



Intron Homology: Heatmap of pairwise sequence identities of all U3 introns. The introns are ordered with respect to their absolute position in the U3 snRNA sequence and their taxonomic order. Potential cluster of introns showing more than 60% sequence identity are boxed. Clustered sequences suggest a common origin. It is apparent that introns that are located at the same position often show a significant sequence similarity. Since this is a symmetric heatmap, the saturation in the lower half is dimmed due to visibility reasons. Cluster I denotes introns of paralogous sequences while clusters with label II contain introns of different organisms with at least 60% sequence identity. Cluster III indicates evidence of a so-called intron slide, where a homologous intron is shifted to another insertion point.