

Mapping and biochemical analysis of *Hor 4* (*Hrd G*), a second locus encoding B hordein seed proteins in barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.)

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Summary

The hordein polypeptide controlled by the *Hrd G* (*Hor 4*) locus in Elgina and derived lines was purified by preparative isoelectric focusing. The amino acid composition was similar to those of the major B hordeins encoded by the *Hor 2* locus. Genetic analysis confirmed that *Hor 4* is located proximally to *Hor 1* on the short arm of chromosome 5. It is speculated that *Hor 4* arose by translocation of genes from *Hor 2*, possibly in an ancestor of Elgina.

1. Introduction

Hordein, the alcohol-soluble (or prolamin) storage protein fraction of barley grain, consists of three distinct groups of polypeptides called B, C and D hordeins (see Shewry, Williamson & Kreis, 1987 for a discussion of their structures). D hordein is a minor component, accounting for 1–2% of the total fraction, and consists of only one or two polypeptides (Shewry & Mifflin, 1982; Shewry *et al.* 1983). Genetic and molecular analyses show that it is encoded by a single gene or small multigene family located at the *Hor 3* locus on the long arm of chromosome 5 (Blake, Ullrich & Nilan, 1982; Shewry *et al.* 1983; Forde, 1985; Bunce *et al.* 1986). In contrast, the B and C hordein groups are highly polymorphic mixtures of polypeptides encoded by complex multigenic loci.

C hordein accounts for about 10–20% of the total fraction, and there is extensive genotypic variation in the numbers, molecular weights and isoelectric points of the component polypeptides that are separated by two-dimensional electrophoresis (Shewry *et al.* 1980*b*, 1985*a*). Despite this polymorphism the individual polypeptides have a high degree of structural homology (Shewry, Lew & Kasarda, 1981; Brandt *et al.* 1981) and are all encoded by a multigene family (probably 20–30 copies) at the *Hor 1* locus on the short arm of chromosome 5 (Oram, Doll & K oie, 1975; Shewry *et al.* 1978, 1980*b*, 1985*a*; Doll & Brown, 1979; Jensen *et al.* 1980).

B hordein is the quantitatively major group, and between 8 and 16 major polypeptides together with a number of minor ones can be separated by 2-D

electrophoresis (Faulks, Shewry & Mifflin, 1981). Although initial studies indicated that, like C hordein, the polypeptides formed a single homologous group encoded by one locus (designated *Hor 2* and located distally to *Hor 1* on the short arm of chromosome 5) (Oram *et al.* 1975; Shewry *et al.* 1978, 1980*b*; Doll & Brown, 1979; Jensen *et al.* 1980), the situation now appears to be more complex. Recent chemical analyses have shown that some of the minor polypeptides are structurally distinct, and these have been called γ -type hordein (Shewry *et al.* 1985*b*). Also, analysis of cDNA clones derived from endosperm-specific mRNAs has shown the presence of two major sub-families of B hordein-related cDNAs (and therefore genes) and several minor groups (Forde *et al.* 1981; Kreis *et al.* 1987).

Detailed genetic analyses by Netsvetaev and co-workers in the USSR have also shown the existence of at least two additional loci encoding B hordein polypeptides (*Hrd F* and *Hrd G*), which are linked to *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* (Netsvetaev & Sozinov, 1982, 1984). The precise nature of the polypeptides encoded by *Hrd F* is not known, but it has been speculated that they are either one of the major B hordein subfamilies identified by cDNA cloning (Shewry & Mifflin, 1982) or γ -type hordeins (Shewry & Parmar 1987). In the present paper we present studies of the *Hrd G* locus, which we have re-designated *Hor 4* in line with the nomenclature for hordein genes that is generally accepted in Western Europe and the USA. These studies confirm the linkage relationships reported by Sozinov & Netsvetaev (1984), and show that the polypeptide encoded by this locus is related structurally to the major B hordeins encoded by *Hor 2*.

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2. Methods

(i) Plant materials

Seed of P12/1 to P12/6 was supplied by Dr V. P. Netsvetaev (All Union Breeding and Genetics Institute, Odessa, USSR) and of doubled monoplloid lines from a cross between Magnum and Goldspear (called M × G 5 and M × G 34) by Dr W. Powell (Scottish Crop Research Institute, Pentlandsfield, Scotland). Bomi was from a stock derived from Risø National Laboratory (Roskilde, Denmark) and maintained at Rothamsted. All lines were multiplied in the glasshouse at Rothamsted.

(ii) Extraction of hordein fractions for electrophoresis

Samples (2 g) of milled grain were stirred for 2 × 1 h at 20 °C with 20 ml volumes of 50% (v/v) aq. propan-1-ol containing 2% (v/v) 2-mercaptoethanol and 1% (v/v) acetic acid. The bulked supernatants were mixed with 2 volumes of 1.5 M-NaCl and stood at 4 °C overnight. The precipitated hordein was removed by centrifugation and reduced and pyridylethylated as described by Friedman *et al.* (1970). Hordein fractions were also extracted from single seeds as described by Shewry *et al.* (1983).

(iii) Electrophoresis

The one-dimensional (1-D) sodium dodecylsulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis system was modified from Laemmli (1970) as described by Bunce, White & Shewry (1985). The 2-D isoelectric focusing/SDS-PAGE system was as described by Rahman, Shewry & Mifflin (1982).

(iv) Purification of the Hor 4 protein

A 70 g sample of milled grain was defatted with water-saturated butan-1-ol and then extracted with 700 ml of 70% (v/v) aq. ethanol for 1 h at 20 °C. The hordein was precipitated by the addition of 2 volumes of 1.5 M-NaCl followed by standing overnight at 4 °C. After reduction and pyridylethylation an aliquot of the hordein (300 mg) was dissolved in 15 ml of 6 M urea and separated by preparative isoelectric focusing (pH range 7–9) in granulated gel in the presence of 6 M urea (Field *et al.* 1982). Zones were eluted with 0.1 M acetic acid and monitored by SDS-PAGE. Fractions containing the *Hor 4* protein were dialysed against distilled water, lyophilized and then dissolved in 50% (v/v) propan-1-ol and precipitated by the addition of 2 vol 1.5 M-NaCl to remove ampholyte. This was repeated twice and the protein finally lyophilized. The amino acid composition was determined after hydrolysis using an LKB 4400 amino acid analyser. The Δ_n index of Cornish-Bowden (1981) was calculated

assuming that each protein had an M_r of 37000, corresponding to 321 residues.

(v) Genetic analysis

Crosses were made between plants grown in the glasshouse at Rothamsted. F_2 seeds from one plant from the cross Bomi × P12/3, and four plants each from the crosses (M × G 34) × P12/3 and P12/3 × (M × G 5) were scored for hordein alleles. Gene linkage was tested for by χ^2 tests and calculated as described by Jensen & Jorgensen (1975). Map distance was calculated using the Kosambi function (Jensen & Jorgensen, 1975). Genotype frequencies from different samples were pooled if homogeneous ($P > 0.05$) in contingency χ^2 tests. This was the case with the four individual plants of crosses 2 and 3 and with the pooled data from these plants. The χ^2 for homogeneity (D.F. = 1) of the recombination fractions in crosses 2 and 3 were 0.46 for *Hor 2* × *Hor 4*, 2.54 for *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* and 0.27 for *Hor 1* × *Hor 4* (in all cases $P > 0.05$). The data from cross 1 were not homogeneous with those from crosses 2 and 3.

3. Results and Discussion

(i) Electrophoretic and chemical analysis of the *Hor 4* gene product(s)

Netsvetaev & Sozinov (1984) identified *Hrd G* (*Hor 4*) as controlling the presence of two polypeptides in the B hordein region on starch gel electrophoresis of the cv. Elgina. These polypeptides were not apparently present in other cultivars, and have not been reported by workers in other laboratories.

Dr Netsvetaev provided us with six homozygous lines from his P12 population, derived from the cross Nutans 244 × Elgina. These represent three pairs of lines isogenic for *Hor 1* and *Hor 2*, but differing in the absence or presence of the *Hor 4* protein. SDS-PAGE analyses of these are shown in Fig. 1. Two of the lines, P12/3 and P12/4, clearly differed in the presence of an additional band in the B hordein region of the former (arrowed in Fig. 1, track f). This corresponds to the product of the *Hor 4* locus. Two-dimensional analysis of these lines using isoelectric focusing followed by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 2a, b) showed that the *Hor 4* product had a higher isoelectric point (pI) than the major B hordeins present in these lines. The other four lines (P12/1, P12/6, P12/2 and P12/5) had the same B hordein pattern on SDS-PAGE, and no additional protein corresponding to the *Hor 4* product was observed (Fig. 1, tracks a–d). However, 2-D analysis showed that additional proteins were also present in P12/6 (Fig. 3b) and P12/5 (not shown), but co-migrated with B hordeins on SDS-PAGE.

The unusually high pI of the *Hor 4* protein compared with those of the major B hordeins in P12/3 was

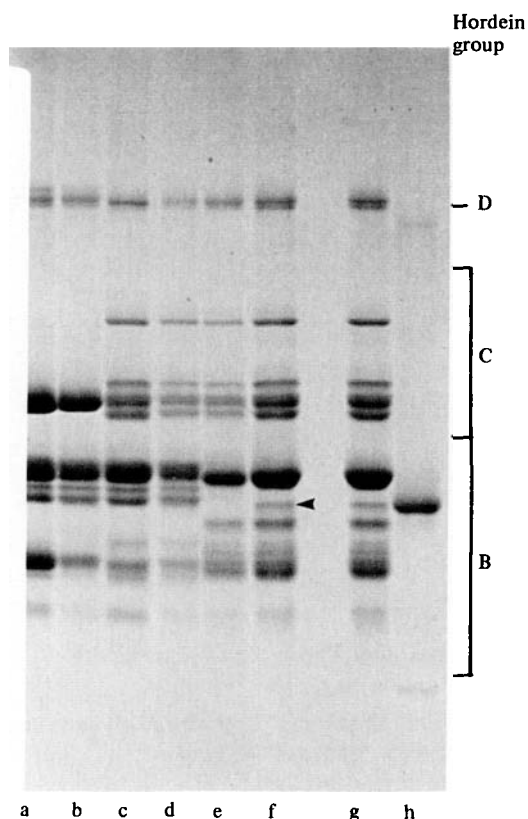


Fig. 1. SDS-PAGE of hordein fractions from six homozygous lines produced from the cross Nutans 244 × Elgina (tracks a–g) and of the *Hor 4* protein purified from P12/3 (track h). P12/1 (track a) and P12/6 (track b), P12/2 (track c) and P12/5 (track d); P12/4 (track e) and P12/3 (tracks f and g) are pairs of lines that have the same *Hor 1* (C hordein) and *Hor 2* (B hordein) alleles, but differ in the absence or presence respectively of an additional protein encoded by *Hor 4* in the B hordein region. This is arrowed in track f, but is not resolved from the major B hordeins in tracks b and d. B, C and D indicate the major groups of hordein polypeptides.

exploited in the purification of small amounts of the protein from this line by preparative isoelectric focusing (Fig. 1, track h). The amino acid composition of this fraction (Table 1) was similar to those of total (Table 1) and purified (Kreis *et al.* 1983) B hordeins, with high glutamate + glutamine (33.6 mol %) and proline (20.5 mol %). The higher content of basic amino acids (lysine, arginine and histidine) (5.2 mol % compared with 5.0 mol % in total B hordein) is probably not sufficient to account for the high pI of the *Hor 4* protein. A lower content of acidic amino acids could also contribute, but the amidation level of the glutamic and aspartic acid residues recovered after acid hydrolysis was not determined in the present study due to lack of purified protein. Although cysteine was not determined precisely, it was clearly present. Statistical comparison of amino acid compositions of the *Hor 4* protein and the B hordein fractions in Table 1 using the SA_n index of Cornish-Bowden (1981) gave a value of 0.07, indicating a high

degree of homology. A small amount (< 1 mg) of the *Hor 4* protein was also subjected to automated Edman degradation. Only traces of amino acids were released in 5 cycles of degradation, indicating that it was probably N-terminally blocked (P. R. Shewry, E. J-L. Lew & D. D. Kasarda, unpublished results). It is similar in this respect to the major B hordeins (Shewry *et al.* 1980a). The γ -type hordeins are not N-terminally blocked (Shewry *et al.* 1985b) and have slightly different amino acid compositions, with either less proline or less glutamate + glutamine than the typical B hordeins and the *Hor 4* protein (see Kreis *et al.* 1983).

From these studies it was concluded that the *Hor 4* protein is closely related to the major B hordeins encoded by the *Hor 2* locus.

(ii) Mapping of the *Hor 4* locus

Crosses were made between P12/3, Bomi and two doubled monoploid lines produced from a cross between Magnum and Goldspear (M × G 5 and M × G 34). The *Hor 4* protein was only present in P12/3. SDS-PAGE separations of hordein fractions from the lines are shown in Fig. 4, and their alleles at the *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* loci are given in Table 2.

P12/3 was initially crossed with Bomi to determine the linkage relationship of the *Hor 4* protein with the major B hordein (*Hor 2*) polypeptides. F₂ seeds were scored for the presence or absence of the *Hor 4* protein, with no attempt to distinguish between homozygous present and the two classes of heterozygote differing in gene dosage in the triploid endosperm. The presence of the *Hor 4* protein was, therefore, treated as a dominant allele. The seeds were also scored for co-dominant alleles at the *Hor 2* locus, also without distinguishing between the two classes of heterozygote. The results (Tables 3 and 5) showed $14.18 \pm 2.22\%$ recombination between *Hor 4* and *Hor 2*. Two-dimensional analysis of a homozygous recombinant F₂ seed from this cross (Fig. 2d) confirmed that the *Hor 4* protein from P12/3 (arrowed in Fig. 2b, d) was present together with the B hordeins (encoded by *Hor 2*) from Bomi (cf. Fig. 2c, d). Because Bomi and P12/3 have the same allele at the *Hor 1* (C hordein) locus (Table 2, Figs. 2 and 4), it was not possible to determine the linkage between *Hor 1* and *Hor 4*. We therefore performed additional crosses between P12/3 and two lines (M × G 5, M × G 34) with different *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* alleles. The results presented in Tables 4 and 5 clearly demonstrate that *Hor 4* is located proximally to *Hor 1*. The linkage relationships between *Hor 4* and some other loci on the short arm of chromosome 5 are summarized in Fig. 5.

The recombination percentages between *Hor 1* and *Hor 4* in crosses 2 and 3 (1.81% and 3.63%) are consistent with those reported by Netsvetayev & Sozinov (1984) (2.56 ± 0.70 , 0.70 ± 0.41 and 1.19 ± 0.29

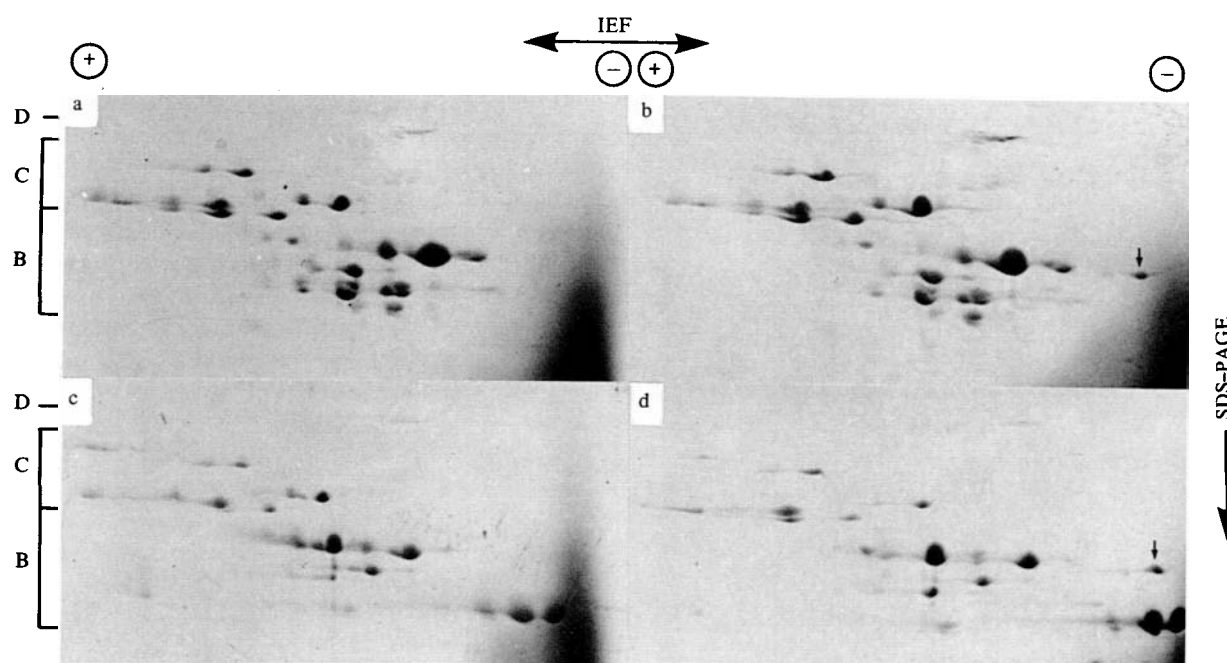


Fig. 2. 2-D isoelectric focusing (pH range 3.5-10)/SDS-PAGE of hordein fractions from a, P12/4; b, P12/3; c, Bomi and d, a homozygous recombinant seed from the

cross Bomi \times P12/3. The protein controlled by *Hor 4* is indicated by arrows in b and d. B, C and D indicate the major groups of hordein polypeptides.

Table 1. Comparison of the amino acid compositions (expressed as mol %) of the *Hor 4* protein and total B hordein

	<i>Hor 4</i> protein	Total B ^a hordein		<i>Hor 4</i> protein	Total B ^a hordein
Asp ^b	2.2	1.4	Met	0.9	0.6
Thr	1.0	2.1	Ile	4.2	4.1
Ser	5.7	4.7	Leu	6.8	7.0
Glu ^b	33.6	35.4	Tyr	2.8	2.5
Pro	20.5	20.6	Pro	5.4	4.8
Gly	3.6	1.5	His	1.5	2.1
Ala	3.1	2.2	Lys	1.5	0.5
Cys	^c	2.5	Arg	2.2	2.4
Val	5.0	5.6			

^a Results reported for total hordein of cv. Julia by Shewry *et al.* (1980a).

^b Include the amides Asn and Gln respectively.

^c Cysteine was present but could not be determined accurately.

Table 2. Genotypes of parents of the crosses

	<i>Hor 1</i>	<i>Hor 2</i>	<i>Hor 4</i>
P12/3	Pr	Ca	+
Bomi	Pr	Ze	—
M \times G 5	Ma	Ze	—
M \times G 34	Ma	Ze	—

The allelic designations follow Johansen & Shewry (1986).

in three crosses). However, the recombination percentages observed between *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* in crosses 2 and 3 are considerably greater than that observed in cross 1, and than most previously published values. The latter mostly fall between 6% and 15% (see Shewry & Mifflin, 1982), and Jensen (1986) has

calculated a map distance of 7.7 cM (7.64% recombination) on the basis of the lower estimates. Our results are, however, again consistent with those of Netsvetaev & Sozinov (1984), who reported recombination percentages between *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* of 8.02 ± 1.58 in the cross Union \times Elgina, and 17.37 ± 2.34 in the cross Nutans 244 \times Elgina. The latter cross was the origin of the P12 lines used in the present study. Taken together, our results and those of Netsvetaev & Sozinov (1984) indicate that recombination between *Hor 1* and *Hor 2* is strongly influenced by the genotype of lines crossed with Elgina and P12/3. Also, this effect is independent of the direction of the cross, since crosses 2 and 3 were essentially reciprocal, with P12/3 as the male and female parent respectively.

Table 3. Frequency in the progeny of cross 1 (*Bomi* × *P12/3*) of genotypes resulting from pairwise combinations of alleles at the *Hor 2* and *Hor 4* loci

		<i>Hor 2</i>			Totals
		<i>ZeZe</i>	<i>ZeCa</i>	<i>CaCa</i>	
<i>Hor 4</i> +	+	18	142	65	225
	-				
-	-	41	12	3	56
Totals		59	154	68	281

Table 4. Frequency in the progeny of crosses 2 ((*M* × *G 34*) × *P12/3*) and 3 (*P12/3* × (*M* × *G 5*)) of genotypes resulting from combinations of alleles at the *Hor 1*, *Hor 2* and *Hor 4* loci

<i>Hor 1</i>	<i>Hor 2</i>	<i>Hor 4</i>	Cross 2	Cross 3	Total, 2+3
MaMa	<i>ZeZe</i>	+ + } + - }	1	1	2
MaMa	<i>ZeZe</i>	--	50	32	82
MaMa	<i>CaZe</i>	+ + } + - }	2	1	3
MaMa	<i>CaZe</i>	--	33	17	50
MaMa	<i>CaCa</i>	+ + } + - }	0	1	1
MaMa	<i>CaCa</i>	--	3	3	6
MaPr	<i>ZeZe</i>	+ + } + - }	29	22	51
MaPr	<i>ZeZe</i>	--	0	1	1
MaPr	<i>CaZe</i>	+ + } + - }	143	87	230
MaPr	<i>CaZe</i>	--	2	3	5
MaPr	<i>CaCa</i>	+ + } + - }	37	25	62
MaPr	<i>CaCa</i>	--	0	2	2
PrPr	<i>ZeZe</i>	+ + } + - }	0	2	2
PrPr	<i>ZeZe</i>	--	0	0	0
PrPr	<i>ZeCa</i>	+ + } + - }	29	16	45
PrPr	<i>ZeCa</i>	--	1	0	1
PrPr	<i>CaCa</i>	+ + } + - }	69	28	97
PrPr	<i>CaCa</i>	--	0	0	0
Totals			399	241	640

(iii) *General discussion*

Our results show that the additional polypeptide present in the cultivar *Elgina* and derived lines such as *P12/3* is related structurally to the major B hordeins encoded by the *Hor 2* locus. They also confirm the report of Netsvetayev & Sozinov (1984) that the controlling locus, which we have designated *Hor 4*, is located proximally to *Hor 1* on the short arm of

chromosome 5. It is of interest that neither *Hor 4* nor its polypeptide product has been identified in any other barley cultivar. This could be because allelic variants of the polypeptide that co-migrate with the major B hordeins are present. A second possibility, which seems more probable in view of the extensive studies of hordein genetics that have been carried out using a range of lines and analytical procedures, is that the *Hor 4* locus has arisen in an ancestor of

Table 5. Linkage χ^2 , probability values, recombination percentages and map distances for the loci segregating in crosses 1-3

	Cross	Linkage (χ^2 D.F. = 1)	Probability of independence	Recombination percentage (\pm S.E.)	Map distance in cM (\pm S.E.)
<i>Hor 2</i> \times <i>Hor 4</i>	1	61.50	< 0.001	14.18 \pm 2.22	14.58 \pm 2.42
	2	78.68	< 0.001	20.25 \pm 2.22	21.49 \pm 2.65
	3	35.32	< 0.001	24.82 \pm 3.14	27.22 \pm 4.17
	2+3	113.44	< 0.001	21.99 \pm 1.82	23.60 \pm 2.26
<i>Hor 1</i> \times <i>Hor 2</i>	2	137.23	< 0.001	19.08 \pm 1.58	20.10 \pm 1.85
	3	50.21	< 0.001	22.96 \pm 2.25	24.82 \pm 2.85
	2+3	184.90	< 0.001	20.49 \pm 1.30	21.77 \pm 1.56
<i>Hor 1</i> \times <i>Hor 4</i>	2	204.68	< 0.001	1.81 \pm 0.67	1.81 \pm 0.67
	3	109.55	< 0.001	3.63 \pm 1.22	3.64 \pm 1.23
	2+3	313.96	< 0.001	2.52 \pm 0.63	2.52 \pm 0.63

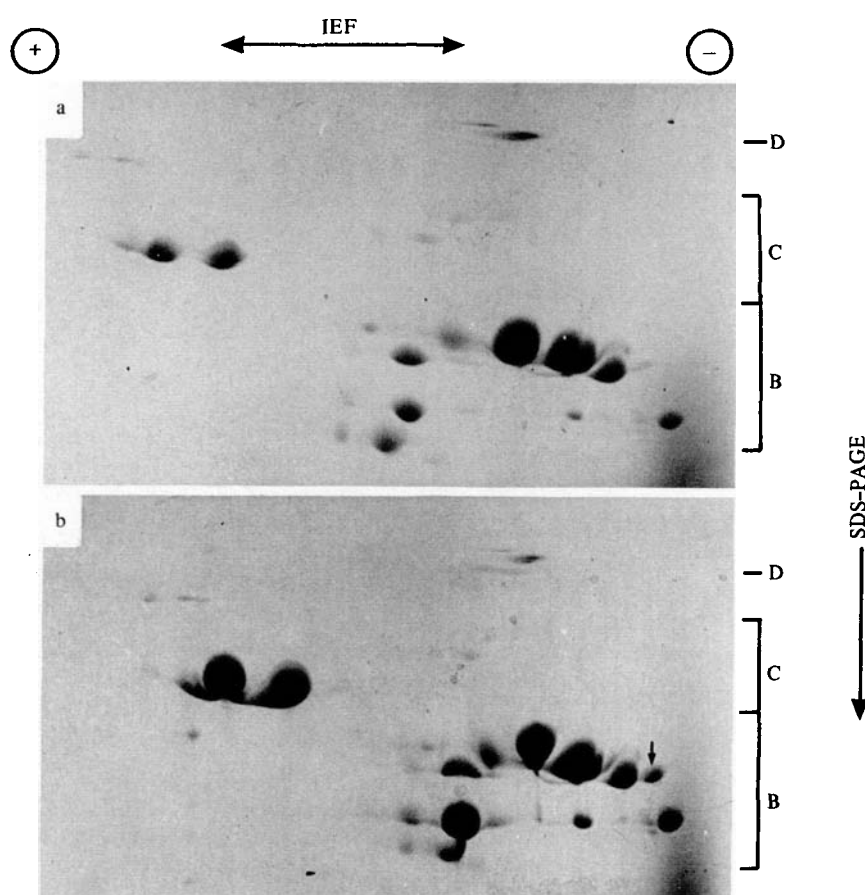


Fig. 3. 2-D isoelectric focusing (pH range 3.5-10)/SDS-PAGE of hordein fractions from a, P12/1 and b, P12/6. The protein controlled by *Hor 4* is indicated by the arrow

in b. B, C and D indicate the major groups of hordein polypeptides.

Elgina. It should be possible to distinguish between these two possibilities by molecular analysis using a cloned cDNA or gene derived from the *Hor 4* locus. In either case it is almost certain that the locus was derived from *Hor 2* by translocation of one or a small number of genes. The mechanism for this is not known, but it is significant that the short arm of chromosome 5 contains a number of loci encoding structurally related hordein storage proteins (*Hor 1*, *Hor 2*, *Hrd F*), which are interspersed with loci

conferring resistance to powdery mildew and rusts (see Fig. 5 and Jensen, 1986). The latter may also be multigenic and derived from one or more ancestral loci. This suggests that a number of structural rearrangements have occurred. The presence of such a rearrangement in Elgina and P12/3 could be related to the unusually high recombination values observed in crosses with some genotypes (i.e. negative chromosome interference).

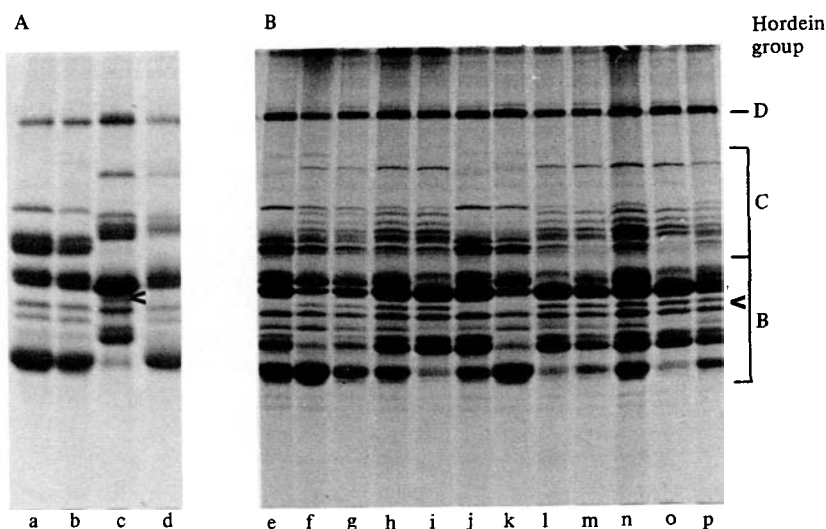


Fig. 4. SDS-PAGE of hordein fractions from single seeds of the parents of crosses 1, 2 and 3 (part A) and random F2 progeny from cross 2 (part B). a, M × G 5; b, M × G

34; c, P12/3 and d, Bomi. The protein controlled by *Hor 4* is indicated by arrows in tracks c and p. B, C and D indicate the major groups of hordein polypeptides.

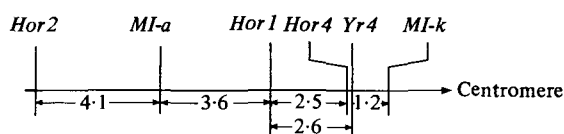


Fig. 5. The linkage relationships between *Hor 4* and some other loci on the short arm of barley chromosome 5. The linkage between *Hor 1* and *Hor 4* is based on the present paper. The rest of the map is based on Jensen (1986). Map distances are in centimorgans (cM).

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