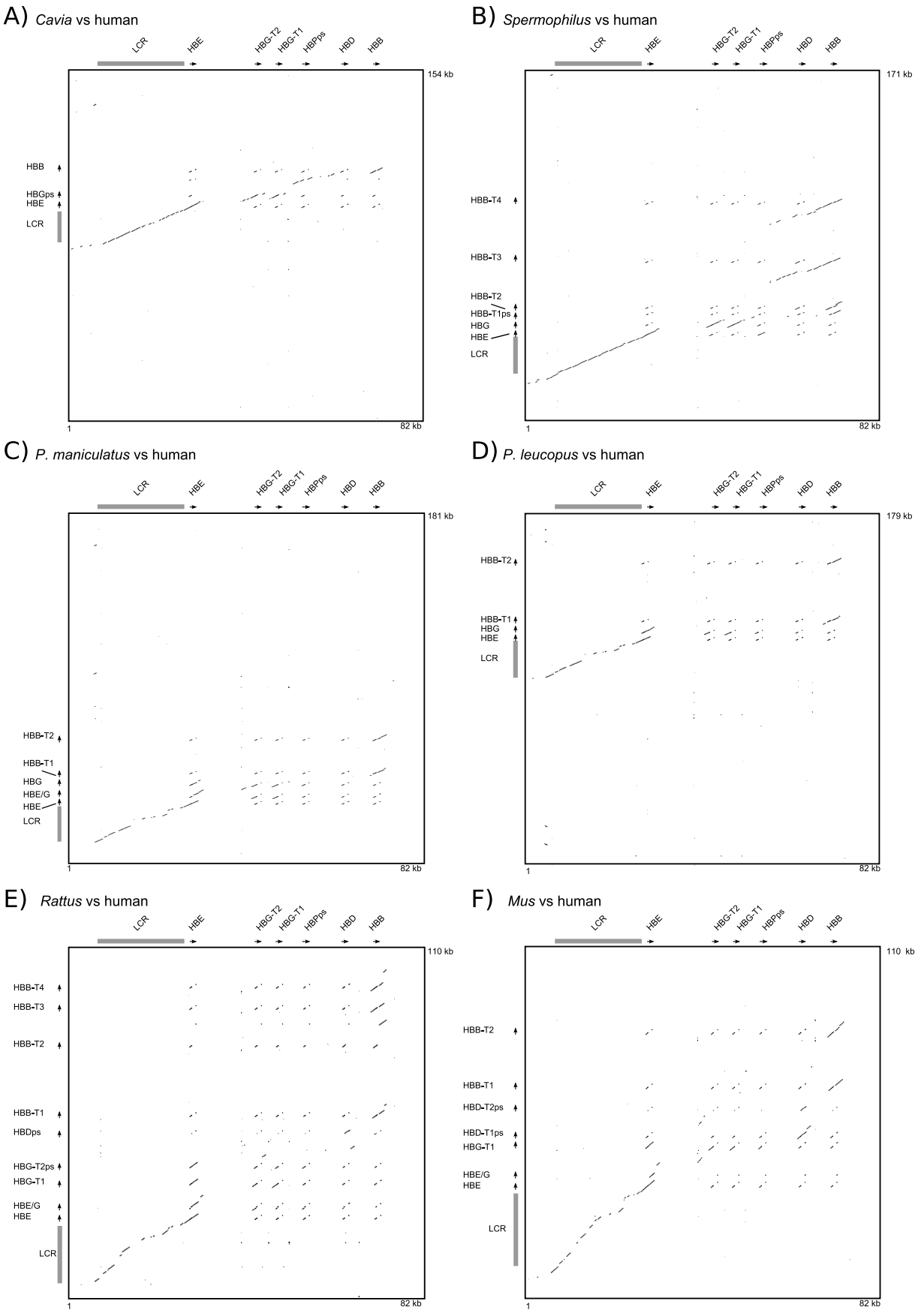

Fig. S1: Dot plot of pairwise sequence similarity between the β-globin gene clusters of 6 rodent species and the syntenic region of human Chromosome 11. In each of the 6 panels, the β-globin gene cluster of a rodent species is aligned on the vertical axis and the human reference sequence is aligned on the horizontal axis. Each pairwise comparison was based on a chromosomal segment that started 30 kb upstream of the 5' HBE gene and ended 10 kb downstream of the furthest 3' HBB gene. Note the high levels of sequence conservation in the locus control region (LCR) at the 5'end of the gene cluster.