue homogenizer after the addition of Guanidine isothiocyanide. The homogenized tissue loaded on caesium chloride and centrifuged over night at 40.000 rpm. RNA pellet was washed once with Absolute and once with 70% ethanol, air

dried, dissolved in bi-distilled water and stored at -70°C.

cDNA synthesis and PCR: First strand cDNA synthesis was performed with 1 μ g total RNA, 60U MuLV reverse transcriptase (Roche Applied Science, Vienna, Austria), and 2.5 μ M oligo (dT) primers in a 20 μ l reaction volume. 1 μ l cDNA was subjected to PCR amplification on thermal cycler according to standard protocol.

The nucleotide sequence of the cDNA was compared to the sequences in gene databanks of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, NIH). 5'end sequence of the cDNA was obtained by using SMARTTM RACE cDNA amplification Kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) as indicated by the manufacturer.

For analysis of the structural organization of *M. canis* β -tubulin, PCR analysis was performed for genomic DNA according to a standard protocol [14] using synthetic oligonucleotides (figure 1).

s1: 5'-GGG ACC CCG ATA TAC
ACA ACA-3'
s2: 5'-GGT AAC CAA ATT GGT
GCC-3'
s3: 5'-TGT TCG ACC CCA AGA
ACA TG-3'
s4: 5'-TCC AGG AGC TCT TCA
AGC GTG T-3'
s5: 5'-GCA GAT GTA CCA TCC
TTC GAG TGT GA-3'
as1: 5'-GTA TCA GAG GTG AAG
CTC CAT TC-3'
as2: 5'-GAC GGC CAA CTT GCG
GAG ATC A--3'
as3: 5'-TTG GAG GTC AGA AGA
TCC GGT-3'
as4: 5'-TAC CAG AAC AAG AAA
GCC TTC-3'

Figure 1: Sequences of (s) forward and (as) reverse primers used for the amplification of *M. canis* β -tubulin DNA and cDNA.

Results and Discussion

Using s2/as4 primers homologues to the conserved region of β -Tubulin in *T.rubrum* (accession: AAV33733) a fragment of β -tubulin gene from *M.canis* cDNA was amplified. 5' and 3' end sequence of the cDNA was obtained by primer extension as indicated in materials and methods.

The sequences of primers used for the amplification of DNA and cDNA were illustrated in figure 1. The DNA of 2487 bp has been sequenced. The ORF of 1341 bp is interrupted by eight introns (187, 66, 70, 61, 56, 58, 57 and 61 bp) they are situated mainly toward the 5' end of the gene (figure 2 and 3). Analysis of 13 genes from *M.canis* reported so far (*actin*, *ubiquitin*, MEP1, MEP2, MEP3, MEP4, MEP5, *Metallothionein*, Sub1, Sub2, Sub3, *sconC* and β -tubulin the gene reported in this work) suggest that introns may interrupt the gene once, e.g. MEP2 [8] or twice, e.g. *Metallothionein* [8] or as many as 5 times, e.g. *sconC* [12]. The total number of introns found in the 13 reported genes are 46 (average of 3.5).

This work shows that β -tubulin gene in *M. canis* is interrupted eight times by introns of 56-187bp. Filamentous fungi introns are short, on average less than 100bp [15]. The smallest *M.canis* intron reported so far is 45 bp from Sub2 [10] and the largest is 187

bp from β -Tubulin (accession no. DQ449623).

As in introns of other filamentous fungi the introns of *M.canis* β -tubulin are started with GTXXG where as the majority of XX are AA, and ended either with TAG or CAG. All the eight introns are located within the ORF. There is just one known *M.canis* gene, *sconC* [12] which has an intron upstream of the ATG. Such an intron may play a role in the transcriptional activation of the gene [16]. In the sequence surrounding the ATG start codon a purine (adenine) is present at position -3; this has been suggested to be important for translational activity in filamentous fungi [15].

The deduced amino acid sequence of *M. canis* β -tubulin is 447 (figure 3) with molecular weight of 49.8 kD. Using database NCBI/Blast and Expasy proteomics and sequence analysis tools, I found that the amino acid sequence of *M.canis* β -tubulin was 98% identical to that of β -tubulin protein of *Trichophyton rubrum* (accession: AAV33733) and 91% identical to that of β -tubulin of *Aspergillus oryzae* (accession: BAE64122) and 90% identical to that of *Neurospora crassa* (accession: CAE85615).

The phylogenetic tree of β -tubulin gene in different dermatophyte fungi indicates the close similarity between *T. rubrum* and *M. canis* (figure 5).

GGGACCCCGATATACACAACAATCTCCAGCTCGACCTCGAACACTCCAGTCCACTCACCCCTC
AAGACCTCCGTCAACCACATCAATATGCGTGAAATC*GTAAGTCTAGTTCTCTTCCACTCCTCGCTTCC*
CCTCCAACGTGCAAAAACACGGTCTGCACAGGCCAAGAAAGGGGGGGGAGGGCCACCACACGACCATGTCCCA
GCGGGAAAAAACGAGCGTGCAGTTTCATAACCCCAATGTAGAGCTTCCAGCATCAAATAACGTGTATTGCTTG
*CATAG*GTCATCTCCAAACTGGCCAATGT*GTAAGCTTTGATCGTTCCCTGGTTCGTTGACAGGAACCCGT*
*TGAGTTAACAGCTATTGACACCCAG*GGTAACCAAATTGGTGCCGCTTCTG*GTAAGCATTCAACACGCCA*
*ATCATGCTTGTATATAGTCGTGTACGATCGTTACTGACTGAAATTGTATAG*GCAAACCATTGCTGGTGAGC
ATGGTCTCGATGGATCCGGCCA*GTGAGTAAATCCGAGGAGTCAAGTAGGGCTCGAGGACTCGGTTATTG*
*ACGTGATAATAG*CTATACCGGATCTTCTGACCTCCAATTGGAGCGCATGAACGTCTACTTCAAC
GAG*GTTGGCACAACCAAAGCCCTTCTCTTCAGCAGAATACTAATCATTGGAGGCACAG*GCCTCTAGCAAAA
AATACGTTCCCTCGTGCTGTGCTTGTGATCTCGAGCCGCTGCGCTCGATGCTGTCCGTGCC
GGTCCTTTCGGCCAAC*TTTTCCGCCCGACAACGTCGTCCTTCGGTCAGTCTGGTGCCGGAAA*
*CAACTGGGCCAAGGGTCACTACACTGAGGGTGCCAAC*TGGTCGACCAGGTCATTGATGTCG
TTCGTCGTGAGGCCGAAGGATGTGACTGCCTTCAGGGTTCCAGATCACCCACTCTCTCGGT
GGTGGTACCGGTGCCGGTATGGGTACCCTCTTGATCTCTAAGATCCGTGAAGAGTTCCAGA
CCGTATGATGGCCACCTTCTCCGTTGTCCATCCCCAATGGTCTCTGACACCGTTGTGCAAC
CATAACGCCACTCTCTCCATCCACCAGCTCGTTGAGCACTCCGACGAGACCTTCTGTATC
GACAATGAG*GTATGCTTTACTCCCCTGCTCATTATATGTGACGTGGGCATATCTAACAGCGTGTAG*GCCTT
GTACAACATTTGCATGAGAACCCTCAAGCTCACCAACCATCTTATGGTGACCTCAACCACC
TCGTCTCTGCCGTCATGTCCGGTGCAGCACCAGTCTTCGTTTCCCGGTCAGCTCAACTCT
GATCTCCGCAAGTTGGCCGTCAACATGGTTCATTCCTCGTCTCCACTTTTTCATGGTTGG
ATTGCTCTCTCACCAGCCGCAACGCCTACTCTTCCGTGCCGTCTCCGTACCAGAGTTGA
CCCAGCAGATGTTTCGACCCCAAGAACATGATGGCTGCCACTGACTTCCGCAGCGGCCGCTAC
CTTACCTGCTCTGCCATCTT*GTAAGTCTCGCTCGTCCCTTACATCGTAATCTTTCTTAATCACTAACACAAT*
CAATAGCCGTGGTAAGGTTTCCATGAAGGAGTTGAGGACCAGATGCGCAACATCCAGAACAA
*GAAC*CTGCCTACTTCGTTGAATGGATTCCCAACAACGTCCAGACTGCTCTCTGCTCCATTC
CTCCACGTGGTCTCCAGATGTCTCCACCTTCGTCGGAACTCCACCTCCATCCAGGAGCTC
TTCAAGCGTGTCCGGTACCAGTTCAGTCTATGTTCCGCAAGAAGGCTTCTTGTCTGTTA
CACTGGCGAGGGTATGGACGAGATGGAGTTCAGTGGCTGAGAACAACATGAATGACTTGG
TCAGCGAATACCAACAGTACCAGGACGCCTCCGTCTCTGACGGTGAGGAGGAATA*GTGAGTGT*
*CACCTATCCAAC*TACTAATCATGATTATTTGCTAACTTACCCTACCAAACAGCCTTGAGGAGGACCAGCTC
GAGGCCGAAGAGTAAATGCCACGTACCCGTATAAATTGAGACTTAAATGTCTCTCTTATCCTC
CACCTTGCATTCGCTTTGCAAAATATCCCTTTCTCCCGCACAGCAGATGTACCATCCTTCGA
GTGTGAGCCTTGCGTTTAAACCAGCCTATGCTTACACCTACGCTCCCTTATCTTGTCTGCTT
AATAATTCCCCCAACTAGCGTGTCCGTTTTGAGTCAATATTAGTCACTAGGTGATAACAAA
AACAGGATCAATTGGCTGTTTGATATCCCTCCATCCCAAATATCTTTAATTTTCATCATTTT
TCCTTTGTTTTTCGGAGAACCAATTATTAATAAAATTTCCCTTCAATTTTCAAGGTATTCACT
CCCCTTACCTTCTTTGTCTCATTAGATACTGGCATAACAGTATTGAAGACAAAAAAGAGCG
AATGGAGCTTACCTCTGATAC

Figure 2.
Nucleotide sequence of M.canis β - tubulin gene. The genomic DNA sequence of M.canis β -tubulin contains eight introns (indicated in italic-red letters) of 187, 66, 70, 61, 56, 58, 57 and 61 bp. respectively. The coding region is written in bold uppercase. The primers are underlined. The start and stop codon are double-underlined.

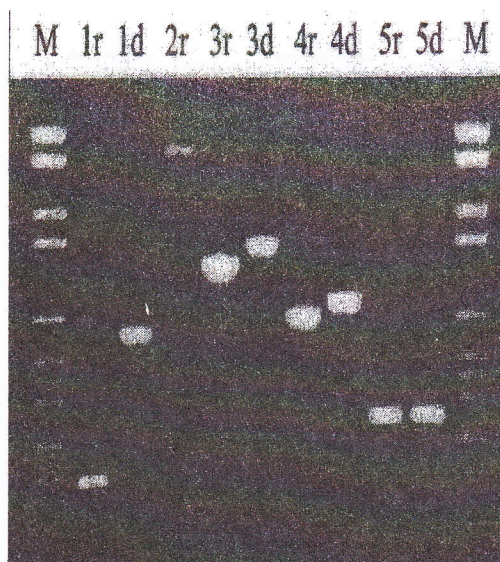


Figure 4. PCR amplification of *M.canis* β -tubulin cDNA (lines 1r,2r,3r,4r,5r) and DNA (lines 1d,3d,4d,5d). The primer pairs used for the amplification of the samples in line 1r,1d is s1-as3; in line 2r is s1-as1; in lines 3r,3d is s3-as1; in lines 4r,4d is s4-as1 and in lines 5r,5d is s5-as1. (M) is DNA molecular marker VI. The PCR products were loaded on 1,2% agarose gel and visualized by ethidium bromide.

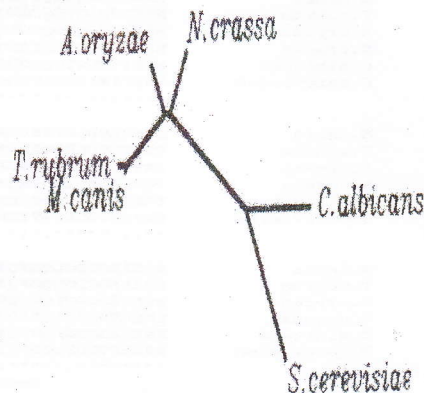


Figure 5. The phylogenetic tree of β -tubulin in *M.canis* , *T.rubrum*, *C. albicans*, *S.cerevisiae*, *N.crassa* and *A. Oryzae* indicate the close association between different types of dermatophytes.

In summary, I report the complete genomic sequence and organization of β -tubulin gene in *M. canis* and its comparison with other related fungus. This data may form one of the bases for the development of molecular investigation of dermatophyte pathogen *M.canis*. The nucleotide sequence of *M.canis* β -tubulin is deposited in the GenBank database and assigned accession number: DQ44962.

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ناسینەوه و روونکردنەوهی رەفتاری β -tubulin جینی کەرۆوی پێست لە جوژی *Microsporium canis*

اومید عمر عثمان ، لودفک بۆلتزمان انستیتیوت، بەشی نەخۆشەکانی پێست، زانکۆی پزشکی قینا و کۆلیجی پزشکی قیترنەری، زانکۆی سلیمانی، هەریمی کوردستان / عێراق

پوختە

کەرۆوی پێست *M.canis* هۆی سەرەکی نەخۆشی کەرۆوی پێستە نە سەگ و پشیلە و نەوانەوه نەگوازیتەوه بۆ مڕوڤ . نەخۆشیە کە نە زۆر ولاتی ئەوروپی نە زیادبوونداوە . نیکۆلینەوه دەریارە شیوهی پیکهاتن و دەبرپین و ریکخستنی جینهکانی *M.canis* زۆر سنور دارە ، نەبەر گەمی مەترسی بۆ سەرزیان . ئەم نیکۆلینەوه دا DNA وشێوهی پیکهاتن و ریکخستنی جینی β -tubulin ی *M.canis* روون دەکریتەوه . ئەم جینه نەگەن α -tubulin مایکروتیپوول دروست نە کەن کە بە شیکێ گرنگی چوار چێوهی شانە Eukaryote نیک دینی β -tubulin پیکهاتەوه لە ۲۴۸۷ نیوکلیوتاید ، ۱۳۴۱ ی پروتین دروست نە کەن ، پروتینە کە ۴۴۷ ترشی ئامۆنیک و کیشی گەردیلەیی ۴۹،۸ KD نە . جینه کە نە لایەن هەشت intron وە بێدراوه کە نە ۵۸ تا ۱۸۷ نیوکلیوتاید پیکهاتون . زۆر لە β -tubulin ی کەرۆوهکانی کە نە جی و ۹۸٪ وە کە یەکن نە گەل *T.rubrum* و ۹۱٪ وە *A.parasiticus* . ئەم زانیاریانە نەوانەیه بنەمایە کە بۆ گەشەکردنی نیکۆلینەوهی جینی نە کەرۆوی پێست لە جوژی *M-canis* .

التشخيص والتعريف الجزيئي ل β -tubulin جين للفطر الجلدي المرضي *Canis Microsporium*

اومید عمر عثمان ، جامعة الطب في قينا ، قسم الامراض الجلدية و كلية الطب البيطري ، جامعة السلیمانية
اقلیم کوردستان / العراق

الخلاصة

الفطر الجلدي المرضي *Microsporium canis* (*M.Canis*) هو احد المسببات المرضية الجلدية للكلاب والقطط الذي ينتقل منهم الى الانسان . المرض في ازدياد مستمر في عدد من الدول الاوربية . الدراسات المتعلقة في التركيب الجيني لمسبب هذا المرض (*M.canis*) محدودة جدا وهذا يعود الى كون المرض هادئ ولا يسبب تهديداً مباشراً للحياة . احد المكونات المهمة لهيكل الخلايا بشكل عام هو Microtubules والذي يتكون من β -tubulin و α . في هذه الدراسة تم التعرف وتشخيص الحامض النووي والتركيب الجيني لاحد مكونات Microtubules وهو β -tubulin جين . فوجدنا بان الجين يتكون من ۲۴۸۷ نيوكليوتاید منها ۱۳۴۱ تحمل المعلومات الوراثية لتكوين بروتين مكون من ۴۴۷ حامض اميني بوزن نوعي مقداره ۴۹،۸ KD . يقاطع الجين ثمانية Intron باحجام ۵۶-۱۸۶ نيوكليوتاید . ان لهذا الجين تشابة كبير مع β -tubulin في *Trichophyton rubrum* (۹۸٪) و *Aspergillus parasiticus* (۹۱٪) . ان هذه المعلومات سوف تساعد في وضع الحجر الاساس للدراسات الجينية للفطريات الجلدية وخاصة *M.canis* .