2012

Retrotransposon profiling of RNA polymerase III initiation sites

Xiaojie Qi
University of California - Irvine

Kenneth Daily
University of California - Irvine

Kim Nguyen
University of California - Irvine

Haoyi Wang
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

David Mayhew
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/open_access_pubs

Recommended Citation
Qi, Xiaojie; Daily, Kenneth; Nguyen, Kim; Wang, Haoyi; Mayhew, David; Rigor, Paul; Forouzan, Sholeh; Johnston, Mark; Mitra, Robi David; Baldi, Pierre; and Sandmeyer, Suzanne, "Retrotransposon profiling of RNA polymerase III initiation sites." Genome Research.22., 681-692. (2012).
http://digitalcommons.wustl.edu/open_access_pubs/1886

This Open Access Publication is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons@Becker. It has been accepted for inclusion in Open Access Publications by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Becker. For more information, please contact engeszer@wustl.edu.
Retrotransposon profiling of RNA polymerase III initiation sites

Xiaojie Qi, Kenneth Daily, Kim Nguyen, et al.

Genome Res. 2012 22: 681-692 originally published online January 27, 2012
Access the most recent version at doi:10.1101/gr.131219.111

Supplemental Material
http://genome.cshlp.org/content/suppl/2012/01/27/gr.131219.111.DC1.html

Related Content
Retrotransposon Ty1 integration targets specifically positioned asymmetric nucleosomal DNA segments in tRNA hotspots
Loris Mularoni, Yulian Zhou, Tyson Bowen, et al.
Genome Res. April 2012 22: 693-703
A nucleosomal surface defines an integration hotspot for the Saccharomyces cerevisiae Ty1 retrotransposon
Joshua A. Baller, Jiquan Gao, Radostina Stamenova, et al.
Genome Res. April 2012 22: 704-713

References
This article cites 79 articles, 44 of which can be accessed free at:
http://genome.cshlp.org/content/22/4/681.full.html#related-urls

Creative Commons License
This article is distributed exclusively by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press for the first six months after the full-issue publication date (see http://genome.cshlp.org/site/misc/terms.xhtml). After six months, it is available under a Creative Commons License (Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License), as described at http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/.

Email Alerting Service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article - sign up in the box at the top right corner of the article or click here.

To subscribe to Genome Research go to:
http://genome.cshlp.org/subscriptions
Retrotransposon profiling of RNA polymerase III initiation sites

Xiaojie Qi,1,4 Kenneth Daily,2,4,5 Kim Nguyen,1,4,6 Haoyi Wang,3,7 David Mayhew,3 Paul Rigor,2 Sholeh Forouzan,2 Mark Johnston,3,8 Robi David Mitra,3 Pierre Baldi,1,2 and Suzanne Sandmeyer1,9

1Department of Biological Chemistry, School of Medicine, 2Department of Computer Science, School of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine, California 92697, USA; 3Department of Genetics, School of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63108, USA; 4Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; 5Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA; 6Tremblay Lab, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA; 7Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; 8Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics, University of Colorado–Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO 80045, USA;

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

Present addresses: 1Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA; 2Department of Genetics, School of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63108, USA; 3Department of Genetics, School of Medicine, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 63108, USA; 4Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; 5Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA; 6Tremblay Lab, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA; 7Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA; 8Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics, University of Colorado–Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO 80045, USA; 9Corresponding author.

E-mail sbsandme@ucd.edu.

Article published online before print. Article, supplemental material, and publication date are at http://www.genome.org/cgi/10.1101/gr.131219.111.

Although retroviruses are relatively promiscuous in choice of integration sites, retrotransposons can display marked integration specificity. In yeast and slime mold, some retrotransposons are associated with tRNA genes (tDNAs). In the Saccharomyces cerevisiae genome, the long terminal repeat retrotransposon Ty3 is found at RNA polymerase III (Pol III) transcription start sites of tDNAs. Ty1, 2, and 4 elements also cluster in the upstream regions of these genes. To determine the extent to which other Pol III–transcribed genes serve as genomic targets for Ty3, a set of 10,000 Ty3 genomic retrotranspositions were mapped using high-throughput DNA sequencing. Integrations occurred at all known tDNAs, two tDNA relics (IYGR033c and ZOD1), and six non-tDNA, Pol III–transcribed types of genes (RDN5, SNR6, SNR85, RPR1, RNA170, and SCR1). Previous work in vitro demonstrated that the Pol III transcription factor (TF) IIIB is important for Ty3 targeting. However, seven loci that bind the TFIIIB loader, TFIIIC, were not targeted, underscoring the unexplained absence of TFIIIB at those sites. Ty3 integrations also occurred in two open reading frames not previously associated with Pol III transcription, suggesting the existence of a small number of additional sites in the yeast genome that interact with Pol III transcription complexes.

[Supplemental material is available for this article.]
Pol III Type 2 promoters have box A and box B elements downstream from the TSS. TFIIIC binds Type 2 promoters through interactions with box A and box B sequences and, similar to its activity on Type 1 promoters, mediates binding of TFIIIB upstream of the TSS. For a subset of genes, there is an upstream TATA element that enhances binding of TFIIIB (Eschenlauer et al. 1993; Giuliiodori et al. 2003). Informatic analysis and genome-wide chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) have identified more than 280 Type 2 genes (Lowe and Eddy 1997; Percudani et al. 1997; Han and Feldmann 1998; Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). These include 274 tDNAs and one pseudo-tDNA; SCR1, encoding the RNA component of the signal recognition particle (Dieci et al. 2007); SNR52, encoding a C/D box snoRNA guide for rRNA processing; RPR1, encoding the RNA component of the RNase P1-processing complex; SNR6, encoding the U6 spliceosomal RNA; and three genes of unknown function. These are YGR033c, ZOD1, which encode ancient tDNAs for tRNA and tRNA, respectively (Guffanti et al. 2006), and RNA170 (Olivas et al. 1997). For the most part, Type 2 genes are occupied by TFIIIB, TFIIIC, and Pol III in logarithmically growing cells (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). These loci vary with respect to expression, upstream TATA elements, separation of box A and box B and position of box B relative to transcribed sequence.

Recent studies have implicated Pol III transcription factors in functions in addition to Pol III transcription. A small but intriguing set of loci in the S. cerevisiae genome binds TFIIIC, but low or undetectable amounts of TFIIIB. These were dubbed Extra Three C (ETC) (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004) and include RNA170/ETC5 and ZOD1, which are weakly transcribed, and YGR033c, ETC1-4, and ETC6-8, which are not detectably transcribed (Olivas et al. 1997; Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). About 400 condensin binding sites in S. cerevisiae are associated with TFIIIC, and only a subset of these are tDNAs (D’Ambrosio et al. 2008). Roles for Pol III promoter elements in simple eukaryote chromatin structure have been also observed in S. pombe (Noma et al. 2006). In addition to structural roles for ETCs, tDNAs establish heterochromatic boundaries (Donze and Kamakaka 2001), phase nucleosomes (Morse et al. 1992), bind condensins (D’Ambrosio et al. 2008; Haeusler et al. 2008; Gard et al. 2009), repress transcription of neighboring Pol II-transcribed genes (Kinsey and Sandmeyer 1991; Hull et al. 1994), undergo ectopic recombination (Munz et al. 1982), and disrupt progression of downstream replication forks (Deshpande and Newlon 1996). Ty3 elements target Pol III TSS (Chalker and Sandmeyer 1990, 1992; Sandmeyer et al. 2002). In vitro, recombinant TFIIIB subunits Tbp1 and Brf1 are sufficient to target strand-transfer of Ty3 cDNA from virus-like particles (Kirchner et al. 1995; Yieh et al. 2000). However, TFIIIC is implicated by in vivo experiments in which truncation of Tfc1, a subunit of TFIIIC, restricts orientation of Ty3 insertions (Aye et al. 2001). Nonetheless, genomic Ty3 elements have only been observed in association with tDNAs. The present study was undertaken to saturate de novo Ty3 genomic transposition targets and determine the overlap with genes transcribed by Pol III. The results show that Ty3 integrates with high specificity at all known Pol III-transcribed genes and at additional sites, two of which were confirmed to be dependent on the presence of a consensus box B (Olivas et al. 1997; Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004; Guffanti et al. 2006; Marck et al. 2006). ETC loci did not support Ty3 integration.

### Results

Ty3 retrotransposition is predominantly mediated by integration rather than homologous recombination. S. cerevisiae LTR retrotransposons reverse-transcribe genomic RNA into a full-length cDNA copy, which transposes into the host genome via Rad52-dependent homologous recombination or integrase (IN)–dependent strand-transfer reactions. The impact of homologous recombination on Ty3 transposition was assessed using S288C-related YMA1322 and its rad52Δ derivative, YMA1356 (Table 1A). YMA1322 and YMA1356 were transformed with a low-copy plasmid marked with URA3 and bearing a galactose-inducible Ty3 modified by the insertion downstream from a Ty3 protein-coding sequence of a copy of the HIS3 gene flanked by unique

### Table 1. Yeast strains and plasmids used in this study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strain</th>
<th>Genotype</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YPH50</td>
<td>MATα ura3-52 lys2-801-amber ade2-101-ochre trp1-Δ63 his3-Δ200 leu2-Δ1</td>
<td>Sikorski and Hieter 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMA1322</td>
<td>MATα ura3-52 trp1-Δ63 his3-Δ200 ade2-101 lys2, leu2-Δ1</td>
<td>Aye et al. 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMA1356</td>
<td>MATα ura3-52 rad52Δ</td>
<td>Aye et al. 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S288C</td>
<td>MATa SUC2 gal2 mal mel flo1 flo8-1 hap1 his3Δ1 ura3Δ1 trp1Δ1 leu2Δ1</td>
<td>Mortimer and Johnston 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YKN1692</td>
<td>YMA1322, BRF1::BF1-3HA-loxP-HIS3-loxP</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plasmid</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pKN3050</td>
<td>Ty3-HIS3-ppt (galactose-inducible Ty3 tagged downstream from POL3 with a HIS3 gene flanked by 60-bp unique sequences and followed by an extra copy of ppt and LTR sequences present in the POL3 open reading frame)</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pKN3097</td>
<td>Ty3-ppt (as above but lacking the HIS3 insertion and one of two unique 60-bp tag sequences)</td>
<td>Fang et al. 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pX622</td>
<td>Shuttle vector, AmpR, 2 μ, loxP-LEU2-loxP, used to construct plasmidborne targets</td>
<td>Bähler et al. 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pFA6a-3HA-KanMX6</td>
<td>Template for H3A tag</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pKN3481</td>
<td>pX622 with loxP-LEU2-loxP replaced by loxP-HIS3-loxP</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pCR2.1</td>
<td>TA-cloning vector</td>
<td>Invitrogen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
60-bp sequence tags (Ty3-ppt HIS3 or plasmid pKN3050) (Table 1B; Supplemental Table S1). Transformants were induced for Ty3 expression by growth in medium containing galactose. Cells that had lost the plasmid but acquired a chromosomal Ty3-ppt HIS3 were selected by growth on medium selecting against the donor plasmid, and for the presence of the HIS3 marker gene. A quantitative version of this assay showed that the frequency of transposition in the wild-type strain was threefold that of the rad52 strain (data not shown). This was similar to the twofold difference between wild-type and rad52 derivative previously reported (Sadeghi et al. 2001).

Enrichment for cells that had undergone transposition before production of genomic libraries for sequencing was necessitated by the low percentage of transformants (<1%) that undergo transposition and by the diversity of those events. Approximately 10,000 His+ colonies were collected and pooled for each strain. Ty3 insertion junctions were enriched by an inverse PCR (iPCR) strategy using primers inside Ty3-ppt HIS3 (Fig. 1; Supplemental Table S2; Ochman et al. 1988; Wang et al. 2008; Methods).

Pooled iPCR products were sequenced using Illumina GAIIx technology (Illumina; Tpn-seq). Sequencing primers annealed so that sequence began with the terminal 17 nt of the Ty3 LTR U5 and read into ~19 nt of flanking genomic DNA (Fig. 2A). Sequences were aligned with the yeast reference sequence from the UCSC Genome Browser (build sacCer2, June 2008) (Rhead et al. 2010) using Bowtie (Langmead et al. 2009). Including data from both experiments, a total of $1.2 \times 10^6$ reads were aligned to the Ty3 LTR sequence (Table 2; Supplemental Table S3; NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus, http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE31820). Of these, $6.1 \times 10^6$ reads aligned to the genome with no mismatches and were analyzed further. A total of $0.37 \times 10^6$ reads aligned, but not uniquely ("multiples"), and were separately evaluated. Individual Ty3 insertion sites ("events") separated by 10 bp or less were clustered, yielding a total of 296 clusters. The number of reads per cluster was defined as the "cluster density" (see example, Fig. 2B), and this value was normalized to total density per experiment. The average density per cluster between the two experiments ranged from ~100,000 reads per [GT(UUG)UP] to six reads per [IV(AAC)U]. Because of the precision of Ty3 targeting, multiple independent transpositions were likely to map to the same insertion site. Therefore, the number of events is likely to underestimate the number of independent insertions (Supplemental Table S3; Chalker and Sandmeyer 1992; Kinsey and Sandmeyer 1995; data not shown).

Comparison of normalized cluster densities for RAD52 and rad52A strains showed very similar results (Fig. 3). In particular, the plots of Ty3-ppt HIS3 transpositions to loci associated with Ty3 LTRs showed only a slight reduction in slope compared with the plot for loci not associated with Ty3 LTRs (slope = 1.0556; $R^2 = 0.9327$ vs. slope = 0.8861; $R^2 = 0.871$, respectively), indicating that recombining at previously occupied sites is not a major determinant of de novo Ty3 integration.

**Ty3 retrotransposition targets the complete Pol III transcriptome**

The 296 Ty3 integration clusters were evaluated for proximity to annotated Pol III–transcribed genes (Table 3). This comparison showed that 262 of 274 identified tDNAs were associated with Ty3 integration clusters. In only one case was the cluster closest to the tDNA not within a few bases of a presumptive site of transcription initiation. In that case, [IV(CCA)G1], integration mapped near the
Table 2. Distribution of aligned reads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plasmid</th>
<th>Strain</th>
<th>Raw*</th>
<th>LTR tag*</th>
<th>Singly aligned*</th>
<th>Not aligned*</th>
<th>Multiply aligned*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pKN3050</td>
<td>YMA1322</td>
<td>7,130,751</td>
<td>6,809,596</td>
<td>3,034,624</td>
<td>3,589,582</td>
<td>185,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pKN3050</td>
<td>YMA1356</td>
<td>5,995,101</td>
<td>5,936,236</td>
<td>3,057,512</td>
<td>2,350,228</td>
<td>188,496</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Raw reads are the output of the sequencing run.
*Correct reads are those beginning with the LTR sequence.
*Singly aligned reads aligned perfectly and uniquely to the reference genome.
*Not aligned reads had one or more mismatches with the reference sequence.
*Multiply aligned reads aligned with more than one locus in the reference genome.

presumptive initiation site, but also 45 bp downstream from the tRNA-coding sequence.

The 13 tDNAs not represented among Ty3 integration clusters were examined individually (summarized in Table 3). We considered four explanations for their absence: (1) Short regions of conserved sequence immediately upstream of the tRNA-coding sequence resulted in alignment of clusters to multiple genomic loci, and exclusion from the uniquely aligned data set. (2) Sequence differences between YMA1322/YMA1356 and the reference S288C strain within the sequenced region led to imperfect alignment and exclusion from further analysis. (3) The tDNA was missing from the YMA1322/YMA1356 strain background. (4) A subset of tDNAs was not targeted because members do not bind factors required by Ty3 or reside in a chromosomal region that excludes access. The data set containing non-unique sequences ("multiples") (Supplemental Table S3B) was inspected for matches to Pol III–transcribed genes. It contained an insertion junction aligning with two tL(CAA) genes on chromosomes VII and XIII. Thus, either or both of these absent tDNAs were targets of Ty3 integration. The multiples set also included junctions inside four identical tR(UCU) genes. There are four tandem tR-tD genes in the S. cerevisiae genome. The tR(UCU) sequence lies immediately upstream of tD(GUC) on chromosomes II and IV, and two sites on X. Thus, both the upstream member of the pair, tR(UCU), and the downstream member, tD(GUC), were targeted by Ty3. In these cases, it was not possible to assign insertion joints to specific loci. However, given the broad use of other tDNAs and the similar target sequence context, we think it likely that the insertions were distributed among the loci that failed to map uniquely.

Next we considered that tDNAs not found as Ty3 targets in the unique or multiple sequence reads [tM(CAU)J3, tP(UGG)O1, tY(GUA)J2, tD(GUC)N, tD(GUC)L2, tK(CUU)C, and tM(CAU)C] (Supplemental Table S3B) occurred in sequences of the host strain that diverged from the sequence of the S288C reference strain. To directly query the representation of these sequences in the host genome used in our experiments, the respective regions from the YMA1322 genome were assayed by PCR using primers flanking the reference sequence. In the first four cases, amplification was successful, and the amplicons were sequenced. This analysis revealed mismatches between the sequence from YMA1322 and the reference S. cerevisiae genome S288C for tM(CAU)J3, tP(UGG)O1, and tY(GUA)J2. Our reference genome sequence was modified to contain these variant sequences and query of the modified reference sequence identified clusters at each of these loci. The pseudogene tD(GUC)N was also amplified from YMA1322, and this amplicon was identical in sequence to the S288C reference sequence. For the remaining three loci [tK(CUU)C, tM(CAU)C, and tD(GUC)L2], a fragment of the predicted size could not be amplified from the YMA1322 genomic DNA template. Inspection of the reference genome showed that tK(CUU)C and tM(CAU)C were flanked by direct repeats of Ty1 LTRs so that recombination could have deleted both tDNAs, thus accounting for failure to recover these loci by sequencing or by PCR. Sequence analysis of BY4741 indicated that these genes, consistent with previous observations (Harismendy et al. 2003), were also not present in that S288C-related strain (T. Najdi, pers. comm., data not shown). The tD(GUC)L2 locus could not be amplified. However, the S288C reference genome has a single sigma LTR upstream of this gene. Thus, this gene appears to be absent in YMA1322 but shows evidence of being a Ty3 integration target in S288C.

Pol III–transcribed loci that are not tDNAs were also targeted by Ty3 integration (Fig. 4; Table 3). RDN5 is present in the highest copy number. The RDN5-1 copies are repeated within the ~100–200-copy RDN37 repeat, and RDN5-2 is located in the last repeat and could not be distinguished (Johnston et al. 1997). Four additional orphan copies designated RDN5-3 to -6 flank the rDNA repeat. These orphan genes are expressed (Piper et al. 1984). However, the sequence context diverges 2 bp upstream of the native TSS, the terminal 4 bp differ, and the poly(T) termination tract is shortened. Ty3 insertion clusters were identified in the multiples data set representing RDN5-1 and 2, but not the orphan variant RDN5-3 to 6 genes (Supplemental Table S3B).

All six non-tDNA, Type 2 genes were associated with Ty3 insertions. Similar to tDNAs, SCR1 (Dieci et al. 2002; Guffanti et al. 2006) contains promoter box A and box B elements within the mature RNA-coding sequence. RP11 and SNR52 (Ishiguro and Kassavetis 2003; Guffanti et al. 2006) contain box A and box B sequences downstream from the TSS and within the transcribed region, but upstream of the mature coding sequence. SNR6 has an upstream TATA element and an internal box A, but terminates upstream of box B (Eschenlauer et al. 1993). Ty3 clusters overlapped the TSS of these diverse Pol III–transcribed genes (Table 3; Supplemental Table S3A).

In addition to Pol III–transcribed genes of known function, genome-wide ChIP experiments using epitope-tagged subunits of
upstream as opposed to of RNA170 integrated close to the TSS of not been detected (Olivas et al. 1997; Guffanti et al. 2006). Ty3 moter elements. ETC sites (RNA170 sequence between the predicted box A and box B pro-1997). Surprisingly, Ty3 integrated within the Pol III–transcribed stream from box B, but upstream of a poly(T) tract (Olivas et al.

SNR6 viability or growth rate, integrations upstream of the dium. While this introduced bias against integrations that affect transformants that had undergone transposition on selective me-

To estimate the range in targeting activity among tDNAs, targets were ranked according to cluster density, and a subset was re-

Correlation of genomic features with Ty3 target activity
To estimate the range in targeting activity among tDNAs, targets were ranked according to cluster density, and a subset was re-

evaluated using a quantitative (q)PCR assay for transposition. Five targets from the top [tK(CUU)R, tG(GCC)G2, tA(UGO)E, tT(UGU)G1, and tG(CCD0)J] and bottom [tG(GCC)F2, tV(AAC)G1, tD(GUC)K, tQ(UUG)D1, tV(AAC)G3] deciles (Fig. 5A; Supplemental Table S3A) were tested. The ETC1 locus was used as a negative control. Naive and Ty3 insertion–bearing versions of the loci were cloned and used as standards. Cells were transformed with pKN3097 bearing an unmarked galac-
tose-inducible Ty3-ppt and induced in triplicate for Ty3 expression by growth in SGal-Ura for 24 h. DNA was extracted and subjected to qPCR using primers specific to sequences flanking the 10 geno-
tic target sites and to either the U3 or the U5 end of the Ty3 element. The assay was standardized using a dilution series of the respective cloned Ty3-associated targets, and outcomes were expressed as integrants normalized to an ACT1 control (Fig. 5B). Comparison of the overall pat-
tern of target usage showed that seven targets were recovered with insertions represented at 8 × 10⁻⁶ to 16 × 10⁻⁶. The remaining three were represented at 2 × 10⁻⁶ to 4 × 10⁻⁶. The seven targets with activity in the upper range included all five of the targets in the top decile and two [tV(AAC)G1 and tV(AAC)G3] from the bottom decile of Tpn-seq reads. ETC1 was not used. Despite a relative consistency in that top targets in Tpn-seq were more highly used in the qPCR assay, the difference between the different classes of targets was much reduced using the quantitative assay. This result indicated that the sequencing reads provided a sensitive record of positions of integration rather than a quantitative mea-
ure of target utilization.
Comparison of quantitative Ty3 transposition at tDNAs with high and low DNA sequencing reads. (A) Distribution of sequencing reads from five top decile tDNA clusters and five bottom decile tDNA clusters. Yeast strains YMA1322 and YMA1356 transformed with Ty3-ppt expression plasmid pKN3097 were induced for Ty3 expression for 24 h. Insertions into tDNA target clusters were ranked by number of reads, and example top and bottom decile genes (shown) were selected. ETC1 was not detected by sequencing and was used as a negative test case. Bars show reads in which Ty3 and target are transcribed in the same (open) and divergent (gray) orientations and the total (black) is shown. (B) YMA1322 transformed with Ty3-ppt expression plasmid pKN3097 was induced for Ty3-ppt expression as described in A, and Ty3 integrations at reporter target loci were measured using qPCR (Methods). Measurements were within the linear range as standardized using plasmid versions of the Ty3 insertions at each locus. Bars represent technical triplicates of biological duplicates. (C) TFIIIB occupancy of reporter Ty3 target loci. Yeast strain YKN1692 expressing Brf1 tagged with 3HA and transformed with empty URA3 vector plasmid YCplac33 was grown under inducing conditions for 24 h, and Brf1 occupancy at reporter loci was measured using ChIP. ChIP values were determined relative to an ACT1 control. The fold of enrichment for tDNA reporter IR(AAC)G3 to ACT1 was 73:1. The data are expressed relative to the fold enrichment at IR(AAC)G3 set at 100%. (D) Ty3 integration frequencies at tDNA reporter loci and flanking sequence. YMA1322 transformed with Ty3-ppt plasmid pKN3097 and vector pXp622 containing reporter target loci and flanking sequence (120 bp upstream and downstream of target gene) was induced to express Ty3 for 36 h, and integrations were quantified by qPCR. Data are expressed as described in B. (E) Based on target activity (D), promoter elements in strong target loci [tK(GCC)G2, tK(GCC)G3, tG(GCC)G2, and tG(GCC)G3] and weak target loci [tG(GCC)G2, tK(GCC)G3, tG(GCC)G3] were analyzed for consensus using logo sequence-analysis software (http://weblogo.berkeley.edu).

Figure 5. Quantitative Ty3 transposition at tDNAs with high and low DNA sequencing reads. (A) Distribution of sequencing reads from five top decile tDNA clusters and five bottom decile tDNA clusters. Yeast strains YMA1322 and YMA1356 transformed with Ty3-HIS3 expression plasmid pKN3000 were induced for Ty3 expression for 24 h. Insertions into tDNA target clusters were ranked by number of reads, and example top and bottom decile genes (shown) were selected. ETC1 was not detected by sequencing and was used as a negative test case. Bars show reads in which Ty3 and target are transcribed in the same (open) and divergent (gray) orientations and the total (black) is shown. (B) YMA1322 transformed with Ty3-ppt expression plasmid pKN3097 was induced for Ty3-ppt expression as described in A, and Ty3 integrations at reporter target loci were measured using qPCR (Methods). Measurements were within the linear range as standardized using plasmid versions of the Ty3 insertions at each locus. Bars represent technical triplicates of biological duplicates. (C) TFIIIB occupancy of reporter Ty3 target loci. Yeast strain YKN1692 expressing Brf1 tagged with 3HA and transformed with empty URA3 vector plasmid YCplac33 was grown under inducing conditions for 24 h, and Brf1 occupancy at reporter loci was measured using ChIP. ChIP values were determined relative to an ACT1 control. The fold of enrichment for tDNA reporter IR(AAC)G3 to ACT1 was 73:1. The data are expressed relative to the fold enrichment at IR(AAC)G3 set at 100%. (D) Ty3 integration frequencies at tDNA reporter loci and flanking sequence. YMA1322 transformed with Ty3-ppt plasmid pKN3097 and vector pXp622 containing reporter target loci and flanking sequence (120 bp upstream and downstream of target gene) was induced to express Ty3 for 36 h, and integrations were quantified by qPCR. Data are expressed as described in B. (E) Based on target activity (D), promoter elements in strong target loci [tK(GCC)G2, tK(GCC)G3, tG(GCC)G2, and tG(GCC)G3] and weak target loci [tG(GCC)G2, tK(GCC)G3, tG(GCC)G3] were analyzed for consensus using logo sequence-analysis software (http://weblogo.berkeley.edu).

Based on in vitro assays, TFIIIB occupancy is the major determinant of Ty3 targeting. ChIP was therefore performed in order to assess the correspondence between TFIIIB occupancy and reporter targeting activity (Fig. 5C). YMA1322 was modified as previously described (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004) to express a 3HA-tagged Brf1 (Brf1-3HA; YKN1692). This strain was induced for Ty3 retrotransposition, and cells were processed for qPCR-ChIP analysis. Eight genes, including the six genes with highest Ty3 targeting by qPCR, showed relatively high Brf1 occupancy; as reported previously (Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004), ETC1 did not show significant TFIIIB association.

To test the contribution of sequences in the immediate vicinity of the reporter tDNAs to targeting, the 10 reporter genes and flanking upstream and downstream 120 bp were subcloned and retested for Ty3 transposition (Fig. 5D). QPCR analysis was performed using primers that annealed within the Ty3 LTR U3 or U5 sequence and within the vector sequence downstream from the target. The signal for plasmid-borne tDNA was adjusted for plasmid copy number and normalized to the signal of the chromosomal IF(GAA) family. This family gives a robust qPCR integration signal after induction of Ty3-ppt (data not shown). The comparison showed that five of the genes, including those used at higher frequency as chromosomal targets, were used at levels threefold to sixfold higher than the other five targets. Only tK(GCC)G2 and tG(GCC)G3 were consistently low in Ty3 targeting in chromosomal and plasmid contexts and in Brf1 occupancy. Targeting to the chromosome and plasmid did not correlate (R² = 0.29), suggesting that local sequence played a greater role in plasmid-based targeting. Box B and Box A motifs were generated from high- and low-frequency targets (Crocke et al. 2004; http://weblogo.berkeley.edu). The result box B motif conformed to the consensus (Fig. 5E), whereas more active and less active targets showed distinct versions of the consensus box A sequence (TRGYYYAGTNG vs. TRGTNTAGTNG, respectively). If this sample is representative, these findings indicate that chromosomal context and local sequence contribute to tDNA targeting, but targets bind similar amounts of TFIIIB and overall differ by eightfold in activity.

Insights into x-targets not known to be Pol III–transcribed genes

Previous efforts to identify Pol III–transcribed genes have used computational approaches to identify tDNA structures (Lowe and Eddy 1997), scans for box A and box B sequences and transcripts (Olivas et al. 1997), and ChIP-chip of inter-ORF regions (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). As described above, excluding one tRNA pseudogene, 266 of the 296 clusters identified in our study corresponded to 262 uniquely aligning tDNAs [tK(UUU)O, tN(GUU)P, tS(AGA)J, tY(GUA)M1] have two up-
stream clusters each). Seven single Pol III–transcribed non-tDNA loci aligned uniquely with genome sequence. Eighteen other sequence clusters, including one at an unannotated Ty3 LTR at RHBI, were excluded as PCR artifacts generated by preexisting solo Ty3 LTRs. Five clusters identified unique sites in the genome but did not correspond to known Pol III–transcribed genes. Additional PCR using subcloned YIL206C failed to verify it as a reproducible target (Supplemental Table S4). Two were true targets (SCS3 and YIL100W), and two were not cloned ([YW(CCA)G1 downstream insertion and YCG1]) (Supplemental Table S4).

Novel Ty3 clusters neither associated with Pol III transcription nor containing known Ty3 LTRs were verified inside ORFs YIL100 (W and C-A) and SCS3. YIL100W and YIL1000-C-A designate a bidirectional ~100-codon ORF classified as dubious (http://www.yeastgenome.org/cgi-bin/locus.fpl?locus=YIL100C; henceforth, YIL100W) (Fig. 6A,B). SCS3 encodes a gene required for inositol prototrophy (Hosaka et al. 1994). Regions of ~500 bp flanking insertion sites inside YIL100W and SCS3 (YIL100W and iSCS3, respectively) were cloned. YMA1322 transformants containing Ty3-ppt donor plasmid pKN3097 and each of the target plasmids were assayed for Ty3 transposition. De novo Ty3 insertions were detected using combinations of Ty3- and plasmid-specific primers. Insertions were detected for iYIL100W and iSCS3 in induced, but not uninduced cells. PCR products were cloned and sequenced. Insertions occurred at both cloned targets (Fig. 6B,C).

We examined YIL100W and SCS3 sequences for box A and box B promoter elements. In the case of Ty3 insertions upstream of tDNAs, the Ty3 junction is ~20 bp upstream of box A. Scanning of genomic sequence flanking the iYIL100W cluster revealed a box A–box B pair separated by 29 bp (Fig. 6A). The Ty3 cluster mapped 33 nt upstream of the 5’ end of the box A sequence (Fig. 6A). To test whether, similar to other Ty3 insertion sites, targeting was dependent on active Pol III promoter elements, conserved bases in the box B consensus were mutated to disrupt Pol III promoter activity (Fig. 6A; Marck et al. 2006). YMA1322 transformants containing the Ty3 donor plasmid and wild-type or mutated iYIL100W plasmid were induced for transposition, and samples were assayed by PCR using Ty3- and target plasmid-specific primers. PCR products were generated from insertions upstream of iYIL100W in the wild type but not in the box B mutant clone (Fig. 6B).

The Ty3 insertions into SCS3 detected by Tnp-seq were clustered centrally within the ORF. Inspection of the sequence surrounding these insertions showed that they were flanked by inverted box A–box B motifs (Fig. 6A,C). Ty3 insertion into plasmid-negative SCS3 was investigated using an approach similar to that described for iYIL100W. De novo Ty3 insertions clustered close to the position identified in Tnp-seq. The two box B motifs in SCS3 were individually mutated (Fig. 6A,C), and the two resulting plasmid-negative targets were retested. Mutations in the rightward box B had no effect. In contrast, mutations in the leftward box B eliminated the majority of Ty3 integration-dependent PCR products. To verify localization of the targeting activity, the left and right halves of SCS3 were subcloned and retested for targeting. As predicted, targeting activity was retained in the clone of the left half of SCS3 but not the right half. This result was consistent with the existence of a Pol III promoter targeting Ty3 integration into the SCS3 ORF (Fig. 6C). These results suggest that there are a limited number of sites in the yeast genome that are not annotated as Pol III transcription units but that may interact with Pol III initiation complexes or Pol III itself.

**Discussion**

**Ty3 accesses the Pol III transcriptome**

Before this study, chromosomal Ty3 elements and LTRs had been observed at ~15% of tDNAs (Chalker and Sandmeyer 1990; Goffeau et al. 1996). This study showed that Ty3 integrates close to the predicted TSS known Pol III–transcribed chromosomal loci. The targets include 274 tDNAs, as well as SNR52, SNR6, RPR1, RDN5-1/2, and SCR1. In addition, Ty3 integrated upstream of two loci, ZOD1 and RNA170, predominantly occupied by TFIIIC (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004), at which transcription is enhanced under conditions of nucleosome depletion (Olivas et al. 1997; Guffanti et al. 2006), and one locus, iYGR033C, for which transcription has not been observed (Guffanti et al. 2006).

Because of its distinctive targeting, Ty3 potentially offers an independent marker for sites of Pol III initiation complex assembly. Several arguments support the inference that Ty3 integration and TSS are tightly linked. First, where known for tDNAs, as well as SNR6 and RDN5 (Chalker and Sandmeyer 1992), the gene-proximal strand transfer of Ty3 cDNA coincides with the Pol III TSS and the
gene-distal strand transfer is 5 nt upstream. In our study, only 21% of cluster widths exceeded 11 bp, and within these clusters, integrations showed peaks offset by 5 nt on the two strands (e.g., Fig. 2; Supplemental Table S3; GEO http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE31820). Second, in vivo mutations in the transcript template that affect TSS selection similarly affect Ty3 integration site selection (Chalker and Sandmeyer 1992, 1993; Kirchner et al. 1995). Third, Brf1 and TBP, which support transcription initiation in vitro on templates with relaxed requirements for promoter opening (Kassavetis et al. 1999), also constitute the minimum Ty3 integration target (Yieh et al. 2000).

Ty3 integrations occurred at a small number of sites not anticipated to be Pol III TSS. These included sites at Pol III–transcribed RNA170, 9tR(UCU)-tD(GUC), and transcripts are observed at low levels but are distinct from some other Pol III promoters in that they change significantly under conditions of nucleosome depletion (Guffanti et al. 2006). Second, alternative box A and box B promoter elements are associated with RNA170. Inspection of the sequence in the vicinity of the Ty3 insertion site shows a candidate box A–box B pair in the opposite orientation to those promoting RNA170. Thirty-nine nucleotides downstream from the Ty3 insertion site is a perfect box A (TGGTATATAAG), 28 nt after which is an imperfect box B (GTTCAgATC; the nucleotide for g is A in consensus). Thus, the Ty3 pre-integration complex could associate with TFIIHB docked via conventional interactions with TFIIIC to bind to alternative promoter elements.

A second example of Ty3 integration at a site not associated with initiation is provided by the four 9tR(UCU)-tD(GUC) genes. A single dimeric pre-tRNA from this locus is observed in vitro (Kjellin-Strahy et al. 1984; Engelke et al. 1985). In addition, the Tr and Td members of a pair are closely spaced so that simultaneous occupancy of both genes by TFIIHB and TFIIIC would be predicted to be disrupted by steric interference. Surprisingly, integrations occurred associated with both 9tR(UCU) and tD(GUC) box A motifs. We conclude that it is likely that the downstream tD(GUC) actually binds the initiation factor TFIIHB and is therefore competent to initiate transcription at some frequency.

**Ty3 integrations reflect the general activity of Pol III–transcribed genes in yeast**

Three ChIP-chip studies in S. cerevisiae (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004) showed that all but approximately a dozen annotated tDNAs bind TFIIIC, TFIIHB, and Pol III (Lowe and Eddy 1997; Olivas et al. 1997; Percudani et al. 1997; Han and Feldmann 1998). In the Moqtaderi and Struhl (2004) study, quantitative comparison of complexes at nine test tDNA genes using ChIP-qPCR showed robust binding averaging 60% of a maximum for the reporter set. Even in the most extreme cases, factors bound with only fivefold to sevenfold differences in efficiency within the test gene set. Similarly, we observed that all Pol III–transcribed candidate genes were used by Ty3, and qPCR sampling of target usage in our study showed an eightfold range in targeting and twofold range in Brf1 occupancy.

Despite significant conservation of the Pol III transcription apparatus between single-celled and metazoan genomes (Huang and Marala 2001), there is evidence for intriguing differences as well. As noted above, most Pol III genes in yeast are transcriptionally active. This contrasts with the situation in cultured human cells where recent studies showed that only about half of annotated tRNA genes bind TFIIHB, TFIIIC, and Pol III (Canella et al. 2010; Moqtaderi et al. 2010; Oler et al. 2010). Furthermore, in yeast, Pol III–transcribed genes (Hull et al. 1994) are repressive to local Pol II promoters (Kinsey and Sandmeyer 1991; D’Ambrosio et al. 2008; Hauesler et al. 2008), and condensin association, which also occurs at ETCs, is implicated in this repression (D’Ambrosio et al. 2008; Hauesler et al. 2008). In human cells, active Pol III genes and active Pol II promoters are associated to a significant extent (Moqtaderi et al. 2010; Oler et al. 2010), as are ETC and sequences with properties of enhancers (Moqtaderi et al. 2010; Oler et al. 2010).

**Discrimination of ETC loci**

Although TFIIIC loading of TFIIHB has been studied extensively in vitro, the process is less well understood in vivo. The observation of Ty3 integration at annotated Pol III–transcribed loci for which transcription factor binding and transcription have barely been detected suggests that it represents a very sensitive probe for bona fide Pol III–transcribed genes. The S. cerevisiae genome has approximately 3700 box A and box B pairs within 100 bp of one another (i.e., similar to SNR6 box A and box B spacing) with a normalized log odds score (NLOD) >0.83 (above the similarity of many tDNAs to consensus) (Xie et al. 2009; data not shown). It was therefore striking that Ty3 integrated virtually exclusively at known Pol III transcription units. What discriminates transcribed loci from ETC and ETC from box A and box B pairs? One possibility is that requirements are compensatory so that the threshold is determined by the synergy of several features. Filtering the 3700 box A/B pairs for those with spacing of 35 bp or less, which is closer to the average distance separating tDNA box A and box B motifs, reduces the number to approximately 1700. With further filtering for a minimum NLOD score of 0.9, the number of pairs drops to about 360, more consistent with the number of Pol III–transcribed genes. One interesting possibility is that a significant subset of these sequences actually are associated with TFIIIC. In examination of just over 400 sites of condensin binding in the yeast genome, D’Ambrosio et al. (2008) found that most contained box B motifs and were associated with at least a low level of TFIIIC (less than found at tDNAs, for example). Interestingly, they also showed that box B alone was sufficient to mediate a low level of TFIIIC association. Moqtaderi et al. (2010) observed an extended box B motif at yeast ETC loci but did not report box A sequences. Inspection of the eight yeast ETC loci shows that few have optimal box A and box B motifs within 35 bp. These observations raise the possibility that box A, which is proximal to the initiation site, also plays a role in the activity of TFIIIC as a TFIIHB loader. Consistent with that, the tDNA pseudogene tD(GUC)N with a single base...
change in the box A consensus binds only TFIIIC (Harismendy et al. 2003) and is not a Ty3 target. Although we examined only a small number of Ty3 targets by qPCR, weak targets shared a distinct box A motif, potentially supporting a role for the strength and position of box A elements in determining TFIIIB loading by TFIIIC.

Functional significance of association of retrotransposons and Pol III–transcribed genes

Ty3 targeted all genes known or predicted to be transcribed by Pol III. Ty3 clusters were also identified upstream of box A–box B pairs in YIL110W and ISCS3. Although the transcripts predicted for Pol III transcription from these loci were not detectable by Northern blot analysis (data not shown), based on the overall specificity of Ty3 for Pol III–transcribed genes, we speculate that these loci are occupied at low levels by Pol III initiation complexes. Although YIL110W is a dubious ORF, ISCS3 is transcribed into poly(A) RNA (Nagalakshmi et al. 2008). These findings raise the possibility that Pol III transcription factor binding sites in Pol II–transcribed regions provide a mechanism for regulatory cross talk. An explicit example of this occurs at ETC6, which was recently implicated in auto-regulation of transcription of the gene encoding a TFIIIC subunit, Tfc6 (Kleinschmidt et al. 2011).

In addition to highlighting potentially novel transcription initiation sites, the comprehensive association we observed between the Ty3 retrotransposon and Pol III–transcribed genes extends the intriguing relationship between retroelements and Pol III–transcribed genes. It was previously proposed that Pol III–transcribed genes could be dispersed by retrotransposition (Weiner et al. 1986). Since that time, LINEs (long interspersed elements) and SINEs (short interspersed elements) have been demonstrated to mobilize SINEs (short interspersed elements) (Devriendt et al. 2003). Retrovirus particles, which are analogous to Ty3 virus-like particles, can, depending on the virus, be enriched for 7SL, U6, and SS Pol III transcripts in addition to primer tRNAs (for review, see Onafuwa-Nuga et al. 2005). The pattern of transcripts hybridizing to Ty3 LTR probes indicates that readthrough from Ty3 into adjacent genomic sequence occurs (Clark et al. 1988). Thus, readthrough transcription from Pol III–specific retrotransposons into downstream genes is a plausible additional mechanism for inclusion of Pol III–transcribed sequences in virus-like particles. If these are reverse-transcribed, they would provide a pool of cDNAs that could promote dissemination or homogenization of Pol III–transcribed gene families.

Summary

In this study, we show that Ty3 provides a highly sensitive and irreversible probe for Pol III transcription initiation complexes. The absence of Ty3 integration into ETC sites underscores the question of what properties distinguish DNA-bound and condensin-associated TFIIIC that loads TFIIIB and allows Ty3 targeting from that which does not. The specificity of Ty3 association with Pol III–transcribed genes make Ty3 a useful tool for future exploration of the association of retrotransposons and Pol III–transcribed genes.

Methods

Bacterial and yeast strains and culture conditions

Yeast strains are described in Table 1A. Strain S288C derivative YPH500 (Johnston and Davis 1984; Sikorski and Hieter 1989) was modified, generating YMA1322 and its nad5Δ derivative YMA1356 (Aye et al. 2001).

Plasmids

Plasmids (Table 1B) were prepared from DH5α [F- φ80lacZΔM15 Δ(lacZYA-argF) U169 deor recA1 endA1 hsdR17 (rK+ mK+) phoA supE44 thi-1 gyrA96 relA1 λ ] (Invitrogen) transformants.

For ChIP, YMA1322 was modified by epitope tagging Brf1 with three copies of the hemagglutinin epitope (3HA). The 3HA coding sequence was introduced in-frame at the downstream end of BRF1 in YMA1322 (Longtime et al. 1998) to create yeast strain YK1692. Brf1 was previously tagged using a similar strategy and was shown not to affect growth of the tagged strain (Harismendy et al. 2003; Roberts et al. 2003; Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). Correct integrants were confirmed by PCR using Brf1-specific primers KN2485 and KN2411, and verified by sequencing with KN2485. Western blot analysis was performed using α-3HA to verify expression of the tagged protein (data not shown).

Yeast and bacterial culture methods were as previously described (Amberg et al. 2005; Ausubel et al. 2007). Synthetic complete medium lacking His, Leu, or Ura (0.67% yeast nitrogen base, 0.2% amino acid drop-out mix) was supplemented to 2% glucose (SD), 2% galactose (SGal), or 1% raffinose, 2% (v/v) glycerol, 2% (v/v) lactic acid (SR) (Burke et al. 2000). Rich medium was 1% yeast extract 2% peptone, 2% dextrose (YPD).

Plasmid constructions

Standard cloning procedures were used throughout (Ausubel et al. 2007). Ty3-ppt-HIS3 was expressed under control of the GAL1-10 UAS from a URA3-marked low-copy plasmid (pKN3050). Ty3 derived from pNB2361 and containing an antisense insertion of HIS3 (Beliaikova-Bethell et al. 2009) at the downstream end of POL3 was recloned into YcPlac33 (ATCC), and unique 60-bp sequence tags were introduced flanking HIS3. Because Ty3 POL3 extends into the downstream LTR, insertion of the HIS3 gene resulted in an unfavorably long downstream LTR. The LTR sequence was reconstituted downstream from HIS3. This Ty3 expression plasmid was designated pKN3050. Plasmid pKN3050 was cleaved with AsII and ShfI and religated, thereby removing one tag and the HIS3 gene and creating pKN3097 (Table 1A). Positive clones were verified by DNA sequencing. This and other sequence analysis were performed at Genewiz Inc. Details of this construction are provided in the Supplemental Methods.

Testing integrations at specific loci

To test specific loci, PCR was performed using primers designed to span the regions targeted by Ty3 integration. Reactions were performed with chromosomal DNA from the YET2 affected strain and its Ty3-integrated derivative, and PCR products were separated by agarose gel electrophoresis. PCR products were excised from gels and sequenced.

Ty3 transposition

For HTS analysis of Ty3-HIS3 integration sites, YMA1322 and YMA1356 transformed with the Ty3-HIS3 expression plasmid pKN3050 were grown to log phase in SR–Ura, –His at 24°C (RT). From each culture, 2 × 10^6 transformants were transferred to each of 10 100-mm plates of SGal–Ura, –His medium or on SD–Ura, –His medium as negative control and maintained for 3 d to allow Ty3 expression. Subsequent steps were performed for both tested conditions. Cultures were replica-plated onto YPD and incubated for 24 h at 30°C. Colonies were replica-plated onto SD–His medium supplemented with 0.1% 5-fluoro-orotic acid (5FOA) (Boeke et al. 2003) and is not a Ty3 target. Although we examined only a small number of Ty3 targets by qPCR, weak targets shared a distinct box A motif, potentially supporting a role for the strength and position of box A elements in determining TFIIIB loading by TFIIIC.

Functional significance of association of retrotransposons and Pol III–transcribed genes

Ty3 targeted all genes known or predicted to be transcribed by Pol III. Ty3 clusters were also identified upstream of box A–box B pairs in YIL110W and ISCS3. Although the transcripts predicted for Pol III transcription from these loci were not detectable by Northern blot analysis (data not shown), based on the overall specificity of Ty3 for Pol III–transcribed genes, we speculate that these loci are occupied at low levels by Pol III initiation complexes. Although YIL110W is a dubious ORF, ISCS3 is transcribed into poly(A) RNA (Nagalakshmi et al. 2008). These findings raise the possibility that Pol III transcription factor binding sites in Pol II–transcribed regions provide a mechanism for regulatory cross talk. An explicit example of this occurs at ETC6, which was recently implicated in auto-regulation of transcription of the gene encoding a TFIIIC subunit, Tfc6 (Kleinschmidt et al. 2011).

In addition to highlighting potentially novel transcription initiation sites, the comprehensive association we observed between the Ty3 retrotransposon and Pol III–transcribed genes extends the intriguing relationship between retroelements and Pol III–transcribed genes. It was previously proposed that Pol III–transcribed genes could be dispersed by retrotransposition (Weiner et al. 1986). Since that time, LINEs (long interspersed elements) and SINEs (short interspersed elements) have been demonstrated to mobilize SINEs (short interspersed elements) (Devriendt et al. 2003). Retrovirus particles, which are analogous to Ty3 virus-like particles, can, depending on the virus, be enriched for 7SL, U6, and SS Pol III transcripts in addition to primer tRNAs (for review, see Onafuwa-Nuga et al. 2005). The pattern of transcripts hybridizing to Ty3 LTR probes indicates that readthrough from Ty3 into adjacent genomic sequence occurs (Clark et al. 1988). Thus, readthrough transcription from Pol III–specific retrotransposons into downstream genes is a plausible additional mechanism for inclusion of Pol III–transcribed sequences in virus-like particles. If these are reverse-transcribed, they would provide a pool of cDNAs that could promote dissemination or homogenization of Pol III–transcribed gene families.

Summary

In this study, we show that Ty3 provides a highly sensitive and irreversible probe for Pol III transcription initiation complexes. The absence of Ty3 integration into ETC sites underscores the question of what properties distinguish DNA-bound and condensin-associated TFIIIC that loads TFIIIB and allows Ty3 targeting from that which does not. The specificity of Ty3 association with Pol III–transcribed genes make Ty3 a useful tool for future exploration of the association of retrotransposons and Pol III–transcribed genes.

Methods

Bacterial and yeast strains and culture conditions

Yeast strains are described in Table 1A. Strain S288C derivative YPH500 (Johnston and Davis 1984; Sikorski and Hieter 1989) was modified, generating YMA1322 and its nad5Δ derivative YMA1356 (Aye et al. 2001).
et al. 1984) to select for cells that had lost the URA3-marked donor plasmid but contained Ty3-HIS3 chromosomal integrants. On average, there were ~10^3 integrants per plate for Ty3-induced samples and 20–40 colonies for negative-control samples. Approximately 10,000 colonies each for YMA1322 and YMA1356 cultures were scraped from plates. Harvested cells were inoculated into 10 mL of SD–His and incubated for 24 h at 30°C on a rotating wheel. Genomic DNA was extracted according to standard procedures (Ausubel et al. 2007).

For quantitative comparison of transposition into different chromosomal target loci, yMA1322 transformed with Ty3-ppt donor plasmid pKN3097 was grown to log phase in SR-Ura medium, diluted into 25 mL of SGal–Ura medium to a final concentration of 0.2 OD600 and grown with shaking at 180 rpm, for 24 h at room temperature. As negative control, cultures were diluted into 5 mL of SD–Ura medium to 0.2 OD600 and allowed to grow for 24 h at room temperature. Quantitative comparison of transposition into plasmid-borne targets was performed similarly except that –Ura –Leu medium was used to select for donor and target plasmids. Slower growth necessitated extending the SGal –Ura –Leu incubation from 24 h to 36 h.

Analysis of Ty3 transposition using Illumina GAIIx sequencing (Tpn-seq)

Ty3–host junctions were identified using an inverse (i) PCR strategy (Fig. 1; Ochman et al. 1988; Wang et al. 2008). Samples were processed as follows: (1) gDNA was digested independently with three different 4-bp cutters (Csp6I, HaeIII, and HpyCH4V). (2) Cleaved DNA was circularized in a ligation reaction. (3) DNA containing Ty3 U5 end joint with genomic DNA was amplified by iPCR using primers within the Ty3 U5 and tag1. (4) Samples were submitted to the Genetics Department Sequence Facility, Washington University (St. Louis, MO) for analysis using the Illumina GAIIx. Details are provided in the Supplemental Methods.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation

For quantitative comparison of Brf1 occupancy of target loci, YKN1692 transformed with plasmid YCplac33 was grown under conditions described for Ty3 induction. Samples were processed for ChIP analysis essentially as previously described (Strahl-Bolsinger et al. 1997). Details of the processing are provided in the Supplemental Methods.

Quantitative PCR

Nucleic acid was extracted according to standard procedures (Ausubel et al. 2007). Samples were treated with RNase A (0.2 µg/µL), and DNA was purified using Microspin-30 columns (Bio-Rad). DNA concentrations were measured on a NanoDrop-1000 (Thermal Scientific Inc., NanoDrop products).

QPCR was conducted in an iCycler (Bio-Rad). The total volume of 25-µL reactions contained 1× iQ SYBR Green Super Mix (Bio-Rad), 0.4 µM each primer, and various amounts of DNA template. Serial dilutions of standard plasmids of known concentration were used to construct a standard curve. All reactions were performed in triplicate. Thermal cycling included 40 cycles of extension (30 sec at 95°C, 30 sec at 55°C, 30 sec at 72°C). Fluorescence was captured after each extension step. PCR products were analyzed by melt curves and electrophoresis.

QPCR of DNA samples containing integrations at chromosomal loci were standardized using plasmid templates constructed as described above to contain the U5 or U3 end of the Ty3 LTR juxtaposed to each specific target. QPCR primers are described in Supplemental Table S2. Chromosomal ACT1 copy number determined by qPCR using forward primer XQ3563 and reverse primer XQ3564 was used to normalize the integrations determined in different samples.

For plasmid target experiments, standard curves were used to determine the copy numbers of: (A) Ty3 integrations at the target plasmids using primers XQ2603/XQ3313 for U5 orientation, and using 3135/3582 for U3 orientation; (B) total plasmids using primer pair JY3435/3436; (C) Ty3 integrations at chromosomal tF(GAA) family members using primer pair XQ2603/3621; and (D) total chromosomal DNA, indicated by ACT1 copy number, using primer pair XQ3563/XQ3564. Relative integration was calculated as the ratio on plasmids (A/B) normalized with the integration ratio on chromosome (C/D); (A/B)/(C/D). Duplicate samples were used, and the mean of relative integrations was plotted.

For quantification of Brf1 binding, 2 µL of ChIP DNA sample containing 1–5 ng of DNA was used in a 25-µL qPCR reaction. QPCR was conducted in the linear range for each set of primers determined using a serial dilution of template DNA. Primers are listed in Supplemental Table S2. Occupancy values (in arbitrary units) were calculated as described previously (Moqtaderi and Struhl 2004). The apparent immunoprecipitation (IP) efficiency (i.e., the amount of PCR product in the IP sample divided by the amount of PCR product in the input sample) was divided by the apparent cross-linking efficiency of the ACT1 control DNA segment in each sample. The resulting relative IP efficiency of ACT1, 1.0, was then subtracted from all relative values to yield a background of zero.

Computational analysis

HTS image files were converted to fastq files using Illumina pipeline software. Each sequence began with the last 17 nt of the Ty3 LTR, and HTS reads that did not initiate with this sequence were discarded. For remaining sequences, the LTR barcode was truncated, and the genomic sequence was extracted. Sequence reads with <19 nt of genomic sequence were also excluded from further analysis. Retained reads were mapped to the yeast genome sequence downloaded from the UCSC Genome Browser (build sacCer2 June 2008) (Rhead et al. 2010) using Bowtie (v 0.9.8.1) (Langmead et al. 2009). Only reads with no mismatches were kept for further analysis. Reads that matched multiple genomic loci were tagged for separate analysis.

Mapped sequence reads were converted to insertion sites defined by chromosome number, strand (Watson or Crick), and coordinate. The read density of an insertion site was defined as the number of reads that mapped to that site. Insertion sites with densities less than 5 in either data set were excluded from further analysis. Neighboring insertion sites were linked into clusters by aggregating any two sites that were no more than 10 nt apart, regardless of strandedness. Thus, a cluster is defined by a genomic interval, delimited by two addresses. This procedure yielded a total of 296 clusters using only reads mapping to unique genomic locations. The read density of a cluster is the sum of the read densities of the insertion sites in the cluster. The event density of a cluster is the number of unique insertion sites associated with the cluster. Clusters are described in Supplemental Table S3.

Each of the cluster intervals was used to find nearby genomic features based on publicly available genome-wide annotations. The locations of Pol III–transcribed genes, ORFs, ARSs, and LTRs were downloaded from the Saccharomyces Genome Database (http://www.yeastgenome.org/; Dec 2009). Box A and box B sequences associated with Pol III–transcribed genes were from Marck et al. (2006).

Sequence processing and annotation were conducted using a variety of tools. In particular, the MotifMap pipeline (Xie et
Data access
The original fastq files are available at the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/) under accesssion no. GSE31820.

Acknowledgments
This research was supported in whole or in part by funds from the National Science Foundation Grant 0450159 and National Institutes of Health (NIH), Public Service Grant GM33281 to S.S., and by funds provided by the James S. McDonnell Foundation to M.J.

References


Effect of alterations in the flanking sequence on in vivo and in vitro expression of the yeast S. cerevisiae TATA box. EMBO J 4: 2657–2664.


Local definition of Ty1 target preference by long terminal repeats and clustered RNA genes. Genome Res 14: 1232–1247.


Defining the RNA polymerase III transcription initiation and Ty3 integration at the U6 gene are positioned by the TATA box. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 98: 4972–4973.


Saccharomyces cerevisiae. Yeast 26: 4738–4747.


Qi et al.


Received August 27, 2011; accepted in revised form January 25, 2012.