RESEARCH ARTICLE

Spo13 prevents premature cohesin cleavage during meiosis [version 2; peer review: 2 approved, 1 approved with reservations]

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Abstract

Background: Meiosis produces gametes through two successive nuclear divisions, meiosis I and meiosis II. In contrast to mitosis and meiosis II, where sister chromatids are segregated, during meiosis I, homologous chromosomes are segregated. This requires the monopolar attachment of sister kinetochores and the loss of cohesion from chromosome arms, but not centromeres, during meiosis I. The establishment of both sister kinetochore mono-orientation and cohesion protection rely on the budding yeast meiosis I-specific Spo13 protein, the functional homolog of fission yeast Moa1 and mouse MEIKIN.

Methods: Here we investigate the effects of loss of SPO13 on cohesion during meiosis I using a live-cell imaging approach.

Results: Unlike wild type, cells lacking SPO13 fail to maintain the meiosis-specific cohesin subunit, Rec8, at centromeres and segregate sister chromatids to opposite poles during anaphase I. We show that the cohesin-degrading factor, Wpl1, is not primarily responsible for the loss of cohesion during meiosis I. Instead, premature loss of centromeric cohesin during anaphase I in spo13Δ cells relies on separase-dependent cohesin cleavage. Further, cohesin loss in spo13Δ anaphase I cells is blocked by forcibly tethering the regulatory subunit of protein phosphatase 2A, Rts1, to Rec8.

Conclusions: Our findings indicate that separase-dependent cleavage of phosphorylated Rec8 causes premature cohesin loss in spo13Δ cells.

Keywords
Meiosis, cohesin, Spo13
Introduction

Sexual reproduction relies on a cell division programme called meiosis. In humans, this is highly error-prone and may give rise to infertility, miscarriage or chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome (reviewed by Hassold & Hunt, 2001). Meiosis consists of two consecutive divisions, where homologous chromosome segregation in meiosis I is followed by mitosis-like sister chromatid segregation in meiosis II. Homologue segregation requires a number of adaptations to the chromosome segregation machinery (Marston & Amon, 2004), including recombination of homologues, mono-orientation of sister kinetochores and the protection of pericentromeric cohesin in meiosis I.

Cohesin is a multi-subunit protein complex made up of the core subunits Scc1, Scc3 and the kleisin α-Scc1 (Losada et al., 1998; Michaelis et al., 1997) as well as the accessory subunits Scc3 (Töth et al., 1999) and Pds5 (Hartman et al., 2000; Panizza et al., 2000). In mitosis, cohesin resists the spindle forces that pull sister chromatids towards opposite poles, likely by topologically linking sister chromatids (Gruber et al., 2003; Haering et al., 2002). Upon successful bi-orientation, securin (Pds1 in yeast) is ubiquitinated and destroyed by the proteasome, freeing separase (Esp1), which proteolytically cleaves Scc1 and thereby allows chromosome segregation.

Meiotic cohesin contains an alternative kleisin called Rec8 (Buonomo et al., 2000; Watanabe & Nurse, 1999). Rec8 supports a number of meiosis-specific functions of cohesin, particularly during recombination. Rec8 cleavage is dependent on its prior phosphorylation by casein kinase 1δ (Hrr25), Dbf4-dependent kinase (DDK) Cdc7 (Katis et al., 2010) and, potentially, Polo kinase (Cdc5) (Brar et al., 2006). However, it is currently unclear how these kinases contribute to cohesion removal, with the role of Cdc5 in cohesin cleavage coming under particular scrutiny (Attner et al., 2013; Argüello-Miranda et al., 2017; Brar et al., 2006; Galander et al., 2019; Katis et al., 2010). Hrr25 and Cdc7 are both independently sufficient for cohesin removal at anaphase I, most likely by promoting its cleavage (Katis et al., 2010). Conversely, there is mounting evidence that Cdc5 facilitates cleavage-independent cohesin loss upon prophase exit (Challa et al., 2019; Yu & Koshland, 2005), although a contribution to cleavage has also been argued (Attner et al., 2013; Brar et al., 2006). While cohesin phosphorylation occurs along the length of the chromosome, the pericentromeric adapter protein shugoshin (Sgo1) binds protein phosphatase 2A (PP2A) to dephosphorylate Rec8 in the pericentromere and prevent its cleavage (Katis et al., 2004a; Kitajima et al., 2006; Kitajima et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2008; Marston et al., 2004; Riedel et al., 2006; Tang et al., 2006). In meiosis II, Rec8 becomes deprotected by the action of Hrr25, which is thought to initiate Sgo1 degradation and phosphorylate Rec8 for cleavage (Argüello-Miranda et al., 2017; Jonak et al., 2017).

In mammalian and Drosophila mitosis, cohesin is also removed in two steps. First, during prophase, Wapl opens the cohesin ring at the Scc3-Scc1 interface to trigger separase- and cleavage-independent cohesin removal (Buheitel & Stemmann, 2013; Sumara et al., 2000; Waizenegger et al., 2000; Warren et al., 2000). A subset of cohesin is resistant to Wapl due to its prior acetylation and association with sororin (Lafont et al., 2010; Nishiyama et al., 2010; Rankin et al., 2005; Rolef Ben-Shahar et al., 2008; Schmitz et al., 2007; Unal et al., 2008). Notably, pericentromeric cohesin is shielded from Wapl during mammalian mitosis by Sgo1-PP2A, which associates with, and dephosphorylates, both cohesin and sororin to prevent cohesin ring opening (Kitajima et al., 2006; Liu et al., 2013b; McGuinness et al., 2005; Yamada et al., 2017). Second, upon sister kinetochore bi-orientation, Sgo1 relocalises from the kinetochore to the pericentromeric chromatin, and separase-dependent cohesin cleavage triggers anaphase onset (Liu et al., 2013a; Liu et al., 2013b). A similar Wapl/Rad61-dependent, cleavage-independent cohesin removal pathway has been suggested to occur in budding yeast meiosis. Although condensin, Cdc5 and DDK have been identified as regulators of this pathway (Challa et al., 2016; Challa et al., 2019; Yu & Koshland, 2005), budding yeast lacks an obvious sororin homologue. Thus, the mechanisms of Wapl-mediated cohesin removal in meiosis I are different to those in mammalian and Drosophila mitosis.

While previous research has identified key mechanisms governing cohesin protection, a number of additional proteins have been implicated in this process, but their roles remain unclear. Amongst them is the meiosis I-specific Spo13 (Wang et al., 1987). Cells without Spo13 only undergo a single meiotic division and show a variety of meiotic defects, including failure to mono-orient sister kinetochores in meiosis I and inability to protect cohesin (Katis et al., 2004b; Klapholz & Esposito, 1980; Lee et al., 2004; Shonn et al., 2002). Spo13 is thought to have functional orthologs in both fission yeast (Moa1) and mouse (MEIKIN) (Kim et al., 2015). The unifying feature of these proteins is their interaction with Polo kinases, whose kinetochore recruitment by Spo13, Moa1 and MEIKIN has been proposed to enable mono-orientation and cohesin protection (Galander et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2015; Matos et al., 2008; Miyazaki et al., 2017).

The exact role of Spo13 in cohesin protection is currently unclear. Interestingly, Spo13 overexpression blocks cohesin...
cleavage during mitosis (Lee et al., 2002; Shonn et al., 2002; Varela et al., 2010), suggesting that Spo13 may also influence cohesin cleavage in meiosis, but how it might do so remains unresolved. Although Spo13 was implicated in ensuring the proper pericentromeric localization of Sgo1 (Kiburz et al., 2005), other studies have found no difference in chromosomally associated Sgo1 (Galandier et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2004). In fact, it has been suggested that spo13Δ cells might retain residual pericentromeric cohesion in meiosis I (Katis et al., 2004b).

Here, we take a live cell imaging approach to re-evaluate the importance of Spo13 for cohesin protection. We show that both cohesin and sister chromatid cohesion are lost upon anaphase I onset in spo13Δ cells. Furthermore, we confirm that cohesin removal results from separase-mediated cleavage rather than removal by the prophase pathway. We also provide evidence that PP2A is capable of preventing cohesin cleavage in spo13Δ cells.

Results
Pericentromeric cohesin is prematurely lost in spo13Δ cells
Previous analyses of fixed cells found that centromeric Rec8 is undetectable or greatly diminished in spo13Δ anaphase I cells (Klein et al., 1999; Katis et al., 2004b; Lee et al., 2004). Further evidence that Spo13 is important for protection of centromeric cohesion came from the analysis of cells lacking the monopolin subunit, Mam1, which biorient, rather than monoorient sister kinetochores, yet fail to segregate sister chromatids due to the persistence of centromeric cohesion. Importantly inactivation of SPO13 allowed mam1Δ cells to segregate sister chromatids during anaphase I (Katis et al., 2004b; Lee et al., 2004). Together, these findings provide evidence that centromeric cohesion is impaired in spo13Δ cells. However, it has been argued that residual centromeric cohesion persists after securin destruction in spo13Δ cells and prevents timely spindle elongation (Katis et al., 2004b). To clarify the importance of Spo13 in centromeric cohesion, we used live cell imaging of cells progressing through meiosis. We scored the percentage of cells where cohesin (Rec8-GFP) was retained at the pericentromere in anaphase I, as indicated by co-localization with the kinetochore protein Mtw1 (Figure 1A, B). To ensure that observed effects in spo13Δ cells were not a consequence of mono-orientation loss, which partially impacts cohesion (Nerusheva et al., 2014), we simultaneously imaged mam1Δ cells for comparison. Quantification of pericentromeric Rec8 (Figure 1C) showed that, strikingly, deletion of SPO13 leads to complete loss of cohesin in anaphase I. This is not due to impaired cohesin loading in early meiosis, since...
prophase I-arrested spo13Δ cells have similar levels of Rec8 on centromeres compared to wild type (Figure 1D). We conclude that Spo13 is required for the retention of pericentromeric cohesin in anaphase I.

spo13Δ cells prematurely segregate sister chromatids
To assess sister chromatid cohesion in spo13Δ cells, we labelled one copy of chromosome V near the centromere with an array of tet operators (tetO), expressed GFP-tagged TetR repressor (Michaelis et al., 1997) and imaged CEN5-GFP foci in live meiotic cells. Upon anaphase I entry (as judged by degradation of yeast securin Pds1 (Salah & Nasmyth, 2000)), three different phenotypes may be observed, depending on whether cells successfully mono-orient sister kinetochores and protect pericentromeric cohesin (Figure 2A). In wild-type cells, a single GFP focus segregates to one of the spindle poles (as marked by the spindle pole body component Spc42-tdTomato). Alternatively, in case of defective mono-orientation, split GFP foci stay in close proximity (<2 µm) because sister chromatids are cohered by pericentromeric cohesin. Lastly, in cells lacking both mono-orientation and sister chromatid cohesion, GFP foci split over a greater distance (>2 µm). Note that, using this assay, pericentromeric cohesion loss during anaphase I can only be readily observed where it is accompanied by sister kinetochore bi-orientation. We subsequently scored the number of cells falling into either of these categories for each of the mutants analysed. This revealed that sister centromeres separate over large (>2 µm) distances in the half of spo13Δ anaphase I cells that bi-orient sister kinetochores (Figure 2B), consistent with all cohesion being lost. A small fraction of centromeres in spo13Δ mam1Δ cells, which bi-orient almost exclusively, stay in close proximity in the 30-minute time frame measured (Figure 2B), indicating that these cells at least temporarily retain sister chromatid cohesion. However, the loss of cohesion in all spo13Δ cells with bi-oriented kinetochores, the near-complete absence of Rec8, and the fact that deletion of SPO13 permits efficient sister chromatid segregation in most mam1Δ cells (Figure 2B) (Katis et al., 2004b; Lee et al., 2004) together confirm that pericentromeric cohesion is predominantly non-functional in spo13Δ anaphase I cells.

Restoring the second nuclear division in spo13Δ cells does not prevent chromosome missegregation
We reasoned that the chromosome missegregation events seen in spo13Δ mutants might be related to the absence of the second nuclear division in these cells. Thus, restoring two...
divisions to spo13Δ cells by deletion of MAD2 (Shonn et al., 2002) would be expected to allow accurate chromosome segregation in the absence of Spo13. Our analysis of pericentromeric Rec8-GFP in anaphase I showed that, while pericentromeric cohesion in anaphase I is retained in wild-type and mad2Δ strains, it is lost to a similar degree in spo13Δ and spo13Δ mad2Δ mutants (Figure 3A–C). Intriguingly, mad2Δ cells were frequently unable to separate kinetochores in anaphase I, despite successful cleavage of arm cohesin (Figure 3A). While the reasons for this phenotype are unclear, we speculate that unattached kinetochores might persist into anaphase I when MAD2 is deleted.

To analyse chromosome segregation in more detail, we followed cells carrying chromosomes labelled with Hbt1-mCherry and heterozygous CEN5-GFP foci through meiosis (Figure 3D). To assess global chromosome segregation, we assayed the chromosomal content of spores by measuring the area occupied by Hbt1-mCherry after meiosis II and calculated the ratio of the largest and smallest chromosomal mass in each cell. In wild-type cells, this ratio is close to 1 in most cells (Figure 3E) since all four nuclei are expected to be of similar size. In contrast, spo13Δ mad2Δ cells show a large variation in the chromosomal content of nuclei destined for spores (Figure 3E), indicating gross chromosome missegregation. We additionally investigated the segregation of heterozygous CEN5-GFP foci in these cells (Figure 3F, G). Similar to spo13Δ single mutants, a large proportion of spo13Δ mad2Δ double mutant cells split sister chromatids upon the first nuclear division (Figure 3F). Furthermore, 20% of spo13Δ mad2Δ cells display CEN5-GFP dot(s) in only one out of four spores after meiosis II (Figure 3G). This is largely caused by the absence of Spo13, since mad2Δ single mutants display a more modest missegregation phenotype (Figure 3G). Therefore, spo13Δ mad2Δ cells fail to accurately segregate chromosomes during both the first and second nuclear divisions. We conclude that the lack of Spo13 causes loss of centromeric cohesion during meiosis I and severe chromosome missegregation even when the second nuclear division is restored.

Sister chromatid cohesion is restored by preventing cohesin cleavage

A cleavage-independent, Rad61/Wpl1-dependent, cohesin removal pathway, similar to that which occurs in mammalian mitosis, operates during prophase I of budding yeast meiosis (Challa et al., 2016; Challa et al., 2019; Yu & Koshland 2005). We considered the possibility that cells lacking Spo13 lose cohesion, not due to its cleavage, but as a result of ectopic Rad61 activity. However, deletion of RAD61 did not restore cohesion to spo13Δ cells (Figure 4A), indicating that a failure to counteract cleavage-independent cohesin removal is not solely responsible for the cohesion defect of cells lacking Spo13.

Next, we assessed whether cohesin cleavage is required for cohesion loss during anaphase I in spo13Δ cells. First, we inactivated Esp1 (separase), using the temperature-sensitive esp1-2 mutant (Buonomo et al., 2000) and followed Rec8-GFP by live cell imaging (Figure 4B–D). As expected, cohesin remained on chromosomes even after anaphase I onset in both in esp1-2 and esp1-2 spo13Δ cells and, consequently, sister chromatid segregation was largely prevented (Figure 4E).

Additionally, we prevented cohesin cleavage by mutating the separase cleavage site in Rec8 (Rec8-N) (Buonomo et al., 2000). We followed GFP-tagged versions of this Rec8 variant through meiosis in wild- and spo13Δ cells (Figure 5A). Similar to esp1-2 mutants, rec8-N prevents cleavage of cohesin along the length of the chromosome in spo13Δ cells (Figure 5B) and pericentromeric cohesin intensity is greatly increased (Figure 5C). Furthermore, we find that Rec8-N prevented the segregation of sister chromatids in spo13Δ mutants (Figure 5D). We conclude that cohesin cleavage is required for sister chromatid segregation in spo13Δ cells.

Interestingly, neither esp1-2 (Figure 4E) nor Rec8-N (Figure 5D) prevented the splitting of sister centromeres in spo13Δ anaphase I, suggesting that pericentromeric cohesin may have been removed independently of cleavage in the absence of Spo13, allowing centromeres to come apart. However, cells lacking the mono-orientation protein Mam1 also split sister centromeres in anaphase I, despite intact pericentromeric cohesin protection (Töth et al., 2000). This suggests that the presence of uncleaved pericentromeric cohesin in anaphase I cannot prevent the sister centromere splitting resulting from defective mono-orientation in spo13Δ cells (Katis et al., 2004b; Lee et al., 2004). Moreover, centromere breathing – the splitting of centromeres in response to spindle tension despite high concentrations of cohesin in the pericentromere – has been observed in pre-anaphase mitotic cells of multiple species (Goshima & Yanagida, 2000; He et al., 2000; Nabeshima et al., 1998; Pearson et al., 2001; Shelby et al., 1996; Tanaka et al., 2000). Thus, the splitting of centromeres in anaphase I in spo13Δ in the absence of cohesin cleavage does not confirm cleavage-independent cohesin removal in the pericentromere.

PP2A is functional in the absence of Spo13

Rec8 cleavage during wild-type meiosis relies on its prior phosphorylation (Brar et al., 2006; Katis et al., 2010) which is reversed in the pericentromere by PP2A. We considered the possibility that PP2A function may be impaired in spo13Δ cells, rendering it unable to dephosphorylate, and therefore protect, cohesin. We assessed whether tethering PP2A directly to cohesin could prevent Rec8 cleavage in the absence of Spo13. We fused GFP-binding protein (GBP), a nanobody specifically recognising GFP (Rothbauer et al., 2006), to the PP2A regulatory subunit Rts1 to irreversibly tether PP2A to GFP-tagged Rec8. This was sufficient to prevent cohesin removal, both in pCLB2-SGO1 and spo13Δ cells (Figure 6A–C). To further confirm the full functionality of Rts1 in spo13Δ cells, we utilised a separase biosensor (Yaakov et al., 2012) where a cleavable Rec8 moiety is fused to GFP and LacI, with the latter allowing targeting of the biosensor to a lacO array on chromosome arms (Figure 7A). In wild-type and spo13Δ cells, this biosensor appears as a single GFP focus in meiosis I until separase is
Figure 3. Deletion of MAD2 restores the second nuclear division, but not accurate chromosome segregation to spo13Δ mutants.  
(A–C) Representative images of Rec8-GFP, Mtw1-tdTomato and Pds1-tdTomato in live sporulating wild-type (AM13716), spo13Δ (AM24843), mad2Δ (AM24844) and spo13Δ mad2Δ (AM24845) cells. Scale bars represent 1 µm. Arrows indicate pericentromeric cohesin. (B) The number of cells with pericentromeric Rec8-GFP in anaphase I is shown after scoring 50 cells from (A). (C) Rec8-GFP intensity was measured for 50 cells from (A) as described for Figure 1C. ***p<0.001, n.s. = not significant (Welch two-sample t-test). For spo13Δ mad2Δ mutants, the analysis in (B) and (C) was performed exclusively for cells that performed two divisions (as judged by the presence of four Mtw1-tdTomato foci after meiosis II). (D–G) Severe chromosome missegregation occurs in spo13Δ mad2Δ cells. (D) Representative images of wild-type (AM24848), spo13Δ (AM24849), mad2Δ (AM25221) and spo13Δ mad2Δ (AM25222) cells carrying heterozygous TetR-GFP foci at CEN5 and HTB1-mCherry. Green arrows indicate CEN5-GFP segregation outcomes after meiosis I, cyan arrows indicate CEN5-GFP segregation outcomes after meiosis II. (E) Spores of spo13Δ mad2Δ vary greatly in the amount of nuclear DNA, as estimated by Htb1-mCherry area, thus indicating gross chromosome missegregation. The area occupied by Htb1-mCherry was measured in cells with four (wild type (n=45), mad2Δ (n=31) and spo13Δ mad2Δ (n=33)), or two (spo13Δ (n=50)) nuclear masses after meiosis II and variation in chromosomal area estimated by obtaining the ratio of the largest and smallest nuclear mass for each cell. **p<0.01, n.s. = not significant (Welch two-sample t-test). (F–G) CEN5 missegregation in spo13Δ mad2Δ cells. Segregation of heterozygous CEN5-GFP foci was scored in 50 cells after the first (F) and second (G) nuclear division in the indicated strains. For spo13Δ mad2Δ mutants, the analysis in (F) and (G) was performed exclusively for cells that performed two divisions (as judged by the presence of four distinct Htb1-mCherry signals after meiosis II). Note that while a large proportion of spo13Δ mad2Δ cells end up with CEN5-GFP foci in two separate spores after meiosis II (similar to wild type), many of these cells have already segregated sister chromosomes in meiosis I (purple stripes), rather than meiosis II (gray).
activated in anaphase I, causing biosensor cleavage and GFP focus dispersal (Figure 7B, C). Tethering of Rts1 to the biosensor, however, prevents biosensor cleavage (Figure 7B, C). Therefore, our results indicate that PP2A is functional and capable of dephosphorylating cohesin in spo13Δ mutants.

**Conclusions**

The successful protection of pericentromeric cohesin is a key modification to the meiotic chromosome segregation machinery as it ensures the fidelity of chromosome segregation in meiosis II. Key players in regulating cohesin cleavage are known. The kinases Hrr25 and Cdc7 (and possibly Cdc5) phosphorylate cohesin along the length of the chromosome to promote its cleavage by separase (Attner et al., 2013; Brar et al., 2006; Katis et al., 2010), while pericentromeric Sgo1 recruits the phosphatase PP2A to dephosphorylate Rec8 and thereby protect it (Katis et al., 2004a; Kitajima et al., 2004; Lee et al., 2008; Marston et al., 2004; Riedel et al., 2006; Tang et al., 2006).
Figure 5. Cohesin cleavage is required for loss of sister chromatid cohesion in spo13Δ cells. (A–C) Non-cleavable Rec8 blocks efficient removal of cohesin in spo13Δ cells. (A) Representative images from movies of cells carrying Rec8-GFP, Mtw1-tdTomato, Pds1-tdTomato and with the indicated genotypes are shown. Scale bars represent 1 µm. Arrows indicate pericentromeric Rec8-GFP. (B) Frequency of cells with the indicated pattern of Rec8-GFP localization is shown for the indicated genotypes. (C) Rec8-GFP intensity was measured for the indicated genotypes as described in Figure 4C. Error bars represent standard error. **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 (Welch two-sample t-test). Strains used in (A–C) were REC8-GFP (AM22190), REC8-GFP spo13Δ (AM22191), rec8-N-GFP (AM22192) and rec8-N-GFP spo13Δ (AM22193) cells carrying MTW1-tdTomato and PDS1-tdTomato. (D) Non-cleavable Rec8 prevents sister chromatid segregation in spo13Δ mutants. Cohesion functionality was determined for the indicated genotypes by categorization of CEN5-GFP distances as described for Figure 2A. Strains were REC8-3HA (AM22346), REC8-3HA spo13Δ (AM22347), rec8-N-3HA (AM22348) and rec8-N-3HA spo13Δ (AM22349) and carried SPC42-tdTomato, PDS1-tdTomato and heterozygous TetR-GFP dots at CEN5.

However, the meiosis I-specific Spo13, is also required to retain pericentromeric cohesin in anaphase I (Katis et al., 2004b; Lee et al., 2004; Shonn et al., 2002) but its function is much less well understood. Our study demonstrates that pericentromeric cohesin is prematurely removed in spo13Δ cells in a manner that requires cohesin cleavage and phosphorylation. Our recent work indicates that Spo13 achieves this by counteracting the activity of the cohesin kinases, Hrr25 and DDK (Galander et al., 2019). Future work should focus on elucidating how Spo13 elicits its effects on kinase function, and how this might be linked to its functions in both sister kinetochore mono-orientation and meiotic cell cycle control.

Methods
Yeast strains and plasmids
All strains are SK1-derivatives and are listed in Table 1. Plasmids generated in this study are listed in Table 2. Gene deletions, promoter replacements and gene tags were introduced using PCR-based methods (Gauss et al., 2005; Knop et al., 1999; Longtine et al., 1998; Moqtaderi & Struhl, 2008). pCLB2-CDC20 (Lee & Amon, 2003), REC8-GFP, PDS1-tdTomato (Matos et al., 2008), ndt80Δ (Vincenten et al., 2015), SP42-tdTomato (Fox et al., 2017), REC8-3HA (Klein et al., 1999), CEN5-GFP dots, mam1Δ::TRP1 (Töth et al., 2000) and REC8-N (Buonomo et al., 2000) were described previously. Separase biosensor constructs (Yaakov et al., 2012) were a kind gift from David Morgan (Departments of Physiology and Biochemistry and Biophysics, UCSF).

Growth conditions
Cells were prepared for sporulation as described by Vincenten et al. (2015).

Chromatin immunoprecipitation
ChiP-qPCR was performed as previously described (Vincenten et al., 2015), using mouse anti-Ha (12CA5, Roche). All parameters and equipment are identical to those described previously, including qPCR mixes and thermocycling conditions. Primers for qPCR analysis are listed in Table 3.

Live cell imaging
Live cell imaging was performed on a DeltaVision Elite system (Applied Precision) connected to an inverted Olympus IX-71 microscope with a 100x UPlanSapo NA 1.4 oil lens. Images
Figure 6. PP2A can prevent cohesin cleavage and sister chromatid segregation in spo13Δ cells. (A–C) Cohesin is retained on chromosomes when PP2AΔ is tethered to Rec8. (A) Representative images of Rec8-GFP, Mtw1-tdTomato and Pds1-tdTomato in wild-type (AM13716), spo13Δ (AM20033), pCLB2-SGO1 (AM21315), RTS1-GBP (AM21316), spo13Δ pCLB2-SGO1 (AM21317), spo13Δ RTS1-GBP (AM21319), pCLB2-SGO1 RTS1-GBP (AM21318) and spo13Δ pCLB2-SGO1 RTS1-GBP (AM21320) cells undergoing meiosis. Scale bars represent 1 µm. Arrows indicate pericentromeric cohesin. (B) The number of cells with pericentromeric cohesin in anaphase I was scored for 50 cells per strain. (C) Rec8-GFP intensity in anaphase I was measured as described in Figure 2A. **p<0.01, ***p<0.001 (Welch two-sample t-test).

were taken using a Photometrics Cascade II EMCCD camera. The Deltavision system was controlled using SoftWoRx software, version 5.5. Live-cell imaging for Figure 3 was performed on a Zeiss Axio Observer Z1 (Zeiss UK, Cambridge) equipped with a Hamamatsu Flash 4 sCMOS camera, Prior motorised stage and Zen 2.3 acquisition software.

Cells were imaged at 30°C (unless stated) on an ONIX microfluidic perfusion platform by CellASIC. Cells were pre-grown in culture flasks for ~3 h before transfer to microfluidics plates. Imaging began about 30 min later with images being acquired every 15 min for 12-15 h. Seven z-stacks were acquired with 0.85µm spacing. Image panels were assembled using Image-Pro Premier 3D, version 9.1 (Media Cybernetics). Images were analysed using ImageJ 1.48v (National Institutes of Health). Final image assembly was carried out using Adobe Photoshop CS5.1 and Adobe Illustrator CS5.1. Rec8-GFP intensities were measured using the DV_DotCounter custom plugin for ImageJ (Kelly, 2019a). The plugin applied a Z projection to each colour channel and allowed the user to select a cell of interest. Kinetochores
in the red channel were identified by Yen Auto Threshold (Yen et al., 1995) and their XY central coordinates, mean intensity and area recorded. The coordinates were then used to measure mean intensity in the corresponding location in the green channel, equivalent to pericentromeric Rec8-GFP. In experiments where pericentromeric cohesin was likely to be found in between kinetochores (which is thought to occur in cells that bi-orient in meiosis I but retain cohesin), the XY coordinates in the red channel were used to generate a line profile between the 2 kinetochores in both colour channels over
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### Table 2. Plasmids generated in this study.

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### Table 3. qPCR primers used in this study. For distances from centromeres, “-“ indicates the location is upstream of the centromere, whereas “+” indicates the location is downstream of the centromere.

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Data availability

Raw data for scoring imaging experiments and ChIP-qPCR, arranged by figure, is available from OSF. DOI: https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/VBKU9 (Marston, 2019).

Data are available under the terms of the Creative Commons Zero “No rights reserved” data waiver (CC0 1.0 Public domain dedication).

The file size of the raw microscopy movies precludes uploading them to OSF, but are available upon request from adele.marston@ed.ac.uk.

Software availability

Source code for DV_DotCounter is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/DV_DotCounter.

Source code for YeastLineProfiler is available from: http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1048891

Source code for Size_and_Area is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/Size_and_Area

Source code for YeastLineProfiler is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/YeastLineProfiler.

Source code for DV_DotCounter is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/DV_DotCounter.

Source code at time of publication: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2553081 (Kelly, 2019a).

Source code for YeastLineProfiler is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/YeastLineProfiler.


Source code for Size_and_Area is available from: https://github.com/dkelly604/Size_and_Area


License: MIT License.

Grant information

This research was funded by Wellcome through PhD studentships to SG [096994] and REB [102316], as well as a Senior Research Fellowship to ALM [107827] and core funding awarded to the Wellcome Centre for Cell Biology [203149].

The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Robin Allshire, Angelika Amon, Kevin Hardwick, Heinrich Leonhardt, David Morgan and Ulrich Rothbauer for sharing plasmids. We also thank members of the Marston lab for helpful discussion.

References


*Published Abstract* | *Publisher Full Text*


*Published Abstract* | *Publisher Full Text*


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Tang Z, Shu H, Qi W, et al.: PPA2 is required for centromeric localization of
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Open Peer Review

Current Peer Review Status: ☑️ ✔️ ✔️

Version 1

Reviewer Report 19 March 2019

https://doi.org/10.21956/wellcomeopenres.16436.r34862

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Enrique Martinez-Perez
MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences, Imperial College London, London, UK

Accurate formation of haploid gametes during meiosis requires the step-wise removal of cohesin during the consecutive meiotic divisions. Two different pathways contribute to this process, one mediated by Wapl, which removes cohesin before the onset of the first meiotic division, and a second dependent on the protease separase, which cleaves the kleisin subunit (Rec8) of cohesin at the onset of the meiotic divisions. Phosphorylation of Rec8 by multiple kinases promotes cohesin release by Wapl and cleavage by separase, therefore the pool of cohesin bound to centromeric regions must be protected from phosphorylation during the first meiotic division to prevent premature loss of cohesion. Galander et al. use in vivo imaging to investigate cohesin protection in budding yeast, focusing on Spo13, which role in this process remains poorly understood.

The authors show convincingly that spo13 mutants display premature loss of Rec8 and sister chromatid cohesion during the first meiotic division, that this premature loss of cohesion requires separase but not Wapl, and that expression of a separase-resistant Rec8 rescues cohesin loss in spo13 mutants. These results demonstrate an important role for Spo13 in preventing separase-dependent Rec8 removal during meiosis I.

Specific comments:

Figure 4 shows that expression of Rec8-N (separase resistant) prevents loss of Rec8 from pericentromeric regions in spo13 mutants, but despite this, sister centromeres still show substantial separation in ~50% of the cells. How can sister centromeres achieve this level of separation despite extensive Rec8 binding?

The introduction doesn’t mention the Challa et al 2019¹ paper describing the role of Wapl in promoting Rec8 removal before anaphase I. Since distinguishing the contribution of the Wapl and separase pathways to the cohesion defects of spo13 mutants is a key aspect of the manuscript, mentioning the Challa et al 2019 in the introduction will help the reader.

Non-yeast experts will benefit from a more detailed description of some of the markers used in the study.
such as Mtw1.

**References**

**Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?**
Yes

**Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?**
Yes

**Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?**
Yes

**If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?**
Yes

**Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?**
Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?**
Yes

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Meiosis

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

**Author Response 05 Aug 2019**

**Adele Marston,** University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

*Figure 4 shows that expression of Rec8-N (separase resistant) prevents loss of Rec8 from pericentromeric regions in spo13 mutants, but despite this, sister centromeres still show substantial separation in ~50% of the cells. How can sister centromeres achieve this level of separation despite extensive Rec8 binding?*

Please refer to our comment on the final point made by reviewer 2. Sister kinetochores are bioriented.

*The introduction doesn’t mention the Challa et al 2019[^1] paper describing the role of Wapl in promoting Rec8 removal before anaphase I. Since distinguishing the contribution of the Wapl and separase pathways to the cohesion defects of spo13 mutants is a key aspect of the manuscript, mentioning the Challa et al 2019 in the introduction will help the reader.*

We agree and are sorry for this omission. We have now done this.
Non-yeast experts will benefit from a more detailed description of some of the markers used in the study, such as Mtw1.

We have clarified the function of Mtw1 in our updated manuscript and also provided a better explanation of the mam1Δ phenotype.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

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**Reviewer Report 14 March 2019**

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Galandar and colleagues have revisited the role of Spo13 in protecting or regulating sister chromatid cohesion in meiosis I. Previous work has shown that Spo13 affects the disposition of cohesin at centromeres but the molecular basis for the modulation of centromeric cohesion by Spo13 has remained unclear. Recent work has shown that there are two pathways for cohesin removal in meiosis in budding yeast. Here the authors test which pathway is impacted by Spo13. The experiments have moved the field forward by using live cell imaging methods to address this question. The results demonstrate that Spo13, at least in part, protects Rec8 at the centromeres from cleavage by separase.

**Introduction**

Para. 3, line 7. Might be good to adjust the sentence saying Rec8 cleavage is dependent on Cdc5. The next sentence indicates the lack of clarity on this point.

Paragaph 4: It would be worth mentioning the two-step removal of cohesins in budding yeast meiosis here (Yu and Koshland, 2005; Challa et al., 2019), along with referencing the mammalian and fly two-step processes.

**Results and Discussion**

Page 4, second column, 4 lines from bottom: “withbi”

Fig. 3 E/Fig. 4 D – spo13 delete allows meiosis I sister centromere separation in esp1 and REC8-N mutants. This shows centromeres are more able to separate in spo13 mutants even without Rec8 cleavage. There are multiple possible explanations for these results. Is it because sister centromeres are more easily bi-oriented in spo13 mutants? Alternatively, could it be that Spo13 also promotes sister centromere cohesion also protects pericentromeric cohesion through a pathway that doesn’t involve
cleavage? The manuscript would benefit from brief comments from the authors on the implications of these observations.

References

Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?
Yes

Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?
Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?
Yes

If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?
Yes

Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?
Yes

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** meiotic chromosome biology

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Author Response 05 Aug 2019

**Adele Marston,** University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Para. 3, line 7. Might be good to adjust the sentence saying Rec8 cleavage is dependent on Cdc5. The next sentence indicates the lack of clarity on this point.

Thanks for the suggestion, we have done this.

Paragraph 4: It would be worth mentioning the two-step removal of cohesins in budding yeast meiosis here (Yu and Koshland, 2005⁵; Challa et al., 2019⁵), along with referencing the mammalian and fly two-step processes.

Thanks for pointing out this omission, we have added the suggested text and references.
Results and Discussion

Page 4, second column, 4 lines from bottom: “withbi”

This has been corrected

Fig. 3 E/Fig. 4 D – spo13 delete allows meiosis I sister centromere separation in esp1 and REC8-N mutants. This shows centromeres are more able to separate in spo13 mutants even without Rec8 cleavage. There are multiple possible explanations for these results. Is it because sister centromeres are more easily bi-oriented in spo13 mutants? Alternatively, could it be that Spo13 also promotes sister centromere cohesion also protects pericentromeric cohesion through a pathway that doesn’t involve cleavage? The manuscript would benefit from brief comments from the authors on the implications of these observations.

We believe that this is due to the fact that sister centromeres are bioriented in spo13 mutants. We have added a few sentences explaining these observations and the previous evidence that shows that defects in monoorientation result in sister centromere splitting even without loss of cohesion.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Report 27 February 2019

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Andreas Hochwagen

Department of Biology, New York University, New York City, NY, USA

This manuscript by Galander and colleagues investigates the function of the Spo13, a central but poorly understood regulator of meiotic chromosome segregation, using live-cell imaging in S. cerevisiae. Previous work had shown that Spo13 weakens the protection of centromeric cohesin during meiosis I, but the extent of this weakening had been questioned. The authors show an essentially complete loss of centromeric cohesin by fluorescence microscopy and support this data by monitoring the segregation of sister centromeres. In addition, they propose that this weakening occurs through increased separase activity because of reduced cohesin phosphorylation in the pericentromeric regions. The latter conclusion is complicated by the fact that the phosphorylation experiments do not distinguish between cohesion at centromeres and along chromosome arms.

I suggest the authors address the following points:

1. The data shown in panel 1C is central to the presented conclusions. As this bar graph relies on standard error, please provide statistical analysis including multiple hypothesis testing for this graph.
2. I am confused why there are cells that did not lose cohesion in the mam1 spo13 double mutants (panel 2B). Does this data not indicate that there may be some cohesion remaining in the absence of Spo13?
3. The Rts1-GBP construct will lead to ectopic protection also along chromosome arms. This increased signal is expected lead to an elevated Rec8 fluorescence intensity in the pericentromeric regions given the low spatial resolution of this assay. I think a ChIP experiment comparing Rec8 at arm and pericentromeric sites would be important to exclude the possibility that there is Rts1-independent Rec8 removal in the spo13 mutant. This issue is particularly relevant given a recent paper by Mehta et al\(^1\) (Curr Genet) that came to the conclusion that Spo13 acts independently of Rts1.

**Typo:**
Page 4, second paragraph: withbi-oriented

### References

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**Is the work clearly and accurately presented and does it cite the current literature?**
Partly

**Is the study design appropriate and is the work technically sound?**
Partly

**Are sufficient details of methods and analysis provided to allow replication by others?**
Yes

**If applicable, is the statistical analysis and its interpretation appropriate?**
No

**Are all the source data underlying the results available to ensure full reproducibility?**
Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the results?**
Partly

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.

**Reviewer Expertise:** Chromosome biology

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard, however I have significant reservations, as outlined above.

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**Author Response 05 Aug 2019**

**Adele Marston,** University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

1. We performed statistical analysis using Welch’s two sample t-test, which suggests that the observed differences are highly significant.

2. While we agree that this is a possibility, we believe that there are alternative explanations for this
observation. Firstly, it could be that, for unknown reasons, the deletion of MAM1 affects successful segregation of chromosomes in anaphase I in spo13Δ cells (which otherwise retain some monopolin at kinetochores (Lee et al. (2004) Curr Biol 14, 2168-2182). Indeed, in Figure 2B, as well as additional figures in this manuscript (new Figures 4E and 5D), the fraction of otherwise wild-type spo13Δ cells that fail to segregate sister chromatids is minimal (2%). Secondly, the cells that appear to retain cohesin may be in the process of losing cohesion but our imaging could have captured them immediately after Pds1 degradation, so that they have not yet had a chance to segregate chromosomes before we scored them. To further test whether cohesion is retained at centromeres in the absence of Spo13, we analysed cells that also lack Mad2 and which have previously been found to undergo two divisions. This data, shown in a new Figure 3, confirms our previous conclusions that Spo13 is required for cohesion protection.

3. While we agree that Rts1-independent Rec8 removal in the spo13Δ mutant is an interesting possibility, we decided not to do this experiment because our opinion is that it would be extremely difficult to interpret due to the difficulty of obtaining comparable cell cycle stages in the different mutants. The experiment would require analysis of cells in anaphase I (or at least past metaphase I) and, due to the metaphase I delay observed in spo13Δ cells even when synchronised using the GAL-NDT80 block release system (Carlile and Amon, 2008), it would be difficult to obtain populations in which similar numbers of cells of each mutant are in this stage. Furthermore, it would be difficult to assess the cell cycle stage, since RTS1-GBP cells would presumably not exhibit standard anaphase spindles due to the failure to segregate chromosomes in anaphase I (compare distances of kinetochores in our imaging at the 15 minute time point in Figure 6A of the updated version of the manuscript). Additionally, spo13Δ mutants prematurely exit meiosis after the first division, precluding cell cycle analysis by immublot against an anaphase I marker. However, our main conclusion from these experiments is that PP2A-Rts1 is functional in the absence of Spo13 and we believe are data supports this interpretation.

We also respectfully disagree with the conclusion in Mehta et al. based on the available data. Their conclusion that Spo13 acts independently of Rts1 was derived from data presented in Figure 3 of their paper where they showed that CEN5-GFP foci segregate to opposite poles during anaphase I in more spo13Δ rts1Δ than spo13 cells. However, these genotypes are not complete: the methods section and strain table reveal that all spo13Δ cells (but none of the other mutations) also carry mad2Δ delete to allow the cells to go through two meiotic divisions. Therefore, this experiment is not properly controlled, especially because mad2 cells themselves are compromised in chromosome segregation (Figure 3 in our current manuscript).

In conclusion, while Rts1-independent Rec8 removal by Spo13 remains a possibility, there is currently no evidence for it.

The typo on Page 4 has been corrected.

**Competing Interests:** No competing interests were disclosed.