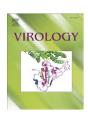
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# An expanded clade of rodent Trim5 genes

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#### ABSTRACT

Trim $5\alpha$  from primates (including humans), cows, and rabbits has been shown to be an active antiviral host gene that acts against a range of retroviruses. Although this suggests that Trim $5\alpha$  may be a common antiviral restriction factor among mammals, the status of *Trim5* genes in rodents has been unclear. Using genomic and phylogenetic analyses, we describe an expanded paralogous cluster of at least eight *Trim5*-like genes in mice (including the previously described *Trim12* and *Trim30* genes), and three *Trim5*-like genes in rats. Our characterization of the rodent *Trim5* locus, and comparison to the *Trim5* locus in humans, cows, and rabbits, indicates that *Trim5* has undergone independent evolutionary expansions within species. Evolutionary analysis shows that rodent *Trim5* genes have evolved under positive selection, suggesting evolutionary conflicts consistent with important antiviral function. Sampling six rodent *Trim5* genes failed to reveal antiviral activities against a set of eight retroviral challenges, although we predict that such activities exist.

#### Introduction

In order to counteract pathogens, host organisms evolved multiple strategies within the broad context of adaptive and innate immunity. One such innate immune strategy involves the host factor known as  $Trim5\alpha$  (Bieniasz, 2004; Nisole et al., 2005).  $Trim5\alpha$  was identified as the factor responsible for preventing the infection of rhesus macaque cells with HIV-1 (Keckesova et al., 2004; Stremlau et al., 2004). Members of the Trim gene family are characterized by the presence of a TRI-partite Motif (TRIM) consisting of RING, B-box and coiled-coil domains (Nisole et al., 2005; Reymond et al., 2001). Some TRIM proteins, such as  $Trim5\alpha$ , contain a fourth domain called the PRYSPRY domain, also known as the B30.2 domain (James et al., 2007; Reymond et al., 2001). In humans there are more than 70 members of the TRIM gene family, some of which appear to have vital roles in restricting viral infections (Nisole et al., 2005).

Trim5 $\alpha$  specifically recognizes viral capsids in the cytoplasm via its PRYSPRY domain (Sebastian and Luban, 2005), imposing a restriction before reverse transcription takes place. Under some circumstances restriction occurs after reverse transcription (Perron et al., 2007; Stremlau et al., 2006). The mechanism of viral inhibition by Trim5 $\alpha$  appears to occur in multiple steps that include premature uncoating and/or capsid sequestration and destruction (Anderson et al., 2006;

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Stremlau et al., 2006; Wu et al., 2006; Sawyer et al., 2005). Although other members of the *TRIM* multi-gene family have been shown to exhibit antiviral activity (Nisole et al., 2005), none are as dramatic as the restriction activity of Trim $5\alpha$  against the retroviruses it recognizes.

In primates, Trim5 $\alpha$  evolves at an extremely rapid rate (Liu et al., 2005; Sawyer et al., 2006; Sawyer et al., 2007). Such rapid evolution can be a hallmark of proteins involved in virus-host interactions because of evolutionary dynamics at the protein-protein interaction interface. Signatures of adaptive evolution (also known as positive selection) can be identified in comparisons of nucleotide sequences as a significant abundance of non-synonymous changes versus synonymous ones. Studying these signatures of positive selection can provide important information about the evolutionary history of genes and critical residues involved in host-virus interactions. For example, the region of the PRYSPRY of Trim5 $\alpha$  that serves as a major determinant for the specificity of Trim5 $\alpha$  towards capsid (Nakayama et al., 2005; Stremlau et al., 2005; Yap et al., 2005) was accurately predicted independently by identification of a group of amino acids under strong positive selection (Liu et al., 2005; Sawyer et al., 2005).

Trim5 $\alpha$ -mediated restriction appears to be widespread in mammals. After its identification in rhesus macaques (Stremlau et al., 2004), Trim5 $\alpha$  was found to be present in diverse species of primates (Brennan et al., 2007; Keckesova et al., 2004; Nisole et al., 2004; Sawyer et al., 2005) and other mammals such as cows (Si et al., 2006; Ylinen et al., 2006) and rabbits (Schaller et al., 2007). Cows have an expanded clade of five paralogous *Trim5* genes, one of which (Trim5-3) functions as an antiviral factor (Sawyer et al., 2007; Si et al., 2006; Ylinen et al.,

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2006). In contrast, dogs lack  $Trim5\alpha$  due to disruption of its open reading frame (Sawyer et al., 2007). Other studies have investigated whether rodents have orthologs of the mammalian Trim5 gene, but have failed to reach consensus (Schaller et al., 2007; Si et al., 2006). Part of this confusion arose from the fact that the two mouse TRIM genes with closest sequence similarity to Trim5 are named Trim12 and Trim30 (the human genome does not encode genes with these designations). A mouse TRIM gene known by its RIKEN cDNA number (9230105E10Rik) was recently referred to as Trim5 (Schaller et al., 2007). However, due to a lack of rigorous examination of the syntenic mouse chromosomal region, the presence of Trim5 in rodents remained inconclusive.

Here, we use genomic and phylogenetic analyses to rigorously analyze the Trim5 locus in the genomes of mouse and rat. We find an expanded paralogous cluster of at least eight Trim5-like genes in mice and three Trim5-like genes in rats. Of the mouse Trim5-like genes, at least five contain all four canonical domains of Trim5-like genes, at least five contain all four canonical domains of Trim5. Further analysis suggests that most of these mouse Trim5 genes are expressed. Arguing against the notion that these are redundant or decaying gene duplications, we show that mouse Trim5 homologs have evolved under positive selection. In some cases the signature of selection is especially strong, suggesting a role in immunity similar to antiviral mammalian  $Trim5\alpha$  orthologs. Murine Trim5 genes did not restrict any of the extant retroviruses we tested. However, based on the evolutionary analysis performed here, we predict that the viruses rodent Trim5 orthologs restrict (or may have restricted in the past, Kaiser et al., 2007) remain to be identified.

#### Results

Identification of a rodent Trim5 locus

The UCSC genome browser BLAT tool (Kent, 2002) was used to query the mouse genome (Mouse Genome Sequencing Consortium et al., 2002) July 2007 assembly with human  $Trim5\alpha$ , which revealed a locus of multiple, adjacent Trim5-like genes on the syntenic mouse chromosome 7 (7qE3). This cluster contains the genes 9230105E10Rik, Trim12, Trim30, as well as several unnamed gene predictions. Similarly, our search of the rat genome assembly (Gibbs et al., 2004) with human  $Trim5\alpha$  revealed a locus of three unnamed, predicted rat Trim5-like genes on the syntenic chromosome 1 (1q32). Although genome databases were helpful in identifying this locus, the presence of tandem gene duplication events can potentially result in assembly errors due to repeat-rich regions. Indeed, the assembly and gene annotation of the mouse Trim5 locus changed during the course of preparation of this study. Therefore, we identified single or multiple overlapping bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) clone sequences that encompass each locus. By manually examining each BAC for individual exons of  $Trim5\alpha$ , we confirmed the gene content of the locus, and collated the predicted gene sequences for each gene (Fig. 1A). We performed a similar analysis for Trim6, Trim34, and Trim22 because these represent proximal genes to Trim5 in all mammals tested so far (Sawyer et al., 2007).

Using these mouse and rat sequences, as well as previously published sequences from the *Trim5* loci in humans, rhesus macaques, cows, dogs, and rabbits, we constructed a phylogenetic tree using maximum likelihood methods to infer the evolutionary histories of the rodent *Trim5*-like genes. We excluded exon8 (which encodes the PRYSPRY domain) from our phylogenetic analysis because this domain has evolved rapidly in some cases, and therefore might bias phylogenetic analysis. As an outgroup, we included human *Trim21*, a closely related *Trim* gene that does not belong to the *Trim5* locus (Fig. 1B). Our phylogenetic analysis revealed four major clades whose members cluster tightly together with strong bootstrap support: a *Trim6* clade, a *Trim34* clade, a *Trim22* clade, and a *Trim5* clade. Strong bootstrap support (97%) for this multi-species *Trim5* clade distin-

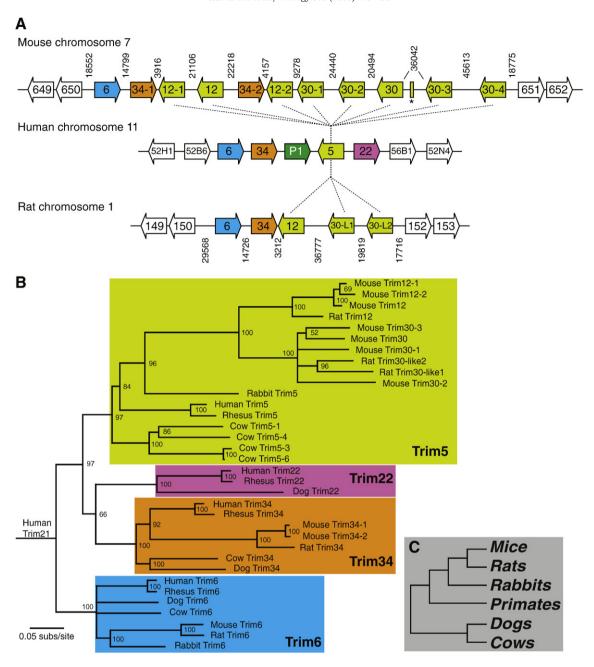
guishes it from the next closest relatives of *Trim5*, which are *Trim22*, *Trim6* and *Trim34*. Finally, when present, these genes form branches in an order consistent with the divergence of species, as predicted for orthologous genes (Fig. 1C) (Hedges, 2002).

Similar to the previously published human, cow, and dog loci (Sawyer et al., 2007), the rodent *Trim5* locus sits within an expansion of olfactory receptor genes that includes *Trim6* and *Trim34* (Fig. 1A). Mice are unique compared to rats, humans and cows, in that their genome contains two *Trim34* genes that we have named *Trim34-1* and *Trim34-2*. While the human locus contains a single *Trim5* gene, tandem gene duplications have resulted in eight mouse *Trim5* genes and three rat *Trim5* genes. The cow locus contains a similar expansion of *Trim5* genes. However, unlike the cow locus, the *Trim5* genes in rodents are in antisense orientation with respect to *Trim6* and *Trim34*. Notably, *Trim22*, which is present in the human and dog loci, is absent from both rodent and cow loci that have undergone independent expansions of the *Trim5* genes. Taken together, these findings confirm that the *Trim5* loci identified in rodents is in synteny with the *Trim5* loci characterized in other mammals.

We find that all of the rodent *Trim5* genes are orthologous to *Trim5* from humans, rhesus macaques, cows, and rabbits. Interestingly, there are two distinct monophyletic groups within the rodent *Trim5* gene cluster: Those related to Trim12 or to Trim30. Unnamed rodent genes were given names to reflect their presence in either the Trim12 or Trim30 phylogenetic grouping, a system that also results in grouping genes by their chromosomal positions. Mouse genes phylogenetically associated with Trim12 were named Trim12-1 and Trim12-2 (formerly mouse 9230105E10Rik). Similarly, genes associated with Trim30 were named Trim30-1, Trim30-2 and Trim30-3. The rat gene most closely related to mouse Trim12 was named rat Trim12, and those associated with mouse Trim30 were named rat Trim30-like1 and Trim30-like2. The latter two genes appear to result from independent duplication events after the mouse and rat species split. Therefore, they were tagged '-like,' so as not to imply orthology to mouse Trim30-1 and Trim30-2.

Domain organization and expression of rodent Trim5 homologs

The primate restriction factor  $Trim5\alpha$  contains four canonical domains: RING, B-box, coiled-coil, and PRYSPRY. Our domain analysis revealed that five out of eight mouse Trim5 genes, and each of the three rat Trim5 genes, contain all four canonical domains of primate Trim $5\alpha$  (Fig. 2). Also considering their phylogenetic arrangement, we refer to these collectively as rodent  $Trim5\alpha$ . Two of the three noncanonical mouse Trim5 genes lack the PRYSPRY domain; these are mouse Trim12 and Trim30-1. The presence of a PRYSPRY domain downstream of Trim12 is not detectable in the BAC sequence. On the other hand, Trim30-1 contains a cryptic PRYSPRY domain that is present in the BAC sequence at approximately the expected distance from the upstream exon, but this domain has been pseudogenized due to numerous stop codons. The third non-canonically structured mouse Trim5 gene (Trim30-4) lacks the RING, B-box and coiled-coil domains, and consists of only a partial PRYSPRY domain downstream of a start codon. In addition to these mouse Trim5 genes on chromosome 7, we located a Trim12-like gene outside the mouse Trim5 locus on chromosome X, which we named Trim12-X. It encodes a partial coiled-coil domain together with a PRYSPRY domain, all downstream of a start codon. Interestingly, in addition to lacking introns, Trim12-X also contains a poly-A sequence downstream of its stop codon, suggesting that it may have arisen from a retrotransposition event. A similar Trim5 gene was observed external to the main Trim5 gene locus in the cow genome (Sawyer et al., 2007). While screening the mouse BAC sequence corresponding to the Trim5 locus, we also discovered short RING domain like sequences (30-45 nucleotides in length) that appear to be by-products of recombination events that reorganized this gene cluster. These findings demonstrate that the



**Fig. 1.** A paralogous expansion of rodent *Trim5* genes. (A) The mouse and rat *Trim5* loci are compared to the human locus. All three loci sit in an olfactory receptor gene expansion, here shown with only two of the genes on each side (white arrows). Distances between genes are drawn roughly to scale, with numbers on the top (for mouse) and bottom (for rat) indicating distance between genes in basepairs, based on BAC sequences. The Trim5 homologs are shown in green arrows, with dark green color for a human Trim5-like pseudogene (P1). The asterisk (\*) denotes partial *Trim5*-like sequences found in the mouse genome. *Trim34* homologs are shown in orange, *Trim6* homologs in blue, and *Trim22* is shown in magenta. Mouse *Trim12-X* is not included because it is on the X chromosome. *30-L1* and *30-L2* refer to rat *Trim30*-like1 and *Trim30*-like2, respectively. (B) The DNA sequence for RBCC domains were used to construct a maximum likelihood tree with 100 replicates for estimating bootstrap support. Mouse *Trim12-X* and *Trim30*-d are not included because they do not contain the RBCC domains. Color profiles match those used in (A). Scale for branch length is shown below the tree. (C) Phylogeny of the species used in (B), based on reference (Hedges, 2002).

mouse Trim5 locus has undergone dynamic evolutionary events that are quite distinct from those in the primate lineages.

To investigate which rodent *Trim5* homologs are expressed, we first checked the NCBI expressed sequence tags (ESTs) online database for ESTs corresponding to each gene (Fig. 2). Most rodent *Trim5* homologs contained ESTs from several tissues suggesting that they are expressed. We also screened RNA from mouse cell lines to confirm the expression of each Trim5α homolog containing all canonical domains. Using primers specific to each mouse *Trim5* gene (see Methods for primer sequences) we performed reverse transcriptase PCR (RT-PCR) on cytoplasmic RNA from NIH3T3 cells (from *Mus musculus*). We

found that the full length Trim5 homologs, with one exception (Trim12-1), are expressed (summarized in Fig. 2). It is possible that Trim12-1 is also expressed based on a solitary EST from a 16 day old neonate mouse (Fig. 2). These data indicate that most rodent  $Trim5\alpha$  homologs are indeed transcribed.

Evidence of recombination among rodent Trim5 homologs between RBCC and PRYSPRY domains

Given the tandem arrangement of rodent *Trim5* genes, we looked for evidence of recombination among mouse and rat *Trim5* 

TRIM gene Refseq or Genbank	Coiled- RING B-box Coil PR\	Y-SPRY EST	Expression profile in NIH3T3 cells
<b>Human Trim5a</b> NM_033034		BM739708	N/A
Mouse Trim12 NM_02385.2		AA529338	Did not attempt.
Mouse Trim12-1 None		BY723434	X
Mouse Trim12-2 9230105E10Rik		BB433710	$\mathbf{S}'$
Mouse Trim12-X XM_142100 (predict.)		None	Did not attempt.
Mouse Trim30 NM_009099.2		BF321797	$\mathbf{Z}'$
<b>Mouse Trim30-1</b> AK040770		BY751923	Did not attempt.
Mouse Trim30-2 EG434219 (predict.)		CJ168752	<b>∀</b>
Mouse Trim30-3 Al451617		BY734184	<b>∀</b>
Mouse Trim30-4 EG625321		None	Did not attempt.
Rat Trim12 RGD1304579 (predict.)		CO573009	N/A
Rat Trim30-like1 None		None	N/A
Rat Trim30-like2 None		CV076863	N/A
<b>Mouse Trim6</b> NM001013616.2		CD550899	✓
Rat Trim6 None		CV121315	N/A
Mouse Trim34-1 NM_030684.3		BI653640	₹
Mouse Trim34-2 AF220140		CF426247	X
Rat Trim34 None		CO563709	N/A
Legend: Expressed,	X Not expressed, N/A Not app	licable	

Fig. 2. Domain organization and expression of rodent Trim5 loci genes. Domains of rodent Trim5, Trim6 and Trim34 genes are compared to those of human Trim5. Five of the mouse and three of the rat Trim5 paralogs contain all four of the canonical domains of  $Trim5\alpha$ . Previously existing (if available) RefSeq or Genbank accession numbers are shown below each gene name and are gathered from the NCBI and UCSC genome browser online servers. The expression files for mouse Trim5 genes containing the four canonical domains of  $Trim5\alpha$  are shown for NIH3T3 cells. Expressed indicates that we were able to amplify cDNA from NIH3T3 RNA extracts, using reverse transcriptase-PCR. Not expressed indicates that we were not able to amplify cDNA from NIH3T3 RNA extracts, even though primers were designed according to predicted sequences. Not applicable indicates that the NIH3T3 cell line was not suitable to amplify that gene.

homologs before performing evolutionary analysis. This is because recombination can result in signatures that can resemble adaptive evolution and may hinder the reliability of evolutionary analyses for detecting positive selection (Anisimova et al., 2003). We analyzed rodent Trim5 sequences for evidence of recombination using the Genetic Algorithm for Recombination Detection (GARD) tool (Kosakovsky Pond et al., 2006, Pond and Frost, 2005). Using the single breakpoint analysis, GARD identified a recombination breakpoint with high confidence among the rodent Trim5 homologs that mapped to the start of exon8, which encodes the PRYSPRY domain (Fig. 3A). Next, using rabbit Trim5 as an outgroup, we compared two phylogenetic trees constructed using either the PRYSPRY domain (encoded by exon8) or the RBCC domains (excluding exon8; Figs. 3B, C) to see if we could confirm the recombination breakpoint identified by GARD. The trees yielded different branching patterns for mouse Trim30-2 and rat Trim30-like2, suggesting that an ancestral recombination event had taken place for these genes. To see if these two topologies were significantly different from one another, we performed the Kishino and Hasegawa (1989) and Shimodaira and Hasegawa (1999) tests which force both topologies onto the sample set and assess likelihood. Both tests confirmed the two trees to be significantly different (p<0.05). These results imply that recombination has shuffled the histories of the RBCC and PRYSPRY domains in the rodent Trim5 genes, but we obtained no evidence of recombination within either the RBCC or PRYSPRY domains themselves.

Positive selection among rodent Trim5 paralogs

We next asked whether any of the rodent *Trim5* homologs show signs of adaptive evolution. Due to the recombination breakpoint between the RBCC and PRYSPRY domains, we analyzed RBCC and PRYSPRY domain phylogenies separately for positive selection. To strengthen our analysis we also included *Trim5* homologs from the mouse species, *Mus dunni*. Since the genome sequence database for *M. dunni* is very limited, we amplified *M. dunni* Trim5α paralogs using RT-PCR on RNA from MDTF cells. We amplified *Trim12-2*, *Trim30*, and *Trim30-3* from MDTF cells, but could not recover *Trim12-1* and *Trim30-2* (data not shown). Next, using rabbit, rhesus and human *Trim5* as an outgroup, we again constructed two phylogenetic trees using the maximum likelihood method for rodent *Trim5* homologs from mice (*M. musculus* and *M. dunni*) and rats based on the RBCC (all but exon8) or PRYSPRY (exon8 only) sequences (Fig. 4) to account for the potential recombination breakpoint.

We analyzed our sample set for evidence of positive selection using the codeml application from the phylogenetic software package PAML (Yang, 2007). By using input sequences and phylogenetic topology, PAML compares the substitution rates of non-synonymous (dN) and

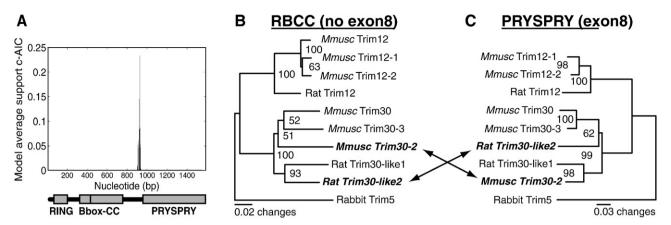
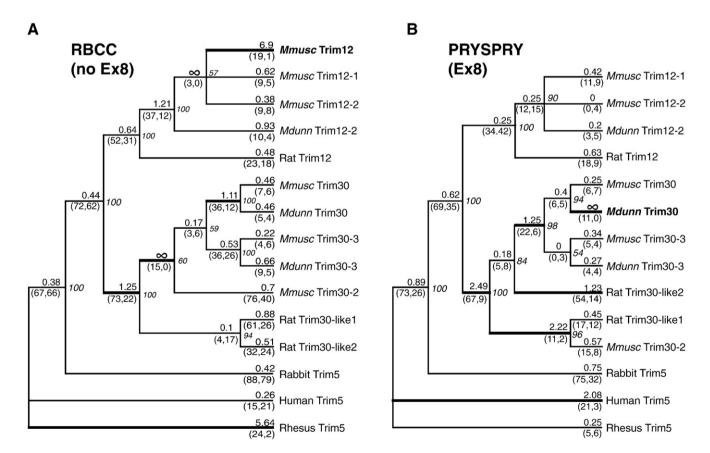


Fig. 3. Recombination among rodent Trim5 genes. (A) The online GARD tool identifies a breakpoint upstream of the PRYSPRY (exon8) domain for the full-length canonical  $Trim5\alpha$  sequences from mice, rats and rabbits. The second-order Akaike Information Criterion (c-AIC) value is shown on the y axis as a measure to show the goodness of fit of this location of the breakpoint compared to other locations identified by GARD (not shown). The model average support value (numbers on the y axis) by itself has no meaning; they are used by GARD to identify the best single breakpoint among a series of possible breakpoints. Nucleotide position is indicated on the x axis. DNA sequences of the (B) RBCC domains (excluding exon8), and of the (C) PRYSPRY (exon8) domain for rodent Trim5 homologs were used to construct a maximum likelihood tree. Rabbit  $Trim5\alpha$  was used as an outgroup. Sequences that showed evidence of recombination are shown in bold text. Mmusc stands for Mus musc musc

synonymous (dS) codon changes for each sequence. The ratio of dN to dS (dN/dS) provides information on the nature of selective pressures acting on each gene (Holmes, 2004; Yang and Nielsen, 1998). A higher than expected rate of non-synonymous changes (dN/dS greater than 1) indicates positive selection. Using likelihood ratio tests (LRT) to

compare Nssites models (M1, M7) in which positive selection is prohibited (null model), to models (M2, M8) in which positive selection is allowed, we find that allowing positive selection provides a much better fit to the data (Table 1) for both the RBCC domains (p<0.001) as well as the PRYSPRY domains (p=0.002) of *Trim5* genes



**Fig. 4.** Adaptive evolution of rodent Trim5 homologs. Maximum likelihood trees for DNA sequences of (A) RBCC domains (excluding exon8) and (B) PRYSPRY domain (exon8) are shown for rodent *Trim5* homologs, with bootstrap values at each node out of 100 replicates. Rabbit, rhesus and human *Trim5α* are used as out-groups. Branch dN/dS values calculated by PAML are shown above each branch. The number of non-synonymous changes (N) and synonymous changes (S) are shown below each branch in parentheses as (N,S). Branch dN/dS values significantly greater than 1 are highlighted as a bold line. Lineages with the highest dN/dS on each tree are highlighted in bold text (*Mmusc Trim12* for RBCC, *Mdunn Trim30* for PRYSPRY). *Mmusc* stands for *Mus musculus*, and *Musdunn* for *Mus dunni*. *Mmusc Trim12* was excluded from the PRYSPRY tree (B) because it lacks a PRYSPRY domain.

 Table 1

 Likelihood ratio tests for positive selection among rodent and rabbit Trim5 homologs

		Codon model <sup>a</sup>	M7 vs M8 <sup>b</sup>	Tree length <sup>c</sup>		
	(A) RBCC (no exon8) of Trim5 paralogs from Mus musculus, Mus dunni, rat, and rabbit					
		f3x4	p<0.001	3.85		
		f61	p<0.001	4.1		
	Excluding Mus musculus Trim12:	f61	p<0.001	4.06		
PRYSPRY (exon8) of Trim5 paralogs from Mus musculus, Mus dunni, rat, and rabbit						
		f3x4	p = 0.0021	4.39		
		f61	p = 0.006	4.42		
	Excluding Mus dunni Trim30:	f61	p = 0.019	4.38		
	Excluding rabbit Trim5α:	f61	p = 0.019	4.38		
	(B) SPRY (exon8) of Trim30 orthologs from mouse species and rat					
		f3x4	p = 0.003	1.63		
		f61	p = 0.0075	1.63		
	Excluding Mus dunni Trim30:	f61	p = 0.014	1.52		

- (A) Maximum likelihood trees of DNA sequences for RBCC (excluding exon8) and PRYSPRY (exon8) are used for Trim5 paralogs from mice, rats and for rabbit  $Trim5\alpha$  (see Fig. 4 for tree). The analysis for RBCC domains was repeated by excluding the Trim with the highest branch dN/dS value ( $Mmusc\ Trim12$ , see Fig. 4A). Similarly, the analysis for the PRYSPRY domain was repeated by excluding the Trim with the highest branch dN/dS value ( $Mdunni\ Tim30$ , see Fig. 4B) and also excluding rabbit  $Trim5\alpha$ .
- (B) *Mus* species phylogeny (Tucker 2006) is used for *Trim30* orthologs from mice and rats (see Fig. 5A). The analysis for exon8 domains was repeated by excluding *Mus dunni* Trim30 (the highest branch dN/dS value).
- <sup>a</sup> Two different codon models are used (f3x4 and f61) to ensure that codon frequency models yield similar results.
- <sup>b</sup> Likelihood ratio tests were done using log likelihood values obtained from PAML, comparing a null model (M7) to a positive selection model (M8). *p* values were obtained running a chi square test of log likelihood values, with 2 degrees of freedom.
- <sup>c</sup> Tree length values obtained by PAML based on the input tree, used to assess evolutionary depth of sample input.

from mice, rats and rabbits. In the RBCC domain, we estimate that 7% of codons have evolved with an average dN/dS ratio of 3, whereas in the PRYSPRY domain, 6% are estimated to have evolved with an average dN/dS ratio of 2.5. Similar results were also obtained on excluding the rabbit Trim5 gene, a known antiviral gene. In contrast, no evidence of positive selection is found in the Trim6 and Trim34 genes (data not shown).

We also calculated the dN/dS values for each branch on the Trim5 phylogenetic tree (Fig. 4), separately for the RBCC and PRYSPRY domains. Because these dN/dS values are averaged over the entire domain, most lineages exhibited a dN/dS less than 1 with wide variation among different lineages. Indeed, when we compared the likelihood of a single dN/dS fit over the entire tree to one that allowed different dN/dS values for each branch, the latter provided a much better fit for both the RBCC (p < 0.01) and PRYSPRY (p < 0.02) domains, indicating that position selection on both domains has been quite episodic, similar to previous observations of other TRIM genes (Sawyer et al., 2005; Sawyer et al., 2007). In particular, the lineage leading to Trim12 from M. musculus in the RBCC tree shows the highest dN/dS value of 6.9, with 19 non-synonymous changes compared to 1 synonymous change (Fig. 4A). Surprisingly, Trim12 is one of the mouse Trim5 homologs that lacks a PRYSPRY domain. Because this domain interacts with viral capsid, it frequently evolves the most rapidly among antiviral Trim5 genes. To rule out that the overall signature of positive selection for Trim12 might be the sole contributor to the significant LRT for the entire RBCC tree, we excluded M. musculus Trim12 from our analysis. The null model was still rejected favorably (p<0.001, Table 1) indicating that positive selection is widespread among the RBCC domains for rodent Trim5 homologs, albeit particularly dramatic in the case of Trim12. Similarly, in the PRYSPRY (exon8) tree, Trim30 from M. dunni shows the highest dN/dS value, with 11 non-synonymous changes compared to zero synonymous changes (Fig. 4B). This rate is very similar to that seen among PRYSPRY domains of antiviral Trim5 genes from primates and cows (Liu et al., 2005; Sawyer et al., 2007), suggesting that M. dunni Trim30 may have recently been subject to similar evolutionary pressures. Again, *M. dunni Trim30* does not solely contribute to the observed positive selection in the PRYSPRY domain, as excluding it still resulted in a robust signature of positive selection (*p*<0.02). Nevertheless, our results suggest that whereas positive selection is present among the PRYSPRY domain for rodent *Trim5* homologs, *M. dunni Trim30* is probably contributing most of the non-synonymous changes among the PRYSPRY sequences. Taken together, these findings show that positive selection is common, episodic and, in some cases, quite strong among rodent *Trim5* homologs.

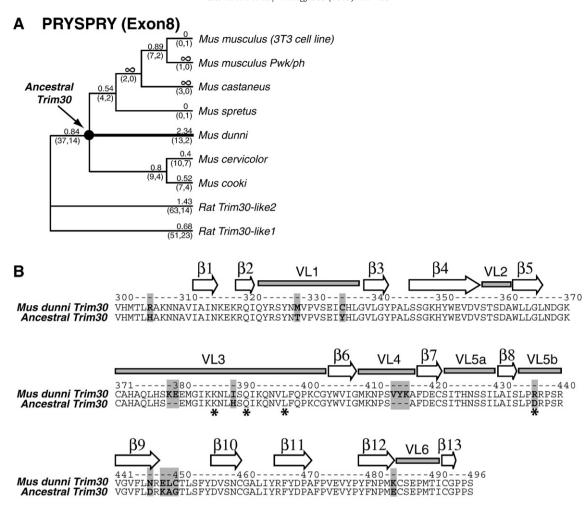
Positive selection among mouse Trim30 orthologs localized to the variable loops of the PRYSPRY domain

Because of the observed rapid evolution of the M. dunni Trim30 PRYSPRY domain (Fig. 4), we sequenced orthologous Trim30 sequences from genomic DNA of the following additional mouse species: Mus castaneus, Mus spretus, Mus cookii, Mus cervicolor, M. musculus, M. dunni and Mus pahari. Using these samples, we sequenced exon2 and 8 of Trim30, corresponding to the RING-Bbox and the PRYSPRY domains, respectively. Phylogenetic analysis confirmed that the genomic sequences we obtained are indeed orthologs of Trim30 (data not shown). The sequences obtained from M. pahari seemed orthologous to other Trim30-like genes rather than Trim30 and were therefore excluded from further analysis. Next, using the PRYSPRY (exon8) sequences and a published tree for these mouse species (Tucker, 2006) we analyzed the substitution rates of each Trim30 ortholog since these species diverged. Likelihood ratio tests corroborated evidence for positive selection among mouse and rat Trim30 orthologs by rejecting the null model (p=0.0075) (Table 1). Analyzing the branch values revealed once again that M. dunni Trim30 has the highest dN/dS value of 2.34 with 13 non-synonymous changes compared to 2 synonymous changes (Fig. 5A), once again confirming the degree of rapid evolution unique to M. dunni Trim30.

We next used Naïve Empirical Bayes and Bayes Empirical Bayes analyses to analyze which codons in the PRYSPRY domain of mouse Trim30 orthologs have accumulated most of the non-synonymous changes throughout mouse evolution. The codons that determine the specificity of human or rhesus Trim5α towards HIV-1 are located in variable loop 1 (VL1) of its PRYSPRY domain (Sawyer et al., 2005; Stremlau et al., 2005; Yap et al., 2005). Similarly, codons subject to positive selection in cow Trim5 genes and even primate Trim22 genes also are concentrated in this loop, which is exposed on the tertiary structure of PRYSPRY domains and interacts with factors in the cellular environment (James et al., 2007). We asked if the codons of M. dunni *Trim30* under positive selection also map to these variable loops of the PRYSPRY domain. We mapped residues predicted to be evolving under positive selection (posterior probability >95%) on an alignment of the M. dunni Trim30 and a reconstructed 'ancestral' PRYSPRY sequence (see node on Fig. 5A). We found that almost all of the changes in M. dunni Trim30 PRYSPRY domain, compared to the constructed ancestral node, are located in the variable loops (Fig. 5B, highlighted in gray). Three residues under positive selection with >95% posterior probability, all map to loop 3. These indicate that surface-exposed loops of the PRYSPRY domain of mouse Trim30 orthologs have rapidly evolved throughout mouse evolution, consistent with their potential role in antiviral defense.

Screening mouse Trim $5\alpha$  homologs for anti-viral activity

The rapid evolution of mouse canonical  $Trim5\alpha$  homologs, particularly of M.  $dunni\ Trim30$ , suggested that these genes could participate in antiviral defense. We set up an assay to test these Trim5 homologs against a diverse group of retroviruses. Since all four canonical domains are required for  $Trim5\alpha$  activity, we focused only on the mouse Trim5 genes that contain these domains and that are



**Fig. 5.** Codons of mouse *Trim30* orthologs under positive selection are locate in the variable loops of the PRYSPRY domain. (A) Phylogeny of *Mus* species (Tucker 2006) used in our study are shown for *Trim30* orthologs, with an out-group to rat *Trim30* paralogs. Branch dN/dS values calculated by PAML are shown above each branch. The number of non-synonymous changes (N) and synonymous changes (S) are shown below each branch in parentheses as (N,S). Branch dN/dS values significantly greater than 1 are highlighted as a bold line. The black circle indicates the node for the ancestral *Trim30* sequence for *Mus dunni*. (B) Protein sequence alignment of the PRYSPRY (exon8) domain for *Mus dunni* and its ancestral *Trim30* is shown. Differences are highlighted with a gray box. The position of the beta-sheets and variable loops are based on structural work from reference (James et al., 2007). Codons under positive selection identified by PAML based on Bayes-Empirical-Bayes analysis (with posterior probability greater than 95%) are shown in \*. White arrows and gray rectangles indicate predicted beta-sheets and variable loops in the tertiary structure, respectively.

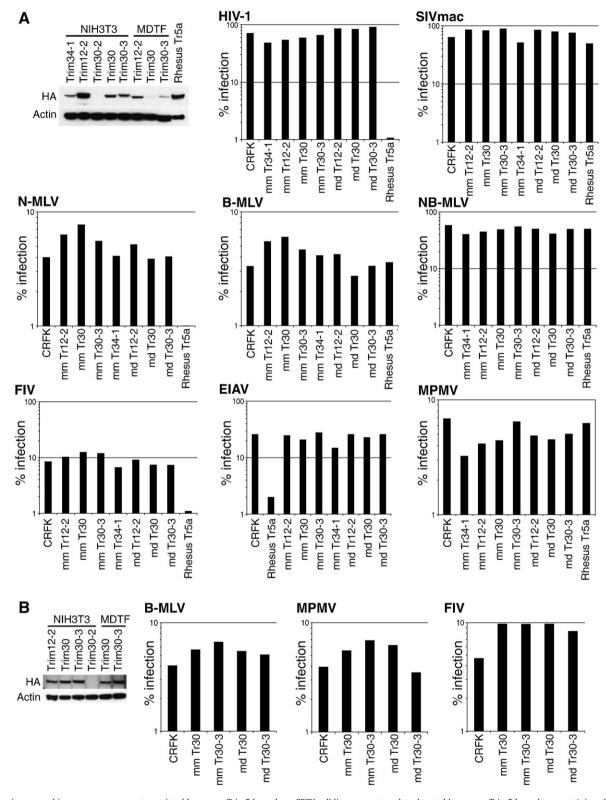
expressed in mouse cell lines (Trim12-2, Trim30, Trim30-2, Trim30-3). We cloned a cDNA corresponding to each of these genes (with an epitope tag at the N-terminus) and generated CRFK (Crandel Feline Kidney) cells stably expressing each mouse Trim $5\alpha$  homolog. With the exception of Trim30-2, we were able to generate CRFK cells that stably express each gene from both NIH3T3 and MDTF cells (M. musculus and M. dunni, respectively). Initial low expression yields for MDTF Trim30 and Trim30-3 (Fig. 6A) prompted us to re-transduce these clones for better expression (Fig. 6B). Next, we challenged each mouse  $Trim5\alpha$ with a diverse range of retroviruses including lentiviruses (HIV-1, SIVmac, FIV, EIAV), gammaretroviruses (N-MLV, B-MLV), and a betaretrovirus (MPMV) (Fig. 6). These viruses are known to be restricted by at least one of the existing Trim5 genes in one or more primates (Brennan et al., 2007; Keckesova et al., 2004; Nisole et al., 2004; Perron et al., 2007; Saenz et al., 2005; Stremlau et al., 2004). Moreover, HIV-1 and SIVmac are restricted by rabbit Trim5α (Schaller et al., 2007), while N-MLV, SIVmac, HIV-1 and EIAV are restricted by cow Trim $5\alpha$  (Si et al., 2006; Ylinen et al., 2006). Thus, although this is a limited set of retroviruses, there is a precedent for restriction by one or more Trim $5\alpha$  proteins. Although our positive control, Trim $5\alpha$  from rhesus macaques, restricted the expected retroviruses, we did not find any virus that Trim12-2, Trim30, and Trim30-3 restricted in our assay.

These results do not rule out the hypothesis that mouse Trim5 homologs can inhibit other viruses however.

#### Discussion

Here, we describe the organization and evolutionary history of multiple orthologs of the antiviral restriction factor  $Trim5\alpha$  found in both mouse and rat genomes. We show that Trim5 has undergone a paralogous gene expansion in both rat and mice relative to the primate Trim5 locus. Similar to old world primate and bovine  $Trim5\alpha$ , murine Trim5 genes show evidence for positive selection with most of these signatures found in the variable loops of the PRYSPRY domain. Although we were unable to find antiviral activity for any of the full-length murine Trim5 genes (using a set of eight retroviral challenges), their signatures of positive selection indicate that selective pressures (possibly in the form of viral capsids) have acted upon these genes throughout rodent evolution. Moreover, we find that Trim5 has undergone independent evolutionary fates within each species.

Paralogous gene expansions are subject to several possible outcomes. For instance, gene families can functionally diversify and take on functional duties under unique temporal or spatial expression profiles (Nei and Rooney, 2005). In the case of Trim $5\alpha$ , the expansions



**Fig. 6.** Retroviruses used in our assays were not restricted by mouse Trim5 homologs. CRFK cell lines were transduced to stably express Trim5 homologs containing all four of the canonical domains of Trim5α, cloned from NIH3T3 and MDTF cells, representing *Mus musculus* and *Mus dunni* respectively. Stable cell lines for Trim34-1 from NIH3T3 cells and Rhesus Trim5α were also generated. Each *Trim* gene was cloned with an N-terminal HA tag for detection via immunoblotting. (A and B) 50 μg of lysates per well, immunoblotted with anti-HA to check for expression of each Trim5 homolog. Anti-actin was used as a loading control. A second attempt at stable cell line generation was needed to boost the levels of MDTF trim30 and Trim30-3 (B). We were unable to generate CRFK cells stably expressing Trim30-2 from either NIH3T3 or MDTF cells. (A and B) Each stable cell line expressing one of the listed Trim genes was challenged with the list of retroviruses at sufficient amounts to give non-saturating levels of infection. Each virus is generated to express GFP upon infection. These retroviruses were used because they represent a broad range of viruses restricted by antiviral Trim5 orthologs from primates, cows and rabbits. HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus-1), SIVmac (simian immunodeficiency virus macaque strain), MPMV (mason-pfizer monkey virus), N-MLV (N-tropic murine leukemia virus), B-MLV (B-tropic murine leukemia virus), NB-MLV (N- and B-tropic murine leukemia virus), Percentages of cells that are infected are plotted on the *y*-axis as a log-scale.

might allow for broader specificities towards incoming viruses, thus expanding the defensive shield against these pathogens. Together with other known mouse restriction factors such as Fv1 (Best et al., 1996), mouse Trim5 paralogs may further broaden the range of defense. Of note, the Trim5 gene expansion is not unique to rodents; cows have had a similar but independent expansion that has resulted in at least six Trim5 genes (Sawyer et al., 2007). This suggests that paralogous expansions of Trim5 genes have occurred in at least two distinct lineages among mammals (rodents and cows, Fig. 1C), and possibly more speciesspecific Trim $5\alpha$  expansions will become apparent as genome projects continue to expand. The fact that the mouse expansion is not as drastic in rats suggests that the mouse expansion occurred after the mouse-rat species split, dating to between 41 million years ago (Hedges, 2002) and 10 million years ago (Guenet and Bonhomme, 2003). Tracing the history of the Trim5 locus during rodent evolution could reveal interesting dynamics. Interestingly, M. pahari, the earliest diverged Mus species in our sample set, contained Trim30-like sequences that were not direct Trim30 orthologs (data not shown). In particular, screening diverse mouse species' genomes for *Trim5* paralogs will provide a more accurate history for the mouse Trim5 locus.

The murine *Trim5* expansion serves as an interesting contrast to the APOBEC3 locus which contains only one gene in mice, and seven genes in primates. It is not clear what selection pressures may have driven the expansion of one antiviral locus over another, although existing evidence suggests that the APOBEC3 genes have a broader specificity against multiple different viruses as well as against different retroelements (Strebel and Khan, 2008), while the Trim5 genes have a much more limited specificity against particular retroviruses. Nevertheless, it appears that primates have more heavily 'invested' in an Apobec3-based defense strategy whereas other mammals have evolved a more Trim-based strategy. Having multiple *Trim5* genes may seem beneficial at first, but that could come at a cost, which may explain why Trim5 expansions have not occurred in primates. In some cases, a loss-of-antiviral-function even seems to be tolerated in certain human populations with Trim5 alleles containing the H43Y mutation (Sawyer et al., 2006).

Some members of the *TRIM* multigene family appear to have arisen as a result of paralogous expansions before mammalian speciation (Reymond et al., 2001). This possibility is further strengthened by the fact that the Trim5 locus is in synteny among humans, mice, rats, dogs and cows ((Sawyer et al., 2007), and work presented here). The fact that the Trim5 loci among these species sits in an expansion of class 1 olfactory receptor genes ((Taylor et al., 2006), and work presented here) suggests the possibility that these and other Trim genes may have expanded due to this association with olfactory receptor gene expansions. Olfactory receptor gene clusters have had a history of dramatic expansions in mammalian genomes (Young and Trask, 2002). It is therefore possible that recombination events triggered by olfactory receptor gene expansions could have facilitated the expansion of *Trim5* paralogs in both mouse and cow genomes, and viral pressures could have fixed these expansions.

The fact that most of the mouse *Trim5* paralogs have not become pseudogenized after their expansion suggests that they have either retained functions of their parental genes, or have acquired novel functions. While work described here predicts antiviral roles for these paralogs, it appears that some have unique cellular roles as well. Previous reports have shown Trim12 and Trim30 transcripts to be down-regulated in NOD mice, which are susceptible to autoimmunity (Liston et al., 2007). Recently, Trim30 was shown to function as an anti-inflammatory factor that is able to down regulate NF-kB signaling by degrading signaling intermediates, TAB2 and TAB3 (Shi et al., 2008). An older report that referred to Trim30 as Rpt-1 showed that it was able to inhibit HIV-1 LTR-driven transcription (Patarca et al., 1988). Whether these functions are unique to these mouse paralogs, or are ancestral functions of Trim5-like proteins remains to be investigated.

Trim5 genes in primates are known to encode splice variants.  $Trim5\alpha$  is one of these splice variants that harbors all four of the domains. Another primate splice variant, Trim5delta for example (Xu et al., 2003), does not encode the PRYSPRY domain and was shown to be a dominant inhibitor of Trim $5\alpha$  restriction (Passerini et al., 2006). During the work described here we did not investigate whether any of the rodent *Trim5* genes encode alternative splice variants. It is possible that mouse Trim5 genes that do not encode all four domains (such as Trim12, Trim12-X, Trim30-1, Trim30-4) may obviate the need for alternative splice variants. However, the high dN/dS values for mouse Trim12 demonstrates, to our knowledge, the first evidence of a RBCC domain-only Trim5 homolog that contains such high rates of adaptive evolution. Since Trim5 proteins are known to multimerize, this finding may indicate a functional significance for mouse Trim12 in heteromultimerizing with other paralogs that contain the PRYSPRY domain. It is possible that these truncated mouse *Trim5* genes could encode for unique cellular functions or could act as dominant inhibitors of mouse Trim restriction factors.

Retroviruses that we used in our assays were not restricted by mouse Trim5α homologs. However, the signatures of positive selection seen among these homologs, especially in M. dunni Trim30, strongly suggest that these genes have an evolutionary history similar to their mammalian antiviral orthologs. The viruses they restrict remain to be identified. However, it is also possible that the viruses that led to the selective events were long in the past and are now either extinct, or exist as endogenous elements in the mouse genome. Almost 40% of the mouse genome consists of endogenous transposable elements, 10% of which are endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) while the rest are mostly retrotransposons (Mouse Genome Sequencing Consortium et al., 2002). Many of the mouse ERVs are still active and are capable of replicating and introducing mutations into the mouse germ line (Maksakova et al., 2006; Stocking and Kozak, 2008). In contrast, most ERVs in humans are extinct, with the exception of HERV-K (Turner et al., 2001). Therefore, it is possible that murine Trim5 proteins serve to keep in check one or more of the many active endogenous retroviruses encoded by their genome. The retroviruses we used in our antiviral assays do have endogenous relatives in the mouse genome. For example, N-MLV and B-MLV (genus Gammaretrovirus) are related to class I mouse ERVs, while MPMV (genus Betaretrovirus) is related to class II mouse ERVs. However, the list of retroviruses used in our assay, albeit phylogenetically diverse, does not even come close to represent the broad diversity of endogenous and exogenous retroviruses that mice encounter (Boeke and Stoye, 1997; Rosenber and Jolicoeur, 1997; Stocking and Kozak, 2008). It is therefore not unlikely that selective pressures from such broad pathogenic diversity may have selected for a rich repertoire of antiviral genes, resulting in the cluster of paralogous mouse Trim5 genes described here. The present studies will make it possible to probe the function of Trim5 proteins in an in vivo model using targeted knock-outs in mice.

# Materials and methods

Gathering sequences from the rodent Trim5 gene cluster

The UCSC genome browser BLAT tool (Kent, 2002) was used to search the mouse and rat genome databases using human sequences of  $Trim5\alpha$ , Trim22, Trim6 and Trim34 as queries. Mouse BAC sequences were used to confirm the genome assembly at this locus: AC123830, AC142110, AC122400, AC135109. Rat BAC sequences used were AC112864 and AC113720. The olfactory receptor genes that flank each side of the rodent Trim5 loci were also identified through annotations available on the UCSC genome browser, and were confirmed on BAC clones. To exhaustively identify partial Trim genes within the rodent Trim5 loci, we queried BAC sequences with individual exons from  $Trim5\alpha$ , Trim22, Trim6 and Trim34.

#### Phylogenetic analysis

All TRIM-like rodent sequences were aligned with known Trim5, 22, 6, and 34 orthologs from human, macaque, cow, dog, and rabbit using the multiple alignment program Clustal X (Jeanmougin et al., 1998). PAUP\*4.0b10 (Swofford, 2003) was used to infer phylogenies and create maximum likelihood (ML) trees from this alignment. General phylogeny of the Trim homologs was established using the DNA sequences corresponding to the RBCC domains (approximately 750 bp in length), as this tree was consistently supported with high confidence. The ML tree was generated as follows: First, a maximum parsimony tree was created using a heuristic search. Next, using likelihood analysis, the substitution model and rate variation were empirically determined from the dataset. Finally, using the determined parameters, a ML tree was constructed using a heuristic search. Bootstrap analysis was performed using a full heuristic approach with 100 replicates. Nodes with less than 50% bootstrap support were collapsed or shown where appropriate.

ML trees were also obtained for data sets consisting of only *Trim5* homologs (as in Figs. 3 and 4). In these cases, two trees were constructed using either full length DNA sequences but exon8 (approximately 910 bp), or using only exon8 DNA sequences (approximately 700 bp).

For *Trim30* orthologs from different mouse species (as in Fig. 5A), previously published phylogeny for these species was used (Tucker, 2006).

### Recombination analysis

In order to detect potential recombination events, the online GARD tool (Kosakovsky Pond et al., 2006) on the DataMonkey server (Pond and Frost, 2005) was utilized. GARD was asked to identify a single breakpoint in our data set, which it then uses the second-order Akaike Information Criterion (c-AIC) to assess the goodness of fit for possible recombination breakpoints. Next, two ML trees were constructed as described above, consisting of either exon8 only (which corresponds to the PRYSPRY domain) or the full sequence except exon8 (which corresponds to the RING, B-box, and coiled-coil domains). The resulting trees were compared to one another for consistency of branching topology. To see if the two topologies are significantly different, we used the KH and SH tests (Kishino and Hasegawa 1989, Shimodaira and Hasegawa 1999) using the RELL bootstrap, where we forced the two topologies onto the data set.

# Cloning and sequencing of mouse $Trim5\alpha$ homologs

Mouse Trim5 homologs were cloned and sequenced using reverse transcribed RNA from NIH3T3 and MDTF cell lines, which are from M. musculus and M. dunni, respectively. Briefly, primers designed specifically to 5' and 3' ends of cDNA were used to amplify each mouse Trim5 homolog. Primers for mouse Trim12-1 and Trim12-2 are CACAGCAACTATGGCTTCACAATTCATG (forward), TTAAGAGTCTGGC-CAGCAAATTGTCATGG (reverse). Primers for mouse Trim30 are ATGGCCTCATCAGTCCTGGAGATG (forward), CTAGGAGGGTGGCCCG-CATATAG (reverse). Primers for mouse Trim30-2 are ATGGCCTCCT-CAGCTCTGGC (forward), TCATTCTTTTGACTGTGTTTCCACAG (reverse). Primers for mouse Trim30-3 are ATGGCCTCATCAGTCCTGGAGATG (forward), CTAGGATGGTGGTCCGCATACTGTC (reverse). PCR products were first cloned into TOPO TA cloning vector (Invitrogen) for sequence verification, followed by cloning into a retroviral expression vector pLNCXm1 together with a N-terminal HA tag. Orthologs of Trim30 from mouse species were sequenced from genomic DNA corresponding to M. musculus, M. spretus, M. cervicolor, M. cookii, Mus caroli, and M. Pahari. These samples were provided generously by Priscilla K. Tucker. Nested primers were designed to bind flanking introns and amplify exon2 and exon8 of Trim30 directly from genomic DNA. Exon2 primer pairs are GTGGTCCTTCCTTGACCTCTGC (forward), ATGTAAAAGAGTATATAGAATGATATATCAACTTCC (reverse), and their nested pairs TTCCACTTCTTACTTGGTCCTTTTCC (forward), AAGCCTA-TAATGCTCAGGTAAGTACC (reverse). Exon8 primers are TCTCTGTTA-AGTCTCAGGTTTCATGG (forward), TTAGAATGATGCAAGGGGTTTCTTGC (reverse), and their nested pairs CCACTATGTGCAGCCCTCTGC (forward), GCATAAGATACACCAGACATGGGG (reverse).

# PAML, positive selection and statistical analyses

DNA sequences for either the RBCC domain (excluding exon8) or the PRYSPRY domain (exon8) were aligned using Clustal X and input files for PAML were prepared using the online protein to nucleic acid alignment converter PAL2NAL (Suyama et al., 2006). The codeml program in PAML was used to examine positive selection in two analyses: Codon models and branch models.

In codon model analysis, each codon site was analyzed for signatures of positive selection. First, likelihood ratio tests were performed to compare the null model (M1 and M7) to the positive selection model (M2 and M8). Both M1 and M2 assume that all codons fall into a few discrete categories of dN/dS. M1 assumes that no codons have dN/dS greater than 1, while M2 allows this. M7 and M8 assume a beta-distribution of codon dN/dS values. M7 assumes that no codon has a dN/dS greater than 1, while M8 allows this. The maximum likelihood estimates obtained were then used to calculate the p values using the chi square test, with 2 degrees of freedom. These analyses were performed using two separate models of codon frequencies: the f3x4 codon frequency table, and the f61 codon frequency table (where the frequency of each of the 61 non-stop codons is empirically derived from the dataset). In cases where codon models accommodating positive selection were supported, codon positions subject to positive selection was identified with codeml Naive Empirical Bayes and Base Empirical Bayes analysis. The percentage of codons with average dN/dS values are reported from the M7 vs M8 comparison.

In branch model analysis, branch-specific values of dN/dS were assessed in codeml using the free ratio model allowing one dN/dS per branch. Likelihood ratio tests were performed to compare the universal model (M0) where dN/dS is forced to be same on all branches, to the unique branch model (M1) where a unique dN/dS is allowed for each branch. The maximum likelihood estimates obtained were then used to calculate the p values using the chi square test. Degrees of freedom for branch analysis was calculated by the formula 2(n-1)-1, where n equals the number of taxa.

# Generation of stable cell lines

Mouse Trim5 homologs were cloned into the retroviral expression vector pLNCXm1. To generate virus stocks for transductions, 293T cells were co-transfected with each mouse Trim5 retroviral vector construct, together with vectors that encode Gag-Pol, and vectors that encode the glycoprotein of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV-G). Trans-IT transfection reagent was used (Mirus Bio). Viral supernatant were collected and filtered 3 days post transfection. CRFK (Crandel Feline Kidney) cells were transduced with virus containing each of the mouse  $Trim5\alpha$  homologs and stable transductions were selected for using G418 at 0.4 mg/ml. Expression of constructs was confirmed using immunoblotting against the HA epitope tag.

### Restriction assays

Infectious virus stocks were prepared by transient transfection of 293T cells using the Trans-IT transfection reagent (Mirus Bio). DNA constructs for virus stocks include the following: pL-VSV-G (an expression vector of VSV-G protein for pseudotyping) (Bartz and Vodicka, 1997), pCMV-tat (to allow efficient expression of VSV-G, which is under the HIV-1 LTR promoter) (Bartz and Vodicka, 1997), Gag-Pol expression vector for each virus, and GFP-encoding MIV-based transfer vectors

(Miller and Rosman, 1989). CRFK cells stably expressing each mouse  $Trim5\alpha$  homolog were infected with GFP-expressing retroviruses at non-saturating levels. 2 days post infection, flow cytometry was used to measure the percentage of cells expressing GFP upon infection.

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*Declaration of competing interests*: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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