

Bioinformatics of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) lymphocyte cytosolic protein 1 (*lcp1*) gene

Nil tilapiası (*Oreochromis niloticus*) lenfosit sitosolik protein 1 (*lcp1*) geninin biyoinformatiği

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Abstract: Bioinformatics analysis of lymphocyte cytosolic protein 1 (*lcp1*) gene in tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) which is a model organism in experimental studies were completed in this study. For this purpose, characterization and identification of *lcp1* has been completed and ensembl database has been used to design the structure of *lcp1* gene. In addition, the chromosome region of tilapia *lcp1* and other genes in the same region with *lcp1* were determined. The chromosome of these genes were detected in zebrafish and human which are identical orthologs of tilapia. Conserved gene synteny designed manually according to these chromosomal regions. In addition, amino acid sequences synthesized by *lcp1* gene in some vertebrates were determined using some bioinformatics databases such as UNIPROT, ENSEMBL and NCBI before determine the phylogenetic relationship between these organisms and tilapia. Sequence similarity-identity rate of tilapia *lcp1* gene with zebrafish, rainbow trout, human, mouse and platyfish *lcp1/Lcp1* was calculated using BLOSUM62 matrix algorithm. This study is of great importance for the completion of in silico analysis of *lcp1* gene in tilapia because it is an aquatic model organism and it has an important place among economic aquaculture species. However this study provides the basic pioneering information for the future studies on molecular stress response in fish.

Keywords: Tilapia, genomic organisation, *lcp1*, phylogeny

Öz: Bu çalışmada, deneysel çalışmalarla model organizma olarak kullanılan tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) 'da lenfosit sitozolik protein 1 (*lcp1*) geninin biyoinformatik çalışmaları yapılmıştır. Bu amaçla, *lcp1*'in karakterizasyonu ve tanımlaması yapılmış ve *lcp1* geninin yapısını tasarlamak için ensembl veri tabanı kullanılmıştır. Ayrıca tilapia *lcp1* geninin üzerinde yer aldığı kromozom bölgesi ve *lcp1* geni ile aynı bölgedeki diğer genler ile bu genlerin de yerleri belirlenmiştir. Ayrıca belirlenen bu genlerin kromozom bölgeleri, tilapiyanın ortologları olan zebra balığı ve insanda da tespit edilmiştir. Bu kromozomal bölgelere göre manuel olarak korunmuş gen yapısı dizayn edilmiştir. Bunlara ilaveten, tilapia ile diğer omurgalılar arasında filogenetik ilişkinin belirlenmesi amacıyla UNIPROT, ENSEMBL ve NCBI gibi bazı biyoinformatik veritabanları kullanılarak *lcp1* geni tarafından sentezlenen amino asit sekanslarına ulaşılmış ve bu sekanslar kullanılarak filogenetik ağacı, Mega programı yardımıyla, Maksimum Olasılık Metodu'na göre oluşturulmuştur. Zebra balığı, göküşağı alabalığı, insan, fare ve plati balığı *lcp1/Lcp1* ile tilapia *lcp1* geninin sekans benzerlik-özdeşlik oranı BLOSUM62 matris algoritması kullanılarak hesaplanmıştır. Bu çalışma, tilapiada *lcp1* geninin in-siliko analizinin tamamlanması için büyük önem taşımaktadır. Çünkü tilapia, sucul bir model organizmadır ve ekonomik su ürünleri türleri arasında önemli bir yere sahiptir. Bu nedenlerle, yapılan bu çalışma, balıklarda moleküler stres yanıtına yapılacak çalışmalar için temel oluşturacak ve her zaman başvurulacak bilgiler sağlamaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Tilapia, genomik organizasyon, *lcp1*, filogenetik

INTRODUCTION

L-plastin which conserved from yeast to man belongs to the fimbrin family of actin-binding proteins consists of a head domain (10-kDa) and a core domain (60 kDa) (Bredscher, 1981; Lin et al., 1988; Adams et al., 1995). As it is known, cell movement is necessary for the immune system, but how it regulates the movement is much more important as it can be destructive in diseases such as cancer (Goldstein et al., 1985; Lin et al., 1988). *Lcp1* was first discovered in neoplastic human fibroblasts. In subsequent studies, this protein was found to increase regulation of many cancer cell lines (Park et al., 1994) and was also highly expressed in normal

leukocytes, including macrophages, monocytes and neutrophils. Therefore, studies on *lcp1* have been focused on two branches: leukocyte biology of L-plastin and cancer biology of L-plastin. However, the main goal of these two groups is to investigate the effects of actin cell skeleton on regulation and cell mobility (Margaret et al., 2017). This protein has been the subject of many scientific researches (Otsuka et al., 2001; Chung and Deisseroth, 2004; Li and Zhao, 2011) especially because it is a cancer marker, but *lcp1* gene regulation, protein function and bioinformatics still need to be studied.

Tilapia is one of the most aqua cultured fish in tropical and subtropical regions due to its resistance to bad environmental conditions, easy breeding, high adaptability to salty and brackish waters, high plant and animal nutrient resources and rapid growth except from its sensitivity to low water temperature (Donaldson, 1979; Tekelioğlu et al., 1991). Tilapia is cultivated in 75 countries around the world and its most common farming species is *Oreochromis niloticus*. A large part of tilapia production is in Asia and China takes the first place in the production of tilapia and Philippines follows China (Urch, 1996). Tilapia which is widely farming in many countries, are preferred as a model organism in experimental and genetic studies due to its low chromosome number ($2n = 44$) and its whole genome sequence is completed (Guyon et al., 2012) as well as being an easily available species (Ergene et al., 1998).

Genetic similarities between species present in all organisms mean that studies on one organism can be used as a data source for other species (Collins et al., 1998). Therefore, in this study, the bioinformatics of *lcp1* gene in aquatic model organism, tilapia (*O. niloticus*) will be completed and leading data will be provided for molecular studies in other fish.

Table 1. The genes used in conserved gene synteny and their location in tilapia, human and zebrafish

Gene	Gene symbol	Tilapia		Human		Zebrafish	
		Scaffold	Location	Chromosome	Location	Chromosome	Location
Integral membrane protein 2Bb	<i>itm2bb</i>	GL831210.1	0.81	13	48.23	9	25.33
Laccase domain containing 1	<i>lacc1</i>	GL831210.1	0.58	13	43.87	9	18.57
Leishmanolysin like peptidase	<i>lmln</i>	GL831210.1	0.47	3	197.96	9	38.50
Integrin subunit alpha	<i>itgav</i>	GL831210.1	0.51	2	186.59	9	11.59
5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin) receptor 2A	<i>htr2aa</i>	GL831210.1	0.96	13	43.83	9	25.19
Succinate-CoA ligase ADP-forming beta subunit	<i>sucd2</i>	GL831210.1	0.87	13	47.74	6	10.03
Esterase D	<i>esd</i>	GL831210.1	1.13	13	46.77	9	25.17
Leucine rich repeats and calponin homology domain containing 1	<i>lrch1</i>	GL831210.1	1.12	13	46.55	9	25.09
Lymphocyte cytosolic protein 1	<i>lcp1</i>	GL831210.1	0.77	13	46.12	9	56.25
CCR4-NOT transcription complex subunit 11	<i>cnot11</i>	GL831210.1	0.79	2	101.25	9	56.23

For determining the phylogenetic relationship between the *lcp1/LCP1* genes tilapia (*O. niloticus*) and zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), gilthead seabream (*Sparus aurata*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), fugu (*Takifugu rubripes*), pike perch (*Sander lucioperca*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*) Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) mouse (*Mus musculus*), human (*Homo sapiens*) CLUSTALW (Thompson et al., 1994) BioEdit program (<http://www.mbio.ncsu.edu/bioedit/page2.html>) was used. Firstly, the neighbor joining method was applied using the MEGA6 (Tamura et al., 2013) program, then the phylogenetic tree was constructed according to the maximum likelihood method (Kell et al., 2018) (Figure 2). Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) fascin actin-bundling protein 2a (*fscn2a*) gene was used as the outer group.

Gene structure of tilapia *lcp1* which consists of exon-intron organization, amino acids produced by exons, 5'UTR (with TATA box located in this region) and 3'UTR (showing poly A tail in this region) region of the gene, the starting point (+1) of the transcription was designed using data from ensembl database (Table 2). Sequence similarity and identity rate of tilapia *lcp1* gene with zebrafish, rainbow trout, human, mouse and platyfish *lcp1/Lcp1* was calculated using

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Bioinformatics of lymphocyte cytosolic protein 1 (*lcp1*) gene

In order to investigate whether the lymphocyte cytosolic protein 1 (*lcp1*) gene is a functional or non-functional or pseudogene in tilapia, the cDNA sequence of this gene was reached from the ENSEMBL database and confirmed that the *lcp1* gene is a functional gene. Ensemble ID and Uniprot ID of tilapia *lcp1* gen was determined as ENSONIG00000016164 and I3KGW3, respectively and its amino acid number was determined as 619.

The conserved gene synteny is designed to detect genes that are conserved in the same way as the orthologues of living organism. For this purpose, we designed the gene synteny by detecting conserved genes in tilapia, zebrafish and human. It was first determined which chromosomes and regions of *lcp1* gene were found in tilapia and then other genes in this chromosome were found and their locations were recorded. Then, the chromosomes and locations of these genes detected in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) and human (*Homo sapiens*) which are orthologs of tilapia (Table 1). Finally the conserved gene synteny was designed manually using these datas (Figure 1).

Table 1. The genes used in conserved gene synteny and their location in tilapia, human and zebrafish

BLOSUM62 matrix algorithm and Bioedit program, CLUSTALW (Thompson et al., 1994) (Table 3).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Bioinformatics study

Bioinformatics studies should be completed before experimental studies to understand how the expression of genes changes with various stress factors, in molecular studies. Therefore, this study will provide important bioinformatics for both fish physiology studies and studies on other vertebrates since tilapia is an important model organism. Although there are several studies on tilapia (Urch, 1996; Ergene et al., 1998; Tekelioglu et al., 1991; Kaya and Akbulut, 2012), study on bioinformatics of this model organism are still very poor

Genomic sequences analysis of tilapia *lcp1* gene

Some algorithms and databases such as ENSEMBL, UNIPROT and NCBI databases and BioEdit software, BLOSUM62 matrix program and MEGA6 program were used for in silico analysis such as designing gene structure, phylogenetic analysis, determining similarity and identity between tilapia and some other vertebrates, designing conserved gene in this study. It was seen tilapia *lcp1* gene has 15 exons and 14 introns (Table 2).

Table 2. Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) *lcp1* gene nucleotide sequence

*Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) *Lcp1* gene structure. The exons of the *lcp1* are shown in capital letters. The starting site of transcription is +1, 5' UTR sequence and 3' UTR sequence are shown in lower case. The first 5 nucleotides and last 5 nucleotides of the intron and the rest of the nucleotides number are given red and lower case. The TATA box and the polyadenylation signal (AATAAAA) are shown in capital letters and painted in blue. Amino acids are shown in capital letters which are placed under exons. Stop codon (TGA) is specified asterisk.

Orthology of tilapia *lcp1* gene with *lcp1* genes from other vertebrates

Protein sequence alignment of each tilapia *lcp1* gene with *lcp1*s from platyfish (*Xiphophorus maculatus*), zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), human (*Homo sapiens*) and mouse (*Mus musculus*) was performed using CLUSTAL W (Thompson et al., 1994), and sequence

identity and similarity of tilapia Lcp1 with Lcp1s from other teleost fishes and tetrapods were detected. Tilapia Lcp1 shared highest percentage sequence identity and similarity with fish Lcp1 sequences from tetrapods (Table 3). According to the Table 3, identity-similarity rates of tilapia *lcp1* gene were found as 89-95% with platyfish (Pf), 87-94% with zebrafish (Zf), 85-91% with rainbow trout (Rt), 79-88% with human (Hu) and 79-88% mouse (Mo).

Table 3. Identity-similarity rate between Tilapia (Ti) and, Platypus (Pf) Zebrafish (Zf), Rainbow trout (Rt), Human (Hu) and Mouse (Mo)

Ti lcp1	1	-MAAPPITAAEELDLREAFTKIDVNDGVISKDELDAVLKAANSLPGYRREMIQELS-		
Pf lcp1	1	-...TK.S....E....A....A....GN.F.....NELFR....A....K....V....TR		
Zf lcp1	1	-...AQ.S....M.E....V....GN.H....T....N.LF....P....I....I.R		
Rt lcp1	1	MA.PAQ.SQD....E....A....SH.H.GT....NDLF....P....I....D.T		
Hu Lcp1	1	-...RGSVSD...MME....A.V.T.GN.Y....FN....NDLF....C.P....ITEN.MA		
Mo Lcp1	1	-...RGSVSD...MME....A.V.T.GN.Y....CN....NDLF....C.P....ITEN.MA		
Ti lcp1	60	S-----SEELNFDKFTEIVHGLKSAEVAKTFKAITKKEGICNVAGTSEQT--GTQHSYS		
Pf lcp1	60	T-----NS.T.EE....M....T....R....N.....S-----		
Zf lcp1	60	TMDLNQDGKIT....E.AKV....D....S....R....N.....S.....S-----		
Rt lcp1	61	TGDLH-DGKVLT.NE.ANV....T....N....NA.....SSS.....		
Hu Lcp1	60	TGDLDQDGRI.S....E.IK.F....TD....R....N.....AIG.....SSV.....		
Mo Lcp1	60	TGDLDQDGKIS....E.IKV.F....T....R....N.....AIG.....SSV.....		
Ti lcp1	113	EEEKVAFVNWINKALEKDPPDCKHVLPMDPNTNDLFTAMGDGIVLCKMINLSVADTIDERT		
Pf lcp1	113	.....I.....N.....P.....		
Zf lcp1	118	.....V.....Q.....S.D.....V.....P.....		
Rt lcp1	120	.....V.....T.....V.....Q.P.....		
Hu Lcp1	120	.....Y.....N.....R....I....N.....N.V.....P.....		
Mo Lcp1	120	.....Y.....N.....R....I....N.....D....N.V.....P.....		
Ti lcp1	173	INKKKLTPFTIQENLNLAISASAIGCHVVNIGAEDLKEGRQHLVLLWQVIKIGLFAD		
Pf lcp1	173	.....V.....		
Zf lcp1	178	.....	
Rt lcp1	180	.....	
Hu Lcp1	180	.....	KPY.....	
Mo Lcp1	180	.....	KPY.....	
Ti lcp1	233	IELSRREALIALLRDGESLEDILMQLSPEELLRLRWANYHLEEAGCGKINNFNSNDIKDSKAY		
Pf lcp1	233	.....I.....NS.....		
Zf lcp1	238	.....I.....V.....P.....S.....		
Rt lcp1	240	.....I.....T.....V.....Q.P.....		
Hu Lcp1	240	.....E.....N....N....G....T.....		
Mo Lcp1	240	.....E.....N....T....T....T.....		
Ti lcp1	293	YNLLNQVAPKGDEEGIPPIAVDMMSGLREKDLKRAELMLDQAERLGCQFVMPDVVRGN		
Pf lcp1	293	.....D.V.A....I....I....E....C....DK.....A.....		
Zf lcp1	298	.....I.....A.PI.I....I.....C.E....D.....TA.....		
Rt lcp1	300	.....I.....L....I....I....E.I....C.E....D.....TA.....		
Hu Lcp1	300	.....H....E.....V.AVVI.....IQ....C....Q.....TA.....		
Mo Lcp1	300	.....H....E.....AVVI.....IQ....C....Q.....TA.....		
Ti lcp1	353	PKLNLAFLVANLFDNKYPALKKPENQDIDWSSIEGETREERTFRNWMSLGVNPRVNHYAD		
Pf lcp1	353	.....	
Zf lcp1	358	.....Y.....V.....		
Rt lcp1	360	.....YI.....		
Hu Lcp1	360	.....I.....R....H.....GAL.....S.....		
Mo Lcp1	360	.....I.....H.....GAL.....S.....		
Ti lcp1	413	IDDALIVFQLYEKIKVPDFWDRVNKPYPYPLSSNMKKLENCLNYAVELGKEAKFSILVGIA		
Pf lcp1	413	.....G.....		
Zf lcp1	418	LA.....K.....G.....		
Rt lcp1	420	.....N.....S.G.....N.....		
Hu Lcp1	420	LS.....N.....GG.....NQ.....G		
Mo Lcp1	420	LS.....N.....GG.....D....NQ.....		
Ti lcp1	473	GQDLNAGNRITLTLALLWQLMRRYTLNILEDLGQKVIDDTIVSWVNDNLTRAGKS-TIS		
Pf lcp1	473	.....E.....V.E.....GT....E....G....		
Zf lcp1	478	.....E.....I.E....Q....ET....Q....G....		
Rt lcp1	480	.....E....K.Q.....E....N....T....T....Q....G....		
Hu Lcp1	480	.....E....I.....EI.G....N....I....N....ET.RE.K....SS....		
Mo Lcp1	480	.....E....V.....I.G....N....I....N....TT.KE.Q....SS.A		
Ti lcp1	532	SFKDGSISTSMVPVLDLIDAIQPGSIRYDLLKTEDLTEEEKLNNNAKYAISMARIGARVYA		
Pf lcp1	532	.....KC....S.....M.....		
Zf lcp1	537	G....S.....A....D.....		
Rt lcp1	539	G....A.....I.V.....		
Hu Lcp1	540	....PK....L.....N.....N.NDD.....		
Mo Lcp1	540	....PK....L.....N.....N.DD.....		
Identity (%) Similarity (%)				
Ti lcp1	592	LPEDLVVEVKPKMVMVTVFACLMARGLRA-	100	100
Pf lcp1	592	.....M.RA	89	95
Zf lcp1	597	.....M.RI	87	94
Rt lcp1	599	.....MKRV	85	91
Hu Lcp1	600	.....GK.MKRV	79	88
Mo Lcp1	600	.....GK.MKRV	79	88

*The dots refer to repeating amino acids and lines represent undetectable amino acids

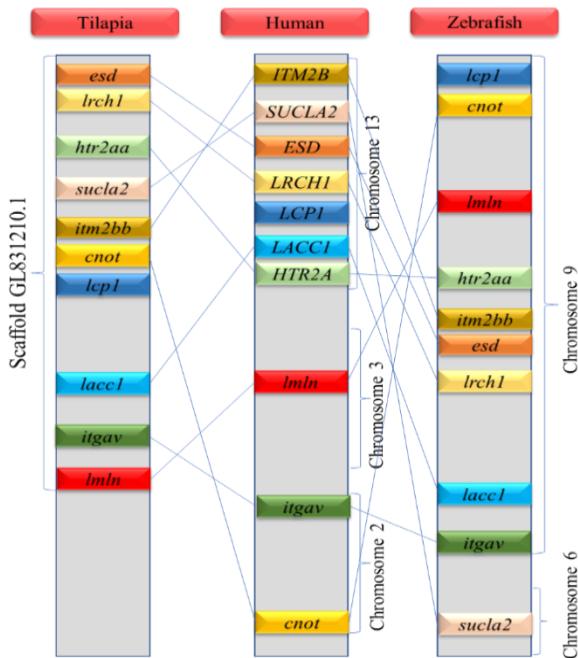


Figure 1. Conserved Gene Synteny of Tilapia *lcp1* gene

In order to detect the conserved genes of tilapia with zebrafish and human, it was first determined that the *lcp1* gene was on the scaffold GL831210.1 and the other genes found in this scaffold were determined from the Ensembl genome database (Table 1). Then, conserved gene synteny

was generated manually by region (Chromosome 2, 3 and 13 in human genome and Chromosome 6 and 9 in zebrafish genome) of these detected gene (Figure 1) As it is known, teleost fish have conserved regions for the gene structure of the same gene family, and the conserved gene synteny clearly demonstrates this (Figure 1). It's known that, teleost fish may have two copies of the genes as a result of duplication of the whole genome which are found as a single copy in the other organisms (Amores et al. 1998; Meyer and Schartl 1999; Postlethwait et al. 2000; Braasch and Postlethwait, 2012; Çapan, 2019; Bayır et al., 2020). The results indicate that the *lcp1* gene appeared as a result of teleost genome duplication (TGD) in bony fish, but one copy was lost after the TGD. It was seen sometimes in teleost fish such as Bayır et al., (2020) reported that of the medaka, tilapia, stickleback, puffer fish, platyfish, Makobe island cichlid, Midas cichlid, Amazon molly and fugu have a copy of creatine kinase gene (*ckma*), while zebrafish has two copies of creatin kinase gene, *ckma* and *ckm*

A neighbor-joining phylogenetic tree, constructed using sequences of Lcp1/LCP1 from zebrafish, rainbow trout, brown trout, gilthead seabream, yellow perch, fugu, pike, northern pike, Norway rat, mouse and human further supported this orthology (Figure 2). The phylogenetic tree which generated by maximum likelihood method showed that specific fish Lcp1 proteins clustered in distinct clades from tetrapods. The reliability of the tree was evaluated with a 1000 bootstrap replicates (Felsenstein, 1985).

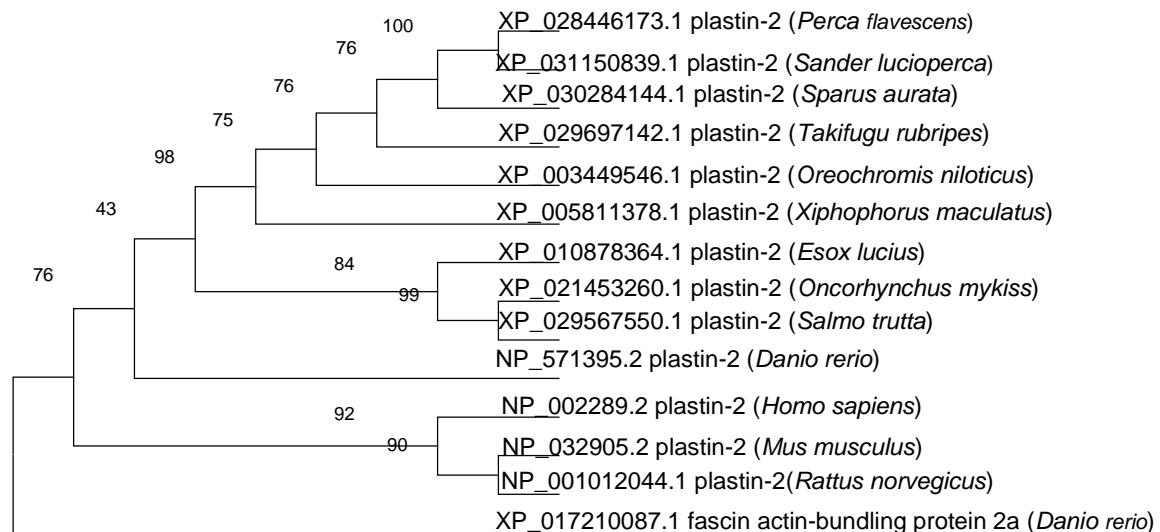


Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of tilapia *lcp1* gene. Phylogenetic relationships between *lcp1* sequence from tilapia and the other fish and tetrapods. Tree was constructed using Maximum Likelihood method (Felsenstein, 1989). NCBI accession IDs of the sequences used for phylogenetic tree are given in phylogenetic tree

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