Regulation of Mitochondrial Morphology and Inheritance by Mdm10p, A Protein of the Mitochondrial Outer Membrane

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Abstract. Yeast cells with the mdm10 mutation possess giant spherical mitochondria and are defective for mitochondrial inheritance. The giant mitochondria display classical features of mitochondrial ultrastructure, yet they appear incapable of movement or division. Genetic analysis indicated that the mutant phenotypes resulted from a single nuclear mutation, and the isolated MDM10 gene restored wild-type mitochondrial distribution and morphology when introduced into mutant cells. MDM10 encodes a protein of 56.2 kD located in the mitochondrial outer membrane. Depletion of Mdm10p from cells led to a condensation of normally extended, tubular mitochondria into giant spheres, and reexpression of the protein resulted in a rapid restoration of normal mitochondrial morphology. These results demonstrate that Mdm10p can control mitochondrial morphology, and that it plays a role in the inheritance of mitochondria.

Mitochondrial inheritance is an essential component of cell proliferation (Yaffe, 1991b). This inheritance requires the growth and division of preexisting mitochondria and the distribution of mitochondria between daughter cells before cell division (Attardi and Schatz, 1988). Cytoskeletal elements have been implicated in the positioning and movement of mitochondria (Hegness et al., 1978; Chen, 1988; McConnell and Yaffe, 1992; Drubin et al., 1993), but mechanisms underlying mitochondrial inheritance are poorly understood.

Mitochondria are usually found as snakelike tubules, widely distributed in the eukaryotic cytoplasm (Tragaoloff, 1982; Bereiter-Hahn, 1990). Often, these tubules are interconnected into extended mitochondrial reticula (Stevens, 1981; Chen, 1988). Microscopic studies of live cells have revealed that these mitochondrial networks are extremely dynamic, with tubular processes undergoing frequent fragmentation, branching, and fusion, as well as redistribution within the cytoplasm (Bereiter-Hahn, 1990; Koning et al., 1993). In addition to the dynamic properties of mitochondria found in most types of cells, certain pathological conditions lead to gross changes in mitochondrial morphology, including the development of giant mitochondria (Tandler and Hoppel, 1986; Inagaki et al., 1992). The molecular bases for these changes in mitochondrial morphology and distribution in both normal and diseased cells are unknown.

We recently described several Saccharomyces cerevisiae mutants defective for mitochondrial inheritance (McConnell et al., 1990). These mitochondrial distribution and morphology (mdm) mutants were identified by screening collections of temperature-sensitive strains by fluorescence microscopy for cells that failed to transfer mitochondria into daughter buds during incubation at the nonpermissive temperature. Analysis of two of these mutant strains led to the identification of a novel cytoskeletal component that mediates mitochondrial inheritance (McConnell and Yaffe, 1992, 1993), and it indicated a role for unsaturated fatty acids in mitochondrial movement (Stewart and Yaffe, 1991). Here, we describe a new mdm mutant that displays aberrant mitochondrial inheritance and gross changes in mitochondrial morphology.

Materials and Methods

Strains and Mutant Isolation

The mdm10-1 mutant (MYYS01) was isolated from a collection of 872 temperature-sensitive strains prepared by mutagenesis of yeast strain MY290 (MATa, leu2, his3, ura3) with ethyl methanesulfonate as described previously (Yaffe and Schatz, 1984). Mutant cultures were screened for defects in mitochondrial distribution and morphology by fluorescence microscopy as previously described (McConnell et al., 1990). Strains MYYS291 (MATa, leu2, his3, ura3) and MYYS297 (MATa/leu2/his3/leu2/his3/ura3) were described previously (Atecio and Yaffe, 1992). A yeast strain containing a deletion mutation in the MDM10 gene, MYYS03 (MATa, mdp10:URA3, leu2, his3), was created as described below. Media were prepared and standard genetic manipulations were performed as described by Rose et al. (1990). Yeast cells were transformed by the lithium acetate method (Ito et al., 1983). Plasmid DNA was prepared in Escherichia coli strain DH5α.

1. Abbreviations used in this paper: DASPMI, 2-(4-dimethylaminostryl)-l-methylpyridinium iodide; mdm, mitochondrial distribution and morphology (mutant).
Isolation and Sequence Analysis of the MDM10 gene

The MDM10 gene was isolated by complementation of the temperature-sensitive growth defect at 39°C. Mutant strain MY501 was transformed with a yeast genomic library in the yeast centromere vector p366 (obtained from M. Hoekstra). One temperature-resistant Leu* clone was isolated out of 1500 transformants. The complementing plasmid, p366-M10, contained a 9.0-kb insert of yeast DNA.

Complementation analysis of various subclones and deletion constructs derived from the 9.0-kb fragment indicated that the MDM10 gene occupied portions of a 1.1-kb HindIII fragment and an adjacent 3.8-kb HindIII-BamHI fragment. These fragments were cloned into Bluescript KS (Strategene, La Jolla, CA), and templates for sequencing were generated using Ex- cision restriction and nested deletions. Additional templates included several small restriction fragments subcloned into the Bluescript KS vector. Nucleotide sequences of these fragments were determined by using a Sequenase 2.0 DNA sequencing kit (U.S. Biochemical Corp., Cleveland, OH). The predicted amino acid sequence of Mdml0p was compared to sequences in the GenBank database with the FASTA program (Lipman and Pearson, 1985).

Integrative Transformation

A 3.5-kb BglII fragment isolated from plasmid p366-M10 was ligated into the BamHI site of plasmid YEp24 (Struhl et al., 1979). The resulting plasmid, pM2-2, was linearized with BstXI and transformed into yeast strain MYY290. YEp24-MD10 were crossed to MYYS01 (mdm10-1), and the resulting diploid was sporulated. Tetrad dissection revealed that 23/23 tetrads analyzed were of the parental diatype (2 Ura*, 2ts+; 2 Ura-, 2ts-). These results indicated that the integration event occurred within 2.2 cM of the mdm10 locus.

Gene Disruption of MDM10

A yeast mutant lacking most of the MDM10 coding region was constructed as follows. A 1.9-kb BglII-KpnI fragment containing the entire MDM10 gene was isolated from plasmid p366-M10 and ligated into plasmid Bluescript KS to yield plasmid BSMDM10. The 1.0-kb EcoRI fragment within the MDM10 gene in the BSMDM10 was deleted and replaced with the yeast UR43 gene on a HindIII fragment isolated from plasmid pFLIJ (Chevallier et al., 1980). The disrupted MDM10 gene was excised from the plasmid by digestion with XbaI and KpnI, isolated by gel electrophoresis, and transformed into MYY297. Ura* transformants were selected, and the diploids sporulated at 30°C. All four spore tetrads yielded two large spores and two small spores. The small spores were temperature sensitive and Ura*.

Preparation and Characterization of Antisera

Antibodies against Mdml0p were raised against a β-galactosidase-Mdml0p fusion protein. The 1.1-kb HindIII fragment encoding the COOH-terminal copy of wild-type (MYY290) and mutant (MYYS01) cells was performed on June 26, 2017 Downloaded from
Figure 1. *mdm10* cells display defects in mitochondrial distribution and morphology. Wild-type (A) or mutant (*mdm10-1*) (B) cells were grown overnight in YPD medium at 23°C, incubated at 37°C for 2 h, and fixed with formaldehyde. Mitochondria (a) were detected with a mouse monoclonal antibody against OM14 (a mitochondrial outer-membrane protein) followed by rhodamine-conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG. Nuclear and mitochondrial DNA (c) were visualized by staining with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole. Microtubules (d) were detected with a rat monoclonal antibody against tubulin followed by FITC-conjugated goat anti-rat IgG. Some fluorescence from the rhodamine channel (mitochondria) appears in the FITC channel (microtubules). Whole-cell, bright-field images of the corresponding cells are represented in the b panels. Bar, 2 μm.
aberrant mitochondrial distribution and morphology after incubation at 37°C. The screening procedure involved examination of yeast cultures by fluorescence microscopy after staining with the mitochondrial-specific dye 2-(4-dimethylaminostyryl)-6-[3-methyl-7-(diethylamino)-2-methyl-4-phenyl-tetrazolium-5-carboxylate (MTT). One strain displayed both deficient transfer of mitochondria into daughter buds and abnormally large mitochondrial structures. Indirect immunofluorescence microscopy of these cells confirmed the presence of large spherical mitochondrial structures and the absence of mitochondria from a large fraction of daughter buds (Fig. 1). The large mitochondria were present at both permissive and restrictive temperatures. Aberrant mitochondrial morphology was found in virtually all mutant cells. The enlarged mitochondria and defective mitochondrial inheritance were observed in cells grown on either fermentable (glucose or galactose) and nonfermentable (glycerol, ethanol, or lactate) carbon sources. In addition, growth of mdm10 cells on nonfermentable carbon sources led to the production of multiple daughter buds, with 60–65% of these buds failing to receive mitochondria. Cells with the mdm10 mutation grew about threefold slower than wild-type cells on rich glucose medium and about 14-fold slower than wild-type on semisynthetic lactate medium. Microscopic examination also indicated that the mdm10 lesion had no effect on nuclear transfer to buds or on the apparent function of the microtubule cytoskeleton. Genetic analysis involving backcrosses of the mdm10 mutant to the wild-type parental strain and tetrade analysis demonstrated that the defects in mitochondrial inheritance, mitochondrial morphology, and growth at 37°C were all caused by a single recessive nuclear mutation (data not shown).

Examination of mdm10 cells by electron microscopy confirmed the presence of giant, spherical mitochondria (Fig. 2). These giant mitochondria displayed classical structural features, including double membranes and elaborate cristae. However, cross-sectional diameters of the giant mitochondria were 1.0–1.6 μm compared to a diameter of 0.3–0.5 μm in wild-type cells. Most mutant cells contained only a single giant mitochondrion, although a few cells contained two or three such structures. Frequently, a small mitochondrion of wild-type size was also present (Fig. 2).

The giant mitochondria in mdm10 cells were at least partially competent for oxidative phosphorylation because cells were able to grow (albeit slowly) on nonfermentable carbon sources at 23°C or 30°C. In addition, the giant mitochondria rapidly accumulated potential sensitive dyes.

**Isolation and Analysis of the MDM10 Gene**

To determine the molecular basis for defects in the mdm10 cells, the wild-type MDM10 gene was cloned by complementation of the temperature-sensitive growth phenotype. Out of 1500 Leu+ transformants, a single colony that contained a plasmid conferring growth at 37°C was isolated. This plasmid also complemented the mitochondrial morphology and distribution phenotypes. Restriction analysis demonstrated that the complementing plasmid contained a 9.0-kb insert of yeast genomic DNA. Complementation analysis with various fragments of this insert suggested that the MDM10 gene was contained within a 1.9-kb BglI-KpnI fragment (Fig. 3). The cloned DNA was shown to correspond to sequences from the mdm10 locus (rather than encoding an extragenic suppressor) by integrative transformation and mapping (see Materials and Methods).

Nucleotide sequence analysis revealed that the complementing fragment contained a single large open reading frame of 1482 bases encoding a potential protein product of 56.2 kD (Fig. 4). Comparison of the putative amino acid sequence with sequences in the GenBank database indicated that MDM10 was previously identified as an open reading frame adjacent to the SP07 gene on chromosome I and was designated FUN37 (FUN = function unknown now) (Whyte et al., 1990) and as YAL010 (Ouellette et al., 1993). The Mdm10p amino acid sequence does not display significant similarities to other known proteins, common motifs for functional sites, or characteristic targeting sequences for subcellular localization. The sequence does contain a large number of hydroxylated amino acids (26% of the total residues are serine, threonine, or tyrosine) and, consequently, a number of potential phosphorylation sites.

To analyze further the cellular requirements for MDM10, a null mutation was created by replacing a large portion of the coding region of one of two chromosomal copies of MDM10 with the yeast URA3 gene in a diploid cell (Fig. 3 and Materials and Methods). The gene disruption was confirmed by Southern analysis (data not shown). The transformed diploid was sporulated, and growth of the meiotic progeny was examined. Spores containing the gene disruption (ura') grew slowly at 23°C (with rates similar to that of the mdm10-I cells) and were unable to grow at 37°C (data not shown). Microscopic analysis of the cells containing the mdm10-null allele revealed phenotypes very similar to those of the original mdm10 isolate: large spherical mitochondria were present in virtually all cells and daughter buds deficient in mitochondria were present at both 23°C and 37°C (Fig. 5). Transformation of the null mutant with a centromere-based plasmid encoding the wild-type MDM10 gene restored the wild-type phenotypes (data not shown). These results indicated that MDM10 is essential for viability at elevated temperatures and for optimal growth at lower temperatures.

**Mdm10p is a Component of the Mitochondrial Outer Membrane**

To determine the intracellular location of Mdm10p, antibodies were raised in rabbits against a β-galactosidase-Mdm10p fusion protein. This antiserum recognized polypeptides of 56, 57, and ~170 kD on a Western blot of proteins from a yeast cell homogenate (Fig. 6 A). The 56- kD band was absent in extracts prepared from the mdm10-null strain (Fig. 6 A). Antibodies affinity-purified on the 56-kD band recognized the 56-kD polypeptide is the product of the MDM10 gene. Antibodies affinity-purified on the 56-kD band (Mdm10p) recognized both the 56- and 57-kD polypeptide species. This observation indicates that the two proteins share one or more epitopes, even though they are unrelated genetically. The subcellular distribution of Mdm10p was analyzed by Western blotting of proteins extracted from subcellular fractions. Mdm10p was found in the mitochondrial fraction (Fig. 6 B), and it was deficient in fractions depleted of mitochondria. Mitochondrial subfractionation revealed that Mdm10p was enriched in the outer membrane (Fig. 6 C) and fraction-
Figure 2. Transmission electron microscopy reveals giant mitochondria in mdm10 cells. Wild-type (A) or mutant (mdm10-1) (B) cells were cultured as described in Materials and Methods, prefixed with glutaraldehyde, fixed in KMnO4, and stained in uranyl acetate. Sections were stained with lead citrate. m, mitochondria; n, nuclei; v, vacuole. Bar, 1 μm.

Figure 3. Restriction map and disruption of the MDM10 gene. Map of some restriction endonuclease sites in the 2.0-kb complementing fragment. The solid arrow indicates the MDM10 open reading frame. The mdm10-null strain was created by replacement of most of the MDM10 open reading frame with the URA3 gene as indicated. Restrictions sites: C, ClaI; B1, BglII; S, Scal; H3, HindIII; R1, EcoRI; B2, BglII; K, KpnI.
Figure 4. Sequence of the MDM10 gene and its predicted protein product. These sequence data are available from EMBL/GenBank/DDBJ under accession number X80874.
Figure 5. Giant mitochondria and empty buds in the null mutant. MYYS03 (mdml0-null) cells were cultured in semisynthetic-lactate medium at 23°C, stained with the mitochondrial-specific dye, DASPMI, and embedded in 1% low melting agarose before photomicroscopy. Shown is a typical cell with a single giant mitochondrion and multiple empty buds. (A) Phase contrast microscopy. (B) Fluorescence microscopy. Bar, 3 μm.

Figure 6. Mdml0p is a protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane. (A) Whole-cell homogenates were prepared from wild-type (MYY290) and mdml0-null (MYYS03) yeast grown on semisynthetic medium with lactate. Proteins were separated by SDS-PAGE and Mdm10p was detected by Western blotting. 300 μg protein were loaded per lane. Arrow indicates Mdm10p. The mobilities of molecular mass markers, indicated in kilodaltons, are shown at the left. (B) Subcellular fractions were isolated from yeast strain MYY290 (wild-type) grown on semisynthetic medium with lactate. Proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting with antibodies against Mdm10p, β subunit of the F1-ATPase (F1β), a mitochondrial protein, and a cytoplasmic protein, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PDH). 100 μg protein were loaded per lane. HOM, whole-cell homogenate; LSP, low speed pellet; MITO, mitochondria; INT, intermediate pellet; HSP, high speed pellet; CYTO, cytosol. Arrow indicates Mdm10p. (C) Western blot of proteins from sucrose gradient fractions of mitochondrial membranes. Mitochondrial membranes were layered on a linear gradient (0.85-1.6 M sucrose) and centrifuged at 100,000 g for 16 h. Fractions (2 ml) were collected and processed as described in Materials and Methods. Identical amounts of protein from each fraction were analyzed by SDS-PAGE and Western blotting. Blots probed with antiserum against Mdm10p contained 20 μg protein in each lane. Blots analyzed for OM45, a major 45-kD protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane contained 5 μg protein per lane. Blots probed with antiserum against COX IV (subunit 4 of cytochrome oxidase), a component of the mitochondrial inner membrane, contained 10 μg in each lane.
ated similar to OM45, a major protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane. These results demonstrated that Mdm10p is a protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane.

To confirm the outer membrane location of Mdm10p, the protein's accessibility to proteases added to isolated, intact mitochondria was examined. Mdm10p was degraded by proteinase K treatment (Fig. 7), under conditions where cytochrome b2, a protein of the intermembrane space, was protected. Both Mdm10p and cytochrome b2 were degraded by proteinase K added to mitochondria possessing broken outer membranes (data not shown). These results confirm the outer membrane location of Mdm10p and indicate that at least a portion of the protein is exposed to the cytoplasm.

The predicted amino acid sequence of Mdm10p does not include a characteristic hydrophobic membrane-spanning domain, so the nature of Mdm10p association with the outer membrane was investigated using various chemical treatments of purified mitochondria. Mdm10p was not extracted from the mitochondrial membranes by treatment with 0.2 M KCl or 0.3 M KI (data not shown), or by extraction with sodium carbonate at pH 10.8 (Fig. 7). The latter treatment generally is sufficient to release peripheral membrane proteins (Fujiki et al., 1982). When mitochondria were extracted with the detergent Triton X-114, Mdm10p partitioned into the detergent phase, similar to other integral membrane proteins (Bordier, 1981) (Fig. 7). Mdm10p was not released from the outer membrane by treatment with phospholipases (data not shown), and consensus sequences for lipid modification are not found in the predicted amino acid sequence. These results suggest that Mdm10p is an integral membrane protein.

**MMD10 Expression Can Control Mitochondrial Morphology**

Since mmd10 mutant cells contain giant mitochondria even at permissive temperatures, the origin of these enlarged organelles was unclear. To clarify the relationship between the giant mitochondria and Mdm10p, the **MDM10** gene was placed under control of the inducible GalI promoter in an mmd10-null strain, and changes in mitochondrial morphology were analyzed after the termination of Mdm10p expression. To facilitate the turnover of preexisting Mdm10p, a gene fusion (pUBM10-R) was constructed that produced a chimeric protein containing ubiquitin-lacI sequences fused to the amino terminus of Mdm10p. Previous studies (Bachmair et al., 1986; Park et al., 1992) have demonstrated that the ubiquitin moiety of such a fusion protein is rapidly cleaved in yeast cells, and that the stability of the remaining protein depends on the identity of the new amino-terminal residue. This residue was designed to be an arginine that was predicted (Bachmair et al., 1986) to confer a short half-life on the protein. After cleavage of the ubiquitin, the resulting protein appeared ~6 kD larger than native Mdm10p, yet it localized to mitochondria (data not shown), and was fully functional for complementing the mmd10-null mutation (see Fig. 9 B, 0 h).

Western blot analysis of protein samples extracted from cells at various times after removal of galactose from the culture media (Fig. 8) suggested that Mdm10p levels were initially higher than that found in wild-type cells. No effect of this overexpression of Mdm10p on mitochondrial distribution or morphology was apparent. Mdm10p subsequently decreased to undetectable levels by 15 h after removal of galactose, while cellular levels of two other proteins, β subunit of the F1-ATPase (a mitochondrial component) and the cytoplasmic protein, glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, showed only minimal changes after termination of MDM10 expression (Fig. 8 B). Mitochondria in these cells initially appeared as snakelike structures and extended reticulated networks as observed by fluorescence microscopy. This wild-type morphology was still present after 8 h. After 15 h, the mitochondria in a large fraction of cells appeared to have condensed into one or two thick loglike structures (Fig. 9 B, 15 h). After 24 h, in addition to a substantial fraction of cells possessing condensed mitochondria (Fig. 9 B, 24 h, top panel), many cells were observed with large mitochondrial balls (Fig. 9 B, 24 h, lower panel). By this time, a number of cells also possessed empty daughter buds devoid of mitochondria (Fig. 9 C). The number of cells with giant mitochondria and with empty buds increased further during the next 24 h (Fig. 9 B, 48 h). Mitochondrial morphologies in wild-type cells harboring the pUBM10-R construct showed little change after removal of galactose (Fig. 9 A). Although it was not technically possible to follow the fate of individual cells, quantitative analysis of populations of cells (Fig. 10 A) suggested that depletion of Mdm10p led to the progressive condensation of mitochondrial structures into giant mitochondria. These results demonstrate that the depletion of Mdm10p leads to progressive changes in mitochondrial morphology that result in giant spherical mitochondria.
The function of MDM10 in establishing normal mitochondrial morphology was explored further by reexpressing Mdm10p in cells first depleted of the protein. The addition of galactose, which induced the expression of the chimeric Mdm10p (encoded by pUBM10-R), led to the rapid reversal of the morphological defects (Fig. 10 B). After 1 h, 70% of cells possessed mitochondria with extended stringy morphologies, and the number of cells with wild-type mitochondria increased further during the next hour. These results indicate that restoring expression of Mdm10p can lead to the reestablishment of normal mitochondrial morphology.

Discussion

Mdm10p can regulate mitochondrial morphology. Mitochondria normally comprise an extended reticulated network distributed throughout the periphery of the yeast cytoplasm (Stevens, 1981; Koning et al., 1993). Loss of Mdm10p led to the appearance of a condensed mitochondrial mass and the eventual development of giant, spherical, or oval mitochondria. This process appeared to occur by a collapse of elongated mitochondrial tubules and a rearrangement of preexisting mitochondrial components. The reexpression of Mdm10p resulted in a rapid return to an extended snakelike mitochondrial morphology. A similar reversal of mutant morphology was observed after the mating of haploid mmd/0 cells to wild-type cells of the opposite mating type (data not shown). The dumbbell-shaped zygotes resulting from such matings initially possessed giant spherical mitochondria on one side of the cell and wild-type mitochondria on the other side. Over time, the giant mitochondria in these zygotes appeared to fragment into elongated tubules and eventually only mitochondria of normal morphology were present. These observations suggest that Mdm10p can influence a dynamic equilibrium between different mitochondrial morphologies. Alterations in mitochondrial morphology have also been reported in another yeast mutant, mgm/ (Guan et al., 1993). MGMI encodes a dynamin-like protein that is required for maintenance of the mitochondrial genome (Jones and Fangman, 1992), however, the specific function and subcellular location of this component has not been established.

Immunological and biochemical analyses indicated that Mdm10p is an integral protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane. The tight membrane association of Mdm10p was unexpected because the deduced amino acid sequence lacks a characteristic hydrophobic domain of sufficient length to span the membrane (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982). Additionally, we have been unable to obtain evidence for the presence of covalently attached lipids that could anchor the protein to the outer membrane. The predicted protein sequence does contain four stretches of 15–21 uncharged amino acids (residues 102-119, 221-235, 237-252, and 264-284), and one or several of these domains potentially could span the membrane. Interestingly, another important protein of the mitochondrial outer membrane in yeast, ISP42, also behaves as an integral membrane protein but lacks a typical membrane-spanning domain in its sequence (Baker et al., 1990). Similarly, the α subunit of the signal recognition particle receptor is firmly embedded in the endoplasmic reticulum membrane but does not contain a classical transmembrane domain (Lauffer et al., 1985).
MDM10 is essential for cell proliferation at elevated temperatures and necessary for optimal growth at lower temperatures. This requirement of Mdm10p is likely to reflect defective mitochondrial inheritance in the mdm10 mutant. Previous studies have suggested that mitochondria supply some essential cellular functions in addition to their role in energy metabolism (Yaffe and Schatz, 1984; Gbelska et al., 1983; Kovacova et al., 1968), so daughter cells that fail to receive mitochondria are unlikely to proliferate. Mutant mdm10 cells do proliferate (albeit slowly) at permissive temperatures, and a fraction of daughter buds receive some mitochondria. The source of these inherited mitochondria is unclear because the mutant cells contain giant mitochondria, even at permissive temperatures, and the giant mitochondria do not appear to be transferred to daughter buds. A possible explanation is that the small mitochondria that are often present along with the giant organelles in mdm10 cells (Fig. 2) are transferred to buds during mitotic growth. The presence of these small mitochondria in the mutant cells suggests that an alternative or bypass pathway for mitochondrial division and inheritance may operate in mdm10 cells. This bypass pathway may be inadequate to support mitochondrial inheritance at higher temperatures.

Several observations suggest that the giant spherical mito-
mitochondria are generally defective for division and inheritance. First, structural features suggesting mitochondrial division, such as division furrows or constricted regions, were not apparent in electron micrographs of mdm10 cells. Second, examination of multibudded mdm10 cells (a common phenotype on nonfermentable carbon sources) generally revealed one or two giant mitochondria in the mother portion of the cell and many buds lacking mitochondria. Although these cells had gone through multiple rounds of bud formation, the number of mitochondria had not increased, consistent with a defect in mitochondrial division. Third, the giant mitochondria were rarely found by microscopy in daughter buds, further suggesting that these mitochondria were not competent for inheritance. Finally, in contrast to the rapid and frequent alteration of mitochondrial distribution in wild-type cells (Koning et al., 1993), little mitochondrial movement was detected in time-lapse photomicroscopic analysis of mdm10 cells (Yaffe, M., unpublished data). An inefficient process may operate in mdm10 cells to allow occasional division or budding of mitochondria, and this process could provide a source of the small mitochondria that frequently accompany the giant organelles.

How can loss of Mdm10p lead to defects in mitochondrial morphology, division, and inheritance? One model that connects these different phenotypes is that mitochondrial morphology, division, and inheritance all depend on interaction of mitochondria with the cytoskeleton and that this interaction requires Mdm10p. Since Mdm10p appears to be anchored in the mitochondrial outer membrane with a portion of its sequence accessible to the cytoplasm, this protein might provide a direct physical link between cytoskeletal components and the organelle. Such a "handle" (Mdm10p or associated protein) on the outer membrane could function in both the transport of mitochondria along extended cytoskeletal tracks and the pulling out of a mitochondrion to produce the characteristic tubular morphology. Similarly, pulling of a mitochondrion in opposite directions might facilitate the division of the organelle. In the absence of Mdm10p, the reticulated mitochondria would lose their connections to the cytoskeleton and collapse into a basic spherical structure. Alternatively, Mdm10p could regulate the binding of a second outer membrane protein to elements of the cytoskeleton. A second model for Mdm10p function is that the protein's primary role is for the determination of an extended, tubular, mitochondrial morphology, and that this morphology, rather than the direct function of Mdm10p per se, is required for mitochondrial division and movement. The identification of proteins that interact with Mdm10p will provide further insight into molecular mechanisms mediating the morphology, division, and inheritance of mitochondria.

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