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The Origin of Human Chromosome 1 and Its Homologs in Placental Mammals

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Developing ordered gene maps from multiple mammalian species coupled with chromosome-painting data provide a powerful resource for resolving the evolutionary history of chromosomes and whole genomes. In this work, we recapitulate the evolutionary history of human chromosome 1 and its homologs in placental mammals, putatively the largest physical unit in the ancestral placental genome. Precise definition of translocation exchange breakpoints in human, carnivore, cetartiodactyl, and rodent-ordered gene maps demonstrate that chromosome breakpoints, previously considered as equivalent, actually represent distinct chromosome positions and exchange events. Multidirectional chromosome painting, using probes from homologs to chromosome 1 in seven mammal species from six orders of placental mammals, confirm the gene-mapping results and indicate that the multiple human chromosome 1 homologs in these species are derived from independent fissions of a single ancestral chromosome. Chromosome painting using human chromosome 1 probes identifies a single human chromosome 1 homolog in phylogenetically distant taxa, the two-toed sloth, cetaceans, and higher primates. The diverse phylogenetic occurrence of a single Hsa1 synteny among the major clades of placental mammals suggests that human chromosome 1 represents an intact ancestral chromosome, which was variously fissioned in the majority of placental species. We find that the number of human chromosome 1 fissions in a specific lineage reflects its general rate of genomic evolution. Further, historic chromosome exchange appears to have been disproportionately clustered in two breakpoint hotspots on the long arm.

[Supplemental material is available online at www.genome.org. Feline gene segments have been deposited in GenBank under accession numbers CC596505–CC596511. The following individuals kindly provided reagents, samples, or unpublished information as indicated in the paper: O. Ryder.]

Human chromosome 1 (Hsa1) represents the largest physical unit in the human genome, comprising some 285 million base pairs—nearly 9% of the entire genome (Lander et al. 2001, Venter et al. 2001). The genomic synteny of this chromosome is entirely conserved in apes, in some Old World monkeys (O'Brien and Stanyon 1999; Wienberg et al. 2000), and in cetaceans (Bielec et al. 1998). In the majority of other placental mammal species examined at the genomic level, Hsa1 is found as two unordered conserved segments (CSUs) in species with slower rates of genomic evolution, to as many as six CSUs in the more derived karyotypes defined by chromosome painting, such as the spider monkey and dog (Glas et al. 1998; Burt et al. 1999; O'Brien and Stanyon 1999; O'Brien et al. 1999; Breen et al. 1999; Yang et al. 2000). Because previous comparative chromosome painting results showed that Hsa1 was divided into at least two segments in nearly all species tested (>40 placental mammals from 11 orders; Wienberg et al. 2000; Murphy et al. 2001c), it was hypothesized that human chromosome 1 was originally composed of two fragments. One segment corresponds roughly to 1q21.3-pter, whereas the second segment is comprised of the remainder of the long arm (1q21.3-qter) (Chowdhary et al. 1998; Wienberg et al. 2000; Murphy et al. 2001c). Reciprocal painting of nonhuman, chromosome 1 homologs suggested a common evolutionary origin of the apportioned Hsa1 chromosomal segments in different orders. The boundary of the segments mapped repeatedly somewhere in the region 1q21–1q23 (pig: Goureau et al. 1996; cat, primate: Wien-

berg et al. 1997; rabbit: Korstanje et al. 1999; tree shrew: Müller et al. 1999; Fig. 1). The small differences between reports were discounted as within the margin of error when assigning hybridization signals between distantly related species (Wienberg et al. 2000).

If the two-segment ancestor hypothesis is true, then these would have fused independently in the evolutionary lineages leading to primates and cetaceans, in which a single conserved segment homologous to Hsa1 is present (Bielec et al. 1998). The alternate hypothesis would be that Hsa1 was intact in the ancestral genome of extant placental mammals. If so, then Hsa1 has been fragmented independently in the same chromosomal region in different mammalian lineages, but cannot be distinguished with the existing reciprocal chromosome-painting data. To test these competing hypotheses, we examined homologs to Hsa1 in species from nine orders of placental mammals. First, we refined the cat–human chromosome 1 comparative map and then compared these results with ordered Hsa1 comparative chromosome maps in cow, mouse, and rat species with sufficient gene density to demonstrate close, but nonidentical breakpoints. Reciprocal and multidirectional chromosome painting was performed among index species representing nine orders of placental mammals and interpreted to infer the likely ancestor of chromosome homologs of human chromosome 1. This interpretation takes into account the recent phylogenetic resolution of the 18 orders of placental mammals into four major superordinal clades (Madsen et al. 2001; Murphy et al. 2001a,b). Our results strongly suggest that the ancestral placental mammal karyotype included a single intact chromosome homologous to Hsa1. This chromosome then underwent frequent independent fission events throughout mammalian evolutionary history, but has also re-

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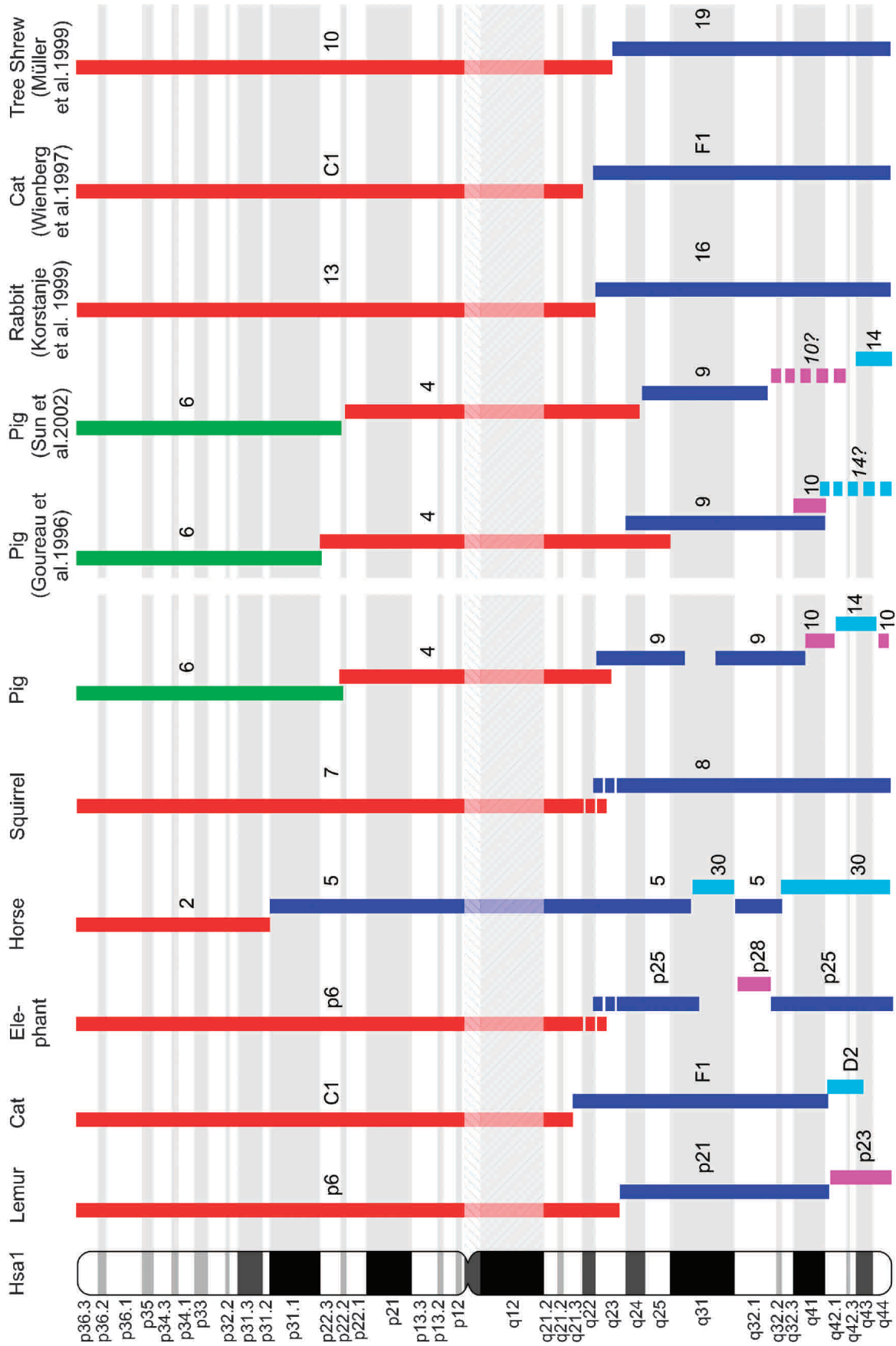


Figure 1 (Legend on next page)

mained intact in some species with slower rates of genome evolution. Rates of chromosomal evolution across Hsa1 indicate disparate histories of genomic evolution, with the p arm being relatively conserved in gene order, whereas the q arm has been subject to a higher rate of inter- and intrachromosomal disruption.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Comparative Gene Mapping

Radiation hybrid mapping of additional feline Type 1 gene markers assigned loci to intervals on feline chromosomes C1, D2, or F1, predicted a priori based on previously identified CSOs (Murphy et al. 2000), and further refine the F1-C1 syntenic boundary to the vicinity of 1q21 in the human genome (Fig. 2; see Supplemental Material available online at www.genome.org). RH mapping of *LGALS8* and *CHRM3*, both from Hsa1q42–Hsa1q43, to feline chromosome D2, confirms the presence of a small fragment of Hsa1q in association with Hsa10q on cat chromosome D2 identified previously (Murphy et al. 2000; Yang et al. 2000). This small syntenic segment has also been observed in another carnivore, the dog (Yang et al. 2000; Breen et al. 1999), and in cetartiodactyls, represented by the cow (Band et al. 2000) and the pig (Rettenberger et al. 1995; Frönicke et al. 1996). It is likely that due to the small size of the Hsa1 fragment, this association may have gone undetected in other carnivores and cetartiodactyls examined in previous chromosome-painting studies using human probes.

Alignment of ordered RH gene mapping-based comparative maps representing three orders of mammals (Carnivora, Cetartiodactyla, and Rodentia), revealed 12, 11, 6, and 10 CSOs relative to the human chromosome 1, respectively (Fig. 2). One breakpoint position, 536–611 cR₃₀₀₀ (145–167 Mb in the NCBI sequence Build 30) corresponding to Hsa1q21–Hsa1q22, appeared to be the same by cytogenetic resolution (Chowdhary et al. 1998; Wienberg et al. 2000). However, the gene map alignments show that the breakpoints are not identical, rather, they contain distinct nonoverlapping junction coordinates separated by different gene markers. For example, the cat junction is homologous to 536 cR₃₀₀₀ (*GJA8*: Fca chromosome C1)-556 cR₃₀₀₀ (*RPS27*: Fca chromosome F1); the cow junction is 589 cR₃₀₀₀ (*TAGLN2*: chromosome Bta3)-611 cR₃₀₀₀ (*SELE/SELL*: chromosome Bta16); the mouse junction is 567 cR₃₀₀₀ (*Cd1d1*: Mmu3)-568 cR₃₀₀₀ (*Spna1*: chromosome Mmu1), overlapping the rat junction between 558 cR₃₀₀₀ (*Rn.9148*: Rno2)-588 cR₃₀₀₀ (*Rn.10274*: chromosome Rno13). Evidence of different junctions are also consistent when comparisons are based upon the human sequence assembly (Fig. 2). Although the rat gene maps are less dense in this region, it is likely that the rat and mouse breakpoints in this region are identical, given the strong one-to-one correspondence between mouse–rat CSOs homologous to Hsa1 (Fig. 2) and the relatively close evolutionary relationship between these two species. The distinct physical locations of the evolutionary breakpoints among the three mammalian orders (Carnivora, Cetartiodactyla, and Rodentia) would be consistent with independent origins for the breakpoints. The simplest interpretation of these data place an intact Hsa1 as the ancestral form, rearranged by independent breaks in carnivores, rodents, and cetartiodactyls, but not humans.

Chromosome Painting

Zoo-FISH experiments hybridizing the Hsa1 paint to Sei whale chromosomes delineated a single homologous chromosome (Fig. 3a), consistent with previous Zoo-FISH characterization of the dolphin genome (Bielec et al. 1998) and strong karyotypic conservation within cetaceans (Arnason 1972). A single Hsa1 homolog is similarly found in the two-toed sloth from the order Xenarthra (Fig. 3b), shown recently to be an early divergent superordinal clade among placental mammals (Murphy et al. 2001b,c), supporting the hypothesis of a primitive intact Hsa1 chromosome in the ancestral placental mammal karyotype.

To provide additional evidence that the boundary between these segments were the same or different, we performed reciprocal painting between humans and six species from different mammalian orders as follows: horse, pig, squirrel, ring-tailed lemur, African elephant, and cow (Fig. 3d). Hybridization signals on human metaphase spreads indicated an evolutionary fusion/fission somewhere in the Hsa1q21–Hsa1q23 region (Fig. 1). The precise edges of the homology signals are difficult to resolve with chromosome painting. The FISH signal from the horse chromosome 5 paint clearly extends past the hypothetical fusion/breakpoint around Hsa1q22, into the p arm (Fig. 1). However, equids are well known for their rapid karyotypic evolution (Wichman et al. 1991), and this overlap might be due to a recently derived rearrangement. Therefore, these data alone cannot reject the hypothesis that the CSUs found in various species were conserved from the ancestral eutherian ancestor that had two CSUs (Chowdhary et al. 1998; Wienberg et al. 2000; Murphy et al. 2001c).

We further examined the homology of the two Hsa1 homologs using multidirectional chromosome painting between seven species from different orders (cat, horse, Eastern gray squirrel, African savannah elephant, ring-tailed lemur, pig, and cattle) (Figs. 3c and 4). In multidirectional reciprocal painting experiments, the two Hsa1 homologs that adjoined the 1q21–1q24 region were differentially labeled, hybridized together, and detected with different fluorochromes. If the two CSUs were inherited from a common ancestor and shared equivalent breakpoints, the probes should produce separate signals on two different chromosomes of the target species (i.e., only one color per chromosome). However, if the two CSUs had breakpoints in different chromosomal positions, in the painter versus the painted species, then we would expect to see bicolored FISH signals on a single chromosome in the painted species (e.g., Fig. 3c).

Twenty-four of the thirty multidirectional chromosome-painting experiments provided reproducible FISH signals (Fig. 4). In nearly all species pairs, the results showed chromosomes with adjacent bicolor hybridization signals, supporting the hypothesis that evolutionary breakpoints are different and likely produced by multiple, independent fissions in each evolutionary lineage (Fig. 4). Because of the limited resolution of Zoo-FISH (estimated to be ~5 Mbp; Scherthan et al. 1994), and variations in probe quality, the absence of adjoining signals is not evidence of identical break/fusion points, but the presence of two hybridization signals on the same chromosome is evidence of different breakpoints. In summary, the new chromosome-painting data support the hypothesis of a single, ancestral chromosome homologous to human 1. An intact chromosome homologous to human chro-

Figure 1 Ideogram depicting the hybridization signals of chromosome sorts from eight placental mammal species (cat, elephant, horse, squirrel, pig, rabbit, ring-tailed lemur, and tree shrew) onto human chromosome 1 (G-banded ideogram labeled at left). Colored blocks below each species name delineate the extent of hybridization observed for the chromosome paint probe on human chromosome metaphase spreads. The six species columns at left display new data, whereas the five species at right are taken from the literature as indicated. The numbers to the right of each colored block refer to the chromosomal origin of each probe from the examined species. For the lemur and elephant probes, the corresponding numbers of the flow karyotype peaks are given. The absence of hybridization signals in the heterochromatic region (Hsa1p11–Hsa1q12) is indicated by the shaded bar.

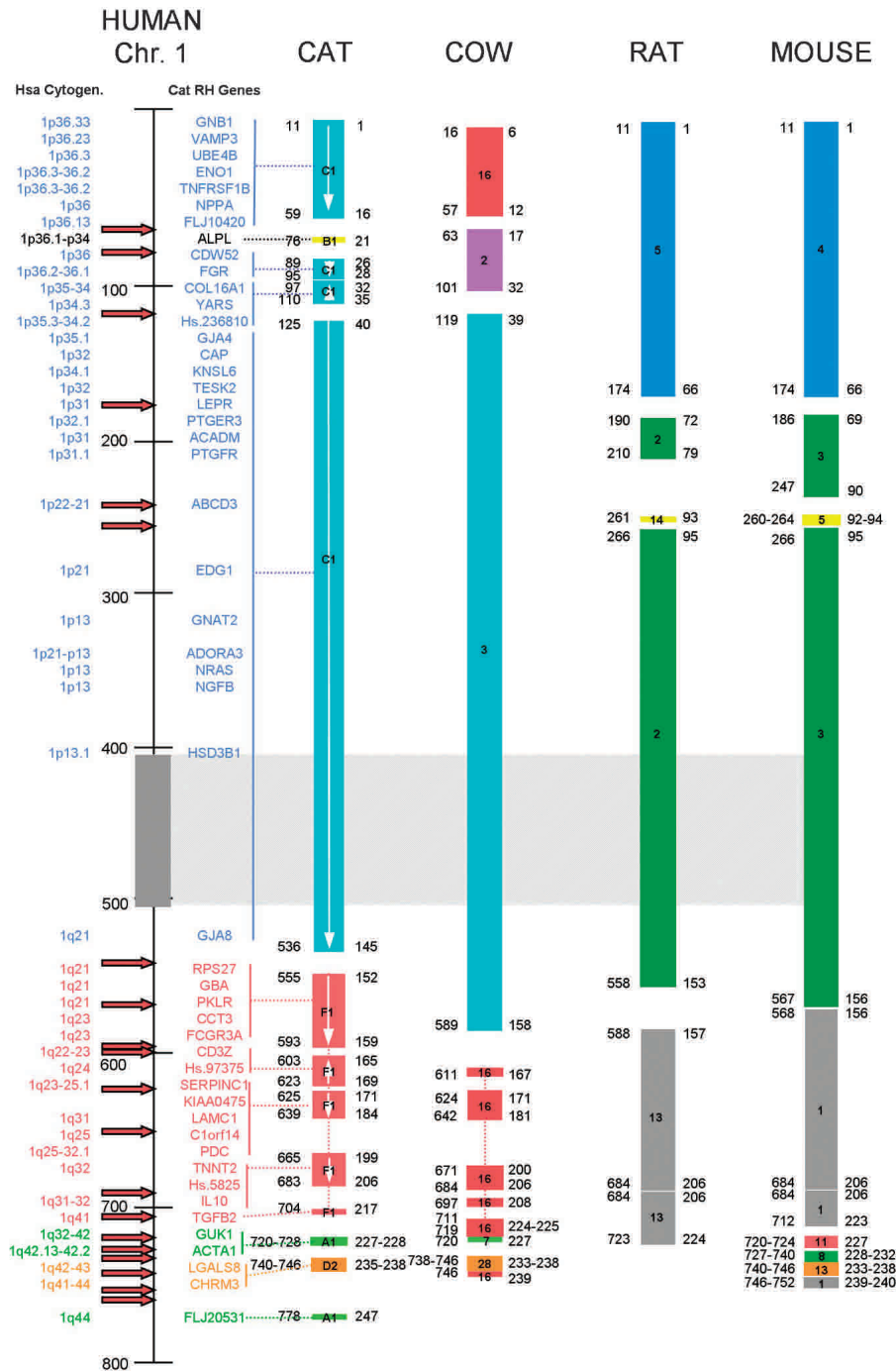


Figure 2 Comparison of cat-ordered conserved segments with published data from cow, mouse, and rat genomes, shown with respect to human chromosome 1 (Hsa1). See Methods for published sources of cat, rat, and mouse gene order data. The genes mapped in the feline genome are marked for comparison, and groups linked to their respective conserved segment indicated by a line. The human cytogenetic position is shown to the far left. The scale to the right of the human cytogenetic position refers to centiray₃₀₀₀ positions on the human Genbridge-4-based RH map. Each colored block represents an ordered conserved segment (CSO) with the human genome, with the internal number referring to the chromosomal origin of the CSO within the genome of each species. White arrows within each feline CSO indicate orientation (p to q) of the human segment within the cat genome. The gray block and hatched box extending to the right, from roughly 410–510 centirays on the human map, indicates the position of the Hsa1 heterochromatic block. The number on the left of the ends of each block refers to the human centiray₃₀₀₀ position of the most distal gene marker in that conserved segment, whereas the number on the right refers to the physical position (in Mb) in the NCBI assembly of the human genome (Build 30). At left of the human RH map, red arrows indicate unique breakpoints relative to the human genome. Breaks were enumerated such that apparent shared breakpoints across species were counted only once. Note the increased density of rearrangement breakpoints on the distal portion of the long arm of Hsa1.

mosome 1 was found conserved in a third mammalian order (Xenarthra; Fig. 3b), and an additional principal superordinal placental lineage. The chromosome-painting data also reveal that the two major Hsa1 homologous segments present in other species are not identical in genomic composition.

Evolutionary Aspects of Human Chromosome 1 Divergence in Placental Mammals

The alternative to the single ancestral Hsa1 chromosome hypothesis predicts that at least two Hsa1 homologous chromosomes in the placental ancestor were fused independently in the Old World Primates, cetaceans, and sloth. Recent chromosome painting data from the aardvark also identifies an intact Hsa1 chromosome (Yang et al. 2003). Therefore, to accept this alternative “two ancestral chromosomes” hypothesis, however, would require many convergent chromosome fusions between independent Hsa1 homologs near the 1q22 region in each of the four principal placental clades (Madsen et al. 2001; Murphy et al. 2001a,b): Euarchontoglires (apes and Old World monkeys), Laurasiatheria (cetaceans, Xenarthra (two-toed sloth), and Afrotheria (aardvark)). In contrast, our gene order data (Fig. 2) and independent bicolor painting results presented in Figures 3 and 4 support independent fragmentation of a single ancestral Hsa1 homolog.

That few modern species still maintain this ancestral single chromosome disposition is not unexpected given the large size of Hsa1, and, hence, the increased probability for breakage per unit evolutionary time. There is a strong correlation in which those species retaining the ancestral single chromosome have slower overall rates of genome evolution (e.g., the dolphin, human, and macaque genomes), whereas species with the higher number of Hsa1 synteny have the most rearranged genomes (e.g., dog and gibbon; Table 1). Future analyses of other genomes with slow rates of chromosomal evolution may reveal further cases of intact Hsa1 chromosomes.

Given the evidence for a single ancestral chromosome, our genomic comparisons suggest a nonuniform breakage history across this chromosome, with strong predisposition for chromosome breakage in two regions of the long arm of Hsa1. The gene-mapping data for the species examined here indicate a clustering of inter- and intrachromosomal rearrangements in the distal part of Hsa1q (Fig. 2). In contrast, regions homologous

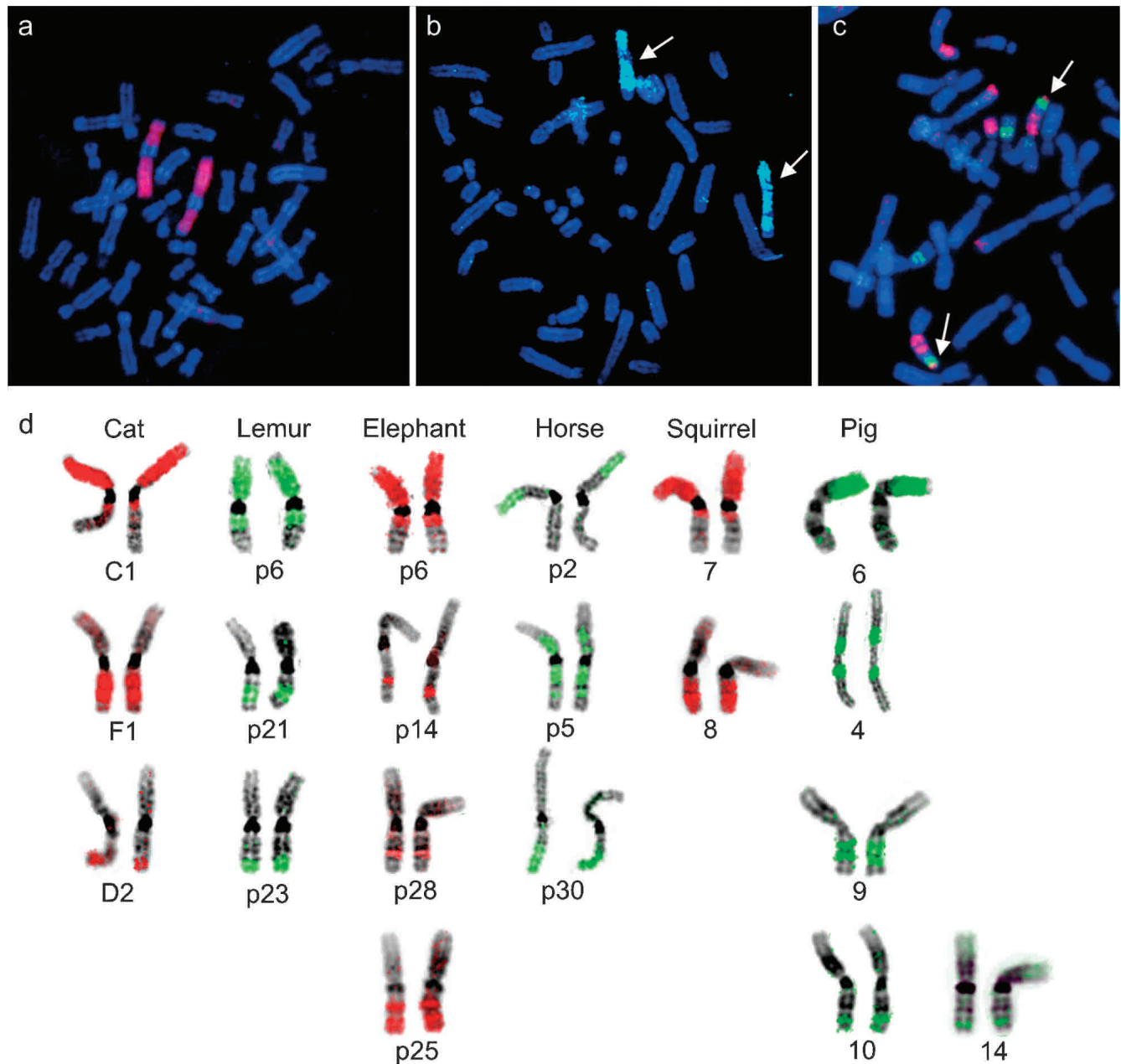


Figure 3 Comparative chromosome-painting signals from human and placental mammal painting probes labeled with biotin (green signals detected with Avidin-FITC) and digoxigenin (red signals detected Rhodamine labeled anti-digoxigenin antibodies). FISH signals of the human Hsa1 probe onto metaphase spreads of the Sei whale (a) and the two-toed sloth (b) hybridizing to the euchromatin of one chromosome pair in both species. (c) Ring-tailed lemur probes 3 (red) and 19 (green) delineate neighboring signals on squirrel chromosome 5 (arrows). (d) Hybridization results of flow-sorted chromosome probes from cat, lemur, elephant, horse, squirrel, and pig onto human chromosome 1. The chromosomal origin of each probe is labeled below each hybridization result. In the case of the lemur and elephant, the label refers to the flow-sorted peaks (e.g., p6 = peak six) from which the probes were made.

to Hsa1p exhibit fewer breakpoints and greater conservation of synteny and gene order. The comparative chromosome-painting data also suggest repeated synteny breakage or translocations in the 1q21–1q23 region in members of at least seven mammalian orders. Whether these regions of frequent evolutionary breakage correspond with particular sequence motifs, will depend upon fine mapping of the breakage intervals in each of the species examined and characterization at the sequence level. Sequence analysis of the long arm of human chromosome 1 reveals a

higher proportion of segmental duplications, particularly in the vicinity of 1q21–1q22, relative to the short arm (Bailey et al. 2002), which have been shown to be a causative factor in primate genome evolution (Vallente Samonte and Eichler 2002). In addition, studies of interstitial telomere-like sequences in humans and other Old World primates show that this chromosomal region contains such repeats and is susceptible to a high number of breaks after X-irradiation (Azzalin et al. 2001; Ruiz-Herrera et al. 2002). Whether there is some connection between these ele-

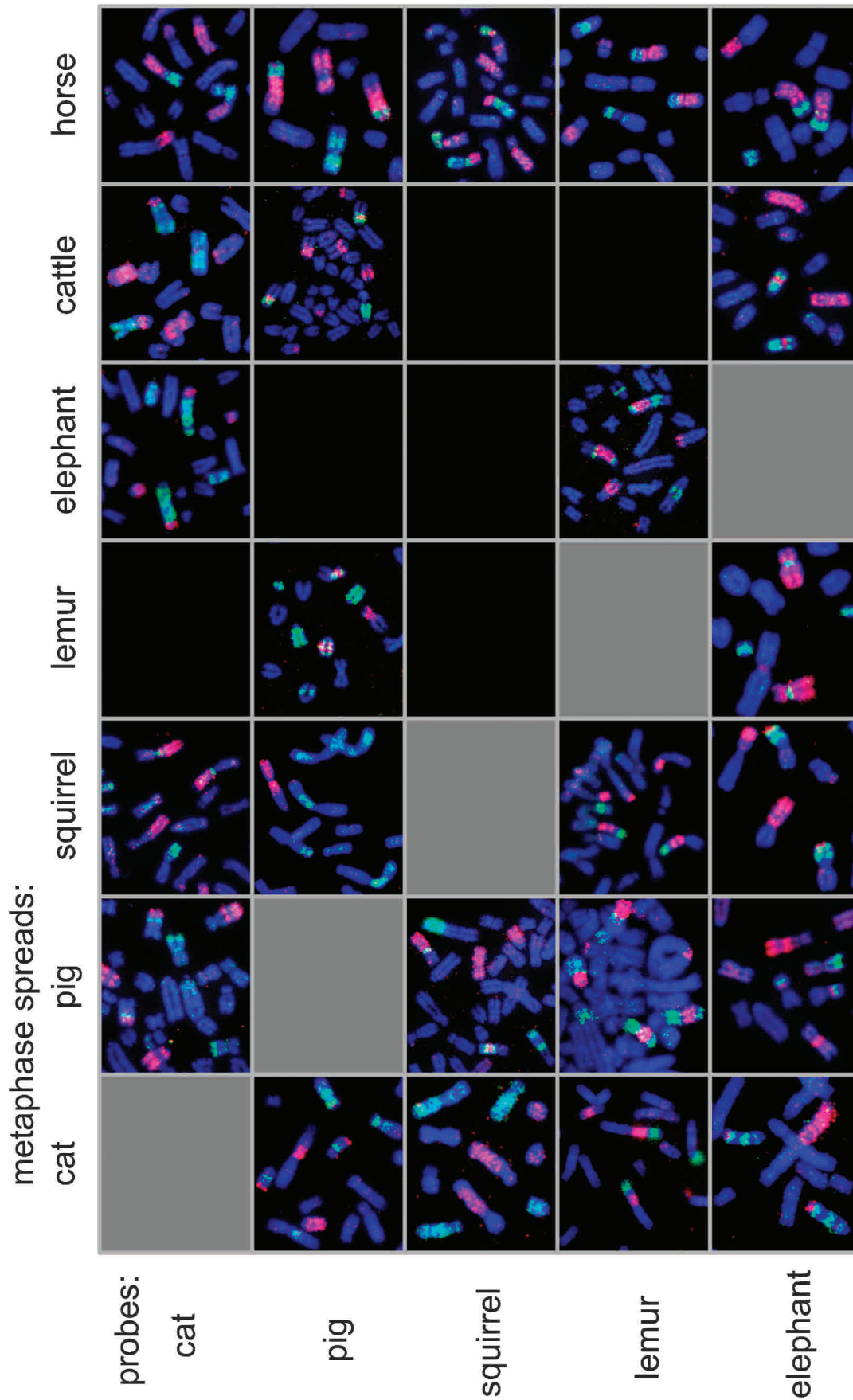


Figure 4 (Legend on next page)

Table 1. Rates of Chromosomal Evolution and Hsa1 Fragmentation

Species	Haploid no.	CSUs relative to the placental ancestor ^a	No. rearrangements relative to ancestral genome ^b	Genomic rate ^b	No. of Hsa1 fragments
dolphin	22	25	3	0.034	1
cat	20	27	6	0.068	2
human	23	29	6	0.068	1
macaque	21	28	7	0.080	1
mink	15	26	10	0.114	2
lemur	30	35	10	0.114	3
tree shrew	31	35	10	0.114	2
horse	32	40	15	0.170	3
cow	30	41	16	0.182	3
bat	16	35	19	0.216	3
shrew	10	30	20	0.227	2
pig	19	41	22	0.250	6
gibbon	22	51	26	0.295	4
spider monkey	17	48	30	0.341	6
dog	39	64	39	0.443	7

^aY chromosome excluded in counts. Data are from O'Brien et al. (1999b), Wienberg et al. (2000), Murphy et al. (2001c), Yang et al. (2000).

^bSee Methods for description of calculation.

ments and the increased historic breakage across mammalian orders remains to be seen.

In light of the present results, we now modify our previous $2n = 50$ hypothesis for the ancestral placental mammal genome (Murphy et al. 2001c), with two Hsa1-bearing chromosomes, to one of $2n = 48$, in which Hsa1 represents the single largest chromosome in the ancestral genome. This study illustrates the advantages of combining chromosome-painting data and ordered gene-mapping data to resolve details of chromosome evolution. Increased application of subregional probes and a broader selection of ordered mammalian genome maps would prove invaluable for identifying regions of historic genomic instability across the mammalian radiation.

METHODS

Primer Design and Radiation Hybrid Mapping

We took a targeted approach to systematically filling in syntenic gaps in the human–cat comparative maps by designing novel conserved PCR primers using multiple mammalian species alignment outputs from BLAST. In most cases, these were based on human–rodent comparison, using genomic sequence information for guidance. The following primer pairs were designed to obtain homologous feline sequence: *GNB1-F*, GCTCCTGACAC CAGACTGTT, *GNB1-R*, TCGTCTGAGCCAGTGGCAA; *ENO1-F*, GGTCTCATGCTGGCAACAA, *ENO1-R*, CTTCTTTGTTCTCCAG GATGT; *GJA4-F*, TCATCTCCGCATCCTCATC, *GJA4-R*, CGA GATCTTGGCCATCTGA; *PTGER3-F*, GAGAGCAAGCGCA AGAAGTC, *PTGER3-R*, GTGCTGATGAAGCACACGT; *GJA8-F*, GGGCGACTGGAGTTTCCT, *GJA8-R*, TAGCCCTTGGCTTTCTG GAT; *CD3Z-F*, ACAGCCACCAAGGACACCTA, *CD3Z-R*, GAAGC CAAATTTACAGCAGGA; *NCF2-F*, TGTCTGAAGAAGGGCA ATG, *NCF2-R*, CAAGGTAGTTGCAGGGAACA. In addition, sequence-tagged sites (STSs) were also derived from the following feline sequences deposited in GenBank (accession nos. in paren-

theses): *TNFRSF1B* (U51429), *PTGFR* (AF272340), *FCGR3* (AB025315), *TNNT2* (AF220219), *EDG1* (AY011738), and *ADORA3* (AY011246). The locus *CHRM3* was amplified in the domestic cat using primers from Jiang et al. (1998) and sequenced to obtain template for designing a cat-specific STS. DNA sequencing was performed with BigDye Terminator chemistry (Applied Biosystems Inc.), purified using G50 columns (Amersham-Pharmacia), and sequenced using either an ABI 377 or 3700 sequencer. Methods for genotyping and RH map construction have been described in detail elsewhere (Murphy et al. 1999a,b, 2000). Briefly, PCR-based typing was performed on the 93-hybrid 5000-rad feline whole-genome radiation hybrid panel (Murphy et al. 1999a). All feline markers were amplified in 384-well plates using Taq-Gold DNA polymerase (Applied Biosystems Inc.) and scored in duplicate on 2% agarose gels stained with

VistaGreen. Two-point linkage analysis and multi-point maximum likelihood ordering was performed with the RHMAP software (Boehnke et al. 1991) as described in Murphy et al. (2000).

Comparative Mapping Data

Human RH locus positions were retrieved from the NCBI UniGene and UniSTS databases, whereas physical positions in the draft human sequence are based upon the NCBI assembly (Build 30). Comparative mapping data from the cattle RH-based gene map is from Band et al. (2000). Rat–human comparative mapping data was derived from Watanabe et al. (1999), and the associated Web site at OtsukaGen: (http://ratmap.ims.utokyo.ac.jp/cgi-bin/comparative_home.pl) and from the Rat Genome Database (<http://rgd.mcw.edu/VCMAP>). Mouse–human comparative mapping data is derived from the NCBI human–mouse homology maps (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Homology>).

Chromosome Painting

Chromosome-specific painting probes to homologs of Hsa1 (listed in Fig. 1) from the horse (*Equus caballus*, Coriell Cell Repositories, AG08080), Eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*, primary culture), African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*, LGD cell bank), Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*, Coriell Cell Repositories, AG07099), domestic pig (*Sus scrofa*, Coriell Cell Repositories, AG08113), domestic cat (*Felis catus*, primary culture), and cattle (*Bos taurus*, Coriell Cell Repositories, AG10553) genomes were made by degenerate oligonucleotide-primed PCR (DOP-PCR) from flow sorted chromosomes (Telenius et al. 1992). The same primers (6MW) were used in the primary reaction and to label the chromosome paints with biotin or digoxigenin-dUTP in secondary PCR reactions. Metaphase chromosomes were prepared from the fibroblast cultures listed above and from a cattle cell line (*Bos taurus*, Coriell Cell Repositories, AG10553) according to classic cytogenetic protocols. The probe concentrations and hybridization conditions were the same as described previously (Fröncke and Wienberg 2001). After hybridization and washing of the

Figure 4 Presence of adjoining FISH signals in simultaneous hybridizations of Hsa1 homologous chromosomes between mammalian species. Adjoining bicolor signals were obtained on one chromosome of the target genome for the two Hsa1 homolog probes (differentially labeled), indicating a different breakpoint in the karyotypes of the two species examined. In only two experiments (squirrel on cat and pig on squirrel) did the two Hsa1 homologous probes produce only signals on different chromosomes of the target genome, indicating no evidence of a different breakpoint in the two species being compared. The reciprocal experiments (cat on squirrel and squirrel on pig) did show bicolor signals, suggesting evidence of different breakpoints between the two species pairs. Black boxes indicate results that were not reproducible between experiments.

slides, biotinylated DNA probes were detected with avidin coupled with Cy-3 (Amersham) or fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC; Vector). Digoxigenin-labeled probes were detected with antidigoxigenin antibodies conjugated with FITC or Rhodamine (Roche).

Estimating Rates of Chromosomal Evolution

To determine the rate of chromosomal evolution for each lineage, we based all comparisons of Zoo-FISH conserved segments upon a published hypothetical ancestral placental genome (Murphy et al. 2001c). The minimum number of rearrangements was equal to the number of CSUs, minus the lower haploid number of the compared species (O'Brien et al. 1999). To maintain uniformity in the estimate of conserved segments across species, all values are based on chromosome-painting results using human flow-sorted chromosome probes, because different methods and species probes might differ in their ability to discern smaller segments. This number was then divided by the estimated time of divergence from the ancestral Boreoeutherian mammal (~88 million years ago [Mya]; Murphy et al. 2001b) to obtain the rate of chromosomal evolution per lineage.

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