

1 **TANGO1 builds a machine for collagen export by recruiting and**
2 **spatially organizing COPII, tethers and membranes.**

3 Running title: TANGO1 builds a machine for collagen export

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21 **Collagen export from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) requires TANGO1,**
22 **COPII coats, and retrograde fusion of ERGIC membranes. How do these**
23 **components come together to produce a transport carrier commensurate with**
24 **the bulky cargo collagen? TANGO1 is known to form a ring that corrals COPII**
25 **coats and we show here how this ring or fence is assembled. Our data reveal that**
26 **a TANGO1 ring is organized by its radial interaction with COPII, and lateral**
27 **interactions with cTAGE5, TANGO1-short or itself. Of particular interest is the**
28 **finding that TANGO1 recruits ERGIC membranes for collagen export via the**
29 **NRZ (NBAS/RINT1/ZW10) tether complex. Therefore, TANGO1 couples**
30 **retrograde membrane flow to anterograde cargo transport. Without the NRZ**
31 **complex, the TANGO1 ring does not assemble, suggesting its role in nucleating**
32 **or stabilising of this process. Thus, coordinated capture of COPII coats,**
33 **cTAGE5, TANGO1-short, and tethers by TANGO1 assembles a collagen export**
34 **machine at the ER.**

35

36 INTRODUCTION

37 As secretory cargoes increase in size and complexity through evolution, mechanisms for their
38 export from the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) must adapt concomitantly. Collagens, the most
39 abundant secretory cargo in mammals - representing nearly 25% of the dry weight of the
40 mammalian body, are some of the most challenging of all secretory cargoes (1). Several
41 requirements make collagen secretion a challenging task. *First*, in a complex multi-step
42 process, collagens in the ER fold and trimerise into rigid, rod-like elements (2, 3) of up to 400
43 nm in length (4). The folding/assembly of collagen must be coupled to its export, to retain
44 unassembled collagen in the ER, whilst ensuring that all rod-like fully assembled collagen is
45 rapidly exported. *Second*, assembled collagens are too large to fit into generic COPII-coated
46 vesicles that are usually less than 90nm in diameter (5, 6). *Third*, the rapidity with which this
47 cargo exits the ER and passes through the secretory pathway, requires efficient transfer
48 between compartments.

49 Our identification (7, 8) and the subsequent characterisation of TANGO1 (8–11) has
50 revealed a single protein, conserved through most metazoans, that stands at the crossroads of
51 all these processes, modulating them to bring about bulky cargo export from the ER.
52 TANGO1 is an ER exit site (ERES)-localized, transmembrane protein required for export of
53 collagen and other bulky protein components of the extracellular matrix such as Dumpy (8,
54 12–14). Figure 1 is a schematic of three TANGO1 family proteins: TANGO1, TANGO1-
55 short and cTAGE5. A brief description of these proteins follows.

56 TANGO1 is a protein of 1907 amino acids (Fig. 1A) of which 709 face the
57 cytoplasm. TANGO1 contains a full transmembrane domain and a second membrane-inserted
58 loop, which partially inserts into the inner leaflet of the ER membrane. The luminal part
59 contains a coiled-coil domain and, at the N terminus, an SH3-like domain. The SH3-like
60 domain binds collagens via HSP47 (8, 15–17). The cytoplasmic part of TANGO1 is
61 composed of two coiled-coil domains (CC1 and CC2) followed by a C-terminal proline-rich
62 domain (PRD). CC1 contains a domain called TEER (Tether for ERGIC at the ER) that

63 recruits ERGIC-53-containing membranes (10); CC2 binds cTAGE5 (18), and PRD binds
64 Sec23 and Sec16 (8, 15).

65 TANGO1-short is a spliced isoform of TANGO1. It is composed of 785 amino acids
66 that arise from the same exons that encode the cytoplasmic domains of TANGO1. The
67 sequence of TANGO1-short differs in the membrane-inserted helix, and it contains only 15
68 amino acids at the N terminus, within the ER lumen. It therefore lacks any capacity to interact
69 directly with cargoes. We expect that TANGO1-short binds the same cytoplasmic proteins as
70 TANGO1, but this has not been directly tested.

71 Evolutionarily, TANGO1 appears to have been duplicated early in metazoans,
72 yielding a TANGO1-like protein (TALI) (19). Like TANGO1, TALI is expressed as two
73 isoforms. The long isoform is expressed in select tissues while the short isoform (cTAGE5)
74 has a ubiquitous expression (11, 19–21). cTAGE5 is composed of 804 amino acids, with a
75 short luminal stretch of 38 amino acids, followed by a single transmembrane domain. The
76 organisation of cytoplasmic domains is the same as TANGO1, with two coiled-coil domains
77 and a PRD. The first (CC1) of cTAGE5 interacts with Sec12; CC2 interacts with TANGO1
78 and Sec22, and the PRD, like TANGO1, interacts with Sec23 (17, 18, 22, 23).

79 From the published data on these proteins, we can conclude that all three family
80 members bind each other and Sec23. cTAGE5 binds Sec12 and Sec22. TANGO1 (and
81 therefore TANGO1-short) does not bind Sec12. Of these proteins, only TANGO1 can bind
82 cargo in the lumen. How different binding partners could affect the overall function of these
83 proteins in ERES assembly and cargo export, remains untested.

84 A newly discovered feature of TANGO1 is its lateral organisation into rings of up to
85 300nm diameter, which corral COPII coats at the ERES (23). The organisation of cTAGE5
86 and TANGO1-short in TANGO1 rings is not known.

87 Exploiting the modular composition of TANGO1, we have generated forms of
88 TANGO1 (Figure 1 – Supp. 1A), each missing one specific domain and hence with one
89 specific set of functions/interactions abrogated. With this set of reagents, we now address
90 how TANGO1 assembles into a functional ring or a fence. We show that this fence of

- 91 TANGO1 family proteins surrounds COPII, and through specific tethers, physically links the
- 92 ER and ERGIC for collagen export.

93 **RESULTS**

94

95 **Binding of TANGO1 to COPII controls TANGO1 ring formation**

96 The role of COPII in TANGO1 ring assembly could be addressed by using a mutant
97 form of TANGO1 that lacks the PRD (TANGO1 Δ PRD), which therefore cannot interact with
98 Sec23 (8) (schematic of TANGO1, Fig 1A). 2H5 cells (HeLa cells with TANGO1 deleted
99 using the CRISPR/Cas9 system (10)) were co-transfected with collagen VII and either
100 TANGO1 or TANGO1 Δ PRD and imaged using STED microscopy. Full length TANGO1
101 formed distinct rings of somewhat uniform shape and size (Fig 2A). Surprisingly,
102 TANGO1 Δ PRD also assembled into rings, but with two clear differences. First, rings were
103 smaller (Fig 2B, Fig 2 – Supp. 1A); and second, some rings appeared fused with each other to
104 form either a planar tessellation (Fig 2C, Fig 2 – Supp. 1G) or long linear assemblies (Fig 2D,
105 Fig 2 – Supp. 1B-F). Quantitative morphological descriptors of the size and shape of
106 structures formed by TANGO1 constructs, were extracted using semi-automated image
107 analysis (Fig. 2 – Supp. 2, Table 1) and are described in detail in the methods section and the
108 figure legend. Specifically, we fitted rings to an elliptical shape and measured the diameters
109 of the ring in terms of major and minor axes of its fitted ellipse. This works well for regular-
110 shaped ellipses, however for structures and shapes that deviate from an elliptical shape, a
111 rectangular bounding shape is a more useful approximation. Therefore, maximum and
112 minimum diameters (Feret's maximum or minimum) were also extracted and all these values
113 are plotted in Figure 2E. From this quantification, we confirmed that rings formed by
114 TANGO1 Δ PRD, are significantly smaller than rings formed by TANGO1 (Fig. 2E, Table 1).
115 We used the aspect ratio (the ratio of the major to minor axes of the fitted ellipses) as a
116 descriptor of the shape of rings. By this measure, rings formed by TANGO1 and
117 TANGO1 Δ PRD had a similar shape (Fig. 2F).

118 It is important to note that these cells still contain TANGO1-short and cTAGE5
119 (Fig.1), both of which will recruit TANGO1 Δ PRD to ERES. These data suggest that the
120 cytoplasmic domains of the TANGO1-family of proteins act as a single unit and any one can

121 assemble into a ring, however TANGO1 brings cargo to the exit site. This suggests that
122 overexpressing cytoplasmic isoforms (either TANGO1-short or cTAGE5) would increase the
123 capacity of an ERES to export cargo, however TANGO1 is the only protein with the capacity
124 to bring cargo to ERES. Collagen secreted in the absence of TANGO1 might thus be in an
125 unfolded or unassembled form.

126 In a complementary experiment, we studied the effect of Sec23A depletion on
127 TANGO1 ring formation in RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts. Depleting cells of all Sec23 could
128 create cellular stress and affect endomembrane regulation, so we attempted to minimise such
129 a potential stress by using siRNA that targeted exclusively Sec23A, and not Sec23B. As
130 expected, collagen export from the ER was reduced in Sec23A-depleted cells (Fig 2 – Supp.
131 3).

132 While TANGO1 in control cells was often visualised in rings (Fig. 2G), depletion of
133 Sec23A appeared to phenocopy our results with TANGO1 Δ PRD, showing multiple
134 seemingly fused rings of TANGO1 assembled in planar arrays (Fig. 2H, Fig 2 – Supp. 4),
135 quantified in Fig 2I. These structures/abnormal rings were almost never observed in cells
136 expressing full length TANGO1, or cells that are not depleted of Sec23A.

137 Based on our super-resolution microscopy images, we hypothesise that TANGO1
138 rings could be represented as a multimeric assembly of units of TANGO1 family proteins
139 (TANGO1, TANGO1-short and cTAGE5) that assemble into a fence.

140

141 **Lateral interactions along the circumference of a TANGO1 ring**

142 A key feature that could provide strength to a fence of TANGO1 would be lateral interactions
143 between components in the fence. For example, the TANGO1-interacting protein cTAGE5
144 (Fig. 3A) should be a component of the ring and could contribute to lateral interactions in the
145 ring. We visualised TANGO1 and cTAGE5 in RDEB/FB/C7 cells by STED microscopy. Due
146 to the low quality of commercially available anti-cTAGE5 antibodies for
147 immunofluorescence, we were unable to visualise the localisation of cTAGE5 as clearly as

148 TANGO1, nonetheless cTAGE5 clearly localised along the rings delineated by TANGO1
149 (Fig 3B).

150 To test the involvement of cTAGE5 in TANGO1 ring formation, we generated a
151 construct of TANGO1 lacking the second cytoplasmic coiled-coil (TANGO1 Δ CC2) domain
152 (Fig. 1 – Supp. 1 for a schematic) and hence, unable to interact with cTAGE5 (Fig 3A).
153 STED microscopy revealed that, in contrast to full length TANGO1 (Fig. 3C),
154 TANGO1 Δ CC2 assembled into misshapen structures (Fig 3D and Fig. 3 – Supp. 1). Ring size
155 and shape were quantified as in the previous section. Rings formed by TANGO1 Δ CC2 were
156 more variable in size (Fig. 3E, Table 1) and shape (Fig. 3F) than those formed by full length
157 TANGO1.

158 As a complementary approach, we characterised the effect of depleting cTAGE5, on
159 ring formation in cells with endogenous TANGO1. As expected, in RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts
160 depleted of cTAGE5 (Fig 3 – Supp. 2A), collagen secretion was blocked (Fig. 3 – Supp. 2B,
161 C). TANGO1 structures phenocopied TANGO1 Δ CC2 structures in 2H5 cells: rings of
162 TANGO1 were misassembled (Fig. 3G) and formed unusual shapes, without considerably
163 altering the number of rings observed (Fig. 3H).

164 Another lateral interaction that might maintain fence integrity could be an intrinsic
165 ability of TANGO1 to self-associate. A test of this proposition would be to identify a domain
166 in TANGO1 that mediates self-association and show that it has a role in ring formation. To
167 identify such a domain, we tested the ability of TANGO1-FLAG to co-immunoprecipitate
168 with TANGO1 Δ PRD, TANGO1 Δ CC2 or TANGO1 Δ CC1 (Fig. 1 – Supp. 1). We observed
169 (Fig 4A) that TANGO1-FLAG was immunoprecipitated by TANGO1 and TANGO1 Δ PRD,
170 but not by TANGO1 Δ CC2 (Fig. 4A) or TANGO1 Δ CC1 (Fig 4B). Reasoning that the effect
171 of the CC2 was likely indirect, as TANGO1 Δ CC2 is unable to interact with cTAGE5 (Fig
172 4A) (18, 22), we focused on the first coiled-coil domain (CC1) to identify a minimal region
173 required for self-association. We generated two TANGO1 constructs with smaller deletions
174 from the CC1, each of which had a deletion in a portion of the coiled-coil (TANGO1 Δ 1255-
175 1295 and TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336). As a control, we confirmed these constructs still interacted

176 with cTAGE5 (Fig 4B). Only TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 did not immunoprecipitate TANGO1-
177 FLAG (Fig 4B).

178 With a minimal self-association domain (a.a. 1255-1295) identified, we looked for its
179 role in TANGO1 ring formation. 2H5 cells were co-transfected with collagen VII and either
180 TANGO1 Δ CC1, TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 or TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336 and then imaged by STED
181 microscopy. In line with our predictions, TANGO1 Δ CC1 or TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 could not
182 form rings; of the 16 and 15 cells examined respectively, there were few discernible
183 polymeric assemblies of TANGO1 (Fig. 4C, D), while TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336 behaved as full
184 length TANGO1, forming distinct, readily detectable, independent rings (Fig. 4E) of similar
185 size (Fig. 4 – Supp. 1A) and shape (Fig. 4 – Supp. 1B) as TANGO1. These data indicate that
186 TANGO1-TANGO1 interactions (Fig. 4F), mediated by amino acids 1255-1295, are required
187 to maintain ring integrity.

188 In our coarse-grained view of this fence of TANGO1 and TANGO1 family of
189 proteins (cTAGE5 and TANGO1-short), we would describe our data thus far in terms of two
190 general sets of interactions. First, lateral interactions mediated by TANGO1 self-association
191 and its interaction with cTAGE5 and TANGO1-short, and second, inward attractions of
192 TANGO1/cTAGE5/TANGO1-short to COPII, thus affecting the ring size and its placement
193 with respect to COPII budding machinery.

194

195 **Compartment tethering in a TANGO1 ring assembly pathway**

196 We have shown recently that TANGO1, via its CC1, recruits ERGIC membranes that fuse at
197 the ERES (10). Could TANGO1 rings concentrate membrane recruitment for mega-carrier
198 biogenesis? What role does the TEER domain play in ring assembly? To address these
199 questions, we first identified a minimal TEER domain within the CC1, using our previously
200 developed approach (10).

201 Following our previous methodology (10), we generated two myc-tagged,
202 mitochondrially-targeted TEER (mit-TEER truncates) constructs of 82 and 81 amino acids,
203 respectively. Our original construct (10) had TANGO1 amino acids 1188 to 1396. From this,

204 we generated two smaller constructs. In one, we deleted amino acids 1255-1295 (mit- Δ 1255-
205 1295); while in the other we deleted amino acids 1296-1336 (mit- Δ 1296-1336) (Fig. 5A).
206 These corresponded exactly to the deletions in the CC1 described in the previous section.

207 We expressed the constructs in HeLa cells, fixed and then stained them using an anti-
208 myc antibody and visualised these samples using confocal microscopy (Fig. 5B). We
209 confirmed the two constructs co-localised with the mitochondrial marker HSP60 (Fig. 5C).
210 The extent of overlap of myc-epitope and HSP60 was quantified and is plotted as the
211 Manders' overlap coefficient (Fig 5D).

212 As before (10), we co-stained transfected cells with anti-ERGIC-53 and anti-myc
213 antibodies. To our surprise, mitochondria expressing mit- Δ 1255-1295 showed no recruitment
214 of ERGIC-53-containing membranes (Fig 5E). In contrast, mit- Δ 1296-1336 still functioned as
215 the TEER domain and recruited ERGIC membranes. The extent of colocalisation of ERGIC-
216 53 and myc for the two constructs was quantified and is plotted as Manders' overlap
217 coefficient (Fig 5F). This tells us that the minimal TEER is exactly the same forty amino
218 acids we identified in the previous section, as those required for the self-association of
219 TANGO1. This implies that either a TANGO1 dimer can recruit a tether or the tether links
220 two TANGO1 monomers. This hypothesis is tested and presented in Fig 7.

221 But how does this minimal TEER domain recruit ERGIC membranes? A prime
222 candidate for this tethering activity is the evolutionarily conserved NRZ (NBAS, RINT1,
223 ZW10) protein tether. NRZ tether is a multi-subunit tether complex (MTC) that assembles at
224 the surface of the ER (24), is required for retrograde capture of membranes (25–27), partially
225 localises to ER exit sites (28) and interacts with SNAREs that we have shown previously are
226 required for collagen export from the ER (9, 10). One component of the MTC (RINT1) was
227 also identified in our screen for genes required for protein secretion (7). Mutations in another
228 component NBAS, are linked to dysregulated collagen secretion in atypical osteogenesis
229 imperfecta (29).

230 As in previous sections, we imaged TANGO1 in RDEB/FB/C7 cells, with Sec31 and
231 RINT1 by confocal microscopy (Fig. 6 – Supp. 1) and, by STED microscopy observed the

232 tether protein RINT1 localised to one or two puncta at rings of TANGO1, occasionally
233 adjacent to ERGIC-53-containing membranes (Fig. 6A and Fig. 6 – Supp. 2).

234 We transfected full-length TANGO1, TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295, TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336
235 or TANGO1-Lum (luminal) in HEK293T cells and attempted to co-immunoprecipitate tether
236 proteins. We saw that full length TANGO1 and TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336 immunoprecipitated
237 all three of the proteins that form the tether (NBAS, RINT1, ZW10) (Fig 6B). This interaction
238 was completely abrogated when we used TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 (lacking the minimal TEER
239 domain). As controls, we confirmed all constructs still interacted with cTAGE5 and
240 TANGO1-Lum did not immunoprecipitate either tether proteins or cTAGE5 (Fig. 6B).

241 Depleting TANGO1, NBAS or RINT1 from RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts inhibited
242 collagen VII secretion (Fig. 6C-E) and arrested collagen in the ER (Fig. 6C). Does TANGO1
243 recruit ERGIC to intracellular collagen accumulations (10) via the NRZ tether? In cells
244 depleted of RINT1, NBAS or TANGO1 (Fig. 6F, H), we quantified ERGIC recruitment to
245 accumulations of collagen in the ER. In all cases, ERGIC membrane recruitment was
246 significantly reduced (Fig. 6G).

247 These data showed a novel function of TANGO1, to recruit ERGIC membranes via
248 the retrograde NRZ MTC to the ERES for collagen export. But is this function built into ring
249 assembly?

250 In RDEB/FB/C7 depleted of RINT1, TANGO1 rings were completely disrupted
251 (siCTRL vs. siRINT1 Fig. 7A vs. B). We individually depleted each of the other two proteins
252 in the MTC (NBAS or ZW10) and checked for the ability of TANGO1 to assemble into rings
253 in RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts. As seen after depleting cells of RINT1, rings were observed far
254 less frequently (quantified in Fig. 7C). In all cases, ERES, as marked by TANGO1 and
255 SEC31 are still formed (Fig. 7 – Supp. 1).

256 There are at least two mechanistic possibilities that could link tether binding, the
257 TANGO1 self-association domain, and ring formation. Either (a) the tether is required to hold
258 together TANGO1 and TANGO1-short in the fence; or (b) complexes form with TANGO1

259 /TANGO1-short and this dimer then recruits the tether, which stitches together a higher order
260 structure, forming a fence.

261 We tested these hypotheses by performing sequential co-immunoprecipitations to
262 look for TANGO1, TANGO1-short and cTAGE5 in a stable complex. Using lentiviral
263 infections, we generated HEK293T cells stably expressing cTAGE5-FLAG and TANGO1-
264 HA. We depleted these cells of individual NRZ tether proteins and then performed sequential
265 immunoprecipitation, pulling first on cTAGE5-FLAG and then TANGO1-HA and finally
266 probed for TANGO1-short (Fig 7D, F for schematic). We observed that the NRZ tether had
267 no effect on the association of TANGO1 and TANGO1-short in a stable complex (Fig 7E).

268 These data showed that the NRZ tether is required for TANGO1 to assemble into a
269 ring and indicated that stable complexes of TANGO1, cTAGE5 and TANGO1-short, recruit
270 the tether.

271 **DISCUSSION**

272 Our new data describe a mechanism whereby the very processes by which TANGO1 recruits
273 ERES machinery and cargo, also bring about its own assembly into a fence of defined size.
274 This in turn remodels the ERES, and in the lumen, via Hsp47, binds and potentially
275 segregates assembled bulky cargoes (Fig. 8A). Such a concerted mechanism circumvents a
276 causality dilemma (the chicken-or-the-egg problem) in this process – neither ring nor function
277 precedes the other; they assemble together, requiring each other to do so.

278 There are several broad implications of our data, addressing fundamental aspects of
279 early secretory pathway organisation and cargo export.

280

281 **Tethering compartments**

282 Tethers play a central role in membrane targeting and organelle biogenesis (35–40). Improved
283 structural understanding has revealed fascinating models for the mechanisms of membrane
284 recruitment by tethers (24, 41). Our discovery of membrane recruitment by TANGO1 and its
285 use of the NRZ tethering complex (figures 6, 7) has far reaching implications. A critical
286 aspect of TANGO1 biology is that it functionally and physically couples anterograde to
287 retrograde traffic at an ERES, coupling two successive compartments in the secretory
288 pathway, allowing for more rapid and efficient cargo transport between the compartments (9,
289 10, 42). The NRZ tether would bind to, and recruit, any COPI-coated ERGIC-53-containing
290 membranes in the vicinity of the ERES – but what of ERES closely apposed to the *cis*-Golgi,
291 and what of organisms such as *D. melanogaster*, which have no discernible ERGIC
292 compartment? Under such circumstances, the “carrier” for collagen formed by the retrograde
293 recruitment of COPI-coated membranes could just be the first Golgi cisterna. In other words,
294 we could envisage a direct continuity or ‘tunnel’ between the ER and the Golgi (5), with a
295 ring of TANGO1 and its associated exit site machinery holding together the two
296 compartments, but also functionally delimiting them.

297 We have not observed a complete ring of tethers with TANGO1. The tethers instead
298 appear as one or two puncta at the ring circumference. One can envisage that an initiation

299 point of the TANGO1 ring recruits tethers and TANGO1 continues to assemble into a ring
300 whereas the tethers remain at the nucleation site. This would explain the images presented
301 (Fig. 6A and Fig 6. – Supp. 2). Without the tethers, the reaction is stalled and TANGO1 fails
302 to assemble further into a ring, providing an explanation for the requirement of tethers in
303 TANGO1 ring assembly. An alternative is that the tethers are not recruited at the site of ring
304 nucleation but present throughout and we are unable to capture this final assembled state.

305

306 **TANGO1 as filament around COPII coat**

307 We had proposed that TANGO1 functioned by binding to and stabilising the inner COPII coat
308 to delay the recruitment of the outer coat and the subsequent fission of a newly forming
309 carrier, for as long as is required to assemble and pack the bulky cargo collagen (8). We
310 would like to suggest a possible physical mechanism of how TANGO1 rings are assembled
311 and maintained by means of protein-protein interactions and eventually regulate the formation
312 of a collagen-containing megacARRIER. First, based on our observations of TANGO1 rings by
313 STED microscopy (23), (Fig 2), and our data indicating the different protein-protein
314 interactions between the members of the TANGO1 family, we propose that a fence of
315 TANGO1 can be described as a filament, held together by these lateral protein-protein
316 interactions, which normally surrounds COPII patches at the ERES (16, 18). Importantly, this
317 description of the ring as a filament will remain an approximation until the molecular
318 composition and structural alignment of individual components is known. Such a filament
319 would be subjected to elastic strains and stresses and would hence resist bending. Second,
320 COPII subunits polymerise into structures of growing size. COPII subunits at the periphery of
321 a polymerising domain have free binding sites and hence higher chemical energy than fully
322 polymerised subunits at the centre of the domain, which, in physical terms, translates into the
323 existence of an effective line-energy of the ERES. As proteins of the TANGO1 family
324 physically interact with Sec23 (8, 15, 16), Sec16 (16), and Sec12 (22), we propose that upon
325 adsorption to the ERES by binding peripheral COPII subunits, TANGO1 would effectively
326 reduce the ERES line energy. A tug-of-war between the filament bending and the effect on

327 COPII stabilisation created by the adsorption of TANGO1 filaments around ERES would
328 then dictate whether and how TANGO1 rings are formed. Interestingly, it has been shown
329 that the line tension of the polymerising protein coat can play a key role in controlling the
330 timing and size of clathrin-coated vesicles (43). We thus propose that the stabilising effect of
331 TANGO1 while adsorbing around ERES would serve as a physical mechanism to delay and
332 enlarge the COPII vesicle, commensurate with cargo size. Furthermore, TANGO1 rings could
333 serve as a mould to impose a cylindrical curvature at the base of a growing carrier by
334 coupling to the first layer of the COPII coat (Fig 8A, B), as proposed by Ma and Goldberg
335 (15).

336 We expect that the diameter of a TANGO1 ring and associated components, will be
337 maximal, proximal to the plane of the membrane. The more distal parts of the proteins for
338 example the PRD (of TANGO1, cTAGE5 and TANGO1-short) will have two extreme
339 positions: 1, lying pointing radially inward like spokes of a wheel and 2, pushed aside to the
340 ring periphery by the growing carrier. It is therefore difficult to make definitive statements
341 about relative locations - based on antibodies that bind to distal parts of the molecule - within
342 the ring. We have also not tested whether cTAGE5, or for that matter TANGO1 short, can
343 assemble into a ring in cells lacking TANGO1. We have not been able to create a form of
344 cTAGE5 and TANGO1-short with a label or an antibody to visualise the domains proximal to
345 the membranes, which makes it difficult to discern their location precisely, even in the
346 presence of endogenous TANGO1. However, within these limitations, based on the
347 involvement of various parts of TANGO1 and its interactors into discrete rings for collagen
348 export, we could now begin to address the placement of various proteins such as TFG,
349 KLHL12 or sedlin (30–34) in collagen export from the ER.

350 Under these conditions, there is the possibility that a mega carrier, of the form
351 recently reported by Schekman and colleagues (33), is produced. Regardless of the final form
352 adopted by the cells to transfer collagen from the lumen of the ER to the Golgi, with the data
353 presented herein, we have taken the first steps toward arriving at a quantitative understanding
354 of this hypothesis. We envision that a full description and analysis of such a quantitative

355 physical model of TANGO1 ring assembly and megacARRIER formation will help us better
356 understand this fundamental process.

357

358 **TANGO1 links cargo folding to export**

359 Little is understood about how client folding in the ER is coupled to export, how misfolded
360 proteins and ER residents are excluded from an ERES, and what role the client plays in the
361 biogenesis of its own carrier. TANGO1 recruits collagen via HSP47 – a chaperone that
362 selectively recognises triple helical (export-competent) collagen (44, 45). Can this interaction
363 of triple helical collagen and TANGO1 help effect ring assembly? Does a ring of TANGO1
364 (and therefore a carrier) form in response to selection of folded collagen, excluding misfolded
365 collagen? Does folded cargo define the site and size of a transport carrier?

366 *In toto*, our data indicates that TANGO1, by assembling into a ring at ERES
367 generates a semi-stable sub-domain across multiple compartments. The processes that allow
368 this assembly also co-ordinately select, partition, and organise export machinery, and
369 membrane for a cargo-export tubule/carrier, thus defining the minimal machinery for collagen
370 export.

371 **METHODS:**

372 **Cell culture and transfection**

373 RDEB/FB/C7, HEK293T and HeLa cells were grown at 37°C with 5% CO₂ in complete
374 DMEM with 10% FBS unless otherwise stated. Plasmids were transfected in HeLa cells with
375 TransIT-HeLa MONSTER (Mirus Bio LLC) or Lipofectamine 3000 Transfection Reagent
376 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to the manufacturer's protocols. All cells in culture
377 were tested every month to confirm they were clear of contamination by mycoplasma.
378 C-terminally HA-tagged full-length TANGO1 was cloned into the polylinker of pHRSIN
379 transfer plasmid using BamHI/SalI restriction enzymes. Lentiviral particles were produced by
380 co-transfecting pHRSIN-TANGO1-HA and a packaging vector pool (pCMV 8.91 and
381 pMDG) into HEK293T cells using TransIT-293 (Mirus Bio LLC). 48h post transfection, the
382 viral supernatant was harvested, filtered, and directly added to HEK293T cells. Stably
383 expressing HEK293T cells were selected using 500µg/ml Hygromycin.
384 C-terminally FLAG-tagged full-length cTAGE5 was cloned into pJLM1 transfer plasmid
385 using NheI/EcoRI restriction enzymes. Lentiviral particles were produced by co-transfecting
386 pJLM1-cTAGE5-FLAG and a packaging vector pool (pPAX2 and pMD2.G) into HEK293T
387 cells with using TransIT-293 (Mirus Bio LLC). 48h post transfection the viral supernatant
388 was harvested, filtered, and directly added to TANGO1-HA expressing HEK293T cells. Cells
389 stably expressing Tango1-HA and cTAGE5-FLAG were selected using 500µg/ml
390 Hygromycin and Puromycin 4 µg/ml.

391

392 **Molecular biology**

393 All molecular cloning was carried out using MAX Efficiency Stbl2 Competent Cells –
394 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) following manufacturer's instructions.

395

396 **siRNA oligos**

397 siRNA oligos were purchased from Eurofins Genomics (Ebersberg, Germany). The oligo
398 sequences used were RINT1 5'-GGUUAUAACUGACAGGUAU-3', NBAS 5'-

399 CUGCUUCAGUAUGGAUUA ZW10 5'-UGGACGAUGAAGAGAAUUA-3', TANGO1
400 5'-GAUAAGGUCUUCGUGCUU-3', cTAGE5 5'-UUGAAGACUCCAAAGUACA-3',
401 SAR1A 5'-GAACAGAUGCAAUCAGUGATT-3', SAR1B 5'-
402 GCAUAACUUGAAUCAAUATT-3'. SEC23A siRNA (Cat # L-009582-01) was purchased
403 from GE Dharmacon (Colorado, USA).

404

405 **Antibodies**

406 The following antibodies were used collagen VII (rabbit anti-human [Abcam]; mouse anti-
407 human [Sigma-Aldrich]), ERGIC-53 (mouse anti-human; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.,
408 and Enzo Life Sciences), Sec31A (mouse anti-human; BD), TANGO1 (rabbit anti-human;
409 Sigma-Aldrich; rabbit anti-human in-house), HSP47 and calreticulin (goat anti-human; Enzo
410 Life Sciences), HA (mouse; BioLegend), SAR1 (mouse anti-human; Abcam), β -tubulin
411 (mouse anti-human; SIGMA-Aldrich), β -actin (mouse anti-human; SIGMA-Aldrich), NBAS
412 (rabbit anti-human SIGMA-Aldrich), RINT1 (rabbit anti-human; SIGMA-Aldrich and goat
413 anti-human (Santa Cruz Biotechnology), ZW10 (rabbit anti-human; Abcam), Sec23 (rabbit
414 anti-human/mouse/rat; Abcam), cTAGE5 (rabbit anti-human Atlas antibodies, mouse anti-
415 human Santa Cruz Biotechnology), TGN46 (sheep polyclonal, Bio-Rad), HA (mouse
416 monoclonal, BioLegend; rat monoclonal BioLegend), FLAG (mouse monoclonal, rabbit,
417 SIGMA-Aldrich; goat, Novus) HSP60 (mouse anti-human SIGMA-Aldrich), c-myc (mouse
418 monoclonal, rabbit, SIGMA-Aldrich). Mounting media used in confocal and STED
419 microscopy were either Vectashield (Vector Laboratories) or ProLong (Thermo Fisher
420 Scientific).

421

422 **Immunoprecipitation and Western blotting**

423 Cells extracted with lysis buffer consisting of 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 150 mM NaCl, 1
424 mM EDTA, 2% CHAPS, and protease inhibitors were centrifuged at $20,000 \times g$ for 30 min at
425 4°C. Cell lysates were immunoprecipitated with FLAG M2 (SIGMA-Aldrich) or HA

426 (Thermo Scientific) antibodies. Beads were washed three times with Tris-buffered saline
427 (TBS)/0.5% CHAPS and processed for sample preparation.
428 For sequential immunoprecipitations, a first immunoprecipitation with FLAG would bring all
429 proteins that interact with cTAGE5; a subsequent immunoprecipitation with HA would only
430 yield proteins that were bound to both cTAGE5 and TANGO1-HA.

431

432 **Immunofluorescence microscopy**

433 Cells grown on coverslips were fixed with cold methanol for 8 min at -20°C or 4%
434 formaldehyde (Ted Pella, Inc.) for 15 min at room temperature. Cells fixed with
435 formaldehyde were permeabilised with 0.1% Triton in PBS and then incubated with blocking
436 reagent (Roche) or 0.1% horse serum for 30 min at room temperature. Primary antibodies
437 were diluted in blocking reagent or 0.1% horse serum and incubated overnight at 4°C or at
438 37°C for 1 h. Secondary antibodies conjugated with Alexa Fluor 594, 488, or 647 were
439 diluted in blocking reagent and incubated for 1 h at room temperature.

440 Confocal images were taken with a TCS SP5 (63 \times , 1.4–0.6 NA, oil, HCX PL APO), TCS
441 SP8 (63 \times , 1.4 NA, oil, HC PL APO CS2), all from Leica Microsystems, using Leica
442 acquisition software. Lasers and spectral detection bands were chosen for the optimal imaging
443 of Alexa Fluor 488, 594, and 647 signals. Two-channel colocalisation analysis was performed
444 using ImageJ (National Institutes of Health), and the Manders' correlation coefficient was
445 calculated using the plugins JaCop or Coloc 2.

446

447 **STED microscopy**

448 STED images were taken on a TCS SP8 STED 3 \times microscope (Leica Microsystems) on a
449 DMI8 stand using a 100 \times 1.4-NA oil HCS2 PL APO objective and a pulsed supercontinuum
450 light source (white light laser). Images were acquired and deconvolved exactly as described
451 before (23).

452 Three-colour STED: Due to incompatible species specificities of primary antibodies available
453 (for RINT1, TANGO1 and ERGIC-53), we were forced to use sub-optimal secondary

454 antibodies. We used Alexa 488, Alexa 594 and Alexa 647. This required that we set the
455 depletion laser (775nm) at only 3-8% intensity for the Alexa 647 channel to prevent rapid
456 bleaching.

457

458 **Morphology quantification of TANGO1 rings**

459 Multichannel 3D stacks were acquired with a z-step size of 100 nm and subsequently
460 deconvolved using Huygens deconvolution software (Scientific Volume Imaging) for STED
461 modes using shift correction to account for drift during stack acquisition. Sum-Intensity
462 Projections were then generated from a subset of the deconvolved stack slices where the rings
463 were present. Projected images showed a large fraction of the GFP signal as random dots or
464 big aggregates in which no particular structural organisation could be distinguished. Also, a
465 significant amount of well-defined non-random structures, i.e. both full and incomplete (arc-
466 shaped or dotted) rings, as well as chain-like assemblies of rings.

467 To ensure a systematic and unbiased analysis, these structures are first segmented via a
468 trainable pixel level classifier, and subsequently labelled either as rings, incomplete rings or
469 dots, or ring aggregates, on object level. Both pixel and object classification used a machine
470 learning based open-source software, ilastik (46). Afterwards, we calculated different
471 parameters for each object in order to compare them quantitatively in shape and size.
472 Specifically, we measured the diameters of the ring in terms of major and minor axes of its
473 fitted ellipse and the maximum and minimum Feret's diameter. Statistical testing was
474 performed using Student's t test (continuous data, two groups). One asterisk indicates
475 Student's t test value $P < 0.06$; three asterisks $P < 0.006$; ns indicates not significant.

476

477 To quantify the frequency of rings after depletion of specific gene products, deconvolved
478 STED images of each condition were manually scored for rings/clusters of TANGO1. A ring
479 is defined as an independent structure with an internal hole. A cluster however, is at least four
480 such conjoint rings. Statistical testing was performed using Student's t test (continuous data,

481 two groups). One asterisk indicates Student's t test value $P < 0.02$; three asterisks $P < 0.002$;
482 ns indicates not significant.

483

484 **Collagen secretion assay in RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts**

485 The secretion assay was carried out exactly as described earlier (9, 10). Briefly, RDEB/FB/C7
486 fibroblasts were transfected in suspension on two consecutive days with siRNA (either a pool
487 of control, non-targeting RNA or RNA targeting a specific gene). 48 hours later, cells were
488 washed thoroughly and incubated for 20h in OptiMEM supplemented with 1mM ascorbate.
489 Cell lysates and media were harvested and processed for Western blotting of collagen VII and
490 tubulin/actin as loading/lysis controls.

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492

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510 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

511 **Figure 1. The domain architecture and topology of TANGO1 and cTAGE5**

512 (A) A schematic depiction of full length TANGO1, showing the extent of each domain in amino acids.

513 (B) Three TANGO1-family proteins (TANGO1, TANGO1-short and cTAGE5) that form a stable
514 complex at the ERES (47). TANGO1 is a type 1 single-pass transmembrane protein of 1907 amino
515 acids, localised to ER exit sites. TANGO1 has an N-terminal luminal SH3-like domain that interacts
516 with collagen (8) via the chaperone, HSP47 (48). There is a transmembrane helix and, in close
517 proximity, a membrane insertion helix. On the cytoplasmic side of the ER membrane, TANGO1 has
518 two coiled-coil (CC) domains (CC1 and CC2). CC1 is used by TANGO1 to recruit ERGIC membranes
519 for producing a collagen carrier (10). CC2 binds to a similar coiled-coil domain in cTAGE5 (18). The
520 proline-rich domain (PRD) binds ER exit site machinery Sec23 (8, 15) and Sec16 (16). Alternative
521 splicing of TANGO1 results in a short isoform, TANGO1-short (17), lacking the luminal domain. The
522 closely related protein cTAGE5 has a similar cytoplasmic domain organisation with two coiled-coil
523 domains (CC1 and CC2) and a proline-rich domain (PRD). Via its CC1 it recruits Sec12 (22). cTAGE5
524 and TANGO1/TANGO1-short interact through their respective CC2 domains. In addition, the cTAGE5
525 CC2 also interacts with the retrograde v-SNARE Sec22 (49). Like the TANGO1/TANGO1-short PRDs,
526 the cTAGE5 PRD also interacts with Sec23 (15, 18, 50).

527

528

529 **Figure 1 – Figure supplement 1: Constructs used in this study**

530 (A) A schematic representation of all the HA-epitope tagged constructs used in this study with different
531 domains deleted from full length TANGO1. (B) Each construct was expressed in 2H5 cells. Cells were
532 fixed, permeabilised and co-stained for HA, Sec31A and Calreticulin or (C) HA, collagen VII and
533 Calreticulin. (D) A bar graph showing Manders' overlap coefficients of HA to Sec31A (green) or HA to
534 collagen (blue).

535

536 **Figure 2. The role of COPII in assembly of TANGO1 into rings**

537 In TANGO1 knockout cells, various constructs of TANGO1 were expressed and visualized by STED
538 microscopy. (A) Full-length TANGO1 forms rings. (B) TANGO1 Δ PRD forms small distinct rings, (C)
539 rings fused into a planar tessellation or (D) rings fused in long linear rows. (E) Quantification of size,

540 shown as a scatter plot and box plot of measured morphological descriptors: major axis and minor axis,
541 diameter of a fitted ellipse, maximum and minimum Feret's diameters. Quantification of shape, shown
542 as a scatter and box plot (F) of the aspect ratio between the major and minor axes. 131 and 236 rings
543 respectively were analysed for the two constructs. STED images of TANGO1 in siCTRL (G) or
544 siSEC23A (H) treated RDEB/FB/C7. (I) Rings (solid bar) or clusters (checkered bar) in 22 siCTRL
545 cells and 14 siSEC23A cells were manually counted and plotted, normalised to the area of collagen
546 accumulations. (E) *** P<0.006; ns not significant. (I) ** P<0.01, *P<0.05 (Student's t test). Scale bars
547 (A-D, G, H) 2µm, insets 200nm.

548

549 **Figure 2 – Figure supplement 1. Structures formed by TANGO1ΔPRD**

550 Various structures observed on visualisation of TANGO1ΔPRD by STED microscopy. Scale bars
551 200nm.

552

553 **Figure 2 – Figure supplement 2. Image analysis workflow**

554 Illustration of image analysis pipeline. The original STED stack is first deconvolved using Huygens
555 deconvolution software, followed by a Z-projection of subsets of stack slices. Compared to the whole-
556 stack Z-projection, those generated from subsets could differentiate easier objects at different Z-depths.
557 With a few manually placed strokes of pixel labels, the pixel classification workflow in ilastik was able
558 to segment objects from background. Each object is further classified into one of the three classes: ring
559 aggregates, rings, or dots (incomplete rings). This was achieved by the object classification workflow in
560 ilastik, using a set of morphology features.

561

562 **Figure 2 – Figure supplement 3. SEC23A is required for collagen secretion**

563 (A) The percentage of siCTRL or siSec23A-treated RDEB/FB/C7 with intracellular accumulations of
564 collagen. Densitometric analysis of a blot of Sec23 to quantify the efficiency of knockdown (B, C), #
565 non-specific band. siCTRL or siSEC23A-treated RDEB/FB/C7 lysates and medium were probed for
566 collagen and β-tubulin as a loading control (D), densitometric analysis (E) of the bands of collagen. (A)
567 *** P<0.001 (Student's t test); (E) * P<0.05 (Mann Whitney test).

568

569 **Figure 2 – Figure supplement 4. Structures formed by TANGO1 after depletion of**
570 **SEC23A**

571 Further images of the various structures observed on visualisation of TANGO1 by STED microscopy in
572 RDBE/FB/C7 cells with Sec23A depleted. Scale bars 500nm.

573

574 **Figure 3. Lateral interactions in TANGO1 ring assembly mediated by cTAGE5**

575 (A) Schematic of the interaction of TANGO1 and cTAGE5. (B) STED images of TANGO1 and
576 cTAGE5 in RDEB/FB/C7. 70 rings were manually counted from 12 cells and scored for cTAGE5
577 signal localisation within the ring. 21 rings showed peripherally located cTAGE5 while 49 had cTAGE5
578 within the ring formed by TANGO1. Rings of TANGO1 (C) and TANGO1 Δ CC2 (D) in 2H5 cells. (E)
579 scatter and box plots of measured morphological size descriptors: major and minor axes diameters of
580 fitted ellipse (MaxA, MinA), and Feret's diameter (MaxF, MinF). (F) Binning rings of TANGO1 (blue
581 bars) and TANGO1 Δ CC2 (yellow bars) by aspect ratio (major to minor axes of the fitted ellipse). Inset,
582 quantification of shape, shown as scatter-plot and box plot of the aspect ratio. The number of rings
583 analysed for the independent experiments are 131 and 228, respectively. (G) STED image of TANGO1
584 in si-cTAGE5 in RDEB/FB/C7. (H) Quantification of number of rings observed in control cells (22
585 cells) or si-cTAGE5 cells (13 cells) normalised to the area of collagen accumulations. Scale bars (B)
586 200nm; (C, D) 2 μ m, insets 200nm (G) 1 μ m; insets 200nm, * P < 0.05; ** P < 0.01; *** P < 0.001, ns
587 not significant.

588

589 **Figure 3 – Figure supplement 1. Structures formed by TANGO1 Δ CC2**

590 STED images of structures formed by TANGO1 Δ CC2. Scale bars 200nm.

591

592 **Figure 3 – Figure Supplement 2. cTAGE5 is required for collagen secretion**

593 (A) Densitometric analysis of bands of cTAGE5 normalised to control. (B) Collagen VII from lysates or
594 media of siRNA (si-CTRL or si-cTAGE5) treated RDEB/FB/C7 fibroblasts. β -tubulin is a loading and
595 lysis control. MW – Molecular weight marker. (C) Densitometric analysis of collagen VII normalised to
596 control and plotted as a bar graph. In blue, percentage of cells with intracellular accumulations of
597 collagen VII after siRNA treatment. *** P < 0.001, ** P < 0.01 (Student's t test).

598

599 **Figure 4: Lateral interactions in TANGO1 ring assembly mediated by TANGO1 self-**
600 **association**

601 (A, B) Co-immunoprecipitation of TANGO1-FLAG with the indicated constructs in HEK293T cells.
602 Lysates and immunoprecipitated samples were probed for HA, FLAG and cTAGE5. 2H5 cells co-
603 transfected with collagen VII and (C) TANGO1 Δ CC1 (16 cells imaged), (D) TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 (15
604 cells imaged) or (E) TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336 (16 cells imaged), were imaged by STED microscopy. (F)
605 Schematic of interactions between TANGO1, TANGO1-short and cTAGE5. Scale bars (C-E) 2 μ m;
606 insets 200nm.

607

608 **Figure 4 – Figure Supplement 1: Morphological quantification of structures formed by**
609 **TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336**

610 (A) Quantification of size of TANGO1 and TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336, shown as a scatter plot and box plot
611 of measured morphological descriptors: major axis and minor axis of a fitted ellipse, maximum and
612 minimum Feret's diameters. (B) Quantification of shape, shown as a scatter and box plot of the aspect
613 ratio between the major and minor axes. 131 and 143 rings respectively were analysed for the two
614 constructs. *ns* not significant.

615

616 **Figure 5. TANGO1 amino acids 1255-1295 are the minimal TEER**

617 (A) A schematic depiction of myc-epitope tagged mitochondrially-targeted (mit-TEER) truncates. (B)
618 mit-TEER truncates were expressed in 2H5 cells, fixed and stained with anti-myc-antibody and
619 visualised with confocal microscopy. (C) mit-TEER truncates were expressed in 2H5 cells, which were
620 fixed and stained using anti-myc antibody (green) and, as a mitochondrial marker, anti-HSP60 antibody
621 (red). (D) Overlap of the signal from myc and HSP60 was quantified and plotted as the Manders'
622 overlap coefficient for the two constructs (mit- Δ 1255-1295 and mit- Δ 1296-1336 respectively). (E) 2H5
623 cells were transfected with mit- Δ 1255-1295 or mit- Δ 1296-1336, fixed, and stained with anti-myc, anti-
624 HSP60 and anti-ERGIC-53 antibodies. Arrows indicate myc staining with or without colocalised
625 ERGIC-53 staining. (F) The extent of overlap of ERGIC-53 and myc was quantified and plotted as the
626 Manders' overlap coefficient for mit- Δ 1255-1295 and mit- Δ 1296-1336 respectively. Scale bars: (B, C,
627 E and F) 20 μ m; inset 2 μ m.

628

629 **Figure 6. The NRZ tether links TANGO1 to ERGIC membranes**

630 (A) Rings of TANGO1 (green) in RDEB/FB/C7 cells with RINT1 (red) and ERGIC-53 (blue).
631 Deconvolved z-stacks of ten cells were used to quantify the location of the tether protein RINT1 relative
632 to a ring of TANGO1. 90 rings of TANGO1 were manually scored, three adjacent slices in the image
633 stack were used to identify signal from RINT1 in the vicinity of the ring of TANGO1. 23 rings showed
634 RINT1 within the ring, 19 rings showed RINT1 on the circumference (at the edge) of the ring, 39 had
635 RINT1 outside the ring, 9 rings showed no detectable RINT1. (B) TANGO1, TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295,
636 TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336 and TANGO1-Lum were expressed in HEK293T cells and immunoprecipitated.
637 Samples were probed for NBAS, RINT1, cTAGE5 and ZW10. TANGO1 and TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336
638 immunoprecipitated all four proteins, but TANGO1 Δ 1255-1295 did not immunoprecipitate tether
639 proteins. TANGO1-Lum did not pull down any of the four proteins. (C) RDEB/FB/C7 were transfected
640 with siRNA (siCTRL, siNBAS, siRINT1 and siTANGO1) and immunostained for intracellular collagen
641 VII (red) and calreticulin (green). (D) Quantification of fluorescence associated with intracellular
642 collagen VII in (C). (E) Collagen VII secreted by RDEB/FB/C7 was looked at as the ratio of collagen in
643 the medium to the lysate, quantified, and plotted as the average of values from at least three independent
644 experiments. β -actin is a loading control. (F) siRINT1-, siNBAS- and siTANGO1-treated RDEB/FB/C7
645 were stained for collagen VII and ERGIC-53. (G) A plot of Manders' overlap coefficient for ERGIC-53
646 and collagen VII from (F) used to quantify ERGIC-53 localisation to collagen accumulations. (H)
647 Representative blots showing the efficiency of knockdown of NBAS, RINT1 and ZW10, quantified and
648 plotted as the average \pm s.d. from at least three independent experiments. *** $P < 0.001$; ** $P < 0.01$.
649 Scale bars (A) 200nm, (C, F) 10 μ m, (C inset) 5 μ m.

650

651 **Figure 6 – Figure supplement 1. RINT1 is recruited to exit sites at collagen**
652 **accumulations**

653 Collagen accumulations in RDEB/FB/C7 cells were visualised for Sec31 (red), TANGO1 (green) and
654 RINT1 (blue). Colocalisation at these patches was measured by the Manders' overlap coefficient of
655 0.691 ± 0.124 (s.d.) of RINT1 with TANGO1. Scale bars 5 μ m.

656

657 **Figure 6 – Figure Supplement 2. RINT1 localises to one or two puncta in a TANGO1 ring**

658 RDEB/FB/C7 cells were visualised for TANGO1 (green) and RINT1 (red) Fourteen examples are
659 shown here. Scale bar 200nm

660

661 **Figure 7. The NRZ tether is required for TANGO1 ring assembly**

662 siCTRL (A), siRINT1 (B), siNBAS, and siZW10 treated RDEB/FB/C7 were imaged by STED
663 microscopy. TANGO1 rings in control cells (A). Representative image of a cell treated with siRINT1,
664 showing almost no detectable assemblies of TANGO1 (B). The number of rings in each condition were
665 manually counted and plotted (C) normalised to the area of collagen accumulations. The number of
666 cells used in the quantification for each condition is indicated. (D) Schematic of experiment. Cells
667 transfected with siRNA control, RINT1 or ZW10, lysed and subjected to sequential
668 immunoprecipitations, (E). Eluates were probed for TANGO1-HA, cTAGE5, TANGO1-short. Cells
669 with only TANGO1-HA (no cTAGE5-FLAG) were used as a negative control. Knockdown of RINT1
670 and ZW10 were confirmed by Western blotting. (F) Schematic of a complex of TANGO1, TANGO1-
671 short and cTAGE5 indicating positions of antibody epitopes used in the co-immunoprecipitations. Scale
672 bars, (A, B) 1 μ m, inset 400nm. (C) ***P < 0.001 (Student's t test).

673

674 **Figure 7 – Figure supplement 1. ERES still form at collagen after depletion of tether**
675 **proteins**

676 After depleting cells of NBAS, RINT1 or ZW10, cells are visualised by confocal microscopy for Sec31
677 (red), TANGO1 (green) and TGN46 (blue). Under these experimental conditions, exit sites still form
678 and show a clear association between Sec31 and TANGO1. Scale bars 20 μ m, insets 5 μ m.

679

680 **Figure 8. Model of TANGO1 ring assembly at an ERES**

681 (A) TANGO1-family proteins (cyan) assembly into a ring at an ERES is mediated by interactions **1.**
682 with COPII (orange) **2.** with triple helical collagen (purple), **3.** amongst the TANGO1 family proteins **4.**
683 with the NRZ tether (dark blue) which links TANGO1 to ERGIC membranes. TANGO1 delays the
684 binding of the outer COPII coat to allow a mega carrier to form. (B) The cytoplasmic bud grows to a
685 size that encapsulates collagen trimers. In this form, we suggest that the neck of this tubule is covered in
686 the inner COPII coat bound to TANGO1, which prevents premature recruitment of outer COPII coat,
687 thereby controlling the timing of membrane fission.

688

689 **Table 1. Quantification of the size and shape of rings formed by TANGO1 and its mutant**
690 **forms.**

	Major axis (nm)	Minor axis (nm)	Feret's major axis (nm)	Feret's minor axis (nm)	Objects counted	Cells imaged
TANGO1	293 ± 47	191 ± 43	330 ± 53	221 ± 46	131	44
TANGO1ΔPRD	192 ± 55	115 ± 19	210 ± 59	130 ± 29	236	40
TANGO1ΔCC2	313 ± 77	164 ± 50	358 ± 90	203 ± 56	228	51

691

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Figure 1

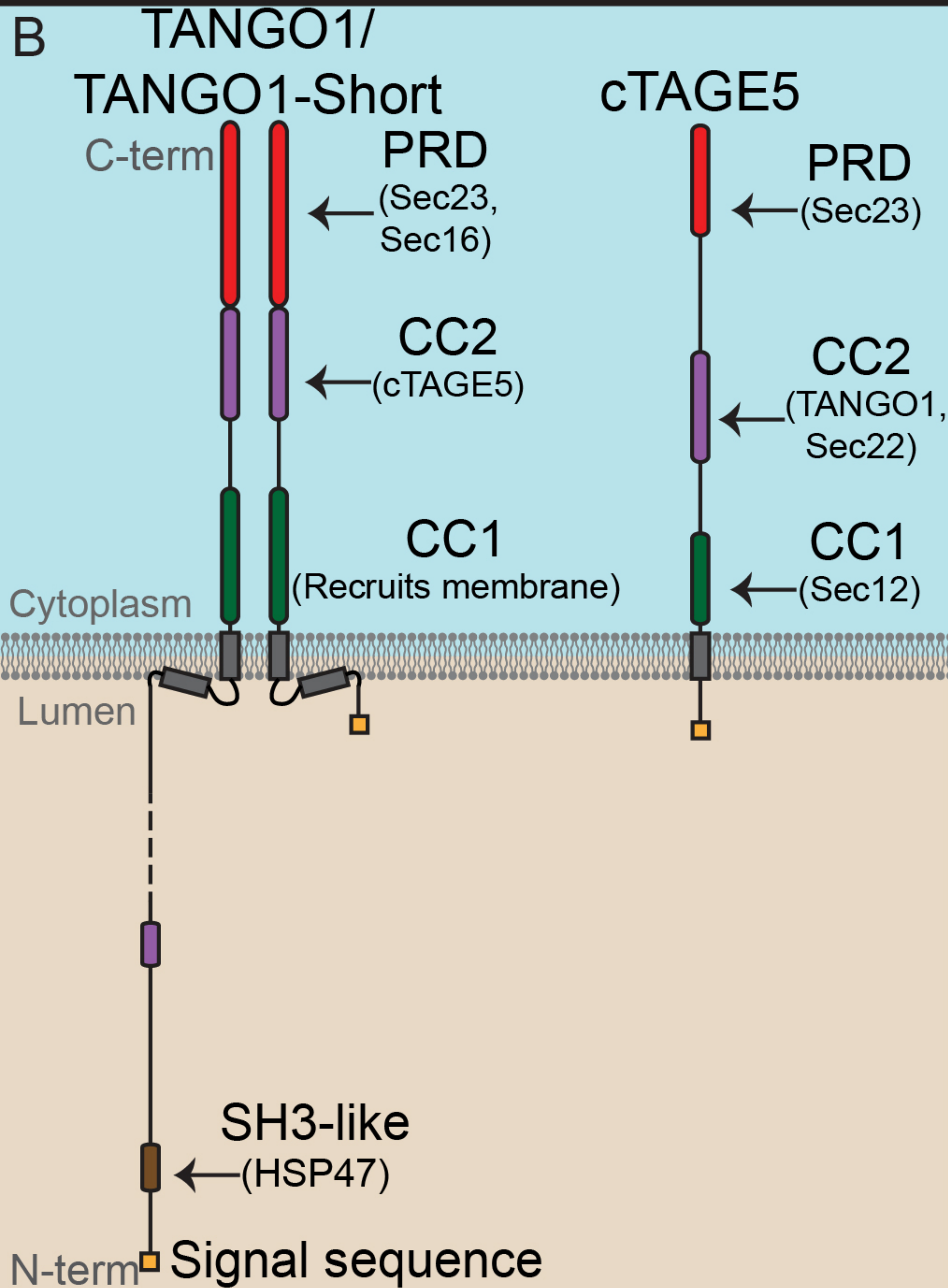
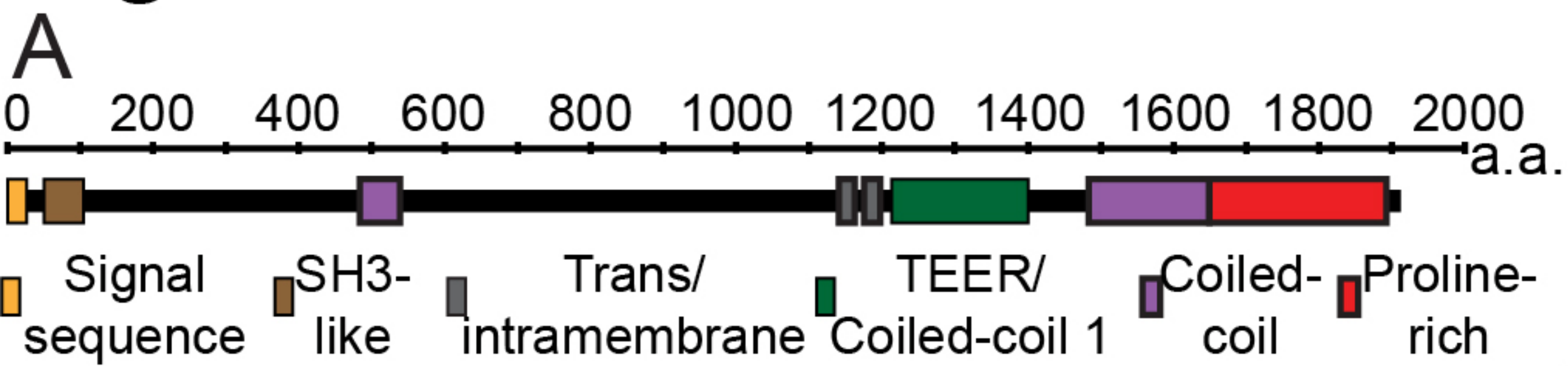
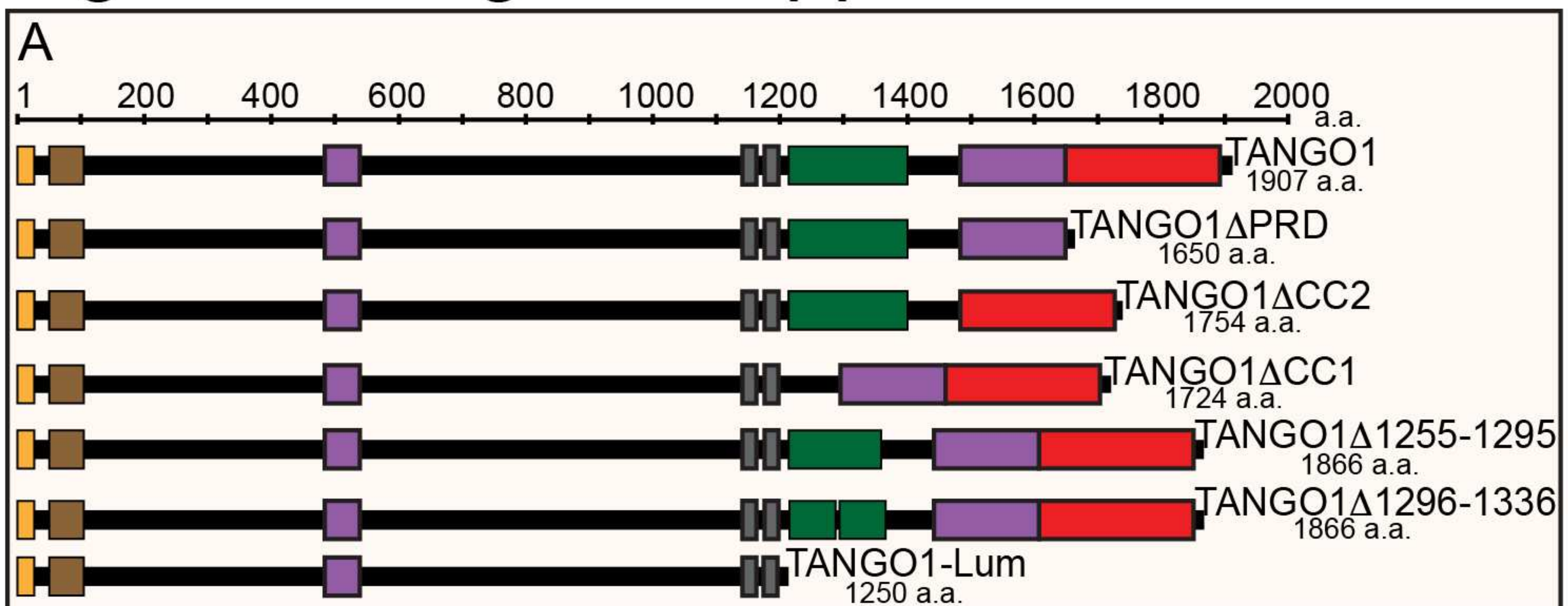


Figure 1 - Figure Supplement 1



■ Signal sequence
 ■ SH3-like
 ■ Transmembrane/Intramembrane
■ TEER Coiled-coil 1
 ■ Coiled-coil
 ■ Proline-rich

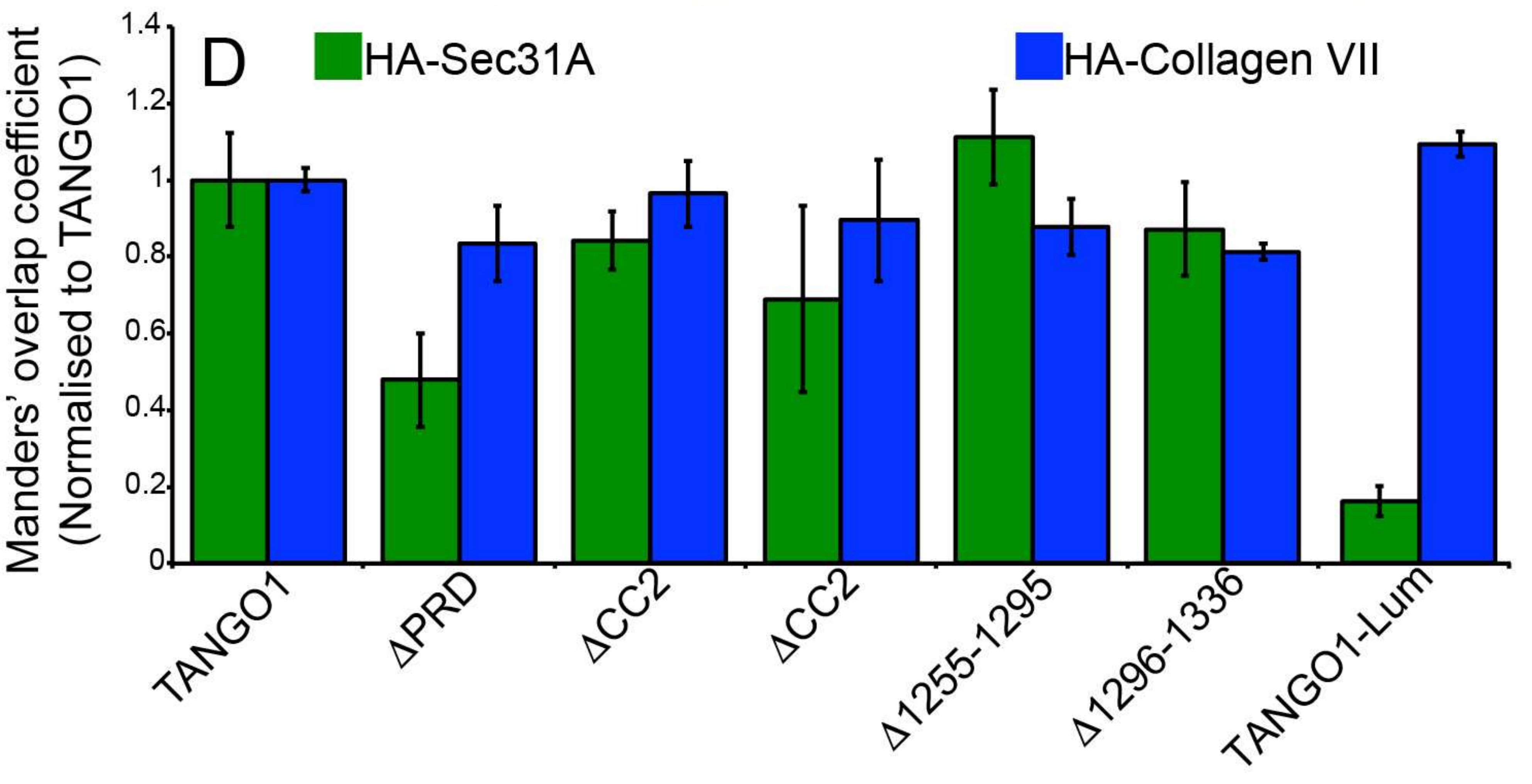
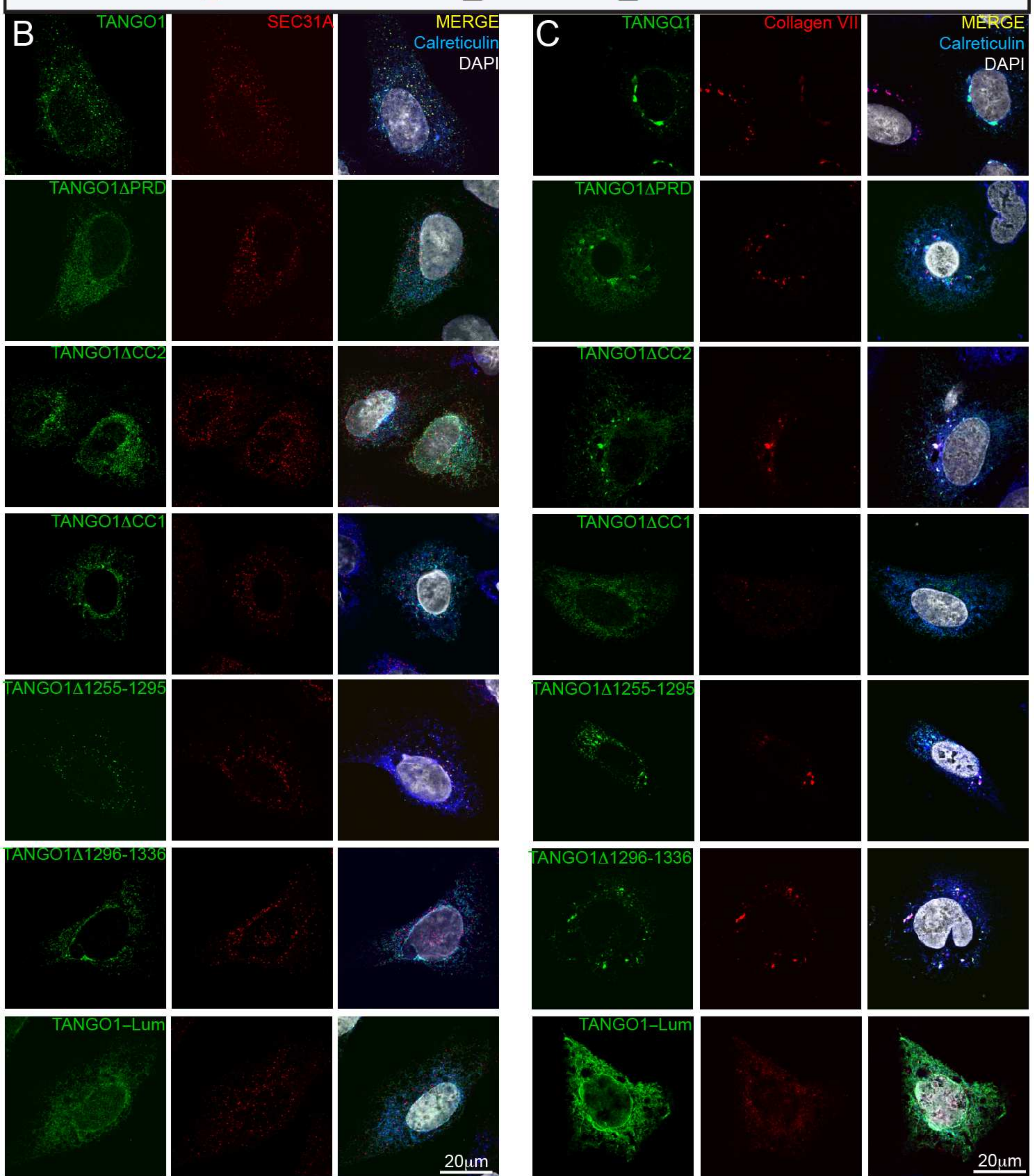
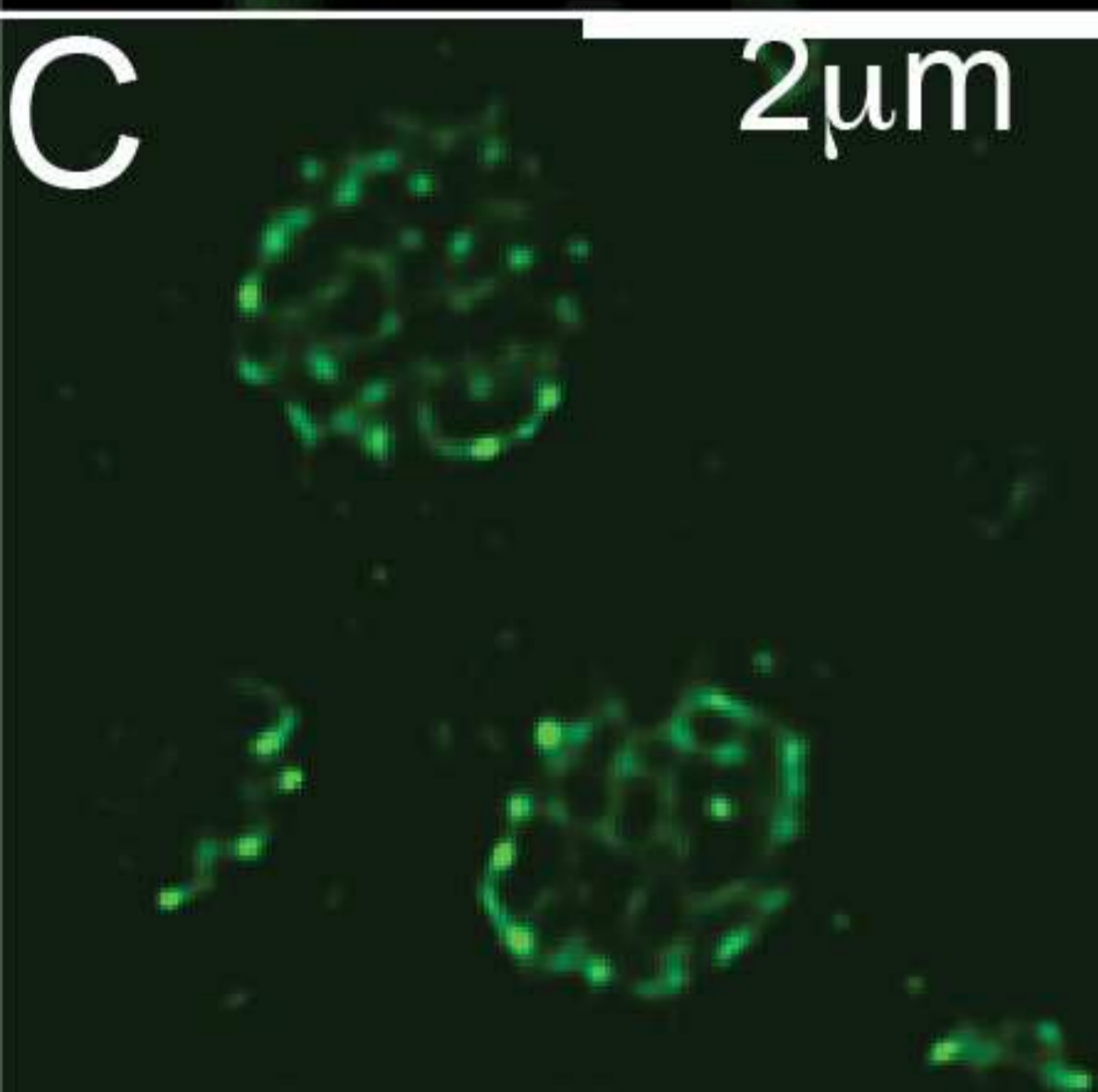
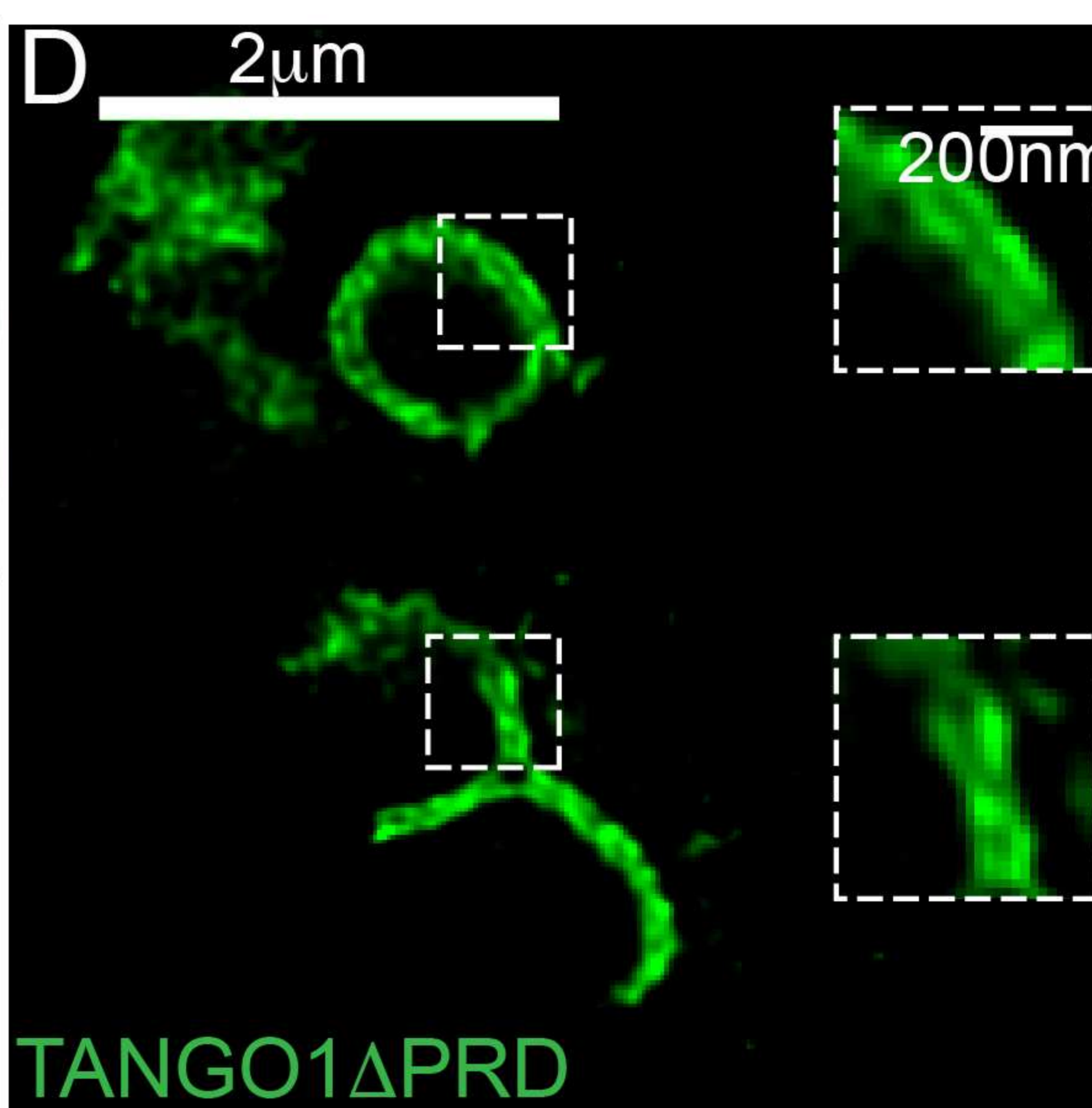
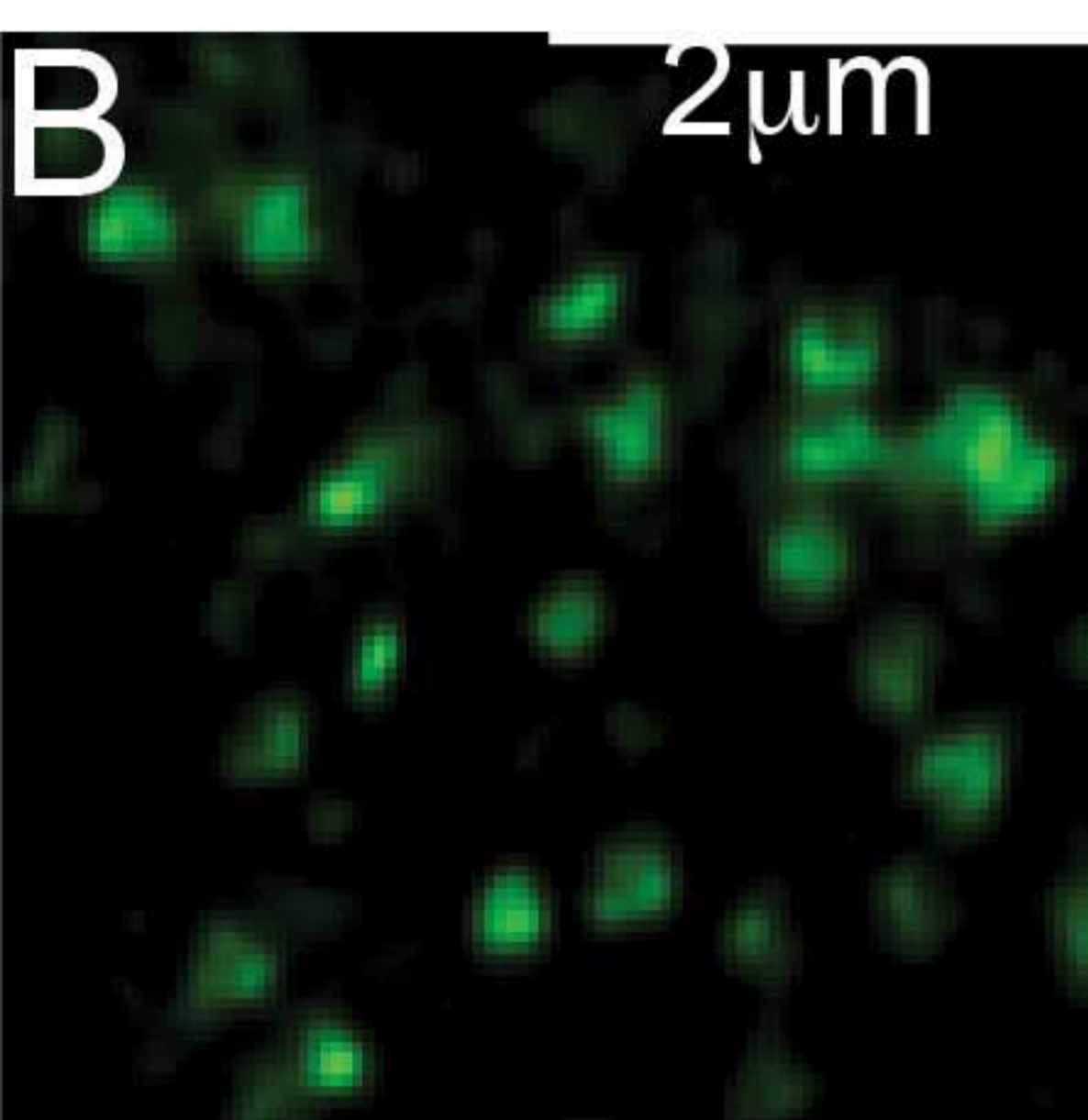
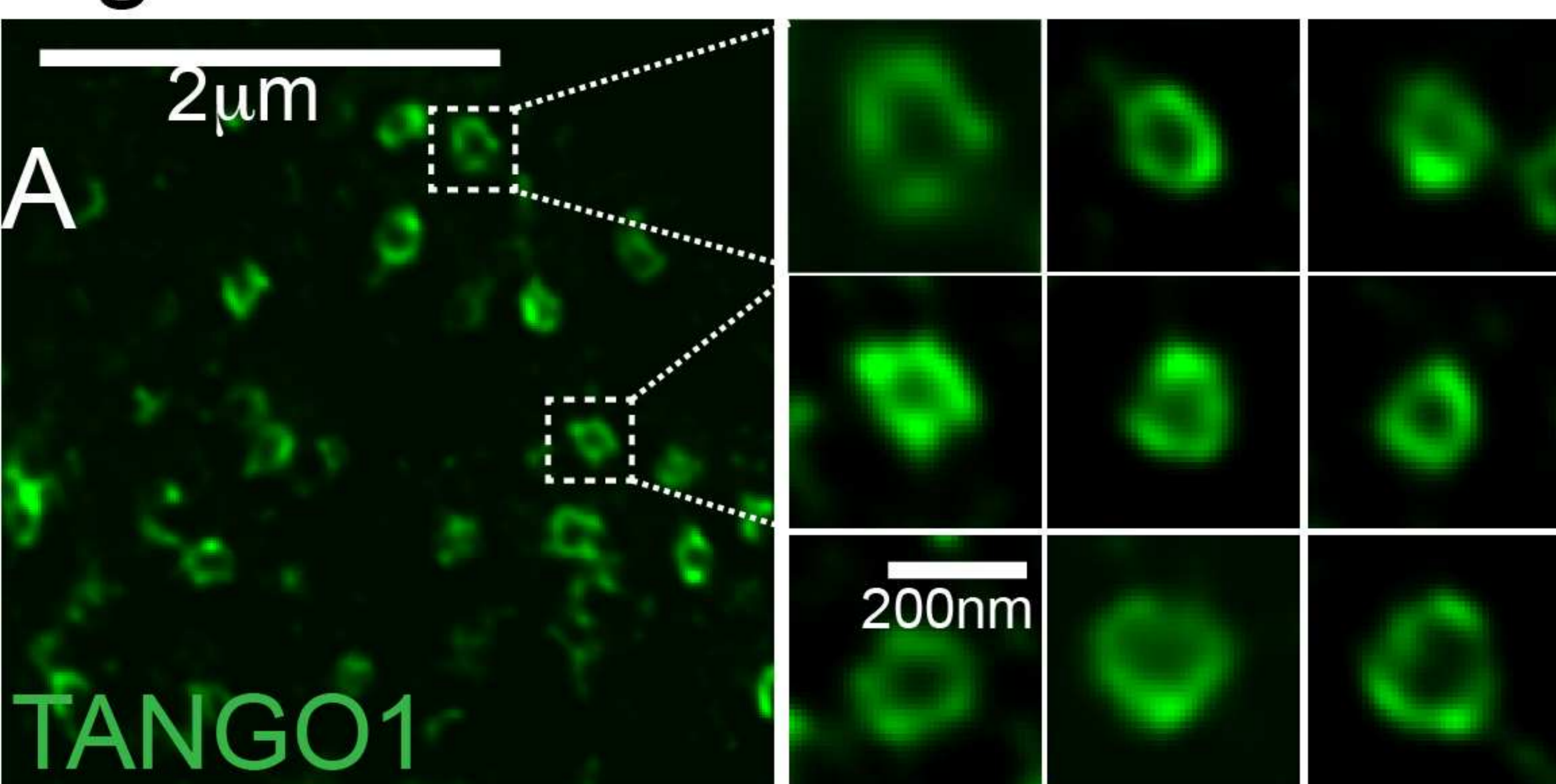


Figure 2



Morphology descriptors

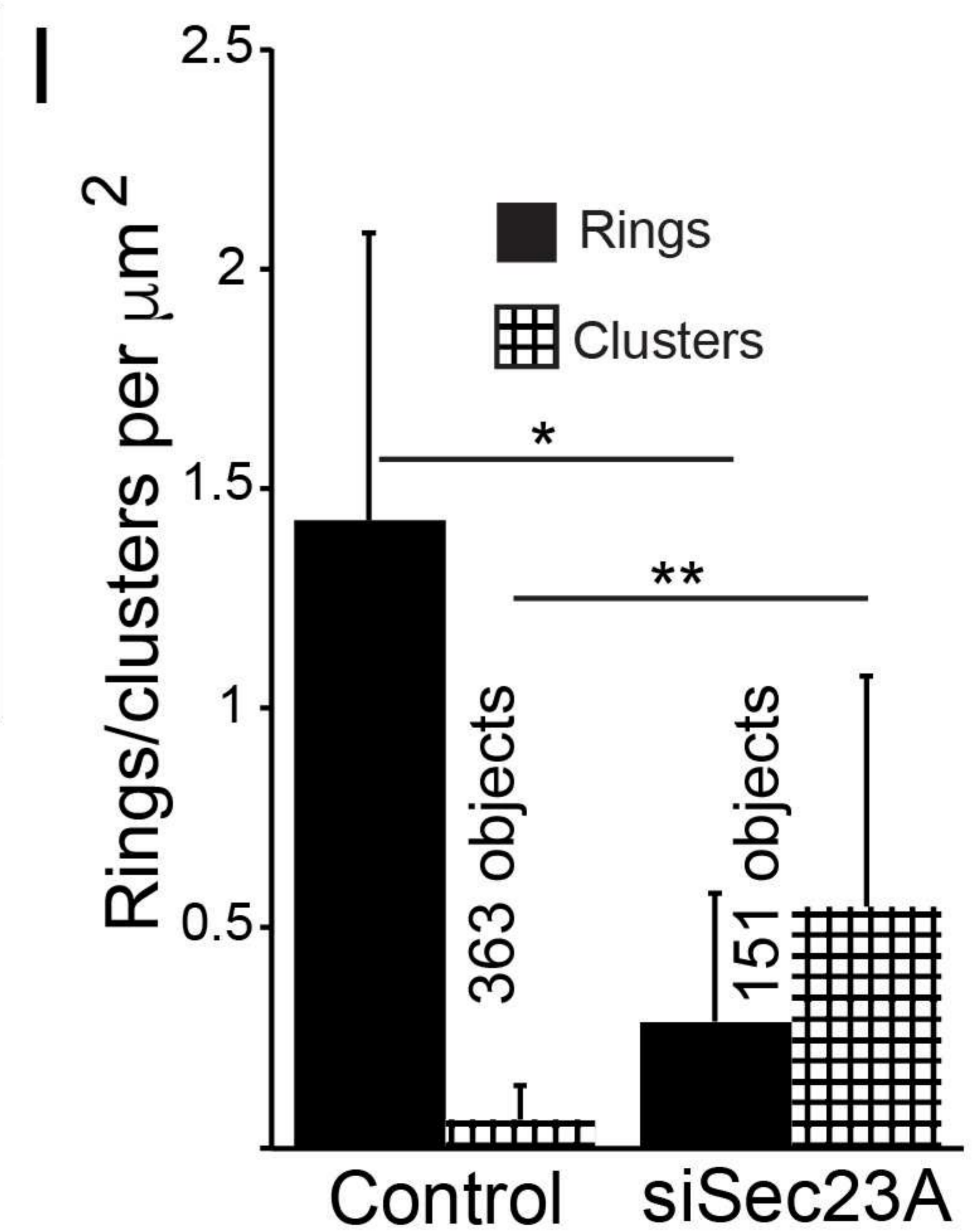
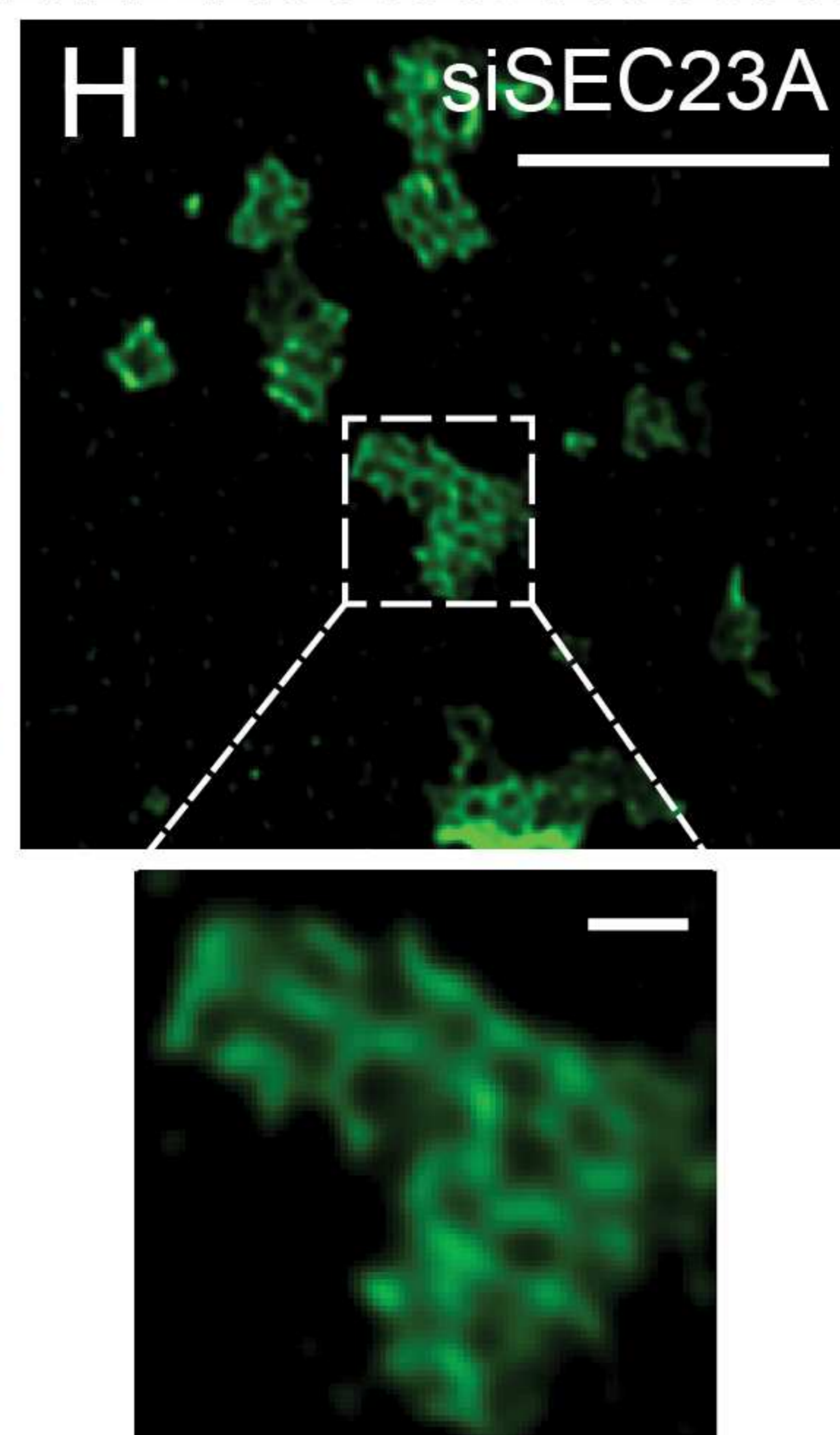
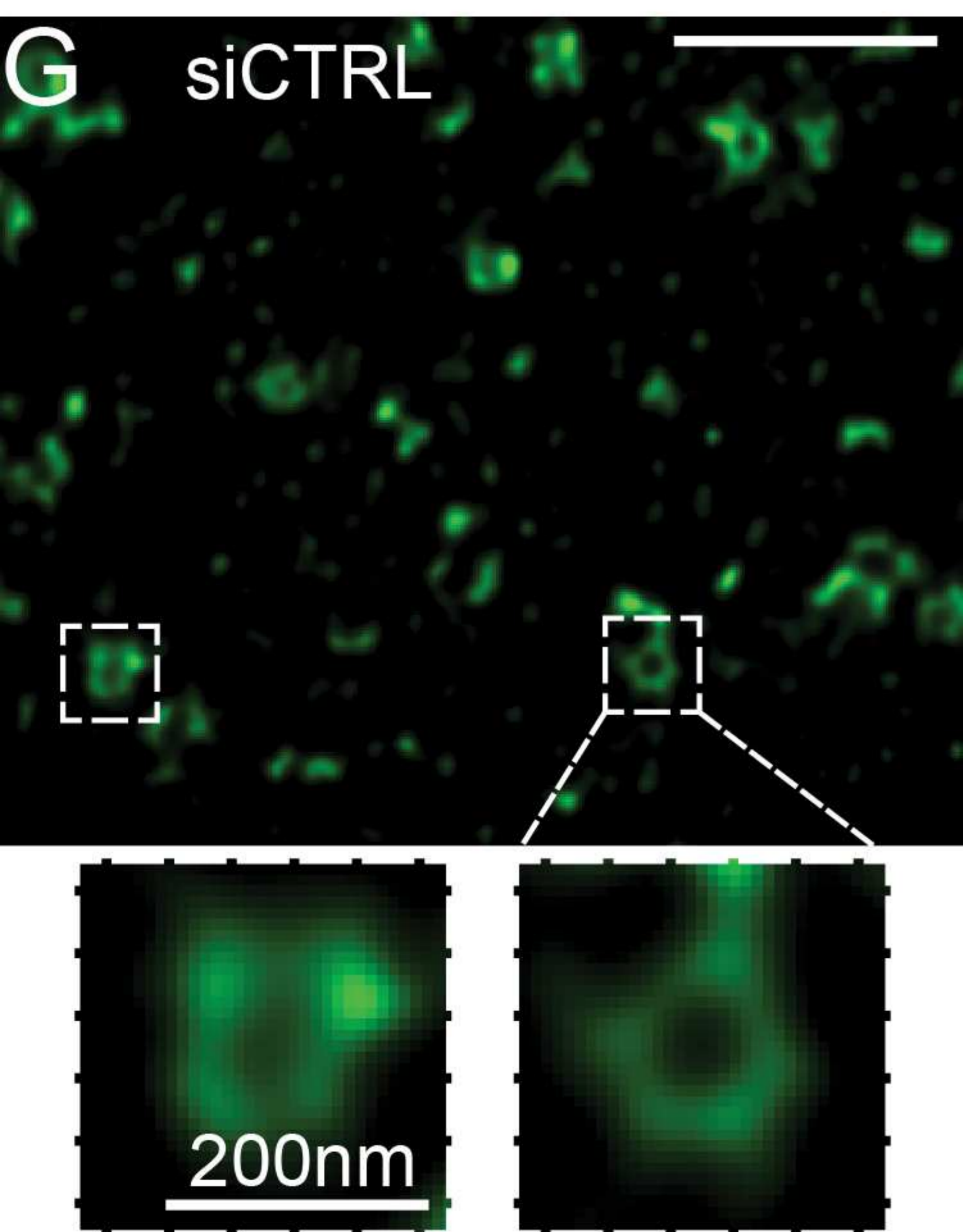
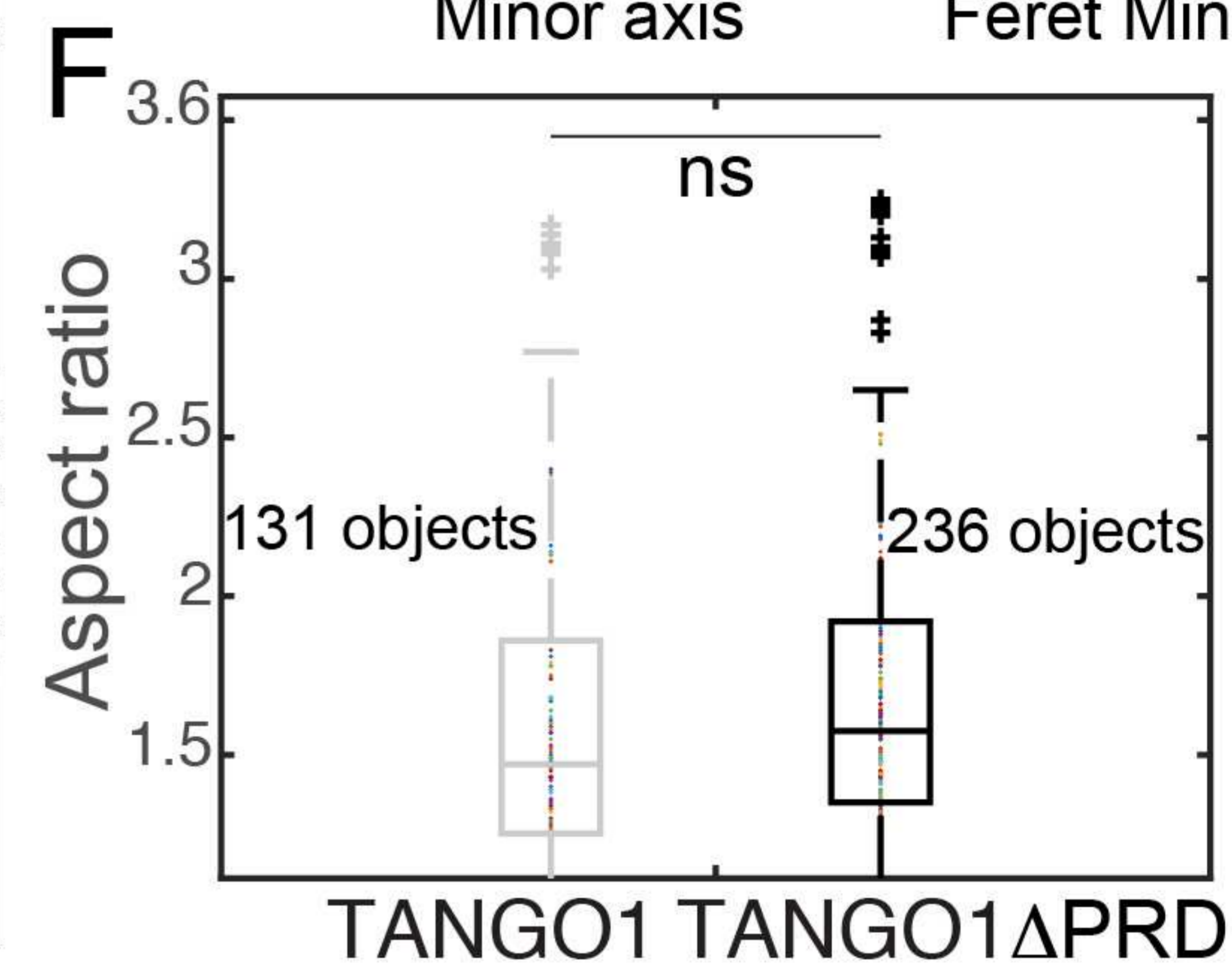
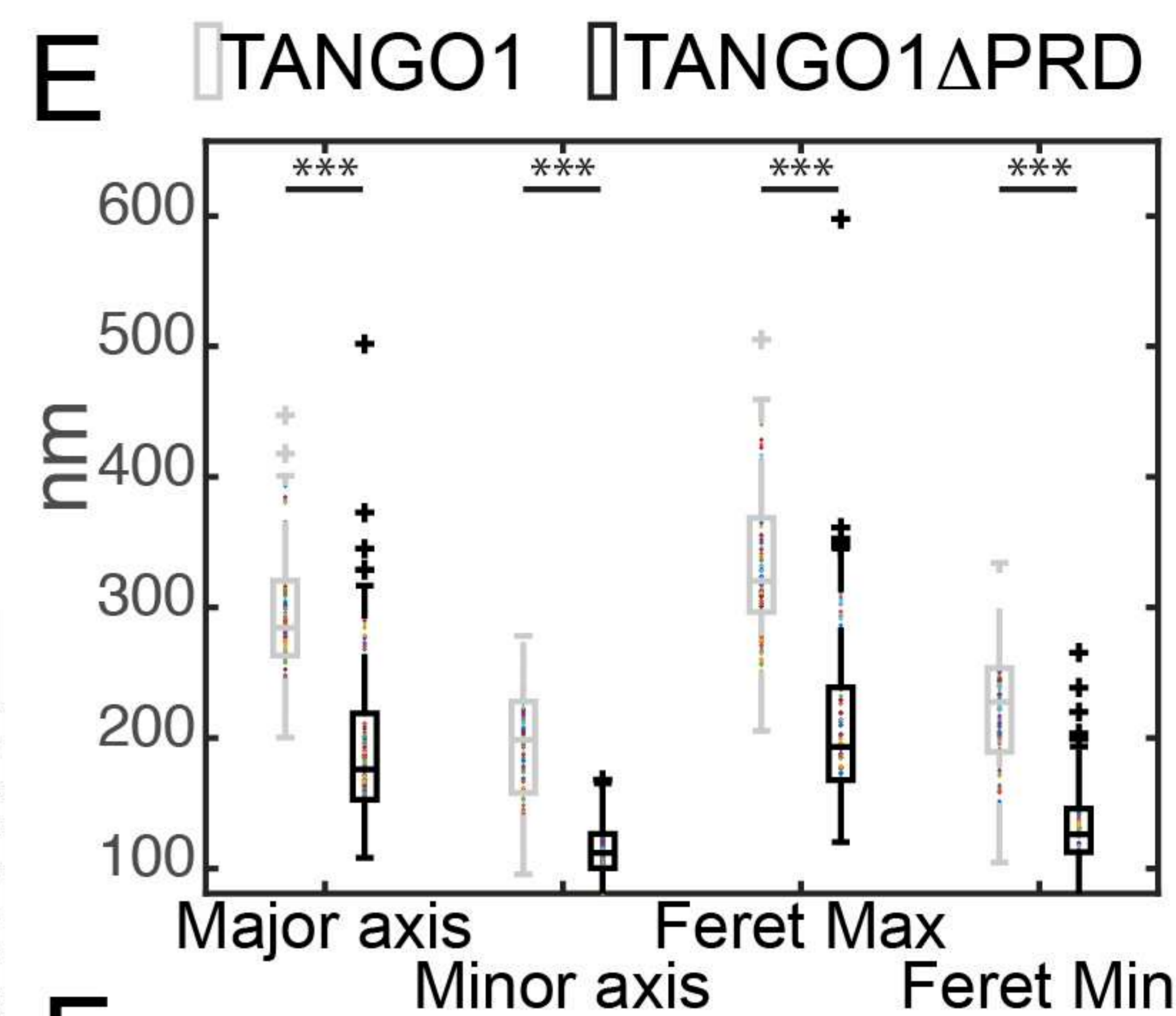


Figure 2 - Figure Supplement 1

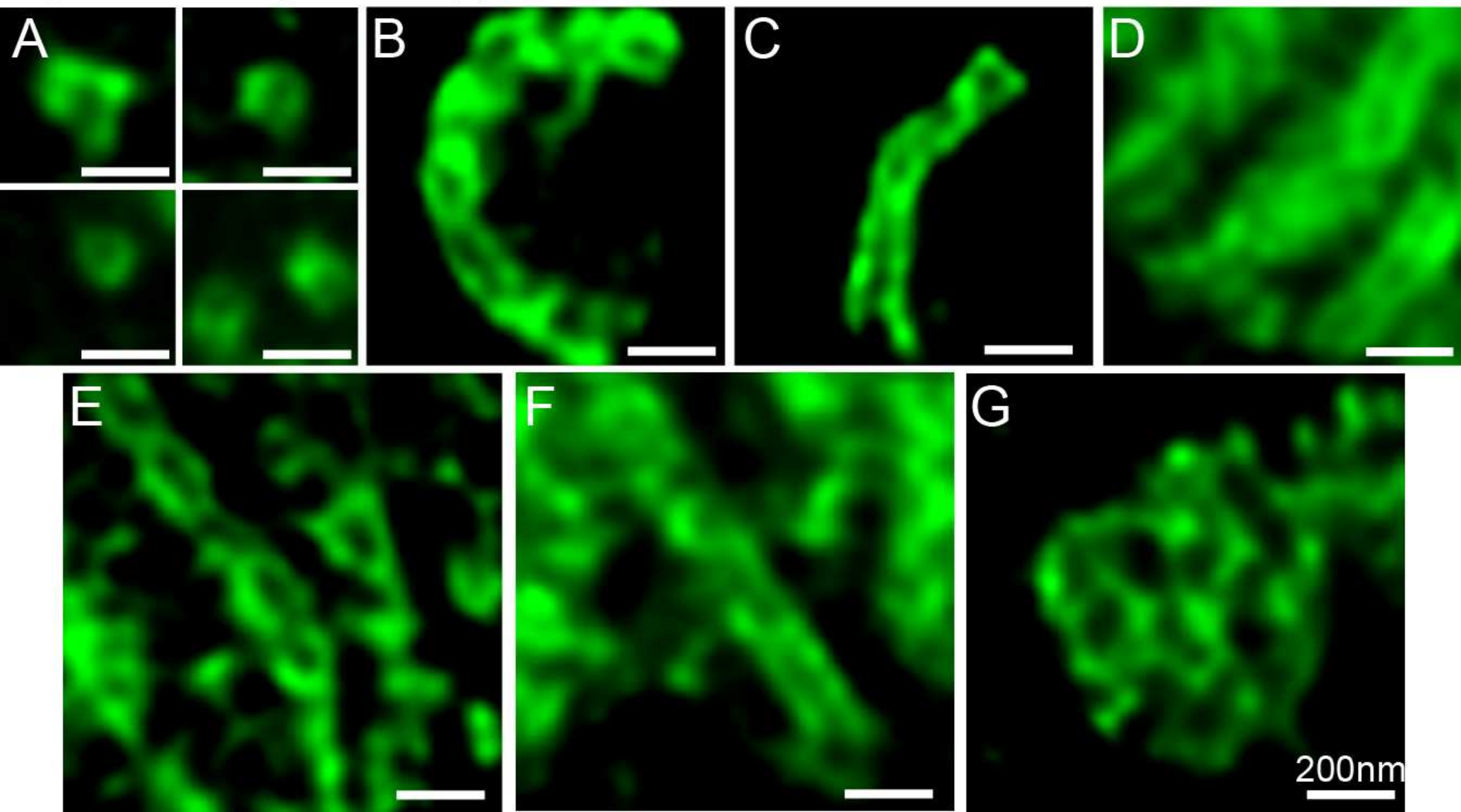


Figure 2 - Figure Supplement 2

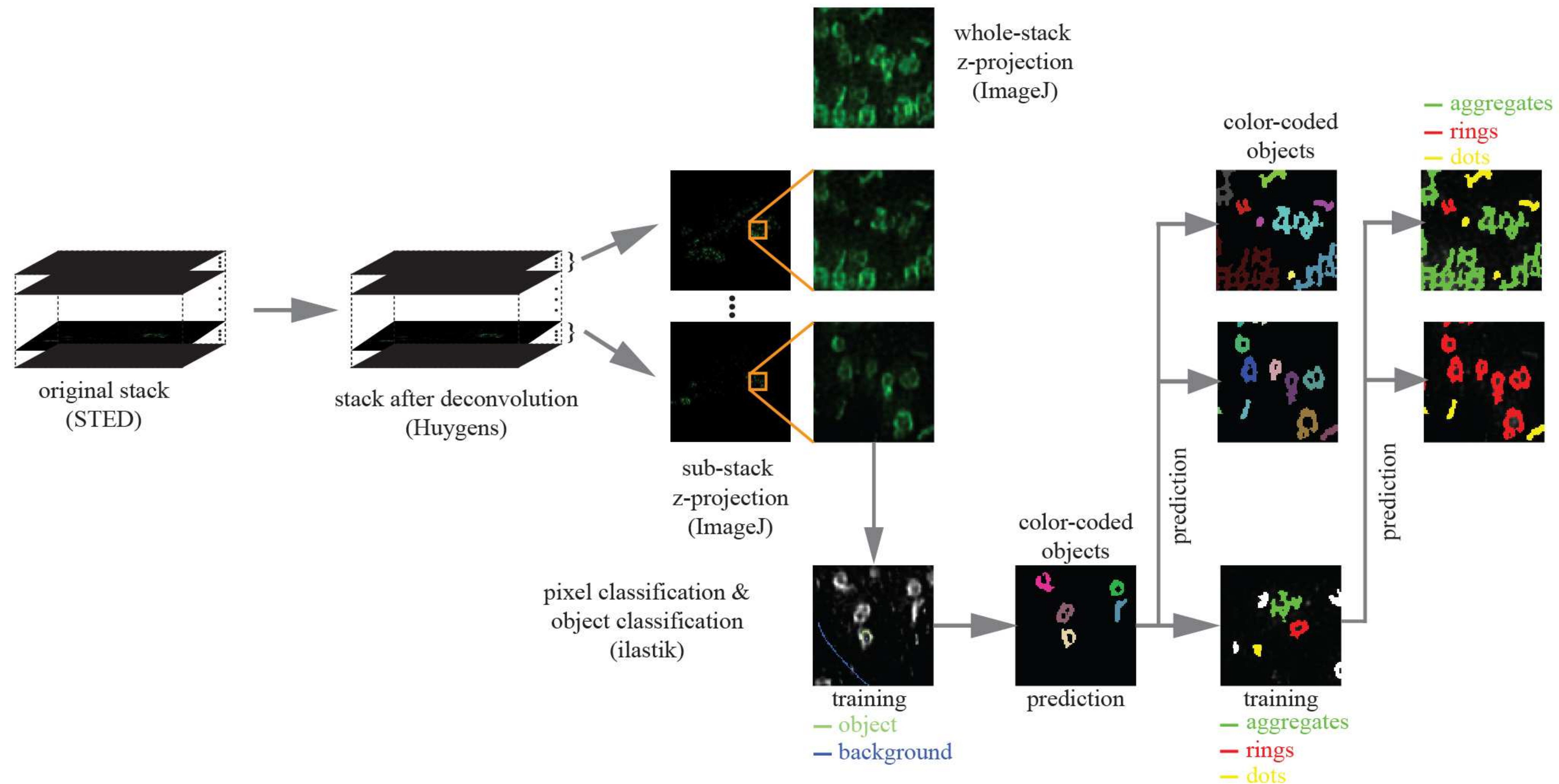


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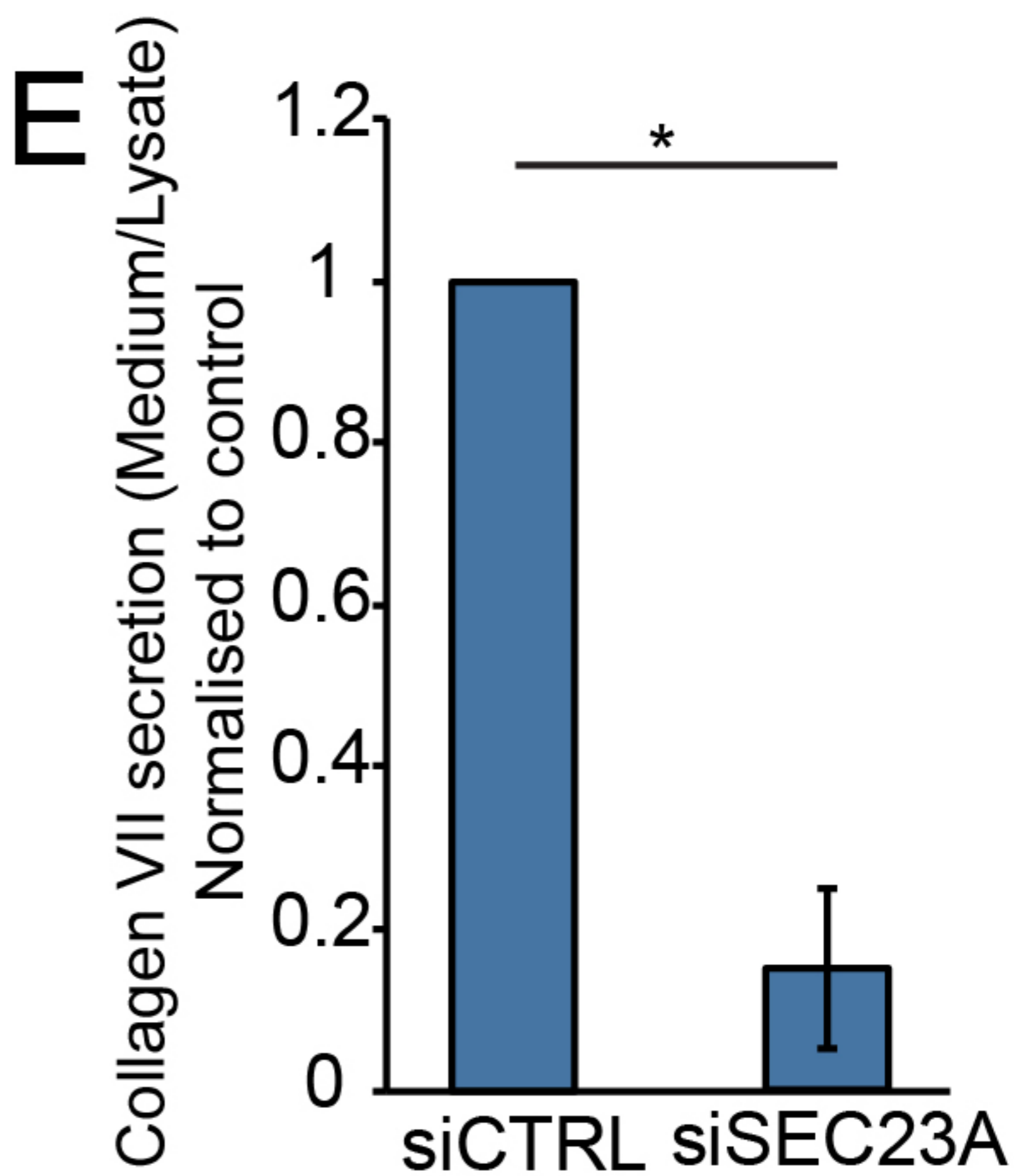
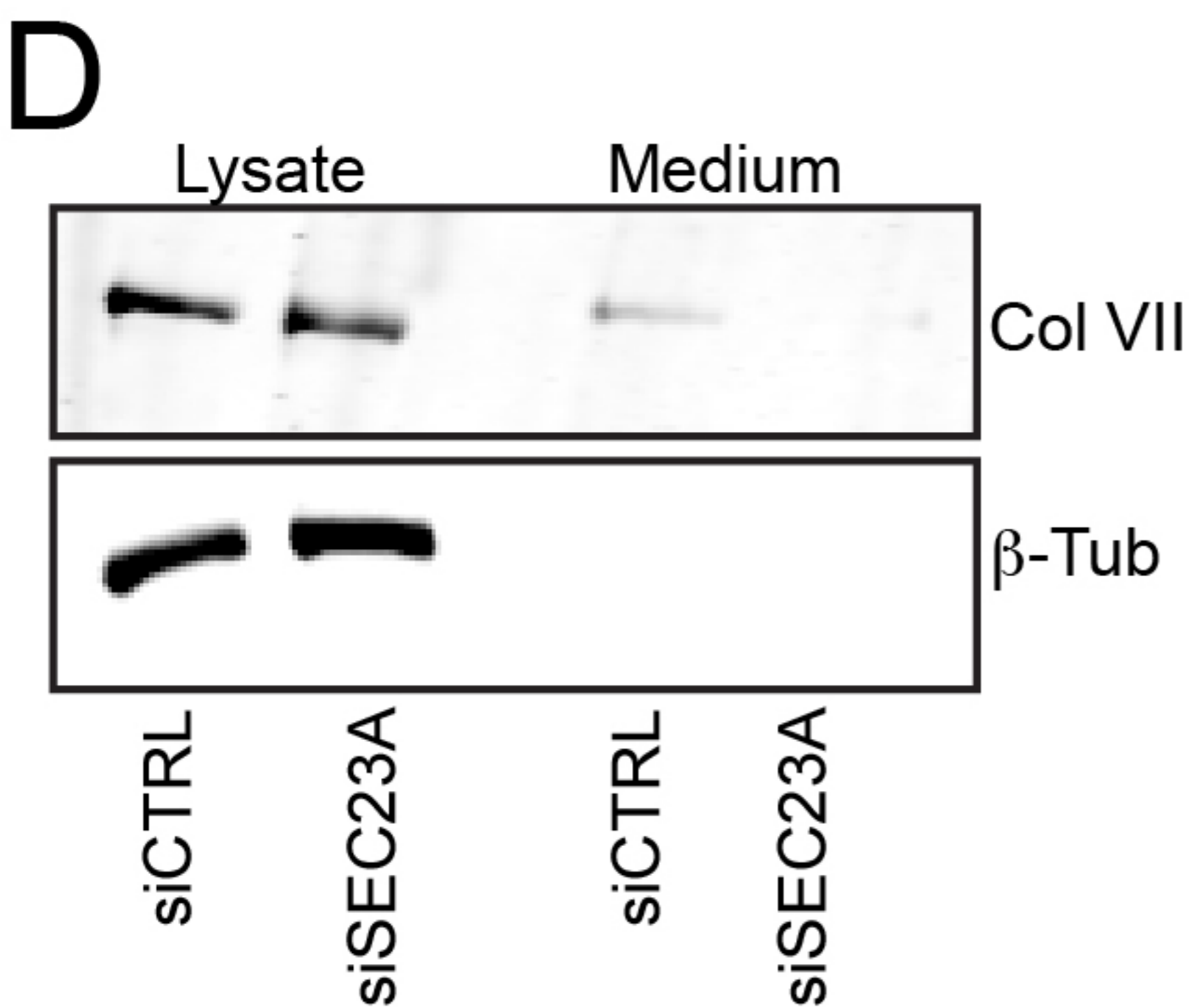
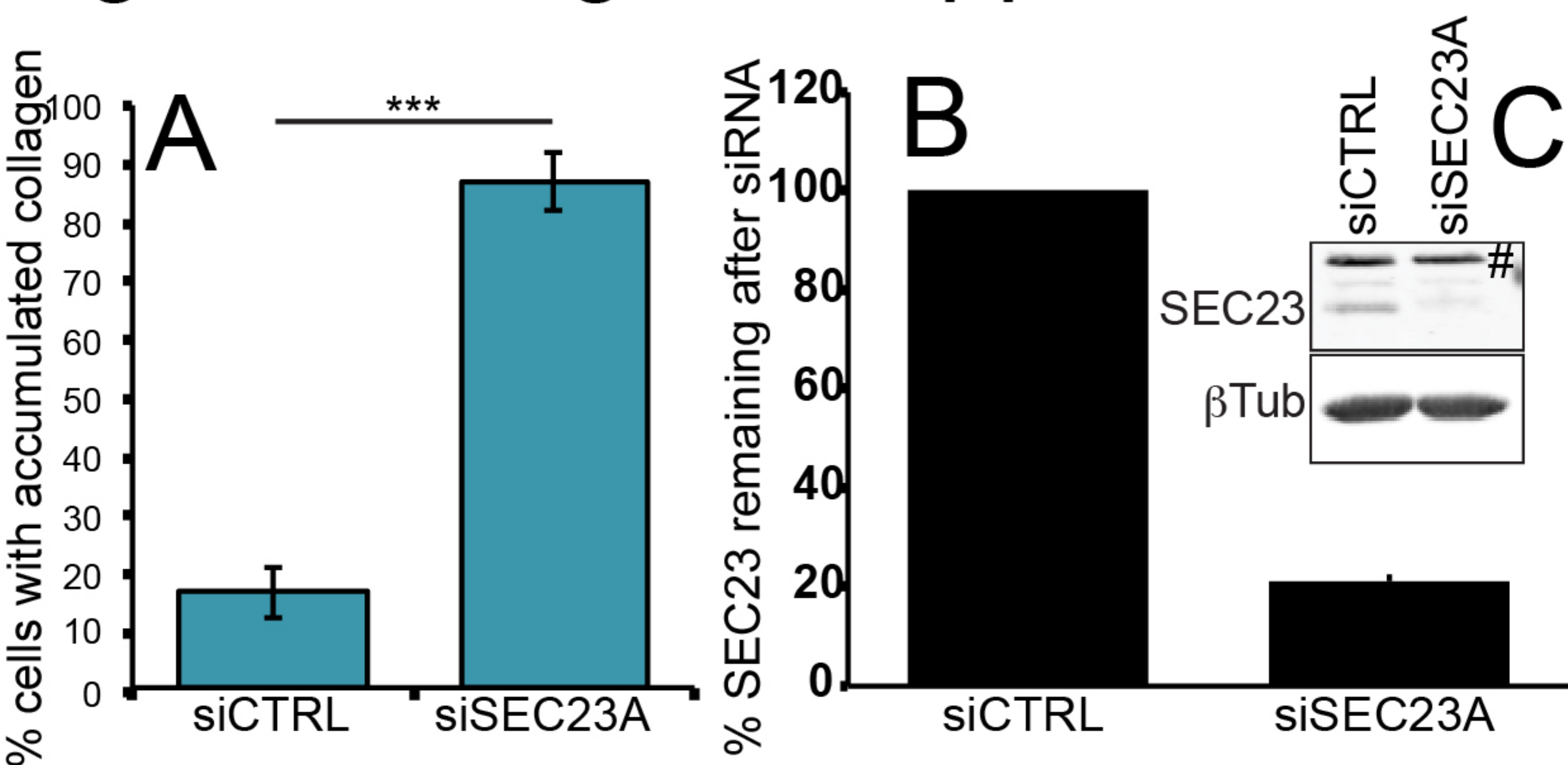


Figure 2 - Figure Supplement 4

siSEC23A

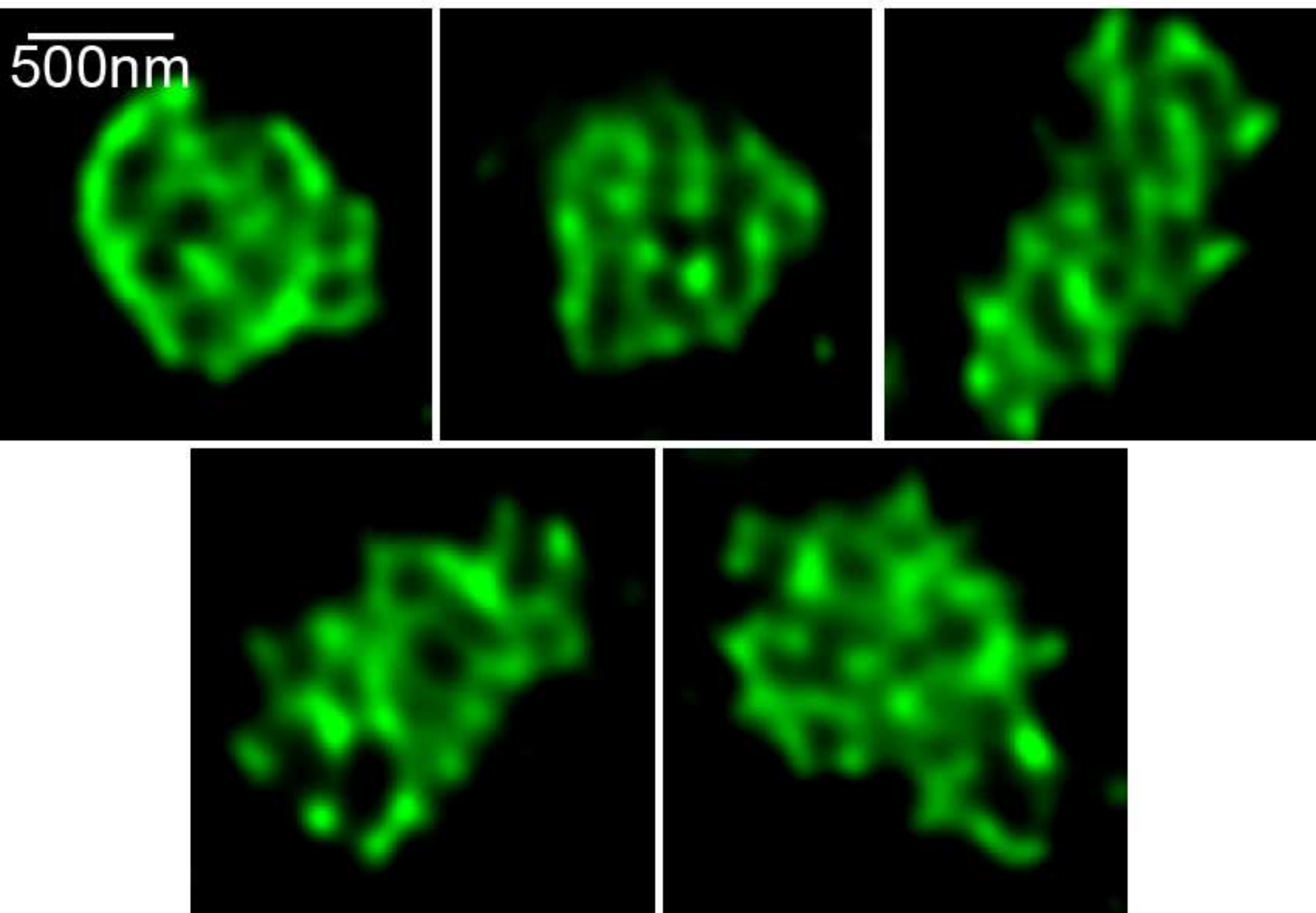


Figure 3

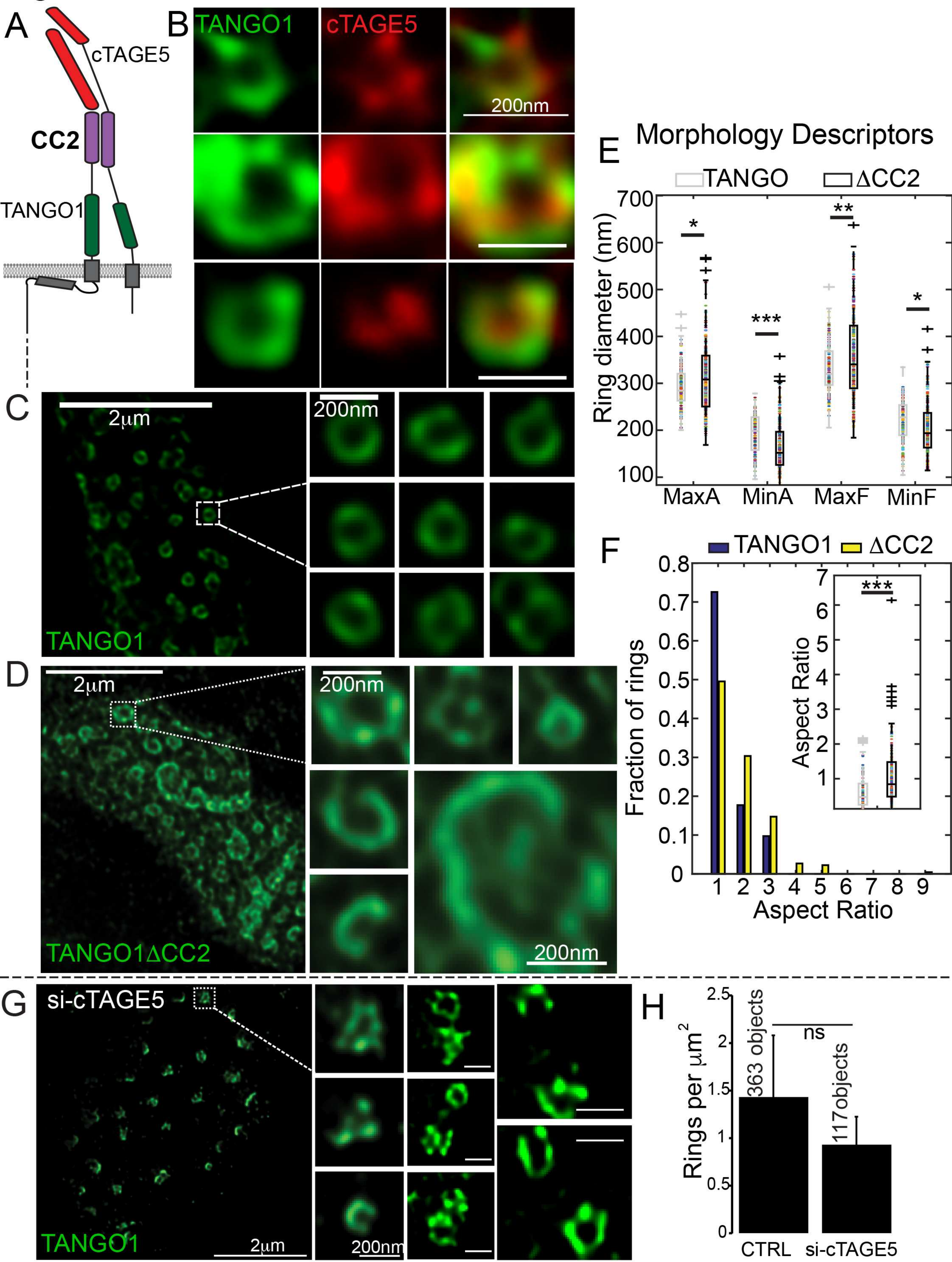


Figure 3 - Figure Supplement 1

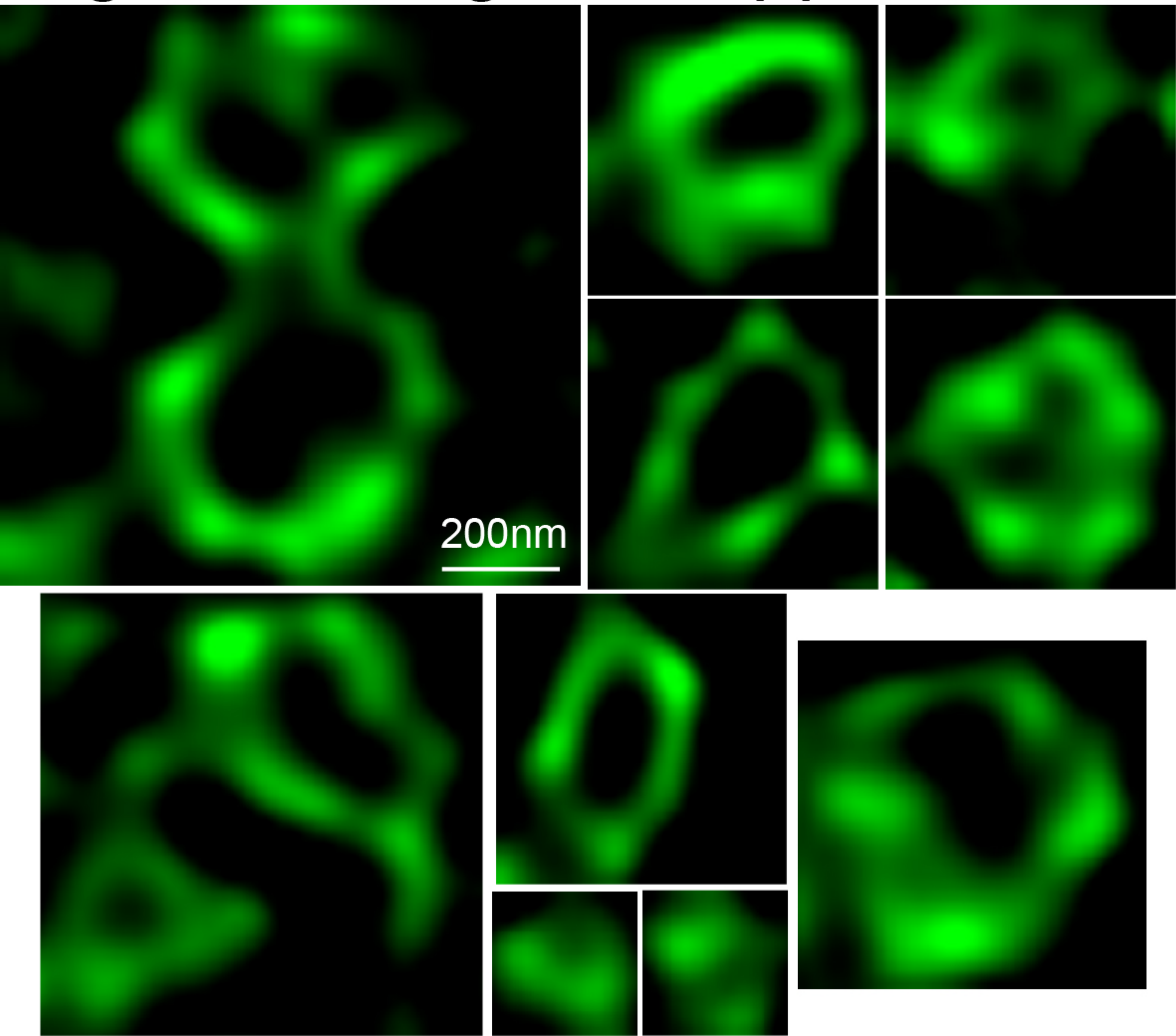
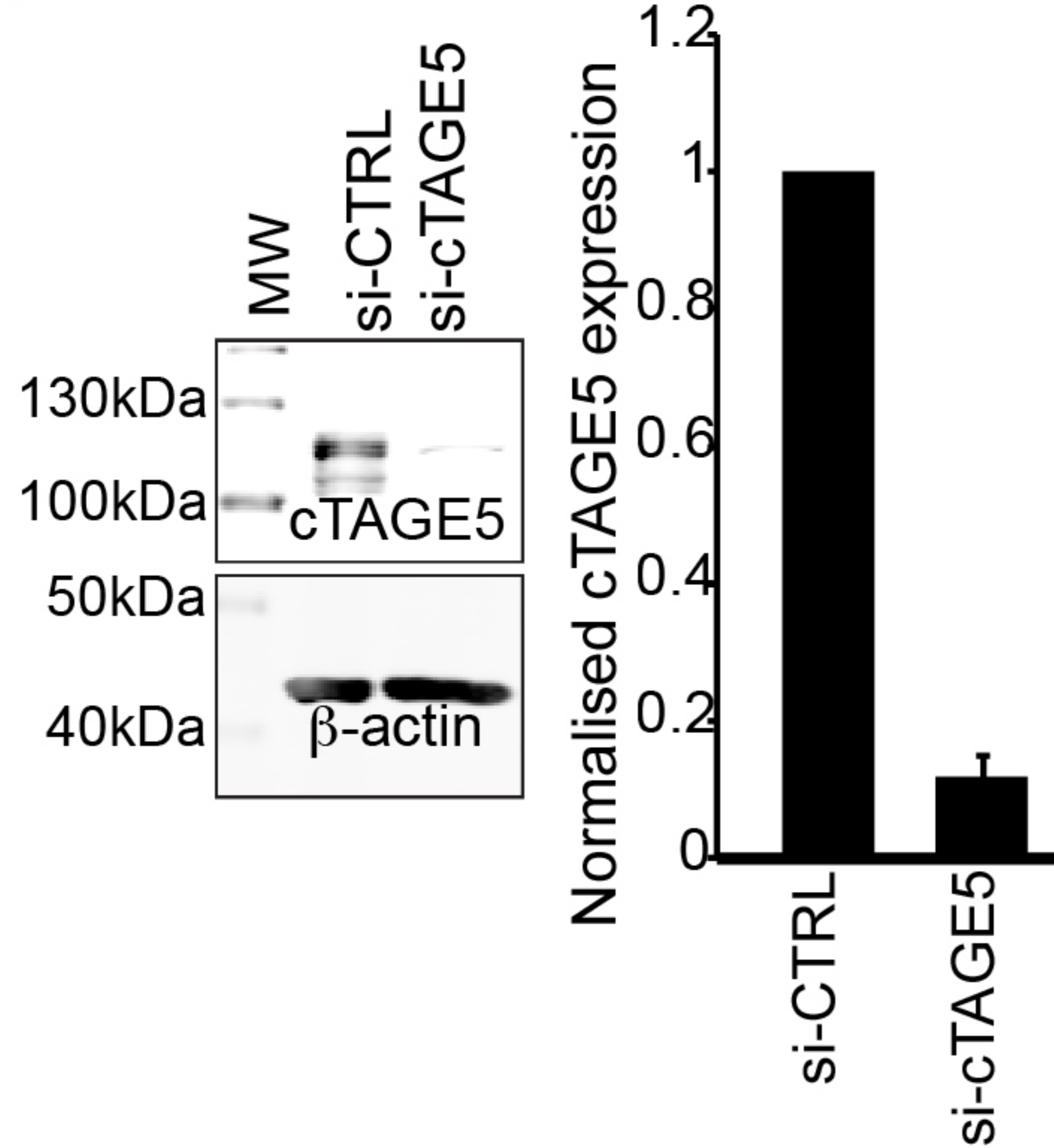
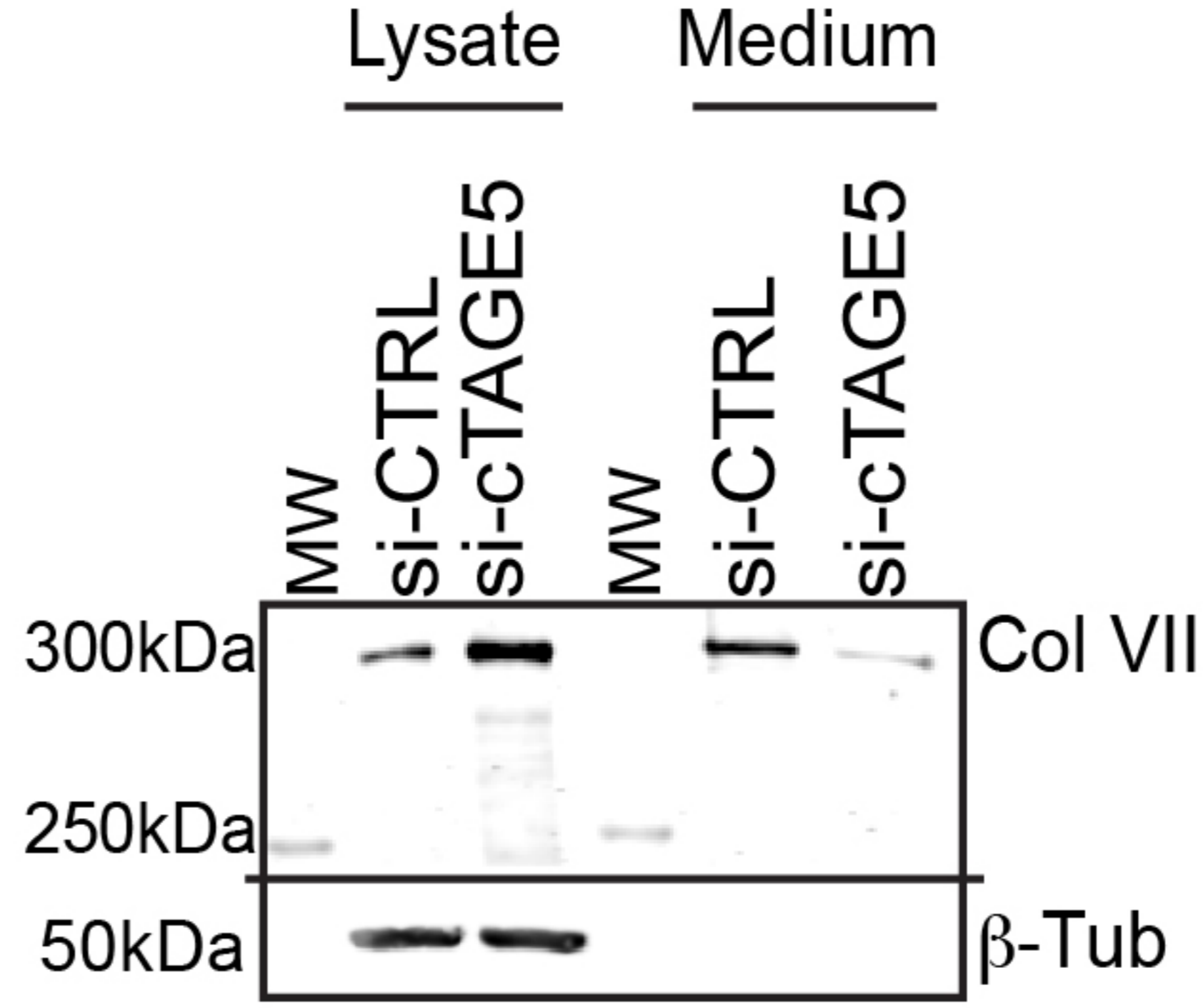


Figure 3 - Figure Supplement 2

A



B



C

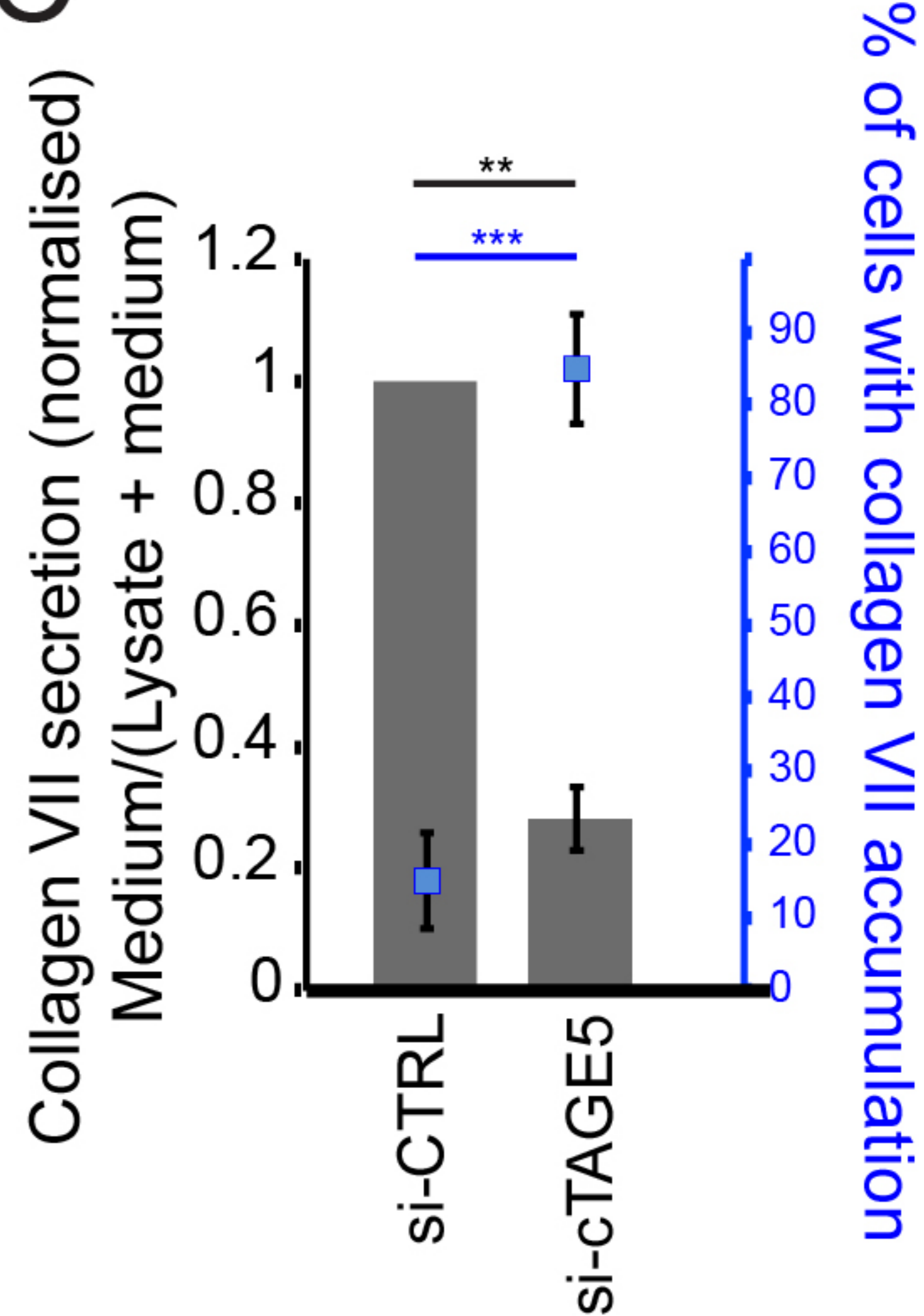
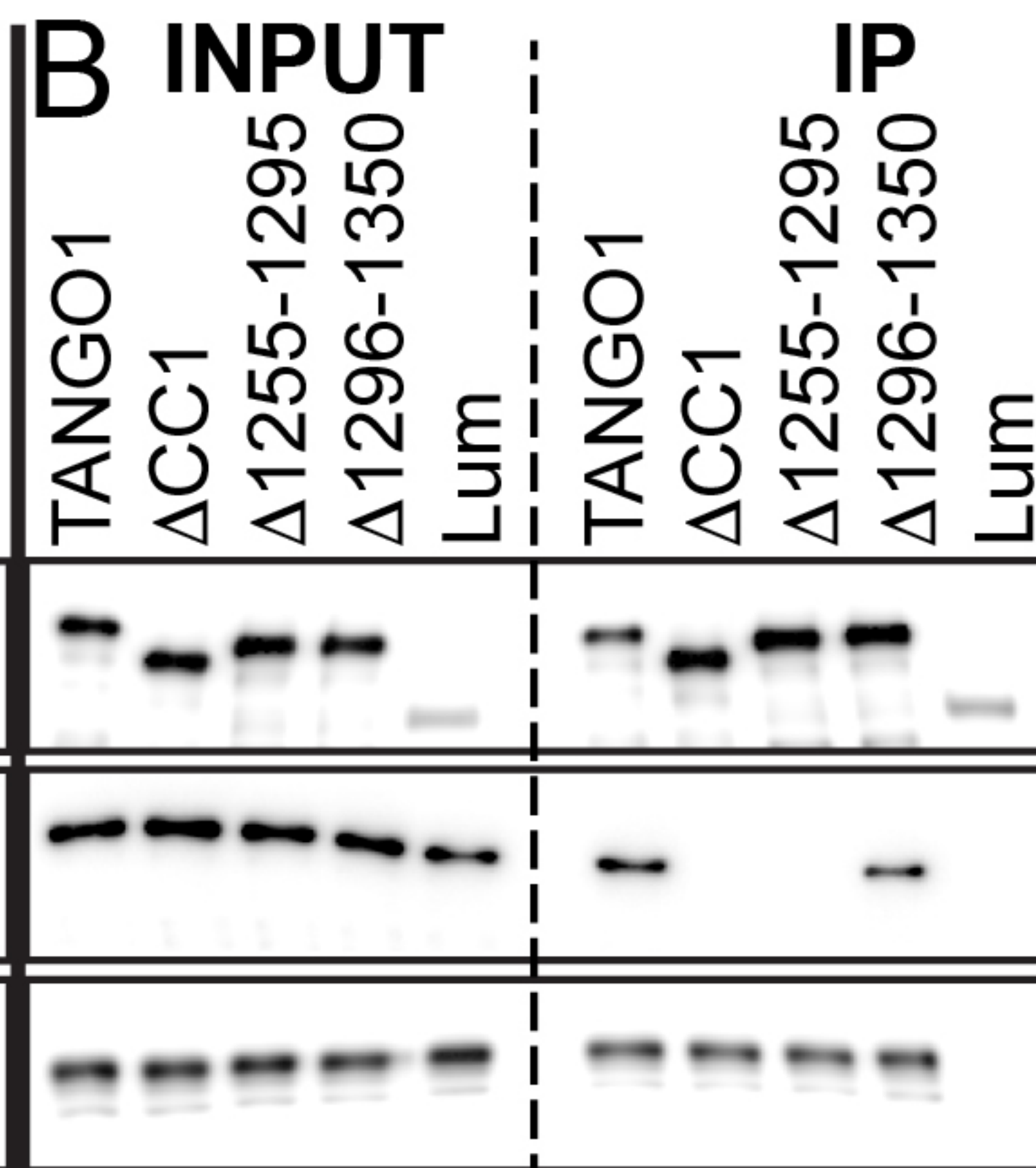
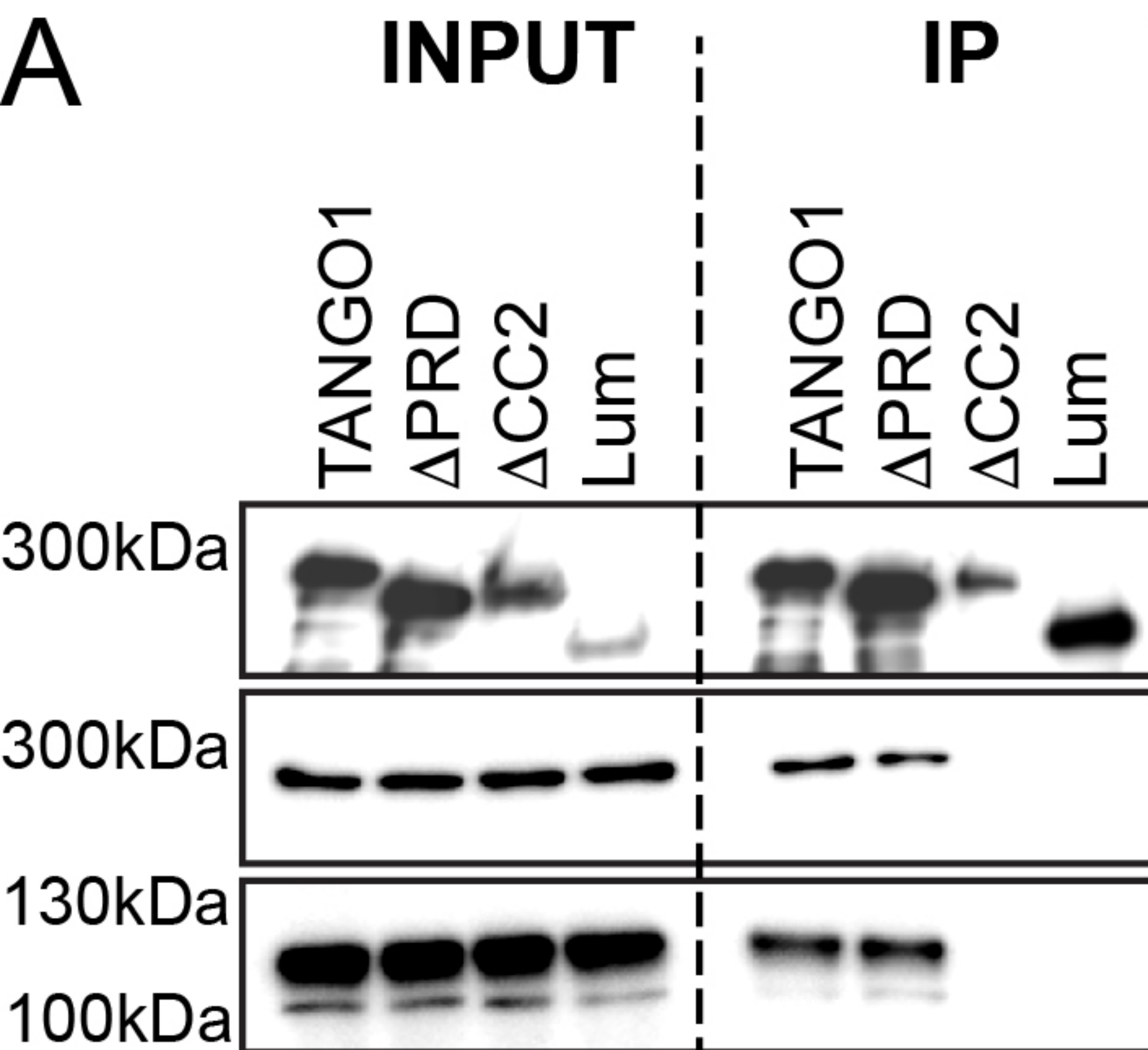


Figure 4

A



IP: HA

IB: HA

IB: FLAG

IB: cTAGE5

TANGO1 /
TANGO1-Short

F

cTAGE5

CC1

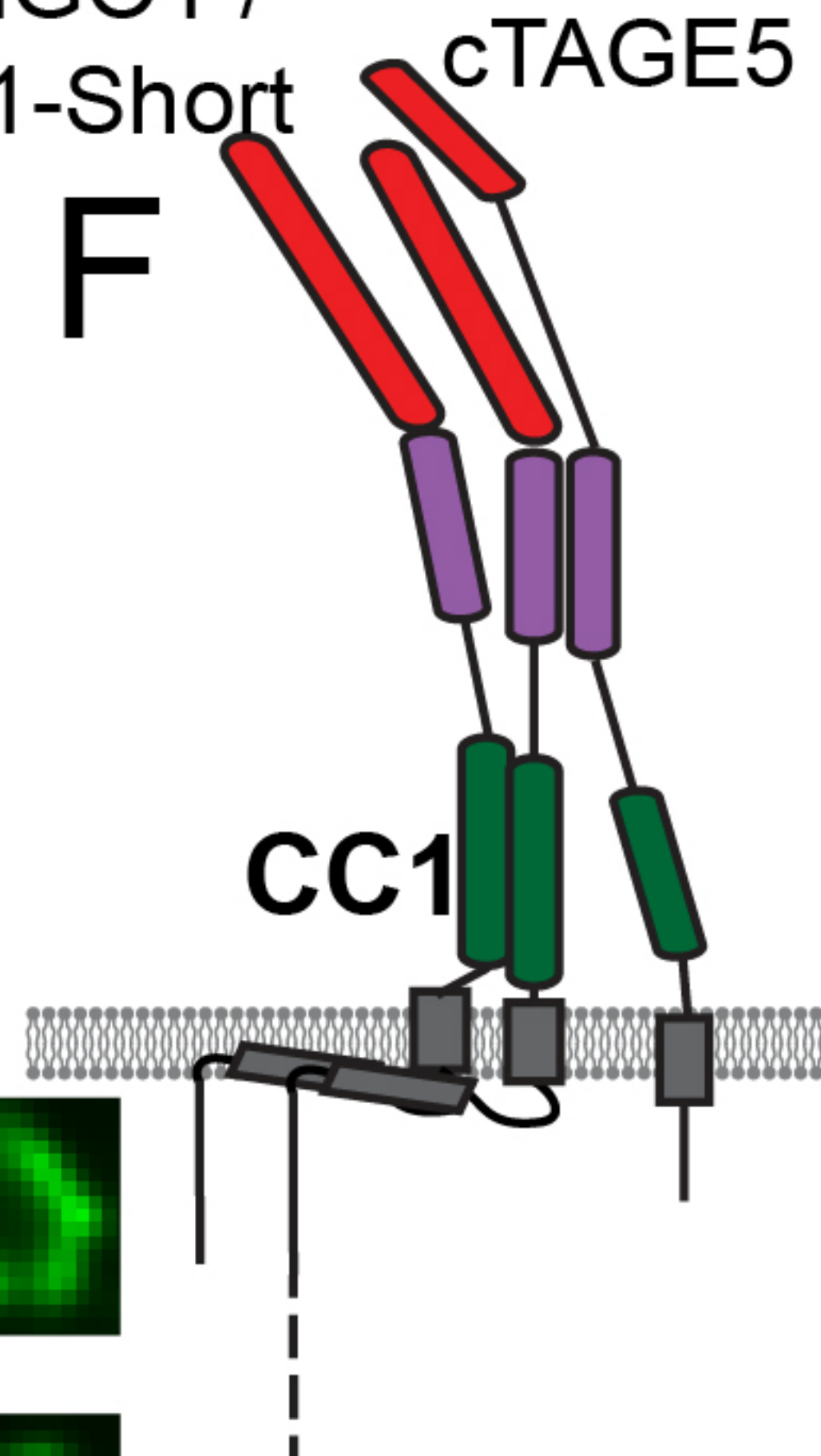
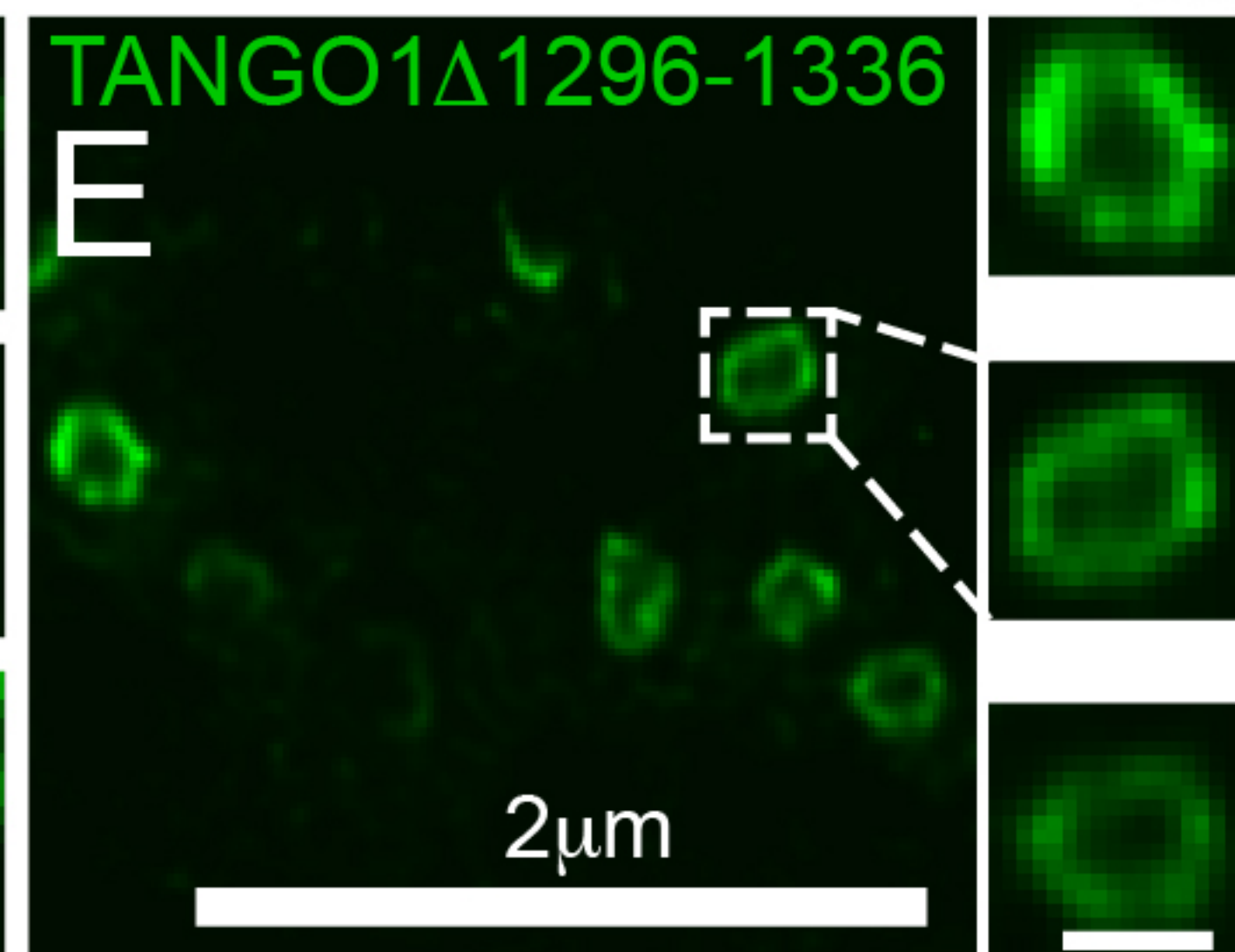
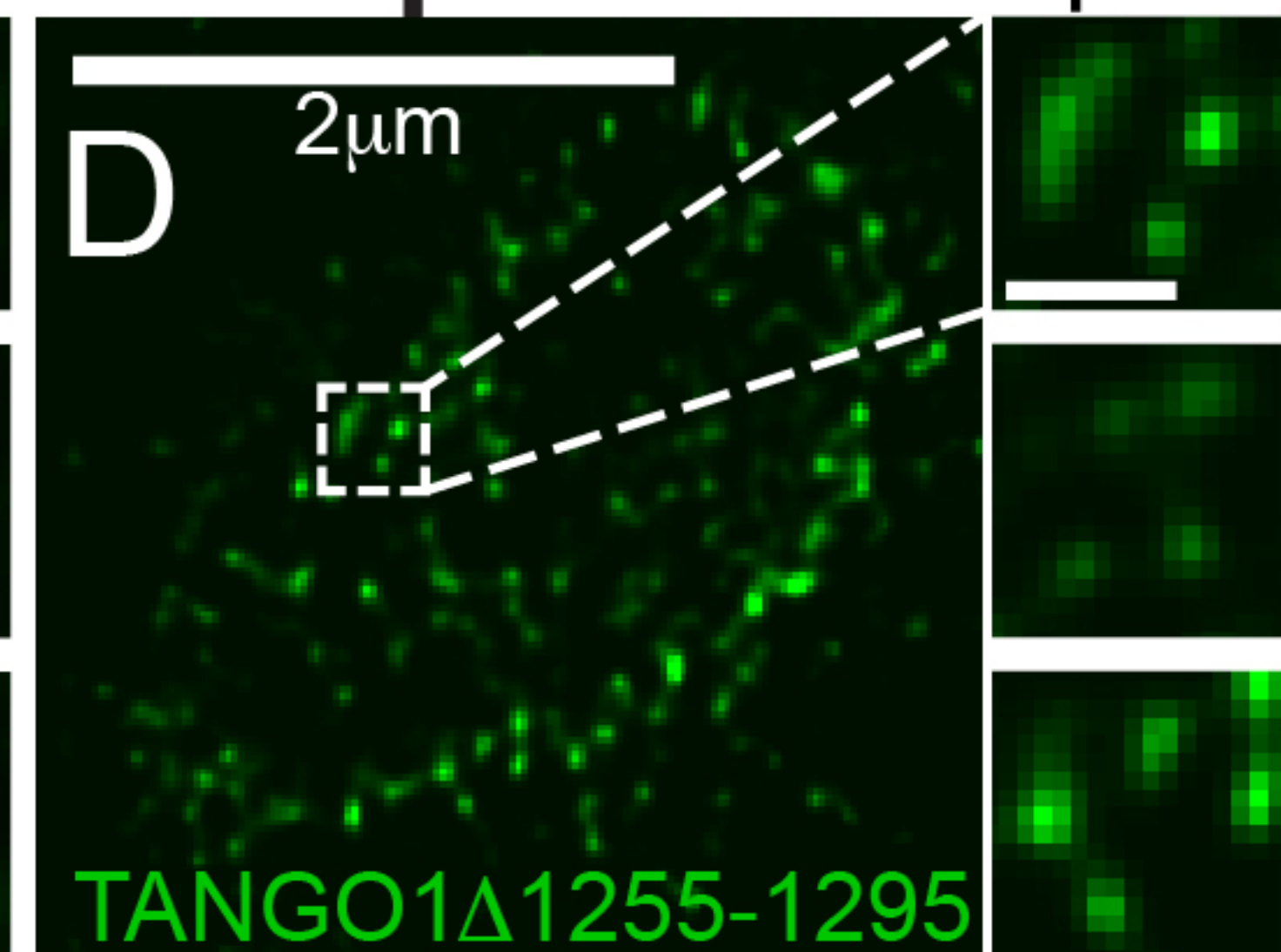
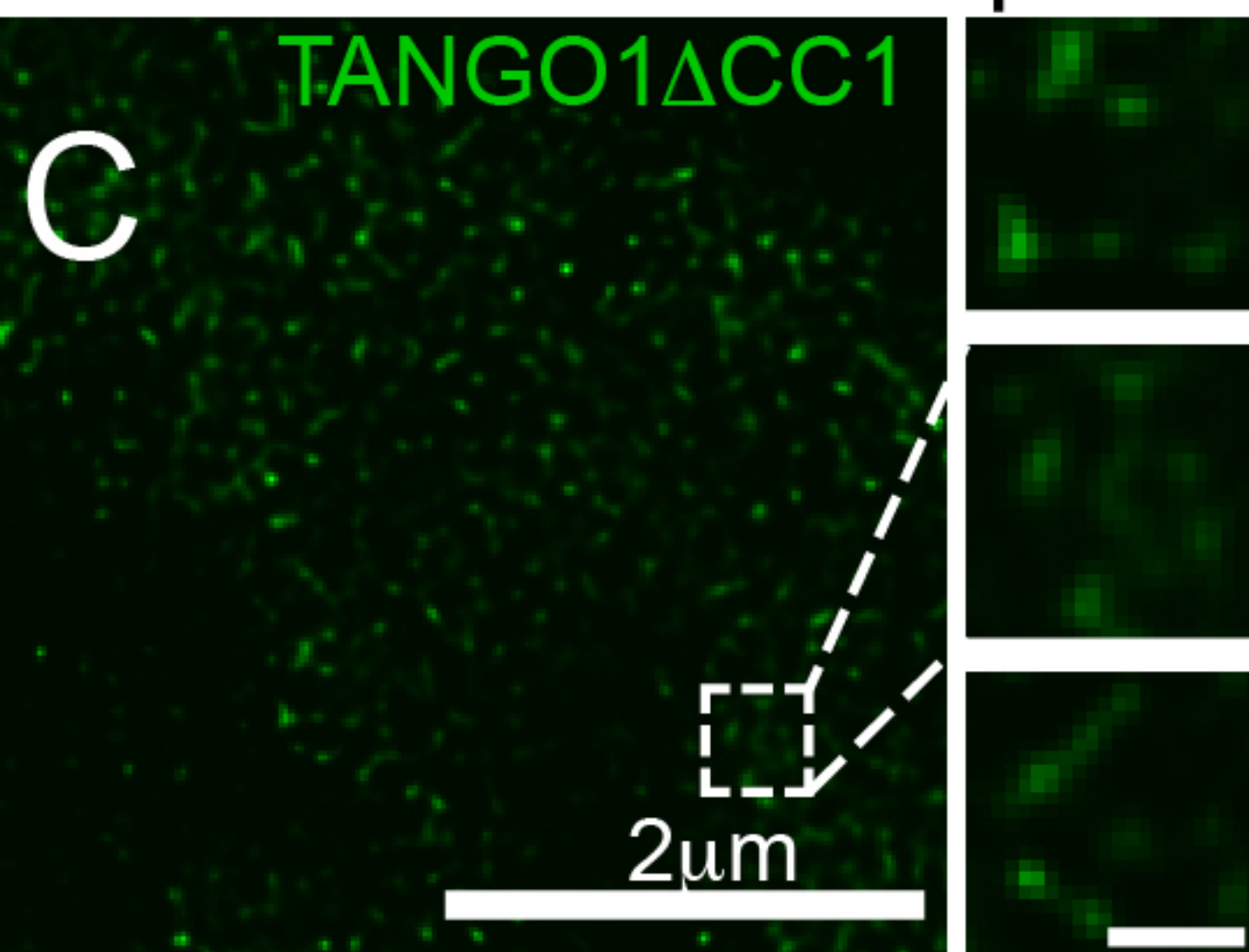
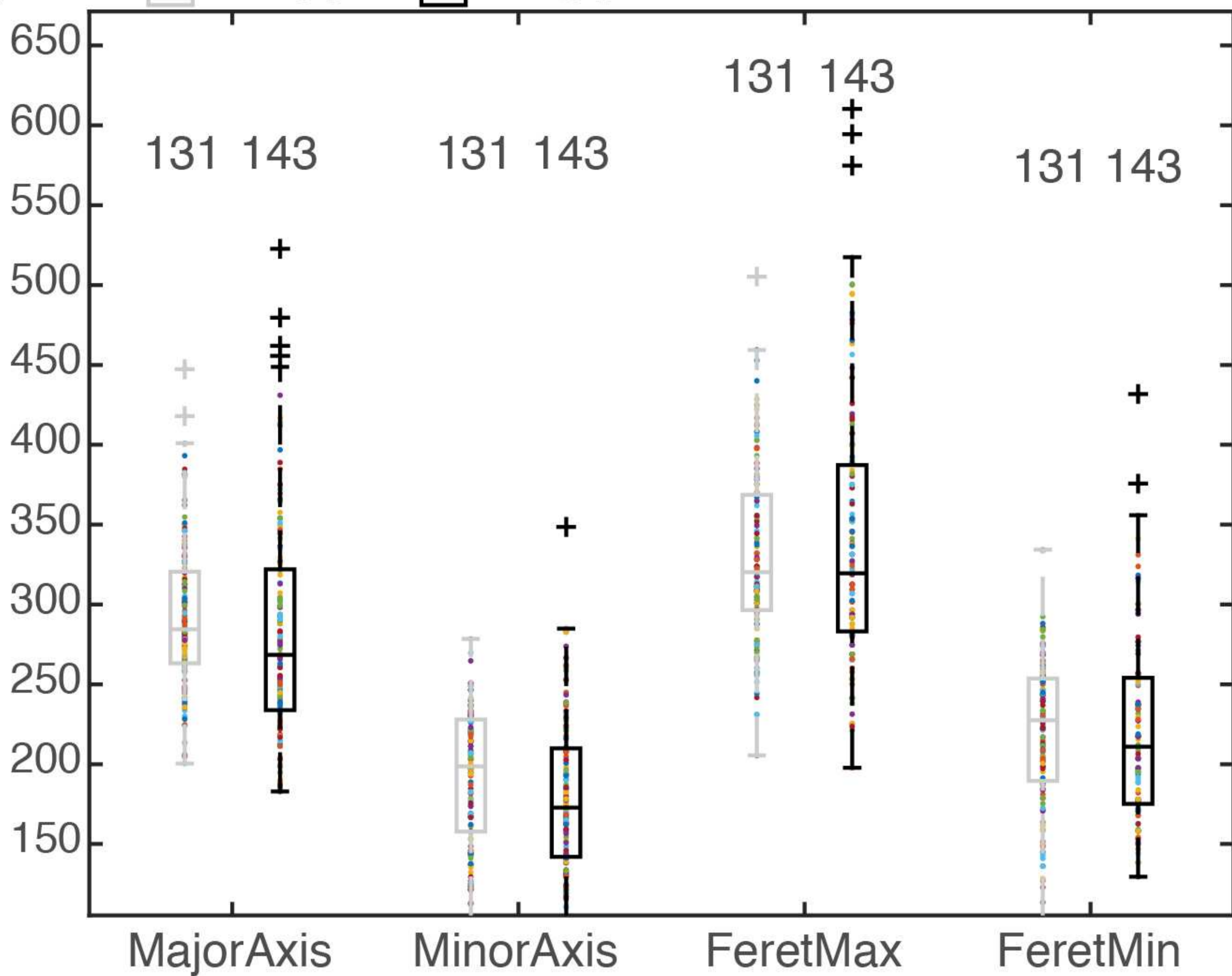


Figure 4 - Figure Supplement 1

Morphology descriptors

A

□ TANGO1 □ TANGO1 Δ 1296-1336



B

Aspect Ratio

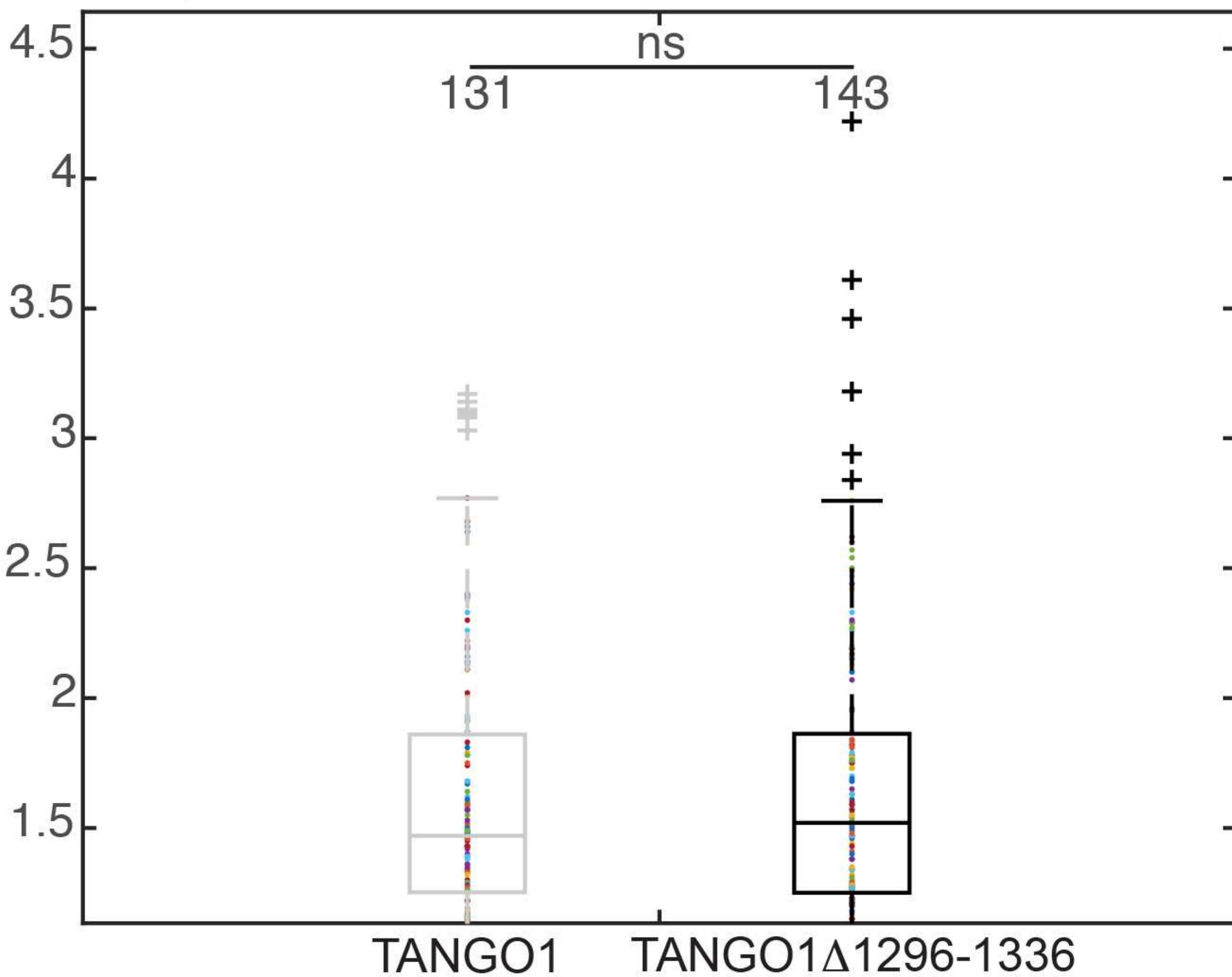
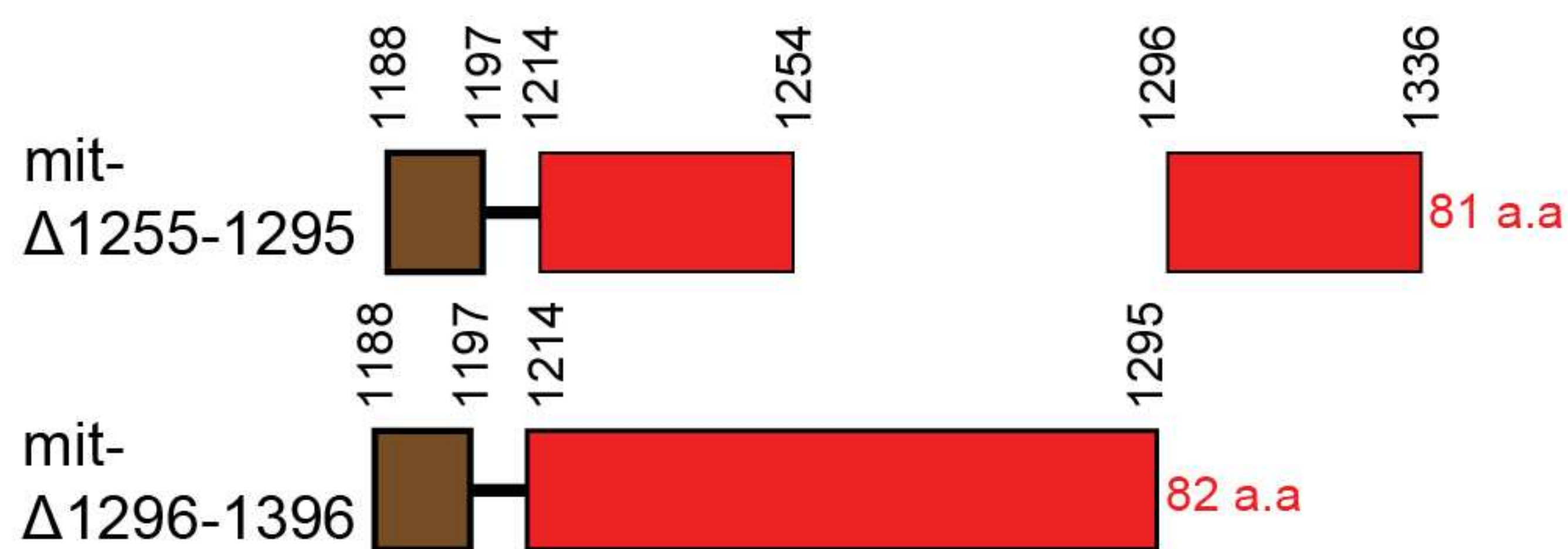
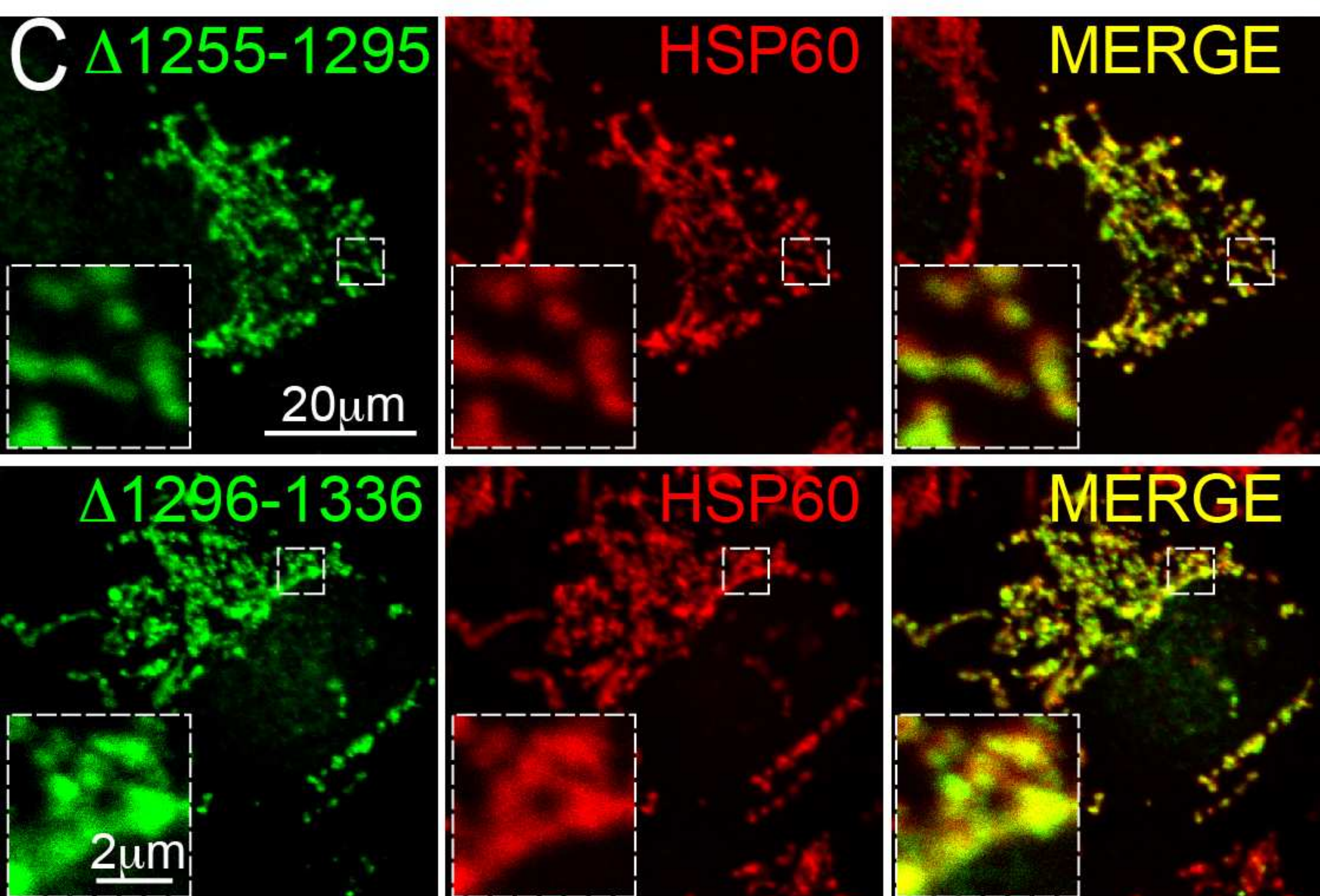
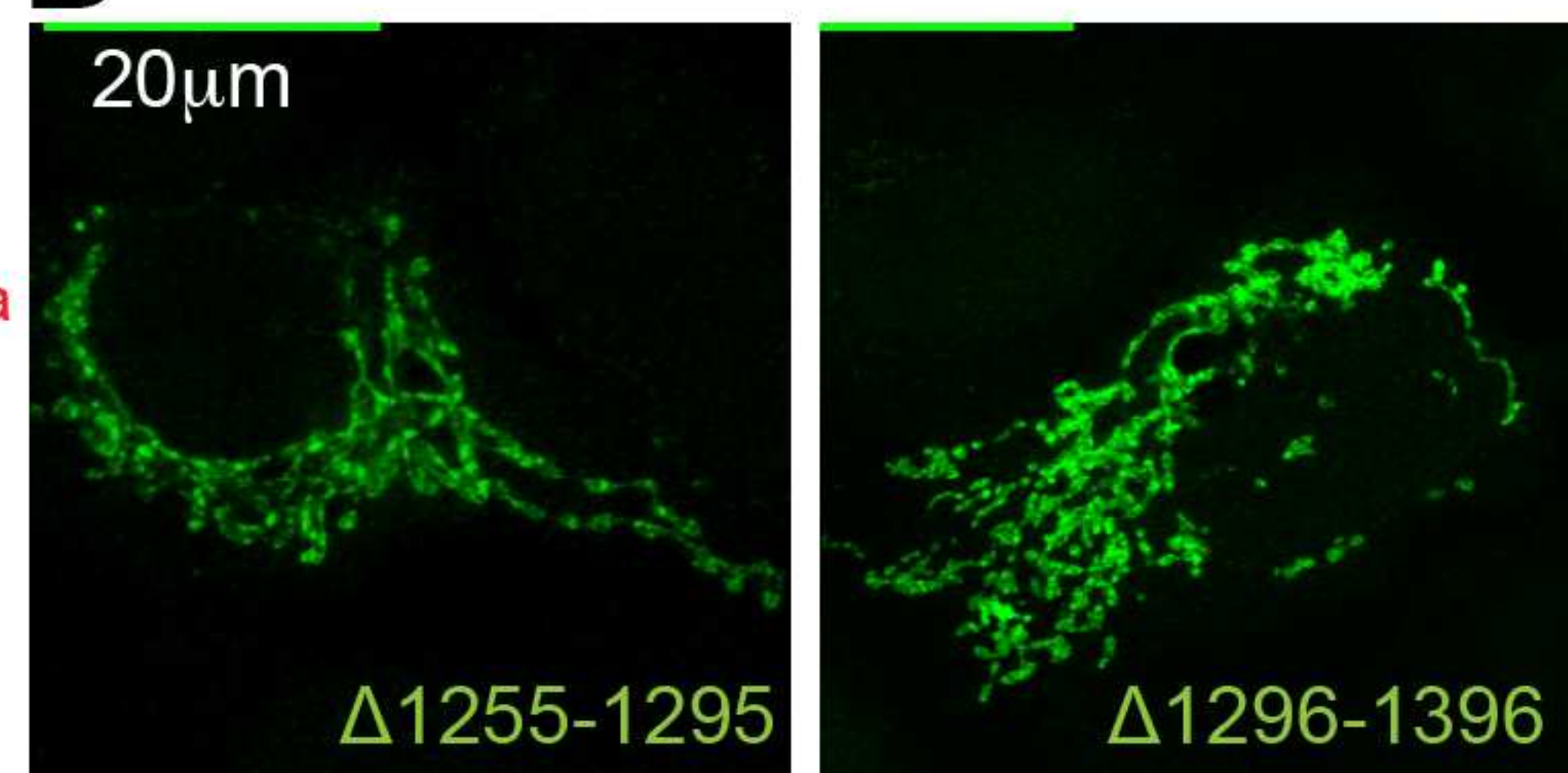


Figure 5

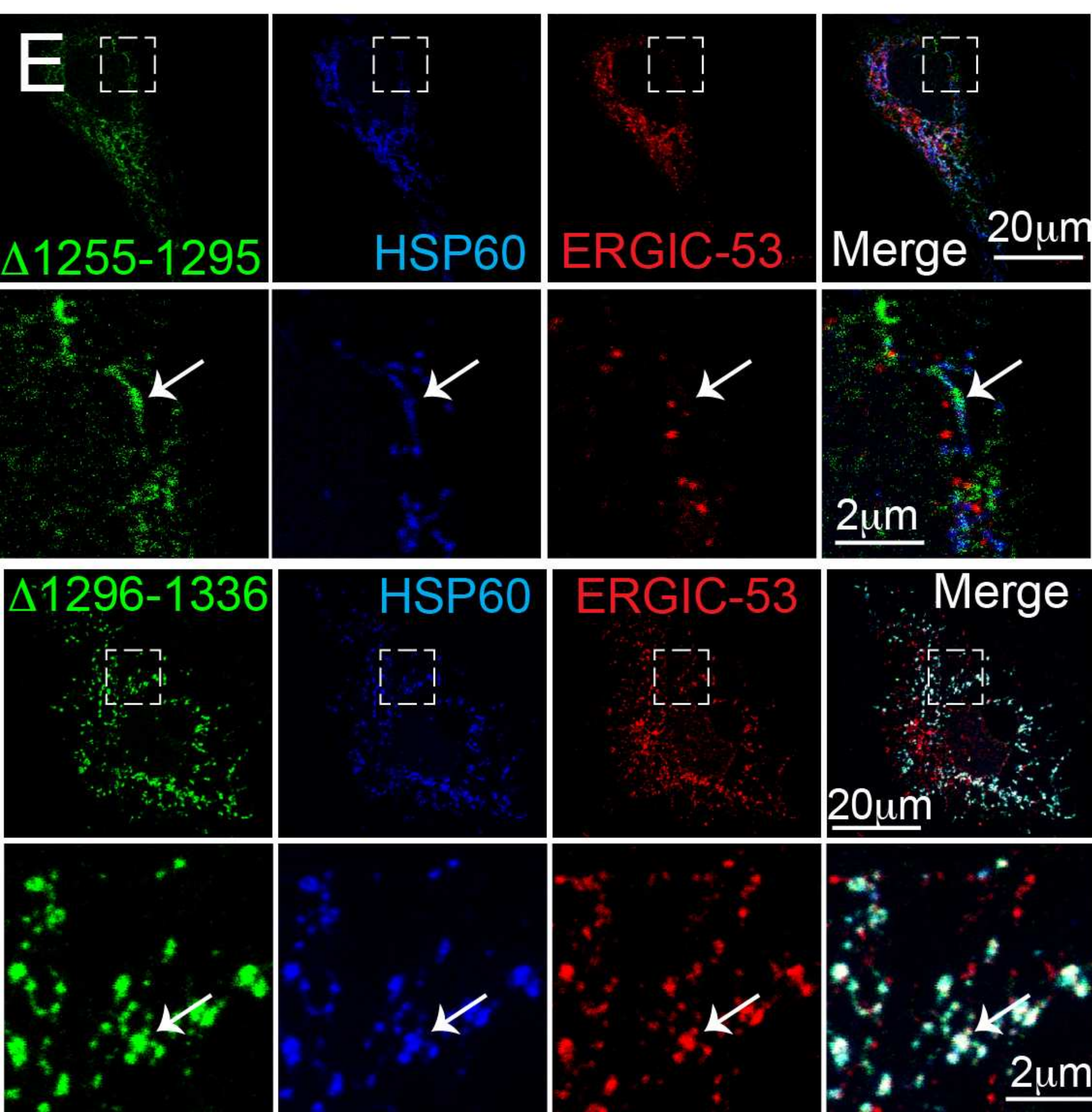
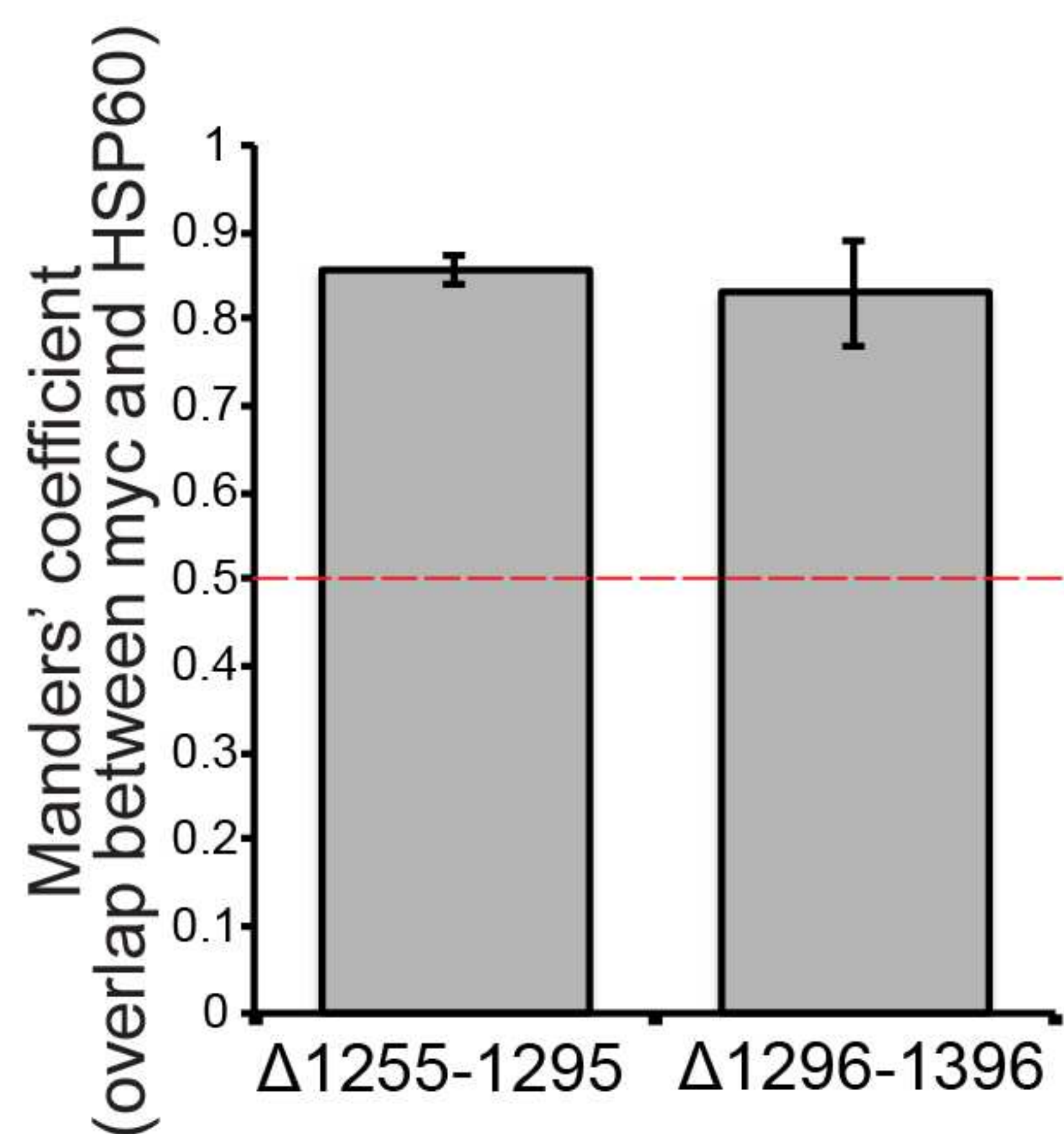
A mit-TEER truncates



B mit-TEER truncates



D



F

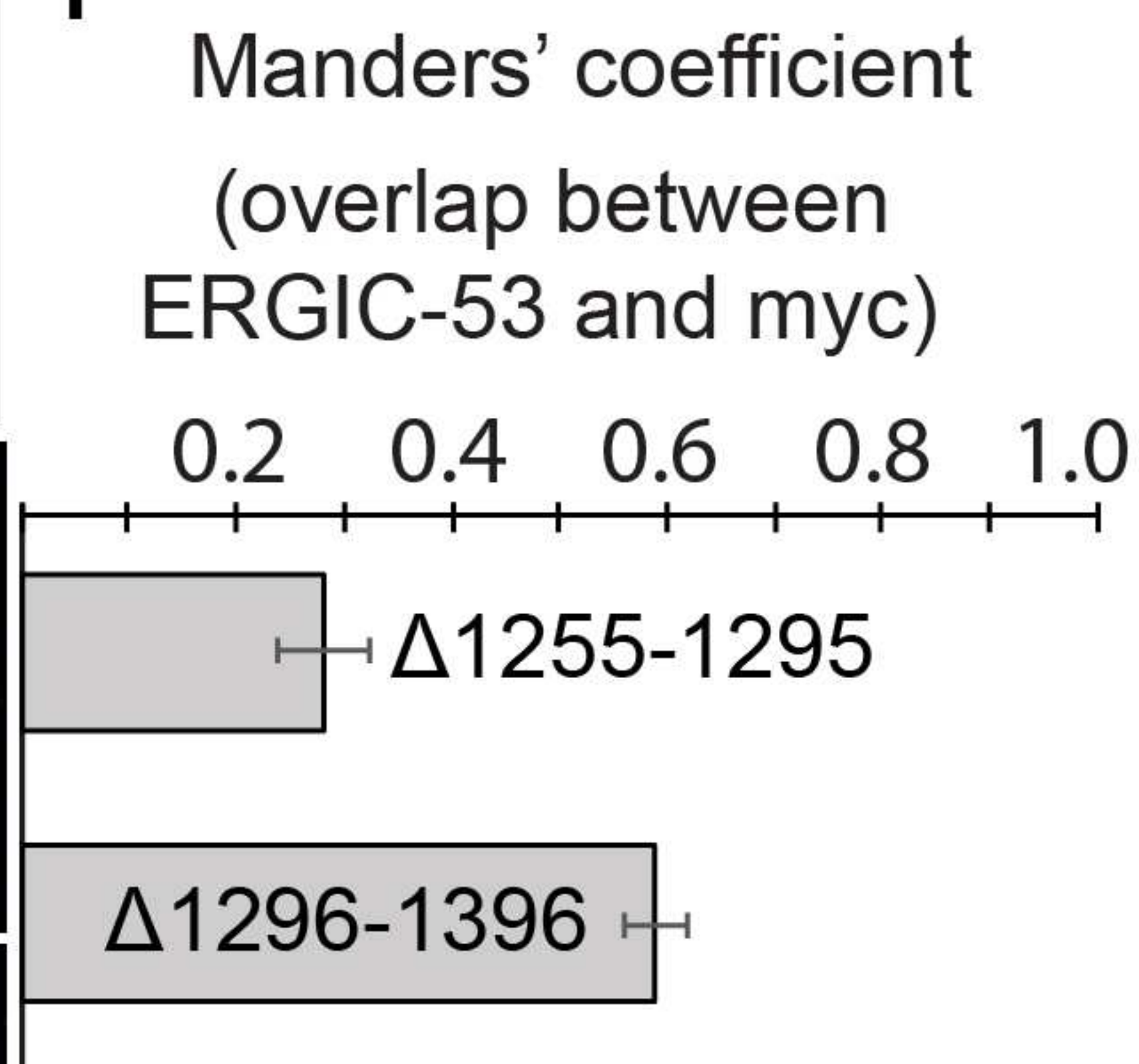


Figure 6

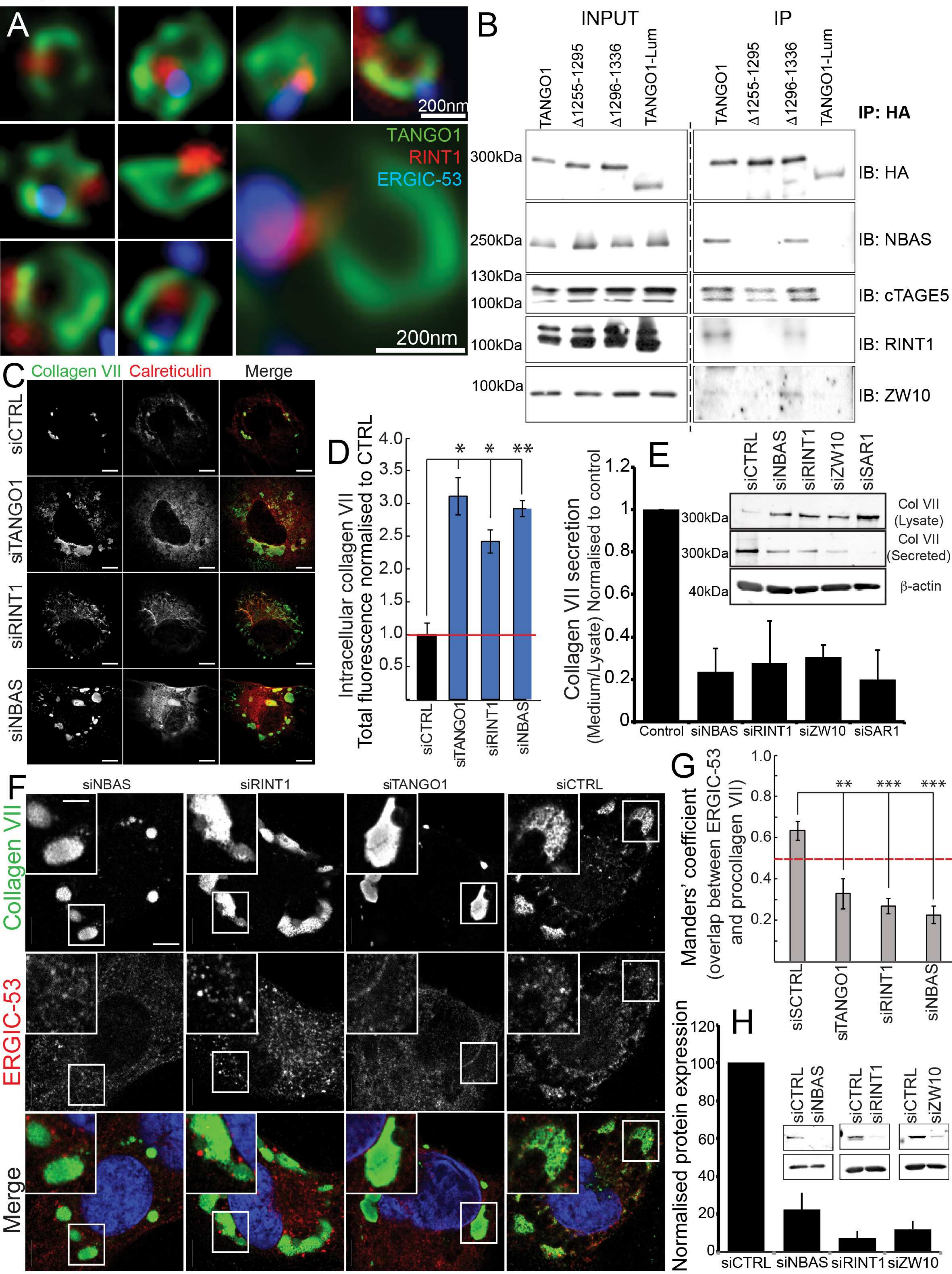


Figure 6 - Figure Supplement 1

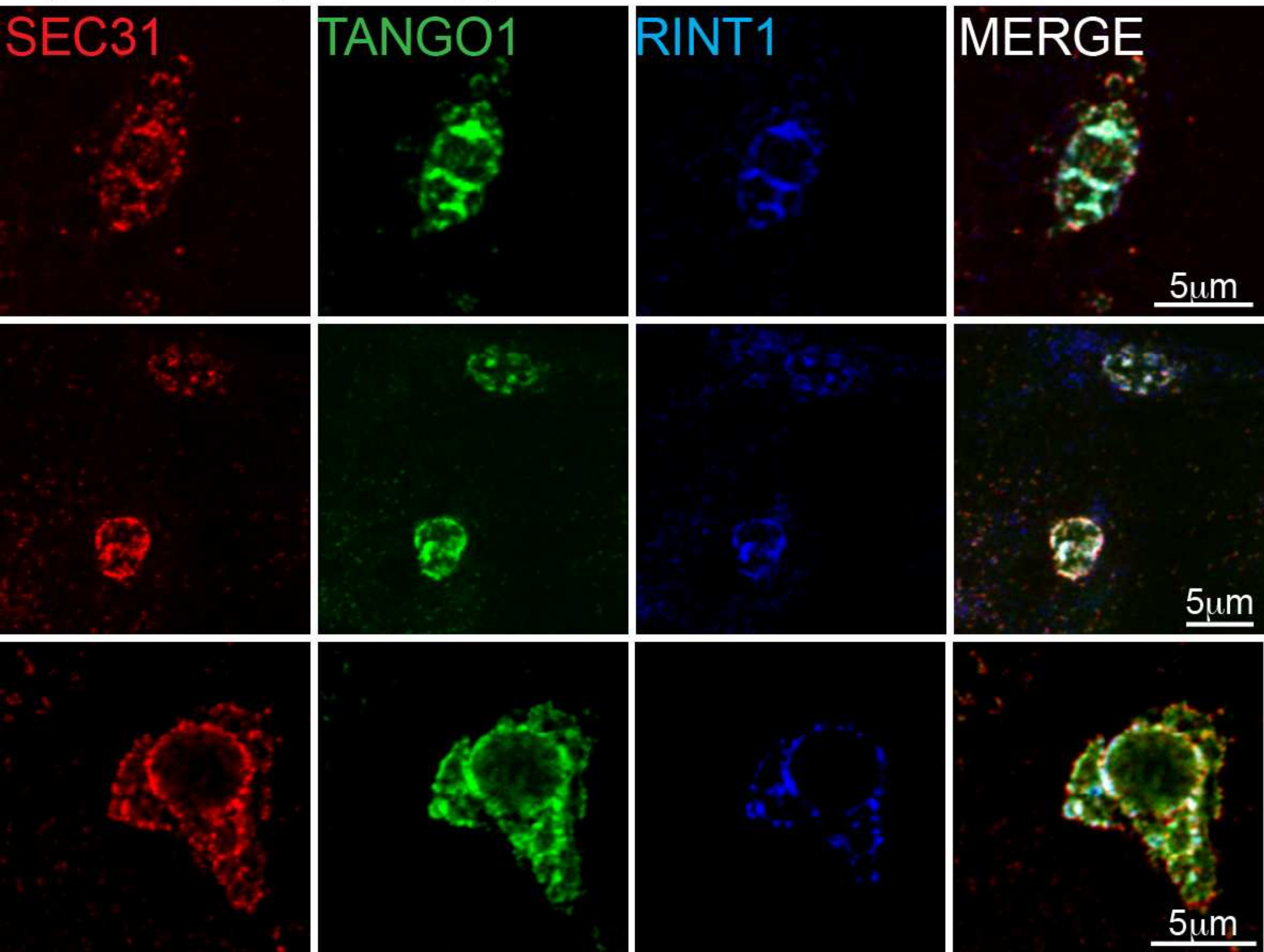


Figure 6 - Figure Supplement 2

TANGO1

RINT1

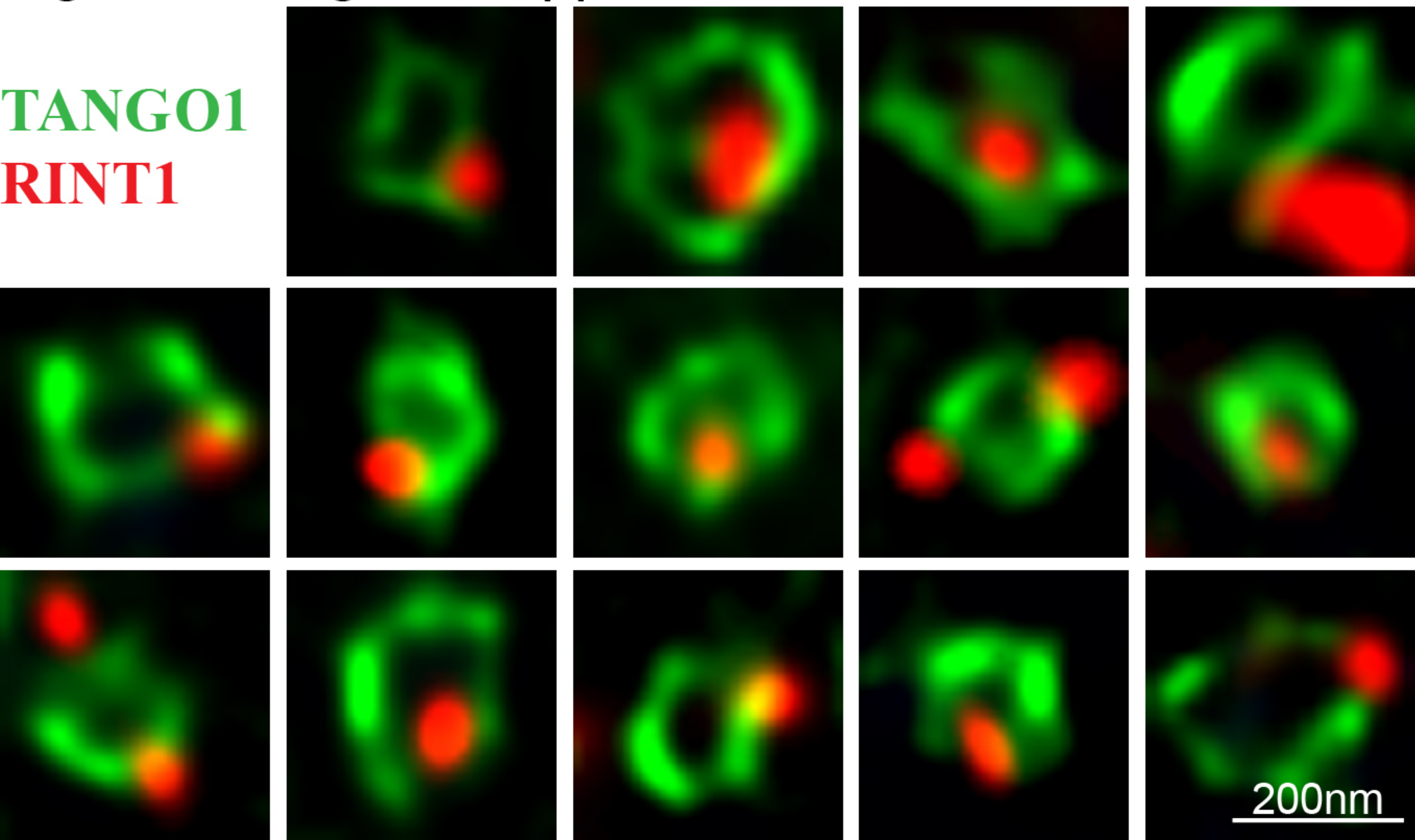


Figure 7

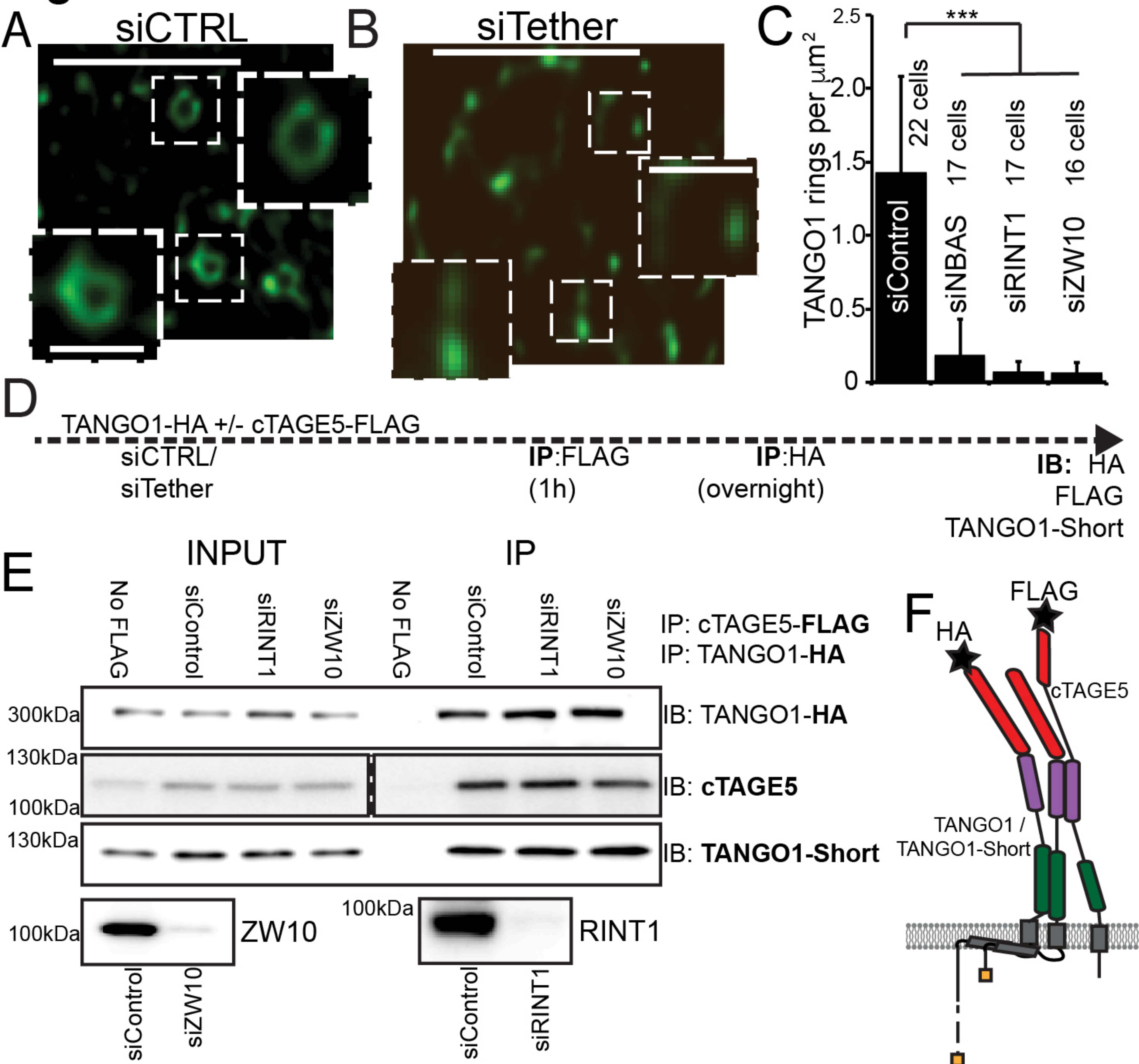


Figure 7 - Figure Supplement 1

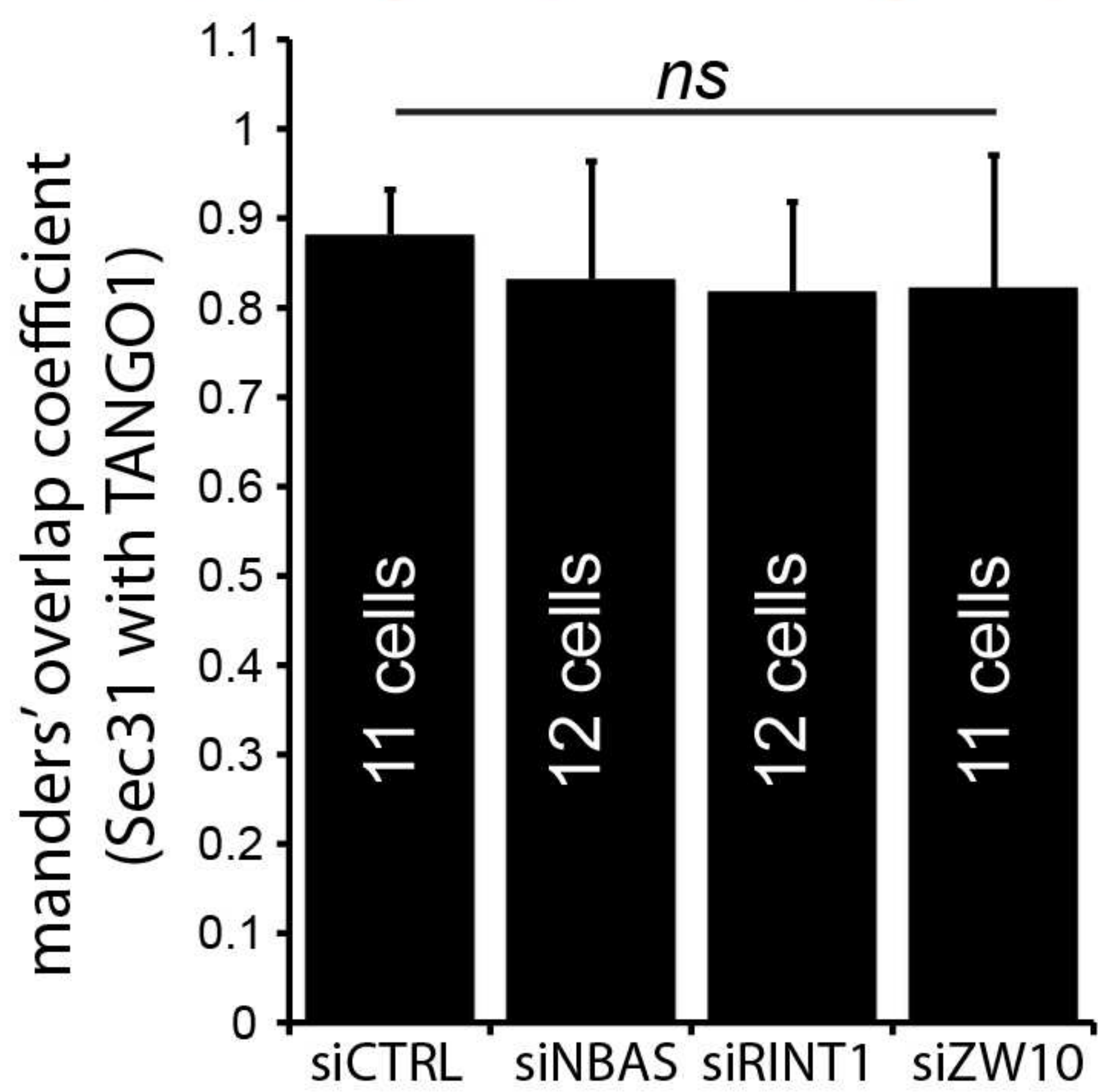
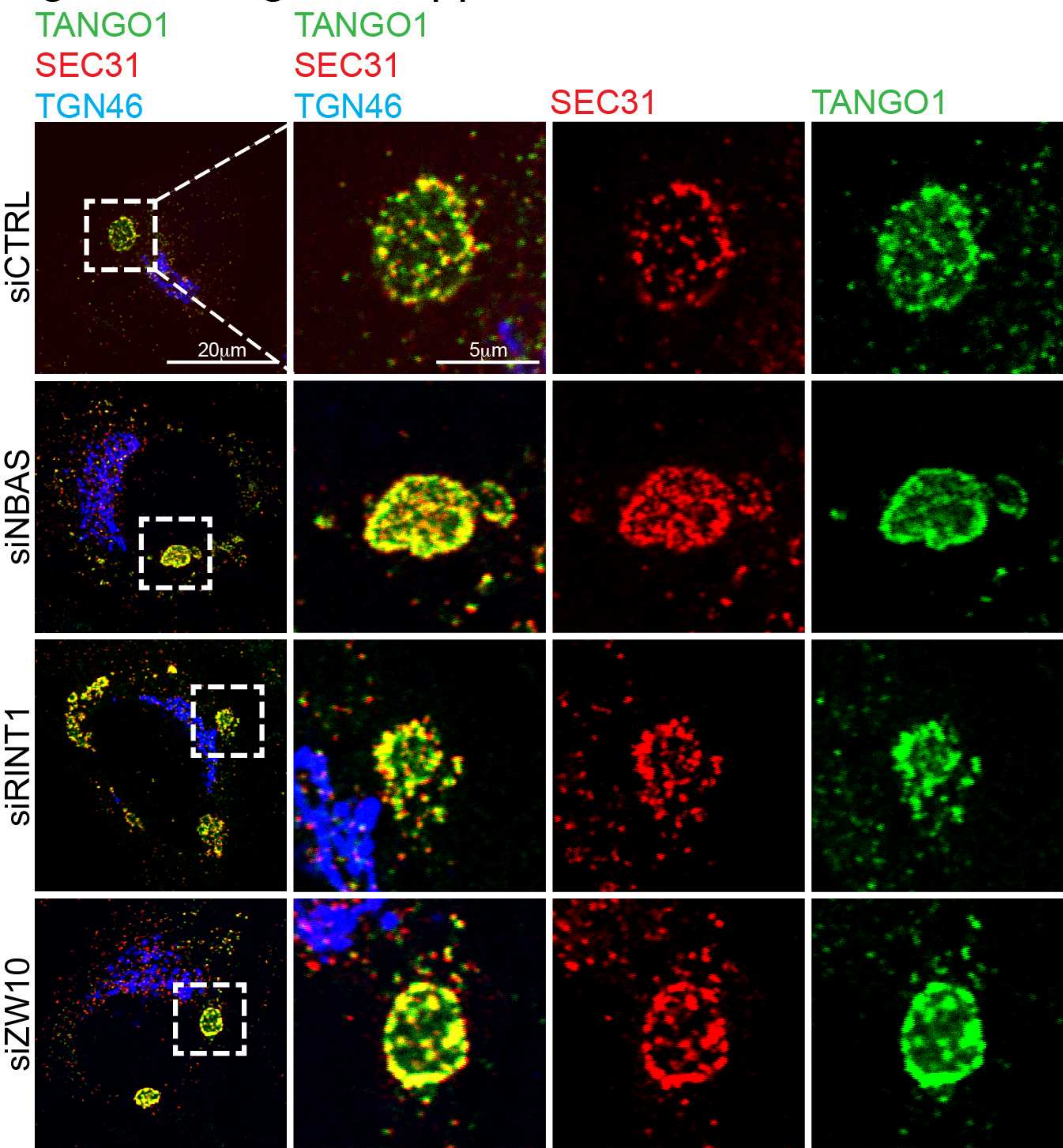
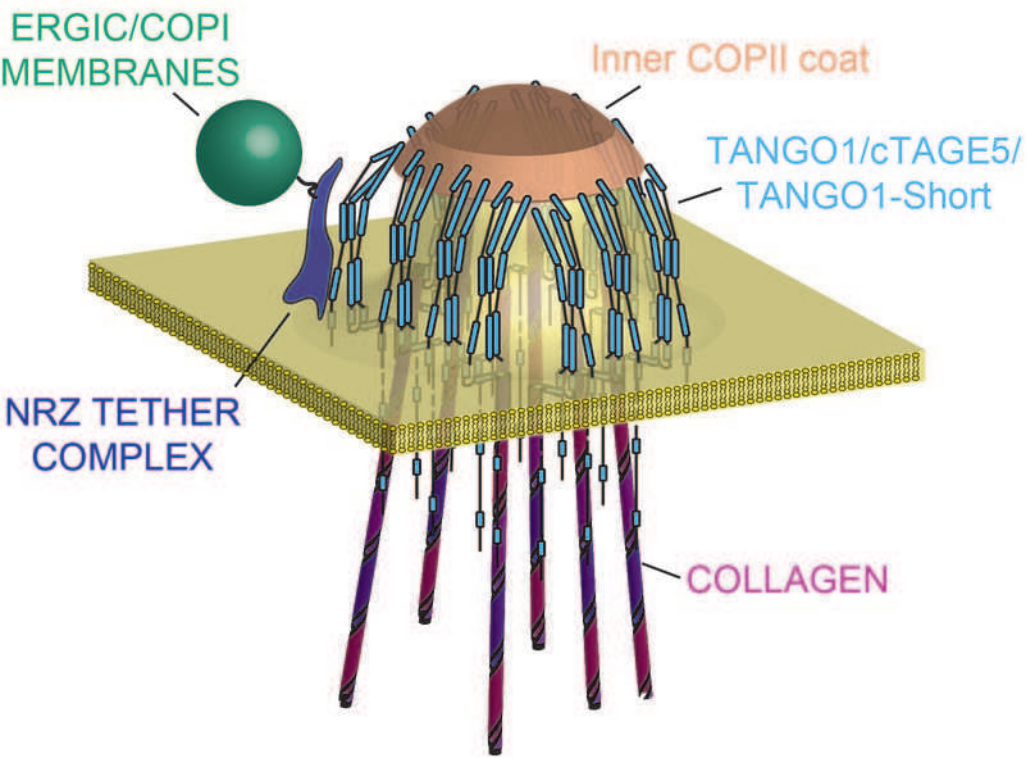


Figure 8

A



B

