

1 **Running title: The transcriptional and translational landscape of equine torovirus**

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11 **Abstract**

12 The genus *Torovirus* (subfamily *Torovirinae*, family *Coronaviridae*, order *Nidovirales*)  
13 encompasses a range of species that infect domestic ungulates including cattle,  
14 sheep, goats, pigs and horses, causing an acute self-limiting gastroenteritis. Using the  
15 prototype species equine torovirus (EToV) we performed parallel RNA sequencing  
16 (RNA-seq) and ribosome profiling (Ribo-seq) to analyse the relative expression levels  
17 of the known torovirus proteins and transcripts, chimaeric sequences produced via  
18 discontinuous RNA synthesis (a characteristic of the nidovirus replication cycle) and  
19 changes in host transcription and translation as a result of EToV infection. RNA  
20 sequencing confirmed that EToV utilises a unique combination of discontinuous and  
21 non-discontinuous RNA synthesis to produce its subgenomic RNAs; indeed, we  
22 identified transcripts arising from both mechanisms that would result in sgRNAs  
23 encoding the nucleocapsid. Our ribosome profiling analysis revealed that ribosomes  
24 efficiently translate two novel CUG-initiated ORFs, located within the so-called 5'  
25 UTR. We have termed the resulting proteins U1 and U2. Comparative genomic  
26 analysis confirmed that these ORFs are conserved across all available torovirus

27 sequences and the inferred amino acid sequences are subject to purifying selection,  
28 indicating that U1 and U2 are functionally relevant. This study provides the first high-  
29 resolution analysis of transcription and translation in this neglected group of  
30 livestock pathogens.

31 **Importance**

32 Toroviruses infect cattle, goats, pigs and horses worldwide and can cause  
33 gastrointestinal disease. There is no treatment or vaccine and their ability to spill  
34 over into humans has not been assessed. These viruses are related to important  
35 human pathogens including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus  
36 and they share some common features, however the mechanism that they use to  
37 produce subgenomic RNA molecules differs. Here we performed deep sequencing to  
38 determine how equine torovirus produces subgenomic RNAs. In doing so, we also  
39 identified two previously unknown open reading frames “hidden” within the  
40 genome. Together these results highlight the similarities and differences between  
41 this domestic animal virus and related pathogens of humans and livestock.

42

43 **Introduction**

44 The order *Nidovirales* currently contains four families of positive-sense, single-  
45 stranded RNA viruses: the *Coronaviridae*, *Arteriviridae*, *Roniviridae* and  
46 *Mesoniviridae* (1). Their grouping into the one taxonomic order is based upon  
47 replicase protein conservation, genome organisation and replication strategy.  
48 However these viral families are nonetheless very diverse with respect to their virion  
49 structure, host range, pathogenic potential and genome size.

50 The genus *Torovirus* (family *Coronaviridae*, subfamily *Torovirinae*) encompasses a  
51 range of species with worldwide distribution that infect domestic ungulates including  
52 cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and horses, causing an acute self-limiting gastroenteritis.  
53 Approximately 55 % of cattle within the United Kingdom are seropositive for bovine  
54 torovirus and this pathogen represents a significant burden to the industry (2, 3).  
55 Similarly porcine torovirus is endemic in Europe and causes disease in production  
56 herds (4-6). Despite this, limited research has been conducted upon these pathogens  
57 and neither specific antiviral treatments nor vaccines are available. The prevalence  
58 of toroviruses in non-domestic reservoirs and potential for cross-species  
59 transmission has not been assessed, although they are known to undergo  
60 recombination events (7). The extensive research conducted upon the related  
61 coronaviruses would not necessarily be relevant in the event of an emerging  
62 torovirus infection, due to the divergent nature of these viruses.

63 The genomes of *Nidovirales* are positive-sense, polycistronic RNAs. One of the  
64 hallmarks of this virus order is the utilisation of an unusual transcription mechanism  
65 to express the genes encoding structural and accessory proteins, which reside  
66 downstream of the large replicase open reading frames (ORFs) 1a and 1b (Figure 1).  
67 These proteins are typically translated from a nested set of 3' coterminal  
68 subgenomic mRNAs (sg mRNAs). Although, with the exception of the smallest  
69 species, these sgRNAs are structurally polycistronic, translation is normally limited to  
70 the 5' ORF of each mRNA. Studies of coronaviruses and arteriviruses have revealed  
71 that they produce negative-sense subgenome-sized RNAs via a mechanism of  
72 "discontinuous" extension (8). This process resembles homology-assisted copy-

73 choice recombination (9) and requires the presence of multiple copies of a species-  
74 specific short motif, the transcription regulatory sequence (TRS). TRS motifs are  
75 located immediately upstream of the structural protein ORFs (body TRSs) and within  
76 the 5' UTR (leader TRS).

77 Negative strand RNA synthesis initiates at the 3' end of the positive-sense viral  
78 genome. When the RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) has copied a TRS  
79 sequence, a translocation event may occur during which the anti-TRS at the 3' end of  
80 the nascent strand basepairs with the leader TRS within the 5' UTR. Transcription  
81 reinitiates and continues to the 5' end of the genomic template. The resulting “anti-  
82 leader” sequence that is added ranges from 55 – 92 nt in coronaviruses to ~200 nt in  
83 arteriviruses. These negative-sense transcripts are therefore 5'- and 3'-coterminal  
84 with the full length negative RNA strand and are identifiable as chimaeras with  
85 distinct leader-body junctions. The anti-leader sequence in each of the negative-  
86 sense templates then functions as a promoter, to drive synthesis of a mirror set of  
87 positive-sense sgRNAs that are translated to produce the structural proteins.

88 However not all details of the mechanism outlined above are wholly conserved  
89 across the *Nidovirales*. Specifically, the two sg mRNAs of roniviruses (pathogens of  
90 shrimp) do not possess conserved 5' leader sequences, indicative of the lack of a  
91 discontinuous step during their production (10). Despite the presence of a conserved  
92 body TRS in each sg mRNA, an equivalent leader TRS is not readily identifiable in the  
93 5' UTR. It may therefore be reasoned that the ronivirus body TRSs stimulate  
94 termination of RNA synthesis without RdRp translocation and reinitiation.  
95 Mesoniviruses (a branch of *Nidovirales* recently identified in insects) are thought to  
96 produce two major sgRNAs possessing leader sequences of different lengths,  
97 indicating the nidoviral mechanism for discontinuous RNA synthesis may allow two  
98 very different leader/body TRS pairs to be utilised in a single viral species (11).

99 Toroviruses appear to represent a nidovirus subgroup with a remarkably flexible  
100 transcription strategy: equine torovirus (EToV) possesses a leader TRS-like sequence  
101 (CUUUAGA) but it is only involved in the synthesis of the mRNA used for expression  
102 of the spike (S) protein gene (12). Despite similarities to the corona- and arteriviral

103 mechanism, the preceding leader sequence incorporated into this mRNA is merely 6  
104 nt in length (ACGUAU). Additionally, this case is unusual in that the translocation  
105 event is thought to be prompted by an RNA structure - a predicted RNA hairpin  
106 upstream of the S protein gene, rather than a body TRS (12). Body TRSs are located  
107 upstream of the three remaining structural protein genes, yet a non-discontinuous  
108 mechanism is utilised for their production, as is the case for roniviruses. As a result,  
109 the sg mRNAs for membrane (M), nucleocapsid (N) and haemagglutinin-esterase  
110 (HE) do not normally possess a conserved 5' leader sequence; they each possess a  
111 variable and unique extended version of the TRS at their 5' end. It is clear there is  
112 significant difference between how the various *Nidovirales* families synthesise their  
113 sgRNAs.

114 Here we describe the first high-resolution analysis of viral transcription during  
115 infection by EToV, which is one of the few toroviruses that can be propagated in cell  
116 culture (13, 14). RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) confirmed previous reports that EToV  
117 utilises a unique combination of both discontinuous and non-discontinuous RNA  
118 synthesis to generate its repertoire of sgRNAs. Strikingly, we also identified a small  
119 proportion of chimaeric transcripts spanning from the leader to the body TRS of the  
120 N protein gene, indicating that discontinuous and non-discontinuous mechanisms  
121 compete in this location. We also identified numerous locations across the genome  
122 where non-canonical RdRp translocation occurs, leading to a vast array of  
123 (presumably mostly non-functional) chimaeric transcripts.

124 Ribosome profiling (Ribo-seq) conducted in tandem with the RNA-seq indicated  
125 ribosomes were actively translating within the so-called 5' UTR. Further analysis  
126 confirmed the existence of two novel ORFs in this region, which are conserved in all  
127 torovirus genome sequences analysed to date. The specific function(s) of these  
128 proteins will be the topic of future work. Together, these results provide an overview  
129 of the transcriptional and translational events that accompany infection by this wide-  
130 ranging pathogen.

131 **Results**

132 **Tandem RNA-seq and Ribo-seq of EToV infected cells.** We conducted tandem RNA-  
133 seq and Ribo-seq of EToV infected equine dermal (ED) cells. Two biological replicates  
134 of virus-infected and mock-infected cells were analysed, generating 25 to 53 million  
135 reads per sample. For RNA-seq, 77-92 % of reads mapped to the host genome, of  
136 which a mean of 1.5 % mapped to rRNA, 19 % to mRNA, 32 % to ncRNA and 47 %  
137 elsewhere in the genome. For Ribo-seq, 46-60 % of reads mapped to the host  
138 genome, of which a mean of 56 % mapped to rRNA, 13 % to mRNA, 4.9 % to ncRNA  
139 and 26 % elsewhere in the genome (Supplementary Table 1). 1.3 % and 2.3 % of  
140 reads mapped to the virus genome in the two EToV-infected RNA-seq replicates and  
141 0.41 % and 0.21 % in the two virus-infected Ribo-seq replicates.

142 The viral genome was assembled *de novo* from RNA-seq reads and confirmed as  
143 EToV, Berne isolate. A single 27694-nt contig was assembled representing almost the  
144 entire viral genome. Only 18 nt at the 5' terminus and 300 nt at the 3' terminus of  
145 this contig failed to assemble automatically; however these regions were clearly  
146 covered by reads consistent with the reference sequence on inspection and so were  
147 added manually to the consensus sequence. Four single nucleotide changes were  
148 present in all reads but not the reference sequence compiled from previous  
149 sequencing data, at positions 18078 (ORF 1b, C > U), 21429 (ORF S, A > U), 21814  
150 (ORF S, C > A) and 25596 (ORF S, C > U). The full-length virus sequence has been  
151 deposited in GenBank (Accession MG996765).

152 The distribution of reads on the virus genome and the phasing of these reads are  
153 shown in Figure 2. There was good coverage across the viral genome for both RNA-  
154 seq and Ribo-seq. The Ribo-seq/RNA-seq ratio along the genome was calculated  
155 (Figure 2C) to estimate translation efficiency (note that this simple estimate is naive  
156 since it does not account for the fact that the genomic RNA and different sgRNA  
157 species overlap one another). Ribo-seq density, RNA-seq density and translational  
158 efficiency were also calculated separately for each ORF (Figure 3), based on the  
159 density of Ribo-seq reads in each ORF divided by the density of the RNA-seq reads  
160 for either the same region (for subgenomic RNAs) or the region of the genome which  
161 does not overlap the subgenomic RNAs (for genomic RNA). RNA-seq density was

162 adjusted based on the “decumulation” methodology described previously (15) (see  
163 Materials and Methods) to account for the fact that not all of the RNA-seq density in  
164 the 3' ORFs derives from transcripts from which the ORFs can be expressed. Ribo-seq  
165 coverage is much higher towards the 3' end of the genome, particularly across the M  
166 and N genes, reflecting the translation of abundant subgenomic RNAs in this region  
167 (Figure 2, Figure 3). ORFs 1a and 1b contain a considerably lower density of Ribo-seq  
168 reads. The relatively low translation efficiencies calculated for ORFs 1a and 1b may  
169 be partly due to some gRNA being packaged (or destined for packaging) and  
170 unavailable for translation but still contributing to the estimate of gRNA RNA-seq  
171 density. ORF1a has a higher Ribo-seq density and a higher translational efficiency  
172 than ORF1b, reflecting the proportion of ribosomes terminating at the ORF1a stop  
173 codon and not undergoing the -1 frameshift into ORF1b (Figure 2, Figure 3). As  
174 expected, RNA-seq density is similar across ORF1a and ORF1b, as both are present  
175 only on the full-length genomic RNA (Figure 2). The region covering the HE ORF also  
176 has low ribosomal coverage (Figure 2), which may be due to the fact that the EToV  
177 HE gene is nonfunctional due to a large deletion including the canonical AUG (16). HE  
178 is not shown in Figure 3 as the HE transcript is much less abundant than the  
179 "upstream" M transcript which makes the decumulation procedure susceptible to  
180 noise (see Irigoyen et al., 2016). Translational efficiency appears highest for the M  
181 and S subgenomic RNAs. The high RNA-seq density in the 5' UTR may be indicative of  
182 one or more defective interfering (DI) RNAs in the sample (see below). Ribosome  
183 protected fragments (RPFs) were also identified mapping to the second half of the 5'  
184 UTR, mostly in the +2/-1 frame with respect to ORF1a (Figure 2A).

185 To calculate the length distributions of host- and virus-mapped RPFs, we used reads  
186 mapping within coding regions. After adaptor trimming, the majority (75 %) of Ribo-  
187 seq reads were 27 – 29 nt in length, which is consistent with the expected size of  
188 mammalian ribosome footprints. As expected, the distribution of read lengths for  
189 RNA-seq was much broader, peaking between 60 and 70 nt (Supplementary Figure  
190 1). For quality control, histograms of the 5' end positions of host mRNA Ribo-seq and  
191 RNA-seq reads relative to initiation and termination codons were constructed  
192 (Supplementary Figures 2, 3). This confirmed we had high quality RPFs arising from

193 host transcripts, with strong triplet periodicity (“phasing”) and very few reads  
194 mapping to 3’ UTRs. As in other datasets, a ramp effect of decreased RPF density was  
195 seen over a region of ~30 codons following initiation sites; but, unusually, in this  
196 dataset we did not observe a density peak at the initiation site itself (cf. Irigoyen et al  
197 2016). This may be due to the flash freezing without cycloheximide pretreatment  
198 used for these samples, as for a later cycloheximide-treated sample this peak is  
199 present (Supplementary Figure 2). Within coding sequences, the 5’ ends of the  
200 majority of reads from the host (65-81 %) and virus (60-75 %) mapped to the first  
201 positions of codons (Supplementary Figure 4).

202 The relative RPF density allowed us to estimate the efficiency of ribosomal  
203 frameshifting in the context of virus infection. After translating ORF1a, a proportion  
204 of ribosomes undergo a -1 ribosomal frameshift to translate ORF1b (17). This is  
205 (presumably) required to produce a specific ratio of pp1a to pp1ab, thereby  
206 controlling the ratio of RNA-synthesizing enzymes such as RdRp and helicase to other  
207 components of the replicase complex, including the proteinases and trans-  
208 membrane subunits encoded in ORF1a. The ORF1a/1b -1 ribosomal frameshifting  
209 event is stimulated by a pseudoknot structure 3'-adjacent to the U\_UUA\_AAC  
210 slippery heptanucleotide frameshift site. The efficiency of -1 ribosomal frameshifting  
211 (measured by dividing the mean RPF density in ORF1b by the mean density in ORF1a)  
212 was estimated to be 29.9 % for replicate one and 27.5 % for replicate 2, which is in  
213 accordance with the rates measured previously outside of the context of virus  
214 infection (20 – 30 %) (17).

215 **RNA sequencing indicates both discontinuous and non-discontinuous mechanisms**  
216 **are utilised for N protein gene sgRNA synthesis.** RNA sequencing reads that did not  
217 map to either the viral genome or host databases were analysed for containing  
218 potential viral chimaeric junctions, indicative of leader-to-body joining during  
219 discontinuous sgRNA synthesis (Figure 4). Relative abundances were calculated by  
220 normalising read counts to the number of non-chimaeric reads spanning each  
221 junction. Between the two replicates combined, 8330 reads were identified as  
222 chimaeras, mapping to 2837 putative junction sites. Of these, 213 were considered

223 to be highly supported by the data, either due to being identified in at least 10  
224 chimaeric reads or containing the full 5' leader and TRS sequence. Adjacent donor or  
225 acceptor sites were then merged (see Materials and Methods), leaving 70 unique  
226 junctions (Figure 4).

227 Three chimaeric junctions were identified where the first nucleotide of the  
228 corresponding read mapped to the first nucleotide of the viral genome. Of these,  
229 one junction was consistent with the previously characterised sgRNA produced via  
230 discontinuous RNA synthesis encoding the S gene (280 reads, or 3 % of total  
231 chimaeric reads) (12). These reads spanned the entire leader-body junction of the S  
232 gene, possessing 14 - 18 nt of the 5' UTR (i.e. the actual 5'-derived sequence is at  
233 least 14 nt, ACGUAUCUUUAGAA, comprising the so-called 6-nt leader, the leader TRS  
234 CUUUAGA, and an additional A), followed by the stretch of ORF1b just upstream of  
235 the S gene. A second set of transcripts containing 5' leader sequence was identified  
236 by four unique reads starting with the 5' leader (ACGUAU) and TRS sequence  
237 (CUUUAGA), where the remainder of the read mapped to the start of the N gene.  
238 This indicates that, contrary to previous reports, low levels of discontinuous RNA  
239 synthesis are used during production of the N gene negative-strand RNA. The final  
240 chimaera which included the 6 nt leader was represented by three reads. These  
241 reads included 44 - 46 nt of the 5' UTR (i.e., significantly more than the predicted  
242 leader-TRS) followed by a sequence mapping to position 19987-19989 which is  
243 within ORF1b.

244 A substantial number of additional chimaeric reads were identified, indicative of  
245 non-TRS-driven cases of discontinuous RNA synthesis, although formally it is possible  
246 that some of these are template-switching artefacts introduced during library  
247 preparation and/or sequencing. Additionally, a large number of reads spanning from  
248 the 5' UTR to either within the N protein gene or the 3' UTR were identified. Indeed,  
249 the only junction represented by over 1000 reads spanned nucleotides 673 to 27649;  
250 similarly the second most commonly identified junction spanned 687 to 27550 (642  
251 reads). If chimaeric reads were predominantly a sequencing artefact, the abundance  
252 of any particular chimaera would be approximately proportional to the product of

253 the abundances of the sequences from which the 5' and 3' ends of the chimaera are  
254 derived (with some variation due to sequence-specific biases), and thus a high  
255 density of chimaeras would be expected to fall entirely within the N transcript. In  
256 contrast, most of the observed chimaeric reads were between N and the 5' UTR. The  
257 relative paucity of reads mapping to generic locations in the ORF1ab region also  
258 argues against the majority of chimaeras being simply artefactual. The 5' UTR  
259 preference may be due to genome circularisation during negative-sense synthesis as  
260 has been proposed for coronaviruses (18). Alternatively these may derive from  
261 autonomously replicating defective interfering RNAs, rather than multiple  
262 independent RNA translocation and reinitiation events. Such defective interfering  
263 RNAs have been extensively analysed previously and are a common complication of  
264 EToV studies (19). Consistent with the high level of 5'UTR:N chimaeric sequences,  
265 there was high RNA-seq density throughout much of the 5' UTR, with the 3' extent of  
266 the region of high density coinciding approximately with the region to which a large  
267 number of the chimaeric 5' ends mapped (Figure 2, Figure 4).

268 **Gene expression analysis indicates multiple pathways are perturbed by EToV**  
269 **infection.** The RNA-seq data were analysed to identify genes that were differentially  
270 expressed between virus-infected and mock-infected ED cells. We identified 61  
271 genes that were upregulated in virus-infected cells; amongst which eight gene  
272 ontology (GO) terms were overrepresented, mostly related to the nucleosome or  
273 immune responses (Figure 5). We found 24 genes that were downregulated in  
274 infected cells, amongst which four GO terms were overrepresented, two of which  
275 were related to the ribosome. We also analysed differential translational efficiency  
276 (based on the RPF to mRNA ratio) between mock- and virus-infected cells. We  
277 identified 22 genes that were translated more efficiently in infected cells; GO  
278 analysis indicated that these genes tend to encode proteins that are involved in RNA  
279 binding. Only two genes were found to be translated less efficiently in infected cells  
280 compared to mock (Supplementary Table 2 and Figure 4). Note that these analyses  
281 measure changes in individual genes relative to the global mean and do not inform  
282 on global changes in host transcription or translation as a result of virus infection.

283 **Two additional proteins are translated from 5' CUG-initiated ORFs.** Our initial  
284 dataset indicated an excess density of ribosomes translating within the +2/-1 frame  
285 upstream of ORF1a and overlapping the 5' end of ORF1a (Figure 2A). To further  
286 investigate this, we repeated the ribosome profiling using infected cells treated with  
287 translation inhibitors prior to flash freezing (harringtonine, HAR, and/or  
288 cycloheximide, CHX). HAR specifically arrests initiating ribosomes whilst allowing  
289 “run-off” of elongating ribosomes; conversely CHX stalls elongating ribosomes whilst  
290 allowing on-going accumulation at initiation sites. Our quality control analysis  
291 confirmed the datasets were of similar quality to our previous experiment  
292 (Supplementary Figures 1, 2 and 4) and mapping of the RPFs provided good coverage  
293 of the EToV genome (Figure 6).

294 This Ribo-seq data confirmed translation of two ORFs located within the so-called 5'  
295 UTR and overlapping the 5' end of ORF1a. We have termed these U1 (80 codons) and  
296 U2 (258 codon). We predict that translation of both U1 and U2 is initiated from CUG  
297 codons, as a close inspection indicated that ribosomes accumulated at these two  
298 sites (Figure 7). It must be noted that pretreatment with CHX or HAR can introduce  
299 artefacts into ribosome profiling data: CHX can lead to an excess of RPF density over  
300 ~30 codons following initiation sites when cells are stressed (15, 20). It has also been  
301 suggested that both drugs can promote upstream initiation due to scanning pre-  
302 initiation complexes stacking behind ribosomes paused at canonical initiation sites  
303 (21). However, the distance between the U1 CUG, the U2 CUG and the ORF1a  
304 initiation site, besides observation of efficient translation of U2 downstream of the  
305 ORF1a initiation site makes these artefacts unlikely to be significant confounding  
306 factors in the case of U1 and U2.

307 Revisiting our first non-drug-treated dataset, we calculated the RPF densities and  
308 translational efficiencies within the U1 and U2 ORFs (Figure 8). U1 has a higher  
309 translational efficiency than any of the other ORFs translated from genomic RNA,  
310 whereas U2 has a translational efficiency similar to that of ORF1a.

311 To assess the coding potential of U1, we calculated the ratio of non-synonymous to  
312 synonymous substitutions (dN/dS), where dN/dS < 1 indicates selection against non-

313 synonymous substitutions which is a strong indicator that a sequence encodes a  
314 functional protein. Application of codeml (22) to a codon alignment of eight  
315 torovirus U1 nucleotide sequences resulted in a dN/dS estimate of  $0.31 \pm 0.08$ ,  
316 indicating that the U1 ORF is likely to encode a functional protein. MLOGD (23) uses  
317 a principle similar to the dN/dS statistic but also accounts for conservative amino  
318 acid substitutions (i.e. similar physico-chemical properties) being more probable  
319 than non-conservative substitutions in biologically functional polypeptides. MLOGD  
320 3-frame “sliding window” analysis of a full-genome alignment revealed a strong  
321 coding signature in the known protein-coding ORFs (as expected) and also in the U1  
322 ORF (Figure 9).

323 We previously predicted the existence of U2 via an analysis of coding potential and  
324 synonymous site conservation across the two torovirus genomes available at that  
325 time (24). Six additional torovirus genome sequences have now become available.  
326 We therefore extended the bioinformatics analysis using all eight currently available  
327 torovirus genome sequences (Figure 9). Since the U2 ORF overlaps ORF1a, leading to  
328 constraint on dS, the dN/dS analysis is not appropriate for U2. MLOGD analysis  
329 indicated that the U2 ORF has a higher coding potential than the corresponding part  
330 of ORF1a (Figure 9). Overlapping genes are thought mainly to evolve through  
331 “overprinting” of an ancestral gene by the *de novo* gene (25). The *de novo* gene  
332 product is often an accessory protein and often disordered (26). Interestingly, the  
333 fragment of pp1a encoded by the region of ORF1a that is overlapped by U2 has no  
334 tblastn (27) nor HHpred (28) homologues outside of the *Torovirus* genus. Thus, it is  
335 unclear which of U2 and the N-terminal domain of pp1a is ancestral. To provide  
336 further comparative genomic evidence for the functionality of U2, we used synplot2  
337 to assess conservation at synonymous sites in the ORF1a reading frame, since  
338 overlapping functional elements are expected to place extra constraints on  
339 synonymous site evolution (29). Consistent with the earlier 2-sequence analysis (24),  
340 synplot2 revealed greatly enhanced ORF1a-frame synonymous-site conservation in a  
341 region coinciding precisely with the conserved absence of stop codons that defines  
342 the U2 ORF (Figure 9), with the mean rate of synonymous substitutions in that region  
343 being 0.20 of the genome average. Summed over the 230-codon overlap region, the

344 probability that the observed level of conservation would occur by chance is  $p = 6.5 \times$   
345  $10^{-40}$ .

346 Both U1 and U2 are conserved in all eight torovirus sequences with no variation in  
347 length or initiation or termination position (Supplementary Figure 5). In all  
348 sequences, U1 and U2 begin with a CUG codon in a strong initiation context ('A' at -3  
349 for U1, and 'A' at -3 and 'G' at +4 for U2) (30). The U1 protein is predicted to contain  
350 two central transmembrane domains and has a C-terminus containing many charged  
351 amino acids. The U2 protein is predicted to form alternating  $\alpha$  helix and antiparallel  $\beta$   
352 sheet domains, however no structural homologs were found through searches of  
353 public databases (31-33). Their function(s) will be the topic of future work.

354

## 355 Discussion

356 **RNA-seq reveals the complexity of torovirus transcription mechanisms.** The factors  
357 influencing which transcriptional mechanism is utilised for the synthesis of each  
358 sgRNA during torovirus replication have not been elucidated. The EToV genome  
359 contains seven occurrences of the canonical TRS motif (CUUUAGA): within the 5' UTR  
360 (leader TRS), the end of U1, central ORF1a, central ORF1b, and immediately before  
361 the M, HE and N ORFs (Figure 1). Consistent with experimental evidence (12), we did  
362 not identify any chimaeric transcripts encompassing the body TRS of M or HE, or  
363 those within ORF1b or ORF1a. It appears that these sites do not stimulate  
364 interruption of negative strand RNA synthesis followed by subsequent re-pairing and  
365 reinitiation. The nucleotides flanking the N, M and HE TRSs are semi-conserved  
366 (Supplementary Figure 6) and it has been suggested previously that the motif  
367 definition should be extended to cACN<sub>3-4</sub>CUUUAGA to reflect this (34). It is likely that  
368 these flanking nucleotides contribute to the degree of utilisation.

369 For the S gene, the chimaeric junction occurs within the run of uridines 3'-adjacent  
370 to the hairpin (Figure S6I). Our results lend support to the hypothesis suggested  
371 previously that a short conserved RNA hairpin, 174 nt upstream of the AUG start

372 codon of the EToV S protein gene, mediates discontinuous extension of negative  
373 strand RNA synthesis to produce this sgRNA (12) (Supplementary Figure 6). The  
374 predicted hairpin structure was not present in S gene chimaeric reads, indicating that  
375 translocation may indeed be prompted by the RdRp encountering a physical block  
376 after synthesising the reverse complement of the S ORF. This is in contrast to the  
377 coronaviral and arteriviral mechanism, wherein RNA structures are insufficient and  
378 an accompanying body TRS is required to act as a transcriptional attenuation signal,  
379 prompting translocation and re-pairing of the nascent RNA. We cannot  
380 unambiguously identify which nucleotides are templated before or after the  
381 translocation event, as a GUUU sequence maps to genomic RNA on either side of the  
382 breakpoint.

383 The leader-TRS chimaeric reads mapping to the N protein gene initially appear  
384 consistent with the coronaviral and arteriviral mechanism of TRS-driven  
385 discontinuous RNA synthesis. However close inspection indicated that the  
386 homologous motif mediating copy-choice recombination-like translocation and re-  
387 pairing of RNA strands was actually a short AGAA sequence, not the true TRS  
388 (tetranucleotides underlined in Figures S6A and S6G). This would result in the  
389 nascent anti-TRS mispairing with the leader TRS; two nucleotides are “skipped” once  
390 reinitiation occurs. This may explain why the discontinuous mechanism is utilised so  
391 rarely for this mRNA.

392 This leads to the suggestion that homology between any two sites may be sufficient  
393 to induce discontinuous RNA synthesis, i.e. that provided adequate sequence  
394 homology exists, the nascent RNA strand may re-pair with upstream sites within the  
395 genomic RNA regardless of the presence of a predefined TRS. This is consistent with  
396 the 5' UTR-ORF1b chimaeric transcripts, which again revealed a particular sequence  
397 that could be templated from either region, in this case AACCUUA rather than the  
398 TRS.

399 If TRS sequence-specificity is not required to stimulate EToV discontinuous RNA  
400 synthesis, it is presumably constrained by alternative roles. The highly conserved  
401 nature of the canonical leader, M, HE and N TRS (CUUUAG[A/U]) across all torovirus

402 genomes (Supplementary Figure 6) suggests it is not tolerant to mutations, however  
403 this has not been formally confirmed. Lack of conservation of the EToV U1, ORF1a  
404 and ORF1b TRS sequences is consistent with them not being functionally relevant.  
405 Our results indicate this essential nature is likely due to a role in transcriptional  
406 termination, as we did not identify a significant role of this motif in the generation of  
407 chimaeric transcripts. Conversely, the upstream region of the “extended” TRS  
408 (cACN<sub>3-4</sub>CUUUAGA) is tolerant to modifications, reflecting the variable nature within  
409 sequences; even when this spacer is extended to six nucleotides, transcripts are still  
410 detectable at 20 % of WT levels (34). Again, this is consistent with a role in  
411 termination rather than a requirement for re-pairing with upstream sequences. The  
412 canonical TRS sequences also presumably contribute to subgenomic promoter  
413 recognition, as the initial CAC is essential though the adenylate is the first nucleotide  
414 on all positive-strand subgenomic transcripts (34). Initiation of sgRNA transcription at  
415 AC dinucleotides is also found in the roniviruses (10). It may be that in these  
416 *Nidovirales* families, the conserved TRS is utilised primarily for signalling  
417 transcriptional termination followed by promoter recognition, and any use for  
418 discontinuous RNA synthesis is merely a byproduct of RdRp promiscuity.

419 The unique combination of discontinuous and non-discontinuous mechanisms within  
420 the one virus so far appears unique to the mammalian toroviruses. The one  
421 bafinivirus isolated to date (white bream virus, family *Coronaviridae*, subfamily  
422 *Torovirinae*, genus *Bafinivirus*) has an extended TRS sequence (CA[G/A]CACUAC)  
423 which is not conserved with the mammalian toroviruses analysed in this study.  
424 Bafinivirus replication produces three sgRNAs which share an identical 42-nt leader  
425 also found at the far 5' terminus of the genome, indicating this species utilises  
426 discontinuous RNA synthesis in a manner similar to the corona- and arteriviruses  
427 (35). However there was preliminary evidence that two of the three sgRNAs exhibit  
428 diversity in their junction sites, suggesting the anti-TRS may bind to multiple sites  
429 within the 5' leader during strand transfer, consistent with our suggestion that whilst  
430 a threshold level of homology is required this is not limited to particular primary  
431 sequences. This is reflected in the fact that the bafinivirus leader-TRS is not fully  
432 identical to the body TRSs.

433 It is not known which mechanism was utilised by the last common ancestor of  
434 nidovirids, and thus which represents divergence from the original model. It has  
435 been suggested that convergent evolution has resulted in the mechanism for  
436 discontinuous negative strand synthesis arising multiple times within the *Nidovirales*.  
437 Similarly, whether the initial role of the TRS motif was to merely stimulate the  
438 attenuation of RNA synthesis or to direct the discontinuous mechanism is not  
439 known. Our data suggests that transcription mechanisms in the *Nidovirales* fall into  
440 multiple categories, each requiring a distinct role of the TRS: (i) homology-driven  
441 reinitiation (canonical discontinuous RNA synthesis, as seen in coronaviruses and  
442 arteriviruses and to a low extent, EToV N protein-coding mRNAs); (ii) structure-  
443 driven discontinuous transcription (EToV S [protein](#) gene); and (iii) transcription  
444 termination (EToV M, HE and the majority of N protein-coding transcripts). These  
445 mechanisms all require a RdRp which is prone to translocating when even relatively  
446 short homologous sequences are present, potentially leading to a large number of  
447 irrelevant transcripts being produced (as previously observed in an arterivirus (36))  
448 and also facilitating the production of defective interfering RNAs (34) and  
449 recombinant strains (7).

450 **Effects upon the host: transcriptional and translational differential expression.** The  
451 differential transcription analysis indicated that infection with EToV induces  
452 increased transcription of multiple genes, the products of which are significantly  
453 more likely than random to be involved in (i) nucleosome function and DNA binding,  
454 and (ii) immune responses to infection than genes which were not differentially  
455 transcribed. Some of the identified GO categories, including cytokine signalling,  
456 innate immune responses and ribosome biogenesis have been identified in previous  
457 RNA-seq analyses of various coronaviruses (37, 38). Similarly, although differential  
458 translational analyses or proteomic studies have not been conducted upon  
459 toroviruses, some of the identified proteins have been recognised as being  
460 incorporated into nidovirid virions (for example, TCP-1 and multiple heat shock  
461 proteins within arterivirus particles) (39). Others have been identified as being  
462 upregulated upon infection with coronaviruses, such as the solute carrier family 25  
463 members (40). Notably, both poly(C) and poly(A) binding proteins were

464 preferentially translated in infected cells; these have been previously identified as  
465 interaction partners of arteriviral non-structural protein 1 $\beta$  and contribute to viral  
466 RNA replication (41). It therefore appears that torovirus infection induces a similar  
467 host response to many nidovirids.

468 To the best of our knowledge, this is the first analysis of differential gene expression  
469 following infection with a torovirus. It would be of interest to repeat this analysis at  
470 later time points, as a previous study found that EToV-mediated global inhibition of  
471 host protein synthesis was only detectable at 16 h.p.i. (38). The same study found  
472 induction of both the intrinsic and extrinsic apoptotic pathways was evident only by  
473 24 h.p.i. (42). It is clear that the transcriptional and translational profile of the host  
474 cell may differ significantly throughout the course of infection. Additionally, it must  
475 be noted that the horse (*Equus caballus*) genome is not highly annotated and thus  
476 many Ensembl gene identifications do not possess an annotated orthologue, a  
477 limiting factor in our analysis.

478 **What is the function of U1 and U2?** The current lack of a published reverse genetics  
479 system to study torovirus replication means we are unable to perform targeted  
480 mutagenesis. This would enable definitive experimental confirmation that U1 and U2  
481 are translated from their respective CUG codons, followed by phenotypic analysis of  
482 knock-out mutants. However the comparative genomic analysis together with the  
483 accumulation of ribosomes on both CUG codons is highly suggestive of this being the  
484 site of initiation; CUG has previously been reported as the most commonly utilised  
485 non-AUG initiation codon in mammalian systems (43). In the case of U1, the coding  
486 sequence contains no AUG codons (in any frame), a situation that would facilitate  
487 pre-initiation ribosomes to continue scanning to the U2 CUG and the ORF1a AUG  
488 initiation sites (44). It remains a possibility that U2 translation initiates at a  
489 downstream AUG, however the only in-frame AUG is located 336 nt downstream of  
490 our presumed start site and is in a poor initiation context ('C' at -3) and 3' of the  
491 ORF1a AUG. We are therefore confident that the CUG codons that were identified in  
492 the ribosome profiling data represent the genuine translational start sites.

493 The ORFs of both U1 and U2 are intact in all torovirus genomic sequences that we  
494 have analysed to date, including bovine (45, 46), caprine and porcine isolates (47).  
495 Most of the U2 ORF is constrained by the fact that the sequence must also retain  
496 ORF1a coding capacity in another frame. U1 is not under such limitations, although it  
497 is likely that the viral genome must maintain specific 5' UTR structures to facilitate  
498 viral replication. Previous investigations utilising defective interfering RNAs have  
499 confirmed that no more than the first 604 nt of the 5' UTR and the entirety of the 3'  
500 UTR are sufficient to allow both positive and minus strand RNA synthesis (34); it is  
501 notable that this region only includes one-third of the U1 ORF (which starts at  
502 nucleotide 524) and hence only this subdomain would be constrained by maintaining  
503 two distinct functional roles. We suggest that the so-called 5' UTR is actually limited  
504 to 523 nt preceding the CUG of U1, and the remainder of U1 and U2 is not under  
505 pressure to maintain *cis*-replication elements.

506 Neither ORF could be identified within the white bream virus genome, a bafinivirus  
507 that constitutes another genus within the subfamily *Torovirinae* (35), although the  
508 lack of multiple bafinivirus sequences makes comparative genomic analysis  
509 impossible.

510 The function(s) of the proteins encoded by both U1 and U2 remain to be elucidated.  
511 Despite the relatively large size of the U2 protein (~30 kDa), after extensive database  
512 searches no structural homologs were identified. By comparison, the U1 protein is  
513 small (~10 kDa), highly basic (pI = 10.4) and possesses many of the predicted features  
514 of a double-spanning transmembrane protein, including two hydrophobic stretches  
515 separated by a 'hinge' and a predicted coiled-coil tertiary topology. Based on  
516 structural similarity to known proteins, one potential function might be a virally  
517 encoded ion channel (viroporin) embedded in either intracellular or plasma  
518 membranes. It is possible that U1 plays a similar role in toroviruses to that of the  
519 coronaviral and arteriviral E proteins, which have no known toroviral homologue.  
520 The coronavirus E protein is a small transmembrane protein (~10 kDa) which  
521 possesses ion channel activity and is required for virion assembly, forming a  
522 pentamer that traverses the viral envelope (48). E proteins also possess a

523 membrane-proximal palmitoylated cysteine residue, which is a predicted (and  
524 conserved) posttranslational modification for U1 (31).

525 Alternatively viroporin activity may be mediated by a small, basic double-  
526 transmembrane protein, the ORF of which is embedded within the EToV N gene in  
527 the +1 frame (with respect to N). An analogous “N+1” protein has been identified in  
528 some group II coronaviruses and is postulated to play a structural role, however it is  
529 not essential for replication (49, 50). Neither our ribosome profiling nor comparative  
530 genomic analysis provides evidence that this ORF is utilised in toroviruses. We did  
531 not observe ribosomes translating in this frame in either the initial dataset or the  
532 drug-treated samples (although Ribo-seq may not always detect poorly translated  
533 overlapping genes); further, the ORF is not preserved in all torovirus genomes.

534 Our data has revealed that the transcriptional landscape of a prototypic torovirus is  
535 complex and driven by many factors beyond the canonical “multi-loci TRS” model of  
536 coronaviruses. The development of a torovirus reverse genetics system would allow  
537 manipulation of potential translocation-inducing sequences and allow us to elucidate  
538 which features of the toroviral TRS cause them to act as terminators of RNA  
539 synthesis, rather than consistently inducing homology-assisted recombination. Our  
540 accompanying translational analysis has revealed two conserved novel ORFs, and has  
541 shortened the EToV 5' UTR to a mere 523 nt. Together these data provide an insight  
542 into the molecular biology of the replication cycle of this neglected pathogen and  
543 highlight the disparities between the families of the *Nidovirales*.

#### 544 **Materials and Methods**

545 **Virus isolates.** A plaque-purified isolate of equine torovirus, Berne strain (isolate  
546 P138/72) (EToV) was kindly provided by Raoul de Groot (Utrecht University) and  
547 cultured in equine dermis (ED) cells. This virus was initially isolated from a  
548 symptomatic horse in 1972 (13). ED cells were maintained in Dulbecco's modified  
549 Eagle's medium (Invitrogen), supplemented with 10 % foetal calf serum, 100 IU/mL  
550 penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin, 1 mM non-essential amino acids, 25 mM HEPES  
551 and 1 % L-glutamine in a humidified incubator at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

552 **RNA sequencing and ribosome profiling.** ED cells were infected with EToV for 1 hour  
553 (h) in serum-free media (MOI = 0.1) and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen at 8 h post  
554 infection (h.p.i.) prior to either RNA isolation or ribosome purification for profiling.  
555 Cells were either not pretreated or, where stated, were treated with a final  
556 concentration of 100 µg/mL cycloheximide (CHX) for 2 minutes (Sigma-Aldrich) or 2  
557 µg/mL of harringtonine for 3 minutes (LKT Laboratories) followed by CHX for 2  
558 minutes, before flash-freezing. RNA and ribosomes were harvested according to  
559 previously published protocols (15, 51) with minor modifications. Following either  
560 RPF or RNA isolation, duplex-specific nuclease was not utilised but instead rRNA was  
561 depleted with the RiboZero [human/mouse/rat] kit (Illumina). Libraries were  
562 prepared and sequenced using the NextSeq500 platform (Illumina).

563 **Bioinformatic analysis of Ribo-seq and RNA-seq data.** Both Ribo-seq and RNA-seq  
564 reads were demultiplexed and adaptor sequences trimmed using the FASTX-Toolkit  
565 ([hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx\\_toolkit/](http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/)). Reads shorter than 25 nt after trimming were  
566 discarded. Bowtie (version 1.2.1.1) databases were generated as follows. Horse  
567 ribosomal RNA (rRNA) sequences were downloaded from the National Center for  
568 Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Entrez Nucleotide database (accessions  
569 EU081775.1, NR\_046271.1, NR\_046309.2, EU554425.1, XM\_014728542.1 and  
570 FN402126.1) (52). As the full-length virus RNA (vRNA) reference genome was not  
571 available for EToV, a reference was constructed from the following overlapping  
572 segments available from Entrez Nucleotide: DQ310701.1 (positions 1-14531),  
573 X52374.1 (13475-21394), X52506.1 (21250-26086), X52505.1 (26054-26850),  
574 X52375.1 (26784-27316) and D00563.1 (27264-279923). Horse messenger RNA  
575 (mRNA) sequences from EquCab2.0 (GCF\_000002305.2) were downloaded from  
576 NCBI RefSeq (53). Horse non-coding RNA (ncRNA) sequences were obtained from  
577 Ensembl release 89 (54) and combined with horse transfer RNA (tRNA) sequences  
578 from GtRNADB (55). Horse genomic DNA (gDNA) was obtained from Ensembl release  
579 89. All horse sequences were from the EquCab2.0 genome build. Trimmed reads  
580 were then mapped sequentially to the rRNA, vRNA, mRNA and ncRNA databases  
581 using bowtie version 1.2.1.1 (56), with parameters -v 2 --best (i.e. maximum 2  
582 mismatches, report best match), with only unmapped reads passed to each following

583 stage. Reads that did not align to any of the aforementioned databases were then  
584 mapped to the host gDNA using STAR version 2.5.4a (57), again allowing a maximum  
585 of 2 mismatches per alignment. Remaining reads were classified as unmapped.

586 Ribo-seq density and RNA-seq density were calculated for each gene in the EToV  
587 genome (Figure 3, Figure 8). To normalise for different library sizes, reads per million  
588 mapped reads (RPM) values were calculated using the sum of positive-sense virus  
589 RNA reads and host RefSeq mRNA reads as the denominator. In order to standardise  
590 the regions used to calculate RNA-seq and Ribo-seq density, the following regions  
591 were selected: ORF1a, start codon (position 882) to 5' end of frameshift site  
592 (position 14518); ORF1b, 3' end of frameshift site (position 14525) to 5' end of the S  
593 gene hairpin (position 21118); all other ORFs, initiation codon to termination codon.  
594 For U2, a region overlapping with ORF1a was used because only 46 bases are unique  
595 to U2 and, for Figure 8, the ORF1a coordinates were updated to exclude the region  
596 which overlaps with U2, giving a range from 1552 to 21394. In addition, for all ORFs,  
597 only Ribo-seq reads mapping to the predominant phase (i.e. reads mapping to the  
598 first positions of codons) were used, as this should greatly diminish misassignment of  
599 ORF1a-translating ribosomes to U2 or *vice versa*. Reads mapping to the first five  
600 codons at the 5' end of each region or the last six codons at the 3' end of each region  
601 were excluded. For subgenomic RNAs, RNA-seq density was calculated for the same  
602 regions as described for Ribo-seq. For the genomic RNA the regions for ORF1a and  
603 ORF1b were combined into the interval from the start codon of ORF1a (position 882)  
604 to the 5' end of the S gene hairpin (position 21118). Ribo-seq and RNA-seq densities  
605 were calculated as the number of reads per million mapped reads for which the 5'  
606 end maps to each region, divided by the length of the region in nt, multiplied by  
607 1000 (i.e. RPKM). For RNA-seq, a decumulation strategy was used to subtract the  
608 estimated RNA-seq density for longer overlapping genomic and subgenomic  
609 transcripts that would contribute to the RNA-seq density measured for each of the 3'  
610 ORFs: the genomic RNA-seq density was subtracted from all subgenomic densities,  
611 and then the RNA-seq densities of overlapping "upstream" subgenomic transcripts  
612 were iteratively subtracted from "downstream" regions (e.g. RNA-seq density in the  
613 unique region of M was subtracted from HE, and this was subtracted from N).

614 Translation efficiency for each gene was calculated as Ribo-seq density /  
615 decumulated RNA-seq density. Translational efficiencies for HE could not be  
616 accurately estimated as the low expression of the HE transcript made the  
617 decumulation procedure for HE susceptible to noise.

618 Read length distributions were calculated for Ribo-seq and RNA-seq reads mapping  
619 to positive-sense host mRNA annotated CDSs or to the positive- or negative-sense  
620 EToV genome (Supplementary Figure 1). Histograms of host mRNA Ribo-seq and  
621 RNA-seq 5' end positions relative to initiation and termination codons  
622 (Supplementary Figure 2, Supplementary Figure 3) were derived from reads mapping  
623 to mRNAs with annotated CDSs  $\geq$  450 nt in length and annotated 5' and 3' UTRs  $\geq$  60  
624 nt in length. Host mRNA Ribo-seq and RNA-seq phasing distributions (Supplementary  
625 Figure 4) were calculated taking into account interior regions of annotated coding  
626 ORFs only (specifically, reads for which the 5' end mapped between the first  
627 nucleotide of the initiation codon and 30 nt 5' of the termination codon) in order to  
628 exclude reads on or near initiation or termination codons. For viral genome coverage  
629 plots, but not for meta-analyses of host RefSeq mRNA coverage, mapping positions  
630 of RPF 5' ends were offset + 12 nt to approximate the location of the ribosomal P-  
631 site (15).

632 **Analysis of viral transcripts.** The EToV (Berne isolate) genome sequence was  
633 confirmed by *de novo* assembly of unmapped and vRNA reads from the infected  
634 RNA-seq samples. Assembly was performed using Trinity (58) with the default  
635 settings for stranded single ended (--SS\_lib type "F") data. Viral contigs were  
636 identified using BLASTN (27) against a database of EToV reference sequences based  
637 on the NCBI records listed above. The viral contig was aligned to the reference using  
638 the MAFFT L-INS-i method (59).

639 Chimaeric reads were classified as reads for which the entire read mapped uniquely  
640 to the viral genome, with no mismatches, after adding a single breakpoint, with a  
641 minimum of 12 nt mapping on either side of the breakpoint, at least 5 nt apart. To  
642 identify such reads, all unmapped reads were split into two sub-reads at every  
643 possible position  $\geq$  12 nt from either end and these sub-reads were mapped to the

644 viral genome using bowtie with no mismatches and no multimapping permitted.  
645 Transcription junctions were defined as “donor/acceptor” pairs that were either  
646 supported by at least 10 chimaeric reads or contained the entire 5’ leader and TRS  
647 sequence in the 5’ segment of the read. At some positions single nucleotide  
648 resolution for the chimaeric break-point could not be established; where reads were  
649 found to break at adjacent possible positions these positions were merged to give a  
650 short region containing the breakpoint. The number of non-chimaeric reads spanning  
651 each donor and acceptor site was calculated as the number of reads which  
652 overlapped the site by at least 12 nt in either direction (as chimaeric reads  
653 overlapping the site by < 12 nt are not detectable). The proportion of chimaeric  
654 reads at each “donor” or “acceptor” site is therefore the number of chimaeric reads  
655 with a breakpoint at the site divided by this number plus the number of non-  
656 chimaeric reads spanning the site (Figure 4B).

657 To visualise TRS conservation, multiple sequence alignments were generated using  
658 Clustal Omega with default parameters (60). RNA structure was predicted using RNA-  
659 Alifold (61) and visualised using VARNA (62).

660 **Differential gene expression analysis.** For analysis of host differential expression  
661 between non-drug treated infected and mock-infected cells, all reads which did not  
662 map to rRNA or vRNA were mapped to the EquCab2.0 reference genome and  
663 annotations (Ensembl release 89) using STAR (57) with a maximum of two  
664 mismatches and removal of non-canonical, non-annotated splice junctions. Read  
665 counts were generated using HTSeq 0.8.0 (63). For differential transcription analysis,  
666 gene level counts were generated across the Ensembl release 89 EquCab2.0 gtf file,  
667 filtered to include only protein-coding genes. For differential translation efficiency  
668 analysis only coding regions (CDS) were considered: both RNA-seq and Ribo-seq  
669 counts were generated at CDS level using intersection-strict mode, based on the  
670 same annotation set. Multimapping reads were excluded from both analyses.  
671 Differential transcript abundance analysis was performed using the standard DESeq2  
672 (64) pipeline described in the vignette. Genes to which <10 reads mapped were  
673 discarded and shrinkage of  $\log_2$  fold changes for lowly expressed genes was

674 performed using the lfcshrink method of DESeq2. All recommended quality control  
675 plots were inspected, and no major biases were identified in the data. False  
676 discovery rate (FDR) values were calculated using the R fdrtool package (65). Genes  
677 with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $>1$  and an FDR less than 0.1 were considered to be  
678 differentially expressed. Gene ontology (GO) term enrichment analysis (66) was  
679 performed against a background of all horse protein-coding genes in the Ensembl gtf  
680 using a Fisher Exact Test and corrected for multiple testing with a Bonferroni  
681 correction. GO annotations for horse genes were downloaded from BiomaRt  
682 (Ensembl release 90) (67). Differential translational efficiency analysis was carried  
683 out using the CDS counts table, normalised using the DESeq2 “sizeFactors”  
684 technique. Similar to the differential transcription analysis, genes to which  $<10$  reads  
685 mapped were discarded. Again all recommended quality control plots for DESeq2  
686 were inspected and no major biases were identified in the data. Differential  
687 translation efficiency analysis was performed using Xtail (68), following the standard  
688 pipeline described in the vignette. *P*-values were adjusted automatically within Xtail  
689 using the Benjamini–Hochberg method. Genes with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $>1$  and an  
690 adjusted *p*-value less than 0.1 were considered to be differentially translated. GO  
691 enrichment analysis was performed as described for the differential transcript  
692 abundance analysis.

693 **Comparative genomics.** The Genbank accession numbers utilised for comparative  
694 genomic analysis were as follows: DQ310701.1 (Berne virus), AY427798.1 (Breda  
695 virus) (45), KR527150.1 (goat torovirus), JQ860350.1 (porcine torovirus) (47),  
696 KM403390.1 (porcine torovirus) (69), LT900503.1 (porcine torovirus), LC088094.1  
697 (bovine torovirus) and LC088095.1 (bovine torovirus) (46). The ratio of  
698 nonsynonymous to synonymous substitution rates (dN/dS) was estimated using the  
699 codeml program in the PAML package (22). The eight torovirus U1 nucleotide  
700 sequences were translated, aligned as amino acids with MUSCLE (70), and the amino  
701 acid alignment used to guide a codon-based nucleotide alignment (EMBOSS  
702 trnalnalign) (71). Alignment columns with gap characters in any sequence were  
703 removed, resulting in a reduction from 81 to 79 codon positions. PhyML (72) was  
704 used to produce a nucleotide phylogenetic tree for the U1 alignment and, using this

705 tree topology, dN/dS was calculated with codeml. The standard deviation for the  
706 codeml dN/dS value was estimated via a bootstrapping procedure, in which codon  
707 columns of the alignment were randomly resampled (with replacement); 100  
708 randomized alignments were generated, and their dN/dS values calculated with  
709 codeml.

710 Coding potential within each reading frame was analysed using MLOGD (23) and  
711 synonymous site conservation was analysed with synplot2 (29). For these analyses  
712 we generated a codon-respecting alignment of the eight torovirus full-genome  
713 sequences using a procedure described previously (29). In brief, each individual  
714 genome sequence was aligned to a reference sequence using code2aln version 1.2  
715 (73). Breda virus (GenBank accession AY427798) was used as reference, since unlike  
716 Berne virus it contains an intact HE gene. Genomes were then mapped to reference  
717 sequence coordinates by removing alignment positions that contained a gap  
718 character in the reference sequence, and these pairwise alignments were combined  
719 to give the multiple sequence alignment. This was analysed with MLOGD using a 40-  
720 codon sliding window and a 5-codon step size. For each of the three reading frames,  
721 within each window the null model is that the sequence is non-coding whereas the  
722 alternative model is that the sequence is coding in the given reading frame.  
723 Positive/negative values indicate that the sequences in the alignment are  
724 likely/unlikely to be coding in the given reading frame. To assess conservation at  
725 synonymous sites, the concatenated coding regions were extracted from the  
726 alignment and analysed with synplot2.

## 727 **Data availability**

728 The sequencing data reported in this paper have been deposited in ArrayExpress  
729 (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress>) under the accession number E-MTAB-6656.

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738 **Figure Legends**

739 **Figure 1.** Schematic of the equine torovirus genome (EToV). Open reading frames  
740 (ORFs) are coloured according to their respective reading frames (pink: phase 0  
741 yellow: phase -1; blue: phase +1). Polyproteins pp1a and pp1ab are translated from  
742 genomic RNA, with pp1ab generated via -1 programmed ribosomal frameshifting.  
743 Structural proteins are translated from a series of subgenomic RNAs. Untranslated  
744 regions of subgenomic RNAs are represented by black bars. The leader transcription  
745 regulatory sequence (TRS) (green) and putative body TRSs (blue) are displayed below  
746 the viral genome. The frameshift site and a putative RNA hairpin involved in S sgRNA  
747 synthesis are indicated above the genome.

748 **Figure 2.** Read density of (A) Ribo-seq and (B) RNA-seq reads across the viral genome  
749 from EToV infected cells. Red lines represent total reads per million mapped reads at  
750 each position; pink: reads in phase 0; yellow: phase -1; blue: phase +1. Densities are  
751 smoothed with a 15-nt running mean filter and plotted on a  $\log_{10}(1+x)$  scale.  
752 Negative-sense reads (grey) are displayed below the x-axis for total reads only. Each  
753 line represents a single replicate. For Ribo-seq reads, a +12 nt offset has been  
754 applied to read 5' end positions to map approximate P-site positions. (C) The positive  
755 sense Ribo-seq/RNA-seq ratio after applying a 100-nt running mean filter to each  
756 distribution. Each line represents one of the two paired Ribo-seq and RNA-seq  
757 replicates.

758 **Figure 3.** Relative gene expression levels. (A) Ribo-seq density in reads per kilobase  
759 per million mapped reads (RPKM) for each ORF in the EToV genome. For each ORF,  
760 only reads mapping in the predominant phase (i.e. mapping to first positions of  
761 codons) were included. (B) “Decumulated” RNA-seq density in RPKM for each ORF.  
762 For subgenomic RNAs, density was calculated across the regions used for Ribo-seq in  
763 A; for genomic RNAs the regions for ORF1a and ORF1b were combined, as these  
764 ORFs are both translated from gRNA. A decumulation strategy was used to correct  
765 for the fact that the measured RNA density in 3' ORFs derives from multiple 3'-  
766 coterminous transcripts (see Materials and Methods). (C) Translation efficiency for  
767 each gene in the EToV genome, calculated as Ribo-seq density / decumulated RNA-  
768 seq density. For each ORF, the two bars represent two repeats.

769 **Figure 4.** Analysis of chimaeric viral reads. (A) Sashimi plot showing junctions in the  
770 EToV genome across which chimaeric RNA-seq reads were identified in EToV  
771 infected, non-drug treated samples. Chimaeric reads were defined as reads for which  
772 the intact read could not be mapped but for which the 5' and 3' ends could be  
773 uniquely mapped to non-contiguous regions of the EToV genome. Junctions that  
774 were either covered by at least 10 chimaeric reads (grey) and/or for which the 5'  
775 section of the read contained the full 5' leader sequence and leader TRS (red) were  
776 identified and adjacent positions merged. These junctions are shown as curved lines  
777 connecting the position of the 3' end of the 5' mapped segment of the read and the  
778 5' end of the 3' mapped segment of the read. The apical height of each curved line  
779 shows the absolute number of reads spanning this junction on a  $\log_{10}(1+x)$  scale. (B)  
780 Inverted bar chart showing, for the 5' (orange) and 3' (blue) breakpoints for each  
781 junction, the number of chimaeric reads as a fraction of the total number of  
782 chimaeric and non-chimaeric reads at each site.

783 **Figure 5.** Volcano plots showing the results of (A) differential transcription analysis  
784 performed using DESeq2 (64) and (B) differential translation efficiency analysis  
785 performed using Xtail (68), between cells infected with EToV (infected) and  
786 uninfected cells (mock). Genes which were expressed at significantly higher levels  
787 (FDR  $\leq 0.05$  and absolute  $\log_2(\text{fold change}) \geq 1$ ) in infected cells are highlighted in

788 pink (transcription, A) and blue (translational efficiency, B). Genes which were  
789 expressed at significantly higher levels in mock infected cells are highlighted in green  
790 (transcription, A) and orange (translational efficiency, B). The five most significant  
791 genes in each category are labelled with the gene symbol where available and  
792 otherwise with the Ensembl gene ID. (C) Absolute  $\log_2$ (fold change) for all gene  
793 ontology (GO) terms which were significantly overrepresented compared to a  
794 background of all horse protein-coding genes for genes significantly more  
795 transcribed in infected cells (pink), genes significantly more efficiently translated in  
796 infected cells (blue) and genes significantly more transcribed in mock cells (green).  
797 No terms were identified for genes significantly more efficiently translated in mock  
798 cells.

799 **Figure 6.** Read density of Ribo-seq reads along the viral genome for EToV infected  
800 cells pretreated with (A) cycloheximide or (B) harringtonine. Red lines represent total  
801 reads per million mapped reads (RPM) at each position. Densities are smoothed with  
802 a 15-nt running mean filter and plotted on a  $\log_{10}(1+x)$  scale. Negative-sense reads  
803 (grey) are displayed below the x-axis. Each line represents a single replicate. A +12 nt  
804 offset has been applied to read 5' end positions to map approximate P-site positions.

805 **Figure 7.** Read density of Ribo-seq reads across (A) U1, U2 and ORF1a; and (B) the U1  
806 ORF and surrounding regions, for EToV infected cells with no drug treatment or with  
807 cycloheximide or harringtonine pretreatment. Pink: reads in phase 0; yellow: phase -  
808 1; blue: phase +1. Graphs show total reads per million mapped reads (RPM) at each  
809 position. In (A) densities are smoothed with a 15-nt running mean filter while (B)  
810 shows the RPM counts at single-nt resolution. Each plot represents a single replicate.  
811 A +12 nt offset has been applied to read 5' end positions to map approximate P-site  
812 positions.

813 **Figure 8.** Relative translation efficiencies for U1, U2, ORF1a and ORF1b. To reduce  
814 misassignment of reads in the U2/ORF1a overlap region, for all ORFs only reads  
815 mapping in the predominant phase (i.e. mapping to first positions of codons) were  
816 included. Ribo-seq densities were divided by the ORF1ab RNA-seq densities for the  
817 corresponding paired sample. For each ORF, the two bars represent two repeats.

818 **Figure 9.** Coding potential statistics for the torovirus genome. A map of the torovirus  
819 genome is shown at top. Breda virus (AY427798.1) was used as the reference  
820 genome for this analysis since EToV has a deletion in the HE gene. In Breda virus, U1  
821 is in-frame with ORF1a due to a 2-nt insertion relative to EToV in the short non-  
822 coding region between U1 and U2. The next four panels show an analysis of  
823 synonymous site conservation in the concatenated coding ORFs (with the reading  
824 frame of the longer ORF being used wherever two ORFs overlap). Red lines show the  
825 probability that the degree of conservation within a given window (25- or 65-codons  
826 as indicated) could be obtained under a null model of neutral evolution at  
827 synonymous sites, whereas brown lines depict the absolute amount of conservation  
828 as represented by the ratio of the observed number of substitutions within a given  
829 window to the number expected under the null model. Greatly enhanced  
830 synonymous site conservation is seen in the region of ORF1a that is overlapped by  
831 the U2 ORF. The next three panels show MLOGD coding potential scores and stop  
832 codon plots for each of the three reading frames. The positions of stop codons are  
833 shown for each of the eight torovirus sequences mapped onto the Breda virus  
834 reference sequence coordinates. Note the conserved absence of stop codons in the  
835 U1 and U2 ORFs. MLOGD was applied in a 40-codon sliding-window (5-codon step  
836 size). Positive scores indicate that the sequence is likely to be coding in the given  
837 reading frame. Note the positive scores within the U1 and U2 ORFs besides the  
838 previously known ORFs. The bottom panel (green line) indicates the total amount of  
839 phylogenetic divergence contributing to the analyses at each alignment position  
840 (regions containing alignment gaps have reduced summed divergence leading to  
841 reduced statistical power). Pink regions in the stop codon plots (e.g. EToV sequence  
842 in the HE region) indicate regions excluded from the analyses due to poor or locally  
843 out-of-frame mapping to the Breda reference sequence (see Firth, 2014 for details).

844 **Supplementary Table 1.** Read counts for each sample. Too short, adaptor only, rRNA  
845 forward/reverse, mRNA forward/reverse, ncRNA forward/reverse, gDNA  
846 forward/reverse, and vRNA forward/reverse reads were summed to give the total  
847 mapped read count. Remaining reads were classified as unmapped.

848 **Supplementary Table 2.** Gene descriptions (Ensembl gene identifiers and gene  
849 symbols) for transcripts which were differentially transcribed or translated, in EToV  
850 compared to mock infected cells.

851 **Supplementary Figure 1.** Comparison of read length distribution for reads mapping  
852 to EToV in infected cells (orange), host mRNAs in non-infected cells (blue) and host  
853 mRNAs in infected cells (red) for (A) Ribo-seq data in non-drug treated cells; (B) RNA-  
854 seq data in non-drug treated cells; (C) Ribo-seq data in cycloheximide-treated cells;  
855 and (D) Ribo-seq data in harringtonine-treated cells.

856 **Supplementary Figure 2.** Histograms of Ribo-seq read 5' end positions (nt) relative to  
857 annotated initiation (left) and termination (right) sites, summed across all host  
858 mRNAs. Bars are coloured by phase relative to the first base of the start codon (pink:  
859 phase 0; blue: phase +1; yellow: phase -1). Histograms are scaled so that the  
860 maximum value is 1. For clarity, the y-axis is cropped at 0.3 for non-drug treated and  
861 0.1 for drug treated cells; bars which extended beyond this point are marked with an  
862 asterisk (\*).

863 **Supplementary Figure 3.** Histograms of RNA-seq read 5' end positions (nt) relative to  
864 annotated initiation (left) and termination (right) sites, summed across all host  
865 mRNAs. Bars are coloured by phase relative to the first base of the start codon (pink:  
866 phase 0; blue: phase +1; yellow: phase -1). Histograms are scaled so that the  
867 maximum value is 1.

868 **Supplementary Figure 4.** Phasing of the 5' ends of reads (pink: phase 0; blue: phase  
869 +1; yellow: phase -1) for (A) Ribo-seq reads mapping to host mRNA coding regions,  
870 (B) RNA-seq reads mapping to host mRNA coding regions, (C) Ribo-seq reads  
871 mapping to virus mRNA coding regions and (D) RNA-seq reads mapping to virus  
872 mRNA coding regions.

873 **Supplementary Figure 5.** Conservation of uORF1 and uORF2 in the eight publicly  
874 available torovirus genomes. Individual amino acid residues are coloured according  
875 to their biochemical properties.

876 **Supplementary Figure 6.** Conservation of TRSs and regulatory structures in the eight  
877 publicly available torovirus genomes. Regions were selected based on the presence  
878 of a putative TRS in the EToV genome. The TRS and six flanking nucleotides are  
879 displayed; putative TRS nucleotides are highlighted in red. Nucleotide conservation  
880 between all eight sequences is indicated by an asterisk (\*). The predicted hairpin  
881 structure (I) is based upon nucleotide conservation across all eight genomes. Variant  
882 nucleotides are circled in either red (covariance indicates the predicted pairing may  
883 occur in all but one genome) or blue (variable). R indicates a purine exists in all  
884 genomes.

885

886 **References**

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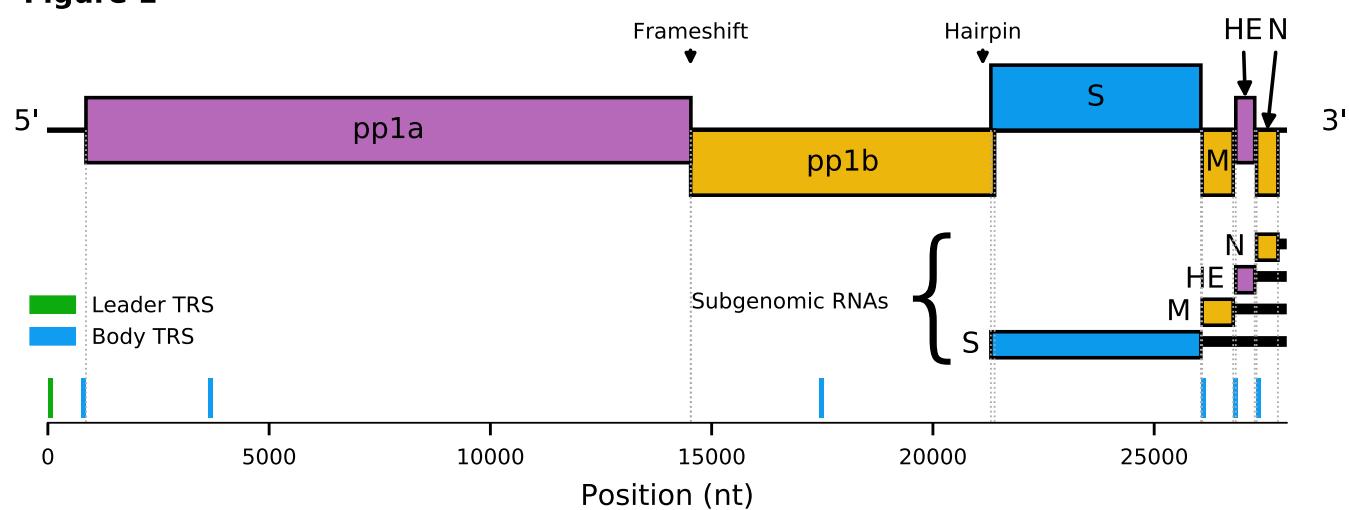
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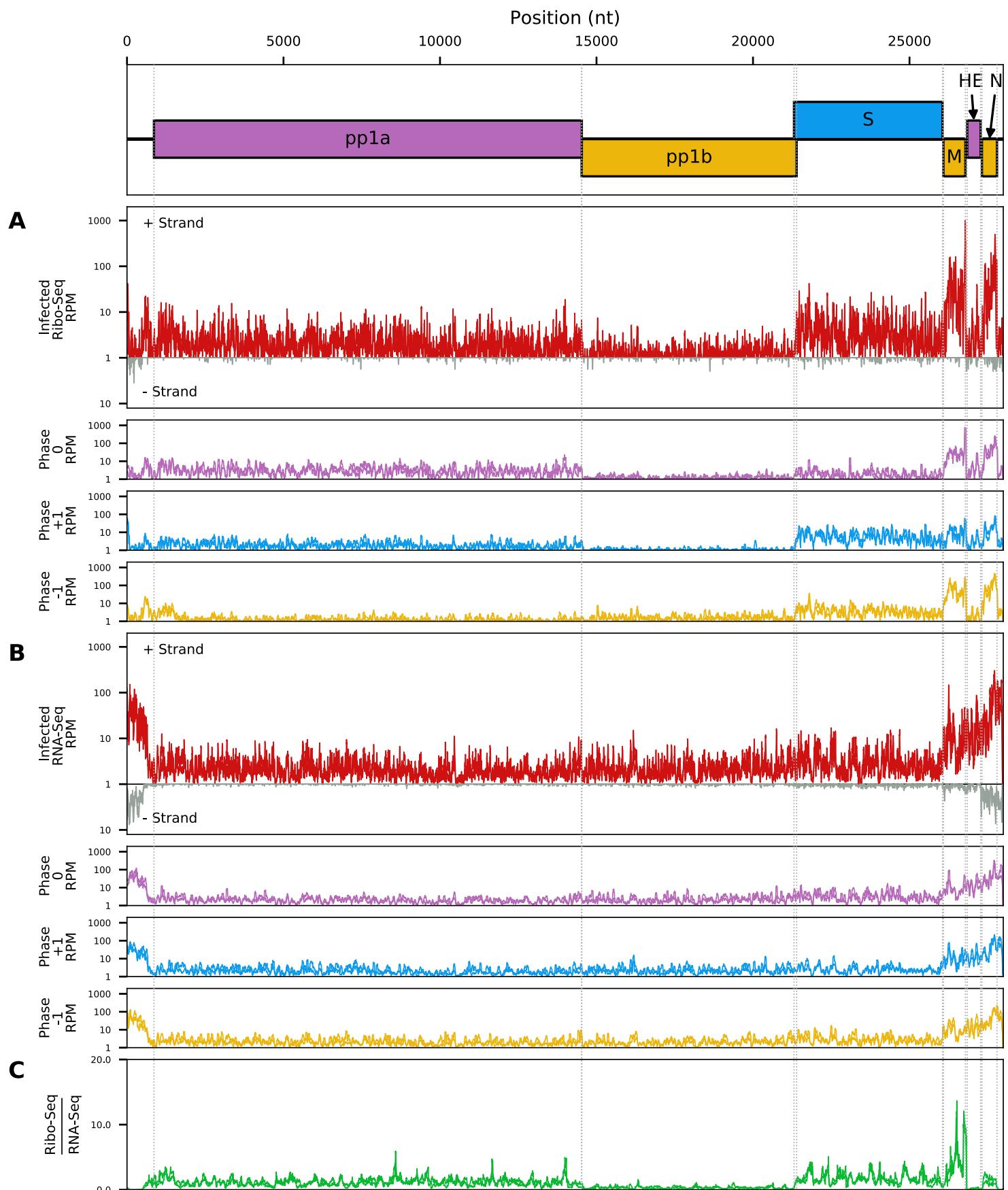
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**Figure 1**

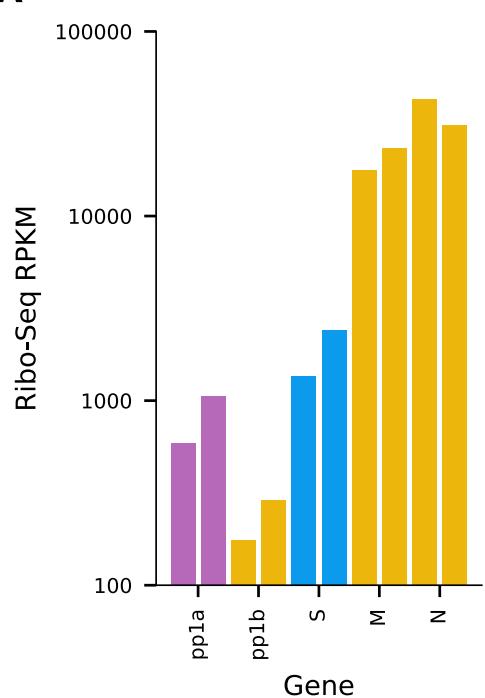


**Figure 2**

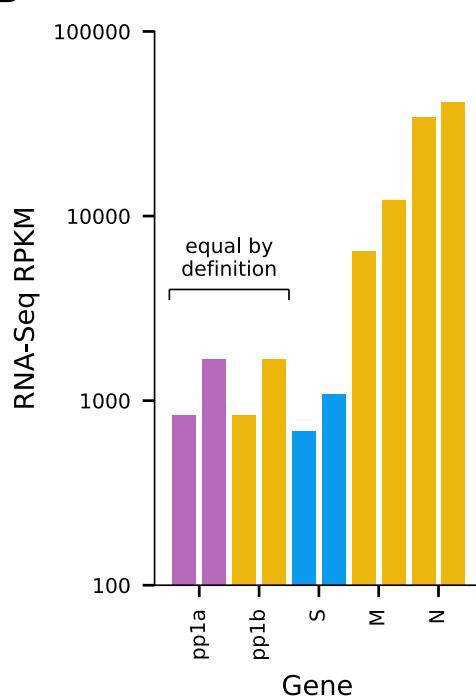


**Figure 3**

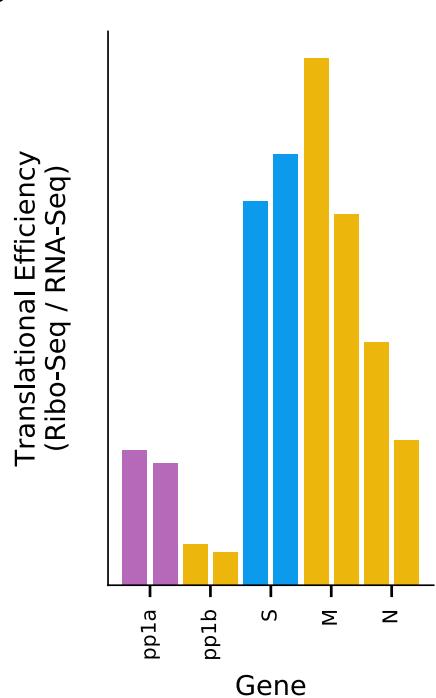
**A**



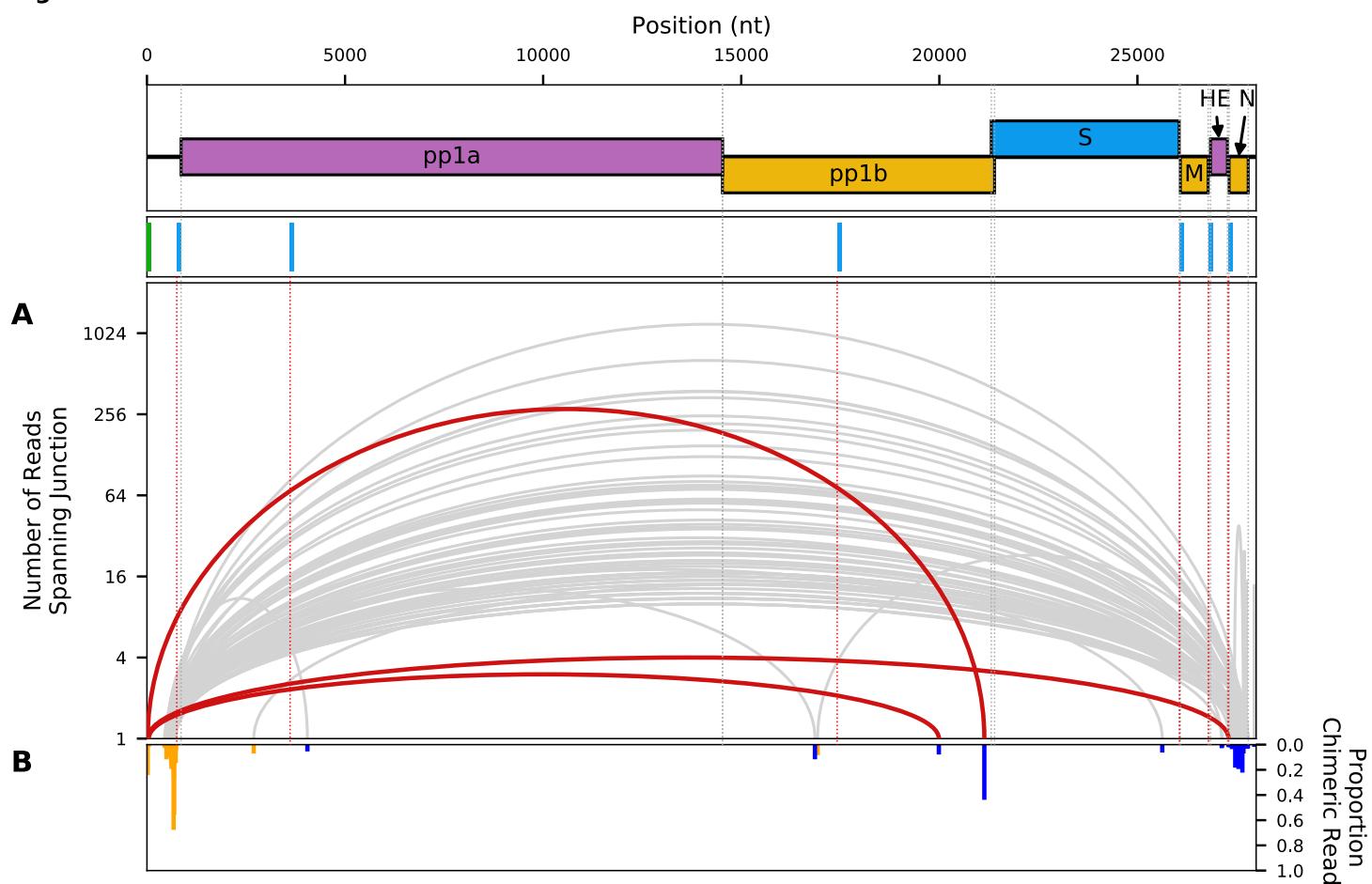
**B**



**C**

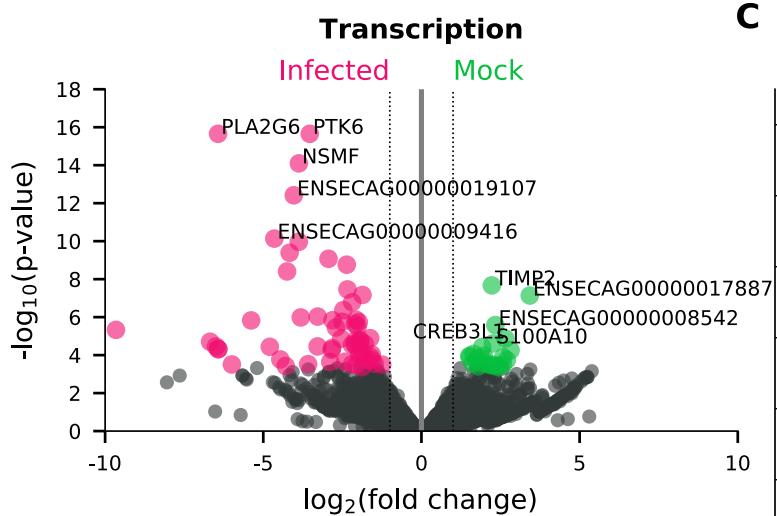


**Figure 4**



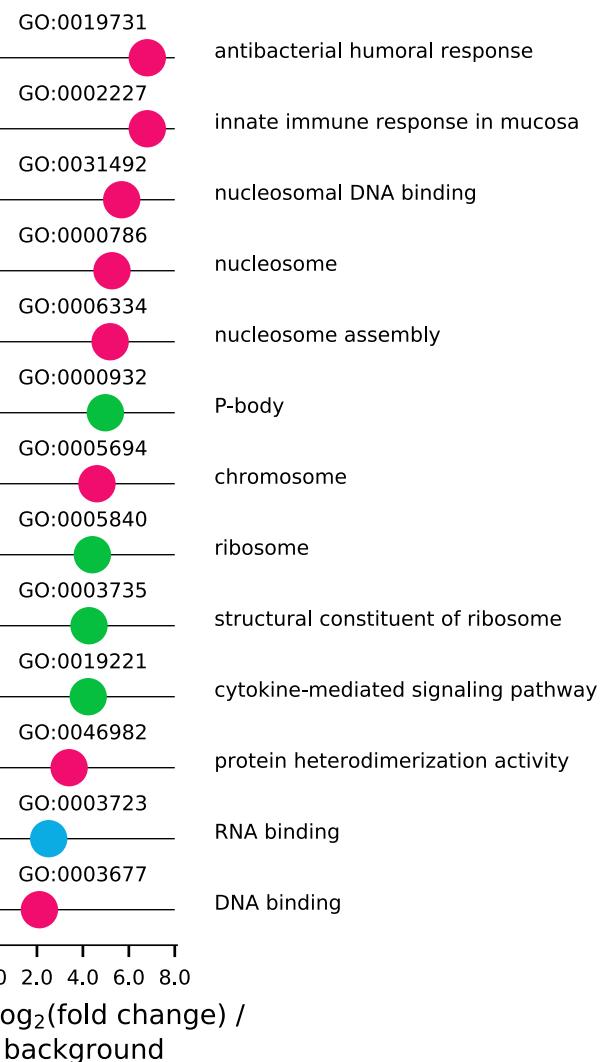
**Figure 5**

**A**

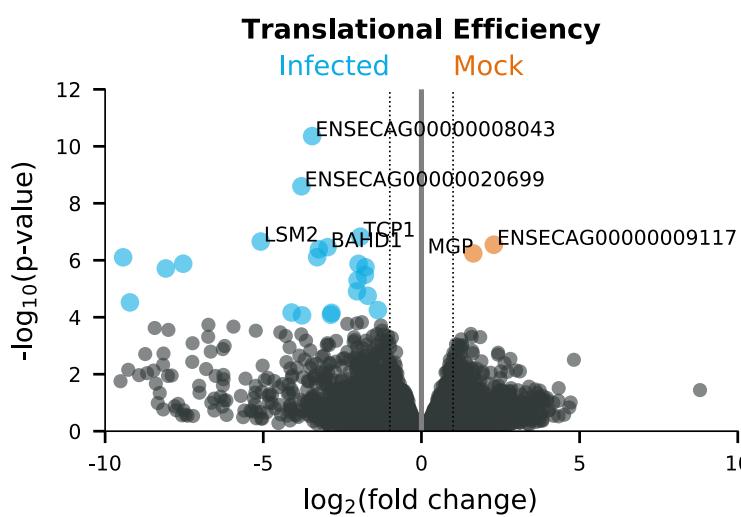


**C**

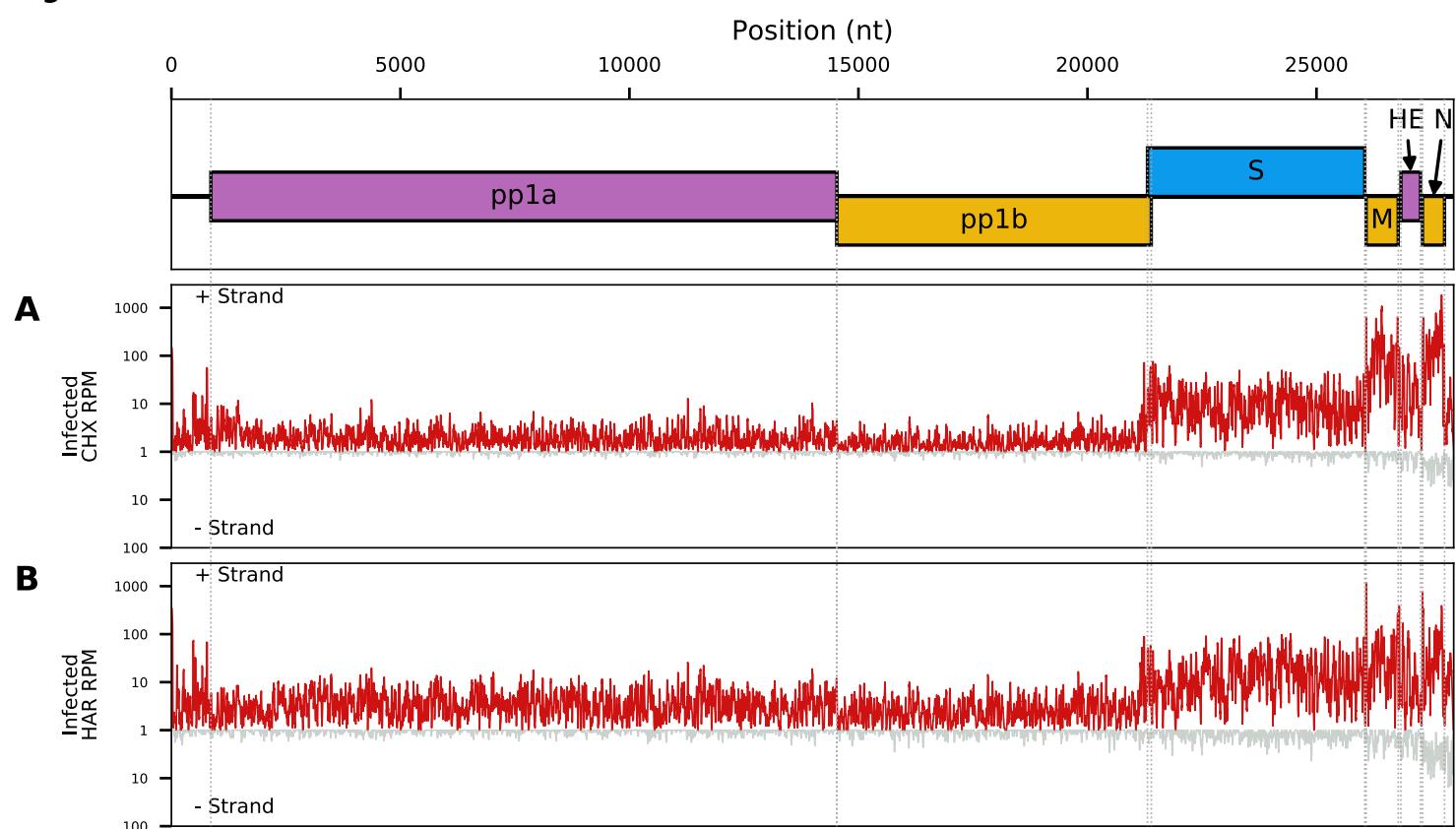
**GO Term Enrichment**



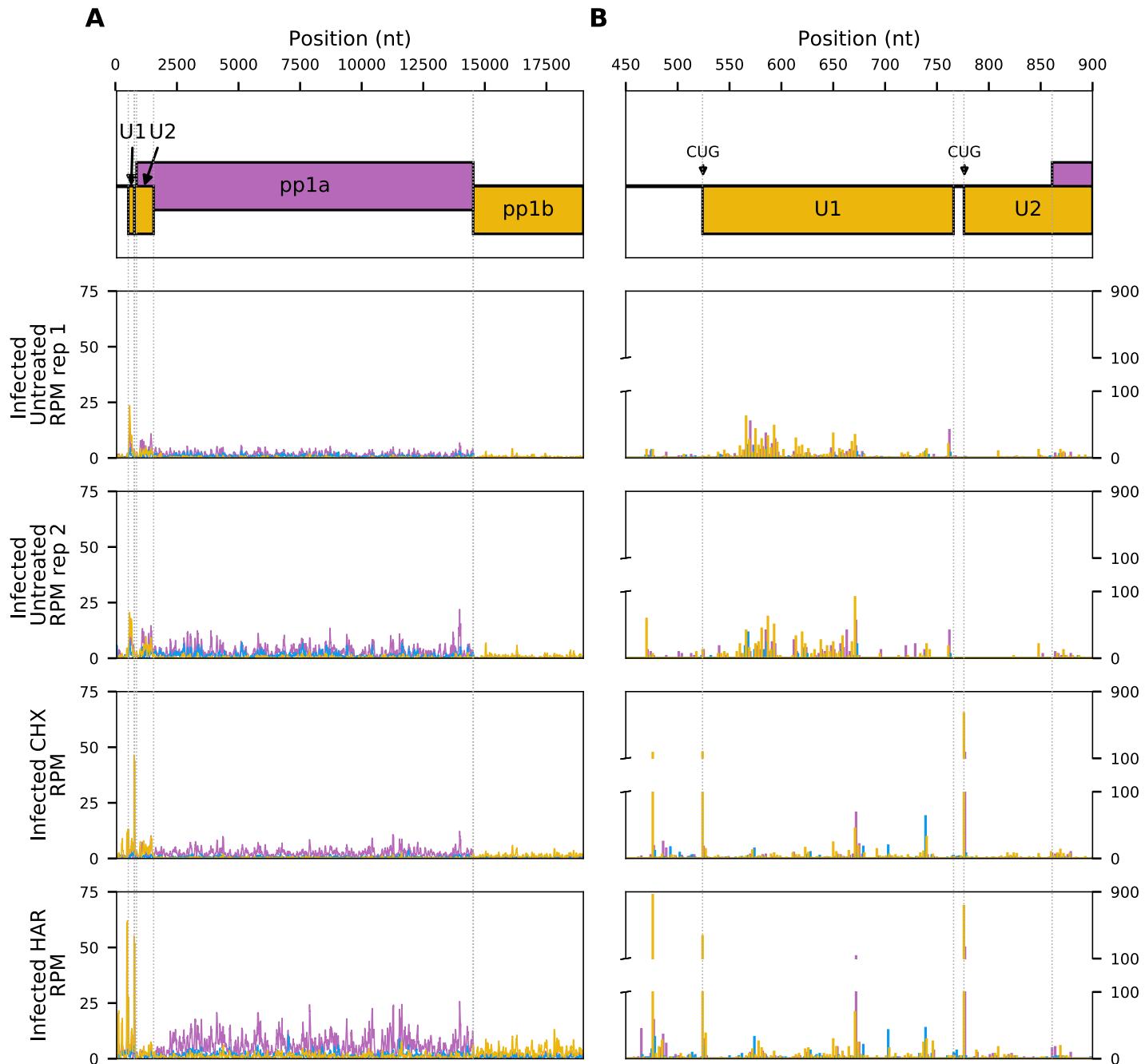
**B**



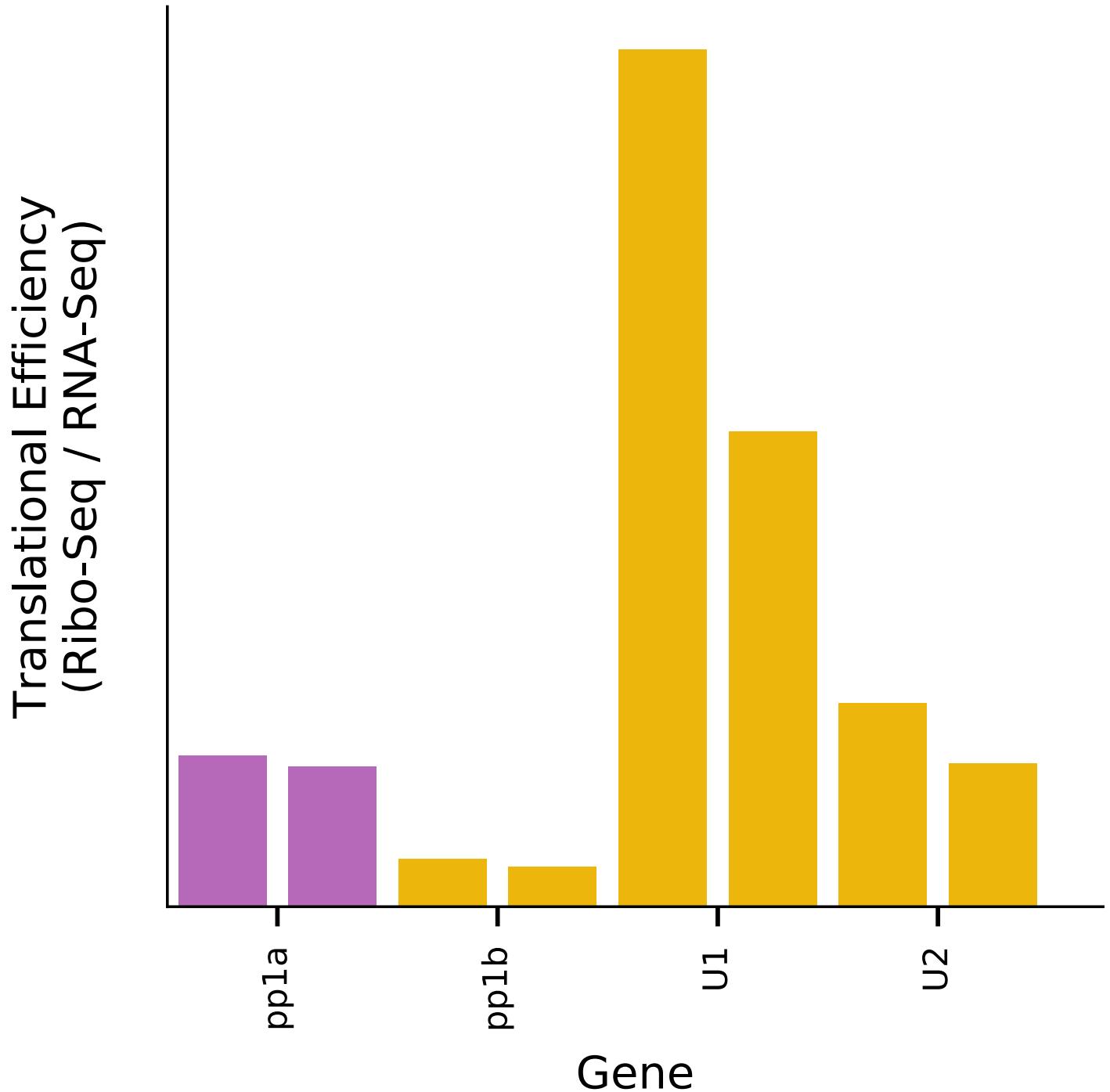
**Figure 6**



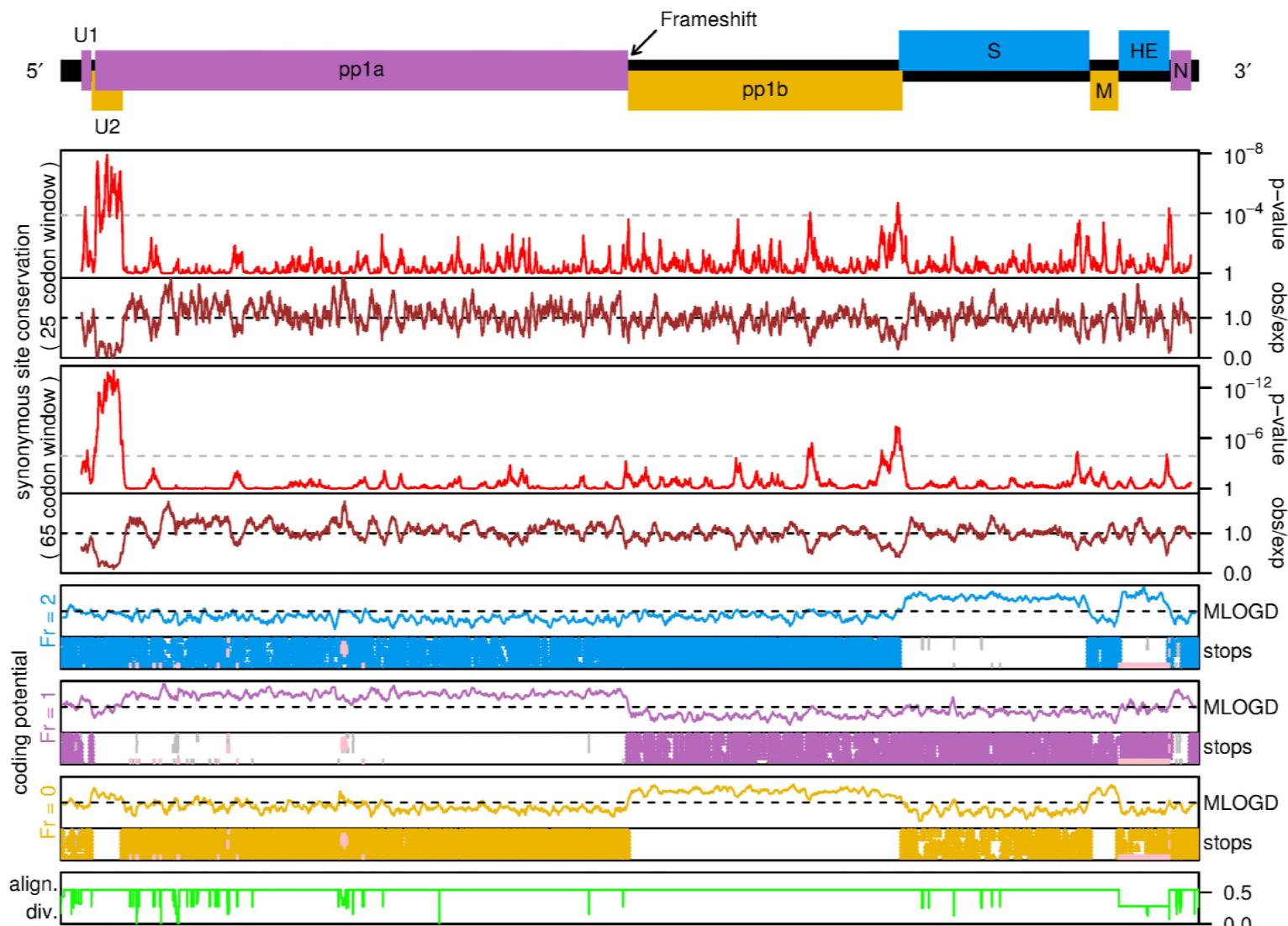
**Figure 7**



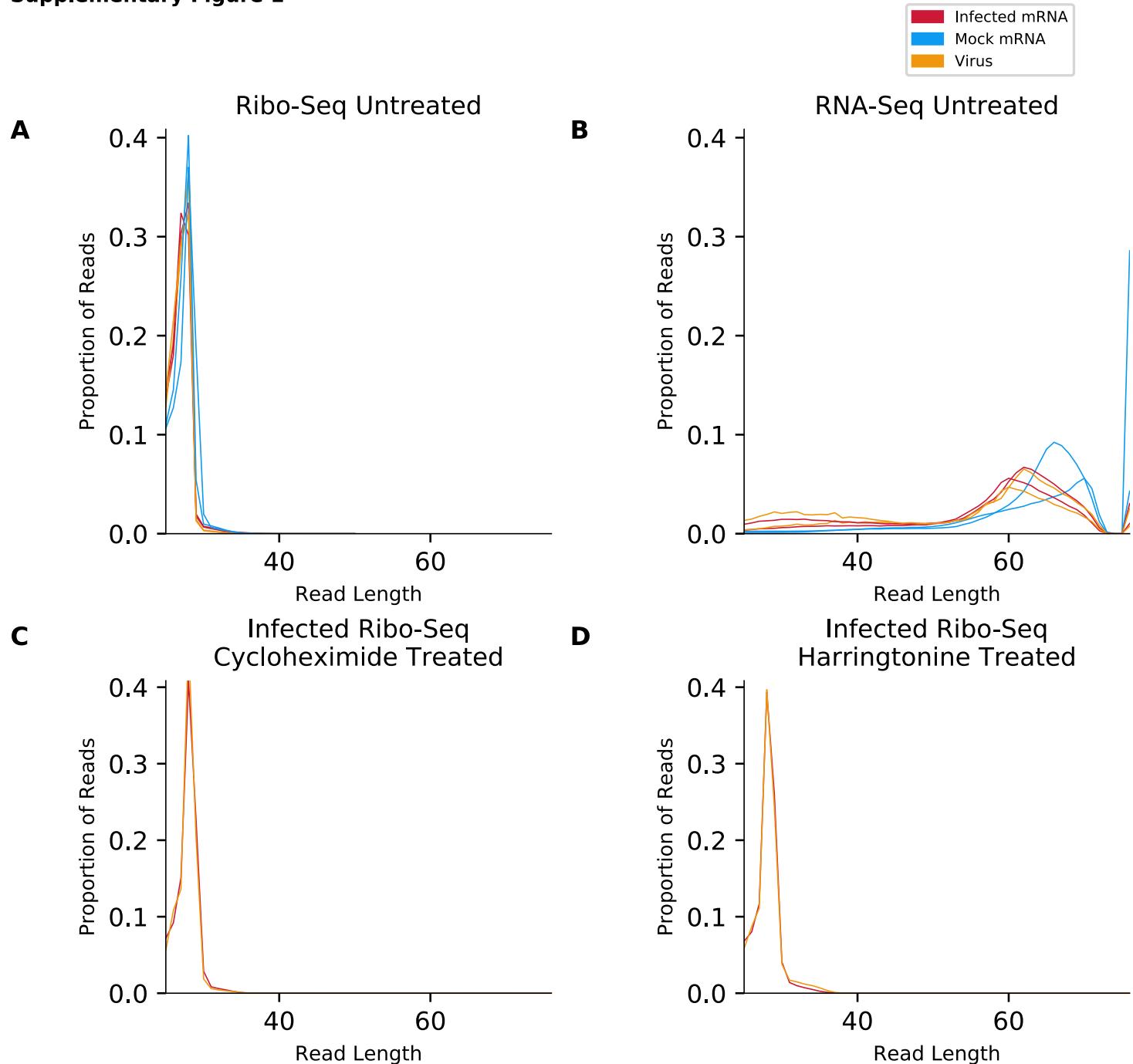
## Figure 8



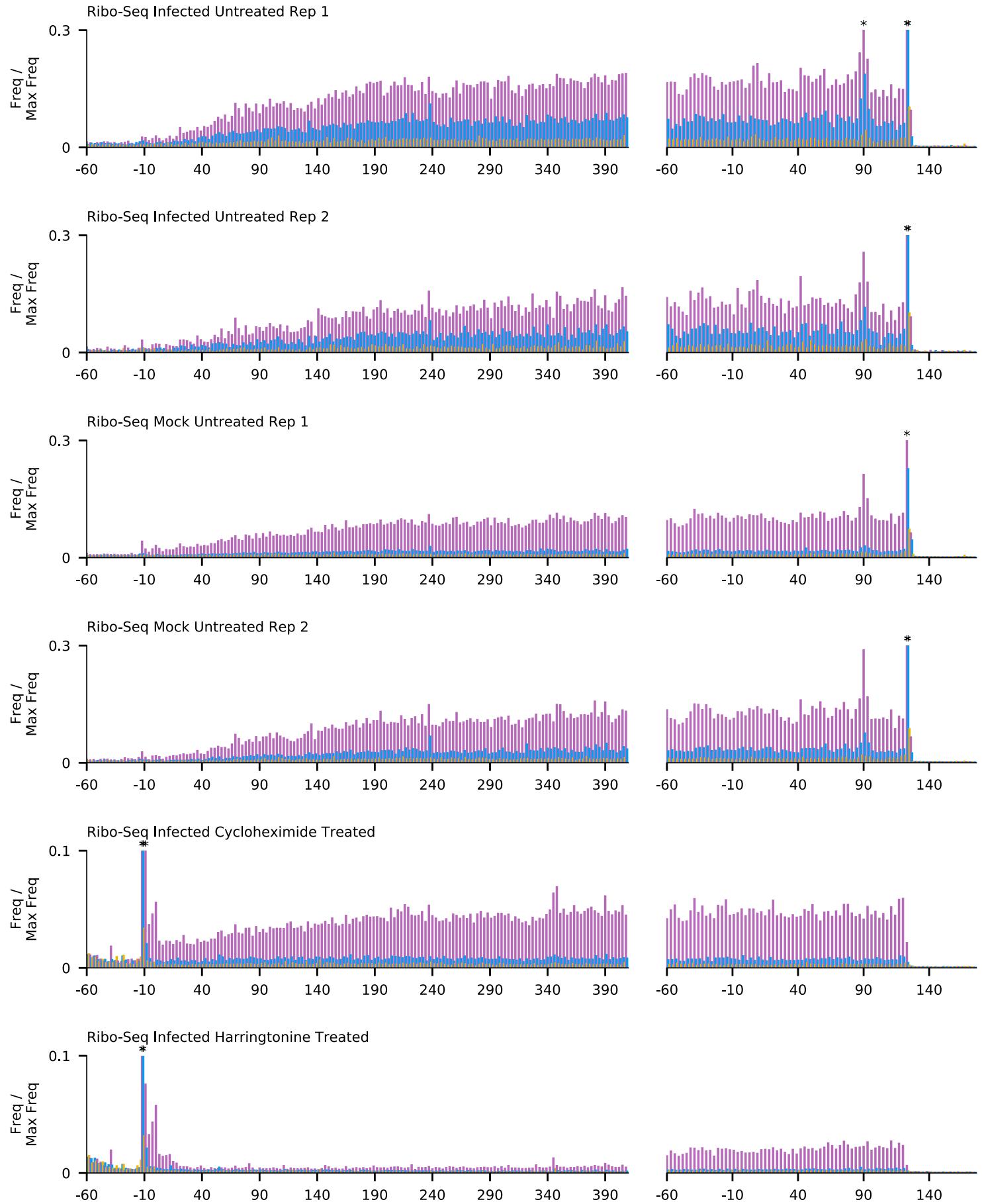
**Figure 9**



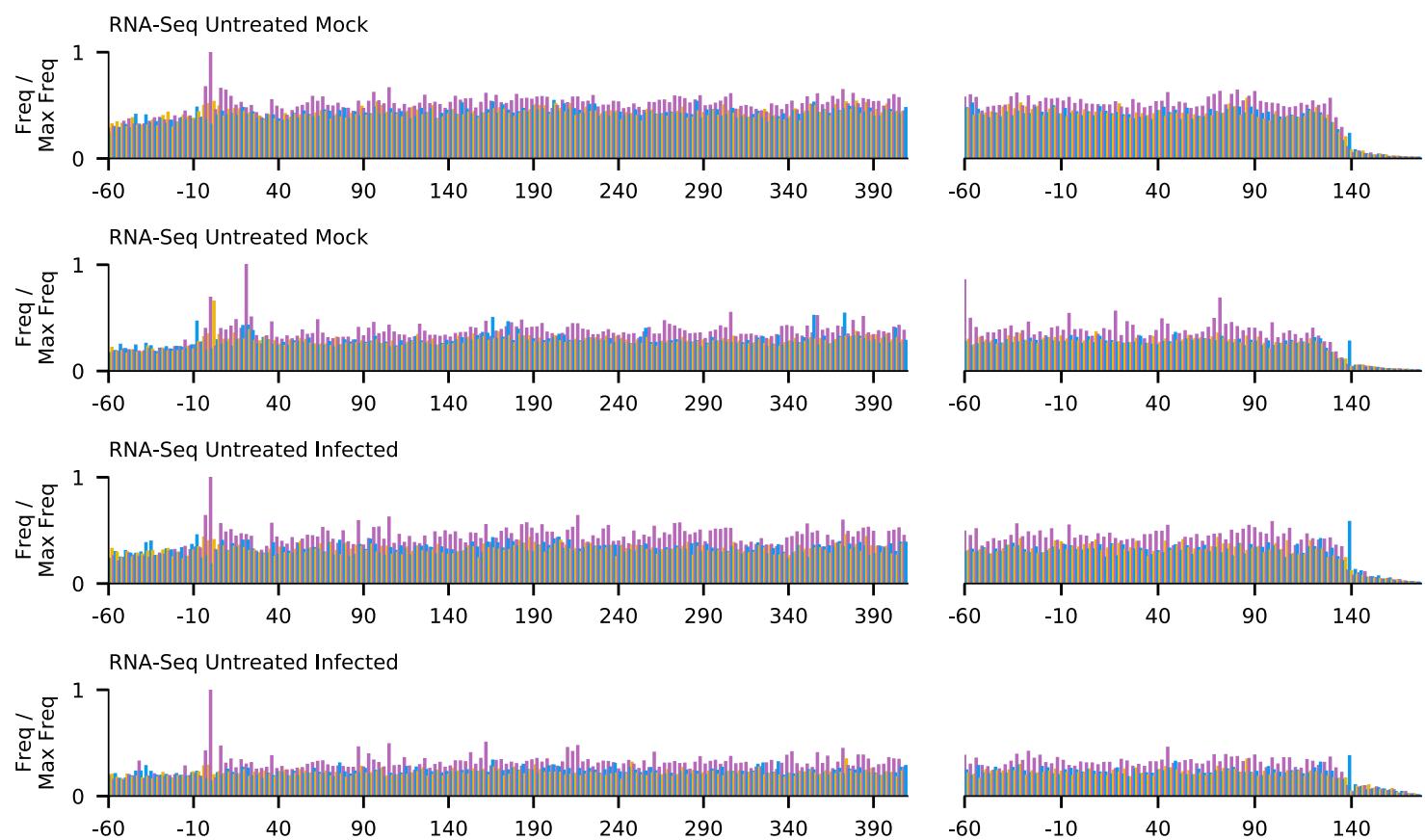
**Supplementary Figure 1**



## Supplementary Figure 2

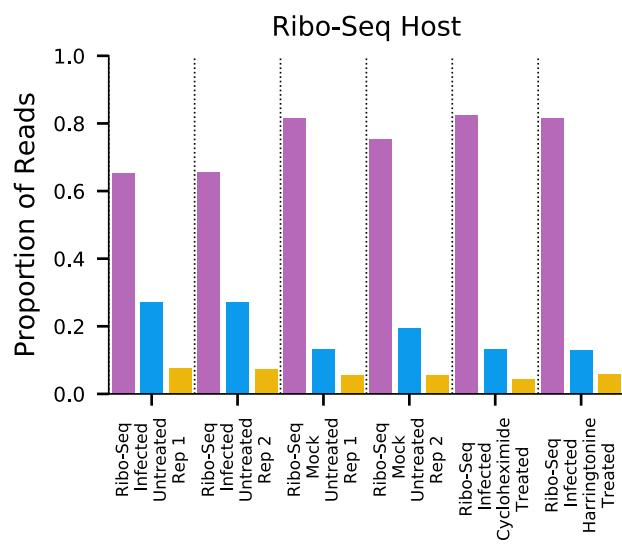


## Supplementary Figure 3

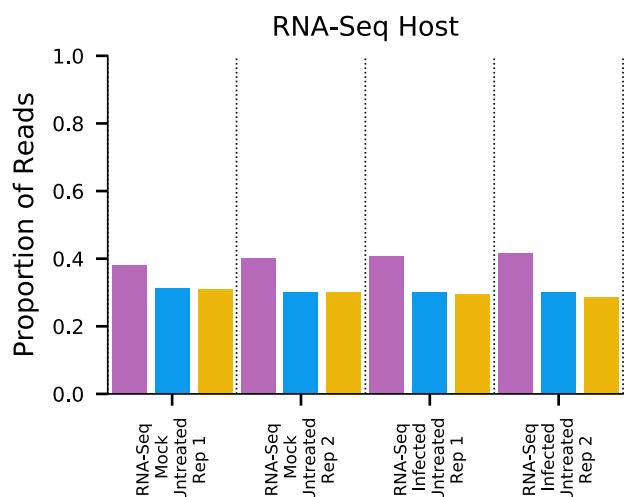


## Supplementary Figure 4

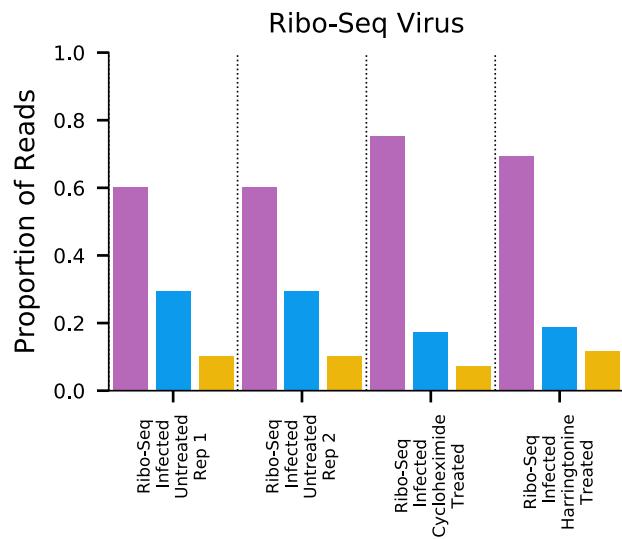
**A**



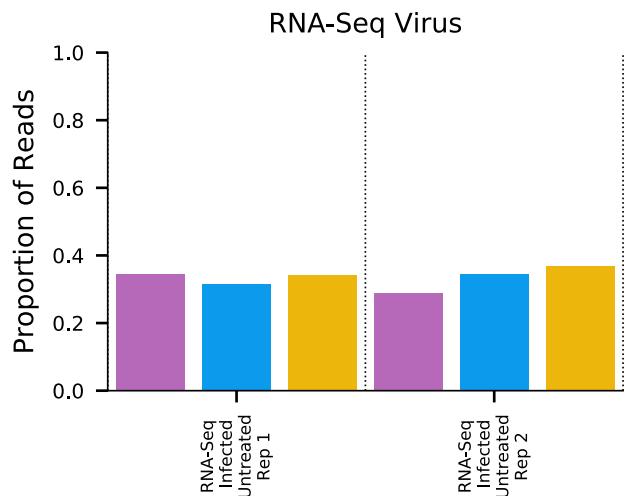
**B**



**C**

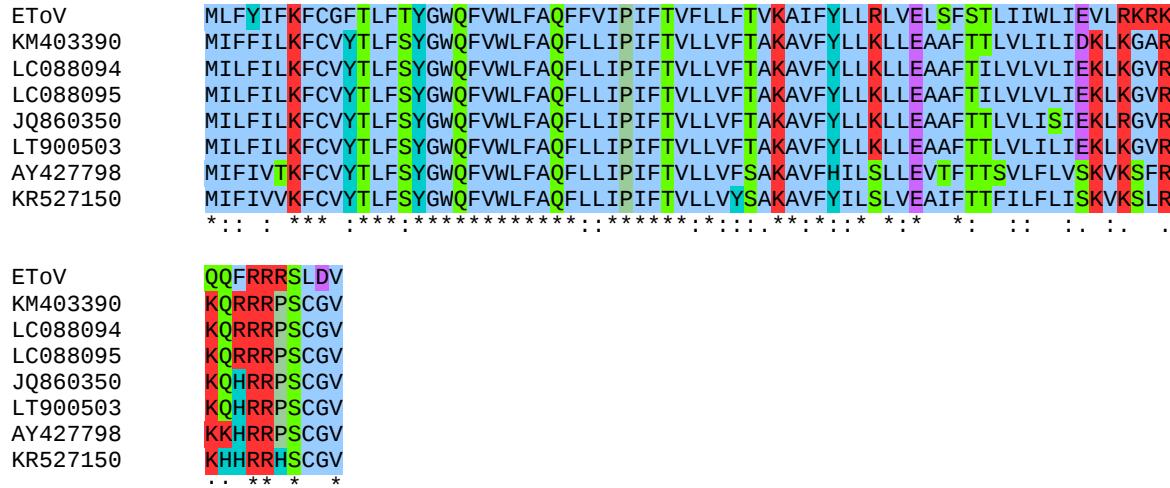


**D**

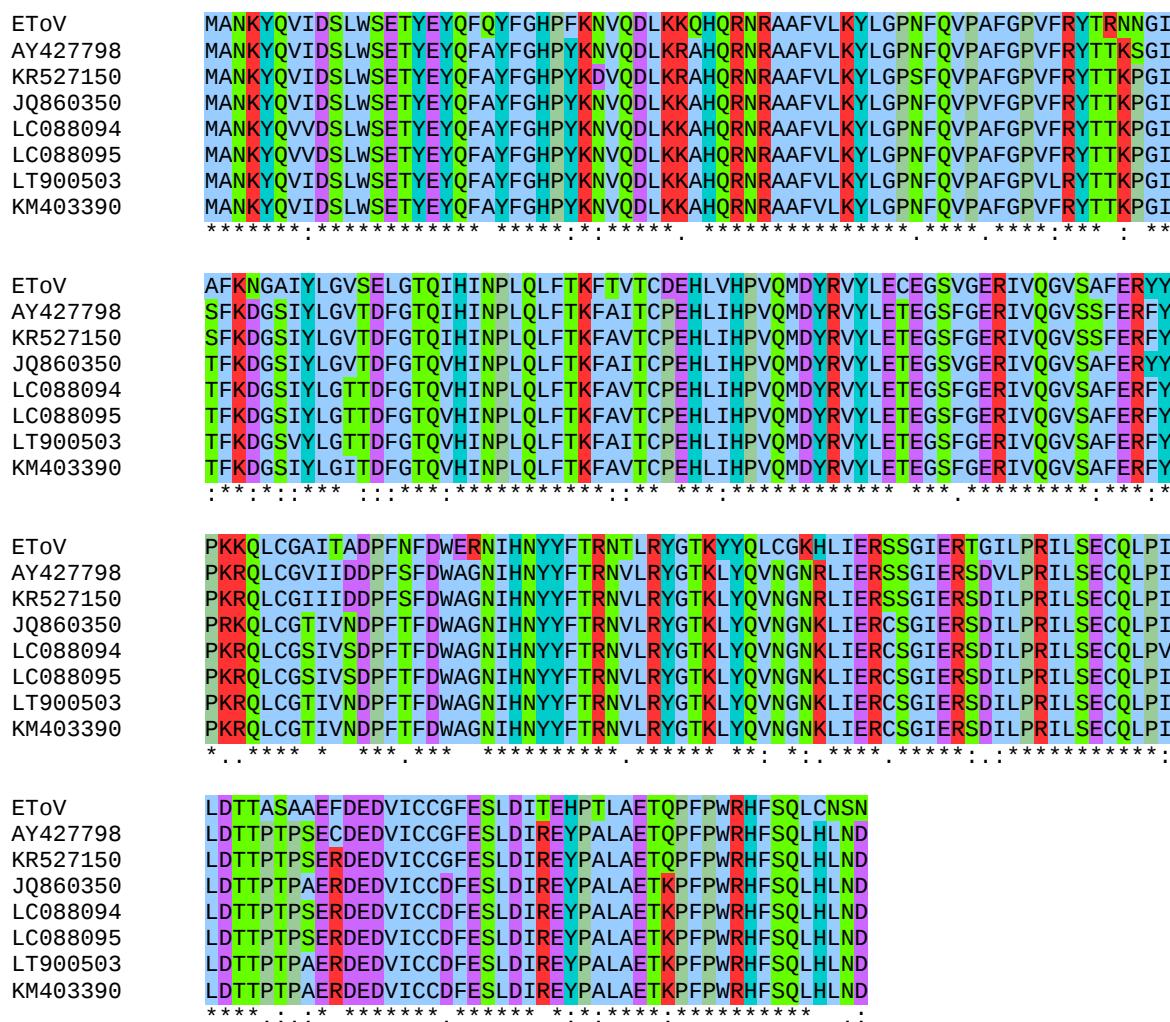


### Supplementary Figure 5

#### uORF1



#### uORF2



I Hydrophobic position      K Basic position      Y Tyrosine or Histidine  
D Acidic position      S Other polar position      P Proline

**Supplementary Figure 6**

**(A) Leader + TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAGA</b> AGUUUA
AY427798	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
KR527150	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
LC088094	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
LC088095	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
LT900503	-----
JQ860350	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
KM403390	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAUUU
	***** * ***

**(F) 6 nt + HE TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGU
AY427798	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGC
KR527150	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGC
LC088094	ACGUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGC
LC088095	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGC
LT900503	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGU
JQ860350	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGU
KM403390	ACUUAU <b>CUUUAGAAGA</b> AUGU
	** *****

**(B) 6 nt + U1 TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	GUCGUU <b>CUUUAGA</b> CGUCUA
AY427798	GCCCAU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
KR527150	GCCAUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
LC088094	GCCCUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
LC088095	GCCCUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
LT900503	GCCCUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
JQ860350	GCCCUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
KM403390	GCCCUU <b>CUUGUGG</b> GUGUCUA
	* * * *** * * ***

**(G) 6 nt + N TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -A <b>AAAAGA</b>
AY427798	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -A <b>GAGAGA</b>
KR527150	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -A <b>GAGAGA</b>
LC088094	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -UGAGUGA
LC088095	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UGAGUGA
LT900503	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -UGAGUGA
JQ860350	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -UGAGUGA
KM403390	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> -UGAGUGA
	***** * * *

**(C) 6 nt + 1a TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	GUCGGC <b>CUUUAGA</b> GAAAUU
AY427798	AUUGUC <b>CUAUGG</b> AAUUU
KR527150	GUCCUC <b>CUAUGG</b> AAUUU
LC088094	GCUGUC <b>CUUUGG</b> GAAUCU
LC088095	GCUGUC <b>CUUUGG</b> GAGAGC
LT900503	GCUGCC <b>CUUUAGA</b> GAAGUU
JQ860350	GUUGCC <b>CAUUGG</b> GAAGUU
KM403390	GUUGUC <b>CAUAGA</b> GAGUUU
	* * * * * * *

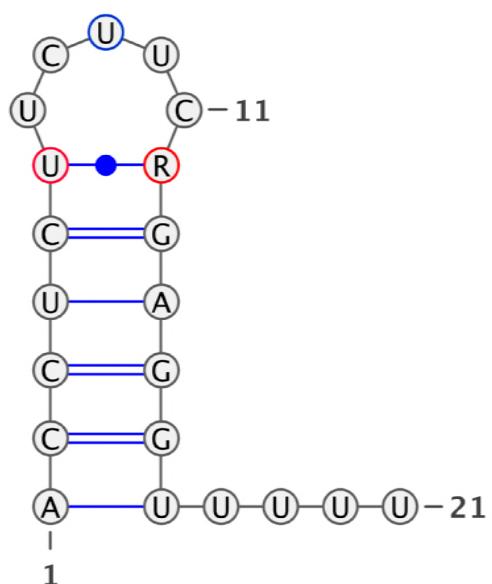
**(H) Hairpin**

EToV	(((((. . . . .)))))) . . . .
AY427798	ACCUCCUCUUCGGAGGUUUUU
KR527150	ACCUCUUCUUCAGAGGUUUUU
LC088094	ACCUCUUCUUCAGAGGUUUUU
LC088095	ACCUCUUCUUCAGAGGUUUUU
LT900503	ACCUCGUCUUCAGAGGUUUUU
JQ860350	ACCUCUUCUUCAGAGGUUUUU
KM403390	ACCUCUUCGUCAGAGGUUUUU
	***** * * * *

**(D) 6 nt + 1b TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	AUGUAU <b>CUUUAGA</b> CUGGAA
AY427798	AUGUGU <b>CUUUGG</b> AUUGGAA
KR527150	AUGUGU <b>CUUUGG</b> AUUGGAA
LC088094	AUAUUU <b>CAUAGA</b> AUUGGAA
LC088095	AUAUUU <b>CAUAGA</b> AUUGGAA
LT900503	ACAUUU <b>CAUAGA</b> CUGGAA
JQ860350	AUAUUU <b>CUUUAGA</b> AUUGGAA
KM403390	AUAUUU <b>CAUAGA</b> AUUGGAA
	* * * * * * *

**(I)**



**(E) 6 nt + M TRS + 6 nt**

EToV	CACUUU <b>CUUUAGA</b> AGAAGG
AY427798	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGG
KR527150	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGG
LC088094	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGG
LC088095	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGG
LT900503	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGA
JQ860350	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGA
KM403390	CACUAU <b>CUUUAG</b> UUGAAGA
	***** * * * *