OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

ISSN: 2329-6682
Gene Technology

Commentary

Exploring Genome Editing and Type I *CRISPR* for Targeted Genome Modifications

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DESCRIPTION

The revolutionary *CRISPR*-Cas9 system has emerged as a powerful tool for genome editing, opening up new possibilities for genetic research, biotechnology, and therapeutic applications. While the Type II *CRISPR* system, primarily associated with the Cas9 protein, has dominated the genome editing field, the lesser-known Type I *CRISPR* system offers its unique advantages and potential for precise genome editing. This article delves into the capabilities of the Type I *CRISPR* system and explores its applications in genome editing. The Type I CRISPR system is one of the two major *CRISPR* systems found in nature, with Type II being the more widely used and recognized. Unlike Type II, which relies on a single protein (Cas9) for DNA cleavage and editing, Type I systems employ multiple Cas proteins to accomplish the same task. Type I systems are prevalent in various bacteria and archaea, each having its own distinct set of Cas proteins. Type I *CRISPR* systems is their ability to target and cleave DNA in a more complex, multipartite manner compared to Type II systems. They use a multi-protein complex known as a Cascade (*CRISPR*-associated complex for antiviral defense) along with a Cas3 nuclease to achieve DNA interference and editing. Cascade identifies specific DNA sequences based on a complementary spacer region and a Protospacer Adjacent Motif (PAM), guiding the Cas3 nuclease to degrade the target DNA.

Advantages of type 1 *CRISPR* system

Precise targeting: The Type I *CRISPR* system is highly precise in DNA targeting due to the presence of both the spacer region and the PAM, ensuring specific binding to the desired genomic sequence.

Reduced off-target effects: The multipartite nature of the system, involving multiple Cas proteins and the Cascade complex, enhances the accuracy of DNA cleavage, thereby minimizing off-target effects.

Enhanced DNA degradation: The involvement of Cas3 in DNA degradation results in more efficient removal of the target DNA making it suitable for applications requiring the complete elimination of a specific gene or sequence.

Applications of Type I *CRISPR* system in genome editing

Targeted gene knockout: The Type I *CRISPR* system can be used to create gene knockouts with high precision. By designing a guide RNA that matches the target gene and providing the appropriate PAM sequence, can efficiently disrupt or delete the gene of interest.

Gene regulation: Type I *CRISPR* can also be utilized for fine-tuning gene expression. By modifying the PAM sequence and incorporating a catalytically inactive *Cas3* mutant can control gene expression without altering the underlying DNA sequence.

Epigenome editing: The Type I *CRISPR* system offers a unique advantage in epigenome editing. By targeting specific chromatin regions with modified PAM sequences, can alter the epigenetic marks, such as DNA methylation or histone modifications, to regulate gene expression without changing the DNA sequence itself. Phage Defense and Antibacterial Applications: In nature, Type I *CRISPR* systems function as immune defenses against phages and other foreign genetic material. By harnessing this natural function, these systems can be engineered to protect bacteria against harmful viruses, with potential applications in biotechnology and agriculture.

While the Type I *CRISPR* system holds immense promise for genome editing, it also presents certain challenges. One significant hurdle is the complexity of the system, involving multiple *Cas* proteins and a Cascade complex, which can make it more difficult to engineer and manipulate for specific applications. Additionally, the diversity of Type I systems in different organisms requires tailored approaches for each. Efforts are underway to simplify and standardize the Type I *CRISPR* system for wider adoption. The developing engineered *Cas* proteins and synthetic guide RNAs that improve the system's efficiency and user-friendliness. Type I *CRISPR*-based genome editing with applications in diverse fields. These tools may be

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Received: 02-Oct-2023, Manuscript No. RDT-23-23702; **Editor assigned:** 05-Oct-2023, Pre QC No. RDT-23-23702 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 19-Oct-2023, QC No RDT-23-23702; **Revised:** 26-Oct-2023, Manuscript No. RDT-23-23702 (R); **Published:** 02-Nov-2023, DOI: 10.35248/2329-6682.23.12.251

Citation: Tang L (2023) Exploring Genome Editing and Type I *CRISPR* for Targeted Genome Modifications. Gene Technol.11:251.

particularly valuable in the development of advanced therapies for genetic diseases, agricultural improvements, and synthetic biology.

The Type I *CRISPR* system, though less well-known than its Type II counterpart, offers unique advantages for genome editing applications. Its precision, reduced off-target effects and enhanced DNA degradation capacities position it as a promising contender for a spectrum of genetic investigations, biotechnological uses and therapeutic interventions. Candidate for various genetic research, biotechnological applications, and therapeutic interventions. The intricacies of Type I *CRISPR* systems and work towards their simplification and standardization, we can anticipate exciting developments in the field of genome editing, driven by this powerful tool.