apterous, a gene required for imaginal disc development in *Drosophila* encodes a member of the LIM family of developmental regulatory proteins

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The *apterous* (*ap*) gene is required for the normal development of the wing and haltere imaginal discs in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *ap* encodes a new member of the LIM family of developmental regulatory genes. The deduced amino acid sequence of *ap* predicts a homeo domain and a cysteine/histidine-rich domain known as the LIM domain. In these domains *ap* is highly similar to the *mec-3* and *lin-11* proteins of *Caenorhabditis elegans* and to the vertebrate insulin enhancer-binding protein *isl-1*. *ap* is presumably required for transcriptional regulation of genes involved in wing and haltere development. The nature of the defects in homozygous null mutant flies is consistent with the pattern of *ap* expression in the larval imaginal discs. *ap* is also expressed in a complex pattern in the embryo, including portions of the peripheral nervous system (PNS) and central nervous system (CNS). A requirement for *ap* expression in the larval and adult CNS may be the underlying cause of the defects in hormone production and vitellogenesis described for *ap* mutations.

[Key Words: *apterous*; LIM domain; homeo domain; transcription factor; imaginal disc; wing development]

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Genetic and molecular analysis of mutations in genes that disrupt development has proved to be invaluable in elucidating the mechanisms by which a normal pattern is generated. Because of the great differences in the life-styles of the larva and the adult fly, *Drosophila* organizes different body patterns at different times in its life cycle. The segmentation and dorsoventral patterning systems organize the larval body pattern (for review, see St. Johnston and Nüsslein-Volhard 1992). In addition, the primordia of the adult body, known as imaginal discs, are laid down in the embryo. Some aspects of patterning in the disc occur concomitant with specification of the discs in the embryo. For example, the subdivision of the disc primordium into anterior and posterior compartments is imposed on the nascent disc (Wieschaus and Gehring 1976; Simcox et al. 1989).

Several genes known for their roles in pattern formation in the *Drosophila* embryo have also been shown to play important roles in the normal development of the imaginal discs (e.g., Kornberg 1981; Spencer et al. 1982; Baker 1988; Phillips et al. 1990). The segment polarity genes *wingless*, *engrailed*, and *patched* were first identified by virtue of viable mutant alleles that produced wing defects (Sharma and Chopra 1976; Ecker 1929,

cited in Kornberg 1981; Phillips et al. 1990). *wingless* and *decapentaplegic* encode secreted intercellular signaling molecules that are required for normal growth and patterning of all imaginal discs (Padgett et al. 1987; van den Heuvel et al. 1989; Gonzalez et al. 1991). Other segment polarity genes, such as *patched*, have been implicated in the receptor side of these signaling processes (Phillips et al. 1990; Ingham et al. 1991). It is probable that the functions of the intercellular signaling genes in patterning of both the embryonic segment and the imaginal discs are similar (for review, see Whittle 1990; Wilkins and Gubb 1991).

Many additional genes, for which no embryonic function is known, are required for growth and pattern formation of the imaginal discs. A number of genes of this type have been identified in screens for late larval or pupal lethals (Shearn et al. 1971; Shearn and Garen 1974; Kiss et al. 1976). One particularly interesting class of genes is that required for the development of a subset of imaginal discs (for review, see Shearn 1978). A number of genes that are required for development of the wing have been identified, including *apterous* (*ap*), *vestigial* (*vg*), and *defective dorsal discs* (*ddd*) (Butterworth and King 1965; Fristrom 1969; Simcox et al. 1987).

ddd gene function is needed during larval stages to promote growth of the entire wing and haltere discs.

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Like *wingless*, *ddd* functions in a nonautonomous manner, suggesting a secreted product (Simcox et al. 1987). *vg* encodes a nuclear protein that is expressed throughout the disc and that is required in the wing and haltere blade (Williams et al. 1991). In the absence of *vg* function, extensive cell death is observed in the region of the wing blade, although the body wall structures that derive from the disc develop normally (Fristrom 1969; Bownes and Roberts 1981).

In this report we present the molecular cloning of the *ap* gene. *ap* encodes a member of the newly described LIM family of developmental regulatory proteins. These proteins contain both a sequence-specific DNA-binding motif, the homeo domain, and a cysteine/histidine-rich domain. *ap* is expressed in the wing and haltere discs during larval development and is required in a cell-autonomous manner for the development of the wing and haltere structures. *ap* is also expressed in a subset of cells in the embryonic and larval central and peripheral nervous systems (CNS and PNS, respectively). We suggest that other aspects of the *ap* phenotype may depend on its expression in the adult brain.

Results

Identification and cloning of a P element inserted in the ap gene

An insertional mutation disrupting the *ap* locus was identified in a screen of enhancer detector P-element lines. Flies homozygous for a P-element insertion (known as rK568) exhibit a wingless and haltereless phenotype characteristic of the *ap* mutation. The P-element insert maps to the cytogenetic locus 41F-42A1,2 (data not shown). The insertion behaves as a mutant allele of *ap* in crosses to deletions that uncover the *ap* locus and to other alleles of *ap*. We designate this insertional mutant *ap*^{K568}. The location of the insertionally mutated gene was genetically mapped with respect to a series of overlapping deletions (Fig. 1). The affected gene lies in the interval defined by the overlap between the left breakpoints of *Df(2R)nap*¹² and *Df(2R)nap*⁹⁻², corresponding to the cytogenetic interval 41F8-42A1. This interval has been shown to contain the *ap* gene (R. Kreber, pers. comm.) but differs from a previously published cytogenetic map location of the gene (41B-C; Lindsley and Zimm 1985).

DNA flanking the P-element insert was recovered by plasmid rescue and used to isolate genomic DNA from the *ap* locus (Fig. 1). Sequences within the 2.2-kb *Eco*RI fragment of phage λ plC (where the element resides) hybridize to embryos and to imaginal discs in a pattern identical to that visualized by β -galactosidase activity in the enhancer detector strain rK568, indicating that this fragment contains transcribed sequences. The 2.2-kb *Eco*RI fragment was used to isolate cDNA clones from a *Drosophila* imaginal disc cDNA library. The structure of the >21-kb *ap* transcription unit is shown in Figure 1. *ap* cDNA clones fall into two size classes corresponding

to estimated transcript sizes of 3.2 and 4.3 kb. Mapping and sequence analyses suggest that the two transcript classes differ only in the length of their 3'-untranslated tails.

Isolation of an ap lack-of-function mutant

Most previously described *ap* mutations are homozygous viable. Flies mutant for strong *ap* alleles eclose normally but lack virtually all wing and haltere structures (Fig. 2; Butterworth and King 1965; Wilson 1981a; L. Sarov and D. Segal, in prep.). The P-element insertion rK568 produces a strong *ap* phenotype when homozygous (not shown). Although they are severely affected phenotypically, homozygous rK568 mutant animals are able to express the *ap* transcript (data not shown; for details, see Materials and methods). Consequently, it is possible that rK568 retains some *ap*⁺ function. In the hope of isolating a definitive lack-of-function mutation in the gene, we produced a small deletion in the *ap* gene by imprecise excision of the rK568 P-element insertion (Fig. 3).

A total of 175 strains carrying independent excision events were analyzed genetically. Of these, 55% showed complete phenotypic reversion of the insertional mutation to produce wild-type flies. Molecular analysis of one such revertant (UGO5) showed that the P-element had been excised from the gene (Fig. 3). Within the limits of resolution of the Southern blot, UGO5 appears to be a precise excision. This result demonstrates that the P-element insertion was the cause of the *ap* mutation in enhancer detector strain rK568.

An additional 45% of the strains were homozygous viable and continued to show *ap* mutant phenotypes after excision of the resident P element. Half of these exhibited a strong phenotype, similar to that of the parental insertional mutant. Molecular analysis showed that one of the strong mutants (UGO35) was caused by an imprecise excision of the P element resulting in a deletion of ~6 kb, which removes the first exon of the *ap* transcription unit (Fig. 3). Double-labeling experiments using the longest *ap* cDNA clone show that homozygous UGO35 animals do not express the *ap* transcript in the embryo, in the larval brain, or in the imaginal discs (data not shown). If alternate forms of the transcript exist, they cannot share a significant amount of coding sequence with the major transcript forms. The severity of the mutant phenotype in UGO35 homozygotes is not distinguishable from that of UGO35 in *trans* to a deletion for the locus. UGO35 homozygous individuals therefore define the null phenotype of the *ap* locus (Fig. 2).

Other excision strains exhibited less severe wing phenotypes than that caused by the original insertion. The phenotypes of these alleles are characteristic of other hypomorphic alleles of *ap* described previously (Butterworth and King 1965; Wilson 1981a; L. Sarov and D. Segal, in prep.). The production of hypomorphic alleles by excision of P elements has been documented previously (e.g., Searles et al. 1986). These investigators

Figure 1. Molecular organization of the *ap* locus. (A) The cytogenetic localization of the *ap* gene is represented with respect to chromosomal deletions that delimit the locus. *ap* is contained within deletions *Df(2R) nap*¹² (cytology: 41F5-8; 42C1-3) and *Df(2R) bw*^{vDe2L}*Cy*^R (cytology: 41A; 42A7,8). The region is delimited on its telomeric side by *Df(2R) nap*⁹⁻² (cytology: 42A1,2; 42E5-7), which does not contain *ap*. (B) Physical map of genomic DNA containing the *ap* locus. Three genomic phages cover the region that contains all of the *ap* exons found in the cDNA clones. The 1-kb *Xba*I fragment of ϕ AP1C indicated by the broken arrow contains the genomic DNA recovered by plasmid rescue of the P-element insertion rK568. The approximate positions of *ap*-coding sequences are depicted as boxes below the map. Exon positions were determined by hybridization with cDNA probes. (C) Physical map of *ap* cDNA clones. The location of the rK568 insertion was determined by DNA sequencing to be 42 bp upstream from the 5' end of the longest cDNA clone. The 5' ends of cDNA clones A, B, and G are indicated by arrows below the map. The coding region is depicted by an open box. Coding sequences begin in the first exon. The positions of the LIM domain (hatched boxes) and the homeo domain (stippled box) are indicated. Polyadenylation sites observed in cDNA clones are shown (An). Restriction mapping indicates that the majority of cDNA clones recovered start in the region indicated by A, B, and G. Assuming that there is only one transcription start site, transcripts of 3.2 and 4.3 kb are predicted. (B) *Bam*HI; (Bg) *Bgl*II; (Bs) *Bss*III; (P) *Pst*I; (R) *Eco*RI; (S) *Sma*I; (X) *Xba*I; (Xh) *Xho*I.

Figure 2. Morphological defects in *ap* mutants. (A) Side view of a wild-type fly, showing the normal appearance of the wing (W), haltere (H), and the pattern of bristles on the dorsal thorax. (B) Comparable view of an *ap* null mutant fly of genotype *ap*^{UGO35}/*ap*^{UGO35}. The wing is reduced to a small stump [arrow]. The haltere is similarly reduced (not visible in the picture). A number of large bristles (macrochaetae) are missing from the thorax near the wing, and this region appears reduced in size relative to the rest of the thorax. These flies are short lived and females are nonvitellogenic.

showed that the severity of the mutant phenotype caused by an insertion was reduced by internal deletions within the resident P element. It is possible that the

hypomorphic alleles recovered in our excision screen represent this class of imprecise excision event.

ap expression in the imaginal discs

ap mRNA is expressed throughout the regions of the imaginal discs that give rise to the dorsal surface of the wing and haltere blades and at lower levels in the regions of the wing and haltere discs that form the dorsal thoracic body wall structures, the notum and scutellum (Fig. 4). *ap* expression is highest in the region of the wing hinge. In mild *ap* mutants the hinge region is defective, leading to flies with essentially normal wings, which are held out from the body in an unusual posture (Wilson 1981a). Increasingly severe mutants cause reductions in the wing and haltere, and in the strong mutants these structures are absent, but the notum and scutellum are essentially normal. The P-insertion allele rK568 exhibits this strong hypomorphic phenotype. The null mutant allele UGO35 produces a slightly more severe defect, in which particular dorsal thoracic bristles are absent. Absence of thoracic bristles has been observed previously in some strong alleles of *ap* (Butterworth and King 1965), suggesting that these may also be null alleles. Thus, there is a good correlation between the pattern of *ap* expression and the range of defects observed in wing development in *ap* mutants. Regions that express high levels of the gene product are most sensitive to reductions in gene activity.

ap is also expressed in the presumptive fourth tarsal segment of the leg imaginal discs and in a central spot in the antennal portion of the eye antenna disc. The leg and antenna appear to develop normally in the *ap* null mutant, suggesting no essential role for the gene in morphogenesis of these structures. However, some *ap* alleles have been found to produce unusual kinking of the legs (L. Sarov and D. Segal, in prep.). The significance of this

Figure 3. Isolation of *ap* lack-of-function mutants. (A) A genetic scheme for the isolation of *ap* mutants is shown. Mutagenesis results as an indirect consequence of imprecise excision of the P-element insertion in *ap*. The scheme is based on genetic selection for excision events, which are identified by elimination of a dominant marker (*ry*⁺), carried on the P-element insertion. Step 1 combines the rK568 insertion (chromosome II) with a stable source of P-element transposase located on chromosome III (Robertson et al. 1988). Males carrying the transposase (dominantly marked with *Sb*) and carrying the P element (i.e., those not dominantly marked *Sp*) were mass mated with females carrying a dominantly marked (*ry*⁻) second chromosome in a *ry* mutant background. The excision events represented by single males lacking a copy of the *ry*⁻ gene were amplified in step 3, and stock carrying the putative mutation was established by sister-brother mating at step 4. The progeny of these crosses were scored for the production of *ap* mutant offspring. (B) Genomic Southern blot showing the molecular nature of selected excision events. rK568/CyO denotes DNA taken from flies carrying the insertion line and heterozygous for the balancer chromosome CyO. UGO35/CyO is DNA from a balanced excision strain. UGO35 and UGO5 are DNA from flies homozygous for independent excision events derived from the rK568 chromosome. DNA in the first set of four lanes was digested with *Eco*RI. DNA in the second set of four lanes was digested with *Xba*I. Different hybridizations of the same filter are shown. (Left) Hybridized with a 1.4-kb *Xba*I fragment (indicated by the vertically striped box in C). The excision of the P element in UGO5 is apparently precise, as indicated by the restoration of the 1-kb *Xba*I fragment that contained the rK568 insert (arrow, left). The excision in UGO35 removed 6 kb of DNA flanking the insertion, including the first exon of the *ap* transcription unit. *Xba*I fragments of 4 and 1.4 kb are deleted in the UGO35 excision (cf. lanes UGO35 and UGO5), and the 1-kb *Xba*I fragment that contained the element is replaced by a small (~400 bp) fragment (not visible with the probes shown here). (Right) Probed with a subfragment from the right-hand side of the adjacent *Eco*RI fragment. (This fragment, indicated by the cross-hatched box, shows a number of polymorphic *Eco*RI sites.) DNA from this fragment is present in the UGO35 excision. Note the identical size of the nonpolymorphic *Xba*I fragments in all four lanes. (C) Physical map depicting *Xba*I and *Eco*RI restriction sites in the rK568 P-element insertion and the result of the UGO35 excision. (Solid boxes) *ap* exons 1 and 2; (stippled box) the UGO35 deletion. Sites in parentheses are polymorphic between cDNA and genomic DNA that derive from different strains.

Figure 3. (See facing page for legend.)

phenotype is unclear, because the null mutant produces no defect.

ap expression in the embryo

The pattern of *ap* expression during embryogenesis is complex and dynamic. Earliest *ap* expression is seen during germ band extension in the mandibular lobe of the embryonic head (Fig. 5A,B). These cells flank the invaginating stomodeum in the germ band-extended embryo and invaginate as the floor of the pharynx during germ band retraction. The role of *ap* expression in this tissue is unclear because *ap* mutant larvae obviously feed successfully. *ap* is also expressed from germ band extension until the end of embryogenesis in the cells that form the anus.

By the end of germ band extension *ap* is expressed in segmentally repeated dorsolateral and ventrolateral groups of cells (Fig. 5C,D). By the completion of germ band retraction the *ap*-expressing cells have invaginated beneath the ectoderm (Fig. 5E,F,I). Double-labeling experiments show that most of the *ap*-expressing cells in these clusters are associated with the developing PNS (Fig. 6). *ap*-expressing cells are closely associated with, but clearly distinct from, the PNS neurons, visualized by monoclonal antibody 22C10. The locations of the *ap*-expressing cells suggest that some of them may be accessory cells associated with a subset of both chordotonal and external sensory organs (Ghysen et al. 1986; Bodmer and Jan 1987).

Clearly, other cells in the thoracic segments cannot be accessory cells of the PNS. In flattened preparations, some of the *ap*-expressing cells are very elongated and lie below the PNS. On the basis of their morphology and position, it is possible that these additional *ap*-expressing cells may be larval muscle precursors (Bate et al. 1991). In particular, the group of *ap*-expressing cells that lie dorsal to the leg primordia in the thoracic segments correspond closely in position to a group of identified muscle precursor cells. Although the function of the *ap* gene product in the PNS and the muscles is not known, *ap* expression in these cells is clearly not essential for viability of the larva. Changes in the fate of a substantial portion of the PNS as a result of mutations in genes of the *achaete-scute* locus have been shown previously to be compatible with survival to adulthood (Dambly-Chaudiere and Ghysen 1987).

ap is also expressed in the embryonic and larval CNS. *ap* expression in the presumptive embryonic brain begins in the fully germ band-extended embryo and persists through embryogenesis (Fig. 5C,E,F,I). During germ band retraction, *ap* begins to be expressed in the ventral nerve cord. Expression is initially in one cell per hemisegment (Fig. 5G). Additional cells soon begin to express *ap*, increasing the number to two to four cells per hemisegment (Fig. 5H). This pattern of embryonic nervous system expression may be related to, or may be the precursor of, the later expression of *ap* in the larval CNS (Fig. 4).

A possible neuroendocrine origin for the pleiotropic defects in ap mutants

In addition to the morphological defects in wing disc development, *ap* mutants exhibit a number of physiological defects: Females are sterile, and mutant flies fail to undergo larval fat body histolysis and are short-lived (Butterworth and King 1965). Differential regulation of *ap* expression in a variety of tissues and at different times in development may explain the complex array of defects observed in *ap* mutants. Genetic characterization of a large number of *ap* alleles has shown that defects in wing/haltere development can be functionally distinguished from defects in other processes, for example, female fertility (Butterworth and King 1965; Wilson 1981a,b; L. Sarov and D. Segal, in prep.).

Other manifestations of the *ap* phenotype may reflect indirect consequences of *ap* function in the brain. Although *ap* mutant females are nonvitellogenic and fail to undergo larval fat body histolysis (Butterworth and King 1965; Postlethwait and Weiser 1973), *ap* expression cannot be detected in the female germ line or in the fat body by histochemical staining for β -galactosidase activity in rK568 flies or by RNA in situ hybridization (data not shown). The defect in vitellogenesis is not an autonomous property of the ovary, because *ap* mutant ovaries can become vitellogenic after transplantation into a normal host (Postlethwait and Handler 1978). Both phenotypes are associated with reduced levels of juvenile hormone (JH) production (Altartzt et al. 1991), and topical application of a JH analog to the female abdomen restores vitellogenesis and, to some extent, fat body histolysis (Postlethwait and Weiser 1973).

JH secretion from the corpus allatum is reduced in *ap* mutants (Altartzt et al. 1991). However, it is unlikely that *ap* has a direct role in regulating JH production or secretion, because *ap* is not detectably expressed in the corpus allatum (not shown). *ap* is, however, expressed in the larval (Fig. 3) and adult brain (not shown). Corpus allatum function is believed to depend on neurotrophic signals from the brain, suggesting that the defects in hormone production (and secondarily, in vitellogenesis and fat body histolysis) are an indirect result of *ap* function in the brain (Altartzt et al. 1991). However, on the basis of mosaic analysis, Wilson (1981b) suggests that the defect leading to abnormal JH secretion may lie in the abdomen.

One other striking phenotype of *ap* mutant flies is premature death, within a few days of eclosion. It has been suggested, on the basis of genetic mosaic analysis, that early death reflects a defect in Malpighian tubule function (equivalent to the kidney) or in the hindgut (Wilson 1981b). Histochemical staining for β -galactosidase activity in rK568 flies shows that *ap* is not detectably expressed in the Malpighian tubules.

ap encodes a predicted transcription factor

The diverse array of *ap* mutant phenotypes may be explained by the observation that *ap* encodes a predicted

Figure 4. *ap* expression in larval and pupal imaginal discs and brain. The pattern of *ap* expression in the imaginal discs and the larval brain is visualized by histochemical staining for β -galactosidase activity in the insertion line rK568. The pattern visualized in this way is indistinguishable from the pattern of *ap* transcript expression in these tissues (not shown). The morphology of the samples is better preserved in the histochemical staining procedure. (A) Shown are leg (L), wing (W), and haltere (H) discs from a mature third-instar larva. The dorsal surface of the wing and haltere blades are labeled, as well as a ring in the tarsal segment of the leg. Note the elevated levels of expression in the hinge region and around the wing and haltere margins, compared with the center of the wing blade and capitellum. (B) Prepupal haltere disc beginning to undergo eversion. (C) Prepupal leg disc beginning to undergo eversion. *ap* is expressed in the fourth tarsal segment (arrow). (D) Prepupal wing disc undergoing eversion. Note that the label covers the entire dorsal surface of the disc. Expression is strongest in the hinge region (arrow). The difference in the appearance of labeling between the third-instar and prepupal discs reflects the reorganization of the disc during eversion (see Bryant 1978). (E) Eye-antennal disc from a third-instar larva showing *ap* expression in the disc center. (F) The complex pattern of *ap* expression in the brain. Note also the repeated clusters of cells in the ventral nerve cord (arrows).

protein that is likely to regulate transcription (Fig. 7). *ap* encodes a new member of the LIM family of develop-

mental regulatory proteins (Way and Chalfie 1988; Freyd et al. 1990; Karlsson et al. 1990). Proteins in this family

Figure 5. *ap* expression in the embryo. The pattern of *ap* transcript expression was visualized by whole-mount in situ hybridization [Tautz and Pfeifle 1989]. *ap* is first expressed during germ band extension in the mandibular lobe of the embryonic head. (A, lateral view; B, ventral view). By the completion of germ band extension, additional domains of expression arise in the presumptive brain (br), in the region of the hindgut (probably the presumptive anus, based on later expression (a)), and in segmentally repeated pattern (C, lateral view). The ventral view in D emphasizes the difference in the pattern of expression in the thoracic (t3) and abdominal (a1) segments. t2 and t3 express *ap* in more cells than are seen in a1. E and G show the early pattern of expression in the CNS, initially one cell per hemisegment in the abdomen [(arrow in E (parasagittal view); and in G (ventral view)]. An additional cell per hemisegment is labeled in thoracic segments. F and H show slightly older embryos in which additional CNS cells are labeled (arrowhead). Note also the expression in the filzkörper (f) and anus (a), as well as in the brain (br). I shows a dorsolateral view to highlight expression in the brain and filzkörper. J shows a surface view of the PNS and other cells expressing *ap*. All of these cells lie below the ectodermal layer.

Figure 6. (See following page for legend.)

are characterized by the presence of a conserved cysteine/histidine-rich motif known as the LIM domain and by the presence of a distinctive class of homeo domain. The LIM proteins are also generally similar in overall organization, except that the *ap* protein has a proline-rich domain between the LIM domains and the homeo domain (Fig. 8). The presence of a proline-rich domain has been correlated with a transcriptional activation function in other proteins (Mitchell and Tjian 1989). The predicted *ap* protein shows extensive sequence similarity to the *lin-11*, *isl-1* and *mec-3* proteins in both the LIM domain and in the homeo domain. *ap*, *lin-11*, and *isl-1* are slightly more similar to one another in both domains than any of them are to *mec-3*.

Discussion

ap is a new member of the LIM family of developmental regulatory proteins. The LIM family was initially defined by the genes *lin-11*, *isl-1*, and *mec-3* (Way and Chalfie 1988; Freyd et al. 1990; Karlsson et al. 1990). On the basis of the homeo domain, these genes are believed to function as regulators of transcription. Consistent with this suggestion, both the *mec-3* and *isl-1* proteins have been shown to bind DNA in a sequence-specific manner (Karlsson et al. 1990; M. Chalfie, pers. comm.). The cysteine/histidine-rich LIM domain has recently been shown to bind both zinc and iron (Li et al. 1991). A number of alternative proposals have been put forth concerning the functional role of this domain, including redox-sensitive protein–nucleic acid interaction, direct protein–protein interaction, or a structural role (Freyd et al. 1990; Li et al. 1991).

The *Caenorhabditis* LIM genes function in the specification and/or maintenance of cell fate. *lin-11* is required for one daughter of an asymmetric cell division in vulval development to adopt a cell fate different than that of its sister cell (Ferguson et al. 1987). *mec-3* is required, in conjunction with the homeo domain protein *unc-86* and at least one other gene, for the specification of touch receptors (Way et al. 1988; Chalfie and Au 1989). *mec-3* appears to be activated in response to the initial signal specifying these cells and acts to maintain the determined state through autoregulation (Way and Chalfie 1989; Way et al. 1991). It is intriguing that the *ap* gene is associated with some mechanosensory elements

of the developing PNS, and with some muscle precursors in the *Drosophila* embryo. It will be interesting to determine whether *ap* expression plays a role in the specification or maintenance of cell fate in these cells. The pattern of 22C10 labeling does not reveal gross changes in the organization of PNS neurons in the *ap* null mutant (data not shown). A more detailed analysis will be required to ask whether subtle alterations can be detected in the developmental fates of accessory cells, in which *ap* is expressed.

What is the role of *ap* in wing development?

Using a temperature-sensitive allele of *ap*, Wilson (1981a) has shown that *ap* function is required during the second and third larval instars for normal wing development. Taking advantage of molecular markers to identify mutant larvae, we find that development of the wing disc is already morphologically abnormal early in the third larval instar (data not shown). These observations suggest that *ap* is an important early regulator of wing development. Consistent with the identification of the *ap* gene product as a presumed transcriptional regulatory protein, *ap* function in the wing is cell autonomous in genetic mosaics (Wilson 1981b). By analogy to *lin-11* and *mec-3*, it is possible that *ap* may regulate the expression of genes required for either growth or pattern formation in the developing wing and haltere discs.

ap is only one of several genes in which mutations lead to loss of the wing and haltere structures but that leave the dorsal thorax relatively unaffected. Mutations in the *vg* gene cause defects in wing and haltere development similar to those described for *ap* (Fristrom 1969; Bownes and Roberts 1981; Williams et al. 1991). As in *ap* null mutants, the wing and haltere discs are reduced in size in the third-instar larva in strong *vg* mutants (Fristrom 1969; Williams et al. 1991). The wingless phenotypes of both *ap* and *vg* are associated with extensive cell death in the presumptive wing blade region of the wing discs (Fristrom 1969). *ap* and *vg* are expressed in broad overlapping domains of the wing disc. *ap* is expressed throughout the dorsal surface of the disc, including the presumptive body wall; *vg* is expressed at high levels on both dorsal and ventral surfaces of the wing blade and at lower levels in the presumptive body wall (Williams et al. 1991). Thus, the domains of *ap* and *vg* expression

Figure 6. A subset of PNS and muscle precursor cells express *ap*. (A) Flattened preparation of an embryo, double-labeled to visualize cells expressing *ap* [blue, β -galactosidase activity] and PNS neurons [brown, monoclonal antibody 22C10]. The pattern of *ap* expression visualized by the enhancer detector insertion is indistinguishable from that visualized by in situ hybridization to *ap* transcript. (B) Detail of t3 and a1 segments in A. Most *ap*-expressing cells in the abdominal segments are closely associated with PNS neurons (small arrow). Some of these are likely to be accessory cells. In the thoracic segments, additional cells, which cannot be PNS accessory cells, are labeled (large arrows). (C) Double label showing *ap*-expressing cells labeled with antibody to β -galactosidase (brown) and with 22C10 to label PNS neurons (gray). In contrast to the X-gal staining, the antibody shows predominantly nuclear localization of the β -galactosidase protein. It is clear from these preparations that some of the cells expressing *ap* cannot be PNS cells (e.g., large arrow). Note, however, that because of the stability of the β -galactosidase protein, the pattern of expression may reflect, to some extent, the history of *ap* expression in the cells. (D) Labeled as in A and B. β -Galactosidase activity staining shows that some *ap*-expressing cells are very elongated (open arrow). Some of these cells lie below the PNS clusters and may be stretch receptors or muscles associated with the chordotonal organs. On the basis of their location, other such cells are more likely to be muscle precursors.

apterous, a LIM gene required for wing development

Figure 7. Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of the *ap* protein. The 4098-bp sequence of the longest class of cDNA clones is presented. It was compiled from the complete sequence of cDNA clone cAP-B, with the extended 5'-untranslated region of cAP-A added. The start of cAP-B at residue 365 is labeled. The long open reading frame encoding the deduced *ap* protein begins at residue 952. A second in-frame ATG codon occurs at amino acid residue 11. The sequence context of the first ATG codon [GCACATG] is a reasonable match for the *Drosophila* consensus translation start site [CAACATG] (Cavener 1987). An in-frame stop codon is located 60 bp upstream from the first ATG. The deduced amino acid sequence predicts a protein of 469 amino acids containing two LIM domains (sequence in italics, labeled LIM 1 and LIM 2) and a homeo domain (underlined). The positions of restriction sites shown on the map of the cDNA in Figure 1 are labeled. The locations of poly(A) tail addition in the 3'-untranslated region are shown by solid diamonds, and consensus polyadenylation sequences (AATAAA) are underlined.

of the body wall (Cohen and Jürgens 1989; Cohen et al. 1989; B. Cohen, A.A. Simcox, and S.M. Cohen, in prep.). Both genetic mosaic analysis and embryo culture experiments show that in the absence of *Dll* activity, imaginal disc cells only form body wall structures (Cohen and Jürgens 1989; B. Cohen, A.A. Simcox, and S.M. Cohen, in prep.). It remains to be determined whether any of the genes required for wing development play a role analogous to *Dll*. We can exclude *ddd* as a candidate for this function because *ddd* is required nonautonomously in the entire disc (Simcox et al. 1987). Although *ap* and *vg* mutants lack wing blade structures, both genes are expressed at some level in the region of the wing disc that gives rise to thoracic body wall structures. In this respect, they differ from *Dll*, which is not expressed in the presumptive ventral body wall. Because none of the known genes required for wing blade development appears to function precisely analogously to *Dll*, development of the wing and haltere appendages may follow different rules than development of the leg.

Materials and methods

ap genomic and cDNA clones

Genomic DNA flanking the P-element insertion in rK568 was cloned by plasmid rescue (Bier et al. 1989; Wilson et al. 1989). A 200-bp fragment was recovered in the plasmid and was used to screen a genomic library of Canton-S DNA cloned in λ Dash II (provided by Ron Davis, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY). Additional clones covering the *ap* regions were isolated from this library using an *ap* cDNA probe. cDNA clones were isolated from an imaginal disc cDNA library (provided by J. Botas). Seven cDNA clones representing two transcript size classes were characterized. Most clones are near full length, based on restriction mapping and DNA sequence of the 5' ends of several cDNAs. One cDNA (cAP-B) was fully sequenced on both strands. Partial sequence was derived from cDNAs cAP-A, -E, -F, -G, and -H. In addition, the locations of exons in the genomic DNA were determined by hybridization with cDNA probes, and the exons were sequenced to determine the detailed organization of the transcription unit. DNA sequencing was carried out with the help of the DNA sequence core facility in the Institute for Molecular Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine. The amino acid sequence of the deduced *ap* protein was used to screen PIR (release 30.0), SWISS-PROT (release 19.0), Gen Pept (release 69.0), and Gen Pept update (Dec 10 1991), using the BLAST network service at National Center for Biotechnology Information.

ap mRNA expression

The pattern of expression of the *ap* transcript was determined by whole-mount in situ hybridization to embryos, essentially as described by Tautz and Pfeifle (1989). Whole-mount labeling of imaginal discs was performed as described previously (Phillips et al. 1990; Cohen et al. 1991). To examine the pattern of *ap* expression during the early stages of disc eversion, 1- to 6-hr-old prepupae were dissected from the pupal case and processed for staining as described for larval imaginal discs. The pattern of β -galactosidase activity driven by the rK568 enhancer detector insertion was visualized by histochemical staining as described

by Bellen et al. (1989). Double-labeling procedures were carried out as described in Cohen et al. (1991).

The *ap*^{rK568} insertional mutant and the excision allele *ap*^{UGO35} were tested to determine whether the *ap* transcript was expressed in homozygous mutant animals. Embryos and imaginal discs from strains of the genotype *ap/CyO*, *P[ry⁺]/(wg/lacZ)* were double-labeled to visualize β -galactosidase activity and, subsequently, by in situ hybridization to visualize *ap* transcript. Homozygous mutant individuals can be identified by the absence of β -galactosidase staining in the pattern of the wingless gene, indicating the absence of the *CyO*, *P[ry⁺]/(wg/lacZ)* balancer chromosome. *ap*^{rK568} homozygotes express the *ap* transcript; *ap*^{UGO35} homozygotes do not express the *ap* transcript in the embryo or the imaginal discs (data not shown).

Drosophila strains and crosses

A collection of enhancer detector insertion strains was provided by Ulrike Gaul, Linda Higgins, and Gerry Rubin (University of California, Berkeley). rK568 was identified on the basis of a homozygous wingless phenotype and subsequently shown to be an allele of *ap*. Two other P-element insertions from this screen, rH7 and rQ107, may also be inserted at the *ap* locus. These insertions produce the same pattern of β -galactosidase staining in embryos and imaginal discs as rK568; however, neither produces a mutant phenotype when homozygous. Like rK568, rQ107 maps to the cytogenetic interval 41F-42A. The identification of rH7 and rQ107 as innocuous insertions in the *ap* locus is tentative, because DNA flanking these inserts has not been cloned.

A series of deletions of the *nap* gene was used to further define the location of the rK568 insertion. *Df(2R) nap⁹⁻²*, *Df(2R) nap¹²*, and *Df(2R) bw^{vDe2L} Cy^R* delimit the region containing *ap* to the cytogenetic region 41F8-42A1,2 (R. Kreber, pers. comm.). This region contains the gene affected by the rK568 insertion.

Mobilization of the resident P element was performed using a defective P element on the third chromosome, *P[ry⁺ Δ 2-3]/(99B)*, which serves as a source of transposase but is, itself, virtually immobile (Robertson et al. 1988). A genetic screen to recover excisions is described in Figure 3. Five hundred putative excisions of the rK568 insertion were identified as *ry⁻* males at step 3. The males were backcrossed to lethal (2) *P[ry⁺] b Adh cn/CyO*; *ry⁵⁰⁶* to allow stocks to be established from single excision events. A total of 175 stocks were examined. Of these, 96 lines produced wild-type progeny as homozygotes, suggesting that 55% of excisions reverted to wild type. One of these lines, UGO5, has been analyzed molecularly and found to produce an apparently precise excision (Fig. 3). The remaining 45% of excisions produced homozygous viable flies with *ap* mutant phenotypes. Of these, 41 of 175 (23.4%) produced a strong *ap* phenotype like the original rK568 insertion, 18 of 175 (10.2%) produced a less severely affected strap-like wing, 13 of 175 (7.4%) produced a relatively normal wing with a defective hinge, causing the wing to be held out at an abnormal angle, and 7 of 175 (4%) were pupal lethal. A subset of lines was pupal lethal. Because the null allele is viable, pupal lethality may reflect a disruption of genes in addition to *ap*.

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P[ry⁺] (wg/lacZ) chromosome and Hugo Bellen for the lethal (2) *P[ry⁺] b Adh cn/ CyO; ry⁵⁰⁶* stock. We thank Phil Soriano and Juan Botas for comments on the manuscript and Judi Cooper for secretarial assistance. This work was supported in part by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and by Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research award 5-91-510 to S.C.

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Note added in proof

Sequence data described in this paper have been submitted to the EMBL/GenBank data libraries under accession no. X65158.

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