Supplementary Information

Mitochondrial peptide BRAWNIN is Essential for Vertebrate Respiratory Complex III Assembly

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Supplementary Note 1

sORF selection Parameters

To determine the quality and likelihood of each sORF, multiple algorithms have been developed to assess ribosomal periodicity and control for inherent biases in the Ribo-Seq workflow.

1) ORFscore ¹: The ORFscore calculates the preference of ribosome protected fragments (RPFs) to accumulate in the first frame of coding sequences. To compute the ORFscore, RPFs are counted in each frame (in $\overline{}$ frame 0, $\overline{}$ frame and $\overline{}$ frame). Next, the distribution of RPFs is compared to an equally sized uniform distribution using a modified chi-squared statistic. In literature, an ORFscore of at least 6 is generally considered a good score.

2) In-frame-coverage (IFC)²: Percentage of nucleotides covered by in-frame situated RPFs (i.e. mapping at first base of coding triplets to the last base of the stop codon).

3) Coverage Uniformity (U) 2 : Represents how uniform the ribosome footprints are distributed over the sORF sequence. This filter ranges between -1 and 1, with either boundary indicating that all ribosomes reside in one half of the sORF. A coverage uniformity of 0 implies that the ribosomes are uniformly distributed.

4) FLOSS 3: The FLOSS algorithm is an additional method designed to distinguish true coding from non-coding sequences based on the RPF length distribution. The FLOSS algorithm provides a score based on the comparison between the RPF length distribution in each sORF and the RPF length distribution found in canonical protein-coding sequences. Based on the FLOSS score, a classification is made representing the coding tendency of sORFs.

Mitochondrial Prediction

The first method relies on mitochondrial functional prediction based on functional enrichment of SEP co-expressed genes. First, we performed co-expression analysis where SEPs were ranked by weighted gene correlation network analysis (WGCNA) of their host gene with genes in publicly available human liver, heart and skeletal muscle RNA-seq datasets (Supplementary Fig.1a, details in Method section). Next, we performed functional enrichment analysis using gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) of ranked lists from WGCNA. To classify each candidate as mitochondrial or non-mitochondrial, we performed multi-dimensional PCA analysis of pathway normalized enrichment scores (NES) of MitoCarta ("mito") genes and a matched number of randomly chosen

"non-mitochondrial" transcription factors. We used non-hierarchical K-means clustering, averaging over 15 clusters to obtain a mitochondrial likelihood score of each SEP candidate in each of the 3 tissues (Supplementary Fig.1a). The threshold defining mitochondrial identity in each tissue was set by maximising the predictive performance of 53 known MitoCarta SEPs against 83 known non-mitochondrial SEPs. Using this method, 64 "high confidence" SEPs were included because they scored positive in all of the tissues in which they are expressed and have not been previously characterized (Supplementary Fig.1a). This method correctly classified 73% of known training set SEPs with a false positive and negative rate of 6% and 57% respectively. Notably, the classification success drops to 60% when performed in cultured skin or endothelial cells, which have lower mitochondrial content compared to heart, muscle and liver (data not shown).

Next, we selected 72 SEPs predicted to be mitochondrial because they contained a potential "mitochondrial targeting motif". This motif can be either a transmembrane domain (TM) or signal peptide (SP) with reduced hydrophobicity, a mitochondrial targeting sequence (MTS) or twincysteine (2C3XC, 2C9XC, C9XC & C10XC). This combination correctly retrieves 87% of known MitoCarta SEPs but has a very high false positive rate of 49% (based on known non-mitochondrial SEPs).

The third method relies on empirical evidence of protein expression in the mitochondria. 23 thresholded SEPs with matching spectra in an LC-MS/MS dataset of purified human mitochondria 4 (details in the Method section) with unknown function were included regardless of their score in the first two measures.

SEP Screening Outcome

Of 173 SEP candidates tested, we were able to obtain a credible HA fluorescence signal from the overexpression of the open reading frames of 88 candidates (50.9%) in HeLa (Supplementary Fig. 1c), representing the experimental validation of 88 uncharacterized sORF-encoded peptides (SEPs). SEP candidates with undetectable expression levels may be unstable, require the presence of autologous UTRs for transcript stability or translational efficacy, or might be secreted upon production. These were excluded from further characterization. Notably, the highest rate of successful protein expression was from the category of annotated sORFs (88.2%). 48.5% uORF and 37.5% of lincRNA-derived SEPs can also generate stable protein. Of the 3 approaches used for mitochondrial prediction, the strongest predictor was the presence of protein motifs, namely a transmembrane domain (TMD), with 30.5% positive prediction rate (Supplementary Fig.1d). WGCNA/GSEA had a poorer-than-expected outcome because 82.8% of GSEA-predicted candidates were uORF-derived SEPs. Since GSEA utilizes the underlying host gene for functional prediction, which cannot distinguish between the main annotated ORF and the uORF-encoded proteins, we are unable to accurately decipher the function of the uORF-derived SEP. Lastly, the presence of matching spectra in existing proteomics dataset turned out to be the poorest predictor for protein validity, potentially due to off-target identifications. This underscores the importance of unbiased, experimentally-validated screening efforts as reported in this study. By inference, the presence of matching spectra alone should not be used as definitive evidence of the validity of a SEP. Of note, validated SEPs that do not localize to the mitochondria display a wide variety of subcellular localization (Supplementary Fig.1e), suggesting their potentially diverse functions in cell biology.

Supplementary Fig.1 Mito-SEP prediction pipeline identifies uncharacterized endogenous mitochondrial SEPs

a. Co-expression analysis coupled to functional enrichment analysis to identify "high confidence" SEP genes with mitochondrial gene signature. Color bar scale on the right panel refers to the percentage of known mitochondrial genes in each K-means cluster. Color bar scale on the bottom left panel refers to the K-means score. All other color bars depict normalized enrichment scores (NES). *indicates a specific "high confidence" candidate as it transits through the pipeline. See SI text for details.

b. Workflow for identifying Mito-SEPs with potential mitochondrial targeting protein domains.

c. Numbers of screened and successfully expressed peptides (i.e. with detectable HA IF signal) according to their biotype annotation as 5'UTR, LincRNA or sORF in their genomic loci.

d. Numbers of screened and expressed peptides that were predicted by indicated methods. Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA), Mitochondrial Targeting Sequence (MTS), Trans-membrane domain (TMD), Signal Peptide (SP).

e. Representative SEP candidates with non-mitochondrial localization as revealed HA IF. Scale $bar = 20 \text{ µm}$.

f. Human MitoCarta 2.0 proteins <100 a.a. were analyzed by STRING V10 5 and classified according to functional ontology (GO and manual curation). Dark red circles refer to proteins with known functions in electron transport chain (ETC) complexes; light red halos refer to proteins with known role as ETC assembly factors.

g. Upper panel: Size distributions of ETC proteins (complex subunits and assembly factors, 113 proteins) and all mitochondrial proteins (Human MitoCarta 2.0). Lower panel: Size distribution of mitochondrial ribosome proteins (MRP) (78 proteins) and all mitochondrial proteins (Human MitoCarta 2.0, 1158 proteins). p-values were computed using two-sided Mann-Whitney U-test. Note the relative enrichment of ETC proteins that are below 100 a.a., compared to mito-ribosome proteins, even though components of both complexes are enriched for lower molecular weight proteins.

Supplementary Fig. 2 BRAWNIN (BR) is a conserved SEP at the inner mitochondrial membrane

a. Ribosome-sequencing reads from the *BRAWNIN* gene *(C12orf73)* across 31 human cell lines. Each line represents a distinct human cell line from sORFs.org.

b. Seahorse MitoStress test of U87MG cells stably transduced with a lentiviral construct expressing BR or empty vector. Oligo, oligomycin; FCCP, carbonyl cyanide 4- (trifluoromethoxy)phenylhydrazone; Rot/AA, rotenone/antimycin A. Significance levels derived from two-sided paired t-test. 6 wells of cells were examined for each treatment. Error bars indicate SEM.

c. Alignment of the predicted BR isoform 2 (BR-P2) encoded by an alternatively spliced transcript of the *C12orf73* gene.

d. Western blot of lysates from HEK293T transfected with BR isoform 1-FLAG (BR(P1)^{FLAG}) and isoform 2-FLAG BR (BR(P2) $FLAG$). BR-P2 (59 a.a.) is detectable but is present at much lower levels compared to BR-P1.

e. α -BR IHC in human skeletal muscle (SKM) and cardiac muscle (CM). Scale = 20 μ m.

f. Western blot of endogenous mouse BR in the indicated tissue lysates. BAT = brown adipose tissue, $WAT =$ white adipose tissue.

g. Western blot of intracellular (lysate) versus extracellular (supernatant) BR of HEK293T cells transfected with the BR ORF. C4ORF48, a bona fide secreted peptide of the same length (unpublished) is used as a control. Brefeldin A (BFA) inhibits the classical secretory pathway. Note that extracellular BR is not completely depleted by BFA as would be expected of a bona fide secreted protein.

h. Western blot of endogenous, overexpressed BR in HEK293T separated on a 16% Tris Tricine gel together with a synthetic BR peptide lacking N-terminal 25 amino acids (BR^{∆N25}).

i. BR-P2-V5 tagged protein can be detected by IF when overexpressed in HeLa and localizes to the mitochondria as indicated by colocalization with Mitotracker. Scale bar $= 20 \mu m$.

j. Western blot of HEK293T lysates transfected with full length BR and BR lacking N-terminal 25 amino acids encoding the predicted signal peptide or transmembrane domain (BR[∆]N25).

k. IF of transiently over-expressed BR and BR^{∆N25} with α -BR in HeLa. Scale bar = 10 µm (60X); 50 μ m (10X).

Supplementary Fig. 3 BR is an AMPK target that potentiates OXPHOS in human U87MG cells

a. Enriched KEGG pathways by Panther gene ontology analysis of the top 200 BR co-expressed genes (from COXPRESdb v7.0⁶) in mouse, zebrafish and chicken.

b. mRNA levels of *Br* and other mitochondrial proteins in mouse myotubes with enforced expression of PGC-1α. Data are obtained from GEO omnibus dataset GDS1879 with probeset 114297 f at for *Br*. Data from 3 independent experiments presented. Error bars indicate SEM.

c. ATP production calculated from experiment in Fig. 3d,e. Data are mean and SEM of 6 technical replicates which are representative of 2 and 3 biological replicates for shRNA and siRNAmediated depletion, respectively. p-values from two-sided unpaired t-test. Error bars indicate SEM.

d. Basal OCR of HEK293T with stable shRNA-mediated knockdown of BR grown under normal (glucose) and oxidative (galactose) conditions. Boxes spread from the 25th to 75th percentiles with medians show in the middle. Whiskers indicate minimum to maximum values. p-values from twosided unpaired t-test. 12 wells of cells were examined for each treatment.

e. SDS-PAGE and western blot analysis of HEK293T with stable shRNA-mediated knockdown

of BR cultured in galactose.

Supplementary Fig. 4 Knockout of *Br* **in zebrafish causes lethal mitochondrial deficiency** a. Deletion strategy of *zf br* by Crispr/Cas9 (top); PCR of genomic locus with indicated primers spanning deletion site.

b. Brightfield images of 4 days post fertilization (dpf) WT and KO larvae. Images represent indicated percentage of all larvae analyzed with indicated n numbers. Swim bladder in WT is indicated by red arrowhead. Scale bar $= 100 \mu m$.

c. Quantification of the percentage of larvae from two independent clutches (n=41 for WT, n=69 for KO) with inflated swim bladders at the indicated age.

d. Birefringence analysis of 5 dpf WT and KO larvae to reveal skeletal muscle fiber integrity and organization. Scale bar = $150 \mu m$.

e. Percentage of inactive larvae at 6 dpf, scored as larvae that remain motionless on the bottom of the tank for 1 minute. 40 animals monitored per genotype. Boxes extend from the 25th to 75th percentiles with medians show in the middle. Whiskers indicate minimum to maximum values.

f. Feeding behavior as measured by the amount of fluorescent paramecium ingested at 7 dpf in 4 clutches of WT and 2 clutches of mz KO larvae. MFI = mean fluorescence intensity of gut region post-feeding. Number of examined animals are 19, 18, 13, 16, 15, 11 for WT clutch 1-4 and KO clutch 1-2, respectively. Error bars indicate SEM.

g. Representative swim trace of WT versus mzKO larvae at 11 dpf (left). 9 WT and 12 mzKO larvae were examined, respectively. Quantitation of overall distance swam in a fixed assay interval (right). Error bars indicate SEM.

 $\overline{1}$

Supplementary Fig. 5 Br functionally and physically interacts with electron transport chain Complex III

a. MitoCore reactions, ranked by how strongly their shutdown would increase both lactate and succinate export. (see SI for details).

b. Distributions of lactate and succinate export flux levels in 5000 random samples under unconstrained or CIV-flux-constrained.

c. Distributions of lactate and succinate export flux levels in 5000 random samples under unconstrained or CII-flux-constrained.

 $\mathsf b$

Supplementary Fig. 6 Br is required for Complex III Assembly and Activity

a. SDS-PAGE of mitochondria from control and *sh*BR3 U87MG. Protein abundance was normalized to the level of TOMM70.

b. BN-PAGE of mitochondria from U87MG stably transduced with scramble control (Scr) or shRNA targeting *BR* (shBR3).

c. Relative abundance of CIII₂, CIII in supercomplex (CIII_{SC}), CIV, CIV in supercomplex (CIV_{SC}), CI in supercomplex (CI_{SC}) in scramble control (Scr) or shRNA targeting *BR* (shBR3) transduced U87MG cells. Levels in Scr control were set to 1 in normalization. Error bars indicate SEM of five independent replicates. p-value from two-sided paired t-test.

d. BN-PAGE of mitochondria from U87MG cells after 8 days of doxycycline treatment at 15 µg/mL. Mitochondria were harvested at indicated times after releasing the doxycycline treatment. Relative abundance of CIII₂ and CIV is shown in the right panel. Error bars indicate SEM of three independent replicates. p-value from two-sided unpaired t-test.

e. Crispr/Cas9 mediated KO of Br (*1190007I07Rik*) using two gRNAs targeting the coding region. f. Immunoblotting validation of Br knock-out in mouse embryonic fibroblast (MEF).

g. Quantitative proteomic analysis of WT and *Br* KO MEF. Mean values of log2 fold change (*Br* KO/WT) of detected mitochondrial protein plotted. Proteins of ETC complexes are labeled in the indicated colors. CI-CIV = Complex I - Complex IV.

h. BN-PAGE analysis of isolated MEF mitochondria.

i. SDS-PAGE analysis of total and phosphorylated ACC and AMPK level in WT and *Br* KO MEF.

j. BN-PAGE and western blot analysis with zebrafish-specific Br antibody. Position of Br is indicated by black arrowheads as these signals are completely absent in the KO. Membrane was completely stripped and reprobed with Uqcrc1 and Mtco1 to reveal the position of CIII and CIV respectively. These data are representative of 4 independent BN-PAGE experiments.

k. 2nd dimension SDS-PAGE analysis to confirm that the indicated signal in (i) is indeed specific to Br, as judged by a signal at the expected 10 kD in the WT which is absent in the KO. A subpopulation of zebrafish Br co-migrates with CIII.

Supplementary Table 1. MitoCore: Individual deletions of CIII and CIV genes explain metabolomic observations.

Top genes ranked by their sum of effect size on lactate and succinate fluxes upon deletion. Highlighted in green are genes from complexes III and IV, in orange are genes from complex I.

Supplementary References

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