

In Vivo Transcriptional Activation Using CRISPR/Cas9 in *Drosophila*

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ABSTRACT A number of approaches for Cas9-mediated transcriptional activation have recently been developed, allowing target genes to be overexpressed from their endogenous genomic loci. However, these approaches have thus far been limited to cell culture, and this technique has not been demonstrated *in vivo* in any animal. The technique involving the fewest separate components, and therefore the most amenable to *in vivo* applications, is the dCas9-VPR system, where a nuclease-dead Cas9 is fused to a highly active chimeric activator domain. In this study, we characterize the dCas9-VPR system in *Drosophila* cells and *in vivo*. We show that this system can be used in cell culture to upregulate a range of target genes, singly and in multiplex, and that a single guide RNA upstream of the transcription start site can activate high levels of target transcription. We observe marked heterogeneity in guide RNA efficacy for any given gene, and we confirm that transcription is inhibited by guide RNAs binding downstream of the transcription start site. To demonstrate one application of this technique in cells, we used dCas9-VPR to identify target genes for Twist and Snail, two highly conserved transcription factors that cooperate during *Drosophila* mesoderm development. In addition, we simultaneously activated both Twist and Snail to identify synergistic responses to this physiologically relevant combination. Finally, we show that dCas9-VPR can activate target genes and cause dominant phenotypes *in vivo*, providing the first demonstration of dCas9 activation in a multicellular animal. Transcriptional activation using dCas9-VPR thus offers a simple and broadly applicable technique for a variety of overexpression studies.

KEYWORDS CRISPR-Cas9; gene activation; overexpression, gain-of-function

It has recently become possible to activate transcription of target genes from their native genomic locus using nuclease-dead Cas9 (dCas9) fused to transcriptional activator domains (Mali *et al.* 2013; Gilbert *et al.* 2014; Tanenbaum *et al.* 2014; Zalatan *et al.* 2014; Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015). Activating genes from their endogenous transcription start site (TSS) offers several benefits that are complementary to traditional overexpression studies based on cloned cDNAs. For example, the dCas9-mediation activation technique is preferable for genes that are difficult to clone, *e.g.*, if they occur in multiple splice isoforms and/or are very large. In addition, there is evidence that dCas9-mediated activation leads to target gene activation at physiologically relevant levels,

as opposed to many existing techniques (Chavez *et al.* 2015). Cas9-mediated activation also has the benefits that it is easily multiplexed and that it is rapidly scalable for genome-wide studies because the target specificity is provided by easy-to-synthesize 20-bp single guide RNAs (sgRNAs) (Gilbert *et al.* 2014; Chen *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015).

The first attempts to activate transcription by fusing dCas9 to activator domains such as VP64 yielded very low levels of overexpression (Gilbert *et al.* 2013; Maeder *et al.* 2013; Mali *et al.* 2013; Perez-Pinera *et al.* 2013). However, three strategies to substantially increase the effectiveness of dCas9 activators have subsequently been described. In the dCas9-VPR system (Chavez *et al.* 2015), dCas9 is directly fused to a chimeric activator (composed of the VP64, p65, and Rta domains), based on a systematic screen of 20 candidate activator domains. In a second strategy, termed “SunTag” (Gilbert *et al.* 2014; Tanenbaum *et al.* 2014), dCas9 is fused to multiple copies of an epitope tag and is cotransfected with a single-chain antibody fused to the VP64 activator domain, thus recruiting multiple VP64 domains to each molecule of dCas9. The third strategy, which has been developed independently by two groups (Zalatan *et al.* 2014; Konermann

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et al. 2015), involves inserting specific RNA hairpin sequences into exposed portions of the sgRNA, and co-expressing proteins that specifically recognize these hairpin sequences and are fused to additional activator domains.

While all of these approaches show promise in cell culture, none has yet been demonstrated *in vivo* in any multicellular animal. We reasoned that, because the dCas9-VPR system requires a single activator component in addition to the sgRNA, it would be most amenable to stable transgenesis for *in vivo* studies. dCas9-VPR has been shown to efficiently activate gene expression in yeast, human, mouse, and *Drosophila* cells, yet previous studies in *Drosophila* cells have been limited to just two target genes and utilized pools of up to five sgRNAs per gene (Chavez *et al.* 2015). In this study, we first show that dCas9-VPR functions robustly in *Drosophila* cells on an array of target genes, both singly and in multiplex. We test a number of sgRNAs per target gene and conclude that a single highly active sgRNA is sufficient to activate transcription and that there is substantial variability in sgRNA effectiveness. We also confirm previous observations that target gene activation levels are inversely proportional to their basal expression levels. We use dCas9-VPR to activate the transcription factors Twist and Snail in cells, both singly and together, and then use RNAseq to identify transcriptional targets of these two conserved factors. Finally, we adapt the dCas9-VPR system for Gal4-UAS activation and show that this approach can activate target genes *in vivo* at levels sufficient to induce dominant phenotypes. Together, our results demonstrate the ease and utility of the dCas9-VPR system in *Drosophila* cells and *in vivo*.

Materials and Methods

Cloning of Cas9 activators and sgRNA

dCas9-VPR has been previously described (Chavez *et al.* 2015). UAS-driven transgenes were cloned into pWalium20 (Ni *et al.* 2011) using Gibson cloning (Gibson *et al.* 2009; Gibson 2011). A Kozak sequence (GCCACC) was added upstream of the start codon, and the *ftz* intron between the CDS and the 3' UTR was removed.

Single guides were cloned into pCFD3 (Port *et al.* 2014) using a *BbsI* digest, as described in Housden *et al.* (2014). Double-guides (targeting *wg*, *hnt*, *cut*, and *elav*) were cloned into pCFD4 (Port *et al.* 2014) using Gibson cloning, following the author's protocols. All guide sequences are available in Supporting Information, Table S1. Nuclease efficiency scores were calculated using the algorithm described in Housden *et al.* (2014), accessed via an online tool (<http://www.flyrnai.org/evaluateCrispr/>). Briefly, these values are based on an empirical analysis of the cutting efficiency of a library of sgRNAs, based on the position of each nucleotide at each of the 20 positions within the protospacer.

Cell culture and transfection

S2R+ cells were cultured in Schneider's *Drosophila* medium (Millipore, Gibco) containing 10% fetal bovine serum and

penicillin/streptomycin (at 1000 units/ml and 1000 mcg/ml, respectively). Cells were transfected using Effectene Transfection Reagent (Qiagen) using the manufacturer's protocol, except that twice the number of recommended suspension cells were seeded per well. For pActin-driven experiments, 50 ng of gRNAs and 150 ng dCas9 were transfected in 24-well plates. For UAS experiments, equal amounts (either 66 or 100 ng) of all components were transfected in 12- or 24-well plates.

Quantitative PCR

Three or four days after transfection, total RNA was collected using TRIzol (Life Technologies) following the manufacturer's instructions. Total RNA was purified using an RNeasy MinElute Cleanup Kit (Qiagen), including a 30-min on-column DNase treatment. Equal volumes of total RNA were used as template for first-strand complementary DNA (cDNA) synthesis using the iScript cDNA synthesis kit (Bio-Rad). Quantitative PCR (qPCR) was conducted using iQ Supermix (Bio-Rad) on a C1000 Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad), and fold-change was calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ method (Livak and Schmittgen 2001), with error propagated using standard methods and with *rp49* as a reference gene. The primers used for qPCR are listed in Table S2.

Western blotting

Cells were harvested 3 days after transfection. The following primary antibodies were used: anti-tubulin (Sigma T5168, 1:10,000), anti-Wg (4D4; DSHB, 1:400), anti-Hnt (1G9; DSHB, 1:500), anti-Cas9 (Abcam 191468, 1:500), and anti-FLAG (Sigma F3165, 1:10,000), with 5% BSA as a blocking reagent. HRP-coupled sheep anti-mouse (Amersham NXA931, 1:5000) was used as a secondary antibody, and signal was detected with Pierce ECL or SuperSignal West Pico reagents (Thermo).

RNAseq

S2R+ cells were transfected with Actin:dCas9-VPR along with either a negative control sgRNA that does not target the *Drosophila* genome (QUAS #1; Table S1) or a pool of five sgRNAs targeting either *snail*, *twist*, or a combination of both pools (Table S1). Total RNA was obtained as described above, and RNA integrity was confirmed by Bioanalyzer (Agilent). Between 2.0 and 2.5 M 100-bp single-end reads were generated for each sample using Illumina Hi-Seq at the Columbia Genome Center, following standard protocols for Illumina library preparation and sequencing. Reads were mapped to the *Drosophila melanogaster* genome (BDGP R5 assembly) using TopHat (Trapnell *et al.* 2009), and only uniquely mapped reads (between 76.4 and 83.3% of the reads for each sample) were used for further analysis. FPKM and read count values were obtained using Cufflinks (Trapnell *et al.* 2010) and HTSeq (Anders *et al.* 2015), respectively. Two biological replicates were sequenced per sample, and duplicate runs were highly correlated (Pearson's correlation ≥ 0.99 for all experiments). To eliminate potentially confounding effects of low read counts, we filtered out genes with < 1 M reads recorded for each sample. The "nbionomTest" of the Bioconductor package DESeq (Anders

and Huber 2010) was then used to obtain differentially expressed gene lists at a multiple hypothesis testing-adjusted *P*-value of 0.05.

For each activation experiment, we defined the target genes as the union of the (1) differentially expressed genes in induced sample compared to control sample and (2) genes that are not expressed (0 or very few reads) in control but highly expressed in induced samples or vice versa. These gene lists were used for Gene Ontology (GO) analysis and further comparison with chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) data.

To compare our data with published ChIP data, we downloaded Snail and Twist ChIP data from the Berkeley *Drosophila* transcription Network Project (MacArthur *et al.* 2009) (<http://bdtnp.lbl.gov/Fly-Net/>) and updated the wiggle file genome coordinates to the R5 genome assembly. We then pooled binding-site information of the two replicates and identified genes with the nearest TSS to the binding peak as the putative target gene. Read stacks were generated using the Integrated Genomics Visualizer (Robinson *et al.* 2011) after pooling the two BAM files for each experiment.

All RNAseq data have been deposited in Gene Expression Omnibus (accession no. GSE71430).

Transgenic flies

Transgenic 10X-UAS:3xFLAG-Cas9-VP64 and VPR constructs and double sgRNA-plasmids in pCFD4 (both described above) were integrated into the attP40 landing site on the second chromosome (Markstein *et al.* 2008) using standard phiC31 transformation methods.

For activation experiments, flies of the genotype *w*;UAS:*dCas9-VP64*/CyO;*dpp-Gal4/TM6b,Tb* or *w*;UAS:*dCas9-VPR*/CyO;*dpp-Gal4/TM6b,Tb* were crossed to homozygous sgRNA-*wg* flies (*yv*;sgRNA-*wg*). Wing discs from non-Tb larvae (*i.e.*, those containing *dpp-Gal4*) were costained with an anti-FLAG antibody to differentiate those larvae expressing the activator constructs from their siblings receiving the CyO balancer chromosome and an anti-Wg antibody to test for ectopic Wg expression.

Immunohistochemistry

In vivo experiments were conducted at 27°. Wandering-stage larval wing discs were dissected in PBS, fixed for 25–30 min in 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS, and then stained using standard protocols. Antibodies used were mouse anti-Wingless (4D4; DSHB, 1:100) and rabbit anti-FLAG (Sigma F7425, 1:500). Secondary antibodies coupled to Alexa 488 and 555 (Invitrogen) were used at 1:400, samples were imaged on a Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope, and maximum-intensity projections are shown.

Results and Discussion

Human codon-optimized dCas9-VPR works robustly in *Drosophila* cells

We first compared the activity of the published dCas9-VPR activator, which is human codon-optimized and contains four

nuclease-attenuating mutations (D10A, H839A, H840A, and N863A), to a *Drosophila* codon-optimized dCas9-VPR that contains two of these mutations (D10A and H840A), thought to be sufficient to remove nuclease activity (Mali *et al.* 2013; Perez-Pinera *et al.* 2013) (Figure 1A). We cotransfected these constructs, under UAS control, together with a plasmid encoding pActin-Gal4, and pairs of two sgRNAs targeting a window from –400 to –50 upstream of the TSS of two endogenous genes: *wingless* (*wg*) and *hindsight* (*hnt*, aka *pebbled*). We confirmed efficient translation of all of the activator constructs via Western blot (Figure 1B), demonstrating that differential activity was not due to activator protein levels.

In all four cases, the published Hs-dCas9-VPR construct substantially outperformed dCas9-VP64 and Dm-dCas9-VPR (Figure 1, C and D). The superior performance of Hs-dCas9-VPR was seen both via qPCR (Figure 1C) and via Western blots against the target genes (Figure 1D). It is unlikely that codon optimization caused this difference, as the two VPR constructs were expressed at equivalent levels (Figure 1B), suggesting that the four nuclease-attenuating mutations may be important for maximal function. We used the Hs-dCas9-VPR construct (hereafter shortened to “dCas9-VPR”) in all subsequent experiments.

To test whether dCas9-VPR can activate a range of target genes, we cotransfected cells with Actin:dCas9-VPR with pools of two to six sgRNAs targeting each of eight additional genes (*per*, *y*, *os*, *en*, *AttC*, *Dro*, *twi*, and *Sna*). In all cases, we observed robust activation ranging over two orders of magnitude (Figure 1E). Importantly, we note that two additional genes that we targeted (*cut* and *elav*) were not upregulated using either of two pairs of sgRNAs per gene (data not shown). In agreement with previous reports (Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015), we found that the level of activation of a given gene was inversely correlated with its basal expression level (Figure S1). In other words, dCas9 activation is most effective for genes that are expressed at low levels in a given cell type and does not strongly upregulate genes that are already transcriptionally active.

Design principles for sgRNAs

The initial characterization of dCas9-VPR employed pools of up to five sgRNAs per target gene (Chavez *et al.* 2015). We therefore wanted to know whether such groups of sgRNAs have synergistic effects or whether a single guide within the pool is largely responsible for activation. To address this question, we transfected three guides that target upstream of the TSS of a reporter construct (QUAS:Luciferase), both singly and in combination. The effect of the pooled sgRNAs could be almost completely attributed to the activity of a single highly active sgRNA with an essentially additive effect of the other two minimally active guides (Figure 2A). Next, we tested five nonoverlapping guides targeting immediately upstream of two endogenous genes, *twist* and *engrailed*. In both cases, there was marked heterogeneity in guide efficiency, with one guide giving substantially higher activation than

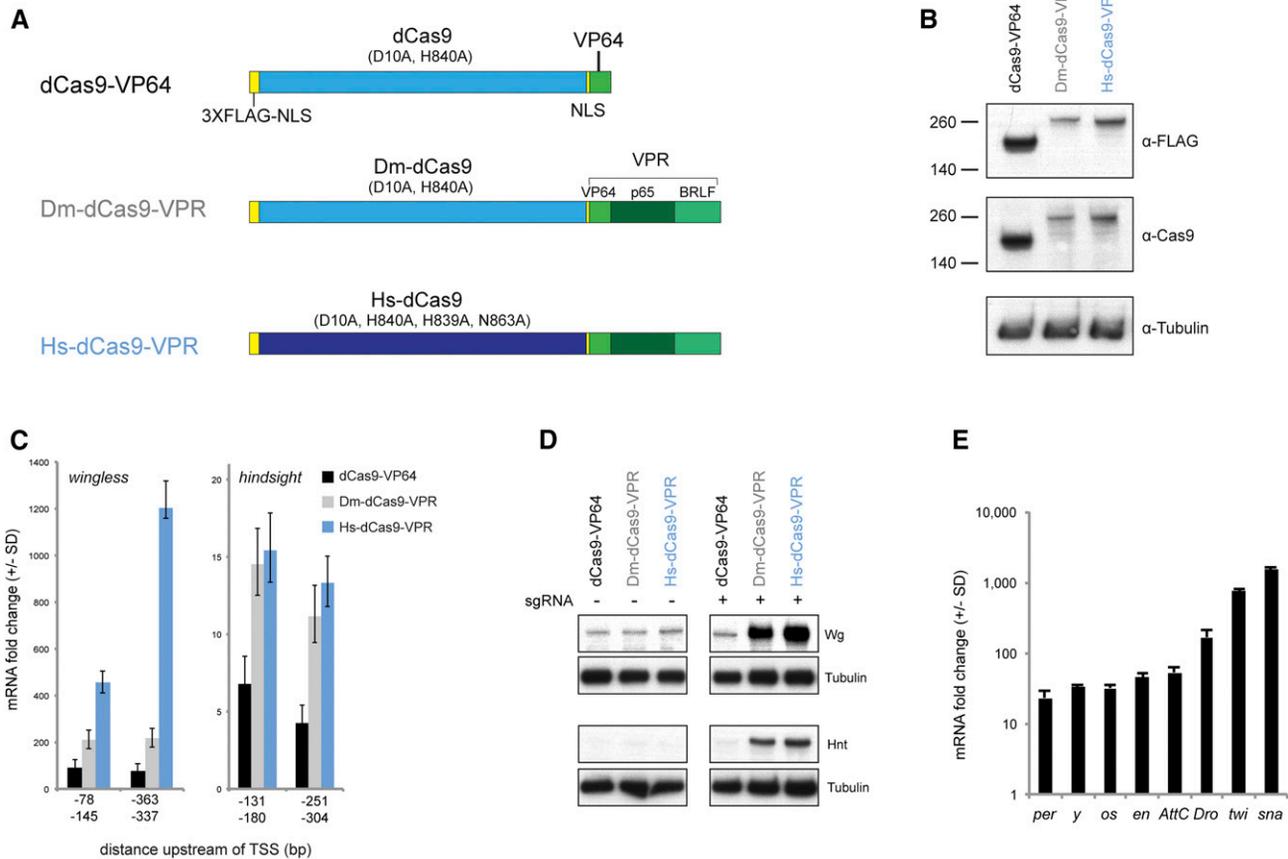


Figure 1 dCas9-VPR activates target gene expression in *Drosophila* S2R+ cells. (A) Schematics of the constructs tested in this study. Dm-dCas9 is codon-optimized for *Drosophila*, Hs-dCas9 for human. (B) Western blot analysis of dCas9 activators demonstrating that constructs are effectively translated. (C) qPCR analysis of *wg* and *hnt* activation. For each gene, two pairs of sgRNAs located upstream of the TSS were tested. Each sgRNA pair was expressed from a single plasmid driving expression from the U6:3 and U6:1 promoters, respectively (see *Materials and Methods*). (D) Western blot analysis of *Wg* and *Hnt* activation. (E) qPCR analysis of eight additional endogenous genes by Hs-dCas9-VPR. In B–D, UAS-driven constructs were cotransfected with pActin-Gal4. In E, Hs-dCas9-VPR was expressed using the Actin promoter.

any of the others (Figure 2B). Recent studies utilizing alternative Cas9-activator strategies have similarly found that individual sgRNAs vary widely in their ability to activate target gene activity (Tanenbaum *et al.* 2014; Konermann *et al.* 2015). These differences in activation are not correlated to the predicted sgRNA nuclease efficiency score, which is based on empirical analysis of cutting efficiency relative to the probability of a given nucleotide at each of the 20 positions within the sgRNA (Figure S2A) (Housden *et al.* 2014). Neither are these differences due to differential sgRNA-binding capability, as activation levels were uncorrelated with sgRNA GC content (Figure S2B). Furthermore, sgRNA performance was not related to differential bioavailability, as sgRNA concentration was not limiting over the wide range of concentrations tested (Figure S2C). Together, these results suggest that certain single sgRNAs are largely responsible for activation, but we do not currently understand the specific design principals for these particularly effective sgRNAs.

We next considered the effect of sgRNA placement relative to the TSS. Two previous studies have systematically examined the effect of sgRNA placement relative to the TSS (Gilbert

et al. 2014; Konermann *et al.* 2015). Gilbert *et al.* (2014) calculated an optimal window of activation range from –400 to –50 bp upstream of the TSS, whereas Konermann *et al.* (2015) found that a smaller window from –100 to 0 bp upstream of the TSS is optimal. In our experiments, the most active sgRNA was not necessarily within 100 bp of the TSS, and we observed that several sgRNAs within this window were not effective (Figure 2B). Furthermore, our experiments with pairs of sgRNAs targeting *wg* (Figure 1C) showed that a pair of sgRNAs located –337 and 363 bp upstream of the TSS gave far better activation than a pair at –78 and –145 bp upstream, while a trend in the opposite direction was true for *hnt*. Together, our results demonstrate that it is important to test a variety of sgRNAs in a window from –400 to 0 upstream of the TSS to maximize activation. We suggest that a good compromise for future studies is to express sgRNAs from the pCFD4 plasmid (Port *et al.* 2014), which contains sites for co-expression of two separate sgRNAs driven by the U6:3 and U6:1 promoters, respectively.

Many sgRNAs targeting early in the first exon of genes have been generated by a variety of laboratories for the purpose of

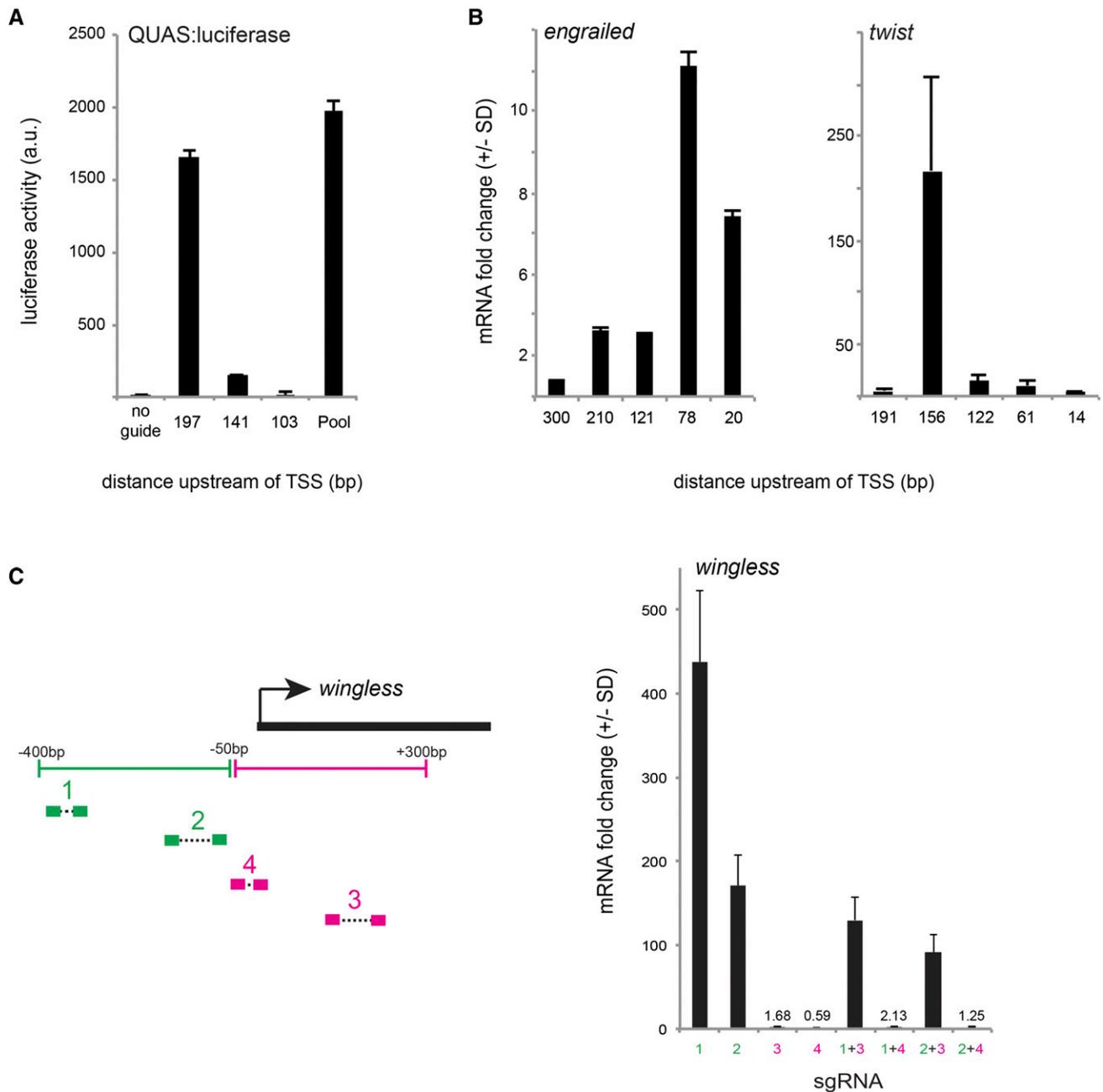


Figure 2 Effects of individual sgRNA on target gene activation. (A) Three nonoverlapping sgRNAs tiling the region upstream of a QUAS:luciferase reporter construct were transfected either singly or in combination. (B) Five nonoverlapping sgRNAs targeting the upstream region of two endogenous genes, *engrailed* and *twist*, differ in their effectiveness. (C) Four pairs of sgRNAs targeting the regions upstream and downstream of the *wg* TSS were tested singly and in combination. sgRNAs downstream of the TSS do not activate transcription, and their presence can reduce or completely block transcription in the presence of an effective sgRNA.

generating null mutations via Cas9-mediated mutagenesis (reviewed in Housden *et al.* 2014). We therefore asked whether such existing sgRNA reagents could be useful for Cas9-mediated transcriptional activation. However, previous studies have shown that dCas9–sgRNA complexes targeting in the first exon, downstream of the TSS, can prohibit activation by blocking transcript elongation (Cheng *et al.* 2013; Qi *et al.* 2013). To verify this in our system, we examined the activation efficiency of four pairs of sgRNAs targeting a region from –400 bp

upstream to 400 bp downstream of the *wg* TSS, both singly and in combination. sgRNAs targeting downstream of the TSS did not activate transcription, and in fact these sgRNAs reduced or completely blocked the effect of upstream sgRNAs (Figure 2C). We therefore conclude that Cas9-activator studies should avoid using sgRNAs that target downstream of the TSS. These guides, however, may prove useful for future studies using dCas9 for transcriptional repression.

Identification of transcription factor targets using multiplexed Cas9 activation and RNAseq

Cas9-based transcriptional activation has the notable benefit that multiple genes can be simultaneously targeted using a pool of sgRNAs (Zalatan *et al.* 2014; Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015). We validated the efficacy of multiplexed gene activation in *Drosophila* cells by cotransfecting Actin:dCas9-VPR with guides targeting three target genes: *twist*, *snail*, and *engrailed*. We observed robust activation of all three genes singly, as pairs, and as a pool of three (Figure S3).

Given the effectiveness of dCas9-VPR, we reasoned that combining Cas9-based activation with RNAseq should provide a conceptually simple approach for identifying transcription factor target genes. We focused on Twist and Snail, two highly conserved transcription factors that function in the *Drosophila* embryo to specify mesoderm specification and subsequent development (Leptin 1991). Twist is a basic helix-loop-helix activator (Thisse *et al.* 1988; Murre *et al.* 1989), and Snail is a zinc-finger transcription factor, classically considered to be a repressor (Boulay *et al.* 1987; Nieto 2002; Barrallo-Gimeno and Nieto 2005). However, a recent study has suggested that Snail may have additional roles as a transcriptional activator (Rembold *et al.* 2014). Importantly, the genome-wide targets of both genes have been characterized via independent means, allowing for direct comparison with our data (Sandmann *et al.* 2007; Zeitlinger *et al.* 2007; Macarthur *et al.* 2009).

We transfected S2R+ cells with sgRNAs targeting *twist* and *snail* singly and in combination (5 sgRNAs per gene), as well as a nontargeting sgRNA negative control, and then used RNAseq to identify differentially expressed genes. This approach should identify direct and indirect targets of both genes (*i.e.*, genes that are secondarily activated by direct targets) and should identify target genes of both factors individually, as well as those genes that are only activated by both factors acting together.

RNAseq confirmed that *snail* and *twist* themselves were highly activated by dCas9-VPR, whether targeted singly or together (Figure 3, A–C; Table S3). In each experiment, we also identified a number of additional genes that were significantly differentially expressed (P -value cutoff = 0.05) following overexpression of *twist* (66 genes), *snail* (27 genes), or both (106 genes; Figure 3, A–C; Table S3).

One important caveat is that dCas9-VPR may have off-target activation effects (Kuscu *et al.* 2014; Wu *et al.* 2014). Indeed, it has been shown that dCas9 is capable of binding to DNA sequences with up to nine consecutive mismatches in the PAM-distal region (Kuscu *et al.* 2014). We therefore analyzed each of the predicted off-target binding sites according to this rule (Gratz *et al.* 2014) and asked whether any nearby gene is upregulated in our RNAseq experiments. Among 77 potential off-target sites for the *snail* or *twist* sgRNAs, 5 fell near genes that were differentially expressed in our analysis. While 3 of these genes were also near ChIP sites for Twist or Snail, and thus may be genuine targets, 2 are not near ChIP peaks (*CG32813* and *CG15154*) and should be considered off-target effects. In future studies, we strongly recommend using one of the existing online sgRNA

design tools to minimize off-target binding sites in the genome (reviewed in Housden *et al.* 2014).

Gene Ontology enrichment analysis showed that the genes coregulated by Snail and Twist are enriched for terms related to mesoderm and muscle development, as expected (Figure 3D). A subset of these terms was also significantly enriched among targets of Twist alone, including muscle organ development ($P = 0.003163$), but no terms were following Snail activation alone, consistent with the observation that these factors act synergistically (Rembold *et al.* 2014). Furthermore, of the genes upregulated by Snail and Twist together, 38 genes (35.8%) were upregulated only upon co-expression of Snail + Twist. Repression of target genes, as opposed to activation, was observed in a substantially higher proportion of Snail-regulated genes than Twist-regulated genes (37.0 compared to 7.6%), consistent with the observation that Snail commonly acts as a repressor (Barrallo-Gimeno and Nieto 2005). However, we also noted that Snail and Twist together led to the down-regulation of 23 genes not repressed by either factor individually (Table S3), suggesting that the presence of Twist may contribute to the repressive activity of Snail, although this effect could be indirect, *i.e.*, mediated by an additional factor that is regulated by Twist and/or Snail.

To begin to differentiate between direct and indirect targets, we calculated the proportion of differentially expressed genes that are adjacent to known ChIP peaks for *snail* and *twist*. A highly significant proportion of our predicted target genes were adjacent to ChIP peaks for the relevant factor ($P < 0.0001$; χ^2 test; Figure 3E), suggesting that these are direct Snail and Twist targets. These include known target genes such as *heartless* (Shishido *et al.* 1993), *inflated* (Sandmann *et al.* 2007), and *escargot* (Fuse *et al.* 1996) (Figure 3F and Table S3) and also include new, uncharacterized targets such as *CG6330* and *CG3376* (Figure 3F). For the target gene *CG3376*, Snail and Twist had opposite effects on the expression levels, but in combination led to an increase in *CG3376* levels (Figure 3F). In contrast, for the majority of target genes identified in this study, we observed that *snail* and *twist*, both singly and in combination, promoted target gene activation rather than repression, consistent with recent observations that *snail* has a dual role as a transcriptional activator (*e.g.*, *hhl* and *esg*, Figure 3F). The remaining genes, which are not adjacent to ChIP peaks, are likely indirect targets (Table S3).

The number of differentially expressed genes in the present study is far less than the number of observed ChIP peaks (representing between 1.3 and 6.8% of the ChIP peaks; Figure 3E). This difference may be partially due to the difference in cell type (S2R+ cells *vs.* embryonic tissue) or false positives from ChIP experiments based on cross-linking conditions, but we suggest that this may also reflect the fact that transcription factor occupancy does not necessarily correlate with transcription. Because the approach described here relies on a direct analysis of target gene transcription, it should therefore be less prone to false positives than ChIP studies.

In vivo activation using dCas9-VPR

To date, all studies of Cas9 activators have been conducted in cell culture, and *in vivo* activation has not yet been demonstrated in

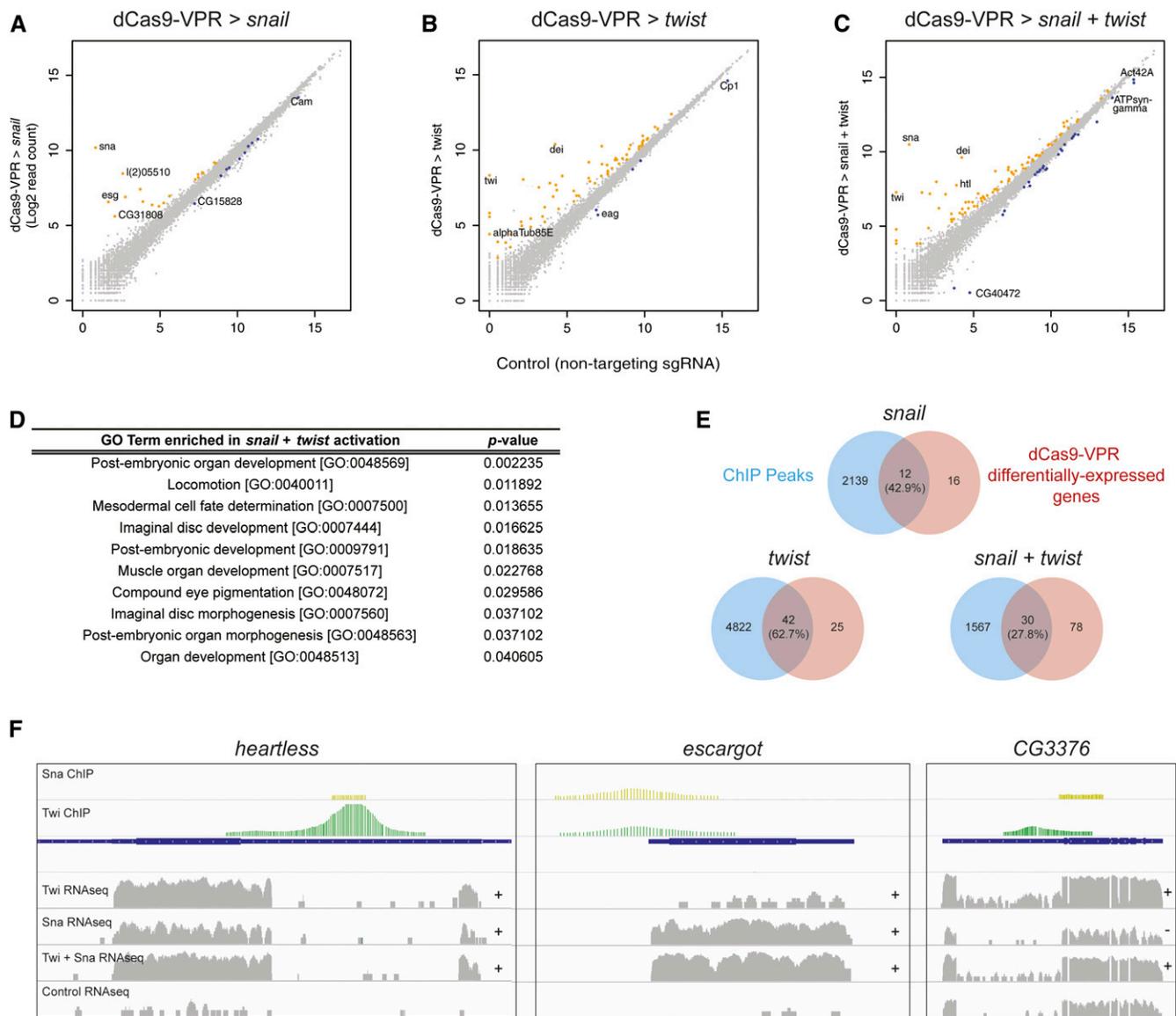


Figure 3 Identification of *snail* and *twist* target genes using dCas9-VPR and RNAseq. (A–C) Differential expression analysis following activation of *snail* (A), *twist* (B), or both (C). Read counts are plotted on a log₂ scale. Colored circles indicate significant difference from control values at $P < 0.05$. (D) GO term enrichment for *snail + twist* targets, including several terms associated with mesoderm development. (E) Venn diagrams demonstrating the proportion of differentially expressed genes that also show ChIP peaks for *snail*, *twist*, or both. (F) Representative examples showing RNAseq data together with previous ChIP data. The “+” and “–” indicate significant upregulation and downregulation, respectively, relative to control expression levels.

any multicellular animal (Gilbert *et al.* 2014; Tanenbaum *et al.* 2014; Zalatan *et al.* 2014; Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015). We therefore tested whether the dCas9-VPR system functions *in vivo* in *Drosophila*.

We generated transgenic flies expressing either dCas9-VP64 or dCas9-VPR under UAS control, as well as a line that constitutively expresses two sgRNAs targeting *wg*. Expression of these transgenes was not toxic, as driving these constructs ubiquitously using Actin-Gal4 was not lethal (data not shown). As a proof of principle, we used *dpp*-Gal4 to drive expression of the dCas9-VP64 or dCas9-VPR in a stripe of expression along the anterior–posterior margin in the larval wing disc. We crossed *dpp*-Gal4 > UAS:dCas9-activator flies to sgRNA-*wg* flies and examined Wg expression using

immunostaining. In the wild type, Wg is expressed in a stripe along dorsal–ventral margin, perpendicular to the *dpp*-Gal4 expression domain (Figure 4, A and A’). Strikingly, the dCas9-VPR construct drove ectopic Wg expression (Figure 4, C and C’), while the dCas9-VP64 did not (Figure 4, B and B’), consistent with our cell culture data. To show that this ectopic Wg expression is physiologically relevant, we examined the morphology of these wing discs and observed a partial duplication of the wing pouch and other patterning abnormalities, consistent with ectopic activation using *dpp*-Gal4 > UAS:Wg (Figure 4, A’–C’) (Ng *et al.* 1996). These *dpp*-Gal4 > dCas9-VPR, sgRNA-*wg* larvae died during early pupal stages, precluding analysis of adult wing morphology. Thus, dCas9-VPR can activate physiologically

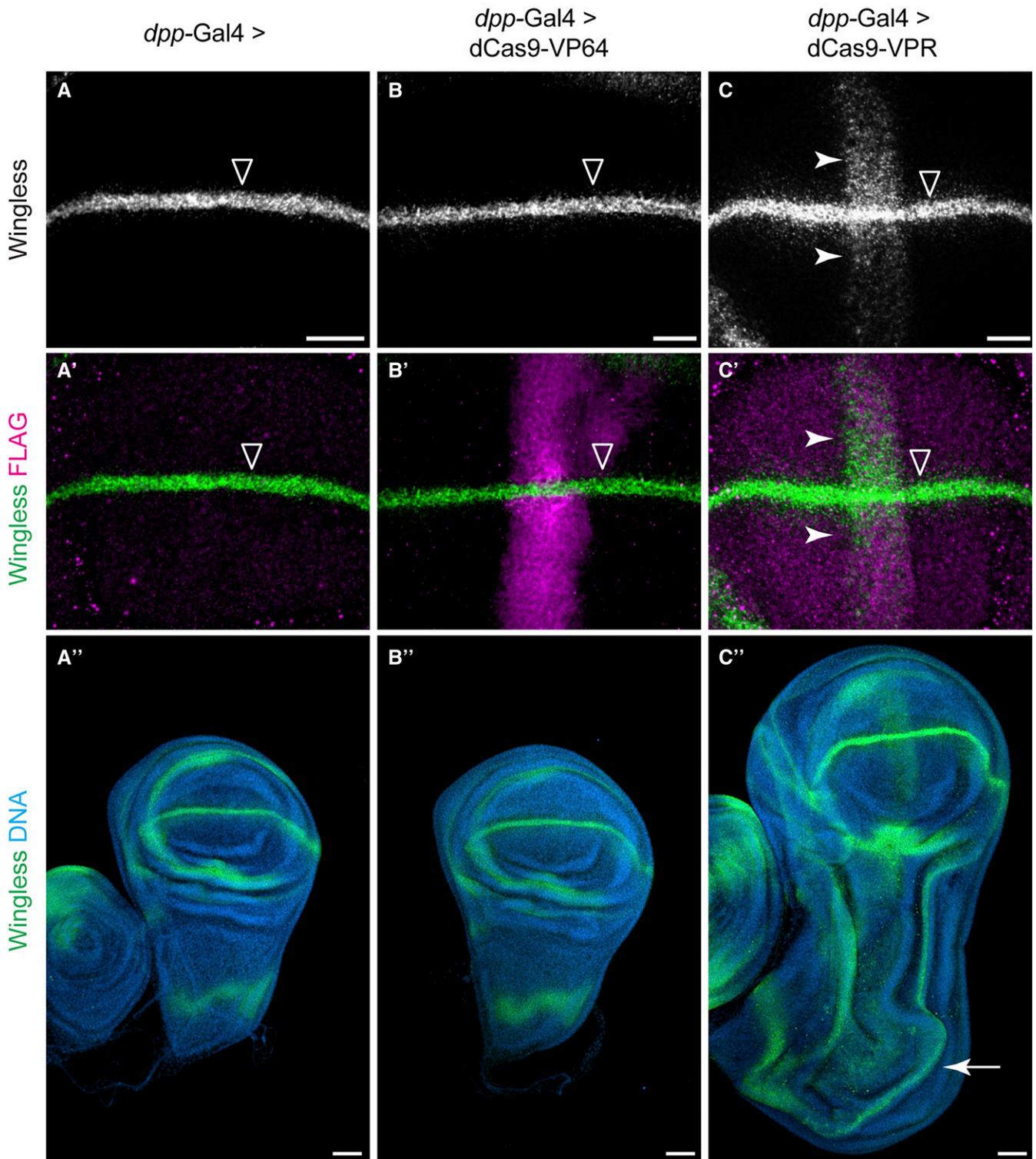


Figure 4 *In vivo* activation using dCas9-VPR. Flies homozygous for sgRNA-*wg* (two sgRNAs) were crossed to flies containing *dpp-Gal4* driving expression of UAS-3X-FLAG:dCas9 activators. (A and A') In the absence of dCas9 activator, Wg is expressed in a stripe along the dorsal-ventral wing margin (open arrowhead). (B and B') *dpp-Gal4* > dCas9-VP64 did not activate ectopic Wg, despite high levels of transgene expression. (C and C') *dpp-Gal4* > dCas9-VPR activates a stripe of ectopic Wg expression (white arrowhead). The dCas9-VPR transgene is expressed at relatively low levels compared to dCas9-VP64 (compare C' to B'). (C'') Ectopic activation of Wg using *dpp-Gal4* > dCas9-VPR leads to a partial duplication of the wing pouch (white arrow). See *Materials and Methods* for full genotypes. Bar: 20 μ m in A-C' and 50 μ m in A''-C''.

relevant levels of target gene expression and can generate dominant phenotypes *in vivo*.

Conclusion

In this study, we demonstrate the ease and effectiveness of the dCas9-VPR system for activating target genes both in *Drosophila* cells and *in vivo*. Based on our observations that a single sgRNA targeting within ~400 bp upstream of the TSS can be used to activate target genes, but that sgRNAs differ widely in their efficiency, we propose that a good compromise is to express two sgRNAs per target gene from a single plasmid, using a vector such as pCFD4 (Port *et al.* 2014). Our results also show that sgRNAs targeting downstream of the TSS are not compatible with dCas9-based activation, consistent with previous studies (Qi *et al.* 2013). In addition, our results also support previous reports (Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015) that target gene activation levels are inversely proportional to that gene's basal expression level, which suggests that dCas9-based activation is most effective for genes that are expressed at low levels in a given cell type. Furthermore, we have shown that dCas9-VPR, combined with RNAseq, can be applied to identify targets of transcription factors in multiplex.

Finally, we have provided the first demonstration of Cas9-based activation *in vivo*, demonstrating that this strategy holds great potential for overexpression studies. For *in vivo* studies involving stable transgenic organisms, the dCas9-VPR strategy has the benefit that it requires only a single dCas9 component, in contrast to the other existing strategies (Gilbert *et al.* 2014; Tanenbaum *et al.* 2014; Zalatan *et al.* 2014; Chavez *et al.* 2015; Konermann *et al.* 2015). The dCas9-VPR strategy that we describe here will make it possible to produce genome-scale transgenic sgRNA lines for overexpression screens, thus complementing other approaches such as random UAS-insertion lines ("EP lines") (Rørth 1996; Staudt *et al.* 2005) and UAS-ORF lines (Bischof *et al.* 2013).

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Supporting Information

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In Vivo Transcriptional Activation Using CRISPR/Cas9 in *Drosophila*

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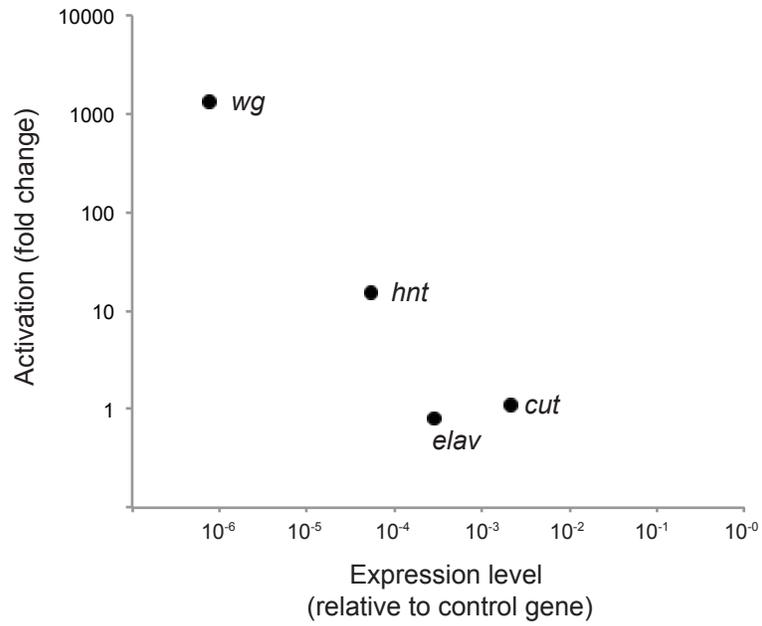


Figure S1. Cas9 activation of target genes is inversely proportional to basal expression levels. The activation level (fold change) is plotted against the relative expression level for four genes tested in parallel. Relative expression levels are estimated based on the difference in Ct values between the basal expression level of the target gene and a control gene, *Rp49*.

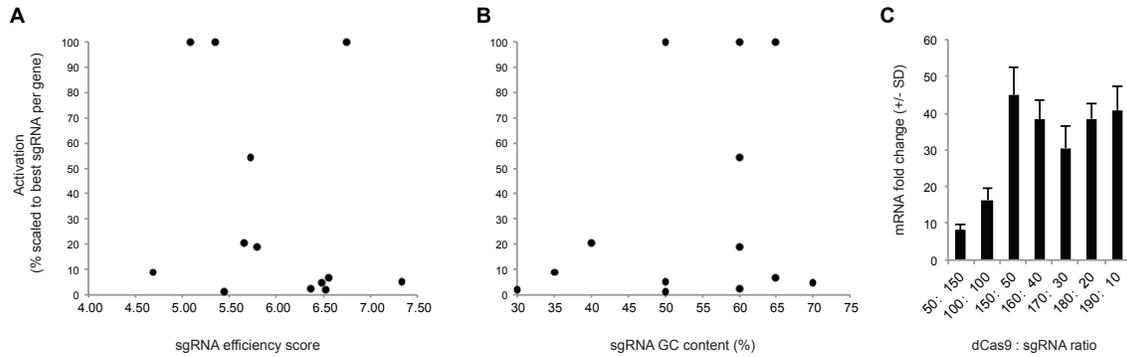


Figure S2. sgRNA effectiveness is not related to nuclease efficiency or GC content, and sgRNAs are not rate limiting in these experiments. (A) 13 sgRNAs targeting 3 genes (*QUAS:luciferase*, *twist*, and *engrailed*) are shown plotted against the predicted nuclease efficiency score. The activation for each sgRNA is shown as a percentage of the best-performing sgRNA for that gene. There is no correlation between sgRNA activation and efficiency score. (B) The same sgRNAs as in (A) are shown plotted against sgRNA GC content, revealing no correlation. (C) dCas9-VPR activation is robust over a wide range of dCas9 : sgRNA ratios, indicating that sgRNA availability is not limiting in our experiments.

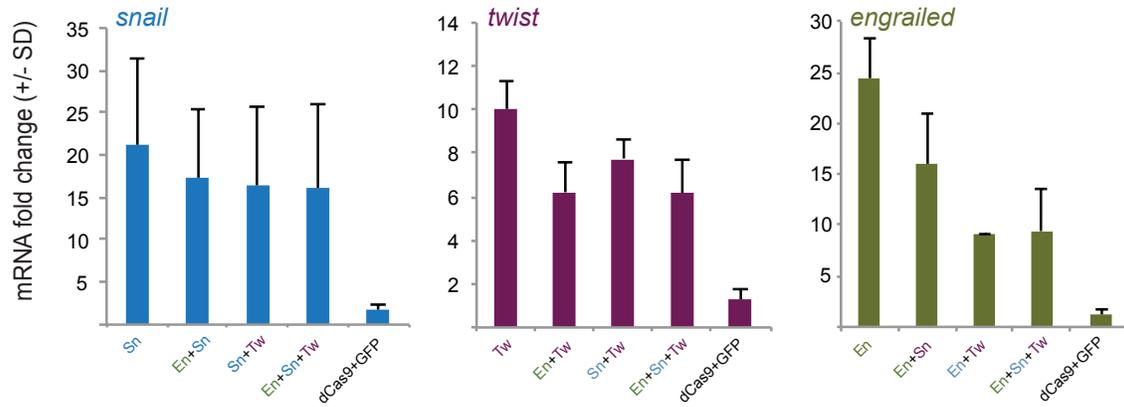


Figure S3. Simultaneous activation of multiple target genes using multiplexed guides. Three endogenous genes (*sna*, *twi*, and *en*) were robustly activated when activated using pairs of sgRNAs or a pool of three sgRNAs.

Table S1 sgRNAs used in this study. Distances from TSS are based on BDGP Release 6 (August 2014).

Gene targeted	sgRNA sequence (including PAM)	Distance from TSS (from 3' end of PAM)	Strand	Efficiency Score
wg	CCCCGATCCGATCGCATCGTCGG	-78	minus	4.85
	GCAGCTGCAATGCAGGAGTCAGG	-145	plus	4.07
wg	ATGAGGTTGCGCAAATAATCGGG	-363	plus	6.79
	GGAAATGGAAAACTCTGCCCCGG	-337	minus	4.26
wg	TATATATTGTATCGTAAATTTGG	125	minus	5.33
	ATTTGTGCGATTAATTCCGCTGG	206	minus	5.79
wg	GCTGCTGACAAACGCAGAGTCGG	22	plus	5.39
	CGTGTGTTTCAGTTAAGCGTTGG	15	plus	7.97
hnt	GCGCAAATAGGATTACACATTGG	-251	minus	4.63
	GGCCGTACTIONCATCTTTTCATTGG	-304	minus	3.41
hnt	GAGAGAAGAGAGAAGCAGTCTGG	-131	minus	4.55
	ATTTGAAACGAAGAATGAGAAGG	-180	plus	5.30
hnt	AGTTGTATTTATAAATACAACGG	34	minus	4.86
	TGCGTTTGATATTTCTTTGTAGG	173	minus	6.56
hnt	GCCTAAAACAGTGCGAAATCCGG	444	plus	4.81
	AACAGTGCGAAATCCGGAGTTGG	450	plus	5.66
QUAS (#1)	CTCGGGTAATCGCTTATCCTCGG	-103	plus	5.45
QUAS (#2)	CGGATAAACAATTATCCTCACGG	-141	plus	4.69
QUAS (#3)	CCAACGCGTTGGGAGCTCTCCGG	-197	plus	5.35
engrailed (isoform A)	GCGTAACTCTCCCCGACGTCGG	-20	plus	5.72

engrailed (isoform A)	AACTGTCACGGTGAAAGAGAGG	-78	minus	5.09
engrailed (isoform A)	GGCGAGATCCCACAAGTAGCTGG	-121	minus	5.80
engrailed (isoform A)	AGCGAAAATCGATCAGTGTAAAGG	-210	plus	5.65
engrailed (isoform A)	GCTCACTCACTCCTATTAGCTGG	-300	minus	7.33
twist (isoform B)	CAAAATGTCAATTTGAGCAATGG	-14	plus	6.52
twist (isoform B)	GCGGGACGACGATAGAGCGGCGG	-61	plus	6.48
twist (isoform B)	GCCATCCCGCTCCCACTCAATGG	-122	minus	6.56
twist (isoform B)	GCATCGGCAGGTATGACGTCAGG	-156	minus	6.75
twist (isoform B)	ATTTTCTCGAGCGGCAGCGGCGG	-191	minus	6.37
per	GAGTGAGTGTGAGAAAATTCTGG	-50	minus	5.85
per	CCGCCGTCGCTGAGAATCGCTGG	-104	plus	6.38
per	TCGCTCGGGAAAATCGCTGGTCGG	-136	plus	6.03
per	TTCGCCAAGGGTTAATGTTTGG	-151	minus	6.05
y	CATTGGCCTGTCTTCGTCTTCGG	-46	minus	6.83
y	ACGAAGGCGCGGCCAACTTCGG	-101	plus	7.86
y	ATTCGGGTGGTTCAGTGTTCGGG	-135	plus	6.55
y	CGCAAAGTTGGCCGATCTATGGG	-157	minus	4.45
Os	TACCGCTCGTCGGCACTCGGCGG	-39	minus	4.91
Os	ATTCAGATCCGAAGAACCGCAGG	-131	plus	6.27
en	GCGTTAACTCTCCCCGACGTCGG	-19	minus	5.72
en	AACTGTCACGGTGAAAGAGAGG	-77	plus	5.09
en	GGCGAGATCCCACAAGTAGCTGG	-120	plus	5.80
en	AGTGAGTGAGTGACAGCAGTTGG	-164	plus	4.10
en	AGCGAAAATCGATCAGTGTAAAGG	-209	minus	5.65
en	GCTCACTCACTCCTATTAGCTGG	-299	plus	7.33

AttC	TATAGCAATCTATCTCTGAGTGG	-48	plus	6.52
AttC	TATAAATTGGTATTTCATTGTCGG	-63	minus	6.64
AttC	AGCTGAGCAATGTTTCGCACTGG	-138	plus	5.61
AttC	GTGAACCCACCTGGTCATTGCGGG	-140	minus	9.39
AttC	ATCCCCTTGAACTACTTGCCGG	-209	plus	6.92
AttC	TAAAATTTGAACTACTCATTGG	-338	minus	6.22
Dro	CGAATCTCTTGTTCATCGATGG	-39	minus	4.31
Dro	AACATGAAAAGTCCCAAGATGG	-101	minus	3.56
Dro	GCCGGTGATTCCCATCTTGGGG	-112	plus	4.30
Dro	ATCAACGAATAGGCGACTGAAGG	-151	plus	5.78
Dro	GCTGCGTAGTTTACATCATTGG	-220	plus	5.30
sna	CCGACGCCGCTGTCGCCATTTGG	-68	plus	7.39
sna	TCCATTTCCACCTCTCTCTCGG	-235	plus	8.15
sna	AAAGTGCTGTTGTTGTTGCTAGG	-117	minus	7.14
sna	GAAATACGCAATAAGGGTATGGG	-141	minus	5.39
sna	GAGAGAGAGAGTGAGAGAGCAGG	-179	minus	5.96

Table S2 qPCR primers used in this study.

Gene targeted	Forward Primer	Reverse Primer
<i>Rp49</i>	ATCGGTTACGGATCGAACAA	GACAATCTCCTTGCGCTTCT
<i>wingless</i>	CCAAGTCGAGGGCAAACAGAA	TGGATCGCTGGGTCCATGTA
<i>hindsight</i>	ACATCCGGTGCCACAATTA	AGGGATGAAGCCGAGGATAGC
<i>snail</i>	CGGAACCGAAACGTGACTAT	CCTTTCCGGTGTTTTTGAAG
<i>twist</i>	AAGTCCCTGCAGCAGATCAT	CGGCACAGGAAGTCAATGTA
<i>engrailed</i>	TCCGTGATCGGTGACATGAGT	CGCCGACGTATCATCCACATC
<i>period</i>	GACTCGGCCTACTCGAACAG	CGCGACTTATCCTTGTTGCG
<i>yellow</i>	TACCTGTTGGAGTCGAACACT	GTGGCCGGAATCCCATCAC
<i>Os aka upd1</i>	GTCGGATAAAGTAGCTAACTTGAA	AAACTTCAAGTTAGCTACTTTATC
<i>Attacin-C</i>	CGCCACCCAGAATCTACAGG	CTTAGGTCCAATCGGGCATCG
<i>Drosocin</i>	GTCGGCAACAAGAGATTCTGAATGGG	AAACCCCATTCGAATCTCTTGTTGC

Table S3 Differentially expressed genes following activation of *snail*, *twist*, and *snail + twist* (p-value cutoff = 0.05).

dCas9-activated TF	Differentially Expressed Gene	Flybase ID	CG number	Fold Change (Log2)	ChiP Peak
<i>snail</i>	sna	FBgn0003448	CG3956	10.06567708	Yes
<i>snail</i>	l(2)05510	FBgn0028622	CG13432	6.019522795	
<i>snail</i>	esg	FBgn0001981	CG3758	5.438088815	Yes
<i>snail</i>	pyr	FBgn0033649	CG13194	4.320828812	Yes
<i>snail</i>	ldgf4	FBgn0026415	CG1780	3.772949815	
<i>snail</i>	CG31808	FBgn0062978	CG31808	3.481828608	
<i>snail</i>	htl	FBgn0010389	CG7223	2.706344789	Yes
<i>snail</i>	Ggamma30A	FBgn0267252	CG3694	1.88490427	
<i>snail</i>	if	FBgn0001250	CG9623	1.361821658	
<i>snail</i>	CG31516	FBgn0051516	CG31516	1.332014094	Yes
<i>snail</i>	Ama	FBgn0000071	CG2198	1.282418899	Yes
<i>snail</i>	CG13928	FBgn0035246	CG13928	0.945532592	Yes
<i>snail</i>	tok	FBgn0004885	CG6863	0.785310731	Yes
<i>snail</i>	dally	FBgn0263930	CG4974	0.761523509	Yes
<i>snail</i>	CG3624	FBgn0034724	CG3624	0.710650399	
<i>snail</i>	CG5455	FBgn0039430	CG5455	0.701973435	
<i>snail</i>	hoe1	FBgn0041150	CG12787	0.683715599	
<i>snail</i>	CG5895	FBgn0036560	CG5895	0.535425178	
<i>snail</i>	CG3800	FBgn0034802	CG3800	-0.419648113	
<i>snail</i>	CG12099	FBgn0035232	CG12099	-0.428194298	
<i>snail</i>	CG5118	FBgn0031317	CG5118	-0.463998841	
<i>snail</i>	CG3860	FBgn0034951	CG3860	-0.562885083	Yes
<i>snail</i>	tmod	FBgn0082582	CG1539	-0.58824945	Yes
<i>snail</i>	Cap-H2	FBgn0037831	CG14685	-0.629304699	
<i>snail</i>	CG33926	FBgn0053926	CG33926	-0.634353699	
<i>snail</i>	CG8547	FBgn0033919	CG8547	-0.640350549	
<i>snail</i>	Paip2	FBgn0038100	CG12358	-0.722847538	
<i>snail</i>	CG3376	FBgn0034997	CG3376	-0.801759241	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG15611	FBgn0034194	CG15611	Inf	
<i>twist</i>	CG15658	FBgn0034602	CG15658	Inf	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG17270	FBgn0038828	CG17270	Inf	
<i>twist</i>	acj6	FBgn0000028	CG9151	Inf	
<i>twist</i>	alphaTub85E	FBgn0003886	CG9476	Inf	
<i>twist</i>	ect	FBgn0000451	CG6611	Inf	
<i>twist</i>	twi	FBgn0003900	CG2956	Inf	Yes
<i>twist</i>	lmd	FBgn0039039	CG4677	Inf	Yes
<i>twist</i>	dei	FBgn0263118	CG5441	6.248589419	Yes
<i>twist</i>	PGRP-LB	FBgn0037906	CG14704	6.13543379	
<i>twist</i>	CCKLR-17D3	FBgn0030954	CG32540	4.434007846	Yes
<i>twist</i>	htl	FBgn0010389	CG7223	3.936688181	Yes

<i>twist</i>	navy	FBgn0005636	CG3385	3.64454539	Yes
<i>twist</i>	e	FBgn0000527	CG3331	3.638143579	
<i>twist</i>	alpha-Est1	FBgn0015568	CG1031	3.505377756	Yes
<i>twist</i>	btn	FBgn0014949	CG5264	3.409022052	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG3376	FBgn0034997	CG3376	3.017699542	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG13707	FBgn0035578	CG13707	2.995481719	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG6231	FBgn0038720	CG6231	2.984047614	Yes
<i>twist</i>	Pu	FBgn0003162	CG9441	2.887683306	
<i>twist</i>	CG17032	FBgn0036547	CG17032	2.829535333	
<i>twist</i>	sano	FBgn0034408	CG12758	2.805911606	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG9150	FBgn0031775	CG9150	2.792648879	
<i>twist</i>	Bili	FBgn0039282	CG11848	2.424495665	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG12402	FBgn0038202	CG12402	2.287528386	Yes
<i>twist</i>	pyd3	FBgn0037513	CG3027	1.849919318	Yes
<i>twist</i>	trol	FBgn0267911	CG33950	1.813775804	Yes
<i>twist</i>	kon	FBgn0032683	CG10275	1.792138095	Yes
<i>twist</i>	Fuca	FBgn0036169	CG6128	1.759441705	
<i>twist</i>	SerT	FBgn0010414	CG4545	1.68233002	
<i>twist</i>	CG17181	FBgn0035144	CG17181	1.441725877	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG7149	FBgn0031948	CG7149	1.440411931	
<i>twist</i>	if	FBgn0001250	CG9623	1.396773256	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG18557	FBgn0031470	CG18557	1.328767553	
<i>twist</i>	Mmp1	FBgn0035049	CG4859	1.236089352	
<i>twist</i>	CG13506	FBgn0034723	CG13506	1.229569672	Yes
<i>twist</i>	rut	FBgn0003301	CG9533	1.228660489	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG30089	FBgn0050089	CG30089	1.152076771	Yes
<i>twist</i>	nkd	FBgn0002945	CG11614	1.150717399	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG6406	FBgn0034269	CG6406	1.067665782	
<i>twist</i>	RhoL	FBgn0014380	CG9366	1.04021967	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG14741	FBgn0037989	CG14741	0.997668804	
<i>twist</i>	CG32813	FBgn0052813	CG32813	0.994802235	
<i>twist</i>	CG8451	FBgn0031998	CG8451	0.963138737	
<i>twist</i>	zormin	FBgn0052311	CG33484	0.903534883	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG5916	FBgn0038401	CG5916	0.898968909	
<i>twist</i>	CG10962	FBgn0030073	CG10962	0.880539393	
<i>twist</i>	CG33116	FBgn0053116	CG33116	0.864437342	Yes
<i>twist</i>	Sans	FBgn0033785	CG13320	0.853707309	
<i>twist</i>	sick	FBgn0263873	CG43720	0.786380378	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG42806	FBgn0261975	CG42806	0.743647143	
<i>twist</i>	ash2	FBgn0000139	CG6677	0.713986802	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG7872	FBgn0030658	CG7872	0.680440718	Yes
<i>twist</i>	Pax	FBgn0041789	CG31794	0.660397209	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG4802	FBgn0034215	CG4802	0.57850087	
<i>twist</i>	miple2	FBgn0029002	CG18321	0.560957173	Yes
<i>twist</i>	SP1173	FBgn0035710	CG10121	0.558605324	Yes
<i>twist</i>	argos	FBgn0062279	CG4531	0.552945125	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG6522	FBgn0034223	CG6522	0.544987319	
<i>twist</i>	Fit2	FBgn0036688	CG7729	0.50990303	Yes

<i>twist</i>	Rac2	FBgn0014011	CG8556	0.442453783	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG32772	FBgn0052772	CG32772	0.437854963	Yes
<i>twist</i>	lig3	FBgn0038035	CG17227	-0.451475123	Yes
<i>twist</i>	dnr1	FBgn0260866	CG12489	-0.498567259	Yes
<i>twist</i>	Cp1	FBgn0013770	CG6692	-0.753112048	Yes
<i>twist</i>	CG6206	FBgn0027611	CG6206	-0.885978932	Yes
<i>twist</i>	eag	FBgn0000535	CG10952	-1.207357152	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG42741	FBgn0261705	CG42741	Inf	
<i>snail + twist</i>	acj6	FBgn0000028	CG9151	Inf	
<i>snail + twist</i>	ect	FBgn0000451	CG6611	Inf	
<i>snail + twist</i>	twi	FBgn0003900	CG2956	Inf	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG17270	FBgn0038828	CG17270	Inf	
<i>snail + twist</i>	sna	FBgn0003448	CG3956	10.37275099	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	esg	FBgn0001981	CG3758	6.140652322	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	l(2)05510	FBgn0028622	CG13432	5.543924262	
<i>snail + twist</i>	dei	FBgn0263118	CG5441	5.457144722	
<i>snail + twist</i>	PGRP-LB	FBgn0037906	CG14704	5.243935125	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CCKLR-17D3	FBgn0030954	CG32540	4.025529417	
<i>snail + twist</i>	htl	FBgn0010389	CG7223	3.884987587	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	pyr	FBgn0033649	CG13194	3.618856076	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG17032	FBgn0036547	CG17032	2.718094087	
<i>snail + twist</i>	kon	FBgn0032683	CG10275	2.374588248	
<i>snail + twist</i>	sano	FBgn0034408	CG12758	2.307298725	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Ggamma30A	FBgn0267252	CG3694	2.120862762	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG9150	FBgn0031775	CG9150	2.001881127	
<i>snail + twist</i>	nvy	FBgn0005636	CG3385	2.00178281	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG9896	FBgn0034808	CG9896	1.904522714	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Pu	FBgn0003162	CG9441	1.838598354	
<i>snail + twist</i>	ldgf4	FBgn0026415	CG1780	1.806214988	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG4793	FBgn0028514	CG4793	1.76408991	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG8834	FBgn0033733	CG8834	1.705449418	
<i>snail + twist</i>	trol	FBgn0267911	CG33950	1.703599489	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG31516	FBgn0051516	CG31516	1.655366594	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG4301	FBgn0030747	CG4301	1.552425865	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG3376	FBgn0034997	CG3376	1.544037935	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	btn	FBgn0014949	CG5264	1.491184766	
<i>snail + twist</i>	SerT	FBgn0010414	CG4545	1.482499914	
<i>snail + twist</i>	v	FBgn0003965	CG2155	1.410454787	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	if	FBgn0001250	CG9623	1.408778131	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG17321	FBgn0032719	CG17321	1.246291866	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6639	FBgn0032638	CG6639	1.213727183	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG13928	FBgn0035246	CG13928	1.199289325	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Aph-4	FBgn0016123	CG1462	1.185869675	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG32813	FBgn0052813	CG32813	1.170251895	
<i>snail + twist</i>	SKIP	FBgn0051163	CG31163	1.169680202	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Pka-C3	FBgn0000489	CG6117	1.127181861	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Ama	FBgn0000071	CG2198	1.125932052	Yes

<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6330	FBgn0039464	CG6330	1.112434146	
<i>snail + twist</i>	nemy	FBgn0261673	CG8776	1.107010595	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG3624	FBgn0034724	CG3624	1.105505605	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG10962	FBgn0030073	CG10962	1.036090559	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG2528	FBgn0032969	CG2528	1.025803311	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG7149	FBgn0031948	CG7149	1.022627635	
<i>snail + twist</i>	fra	FBgn0011592	CG8581	1.01197296	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	mGluRA	FBgn0019985	CG11144	1	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG18557	FBgn0031470	CG18557	0.992334684	
<i>snail + twist</i>	tok	FBgn0004885	CG6863	0.977649328	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG17181	FBgn0035144	CG17181	0.90838252	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG15097	FBgn0034396	CG15097	0.883776856	
<i>snail + twist</i>	skpB	FBgn0026176	CG8881	0.857066758	
<i>snail + twist</i>	SP1173	FBgn0035710	CG10121	0.832775786	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG3655	FBgn0040397	CG3655	0.791475081	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	dally	FBgn0263930	CG4974	0.76164443	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG10063	FBgn0035727	CG10063	0.74594449	
<i>snail + twist</i>	pirk	FBgn0034647	CG15678	0.72244173	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Mmp1	FBgn0035049	CG4859	0.683808515	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG30089	FBgn0050089	CG30089	0.663719984	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Tret1-2	FBgn0033644	CG8234	0.633645809	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6406	FBgn0034269	CG6406	0.629092946	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Nrg	FBgn0264975	CG1634	0.621009959	
<i>snail + twist</i>	MtnA	FBgn0002868	CG9470	0.603007772	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6424	FBgn0028494	CG6424	0.547328703	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	fan	FBgn0028379	CG7919	0.540930068	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG33116	FBgn0053116	CG33116	0.538053255	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Socs36E	FBgn0041184	CG15154	0.529432354	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG42806	FBgn0261975	CG42806	0.518779062	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Thor	FBgn0261560	CG8846	0.510243144	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG10383	FBgn0032699	CG10383	0.499216614	
<i>snail + twist</i>	cv-c	FBgn0086901	CG34389	0.462986411	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Lk6	FBgn0017581	CG17342	0.455326652	
<i>snail + twist</i>	vri	FBgn0016076	CG14029	0.450187221	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6199	FBgn0036147	CG6199	0.444258864	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Pax	FBgn0041789	CG31794	0.434728698	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	Treh	FBgn0003748	CG9364	0.43307025	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Rcd5	FBgn0263832	CG1135	0.412392851	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Hsc70-3	FBgn0001218	CG4147	0.364419757	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Cct1	FBgn0041342	CG1049	0.352345712	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG8801	FBgn0028473	CG8801	0.346977902	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG12030	FBgn0035147	CG12030	-0.337722248	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG42668	FBgn0261550	CG42668	-0.371017471	
<i>snail + twist</i>	SelD	FBgn0261270	CG8553	-0.388574036	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG32425	FBgn0052425	CG32425	-0.41109005	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG10859	FBgn0032520	CG10859	-0.448912683	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Hexo2	FBgn0041629	CG1787	-0.451942388	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG11655	FBgn0030638	CG11655	-0.484949774	Yes

<i>snail + twist</i>	Act42A	FBgn0000043	CG12051	-0.487886336	
<i>snail + twist</i>	bys	FBgn0010292	CG1430	-0.489682006	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Lac	FBgn0010238	CG12369	-0.499941833	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG11255	FBgn0036337	CG11255	-0.50131699	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG8547	FBgn0033919	CG8547	-0.56360757	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG31075	FBgn0051075	CG31075	-0.566316576	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Mec2	FBgn0030993	CG7635	-0.597205703	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6126	FBgn0038407	CG6126	-0.602223793	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG14629	FBgn0040398	CG14629	-0.631561894	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG14523	FBgn0039612	CG14523	-0.639535295	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG33926	FBgn0053926	CG33926	-0.645770184	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Cp1	FBgn0013770	CG6692	-0.726536661	
<i>snail + twist</i>	aru	FBgn0029095	CG4276	-0.85067735	Yes
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6805	FBgn0034179	CG6805	-0.859840601	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG3091	FBgn0029608	CG3091	-0.935473524	
<i>snail + twist</i>	BM-40-SPARC	FBgn0026562	CG6378	-0.954289606	
<i>snail + twist</i>	Ugt35a	FBgn0026315	CG6644	-0.954880883	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG6206	FBgn0027611	CG6206	-1.137715698	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG16758	FBgn0035348	CG16758	-Inf	
<i>snail + twist</i>	CG40472	FBgn0085736	CG40472	-Inf	