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Title: Identification of consensus hairpin loop structure among the

negative sense sub-genomic RNAs of SARS-CoV-2

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Abstract:

SARS-CoV-2 is the causative agent of worldwide pandemic disease COVID-19. SARS-
CoV-2 bears positive sense RNA genome, that have organized and complex pattern of
replication/transcription process including the generation of subgenomic RNAs.
Transcription regulatory sequences (TRS) have important role in the pausing of
replication/transcription and generation of subgenomic RNAs. In the present
bioinformatics analysis a consensus secondary structure was identified among negative
sense subgenomic RNAs at the adjacent of initiation codon. This study proposed that
consensus structured domain could involve in mediating the long pausing of
replication/transcription complex and responsible for subgenomic RNA production.

**Introduction:**

COVID-19 is the worldwide pandemic disease caused by severe acute respiratory
syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that carries a positive sense, single strand RNA
genome with the size of 29.9 kb (Kim et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020a). The RNA genome
undergoes complex pattern of replication/transcription process inside the host
environment. The SARS-CoV-2 enters the host cell and undergoes replication of positive
sense RNA genome, where negative sense RNA genome is generated, that subsequently
serve as template for positive sense RNA in order to translate the viral proteins and
packaging of RNA genome in to virion particles. SARS-CoV-2 RNA genome bears
conserved transcriptional regulatory sequences (TRS) of 6-7 nucleotides(Yang et al.,
2020). The TRS is present at the immediate upstream of initiation codon, where
replication/transcription complex is paused (Alexandersen et al., 2020; Kim et al., 2020).
RdRp has the important property to backtracking that causes long pausing at specific
site (Dulin et al., 2015; Malone et al., 2021). Therefore, in addition to complete RNA
genome, a nested set of negative sense subgenomic RNAs is also generated including S
subgenomic, 3a subgenomic, E subgenomic, M subgenomic, 6 subgenomic, 7a
subgenomic, 7b subgenomic, 8 subgenomic, N subgenomic and 10 subgenomic. These

canonical subgenomic RNAs are thought to be generated through the complex

mechanism that involves pausing of negative sense RNA synthesis by RNA dependent

RNA polymerase (RdRp) (Alexandersen et al., 2020; Kim et al., 2020; Mohammadi-

Dehcheshmeh et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2020).

Although, the conserved role of TRS has been identified/proposed in the pausing of

transcription, however, the role of RNA secondary structure has not been identified in

this perspective. Therefore, in this study investigation of conserved secondary structure

pattern was performed nearby the initiation codon/TRS that might be important in

pausing of transcription during negative sense RNA synthesis of the SARS-CoV-2

genome.

The analysis of negative sense subgenomic RNAs was objectively performed in this

study because of following important reason. The negative sense RNA is firstly

generated through the replication/transcription of positive sense RNA genome. The

negative sense RNA will serve as template for positive sense RNA genome and

subgenomic messenger RNAs (or subgenomic RNAs) (Sawicki et al., 2007; Yang et al.,

2020). According to previous research model, it was suggested that strand exchange or

5′ leader (5′ UTR) sequence to body (RNA) fusion occurs at TRS during negative sense

RNA synthesis (Kim et al., 2020). Therefore, the consensus secondary structural motifs

nearby the TRS might be important in several perspectives. In this study the

bioinformatics analysis of negative sense subgenomic RNAs was performed that

revealed a consensus hairpin loop secondary structure. Simultaneously, we validate the

finding in parallel comparison with SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. SARS-CoV-2 genome

has 79.5% sequence similarity with SARS-CoV (Lu et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020b).

Within this context it is significant to reveal the specific hairpin domain at the adjacent

of initiation codon/TRS that is consistently present in SARS-CoV-2 and SARS-CoV

subgenomic RNAs. In this perspective, research report proposed that consensus hairpin

loop secondary structure during the synthesis of negative sense RNA mediates

important role in transcriptional pausing and generation of subgenomic RNAs.

**Results:**

**The negative sense sub-genomic RNAs bear conserved hairpin domain at immediate**

**downstream of initiation codon**

Study by Alexandersen et al., 2021, determined the presence and abundance of

subgenomic RNAs from the COVID-19 patient samples. Authors mapped the NGS reads

to subgenomic RNAs in order to identify the abundance of particular subgenomic RNA

from the patient samples(Alexandersen et al., 2020). NGS reads mapped results

revealed that Orf7a and N subgenomic were in high abundance whereas Orf8, Orf6, and

E subgenomic were relatively low (in an increasing order). These subgenomic RNAs are

present several fold higher in comparison to whole genome fragments. Therefore, the

present study seek to identify the possible conserved regions nearby the transcription

regulatory sequences (TRS) or initiation codon those could mediate significant roles in

the generation or expression of sub-genomic RNAs.

Therefore, in order to identify the consensus secondary structure, negative sense

subgenomic RNAs were aligned by using LocARNA webserver. The significant length of

upstream and downstream region (with respect to initiation codon) was considered for

the analysis, with the total length of ~420 nt. Sequence alignment revealed a consensus

hairpin domain (~35 to 60 nt; depending on the particular subgenomic RNA) among

different negative sense sub-genomic RNAs (Figure 1, Table 1). This domain is present

at the immediate downstream of initiation codon. The important features could be noted

as the distance between initiation codon and consensus hairpin domain (Table 1). The

structured hairpin domain of negative sense subgenomic RNAs might be of intrinsic

functioning in either pausing /backtracking of RdRp at the immediate downstream of

initiation codon. The conserved hairpin domain could also have role in template

switching during transcription, although the role of conserved TRS has only been

identified in recombination events (Yang et al., 2021). The conserved TRS is AACGAAC,

that is highlighted in green (as GUUCGUU; negative sense) in the analyzed sequences

of negative sense subgenomic RNAs (supplementary data file).

**The Orf7a subgenomic, N subgenomic, E subgenomic, Orf6 subgenomic and Orf8**

**subgenomic bears distinct secondary structure domain near the TRS:**

The sequence alignment of negative sense subgenomic RNAs revealed single hairpin

domain. However, it was required to perform secondary structure prediction of each

subgenomic RNA sequence to examine the possibility of consensus secondary structure

formation. The secondary structure prediction was performed by using Vienna RNA

webserver, and determined whether particular subgenomic RNA adopts a specific

hairpin structure or not. Data obtained from sequence alignment and secondary

structure prediction indicates that Orf7a subgenomic, N subgenomic, E subgenomic,

Orf6 subgenomic and Orf8 subgenomic bears distinct and long hairpin domain with high

probability of formation (Table 1, Figure 2A). These structural features could possibly be

correlated with the previous study by Alexandersen et al; which described the high

abundance of Orf7a subgenomic and N subgenomic RNAs whereas Orf8 subgenomic,

Orf6 subgenomic, and E subgenomic were relatively low (Alexandersen et al., 2020). In

addition, the remaining subgenomic RNAs (S subgenomic, Orf7b, Orf3a and M

subgenomic) were reported to be very low or near zero level abundance (Alexandersen et

al., 2020). The underlying reason of low level of NGS reads could be correlated with

their respective hairpin structure (Figure 2B) and other properties mentioned in Table

1. These features include: hairpin loop splits in to subdomains, hairpin loop merged with

initiation codon, length and probability of hairpin domain formation. Overall, the

formation of distinct hairpin structure might be the underlying feature in the generation

of negative sense sub-genomic RNAs.

Importantly, the highest similarity (and intermediate alignment) was observed between

Orf7a and N subgenomic RNAs, as both subgenomic RNAs were placed together in guide

tree. It provides significant relevance and correlation from the previously reported high

abundant reads of N and Orf7a subgenomic (Alexandersen et al., 2020). In this

perspective, we propose that conserved secondary structural elements might be a

determining factor in transcriptional pausing and backtracking of RdRp that leads to

subgenomic RNA production.

**Analysis of consensus secondary structure prediction in SARS-CoV subgenomic RNAs**

It is important to validate or examine the possibility of consensus secondary structure in

closely related enveloped viruses (beta-coronaviruses). Within this context, we further

analyzed the subgenomic RNA sequences of SARS-CoV. We identified a distinct hairpin

structure domain from the sequence alignment of subgenomic RNA sequences of SARS-

CoV (Figure 4). The SARS-CoV subgenomic RNAs bears a distinct hairpin domain at the

immediate downstream of TRS, as observed in the case of subgenomic RNAs of SARS-

CoV-2 (Supplementary data file). However, after analysis it was observed that an

additional domain could be considered in the case of some of the subgenomic RNAs of

SARS-CoV as it falls at the immediate upstream of TRS, whereas for some of the specific

subgenomic RNAs the second downstream domain could additionally be considered (as

the consensus region falls at the immediate downstream of TRS).

**Discussion**

The present finding revealed the conserved hairpin structure that is present in negative

sense sub-genomic RNAs of SARS-CoV-2. The significance of conserved hairpin

structure could be of two fold reasons. Firstly, the particular hairpin loop secondary

structure could have intrinsic functioning in the pausing of replication/transcription of

negative sense subgenomic RNAs mediated by RdRp. In addition, the conserved

secondary structure could facilitate template switching (by unknown mechanism) at

TRS during transcription, that involve the joining of 5□UTR to RNA body sequence.

Further experimental studies could be performed to identify the much precise role of the

conserved secondary structure nearby the initiation codon/TRS in the generation of

negative sense subgenomic RNAs and maintenance of viral infection.

**Methods:**

**Extraction of SARS-CoV-2 RNA genome and subgenomic RNAs**

The complete genome sequence of SARS-CoV-2 isolate Wuhan-Hu-1 (NCBI Reference

Sequence: NC_045512.2) was used in this study, and specific regions (upstream and

downstream) corresponding to particular subgenomic RNA were extracted. The

nucleotides sequences were converted in to reverse complement that served as negative

sense subgenomic RNA. The negative sense RNAs were used in alignment and

secondary structure prediction analysis.

To analyze the subgenomic RNAs **SARS-CoV**, Bat coronavirus (BtCoV/279/2005),

complete genome was used.

**RNA secondary structural similarity by using LocARNA webserver**

LocARNA-Alignment and Folding webserver align the input RNA sequences and

simultaneously fold them (Raden et al., 2018; Will et al., 2012). This webserver was used

in the present study because it folds the RNA by using very realistic energy models as

used by RNAfold of the Vienna RNA package. The sequences of negative sense

subgenomic RNAs were aligned by using LocARNA webserver. The alignment type was

global and in standard mode. The alignment was used to identify the consensus

secondary structures elements between negative sense subgenomic RNA sequences of

SARS-CoV-2.

**Secondary structure prediction by using Vienna RNA webserver**

176 Secondary structure prediction of subgenomic RNA sequences was performed by using

177 Vienna RNA webserver (Hofacker, 2003). The subset of aligned sequence region (~285

178 nt) respective to each subgenomic RNA was submitted for structure prediction by using

179 Vienna RNA webserver. The prediction results are included in supplementary data file.

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| Sr. No. | Type of subgenomic RNA | Location of hairpin structure (from the downstream of initiation codon) | Length of hairpin loop structure with probability | Hairpin structure is distinct or not (merged with different loop carrying initiation codon) | Sequence alignment matches with predicted structure (probability) | Probability of formation of distinct secondary structure |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | S subgenomic | Includes ~28 nt of coding region | ~55 nt | No (merged with initiation codon) | Yes | Less |
| 2 | *3a subgenomic | ~10 nt | ~58 nt | Yes | Yes | Moderate |
| 3 | ***E subgenomic | ~47 nt | ~52 nt | Yes | Yes | High |
| 4 | *M subgenomic | ~8 nt | Splits in three small hairpin loops | No (first loop merged with initiation codon) | No (three distinct hairpin structures) | Moderate |
| 5 | **Orf6 subgenomic | ~41 nt | ~47 nt | Yes | Yes | High |
| 6 | ****Orf7a subgenomic | ~30 nt | ~35 nt | Yes | Yes | High |
| 7 | Orf7b subgenomic | Includes ~6 nt of coding sequence | Splits in two hairpin loop structure | No (first loop merged with initiation codon) | No (two distinct hairpin structures) | Moderate |
| 8 | **Orf8 subgenomic | ~20 nt | ~57 nt | Yes | Yes | Moderate |

| 9 | ****N subgenomic | ~1st nucleotide of initiation codon | ~60 nt | Yes | Yes | Moderate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Table 1:** The table presents the description of analyzed negative sense subgenomic

RNAs. The description is drawn from the combined output of sequence alignment

followed by secondary structure prediction results. The number of asterisks (*) denotes

to the abundance level for each subgenomic RNA detected by NGS reads mapped to the

sequences and no asterisk is given to particular subgenomic that was detected at very

low or near zero level) (Alexandersen et al., 2020).

**Figure legend:**

**Figure 1**

The figure presents the output of alignment result of negative sense subgenomic RNAs

of SARS-CoV-2 that was done through the LocARNA webserver. The alignment result

revealed the consensus sequence and hairpin structure (with double headed arrow)

among negative sense subgenomic RNAs. This consensus structure is present at the

immediate downstream of initiation codon or TRS (mentioned with double headed

arrow).

**Figure 2**

Secondary structure of consensus sequence of respective negative sense subgenomic

RNAs. The secondary structure of each sequence was predicted by using Vienna RNA

webserver. The respective portion of hairpin loop is shown with probability in color

coding from 0 to 1. Secondary structure of consensus alignment sequence of each

subgenomic RNA is shown in panel A and B. Panel A involves consensus secondary

structure from subgenomic RNAs those have been detected or mapped at considerable

level through NGS reads mapping (Alexandersen et al., 2020). Panel B involves

consensus structure of subgenomic RNAs those have been detected at very low or zero

level through NGS reads mapping. The complete secondary structure of each

subgenomic RNA is provided in supplementary data file.

**Figure 3**

The figure presents the output of alignment result of negative sense subgenomic RNAs

of SARS-CoV that was done through the LocARNA webserver. The alignment result

revealed the consensus sequence and hairpin structure (with double headed arrow)

among negative sense subgenomic RNAs. This consensus structure is present at the

immediate downstream of initiation codon or TRS (mentioned with double headed

arrow). In addition, the TRS sequence (GUUCGUU) is also shown just before the

consensus hairpin domain.

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                                        ((((((((((
Orf6a   UCACAAGUAGCGAG-------------UGUU-AUCACUGUCAAGAAAAGAAUAAUUU-C   44
Orf7a   --------AGUUUA-------------GGUGAAACUGAUCUGGCACGUAACUGAUAGA   37
S       GCAAAAUAAAC-AC------------CAUCAUUUAAUUGUGGUAGGACAGGGUUAUCA--   42
Orf7b   GGGUCAUCAACUACAUAUGGUUGAUGUUGAUGUACAUGAUUGUAAACUACAUUCU-----   54
Orf8b   AGGAAACUGUAUAAUUACCGAUAUCGAUGUACUGAAUGGCGUA---------------   43
E       AU-------------------------CAGGAACUCUAGAAGAA   19
M       AUUCUGUAAACAGCAGCAAGCACAAAACAAGCUAAAGUUA-----------CUGGCCAUAA   50
Orf3a   A-------------------------CCCUUGGAGAGUG-   14
N       GAAC-----------------------GCCUUGUCUCGAGGGAAUUUUAAGGU   30
        ........10........20........30........40........50......6

                                                   (((((((((....)))))
Orf6a   CAUGUUCGUUAAUCAAUCUCCAUUGGUUGCUCUCAUUCUCAAAUUGGAG-AAUAUUUAUU-C   102
Orf7a   CGUGUUUUAC--------GCCGUUCAUGGUCCCAGAGACAUGUAU--AG-CAUGGAACCAAG   88
S       ---AACCUCUUAGUA-----CCAUGGUCCCAGAGACAUGUAU--AG-CAUGGAACCAAG   91
Orf7b   UGGUGAAAUGCAG-----CUACAUUCAUGGUGAUGAUUCCUAAGAAAACA-AGAAAUUUC-AU   107
Orf8b   ------UUUAGAACCAGCCUCAUUCUACGCACAAUUCAAUUGGUGCUGAUUUUCUAGC   97
E       ------------------UUCAGUUUUUUUAACACGAGAGUAAACGUAAAAAGAAGGUUUU   61
M       CAGCCAGAGGAAAAU------UAUUCAUGGUGAUGAUUCAAAAACCUAUUCCUGUUGGCAU   103
Orf3a   -CUAGUUGCCAUCUCUUUUUGAGUAGUUAU------------------------   42
N       CUUCCUUGCCAUGUUGAG-UGAUCUGCGGU----   58
        0........70........80........90........100......110.......1

))).                              ((((((((((
Orf6a   UCAG-UUAGUGACUUAGAU---AAAUUUUUAAUUAUGAGGGUUUAU-------GAUGUAAU   151
Orf7a   UCAG---UGCAAAUUGUUAUCAGCUAGAGGAUGAAAGUGAUUGCCCUCGUAUGUUC   145
S       UAAC-AUUUGGAAA------AGAAAGGUAAGAACAAGUCCUGUGUUG--------   130
Orf7b   GUUC-GUUUAGGCGUGACAAGUUUC--------AUUAUGAUUCUUG--------   143
Orf8b   UCCU-ACUCUAAUAAUACCAUUUAGAAUAGAAGUGAAUAGGAUACGG---------U   144
E       ACA--AGACUCACGU------------UAACAAUAUUGCAG---------   88
M       AGGCAAAUUG--------GUUACAGACAAAUCCAUGUAAGGAUAUG-------   140
Orf3a   ---GAUUUUGGAGCGCUCUGAAAAACAGCAAGAGUGCAAUGCCAACAAUAAGCCAUCC   99
N       ---GAACCA----AGACGCAGUAUUAUUGGGUAAACCUUGGUGCCGAC-------   99
        20......130.......140.......150.......160.......170.......1

                         )))))))))))                           ((
Orf6a   CAAGAUUCCA-AAUGGAA-ACUUUAAAAGUCCUCUAUAAUAAUUAGUAAUAUCUCUGCUAU   209
Orf7a   CAGAAGAGC--AAGGUUC-UUUUAAAAAGUACUGUUGUACCUCUAACA------CACUCU   195
S       --------A-AUGUAAACUGAGGACUGACUUUGUCAGGGUCAUAUAAA   172
Orf7b   CAGUUC-----AAGUGAG-AACCAAAAGAUAAUAAGCAUAAUUAAAACAAGG--AAUAGC   195
Orf8b   CAUCAACUAC-AAUGGGU-UAGUGACUA------------------------CAU   176
E       CAGUACGCAC-ACAAUCGAAGCGCAGUAAGGGAUGGCUAGUGUAACUAGCAAGAAUACCAC   147
M       -GAAACCUAU-UACUAGG--UUCCAUUGUGUCA----------AGGAGCUUUUUAAGCUC   185
Orf3a   GAAAGGGAGUGAGGCUUGUAUCGGUAUCGUGUGC------------------AG   134
N       ----------GUUGUUUUGAUCGC--GCCCCAC--------------------UG   122
        80......190.......200.......210.......220.......230.......2

(((((.                             )))))))))).
Orf6a   AGUAAC--CUGAAAGU-C-AACGAGAU----GA-AACAUCUGUUGUCAC-UUACUGUAC-   258
Orf7a   UGGUA---GUGA-----U-AA-AGCUCACAAGU-AGCGAGUGUUAUCAG-UGCCAAGAA-   242
S       CACCACGUGUGAAAGAAU-UAGUGUAUGCAGG----GGGUAAUUGAGUC-UGGUUGUAA-   226
Orf7b   AGAAAGGCUAAAAAGCACAAAUAGAAGUCAAUU-AAUGAAGAGUUCAAUC-AUUCUGU---   250
Orf8b   GACUG---------UAAACUACAUUCU-----U-GGUGAAAUGCAGUCA-CAGUUGUAAU   220
E       GAAAGCAAGAAAAAGAA--GUACGCUAUUAACU-AUUAACGUACCUGUCUCUUUCCUGAAAC   204
M       UUCAAC--GGUAA------------------------UAGUACCGUUGGA-----   209
Orf3a   UAGC----GCAA--CAAAAUCUGA-AGGAGUAGCAUCCUUGAUUUCACCUUGCUUCAAA   187
N       CGUU----UCCAUUCUGGUUAUCUGCCAG--UUUGAAUCUGAGGGUUCCACCAAACGUAA--   174
        40......250.......260.......270.......280.......290.......3

                                                            (
Orf6a   -AAGCA----------------------AAGCAAU----AUUGUCACUGC-----U   282
Orf7a   -AAGAAUAAUUU-------UCAUGUUCGUUUAAUCAAUCUCCAUUGGUUGCUC------U   288
S       -GAUUAACA------------------CACUGACUAGAGA---CUA------G   251
Orf7b   ---------------------------------------------CU----U   253
Orf8b   GAUUCCUAAGAA-------AACAAGAAAUUUCAUGUUCGUUUAGGCGUGACAA------G   267
E       GAAAGAGUACAUAAGUUCGUACUCAUCAGCUUGUGCUUACAAAGGCACGUAGUGAUGCGU   264
M       -------------------------------------AUCUGCCAUGGCUGAAAAU   227
Orf3a   GUUACAGUUCCAAUUGUGAAGAUUCUCAUAAACAAAUCCAUAAGUU------CGUUUAUG   241
N       -UGCGGGUGCAUUUCGC--------UGAUUUUG---------GGGU----CCAUUAUC   211
        00......310.......320.......330.......340.......350.......3
                                                          <----

(((.((((.((((.(((((.((((((.)))))).)))).)))).))).
Orf6a   AC-UGGAA-UGGU------CUGUGUUAAUUUAAAG----UU--GCCAAUCC   320
Orf7a   UCAUCUAA-UUGA------GAUU-----AUUUAUUC----UU--CAGUUAG----   320
S       UGGCAAUA-AAACAAGAAAAACAACA------UUGU--UC---GUUUAGUUGUUAA   296
Orf7b   UCUUU-GAGUGAUGCAGUCACAGUUGUAAU----UAUUAUUGC--CGCAACAA--UAA   303
Orf8b   UUUCAUUAUGAUCUUGC-AGUU-----AAGUGAUAACCAAAA----GAUAAUA----AG   313
E       CGUCGGU-UCAUCAUUAAUUU-GUUCCAUUACUGGUUUAACAACUCCGGAUGAAACG---   319
M       UAAAGUUCCAACACAAAA------UAUA-UAUAAUAUUU-UAG------GAUUUUAUAC   279
Orf3a   UGUAAUUGUAAUUGUUGACUCCU-UUA-AGCACUG-GCUAUGAGU-CGU-----CUUCAUCAAAU   294
N       AGACAUUUAGUUGUUGUUCGUUUUGAUG-AA--AUUUUAAAC-AACACGAACGCAUGAUAC   268
        60......370.......380.......390.......400.......410.......4
                                                                    ---->

..........))))
Orf6a   -----------UUGUAGCGACUGUAUGCAGCAAAACCUGAGUCA--CCUG-----------   356
Orf7a   -----------UGA---------------CUUAGAUA--AAUU-----   335
S       ---CAAGAACAUCACACUAGA---------AAUAACAACUCUGUUG--UUUUCUCUAAUUAUA   343
Orf7b   ---GAAAAUUGGAGAGUAAAGUUCU---UGACUUCCUCUUG--UCUGAUGAACAGUUU   355
Orf8b   ----CAUAAUUAUAAACAAGGAA----------UAGCGAAAGGCUAAAAA---   349
E       ----------UUCGAUGG---------UGUG----UGUG----   330
M       GAUCAGGAACUCUAGAUGAAUUUCAGAUUUUUUUAACGACGAGAGUGAAAAAGAAGGGUU   339
Orf3a   UUGCA------AAGUGAUCCAUAAGAACAACAGCCCUUGAGACAACAUCAGCAACUGGUC   348
N       UCUAA------AAAGUCUUCAUAGAACGAACAACGCACUACAAGACUACCCAAUUUAGGU   322
        20......430.......440.......450.......460.......470.......4
        ---->

Orf6a   -------CUACACGCUGCGAAG----CUC-----------------CCAAUUUGUAAUAAG   389
Orf7a   ----------UUUAU-UAUGAGGU---UUAUGUGAUUUGCAGAUUCCCAAAUUGGAAACUUUU   385
S       AGUCUACCUUUUACUAAGAAGAG----AUAAAAAUGCAUAUCAU----------------UGAUU   385
Orf7b   AGGUGAAACUGAUCUGGCACGU----AACUGAU---------   384
Orf8b   -------CAUUAAUAAACAAGGAA--------AUAGCGAAAGGUUCAACUAUUCU   388
E       -----AAUUUGGACAUGUUCUACAGGCUCAUCAACA------AUUUUAUUGUAG   373
M       UUACAAGACUCAC-----GUUAACAAUAUUGCAGCAGUACGCACACAAUCGAAGCGCAGU   394
Orf3a   AUACAAC-----AAAGCAUAAUUGUCACCGUACUAUGGCUAUCAAGCCA----------   393
N       UCCUGGCAAUAAUUGUAAAAGGAUCAACAGGGUAUCAGGUAUAUCGAUGUAC   382
        80......490.......500.......510.......520.......530.......5

Orf6a   AAAGCGUUC--GUG-AUGUAGCAACAGUGAUU------U------C   420
Orf7a   AAAGUCCU--CAU-AAUAAUUAGUAAUAAUCUCUGCUAU------A   420
S       UGACCUUUG-UUU----AAAGACAAUAACAGCAGUAUCCCC----U   420
Orf7b   ---AGACGU--GUUUUUACGCCGUCAGGACAAAAGCA------U   420
Orf8b   GUCUUUCUU--UUGAGUGAAGCAAAUGUGUUA---------   420
E       AUGAGGAUGGCUAGUGUAACUAACAAUGUCUGUAUCUCAAUUGAGU   420
M       AAGGAUGGCUAGUGUAA--------------------CUAGCAAGA   420
Orf3a   -------GCUAUAAAACC---------UAGCCAAAGUAC---CAU   420
N       UGAAUGGGUGAUUUGAAACC---------AGCCUCUACACGCACAA   420
        40......550.......560.......570.......580......
```

**A**

B

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                        ((((((
Orf3a  AAAAACAGCAAGAAGUGCAACGCCAACAACAUCAUCAUCCGAAAGGGA---------GUGA  51
M      AGGAAAACAAGCUUUAUUAUGUACAGAAACCAUCAUCC-------GG--------UUGG  43
Orf8   AU--------------UUGUACAAGGCGAUGAU-----AC----------------UUUC  24
S      U-----------UUG---AGUCAAGCGCAA----------AA----------AAUA  23
Orf7   A-----------------AAGCAAAAUGUGUCAUGA----GC---------AAGU  26
E      -----GUUUUACUAAACUCACGUUAACAUCAUUGCAGCAG--UACGCACACAAUCGAAGC  53
Orf6   A--AUCUAACUCCAUAGGGUCUUUCAUCAUCAACGCAGAGAUAUUU---------CUUCUU  49
N      AGUAUUUAUUGGGUUAAACCUU-------GGCGAUCGCGUUGCUUUGGCCGUGCACCACUG  52
       ..........10........20........30........40........50........6
```

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       ))))))))
Orf3a  UGGUGU-----------------------------------AGCGGUAUCGU----------  69
M      AAUAUG-----------------------------CAAACGUAGUAGCAUAAUCCAGGCAAGG  78
Orf8   UAAUC-----------------------------CAAUUUUUAUAA----------------  42
S      GUCU--GAGUGAGGGUGUAAAACAUCAGAACGAAAAAUGUCAUCAUUUAUAAUACACACCUCG  83
Orf7   UAGUCA-AAUUUG--------------------UUGUCAGCAAGAGGAU----GAAAUG  61
E      GCAG--AAGG----------------------------------------AU----------  64
Orf6   AGUU-GAGGCUUUAAAUGAUUAUUUGUCUCACUAUUGA---ACUUAUUGGAGUAU-------  94
N      UGUCU-UCCAUCCUGAUUAUUGUGCAGUUGAAUCUGAGGGGUCCACCAAA----------  99
       0........70........80........90........100.......110.......1
```

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       ......(((((((..............)))))))........(((((
Orf3a  ----------AAAAACCUAUUAC------UAGA--UU-CCAUUGUUCCAGGAGUU---------GCA  79
M      AAAUAAGGAAACCUAUUAC------UAGA--UU-UGUAUUGGCACAGUGGUCUUCCAAUUU----GUU  121
Orf8   ACCAGUCCGAAUAGUAA------UGUAUUGGACAGUGGUCUUCCAUUUU----G-G  86
S      CCGAGAGGAAGGAGA-----CUUUUUCCAUCU--UUGGCGUGUGGCUUUC------UAC  127
Orf7   GUGAAUUGCCCUCGUAGGUCCCUGACGGGCAAGGUCUUUUUAGUAGUA------CAG  112
E      -----GGCUAGUGU-----------GACUAGGCAAGAAUACCACGAAAGCAAAAAAGAGAA-  108
Orf6   -----GUCAAGGUUCCAAAUGGCAACCCUGAUAAAGUCUUCAUAUGAUAAUCAAUAUCU--  147
N      -----UGUAAUGC-----GGGGGGCACUAC------GCUGGUUU---UGGGGUC  134
       20........130.......140.......150.......160.......170.......1
```

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       .....))))))))
Orf3a  UGA-ACAGUACUUGCAGGAGAAGCAUUUUCAACUUUCGCUGGUUGGCGUGUGAUUGCUCC  138
M      U-AAGCUCCUCA---ACAGUAAAUUGUUACCGU-----UGUCUGUC---AUG--------AU  161
Orf8   U-AGGGGUGAUUUUCACAACACUCUUGUGUAUG-----CUGCAUUCUUUAUG-----AA  132
S      UAAUAAAUAAGCCAUCAUUCCUCGUGUCCUUAUGAGC-----UAG------------UAC  161
Orf7   UGGGUACUCUCAAACACACUCCUCGAUAGUGUAUA-----UAGCUCGCUGGAAG------CA  159
E      --------------------GUACGUUAUUACUAUUAAUACGUAC----CUGUUCUUUUCU  143
Orf6   CUGCUAUUGUUAACCUGGAAGUCAACA--AGAUGAAACAUCUGUUGUCACUUACUGUAUUA  205
N      CAUUUAUCAGACAUUUUAGUUUGUUUUUCGUUUAGAUGAAAUCUAGAACA-ACACGCACGUCAU  193
       80.......190.......200.......210.......220.......230.......2
```

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                                                          <·······>
Orf3a  CAAUGUGAAA--------AUGCUCAUAAAC---------AAAUCCAUUAAGUUCGUUUAUG  182
M      AAGCAAUG--------UUAAAGUUCCAAACAGAAUAAUAAUAAUAGUUA-GUUCGUUUUAGA  213
Orf8   UGCAGUAUACUGAUGUUAAGGAGUCCAAA---AACAAUGAGAAGUUUCAUGUUCGUUUUAGA  189
S      -----ACUGA-------AGAUCA----GAGCAAAAAUUAAAACUUUCAUGUUCGUUUUAG-  204
Orf7   AGUGCAAUCA--------AUGUCA----A----GAAGAGAAUAAUUUUCAUGUUCGUUUUUA-  204
E      GAAACGAAUGAGUACAUAAGUUCGUACUCACUUUUCUUGUUGCUUUCAAAAGGCACGCUAGUA  256
Orf6   GCAA-----------------------------------AGCAAUAUUGU------------CGUU  224
N      GAUG-----------------------------CUCAACAAAGUCAUAAUCGUACGAGCAGC  226
       40.......250.......260.......270.......280.......290.......3
```

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       ..((((((.((..(((((((............................)))
Orf3a  UGUAGUGUAGUUUGAUUCC------------------CUUGAGCACUGGCUCAGA  220
M      CCAGAAGAUCAGGAAUUCC-----------------CUCA---------GAAGA  242
Orf8   CUUUG---UUACAGGUUUCC-----------------UUC----------UAUA  213
S      --UUGUUAA---UAAUAAU-----------------AUC--------------A  223
Orf7   --UGGAUAA---UCUUACU-----------------CC--------------A  222
E      GUCGUCGUCGGC-UCAUCAUAAAUUGGAUCCAUUG------CUGGAUUUACAACCUUCUUG  256
Orf6   ------------UCUUCCUGAGUGGGUCUGUA----UUUAAUUUAUAGUUCCCAAUUCGG  268
N      GCACAAUUAGAC-ACUUACUGGUGGUGGCUUGACAGUUUAUCUCAAGGGGUUC-ACAAGA  285
       00.......310.......320.......330.......340.......350.......3
```

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       ))))..)).)))..(((((((............(((((.........)))))))
Orf3a  UCCUU-CCUCAUCAAAUUUGCAGCCAAGAACCGCAAGAGCAUGCACCCUUGAGGCAACUGCA  279
M      UUUA-GAUUUUUAACACGUGAGUAAACGUAAACUGUUGGUUUUACUAAACUCAC------  295
Orf8   CCUG-GAGUUCAAGGUAAAACCAAAAUAUAAUAAGCAUUAUUGAACAAGGGAAUAGCAGA  272
S      UUUA-AACCACAACUCUAUUGUU-------UUCCCU----AAUGAUAA-----  259
Orf7   AGUU----UUCUUCAUCAUCUAAACU-----CAGAGUAUUUCUUCUU----AGUUAGAG-  266
E      ACUGCCGUCGAUUG------UGUCGUAU-----U-------------UGUACAUGGUCCA  291
Orf6   AGUUGGUUG-------UAUGCAGCAAAACCUGAAU-----------CGUUGC--CUACA  306
N      AUUGUGUAAUUGCCAAACAUUUCAUAA--UGAAU----------CGGAAUUCUUUUG  330
       60.......370.......380.......390.......400.......410.......4
```

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                                                          (((((
Orf3a  ACAGCUGG-----------------------UCAUGCAACAAAGCAAGAUUGUAACCAUG  316
M      ----------------------GUUAACAAUAUUGCAGCAGUACGCAC--ACAAUCGAA  330
Orf8   AAGGCUAAAAAAGCACAAAUAGAAGUCAAUUAAAGAGCUCAUUCACUCUGUCUUUCUCU  332
S      --GUCU-----ACCAUUUUCAAGAAGGGAAUAAAAUCAUACUCAUUGAUUUGAUUCUCUUU  312
Orf7   --GCUUAAAAUAAUUGUCUC----------ACUAUUGAACUUA-UUAGUAUGUCAAGGUUC  313
E      CAUCUUCAACAAGCUUGCUAUUGAUGAAGAAGUGAGC----------AUU  331
Orf6   CGCUGCGAAGCUCC-UA----AUUUGUAAUAAGAAA-----------GCG  340
N      CCAU---AAUCUCC-CUCGCACAAUUGUACAAGGCGA-----------GCU  366
       20.......430.......440.......450.......460.......470.......4
```

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       ((.(((((.........(((((........))))).........)))))))))))
Orf3a  ACAAUGGCAAU------UAGUCCGGCGAUGAAGCCGAGCCAAACAUACCAAGGCAUUUGA  371
M      GC-GCAGUAA--GGAUGGCUAGU-------GUGACUAGCAAGAAUACC---ACGAAAGCA  377
Orf8   UA-AUGGUGA--AGCAAGAGUAGU-------AUAAAAUACU-AGAGCAGC---AACAUAUGAG  378
S      AAACACAUAACAGCAGUCCUCCUUA---ACUUGAGAGGAAAUUUGCUC---AUGUC-GAA  365
Orf7   CAAAUGCCAAACCCUGAAAGUCUUCA---UAAUGAUAAUCAAUAUCUCU---GCUAUUGUA  367
E      UUCAGCACCAGUGUCGGUCGAUGU-------UUGUGUCG--AUUCUAACUCGGUAGUGAUU  383
Orf6   UUCGUGAUGUAG-CCACCGUAAUC-------UCUUUUGGCAGGUCCUUUAUUGU-CACGCG  392
N      GACUUUCUGAU-CCA----------AUUUUAU--AACCAG  396
       80.......490.......500.......510.......520.......530.......5
```

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       )))).....
Orf3a  UGUAUUGCUCAUAUUUUCCAAGUUCUUGGAGGUCAAUGA---  410
M      AAAAAGAAGAGUAC--GCU---------AUUAACUAUUAACG  408
Orf8   AAAAAGUGGUGAAUAGAGC---------UCU-----UGGUGA  406
S      AAGUGAAUAGGAAGACAAUGGUAAUGGAAGUUGGUUUCCUCCA  407
Orf7   ACCUGGAAGUCAACAAGAUGAAA---CAUCUGUUGUCACUUA  406
E      U-----------------CAGUGAAAUAACCAUGUAUUACUA  408
Orf6   UUUGAC----------C----------CUAGGGAGUGUCC  407
N      U----------C----------C---GAAUAGUAA  408
       40.......550.......560.......570.......580
```