

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 PIP₂ 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- γ 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 lead insight into the biogenesis of the ribosome.

THE 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

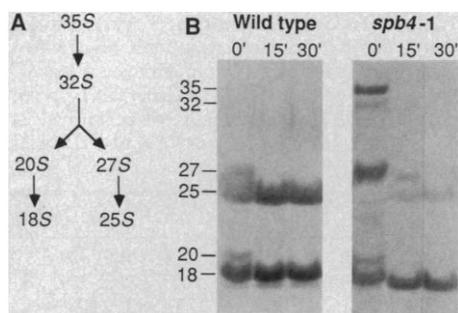


Fig. 3. *SPB4* is involved in the maturation of 25S rRNA. (A) Schematic representation of the processing of pre-rRNA in *S. cerevisiae*. (B) Pulse-chase analysis of pre-rRNA processing in wild-type cells (YAS43, MAT α his3 leu2 trp1 ura3) and the *spb4-1* mutant (YAS165). The location of the different rRNAs on the gel are shown, and the length of the chase period in minutes is indicated. Approximately 10^9 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 μ Ci of [methyl- 3 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 ($\sim 20,000$ 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 visualized by fluorography for 5 days at -70°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 smB 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 un-

winding 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 PAB-independent translation initiation. We suspect that equivalent mutations in helicases involved in the assembly of other ribonucleoproteins, like the spliceosome, 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^{*bcr-abl*} and p185^{*bcr-abl*} 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.

AMINO-TERMINAL DELETIONS FRE- quently 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 *bcr-abl* transcript (4). Alternative forms of the *bcr-abl* oncogene product, p210^{*bcr-abl*} and p185^{*bcr-abl*}, 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 *bcr*, whereas in

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