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 *SERINC5* and

SERINC3 display an uneventful evolutionary history (15). This is counterintuitive, because

distant retroviruses, with wide host-range, encode anti-*SERINC5* 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 *SERINC2*, 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.

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**).

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.
285

286   **Materials and Methods**
287   **Plasmids and reagents**
288   All the plasmids used were isolated using MN NucleoBond® Xtra Midi EF according to the
289   manufacturer's instructions to minimize endotoxin content. The list of plasmids and reagents
290   used in the experiments are tabulated in ***Supplementary Table I and II***.
291

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 37^0C and 5% $CO2$ in a humidified incubator.
299

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™ 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.
319

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 Phosphate 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 *SERINC*2 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™, 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 *SERINC5* 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 *SERINC5* genomic sequence. We found that the upstream region of
coelacanth *SERINC5* had a gap in the genomic sequence. It was also found that the transcribed
regions upstream of the gap did not correspond to *SERINC5* 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 *SERINC5*).

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.

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).

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.

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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 *SERINC*5 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,

627   mean ± s.d., unpaired t-test, (*)p<0.05 (**)p<0.01 (***)p<0.001, ns-not significant).
628   Lower panel, western blot showing expression of *SERINC*2 orthologs tagged with HA
629   and the corresponding B-actin from cell lysate (HEK293T).
630  D. Representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-2C.
631   Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on Cell Insight CX7
632   High Content Screening platform
633  E. Immunofluorescence from for indicated HA-tagged *SERINC* orthologs transfected in
634   JTAg *SERINC*5/3$^{-/-}$ cells and visualized using Alexa 488 secondary antibody

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

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

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

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

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

660  C. Nef-defective HIV-1 infectivity obtained from the empty vector control, normalized to
661   100% for comparison, and with human *SERINC*5. Each foamy virus plasmids
662   expressing different components (gag, pol and env) along with the transfer vector
663   (pδφ) were used for its ability to counteract human *SERINC*5. SIV MAC239 Nef was
664   used as a control. Lower panel, representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected
665   with viruses produced for Fig-4C. Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x
666   magnification on CellInsight CX7 High Content Screening platform.
667

668  D. Nef-defective HIV-1 infectivity obtained from the empty vector control, normalized to
669   100% for comparison, and with Coelacanth *SERINC*2. Each foamy virus plasmids
670   expressing different components (gag, pol and env) along with the transfer vector
671   (pδφ) were used for its ability to counteract Coelacanth *SERINC*2. Lower panel,
672   representative images of TZM-GFP cells infected with viruses produced for Fig-4D.
673   Cells are stained with Hoechst and captured at 10x magnification on CellInsight CX7
674   High Content Screening platform.

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

678  F. The sensitivity of the foamy core to the action of coelacanth *SERINC*2. The foamy

core was trans-complemented with either Foamy envelope, HIV-1 envelope or HIV-1
envelope lacking a c-terminal domain and indicated SERINC was co-expressed to
check the ability of individual SERINC to restrict foamy virus. (n = 4, mean ± s.d.,
unpaired t-test).

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

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

B. A proposed model for adaptive co-evolution among retroviral factors and SERINCs.
The evolution of patterns of interactions between viral factors and SERINCs have
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

737   Reconstruction of Coelacanth SERINC5

Figure 1

Figure 2

A)

Whole Genome Duplication

~MY 1000   800   500   450   400   350   300   96 90   40   0.08

TMS-1   SERINC1-5

B)

Infectivity (%)

Vector   Coelacanth   Human   Human-201   Human SERINC5

SERINC2

C)

Infectivity (%)

Vector   Coelacanth   Xenopus   Gallus   Mus   Equus   Human-201   Human SERINC5

SERINC2

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

A)

COeFV- Coelacanth Endogenous Foamy virus

LTR | gag | pol | env | ORFs | LTR

FV-Foamy virus

LTR | gag | pol | env | bel1-3 | LTR

B)

Infectivity (%)

Foamy Virus | HIV-1

Vector, SERINC1, SERINC2, SERINC3, SERINC4, SERINC5, Coelacanth, Xenopus, Gallus, Mus, Equus

Human | SERINC2

C)

Infectivity (%)

Vector, SERINC5, Env, Gag, Pol, p δϕ, Nef

Foamy virus

+ SERINC5

Vector, Human SERINC5, Env, Pol, Gag, pΔΦ, Nef

Foamy Virus

Human SERINC5

D)

Infectivity(%)

Vector, Vector, Env, Pol, Gag, pδϕ

Foamy virus

+Coelacanth SERINC2

Vector, Vector, Env, Pol, Gag, pΔΦ

Foamy Virus

Coelacanth SERINC2

E)

Coelacanth SERINC2

High | Low] HA

Actin

Foamy env   − − + +

F)

Vector, Coelacanth SERINC2, Human SERINC2, Human SERINC5, Vector, Coelacanth SERINC2, Human SERINC2, Human SERINC5, Vector, Coelacanth SERINC2, Human SERINC2, Human SERINC5

Foamy Env | HIV-1 Env ΔCt | HIV-1 Env

Foamy virus Infectivity(%)

Figure 5

A

B