

Methods

Chicken chromosomes were prepared from lymphoblast cultures. Lymphocytes were isolated from whole blood using Histopaque (Sigma) according to the manufacturer's instructions and cultured at 37°C, 5% CO₂ in RPMI1640 medium with a final concentration of 20mM L-glutamine, 0.1mg/ml concanavalin A type IV (Sigma), 10% chicken serum (Invitrogen) and standard antibiotics (penicillin/streptomycin, Invitrogen). After 72 hours, cultures were treated with colcemid at a final concentration of 0.05µg/ml for 45 minutes at 37°C, followed by hypotonic treatment with 75mM KCl for 15 minutes at 37°C and fixation in 3:1 methanol:acetic acid.(mapping was done as in main text)