

Dynamic *Hsp83* RNA Localization during *Drosophila* Oogenesis and Embryogenesis

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Hsp83 is the *Drosophila* homolog of the mammalian *Hsp90* family of regulatory molecular chaperones. We show that maternally synthesized *Hsp83* transcripts are localized to the posterior pole of the early *Drosophila* embryo by a novel mechanism involving a combination of generalized RNA degradation and local protection at the posterior. This protection of *Hsp83* RNA occurs in wild-type embryos and embryos produced by females carrying the maternal effect mutations *nanos* and *pumilio*, which eliminate components of the posterior polar plasm without disrupting polar granule integrity. In contrast, *Hsp83* RNA is not protected at the posterior pole of embryos produced by females carrying maternal mutations that disrupt the posterior polar plasm and the polar granules—*cappuccino*, *oskar*, *spire*, *staufer*, *tudor*, *valois*, and *vasa*. Mislocalization of *oskar* RNA to the anterior pole, which has been shown to result in induction of germ cells at the anterior, leads to anterior protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA. These results suggest that *Hsp83* RNA is a component of the posterior polar plasm that might be associated with polar granules. In addition, we show that zygotic expression of *Hsp83* commences in the anterior third of the embryo at the syncytial blastoderm stage and is regulated by the anterior morphogen, *bicoid*. We consider the possible developmental significance of this complex control of *Hsp83* transcript distribution.

Cytoplasmically localized determinants, in the form of localized maternal RNAs and proteins, play a key role in providing positional cues in the oocyte and early embryo of *Drosophila melanogaster*. To date, two RNAs localized to the anterior pole of both the oocyte and the early embryo have been described: *bicoid* RNA, which encodes the anterior determinant (12, 13, 58, 59), and RNA encoding a *Drosophila* adducin homolog (11). A number of maternally active genes encode posteriorly localized molecules. Proteins encoded by *germ cell-less*, *oskar*, *vasa*, and *staufer* and RNAs encoded by *cyclin B*, *germ cell-less*, *nanos*, *orb*, *oskar*, *pumilio*, and *tudor* are localized components of the posterior polar plasm, a posteriorly located, yolk-free cytoplasmic cap that is continuous with the cortical cytoplasm of the egg and early embryo (14, 15, 18, 22–24, 28, 30, 35–37, 43, 45, 54, 57, 63). Important components of this polar plasm are the polar granules—electron-dense, non-membrane-bound organelles—that reside within 4 μm of the plasma membrane at the posterior tip of the oocyte and early embryo (27, 46–49). The polar granules are taken up into the pole cells—the *Drosophila* primordial germ cells of—as these cells bud off the posterior end of the embryo and have been postulated to play a key role in programming them to adopt germ line fates.

Many maternally transcribed genes with spatially restricted functions in the *Drosophila* embryo have been identified in genetic screens (5, 17, 39, 41, 42, 50, 55, 56). However, it has been estimated that only one-third of the transcription units of the *Drosophila* genome have been genetically defined (4). To isolate additional maternal molecules with spatially restricted functions, we carried out a differential screen for cDNAs representing RNAs that are localized to either the anterior or the posterior pole of the

Drosophila oocyte or early embryo (10). Apart from studying their possible developmental roles, we expected that identification of localized RNAs would be useful in the analysis of RNA localization mechanisms per se (9, 10). Here we report a detailed analysis of the spatial localization of one of the posterior-localized RNAs we identified in this screen. It is encoded by the *Hsp83* gene, the sole *Drosophila* homolog of the mammalian *Hsp90* gene family (2, 10, 21).

It has been known for some time that *Drosophila Hsp83* is not only heat inducible but also expressed at high levels during normal development (33, 65, 66). Despite the extensive biochemical studies of the *Hsp90* family of cytoplasmically active regulatory molecular chaperones in mammals, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and *D. melanogaster*, little is known about their developmental regulation and functions (for a review, see reference 44). While mutational analyses of the *Hsp82* genes have shown that *Hsp82* is an essential protein in *S. cerevisiae* (3), no *Drosophila Hsp83* mutations have been identified (64).

Here, we show that maternal *Drosophila Hsp83* RNA is concentrated at the posterior pole of the early embryo via a novel RNA localization mechanism involving a combination of generalized degradation throughout the embryo and local protection of *Hsp83* RNA at the posterior pole. Analyses of the distribution of *Hsp83* RNA in embryos produced by mutants lacking polar granules, as well as in embryos that have a key polar plasm component—*oskar*—mislocalized anteriorly, reveal that *Hsp83* RNA is a component of the posterior polar plasm. *Hsp83* RNA is present at high levels in the germ line cells throughout most of development, with the exception of two periods during oogenesis. In addition, *Hsp83* is transcribed zygotically in the anterior third of the embryo commencing at the syncytial blastoderm stage. This anterior zygotic expression is missing in embryos produced by *bicoid* mutant mothers, suggesting that early zygotic *Hsp83* transcription may be controlled by the *bicoid* homeo-domain protein.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Differential cDNA screen for polarly localized RNAs. Our differential screen for cDNAs representing polarly localized RNAs is described in detail elsewhere (10). Briefly, RNA was purified from anterior or posterior poles cut off frozen embryos and was used in the construction of directionally cloned cDNA libraries in λ EXLX vectors (53). The entire anterior and posterior libraries were converted from phage to plasmid libraries by *Cre-loxP* automatic plasmid subcloning (53), and plasmid DNA was purified from each of these libraries. Probe generated from this anterior or posterior DNA was used to differentially screen 10^5 plaques from a 0- to 1-h whole embryo library constructed in λ gt10; re-screening of the clones on Southern blots and sorting into cross-hybridization classes followed. From this screen, we obtained 12 members of the SHTZ68 class of posterior clones (a frequency of 10^{-4}). These were hybridized in situ to whole-mount early embryos (see below) to confirm that they encoded a posterior-localized RNA. Sequencing of these cDNAs followed by a sequence similarity search with FASTA as implemented in the Genetics Computer Group Sequence Analysis Package run at the Caltech Biology Division Sequence Analysis Facility revealed that the SHTZ68 cDNAs encode *Hsp83* (2, 21). The *Drosophila Hsp83* gene was cloned more than 13 years ago (26), and both its heat-inducible and its developmentally regulated expression have been studied in some detail (33, 65, 66). However, it was the recloning of *Hsp83* as the SHTZ68 class of cDNAs that uncovered both the posterior localization of maternal *Hsp83* RNA and the anterior-restricted zygotic expression of *Hsp83*.

In situ hybridization to whole-mount ovaries and embryos. Whole-mount RNA tissue in situ hybridization was based on the method of Tautz and Pfeifle (61). Ovaries from adult females were dissected in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), fixed for 25 min in 10% paraformaldehyde or formaldehyde–50 mM ethylene glycol-bis(β -aminoethyl ether)-*N,N,N',N'*-tetraacetic acid (EGTA)–10% dimethyl sulfoxide in PBS and washed several times in PBS plus 0.1% Tween 20. Ovaries were then rubbed gently between two frosted microscope slides in order to break apart the ovarioles and devitellinize the late egg chambers. Postfixation, proteinase K digestion, and refixation were as previously described (61). Embryos were fixed as previously described (61), with only minor modifications. Digoxigenin probes were labeled by random priming of DNA synthesis according to instructions from the manufacturer (Boehringer Mannheim) or by single-sided polymerase chain reaction amplification by a protocol provided by N. Patel (Carnegie Institution of Washington, Baltimore, Md.). Hybridization and detection were as previously described (61). Ovaries and embryos were mounted in JB4 plastic mountant for microscopy (Polysciences).

Temporal and quantitative analysis of *Hsp83* localization in the early embryo. In order to analyze the time course of *Hsp83* RNA localization, it was necessary to obtain precisely staged early embryos. Embryos were collected from well-fed wild-type females at 15- to 20-min intervals; thus, each collection contained embryos that differed only by a single nuclear cleavage cycle. The embryos were allowed to age at 25°C for different lengths of time prior to fixation in order to obtain material staged from fertilization through the completion of cellularization (0 to 2.5 h after egg deposition).

These embryos were then processed for in situ RNA hybridization with *Hsp83* probes as outlined above. In order

to quantify the intensity of the in situ hybridization signals, the color reaction was stopped early in order to understate the embryos, thus ensuring that the signal was not saturated. Images of whole-mount embryos were captured and digitized for computer analysis with a Dage-MTI CCD-72 Series solid-state camera (Dage-MTI, Inc., Michigan City, Ind.) and an Image Grabber NUBus digitizer board (Neotech, Ltd., Eastleigh, Hampshire, United Kingdom) installed in a Macintosh II computer. Initial processing of the image was carried out with Image Grabber software (version 2.01). Subsequent measurements and production of pseudocolor images representing the concentration distribution of *Hsp83* transcripts were carried out with NIH Image public domain software (version 4.2; written by J. Ayers and G. Fletcher; available via anonymous file transfer protocol from sumex-aim.stanford.edu). Measurements were then made of the average gray-scale values for pixels in 25 equisize areas along the midline of the anteroposterior axis (normalized for egg length). The equivalent values from a background image were subtracted. Five embryos from each stage were analyzed in this way, and the mean gray-scale values for each of the 25 areas were used to plot the relative intensity of *Hsp83* in situ signal along the anteroposterior axis at two stages of early embryogenesis (see Fig. 2). This method is similar to that used by St. Johnston et al. (58) and Driever and Nüsslein-Volhard (13).

Fly strains. Mutant embryos were obtained from females homozygous for *osk*^{L66} (39), *capu*^{HK} (50), *spir*^{RP} (50), *nos*^{L7} (41), *pum*⁶⁸⁰ (41), *exu*^{PJ} (55), *vas*^{PD} (55), *stau*^{HL} (55), *vls*^{RB} (55), *tud*^{WC8} (55), and *bcd*^{E1} (17). Mutants deficient for *Hsp83* were provided by A. Wohlwill and J. J. Bonner (Indiana University) (64). Embryos lacking the *Hsp83* gene were derived from crosses between parent flies with the following genotypes: *Df(3L)HR218/Dp(3;3)r³³F19^R*, *Df(3L)HR298/Dp(3;3)r³³F19^R*, and *Df(3L)HR370/Dp(3;3)r³³F19^R* (64). Homozygous *hb* mutant embryos were derived from crosses between parent flies carrying *Df(3R)hb^{P^{TX15}}* *p^P e/TM3* (40). Embryos with *oskar* RNA mislocalized to the anterior pole were obtained from females heterozygous for *osk-bcd*^{3' UTR} as described previously (15). The *c83Z*–880 strain of flies germ line transformed with a *Hsp83-lacZ* fusion gene was provided by H. Xiao and J. Lis (Cornell University) (65).

RESULTS

***Hsp83* RNA is expressed in a dynamic fashion during oogenesis.** *Drosophila* oogenesis can be subdivided into distinct stages that occur in an ordered spatial and temporal array in the individual ovarioles that compose each ovary (31). At the anterior tip of the ovariole is the germarium, in which germ line stem cells divide asymmetrically to give rise to blast cells that will contribute the germ line components of the ovarian follicles. These undergo a series of four mitotic divisions with incomplete cytokinesis, forming an interconnected 16-cell germ line cyst. One of the cells forms the oocyte, and the remaining 15 form the nurse cells. The germarium is subdivided into three regions (31) (Fig. 1). The follicle grows in size and matures in the vitellarium, in a series of 14 stages (Fig. 1; stage 1 is equivalent to germarial stage 3) (31). Most of the synthesis of RNA and protein occurs in the nurse cells, and these molecules are then transported into the oocyte. In addition, yolk is transported to the oocyte in the hemolymph and is taken up by pinocytosis, contributing significantly to the increase in oocyte volume from stage 8 onwards.

Hsp83 RNA expression is absent in region 1 of the

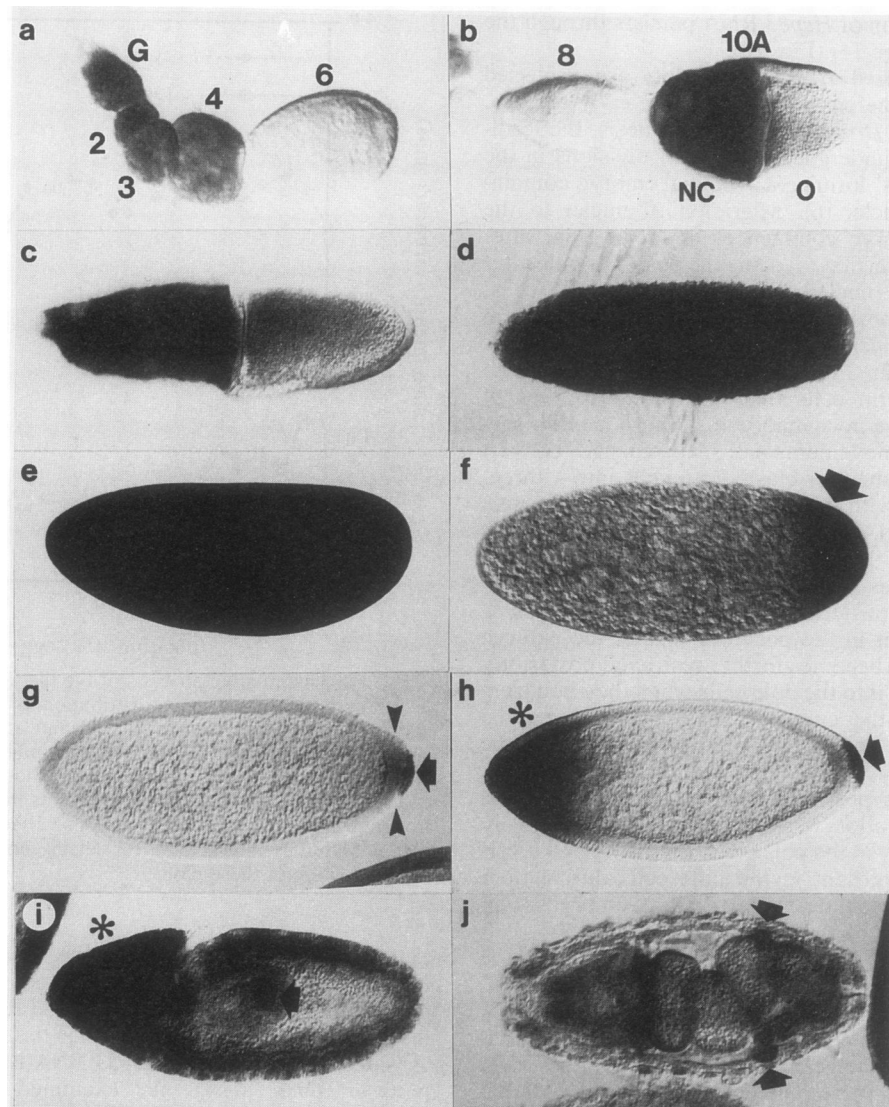


FIG. 1. Expression and localization of *Hsp83* RNA during oogenesis and embryogenesis. In situ hybridization of the *Hsp83* cDNA probe to ovarioles and embryos from wild-type females is shown. (a) During the early stages of oogenesis, *Hsp83* expression is detected in all the cells in regions 2 and 3 of the germarium (G). In stage 1 through 5 egg chambers, *Hsp83* is expressed in all 16 cells of the nurse cell-oocyte complex (shown are stage 1, which is equivalent to germarial stage 3, and stages 2, 3, and 4). No *Hsp83* RNA is detected in stage 6 to 8 egg chambers (stage 6 is shown). (b) A stage 8 egg chamber (8) lacks detectable *Hsp83* RNA, while a high level of *Hsp83* expression is found again in the nurse cells beginning in stage 9. The high level of nurse cell (NC) expression can be seen in the stage 10A egg chamber shown. O, oocyte. (c) In a stage 10B egg chamber, nurse cells contain high levels of *Hsp83* RNA, which begins to be transported into the oocyte. (d) In stage 14 oocytes, *Hsp83* is distributed uniformly at high levels. (e) In an early-cleavage-stage embryo (before nuclear cycle 6), maternal *Hsp83* RNA is uniformly distributed and present at high levels. (f) In a nuclear cycle 7 embryo, maternal *Hsp83* RNA is more concentrated at the posterior end (arrow), forming a decreasing gradient towards the anterior. (g) By the syncytial blastoderm stage, *Hsp83* RNA is only detected in the pole cells (arrow) and a small region immediately beneath them (arrowheads). (h) At the cellular blastoderm stage, zygotic *Hsp83* transcripts are present in the anterior third of the embryo (asterisk) in addition to the maternal RNA that is present in the pole cells (arrow). (i) During germ band extension, *Hsp83* RNA is present at high levels in the pole cells (arrow), the head region (asterisk), and the neuroblasts. (j) In a fully developed embryo, *Hsp83* RNA is present at high levels in the gonads (arrows). In all embryos except that shown in panel j, anterior is to the left and dorsal is up. The view in panel j is from the dorsal side, again with anterior to the left.

germarium and is first detected in germarial regions 2 and 3 in all 16 cells of the germ line cyst (Fig. 1a). In stage 1 through 5 egg chambers, *Hsp83* expression continues in all 16 cells of the nurse cell-oocyte complex (Fig. 1a). This RNA is rapidly degraded at the end of stage 5, since *Hsp83* RNA is present in stage 5 egg chambers but is undetectable in stage 6 egg chambers (Fig. 1a). It remains absent through stage 8 (Fig. 1b). High levels of *Hsp83* RNA are then

expressed again beginning at stage 9, but only in the 15 nurse cells. This nurse cell expression persists through stages 10 and 11, and transport of *Hsp83* RNA into the oocyte commences at stage 10B (Fig. 1c). Thus, *Hsp83* RNA is absent from the oocyte for roughly 30 h spanning stages 6 through 10A of oogenesis. By stage 12, when nurse cells have completely emptied their contents into the oocyte, *Hsp83* RNA is present at high levels throughout the oocyte.

This high concentration of *Hsp83* RNA persists through the end of oogenesis (stage 14) (Fig. 1d).

Maternally synthesized *Hsp83* transcripts are protected from degradation at the posterior pole of the early embryo. During the first 3 h of *Drosophila* embryogenesis, the fertilized zygotic nucleus undergoes a series of divisions in the absence of cytokinesis, forming a syncytial embryo containing roughly 6,000 nuclei (6). Migration of nuclei to the periphery of the embryo commences about an hour after fertilization, with nuclei first reaching the posterior pole after about 80 min. These nuclei contribute to the pole cells, which bud from the posterior and are the primordial germ cells. The remaining nuclei continue to divide in the cortical cytoplasm and, roughly 3 h after fertilization, contribute to the somatic blastoderm cells that form by a process of coordinated membrane invagination (6). Subsequently, gastrulation-related cell movements and shape changes convert the two-dimensional sheet of blastoderm cells into a three-dimensional embryo with distinct tissue layers and organs.

Maternal *Hsp83* RNA is distributed throughout the early embryo from nuclear division cycles 1 through 5 (Fig. 1e). During cleavage cycles 6 to 8, *Hsp83* RNA is most highly concentrated at the posterior pole, forming a decreasing concentration gradient in the posterior half of the embryo (Fig. 1f). *Hsp83* RNA becomes further restricted posteriorly before being taken up into the pole cells when they bud from the posterior tip of the embryo. Thus, by the syncytial blastoderm stage, the only detectable *Hsp83* RNA is in the pole cells and a small region just beneath the pole cells (Fig. 1g). The RNA in the posterior somatic region disappears shortly after cellularization, leaving high levels of maternally synthesized RNA only in the pole cells (Fig. 1h). High levels of *Hsp83* RNA are present in the pole cells during their migration (Fig. 1i) and in the gonads of mature embryos (Fig. 1j), larvae, and adults (65, 66; this study).

Localization of *Hsp83* RNA to the posterior pole of the embryo is achieved by a combination of generalized turnover throughout the embryo and protection of *Hsp83* RNA from degradation at the posterior pole (Fig. 2). An alternative—translocation of the generally distributed *Hsp83* RNA to the posterior pole—is excluded by the fact that maternal *Hsp83* transcripts are present at very high levels in newly fertilized eggs, and the concentration of *Hsp83* RNA at the posterior pole remains constant rather than increasing (Fig. 2). In support of our quantitative analysis of *Hsp83* RNA by tissue in situ hybridization (Fig. 2), Northern (RNA) blot analysis shows that there is less *Hsp83* RNA in 2- to 4-h embryos than in 0- to 2-h embryos (data not shown). Embryos homozygous for deletions of *Hsp83* still show posterior localization of *Hsp83* RNA (see Fig. 5a), excluding the possibility that de novo zygotic expression of *Hsp83* at the posterior of the embryo contributes significantly to the observed posteriorly localized *Hsp83* RNA pool. Sequences required for posterior protection of the *Hsp83* RNA map 3' to the translation initiation site, since a *Hsp83-lacZ* fusion RNA (see below) is no longer protected at the posterior pole of early embryos (see Fig. 6).

Zygotic transcription of *Hsp83* is restricted to the anterior third of the embryo. At the late syncytial blastoderm stage, expression of *Hsp83* is detected in the anterior third of the embryo. This anterior expression continues through the cellular blastoderm stage (Fig. 1h), gastrulation (Fig. 1i), and most of embryogenesis. Anterior *Hsp83* expression is eliminated from embryos homozygous for a deletion that removes the *Hsp83* locus, indicating that it results from de novo zygotic transcription (see Fig. 5a). During germ band

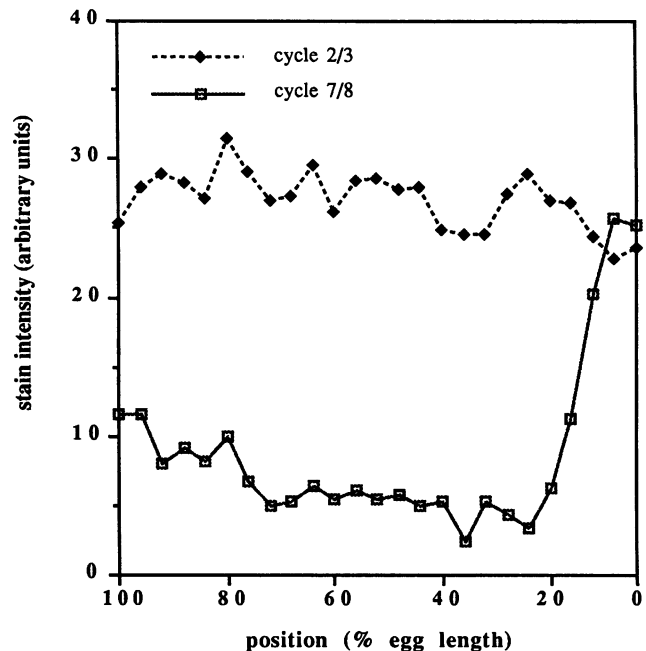


FIG. 2. Quantitative analysis of the distribution of *Hsp83* RNA in wild-type embryos. The distribution of *Hsp83* transcripts is shown at nuclear division cycle 2/3 and at cycle 7/8. While the amount of *Hsp83* RNA at the posterior pole (0 to 5% egg length) remains constant, the *Hsp83* RNA throughout the remainder of the embryo is degraded. Each point represents the mean value obtained from five embryos; standard deviations varied between 1.5 and 12.0 U. See Materials and Methods for details about the methods used in the production of these plots.

extension stages, in addition to the head and the pole cells, *Hsp83* RNA can be detected in the neuroblasts (Fig. 1i). In mature embryos, high levels of *Hsp83* RNA can be detected in the gonads (Fig. 1j) and in other tissues.

Maternally synthesized *Hsp83* RNA is a component of the posterior polar plasm. We examined the distribution of *Hsp83* RNA in embryos derived from females homozygous for maternal mutations affecting components of the posterior polar plasm. Maternal *Hsp83* RNA is distributed normally in early-cleavage-stage embryos produced by females carrying mutations that affect the integrity of the posterior polar plasm, polar granules, and pole cell formation (*cappuccino*, *spire*, *oskar*, *vasa*, *staufen*, *valois*, and *tudor*) (examples are presented in Fig. 3a, c, and e). However, maternal *Hsp83* RNA is no longer protected at the posterior poles of these embryos, and it is completely degraded between cycles 6 and 9, causing cellular blastoderm-stage embryos to exhibit only anterior, zygotic *Hsp83* RNA (Fig. 3b, d, and f). In contrast, in mutants that are affected components of the polar plasm required for abdominal patterning but not for polar granule integrity or pole cell formation (*nanos* and *pumilio*), the posterior localization of *Hsp83* RNA is normal (the *nanos* results are shown in Fig. 3g and h). The loss of maternal *Hsp83* RNA from the posterior of embryos lacking posterior polar plasm suggests that it is a component of the polar plasm and that it is protected from degradation by other components of the polar plasm, possibly the polar granules themselves.

Further evidence in support of this possibility comes from an analysis of the effects of mislocalization of the *oskar* RNA on the distribution pattern of maternal *Hsp83* RNA. Mislo-

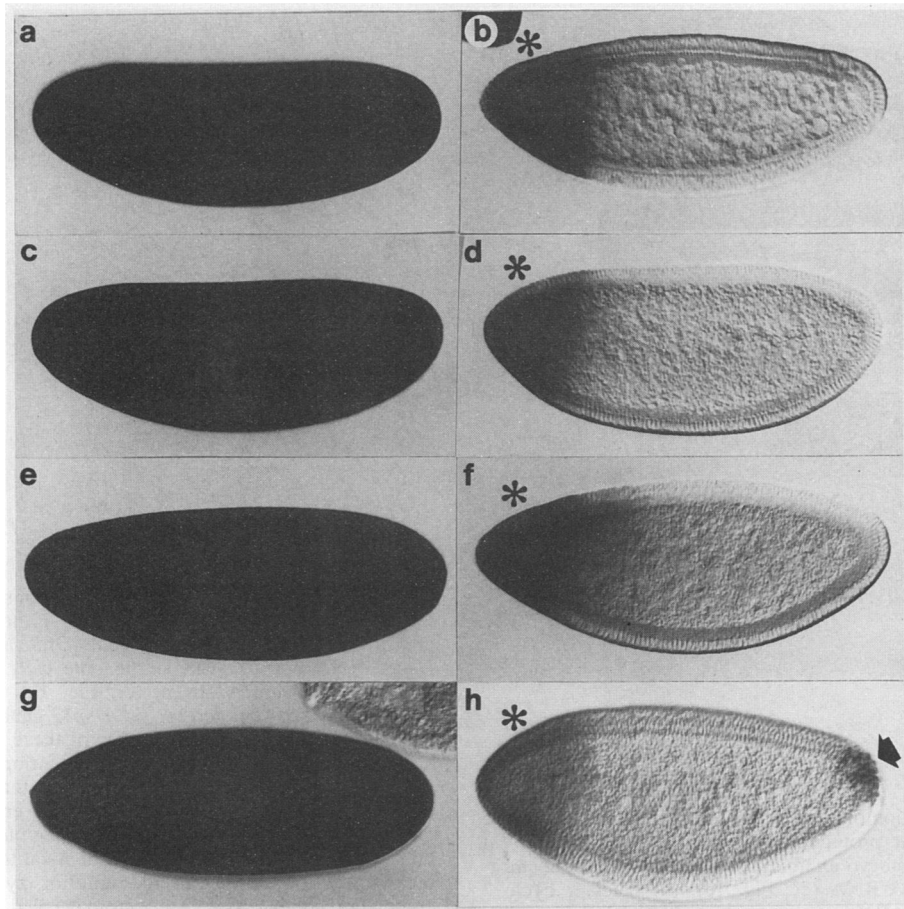


FIG. 3. Distribution of *Hsp83* RNA in embryos produced by females homozygous for representative mutations that eliminate components of the posterior polar plasm and disrupt the integrity of the polar granules and the ability to form pole cells (a to f) or that eliminate components of the polar plasm without affecting the integrity of the polar granules or the ability to form pole cells (g and h). These are *spire* (a and b), *oskar* (c and d), *tudor* (e and f), and *nanos* (g and h). Maternal *Hsp83* RNA is distributed normally in the early-cleavage-stage embryos in all mutants (a, c, e, and g). However, in mutants that eliminate polar granules, maternal *Hsp83* RNA is not protected from degradation at the posterior pole and can no longer be detected by the cellular blastoderm stage (b, d, and f). In mutants in which the polar granules are present (e.g., *nanos*), protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA still occurs (arrow [h]). Note that, in all cases, the anterior expression of *Hsp83* is normal at this stage (asterisks). The apparent lower level of anterior RNA in *nanos* (h) is a consequence of slight underdevelopment of the in situ staining reaction. In addition to the anterior expression, zygotic *Hsp83* transcripts can be detected at 15 to 25% egg length in the embryos produced by *cappuccino* mothers (data not shown). For all embryos, anterior is to the left and dorsal is up.

calization of *oskar* RNA to the anterior pole of the early embryo via the *bicoid* 3' untranslated region (UTR) has been shown to result in the induction of germ cells anteriorly, a process dependent on the *vasa* and *tudor* gene products (15). We examined the dynamics of maternal *Hsp83* RNA degradation and protection in *oskar-bicoid* 3'UTR embryos. Maternal *Hsp83* RNA is uniformly distributed in early *oskar-bicoid* 3'UTR embryos (Fig. 4a); however, it is protected from degradation at both poles between nuclear cycles 6 and 8 (Fig. 4b). While protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA is now bipolar, the spatial pattern of anterior-protected *Hsp83* RNA resembles that of *bicoid* RNA (Fig. 4b), a result consistent with the fact that ectopic anterior *oskar* RNA is distributed in a *bicoid*-like pattern (15). As at the posterior pole, this maternal *Hsp83* RNA is taken up into the ectopic anterior pole cells; however, a significantly higher concentration of *Hsp83* RNA remains in the anterior somatic cells underlying the ectopic pole cells than in the posterior somatic cells (Fig. 4c and d).

Spatially restricted zygotic expression of *Hsp83* in the ante-

rior of the embryo is controlled by *bicoid*. The earliest zygotic expression of *Hsp83* is detected in the anterior third of the embryo during the late syncytial blastoderm stage, and this spatially restricted expression persists through the cellular blastoderm stage (Fig. 1h) and gastrulation (Fig. 1i). We have confirmed that this anterior expression is zygotic by demonstrating that it is absent in embryos homozygous for a deletion that removes the *Hsp83* locus (Fig. 5a). The anterior determinant, *bicoid*, a homeodomain protein present in the early embryo in an anterior to posterior gradient (12, 13), regulates this anterior expression of *Hsp83*. In embryos that are derived from homozygous *bicoid* females, anterior *Hsp83* expression is completely abolished while posterior localization of the maternally transcribed *Hsp83* RNA is unaffected (Fig. 5b). This suggests that the *Hsp83* gene is transcriptionally activated in response to *bicoid*. Zygotic expression of *Hsp83* is not activated at the anterior of embryos that have *oskar* RNA mislocalized anteriorly (Fig. 4c), consistent with the expected absence of *bicoid* protein from these embryos (15).

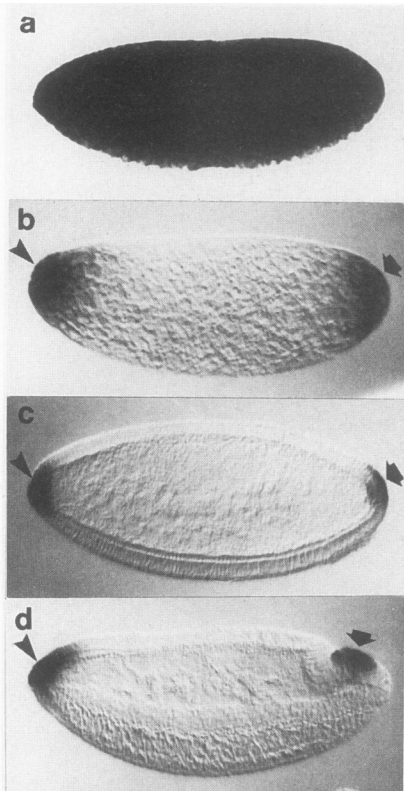


FIG. 4. Mislocalization of *oskar* RNA to the anterior embryonic pole results in anterior protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA. (a) Early-cleavage-stage embryo exhibiting a high, uniform concentration of maternal *Hsp83* RNA (cf. Fig. 1e). (b) Nuclear cycle 7 embryo in which *Hsp83* RNA is now protected at both the anterior (arrowhead) and the posterior (arrow) poles (cf. Fig. 1f). Note that the anterior protection pattern differs from that at the posterior pole and resembles that of *bicoid* RNA; this is because the mislocalized *oskar-bicoid* 3'UTR RNA is localized in a *bicoid*-like pattern (15). (c) Cellular blastoderm-stage embryo showing pole cells containing *Hsp83* RNA at both poles (cf. Fig. 1h). In addition, there is substantially more ectopically protected *Hsp83* RNA in the underlying anterior somatic cells than in the posterior ones. Note that there is no zygotic expression of *Hsp83* in the anterior of the embryo (cf. Fig. 1h). (d) Gastrulating embryo showing *Hsp83* RNA in the normal and ectopic pole cells, as well as persistent *Hsp83* RNA in the underlying anterior somatic cells. Orientation of the embryos is as in Fig. 1.

Several gene products have been shown to localize the *bicoid* RNA to the anterior pole of the oocyte and early embryo (1, 58). The most extreme delocalization of *bicoid* RNA is produced by *exuperantia* mutations; in embryos derived from *exuperantia* females, *bicoid* RNA and protein are present in a shallow gradient that extends along most of the embryonic anteroposterior axis (1, 13, 58). In such embryos, there is a marked posterior shift in the boundary of *Hsp83* expression (Fig. 5c), consistent with the conclusion that anterior zygotic *Hsp83* expression is dependent on the *bicoid* protein.

bicoid is known to directly regulate zygotic expression of the *hunchback* gene in the anterior half of the embryo (13). We examined *Hsp83* expression in homozygous *hunchback* embryos in order to determine whether the *bicoid* regulation of *Hsp83* is indirect, via zygotically expressed *hunchback*. There was no detectable effect of *hunchback* mutations on

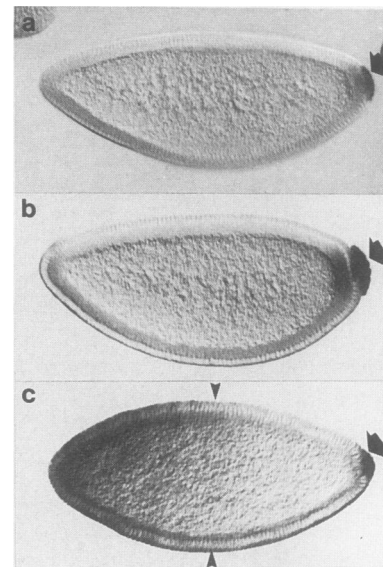


FIG. 5. Regulation of zygotic *Hsp83* transcription by *bicoid*. (a) Cellular blastoderm-stage embryo that is homozygous for a deficiency that removes the *Hsp83* gene [*Df(3L)HR370*]. The maternal *Hsp83* RNA can be seen in the pole cells (arrow), but anterior zygotic expression is absent (cf. Fig. 1h). The genetic cross to produce embryos deleted for the *Hsp83* gene is given in Materials and Methods. Roughly one-quarter of these embryos exhibited no anterior expression of *Hsp83*, while posterior localization of maternal *Hsp83* RNA was normal. We presume that these embryos were the ones lacking the *Hsp83* gene. (b) An embryo derived from a female homozygous for *bicoid*^{E1}, a strong *bicoid* allele. The distribution of maternal *Hsp83* RNA is identical to that of the wild type (arrow) (cf. Fig. 1h), but the anterior zygotic transcription is completely abolished. (c) An embryo derived from an *exuperantia*^{PJ} female. The intensity of zygotic *Hsp83* expression is reduced and extends more posteriorly than in the wild type (to about 50% egg length; arrowheads) (cf. Fig. 1h). The distribution of maternal *Hsp83* RNA is normal (arrow).

Hsp83 anterior expression (data not shown), suggesting that *bicoid* directly regulates *Hsp83* expression. In addition, we have shown that mutations in *torso*, *buttonhead*, *empty spiracles*, *orthodenticle*, and *giant*, all of which function in programming head development and/or the development of the termini (for reviews, see references 7 and 16), are not required for activation of zygotic *Hsp83* transcription in the anterior third of the embryo (data not shown).

Since there is normal temporal and spatial activation of a germ line-transformed *Hsp83-lacZ* fusion gene (*c83Z*-880) in the anterior third of the embryo (Fig. 6), *cis*-regulatory sequences sufficient for *bicoid* activation of zygotic *Hsp83* transcription map to a 2.7-kb region that includes 880 bp of DNA 5' to the *Hsp83* transcription initiation site, its first exon, and its intron fused to the *Escherichia coli lacZ* gene (65). Detailed *in vivo* and *in vitro* analyses of sequences required for *Hsp83* activation by *bicoid* are in progress and will be reported elsewhere (21a).

DISCUSSION

While it has been known for some time that the *Hsp83* gene is expressed during normal development in the absence of heat shock (33, 65, 66), we have shown that transcription of *Hsp83* is dynamically regulated during oogenesis and embryogenesis. Maternal *Hsp83* RNA is localized to the

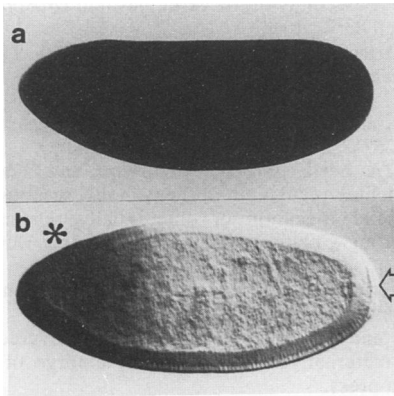


FIG. 6. Localization and expression of *Hsp83-lacZ* fusion transcripts. The embryos were derived from a female germ line transformed with *c83Z.-880* (65), a construct that carries 880 bp of sequence 5' to the *Hsp83* transcription start site, the first exon, and the intron, fused 300 bp downstream of the translation start codon to the *E. coli lacZ* gene. The *Hsp83-lacZ* fusion transcripts were visualized with a β -galactosidase probe. (a) Early-cleavage-stage embryo. The fusion RNA is uniformly distributed at a high concentration throughout the embryo. (b) Syncytial blastoderm embryo, exhibiting fusion transcripts in the anterior (asterisk) but no posteriorly protected maternal RNA (unfilled arrow) (cf. Fig. 1g). Thus, the construct contains sequences sufficient for *bicoid*-dependent zygotic activation but lacks sequences that tag the *Hsp83* RNA for posterior protection. Orientation is as in Fig. 1.

posterior pole of the early embryo by a novel mechanism involving a combination of generalized RNA degradation and local protection by components of the posterior polar plasm. Zygotic transcription of *Hsp83* is restricted to the anterior third of the embryo and is absolutely dependent on *bicoid*, the anterior determinant. Here we discuss our results, their implications for understanding the mechanisms of RNA localization, and the possible developmental functions of *Hsp83*.

A novel mechanism is used to localize maternal *Hsp83* RNA to the posterior pole of the early embryo. It was hypothesized previously that RNAs could be localized in cells by a mechanism involving a combination of generalized degradation and local protection (19). However, to date there have been no examples of such a mechanism. Here we have shown that localization of maternally synthesized *Hsp83* RNA to the posterior pole of the fertilized egg is accomplished by a combination of generalized degradation and local protection by components of the posterior polar plasm. High levels of *Hsp83* RNA are distributed throughout the mature oocyte. An hour after fertilization, it is degraded rapidly throughout the embryo except at the posterior pole. Degradation of *Hsp83* RNA occurs rapidly and uniformly in the anterior half of the embryo, but it is polarized in the posterior half of the embryo, resulting in production of a transient anteroposterior gradient of *Hsp83* RNA. Posterior localization of maternal *Hsp83* RNA thus represents the first example of a degradation-protection mechanism for RNA localization.

Posterior protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA is accomplished by components of the posterior polar plasm. We examined the effects on posterior protection of *Hsp83* RNA of seven loss-of-function mutations that disrupt the posterior polar plasm, polar granules, and the ability to form germ cells. All of these result in degradation of *Hsp83* RNA

throughout the embryo without any posterior protection. Reciprocally, ectopic anterior localization of *oskar* RNA, which results in anterior assembly of components of the posterior polar plasm and formation of germ cells at the anterior pole (15), results in ectopic anterior protection of maternal *Hsp83* RNA and its uptake into the ectopic germ cells. *nanos* and *pumilio*, which disrupt components of the posterior polar plasm required for abdominal development but not for germ cell formation, have no effect on posterior protection of *Hsp83* RNA. Taken together, these results show that protection of *Hsp83* RNA is accomplished by components of the posterior polar plasm that function in polar granule formation and in germ cell specification. It remains to be determined what gene products are involved in the degradation of the *Hsp83* RNA throughout the remainder of the embryo.

***Hsp83* and the germ line.** Not only is *Hsp83* RNA a component of the posterior polar plasm, but it is present in the pole cells and their germ line progeny throughout embryogenesis (this study) and larval development (65, 66) and in the adult (with two exceptions [see below]) (65, 66; this study). Interestingly, the mouse *Hsp86* gene, a close relative of *Drosophila Hsp83* (25, 52), is expressed in germ cells (8, 20, 38) as might be a human *Hsp85* gene (34), suggesting that members of the *Hsp90* gene family might serve similar functions in germ cells of diverse animal species (33).

Hsp83 RNA is absent from the *Drosophila* germ line in stage 1 germaria and is absent from the oocyte in stage 6 through 10A egg chambers. We have yet to determine the functional significance of the cessation of *Hsp83* transcription during these two periods; however, they correspond to the stages during which two key cell fate decisions are made. First, it has been shown that, by early germarial stage 2A, the pro-oocyte is already different from the pro-nurse cells (31, 60), suggesting that the choice between oocyte and nurse cell fate is initiated in region 1 of the germarium (31, 60). Second, communication between the oocyte and the surrounding follicle cells to specify the major aspects of its anteroposterior and dorsoventral axes occurs during stages 6 through 8 (51). If *Hsp83* protein is absent from the germ line during these stages, our results would suggest that *Hsp83* must be eliminated in order to enable these cell fate decisions to occur. Despite directed attempts to obtain mutations in the *Hsp83* gene, none have yet been identified (64). The production of loss-of-function phenotypes either by mutational or by molecular methods (e.g., antisense inactivation and dominant negative expression) will be required to further define the role of the *Hsp83* gene in the germ line as well as in other tissues.

Zygotic *Hsp83* transcription is regulated by the anterior determinant, *bicoid*. We have shown that zygotic activation of the *Hsp83* gene occurs in the anterior third of the early embryo and is absolutely dependent on *bicoid*, the anterior determinant. Absence of functional *bicoid* protein eliminates zygotic activation of *Hsp83* in the anterior third of the embryo. In contrast, extension of the *bicoid* protein distribution more posteriorly than in wild-type embryos results in an expanded domain of zygotic *Hsp83* activation. None of an additional six genes that control anterior and/or terminal development (*torso*, *hunchback*, *giant*, *empty spiracles*, *orthodenticle*, and *buttonhead*) are required for anterior activation of *Hsp83* transcription, suggesting that the *Hsp83* gene might be activated directly by the *bicoid* homeodomain protein. *Hsp83* is the first example of a gene encoding a cytoplasmically active regulatory protein that is spatially

activated in response to the anterior genetic hierarchy *Drosophila*.

Functional significance of dynamic *Hsp83* expression during development. Proteins regulated by the mammalian *Hsp90* family of molecular chaperones include steroid hormone receptors, *src* family tyrosine kinases, eIF-2 α , protein kinase C, casein kinases, actin, and tubulin (for a review, see reference 44). Given the dynamic spatial and temporal regulation of *Hsp83* transcripts during *Drosophila* oogenesis and embryogenesis, it will be important in the future to determine whether *Hsp83* protein expression is also dynamically controlled and whether it mirrors *Hsp83* RNA. Should this be the case, it will then be important to identify the particular subset(s) of all possible partner proteins with which *Hsp83* interacts in the germ cells and in the anterior cells of the embryo. Two potential partner proteins have been shown to be generally expressed throughout most of the early embryo (29, 32, 62). One is the ecdysone receptor (*EcR*), which is present throughout the embryo (32). If *Hsp83* were to interact with this receptor in either the anterior cells or the pole cells, the complex spatial and temporal pattern of *Hsp83* expression and localization could convert the generally expressed *EcR* into a spatially and temporally regulated receptor. In addition, *D-src29A*, a *Drosophila src* homolog, is expressed throughout the somatic blastoderm (29, 62), raising the possibility that *Hsp83* regulates *src29A* activity in the anterior third of the embryo. Dynamic spatial and temporal regulation of *Hsp83* might, thus, serve as a mechanism to confer spatially regulated activation and/or repression on more generally expressed partner proteins during *Drosophila* development.

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