

Fig. S1. Phylogenetic tree of Vamp proteins.

Tree showing phylogenetic analysis of predicted proteins encoded by *VAMP* family genes from human (Hs) and *Ciona robusta* (KH gene models). See methods for details and supplemental sequences file for protein sequences used.

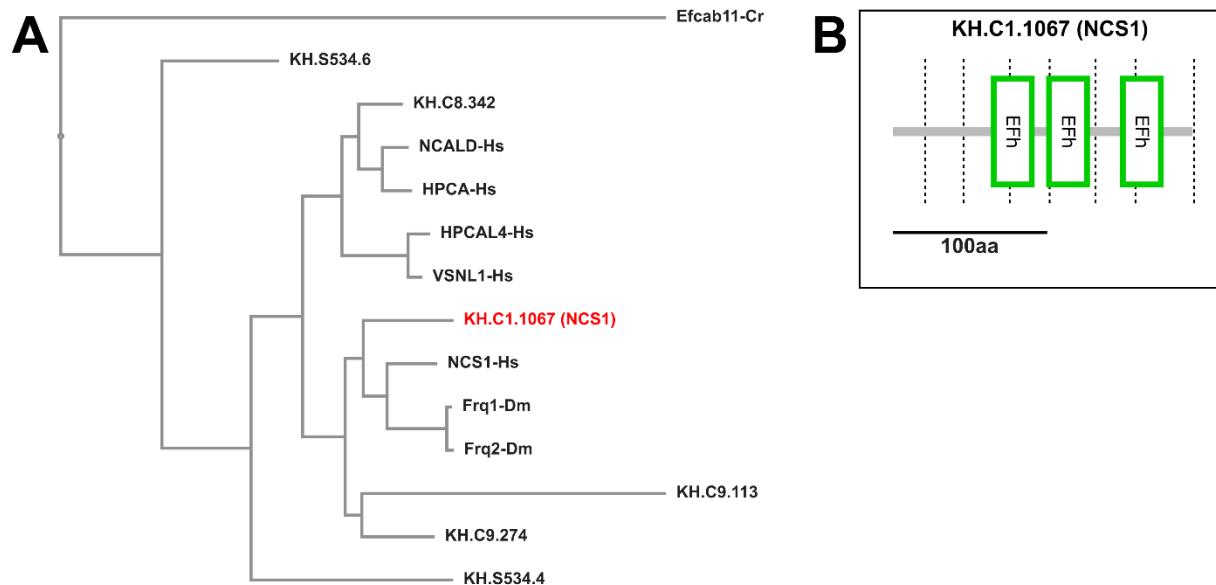


Fig. S2. Phylogenetic tree of NCS proteins and diagram of *Ciona robusta* NCS1 domains.

A) Tree showing phylogenetic analysis of proteins encoded by *Neuronal Calcium Sensor* (NCS) family genes from human (Hs), *Drosophila melanogaster* (Dm) and *Ciona robusta* (KH gene models). Efcab11 from *C. robusta* (Cr) was used to root the tree. See methods for details and supplemental sequences file for protein sequences used. B) Protein domain analysis diagram of *Ciona robusta* NCS1 from SMART (Letunic et al. 2021) showing its predicted three EF-hand (EfH) domains. Dashed lines indicate exon-exon junctions.

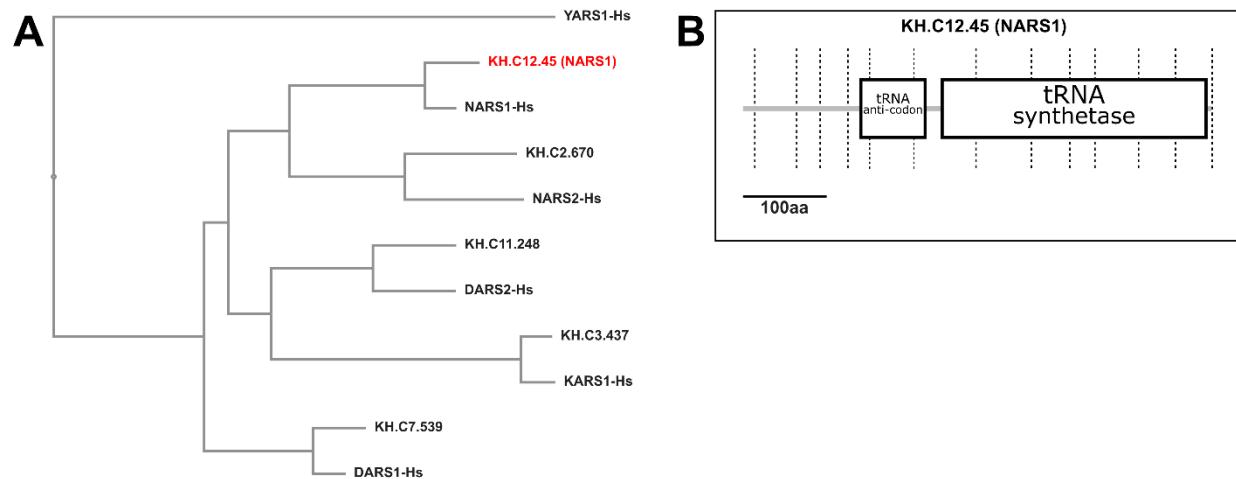


Fig. S3. Phylogenetic tree of select aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases and *Ciona* NARS1 domains.

A) Tree showing phylogenetic analysis of proteins encoded by a sampling of aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase genes from human (Hs) and *Ciona robusta* (KH gene models). See methods for details and supplemental sequences file for protein sequences used. B) Protein domain analysis diagram of *Ciona robusta* NARS1 from SMART (Letunic et al. 2021) showing its predicted domains. Dashed lines indicate exon-exon junctions.

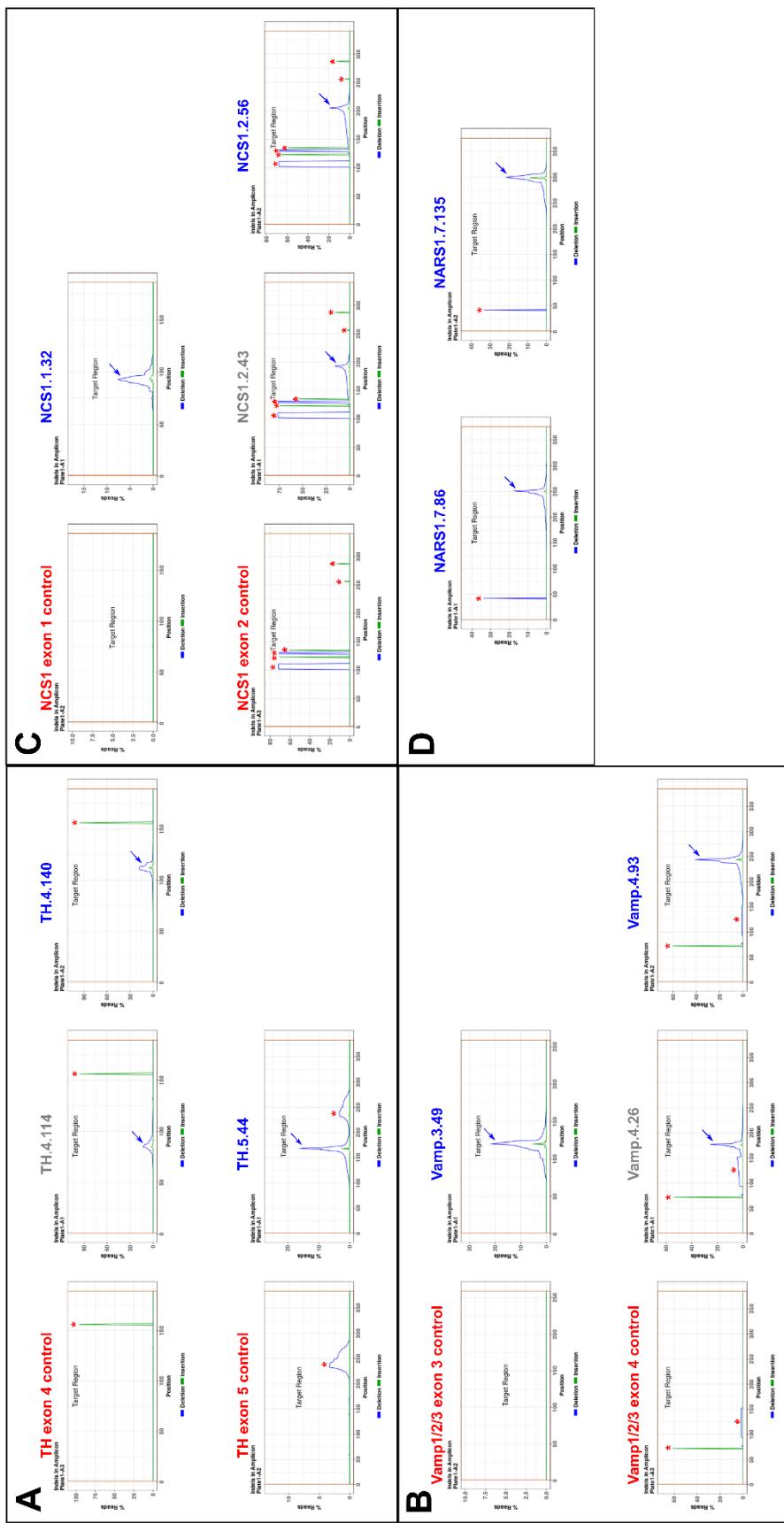


Fig. S4. Indel plots for all sgRNAs tested.

A-D) NGS indel validation plots (including negative controls) for all the sgRNAs tested in this study. No amplicon was obtained for the third *NARS1* sgRNA nor the *NARS1* negative control. Blue arrows indicate CRISPR-generated indels, red asterisks indicate naturally occurring indels.

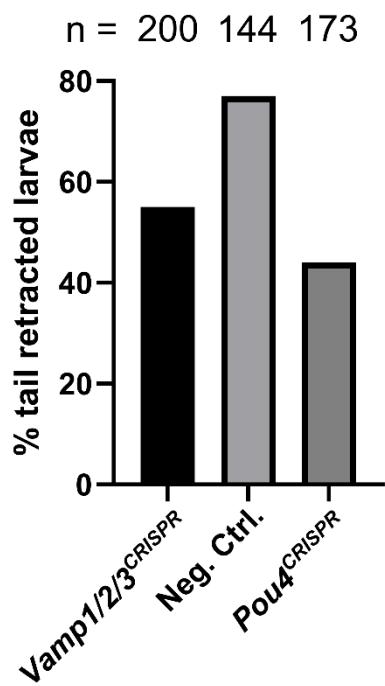


Fig. S5. Replicate of *Vamp1/2/3* CRISPR.

Independent replicate of papilla-specific *Vamp1/2/3* CRISPR in *Ciona* larvae. Embryos were electroporated with 40 µg/700 µl *Foxc>Cas9* and gene-specific pairs of sgRNA vectors (40 µg/700 µl each sgRNA vector). Negative control embryos were electroporated with 40 µg/700 µl *Foxc>Cas9* alone. Tail retraction was scored at 48 hours post-fertilization without screening for mCherry+ individuals.

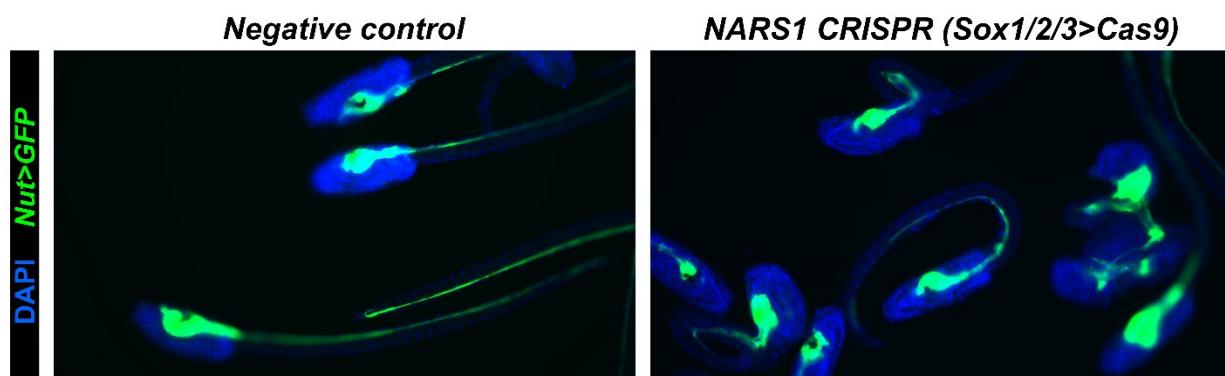


Fig. S6. Neurectoderm-specific knockout of *NARS1* impairs neurulation.

Negative control larvae showing normal neural tube and tail morphogenesis, compared to *NARS1* CRISPR larvae. *Nut>Unc-76::GFP* (green) labels the central nervous system. Nuclei counterstained by DAPI (blue). See text for quantification, and for detailed amounts of plasmids used. For approximate sense of scale, larvae can be compared to that in Figure 4C.

Table S1.

[Click here to download Table S1](#)

Table S2. Approximate costs of CRISPR course activities (based on USA pricing). Price for custom sgRNA plasmid (*) can be much lower if using cloning methods described in Stolfi et al. 2014 or Gandhi et al. 2018. Costs of basic reagents for embryo dechorionation, electroporation, fixing, etc. not included.

Reagent or service	Supplier	Approx. price per sgRNA
Custom sgRNA plasmid	Twist Bioscience	\$120*
Maxiprep	Macherey-Nagel (Takara)	\$9
Sanger plasmid sequencing	Eurofins	\$6
Whole-plasmid sequencing	Plasmidsaurus	\$15
Primers for NGS assay	Eurofins	\$6
Amplicon sequencing	Azenta	\$84

Supplemental sequences file – Johnson et al. 2023 (Using CRISPR/Cas9 to...)

>Nut -1155/-1 (Nut promoter based on Shimai et al. 2010)
(Sequence of the Nut driver based on genome assembly, not verified)
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AAATCCATGCGAACACAACAAATAAGTCGCAAGACATGCTGCGTGTATTGTTTGAACACCGTGC
CTTGTGAAATCTGGTTGATTATTTCTGTCAGTTACAGTTAAATACGACTGCTTCAGTT
TGTGTTAGTATTGAGTTGCTACACTATATCAACAC

sgRNAs used in this study:

TH.4.114

GCTGGAAATCAATTGGTTGCA (G+N19)

TH.4.140

GAATTGTTAACGGGACTGAA (G+N19)

TH.5.44

GCTGAGCTTGAATTGTGCAG (G+N19)

Vamp.3.49

GGTCCAGCTGCACCAACTGG (G+N19)

Vamp.4.26

GGACATCATGAGGACAAATG (G+N19)

Vamp. 4.93

GGGGCAGATGCATTACAGCA (G+N19)

NCS1.1.32

GGGCAGCAAACTGAGCGCAG (G+N19)

NCS1.2.43

GTGGTATCGAGACTTTATGA (G+N19)

NCS1.2.56

GTTATGAAGGATTGTCCCCAA (G+N19)

NARS1.4.25

GAGAACAAAGAAGATGCGGAG (G+N19)

NARS1.7.86

GATAGATAACAGTCCTCAACC (G+N19)

NARS1.7.135

GACAGACATCTAGTTATCCG (G+N19)

Pou4.3.21 (Johnson et al. 2023)

GCTGAGTGGTGGAAAGCGGG (G+N19)

Pou4.4.106 (Johnson et al. 2023)

GAGGATGGAAATGATTCGGG (G+N19)*Primers for amplicon sequencing to measure mutagenesis efficacy*

Gene + exon	Forward primer	Reverse primer
TH exon 4	ACACTAATTAAAAACGTTGCCG	CTATATGTGCCAATAGTGCC
TH exon 5	TGGGCACTATTGGCACATA	ACATAAATGACGGTAGAATACCC
Vamp1/2/3 exon 3	GCACTTAACCTTATATCCCTG	CGATTTTGACCCGAAGAACAA
Vamp1/3/4 exon 4	AGAAACCATGGTGTGCCTC	ATAAGCGTCCACCATTCCC
NCS1 exon 1	GTGATCTTGTAGGTCTTCTT	AGTTAGAAACTAAACGACCGC
NCS1 exon 2	CTGGTTGCTCGCTATAAGTAA	CGTATTCTTGCAGCTTATAGG
NARS1 exon 4	GGCTACCCCTGAATAATCAAACCTT	TTAGCCGTTGTACTGAAGTCC
NARS1 exon 7	GTTGGTATGCCCTAATTACC	CAAATCACCTATAATATCCTCG

Sequences for Vamp1/2/3 phylogenetic tree:

>KH.C1.165.v3.A.SL2-1 (Vamp1/2/3)

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>KH.C8.1.v3.A.SL2-2

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FHLV

>KH.C14.274.v1.B.ND1-1

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GGMNWPRCVHQSNSPNKTTLT

>KH.L57.23.v2.A.ND1-1

MTDNGLVLCAADKEGRRIPYLFFELKKQFCSSGSLLQRTTGASAFEFRNIRNLSGIMDDFNKGKG
DQLSTMQNQVGEVTGIMRQNIKEVIERGDKLDDLVDKTEDLQAGAATFKVTAKRIQRKYFWQNKMLIII
IVIVLIIITLIVLFATGTI

>KH.C8.46.v1.A.ND1-1

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KSESLADSATHFNTHATRLRKMMWWKDMRTKIIIGVLLMILIIIVSIAVKNKGS

>VAMP1-Hs

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>VAMP2-Hs

MSATAATAPPAAPAGEGGPPAPPNLTSNRRLQQTQAQVDEVVDIMRVNVDKVLERDQKLSELDDRADAL
QAGASQFETSAAKLKRKYWWKNLKMIIILGVICAIILIIIVYFST

>VAMP3-Hs

MSTGPTAATGSNRRLQQTQNQVDEVVDIMRVNVDKVLERDQKLSELDDRADALQAGASQFETSAAKLKRK
YWWKNCKMWAIGITVLVIFIIIIIVWVVSS

>VAMP4-Hs

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T

>VAMP5-Hs

MAGIELERCQQQANEVTEIMRNNFGKVLERGVKLAELQQRSDQLLMSSTFNKTTQNLAQKKCWENIRYR
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>YKT6-Hs

MKLYSLSVLYKGEAKVLLKAAYDVSSFSFFQRSSVQEfmtFTSQLIVERSSKGTRASVKEQDYLCHVYV
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>VAMP7-Hs

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VRNIDLVAQRGERLELLIDKTENLVDSSVTFKTSRNLARAMCMKNLKLTIIVSIVFIYIIIVSPLCG
GFTWPSCVKK

>VAMP8-Hs

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>SNAP25-Hs

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ARENEMDENLEQVSGIIGNLRHMALDMGNEIDTQNRQIDRIMEKADSNKTRIDEANQRATKMLGSG

Sequences for NCS1 phylogenetic tree:

>KH.C1.1067.v1.A.SL1-1 (NCS1)

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>VSNL1-Hs

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>Frq1-Dm

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>Frq2-Dm

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ENTPQKRVDKIFDQMDKNHDDRLLTEEFREGSKADPRIVQALSLGGD

>Efocab11-Cr (KH.C10.577.v1.A.ND1-1)

MAVSLRRLQTIFNHCDDEKKGFLNREDLKVALILFGYKPSKYEIQQLDDGEGNKLMNFETFKSIMAA
SKHDPDHEIRDIFRMFDTHCRGFLIFDDVKKAFHAVAPHISDATIRACCEEMCRESDGRISYREFAEAMR
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Sequences for NARS1 phylogenetic tree:

>KH.C12.45.v1.A.SL1-1 (NARS1)

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>KH.C7.539.v1.A.SL1-1

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ESYQEITTVAQYPAEPFKFLEPTLILQYPEAVKMLNDAGVEMQDNEDLSTPSEKLLGRLVRQKYDTDY
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>KH.C2.670.v1.A.ND1-1

MFRLCKLSYSTVTALKRFKIKDVVNGEAVSQNGWIQGWVQSIRKHKNFMFDIVDGTSLNPLQVVLPSH
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>KH.C3.437.v2.A.SL1-1

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>KH.C11.248.v1.A.SL2-1

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ADPYTGSILCTVHHPFTSPHPDDVHLLEVDPDKVRSQAYDLVLNGNEVGGGSIRIHDSLQRQIIFTLNLD
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IKTNVSDK

>YARS1-Hs

MGDAPSPEEKHLITRNLQEVLGEEKLKEILKERELKIQWGTATTGKPHVAYFVPMISKIADFLKAGCEVT
ILFADLHAYLDNMKAPWELLELRVSYENVIKAMLESIGVPLEKLFIKGTDYQLSKEYTLDVYRLSSVV
TQHDSKKAGAEVVVKQVEHPLLSSGLLYPGLQALDEEYLKVDAQFGGIDQRKIFTFAEKYLPALGYSKRVHL
MNPMPVGLTGSKMSSSEEESKIDLDRKEDVKKKKAFCEPGNVENNGVLSFIKHVLFPLKSEFVILRD
EKWGGNKTYTAYVDLEKDFAAEVVHPGDLKNSVEVALNKLLDPIREKFNTPALKKLASAAYPDPSKQKPM
AKGPAKNSEPEEVIPSRLDIRVGKIIITVEKHDADSLYVEKIDVGEAPERTVVSGLVQFVKEELQDRLV
VVLCNLKPQKMRGVESQGMILLCASIEGINRQVEPLDPAGSAPGEHFVKGYEGQDDEELPKKKVFEK
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>DARS1-Hs

MPSASASRKSQEKPREIMDAEODYAKERYGISSMIQSQEKPDRVLVRVRDLTIQKADEVVWVRARVHTSR
AKGKQCFLVLRQQQFNVQALVAVGDHASKQMVKAANINKESIVDVEGVRKVQNQKIGSCTQQDVELHVQ
KIVVISLAEPRPLPLQDDAVRPEAECEEGRATVNQDTRLNRVIDLRTSTSQAVFRLQSGICHLFRETL
INKGFVEIQTPKIISAASEGGANVFTVSYFKNNAYLAQSPQLYKQMCICADFEKVSIGPVFRAEDSNTH
RHLTEFVGLDIEMAFLNYHYHEVMEEIADTMVQIFKGLQERFQTEIQTVNQFPCPEFKFLEPTLRLEYCE
ALAMLREAGVEMGDEDLSTPNEKLLGHLVKEYDTDFYILDKYPLAVRPFYTMPDPRNPQNSYDMFM
RGEELSGAQRIHDPQLLTERALHHGIDLEKIKAYIDSFRFGAPPHAGGGIGLERVTMLFLGLHNVRQTS
MFPRDPKRLTP

>DARS2-Hs

MYFPSWLSQLYRGLSRPIRRTTQPIWGSLYRSLLQSSQRRIPEFSSFVVRTNTCGELRSSHLGQEVTLCG
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IKVKTAELLNACKKLPFEIKNFVKKTEALRLQYRQLDLRSFQMQYNLRLRSQVMKMRREYLCLNHFVDI
ETPTLFKRTPGGAKEFLVPSREPGBKFSLPQSPQFKQLLMVGGLDRYFQVARCYRDEGSRPRDQPEFTQ
IDIEMS FVDQTCIQLSIEGLLQYSWPNDKDPVVVFPTMTFAEVLATYGTDKPDTRFGMKIIDISDVFRN
TEIGFLQDALSKPHGTVKAIACIPEGAKYLKRKDIESIRNFAADHFNQEILPVFLNANRNWNNSPVANFIME
SORLELIRLMETQEEDVVLLTAGEHNKACSLLGKLRLECADLLETGVVLRDPTLFSFLWVVFPLFLPK
EENPRELESAHPFTAPHPSDIHLLYTEPKKARSQHYDLVLNGNEIGGGSIRIHNAELQRYIATLLKED

VKMLSHLLQALDYGAPPHGGIALGLDRILICLVTGSPSIRDVIAFPKSFRGHDLMSNTPDSVPPEELKPYH
IRVSKPTDSKAERAH

>NARS1-Hs

MVLAELYVSDREGSDATGDGTKEKPFKTGLKALMTVGKEPFPTIYVDSQKENERWNVISQLKNIKKMW
HREQMKSESREKKEAEDSLRREKNLEEAKKITIKNDPSLPEPKCVKIGALEGYRGQRVKVFGWVHRLRRQ
GKNLMFLVLRDGTGYLQCVLADELCQCYNGVLLSTESSVAVYGMLNLTPKGKQAPGGHELSCDFWELIGL
APAGGADNLINEESDVDVQLNNRHMMIRGENMSKILKARSMVTRCFRDFFDRGYEVTPPTLVQTQVEG
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LNRLEDLVCDVVDRILKSPAGSIVHELNPNFQPPKRPFKRMNYSDAIWLKEDGVKEDGTYEFGEDIP
EAPERLMTDTINEPILLCRFPVEIKSFYMQRCPEDSRITESVDVLMNVGEIVGGSMRIFDSEEILAGYK
REGIDPTYYWYTDQRKYGTCPHGGYGLGLERFLTWINRYHIRDVCLYP
RFVQRCTP

>NARS2-Hs

MLGVRCLLRSVRCSSAPFPKHAKLSVRDALGAQNASGERIKIQGWIRSVRSQKEVLFLHVNDGSSL
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QYPHFRCRTNVLGSILRIRSEATAAIHSFFKDGFVHIHTPIITSNDSEGAGELFQLEPSGKLKVPEENF
FNVPAFLTMSGQLHLEVMSGQFTQVFTFGPTFRAENSQSRRHLAEFYMIEAEISFVDSLQDLMQVIEELF
KATTMMVLSKCPEDVELCHKFIAPGQKDRLEHMLKNNFLIISYTEAVEILKQASQNFIFTPEWGADLRTE
HEKYLVKHCGNIPVFVINYPLTLKPFYMRDNEDGPQHTVAAVDLLVPGVGEFGGGLREERYHFLEERLA
RSGLTEVYQWYLDLRRFGSPVHGGFGMGFERYLQCLGVNDNIKVIFPFRPHSCLL

>KARS1-Hs

MAAVQAAEVKVDGSEPKLSKNELKRRLKAEEKVAEKEAKQKELSEKQLSQATAATNHTTDNGVGPEEES
VDPNQYYKIRSQAIHQLKVNNGEDPYPHKFHVDISLTDIQLYSHLQPGDHLDITLKVAGRIHAKRASGG
KLIFYDLRGEGVKLQVMANSRNYKSEEEFIHINNKLRGGDIIGVQGNPGKTKKGELSIIIPYEITLLSPCL
HMLPHLFGLKDKETRYRQRYLDLILNDFVRQKFIIRSKEITYIIRSFDELGFLEIETPMNNIIPGGAVA
KPFITYHNELDMNLYMRIAPELYHKMLVVGGIDRVYEIGRQFRNEGIDLTHNPEFTTCEFYMAYADYHDL
MEITEKMQSGMVKHITGSYKVTVYHPDPEGQAYDVFPTPPFRINMVEELEKALGMKLPETNLFETEETR
KILDdicVAKAVECPPRTTARLLDKLVGEFLEVTCINPTFICDHPQIMSPLAKWHRSKEGLTERFELFV
MKKEICNAYTELNDPMRQRQLFEEQAKAKAAGDEAMFIDENFCTALEYGLPPTAGWGMGIDRVAMFLTD
SNNIKEVLLFPAMKPEDKKENVATTDTLESTTVGTSV

Cr: *Ciona robusta*

Hs: *Homo sapiens*

Dm: *Drosophila melanogaster*