#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

# **Results**:

#### *Background GFP expression*

Even when no element was inserted, some background expression from the pPD107.94 expression vector was observed in the posterior and anterior-most intestine, enteric muscle, analdepressor cell, anterior-most bodywall muscle, and the anterior excretory cell (Figure S4B). Background expression varied, both in level of expression and in which cells were most strongly expressing the reporter, between different independent lines. No expression recorded in these cells expressing background was regarded as a positive hit. A second, independent reporter with a different basal promoter was also injected, pPD95.75. Its background expression patterns were the same as those observed for pPD107.94, suggesting that the ∆*pes-10* basal promoter is not affecting expression patterns. Both reporters share the same *unc-54* 3'UTR, and it may be responsible for the observed background expression.

#### *Sequence analyses*

To identify regulatory elements shared by different Hox sub-clusters, the *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and *C. remanei ceh-13/lin-39* sequences were compared with their corresponding *egl-5/mab-5* sequences. We found only one similarity between all of them, corresponding to the N9 MUSSA match. While region N9 was previously known in *ceh-13/lin-39*, its presence in another sub-cluster had not been reported (see Discussion). The remaining *ceh-13/lin-39* regions should therefore be specific to that subcluster alone (Figure S9B-D).

To define genome-wide occurrences of the MUSSA-derived conserved sequences, Cistematic (Mortazavi et al. 2006) was used to scan the *C. elegans* genome for sequences that held 80% or greater similarity to the position frequency matrix (PFM; Wasserman and Sandelin 2004) generated from *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. remanei*, and *C. brenneri* conserved sequences. The resulting hits, generally ~30- 200, from the genome were then used to generate a new, refined PFM. A second round of scanning the genome using this refined PFM was used to generate a further refined PFM. Due to the AT-richness of the *C. elegans* genome using a neutral background, only CG-rich motifs survived refinement. A coherent motif identified for the N2-1 MUSSA-derived sequence was very similar when generated with searches in the *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, or *C. remanei* genomes (Figure S10; Mortazavi et al. 2006). Further rounds of scanning and refinement did not change this N2-1 PFM noticeably. Such consistency through refinements and across several genomes suggests that a valid genome-wide motif may have been identified.

In the *C. elegans* genome, the refined N2-1 motif identifies 625 protein-coding genes in the WS190 release of WormBase, of which 407 had been annotated with one or more Gene Ontology (GO) terms by August 2008. These include three Hox genes: *ceh-6*, *egl-5*, and *lin-39* itself. Using GOstat (Beissbarth and Speed 2004) to determine statistically overrepresented GO terms in this N2-1 gene set, we found the three most significant terms were "small GTPase mediated signal transduction" (GO:0007264; 16 genes; *p*-value = 0.00971), "vulval development" (GO:0040025; 15 genes; *p*-value = 0.0164), and "reproductive behavior" (GO:0019098; 22 genes; *p*-value 0.0309). These are consistent with N2's expression pattern (Table 1), which includes P cells ancestral to vulval precursor cells and ventral cord motorneurons.

Since expression directed by the N3 region does not require the core N3 MUSSA match (see above), other regulatory motifs outside the core sequence must drive expression in the mutation assays and the trans-phylum assays. In addition to the N3 MUSSA match itself, MEME identified two motifs shared by the N3 regions in nematodes and vertebrates (Figure S3C). Although they have not been functionally tested, they resemble Pax4 binding sites as defined in the JASPAR database (Bailey and Elkan 1994; Sandelin et al. 2004). Moreover, the core N3 MUSSA match and an extension of it by MEME resemble LM115 and LM171 from the JASPAR CNE database of 12-22 nt motifs overrepresented in conserved, non-coding mammalian DNA (Bryne et al. 2007, Xie et al. 2007). In contrast, MEME scans of the N7 regions in nematodes and vertebrates revealed only one motif shared by these two clades, the core N7 MUSSA match (Figure S3D). Both  $N3$  and N7 resemble the 14-nt consensus of motif LM115, with 1- or 2-nt mismatches (N7 and N3, respectively). Moreover, the subtly conserved 5'-flank of N3 has a 2-nt mismatch to motif LM171. These correlations with independently generated mammalian motifs suggest that N3 and N7 define sequences relevant to both nematode and mammalian biology. As a negative control, we used MEME to compare nematode N3 sequences to *Drosophila* Hox cluster sequences that are well-conserved in flies but not similar to worm N3; in this case, MEME only produced motifs separated strictly between these two clades (Figure S3E), suggesting that those motifs found by MEME to be shared by nematode and vertebrate N3 sequences are significant

#### *Threshold revision*

To refine our parameters, we varied the window size from 15 to 30 bp in two-, three-, four-, and five-way analyses with different combinations of *Caenorhabditis* species (Figures S2B, E-L). We recorded the maximum threshold at which MUSSA matches were observed within each of our previously defined regions (Figure S5). Averaging the maximum thresholds for two window sizes, 15 bp and 20 bp, and using a threshold of 92% had an identical yield to the 15-bp window results alone. Although these two approaches yielded the same results, the greater dynamic range observed from averaging the results may be useful when applied to other genes.

Among the novel assembled sequences of *C. brenneri* and *C.* sp 3 PS1010 were those of *lin-3*, an EGF family growth factor, and *lin-11*, a LIM homeodomain transcription factor, which both have regulatory elements known to be necessary for vulval development (Gupta and Sternberg 2002; Hwang and Sternberg 2004). We found that MUSSA matches corresponded with some, but not all, experimentally validated regulatory sites (Figure S8A, B). However, we could detect the missed sites by scanning exhaustively in the vicinities of the MUSSA matches for short overrepresented motifs with the YMF/Explanators program (Blanchette and Sinha 2001; Sinha and Tompa 2002). *C. elegans* motifs were easily found by YMF/Explanators in *C. brenneri*, but were completely missing from *C.* sp. 3 PS1010. For a 60-nt *lin-3* element active in anchor cells (Hwang and Sternberg 2004), E-box and Ftz-F1 motifs were easy to find, but their statistical significance (Z-scores) improved steadily as species number increased from two to four (Figure S8C; see Table S6). In a 460-nt element of *lin-11* driving uterine expression (Gupta and Sternberg 2002), which was larger and thus more challenging to scan for motifs, at least three genomic sequences (from *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and *C. remanei*) were required to detect the crucial LAG-1 binding motifs (Figure S8D). None of the ACEL or LAG-2 motifs were found in *C*. sp. 3 PS1010's *lin-3* or *lin-11* genes. If the 5' region of *C*. sp. 3 PS1010's *lin-3* was included in a motif scan, Zscores fell by two-thirds; including the *lin-11* 5' region had less dramatic but still visible detrimental effects (Table S6). Moreover, while the regulatory elements in the Elegans group species were associated with several motifs, *C*. sp. 3 PS1010's genes lacked such groups of motifs (Figure S8). We scanned contig sequences surrounding *C*. sp. 3 PS1010 *lin-3* and *lin-11* (~30 kb in each direction) in case these elements might exist at a greater distance from their genes, but this yielded no MUSSA matches or motif clusters. These examples also show that inclusion of sequences from a divergent worm genome (*C.* sp. 3 PS1010) can lower the success rate for finding validated elements, as in *ceh-13*/*lin-39*. *lin-3* and *lin-11* also illustrate complementary computational approaches: MUSSA can collect regions in additional genomes for refined input to motif search algorithms, which in turn are more successful than they would have been with unrefined inputs.

#### **Author contributions**

SGK, EMS, BJW, and PWS conceived and designed the experiments. TDB and DT designed and wrote the MUSSA software. JAD and HS prepared and sequenced the *C. brenneri* and PS1010 clones. EMS merged raw sequence assemblies, annotated them, ran the comparative analysis for the *lin-3* and *lin-11* genes, and identified exotic Hox clusters and JASPAR CNE motifs. SGK ran comparative analyses, performed the *in vivo* experiments, and analyzed the resulting data for the *ceh-13/lin-39* Hox cluster and non-nematode Hox clusters. SGK, EMS, BJW, and PWS wrote the paper.

#### **Methods**

*General methods and strains*. Genomic DNA used as carrier in microinjections was digested 5 fold with XbaI, HinDIII, NcoI, XhoI, EcoRI, and BamHI (New England Biolabs) and phenol-chloroform purified. At least three independent and stable transgenic lines were generated for each construct. Negative controls, including the digested genomic DNA, gave no GFP expression except for the expected background from controls with pBluescript. Mosaic animals were utilized for expression studies.

*Strain and culture conditions*. *Caenorhabditis brenneri* was first isolated as a single strain (CB5161) from sugar cane in Trinidad by D.J. Hunt (Sudhaus and Kiontke 1996). Unlike *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae*, but like most other nematode species, *C. brenneri* is gonochoristic, with male and female sexes rather than males and hermaphrodites (Kiontke et al. 2004). *Caenorhabditis* sp. 3 PS1010 was first isolated as a single strain, PS1010 (Baldwin et al. 1997), and like *C. brenneri* CB5161 is gonochoristic. We obtained both CB5161 and PS1010 from the CGC strain collection and cultured them on OP50 at 20˚C, using methods standard for *C. elegans* (Sulston and Hodgkin 1988).

*DNA preparation*. Nematode DNA was prepared by two consecutive shearings, first by vortexing and second by needle. For CB5161, 36,864 clones were picked and gridded onto 96 384-well plates; 20- 25% of the clones were *C. brenneri* rather than *E. coli* DNA. For PS1010, 100,992 clones were picked and gridded onto 263 384-well plates, and 60-70% of the clones contained *C*. sp. 3 DNA. Both clone libraries had a mean insert size of 36 kb; assuming a genome size of ~100 Mb, like that of *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae* (Stein et al. 2003), this gave roughly 3x and 24x genomic coverage for *C. brenneri* and *C.* sp. 3 PS1010. cDNA clones to be used as probes were obtained from: Y. Kohara for the *C. elegans* genes *ceh-13, daf-19, egl-44, egl-46, gcy-8, lin-11, lov-1, nlp-8, osm-5, pkd-2*, and *ref-1*; C. Kenyon for *lin-39* and *mab-5*; W. Wood for *nob-1* and *php-3*; and the Sternberg laboratory for *egl-5*, *egl-30*, and *lin-3*. Probes were radiolabeled by random priming, and fosmids were screened at moderate stringency using otherwise standard methods (Sambrook and Russell 2001).

*Sequence analysis*. To reconstruct known regulatory motifs, and to see how comparing different numbers of species made motifs more or less detectable, sequences of the *lin-3* anchor cell (ACEL) and *lin-11* uterine enhancer elements (Gupta and Sternberg 2002; Hwang and Sternberg 2004) were linked from *C. elegans* to other species by blocks of identity found with MUSSA. Sequences equivalently positioned around these blocks were then analysed. *lin-11*'s uterine element in *C. elegans*, as defined in WormBase release WS180, is I:10,245,795..10,246,254 (B. Gupta, pers. comm.). Its equivalents were easily found with a large MUSSA block at 22/30 stringency (Figure S8D), and are listed in Table S3. *lin-3*'s ACEL in WS180 is IV:11,059,133..11,059,192 (Hwang and Sternberg 2004); it is invisible to MUSSA at 22/30 stringency, but a 10/10 MUSSA block maps onto one of its two required E-box motifs (Figure S8C), which let us define ACEL equivalents in other species (Table S5).

Nonredundant, statistically overrepresented 6-nt motifs within these regions were generated with YMF (Sinha and Tompa 2002) and Explanators (Blanchette and Sinha 2001). YMF was used to find hexamers, allowing 0 spacers in the middle of a hexamer and a maximum of two degenerate sites within a hexamer. Explanators was then used to find the 5 best nonredundant motifs from a raw YMF output. Both programs were run via Web server (*http://abstract.cs.washington.edu/~saurabh/YMFWeb/YMFInput.pl*) (Sinha and Tompa 2003).

DNA sequence identities were found with *seqcomp* (Brown et al. 2002); we devised the MUSSA software package to adapt *seqcomp* to multiple sequence analysis.

Overrepresented GO terms were identified with the GOstat server (*http://gostat.wehi.edu.au*; Beissbarth and Speed 2004), using a Benjamini and Hochberg correction for multiple testing.

*MUSSA (Multiple Species Sequence Analysis)*. MUSSA will compile on Linux or Mac OS X, given availability of the Fltk graphics library (*http://www.fltk.org*). It has a graphical user interface (GUI) but may also be run at the command line in UNIX-based systems. In the GUI, alignments are visualized as lines between sequences (red for a direct alignment and blue for a reverse complement alignment), and the sequences are displayed one above another. Using a *seqcomp*-based sliding window algorithm, we varied the threshold of conservation (60-100% identity) and window size (10-30 bp) for identifying conserved regions (Brown 2006; Brown et al. 2002). For the thresholds used in the study, all matches represent a statistically significant enrichment in conservation compared to a random model (Brown 2006). Match threshold and window size, dependent on base pairs, must be integer values; fractional nucleotides are not possible. MUSSA runs all possible pairwise sequence comparisons among two or more (N) genomes, then integrates all pairwise matched features by requiring them to match transitively. Transitivity requires that (for example, in a 3-way comparison with sequence window W and sequences A, B, and C) if  $W_{AB}$  and  $W_{BC}$  meet the threshold, then  $W_{AC}$  must meet the threshold to qualify as a match. Note that individual base pairs are not required to be identical across all pairwise comparisons. Transitivity filtering gives equal weight in the comparison to all participating genomes, and the interactive viewer highlights all relationships that strictly pass the transitivity test. Mussa images were generated by the MUSSA GUI.

*MEME*. The MEME web interface (*http://meme.sdsc.edu/meme*) was used for submitting short genomic sequences and retrieving overrepresented motifs, with the expectation of zero or one occurrences per sequence.

*Transgene design and construction*. PCR fusions (Hobert 2002) were generated with Roche Expand Long Template and Expand High Fidelity PCR systems. An additional nested primer, designed to have a  $T_m$  closer to those used with the enhancer elements, was used in place of the Hobert nested primer. For the enhancer element side of the fusion, the left primer was reused rather than using a nested primer. The Fire Lab Vector pPD107.94 was used as the template for the *∆pes-10*::4X-NLS::eGFP::LacZ::*unc-54* sequence.

For mutations of sites, the mutation primers were used with the Stratagene PfuUltra Hotstart on plasmids containing the insert. The mutated and sequenced enhancers were fused to a modified Fire Lab Vector pPD122.53 with YFP replacing the GFP, to give a *∆pes-10*::4X-NLS::YFP::*unc-54* sequence. Control un-mutated and sequenced enhancers were fused to pPD122.53 with CFP replacing GFP, to give a *∆pes-10*::4X-NLS::CFP::*unc-54* sequence. The PCR fusion products were used directly for microinjection, and not purified or sequenced following the fusion.

To determine the regions to be reproduced for the expression analysis, the conserved element was buffered by 200 base pairs on either side and additional bases were allowed for enhanced primer picking. Primer3 was used (*http://frodo.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer3/primer3\_www.cgi*) to select primers, using an optimal  $T_m$  of 62°C and optimal length of 21 bp. BLAST was used to find occurrences of the proposed primers in the genome to screen out popular matches prior to selection in order to prevent non-specific hybridization (*http://www.ensembl.org/Caenorhabditis elegans/index.html*). The primers termed C and DS are modified from Hobert (2002). Primers, as listed in Table S4, were ordered from Integrated DNA Technologies.

*Nomarski imaging*. Transgenic animals were viewed with Nomarski optics and a Chroma High Q EnGFP LP, YFP LP, or CFP filter cube on a Zeiss Axioplan, with a 100X oil objective, a 200-watt HBO UV epifluorescence light source, and a Hamamatsu ORCA II digital camera using Improvision Openlab software. ImageJ v1.37 was used to adjust image brightness and contrast and generate overlays. Transgenic lines were fixed in 4% formaldehyde for pre-screening of expression across all stages of life. Live worms on 2% noble agar and 0.1 M sodium azide were then analyzed, described, and imaged.

*Confocal imaging*. Transgenic animals were fixed with 4% formaldehyde and stained with phalloidin-rhodamine. They were suspended in 2% low-melt agarose and imaged on a Zeiss inverted-410 Axioplan confocal microscope using two excitation lasers (543 nm for the red channel and 488 nm for the green channel) and a 63X oil-dipping objective. Imaging was performed with two monochrome photomultiplier tubes and captured with Zeiss Axiovision software. Brightness and contrast of images were adjusted and multi-channel maximum intensity projections of 0.3 µm spaced sections were created using ImageJ.

*Sources of Accession Numbers*. *C. elegans* gene accession numbers were taken from WormBase archival release WS180. Vertebrate gene accession numbers, unless otherwise noted, were taken from Ensembl release 47 (Oct 2007).

# **Supplementary Tables:**

# **Table S1. DNA and predicted protein sequences from** *C. brenneri***.**









Cbre JD10	46,499	Cbre JD10.001	49	
				WBGene00001208 egl-44 [*] (1 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre JD10.002	472	remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00007415 C07E3.4 and
				WBGene00019020 F57H12.5 (2 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre JD10.003	508	remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00019409 K05F1.8 [*] (1 elegans, 1
		Cbre JD10.004	78	briggsae, 1 brenneri).
		Cbre JD10.005	167	WBGene00000403 casy-1 (1 elegans, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00000403 casy-1 [*] (1 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre JD10.006	822	remanei, 1 brenneri).
		Cbre JD10.007	175	
		Cbre JD10.008	97	
		Cbre JD10.009	202	
				WBGene00020424 T10H9.1 [*] (1 elegans, 1
Cbre JD11	40,423	Cbre JD11.001	224	briggsae, 1 remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00044779 T10H9.8 [*] (1 elegans, 1
		Cbre JD11.002	133	briggsae, 1 remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00020425 T10H9.3 [*] (1 elegans, 1
		Cbre JD11.003	418	briggsae, 1 remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00004897 snb-1 [*] (1 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre JD11.004	108	remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00004062 pmp-5 [*] (1 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre JD11.005	598	remanei, 1 brenneri).
		Cbre JD11.006	467	(1 briggsae, 1 remanei, 1 brenneri).
				WBGene00017205 F07C4.12,
				WBGene00017431 F13H6.3,
				WBGene00019652 K11G9.1,
				WBGene00019653 K11G9.2, and
				WBGene00019654 K11G9.3 (5 elegans, 4 briggsae, 6
		Cbre JD11.007	544	remanei, 3 brenneri).
				WBGene00017205 F07C4.12,
				WBGene00017431 F13H6.3,
				WBGene00019652 K11G9.1,
				WBGene00019653 K11G9.2, and
				WBGene00019654 K11G9.3 (5 elegans, 4 briggsae, 6
		Cbre JD11.008	574	remanei, 3 brenneri).
				WBGene00017205 F07C4.12,
				WBGene00017431 F13H6.3,
				WBGene00019652 K11G9.1,
				WBGene00019653 K11G9.2, and
				WBGene00019654 K11G9.3 (5 elegans, 4 briggsae, 6
		Cbre JD11.009	548	remanei, 3 brenneri).
				WBGene00001210 egl-46 [*] (1 elegans, 1 briggsae, 1
		Cbre $JD11.010$	287	remanei, 1 brenneri).
		Cbre JD11.011	76	
		Cbre JD11.012	84	









The names of orthologous *C. elegans* genes, and numbers of orthologous protein-coding genes from other *Caenorhabditis* species, are listed. [\*] denotes a strict orthology, as defined in Methods.

**Table S2. DNA and predicted protein sequences from** *C.* **sp. 3 PS1010.**

	Contig		Protein	
	Length		Length	
Contig	(nt)	Contig Protein	(aa)	Predicted Protein









The names of orthologous *C. elegans* genes, and numbers of orthologous protein-coding genes from other *Caenorhabditis* species, are listed. [\*] denotes a strict orthology, as defined in Methods.

# **Table S3. Coordinates of elements in** *C. elegans*

A. Coordinates of elements in transgenic assays



B. Coordinates of MUSSA matches in initial study



	-2572	$-2547$	III:75530127553037
N11	795 $\overline{\phantom{0}}$	774 $\sim$ .	III:75547897554810
	$-642$	$-622$	III:75549427554962

C. Coordinates of MUSSA matches with revised parameters (15-bp window)

Element	5' start with respect to <i>ceh-13</i>	3' end with respect to <i>ceh-13</i>	Chromosomal location
10	$-25385$	$-25369$	III:75301997530215
N <sub>1</sub>	$-24801$	-24783	III:75307837530801
	$-24662$	$-24632$	III:75309227530952
	$-24060$	$-24045$	III:75315247531539
	$-24023$	$-24005$	III:75315617531579
N2	$-23499$	$-23473$	III:75320857532111
	$-23363$	$-23342$	III:75322217532242
N <sub>3</sub>	$-22457$	$-22433$	III:75331277533151
N <sub>4</sub>	$-18832$	$-18815$	III:75367527536769
	$-18799$	$-18771$	III:75367857536813
N7	$-11288$	$-11255$	III:75442967544329
N8	$-10290$	$-10261$	III:75452947545323
N <sub>9</sub>	$-6583$	$-6564$	III:75490017549020
	$-6534$	$-6519$	III:75490507549065
	$-6455$	$-6437$	III:75491297549147
N10	$-2690$	$-2675$	III:75528947552909
	$-2569$	$-2547$	III:75530157553037
	$-1822$	$-1807$	III:75537627553777
N11	$-795$	-778	III:75547897554806

D. Coordinates of elements and MUSSA matches in mouse



(A) These are coordinates for the blocks of sequence used in the transgenic assays that were defined as conserved or not conserved by our initial computational analysis. The conserved regions (N) include the matches defined by MUSSA in the Elegans-group comparisons, given in (B), in addition to flanking sequences. The matches determined by the revised parameters, using a 15-bp window at 100%, are given in (C). Sequence coordinates are in reference to the start of *ceh-13* for the first columns and with respect to Chromosome III for the last column. All coordinates are for WormBase build WS180. The coordinates for the mouse sequences are given in (D). These coordinates are for UCSC July 2007 mouse build.

# **Table S4. Primer sequences**





##L represents the left primer and ##R represents the right primer. Sequences in bold represent the overlapping region utilized in the fusion or the sequence with a restriction site. Italicized sequences represent mutated regions.

**Table S5. Known or predicted coordinates of** *lin-3* **and** *lin-11* **genes and their regulatory elements.**

Gene/Element Species dinates <sup>.</sup> ЭO
-------------------------------------------------------



Sequence data coordinates follow the WS180 release of WormBase or our data; the recent CB3 genome assembly (Hillier 2007) was used for *C. briggsae*.





Known motifs were analyzed between different species using YMF/Explanators. Z-scores for the motifs represent the number of standard deviations from the mean genomic background frequency, as calculated for nonredundant overrepresented hexamers by YMF/Explanators (Blanchette and Sinha 2001; Sinha and Tompa 2002). The first two motifs were generated from known or predicted *lin-3* ACEL sequences; the third was from the *lin-11* uterine enhancer (Gupta and Sternberg 2002). "2-spp" includes *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae*. "3-spp" includes *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and either *C. remanei* (+rem) or *C. brenneri* (+bre). "4-spp" includes *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. remanei*, and *C. brenneri*. "5-spp" includes *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. remanei*, *C. brenneri*, and *C.* sp. 3 PS1010.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

#### **Figure S1: The** *C. elegans* **Hox cluster**

The first two pairs of Hox genes (*ceh-13*/*lin-39* and *mab-5/egl-5*) are transcribed away from each other, leaving a large common 5' region between each pair of genes. The third pair (*php-3/nob-1*) are transcribed in the same direction with little space between the two genes, but possess a large intergenic region 5' of *nob-1*. This third pair has only a single ortholog in the nematode *Pristionchus pacificus*, indicating that this pair may have arisen by duplication (Aboobaker and Blaxter 2003b). The gene order of *ceh-13/lin-39* is flipped with respect to the remaining Hox subclusters on chromosome III, with *lin-39*/Hox5/*Sex combs reduced* more 5' and *ceh-13*/Hox1/*labial* more 3' with respect to the other Hox genes. Large-scale inversions exist even in an intact Hox cluster (e.g., that of *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*) but might be facilitated in *C. elegans* by the sub-cluster's physical and regulatory isolation (Lemons and McGinnis 2006).

#### **Figure S2: Different MUSSA parameters capture similar but non-identical sets of matches**

Changes in window size in 2-way analyses at a constant threshold demonstrate that the (A) 30-bp window appears cleaner than the (B) 20-bp window, which has more crosshatched lines. Changes in window size from a (C) 25-bp window to a (D) 30-bp window at a constant threshold reveal a different set of matches (See also Figure 2E,F). Changes in the included species at a constant threshold (90%) and window size (20 bp) reveal many different matches, as between (B) *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae*; (E) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and *C. brenneri*; (F) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, and *C. remanei*; (G) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, and *C. remanei*; (H) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, and *C*. sp. 3 PS1010; and (I) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, *C. remanei*, and *C*. sp. 3 PS1010. For the greater number of species, a lower threshold of 85% at the same window size (20 bp) is also shown between (J) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, and *C. remanei*; (K) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, and *C*. sp. 3 PS1010; and (L) *C. elegans*, *C. briggsae*, *C. brenneri*, *C. remanei*, and *C*. sp. 3 PS1010.

#### **Figure S3: Cross-phyla MUSSA and MEME comparisons**

(A) 10-way MUSSA analysis of the N7 region between nematodes and vertebrates with a threshold of 15 of 20 bp or 75%. (B) MEME analysis run on the nematode, vertebrate, *B. floridae* (lancelet), *S. mansoni* (trematode), and *H. robusta* (annelid) sequences similar to N3 reveals a number of motifs in common between the sequences. The nematode sequences span 592 bp each and the nonnematode sequences span 600 bp each. For this figure and for Figures S3C-S3E, the 5 top hits produced by MEME are highlighted, with red, orange, yellow, cyan, and green ordered from best to worst hit. The colors within this image and within Figures S3C-S3E are internally consistent only. (C) MEME analysis run on the nematode and vertebrate sequences similar to N3 reveals a number of motifs in common between the ten sequences. The nematode sequences span 307 bp each and the vertebrate sequences span 600 bp each. (D) MEME analysis run on the nematode and vertebrate sequences similar to N7 reveals only one motif in common between nine of the ten sequences. The remaining motifs are mammalspecific. The nematode sequences span 592 bp each and the vertebrate sequences span 777 bp each, except for frog which spans 827 bp. (E) MEME analysis run on the nematode N3 sequences and *Drosophila* sequences similar to N2-2 (as it is non-orthologous to N3 but conserved between *Drosophila*) reveals a lack of motifs in common between the ten sequences. All the motifs that are present in nematodes are only present in at most half of the *Drosophila*, meaning no motifs were in common throughout. The nematode sequences span 592 bp each and the *Drosophila* sequences span 600 bp each.

#### **Figure S4: The reporter vector drives reproducible background expression**

(A) Mouse N7 drives background expression in the intestine (highlighted here with yellow arrows), anterior-most bodywall muscle (green arrows), and head neurons (blue arrows) as seen in MmN7::CFP. The scale bar equals 10 microns. (B) An empty vector drives background expression in the intestine, anterior-most bodywall muscle (yellow arrows), excretory cell, enteric muscle, and anal depressor cell. The scale bar equals 10 microns.

# **Figure S5: Varying window sizes and species gave different ordering of conservation**

Graphs showing the maximum threshold where a match is seen in a MUSSA analysis for a given region. Regions that drove expression are white, while those that did not drive detectable expression are black. (A) Different window sizes result in different maximum thresholds for the different regions in 4 species comparisons (15 bp; 20 bp; 25 bp; 30 bp). (B) Averaging the threshold between different window sizes results in different maximum thresholds for the different regions in 4-species comparisons (15-20 bp; 25-30 bp; 15-20-25-30 bp). (C) Different combinations of species result in different maximum thresholds for the different regions comparisons averaged between 20 and 15 base pair windows (*elegansbriggsae*; *elegans-briggsae-brenneri*; *elegans-briggsae-remanei*; *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei*-PS1010; for *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei* see B). (D) Different combinations of species result in different maximum thresholds for the different regions comparisons with 15 bp windows (*elegansbriggsae*; *elegans-briggsae-brenneri*; *elegans-briggsae-remanei*; *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei*-PS1010; for *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei* see A). (E) Different window sizes result in different maximum thresholds for the different regions in 4-species comparisons (14 bp; 16 bp; 17 bp; 18 bp; 19 bp; for 15 bp see A).

#### **Figure S6: ROC curves**

 (A) ROC (receiver operating characteristic; Gribskov and Robinson 1996) curves for variable window sizes in 4-species comparisons (window sizes: 15, 20, 25, 30, 15-20 average) demonstrate that the 15-bp window and 15-20 base pair averaging both give the highest sensitivity for the highest specificity. (B) ROC curves for different window sizes between 20-bp and 14-bp windows, showing that the 15-bp window gives the highest sensitivity for the highest specificity. (C) ROC curves for different combinations of species (15-20 average but variable number of species: *elegans-briggsae*, *elegansbriggsae-remanei*, *elegans-briggsae-brenneri*, *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei*, *elegans-briggsaebrenneri-remanei*-PS1010) demonstrate that a four species comparison gives the highest sensitivity for the highest specificity. (D) ROC curves for different combinations of species (15-bp windows but variable number of species: *elegans-briggsae*, *elegans-briggsae-remanei*, *elegans-briggsae-brenneri*, *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei*, *elegans-briggsae-brenneri-remanei*-PS1010) demonstrate that a four species comparison gives the highest sensitivity for the highest specificity. (E) ROC curves for different averages of window sizes in 4-species comparisons (window sizes: 15-20 average, 25-30 average, 15-20- 25-30 average) demonstrate that the 15-20 base pair averaging gives the highest sensitivity for the highest specificity for averaged values.

#### **Figure S7: MUSSA predicts regulatory elements in other genes**

MUSSA is capable of identifying cis-regulatory regions in certain other genes when using a 15 bp window with a 100% threshold across 4 species. Shown in red blocks on the top sequence is the region published to drive expression (Okkema et al. 1993); green blocks represent coding regions in (A) *unc-54*, (B) *myo-2*, and (C) *myo-3*.

#### **Figure S8: MUSSA comparisons identify** *lin-3* **and** *lin-11* **motifs**

(A) Comparison of noncoding *lin-3* gene sequences. Both here and in (B), each gene's boundaries are defined by the nearest 5'- and 3' protein-coding sequences of adjacent genes, encompassing all flanking DNA (Table S5). The ACEL, a known regulatory motif controlling expression in the anchor cell (Gupta and Sternberg 2002), is marked with a green block; E-box and Ftz-F1 motifs are marked in blue and yellow. Exons (marked in grey) are masked; sequence comparisons are only between non-coding DNA at 22/30 identities/window. Similarities are shown by red or blue lines connecting direct or inverted regions of ungapped identity. Noncoding DNA sequences of the Elegans-group *lin-3* genes are much more similar to one another than to *C*. sp. 3 PS1010 *lin-3.* (B) Comparison of noncoding *lin-11* gene sequences. The uterine element, a known regulatory motif controlling expression in the uterus (Hwang and Sternberg 2004), is marked in green; Su(H)/LAG-1 motifs (Table S6) are marked in blue; other markings are as in (A). For *C. elegans*, a transposon (ZC247.4) was used to define its 5' boundary, which otherwise would extend 9.9 kb further to *csnk-1*. As with *lin-3*, *C*. sp. 3 PS1010 *lin-11* is distinct from others. (C) MUSSA blocks and motifs in and around *lin-3*'s ACEL. Motifs are as in (A). The ACEL lacks large MUSSA blocks but a single 10/10 block links its 3' E-boxes. (D) MUSSA blocks and motifs in and around the *lin-11* uterine element. Su(H) motifs are in blue. Both Su(H)/LAG-1 motifs of *C. elegans* are required *in vivo* (Gupta and Sternberg 2002). A MUSSA block at the 5' fringe of the uterine element links the 5' of the two crucial motifs in four species, with the second Su(H) motif lying outside the block but near it. Another MUSSA block contains a novel motif (in red); it is of unknown significance, but cooccurs with (and is as statistically significant as) Su(H) motifs in this element.

# **Figure S9: The** *ceh-13/lin-39* **and** *mab-5/egl-5* **sub-clusters share a single ungapped sequence alignment**

(A) The relative location of the different matches is shown. The match between different Hox clusters is highlighted in red. The autoregulatory sequence identified by Streit et al. (2002) is highlighted in green. The other two MUSSA matches are identified with a 15-bp window and a 20 or 30-bp window and highlighted in yellow and blue, respectively. 164 bp are shown. (B) A MUSSA alignment comparison between *C. elegans* and *C. briggsae ceh-13/lin-39* and *mab-5/egl-5* Hox sub-clusters using a 20-bp window and a 90% threshold. All matches are between the coding sequences, but have been masked here for clarity. At lower thresholds, the matches are entirely noise. (C) By adding additional sequences (the *C. remanei* and *C. brenneri ceh-13/lin-39* sub-clusters and the *C. remanei mab-5/egl-5* sub-cluster), the threshold may be lowered enough to 80% (16/20) that a single real match becomes visible, denoted above the top sequence by an asterisk. The extra lines between sequences are all matches between single and dinucleotide repeats. (D) The sequence of this match can be viewed, with each red or blue line denoting a perfectly conserved base. This match overlaps with the first N9 MUSSA match identified in the *ceh-13/lin-39* comparisons.

# **Figure S10: Genome-wide motif refinements**

PWMs, visualized with Weblogo (*http://weblogo.berkeley.edu*) (Crooks et al. 1990), of the N2-1 MUSSA match using the Hox clusters of the 4 species, the two-pass refinement in *C. elegans*, the twopass refinement in *C. briggsae*, and the two-pass refinement in *C. remanei*.