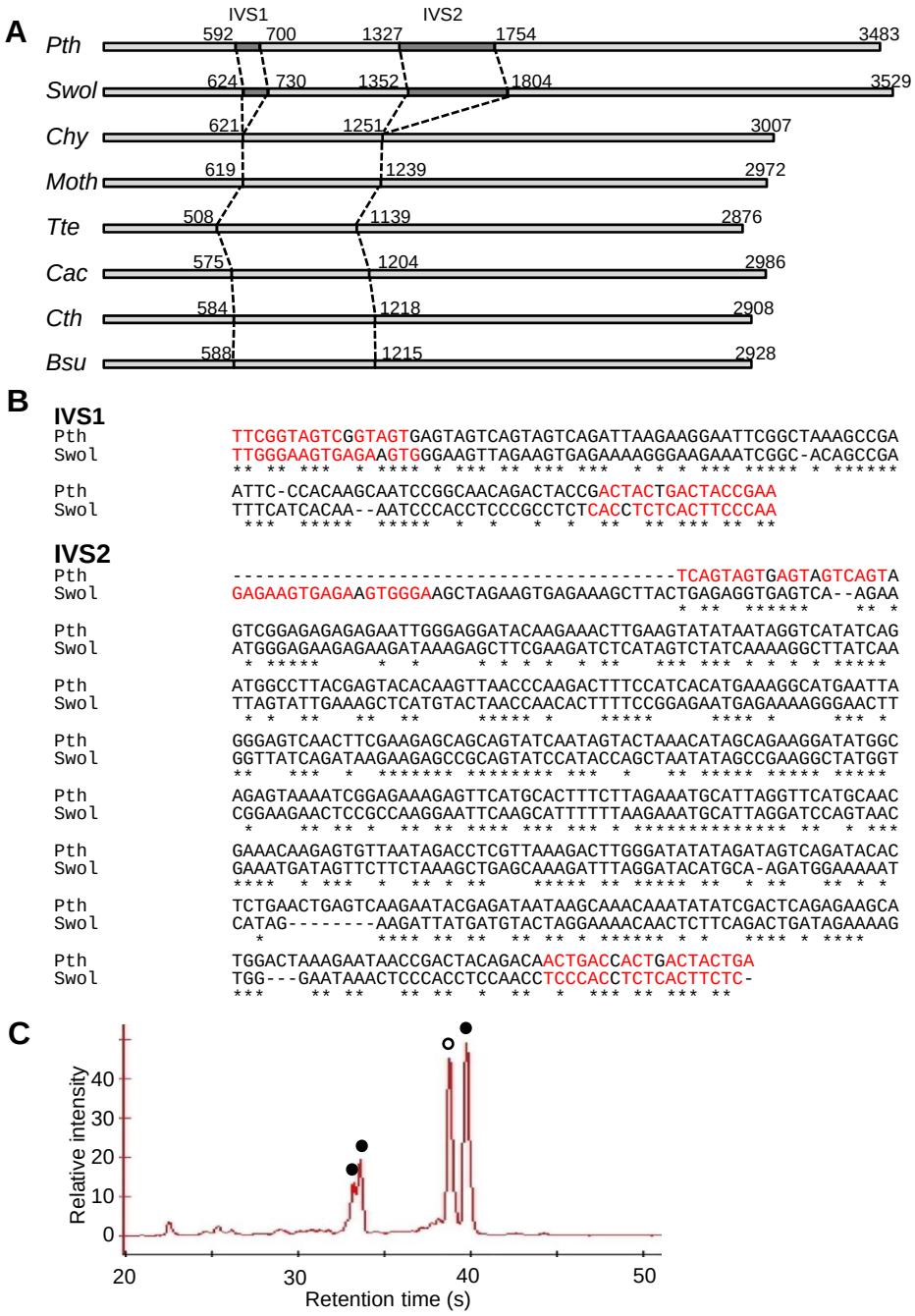

Fig. S2. The structure of 23S rRNA. A, a comparative schematic presentation of 23S rRNAs in *Firmicutes* bacteria. For organism names, refer to Table 1. B, alignments of IVS1 and IVS2 of *P. thermopropionicum* and *S. wolfei*. Red letters indicate inverting sequences. C, an electrophoretic pattern of a *P. thermopropionicum* RNA fraction analyzed by the Bioanalyzer (Agilent). Black circles indicate 23S rRNA peaks, while a white circle indicates a 16S rRNA peak.