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Differential Distribution of Factors Involved in Pre-mRNA Processing in the Yeast Cell Nucleus

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The yeast cell nucleus has previously been shown to be divided into two regions by a variety of microscopic approaches. We used antibodies specific for the 2,2,7-trimethylguanosine cap structure of small nuclear ribonucleic acids (snRNAs) and for a protein component of small nuclear ribonucleoprotein particles to identify the distribution of small nuclear ribonucleoprotein particles within the yeast cell nucleus. These studies were performed with the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* and the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. By using immunofluorescence microscopy and immunoelectron microscopy, most of the abundant snRNAs were localized to the portion of the nucleus which has heretofore been referred to as the nucleolus. This distribution of snRNAs is different from that found in mammalian cells and suggests that the nucleolar portion of the yeast nucleus contains functional domains in addition to those associated with RNA polymerase I activity.

The nuclei of mammalian cells are organized into defined structural and functional domains. The domains which are readily visible by phase-contrast microscopy are the nucleoplasm and the nucleolus. Electron microscopic studies have shown that the nucleoplasm is composed of euchromatic and heterochromatic domains, as well as numerous fibrillar and granular components (for a review, see reference 4) about which little functional information is available. The interphase nucleolus is attached to the nuclear envelope (23) and is organized into three distinct regions: the fibrillar centers, the dense fibrillar component, and the granular component (12, 15, 17). DNA emanating from the chromosomal nucleolus-organizing region extends into the nucleolus via the fibrillar center(s); the chromatin in these regions (fibrillar centers) of the nucleolus is transcriptionally inactive. Transcriptionally active chromatin is found in the fibrillar regions surrounding the fibrillar centers. The 80S preribosomal particles accumulate in the granular region of the nucleolus.

In contrast to vertebrate nuclei, yeast nuclei are considerably smaller and appear to have less apparent internal structure. By phase-contrast microscopy, a dark, crescent-shaped region is apparent on one side of the nucleus (30, 46). Electron microscopy has revealed that there are two readily distinguishable regions of a yeast nucleus; one electron-dense region that occupies about one-third to one-half of the nucleus and a less electron-dense region (16, 30, 31, 45, 46, 50, 56). DNase treatment of isolated nuclei, followed by electron microscopic examination, has suggested that the region of low electron density is composed of chromatin (31, 49). The chromatin region is uniform in appearance and cannot be easily divided into euchromatic and heterochromatic regions (16, 30, 31, 45, 46, 50, 56). The electron-dense region of the nucleus has been referred to as the nucleolus on the basis of ultrastructural studies which have shown that this region contains morphological components which resemble the nucleolonema (fibrillar regions) seen in nucleoli of higher eucaryotes (16, 31, 50, 56). In addition, studies

have shown that this region is RNA and protein rich (31) and both the 37S and 28S rRNA precursors are located there (49, 50). In conventional transmission electron micrographs of the budding yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (16, 31, 50) and the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* (30, 45), the nucleolar region which is attached to the nuclear envelope appears to lack any additional substructure. However, nuclei of the fission yeast *Schizosaccharomyces japonicus* var. *versatilis* show patches of low electron density within the nucleolar region (43). Similar regions of low electron density have been observed in transmission electron micrographs of *S. pombe* when the cells are fixed by the method of freeze-substitution (56). No function has been assigned to these regions of low electron density.

In addition to the classical morphological and biochemical studies, immunolabeling studies have been used to identify structural and functional subregions of the nucleus. Such an approach was used in mammalian cells to localize small nuclear ribonucleoprotein particles (snRNPs) (34, 42, 52, 53). In eucaryotes, there are six abundant small nuclear ribonucleic acids (snRNAs), referred to as U1 to U6, which are complexed with several polypeptides to form snRNPs (for a review, see reference 29). U1, U2, U4, U5, and U6 have been shown to be essential for pre-mRNA splicing (for a review, see reference 55). U3 is localized in the nucleolus (5, 38, 41) and is most likely involved with rRNA processing (11, 38, 41). All of the U snRNAs, except for U6, have a 2,2,7-trimethylguanosine (m_3G) cap structure at their 5' ends. All of the snRNPs with which these snRNAs are associated are recognized by anti-Sm serum from individuals with certain autoimmune diseases, such as lupus erythematosus (33), except for U3, which is nucleolar (39). Anti-Sm antibodies (27, 33, 34, 48, 51-54) and antibodies that recognize the m_3G cap (42) have been used to localize snRNPs in mammalian cells. The particles are concentrated in clusters commonly referred to as speckles within the nonchromatin-containing region of the nucleoplasm (53). Recently, Fu and Maniatis (14) have shown that a splicing factor which is not a snRNP protein colocalizes to these speckled nuclear regions. A three-dimensional reconstruction of a mammalian cell nucleus by immunoelectron microscopy has revealed that this speckled pattern of snRNPs forms a reticular

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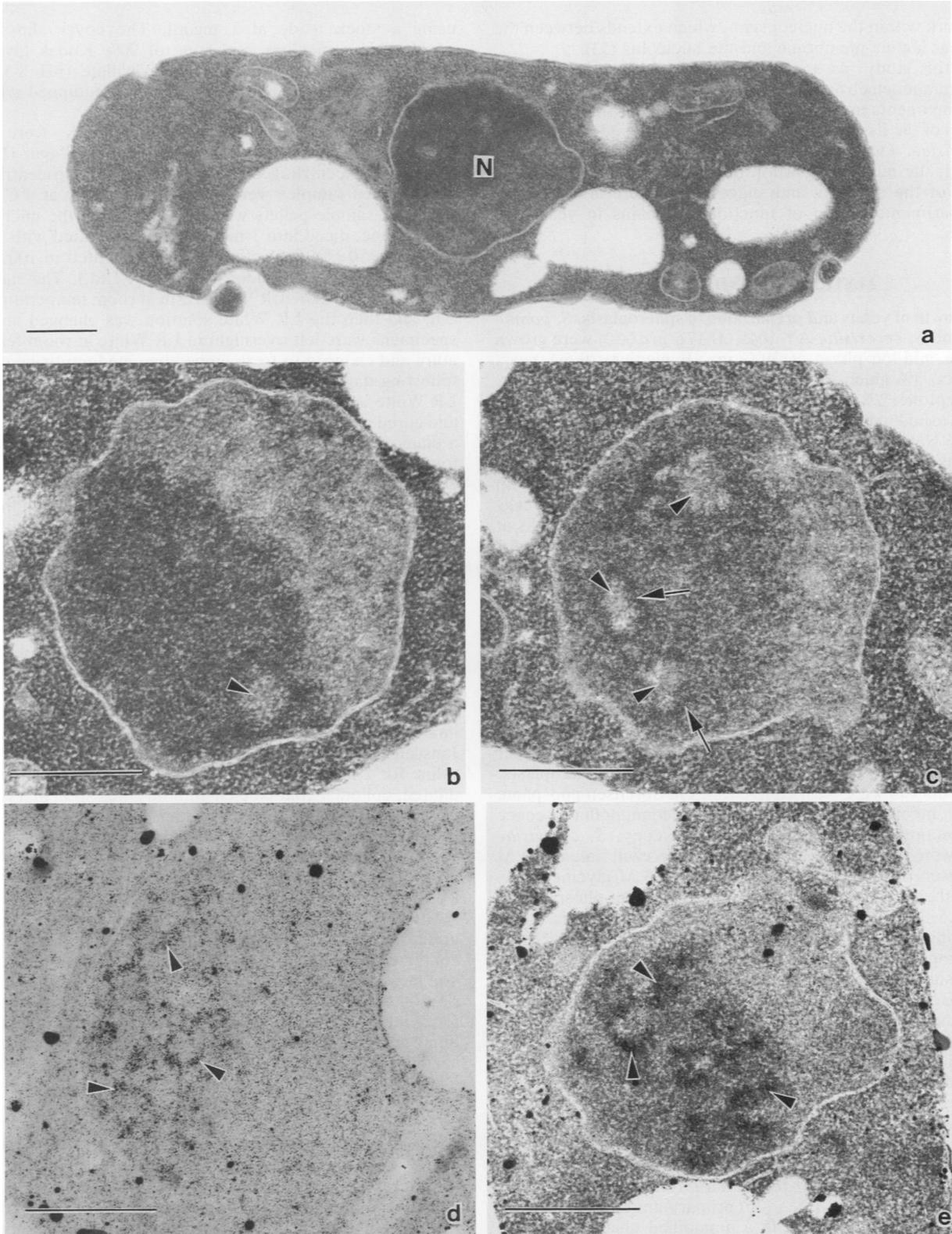


FIG. 1. Standard transmission electron micrograph of a cell section of *S. pombe* (a) showing the electron-dense and less electron-dense portions of the cell nucleus (N). Within the electron-dense portion of the nucleus, irregularly shaped electron-lucid regions were visible (b and c, arrowheads). These regions resemble fibrillar centers of mammalian cell nucleoli. Usually, one to five such regions were seen in each cell section. Often these regions were surrounded by a region of greater electron density (c, arrows) which resembles the fibrillar component of mammalian cell nucleoli. Silver-stained cell sections revealed a densely staining latticework within one portion of the cell nucleus (d). When silver-stained sections were poststained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, this latticework was observed to be localized within the nucleolar portion of the cell nucleus (e). The silver-stained regions often surrounded the less electron-dense fibrillar centers (e). Bars, 0.5 μm .

network within the nucleoplasm, which extends between the nuclear lamina-membrane and the nucleolus (53).

In this study, we used immunofluorescence microscopy and immunoelectron microscopy to evaluate the localization of components involved in pre-mRNA processing within the nuclei of the fission yeast *S. pombe* and the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae*. Our results show that unlike mammalian cell nuclei, the nucleolar portion of the yeast nucleus contains most of the snRNAs and suggest that there is a different compartmentalization of functional domains in yeast cell nuclei.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Growth of yeasts and preparation of spheroplasts. *S. pombe* 972 and *S. cerevisiae* AY 1045 (*MAT α ura3-52*) were grown to the mid-log phase at 30°C in YE medium (0.5% yeast extract, 3% glucose) and YPD medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% glucose), respectively. Cells were harvested and washed in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) (10 mM PO₄, 0.85% NaCl) at pH 7.3 for fluorescence microscopy or 0.1 M Sorensen phosphate buffer at pH 5.6 for electron microscopy. *S. pombe* cells were fixed for electron microscopy in Sorensen phosphate buffer at pH 5.6, and *S. cerevisiae* cells were fixed in the same buffer at pH 6.0 to keep the cells at the same pH as the medium in which they were grown for better preservation of the cellular ultrastructure. Cells were fixed for 1 h in 2% formaldehyde–0.01% glutaraldehyde in PBS for fluorescence microscopy or 2% formaldehyde–0.1% glutaraldehyde in Sorensen phosphate buffer for electron microscopy. Formaldehyde solutions were made fresh from paraformaldehyde. *S. pombe* cells were then washed three times in Sorensen phosphate buffer containing 0.3 M glycine, harvested, suspended at a concentration of 10⁷/ml in 1.2 M sorbitol–50 mM citrate-phosphate (pH 5.6)–40 mM EDTA–1 mM β -mercaptoethanol–1 mg of Novozyme (Novolab) per ml, and incubated at 37°C for 1 h to prepare spheroplasts. Spheroplasts were washed five times in Sorensen phosphate buffer before further processing for immunofluorescence microscopy or immunoelectron microscopy. *S. cerevisiae* cells were washed three times for 10 min each time in 0.1 M Sorensen phosphate buffer containing 0.3 M glycine. Cells were then washed in 0.1 M dibasic potassium phosphate at pH 6.5 for 10 min and were then incubated in this buffer containing 0.1 mg of Zymolyase per ml for 45 min at 30°C. Spheroplasts were washed three times in 0.1 M dibasic potassium phosphate, followed by three 10-min washes in Sorensen phosphate buffer before further processing for immunoelectron microscopy.

Immunofluorescence microscopy. Spheroplasts were permeabilized with 0.2% Triton X-100 in PBS (pH 7.3) containing 0.5% normal goat serum for 1 min and then washed three times in PBS containing 1% normal goat serum. Spheroplasts (100 μ l) were applied to a poly-L-lysine-coated glass cover slip, and the spheroplasts were allowed to attach for 15 min. The cover slip was washed for 10 min with PBS. The spheroplasts were incubated with a 1:10 dilution of anti-m₃G (24), D77 (1), or anti-DNA (25) primary antibody in PBS for 1 h at room temperature in a humidified chamber. Subsequently, the samples were washed three times in PBS and incubated with an affinity-purified fluorescein isothiocyanate-conjugated goat-anti-mouse immunoglobulin G secondary antibody (Organon Teknika) at a dilution of 1:20 in PBS for 1 h at room temperature in a humidified chamber. Samples were washed four times in PBS and then counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole·2HCl (Serva) by

using a stock made at 1 mg/ml. The cover slips were mounted in a medium consisting of 90% Kodak glycerol, 10% PBS, and 4% (wt/vol) *n*-propylgallate (pH 8.5) and viewed with a Zeiss Photomicroscope II equipped with an HBO 100-W mercury light source.

Immunoelectron microscopy. Spheroplasts were suspended and pelleted in 0.5 ml of a 2% melted agar (Difco) solution and centrifuged in an Eppendorf microcentrifuge. The pelleted samples were allowed to solidify at 4°C for 5 min. The sample pellets were removed from the microcentrifuge tube, diced into 1-mm cubes, dehydrated with 7-min washes in 70 and 80% ethanol, and infiltrated in 100% LR White (hard grade; London Resin Co., Ltd.). The samples were placed in 100% LR White resin at room temperature for 2 h, and then the LR White solution was changed and the specimens were left overnight in LR White at room temperature and changed to fresh embedding medium twice on the following day. The samples were then transferred to fresh LR White in 00 gelatin capsules. The blocks were hardened and cured at 55°C overnight. Thin sections were cut by using a diamond knife on a Reichert-Jung Ultracut-E ultramicrotome. Thin (80-nm) sections were picked up on 300-mesh gold grids.

For immunolabeling, grids were floated face down in m₃G antibody (24) or D77 antibody (1) diluted 1:1 in Tris-buffered saline containing 20 mM Tris (pH 7.6), 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM sodium azide, and 1.0% Tween 20 at 4°C overnight in a humidified chamber. Before incubation with anti-ribonucleoprotein particle antibody 58 at a dilution of 1:7,500, sections were blocked in buffer containing 8% bovine serum albumin for 30 min. On the following morning, the grids were equilibrated to room temperature and then washed for 15 min in Tris-buffered saline. The grids were then transferred to colloidal gold-conjugated goat anti-mouse or anti-human immunoglobulin G (10- or 15-nm-diameter gold particles; Janssen Life Sciences Products) diluted 1:20 in Tris-buffered saline for 1 h at room temperature. Before incubation, the diluted, colloidal gold-labeled antibody was spun in a microcentrifuge for 5 min at room temperature. After incubation, the grids were washed for 15 min in Tris-buffered saline and 10 min in water and counterstained with Reynolds lead citrate (43) and uranyl acetate. Samples were examined at 75 kV in a Hitachi H-7000 transmission electron microscope.

Silver staining. LR White cell sections collected on gold grids were floated for 5 min at 55°C in a mixture that contained 1 volume of 2% gelatin in 1% formic acid and 2 volumes of 50% silver nitrate solution (32). Grids were rinsed in distilled water, immersed in 5% thiosulfate solution for 5 min, and thoroughly rinsed in distilled water again. Some sections were then poststained in 2% aqueous uranyl acetate and lead citrate.

RESULTS

Standard electron microscopy and nucleolar silver staining. Thin (80-nm) sections of yeast spheroplasts embedded in LR White resin were stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and the overall ultrastructure of 100 cells was examined. The nuclear envelopes in these preparations appeared in negative contrast because of the solubility of lipids in LR White resin (Fig. 1a). Most of the nuclei contained a light-staining region and a dark-staining region (Fig. 1a). The percentage of the total nucleus occupied by each of these regions in each section varied depending upon the plane of section through the nucleus. The light-staining region has previously been shown to contain chromatin (31, 50). As in

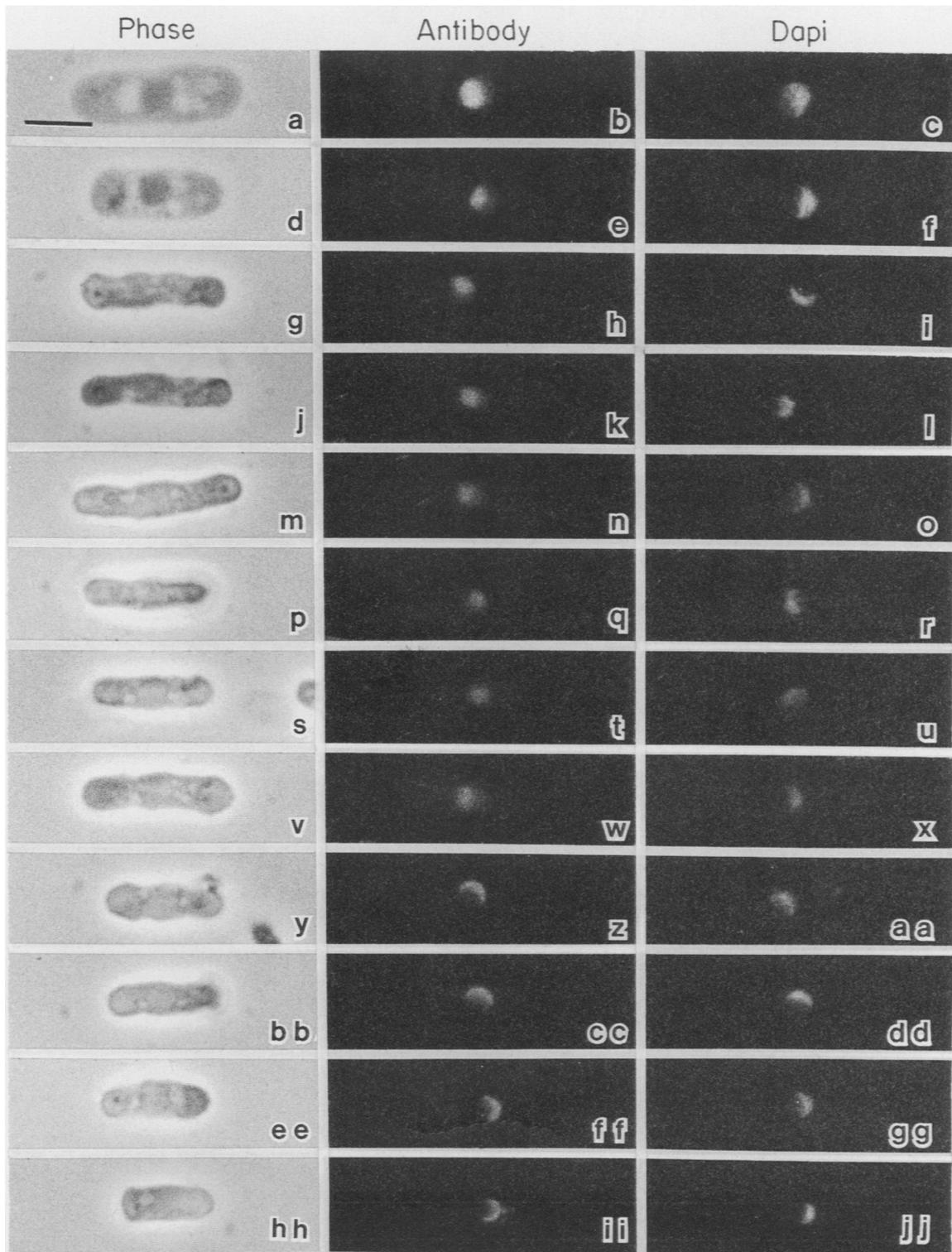
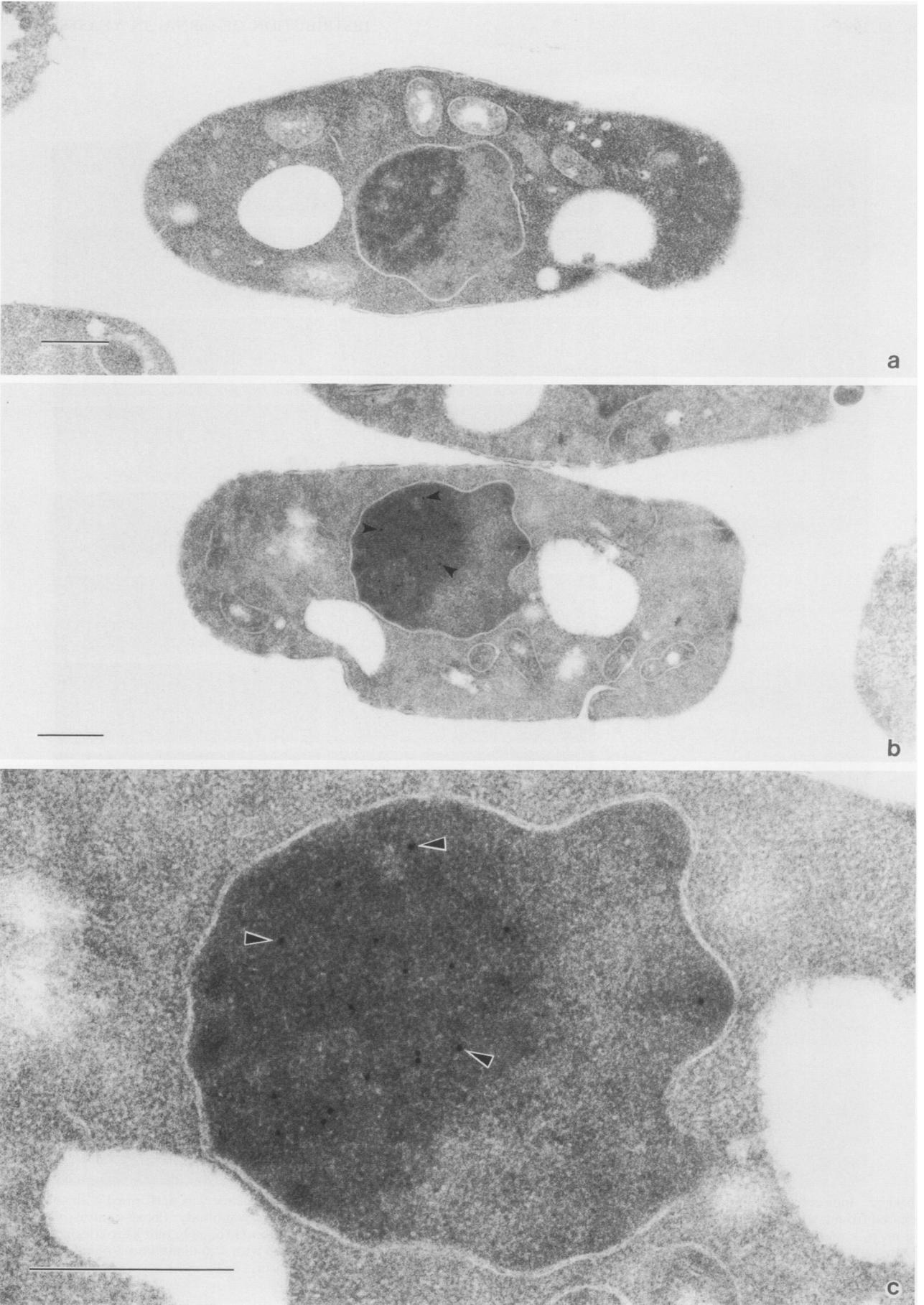


FIG. 2. Indirect immunofluorescence localization of snRNAs, nucleoli, and DNA. Immunofluorescence was performed with spheroplasts prepared from a wild-type strain of *S. pombe* by using a fluorescein-conjugated anti-mouse secondary antibody. Phase-contrast views (a, d, g, j, m, p, s, v, y, bb, ee, and hh) and immunofluorescence micrographs of cells labeled with anti-m₃G (b, e, h, and k) to localize snRNAs, D77 (n, q, t, and w) to localize nucleoli, or anti-DNA antibody (z, cc, ff, and ii) and counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole·2HCl to show the distribution of chromatin (c, f, i, l, o, r, u, x, aa, dd, gg, and jj) are shown. Bar, 5 μm.



those studies, the chromatin appeared to be fairly uniform in appearance, with little to no condensed chromatin or heterochromatin (Fig. 1a). The dark-staining region of the *S. cerevisiae* nucleus has been suggested to contain rRNA precursors (49, 50). In our preparations, there appeared to be several (one to five) electron-lucid zones within the nucleolar region (Fig. 1b and c). These regions resembled fibrillar centers of mammalian cell nucleoli and were often surrounded by a region of greater electron density (Fig. 1c, arrows) which resembles the fibrillar component of mammalian cell nucleoli (6, 36). A similar staining pattern has previously been observed in the fission yeast *S. japonicus* var. *versatilis* (45) but has not been reported before in *S. pombe*. As a means to further evaluate the distribution of nucleolar components within the electron-dense region of the *S. pombe* nucleus, we used a nucleolus-specific silver-staining cytochemical technique on sections of cells embedded in LR White resin. With the silver-staining procedure, specific reactivity has been shown to occur at the nucleolus-organizing region of chromosomes during mitosis (2, 21, 47) and at the fibrillar centers or fibrillar component of a variety of animal cell nucleoli (2, 8, 9, 19, 20, 36) during interphase. Silver-staining nucleolus-organizing region proteins have been described as acidic proteins (21, 22, 35, 59) whose presence is related to nucleolar transcriptional activity (18, 40). When the silver-staining procedure was applied to *S. pombe* cell sections, specific staining was observed within one part of the yeast cell nucleus (Fig. 1d). The staining formed a branched distribution pattern which coiled as it extended throughout one portion of the nucleus (Fig. 1d). The silver-stained regions often surrounded the less electron-dense fibrillar centers (Fig. 1e). This type of distribution pattern is very characteristic of the arrangement of the nucleolonema or fibrillar component reported in a variety of mammalian cell nucleoli. The nucleolonema is considered to correspond to the typical active rRNA transcription units observed upon chromosome spreading (13). To determine whether the silver staining was contained within the electron-dense or nucleolar portion of the *S. pombe* nucleus, sections were poststained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate after silver staining to impart contrast to the cell nucleus. When such sections were observed in the electron microscope, it was apparent that the silver-staining pattern was contained within the more electron-dense nucleolar portion of the nucleus (Fig. 1e).

Immunofluorescent localization of snRNAs. *S. pombe* spheroplasts were immunostained with an anti-m₃G antibody (24) which recognizes the fission yeast homologs of U1 to U5 snRNAs (3; A. Krainer and D. Frendewey, unpublished results). The snRNAs were localized to the nonchromatin or nucleolar portion of the nucleus (Figs. 2b, e, h, and k) as determined by double labeling with the fluorochrome 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole-2HCl, which specifically binds to DNA (Fig. 2c, f, i, and l). To further confirm that the immunolabeled snRNAs were present in the nucleolar portion of the nucleus, a nucleolus-specific antibody was used on another series of samples. D77 is an antibody that recognizes a nucleolar protein of 38 kilodaltons (kDa) in *S.*

cerevisiae and has been shown to cross-react with *S. pombe* (1). D77 is thought to recognize the yeast homolog of fibrillarin, which is a protein found in the fibrillar region of the metazoan nucleolus and is associated with the nucleolus-specific U3 snRNP (1). Immunofluorescence microscopy of cells stained with the D77 antibody showed immunoreactivity in the nucleolar portion of the *S. pombe* nucleus (Fig. 2n, q, t, and w), confirming its nucleolar composition. To rule out the possibility that the chromatin-enriched region of the nucleus is inaccessible to antibodies, we used a DNA-specific antibody, 2C10 (25), for immunofluorescence staining. As shown in Fig. 2z, cc, ff, and ii, the DNA antibody recognized the same region of the nucleus as the fluorochrome 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole-2HCl (Fig. 2aa, dd, gg, and jj), which clearly demonstrates that antibodies can penetrate the chromatin-enriched portion of the nucleus.

Immunoelectron microscopy. To determine whether there are any snRNAs in the chromatin region that are not abundant enough to be detected by immunofluorescence, we used immunoelectron microscopy. To visualize the snRNAs at the electron microscopic level, we used monoclonal antibody m₃G in combination with secondary antibodies coupled to colloidal gold. Control sections that were labeled only with the secondary antibody showed no gold staining (Fig. 3a). Sections of spheroplasts labeled with both the primary and secondary antibodies showed most of the gold particles in the nucleus and minimal background labeling in the cytoplasm (Fig. 3b). The gold particles located in the nucleus were concentrated in the electron-dense nucleolar region (Fig. 3c). The gold particles were counted in 50 individual spheroplasts to quantitate the distribution of snRNAs in yeast cells. The results showed that 85% of the gold particles were localized in the nucleolar region, 11% were present in the chromatin-enriched region, and 4% were present in the cytoplasm. Similar localization to the electron-dense region of the nucleus was observed when an antibody with strong reactivity to a 34-kDa U1 snRNP protein (*S. Hoch*, personal communication) designated A was used (Fig. 4).

To determine whether this distribution pattern of snRNAs was unique to *S. pombe* or was also found in the budding yeast, we examined the localization of snRNAs in *S. cerevisiae*. As in *S. pombe*, the snRNAs in *S. cerevisiae* were concentrated in the more electron-dense nucleolar region of the nucleus (Fig. 5). The lower number of antibody-linked colloidal gold particles found in the *S. cerevisiae* nucleus than in the *S. pombe* nucleus is consistent with the 10-fold lower abundance of snRNAs in the *S. cerevisiae* nucleus (44, 60).

To further confirm the nucleolar origin of the electron-dense nuclear region, thin sections were incubated with nucleolus-specific antibody D77, which has been shown to cross-react with *S. pombe* (1). Most of the gold particles were located within the dark-staining region of the nucleus (Fig. 6). The gold particles appeared to be dispersed throughout this region; however, neither the anti-m₃G antibody nor D77 was observed within the electron-lucid regions of the nucleolus, suggesting that the snRNAs and fibrillarin are not

FIG. 3. Immunoelectron microscopic localization of snRNAs in the *S. pombe* nucleus. Ultrathin sections of fission yeast embedded in LR White resin were incubated with anti-m₃G primary antibody, followed by a 15-nm-diameter colloidal gold particle-conjugated secondary antibody and poststained for electron microscopy. Control cells not incubated with the primary antibody showed no gold labeling (a). Yeast cells stained with both the primary and secondary antibodies showed most of the gold particles in the nuclei (b). An enlarged view of the nucleus shows that most of the gold particles were present in the electron-dense portion (c). Arrowheads point to representative gold particles. Bars, 0.5 μ m.

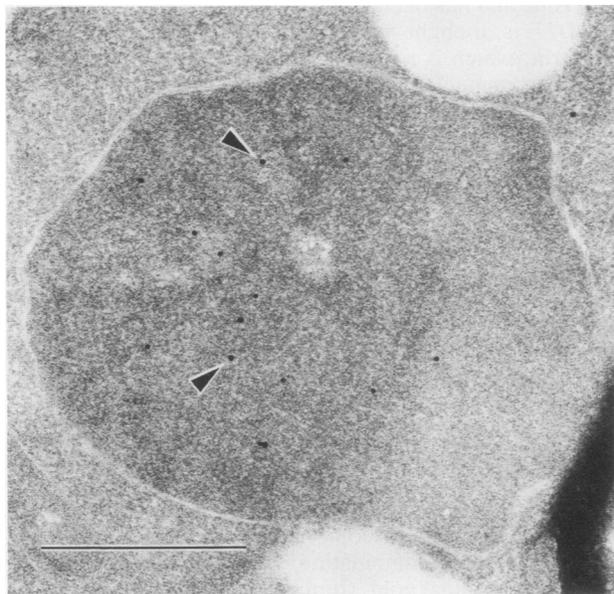


FIG. 4. Immunolocalization of snRNPs in the nucleus of the fission yeast *S. pombe* with an autoantibody which recognized the A protein of U1 snRNP. U1 snRNPs were concentrated in the electron-dense portion of the cell nucleus. Representative colloidal gold particles are identified by arrowheads. Bar, 0.5 μ m.

located within these areas of the nucleolus. Twenty cells were counted to quantitate the distribution of D77 within yeast cells. Of the gold particles, 78% were located in the electron-dense nucleolar region, 10% were present in the

chromatin-enriched region, and 13% were present in the cytoplasm. Interestingly, with the glutaraldehyde fixation conditions used in this study, the D77 epitope was not destroyed as it had been reported to be in an earlier study (1).

DISCUSSION

We localized the abundant snRNAs in wild-type strains of the fission yeast *S. pombe* by indirect immunofluorescence microscopy and immunoelectron microscopy. The results of these experiments showed that most of the snRNAs were present within the more electron-dense portion of the nucleus which has heretofore been referred to in the literature as the nucleolus. In addition, we found a similar localization of snRNAs in the nucleus of the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae*. These findings are in contrast to the results obtained with mammalian cells, in which most of the abundant snRNAs were present in a nonnucleolar network within the non-chromatin-containing regions of the nucleoplasm (53). Our results suggest that both structurally and functionally, the yeast nucleus needs to be reexamined, and perhaps classical designations of nuclear regions need to be modified to accommodate new data.

In mammalian cells, the nucleolus is a distinct biochemical and structural entity within which ribosomal genes and their products are naturally sequestered from the rest of the genome and nucleoplasm. Within this highly specialized non-membrane-bound region of the nucleus, ribosomal gene transcription, rRNA processing, and preribosomal particle formation occur (6). It is clear from previous studies with *S. pombe* that the electron-dense or nucleolar region of the nucleus contains an abundance of RNA and protein (31, 49). In *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*, the 37S and 28S rRNA

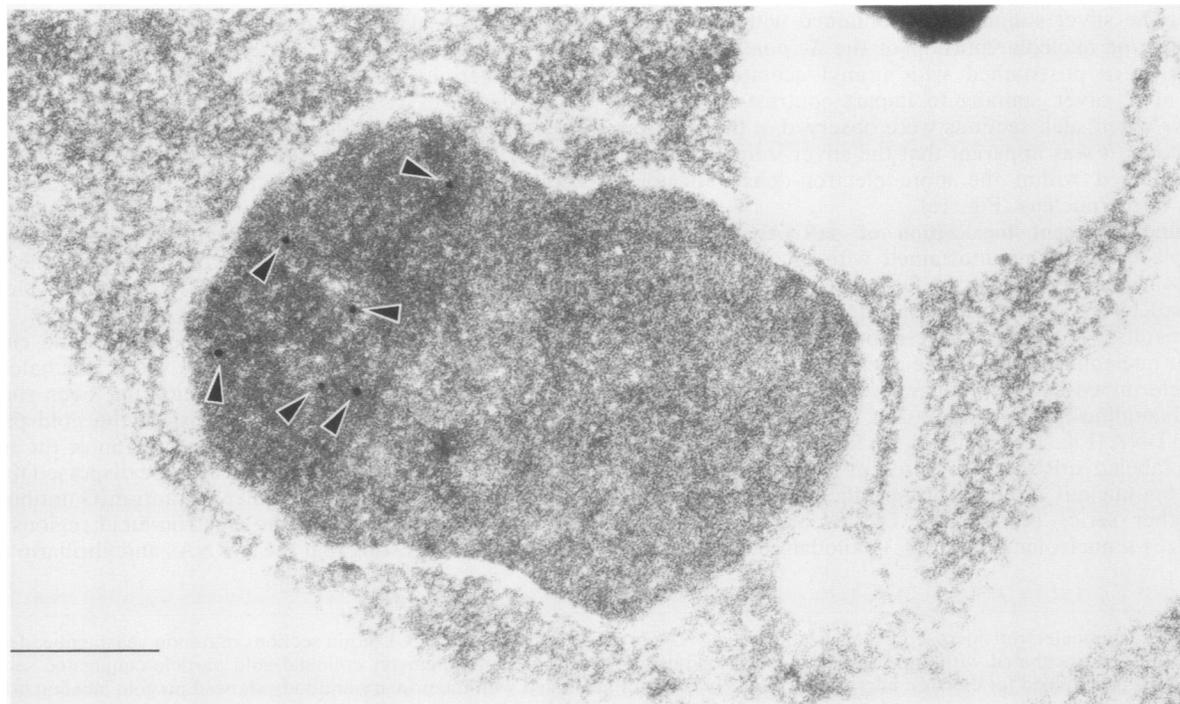


FIG. 5. Immunoelectron microscopic localization of snRNAs in the nucleus of the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae* with an m_3G antibody. snRNAs were concentrated in the electron-dense portion of the cell nucleus (arrowheads). Bar, 0.5 μ m.

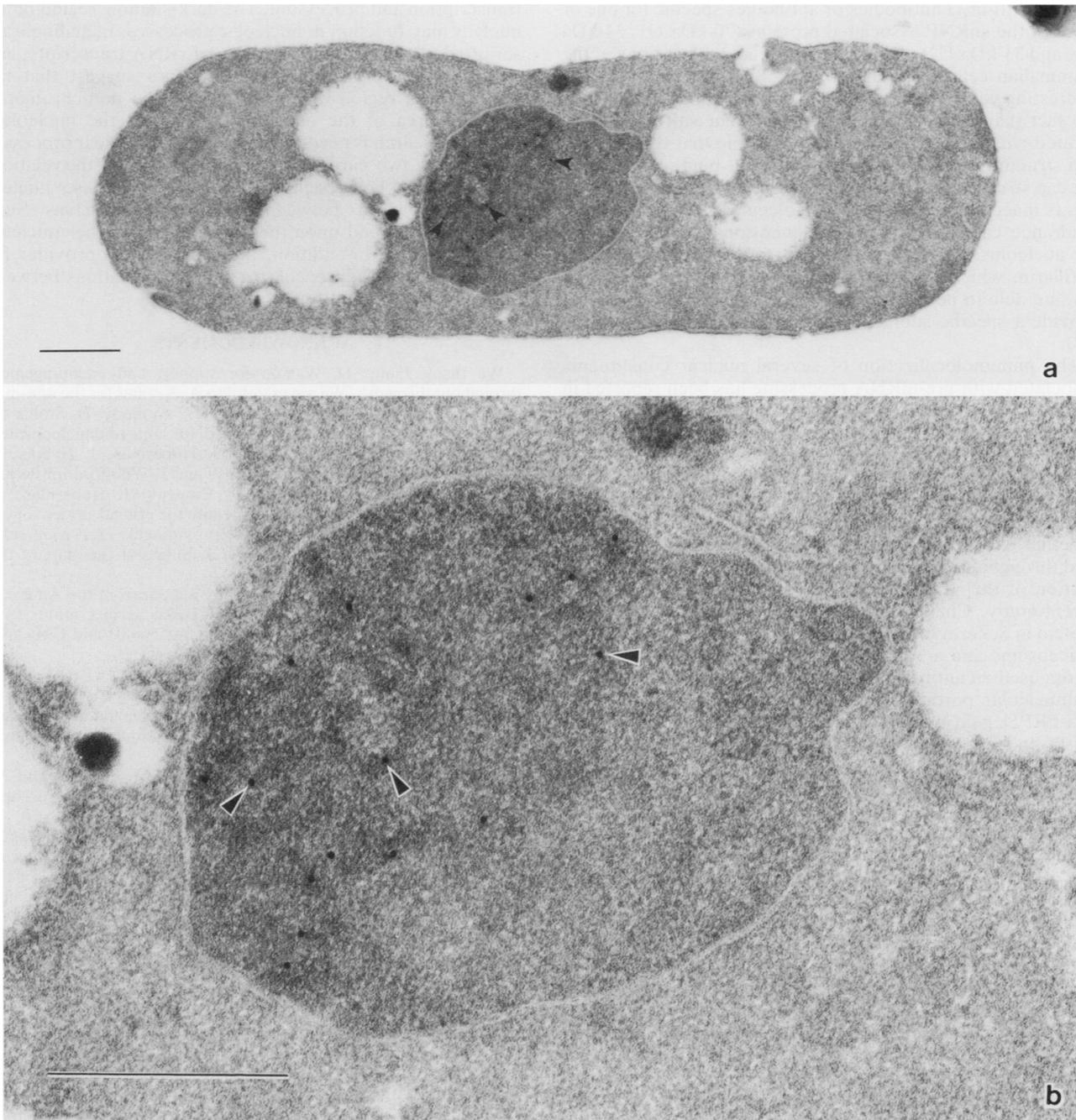


FIG. 6. Immunoelectron microscopic localization of a nucleolar protein in the *S. pombe* nucleus. Ultrathin sections of fission yeast embedded in LR White resin were incubated with antibody D77, followed by a colloidal gold-conjugated secondary antibody, and poststained for electron microscopy. Yeast cells stained with both the primary and secondary antibodies showed most of the gold particles in the dark-staining portion of the nucleus, identifying it as the nucleolar component of the nucleus. Arrowheads point to representative gold particles. Bars, 0.5 μ m.

precursors are located within this region (50). Recently, Dvorkin et al. (10) have used electron microscopic in situ hybridization techniques to localize 25S rDNA to the nucleolar region of the *S. cerevisiae* cell nucleus. In addition, the present study showed that nucleolus-organizing region-specific silver staining was localized to a portion of the electron-dense region of the *S. pombe* nucleus. Therefore, at least a portion of the electron-dense region of the cell nucleus contained nucleolar components.

The localization of snRNAs and/or snRNPs in mammalian cells has been studied in a variety of laboratories, and it is generally agreed that these RNA molecules localize in a speckled immunostaining pattern within the nuclei of a variety of mammalian cells and tissues (33, 34, 42, 52, 54). Recently, D.L.S. has used three-dimensional reconstruction techniques to demonstrate that these speckled areas connected and form a latticework or network within the nucleoplasm (53). In direct contrast to the present findings with *S.*

pombe, anti-m₃G antibodies or antibodies specific for one or more of the snRNP-associated proteins (70-kDa U1, 34-kDa U1, and 33-kDa U2) did not immunoreact with regions of the mammalian cell nucleolus (42, 52, 58). This is particularly interesting with regard to m₃G-specific antibodies in light of the fact that a major mammalian nucleolar snRNA, U3, is located within the nucleolus. It is possible that the U3 m₃G cap structure is blocked by proteins that bind at or around the cap structure in vivo. Alternatively, it is possible that the cap is inaccessible to antibody molecules because of steric hindrance caused by its three-dimensional position within the nucleolus. However, antibodies to the nucleolar protein fibrillar, which is a U3-specific nucleolar protein (28, 37, 57), are able to penetrate the mammalian cell nucleolus and provide a specific subnucleolar immunolocalization pattern (37).

The immunolocalization of several nuclear constituents associated with pre-mRNA processing has been reported in the budding yeast *S. cerevisiae*. Last and Woolford (26) produced antibodies against fusion proteins that contain portions of the PRP2 or PRP3 open reading frames. These antibodies were used at the light microscopic level to show that polypeptides expressed from high-copy-number plasmids were localized to the cell nucleus in *S. cerevisiae*. Whether overexpressed PRP2 or PRP3 proteins were localized throughout the nucleoplasm or restricted to a particular portion of the yeast nucleus was not reported. In a more recent study, Chang et al. (7) have shown that the PRP11 protein in *S. cerevisiae* is specifically associated with the 40S spliceosome and a 30S complex. In addition, those investigators used an antibody to localize the PRP11 protein to the nonnucleolar portion of the *S. cerevisiae* nucleus. Of the anti-PRP11 gold particles, 52% were localized in the cytoplasm and were regarded as nonspecific background staining, while 44% were localized in the nucleoplasm and were considered specific. In the present study, we used an antibody against the m₃G cap structure of snRNAs, and upon quantitation, we observed that 85% of the m₃G-labeled colloidal gold particles were localized to the nucleolar portion of the nucleoplasm, 11% were in the chromatin-enriched portion of the nucleoplasm, and 4% were in the cytoplasm. Brennwald et al. (3) have shown that this same m₃G antibody immunoprecipitates snRNPs U1 to U5 from *S. pombe* extracts and U1 and U2 snRNPs are the most predominant snRNPs in this organism. In addition, we found a similar localization by using an antibody which recognizes a protein component of U1 snRNP. One possibility for the differential localization of snRNAs observed in the present study is that most of the snRNAs localized to the electron-dense region of the nucleus may represent potential sites of splicing complexes. Recently, Fu and Maniatis (14) have shown that a non-snRNP splicing factor in mammalian cells localizes within nuclear regions enriched in snRNPs. These findings support our original model (53) that the nuclear regions concentrated in snRNPs form a framework within which events involved in pre-mRNA processing take place or from which they emanate. If these findings are consistent in yeast nuclei, we predict that pre-mRNA splicing would occur in the electron-dense region of the yeast nucleus, where snRNAs are concentrated. On the basis of our findings that most snRNAs localized to the nucleolar portion of the yeast cell nucleus, we suggest a modification of the current model of the yeast nucleus. We propose that the classically designated nucleolar portion of the yeast nucleus is organized differently from the mammalian cell nucleolus and contains functional domains in addition to those associated with rRNA

transcription and processing. The dark-staining region of the nucleus may function in nucleolar processes, including transcription of rDNA and processing of rRNA transcripts, and in pre-mRNA processing. We therefore suggest that the dark-staining region be referred to as the non-chromatin-enriched area of the nucleus, rather than the nucleolus. Further research is needed to define which nuclear processes occur in the two parts of the yeast nucleus and the relationship between components within each of these nuclear regions, as well as between the regions themselves. Such studies will depend upon the localization of other nucleus-specific probes. In addition, the yeast system provides for powerful genetic approaches to define associations between nuclear structure and function.

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