1 **Coevolution of retroviruses with *SERINC*s following whole-genome duplication**
2 **divergence**
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Abstract

The *SERINC* gene family comprises of five paralogs in humans of which *SERINC3* and
SERINC5 restrict HIV-1 in a Nef-dependent manner. The origin of this anti-retroviral activity,
its prevalence among the remaining human paralogs, and its ability to target retroviruses
remain largely unknown. Here we show that despite their early divergence, the anti-retroviral
activity is functionally conserved among four human *SERINC* paralogs with *SERINC*2 being
an exception. The lack of activity in human *SERINC*2 is associated with its post-whole
genome duplication (WGD) divergence, as evidenced by the ability of pre-WGD orthologs
from yeast, fly, and a post-WGD-proximate *SERINC*2 from coelacanth to inhibit HIV-1.
Intriguingly, potent retroviral factors from HIV-1 and MLV are not able to relieve the *SERINC*2-
mediated particle infectivity inhibition, indicating that such activity was directed towards other
retroviruses that are found in coelacanth (like foamy viruses). However, foamy-derived
vectors are intrinsically resistant to the action of *SERINC*2 and this resistance is conferred by
a foamy virus envelope. Despite the presence of weak arms-race signatures, the functional
reciprocal adaptation among *SERINC*2 and *SERINC*5 and, in response, the emergence of
antagonizing ability in foamy virus appears to have resulted from a long-term conflict with the
host.

Keywords: arms-race, *SERINC*, restriction factors, anti-retroviral, whole-genome duplication

Introduction
Viruses have been exploiting the host machinery for their persistence, and, in response, the
host has continued to evolve increasingly intricate antiviral defense strategies. As part of this
ongoing arms-race, while viruses have relied on acquisition and fusion of diverse genes (1),
the host-defense mechanism has been made possible by the functional divergence of gene
copies following duplication of genes as well as whole-genomes (2–7). Restriction factors
being at the forefront of this long-term conflict (8–10), show clear molecular signatures of
arms-race (11,12). In fact, the presence of these signatures has been proposed to be a
hallmark of restriction factors (8,13), and has been used as a screening strategy to identify
potential candidates(2,14). In contrast, the recently identified anti-retroviral host inhibitors
*SERINC*5 and *SERINC*3 display an uneventful evolutionary history (15). This is
counterintuitive, because distant retroviruses, with wide host-range, encode anti-*SERINC*5

virulent factors (16–18). We therefore sought to trace the origins of this antiretroviral activity

and its relevance for retroviral inhibition. Our analysis to comprehend the evolutionary origins

of the antiretroviral activity in *SERINC*s, identifies an active *SERINC*2 with a hitherto unknown

interaction with a foamy virus.

Results

Antiretroviral activity among human *SERINC* paralogs

Analysis of sequence similarity and gene structure conservation reveals that *SERINC*5 and

*SERINC*4 share a recent ancestry **(Fig-S1)**. Similarly, *SERINC*3 and *SERINC*1 paralogs are

most similar to each other (~60% identity). Despite having the lowest sequence similarity to

either of the established anti-viral *SERINC* paralogs, *SERINC*2 is relatively similar to

*SERINC*3 (50%) and *SERINC*5 (37%). Given such levels of sequence similarity and

conserved membrane topology **(Fig-S2)**, we checked the activity of other paralogs to inhibit

HIV-1 infectivity in addition to *SERINC*5 and *SERINC*3. From the native versions of *SERINC*1

and *SERINC*4 we failed to express the proteins, so we decided to generate codon-optimized

versions of these genes. Having found the proteins being expressed upon codon optimization

(**Fig1A**), we used these conditions to check the inhibitory activity of all *SERINC* paralogs. We

find that *SERINC*2 is the only *SERINC* to have no activity against HIV-1 while all the other

*SERINC*s inhibit the virus infectivity to a varying degree (**Fig-1A and 1B**). Despite less-

prominent membrane localization, *SERINC*4 has a potent activity and is second-most

powerful in inhibiting the virus (**Fig-1C**).

In contrast to other restriction factors, *SERINC*5 and *SERINC*3 genes have a rather

uneventful history that is distinct from the traditional signatures of recurrent selection seen in

genes that are part of an arms-race (19). We investigated the generality of whether the

absence of signatures of positive selection was prevalent across all the *SERINC* paralogs.

Towards this, we compared the evolutionary signature of *SERINC* genes with previously

identified restriction factors, genes showing recurrent positive selection and a few functionally

characterized genes that can act as controls **(Fig-1D)**. Within *SERINC* paralogs there is

heterogeneity in the patterns of positive selection, with *SERINC*1 and *SERINC*5 showing the

least number of positively selected residues while, *SERINC*3 and *SERINC*4 have relatively a

greater number of residues under episodic diversifying selection **(Fig-1D; FigS3, S4;** arms-

race signature inference is found to be sensitive to the multiple sequence alignment tool used,

see **Fig-S5)**. Functionally though, *SERINC*4 and *SERINC*5 are the most potent antiretroviral

inhibitors compared to the other three *SERINC*s, suggesting that merely the fraction of sites

that are positively selected is not an indicator of its ability to inhibit the retrovirus. Although the

arms race signatures of few restriction factors such as BST-2 and EIAF2AK2 were well

correlated, the other newly identified restriction factors including *SERINC*s did not show any

consistent pattern of clustering **(Fig-1D)**. One of the prime features of restriction factors has

been their ability to get augmented upon interferon stimulation. While the genes which formed

a cluster are interferon responsive (IFN responsive genes were obtained from ref (20)), this

property did not explain the overall pattern of clustering **(Fig-1D)**. Arms race signatures are

not prominent in several interferon-inducible genes and innate immune genes including TLRs

(Fig-1D). Hence the lack of arms race signatures in *SERINC*s is probably not very surprising.

The ability to restrict HIV-1 among human *SERINC*1 and *SERINC*4 suggests that this is an

evolutionarily conserved feature despite the early divergence of these paralogous copies.

Hence, we further decided to investigate the evolutionary origins of this anti-retroviral activity.

Anti-retroviral activity in an ancient feature among *SERINC*5 orthologs

*SERINC*s plausibly shaped retroviral evolution, as indicated by the convergent emergence of

anti-*SERINC*5 activity among diverse retroviral genomes. *SERINC* gene family of restriction

factors is conserved across eukaryotic species with evident topological similarity **(Fig-S6)**, so

we asked to what extent the ability of *SERINC* orthologs to restrict HIV-1 is conserved.

Unicellular eukaryotes and invertebrates have a single copy of the *SERINC* gene (*TMS*1); all

these orthologs could restrict *nef*-defective HIV-1 (**Fig-1E and 1F**), albeit the yeast ortholog

having modest activity (2-fold) in comparison to all other orthologs (fold inhibition from 4-36).

This lower potency compared to all other orthologs could be attributed to inadequate

localization on the membrane or heterologous host expression for yeast and fly *TMS*1 in

conditions where the remaining orthologs were adequately expressed on the membrane (**Fig-**

1G). Western blot analysis confirmed the expression of C-terminal HA-tagged TMS-1 and

other *SERINC*5 orthologs (**Fig-1E,** lower panel).

Coelacanth *SERINC*2 restricts HIV-1

Two rounds of WGD in the ancestor of chordates led to a large increase in the number of

genes leading to the acquisition of new functions. This repertoire of genes also provides

greater flexibility due to their mutually compensatory functions. Hence post-WGD paralogous

copies tend to diversify. A single copy of *SERINC* gene (*TMS*1) is present in pre-WGD

species and, post- WGD, the number of copies has increased to five in tetrapods and six in

bony fishes **(FigS1)**. Our investigation of the pre-WGD ortholog of *SERINC* genes from the

yeast (*S. cerevisiae*) and the fly (*D. melanogaster*) *TMS1,* found evidence of anti-retroviral

activity (**Fig-1E**). Functional data on the human paralogs also suggests an ancestrally

conserved activity of *SERINC*s in restricting HIV-1, *SERINC*2, however, being an exception

(**Fig1A**). Hence, the human *SERINC*2 paralog may have lost the ability to restrict HIV

sometime after the WGD (~700 to 400 MYA)(21). It is plausible that the species proximal to

the WGD-event might retain a version of *SERINC*2 with antiviral activity **(Fig-2A)**. We,

therefore, decided to systematically screen *SERINC*2 orthologs from post-WGD species at

varying levels of sequence divergence from human *SERINC*2. This exercise revealed that

Coelacanth *SERINC*2 restricts HIV-1 in conditions where *SERINC*2 isoforms from human did

not show any activity (**Fig-2B**). A shorter isoform of the Human *SERINC*2 (Human-201) was

found to be topologically similar (**Fig-S7**) to that of Coelacanth *SERINC*2 but lacked the

activity to restrict HIV-1 concurrent with the longer isoform.

The gradual loss of antiretroviral activity in *SERINC2*

Upon further assessment of anti-HIV-1 activity of post-WGD *SERINC2* orthologs, we find that

while Coelacanth *SERINC2* reduced the infectivity by ~7-fold, Xenopus *SERINC2* exhibited a

modest inhibition (~2-fold). The activity was completely lost in chicken *SERINC2* ortholog

onwards, this is despite the topology being conserved and the levels of virus-incorporation for

chicken ortholog were also appreciable **(Fig-2C, S8 and S9)**. This lack of activity, however, is

persistent in mouse, horse and human *SERINC2* **(Fig-2C and 2D)**. Coelacanth *SERINC2*

restricted HIV-1 to a lesser extent compared to human *SERINC5*; however, it was more

potent than human *SERINC3* and *SERINC1*. Further, reduced restriction potency can be

attributed to its inadequate membrane presence **(Fig-2E)**, reminiscent of localization of the

pre-WGD orthologs from yeast and fly TMS-1 **(Fig-1G)**. We see that there is a dose-

dependent inhibition when coelacanth *SERINC2* was expressed from the plasmids carrying

the promoters of different strengths (**Fig-S10**). Western blot of C-terminal HA-tagged *SERINC*

expressors verified that each of these *SERINC2* orthologs is expressed from the synthetic

genes **(Fig-2C,** lower panel**)**. Loss of human *SERINC2* antiviral activity could have been

associated with changes in pathogen repertoire or simply gain of a new function. To

experimentally test if this was in response to change in the pathogen repertoire, we asked if

the counteraction of Human *SERINC5* by known retroviral factors, HIV-1 Nef[1] and MLV

GlycoGag[1], was analogous to that of Coelacanth *SERINC2*. In conditions where Nef and

GlycoMA efficiently counteracted the potent restriction imposed by Human *SERINC5* and the

partial restriction of Xenopus *SERINC2*, we find that counteraction of Coelacanth *SERINC2*

restriction by these virulent factors was not appreciable **(Fig-3A and 3B).** We also inspected if

the nef alleles from human and non-human primate lentiviruses showed a similar phenotype

and found that nef alleles did not rescue the infectivity comparable to that of *SERINC5* **(Fig-**

3C). This is in conditions where the activity of coelacanth *SERINC2* also phenocopied to that

of human *SERINC5* in terms of the envelope sensitivity **(Fig-3D)** indicative of an analogous

action. However, the retroviral factors still failed to rescue the inhibition.

Functional evidence for arms-race dynamics

Is this another functional evidence for arms-race dynamics as three distinct genera of

retroviruses are reported to have independently come up with antagonizing factors **?**(16–

18,22) **(Fig-3E)**. We learnt that coelacanth fish has an endogenous foamy virus (23) the

genome organization of which resembled the prototype foamy virus (**Fig-4A**). The activity of

coelacanth *SERINC2* may have been linked to a foamy virus infection of the host. To

experimentally test the idea of whether *SERINC2* has in-fact evolved to restrict foamy viruses,

we checked the presence of anti-foamy virus activity in human *SERINC* paralogs as well as

the *SERINC2* orthologs. Unexpectedly, we find that foamy is insensitive to any of the human

SERINC paralogs tested as well as the coelacanth *SERINC*2, in conditions where HIV-1 was
consistently inhibited **(Fig-4B)**. We argued that this might have been associated with an
intrinsic ability of a Foamy virus-encoded factor to counter the inhibition. To dissect this, we
co-expressed foamy genes individually to check its ability to rescue, now, *nef*-defective HIV-1
such that the insensitivity of foamy and the presence of antagonizing factor can be revealed.
Surprisingly, with none of the foamy components expressed in-*trans* we find an ability to
rescue the *nef*-defective HIV-1 in the presence of Human *SERINC*5 **(Fig-4C)**. The inhibition
exerted by coelacanth *SERINC*2, however, was antagonized by the Envelope glycoprotein of
Foamy virus using an equivalent amount of nef expressing plasmid **(Fig-4D),** as well as in a
dose-dependent manner **(Fig-S11)**. We interrogated if this rescue was an effect of cross-
packaging of the HIV-1 core by the foamy-virus envelope glycoprotein. By using a
pseudoparticle comprising of an HIV core complemented with the foamy-virus envelope, we
show that this was not an effect of cross packaging **(Fig-S12),** and that this rescue by the
envelope glycoprotein was specific to its ability to antagonize coelacanth *SERINC*2 **(Fig-4D)**.
To then understand the specificity of this counteraction, we checked the expression of
Coelacanth *SERINC*2 at protein level when co-expressed with Foamy envelope. We checked
the effect with both low expression (PBJ6) and high expression(pcDNA) of Coelacanth
SERINC2 and observed that the steady state levels of Coelacanth SERINC2 is affected in the
producer cells when Foamy envelope was co-expressed **(Fig-4E)**. Further, we questioned as
to whether the foamy virus was at all sensitive to the effects of coelacanth *SERINC*2. To
answer this, we pseudotyped a foamy-virus core, now, with an envelope glycoprotein of HIV-1
lacking a c-terminal domain, for packaging of a heterologous foamy core since the native, full-
length, envelope glycoprotein of HIV-1 was not capable of the packaging it **(Fig 4F)**. After
successful packaging, we show that intrinsically the foamy core is sensitive **(Fig 4F)**. This
advocates that foamy-virus is indeed sensitive to coelacanth *SERINC*2 and has developed a
mechanism to antagonize the inhibitory effect through the envelope glycoprotein likely as part
of an ongoing arms-race.
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Discussion
The use of comparative evolutionary genetic approaches has continued to enrich our
understanding of restriction factor biology for more than a decade(24–28). Reciprocal loss of
duplicated genes in different species has been shown to contribute to species-specific
differences in susceptibility to pathogens(29–32). Similar to reciprocal gene loss, we find that
*SERINC*2 and *SERINC*5 show reciprocal functional adaptation against divergent retroviruses.
The ability of these orthologous factors to restrict HIV-1 is remarkable, even in the
heterologous hosts **(Fig1E, 2C and Fig-S13)** suggestive of a topology associated feature that
remained conserved and contribute to virus restriction. Further, the *SERINC*s from a human
can restrict divergent viruses, like MLV(16,17), EIAV(15,18), this only indicates a long-term
interaction of these host factors which exerted a strong selective pressure in order to shape
their evolution.

Exogenous retroviruses have not yet been reported from pre-WGD species that we
considered here so the range of targets that a pre-WGD *SERINC* (TMS-1) still remains to be
identified. The restriction on mobility of genetic elements in yeast has earlier been shown
conserved in APOBEC. While genes such as CCR4 and DHH1 that physically interact with
TMS-1 have been implicated in yeast retrotransposon activity (33,34) the mechanism that
TMS-1 would manifest on retroelements remains to be investigated. TMS-1 in fly may still be
required to regulate the mobility of gypsy retroelements as the gypsy envelope has been
shown to pseudotype MoMLV-based vector to efficiently infect fly cells (35,36). Moreover, the
analogous mechanism that Rous sarcoma virus uses to produce Pr180gag-pol has been
found in yeast Ty-1 transposons (37), makes such existence of retroelement interactions for
other host-factors like TMS-1 more probable. Post-WGD, *SERINC* has five copies and this
may have been associated with tackling increasing diversity of pathogens during speciation
and while doing so retaining its core function. As demonstrated here, with cross-packaging
studies we show that *SERINC*2 ortholog, which was thought to be inactive, may potentially
have constituted a critical barrier to foamy viruses early on, leading to their divergence over
more than 450 MY (23,38). Loss of activity in other *SERINC*2 orthologs may have been
associated with neofunctionalization: as suggested by localized sequence divergence **(Fig-
S14)**, presence of HNF4alpha binding enhancer **(Fig-S15)** and change in tissue-specific
expression patterns **(Fig-S16)** exemplified by expression of *SERINC*2 in the liver of primates.
Interestingly, Coelacanth *SERINC*2 inhibited HIV-1 and remained invisible to the most
powerful retroviral virulent factors nef (MAC239) and to the glycoGag. Further studies can
provide more insights into the lack of activity in these retroviral factors and can be helpful in
designing the modulators of the Nef-*SERINC* axis or designing Nef-invisible *SERINC*s.

The ability of foamy virus envelope to counteract the restriction is first such evidence where a
canonical gene product is employed to evade *SERINC* restriction by these atypical
retroviruses. Foamy viruses co-diverged with their hosts and this consistently is also visible in
their ability to introduce variations in envelope glycoproteins among other documented
genomic alterations. Such changes perhaps are required for its efficient association with
cognate entry receptors or prevent host mechanisms from inhibiting the virus propagation.
The nature of many such interactions remains to be clarified due to the unavailability of
reagents to study the phenotype in its native context. The counteraction phenotype
associated with foamy envelope demonstrated here is not unexpected due to following the
reason. It has been earlier suggested that *SERINC*5-mediated particle inhibition varies with
the HIV-1 envelope from various isolates (16,39,40); indicating envelope as a determinant for
*SERINC*5-sensitivity to particle restriction as also recently demonstrated in (ref 38). Moreover,
in the case of EIAV and MLV envelope the ability to resist *SERINC*5 action has been
observed (16,18). A constant engagement of *SERINC*5 by the host seem to have therefore
acted as a driving force during the evolution of these retroviruses. Having found foamy
envelope-dependent activity among coelacanth *SERINC*2 is therefore not surprising and is in
agreement with previous reports (41,42) suggesting an ability of envelope to interact with

SERINC. As a result, an early challenge by this host factor leading to subsequent divergence
of foamy envelope towards insensitivity to *SERINC* restriction. The change in foamy envelope
glycoproteins among coelacanth endogenous foamy virus and a prototype foamy attest these
facts that there may have been a selective pressure imposed by *SERINC*2. Different SERINC
paralogs might have specialized to restrain specific viruses leading to coevolution of viruses
in response to specific paralog.

We foresee that weaker signatures, exemplified by *SERINC*s **(Fig-1D, S3)** despite the
constant challenge from viruses, could be due to the native functions endowed to such
transmembrane proteins where the adaptation through diversification in-response to the
pathogen would result in a loss of a core function (43). The poor signatures could also be
because the antiretroviral activity is spread out over multiple host genes e.g. as a recent
report shows that a Nef-sensitive TIM1 activity is potentiated by *SERINC*5 (44). The host,
therefore, can afford such redundancy without having to diversify much. Another example is
TLRs where the extracellular domain shows signatures of recurrent positive selection in
contrast to the conserved membrane-spanning region (9). Intriguingly, virus specific TLRs are
under stronger purifying selection than non-viral TLRs (45) potentially due to the larger
number of PAMPs associated with non-viral pathogens. This constraint however may be more
pronounced in SERINCs as they are multi-pass transmembrane proteins known to inhibit only
retroviruses. This nevertheless is indicative of more *SERINC*-like restriction factors that
display poor signatures of arms-race but are functionally active. The core function of
*SERINC*s in eukaryotes awaits independent observations nevertheless, the most recent effort
in providing structural insights into the fly and human ortholog (41) opens up avenues for
structure-inspired biological perturbations.

Despite being conserved, SERINCs have managed to diversify their function against distinct
retroviruses. In order to explain these dynamics of *SERINC*-retrovirus evolution, we first
collated all the known interactions of SERINCs with retroviral factors (**Fig-5A**). Since
SERINC1 and SERINC4 are not translated from the native transcripts in the conditions that
have been probed, we reasoned that their presence might have been associated with extinct
retroviral factors. Investigation of SERINC1 and SERINC4 orthologs in diverse species, might
be able to decipher the proposed interactions (**Fig-5A**). In contrast to SERINC1 and
SERINC4, we find evidence for SERINC2 being counteracted by retroviral factor from foamy
virus. Having investigated all the available data, we decided to propose a model of co-
evolution between SERINCs and retroviruses that could explain the diversification of function
despite weak signatures of arms-race. Host-driven changes to the viral genome sequence is
similar to niche-filling models used to explain evolution of phenotypic traits (46). Hence, we
reasoned that divergence of SERINC paralogs following WGD would result in divergence of
the niches a virus can occupy. Not surprisingly, we find that viruses have evolved two types of
retroviral antagonists to resist SERINC restriction. These types reflect the distinct niches that
viruses can occupy. In contrast to previously proposed host-driven models of virus evolution
characterized by host adaptation and host-switches, our model suggests creation of host-

niches within the same organism due to divergence of paralogous gene copies. We illustrate
our model using the example of post-WGD diversification of interaction between SERINCs
and distinct types of retroviral factors (**Fig-5B**).
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In conclusion, evolution-guided analysis for tracking the origin of anti-viral activity in the
SERINC genes and the dynamics following whole-genome duplication have identified the
presence of antiretroviral activity in the only *SERINC* thought to be deficient. The ancient
antiretroviral activity among *SERINC*s seems to have challenged retroviruses for more than
450 MY, as suggested by the presence of an evasion strategy in a spumavirus representative
to target coelacanth *SERINC*2. Finally, more insights into the mechanism of *SERINC*-
mediated restriction may enable therapeutic targeting of this evolutionarily conserved host-
virus axis.
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294 **Materials and Methods**

295 **Plasmids and reagents**

296 All the plasmids used were isolated using MN NucleoBond® Xtra Midi EF according to the
297 manufacturer's instructions to minimize endotoxin content. The list of plasmids and reagents
298 used in the experiments are tabulated in ***Supplementary Table I and II***.
299

Cell lines

All cell lines used were assessed for mycoplasma contamination and were found to be
negative. HEK293T and TZM-GFP indicator cell lines (previously described in Ref (16) were
grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM) with 10% heat-inactivated Fetal
Bovine Serum), 2mM L-Glutamine and 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin. Jurkat-TAg$^{SERINC3/5KO}$ were
reported previously (18), maintained in RPMI 1640 with 10% FBS and 2mM L-Glutamine. All
the cultures were maintained at 37^{0}C and 5% CO2 in a humidified incubator.
307

Viruses and infectivity assay

HIV-1 was produced from HEK293T by calcium phosphate transfection and were limited to
single-cycle replication. For a 10 cm plate, 7ug NL4-3 env defective and nef defective, 1ug
env expressing plasmid and 100ng of pcDNA vectors expressing *SERINC* paralogs and
orthologs or equivalent empty vector and 1ug of PBJ6 *SERINC*5 HA was used for virus
production. For production of foamy viruses, transient transfection of 0.736 ug pCIES, 1.5ug
pCIPS, 11.84ug pCIGS, 11.84 ug pΔΦ and 100ng of pcDNA vectors expressing *SERINC*
paralogs and orthologs or equivalent control vector in HEK293T(10 cm plate) was done (47).
The viral particles were collected 48 hours post transfection and were centrifuged at 300g for
5 min and quantified by SG-PERT reverse transcription assay (48). Following this, viruses
were serially diluted 3, 9 and 27-fold for infection in TZM-GFP reporter cells that were seeded
in a 96-well plate, 24 hours prior to infection. HIV-1 Infectivity was quantified by scoring the
GFP positive cells using Spectra max MiniMax^{TM} 300 imaging Cytometer (Molecular devices,

USA). Foamy Virus infectivity was examined by the number of GFP positive cells indicating
the population transduced by Foamy virus.   The total cell population was analyzed by nuclei
staining with Hoechst 33342 and visualized on CellInsight CX7 High Content Screening
platform (Thermo Scientific). The acquired values were normalized with the virus titre
obtained from SG-PERT assay as previously described (16) Results are expressed as a
percentage of an internal control sample.

Immunofluorescence
For electroporation in JTag$^{SERINC3/5KO}$, cells were grown, and fresh medium was added a day
before such that the culture concentration did not exceed 10^6 cells/ml. Cells in their
exponential growth phase were pellet down (10^7 cells/sample) at 300xg for 10 mins. Prior to
adding Opti-MEM, the cells were washed with 1X Phoshphate Buffered Saline (PBS (1X) pH
7.0) to remove residual serum and other cell debris. Each sample was resuspended in 200ul
warm OptiMEM. 5ug of constructs expressing HA-tagged *SERINC2* orthologs or equivalent
control vector were then added to the cells. The cells and DNA mixture are added to a 0.2cm
gap electroporation cuvette. The cells were pulsed at 140V and 1000uF with exponential
decay on BioRAD GenePulser Xcell. 600ul warm RPMI with 20% FBS was immediately
added to the electroporated cells, following which they were transferred to a plate containing
RPMI with 10% FBS. 48 hours post transfection cells were pellet down at 300g for 5 mins
and resuspended in100ul RPMI and laid on poly-L-lysine coated coverslips and fixed with 4%
paraformaldehyde. After fixation, the cells were washed twice with 1X PBS. The cells were
permeabilized using BD™Perm/wash followed by detection of HA tag with Purified anti-HA.11
Epitope Tag Antibody and Alexa 488 fluorescent tagged secondary antibody. The coverslips
were transferred to a glass slide and mounted using ProLong™ Glass Antifade reagent.
Images were acquired after 12 hours on Zeiss confocal microscope (LSM740).

Virus incorporation
Viruses were produced by calcium phosphate transfection in a 10cm plate of HEK293T as
mentioned above. The media was replaced with DMEM containing 2% FBS after 12-15 hours
of transfection. After 48 hours, the virus containing supernatant was collected and centrifuged
at 500xg for 10 mins to exclude any cell fragments. Following this, the viruses were filtered
using a 0.22μm syringe filter. This was overlaid on 25% sucrose cushion and concentrated at
50000xg for 2 hours at 4 degrees using a Beckmann Coulter ultracentrifuge. After the spin,
the supernatant was aspirated off and the pellet was lysed in Laemmli buffer with TCEP.

Western blotting
After collection of viruses from producer cells (HEK293T), the cells were collected in 1X ice-
cold PBS. They were washed twice at 500g for 5 minutes. The PBS was aspirated until the
pellet was completely dry. The pellets were either processed for lysis or stored in -80 until

further application. The cell pellets were lysed in DDM Lysis buffer (100mM NaCl, 10mM

HEPES pH 7.5, 50mM Tris(2-carboxyethyl) phosphine hydrochloride (TCEP), 1% n-Dodecyl-

β-D-maltoside (DDM), 2xcOmplete^{TM}, EDTA-free Protease inhibitor cocktail and rocked on ice

for 30 minutes. Following this, the lysates were centrifuged at 10000g for 15 mins and the

supernatant was collected and mixed with 4x Laemmli buffer with 10mM TCEP.

SDS-PAGE was used for resolving cell pellets and virions for analysis by western blot. The

proteins from the gel were transferred onto a PVDF membrane on a semi-dry transfer unit

(Hoefer TE77) for 75 minutes with 125 Amp constant current. The membrane containing the

proteins was then blocked with 2x Odyssey Blocking Buffer that was diluted with 1x TBS to

make 1x Blocking buffer. After 20 minutes of blocking, Anti-HA.11 Epitope Tag Antibody

(mouse) and anti-actin(rabbit) (diluted 1: 1000 in 1x blocking buffer) was used to probe the

membrane to detect the *SERINC* orthologs and paralogs that were tagged with C-terminal HA

tag. After incubation with the primary antibody for 1 hour, the membrane was washed thrice

with 1X TBST for 5 mins. Goat anti-mouse 680 and goat anti-rabbit 800 Li-Cor antibodies

were used to detect infra-red dyes signal from the membrane. The western blot was analysed

on Odyssey imager system.

Reconstruction of coelacanth *SERINC*5 sequence

The *SERINC*5 from coelacanth was found to be shorter than its annotation from its orthologs.

Upon closer inspection it was found that the exons orthologous to human exons1-3 were

missing in the coelacanth *SERINC*5 genomic sequence. We found that the upstream region

of coelacanth *SERINC*5 had a gap in the genomic sequence. It was also found that the

transcribed regions upstream of the gap did not correspond to *SERINC*5 exons. Hence, we

decided to use a chromosome walking strategy to reconstruct the missing exons, such that at

least at sequence level the topology of the protein could be studied (suppl material for

reconstruction of *SERINC*5).

Data and code availability

The multiple sequence alignments are available for download under GNU license from the

github repository https://github.com/ceglab/RestrictionFactorsArmsRace.

Genome correction and quality check

In order to rule out the possibility of artefacts in evolutionary analysis that arise from errors in

the sequence of genome assemblies (true even for high quality reference genomes found on

ensemble(49)) we systematically assessed the quality of each of the primate genomes used

in this study. Genome assemblies of 15 primate species were downloaded from ensembl

release 98 through the ftp site. Whole genome sequencing datasets corresponding to each of

these species were obtained from the Short Read Archive (SRA) with the criteria that they

should have >~30x coverage. Details of the genome assemblies used and the corresponding

raw read data from each species are provided in GitHub repository. The raw read data were
mapped to the corresponding genomes using the bwa mem read mapper(50) with default
settings. The alignment files obtained from the mapping step were used to generate the
genotype likelihood estimates using the program angsd (51). The genotype likelihood
estimates were provided to the program referee(52) to assign quality scores and perform
genome correction. Overall, we found that in all the primate genomes considered, less than
1% of the bases were corrected by the program referee. The sequencing data used for
performing genome correction are not from the same individual that was used for genome
assembly. Hence, it is possible that many of the corrected positions are merely nucleotide
polymorphisms.
411

Manual curation and multiple sequence alignment
The manually curated open reading frame multi-fasta files consisting of 70 genes from ~15
primate species were collected from Ensembl. We extend our previous multiple sequence
alignment strategy(53) by including additional multiple sequence alignment programs to
generate 8 independent alignments for each gene. Several multiple sequence alignment tools
were used to ensure that the inferred patterns of sequence evolution are not restricted to the
alignment strategy used. The choice of the actual multiple sequence alignment tools used
was based on the performance-based classification of algorithms (54).
420

Use of FUBAR to find evolutionary fingerprints
Traditional approaches that endeavour to find arms race signatures in genes look for
recurrent occurrence of positive selection in the same gene in different evolutionary lineages.
A more recent approach has been to use the full joint distribution of synonymous (α) and
nonsynonymous (β) rates as an evolutionary fingerprint of a gene(19). The program
FUBAR(55) is available as part of the HyPhy package(56). Pairs of conditionally dependent
sites were identified using the program BGM(57). Estimates of selection coefficients are
inferred from the multiple sequence alignments for pairs of α- β combinations that form a
discretized grid. We calculated the distance measure defined by Murrel(19) to perform
hierarchical clustering of the selection signatures obtained from FUBAR.
431

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. The activity of *SERINC* paralogs and orthologs on HIV-1 infectivity

A) The activity of Human *SERINC* paralogs (*SERINC*1-*SERINC*5) on nef-defective HIV-
1 Infectivity. (n=4, mean ± s.d., unpaired t-test, (*)p<0.05 (**)p<0.01 (***)p<0.001, ns-
not significant). Lower panel, Western blot showing expression of c-terminally HA-
tagged *SERINC* and the corresponding B-actin from cell lysate (HEK293T). Values
obtained from the empty vector control was normalized to 100% for comparison with
SERINC expressors
B) Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-1A.
Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on Cell Insight CX7
High Content Screening platform
C) Immunofluorescence assay for the indicated HA-tagged human *SERINC*1-5
transfected in JTAg *SERINC*5/3$^{-/-}$ cells and visualized using Alexa 488 secondary
antibody
D) Hierarchical clustering of the arms-race signatures in primate genes aligned using
ClustalW aligner and used as input for FUBAR. Interferon-induced genes identified by
(Shaw et al 2017) are color-coded as red (upregulated), blue(downregulated), green
(*SERINC* paralogs), grey (other select genes)
E) The activity of pre-and-post-WGD *SERINC5* orthologs on nef-defective HIV-1
infectivity. (n=4, mean ± s.d., unpaired t-test, (*)p<0.05 (**)p<0.01 (***)p<0.001, ns-
not significant). Lower panel, Western blot showing expression of indicated orthologs
tagged with HA and the corresponding B-actin from cell lysate (HEK293T)
F) Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-1E.
Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on Cell Insight CX7
High Content Screening platform
G) Immunofluorescence assay for indicated HA-tagged *SERINC* orthologs transfected in
JTAg *SERINC*5/3$^{-/-}$ cells and visualized using Alexa 488 secondary antibody.

Figure 2- Coelacanth *SERINC*2 inhibits HIV-1 infectivity

A. A Schematic timeline depicting the sequence of events during the course of evolution
with species depicted from left to right being *S. cerevisiae, D. melanogaster, L.*
chalumnae, X. tropicalis, G.gallus, E. caballus, M. musculus and *H. sapiens*
B. The activity of *SERINC*2 from coelacanth and human *SERINC*2 isoforms on nef-
defective HIV-1 infectivity. Values obtained from the empty vector control was
normalized to 100% for comparison with *SERINC* expressors. (n=4, mean ± s.d.,
unpaired t-test, (*) $p<0.05$ (**)$p<0.01$ (***)$p<0.001$, ns-not significant). Lower panel,
Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for top
panel. Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on
CellInsight CX7 High Content Screening platform.
C. The activity of *SERINC*2 orthologs from coelacanth, xenopus, gallus, mus, equus and
human on nef-defective HIV-1 infectivity. Values obtained from the empty vector
control was normalized to 100% for comparison with *SERINC* expressors. (n=4,
mean ± s.d., unpaired t-test, (*)$p<0.05$ (**)$p<0.01$ (***)$p<0.001$, ns-not significant).
Lower panel, western blot showing expression of *SERINC*2 orthologs tagged with HA
and the corresponding B-actin from cell lysate (HEK293T).
D. Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-2C.
Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on Cell Insight CX7
High Content Screening platform
E. Immunofluorescence from for indicated HA-tagged *SERINC* orthologs transfected in
JTAg *SERINC*5/3[-/-] cells and visualized using Alexa 488 secondary antibody

Figure 3- The ability of retroviral factors to antagonize *SERINC*s

A. The ability of Nef and glycoGag to counteract indicated *SERINC*2 orthologs. Human
*SERINC*5 was served as control for Nef and glycoGag counteraction of the
restriction. Values obtained from the empty vector control without Nef or glycoGag
was normalized to 100% for comparison with *SERINC* expressors
B. Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected for viruses produced for Fig-3A.
Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on Cell Insight CX7
High Content Screening platform
C. The ability of nef alleles to antagonize indicated *SERINC*2 orthologs. Human
*SERINC*5 is used as a control
D. Susceptibility of HIV-1 clade-B (HXB2 and JR-FL), clade-C (ZM109F, CAP210) and
VSV envelope glycoprotein (VSV-G) to inhibition of infectivity by coelacanth
*SERINC*2 with human *SERINC*2 and *SERINC*5 as controls.
E. Phylogenetic tree depicting the relationship among various retroviruses. Unknown
retroviral interactions with *SERINC*s are shown in the black ellipse while the known
ones are in blue. Branches colored red are complex lentiviruses, blue are gamma
retroviruses and green are foamy viruses.

Figure 4- The effect of Coelacanth *SERINC*2 on Foamy virus infectivity and antagonism by
the envelop glycoprotein

A. Genome organization of an endogenous foamy virus (CoeFV) from coelacanth and
the prototype foamy virus (FV)

B. Infectivity of foamy virus-derived vector and a nef-defective HIV-1 in the presence of
indicated human *SERINC* paralogs and *SERINC*2 orthologs. Foamy virus and HIV-1
infectivity obtained from the empty vector control was normalized to 100% for
comparison with *SERINC* expressors

C. Nef-defective HIV-1 infectivity obtained from the empty vector control, normalized to
100% for comparison, and with human *SERINC*5. Each foamy virus plasmids
expressing different components (gag, pol and env) along with the transfer vector
(pδ□) were used for its ability to counteract human *SERINC*5. SIV MAC239 Nef was
used as a control. Lower panel, representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected
with viruses produced for Fig-4C. Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x
magnification on CellInsight CX7 High Content Screening platform.
676

677   D. Nef-defective HIV-1 infectivity obtained from the empty vector control, normalized to
678   100% for comparison, and with Coelacanth *SERINC*2. Each foamy virus plasmids
679   expressing different components (gag, pol and env) along with the transfer vector
680   (pδ☐) were used for its ability to counteract Coelacanth *SERINC*2. Lower panel,
681   representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-4D.
682   Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on CellInsight CX7
683   High Content Screening platform.

684   E. Western blot showing varying expression of Coelacanth *SERINC*2-HA (from PBJ6
685   and pcDNA vectors) and the corresponding B-actin from cell lysate (HEK293T) in the
686   presence and absence of Foamy virus envelope expressor.

687   F. The sensitivity of the foamy core to the action of coelacanth *SERINC*2. The foamy
688   core was trans-complemented with either Foamy envelope, HIV-1 envelope or HIV-1
689   envelope lacking a c-terminal domain and indicated SERINC was co-expressed to
690   check the ability of individual SERINC to restrict foamy virus. (n = 4, mean ± s.d.,
691   unpaired t-test).

693   **Figure-5.** Schematic representation of *SERINC*-retrovirus interactions

694   A. *SERINC* antagonists (glycoGag, Nef and S2) from distant retroviruses. An
695   interaction between known and hypothesized virulent factors with *SERINC* paralogs.
696   Solid lines show experimentally demonstrated interactions while the dotted lines
697   represent hypothesized interactions. Color-coding for extinct and extant virulent
698   factors (VF). Extinct VFs are shown in light blue, the extant VFs (Type-1) are in
699   purple and Type-2 are in black.

700   B. A proposed model for adaptive co-evolution among retroviral factors and SERINCs.
701   The evolution of patterns of interactions between viral factors and SERINCs have
702   diversified following post-whole-genome duplication.

Supplementary Figure Legends

Figure S1- Phylogenetic analysis of SERINC paralogs**.** *S. cerevisiae, C. elegans, and D.*
melanogaster has a single copy of this gene. Whole-genome duplication that occurred in an
early ancestor of mammals gave rise to a cluster of five genes divided into clusters of
SERINC1, SERINC2, SERINC3, and SERINC4 and SERINC5. Colors denote different
branches of each SERINC in chordates. The lengths of the triangles are proportional to the
number of nucleotide substitutions that have taken place in a particular branch. The tree was
generated using Ensembl.

Figure S2- Topology of human SERINC Paralogs predicted using TOPCONS

Figure S3- Arms-race signatures of primate SERINC genes inferred using FUBAR

Figure S4- Distribution of sites under different selection regimes across the SERINC genes.
The colors are inner (Blue), outer (Pink), helix (Red). Black dots are estimates of dS and red
dots are dN. Pairs of conditionally dependent sites identified by the program BGM (Bayesian
Graphical Model) are connected by a dotted line (see SERINC1 and SERINC4). Vertical
green lines correspond to the sites under purifying selection.

Figure S5- Effect of different aligners on hierarchical clustering of arms-race signatures of
primate genes. Interferon induced genes identified by (Shaw et al 2017) are color coded as
red (upregulated), blue(downregulated), green (SERINC paralogs), grey (other select genes)

Figure S6- Topology of SERINC5 orthologs predicted using Topcons. Coelacanth SERINC5
was reconstructed from the RNAseq data (*) see supplemental material for details

Figure S7- Topological features of Human SERINC2 splice isoforms and coelacanth
SERINC2 predicted using TOPCONS

Figure S8- Topology of SERINC2 orthologs predicted using TOPCONS

Figure S9-   Incorporation of SERINC2 orthologs in the virus particles and detection by
indicted antibodies against target proteins

Figure S10- Effect of a dose-dependent expression of coelacanth SERINC2 on HIV-1
infectivity

Figure S11- Counteraction of coelacanth SERINC2 restriction by a Foamy virus envelope
glycoprotein

Figure S12- Reciprocal-packaging of a foamy envelope with an HIV core and sensitivity to
SERINCs

Figure S13- Infectivity of HIV-1 produced from JTAgSERINC5/3KO having ectopic
expression of the indicated SERINC

Figure S14- Multiple sequence alignment of SERINC2 orthologs; highlighted regions showing
the sites of sequence divergence

Figure S15- Evidence for the presence of HNF4a binding site in the intron of human
SERINC2 gene

Figure S16- Gene expression evolution of SERINC genes in vertebrates

Supplementary Information:

Supplementary Table I: List of plasmids used

Supplementary Table II: List of reagents used

746   Reconstruction of Coelacanth SERINC5

Figure 1

Figure 2

A)

| ~MY1000 | 800 | 500 | 450 | 400 | 350 | 300 | 96 90 | 40 | 0.08 |

Whole Genome Duplication

TMS-1   SERINC1-5

B)

Infectivity (%)

Vector | Coelacanth | Human | Human-201 | Human SERINC5

SERINC2

***   ns   ns   ***

Vector   Coelacanth   Human   Human-201   Human SERINC5

SERINC2

C)

Infectivity (%)

Vector | Coelacanth | Xenopus | Gallus | Mus | Equus | Human-201 | Human SERINC5

SERINC2

***   **   ns   ns   ns   ns   ***

55kDa

15kDa

HA

Actin

D)

Vector   Coelacanth   Xenopus   Gallus   Mus   Equus   Human   Human SERINC5

SERINC2

E)

Coelacanth   Xenopus   Gallus   Mus   Equus   Human

SERINC2

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 5

A

B