Nucleotide sequences of two genes encoding the small subunit of RUBISCO in *Nicotiana sylvestris*

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Submitted July 3, 1990 EMBL accession no. X53426

A genomic clone (NySS4) encoding sequences homologous to the small subunit (SSU) of RUBISCO was isolated from a *N. sylvestris* genomic library after a screening with a full-length SSU cDNA (1). This clone actually encodes two genes separated by a 200 bp intergenic region: NySS41 is a complete gene comprising 3 exons and 2 introns, while NySS42 is a truncated gene comprising only the 3' end of the third exon and a 3' non-coding region. NySS41 is highly homologous, but not identical to the TSSU 3-2 gene previously isolated from a *N. tabacum* genomic library (2). TSSU 3-2 is a pseudogene having a stop codon in its first exon which is transcribed at a very low level. NySS41 has no stop codon interrupting the reading frame, but it may be not transcribed or transcribed at a very low level since we did not find any corresponding cDNA in our extensive search for SSU cDNAs in *N. sylvestris* leaf extracts (1). On the other hand, NySS41 and NySS42 constitute the first cluster of SSU genes isolated in *Nicotianeae*.

REFERENCES