

Full Length Research Paper

Molecular cloning, sequence analysis and structure prediction of the related to $b^{0,+}$ amino acid transporter (rBAT) in *Cyprinus carpio* L.

Guoxing Nie^{1*}, Bei Wang¹, Junli Wang¹, Hong Ming², Junlin Zheng¹, Xuejun Li¹ and Xianghui Kong¹

¹College of Life Sciences, Henan Normal University, 453007 Xinxiang, P.R. China.

²Department of Life Sciences and Technology, Xinxiang Medical University, 453003 Xinxiang, P.R. China.

Accepted 30 March, 2012

In this study, the full-length cDNA of basic amino acid transporter gene rBAT was cloned from intestinal cells of *Cyprinus carpio* L. using reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and rapid-amplification of cDNA ends (RACE) methods. The amplified product was 2370 bp, including a 42 bp 5'-untranslated region, a 288 bp 3'-untranslated region, and a 2040 bp open reading frame (ORF), which encoded 679 amino acids. The predicted amino acid sequence showed high similarity with that of zebrafish (83.5%), and low similarity with that of rat (50.90%). The 3-D protein models were predicted by the comparative protein modeling program SWISS-MODEL. The prediction result displayed that the *Cyprinus carpio* L. rBAT had a hydrophilic cytoplasmic N terminus, a single membrane-spanning domain, and an extracellular C terminus. The structural core was a β -sheet at the N terminus. The rBAT associates with the light subunit $b^{0,+}$ AT by a disulfide bridge with conserved cysteine residues (residues 109). A better understanding of the functional roles and regulation mechanism of rBAT would provide unique opportunities to investigate the biochemical processes underlying amino acid metabolism in *C. carpio* L., and support the foundation for improving aquaculture culture of *C. carpio* L.

Key words: rBAT gene, cDNA sequence analysis, protein tertiary structure, *Cyprinus carpio* L.

INTRODUCTION

Amino acids participate in biosynthetic pathways, act as neurotransmitters, and are essential for metabolic processes. They are mainly transported from the small intestine and the lumina of renal tubules into blood across highly specialized epithelial cells by transporter proteins which are located within the brush border and the basolateral membranes of these epithelial cells (Pickel et al., 1993; Kanai et al., 2003).

Amino acid transports systems can be divided into

different categories, based on different criteria. One criterion is substrate specificity, and the other is the Na^+ dependency of the rate of transport (Deves and Boyd, 1998). They are classified as neutral amino acid transporters, basic amino acid transporters and acidic amino acid transporters based on substrate selectivity.

Basic amino acid transporter systems include four transport systems: y^+ , $b^{0,+}$, $B^{0,+}$ and y^+L (Kanai et al., 2003). System $b^{0,+}$ and system y^+L are members of the heteromeric amino acid transporters which are composed of two subunits: nonglycosylated polytopic membrane proteins (a light subunit), and N-glycosylated type II membrane glycoproteins (a heavy subunit). The two subunits are linked by a disulfide bridge (Dave et al., 2004; Palacin et al., 2005).

The heavy subunits belong to the SLC3 family of amino acid transporters (rBAT and 4F2hc), while the light subunits are members of the SLC7 family of amino acid transporters. The heavy chain rBAT (related to $b^{0,+}$ amino

*Corresponding author. E-mail: niegx@htu.cn. Tel: +86-0373-3329129. Fax: +86-0373-3329102.

Abbreviations: rBAT, Related to $b^{0,+}$ amino acid transporter; $b^{0,+}$ AT, $b^{0,+}$ amino acid transporter; RACE, rapid-amplification of cDNA ends; ORF, open reading frame; SOPMA, significant improvement in protein secondary structure prediction by consensus prediction from multiple alignments.

Table 1. Sequences of oligonucleotide primers used for PCR and rapid amplification of cDNA ends.

Name	Oligonucleotide sequence (5'→3')	Length (bp)
3' GSP1 rBAT	ATGCCCAAGGAGGTGCTGTTGT	22
3' GSP2 rBAT	GATGTGGAGGACTTCAGGCAGAT	23
3' RACE outer	TACCGTCGTTCCACTAGTGATTT	23
3' RACE inner	CGCGGATCCTCCACTAGTGATTTCACTATAGG	32
5' GSP1 rBAT	GGTGTGGTTTGGTATGAAATCCAT	24
5' GSP2 rBAT	AGGTGACAGTGCCACAATCGTAATG	25
5' RACE outer	CATGGCTACATGCTGACAGCCTA	23
5' RACE inner	CGCGGATCCACAGCCTACTGATGATCAGTCGATG	34

The primers were based on the rBAT sequences of other animals deposited in GenBank.

acid transporter, SLC3A1) associates with the light chain $b^{0,+}$ AT ($b^{0,+}$ amino acid transporter, SLC7A9) to form the amino acid transport system $b^{0,+}$ (Fender et al., 2010; Grillo et al., 2008; Bartoccioni et al. 2008). System $b^{0,+}$ mediates the absorption and reabsorption of basic amino acids in the small intestine and renal tubules, respectively (Dave et al., 2004). The rBAT protein is expressed in the brush border of the renal epithelial cells of the proximal tubule and the small intestine. The rBAT mRNA is also detected in liver, pancreas and brain (Deves and Boyd, 1998). Distinct classes of rBAT mutants cause type I cystinuria which result in increased urinary excretion of cystine and dibasic amino acids and cause cystinuria. Type I cystinuria is a completely recessive disease (Sakamoto et al., 2009). So far, the researches mainly concentrated on the physiological functions and requirements of the basic amino acids in fish and so on (Cheng et al., 2011; Poppi et al., 2011; Zhou et al., 2011), while few studies were reported in absorption mechanism of basic amino acids in *C. carpio* L. on molecular level. In this study, the rBAT gene was first cloned from intestinal cells of *C. carpio* L., and the homology and phylogenetic relationship of rBAT genes between *C. carpio* L. and other species were analysed. The secondary structure and tertiary structure of the rBAT protein in *C. carpio* L. was predicted with several computational algorithms.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fish acclimation

In this study, *C. carpio* L., with an average body weight of 2.6 ± 0.38 g, grown for 60 days, were used as experimental animals, which were cultured in a 200-L tank filled with dechlorinated water with constant aeration (dissolved oxygen (DO): 6.2 ± 0.2 mg/L, pH 6.5 to 7.5, total ammonia: 2.2 to 2.7 mg/L, average water temperature: $24.5 \pm 4.32^\circ\text{C}$, NO_2^- : 0.03 to 0.07 mg/L, NO_3^- : 1.5 mg/L). The illuminating rhythm was 12 h light and 12 h dark per day. During the period of acclimation, the fishes were fed with commercial pellet feed four times a day (8:30 am, 11:30 am, 14:30 pm and 17:30 pm). After the acclimation, 10 fish were randomly selected and dissected after general anesthesia to obtain the intestines of each fish, and the contents in guts were cleared rapidly. All the operations were conducted under aseptic conditions on ice.

Total RNA extraction and RT-PCR

The prepared guts were quickly frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80°C . Total RNA was isolated from intestines by the standard TRIzol (purchased from Invitrogen) extraction method. The total RNA (5 mg) was used to synthesize the first-strand cDNA using AMV reverse transcriptase (from Shanghai Sangon) and oligo-p (dT)₁₈ Primer (from Shanghai Sangon) in a 20 μL reaction, according to the manufacturer's instructions. The rBAT cDNAs were then amplified by PCR in a total volume of 50 μL , containing 10 mM Tris-HCl (pH9.0), 50 mM KCl, 1.25 mM MgCl_2 , 0.2 mM dNTPs, 1 unit of Taq polymerase (from Takara, Japan), 5 μL template cDNA and 40 pmol of each primer (Table 1). The following PCR cycling conditions were used as follow: pre-denaturalization at 94°C for 4 min, 35 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 50 s, annealing at 53 to 55°C for 50 s, extension at 72°C for 1 min 50 s and final extension at 72°C for 10 min. The PCR product was resolved on 1% agarose gels via electrophoresis. Photographs of the gels stained with ethidium bromide are shown in an inverted black/white format (Figure 1).

Cloning and sequencing of rBAT from *C. carpio* L. intestinal cDNA

The amplified bands corresponding to rBAT cDNAs were separated with 1% agarose gel electrophoresis and purified using the Gel Extraction Kit (from Takara, Japan). The purified rBAT cDNAs were combined with the pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega, USA) at 16°C for 8 h, and the ligation mixture was used to transform *Escherichia coli* strain JM109. The plasmid purifications from the overnight-grown colonies were done. For each cDNA, four to six plasmid clones containing rBAT cDNAs were sequenced by ABI3730 using M13+/-universal primers (Takara, Japan).

RESULTS

Isolation of the *C. carpio* L. rBAT cDNA by rapid-amplification of cDNA ends (RACE)

The primers were originally designed from highly conserved regions of rBAT based on the sequence alignment of human, rat, mouse, rabbit, dog, and American opossum rBAT cDNA from GenBank. Employing the RACE strategy, the full-length rBAT of *C. carpio* L. was cloned. The 5'-RACE and 3'-RACE results were sequenced and

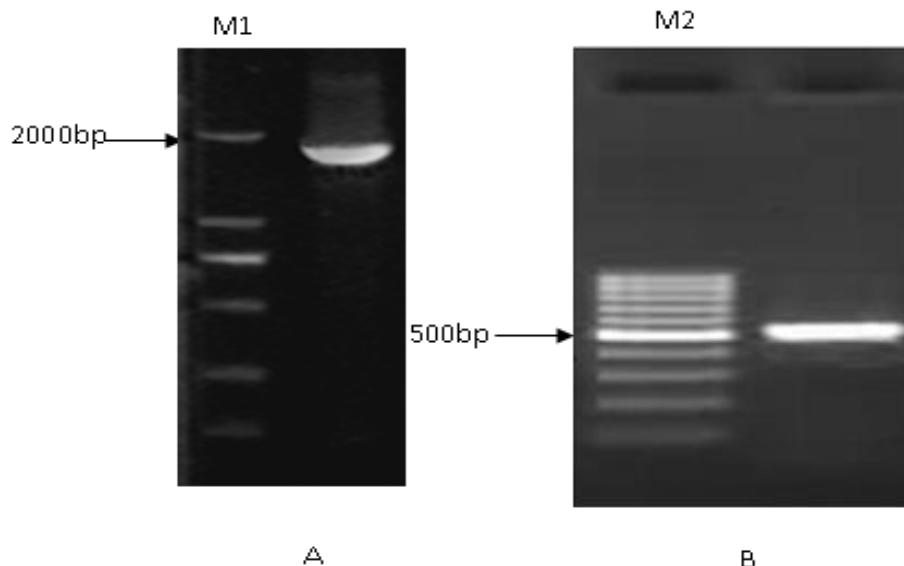


Figure 1. The results of rBAT amplified by RACE-PCR. A, the result of 5'-RACE showing the amplified 1800 bp fragment; B, the result of 3'-RACE showing the amplified 500 bp fragment; M1, 2000 bp DNA ladder; M2, 1000 bp DNA ladder.

spliced to obtain the full-length cDNA (Figure 1). The complete coding sequence of the *C. carpio* L. rBAT cDNA with 2370 nucleotides comprised a coding sequence region with a 2040 bp open reading frame (ORF), a 42 bp 5'-untranslated region and a 288-bp 3'-untranslated region including poly (A).

Sequence analysis of *C. carpio* L. rBAT gene

The deduced amino acid sequence of the *C. carpio* L. rBAT using EXPASY is composed of 679 amino acids with a molecular weight of approximately 78.5 ku and the isoelectric point of 4.96 (Figure 2). The secondary structure of the deduced rBAT amino acid sequence was analyzed to seek potential transmembrane regions using TMHMM Server v. 2.0 (DTU) (Figure 3). One putative transmembrane domain was also identified using significant improvement in protein secondary structure prediction by consensus prediction from multiple alignments (SOPMA) (Figure 4). The rBAT gene contains 28.13% of α -helix, 16.79% of extended strand, 5.60% of β -turn and 49.48% of random coil.

SignalP 3.0 Sercer analysis predicted an N-terminal signal peptide sequence:

(MSSTKITNIDAVELQEGIQNAAFHEDDDTSSNASSSRE
 QQATSVSVTRPEENEYEQIKPYAGMPKEVLMLYSRKAC
 YRVPREIIFWLIIACTLALIAMTITIVAL) (Figure 5).

Homology and phylogenetic analysis of rBAT genes

The rBAT cDNA sequence obtained in this study has

been submitted to GenBank and assigned the accession number AEX13745.1. The deduced amino acid sequence of *C. carpio* L. rBAT was 69.7, 83.5, 51.4, 50.8, 53.2, 51.9, 51.7, 51.8, 50.7, 53.5 and 51.0% similar to Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), human (*Homo sapiens*), dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), pig (*Sus scrofa*), rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), mouse (*Mus musculus*), marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*), rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), cattle (*Bos taurus*), and chicken (*Gallus gallus*), respectively. The homology among the sequences was calculated using the Laser-gene analysis software package (Figure 6). The deduced amino acid sequence of rBAT in *C. carpio* L. had the lowest similarity with *Sus scrofa* (50.7%) and the highest similarity with *Danio rerio* (83.5%). The phylogenetic trees were constructed using MEGA5.0. The calculation of the evolutionary trees used the maximum likelihood and nearest-neighbor-interchange (NNI) (Figure 7).

Tertiary structure prediction of rBAT gene

The 3-D protein model in this study was predicted by the comparative protein modeling program SWISS-MODEL automated protein modeling server, based upon deep-sea bacterium *Geobacillus* sp. strain HTA-462 (2ze0A.pdb) Protein Data Bank structure file (Figure 8).

DISCUSSION

The rBAT proteins are members of the expanded solute carrier SLC3A family, and are predominantly expressed in the apical membrane of the intestinal and renal absorptive

```

-45  gaaaacaagtgttgttcttaggactgaaggaagcaagaag
1   atgagtttgacaaaatcaccaacatcgacgcggtggagctgcaa
1   M S S T K I T N I D A V E L Q
46  gaaggcatccagaacgcagcctttcatgaagatgatgatgataca
16  E G I Q N A A F H E D D D D T
91  tctaatgcatcaagctctcgagagcagcaggccaccagcgtgtcc
31  S N A S S S R E Q Q A T S V S
136 gtcaccaggccggaggagaacgagtacactcagatcaagccgtac
46  V T R P E E N E Y T Q I K P Y
181 gctgggatgccaaaagggtcctgatggttatactccaggaaaagcc
61  A G M P K E V L M L Y S R K A
226 tgctaccgcgtacctcgagagattattttctggctcatcatcgca
76  C Y R V P R E I I F W L I I A
271 tgcaccctggcccttattgccatgaccattacgattgtggcactg
91  C T L A L I A M T I T I V A L
316 tcacctgatgcatgagctggtggcagctgtctccagctctatcag
106 S P R C M S W W Q L S P V Y Q
361 gtttatccacgatcattcaaaactcgaatgctgatggtgttggaa
121 V Y P R S F K D S N A D G V G
406 gatctcaaaggaatcaaggagaactgagtcattttgagtacctg
136 D L K G I K E K L S H F E Y L
451 aacattaaagcagctctggatcagccctttctacaagtctcccag
151 N I K A V W I S P F Y K S P M
496 agagactttggatgatgatggaggacttcaggcagatcgatcct
166 R D F G Y D V E D F R Q I D P
541 atcttcggaaccatggaagactttgacgagctcctggcaagcatg
181 I F G T M E D F D E L L A S M
586 catgacaaaaggtttaaagctgatcagtgattacatcccgaaccac
196 H D K G L K L I M D Y I P N H
631 accagcgacaaaacacatttggttccaacttagccgtaatggtaca
211 T S D K H I W F Q L S R N G T
676 gagccctataaagactactacatctgggttaactgcacacgagac
226 E P Y K D Y Y I W V N C T R D
721 aagcctcaaacaactgggtgagtgctctcgggaattccacctgg
241 K P P N N W V S V F G N S T W
766 gagtatgatgaggttacgacaacagtgctatttccatcagttctctg
256 E Y D E V R Q Q C Y F H Q F L
811 aaggaacagcctgacctgaactaccgtaacctcagtcgatagag
271 K E Q P D L N Y R N P R V I E
856 gagatgacggacataatccatttctggctgaagaaggggtggat
286 E M T D I I H F W L K K G V D
901 gggttccgcatggacgctgtgaacacacatgcttgaggccacacat
301 G F R M D A V K H M L E A T H
1936 gaatattccaccaatcagcgtttcacctcaacctgcatctgag
646 E Y S T N Q R F H L N H A S E
1981 tgctctgtttctgagaaagcctgctacttgccctgcactggatatt
661 C S V S E K A C Y L P A L D I
2026 ctgtacaagtgtgagatagataagcgacacagtgacaacagataa
676 L Y K C *
946  ttgaaaaatgaaccccaggtcgaccctgaccaagatccatcgact
316  L R N E P Q V D P D Q D P S T
991  gtggacacagagtttgagctgttccatgactacacctacacacaa
331  V D T E F E L F H D Y T Y T Q
1036 caggccttacatgagattctgacaaaactggaggatagatctggac
346  Q G L H E I L T N W R I D L D
1081 gcctacagcagagagcccggccgctacaggttcagtgatagag
361  A Y S R E P G R Y R F M V I E
1126 tgttatgattatgaagaaatagataaaaccatgagggtactatggc
376  C Y D Y E E I D K T M R Y Y G
1171 acgagctatgtcactgaaagcagcttcccctttaacttctatctc
391  T S Y V T E S D F P F N F Y L
1216 ttgtaccttctgatgatctgtcaggaaatcaagccaaaagcttg
406  L Y L P D D L S G N Q A K S L
1261 gttcatttatggatgcaaacatgccaagggaaaatggccaaaac
421  V H L W M S N M P K G K W P N
1306 tgggtggtgggaacatgacaagccacgtataggctcaagtgct
436  W V V G N H D K P R I G S S A
1351 ggtcacagaatatatactgtctataaacatgctgttgttaacgctg
451  G T E Y I R A I N M L L L T L
1396 cctggaactcctacaacatactatggagaagagattggcatggtg
466  P G T P T T Y Y G E E I G M V
1441 aacgtaaagtgtatctgtaattcaggatccttttggacagcatgat
481  N V N V S V I Q D P F G Q H D
1486 ccaagcaacagtcgggacccgcagcgaacaccaatgacagtggtgac
496  P S N S R D P Q R T P M Q W D
1531 gataagctcaatgctggttttagtgacagtgaaaatggcacatgg
511  D K L N A G F S D S E N G T W
1576 ctagatatcgctccagactacagcactgtcaatgtagagcttcag
526  L D I A P D Y S T V N V E L Q
1621 caggctgatgcacactccaccgtttcacagtatcgtgctctgagt
541  Q A D A H S T V S Q Y R A L S
1666 ttgctccgaggggctgagttggcactgtcccaggctgtgttctgc
556  L L R G A E L A L S R G W F C
1711 ttcgtctggagcagtgcaacgtatttgcattttgcgtgagctg
571  F V W S D V N V F A Y L R E L
1756 gatgggctcaacaaagccttctggtggttctaaactcggcgag
586  D G L N K A F L V V L N F G E
1801 gacactacaacagactgtcttcagttactgagttgccagatact
601  D T T T D L S S V T E L P D T
1846 ctactgtgcatttaagcacagtgccaataagtcaaaagactttc
616  L T V H L S T V P I S Q K T F
1891 actaaatccagaattccaacatctcgaggcaaggaatgctccta
631  T K S R I P T S R G Q G M L L
2071 aggtatctattccttgttttatttctggtggtgtcatgctggcta
2116 gtcccgccactttgaaatctattggtccaaaatctcaactcgat
2161 attattgtgatagtgatcgtttgtgttcagtgtaaacctggca
2206 agttgcctggcagatgcaaacgtttttgtcagattaacttttatt
2251 caaaaggaactagcatctatgtaacaaaataaatgtttggtttgt
2296 taagaaaaatctgaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

```

Figure 2. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of rBAT in the intestine of *Cyprinus carpio* L. The sequence contains a single open reading frame which encodes a protein with 679 amino acids. The complete 5'-untranslated region was 42 nucleotides.

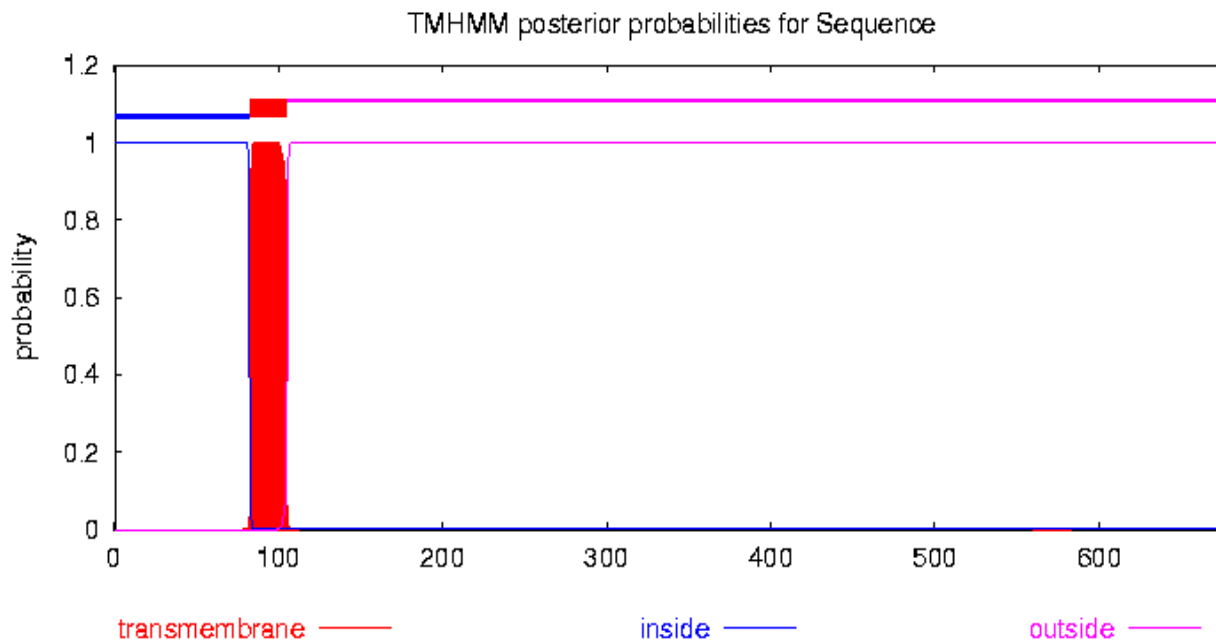


Figure 3. Secondary structure model and the predicted transmembrane domain of rBAT predicted by TMHMM Server v. 2.0. The C-terminal domain of rBAT is predicted to extend from the cell membrane, and the N-terminal domain of rBAT is in the cytoplasm.

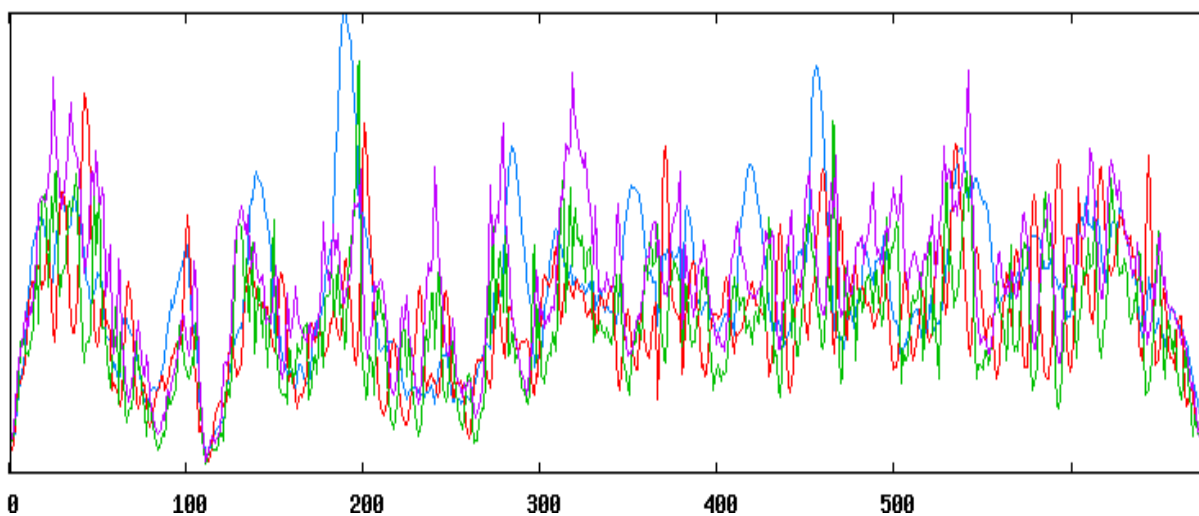


Figure 4. SOPMA result for rBAT from *Cyprinus carpio* L. intestine. The rBAT gene contains 28.13% of α -helix, 16.79% of extended strand, 5.60% of β -turn and 49.48% of random coil. SOPMA, significant improvement in protein secondary structure prediction by consensus prediction from multiple alignments.

epithelial cells. As a member of the basic amino acid transporter family, rBAT plays an important role in the absorption and reabsorption of cystine and basic amino acids such as lysine, arginine and ornithine (Ganapathy 2009). In this study, rBAT was first cloned and characterized in *C. carpio* L., and subsequently used to obtain new insights into the molecular mechanism of the $b^{0,+}$ system. This study performed a foundation for delineating

the molecular evolution and nutritional characteristics between *C. carpio* L. and other fish strains or mammals.

The rBAT subunit from *C. carpio* L. showed high similarity with zebrafish and salmon, as compared with mammalian and avian rBAT homology. The nucleotide sequences of rBAT gene from several species were classified into two major groups. The rBAT subunits of mammals and chicken were clustered into one group.

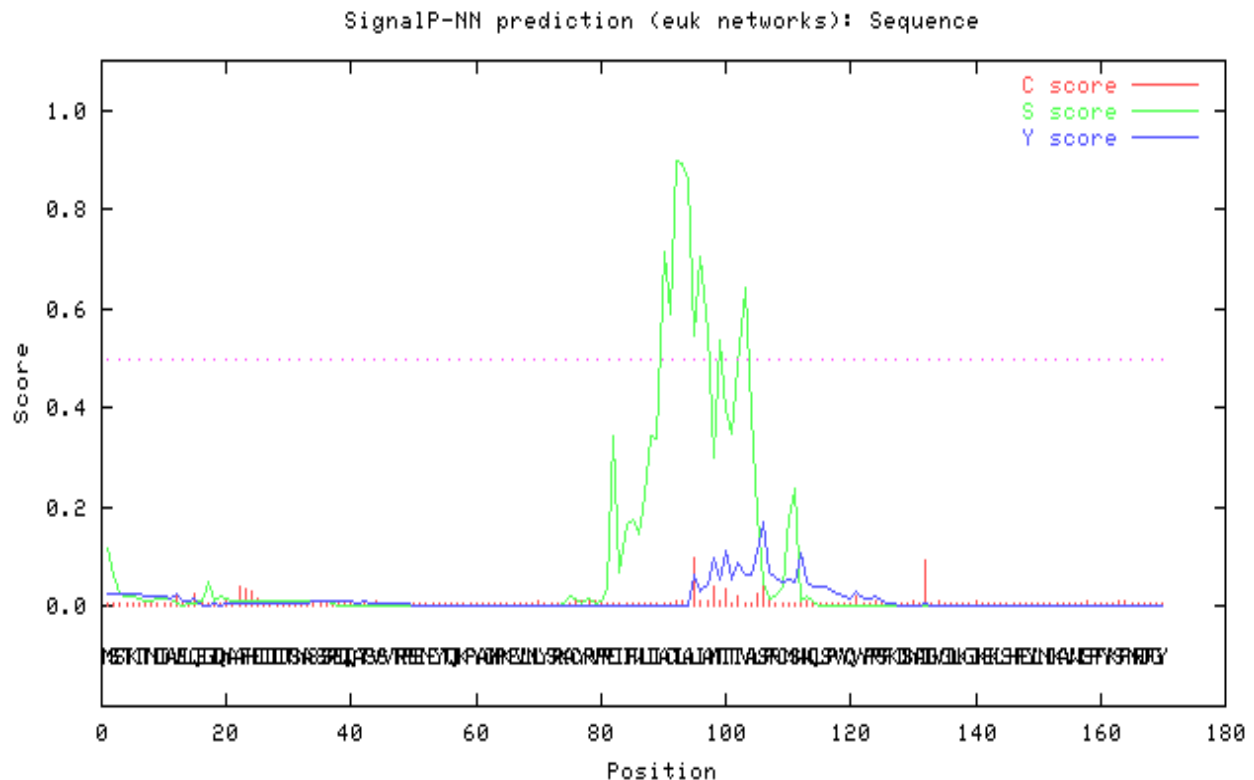


Figure 5. SignalP 3.0 Sercer analysis predicted a signal peptide of carp rBAT positioned in the amino-terminal (N-terminal) sequence (MSSTKITNIDAVELQEGIQNAAFHEDDDTSNASSSREQQATSVSVTRPEENEYEQIKPYAGMPKEVLMLYSRKACYRVPREIFWLIAC TLALIAMTITIVAL).

The rBAT subunit of *C. carpio* L., zebrafish and salmon were clustered into another group. The homology of rBAT was the highest between *C. carpio* L. and zebrafish (Figure 7). The results of comparative sequence analysis showed that the homologous sequences of fishes shared more than 69% amino acid similarity and those from fishes, mammals, and birds shared more than 50% amino acid similarity. Totally, based on the characteristic analysis of the transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains, it was indicated to be the higher conservative between *C. carpio* L. and other species.

The rBAT gene encoded a predicted glycoprotein with a hydrophilic cytoplasmic domain, a single membrane-spanning domain, and a bulky extracellular domain. An internal hydrophobic region (residues 83 to 105) was predicted to be membrane spanning. This structure was unlike other transporters and membrane channels (Newstead et al., 2011), most of them had multiple membrane-spanning regions. Its bulky extracellular domains showed significant homology with the family of α -amylases and α -glucosidases (Gabrisko and Janecek, 2009), which consisted of three domains; the N-terminal, subdomain, and the C-terminal domains. The rBAT subunit from *C. carpio* L. contained three catalytic residues (aspartate: 213 and 289; glutamate: 375, 475

and 476; histidine: 215) of the α -amylases family. This may mean that the eventuality of α -glucosidase activity of true rBATs cannot be unambiguously eliminated. The core of the transporter had seven parallel β -sheets, which form a β barrel at the N-terminal (residues 110 to 212, 280 to 315, and 339 to 581). The subdomain (residues 213 to 279 and 316 to 338) was inserted into the N-terminal domain. The C-terminal domain (residues 582 to 661) followed the N-terminal and subdomains. The rBAT associates the light subunit $b^{0,+}AT$ with a disulfide bridge including conserved cysteine residues (residues 109).

Conclusion

In this study, we obtained the full-length rBAT gene sequence (2370 bp) of *C. carpio* L. Homology analysis and phylogenetic relationship demonstrate that rBAT gene of *C. carpio* L. displayed the highest similarity with *Danio rerio* (83.5%) and lowest similarity with the rat (50.90%). The 3-D protein models for rBAT protein were predicted and the predicting result indicate that rBAT protein of *C. carpio* L. only had a single membrane-spanning domain. This study would refer to further studies on protein expression and specific antibody

caa MESTRITNII .AVELCEGIONA~~REHED~~ITISNASSSEFCCATSVSVI .FFHENEYTQIMFY 60
 Sal MEEG TANGE .AMELCEGIONA~~REHED~~ITTELAVGGREENFTSTVRMSEGFREITYTQIMFY 60
 zeb MSITFVNII .AVELCEGIONA~~REHED~~INNGEIVCIEFFVSSIFHEEEYTQIMFY 33
 hum MAELHSEBSISEMNGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEILEQ~~VEDEGSSIN~~...IMHSTGILGSGEELEKGVOFY 63
 dog MARGIIFRGGALFM~~CACFTNNGEV~~ONEGLERSEEEHEFEFEFERARGFASSEFCGGARGLGLGLGIGLIGARGFY 80
 pig MAELHSEBSISGIMSLGGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEIFERDENFEELFCCHNAVIMIGEGEELLMIIFFY 62
 rat MNEELRIBFSIQMSMNGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEICEQ~~DEI~~...SFTI...FCSNVSTEARHEEEFCLRVVFY 62
 mou MNEELRGRFFIQMSLGGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEIFEQ~~DEI~~...SFTI...FCFNVSTEARHEEEHLRVVFY 64
 mon MAELHSEBSISIRISMNGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEILEQ~~VEDEGSSIN~~...ICHSTISLAS .IIEKGVOFY 63
 zeb MAEEGSEBSISIRNMNGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEIFELLILGSSRHILGHEEENRBNIOFY 37
 cat MAELHSEBSISIGINAGCC~~UNNGEV~~NEDEIFETILLSESFVV...GCCHNIVDILGEGEELVRIVFY 63
 chi NVREELGLLEMLSEBGGV~~ENNGEV~~NERELLIRITITSSQCE...IEMTCAVN~~SEARVARE~~ALQFY 64
 Consenmszack kdsi wa kqa trngivqnedi e qdqp i psep k fy

caa AGMFEVILMINSER~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIACTI~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 140
 Sal AGMFEVILIIYEV~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVCTI~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSIS~~ICNGILNGI~~ 140
 zeb AGMFEVILMINSER~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVACTI~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 133
 hum AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 143
 dog AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 160
 pig AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 142
 rat AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 142
 mou AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 144
 mon AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 143
 zeb AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 137
 cat AGMFEVILFCHSC~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 143
 chi AGMFEVILIKES~~CAEYRVEFE~~IFWIIIVASV~~LDARTT~~IVRISER~~CNEWWOLSEV~~YCYFFSEHSISN~~KICNGILNGI~~ 144
 Consenagwpkavldcfagqzryzpzailfwitvasvl liastiaia spkldcwwqagrycyiypzsfkdsdkdqndkqcl

caa MERTSEFEYINIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~EMHDEQ~~IVELER~~ILIFEGIMLEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 220
 Sal IMKLEHFCYINIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~EMHDEQ~~IVELER~~ILIFEGIMLEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 220
 zeb MERTSEFEYINIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~EMHDEQ~~IVELER~~ILIFEGIMLEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 213
 hum QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 223
 dog QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 240
 pig QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 222
 rat QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECS 222
 mou QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECS 224
 mon QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 223
 zeb QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 217
 cat QERLYID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 223
 chi QERLEHID~~INIKR~~AWISSEFYRSE~~INDE~~RGVELEER~~ILIFEGIM~~LEHED~~IL~~EMHIRGLIKI~~IMDIENETSIDH~~WECL 224
 Consenqdkldyit lniktiawitsfyksslkdfzyqvdfzcidpifqtm dfenllsahhdkqlkklidifprhtsdh wicl

caa SEHCIEYMIYYIWNCTIRK...FENNWSV~~EGNSWHE~~LEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIK 296
 Sal SEGCHACMIYYIWNCTIRK...FENNWSV~~EGNSWHE~~LEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIE 296
 zeb SENYIEYMIYYIWNCTIRK...FENNWSV~~EGNSWHE~~LEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIK 291
 hum SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIT 303
 dog SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIT 320
 pig SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIS 302
 rat SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHANGVIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIS 302
 mou SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHANGVIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIS 304
 mon SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIT 303
 zeb SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIT 297
 cat SENCGRYMIYYIWHCTHENGIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIS 303
 chi SRTFGRYMIYYIWHCTHANGVIT~~IFENNWSV~~EGNSWHELEVEFC~~CYEHC~~ELRECHLLINEFNE~~V~~OBEM~~II~~HEWIC 304
 Consensttqkytdyyiwhdctheng t pprnwlsvygnsswhdeve qcyfhaqlkqpdlnfngpdcqsikail fwl

caa RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 376
 Sal RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 376
 zeb RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 371
 hum RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 383
 dog RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 400
 pig RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 382
 rat RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 382
 mou RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 384
 mon RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 383
 zeb RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 377
 cat RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 383
 chi RGVIGSENAVRELLER~~HLRDE~~CVNTEQ~~DEIVT~~EMSHNHDT~~IT~~OGNHLIVR~~SFRQND~~NSSEEGFYFENC~~DEA~~ 384
 Consenkqvdfqsfidvklleakhlde qvnk qipdvt ysalyhdfitttvgqhddivsfsqndqyszspqyzfngqea

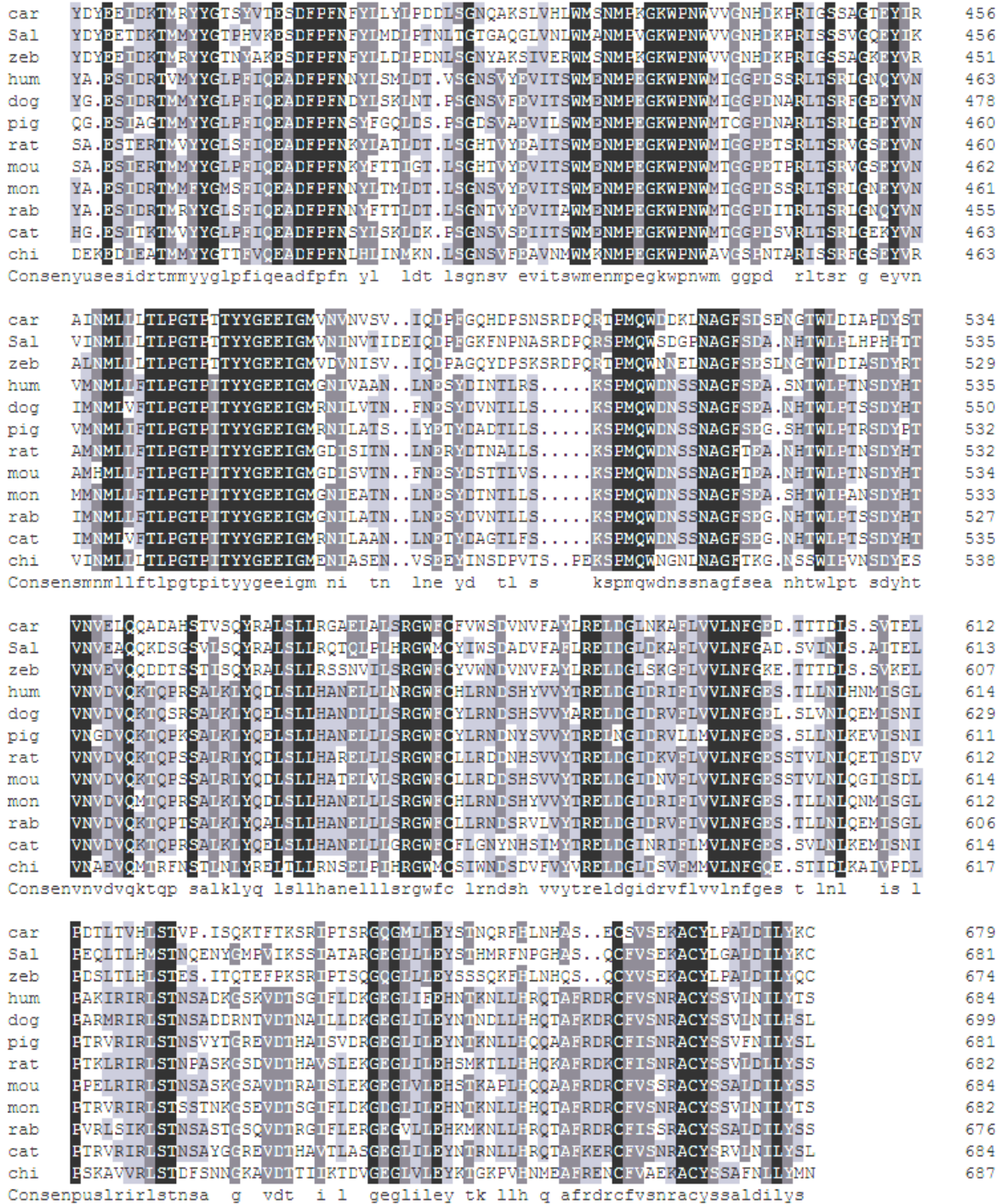


Figure 6. Alignment of deduced amino acid sequences of the rBAT subunit from the *Cyprinus carpio* L. (car), *Salmo salar* (sal), zebrafish (zeb), human (hum), dog (dog), pig (pig), rat (rat), mouse (mou), monkey (mon), rabbit (rab), cattle (cat) and chicken (chi). These protein sequences were aligned using the Clustal program. Identical amino acids are shown on a black background, $\geq 75\%$ similar amino acids on a gray background and $\geq 50\%$ similar amino acids on a light gray background.

preparation and also support further research on the absorption mechanisms of basic amino acids in *C. carpio* L. on molecular level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We want to express our gratitude to Dr. Brian. P. Hedlund

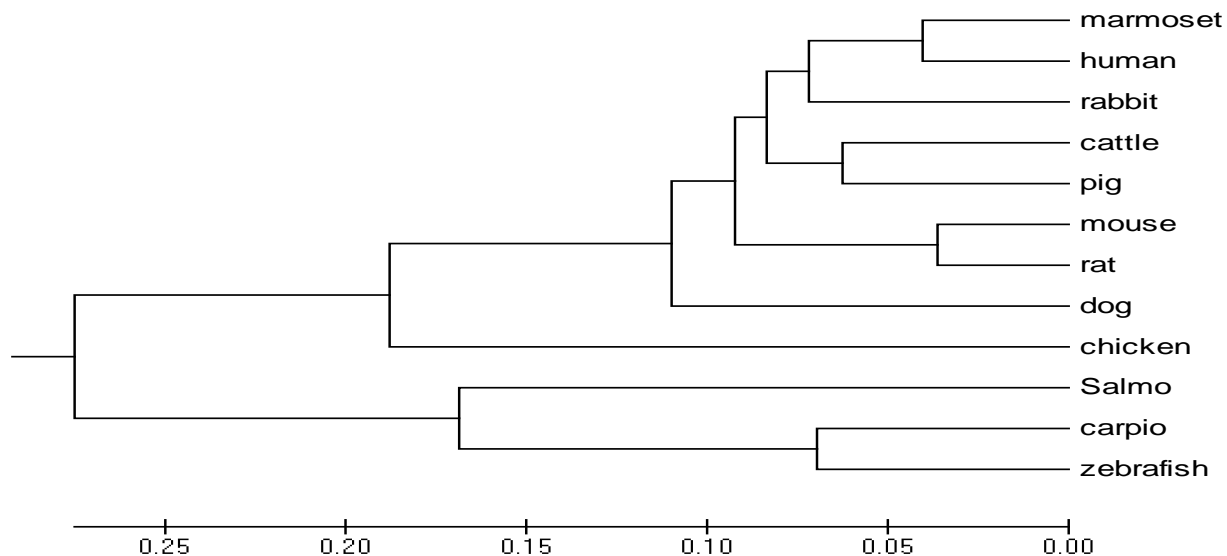


Figure 7. The phylogenetic relationship of fish rBAT and its orthologues. A molecular phylogenetic tree of rBAT was generated based on the alignment of the amino acid sequences by MEGA5. The accession numbers for the sequences are as follows: human, *Homo sapiens* (AAB39829); mouse, *Mus musculus* (AAH13441); rat, *Rattus norvegicus* (NP_058912); rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (AAA31391); marmoset, *Callithrix jacchus* (XP_002757851); dog, *Canis lupus familiaris* (AAG34759); cattle, *Bos taurus* (NP_001029805); pig, *Sus scrofa* (ACB46191); chicken, *Gallus gallus* (XP_426125); salom, *Salmo salar* (ACN11390); zebrafish, *Danio rerio* (XP_685969).

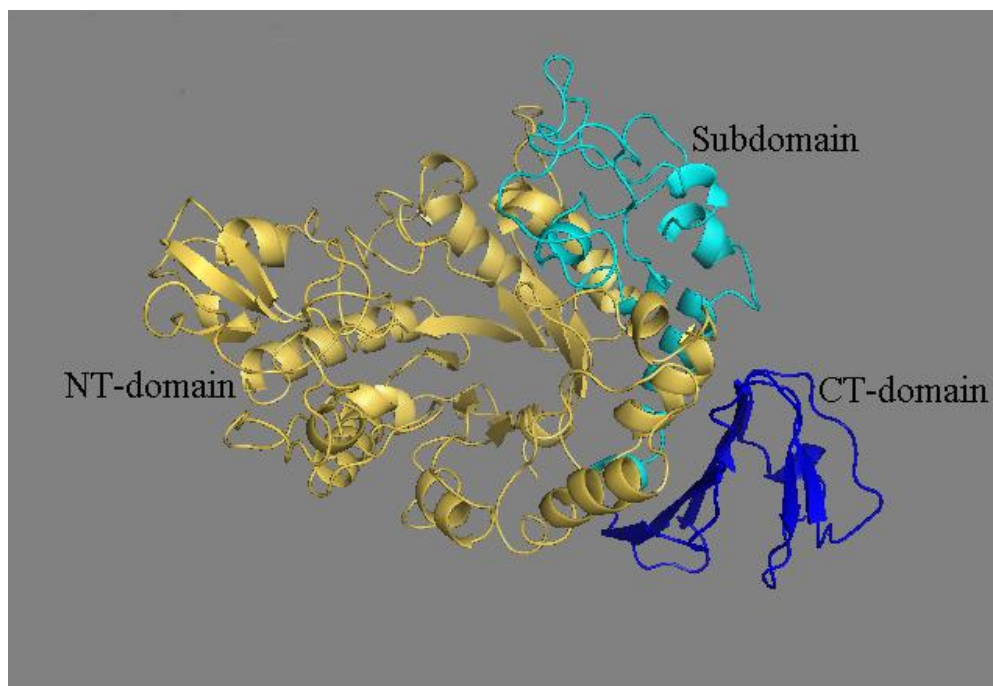


Figure 8. The predicted 3-D structure of rBAT in intestine of *Cyprinus carpio* L. A, The N-terminal, subdomain, and C-terminal domains are shown in yellow, cyan, and blue, respectively. This figure was prepared with PyMOL.

(Associate Professor, School of Life Sciences, University of Nevada Las Vegas) for taking time from his busy

schedule to give assistance in writing this paper. This study was supported by Program Science and Technology

Innovation Talents in Universities of Henan Province (2010HASTIT020).

REFERENCES

- Cheng ZY, Buentello A, Gatlin DM (2011). Effects of dietary arginine and glutamine on growth performance, immune responses and intestinal structure of red drum, *Sciaenops ocellatus*. *Aquaculture*, 319: 247-252.
- Dave MH, Schulz M, Zecevic M, Wagner CA, Verrey F (2004). Expression of heteromeric amino acid transporters along the murine intestine. *J. Physiol.* 558: 597-610.
- Deves RS, Boyd CAR (1998). Transporters for Cationic Amino Acids in Animal Cells: Discovery, Structure, and Function. *Physiol Rev.* 78: 487-545.
- Fender J, Willis MS, Fedoriv Y (2010). Urine Crystals in a 1-Year-Old Male. *Lab. Med.* 41: 388-392.
- Gabrisko M, Janecek S (2009). Looking for the ancestry of the heavy-chain subunits of heteromeric amino acid transporters rBAT and 4F2hc within the GH13 alpha-amylase family. *FEBS J.* 276: 7265-7278.
- Ganapathy V (2009). A traffic signal for heterodimeric amino acid transporters to transfer from the ER to the Golgi. *Biochem. J.* 417: 9-11.
- Grillo MA, Lanza A, Colombatto S (2008). Transport of amino acids through the placenta and their role. *Amino Acids*, 34: 517-523.
- Kanai Y, Endou H (2003). Functional properties of multispecific amino acid transporters and their implications to transporter-mediated toxicity. *J. Toxicol. Sci.* 28: 1-17.
- Newstead S, Drew D, Cameron AD, Postis VLG, Xia XB, Fowler PW, Ingram JC, Carpenter EP, Sansom MSP, Michael J McPherson MJ, Baldwin SA, Iwata S (2011). Crystal structure of a prokaryotic homologue of the mammalian oligopeptide-proton symporters, PepT1 and PepT2. *EMBO J.* 30: 417-426.
- Palacin M, Nunes V, Font-Llitjos M, Jimenez-Vidal M, Fort J, Gasol E, Pineda M, Feliubadalo L, Chillaron J, Zorzano A (2005). The Genetics of Heteromeric Amino Acid Transporters. *Physiology*, 20: 112-124.
- Pickel VM, Nirenberg MJ, Chan J, Mosckovitz R, Udenfriendt S, Tate SS (1993). Ultrastructural localization of a neutral and basic amino acid transporter in rat kidney and intestine. *Cell Biol.* 90: 7779-7783.
- Poppi DA, Quinton VM, Hua, Bureau KDP (2011). Development of a test diet for assessing the bioavailability of arginine in feather meal fed to rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). *Aquaculture*, 314: 100-109.
- Sakamoto S, Chairoungdua A, Nagamori S, Wiriyasermkul P, Promchan K, Tanaka H, Kimura T, Ueda T, Fujimura M, Shigeta Y, Naya Y, Akakura K, Ito H, Endou H, Ichihama T, Kanai Y (2009). A novel role of the C-terminus of b^{0,+}AT in the ER-Golgi trafficking of the rBAT-b^{0,+}AT heterodimeric amino acid transporter. *Biochem J.* 417: 441-448.
- Zhou F, Shao QJ, Xiao JXA, Peng X, Ngandzali BO, Sun Z, Ng WK (2011). Effects of dietary arginine and lysine levels on growth performance, nutrient utilization and tissue biochemical profile of black sea bream, *Acanthopagrus schlegelii*, fingerlings. *Aquaculture*, 319: 72-80.