

## **Characterization of chicken ovalbumin gene 5'-flanking region**

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### **Introduction**

The chicken ovalbumin gene is an excellent model system to study the molecular mechanisms that underlie the hormonal, developmental, and tissue-specific regulation of gene expression(Sanders et al.,1995). This study was conducted to characterize 5'-flanking region of ovalbumin gene and to specially locate tissue-specific regulatory elements resided within the 5'-flanking region of the chicken ovalbumin gene by gene transfer into the chicken embryonic fibroblasts (CEFs) and oviduct tubular gland cells.

### **Materials and Methods**

The chicken embryonic fibroblasts(CEFs) and HeLa cell line were transfected with human estrogen receptor and plasmid vectors containing the promoter and various length of 5'-flanking region of the chicken ovalbumin gene. Chicken oviduct cells were transfected with pOVCAT-3.5 and pOVLacZ-O.7 investigated responsiveness to estrogen ( $5 \times 10^{-9}$ ,  $5 \times 10^{-7}$ ,  $5 \times 10^{-5}$ M), corticosterone and insulin. To determine the chicken ovalbumin gene expression, it was conducted that CAT ELISA, CAT Staining, X-gal staining, immunohistochemistry assay for ovalbumin.

### **Results and Discussion**

The constructs containing -1200 bp and -1350 bp region of 5'-flanking region(Fig.1) were induced by estrogen, corticosterone, insulin in CEFs and increased at higher concentrations of Estrogen. There was a remarkable reduction in the CAT activity when the ovalbumin 5' -flanking region was extended from -1200 to -1350 bp. It was also not expressed when ovalbumin 5' -flanking region was extended from -3500 bp. The construct containing -3500 bp region

was expressed in primary chicken oviduct cells, but repressed in CEFs and HeLa cell line. So, We confirmed the existence of *cis*-acting elements that are necessary for hormonal induction in 5' flanking region. It was observed remarkable reduction in the CAT activity when the ovalbumin 5' -flanking region was extended from -1200 to -1350 bp, suggesting existence of another negative regulatory element(NRE). The construct containing -2800 bp region of 5'-flanking region was expressed both CEFs and HeLa cell line. however pOVCAT-3.5 was not expressed in both cells. As reported (Muramatsu, 1998), therefore, the tissue-specific silencer element may reside between -2800 bp and -3500 bp that represses the chicken ovalbumin gene expression in CEFs and HeLa cell line, but not in chicken oviduct cells

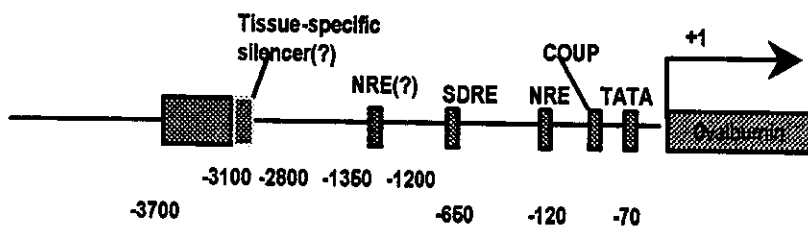


Fig.1 Putative tissue-specific silencer element and negative response element in the 5-flanking region of the chicken ovalbumin gene.

Abbreviations: 1/2EREDR - half estrogen response element direct repeats, SDRE-steroid dependent response element, NRE-negative response element, COUP-chicken ovalbumin upstream promoter, TATA-TATA box  
(Key Words; CEF, HeLa cell line, chicken oviduct cells, hormonal induction, tissue-specific silencer)

### References

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