reaction between bound and exogenous guanine nucleotides (33) and blocks GAP interaction with ras (34), which may explain why this antibody blocks serum-induced growth in 3T3 cells (15). Microinjection of this antibody showed that the transforming signals generated by several growth-factor receptor-like oncogenes (fms, fes, and src) were dependent on the cellular Ras protein. In contrast, the transforming signal generated by cytoplasmic oncogenes (raf and mos) were not dependent on Ras protein for activity because induction of DNA synthesis by these oncogenes was not blocked by the Y13-259 antibody (16). These injection experiments established a hierarchy within signal-transducing biochemical pathways for the oncogenes and showed that a downstream block could stop the transforming signal of an upstream oncogene. The antibody to PIP<sub>2</sub> that inhibits bombesin- and PDGF-induced DNA synthesis (22) also blocks mitogenesis when injected into ras, src, and erbB oncogene-transformed NIH 3T3 cells, whereas myc-transformed cells are not affected (30). In summary, our data indicate that PLC- $\gamma$  activity is necessary for Ras-mediated induction of DNA synthesis in NIH 3T3 fibroblasts and that Ras may function as a G protein-like molecule in inositol phospholipid signal transduction.

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## Translation Initiation and Ribosomal Biogenesis: Involvement of a Putative rRNA Helicase and RPL46

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Cold-sensitive mutations in the SPB genes (spb1-spb7) of Saccharomyces cerevisiae suppress the inhibition of translation initiation resulting from deletion of the poly(A)binding protein gene (PAB1). The SPB4 protein belongs to a family of adenosine triphosphate (ATP)-dependent RNA helicases. The aberrant production of 25S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) occurring in spb4-1 mutants or the deletion of SPB2 (RPL46) permits the deletion of PAB1. These data suggest that mutations affecting different steps of 60S subunit formation can allow PAB-independent translation, and they indicate that further characterization of the spb mutations could lend insight into the biogenesis of the ribosome.

HE FUNCTION OF PROTEINS NECESsary for the processing and assembly of ribosomal components can be explored through mutational studies. Mutations in these proteins could result in an improperly assembled ribosome capable of bypassing steps normally required for translation to be initiated. The spb genes (spb1 through spb7) represent one class of such mutations since they suppress the requirement for the poly(A)-binding protein (PAB) in translation initiation (1, 2). This requirement could prevent the efficient translation of partially degraded mRNAs lacking their poly(A) tail and its associated PAB. The 60S ribosomal subunit probably mediates the PAB requirement because the spb mutations affect the amounts of this particle, and one of them (SPB2) encodes ribosomal protein L46 (2). The identification of the site of action of these mutations suggested that different alterations in the native form of the 60S subunit could lead to a basal level of PAB-independent translation

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initiation. Here we report that these alterations can result from the aberrant production of 25S rRNA or the deletion of RPL46.

The gene encoding SPB4 (suppressor of pab1-F364L) was identified and isolated from a yeast genomic library (2, 3) by its ability to rescue the recessive cold-sensitive phenotype of a *spb4-1* mutant (YAS165) (2), and the nucleotide sequence of the 2349-bp fragment containing the complementing activity was determined (Fig. 1). Genetic analysis showed tight linkage between this fragment and spb4-1. DNA and RNA blot analysis revealed SPB4 to be a single-copy gene encoding an mRNA of approximately 2.1 kb (Fig. 2, lanes 1 to 4). A diploid strain heterozygous for a replacement of SPB4 with TRP1 and homozygous for trp1 (YAS325) produced up to 50% viable spores (compared with >95% for controls), and all such spores were tryptophan auxotrophs. Furthermore, a haploid strain containing this genomic replacement could only grow in the presence of SPB4 on a plasmid (YAS356). These experiments show that SPB4 is essential for growth, and they imply that at the nonrestrictive temperature spb4-1 encodes a partially functional protein.

SPB4 is a 69,430-dalton basic protein

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Fig. 1. SPB4 is homologous to a family of ATPdependent RNA helicases. A partial nucleotide sequence (numbers 331 to 1430) of SPB4 and its deduced amino acid sequence are shown (13). Positions of amino acids that are similar in all nine of the family members or identical in at least eight of the nine members are boxed (4). Amino acids that are absolutely conserved in all but SPB4 are indicated below the deduced amino acid sequence. The other members are: elF-4A1, elF-4A2, and TIF1, which are all translational initiation factors (14); PL10, a male germ cell-specific protein (7); p68, a human nuclear protein that cross-reactions with SV40 large T-antigen (15); vasa, a Drosophila protein involved in oogenesis and posterior pole embryonic development (5, 6); MSS116, a yeast mitochondrial protein involved in mRNA splicing (16); and srmB, an E. coli protein that suppresses a temperature-sensitive mutation in RPL24 when overexpressed (11). A minimum subfragment from a 5.3-kb insert in YCP50 that rescued the cold-sensitive growth phenotype conferred by spb4-1 in strain YAS165 (MATa spb4-1 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3) was sequenced by the method of Sanger et al. (17). Amino acid similarities and identities are based on the previous alignment of Linder et al. (4).

(isoelectric point pI = 9.9) that is highly homologous to a recently discovered family of ATP-dependent RNA helicases (4) (Fig. 1). The homology within this family of eight proteins extends throughout a conserved 370-amino acid domain, and SPB4 shares 38 of their 48 absolute amino acid conservations. None of the characteristic conserved motifs found in this family of proteins is absent in the SPB4 protein, although several of them have amino acid substitutions (Fig. 1) (4). Also, the glycineglycine repeat between two of these motifs (nucleotides 580 to 720) is missing. SPB4 is  $\sim$ 25% identical to each of these proteins, and like two other members of this family (5-7), it also contains a nonhomologous basic (pI = 10.0) carboxyl terminus. The lack of greater homology to any of these proteins and the presence of a nonhomologous carboxyl terminus suggest that SPB4 has a distinct function within this family.

Mutations in SPB4 decrease the amount of 60S ribosomal subunit (2). Because of the homology with proteins involved in RNA metabolism, we investigated whether this effect of the spb4-1 mutation was due to changes in rRNA processing by performing a pulse-chase analysis (8, 9) at 30°C. At this temperature spb4-1 retains its altered activity, as evidenced by its ability to suppress a null mutation in PAB1 (2). The rate of maturation of 25S rRNA relative to 18S rRNA was significantly decreased in the spb4-1 mutant (Fig. 3). Furthermore, mature radiolabeled 25S rRNA was approximately 2.5-fold less abundant in the mutant, suggesting that much of the inefficiently processed rRNA was degraded. These data indicate that the spb4-1 mutation results in

340 350 360 370 380 390 400 410 Α 460 470 450 480 490 500 510 520 530 540 550 CTCAGGTAAGACCGCTGCGTTTGTTATACCTGTACTAGAAAAAGTTGTAAAGGAAGAAGCGAATACATCAAAATTCAAGAAAGCACACTTCCACTCG TAAFVI PVLEKVVKEEANTSKFKKAHFHSI Α 570 580 590 560 600 610 620 630 640 650 660 TRELSRQIESVVLSFLEHYPSDLFPI ксо LLVGTN 670 680 690 700 710 720 730 740 750 770 ARGCCACRGTTAGRGATGATGTAAGTAATTTTCTGCGGAATAGACCGCAGATTCTGATTG<u>GAACACCTGGTAGA</u>GTTTTGG<u>AC</u>TTTTTACAAATGCCAGCAGTAAAGACG E A T V R D D V S N F L R N R P O I L I G PGRVLDFLQMPAVKT 780 790 800 810 820 830 840 850 860 880 TCAGCATGCAGTATGGTAGTTATGGATGAAGCAGACAGATTGTTGGATATGAGTTTTATTAAGGATACGAAAAAATTCTGAGGCTATTGCCTAAACAAAGAAGGAGGGGG ACS V V N D R L L D M S E I K D T E K I L R L L P K Q R т м G L 890 900 910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 TTTCTGCAACTATGCGTAGCGCCGGATCAGATATCTTTAAGACAGGGCTTAGAAATCCTGTCAGGA TACCGTTAACTCTAAGAACCAGGCGCCCTCCTCTTTGA LF S. A.T. M.R.S.A.G.S.D.I.F.K.T.G.L.R.N.P.V.R.I.T.V.N.S.K.N.Q.A.P.S.S.L 1010 1020 1030 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1000 1040 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200 1210 ACATCGGC V SYFYSFIQYLGKRNILVNEVEIFSLH<mark>G</mark>KL<mark>O</mark>TSA<mark>R</mark>TK L. 1220 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1230 1320 TAACAGCTTTTACTGATTCGCTAAGTAATTCTGTTTTATTCACAACAGATGTGGC AACT TAGAGGTATTGACATACCO TGATCTCG TLTAFTDSLSN SVLF TTDVAA V D LVIQLD DIPD 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 CCAATACTGATATGTTCATGCATAGA STAGAACTGGTAGAGCAAATAGAGTGGGTA ATTACGTTTCTTAATGAAGGCAGAGAAGAGGATTTTATT PETNTDMEMHRCGRTGRANRVGKAITFLNEGREEDFI

2 kb kb kb kb 9.5 4.4 13 55 24 5.8 42 1.4 43 4.3 0.33 2.0

Fig. 2. SPB4 is essential for growth, whereas a deletion of RPL46 (SPB2) is tolerated and allows a deletion of PAB1. DNA blot analysis of SPB4: (lane 1) wild-type cells (YAS308, MATa/a ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3); (lane 2) diploid cells heterozygous for a genomic replacement of SPB4 (nucleotides 131 to 1924) with TRP1 (YAS325, MATa/a SPB4::TRP1/ SPB4 ade2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3); and (lane 3) in haploid cells with this replacement and a centromeric plasmid (YCP50) containing SPB4 and URA3 (pAS24) (YAS356, MATa SPB4:: TRP1 ade2 his3 leu2 trp1

ura3). Bands at 5.8, 4.3, and 13 kb represent the wild-type, the deleted, and the plasmid-borne copies of SPB4, respectively. The deleted copy of SPB4 has a weaker hybridization signal because of its limited homology with the radiolabeled probe. RNA blot analysis of SPB4 (lane 4). RNA size standards in kilobases are shown. DNA blot analysis of *RPL46* in wild-type cells (lane 5) (YAS308) and in haploid cells (lane 6) containing a replacement of *RPL46* (nucleotides 786 to 1358) (10) with *LEU2* (YAS282, MATa RPL46:: LEU2 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3). Bands at 5.5 kb and at 4.2 and 3.2 kb represent the wild-type and deleted copies of RPL46, respectively. DNA blot analysis of PAB1 in wild-type cells (lane 7) (YAS308) and in haploid cells (lane 8) in which RPL46 is replaced with LEU2 and PAB1 is replaced with HIS3 (1, 18) (YAS321, MATa RPL46::LEU2 PAB1::HIS3 his3 leu2 trp1 ura3). The band at 4.3 kb and the 2.0-kb doublet represent the wild-type and deleted copies of PAB1, respectively. Yeast genomic DNA was digested with Hind III (SPB4), Eco R1 (RPL46), or Sal 1 and Pst 1 (PAB1), fractionated on a 1% agarose gel in TBE (19), transferred to GeneScreen, and probed with radiolabeled SPB4 (nucleotides 34 to 2348), RPL46 (a 2-kb fragment containing entire gene) (10), or PAB1 (nucleotides 1 to 3436) (18). Hybridization was carried out in 50% formamide, IM NaCl at 42°C, and washes were performed at 65°C in 2× SSC (standard saline citrate) (19). For RNA blot analysis, approximately 2  $\mu$ g of poly(A)<sup>+</sup> mRNA was fractionated on a formaldehyde agarose (1.3%) gel (19), transferred to Nytran, hybridized to radiolabeled SPB4 (nucleotides 131 to 1924) under the above conditions, and washed at 60°C in 2× SSC.

alterations in the production of 25S rRNA.

The *RPL46* (*SPB2*) gene encodes a 51amino acid ribosomal protein (10), and mutations within it suppress a deletion of *PAB1* and result in cold-sensitive growth (2). Replacement of the single *RPL46* gene with *LEU2* in haploid cells is tolerated at 30°C (Fig. 2, lanes 5 and 6), although it prevents cell growth at 18°C in all strains and at 37°C in some strains. All strains containing the *RPL46* deletion are also viable at 30°C when *PAB1* is deleted (Fig. 2, lanes 7 and 8), indicating that removal of *RPL46* from the large ribosomal subunit



Fig. 3. SPB4 is involved in the maturation of 25S rRNA. (A) Schematic representation of the processing of pre-rRNA in S. cerevisiae. (B) Pulsechase analysis of pre-rRNA processing in wildtype cells (YAS43, MATa his3 leu2 trp1 ura3) and the spb4-1 mutant (YAS165). The location of the different rRNAs on the gel are shown, and the length of the chase period in minutes is indicated. Approximately 10<sup>9</sup> exponentially growing cells in 45 ml of minimal medium supplemented with the auxotrophic requirements (20) were concentrated to 1 ml, and the rRNA was pulse-labeled for 6 min with 50  $\mu$ Ci of [methyl-<sup>3</sup>H]methionine (Amersham, 75 Ci/mmol) at 30°C (rRNA is selectively labeled in this procedure by methylation through the methyl donor S-adenosylmethionine) (8). The chase period was initiated by dilution of cells into 45 ml of minimal medium plus 1 mg/ml unlabeled methionine. Samples (10 ml) were withdrawn at the indicated times, and total RNA was prepared as previously described (18). RNA quantities yielding equivalent 18S rRNA band intensities (~20,000 cpm) were denatured with glyoxal and fractionated on a 1% agarose gel in 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.0 (19), fixed in sodium salicylate (21), and visual-ized by fluorography for 5 days at  $-70^{\circ}$ C. Some mature rRNA appears in the 0' lanes because of the length of the pulse-labeling. The slightly altered 18S rRNA migration seen in the spb4-1 chase lanes is not reproducible between experiments.

bypasses the cellular requirement for PAB. These results suggest that the spb2 mutants previously isolated (2) are deficient in a functional RPL46 gene product.

The discovery of a putative RNA helicase that is involved in the maturation of rRNA defines a new substrate for this family of proteins. The availability of the spb4 conditional mutations, together with the potential of developing an in vitro assay for the protein's putative ATPase and helicase activities, should allow the identification of the essential residues for these functions. The srmB protein of Escherichia coli is also a member of this family, and its overexpression allows the assembly of the 50S ribosomal subunit in the presence of a temperature-sensitive RPL24 mutation (11). Whether this protein is utilized for unwinding rRNA in a wild-type background, and whether this potential activity is similar to that of SPB4, remains to be determined.

The experiments presented here suggest that the formation of the 60S ribosomal subunit involves specific, enzymatic unwinding of the rRNA by SPB4. It is unlikely that SPB4 is part of the mature ribosome since ribosomal proteins of this molecular weight have not been reported (12). SPB4 could be part of the preribosomal particle in the nucleus that is involved in ribosomal biogenesis. Spb4-1 might exert its suppressor effect by changing the regions of rRNA that are unwound during subunit assembly, thereby altering the structure of the subunit and possibly its protein components. For example, RPL46 and other proteins may not associate with this modified subunit, and this could allow a basal level of PABindependent translation initiation. We suspect that equivalent mutations in helicases involved in the assembly of other ribonucleoproteins, like the splicesome, could have analogous effect on their composition and specificity.

If PAB-independent translation is made possible by altering the native 60S subunit structure, then a detailed analysis of the spb mutants will yield much information about the multiple gene products that play a role in the assembly of this particle. The ability to positively select for the spb mutations (2) will greatly simplify these studies. Future work will focus on determining if the 60S ribosomal subunits in spb1-spb7 mutants have distinct compositions of ribosomal proteins, and how the requirements of PAB for initiation is mediated by this subunit.

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## Tyrosine Kinase Activity and Transformation Potency of bcr-abl Oncogene Products

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Oncogenic activation of the proto-oncogene c-abl in human leukemias occurs as a result of the addition of exons from the gene bcr and truncation of the first abl exon. Analysis of tyrosine kinase activity and quantitative measurement of transformation potency in a single-step assay indicate that variation in bcr exon contribution results in a functional difference between p210<sup>ber-abl</sup> and p185<sup>ber-abl</sup> proteins. Thus, foreign upstream sequences are important in the deregulation of the kinase activity of the abl product, and the extent of deregulation correlates with the pathological effects of the bcr-abl proteins.

MINO-TERMINAL DELETIONS FREquently activate tyrosine kinase oncogene products [for example, abl (1), src (2), and erbB (3)]. The activation of c-abl in human leukemias occurs after a chromosomal translocation that replaces the first exon of c-abl with sequences from bcr, which results in the generation of a fused bcrabl transcript (4). Alternative forms of the bcr-abl oncogene product, p210<sup>bcr-abl</sup> and p185<sup>bcr-abl</sup>, are characteristic of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) and Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), respectively. In ALL the breakpoint on chromosome 22 occurs within the first intron of ber, whereas in

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