

# Abnormal centrosomal structure and duplication in Cep135-deficient vertebrate cells

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**ABSTRACT** Centrosomes are key microtubule-organizing centers that contain a pair of centrioles, conserved cylindrical, microtubule-based structures. Centrosome duplication occurs once per cell cycle and relies on templated centriole assembly. In many animal cells this process starts with the formation of a radially symmetrical cartwheel structure. The centrosomal protein Cep135 localizes to this cartwheel, but its role in vertebrates is not well understood. Here we examine the involvement of Cep135 in centriole function by disrupting the *Cep135* gene in the DT40 chicken B-cell line. DT40 cells that lack Cep135 are viable and show no major defects in centrosome composition or function, although we note a small decrease in centriole numbers and a concomitant increase in the frequency of monopolar spindles. Furthermore, electron microscopy reveals an atypical structure in the lumen of Cep135-deficient centrioles. Centrosome amplification after hydroxyurea treatment increases significantly in Cep135-deficient cells, suggesting an inhibitory role for the protein in centrosome reduplication during S-phase delay. We propose that Cep135 is required for the structural integrity of centrioles in proliferating vertebrate cells, a role that also limits centrosome amplification in S-phase-arrested cells.

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## INTRODUCTION

The centrosome is the primary site of microtubule nucleation in animal somatic cells. Centrosomes control a number of processes, including mitotic spindle formation, cell polarity, motility, and intracellular trafficking. Defects in centrosome number or function compromise stem cell division, DNA-damage responses, and faithful chromosome segregation, leading to a variety of diseases, such as microcephaly, dwarfism, ciliopathies, and cancer. Centrosome numbers are therefore under strict

control, with centrosome duplication limited to once per cell cycle.

The centrosome consists of a pair of centrioles—cylindrical structures of 0.2–0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  composed of nine microtubule triplets. Centrioles are surrounded by electron-dense, pericentriolar material (PCM), which serves as the main microtubule nucleation site within the centrosome, and nearby lie the centriolar satellites, electron-dense granules that contribute to centrosome function, possibly by mediating protein transport to the centrosome (Dammermann and Merdes, 2002). Centriole duplication is initiated in late G1/early S phase. Each centriole, the so-called mother centriole, templates the assembly of a procentriole. The wall of procentrioles is initially composed of nine singlet microtubules, but these are converted to doublets and/or triplets as the procentrioles elongate to form a new centriole, the daughter centriole (Hinchcliffe and Sluder, 2001; Doxsey *et al.*, 2005; Bettencourt-Dias and Glover, 2007; Nigg, 2007). Procentriole assembly depends on a structural scaffold. In *Caenorhabditis elegans*, procentrioles form around a central tube comprising the conserved proteins Sas-5 and Sas-6 (Dammermann *et al.*, 2004; Delattre and Gonczy, 2004; Leidel *et al.*, 2005). In other organisms, such as *Chlamydomonas*, *Drosophila*, and vertebrates, the procentriole

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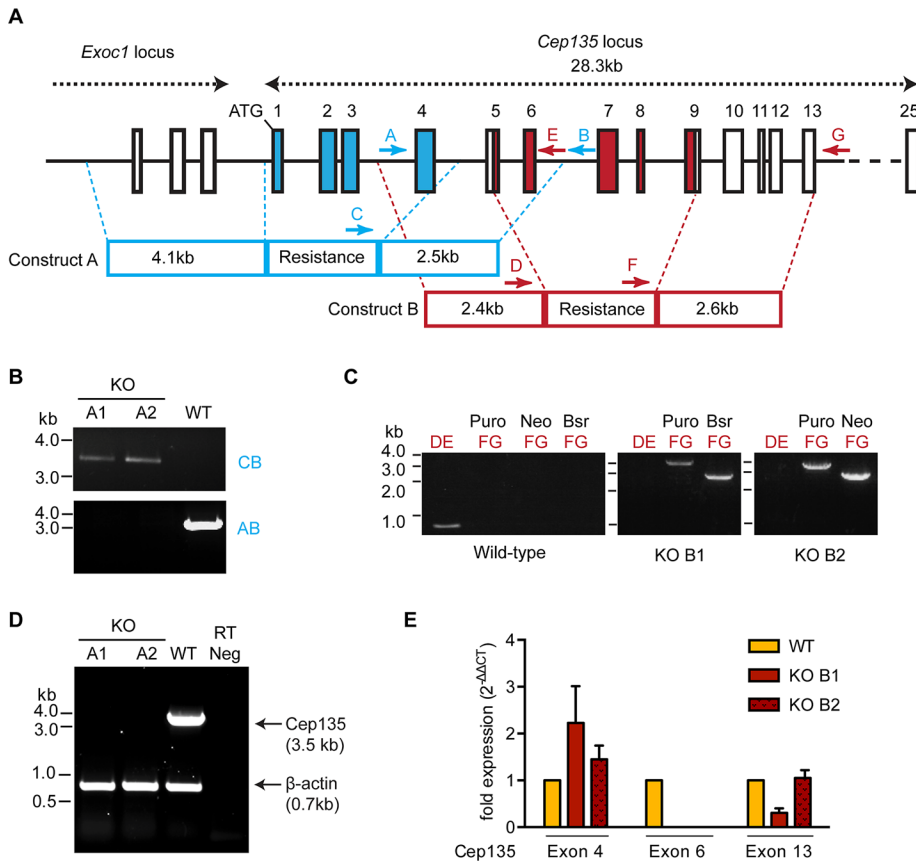
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Abbreviations used: BrdU, 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine; DMSO, dimethyl sulfoxide; FCS, fetal calf serum; HU, hydroxyurea; KO, knockout; MT, microtubule; NA, numerical aperture; PCM, pericentriolar material; RFP, red fluorescent protein; RNAi, RNA interference; TAP, tandem affinity purification; TEM, transmission electron microscopy.

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**FIGURE 1:** Gene targeting of chicken *Cep135*. (A) Schematic shows the *chicken Cep135* genomic locus and the targeting constructs used to replace either exons 1–4 (construct A) or exons 5–9 (construct B) of *Cep135* with the indicated drug resistance cassettes. The positions of the allele-specific and the resistance cassette-specific primers used for PCR-based genotypic analysis are shown as capital letters (A–G). (B, C) Agarose gel images showing the allele-specific PCR products from the wild-type (*Cep135*<sup>+/+</sup>), (B) *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> (KO) A1 and A2, and (C) *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> (KO) B1 and B2 cell lines. Capital letters correspond to primer pairs indicated in A. Bsr, blastidicin; Neo, neomycin; Puro, puromycin. (D) An agarose gel image showing the *Cep135* and  $\beta$ -actin-specific RT-PCR products from the wild-type and *Cep135* KO A1 and A2 DT40 cell lines. (E) qPCR analysis of several *Cep135* exons in clones of the indicated genotype. Histogram indicates  $C_T$  values referenced to *glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase* (*GAPDH*) and normalized to wild-type values. Error bars indicate SEM from two triplicate experiments.

forms around a cartwheel-like structure (Cavalier-Smith, 1974). The cartwheel consists of a central hub surrounded by nine radial spokes. This ninefold-symmetrical structure is believed to dictate the structure of the nascent centriole. Sas-6 is a highly conserved protein that localizes to the proximal end of the mother centriole at the position of the cartwheel (Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007; Strnad *et al.*, 2007). Recent reports show that Sas-6 oligomerizes into a ring-like structure with nine coiled-coil domains projecting outward, thus closely resembling the central hub and the nine radial spokes that constitute the cartwheel (Kitagawa *et al.*, 2011; van Breugel *et al.*, 2011).

Bld10/Cep135 is another highly conserved centrosomal protein involved in cartwheel assembly (Carvalho-Santos *et al.*, 2010). Analysis of *Chlamydomonas* mutants with defective flagella demonstrated a requirement for Bld10 in the assembly of basal bodies, which are analogous to centrioles (Matsuura *et al.*, 2004). Expression of *bld10*-deletion mutants in *Chlamydomonas* caused the formation of centrioles with altered numbers of centriolar microtubules due to reduced cartwheel diameters (Hiraki *et al.*, 2007). Bld10 is also required for basal body formation in *Paramecium* and, in both protists,

it localizes to the tips of the cartwheel spokes (Matsuura *et al.*, 2004; Hiraki *et al.*, 2007; Jerka-Dziadosz *et al.*, 2010). Its absence destabilized Sas-6p at the cartwheel hub, even though Bld10 was not required for the establishment of a structure with ninefold symmetry (Nakazawa *et al.*, 2007; Jerka-Dziadosz *et al.*, 2010). In *Tetrahymena*, Bld10 shows a similar localization to the outer cartwheel and is also required for basal body assembly and maintenance (Bayless *et al.*, 2012). In *Drosophila*, Bld10 depletion led to defects in centriole duplication and PCM maturation (Dobbelaere *et al.*, 2008), and *bld10* mutants exhibited centrioles and basal bodies that were shorter than controls (Mottier-Pavie and Megraw, 2009). Recent data indicate that cartwheels can assemble in the absence of *Drosophila* Bld10, although they appear to lack stability (Roque *et al.*, 2012).

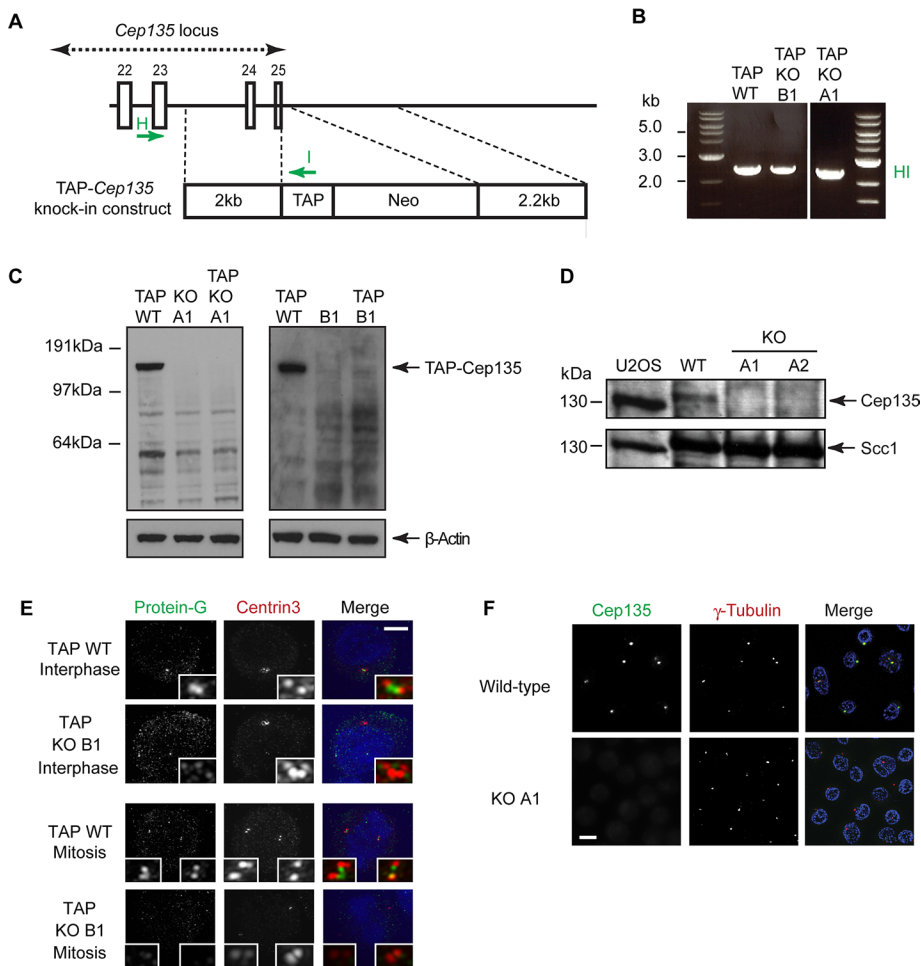
The mammalian orthologue of Bld10, Cep135, localizes to the proximal lumen and exterior of centrioles, as determined by immuno-electron microscopy analyses in hamster (Ohta *et al.*, 2002) and human (Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007) cells. Recent work using superresolution three-dimensional structured illumination microscopy in human cells localized the principal Cep135 signal to the proximal end of mother centrioles, with a weaker signal on nascent daughter centrioles (Sonnen *et al.*, 2012). Depletion of Cep135 prevented PLK4-induced centriole overduplication in human cells (Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007). Cep135 deficiency caused the delocalization of other centrosomal proteins from the proximal end of the centrioles (Uetake *et al.*, 2004; Kim *et al.*, 2008), and recent data demonstrated significant centriole abnormalities resulting from Cep135 depletion in human cells (Lin

*et al.*, 2013). Furthermore, a mutation in *Cep135* has been reported to cause primary microcephaly (Hussain, 2012), highlighting the potential importance of Cep135 in centrosome function. Despite these observations, the precise function of Cep135 in the vertebrate centrosome is not well understood.

In this study, we use gene targeting in the genetically tractable DT40 cell line to disrupt Cep135 function. *Cep135*-knockout cells are viable and capable of centriole duplication. A small increase in monopolar spindles is observed, with a concomitant reduction in centriole numbers, indicative of minor perturbations of centriole biogenesis. Although the centrosomes appear generally intact, we note an atypical electron-dense structure within centrioles. Furthermore, centriole amplification is significantly elevated during prolonged S-phase in cells that lack Cep135. These data indicate a role for Cep135 in centriole integrity and the control of centrosome number during S-phase delay.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To investigate the effect of Cep135 deficiency on centrosome function and structure, we used targeted gene disruption in the



**FIGURE 2:** *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> cells lack Cep135 protein. (A) TAP-Cep135 knock-in construct designed to introduce a C-terminal TAP tag to Cep135. Targeting of this construct into the *Cep135* locus removes the endogenous stop codon and allows expression of the TAP sequence as a fusion with Cep135. (B) PCR using the primers HI shown in A to assess correct integration of the TAP tag in the indicated clones. (C) Western blots of heterozygous Cep135-TAP-tagged clones of the indicated genotype using antibodies to protein G, a component of the TAP tag. We used  $\beta$ -actin as a loading control. (D) Western blots of human osteosarcoma U2OS and DT40 wild-type and *Cep135* KO A1 and A2 total protein extracts with anti-Cep135 antibody. Scc1 serves as a loading control. (E) Localization of TAP-Cep135 protein products in the indicated clones visualized with structured illumination microscopy. Centrin3 (red) was used as a distal centriolar marker, and DNA was stained with Hoechst 33258 (blue). TAP-Cep135 was detected by antibodies against protein G (green). Scale bar, 3  $\mu$ m. (F) Immunofluorescence microscopy analysis of clones of the indicated genotype. Cells were stained with antibodies against Cep135 (green) and  $\gamma$ -tubulin (red) as a reference marker. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m.

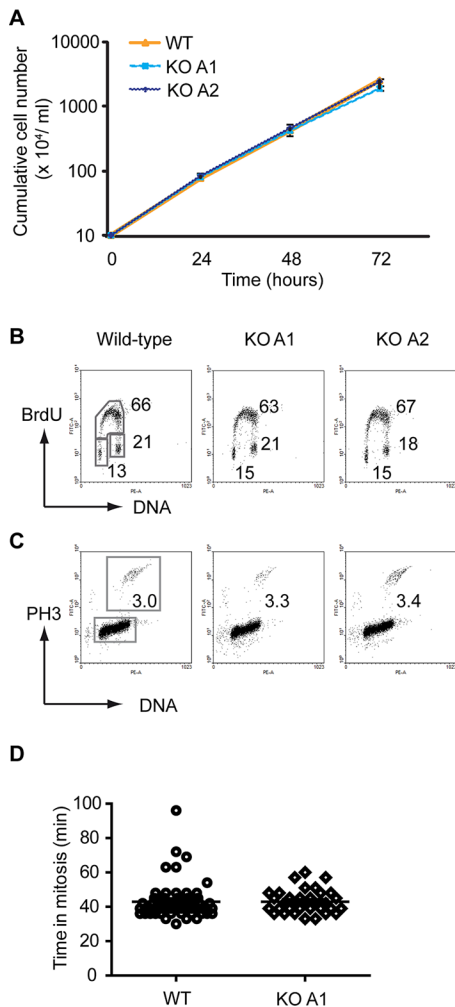
hyperrecombinogenic chicken B-cell line, DT40. We identified the chicken *Cep135* orthologue from the National Center for Biotechnology Information database and confirmed its sequence by 5' rapid amplification of cDNA ends and reverse transcription (RT)-PCR analysis of DT40 RNA. The large size of the *Cep135* locus precluded simple disruption of the entire gene. Therefore, as shown in Figure 1A, two knockout strategies were chosen to disrupt the *Cep135* locus: the first, using construct A, deleted the genomic region encoding exons 1–4, and the second, using construct B, deleted the region encoding exons 5–9 (Figure 1A). Sequential gene targeting with either of these constructs yielded several clones in which the *Cep135* locus was disrupted (Figure 1, B and C). To indicate which strategy was used, clones generated with construct A are described as *Cep135* knockout (KO) A1 and

these data clearly demonstrate that our targeting of *Cep135* resulted in the loss of the full-length Cep135 protein in both KO A1 and KO B1 cell lines. We therefore used the two cell lines interchangeably to assay the loss-of-function phenotype of *Cep135*.

We next analyzed the proliferative properties of *Cep135* KO cells. As shown in Figure 3A, *Cep135*-deficient cells proliferated at a rate indistinguishable from that of wild-type cells. Flow cytometry analysis of the *Cep135*-targeted cells showed no difference from wild type with respect to the proportions of the population undergoing DNA replication (Figure 3B) or mitosis (Figure 3C). To extend our analysis of mitosis in *Cep135*-deficient cells, we measured the duration of mitosis by live cell imaging using wild-type and *Cep135*-deficient cells that stably expressed histone H2B-RFP (Dodson *et al.*, 2007). The mean time taken from chromosome

A2 and those with construct B as *Cep135* KO B1 and B2.

RT-PCR analysis showed that the full-length *Cep135* transcript was absent from *Cep135* KO A1 and A2 (Figure 1D), although a weak signal from the region 3' of the deleted sequence was observed (data not shown), suggesting that some downstream transcript remains in cells. Similarly, quantitative RT-PCR on clones B1 and B2 showed that no transcript was detectable from the deleted exon 6, although sequences from the neighboring exons 4 and 13 were present at levels similar to those seen wild-type cells (Figure 1E). To investigate whether *Cep135*-targeted cells were indeed deficient in Cep135 protein expression, we placed a tandem affinity purification (TAP) tag (Burckstummer *et al.*, 2006), comprising protein G and streptavidin-binding protein, in frame with the last exon of *Cep135* by gene targeting in wild-type, A1, and B1 cells (Figure 2, A and B). These cell lines were called TAP KO A1 or TAP KO B1. Western blots with anti-protein G antibodies revealed a 150-kDa band in TAP-wild-type cells. This corresponds to full-length Cep135 plus the TAP tag, which has a molecular weight of 17 kDa. In TAP KO A1 and TAP KO B1 cells, however, no product was detected, suggesting that the *Cep135* KO cell lines are protein null (Figure 2C). To further confirm that the cell lines were protein null, we examined Cep135 protein levels by immunoblot with an antibody raised against the C-terminal end of the human Cep135 coding sequence (Ohta *et al.*, 2002). As shown in Figure 2D, this antibody detected no bands corresponding to Cep135 in *Cep135* KO cells. Consistently, despite robust centrosomal signals in wild-type cells, immunofluorescence microscopy failed to detect a centrosomal signal in TAP KO A1 (data not shown) or TAP KO B1 cells when using antibodies directed against the TAP tag (Figure 2E). Similarly, antibodies to human Cep135 did not reveal a centrosomal signal in KO A1 cells (Figure 2F). Together



**FIGURE 3:** *Cep135* null cells are viable and show no proliferative defect. (A) Proliferation analysis of *Cep135* KO DT40 cells. Cells were seeded at  $10^5$ /ml, and cell numbers were counted over 72 h. Data show mean  $\pm$  SD of three separate experiments. (B) Quantitative cell cycle analysis of asynchronous cells of the indicated genotype stained for incorporated BrdU and total DNA levels. The G1 (bottom left), S (top), and G2/M (bottom right) gates are indicated in boxes, and the numbers refer to the percentage of cells detected in each of the gates averaged from three separate experiments. (C) Mitotic indices for wild type and two *Cep135* KO clones were determined by M-phase marker phosphorylated histone H3 (PH3). The numbers refer to the percentage of cells in M phase averaged from three separate experiments. (D) Duration of mitosis in wild-type and *Cep135* KO cells. Graph shows the mean of time in mitosis and the mean of time from the beginning of prometaphase to the end metaphase and the mean of time from the beginning of anaphase to the end of telophase. Each data point represents one cell. Data show mean  $\pm$  SD for the 50 individual cells analyzed in three different experiments.

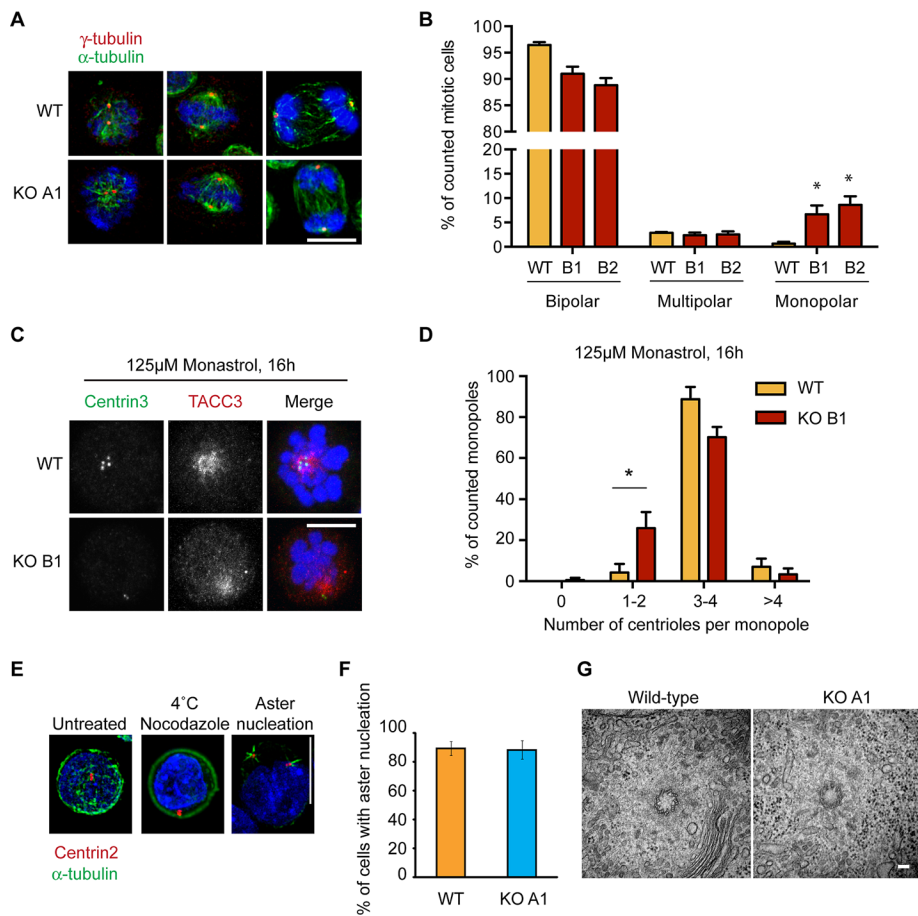
condensation to decondensation was found to be 42.9 min in both wild-type cells and *Cep135*-deficient cells (Figure 3D), indicating that mitotic progression is normal in cells that lack *Cep135*. Although the data presented in this figure were obtained from clones generated with construct A, those that resulted from targeting with construct B showed similar proliferative characteristics with no significant difference from wild-type cells (data not shown). These results indicate that full-length *Cep135* is dispensable for cell viability and normal cell cycle progression in DT40 cells. Given

the degree to which *Cep135* is evolutionarily conserved, we had expected a stronger phenotype, so an obvious issue is that of potential redundancy. Extensive BLAST searching of the chicken genome and EST databases has not provided any evidence for a duplication of *Cep135*. In a detailed bioinformatic analysis of *Cep135*, Carvalho-Santos *et al.* (2010) found that testis-specific protein 10 (*Tsga10*) shared high levels of sequence similarity with *Cep135* within a specific, conserved region. We confirmed that *Tsga10* was expressed in DT40 cells (Supplemental Figure S1C). To test whether *Tsga10* might serve redundant functions with *Cep135*, we disrupted *Tsga10* in *Cep135*-knockout cells, using the strategy shown in Supplemental Figure S1, A and B, and confirmed the loss of *Tsga10* expression (Supplemental Figure S1C). We found no significant alteration of spindle integrity in *Cep135/Tsga10* knockouts (Supplemental Figure S1D) and no effect on centriole number in monastrol-induced monopoles (Supplemental Figure S1E). From these data, we conclude that *Cep135* is nonredundant in DT40 cells.

Our time-lapse data suggested that mitotic spindle assembly was not greatly perturbed in *Cep135*-deficient cells. Indeed, fixed-cell analysis indicated that mitotic spindles in the majority of *Cep135*-deficient cells were bipolar, with  $\gamma$ -tubulin localized exclusively at the spindle poles and the chromosomes aligned at the metaphase plate, as in wild-type cells (Figure 4A). We observed, however, a small increase in the number of *Cep135*-deficient cells with monopolar spindles compared with wild-type cells (Figure 4B). Bipolar spindle lengths were  $7.66 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}$  in *Cep135*-deficient cells and  $7.41 \pm 1.0 \mu\text{m}$  in wild-type controls, showing no significant difference (Supplemental Figure S2). To allow accurate scoring of centriole numbers, we arrested wild-type and *Cep135*-deficient cells in mitosis by monastrol, a small-molecule inhibitor of Eg5, the kinesin responsible for centrosome separation. Monastrol treatment therefore causes formation of monopoles that contain both centrosomes, each with two centrioles (Figure 4C). Most monopoles in wild-type cells contained the normal centriole complement of four, with only 4% of the poles displaying one or two centrioles. Some of these may correspond to centriole pairs that could not be resolved by confocal microscopy. In contrast, 26% of monopoles in *Cep135*-deficient cells contained only one or two centrioles (Figure 4D). Collectively these data demonstrate that although *Cep135* is not essential for centriole biogenesis, its loss dysregulates control of centrosome number in a small proportion of cycling cells. Despite the increase in monopolar spindles and reduction in centriole numbers in *Cep135*-deficient cells, we observed only minor changes in proliferation rate and mitotic index. It is conceivable that our assays are not sensitive enough to detect subtle changes. Indeed, DT40 cells lacking another centrosomal protein, CEP63, exhibit >30% monopolarity and a dramatic reduction in centriole numbers, yet we observe only a 15% increase in doubling time (Sir *et al.* 2011).

We next examined the ability of *Cep135*-deficient centrosomes to nucleate microtubules after depolymerization of microtubules (MTs) after cold and nocodazole treatment. We found that in the absence of *Cep135*, cells were capable of nucleating MTs as well as wild-type cells, implying that *Cep135* is not essential for efficient microtubule nucleation in DT40 cells (Figure 4, E and F). Additional evidence for normal microtubule nucleation in *Cep135* KO cells came from transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis. As shown in Figure 4G, *Cep135*-deficient centrosomes associate with microtubules. Together with the data showing normal mitoses in *Cep135* KO cells, these results support the conclusion that there is no major effect of *Cep135* disruption on the microtubule-organizing activity of the centrosome in DT40 cells.





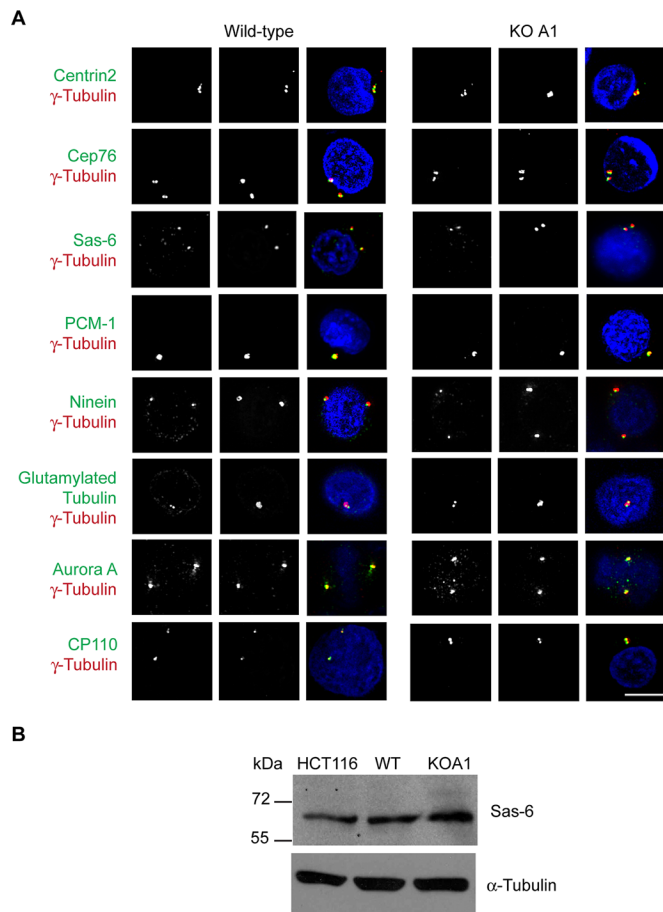
**FIGURE 4:** Analysis of mitosis and MT nucleation in *Cep135*-deficient cells. (A) Microscopy analysis of mitotic phases in wild-type and *Cep135* KO cells. Immunofluorescence images of mitotic cells of the indicated genotype stained with antibodies against  $\alpha$ -tubulin (red) and  $\gamma$ -tubulin (green); DNA is labeled with Hoechst 33258 (blue). Bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (B) Bipolar, multipolar, and monopolar spindles in wild-type and *Cep135* KO B1 and B2 cells were quantified in four independent experiments. Histogram shows mean + SEM of data from 150 mitotic cells per experiment. \* $p \leq 0.05$  in comparison with wild-type cells. (C) DT40 WT and *Cep135* KO B1 were treated with 125  $\mu$ M monastrol for 16 h. Cells were stained for antibodies against TACC3 (red) and centrin3 (green), and DNA is labeled with Hoechst 33258 (blue). Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (D) The number of centrioles within monopoles derived from monastrol-treated wild-type and KO B2 cells was counted in two independent experiments. Histogram shows mean + SEM of data from 50 mitotic cells per experiment. \* $p \leq 0.05$  in comparison with wild-type cells. (E) Immunofluorescence microscopy analysis of microtubule nucleation in wild-type DT40 cells before and after release from 3-h arrest in 1  $\mu$ g/ml nocodazole at 4°C. Cells were stained with antibodies to  $\alpha$ -tubulin (green) and centrin2 (red). DNA (blue) was visualized with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) staining before imaging. Scale bar, 10  $\mu$ m. (F) Quantitation of percentage of cells of the indicated genotype with aster nucleation after microtubule regrowth for 1 min at 39.5°C. Histogram shows mean  $\pm$  SD of three separate experiments in which at least 200 cells per experiment were counted. (G) Transmission electron micrographs of wild-type and *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> cells showing centriolar appendages and microtubules associated with the centrosome. Scale bar, 100 nm.

To investigate the effects of *Cep135* deficiency on centrosome composition, we next used immunofluorescence microscopy with antibodies specific to proteins localizing to different components of the centrosome. Analysis of components of the centrioles (centrin2, *Cep76*, ninein, glutamylated tubulin), cartwheel (*Sas-6*), PCM ( $\gamma$ -tubulin, Aurora A), and pericentriolar satellites (*PCM1*) revealed no difference between wild-type and *Cep135* KO cells (Figure 5, A and B), indicating that *Cep135* deficiency did not have any detectable effect on centrosome composition or maturation. We also examined the centrosome ultrastructure in the absence

of *Cep135* by TEM. As shown in Figure 6A, *Cep135*-deficient cells, like wild-type controls, contained orthogonally arranged centrioles of nine triplet microtubules, surrounded by electron-dense PCM, with the procentrioles elongating orthogonally from the mother centriole. Inner centriole diameters were  $183 \pm 23$  nm in single sections of wild-type cells and  $173 \pm 18$  nm in *Cep135*-null cells. Longitudinal sections of wild-type centrioles showed the mean centriole length to be  $370 \pm 28$  nm ( $N = 20$ ), whereas the *Cep135*-null centrioles averaged  $350 \pm 30$  nm ( $N = 29$ ). Together these data showed no major effect of *Cep135* deficiency on centriole size. Of interest, we observed an unusual, electron-dense structure in longitudinal sections of *Cep135*-knockout centrioles that was not present in sections of wild-type centrioles (Figure 6B). We detected this structure in 34 of 40 *Cep135*-deficient centrosomes analyzed but not in any of 47 wild-type centrosomes. This structure was observed roughly halfway along the length of the centriole (mean  $0.42 \pm 0.09$  centriole length from the proximal end;  $N = 20$ ). Because such structures were observed in 34 of 40 *Cep135*-deficient centrioles, they are unlikely to be restricted to mother or daughter centrioles. Observation of the structure in three independently generated *Cep135*-null cell lines confirms that it arose due to the loss of *Cep135*. Based on the known effects of *Cep135* or *Bld10* deficiency in other model systems (Matsuura *et al.*, 2004; Hiraki *et al.*, 2007; Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007), our prediction had been that *Cep135* loss would strongly impair centriole organization. The absence of such effect beyond the appearance of the electron-dense structure was surprising.

*Cep135* is implicated in the *Plk4*-controlled cascade that regulates centriole duplication. Downstream of *Plk4*, *Sas-6*, *CENPJ* (*CPAP*), and *CP110* are recruited to the nascent procentrioles at different stages during centriole formation (Leidel *et al.*, 2005; Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007; Peel *et al.*, 2007). Centriole duplication induced by *PLK4* overexpression was reduced in human U2OS cells after RNA interference (RNAi) depletion

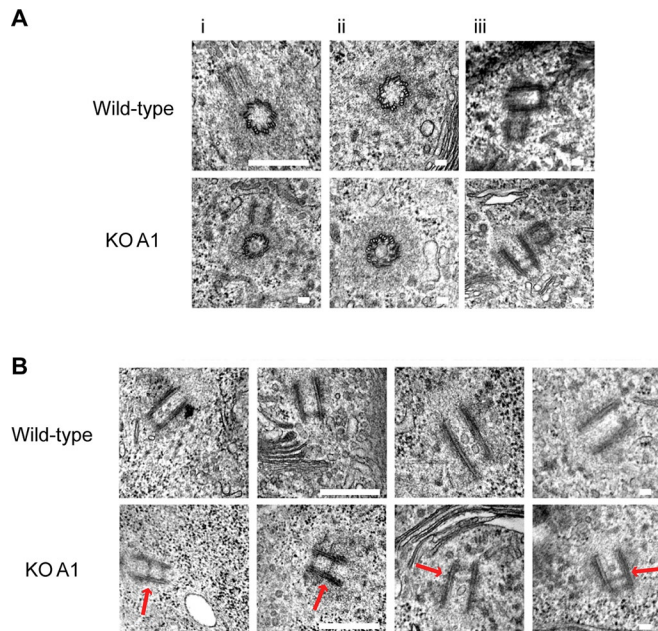
of *Cep135* (Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007). We therefore tested whether the ability of *Plk4* to induce centriole formation is affected in the absence of *Cep135* in DT40 cells. We observed supernumerary centriole formation in *Cep135* KO cells upon overexpression of chicken *Plk4* (Steere *et al.*, 2011; Figure 7, A and B), suggesting that in DT40 cells *Cep135* is probably dispensable for *Plk4*-induced centriole overduplication. Immunofluorescence microscopy analysis of the localization of *Sas-6* and *CP110* in *Cep135*-deficient cells showed that *Cep135* deficiency had no detectable effect on the expression and localization of these proteins (Figure 5, A and B),



**FIGURE 5:** Centrosome composition is normal in *Cep135*-deficient cells. (A) Immunofluorescence microscopy analysis of wild-type and *Cep135* KO cells stained with the following antibodies to centrosomal or centrosome-associated proteins:  $\gamma$ -tubulin (red), centrin2, Cep76, Sas-6, PCM1, ninein, glutamylated tubulin, and Aurora A (green). Cells were then counterstained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (B) Immunoblot of Sas-6 levels in cells of the indicated genotype.  $\alpha$ -Tubulin was used as a loading control, and cell extract from human HCT116 cells served as a positive control for the Sas-6 antibody.

further supporting the conclusion that *Cep135* deficiency has no major effect on centriole assembly in DT40 cells.

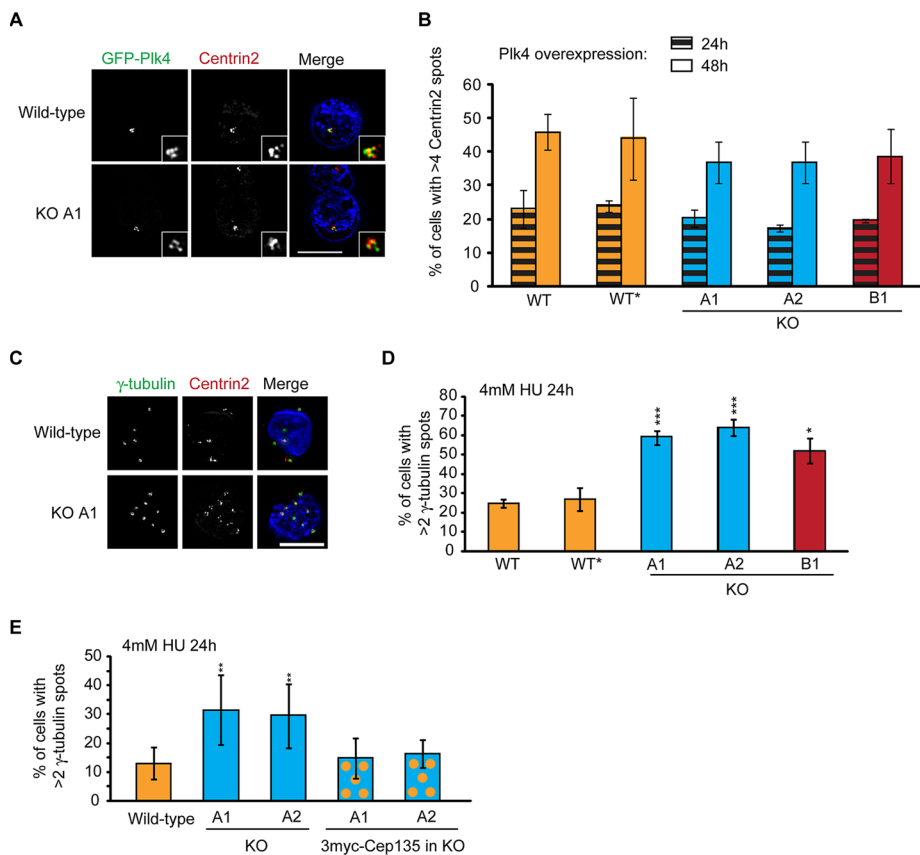
Like many other cell types, DT40 cells undergo centrosome overduplication during prolonged cell cycle arrests that occur in response to genotoxic stresses, such as DNA double-strand break induction or replication fork stalling (Balczon *et al.*, 1995; Dodson *et al.*, 2004; Bourke *et al.*, 2007). To test whether this response depends on *Cep135*, we examined the centrosome reduplication capability of *Cep135*-deficient cells after hydroxyurea (HU) treatment. As shown in Figure 7, C and D, HU treatment induced significantly higher levels of centrosome amplification in *Cep135* KO cell lines than in wild-type populations. Of importance, transgenic expression of 3myc-*Cep135* in the *Cep135*-deficient cells restored HU-induced centrosome amplification levels to wild-type levels, confirming that this overamplification effect was dependent on *Cep135* (Figure 7E). Searching for a mechanism for how HU affects *Cep135*-deficient cells differently from wild-type cells, we tested whether Cdk2 level or Cdk2 phosphorylation at Thr-160 was changed in the absence of *Cep135*, as these are required for centrosome overduplication after HU treatment (Hinchcliffe *et al.*, 1999; Matsumoto *et al.*, 1999) or ionizing



**FIGURE 6:** An atypical centriolar structure in longitudinal sections of *Cep135*-deficient centrioles (A) Transmission electron micrographs of wild-type and *Cep135*-deficient (KO A1) cells showing i) centriole duplication, ii) composition of nine triplet microtubules, iii) PCM integrity on centrosomes. (B) Transmission electron micrographs of wild-type and *Cep135* KO centrioles. Note that the unusual electron-dense structure (indicated by the red arrow) is only observed in *Cep135* KO cells. Short scale bar, 100 nm; long scale bar, 500 nm.

radiation (Bourke *et al.*, 2010). Immunoblot analysis revealed, however, no effect of *Cep135* deficiency on Cdk2 levels or Cdk2 phosphorylation at Thr-160 after HU treatment (data not shown). Taken together, these results suggest that *Cep135* plays a role in limiting HU-induced centrosome reduplication but has no clear effect on Plk4-induced centrosome amplification in DT40 cells.

In summary, we generated multiple independently derived clones of DT40 cells in which the *Cep135* locus was disrupted by gene targeting. *Cep135*-deficient cells proliferate normally and possess functional centrosomes that contain centrioles with normal ninefold symmetry. Because knockdown experiments indicate that *Cep135* is required for normal centriole structures and Plk4-induced centriole overduplication in human cells (Kleylein-Sohn *et al.*, 2007; Lin *et al.*, 2013), we did not expect to find such apparently normal centrioles in *Cep135*-deficient cells. The *Cep135* orthologue, *Bld10*, is needed for centriole formation in *Chlamydomonas* (Matsuura *et al.*, 2004) and *Paramecium* (Jerka-Dziadosz *et al.*, 2010), with the overexpression of mutant forms of the protein giving rise to centrioles that have lost their ninefold symmetry (Hiraki *et al.*, 2007). Similarly, RNAi experiments in *Drosophila* described a moderate effect of *Cep135* knockdown on centrosome duplication (Dobbelaere *et al.*, 2008). Whereas *Drosophila bld10*-mutant spermatocytes displayed mild perturbations of centriole structure and aberrant central-pair microtubules in the axoneme, mutant somatic cells showed no impairment in centrosome duplication (Mottier-Pavie and Megraw, 2009; Carvalho-Santos *et al.*, 2012; Roque *et al.*, 2012). It is therefore possible that, whereas the role of *Cep135* in stabilizing centriole structures is universal, rapidly cycling, transformed cells such as DT40s can assemble centrioles of normal appearance in the absence of *Cep135*. The small reduction in overall centriole



**FIGURE 7:** HU-induced centrosome amplification is increased in *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> cells. (A) Wild-type, wild-type\*, and *Cep135* KO A1, A2, and B1 cell lines were transiently transfected with GFP-Plk4 and fixed 24 and 48 h after treatment. Micrographs showing the expression and effect of GFP-Plk4 (green) transfection after 48 h. Cells were stained with an antibody against centrin2 (red) and counterstained with DAPI. Insets show supernumerary centrosomes. Wild-type\*, parental DT40s for the B1 and B2 clones, included as an additional control. Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (B) Levels of centrosome amplification were quantified by immunofluorescence microscopy using an anti-centrin2 antibody in cells positive for GFP-Plk4. In wild-type, A1, and A2 cells, <9% of cells contained more than two centrosomes when not expressing GFP-Plk4. Data represent mean  $\pm$  SD of three separate experiments where at least 200 cells were counted for each time point. (C) Micrograph showing HU-treated, wild-type and *Cep135* KO A1 with multiple centrosomes. Cells were stained with antibodies against centrin2 (red) and  $\gamma$ -tubulin (green) and counterstained with DAPI. Scale bar, 5  $\mu$ m. (D) Quantitation of HU-induced centrosome amplification using  $\gamma$ -tubulin as a marker. Data show mean  $\pm$  SD of three separate experiments in which at least 200 cells were scored. \* $p \leq 0.05$ , \*\*\* $p \leq 0.001$  in comparison with wild type, as calculated by a two-tailed unpaired Student's *t* test. (E) Quantitative analysis of wild-type, *Cep135* KO A1 and A2 DT40, and rescued *Cep135* KO A1 and A2 cell lines (*Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup>::3myc-*Cep135*) 24 h after treatment with 4 mM HU. Cells with more than two  $\gamma$ -tubulin spots were counted. Data show mean  $\pm$  SD of three separate experiments in which at least 200 cells were scored. \*\* $p \leq 0.01$  in comparison with wild type, as calculated by a two-tailed unpaired Student's *t* test.

numbers in *Cep135*-deficient cells indicates that in these cells, centriole biogenesis is mildly impaired.

Current understanding of cartwheel formation involves the association of Sas-6 homodimers through their N-terminal domains into a circular hublike structure from which the coiled-coil Sas-6 C-termini extend to form the spokes (Kitagawa *et al.*, 2011; van Breugel *et al.*, 2011). Localization of *Cep135* to these spokes in a number of organisms suggests that it might play a role in the cartwheel, at least in *Paramecium*, *Tetrahymena*, and *Chlamydomonas* (Matsuura *et al.*, 2004; Hiraki *et al.*, 2007; Jerka-Dziadosz *et al.*, 2010; Bayless *et al.*, 2012). In *Drosophila* somatic cells, *Bld10* localizes as a punctate area on both old and nascent centrioles,

whereas in human cells *Cep135* appears as a tight ring around the wall of the proximal end of the mother centrioles, with a much weaker signal overlapping with the cartwheel of the procentriole (Fu and Glover, 2012; Sonnen *et al.*, 2012). Similarly, in DT40 cells, we observed a strong *CEP135* localization on the proximal ends of mother centrioles throughout the cell cycle, with a prominent signal on procentrioles by early mitosis (Figure 2E).

Consistent with an evolutionarily conserved functional link between Sas-6 and *Cep135*, *Drosophila bld10* mutants display unstable cartwheels and impaired connection between the cartwheel and centriolar microtubules (Roque *et al.*, 2012). *Cep135* seems to be required for the stabilization of Sas-6 rather than for the actual assembly of the cartwheel (Nakazawa *et al.*, 2007; Jerka-Dziadosz *et al.*, 2010), in keeping with the direct interaction between *Cep135* and Sas-6 observed in experiments using immunoprecipitation and recombinant protein pull downs (Lin *et al.*, 2013). In addition to cartwheel assembly, *Drosophila* Sas-6 also promotes centriole cohesion (Stevens *et al.*, 2010). A role for *Bld10/CEP135* in stabilizing basal body organization has been hypothesized from the analysis of ciliary function in *Drosophila* and *Tetrahymena* mutants of *Bld10/CEP135* (Bayless *et al.*, 2012; Carvalho-Santos *et al.*, 2012). Loss of appropriate cartwheel-centriole attachment is therefore a possible explanation for both the atypical centriolar lumen structure that we see and the hyperamplification of centrioles in cells treated with HU. Indeed, the electron-dense nature and uniform appearance of this luminal structure could be consistent with a misplaced cartwheel. It is also feasible that the structure represents an ectopic cartwheel, which forms during or after centriole elongation. In mammalian cells, cartwheels are detectable in procentrioles but not in mature centrioles (Alvey, 1986; Strnad and Gönczy, 2008; Guichard *et al.*, 2010). This is likely to hold true in chicken cells, since cartwheels are rarely seen in our electron micrographs. Intriguingly, we observed the lumen structure in 34 of 40 *Cep135*-deficient centrioles, implying that unlike a normal cartwheel, this structure remains visible in mature centrioles. Further experiments will be necessary to establish the identity and biological meaning of this structure.

We propose that *Cep135* promotes the maintenance of the cartwheel and thus contributes to cohesion between parental and nascent centrioles. Progressive loss/displacement of cartwheel structures was observed in *Drosophila bld10* mutants (Roque *et al.*, 2012). Because DT40 cells exhibit a rapid 8-h cell cycle, premature loss of the cartwheel and centriole cohesion may have little effect on centriole formation or amplification during normal cell cycles. An unstable cartwheel structure could nonetheless lead to abortive procentriole



assembly, consistent with the small increase in monopolar spindles and observed reduction in centriole numbers in these cells.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Cell culture

Chicken DT40 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS; Lonza, Basel, Switzerland) and 1% chicken serum (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) as previously described (Takata *et al.*, 1998). HCT116 cells were a gift from B. Vogelstein (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD) and were cultured in DMEM with 10% FCS. In centriole amplification experiments,  $5 \times 10^6$  cells were resuspended in 100  $\mu$ l of Kit T solution (Lonza) and mixed with 5  $\mu$ g of endotoxin-free pEGFP-C1-Plk4 in 100  $\mu$ l of the same solution (Steere *et al.*, 2011). After nucleofection with program B-23 (Lonza), cells were resuspended in 10 ml of warmed medium. A similar approach was used for other transient transfections. For stable transfections,  $10 \times 10^6$  cells were electroporated with 30  $\mu$ g of linearized constructs in a Gene Pulser Apparatus (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA) with a voltage of 550 V at capacitance of 25  $\mu$ F and then selected using antibiotics as previously described (Takata *et al.*, 1998). Irradiation of cells was performed using a  $^{137}\text{Cs}$  source (Mainance Engineering, Waterlooville, United Kingdom). HU was from Sigma-Aldrich, and a 1 M stock solution was made up in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO). Centrosome overduplication was induced by treating cells with 4 mM HU. Monastrol was provided by Tocris Bioscience (Ellisville, MO) and used in a final concentration of 125  $\mu$ M for 16 h.

### Cloning

Gene targeting constructs were generated by PCR on DT40 genomic DNA using the primers detailed in Table 1. Resistance cassettes were inserted into *Bam*HI sites in the final construct. A TAP (Burckstummer *et al.*, 2006) for insertion in-frame with *Cep135* was a gift from K. J. Patel (Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Cambridge, United Kingdom). For cloning of the 3myc-*Cep135* construct, total RNA from DT40 cells was reverse transcribed using the SuperScript First-Strand synthesis kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), and *Cep135* was amplified using KOD Hot Start Polymerase (EMD, San Diego, CA). The *Cep135* cDNA was subcloned into pGEM T-Easy, verified by sequencing, and subsequently cloned into pCMV-3TAG-2C (Stratagene, Santa Clara, CA). Similarly, chicken *CP110* was cloned by RT-PCR from DT40 cells, sequenced, and then inserted into pCMV-3TAG (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA).

### Diagnostic and quantitative PCR

Genomic DNA of clones was extracted using the Puregene Kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) and screened via PCR using the primers in Table 2. Primer locations on the *Cep135* locus are diagrammed in Figures 1A and 2A and those for the *TSGA10* locus in Supplemental Figure S1. For quantitative PCR (qPCR), total RNA from wild-type and *Cep135* KO DT40 cells was isolated and reverse transcribed using the Superscript III First Strand Synthesis kit (Invitrogen). qPCR was performed using the Fast Sybr Green reaction mix (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). Amplification and readout were carried out using the 7900HT Fast Real Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems) with the primers presented in Table 3. Data were analyzed applying the comparative  $C_T$  method (Schmittgen and Livak, 2008).

### Microtubule regrowth assay

For microtubule depolymerization, DT40 cultures were treated with 1  $\mu$ g/ml nocodazole for 3 h. Cells were washed three times in

Purpose	Primer sequence (5'–3')
	KO <i>Cep135</i> construct A
5' arm forward	GCGGCCGCTGTGGGTTGACCTGTCTCT
5' arm reverse	GGATCCTAAAATATCGTTTGTACAGC
3' arm forward	GGATCCCTATACAGGATTTACTCTTG
3' arm reverse	GGTACCTTGTTTTACTAATCAACAGC
	KO <i>Cep135</i> construct B
5' arm forward	GAATTCTGCTACTATGCAACCAAATAACC
5' arm reverse	GGATCCTTATGATATCTCTAGCTTTTCT-TGTAA
3' arm forward	GGATCCTAACTGCTGAACCAGCTTGAA-CAAGAA
3' arm reverse	GCGGCCGCTGCCAGTGAAGCATCTCCA-TCTTC
	TAP <i>Cep135</i> construct
5' arm forward	aagcttGCTAACTGAAGTTGCTGTCT
5' arm reverse	gaattcCTCCTTGAAGCTCACGTTTC
3' arm forward	ggatccCCAGTACTTGAGCAATCAAA
3' arm reverse	actagtAGTTGATCGTATCCCTGACT
	3myc- <i>Cep135</i> construct
Chicken <i>Cep135</i> forward	CCGCGGATGACGACAACAGCGGAGC
Chicken <i>Cep135</i> reverse	GGATCCTTACTCCTTGAAGCTCACGTTT
	KO <i>Tsga10</i> construct
5' arm forward	ATCGATTTGCAAGAGTGTGTGGAAGAA
5' arm reverse	GGATCCTTAGTTTGAATCCTGGGCTTTC
3' arm forward	GGATCCTGAACATCATCCCCTGAACG
3' arm reverse	ACTAGTTTGGTTCATCCACACTTCCA

**TABLE 1:** Primers used in constructing *Cep135* targeting and expression constructs.

ice-cold 1 $\times$  phosphate-buffered saline (PBS; supplemented with 0.1% volume of DMSO) and adhered to poly-L-lysine slides for 10 min at 4°C on ice. Slides were submerged in growth media at 40°C for 1 min before methanol fixation and immunostaining.

### Immunofluorescence microscopy

Cells were washed in PBS and adhered to poly-L-lysine cover slips. Fixation was performed in ice-cold methanol for 5 min at –20°C, followed by a brief permeabilization using 0.1% Tween 20 in PBS. Visualization of ninein, Sas-6, and Aurora A required an additional permeabilization step using 1% Triton X-100/0.5% NP-40 in PBS for 5 min. Cells were then blocked in 5% bovine serum albumin in PBS for 5 min and incubated with primary antibodies for 1 h at 37°C. The primary antibodies used in this study and their dilutions were as follows: mouse polyclonal against *Cep135* (Ohta *et al.*, 2002) at 1:2000; mouse monoclonals against Sas-6 (BO1P; Abnova) at 1:50,  $\alpha$ -tubulin (B512; Sigma-Aldrich) at 1:2000,  $\gamma$ -tubulin (GTU88; Sigma-Aldrich) at 1:150,  $\gamma$ -tubulin (C-20; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA) at 1:250, Aurora A (35C1; Abcam, Cambridge, MA) at 1:500, and glutamylated tubulin (GT335; a gift from C. Janke, Institut Curie, Paris, France; Wolff *et al.*, 1992) at 1:300; and rabbit polyclonals



Primer	Primer sequence (5'–3')
A	GACCCGTACATTGCAGACCT
B	ACAAGAACTACCACCTAAAAAGCA
C	AGCCAAGCTGGGCGTAATCATTAC- GAGGAGCGCTTTTGTATTG
D	GCATTCCAATGTTGCTGCTA
E	GAGGGGACAGCACTAGGACA
F for puromycin	GTCACCGAGCTGCAAGAACT
F for neomycin	CGTTGGCTACCCGTGATATT
F for blasticidin	CCCCCTGAACCTGAAACATA
G for puromycin cassettes	GTCACCGAGCTGCAAGAACT
G for neomycin cassettes	GACTTCTTTTCTGCCATCA
G for blasticidin cassettes	CCCCCTGAACCTGAAACATA
H	TTGTGATAATCGCCAAGGTG
I	CGGTGGTCTTCTCGTCCATA
J	TCTGAAAACACACTTGCTTCG
K	TCGAGATTTCACTCAGCTCAA
L	ACGATTCTGGCATCGAAGTT

Letters indicate primers shown in Figures 1A and 2A and Supplemental Figure S1.

**TABLE 2:** Primers used in diagnostic PCR for gene targeting of *Cep135*.

Primer	Primer sequence (5'–3')
<i>GAPDH</i> forward	GCTCATCTGAAGGGTGGT
<i>GAPDH</i> reverse	CATAAGACCCTCCACAAT
<i>Cep135</i> exon 4 forward	CCTCCATCAGCTGTTAGTGCT
<i>Cep135</i> exon 4 reverse	GTCTGCAATGTACGGGTCCT
<i>Cep135</i> exon 6 forward	AAGAAATAGAACGCCTCATGCT
<i>Cep135</i> exon 6 reverse	CTCATTGCTTTTACTTCTTGATTCC
<i>Cep135</i> exon 13 forward	CAGACTGAGAAGAGAAGCAAAA- CAT
<i>Cep135</i> exon 13 reverse	CTGCCAGTGAAGCATCTCC

**TABLE 3:** Primers for *Cep135* qPCR.

against centrin2 (poly6288; BioLegend, San Diego, CA) at 1:250, Cep76 (a gift from W. Tsang and B. Dynlacht, New York University School of Medicine, New York, NY; Tsang *et al.*, 2009) at 1:200, PCM1 (817; a gift from A. Merdes, University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France) at 1:5000, ninein (ab4447; Abcam) at 1:100, protein G (Abcam) at 1:1000, centrin3 (Abnova, San Jose, CA) at 1:1000, and TACC3 and CDK5RAP2 (Barr *et al.*, 2010) at 1:1000.

For *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> cell lines A1 and A2, images were acquired using a BX51 microscope (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) with 60× (numerical aperture [NA] 1.4) and 100× (NA 1.35) objectives and Openlab software (Improvision/PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA). Deconvolved (nearest-neighbor differential interference contrast) images were saved as Photoshop CS4 files (Adobe, San Jose, CA). For *Cep135*<sup>-/-</sup> cell lines B1 and B2, cells were analyzed with a confocal Nikon eclipse 90i microscope equipped with a 100× oil (NA 1.40) objective

(Nikon, Melville, NY). We acquired 0.5-μm-step Z-stacks using an Eclipse C1Si camera driven by EZ-C1 software (Nikon). Z-stacks were projected in Volocity, version 5.0 (PerkinElmer), and exported as two-dimensional volume-rendered images into Photoshop CS4. Superresolution microscopy was performed using a three-dimensional structured illumination microscope by OMX DeltaVision (Applied Precision, Issaquah, WA). Cells were imaged with a 100× (NA 1.40) Olympus (Tokyo, Japan) objective. Data were reconstructed using SoftWorx software (Applied Precision).

### Live cell imaging

For live cell imaging, cells were allowed to attach to poly-D-lysine-coated dishes (MatTek, Ashland, MA) for 2–3 h in medium supplemented with 12.5 mM 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid, pH 7.5. Timing and light exposure were kept minimal by using reduced excitation light. Images were taken every 3 min for 3 h on an integrated microscope system (DeltaVision) using a PlanApo N 60× oil objective (NA 1.42) and a 39.5°C environmental chamber (WeatherStation; Precision Control, Sammamish, WA). Quick projections were made with SoftWorx software.

### Transmission electron microscopy

DT40 cells were prepared for TEM as previously described (Dantas *et al.*, 2011). Sections were cut on a microtome (Reichert-Jung Ultracut E; Leica, Wetzlar, Germany), stained with uranyl acetate and lead citrate, and then viewed on an electron microscope (H-7000; Hitachi, Tokyo, Japan). Images were taken with an ORCA-HRL camera (Hamamatsu Photonics, Hamamatsu, Japan) and processed using AMT, version 6 (Advanced Microscopy Techniques, Woburn, MA).

### Flow cytometry

Cell cycle analysis by flow cytometry involved the treatment of cells with 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (BrdU; Sigma-Aldrich) and visualization with antibodies to BrdU or phospho-histone H3 as previously described (Wang *et al.*, 2013).

### Western blot

To obtain whole-cell extracts for Western blotting, cells were washed in PBS and lysed in 250 mM Tris, pH 7.6, 0.1% Triton X-100, 2.5 mM NaF, 1 mM Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, 2.5 mM ethylene glycol tetraacetic acid, 12.5 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 1 mM dithiothreitol, 1 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride, 1 mM aprotinin, and 1 mM pepstatin. The primary antibodies used in this study were polyclonal rabbit anti-Cep135 (Ohta *et al.*, 2002), anti-Scc1 (Stephan *et al.*, 2011), anti-protein G (ab 7250; Abcam), Sas-6, anti-α-tubulin, and anti-β-actin (ab 8227; Abcam).

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