Ribozymes are RNA molecules that act as chemical catalysts.The hairpin ribozyme most probably uses a closely similar mechanism.The nucleolytic ribozymes comprise a class of five structurally–distinct species that bring about site–specific cleavage by nucleophilic attack of the 2?–O on the adjacent 3?–P to form a cyclic 2?,3?–phosphate.In the Varkud satellite ribozyme, we have shown that the cleavage reaction is catalysed by guanine and adenine nucleobases acting as general base and acid, respectively.

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