

Transcriptional Control of the *nuo* Operon Which Encodes the Energy-Conserving NADH Dehydrogenase of *Salmonella typhimurium*

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The 14 *nuo* genes encode the subunits of the type I (energy-conserving) NADH dehydrogenase, a key component of the respiratory chain. *Salmonella typhimurium*, like *Escherichia coli*, has two enzymes that can oxidize NADH and transfer electrons to ubiquinone, but only the type I enzyme translocates protons across the membrane to generate a proton motive force. Cells with the type I enzyme are energetically more efficient; the role of the type II enzyme (encoded by *ndh*) is not established, but it may function like a relief valve to allow more rapid NADH recycling. Here, we have investigated transcription of the *nuo* gene cluster, primarily in *S. typhimurium*. Studies with polar insertion mutants demonstrate that these genes are arranged as a single, large operon that is expressed from a complex promoter region upstream of *nuoA*. The DNA sequence of the promoter region was determined, and primer extension analysis of *nuo* transcripts was used to map four major RNA 5' ends to this region. A set of *lac* operon fusions to various DNA segments from the *nuo* promoter region was also constructed. Analysis of these fusions confirmed the presence of at least two *nuo* promoters. Mutations in the global regulatory genes *arcA*, *oxrA* (*fnr*), *crp*, *cya*, and *katF* were tested for effects on expression of the *nuo* operon. However, none of the mutations tested had a large effect on expression of type I NADH dehydrogenase.

NADH dehydrogenase is the first component of the respiratory chain and transfers electrons from NADH to ubiquinone. Two quite different types of NADH dehydrogenase have been described. NADH dehydrogenase type I (NADH dh I) is a large complex composed of numerous subunits; a substantial part of this complex is integral to the membrane. Bovine mitochondrial NADH dh I is composed of more than 40 subunits with an aggregate amino acid content which exceeds that of a prokaryotic ribosome (reviewed in reference 43). As NADH dh I transfers electrons to ubiquinone, it conserves energy by translocating protons to contribute to the electrochemical gradient (28). In contrast, type II NADH dehydrogenases (NADH dh II) are soluble enzymes composed of a single subunit, which do not translocate protons and, hence, cannot conserve energy (29). There is substantial biochemical evidence to indicate that *Escherichia coli* has both types of NADH dehydrogenase (22, 29, 31, 32, 48), and recently it has been demonstrated genetically that *E. coli* has two separate loci which encode these enzymes (6, 45).

Salmonella typhimurium and *E. coli* are facultative anaerobes that are capable of respiring in the presence of oxygen or other electron acceptors such as nitrate. The aerobic respiratory chains of these bacteria are branched at both ends, with two NADH dehydrogenases as described above as well as two terminal cytochrome oxidases. Calhoun et al. (6a) have demonstrated that the energetic efficiency of *E. coli* is directly related to the NADH dehydrogenase and terminal oxidase used, and they have suggested that efficiency might be modu-

lated in response to growth conditions by partitioning of the flow of electrons through the branches of the respiratory chain. Such partitioning could be accomplished by the regulation of synthesis of respiratory chain components. It is well-known that *E. coli* regulates the synthesis of many of these proteins in response to the availability of various electron acceptors (for reviews, see references 16 and 21). For example, the *cyo* operon, which encodes cytochrome *o* terminal oxidase, is expressed at higher levels in the presence of oxygen than under anaerobic conditions. In contrast, the *cyd* operon, which encodes the alternative cytochrome *d* terminal oxidase, is most highly expressed under microaerophilic conditions (14a). Regulation of these operons is dependent on the global regulatory proteins ArcA and FNR. Expression of the *ndh* gene, which encodes NADH dh II, is repressed by FNR under anaerobic conditions (15, 40).

In both *S. typhimurium* and *E. coli*, the subunits of NADH dh I are encoded by the genes of the *nuo* locus, which includes a total of 14 *nuo* genes (4, 6, 33, 45, 49). *S. typhimurium* mutants that are defective in NADH dh I were isolated by using a screen for strains with increased β -galactosidase activity expressed from a *hemA-lacZ* protein fusion, as seen on indicator plates that contained both a limiting amount of glucose and 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- β -D-galactopyranoside (X-Gal) (4). This phenotype was found to be due to a decrease in energy-dependent proteolysis of the fusion protein in *nuo* mutants under conditions of glucose starvation. In this paper, we characterize the *nuo* gene cluster, demonstrating that the 14 *nuo* genes constitute an operon with a single, although complex, promoter region. Expression of the *nuo* operon is also investigated.

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TABLE 1. Bacterial strains used in this study

Strain	Genotype ^a	Source and/or reference
<i>E. coli</i>		
DH5 α	F ⁻ <i>endA1 hsdR17</i> (r _K ⁻ m _K ⁺) <i>supE44 thi-1 recA1 gyrA96</i> (Nal ^r) <i>relA1</i> Δ (<i>lacZYA-argF</i>)U169 (ϕ 80 <i>lacZ</i> Δ M15)	P. Higgins (18)
MG1655	Prototroph	D. Biek
RM443	IN(<i>rrnD-rrnE</i>)1 Δ (<i>lac</i>)X74 <i>rpsL galK2</i>	R. Menzel
VJS470	F ⁻ <i>proC</i> ::Tn5	V. Stewart (41)
TE1335	<i>trp</i> Δ <i>lacX74</i> Str ^r /F'128 (P22 HT105/1 <i>int-201 sieA44</i>)	9
TE2680	F ⁻ λ ⁻ IN(<i>rrnD-rrnE</i>)1 Δ (<i>lac</i>)X74 <i>rpsL galK2 recD1903</i> ::Tn10d-Tet <i>trpDC700::putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^s -Cam ^r - <i>lac</i>]	10
TE5293	MG1655 <i>proC</i> ::Tn5	P1.VJS470 \times MG1655
TE5301	Δ (<i>lac</i>)X74	P1.RM443 \times TE5293
TE5472	TE5301/pRS550	This study
TE5473	TE5301/pTE497	This study
<i>S. typhimurium</i>		
PP1002	<i>trpB223 cya</i> ::Tn10	P. W. Posma via J. Roth
PP1037	<i>trpB223 crp-773</i> ::Tn10	P. W. Posma via J. Roth
SF1005	ATCC 14028s <i>katF</i> ::pRR10 (Pen ^r KatF ⁻)	S. Libby (13)
TN2336	<i>leuBCD485 pepT</i> ::MudJ <i>oxrA2</i> ::Tn10	C. Miller (42)
TN3552	<i>leuBCD485 recD</i> ::Tn10	S. Maloy
TR5877	<i>hsdL6 hsdSA29</i> (r _{LT} ⁻ m _{LT} ⁺ r _S ⁻ m _S ⁺) <i>metA22 metE551 ilv-452 trpB2 xyl-404 rpsL120</i> (Str ^r) H1-b H2-e,n,x (Fels2 ⁻) <i>nml</i>	B. A. D. Stocker
TR6612	<i>polA2 ara-9</i>	46
TT10508	<i>cysA1585</i> ::MudA	J. Roth
TT10288	<i>hisD9953</i> ::MudJ <i>hisA9944</i> ::Mud-1	J. Roth (20)
TT17442	<i>metE205 ara-9 cob-24</i> ::MudJ <i>arcA201</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	J. Roth (1)
TE3288	<i>cya</i> ::Tn10	P22.PP1002 \times LT-2
TE3289	<i>crp-773</i> ::Tn10	P22.PP1037 \times LT-2
TE5076	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>hemA-lacZ</i>] [pr] <i>nuoA2</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	4
TE5296	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438)	This study (from pTE497)
TE5308	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>oxrA2</i> ::Tn10	P22.TN2336 \times TE5296
TE5309	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>cya</i> ::Tn10	P22.TE3288 \times TE5296
TE5310	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>crp-773</i> ::Tn10	P22.TE3289 \times TE5296
TE5469	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ	This study
TE5476	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>zeg-6815</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	This study
TE5477	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>nuoA2</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	This study
TE5478	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>zeg-6816</i> ::Tn10d-Cam	This study
TE5479	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>nuoD9</i> ::Tn10d-Cam	This study
TE5481	<i>nuoF12</i> ::MudJ	This study
TE5510	DUP[(<i>nuo</i> ⁺ <i>cysA1585</i>)*MudA*(<i>nuoG11 cys</i> ⁺)]	This study
TE5524	<i>zeg-6821</i> :: Ω -Cm	This study
TE5525	<i>nuo p14</i> :: Ω -Cm	This study
TE5526	<i>nuo p15</i> :: Ω -Cm	This study
TE5527	<i>nuoA16</i> :: Ω -Cm	This study
TE5528	<i>nuoA17</i> :: Ω -Cm	This study
TE5529	<i>nuoN13</i> ::MudJ	This study
TE5553	<i>nuoF12</i> ::MudJ <i>nuo p14</i> :: Ω -Cm	P22.TE5525 \times TE5481
TE5554	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>zeg-6821</i> :: Ω -Cm	P22.TE5524 \times TE5469
TE5555	<i>nuoG11</i> ::MudJ <i>nuo p14</i> :: Ω -Cm	P22.TE5525 \times TE5469
TE5559	<i>nuoN13</i> ::MudJ <i>nuo p14</i> :: Ω -Cm	P22.TE5525 \times TE5529
TE5562	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>arcA201</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	P22.TT17442 \times TE5296
TE5563	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>katF</i> ::pRR10	P22.SF1005 \times TE5296
TE5566	DUP[(<i>nuo</i> ⁺ <i>cysA1585</i>)*MudA*(<i>nuoN13 cys</i> ⁺)]	This study
TE5673	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 287-396)	This study (from pTE524)
TE5674	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 387-1438)	This study (from pTE525)
TE5675	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-396)	This study (from pTE526)
TE5800	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 287-396, with RNase III site)	This study (from pTE534)
TE5801	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-396, with RNase III site)	This study (from pTE536)
TE5802	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 387-716, with RNase III site)	This study (from pTE537)
TE5803	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo p-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-716, with RNase III site)	This study (from pTE538)
TE5804	<i>putPA1303</i> ::[Kan ^r - <i>nuo pAB'-lac</i>] [op] (bp 1-1438) <i>nuoA2</i> ::Tn10d-Tet	P22.TE5076 \times TE5296

^a Base pair numbers refer to the DNA sequence of the *nuo* promoter region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacteria and phage. The *S. typhimurium* and *E. coli* strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. All *S. typhimurium* strains are derivatives of the wild-type strain LT-2. The high-frequency, generalized transducing bacteriophage P22

mutant HT105/1 *int-201* was used for all transductions in *S. typhimurium* (36). P1 transductions in *E. coli* were done with phage P1 *vir* by standard methods (38).

Media and growth conditions. Standard media and techniques have been previously described (8, 10), except as follows. N⁻ C⁻ medium supplemented with 10 mM NH₄Cl and either 0.2% (wt/vol) glucose or 0.44% (wt/vol) sodium

pyruvate as the carbon source was used as the minimal medium for growth of liquid cultures (1, 2). Anaerobic liquid cultures were grown in bottles that were filled to the neck with minimal medium that contained 0.44% (wt/vol) sodium pyruvate and 0.32% (wt/vol) disodium fumarate (1). Aerobic cultures were grown with vigorous shaking. All cultures were grown at 37°C.

Transposons. Transposons Tn10d-Tet and Tn10d-Cam are derivatives of transposon Tn10 that are defective in transposition and are able to confer resistance to tetracycline and chloramphenicol, respectively. These transposons have previously been described (12, 44). Castilho et al. have constructed several phage Mu-derived transposons that can form *lac* operon fusions but are defective for transposition (6b). One of these, Mud I1734 (Kan^r *lac*) (6b), was used in this work. For convenience, we refer to this Kan^r Mud phage as MudJ.

Isolation of *nuo*::MudJ insertions. We used *nuo-lac* fusions formed by the insertion of transposon MudJ to characterize the overall transcription pattern of the *nuo* locus. MudJ insertions were isolated in two plasmids that carry *nuo* genes; these insertions were subsequently transferred to the chromosome by homologous recombination. One target plasmid was pTE491, which carries the *nuoE* and *nuoF* genes cloned into pBR322 (4). The second plasmid, pTE513, carries a 9.5-kb HindIII fragment (including *nuoN*) that is also inserted into pBR322. These plasmids were used as recipients for MudJ transposon mutagenesis in *S. typhimurium* (20). Plasmid insertions were selected as Kan^r transformants of *E. coli* DH5 α and screened by PCR for those with correctly oriented insertions in the *nuo* genes.

Three MudJ insertions were used in this work; each is oriented to give *lac* transcription that is dependent on the *nuo* promoter region. The sites of these MudJ insertions were estimated by gel electrophoretic analysis of PCR products (11). The *nuoF12* and *nuoG11* insertions lie 1.5 and 2.3 kb, respectively, downstream of *nuoD9*::Tn10d-Cam (4). The *nuoN13* insertion lies 0.35 kb downstream of the *nuoN* ATG codon.

Construction of Ω -Cm insertion mutations. Plasmid pTE496 carries a 1,438-bp *PstI*-*KpnI* fragment, including the *nuo* promoter region, inserted into pK184 (23). The *PstI* site has been changed to *Bam*HI by blunting the site with the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I and adding *Bam*HI linkers. This plasmid was subjected to partial digestion with *Cla*I, which cuts at two sites, in the *nuo* promoter region and early in *nuoA* (see below). The Ω -Cm interposon (14) was isolated as a 3.85-kb *Bam*HI fragment with filled-in ends and inserted into *Cla*I-cut and filled-in pTE496. Four simple insertions were isolated and characterized (two orientations of Ω -Cm at each *Cla*I site). The Ω -Cm insertions at the upstream *Cla*I site have been designated *nuo p* (promoter) mutants since they lie upstream of *nuoA*, the first structural gene, and have strong effects on *nuo* transcription (see below).

Plasmid pTE515 carries a 1,764-bp *SpeI*-*KpnI* fragment that includes the *nuo* promoter region. This insert is similar to that in pTE496 except that it extends an additional 326 bp upstream of the *PstI* site. The Ω -Cm interposon was isolated as a 3.85-kb *Bam*HI fragment with filled-in ends and inserted into *PstI*-cut and Klenow-treated pTE496. The resulting Ω -Cm insertion at the *PstI* site is oriented so that Cam^r is transcribed divergently from *nuo*. This insertion is designated *zeg-6821*:: Ω -Cm since it does not affect expression from the *nuo* promoter (see below).

Transfer of insertions to the *S. typhimurium* chromosome. The Ω -Cm and *nuoN13*::MudJ insertions were transferred to the bacterial chromosome by the method of Guttersen and Koshland (17), which exploits a requirement for DNA polymerase I in the function of ColE1 and P15A plasmid replication origins. The method was modified by including a Tn10d-Tet insertion linked to *nuo* in the *polA* strain. A phage P22 lysate that had been grown on pooled transformants was used to transduce LT-2, selecting both the linked Tn10d-Tet and MudJ or Ω -Cm. A substantial fraction (10 to 40%) of these transductants did not inherit the drug resistance marker of the original donor plasmid. The *nuoG11*::MudJ insertion was transferred to the chromosome by digestion of the donor plasmid with *Nhe*I and subsequent linear transformation of strain TN3552 (Table 1) (35, 37). Backcrossed strains that carried these insertions are also listed in Table 1 (TE5469, TE5481, and TE5524 to TE5529).

All of the MudJ insertion mutants were characterized by genetic linkage to the *nuo* locus and by their Ace⁻ phenotype as well as by PCR mapping to verify that they lie at the expected position on the bacterial chromosome. The Ω -Cm insertions were recombined from the chromosome onto pK184 and restriction mapped. This analysis showed that one of the insertions, *nuo p14*:: Ω -Cm, had suffered a deletion of approximately 300 bp during manipulations following its construction. The deletion lies entirely within the Ω -Cm element and does not affect its ability to confer polarity.

Construction of duplications. A modification of the method of Chumley and Roth (7, 19) was used to construct tandem duplications (see below) (see references 5 and 11 also). In *E. coli*, the genes of the *cysA* locus are transcribed counterclockwise on the chromosome (34); by the duplication method, tests confirmed that this is also true for *S. typhimurium*. Accordingly, phage P22 that had been grown on a Lac⁺ *cysA*::MudA insertion mutant (TT10508 [Table 1]) was used to transduce TE5469 (*nuoG11*::MudJ) and TE5529 (*nuoN13*::MudJ), selecting Amp^r and screening for Cys⁺. Duplications were backcrossed to LT-2 and saved as strains TE5510 and TE5566 (Table 1).

Construction of *lac* operon fusions to defined fragments of the *nuo* promoter region. The *Bam*HI-*Eco*RI fragment of pTE496 that contains the *nuo* promoter region was inserted into the *lac* operon fusion vector pRS550 (39) to give

pTE497. Other fusions were constructed by PCR to generate DNA fragments of the *nuo* region. Reactions were performed as previously described (11), with approximately 1 ng of plasmid template (pTE496) per 50- μ l reaction. Primer pairs used included *lac*-40 (5'-GGTTT TCCCA GTCAC GACGT TGT-3') and pnuo2R (5'-GAATT CCGTT GTGTA AGCAA AAGAA ATAAC ACA-3'), pnuo2L (5'-GGATC CTGAA TTAAC AAAAG CGTGT CACA-3') and pnuo2R, and pnuo1L (5'-GGATC CCTTC ACAAC GGACA CGATT CAACA-3') and *nuoA*IR (5'-GAATT CAGTG ATGAG CGATG ACTTC AGTGG ATGT-3'). Products were purified with the QIAquick-spin PCR purification kit (Qiagen) and cloned into the vector pGEM-T (Promega) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The resulting plasmids were pTE521, pTE522, and pTE523, respectively.

The inserts of these plasmids were sequenced to confirm that no mutations had been introduced into the *nuo* sequence during PCR. The *Bam*HI-*Eco*RI *nuo* promoter fragments of pTE521, pTE522, and pTE523 were subsequently cloned into pRS550 to give the *lac* operon fusion plasmids pTE526, pTE524, and pTE528, respectively. The *Bam*HI-*Nar*I fragment of pTE523 was substituted for the *Bam*HI-*Nar*I fragment of pTE497, resulting in pTE525, which is the same as pTE497 except that it lacks *nuo* sequences upstream of bp 386. The 621-bp *Bam*HI-*Nar*I fragment of pTE497 was substituted for the *Bam*HI-*Nar*I fragment of pTE523 to give pTE527. The *Bam*HI-*Eco*RI fragment of pTE527 was cloned into pRS550 to give pTE531, which contains the *nuo* promoter region from the *PstI* site (bp 1) to bp 716 within the *nuoA* coding sequence. All of these constructs were then transferred to the chromosome of *S. typhimurium* LT-2 as single-copy fusions by the method previously described (10).

The RNase III site of plasmid pTL61T (26) was cloned into plasmids pTE524, pTE526, pTE528, and pTE531 between *nuo* and *lac* sequences as follows. pTL61T was cut with *Bam*HI, and the ends were blunted with the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I. Then the plasmid was digested with *Sac*I, which cuts within the *lac* sequence, and the approximately 2-kb fragment that contains the RNase III site and part of *lacZ* was gel purified by using Gene Clean (Bio 101). The *nuo-lac* fusion plasmids were cut with *Eco*RI, blunted with the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I, and then cut with *Sac*I. The large fragment, which consisted of the vector plus the *nuo* promoter, was gel purified in the same manner. Then the fragment that contained *lacZ* and the RNase III site was added, resulting in plasmids pTE534, pTE536, pTE537, and pTE538.

Enzyme assays. For β -galactosidase assays, strains were grown in minimal medium as described below and portions of these cultures were harvested during exponential growth ($A_{600} \approx 0.4$). Assays were performed as previously reported (10, 30). NADH oxidase assays were performed as previously described (4) except that cultures were grown in minimal medium and harvested during exponential phase ($A_{600} \approx 0.4$). Protein concentrations were determined by the method of Lowry et al. (27), with bovine serum albumin as the standard.

DNA sequencing. Sequencing of double-stranded plasmid DNA was done as previously described (9) by using Sequenase (U.S. Biochemical Corp.) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Plasmid DNA for sequencing was isolated by using Qiagen columns (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Primer extension analysis. RNA was isolated from cultures grown aerobically in LB medium and harvested at an A_{600} of ≈ 0.4 . Primer extension analysis of RNA was performed as previously described (47).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Defining the *nuo* promoter region. We determined the approximate limits of the promoter region lying upstream of the first gene in the locus, *nuoA* (Fig. 1). These studies were performed by using *lac* fusions to *nuoF*, *nuoG*, and the last gene of the locus, *nuoN*. The *lac* fusions were formed by insertion of the MudJ transposon; in these strains, β -galactosidase is a reporter of *nuo* transcription. We used constructs that were placed in the *nuo* locus at its normal position on the *S. typhimurium* chromosome to be sure that all relevant promoter elements could be tested.

Early experiments showed that transposon insertions 1 to 1.5 kb upstream of *nuoA* had no effect on *nuoG-lac* expression (3). The boundaries of the promoter region were defined more precisely by constructing insertions of Ω -Cm, a highly polar DNA fragment (interposon) that blocks transcription (14). Insertions of Ω -Cm were made at three positions, the *PstI* site (bp 1) and either *Cla*I site (bp 613 and 836). The *zeg-6821*:: Ω -Cm insertion at the *PstI* site had no effect on *nuoG-lac* expression (Fig. 1). In contrast, an Ω -Cm insertion at the bp 613 *Cla*I site reduced expression of *nuoG-lac* to less than 2% of the wild-type level. To reflect its polar effect, this insertion is designated *nuo p14*:: Ω -Cm. Expression of *nuoG-lac* was also strongly reduced when Ω -Cm was inserted in the

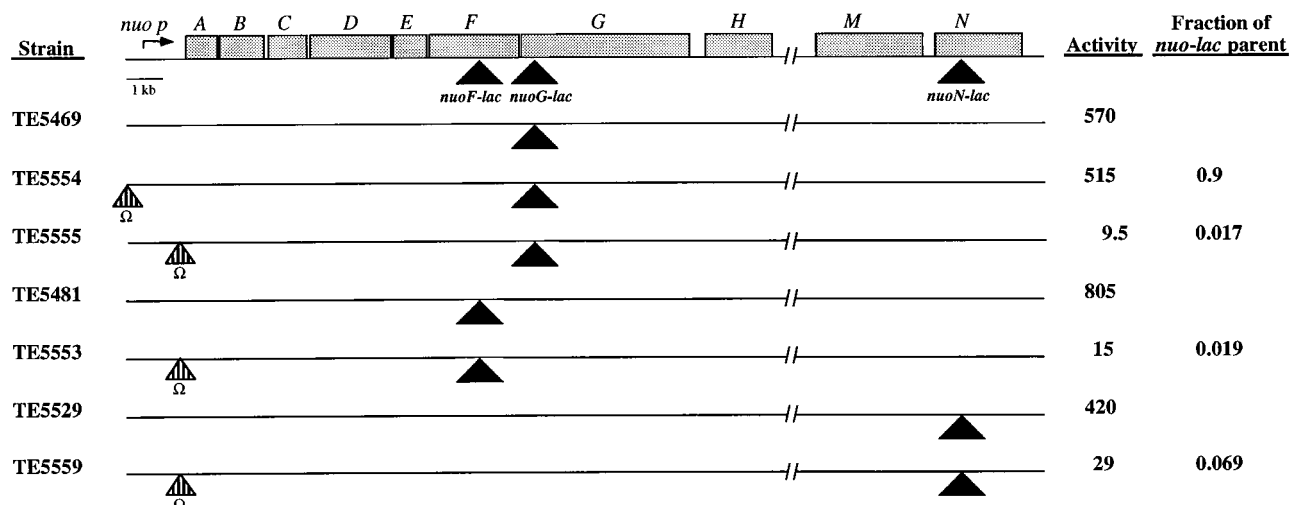


FIG. 1. Map of the *nuo* region. Individual genes are represented by shaded boxes; some genes have been omitted for clarity. The arrow in the complex *nuo* promoter region indicates that transcription is from left to right. MudJ transposon insertions (filled triangles) that form *nuo-lac* fusions were isolated at three sites, and interposon Ω -Cm insertions were constructed at two sites (striped triangles) to define the limits of the *nuo* promoter region (see Materials and Methods for details). Each line below the top one illustrates an *S. typhimurium* strain that carries the indicated combination of insertions at the *nuo* locus in the bacterial chromosome. On the right are the results of β -galactosidase assays for these strains grown in minimal glycerol medium. Some activities are also expressed as a fraction of that seen in a strain that carries the indicated *nuo-lac* fusion without the Ω -Cm insertion.

opposite orientation at bp 613 or in either orientation at bp 836 (3). We conclude that all of the *cis*-acting elements required for *nuo* expression lie downstream of bp 1 and that no functional promoter lies downstream of bp 613 of the region shown in Fig. 1.

We also tested the effect of the *nuo p14::\Omega*-Cm insertion on a *nuoN-lac* fusion (Fig. 1; compare strains TE5529 and TE5559). Expression in the Ω -Cm strain was reduced to less than 10% of that in the wild type, confirming the operon model. The residual expression of the *nuoN-lac* fusion was about threefold higher than seen with the *nuoF-lac* and *nuoG-lac* fusions in this experiment. This may reflect the presence of weak promoters within the region between *nuoG* and *nuoN*.

The simplest model to explain these results is that transcription initiates within a single promoter region upstream of *nuoA*. However, the data are also consistent with the existence of an upstream *nuo* gene that is affected by the *nuo p14::\Omega*-Cm insertion and activates expression *in trans* from a second promoter somewhere within the *nuo* structural genes. This seems unlikely, given sequence comparisons which allow assignment of all known Nuo proteins to similar subunits of the mitochondrial NADH dehydrogenase (45). It is also eliminated by the results of following experiment.

We constructed strains that carry tandem duplications of the region between *nuoG* and *cysA* or between *nuoN* and *cysA* by using Mud elements (Fig. 2). In these strains, the duplication "join point," which was derived from the parental fusions described above, included the *nuo* promoter and a segment of the *nuo* operon joined to *lac*. A wild-type copy of the *nuo* operon, unlinked to the *nuo-lac* fusion, was also present. When the *nuo p14::\Omega*-Cm insertion was introduced into such a duplication strain by a transductional cross, two kinds of recombinants were recovered. In the first type, the Ω -Cm insertion has been inherited in the copy of *nuo* which is not fused to *lac* (these transductants are Ace^- and Lac^+); however, the Ω -Cm insertion may recombine into the segment of *nuo* which is linked to *lac* (these transductants are Ace^+). The Lac^- character observed for transductants of the second class demonstrates that a wild-type copy of *nuo*⁺ *in trans* cannot overcome the tran-

scriptional block imposed by *nuo p14::\Omega*-Cm. Thus, the *nuo p14::\Omega*-Cm insertion blocks expression of *nuoG* and *nuoN* by polarity.

Nucleotide sequence of the promoter region of the *S. typhimurium nuo* operon. Figure 3 shows the nucleotide sequence of a 1,438-bp *Pst*I-*Kpn*I fragment which includes the *nuo* promoter, the *nuoA* gene, and an N-terminal fragment of the *nuoB* gene. Altogether, the DNA sequence of about 7.5 kb, corresponding to the upstream half of the nearly 16-kb *nuo* operon, has been determined in this study (3, 4). The complete sequence may be found under GenBank accession number L22504. Plasmids that carry the remaining *nuo* genes have been constructed; available sequence data show that the entire operon is present. This confirms the findings of functional studies that have already been reported (3, 4).

Primer extension analysis of *nuo* RNA. The 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts were mapped by primer extension. RNA was isolated from three strains, *E. coli* TE5301 that carried a multi-copy plasmid with the *S. typhimurium nuo* promoter region, the same strain with a control plasmid, and wild-type *S. typhimurium* LT-2. The primers used were complementary to target sites which are identical in *nuo* RNAs from both *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium*. As shown in Fig. 4A, four major primer extension products were observed with all RNA samples. The inferred RNA 5' ends are indicated by asterisks in the DNA sequence in Fig. 3. The RNA 5' end mapping furthest upstream lies at bp 372. Signals from additional 5' ends were observed near bp 549, 592, and 642. Corresponding signals were seen with a different primer, demonstrating the specificity of these primers for *nuo* RNA (Fig. 4B). Other primers were used to analyze the region between bp 1 and bp 372, but no additional signals were observed (3).

We noted that a strain with a plasmid that carried the *Pst*I-*Kpn*I *nuo* fragment (bp 1 to 1438) showed no apparent increase in the abundance of *nuo* RNA 5' ends, compared with that of a wild-type strain with no plasmid (Fig. 4), nor did that strain show increased β -galactosidase levels, compared with those of a strain with the same *lac* fusion in single copy (3). However,

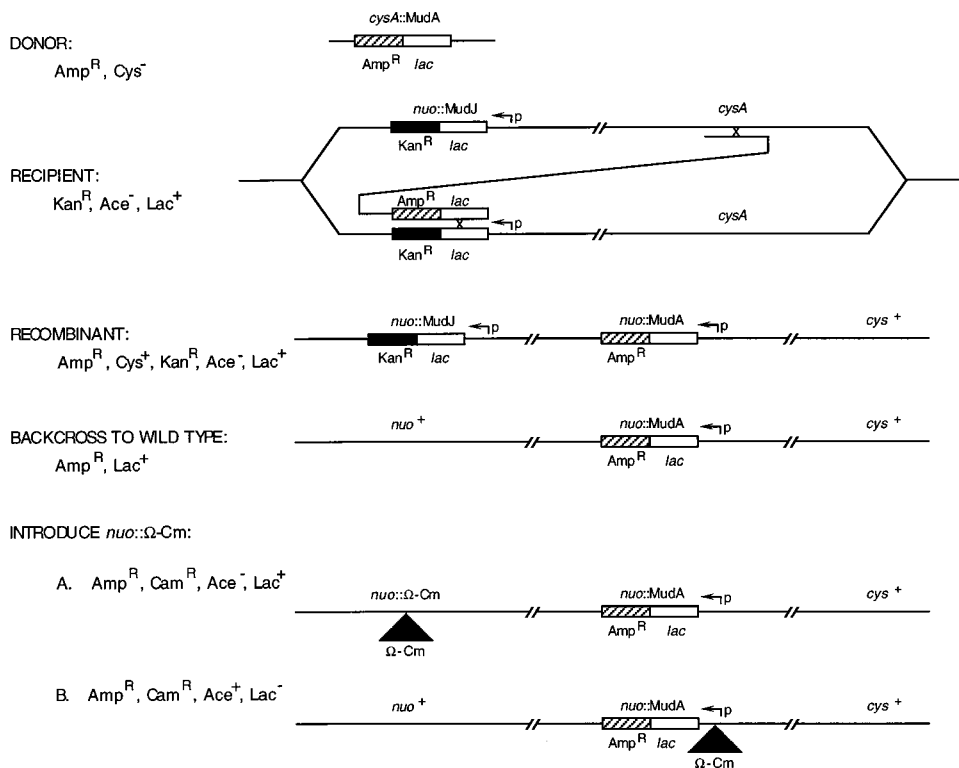


FIG. 2. Tandem duplications of the region between *cysA* and *nuoG* or *nuoN* were constructed by P22 transduction in a series of steps. The first selection was for transductants in which the donor and recipient Mud elements had recombined as diagrammed. After a backcross to wild type, Ω -Cm elements were introduced by transduction. The details of these constructions are described in the text (diagram based on data in reference 1).

preliminary experiments suggest that this lack of increase in RNA with multiple copies of the fusion is specific to the fusion at the *ClaI* site and therefore not an intrinsic property of *nuo* transcription.

Mapping *nuo* promoters by using *lac* operon fusions. Mapping the 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts points to regions that should contain *nuo* promoter elements. To confirm that a *nuo* promoter lies upstream of bp 372, *lac* operon fusions to various DNA segments of the *nuo* promoter region were made (Fig. 5). Each fusion was transferred to the chromosome of *S. typhi-*

murium LT-2, and each resulting strain was assayed for β -galactosidase activity. The data (Fig. 5) indicate that all of the DNA segments tested direct some level of β -galactosidase activity and therefore contain active promoters; however, the activities for fusions that contained only the upstream DNA segment were quite low. This low-level activity conflicts with the results of the primer extension experiment, in which a substantial fraction of all *nuo* RNA 5' ends mapped to the upstream (bp 372) site.

In a similar set of fusions, an RNase III site was added

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PstI
CTGCAGAGGG CGGAGATGAT CCGCTGATGG TGGAGGGGG TTTTGGATAG CTCCGAGGCA AAGGGGCGTA AGTCGTAAAT GTAAAAAGA GCGCGTGGG 100
ATGAAAAAAC GCTCAGTGGC TCPTTTTGTG TGCCCATCTG TACGGCTTA ACCGCACAAA TTGTAAAAAT TCGCGTAAAT CAGCCAGTAG CGATTCCGAG 200
TTCAATGTGG GCAAAAAATA ACCAGAACAT CCATTTTATG AATTTCATG TTAAAAAACT AGAGAAATIG TTGCTGTGTTT AGGGGGTGAA TTAACAAAAG 300
CGTGCACAG ATCAAGAAAA TACTCCCAT TGGGGGAGG CATCTTCACA AATTCCTGTC AAAATAGGTG TGTGTATATP CPTTTCCTTC ACAACGGACA 400
CGATTCAACA ACATAAAAAT CCCCCTGGTC GAAGAGTCAT TTTCTCCAGG ATGGCACTTA ATGTTAATGG TGAATGAATIG ATGTAAATTA ATGTGAAGGA 500
ACTTTTGTTA AAGTTGACAA AAGGTTATAG AAAGAGTAA AAAACACAT CAATTAGCTG TTTTATCAT TTTCTACAGT AATTGTAGGG TTTTTPPTAT 600
TCCCTCCCAT GAATCGATGT GCGCCCATC TGCCGTAAG AGCAGAGAAA CTGGCGTAC TTTTGTATAG TAAGCAATGA GTATGTCAC ATCCACTGAA 700
GTCACTGCTC ATCACTGGGC ATTCGCTATC TTTCTTATCG TTGCCATTGG CCTGTGCTGC CTGATGCTGG TAGGCGGTIG GTTTTGGGC GGTTCGGCAC 800
GGCGAGGCA CAAGAAGCTT CCGTTTGAAT CAGGTATCGA TTCCGCTGGC ACCGCCGCTC TAGCCCTGTC TGCCAGTTT TACCTGTTAG CCAATGTTCT 900
CGTATCTTC GACGTTGAGG CCGTGTATCT GTTCGCTAG TCGACTTCTA TCCGGAAAG CCGCTGGGTT GGTCTTGTGG AAGCTGCAAT TTTTATTTTT 1000
GTTTACTGCG CTGGTCTGGT TTTATCTGGC GATATTTGGC CGTTGGACTG GACGCCGGG CGTTCACGCC GCGAGCGTAT GAACCGGAA ACGAACAGTA 1100
TCGCTAATCG TCAACCGTAA CCGCGAGGCA TTAAGATGGA TTTATCGCTC ACCCGCATAG ATCTTAACGG TGAGAAATGAC CGTTACCCCC TGCAAAAAA 1200
GGAGATGATA ACCGACCCCC TGGAGCAGGA AGTTAACAAA AACGTGTTCA TGGGCAAACT GCATGACATG GTTAACTGGG GCGGTAAAAA CTCATTTTGG 1300
CCCTACAACT TCGGCTTTTC TTGCTGCTAT GTAGAGATGG TGACCTCTTT TACCOCAGTG CATGACGTTG CCGGTTTCGG CCGGGAAGTG CTGCTGTGGT 1400
CGCCACGTCA GGCTGACCTG ATGGTGGTGG CCGGTACC 1438
    
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FIG. 3. DNA sequence of a 1,438-bp *PstI-KpnI* DNA fragment that contains the *nuo* promoter region. The sequence is oriented in the direction of transcription. The positions indicated by asterisks correspond to 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts that were detected by primer extension mapping. The initiation and termination codons for the *nuo* genes contained within this fragment are underlined. A putative extended -10 sequence for the upstream promoter is overlined.

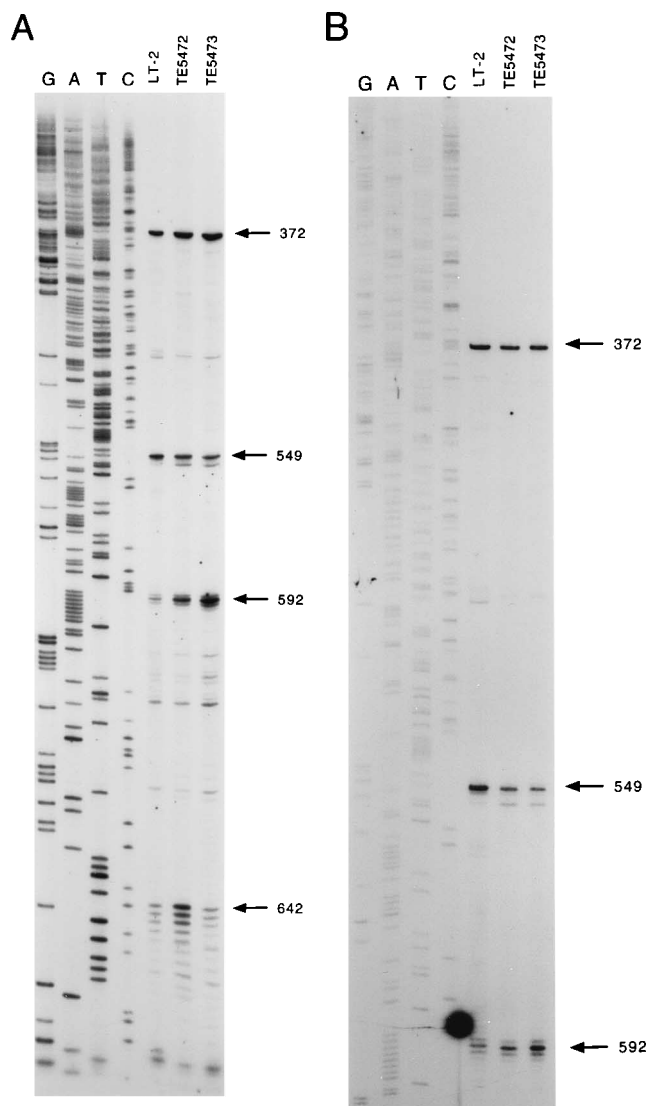


FIG. 4. Primer extension mapping of 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts. Shown are autoradiograms of sequencing gels that were used to analyze primer extension products. RNA was isolated from strains LT-2, TE5472, and TE5473. The sequencing ladders in lanes G, A, T, and C in each panel were generated with the labeled primer that was used for primer extension in that panel. Arrows indicate the 5' ends of transcripts, and numbers indicate the positions (in base pairs) of 5' ends relative to the DNA sequence in Fig. 3. Results are from extension of a primer complementary to bp 715 to 698 (A) and bp 679 to 655 (B).

between *nuo* and *lac* sequences to reduce the chance that differences in *nuo* transcript stability or occlusion of the *lacZ* ribosome binding site would affect *lacZ* expression (26). The levels of β -galactosidase expression seen with this second set of operon fusions (Fig. 5) were consistent with the primer extension results and support the idea that most *nuo* transcription actually occurs from the upstream initiation site; however, the promoter(s) downstream of bp 387 is also reasonably active. The higher level of β -galactosidase activity obtained with the fragment from bp 1 to 396 than with the fragment from bp 1 to 716 suggests that transcription termination may occur in the region between bp 396 and bp 716.

Expression of the *nuo* operon. Many components of the respiratory chain are known to be regulated in response to the availability of electron acceptors (for reviews, see references 16 and 21). To determine whether expression of the *nuo* operon is regulated in a similar manner, mutations in known global regulatory genes were introduced into a *nuo pAB'-lac* strain and the expression of β -galactosidase was measured under various growth conditions (Table 2). The mutations studied included insertions in *arcA* and *oxrA*, two key regulators of respiratory enzymes. The *oxrA* gene encodes the *S. typhimurium* homolog of *E. coli* FNR protein. FNR has been reported to repress expression of the alternative NADH dehydrogenase encoded by the *ndh* gene (15, 40). In addition, because *nuo* mutants display an unusual phenotype during starvation for glucose (4), the effects of *cya*, *crp*, and *katF* mutations were also tested. Strains were grown either aerobically in minimal medium that contained glucose or pyruvate as the carbon source or anaerobically in minimal medium with pyruvate as the carbon source and fumarate as the electron acceptor. Table 2 shows that none of these mutations had a large effect on expression of the *nuo pAB'-lac* operon fusion under the conditions tested. In addition, a *nuo* mutation that eliminated NADH dh I activity (*nuoA2::Tn10d-Tet*) was tested for its effects on expression of the *nuo pAB'-lac* operon fusion. β -Galactosidase activity in the mutant was not significantly higher than that in the wild type (Table 2).

These results were confirmed by direct assay of NADH dh I. Assays were performed on extracts of the same strains, grown under conditions in which each mutation would be expected to have an effect. The NADH analog deamino-NADH was used as the substrate for these assays because it is a specific substrate of NADH dh I (31). The data in Table 2 show that none of the mutations tested had a dramatic effect on NADH oxidase activity, confirming the general results of β -galactosidase assays. In contrast to the β -galactosidase data, the mutation in

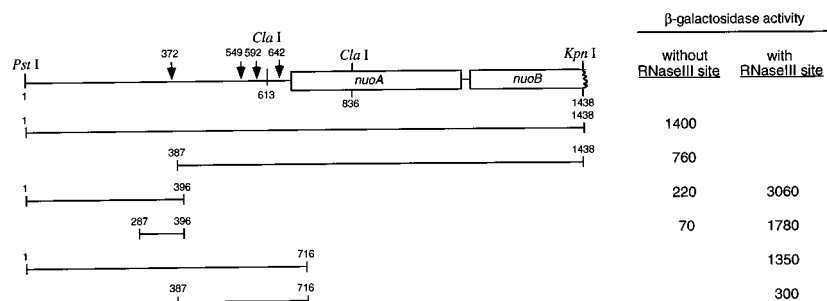


FIG. 5. Mapping *nuo* promoters by using *lac* operon fusions. Vertical arrows indicate the 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts, as determined by primer extension. The indicated DNA fragments were inserted into the *lac* operon fusion vector pRS550. The resulting *nuo-lac* fusions were transferred to the chromosome of wild-type *S. typhimurium* LT-2 as previously described (10). β -Galactosidase activity was measured for two sets of fusions. The first four constructs do not have an RNase III site between *nuo* and *lac*; their results are reported in the left column (without RNase III site). Each construct in the second set contains an RNase III site between *nuo* and *lac*; their results are shown in the right column (with RNase III site).

TABLE 2. Comparison of *nuo-lac* expression and NADH dh I activities in strains that contained global regulatory mutations

Strain and/or mutation	Activity ^a				
	Glucose + O ₂ , β-galactosidase	Pyruvate + O ₂		Pyruvate + fumarate - O ₂	
		β-Galactosidase	NADH oxidase	β-Galactosidase	NADH oxidase
TE5296, wild type	1,780	2,040	0.0954	1,750	0.0934
TE5308, <i>oxrA</i>	1,800	1,960	ND	3,150	0.116
TE5309, <i>cya</i>	970	1,320	0.0356	ND	ND
TE5310, <i>crp</i>	1,030	1,140	0.202	ND	ND
TE5562, <i>arcA</i>	1,210	2,290	ND	3,870	0.114
TE5563, <i>katF</i>	1,630	2,820	ND	ND	ND
TE5804, <i>nuo</i>	2,070	ND	ND	ND	ND

^a Deamino-NADH was used as the substrate for NADH dh I assays. NADH dh I activities are reported in micromoles of deamino-NADH oxidized per minute per milligram of protein. β-Galactosidase activities are expressed in Miller units. ND, not determined.

cya results in approximately threefold-lower NADH dh I activity, compared with that of the wild type, while the *crp* mutation resulted in twofold-higher NADH dh I activity. The unusual, opposing effects of these two mutations are not understood.

In summary, we have characterized the complex promoter region for the *nuo* genes of *S. typhimurium*. Studies of the polar effects caused by insertion of the Ω-Cm element in strains with *lac* fusions to the *nuoF*, *nuoG*, and *nuoN* genes demonstrate that the 14 *nuo* genes constitute an operon that is served by a single complex promoter region upstream of *nuoA* (bp 1 to 613 of the sequence in Fig. 3). Primer extension mapping of the 5' ends of *nuo* transcripts identified four major RNA 5' ends; the distribution and abundance of 5' ends in *S. typhimurium* are very similar to those in *E. coli*. The RNA 5' end at bp 592 corresponds to a start site near (but not the same as) that previously identified as the *nuo* transcription initiation site in *E. coli* (45).

The presence of a promoter positioned to direct transcription from bp 372 was confirmed by constructing a set of *lac* operon fusions that carried different segments of the *nuo* promoter region. These fusions contained an RNase III site that had been cloned between *nuo* and *lac*. The results suggest that the RNA 5' end that maps at bp 372 is the transcript from the strongest *nuo* promoter, but other promoters must also lie downstream. Examination of the DNA sequence upstream of bp 372 reveals little homology to the consensus $\sigma^{70} -35$ region. There is some homology to the $\sigma^{70} -10$ hexamer, including an additional TGn motif adjacent to the -10 region (Fig. 3). This motif, referred to as an extended -10 , has previously been shown to be important for some promoters that lack a consensus sequence at -35 (24, 25). Further experiments, including *in vitro* transcription and analysis of promoter mutants, will be necessary to precisely characterize each of the multiple promoters that serve the *nuo* operon.

We tested the effects of mutations in certain global regulatory genes on expression of the *nuo* operon by using a *nuo pAB'-lac* fusion. No dramatic effects were seen with any of the mutations tested, including *oxrA* (*fnr*), *cya*, *crp*, *arcA*, *katF*, and *nuoA*. This result is somewhat surprising in light of the near universal regulation of respiratory enzymes, but it was confirmed by direct assay of NADH dehydrogenase. We have also mutagenized cultures and screened without success for new classes of regulatory mutants that affect *nuo* expression. Finally, DNA sequence analysis of the region upstream of the *nuo* operon has revealed the presence of a gene which apparently encodes a transcriptional activator of the LysR family. However, disruption of this gene had no effect on expression of *nuo-lac* fusions in *S. typhimurium* (3).

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