

# Conservation of Domain Structure in a Fast-Evolving Heterochromatic SUUR Protein in Drosophilids

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## ABSTRACT

Different genomic regions replicate at a distinct time during S-phase. The *SuUR* mutation alters replication timing and the polytenization level of intercalary and pericentric heterochromatin in *Drosophila melanogaster* salivary gland polytene chromosomes. We analyzed *SuUR* in different insects, identified conserved regions in the protein, substituted conserved amino acid residues, and studied effects of the mutations on SUUR function. *SuUR* orthologs were identified in all sequenced drosophilids, and a highly divergent ortholog was found in the mosquito genome. We demonstrated that SUUR evolves at very high rate comparable with that of Transformer. Remarkably, upstream ORF within 5' UTR of the gene is more conserved than SUUR in drosophilids, but it is absent in the mosquito. The domain structure and charge of SUUR are maintained in drosophilids despite the high divergence of the proteins. The N-terminal part of SUUR with similarity to the SNF2/SWI2 proteins displays the highest level of conservation. Mutation of two conserved amino acid residues in this region impairs binding of SUUR to polytene chromosomes and reduces the ability of the protein to cause DNA underreplication. The least conserved middle part of SUUR interacting with HP1 retains positively and negatively charged clusters and nuclear localization signals. The C terminus contains interlacing conserved and variable motifs. Our results suggest that SUUR domains evolve with different rates and patterns but maintain their features.

IT is well established that replication timing in the S-phase generally correlates with the preceding transcriptional activity of the chromatin domain (SCHUBELER *et al.* 2002; MACALPINE *et al.* 2004; DONALDSON 2005). As a rule, late replication is observed in transcriptionally silent and condensed chromosome regions, mostly composed of pericentric heterochromatin (PH). Late-replicating regions in euchromatin are represented by 100- to 200-kb chromatin domains (MACALPINE *et al.* 2004; WHITE *et al.* 2004), which are often denoted as foci of late replication in the interphase nuclei (BEREZNEY *et al.* 2000).

One of the peculiar features that advances *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model for studying late replication is its giant larval salivary gland polytene chromosomes that enable easy and precise identification of late-replicating regions. There are ~240 regions showing late replication apart from the PH in *D. melanogaster* polytene chromosomes. These regions are scattered over the euchromatic chromosome arms and also display characteristic features of heterochromatin, such as dense packaging

and low transcription level (ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003a). Many late-replicating regions are underreplicated. Underreplication results from the early start of the G-phase before the S-phase is actually complete; hence many late-replicating chromosome sequences fail to complete replication by the end of each endocycle (GALL *et al.* 1971; SMITH and ORR-WEAVER 1991; LILLY and SPRADLING 1996). Morphologically, underreplication in these regions appears as “weak spots” or chromosome breaks on polytene chromosome squashes, which serve as a convenient cytological marker of late replication and underreplication. These regions are collectively referred to as intercalary heterochromatin (IH). Many of them are known to be bound by repressive Pc-G protein complexes and are mainly composed of deeply silenced genes (ZHIMULEV and BELYAeva 2003; ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003a; BELYAKIN *et al.* 2005).

Underreplication is also known to be significantly affected by a product of the *SuUR* gene. This gene encodes a protein that is specifically associated with PH and IH (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002; ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003b; PINDYURIN *et al.* 2007). The only known mutation of the gene, *SuUR<sup>ES</sup>*, is caused by an ~6-kb insertion into the last exon (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002). *SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* larvae show altered replication timing in late-replicating regions. Namely, replication in these regions completes sooner than in the wild-type strain, so the polytenization level in

Supporting information is available online at <http://www.genetics.org/cgi/content/full/genetics.109.104844/DC1>.

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IH is restored to that of the euchromatin. This is also accompanied by an increase in the degree of polytenization of many sequences in PH and by the concomitant structuring of the chromocenter (BELYAEVA *et al.* 1998; MOSHKIN *et al.* 2001; ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003a). Conversely, an increase in the *SuUR* gene copy number enhances the underreplication in IH regions (ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003a; BELYAKIN *et al.* 2005). Ectopic expression of *SuUR* in follicular cells suppresses the amplification of chorion gene clusters (VOLKOVA *et al.* 2003). Finally, strong *SuUR* overexpression in third instar larval salivary glands leads to structural changes (“swellings”) in chromosome morphology of PH and IH regions (ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003c).

*SuUR* gene has four exons and a very short promoter region devoid of recognizable regulatory elements in addition to two presumptive E2F-binding sites (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002). Recently, an upstream open reading frame (uORF) was identified in the 5' UTR of *SuUR* (HAYDEN and BOSCO 2008). The gene encodes a 962-aa protein without any homologs reported in protein databases (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002). Nevertheless, the N terminus of the protein shows moderate similarity to the ATPase/helicase domain of chromatin-remodeling proteins from the SWI2/SNF2 group. ATP-dependent chromatin-remodeling factors are known to serve as molecular motors that alter the accessibility of DNA in chromatin, thereby regulating many aspects of transcription and replication (HAVAS *et al.* 2001). While the strongest similarity between *SuUR* and SNF2/SWI2 proteins is observed within Walker A and Walker B motifs involved in ATP binding and hydrolysis (WALKER *et al.* 1982), the *SuUR* sequence differs significantly from the canonical motifs (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002). It is unknown whether *SuUR* could bind and hydrolyze ATP, but the fragment containing the first 360 amino acid residues shows a dominant-negative effect and displaces endogenous *SuUR* from polytene chromosomes (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005).

Previously, we demonstrated that the C-terminal fragment *SuUR*<sub>495–962</sub> controls underreplication, although it is unable to induce structural changes in chromatin when overexpressed. On the contrary, the N-terminal fragments *SuUR*<sub>1–599</sub> and *SuUR*<sub>1–779</sub> had no effect on endoreplication, but were able to bind PH and IH regions and to induce formation of chromosome swellings such as the full-length *SuUR* (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). Here we demonstrate that *SuUR* is present in other *Drosophila* species and that it affects the break formation in salivary gland polytene chromosomes in *D. simulans*. Comparative analysis of *SuUR* in 11 *Drosophila* species showed that the protein belongs to a group of fast-evolving genes although its domain organization is conserved in *Drosophila*. We introduced targeted point mutations in two conserved regions within N- and C-terminal parts of *SuUR* and analyzed how these substitutions affect the protein function. We

showed that point mutations in the N-terminal region of *SuUR* abolish its specific binding to the late-replicating regions of polytene chromosomes and decrease the ability of the protein to suppress polytenization in these regions. We also performed a more precise functional mapping of the C-terminal region of *SuUR*, which was known to cause underreplication.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Drosophila stocks and genetics:** Fly stocks were kept on standard *Drosophila* cornmeal medium at 25°. The following stocks carrying GAL4 drivers were used: *da-GAL4* for ubiquitous expression (WODARZ *et al.* 1995), *Sgs3-GAL4* for expression in salivary glands starting from the mid-third instar (PS1–PS11) (CHERBAS *et al.* 2003), *ABI-GAL4* for expression in salivary glands from early embryogenesis (DRYSDALE *et al.* 2005), *arm-GAL4* for weak variegated expression in salivary glands (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005), and *C323-GAL4* for expression in follicle cells (MANSEAU *et al.* 1997). The *w; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* stock was described in BELYAEVA *et al.* (1998). Oregon-R was used as a wild-type stock. We used *D. erecta* and *D. virilis* from the laboratory stock collection and *D. ananassae* (strain 14024-0371.13) from the Tucson *Drosophila* Stock Center.

**Molecular procedures:** All molecular procedures were performed as described in SAMBROOK and RUSSELL (2001). DNA-modifying enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs. Genomic DNA from *D. erecta* was amplified by PCR using *SuUR*-specific primers, and sequencing of PCR products was done on the ABI PRISM 310 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems) at the DNA Sequencing Center of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia (<http://sequest.niboch.nsc.ru>). RNA from ovaries was isolated using Trizol (Gibco BRL). A RT-PCR kit (Promega) was used according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Primer sequences used for the RT-PCR and amplification of *SuUR* genomic sequences in different *Drosophila* species are available upon request.

**Constructs for transformations:** Transgenic constructs are described in the supporting information (File S1). Plasmids were co-injected with pUChsΔ2-3wc (pTURBO) transposase helper plasmid into *y<sup>1</sup> w<sup>67</sup>* embryos, and several independent transgenic lines were obtained for each construct (RUBIN and SPRADLING 1982).

**Immunostaining of polytene chromosomes:** Indirect immunofluorescent analysis of polytene chromosomes was performed as described in POUX *et al.* (2001). We used E45 antibodies raised against the middle part of *SuUR* (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002) and antibodies against hemagglutinin tag (HA) provided by V. Pirrotta. The E45 antibodies and HA antiserum were used at a 1:50 and 1:10 dilutions, respectively. For immunostaining of *D. simulans* polytene chromosomes and analysis of chromosome binding of *SuUR*<sub>Nmut</sub> protein, the double-squash approach was used when a positive control was present on the same slide with the investigated polytenes.

**Data analysis:** We used the BLAT program (KENT 2002; <http://genome.ucsc.edu>) to map the *SuUR* orthologs in the genomic sequences available. Multiple protein alignments were constructed using ClustalW (THOMPSON *et al.* 1994; <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/clustalw>). K-Estimator 6.1v software (COMERON 1999; <http://en.bio-soft.net/format/KEstimator.html>) was used to calculate the number of synonymous ( $K_s$ ) and nonsynonymous ( $K_a$ ) substitutions. The SAPS program was used for the statistical analysis of protein sequences (BRENDDEL *et al.* 1992; [http://www.isrec.isb-sib.ch/software/SAPS\\_form.html](http://www.isrec.isb-sib.ch/software/SAPS_form.html)). The phylogenetic tree was built in MEGA4

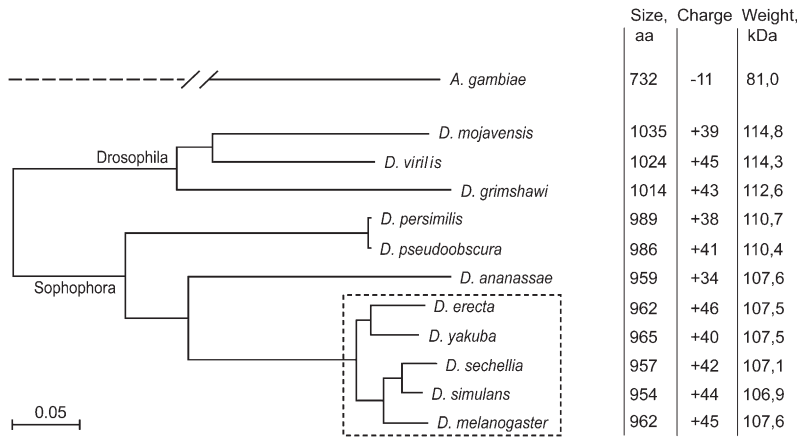


FIGURE 1.—Phylogenetic tree based on SUUR proteins and the main properties of each protein. The tree was built in MEGA4 software using protein alignment with the following settings: neighbor-joining method, complete deletion of gaps, Poisson correction, and uniform rates among sites. Species from the *melanogaster* subgroup are boxed with a dashed line.

(KUMAR *et al.* 2008). Identification of protein motifs and structure predictions were performed using MotifScan ([http://myhits.isb-sib.ch/cgi-bin/motif\\_scan](http://myhits.isb-sib.ch/cgi-bin/motif_scan)) and Predict Protein (ROST *et al.* 2004; <http://www.predictprotein.org>).

## RESULTS

**Identification of SUUR protein in insects:** Southern blot hybridization of *SuUR* cDNA with genomic DNAs from various *Drosophila* species produced signals in species from the *melanogaster* subgroup only (data not shown). Among these, *D. erecta* was one of the most distant species from *D. melanogaster* (Figure 1). We amplified and sequenced the genomic DNA from the *SuUR* locus in *D. erecta* (GenBank accession no. AJ539550). The exon–intron structure of the *SuUR* gene in *D. erecta* was confirmed by comparison of the genomic sequence and the sequence of *SuUR* cDNA fragment obtained from *D. erecta* total ovarian RNA by RT–PCR. Splice sites are conserved between *D. melanogaster* and *D. erecta*.

We also used predicted SUUR sequences from nine recently sequenced *Drosophila* species for which genomic sequences are available at the UCSC Genome Browser website (Figure 1). We noted that the annotations of the *SuUR* gene produced by some annotation projects differ significantly from the exon–intron structure of the gene in *D. melanogaster* in five of nine species: *D. simulans*, *D. yakuba*, *D. ananassae*, *D. persimilis*, and *D. virilis*. The differences include the prediction of an additional exon in the 5′-end of the gene, which merged the uORF with the main ORF, and the prediction of additional introns and lack thereof, notably by the Genescan annotations (BURGE and KARLIN 1997). We determined the exon–intron structure of *SuUR* in *D. yakuba*, *D. ananassae*, and *D. virilis* by sequencing RT–PCR products obtained from total fly RNA. Sequences of PCR products confirmed discrepancies in Genescan annotation; therefore, we used our version of *SuUR* annotation. For *D. simulans* and *D. persimilis*, we transferred annotation of *SuUR* from the closely related species *D. melanogaster* and *D. pseudoobscura*, respectively. Sequences of *SuUR* ORFs used in this study are given in

Figure S1. These data confirmed the integrity of the conserved uORF predicted in *SuUR* 5′ UTR for all analyzed species (HAYDEN and BOSCO 2008). Our review of *SuUR* annotation in *Drosophila* species demonstrates that the computer gene annotations should be used with great care.

The *SuUR* gene is not annotated outside of *Drosophila*. However, the BLAST search identified a weak similarity ( $\sim 25\%$  identities,  $E$ -value  $7e^{-6}$ ) with ENSANGP00000027713.1 protein from *Anopheles gambiae* (contemporary gene name AGAP005819; coordinates: chr2L:21,832,968–21,835,239; AgamP3 genome assembly). The similarity was limited to the N-terminal region of SUUR (aa 51–276). The rest of the protein sequence in *A. gambiae* is highly diverged, making comparison of the full-size proteins impossible. In contrast to the *Drosophila* SUUR, the ENSANGP00000027713.1 protein has no negatively or positively charged regions in the middle part of the protein. There is no apparent uORF upstream of the ENSANGP00000027713.1 main ORF. In *D. melanogaster*, the *CG6310* gene is located downstream of *SuUR*. Similarly, the mosquito *CG6310* homolog ENSANGT00000010378.2 (contemporary name AGAP005820; chr2L:21,835,318–21,836,802; AgamP3 genome assembly) is located downstream of ENSANGP00000027713.1, indicating that the latter indeed represents a highly diverged version of *Drosophila* *SuUR*. As *Drosophila* SUUR, the mosquito protein contains noncanonical Walker A and Walker B motif sites: it has substitution in GKT sequence from the putative nucleotide-binding loop and in DExH box. The predicted mosquito protein is smaller and has a negative charge while *Drosophila* SUUR has a positive total charge (Figure 1). We were unable to identify SUUR orthologs in other sequenced nondipteran insect species.

**SUUR contributes to the formation of chromosome breaks in *D. simulans*:** In many *Drosophila* species, the salivary gland polytene chromosomes display specific chromosome breaks and constrictions due to underreplication (ZHIMULEV 1998), suggesting that SUUR contributes to underreplication in these species. Immunostaining of *D. simulans* salivary gland polytene chro-

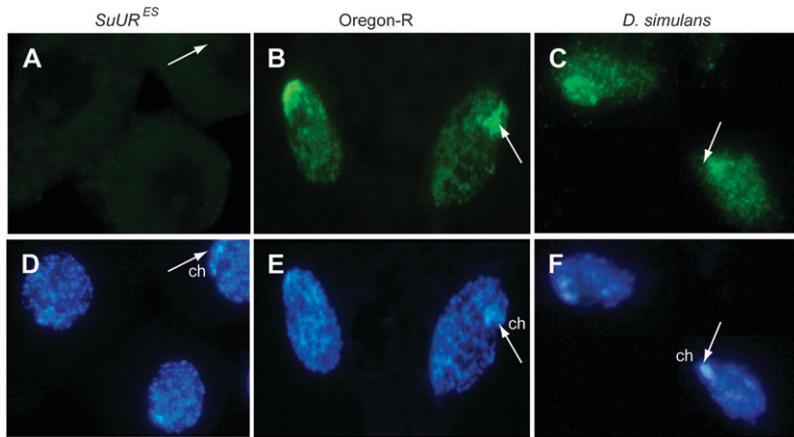


FIGURE 2.—Immunodetection of SUUR in follicular cells with E45 antibodies. (A) Negative control: no staining is observed in follicle cells of *SuUR<sup>ES</sup>*. (B) Positive control: strong staining is observed in the nucleus and especially the chromocenter (ch, indicated by arrows) in follicle cells of *D. melanogaster* (Oregon-R). (C) In *D. simulans*, the antibodies produce staining similar to that observed in Oregon-R. (D–F) Hoechst staining.

mosomes with anti-SUUR antibodies does not produce any pronounced pattern. A chromocenter-specific signal could be detected only in rare nuclei. Immunofluorescent analysis of SUUR localization on polytene chromosomes of *D. melanogaster* × *D. simulans* hybrid larvae shows absence of staining in ~90% of nuclei, with ~10% of nuclei demonstrating a staining pattern characteristic of *D. melanogaster*. Notwithstanding, we did observe strong SUUR staining in follicle-cell nuclei preparations of whole-mount ovaries of *D. simulans* (Figure 2C). In both wild-type *D. melanogaster* and *D. simulans* the antibodies produce staining throughout the nucleus with a strong signal immediately adjacent to the chromocenter while virtually no staining is observed in the *SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* mutant (Figure 2).

To prove that SUUR does contribute to underreplication in *D. simulans*, we crossed *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>1-458</sub>* *D. melanogaster* females with *D. simulans* males. The *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>1-458</sub>* transgenic combination provides expression of the N-terminal half of SUUR in salivary glands from an early developmental stage. Expression of this fragment (SUUR<sub>1-458</sub>) under early *ABI-GAL4* driver has a dominant-negative effect, and results in the complete disappearance of weak spots from the polytene chromosomes, similar to the *SuUR* mutant phenotype (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). Consistently, overexpression of SUUR<sub>1-458</sub> leads to the disappearance of weak spots on both homologs in *D. melanogaster* × *D. simulans* hybrid progeny (Figure S2). It needs to be pointed out that the chromosomes of both *D. simulans* and *D. melanogaster* (Oregon-R) × *D. simulans* hybrids demonstrate weak spots in the same regions as *D. melanogaster*. This result argues in favor of a common mechanism of weak spot formation in both species and that the SUUR protein has a key role in this process.

**SUUR orthologs display high levels of substitutions in different *Drosophila* species:** Comparison of SUUR orthologs from *Drosophila* species revealed high numbers of amino acid substitutions, insertions, and deletions, even in closely related species (Table 1, Figure S3). Strikingly, the level of amino acid conservation is much

higher within uORF, which encompasses 68 residues in *D. melanogaster*, than is observed for SUUR main ORF (Table 1). We calculated the numbers of synonymous ( $K_s$ ) and nonsynonymous ( $K_a$ ) substitutions per site for the species from the *melanogaster* subgroup, using K-Estimator software (COMERON 1999) (Table 2). We excluded distantly related species from this analysis because of the ambiguity in alignment, especially in the middle part of the protein (see below). The number of nonsynonymous substitutions per site in the *SuUR* gene between *D. melanogaster* and *D. yakuba* is 0.052. This is very similar to the  $K_a$  value characteristic for the fast-evolving genes in *Drosophila* (SCHMID and TAUTZ 1997). The size and charge of the SUUR protein are retained in the course of evolution despite the high substitution rate (Figure 1). The secondary structure predictions even in very distant species, such as *D. melanogaster* and *D. grimshawi*, turned out to be mostly identical. Numerous helices and extended sheets were predicted in the N-terminal part while the rest of the protein was less structured (Figure S4).

The phylogenetic tree created for available SUUR proteins is fairly consistent with the tree obtained in genomewide analysis (STARK *et al.* 2007); *e.g.*, *D. yakuba* and *D. erecta* are grouped together, and the *D. pseudoobscura* branch is shorter (Figure 1). While the *Drosophila* subgenus branch appeared somewhat longer in the SUUR tree in comparison to the whole-genome tree, it could be just a consequence of a rooting problem: unfortunately, the sequence of the *D. willistoni* genome was not available at the UCSC Genome Browser website at the time of our analysis, and use of SUUR sequence from this species could affect the position of the tree root, and hence could affect the length of the *Drosophila* subgenus branch.

Distribution of substitutions across the protein is nonuniform (Figure 3A, Figure S3). The N-terminal region of SUUR is the most conserved part of the protein. It has a relatively low level of substitutions, no insertions, and no deletions even in distantly related *Drosophila* species. The middle part of SUUR (*D.*

**TABLE 1**  
Pairwise comparison of amino acid identities for SUUR protein and uORF

	mel	sim	sec	yak	ere	ana	pse	per	vir	moj	gri
mel		93.1	91.9	89.3	87.7	65.4	60.0	59.9	48.7	46.4	44.7
sim	100		95.2	88.8	87.6	66.2	61.0	60.7	49.3	46.8	45.6
sec	98.5	98.5		87.5	86.2	65.0	60.1	59.6	48.8	46.8	45.3
yak	100	100	98.5		90.7	66.2	61.0	60.8	48.9	46.7	45.8
ere	92.9	92.9	91.5	92.9		66.0	61.1	60.8	49.2	45.8	45.4
ana	76.4	76.4	76.4	76.4	70.4		59.6	59.5	48.4	45.2	46.1
pse	66.1	66.1	64.7	66.1	60.5	69.1		99.0	50.7	48.3	49.3
per	66.1	66.1	64.7	66.1	60.5	69.1	100		50.9	48.3	49.3
vir	63.2	63.2	61.7	63.2	57.7	63.0	70.7	70.7		81.2	63.8
moj	57.3	57.3	57.3	57.3	52.1	59.0	70.1	70.1	64.5		58.3
gri	57.3	57.3	57.3	57.3	52.1	60.0	63.6	63.6	82.5	79.6	

Identity for SUUR protein is shown above the diagonal, and identity for uORF from *SuUR* transcript is shown below the diagonal. mel, *D. melanogaster*; sim, *D. simulans*; sec, *D. sechellia*; yak, *D. yakuba*; ere, *D. erecta*; ana, *D. ananassae*; pse, *D. pseudoobscura*; per, *D. persimilis*; vir, *D. virilis*; moj, *D. mojavensis*; gri, *D. grimshawi*.

*melanogaster* residues 280–581) shows the lowest level of amino acid identity across species (Table 3). Two distantly related species from the subgenus *Drosophila*, *D. mojavensis* and *D. virilis*, have long insertions in this region of SUUR (Figure S3). Despite an extremely high level of primary sequence divergence, the negatively and positively charged regions located in the middle part (Figure 3B) consistently maintained their properties in other species (Table 3). For example, the SAPS program ([http://www.isrec.isb-sib.ch/software/SAPS\\_form.html](http://www.isrec.isb-sib.ch/software/SAPS_form.html)) predicts statistically significant spacing between positively charged residues on the sides of a negatively charged region of SUUR in *D. melanogaster*, *D. simulans*, *D. sechellia*, *D. yakuba*, *D. erecta*, *D. pseudoobscura*, and *D. persimilis*. In *D. mojavensis*, *D. virilis*, and *D. grimshawi*, this negatively charged region is interrupted by a single positively charged residue (Figure S3). In *D. ananassae*, both negatively and positively charged clusters are smaller (Table 3). Intriguingly, these regions display a very similar total charge in different SUUR orthologs, although the vast majority of the charged residues *per se* are not conserved (Figure S3).

The middle part of SUUR largely coincides with the region (aa 339–671) known to interact with another

heterochromatic protein, HP1, in the yeast two-hybrid assay (PINDYURIN *et al.* 2008). Surprisingly, this part undergoes very rapid evolution. Even the sequence that displays similarity to the HP1-interacting motif (LRVSL, aa 429–433; PINDYURIN *et al.* 2008) diverged significantly in *Drosophila* species (Figure S3), with only two species, *D. yakuba* and *D. erecta*, containing this motif unaltered.

A search for the known protein motifs in SUUR using PredictProtein and MotifScan identified type I or type II nuclear localization signals (NLS) in the middle part of the protein in all species, except for *D. mojavensis* in which no bipartite NLS was found. In addition to NLS, a motif homologous to the AT hook was present in the middle of the protein in five species, from *D. melanogaster* to *D. ananassae*. No known motifs were identified within the C-terminal part of SUUR, although this region encompassed alternating stretches of conserved and nonconserved sequences (Figure S3).

**Targeted mutagenesis of SUUR and the effect of mutations on endoreplication:** On the basis of the protein alignment, we substituted conserved amino acid residues in two regions of SUUR protein. In the N-terminal part, we introduced L57R/G58R substitutions (SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub>) within a conserved region with similarity to the Walker A motif of ATPase/helicase domain (Figure 3, B and C). It has previously been established that ectopic expression of truncated SUUR protein containing amino acids 1–779 (SUUR<sub>1–779</sub>) does not suppress endoreplication in salivary glands (Figure 3D), indicating that the protein domain (or its crucial part) involved in the suppression of endoreplication is located downstream of the nonsense mutation in SUUR<sub>1–779</sub>. Therefore, we substituted two invariably conserved amino acid residues within this region, F816S and F817D, to obtain SUUR<sub>Cmut</sub>. Mutated ORFs were cloned into the pUAST vector (BRAND and PERRIMON 1993), and several independent transformants were generated for each construct.

**TABLE 2**

Synonymous (above diagonal) and nonsynonymous (below diagonal) substitutions per site in *SuUR* coding region

	mel	sim	sec	yak	ere
mel		0.146	0.175	0.324	0.289
sim	0.031		0.086	0.295	0.285
sec	0.038	0.020		0.324	0.301
yak	0.052	0.055	0.061		0.220
ere	0.058	0.056	0.066	0.042	

mel, *D. melanogaster*; sim, *D. simulans*; sec, *D. sechellia*; yak, *D. yakuba*; ere, *D. erecta*.

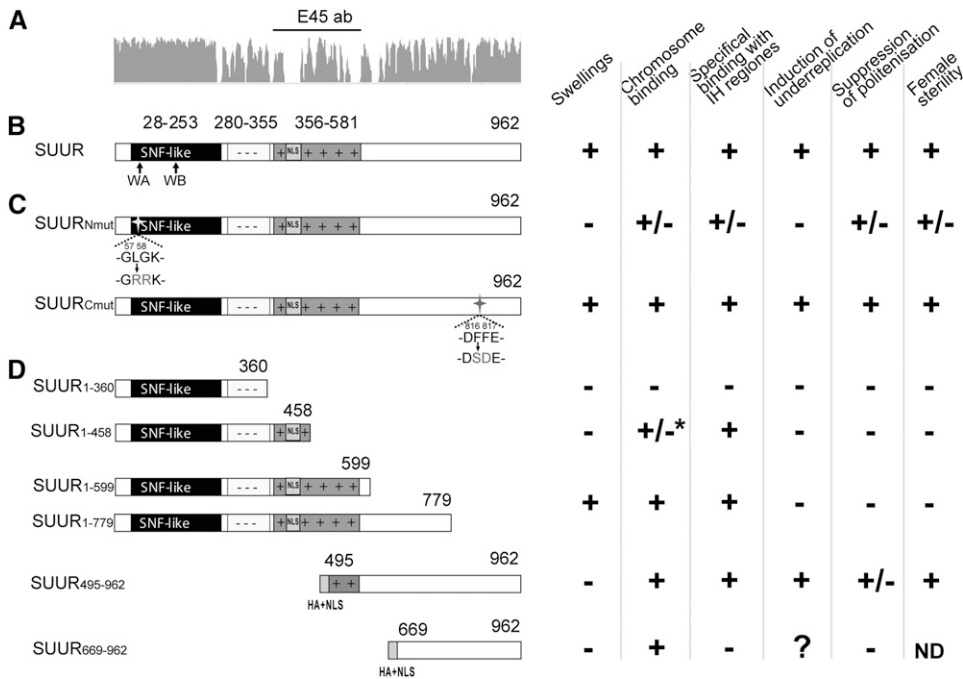


FIGURE 3.—Organization and features of different SUUR isoforms. (A) Conservation plot, based on the SUUR sequences from 11 *Drosophila* species, and the protein region used to generate E45 antibodies (E45 ab). (B) Domain organization of SUUR protein. The SNF-like domain is solid, the negatively charged region is marked with --, and the positively charged amino acid region is darkly shaded with + +. NLS, nuclear localization signal. Arrows show the position of regions with similarity to Walker A (WA) and Walker B (WB) motifs of SNF2/SWI2 proteins. (C) Point mutations introduced within the N- and C-terminal part of SUUR are indicated by arrows. (D) Truncated fragments of SUUR are described by KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* (2005) except for SUUR<sub>669-962</sub>. HA+NLS, hemagglutinin tag and nuclear localization signal sequence. An asterisk indicates that granules in intercalary and pericentric heterochromatin were observed.

We examined the effects of ectopically expressed mutated proteins in the UAS-GAL4 system (BRAND and PERRIMON 1993). Permanent strong expression of SUUR in salivary glands under the *ABI-GAL4* driver suppresses endoreplication and results in miniature salivary glands (VOLKOVA *et al.* 2003). Expression of SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> under the control of *ABI-GAL4* causes only partial suppression of endoreplication. The nuclei of salivary glands from *ABI-GAL4*>UAS-*SuUR*<sub>Nmut</sub> larvae are larger than those with ectopic expression of the full-

length SUUR from *ABI-GAL4*>UAS-*SuUR* larvae, although they are smaller than Oregon-R salivary gland nuclei (Figure 4).

Ectopic expression of UAS-*SuUR* in follicular cells under the control of the *C323-GAL4* driver suppresses amplification of chorion genes and results in complete female sterility (VOLKOVA *et al.* 2003). When SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> was ectopically expressed under the *C323-GAL4* driver, we observed weak suppression of the female sterile phenotype (20 crosses were set for 10 independent

TABLE 3  
Conservation of charge for middle part

Species	Negative charge region			Positive charge region		
	Position	Identity	Charge	Position	Identity	Charge
mel	280–355		-17	356–581		+39
sim	280–350	86.8	-16	351–573	85.3	+37
sec	280–350	85.5	-16	351–576	84.0	+35
yak	280–356	80.5	-18	357–583	78.0	+35
ere	280–356	79.2	-18	357–580	75.8	+41
ana	280–351	56.5	-13	352–580	39.6	+29
pse	280–359	46.9	-18	360–609	40.9	+37
per	280–359	46.3	-18	360–612	40.0	+36
vir	280–371	30.4	-16	372–659	24.3	+43
moj	280–369	26.9	-17	370–676	24.8	+43
gri	280–371	31.5	-16	372–664	21.4	+44

Amino acid identity was calculated between *D. melanogaster* and other species. mel, *D. melanogaster*; sim, *D. simulans*; sec, *D. sechellia*; yak, *D. yakuba*; ere, *D. erecta*; ana, *D. ananassae*; pse, *D. pseudoobscura*; per, *D. persimilis*; vir, *D. virilis*; moj, *D. mojavensis*; gri, *D. grimshawi*.

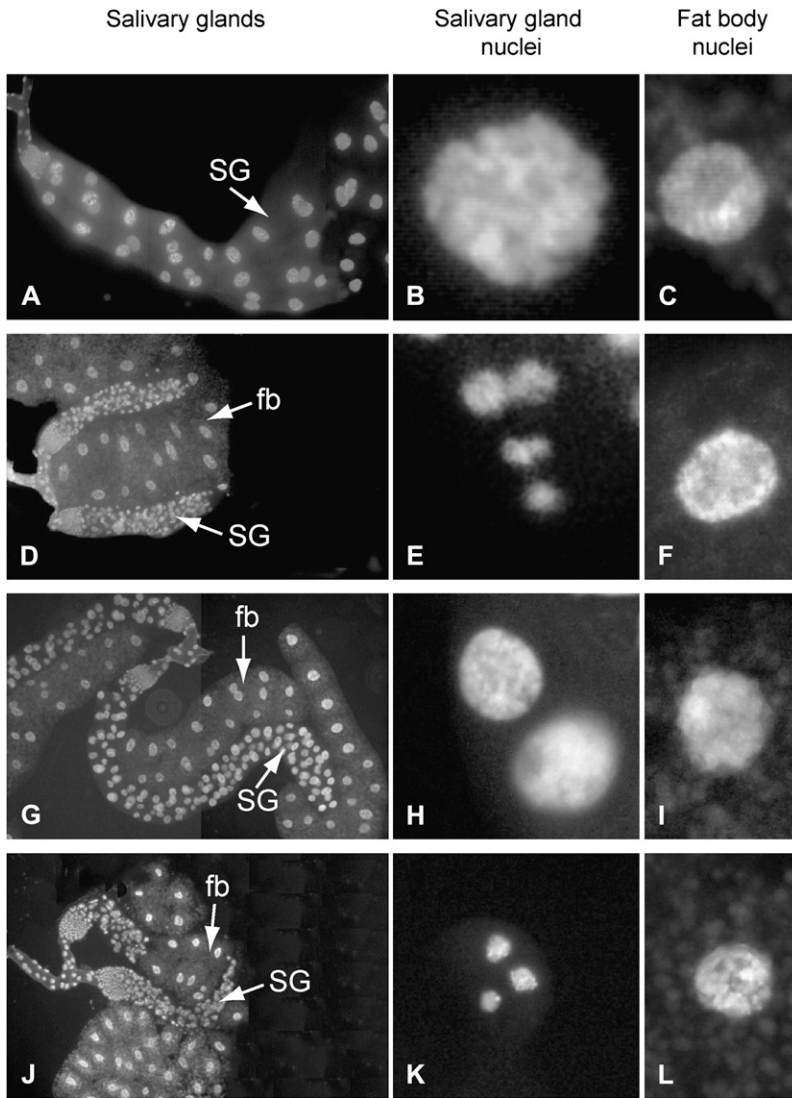


FIGURE 4.—Effects of point mutations in SUUR on its ability to suppress endoreplication in salivary glands upon overexpression from early development. Left column, salivary gland; middle column, salivary gland nuclei; right column, fat body nuclei photographed under the same magnification. (A–C) Oregon-R. (D) Ectopic expression of SUUR protein in salivary glands under the *ABI-GAL4* driver suppresses polytenization, which leads to the formation of miniature salivary gland. The size of the salivary gland nuclei in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR* larvae is dramatically reduced (E) as compared to the fat body nuclei (F) and wild-type salivary gland nuclei (B). (G) Ectopic expression of *SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub>* with the *ABI-GAL4* driver results in partial suppression of polytenization. Salivary gland nuclei in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>Nmut</sub>* larvae (H) are similar in size to those of the fat body (I), only slightly smaller than in Oregon-R (B), but significantly larger than in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR* larvae (E). (J–L) Effects of ectopic expression of *SUUR<sub>Cmut</sub>* on polytenization in the salivary gland are indistinguishable from those of the full-length SUUR. Salivary gland (SG) nuclei and fat body (fb) nuclei were stained with Hoechst.

transgenic stocks, and in 2 crosses from different stocks single escapers were observed).

Contrary to our expectations, substitutions in the C-terminal part of the SUUR had no detectable effects on the protein. Overexpression of *SUUR<sub>Cmut</sub>* under the *ABI-GAL4* driver results in miniature salivary glands similar in size to those observed upon ectopic overexpression of full-length SUUR in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR* larvae (Figure 4). Ectopic expression of *SUUR<sub>Cmut</sub>* under *C323-GAL4* resulted in complete female sterility similar to the ectopic expression of full-length SUUR.

**Mutation in N terminus impairs the protein's ability to associate with chromosomes and alters the chromatin structure:** In wild-type polytene chromosomes, SUUR is detected in late-replicating regions. When *UAS-SuUR* is expressed under the control of the weak mosaic *arm-GAL4* driver, 20% of salivary gland nuclei demonstrate weak spots in the IH regions and an immunostaining pattern similar to those of wild-type SUUR (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). It is a convenient system for the expression of the protein at the level

similar to that of the wild type. When *SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub>* is expressed under the control of the *arm-GAL4* driver, no protein is detected in PH or IH or elsewhere on the *arm-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>Nmut</sub>; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* chromosomes except for a weak signal in nucleolus (Figure S5), and no weak spots were observed (data not shown). To test whether *SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub>* is capable of any chromosome binding, we employed a strong salivary-gland-specific *Sgs3-GAL4* driver, which is active in mid-third instars when most of the replication in the salivary gland has ceased. *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* larvae chromosomes display distinct binding signals in all bands and the chromocenter (Figure 5A). In contrast, in *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>Nmut</sub>; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* larvae, the immunolocalization signal for *SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub>* is weak and dim (Figure 5B). These results suggest that the introduced substitutions within the N-terminal regions of SUUR dramatically decrease the binding of the protein to chromosomes.

Ectopic expression of *UAS-SuUR* under *Sgs3-GAL4* induces swellings in IH regions (ZHIMULEV *et al.* 2003c). In contrast, no changes in chromosome

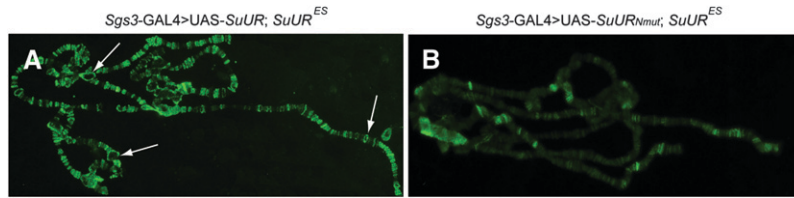


FIGURE 5.—SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> displays reduced binding to chromosomes when overexpressed under the control of the *Sgs3-GAL4* driver. Chromosomes from larvae expressing full-length SUUR and SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> were photographed using identical exposure times. (A) On *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* polytene chromosomes, SUUR is found in almost all bands. Swellings are indicated by arrows. (B) On *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sub>Nmut</sub>; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* polytene chromosomes, binding of mutant protein is drastically reduced.

morphology are observed when SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> is expressed with the same *Sgs3-GAL4* driver (data not shown).

**The C-terminal part of SUUR binds to polytene chromosomes:** Mutation of conserved amino acid residues F816S and F817D in the C-terminal region has no pronounced effect on the ability of the SUUR protein to cause underreplication. Earlier we showed that the C-terminal SUUR fragment SUUR<sub>495–962</sub> suppresses endoreplication while ectopic expression of the SUUR fragment SUUR<sub>1–779</sub> lacking residues 780–962 does not (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). We decided to test the overexpression effects of the smaller conserved C-terminal region of SUUR (aa 669–962). We cloned the fragment of the *SuUR* ORF that contained the last 293 codons fused to the HA tag and NLS into the pUAST vector (see File S1, Figure 3D) to obtain the UAS-*SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> construct (hereafter, SUUR<sub>669–962</sub>).

When SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> was expressed from the onset of development under control of the *ABI-GAL4* driver, the size of the salivary glands remained unaffected. However, the analysis of polytene chromosomes from *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae revealed general disorganization of polytene chromosomes (Figure 6A). In contrast to the wild-type chromosomes where

ectopic fibers typically link IH regions, in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> chromosomes we observed numerous ectopic fibers that were formed along the chromosome arms.

Ectopic expression of SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> under *arm-GAL4* resulted in a range of uniformly staining chromosomes of varying intensities (data not shown), as detected with anti-HA antibodies. The antibodies do not stain polytene chromosomes of the wild-type strain (data not shown). Also, it has been shown elsewhere that neither HA tag nor NLS bind polytene chromosomes on their own (JAQUET *et al.* 2002), suggesting that the observed localization pattern reflects a property of the SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> fragment. Overexpression of SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> with *Sgs3-GAL4* driver results in extremely strong nonspecific binding of SUUR to the chromosomes, regardless of the banding pattern (Figure 6E). Notably, under these conditions polytene chromosome morphology remained unchanged (Figure 6B), even though the chromosomes appeared totally covered by the SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> (Figure 6E). Endogenous SUUR was found to be specifically associated with its typical chromosomal sites (Figure 6F), indicating that the C-terminal part of the protein does not have a dominant-negative effect. Our results indicate that, while the C-terminal part of the protein is essential for under-

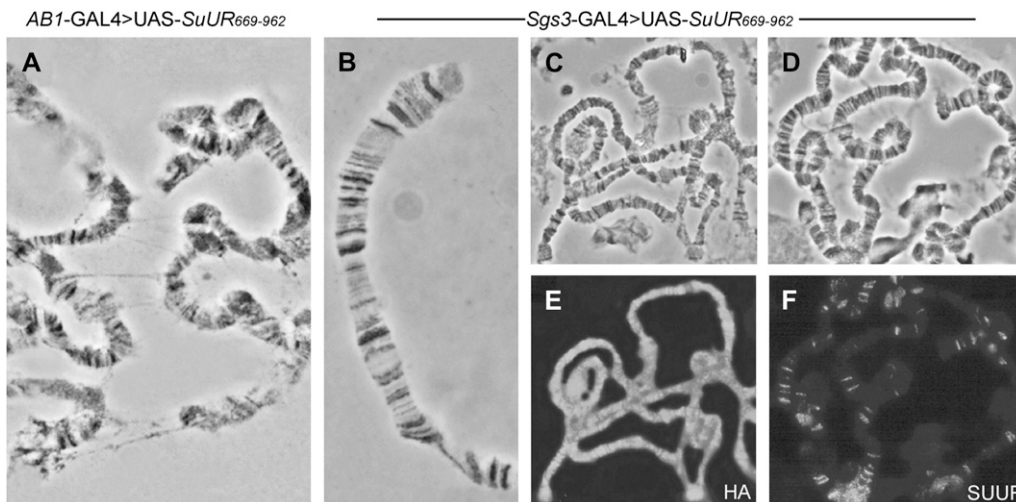


FIGURE 6.—Chromosome binding of SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> upon ectopic expression and its effects on chromatin structure. (A) Ectopic expression from early development in *ABI-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae results in the formation of ectopic fibers. (B) Polytene chromosomes from *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae resemble wild type in that they show no foam or swellings. (C and E) In *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae, the chromosomes are nonspecifically covered with the ectopically expressed truncated protein, as detected with anti-HA antibodies. (D and F) Endogenous SUUR in *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae can be detected at its typical chromosomal sites with E45 antibodies. (A–D) Phase contrast. (E and F) Immunostaining.

detected with anti-HA antibodies. (D and F) Endogenous SUUR in *Sgs3-GAL4>UAS-SuUR*<sub>669–962</sub> larvae can be detected at its typical chromosomal sites with E45 antibodies. (A–D) Phase contrast. (E and F) Immunostaining.



replication, it does not significantly suppress endoreplication on its own.

## DISCUSSION

SUUR orthologs are present in the genomes of 11 *Drosophila* species. Notably, all these species display chromosome breaks and constrictions marking local DNA underreplication in salivary gland polytene chromosomes (ZHIMULEV 1998). We observed a dominant-negative effect of SUUR<sub>1-458</sub> overexpression in the salivary glands of hybrid *D. melanogaster* × *D. simulans* larvae, which manifested as a disappearance of chromosome breaks. This indirectly supports the idea that *D. simulans* SUUR protein is functional and affects late replication in heterochromatic regions in a way similar to that of *D. melanogaster* SUUR.

The potential SUUR ortholog in the mosquito lacks functionally important protein domains such as positively and negatively charged clusters, so its function in the mosquito remains in question. A BLAST search of the *A. gambiae* protein at NCBI resulted in high-confidence hits to predicted proteins in the yellow fever mosquito *Aedes aegypti* (*E*-value  $e^{-25}$  and  $e^{-22}$ ) and in the southern house mosquito *Culex quinquefasciatus* (*E*-value  $e^{-22}$ ). Interestingly, a BLAST search of SUUR from some *Drosophila* and *Anopheles* species detected mammalian ERCC6 protein, which is important in transcription-coupled excision repair (TROELSTRA *et al.* 1992) as the best hit. Mutations in ERCC6 lead to Cockayne syndrome (MALLERY *et al.* 1998; LAUGEL *et al.* 2008). The similarity is restricted to the N-terminal part of the protein, and *E*-values range from  $e^{-11}$  for the search with the *D. mojavensis* protein to  $e^{-6}$  with *A. gambiae*.

The  $K_a/K_s$  ratio for SUUR orthologs varies from 0.16 to 0.23 within species from the *melanogaster* subgroup. The  $K_a/K_s$  ratio between *D. melanogaster* and *D. yakuba* orthologs is 0.16, suggesting that about one-half of the 1850 *Drosophila*-specific proteins evolve under stronger selection pressure than SUUR, judging from recent genomewide analysis of the *Drosophila* proteome (ZHANG *et al.* 2007). The same study demonstrated that proteins with orthologs in distant species tend to evolve under stronger selection pressure than *Drosophila*-specific proteins. SUUR protein has a high substitution rate similar to the fast-evolving genes in *Drosophila* (SCHMID and TAUTZ 1997). The evolution rate of the *SuUR* gene is comparable to that of *transformer* (*tra*), a gene involved in the primary somatic sex-determination pathway (O'NEIL and BELOTE 1992). Specifically, the amino acid identity level in TRA and SUUR in *D. melanogaster* and *D. simulans* is, respectively, 92.4% and 93.1% and that in *D. melanogaster* and *D. erecta* is, respectively, 87.0% and 87.7% (O'NEIL and BELOTE 1992). In other sequenced insect species, such as *Bombyx mori* and *Apis mellifera*, no *SuUR* orthologs were identified. On one hand, this is very typical for the fast-

evolving genes: there is no true ortholog of *tra* in *A. mellifera*; however, a distant *tra* homolog, *csd*, is present (BEYE *et al.* 2003; CHO *et al.* 2006). On the other hand, *A. mellifera* was not reported to have polyploid tissues. Possibly, the SUUR ortholog is absent in honeybees not because of the rapid evolution of the gene, but because of the fact that a mechanism involving SUUR does not exist in this species.

Conserved uORF was identified within 5' UTR of *SuUR* (HAYDEN and BOSCO 2008). Both the uORF and the main ORF in *SuUR* are maintained in drosophilids, and high divergence of SUUR in mosquito coincides with the lack of uORF in this species. This observation further supports the possibility that *SuUR* expression could be controlled via uORF. Although no examples of uORFs affecting downstream ORF protein production in *Drosophila* or other insect species have been demonstrated to date, 44 conserved uORFs were recently identified in *D. melanogaster* (HAYDEN and BOSCO 2008).

Domain organization of SUUR is conserved in all *Drosophila* species analyzed, and different domains display different rates of amino acid substitutions. The most conserved region of the protein is found at its N terminus where it coincides with the region possessing similarity to the SNF2/SWI2 domain. When this region is absent in SUUR, the protein can no longer display some of its prominent effects in the overexpression system: SUUR<sub>495-962</sub> (Figure 3D) fails to induce swellings, weakly induces underreplication, and only mildly suppresses polytenization (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). Even though the Walker A and Walker B motifs within this region are noncanonical, they are invariably conserved in all species analyzed (Figure S3). Substitution of two amino acid residues in the ATPase-like region, L57R/G58R, attenuates SUUR ectopic expression phenotypes due to its decreased binding to IH regions (this is best seen when we expressed SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> under the control of *arm-GAL4*). To some extent SUUR<sub>Nmut</sub> functionally resembles SUUR<sub>495-962</sub> much more than SUUR, because it fails to form chromosome swellings and only partially suppresses polytenization. Interestingly, the SUUR<sub>1-360</sub> fragment does not bind to polytene chromosomes (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005), but the substitutions in this region decrease the binding of the full-length protein.

The least conserved middle region of the protein encompasses negatively and positively charged clusters, and it is important for the specific binding of SUUR with chromosomes (KOLESNIKOVA *et al.* 2005). The middle part of SUUR maintains charged regions as well as their net charge across all *Drosophila* species, despite the deletions, insertions, and high rate of charged amino acid substitutions. Ratios of  $K_a/K_s$  for this part of the protein are  $\sim 0.5$  for species from the *melanogaster* subgroup (Table S1), indicating that even this part of the protein apparently is under mild negative selection. A possible HP1-interacting motif has been described

within the middle part of SUUR (PINDYURIN *et al.* 2008), but it shows no conservation beyond the *melanogaster* subgroup.

The C terminus of SUUR is moderately conserved, but no characterized protein domains were identified in this region. Comparison of two C-terminal fragments, SUUR<sub>495–962</sub> and SUUR<sub>669–962</sub>, further supports our conclusion that the middle part of SUUR (specifically, the positively charged region) is indispensable for the specific chromosome binding and suppression of underreplication (Figure 3). Expression of SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> does not induce underreplication, although we speculate that ectopic fibers formed along the chromosome arms upon early overexpression of SUUR<sub>669–962</sub> might result from very weak nonspecific underreplication. However, substitutions of the conserved aromatic residues 816 and 817 within its C terminus do not disrupt the ability of SUUR to induce underreplication.

Thus, even though SUUR falls into a class of fast-evolving genes, the protein has some highly conserved regions and maintains its domain structure in drosophilids. Substitution of two conserved amino acids or a truncation of an N-terminal half of the protein could modify the overexpression phenotypes equally well. Presence of an uORF in the *SuUR* gene that is far more conserved than the SUUR protein opens exciting possibilities for studying gene regulation.

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# GENETICS

Supporting Information

<http://www.genetics.org/cgi/content/full/genetics.109.104844/DC1>

## Conservation of Domain Structure in a Fast-Evolving Heterochromatic SUUR Protein in Drosophilids

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**FILE S1****Constructs for transformation**

Targeted substitutions were introduced by method described by Intine and Nazar (INTINE and NAZAR 1998) as suggested by For replacement of Leu57 and Gly58 to arginines in N-terminal part of SUUR we made PCR with the following combinations of primers: standard T3 – Ig2 and Ig1 – T7 using DNA of clone 31 (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002) as a template. Substitutions in the primer sequences are underlined. The PCR products were mixed together and used for PCR with standard T3 – T7 primers to obtain the fragment with the substitutions. On next step we replaced *Pst1-HindIII* fragment in clone f40 (MAKUNIN *et al.* 2002). The insertion was excised with NotI-KpnI and cloned into pUAST (BRAND and PERRIMON 1993) resulting in construct *SuUR<sub>Nmut</sub>*.

For replacement of Phe816 and Phe817 for Ser and Asp, respectively we made PCR with Ig8F – A8(Smut)R and A7(Smut)F – St1A using DNA of f40 plasmid. PCR fragments were combined and amplified with Ig8F and St1A primers. The 137 bp *SphI-SpeI* fragment containing the substitutions was excised from the PCR product and used for replacement of original *SphI-SpeI* fragment in f40 clone. The insertion was cloned into pUAST as described above resulting in construct *SuUR<sub>Cmut</sub>*.

For expression of the C-terminal part of SUUR (amino acids 669-962) cDNA clone was digested with *BamHI* and sticky ends were filled with dNTPs by Klenov. The 1,4 kb *BamHI-XhoI* fragment was released by digestion with *XhoI* and cloned in pHA plasmid (N. Hulo and V. Pirrotta, unpublished, see below) between *NaeI* and *XhoI* sites. Resulting plasmid was digested with *XbaI* and sticky ends were filled with dNTPs by Klenov. The insert was excised by digestion with *XhoI* and ligated into pUAST *Drosophila* transformation vector (BRAND and PERRIMON 1993) between *EcoRI* (blunted with dNTPs by Klenov) and *XhoI* sites.

The sequences of the final plasmids were verified.

## LITERATURE CITED

BRAND, A. H., and N. PERRIMON, 1993 Targeted gene expression as a means of altering cell fates and generating dominant phenotypes. *Development* **118**: 401-415.

INTINE, R. V., and R. N. NAZAR, 1998 PCR-mediated mutagenesis in sequences recalcitrant to homogeneous amplification. *Biotechniques* **25**: 364-366.

MAKUNIN, I. V., E. I. VOLKOVA, E. S. BELYAEVA, E. N. NABIROCHKINA, V. PIRROTTA *et al.*, 2002 The *Drosophila* Suppressor of Underreplication protein binds to late-replicating regions of polytene chromosomes. *Genetics* **160**: 1023-1034.

**Primers used for directed mutagenesis:**

Ig8F (5'-GTGGTGTCTATTCCGCTT-3'),

A8(Smut)R (5'-CGTTATCTCAT**TCGG**GAGTCATCTTC-3'),

A7(Smut)F (5'-GAAGATGACT**CCGA**TGAGATAACG-3'),

St1A (5'-CTGCTGCACTTGTGGATGAA-3'),

Ig1 (5'- GAGTGGCC**GTA**GAAAGGTCGCT-3'),

Ig2 (5'- AGCGACCTTTCT**TAC**GGCCACTC-3')

Sequence of insertion in pHA (TAGS) plasmid provided by N. Hulo and V. Pirrotta (unpublished). The tags are cloned in modified pUC19 plasmid. Tag epitopes (HA Kreis and HA) and nuclear localization signal (NLS) are shown above the sequence. Termination codons are indicated by asterisks. Sites for restriction enzymes are signed below the sequence.

```

                HA Kreis                > <                NLS
          M Q D L P G N D N S T A P P T K K
TCTAGACAACATGCAGGACCTGCCAGGCAACGACAACAGCACCGCCCCCGACGAAGAA 60
XbaI

```

```

          > <                HA                >
R V K L Y P Y D V P D Y A                *
GCGCGTCAAGCTTTACCCCTACGACGTGCCCGACTACGCCGGCCCGGGATATCCTCGAGT 120
                NaeI SmaI EcoRV XhoI

```

```

* *
AATTGATTGAGTCGAC
      SalI

```

**TABLE S1**

**Synonymous (above diagonal) and non-synonymous (below diagonal) substitutions per site in the middle part of *SuUR* region encoding aa 280-581 in *D. melanogaster*.**

	mel	sim	sec	yak	ere
mel		0,111	0,131	0,312	0,259
sim	0,060		0,049	0,263	0,227
sec	0,073	0,043		0,300	0,257
yak	0,111	0,112	0,125		0,212
ere	0,119	0,113	0,133	0,080	

mel – *D. melanogaster*, sim – *D. simulans*, sec – *D. sechellia*, yak – *D. yakuba*, ere – *D. erecta*.



**>*D.melanogaster* SuUR ORF**

ATGTATCACTTTGTATCCGAGCAAACGCCGGAGGTGCGGCTCACAGATGAGGCACTGGTCACGAGCCACGTGACGCAGTACCTCAA  
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 GAAAGGTCGCTACGGTGGCGCACTTCTAAGTGCCCTACCACCCGCCAAAAAACACTTGTGGTGTCCAGAACGATGAGCAACTG  
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 GCACAGCGTTTACCTGGCGAAATGGAGCCAACTACGGAGCATTGGAGATCTCAGTTCGCTCAAGTTCGACTACATTTATGGTGGATA  
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 GTTGACGTACGTCCGACGTTAGGTTGCTCTACAATGTTCTACGGTTGGCGGCCGACTGGAGCATCAGTACAAAAGCTTTGCGAG  
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 CAATGTACCGCTGATATTCGAGTATTCCGAGTCTGACGATGAACCCCTAACAGTAGAACCTGATGCAGATCAAAAACCGGTATTA  
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 CATTACGAGAGAAGAACCCTGCTGGAAGATGACTTCTTTGAGATAACGAAACAATGGCCAATTTGGCAGTCCGATGCGATTGTA  
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 GCTCCGTGGAATCGGTTAGTGCACCAAGTACGCCGGTGAATTCATCCACAAGTGCAGCAGCTTGTCAAACCGCATCGGCGAGAAGT  
 GGTGGAGCATCAGGACCGACCAAAAGAAAGCGATTGGAACGTTCAAGTGA

**>*D.simulans* SuUR ORF**

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 GTTGACATACGTCGACCTTAGGTTGCTCTACAATGTTCTACGGTTGGCGGCCGACTGGAGCATCAGTACAAAAGCTTTGCGAG  
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CAAGTACGCCGGTTAATTTCATCCACAAGTGCAGCTGCGTGTCAAACGCGATCGGCGAGAAGTGGTGGAGCATCAGGACCGACAAA  
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### >*D.sechellia* SuUR ORF

ATGTATCACTTTGTATCCGAGCAAACGCCGGAGTTGCGGCTCTCGGAGGAGGCACTAGTACAGGCCACGTGACGCAGTACCTCAA  
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TCAGTGCACCAAGTACGCCGGTCAATTCATCCACAAGTGCAGCTGCGTGTCAAACGCGATCGGCGAGAAGTGGTGGAGCATCAGGA  
CCGACAAAAGAAAGCGACTGGAACGTTCAAGTGA

### >*D.yakuba* SuUR ORF

ATGTATCACTTTGCATCCGAACAAACACCGGAGTTGCGGCTTTCGCGAGAGGCACTGGTACAGGCCACGTGACGCAGTACCTCAA  
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#### >*D.erecta* SuUR ORF

ATGTATCACTTCGTATCCGAACAAACGCCGGAGTTGCGGCTCTCAGCGGAGACTGGTCCAGAGCCACGTGACGAGTACCTCAA  
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#### >*D.ananassae* SuUR ORF

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> *D.pseudoobscura* SuUR ORF

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> *D.persimilis* SuUR ORF

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### >*D.grimshawi* SuUR ORF

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FIGURE S1.—List of *SuUR* ORFs in different *Drosophila* species used.

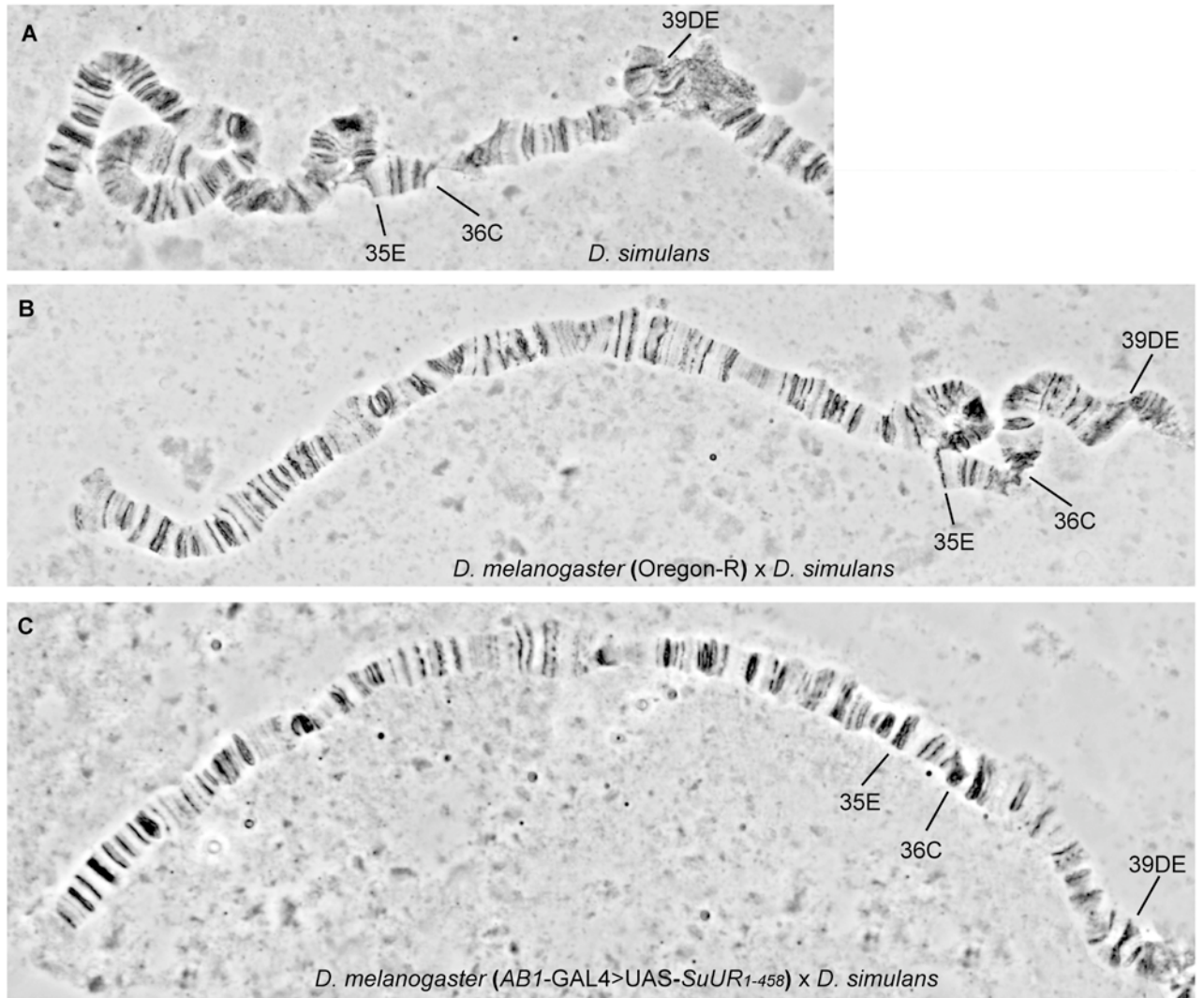


FIGURE S2.—Dominant-negative effect of ectopic SUUR<sub>1-458</sub> fragment on chromosome breaks in *D. melanogaster* x *D. simulans* hybrids. All panels show 2L chromosome, with typical chromosome breaks signed. (A) *D. simulans*. (B) *D. melanogaster* (Oregon-R) x *D. simulans* hybrids. (C) Breaks are absent in *D. melanogaster* x *D. simulans* hybrids with *AB1-GAL4>UAS-SuUR1-458* transgenes expressing dominant-negative fragment SUUR<sub>1-458</sub> under control of salivary gland specific driver.

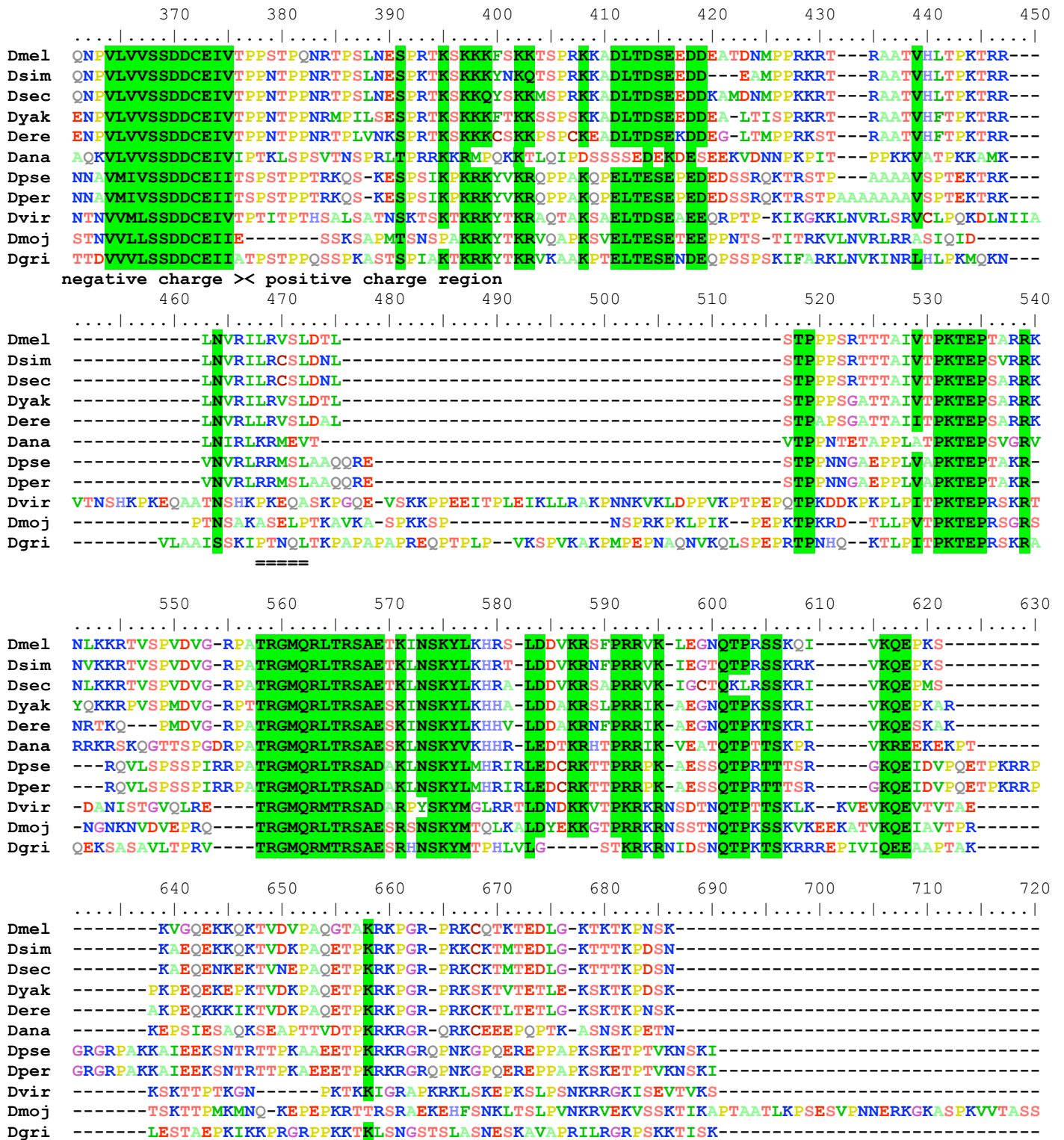


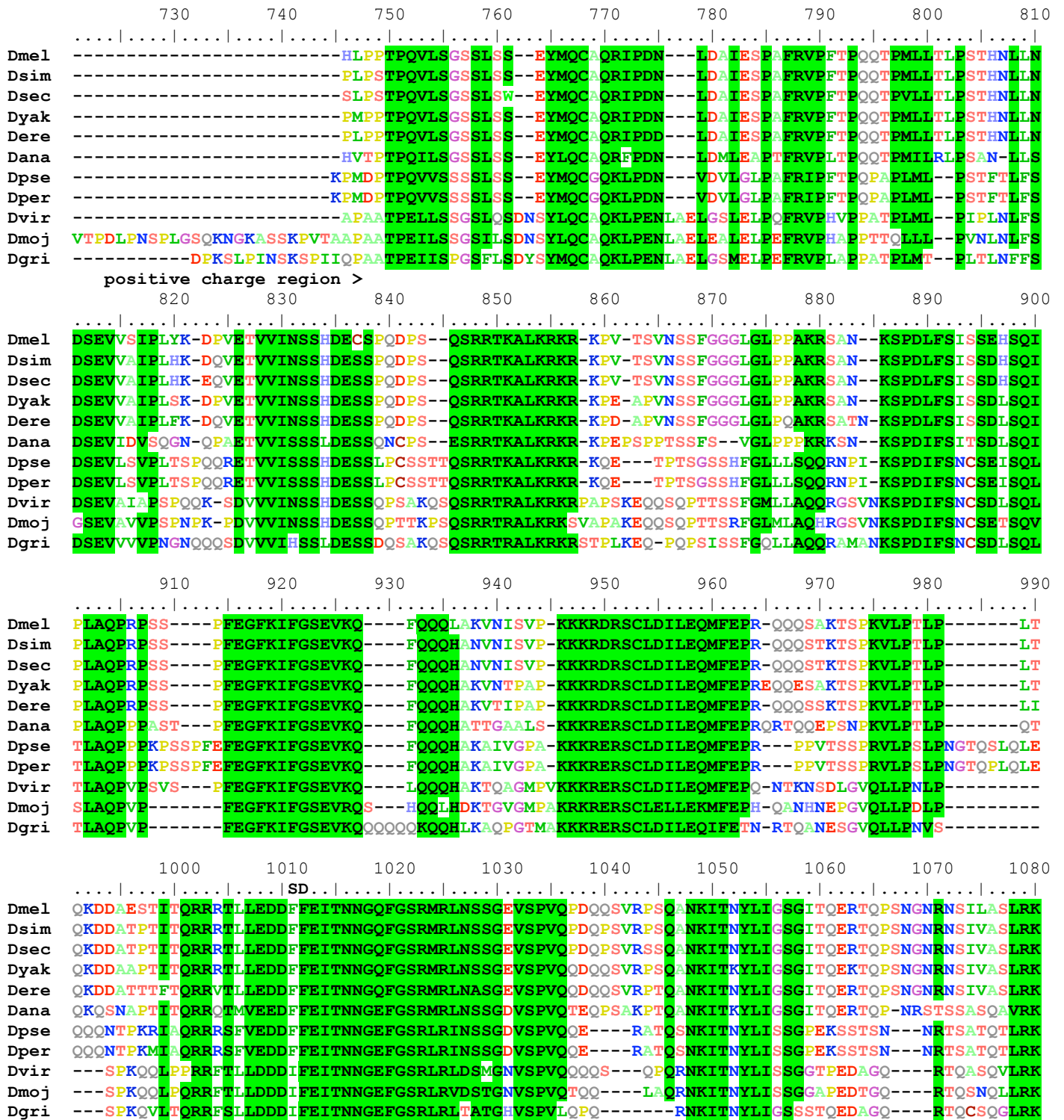
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 Dere RFHLDTLTDLQVYIIQGVHDTTDSPHSVYLAKWSQLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIMVDNRGHSLNNSFCTSMMLLKQFGRVNVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dana RFHLDTLTDLAVYIIQGVQDTTETPHSVYLAKWSQLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIFVDNRGHSLNNSFCTSMMLLKHYEGRVNMVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dpse QFHLNLTLDLQVYTIQSVQDTTESPHSVYLAKWSNLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIFVDNRGHTLNNHFCNSMLVKHFEKGVNIVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dper QFHLNLTLDLQVYTIQSVQDTTESPHSVYLAKWSNLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIFVDNRGHTLNNHFCNSMLVKHFEKGVNIVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dvir QFHLGVLSDLQVYTIQSVQDTTESPHSVYLAKWSNLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIIVDHRGYTLNNHFCNSMLVKHFEKGVNIVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dmoj QFHLGVLSDLQVYTIQSVQDTTESPHSVYLAKWSNLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIIVDHRGYTLNNHFCNSMLVKHFEKGVNIVLISSVDITSDVR  
 Dgri QFHLGILSDLQVYTIQSVQDTTESPHSVYLAKWSNLRSIGDLSRLKFDYIIVDHRGYMLNNHFCNSMLVKHFEKGVNIVLISSVDITSDVR  
 <---WB---

190 200 210 220 230 240 250 260 270  
 Dmel LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYKSFASFDKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dsim LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYKSFASFDKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dsec LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYKSFASFDKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dyak LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYKSFASFDKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dere LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYKSFASFDKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dana LFNILRLGGRLEHQYRNFQSFDRKFHLPDPKEVFEKCVDLLEEYKQRGFLSDYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dpse LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYRNFQSFDRKFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dper LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQYRNFQSFDRKFHLPDPKEVFSKRIDLEEYKQRGFLSEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dvir LLYNVMSLGGCLEHQHKSFRSEFRKFHLPDPKEVFSKRVDLEEYKQRGVLCGEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dmoj LLYKVMQLGGCLDHFNSFRSFEKRFHLPDPKEVFSKRVDLEEYKQRGVLCGEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 Dgri LLYNVLRRLGGRLEHQHKSFRSEFRKFHLPDPKEVFSKRVDLEEYKQRGVLCGEYIKDFRLRRFRHQFDKSLPLVPAPEQYKHNLNWLWASK  
 SNF-like >

280 290 300 310 320 330 340 350 360  
 Dmel NSQSTISGS-----DVCSTIAS-IDNNPAQQNKTLGFEETDRLSE-HSVDDV-AMSPILIFEYSESDEPLTVE-PDAD----  
 Dsim NSQSTISGS-----EVCSTIAS-IENNPAQQNKTLGFEESD-----SVDDV-AMSPILIFEYSESDEPLTVE-PGAD----  
 Dsec NSQSTISGS-----EVCSTIAS-IENNPAQQNKTLGFEESD-----SVDDV-AMSPILIFEYSESDEPLTVE-PGAD----  
 Dyak NSQSTLSGS-----EVCSTVAS-IDNNPAQQNEAVLVEESDKLSE-HSVDDVAMSPILIFEYSESDEPLTVE-APAS----  
 Dere NSQSTLSGS-----EVCSTVAS-IENNPPQNETVLEESDRISE-HSVDDVAMSPILIFEYSESDEPLTVE-PVAN----  
 Dana NSQSTLSGS-----DVCSTIAS-VENNLHRAN-----EDSKLS--EHSDEIVAMSPILIFEYSESDEVEPIILE-PSPE----  
 Dpse NSQSTLSGS-----EVCSTVASSVEINPEDPIEDQGRAEPLS-----EHSNEAVIMPPLLFESDSEDELVMVL-PSDAPVLE  
 Dper NSQSTLSGS-----EVCSTVASSVEINPEDPIEDQGRAEPLS-----EHSNEAVIMPPLLFESDSEDELVMVL-PSDAPVLE  
 Dvir NSNSILSGS-----TSTGGTDEILECLMSTKRDRQLAPNQOMDPDKISLSEHSDEVIAMEPLVFEMSESEPEVEVTHVTDQAQAKES  
 Dmoj NSNSTISDS-----TGGSKTSEVPSTGTEEIFGCLLSLQOERHLAERQ--EPDKISLSEQSDDVIAMEPLILE--SESEPEVEA----DAHANKC  
 Dgri ISNSTISGS-----SVDP-PSEARSTGSTGEIFECLMSIRRERELGQQQ--DAEKISLSEHSDEVIAMEPLIFEYSESDEVEADVN--VPTQAKVS  
 < negative charge region >







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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      5      15      25      35      45      55      65      75      85
SUBm    L.....LLT ..LLL.L.L .. ..... H HHHHHHHHH HHH..LLL.E.E.....L...H HHHHHHHHH H..LLL.EEE E.....H
Relm    9311234575 3455654545 4144321136 7786577888 8763167537 6134463447 9889888765 5137874588 8222100005
mel SUUR MYHFVSEQTP EVRLTDEALV TSHVTQYLKS FQLDAVRVY DRLAKREFCI LNDESLGKV ATVAALLSAL PPAKKTIVVL QNDEQLLTGW
gri SUUR  MYHFISERTA ELRLSENVLI PSHATQYLKC FQLDAVRFLY ERLSKQDFCI FNDESLGKT ATIVTLLNGL GASKKTIVL QNDDQLLAGW
Relg    9310010110 0244776525 6201211126 7887677888 8763277537 6234464537 9889888874 3268854884 2706675100
SUBg    L..... ..LLL.L.L .. ..... H HHHHHHHHH HHH..LLL.E.E.....L.L.H HHHHHHHHH ..LLL.EE.. .L.HHHH...

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      95      105      115      125      135      145      155      165      175
SUBm    HHHH...LL. ....EEEE..... ..L...EEE E..... ..EE EE.....L ...HHHHH H...LL.EEE .....LHH
Relm    7767422774 2688731344 4445421788 7300110002 4212401367 7500100226 4003678887 3126641555 1211114568
mel SUUR RFHLDTLTDL QVYIIQGVQD TTDSPHSVYL AKWSQLRSIG DLSRLKFDYI MVDNRGHS LN NSFCTSMLLK QFEGRVNLI SSVDVTSVDR
gri SUUR  QFHLGILSDL PVCILKDVND STESAHSVYL SKWSVLR SIG DLSKLFYD V IVDHRGYMLN NNFCTSMLLQ QYERKVNIVI STVDLTSDVK
Relg    4121144105 7400000222 3356540688 5023332034 5300410367 7500200226 3211578787 4014552466 1111014668
SUBg    .....L.L..... ..LLL.EEE E..... H.....EE EE.....L ...HHHHH .....LL.EE .....LHH

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      185      195      205      215      225      235      245      255      265
SUBm    HHHHHHHH.. ..LLL.H HHHH...LL. .... ..HHHHHHHH HH..... H..... LLLL..... E.....
Relm    8887876541 0101367636 7765404764 1024430000 3355788888 8740331334 5422123412 8876520434 5422101240
mel SUUR LLYNVLR LGG RLEHQYKSFA SFDRKFHLPD PKEVFSKRID LEEYYKQRGF LSEYIKDFRL RFRHQFDKS LPLVAPEQYK HNLNLWLASK
gri SUUR  LLYNVLR LGG CLEHQHKSFR IFNLKFNLPD VKEVLNKRVD LEDYYKQRGV LGEYIKDFRL RRYRHQFESY LPLVTPEQYK INVSLWMGEN
Relg    8887753012 3433567557 7765404642 0001123322 1345788988 8751212445 5423123411 7866303776 4215577778
SUBg    HHHHHH..... ..LLL.HH HHHH...L.. ..HHHHHH HHH..... H H..... LLLL...EE ..LHHHHHH

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      275      285      295      305      315      325      335      345      355
SUBm    ..HHHHHHHH HHHHHHH... ..LLL...HH HHHHHHH H HH..LL.LL.L.....LLL ..... ..L...
Relm    3455567786 7777775301 .. 455544257 8889988 8 7611574455 7422345666 4343 010 3324555313
mel SUUR  NSQSTISGSD VCSTIASIDN ----- -NPAQQNKTG LFEETDR--L SEHSVDDVAM SPLIFEYSES DDEP---LTV EPDADQNPVL

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gri SUUR      ISNSTISGSS VDPPSEARST GSTGEIFECL MSIRRERELG QQQDAEKISL SEHSDEVVAM EPLIFEMSDS EAEADVNVPT QAKVSTTDVV
Relg          7787541000 1244445542 1157788898 8730456677 7765433566 6554332221 0000244556 5444200011 0213565136
SUBg          HHHHH..... ..L... ..HHHHHHHH HH... LLLL LLLL... LLL LLL..... ..LLL L..... ..LLL...E
    
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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      365      375      385      395      405      415      425      435      445
SUBm          ..... LLLL..... .. LLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLL L..... LLLL LLLL..... LLLL LLLL..... LLLL
Relm          4302432100 3678874333 3335577877 6556677778 5313466788 77665..... 5667
mel SUUR      VVSSDDCEIV TPPSTPQNRT PSLNESPRTK SKKKFSKKTTS PRKKADLTDS EEDDE----- ----- ----- -----ATDN
gri SUUR      VLSSDDCEII ATPSTPPQSS PKASTSPIAK TKRKYTKRVK AAKPTELTES ENDEQPSSPS KIFARKLNVK INRLHLPKMQ KNVLAAISSK
Relg          5135642143 0567787667 6656788654 3231013566 7877767888 6557888854 2222200010 1224564222 1122322466
SUBg          E..L..... LLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLL..... LLL LLLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLL..... ..L..... ..L.....L
    
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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      455      465      475      485      495      505      515      525      535
SUBm          LLLLLL..... ..L L..... .. LLLLLL LLLLLL..... L LLLL..... L LLLLLLLLLL LLLL..... L
Relm          77666654 3434445 5544322100 2102 35567778 7776555337 7888300125 5566776766 665544664
mel SUUR      MPPRKTR-- ---AATVHLT PKTRRLNVRI LRVS----- LDTLSTPP-- PSRTTTAIVT PKTEPTARRK NLKKRTVSPV DVGRPATRGM
gri SUUR      IPTNQLTKPA PAPAPREQPT PLPVKSPVKA KPMPEPNAQN VKQLSPEPRT PNHQKTLPIIT PKTEPRSKR- -AQEKSASAV LTPR-VTRGM
Relg          7743256878 7866454766 5554467787 8788765465 4456878777 7644436777 776753100 035777641 0220 02120
SUBg          L..... LLLL LLL..L LLL LLL.. LLLL LLLLLL..L .. LLLLLL L..... LLL LLLL..... .. LLLL.....
    
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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      545      555      565      575      585      595      605      615      625
SUBm          ..... L..L..... .. LLLL .. LLL LLLL LLLL .. LLLL LLLLL LLLLLL LLLLLL..L LLL..L
Relm          4233455454 4421100000 2323135555 4455545577 67765 4 4467777 8775556 775556645 65446
mel SUUR      QRLTRSAETK INSKYLKHRS LDDVKRSFPR RVKLEGNQTP RSSKQ----I VKQEPKS--- ---KVGQEKK QKTVDVPAQG TAKRK-----
gri SUUR      QRMTRSAESR HNSKYMTP-- -HLVLGSTKR KRNIDSNQTP KTSKRREPI VIQEEAAPTA KLESTAEPKI KKPRGRPPPK TKLSNGSTSL
Relg          0012243211 24532210 000257665 3234446777 6663235542 0033557511 0114667754 5777777544 6677553212
SUBg          ..... ..L..... .. LLLL .. LLL LLL..L .. LLL..... .. LLLL..... LLLLLL..... LLLLLL.....
    
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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      635      645      655      665      675      685      695      705      715
SUBm      LLLL LL LLLL.. LLL LLLLLLLLLL LLLL... LL LLLL.. .. LLLL .. LLLLLLLL
Relm      6776 66 7678744567 6666666666 7665312356 567510 10 02457765 332467521 4677777776
mel SUUR  ----- ---PGRP-RK CQTKEDLGK TKTKPNSKHL PPTPQVLSGS SLSSEY--MQ CAQRIPDN-- -LDAIESPAF RVPFTPQQTP
gri SUUR  ASNESKAVAP RILRGRPSKK TISKDPKSLP INSKSPIIQP AATPEIISPG SFLSDYSYMQ CAQKLPENLA ELGSMELPEF RVPLAPPATP
Relg      4687544563 2023667776 6576877676 6766665677 6554101564 2234320456 5400654412 2024646642 2345677665
SUBg      .LLL.. LL. .... LLLLLL LLLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLL LLL... LL. .... HH H... LL... .. LL.. .. LLLLLL

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      725      735      745      755      765      775      785      795      805
SUBm      LLLLLLLL.. ... LL..... L LLLL..... .... LLLLLL LLLLL L... LL..... LLL LLL... L LL... LL..... L LLLLLLLLLL
Relm      5555677664 3345521114 5 56552100 0004676656 78877 534 4554212567 7654445 65444446 7776657565
mel SUUR  MLLTLPSTHN LLNDSEVVSI P-LYKDPVET VVINSSHDEC SPQDP--SQS RRTKALKRKR KPVTSVN--- --SSFGGGLG LPPAKRSANK
gri SUUR  LMT--PLTLN FFSOSEVVVV PNGNQQSDV VVIHSSLDES SDQSAKQSQS RRTRALKRKR STPLKEQPQP SISSFG--QL LAQQRAMANK
Relg      434 30110 2456457884 1567552116 8885124444 7677776500 4346753147 8887667777 535033 20 0100000264
SUBg      ... .. LL. EEEE. .LLL... E EEEE..... LLLLLLLL.. ... HHH... L LLLLLLLLLL L L... .. .. L...

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      815      825      835      845      855      865      875      885      895
SUBm      LLL..... LL .LLL... LLL LLLL..... L LLLLLL... .... LLLL LL... LL... HH HHH... LLLL LLLL.LLLL LLLLLLLLLL
Relm      7650010455 2567423677 7776411345 6655567302 3200025887 5544544466 7653036777 8886457665 6766766667
mel SUUR  SPDLFSISSE HSQIPLAQR PSSFEGFKI FGSEVKQFQQ QLAKVNISVP KKKRDRSCLD ILEQMFEPQ QSAKTSKPV LPTLPLTQKD
gri SUUR  SPDIFSNCSD LSQTLAQP- --VPFEGFKI FGSEAQPG-- -----TMA KKKRERSCLD ILEQIFETNR TQANESGVQL LPNVSSPKQ-
Relg      5320023551 011423565 65532034 12424567 611 0013120588 9887248766 8767677412 357888232
SUBg      L..... LL. .... LLL LLL..... .... LLL L... L... HHH HHHH... LLLL LLLLLL... .. LLLL...

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.....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....|
      905      915      925      935      945      955      965      975      985
SUBm      LLL..... LL .LLL... LLL LLLL..... L LLLLLL... .... LLLL LL... LL... LLLLLLLL... .. LLL
Relm      8854211432 1005565302 2157531343 2113445204 6666656566 7633535420 0034444432 4677777665 3223244777
mel SUUR  DAESTITQRR RTLLEDDFFE ITNNGQFGSR MRLNSSGEVS PVQPDQQSVR PSQANKITNY LIGSGITQER TQPSNGNRNS ILASLRKSPK

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gri SUUR  ----VLTQRR FSLDDDDIFE ITNNGEFGSR LRLTATGHVS PVLQPQR--- ----NKITNY LIGS----SS TQEDAGQRTQ CSQGLRKSPK
Relg      113013 4201477157 6147532330 2441256501 1125543          500103 4404      77 6223454230 1011134777
SUBg      .....  ....LL EE E.. LL.....  ....LLL..  ...LL..  L.....  .... LL L..... L.....  .... LLL

          .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....|.....| .....
          995      1005      1015      1025      1035      1045      1055
SUBm      LLL LLLLLL .....  LLLLLLL. .... LLLL LLLLL. .... LLLLL L LLL ..... LL
Relm      7654665665 4432212112 2365667753 1101026555 6578621211 0010465678 7465531220 1058
mel SUUR  SPKQGAKSTQ ATKLTRWFGS VFGGGASQTS SVESVSAPST PVNSSTSAAA CQTRSARSGG ASGPTKRKRL ELFK
gri SUUR  S----IKSTQ STKLTRWFG- --AATSSAGG AGESQSVNPT PVVPGKKS GC AR--IARSGG AG---KRKRL DLYK
Relg      6      64442 442111332      02354545 5433245656 7568852344 00 111247 66 43112 2358
SUBg      L L L.....  ....  ... L L L L..... LLLL LLLLLL.....  ..  .... L LL  ....  .. LL

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FIGURE S4.—PROF predicted secondary structure. SUBm and SUBg - Subset of the PROFsec prediction, for all residues in *D. melanogaster* and *D. grimshawi* SUUR respectively with an expected average accuracy greater than 82%. mel SUUR – *D. melanogaster* SUUR, gri SUUR – *D. grimshawi* SUUR. Relm and Relg - reliability index for PROFsec prediction (0=low to 9=high) for *D. melanogaster* and *D. grimshawi* respectively. **H** - helix, **E** - extended (sheet), **L** - loop, “.” means that no prediction is made for this amino acid, as the is: Rel < 5 (<http://www.predictprotein.org/>).



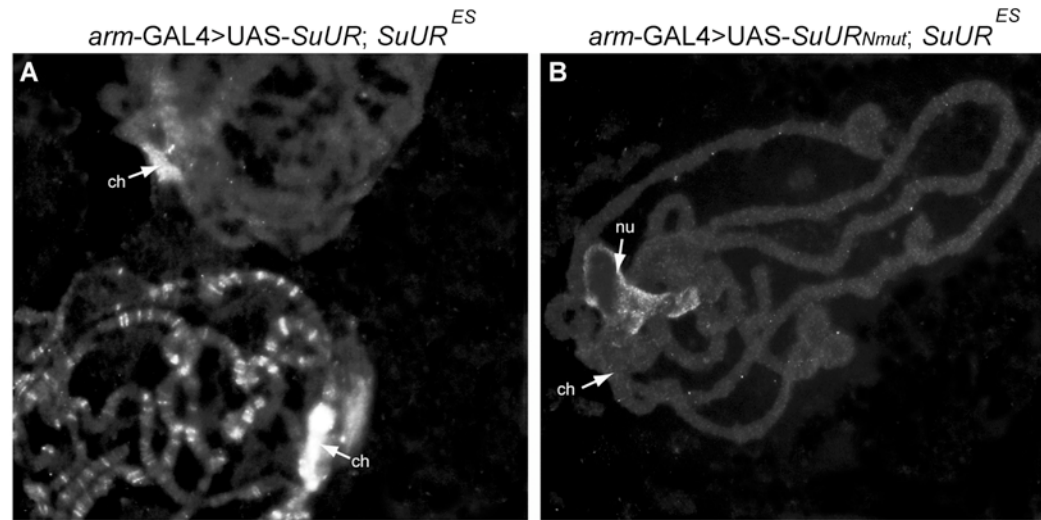


FIGURE S5.—Mutation in the N-terminus of SUUR abrogates the protein ability to bind the chromosomes. (A) Due to the variegated transgene expression in *arm-GAL4>UAS-SuUR; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* larvae, the immunostaining pattern varies from nucleus to nucleus on the same slide, ranging from signals confined only to the chromocenter (ch), to nuclei with signals in chromocenter and along the chromosome arms. (B) In polytene chromosomes from *arm-GAL4>UAS-SuUR<sup>Nmut</sup>; SuUR<sup>ES</sup>* larvae, the signal could only be detected in the nucleolus.