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Article type : Original Article

**Genetic architecture of a body color cline
in *Drosophila americana***

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This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version of Record](#). Please cite this article as [doi: 10.1111/MEC.15531](https://doi.org/10.1111/MEC.15531)

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Keywords: *tan*, *ebony*, genetic heterogeneity, evolution, pigmentation, *Drosophila novamexicana*

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Running title: Genetics of body color in *D. americana*

1 **Abstract**

2 Phenotypic variation within a species is often structured geographically in clines. In
3 *Drosophila americana*, a longitudinal cline for body color exists within North America
4 that appears to be due to local adaptation. The *tan* and *ebony* genes have been
5 hypothesized to contribute to this cline, with alleles of both genes that lighten body
6 color found in *D. americana*. These alleles are similar in sequence and function to the
7 allele fixed in *D. americana*'s more lightly pigmented sister species, *Drosophila*
8 *novamexicana*. Here, we examine the frequency and geographic distribution of these
9 *D. novamexicana*-like alleles in *D. americana*. Among alleles from over 100 strains of
10 *D. americana* isolated from 21 geographic locations, we failed to identify additional
11 alleles of *tan* or *ebony* with as much sequence similarity to *D. novamexicana* as the *D.*
12 *novamexicana*-like alleles previously described. However, using genetic analysis of 51
13 *D. americana* strains derived from 20 geographic locations, we identified one new
14 allele of *ebony* and one new allele of *tan* segregating in *D. americana* that are
15 functionally equivalent to the *D. novamexicana* allele. An additional 5 alleles of *tan* also
16 showed marginal evidence of functional similarity. Given the rarity of these alleles,
17 however, we conclude that they are unlikely to be driving the pigmentation cline.
18 Indeed, phenotypic distributions of the 51 backcross populations analyzed indicate a
19 more complex genetic architecture, with diversity in the number and effects of loci
20 altering pigmentation observed both within and among populations of *D. americana*.
21 This genetic heterogeneity poses a challenge to association studies and genomic
22 scans for clinal variation, but might be common in natural populations.

23

24

25 **Introduction**

26 A phenotypic cline describes a gradient of trait variation across geographic space
27 (Huxley 1938). Such clinal variation often correlates with latitude, longitude or altitude,
28 which in turn correlate with environmental factors such as temperature, light, and
29 humidity. Clinal trait variation can arise neutrally from reduced gene flow between
30 geographically distant populations, but natural selection favoring adaptation to varying
31 local environments is more often thought to be responsible -- especially when there is

32 ongoing gene flow among populations (Endler 1977). Genetic variation underlying clinal
33 trait variation is frequently sought by searching for matching allele frequency clines, but
34 this strategy is known to produce many false positives (Lotterhos & Whitlock 2015;
35 François *et al.* 2016). Incorporating knowledge of gene function can help overcome this
36 limitation by identifying loci most likely to contribute to trait variation (Stinchcombe &
37 Hoekstra 2007; Fournier-Level *et al.* 2011; Hancock *et al.* 2011; Marjoram *et al.* 2013).
38 Genome scans can also miss loci contributing to clinal trait variation when traits are
39 controlled by many genes: for such polygenic traits, multiple genotypes can often
40 produce the same phenotype (genetic heterogeneity), which complicates expected
41 allelic variation across a cline (Kawecki & Ebert 2004; Pritchard & Di Rienzo 2010;
42 Savolainen *et al.* 2013; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Haas & Payseur 2016). Here, we use a more
43 targeted approach to investigate the genetic basis of clinal trait variation by directly
44 examining the role of two genes known to affect development of a clinally varying,
45 polygenic trait. More specifically, we examine the contributions of divergent *tan* and
46 *ebony* alleles to clinal variation of body color in *Drosophila americana*.

47
48 The genetic basis of pigmentation differences within and between species has been
49 studied extensively within *Drosophila* (Massey & Wittkopp 2016), and pigmentation
50 clines for body color have been reported for many species (e.g., David *et al.* 1985;
51 David & Capy 1988; Hollocher *et al.* 2000; Pool & Aquadro 2007; Wittkopp *et al.* 2011;
52 Telonis-Scott *et al.* 2011). Selection pressures driving these pigmentation clines seem
53 to vary among species, with adaptation proposed to be linked to variation in UV
54 radiation, temperature, and/or humidity (David & Capy 1988; True 2003; Brisson *et al.*
55 2005; Rajpurohit *et al.* 2008; Wittkopp & Beldade 2009; Clusella-Trullas & Terblanche
56 2011; Parkash *et al.* 2012; Matute & Harris 2013; Bastide *et al.* 2014; Sillero *et al.* 2014;
57 Rajpurohit & Schmidt 2019; Davis & Moyle 2019). In *D. americana*, which is found in the
58 United States from the Atlantic coast to just east of the Rocky Mountains, pigmentation
59 varies along a longitudinal cline, with the darkest body color seen among the most
60 eastern populations (Wittkopp *et al.* 2011). This pigmentation cline is observed despite
61 little evidence of population structure in *D. americana* and signatures of extensive gene
62 flow throughout the species range (Schäfer *et al.* 2006; Morales-Hojas *et al.* 2008;

63 Fonseca *et al.* 2013), suggesting it is due to local adaptation (Wittkopp *et al.* 2011). *D.*
64 *americana*'s closest living relative, *D. novamexicana*, is found in the southwestern
65 United States, west of the Rocky Mountains, and has evolved an even lighter body
66 color, consistent with an extension of the *D. americana* pigmentation cline (Wittkopp *et*
67 *al.* 2011). Although *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* show evidence of reproductive
68 isolation (Ahmed-Braimah & McAllister 2012), these two species are still able to mate
69 and produce fertile offspring in the lab, allowing genetic dissection of their divergent
70 phenotypes.

71
72 Pigmentation differences between *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* have been
73 linked to divergent alleles of two classic pigmentation genes, *ebony* and *tan*, with
74 genomic regions containing these two genes explaining ~87% of the pigmentation
75 difference (Wittkopp *et al.* 2003; 2009; Cooley *et al.* 2012). Proteins encoded by *ebony*
76 and *tan* are required for pigment synthesis in *Drosophila* and catalyze opposite
77 directions of a reversible biochemical reaction converting dopamine to N-beta-alanyl
78 dopamine and vice versa (True *et al.* 2005; Massey & Wittkopp 2016). For *tan*,
79 functionally divergent sites have been mapped to the first intron (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009)
80 and allele-specific expression analysis in F₁ hybrids (Wittkopp *et al.* 2004) suggests that
81 this divergence affects *cis*-regulation of *tan* expression (Cooley *et al.* 2012). Evidence of
82 *cis*-regulatory divergence between *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* has also been
83 detected for *ebony* using allele-specific expression assays (Cooley *et al.* 2012);
84 however, the specific sites responsible for this divergence have been difficult to localize
85 because *ebony* is located in a region of the genome inverted between *D. novamexicana*
86 and *D. americana* (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). Recent work using CRISPR/Cas9 genome
87 editing to generate *ebony* mutants in both *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana*,
88 however, has shown using reciprocal hemizyosity testing that divergent *ebony* alleles
89 are indeed responsible for pigmentation differences between these two species (Lamb
90 *et al.* 2020).

91
92 The contribution of *ebony* and *tan* to pigmentation differences between *D. americana*
93 and *D. novamexicana* suggests that one or both of these genes might also contribute to

94 variable pigmentation within *D. americana*. Consistent with this possibility, prior work
95 identified a strain of *D. americana* (DN2) with an allele of *ebony* that shares both
96 sequence and function with the *D. novamexicana* allele (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). A
97 different strain of *D. americana* (A01) was found to carry an allele of *tan* with sequence
98 and function similar to the *D. novamexicana* allele (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). These alleles
99 seem to have arisen prior to speciation (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009), suggesting that they were
100 segregating in *D. americana* prior to the divergence of *D. novamexicana*. Based on
101 these data, we hypothesized that differences in the frequency of one or both of these *D.*
102 *novamexicana*-like alleles among *D. americana* populations might contribute to this
103 species' pigmentation cline. Here, we test this hypothesis by searching over 100 strains
104 of *D. americana* for additional alleles of *ebony* and/or *tan* that share similar amounts of
105 sequence identity and/or function to the *D. novamexicana* allele. We then test for
106 associations between pigmentation and segregating sites sampled in *ebony* and *tan*.
107 Finally, we analyze pigmentation phenotypes of backcross populations between *D.*
108 *novamexicana* and 51 strains of *D. americana* to determine how the genetic architecture
109 of body color differs among strains. We find that *D. novamexicana*-like alleles of *ebony*
110 and *tan* are unlikely to explain the body color cline in *D. americana*, and that the genetic
111 architecture is more complex than anticipated, with genetic heterogeneity apparently
112 common within populations affected by local adaptation. These observations suggest
113 that genomic scans for variation in allele-frequencies would fail to find loci underlying
114 this phenotypic cline, as has been predicted for clinally varying polygenic traits
115 (Pritchard & Di Rienzo 2010; Savolainen *et al.* 2013; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Haas &
116 Payseur 2016).

117

118 **Materials and Methods**

119 *Fly strains used for sequence analysis*

120 A summary of fly strains used for sequence analysis is provided in Supplementary
121 Table 1. The "A01" strain of *D. americana* (15010-0951.01) and "N14" strain of *D.*
122 *novamexicana* (15010-1031.14) were obtained from the *Drosophila* Species Stock
123 Center (Tucson, AZ). The remaining 112 strains of *D. americana* were generously
124 provided by Dr. Bryant McAllister (University of Iowa), who collected the progenitors of

125 these isofemale lines from wild populations between 1996 and 2007 at 21 sites sampled
126 within the population range of *D. americana* in the United States. From the time they were
127 received in our laboratory in 2009, all lines were maintained by sib-matings. All flies were
128 reared on a diet of standard yeast-glucose media at 20°C. Please note that we refer to
129 different collection sites as different populations in the main text for simplicity even
130 though patterns of sequence variation show no evidence of population structure in *D.*
131 *americana* other than for chromosomal fusions and inversions (Schäfer *et al.* 2006;
132 Morales-Hojas *et al.* 2008; Wittkopp *et al.* 2011; Fonseca *et al.* 2013).

133

134 *DNA sequence analysis*

135 We PCR amplified and Sanger sequenced 579 bp of *ebony* spanning exons 5-8 and
136 1328 bp of *tan* from intron 1. (Note that we originally targeted the large first intron of
137 *ebony*, but polymorphisms among strains caused all primer pairs tested to amplify
138 inconsistently among strains.) After removing low quality bases from raw Sanger
139 sequence reads based on Phred scores, we aligned sequences of *ebony* from 109
140 strains of *D. americana* plus 1 strain of *D. novamexicana* and sequences of *tan* from
141 102 strains of *D. americana* plus 1 strain of *D. novamexicana* using the ClustalW
142 algorithm (Thompson *et al.* 1994) in CodonCode Aligner (version 8.0.2,
143 <https://www.codoncode.com/>); sequence was obtained for both genes from 99 strains of
144 *D. americana* (Supplementary Table 1). Only a single strain of *D. novamexicana* was
145 analyzed in this work because prior work has shown very low levels of polymorphism in
146 this species (Orsini *et al.* 2004; Caletka & McAllister 2004; Wittkopp *et al.* 2009).
147 Sequence alignments used for analysis are provided as Supplementary File 1(*ebony*)
148 and Supplementary File 2 (*tan*) and were submitted to GenBank with ID numbers
149 MT350927 - MT351036 for *ebony* and MT350824 - MT350926 for *tan*.

150

151 *Gene trees and haplotype network analysis*

152 Phylogenetic trees inferring evolutionary relationships among the alleles sampled for
153 *ebony* and *tan* were produced using the Maximum Likelihood method based on the
154 Tamura-Nei model of nucleotide substitutions (Tamura & Nei 1993) in MEGA7 (Kumar
155 *et al.* 2016). A bootstrap consensus tree was inferred from 100 replicates (Felsenstein

156 1985), with branches supported by less than 50% of the replicates collapsed. As
157 described in MEGA7, trees used to start the heuristic search were generated using the
158 Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms, with pairwise distances estimated using the
159 Maximum Composite Likelihood (MCL) approach. Topologies with superior log
160 likelihood values were then selected as initial trees. Sites for which 5% of the strains
161 had alignment gaps, missing data, or ambiguous bases were excluded from this
162 analysis. Because linkage disequilibrium is low within *D. americana* (Wittkopp *et al.*
163 2009), we also assessed the sequence similarity among alleles using Median Spanning
164 Networks (Bandelt *et al.* 1999) (as implemented in PopART (www.popart.otago.ac.nz;
165 March 15, 2015 version, downloaded September 12, 2019) with the epsilon parameter
166 set to 0.

167

168 *Fly strains used for genetic analysis*

169 The genetic basis of pigmentation differences between *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana*
170 was examined for 51 of the *D. americana* strains established and provided by Dr. Bryant
171 McAllister (University of Iowa) (McAllister *et al.* 2008; Sheeley & McAllister 2008). As shown
172 in Supplementary Table 1, these strains of *D. americana* included 5 strains from each of two
173 locations, 4 strains from each of two locations, 3 strains from each of six locations, 2 strains
174 from each of five locations, and 1 strain from each of five locations. The eastern-most
175 location was Killbuck, Ohio (40.711809, -82.005472), the western- and northern-most
176 location was Niobrara, Nebraska (42.74821, -98.051519), and the southern-most
177 collection site was Sneads, Florida (30.708495, -84.910637). Together, these 51 strains
178 came from 20 of the 21 locations from which strains included in the sequence analysis
179 described above were derived (Supplementary Table 1).

180

181 *Fly crosses for genetic analysis*

182 Virgin females were isolated from each of the 51 strains of *D. americana* used for
183 genetic analysis and mated with *D. novamexicana* males to create F₁ hybrids. From
184 each of these F₁ hybrid populations, virgin females were again collected and then
185 mated to *D. novamexicana* males. Male flies were collected from the (BC₁) progeny
186 produced by each backcross within 3 days of eclosion and aged for one week to

187 ensure pigmentation was fully developed. Each of these BC₁ males carried an X
188 chromosome and one copy of each autosome that was a unique recombination of
189 alleles from the *D. novamexicana* and *D. americana* strains crossed to generate its F₁
190 hybrid mother. These different recombinant chromosomes caused pigmentation to vary
191 among BC₁ flies from each cross. The Y chromosome and the other copy of each
192 autosome in the BC₁ males was always inherited from the *D. novamexicana* father.

193

194 *Phenotyping Pigmentation in Backcross Progeny*

195 For each backcross population, pigmentation of 27 to 117 (mean = 63.5) male BC₁ flies
196 7-10 day old were scored based on the color visible in the dorsal abdominal cuticle of
197 live flies. We found that pigmentation phenotypes did not vary continually in these
198 backcross populations, but rather fell into distinct classes, consistent with prior work
199 (Wittkopp *et al.* 2003; 2009). For each backcross population, the number of distinct
200 phenotypic classes was determined by eye independently by at least two different
201 people (L.L.S., W.N.M., or P.J.W). In the rare cases where different numbers of
202 classes were perceived by different observers, the smaller number of classes was
203 used, merging categories with the most similar phenotypes. Ultimately, we observed
204 four to eight distinct classes of pigmentation phenotypes in each of the 51 BC₁
205 populations. The lightest class was always designated as category “1” with increasing
206 class numbers corresponding to progressively darkening pigmentation. For example, in
207 a backcross population with four total pigmentation classes, class “4” would contain the
208 darkest flies, whereas in a backcross population with seven total pigmentation classes,
209 class “4” would contain flies with mid-range pigmentation. The number of pigmentation
210 classes as well as the assignment of individual flies to a particular pigmentation class
211 was determined by independent observations from at least two researchers. These
212 pigmentation phenotype scores are shown for each fly in Supplementary Table 3.

213

214 *DNA Extractions*

215 From each of the 51 backcross populations, DNA was extracted from each male BC₁ fly
216 using a method similar to that described in Gloor *et al.* (1993) except that the protocol
217 was scaled for efficient processing of 3238 flies. Briefly, each fly was placed into a well

218 of a 96-well plate (GeneMate# T3031-21) with a glass bead and 50 μ L of a 1:99
219 Proteinase K/Engel's Buffer solution. Plates were sealed and shaken in a Qiagen
220 Retsch MM301 Tissue Lyser until the glass bead had pulverized the fly in each well.
221 The plates were then incubated at 37°C for 30 minutes to allow protein digestion and
222 then incubated at 95°C for 2 minutes to inactivate Proteinase K. Extracted DNA was
223 stored at 4°C until used for genotyping.

224 225 *Genotyping*

226 Molecular genotyping assays were used to determine whether each of the BC₁ males
227 scored for pigmentation carried the *D. americana* and/or *D. novamexicana* alleles of
228 three pigmentation genes: *yellow*, *tan*, and *ebony*. Because *yellow* and *tan* are located
229 on the X chromosome, each male carried only one species' allele, either the mother's or
230 the father's allele. By contrast, because *ebony* is located on an autosome, BC₁ males
231 could either be heterozygous for the *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* alleles or
232 homozygous for the *D. novamexicana* allele.

233 For *yellow* and *tan*, differences in length between PCR products amplified from
234 the *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* alleles were used to genotype BC₁ flies. For
235 *tan*, a forward primer (5'-CGAGTTTTTATTCCCACTGAATTAT-3') and a reverse primer
236 (5'-GGGTTTCGTCTTATCCACGAT-3') were used to amplify a 100bp product for the *D.*
237 *americana tan* allele and a 64bp product for the *D. novamexicana tan* allele. For *yellow*,
238 depending on which *D. americana* strains was used to generate the BC₁ males being
239 genotyped, one of two forward primers was used [*yellow* forward-1 (5'-
240 CCAAAGGACAACCGAGTTT-3') or *yellow* forward-2 (5'-
241 CTAACATGCCTGAAAATCAATCACGGA-3')] with a *yellow* reverse primer (5'-
242 AGTCGATTGCCAAAGTGCTC-3'). These different forward primers were necessary
243 because of differences in *yellow* DNA sequence among the *D. americana* strains. For
244 most backcross populations, the *yellow* forward-1 primer paired with the *yellow* reverse
245 primer generated a 349bp product for the *D. americana yellow* allele and a 372bp
246 product for the *D. novamexicana yellow* allele. The *yellow*-forward-2 primer was used to
247 analyze BC₁ males from the six strains of *D. americana* (IR0436, LR0540, FP9946,
248 DI0562 MK0738, and SC0708) for which the *yellow* forward-1 primer and *yellow* reverse

249 primer did not produce any visible differences in length between the *D. americana* and
250 *D. novamexicana* alleles. For these six strains, genotyping was performed by using the
251 *yellow* forward-2 primer and the *yellow* reverse primer to amplify a region of *yellow*
252 using PCR and then digesting the PCR product with Dral, which cut only the *D.*
253 *novamexicana yellow* allele. All digested and undigested PCR products were run on 2%
254 agarose gels and visualized using Ethidium Bromide.

255 For *ebony*, we were unable to identify PCR products that were easily
256 distinguishable for *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* alleles through either amplicon
257 length or restriction digest. Therefore, we genotyped flies at the *ebony* locus using
258 pyrosequencing (Ahmadian *et al.* 2000). The PCR product used for pyrosequencing
259 was generated using the forward primer, 5'-AGCCCGAGGTGGACATCA-3', and the
260 biotinylated reverse primer, 5'-*GTATGGGTCCCTCGCAGAA-3' (* notates biotinylation).
261 These PCR products were processed, and pyrosequencing performed, as described in
262 Wittkopp *et al.* (2008). The pyrosequencing primer used had the sequence 5'-
263 CGAGGTGGACATCAAGT-3'. This pyrosequencing assay for *ebony* used two single
264 nucleotide differences to differentiate between the *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana*
265 *ebony* alleles. Specifically, the sequences analyzed by pyrosequencing were 5'-
266 CCAAGCT**G**CT-3' for the *D. americana* allele and 5'-CGAAGCT**T**CT-3' for the *D.*
267 *novamexicana* allele, where the bolded letters indicate bases used to discriminate
268 between the two alleles.

269 Genotyping data for *yellow*, *tan*, and *ebony* in the BC₁ males is summarized in
270 Supplementary Table 4, where 0 = hemizygous for the *D. americana* allele for *yellow*
271 and *tan* and heterozygous for *ebony* and 1 = hemizygous *D. novamexicana* allele for
272 *yellow* and *tan* and homozygous for *ebony*. The 96-well plate containing the DNA
273 sample from each fly is also indicated in Supplementary Table 4.

274
275 *Comparing function of D. americana ebony, tan, and yellow alleles to D. novamexicana*
276 To determine whether the *D. americana* allele of *yellow*, *tan*, and/or *ebony* from each of
277 the 51 strains of *D. americana* examined was functionally equivalent to the *D.*
278 *novamexicana* allele of the same gene, we calculated the difference between the mean
279 pigmentation scores of flies inheriting the *D. americana* or *D. novamexicana* allele from

280 their mother in each backcross population. Statistical significance of this difference was
281 assessed for each gene in each backcross using a null distribution of pigmentation
282 differences generated from 10,000 permuted datasets in which the genotypes of the
283 focal gene were shuffled relative to the pigmentation phenotypes. The null hypothesis
284 tested by these permutations was that the *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* alleles
285 of the focal gene had indistinguishable effects on pigmentation (i.e., that the two alleles
286 are functionally equivalent). This method of testing for statistical significance directly
287 accounts for the differences in sample sizes and allele frequencies among
288 backcrosses. A correction for multiple testing was performed with the `p.adjust` function
289 with the `method=fdr` option, which implements the false discovery rate correction as
290 described in Benjamini & Hochberg (1995). These adjusted p-values are reported in
291 Supplementary Table 5.

292

293 *Association testing*

294 To test for an association between pigmentation and segregating sites in *tan* and
295 *ebony*, we used a more quantitative, continuous measure of pigmentation than the
296 pigmentation classes described for backcross populations above. This pigmentation
297 data came from dataset B in Wittkopp et al. (2011) for strains from the DN, II, MK, NN,
298 OC, SC, and WS populations. For the remaining strains, we generated comparable
299 quantitative measurements of pigmentation using the same protocol as described for
300 dataset B in Wittkopp et al. (2011). Briefly, a custom-built fiber optic probe was used to
301 measure light reflected off the fly's abdominal cuticle, with 5 measurements taken per
302 fly and 6-20 flies analyzed per strain. A WS-1 Diffuse Reflection Standard (Ocean
303 Optics) was used to calibrate the probe for each set of measurements and strains were
304 scored in a random order. To minimize the effects of outlier measurements, the median
305 measure of pigmentation observed for each fly was used for analysis. These medians
306 (Supplementary Table 2) were fitted to a linear model including strain as a fixed effect
307 and replicate fly as a random effect with *lmer* function in the *lme4* R package, and the
308 least-square means were extracted for each strain using the *lsmeans* function in the
309 *lsmeans* R package.

310

311 Variable sites were then identified in *tan* and *ebony* using the same sequence
312 alignments used for phylogenetic analysis (Supplementary Files 1 and 2). Sites with
313 the minor allele present in less than 5 strains as well as sites containing indels were
314 excluded prior to association testing. Each of the remaining variable sites for *tan* (N =
315 74) and *ebony* (N = 40) was then tested for an association with pigmentation by fitting
316 the lsmean estimate of pigmentation for each strain to a general linear model (function
317 *glm* in R) containing each of the variable sites as a fixed effect.

318

319 *Standardizing pigmentation classes among strains*

320 One representative male fly from each phenotypic class in each backcross was imaged
321 as a visual reference using a Scion Visicapture 1.2 and Scion Corporation Model CFW-
322 1308C color digital camera. These images were processed using Photoshop CS6
323 (Adobe, San Jose, CA), with a constant color adjustment applied to all photos collected
324 on the same day to control for day-to-day variation in imaging conditions. These
325 adjustments were performed to make the digital images more closely match the fly's
326 appearance under the microscope. The parameters for each day's adjustment were
327 determined based on images of a set of standards consisting of seven dissected
328 abdominal cuticles with a range of pigmentation phenotypes. Photos of these cuticle
329 standards were collected interleaved within each batch of BC₁ flies. For comparisons
330 among flies from all 51 backcross populations, we used the representative images from
331 each category in each backcross to convert backcross-specific pigmentation scores to
332 a common 8-category pigmentation scale (Supplementary Table 3). After phenotyping,
333 all flies were stored at -80°C.

334

335 *Comparing distributions of backcross phenotypes among strains*

336 Correspondence analysis (CA), which is similar to principal components analysis but for
337 categorical response variables, was used to reduce the dimensionality of the
338 distributions of pigmentation classes from backcross (BC₁) populations among strains.
339 This analysis was performed using the *CA* function in the *FactoMineR* package (Lê *et*
340 *al.*, 2008) for R and visualized using *factoextra* R package. We then calculated the
341 Euclidean distance between strains in the Dimension 1 and Dimension 2 space from

342 the CA analysis to compare the similarity in backcross pigmentation distributions for
343 strains that were and were not from the same collection site. Euclidean distances
344 between all pairs of strains were calculated using the *distances* function in the
345 *distances* R package.

346

347 *Statistical analyses*

348 R code used for this work is provided in Supplementary File 3. This code was run in
349 RStudio (Version 1.2.5033) using R version 3.6.2 (2019-12-12).

350

351 **Results**

352

353 *Comparing sequence of D. americana ebony and tan alleles to D. novamexicana* 354 *alleles*

355

356 As described in the Introduction, pigmentation differences between *D. americana* and
357 *D. novamexicana* (Figure 1A) are primarily due to changes in the *ebony* and *tan*
358 genes, which control the balance between dark (black and brown) and light
359 (yellow/tan) pigments (Figure 1B). The DN2 strain of *D. americana* (from Duncan,
360 Nebraska) and the A01 strain of *D. americana* (from Poplar, Montana) have been
361 shown to carry alleles of *ebony* and *tan*, respectively, similar in sequence and function
362 to the *D. novamexicana* alleles of these genes (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). These
363 observations suggest that differences in the frequency of *D. novamexicana*-like alleles
364 among populations of *D. americana* might underlie the longitudinal cline of body color
365 observed within this species. To test this hypothesis, we examined the frequency and
366 geographic distribution of such alleles first by comparing sequences of *ebony* and *tan*
367 from over 100 strains of *D. americana* to orthologous sequences from the N14 strain of
368 *D. novamexicana*. The *D. americana* strains examined were derived from flies
369 captured at 21 different sites within the United States and included DN2 and A01
370 (Figure 1C, Supplementary Table 1).

371

372 Phylogenetic trees built from these sequences using the maximum likelihood method
373 implemented in MEGA7 (Kumar *et al.* 2016) confirmed that the *ebony* allele from the
374 DN2 strain of *D. americana* is more similar to the *D. novamexicana* allele than to other
375 alleles from *D. americana* (Figure 1D). We failed to find, however, any additional *ebony*
376 alleles from the 109 new strains of *D. americana* sampled that clustered as closely with
377 *D. novamexicana* (Figure 1D). Similarly, phylogenetic trees confirmed that the *tan*
378 allele from the A01 strain of *D. americana* was the only allele among those sampled
379 from 102 strains of *D. americana* that is more closely related to the *D. novamexicana*
380 allele than to other *D. americana* alleles (Figure 1E). Analyzing these sequences with
381 Minimum Spanning Networks implemented in PopArt (www.popart.otago.ac.nz) also
382 showed that the DN2 and A01 alleles of *ebony* and *tan*, respectively, were most similar
383 to the *D. novamexicana* allele (Supplementary Figures 1 and 2). Taken together, these
384 data indicate that alleles of *ebony* and *tan* with sequences closely related to the *D.*
385 *novamexicana* allele are rare within *D. americana* and thus unlikely to explain the
386 pigmentation cline observed.

387

388 *Comparing function of D. americana ebony and tan alleles to D. novamexicana alleles*

389

390 To determine whether other *D. americana* alleles of *ebony* and/or *tan* might have
391 functional similarity to *D. novamexicana* alleles despite their greater sequence
392 divergence, we crossed virgin females from 51 strains of *D. americana* derived from 20
393 populations (Supplementary Table 1) to *D. novamexicana*, and then backcrossed the
394 F₁ hybrid females to *D. novamexicana* males (Figure 2A). The backcross (BC1)
395 progeny inherited recombinant maternal chromosomes that contain sequences from
396 both their *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* parents and paternal chromosomes with
397 only *D. novamexicana* alleles (Figure 2A). Pigmentation was scored for all male flies in
398 each backcross population (N = 27 to 117, mean = 63.5), and then each male was
399 genotyped for *ebony*, *tan*, and another pigmentation gene, *yellow* (Supplementary
400 Table 2). The *yellow* gene was included as a negative control in this study because
401 prior work has shown that it does not contribute to pigmentation divergence between
402 *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* (Wittkopp *et al.* 2003; 2009).

403

404 Consistent with prior descriptions of backcross populations between *D. americana* and
405 *D. novamexicana* (Wittkopp *et al.* 2003; 2009), body color did not vary continuously
406 within the BC₁ populations. Rather, a limited number of distinct pigmentation
407 categories were observed in each cross. The number of pigmentation classes ranged
408 from four to eight among backcross populations produced by different strains;
409 examples of pigmentation classes for five strains are shown in Figure 2B. The lightest
410 (most yellow) body color phenotype in each backcross was assigned to category 1,
411 with subsequent category numbers corresponding to progressively darker
412 pigmentation.

413

414 To test for functional divergence of *ebony*, *tan*, or *yellow* alleles between *D.*
415 *novamexicana* and each strain of *D. americana*, we calculated the difference in mean
416 pigmentation score between flies that inherited the *D. americana* or *D. novamexicana*
417 allele of each gene from their mother. For each gene and each BC₁ population, the
418 statistical significance of the pigmentation difference was determined by comparing it
419 to a distribution of differences observed in 10,000 permuted datasets in which the
420 genotypes were shuffled relative to the phenotypes. A false discovery rate correction
421 for multiple tests (Benjamini & Hochberg 1995) was then applied, and an adjusted p-
422 value cut-off of 0.05 was used to assess statistical significance. That is, tests with $P <$
423 0.05 were interpreted as evidence of functionally divergent alleles between *D.*
424 *novamexicana* and the *D. americana* strain tested, whereas tests with $P \geq 0.05$ were
425 taken as evidence that the *D. novamexicana* and *D. americana* alleles were
426 functionally equivalent. As expected, *yellow* alleles of *D. americana* and *D.*
427 *novamexicana* appeared to be functionally equivalent for all strains tested ($P > 0.14$ in
428 all cases; Supplementary Table 5; Supplementary Figure 3), further supporting the
429 observation that *yellow* does not contribute to pigmentation divergence between these
430 two species.

431

432 For *ebony*, all but one strain of *D. americana* tested showed evidence of functional
433 divergence between *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* (Supplementary Table 5;

434 Supplementary Figure 4). This one exception (strain DN0748x37, Figure 2C) had a p-
435 value of 0.18, suggesting that the *ebony* allele in this strain is functionally equivalent to
436 the *D. novamexicana ebony* allele. Like the DN2 strain originally found to carry a *D.*
437 *novamexicana*-like *ebony* allele, the DN0748x37 strain was collected from Duncan,
438 Nebraska, but it was collected seven years later than the DN2 strain and did not share
439 as much sequence similarity with the *D. novamexicana* allele as the DN2 allele (Figure
440 1D, Supplementary Figure 1). These observations suggest that more than one allele of
441 *ebony* similar to *D. novamexicana* in function is segregating in the Duncan, Nebraska
442 population. This population is located near the western edge of *D. americana*'s range
443 (Figure 1C) and has some of the lightest pigmentation observed in *D. americana*
444 (Wittkopp *et al.* 2011). Sampling additional strains of *D. americana* near the western
445 edge of its range (e.g., in Montana) might therefore also uncover additional *D.*
446 *novamexicana*-like alleles.

447
448 For *tan*, one strain of *D. americana* (DA0626) showed evidence of being functionally
449 equivalent to the *D. novamexicana* allele ($P = 0.16$, Figure 2D, Supplementary Table 4).
450 This strain was not any more similar in sequence to the *D. novamexicana tan* allele than
451 other alleles of *D. americana* that showed evidence of functional divergence (Figure 1E,
452 Supplementary Figure 2). Five other *D. americana* strains showed marginal evidence of
453 being functionally equivalent to the *D. novamexicana* allele (P -values = 0.05 or 0.06,
454 Supplementary Figure 5, Supplementary Table 5). With all other strains showing P -
455 values < 0.0001 (Supplementary Table 5), these five alleles are interpreted as being at
456 least functionally distinct from the majority of *D. americana tan* alleles, if not equivalent
457 to the *D. novamexicana tan* allele. Two of these five alleles were found in strains
458 collected from the same population (SC0708, SC0718) near the western edge of the
459 species range; however, the other three alleles (II0710, G9647, FP9918, DA0626) as
460 well as the DA0626 allele were found in strains isolated from populations spread
461 throughout the species range (Figure 1C).

462

463 The frequency and geographic distribution of *ebony* and *tan* alleles similar in function
464 to their *D. novamexicana* orthologs again suggests that they are unlikely to be primarily
465 responsible for the pigmentation cline.

466

467 *Testing for associations between pigmentation and variation in ebony and tan*

468

469 Although we found few alleles with sequence and/or function equivalent to *D.*
470 *novamexicana* segregating within *D. americana*, other alleles of *tan* and/or *ebony*
471 might still contribute to pigmentation diversity within *D. americana*. To explore this
472 possibility, we tested whether any of the segregating sites sampled in *tan*
473 (Supplementary Table 6) or *ebony* (Supplementary Table 7) for our phylogenetic
474 analysis showed a significant association with estimates of pigmentation for each
475 strain (Supplementary Table 8). Specifically, we used a general linear model to test
476 each variable site with a minor allele present in at least five strains (excluding sites
477 with indels) for a statistically significant association with pigmentation. For *ebony*, the
478 region sampled started in exon 5 and extended into exon 8, with no statistically
479 significant associations observed (Figure 3A). Because prior work suggests that the
480 functional difference between *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* *ebony* alleles
481 affects *cis*-regulation (Cooley *et al.* 2012), it is perhaps not surprising that this region,
482 consisting mainly of coding sequences, does not harbor associated variants. We
483 thought it possible, however, that we might have seen an association with these sites
484 due to linkage disequilibrium with a variant outside this region because *ebony* is
485 located in a region of the genome inverted between *D. novamexicana* and most strains
486 of *D. americana* (Wittkopp:2003bn; Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). For *tan*, prior work has
487 mapped functionally divergent sites to intron 1 (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009), suggesting that
488 the region sampled is much more likely to harbor variants that might correlate with
489 pigmentation. Nonetheless, we also observed no statistically significant associations
490 between body color and variants in this region segregating within *D. americana* (Figure
491 3B).

492

493 *Genetic heterogeneity underlying body color variation in D. americana*

494

495 With none of our analyses linking variation in *ebony* and/or *tan* to clinal variation in *D.*
496 *americana* body color, we sought to further investigate its genetic architecture by
497 examining the phenotypic distributions of males in the 51 backcross populations.
498 Because all 51 strains were crossed and then backcrossed to the same strain of *D.*
499 *novamexicana*, differences in the distribution of pigmentation phenotypes observed
500 among these BC₁ populations must be due to genetic differences among the strains of
501 *D. americana*. For example, differences in the number of phenotypic classes observed
502 among the BC₁ populations indicate that different strains of *D. americana* harbor
503 different numbers of loci with effects on pigmentation distinct from the *D.*
504 *novamexicana* alleles. Assuming basic Mendelian segregation, one locus with a
505 divergent allele affecting pigmentation is expected to cause two distinct pigmentation
506 phenotypes in the backcross population, whereas two loci with divergent alleles are
507 expected to cause up to four distinct pigmentation phenotypes, and three loci with
508 divergent alleles could cause up to eight distinct phenotypes. Differences in the BC₁
509 pigmentation phenotypes and/or number of pigmentation categories are also expected
510 to result from variation among the *D. americana* strains in the identity of loci and/or
511 allelic variation at loci.

512

513 To compare the distributions of BC₁ phenotypes among strains, we first converted the
514 strain-specific pigmentation categories to a standardized set of pigmentation
515 categories. We did this by comparing representative images of flies from each strain-
516 specific category to each other and sorting the images with the most similar
517 pigmentation into the same category. This process resulted in 8 categories. After
518 translating the numbers of flies from the strain-specific categories to the standardized
519 categories (Supplementary Table 3), we examined the distribution of flies among
520 pigmentation classes for all of the strains. We found that the number of pigmentation
521 categories in the BC₁ population ranged from 4 (e.g., BU0624) to 8 (WS0712) among
522 the strains (Supplementary Table 3; Figure 4A), indicating that the number of loci
523 harboring variation affecting pigmentation is variable within *D. americana*. In addition,
524 even for strains that produced the same number of phenotypic classes in the

525 backcross population, differences were observed in the specific pigmentation
526 phenotypes of each class, indicating that there are also differences in the specific loci
527 or alleles affecting pigmentation between strains. An example of this can be seen by
528 comparing strains BU0624 and PM9936: both strains produced backcross populations
529 with 4 pigmentation classes, but flies with light pigmentation were common in the
530 BU0624 backcross and nonexistent in the PM9936 backcross (Figure 4A).

531
532 Finally, we asked whether loci affecting pigmentation were more likely to be more
533 similar for strains isolated from the same population than from different populations.
534 Despite evidence of extensive gene flow within *D. americana* (Schäfer *et al.* 2006;
535 Morales-Hojas *et al.* 2008; Fonseca *et al.* 2013), we expected this might be true for loci
536 affecting pigmentation because of the longitudinal cline previously observed for body
537 color (Wittkopp *et al.* 2011). That is, if natural selection is favoring different
538 pigmentation phenotypes in different populations, we might expect to see more genetic
539 similarity for loci affecting pigmentation within than between populations. Inspecting the
540 number of backcross pigmentation categories for strains derived from the same
541 collection site, however, already suggests this might not be so: the three strains
542 isolated from the MK population produced backcross progeny with 4, 6, and 7 distinct
543 pigmentation phenotypes.

544
545 To further compare the backcross phenotypes, we used correspondence analysis (CA)
546 to reduce the dimensionality of the BC₁ phenotypic distributions. This method is similar
547 to principal components analysis (PCA), but for categorical data. The first two
548 dimensions of the correspondence analysis (comparable to the first two principle
549 components in a PCA) captured 55.1% of the variation among strains. As seen by the
550 overlaid pigmentation categories in Figure 4B, dimension 1 discriminates most strongly
551 between strains that do and do not produce many backcross progeny with the darkest
552 pigmentation (categories 7 and 8). Dimension 2, by contrast, discriminates most
553 strongly between strains that do and do not produce many backcross progeny with the
554 lightest pigmentation (categories 1 and 2) (Figure 4B). The lack of visible clustering for
555 strains isolated from the same collection site again suggests that flies in the same

556 population might not be more likely to have similar loci affecting pigmentation than flies
557 from different populations. Indeed, Euclidean distances in this CA dimension 1 and 2
558 space were similar for the 110 pairs of strains from the same collection site and the
559 2440 pairs of strains that were from different collection sites (mean distance for pair
560 from same collection site = 0.68; mean distance for pairs from different collection sites
561 = 0.65; t-test, p-value = 0.45).

562

563 **Discussion**

564

565 In this study, we tested the hypothesis that *D. novamexicana*-like alleles of *ebony*
566 and/or *tan* are driving the longitudinal pigmentation cline seen in *D. americana*
567 (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009; 2011; Cooley *et al.* 2012). We found no support for this
568 hypothesis: *D. novamexicana*-like alleles of these genes segregating in *D. americana* -
569 identified based on either sequence or function - were too rare to account for the cline.
570 Other alleles of *tan* and/or *ebony* might contribute to pigmentation variation within *D.*
571 *americana*, but we found no statistically significant association between body color and
572 any of the variable sites in *tan* or *ebony* tested. Rather, genetic analysis indicated that
573 differences in the number of loci and/or allelic effects of loci affecting pigmentation are
574 common both within and among populations, suggesting genetic heterogeneity despite
575 locally adapted pigmentation. Below, we discuss the implications of these findings,
576 focusing on possible sources of pigmentation variation in *D. americana*, the complexity
577 of its genetic architecture, and how this pigmentation cline might persist in the face of
578 ongoing gene flow.

579

580 In other *Drosophila* species, differences in body pigmentation segregating within a
581 species have been shown to be associated with variable sites in pigmentation genes,
582 including *ebony* (Pool & Aquadro 2007; Takahashi *et al.* 2007; Rebeiz *et al.* 2009;
583 Telonis-Scott *et al.* 2011; Takahashi & Takano-Shimizu 2011; Bastide *et al.* 2013;
584 Johnson *et al.* 2015; Miyagi *et al.* 2015; Telonis-Scott & Hoffmann 2018) and *tan*
585 (Bastide *et al.* 2013; Yassin *et al.* 2016; Endler *et al.* 2016). Despite the lack of
586 associations observed in the current study, we still think it likely that variation in *ebony*,

587 *tan*, and/or other pigmentation genes also contribute to pigmentation variation within *D.*
588 *americana*. We tested for associations between pigmentation and variable sites in
589 *ebony* and *tan* using ~100 strains each, but larger sample sizes would provide greater
590 power to detect variants with small effects. Including sequences not expected to be
591 associated with pigmentation would also allow demographic factors to be more fully
592 considered. In addition, we only tested segregating sites in the first intron of *tan* and in a
593 region starting in exon 5 and ending in exon 8 for *ebony*. Because linkage disequilibrium
594 in *D. americana* decays quickly within these genes (often disappearing within ~50 bp)
595 (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009; 2011), it is unlikely that the sites tested would detect functional
596 variants outside of these regions; variable sites in other regions of *tan* and/or *ebony*
597 might be found to be associated with *D. americana* body color in future studies.

598
599 Association studies can also fail to identify genes contributing to trait variation when
600 there is genetic heterogeneity (i.e., multiple genotypes giving rise to the same
601 phenotype) (Korte & Farlow 2013; Manchia *et al.* 2013). Genetic heterogeneity is
602 expected to be more common for polygenic than single-gene traits, but even when there
603 is only one gene controlling a trait, allelic heterogeneity (multiple alleles with the same
604 phenotypic effects) can still obscure associations with the gene (Savolainen *et al.* 2013).
605 Our genetic analysis provides two lines of evidence for such heterogeneity underlying
606 pigmentation variation in *D. americana*. First, for *tan*, we identified six *D. americana*
607 alleles showing at least marginal evidence of similarity between *D. americana* and *D.*
608 *novamexicana*, indicating that they lighten pigmentation more than other *D. americana*
609 *tan* alleles, but these alleles were derived from five different collection sites in four
610 different states (Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, and Missouri) and in only one case were
611 two of these alleles sampled from the same collection site. This finding suggests that
612 the similar pigmentation of strains collected from these sites exists despite differences
613 in the pigmentation alleles they carry. A similar pattern was reported previously for *D.*
614 *americana* when a *D. novamexicana*-like *ebony* allele causing lighter pigmentation was
615 found to be present in one of three strains with similar pigmentation derived from
616 Duncan, Nebraska (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009). Indeed, these *D. novamexicana*-like *tan* and
617 *ebony* alleles found segregating in *D. americana* provide an excellent example of how

618 genetic heterogeneity can work: because *ebony* and *tan* encode enzymes catalyzing
619 opposite directions of a reversible biochemical reaction (True *et al.* 2005), alleles
620 increasing activity of *ebony* and decreasing activity of *tan* (or vice versa) can have
621 equivalent effects on pigmentation (Figure 1B, (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009)).

622
623 Our phenotypic analysis of backcross populations from 51 strains of *D. americana* from
624 20 collection sites provides the second line of evidence for genetic heterogeneity
625 underlying clinally varying pigmentation in *D. americana*. In the absence of genetic
626 heterogeneity, two strains derived from the same population with the same phenotype
627 are expected to carry the same pigmentation alleles. If true, crossing and backcrossing
628 these strains of *D. americana* to *D. novamexicana* should produce the same
629 distributions of pigmentation phenotypes. We found, however, that backcross
630 populations often showed differences in the number of distinct pigmentation classes, the
631 body color of each pigmentation class, and/or the relative abundance of flies with
632 different body colors, even when strains were derived from the same collection site.
633 These data are consistent with genetic heterogeneity in which multiple combinations of
634 genes and/or alleles underlie similar pigmentation phenotypes within a population as
635 well as diversity in pigmentation among locations. Similar genetic heterogeneity has
636 previously been described for mate choice in *Drosophila pseudoobscura* (Barnwell &
637 Noor 2008), gene expression in yeast (Metzger & Wittkopp 2019), timing of bud set in
638 Scots pine trees (Kujala *et al.* 2017), flowering time in maize (Buckler *et al.* 2009), and
639 human diseases (McClellan & King 2010). It has also been reported more broadly for
640 convergent phenotypes that evolved in more genetically isolated populations, including
641 adaptation of humans to high-altitudes (Jeong & Di Rienzo 2014), lighter skin color in
642 East Asian and European peoples (Norton *et al.* 2007), and adaptation to highlands in
643 maize (Takuno *et al.* 2015). Nonetheless, we think that the extent of genetic
644 heterogeneity underlying variation in quantitative traits is generally underestimated -
645 especially within a population or among populations connected by extensive gene flow -
646 because of the reliance on association mapping for finding loci responsible for trait
647 variation and the rarity of studies using biparental quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping
648 to analyze multiple genotypes from the same population with similar phenotypes.

649

650 How might this genetic complexity be maintained despite selection favoring a particular
651 phenotype at a particular location? The extensive gene flow seen throughout *D.*
652 *americana* (Schäfer *et al.* 2006; Morales-Hojas *et al.* 2008; Wittkopp *et al.* 2011;
653 Fonseca *et al.* 2013) is likely part of the answer. This gene flow moves alleles among
654 populations, making it difficult for a population to fix the most adaptive allele for each
655 local environment (Savolainen *et al.* 2013). But there must also be sufficient genetic
656 variation affecting pigmentation maintained in the species for this gene flow to cause
657 genetic heterogeneity (Pritchard *et al.* 2010; Savolainen *et al.* 2013). *D. americana*
658 harbors high levels of genetic variation generally (Fonseca *et al.* 2013), and selection
659 for different pigmentation phenotypes in different locations should maintain diverse
660 pigmentation alleles at the species level (Savolainen *et al.* 2013; Lee *et al.* 2016; Troth
661 *et al.* 2018). The structure of the biochemical pathway controlling production of
662 alternative pigments from a single, branched biochemical pathway (Massey & Wittkopp
663 2016) might also contribute to standing genetic variation because it allows changes in
664 the activity of multiple genes to have similar effects on pigmentation (Wittkopp *et al.*
665 2009). Ultimately, however, selection acting on this standing genetic variation must be
666 favoring different pigmentation phenotypes in different locations to maintain the cline
667 (Kawecki & Ebert 2004; Savolainen *et al.* 2013). Assortative mating, in which individuals
668 with similar body color are more likely to mate with each other than individuals with
669 different body color, could also contribute to the *D. americana* pigmentation cline.
670 Although evidence of assortative mating for body color is rare in *Drosophila* species, it
671 has been observed in an Indian population of *D. melanogaster*, with darker individuals
672 more likely to mate with each other in cold, dry weather and lighter individuals more
673 likely to mate with each other when it is hot or humid (Dev *et al.* 2013). Finally, although
674 evidence of *ebony* and *tan* alleles from *D. novamexicana* introgressed into *D.*
675 *americana* is limited (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009), it remains possible that alleles of other
676 genes affecting pigmentation have been introduced into *D. americana* from *D.*
677 *novamexicana*. Disentangling the relative contributions of these different evolutionary
678 and molecular processes to the formation and maintenance of the *D. americana* body
679 color cline will require much more extensive, interdisciplinary studies.

680

681

682 **Acknowledgements**

683

684 We thank Bryant McAllister for sharing strains of *D. americana* that his lab established
685 from field collections, the *Drosophila* Species Stock Center for maintaining and
686 supplying strains of *D. novamexicana* and *D. americana*, Lisa Kim for assistance with
687 sequencing, and members of the Wittkopp lab (especially Henry Ertl, Mark Hill, Petra
688 Vande Zande, Abigail Lamb and Molly Hirst) for helpful discussions and feedback on
689 this work. Funding for this project was provided by the National Institutes of Health
690 (F32GM087928 to AC; R35GM118073 and R01GM089736 to PJW) and the National
691 Science Foundation (DEB-0640485 to PJW).

692

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895 896 **Data Accessibility**

897 Sequences described in Supplementary Files 1 and 2 are also available in NCBI
898 PopSet with GenBank accession numbers: MT350927 - MT351036 for *ebony* and
899 MT350824 - MT350926 for *tan*. All other data and code are included in the manuscript
900 as supplementary tables and files.

901

902 **Author Contributions**

903 PJW and LLS designed the research. LLS and WNM quantified pigmentation and
904 performed the genetic analysis. AMC, DCY, AJ, and PJW collected and analyzed
905 sequence data. PJW performed the statistical analysis and constructed figures, with
906 assistance from LLS and WNM. PJW wrote the paper, with input from LLS, WNM, and
907 AJ and final editing by all authors.

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Figure 1. *D. americana* alleles of *ebony* and *tan* closely related to the *D.*

***novamexicana* allele are rare within *D. americana*.** (A) *D. americana* (left) has a much darker body color than *D. novamexicana* (right). (B) The *tan* and *ebony* genes encode enzymes that catalyze a reversible biochemical reaction required for the production of dark (black and brown) melanins and light (yellow/tan) sclerotins, respectively. (C) Collection sites for progenitors of *D. americana* (brown) and *D. novamexicana* (yellow) strains used in this work are shown. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of independently isolated strains examined from that site. Only a single strain from the *Drosophila* Species Stock Center was examined for A01 and N14. For more information about these strains, see Supplementary Table 1. (D, E) The circular phylogenetic trees shown for *ebony* (D) and *tan* (E) were produced using a Maximum Likelihood method implemented in MEGA7, as described in Methods. Branches shown were supported by 50% or more of bootstrap replicate trees. The *ebony* tree is based on 579 aligned sites from 110 alleles, and the *tan* tree is based on 1328 aligned sites from 103 alleles. Branches shown in red highlight the *D. novamexicana* allele (“nova N14”) and the allele from *D. americana* (DN2 for *ebony*, A01 for *tan*) previously shown to share similarity in both sequence and function with the *D. novamexicana* allele (Wittkopp *et al.* 2009).

Figure 2. Genetic analysis of pigmentation differences between *D. novamexicana*

and strains of *D. americana*. (A) Schematics show chromosomal content of *D. americana* and *D. novamexicana* parental strains, F₁ hybrids, and examples of potential backcross progeny produced by crossing an F₁ hybrid female back to *D. novamexicana*, with all autosomes represented as a single bar. Approximate locations of the *yellow* and *tan* genes on the X chromosome (Muller Element A) as well as the *ebony* gene on chromosome 2 (Muller element E) are also shown. Dorsal images of *D. novamexicana* (strain N14) and *D. americana* (strain CB0522) as well as the lateral image of a F₁ hybrid shown were taken at different times from each other and images shown in panel B. Color adjustments have been made to reproduce relative pigmentation of these three genotypes, but these images should not be quantitatively

compared to each other or images in panel B. (B) Representative flies from each of the 4 to 6 pigmentation classes identified for five strains of *D. americana* are shown, arranged from lightest (top left) to darkest (bottom right) in each box. A lateral view is shown for all flies and images within a box were collected under comparable conditions. (C, D) The proportion of male backcross flies in each pigmentation class carrying a *D. americana* (brown) or *D. novamexicana* (yellow) allele of *ebony* (C) or *tan* (D) inherited from their F₁ hybrid mother is shown for backcrosses with two strains of *D. americana*: DN0748x37 (C) and DA0626 (D). These two examples are the only cases where no statistically significant difference in body color was detected for flies inheriting the *D. americana* or *D. novamexicana* alleles of *ebony* or *tan*. Phenotypic distributions are shown for *yellow*, *ebony*, and *tan* genotypes for all strains of *D. americana* in Supplementary Figures 3, 4 and 5, respectively. Note that borderline evidence of functional similarity for *tan* alleles was also observed between *D. novamexicana* and five other strains of *D. americana* (Supplementary Figure 5). None of the *D. americana* strains showed evidence of functional differences from *D. novamexicana* for alleles of the *yellow* gene (Supplementary Figure 3). Genotyping data for all three genes is provided as Supplementary Table 4, and results of the statistical tests are provided as Supplementary Table 5.

Figure 3. Variable sites sampled in *tan* and *ebony* are not significantly associated with pigmentation in *D. americana*. Statistical significance of an association between body color and the nucleotide present at variable sites in the *D. americana* *ebony* (A) and *tan* (B) regions sequenced are shown, reported as $-\log(p\text{-value})$ from the general linear model described in Methods. Red dotted lines show threshold used to assess statistical significance. Schematics shown below each plot indicate the location of intronic and exons regions in the *ebony* (A) and *tan* (B) sequences analyzed. Body color data used provided as Supplementary Table 2. Genotype data used provided as Supplementary Table 6 for *tan* and Supplementary Table 7 for *ebony*. Results of the general linear models are provided as Supplementary Table 8.

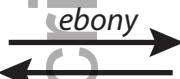
Figure 4. Distributions of backcross phenotypes indicate diversity in number and effects of loci affecting pigmentation. (A) The relative proportion of male backcross progeny in each of eight standardized pigmentation classes (Supplementary Table 3) is shown for each *D. americana* strain. Pigmentation classes are indicated by the color of the bar ranging from the lightest (yellow, class 1) to the darkest (black, class 8), with a longer bar indicating a greater proportion of the backcross population. Bars are aligned vertically at the transition between pigmentation classes 5 and 6. Strains are clustered by collection site, with each strain derived from the same collection site shown in the same color. The total number of male backcross progeny scored for each strain is shown to the right of each distribution. Note the differences in distributions not only between, but also within, collection sites. For example, strains producing very different distributions of backcross progeny were isolated from the FG, IR, and SC collection sites. (B) Results from a correspondence analysis (CA) used to compare the distribution of backcross pigmentation phenotypes among strains are shown, plotted with colored circles according to their values on the first two axes of variation: CA dimension 1, which explained 32.7% of the variation and CA dimension 2, which explained 22.4% of the variation. Strains shown with the same color were derived from the same collection site. The relative placement of pigmentation classes 1 - 8 on these two axes is also shown with black triangles for comparison. Note that, for example, strain IR4110, which had most backcross progeny with the darkest body color is located close to the triangle representing the darkest pigmentation class (class 8). Similarly, BU0624, the strain that produced the most lightly pigmented backcross progeny, is located close to the triangles representing the lightest pigmentation classes (class 1 and 2). The lack of visual clustering for strains derived from the same collection site is consistent with our statistical test showing strains from the same collection site were no more likely to be located close to each other in this CA space than strains from different collection sites.



B



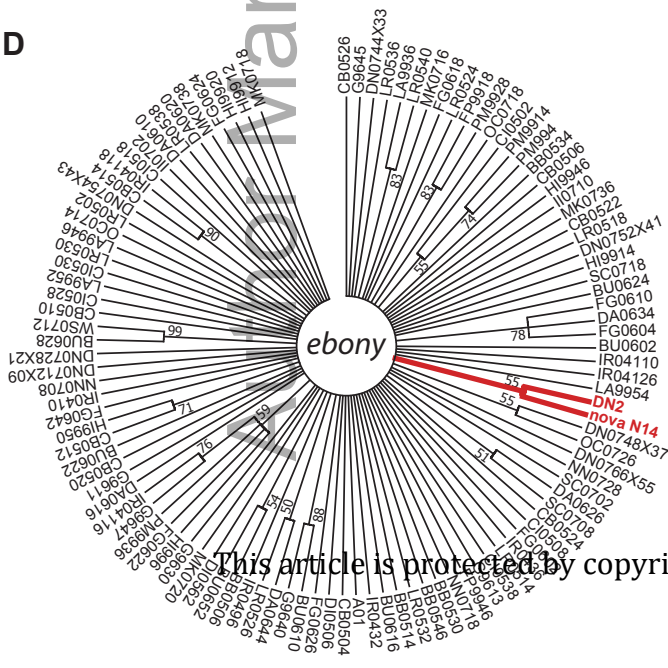
black and brown pigments



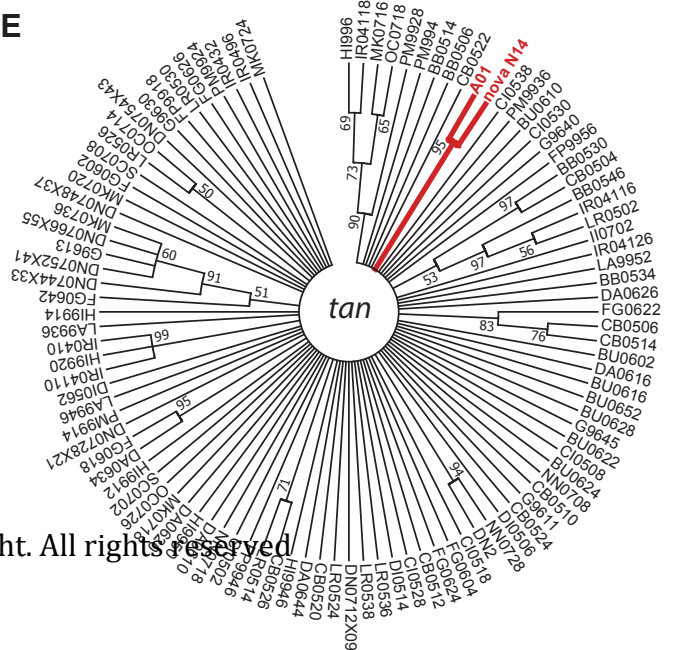
yellow/tan pigments

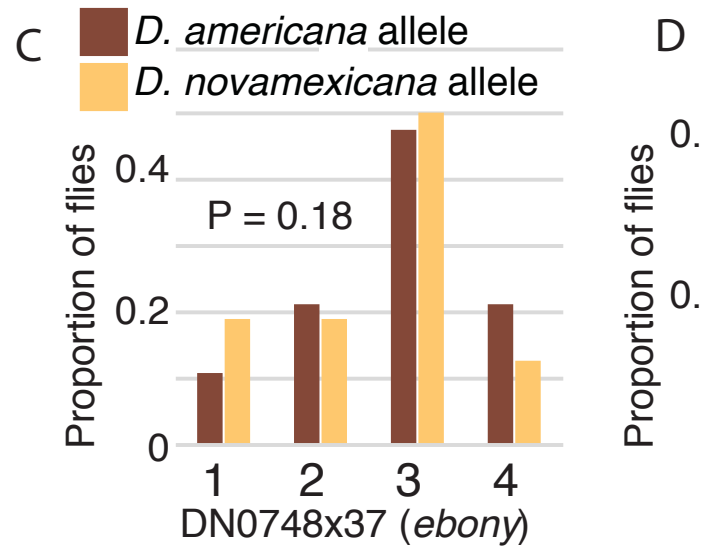
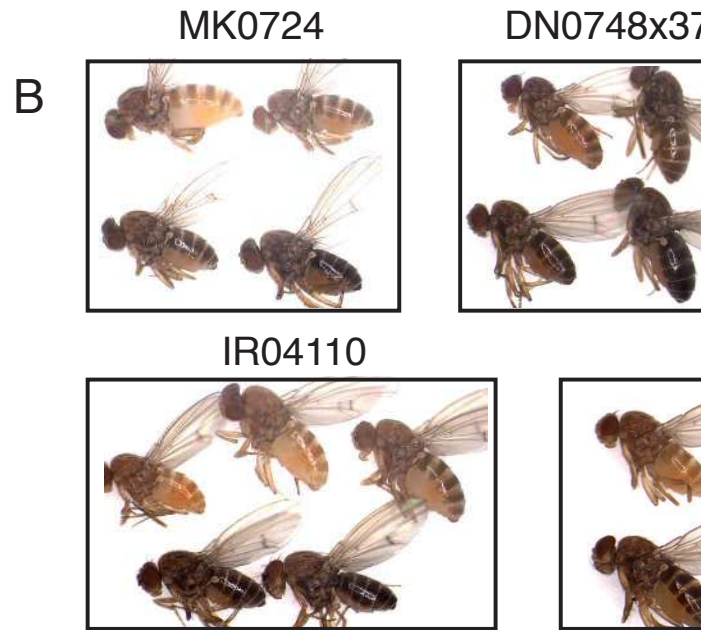
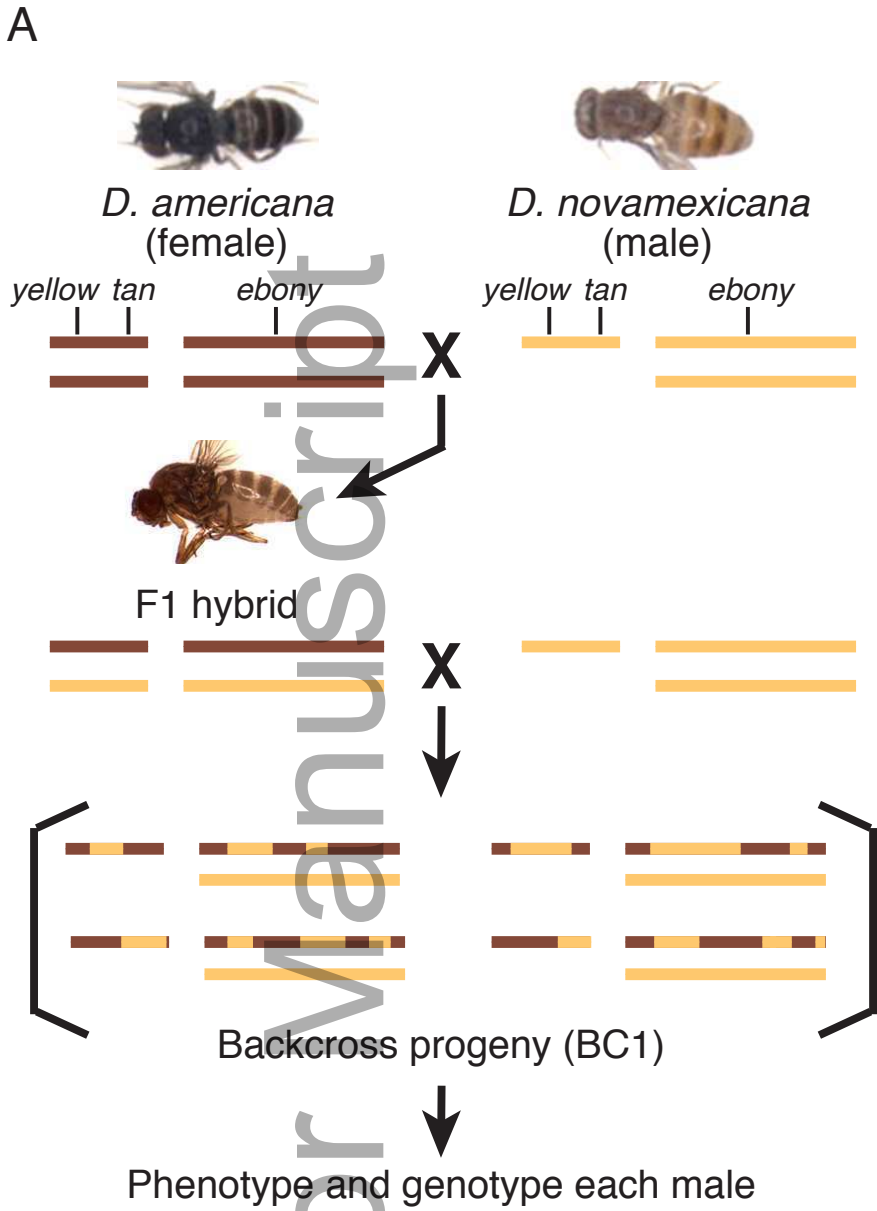


D

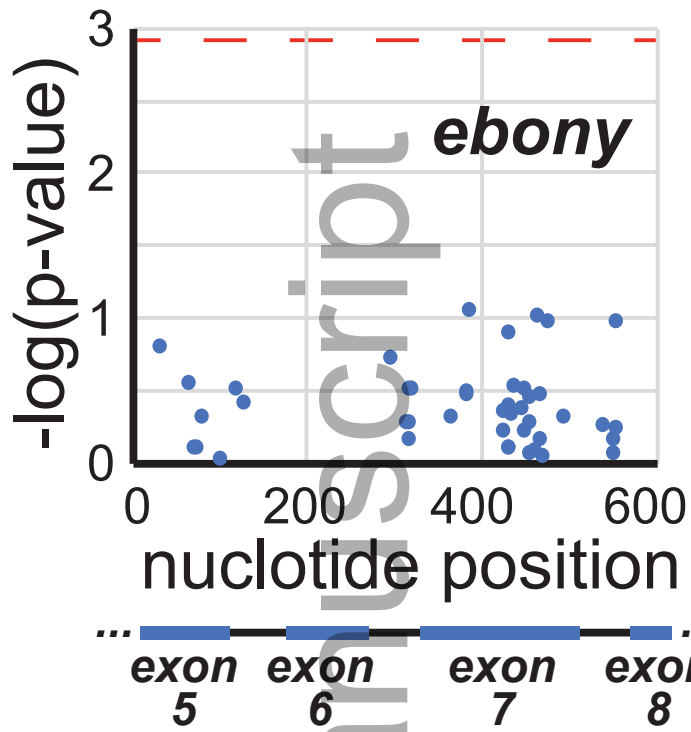
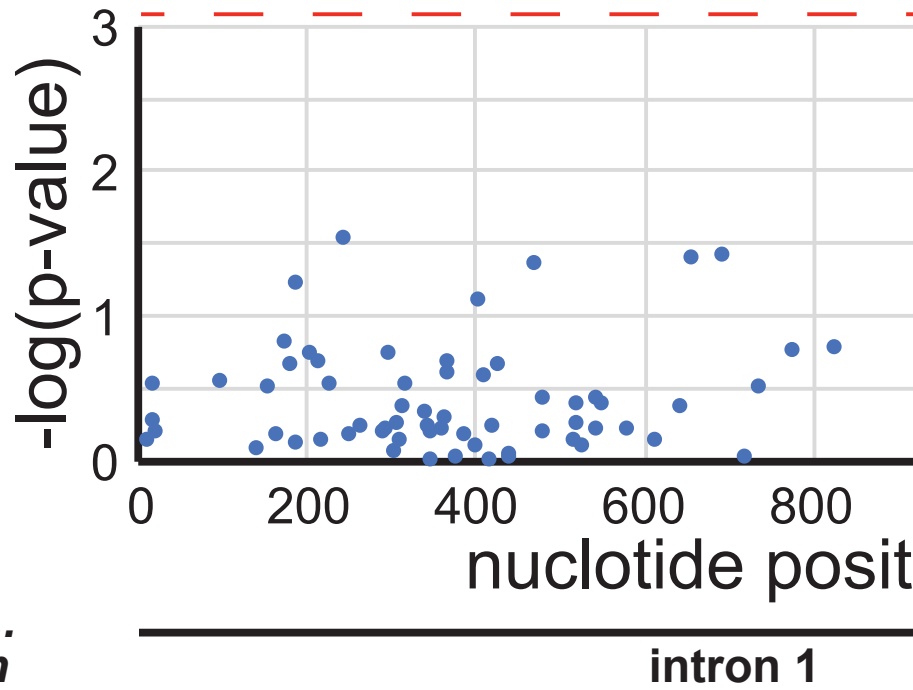


E

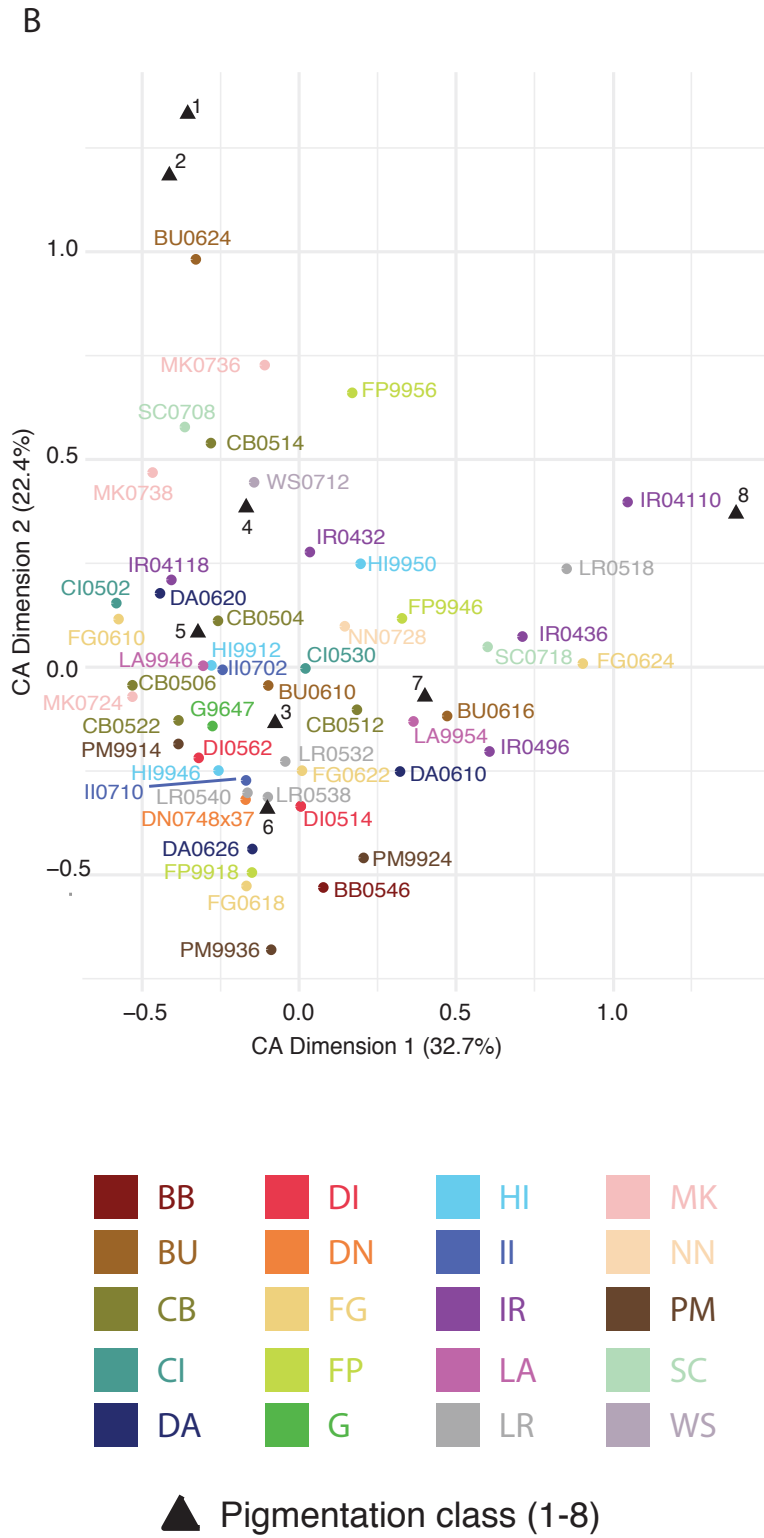
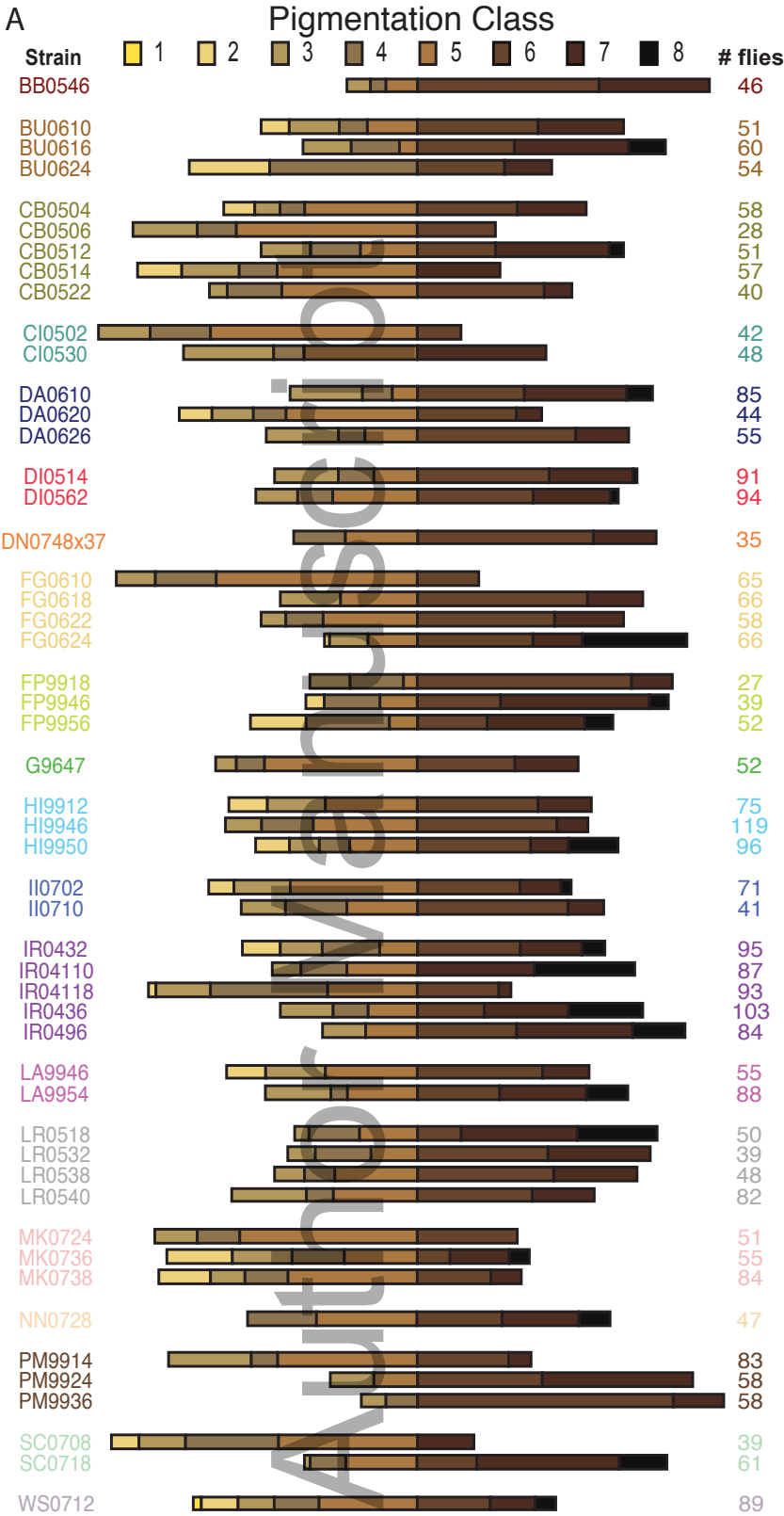




mec_15531_f2.ai

A**B**

mec_15531_f3.ai



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