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研究課題名(和文)Functional characterization of Babesia bovis proteins expressed on the surface of infected erythrocytes– Toward identification of novel vaccine and therapeutic

研究課題名(英文)Functional characterization of Babesia bovis proteins expressed on the surface of infected erythrocytes- Toward identification of novel vaccine and therapeutic

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研究代表者

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研究成果の概要(和文):ウシのバベシア症は畜産業に多大な被害をもたらしており、新規のワクチンや薬剤の開発が望まれている。本研究ではバベシア原虫が寄生する赤血球へと輸送されるタンパク質に着目し、プロテオーム解析を行い、3つの新規赤血球修飾分子を発見した。そのうち2つのタンパク質(Bb60, Bb11920)はブラストサイジンS耐性原虫を作製したところ、その発現が低下したため、BSの取り込みに関与していることが示唆された。さらに、もう一つのタンパク質Bb4280は、遺伝子のノックダウンにより、Ridgeの減少、感染赤血球のウシ血管内皮細胞への低下が見られ、バベシアの病原性に関わる分子であることが示唆された。

研究成果の学術的意義や社会的意義 本研究によりバベシア・ボビスにおいて3つの新規赤血球修飾分子を発見した。これらの分子は原虫の栄養取り 込みに関わると推定されるものや、脳性バベシア症と呼ばれる致死的な症状に関与するものであることが明らか となった。今後研究を進めることで、これらの分子は薬剤やワクチンの標的分子となる可能性がある。

研究成果の概要(英文): Babesiosis has great economic impact on livestock industry in tropical and subtropical regions in the world. Combination of novel drug and vaccine intervention are required to better control the disease. Using proteomics we identified 3 novel exported proteins: The first two protein (Bb60 and Bb11920) with 10 transmembrane regions. But were expressed in specifical bodies and on the surface of infected red blood cells (iRBCs). Development of Blasticidin S (BS) resistance resulted in downregulation of one major expressing gene of mtm, suggesting an association with BS uptake. Induced knockdown of the third exported protein, Bb4280, resulted in decreased growth rate, reduced ridge numbers on the erythrocyte surface, mislocalized VESA1 that is a ligand for cytoadhesion, and abrogated cytoadhesion to endothelial cells, suggesting that this protein is a novel virulence factor for B. bovis. We named this protein VESA1-export associated protein (BbVEAP).

研究分野: 獣医寄生虫学

キーワード: Babesia bovis バベシア ウシ 赤血球

1. Background

Bovine babesiosis caused by *Babesia bovis* has a great economic impact on the cattle industry in tropical and subtropical regions in the world. Lack of effective and safe vaccines, the emergence of acaricide-resistant ticks and drug-resistant strains are the major obstacles for controlling bovine babesiosis. Combination of novel drug and vaccine intervention are required to better control the disease. The parasite extensively modifies the host erythrocyte via the export of numerous proteins into the erythrocyte cytosol and membrane, to facilitate metabolite exchange, to change erythrocyte rigidity and finally to mediate cytoadherence in deep tissues. Cytoadherence, mediated by VESA1 (Variant Erythrocyte Surface Antigen 1) ligand, causes sequestration of infected erythrocytes into internal organ to avoid spleen clearance. On the other hand, binding of infected erythrocytes with an unknown receptor on the brain microvascular endothelial cells causes blockage and produce cerebral symptoms. Despite their crucial role in the virulence, pathogenesis, and as targets of host immunity, exported proteins, collectively called the "exportome", have not been comprehensively characterized in *B. bovis*.

2. Research aims

Recently, we performed surface biotinylation of infected erythrocytes, followed by proteomic analysis using Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) which resulted in identification of nearly 100 *B. bovis* proteins. Known surface exposed proteins, VESA1, were identified, thus validating the approach. Additionally, we found 2 proteins (Bb60 and Bb11920) having several transmembrane domain (to be referred as mtm) indicating their possible expression on the surface of erythrocyte and putative function as channel or transporter. Furthermore, we identified a protein (Bb4280) that its homolog exists in other *Babesia* spp. and *Theileria* spp. indicating a conserved function across piroplasms and may serve as a vaccine candidate for bovine babesiosis. In this study, we aim to characterize our recently identified surface exposed proteins and evaluate them to be used as novel vaccine and therapeutics targets to combat bovine babesiosis.

3. Research methods

(1) To characterize mtm we used transcriptomics together with genetic tools and parasite growth assay.

(2) To functionally characterize BbVEAP, we employed reverse genetic tools to knockdown the protein together with several phenotype assays including cytoadhesion assay, merozoite purification and invasion assay and parasite growth assay.

4. Research results

Using proteomics we identified 3 novel exported proteins: The first two proteins (Bb60 and Bb11920) with 10 transmembrane regions that were expressed in spherical bodies and on the surface of infected red blood cells (iRBCs). Because another RBC infecting parasite, *Plasmodium falciparum*, was shown to become blasticidin S (BS) resistant by decreasing anion channel activity on iRBC surface, we generated BS-resistant *B. bovis* to confirm whether this protein may serve as a channel. Development of BS resistance resulted in downregulation of one major expressing gene of mtm, suggesting an association with BS uptake. Episomal overexpression of downregulated mtm in the resistant line made these parasites more sensitive to BS, supporting our hypothesis on their role in BS uptake (Fig 1).

Induced knockdown of the third exported protein, Bb4280, resulted in decreased growth rate, reduced ridge numbers on the erythrocyte surface, mislocalized VESA1 that is a ligand for cytoadhesion, and abrogated cytoadhesion to endothelial cells, suggesting that this protein is a novel virulence factor for *B. bovis*. We named this protein VESA1-export associated protein (BbVEAP). We established a method for isolation of viable and invasive *B. bovis* merozoites. Induced knockdown of BbVEAP did not affect merozoite invasion into RNC but arrested parasite development suggesting an essential role of BbVEAP during development in the RBC (Fig 1).

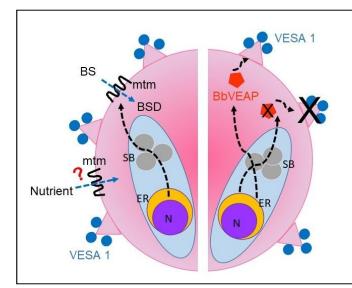


Fig 1. B. bovis infected erythrocyte and multigene protein families. mtm and BbVEAP are routed through spherical bodies (SB) to the erythrocyte. VESA1 is a ligand for cytoadhesion which it s export and surface expression is deoeondent on BbVEAP expression. mtm expression is linked with BS uptake and may function as a channel for nutrient uptake. N, nucleus; ER, endoplasmic reticulum; BS, blasticidin-S; VESA1, variant erythrocyte surface antigen 1; mtm, multi transmembrane protein; BbVEAP, VESA1-export associated protein.

This is the first description of a putative channel or transporter molecule on the surface of Babesia-iRBC. Our results provide new insights into the host cell modifications by *B. bovis* and their pathogenicity.

5 . 主な発表論文等

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〔図書〕 計0件

〔産業財産権〕

[その他]

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6.研究組織

 ・ M/フしが立が現		
氏名 (ローマ字氏名) (研究者番号)	所属研究機関・部局・職 (機関番号)	備考

7.科研費を使用して開催した国際研究集会

〔国際研究集会〕 計0件

8. 本研究に関連して実施した国際共同研究の実施状況

共同研究相	手国	相手方研究機関
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