Dynamic evolution of the major transcription factor DNA binding domain, and protein-protein interaction families during the evolution of the avian lineage

Allie M. Graham[1]*, and Jason S. Presnell

[1] Oregon State University, Department of Integrative Biology, Corvallis, OR

* Corresponding author: graham.allie@gmail.com, grahaall@oregonstate.edu

ABSTRACT

Transcription factors are characterized by their domain architecture, including DNA binding and protein-protein interaction domain combinations, which regulate their binding specificity, as well as their ability to effect a change on gene expression of their downstream targets. Transcription factors are central to organismal development, thus they potentially are instrumental in producing phenotypic diversity. Transcription factor abundance was estimated via 49 major DNA binding domain families, as well as 34 protein-protein interaction domain families, in 48 bird genomes, which were then compared with 6 available reptile genomes, in an effort to assess the degree to which these domains are potentially connected to increased phenotypic diversity in the avian lineage. We hypothesized that there would be increased abundance in multiple transcription factor domain families, as well as domains associated with protein-protein interactions, that would correlate with the increased phenotypic diversity found in birds; instead, this data shows a general loss/contraction of major domain families, with the largest losses in domain families associated with multiple developmental (feather, body-plan, immune) and metabolic processes. Ultimately, the results of this analyses represent a general characterization of domain family composition in birds, thus the specific domain composition of TF families should be probed further, especially those with the largest reductions seen in this study.

INTRODUCTION

Transcription factors (TFs) are proteins that bind to DNA in a sequence-specific manner and enhance or repress gene expression. In response to a broad range of stimuli, transcription factors coordinate the regulation of gene expression of essential for defining morphology, functional capacity, and developmental fate at the cellular level. Although, transcription factor binding domains are very well conserved, the other associated domains, largely responsible for protein-protein interactions (PPI), readily diverge among homologs. Therefore, the structure and function of transcription factors are inherently modular. This attribute is thought to give gene-regulatory networks the ability to evolve more readily (Jarvela and Hinman 2015; Wray 2007), and could account for the seemingly large phenotypic difference between closely related groups (Liu et al. 2014; Nadimpalli et al. 2015).

A long-standing question has been whether changes in gene regulation or protein sequence have made a larger contribution to phenotypic diversity seen between species (Britten and Davidson 1969; King and Wilson 1975). Now, it is understood that changes in cis-regulatory systems more often underlie the evolution of morphological diversity than gene duplication/loss or protein function (Carroll 2008; Levine and Tjian 2003; Wittkopp and Kalay 2011). These cis-regulatory elements typically regulate gene transcription by functioning as binding sites for transcription factors. However, another avenue would be through whole-scale changes in transcription factor function via changes in domain modularity, either through their DNA-binding domains (DBD) and/or through other domains usually involved in protein-protein interactions (Schmitz et al. 2016; Wagner and Lynch 2008; Wagner and Lynch 2010), otherwise known as trans-regulatory elements. Phenotypic variation, from individual organisms to broad groups, has been attributed to a combination changes associated with cis- and trans-regulatory elements (Schmitz et al. 2016).

Although transcription factor diversity has been correlated with increased "complexity" across the eukaryotic lineage (Charoensawan et al. 2010; de Mendoza et al. 2013; Lehti-Shiu et al. 2016), no study has measured such transcription factor diversity within a specious, but highly related, animal clade. However, forty-eight avian genomes representing all the major families of birds (Aves) have recently been published (Eöry et al. 2015; OBrien et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014a), providing a unique opportunity to do just that. Birds represent one of the most diverse vertebrate lineages, and has the distinction of being the

tetrapod class with the most living species, with half of them being Passerines (over 10,000 species) (Gill and Wright 2006). Not only do birds live worldwide and range in size (5 cm - 2.75 m), but they also variy widely in morphology, physiology and behavior, and have unique features (ie. feathers). From a genomic standpoint, these organisms have relatively low rates of gene gain/loss in gene families and have similarly sized genomes (0.91-1.3 Gb) (Zhang et al. 2014c).

Therefore, in this study, the major metazoan TF families were characterized by their major DNA-binding Domains (DBD), as well as protein-protein interaction (PPI) domains, in the 48 avian and 6 reptile genomes. This is the first study to analyze the evolutionary history and phylogenetic distribution of transcription factor domain families in the diverse genomes available for avian group, and the closely related reptile lineage. We hypothesized that there would be increased TF DBD or PPI abundance in multiple TF families, correlated with the increased phenotypic diversity found in birds; however, these results show wholescale losses within major TF DBD and PPI families, potentially reflecting general genome reductions seen between reptiles and birds. The largest losses in TF DBD families were associated with multiple developmental (feather, body-plan, immune) and metabolic processes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

TF DBD Identification

Genomic data, in the form of protein models, were obtained complete genomes from publicly available databases for birds (previously at http://avian.genomics.cn/en/jsp/database.shtml; now at http://avian.genomics.cn/en/jsp/database.shtml) and reptiles (http://crocgenomes.org/). In general, these genomes were sequenced and assembled using similar techniques, and thus any systematic issues would be mitigated to an extent (see Zhang *et al.*, 2014), though not eliminated. For example, half of the new avian genomes are considered low-coverage (24X – 39X), while the other half was considered high-coverage (50X – 115X)(Zhang et al. 2014b). In addition, three of the previously published genomes Chicken (*Gallus gallus*), Zebra finch (*Taeniopygia guttata*) and Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) were sequenced using Sanger sequencing and are relatively low-coverage as well (7X – 17X).

A PfamScan was performed on the protein models (Finn et al. 2015), using a custom database containing only the (1) 49 major DBD families and (2) 34 protein-protein interaction domains. The

"gathering threshold" option was selected in order to minimize false positives, though type of approach can underestimate total counts for some domains (Eddy 2011). The major DBDs and protein-protein interaction domains, were chosen based on previous studies (TD DBDs – de Mendoza et al., 2013), and if they additionally present in Chordates and available through PFAM/Interpro (PPI). For the major DBDs, in all cases, I defined a one-to-one relationship between TF class and DBD class (ie. Non-duplicates). DBDs that appeared just in combination with other DBDs (ie. Duplicates) were analyzed separately, to avoid an overestimation of TF numbers, due to problems detecting repeated domains (de Mendoza et al. 2013). For the PPI, no such designation was made as most PPI are combinatorial by nature.

Assessment of TF DBD and PPI Gene family expansion/contraction

The enrichment of TF numbers was tested using a Mann-Whitney U test, with a significance threshold of $P < 0.01$, as similarly performed by de Mendoza et al. (2013). In addition, CAFE v4.0 (Computational Analysis of gene Family Evolution) was used to identify significantly expanding and contracting DBD families across Aves (De Bie et al. 2006). Because CAFE requires a ultrametric phylogenetic tree, the newick tree from Zhang et al (2014) was run through the program r8s (Sanderson 2003). CAFE was set to identify significantly expanding and contracting gene families, at a corrected significance level of $p = 0.05$, based on our data in conjunction with a Newick tree from Zhang et al. (2014a). The birth-death rate parameter, lambda, was determined with the -s flag that optimizes the log likelihood of data for all families. Several comparisons were made including (1) reptiles vs birds, (2) vocal-learning birds vs other birds (3) birds-of-prey vs other birds and (4) water-birds vs other birds.

TF DBD and PPI Gene Ontology term characterization

To better understand the types of biological functions of the domains which were significantly different between birds and reptiles, gene ontology (GO) term analysis was performed using a representative member of birds with better GO annotations, chicken (*Gallus gallus*). Proteins with IDs containing the significant TF DBDs and the PPIs were extracted, and separately input into PANTHER to be compared against the rest of the genes currently annotated with the genome (FDR P < 0.05; PANTHER

GO-Slim for Biological Process) (Mi et al. 2013a; Mi et al. 2013b). In addition, the same analysis was done with the domain families significantly different from the CAFE analyses.

RESULTS

Transcription Factor DBD Identification

In order to ascertain which families may have experienced family expansion or contraction, comparisons were made against the 6 reptile genomes (anole lizard, crocodile, alligator, gharial, green sea turtle, and soft-shelled turtle).

In the non-duplicate group, of the 49 DBD, 14 of them were significantly different (MWU, $P >$ 0.01; Figure 1; Table 1; SUPP Table 1 and 2). Almost all of these families experienced a reduction in DBD presence, with an average decrease of 49.86%, while only 1 family showed an increase (Homeobox_KN), though the increase was substantial (844%; SUPP Table 2). However, it is important to note that most Homeobox_KN DBDs are associated with other DNA binding domains ("Duplicates"), which as a category, was not significantly different between reptiles and birds. MADF also showed a significant difference; however, this was driven by an extreme number in the soft-shelled turtle, and so was disregarded. In the duplicate group (ie. multiple DBD within a given protein), only 1 showed a significant difference – bZIP-MAF (Table 1). For the PPI domains, 79% (27 of the 34) showed a significant difference between reptiles and birds (Table 1).

DBD and PPI family expansion and contraction

CAFE was used to identify significantly expanding and contracting domain families (DBD, PPI), for several different comparisons within and between birds and reptiles, as well as within birds (water-bird, bird-of-prey, vocal-learners). Three of the 15 TF DBDs were unable to analyzed by CAFE due to memory issues caused by know program limitations, (ie. families having large numbers; Homeobox, Homeobox KN, zf-C2H2), so they were removed from analysis as per suggestion (CAFE Documentation, Mar 2017). Four of the DBD families showed a significant evidence of contraction (Forkhead, HMG box, T-box, zf-BED; Table 1; SUPP Table 1); three of those same families were also shown to be correlated with changes associated with being a bird-of-prey, water-bird and vocal-learner (Table 2). Ultimately, only 1 of the

DBDs was unique to the reptile/bird comparison (T-box), and no unique DBDs were associated with any of the within-Aves comparisons.

Within the PPI domains, 5 were significant, 3 of those were unique to the reptile/aves compairison (BAH, BEN, SIX SD; SUPP Table 6, 7). One domain was significant across all comparisons (4.1 CTD), and one was significant for all within-Aves comparisons (SRCR; SUPP Table 2).

Transcription Factor DBD and PPI Functional Characterization

For the comparison between reptiles and birds, the GO terms associated with the genes which contain members of the 14 TF DBD families are largely associated with metabolic processes (insulin receptor pathway, glucose homeostasis), and development (cell differentiation, embryonic development, skeletal development, anterior/posterior patterning) (Table 2; SUPP Table 4). These same families were identified by the CAFE analysis as having significantly contracted between reptiles and birds. Restricting the analysis to just those that were significant via the CAFE analysis, showed largely the same results (SUPP Table 5).

The terms related to the PPI domains were ones associated with more specific categories including histone deacetylation, collagen organization, actomyosin structure organization, as well as development (eye, sensory organ; SUPP Table 8, 9).

DISCUSSION

The results of this analysis suggest there was an overall major reduction in both the TF DBD and PPI families across the avian lineage and showed few instances of substantial expansion. At present, although avian and reptile genomes are generally similarly sized, a reduction in genome size between reptiles and birds did occur in the saurischian dinosaur lineage between 230 and 250 million years ago (Organ et al. 2007). This coincided with a major reduction in repetitive elements, intron size, and even whole-scale loss of syntenic protein coding regions, typically attributed to the general metabolic requirements for flight (Lovell et al. 2014; Organ and Shedlock 2009; Wright et al. 2014; Zhang et al. 2014c; Zhang and Edwards 2012); thus, the reduction of TF DBD and PPI families seen in these results potentially mirrors the general genome reduction seen in other studies. However, it is somewhat surprising

to not see any large instances of TF DBD family expansions, since increases in the number of regulatory proteins, including TFs, have frequently been connected to phenotypic innovations (Kusserow et al. 2005; Levine and Tjian 2003; Miyata and Suga 2001; Schmitz et al. 2016).

Domain dynamics between reptiles and birds

It is interesting to note that the TF DBD families which experienced the sharpest declines were ones associated with heart development (T-box), vocal learning (Forkhead), feather formation (Ets), wing development, sex determination, and immune function (HMG box; Table 2,3); these same general results were also reflected in the most common GO terms represented (Table 2; SUPP Table 4). All of these aspects have been subjected to major physiological/developmental changes between reptiles and birds (Brusatte et al. 2015; Chatterjee 2015), especially the development of feathers from scales (Chuong et al. 2000), sex-determination through chromosomal differences rather than temperature (Sarre et al. 2004), and even changes in immune system functionality (Zimmerman et al. 2010). Although, it is difficult to speculate how reductions in these major families may be associated with such changes seen between avian and reptile lineages.

The PPI families which were significantly different between reptiles and birds were ones involved in apoptosis/inflammation (PYRIN), innate immune system (SRCR), chromatin structure (BAH), neural transcriptional repressors (BEN), development of sensory organs (SIX1 SD)(Dai et al. 2013; Fairbrother et al. 2001; Patrick et al. 2013; Sarrias et al. 2004; Yang and Xu 2013); the three latter of which were unique to the reptile-bird comparison, likely due to their typical co-occurrence with certain DBD families.

Therefore, the patterns seen in this study suggests that TF DBD and PPI families are largely not correlated with avian diversification; instead, this diversification could possibly be ascribed to other factors, such as protein-coding gene family duplications, or cis-regulatory changes (Seki et al. 2017; Zhang et al. 2014c). Duplications of protein-coding gene families are known to play a major role in species evolution: redundancy provides a medium for novelty while maintaining initial function (Lynch and Conery 2000; Zhang 2003). However, another possibility is that the absence of an increase TF DBD between reptiles and birds may instead suggest changes in TF modularity, appearing through increased interconnectivity/occurrence of DBD and PPI. Even though there was no increase in any particular PPI

family, these domains could have potentially been re-organized/re-organized in conjunction with DBD families – such changes have been shown to alter their expression profiles or binding properties, in turn affecting the expression of many target genes, often with a major functional impact (Lespinet et al. 2002).

CONCLUSTIONS

Ultimately, these results represent the first foray into TF DBD characterization between the avian and reptile genomes and suggests no link between TF DBD expansion and phenotypic diversity, in this case. Thus, these results of these analyses potentially strengthen the notion that cis-regulatory regions and protein-coding gene families are behind much of the extant avian diversification. Still, whole-scale reductions in TF DBD families in the genome likely posed a significant hurdle, unless these families were comprised of multiple members that were functionally redundant.

Overall, the results of this analyses represent a broad characterization of TF DBD family composition in birds; thus, the specific composition of TF families should be probed further, especially those with the largest reductions seen in this study. In addition, whether non-major TF DBD families have also seen a general reduction requires future analysis, as does the composition of domains associated with protein-protein interactions.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the core facilities at Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing at Oregon State University, where certain elements of computing were performed. In addition, we would also like to thank the moderators at the CAFE Google Group, who were immensely helpful in troubleshooting the use of both CAFE and r8s.

Data availability

Avian genomic data was pulled from its original repository location (http://gigadb.org/dataset/101000). The phylogenetic trees used in the CAFE analyses is available in its original repository location (http://gigadb.org/dataset/101041; WGT.ExaML.best.tre).

Author contributions

AMG designed the study, AMG and JSP performed the data-collection, AMG analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript.

Supplemental Information

SUPP Table 1: Full counts of DNA Binding Domain (DBD) families who are present only once in a given protein (ie. Non-Duplicates)

SUPP Table 2: Full counts of DNA Binding Domain (DBD) families who are present more than once in a given protein (ie. Duplicates)

SUPP Table 3: Full Gene Ontology (GO) terms for the genes from each DNA-Binding Domain (DBD) family (*Gallus gallus* reference)

SUPP Table 4: Overrepresented Gene Ontology (GO) terms for DNA-Binding Domains (DBD) which were significantly different between Reptiles and Birds (Mann-Whitney-U; *Gallus gallus* reference)

SUPP Table 5: Overrepresented Gene Ontology (GO) terms associated with DNA-Binding Domains (DBD) families that are significantly different between Reptiles and Birds via the CAFE analysis (*Gallus gallus* reference)

SUPP Table 6: Full counts for all protein-protein interaction domains (PPI) and their Mann-Whitney U test values (red = *P<0.01*): "reptiles" represents the average number across the 6 lineages, and "birds" represent the average across the 48 lineages

SUPP Table 7: Results from the CAFE analysis for the protein-protein interaction domains (*P<0.05*): "reptiles" represents the average number across the 6 lineages, and "birds" represent the average across the 48 lineages.

SUPP Table 8: Overrepresented Gene Ontology (GO) terms for the genes containing the protein-protein interaction domains (PPI; *Gallus gallus* reference)

SUPP Table 9: Overrepresented Gene Ontology (GO) terms for the protein-protein interaction domains (PPI) that are significantly different between Reptiles and Birds via the CAFE analysis (*Gallus gallus* reference)

Literature Cited

Britten RJ, Davidson EH (1969). Gene regulation for higher cells: a theory. *Science* **165**(891)**:** 349-357.

Brusatte SL, O'Connor JK, Jarvis ED (2015). The origin and diversification of birds. *Current Biology* **25**(19)**:** R888-R898.

Carroll SB (2008). Evo-devo and an expanding evolutionary synthesis: a genetic theory of morphological evolution. *Cell* **134**(1)**:** 25-36.

Charoensawan V, Wilson D, Teichmann SA (2010). Lineage-specific expansion of DNA-binding transcription factor families. *Trends Genet* **26**(9)**:** 388-393.

Chatterjee S (2015). *The rise of birds: 225 million years of evolution*. JHU Press.

Chuong C-M, Chodankar R, Widelitz RB, Jiang T-X (2000). Evo-devo of feathers and scales: building complex epithelial appendages. *Curr Opin Genet Dev* **10**(4)**:** 449.

Dai Q, Ren A, Westholm JO, Serganov AA, Patel DJ, Lai EC (2013). The BEN domain is a novel sequence-specific DNA-binding domain conserved in neural transcriptional repressors. *Genes Dev* **27**(6)**:** 602-614.

De Bie T, Cristianini N, Demuth JP, Hahn MW (2006). CAFE: a computational tool for the study of gene family evolution. *Bioinformatics* **22**(10)**:** 1269-1271.

de Mendoza A, Sebé-Pedrós A, Šestak MS, Matejčić M, Torruella G, Domazet-Lošo T *et al* (2013). Transcription factor evolution in eukaryotes and the assembly of the regulatory toolkit in multicellular lineages. *PNAS* **110**(50)**:** E4858-E4866.

Eddy SR (2011). Accelerated profile HMM searches. *PLoS Comp Biol* **7**(10)**:** e1002195.

Eöry L, Gilbert MTP, Li C, Li B, Archibald A, Aken BL *et al* (2015). Avianbase: a community resource for bird genomics. *Genome Biol* **16**(1)**:** 21.

Fairbrother WJ, Gordon NC, Humke EW, O'Rourke KM, Starovasnik MA, Yin JP *et al* (2001). The PYRIN domain: a member of the death domain-fold superfamily. *Protein Sci* **10**(9)**:** 1911-1918.

Finn RD, Coggill P, Eberhardt RY, Eddy SR, Mistry J, Mitchell AL *et al* (2015). The Pfam protein families database: towards a more sustainable future. *Nucleic Acids Res* **44**(D1)**:** D279-D285.

Gill FB, Wright MT (2006). *Birds of the world: recommended English names*. Princeton University Press Princeton, New Jersey.

Jarvela AMC, Hinman VF (2015). Evolution of transcription factor function as a mechanism for changing metazoan developmental gene regulatory networks. *EvoDevo* **6**(1)**:** 3.

King M-C, Wilson AC (1975). *Evolution at two levels in humans and chimpanzees*. na.

Kusserow A, Pang K, Sturm C, Hrouda M, Lentfer J, Schmidt HA *et al* (2005). Unexpected complexity of the Wnt gene family in a sea anemone. *Nature* **433**(7022)**:** 156-160.

Lehti-Shiu MD, Panchy N, Wang P, Uygun S, Shiu S-H (2016). Diversity, expansion, and evolutionary novelty of plant DNA-binding transcription factor families. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA)-Gene Regulatory Mechanisms*.

Lespinet O, Wolf YI, Koonin EV, Aravind L (2002). The role of lineage-specific gene family expansion in the evolution of eukaryotes. *Genome Res* **12**(7)**:** 1048-1059.

Levine M, Tjian R (2003). Transcription regulation and animal diversity. *Nature* **424**(6945)**:** 147-151.

Liu H, Chang L-H, Sun Y, Lu X, Stubbs L (2014). Deep vertebrate roots for mammalian zinc finger transcription factor subfamilies. *Genome biology and evolution* **6**(3)**:** 510-525.

Lovell PV, Wirthlin M, Wilhelm L, Minx P, Lazar NH, Carbone L *et al* (2014). Conserved syntenic clusters of protein coding genes are missing in birds. *Genome Biol* **15**(12)**:** 1.

Lynch M, Conery JS (2000). The evolutionary fate and consequences of duplicate genes. *Science* **290**(5494)**:** 1151-1155.

Mi H, Muruganujan A, Casagrande JT, Thomas PD (2013a). Large-scale gene function analysis with the PANTHER classification system. *Nat Protoc* **8**(8)**:** 1551-1566.

Mi H, Muruganujan A, Thomas PD (2013b). PANTHER in 2013: modeling the evolution of gene function, and other gene attributes, in the context of phylogenetic trees. *Nucleic Acids Res* **41**(D1)**:** D377-D386.

Miyata T, Suga H (2001). Divergence pattern of animal gene families and relationship with the Cambrian explosion. *BioEssays* **23**(11)**:** 1018-1027.

Nadimpalli S, Persikov AV, Singh M, Lieb JD (2015). Pervasive variation of transcription factor orthologs contributes to regulatory network evolution. *PLoS Genet* **11**(3)**:** e1005011-e1005011.

OBrien SJ, Haussler D, Ryder O (2014). The birds of Genome10K. *GigaScience* **3**(1)**:** 32.

Organ CL, Shedlock AM (2009). Palaeogenomics of pterosaurs and the evolution of small genome size in flying vertebrates. *Bio Lett* **5**(1)**:** 47-50.

Organ CL, Shedlock AM, Meade A, Pagel M, Edwards SV (2007). Origin of avian genome size and structure in non-avian dinosaurs. *Nature* **446**(7132)**:** 180-184.

Patrick AN, Cabrera JH, Smith AL, Chen XS, Ford HL, Zhao R (2013). Structure-function analyses of the human SIX1–EYA2 complex reveal insights into metastasis and BOR syndrome. *Nat Struct Mol Biol* **20**(4)**:** 447.

Sanderson MJ (2003). r8s: inferring absolute rates of molecular evolution and divergence times in the absence of a molecular clock. *Bioinformatics* **19**(2)**:** 301-302.

Sarre SD, Georges A, Quinn A (2004). The ends of a continuum: genetic and temperature-dependent sex determination in reptiles. *BioEssays* **26**(6)**:** 639-645.

Sarrias MR, Gronlund J, Padilla O, Madsen J, Holmskov U, Lozano F (2004). The Scavenger Receptor Cysteine-Rich (SRCR) domain: an ancient and highly conserved protein module of the innate immune system. *Critical Reviews™ in Immunology* **24**(1).

Schmitz JF, Zimmer F, Bornberg-Bauer E (2016). Mechanisms of transcription factor evolution in Metazoa. *Nucleic Acids Res***:** gkw492.

Seki R, Li C, Fang Q, Hayashi S, Egawa S, Hu J *et al* (2017). Functional roles of Aves class-specific cis-regulatory elements on macroevolution of bird-specific features. *Nature Communications* **8:** 14229.

Wagner GP, Lynch VJ (2008). The gene regulatory logic of transcription factor evolution. *Trends Ecol Evol* **23**(7)**:** 377-385.

Wagner GP, Lynch VJ (2010). Evolutionary novelties. *Curr Biol* **20**(2)**:** R48-R52.

Wittkopp PJ, Kalay G (2011). Cis-regulatory elements: molecular mechanisms and evolutionary processes underlying divergence. *Nat Rev Genet* **13**(1)**:** 59-69.

Wray GA (2007). The evolutionary significance of cis-regulatory mutations. *Nat Rev Genet* **8**(3)**:** 206-216.

Wright NA, Gregory TR, Witt CC. (2014). *Proc. R. Soc. B, Vol. 281*. The Royal Society, pp 20132780.

Yang N, Xu R-M (2013). Structure and function of the BAH domain in chromatin biology. *Crit Rev Biochem Mol Biol* **48**(3)**:** 211-221.

Zhang G, Li B, Li C, Gilbert MTP, Jarvis ED, Wang J (2014a). Comparative genomic data of the Avian Phylogenomics Project. *GigaScience* **3**(1)**:** 26.

Zhang G, Li B, Li C, Gilbert MTP, Jarvis ED, Wang J *et al* (2014b). Comparative genomic data of the Avian Phylogenomics Project. *GigaScience* **3**(1)**:** 1-8.

Zhang G, Li C, Li Q, Li B, Larkin DM, Lee C *et al* (2014c). Comparative genomics reveals insights into avian genome evolution and adaptation. *Science* **346**(6215)**:** 1311-1320.

Zhang J (2003). Evolution by gene duplication: an update. *Trends Ecol Evol* **18**(6)**:** 292-298.

Zhang Q, Edwards SV (2012). The evolution of intron size in amniotes: a role for powered flight? *Genome biology and evolution* **4**(10)**:** 1033-1043.

Zimmerman L, Vogel L, Bowden R (2010). Understanding the vertebrate immune system: insights from the reptilian perspective. *Journal of Experimental Biology* **213**(5)**:** 661-671.

Figure 1: The 15 significantly different TF DBD families (duplicates, nonduplicates combined) against a phylogenetic tree of reptile representatives and the 48-bird species (red = more, blue = less)

Table 1: Non-duplicate DNA-Binding Domains (DBD) and Protein-Protein Interaction Domains (PPI) that are significantly different between reptiles, and birds (Mann-Whitney U test, $P<0.01$): "reptiles" represents the average number across the 6 lineages, and "birds" represents the average across the 48 lineages.

Category	Domain Name	REPTILES	BIRDS	MWU	% Change
DBD	ARID	15	10.75	0.00236	-28.33%
DBD	DM	4.333333333	0.8541667	0.00128	-80.29%
DBD	Ets	14.33333333	8.3541667	0.0005	-41.72%
DBD	Fork_head	37.33333333	19.6875	0.00016	-47.27%
DBD	HMG_box	49	32.708333	0.00046	-33.25%
DBD	Homeobox	75.16666667	32.583333	0.0002	-56.65%
DBD	Homeobox_KN	0.166666667	1.5625	0.00076	837.50%
DBD	IRF	9.333333333	5.3958333	0.00104	-42.19%
DBD	MADF_DNA_bdg	101.3333333	2.9166667	0.00854	-97.12%
DBD	P53	3.833333333	1.8333333	0.00164	-52.17%
DBD	RHD	9.5	6.9791667	0.00528	-26.54%
DBD	STAT_bind	6.166666667	3.5625	0.00148	-42.23%
DBD	T-box	19.83333333	11.5	0.0003	-42.02%
DBD	Tub	5.5	3.1666667	0.00496	-42.42%
DBD	zf-BED	8.833333333	2.875	0.00008	-67.45%
DBD	zf-C2H2	521.1666667	209.9375	0.00016	-59.72%
PPI	4_1_CTD	40.83333333	3.2916667	0.00034	-91.94%
PPI	BAH	23	6.6458333	0.00034	-71.11%
PPI	BEN	27	8.7708333	0.00308	-67.52%
PPI	CARM1	2.333333333	0.4583333	0.0038	-80.36%
PPI	Cdc6_C	3.166666667	1.4375	0.0038	-54.61%
PPI	CortBP2	7.666666667	4.0625	0.00128	-47.01%
PPI	ESR1_C	3.833333333	0.7291667	0.00052	-80.98%
PPI	F-box	111.6666667	37.916667	0.00008	-66.04%
PPI	FACT-Spt16_Nlob	14.33333333	4.4583333	0.0004	-68.90%
PPI	FF	0.666666667	0.0833333	0.0004	-87.50%
PPI	Ge1_WD40	75.33333333	45.916667	0.00016	-39.05%
PPI	IG	630.8333333	233.5	0.00014	-62.99%
PPI	KRAB	162.6666667	4.8541667	0.0001	-97.02%
PPI	L27_2	9.333333333	1.4791667	0.00124	-84.15%
PPI	LRR_1	240	119.10417	0.00008	-50.37%
PPI	LRR_4	424.5	177.0625	0.00008	-58.29%
PPI	NHR2	13.66666667	3.25	0.0001	-76.22%
PPI	OST-HTH	8.5	2.6666667	0.0001	-68.63%
PPI	PAH	8.166666667	2.9375	0.00758	-64.03%
PPI	PET	9.833333333	4	0.00008	-59.32%
PPI	PYRIN	19.5	1.1041667	0.00018	-94.34%
PPI	Serine_rich	5.666666667	2.6458333	0.00056	-53.31%

PPI	SIX1_SD	8.833333333	2.875	0.0002	-67.45%
PPI	SRCR	36.66666667	20.083333	0.00188	-45.23%
PPI	zf-CW	11.5	2.7916667	0.00008	-75.72%
PPI	zf-TFIIIC	3.166666667	1.0833333	0.00932	-65.79%

Table 2: Expansion and contraction of TF DBD gene families in the avian lineages using the CAFE algorithm (asterixis indicate significance – * P-value < 0.05, ** P-value < 0.01)

DNA binding domain	Family-wide P-value (Reptiles v Birds)	Family-wide P-value (Birds of Prey v Birds)	Family-wide P-value (Waterbirds v Birds)	Family-wide P-value (Vocal Learners v Birds)
ARID	0.202	0.885	0.734	0.614
DM	0.582	0.708	0.87	0.876
Ets	0.683	1	0.996	0.991
Fork_head	0.031*	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**
HMG_box	0.031*	0.03*	0.004**	0.004**
IRF	0.899	0.998	0.995	0.992
P53	0.993	0.993	0.996	0.992
RHD	0.999	1	1	1
STAT_bind	0.997	1	1	1
T-box	0.005**	0.518	0.491	0.473
Tub	0.993	0.995	0.99	0.996
zf-BED	0.008**	0.021**	0.042*	0.068

Table 3: Gene Ontology analysis of Biological Processes using PANTHER for the 15 TF DBD families in Chicken (*Gallus gallus*): significant GO terms with FDR P < 0.05.

PANTHER GO-SLIM ID	GALLUS GALLUS - REFLIST (19122)	INPUT (203)	INPUT EXPECTED	INPUT (FOLD ENRICHMENT)	INPUT (RAW P-VALUE)	INPUT (FDR)
REGULATION OF METABOLIC PROCESS (GO:0019222)	1293	61	13.73	4.44	2.98E-23	5.78E-21
METABOLIC PROCESS (GO:0008152)	4368	102	46.37	2.2	2.94E-17	5.12E-15
DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS (GO:0032502)	1042	37	11.06	3.34	1.59E-10	1.73E-08
CELL DIFFERENTIATION (GO:0030154)	326	17	3.46	4.91	1.39E-07	1.01E-05
EMBRYO DEVELOPMENT (GO:0009790)	107	10	1.14	8.8	4.41E-07	2.95E-05
CELLULAR DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESS (GO:0048869)	496	20	5.27	3.8	5.63E-07	3.64E-05
PATTERN SPECIFICATION PROCESS (GO:0007389)	113	10	1.2	8.34	7.02E-07	4.37E-05
MULTICELLULAR ORGANISM DEVELOPMENT (GO:0007275)	125	10	1.33	7.54	1.65E-06	9.93E-05
GLIAL CELL DIFFERENTIATION (GO:0010001)	6	4	0.06	62.8	2.36E-06	1.37E-04
ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE MORPHOGENESIS (GO:0009653)	165	11	1.75	6.28	2.65E-06	1.49E-04
GLUCOSE HOMEOSTASIS (GO:0042593)	21	5	0.22	22.43	6.69E-06	3.43E-04
ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (GO:0048856)	408	16	4.33	3.69	1.12E-05	5.56E-04
SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (GO:0048731)	96	8	1.02	7.85	1.40E-05	6.80E-04
INSULIN RECEPTOR SIGNALING PATHWAY (GO:0008286)	18	4	0.19	20.93	7.45E-05	3.25E-03
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (GO:0007417)	23	4	0.24	16.38	1.72E-04	7.30E-03
MORPHOGENESIS OF AN EPITHELIUM (GO:0002009)	8	3	0.08	35.32	1.77E-04	7.35E-03
BIOLOGICAL REGULATION (GO:0065007)	3682	61	39.09	1.56	2.31E-04	9.37E-03
ANTERIOR/POSTERIOR PATTERN SPECIFICATION (GO:0009952)	34	4	0.36	11.08	6.60E-04	2.56E-02
REGIONALIZATION (GO:0003002)	36	4	0.38	10.47	8.03E-04	3.04E-02
EMBRYONIC ORGAN DEVELOPMENT (GO:0048568)	15	3	0.16	18.84	8.30E-04	3.08E-02
SKELETAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT (GO:0001501)	18	3	0.19	15.7	1.32E-03	4.61E-02

Table 4: Significantly different DBD categories, and their respective biological function (Mann-Whitney U; additional asterixis denote significance from CAFÉ analysis)

DOMAIN	DOMAIN "FUNCTION"	CITATION
ARID	general	PFAM: PF01388
DM	sex determination/differentiation	(Smith et al. 2009)
		InterPro: IPR001275
ETS	feather formation	(Morgan et al. 1998)
FORK_HEAD*	general	(Hannenhalli & Kaestner 2009)
	vocal learning	(Scharff & Haesler 2005)
HOMEOBOX	general development	PFAM: PF00046
HOMEOBOX_KN	anterior-posterior axis formation	(Alonso 2002)
		InterPro: IPR001356
HMG_BOX*	wing development	(Welten et al. 2005)
	sex determination	(Wallis et al. 2008)
	immune function	(Lotze & Tracey 2005)
IRF	immune function	(Escalante et al. 1998)
		SMART: SM00348
P53	cell cycle (general)	InterPro: IPR011615
RHD	immune/p53	(Anrather et al. 2005)
		InterPro: IPR011539
RUNT	blood	(Kagoshima et al. 1993)
		InterPro: IPR013524
STAT_BIND	immune function	(Kisseleva et al. 2002)
		InterPro: IPR012345
T-BOX*	heart development	(Plageman & Yutzey 2005)
TUB*	cell cycle (general)	PFAM: PF01167
ZF-BED	general	PFAM: PF02892
ZF-C2H2	general	PFAM: PF00096