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Restriction Endonuclease Activity Induced by PBCV-1 Virus Infection of a *Chlorella*-Like Green Alga†

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An enzyme was isolated from a eucaryotic, *Chlorella*-like green alga infected with the virus PBCV-1 which exhibits type II restriction endonuclease activity. The enzyme recognized the sequence GATC and cleaved DNA 5' to the G. Methylation of deoxyadenosine in the GATC sequence inhibited enzyme activity. In vitro the enzyme cleaved host *Chlorella* nuclear DNA but not viral DNA because host DNA contains GATC and PBCV-1 DNA contains G^mATC sequences. PBCV-1 DNA is probably methylated in vivo by the PBCV-1-induced methyltransferase described elsewhere (Y. Xia and J. L. Van Etten, Mol. Cell. Biol. 6:1440-1445). Restriction endonuclease activity was first detected 30 to 60 min after viral infection; the appearance of enzyme activity required de novo protein synthesis, and the enzyme is probably virus encoded. Appearance of enzyme activity coincided with the onset of host DNA degradation after PBCV-1 infection. We propose that the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease participates in host DNA degradation and is part of a virus-induced restriction and modification system in PBCV-1-infected *Chlorella* cells.

We have previously characterized a large polyhedral virus, PBCV-1, which infects and replicates in a unicellular, eucaryotic *Chlorella*-like green alga, strain NC64A. The virus contains a large double-stranded DNA genome (ca. 300 kilobase pairs as estimated by summing restriction fragments), at least 50 structural proteins, and a lipid component (22, 29). The virus can be assayed by plaque formation, and milligram quantities can be produced in culture (27, 28). PBCV-1 infection is synchronous, and progeny virus is first released at 3 to 4 h postinfection; by 6 to 8 h virus release is complete. The virus has a burst size of 200 to 350 PFU per cell (28).

Studies on DNA synthesis after PBCV-1 infection established that viral DNA synthesis begins about 45 min after infection; host DNA synthesis ceases immediately after infection, and host nuclear and chloroplast DNAs are degraded beginning about 60 min after infection (26). Base analyses of *Chlorella* nuclear and PBCV-1 DNAs revealed that the host DNA contains 21% 5-methyldeoxycytidine (m⁵dC) and 0.6% N⁶-methyldeoxyadenosine (m⁶dA); PBCV-1 DNA has 1.9% m⁵dC and 1.5% m⁶dA (30). However, at least some, if not all, of the viral methylated bases are located in different sequences than those in the host DNA. For example, PBCV-1 DNA contains m⁶dA in the sequence G^mATC, whereas the host DNA does not (30). These observations suggest that PBCV-1-infected cells contain a methyltransferase which recognizes DNA sequences distinct from those recognized by the host enzyme(s). Such an enzyme is described in the following paper (34). Furthermore, we suspected that a virus-encoded nuclease might be involved in the degradation of the host DNA. Consequently, PBCV-1-infected cells were examined for an enzyme which degrades host DNA but not viral DNA. This report describes

the characterization of an apparently virus-encoded restriction endonuclease.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Growth and infection of the alga. The exsymbiont *Chlorella*-like alga NC64A, originally isolated from *Paramecium bursaria* (11), was obtained from L. Muscatine at the University of California, Los Angeles. The alga was grown in continuous light on MBBM medium as described previously (28). The production and purification of PBCV-1 have also been described previously (28). *Chlorella* cells (1×10^7 to 2×10^7 /ml) were infected with PBCV-1 at a multiplicity of infection of 5, and cells were collected by centrifugation and either used immediately or frozen at -80°C .

Chlorella cells were inactivated in some experiments by placing 80 ml of actively growing *Chlorella* cells (10^7 /ml) in a 23-cm-diameter glass baking dish and positioning it 30 cm below a 15-W Westinghouse germicidal Sterilamp (number G15T8). The cells were continuously mixed with a stirring bar during the 10-min UV treatment. Colony formation was completely inhibited by this 10-min exposure to UV light, and endogenous host nucleic acid and protein syntheses were reduced to nearly background levels (J. Van Etten, D. Burbank, and R. Meints, submitted for publication).

Enzyme extracts. Infected (3 h postinfection) and uninfected cells harvested from 4-liter cultures were suspended in 15 ml of 0.01 M Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.9)-0.01 M 2-mercaptoethanol-50 μg of phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride per ml plus 10 g of 0.3-mm glass beads and homogenized for 60 s at 4,000 rpm with a Bronwill MSK mechanical homogenizer with cooling from a CO₂ tank. The homogenate was centrifuged at $10,000 \times g$ for 20 min; the supernatant was frozen at -20°C , thawed at 4°C , and centrifuged at $16,000 \times g$ for 30 min. This freeze-thaw and centrifugation treatment precipitated most of the green color and yielded a clear supernatant fraction (fraction 1). The following components

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were added per milliliter of supernatant: 0.5 ml of denatured salmon sperm DNA at 5 mg/ml in 0.01 M Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.9), 0.001 M EDTA, 0.6 g of polymer concentrate (7% [wt/wt] dextran T500, 28% [wt/wt] polyethylene glycol 6000 [21]), and 0.64 ml of 4 M NaCl. The samples were mixed thoroughly for 5 min and then centrifuged for 10 min at $5,000 \times g$. The upper layer was dialyzed overnight with three changes of 0.01 M KPO_4 (pH 7.4)–0.5 mM sodium EDTA–7 mM 2-mercaptoethanol–5% glycerol at 4°C (fraction 2). The samples were either assayed for enzyme activity at this stage or diluted to 200 ml with 0.01 M KPO_4 (pH 7.4) and chromatographed on a phosphocellulose (Whatman P11) column (1 by 10 cm) equilibrated with 0.01 M KPO_4 buffer (pH 7.4). The column had a flow rate of 5 ml/h at 4°C, and protein was eluted stepwise with 5-ml portions of 0.01 M KPO_4 (pH 7.4) containing KCl from 0 to 1.0 M in 0.1 M increments. Fractions of 2.5 ml were collected, and those containing enzyme activity (0.5 to 0.7 M KCl) were pooled (fraction 3). The enzyme was precipitated with 70% $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, taken up in 10 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.5)–100 mM KCl–0.1 mM sodium EDTA–1 mM dithiothreitol–500 µg of bovine serum albumin per ml–50% (vol/vol) glycerol (fraction 4), and stored at –20°C. All of these steps were performed at 4°C.

Enzyme assays. Unless noted otherwise, the enzyme was assayed at 37°C for 2 h in 20-µl reaction mixtures containing 10 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.5), 10 mM MgCl_2 , 50 mM KCl, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 1 µg of substrate DNA, and 2.5 to 5 µl of enzyme extract. In some experiments DNA was digested in core buffer (50 mM Tris hydrochloride [pH 8.0], 10 mM MgCl_2 , 50 mM NaCl). The reaction products were electrophoresed either on 1.2% agarose gels in 0.08 M Tris phosphate–0.008 M sodium EDTA (pH 8.5) or on 7.5 to 15% linear gradient polyacrylamide gels in 0.04 M Tris acetate (pH 8.3)–0.02 M sodium acetate–0.002 M sodium EDTA (10). DNA was stained with ethidium bromide and viewed under UV light. One unit of enzyme is defined in Table 1, footnote *a*.

Southern blot analysis. After agarose gel electrophoresis, DNA fragments were transferred to nitrocellulose and hybridized to a ^{32}P -labeled PBCV-1 DNA *Bam*HI fragment, B6 (30). Transfer and hybridization conditions were according to the methods of Wahl et al. (31) except that dextran sulfate was omitted from the hybridization mixture. The B6 fragment was labeled with $[\alpha\text{-}^{32}\text{P}]\text{dCTP}$ (800 Ci/mol; New England Nuclear Corp., Boston, Mass.), using a nick translation kit (Bethesda Research Laboratories Inc., Gaithersburg, Md.). Filters were exposed to Kodak XAR-5 film at –80°C with a Du Pont Cronex intensifying screen.

Ligation and recleaving of DNA restriction fragments. Three sets of DNA restriction fragments were prepared by digesting simian virus 40 (SV40) DNA with *Mbo*I, *Sau*3AI, or the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease, followed by phenol deproteinization and ethanol precipitation. The DNAs were dissolved in 10 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.2)–0.1 mM EDTA–5 mM NaCl at a concentration of 0.4 µg/µl. Ligation reactions were incubated at 22°C for 4 h in 20-µl reaction mixtures containing 66 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.6), 66 mM MgCl_2 , 10 mM dithiothreitol, 0.4 mM ATP, 5 U of T4 DNA ligase (Bethesda Research Laboratories), and two different sets of SV40 DNA restriction fragments (2 µg of DNA per set). Each reaction mixture was then divided in half. One half was added to 10 µl of water and 2 µl of stop mix (0.1% bromophenol blue, 0.1 M EDTA, 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 50% glycerol). The other half was heated at 65°C for 10 min and added to 2 µl of $10\times$ core

buffer–2 µl (0.5 units) of the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease–6 µl of water. After a 2-h incubation at 37°C, the reaction was stopped by adding 2 µl of stop mix. All DNA products from the ligation and ligation-recleaving reactions were electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose gels.

Determination of restriction endonuclease cleavage site by DNA sequencing. Dideoxy chain termination sequencing reactions were carried out with the single-stranded bacteriophage vector M13mp19, the 15-base universal sequencing primer, and ^{35}S -substituted deoxyadenosine 5'-[α-thio]triphosphate ($[\alpha\text{-}^{35}\text{S}]$ dATP), using the method of Sanger et al. (20) as described in the M13 Dideoxy Sequencing Manual of Bethesda Research Laboratories. The sequencing primer contains a sequence complementary to the region about 40 nucleotides preceding the GATC sequence in the *Bam*HI site of the multiple restriction region of M13mp19 DNA.

DNA-primed synthesis products used for restriction endonuclease digestions were prepared in 50 µl of reaction mixture containing 25 µM each dCTP, dGTP, and dTTP, 42.6 µCi of $[\alpha\text{-}^{35}\text{S}]$ dATP (650 mCi/µmol; Amersham Corp., Arlington Heights, Ill.), 3.5 U of *Escherichia coli* DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment), 1.97 µg of M13mp19+ strand DNA preannealed with 8 ng of sequencing primer, 4.3 mM dithiothreitol, 55 mM NaCl, 7.7 mM MgCl_2 , and 7.7 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 7.5). The mixture was incubated for 15 min at 30°C, and then 10 µl of 0.5 mM dATP was added, and the incubation continued for another 15 min at 30°C. The mixture was heated to 65°C for 15 min and cooled on ice, and 2.5-µl samples were removed and incubated at 37°C for 30 min with either 5 U each of *Mbo*I and *Sau*3AI or 0.5 U of the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease in a total volume of 6 µl containing 42 mM Tris hydrochloride (pH 8.0), 8.3 mM MgCl_2 , and 42 mM NaCl. The reactions were terminated by adding 10 µl of formamide-dye mix (0.1% xylene cyanol FF, 0.1% bromophenol blue, 10 mM sodium EDTA, 95% deionized formamide). The remainder of the DNA synthesis reaction mixture was extracted with phenol in the presence of 1 µg of carrier DNA, precipitated with ethanol, washed, dried, and suspended in water. The DNA was digested with the three restriction endonucleases as described above for the samples not phenol extracted before restriction enzyme cleavage. All samples were electrophoresed on a 8% polyacrylamide–7 M urea sequencing gel adjacent to the products of a set of dideoxynucleotide DNA sequencing reactions. The gel was dried on Whatman 3MM paper and autoradiographed with Kodak XAR-5 film.

Sources of DNAs. Host nuclear and PBCV-1 DNAs were isolated as described previously (30). Unmethylated pBR322 plasmid DNAs, containing either a 16-kilobase-pair *Bam*HI PBCV-1 DNA insert (fragment B6) (plasmid pLG164) or without B6, were prepared by growing the plasmids in *E. coli* GM2163 as described previously (30). This strain of *E. coli*, kindly provided by Martin Marinus, lacks both *dam* and *dcm* methyltransferase activities (15). Unmethylated lambda DNA was purchased from New England Nuclear Corp. SV40 DNA (form I) isolated from BSC-1 monkey cells, adenovirus type 2 DNA isolated from HeLa cells, φX174 DNA (form I), M13mp19 DNA, and universal sequencing primer were obtained from Bethesda Research Laboratories.

Other procedures. The *Chlorella* DNA from virus-infected cells was analyzed by equilibrium sedimentation on CsCl gradients as described previously (26). The DNAs were treated with *dam* methylase (New England BioLabs, Inc., Beverly, Mass.) or with restriction endonucleases according to the protocols provided by the suppliers and electropho-

resed on 1.2% agarose gels. Nonspecific DNases were assayed by previously described procedures (3, 5, 19).

RESULTS

Restriction endonuclease activity. We previously reported that PBCV-1 infection resulted in the degradation of the host nuclear and chloroplast DNA beginning at about 1 h after infection (26). To determine whether a new nonspecific DNase(s) appeared in cells after viral infection, cell extracts were prepared from uninfected and PBCV-1-infected cells (3 h postinfection) and electrophoresed on both denaturing and nondenaturing polyacrylamide gels impregnated with host DNA, PBCV-1 DNA, or unmethylated lambda DNA. After electrophoresis the gels were soaked in renaturing buffer for periods up to 24 h and then stained with ethidium bromide. Five bands (i.e., nonstaining regions) indicative of DNase activity were detected in cell extracts from both uninfected and virus-infected cells with all three DNAs; the intensity of the bands was also identical for the two cell extracts (data not shown). This suggested that a new enzyme(s) with either nonspecific DNase or specific DNase activity was not induced after PBCV-1 infection.

To determine whether PBCV-1-infected cells contained a restriction endonuclease, enzyme extracts were prepared from both uninfected and 3-h-infected cells and chromatographed on phosphocellulose columns. The extract from virus-infected cells (Fig. 1) but not from uninfected cells

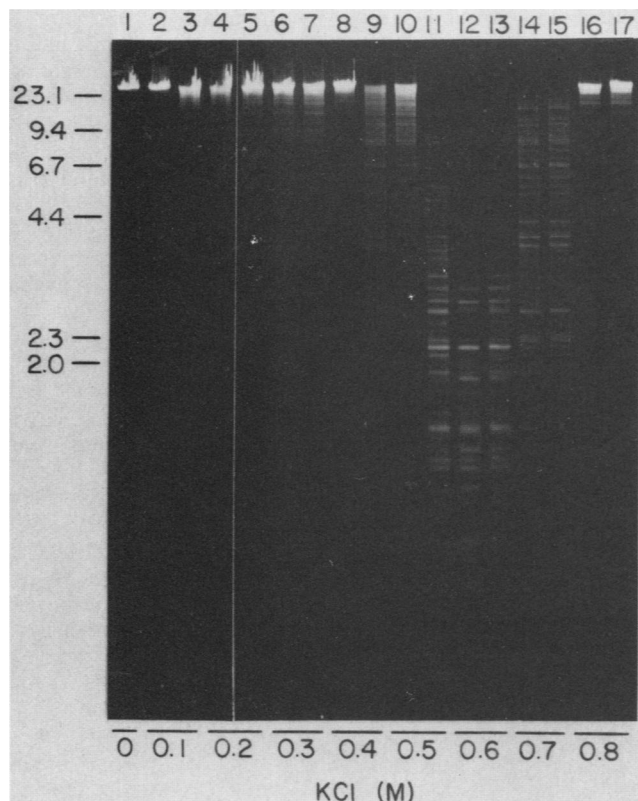


FIG. 1. Phosphocellulose column chromatography of an enzyme extract prepared from PBCV-1-infected *Chlorella* cells at 3 h postinfection. Protein (33 mg) was applied to the column and eluted stepwise with 0 to 0.8 M KCl. Fractions (2.5 ml) were collected, and 5 μ l of each fraction was incubated with 1 μ g of unmethylated lambda DNA at 37°C for 2 h. The DNAs were electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose gels. Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs.

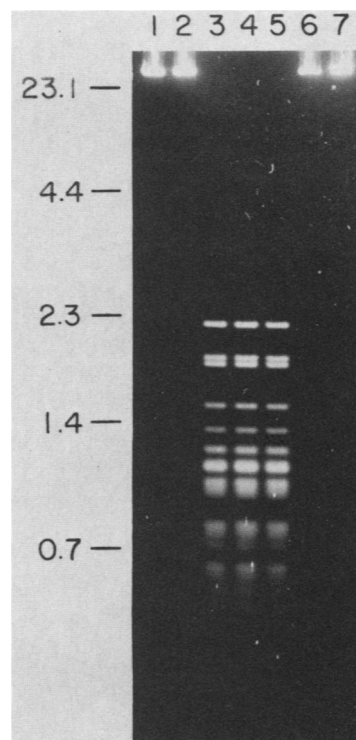


FIG. 2. Ability of an enzyme extract (fraction 4) from 3-h-infected *Chlorella* cells to degrade unmethylated lambda DNA. Lanes: 1, untreated lambda DNA; 2, lambda DNA after incubation with an enzyme extract from uninfected cells; 3, lambda DNA after a 2-h incubation with an enzyme extract from 3-h-infected cells; 4, the same as lane 3 except that incubation was for 16 h; 5, the same as lane 4 but incubated for an additional 2 h with a second aliquot of enzyme; 6, the same as lane 3 but Mg^{2+} was omitted from the assay; 7, the same as lane 3 except that the enzyme extract was heated to 65°C for 10 min before adding it to the DNA. The DNAs were electrophoresed on a 1.2% agarose gel. Numbers on the left are in kilobase pairs.

(data not shown) contained enzyme activity eluting at 0.5 to 0.7 M KCl which cleaved unmethylated lambda DNA into distinct fragments. It should be noted that the differences in DNA fragment patterns seen in Fig. 1 (e.g., compare lanes 12 and 14) and some of the other figures (e.g., see Fig. 9B) are not the result of a second restriction endonuclease activity but simply reflect incomplete digestion of the DNA. That is, if more enzyme extract was added or these samples were incubated for longer times, the DNA cleavage patterns were identical. Fractions 11 to 14 (Fig. 1) were pooled as described in Materials and Methods (fraction 4) and analyzed further.

The enzyme cleaved unmethylated lambda DNA into a number of discrete bands during a 2-h incubation (Fig. 2, lane 3). If the DNA was incubated with the enzyme for 16 h (lane 4) or if the DNA was treated with a second aliquot of enzyme for two additional hours after a 16-h incubation (lane 5), no additional DNA fragments appeared. Thus, the enzyme cleaved lambda DNA at a limited number of sites. Heating the enzyme to 65°C for 10 min destroyed the enzyme activity (Fig. 2, lane 7).

The activity of the enzyme was not stimulated by ATP or *S*-adenosylmethionine (data not shown) but was totally dependent on Mg^{2+} (Fig. 2, lane 6). The enzyme was most active in 10 mM Mg^{2+} -0.01 M Tris hydrochloride (pH

TABLE 1. Purification of PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease

Fraction no. and steps	Total vol (ml)	Total protein (mg)	Total units ^a	Sp act (U/mg of protein)
1. Cell extract	15	81.6	ND ^b	ND ^b
2. PEG-dextran ^c	40	32.8	40,000	1,220
3. Phosphocellulose	7.0	0.35 ^d	14,000	40,000
4. Ammonium sulfate	1.0	0.05 ^d	5,000	100,000

^a Unit definition: 1 U is defined as the amount of enzyme required to completely digest 1.0 µg of unmethylated lambda DNA in 1 h at 37°C in 20 µl of assay buffer.

^b ND, Not determined.

^c PEG, Polyethylene glycol.

^d Protein concentration of fractions 3 and 4 was estimated from the density of protein bands stained with Coomassie brilliant blue on sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel.

7.5)–50 mM KCl. The temperature optimum was 37°C. The enzyme could be stored at –20°C in buffer containing 50% glycerol and 500 µg of bovine serum albumin per ml for at least 1 year without loss of activity. The purification of the enzyme is summarized in Table 1. The specific activity of the partially purified enzyme was estimated to be about 10⁵ U/mg of protein.

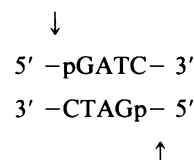
Specificity of DNA recognition and cleavage. The specific base sequence that the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease recognizes was examined by using unmethylated plasmid pBR322 DNA as a substrate. pBR322 DNA was cleaved into eight fragments larger than 140 base pairs in length by the virus-encoded enzyme (Fig. 3, lane 4). These fragments were identical in size to those produced by the bacterial restriction endonuclease *Mbo*I (Fig. 3, lane 3). Since *Mbo*I recognizes the sequence GATC, the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease most likely recognizes and cleaves in the same sequence.

The cleavage patterns obtained with two other DNAs, adenovirus type 2 DNA and SV40 DNA, also were identical for the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease and *Mbo*I. ϕ X174 DNA (form I), which does not contain a GATC sequence, was not cleaved by either of the two enzymes (data not shown). Therefore, the recognition sequence of the PBCV-1 restriction endonuclease must be GATC.

The precise site of DNA cleavage by the PBCV-1 restriction endonuclease was established by two methods. First, two different sets of SV40 DNA restriction fragments generated by digestion with *Mbo*I, *Sau*3AI, or the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease were ligated. Each set of DNA fragments hybridized and ligated well with the other two sets of DNA fragments (Table 2). This suggests that the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease cleaves DNA at the same position as *Mbo*I and *Sau*3AI, i.e., 5' to the G in the GATC sequence. In addition, the high efficiency of ligation indicates that the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease generates 5'-phosphate termini like most other restriction endonucleases.

Second, the site of cleavage was confirmed by sequencing stretches of M13mp19 DNA containing a GATC recognition site and determining the position of the fragment generated by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. The *Bam*HI site of the multiple restriction region of M13mp19 DNA harbors a GATC sequence, which is recognized by *Mbo*I, *Sau*3A, and the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. As shown in Fig. 4 (compare lanes C to T and 5 to 7), a major band in lanes 5 to 7 coincides with the G just below the sequence GATC. Thus, the PBCV-1-induced restriction

endonuclease cleaves 5' to the G in the GATC sequence, exactly as does *Mbo*I and *Sau*3AI. The fainter, faster-migrating fragments in lanes 5 to 7 (and lanes 2 to 4) were due to partial degradation of the restriction fragments, probably by contaminating exonuclease (note that a large excess of restriction endonucleases was used). The 65°C treatment, which does not completely inactivate *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment), resulted in an end-filling reaction during the restriction endonuclease digestion. The appearance of four additional, slower-migrating bands on the top of the G band (lanes 2 to 4) provides additional support for the generation of a 4-nucleotide-long sticky end with the sequence 5'-GATC-3'. Thus, the recognition and cleavage site for the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease is:



Effect of methylated bases on enzyme activity. *Chlorella* nuclear DNA (Fig. 5A, lane 2) but not PBCV-1 DNA (lane 4)

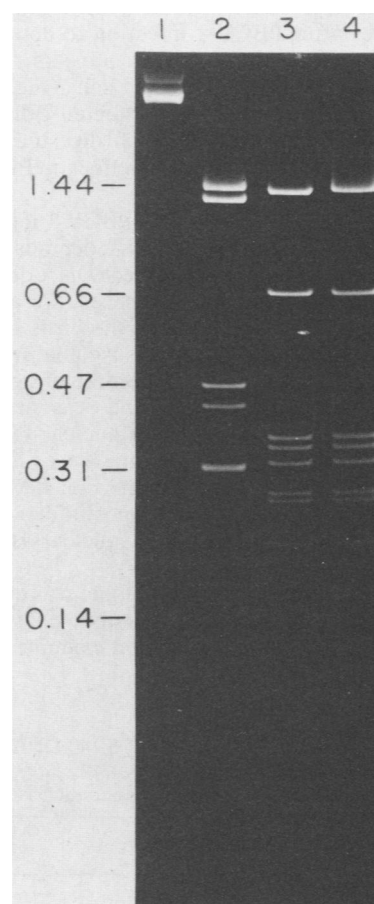


FIG. 3. Ability of PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease to degrade unmethylated plasmid pBR322 DNA. Lanes: 1, untreated DNA; 2, DNA treated with *Taq*I; 3, DNA treated with *Mbo*I; 4, DNA treated with PBCV-1 restriction endonuclease. Note: the sizes of the DNA fragments in lanes 3 and 4 are identical. The DNAs were electrophoresed on a 7.5 to 15% linear gradient polyacrylamide gel. Numbers on the left are in kilobase pairs.

was cleaved by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. To determine whether the resistance of PBCV-1 DNA to cleavage was due to the presence of m⁵dC or m⁶dA or both, a 16-kilobase-pair *Bam*HI PBCV-1 DNA fragment (B6) was cloned in the plasmid pBR322 (plasmid pLG164) and grown in a *dcm dam* *E. coli* strain. After growth in this host, the B6 DNA fragment was cleaved by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease (Fig. 5B, lane 4), whereas the same fragment in genomic PBCV-1 DNA was resistant (Fig. 5B, lane 8). Thus, m⁵dC or m⁶dA or both in the PBCV-1 DNA protect the DNA from enzyme digestion.

We previously reported that PBCV-1 DNA contains m⁶dA in the sequence GATC, whereas host DNA lacks m⁶dA in this sequence (30). Since the PBCV-1-induced enzyme cleaves at GATC sequences, it seemed likely that m⁶dA in this sequence might inhibit the PBCV-1-induced enzyme. To test this possibility, unmethylated lambda DNA was methylated with the *E. coli dam* methylase; *dam* methylase specifically methylates deoxyadenosines in the GATC sequence (7, 9, 14). Methylation of lambda DNA with the *dam* methylase prevented cleavage by the PBCV-1-induced enzyme (Fig. 6, compare lanes 2 and 4). Thus, the PBCV-1-induced enzyme cleaves GATC but not G^mATC.

Correlation between host DNA degradation and appearance of PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. *Chlorella* and PBCV-1 DNAs were treated with enzyme extracts prepared at various times after PBCV-1 infection to determine when the restriction endonuclease activity appears. Enzyme extracts from 1-, 2-, 3-, and 4-h-infected cells (Fig. 7A, lanes 3 to 6, respectively) but not from uninfected cells (lane 1) or from zero-time-infected cells (lane 2) digested host DNA. The 1- to 4-h enzyme extracts had no effect on PBCV-1 DNA (Fig. 7B).

We demonstrated previously that PBCV-1 infection leads to host nuclear and chloroplast DNA degradation in vivo (26). To determine whether host nuclear DNA degradation in vivo required de novo protein syntheses, we added cycloheximide either at the same time as the virus or at various times after infection. Total DNA was isolated from an equal number of infected cells either at the time of cycloheximide addition or at 4 h postinfection and was centrifuged to equilibrium on CsCl gradients. Host nuclear DNA was not degraded to any extent if cycloheximide was added during the first 30 min after viral infection (Fig. 8A). However, addition of cycloheximide at 60 min postinfection permitted substantial degradation of the host nuclear DNA by 4 h postinfection.

In a parallel experiment, cycloheximide was added to cells at various times after PBCV-1 infection; enzyme extracts were prepared at 4 h postinfection and examined for restric-

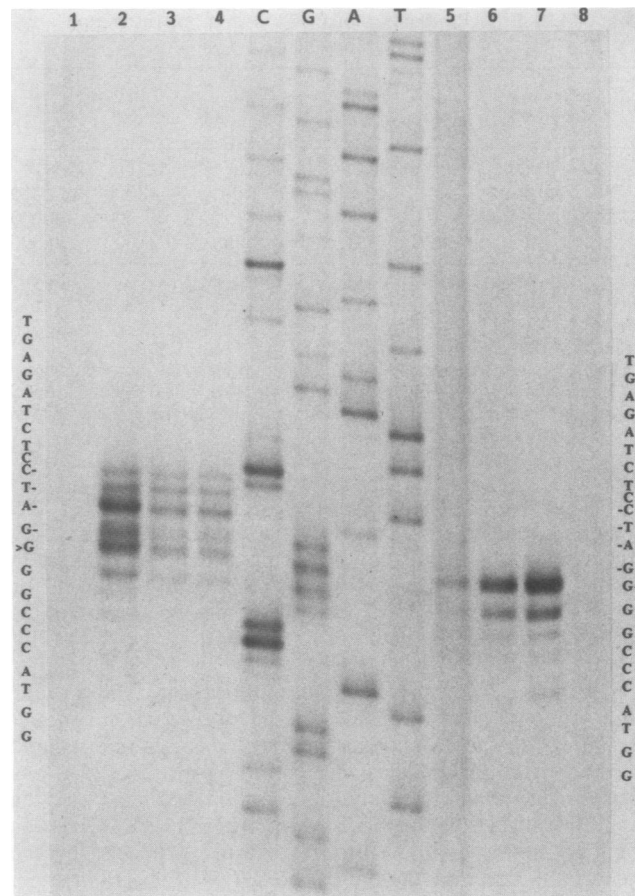


FIG. 4. Cleavage site of double-stranded M13mp19 DNA by PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. M13mp19 + strand DNA was sequenced by the dideoxy sequencing method (lanes C, G, A, T), and ³⁵S-labeled, partially double-stranded M13mp19 DNA was synthesized by using the 15-base universal primer preannealed with the single-stranded M13mp19 + strand DNA and then digested with restriction endonucleases. The GATC sequence recognized by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease is indicated by bars (-). Lanes 1 to 4 and 5 to 8 represent samples derived from ³⁵S-labeled partially double-stranded M13mp19 DNA incubated with the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease (lanes 4 and 5), *Mbo*I (lanes 3 and 6), *Sau*3AI (lanes 2 and 7), or no restriction endonuclease (lanes 1 and 8). The partially double-stranded M13mp19 DNA used in lanes 5 to 8 was phenol extracted before restriction enzyme digestion, whereas the partially double-stranded M13mp19 DNA used in lanes 1 to 4 was not phenol extracted. The bands in lanes 2 to 4 and 5 to 7 which coincided with the G are indicated by an arrowhead (>).

TABLE 2. Ligation and recleavage of SV40 DNA restriction fragments generated by cleavage with *Mbo*I, *Sau*3AI, and the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease^a

DNA fragments	% Ligation efficiency	% Recleavage efficiency
PBCV-1- <i>Mbo</i> I	>90	100
PBCV-1- <i>Sau</i> 3AI	>90	100
<i>Sau</i> 3AI- <i>Mbo</i> I	>85	100

^a Separate samples of SV40 DNA were digested with the restriction endonucleases *Mbo*I, *Sau*3AI, and the PBCV-1-induced enzyme. The DNA fragments were purified and ligated in pairs. Ligated DNA was then digested with the PBCV-1 enzyme. The degree of ligation and recleavage were judged by visual inspection.

tion endonuclease activity. Restriction endonuclease activity was not detected when cycloheximide was added at 30 min postinfection (Fig. 8B, lane 2). However, some enzyme activity was detected when cycloheximide was added at 60 and 90 min postinfection (lanes 3 and 4), and high levels were seen at 120 min (lane 5). The in vivo experiment suggests that de novo synthesis of a protein(s) required to degrade the host DNA begins between 30 and 60 min postinfection.

Restriction endonuclease is probably virus encoded. To determine whether the protein(s) required for host DNA degradation in vivo is encoded by the viral genome, total DNA was isolated from UV-irradiated cells infected with PBCV-1 and then analyzed on CsCl gradients. PBCV-1 can replicate, albeit much slower (ca. 16- to 20-h latent period)

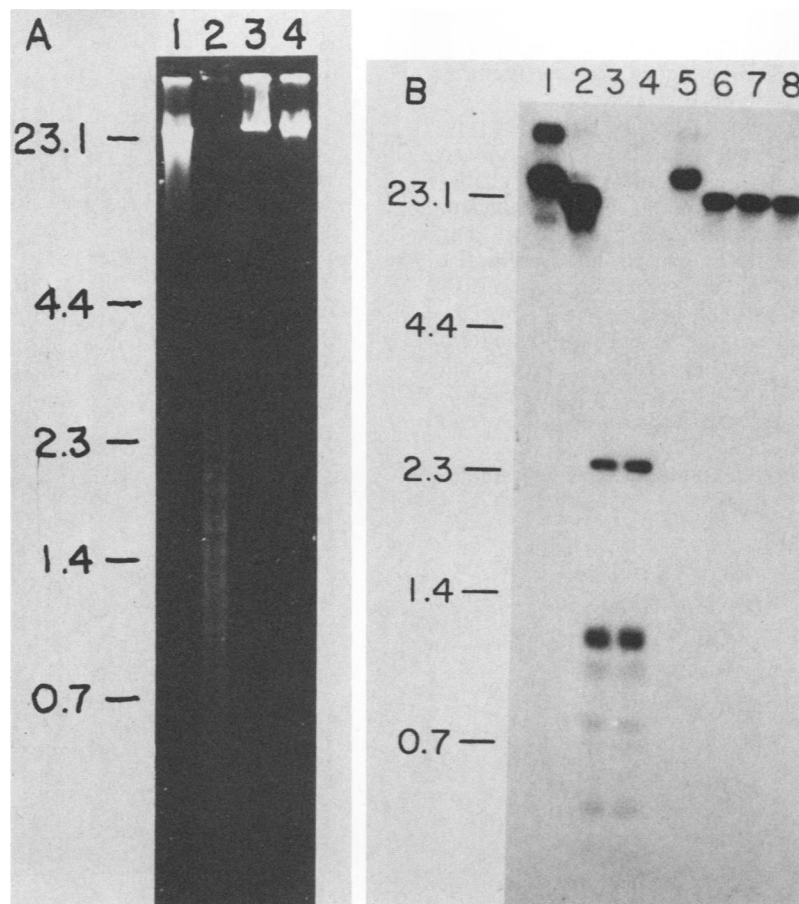


FIG. 5. (A) Sensitivity of *Chlorella* nuclear DNA and PBCV-1 DNA to PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. Lanes: 1, untreated host nuclear DNA; 2, host nuclear DNA treated with PBCV-1-induced enzyme; 3, untreated PBCV-1 DNA; 4, PBCV-1 DNA treated with PBCV-1-induced enzyme. Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs. (B) Effect of methylated bases on PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease activity. Plasmid pLG164, which contained a PBCV-1 *Bam*HI DNA fragment (B6), was isolated from a *dam dcm* *E. coli* strain (lanes 1 to 4), and PBCV-1 genomic DNAs (lanes 5 to 8) were substrates for the enzyme. The Southern blot of the DNAs was probed with 32 P-labeled PBCV-1 *Bam*HI DNA fragment B6. Lanes: 1, plasmid pLG164; 2, plasmid pLG164 digested with *Bam*HI; 3, plasmid pLG164 digested with *Bam*HI plus *Mbo*I; 4, plasmid pLG164 digested with *Bam*HI plus the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease; 5, PBCV-1 DNA digested with *Bam*HI; 6, PBCV-1 DNA digested with *Bam*HI plus *Mbo*I; 7, PBCV-1 DNA digested with *Bam*HI plus the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs.

and with a small burst size (ca. 5 to 50 PFU), in cells previously exposed to 10 min of UV irradiation under the conditions described in the Materials and Methods (Van Etten et al., submitted for publication). These cells can no longer form colonies, and endogenous nucleic acid and protein syntheses are reduced to about background levels. Considerable degradation of host nuclear DNA occurred in virus-infected UV-irradiated cells by 4 h postinfection (Fig. 9A, trace C), and most of the host DNA was degraded by 8 h postinfection (trace E). The amount of host DNA remained unchanged in uninfected UV-irradiated cells incubated for 8 h (trace B).

In a parallel experiment, enzyme extracts were prepared from UV-irradiated cells infected with PBCV-1 and examined for restriction endonuclease activity. Enzyme activity was detected in virus-infected UV-irradiated cells (Fig. 9B, lanes 2 to 4) but not in uninfected UV-irradiated cells (lane 1). The activity was detected by 4 h postinfection (Fig. 9B, lane 2) and was considerably higher after 8 h (lane 4). However, the level of activity was lower than that in

PBCV-1-infected, unirradiated cells at 3 h postinfection (Fig. 9B, lane 5). These results suggest that a PBCV-1-encoded protein(s) is required to degrade the host DNA in vivo. The appearance of the virus-induced restriction endonuclease activity coincides with the onset of host DNA degradation.

DISCUSSION

These results establish that PBCV-1 infection of *Chlorella* strain NC64A induces the synthesis of an enzyme with restriction endonuclease activity. Enzyme activity could first be detected about 1 h after infection, and the activity increased during viral replication. The appearance of the enzyme activity required de novo protein synthesis, and the enzyme was synthesized in UV-irradiated host cells infected with PBCV-1. Since UV-irradiation reduces host nucleic acid and protein syntheses to background levels, we believe the enzyme is probably virus encoded. However, conclusive proof will require identification of the restriction endonuclease gene.

Bacterial restriction endonucleases are classified as type I

and type III if they require Mg^{2+} , ATP, and *S*-adenosylmethionine or as type II if they require only Mg^{2+} for activity (2, 4, 12, 17). Since the PBCV-1-induced enzyme requires only Mg^{2+} for activity, it is a type II enzyme.

Even though the PBCV-1-induced enzyme resembles type II bacterial restriction endonucleases, the source of the enzyme is completely different. The enzyme is probably virus encoded and is isolated from a eucaryotic organism. Virus-encoded restriction endonuclease-like activity has previously been found in some *E. coli* strains carrying P1 prophage (1, 2, 16) and in the blue-green alga *Anacystis nidulans* PCC6301 infected with the phage AS-1 (24, 25). Unlike the PBCV-1-induced enzyme, the AS-1-induced enzyme ultimately degrades substrate DNA to very small fragments. The bacteriophage P1-encoded enzyme (*Eco*PI), a type III restriction endonuclease, appears only in *E. coli* cells lysogenized by bacteriophage P1.

Although about 600 restriction endonucleases with a min-

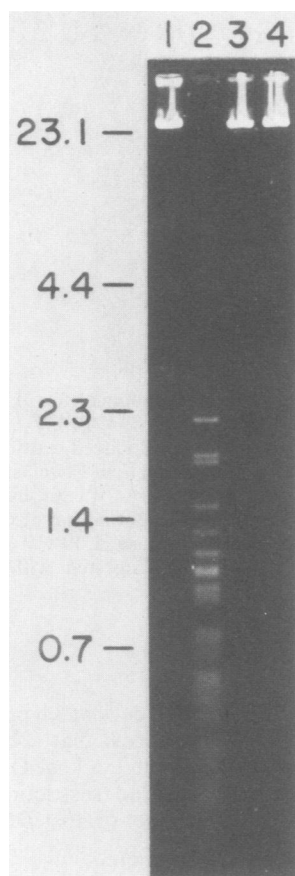


FIG. 6. Ability of *dam* methylase to protect DNA from cleavage by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. Lambda DNA was methylated in vitro by incubating 1 μ g of DNA with 30 U of *dam* methylase in 10 μ l of buffer (50 mM Tris hydrochloride [pH 7.5], 10 mM sodium EDTA, 5 mM 2-mercaptoethanol, 80 μ M *S*-adenosylmethionine) for 1 h at 37°C followed by 20 min at 65°C to inactivate trace nucleases. The methylated products were then adjusted to contain 10 mM $MgCl_2$ and cleaved in 40 μ l of assay buffer by the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease. Lambda DNA was untreated (lane 1) or treated with the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease (lane 2); lambda DNA after methylation by *dam* methylase was untreated (lane 3) or treated with the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease (lane 4). Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs.

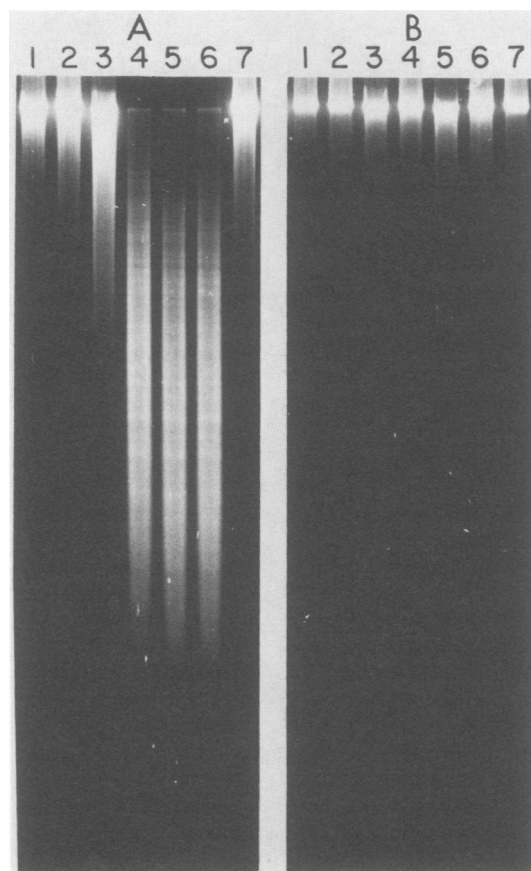


FIG. 7. Ability of enzyme extracts from uninfected and PBCV-1-infected *Chlorella* cells to digest either host DNA (A) or PBCV-1 DNA (B). Enzyme extracts (fraction 2) were prepared from an equal number of uninfected or PBCV-1-infected cells and assayed for restriction endonuclease activity. A 5- μ l sample of each extract was incubated for 2 h with 1 μ g of either host nuclear DNA (A) or PBCV-1 DNA (B). The cleavage products were then electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose gels. Enzyme extracts were prepared from uninfected cells (lane 1), cells infected with PBCV-1 at zero time (lane 2), or cells 1 h (lane 3), 2 h (lane 4), 3 h (lane 5), or 4 h (lane 6) after infection. DNA in lane 7 was not treated. Note: enzyme extracts from 1-h- and, especially, 2- to 4-h-infected cells cleave host DNA but not PBCV-1 DNA.

imum of 116 different specificities have been found in a wide variety of procaryotes (13, 18), similar enzymes are rare in eucaryotes. A few DNA site-specific endonucleases have been reported in the yeasts *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Pichia membranaefaciens* (32, 33) and the alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (6). However, these enzymes differ from restriction endonucleases in that they appear to lack a unique recognition sequence. The PBCV-1-induced enzyme recognizes the sequence GATC and cleaves DNA 5' to the G as do several bacterial restriction endonucleases including *Mbo*I (8), *Sau*3AI (23), and *Dpn*I (14). Similar to *Mbo*I, the PBCV-1-induced enzyme is inhibited by methylation of the internal deoxyadenosine in the GATC sequence. From an evolutionary standpoint it will be interesting to compare the genes encoding the bacterial restriction endonucleases which recognize GATC with that of the PBCV-1-induced enzyme.

The PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease digested *Chlorella* nuclear DNA but not PBCV-1 DNA in vitro. We have previously shown that host nuclear DNA lacks m^6dA in

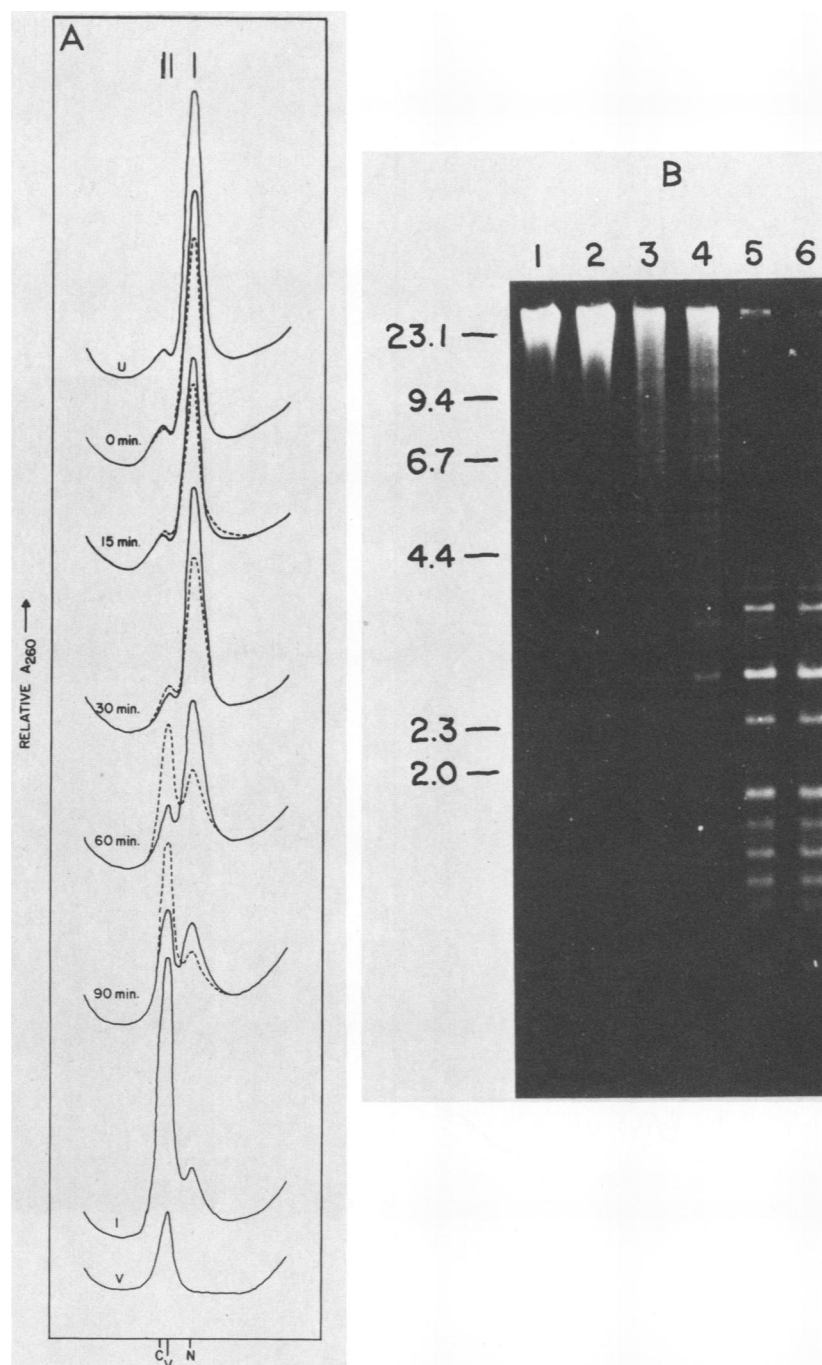


FIG. 8. Effect of cycloheximide on PBCV-1-induced degradation of the host nuclear DNA in vivo (A) and appearance of the PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease (B). (A) DNA was isolated from an equal number of cells at various times after infection with PBCV-1 and centrifuged to equilibrium in CsCl gradients. Cycloheximide (25 μ g/ml) was added either at the same time as the virus (0 min) or at 15, 30, 60, or 90 min after viral infection. The DNA was isolated either at the time of cycloheximide addition (solid lines) or at 4 h postinfection (dashed lines). The DNA band which increases with time is viral DNA. Trace U is from uninfected cells, and trace I is from 4-h-infected cells. Trace V is PBCV-1 DNA alone. Nuclear (N) DNA bands at about 1.72 g/ml, chloroplast (C) DNA bands at 1.69 g/ml, and viral (V) DNA bands at 1.70 g/ml. (B) Agarose gel assay of restriction endonuclease activity. Cycloheximide (25 μ g/ml) was added either at the same time as the virus (lane 1) or at 30 (lane 2), 60 (lane 3), 90 (lane 4), or 120 min (lane 5) after viral infection. Lane 6 had no cycloheximide. All of the enzyme extracts (fraction 2) were prepared from an equal number of cells at 4 h postinfection and assayed for restriction endonuclease activity. A 5- μ l sample of each extract was incubated with 1 μ g of unmethylated lambda DNA at 37°C for 2 h. The cleavage products were then electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose gels. Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs.

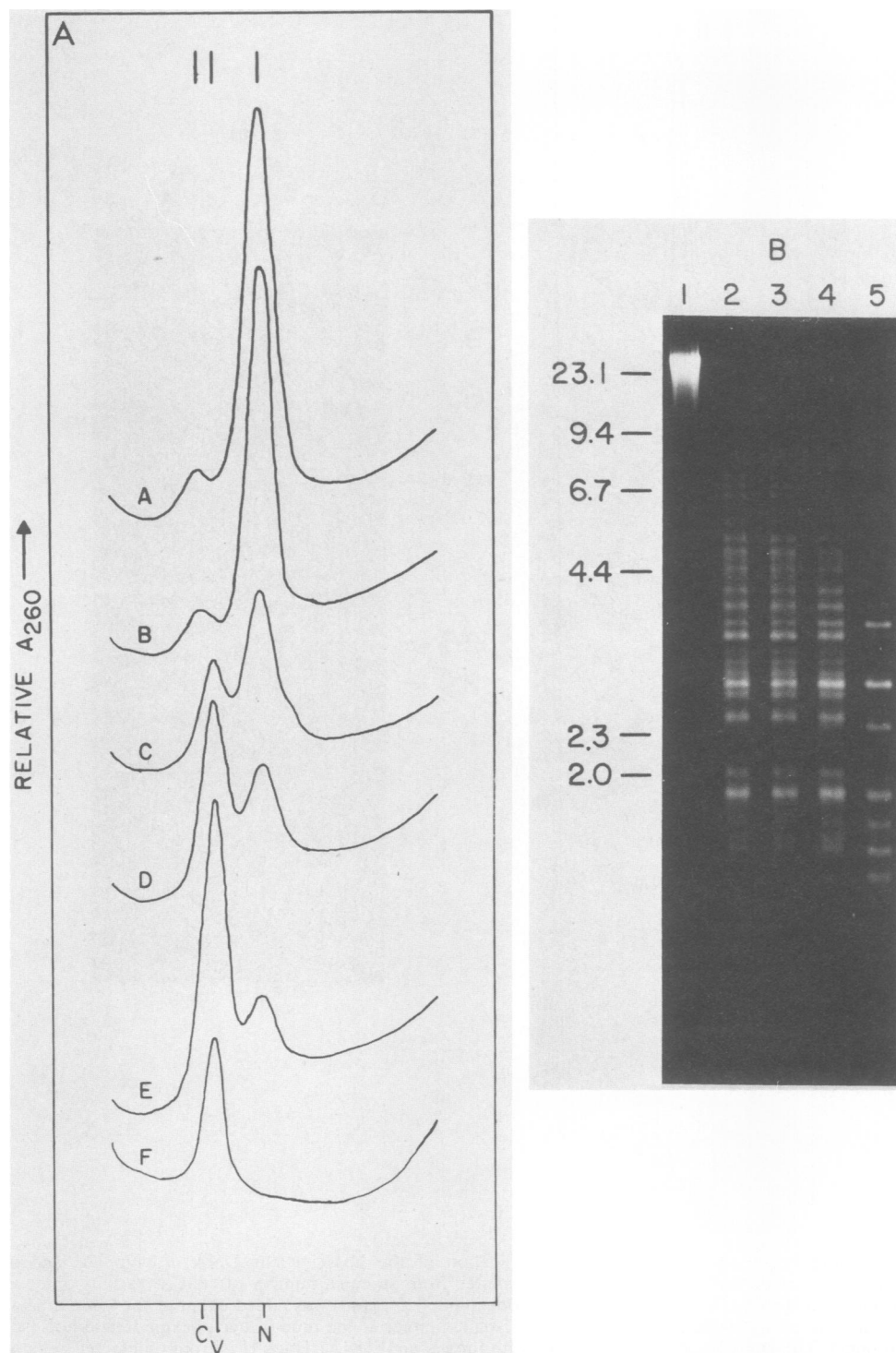


FIG. 9. Degradation of host nuclear DNA (A) and PBCV-1-induced restriction endonuclease activity (B) in UV-irradiated *Chlorella* cells infected with PBCV-1. (A) DNA was isolated from an equal number of UV-irradiated cells at various times after infection with PBCV-1 and centrifuged to equilibrium in CsCl gradients. Trace A, Control cells; trace B, uninfected UV-irradiated cells incubated for 8 h; and virus-infected UV-irradiated cells incubated for 4 h (trace C), 6 h (trace D), and 8 h (trace E). Trace F is PBCV-1 DNA. The positions of chloroplast (C), viral (V), and nuclear (N) DNA are indicated at the bottom of the figure. (B) Agarose gel assay of the restriction endonuclease activity. Enzyme extracts (fraction 2) were prepared from equal numbers of uninfected UV-irradiated cells incubated for 8 h (lane 1), virus-infected UV-irradiated cells incubated for 4 h (lane 2), 6 h (lane 3), and 8 h (lane 4), and virus-infected unirradiated cells incubated for 3 h (lane 5) and assayed for restriction endonuclease activity. A 5- μ l sample of each extract was incubated with 1 μ g of unmethylated lambda DNA at 37°C for 2 h. The cleavage products were then electrophoresed on 1.2% agarose gels. Numbers on left are in kilobase pairs.

the sequence GATC, whereas PBCV-1 DNA contains G^mATC (30). As described in the following paper (34), the methyltransferase responsible for methylation of these adenosines has been detected in PBCV-1-infected cells. Both the PBCV-1-induced methyltransferase and the restriction endonuclease first appear about 1 h after PBCV-1 infection and recognize the same GATC base sequence. The appearance of these enzymes coincides with the initiation of PBCV-1 DNA synthesis and host DNA degradation (26). Thus, we propose that the two enzymes form a restriction and modification system which results in the selective degradation of the host DNA.

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