Haemocyte-derived SPARC is required for collagen-IV-dependent stability of basal laminae in *Drosophila* embryos

Nathalie Martinek, Jaffer Shahab, Manuela Saathoff and Maurice Ringuette

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Further characterization of the *SPARC*-null fly line *Df(3R)nm136*, generated by *P*-element mutagenesis, has revealed that the line carries a secondary mutation in the neuralized locus, in addition to an absence of SPARC. We have confirmed in a wild-type neuralized background that the absence of SPARC leads to a reduction of collagen IV in basal lamina in stage 17 mutant embryos. The absence of SPARC does not affect neural development during embryogenesis.

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