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ARTICLE

High-resolution physical and transcript map of human chromosome 2p21 containing the sitosterolaemia locus

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Sitosterolaemia (phytosterolaemia) is an autosomal recessive disorder characterised by the presence of tendon xanthomas in the face of normal or mildly elevated plasma cholesterol levels, premature atherosclerotic disease and has diagnostically elevated plasma and tissue plant sterol concentrations. Affected individuals show an increased absorption of both cholesterol and sitosterol from the diet, decreased bile clearance of these sterols and their metabolites resulting in markedly expanded whole body cholesterol and sitosterol pools. The defective gene is therefore hypothesised to play a crucial role in regulating dietary cholesterol absorption, and its elucidation may shed light on these molecular processes. We have previously localised the defective gene to human chromosome 2p21, between microsatellite markers *D2S1788* and *D2S1352*, a distance of approximately 15 cM. Recently, the disease locus interval has been narrowed to lie between *D2S2294* and *D2S2291/D2S2174*. We have constructed a high-resolution YAC and BAC contigs by using known STSs and generating novel STSs from the minimal interval. Eight previously identified genes and 60 ESTs were mapped to these contigs. The BAC contig contains 60 BAC clones and 108 STSs and encompasses a physical distance of approximately 2.0 cM between microsatellite markers *D2S2294* and *D2S2291*. These results will not only facilitate cloning of the sitosterolaemia gene, but also other disease genes located in this region, and accelerate sequencing of the corresponding genomic clones. *European Journal of Human Genetics* (2001) **9,** 364–374.

Keywords: BAC contig; mapping; positional cloning; atherosclerosis genes

Introduction

Sitosterolaemia (also known as phytosterolaemia, MIM number 210250) is a rare autosomal recessively inherited metabolic disorder, which was described in 1974 in two affected sisters.[1] Sitosterolaemic patients develop tendon and tuberous xanthomas, haemolytic episodes, arthralgias and arthritis, and premature coronary and aortic atherosclerosis leading to cardiac fatalities.[1–5] Affected individuals have very high levels of plasma plant sterols (sitosterol, campesterol, stigmasterol, avenosterol) and their 5α-saturated stanols, particularly sitostanol, but their blood cholesterol levels may be normal or only moderately increased.[1,4] Increased intestinal absorption and decreased hepatic excretion of sitosterol (the major plant sterol) may be responsible for the accumulation of these non-cholesterol sterols in plasma and tissues of affected patients.[4,6–10]

In addition to the proposed defects of absorption and excretion of sitosterol, reduced whole body cholesterol synthesis has also been noted.[2,11,12]

Linkage analyses of 10 well-characterised pedigrees localised the genetic defect to human chromosome 2p21, between microsatellite markers *D2S1788* and *D2S1352*.[13] Recently, we have narrowed this interval to lie between microsatellite markers *D2S2294* and *D2S2291* (Lee *et al*, manuscript submitted). To refine the minimal critical region

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Table 1 Primer sequences used in YAC/BAC contigs

[a]*STS*	*Forward primer (5′ – 3′)*	*Reverse primer (5′ – 3′)*	*Size (bp)*	[b]*Accession no.*
C-506D15.F	CCAGTGGCATTTAGTACATTA	AATGCCACTGAATCACACAC	207	AZ051294
C-506D15.R	AAAAAGGCTGCCCACCTTTA	GTCAAGAGGTAGATGAAATGC	206	AZ051295
C-498C3.F	TCTTGTTTTCCGATTCTGTTC	GTCAATTTCTACAGTGTAGCT	203	AZ051296
C-528A6.F	CCCAGCACCAAATACAGTGAA	CAGTACATCTTCCGGCTCTA	218	AZ051297
C-528A6.R	CCCTGATATTTACCCAGCTC	CAAGAAGAATGAGATCTGGC	266	AZ051298
C-569J16.F	TACCTGAGCTTCCTAGGATG	CAGACAGCCTCAGTCGCTA	306	AZ051299
R-990A23.F	AACGCATGGCTCTATAGAGG	AGGACAGCAGTGTCATTTAC	412	AQ702225
R-990A23.R	CTGGATGGAACGCTCACTA	CAGAAGCCTCAGGGTAAGA	268	AQ668383
R-1081G2.F	GATAAAGTTTAAGGTTATCTC	GAAATAAGCTTAGCCTGTAC	275	AQ740126
R-316B10.F	CACAACTATGACCACTTTGAC	CGTGAGGTTCTCCTTTCCC	299	AQ541175
R-316B10.R	ACAGCTAAGGATAATGAGGCA	GTGTTTATCCCCCAAGCACT	288	AQ507714
R-32814.R	GGTGAGAATTCTAGCAAGCTA	CTATGGATAGAACTCTCAGTG	256	AQ539167
R-959M3.R	ACAACACTGACAGTCTATCCG	CCAGATAGATAGTATGAGTTCA	215	AQ667844
R-646H10.R	AGGATAATGAGGCATGTGAAG	TCGTGGGTTCACATAGCACA	372	AQ516454
R-72C11.R	CAGTGGTGCTTGTAGCAGG	CCCATAGTGATCAAGCACTA	260	AQ285023
R-203O10.R	CACGTGCATTGAAGGCTAATA	TTGATCTAGCTAAGCTAGTCC	214	AQ418643
C-520L5.F	AGAGTTTCTGCTCTCTATGG	AGTGATTCTTTGATGGGCAG	301	AZ051300
C-520L5.R	ATTCTCCTCTAGGCCTCTAG	TCAGCCTCTGCCTCTTGGAA	274	AZ051301
R-92L13.F	GCCTAACAGCCAATCTGAG	TAACCCTACATGTGTTCCCA	285	AQ322533
R-92L13.R	TATAGGGATCCAACAGTACC	GAGCTACATGATGGCCTTCA	288	AQ322528
R-2415.R	TGGTACTCGCATCTCCTTG	GTCAAGGAGTCTTCTTGGG	243	AQ013398
Y888G9.L	CTACCTAAAAGGCTTGGTTATC	CTCTGCAGAGTATTGCCACA	207	AZ051302
R-161J6.R	AACTGAAGTGGTACTGACAG	AAGACGGCAGATGTATCCTG	185	AQ376733
C-535K2.F	AGGAAAGTCAAGCTCCAGAG	TTAAAGAGAGCCTTCAGCTTC	233	AZ051303
C-535K2.R	CTTGTGCCACTACTGCACTC	TTGTGCTGTCCATTCCTAGAA	244	AZ051304
C-325O15.F	AGGACATTCTTACAGGCTACA	CAGCTAGTTATCTGAAGCTGA	253	AZ051305
C-441A7.F	TATTTGCTCATTTAATGAGCCTA	CCTTACATAGTTCTCATCCTC	224	AZ051306
C-441A7.R	TGATGGGGGAAAGCCACAAA	CTGTGGCCTCCCAAATTTC	306	AZ051307
C-2094M11.R	GGAAACTGTGCAAGTGAAGA	TTAACAACAGGAGTCCCGCT	177	AQ566340
C-2117A16.R	TAGCAAATCCTGTGCCATTC	TATAAAGGAAGGTCCTGACC	318	AQ753530
R-117H6.F	TCTGTGGACTGACCTAGTAG	TGGGCGCAAGATTTCTGAG	257	AQ350077
C-285H9.F	CCCACTACTGTGCAAACTTC	ATAAGAGCCATCCGGATTGC	208	AZ051308
42C1	GAACAAGATCTGTAAGGGGT	TTCAGTAACATTGCATATTTTTCT	138	AZ051309
42B2	ATGGAAGAGGGTTGGATGTTG	TGAGTGTCTGCCGGTGTA	163	AZ051310
42 E7	TGAGACCTTTCTGCTTCTATCC	CACTGGAGAGTTGGCTGTG	314	AZ051314
42B7	GCTGAGAATATCACTTTACTCC	GATTTCCAAGGTTACAATGTGTA	151	AZ051315
45A12	ACTTGCTTGGTTTTGGTAAT	ACAGTCTCTTTGTGATCTT	217	AZ051316
42F7	GAAAGTAGGCTAAGAGAGTTAAT	GTGAGCCACTGCACCCAG	158	AZ051317
87A10	GGTTCTGTTTCATGTGTATGG	CAACTAGAATTGGACTAGATACTC	221	AZ051318
45D2	CACTGCTGAATGTGAACTGC	CCCATGGTTTGACAAATGATTTC	262	AZ051311
42C5	CACTTCATCATGTAGAACAGG	AGGATGATAGAGGGATTGGTTT	269	AZ051313
45B4	ACTGCTGAATGTGAACTGC	TGCTACTATTGCAGCCCT	196	AZ051319
42D12	CTTACACATTGTTATGAAGTGCAC	GTCTCAGAGAAAGATGTCACA	215	AZ051323
42C9	GTGTAGCCTATTCAGAGAAC	AGTCAGTCTTCACGGCCA	181	AZ051326
45D11	GAACGTGGAATAATATAAGACC	TATCTCACCACCCACACTG	187	AZ051327
45E 11	GTCAGCTTTATGGATAGGG	GAAATACTCAGAATCCAGAAAC	214	AZ051328
45B2	CATTCTGAGGGCCAGATTT	AGATGTAATACTTGCAAGCC	219	AZ051329
45B10	ACCAGAAAATGACACCTTC	CATAGTATGAGTGCTACTTGACTC	242	AZ051330
42G8	GGCAAACTTTGGCTCATGG	GTGCTAGAATCATCAGTTTGTCAT	272	AZ051331
87A7	CAGCCCTCAGAGACAATAGA	TGCTGCCAAGCCATCCAA	222	AZ051332
87A5	TGACAGGGTGAGAGTCCATC	GCCTTACACTGACTGACAGAT	300	AZ051333
87A3	CCTCAGTGGAGCAGATTGC	AAATTTCCTAGGAAAGTTGGG	257	AZ051334
87A2	CACATTATCTCTGAGTAGAG	CTATGCTTCTGAATGCCAG	178	AZ051335
41HM9	CCCACCAGCAGTGTATGAG	GTTCCACATCACTGGTCATC	153	AZ051344
42C2/T7	CAGACCATAGCATCCTCTTT	TCACACTTCACACAAGGTC	234	AZ051337
42F10	CAAGACTGGTTGCCATATGG	CATCTCTTTCCTCCCCTC	201	AZ051339
42 E2	CCAGATTTGACCAAAAGCCC	AGATGTAATACTTGCAAGCC	209	AZ051340
42D8	CCTACATGTGTTCCCATTGCA	TTGCCTTGATGCCTCCCA	175	AZ051341
42D3	AACCACTCTTAACTCCAGGG	GCAAGCCTTCTTAAATAGGCATA	237	AZ051342
42B1	AGGTGGATGTCTACAATGGTC	GGTTTGCATATAGCCAGTCAC	187	AZ051343
42H11	GCACTCCAGCCTGGGCAA	AGAGGTGAAGCTTACTGGAA	183	AZ051338
87A1	GATTACAGGCATCAGCCAC	CCAGTCCTCCAAAAATGGTC	175	AZ051336
42A3	AGGCAATCTGGGTTACTAGG	CGACTGAACATACAGACACT	210	AZ051312
45F3	CAAGTACTGTTCTAAGGGCT	TATGATAGAGGTATGCACTGG	168	AZ051320
45D2	TGGCCACTATCATTATTAGAAA	CTCTTCAGAGAGTTTGGACC	255	AZ051321

Continued

Table 1 *(Continued)*

[a]*STS*	*Forward primer (5′–3′)*	*Reverse primer (5′–3′)*	*Size (bp)*	[b]*Accession no.*
42B3	AACAGTCAGCTTCTCAAAGG	ATGGAGACTTCTTTAGGAGG	217	AZ051325
45A8	CATCTTCATCATCAAGCAGTG	AAGTACTGTGCCAAGGCCTG	240	AZ051322
D2S4009	GATCCAGTGTCATTATGCATAC	GCCAGTTGTTAATATTTTGCC	219	G64673
D2S4010	CAGCGGTAGTCTCTATGATA	TCAGAAGGTTCCTTATACAAGGC	172	G64671
D2S4014	TGCAGACTGTAATTGTGGGCT	GACTCCAGATGAGATCTATGACTG	297	G64669
D2S4015	CTCAAATCTCTGACTCCAGATC	GGCTATCCACTCAATAATTC	297	G64672
D2S4016	GATAAGCAAGCTGGTCACACTC	ATTTGAGCTTCAGAGGTCAA	253	G64670
D2S4019	ATGATCTGCATGAGGGTCAAGG	GAGTATATTTAGAAATTTCCATAA	102	G64675
D2S4020	TAGTCTTAATGTTTCCCTTGG	GAGACTAGTTTTCTGACTCAAG	189	G64676
D2S4023	GAGATTCTTTTTATTCTGATTTTTTGAG	ATGATCTGCATGAGGGTCAA	127	G64677

Table shows the primer sets for all the unique STS and microsatellite repeats identified in this study and not available in the public databases. [a]Prefix C is CITB-SHP-C BAC library; R is RPCI-11 BAC library; Y is CEPH YAC library; D2S is a microsatellite marker. [b]Prefixes AZ and G are from this study.

and isolate candidate gene(s), we have constructed high-resolution YAC and BAC contigs by using known STSs and by generating novel STSs from this region. We have mapped a number of ESTs to this interval, building a partial transcript map that should aid identification of the defective gene. Additionally, this may facilitate the identification of other disease loci mapped to this region, such as a QTL for serum leptin levels,[14] as well as a locus for gingival fibromatosis.[15]

Materials and methods

Selection and STS contents of YAC clones

YAC clones were identified through the YAC databases developed by CEPH[16,17] and the Whitehead Institute[18] using all of the known markers and STSs in sitosterolaemia region (*D2S2291*, *D2S2174*, *D2S1830*, *D2S1485*, *D2S2298*, *D2S119*, *D2S2294*, *D2S414*). The YAC clones were purchased from Research Genetics, Inc (Birmingham, AL, USA). Single YAC colonies were grown at 30°C for 48 h in 15 ml of selective YPD medium. Total YAC DNA was prepared as described previously.[19] The STS contents of the YACs were determined by using PCR amplifications.

Inter-Alu PCR

Inter-Alu PCR was performed using YAC DNA as template and the following primers: CL1, (5′TCCCAAAGTGCTGGGATTACA), CL2 (5′CTGCACTCCAGCCCTGGG) and used as CL2 alone or CL1 and CL2 combined primers.[20,21] The PCR products were isolated and cloned into plasmid, pBluescript (Stratagene, La Jolla CA, USA) using TA cloning, as previously described,[22] and sequenced using T3 and T7 primers. The sequences were scanned against the databases, using BLAST[23] (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/) and the RepeatMasker program (http://ftp.genome.washington.edu/RM/webRepeatMasker.html). Unique sequences were used to design primers for further mapping (Table 1). Confirmation of chromosome 2 specific sequences was verified by PCR, using chromosome 2 specific humanhamster hybrid somatic cell line DNAs (Corell Cell Repository, Camden, NJ, USA).

BAC clone screening

PCR-based library screening The CITB-SHP-C Human BAC library,[24] (Research Genetics, Inc., Huntsville, AL, USA) was screened by a PCR-based assay of DNA super-pools and plates according to the vendor recommended procedures. Positive clones were obtained from Research Genetics, Inc., plated on agar plates containing 12.5 μg/ml chloramphenicol and colonies screened by PCR for STS content verification.

Hybridisation-based library screening High-density gridded filters of BAC libraries (RPCI-11) were obtained from Roswell Park Cancer Institute (Dr. Peter de Jong's laboratory, Buffalo NY, USA), and screened with radioactive probes from the IMAGE cDNA clones of ESTs mapped to the YAC contig. Positive clones were obtained from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Selection from database

All known STS, EST and Alu PCR sequences were checked by a Basic BLAST against the Alu database (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/blast.cgi) and masked by RepeatMasker[23] and unique sequences thus identified were used as probes. Sequenced BACs in the public databases were identified by a BLAST 2.0 alignment search of the HTGS database[25,26] (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/blast.cgi) and the complete BAC sequences were obtained from GenBank (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/query_form.html). BACs with known end-sequence information were determined by searching the BAC End Sequence Database at TIGR (http://www.tigr.org/tdb/humgen/). The overlapped BACs or BAC contigs were obtained by searching the Washington University Human mapping database (http://genome.wustl.edu/gsc/cgibin/fpchuman.-single.pl) for likely matches to specified clones.

Sequencing of YAC and BAC ends

Isolation of YAC ends was performed using a modified vectorette method, using primers as previously de-

scribed.[27] YAC DNA (0.1 μg) was digested with 10 units of *Rsa*I and *Alu*I in 30 μl reaction buffer. Five microlitres of digested YAC DNA was ligated to vectorette adapters using 10 units of T4 DNA ligase in a total volume of 50 μl by incubation overnight at room temperature. The YAC end fragments were purified by Qiagen PCR column kit and directly sequenced using the left or right internal primers.

To obtain BAC end-sequences, BAC plasmid DNA was prepared using alkaline lysis procedure and tip-500 columns (Qiagen).[28] The quality and quantity of DNA samples were tested by *Hind*III digestion pattern on agarose gels, as well as by the presence of expected STS markers. Direct BAC end sequencing was performed using an automated ABI 373 DNA sequencer. Three micrograms of BAC DNA and 50 pmoles of primer were used in a total volume of 40 μl. The following primers were used: T7 (5′-TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG-3′) and SP6 (5′ATTTAGGTGACACTATAG-3′). PCR reactions were carried out under the following cycle conditions: initial denaturation at 96°C for 4 min; 100 cycles of 96°C for 10 s, 50°C for 10 s, 60°C for 4 min. The end sequences of some BAC clones were obtained by searching BAC End Sequence Database at TIGR.

Transcript map

To identify candidate genes, known genes and ESTs previously mapped to the region between D2S177 and D2S337 were selected from the Human Transcript Map.[29] The selected ESTs and genes were tested by PCR amplification against our YAC and BAC contigs and positive clones further characterised, as described above.

Results

Construction of a YAC contig

The initial goal was to construct an extensive YAC contig spanning the sitosterolaemia candidate region on chromosome 2, between markers *D2S2174* and *D2S2294*. Based on the publicly available contig maps (contig WC2.4) from Whitehead Institute/MIT Center for Genome Research (WI/MIT) (http://carbon.wi.mit.edu) and the CEPH-Généthon (CEPH) (http://www.cephb.fr/infoclone.html), 30 YAC clones were identified, using following microsatellite and STSs markers (*D2S414*, *D2S2294*, *D2S119*, *D2S2298*, *D2S1484*, *D2S1486*, *D2S1485*, *D2S1830*, *D2S2174* and *D2S229*). Additionally, information from a published partial YAC contig was also available.[30] All YAC clones were screened for the markers and confirmed by testing three colonies of each

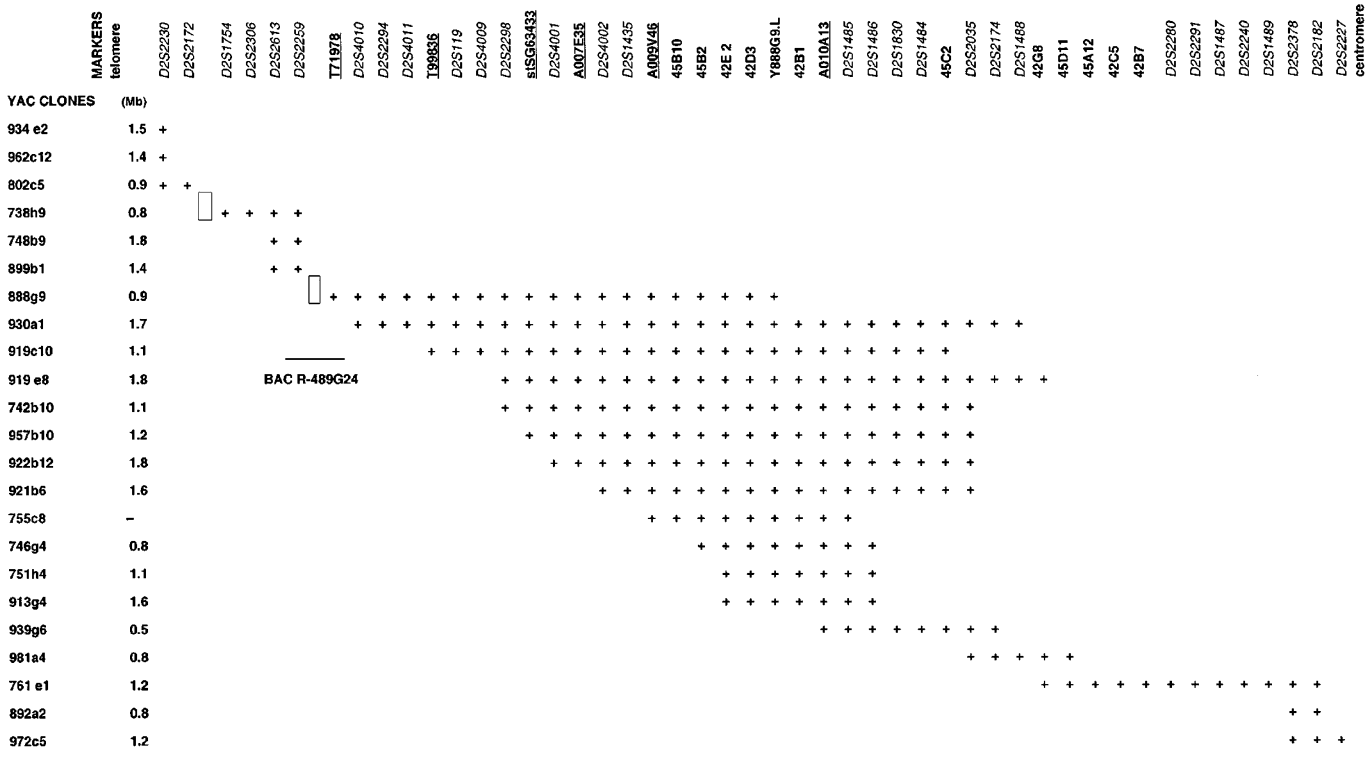

Figure 1 YAC clone contig encompassing the sitosterolaemia locus. The markers are oriented along the X-axis from telomeric end at the left to the centromeric end at the right, and the YAC clones are indicated along the Y-axis. There are two gaps in the contig (boxed areas, see Text). The distal centromeric gap is closed by a linking BAC, R-489G24, giving a contiguous contig from *D2S1754* to *D2S2227*. ESTs mapped to the YAC contig are underlined, microsatellite markers are italicised and STSs are in normal font.

clone for their STS contents (Figure 1). Two gaps were identified at the telomeric ends, and no further YACs were identified, despite additional library screening. However, we subsequently identified a BAC, R-489G24, positive for markers *D2S2259* and an EST T71978, that linked YACs 888g9 and 899b1, thus closing one gap (Figure 1). Since the sitosterolaemia locus is located towards the centromeric end, no further attempts were made to close the more distal gap. Using the YAC contig, new markers were generated, employing a combination of YAC end-sequence analyses and inter-Alu PCR. To confirm that the identified STSs were from chromosome 2, all of these markers were screened for their presence in human chromosome 2-specific somatic cell hybrid cell-lines. Sixty ESTs from the databases (Unigene and GeneMap98, see Materials and methods) were screened by PCR against the YAC contig. Six of these were positive for the YAC contig (Figure 1), of which five mapped to within the region of interest. The sixth EST (T71978) was found to be positive on a linking BAC (see above). By performing inter-Alu PCR using YACs 919c10, 930a1 and 761e1 as templates, we generated 35 additional unique sequences from Alu PCR clones for obtaining STS markers and eight microsatellite repeat markers that allowed for further fine-mapping of the sitosterolaemia locus (Lee *et al*, manuscript submitted). A total of 76 STSs, including 17 new STSs generated from YAC insert-end sequences and inter-Alu PCR products and nine EST markers, were used to order the clones (Table 1 and Figure 1) and span an approximate distance of 5 cM. This physical map provided a resource for the construction of a BAC contig.

Note also that our YAC contig is a telomeric extension of a published adjoining YAC contig, thus providing a continuous map that spans chromosome 2p15–2p21 (D2S1364–

Figure 2 BAC clone contig encompassing the sitosterolaemia locus. The markers are oriented along the X-axis from telomeric end at the left to the centromeric end at the right, and the BAC clones are indicated along the Y-axis. Prefixes of the BAC clones are as follows, R; from RPCI-11 BAC library; and C; from CITB-SHP-C BAC library. ESTs are underlined, microsatellite markers are shown in italics and STSs are in normal font. A box indicates BACs, for which almost complete sequence information is available in the genome databases. Four gaps (indicates by vertical lines) were identified, but these BACs are indicated, as they contain markers placed on the YAC contig framework (Figure 1). Of these the more centromeric is spanned by YAC 888g9. BAC R-436K12 (not shown) is linked to the contig published by Kirchener *et al*,[31] and links our YAC contig at the centromeric end.

Table 2 ESTs and genes mapped to the YAC/BAC contigs in this study

NCBI No (GeneMap '99)	*Aliases or synonyms*	*UniGene No.*	*Genbank Accession No.*	*Image Clone ID*	*Known genes*	*Mapping data*
WI-20996	stSG41980, T48876	Hs.19280	R26389	132199	KIAA0544 protein	R-501O7
SGC33875			T98917	122669		R-78I14
stSG48396		Hs.98023	AA854974	1394041		R-459K11
SGC34340	WI-6575, SGC34340	Hs.78909	X78992		ERF-2 protein	R-339H12
STSG16054	A009V10	Hs.17711	R98822	207006		R-339H12
WI-14187	G21943	Hs.16063	AA515534	925219		R-339H12
stSG52431		Hs.165571	AI566776	2168475		R-489G24
T89476	sts-T89476	Hs.16587	AA934036	1551421		R-489G24
stSG15818			R83265	194194		R-489G24
WI-8407		Hs.108441	Z29481		3-Hydroxyanthranilic acid di-oxygenase	R-489G24
BCD1971			M79071	no image clone		R-489G24
T71978	sts-T71978	Hs.168439	AA534545	925906		R-489G24
stSG58568		Hs.58598	AI359618	2013757		R-489G24
stSG30561		Hs.58598	AA169121	594556		506D15
H96893	stSG21270	Hs.32241	AI274775	1986682		R-489K21
stSG21136			H58682	205857		R-489K21
			AF151818		CGI 60 protein	R-489K21
T99836		Hs.18176	T99836	123200		R-489K21
WI16988	A007E35	Hs.142718	AA034046	429916		R-1081G2
stSG63433		Hs.190354	AA700586	433330		R-1081G2
stSG32054	stSG1757, SHGC-8019 T17102	Hs.182490	M92439		Leucine-rich protein mRNA	R-1081G2
		Hs.128293	AI223013	1838809		R-559M23
		Hs.225721	AI873444	2362159	Trans-prenyltransferase (TPT)	R-559M23
		Hs.225721	AA889371	1471263		R-559M23
			AA457390	838194		R-559M23
			AA828868	1374287		R-559M23
		Hs.187945	AA937699	1491139		R-559M23
A004I37/ H99661	stSG51096	Hs.169652/ Hs.5687	AA164383/ AA565932	PP2C	Protein phosphatase 2C	R-24I5
stSG3387	A003R48		R11895	25315		R-24I5
stSG52154		Hs.112916	AA620873	1049335		R-24I5
M95548*	SHGC-9884, stSG4626	Hs.198294/ Hs.154834	D82326/ M95548		Amino acid transporter, SLC3A1	R-24I5
M95548*	SHGC-9884, stSG4626	Hs.110	AB007896		KIAA0436 mRNA	R-24I5
A009V46		Hs.174862, Hs.220859	H95593	242930		R-194L1
A010A13	WI-18144	Hs.124990	H58934	207758		R-194L1
D29089			D29089	no image clone		R-194L1
stSG8383			H60063	205767		R-194L1
		Hs.132799	AA922097	1543611		R-194L1
		Hs.129473	AA994134	1628550		R-194L1
		Hs.213492	AI928677	2466254		R-194L1
		Hs.124990	H60592	207898		R-194L1
			W80452	415494		R-194L1
stSG26329			H57813	205424		R289E6
		Hs.136519	AA601487	1100969		R-442O5
			T87425	115418		R-442O5
WI-3495	G02557	Hs.188588	AA583683	1088083		R-442O5
			AA835723	1372934		R-442O5
			H64341	210718		R-442O5
			AA838139	1385549		R-442O5
		Hs.170428	AI459058	2149952		R-442O5
		Hs.170428	AW206717	2722480		R-442O5
		Hs.233172	AW022706	2486137		R-442O5
stSG46410		Hs.97696	AA399659	729207		R-89K21
N24094			N24095	266792		R-576F1
WI-3976	SHGC-17237	Hs.246042	N75945	295200		R-576F1
stSG49702		Hs.167640	H87795	220658		R-436K12
WI-18791	U03911, SHGC-2762, SHGC-10660	Hs.78934	HSU03911	(hMSH2)	Mismatch repair protein (MSH2) mRNA	R-436K12
stSG60189		Hs.122384	AI015254	1641212		R-436K12
embl-AA007353	sts-AA007353	Hs.256042	AA007353	429281		R-436K12

Continued

Table 2 *(Continued)*

NCBI No (GeneMap '99)	*Aliases or synonyms*	*UniGene No.*	*Genbank Accession No.*	*Image Clone ID*	*Known genes*	*Mapping data*
SGC34683	SHGC-34683, stSG28638, stSG9035	Hs.117085	AA677756	430606		R-436K12

All ESTs and genes that were mapped to the YAC and BAC contigs (Figures 1 and 2) are shown. For clarity, only the BAC ID is shown in the far right column. BAC R-436K12 is not indicated on the BAC contig (Figure 2), but is contiguous with the centromeric end. Only a representative EST or Image clone is indicated, where multiple clones were identified. The asterisk indicates a GeneMap ID, M95548, which identifies two separate genes that share the 3′ UTR (see text). Additionally, there are two GeneMap98 IDs for the same gene (PP2C) that have been consolidated.

D2S1754, ~14 Mb) and contains several human disease loci.[31]

Construction of a BAC contig

To construct a BAC map, we used the following strategy; (1) identify BAC clones using both a PCR-based and filter hybridisation-based BAC library screenings, (2) screen all positive BACs for STS content by PCR, (3) search BAC-related databases for updated information, and (4) perform chromosome-walks using selected STSs generated from BAC ends. Initially, PCR was used to screen the CITB-978SK-B human BAC library using six repeat polymorphic markers (*D2S2294*, *D2S119*, *D2S2298*, *D2S1830*, *D2S2174*, and *D2S2291*), a YAC end-sequence (from 888g9L) and an EST marker (T71978). Twelve BAC clones, positive for *D2S2294*, *D2S119*, *D2S2291*, *888g9L* and T71978, were identified. For hybridisation-based BAC library screening, high-density filters were hybridised with a mixture of five probes consisting of ESTs T99836, T71978, A007E35, stSG63433, A010A13, previously mapped to the YAC contig. Eight more positive BAC clones were obtained from RPCI-11 BAC library. The BAC end sequences of identified clones were determined by direct automated sequencing or by searching the BAC end sequence database at TIGR. BAC end sequences of the inserts of BAC clones were used to develop further STS markers. All STS markers were tested by PCR amplification against all identified BAC clones, to verify true positives. By searching the databases in an iterative manner, we identified 18 sequenced BACs. In total, we used 118 markers, composed of 29 microsatellite markers, 53 new STSs from BAC/YAC end sequences and inter-Alu PCR sequences, and 36 EST markers. The constructed BAC contig contains 60 BAC clones, which contains a high density of STS markers, at an average of about 20 kb for each marker, and covers a physical distance of about 2.0 Mb (Figure 2). A significant number of these BACs have been sequenced (boxed, Figure 2), but about 500 kb sequence is not publicly available.

Mapping of known genes and ESTs to the YAC/BAC contigs

We have constructed a transcript map (Table 2) of the BAC contig using two methods. From GeneMap'99, based upon two radiation hybrid panels,[32,33] we selected 80 genes and ESTs between anchor markers *D2S177* and *D2S2291*. All ESTs were verified by PCR against the BAC contig. Of the 80 markers, only eight known genes and 30 ESTs mapped unambiguously to our BAC contig. The eight known genes are KIAA0544 protein,[34] ERF2 protein,[35] 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid dioxygenase,[36] CGI 60 protein,[37] leucinerich protein,[38] protein phosphatase 1B (formerly PP2C),[39] Na+-independent neutral and basic amino acid transporter (solute carrier family 3, SLC3A1),[40] and KIAA0436.[41] In the second approach, using the known human genomic sequences from STSs and sequenced BACs between *D2S2294* and *D2S2291*, we identified a further 30 ESTs by a BLASTN search of the EST databases. All of these 30 identified ESTs contain unique sequences, >95% matched to genomic sequences, and have not been previously mapped to a chromosome. A summary of the mapped ESTs to our BAC contig is shown in Table 2. We computed the expression patterns for many of these ESTs (Table 3). Additionally, we screened each of the mapped ESTs against the databases, looking for homologous ESTs/genes identified in other species, on the assumption that highly conserved expressed sequences may reflect proteins that have highly conserved and critical functions, such as selective sterol absorption. Only sequences that had >100 bp of sequence identity and >70% homology are reported (Table 3). Although such analysis is limited by the lack of depth of the EST databases for the other species, we identified 11 ESTs that appear to have homologues in non-human sequence databases (Table 3), although none from the *Drosophila* database were identified.

Discussion

Positional cloning techniques, combined with computer-assisted data analyses of the sequence rich databases generated by human genome projects,[42,43] has considerably facilitated the identification of disease genes. The availability of complete and detailed clone contigs of candidate regions make for efficient positional cloning projects. We first constructed a YAC contig of this region and used it as a resource for the construction of a deep BAC contig. At the centromeric end of our YAC contig, there is a YAC, 972c5,

Table 3 Expression pattern of ESTs and genes

NCBI No (GeneMap'99)	*GenBank Accession No.*	*Expression pattern*	*Known gene*	*Human*	*Mouse*	*Rat*	*Bovine*	*Porcine*	*Zebrafish*	*Chicken*
WI-20996/ KIAA0544	R26389	Multiple tissues	KIAA0544 protein	57	4	0	0	1	0	0
SGC33875	T98917	Fetal liver, spleen		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG48396	AA854974	Testis		12	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGC34340	X78992	Multiple tissues	ERF-2 protein	>75	16	15	6	0	1	0
STSG16054	R98822	Fetal liver, spleen		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
WI-14187	AA515534	Multiple tissues		30	0	1	0	0	0	0
stSG52431	AI566776	Brain, eye, heart, pancreas, uterus, thymus		18	0	0	0	0	0	0
embl-T89476	AA934036	Bone, germ cell, prostate		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG15818	R83265	Fetal liver, spleen		40	40	7	1	0	0	0
WI-8407	Z29481	Colon, kidney, lung, placenta, spleen, uterus	3-hydroxyanthranilic acid dioxygenase	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
BCD1971	M79071	Brain		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
embl-T71978	AA534545	Colon, kidney, liver, lung		22	23	1	0	1	0	0
stSG58568	AI359618	Multiple tissues		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG30561	AA169121	Multiple tissues		6	0	0	0	0	0	0
H96893	AI274775	Multiple tissues		32	0	1	0	0	0	0
stSG21136	H58682	Fetal liver, spleen		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AF151818	Multiple tissues	CGI 60 protein	72	8	6	0	0	0	0
T99836	T99836	Fetal liver, spleen		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
WI16988	AA034046	Fetal liver, spleen		6	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG63433	AA700586	Fetal liver, spleen		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG32054	M92439	Multiple tissues	Leucine-rich protein mRNA	>100	5	0	0	0	0	0
	AI223013	Testis		4	1	0	0	0	0	0
	AI873444	Ovary	Trans-prenyltransferase (TPT)	3	2	0	0	0	1	0
	AA889371	Ovary		3	2	0	0	0	1	0
	AA457390	Retina		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA828868	Ovary		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA937699	Skin		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
A004I37/ H99661	AA164383/ AA565932	Multiple tissues	Protein phosphatase 2C	48	26	8	0	0	0	0
stSG3387	R11895	Brain		4	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG52154	AA620873	Testis		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
M95548*	D82326/ M95548	Brain, kidney, pancreas, uterus, colon	Amino acid transporter, SLC3A1	36	38	2	1	1	0	0
M95548*	AB007896	Multiple tissues	KIAA0436 mRNA	100	16	3	0	0	0	0
A009V46	H95593	Fetal liver, spleen		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
A010A13	H58934	Fetal liver, spleen		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
D29089	D29089	Epidermis, keratinocyte		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG8383	H60063	Fetal liver, spleen		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA922097	Testis		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA922097	Testis		3	5	0	1	0	0	0
	AA994134	Tonsil		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AI928677	Brain		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	H60592	Fetal liver, spleen		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	W80452	Fetal liver, spleen		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG26329	H57813	Fetal liver, spleen		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA601487	Adrenal gland		1	2	0	0	0	0	0
	T87425	Fetal liver, spleen		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
WI-3495	AA583683	Kidney, nose		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA835723	Germinal center B cell		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	H64341	Fetal liver, spleen		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AA838139	Ovary		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AI459058	Lung		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AW206717	Lung		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
	AW022706	Ear		1	3	0	0	0	0	0
stSG46410	AA399659	Testis		2	0	0	0	0	0	0
N24095	N24095	Melanocyte		1	0	0	0	0	0	0
WI-3976	N75945	Whole blood		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
stSG49702	H87795	Retina, colon		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
WI-18791	HSU03911	Multiple tissues	Mismatch repair protein (MSH2)	63	13	1	1	0	0	3

Continued

Table 3 *(Continued)*

NCBI No (GeneMap'99)	GenBank Accession No.	Expression pattern	Known gene	Human	Mouse	Rat	Bovine	Porcine	Zebrafish	Chicken
stSG60189	AI015254	Testis		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
AA007353	AA007353	Lung		3	0	0	0	0	0	0
SGC34683	AA677756	Fetal liver, spleen, neuroepithelium		5	0	0	0	0	0	0

Expression profiles were determined for the ESTs and genes, based upon the identification of the EST or gene transcript in various cDNA libraries. Thus this profile is a minimal expression pattern. Additionally, homologues for the ESTs and genes were searched for (see Materials and methods) and the number of ESTs thus identified are indicated in the columns on the right. No homologues (based upon parameters specified in the text) were found in the *C. elegans* or *D. melanogaster* databases.

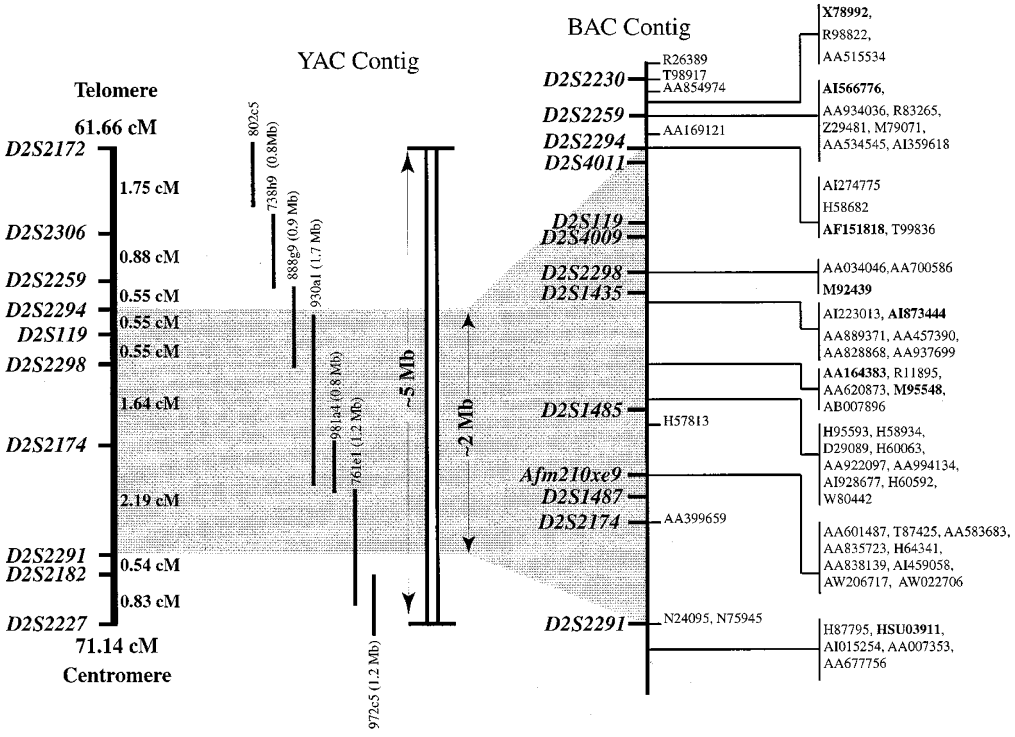

Figure 3 Summary of the YAC, BAC and EST mapping data. The figure shows a summary of the data presented in this study, indicating the genetic distance, physical distance and Genbank Accession numbers for mapped ESTs and genes located in the region of interest. Note that the genetic distance, based upon publicly available databases, spans ~10 cM, but spans ~5 Mb. Although only the Genbank IDs are shown, all identified EST can be obtained by utilising the Unigene or the GeneMap'99 identifiers shown in Table 2. Accession numbers in bold represent known genes, the remaining represent putative ESTs. The exact order of the ESTs at any given map location can not be determined at present and are thus grouped, indicated by the vertical lines.

which contains markers *D2S2182* and *D2S2227*, which are also located in a published adjoining YAC contig.[31] Thus combined with this published YAC contig, this provides a continuous map that spans chromosome 2p15-2p21 (*D2S1364–D2S1754*, ~14 Mb) and contains several human disease loci.[31]

Sixty-seven new STSs were identified by inter-Alu PCR and YAC/BAC end sequencing. The high-resolution physical map generated in this study spans ~2 Mb with complete coverage of the minimal region of sitosterolemia. The data presented here have been parsed for multiple ESTs for single genes represented in the databases and we have attempted to summarise data that are found scattered in a number of different databases, increasing the utility of this information. A summary of the results is provided in Figure 3. Based upon the radiation hybrid mapping databases, our initial YAC contig spans approximately 10 cM. However, this area appears to span only 5 Mb in physical length, suggesting a lower than expected recombination frequency (Figure 3). Assuming that all the non-redundant ESTs mapped to the

BAC contig are unique transcripts and taking into account the small number of genes known to map into the BAC contig, we estimate that the gene density is approximately 1 gene per 50 kb of genomic DNA (Figure 3, 40 ESTs and genes mapped with the 2 Mb area).

One of our findings is the mis-assignment of BAC R-35M22. This BAC was previously assigned to chromosome 4 (Genbank accession number AC016338, Birren *et al*, direct submission), but is positive to DNA sequences from BACs R-24I5 and R-194L1. Additionally, it also contains ESTs *A004I37*, *H99661*, *stSG3387*, *stSG52154*, *M95548*, and *M95548*, *9* of 14 exons of KIAA0436 protein and exon 2 of Na+-independent neutral and basic amino acid transporter, thus placing it firmly on chromosome 2, in the interval *D2S119-D2S2291*.

Our integrated BAC contig allows for more accurate placement of genes and ESTs than the corresponding region in Genemap'99. In the *D2S119-D2S2291* interval from GeneMap'99, 43 ESTs listed, 39 of which are unique. However, only nine of these 39 ESTs actually map to the *D2S119-D2S2291* interval into our BAC contig, 30 of 39 map outside of this region. Of the 40 ESTs we have physically mapped to the *D2S119-D2S2291* interval of our BAC contig, 31 of these were previously assigned to lie outside of this region. Therefore, the accuracy of GeneMap'99 for the *D2S119-D2S2291* interval is only 25%, which is similar to the 30% reported by Kirschener *et al* for the *D2S123-D2S2251* interval, but much lower than 75% in the *D2S2291-D2S123* interval reported by the same authors.[31]

In summary, we have developed 67 new STSs, constructed an integrated YAC and BAC contigs for sitosterolaemia region and mapped eight known genes and 48 ESTs to the contig. These results will facilitate the identification of the sitosterolaemia gene and other disease genes located in this region. Additionally, this information may be useful in ordering some of the sequenced BAC contigs and accelerate sequencing of the corresponding genomic clones.

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