**fs(1)A1304** is a 5′ UTR deletion of the essential gene *small ovary* in *Drosophila*

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**Figure 1:** A) Complementation mapping of **fs(1)A1304**. Boxes represent either the portion of the chromosome deleted or duplicated. For deficiencies, green indicates complementing deletions and black indicates non-complementing deletions. For duplications, green indicates rescuing fragments while black indicates non-rescuing fragments. Numbers indicate genomic coordinates in bases along the X chromosome. B) Genomic PCR of wildtype (WT) and **sov** flies. Primers were designed to amplify genomic DNA encoding the 5′ UTR region of the **sov**-RA transcript. C) Cartoon of the **sov** locus. Dark blue represents the **sov** gene region with the left arrow representing the **sov**-RA transcriptional start site and right arrow representing the **sov**-RB/RC transcriptional start site. Green represents the **CR43496** gene region with the arrow representing the transcriptional start site. Red box represents the deleted segment in **sov** flies. Small rectangles represent untranslated regions while large boxes represent translated regions. Numbers indicate genomic coordinates in bases along the X chromosome.

**Description**

X-linked female sterile screens in *Drosophila* have led to a tremendous increase in our understanding of the genetic control of oogenesis (Gans et al. 1975; Mohler 1977; Komitopoulou et al. 1983). However, many of the loci in these screens have not been mapped to a single gene and therefore remain a rich resource for further elucidating the genetic control of female fertility. **fs(1)A1304** is one such allele that is germline dependent and results in a degenerative ovary phenotype (Gans et al. 1975; Khipple and King 1976; Mulligan 1981; Wieschaus et al. 1981; Mulligan and Rasch 1985; Lamnissou and Gelti-Douka 1985). We were interested in determining the mutation that leads to sterility in **fs(1)A1304** females. Previous recombination mapping had placed **fs(1)A1304** at 19±2 cM on the X chromosome (Gans, Audit, and Masson 1975; Khipple and King 1976). We confirmed the previous mapping interval by meiotically mapping **fs(1)A1304** to the right of **crossveinless** (12 cM) and to the left of **singed** (22 cM). We began complementation tests for female sterility with known deficiencies tiling the **crossveinless** and **singed** region and placed the lesion within a roughly 235 kb region (Figure 1A, non-complementing **Df(1)BSC276, BSC285, BSC286, BSC297, BSC351, BSC353, and sov** (Parks et al. 2004;
Cook et al. 2012). Two duplications within this narrow region rescued fs(1)A13041 sterility and thus further narrowed down the possible location of the causal mutation (Figure 1A, Dp(1;3)DC486 and Dp(1;3)DC026) (Venken et al. 2010). The mapping results were somewhat ambiguous within this narrow region (discussed below). However, the smallest non-complementing deficiency, Df(1)sov, contains only the protein coding gene small ovary (sov) and non-coding RNA gene CR43496. We therefore decided to complementation test fs(1)A13041 with known alleles of sov. Flies homozygous for hypomorphic alleles of sov show a similar female sterility phenotype to flies bearing fs(1)A13041 while amorphic sov alleles are embryonic lethal (Wayne et al. 1995; Jankovics et al. 2018; Benner et al. 2019). We found that amorphic alleles sov⁵⁴⁴ and sov⁸⁸⁰ failed to complement fs(1)A1304¹ female sterility while the hypomorphic sov² complemented fs(1)A1304¹ sterility. Collectively this indicates that fs(1)A1304¹ is a sov allele (sovA¹³⁰⁴¹).

To determine the molecular lesion, we performed paired-end DNA sequencing on sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ females. The sov locus contains three annotated transcripts; sov-RAs has an annotated upstream transcriptional start site while sov-RB/RC are annotated to use a downstream transcriptional start site (Thurmold et al. 2019). Our sequencing data suggested that sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ flies contained a deletion within the sov gene region that would delete a majority of the sov⁵′ UTR. Genomic PCR of this potential deletion confirmed the presence of a deletion in sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ flies (Figure 1B). Sanger sequencing of the sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ genomic PCR product showed that there was a 324 nucleotide deletion (chrX:6,756,385-6,756,709) and a 10 nucleotide insertion (TCAACCTTCG) in the sov⁵′ UTR and would therefore remove most of the annotated 5′ UTR and donor splice site (Figure 1C).

We are unsure why a duplication (Dp(1;3)DC026) and a deficiency (Df(1)BSC535) to the left of the sov region rescued and failed to complement sovA¹³⁰⁴¹, respectively. We also found that the small duplication of just sov and CR43496 (Dp(1;3)sov⁴⁻CH322-19₁E₂⁴) failed to rescue. We were not able to find any deleterious mutations or structural variants in our sequencing data to the left of sov that might indicate the presence of a second-site suppressor or long-range genomic interactions with the sov locus that are necessary for its proper expression. It is interesting that sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ had not been previously mapped to sov since the Mohler and Gans X-linked female sterile collections had been previously complementation tested inter se (Perrimon et al. 1986). We found that one of the original Mohler alleles, sov², complemented sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ sterility and is thus possible that the other two Mohler alleles, sov¹ and sov³, behaved similarly, providing an explanation as to why sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ was not previously recognized as belonging to the sov locus. It would be interesting to determine if the 5′ UTR deletion of the sov-RAs transcript found in sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ affects sov activity in other tissues of the body other than the ovary. There is no indication that sov-RAs, or sov-RB/RC, is differentially expressed in the ovary or other adult tissues (Benner et al. 2019). Pole cell transplantation studies of sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ indicated that defects are germline dependent (Wieschaus et al. 1981; Lamiussou and Gelti-Douka 1985), however, sov is an essential gene that has been shown to dominantly suppress position-effect variegation in tissues such as the eye (Jankovics et al. 2018; Benner et al. 2019). It is possible that the deletion solely affects sov-RAs and that the Drosophila ovary is more sensitive to loss of sov-RAs, or sov transcripts in general, in comparison to other tissues since sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ females are viable but sterile. However, we have not directly measured the deletions effects on sov-RB/RC transcript levels, which might also be perturbed. The nature of the sovA¹³⁰⁴¹ deletion therefore provides a unique mechanism to further elucidate the function of Sov at potentially both the transcript and regulatory level in Drosophila.

**Methods**

*Request a detailed protocol*

Flies were cultured on ‘Fly Food A’ (LabExpress, Ann Arbor, MI) under standard laboratory conditions at 25°C. Genomic DNA was extracted from 30 homozygous fs(1)A1304¹ flies with a Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (Hilden, Germany) according to the manufacturers insect protocol. DNA-sequencing libraries were made with Illumina Nextera DNA Library Prep Kit (San Diego, CA). 50 nucleotide paired-end sequencing was performed (Illumina HiSeq 2500, CASAVA base calling). Sequencing reads were mapped with Hisat2 to the FlyBase r6.25 genome and are available at the SRA (SRP238927) (Kim et al. 2015; Thurmond et al. 2019). Variant calling was completed with mpileup and bcftools from SAMtools within the X chromosome region 6625450-6660753 (Li et al. 2009; Li 2011) followed with variant annotation software snpEFF (Cingolani et al. 2012). For structural variant calling, we used BreakDancer software (Chen et al. 2009). Sanger sequencing was completed by Genewiz (Plainfield, NJ).

**Reagents**

Deficiencies and duplications in order as they appear in Figure 1 (top to bottom).

Deficiencies:

\[Df(1)ED6802 = BDSC 8949\] (or FBst0008949)
Df(1)BSC654 = BDSC 26506 (or FBst0026506)
Df(1)dx81 = BDSC 5281 (or FBst005281)
Df(1)ED418 = BDSC 8032 (or FBst008032)
Df(1)ED6829 = BDSC 8947 (or FBst008947)
Df(1)Exel6238 = BDSC 7712 (or FBst007712)
Df(1)BSC640 = BDSC 25730 (or FBst0025730)
Df(1)Edel6239 = BDSC 7713 (or FBst007713)
Df(1)Exel6240 = BDSC 7714 (or FBst007714)
Df(1)e02477-d06059 = BDSC 39617 (or FBst0039617)
Df(1)BSC535 = BDSC 25063 (or FBst0025063)
Df(1)BSC285 = BDSC 23670 (or FBst0023670)
Df(1)BSC351 = BDSC 24375 (or FBst0024375)
Df(1)BSC297 = BDSC 23681 (or FBst0023681)
Df(1)BSC286 = BDSC 23671 (or FBst0023671)
Df(1)BSC276 = BDSC 23661 (or FBst0023661)
Df(1)sov = Benner et al., 2019
Df(1)ED6878 = BDSC 9625 (or FBst009625)
Df(1)BSC882 = BDSC 30587 (or FBst0030587)
Df(1)BSC867 = BDSC 29990 (or FBst0029990)
Df(1)Sxl-bt = BDSC 3196 (or FBst003196)
Df(1)Sxl^{P7B0} = BDSC 58489 (or FBst0058489)

Duplications:
Dp(1;3)DC158 = BDSC 30296 (or FBst0030296)
Dp(1;3)DC159 = BDSC 32268 (or FBst0032268)
Dp(1;3)DC160 = BDSC 30297 (or FBst0030297)
Dp(1;3)DC026 = BDSC 30226 (or FBst0030226)
Dp(1;3)DC486 = BDSC 32306 (or FBst0032306)
Dp(1;3)sov^{CH322-191E24} = Venken et al., 2010 (or FBal0243261)
Dp(1;3)DC163 = BDSC 32269 (or FBst0032269)
Dp(1;3)DC164 = BDSC 32270 (or FBst0032270)

Alleles:
fs(1)A1304^{1} (sov^{A1304-1}) = BDSC 4314 (or FBst004314)
ssov^{2} = BDSC 4611 (or FBst004611)
ssov^{EA42} (synonymous with l(1)6De^{3}) = FBal0007068
sov^{ML150} = BDSC 4591 (or FBst004591)

Primer fs(1)A1304^{1} Forward = TGACCATGTTGCATCTAAGCCA
Primer fs(1)A1304^{1} Reverse = AGTAGAGCTCGCAATACGCC

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References


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