

Bonus, a *Drosophila* TIF1 Homolog, Is a Chromatin-Associated Protein That Acts as a Modifier of Position-Effect Variegation

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Manuscript received October 1, 2004

Accepted for publication November 10, 2004

ABSTRACT

Bonus, a *Drosophila* TIF1 homolog, is a nuclear receptor cofactor required for viability, molting, and numerous morphological events. Here we establish a role for Bonus in the modulation of chromatin structure. We show that weak loss-of-function alleles of *bonus* have a more deleterious effect on males than on females. This male-enhanced lethality is not due to a defect in dosage compensation or somatic sex differentiation, but to the presence of the Y chromosome. Additionally, we show that *bonus* acts as both an enhancer and a suppressor of position-effect variegation. By immunostaining, we demonstrate that Bonus is associated with both interphase and prophase chromosomes and through chromatin immunoprecipitation show that two of these sites correspond to the histone gene cluster and the Stellate locus.

POSITIONAL information and domains of higher-order chromatin modulate gene expression in eukaryotes. Chromatin can be divided into two types of domains: euchromatic (noncondensed) and heterochromatic (condensed). Euchromatin, which is generally more accessible to the transcriptional machinery and therefore transcriptionally permissive, is composed of mostly single-copy DNA sequences. In contrast, heterochromatin is generally more inaccessible to DNA-binding transcription factors and is predominantly transcriptionally silent (HENIKOFF 2000; GREWAL and MOAZED 2003). In *Drosophila*, large domains of heterochromatin are present at centromeres and telomeres, while smaller domains of heterochromatin are present throughout the genome (GREWAL and ELGIN 2002). Despite the important role of heterochromatin in chromosomal architecture and gene expression, many of the components underlying its formation and propagation have yet to be identified and characterized.

Much of the information regarding heterochromatin has come from studying its ability to repress transcription in *Drosophila* (WEILER and WAKIMOTO 1995). Transcriptional repression occurs when a euchromatic gene is placed near or in regions of heterochromatin through chromosomal rearrangement or transposable-element-mediated insertion. In this new environment, a subset of cells assumes a repressed transcriptional state that is propagated through multiple cell divisions. This mosaic

gene expression is termed position-effect variegation (PEV) and is believed to result from the spreading of condensed, higher-order structured heterochromatin into neighboring euchromatin (DEMEREK and SLIZYNSKA 1937; GRIGLIATTI 1992). In *Drosophila*, genetic screens have identified mutations that either enhance [*enhancers of variegation* (*E(var)*)] or suppress [*suppressors of variegation* (*Su(var)*)] the effect of PEV (REUTER and WOLFF 1981; SINCLAIR *et al.* 1989). *E(var)* proteins are believed to participate in the formation of active chromatin domains, while *Su(var)* proteins participate in the formation of repressed chromatin domains. Several of these genes have been cloned and analyzed. Their protein products encode nonhistone components of heterochromatin or proteins that regulate its assembly. The ability of these modifying proteins to suppress or enhance PEV often depends on their dosage and has led to the hypothesis that heterochromatin assembly is regulated by the concentration of available components (LOCKE *et al.* 1988; SCHOTTA *et al.* 2003).

One PEV modifier gene, *Su(var)2-5*, encodes the heterochromatin-associated protein 1 (HP1; EISSENBERG *et al.* 1990). *Su(var)2-5* suppresses PEV when deleted and enhances PEV when duplicated (EISSENBERG *et al.* 1990, 1992). Molecular studies have shown that HP1 is an essential component of heterochromatin and is required for transcriptional regulation, chromosome segregation, and structural integrity of the interphase nucleus (KELLUM 2003). Interestingly, the ability of HP1 to efficiently bind and increase heterochromatin assembly depends upon its ability to be phosphorylated (ZHAO *et al.* 2001). Moreover, PIACENTINI *et al.* (2003) have recently demonstrated that HP1 is unexpectedly associ-

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ated with transcriptionally active regions of euchromatin. They showed that HP1 recruited to heat-shock and ecdysone-activated puffs plays a positive regulatory role in the transcription of genes located at these sites as compared to its more studied role in silencing.

Several proteins that either interact with or modify HP1 have been identified (GREWAL and MOAZED 2003). One of these families of proteins is the TIF1 family. The TIF1 family of proteins, TIF1 α (LE DOUARIN *et al.* 1995), TIF1 β [also called KAP-1 (FRIEDMAN *et al.* 1996) or KRIP-1 (KIM *et al.* 1996)], and TIF1 γ (VENTURINI *et al.* 1999), are all structurally and functionally similar. All family members have an N-terminal RING finger, B boxes, and a coiled-coil domain (RBCC) followed by a C-terminal PHD finger and a bromodomain. They also have intrinsic kinase activity and repress transcription when tethered to a promoter (FRASER *et al.* 1998; NIELSEN *et al.* 1999; VENTURINI *et al.* 1999). In addition, TIF1 α and TIF1 β recruit histone deacetylases (HDAC) to repress transcription (NIELSEN *et al.* 1999). Interestingly, TIF1 α and TIF1 β have been shown to interact with and phosphorylate vertebrate homologs of HP1 (LE DOUARIN *et al.* 1998; NIELSEN *et al.* 1999; RYAN *et al.* 1999). Thus, the ability of TIF1 family members to recruit HDAC and phosphorylate vertebrate homologs of HP1 suggests that they may have essential roles in the regulation of chromatin. Unfortunately, the *in vivo* relevance of these biochemical interactions has not been established due to the early lethality associated with mutations in mouse TIF1 β and the lack of mutation in vertebrate TIF1 α and γ (CAMMAS *et al.* 2000).

Previously, we reported the isolation of the *Drosophila* homolog of the TIF1 family, Bonus (Bon), and established *Drosophila* as a valuable model organism for studying the *in vivo* function of the TIF1 family (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). Bon is the only *Drosophila* homolog of the TIF1 family and is expressed throughout development. Mutational analysis revealed that *bon* is required for numerous events in metamorphosis, including leg elongation, bristle development, and salivary gland cell death. Bon was shown to interact biochemically with several *Drosophila* nuclear receptors. Specifically, it was demonstrated, both genetically and biochemically, that Bon is able to bind to and inhibit the transcriptional activity of β FTZ-F1, a component of the ecdysone transcriptional cascade, providing the first *in vivo* evidence for a role of a TIF1 homolog in nuclear receptor signaling.

During our phenotypic characterization of different *bon* alleles, we observed that partial loss-of-function alleles had a more deleterious effect on males than on females. Here we expand on this observation and report a new allele of *bon* that is male specific lethal and female viable. We show that the male lethality associated with *bon* alleles is not due to defects in dosage compensation or sex determination pathways, but rather to the presence of the Y chromosome. We also show that an in-

TABLE 1
Drosophila stocks

<i>yw</i> ; <i>bon</i> ^{S024108} /TM6B, <i>Tb</i> ¹ (BECKSTEAD <i>et al.</i> 2001)
<i>yw</i> ; <i>bon</i> ^{21B} /TM6B, <i>Tb</i> ¹ (BECKSTEAD <i>et al.</i> 2001)
<i>yw</i> ; <i>bon</i> ^{S048706} /TM6B, <i>Tb</i> ¹ (BECKSTEAD <i>et al.</i> 2001)
<i>w</i> ; <i>Df(3R)H^{1B79}</i> , <i>e</i> [*] /TM2 (WUSTMANN <i>et al.</i> 1989)
<i>yw</i> ; <i>P(lacw)</i> ⁰⁴³⁴²⁰ /TM6B, <i>Tb</i> ¹ (DEAK <i>et al.</i> 1997)
<i>Sxl^{FL}/FM7a</i> (MULLER and ZIMMERING 1960)
<i>tra-2^B/CyO</i> (BELOTE and BAKER 1987)
<i>tra-2¹/CyO</i> (BELOTE and BAKER 1987)
<i>MCdelta3¹-10/TM6</i> , <i>Tb</i> ¹ (BASHAW and BAKER 1997)
<i>C(1;Y)y¹B^S</i> (Bloomington Stock Center; LINDSLEY <i>et al.</i> 1972)
<i>y¹P/y⁺mDim2 wB.R.E.BR=SUPor-P/25-4-3</i> (ROSEMAN <i>et al.</i> 1995)
<i>ln(1)w^{M4H}</i> (Bloomington Stock Center)
<i>y¹; ry⁵⁰⁶; γ878, y⁺</i> (LE <i>et al.</i> 1995)

crease in X-heterochromatin results in a decrease in the viability of *bon* mutant animals. In addition, loss-of-function *bon* alleles dominantly suppress the PEV of the *y*⁺ gene and dominantly enhance the PEV of the *w*⁺ gene, suggesting that Bon plays an important positive and negative regulatory role in transcription. Finally, chromatin immunoprecipitation assays indicate that Bon is associated with the histone cluster and Stellate locus, two loci that display properties of β -heterochromatin.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Immunohistochemistry and microscopy: Guinea pig anti-Bon (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001) was used as a primary antibody and fluorescein conjugated goat anti-guinea pig antibody (Molecular Probes, Eugene, OR) was used as the secondary antibody. TOTO-3 iodide (Molecular Probes) was used to visualize DNA. Prepupal brains of 0 hr were dissected in a 0.7% NaCl solution followed by a 10-min incubation in 0.5% sodium citrate solution. Brains were fixed in 45% acetic acid containing 2% formaldehyde for 3 min, squashed between a slide and coverslip, and frozen in liquid nitrogen. After removal of the coverslip, the slide was incubated in 1% Triton X-100 for 10 min prior to staining (PIMPINELLI *et al.* 2000). Alternatively, the slide was incubated in 45% acetic acid for 3 min, squashed, and frozen. The coverslip was removed, and the sample incubated in 1% Triton X-100 for 10 min and then fixed in 2% formaldehyde for 3 min prior to staining. Brain images were captured using a Bio-Rad (Richmond, CA) MRC 600 laser scanning confocal microscope. Animals were photographed using a Zeiss Stemi SV8 and Hamamatsu digital camera. See Table 1 for *Drosophila* stocks.

Chromatin immunoprecipitation: Formaldehyde crosslinked chromatin fragments were prepared by sonication of 8- to 16-hr-old embryos (ORLANDO *et al.* 1997). The crosslinked nucleoprotein complexes were isolated by immunoprecipitation using an antibody against Bon (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001) and dimethyllysine 9 histone H3 peptide. The DNA-protein complexes were reverse crosslinked for 5 hr at 65°. DNA was purified by phenol-chloroform extraction and recovered by ethanol precipitation. Precipitated DNA was analyzed by non-real-time PCR using primers specific to regions of the *his* unit (accession no. X14215; MATSUO and YAMAZAKI 1989) and the Stellate cluster (accession no. X15899.1; LIVAK 1990). The PCR conditions used for amplification were denaturation at 92° for 50 sec, annealing

TABLE 2
Oligonucleotide primers

Primer pair	Position	Sequence
P6 iH1f	2065-85	5'-ACAATGCTACTGACATCAGTC-3'
P6 iH1Dr	2380-03	5'-TAATAGACGCTTCTTTTTCAGAAGCC-3'
P8 iH1Bf	2740-60	5'-TTCCGCAACAAAATTAGCCAA-3'
P8 iH3r	3316-35	5'-AGCGCTAGCGTACTCTATAAT-3'
P13 H4R	4384-02	5'-GGTACACAGGATGTACACT-3'
P13 H4F	4073-92	5'-ACTGGTTCGTGGTAAAGGAGG-3'
P14 iH4f	4353-74	5'-CCGCACCCTCTACGGATTTGG-3'
P14 iH2Ar	4852-72	5'-CCGAGAAGAAGGCCTAAACGT-3'
P2 iH2Af	85-105	5'-CCGGAGCAAACGGTGAATACG-3'
P2 iH2Br	506-26	5'-GATGGCATAGCTCTCCTTCCT-3'
P4 iH2Bf	683-702	5'-CGGGAGATCCAAACGGCTGT-3'
P4 iH1r	1081-01	5'-TCAGGGCTACAACGTTCCGTT-3'
P5 H2BR	792-09	5'-TGTCCGCATTTCGCAGGAG-3'
P5 H2Bf	419-35	5'-CCTCCGAAAACACTAGTGA-3'
Stef	115-140	5'-GGCCATCGAGTCCTCAGCCGA-3'
Ster	472-497	5'-GATCCCGAGGAACCAATCGAT-3'

at 57° for 1 min, and extension at 72° for 2 min 30 sec. This cycle was repeated 25 times for all primer pairs except P6 and P8, which required 28 cycles for efficient detection of the products.

To verify specific enrichment of DNA fragments by the antibodies used, we performed several controls. First, we used an antibody that recognizes the T7-Tag. *Drosophila* does not contain any proteins with this sequence and therefore we expected no pull-down with the T7 antibody, which proved to be the case. Second, we performed a mock immunoprecipitation reaction using only blocked protein A sepharose beads. This control determines the level of nonspecific DNA interactions with the beads and is essentially negligible in our experiments. Third, to rule out the possibility that any observed enrichment of histone sequences was not a consequence of the multiple gene copies present, we examined another reiterated set of genes located elsewhere in the genome. These were the 5S rRNA cluster (accession no. X06938) and ubiquitin protein gene DROUBIA (accession no. M22428). Sequences corresponding to these loci were not enriched when chromatin was immunoprecipitated with the Bon antibody or the control antibody (Figure 6D). The 5S cluster is reiterated >200 times per haploid genome. However, 5S sequences were significantly enriched when antibodies against acetylated K9 H3 and acetylated H4 were used, as is expected of highly expressed loci (data not shown). Finally, we performed control chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) reactions in parallel using chromatin prepared from *Su(var)3-9⁰⁶* null mutant extracts. *Su(var)3-9* encodes K9 H3 methyltransferase and is associated with the HIS-C cluster (NER *et al.* 2002). Using an antibody raised to *Su(var)3-9*, we do not detect this protein at HIS-C in the null mutant and, moreover, we observed no K9 H3 methylation at histone sequences compared with immunoprecipitations performed on chromatin from wild-type embryos. See Table 2 for a list of oligonucleotide primers.

RESULTS

Loss-of-function mutations of *bonus* are male specific lethal: Phenotypic analysis of *bon* loss-of-function muta-

tions suggested that males are more affected by the loss of *bon* than females (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). We have identified a mutation, *P{lacW}⁰⁴³⁴²⁰* (DEAK *et al.* 1997), that caused male-specific lethality and mapped ~100 nucleotides into the 5'-UTR of the *bon* gene. As shown in Figure 1A, complementation tests performed between *P{lacW}⁰⁴³⁴²⁰* and other *bon* alleles demonstrate that this novel mutation fails to complement all *bon* mutations in regard to the male lethality while it only partially fails to complement the female lethality (allelic series in decreasing strength is *Df(3R)HB⁷⁹* > *bon^{21B}* > *bon⁴⁸⁷* > *bon²⁴¹*; see BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). Thus, *P{lacW}⁰⁴³⁴²⁰* is a weak loss-of-function allele of *bon*. We refer to this allele as *bon⁴³⁴*. Homozygous *bon⁴³⁴* males die as first instar larvae while 86% of mutant female animals eclose (Figure 1, A and B). Most *bon⁴³⁴* females appear morphologically normal and are fertile, but a small percentage display a rough-eye phenotype (data not shown). Precise excision of the *bon⁴³⁴* *P*-element reverts both the male lethality and eye phenotype, confirming that the *P*-element is responsible for the observed phenotypes.

To better characterize the lethal phase of each sex in different *bon* mutant backgrounds, we examined the percentage of homozygous males and females that die during the first instar larval stage for *bon⁴³⁴* and *bon²⁴¹*; partial loss-of-function alleles; and *bon^{21B}*, a null allele (Figure 1B; BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). We observed that all *bon⁴³⁴* and *bon²⁴¹* homozygous males died as first instar larvae, while all mutant females survived at least to the second instar larval stage. In contrast, a strong loss-of-function allele, *bon^{21B}*, causes lethality in both male and female first instar larvae. Thus, partial loss-of-function alleles of *bon* have a more deleterious effect on males than on females, while severe loss-of-function alleles affect males and females more equally.

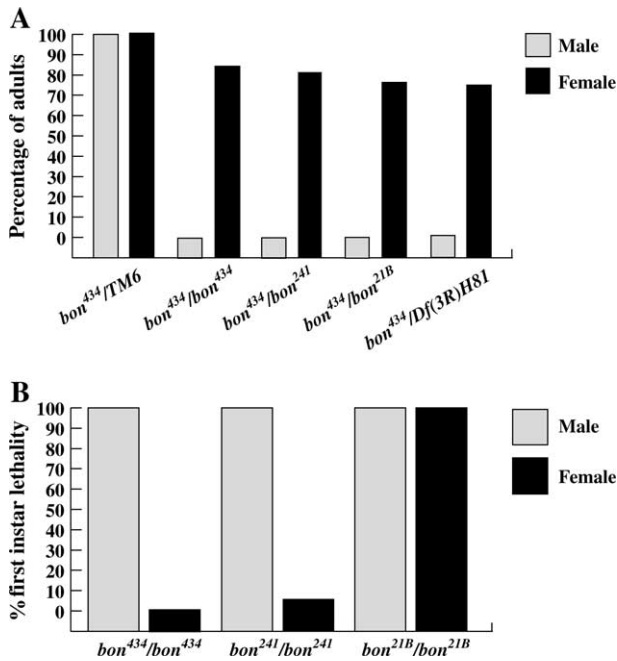


FIGURE 1.—Partial loss-of-function alleles of *bon* have a more deleterious effect on males than on females. (A) The percentage of animals that survived to the adult stage. Percentages for *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴*, *bon⁴³⁴/bon²⁴¹*, *bon⁴³⁴/bon^{21B}*, and *bon⁴³⁴/Df(3R)H81* were determined by comparison to the number of *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* animals, taken as 100%, that survive in each individual cross. (B) Animals of the listed genotypes were analyzed for first instar larval lethality. Homozygous mutant animals were identified by the absence of the balancer chromosome, while males/females were distinguished anatomically.

Male lethality is not due to defects in the sex determination and dosage compensation pathways: In *Drosophila* development, *Sex lethal* (*Sxl*) is upregulated in females and remains silent in males (CLINE 1993). *Sxl* directs sexual development in females by controlling the female-specific splicing of the *transformer* (*tra*) gene (LUCCHESI 1978; BOGGS *et al.* 1987). Expression of *Sxl* in males is lethal, as it will lead to a lack of dosage compensation through its regulation of splicing and translation of *male-specific-lethal 2* (*msl2*; BASHAW and BAKER 1997; KELLEY *et al.* 1997). The sex-specific requirement of *Sxl* is seen in the loss-of-function (*Sxl^{Fl}*) and the gain-of-function (*Sxl^{M1}*) *Sxl* mutations. Loss of *Sxl* associated with *Sxl^{Fl}* results in female-specific lethality, while ectopic expression of *Sxl* in the gain-of-function mutation *Sxl^{M1}* results in male-specific lethality (MULLER and ZIMMERING 1960; SKRIPSKY and LUCCHESI 1982).

To determine whether the *bon* male-specific lethality is due to aberrant expression of the *Sxl* gene in *bon* males, we created homozygous *bon⁴³⁴* males that lacked *Sxl* gene function by crossing *Sxl^{Fl}/FM7*; *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* females to *Sxl^{Fl}/Y*; *bon⁴³⁴/TM6B* males. As seen in Figure 2A, almost no *Sxl^{Fl}/Y*; *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* escapers were observed whereas 764 *Sxl^{Fl}/Y*; *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* flies survived to adulthood. Similar crosses performed with *bon²⁴¹* showed

that no *Sxl^{Fl}/Y*; *bon²⁴¹/bon²⁴¹* male animals survived beyond the first instar larval stage (data not shown). These observations demonstrate that ectopic expression of *Sxl* in males is not the primary cause of death.

We next tested whether defects in X chromosome dosage compensation could be the basis of the *bon⁴³⁴* male-specific lethality. In *Drosophila* males, dosage compensation increases the transcriptional rate of genes on the X chromosome to compensate for the presence of only one X chromosome. This process is mediated by five *msl* genes: *maleless* (*mle*), the *male-specific-lethal* genes (*msl1*, *msl2*, *msl3*), and *males absent on the first* (*mof*; CLINE and MEYER 1996). Protein products of the *msl* genes form a complex with the noncoding RNA products of the *roX1* and *roX2* genes to mediate dosage compensation by regulating the chromatin structure on the male X chromosome (FRANKE *et al.* 1996). To determine whether *msl* genes were properly expressed in the *bon* male embryos, we stained embryos with anti-MSL1 antibodies. As seen in Figure 2, B and C, similar nuclear MSL localization of MSL1 was detected in both *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* and *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* embryos. Similar results were obtained for the protein products of other *msl* genes (*msl1*, *msl2*, *msl3*, and *mof*; data not shown), suggesting that the dosage compensation complex is present in *bon* male embryos.

To test whether reduced levels of *Bon* impede the mechanism of dosage compensation, we expressed a MSL2 (*MCdelta3'-10*) in *bon* females (BASHAW and BAKER 1997). Expression of MSL2 in females results in the activation of the dosage compensation pathway. Some cells that express MSL2 upregulate dosage compensation, giving rise to females with a 3X2A phenotype. As shown in Figure 2D, constitutively active MSL2 in females with reduced levels of *Bon* still leads to the production of numerous 3X2A females, suggesting that dosage compensation is not affected. We conclude that there is no evidence of a role for *bon* in dosage compensation.

To determine whether the somatic sex of the animals plays a role in *bon*-induced male lethality, we tested whether 2X female animals that are somatically male are lethal when homozygous for *bon⁴³⁴*. We generated homozygous *bon⁴³⁴* females that are mutant for the *tra-2* gene and hence develop somatically as males (BELOTE and BAKER 1987). As seen in Figure 2E, *tra-2¹/tra-2^B*; *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* animals that are genetically female, but phenotypically male, are viable, showing that somatic sex of the animal is not the cause of the lethality associated with a partial loss of *Bon*. In summary, the experiments shown in Figure 2 indicate that *bon⁴³⁴* male lethality is not due to defects in dosage compensation or somatic sex differentiation.

Male lethality is due to the presence of the Y chromosome: Because the *bon* male lethality is not due to defects in sex determination pathways, we tested whether the presence or absence of the Y chromosome influences the phase of lethality. In *Drosophila*, the Y chromosome,

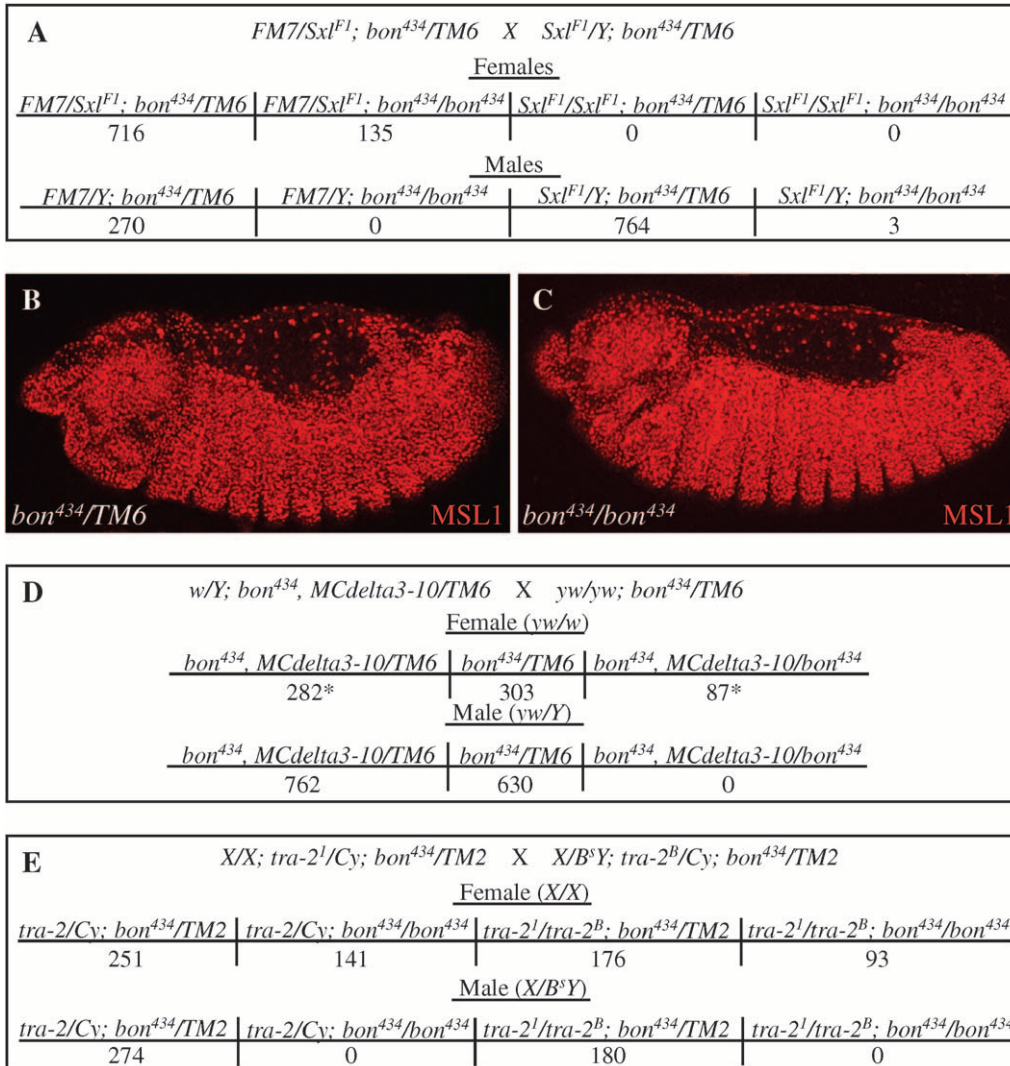


FIGURE 2.—*bon⁴³⁴* male-specific lethality is not due to defects in sex determination and dosage compensation. (A) Numbers of offspring from the cross *FM7/Sxl^{F1}; bon⁴³⁴/TM6* × *Sxl^{F1}/Y; bon⁴³⁴/TM6*. Note that the *Sxl^{F1}* mutation is lethal to females, but not to males except in the homozygous *bon⁴³⁴* background where only three males were detected. (B and C) Immunohistochemistry using an antibody against MSL1 in *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* (control) and *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* late-stage embryos. (D) Numbers of offspring from *w/Y; bon⁴³⁴, MCdelta3-10/TM6* × *yw/yw; bon⁴³⁴/TM6*. *MCdelta* encodes for a constitutively active MSL2 protein. An asterisk denotes female animals with a 3X2A-like pattern. (E) Number of offspring from *X/X; tra-2¹/Cy; bon⁴³⁴/TM2* × *X/B^SY; tra-2^B/Cy; bon⁴³⁴/TM2*. Note that *tra-2¹/tra-2^B* females are still viable in the *bon* mutant background.

which accounts for ~12% of the male genome, is made up almost entirely of heterochromatin and functions as a *Su(var)* (PIMPINELLI *et al.* 1978; DIMITRI and PISANO 1989). The Y chromosome itself is not necessary for male viability, but contains genes that are required for male fertility, as well as the *bobbed* (*bb*) locus, which encodes rRNA genes (STERN 1927; BROSSAU 1960; KENNISON and RIPOLL 1981; CARVALHO *et al.* 2001).

To test whether male lethality of *bon⁴³⁴* is caused by the Y chromosome, we crossed *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* males that contained a compound X-Y chromosome (*C(1:Y)y¹B^S*) to *bon⁴³⁴/TM6* females to produce males that lacked the Y chromosome (XO) and females that contain the Y chromosome (XXY; Figure 3A). The presence of a Y chromosome in *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* females results in 100% lethality, while the absence of the Y chromosome in *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* males rescues the lethality. Similar data were obtained for other *bon* alleles (data not shown). Thus, the presence of the Y chromosome in a partial loss-of-function *bon* background causes lethality, irrespective of the sex of the fly.

The *bon* Y-conditional lethality suggested that the viability of *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* animals may depend on the levels of heterochromatin present in the genome. To test this hypothesis, we generated female flies that contained an additional copy of heterochromatic DNA that is associated with the X chromosome (20A-h26) (DOBZHANSKY 1932). The presence of this additional heterochromatin resulted in a 60% decrease in viability of *bon⁴³⁴/bon⁴³⁴* female adults as compared to those that lack the additional X heterochromatic DNA (Figure 3B). In summary, the data indicate that the presence of the Y chromosome or X-heterochromatin decreases viability of *bon* mutants.

bonus acts as both an Enhancer and a Suppressor of position-effect variegation: Because of the interaction of *bon* with heterochromatin, we wished to determine if *bon* affects heterochromatin formation or spreading. We therefore tested the ability of different loss-of-function *bon* mutations to modify the expression pattern of euchromatic genes that were inserted on the Y chromosome. Two *SUPor-P*-element lines, which map to the Y chromosome, were obtained (ROSEMAN *et al.* 1995).

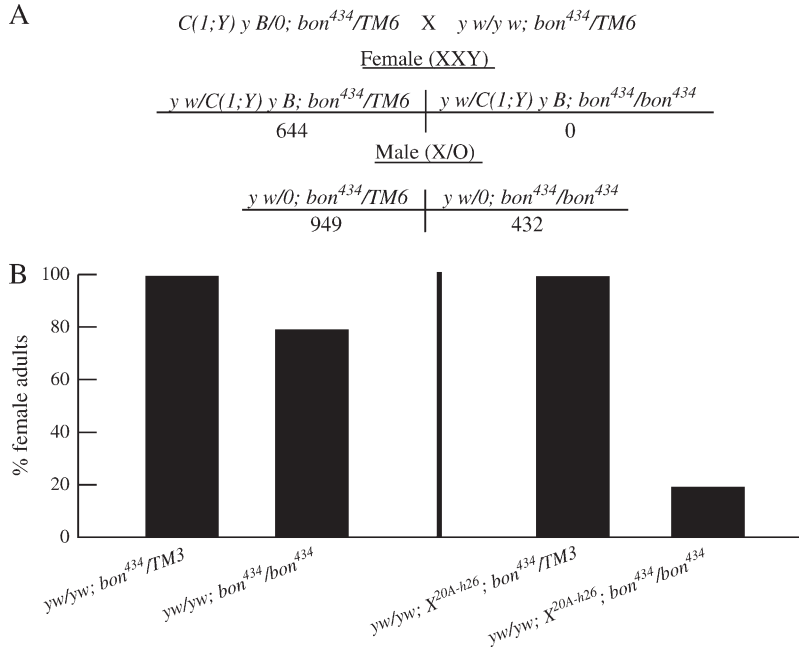


FIGURE 3.— bon^{434} male-specific lethality is due to the presence of the Y chromosome. (A) Number of offspring from the cross $C(1;Y) y^1 B^0; bon^{434}/TM6 \times y w/y w; bon^{434}/TM6$. (B) The percentage of female animals that survived to the adult stage in different genetic backgrounds. Percentages for $y w/y w; bon^{434}/bon^{434}$ was determined by comparison to the number of $y w/y w; bon^{434}/TM3$, taken as 100%, and $y w/y w; X^{20A-h26}; bon^{434}/bon^{434}$ was determined by comparison to the number of $y w/y w; X^{20A-h26}; bon^{434}/TM3$, taken as 100%. $n > 50$ for each genotype.

Data for $y^1 P\{y^+ mDint2 wBR.E.BR = SUPor-P\}25-4-3$ and $y^1 P\{y^+ mDint2 wBR.E.BR = SUPor-P\}222-1$ were similar, and only data for $y^1 P\{y^+ mDint2 wBR.E.BR = SUPor-P\}25-4-3$ are shown. *SUPor-P* elements (Figure 4A) are transposons that contain both the *yellow* (y^+) gene with body (B) and wing enhancers (W), and the *white* gene (w^+) with an eye enhancer (E). The w^+ gene and its enhancer are flanked on either side by *Su(Hw)*-binding sites. These sites insulate the w^+ gene from the effects of other enhancers and local heterochromatin domains (ROSEMAN *et al.* 1993). As seen in Figure 4, B and D, both the w^+ and y^+ genes are expressed in a variegated pattern. The loss of expression of both the w^+ and y^+ genes is believed to be due to the effects of domains of heterochromatin that silence gene expression. The w^+ gene (Figure 4B) is less affected by heterochromatin than the y^+ gene (Figure 4D), probably because of the insulation of the *Su(Hw)*-binding sites (ROSEMAN *et al.* 1993). Removal of one copy of bon^+ (bon^{21B}) resulted in a weak but significant dominant suppression of w^+ expression as compared to the control (Figure 4, B and C). Thus bon is an enhancer of variegation. The other bon alleles could not be tested in this assay as they contain a copy of the w^+ gene in the bon locus. These data suggest that bon^+ plays an inhibitory role in heterochromatin formation and/or spreading. As shown in Figure 4, D–G, decreasing the levels of bon protein with bon^{241} , bon^{487} , and bon^{21B} resulted in an increased expression of y^+ as compared to the control. The level of suppression of y^+ variegation also correlates with the strength of the bon allele (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). Hence, for the y^+ gene, present in the same *P* element as w^+ , bon mutations act as suppressors of variegation. These data suggest that bon^+

plays a positive role in heterochromatin formation and/or spreading.

The observation that the wild-type allele of bon is simultaneously an *E(var)* and *Su(var)* may be due to the properties of the *SUPor-P* element. The *Su(Hw)*-binding sites flanking the w^+ gene may buffer or alter the effect of the loss of Bon . We therefore determined if removal of a copy of bon could affect the variegation of a w^+ gene that is in close proximity heterochromatin at the base of the X chromosome, using the *white-mottled* ($l(1)w^{MH}$) chromosome (REUTER and WOLFF 1981). As shown in Figure 4H, $l(1)w^{MH}$ results in a phenotype that is characterized by red dots in a brown background (REUTER and WOLFF 1981). In the presence of one copy of bon^{21B} , variegation associated with $l(1)w^{MH}$ is dramatically enhanced (Figure 4I) and the eyes appear mostly white with a few orange and red spots. To determine if loss of bon could affect the variegation of the y^+ gene, we assayed the effect that loss of bon could modify the y^+ variegation associated with the minichromosome $\gamma 878$ (LE *et al.* 1995). As seen in Figure 4J, $y^1; \gamma 506; \gamma 878, y^+$ results in an abdominal cuticle phenotype characterized by a severe reduction in y^+ expression with a few y^+ patches observed. In the presence of one copy of bon^{21B} , variegation associated with $y^1; \gamma 506; \gamma 878, y^+$ is dramatically suppressed (Figure 4K) and the abdominal cuticle appears mostly y^+ due to the increase in size of the y^+ patches. As with the *SUPor-P* experiments, decreasing the levels of bon protein with bon^{241} , bon^{487} , and bon^{21B} resulted in an increased expression of y^+ as compared to the control (data not shown). Hence, bon mutations can act as either enhancers or suppressors of PEV, depending upon the gene contexts.

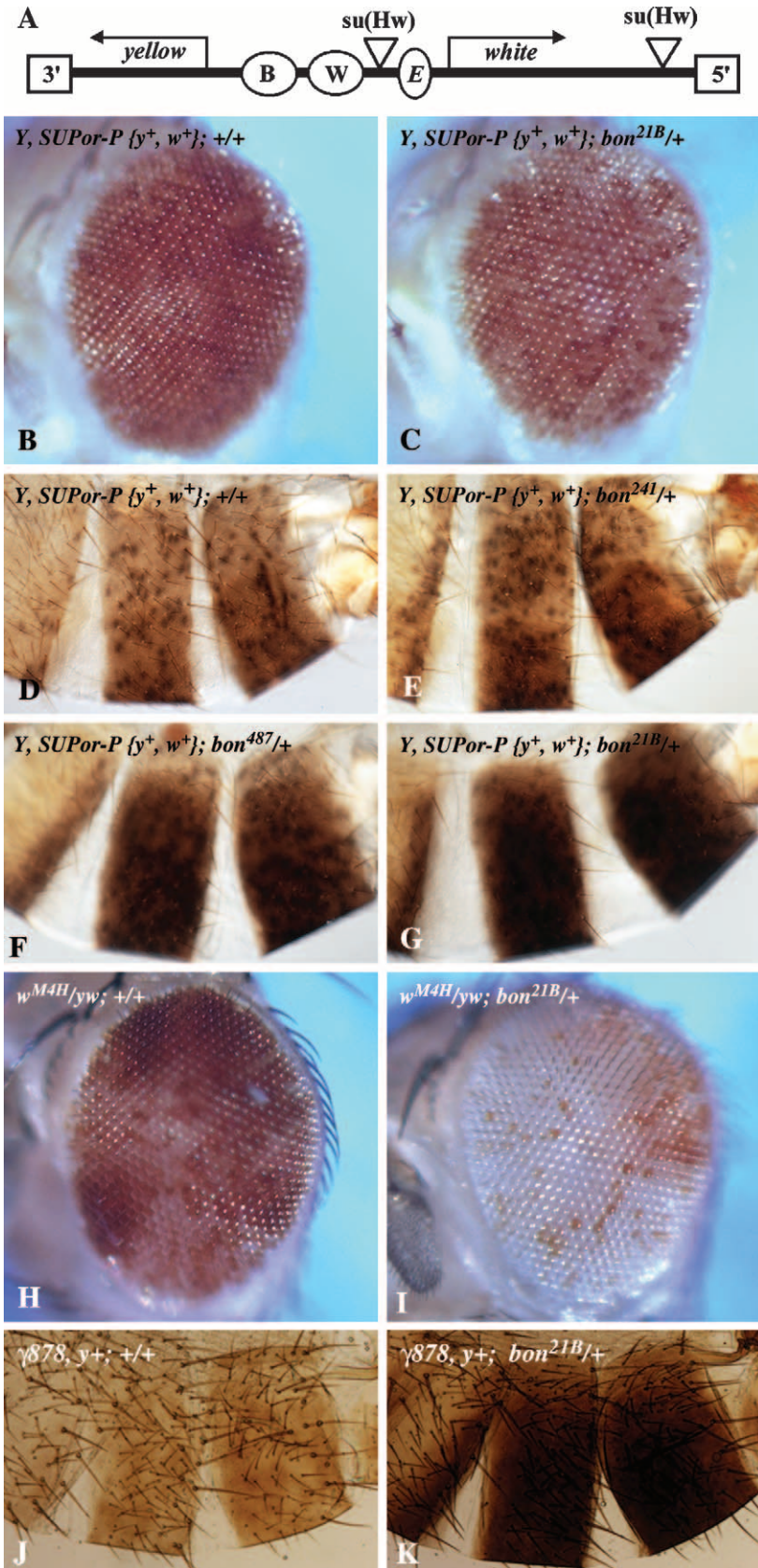


FIGURE 4.—*Bon* acts as a *Su(var)* for the *yellow* gene and an *E(var)* for the *white* gene. (A) The *SUPor-P* element. Boxes represent 3'- and 5'-inverted repeats, ovals represent the *yellow* enhancers for body [B] and wing [W] and the eye enhancer [E] for the *white* gene, and triangles represent *Su(Hw)*-binding sites (ROSEMAN *et al.* 1995). (B and C) Eyes from control flies (+/+) and *bon^{21B}/+* flies with a *SUPor-P {y⁺, w⁺}* inserted into the Y chromosome. (D–G) Abdominal cuticles from control (+/+), *bon²⁴¹/+*, *bon⁴⁸⁷/+*, and *bon^{21B}/+* in the *SUPor-P {y⁺, w⁺}* backgrounds. (H and I) Eyes from control (+/+) and *bon^{21B}/+* in the *ln(1)w^{M4H}* background. (J and K) Abdominal cuticles from *y¹; ry⁵⁰⁶; γ878, y⁺; +/+* and *y¹; ry⁵⁰⁶; γ878, y⁺; bon^{21B}/+* animals.

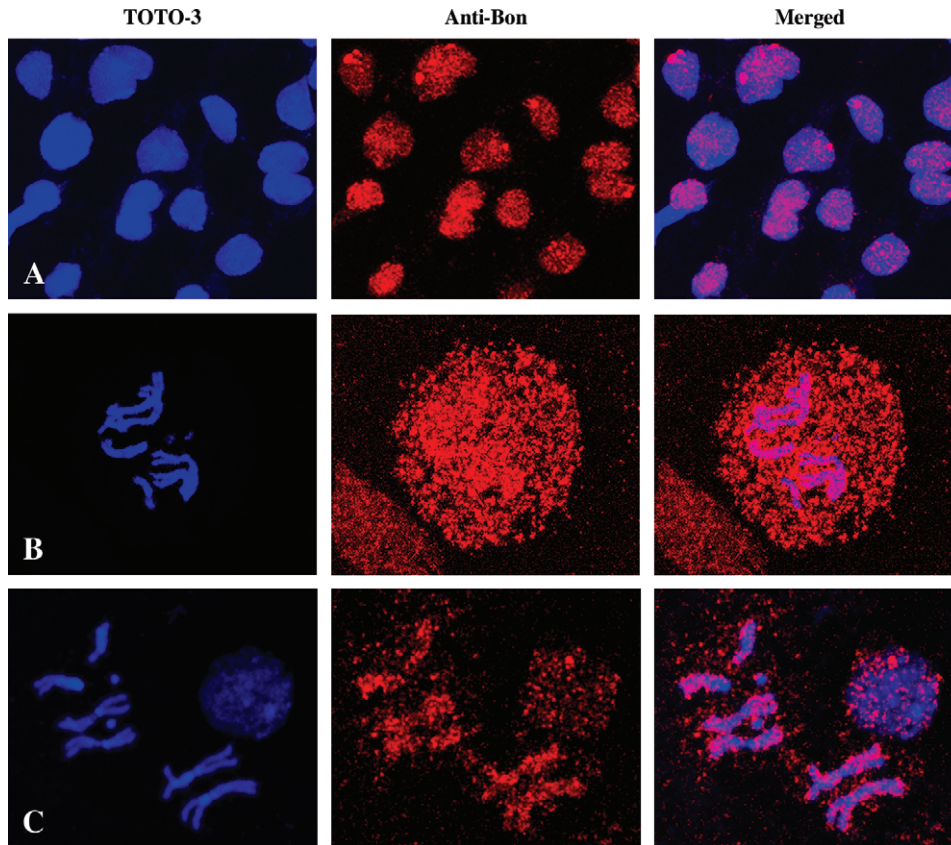


FIGURE 5.—Immunostaining of brain cells from 0-hr prepupae with a Bon antibody. Interphase (A) and prometaphase (B) cells from brains fixed with formaldehyde prior to staining. (C) Interphase and prometaphase cells from brains washed in PBS + 1% Triton X-100 to remove soluble Bon and then fixed in formaldehyde prior to staining.

Bonus is associated with both interphase and prometaphase chromosomes: Because of the genetic interaction between *Bon* and heterochromatin and the observations that *Bon* mutants can act as both a *Su(var)* and an *E(var)*, we were interested in determining whether Bon is localized to regions of heterochromatin or euchromatin in interphase and prometaphase cells. We therefore stained 0-hr prepupal brains with a Bon antibody (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). The specificity of the Bon antibody was previously demonstrated by the almost complete lack of staining seen in the *bon^{21B}/bon^{21B}* mutant embryos and the significant decrease in protein levels as determined by Western analysis of *bon⁴⁸⁷/bon^{21B}* prepupae (4 hr old) as compared to the *bon^{21B}/+* control. This time point and tissue were chosen due to the high levels of Bon that are detected during this stage and the ease of viewing brain cells that undergo numerous rounds of cell division. As shown in Figure 5A, Bon is a nuclear protein that is mostly localized to the nucleus of interphase cells in a punctate staining pattern. We observed one to five regions of the nucleus that show high levels of Bon staining. In prometaphase cells, Bon is localized throughout the cytoplasm of the cell (Figure 5B), making it very difficult to detect regions of the chromosome to which Bon may bind. To circumvent this problem, squashed brain tissue was incubated with detergent prior to fixation to remove most soluble Bon. As shown in Figure 5C, incubation with detergent re-

sulted in the removal of the majority of Bon and allowed detection of the Bon protein that is associated with the mitotic chromosomes. In addition, there was a dramatic decrease in the amount of Bon detected in the interphase nucleus. The merged image with TOTO-3 shows that Bon is associated with all prometaphase chromosomes, including the Y, along the entire length of the chromosomes with no obvious preference for centromeric or telomeric regions of heterochromatin. These data suggest that Bon does not appear to be limiting in the cell, as there is much soluble Bon that can be removed with pretreatment with detergent. In addition, the Bon localization suggests that it may be playing a role in the organization of chromatin at numerous sites.

Bonus is associated with many loci, including the histone cluster and the Stellate locus: Previous immunostaining of salivary gland polytene chromosomes and staining presented here of larval mitotic chromosomes and interphase nuclei with the Bon antibody reveals that the Bon protein is present at numerous sites (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001). Further examination of the polytene staining suggested that the histone cluster (HIS-C) located at the 39D-E region of chromosome 2 is a site of Bon localization (data not shown). To confirm this observation and to gain an insight into the Bon distribution at the histone cluster, we performed a ChIP analysis using the Bon antibody on chromatin prepared from 8- to 16-hr em-

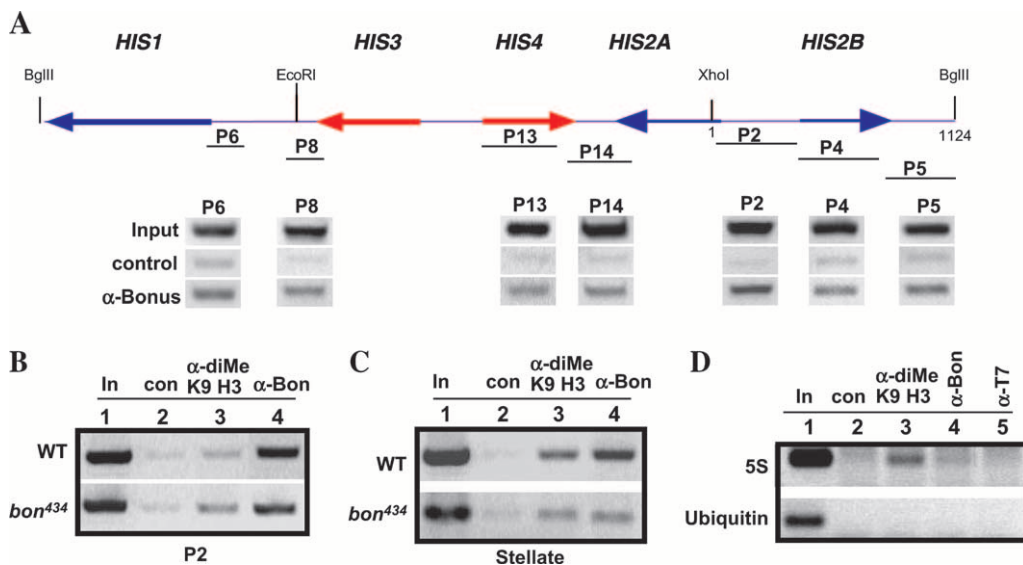


FIGURE 6.—Bon is associated with the HIS-C and Stellate sequences. (A) Schematic of the 5-kb *his* repeat unit isolated as a *Bgl*II fragment (LIFTON *et al.* 1978; SAMAL *et al.* 1981). The arrows indicate the five histone gene transcription units. The lines below the units labeled P6, P8, P13, P14, P2, P4, and P5 represent the seven regions of the *his* unit amplified to detect DNA sequences immunoprecipitated by the Bon antibody. The amplified products are shown below the schematic. The control lanes are a mock immunoprecipitation carried out using either no anti-

body or an antibody specific to the T7-tag (Novagen). All seven regions of the *his* unit tested were enriched by the Bon antibody whereas the control antibody shows background binding. The intergenic regions (P14, P2, and P5) show a higher degree of enrichment compared with the coding regions (P13 and P4). The association of Bon binding to the *his* units was tested in a heterozygous *bon*⁴³⁴ mutant background (B). The data for one region (P2) of the *his* unit are shown. Bon binding is still present at the histone sequences in the mutant (lane 4). Lane 1 is input DNA, lane 2 is the no-antibody control, and lane 3 is product immunoprecipitated with the di-Me K9 H3 antibody. (C) Stellate sequences are enriched in chromatin immunoprecipitations using the Bon antibody. The enrichment is reduced when chromatin immunoprecipitation analysis is performed on a heterozygous *bon*⁴³⁴ mutant (lane 4). Anti-diMe-K9 H3 was used as a control antibody (lane 3). Lane 1 is input DNA and lane 2 is the no-antibody control. (D) DNA sequences from the 5S rDNA and ubiquitin loci are not immunoprecipitated with the Bon antibody. ChIP analysis was performed on a chromatin isolated from wild-type embryos using α -diMe-K9 H3 (lane 3), α -bon (lane 4), and α -T7 tag (lane 5) antibodies. No product is detected for ubiquitin with the three antibodies tested. 5S sequences are amplified with the α -di-Me-K9 H3 antibody whereas a small amount of product is detected with the bonus antibody. Lane 1 is input DNA and lane 2 is the no-antibody control.

bryos. HIS-C is a large multicopy histone gene complex and comprises ~ 0.5 Mb of DNA containing 110 copies of the five histone genes (*his* unit; SAMAL *et al.* 1981). It is also the site of localization of Su(var)3-9 (NER *et al.* 2002) and HP1 (VAN STEENSEL *et al.* 2001), two proteins involved in organizing chromatin structure.

Chromatin immunoprecipitations were performed using the Bon antibody, the anti-diMe-Lys9 H3 antibody (BELOTE and BAKER 1987), and a control anti-T7 antibody. Any enrichment of DNA fragments corresponding to those of the HIS-C was detected by PCR. Seven pairs of oligonucleotide primers that hybridize within the 5-kb *his* units were used to detect DNA fragments pulled down by the antibodies. Two primer pairs amplified coding regions of HIS2B and HIS4 (Figure 6A, P4 and P13, respectively), and five primer pairs amplified intergenic sequence upstream and downstream of the HIS coding regions (Figure 6A, P6, P8, P14, P2, and P5). The ChIP analysis shows sequences corresponding to the intergenic regions and the coding regions of the histone genes are enriched with the Bon antibody. The enrichment is specific to this antibody since the control α -T7 antibody and the protein A sepharose alone (data not shown) failed to immunoprecipitate HIS-C sequences above background levels. In addition, the Bon antibody failed to immunoprecipitate sequences corresponding to the 5S rDNA cluster or to a ubiquitin protein gene

(Figure 6D). We next repeated the immunoprecipitation analysis but used chromatin prepared from a *bon* mutant line (*bon*⁴³⁴/*TM3*). The *bon*⁴³⁴/*TM3* embryos should contain less wild-type protein. We show only the detection of the P2 product as representative data for this analysis (Figure 6B). As predicted, using chromatin prepared from the *bon*⁴³⁴/*TM3* line, the P2 region is still enriched by the Bon antibody; however, the level of enrichment is reduced compared with our positive control antibody that detects methylated lysine 9 of histone H3. From this analysis we conclude that Bon is associated with HIS-C and that it is distributed over the 5-kb *his* sequences.

Next, we examined the Stellate locus on the X chromosome (12E1-2). We examined this region to ask if other reiterated euchromatic loci are also sites for Bon. The Stellate complex is significantly smaller than HIS-C (~ 30 kb in size) and comprises ~ 20 copies of the Stellate gene. We examined for enrichment of Stellate sequences that are unique only to the X chromosome cluster. Immunoprecipitation using the Bon antibody was performed on chromatin prepared from wild-type flies and *bon*⁴³⁴/*TM3* flies. Figure 6C shows that there is significant enrichment of Stellate sequences, suggesting that *Bon* protein associates with this reiterated cluster as well. Similar to the results with the HIS-C sequences, Bon localization to the Stellate locus is reduced in the *bon*⁴³⁴/*TM3* mutant

line. Taken together, our ChIP data show that two sites of Bon localization are the large reiterated loci, HIS-C and Stellate.

DISCUSSION

These studies define a new role for Bon in the organization of chromatin and provide new insights into its possible regulation of transcription. We show that the enhanced male lethality in *bon* partial loss-of-function alleles is due to the presence of the Y chromosome. We further show an interaction between *bon* and X-heterochromatin, demonstrating a broader interaction with heterochromatic sequences, and thus uncover a new function for this transcription cofactor. Interestingly, depending on the gene, *bon* can function as either a *Su(var)* or an *E(var)*. Localization of Bon along the entire pro-metaphase chromosome suggests that Bon may play a more general role in chromatin organization near many genes. Using ChIP data, we show that Bon is associated with chromatin. Specifically, we demonstrate that Bon is at the HIS-C and Stellate loci. Clearly, the absence of Bon at heterochromatin, which is highly enriched in repetitive DNA sequences, along with its association with two reiterated euchromatic loci that are highly expressed, suggests that the function of Bon is not simply in the packaging of repeat sequences. One possibility is that Bon has a role in chromatin organization of transcriptionally competent loci such as HIS-C and Stellate, as well as the numerous euchromatic loci where Bon is present. Additionally, our data provide the first *in vivo* example of the requirement of a TIF1 family member in the regulation of chromatin.

The Y chromosome may act as a sink for Bonus: Two other *Su(var)* genes, *Su(var)2-1* and *Su(var)3-3*, show a similar lethal interaction with the Y chromosome as *bon* (REUTER *et al.* 1982; DORN *et al.* 1986). Interestingly, through Y chromosome deletions, it was demonstrated that the strength of the genetic interaction between the Y chromosome and *Su(var)2-1* was related to the amount of Y heterochromatin and not to a discrete Y region (DIMITRI and PISANO 1989). Our data, demonstrating a genetic interaction between *bon* and X-heterochromatin, suggest that the *bon* Y-conditional lethality, like *Su(var)2-1*, is most likely due to the heterochromatic nature of the Y chromosome and not to a specific Y region.

On the basis of our knowledge of Bon function, we propose the following model to account for the dramatic effects that the presence/absence of the Y chromosome (and other heterochromatin) has on the viability of flies carrying weak alleles of *bon*. In wild-type animals, Bon is not limiting and occupies both heterochromatic and euchromatic sites, playing an essential role in gene regulation. As the amount of functional Bon activity becomes limiting in *bon* mutant animals, some of the Bon protein is sequestered to heterochromatic sites, thus making a fraction of Bon unavailable

to euchromatic sites where it is essential for viability. The removal of the Y chromosome or other chromatin allows more Bon to be available for those sites where it plays essential roles, hence suppressing the lethality associated with the partial loss of function of *bon*. In other words, the presence of the Y chromosome makes a weak *bon* loss-of-function allele in the male act as a strong loss-of-function or null allele. Thus, the stage of lethality for *bon* partial loss-of-function males is similar to both *Bon* null females and male animals. This model is supported also by the localization of Bon to the Y chromosome, as well as by the genetic interaction observed between Bon and X-heterochromatin.

Bonus participates in the regulation of chromatin:

To determine if Bon plays a role in the regulation of chromatin packaging, we assayed the effect of *bon* mutations on variegation of the *white* and *yellow* genes found in several *SUPor-P* elements located on the Y chromosome. Interestingly, loss of *bon* enhanced variegation of the *white* gene and suppressed variegation of the *yellow* gene in the same animal. We also observed that *bon* mutations act as an *E(var)* in the *white-mottled* (*l(1)w^{MH}*) background and a *Su(var)* in a $\gamma 878$ background. These results indicate that Bon plays a role in the regulation of heterochromatin, but also suggest that the role of Bon is gene specific.

Finally, we note that HP1 and TIF1 (Bonus) share several features. First, both Bon and HP1 can function as *Su(var)*'s and have been shown to play both positive and negative roles in the regulation of transcription (EISSENBERG *et al.* 1990; BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001; PIACENTINI *et al.* 2003). Second, both Bon and HP1 participate in the transcriptional response to ecdysone (BECKSTEAD *et al.* 2001; PIACENTINI *et al.* 2003). Third, TIF1 members have been shown to interact with and phosphorylate HP1 (LE DOUARIN *et al.* 1998; NIELSEN *et al.* 1999; RYAN *et al.* 1999). Fourth, ChIP assays indicate that Bonus and HP1 are associated with the same DNA fragments in the histone cluster (VAN STEENSEL *et al.* 2001) and Stellate loci. The *in vivo* relationship between Bonus and HP1 should therefore be explored.

R.B.B. thanks Carl Thummel for allowing him to finish this work in his laboratory. We thank the Bloomington Stock Center for numerous fly strains and Karen Schulze for comments on the manuscript. R.B.B. was supported by a National Aeronautics and Space Administration grant and is currently a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) associate. B.S.B. is supported by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, T.A.G. and S.S.R. are supported by National Science and Engineering Council of Canada operating grant A3005 and National Cancer Institute of Canada research grant no. 013378, and H.J.B. is an Investigator of the HHMI.

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Communicating editor: K. G. GOLIC