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Supplemental Information

Primer-Independent DNA Synthesis

by a Family B DNA Polymerase

from Self-Replicating Mobile Genetic Elements

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SUPPLEMENTAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Bioinformatic analyses

Phylogenetic analysis. The non-redundant database of protein sequences at the NCBI was searched using the PSI-BLAST (Altschul et al., 1997). For phylogenetic analyses protein sequences were aligned with Promals3D (Pei and Grishin, 2014). Poorly aligned (low information content) positions were removed using the Gappyout function of Trimal (Capella-Gutierrez et al., 2009). The dataset of viral, plasmid and polintons pDNAP sequences was collected previously (Krupovic and Koonin, 2015). Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree was constructed using the PhyML program (Guindon et al., 2010) the latest version of which (http://www.atgc-montpellier.fr/phyml-sms/) includes automatic selection of the best-fit substitution model for a given alignment. The best model identified by PhyML was $LG + GG + I + F (LG)$ Le-Gascuel matrix; G6, Gamma shape parameter: fixed, number of categories: 6; I, proportion of invariable sites: fixed; F, equilibrium frequencies: empirical).

Identification and annotation of integrated MGE. The pipolins' were identified by thorough analysis of genomic neighborhoods of the piPolB-encoding genes. The precise boarders of integration were defined based on the presence of direct repeats corresponding to attachment sites. The repeats were searched for using Unipro UGENE (Okonechnikov et al., 2012). Pipolin genes were annotated based on the PSI-BLAST searches (Altschul et al., 1997) against the non-redundant protein database at NCBI and HHpred searches (Soding et al., 2005). Pipolins were compared to each other and visualized using EasyFig (Sullivan et al., 2011).

Protein expression and purification

Primer-independent DNA polymerase (piPolB) from *E. coli* 3-373-03_S1_C2 Pipolin (NCBI GI:693097161) was obtained from GeneScript into NdeI-XhoI sites of pET23a (see Table S4). A stop codon was included to obtain the untagged recombinant protein. Polymerase (D368A) and exonuclease (D59A/E61A) deficient proteins, as well as wild type, K614A, H615A, K624A and R626A his-tagged variants, were obtained by site directed mutagenesis (Table S4).

All piPolB variants were expressed in Bl21(DE3) *E. coli* cells, using ZYM-5052 autoinduction medium (Studier, 2005) in the presence of 100 mg/L ampicillin. Cultures were grown for 20 h at 28 ºC. For purification of untagged piPolB variants, cells were disrupted by grinding with alumina and suspended in buffer A (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 7 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 5% (v/v) glycerol) containing 1 M NaCl. Alumina and cell debris were removed by centrifugation, and absorbance at 260 nm was adjusted to 120 units/ml prior to DNA precipitation with 0.3% (w/v) polyethyleneimine. After centrifugation at 20,000 x g for 20 min, ammonium sulfate was added to the supernatant to 69% saturation and centrifuged at $20,000 \times g$ for 30 min. The piPolB (wild type and mutants) containing pellet was resuspended in buffer A and applied to serial Q Sepharose® fast flow (GE Healthcare) and phosphocellulose (P11, Whatman) columns, at an ionic strength about 0.2 M NaCl. After extensive wash with increasing concentrations of NaCl in buffer A, purified DNA polymerase was eluted with 0.35 M NaCl and applied to Heparin-Sepharose® CL-6B column (GE Healthcare), where, after washing with 0.35, 0.4 and 0.45 M NaCl, they were eluted at 1 M NaCl in buffer A.

Histidine-tagged variants were purified by standard method (Spriestersbach et al., 2015). Briefly, cells were resuspended in buffer C (50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 8, 7 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 5% (v/v) glycerol, 1 M NaCl, 5 mM imidazole) and incubated for 30 min at room temperature with 1 mg/mL lysozyme (Sigma) and 1 unit of benzonase (Sigma), prior to cell disruption by sonication. After centrifugation at 20,000 x g for 30 min, the soluble fraction was applied to a Ni-NTA column (Qiagen). After extensive wash with 5, 10, 25 and 50 mM imidazole, the protein was eluted with 200 mM imidazole and subsequently applied to Heparin-Sepharose® CL-6B column (GE Healthcare), where, after washing with 0.35, 0.4 and 0.45 M NaCl, it was eluted at 1 M NaCl in buffer A.

In all cases, pooled fractions containing pure piPolB variants were dyalized overnight against 500 volumes of buffer B (50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM EDTA, 7 mM β-mercaptoethanol, 0.25 M NaCl and 50% (v/v) glycerol) and kept at -20 $^{\circ}$ C, or at -70 $^{\circ}$ C for long storage. Final purity of the proteins was estimated to be >90 % by SDS–PAGE followed by Coomassie blue staining.

DNA substrates

Oligonucleotides (Table S3) were purchased from Sigma or IDT in PAGE purification grade. To form a primer/template substrate as indicated in the top of each figure, the P15 oligonucleotide (Table S3) was 5´-labeled with [$γ$ ⁻³²P]ATP using T4 Polynucleotide Kinase and hybridized to 1.2-fold molar excess of

complementary unlabeled template oligonucleotides (T33GTA, T33GTT or T33GFA, Table S3) in the presence of 50 mM NaCl and 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5.

Genomic M13mp18 single-stranded circular DNA (laboratory stock) was diluted up to 50 ng/µL in a buffer containing 0.2 M NaCl and 60 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5 with or without M13 UP primer (Table S3), heated for 5 min at 65 °C and cooled slowly overnight to allow the annealing of the primer. Primed and non-primed M13 substrates were stored at -20 ºC in small aliquots to minimize DNA nicking due to repetitive cycles of freeze-thaw.

Replication of homopolymeric single stranded oligonucleotides

Assays were made in 20 μ L final volume containing 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 1 mM DTT, 4% (v/v) glycerol, 0.1 mg/ml BSA, 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20, 1 μ M oligonucleotide template, 100 μ M dNTPs, 500 nM of the indicated piPolB variant and 0.5 μ Ci [α -³²P]dATP. After incubation for the indicated times at 30 ºC, the reactions were stopped by adding 10 µL of formamide loading buffer (98% formamide, 20 mM EDTA, 0.5% (w/v) bromophenol blue, and 0.5% (w/v) xylene cyanol). Samples were analyzed by 8 M urea-20% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (20x30x0.5 mm) in 1X TBE buffer. Gel bands were detected either by autoradiography or phosphorimages (Typhoon FLA 7000) and processed with ImageJ software.

De novo primer synthesis detection

To detect de novo primer synthesis we used $[\gamma^{-32}P]ATP$ as the labeled nucleotide. M13 ssDNA (3.2 nM) was used as template. The reaction mixture contained, in a final volume of $25 \mu L$, 50 mM Tris-HCl , pH 7.5, 1 mM DTT, 4% (v/v) glycerol, 0.1 mg/ml BSA, 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20, 100 μM dNTPs, 0.5 μCi [γ- 32 PlATP, the indicated template and DNA polymerase (500 nM). Reactions were triggered by addition of either 10 mM MgCl₂ or 1 mM MnCl₂ and incubated for indicated times at 30 °C. Then, the reactions were stopped by adding 10 µL of formamide loading buffer (98% formamide, 20 mM EDTA, 0.5% (w/v) bromophenol blue, and 0.5% (w/v) xylene cyanol). Samples were analyzed by 8 M urea-20% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (20x30x0.5 mm) in 1X TBE buffer. When indicated, high resolution gels (40 cm long) were used. Gel bands were detected by phosphorimages (Typhoon FLA 7000) and processed with ImageJ software. The $\lceil \gamma^{32} P \rceil$ ATP-(dGMP)n DNA ladder used as size marker, generated by human PrimPol (García-Gómez et al., 2013) was a gift from Dr. Luis Blanco (CBMSO, Madrid).

Survival of piPolB expressing bacteria upon DNA damaging agents challenges

Starter cultures of *E. coli* Bl21(DE3) harboring pET23a::piPolB or pET23a::piPolB(D368A) plasmids were inoculates in LB media in the presence of ampicillin (150 μ g/mL) and glucose (40 mM) and grown overnight shaking at 37 ºC. Saturated cultures were diluted (1:100) in fresh LB media with ampicillin and grown 1-2 h at 28 ºC until DO600nm=0.4. Recombinant protein expression was then induced by 0.5 mM IPTG during one hour prior to genotoxic challenge. At this point an aliquot was withdrawn to verify recombinant protein expression by SDS-PAGE (not shown).

For MMC treatment, the indicated drug concentration was added directly into the cultures that were grown for an additional hour and then serial-diluted in fresh LB and plate onto LB-agar plates (without antibiotic). In the case of UV-exposure, the induced cultures were serial-diluted in sterile PBS and plated onto LB-agar plates prior to irradiation with the indicated UV-light intensity in a Spectrolinker™ XL-1000 (Spectronics Corporation).

Resources Table

Figure S1

Figure S1. Maximum likelihood phylogeny of pipolin-related PolBs. Related to Figure 1.

Clades that are only distantly related to the pipolin-encoded proteins were collapsed. The tree is rooted with cellular and viral RNA-primed PolBs. Branches are colored according to the classification of the corresponding taxa. Pipolins for which precise integration sites were identified (Table S1) are underlined. Numbers at the branch points represent the Bayesian-like transformation of aLRT (aBayes) local support values. The scale bar represents the number of substitutions per site.

Lactobacillus fermentum pLME300

Staphylococcus epidermidis pSE-12228-03

Sphingobium lactosutens DS20 SphLac-E1

Leisingera sp. ANG-M7 LeiANG-E1

Roseobacter sp. MED193 RosMed_{193-E1}

Rhodobacterales bacterium Y4I PhoY4I-E1

Acidithiobacillus caldus SM-1 AciCal-E1

Gordonia amarae NBRC 15530 GorAma-E1

Corynebacterium singulare CorSin-E1

Corynebacterium sp. ATCC 6931 CorATCC-E1

Corynebacterium pseudogenitalium CorPse-E1

Aurantimonas coralicida DSM 14790 AurCor-E1

Polaromonas sp. CG9 12 PolCG9-E1

Cronobacter sakazakii 696 CroSak-E1

Escherichia coli 3-373-03_S1_C2 Eco3-E1

Escherichia coli ETEC H10407 EcoETEC-E1

Escherichia coli E1520 EcoE1520-E1

Escherichia coli KOEGE 3 EcoKOEGE-E1

Aeromonas hydrophila YL17 AeroHyd-E1

Vibrio vulnificus 93U204 VibVul-E2

Vibrio vulnificus 93U204 VibVul-E1

Ferrimonas senticii DSM 18821 FerSen-E1

Moritella viscosa MorVis-E1

Moritella sp. PE36 MorPE36-E1

Vibrio parahaemolyticus VibPar-E1 *Vibrio fluvialis* PG41 VibFlu-E1

Vibrio furnissii NCTC 11218 VibFur-E1

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Figure S2. Comparative genomic analysis of bacterial Pipolins. Related to Figure 1.

Predicted protein-coding genes are indicated with arrows, indicating the direction of transcription. 'Xat' stands for xenobiotic acyltransferase. The color key for the designation of the common genes and the greyscale for homology degree are shown in the top right area of the figure. Names of pipolin carrying bacteria are colored as in Figure S1.

Figure S3. Effect of sequence context and enzyme concentration on TLS capacity by piPolB. Related to Figures 2 and 3.

(A) Denaturing PAGE analysis of primer extension products by Φ29 DNA polymerase (Φ29) and piPolB. As indicated, wild type, D368A (polymerase deficient) and D59A/E61A (exonuclease deficient) piPolB variants were tested using two different sequence contexts (lanes 1-10 vs. 11-20), in the absence (lanes 1- 5 and 11-15) or presence (lanes 6-10 and 16-20) of a THF abasic site analog. Schematic representations of each template/primer substrate are depicted above. (B) Processive replication of primer/template substrates by decreasing concentrations of wild type piPolB. Reactions were performed in the presence of either 1 μ M (lanes 1-9) or 100 μ M (lanes 10-18) dNTPs for undamaged or damaged templates, respectively.

Figure S4. Strand displacement capacity of piPolB. Related to Figure 4.

Denaturing PAGE analysis of replication of a recessed primer/template duplex (lanes 1-7) or a 5 nucleotides gap (lanes 8-14) obtained with a downstream oligonucleotide (P20-33, Table S3) that must be displaced to resume replication by piPolB (lanes 6-7 and 13-14). Wild type and ΔTPR2 variants of Φ29 DNA polymerase were used as positive and negative controls, respectively.

Figure S5. Effect of divalent cations on *de novo* **replication of homopolymeric ssDNA substrate by piPolB. Related to Figure 4.**

Primer synthesis and replication of homopolymeric poly-dT DNA template (1 μ M) by wild type (WT) or exonuclease deficient (D59A/E61A) piPolB variants (500 nM). Reactions were triggered either with 10 mM MgCl₂ or 1 mM MnCl₂ and resolved in high resolution 8 M urea-20% PAGE. The P4, P10, P15 and 33A primers (see STAR Methods and Table S3) labeled with a 5'-³²P were loaded as size markers (lane M), and the size of the shorter products detected are indicated on the left and right, respectively.

Figure S6. Small effect of single modifications of template sequence on *de novo* **replication of homopolymeric ssDNA substrate by piPolB. Related to Figure 5.** Alternative ssDNA templates are depicted above the gel.

Figure S7. Polymerase and primase capacities of piPolB variants in the analog residues of PolB KxY motif. Related to Figure 6.

Primer extension (A) and primer synthesis (B) capacity of wild type, K624A and R626A His-tagged piPolBs. Assays were performed as in Figure 5. For reference, non-tagged wild type and exonuclease and polymerase deficient piPolB variants were also included in panel B.

* – integration into 5' end of the tRNA gene; # – tandem integration of two distinct elements.

Table S3. Sequences of oligonucleotides used in this work. Related to Experimental Procedures..

$Name*$	Sequence $(5'-3')$
P4	GATC
P ₁₀	GACTGCTTAC
P ₁₅	GATCACAGTGAGTAC
T ₃₃ GTA	ACTGGCCGTCGTTCTATTGTACTCACTGTGATC
T33GTT	ACTGGCCGTCGTTCTAATGTACTCACTGTGATC
T33GFT	ACTGGCCGTCGTTCTATFGTACTCACTGTGATC
P ₂₀ -33	GAACGACGGCCAGT
33A	
$33T*$	TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT/invT/
$CC31T*$	$CCTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT$
$15TCC16T*$	TTTTTTTTTTTTTCCTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT/invT/
$15TC17T*$	TTTTTTTTTTTTTTCTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT/invT/
$15TA17T*$	TTTTTTTTTTTTTATTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT/invT/
M13 UP	GTAAAACGACGGCCAGT

***F** represents the THF abasic site analog. */invT/ stands for a last dTMP nucleotide linked by an inverted 3'-3' bond.

Table S4. Gene Sequence Information and mutagenesis primers. Related to Experimental Procedures.

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