

The E1 Proteins

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Introduction

The papillomavirus E1 protein is the ‘initiator’ protein for viral DNA replication and thus plays a critical role in maintenance of the viral genome as an episome during the viral life cycle. E1 shows some sequence and structural similarities to the simian virus 40 and polyomavirus large T antigen initiators (12), and its biochemical properties are consistent with its role as a replication initiator protein. In BPV, E1 is a nuclear phosphoprotein with origin binding, ATPase, and DNA helicase activities.

In addition to E1, the full length viral E2 transactivator is also required for efficient initiation of viral DNA replication *in vivo*. E1 and E2 form a complex in solution and this complex binds with high affinity and specificity to the replication origin, which contains binding sites for both proteins. Therefore, part of the role of E2 is to stimulate binding of E1 to the replication origin. E2 also suppresses nonspecific initiation of replication by E1 *in vitro*. In this way, E2 serves as a specificity factor in promoting origin-dependent replication. The initial E1:E2:origin complex is thought to be inactive for replication initiation and is proposed to serve as a seed for formation of an active replication complex. In a poorly understood process, E2 is released from the complex and additional E1 molecules enter and oligomerize on the origin DNA. This active E1:DNA complex, in conjunction with the host cell replication machinery, results in localized melting of the DNA at the origin followed by initiation of new DNA strand synthesis.

Aside from its requirement for viral DNA replication, E1 also plays a role in the regulation of viral transcription and transformation. Presumably through interacting with E2, E1 modulates the ability of E2 to activate certain viral promoters. In BPV, E1 negatively regulates the activation of the major early promoter by E2 (27, 51) and this mechanism may be responsible for the suppression of transformation by E1 (26, 55, 72, 81). E1 additionally exerts direct effects on the host cell cycle (1, 2).

E1 is the most highly conserved of the papillomavirus genes (12, 32). Accordingly, the E1 gene products of different papillomaviruses are expected to have similar structure and functions and in general this appears to be the case (Appendix A). Since most detailed studies have been done with BPV-1 E1, this review will focus on and summarize the activities which have been demonstrated for this protein.

A. E1 gene products

The BPV-1 E1 ORF encodes two gene products expressed in BPV transformed cells from the major early promoter, P89. The full length product of the ORF is a 68- to 72-kDa nuclear phosphoprotein (5, 52, 63). This protein is required for viral DNA replication and its activities will be discussed in detail below. A smaller protein, termed E1-M, is encoded by a spliced transcript which fuses the 5' third of the E1 ORF with a 1235/3225 splice to 14 amino acids from a downstream exon. E1-M exists as a 23-kDa phosphoprotein (67) and was initially ascribed a negative regulatory function in replication which was required for stable replication of viral plasmid DNA (31). More recent findings, however, indicate that E1-M is not essential for stable plasmid replication in BPV-1 transformed cells (25). It remains possible that E1-M plays a role in the amplification of viral DNA during the vegetative phase of BPV-1 infection.

Several human papillomaviruses also express transcripts which conceptually code for E1-M-like proteins. One such transcript of HPV-11 encodes a protein containing the amino terminal quarter of the E1 ORF fused to the E2 carboxy terminal DNA binding domain (10). Expression of this gene product in tissue culture assays results in repression of both papillomavirus transcription and DNA replication (10).

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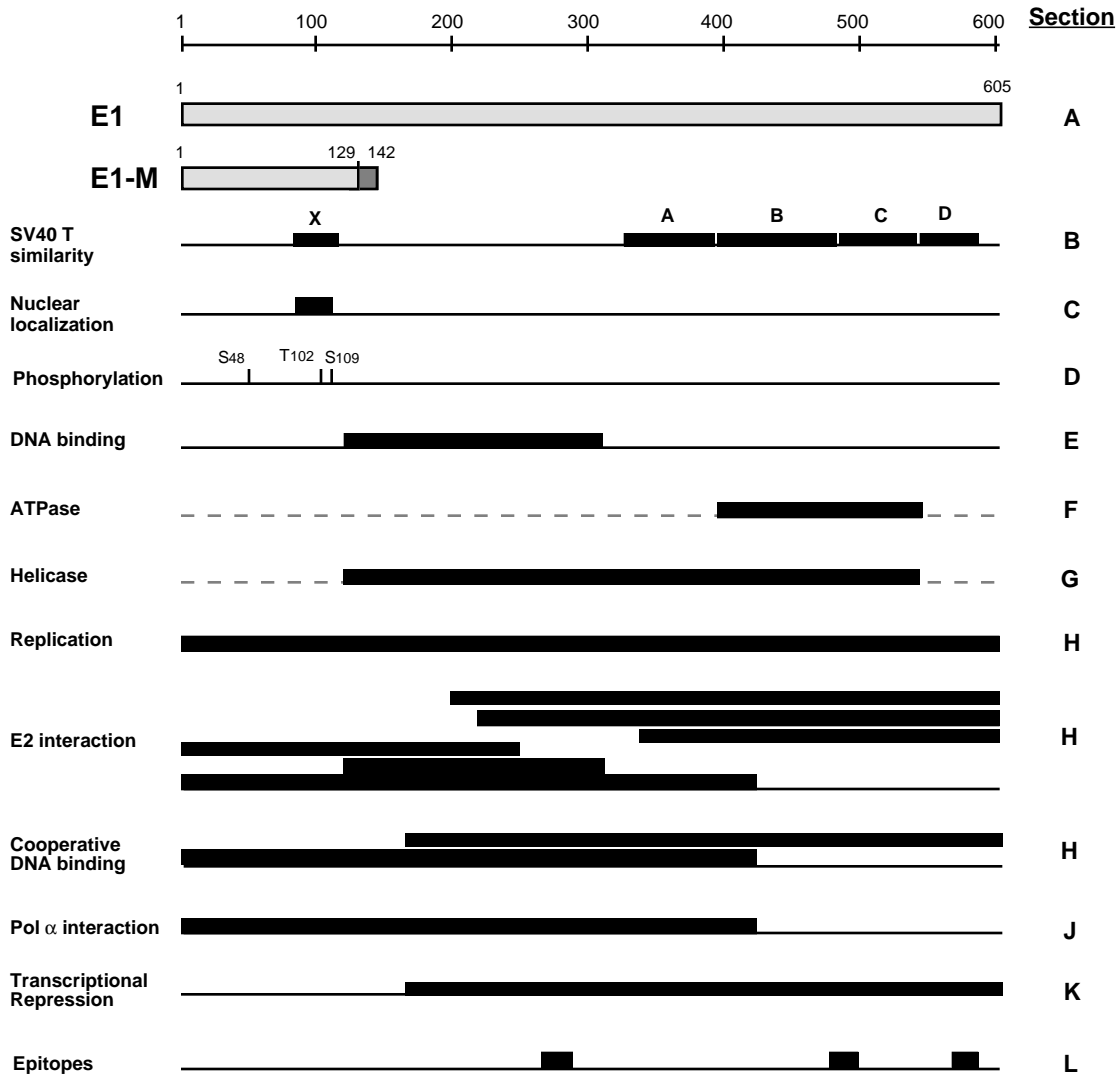


Figure 1. The structure of the two BPV-1 E1 proteins are shown at the top of the figure. Below, the functions that have been mapped to different regions of the proteins are indicated. Refer to the section indicated to the right for more details. Solid bars indicate regions implicated in a function (e.g., ATPase, helicase) but do not imply that those regions have been shown to be sufficient.

However, the involvement of E1-M-like gene products in the bovine or human papillomavirus life cycle has not been established. Finally, the five (typically) NH₂-terminal residues of E1 form a fusion protein with the E4 gene product as described by Doorbar and Myers in Part III, pp. 65–66, of the August 1996 release of this compendium.

B. Structural similarity to papovavirus large T antigens

The full length E1 proteins of both bovine and human papillomaviruses share sequence similarities with the large T antigens of simian virus 40 (SV40) and polyomavirus (PyV) (12). Since SV40 and PyV large T proteins are viral DNA replication initiators, these observations suggest similar functions for the E1 proteins in the initiation of papillomavirus DNA replication. There is a wealth of information concerning the structure and function of SV40 large T (see reference (15) for review), and comparisons between E1 and large T have been helpful in analyzing E1 function. Five regions of BPV-1 E1 have

similarity to the large T proteins and these have been designated X, A, B, C, and D by Clertant and Seif (Figure 1B) (12). The most significant similarities occur in regions B and C corresponding to sites involved in the ATPase and nucleotide-binding activities, respectively, of SV40 T antigen (12). A parvovirus noncapsid protein also displays significant similarity across the B and C regions of E1 (Appendix A). For predictions of E1 secondary structure, see Appendix B. In the sections below, activities associated with specific regions of E1 will be discussed and, where appropriate, comparisons to SV40 T antigen will be made.

C. E1 localization

Consistent with a primary role in viral DNA replication, the E1 proteins are found in the nucleus of infected cells (5, 52, 63, 71). Sequences within the first 223 amino acids are necessary for directing this cellular localization (63); this segment of BPV-1 E1 contains the above mentioned region “X” of similarity between E1 and SV40 T antigen (12), which includes nuclear localization signal (NLS) in large T antigen (15). Mutational analysis of region “X” of BPV-1 E1 has defined a bipart NLS located between amino acids 84 and 108 which contains two short stretches of basic amino acids: KRKVLGSSQNSSGSEASETPVKRRK (29). A small region of E1 (aa 84–166) containing this NLS is both necessary and sufficient to direct nuclear localization of fusion proteins (74).

D. Phosphorylation

The E1 protein of BPV exists in a phosphorylated form in cells (5, 52, 63). Since nonphosphorylated E1 expressed and purified from bacteria is active for BPV DNA replication *in vitro*, phosphorylation is not absolutely required for its activities directly related to replication (46). However, it is likely that phosphorylation is involved in regulating the activities of E1 *in vivo*. Although the residues of E1 which are phosphorylated *in vivo* are not completely mapped, phosphoamino acid analysis indicates that probably only one threonine residue is phosphorylated with the rest of the detectable phosphorylations being on serine residues (29). A combination of *in vitro* phosphorylation studies, mutational analyses, and analyses of E1 phosphorylation and activity in cells is beginning to shed light on the role of phosphorylation of specific residues of E1. *In vitro* studies have shown that E1 serves as a substrate for phosphorylation by a number of cellular kinases including p34cdc2, protein kinase A (PKA), protein kinase C (PKC), casein kinase I (CKI), casein kinase II (CKII), and DNA dependent protein kinase (29, 39, 79, 80). A small subset of these phosphorylations have been mapped to specific residues of E1 (Figure 1D). The cell cycle regulated kinase p34cdc2 phosphorylates threonine 102 *in vitro* and this residue is a phosphoacceptor *in vivo*, but the effect of phosphorylation at this site is not entirely clear (29). Thr-102 is located within the extended NLS of E1 (see above), yet mutation of thr-102 to isoleucine had no effect on nuclear localization or DNA replication in the context of the intact viral genome (29). In contrast, another report indicated that a thr-102 to alanine mutation resulted in a replication-deficient genome (32). Serine 109 is also a phosphoacceptor *in vivo*, and is a target for phosphorylation *in vitro* by both PKA and PKC (80). In this case phosphorylation appears to be negatively regulating: mutation of ser-109 to alanine results in a BPV genome that replicates more efficiently than wild-type *in vivo* in transient assays while mutation of ser-109 to glutamic acid (which may functionally mimic a constitutively phosphorylated serine residue) results in a genome that replicates less efficiently than wild-type (80). It has been proposed that phosphorylation at ser-109 may affect E1 DNA binding activity (80). Thus, E1 may potentially be subject to both positive and negative regulation by phosphorylation *in vivo*. Further research will be necessary in order to understand in detail the modulation of E1 activity by phosphorylation.

E. DNA binding

An important function of viral initiator proteins is to mark the region of replication initiation within the viral genome through sequence-specific DNA binding. The BPV-1 E1 protein has been shown to possess DNA binding activity specific for sequences located within the viral replication origin (59–61, 68, 71, 73, 75). The binding site for E1 is contained within an 18-bp inverted repeat element located in the origin (23, 24, 41). Although E1 shares no sequence homology with the SV40 T antigen

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DNA binding domain, similarities in structural organization predict that the amino acids of E1 involved in DNA binding would reside in the amino-terminal half of the protein (12, 15). Deletion mapping studies have confirmed this speculation, identifying amino acids 162–284 as being the most critical for DNA binding function while the smallest peptide that retains origin-specific DNA binding activity consists of amino acids 121–311 (Figure 1E) (28, 54, 68). Mutation at sites within this region inactivate DNA binding by full length E1 (28, 68).

F. ATPase activity

The papillomavirus E1 proteins share the greatest similarity with the regions of T antigen involved in nucleotide binding and ATPase activity (Figure 1B, regions B and C) (12). Indeed, BPV E1 was initially shown to possess ATP binding activity as measured by crosslinking with periodate-oxidized ATP (52, 63) and ATPase activity was subsequently demonstrated for E1 (35, 53, 60). Several point mutations in homology regions B and C (P434S, K439E, D479A, H507L) inactivate the abilities of BPV E1 to bind and hydrolyze ATP and to support DNA replication, confirming the importance of this region of E1 for these functions (35, 48a, 63). The consensus sequence for the so-called P-loop (phosphate-loop) for ATP binding is GXXXXGK(T/S); in BPV-1, this sequence is GPPNTGKS (48a). The solid bar in Figure 1 indicates the region of E1 implicated in ATP binding and ATPase activity but does not imply that other regions may not also be involved.

G. Helicase activity

The structural similarities between E1 and T antigen combined with the demonstration of E1 ATPase activity strongly suggested that E1, like T antigen, would possess helicase activity, that is the ability to unwind duplex DNA. Using a substrate consisting of a short oligonucleotide annealed to a single stranded DNA circle, E1 was shown to displace the oligonucleotide from the circular DNA in a reaction that requires $MgCl_2$ and the energy of nucleotide triphosphate hydrolysis (60, 76). E1 also unwound double stranded supercoiled DNA containing the BPV-1 replication origin and, at higher E1 concentrations, unwound origin-minus DNA in a reaction that additionally requires a single stranded DNA binding protein (SSB) (18, 60, 76). Since helicase activity requires binding of E1 to the DNA substrate, the region of E1 required for helicase activity is predicted to extend from the DNA binding domain (see above) beginning around amino acid 121 through the ATPase/nucleotide binding region to approximately aa 530 (Figure 1G).

H. Replication

In order to directly assess the requirements for viral gene products in replication of viral DNA *in vivo*, transient transfection assays have been utilized in which expression vectors for individual viral proteins are cotransfected with a viral origin-containing plasmid. Replication of the origin plasmid is monitored by Southern blot analysis. Using this type of assay, it was found that replication of BPV-1 DNA *in vivo* requires both the E1 and E2 gene products (69–71). These findings were subsequently extended to include several human papillomavirus types (9, 14, 17, 19, 65). The E2 protein is a sequence-specific DNA binding transcriptional regulator of viral gene expression (for reviews see (38) and the chapter on E2 Proteins in this compendium). Several lines of evidence indicate that E2 plays an auxiliary role in stimulating replication and that E1 is functionally equivalent to SV40 T antigen as the initiator of viral DNA replication. When BPV-1 E1 alone is expressed to high levels in cells, a low level of origin-specific replication is detectable (21). Replication has also been noted when the E1 genes of human papillomavirus types 1a and 16 were expressed in the absence of E2 (19, 50). In fact, a modified origin from HPV-1a containing multiple E1 binding sites supported replication in the presence of E1 alone to levels comparable to replication of the wild-type origin in the presence of both E1 and E2 (20). Thus, E1 proteins appear capable of recruiting all of the cellular factors required for viral DNA replication *in vivo*. Nonetheless, E2 is highly stimulatory for replication of both BPV and HPVs and is required for maximal levels of replication *in vivo* (19, 50, 70).

The origin of replication of BPV-1 contains three elements essential for activity: an 18-bp palindromic sequence which serves as a binding site for E1, a 12-bp sequence which is a binding site for

E2, and an AT-rich sequence element (23, 71, 75). The roles of E1 and E2 in replication and their interaction with the origin have been further explored using *in vitro* replication systems. *In vitro*, E1 is the only viral protein required for the initiation of DNA replication (6, 40, 46, 60, 75, 76). However, at low levels of the E1 protein, the presence of E2 stimulates E1-dependent replication, indicating a direct role for E2 in regulating viral DNA replication (75). E1 and E2 interact to form a tight complex in solution (5, 32, 42). This interaction results in cooperative binding of E1 and E2 to the origin and stimulation of origin unwinding and replication initiation by E1 (18, 34, 42, 56, 59, 61, 75).

A peculiar difference between E1 and SV40 T antigen with regard to *in vitro* DNA replication is the unique ability of E1 to replicate DNAs which do not contain the viral replication origin (6, 7, 60, 76). This ability to initiate DNA replication in a sequence-independent manner may be related to the tendency of E1 to bind DNA with only a low degree of sequence specificity (56). In the presence of E2, however, the binding specificity of E1 for the origin of replication is greatly enhanced and replication proceeds only on origin-containing templates (7, 56). In one study, stimulation of origin-specific replication by E2 required cooperative binding of E1 and E2 to an origin template containing binding sites for both proteins (56). However, in another study using highly active preparations of E1, E2 did not have a highly stimulatory effect on origin-specific replication and instead acted only to suppress nonspecific replication by E1 (7). This activity of E2 did not require an E2 binding site in the origin (7). Nonetheless, it is clear that E2 does act as a “specificity factor” in directing E1 to the papillomavirus origin and that this activity would be critical *in vivo* where replication of the papillomavirus genome must proceed efficiently in the midst of a vast excess of cellular DNA. The replication of HPVs *in vitro* has not been studied as extensively as for BPV, but *in vivo* results point to some interesting differences in how various subgroups of HPVs achieve their replication specificity. For example, HPV-1a is similar to BPV-1 in that the minimal *in vivo* replication origin contains binding sites for both E1 and E2 (20, 69). In contrast, the E1 and E2 proteins of HPV-18 and HPV-11 can utilize an origin containing only two adjacent E2 binding sites (without an E1 binding site) to initiate replication *in vivo* (30, 66). In the latter case E1 must be able to initiate replication nonspecifically from vector DNA when tethered there through interaction with E2. Accordingly, there is only one location in the genomes of HPVs 11 and 18 and other genital HPVs in which there are two adjacent E2 binding sites: the replication origin (30, 66). Thus, the evolution of papillomaviruses appears to have conserved the requirement for E2 in replication of the genome and at least part of this requirement is as a specificity factor for directing E1 to the viral origin of replication.

The interaction between E1 and E2 is an essential component of the ability of E2 to stimulate E1-dependent replication. This interaction appears to involve at least two regions of E1 which can independently bind the N-terminal activation domain of the E2 protein. With BPV, several groups have noted an interaction between the E2 protein and different E1 peptides which overlap near the DNA binding domain of E1 at amino acids 121–222 (Figure 1H) (3, 28, 68). This interaction is reported to be cold sensitive such that interaction occurs at 37° C but does not occur at 4° C. Other groups have detected an E2 interaction with a more C-terminal region of E1 using peptides which overlap at amino acids 340–605 (32, 44, 54). This interaction is not cold sensitive. Because some of the E1 peptides used in the above studies contain portions of both regions of E1 and because of the different assay conditions employed, it is difficult to assess the relative strength and importance of the two interacting regions of E1. Mutations in either of the two regions of E1 which disrupt their respective interactions with E2 result in E1 proteins defective for replication *in vivo* (28, 32). It will be interesting to determine if these mutants are still active for replication under conditions where E2 is not required (e.g., *in vitro*). Nonetheless, it appears that both interactions between E1 and E2 are required for activation of replication *in vivo*. Additionally, although the studies mentioned above have implicated the activation domain of E2 as being involved in binding to E1, a recent study has indicated that the C-terminal DNA binding domain of E2 can also independently interact with E1, though this interaction does not appear to be required for replication (4).

An important aspect of the E1-E2 interaction is that it results in cooperative binding of the two proteins to origin DNA (18, 34, 56, 59, 61, 75). In BPV, the minimal origin is sufficient for cooperative DNA binding and contains binding sites for both proteins (34, 59, 69). The combination of protein-protein and protein DNA interactions can explain the cooperative DNA binding by the two proteins.

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Since E1 also possesses a nonspecific DNA binding activity, E2 dramatically increases the specificity of E1 for origin DNA in the presence of nonspecific competitor DNA (56). In fact, cooperative binding of E1 and E2 to origin DNA is a necessary component of the stimulation of replication by E2 (56). The region of E1 required for cooperative DNA binding with E2 likely includes its DNA binding domain and the E2-interaction regions (Figure 1H). A peptide containing E1 amino acids 1–423 retains some ability to cooperatively bind DNA with E2 (68). However, the ability to cooperatively bind DNA as efficiently as wild-type requires the entire C-terminus of E1 including amino acids 162–605 (54). Therefore, E1 utilizes multiple interactions with E2 to form a protein complex with enhanced affinity and specificity for origin DNA. The specific complexes formed on DNA with E1 and E2 are discussed in more detail below in the section “Origin complexes.”

Studies with several human papillomaviruses, though less detailed, have generally paralleled the studies with BPV-1. In HPV-16, the C-terminal 229 amino acids (aa 421–649) of E1 are capable of association with the transactivation domain of E2, but a larger domain including amino acids 144–649 is necessary for efficient complex formation with E2 at room temperature (22, 48, 62, 77). In HPV-31b, the N-terminal 268 amino acids of E1 is sufficient for complex formation with E2 (17), but a larger region is required for stimulation of E1 binding by E2 (16, 17). In HPV-33, a cold sensitive interaction occurs between E2 and E1 amino acids 312–450 while a more stable interaction requires the C-terminus from amino acids 312–644 (45).

I. Origin complexes

The conversion of E1 from a site-specific DNA binding protein to a helicase which presumably travels in front of the replication fork is poorly understood. Several groups have focused on this problem by analyzing the protein complexes that occur on origin DNA in the presence of E1 and E2 or in the presence of E1 alone. Since E2 is required for efficient replication of DNA *in vivo*, it is likely that the initial protein-DNA complexes contain both E1 and E2. When both proteins are present *in vitro*, a complex containing one dimer of E2 and probably one monomer of E1 binds to the adjacent E1 and E2 binding sites within the minimal origin and protects them from nuclease and chemical cleavage (18, 41, 56–58, 68). In the absence of E2, E1 is capable of a footprint that extends to include the AT-rich element located adjacent to the E1 binding site as well as additional protections within the E1 binding site (18, 57, 58). This extended footprint correlates with an increase in the number of E1 molecules present within the E1-origin complex (33, 57, 58). The homo-oligomeric E1 complex on DNA is thought to be the active species for replication initiation and estimates of the number of E1 molecules present in this complex have ranged from 3 to 10–15 (7, 11, 33, 57). Based on these data and comparisons to SV40 DNA replication, the following bi-phasic model for initiation of papillomavirus replication at a minimal origin has been proposed: i) one dimer of E2 and one monomer of E1 cooperatively bind the origin of replication; ii) additional monomers of E1 assemble onto the origin with the concomitant loss of E2. The larger oligomeric E1 complex would possess the activities responsible for unwinding the origin and attracting the cellular replication machinery to initiate DNA synthesis.

J. Interaction with cellular proteins

Consistent with the similarities between E1 and SV40 T as replication initiator proteins and helicases, the BPV-1 E1 protein has been shown to interact with the cellular polymerase α -primase complex (pol α -primase) (6, 47). Primase-helicase associations are evolutionarily conserved and are presumed to be critical for initiation of replication (36). Thus, in relying heavily on the host cell to provide the replication machinery, the papillomaviruses and the polyomaviruses utilize their respective initiator helicases, E1 and large T antigen, to attract the cellular pol α -primase to the viral replication origin. A region of the BPV-1 E1 protein including the amino terminal 424 amino acids was shown to interact specifically with the p180 (catalytic) subunit of the four subunit polymerase α -primase complex (47). This association is different from that of both SV40 large T antigen which interacts more strongly with the p70 subunit (13) and polyoma large T antigen which targets the small p48 primase subunit (8). Additionally, the interaction between E1 and pol α -primase did not exhibit the species-specificity observed with SV40 (primate) and polyoma (murine) large T antigens (6, 47). This result is consistent

with the earlier findings that transient papillomaviral replication occurred promiscuously in both primate and murine cell lines (9, 71).

Two other cellular proteins have been identified as interacting with HPV-16 E1. hUBC9, the human counterpart of *S. cerevisiae* UBC9, is a ubiquitin conjugating enzyme which may participate in cell cycle progression. One HPV-16 E1 mutant, S330R, was defective for hUBC9 interaction and DNA replication, suggesting that the association may be necessary for the replication function of E1 (78). Another E1-interacting protein, 16E1-BP, has no known function but does contain an ATPase motif (78).

K. Transcriptional repression / transformation / transactivation

BPV-1 genomes with mutations in the E1 gene showed increased transforming capacity and increased transcription from the major early promoter, P89 (26, 55). This data implied that E1 may be a transcriptional repressor involved in the negative regulation of viral oncogenes. Consistent with this idea, E1 repressed E2-stimulated transcription from the major early promoter (27, 51). This repression by E1 correlated with the ability of an E1-E2 complex to bind to the replication origin, located just upstream of P89, but did not depend on replication (51). The C-terminal 450 amino acids of E1 are sufficient for this repression (37). The use of additional E1 and E2 mutants in the context of the BPV-1 genome has indicated that E1 and E2 together suppress transformation by the E5, E6 and E7 oncogenes (72, 81). This theme is also apparent for the high-risk human papillomavirus type 16, in which disruption of either the E1 or E2 genes results in deregulation of viral gene expression and increased capacity for immortalization of primary human keratinocytes (49). Taken together, these results strongly implicate the involvement of E1 in the negative regulation of oncogene expression during the viral life cycle. In contrast to negative transcriptional effects, several researchers have observed stimulation of transcription by E1 alone or by E1 in conjunction with E2 in certain circumstances (27, 43, 48, 64). However, a target for transcriptional activation by E1 has not been identified.

By regulating the expression of viral oncogenes, E1 has indirect effects on altering the host cell growth program. However, a more direct effect of E1 on the host cell has been demonstrated recently. Cells expressing E1 in the absence of other viral gene products exhibit perturbations of the cell cycle, resulting in decreased duration of the G1 phase and increased S and G2 phase durations (1, 2). These cell cycle effects are coincident with changes in histone H1 kinase activity and the abundance and timing of appearance of cyclin D1 (2). Thus, in addition to viral oncoproteins, E1 may participate directly in altering the host cell growth program which is an essential component of the papillomaviral life cycle.

L. E1 Antigenicity.

In general, the E1 protein is not highly immunogenic. In a study of 54 HPV-8 reactive sera from patients without apparent skin disease, 12 displayed anti-E1 reactivity, and the majority of these sera were not anti-L1 (61a). Dillner (14a) reports two linear epitopes in the C-terminal region of HPV-16 E1, SKSHFWLQPLADAKIGMLDD and FDENGNPVYELNDKNWKS. Of 30 patients with HPV-16-associated cervical neoplasia, the majority of sera recognized the first of these epitopes. In a subsequent study (14b), IgG reactivity against an epitope in the middle of HPV-16 E1, LSKLLCVSPMCM-MIEPPKLR, was significantly correlated with cervical cancer.

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Appendix A. E1 BLOCKS

Six BLOCKS were recognized by the MOTIF algorithm, the third and fifth of which were also recognized by the Gibbs Sampler algorithm. The first two MOTIF BLOCKS overlap the DNA binding region of E1. The third BLOCK is at the center of the protein where it is presumably involved in several of the principal functions – helicase, replication activity, etc. BLOCKS four through six overlap the ATPase region and are most similar to SV40 large T. A BLAST search using the MOTIF Cobbler sequence (aka HPV31, see below) yielded similarities with very significant scores and probabilities for other E1 protein sequences, with the weakest matches being to the bovine and elk PV E1s. The strongest similarity to a non-E1 protein was to the NS1 protein of the B19 parvovirus (Poisson probability 0.0043), not to SV40 large T (Poisson probability 0.050), but the score was fairly low; this similarity corresponds to the end of BLOCK four and BLOCK 5, E1 regions with ATPase activity. This similarity and the ATPase activity of the parvovirus NS1 have been previously noted by Astell et al., *J. Gen. Virol.* **68**:885–893,1987.

The nucleotide subsequence TAAAACGAAAGT at the 5' end of the E1 coding sequence is reported to be totally conserved (Campione-Piccardo et al., *Virus Genes* **5**:349–357, 1991). We have found this motif to be perfectly conserved in all human papillomavirus sequences with exception of HPV42 (TAAAACGAAAGC) and HPV48 (TAAAAAGAAAGT). It varies considerably in animal PVs, though the peptide motif appears to be conserved (LKRK at approximately positions 80–83 below).

most-likely	MAD.....P..KGT..DG.....EG.GCSGWFLV.EA.ICS..DkTGDtISEDEDEE..ED	40
HPV16	---.....A--..N-E.....-T--N---Y-...VVE..K----A--D--N-ND.S-	43
HPV18	---.....E-----T--N---Y-.Q-.VD..K----V--D----NA.T-	42
HPV6B	---.....D..S--..EN.....-S--T---M-...-VQ..HP--TQ--D-----V.--	42
HPV11	---.....D..S--..EN.....-S--T---M-...-VE..HT--TQ-----E--V.--	42
HPV5	-T-.....-NS--S..TS.....KE.-FGD-C-L--D-...-V.E.NDLGQLF-..R-	39
HPV12	---.....S--S..TS.....KE.-L-D-CIL--E-...-L.E.NDFEQLF-..Q-	37
HPV13	--E.....D..T--..NN.....-T-----VVE..RT--QQ--D----TV.--	42
PCPV1	---.....N..T--..N.....K-T-----VD..R--EE--D----TV.--	42
BPV1	--N.....D.--SNW-S.....GL---YL-T--E-ESDKENEEPGAGV-LSVE.S-	44
most-likely	T.....GSDLSDFIDDD..ADI.EQG...N.AQELFHQQEAEADEEAVQALKRKYLGSPKAV.....	90
HPV16	.....E--V---VN-.N-YLT-AE.TET-HA--TA---KQHRD---V-----L.SDIS	99
HPV18	.....--MV---TQ..GTFC--AE.LET--A--A--VHN-AQVLHV---FA-GST.ENSPLG	100
HPV6B	S.....-Y-MV---..SN-.THNS.LE--A--NR--DTHYAT--D-----Y..SPIN	96
HPV11	S.....-Y-MV---..RH-.T-NS.VE--A--NR--D-HYAT--D-----Y..SPIS	96
HPV5	.....D--I--LL...TEL-----SL-----C-QS--QL-K-----K.....	85
HPV12	.....D--V--LL..N..GEL-----SL-----C-QS--QL-I-----K.....	83
HPV13	S.....-L-MV---..RP-.THNS.VE--A-LNE---D-HYA---D-----Y..SPLG	96
PCPV1	S.....-L-MV---..RC-.THNS.LE--A-LNE---D-HYA---D-----Y..SPLG	96
BPV1	RY.....D-QDE--V..N..-SV.F--...-HL-V-QAL-KK-G--QILN---V---SQ.N.S...	94
most-likely	.....ENQLSPRLQAISSL...SPQKK.....AKRRLFE..E.QDSGYGNT.....EVEA...ED...	130
HPV16	...GCVD-NI---K-CIE..KQSRA.....S.E-----T...QQM.L	145
HPV18	E.RLEVDT-----E---N..-G-----T..I.S-----CS.....TQI..	147
HPV6B	TIAEAV-SEI---D--K-T..RQP-.....V-----QTR-LT-----YS.....G.TGT...	148
HPV11	NVANAV-SEI---D--K-T..TQP-.....V-----TR-LT-----YS.....AT...	146
HPV5	...AVA-----ES-----Q.....S-----A...-LLEL-L...NN-----	127
HPV12	...AVA-----ES-----Q.....S-----A...-LLELSL...NN-----	125
HPV13	HVEQSVDCDI---D--K-S..RNS-.....V-----QSR-IT-----YS.....-T...	146
PCPV1	HIEQSV-CDI---N--Q-S..RKP-.....V-----QSR-IT-----H-E...V---AT...	148
BPV1	...SGS.EA-ETP...VK..RRKSG.....A.....-N---NR...	123

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most-likely	QVE.EV..E.....VPEg.SGQ...PG...GEQGS.....	150
HPV16	---GRH..-TETP.....CSQYSG..GSG...G...CS-Y-S.....	173
HPV18	--T.TN..G.....EHG-.NVC...S-...-STEALDNGGTEG	175
HPV6B	---.KH..G.....N-G...D...Q-KDT.....	167
HPV11	---.KH..G.....D--.N-G...D...Q-RDT.....	165
HPV5	VTP-...-...-AI.DSR...-D...D-.....	144
HPV12	VSP-...-...-AI.DSR...-V...D-.....	142
HPV13	---.RN..G.....E--NDC-G...G...HGRDK.....	167
PCPV1	---.RH..G.....E--NGC-G...G...HGRDK.....	169
BPV1	VLT.PL..Q.....QG..E-E...GR...Q-.....	139

most-likely	..GGDGEVDSEVST.....THTPTTQVLELLKSSNLKATLL.AKFKELFGVSVFNELRQFKSDK	206
HPV16	...S-GEVSEHRTI.....CQ--L-NI-NV--T--A--AM-.-----Y---S--V-P---N-	230
HPV18	NNSSVDGTSDNSNIENV.....NPQCTIA-LKD---VN-KQGAM-. -V-DTY-L--TD-V-N----	237
HPV6B	...-RDIEGE-HTEAEAPT..NSVRE-AG-AGI---CKD-R-A-.G---C--L--ID-I-P----	231
HPV11	...-RDIEGEG-EHREAEAVDDSTRE-AD-SGI---CKDIRS--H.G---DC--L--VD-I-P----R	231
HPV5	...-GSGVDVIH.....YTA-R---K---M.-----S---G-----H-	190
HPV12	...-GSGAIDID.....Y-S-R---I---M.-----S---G-----Y-	188
HPV13	...EGEGQVHTEVHTGSQ....IEE--G--R---CKDVR---Y.G---DCY-L--TD-I-P----	228
PCPV1	...EGEGQVHTEVHTESE....IEH--G--R---CKDIR---H.G---QCY-L--TD-I-----N-	230
BPV1	...LNE-QAISH.....LH-Q-V--K-ATVFK-.GL--S--LC--HDI--L--N--	186

most-likely	TCCTDWVVAVFGVH.ESLAESSKTLQHQHCLYAHIQC.LTCIWGMVLLYLLRFKCGKNRETVAKLLSTLL	274
HPV16	ST-C--CI-A--L.T.P-I-D-I-----Y---L---S-.A-S---V-L-V-Y-----IE---K--	298
HPV18	-T-----T-I---N.PTI--GF---I-PFI-----D-K--VLI-A---Y---S-L---G----	305
HPV6B	-T-L-----G--I-.H-IS-AFQK-IEPLS-----W.--NA-----V---VN-S-S---RT-A---	299
HPV11	-T-A-----G--I-.H-I-DAFQK-IEPLS-----W.--NA-----V-I---VN-S-C---RT-G---	299
HPV5	---K---S-YA-.DD-F---Q-----D...W..VRG-GA-.S---C--A---G--H--ITSM-	254
HPV12	---N---L--YA-.DD-F---Q-----D...W..VRG-GA-.T---C--A---G--H--MTSM-	252
HPV13	-T-G-----A--I-.H-VS-AFEK-M-PLTT-M---W.--NA-----V-I---VN-S-C---RT-A-F-	296
PCPV1	-T-E-----A---.H-VS-AFEK-I-PLTI-R---W.--NE---L--V-----VN---C---RT-A---	298
BPV1	-TNQQ--L---LA.-VFF-A-FE--KKQ-SFLQM-K.RSHEG-TCAV--IC-NTA-S---RN-MANT-	254

most-likely	NVPEEQMLIEPPKLRSTAAALYWYKTGMSNGSEVYGETPEWIARQTIIOHQLA.DA..QFDLSEMVOQWAY	341
HPV16	C-SPMC-M-----I--I---D---Q---VL-SFN-.C..T-E--Q-----	365
HPV18	H---TC--Q-----SV-----R-I--I---M-D---Q-L---GID-.S..N-----F	372
HPV6B	-I--NH-----IQ-GV---FR--I--A-T-I-A---T--V-E-G--.S...K-T-----	366
HPV11	-I--NH-----IQ-GVR---FR--I--A-T-I-A---T--V-E-S--.S...K-T-----	366
HPV5	--H-Q-I-S-----N-----F---GC-GS-AFSH-PY-D---Q---LG-KS-.E-S.T--F-A---F	322
HPV12	--Q-Q-I-S-----N-----F---G-GS-AFTH-TY-D---H---LG--N-.E-S.T--F-A---F	320
HPV13	-I--DH-----IQ-SV---FR--I--A-I-T-----K---VE-G--.N...K-T-----	363
PCPV1	-I--DH-----IQ-SV---FR-SL--A-I-T-----VE-G--.S...K-T-----	365
BPV1	--R--CLMLQ-A-I-GLS---F-F-SSL-PATLKH-AL---RA--TLNES-Q.TE..K--FGT-----	321

most-likely	DNDLTDSDIAEYEAQLADEDSNAAAFKLSNCQAKYVKDCATMCRHYKRAEMKQMSMSQWIK.....	403
HPV16	---IV-D-E---K-----TN---S-----S---I---K-----	427
HPV18	--E-----M-F---L---SN-----S-----L-----K--R--QKR--N-----R.....	434
HPV6B	---ICE--E--F---RG-F---R---N--M-----H---RK--IK-----	428
HPV11	---ICE--E--F---RG-F---R---N--M-----I-----H---K--IK-----	428
HPV5	H-H-L--A---Q--R--P--A--V-W-AH-N---F-RE--Y-V-F--KQ-Q-RD--I-E--Y.....	384
HPV12	--NYLE-P---Q--K--P---V-W-AH-Q---F-RE--A-V-F--KQ-Q-E---E--H.....	382
HPV13	---FC---E--F---RG-F---R---N-----K---N---K---K---T.....	425
PCPV1	---YC--C---F---KR--F---K---N-----K---N---K-T-N-----	427
BPV1	-HKYAE--K-----LA-GS---R--AT-S---H-----V---L---TQAL--PAY-----	383

most-likely	.HRCD..KVEGE	GDWKPIVKFLRYQG..VEFISFLAALKLFLKGTPKKNCI	VIY	GPPNTGKSYFCMSLI	467
HPV16	.Y---.R-DDG	---Q--M-----..---M--T---R-Q-I-----	LL	AA-----L-G---M	491
HPV18	.F--S..-I DEG	---R---Q-----Q..I---T-G---S-----	L	FC--A-----G--F-	498
HPV6B	..--GS..-I--T	-N-----Q---H-N..I---P--TKF--W-H-----	A	V---D-----	492
HPV11	.Y-GT..--DSV	-N-----Q---H-N..I---P--SK--W-H-----	A	V---D---C-----	492
HPV5	.TKIN..E-----	-H-SD---I---N..IN--V-T---E--HSV-----	L	-----S--S-A----	448
HPV12	.TKIN..E-----	-H-SD-----D..-N--T---F-N--HAV--H---	L	-----S--S-A----	446
HPV13	.Y-SK..-I-EA	-N-----Q---H-N..I---P--SK--W-H-----	A	V---D---C-----	489
PCPV1	..-SK..-I DET	-N-----Q---H-N..I---P--SK--W-Q-----	A	V---D---M-----	491
BPV1	.A--K..LAT--	-S--S-LT-FN--N..I-L-T-IN---W---I-----	L	AFI-----ML-N---	447

most-likely	KFLGGKVISFVNSKSHFWLQPLADAKIALLDDATDPCW	YIDTYLRNALDGNPVSIDRKHKALVQIKCPP	537
HPV16	---Q-S--C-----	---GM---V---N---DN---C-----L--M-V--RP---L---	561
HPV18	H-IQ-A-----T	---E--T-T-V-M---TT---F--M-----I-----P-I-L---	568
HPV6B	S---T---H--S-----	V--V-----Q---I-M---M--L-----M-----TL----	562
HPV11	-----T---Y--C-----	T--V-----Q---M---M--L-----M-----R--TL----	562
HPV5	RV-K-R-L-----	Q-----SEC-----V---I-M-----G--HY--L-C-YR-PT-M-F--	518
HPV12	-V-K-R-L-----	Q-----GES-----V---V-----G--HF--L-C-Y--P---F--	516
HPV13	-----T---Y--S-----	CN--V-----QS--V-M---M--L-----M-----S-AL----	559
PCPV1	-----T---Y--S-----	CNT-V-----HS--G-M---M--L-----M-----S-AL----	561
BPV1	H---S-L--A-H-----	AS---TRA--V---HA--R-F-----Y-----A---A---	517

most-likely	LLITSNINVHKDDRYK.YLHSRI	TVFEFPNPFDFDSNGNPVYELTDQNWKSFFERLWSRLDSD...QE	602
HPV16	-----AGT-S-WP	---N-LV--T---E---E-----N-K-----S-T---S-HE...D	626
HPV18	I-L-T--HPA--N-WP	--E---A-----K-----IN-K---C---T-----HEE...E	634
HPV6B	--V---DIT-E-K---	T-V--T-T-----R---A---SNT---C---S--IQ-...S-	627
HPV11	--V---DIS-EEK---	V--T-T-----R---A---S-A---C---S-S--IE-...S-	627
HPV5	--L-----GETN-R	---TT-KG-----MKADNT-QF-----S-----T--TQ-----...--	583
HPV12	--L-----GETN-R	---KG---H---MKPDNT-QFQ---S-----TQ-----...--	581
HPV13	--V---VDIT--K---	Y--V--TLT-----R---A---S-A---C---T--SAS--IQ-...S-	624
PCPV1	--V---DITTEEK---	Y--V--K-----R---A---C-A---C---A--SAS--IQ-...S-	626
BPV1	--V---D-QAE---L	---VQT-R-EQ-CT..ES-EQPFNI--AD-----V---G---I-E...E-	582

most-likely	DE.EE.DGE..SQRTFRCVAGSNNRT..L	625
HPV16	-K.-N.--D..-LP--K--S-Q-TN-..-	649
HPV18	-A.DT.E-N..PFG--K----Q-H-P..-	657
HPV6B	..--S..NSQA---P-TVV---..-	649
HPV11	..--S..NSQA---P--VV---..-	649
HPV5	E-.G-....-A-Q-S-R-A-EH..-	606
HPV12	E-.GQ.H--...-A-Q-S-R-A-EH..I	604
HPV13	..-D--D..NSQA---P-TVV---.V	646
PCPV1	..-D--D..TSQA---P-TVV---.V	648
BPV1	-S.--D..-M---T-S-RNT-AV..D	605

block COBBLER sequence from MOTIF

```

HPV31 E1
madpagtdgegtgcnwfyveavidrqtgdni sedenedssdtgedmvd fidncnvynnq
aeaetaqalfhaqaeaeahaeavqlkrkyvgsplsdisscvdynisprlkaiciennskt
akrrlfelpdsygyntevetqqmvqveeqttlscngsdgthserenetpnrnilqLLKS
SNMKATLLAKFKELYGVSFNELTRQFKSDKTCNDWVIAVYGVtvaegfktllqpycl
ychlqslacswgmvmmlvrkfcaknr itiekllekllicistncMLIEPPKLRVAAAALY
WYKTSMSNASFTYGETPEWIARQTI INHsfndttfdlsqmVQWAYDNDYTDSDIAYEYA
KLADEDSNAAAFKLSNSQAKYVKDCATMCRHYKRAekrqmsmgqwiksrdckvsdeGDWK
PIVKFLRYQGVFVIFSLALKQFLHGVPKKNCLlihgppntgksyfcmSLIKFLQGVIS
FVNSKSHFWLQPLADAKIALLDDATHPCWYIDTYLRNALDGNPVSIDRKHKAPVQIKCP
PLLITSNINVHKDDKWKYLHSRIvvtfpnpfpfdkngnpvylsdknwksffsrtwrc1
nlheeedkendgdsfstfkcvsgqnr1l
    
```

Appendix B. Structural predictions for the E1 protein.

The MOTIF cobbler sequence for E1 (HPV-31; see appendix A above) was analyzed using several different secondary structure prediction algorithms: Gibrat (Gibrat et al., *J.Mol.Biol.* 198:425, 1987), Levin (Levin et al., *FEBS* 205:303, 1986), DPM (Rost and Sander, *Prot:Strct.Funct.Gen.* 19:55,1994) and SOPM (Geourjon and Deleage, *CABIOS* 11:681, 1995). The SOPMA service (<http://www.ibcp.fr/predict.html>) provides these as well as a consensus prediction. Four states, helix (H), beta sheet (E), coil (C), and turn (T) are predicted, of which helices are most certain. Note that some regions of apparent structural conservation are not represented as conserved regions at the primary sequence level, namely in the form of BLOCKS (appendix A). Superimposing the six BLOCKS inferred for the E1 alignment, the first and third (involved in DNA binding) have high helical content.

	1	10	20	30	40	50	60
E1-all_motif_co	MAD	PAG	TGEG	TG	CNG	W	F
Gibrat method	E	C	C	C	C	C	C
Levin method	H	S	C	T	T	S	S
DPM method	C	C	C	C	T	T	T
SOPMA predict	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Consensus	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
E1-all_motif_co	A	E	A	E	T	A	Q
Gibrat method	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Levin method	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
DPM method	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
SOPMA predict	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Consensus	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
E1-all_motif_co	A	E	A	E	T	A	Q
Gibrat method	E	C	C	C	C	C	C
Levin method	H	S	C	T	T	S	S
DPM method	C	C	C	C	T	T	T
SOPMA predict	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Consensus	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
E1-all_motif_co	S	N	M	K	A	T	L
Gibrat method	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Levin method	T	H	H	H	H	H	H
DPM method	C	C	H	H	H	H	H
SOPMA predict	C	C	H	H	H	H	H
Consensus	C	C	H	H	H	H	H
E1-all_motif_co	Y	C	H	L	Q	S	L
Gibrat method	E	C	C	C	C	C	C
Levin method	E	E	C	C	C	C	C
DPM method	C	E	C	H	H	C	H
SOPMA predict	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Consensus	C	E	C	C	C	C	C
E1-all_motif_co	W	Y	K	T	S	M	S
Gibrat method	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Levin method	C	T	C	S	C	C	T
DPM method	E	E	C	C	C	C	C
SOPMA predict	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Consensus	E	E	C	C	C	C	C


```

E1-all_motif_co KLAEDSNAAFLKSNSQAKYVKDCATMCRHYKRAEKRQMSMGQWIKSRCDKVSDEGDWK
Gibrat method  HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCEECHHHHHHHHHCCCHHHHHHHCCCEEECCCCCCCCCCCCCHC
Levin method    HCCHHHHHHHHHHHHHTCHHHHHHHHHHHHHHTSHHHHHCHHHHHHHHTHCHHCHHTTTH
DPM method      HHHCTCCHHHHHHTTCCCHCCEHCHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHTHCCEETTCCCTTTTCCCC
SOPMA predict   HHHHCCCCHHHHHHHHCCCCHEEHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCHHHHHHHCCCCCCCCCCCC
Consensus       HHHHCHCHHHHHHHHHCCCHHCEHCHHHHHHHHHHHCHHHHHCHHCCHHHHCCCCCCCCCCCC

E1-all_motif_co PIVKFLRYQGVFISFLSALKQFLHGVPKKNCLLIHGPPNTGKSYFCMSLIKFLQGKVIS
Gibrat method  HHHHHHHCCCHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCEEECCCCCCCCCEEEHHHHHHCCCEEE
Levin method    HHHHHHTTCCHHHHHHHHHHHHHTTCCSCCEEECCCCCCCCCEEEEEECHSHCCEE
DPM method      CEEEEEEECEHEEEEEHHHHHHHHCTTTCCCEECCTTTCTCCCEEEEEEEEECEEEEE
SOPMA predict   CEEHHHHHCCCCHEHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCEEECCCCCCCCHEEEHHHHHHCCCEEE
Consensus       CHHHHHH-CCHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCEEECCCCCCCCCEEEHHHHHHCCCEEE

E1-all_motif_co FVNSKSHFWLQPLADAKIALDDATHPCWHYIDTYLRNALDGNPVSIDRKHKAPVQIKCP
Gibrat method  EEECHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCEEECCHEEECCCCCHHHHHHHCCCCHHCCC
Levin method    EECSSCCCCCHHHHHEETHSSCCCCCEHHHHCHTCTTCCCEECCTCCCCCESCC
DPM method      EETCCCCCHCCHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCCCCCECCCHCCTTCTCCCCCHCCCHCECCCC
SOPMA predict   EEECCCHEHHHHHHHHHEEECCCCCCCCCEEEHHHCCCCCCCCCEEECCCCCCCCCCCC
Consensus       EEECCCCCHCCHHHHHHHHHHHCCCCCCCCCECHEHHCCCCCCCCCEEECCCCCCCCCCCC

E1-all_motif_co PLLITSNINVKDDKWKYLHSRIVVFTFPNPFPPDKNGNPVYELSDKNWKSFFSRTWCRL
Gibrat method  CCECCCHHHCHHHHHHHHHHCEEEEECCCCCCCCCCCCCEHEHHCHHEEECHHHHEH
Levin method    CCCCTTHCCCTCTHCHHTSSEEECSCCSSCCCTTTCCCEECCTCCHCHCCHCCCTC
DPM method      CCECECECETTTTCHCCEEEEEEEEECCCCCCCCCTTCTCCCTTTCCCCCECEEEHH
SOPMA predict   CEEEEEECCCCCCCCHHHHHCEEEEECCCCCCCCCCCCCEEECCCCCHHEHHHHEEE
Consensus       CCECECHCCCTCCHCHHHHCEEEEECCCCCCCCCCCCCEEE-CCCCCHEECHHHEEH

E1-all_motif_co NLHEEEDKENDGDSFSTFKCVSGQNIRTL
Gibrat method  CCCCHHHHCCCCCEEEEEECCCCCEEE
Levin method    CCCCHCTTCCSCCHCEEECCSSHCEE
DPM method      CHHHHTCTTTTCTTECEECTCCECCC
SOPMA predict   EEEHCCCCCCCCCEEEEEECCCCCEH
Consensus       CCCCHCCTCCCCCEEEEEECCCCCEE

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