Two Deletion Alleles in the *C. elegans* mir-49 gene.

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Figure 1: (A) A schematic of the mir-49 locus and the location of the newly generated mir-49(zen99) and mir-49(zen102) deletion alleles. (B) zen99 removes 56 base pairs from the mir-49 precursor. (C) zen102 removes 58 base pairs from the mir-49 precursor.

Description

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are small, non-coding RNAs that post-transcriptionally repress gene expression (Gebert and MacRae, 2018). While many miRNA genes and their families have been analyzed for function (Miska *et al.* 2007, Alvarez-Saavedra and Horvitz 2010), there are microRNA genes for which loss of function alleles have not yet been generated. There are no available alleles for the *C. elegans* mir-49 gene.

Using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing, we generated two deletion alleles, zen99 and zen102, that disrupt the *C. elegans* mir-49 gene (Fig 1A). mir-49(zen99) and mir-49(zen102) delete 56 base pairs and 58 base pairs from the mir-49 locus, respectively (Fig 1B and Fig 1C). Each deletion nearly completely removes both strands generated by the mir-49 locus, mir-49-3p and mir-49-5p. Both mir-49 alleles are homozygous viable and appear to be superficially wild type. Careful phenotypic analysis will be important to characterize the effects of the two mir-49 deletions.

Methods

To generate the mir-49 deletion alleles, N2 animals were injected with the CRISPR-Cas9 components as an RNA-protein complex (Paix *et al.* 2015). The following components were used: Alt-R Cas9 (IDT, cat# 1081058) loaded with mir-49 crRNAs (IDT, custom) ([mir-49 crRNA1 sequence: 5’-GAGCACATCACAACAAACTG-3’, mir-49 crRNA2 sequence: 5’-GCACCACGAGAAGCTGCAGA-3’], dpy-10 targeting guide RNA (IDT, custom) (5’-GCUACCAUAGGCACCAGCAGG-3’, Arribere *et al.* 2014) and tracer RNA (IDT, cat# 1072532) (AGCAUAGGAGUAAUAAAGCCUGAUAUCCUGUAAACUGAGUCCGGUGAGUCCGCGU). Briefly, to load the Alt-R Cas9, the following mixture was incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes: 0.5µL of Alt-R Cas9, 2.4µL of tracrRNA (0.4µg/µL), 0.8µL of mir-49 crRNA1 (0.4µg/µL), 0.8µL of mir-49 crRNA2 (0.4µg/µL), 1.3 µL of dpy-10 crRNA (0.1µg/µL), 1µL IDT annealing buffer (provided with Alt-R Cas9), and 3.2µL of water. Following the incubation, the mixture was spun for 2 minutes at top speed (~10,000rpm). The progeny of the injected animals was first screened for the presence of dumpy worms to identify parents positive for Cas9 activity (Arribere *et al.* 2014). F1 offspring of the Cas9-positive parents were then genotyped for the presence of potential mir-49 deletions using the following primers: mir-
for1 (5'-AGGCACCACACTTACCATTCAT-3') and mir-49.rev1 (5'-GATGACTTACAGTCGCGTCTT-3'), which generate a wild type product of ~430 bps. Independent mir-49 deletions were identified, homozygosed, and sequenced. The resultant strains, UY264 (mir-49(zen99)) and UY267 (mir-49 (zen102)) were not outcrossed, but appear to be free of background dpy-10 mutations. Sequencing was repeated in the next generation to ensure the stability of the generated alleles.

Reagents
UY264 mir-49(zen99) and UY267 mir-49 (zen102) are available upon request.

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References


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