

## GEPHE SUMMARY

**Gephebase Gene**  
beta-tubulin (ben-1)

**Entry Status**  
Published

**GepheID**  
GP00001857

**Main curator**  
Courtier

## PHENOTYPIC CHANGE

**Trait Category**  
Physiology

**Trait**  
Xenobiotic resistance (benzimidazole)

**Trait State in Taxon A**  
sensitive

**Trait State in Taxon B**  
resistant

**Ancestral State**  
Taxon A

**Taxonomic Status**  
Intraspecific

**Taxon A**

**Latin Name**  
*Caenorhabditis elegans*

**Common Name**  
-

**Synonyms**  
roundworm; Rhabditis elegans; Caenorhabditis elegans (Maupas, 1900); Rhabditis elegans Maupas, 1900

**Rank**  
species

**Lineage**  
cellular organisms; Eukaryota; Opisthokonta; Metazoa; Eumetazoa; Bilateria; Protostomia; Ecdysozoa; Nematoda; Chromadorea; Rhabditida; Rhabditina; Rhabditomorpha; Rhabditoidea; Rhabditidae; Peloderinae; Caenorhabditis

**Parent**  
Caenorhabditis () - (Rank: genus)

**NCBI Taxonomy ID**  
6239

**is Taxon A an Intraspecies?**  
No

**Taxon B**

**Latin Name**  
*Caenorhabditis elegans*

**Common Name**  
-

**Synonyms**  
roundworm; Rhabditis elegans; Caenorhabditis elegans (Maupas, 1900); Rhabditis elegans Maupas, 1900

**Rank**  
species

**Lineage**  
cellular organisms; Eukaryota; Opisthokonta; Metazoa; Eumetazoa; Bilateria; Protostomia; Ecdysozoa; Nematoda; Chromadorea; Rhabditida; Rhabditina; Rhabditomorpha; Rhabditoidea; Rhabditidae; Peloderinae; Caenorhabditis

**Parent**  
Caenorhabditis () - (Rank: genus)

**NCBI Taxonomy ID**  
6239

**is Taxon B an Intraspecies?**  
Yes

**Taxon B Description**  
MY2453

## GENOTYPIC CHANGE

**Generic Gene Name**  
TUB2

**Synonyms**  
ARM10; SHE8; YFL037W

**String**  
4932.YFL037W

**Sequence Similarities**  
Belongs to the tubulin family.

**GO - Molecular Function**  
GO:0005525 : GTP binding  
GO:0003924 : GTPase activity  
GO:0005200 : structural constituent of cytoskeleton

**GO - Biological Process**  
GO:0007010 : cytoskeleton organization  
GO:0000278 : mitotic cell cycle  
GO:0000070 : mitotic sister chromatid segregation  
GO:0007017 : microtubule-based process

**UniProtKB** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (strain ATCC 204508 / S288c)  
P02557

**GenebankID or UniProtKB**

GO:0046677 : response to antibiotic  
GO:0000226 : microtubule cytoskeleton organization  
GO:0045143 : homologous chromosome segregation  
GO:0030473 : nuclear migration along microtubule  
GO:0090316 : positive regulation of intracellular protein transport

#### GO - Cellular Component

GO:0005737 : cytoplasm  
GO:0005874 : microtubule  
GO:0005816 : spindle pole body  
GO:0005881 : cytoplasmic microtubule  
GO:0005828 : kinetochore microtubule  
GO:0005880 : nuclear microtubule  
GO:0045298 : tubulin complex

#### Presumptive Null

Yes

#### Molecular Type

Coding

#### Aberration Type

Insertion

#### Insertion Size

-

#### Molecular Details of the Mutation

Ins\_3541547\_3541548 â€” 1 bp insertion in first coding exon

#### Experimental Evidence

##### Association Mapping

##### Main Reference

Extreme allelic heterogeneity at a *Caenorhabditis elegans* beta-tubulin locus explains natural resistance to benzimidazoles. (2018)

##### Authors

Hahnel SR; Zdraljjevic S; Rodriguez BC; Zhao Y; McGrath PT; Andersen EC

##### Abstract

Benzimidazoles (BZ) are essential components of the limited chemotherapeutic arsenal available to control the global burden of parasitic nematodes. The emerging threat of BZ resistance among multiple nematode species necessitates the development of novel strategies to identify genetic and molecular mechanisms underlying this resistance. All detection of parasitic helminth resistance to BZ is focused on the genotyping of three variant sites in the orthologs of the  $\beta$ -tubulin gene found to confer resistance in the free-living nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Because of the limitations of laboratory and field experiments in parasitic nematodes, it is difficult to look beyond these three sites to identify additional mechanisms that might contribute to BZ resistance in the field. Here, we took an unbiased genome-wide mapping approach in the free-living nematode species *C. elegans* to identify the genetic underpinnings of natural resistance to the commonly used BZ, albendazole (ABZ). We found a wide range of natural variation in ABZ resistance in natural *C. elegans* populations. In agreement with known mechanisms of BZ resistance in parasites, we found that a majority of the variation in ABZ resistance among wild *C. elegans* strains is caused by variation in the  $\beta$ -tubulin gene *ben-1*. This result shows empirically that resistance to ABZ naturally exists and segregates within the *C. elegans* population, suggesting that selection in natural niches could enrich for resistant alleles. We identified 25 distinct *ben-1* alleles that are segregating at low frequencies within the *C. elegans* population, including many novel molecular variants. Population genetic analyses indicate that *ben-1* variation arose multiple times during the evolutionary history of *C. elegans* and provide evidence that these alleles likely occurred recently because of local selective pressures. Additionally, we find purifying selection at all five  $\beta$ -tubulin genes, despite predicted loss-of-function variants in *ben-1*, indicating that BZ resistance in natural niches is a stronger selective pressure than loss of one  $\beta$ -tubulin gene. Furthermore, we used genome-editing to show that the most common parasitic nematode  $\beta$ -tubulin allele that confers BZ resistance, F200Y, confers resistance in *C. elegans*. Importantly, we identified a novel genomic region that is correlated with ABZ resistance in the *C. elegans* population but independent of *ben-1* and the other  $\beta$ -tubulin loci, suggesting that there are multiple mechanisms underlying BZ resistance. Taken together, our results establish a population-level resource of nematode natural diversity as an important model for the study of mechanisms that give rise to BZ resistance.

##### Additional References

## RELATED GEPHE

#### Related Genes

2 (GLC-1, str-217)

#### Related Haplotypes

26

## EXTERNAL LINKS

## COMMENTS

