Ribosomal RNAs and tRNAs Also Undergo Processing

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Processing of tRNAs in bacteria and eukaryotes.



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Some modified bases of rRNAs and tRNAs, produced in posttranscriptional reactions



most common nucleoside modifications

It is commonly found in tRNA, associated with thymidine and cytosine in the $T\Psi C$ arm and is one of the invariant regions of tRNA. The function of it is not very clear



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rRNA processing in Prokaryotes





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(b)

in eukaryotes:rRNA processing and ribosome assembly are tightly coupled.

45S precursor

incorporated into a nucleolar 90S preribosomal complex,(cleavage and modification)

5S rRNA is produced separately. \downarrow

Pre -ribosome assembly in the nucleolus.(nucleolus)

Mature ribosomal subunit(cytoplasm)

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- **Ribozyme**, or RNA enzyme, is a RNA molecule that act as enzymes, often found to catalyze cleavage of either its own or other RNAs.
- Due to their complex secondary structures and hairpin/hammer head, RNAs could act as a catalyst and this idea was proposed by Carl Woese et al,
- It has also been found to catalyze the aminotransferase activity of the ribosome.

- The RNA catalysts called ribozymes are found in the nucleus, and mitochondria of **eukaryotic** organisms.
- Some viruses, including several bacterial viruses, also have ribozymes.
- Almost all ribozymes are involved in **processing RNA**.
- They act either as molecular scissors to cleave precursor RNA chains or as "molecular staplers" that **ligate** two RNA molecules together.
- BUT the ribosomal RNA is itself also a ribozyme.!!

Types of ribozymes

- Ribozymes may be classified into natural ribozymes and artificial ribozymes
- Natural ribozymes include:
- Peptidyl transferase 23S rRNA, RNase P, Group I and Group II introns, Hammerhead ribozyme.....
- Artificial ribozymes are synthesized in the laboratory based on the dual nature of RNAs as a catalyst and an informational polymer

Hammerhead ribozyme : plant virus RNAs (plant viroid)

promote site-specific RNA cleavage reactions. It is a metalloenzyme; Mg2 ions



Ribozymes (**ribo**nucleic acid en**zyme**s) =catalytic RNA

. Ribozymes are inactivated by heating above their melting temperature or by addition of denaturing agents or complementary oligonucleotides, which disrupt normal base-pairing patterns



Concentration of RNA depends on:

- 1) Rate of synthesis.
- 2) Rate of degradation. (ensures mRNA not build up in the cell)

Prokaryotes:

endoribonucleases and $3' \rightarrow 5'$ exoribonucleases.

Eukaryotes: shortening the poly A tail and decapping 5' end and $3' \rightarrow 5'$ exoribonuclease (10 types) = exosome

In lower eukaryotes $5' \rightarrow 3'$ exoribonuclease



