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Expression of Two Catalase Genes from *Streptomyces coelicolor* (Müller)

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Two catalase genes (catA and catB) were cloned from Streptomyces coelicolor (Müller) using PCR primers corresponding to conserved sequences among typical monofunctional catalases. The two genes contained nucleotide sequences for amino acids highly conserved in other catalases. Both catA and catB genes were expressed in S. lividans TK24. Total catalase activities in cells bearing catA or catB in a multicopy plasmid plJ702 increased about two-fold. In both cases, only one band was enhanced in a native PAGE detected by catalase activity staining. The enhanced activity band from catA-expressing cells was identical to that of Cat4, the major catalase in S. coelicolor whose level is constitutively high and slightly increased by 100 μM H₂O₂ treatment. The enhanced band from catB-expressing cells had the same mobility to Cat1, one of the minor catalases in S. coelicolor which has the slowest mobility in native PAGE and appears only in the stationary growth phase. transcriptional start sites for catA and catB were determined by S1 nuclease mapping. The +1 site of catA gene was mapped nearest or almost equal to the putative translational start point, whereas for catB the +1 site was mapped about 70 bp upstream of the putative translational start codon preceded by a canonical Shine-Dalgarno sequence.

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Isolation and characterization of paraquat inducible genes from *Escherichia coli*.

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We isolated several promoters inducible by paraquat, a superoxide -generating agent, from *Escherichia coli*, using a promoter-probing plasmid pRS415. From sequence analysis we found out that one promoter is for *fpr* encoding NADPH:ferredoxin reductase, the other is for *ribA* encoding GTP cyclohydrolase II which is the first enzyme in the biosynthetic pathway of riboflavin and the third was mapped at the upstream region of *rfaY*, which is one gene of lipopolysaccharide core biosynthetic gene cluster. We constructed an operon fusion of *lacZ* gene with these promoters to monitor the expression of the genes in the single-copy state. LacZ expression by *ribA*, *fpr* and *rfaY* promoters were induced about 10, 20, and 8 folds, repectively, by 800 μ M paraquat. Other known superoxide generator, menadione and plumbagin, also induced the expression of β -galactosidase in these fusion strains. On the other hand, no significant induction was observed by treatment with hydrogen peroxide, ethanol and heat shock. Induction of β -galactosidase was significantly reduced by introducing a $\Delta sox-8$::cat or soxS3::Tn10 mutation into the fusion strains, indicating that these genes are members of the soxRS regulon. The transcription start site of ribA and fpr promoters were determined by primer extension analysis and putative binding sites for SoxS were identified. GTP cyclohydrolaseII activity in soluble extracts of *E. coli* increased about 60% by treatment with paraquat. However, flavin pools did not change significantly.