

Original article

# Computational Analyses of Amino Acid Molecules in PDE7A for Elucidating their Evolutionary Diversity and Protein Interactions in Multiple Mammalian Species

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## ARTICLE INFO

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Received: 09-08-2024

Accepted: 01-10-2024

Published: 06-10-2024

**Keywords.** PDE7A, Amino Acid Sequence, Mice, Rats, Camels.

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## ABSTRACT

This study explores the protein interactions and evolutionary conservation of phosphodiesterase type 7A (PDE7A) across different species, to identify the species with the highest similarity to humans, which has important applications in many fields such as pharmacology, comparative biology, biochemistry, oncology, endocrinology, and reproductive sciences. Computational analyses of the amino acid sequence of this enzyme revealed a common evolutionary relationship between the selected species and humans, but camels show the most variable evolutionary lineage in their PDE7A protein over time. In searches for homologous proteins, identity analysis results for four returned amino acid sequences were as follows:  $91.81 \pm 4.25\%$  (mean  $\pm$  SD), while the similarity between the sequences was  $94.66\% \pm 4.55$ , and analysis of BLOSUM62 (Blocks Substitution Matrix 62) yielded a minimum value of  $0.901 \pm 0.055$ . All species have closely related physicochemical properties. The computational analyses revealed conserved amino acid residues of the gene across the studied species, which likely contribute to the similar expression patterns of the PDE7A gene in various animals. The findings also suggest that rats are a suitable model for gaining deeper insights into human biology.

**Cite this article.** El Osta N, El Mabrouk Z, Algriany O. Computational Analyses of Amino Acid Molecules in PDE7A for Elucidating their Evolutionary Diversity and Protein Interactions in Multiple Mammalian Species. Alq J Med App Sci. 2024;7(4):934-944. <https://doi.org/10.54361/ajmas.247406>

## INTRODUCTION

Cyclic nucleotides, including cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), are important intracellular second messengers that regulate various cellular processes. The cAMP pathway is involved in hormone signaling, glycogen, and lipid metabolism, and its impact on gene and protein expression [1, 2]. Meanwhile, it is also implicated in several conditions and diseases, such as inflammation [3], myocardial atrophy [4], endocrine diseases, and cancers [5] involving the pituitary [6], thyroid [7], and testes [8]. PDEs are ubiquitous enzymes and the only way for a cell to terminate a cyclic nucleotide signal, at least in eukaryotic cells [9]. Furthermore, PDEs are largely responsible for restricting cyclic nucleotide signals to specific locations and preventing their diffusion throughout the cell [10]. Therefore, they have been exploited pharmacologically to modulate cyclic nucleotide signaling in a way that prevents or treats certain human diseases.

One of the most attractive members of the cAMP-specific PDEs recently is PDE7, as PDE7 has a high affinity for cAMP with a Michaelis constant value ( $K_m$ ) between 0.1 and 0.2  $\mu\text{M}$  [11], and its inhibitors have no side effects in the digestive system like PDE4 inhibitors [12]. This family is classified into two types, PDE7A and PDE7B which share more than 70% sequence similarity and have been found in mice, rats, and humans. Each enzyme is thought to have a specialized role in a particular tissue due to its uneven distribution [13]. However, selective inhibitors for the PDE7 family are not currently available, the regulators are still unknown, and physiological functions remain unclear [14]. Therefore, many questions remain to be answered, including whether this gene is conserved in mammals regarding evolutionary mechanisms that influence function over time.

PDE7A has been shown to be activated by the cAMP/PKA signaling pathway in neurons [15], testicular Leydig cells [16], and immune cells [17]. Different proteins are involved in multiple molecular interactions to ensure appropriate pathway activation. Thus, studying protein-protein interactions (PPIs) is important to know different biochemical cascades in signaling pathways and to understand how proteins function in cells or organisms [18]. Moreover, a wide range of human illnesses, including infectious diseases, cancer, and neurological diseases, are associated with abnormal PPIs [19]. The targets of conventional drugs are usually receptors, ion channels, or enzymes. Recently, research has shown that PPIs are a promising target for intervention in refractory conditions and that regulating them is a workable strategy for medication development. To this end, various bioinformatics tools have been widely used to simplify the visualization of molecular interactions occurring in protein networks. At present, PDE7A serves as an attractive drug target against central nervous system diseases [20] and chronic lymphocytic leukemia [21]. Therefore, this study conducted computational analyses of the protein PDE7A sequences retrieved for mice, rats, camels, and humans to better understand the evolutionary diversity and protein interaction variations associated with the gene in the selected species to facilitate their exploitation as models for human PDE7A. Consequently, our work will soon offer an appropriate platform for further molecular docking research by other researchers.

## METHODS

In this paper, many bioinformatics tools were applied to the determination of the evolutionary relationship of the PDE7A protein among species, examination of similarities of sequences, determination the physicochemical properties of a PDE7A peptide, and analysis of PPI.

### *Determination of the evolutionary relationship of the PDE7A protein among species.*

To identify the homologous genes of PDE7A within or between selected species, we used the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) database, which can be accessed at [URL: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/); [22]. The analysis involved the use of the sequences of the amino acid retrieved for the selected species including human (NP\_001229247.1), mouse (NP\_001116231.1), rat (NP\_112342.1), and camel (XP\_010985465.2). One protein sequence per gene was selected and downloaded in FASTA format. Because the PDE7A protein possesses more than one reference sequence, we chose only the longest isoform for every entry. The isoform (c) of PDE7A protein from human was used as a query sequence. For the sequences alignment, the retrieved sequences were subjected to alignment and hierarchical clustering using Multalin version 5.4.1 [23], <http://www-archbac.u-psud.fr/genomics/multalin.html>. The result was confirmed using MUSCLE in Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis (MEGA 11) software [24], <https://www.megasoftware.net/>, and the cluster method used was UPGMA. The phylogenetic tree was constructed using the Maximum Likelihood method and the Dayhoff matrix-based model [25]. There was a total of 471 positions in the final dataset of the retrieved sequences, which were analyzed in 1000 bootstraps using MEGA-11 software. The evolutionary distance of PDE7A protein sequences was estimated from the alignment data by a bootstrap procedure (p-distance model) using MEGA 11 software [26].

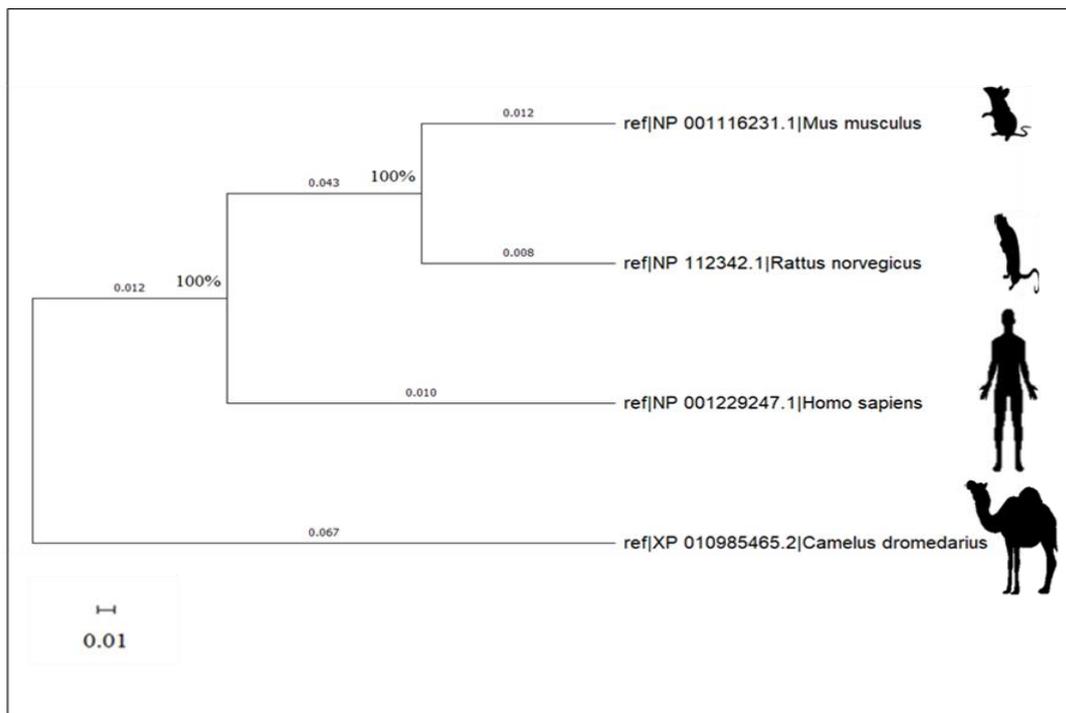
There was also a determination of sequences identities and similarities using Sequence Identity and Similarity (SIAS) program from the Immunomedicine Group at Universidad Complutense Madrid, Spain [24], (<http://imed.med.ucm.es/Tools/sias.html>), using the default BLOSUM62 scoring matrices, and the cost for creating the gap,  $P_o$  was set at 10 and the cost for extending the gap,  $P_e$  was set at 0.5. The physicochemical properties of a PDE7A peptide including the molecular weight (Mw) and theoretical values of isoelectric point (pI) were calculated using the compute pI/Mw tool ([https://web.expasy.org/compute\\_pi/](https://web.expasy.org/compute_pi/)), the protein hydrophobicity and netcharge were predicted by using the Expasy ProtParam online server (<https://web.expasy.org/protparam/>); [27]. To search for known and predicted PPIs and functional enrichment, the proteins were imported into the online search tool version 12.0 of the STRING database [28]; <http://string-db.org>. Interactions between proteins reflect functional associations.

**Statistical analysis**

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26 was used to generate descriptive statistics of the amino acid frequencies and the physical and chemical properties of PDE7A.

**RESULTS**

This study retrieved the amino acid sequence of humans (NP\_001229247.1), compared with mice (NP\_001116231.1), rats (NP\_112342.1), and camels (XP\_010985465.2). Phylogenetical diversity analysis indicated that the animals studied shared a common evolutionary relationship with humans regarding the PDE7A amino acid sequences (Figure 1). Camels show the most variable evolutionary lineage in their PDE7A protein over time. The result also showed that the most conserved bases fell between 41 and 343 bases (Figure 2).



**Figure 1.** The dendrogram of evolutionary relationships using the PDE7A protein sequences among the selected species. Mouse (*Mus musculus*), rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), human (*Homo sapiens*), and camel (*Camelus dromedarius*). The Maximum Likelihood method and Dayhoff matrix-based model were used to construct the evolutionary relationship. The evolutionary rate differences between sites were modeled using a discrete Gamma distribution [5 categories (+G, parameter = 4.8621)]. The branch lengths of the scaled-up tree were expressed as the number of substitutions per site.

Regarding the evolutionary distance of PDE7A protein sequences between species, the values in Table 1 indicate the evolutionary divergence between humans and other species. The divergence values of mice, rats, and camels with humans are 0.0103, 0.0096, and 0.012, respectively. Table 2, Table 3Table 4) presented the identity, similarities, and BLOSUM62 comparisons, respectively. Four amino acid sequences returned exact matches in the sequence identity analysis results (min = 86.25%, max = 98.13%, and mean ± SD = 91.81 ± 4.253%). While the similarity between the sequences was (min = 88.12%, max = 100%, and mean ± SD = 94.66%± 4.555%). Analysis of BLOSUM62 yielded (min = 0.83, max = 0.98, and mean ± SD = 0.901 ± 0.055).

**Table 1.** Estimates of evolutionary divergence between sequences.

| Organism | Evolutionary divergence between sequences |       |       |       |
|----------|---|-------|-------|-------|
|          | 1   | 2     | 3     | 4     |
| Human    |   | 0.010 | 0.009 | 0.012 |
| Mouse    | 0.058                                     |       | 0.006 | 0.014 |
| Rat      | 0.051                                     | 0.018 |       | 0.013 |
| Camel    | 0.076                                     | 0.116 | 0.106 | 0.012 |

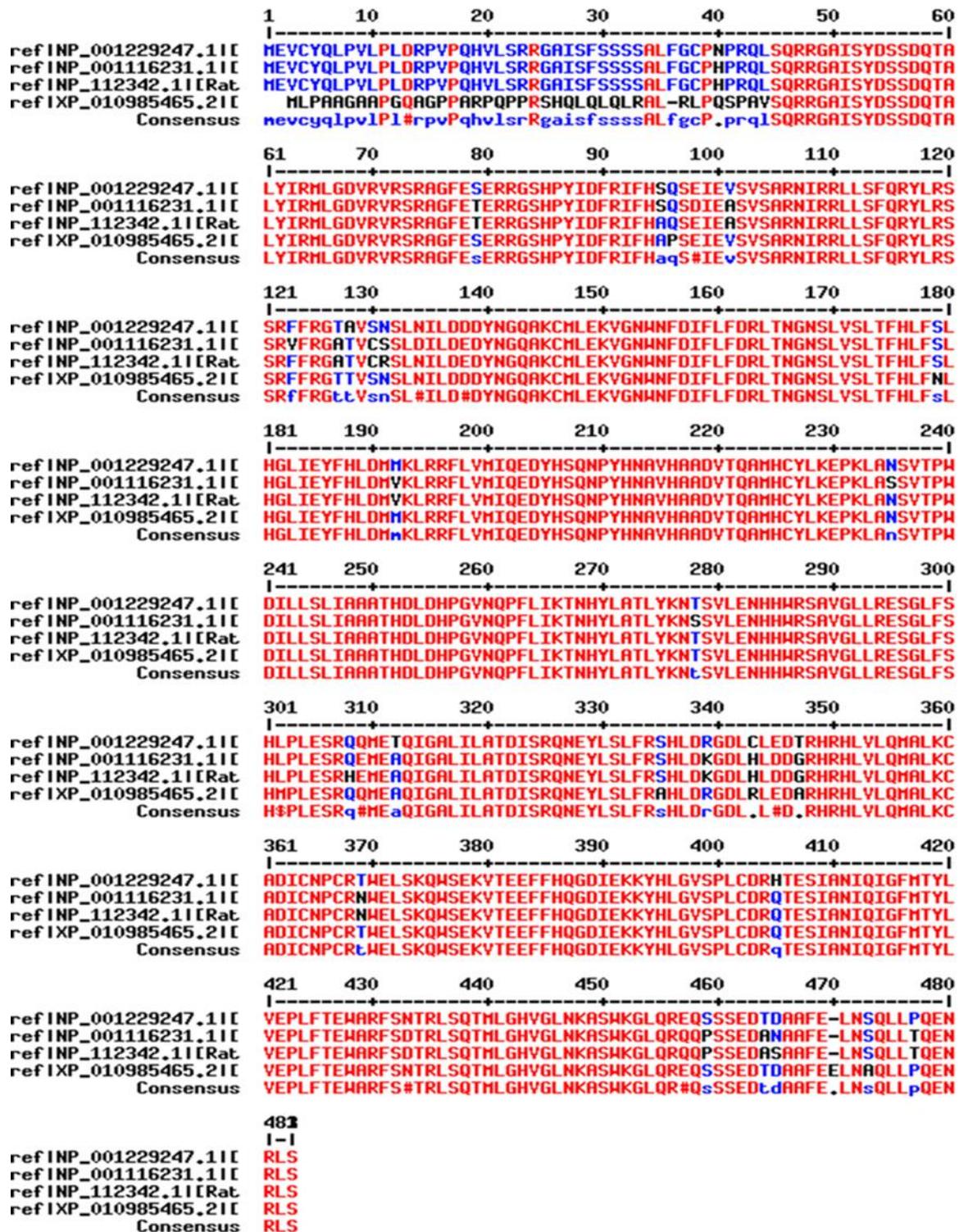


Figure 2. Multiple sequence alignment of PDE7A amino acid sequences retrieved for the species. The alignment was performed using MULTALIN. Each row represents one of the aligned amino acid sequences. ref |NP\_001229247.1, human PDE7A; ref |NP\_001116231.1, mouse PDE7A; ref |NP\_112342.1, rat PDE7A; ref |XP\_010985465.2, camel. The columns represent the locations of the sequence. The consensus sequence, "Consensus," is displayed in the last row. Highly conserved amino acids ( $\geq 90\%$ ) are displayed in red, low consensus regions ( $\geq 50\%$ ) are displayed in blue, and neutral regions are displayed in black. The dot indicates that the position does not contain any conserved residues, # indicates one of these residues NDQEB.

**Table 2. Comparative percentages of exact matches between PDE7A amino acid sequences aligned to specific species**

| Organism | Human  | Mouse  | Rat    | Camel |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Human    | 100%   |        |        |       |
| Mouse    | 94.19% | 100%   |        |       |
| Rat      | 94.81% | 98.13% | 100%   |       |
| Camel    | 90.2%  | 86.25% | 87.29% | 100%  |

Minimum = 86.25%, Maximum = 98.13%, Mean = 91.81%, and Standard deviation = 4.253%.

**Table 3. Quantitative comparison of the functional resemblances between the chosen species aligned PDE7A amino acid sequences**

| Organism | Human  | Mouse  | Rat    | Camel |
|----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Human    | 100%   |        |        |       |
| Mouse    | 98.54% | 100%   |        |       |
| Rat      | 95.64% | 98.54% | 100%   |       |
| Camel    | 90.83% | 88.12% | 88.75% | 100%  |

Minimum = 88.12%, Maximum = 100%, Mean = 94.66%, and Standard deviation = 4.555%.

**Table 4. Global block substitution matrix (BLOSUM62) similarities among the selected species aligned PDE7A amino acid sequences**

| Organism | Human | Mouse | Rat  | Camel |
|----------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Human    | 1     | 0.94  | 0.94 | 0.87  |
| Mouse    | 0.94  | 1     | 0.98 | 0.84  |
| Rat      | 0.95  | 0.98  | 1    | 0.85  |
| Camel    | 0.86  | 0.83  | 0.84 | 1     |

Minimum = 0.83, Maximum = 0.98, Mean = 0.901, and Standard deviation = 0.055.

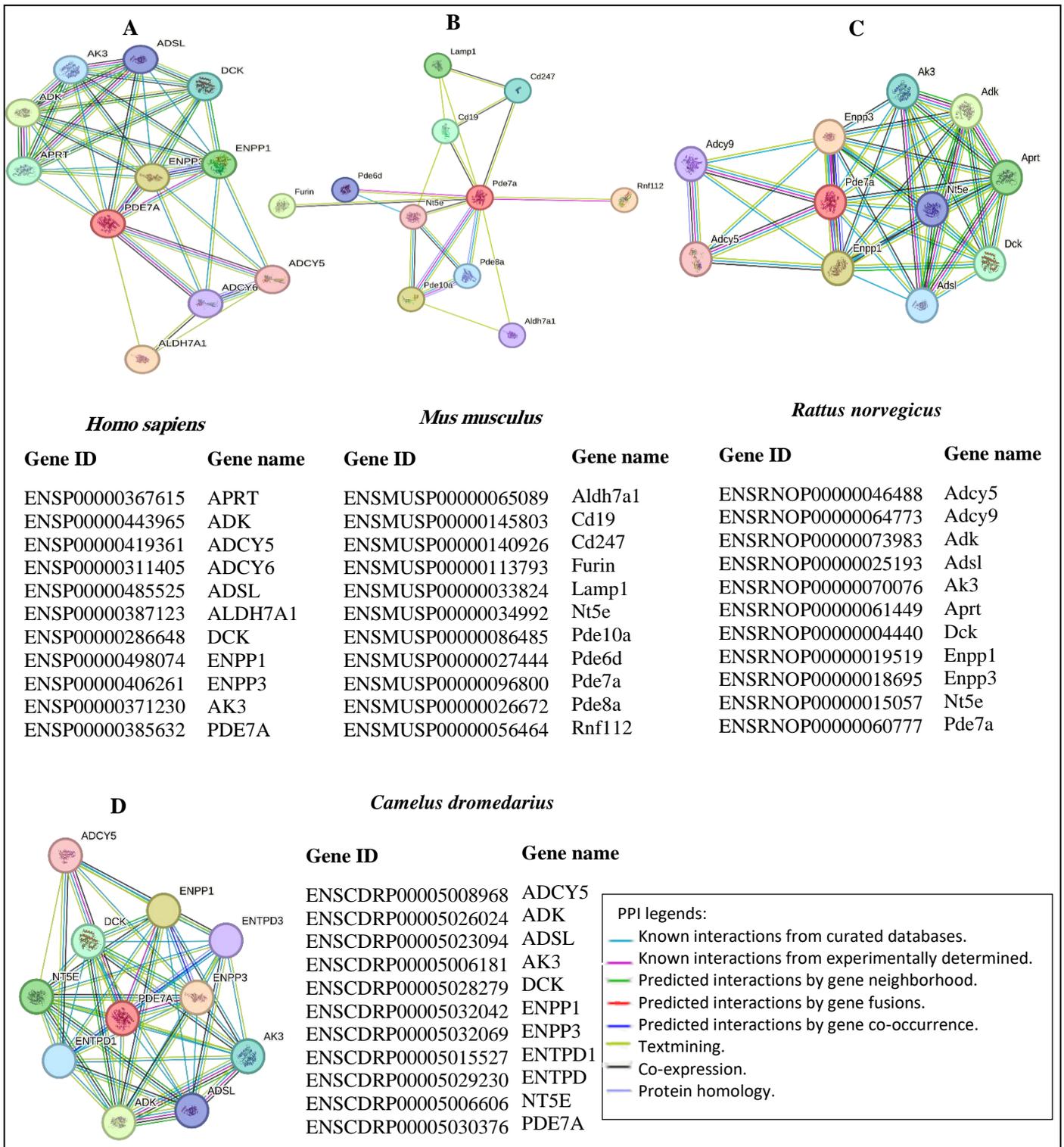
#### **Analysis of the physicochemical properties and protein-protein interactions**

The physicochemical properties of the amino acid sequences measured included protein formula, molecular mass, pI, net electric charge, and hydrophobicity of amino acid residues. Table 5 lists Mw of protein sequences as follows: (min = 54.9 Da, max = 55.5 Da, mean = 55.3 Da, and standard deviation = 0.22 Da), the IP of the protein sequence (min = 6.93, max = 7.78, mean = 6.93, and standard deviation = 0.37), and hydrophobicity as follows (min = 44.61%, max = 46.67%, mean = 45.48%, and standard deviation = 0.86%). Although the physicochemical properties of the species are closely related, the results of their protein-protein interactions indicate that PDE7A interactomes are different (**Error! Reference source not found.**A and B).

**Table 5. The physicochemical properties of the amino acid sequences of PDE7A of the selected species by the ProtParam tool.**

| Species            | Formula   | Mass (Da) | Isoelectric point | Net charge pH (7.4) | Hydrophobicity (%) |
|--------------------|---|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Human              | C <sub>2463</sub> H <sub>3830</sub> N <sub>708</sub> O <sub>719</sub> S <sub>20</sub> | 55.504    | 7.10              | -1.09               | 44.61              |
| Mouse              | C <sub>2455</sub> H <sub>3818</sub> N <sub>706</sub> O <sub>716</sub> S <sub>19</sub> | 55.288    | 6.93              | -2.05               | 45.23              |
| Rat                | C <sub>2465</sub> H <sub>3829</sub> N <sub>711</sub> O <sub>712</sub> S <sub>19</sub> | 55.425    | 7.38              | -0.01               | 45.44              |
| Camel              | C <sub>2440</sub> H <sub>3806</sub> N <sub>710</sub> O <sub>708</sub> S <sub>18</sub> | 54.991    | 7.78              | 1.19                | 46.67              |
| Minimum            |   | 54.991    | 6.930             | -2.05               | 44.61              |
| Maximum            |   | 55.504    | 7.78              | 1.19                | 46.67              |
| Mean               |   | 55.302    | 7.29              | -0.49               | 45.48              |
| Standard deviation |   | 0.22      | 0.37              | 1.39                | 0.86               |

The interaction network of PDE7A may reveal its involvement in various biological processes. To this end, the webtool STRING was used for the construction of PDE7A protein interaction networks for four animal species. The functional enrichment analysis and PDE7A protein-protein interaction networks for the selected species are shown in Figure 3, and the different predicted functional partners in humans, mice, rats, and camels are shown in Table 6-9), respectively.



**Figure 3. Functional enrichment analysis and PDE7A protein-protein interaction networks for the selected species. The interactive network diagram is used to display highly rated interactors. Proteins are represented by network nodes, and edges represent predicted functional enrichment associations. (A) The protein-protein interaction (PPI) network in humans; (B) The PPI network in the mouse; (C) The PPI network in rats; and (D) The PPI network in camel. The PPI legends indicate the type of interaction evidence. Proteins with known or anticipated 3D structures are associated with full notes, whereas empty notes are proteins with no known 3D structure.**

**Table 8**

**Table 6. The predicted functional partner of PDE7A in Homo sapiens.**

| Node 1 | Node 2  | Node 1 annotation    | Node 2 annotation  | Score |
|--------|---------|----------------------|--|-------|
| PDE7A  | ADCY5   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylate cyclase type 5.  | 0.804 |
| PDE7A  | ADCY6   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylate cyclase type 6.  | 0.818 |
| PDE7A  | ADK     | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenosine kinase.  | 0.925 |
| PDE7A  | ADL     | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylosuccinate lyase.  | 0.901 |
| PDE7A  | AK3     | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Phosphotransferase AK3.  | 0.904 |
| PDE7A  | ALDH7A1 | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde dehydrogenase.                      | 0.949 |
| PDE7A  | APRT    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenine phosphoribosyltransferase.                                 | 0.909 |
| PDE7A  | DCK     | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Deoxycytidine kinase.  | 0.905 |
| PDE7A  | ENPP1   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/ phosphodiesterase family member 1. | 0.924 |
| PDE7A  | ENPP3   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/ phosphodiesterase family member 3. | 0.926 |

**Table 7. The predicted functional partner of PDE7A in Mus musculus.**

| Node 1 | Node 2  | Node 1 annotation    | Node 2 annotation                              | Score |
|--------|---------|----------------------|--|-------|
| PDE7A  | Aldh7a1 | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Alpha-aminoadipic semialdehyde dehydrogenase1. | 0.515 |
| PDE7A  | Cd19    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | B-lymphocyte antigen CD19.                     | 0.631 |
| PDE7A  | Cd247   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | T-cell surface glycoprotein CD3 zeta chain.    | 0.609 |
| PDE7A  | Furin   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Furin.   | 0.667 |
| PDE7A  | Lamp1   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Lysosome-associated membrane glycoprotein 1.   | 0.66  |
| PDE7A  | Nt5e    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 5'-nucleotidase.                               | 0.506 |
| PDE7A  | Pde10a  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 3',5'-cyclic phosphodiesterase 10A.            | 0.684 |
| PDE7A  | Pde6d   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 3',5'-cyclic phosphodiesterase subunit delta.  | 0.55  |
| PDE7A  | Pde8a   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 3',5'-cyclic phosphodiesterase 8A.             | 0.581 |
| PDE7A  | Rnf112  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | RING finger protein 112.                       | 0.72  |

**Table 8. The predicted functional partner of PDE7A in Rattus norvegicus.**

| Node 1 | Node 2 | Node 1 annotation    | Node 2 annotation  | Score |
|--------|--------|----------------------|--|-------|
| PDE7A  | Adcy5  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylate cyclase type 5.  | 0.781 |
| PDE7A  | Adcy9  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylate cyclase 9 (Predicted).                                   | 0.786 |
| PDE7A  | Adk    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenosine kinase.  | 0.923 |
| PDE7A  | Adsl   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylosuccinate lyase.  | 0.900 |
| PDE7A  | Ak3    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Phosphotransferase AK3.  | 0.905 |
| PDE7A  | Aprt   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenine phosphoribosyltransferase.                                 | 0.506 |
| PDE7A  | Dck    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Deoxycytidine kinase.  | 0.684 |
| PDE7A  | Enpp1  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/phosphodiesterase family member 1.  | 0.925 |
| PDE7A  | Enpp3  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/ Phosphodiesterase family member 3. | 0.937 |
| PDE7A  | Nt5e   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 5'-nucleotidase.   | 0.809 |

**Table 9. The predicted functional partner of PDE7A in Camelus dromedarius.**

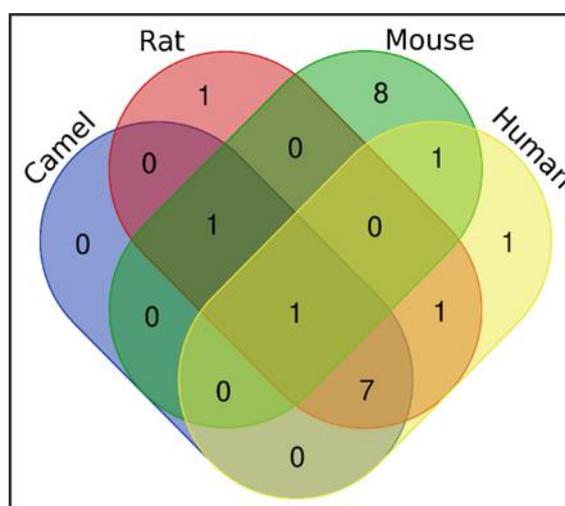
| Node 1 | Node 2 | Node 1 annotation    | Node 2 annotation  | Score |
|--------|--------|----------------------|--|-------|
| PDE7A  | ADCY5  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylate cyclase type 5.  | 0.875 |
| PDE7A  | ADK    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenosine kinase isoform X1.                                       | 0.922 |
| PDE7A  | ADSL   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Adenylosuccinate lyase.  | 0.900 |
| PDE7A  | AK3    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Phosphotransferase AK3.  | 0.904 |
| PDE7A  | DCK    | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Deoxycytidine kinase.  | 0.911 |
| PDE7A  | ENPP1  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/ phosphodiesterase family member 1. | 0.875 |

|              |        |                      |   |       |
|--------------|--------|----------------------|---|-------|
| <b>PDE7A</b> | ENPP3  | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleotide pyrophosphatase/<br>phosphodiesterase family member 1/3. | 0.923 |
| <b>PDE7A</b> | ENTPD1 | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 1.                       | 0.966 |
| <b>PDE7A</b> | ENTPD3 | Phosphodiesterase 7A | Ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 3.                       | 0.900 |
| <b>PDE7A</b> | NT5E   | Phosphodiesterase 7A | 5'-nucleotidase.  | 0.900 |

The present study showed that there are eleven nodes found in the current network of the PDE7A protein. *Rattus norvegicus* significantly enriches interactions among the eleven genes, as indicated by a PPI enrichment p-value of  $3.94e-13$  (Table 10). This suggests that these genes were biologically interconnected as a group in the context of PDE7A. The network consisted of 11 nodes and 43 edges, with an average node degree of 7.82 and an average local clustering coefficient of 0.879, indicating a high degree of interconnectivity among the genes. Interestingly, humans, camels, and rats share 7 out of a total of 11 protein interactors, whereas mice share only 1 out of a total of 11 protein interactors (Figure 4). Despite their evolutionary kinship, certain species have special relationships that they do not share with others. However, further validation is required to reveal specific molecular functions between PDE7A and their protein partners.

**Table 10. Network statistics of PDE7A protein.**

| Species      | Characteristics of Network |                 |                     |                          |                                   |                        |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
|              | Number of nodes            | Number of edges | Average node degree | Expected number of edges | Avg. local clustering coefficient | PPI enrichment p-value |
| <b>Human</b> | 11                         | 38              | 6.91                | 11                       | 0.879                             | $1.82e-10$             |
| <b>Mouse</b> | 11                         | 19              | 3.45                | 11                       | 0.821                             | 0.0222                 |
| <b>Rat</b>   | 11                         | 43              | 7.82                | 11                       | 0.879                             | $3.94e-13$             |
| <b>Camel</b> | 11                         | 51              | 9.27                | 11                       | 0.952                             | $< 1.0e-16$            |



**Figure 4. Venn diagram showing unique interaction similarities of PDE7A in the selected species. The data of species was collected on 12 March 2024.**

## DISCUSSION

Our bioinformatics investigations revealed that the sequence of PDE7A is highly conserved among mammals since mouse, rat, and camel proteins share the most amino acid alignment with humans. Phylogenetical diversity analysis revealed a common evolutionary relationship between the selected species and humans, but camels show the most variable evolutionary lineage in their PDE7A protein over time.

Given that camels and humans share 57% of the same genes compared to rats and mice that share 69% and 67% respectively, with human [29], it is not surprising that we report camels show a more distant evolutionary relationship of PDE7A protein sequences across species, while rats show a closer evolutionary relationship and a more recent common ancestor. In searches for homologous sequence proteins, camels present less identity with human PDE7A than other species. However, the physicochemical properties of the amino acid sequences of PDE7A, including Mw, pI, and hydrophobicity, indicated closely related characteristics across species.

PPIs are essential for understanding PDE7A physiology. The approach taken in this investigation used the STRING database to build the PPI network. This approach allowed us to visualize interactions between genes of interest and their potential partners in PDE7A. PPI network analysis also enabled us to identify the major clusters within the network, which may represent key regulators or mediators of PDE7A biology across species. PPI network analysis also enabled us to identify the major clusters within the network, which may represent key regulators or mediators of PDE7A biology across species.

It has been shown that PDE7A has ten predicted functional partners with a suitable score in the selected species. The different interaction networks with APRT, ADK, ADCY5, ADCY6, ADSL, ALDH7A1, DCK, ENPP1, ENPP3, and AK3 were found in humans. The protein PDE7A makes the strongest interaction with ALDH7A1 with the highest confidence score of 0.949, but the weakest interaction was observed with ADCY5 with a confidence score of 0.804. It may be due to the strong interaction with ALDH7A1, which generates osmolytes and metabolizes harmful aldehydes to protect against hyperosmotic stress [30]. Moreover, ALDH1A expression in Sertoli cells was associated with its relative contribution to controlling the formation of retinoic acid (RA), the active metabolite of vitamin A, in the testis, which plays a major role in spermatogenesis and many other biological processes [31]; but the ADCY5 protein, which catalyzes the synthesis of cAMP in response to G-protein signaling [32], shows a weak interaction with PDE7A.

PDE7A interactions with Adcy5, Adcy9, Adk, Adsl, Ak3, Aprt, Dck, Enpp1, Enpp3, and Nt5e were found in *Rattus norvegicus* networks. The protein PDE7A has the strongest interaction with Enpp3 with the highest confidence score of 0.937. Still, the weakest interaction was observed with Aprt, with a confidence score of 0.506. The strong interaction with the Enpp3 protein, which belongs to the ectoenzyme family that hydrolyzes extracellular nucleotides such as ATP, may be due to the formation of AMP and inorganic pyrophosphate (PPi), which provide energy for many essential processes in cells [33]. Still, the Aprt protein, which helps recycle the purine adenine to generate AMP [34], shows weak interaction with PDE7A. These results underscore the potential significance of these genes in PDE7A, providing a foundation for further analysis.

The present study showed that there are eleven nodes in the current network of the PDE7A protein for all species. It may be due to all eleven interacting proteins being produced from a common encoding gene. Rats present a higher enrichment score, which might indicate an overrepresentation of the functional group of the PDE7A gene in humans. However, further validation is required to reveal specific biological processes, molecular function, and signaling pathways between PDE7A and their protein partners.

## CONCLUSION

The study attempted to elucidate differences in the PDE7A protein in selected species through evolutionary diversity and PPI in gene products. This study suggests possible similarities in PDE7A function among mice, rats, camels, and humans. It was also concluded that rats are suitable models that can be exploited to study PDE7A to understand human biology. This is because the PDE7A gene could function similarly in this animal, which could accelerate research. However, there are anatomical and developmental differences between rats and humans that must be considered when extrapolating information from rat models to humans.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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## التحليلات الحسابية لجزيئات الأحماض الأمينية في PDE7A لتوضيح تنوعها التطوري وتفاعلاتها البروتينية في أنواع متعددة من الثدييات

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### المستخلص

تستكشف هذه الدراسة التفاعلات البروتينية والحفظ التطوري لإنزيم فوسفوديستيريز النوع A7 (PDE7A) عبر الأنواع المختلفة، بهدف تحديد الأنواع ذات أعلى قدر من التشابه مع البشر، وهو ما له تطبيقات مهمة في العديد من المجالات مثل علم الأدوية، علم الأحياء المقارن، الكيمياء الحيوية، علم الأورام، الغدد الصماء، وعلوم الإنجاب. كشفت التحليلات الحسابية لتسلسل الأحماض الأمينية لهذا الإنزيم عن علاقة تطورية مشتركة بين الأنواع المختارة والبشر، لكن الجمال تظهر السلالة التطورية الأكثر تنوعاً في بروتين PDE7A بمرور الوقت. في عمليات البحث عن البروتينات المتجانسة، كانت نتائج تحليل الهوية لأربعة تسلسلات من الأحماض الأمينية المسترجعة على النحو التالي:  $91.81 \pm 4.25\%$  (متوسط  $\pm$  انحراف معياري)، بينما كان التشابه بين التسلسلات  $94.66 \pm 4.55\%$ ، وأسفر تحليل BLOSUM62 (مصنوفة استبدال الكتل 62) عن قيمة دنيا تبلغ  $0.901 \pm 0.055$ . جميع الأنواع لها خصائص فيزيوكيميائية وثيقة الصلة. كشفت التحليلات الحسابية عن بقايا أحماض أمينية محفوظة للجين عبر الأنواع المدروسة، والتي من المحتمل أن تساهم في أنماط التعبير المتشابهة لجين PDE7A في حيوانات مختلفة. تشير النتائج أيضاً إلى أن الجرذان نموذج مناسب لاكتساب رؤى أعمق في علم الأحياء البشري.

**الكلمات الدالة:** إنزيم فوسفوديستيريز النوع A7، تسلسل الأحماض الأمينية، الفئران، الجرذان، الجمال.