



# TurbolD Identification of Evolutionarily Divergent Components of the Nuclear Pore Complex in the Malaria Model *Plasmodium berghei*

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ABSTRACT Twenty years since the publication of the Plasmodium falciparum and P. berghei genomes one-third of their protein-coding genes still lack functional annotation. In the absence of sequence and structural homology, protein-protein interactions can facilitate functional prediction of such orphan genes by mapping protein complexes in their natural cellular environment. The Plasmodium nuclear pore complex (NPC) is a case in point: it remains poorly defined; its constituents lack conservation with the 30+ proteins described in the NPC of many opisthokonts, a clade of eukaryotes that includes fungi and animals, but not Plasmodium. Here, we developed a labeling methodology based on TurboID fusion proteins, which allows visualization of the P. berghei NPC and facilitates the identification of its components. Following affinity purification and mass spectrometry, we identified 4 known nucleoporins (Nups) (138, 205, 221, and the bait 313), and verify interaction with the putative phenylalanine-glycine (FG) Nup637; we assigned 5 proteins lacking annotation (and therefore meaningful homology with proteins outside the genus) to the NPC, which is confirmed by green fluorescent protein (GFP) tagging. Based on gene deletion attempts, all new Nups — Nup176, 269, 335, 390, and 434 — are essential to parasite survival. They lack primary sequence homology with proteins outside the Plasmodium genus; albeit 2 incorporate short domains with structural homology to human Nup155 and yeast Nup157, and the condensin SMC (Structural Maintenance Of Chromosomes 4). The protocols developed here showcase the power of proximity labeling for elucidating protein complex composition and annotation of taxonomically restricted genes in *Plasmodium*. It opens the door to exploring the function of the Plasmodium NPC and understanding its evolutionary position.

**IMPORTANCE** The nuclear pore complex (NPC) is a platform for constant evolution and has been used to study the evolutionary patterns of early-branching eukaryotes. The *Plasmodium* NPC is poorly defined due to its evolutionary divergent nature making it impossible to characterize it via homology searches. Although 2 decades have passed since the publication of the *Plasmodium* genome, 30% of the genes still lack functional annotation. Our study demonstrates the ability of proximity labeling using TurbolD to assign function to orphan proteins in the malaria parasite. We have identified a total of 10 Nups that will allow further study of NPC dynamics, structural elements, involvement in nucleocytoplasmic transport, and unique non-transport functions of nucleoporins that provide adaptability to this malaria parasite.

**KEYWORDS** *Plasmodium*, malaria, proximity labeling, BioID, TurboID, nuclear pore complex, nucleoporins, Nup

Proteins that lack homologs in other species are referred to as orphan or taxonomically restricted proteins, coded by orphan genes or taxonomically restricted genes. They arise or diverge from pre-existing genes, or emerge *de novo* from non-genic sequences, and Editor Louis H. Miller, NIAID/NIH

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provide a mechanism for an organism to adapt, survive and thrive in its environment (1, 2). With few recognizable sequence features, proteins that build the nuclear pore complex (NPC) of Plasmodium parasites may represent such examples; the NPC may be composed of orphan proteins or have undergone substantial evolutionary divergence. Typically, the eukaryotic NPC is a megadalton assembly of multiple copies of 30+ nuclear pore proteins or Nups, which are embedded between the inner and outer nuclear membrane and line the nuclear pore. While the core scaffold and transmembrane Nups maintain the structure of the NPC, phenylalanine-glycine (FG)-Nups are natively disordered and characterized by multiple FG repeat domains that line the center of the pore and interact with cargo (3-6); a total of 552 proteins contribute to a single yeast NPC (7). The NPC carries out selective bidirectional nucleocytoplasmic transport of RNA and proteins while possessing numerous non-transport functions, including gene regulation. There appears to be considerable genetic diversity in the Plasmodium NPC make-up compared to other eukaryotes; this has so far prevented identification by amino acid sequence but also structural homology through bioinformatics even from relatively closely related species such as Toxoplasma gondii, a fellow member of the Apicomplexa (4, 8–13). To date, a mere 4 FG-nucleoporins (Nups) and Sec13 proteins are identified across the genus (12, 14-18), while P. falciparum Nup116 exhibits a low degree of conservation in rodent malaria parasites (19). The Plasmodium NPC remains, therefore, poorly defined. This parallels the absence of protein function annotation for many Plasmodium proteins. At present, 1,726 or 33% of the 5,302 protein-coding genes in the P. falciparum 3D7 genome are still annotated with an unknown function; in the rodent malaria model parasite, P. berghei, that number is 1,494 or 30% of 4945 protein-coding genes (PlasmoDB) (20).

An alternative to identifying the function of orphan proteins is to probe proteinprotein interactions in situ. This has traditionally been achieved by identifying proteins co-immunoprecipitating with a known target, for example, mRNA storage bodies in P. berghei and P. yoelii gametocytes (21, 22). More recently, the emergence of proximity labeling (PL) approaches for discovering novel protein complex components or the constituents of entire subcellular compartments has greatly accelerated such efforts (23-26). Typically, these methodologies leverage the expression of a fusion protein that biochemically modifies proximal proteins, enabling their purification and identification by mass spectrometry. The original proximity-dependent biotin identification (BioID) system utilizes a biotin ligase (BirA) from Escherichia coli mutated (BirA\*) to render it substrate-promiscuous (27). PL can also be achieved with modified soybean ascorbate peroxidase (APEX) and its derivatives, which require biotin phenol and hydrogen peroxide for biotinylation (28). Biotinylated proteins are subsequently isolated using a streptavidin affinity column and identified by mass spectrometry. Since its development, BioID has been employed in many organisms ranging from mammalian cells to plants and protozoans (26, 29). In Plasmodium, for example, BioID has revealed protein residents of secretory vesicles that are required for parasite egress from the infected erythrocyte and transmission (30); allowed the discovery of proteins in the parasitophorous vacuole that constitutes the host cell-parasite interface (31-34); generated a comprehensive proteome of the apicoplast (35); and defined the components of the inner membrane complex (36).

Here, we explored PL of the *P. berghei* nuclear pore complex. We produced fusion proteins of the smallest FG-repeats containing nuclear pore protein Nup138 with different biotin ligases — BioID/BirA\*, BioID2, Linker-BioID2, TurboID, and mini-TurboID — to determine their suitability for the visualization of the NPC in the blood stages of *P. berghei*. We used streptavidin labeling as a rapid, 2-h read-out for the correct targeting and labeling efficiency. We demonstrate that *in vivo* biotinylation can be leveraged as an efficient visualization tool for studying the localization of proteins of interest as we observed consistent labeling at the nuclear periphery using TurboID at endogenous biotin levels present in mouse blood. We extended this study to all known FG-Nups (Nup205, Nup221, Nup313) and, for the first time, Nup637. We performed affinity purification of biotinylated proteins from a mutant expressing Nup313::TurboID, the only *P. berghei* FG-Nup so far confirmed independently in *P. falciparum* (15, 16). Importantly, mass spectrometric analysis of affinitypurified proteins from *nup313::turbolD* resulted in the identification of 5 novel and unique Nups, all previously annotated as proteins of unknown function. Reciprocal PL with one of these candidate-Nups, Nup434, confirmed these interactions. Remarkably, all novel NPC components lack apparent homology to NPC components from other organisms, including related protozoans of the apicomplexan phylum, revealing an extraordinary evolutionary divergence of the NPC in this early-branching eukaryote.

# RESULTS

TurboID biotinylation facilitates visualization of the P. berghei nuclear pore complex at physiological biotin concentrations in mouse blood. Since the adaptation of BioID/BirA\* to label and reveal protein-protein interactions, there have been continued efforts to improve this tool's efficiency. To reduce nonspecific interactions (for example, caused by erroneous targeting in the cell due to the large size of BioID) and improve the kinetics for biotinylation, a smaller second-generation system known as BioID2 was engineered from the bacterial Aquifex aeolicus biotin ligase (37). This protein is 27 kDa in size (as it lacks the DNA-binding domain), requires lower biotin concentrations, and performs well in mammalian cell culture (37) and Plasmodium systems (33) at 37°C. Since the inherent labeling radius of BioID2 is only about 10 nm, the inclusion of a 25-nm linker consisting of 13 repeats of GGGGS (G glycine, S serine) between bait protein and biotin ligase allows for a greater radius of labeling (37); this facilitates the detection of factors that may interact transiently or are beyond the range of the original system. Further evolution in BiolD methodologies is represented by TurbolD (38), a 35 kDa protein with 15 mutations compared to wild-type BirA; the protein produces efficient labeling of proteins in 10 min in the presence of 50  $\mu$ m of biotin in mammalian cell culture. A smaller, 28 kDa miniTurboID version was achieved by deleting the N-terminal DNA binding domain.

To compare the labeling efficiencies of these various biotin ligases *in vivo*, we constructed mutant parasites expressing a range of carboxy-terminal fusion proteins with the endogenous *P. berghei* Nup138 (methodology outline) (Fig. 1A and Fig. S1A). Nup138 (the number defines the predicted molecular mass in kDa as in most Nups) was recently identified as an FG repeat nucleoporin; the protein is characterized by 14 dispersed FG repeats across its central region and is the smallest of the known FG-Nups conserved across the *Plasmodium* genus (12). Each fusion protein contains a triple hemagglutinin (HA) or Myc tag at the very C-terminus allowing protein localization in the absence of biotinylation to be verified by immunofluorescence. Protein expression in transgenic parasites is exclusively under the control of the endogenous promoter in the haploid blood stage of the parasite life cycle, which was achieved by introducing individual, linearized tagging plasmid into the parental locus. Wild-type parasites and a line expressing a non-fused, cytosolic TurbolD under the control of the endogenous *nup138* promoter served as controls. Table S1 lists all cell lines established during this study.

Following confirmation of genomic plasmid integration (Fig. S1B), we first carried out immunofluorescence assays probing for the 3X-HA or Myc tag to verify the stable expression and correct localization of all Nup138 fusion proteins. All anti-tag assays detected the various fusion proteins at the nuclear periphery except for the wild-type control and the *turboid-ha* <sup>nup138,PP</sup> mutant. The data provide evidence for the correct targeting of the tagged 138 nucleoporins (Fig. 1B).

Next, we evaluated the biotinylation signal using a streptavidin-conjugated Alexa Fluor probe. This method does not require primary and secondary antibodies but exploits the strong binding affinity between the probe and biotin or biotinylated proteins, hence reducing background signal levels and the incubation time; blood smear to the microscope is typically achieved within 2 h. In the intraerythrocytic stage, biotin is dispensable for parasite growth and is not conjugated to any parasite proteins (39). As expected, the parental wild-type *P. berghei* clone 2.34 revealed only a nuclear DAPI signal but no streptavidin labeling (Fig. 1C). Among all mutant lines, only the *nup138:* 





FIG 1 Nup138::TurbolD facilitates visualization of the nuclear pore complex with biotin-binding Streptavidin Alexa Fluor 594 in blood-stage parasites. (A) Schematic diagram outlining the methodology used for the generation of transgenic *nup138* mutants and the visualization of (Continued on next page)

*turboid* parasite highlighted a distinct streptavidin signal close to the nuclear DNA consistent with earlier observations, when using green fluroescent protein (GFP), for Nup138::GFP (12). TurboID is thus the sole biotin ligase that labels the NPC at physiological biotin levels present in mouse serum, ranging between 6 to 15 ng/mL (40). Ninety four percent of examined *nup138::turboid-ha* parasites displayed perinuclear labeling indicating a high integration efficiency in this parasite population typical of genetically engineered *P. berghei* (41). In contrast, the negative control, TurboID expressed under the control of the *nup138* promoter, revealed no focal staining of the nuclear periphery, producing a diffuse cytoplasmic signal instead. Staining for the ER marker, BiP revealed the distinct and separate nature of the streptavidin NPC signal in *nup138::turboid-ha* parasites (Fig. 1D).

To evaluate the labeling performance of the various biotin ligase fusions that did not produce obvious labeling at physiological biotin levels, parasitized blood was incubated *ex vivo* overnight at 37°C with 200  $\mu$ M biotin in standard RPMI culture medium. Under these conditions the parasite lines expressing Nup138 tagged with birA\*, bioID2, linker-bioID2, and miniturboID all exhibited streptavidin labeling which could be observed by microscopy and Western blotting (Fig. S2), consistent with the relatively low expression level of most *Plasmodium* Nups and the superior kinetics of TurboID. In summary, while standard *P. berghei in vitro* culture conditions with biotin supplementation can be used to produce labeling with all biotin ligase variants, only the Nup138::turboID fusion exhibits sufficiently robust labeling kinetics under physiological mouse biotin serum levels to reliably visualize the *P. berghei* NPC.

**TurbolD tagging of FG-Nups 205, 221, 313, and authentication of Nup637 as a nuclear pore protein.** Following the successful establishment of TurbolD as an efficient *in vivo* proximity labeling tool in *P. berghei*, we extended our study to the 4 remaining *Plasmodium* FG-Nups 205, 221, 313, and 637. Apart from Nup637, each of the FG-Nups has previously been localized by fluorescent protein tagging to the nuclear periphery in *P. berghei* (12). Analogous to TurbolD-tagging of Nup138, we transfected linearized plasmid constructs promoting integration into the *P. berghei* genome, thus maintaining expression of each fusion under the control of the endogenous promoter (Fig. S1C). With similar, coordinated transcription levels of all FG-Nups across the *P. berghei* intraerythrocytic developmental cycle (Fig. 2A), Nup205::turboid-HA, Nup221::turboid-HA, Nup313:: turboid-HA, and Nup637::turboid-HA could be mapped to the nuclear periphery by anti-HA immunofluorescence assay as well as streptavidin staining (Fig. 2B and C). For the first time, we could confirm the localization of Nup637 at the nuclear periphery.

Three attempts to introduce TurbolD-tagged Sec13, the most conserved of all known nuclear pore proteins across the *Plasmodium* genus, failed. On the other hand, expressing Sec13::turbolD under the control of its endogenous promoter from an episomal plasmid revealed streptavidin labeling reflecting its dual function as Nup and COPII vesicle component with perinuclear staining as well as signal similar to that of its COPII partner Sec31 (Fig. 2B and C) (12, 14).

A challenge to studying the *Plasmodium* NPC is the lack of experimental evidence to label this structure in the parasite by other means. Attempts to label a broad range of *Plasmodium* FG nucleoporins with the widely used monoclonal antibody 414, which recognizes FXFG repeats found for example in human Nup62, Nup152, and Nup90 (42, 43), failed (Fig. S3A). Perhaps not surprisingly, out of 95 FG repeats known from all 5 *P. berghei* FG-Nups, only 4 adhere to this otherwise broadly conserved feature (12). Fluorescently conjugated Wheat Germ Agglutinin (WGA), a carbohydrate-binding lectin that recognizes O-linked  $\beta$ -*N*-acetylglucosamine (O-GlcNAc), labels the NPC in other

#### FIG 1 Legend (Continued)

various Nup138 fusion proteins. (B) Immunofluorescence assays with antibodies against 3X-HA and Myc epitope tags. DAPI is used to detect nuclear DNA (blue). Diagrams of Nup138 fusion proteins are drawn to scale; 0.5 cm = 500 amino acids. Scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m. (C) Streptavidin Alexa Fluor 594 labeling of blood smear parasites. DAPI is used to detect nuclear DNA (blue). Scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m. (D) Co-staining with Streptavidin Alexa Fluor 594 and anti-BiP (PBANKA\_0818900, endoplasmic reticulum marker, ER) reveals distinct localization of ER and Nup138::turbolD signals. DAPI is used to detect nuclear DNA (blue). All images are representative of three biological replicates with 10 randomly selected fields imaged. Scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m.



**FIG 2** TurbolD fusion proteins facilitate visualization of FG-Nups and localizes Nup637 to the nuclear periphery in blood-stage parasites. (A) Transcript abundance by RNAseq (76) plotted to show expression of Nups in 3 intra-erythrocytic stages: 4H ring, 16H trophozoite, 22H schizont. Expression levels are depicted as percentage of total Transcripts per Million (TPM) for all Nups shown in the bar chart. (B) Localization of TurbolD-tagged nucleoporins detected with Alexa Fluor 594 conjugated streptavidin. Pictorial representations of fusion protein constructs used in the experiments are shown to the left and are drawn to scale; 0.5 cm = 500 amino acids. Scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m. (C) Immunofluorescence assays using anti-HA antibodies confirm protein localization at the nuclear periphery. Scale bar = 5  $\mu$ m.

systems as this posttranslational modification is frequent in the unstructured regions of FG-Nups (44). However, WGA binds extensively to the RBC surface, largely obscuring the intracellular parasite. While this problem can be alleviated by examining extracellular merozoites (Fig. S3B), WGA labeling cannot be used to study NPCs in other blood stages due to their residence within the RBC. *Aleuria aurantia* lectin (AAL) is specific for fucosylated glycans that have been detected proximal to the *Toxoplasma* NPC (45), but did not label any defined feature near the *P. berghei* nucleus (Fig. S3C). As these common approaches to NPC labeling used in other eukaryote systems cannot be used in *Plasmodium* spp., our Nup-TurbolD/Streptavidin strategy provides an efficient and sensitive alternative for visualizing the *Plasmodium* NPC.

Mass-spectrometric analysis of nup313::turboid proximity-labeled parasite lysates identifies known and novel Plasmodium berghei NPC components. Next, we employed the nup313::turboid line for the identification of novel NPC components. Apart from Sec13 (12, 14), only Nup313 has been confirmed as an NPC protein in another Plasmodium spp. (15, 16), thus presenting an attractive candidate for mass spectrometry experiments. We grew nup313::turboid parasites to a parasitemia of 5-6% and produced a homogenous schizont-rich population through overnight culture. In vitro P. berghei undergoes IDC development but fails to egress spontaneously from the iRBC (46, 47). To identify proteins by proximity labeling, we prepared nup313::turboid lysates followed by affinity purification of biotinylated proteins on magnetic streptavidin beads and protein identification by mass spectrometry (Fig. 3A). As TurboID is already visibly active in an in vivo setting (Fig. 2), we did not provide additional biotin but rather relied on the biotin levels present in mouse serum (6 to 15 ng/mL) and RPMI (200 ng/mL). We analyzed 2 independent biological nup313::turbolD-ha samples alongside a wild-type control. We identified 113 and 157 proteins in samples 1 and 2, respectively, that were not detected in the wild-type control. Furthermore, 88 proteins were common to both biological replicates (Fig. 3A).

This data set included the bait protein Nup313 as well as all 5 FG-Nups 138, 205, 221, 313, and 637 but not Sec13 (Table S2). The bait, Nup313, and another FG-Nup, Nup637 were present in the top 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of all proteins identified with normalized spectral abundance factor (NSAF) values of 113 and 155, respectively. Of the 88 detected proteins, 41 contained a predicted nuclear localization signal (48); this included all known FG-Nups apart from Nup138 (Table S2). Of the 88 proteins 38 had been detected in the nuclear core proteome of *P. falciparum*, including all FG-Nups (49) (Fig. S4).

A Protein ANalysis THrough Evolutionary Relationships (PANTHER) gene-ontology (GO) analysis classified 39 of the 88 hits into families of chaperones, cytoskeletal proteins, transporters, translational proteins, and those involved in biochemical processes, while most proteins (56%) lacked a GO annotation, including the known FG-Nups, owing to the large number of unannotated Plasmodium proteins in that database (Fig. S4) (50). Consistent with selective PL at the NPC, our mass spectrometry data set contained all 5 annotated NUPs, proteins known to traverse the NPC or those with a role in nuclear biology. This included for example 15 small and large ribosomal proteins (24%), as well as factors associated with ribosome biogenesis and transport. Such Nup313-ribosomal protein interactions can occur during the trafficking from the cytoplasm to the nucleolus for ribosome assembly and the subsequent export of the mature translation machinery (51, 52). Interactions with Nup313::turbolD may also occur during bait translation, folding, and trafficking prior to insertion into a stable NPC; such factors are represented by chaperones, proteins localized at the ER, and translation factors. Furthermore, we detected the DNA/RNA-binding protein Alba 3, a highly repetitive RNA binding protein with a single RNA recognition motif (RRM), the RNA helicase DBP1, and SENP1 which has documented roles in mRNA surveillance and DNA repair while associating with the NPC (53) and functions in the maturation of small Ubiquitin-like modifier (SUMO), and removal of SUMO from modified proteins in concert with the proteasome during DNA synthesis (53, 54). We also identified four cytoskeletal proteins: actin 1,  $\alpha$ -tubulin 1 and 2, and  $\beta$ -tubulin. Recent work has demonstrated



FIG 3 313::turbolD proximity labeling and mass spectrometry identify novel *Plasmodium* nucleoporins. (A) Flowchart showing the methodology used for carrying out PL and mass spectrometry with TurbolD-fused Nup313. (B) Localization of tagged nucleoporins detected with anti-GFP and anti-HA immunofluorescence.

■ NUP390

(Continued on next page)

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TABLE 4 1/		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 1	
	and newly	videntified P	herahei	nucleonorin
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XP\_034424373

Gene ID	Genbank acc.	Annotation	PlasmoGEM <sup>b</sup>	NLS	Plasmobase	Domain architecture	
PBANKA_0417900	XP_034420236	Nup138	Essential	0	No hits	2 CC <sup>c</sup> , FG <sup>d</sup> repeats	
PBANKA_1140100	XP_034422607	Nup205	Essential	1	No hits	2 CC, FG repeats	
PBANKA_0416300	XP_034420220	Nup221	Essential	1	Nup100	FG repeats, 2 TM <sup>e</sup>	
PBANKA_1310200	XP_034423255	Nup313	Essential	4	No hits	1 CC, FG repeats	
PBANKA_0107600	XP_034419676	Nup637	Essential	3	LAMP	FG repeats	
PBANKA_1445400	XP_034424278	Sec13	Essential	0	IKI3	WD domain	
PBANKA_0309200	XP_034419976	Nup390 <sup>a</sup>	Essential	1	No hits	3 CC, 5 TM	
PBANKA_0309400	XP_034419977	Nup434	Essential	4	Nucleoporin_N	1 CC, beta-propeller	
PBANKA_0807900	XP_034421049	Nup335	No Data	2	No hits	12 CC	
PBANKA 1365100	XP 034423807	Nup176	No Data	3	No hits	1 CC	

Nup269 <sup>a</sup>All newly identified Nups (bold font) were annotated as 'conserved Plasmodium proteins, unknown function' in PlasmoDB.

<sup>b</sup>The PlasmoGEM column indicates the essential/redundant nature of each gene in a global gene deletion screen; NLStradamus was used to scan each protein for the presence of nuclear localization signals; TMHMM to predict the number of transmembrane domains; SMART to identify coiled-coil domains and Plasmobase for identifying similar proteins based on protein domain architectures. To build models based on protein domain homology, Phyre2 was employed, and domain architecture hits with significant homology and confidence are listed. As a comparison, known FG-Nups are shown in the TABLE to demonstrate the poor detection of Plasmodium nucleoporins through homology modeling.

No Data

a

No hits

3 CC

<sup>c</sup>CC, coiled coil domains.

PBANKA\_1454600

<sup>d</sup>FG, phenylalanine-glycine repeats.

<sup>e</sup>TM, transmembrane domains.

the localization of microtubules using the tubulin marker, SPY555-Tubulin in the P. falciparum nucleus, close to the NPC, by using Nup313 to define the nuclear boundary during cell division and closed mitosis (16).

With an aim to identifying novel Nups, we focused on 8 proteins within our data set that were conserved among *Plasmodium* spp. but lacked functional annotation: PBANKA\_0309200, PBANKA\_0309400, PBANKA\_0609700, PBANKA\_0807900, PBANKA\_ 1211700, PBANKA\_1365100, PBANKA\_1404700, and PBANKA\_1454600. Of those, PBANKA\_1211700 and PBANKA\_1404700 contained predicted signal peptides and were not pursued any further. Among the remaining candidates, PBANKA\_0309200, PBANKA\_0309400, and PBANKA\_1365100 were similar in spectral abundance (NSAF) to the bait, Nup313 (Table S2). As a first step toward their characterization, we performed C-terminal GFP-tagging with genomic integration (Fig. S1D) to establish their subcellular localization; turboID-HA tagging was used for PBANKA\_0309400 as GFP-tagging failed repeatedly (n = 5). Five of the 6 candidate proteins localized to the nuclear periphery typical for FG-repeat nucleoporins in P. berghei (Fig. 3B). In contrast, PBANKA\_ 0609700 presented a diffuse cytoplasmic localization despite the presence of four predicted transmembrane domains (Fig. 3B). Apart from the localization to the nuclear periphery, the transcriptome profiles of the new nucleoporins were similar to those of the 5 annotated FG-Nups with the exception of Nup335 (Fig. 3C).

We forthwith refer to these newly identified P. berghei nucleoporins according to their predicted molecular weights in kDa as: Nup176, Nup269, Nup335, Nup390, and Nup434 (Table 1).

Together with Sec13 (12, 14) and 4 previously identified FG-Nups (12) we have identified a repertoire of 11 NPC components in P. berghei. A post hoc enrichment analysis of the nup313::turboid-ha proximity labeling experiment shows a 53-fold enrichment of nucleoporins in our proteomic data (hypergeometric *P*-value = 1.24e-17).

All 5 new Nups are conserved in the human malaria parasite P. falciparum 3D7 strain (Fig. S5); they are encoded by syntenic genes but typically larger than their P. berghei orthologs. All lack detectable primary sequence homology outside the Plasmodium genus. Therefore, we probed all newly identified Nups with 6 different bioinformatic protein tools

# FIG 3 Legend (Continued)

DAPI (blue) shows position of the nucleus. Schematic representations of constructs used for the experiment are show on the left where 0.5 cm = 500 amino acids. Phyre2 models are shown to the right of the image panel. Scale = 5  $\mu$ m. (C) Transcript abundance by RNAseq (76) plotted to show expression of novel and FG-Nups in 3 intra-erythrocytic stages: 4H ring, 16H trophozoite, 22H schizont. Expression levels are depicted as percentage of total Transcripts per Million (TPM) for all genes shown in the bar chart.

(Table S4). For Nup434, Phyre2 [55], a bioinformatics tool to predict and analyze protein structure generated a structural model with 97.1% confidence and 31% coverage based on the human nuclear pore subunit, Nup155 (Fig. 3B). The model covers only 365 amino acids of this 3,656 amino acid long protein, spanning amino acids 747 to 1,112. Nup155 is a non-FG, structural Nup and part of the inner ring of the human NPC, which includes Nup205, Nup188, Nup93, and Nup35. Nup155 plays a key role in the transcriptional response to DNA damage, specifically activating the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p21 in the tumor suppressor p53 pathway (55); this pathway is not conserved in Plasmodium. In addition to human Nup155, Phyre2 returned 2 additional hits (>95% confidence) to inner-ring Nups from yeast (Nup157 with amino acid similarity from position 877 to 1,110) and Chaetomium thermophilum (Nup170 with amino acid similarity from position 747 to 1,087) (56). In the thermophilic eukaryote, C. thermophilum, Nup170 is required for NPC assembly and organization and, together with Nup192, Nic96, and Nup53, forms the inner pore ring. Furthermore, yeast Nup170 is physically linked to the TM domain-containing pore membrane protein, Pom152, thus stressing its role in the anchorage of the NPC. The protein domain architecture comparison instrument Plasmobase (57) revealed similarity of Nup434 to the N-terminus of Nup133, a human Y-complex Nup. The N-terminus of this Nup forms a seven-bladed beta-propeller structure which is also characteristic of Nup155 and Nup170 in this family and which were recognized in our analysis with Phyre2. Finally, HHpred (Homology detection & structure prediction by HMM-HMM comparison) (58, 59) recognized homology with Nup170 from Chaetomium. Collectively, these analyses suggest that Nup434 is a component of the inner ring of the Plasmodium NPC with remarkable evolutionary divergence from significantly smaller Nups identified in other eukaryotes.

Nup335 (amino acids 267-1,117) was modeled with 98% confidence to SMC4 (structural maintenance of chromosomes protein), a condensin that forms a heterodimer with SMC2 and together with CAPH, D2 and G is required for chromatin condensation at the prophase stage of cell division before chromatin segregation during mitosis. In *Plasmodium*, SMC4 is found at all proliferative stages with a characteristic centromeric localization during schizogony (60). These SMC similarities were also recognized by HHpred and the Conserved Domain Database (61). Nup335, however, showed a different, perinuclear localization.

For the remaining novel Nups, Phyre2 predicted models with less than 80% confidence and low coverage. None of the other proteins were identified in Plasmobase. In addition, this tool failed to recognize the *P. berghei* FG-Nups 138, 205, 221, 313, or 637, most likely due to the extremely low conservation of these proteins, not just at the primary sequence but also at the secondary and tertiary structural level. Sec13, on the other hand, was modeled with 100% confidence highlighting its evolutionary conservation and similarity to other eukaryotic Sec13 proteins (14).

Nup390 was predicted to contain 5 transmembrane domains (analysis through TMHMM) (62) (Table 1). Together with Nup221, it is one of only 2 TM domain-containing Nups known in *P. berghei*. Such Nups are embedded in the nuclear envelope and function as important anchors for the NPC; they also stabilize the pore complex against the sharp curvature of the nuclear membrane and play a role in NPC assembly (6).

We finally probed characteristic secondary structure elements in the newly identified Nups. They include tandem repeats of  $\beta$ -strands, which fold into a  $\beta$ -propeller, and antiparallel  $\alpha$ -helical repeats, which pack into  $\alpha$ -helical solenoids (6); the latter occur in FG and linker Nups, as well as components of the nuclear basket and play a role in telomere organization and spindle pole assembly (3). We collected secondary structure predictions from PSI-blast-based secondary structure PREDiction (PSIPRED; available on PlasmoDB) and plotted them to show the confidence of prediction at each amino acid position for all predictions with confidence >5. (Fig. S6). All the candidate-Nups are predicted to contain helices and strands throughout the length of the protein without substantial disordered regions, suggesting these Nups may contribute to forming the structural scaffold of the *Plasmodium* NPC. These  $\alpha$ -solenoid and  $\beta$ -propeller folds typically form interaction interfaces that facilitate the binding of other proteins due to their extensive solvent-accessible



**FIG 4** Proximity labeling with Nup434 identifies all FG-Nups and newly identified Nup candidates. (A) Schematic representation of the construct used for the experiment is shown on the left where 0.5 cm = 500 aa. Streptavidin staining shows the biotinylation of proteins in the nuclear periphery. (B) Venn diagram showing proteins identified in independent duplicates that were not observed in the wild-type control for the *nup434::turbolD* MS experiment. (C) Comparison of mean normalized spectral abundance for proteins detected in both *nup313::turbolD* (*x* axis) and the reciprocal *nup434::turbolD* (*y* axis) experiments. All FG-Nups (green) as well as 3 of the remaining four candidate-Nups (orange) are identified in both independent experiments.

surfaces. Furthermore, they allow significant variation in sequence while retaining the core structure, thus optimizing protein-protein interactions for Nups (63).

Finally, we analyzed the novel Nups for the presence of coiled-coil domains using Deep Coil 2 (64). Long coiled coil domains which are a few hundred residues in length, such as those found in Nup335 (Fig. S6), mediate interactions between different Nups within the NPC (6).

While potential relationships identified by remote homology detection methods in a few of the newly identified *Plasmodium* Nups suggest a shared ancestry, these proteins generally lack any discernible relationship to known nucleoporins, reinforcing the evolutionary divergence of the Plasmodium NPC.

**Novel Nups are essential for asexual life cycle progression.** Two of the 5 Nups are predicted to be essential for asexual life cycle progression from the large-scale PlasmoGEM forward mutagenesis screen in *P. berghei* (Table 1) while the remaining 3 (Nup335, 176, 269) were not targeted in this screen (65). In order to provide additional evidence for a critical role in parasite biology, we attempted to generate knockout lines for these 3 Nups using established methodologies (41). Knockouts of Nup335, 176, and 269 failed repeatedly (n = 3 transfections for each gene), consistent with an important or essential role for these and all known Nups in the *P. berghei* blood stage in maintaining a functional NPC (Table 1). Furthermore, a genome wide transposon insertional mutagenesis screen in *P. falciparum* did not recover any insertions within the orthologs of any of the 5 candidate Nups despite their substantial size, consistent with a vital blood stage role for each in maintaining a functional NPC (66).

**Mass-spectrometric analyses of** *nup434::turboid* **parasite lysates.** Finally, as a reciprocal experiment, we tagged the candidate inner-ring Nup434 with TurbolD to validate the initial bait Nup313-Nup434 interaction. We carried out fluorescence microscopy to confirm its localization and visible biotinylation at the nuclear periphery (Fig. 4A). Massspectrometry analysis was carried out on 2 independent biological replicates for mutant parasites along with one wild-type control (Table S3). Excluding proteins present in the wild-type control, we identified 696 proteins in sample 1 and 694 proteins in sample 2, of which 560 were common between the duplicates (Fig. 4B). The high number of proteins identified in this experiment could be due to the variation in expression levels of Nup434 compared to Nup133, but also its orientation and position within the NPC that may facilitate greater access to the C-terminal TurbolD fusion.

Comparing the 2 independent mass spectrometry experiments, we identified all 5 known FG-Nups and 4 novel-Nups (Fig. 4C). In the nup434::turbolD mass spectrometry data set, Nup313 and Nup434 were among the top 5% of proteins with mean NSAF values of 403 and 330, respectively. Another candidate, Nup176, was also within this group with a mean NSAF of 408. Forty-five proteins (12%) in our data set were ribosomal subunits, which could represent contaminants or cargo that were labeled by NPC components as they were transported between the nucleus and cytoplasm. We also detected the karyopherin beta protein in our samples, which belongs to the group of proteins responsible for the import (as importins) and export (as exportins) of macromolecules in and out of the nucleus via active transport through the NPC. Finally, given the large number of total proteins identified in this experiment, not surprisingly, we identified 38 proteins without a signal peptide and functional annotation on PlasmoDB. Since a typical eukaryotic NPC contains approximately 30 Nups, there is potential for further examination of these proteins. Altogether, we were able to identify all known NPC components as well as nucleo-cytoplasmic transport molecules in this nup434::turbolD mass spectrometry experiment, strengthening confidence that the Nup candidates are bona fide members of the Plasmodium NPC.

# DISCUSSION

Nuclear pore proteins are key elements of eukaryotic biology. They function as essential conduits for proteins, RNA, and small molecules between the nucleus and cytoplasm, and exert key roles for gene regulation as well as karyokinesis (nuclear division) during mitosis. Yet, none of these aspects of NPC biology are understood in the malaria parasite due to the unique nature of its NPC. Despite 1.5 billion years of evolution, Nups remain well conserved across many eukaryotes including yeast, humans, trypanosomes, and even the apicomplexan Toxoplasma gondii (13), but curiously not Plasmodium. With the exception of Sec13 (12, 14) and 4 Nups containing FG-repeat modules (11, 12), efforts to identify Plasmodium NPC components through protein homology have failed (11, 67). Similarly, purification of nucleoporins through fractionation or co-immunoprecipitation, successful in many eukaryotes, has been futile (personal observations); this could be due to the large sizes of many nucleoporins we have now identified in P. berghei (Table 1). TurbolD-mediated biotin labeling on the other hand emerged to be an efficient and rapid visualization method that also aids the annotation and biological classification of orphan or taxonomically restricted genes in this protozoan. We employed BioID to explore the composition of the Plasmodium NPC through proximity labeling followed by mass spectrometry and successfully identified known and previously unrecognized Nups. Past studies using BioID have already demonstrated its capability to study apicomplexan biology (23); here we extended these prospects to the rodent malaria model P. berghei NPC and tested various biotin ligase protein tags. Our data show that under physiological biotin serum levels, typically ranging from 6 to 15 ng/mL (40), TurboID, but no other biotin ligase variants, produced a reliable NPC signal that can be detected rapidly in acetone/methanol-fixed blood smears. While first-generation BioID/BirA\* effectively mediates biotinylation in long-lived P. berghei gametocytes (erythrocyte-resident, non-dividing sexual precursor cells) when they are provided with 1 mM biotin in the drinking water of mice (30), we demonstrate here for the first time that labeling is possible without supplementation in asexual stage parasites in the in vivo mouse model using TurboID. An analysis of various BiolD variants in mammalian cell culture by Roux et al. compared TurbolD and miniturboID to the parental ligase, BioID, under basal as well as varying biotin concentrations in culture medium (50  $\mu$ M or 500  $\mu$ M) (68). TurbolD was shown to be most effective, efficiently carrying out biotinylation at basal biotin levels present in culture

medium, whereas miniturboID was deemed unstable, leading to a lack of protein detection; this could explain our negative results with this smallest of ligases albeit anti-tag immunofluorescence assays show full-length expression of miniturbolD-tagged Nup138. Our approach reduces the complexity and time required to study the localization of the P. berghei NPC through a versatile, single-step approach that uses a fluorophore-conjugated streptavidin reagent. This acts as a fast-track method of confirming mutants and pinpointing subcellular protein localization. The results also show that it is possible to fuze a TurbolD tag to proteins of varying and often considerable sizes without mislocalization or hindrance to the formation and functionality of the NPC. All known, and novel Nups identified in our mass spectrometry experiments display a localization pattern at the nuclear periphery and transcript abundance similar to that of previously characterized GFP-tagged FG-repeat Nups (12). While we could not obtain any homology information through BLAST sequence similarity searches across different eukaryotes, Phyre2 — a protein structure prediction tool (69) — revealed structural similarities of Nup434 with the considerably smaller human Nup155 and Nup133 proteins; both act as scaffold Nups that contain seven-bladed beta-propeller regions. The structural similarity of Nup335 with condensin SMC4 could indicate a role for the NPC and one its constituents during DNA replication and closed mitosis in *P. berghei*. Despite the overall evolutionary divergence that prevents sequence-based recognition of homology, Plasmodium Nups share basic structural features common to eukaryotic NPC components that include: FGrepeats,  $\alpha$ -solenoids, and  $\beta$ -propellers. On the other hand, all nucleoporins identified in Plasmodium possess distinct features (12): these idiosyncrasies include a large poly-proline extension at the C-terminus of Sec13; a change of the widely conserved GLFG motif of many FG-repeat Nups to [SN]XFG (63 out of 95 FG repeats adhere to this motif; only 5 to the GLFG motif); and lastly the extraordinary large molecular mass of many Plasmodium Nups. The inability to identify clear structural homologs of other candidate-Nups as well as previously known FG-Nups demonstrates the advantage of proximity labeling to assign function to orphan proteins in evolutionarily distant eukaryotes and opens the door to understanding the unique evolutionary divergence of the NPC in this early-branching protozoan.

In *Plasmodium*, there is evidence only for the existence of nuclear pores and their dynamics during the blood stage (12, 15, 17, 70). Apart from Sec13, 2 independent studies have recently confirmed the localization of the *P. berghei* Nup313 ortholog *Pf*Nup313 (its actual molecular mass is predicted to be 347 kDa) to the nuclear periphery in multiple asexual and sexual stages of the parasite, and revealed an association with microtubules in multiple asexual and sexual stages of the parasite (15, 16); this interaction is also evident from our Nup313::turbolD labeling experiment. Our data will allow deeper exploration of NPC dynamics during the cell division cycle in the asexual blood stage (schizogony), but also in the less accessible mosquito and vertebrate liver stage, where cytokinesis produces thousands of daughter cells in a few days (71). These proliferative stages of the malaria parasite life cycle (schizont, oocyst, and liver stage) may be susceptible to intervention of NPC formation as shown in cancer cells, which are known to be particularly sensitive to such disruption causing cell death (72).

In total, we have now confirmed 11 nucleoporins in malaria parasites; considering that eukaryotic NPCs typically contain some 30+ different Nups, several may remain to be discovered in this apicomplexan parasite. However, many of the identified *Plasmodium* Nups are noticeably larger than those found in humans or yeast. For example, the largest Nup in humans is FG-Nup358, or the inner ring Nup188 in yeast. Perhaps Nups in *Plasmodium* are in fact (yet) unrecognizable fusions of 2 or more nucleoporins as suggested for the Sec13-Nup145C fusion in *P. falciparum* Sec13 (14). The identification of short structural homology regions within Nup434 may lend some support to this notion.

**Conclusions.** Our study provides the first systematic analysis of enzymatic activity of various biotin ligases in the rodent malaria model *P. berghei*. Using the nuclear pore complex as an example, we demonstrate the value of TurbolD in facilitating protein localization as well as providing insight into protein complex composition and orphan

protein annotation in *P. berghei*, a malaria model that allows the rapid generation of mutants. Our data offer the first detailed view of the constituents of the *Plasmodium* nuclear pore complex and highlight the evolutionarily divergent nature of its constituent Nups, in particular from its human host.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Plasmid construction.** For comparison of various biotin ligases, nucleoporin 138 (Nup138) was used as the bait protein. The C-terminal region of the gene was PCR-amplified from *P. berghei* genomic DNA using Q5 High-Fidelity DNA polymerase. BioID2-3XHA was obtained from Addgene (#74224) and was fused in-frame to the C-terminal end of the Nup138 resulting in plasmid pLIS0574 (Table S1) which also contains the *Toxoplasma gondii* DHFR selection marker. Each Nup138 tagging construct includes a 1,848 bp fragment encoding the C-terminal region of the 3,714 bp long gene to promote homologous recombination. Similarly, another fusion protein plasmid was made with the same bait protein but with a 13X GGGGS linker between the C-terminal end of the Nup138 using the plasmid pLIS0574 (Table S1); likewise mini-TurboID-3XHA (Addgene #107172) and BirA\* (12). As a wild-type control, we used the 2.34 *P. berghei* clone containing none of the biotin ligases. To ensure that the nuclear periphery specific signal was from the biotin ligase fused to Nup138, we constructed a plasmid with the promoter sequence of Nup138 and TurboID as a negative control. All cloning was carried out either with T4 DNA ligase or NEBuilder HiFi (NEB).

To tag all additional FG-Nups with TurboID, we replaced the Nup138 flank in pLIS0654 with flanks for the respective genes by amplifying the C-terminal regions from the genomic locus. For visualization of candidate-Nups identified via mass spectrometry, we used pLIS0010 to tag each protein with GFP. For *nup434::turboID-ha*, we replaced the gene flank using pLIS0654.

**Transfections and maintenance of mice.** For plasmid transfection, mature schizonts were purified using MACS columns (Miltenyibiotec); transfection was performed according to established protocols (41). Transfected parasites were injected into mice intravenously using a  $0.37 \times 12.7$  mm insulin syringe. Mutants were selected and maintained with 0.07 mg/mL pyrimethamine in drinking water provided *ad libitum*. Once parasitemia reached 4 to 6%, mice were sacrificed by heart puncture and blood collected for further experimentation as outlined below.

**Genotyping.** 50-100  $\mu$ L blood was lysed in RBC lysis buffer; genomic DNA was extracted from 50-100  $\mu$ L cardiac puncture blood using IBI Scientific Mini Genomic DNA Kit (Blood & Cultured Cells) according to the manufacturer's instructions. PCR genotyping for mutant parasites was carried out using primers across the homologous recombination regions. This was done such that there is a forward primer in the genomic region and reverse primer in the plasmid region at the 3' end, and a forward primer in the plasmid and reverse primer in the genomic region at the 5' end; bands of the correct sizes for both 3' and 5' confirm integration. An unmodified genomic locus and DHFR control were used as positive PCR controls. All primer sequences are available upon request. Recombinant *Taq* DNA polymerase (Invitrogen) was used for PCR and conditions were used as indicated in the protocol.

**Streptavidin staining.** Thin blood smears were made from 2  $\mu$ L of blood obtained from the cardiac puncture of the infected mouse. After drying, the smears were fixed in 1:1 (vol/vol) methanol/acetone for 2 min at  $-20^{\circ}$ C. Fixed smears can be stored at  $-20^{\circ}$ C indefinitely. All the subsequent steps were carried out at room temperature. The fixed slides were first rehydrated in PBS for 15 min. The slides were then blocked using BlockOut - Universal Blocking Buffer (Rockland immunochemicals) for 1 h at RT. For streptavidin staining, blocked slides (see above) were incubated with Streptavidin-Alexa Fluor 594 Conjugate (Thermo Fisher) at 1:500 dilution in blocking buffer for 1 h at room temperature. To stain nuclear DNA, slides were mounted with 20  $\mu$ L of Invitrogen Fluoromount-G containing DAPI. Images were taken on Zeiss Axio Observer with Axiocam 702 mono camera and Zen 2.6 Pro Software. Exposure times for each channel were kept consistent across all samples. Images were analyzed with Zeiss Zen blue software. For each line, at least 100 cells were counted and representative images are shown.

Western blot. For Western blots to observe the biotinylation of proteins, parasite-infected blood was collected from mice by cardiac puncture and cultured for 18h in complete RPMI supplemented with 200  $\mu$ M biotin. Biotin-free media was used as a control for each mutant line as well as a wild-type control cultured under the same conditions. Parasites were collected the next day, washed, and lysed with 0.015% cold saponin. Samples were spun down, the parasite pellet was washed thrice with cold PBS, and finally lysed with RIPA and 1X protease inhibitor cocktail. After a freeze-thaw cycle, SDS sample loading buffer was added to the samples and denatured at 95°C. Samples were loaded onto a 7.5% Mini-Protean TGX precast gel for separation. The transfer was carried out overnight at 4°C. The membrane was blocked with 3% dry milk in PBST and incubated with IRDye 800-conjugated streptavidin at 1:500 for detection of biotinylated proteins. The blots were imaged with an Odyssey infrared imaging system (Li-COR Biosciences).

**Antibodies for IFA.** BlockOut-treated slides (see above) were incubated with rabbit polyclonal anti-HA antibody (ProteinTech) at 1:100 dilution or rabbit anti-myc antibody (ThermoFisher) at 1:100 in the same blocking buffer overnight at 4°C. Goat anti-rabbit highly cross absorbed secondary antibody, Alexa Fluor 594 (ThermoFisher) was then used at 1:1000 dilution for 1 h at RT. ER staining was done using rabbit polyclonal anti-PfBiP (MRA-1246, BEI resources) at 1:500 dilution. Fluorophore conjugated WGA and AAL were used at 1:500 dilutions. For localization of candidate Nups, rabbit polyclonal anti-GFP (enQuire bioreagents) antibody was used at 1:100 dilution. For all IFA experiments, nuclear DNA was stained with DAPI present in Invitrogen Fluoromount-G.

**Preparation of protein sample and proteomics by mass spectrometry.** To identify novel nuclear pore components, we carried out streptavidin magnetic bead pull-down followed by mass spectrometry (MS) using protein lysates prepared from the TurbolD fusion proteins. In brief, following cardiac puncture of infected mice, parasites were grown in culture O/N with RPMI 1640 media (Sigma-Aldrich) to generate a homogenous schizont population. Parasites were purified using a MACS column to remove uninfected RBCs. Following elution with RPMI, erythrocytes were lysed with cold 0.05% saponin; parasites were then washed twice with cold 1 x PBS and pelleted at 4000G at 4°C. Cells were finally lysed with 8M Urea with 1 mM DTT containing Halt protease inhibitor cocktail (Thermo Scientific). The sample was incubated with 50  $\mu$ L magnetic streptavidin beads at 4°C overnight on a rotator to bind biotinylated proteins. The following day, beads were collected using a magnetic column and washed thrice on a rotator at room temperature for 5 min with a buffer containing 8M Urea, 50 mM Tris, and 0.01% Triton X-100. A final wash was done with wash buffer without Triton X-100 and the beads were diluted in 8M Urea. Mass spectrometric analysis (LC-MS/MS) was performed at the UCLA proteomics facility and ISU protein facility.

The proteins bound to streptavidin beads were reduced and alkylated via sequential 20-minute incubations of 5 mM TCEP and 10 mM iodoacetamide at room temperature in the dark while being mixed at 1200 rpm in an Eppendorf thermomixer. Proteins were then 1digested by the addition of 0.1  $\mu$ g Lys-C (FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Corporation, 125-05061) and 0.8  $\mu$ g Trypsin (Thermo Scientific, 90057) while shaking 37°C overnight. The digested samples were quenched by addition of formic acid, desalted, and then resuspended in 15  $\mu$ L of 5% formic acid for analysis by LC-MS/MS.

Peptide samples were separated on a 75uM ID x 25 cm C18 column and eluted directly into a Thermo Orbitrap Fusion Lumos mass spectrometer. MS spectra were acquired by Data Dependent Acquisition (DDA). Database search was performed by using ProLuCID (73) and DTASelect2 (74, 75) implemented in Integrated Proteomics Pipeline IP2 (Integrated Proteomics Applications) and searched against *P. berghei* database available on PlasmoDB. A PSM-level false positive rate was set at less than 1% as estimated by a target-decoy database competition strategy, protein and peptide identifications were filtered by DTASelect2 and a minimum of 2 unique peptides per protein are required for confident protein identification.

**Bioinformatic analyses.** All DNA and protein sequences used in bioinformatic analyses were acquired from PlasmoDB (release 51, 16 March 2021 or earlier) (20). To calculate the enrichment of Nups, a hypergeometric test developed by the Graeber Lab was used (https://systems.crumP.ucla.edu/hypergeometric/index.php). Phyre2 was used with default parameters for function prediction of the proteins by homology modeling (69). The PANTHER classification system was used to analyze mass spectrometry hits by protein class and biological function. First, PBANKA IDs from Table 1 were entered into Uniprot via the Retrieve/ID mapping option and converted into UniProtKB IDs using gene names. The Uniprot accession numbers were then plugged into PANTHER (http://www.pantherdb.org/) (Mi et al., 2019) and *P. berghei* was chosen as the reference proteome to carry out the functional classification. Proteins were grouped into the following categories: molecular function, biological process, cellular component, protein class, and pathway.

**Data availability.** The data sets supporting the conclusions of this article are included within the article and its additional files: Table S2 and Table S3. The mass spectrometry proteomics data are deposited in ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository with the accession number PXD034491.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental material is available online only. FIG S1, PDF file, 0.4 MB. FIG S2, PDF file, 0.3 MB. FIG S3, PDF file, 0.1 MB. FIG S4, PDF file, 0.2 MB. FIG S5, PDF file, 0.6 MB. FIG S6, PDF file, 0.1 MB. TABLE S1, DOCX file, 0.01 MB. TABLE S2, XLSX file, 0.02 MB. TABLE S3, XLSX file, 0.1 MB. TABLE S4, XLSX file, 0.01 MB.

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G.R.M. initiated the study. G.R.M. and S.V.A. designed and performed the experiments, analyzed the experiments and organized the data. G.R.M. and J.R.B. supervised the

experiments. S.V.A., J.R.B., and G.R.M. contributed to writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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We declare that there are no competing interests.

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