Expanded View Figures

Figure EV1. Density of Mmi1 binding sites within mRNAs and lncRNAs, and computational approach developed to predict Mmi1 RNA targets.

- A Density of Mmi1 binding motif (UNAAAC) among all the annotated mRNAs and IncRNAs versus the mRNAs and IncRNAs enriched at least twofold in Mmi1 RNA-IP Seq.
- B Diagram of the genomewide computational approach used to predict Mmil targets. In step 1, a hypothetical open reading frame that has eight UNAAAC motifs in its sequence is shown as an example. The double-headed arrows indicate all possible windows containing from two to eight motifs. The thick double-headed arrows correspond to the windows yielding the minimal window size (MWS) from two to eight motifs. In step 2, each box plot represents the MWS^x calculated for all of the validated targets. The boxplots were produced using the "boxplot" function in R with default parameters: the boxes represent the median and the upper and lower quartiles (25% and 75%); and the whiskers attempt to capture the extreme values, but extend to at most 1.5 times the interquartile range from the box, in which case any outliers beyond this range appear as crosses. The numbers in red represent the cutoff window size (CWS) for two to eight motifs. See the Materials and Methods for more details.

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1. Selection of the minimal window size (MWS^x) for 2 to 8 motifs for each of the 33 validated targets.



2. Determination of the smallest cut-off window size (CWS^X) for 75% of the 33 validated targets.



3. Selection of Mmi1 candidate targets by ranking all *S. pombe* annotated genes according to the value of their MWS^x (from 2 to 8 motifs) that is smaller or equal to the corresponding CWS^x (determined in step#2).

Figure EV1.

Figure EV2. Characterization of Mmi1 YTH domain point mutants R351E and R381E.

- A Sequence alignment of YTH domains from the yeast Schizosaccharomyces pombe (Sp), the yeast Zygosaccharomyces rouxii (Zr), and Homo sapiens (Hs).
- B Ribbon diagram of Mmi1 YTH domain structure in the same orientation as in Fig 2C.
- C RNA-IP showing that the in vivo binding of Mmi1 to three of its known targets (ssm4, rec8, and spo5 mRNAs) is strongly reduced for R351E and R381E Mmi1 mutants.
- D Gel filtration showing similar elution behavior for WT, R351E, and R381E Mmi1 YTH domains.
- E RNA pull-down showing in vitro that mutations R351E and R381E impair Mmil binding to a RNA containing the UUAAAC motif.
- F Relative enrichments of Mmi1 protein recovered after RNA pull-downs done in (E). The quantification was estimated from three independent experiments. See the Materials and Methods for more details.
- G Fluorescence microscopy images showing the cellular localization of Mmi1-R351E, Mmi1-R381E and Mmi1 wild-type (WT) proteins. Nuclear DNA was stained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar, 10 μ m.

Data information: Average fold enrichment is shown with error bars that indicate mean average deviations (n = 3) for (C, F). Source data are available online for this figure.



Figure EV2.



Figure EV3.

Figure EV3. Mmi1-dependent entry into sexual differentiation (related to Fig 2).

- A Sporulation assay showing the percentage of asci forming over time in WT, mmi1_A, mmi1_R351E, and mmi1_R381E cells.
- B, C Graphs showing the percentage of asci (B) and zygotes (C) forming over time in WT, mei4∆, and mmi1∆ mei4∆ cells.
- D RT-qPCR showing the level of nam1 lncRNA and mei4 mRNA in WT and nam1-1 cells.
- E ChIP monitoring Mmi1 localization over nam1-byr2 locus in WT cells. Upper part of the panel highlights genomic regions (black lines).
- F Microscopy images showing the state of sexual differentiation of WT and mmi1Δ cells expressing or not expressing Byr2 from a plasmid, after 24 h of growth on SPAS. The percentage of cells that underwent differentiation and iodine vapor assays conducted on the corresponding patch are shown at the right side of each picture. Scale bar, 10 µm.

Data information: Average fold enrichment is shown with error bars that indicate mean average deviations (n = 3) for (A–E).

Figure EV4. Mmi1 control of byr2 gene expression (related to Fig 3).

- A RT-qPCR showing the accumulation of *nam1* read-through transcripts in *nam1-1* cells. Black arrow, primer used for the strand-specific reverse transcription (RT); black line, location of the region amplified by PCR.
- B ChIPs showing the occupancy of the whole population of RNAPII over nam1-byr2 locus, in WT and nam1-1 cells. Black lines above the scheme, genomic regions investigated.
- C ChIPs showing the occupancy of the elongating RNAPII (RNAPII-S2P) over nam1-byr2 locus, in WT and mmi1\Delta cells. The same genomic regions as in (B) were investigated.
- D ChIPs showing the occupancy of the initiating RNAPII (RNAPII-S5P) over nam1-byr2 locus, in WT and nam1-1 cells. The same genomic regions as in (B) were investigated.
- E Microscopy images showing the sexual differentiation status in WT, mmi1Δ, and mmi1Δ nam1-Ttef cells, after 24 h of growth on SPAS. The percentage of cells that underwent differentiation and iodine vapor assays conducted on the corresponding patch are shown at the right side of each picture. Scale bar, 10 μm.
- F Northern blot showing the level of *byr2* mRNA before (0 h) and after (0.5 h) induction of sexual differentiation in *WT*, *nam1-1*, *nam1-1*, *nam1-1*. Ttef, and in *nam1-1*. Ttef. Note that the white separation indicates that lanes on the left and the right come from the same gel but that the images were cropped to place them next to each other.
- G Microscopy images showing WT cells transformed with an empty plasmid or a pREP plasmid expressing *nam1-L* or *nam1-1L* lncRNA, after having induced sexual differentiation by growth on SPAS for 24 h. Scale bar, 10 μm.
- H RT-qPCR showing the level of nam1-L and nam1-1-L lncRNA expressed from the pREP plasmid.
- I Microscopy images showing WT (h90) and rrp6Δ cells, after having induced sexual differentiation by growth on SPAS for 24 h. Scale bar, 10 μm.
- J Mating assay showing the percentage of zygotes forming over a 72-h period, from cells induced to undergo sexual differentiation by growth on SPAS.
- K ChIP showing the enrichment of Rrp6 over nam1-byr2 locus.
- L ChIP monitoring the enrichment of H3K9me2 over nam1-byr2 locus and mei4 gene in WT and mmi1∆ cells.

Data information: Average fold enrichment is shown with error bars that indicate mean average deviations (n = 3) for (A–D, H, J–L). Source data are available online for this figure.



Figure EV4.

Figure EV5. Mmi1-directed heterochromatin gene silencing (related to Fig 4).

- A RNA-IP showing that in vivo, the binding of Mmil to nam5/6/7 IncRNAs is strongly reduced by Mmil mutations R351E and R381E expressed from a plasmid.
- B RNA-IP showing that Mmi1 binds to nam5/6/7 IncRNAs but not to dg IncRNAs.
- C RT-qPCR showing the synergy of accumulation of nam5/6/7 IncRNAs in mmi1-ts3 clr4A double mutant cells at restrictive temperature (36°C).
- D RT-qPCR showing no additional accumulation of dg IncRNAs in mmi1-ts3 dcr1A double mutant cells at restrictive temperature (36°C).
- E ChIP showing a reduction of the level of H3K9me2 at the nam5/6/7 and dg pericentromeric regions but not at mei4 gene, in cells overexpressing Mmi1 (pnmt1-mmi1) compared to WT cells. P-value was calculated from four independent experiments using a two-tailed Student's t-test.
- F RT-PCRs monitoring the accumulation of *nam7-L* in WT, *clr4*Δ, and *mmi1*Δ and *mmi1*Δ clr4Δ cells. In the upper part of the panel, the black arrows indicate the location of the primers used for reverse transcription (RT), and the black lines indicate the expected PCR products.
- G ChIPs showing the occupancy of the elongating RNAPII (RNAPII-S2P) over *dh* repeats in *WT*, *mmi1*Δ, *clr4*Δ, and *mmi1*Δ *clr4*Δ cells. Black lines above the scheme, genomic regions investigated.
- H RNA-IP showing that Cid14 is not required for the association of Rrp6-Myc13 to nam5/6/7 IncRNAs.
- RT-PCRs monitoring the accumulation of nam7-L in rrp6Δ, dcr1Δ, and rrp6Δ and dcr1Δ cells. RT-PCRs were conducted using the same conditions as in (F).

Data information: Average fold enrichment is shown with error bars that indicate mean average deviations (n = 3) for (B–D, G and H) and (n = 4) for (E). Source data are available online for this figure.



Figure EV5.