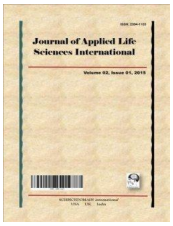

Journal of Applied Life Sciences International

21(3): 1-8, 2019; Article no.JALSI.43532
ISSN: 2394-1103

In-silico Structural Annotation of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in Maize (*Zea mays L.*)

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Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analysed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

Article Information

DOI: 10.9734/JALSI/2019/v21i330108
Editor(s):
(1) Dr. Purnachandra Nagaraju Ganji, Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University School of Medicine, Building C, Room 3025, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, USA.
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Reviewers:
(1) Suelen Alves Vianna, Instituto Agronômico de Campinas, Brazil.
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(4) Divya Singhal, Ambala College of Engineering and Applied Research, India.
Complete Peer review History: http://www.sdiarticle3.com/review-history/43532

Original Research Article

Received 10 September 2018
Accepted 20 November 2018
Published 24 July 2019

ABSTRACT

Aims: The aim of this study was *In-Silico* structural annotation of an amino acid sequence of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in Maize (*Zea mays*) retrieved from NCBI with the accession number PWZ58979.
Study Design: The use of *In-Silico* studies for the structural annotation of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein.
Place and Duration of Study: The research was conducted at the Bioinformatics Laboratory, Chevron Biotechnology Centre, Modibbo Adama University of Yola, Nigeria. Between June 2018 to July 2018.
Methodology: The Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein was retrieved from NCBI, physical and chemical parameters were calculated using ExPASy - ProtParam tool, the server SOPMA was used for secondary structure analysis (helix, sheets, and coils) and I-TASSER was used to obtain the 3D structure.
Results: ExPASy - Prot Param tool computated the various physical and chemical parameters such as molecular weight (MW) 30117.97, total number of positively (+R) 27, negatively charged

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residues (-R) 30, theoretical isoelectric point (pI) 5.96, aliphatic index (AI) 103.67 and grand average hydropathy (GRAVY) 0.293. The SOPMA server was used for calculating the secondary structural features of protein sequences as Alpha helix 39.16%, Extended strand 14.69%, Beta turn 6.64% and Random coil 39.51%. I-Tasser was used for predicting the 3D structure where 2qttA from PDB was used as the template.

Conclusion: This study helped in understanding the structural analysis of the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in maize (*Z. mays)*.

Keywords: Methylthioadenosine nucleosidase; 3D structure; I-Tasser; Maize genome; intraspecific.

1. INTRODUCTION

Maize (Zea mays L.) Poaceae for more than hundreds of years has been a subject of genetics studies [1]. It is one of the most extensively studied plant species in genetics and it is usually used as a research model for genome evolution and genetic diversity [2,3]. The genome is made up of 10 chromosomes with its size approximately 2.3 to 2.7 Gb, and it is a diploid plant [4,5,6,7]. Just like other larger genome of plant species, the *Z. mays* genome is typically made up of nongenic or low-copy DNA that harbors single genes. The repetitive elements are highly responsible for the wide range of diversity within the species which includes ribosomal DNA (rDNA), transposable elements (TEs) and high-copy short-tandem repeats mostly present at the centromeres, telomeres, and heterochromatin knobs [8,9,10,11]. *Z. mays* plant has an extraordinary level of genomic diversity, phenotypic [12] and transcriptomic [13-15]. Looking at the genomic level *Z. mays* exhibits a high level of INDEL Polymorphisms [16,17] and Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms [18]. Averagely the frequency of single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) between two maize inbreds is said to be approximately 1 substitution per 100 bases [19,20]. Recent studies using sequencing data have shown that maize genome exhibits rather variable levels of naturally occurring genetic diversity which depends on the lines involved in the comparison [21,22]. Methylthioadenosine nucleosides catalyses the hydrolysis of the *N*-ribosidic bond of a variety of adenosine-containing metabolites. In the various Methylthioadenosine nucleosides homologs, it has been shown that the formation of the oxocarbenium ion intermediate can progress through either an early or late dissociative transition state [23]. Intraspecific genome variation has been long attributed to changes in the size of heterochromatic DNA outside coding sequences that expanded and contracted the chromosomes (98). Intraspecific variations which are approximately 38.8% from the average of 5.5 pg/2n nuclei have been reported in *Z. mays* [22-28]. *Z. mays* is known to have a large amount of intraspecific sequence variation [19,18] in form of deletion/insertion and single nucleotide polymorphisms. The main mechanism which have effect in the generation of intraspecific genome diversity and in the evolution of the maize genome, segmental duplications and whole genome duplications (polyploidisation), retrotransposition and DNA transposition, expansion/contraction of simple sequence repeats (SSRs) and single base mutations and translocation of genes or gene segments by transposons and capture [22,29]. Intraspecific allelic variation is mostly as a result of qualitative changes that change the nature of the gene products and quantitative changes which also alter the amount of the gene product produced. Quantitative changes in gene expression can be as a result of cis- or trans variations in gene regulation [30].

The present study focused on the *In Silico* Structural Annotation of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in maize (*Z. mays*).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Sequence Retrieval

The amino acid sequence of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 (*Z. mays*) was retrieved from NCBI database (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/protein/1394916517) with the accession number PWZ58979.

2.2 Physiochemical Analysis

The physiochemical properties of Methylth-ioadenosine Nucleosidase protein such as molecular weight, atomic composition, amino acid composition, theoretical pI, instability index, aliphatic index, extinction coefficients and grand average of hydropathocity (GRAVY) was

determined using ProtParam tool (web.expasy.org/cgi-bin/protparam/protparam) [31].

2.3 Secondary Structure Analysis

The server SOPMA was used for secondary structure analysis (helix, sheets, and coils) of the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein (https://npsa-prabi.ibcp.fr/cgi-bin/npsa_automat.pl?page=npsa_sopma.html) [32].

2.4 3D Structural Prediction and Binding Residue Prediction

The 3D structures were predicted with the use of I-TASSER [33] whereas The binding residue of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein was predicted using COACH server [34].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study focused on the *In Silico* Structural Annotation of an amino acid sequence of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in maize (*Z. mays*) from NCBI database with the accession number PWZ58979 and 286 amino acid sequences.

The results presented in Table 1 showed the physicochemical characterisation of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 in maize (*Z. mays*) with 286 amino acid sequence using Expasy's ProtParam server. The Molecular weight (MW), the total number of positively (+R), negatively charged residues (-R), theoretical isoelectric point (pI), extinction coefficient (EC), aliphatic index (AI) and grand average hydropathy (GRAVY) was computed.

The results as presented in Table 2 showed the SOPMA which was used for calculating the structural features of protein sequences such as Alpha helix, 310 helix, Pi helix, Beta bridge, Extended strand, Beta turn, Bend region, Random coil, Ambiguous states and Other states.

Table 1. Physiochemical features of the hypothetical protein

Molecular Weight (Da)	pI	-R	+R	EC	II	AI	GRAVY
30117.97	5.96	30	27	13200	23.10	103.67	0.293

Table 2. Structural features of the methylthioadenosine nucleosidase protein

Parameter	% content	Parameter	% content
Alpha helix	39.16%	Beta turn	6.64%
310 helix	0.00%	Bend region	0.00%
Pi helix	0.00%	Random coil	39.51%
Beta bridge	0.00%	Ambiguous states	0.00%
Extended strand	14.69%	Other states	0.00%

Table. 3. Top five models C-scores from I-TASSER

Structural Models	C-Scores
1	**1.03**
2	**-2.32**
3	**-1.98**
4	**-2.65**
5	**-2.94**

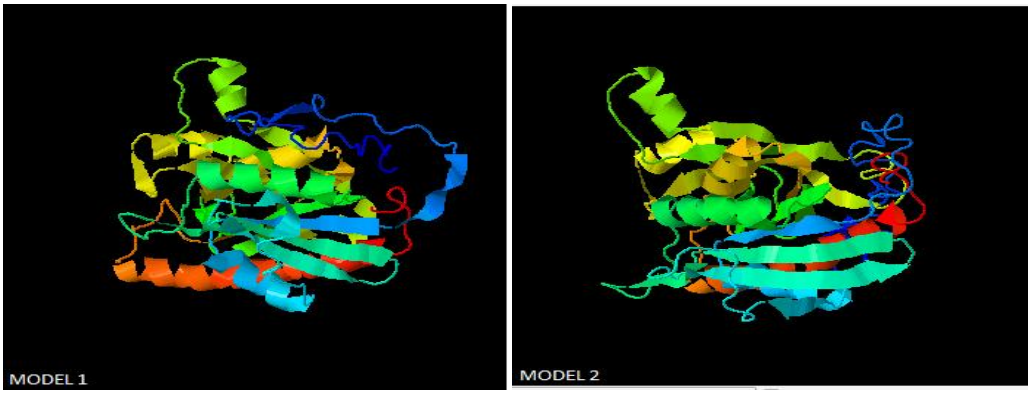
```
>PWZ58979.1 hypothetical protein Zm00014a_031618 [Zea mays]
MAAEAGPISKVLIVVGNPTPCCSLRPKALLCSVSRFAYSVGIGLCSGLDAAMQTEAMPLVHKFKLVEAPA
HESTFPKGAPWVRYHGNYKGLHIDLVLPGKDAVLGVDSVGTVSAALLTSFSIQTLKPDLIINAGTAGGFK
AKGASIGDVFLASDVSFHDRRIPIPVFDMYGIGARKTSAVPNILKELNLKIGKLSTGDSLDMSPQDEKVI
LSNDATVKDMEGAAVAYVADMFSTPAIFVKAVTDIVDGEKPTSEEFLQNLIAVTAALDLAVTKVVDFISG
KRISDL
```

Fig. 1. Fasta sequence of the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein in maize Zm00014a_031618 (*Zea mays*)

```
        10        20        30        40        50        60        70
         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
MAAEAGPISKVLIVVGNPTPCCSLRPKALLCSVSRFAYSVGIGLCSGLDAAMQTEAMPLVHKFKLVEAPA
hhhccccceeeeeeccccccccctttheeehhhhhheeeeeechhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhecccccc
HESTFPKGAPWVRYHGNYKGLHIDLVLPGKDAVLGVDSVGTVSAALLTSFSIQTLKPDLIINAGTAGGFK
ccccccccceeeeetccttcceeeeettccccccccccccchhhhhhhhhhhtcccteeeettcccccc
AKGASIGDVFLASDVSFHDRRIPIPVFDMYGIGARKTSAVPNILKELNLKIGKLSTGDSLDMSPQDEKVI
cttcccteeeeetcccccccccccccccccccccccccchhhhhhhhcceeeecccccccccchhhhh
LSNDATVKDMEGAAVAYVADMFSTPAIFVKAVTDIVDGEKPTSEEFLQNLIAVTAALDLAVTKVVDFISG
hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhtccceeehhhhhhhhttcccchhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhht
KRISDL
cccchhh
```

Fig. 2. Structural prediction of methylthioadenosine nucleosidase protein

The instability index (II) was computed to be 23.10 which make the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein classified as a stable protein because a protein whose instability index is less than 40 is said to be a stable protein [35]. The protein was predicted to have 286 amino acid sequences with several helices which are consistent with the ProtParam results present in Fig. 1 this makes the protein more flexible for folding which is likely to increase the protein interaction. The sequence of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein was found to be rich in alanine. The proteins with very high AIn may show stability in a wide temperature range where lower AIn proteins are not thermally stable and show more flexibility. The amino acid sequences which had most in number are alanine [29] followed by leucine and valine [21], glycine and serine [24] and while the least is tryptophan (1). The Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein had a total number of 30 negatively charged residues (Asp + Glu) and a total number of 27 positively charged residues (Arg + Lys). The molecular formula of the protein was found as $C_{1354}H_{2181}N_{349O401}S_{11}$. The GRAVY was shown to be 0.293GRAVY which shows a better interaction of protein and water is occurring in low GRAVY [36]. The secondary structure of the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein was predicted by SOPMA server showed the random coil was the most predominant (39.51%), followed by alpha helix (39.16%), then extended strand (14.69%) and beta turn (6.64%) was the least. I-Tasser modelling server generated five models e PDB automatically. Model 1 with a C-score of 1.03 is the best model because it has the highest score compared to the remaining four models. So the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase protein structure was compared with model 1 (2qttA from PDB) since it has the highest C score as the best model. Methylthioadenosine nucleosidase helps essentially in multiple metabolic pathways in plants [37].



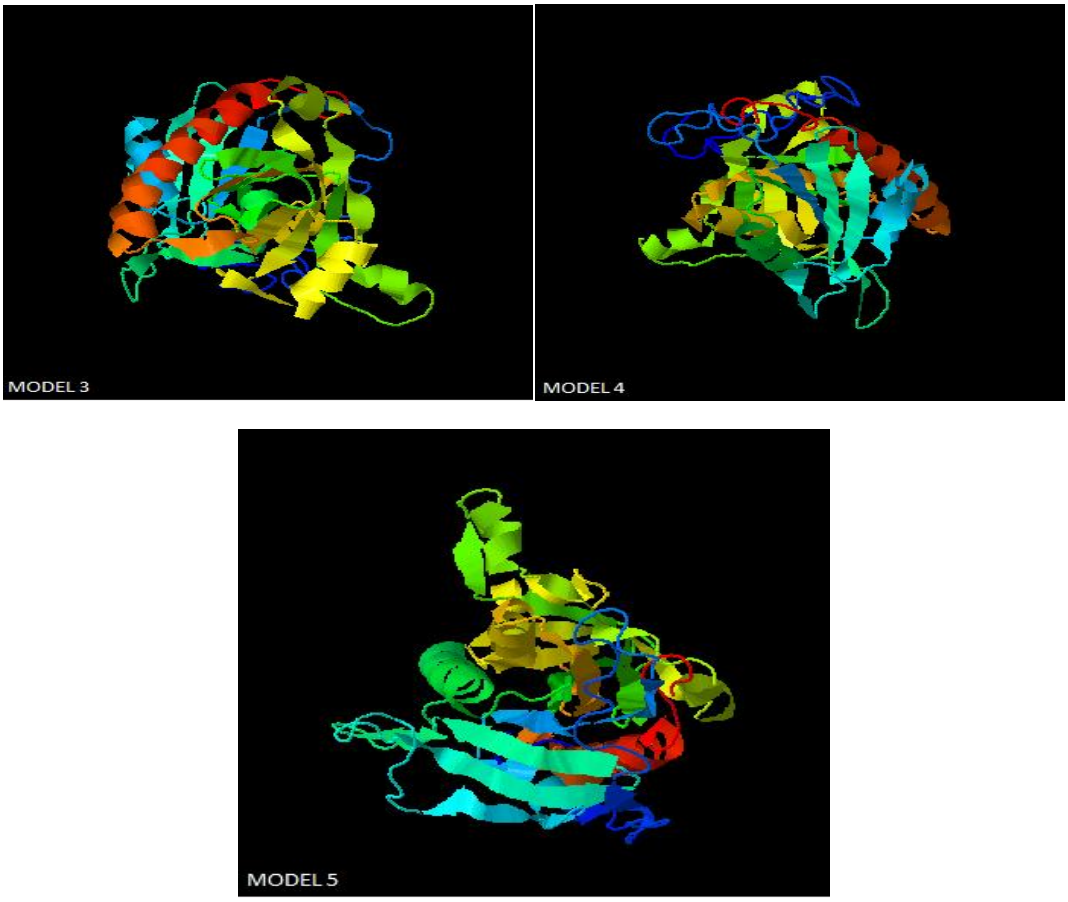


Fig. 3. Top five models predicted by I-TASSER

Fig. 4. Structural superposition of methylthioadenosine nucleosidase protein with model 1 (2qttA from PDB)

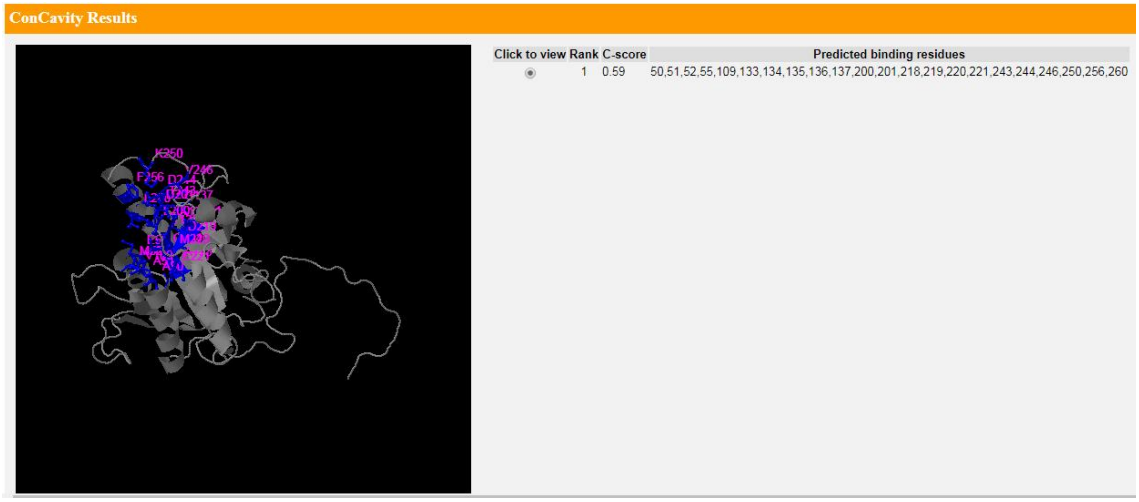


Fig. 5. Protein ligand interaction of Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase enzyme

4. CONCLUSION

This study has helped in understanding the structural analysis of the Methylthioadenosine Nucleosidase Protein Zm00014a_031618 (*Zea mays*). Model 1 with a C-score of 1.03 is considered to be the best model as it has the highest score in comparison to the remaining four models. So, the Methylthio-adenosine Nucleosidase protein structure was compared with model 1 (2qttA from PDB) since it has the highest C score as the best model.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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Peer-review history:
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