

Figure 7. Possible Model for Heterochromatin Targeting

dsRNA from repetitious sequences is processed through RISC to generate a hypothetical "targeting complex," which directs either histone modification or HP1 association as an initial step in assembling heterochromatin at the site identified by the small ssRNA. Data from the fourth chromosome suggest that 1360 DNA transposon fragments (orange bars) are a target for heterochromatin formation; local deletions or duplications that shift the position of the P element reporter (triangle) away from a 1360 element lead to loss of silencing (red triangle indicates a red eye), whereas proximity to 1360 leads to silencing (dotted triangle indicates a variegating eye). (Based on data in Sun et al 2004.)

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