The pCaSpeR (1) and pUAST vectors (2) are two of the most commonly used Drosophila transformation vectors. However, although they have great utility in their current form, their multiple cloning sequences (MCSs) have a limited number of unique restriction sites (Figure 1). This is particularly true for the pUAST vector, whose MCS has only five unique sites. Further, neither of the MCSs in pCaSpeR or pUAST are present in small shuttle or cloning vectors, which is problematic, since the large size (>8 kb) of the transgenesis vectors requires sequence manipulations such as site-directed mutagenesis or deletion dropouts to be done in small plasmid vectors and the modified DNA to be moved to the transgenesis vectors. The lack of matching shuttle vectors further constrains the usable cloning sites and can make moving large genomic fragments between a cloning vector and a transgenesis vector problematic.

To overcome the above limitations, we engineered a new MCS based on the pCaSpeR4 MCS that adds five new 6-base cutter sites, but most importantly flanks the entire MCS by two 8-base cutters on each side (Figure 1). We call this improved vector pCaSpeR5, since the new vector retains all the restriction sites of the pCaSpeR4 MCS in their original order. We also created pUAS-C5 by replacing the MCS of pUAST with a modified version of the pCaSpeR5 MCS (C5 MCS) that lacked the ATG-containing SphI site (Figure 1). Although the pUAST has many common 6-cutter sites in its backbone, the C5 MCS nonetheless adds five new 6-cutter and the flanking four 8-cutter sites to the pUAS expression vector. The pCasper5 and pUAS-C5 vectors were shown to be functional by cloning a GMR-nYFP transgene (3) into pCasper5 and nYFP (3) into pUAS-C5 (Figure 2). Injection of these constructs into embryos yielded typical numbers of transgenic offspring (>33 and >46 transgenic lines per 200 injected embryos for pCaSpeR5 and pUAS-C5, respectively) that expressed yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) strongly in eye discs (pCaSpeR5:: GMR-nYFP) or in the tracheal system (pUAS-C5:: nYFP lines crossed to the tracheal btl-gal4 driver (4)) at levels at least comparable or stronger than to similar constructs in other transgenesis vectors (Figure 2).

To facilitate clone manipulation, we created a small ampicillin (Amp)-resistant vector named pBS-C5 by replacing the MCS of pBlueScript (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, USA) with the C5 MCS. BbvCI and PmeI sites flanking the C5 MCS were also added.

![Figure 1. Comparison of the pCaSpeR5, pUAS-C5, pCS-Kan vectors with the pCaSpeR4 and pUAST vectors.](image)

**Figure 1.** Comparison of the pCaSpeR5, pUAS-C5, pCS-Kan vectors with the pCaSpeR4 and pUAST vectors. Maps comparing the restriction sites in the new and standard transgenesis vectors are shown. GenBank accession nos. for the CaSpeR5 vectors are shown in parenthesis below the vector names. UAS, upstream activating sequences containing the binding sites (filled black circles) for the GAL4 transcription factor; red text, new 8-cutter sites for moving fragments from pC5-Kan or pBS-C5 to pCaSpeR5 or pUAS-C5; blue text, 6-cutter sites present in pCaSpeR5 but not pCaSpeR4; pink text, 6-cutter sites present in pCaSpeR5 but not pUAS-C5 but not pUAST (however, note there is a different order of sites common to pUAS-C5 and pUAST); bold text, 6-cutter sites present in pC5-Kan but not pCaSpeR4; pink text, 6-cutter sites present in pCaSpeR5 or pUAS-C5 but only unique in pC5-Kan and pBS-C5; green text, blunt or imperfect 8- and 7-cutter sites in pC5-Kan and pBS-C5 that can be used to prevent ligation of the pC5-Kan or pBS-C5 into the target vector in ligations done without gel purification; ‡, 95% of BbvCl ends cannot be religated (New England Biolabs product information); *, multiple sites for these restriction enzymes are present in the multiple cloning sequences (MCSs), but these sites are still pseudo-unique because they are not present in the vector backbone; †, the Spel recognition site contains an ATG that has been eliminated in pC5-KanSphI (EF090405) and pBS-C5SphI (EF090403); ‡, Fsel is not stable at -20°C, necessitating storage at -70°C for periods >30 days. Inserts into the MCSs can be sequenced using the following primers: pC5-Kan, pC5-Kan Fsel 5’-GCCATCACGAGATTTCGATTCC-3’ and pC5-Kan AseI 5’-AAGCAGCACGATATCCCGCAG-3’; pCaSpeR5, pCasper-MCS-PsiI 5’-CACGGACATGCTAAGGGTTA-3’ and pCasper-MCS-EcoRI 5’-AGTTCAATACTCCAGGCAG-3’; pUAS-C5 pUAST-5737 5’-CCAGCAACCAAAGTAAATCAACTGC-3’ and pUAST-5432 5’-CCCCACGCATGCTTCCATAAGGTG-3’; pBS-C5, standard T3, T7, and M13 primers.
Figure 2. The pCaSpeR5 and pUAS-C5 vectors are functional. (A and B) Constructs expressing a yellow fluorescent protein (YFP) (3) driven by the glass multimer reporter (GMR) enhancer element (5) produce comparable expression in adult eyes of transgenic animals made using (A) pCaSpeR4 (pC4::YFP) and (B) pCaSpeR5 (pC5::YFP) vectors. Representative lines are shown with line numbers in parenthesis. Exposure times for A and B were 2.2 s and were made using a Model MZFLIII microscope (Leica Microsystems GmbH, Wetzlar, Germany), a Model C4742-95 camera (Hamamatsu Photonics K.K, Hamamatsu, Japan), and a green fluorescent protein (GFP) filter set (Chroma Technology, Rockingham, VT, USA). Scale bar for A and B in panel B, 25 μm. (C–E) A nuclear-localized venus-YFP (nvYFP) (3) construct in pUAS-C5 driven by the tracheal-specific bal-Gal4 appears brighter (D and E) than the widely used pUAST-GFP driven by bal-Gal4 (C) (4). Images are of live stage 16 embryos heterozygous for each of the driver and responder constructs. Images were captured using an AxioPlan II microscope, an AxioCam camera (both from Carl Zeiss, Jena, Germany), and a GFP filter set using the indicated exposure times. Scale bar for C–E in panel E, 5 μm.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank I.T. Helenius for comments on the manuscript and R. Carthew for suggesting the gel-less cloning strategy and the pHSX vector. S.M.P. was supported by National Institutes of Health (NIH) Lung Biology training grant no. 5 T32 HL076139-03. G.J.B. was a recipient of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Career Award IBN-0133411 and NIH R01 GM069540. Support was also provided by a NSF Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate (AGEP) grant. The GenBank accession nos. for new constructs are pCaSpeR5, EF090407; pUAS-C5, EF090406; pC5-Kan, EF090404; pC5-KanΔSphI, EF090403; pBS-C5, EF090402; pBS-C5ΔSphI, EF090403.

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Received 2 August 2006; accepted 28 November 2006.

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