

On the basis of the structural homology of the LHRH-associated hypothalamic peptide with factors controlling transcription of genes involved in diverse developmental processes, we propose that the 56-residue peptide is also involved in development-related transcriptional regulation. It has been demonstrated that genetically expressed LHRH-associated peptide inhibits prolactin secretion. It was earlier shown that prolactin secretion, which is predominantly under inhibitory control, is regulated by hypophysiotropic hormones¹. In addition, protein complexes similar to the E-box-binding transcription regulators with the HLH structural motif have recently been located in prolactin-secreting endocrine cell lines of pituitary origin^{2,6}. Therefore it is indeed possible that negatively regulated prolactin secretion is controlled at the transcriptional level by PIF through a mechanism that involves dimerization with a bHLH protein and subsequent DNA binding.

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Publications received

Books received by the journal in 1991 but not reviewed are listed. The list is intended to serve as both a notice of the books and an acknowledgement of receipt.

Advances in Composite Materials: Proceedings of the International Conference on Advances in Composite Materials: P. Ramakrishnan (ed.), Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1991. 679 pages. Price not known.

Alchemy and Metallic Medicines in Ayurveda. Dash. Concept Publishing Co., New Delhi, 1986. 247 pages. Rs 160/\$32.

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- Fertilizer Management in Dryland Agriculture: A Guide Book.** H. L. S. Tandon (ed.). Fertilizer Development and Consultation Organization, New Delhi. 1991. 104 pages. Rs 65/\$18.
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