NDC10: A Gene Involved in Chromosome Segregation in Saccharomyces cerevisiae

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Abstract. A mutant, ndc10-I, was isolated by anti-tubulin staining of temperature-sensitive mutant banks of budding yeast. ndc10-I has a defect in chromosome segregation since chromosomes remain at one pole of the anaphase spindle. This produces one polyploid cell and one aploid cell, each containing a spindle pole body (SPB). NDC10 was cloned and sequenced and is identical to CBF2 (Jiang, W., J. Lechner, and J. Carbon. 1991. J. Cell Biol. 121:513–519) which is the 110-kD component of a centromere DNA binding complex (Lechner, J., and J. Carbon. 1991. Cell. 64:717–725). NDC10 is an essential gene. Antibodies to Ndc10p labeled the SPB region in nearly all the cells examined including nonmitotic cells. In some cells with short spindles which may be in metaphase, staining was also observed along the spindle. The staining pattern and the phenotype of ndc10-I are consistent with Cbf2p/Ndcl0p being a kinetochore protein, and provide in vivo evidence for its role in the attachment of chromosomes to the spindle.

The accurate sorting and segregation of chromosomes by the mitotic apparatus during cell division is a complex process which must involve the coordinated activity of many proteins. The identification and characterization of some of these proteins is a difficult task because of their low abundance in the cell. Lower eukaryotes such as Saccharomyces cerevisiae offer distinct advantages for the identification of such proteins. First, cells can easily be grown in quantities sufficient for the purification or biochemical isolation of low abundance proteins. Thus Lechner and Carbon (1991) purified a complex of three proteins which bind to the centromeric DNA of S. cerevisiae, while we have prepared enriched spindle pole body (SPB) preparations and characterized some of their components by raising mAbs against them (Rout and Kilmartin, 1990). Second, a genetic approach is possible by isolating mutants defective in various aspects of chromosome transmission and cloning the genes thus identified. In S. cerevisiae, various selection procedures for mutants with increased chromosome loss have been devised (Meeks-Wagner et al., 1986; Spencer et al., 1990; Hoyt et al., 1990), and have led to the identification of mitotic kinesin-like proteins (Hoyt et al., 1992; Roof et al., 1992). Cytological screens on randomly generated temperature-sensitive mutants have also been carried out on S. cerevisiae leading to the identification of two mutants, ndc1-1 (Thomas and Botstein, 1986) and mps2-1 (Winey et al., 1991a), where chromosomes fail to attach to one of the spindle poles. In Schizosaccharomyces pombe cytological screens have also identified a mitotic kinesin (Hagan and Yanagida, 1990, 1992) and two phosphatases which play a role in chromosome disjunction (Ohkura et al., 1988, 1989).

We report here the isolation of a mutant in S. cerevisiae, ndc 10-I (nuclear division cycle), which has a similar phenotype to both ndc1-1 and mps2-1. However, it is not linked to either mutation and has clear differences in the details of the phenotype. We also report the nucleotide sequence of NDC10 and show that an antibody directed against Ndc10p stains the SPB region and part of the mitotic spindle, suggesting that Ndc10p is a structural component of the spindle involved in chromosome transmission. As this work was being completed we discovered that, apart from one amino acid, Ndc1p is identical to Cbf2p whose sequence is reported in the accompanying paper (Jiang et al., 1993). Cbf2p is the 110-kD component of a centromere DNA binding complex (Lechner and Carbon, 1991) which is associated with ATP-dependent minus end-directed movement on microtubules (Hyman et al., 1992). The phenotype of ndc10-I and of depletion of Ndc10p described in this paper provide in vivo evidence for the role of Ndc10p/Cbf2p in chromosome attachment to the spindle.

Materials and Methods

Isolation of ndc10-I

Temperature-sensitive mutants either generated by ethylmethane sulfonate (EMS) mutagenesis or taken from part of the Hartwell et al. (1973) bank (generously provided by G. R. Fink) were picked into 10 ml of YEPD and grown overnight at 23°C to ensure that the cells were in log phase, then blocked at 36°C for 4 h. Cells were fixed, permeabilized and stained with anti-tubulin and DAPI as described by Kilmartin and Adams (1984). The original isolate of ndc10-I was back-crossed three times to K699 (Nasmyth et al., 1990) and K700 (an isogenic MATa form of K699) to give JK418; these and other yeast strains used are shown in Table I. Each time the temperature sensitivity and the mutant phenotype cosegregated, with tetrads...
EM and Flow Cytometry

For EM, log phase ndc10-1 cells were blocked for 4 h at the restrictive temperature of 36°C, then fixed and embedded as described by Byers and Goetsch (1991) except that the cells were washed with acetone after dehydration and infiltrated with mixtures of acetone and Spurrs over 2 d, neat Spurrs for the last 24 h, then set overnight at 36°C. For flow cytometry, wild-type cells (K699) and ndc10-1 grown to a density of 5 x 10^6/ml were blocked with α factor (12.5 μg/ml) for 4 h at 23°C until all cells formed schmooes. After washing and release at 36°C, samples were removed at hourly intervals and prepared for flow cytometry (Nash et al., 1988).

Preparation of Antibodies against Ndc10p, Immunoblotting and Immunofluorescence

NDC10 was cut with Accl at 889 and NdeI at 2116, blunted with Klenow and inserted in frame and in the correct orientation into the blunted NcoI site of a modified T7 expression vector (Way et al., 1990). The junction between the blunt NcoI and Accl sites was checked by DNA sequencing. Transformation of BJDE21 cells and induction with IPTG (Studier et al., 1990) resulted in the expression of an insoluble protein of the expected size of 47 kD. Inclusion bodies were prepared (Nagai and Thogersen, 1987) and solubilized in 8 M urea. The 47-kD protein was purified by chromatography on DEAE cellulose in 8 M urea and preparative SDS-gel electrophoresis. After elution the protein was used to immunize five rats. Sera which gave a signal on Western blots of the 47-kD protein at dilutions of 1/10,000 (two rats) were affinity purified using a column of the SDS-gel-purified 47-kD protein coupled to Sepharose beads.

Immunobots were carried out as described in Rout and Kilmartin (1990) using a 1:10 dilution of the affinity purified anti-Ndc10p either overnight at 4°C or for 1 h at room temperature.

For immunofluorescence, cells were prepared as in Kilmartin and Adams (1984) and stained overnight at 12°C with affinity purified anti-Ndc10p (neat or diluted 1:3), followed by FITC-labeled affinity purified anti-rat IgG (absorbed against rabbit IgG) for 2 h at room temperature. To exclude any possibility of feed-through from the anti-tubulin signal, fields of cells were photographed and their position on the slide recorded on the microscope micrometer. The coverslip was pricked off gently with a razor blade, the cells appeared to be tightly attached by the polylysine, and the mounting medium washed away with BSA-PBS (Kilmartin and Adams, 1984). The cells were then stained with rhodamine-labeled affinity-purified rabbit anti-yeast tubulin followed by 45-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). The same groups of cells were relocated using the microscope micrometer and contact prints as a guide, and photographed again.

Results

Identification and Characterization of ndc10-1

ndc10-1 was identified from a screen using anti-tubulin staining of 624 randomly generated ts mutants, 446 of which were from the ts bank used by Hartwell et al. (1973) to isolate the original cdc mutants. We looked for possible defects in SPB function associated with consistent abnormalities in spindle structure present in >90% of the cells at a particular cell cycle stage, and also for a different phenotype from previously described cdc mutants. Three such mutants were found: two of these were alleles of nps1 (Winey et al., 1991a) and the other ndc10-1 (all obtained from the Hartwell bank).

The phenotype of ndc10-1 at the restrictive temperature is shown in Fig. 1, in which cells were labeled with anti-tubulin (Fig. 1, a) and the DNA stain DAPI (Fig. 1, b). Two abnormalities are immediately apparent: all late anaphase spindles (arrowheads) have DNA associated with only one pole; and presumably as a result of division of these cells, there is a substantial fraction (45%, n = 398) of aploid cells (arrows) with apparently no nuclear DNA. Due to the density of cells in Fig. 1, a and b the aploid cells cannot be distinguished.
from large buds, however other views (not shown) and flow cytometry analyses (see Fig. 3) show that the aploid cells are separate suggesting that cell division continues in the mutant. There also appear to be abnormalities in the structure of the anaphase spindles. The late anaphase spindles are asymmetrically stained with anti-tubulin, suggesting different numbers of microtubules at each pole. Also, the early anaphase spindles appear to have abnormal morphology (Fig. 1 a, asterisk), while normal early anaphase spindles containing a parallel bundle of microtubules (similar to that in Fig. 6 g of Kilmartin and Adams, 1984) were only rarely observed. The anti-tubulin staining pattern of the mutant indicates that SPBs are segregated normally since astral arrays are present in the aploid cells and at either end of the spindle in budded cells. This was confirmed in a triple labelling experiment (Fig. 1, c, d, and e) using pooled mAbs to a 90-kD component of the SPB (Rout and Kilmartin, 1990), which showed that this SPB antigen clearly segregates into the aploid cell.

The phenotype of ndc10-1 has some similarities to that of the cs mutant ndc1-1 (Thomas and Botstein, 1986) and the ts mutant mps2-1 (Winey et al., 1991a) in that DNA remains at one pole and aploid cells apparently containing SPBs accumulate. However, ndc10-1 is not linked to ndc1-1 since a cross between the two mutants produces a substantial proportion of wild-type spores (PD:NPD:T=2:3:7). ndc10-1 is also unlikely to be allelic to mps2-1 because it complements that mutant (data not shown). In addition, there is a clear difference in the anti-tubulin staining between ndc10-1 and both ndc1-1 and mps2-1 in that ndc10-1 appears to have anaphase spindles, whereas ndc1-1 and mps2-1 appear to lack spindle microtubules connecting the two poles at anaphase (Winey et al., 1991a,b). There are also differences in the distribution of the nuclear DNA between ndc10-1 and ndc1-1. In ndc1-1, nuclear DNA is transmitted equally to either the mother (marked by α-factor treatment) or the bud (Thomas and Botstein, 1986), whereas in ndc10-1 cells in late anaphase, nuclear DNA remains in 96% of the shmooed mother cells (data not shown). Recently we discovered that Kopski, K., and T. Huffaker (personal communication) had isolated another allele of ndc10 in a similar screen of a different ts bank. It too shows a detachment of chromosomes from the spindle poles.

The phenotype of ndc10-1 observed by immunofluorescence was confirmed by EM. Fig. 2 shows an ndc10-1 cell in anaphase. It has a large nucleus outlined by dense nuclear pores presumably in the mother cell, with a thin sheath of nuclear membrane extending into the bud with an apparently

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Table I. Yeast Strains

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Strain</th>
<th>Relevant genotype</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>K699</td>
<td>a ura3 leu2-3,112 GAL*</td>
<td>Nasmyth et al. (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K700</td>
<td>α ura3 leu2-3,112 GAL*</td>
<td>Nasmyth et al. (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K842</td>
<td>a/α diploid ura3 leu2-3,112 GAL*</td>
<td>Nasmyth et al. (1990)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBY1583</td>
<td>α ndc1-1</td>
<td>Thomas and Botstein (1986)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wx228-14d</td>
<td>a mps2-1</td>
<td>Winey et al. (1991a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JK418</td>
<td>a ura3 leu2-3,112 trp1 ndc10-1</td>
<td>This paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JK625</td>
<td>a/α diploid ura3 leu2-3,112 NDC10/ndc10Δ1::LEU2</td>
<td>This paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PY60</td>
<td>a ura3 leu2-3,112 ndc10Δ1::LEU2 URA3::GAL-NDC10</td>
<td>This paper</td>
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Figure 2. Electron micrograph of a thin section of an ndc10-1 cell blocked at the restrictive temperature 36°C for 4 h. This micrograph shows a large nucleus in the lower half of the cell with a thin isthmus of nuclear envelope delineated by dense nuclear pores, extending into the upper half of the cell and ending with an SPB containing nuclear microtubules. (Inset) A higher magnification of the SPB region of the cell. Bars: 1 μm; (inset) 0.1 μm.

Normal SPB at its apex. This SPB has clear nuclear microtubules attached, although we cannot determine whether this cell has an intact anaphase spindle because such long spindles are difficult to follow in longitudinal thin sections. We have observed a similar phenotype, that is a narrow rod of nuclear envelope containing microtubules and ending in an SPB, in at least 11 other cells. The small area of the rod-shaped nucleus extending into the bud suggests that there is little or no nuclear DNA associated with the SPB at the apex of the rod. The phenotype of ndc10-1 as studied by EM is thus in agreement with that found by immunofluorescence.

A flow cytometry assay (Fig. 3) using cells blocked with α-factor and released at the restrictive temperature showed that DNA replication and cytokinesis continue in this mutant producing polyploid as well as aploid cells, with the ploidy rising to around octoploid after 4 h. As expected from this accumulation of aploid and increasingly polyploid cells, the ndc10-1 mutation is lethal: the viability of unsynchronized cells dropped to 10% after 4 h at 36°C. Immunofluorescence of cells fixed at the 2-, 3-, and 4-h time points gave similar phenotypes to those seen in Fig. 1.

Isolation and Sequencing of NDC10

NDC10 was isolated from an S. cerevisiae genomic DNA bank in a CEN vector which was used to transform ndc10-1 to ts+. The plasmid with the smallest insert was subcloned further to a 4-kb PvuII fragment which complemented the mutation. This fragment was able to direct the LEU2 gene to the ndc10 locus (see Materials and Methods), confirming that it contained the actual NDC10 gene rather than a suppressor. The PvuII fragment was sequenced and found to contain a single long open reading frame (Fig. 4) predicting...
a polypeptide of 956 amino acids. Fragments which lacked BglII site at 322 or the XbaI site at 1,372 failed to complement. These sequence data are available from EMBL under accession Ndcl0p and other protein sequences in the SWISSPROT database (release 22) using the FASTA search program only 58 residues of the COOH terminus showed that the gene 

Localization of Ndcl0p

An antibody against the NDC10 gene product was prepared by expressing an AccI/Ndel fragment in E. coli and injecting this into rats. Antibodies were affinity purified from two rats and their specificity checked by Western blots of whole cell extracts. A weak signal was obtained from extracts of S. uvarum wild type (K699) or cells overexpressing Ndcl0p under the GAL promoter (PY60) were immunoblotted with affinity-purified anti-Ndcl0p or with pooled mAbs against the 110-kD component of the SPB as a loading control.

The affinity-purified antibodies were used to stain fixed yeast cells and, as with other spindle antigens (Rout and Kilmartin, 1990), the staining intensity decreased with increasing time of formaldehyde fixation. Fixation for 30 min seemed to give the best balance between staining intensity and spindle preservation. Even under these conditions the signal from Ndcl0p was weak. To ensure that in double labeling experiments there was no feed-through from the much brighter anti-tubulin staining, cells stained with anti-Ndcl0p were photographed, then stained with anti-tubulin, relocated and photographed again.

The anti-Ndcl0p antibodies gave a staining pattern of low intensity consisting of either one or two sometimes fuzzy dots localized to the region of the SPB (Fig. 6, a and d). In some nonmitotic cells, the staining appeared as a cluster of dots (Fig. 6 a, small arrowheads). There was also some diffuse nuclear staining in some of the cells. In cells with short spindles, presumably in metaphase, the staining pattern was either two dots close to the SPB region (Fig. 6 a, arrows) or somewhat diffuse or sometimes granular staining along the spindle (Fig. 6, a and d, large arrowheads). In the short spindles, the distance between the dots and the length of the diffuse staining was less than the spindle length. This is similar to what was found with an anti-80-kD mAb which labels the spindle near the SPB (Rout and Kilmartin, 1990), suggesting that, like the 80-kD antigen, the anti-Ndcl0p staining is associated with the spindle rather than with the SPB. The anti-Ndcl0p antibodies stained close to the SPB in nearly all the cells examined including nonmitotic cells, though the intensity of staining in these cells was variable. In anaphase or late anaphase/telophase spindles, there was often weak staining along the spindle.

Phenotype of Cells Depleted of Ndcl0pΔ1-11

The phenotype of Ndcl0p depletion was compared with the phenotype in the ts mutant ndcl0-1 using the yeast strain FY60. In FY60 a slightly truncated version of Ndcl0p (Ndcl0pΔ1-11) whose expression is under the control of the inducible GAL promoter is able to rescue the deleted NDC10 gene. In galactose medium Ndcl0pΔ1-11 is highly expressed, while in glucose where the GAL promoter is switched off, the

Goh and Kilmartin Chromosome Segregation 507
cells are depleted of Ndc10pΔ1-11. Thus the phenotype of a null mutation can be observed and the specificity of the anti-Ndc10p antibodies checked since the staining pattern should disappear. Only anaphase or late anaphase cells were examined since these gave the brightest anti-Ndc10p staining and were the easiest to classify because of their large size and avoidance of superposition effects between the DAPI and antibody staining.

PY60 cells continued to divide for up to 17 h in glucose, after which the cells stopped dividing but continued to increase in size with a decrease in viability (see Fig. 7 a). At early time points, the cells showed bright overall nuclear staining with anti-Ndc10p, presumably caused mainly by overexpression of the protein. This gradually decreased in intensity between 7 and 11 h, until staining was confined to the SPB region (Fig. 7 b). The slow transition was due to the large variation in the amount of Ndc10p in individual cells, which would lead to a gradual expression of the phenotype. At 15 h, anti-Ndc10p staining became undetectable (Fig. 7 b), confirming the specificity of the antibody. At the same time the first abnormalities appeared, including an accumulation of large-budded cells containing short spindles and a decrease in the compactness of DAPI staining. The abnormalities in anaphase at this time point consisted of either unequal DAPI staining at the two poles with the staining at one pole 2–3 times more intense than at the other, or DAPI staining along the anaphase spindle rather than at the poles (Fig. 7 c, asterisked cell is a combination of these phenotypes). We assume that for the particular cell at 15 h in Fig. 7 b, since some chromosome segregation occurred, a small number of copies of Ndc10p undetectable by immunofluorescence can exert partial function. At later time points, the proportion of ndc10Δ-like anaphase spindles containing nuclear DNA at one pole gradually increased (Fig. 7 a), rising

Figure 6. Immunofluorescent staining of yeast cells (S. uvarum, NCYC 74). Cells were stained with affinity purified anti-Ndc10p (a and d), anti-tubulin (b and e) and DAPI (c and f). The cells in a and d were photographed before anti-tubulin staining, one of the cells in the lower center of a and on the righthand side of d was washed away during subsequent staining procedures. Cells with large arrowheads in a and d have anti-Ndc10p staining along short presumably metaphase spindles, while the arrowed cells in a have staining associated with the poles of such a spindle. The cell with a small arrowhead in a shows a small cluster of dots associated with the microtubule aster (see Discussion). Bar, 10 μm.
to ~40% of the total, the rest being spindles with the DAPI staining spread along their length. After 21 h no anaphase spindles were present. Fig. 7c shows a group of cells at 19 h, two with ndcl0-1-like anaphase spindles (arrowheads), one showing unequal distribution of chromosomes (asterisk), and two cells on the extreme middle and top right showing apparent dissociation of chromosomes from the SPB (arrows). These results are consistent with the phenotype obtained with ndcl0-1 in that they show a detachment of chromosomes from the spindle pole.

Discussion

Phenotype of ndcl0-1

In this paper we describe the isolation of a novel ts mutant ndcl0-1, which has a defect in chromosome segregation. The sequence of NDC10 is identical to that of CBF2 (Jiang et al., 1993) which encodes the 110-kD component of a centromere DNA binding complex CBF3 (Lechner and Carbon, 1991). Moreover, an enriched preparation of CBF3 is capable of minus-end-directed movement on microtubules (Hyman et al., 1992), suggesting that CBF2/NDC10 may be part of the yeast kinetochore, although other kinetochore activities that can associate with microtubules may also be present (Hyman et al., 1992). Although there are a number of possible explanations for the phenotype observed in ndcl0-1 and Ndcl0p-depleted cells, in view of the identity of NDC10 and CBF2, it seems reasonable to confine the discussion of the mutant phenotype mainly to that of a defect in kinetochore function. Clearly the phenotypes are consistent with that interpretation and give direct in vivo evidence that Ndcl0p/Cbf2p has a role in chromosome attachment to the spindle.

Since CBF2/NDC10 probably encodes a yeast kinetochore protein, it is interesting to look at the phenotype of ndcl0-1 further since it may indicate the consequences of kinetochore disruption. Flow cytometry analysis indicates that DNA replication continues at the restrictive temperature in the ts mutant. In both synchronized and unsynchronized cells at early stages of mitosis, normal-looking short spindles with the characteristic dumbbell shape (Kilmartin and Adams, 1984) form, indicating the presence of chromosomal microtubules close to the poles (Peterson and Ris, 1976). The morphology of spindles that are apparently in the metaphase/anaphase transition or in anaphase appears somewhat variable. A small proportion of these spindles have a parallel bundle of microtubules connecting the two poles as in wild-type cells (Kilmartin and Adams, 1984). In others there are only a few microtubules between the two poles, only one pole, while the rest of the abnormal anaphase spindles have either DNA spread along their length or at earlier time points, unequal distribution of DNA at the two poles. (b) Anti-Ndcl0p, anti-tubulin and DAPI staining of cells during Ndcl0pΔ1-11 depletion. Cells stained with anti-Ndcl0p at 11 and 15 h were photographed before staining with anti-tubulin. (c) Cells after 19 h of depletion stained with pooled mAbs to the 90-kD component of the SPB, anti-tubulin and DAPI. Cells with arrowheads have ndcl0-1 anaphase spindles, while the cell with an asterisk has both an unequal distribution of DNA and DNA spread along the spindle. Arrows indicate dissociation of the bulk of DAPI staining from the SPB. Bars, 5 μm.

Figure 7. Analysis of PY60 cells depleted of Ndcl0p by repressing the GAL promoter in glucose medium. (a) Graph showing viability, percent normal anaphase spindles and percent ndcl0-1-like anaphase spindles as PY60 cells are depleted of Ndcl0pΔ1-11 in glucose. ndcl0-1-like anaphase spindles have DNA associated with
each with a bundle of short, apparently nuclear microtubules attached (see Fig. 1, a, asterisk). Late anaphase spindles have a consistent morphology: few or no chromosomes are attached to the SPB that enters the bud and the anti-tubulin staining appears to be asymmetrical, with the more intensely stained half associated with the chromosomes (Fig. 1). The dis mutants of S. pombe (Ohkura et al., 1988) also show the same phenomenon, although in this case the defect is thought to be one of chromosomal nondisjunction. Since the chromosomal microtubules are very short and closely attached to the poles at late anaphase (Peterson and Ris, 1976), the asymmetry in the anti-tubulin staining in both mutants could be due to the stabilization of the spindle microtubules by the environment around the chromosomes.

In the ts mutant the replicated DNA remains in the mother cell after mitosis and cell division. It is not clear why this happens, but it might be caused by a defect in chromosome attachment to the newly replicated SPB which Vallen et al. (1991) have shown to be preferentially segregated to the bud, while the pre-existing SPB would retain chromosomes in the mother. This would require the pre-existing kinetochores to remain active and preferentially associate with the mother SPB. In addition disjunction should not occur since there would now be two sets of chromatids, due to DNA replication continuing normally, but only one set of active kinetochores. However a preferential association of pre-existing kinetochores with the mother SPB seems unlikely since Neff and Burke (1991) have shown that pre-existing and newly replicated chromatids are randomly segregated, suggesting that the pre-existing kinetochores would be shared between the two SPBs, as indeed was also shown by Heath and Rethore (1981) from EM of Saprolegnia. An alternative and possibly more likely explanation could be based on the findings that in wild-type cells the nuclear DNA remains in the mother prior to anaphase (Palmer et al., 1989), and that multiple copy circular ARS plasmids lacking segregation elements also remain in the mother after mitosis (Murray and Szostak, 1983). These suggest the possibility of a different mechanism for retention of DNA in the mother cell, so that if all the kinetochores were inactive in the ts mutant, the DNA would remain in the mother cell. This proposal could also explain the difference in phenotype in the Ndc10p-depleted cells where unequal segregation is seen initially. Here, unattached chromosomes would remain in the mother while attached chromosomes would segregate between mother and bud.

Recently, Saunders and Hoyt (1992) proposed that there is a balance of forces in the budding yeast metaphase spindle. An elongating force operated by the mitotic kinesins Kiplp and Cin8p is balanced partly by Kar3p and possibly also kinetochore microtubules linked to paired but unseparated chromatids. The ndc10-1 mutant might be useful in a further test of this model, provided the microtubule-kinetochore linkage is absent during metaphase when the proposed elongating force due to the kinesins is operating. The abnormalities in the early anaphase spindles of ndc10-1 may be consistent with this model. It is possible that the elongating force could be dominant in the mutant so that the dumbbell metaphase spindle would begin to slide apart prematurely, leading to the observed morphology of two poles each with short microtubules attached and connected by a few pole to pole microtubules. However, a more careful analysis of the phenotype would be necessary before reaching a definite conclusion.

Clearly both ndc10-1 and the depleted cells are able to bypass any potential checkpoint system (Hartwell and Weinert, 1989) monitoring chromosome attachment to the spindle, since cells enter anaphase with chromosomes detached from the spindle. It is possible that a checkpoint might be simply overwhelmed in the mutants or that Ndc10p function is normally carried out with high reliability so no checkpoint is needed. There did however appear to be a delay in entering anaphase, particularly in the depleted cells, leading to an accumulation of large budded cells with short spindles, which is similar to the phenotype found in cells with centromere DNA mutations (Spencer and Hieter, 1992).

**Localization of Ndc10p**

The immunofluorescence pattern seen with anti-Ndc10p shows staining of the SPB region in nearly all cells examined, suggesting that localization to the SPB region is relatively cell cycle independent; in addition, there was fainter staining along short, presumably metaphase, spindles. Since Ndc10p is identical to Cbf2p (Jiang et al., 1993), a potential yeast kinetochore protein (Hyman et al., 1992), then does this observed staining pattern reflect kinetochore position during the cell cycle? To answer this question a number of points need to be considered.

First, is the sensitivity of the immunofluorescence method sufficient to detect yeast kinetochore proteins? There may only be a minimum of 32 copies of a particular kinetochore protein per spindle pole of a diploid yeast strain, assuming one copy per chromosome (Lechner and Carbon, 1991). Work in other systems suggests that such a copy number should be detectable if the molecules are in close proximity: for example myosin minifilaments containing 8 molecules can be detected by immunofluorescent staining with a mAb against the myosin head (Yonemura and Pollard, 1992), while around 50 molecules of a fluorescent cyanine dye were detected when bound to low density lipoprotein on the surface of a cell (Barak and Webb, 1981). In our case 32 copies of protein would have around a thousand molecules of FITC bound assuming threefold amplification by both first and second antibodies and with four moles of FITC per mole of second antibody. Thus both examples indicate that the fluorescent method has sufficient sensitivity, provided the molecules are in close proximity. However it may not detect functionally important molecules of Ndc10p present in low copy number.

Second, since the staining pattern was of low intensity it is important to establish that the antibodies used were specific to Ndc10p. Although the antibodies gave only weak staining of Ndc10p on immunoblots of whole wild-type cell extracts, extracts presumably to the very low copy number (Lechner and Carbon, 1991), they gave a strong specific signal close to the predicted size of 111 kD on immunoblots of cells overexpressing a slightly truncated Ndc10p. When Ndc10p was deleted, by switching off the GAL promoter, the staining of the SPB region and of short spindles disappeared at about the same time that the phenotype appeared, providing further evidence that the staining pattern observed is due to the presence of Ndc10p.

Third, since yeast kinetochores are not visible in whole
cells by conventional EM, then their position during the cell cycle can only be inferred from indirect experiments in yeast and from work on other fungi where kinetochores are visible. In *S. cerevisiae* Peterson and Ris (1976) mapped the position of discontinuous, probably chromosomal, microtubules. In *Saprolegnia* kinetochore position was mapped by EM throughout the cell cycle (Heath, 1980a; Heath and Rethoret, 1981), and in *S. pombe* preliminary experiments have mapped centromere position using DNA probes (Uzawa and Yanagida, 1992; Takahashi et al., 1992). If these three sets of results are combined, then some tentative conclusions can be drawn about kinetochore position during the cell cycle in *S. cerevisiae*. Since *S. cerevisiae*, like *Saprolegnia*, has nuclear microtubules attached to the SPB during interphase, then, as in *Saprolegnia* (Heath, 1980a), kinetochores may also be attached to these microtubules in interphase *S. cerevisiae* as proposed by Murray and Szostak (1985). During SPB replication, assuming *S. cerevisiae* is like *Saprolegnia* (Heath and Rethoret, 1981), the pre-existing kinetochores would be shared between the two SPBs and remain closely attached to them, a short spindle would form, and shortly after this kinetochore replication could take place. During metaphase there is some disagreement about the position of the kinetochores. Peterson and Ris (1976) concluded that there was a metaphase plate in *S. cerevisiae*; however, other Ascomycetes lack such an ordered array of chromatids, with kinetochore pairing occurring instead at various points along the metaphase spindle (Aist and Williams, 1972; Heath, 1980a). It is possible that the preparative technique used by Peterson and Ris (1976), swelling and lysis of spheroplasts during fixation to displace obscuring chromatin away from the spindle, may have removed paired chromosomes from the outside of the spindle and preferentially retained chromatin in the central core. This might give the appearance of an apparent metaphase plate. During spindle elongation at anaphase, paired kinetochores would divide and move towards the two poles becoming closely associated with the SPBs at later stages of anaphase. Note that this proposed behavior of fungal kinetochores, that is close association with the SPB except during metaphase, when pairing occurs along the spindle, is different from mammalian kinetochores. These are distributed through the nucleoplasm in interphase and form an ordered array in the center of the metaphase spindle (Moroi et al., 1980).

The immunofluorescence staining pattern observed with anti-Ndc10p antibodies is broadly but not completely in agreement with these proposed fungal kinetochore movements. In cells containing a single microtubule aster, which are presumably in interphase, staining is found close to the SPB. Sometimes the staining has a hole in the center of the aster (Hyman et al., 1992), this staining may reflect surplus active CBF3 associated with microtubules. A mammalian kinetochore antigen, CENP-E (Yen et al., 1991, 1992), also shows an unexpected distribution during mitosis. It is associated with the kinetochores at prometaphase and metaphase, but transfers to the midzone of the spindle at anaphase and then to the midbody after telophase. Thus, the immunofluorescent staining pattern of Ndc10p is for the most part consistent with the proposed pattern of kinetochore localization, but there are some inconsistencies and other possible interpretations of the staining pattern. Some of these problems may be resolved by study of a yeast with more favorable chromosome morphology, for example *Lipomyces lipofer* (Robinow, 1961).

In conclusion, we have isolated a nuclear division cycle gene ndclO-1 whose phenotype is a detachment of chromosomes from the spindle while DNA replication, anaphase and cytokinesis continue. *NDC10* is an essential gene whose gene product is localized to the SPB region during the cell cycle and along some short, presumably metaphase, spindles. The phenotype of both ndclO-1 and of cells depleted of Ndc10p and the localization of Ndc10p are consistent with its identity to *CBF2* (Jiang et al., 1993), a component of a yeast centromere DNA-binding complex (Lechner and Carbon, 1991).

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