

P068 Functional studies of SSV conserved proteins
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Among the families of viruses able to infect the Archaeon genus *Sulfolobus*, fuselloviruses (SSVs) are the most studied. Five different SSVs genomes have been sequenced. Genome analyses revealed that 17 ORFs are common to all viruses. These ORFs may encode the minimal functions required for the virus life cycle. Three of these ORFs have a known function in SSV1, the viral integrase and the two coat proteins VP1 and VP3, whereas the 14 other are of unknown function. To understand the role played by these proteins, we started a double approach of *in vivo* deletion/trans complementation studies coupled to *in vitro* biochemical and structural studies, using SSV1 as a model system. One of our targets is ORF B251, which may encode a DnaA like protein. B251 could therefore be involved in the initiation of replication of the viral genome. We have purified B251, and started to analyze its biochemical properties *in vitro*. *In vivo* analysis of its role in the viral cycle is also in progress.