



Figure 4. Immunofluorescent Staining of the Polytene Chromosomes Identifies Proteins Predominantly Associated with Heterochromatin

(a) The polytene chromosomes, prepared by fixation and squashing of the larval salivary gland (shown by phase contrast microscopy, left) are “stained” by incubating first with antibodies specific for a given chromosomal protein, and then with a secondary antibody coupled to a fluorescent tag. HP1 (right) and HP2 (center) have similar distribution patterns showing prominent association with the pericentromeric heterochromatin, small fourth chromosome (inset, arrow), and a small set of sites in the euchromatin arms. Note that the efficacy of any antibody can be affected by the choice of fixation protocol (see Stephens et al. 2003). (b, c) Association of HP1 and SU(VAR)3-9 with pericentromeric heterochromatin is interdependent. Mutations in *Su(var)3-9* result in a loss of HP1 from the pericentromeric heterochromatin (but not the fourth chromosome; see text) (b), whereas mutations in *Su(var)2-5* result in delocalization of SU(VAR)3-9 (c). (Adapted from Shaffer et al. 2002.)