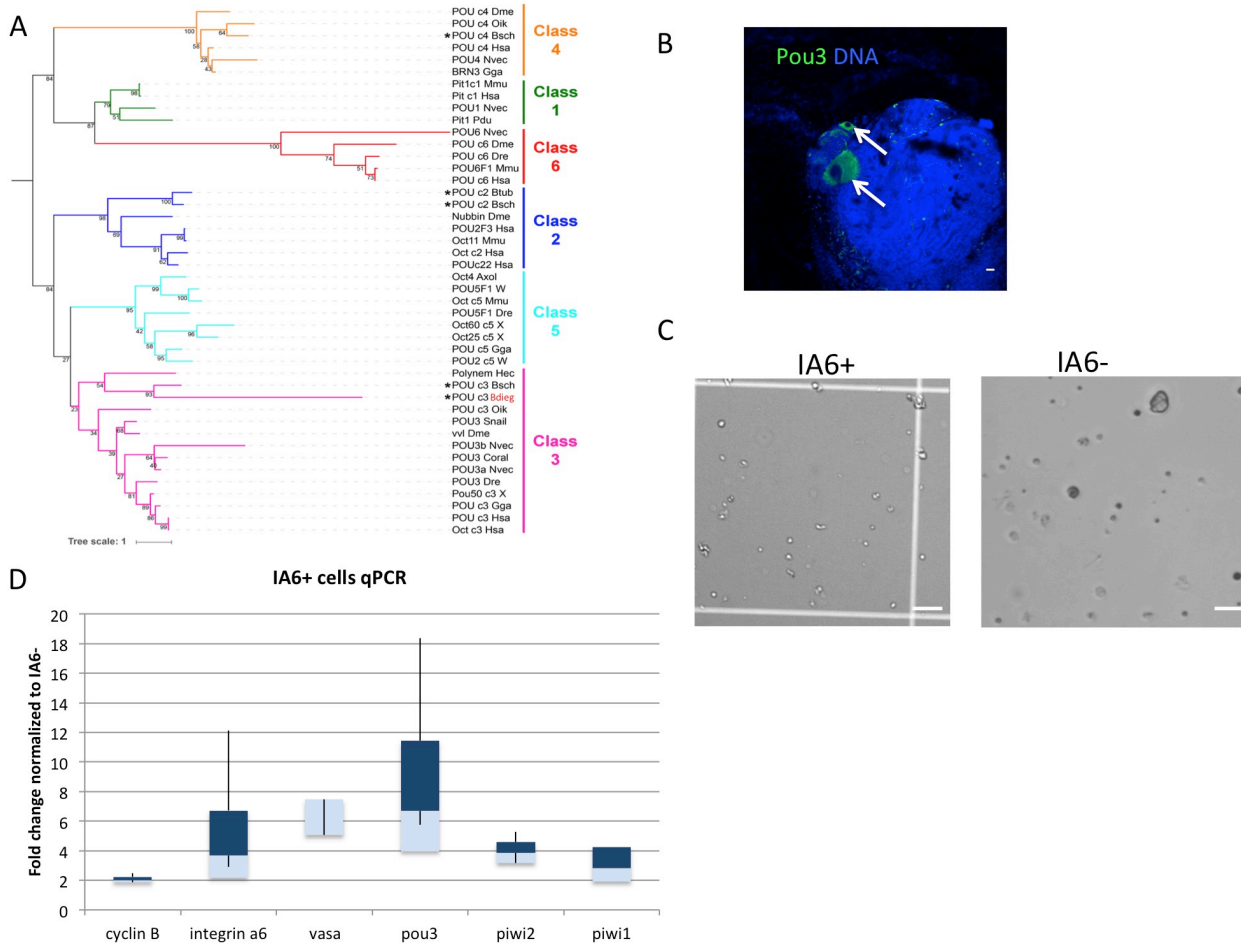


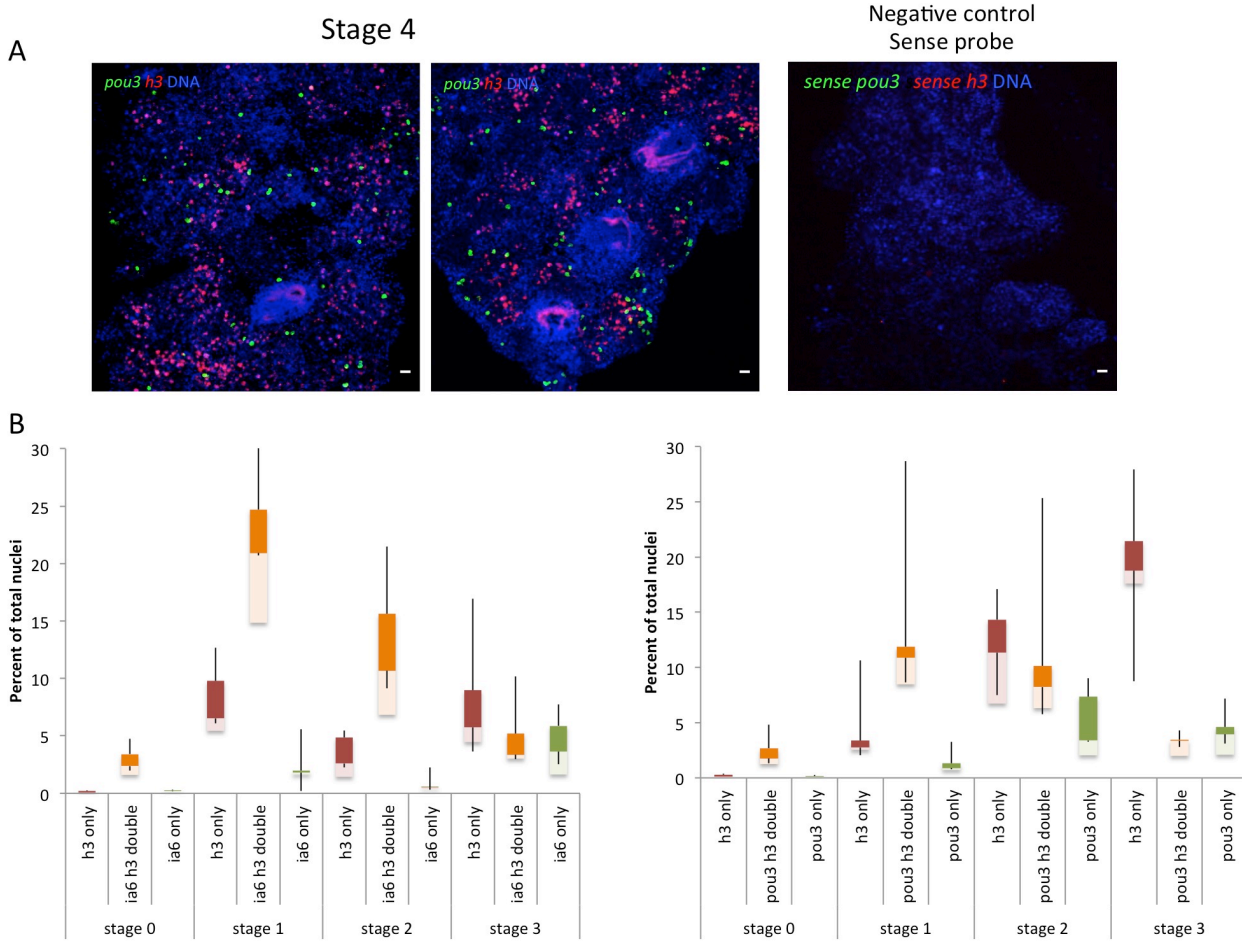
Integrin-alpha-6+ Candidate Stem Cells are responsible for whole body regeneration in an invertebrate chordate

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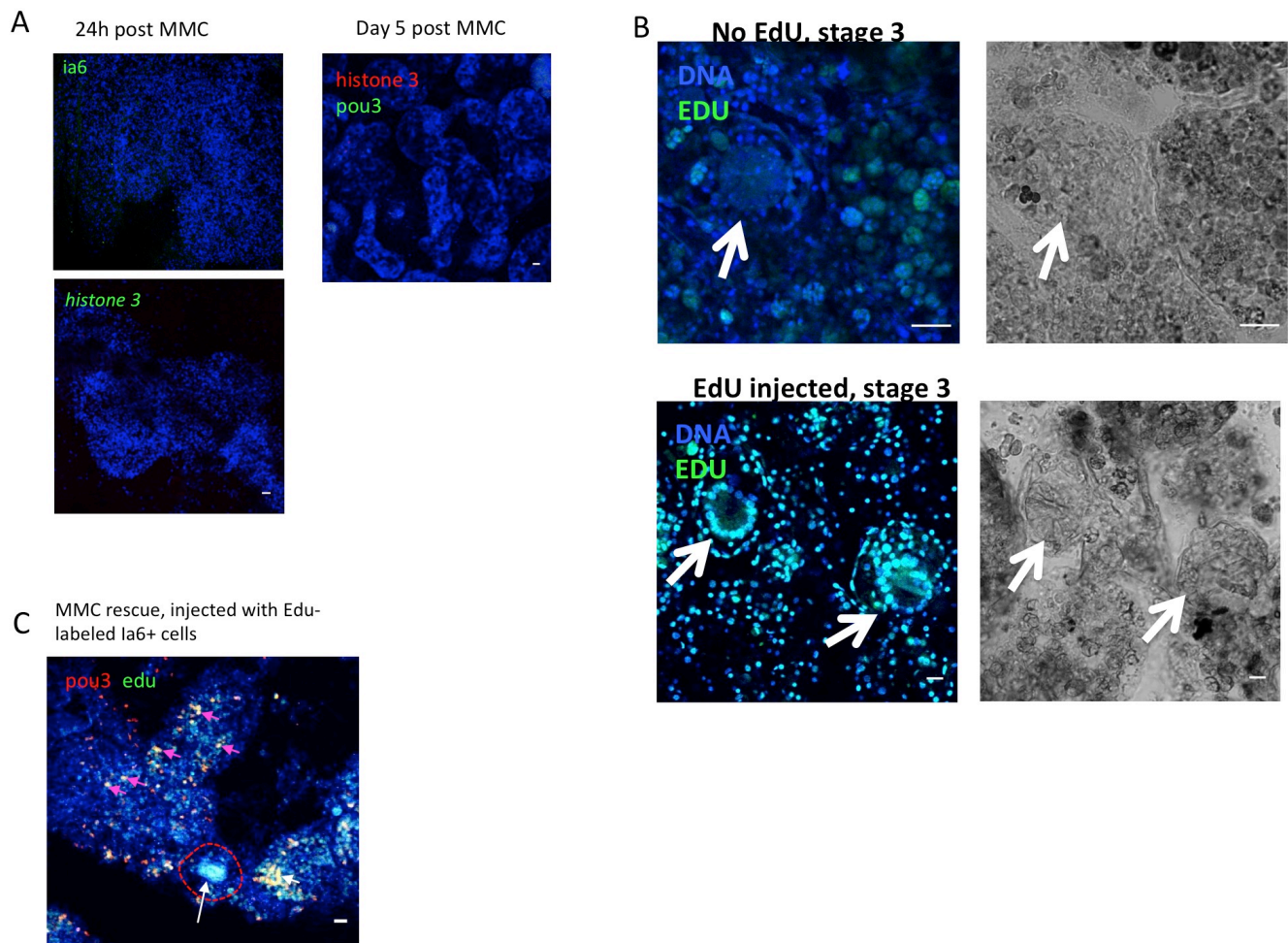
Supplementary Figures:



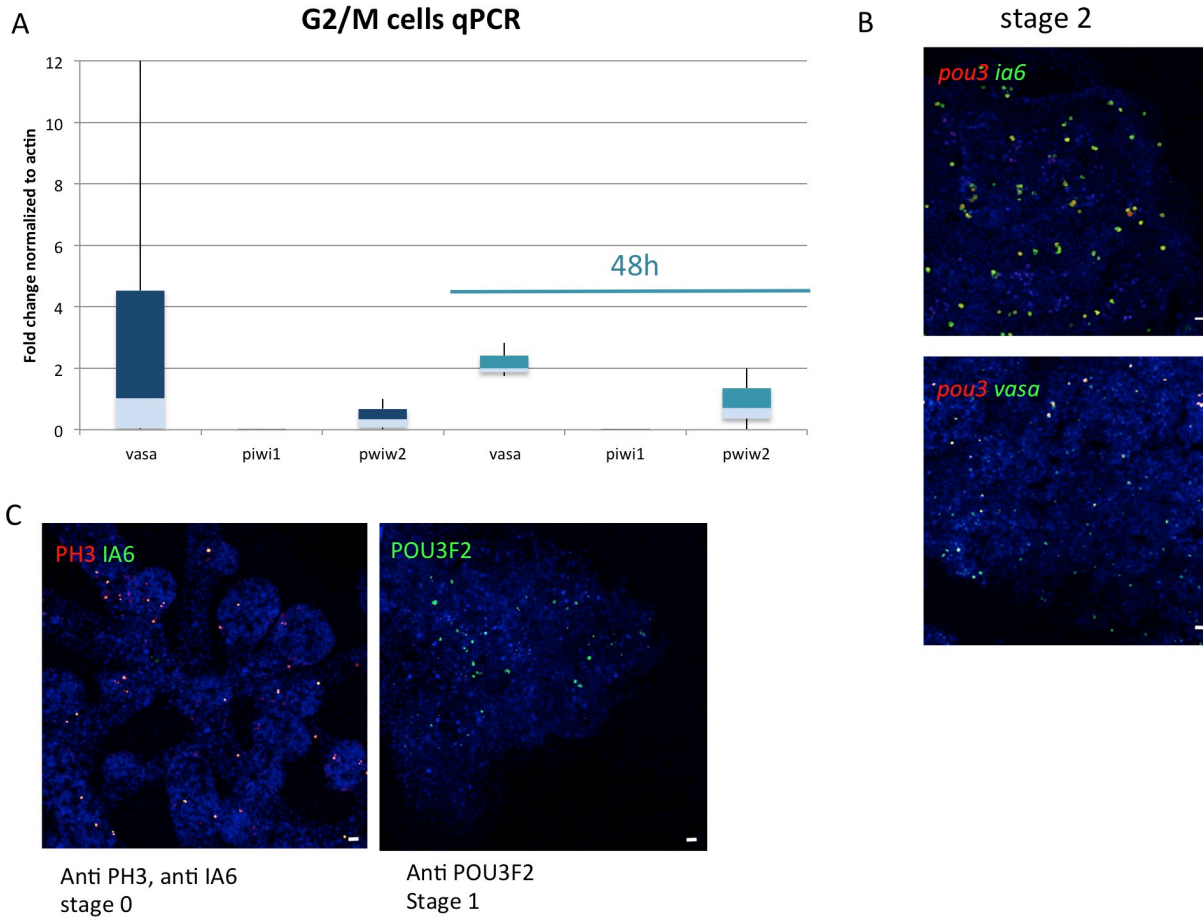
Supplementary Figure 1: Phylogenetic analysis of pou proteins, expression of pou3 on whole animals, expression levels of integrin-alpha6, vasa, pou3, piwi1 and piw2 in IA6+ cells, images of IA6+ and IA6- cells. A: Maximum likelihood phylogenetic analysis of POU family members. Phylogenetic tree was constructed with RAxML using a maximum likelihood method, the JTT substitution matrix, and empirical frequencies. Botryllid POU proteins identified in this study are marked by asterisks. Families of POU proteins are labeled and indicated by vertical lines. Nodes are labeled with bootstrap values in units of percentage. The scale bar for branch lengths indicates the mean number of inferred substitutions per site. B: FISH for pou3 (green) on whole colonies. Pou3 is expressed in germ cells associated with the secondary bud (arrows). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar: 20µm. C: Brightfield images of FACS-sorted IA6+ and IA6- cells. Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar 10µm. D: quantitative-real-time-PCR analysis of gene expression in FACS-sorted IA6+ cells. Data from 4 independent experiments are shown as normalized to IA6- cells. Box plot shows interquartile range (the distance between the upper and lower quartiles) and whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum of the data. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



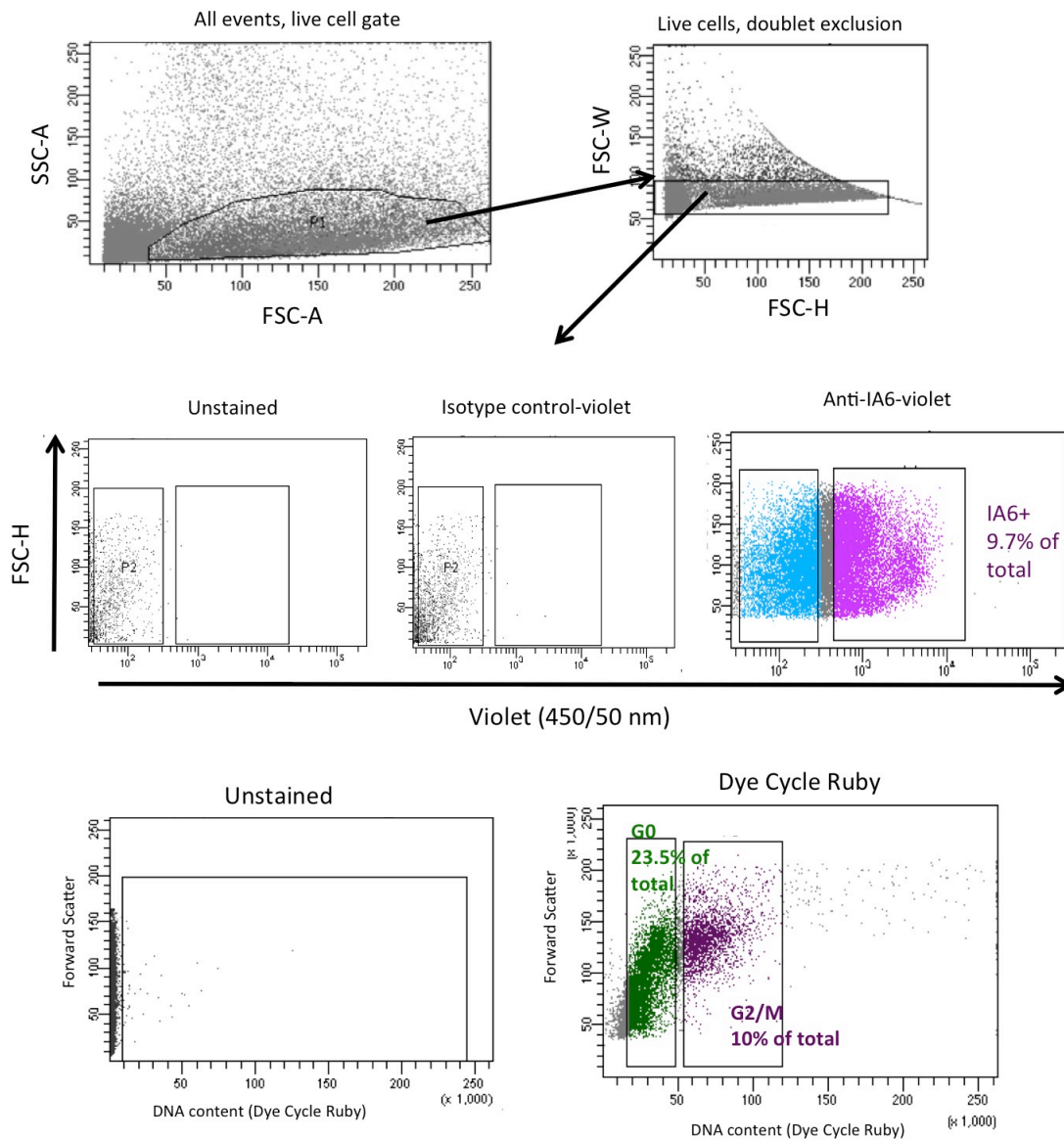
Supplementary Figure 2: Expression pattern of *pou3* and *histone 3* during stage 4 of WBR, and numbers of *ia6/h3* and *pou3/h3* positive cells during stages 0 to 3. A) FISH showing expression of *pou3* (green) and *histone 3* (h3, red) during stage 4 of WBR. DNA was stained with Hoechst (blue). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bars 20µm. Negative control shows signal with sense probe. B) Single positive (*pou3*, *ia6* or *h3*) and double positive (*pou3/h3* or *ia6/h3*) cells were counted using the cell counter feature in FIJI, and for each stage, images from 4 independent samples were counted. Graphs show percentages of positive cells among all Hoechst-positive nuclei per time point. Box plot shows interquartile range (the distance between the upper and lower quartiles) and whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum of the data. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Figure 3: Removal of *pou3/ia6/h3* positive cells after Mitomycin C treatment, Edu staining negative and positive controls, and *pou3* expression in Edu-labeled cells after transplantation of Edu+ IA6+ cells. A: FISH for *ia6* and histone 3 24h after treatment with Mitomycin C. FISH for histone 3 and *pou3* 5 days after treatment with Mitomycin C. Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar 20 μ m. B: Overlay of nuclear staining (Hoechst, blue) and Edu (green). In vessel sections from stage 3 samples not injected with EdU, no green EdU signal is detected. In stage 3 samples that have been injected with EdU at stage 0, EdU-positive cells are present in the blood as well as in regenerating double vesicles (white arrows). Images on the right show brightfield. Double vesicles are clearly visible (white arrows). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bars 20 μ m. C: MMC treated sample injected with Edu-labeled IA6+ cells. The sample was fixed at stage 3 (white arrow and red outline indicate double vesicle) and FISH for *ia6* was combined with Edu- staining. Edu-positive *ia6*+ cells are visible in the blood (pink arrows). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar 20 μ m.



Supplementary Figure 4: Expression of *vasa*, *piwi1* and *piw2* in G2/M cells at 0h and 48h, co-expression of *pou3/ia6* and *pou3/vasa* during stage 3, and expression of IA6 and POU3 protein. A: Q-PCR analysis of gene expression in cycling G2/M cells at different time points of WBR. Data from 4 independent experiments are shown as normalized to actin. Box plot shows interquartile range (the distance between the upper and lower quartiles) and whiskers indicate the minimum and maximum of the data. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. B: FISH showing co-expression of *pou3* (red) and *vasa* (green) in stage 2. DNA was stained with Hoechst (blue). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar 20 μ m. C: Immunofluorescence on cryosections of stage 0 vessel fragments. Left: Anti-Integrin-alpha 6 (green) and Anti-Histone H3 (phospho S10) (red). Right: Anti POU3F2 (green). Images are representatives of 4 independent experiments. Scale bar 20 μ m.



Supplementary Figure 5: Fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) gating strategy. Live cells (P1) were gated based on forward scatter (FSC) and side scatter (SSC) properties (top row). Doublets were excluded by plotting FSC-signal height (FSC-H) against FSC-signal width (FSC-W). The violet channel was chosen for staining of Integrin-alpha-6 because of very low autofluorescence, as shown in the unstained (natural fluorescent background) samples. IA6-negative cells were gated based on isotype-control staining, with 0.1% of cells in the positive gate in the isotype control sample. IA6+ cells comprised 9.7% of total cells in the sample stained with Anti-Integrin-alpha-6-violet. For Cell cycle/DNA content analysis, live cells (P1) were gated based on forward scatter (FSC) and side scatter (SSC) properties (top row). Doublets were excluded by plotting FSC-signal height (FSC-H) against FSC-signal width (FSC-W). DNA content was analyzed on a linear scale using Dye Cycle Ruby. G2/M cells have double the fluorescence intensity (DNA content) than G0 cells on a linear scale. Plots are representatives of 20 independent experiments.

Supplementary Methods:

Alignment of human Integrin-alpha-6 protein with translated *B. diegensis* integrin alpha 6 mRNA:

B. diegensis integrin-alpha-6 mRNA sequence in Supplementary Data 2

```
tBlastn
Query: human Integrin alpha 6 protein
Subject B. diegensis integrin alpha 6 mRNA

Score:506 bits(1302), Expect:2e-160,
Method:Compositional matrix adjust.,
Identities:376/1102(34%), Positives:553/1102(50%), Gaps:114/1102(10%)

Query 24   FNLDTREDNVIRKYGDPSLFGFSLAMHW---QLQPEDKRLLLVGAPRAEALPLQRANRT 80
          FN+D R   I K G PGS LFG S+A H   ++Q +D LL+VGAP A   ++
Sbjct 346   FNIDERHP--IVKTGPPGSLFGLSVAEHHVNERIQSKDNALLIVGAPTGVAYGSSDNTQS 519

Query 81   GGLYSCDITARGPCTRIEFNDADPTSESKEDQWMGVTVQSQGPGGKVVTC AHRYEKRQH 140
          G +Y C + + CT +           E+   QW+GV+V+S PGG+++TCAHRY
Sbjct 520   GAVYKCSVFS DANCTLVPIIPNSGRVENTTSQWLGVSVKSHKPGGQILTCAHRYTL--- 690

Query 141  VNTKQESRDIFGRCYVLSQNLRIEDDMDGGDWSFCDGRLRG-----HEKFGSCQQGVAAT 195
          +   GRC++L ++   D   ++ C+ + G   HE +G CQ G +
Sbjct 691  --VGSDDWVAPVGRCFMLEKDTTPVQDEFSAEYVPCEDKQDGLGRYSHEGYCYQAGASVN 864

Query 196  FTK-----DFHYIVFGAPGTYNWKGIVRVEQKNNTFFDMNIFEDGYPYEVGGETEHD E S L 249
          F   Y++ GAPG+ +W G V +K F           G E S
Sbjct 865  FADVPASDDGESYVLIGAPGSIHWSGAVLATRKGDF-----GLSVEKVVSD 1005

Query 250  VVPVANSY-LGFSLDSGKGI VSKDEITFVSGAPRANHSGAVVLLKRD MKS-----AHL 301
          +   +Y +G S+ +G I +D + FV+GAP AN +GAV +L++   ++L
Sbjct 1006  KDLTMTNYQMGS SVLAGF-IYREDAVNFVTGAPGANTTGAVYLEKTTPDVTNSDGD SYL 1182

Query 302  LPEHFDGEGGLASSFGYDVAVVDLNKDGWODIVIGAPOYFDRDGEVGGAVVYVMNQGRW 361
          +G+ +AS FG+D+ ++D+ DG D++IGAPQ++DR+ +VGGAVVYV+N+
Sbjct 1183  RIVETVNGDKVASRFGHDILLLDVTGDGKLDLIGAPQFYDRNDQVGGAVVYVYV NKGLST 1362

Query 362  NNVKPI-RLNGTKDSMFGIAVKNIGDINQDGYPIAVGAPYDD--LGKVFIIYHGSAN--- 415
          P RL G DS FG+AV + GD+N DG DIA+GAP + G V+IYHG ++
Sbjct 1363  IGPSPTRQLFGNIDSYFGMAVASAGDVNMDGVNDIAIGAPGGNKWTGVVYIYHGDSSADG 1542

Query 416  -GINTKPTQV-----LKGISPYFGYSIAGNMDLDRNSYPDVAVGSLSDSVTIFRSRP 466
          G+ KP+Q+           L G S GYS++G +D+D N YPD+AVGSLSDS +F SRP
Sbjct 1543  MGVGAKPSQII EASKISALGGNSYGLGYSLSGGLMDLNGYPIAVGSLSDSAVVF SRP 1722

Query 467  VINIQKTIITVTPNRI DLRQKTACGAPSGICLQVKSCFEY TANPAGYNPISISIVGTLEAEK 526
          V+N+ TIT +I+L +           PS L ++ C YTA P ++ + + G +E +
Sbjct 1723  VVNVGTITGPNKKEIELSE-----PSEQVL D IEICLRYTALPPSFDERV RVEGYVELDS 1887

Query 527  ERRKSGLSRRVQFRNQGSEPKYTOE-----LTLKRQ--KQKVCMEETLWLODNIRDKLRP 579
          R + GL SR+ F+ ++   Q   +TL RQ ++ C   +++++IRDKL P
Sbjct 1888  GRVERGLLSR LSFKRSS TKESEGQSKKPFVMTLHRQSAQRDKCDTYKTYMKNDIRDKLTP 2067

Query 580  IPI-----TASVEIQEPSSRRRVNSLPEVLPILNSDEPKTAHIDVHFLKEGCGDDNVCNS 634
          I +   T+ ++ RR P + PI+N+ TA ++ F K CGDD +C+S
Sbjct 2068  IDLKLFTTTPNDPPKRRRRRDTTYTPPI-PIMNTAITDTAVAEIEFAKR-CG DDEICSS 2241

Query 635  NL-KLEYKCTREGNQDKFSYLP IQKGVPELV LKQDKDIALEITV TNSPSNPRNPTKGDG 693
          NL K Y   + GN +   + G P L+L ++ I L I VTN   ++G+
Sbjct 2242  NLEKKAYYQVLKNGNSDLTRK--RNGQPLLILGTEEQIGLVIEVTN-----QNGE 2388

Query 694  DAHEAKLIATFPDTLTYSAYRELRAFPEKQLSCVAN-QNGSQADCELG NPFKRNSNVTFY 752
          DAH+A++ PD + YR +   + C + +N S C LGNPFK S+V F
Sbjct 2389  DAHQARMNIVLPDEV---EYRRIELMSGNAIHC PDKNRSLVVCHLGNPFKEESSVKFK 2559

Query 753  LVLSTTEVTFDTPDL D INLKLETTSNQDNLAPITAK-AKVVI ELLLSVSGVAKPSQVYFG 811
          L +S T+           + L+L TTS Q P T V +E L + G QV F
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Sbjct 2560 LKMSKTQSIQKATQFAVKLQLLTTSQKIPDPGTEYLVYVEVEAQLELVGYPDREQVDFS 2739
Query 812 GTVVGEQAMKSEDEVGSLIEYEFVRVINGKPLTNLGTATLNIQWPKEISNGKWLlyLVKV 871
G V+GE A+ + G+L +++ + N G + L I WP+ I NGKWL YL+K
Sbjct 2740 GVVIGESAVMKPTDAGTLHMHKYEIKNSGTGIVE--DVALKIMWPQAIINGKWLFLYLLKA 2913
Query 872 ESKGLEKVTCEPQKEINSLNLTESHNSRKKREITEKQIDDNRKFSLFAERKYQTLNC--S 929
E +G + + LNL + R KR++ N K KY +LNC
Sbjct 2914 EVQGFNCSSPGNVDPQLNL---KSKRAKRDVDPPP--GNLKDGGSPIIKYASLNCRDG 3078
Query 930 VNVNCVNIRCPLRGLDSK--ASLILRSRLWNSTFLEEYKLNLYLDILMRAFIDVTAAAEN 987
+NCV + C L L SK A + L + LWNSTFLEE+S N + + + V+ EN
Sbjct 3079 GGLNCVEVVCFLGDLASKVTARVDLTAILWNSTFLEEF--NVAGVYVESDAKVSILQEN 3252
Query 988 IRLPNAGTQVR---VTVFPSKTVAQYSGVPWwiiilvailagilmalilVFiLWKCgFFKR 1044
I+ T R TV P + + WWII VA AG+++L LV I+WKCgFFKR
Sbjct 3253 IKFSEESTLERSTTTTTLVPLEIFVPKQPIEWIIAVAGAAGLILLVFLVLMWKCgFFKR 3432
Query 1045 NKKDHYDATYHKAEIHAQPSDK 1066
Y KA H Q S K
Sbjct 3433 QTL----VDYQKARRHKQASKK 3486

Alignments of our *B. diegensis* sequences with public *B. leachii* sequences:

Alignment of *B. diegensis* actin with *B. leachii* sequence from NCBI genbank:

B. diegensis actin aligns with
actin, partial [*Botrylloides leachii*] 100%
Sequence ID: [ABN42646.1](#) Length: 131

Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps	Frame
273 bits(699)	8e-93	Compositional matrix adjust.	131/131(100 %)	131/131(100 %)	0/131(0%)	+1

Alignments with *B. leachii* transcriptome on ANISEED:
(https://www.aniseed.cnrs.fr/aniseed/default/blast_search)

B. diegensis ia6 probe sequence aligns 99%
Result #1 on Boleac.CG.SB_v3.S108.g00853.01.t
Length=5047
Score = 1336 bits (723), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 731/735 (99%), Gaps = 0/735 (0%)
Strand=Plus/Plus

B. diegensis vasa probe aligns 100%:
Result #1 on Boleac.CG.SB_v3.S892.g15055.01.t
Length=1542
Score = 638 bits (345), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 345/345 (100%), Gaps = 0/345 (0%)
Strand=Plus/Plus

B. diegensis piwi1 probe aligns 99%
Result #1 on Boleac.CG.SB_v3.S686.g13121.01.t
Length=3041
Score = 2913 bits (1577), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 1598/1610 (99%), Gaps = 0/1610 (0%)
Strand=Plus/Plus

B. diegensis notch2 probe aligns 99%
Result #1 on Boleac.CG.SB_v3.S59.g12005.01.t
Length=7928
Score = 732 bits (396), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 402/405 (99%), Gaps = 0/405 (0%)
Strand=Plus/Minus

B. diegensis notch1 probe aligns 99%
Result #1 on Boleac.CG.SB_v3.S59.g12005.01.tLength=7928
Score = 1471 bits (796), Expect = 0.0
Identities = 798/800 (99%), Gaps = 0/800 (0%)
Strand=Plus/Plus