

Protein phosphatase V ensures timely cell cycle remodeling during the mid-blastula transition in *Drosophila*

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Abstract (149 words)

Cell cycle remodeling from fast nuclear cycles to a generic cell cycle mode is a major feature of the mid-blastula transition (MBT) in *Drosophila*. Remodeling occurs when Twine/Cdc25 falls below a critical threshold. Timing is based on Twine destabilization induced by zygotic transcription. It is conceivable that appropriate starting levels are also important for timely reaching the threshold. Mechanisms for controlling Twine levels at the onset of MBT are unknown. Here we identify a function of the protein phosphatase V in this mechanism. Twine was increased in *PpV* mutants, whereas the decay rate was comparable to wildtype. *PpV* mutants frequently underwent an extra nuclear division. We detected PpV-dependent phosphosites in Twine. Phosphosite mutants contain higher Twine levels and frequently underwent an extra nuclear division, comparable to *PpV* mutants. Our data support a model that the cell cycle remodeling is controlled by induced destabilization and PpV-dependent control of Twine levels.

Key words:

Blastoderm, Twine/Cdc25, cell cycle, *Drosophila*, mid-blastula transition, protein phosphatase

Introduction

A change in the mode of the cell cycle from a fast nuclear cycles with no gap phases and no cytokinesis to a generic mode with a long gap phase and slow replication is a characteristic feature of the mid-blastula transition (MBT) in early embryogenesis (Farrell2014, Blythe2015a, Liu2017). This remodeling of the cell cycle is linked to changes in a number of cellular processes, including DNA replication checkpoint, epigenetic markers, onset of zygotic gene expression, degradation of maternal RNAs and morphological changes (Blythe2015a, Harrison2015, Laver2015). In *Drosophila* embryos, the cell cycle remodeling occurs after the mitosis of nuclear cycle 13 (Foe1993). The activation of zygotic transcription triggers the cell cycle switch in that the DNA checkpoint is activated (Sung2013, Blythe2015b) and few zygotic genes encoding mitotic inhibitors are expressed (Grosshans2000, Grosshans2003, Gawlinski2007).

At the center of the embryonic cell cycle switch is a positive regulator of Cdk1, the phosphatase Twine/Cdc25 (Edgar1996), which is stable during the 13 fast cycles but is destabilized by zygotic factors like Tribbles (Trbl) after mitosis 13 (Di Talia2013, Farrell2013). Twine levels normally fall below the critical threshold for entry into mitosis in interphase 14, which is achieved by a drop in half life by a factor of 4 from about 20 min to 5 min (Di Talia2013). Since there is significant protein synthesis, the decay time of Twine, including translation and degradation, is longer than its half life. However, important for when the levels of Twine reach the threshold is not only the rate of decay. It is conceivable that an increase in the starting levels leads to a delay in reaching the threshold. Mechanism for controlling Twine protein expression at the onset of MBT are unknown.

The *Drosophila Protein phosphatase V (PpV)* encodes the homologue of the catalytic subunit of human PP-6 (Mann1993, Bastians1996). PP-6 has been implicated in mitosis and meiosis (Stefansson2007, Chen2007, Hu2015, Ertych2016), DNA repair (Zhong2011), inflammation (Yan2015), *C. elegans* cortical contractility (Afshar2010) and mouse early embryogenesis (Ogoh2016). In addition to these physiological functions, PP-6 mutations have been found to be associated with melanoma tumors (Hodis2012, Krauthammer2012, Hammond2013). PP-6 is an

inhibitory phosphatase of oncogene AuroraA kinase (Zeng2010, Ertych2016). Quantitative phosphoproteomics identified further potential PP-6 substrates (Rusin2015), whose physiological relevance has remained undefined.

Here we characterize the function of *PpV* in cell cycle remodeling during MBT in *Drosophila* embryos. We isolated and characterized a *PpV* null mutant allele. We reveal a function in controlling the switch in cell cycle mode. Loss of *PpV* frequently led to an additional nuclear division and increased the variance of Twine protein levels. Our results indicate that *PpV* controls low initial levels of Twine, allowing a timely drop of protein levels below the threshold for entry into mitosis.

Results

PpV mutant embryos frequently undergo an extra nuclear division cycle

We screened a collection of mutations with early embryonic phenotypes (Luschnig2004, Vogt2006) for cell cycle defects (Fig. 1A). Embryos from females with germline clones of the X9 mutation (in the following designated as *PpV*[X9] embryos) developed apparently normally until gastrulation but underwent frequently one extra round of nuclear division as shown by time lapse imaging with bright field microscopy and with embryos with fluorescently labelled histone (Fig. 1B, Movie 1). The extra division often involved only part of the embryo resulting in regions with higher nuclear density (Fig. 1B). The penetrance of the extra division (including divisions involving only a part of the embryos) was in the range of one third to one half of the embryos. The timing of the early cell cycles was comparable to wild type embryos (Fig. 1C). Cycle 13 was slightly prolonged in *PpV*[X9] embryos with a normal number of nuclear divisions and similar to the length of cycle 14 in *PpV*[X9] embryos with an extra nuclear division. Many eggs from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones (about 50%, N>100) did not develop, indicating a function in egg activation, meiosis or fertilization.

We mapped the lethality and the cell cycle phenotype by meiotic recombination and complementation with duplication and deficiency chromosomes to the 5F region (Supplemental

material Fig. S1). Sequencing of the genes in the mapped region revealed a nonsense mutation in the seventh codon in the *PpV* gene encoding the *Drosophila* homologue of the catalytic subunit of protein phosphatase 6 (Fig. 2A, 2B). This mutation is responsible for the phenotype, since a genomic construct rescued the lethality and the cell cycle phenotype of *PpV*[X9] (Fig. 2A). *PpV*[X9] is likely to be a protein null allele as a band was detected by western blot with extracts from wild type and rescued but not *PpV* mutant embryos (Fig. 2C). We did not detect a band in extracts from staged embryos (Fig. 2C), indicating a lack of significant zygotic expression. Consistently, we did not observe a zygotic rescue leading to an ameliorated phenotype or larval hatching in half of the embryos.

Due to cross reactivity, the antiserum was not suitable for immunostaining. Employing a transgene with a GFP inserted at the N-terminus of PpV, which rescued lethality and the embryonic cell cycle phenotype, we could specifically detect the distribution of PpV protein (Fig. 2D). We detected a spatially and temporally uniform expression of GFP-PpV in early embryos. Close observation revealed slightly lower nuclear levels. We did not observe obvious differences in fluorescence among embryos in pre-gastrulation stages and embryos in interphase and mitosis, suggesting that expression levels of PpV protein did not change during the early embryonic cell cycles (Fig. 2D).

Twine protein levels are increased and longer persisting in *PpV* mutants
Cell cycle remodeling at MBT is induced by destabilization of Twine/Cdc25 (Di Talia2013, Farrell2013). We investigated genetic interactions of *PpV* and *twine*. We found that *twine* is a dominant suppressor of *PpV*, since we observed a few hatching larvae from *PpV* germ line clones that were heterozygous for *twine* (5%, N>1000). This suggests that *PpV* may act in an antagonistic manner on *twine*. Total *twine* RNA as measured by qPCR was similar in wild type and *PpV* embryos (1: 0.94). We compared the developmental profile of Twine protein in wild type and *PpV* embryos by immunostaining of fixed embryos for Twine. We found that Twine staining tentatively persisted longer in *PpV* embryos than wild type embryos as staged by morphological markers (Fig. 3). However, comparison of Twine levels between wild type and mutant embryos is problematic, since Twine levels were highly dynamic in cycle 14 and showed high variance especially in the *PpV* mutants. For reliable and precise quantification of the rapid

and variant dynamics, a noninvasive quantitative method is needed that is applicable to single embryos during MBT.

We applied fluctuation analysis employing embryos expressing Twine-GFP protein in order to reveal the temporal profile in individual embryos (Fig. 4A–C). As the fluctuations in the fluorescence traces are dependent on the GFP concentration, the number of molecules per optical volume can be calculated (Chen2002, Digman2008, Fig. 4C). We validated the method in embryos expressing one or two copies of nuclear localization signal GFP (nls-GFP) driven by the ubiquitin promoter. Western blotting with extracts from these embryos demonstrated that protein levels corresponded to gene copy number (Fig. 4D). Fluctuation analysis with embryos in early cycle 14 revealed an increase from $c(1 \times \text{GFP}) = 102.3 \pm 17.3$ to $c(2 \times \text{GFP}) = 213.7 \pm 49.1$, and thus a two-fold higher absolute concentration of nls-GFP in embryos with two transgenes as compared to embryos with one nls-GFP transgene (Fig. 4E).

Having validated the method, we recorded the concentration profile of Twine-GFP fluorescence during the course of interphase 14 (Fig. 5B). The Twine-GFP transgene is fully functional in *twine* mutants as female sterility was rescued (Fig. 5A). From the time courses of Twine-GFP concentration in single embryos (Fig. 5C), we calculated two parameters for each embryo assuming an exponential function: the decay time (which includes protein production and degradation and is larger than the half life of the protein) and the initial particle number, which corresponds to the concentration at the onset of interphase 14 (Fig. 5C, 5D). In embryos with one copy of Twine-GFP in addition to the two endogenous copies of *twine*, we calculated values with little variation around the mean (12.9%, Tab. 2), indicating that our method is robust (Fig. 5E, 5F). In contrast, a statistically significant change of the initial particle number from 38.5 ± 5.0 in wild type to 56.7 ± 19.5 in *PpV* mutants was calculated (Tab. 2). More striking than the change of the mean value is the strongly increased variance. The standard deviation more than doubled from 13% in wild type to 34% in *PpV* mutants (Fig. 5E, Tab. 2). Many of the *PpV* mutants have an initial particle number of approximately 80 that is double of the wild type number while others are in the range of wild type. The decay time of about 10 min remained unchanged in *PpV* mutant embryos (Fig. 5F). Visa versa, we found a statistically significant change in the decay time to about 13.5 min in *trbl* embryos (Fig. 5F, Tab. 2) but an unchanged

initial particle number (Fig. 5E). These data are consistent with the previous report on the role of *trbl* in Twine destabilization (Farrell2013). These measurements indicate that PpV controls the expression levels of Twine protein and maintains a low embryo to embryo variation in pre-MBT. Complementary to PpV, zygotic *Trbl* is involved in the induced destabilization of Twine during MBT by enhancing the decay rate.

Twine is hyperphosphorylated in *PpV* mutants

To assess a potential control of Twine protein stability by phosphorylation, we analyzed Twine protein by mass spectrometry. We isolated Twine-GFP with GFP-binder from staged wild type and *PpV* mutant embryos (Fig. 6A). The isolated amounts of Twine-GFP protein were visible with Coomassie blue staining (Fig. 6B). Isolated and digested bands were analyzed for their peptide sequences and for phosphorylated residues. In wild type and mutant embryos, we achieved coverage of 59.4% and 70%, respectively, and we detected peptides 1.8 fold more frequently in wild type than in mutants (Fig. 6C, Suppl. data Tab. S1). Two dual phosphorylation sites were found in both wild type and *PpV* embryos: Thr203+Ser205 and Thr394+Ser396 (Fig. 6C, Tab. 1). Importantly, an additional three sites were identified in *PpV* mutants: Ser41, at least one residue in the region between 59 and 67, and a clustered site close to the C-terminus, Ser405 and Ser412 (Fig. 6C, Tab. 1). These sites are evolutionary not conserved (Suppl. Data Fig. S2). The mass spectrometric analysis indicates that Twine is phosphorylated at additional sites in *PpV* mutants and suggests that PpV may act on Twine either directly or indirectly via other protein phosphatase or kinase.

To test the relevance of the identified residues, we generated Twine-GFP constructs and corresponding transgenes, in which these residues were mutated (Fig. 6D). The transgenes were crossed into *twine* mutants to test for complementation as a sign for functionality of the mutated constructs. We generated phosphosite (Twine-GFP-8×Ala) and phosphomimetic (Twine-GFP-8×Asp) mutants in the context of a genomic rescue construct (Fig. 6D). Both mutated transgenes complemented the *twine* female sterility similar to the wild type transgene. However, the phosphomimetic mutant showed a dominant lethality with two copies. This dominant lethal phenotype indicates that Twine-GFP-8xAsp is acquired for new activities, such as new substrates. We did not further analyze the phosphomimetic mutant, as data

interpretation would be questionable.

We measured Twine protein levels and their decay by fluorescence fluctuation analysis in embryos containing no endogenous Twine but the transgenic Twine-GFP. The phosphosite mutant contained a strongly increased amount of initial Twine levels (Fig. 6E, Tab. 2). We detected this increase in embryos with one copy of the transgene as well as in embryos with two copies. The decay rate was slightly lower in embryos with the phosphosite mutation than with the wild type allele (Fig. 6E, Tab. 2). Consistent with the higher Twine levels we observed a cell cycle phenotype. Amazingly, embryos with one or two copies of Twine-GFP-8×Ala frequently underwent an additional nuclear division (Fig. 6F). In summary, we detected developmentally relevant phosphorylation sites in Twine by our mass-spectrometric analysis. Mutation of the PpV-dependent phosphorylation sites leads to higher protein expression and importantly a corresponding extra nuclear division in embryos comparable to *PpV* mutants. We conclude that PpV controls Twine phosphorylation state, ensures low expression levels and prompt decay of Twine, and thus timely remodeling of the cell cycle.

PpV and *trbl* act in parallel

The differences in the dynamics of Twine-GFP suggest that PpV acts in a different manner on Twine than Trbl. To test this notion, we analyzed genetic interactions between *PpV* and *trbl*. *Trbl* has been implicated in cell cycle remodeling due to its zygotically expressed expression and its ability to pause the nuclear division cycle (Grosshans2000, Seher2000) and its role in degradation of Twine/Cdc25 (Farrell2013). *Trbl* homozygous animals have reduced viability, fertile flies, and *trbl* embryos from homozygous females undergo a normal number of nuclear divisions. In contrast, *trbl* females with *PpV* germ line clones did not produce any eggs. The ovaries of these females displayed multiple defects including egg chambers with an increased number of nurse cells (Data not shown). As both mutations are null alleles, we conclude that *PpV* and *trbl* act in parallel pathways in oogenesis, because the double mutant phenotype is stronger than the phenotypes of the single mutants.

In order to assess genetic interactions in embryos during MBT, we had to circumvent the oogenesis defect. We depleted *trbl* by injection of dsRNA into early embryos as described

previously (Farrell2013). Following *trbl* RNAi injection in *PpV* mutant embryos we observed a slightly increased proportion of *PpV* embryos with an extra nuclear division cycle (Fig. 7B). Next, we tested whether the ability of *trbl* to induce a precocious cell cycle pause depended on *PpV*. Following injection of *trbl* mRNA into wild type as well as *PpV* embryos, we observed a precocious cell cycle pause as indicated by the lower nuclear density, larger nuclei at the injection site (Fig. 7A, 7B). These experiments show that *trbl* can precociously pause the cell cycle even in the absence of *PpV*. In summary, these experiments indicate that *PpV* and *trbl* act in separate pathways controlling entry into mitosis.

The delayed cell cycle remodeling in *PpV* mutants does not depend on AuroraA
Next we investigated whether *PpV* controls Twine phosphorylation indirectly via AuroraA (AurA), which controls progression of mitotic events (Glover1995). It is assumed that PP-6 dependent dephosphorylation suppresses activation of AurA during mitosis in human cells (Zeng2010). AurA may also be a *PpV* substrate in *Drosophila* embryos. We observed an impaired chromosome segregation at low frequency in *PpV* mutants (NC10–13, 3% of the nuclei (N>100), three embryos) (Fig. 8A, Movie 2). Chromosomes did not separate and fused with chromosomes from neighboring spindles, although the arrangement of the centrosomes with single centrosomes at spindle poles appeared normal (Fig. 8A). In addition, we often observed delayed chromosome separation in telophase (Fig. 8B). In addition, we detected an additional band in an AurA western blot with extracts from *PpV* embryos in comparison to wild type extracts (Fig. 8C), which may correspond to a hyperphosphorylated AurA form. These observations are consistent with the antagonistic relationship of PP-6 and AurA in human cells.

It is conceivable that phosphorylated and thus activated AurA contributes to progression of nuclear division cycles. According to this model, AurA would have a higher activity in *PpV* mutants and thus trigger an extra nuclear division. A prediction from this model is that the extra division in *PpV* mutants depends on AurA. This prediction can be tested with double mutants of *PpV* and *aurA*. Embryos from hypomorphic *aurA* females develop until the blastoderm stage and are characterized by severe and asynchronous mitotic defects (Glover1995, Fig. 8D), which prevented counting the number of nuclear divisions in *aurA* mutants and *PpV aurA* double mutants. To circumvent this problem, we employed the chemical inhibitor MLN8054,

which has been demonstrated to be specific for AurA (Manfredi2007). To validate the activity of this compound in *Drosophila* embryos, we injected MLN8054 into wild type embryos expressing Histone 2Av-RFP and recorded movies. Injected embryos frequently showed defects in chromosome segregation in anaphase and telophase of syncytial cycles depending on the concentration of the inhibitor (Fig. 8E). This phenotype is consistent with the *aurA* mutant phenotype (Glover1995, Fig. 8D). The dose response curve indicates an effective concentration at about 20 μ M in the injection solution (Fig. 8F). Injection into wild type embryos did not change the number of nuclear divisions on top of chromosomal segregation defects (Fig. 8G). All embryos went through 13 divisions. Injection into *PpV* mutant embryos resulted in a mixed phenotype with 13 or 14 nuclear divisions comparable to water injected *PpV* mutant embryos (Fig. 8G). We conclude that AurA activity is not required for the extra nuclear division in *PpV* mutant embryos. These data indicate that AurA does not link PpV to Twine for cell cycle remodeling during MBT.

Discussion

Here we defined a novel function of PpV/PP-6 in cell cycle remodeling during MBT in *Drosophila*. At the center of this remodeling is the degradation of Twine/Cdc25 protein (Di Talia2013, Farrell2013). During the onset of cycle 14 and in response to MBT, the half life of Twine protein decreases from 20 min to 5 min (Di Talia2013). The biochemical signature of the degradation signal and the mechanism for the reduced half life remain elusive except for that Trbl and zygotic gene expression are involved. Here we revealed a mechanism that acts in addition to induced destabilization of Twine. The time, when Twine level falls below the critical threshold for entry into mitosis is determined by two parameters: (1) the decay time/half life and (2) initial levels. We propose a model, in which Trbl and other unknown zygotic factors controlled by the activated zygotic genome are involved in the induced destabilization during MBT, whereas maternal PpV controls the pre-MBT levels of Twine (Fig. 9A).

Twine/Cdc25 protein is expressed in high levels during pre-MBT stage in many *PpV* mutant embryos indicating that PpV ensures low protein levels in wild type embryos. Beside the higher expression levels, it is remarkable that the embryo to embryo variation depends on PpV. In *PpV*

mutants, we observed a wide variation of Twine. This variation is not due to limitations of our measurement technique, since measurements for nls-GFP and Twine-GFP in wild type embryos are robust with little variation. Our measurements indicate that PpV suppresses embryo to embryo variation by keeping Twine levels low. This would be consistent with a safeguarding function of PpV, which narrows the variation to a ground level. Such a mechanism could also explain the 30%–50% penetrance of *PpV* embryonic cell cycle phenotype.

PpV acts in parallel to other mechanisms ensuring the robust and timely switch in the cell cycle mode. In contrast to PpV, these are triggered by the onset of zygotic transcription either directly such as the mitotic inhibitor Fröhstart (Frs) that targets the hydrophobic patch of the Cyclin-Cdk1 complex (Gawlinski2007) and Trbl that is involved in destabilization of Twine in MBT (Farrell2013), or indirectly such as the checkpoint kinase Grapes/Chk1 (Sung2013, Blythe2015b) (Fig. 9B).

Twine/Cdc25 may be a direct substrate, with PpV hydrolyzing the phosphates at the identified positions. Alternatively, PpV may dephosphorylate and thereby inhibit a protein kinase for the identified positions on Twine/Cdc25. As AuroraA is a target of PpV, PpV may act indirectly on Twine/Cdc25, in that PpV inactivates AuroraA, which then cannot phosphorylate Twine/Cdc25. Mitotic Cdc25b phosphorylation by AuroraA in cultured human tumor cells has previously been reported (Dutertre2004). We do not favor this model, because firstly two of the three PpV dependent phosphorylation sites on Twine do not match the Aurora lenient consensus motif [KR].[ST][^P] (Sardon2010). Secondly, AuroraA acts and is activated during mitosis, whereas control of Twine protein levels is an interphase process. Thirdly, and most importantly inhibition of AuroraA by chemical inhibitors in *PpV* mutants did not suppress the extra mitosis, indicating that the entry into an extra cycle does not depend on hyperactive AuroraA.

The cell cycle control during MBT is a remarkable robust process with almost no variation in wild type embryos. Such a robustness requires save guarding mechanisms against natural variation of protein content and egg size, for example, especially when thresholds and gradients (temporal decay of Twine) are involved. Multiple mechanisms, including control of Twine levels by PpV, have been revealed that control the remodeling from fast nuclear cycles to an

309 embryonic cell cycle mode. Future experiments will define the mechanism how PpV controls
310 Twine protein levels and many redundant pathways are needed for the robust cell cycle switch
311 during MBT.

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Methods and materials

Genetics

Fly stocks were obtained from the Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, if not otherwise noted. Following fly strains and mutations were used: *trbl*[EP1119], *twine*[HB5]. Following transgenes were used: Twine-GFP (integrated at the landing site attP2/68A4, S. Blythe, S. Di Talia and E. Wieschaus), Histone2Av-GFP/RFP. Genomic transgenes (PpV[+], GFP-PpV[+]) were generated according to standard protocols by PhiC31 integrase-mediated site-specific insertions in the landing site ZH-86Fb (Bischof2007). The germ line clone phenotype on the X9 chromosome was mapped to the X:4–6 region and separated from another lethal mutation in the X:13–16 region by meiotic recombination with marker chromosomes. The lethality was mapped by complementation with duplications and deficiencies to 5F3–4 region delimited by the proximal breakpoint of Df(1)ED6829 and distal breakpoint of Dp(1;3)DC156. The duplication Dp(1;3)DC155 rescued lethality and the germ line clone phenotype. The genes in this region, i. e. *swaPsi*, *swa*, *Marf* and *PpV*, were sequenced on the X9 chromosome in comparison to the X238 chromosome, which was isolated in the same mutagenesis background.

Molecular genetics, cloning, constructs

For the *PpV* rescue construct, a 2679bp EcoRI fragment from BAC clone 18C-18 (BACPAC Resources Center) was isolated and cloned into the pattB vector (Bischof2007). For GFP-PpV the 5' terminal 444 bp (a HindII/EcoRI-BspM1 fragment) were replaced by a corresponding 1229 bp fragment with codon optimized GFP and a linker inserted at the start codon, which was synthesized by Eurofins Genomics and cloned into the pattB vector. CS2-tribbles plasmid template was linearized by XhoI and transcribed by SP6 Transcription Kit (Ambion). dsRNAs were produced by T7 RNA polymerase (Ambion), NTPs, RNase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher) and Pyrophosphatase (Thermo Fisher), using CS2-tribbles as template and dsRNA primers BL10 (GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCGATCAGCGCACAGCCTAGTCA) and BL11 (GTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCGATGGCCATAGATGGTGCTCC). The Twine-EGFP transgene was synthesizing as a 3.6 kb complementing genomic fragment (Alphey1992) with an in-frame insertion of a Drosophila codon optimized EGFP at the C-terminus including a

linker sequence (S. Blythe, S. Di Talia and E. Wieschaus). The constructs of mutated Twine phosphosites were synthesized by Eurofins Genomics and cloned into the KpnI/BamHI fragment of Twine-EGFP-pBABR plasmid.

RNA isolation, quantitative PCR

Quantitative PCR and data analysis were carried out according to the protocols of SYBR Green Real-Time PCR Master Mixes and qPCR system software (Thermo Fisher Scientific). cDNA template was synthesized by reverse transcription of *Drosophila* total RNA, which was isolated by using TRIzol total RNA isolation protocol (Invitrogen). The following primer pairs were used: *twine* qPCR primers BL16 (GAGTTCCTTGGCGGACACAT) and BL17 (CAGGATAGTCCAGTGCCGGAT); *GAPDH* qPCR primers MP37F (CACCAGTTCATTCCCAACTT) and MP37R (CTTGCCTTCAGGTGACGC).

Antibodies, Immunisation

The *PpV* coding sequence was cloned into an expression vector with a C-terminal His-tag. The PpV-His protein was purified under denaturing conditions (Trenzyme, Konstanz). Rabbits were immunized with the purified denatured protein (BioGenes, Berlin). In western blots the serum detected a band that was not present in extracts from *PpV*[X9] embryos. In whole mount staining no difference between wild type and *PpV*[X9] embryos was observed. Following antibodies were used: AuroraA (Giet2002), Feo (rabbit, Verni2004), LaminDm0 (mouse, T47/1/1, Risau1981), γ -tubulin (GTU-88, Sigma), GFP-booster (Chromotek), Dia (rabbit, guinea pig, Grosshans2005, Wenzl2010), Slam (rabbit, guinea pig, Acharya2014), Twine (rat, Di Talia2013).

Immunostaining

Formaldehyde or heat fixed embryos were rinsed thrice in PBT, and blocked in PBT with 5% BSA at 4°C overnight. The primary antibodies were added in the respective dilutions in 0.1% BSA with PBT and embryos were incubated 2 h with constant rotation at room temperature. Then the embryos were rinsed thrice and washed four times 15 min with PBT. Secondary antibodies were added in PBT and embryos were incubated for 2 h. Embryos were rinsed thrice and washed four times 15 min in PBT again. Embryos were then stained with DNA dye,

rinsed thrice in PBT, washed in PBT for 5 min and mounted in Aquapolymount (Polysciences).

Embryo microinjection

Embryos were dechorionated with 50% Klorix bleach for 90 s, dried in a desiccation chamber for 5 to 10 min, then covered by halocarbon oil. Glass capillaries with internal filament were pulled as needles. For transgenesis, DNA was injected at 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ posteriorly and prior to pole cell formation. Capped mRNAs were injected at a concentration of 800 ng/ μl . dsRNA was injected at concentration of 12 mg/ml (Farrell2013). MLN8054 Aurora Kinase inhibitor (Selleck chemicals, Manfredi2007) was injected at a concentration of 20 μM diluted in water. We estimate the injection volume to be roughly 1–5% of the embryo volume.

Western blot

Proteins were separated by SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred to nitrocellulose membrane by semi-dry or wet transfer and stained with Ponceau S for loading control. Following blocking with 5% milk powder in PBT, the filters were incubated with primary antibodies in 0.5% BSA in PBT overnight at 4°C. After washing (3× rinsed, 4× 10 min in PBT) and incubation with secondary antibodies (800CW, 680CW, Donkey anti-guinea pig/mouse/rabbit IgG) for 1 h at room temperature, the blots were imaged with an Odyssey CLx Infrared imaging system. 16-bit images were processed by Photoshop and FIJI/ImageJ. Collected embryos (N=10–20) were pooled, dissolved in 1× Laemmli buffer and boiled at 95°C for 10 min. To facilitate homogenization, the lysates were gently triturated.

Microscopy

Images of fixed and stained samples were recorded with a confocal microscope (Zeiss LSM780). The settings and objectives (25×/water, 40×/oil and 63x/water) were based on optimal imaging conditions and each channel was recorded separately. For life imaging, embryos were dechorionated with 50% hypochloride bleach for 90 s, aligned on a piece of apple-juice agar, transferred to a coated cover slip and covered with halocarbon oil. Live movies with differential interference contrast (DIC) optics were recorded with a light intensity of 2.5–3.0 V, an exposure time of 80–100 ms and a frame interval of 0.5–1 min. Fluorescent movies were recorded at an inverted spinning disc microscope (Zeiss, CSU-X1) with 30–50%

laser intensity, 100 ms exposure time and a frame rate of 1 image per 0.5 to 1 min.

Fluctuation analysis

Following female genotype were utilized: wild type 1×: Twine-GFP/+, *PpV* 1×: *PpV*[X9]/*ovoD*; Twine-GFP/+, *trbl* 1×: X9/*ovoD*; *trbl*, Twine-GFP/*trbl*. Phosphosite mutant 1×: *twine/twine*; Twine-GFP/TM3, *twine/twine*; Twine-GFP-8×Ala/TM3. Phosphosite mutant 2×: *twine/twine*; Twine-GFP/Twine-GFP, *twine/twine*; Twine-GFP-8×Ala/Twine-GFP-8×Ala. Fluctuation traces were recorded with a 63× oil immersion objective (Planapochromat, NA 1.4/oil) and a GaAsP detector on a confocal microscope (Zeiss LSM780) in fluorescence correlation spectrometry (FCS) mode. Onset of interphase 14 was defined as T=0. The data were analyzed as previously reported (Chen 2002, Digman 2008). Briefly, the intensity traces were analyzed using the number and brightness analysis. Time average $\langle i \rangle$ and variance σ^2 were computed for each trace. From these values, we obtained the average brightness per molecule as $\langle e \rangle = (\sigma^2 / \langle i \rangle) - 1$ and the average number of molecules within the focal volume as $\langle n \rangle = \langle i \rangle / \langle e \rangle$. The statistical significance (p value) of differences between the measured distributions were calculated by Student's t-test. Usually 5 traces of each 10 s length were used for calculation of one data point N(t). For control measurements with nls-GFP four data points were averaged. For the time dependent decay of Twine-GFP at least five data point were used for fitting in an exponential curve by linear regression analysis. Determination coefficients were in the range of >0.97.

Mass-spec/phospho-sites

Dechorionated pre-syncytial and syncytial (0–1.5 h) Twine-GFP/Twine-GFP embryos and embryos from *PpV* germline clones with Twine-GFP (maternal genotype *PpV*[X9] *Frt18* *hsFlp/ovoD* *Frt18*; Twine-GFP/+) were collected in large batches and snap frozen in liquid nitrogen. Each 10000 embryos were lysed with a dounce homogenizer in 1 ml lysis and washing buffer (50 mM Tris/HCl [pH 7.4], 500 mM NaCl, 1 mM DTT, 0.5 mM EDTA, 0.5% Tween 20, 1% Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail 3 (Sigma-Aldrich), 1 Tablet/50 ml Protease Inhibitor Cocktail (Roche)). The preparatory experiment was in the scale of about 50000 embryos. The embryonic lysate was centrifuged twice at 14,000 rpm at 4°C for 15 min, and the supernatant was transferred into new Eppendorf tube. GFP-TrapA agarose beads (20 µl) were

washed thrice with lysis and washing buffer and added to 1 ml of cleared embryonic lysate. After rotating on a wheel for 1 hour at 4°C, spinning at 800 rpm for 2 min, and washing Twine-GFP thrice with lysis and washing buffer, protein was eluted from the beads in Laemmli buffer. Samples were run on SDS-PAGE 4–12% gradient 4–12% MOPS buffered system and bands excised and processed. Band slices were digested with trypsin over night at 30°C and the peptide extracted the next day. Samples were resuspended in 1% formic acid and a 15 µl Aliquots of each sample were run either before or after phosphopeptide enrichment. Phosphopeptides were enriched using Ti 4+ IMAC (ReSyn Biosciences) on an UltiMate 3000 RSLC nano system (Thermo Scientific) coupled to a LTQ OrbiTrap Velos Pro (Thermo Scientific). Peptides were initially trapped on an Acclaim PepMap 100 (C18, 100 µm × 2 cm) and then separated on an EasySpray PepMap RSLC C18 column (75 µm × 50 cm) (Thermo Scientific) over a 120 min linear gradient. The data was analyzed by Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (Thermo Scientific) using Mascot 2.4 (Matrix Science) as the search engine.

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470

471 Author contributions

472 BL conducted the experiments and analyzed the data, HwS mapped and cloned the X9
473 mutation, IG analyzed the fluctuation data, HAM conducted the MS analysis, JG conceived the
474 project, conducted the initial phenotypic analysis and wrote the manuscript.

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476 Conflict of interest

477 The authors have no conflict of interest.

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480 References

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Figure legends

Figure 1: PpV mutants frequently undergo 14 nuclear divisions. (A) Scheme for the cell cycle remodeling during MBT. (B) Images from time lapse recordings of wild type embryos and embryos from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones expressing Histone2Av-RFP and their (C) quantification for cell cycle lengths. *PpV*[X9] embryos were grouped in ones with normal cell cycle number (13 divisions) and ones with at least a partial extra cycle (14 divisions). Bars indicate mean values; associated lines indicate standard error of the mean. Scale bar 50 μ m.

Figure 2: Identification of a *PpV*[X9] mutation. (A) Map of the *PpV* locus. The X9 mutation leading to a stop codon at position 7 is indicated (W7stop). (B) Sequence traces of DNA amplified from heterozygous *PpV*[X9]/FM7 and in comparison X238/FM7 with a related genetic background. The double peak in the X9 trace reveals a non-sense mutation in codon 7. (C) Western blot with extracts (0–4 h and as indicated) of wild type embryos and embryos from germ line clones of *PpV*[X9] and *PpV*[X9] ; *PpV*[+] crossed with wild type males. Loading control with α -Tubulin (Tub). (D) Fixed embryos with and without a genomic rescue construct GFP-*PpV*[+] were stained for GFP and DAPI. Scale bar 50 μ m.

Figure 3: PpV modulates Twine protein expression. Fixed wild type embryos and embryos from germ line clones of *PpV*[X9] stained for Twine (white), Slam (red) and DNA (blue). Sagittal sections with Slam staining and nuclear morphology allows approximate staging. NC: nuclear cycle.

Figure 4: Fluctuation analysis for absolute concentration dynamics. (A) Principle of fluctuation analysis. Passing through the focal volume leads to changes in the fluorescence signal. The frequency of these changes dependent on the concentration. (B) Fluctuation trace of a measurement. (C) Time average and variance are computed from the fluctuations trace, which allows calculation of average molecular brightness and average number of molecules within the focal volume. (D) Western blot with extracts of the embryos (0–3 h) with 0 $\times$, 1 $\times$, 2 $\times$ copies of an nls-GFP transgene. Quantification by densitometry (N=3). (E) Particle number per focal volume as determined by fluctuation analysis of GFP fluorescence. Mean, bold line;

standard deviation, dashed line.

Figure 5: Expression profile of Twine-GFP (A) Scheme of Twine-GFP genomic rescue construct. *twine* open reading frame (ORF) is indicated in orange. Linker sequence (Stuffer) is indicated in blue box and EGFP is in green box. Untranslated regions (UTR) are indicated in grey box. 3614 bp genomic region is depicted in grey line. (B) Experimental scheme. Five 10 s measurements are recorded for each time point (every 3 min). Multiple time points in interphase 14/15 are recorded for each embryo. (C) Images from a recording. (D) Representative time courses for a wild type and mutant embryo. Exponential fitting provides two parameters for each embryo: initial particle number (N_0) and the decay time (t). (E, F) Distribution of calculated initial particle number and decay time for wild type embryos, embryos from *PpV[X9]* germ line clones, and maternal and zygotic homozygous *trbl* embryos, all of which are with one copy of Twine-GFP. Mean, bold line; standard deviation, dashed line. The numbers indicate the statistical significance (p value) for the difference between two distributions.

Figure 6: Identification of PpV dependent phosphorylation sites in Twine. (A) Twine-GFP was isolated with GFP-binder bound to beads from extracts of staged (0–1.5 h) wild type embryos or embryos from *PpV[X9]* germ line clones. Western blot with GFP and Dia antibodies. (B) Image of Coomassie blue stained SDS polyacrylamide gel. White boxes indicate the area that was analyzed by mass-spectrometry. (C) Schematic diagram showing the position of Twine peptides covered in the analysis and the identified phosphorylation sites. Italic types indicate ambiguous phosphosites. Coverage in wild type and *PpV[X9]* are shown in green and red, respectively. (D) Schematic diagram showing the transgenic Twine-GFP construct with phosphosites and phosphomimetic mutations. Eight PpV-dependent residues are shown in the box of Twine-GFP-WT. Phosphosites mutant Twine-GFP-8×Ala indicates the replacement of the eight phosphorylation residues to alanine/A. Phosphomimetic mutant Twine-GFP-8×Asp indicates the replacement of the eight phosphorylation residues to aspartic acid/D. (E) Distribution of calculated initial particle number and decay time for embryos with one or two copies of wild type Twine-GFP and Twine-GFP-8×Ala, all of which are in *twine* mutant background. Mean, bold line; standard deviation, dashed line. The numbers indicate the statistical significance (p value) for the difference between two distributions. (F) Frequency of

additional nuclear division in the embryos of wild type Twine-GFP and Twine-GFP-8×Ala.

Figure 7: Functional interactions of *PpV* and *trbl*. Wild type embryos and embryos from germ line clones of *PpV*[X9] expressing Histone 2Av-RFP were injected with water, *trbl* mRNA, *trbl* dsRNA (RNAi) from the posterior pole (indicated by yellow arrow head). (A) Images from time lapse recordings of injected embryos. The number of nuclear cycle (NC) is indicated. Scale bar 50 μ m. (B) Movies of injected embryos were scored for the number of nuclear divisions. Partial NC15 was scored as >14 NC, incomplete NC13 was <14 NC.

Figure 8: Relation of *PpV* and AuroraA. (A) Fixed embryos from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones were stained for centrosomes (γ -Tubulin, red), nuclear lamina (LaminDm0, green) and DNA (DAPI, blue). As a mitotic wave passed over the embryo, multiple mitotic stages were covered in a single embryo. Arrows in yellow point to mis-segregating nuclei. Scale bar 10 μ m. (B) Fixed wild type embryo and embryo from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones stained nuclear lamina (LaminDm0, red), mid body (Feo, green) and DNA (DAPI, blue). The arrow in yellow points to delayed chromosome separation in telophase. (C) Western blot of wild type and *PpV*[X9] extracts with AurA and α -Tubulin antibodies. * indicates an additional band in the *PpV* lane. (D) Image from fixed embryos from hemizygous *aurA* females stained for mitotic nuclei (p-histone3, red) and DNA (blue). Arrow in yellow points to nucleus with missegregated DNA. Scale bar 20 μ m. (E) Images from time lapse recording of wild type embryos expressing histon2Av-RFP injected with AuroraA inhibitor MLN8054 (20 μ M). Scale bar 10 μ m. Arrows in yellow point to missegregating spindles. (F) Dose dependence of mitotic phenotype following MLN8054 injection. (G) Movies of injected embryos were scored for the number of nuclear divisions. Partial NC15 was scored as >14 NC, incomplete NC13 was <14 NC.

Figure 9: *PpV* function during MBT cell cycle control. (A) Schematic temporal profile of Twine/Cdc25 in wild type and *PpV* mutant embryos (red). *PpV* controls pre-MBT levels of Twine, whereas *Trbl* and other zygotic factors control the destabilization of Twine during MBT. (B) Cell cycle control during MBT. Activation of the zygotic genome leads to expression of the zygotic genes (*frs*, *trbl*) and DNA replication stress, which activates the DNA checkpoint. *PpV* constitutes a forth negative element in control Twine/Cdc25 and Cyclin-Cdk1.

Table 1: Analysis of phosphorylation sites by mass spectrometry.

Wildtype

Peptides	Position	M/Z	Mr (expt)	Mr(calc)	Ppm	Ion score	Expect
K. S WQCGEGGDSGIGGGSR.G	S396	902.3405	1802.6665	1802.668	-0.83	46	4.40E-05
K. T K S WQCGEGGDSGIGGGSR.G	T394, S396	1016.9122	2031.8099	2031.8106	-0.34	68	4.30E-07
K.TL S MNDAEIMR.A	S205	696.7799	1391.5453	1391.5462	-0.66	32	0.00094
K.TL S MNDAEIMR.A	T203, S205	696.7805	1391.5464	1391.5462	0.13	31	0.004

X9 mutant

Peptides	Position	M/Z	Mr expt (Da)	Mr calc (Da)	Ppm	Ion score	Expect
K.SWQCGEGGDSGIGGG S R.G	S412	902.3414	1802.6682	1802.668	0.12	47	8.50E-05
R.KTL S MNDAEIMR.A	S205	744.833	1487.6515	1487.6513	0.11	62	3.70E-06
K.SWQCGEGGDSGIGGG S R.G	S405	902.3408	1802.6671	1802.668	-0.49	41	0.00014
R.RK S AVQETPLQWMLK.R	S41	632.3252	1893.9538	1893.9536	0.11	27	0.0032
R.KTL S MNDAEIMR.A	T203, S205	752.8309	1503.6473	1503.6462	0.72	33	0.00078
K. T K S WQCGEGGDSGIGGGSR.G	T394, S396	1016.9127	2031.8109	2031.8106	0.14	29	0.0073
HIPAST T VL S PI T ELSQNMNGAR	S59, T60, T61, S64, T67		2532.2043	2532.2043	0.42		

Table legend:

Results from Mascot data analysis of mass spectrometry (ms/ms) spectra. Peptide sequences are depicted of the Twine/Cdc25 as predict from fragmentation spectra. Predicted phosphorylation sites are marked in red (bold colors for unambiguous annotations). Although peptides were identified independently in many cases only highest scoring peptides are included. Observed mass/charge (M/Z) values indicate the result of the measurement and the calculated relative molecular weight (Mr) from the M/Z is indicated as experimental (expt) Mr in Dalton (Da). Mr calc depicts the calculated relative molecular weight in Dalton (Da) as calculated from the expected Mr from the database. Ppm indicates the error value between Mr expt and Mr calc and the ion score indicates the number of spectral ions matching the annotated fragments in the database. The expectation value is a statistical representation of the ion score expressed as p-value.

Table 2: Initial particle number and decay time measured by fluctuation analysis.

Maternal genotype	No. of embryos	Initial particle number Mean $\pm$ standard deviation	Decay time (100s) Mean $\pm$ standard deviation
Twine-GFP/+	10	38.5 $\pm$ 5.0 (13%)	571.7 $\pm$ 95.6 (17%)
<i>PpV</i> ; Twine-GFP/+ (1)	17	56.7 $\pm$ 19.5 (34%)	640.1 $\pm$ 213.7 (33%)
<i>tribbles</i> , Twine-GFP/ <i>tribbles</i> (2)	10	38.9 $\pm$ 11.2 (29%)	809.2 $\pm$ 256.1 (32%)

Genotype	No. of embryos	Initial particle number Mean $\pm$ standard deviation	Decay time (100s) Mean $\pm$ standard deviation
<i>twine</i> ; Twine-GFP-WT/TM3	8	26.3 $\pm$ 4.7 (18%)	799.9 $\pm$ 131.9 (16%)
<i>twine</i> ; Twine-GFP-WT	7	59.7 $\pm$ 8.7 (15%)	736.0 $\pm$ 221.4 (30%)
<i>twine</i> ; Twine-GFP-Ala/TM3	8	56.6 $\pm$ 16.2 (29%)	601.9 $\pm$ 87.8 (15%)
<i>twine</i> ; Twine-GFP-Ala	8	99.9 $\pm$ 18.6 (19%)	544.2 $\pm$ 173.2 (32%)

(1) Females with *PpV* germline clones: *PpV*[X9] Frt18 hsFlp / ovoD Frt18 ; Twine-GFP / +

(2) Females with this genotype were crossed to *tribbles/tribbles* males

Supplemental data

Figure S1: Mapping and cloning of X9. (A) Image of the X chromosome with the position of the mapped lethal mutations and mapped region by the closest breakpoints (distal Df(1)ED6829, proximal Dp(1;3)DC156). The distal lethality was mapped by complementation with indicated duplication and deficiency chromosomes. Dashed regions indicate uncertainty of the breakpoints. Complementing duplications and non-complementing deficiencies are marked in red. (B) Sequence traces of DNA amplified from heterozygous *PpV[X9]/FM7* and in comparison X238/FM7 with a related genetic background. The double peak in the X9 trace reveals a non-sense mutation in codon 7 (TGG -> TAG).

Figure S2: Alignment of Twine and Cdc25 homologue sequences (mus-mouse, frog-*Xenopus laevis*, hu-human). Phosphorylation sites are marked in color. Conserved residues are printed in bold.

Table S1: Comparison of non-phospho peptides in MS analysis of wild type and X9 mutant. The average peak area of five peptides were determined by XIC (extracted ion chromatograms) and compared between the wild type (wt) and the *PpV[X9]* mutant samples. The AA ratio of wt/X9 averages at 1.78 indicating that non-phosphopeptides were consistently about 1.8-fold more abundant in the wild type compared to *PpV[X9]* mutant samples.

Peptide	mass	AA (wt)	AA (<i>PpV</i>)	AA ratio (wt/ <i>PpV</i>)
ALGDEPELIGDLSK	728.8799	18358242	8486655	2.16
LIQGEFDEQLGSQGGYEIDCR	843.0633	2797579	1879327	1.49
YPYEFLGGHIR	676.3420	40374669	22168420	1.82
IYVFHCEFSSER	787.3584	8807155	5181341	1.7
GQIQEAFPTLTSNQENR	966.9741	44055348	25160476	1.75

747 Movie 1: Movie of wild type embryo and embryo from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones expressing
748 Histone2Av-RFP.
749
750 Movie 2: Movie of embryo from *PpV*[X9] germ line clones expressing Histone2Av-RFP during
751 mitosis.

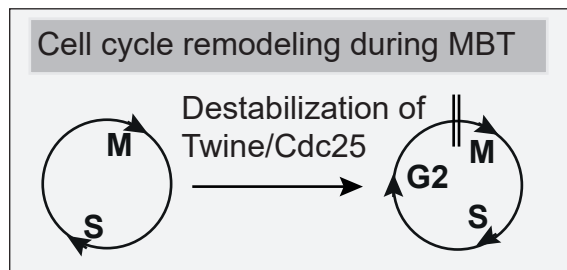
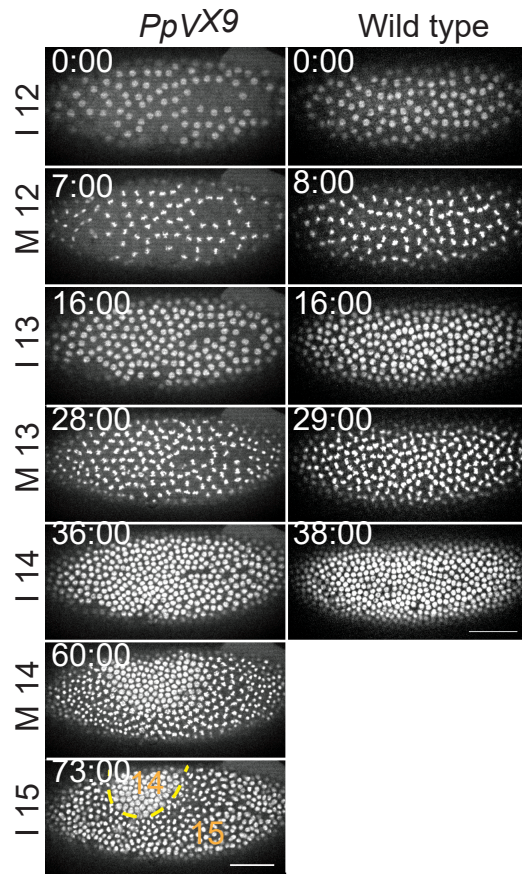
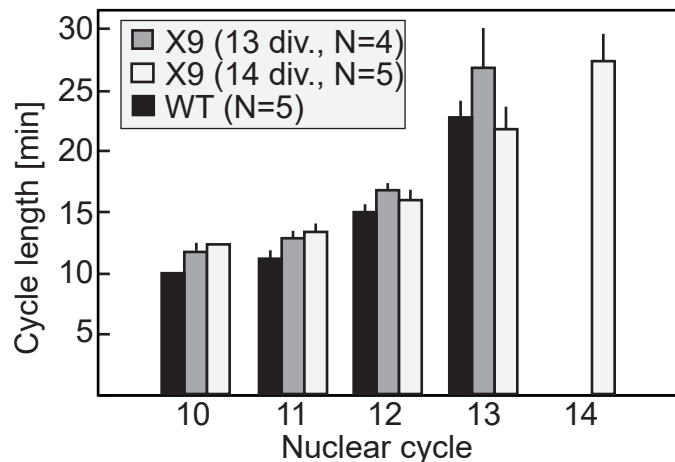
Figure 1**A****B****C**

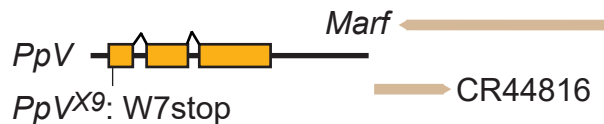
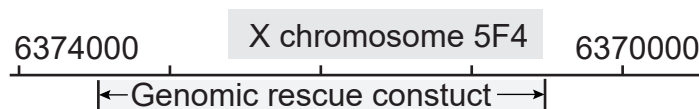
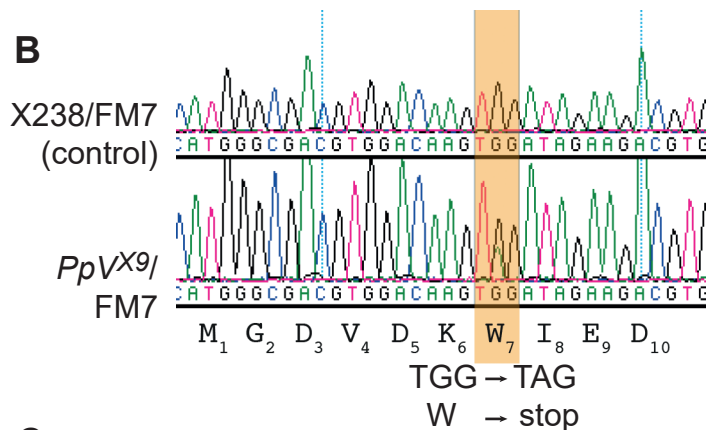
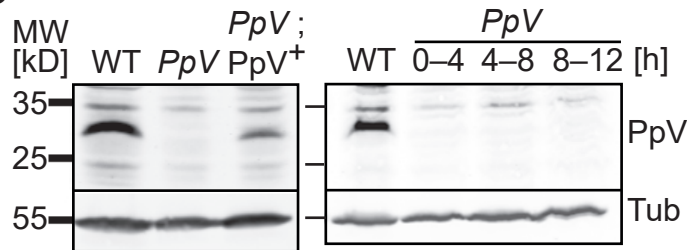
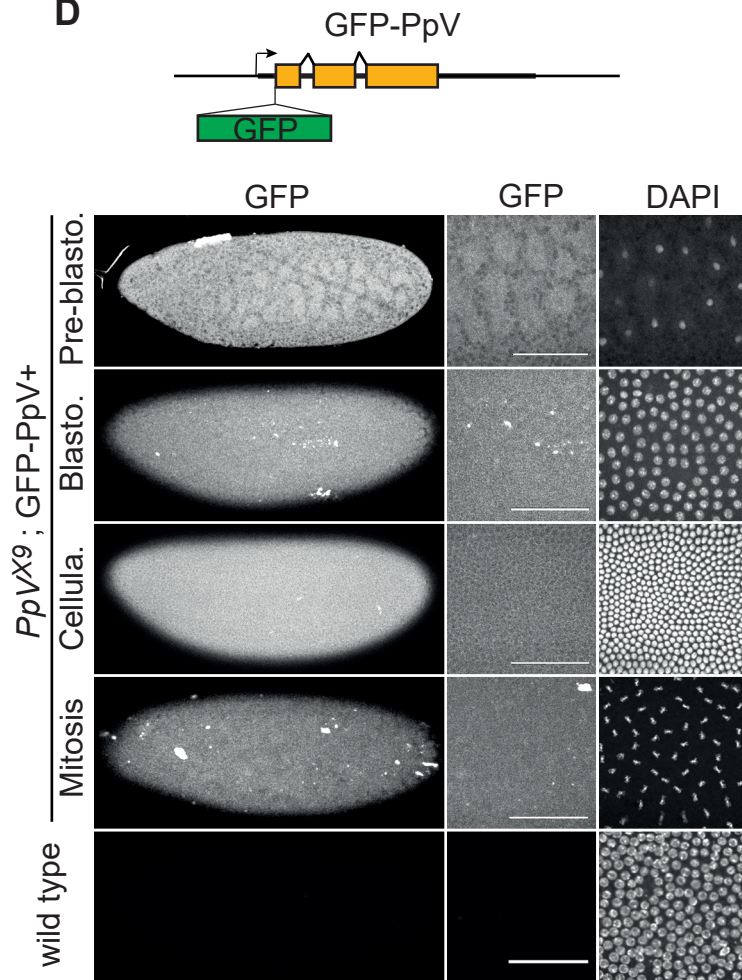
Figure 2**A****B****C****D**

Figure 3

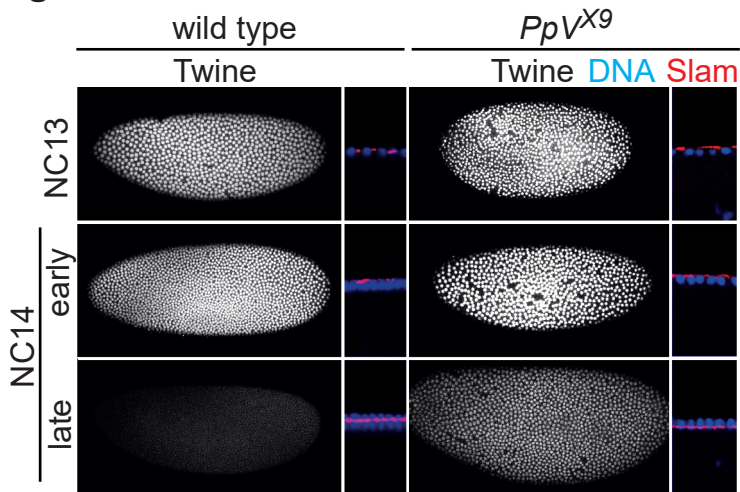


Figure 4

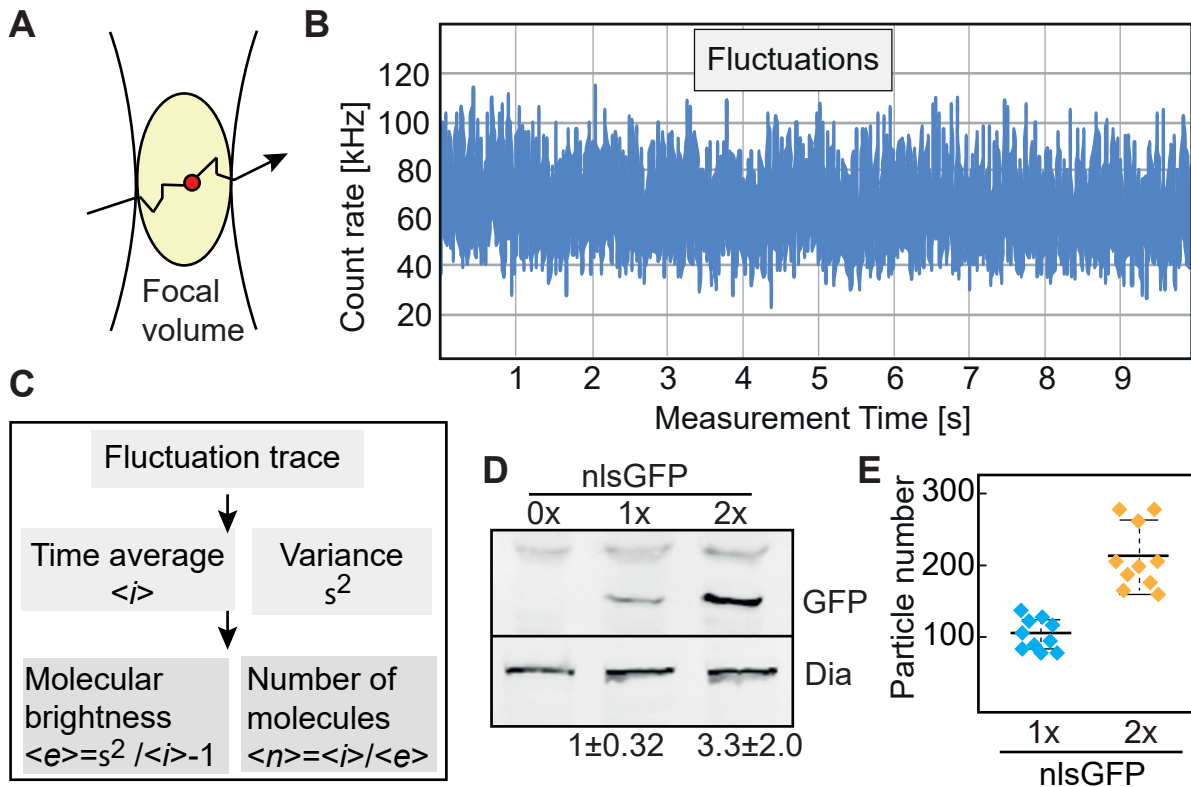


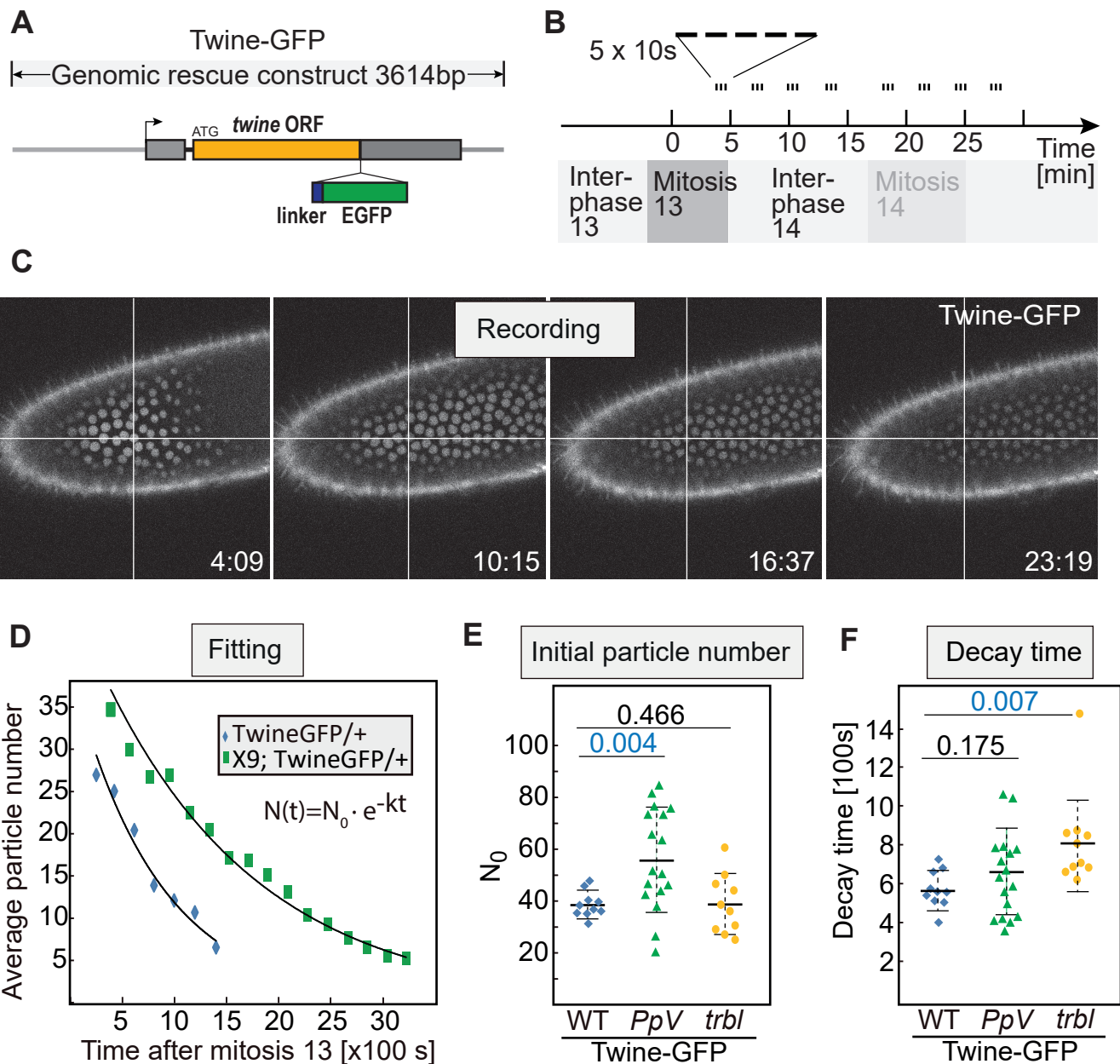
Figure 5

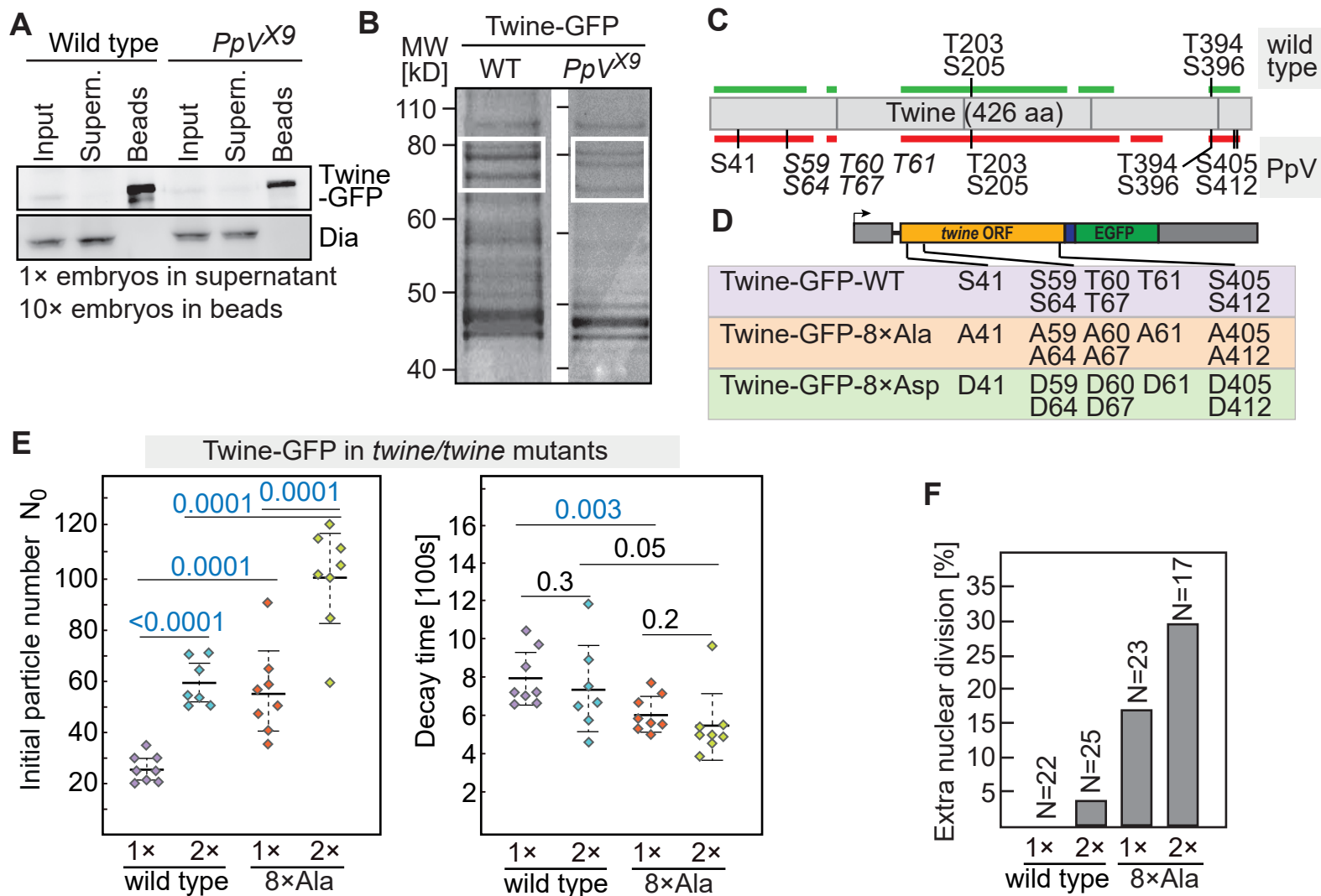
Figure 6

Figure 7

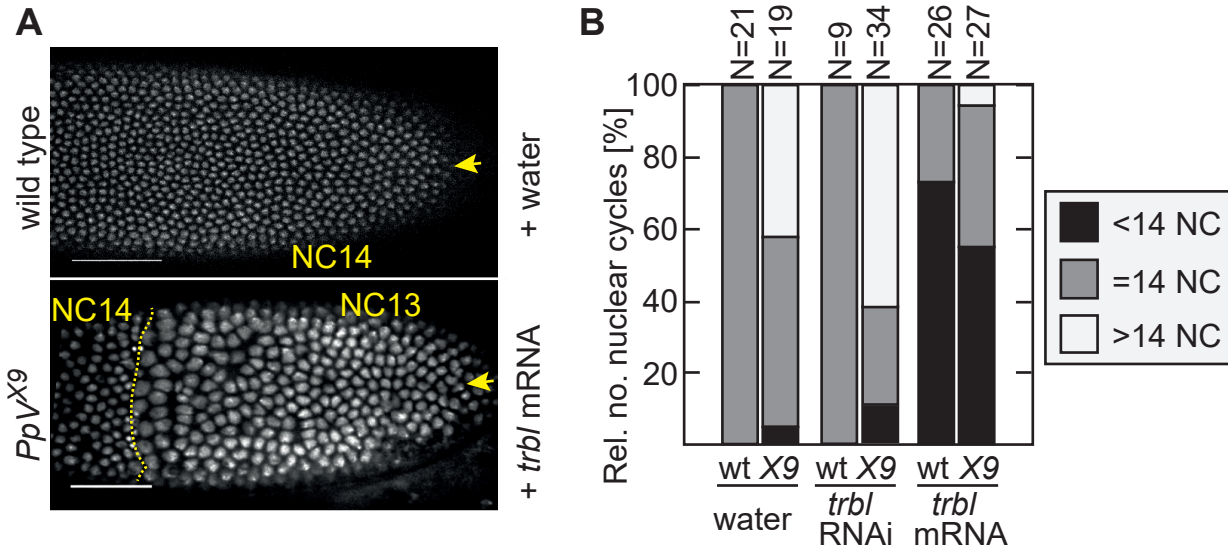


Figure 8

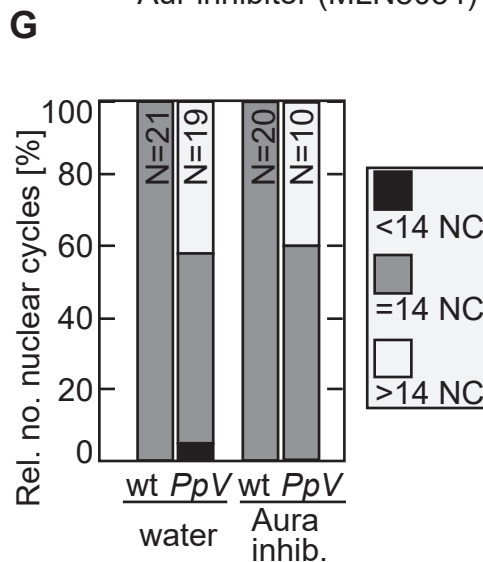
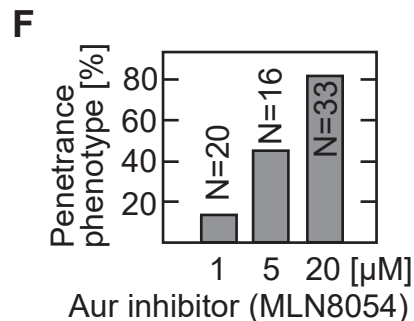
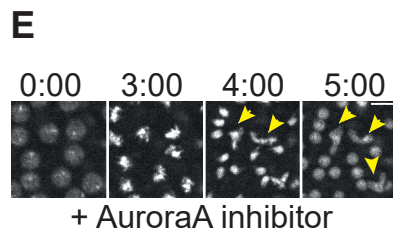
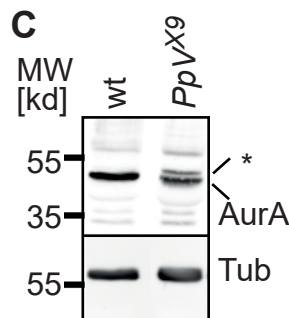
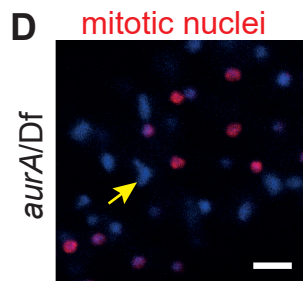
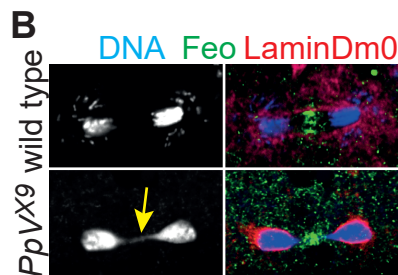
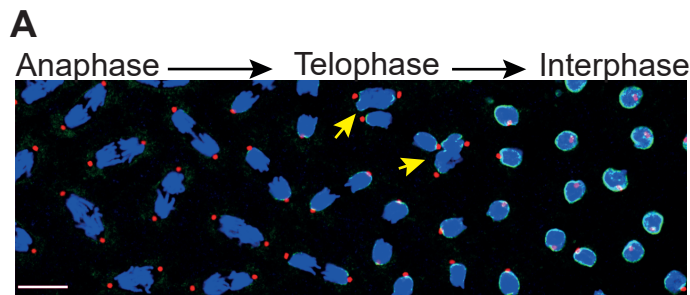
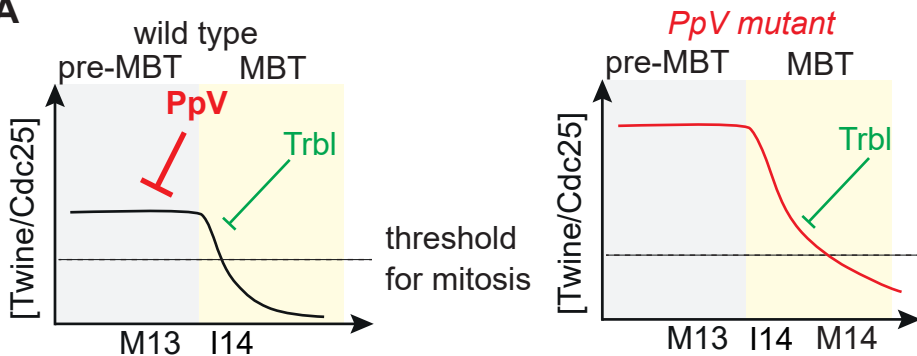
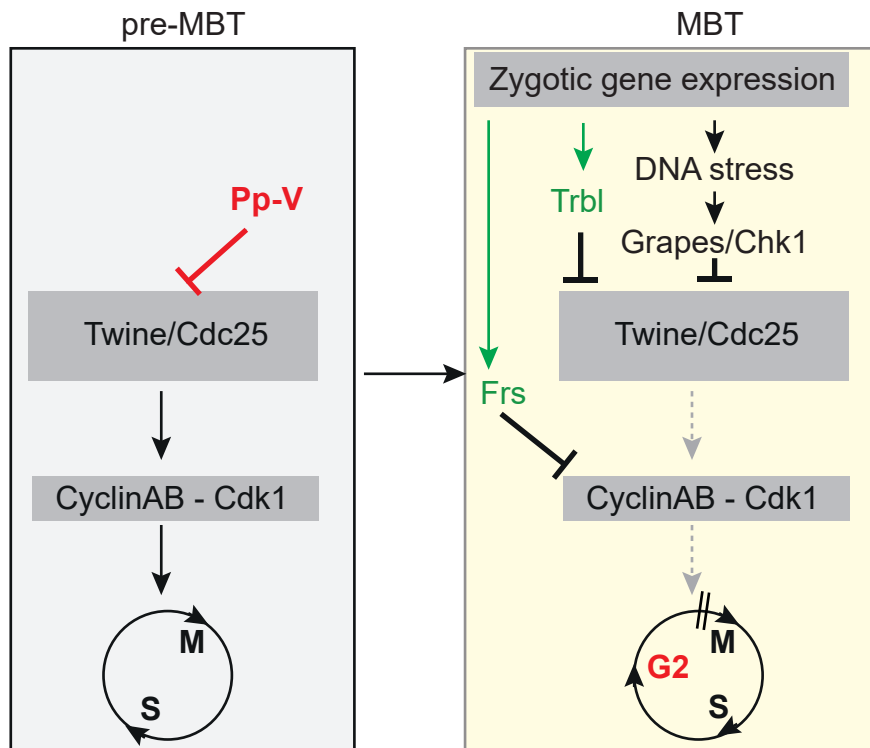


Figure 9

A

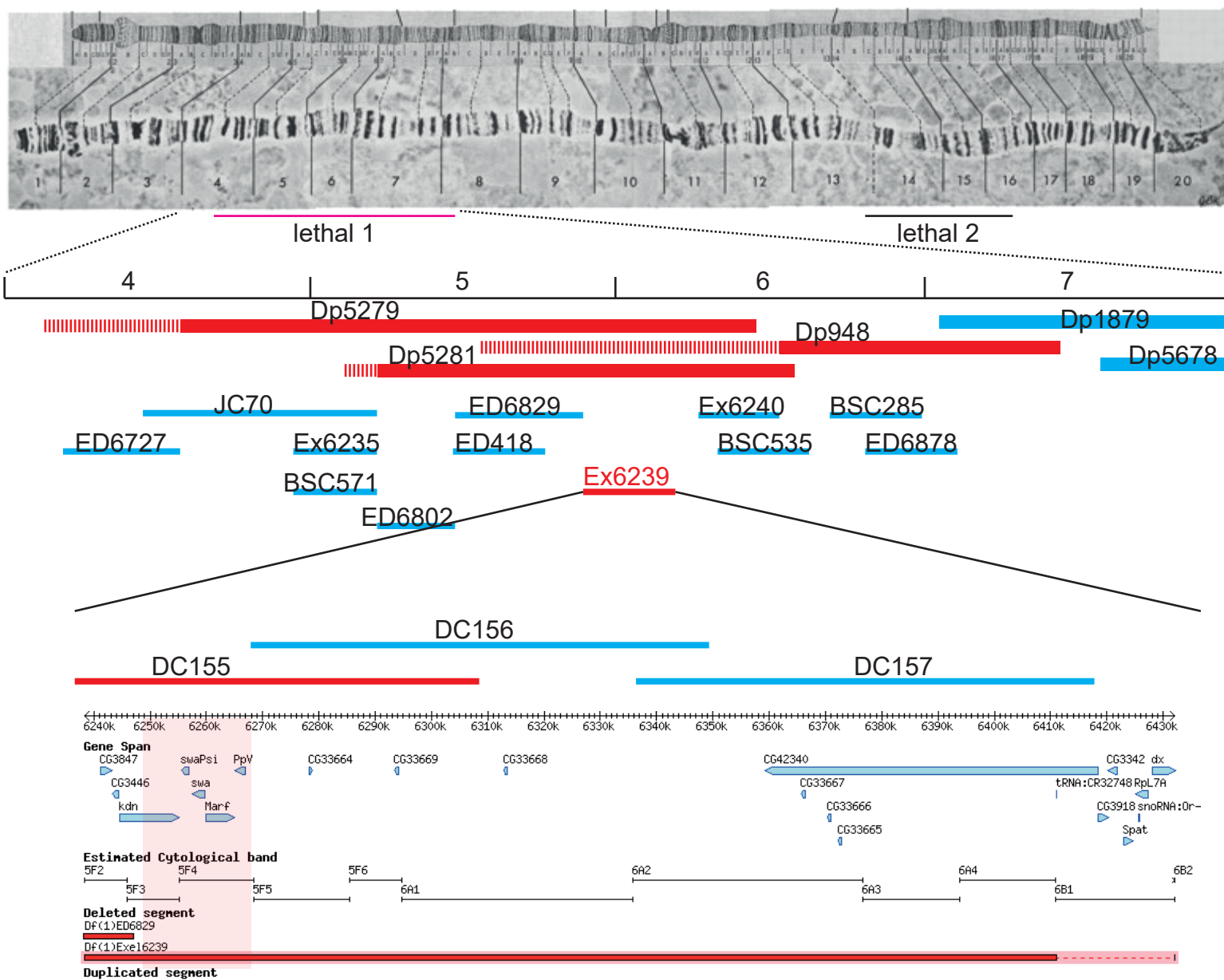


B

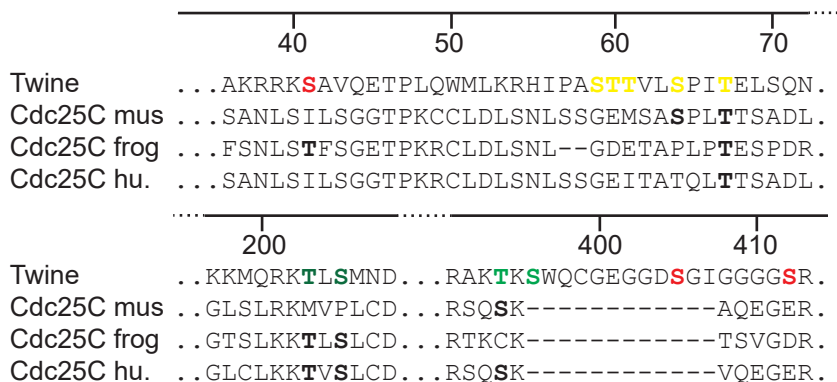


Supplemental data Figure S1

A



Supplemental data Figure S2



ST	Phosphorylated in wild type and <i>PpV</i> mutants
ST	Phosphorylated in <i>PpV</i> mutants
ST	ONE of these sites is phosphorylated in <i>PpV</i> mutants