

1 **Title: *apterous A* specifies dorsal wing patterns and sexual traits in butterflies**

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8 **Abstract:** Butterflies have evolved different color patterns on their dorsal and ventral wing
9 surfaces to serve different signaling functions, yet the developmental mechanisms controlling
10 surface-specific patterning are still unknown. Here, we mutate both copies of the transcription
11 factor *apterous* in *Bicyclus anynana* butterflies using CRISPR/Cas9 and show that *apterous A*,
12 expressed dorsally, functions both as a repressor and modifier of ventral wing color patterns, as
13 well as a promoter of dorsal sexual ornaments in males. We propose that the surface-specific
14 diversification of wing patterns in butterflies proceeded via the co-option of *apterous A* into
15 various gene regulatory networks involved in the differentiation of discrete wing traits. Further,
16 interactions between *apterous* and sex-specific factors such as *doublesex* may have contributed
17 to the origin of sexually dimorphic surface-specific patterns. Finally, we discuss the evolution of
18 eyespot number diversity in the family Nymphalidae within the context of developmental
19 constraints due to *apterous* regulation.

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24 **Significance statement:**

25 Butterflies have evolved different wing patterns on their dorsal and ventral wing surfaces that
26 serve different signaling functions. We identify the transcription factor, *apterous A*, as a key
27 regulator of this surface-specific differentiation in butterflies. We also show a role for *apterous A*
28 in restricting the developmental origin of a novel trait, eyespots, to just the ventral wing surface.
29 Dorsal-ventral differentiation of tissues is not just restricted to butterfly wings but occurs in
30 many other organs and organisms from arthropods to humans. Thus, we believe that our work
31 will be of interest to a diverse group of biologists and layman alike interested in the role of
32 development in shaping biodiversity.

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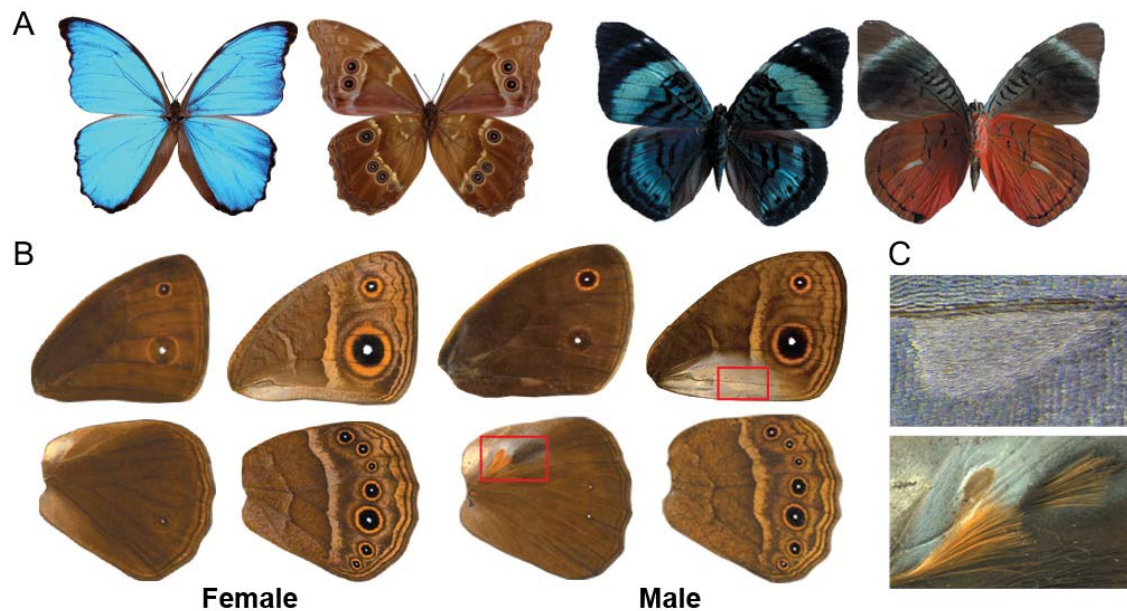
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47 **Main Text:**

48 Butterflies are a group of organisms well known for their diverse and colorful wing patterns. Due
49 to the dual role these patterns play in survival and mate selection, many butterflies have evolved
50 a signal partitioning strategy where color patterns appearing on the hidden dorsal surfaces
51 generally function in sexual signaling, whereas patterns on the exposed ventral surfaces most
52 commonly serve to ward off predators (1, 2) (Fig 1A). While the molecular and developmental
53 basis of individual pattern element differentiation, such as eyespots or transverse bands, has been
54 previously studied (3, 4), the molecular basis of dorsal and ventral surface-specific color pattern
55 development remains unknown. Elucidating this process will help us understand the mechanism
56 of diversification and specialization of wing patterns within the butterfly lineage.

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60 **Figure 1: Dorsal-Ventral surface-specific variation in butterflies** A) Dorsal (left) and ventral

61 (right) surfaces of *Morpho menelaus* and *Panacea regina* illustrating striking variation in color

62 and patterns between surfaces. B) Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) surfaces of a male and female

63 *Bicyclus anynana*. The regions boxed in red are expanded in C. C) Magnified view of the

64 androconial organs present only in males. Top: Forewing ventral androconia with a characteristic

65 teardrop shape surrounded by silver scales. The scales on the corresponding dorsal forewing

66 surface are completely brown. Bottom: Hindwing dorsal androconia, also surrounded by silver

67 scales, along with two patches of hair-pencils. These traits are absent from the ventral hindwing.

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69 We hypothesized that the transcription factor *apterous* (*ap*), a gene expressed on the dorsal wing
70 surfaces of flies (5), might be implicated in differentiating dorsal from ventral wing patterns in
71 butterflies. In insects, however, this gene is often present in two copies, *apA* and *apB*, that don't
72 necessarily share the same expression patterns, and flies are unusual for having lost one of these
73 copies. In the beetle *Tribolium castaneum*, *apA* is expressed on the dorsal surface whereas *apB* is
74 expressed on both surfaces (6). In the butterfly *Junonia coenia*, *apA* is expressed on the dorsal
75 surface of larval wings (7) but, the expression of *apB* and the role of either *apA* or *apB* in wing
76 development and patterning is not known for this or any butterfly species.

77

78 **Results**

79 ***apA* and *apB* are both expressed on dorsal surfaces of developing wings**

80 To investigate *ap* expression in butterflies, we cloned both *ap* homologs from the African
81 squinting bush brown *Bicyclus anynana* (Fig 1B, C), and used *in situ* hybridization to localize
82 *apA* and *apB* mRNA in developing larval and pupal wing discs. Both homologs of *ap* were
83 localized to the dorsal surfaces of the wings (Fig 2D, S1B). In the last larval instar wing discs,
84 *apA* was expressed uniformly on the wing surface but absent in future dorsal eyespot centers of
85 hindwings (Fig 2A) and forewings (Fig 2B). In larval wing discs of the *B. anynana* "Spotty"
86 mutant, which develops two additional dorsal eyespots, *apA* was absent in the additional centers
87 (Fig 2B). Furthermore, pupal wing expression of both *apA* and *apB* was up-regulated in dorsal
88 male-specific cells that give rise to long and thin modified scales, the hair-pencils, used for
89 dispersing pheromones during courtship (Fig 2C, S1C). This pattern of expression was not seen
90 in developing female pupal wings, which lack hair-pencils (Fig 2C, S1C). Control sense probes

91 for both *apA* and *apB* (Fig S1) did not show any surface-specific or hair-pencil specific staining
92 patterns.

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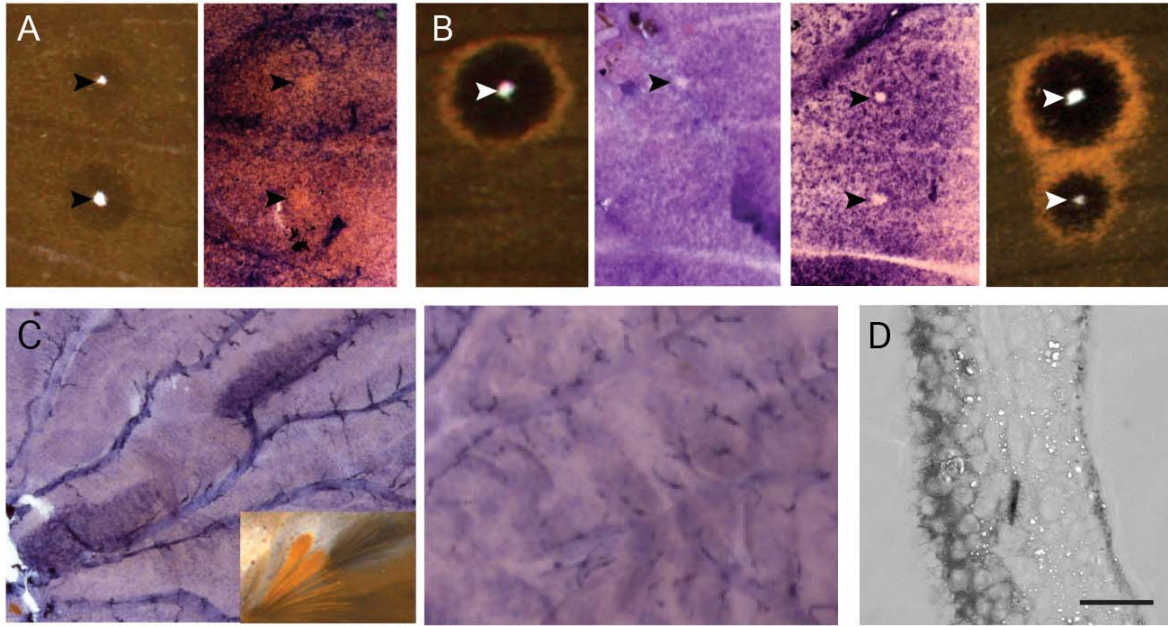
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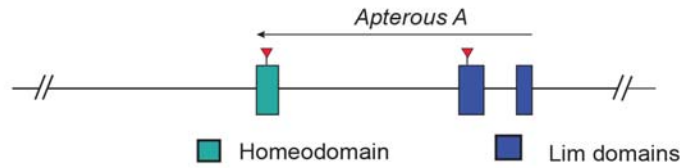
107 **Figure 2: *apA* mRNA localization in developing wing discs of *Bicyclus anynana*** A) *apA*
108 expression is uniform across the epidermis but absent in future dorsal eyespot centers of
109 hindwings. B) *apA* expression is absent in the future dorsal eyespot center of the wildtype
110 forewing (left) and also in the additional eyespot center in the *B. anynana* “Spotty” mutant
111 (right). C) Male wings (left) (28 hours after pupation) showing up-regulated dorsal *apA*
112 expression in the hair-pencil regions. Inset shows the hair-pencils in adult male *B. anynana*.
113 Female wings (right) (25 hours after pupation) show no up-regulation of *apA* in corresponding
114 regions of the dorsal surface. D) Cross-sectional view of a developing wing disc showing dorsal-
115 specific *apA* expression (left side of the cross-section). Scale bar is 20µm.

116

117 **apA regulates dorsal surface-specific wing patterning**

118 To functionally test the role of *ap*, we used the CRISPR/Cas9 system to disrupt the
119 homeodomain and LIM domain of *apA* (Fig 3A) and the LIM domain of *apB* (Fig S2A) (Table
120 S2). A range of mosaic phenotypes were observed in both types of *apA* mutant individuals (Fig
121 3). A few of these lacked wings, whose absence was visible upon pupation (Fig S3: mutant from
122 batch#9, individual #1(M9-1)), and some adults had mosaic patches of ventral-like scales
123 appearing on the dorsal surface (Fig 3B:M9-2). In other mutants, the sex pheromone producing
124 organ, the androconial organ, of the ventral forewing appeared on the dorsal surface in males
125 with its associated silver scales (Fig 3B:M9-27). Males also had modified hair-pencils associated
126 with the dorsal androconial organ of the hindwing, with loss of characteristic ultrastructure and
127 coloration, and absence of surrounding silver scales (Fig 3B:M9-12 (bottom)). Extreme mutant
128 individuals showed improper wing hinge formation, entire wing dorsal to ventral transformation
129 (Fig 3B: M9-3), the appearance of the ventral white band on the dorsal surface (Fig 3B:M9-12
130 (top)), and in one case, all seven eyespots on the dorsal hindwing (Fig 3B:M9-12 (bottom)), a
131 surface that normally exhibits, on average, zero to one eyespot in males and one to two eyespots
132 in females. *apA* clones also led to an enlarged outer perimeter to the gold ring in dorsal hindwing
133 and forewing eyespots (Fig 3B:M235-11). CRISPR/Cas9 disruption effects on the target
134 sequence were verified in a few individuals, which showed the presence of deletions in the
135 targeted regions (Fig 3A).

A



Homeodomain

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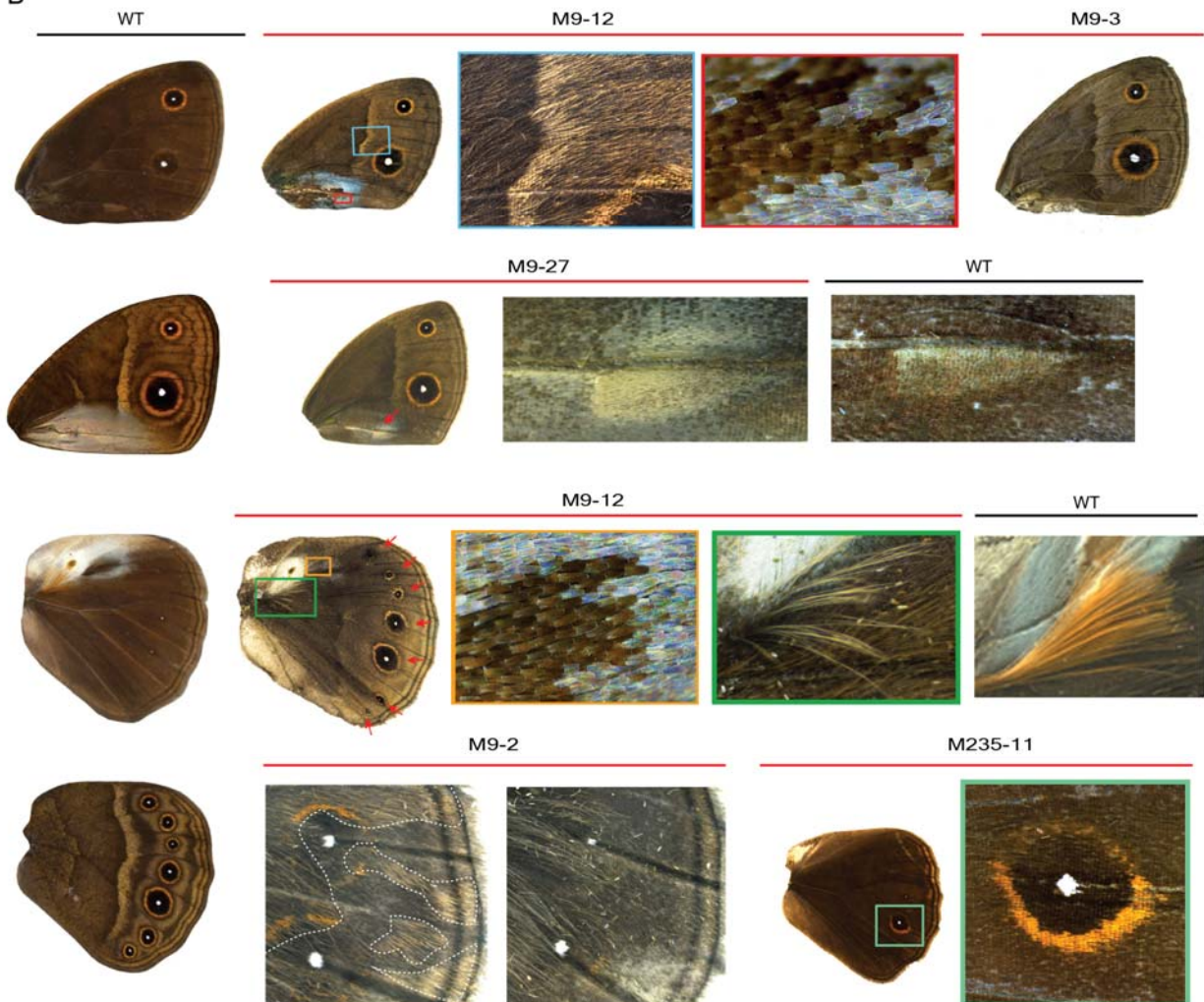
WT      AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTGGTGATGCTTGAAGCTGGTTTCGCATGCGCTTTCGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-3    AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTGGTGATGCATG-----CGCATGCGCTTTGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-2    AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTG-----AGCTGGTTTCGCATGCGCTTTCGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-2    AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTGGTG-----ATGCGCTTCGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-12   AAATA-----AGCTGGTTTCGCATGCGCTTTGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-26   AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTGGTGATGCTTGAA-CTGGTTTCGCATGCGCTTTGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-27   AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCGGAGCTGGTGATG-----CTGGTTTCGCATGCGCTTTGTGCGCGACGAGCTGCC
M9-27   AAATACGACTTCATGGTGCG-----GACGAGCTGCC
    
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LIM domain

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WT      AGTCGCGTACTACACAGGGCACAGGAGAAACAGTGCACATGAAAC-----ACTAGGTCACGCGCCC
M235-11 AGTCGCGTACTACACAGGGCACAGGAGAAACAGTGCACATGAAACTATGAACTAGGTCACGCGCCC
M235-12 AGTCGCGTACTACACAGGGCACAGGAGAAACAGTGCACAT-----ACTAGGTCACGCGCCC
M235-12 AGTCGCGTACTACACAGGGCACAGGAGAAACAGTGCACATGAA-----ACTAGGTCACGCGCCC
    
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B



137 **Figure 3: CRISPR/Cas9 mosaic wing pattern phenotypes of *apA* knockouts** A) Top: Regions
138 of the *apA* gene in *B. anynana* targeted using the CRISPR/Cas9 system. Bottom: Sequences of
139 the homeodomain and LIM domain regions of mutant individuals compared with the wildtype
140 sequence in bold. Blue is the region targeted and the PAM sequence is in red. Deletions are
141 indicated with '-'. B) The range of CRISPR/Cas9 *apA* mutant phenotypes observed in *B.*
142 *anynana*. The left column shows the wildtype (WT) dorsal and ventral surfaces for male
143 forewings and hindwings. M9-12 (top): The dorsal forewing of a mutant male highlighting some
144 of the ventral-like phenotypes and defects. The boxed regions are expanded to show the
145 appearance of ventral-like white band and silver scales. M9-3: Dorsal forewing surface of a
146 mutant female resembling the ventral surface. M9-27: Mutant with the ventral teardrop shape
147 forewing androconial organ appearing on the dorsal surface (red arrow). WT dorsal forewing
148 androconia is shown for comparison. M9-12 (bottom): A mutant dorsal hindwing with the
149 appearance of all seven eyespots (red arrows), normally only seen on the ventral surface. The
150 boxed regions are expanded to show the loss of silver scales associated with the dorsal hindwing
151 androconia and improper development of hair-pencils. WT hair-pencil is shown for comparison.
152 M9-2: Mosaic phenotype (left) on the dorsal surface with ventral-like light colored scales.
153 Clones are indicated with a dashed white line. Corresponding region of the other wing of the
154 same individual (right) shows no mosaicism. M235-11: A dorsal hindwing of a mutant with the
155 width of the gold ring resembling that of ventral eyespots. Control animals, injected with only
156 Cas9, all looked like wildtype (not shown).

157

158 No striking transformations of dorsal to ventral identity were observed in *apB* mutants. Some of
159 the *apB* knockout phenotypes included wing hinge defect, a missing hindwing in one case (Fig
160 S5: B-M9-22) and disturbed margin development (Fig S2: B-M9-17), sometimes associated with
161 wing pattern disturbances (Fig S2: B-M9-15). Sequencing showed the presence of mutations in
162 the targeted region (Fig S2A).

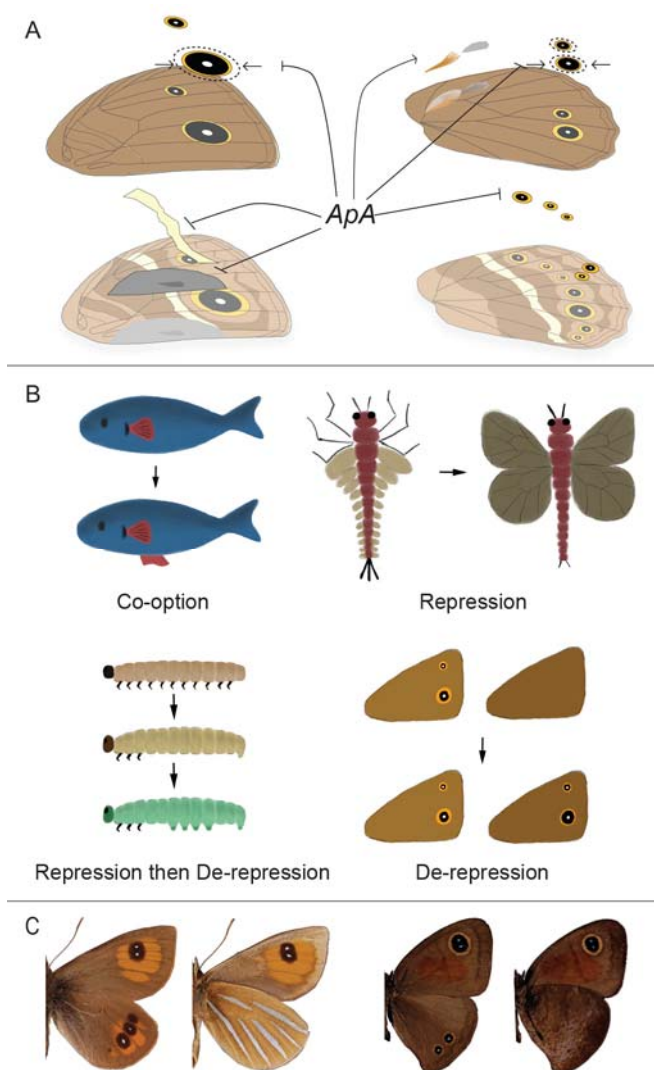
163
164 Knockdown of *apA* in a variety of insects from different lineages indicates that *apA* is necessary
165 for wing growth and development and its function in this process seems to be highly conserved
166 (5, 6, 8). However, our experiments, in agreement with others, also indicate a varying degree of
167 co-option of this transcription factor into late wing development processes such as wing
168 patterning and exoskeletalization. In *T. castaneum*, RNAi knockdown of *apA* and *apB*
169 individually shows almost no phenotypic effects while their simultaneous knockdown leads to
170 more dramatic phenotypes such as elytral exoskeletalization defects, depending on the
171 developmental stage. Therefore, both *apA* and *apB* in beetles are important for early and late
172 wing developmental processes (6). In *B. anynana*, knockout of both *apA* and *apB* causes defects
173 in early wing development but only *apA* appears to have been co-opted to control dorsal surface-
174 specific wing patterning.

175

176 ***apA* functions both as an activator and repressor of wing traits**

177 Interestingly, our work shows that *apA* has multiple different, often antagonistic functions in
178 surface- and sex-specific development between the fore- and hindwings. For example, *apA* acts
179 as a repressor of male androconial organs and silver scale development on dorsal forewings,
180 while it promotes hair-pencil and silver scale development on the dorsal hindwings of males (Fig

181 4A). These effects point to the likely interaction between *apA* and other factors such as sex-
182 specific (*doublesex*) or wing-specific (*Ultrabithorax*) factors that together can specify sex- and
183 surface-specific pattern development. We previously showed that *Ultrabithorax* (*Ubx*) is
184 expressed in the hindwings but not forewings of *B. anynana* (9). In addition, the presence of a
185 gene from the sex determination pathway, *doublesex* (*dsx*), in the future androconial regions of
186 male wings of *B. anynana* was also verified by *in situ* hybridization and semi-quantitative PCR
187 (10). These data support a likely combinatorial function reminiscent of the interactions between
188 the hox gene *Scr* and *dsx* in the determination of the male-specific sex combs in the legs of *D.*
189 *melanogaster* (11). The presence or absence of *Ubx*, type of *dsx* splice variant and *apA* may be
190 sufficient to give each sex and wing surface a unique identity, though more work needs to be
191 done to test this hypothesis. Given that proteins of the LIM-homeodomain subfamily, to which
192 *ap* belongs, are unique in their ability to bind other proteins via their LIM domain (12), their
193 involvement in such a large range of developmental processes, as repressors and activators, is
194 likely.



195

196 **Figure 4: The role of *apterous* in surface-specific wing patterning in *B. anynana* and**

197 **evolution of serial homologs in butterflies.** A) A schematic of the different functions of *apA* on

198 the dorsal surface of *B. anynana*. *apA* acts as a repressor of ventral traits such as the white

199 transversal band, forewing androconia, hindwing eyespots, and the outer perimeter of the gold

200 ring, and acts as an activator of hindwing hair-pencils and silver scales. B) Different modes of

201 serial homolog evolution involving the co-option of a (fin) gene network to a novel body

202 location (13), repression of the ancestrally repeated (wing) network in a subset of body segments

203 (modified from (14)), repression followed by de-repression of the (limb) network in certain body

204 segments (15), and de-repression of a never expressed (eyespot) network at a novel body
205 location. C) *Argyrophenga antipodium* (left) and *Cassionympha cassius* (right) males with dorsal
206 eyespots lacking ventral counterparts. Dorsal is to the left for each species.

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209

210 **Discussion and Conclusion**

211 Mutations in *apA* point to this gene functioning as a dorsal surface selector in *B. anynana*
212 butterflies. Selector genes comprise a small set of developmental genes that are critical for
213 specifying cell, tissue, segment, or organ identities in organisms (16). The wing selector hox gene
214 *Ubx* allows hindwings to have a different identity from forewings. For example, the restricted
215 expression of *Ubx* in hindwings of most insects examined so far, is required for membranous
216 wing formation in beetles and bugs (17), haltere formation in flies (18) and hindwing specific
217 color patterns in butterflies (19). When *Ubx* is mutated, in all the examples described above,
218 hindwings acquire the identity of forewings, and when *Ubx* is over-expressed in forewings, these
219 acquire a more hindwing-like identity (9). In *B. anynana*, *apA* functions in a similar manner
220 along the dorsal-ventral axis of each wing – mutations in this gene make dorsal wing surfaces
221 acquire a ventral identity. This type of homeotic mutation was also observed in a limited way, in
222 bristles along the margin of the wings of *D. melanogaster*, where *ap* mutant clones developed
223 bristles with a ventral identity (20). *B. anynana*, however, appears to have made inordinate use of
224 *apA* for surface-specific color patterning and sexual trait development across the entire wing.
225
226 Further, this work highlights the possible role of *apA* in restricting the origin and early evolution
227 of serial homologs such as eyespots in nymphalid butterflies to the ventral surface of the wings
228 only. Broad comparative work across 400 genera of butterflies indicated that eyespots originated
229 around 90 MYA within Nymphalidae on the ventral hindwing surface, and appeared ~40MY
230 later on the dorsal surfaces (21–23). The appearance of additional eyespots on the dorsal surface
231 of hindwings in *apA* mutants, and the absence of *apA* mRNA at the precise position where a few
232 dorsal eyespots develop in both fore- and hindwings at the stage of eyespot center differentiation,

233 implicates *apA* as a repressor of eyespot development in *B. anynana*. The additional gaps in *apA*
234 expression observed in Spotty mutants further suggests that genetic mechanisms of eyespot
235 number evolution on the dorsal surface proceeded via local repression of *apA*. We propose, thus,
236 that the original ventral restriction of eyespots was due to the ancestral presence of *apA* on dorsal
237 wing surfaces, and that eyespots' later appearance on these surfaces was due to local *apA*
238 repression.

239
240 The ancestral presence of a repressor (*apA*) of a gene regulatory network in a specific body
241 location, followed by repression of the repressor, seems to represent a novel mode of serial
242 homolog diversification (Fig 4B). This mode of serial homolog diversification is similar but also
243 distinct from the mechanism previously proposed to lead to the re-appearance of abdominal
244 appendages in lepidopteran larvae - via local repression of the limb repressor hox protein,
245 *Abdominal-A (Abd-A)* (15, 24). In contrast to eyespots, when arthropod appendages first
246 originated they were likely present in every segment of the body (25). Limbs were later repressed
247 in abdominal segments, and finally they were de-repressed in some of these segments in some
248 insect lineages (15). So, while the last steps of abdominal appendage and eyespot number
249 diversification are similar (de-repression of a repressed limb/eyespot network), the early stages
250 are different.

251
252 The comparative work across nymphalid butterflies also showed that the origin of dorsal
253 eyespots was dependent on the presence of corresponding ventral eyespots in ancestral lineages
254 (23). This implies that the extant diversity of eyespot patterns is biased/limited due to
255 developmental constraints, probably imposed by *apA*. Interestingly, while ~99% of the species in

256 our database display such constraints i.e dorsal eyespots always having ventral counterparts, a
257 few butterflies display dorsal eyespots that lack ventral counterparts (Fig 4C). The molecular
258 basis for these rare patterns remains to be explored.

259

260 In summary, we uncover a key transcription factor, *apA*, that due to its restricted expression on
261 dorsal wing surfaces allowed *B. anynana* butterflies to develop and evolve their strikingly
262 different dorsal and ventral wing patterns under natural and sexual selection. The interaction of
263 *apA* with other sex- and wing-specific factors may explain the surface-specific pattern diversity
264 we see across this as well as other butterfly species, but future comparative work is needed to
265 further test these hypotheses. Additionally, our work has identified a new system to examine how
266 developmental constraints, via *apA* repression of eyespot development, have shaped eyespot
267 number biodiversity.

268

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336

337 **Acknowledgments:** We thank Arjen van't Hof and Luqman Aslam for their help in retrieving
338 sequence information from the *B. anynana* genome, Mainak Das Gupta for his help in the *in situ*
339 hybridization protocols and Monteiro lab members for their support. This work was funded by
340 Ministry of Education, Singapore grant R-154-000-602-112, the National University of
341 Singapore grant R-154-000-587-133, and by the Department of Biological Sciences, NUS.

342

343 **Materials and Methods**

344 Animals

345 *Bicyclus anynana* butterflies were reared in a temperature controlled room at 27°C with a 12:12
346 hour light:dark cycle and 65% humidity. The larvae were fed on corn plants while the adults
347 were fed on banana.

348

349 Cloning and probe synthesis

350 *apA* sequence was obtained from [26] and *apB* and *dsx* sequences were identified from the *B.*
351 *anymana* genome [27]. The sequences were amplified with primers specified in Table S1,
352 sequenced and then cloned into a PGEM-T Easy vector (Promega). Sense and anti-sense
353 digoxigenin-labelled (DIG) riboprobes were synthesized *in vitro* using T7 and SP6 polymerases
354 (Roche), purified by ethanol precipitation and resuspended in 1:1 volume of DEPC treated
355 water:formamide.

356

357 *In-situ* hybridization

358 The protocol was modified slightly from [28]. Briefly, larval or pupal wings were dissected from
359 the last instar caterpillars or around 24-28 hrs after pupation respectively in PBS and transferred
360 to glass well plates containing PBST (PBS+0.1% Tween20) at room temperature. The PBST was
361 then immediately removed and the tissues fixed in 5% formaldehyde for 45 (larval) or 60 min
362 (pupal) on ice, followed by 5 washes with cold PBST. The tissues were then incubated with
363 25µg/ml proteinase K in cold PBST for 4 (larval) or 5 minutes (pupal), washed twice with
364 2mg/ml glycine in cold PBST, followed by 5 washes with cold PBST. For larval wings,
365 peripodial membrane was then removed on ice, post-fixed for 20 minutes with 5% formaldehyde
366 and washed with PBST. The wings were gradually transferred to a prehybridization buffer (5X
367 Saline sodium citrate pH 4.5, 50% formamide, 0.1% Tween20 and 100µg/ml denatured salmon
368 sperm DNA), washed in the prehyb buffer and incubated at 60-65°C for 1 hour, followed by
369 incubation in hybridization buffer (prehybridization buffer with 1g/L glycine and 70 to 140
370 ng/ml riboprobe) for 24 hours. The wings were then washed 6 to 10 times in prehybridization

371 buffer at 60-65°C. They were then gradually transferred back to PBST at room temperature,
372 washed 5 times in PBST and blocked overnight at 4°C (PBST+1% BSA). The DIG-labelled
373 probes were then detected by incubating the tissues with 1:3000 Anti-DIG Alkaline Phosphatase
374 (Roche) in block buffer for two hours, washed 10 times with block buffer, incubated in alkaline
375 phosphatase buffer (100mM Tris pH 9.5, 100mM NaCl, 5mM MgCl₂, 0.1% Tween) and finally
376 stained with NBT/BCIP (Promega) solution at room temperature till colour developed. The
377 reaction was stopped by washing in 2mM EDTA in PBST and again with PBST. The samples
378 were either mounted on slides with ImmunoHistoMount medium (Abcam) or post-fixed with 5%
379 formaldehyde before wax embedding and sectioning (Advanced Molecular Pathology Lab,
380 IMCB, Singapore).

381

382 Preparation of Cas9 mRNA and guide RNA

383 pT3TS-nCas9n was a gift from Wenbiao Chen (Addgene plasmid #46757). The plasmid was
384 linearized with XbaI digestion and purified using a GeneJET PCR Purification Kit (Thermo
385 Scientific). Cas9 mRNA was obtained by *in vitro* transcription using the mMACHINE
386 mMACHINE T3 kit (Ambion), tailed using the Poly(A) Tailing Kit (Ambion) and purified by
387 lithium chloride precipitation. The guide RNA templates were prepared using a PCR based
388 method according to [29]. The candidate targets were manually designed by searching for a
389 GGN₁₈NGG sequence on the sense or anti-sense strand of *apA* and *apB*, preferably targeting the
390 LIM and homeobox domains of the transcription factor (Table S1). They were blasted against the
391 *B. anynana* genome on LepBase.org to check for off-target effects. The template DNA sequence
392 was used to perform an *in vitro* transcription using T7 RNA polymerase (Roche) at 37°C
393 overnight, purified by ethanol precipitation and re-suspended in DEPC treated water.

394

395 Microinjections

396 Eggs were collected on corn leaves within one to two hours of egg laying and were arranged on
397 thin strips of double-sided tape on a petri dish. Cas9 mRNA and guide RNAs were mixed along
398 with green food dye (Table S2) and injected into the eggs with a Borosil glass capillary (World
399 Precision Instruments, 1B100F-3) using a Picospritzer II (Parker Hannifin). A piece of wet
400 cotton was placed in the petri dish and the eggs were allowed to develop in an incubator at 27°C
401 and high (~80%) humidity. Hatched caterpillars were placed on young corn plants using a brush.
402 Adults that emerged were scored for their phenotypes (Table S2).

403

404 Sequencing and genotyping mutants

405 Genomic DNA was extracted from leg tissues of mutant individuals using the E.Z.N.A Tissue
406 DNA Kit (Omega Bio-tek). The region surrounding the target sequence was amplified by PCR,
407 purified by ethanol precipitation, and used to check for presence of mutations using the T7
408 endonuclease I (T7EI) assay. Sequences from individuals with disruptions at the targeted regions
409 were cloned into a PGEM-T Easy vector (Promega) and sequenced.

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Supplementary Materials

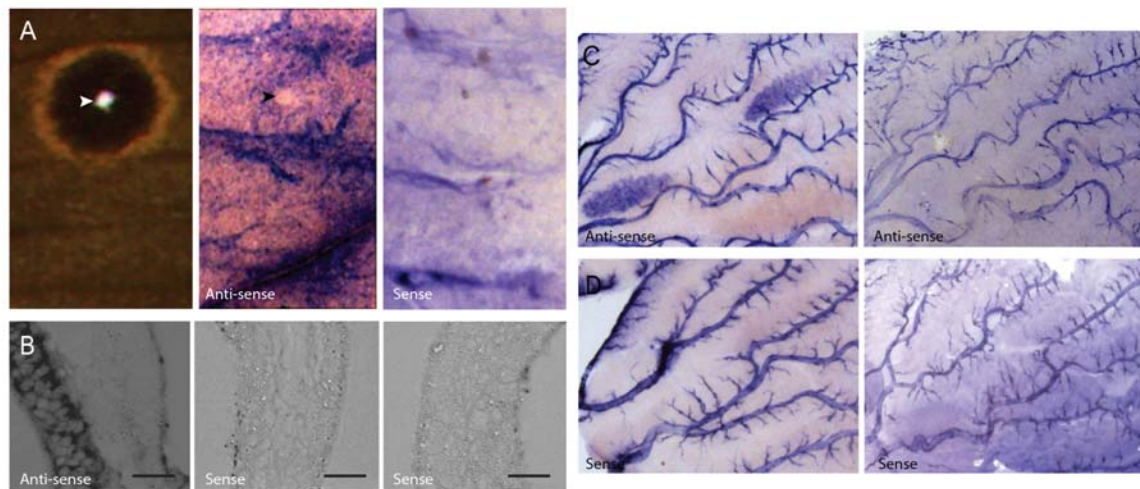


Figure S1: *ap* mRNA localization in developing wing discs of *Bicyclus anynana* A) *apA* mRNA localization (middle) in wildtype 5th larval instar wing discs with control (right). There is an absence of *apA* expression in future dorsal eyespot centers (arrowhead). Corresponding adult wing is shown (left). B) Cross-sectional view of a developing wing disc showing dorsal-specific *apB* expression (left). No staining is seen with control probes for *apB* (middle) and *apA* (right). Scale bar is 20 μ m C) Male (left) and female (right) hindwing discs (28 hours after pupation) showing *apB* mRNA up-regulation in the hair-pencil regions only in males. D) Controls for *apB* (left) and *apA* (right) expression in male wings show no staining in the corresponding regions.

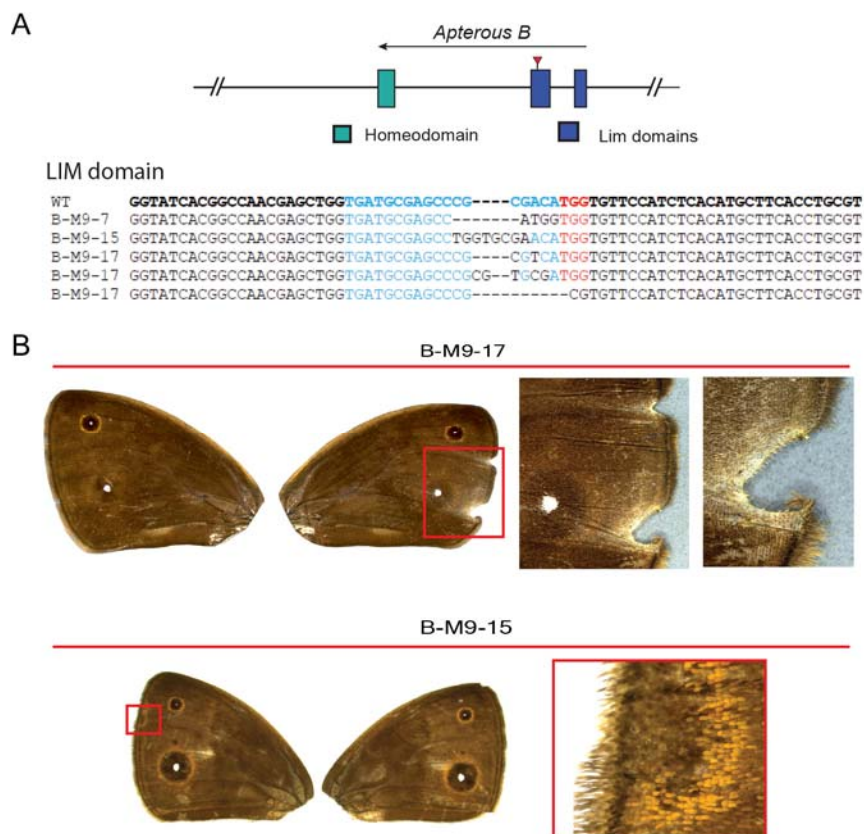


Figure S2: CRISPR/Cas9 mosaic wing pattern phenotypes of *apB* knockout A) Top: Region of the *apB* gene in *B. anynana* targeted using the CRISPR/Cas9 system Bottom: Sequences of the LIM domain region of mutant individuals compared with the wildtype sequence in bold. Blue is the region targeted and the PAM sequence is in red. Deletions are indicated with '-'. B) CRISPR/Cas9 *apB* mosaic phenotypes of *B. anynana*. B-M9-17: The forewings of a mutant individual showing differences in shape and marginal defects of the right wing as compared to the left. The boxed area is expanded to the right. B-M9-15: Mutant with wing pattern changes that do not correspond to mosaic ventral patterns, but appear to indicate disruptions to wing margin development. Boxed area expanded to the right.

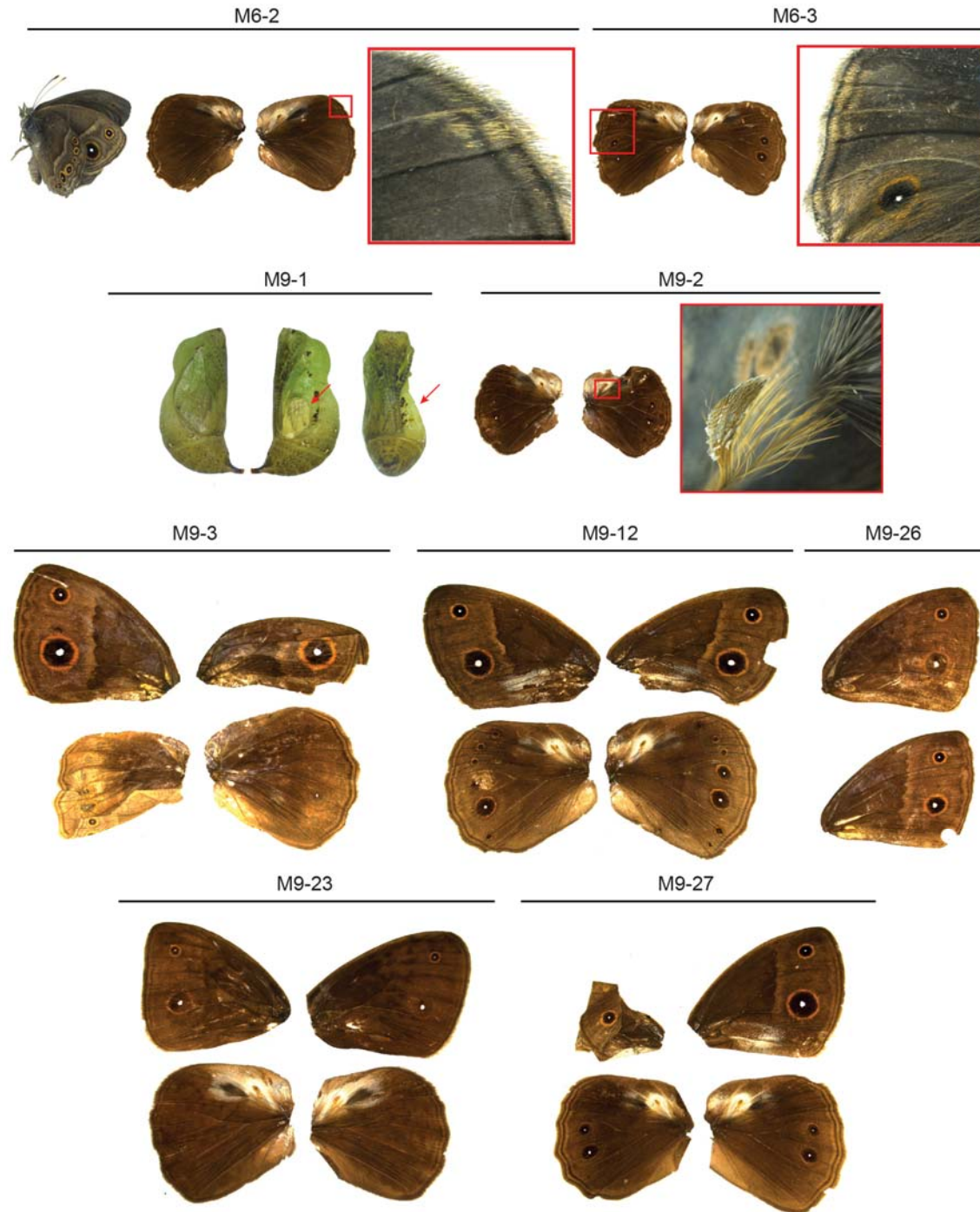


Figure S3: A catalog of all CRISPR/Cas9 mosaic wing pattern phenotypes of *apA* homeodomain knockout

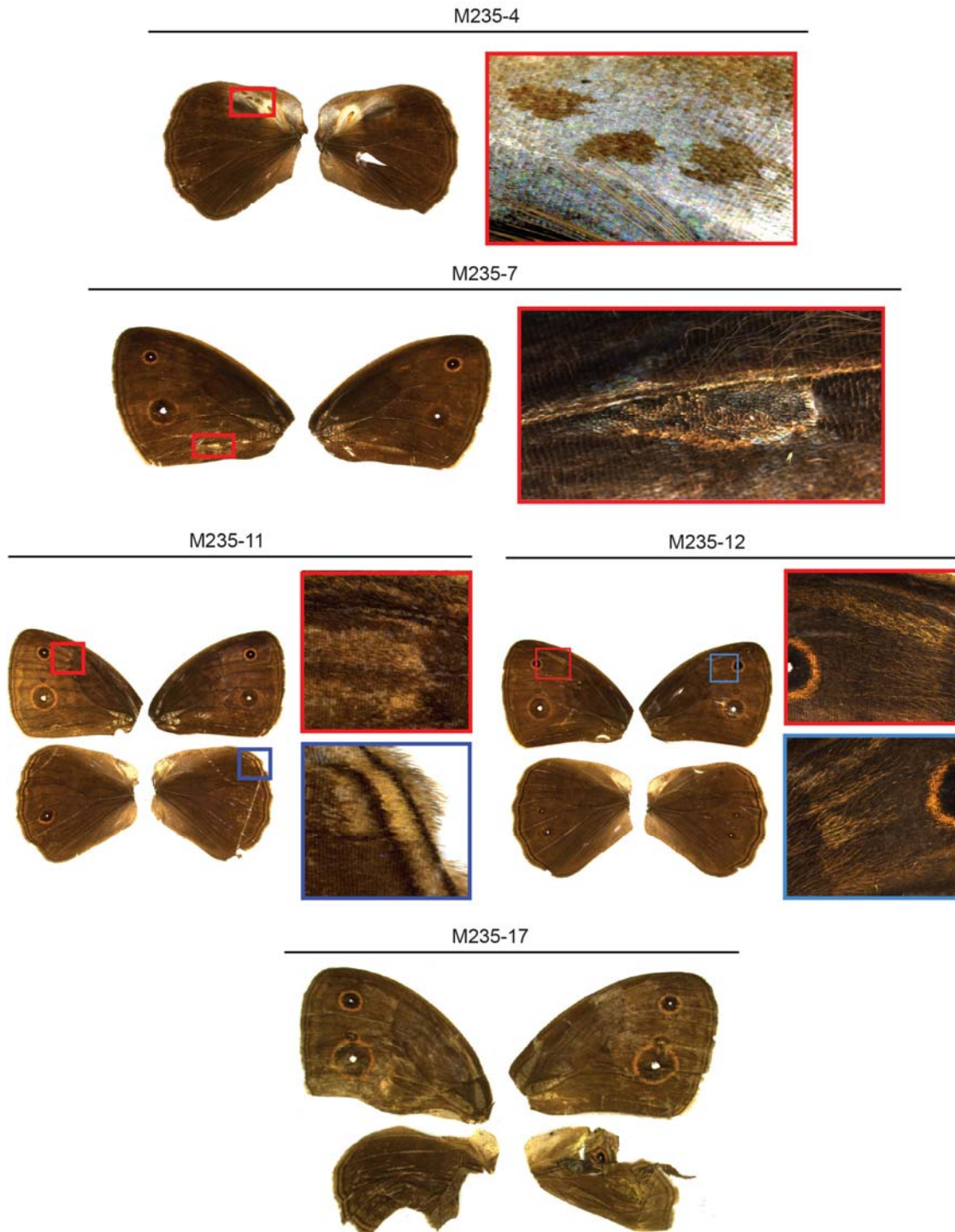


Figure S4: A catalog of all CRISPR/Cas9 mosaic wing pattern phenotypes of *apA* LIM domain knockout

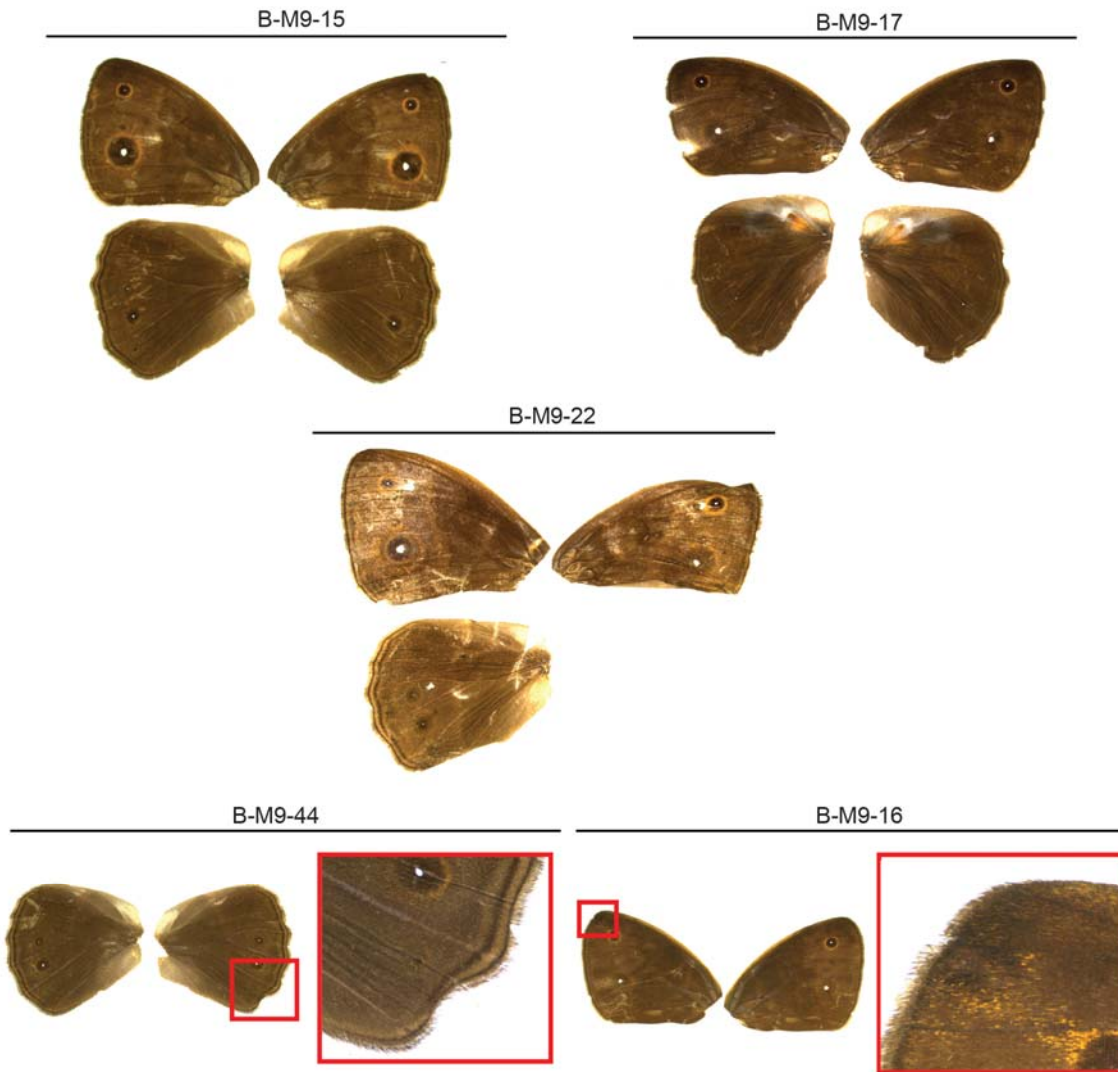


Figure S5: A catalog of all CRISPR/Cas9 mosaic wing pattern phenotypes of *apB* LIM domain knockout

Table S1: List of primers and guide RNA sequences used in this study

Gene	Primer Name	Primer Sequence
<i>Apterous A</i> (<i>ApA</i>)	AM 31	Forward 5' CGGGAGGCCTGTCTTCTGGC 3'
	AM 32	Reverse 5' CGTCGGAGCTGGTGATGAGGG 3'
<i>Apterous B</i> (<i>ApB</i>)	AM 136	Forward 5' CGAACAGTTGAATGCGTATTG 3'
	AM 137	Reverse 5' GGCCACTTTTCTCTTTCTTGG 3'
<i>ApA</i> Homeodomain CRISPR Guide	AM 158	5'GAAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGAGCTGGTGATGCTT GAAGCGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAGC 3'
<i>ApA</i> LIM domain CRISPR guide	AM 235	5'GAAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGAGAAACAGTGCACA TGAAACACGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAGC3'
<i>ApB</i> LIM domain CRISPR guide	AM 145	5'GAAATTAATACGACTCACTATAGGTGATGCGAGCCCGC GACAGTTTTAGAGCTAGAAATAGC3'
<i>ApA</i> Homeodomain Genotyping	AM 194	Forward 5' CATTTTTGCGACACGAGACGTC 3'
	AM 167	Reverse 5' CTAAGTGTCTCGACTATATG 3'
<i>ApA</i> LIM domain CRISPR Genotyping	AM 257	Forward 5' GTACAGTAATTAGTTCATCAAAC 3'
	AM 258	Reverse 5' CTTTTAGTTGTGTGCATTTTAAG 3'
<i>ApB</i> LIM domain CRISPR Genotyping	AM 385	Forward 5' CACTAGATTAGCCTAAGGTC 3'
	AM 386	Reverse 5' CTGTTTTGTAGGAGAAATATGG 3'

Table S2: CRISPR/Cas9 injection concentrations and mutation frequencies

Guide	Guide RNA Conc (ng/ul)	Cas9 mRNA Conc (ng/ul)	Eggs injected	Eggs hatched	Hatch ratio	Total adults	Mutant phenotypes
<i>ApA</i>	360	600	631	55	8.7%	9	3 (33%)
Homeodomain	450	900	882	89	10%	35	9 (25.7%)*
<i>ApA</i> LIM Domain	400	900	266	n.a	n.a	17	6 (35.2%)
<i>ApB</i> LIM Domain	400	900	228	75	32.89%	45	6 (13.3%)

* 4 of the 9 mutant individuals were pupae with wings missing from one side as shown in SFigure 3

Table S3: CRISPR/Cas9 and control injection concentrations and hatch ratios

Guide	Guide RNA Conc (ng/ul)	Cas9 mRNA Conc (ng/ul)	Eggs injected	Eggs hatched	Hatch ratio
Control	-	900	103	53	51.4%
<i>ApA</i> Homeodomain	400	900	113	75	66.3%
<i>ApA</i> LIM Domain	400	900	108	51	47.2%
<i>ApB</i> LIM Domain	400	900	104	53	50.9%