

Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

## Deduced Sequence of the Bovine Coronavirus Spike Protein and Identification of the Internal Proteolytic Cleavage Site<sup>1</sup>

SUSHMA ABRAHAM, THOMAS E. KIENZLE,<sup>2</sup> WILLIAM LAPPS,<sup>3</sup> AND DAVID A. BRIAN<sup>4</sup>

Department of Microbiology, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0845 Received October 13, 1989; accepted January 17, 1990

The sequence of the spike (also called peplomer or E2) protein gene of the Mebus strain of bovine coronavirus (BCV) was obtained from cDNA clones of genomic RNA. The gene sequence predicts a 150,825 mol wt apoprotein of 1363 amino acids having an N-terminal hydrophobic signal sequence of 17 amino acids, 19 potential N-linked glycosylation sites, a hydrophobic anchor sequence of approximately 17 amino acids near the C terminus, and a hydrophilic cysteine-rich C terminus of 35 amino acids. An internal Lys-Arg-Arg-Ser-Arg-Arg sequence predicts a protease cleavage site between amino acids 768 and 769 that would separate the S apoprotein into S1 and S2 segments of 85690 and 65153 mol wt, respectively. Amino terminal amino acid sequencing of the virion-derived gp100 spike subunit confirmed the location of the predicted cleavage site, and established that gp120 and gp100 are the glycosylated virion forms of the S1 and S2 subunits, respectively. Sequence comparisons between BCV and the antigenically related mouse hepatitis coronavirus revealed more sequence divergence in the putative knob region of the spike protein (S1) than in the stem region (S2). (S) 1990 Academic Press, Inc.

The bovine coronavirus (BCV) is an important cause of neonatal calf diarrhea (*14, 26*) and may also be the cause of winter dysentery in adult cattle (*30*). The mechanisms by which BCV causes disease and persistent infection are not understood, nor are current vaccines universally regarded as effective. Toward these ends, we have begun a detailed study of the BCV protein and genome structure.

BCV is comprised of four major structural proteins (17). These are (i) a 200-kDa spike (peplomer) glycoprotein (S), that exists on the virion as cleaved subunits of approximately 120 and 100 kDa, (ii) a 140-kDa glycoprotein (HE) that has both hemagglutinating (18) and esterase (37) activities, and which is comprised of two identical, disulfide-linked 65-kDa subunits (10, 12, 16, 28), (iii) a 26-kDa integral membrane glycoprotein (M) (21), and , (iv) an internal phosphorylated nucleocapsid protein (N) (21). Of these, the S protein is presumed to

be the major structure by which coronaviruses attach to cells and initiate infection (reviewed by Spaan *et al.* (*34*)). The HE protein, however, may also bind to cells to initiate infection, and for BCV, the relative importance of these two proteins in initiating infection is not known. Both S and HE are probably important in inducing immunity since antibodies to each are known to neutralize virus infectivity in cell culture and in calves (*8, 9*). S and HE, therefore, may both be useful in developing effective engineered vaccines against BCV.

cDNA cloning of BCV genomic RNA was accomplished essentially as previously described (11, 21) except that random 5-mer oligodeoxynucleotides (Pharmacia) and 17-mer oligodeoxynucleotides of specific sequences were used as primers for first-strand synthesis. Clones were mapped relative to one another and to the 3' end of the genome using a matrix spot hybridization technique. Some clones were sequenced by the chemical method of Maxam and Gilbert (25) and some by the dideoxynucleotide-induced chain termination method of Sanger (31) as described by Kraft *et al.* (19) using Sequenase enzyme (United States Biochemicals). For much of the sequencing, restriction endonuclease fragments were subcloned into the pGEM4Z vector (Promega) and forward and reverse sequencing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sequence data from this article have been deposited with the EMBL/GenBank Data Libraries under Accession No. M31053.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Present address: Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Present address: DNX Corporation, One President Street, Athens, OH 45701-2979.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> To whom requests for reprints should be addressed.



Fig. 1. Gene map of the BCV genome, cDNA clone positions, and strategy for sequencing the S gene.

primers for the pGEM vectors were used. Sequencespecific oligodeoxynucleotides were also synthesized and used for sequencing within certain regions of the large clones.

The amino-terminal ends of purified gp120 and gp100 subunits were subjected to sequencing by the method of Matsudaira (24). Unlabeled BCV was purified by isopycnic sedimentation in sucrose gradients and the proteins were electrophoretically separated after reduction in 2-mercaptoethanol (17) and electroblotted (13) onto polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (24). Proteins were visualized by staining with Coomassie brilliant blue and the gp120 and gp100 bands were excised and shipped to Dr. Matsudaira for analysis.

Complete sequencing of clone MA7 which extends 4.2 kilobases from the 3' end of the genome (Fig. 1) revealed a continuous open reading frame located on the 5' side of the ORF for a potential 4.9-kDa protein (Abraham et al., to be published elsewhere). The deduced amino acid sequence of the extended ORF demonstrated high sequence similarity to the C-terminal end of the antigenically related MHV-A59 (22) and MHV-JHM (32) S proteins, both antigenic homologs of the BCV S protein (13). These data suggested that the S protein gene of BCV lies in the same relative position on the genome as does the spike protein gene of MHV. To complete the sequencing of the S gene, both strands of three clones, I1, HPA2, and G6, generated by random priming, and three clones, LK5, LP6 and 29, generated by specific priming, were sequenced (Fig. 1).

The total sequence for the putative S ORF extended to a position 7.4 kb from the 3' end of the genome and contained 4089 bases (Fig. 2). We conclude this ORF to be the S gene since it potentially encodes a 1363 amino acid protein of 150,825 Da, the approximate size of the unglycosylated spike precursor (10), and because its deduced amino acid sequence shows extensive sequence similarity throughout with the S proteins of both strains of MHV. Five other open reading frames ranging in size from 34 to 66 amino acids were also found within the S gene sequence in the plus one reading frame, but their significance is not known at this time. The putative S ORF is preceded immediately upstream (beginning at base 12 in Fig. 2) by the consensus CYAAAC sequence thought to play a role in leader priming of coronavirus transcription. The sequence is also found three times within the S ORF, beginning at positions 817, 1667, and 3776, but it is not established that transcripts initiate at any of these sites.

Five features of the deduced BCV S protein reflect the properties of four other coronavirus spike proteins that have been characterized to date from nucleotide sequence data (1, 2, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29, 32). (i) There is an N-terminal hydrophobic stretch of amino acids which predicts a signal peptide with a cleavage site between amino acids 17 and 18 (38). (ii) There are 19 potential asparagine-linked glycosylation sites that could give rise to the only kind of glycosylation demonstrated for this protein (Hogue and Brian, unpublished data; 10). (iii) There is a hydrophobic stretch of 17 amino acids near the C terminus that could serve as a stoptransfer and anchor sequence. (iv) There is a stretch of 8 amino acids on the immediate N-terminal side of the predicted anchor sequence (-K-W-P-W-Y-V-W-L-, beginning with amino acid 1305) that is identical in all coronavirus S proteins sequenced to date. (v) There is a cysteine-rich hydrophilic C-terminus of 35 amino acids that is probably the intravirion domain. In common with MHV- (22, 32) and IBV (1, 2, 20, 27), but not in common with TGEV (15, 29; Tung and Brian, unpublished) and FIPV (15), is also an internal sequence of basic amino acids that, in the case of MHV and IBV, lies on the immediate N-terminal side of the protease cleavage site (6, 22). In BCV the sequence is K-R-R-S-R-R beginning

TAGAC	10 САТААТ	CTAAAC	20 ATGTTTTTG	30 ATACTTTTA	40 ATTTCCTTACC	50 AATGGCTTTTC	60 SCTGTTATAC	70 GAGATTTAA	80 AGTGTACTACG	90 GTTTCCATTA	100 ATGATGTTG	110 ACACCGGTGCT	120 CCTT
					I S L P	M A F	<u>AV</u> I	GDL	кстт	VSI	NDVI	) T G A	P
CTATT/ S I	130 AGCACT S T	GATATT DI 40	140 GTCGATGTT V D V	150 ACTAATGGTI T N G	160 TAGGTACTTA L G T Y	170 TTATGTTTTAG YVL	180. GATCGTGTGI DRV	190 PATTTAAATA Y L N	200 CTACGTTGTTG T T L L	210 CTTAATGGTI L N G	220 ACTACCCTAC Y Y P S	230 TTCAGGTTCT SGS	240 ACAT T
ATCGT/ Y R	250 AATATG N M	GCACTG A L 80	260 AAGGGAACT K G T	270 TTACTATTGA L L L	280 AGCAGACTATG S R L W	290 GTTTAAACCAC F K P	300 CCTTTTCTTI P F L	310 TCTGATTTTA S D F	320 TTAATGGTATI INGI	330 TTTGCTAAGG F A K	340 TCAAAAATAO VKN	350 CCAAGGTTATT F K V I	360 ' <b>AAAA</b> K
AGGGT( K G	370 STAATG V M	TATAGT Y S	380 GAGTTTCCT E F P	390 GCTATAACTA A I T	400 TAGGTAGTAC I G S T	410 TTTTGTAAATA F V N	420 ACATCCTATA T S Y	430 AGTGTGGTAG S V V	440 TACAACCACAI V Q P H	450 ACTACCAATI T T N	460 TIGGATAATAI L D N I	470 AATTACAAGGT & L Q G	480 CTCT L
TAGAGA	490 ATCTCT	GTTTGC	500 CAGTATACT	510 ATGTGCGAGI	520	530 GATTTGTCATO	540 CCTAATCTGG	550 GTAATAAAC	560 GCGTAGAACTA	570 TGGCATTGGG	580 ATACAGGTG	590 FTGTTTCCTGT	600 TTAT
LE	IS	v c 160	QΥΤ	мсе	үрнт	і с н	PNL	GNK	RVEL	W H W	DTGV	/ V S C	L
атаас У К	610 GTAAT R N	ттсаса F Т 200	620 TATGATGTG Y D V	630 AATGCTGATI N A D	640 CACTTGTATTT Y L Y F	650 CCATTTITATO H F Y	660 CAAGAAGGTO Q E G	670 GTACTTTT G T F	680 ATGCATATTT Y A Y F	690 ACAGACACTG T D T	700 GTGTTGTTA G V V 1	710 CTAAGTTTCTG F K F L	720 TTTA F
ATGTT N V	730 TATTTA Y L	GGCACG G T 240	740 GTGCTTTCA V L S	750 CATTATTATG H Y Y	760 TCCTGCCTTT V L P L	770 GACTTGTTCTA T C S	780 AGTGCTATGA S A M	790 ACTTTAGAAT T L E	800 ATTGGGTTACA Y W V T	810 CCTCTCACTI PLT	820 СТАЛАДААТ/ S K Q 1	830 ATTTACTAGCT Y L L A	840 TTCA F
ATCAAC N Q	850 ATGGT D G	GTTATT V I	860 TTTAATGCT F N A	870 GTTGATTGTA V D C	880 AGAGTGATTT K S D F	890 TATGAGTGAGA M S E	900 ATTAAGTGTA I K C	910 AAAACACTAT K T L	920 CTATAGCACCA S I A P	930 TCTACTGGTG S T G	940 STTTATGAAT VYEI	950 FAAACGGTTAC L N G Y	960 ACTG T
TTCAGO V Q	970 CCAATT P I	GCAGAT A D	980 GTTTACCGA V Y R	990 CGTATACCTA R I P	1000 AATCTTCCCGA N L P D	1010 1 TTGTAATATAC C N I	1020 SAGGCTTGGC E A W	1030 CTTAATGATA L N D	1040 AGTCGGTGCCC K S V P	1050 TCTCCATTAA S P L	1060 ATTGGGAACO N W E 1	1070 STAAGACCTTT R K T F	1080 TCAA S
ATTGT) N C	1090 ATTTT N F	320 1 AATATG [N] M	100 AGCAGCCTG S S L	1110 ATGTCTTTA M S F	1120 ATTCAGGCAGA I Q A D	1130 I CTCATTTACTI SFT	1140 FGTAATAATA C N N	1150 ATTGATGCTG I D A	1160 CTAAGATATAT A K I Y	1170 GGTATGTGTT G M C	1180 TTTTCCAGCA FSS	1190 FAACTATAGAT I T I D	1200 AAGT K
TTGCTA F A	1210 ATACCC I P	360 1 AATGGT N G	220 AGGAAGGTT R K V	1230 GACCTACAAI D L Q	1240 TIGGGCAATTT L G N L	1250 I GGGCTATTTGC GYL	1260 CAGTCTTTI Q S F	1270 AACTATAGAA N Y R	1280 TTGATACTACI I D T T	1290 GCTACAAGTT A T S	1300 IGTCAGTTGT CQL	1310 ATTATAATTTA Y Y N L	1320 ACCTG P
	1330	400 1	340	1350	1360	1370	1380	1390	1400	1410	1420	1430	1440
A A	N V	101G11 s V 440	S R F	N P S	T W N R	R F G	F T E		F K P Q	$\frac{P}{*} \stackrel{V}{*} \frac{G}{*}$	$\frac{\mathbf{V} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{T}}{\mathbf{F} \mathbf{F} \mathbf{T}}$		<u>v</u>
ATGCA	1450 CAACAI Q H		460 AAAGCTCCC K A P	1470 TCAAATTTCT SNF SF	1480 FGTCCGTGTAA C P C K *	1490 ATTGGATGGGT L D G <del>I</del> <del>T</del> <del>T</del> <del>T</del>	1500 FCTTTGTGTG SLC TTTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTG	1510 STAGGTAATG V G N <del>*</del> * *	$\begin{array}{c} 1520\\ GTCCTGGTATA\\ G P G I\\ \hline \end{array}$	1530 AGATGCTGGTI DAG T T G	1540 ГАТАААААТА Y K N F F F	$\begin{array}{c} 1550\\ \texttt{STGGTATAGGC}\\ \hline \\ \hline$	$\frac{1560}{T}$
GTCCT	1570 GCAGG1 A G * *	$\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}}$	$\begin{array}{c} 580 \\ TATTTAACT \\ \underline{Y}  \underline{L}  \underline{T} \\ \underline{\overline{Y}}  \underline{\overline{T}}  \overline{\overline{T}} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1590 \\ TGCCATAATO \\ C H N \\ \hline T H N \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\frac{1600}{3CTGCCCAATG}$ $\frac{A}{*}  \frac{A}{*}  \frac{Q}{*}  \frac{C}{*}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1610 \\ TAATTGTTTG \\ \frac{N}{\pi}  \frac{C}{\pi}  \frac{L}{\pi} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1620 \\ TGCACTCCCC \\ \underline{C}  \underline{T}  \underline{P} \\ \end{array}$	$\frac{1630}{\text{BACCCCATTA}}$ $\frac{D}{P} = \frac{P}{L}$	$ \begin{array}{c} 1640 \\ \hline CATCTAAATCT \\ \underline{T} & \underline{S} & \underline{K} & \underline{S} \end{array} $	1650 FACAGGGCCTT T <u>G</u> P	1660 FACAAGTGCC YKC	$\begin{array}{c} 1670 \\ 0 \\ \hline $	1680 ATACT <u>Y</u>
TAGTT L V	1690 GGCATZ G I	520 1 GGTGAG G E	.700 CACTGTTCG <u>H C S</u>	1710 GGTCTTGCTA <u>G L A</u>	1720 ATTAAAAGTGA I <u>KS</u> I	1730 TTATTGTGGAQ Y C G	1740 GGTAATCCT <u>G N P</u>	1750 IGTACTTGCC C <u>T</u> C	$\begin{array}{c} 1760\\ \hline \textbf{AACCACAAGCA}\\ \underline{Q}  \underline{P}  \underline{Q}  \underline{A} \end{array}$	1770 ATTTTTGGGCT <u>F L G</u>	1780 IGGTCTGTTG <u>W S V</u>	1790 ACTCTTGTTTA D <u>S</u> CL	1800 ACAAG Q
GGGAT. G D	1810 AGGTGI R C	560 1 NATATI N I	.820 TTTGCTAAI F A N	1830 TTTATTTGO F I L	1840 CATGATGTTAA H D V N	1850 TAGTGGTACT SGT	1860 ACTTGTTCT T C S	1870 ACTGATTTAC T D L	1880 CAAAAATCAAAO Q K S N	1890 CACAGACATA T D I	1900 ATTCTTGGTG I L G	1910 TTTGTGTTAAJ V C V N	1920 ITATG Y
ATCTT	1930 TATGGI Y G	600 I ATTACZ	1940 NGGCCAAGGI	1950 ATTTTTGTTC I F V	1960 SAGGTTAATGO E V N A	1970 GACTTATTAT	1980 AATAGTTGG N S W	1990 CAGAACCTTI ONI	2000 TATATGATTC	2010 FAATGGTAATC	2020 CTCTATGGTT	2030 TTAGAGACTAC	2040 CTTAA
C7777C	2050	640 2		2070	2080	2090	2100 CATGCTAAC	2110	2120	2130	2140	2150	2160
T N	R T	F M 680	I R S	CYS	G R V S	A A F	H A N	S S E	PALL	F R N	I K C	N Y V F	M
АТАСТ N Т	2170 CTTTC L S	CGACAC R Q 720	L Q P	2190 TATTAACTAT INY	2200 FTTGATAGTTA F D S Y	ZZIU ATCTTGGTTGT ( L G C	GTTGTCAAT VVN	GCTGATAATA A D N	2240 AGTACTTCTAG S T S S	ZZOU IGTIGTICAA VVQ	ZZOU ACATGTGATC T C D	ZZ70 TCACAGTAGGI L T V G	2280 FAGTG S
GTTAC G Y	2290 TGTGTC C V	GATTA D Y	2300 CTCTACAAAA S T K	2310 AAGACGAAGT R R S	2320 CGTAGAGCGAT	2330 TTACCACTGGT [ T T G	2340 TATCGGTTT Y R F	2350 ACTACTTTTG T T F	2360 GAGCCATTTAC E P F T	2370 IGTTAATTCAG V N S	2380 GTAAATGATA V N D	2390 GTTTAGAACCI S L E P	2400 IGTAG V
GTGGT	2410 TTGTA	/50 ; [GAAAT"	2420 ГСААХТАССТ	2430 PTCAGAGTTP	<b>مےک</b> 2440 Астатасста	2450	2460 TTTATTCAA	2470 ACAAGCTCTC	2480 CCTAAAGTTAC	2490 FATTGATTGT	2500 TCTGCTTTTC	2510 TCTGTGGTGA'	2520 ITATG
GG	LY	E I 800	Q I P	SEF	TIGI	N M E E	FIQ	TSS	PKVT	IDC	SAF	V C G D	Y

2530 CAGCATGTAAA A A C K	2540 TCACAGTTGGTTGA S Q L V E 840	2550 ATATGGTAGCT Y G S 1	2560 2 TCTGTGACAAJ F C D N	2570 FATTAATGCT INA	2580 ATACTCACAC I L T	2590 GAAGTAAATG E V N	2600 AACTACTTGAC E L L D	2610 CACTACACAGI T T Q	2620 TGCAAGTAG L Q V	2630 CTAATAGTTT A N S L	2640 AATGA M
2650 ATGGTGTCACI N G V T	2660 CTTAGCACTAAGCT LSTKL 880	2670 TAAAGATGGCG KDG	2680 2 TTAATTTCAAT V N F N	2690 IGTAGACGAC. V D D	2700 ATCAATTTT I N F	2710 TCCCCTGTAT S P V	2720 TAGGTTGTTT L G C L	2730 AGGAAGCGATI G S D	2740 GTAATAAAG CNK	2750 TTTCCAGCAG V S S R	2760 ATCTG S
2770 CTATAGAGGAI A I E D	2780 TTACTTTTTTCTAA L L F S K 920	2790 AGTAAAGTTAT VKL	2800 2 CTGATGTCGGI S D V G	2810 TTCGTTGAG FVE	2820 GCTTATAAT. A Y N	2830 AATTGTACTG [N] C T	2840 GAGGTGCCGA G G A E	2850 ATTAGGGACC I R D	2860 TCATTTGTG L I C	2870 TGCAAAGTTA V Q S Y	2880 TAATG N
2890 GTATCAAAGTG G I K V	2900 TTGCCTCCACTGCT L P P L L 960	2910 CTCAGTAAATC S V N	2920 2 AGATCAGTGGA Q I S G	2930 ATACACTTTG Y T L	2940 GCTGCCACC A A T	2950 TCTGCTAGTC S A S	2960 TGTTTCCTCCT L F P P	2970 TTGTCAGCAG L S A	2980 CAGTAGGTG A V G	2990 TACCATTTA V P F Y	3000 TTTAA L
3010 ATGTTCAGTAT N V Q Y	3020 CGTATTAATGGGAT R I N G J 1000	3030 TIGGTGTTACCA G V T	3040 TGGATGTGTT M D V L	3050 AAGTCAAAAT SQN	3060 CAAAAGCTT Q K L	3070 ATTGCTAATG I A N	3080 CATTTAACAAN A F N N	3090 NGCTCTTGATO A L D	3100 GCTATTCAGG A I Q	3110 AAGGGTTTGA E G F D	3120 .TGCTA ) A
3130 CCAATTCTGC T N S A	3140 FTTAGTTAAAATTCA L V K I ( 1040	3150 AAGCTGTTGTTA Q A V V	3160 ATGCAAATGC N A N A	3170 TGAAGCTCTI E A L	3180 NATAACTTA NNL	3190 TTGCAACAAC L Q Q	3200 TCTCTAATAG L S N R	3210 ATTTGGTGCT F G A	3220 ATAAGTTCTI ISS	3230 CTTTACAAGA S L Q E	3240 AATTC I I
3250 TATCTAGACT L S R L	3260 SGATGCTCTTGAAG D A L E 1080	3270 CGCAAGCTCAGP A Q A Q	3280 ATAGACAGACT I D R L	3290 TATTAATGGG ING	3300 GCGTCTTACC R L T	3310 CGCTCTTAATC A L N	3320 FTTTATGTTTC V Y V S	3330 TCAACAGCTT QQL	3340 AGTGATTCTA S D S	3350 ACACTAGTAAA T L V H	3360 \ATTTA < F
3370 GTGCAGCACA S A A Q	3380 AGCTATGGAGAAGG A M E K 1120	3390 TTAATGAATGTO V N E C	3400 STCAAAAGCCA VKSQ	3410 ATCATCTAGO SSR	3420 SATAAATTTI INF	3430 TTGTGGTAATC C G N	3440 GGTAATCATAT G N H I	3450 TATATCATTA ISL	3460 GTGCAGAATO VQN	3470 GCTCCATATGO A P Y O	3480 STTTGT S L
3490 ATTTTATCCA Y F I H	3500 CTTTAGCTATGTCC F S Y V 1160	3510 СТАСТААДТАТО Р Т К Ү	3520 STCACTGCGAA V T A K	3530 GGTTAGTCCC V S P	3540 CGGTCTGTGC G L C	3550 CATTGCTGGTC I A G	3560 GATAGAGGTAT D R G I	3570 AGCCCCTAAG A P K	3580 AGTGGTTAT SGY	3590 ITTGTTAATGI F V N V	3600 ГАДАТА V N
3610 ATACTTGGAT N T W M	3620 GTTCACTGGTAGTG F T G S 1200	3630 GTTATTACTACC G Y Y Y	3640 CCTGAACCCAT P E P I	3650 AACTGGAAAN TGN	3660 FAATGTTGTJ N V V	3670 IGTTATGAGT V M S	3680 ACCTGTGCTGT T C A V	3690 TAACTATACT NYT	3700 AAAGCGCCGG K A P	3710 SATGTAATGC D V M I	3720 IGAACA L N
3730 TTTCAACACC ISTP	3740 CAACCTCCATGATT NLHD 1240	3750 ITTAAGGAAGAGI FKEE	3760 TTGGATCAATG L D Q W	3770 GTTTAAAAA F K N	<u>3780</u> CAAACATCA Q T S	3790 AGTGGCACCAG V A P	3800 SATTIGTCACT D L S L	3810 TGATTATATA DYI	3820 AATGTTACAI	3830 TCTTGGACCI F L D I	3840 IACAAG Q
3850 ATGAAATGAA D E M N	3860 FAGGTTACAGGAGGG R L Q E 1280	3870 CAATAAAAGTTI A I K V	3880 TAAATCAGAG L N Q S	3890 CTACATCAAT Y I N	3900 CTCAAGGAC L K D	3910 CATTGGTACAT I G T	3920 CATGAGTATTA Y E Y Y	3930 IGTAAAATGG V K W	3940 CCTTGGTATC P W Y	3950 TATGGCTTTI V W <u>L I</u>	3960
3970 GCTTTGCTGG G <u>FAG</u>	3980 FGTAGCTATGCTTG V A M L 1 1320	3990 FFTTACTATTCI V L L F	4000 TCATATGCTG F_I_C_C	4010 TTGTACAGGA C T G	4020 ATGTGGGACI C G T	4030 CAGTTGTTTTA S C F	4040 AAGATATGTGG K I C G	4050 rggTrgTrgT G C C	4060 GATGATTATA D D Y	4070 ACTGGACACCA T G H Q	4080 AGGAGT 2 E
4090 TAGTAATTAA L V I K	4100 AACATCACATGACG T S H D M T 1360	ACTAA D T									

Fig. 2. Nucleotide sequence of the S gene and its deduced amino acid sequence. The nucleotide sequence shown begins with the TAG termination codon of the HE gene (underlined) 17 bases upstream of the presumed S start site (7407 bases from the poly(A) tail), and ends with the TAA termination codon of the S protein. The first three amino acids of the putative 4.9-kDa protein are shown beginning at base position 4099. Consensus CYAAAC sequences are boxed. The presumed amino-terminal signal peptide and carboxy-terminal anchor sequences are underlined. Potential N-linked glycosylation sites (NXS or NXT, where  $X \neq P$ ) are boxed. The proteolytic cleavage site separating S1 and S2 is identified with an arrow. The extended sequence of amino acids missing in MHV JHM is identified by individually underlined amino acids, and that missing in MHV A59, by asterisks.

with amino acid 763, and, on the basis of the pattern in MHV and IBV, predicts a cleavage between amino acids 768 and 769 (note arrow in Fig. 2). Cleavage at this point would divide the unglycosylated S protein into an N-terminal segment of 85,690 Da (S1) and a Cterminal segment of 65,153 Da (S2).

From amino acid sequencing studies, no N-terminal sequence could be obtained from the virion-derived 120-kDa subunit, possibly because of N-terminal blockage. The N-terminal sequence of the 100-kDa subunit could be obtained, however, and was determined to be X-I-T-T-G-Y-X-F-, identifying the first amino acids downstream from the predicted internal cleavage site. These results confirmed the predicted internal cleavage site and established that the 120-kDa subunit is S1 and the 100-kDa subunit is S2.

The BCV and MHV S proteins show remarkable seguence homology suggesting that these viruses are re-



AMINO ACID POSITION

Fig. 3. Structural comparison of the S proteins of MHV-JHM, MHV-A59, and BCV. Sequences are aligned for maximum homology. A sequence found in BCV but not found in MHV-JHM or MHV-A59 is expressed as a gap (broken line) in the MHV sequences. Putative N-terminal signal peptides and C-terminal anchor sequences are boxed. Vertical lines above the sequence indicate potential asparagine-linked glycosylation positions, and below the sequence, cysteine positions. The identified (BCV, MHV-A59) and putative (MHV-JHM) proteolytic cleavage sites are identified by arrows.

cently diverged. After aligning sequences for maximal homology, the following points emerge. (i) Relative to BCV, a large deletion appears in the MHV S1 subunits. For JHM it is a contiguous gap of 138 amino acids, and for A59 it is a discontiguous gap of 50 amino acids (Figs. 2 and 3). The function of the additional sequence in the BCV S1 subunit is not known, but it is possibly a structure that interacts in some way with the HE glycoprotein, a structural protein not found on MHV (13, 34) except under certain rare conditions (33). No electron micrographic or chemical data exist, however, to suggest that S and HE do physically interact (3, 17, 18). It is interesting to note that the entire region in the BCV S protein corresponding to the gap region of the JHM S protein is especially rich in cysteine residues and contains 15 (26%) of the 56 total cysteines in the BCV S protein (Figs. 2 and 3). This suggests that this part of the molecule may be important for intramolecular or intermolecular disulfide linkages. (ii) Exclusive of the large gap in the MHV sequences, the S1 subunits of JHM and A59 show 62 and 60% identity, respectively, with BCV, and the S2 subunits show 75 and 74%, respectively. Throughout the S protein, 41 of 56 cysteine positions and 13 of 19 potential N-linked glycosylation sites are conserved. The internal proteolytic cleavage position (not yet confirmed for JHM) is also conserved. The pattern of greater amino acid sequence divergence in the S1 subunit is consistent with the model of Cavanagh (4) and De Groot et al. (7) which proposes that the S1 subunit comprises the exposed bulbous structure of the spike and probably contains most (5), but not all (23, 36), of the neutralizable antigenic sites. It is the structure most likely to undergo changes as a result of immunologic selective pressures.

Fusion of cells in culture is one biological activity associated with cleavage of the MHV S protein (*35*). Despite its extensive sequence similarity with the MHV S protein, however, the BCV S protein shows little fusion activity. In fact, fusion is a behavior we have not observed with the Mebus strain of BCV even though the S protein is primarily in the cleaved form on the virion (13, 17). It is not clear why BCV and MHV behave so differently in their fusogenic properties, but functional evaluation of sequence differences near the cleavage sites of these two viruses may aid in clarifying the mechanisms of fusion by MHV. This is especially interesting since hydrophobic regions, common at the cleavage sites on fusion proteins of paramyxoviruses and myxoviruses, are absent in the MHV S protein (22) and different mechanisms of fusion may be employed.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by Grant AI-14367 from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and by Grant 82-CRSR-2-1090 from the United States Department of Agriculture. T.E.K. and W.L. were predoctoral trainees on Grant T32-AI07123 from the National Institutes of Health.

## REFERENCES

- BINNS, M. M., BOURSNELL, M. E. G., CAVANAGH, D., PAPPIN, D. J. C., and BROWN, T. D. K., J. Gen. Virol. 66, 719–726 (1985).
- BINNS, M. M., BOURSNELL, M. E. G., TOMLEY, F. M., and BROWN, T. D. K., J. Gen. Virol. 67, 2825–2831 (1986).
- BRIDGER, J. C., CAUL, E. O., and EGGLESTONE, Arch. Virol. 57, 43– 51 (1978).
- 4. CAVANAGH, D., J. Gen. Virol. 64, 2577-2583 (1983).
- CAVANAGH, D., DAVIS, P. J., and MOCKETT, A. P. A., Virus Res. 11, 141–150 (1988).
- CAVANAGH, D., DAVIS, P. J., PAPPIN, D. J. C., BINNS, M. M., BOURS-NELL, M. E. G., and BROWN, T. D. K., *Virus Res.* 4, 133–143 (1986).
- DEGROOT, R. J., LUYTJES, W., HORZINEK, M. C., VAN DER ZEUST, B. A. M., SPAAN, W. J. M., and LENSTRA, J. A., *J. Mol. Biol.* 196, 963–966 (1987).
- 8. DEREGT, D., and BABIUK, L. A., Virology 161, 410-420 (1987).
- DEREGT, D., GIFFORD, G. A., IJAZ, M. K., WATTS, T. C., GILCHRIST, J. E., HAINES, D. M., and BABIUK, L. A., *J. Gen. Virol.* 70, 993– 998 (1989).

- DEREGT, D., SABARA, M., and BABIUK, L. A., J. Gen. Virol. 68, 2863–2877 (1987).
- 11. GULBER, U., and HOFFMAN, B. J., Gene 25, 263-269 (1983).
- HOGUE, B. G., KIENZLE, T. E., and BRIAN, D. A., J. Gen. Virol. 70, 345–352 (1989).
- 13. HOGUE, B. G., KING, B., and BRIAN, D. A., J. Virol. 51, 384–388 (1984).
- 14. HOUSE, J. A., J. Amer. Vet. Med. Assoc. 173, 573-576 (1978).
- JACOBS, L., DE GROOT, R., VAN DER ZEIJST, B. A. M., HORZINEK, M. C., and Spaan, W., *Virus Res.* 8, 363–371 (1987).
- KIENZLE, T. E., ABRAHAM, S., HOGUE, B. G., and BRIAN, D. A., J. Virol., 64, in press (1990).
- 17. KING, B., and BRIAN, D. A. J. Virol. 42, 700-707 (1982).
- 18. KING, B., POTTS, B. J., and BRIAN, D. A., Virus Res. 2, 53–59 (1985).
- 19. KRAFT, R., TARDIFF, J., KRAUTER, K., and LEINWARD, L., *BioTechniques* 6, 544–549 (1988).
- KUSTERS, J. G., NIESTERS, H. G. M., LENSTRA, J. A., HORZINEK, M. C., and VAN DER ZEIJST, B. A. M., *Virology* 169, 217–221 (1989).
- 21. LAPPS, W., HOGUE, B. G., and BRIAN, D. A., *Virology* **157**, 47–57 (1987).
- Luytjes, W., Sturman, L. S., Bredenbeek, P. J., Charite, J., Van Der Zeust, B. A. M., Horzinek, M. C., and Spaan, W. J. M., *Virology* 161, 479–487 (1987).
- MAKINO, S., FLEMING, J. O., KECK, J. G., STOHLMAN, S. A., and LAI, M. M. C., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 6567–6571 (1987).
- 24. MATSUDAIRA, P., J. Biol. Chem. 262, 10,035–10,038 (1987).

- MAXAM, A. M., and GILBERT, W., In "Methods in Enzymology" (L. Grossman and K. Moldave, Eds.), Vol. 65, pp. 499–560. Academic Press, Orlando, FL (1980).
- 26. MEBUS, C. A., STAIR, E. L., RHODES, M. B., and TWIEHAUS, M. J., Amer. J. Vet. Res. 34, 145–150 (1973).
- 27. NIESTERS, H. G. M., LENSTRA, J. A., SPAAN, W. J. M., ZIJDERVELD, A. J., BLEUMINK-PLUYM, N. M. C., HONG, F., VAN SCHARREN-BURG, G. J. M., HORZINEK, M. C., and VAN DER ZEUST, B. A. M., *Virus Res.* 5, 253–263 (1986).
- 28. Раккег, М. D., Cox, G. J., Deregt, D., Fitzpatrick, D. R., and Вавіцк, L. A., *J. Gen. Virol.* **70**, 155–164 (1989).
- 29. RASSCHAERT, D., and LAUDE, H., J. Gen. Virol. 68, 1883–1890 (1987).
- SAIF, L. J., REDMAN, D. R., BROCK, K. V., KOHLER, E. M., and HECK-ERT, R. A., Vet. Rec. 123, 300–301 (1988).
- 31. SANGER, F., NICKLEN, S., and COULSON, A. R., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **74**, 5463–5467 (1977).
- SCHMIDT, I., SKINNER, M., and SIDDELL, S., J. Gen. Virol. 68, 47– 56 (1987).
- 33. SHEIH, C-K., LEE, H-J., YOKOMORI, K., MONICA, N. L., MAKINO, S., and LAI, M. M. C., J. Virol. 63, 3729–3736 (1989).
- 34. SPAAN, W., CAVANAGH, D., and HORZINEK, M. C., J. Gen. Virol. 69, 2939–2952 (1988).
- 35. STURMAN, L. S., RICARD, C. S., and HOLMES, K. V., J. Virol. 56, 904–911 (1985).
- TALBOT, P. J., DIONNE, G., and LACROIX, M., J. Virol. 62, 3032– 3036 (1988).
- VLASAK, R., LUYTJES, W., LEIDER, J., SPAAN, W., and PALESE, P., J. Virol. 62, 4686–4690 (1988).
- 38. VON HEUNE, G., J. Mol. Biol. 184, 99-105 (1985).