

**Table S2.** Fly  $k$ -mers complementary to 5' extremity of known fly miRNAs.  $k$ -mers are grouped by sequence similarity and overlap. Each  $k$ -mer within a group is complementary to (*i.e.* matches) at least one miRNA, indicated by a number. If the  $k$ -mer is also found within the list of highest conserved worm  $k$ -mers, its rank is given, and \* indicates that the  $k$ -mer is also complementary to the 5' extremity of a worm miRNA.

Rank	Worm rank	$k$ -mers	Matches	complementary miRNAs
1	7*	UGUGAUA	1-6	(1) <i>miR-2a</i> <b>UAUCACAgccagcuuugaugagc</b>
9	49	UGUGAUU	7	(2) <i>miR-2b</i> <b>UAUCACAgccagcuuugaggagc</b>
10	1*	CUGUGAU	1-7	(3) <i>miR-2c</i> <b>UAUCACAgccagcuuugaugggc</b> (4) <i>miR-6</i> <b>UAUCACAguggcuguucuuuuu</b> (5) <i>miR-13a</i> <b>UAUCACAgccauuuugaugagu</b> (6) <i>miR-13b</i> <b>UAUCACAgccauuuugaugagu</b> (7) <i>miR-308</i> <b>AAUCACAggauuauacugugag</b>
3	-	GCAUUUA	1	(1) <i>miR-277</i> <b>UAAAUGCacuucugguacgaca</b>
6	107*	UGCAUUU		
7	-	AGUAUUA	1	(1) <i>miR-8</i> <b>UAAUACUgucagguaaagauguc</b>
37	132*	CAGUAUU		
13	23*	CUAGUCA	1, 2	(1) <i>miR-279</i> <b>UGACUAGauccacacucuuuaa</b>
27	5*	UCUAGUC		(2) <i>miR-286</i> <b>UGACUAGaccgaacacucgugcu</b>
14	19*	GUGCAAU	1-6	(1) <i>miR-92a</i> <b>cAUUGCACuugucccgccuau</b> (2) <i>miR-92b</i> <b>aAUUGCACuagucccgccugc</b> (3) <i>miR-310</i> <b>uAUUGCACacuucccgccuuu</b> (4) <i>miR-311</i> <b>uAUUGCACauucaccggccuga</b> (5) <i>miR-312</i> <b>uAUUGCACuugagacggccuga</b> (6) <i>miR-313</i> <b>uAUUGCACuuuucacagcccga</b>
15	12*	ACAUCC	1	(1) <i>miR-1</i> <b>uGGA AUGUaaagaaguauaggag</b>
42	41*	CAUCCCA		
23	27*	AGCUUUA	1, 2	(1) <i>miR-4</i> <b>aUAAAGCUagacaaccauuga</b> (2) <i>miR-79</i> <b>UAAAGCUagauuaccaaagcau</b>
28	13*	GUGCCUU	1	(1) <i>miR-124</i> <b>uAAGGCACgcgguagaugccaag</b>
116	-	UGCCUUA		
29	-	CCAAAGA	1-3	(1) <i>miR-9a</i> <b>UGUUUGGuuaucuagcuguauaga</b> (2) <i>miR-9b</i> <b>UGUUUGGugauuuuagcuguauag</b> (3) <i>miR-9c</i> <b>UGUUUGGuaaucuagcuguaga</b>
31	160	GUGCCAA	1	(1) <i>miR-263b</i> <b>cUUGGCACugggagaaauccac</b>
38	-	AGACUGA	1	(1) <i>miR-14</i> <b>UCAGUCUuuuucucucuccua</b>
51	-	AAGACUG		
52	-	AAAAGAC	1	(1) <i>miR-316</i> <b>uGUCUUUUuccgcuuacuggcg</b>
77	-	AAAGACA		
64	-	AGUACAA	1	(1) <i>miR-305</i> <b>aUUGUACUcaucaggugcucug</b>
435	-	GUACAAU		
89	14*	GAUCUCA	1	(1) <i>bantam</i> <b>UGAGAUCAuuuugaagcugauu</b>
93	-	CCGUCCA	1	(1) <i>miR-184</i> <b>UGGACGGagaacugauaagggc</b>
283	-	UCCGUCC		
98	34*	UUGCUCA	1	(1) <i>miR-87</i> <b>uUGAGCAAaauuucaggugug</b>
118	93*	UGCUCAA		
105	-	UGAUUUUA	1	(1) <i>miR-283</i> <b>UAAAUAUCAgugguaauucu</b>
110	441	ACUGCCA	1	(1) <i>miR-34</i> <b>UGGACAGugguuagcugguug</b>
218	202*	CACUGCC		
126	345*	UGUGAUG	1	(1) <i>miR-11</i> <b>CAUCACAgucugaguucucgc</b>
143	-	GUUCCUA	1, 2	(1) <i>miR-276a</i> <b>UAGGAACuucuuaccgugcucu</b>
369	-	AGUCCCU		(2) <i>miR-276b</i> <b>UAGGAACuuuuuaccgugcucu</b>
188	-	GUCUCC	1	(1) <i>miR-7</i> <b>uGGAAGACuagugauuuuuguugu</b>
196	-	GUGUUCA	1	(1) <i>miR-317</i> <b>UGAACACagcuggugguauccagu</b>
201	-	AUACUCA	1	(1) <i>miR-12</i> <b>UGAGUAUuacaucagguacuggu</b>
321	-	AAUACUC		
238	-	UGAGAUU	1	(1) <i>miR-304</i> <b>uAAUCUCAuuuuguaaaugugag</b>
241	66*	UCUUGCC	1, 2	(1) <i>miR-31a</i> <b>uGGCAAGAugucggcauagcuga</b> (2) <i>miR-31b</i> <b>uGGCAAGAugucggaaauagcug</b>
289	183*	CAUGACA	1	(1) <i>miR-281</i> <b>UGUCAUGgaaugcucucuuugu</b>
314	211*	UACCUCA	1	(1) <i>let-7</i> <b>UGAGGUAguagguuguauagu</b>
387	-	GUUCCUU	1	(1) <i>miR-5</i> <b>aAAGGAACgaucguugugauaug</b>
488	-	ACGCACA	1	(1) <i>miR-210</i> <b>uUGUGCGUgugacagcgguca</b>
490	-	CCAGUGA	1, 2	(1) <i>miR-3</i> <b>UCACUGGgcaaagugugucuca</b> (2) <i>miR-318</i> <b>UCACUGGgcuuuguuuuucuca</b>
497	-	UGAUAAG	1	(1) <i>miR-184*</i> <b>cCUUAUCAuucucucgccccg</b>