A null mutation of *C. elegans* vwa-8

Ming Zhu\(^1\), Andrew D Chisholm\(^1\) and Yishi Jin\(^1\)*§

\(^1\)Section of Neurobiology, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093, United States

\(^*\)To whom correspondence should be addressed: yijin@ucsd.edu

---

**Figure 1:** (A) shown is vwa-8 gene structure from WormBase (Version: WS276). Blue bar indicates vwa-8(ju1659) deletion. (B) vwa-8(ju1659) deletes 7989bp. The start and stop codons of the F11C1.5a.1 isoform are highlighted in yellow. Exonal sequences are shown in uppercase.

---

**Description**

VWA8 proteins, named for von Willebrand factor A (VWA) domain containing 8, are conserved from worm to mammals (Whittaker & Hynes, 2002). In human, two SNPs (rs9566845 and rs9566867) in vwa8 are found to be associated with bipolar disorder with comorbid migraine (Oedegaard et al., 2010). Another SNP (rs9532931) is tentatively associated with a specific sub-group of autism patients (Anney et al., 2010). The *C. elegans* VWA-8 long isoform shares 38% and 55% amino acid sequence identity and similarity, respectively, with human VWA8 long isoform. We showed that endogenous VWA-8 is expressed in mitochondria of somatic tissues, except neurons (Zhu, Chisholm & Jin, 2020). To determine the function of *C. elegans* vwa-8, we generated a null allele vwa-8(ju1659) by CRISPR-Cas9. vwa-8(ju1659) mutants are homozygous viable, and indistinguishable from wild type in gross phenotypes such as body size, brood size, growth rate and movement.

**Methods**

Request a detailed protocol

We generated vwa-8(ju1659) using two CRISPR RNA (crRNAs), 5'-AGTGAAACCGTGTGATCAT-3' and 5'-CTACAACGAGAGTTGCCTGT-3' (Integrated DNA Technologies) targeting the start and stop codons of vwa-8, respectively. The crRNAs were injected into wild type hermaphrodites with purified Cas9 protein (MacroLabs, University of California Berkeley), trans-activating crRNA (tracrRNA) and *dpy-10* crRNA, as described (Paix, Folkmann, Rasoloson, & Seydoux, 2015). The dumpy F1 progeny of the injected P0 wild type animals were singled to separate plates. F1 dumpy worms were then genotyped for the presence of potential vwa-8 deletions using the following primers: 5'-GCCAGGTGCTTTAATTACCG-3' and 5'-CTCAGAAGCACTTATCGCAATATGGG-3'. Several independent vwa-8 deletions were identified. All deletion mutants behaved similarly. ju1659 is a 7989bp deletion of vwa-8 which removes nearly all the coding sequence of vwa-8, except the last 82bp of the last exon. CZ26606 vwa-8(ju1659) was generated after outcrossing with N2 for 3 times to remove the dumpy mutation.

**Reagents**

CZ26606 vwa-8(ju1659) will be available at the CGC.

**Acknowledgments:** We thank members of the Jin and Chisholm laboratories for valuable discussions. We acknowledge WormBase as an information resource.
References

Funding: This work was supported by NIH R01 NS093588 to AC and YJ and R01 GM054657 to AC.

Author Contributions: Ming Zhu: Investigation, Writing - original draft, Writing - review and editing. Andrew D Chisholm: Funding acquisition, Supervision, Writing - review and editing. Yishi Jin: Funding acquisition, Supervision, Writing - review and editing.

Reviewed By: Anonymous

History: Received May 20, 2020 Revision received June 1, 2020 Accepted June 2, 2020 Published June 7, 2020

Copyright: © 2020 by the authors. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.