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Transposition of a bacterial IS3 element into a *Xenopus* Vi-element

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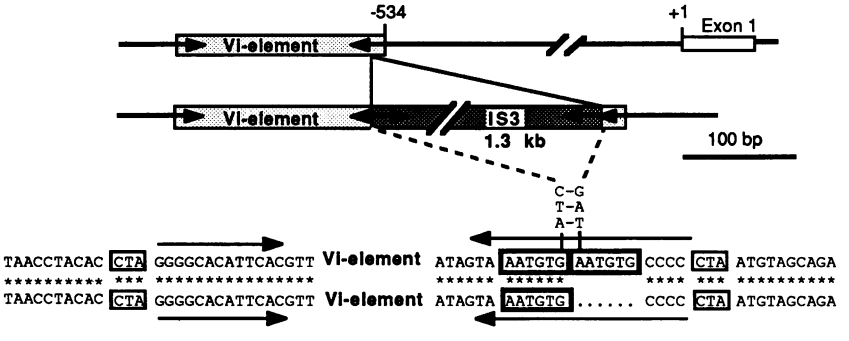
Analysis of overlapping DNAs containing the 5'-end region of the *Xenopus laevis* vitellogenin gene B2 revealed a clone with an insertion of 1.3 kb that does not correspond to *Xenopus* genomic DNA. Characterization of the inserted sequence relative to an equivalent DNA lacking it demonstrated that it represents a copy of the *E. coli* IS3 element (1). Transposition occured into the *Xenopus* Vi-element that flanks the gene B2 in 5' (2). The Vi-element has characteristics of a mobile genetic element and the 13 bp imperfect inverted repeat which bounds it has been the target site for the insertion (Fig.). Most likely this transposition, which was accompanied by a duplication of the insertion site, occured in a lysogenic culture kept in the refrigerator, i. e. in favorable physiological conditions for such events (3). This explanation is supported by the isolation, from the same culture, of an identical clone lacking the IS3 insert. We cannot say whether the described transposition event is casual or due to structural similarities between the bacterial IS3 element and the *Xenopus* Vi-element.



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