Gene-level, but not chromosome-wide, divergence between a very young house fly proto-Y chromosome and its homologous proto-X chromosome

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Abstract

X and Y chromosomes are usually derived from a pair of homologous autosomes, which then diverge from each other over time. Although Y-specific features have been characterized in sex chromosomes of various ages, the earliest stages of Y chromosome evolution remain elusive. In particular, we do not know whether early stages of Y chromosome evolution consist of changes to individual genes or happen via chromosome-scale divergence from the X. To address this question, we quantified divergence between young proto-X and proto-Y chromosomes in the house fly, *Musca domestica*. We compared proto-sex chromosome sequence and gene expression between genotypic (XY) and sex-reversed (XX) males. We find evidence for sequence divergence between genes on the proto-X and proto-Y, including five genes with mitochondrial functions. There is also an excess of genes with divergent expression between the proto-X and proto-Y, but the number of genes is small. This suggests that individual proto-Y genes, but not the entire proto-Y chromosome, have diverged from the proto-X. We identified one gene, encoding an axonemal dynein assembly factor (which functions in sperm motility), that has higher expression in XY males than XX males because of a disproportionate contribution of the proto-Y allele to gene expression. The up-regulation of the proto-Y allele may be favored in males because of this gene's function in spermatogenesis. The evolutionary divergence between proto-X and proto-Y copies of this gene, as well as the mitochondrial genes, is consistent with selection in males affecting the evolution of individual genes during early Y chromosome evolution.

Introduction

In many organisms with two separate sexes, a gene on a sex chromosome determines whether an individual develops into a male or female. In XX/XY sex chromosome systems, males are the heterogametic sex (XY genotype), and females are homogametic with the XX genotype (Bull 1983). Most X and Y chromosomes are derived from a pair of ancestral autosomes. For example, one copy of the autosome can obtain a male-determining gene and become a proto-Y chromosome, and the homologous chromosome without the male-determiner becomes a proto-X. As the proto-X and proto-Y chromosomes diverge from each other over time, they become differentiated X and Y chromosomes (Bull 1983; Charlesworth et al. 2005). Sex chromosomes have originated and diverged from each other in multiple independent evolutionary lineages (Bachtrog et al. 2014; Beukeboom and Perrin 2014).

Despite their independent origins, non-homologous Y chromosomes share many common features across species (Charlesworth et al. 2005). First, "masculinization" occurs because male-limited inheritance of the Y chromosome favors the fixation of male-beneficial genetic variants (Rice 1996a). Second, suppressed recombination between the X and Y chromosomes evolves, possibly due to sexually antagonistic selection, meiotic drive, or genetic drift (Charlesworth 2017; Charlesworth 2018; Ponnikas et al. 2018). Third, "degeneration" occurs in nonrecombining regions—functional genes that were present on ancestral autosomes become pseudogenes on the Y chromosome because suppressed recombination between the X and Y inhibits the purging of deleterious mutations in Y-linked genes (Muller's ratchet) and enhances the effects of hitchhiking (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2000; Bachtrog 2013; Vicoso 2019). Other common features of Y chromosomes are repetitive sequences and enlarged heterochromatic regions due to reduced efficacy of purifying selection caused by suppressed recombination and a small effective population size (Skaletsky et al. 2003). In some cases, a mechanism evolves to compensate for the haploid dosage of X-linked genes in males, but this is not always the case (Mank 2013; Gu and Walters 2017).

Many features of Y chromosomes are thought to emerge shortly after an autosome obtains a new male-determining locus or becomes Y-linked. For example, recombination suppression has been

considered to evolve after the emergence of a new sex-determining locus on a proto-Y

chromosome to favor the co-inheritance of the sex-determining locus and male-

beneficial/female-detrimental sexually antagonistic alleles (Orzack et al. 1980; van Doorn and

Kirkpatrick 2007; Roberts et al. 2009; van Doorn and Kirkpatrick 2010). Additional sexually

antagonistic alleles on the proto-Y chromosome are predicted to trigger progressive spread of the

nonrecombining region along the chromosome (Rice 1987; van Doorn and Kirkpatrick 2007).

Although these features have been characterized in sex chromosomes of various ages and

degeneration levels (Bachtrog 2013; Zhou et al. 2014), the very first stages of Y chromosome

evolution are poorly understood because of a lack of extremely young sex chromosome systems.

Recent studies of young sex chromosomes have identified multiple types of X-Y differentiation,

including suppressed recombination, Y chromosome gene loss, and X chromosome dosage

compensation (Bergero et al. 2013; Mahajan et al. 2018; Darolti et al. 2019; Krasovec et al.

2019), which makes it challenging to determine which type of differentiation occurs first.

The extent to which the early evolution of sex chromosomes is dominated by chromosome-wide

X-Y divergence versus changes in individual genes remains unclear. This study addresses that

shortcoming by determining how a young proto-Y chromosome has differentiated from its

homologous proto-X chromosome shorty after its emergence. We are especially interested in

how gene expression differences accumulate between the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes. As

the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes diverge, it is expected that alleles on the proto-Y

chromosome are up- or down-regulated because of *cis*-regulatory sequence differences that

contribute to proto-Y gene expression (Zhou and Bachtrog 2012a; Zhou and Bachtrog 2012b;

Wei and Bachtrog 2019). These *cis*-regulatory effects may be especially important for the

expression of sexually antagonistic (male-beneficial/female-deleterious) alleles and degeneration

of functional genes (Rice 1984; Zhou and Bachtrog 2012a). Degeneration of Y-linked genes has

been shown to be accompanied by decreased expression as a result of relaxed selective

constraints (Zhou and Bachtrog 2012a; Wei and Bachtrog 2019). However, the accumulation of

gene expression differences separately from degeneration during the very earliest stages of sex

chromosome evolution are not well understood.

We used the house fly, *Musca domestica*, as a model system to study the early evolution of sex

chromosomes because it has very young proto-sex chromosomes that are still segregating as

polymorphisms within natural populations (Hamm et al. 2015). The *M. domestica male*

determiner (*Mdmd*) can be found on what was historically called the Y chromosome (Y^M) and on

at least three other chromosomes (Sharma et al. 2017). The house fly Y^M (and X) chromosome

has fewer than 100 genes, while the other five chromosomes each have >2,000 genes (Meisel

and Scott 2018). Each chromosome carrying *Mdmd*, including Y^M, is a recently derived proto-Y

chromosome (Meisel et al. 2017). *Mdmd* arose in the house fly genome after divergence from

stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) and horn fly (*Haematobia irritans*), within the past 27 million

years (Sharma et al. 2017; Meisel et al. 2020). This provides an upper-bound on the age of the

house fly proto-Y chromosomes, although the minimal sequence and morphological divergence

between the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes (Boyes et al. 1964; Hediger et al. 1998; Meisel

et al. 2017) suggest they are much younger than that. It is not clear the extent to which the house

fly proto-Y chromosomes are masculinized or degenerated. A previous study revealed a small,

but significant, effect of the proto-Y chromosomes on gene expression (Son et al. 2019).

However, it could not resolve if the expression differences are the result of changes in the

expression of the proto-Y copies, proto-X copies, or both.

In this study, we tested if one house fly proto-Y chromosome, the third chromosome carrying

Mdmd (III^M), has evidence of gene-by-gene or chromosome-wide differentiation from its

homologous proto-X chromosome by evaluating DNA sequence and gene expression differences

between proto-Y genes and their proto-X counterparts. We selected this proto-sex chromosome

(as opposed to other house fly proto-Y chromosomes) for three reasons. First, III^M is one of the

two most common proto-Y chromosomes found in natural populations (Hamm et al. 2015).

Second, the other common proto-Y (known as Y^M) has fewer than 100 genes, which is over one

order of magnitude less than III^M (Meisel et al. 2017; Meisel and Scott 2018). More genes on the

third chromosome gives us greater power to detect divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X.

Third, we are able to create sex-reversed males (genotypic females that are phenotypically male)

with the same genetic background as III^M males (Hediger et al. 2010). This allows us to compare

gene expression between phenotypic males that only differ in whether or not they carry the III^M

proto-Y chromosome (Son et al. 2019).

Our expectation for the extent of gene-by-gene versus chromosome-wide differentiation between

the proto-X and proto-Y chromosomes will depend on the extent of X-Y recombination. We

expect gene-by-gene differentiation on young sex chromosomes if recombination prevents the

effects of Muller's ratchet and genetic hitchhiking (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2000).

Recombination between the house fly proto-X and proto-Y is possible because, unlike

Drosophila, there may be recombination in male house flies (Feldmeyer et al. 2010). In addition,

female house flies can carry a proto-Y chromosome if they have a female-determining allele on

another chromosome (Mcdonald et al. 1978; Hediger et al. 2010; Hamm et al. 2015), which

would provide additional opportunities for recombination. However, if there are recombination

suppressors (such as chromosomal inversions that differentiate the proto-Y and proto-X), this

would promote chromosome-wide divergence between the proto-X and proto-Y via Muller's

ratchet and hitchhiking (Ponnikas et al. 2018).

Results and Discussion

<u>**DNA sequence divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes**</u>

We used RNA-seq data to identify single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and small

insertions/deletions (indels) within genes in genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) male

house flies (Son et al. 2019). For each gene, we counted the number of sites that are

heterozygous in either genotypic or sex-reversed males (i.e., two alleles in at least one genotype).

We then calculated the percent of those sites (per gene) that are heterozygous only in the

genotypic males. This value is 0% if heterozygous sites are only in sex-reversed males, it is

100% if heterozygous sites are only in genotypic males, and it is 50% if the same number of

heterozygous sites are found in both genotypes. We found that the genotypic males have an

excess of heterozygous sites in third chromosome genes, relative to the sex-reversed males

(Figure 1; $P < 10^{-16}$ in a Wilcoxon rank sum test comparing percent heterozygous sites in genes

on the third chromosome with genes on the other chromosomes). This is consistent with elevated

third chromosome heterozygosity in a previous comparison between III^M males and Y^M males

(Meisel et al. 2017), and it suggests that the sequences of genes on the III^M proto-Y chromosome

are differentiated from the copies on the proto-X (i.e., the standard third chromosome).

We expect that the ancestral X chromosome would have the same levels of heterozygosity in

genotypic males (X/X; III^M/III) and sex-reversed males (X/X; III/III) due to the presence of two

copies of the X chromosome in both genotypes. However, the III^M males have elevated

heterozygosity on the X chromosome (Figure 1; $P = 8.32 \times 10^{-13}$ in a Wilcoxon rank sum test

comparing the X chromosome with chromosomes I, II, IV, and V). Elevated X chromosome

heterozygosity in III^M males was also observed in a comparison with Y^M males (Meisel et al.

2017), and its cause remains unresolved. One possible explanation for elevated X chromosome

heterozygosity is that the III^M chromosome was created by a fusion between the third

chromosome and the Y^M chromosome. Because Y^M has nearly identical gene content as the X

chromosome (Meisel et al. 2017), a III-Y^M fusion would cause III^M males to have three copies of

X chromosome genes, increasing the likelihood that III^M males are heterozygous at any given

site on the X chromosome. This hypothesis remains to be tested.

We further tested for divergence between the III^M proto-Y chromosome and its homologous

proto-X by assembling a III^M male genome using Oxford Nanopore reads from the same strain as

our RNA-seq data. We were specifically interested in identifying contigs that were separately

assembled from homologous regions on the proto-X and proto-Y chromosomes (i.e., gametologs;

Garcia-Moreno and Mindell 2000). Assembly into separate contigs would provide evidence for

divergence between the proto-X and proto-Y sequences. Our III^M male assembly is smaller (427

Mb) than the reference house fly genome assembly (691 Mb; Scott et al. 2014) and flow

cytometry estimates of genome size (~1,000 Mb; Picard et al. 2012), suggesting that we are

missing 30-50% of the genome sequence in our assembly. The reduced assembled size of our

III^M male genome is likely the result of low sequencing coverage. Nonetheless, we should be

able to identify X-Y divergence, albeit with reduced power relative to a more complete genome

assembly.

We took two approaches to identify separate proto-X and proto-Y contigs in our assembly: 1)

identifying genes on the same contig as the male-determining gene (*Mdmd*); and 2) testing for

contigs containing sequences that are enriched in males relative to females (Carvalho and Clark

2013). Our approaches will identify regions on the proto-sex chromosome that contain genes that

can be assigned to the third chromosome, are present on both the proto-X and proto-Y with

sufficient divergence to assemble separately, and with both the proto-X and proto-Y gametologs

assembled in our III^{M} male genome. We identified two loci, one from each of our two

approaches (see Supplementary Materials for details), with sufficient X-Y divergence to

assemble into separate proto-X and proto-Y contigs (Figure 2). At each locus, we have one

proto-Y contig and one proto-X contig.

One of the three genes on one proto-Y contig (ctg2382) and all four genes on the other proto-Y

contig (ctg2522) are nuclear-encoded mitochondrial genes (Figure 2 and Supplementary Table

2). Nuclear-encoded mitochondrial genes can evolve under sexually antagonistic selection (Rand

et al. 2001), possibly because of conflicts over mitochondrial functions in sperm and in other

tissues (Gemmell et al. 2004; Gallach et al. 2010). These inter-sexual conflicts could favor or

select against X-linked mitochondrial genes depending on the extent of co-transmission of the X

chromosome and mitochondria in females (Drown et al. 2012; Dean et al. 2014). Our results

suggest that mito-nuclear inter-sexual conflicts might also be important for X-Y divergence in

young sex chromosomes, where sexually antagonistic variants could be partitioned between

female-beneficial X-linked alleles and male-beneficial Y-linked alleles. Additional work is

required to test this hypothesis.

Two of the genes on the proto-Y contigs have differences in their protein-coding sequence from

their proto-X chromosome gametologs. One of the two (*LOC101894698*, encoding fast kinase

domain-containing protein 5, mitochondrial) contains three missense variable sites at which

genotypic (III^{M}/III) males are heterozygous and sex-reversed (III/III) male are homozygous

(Supplementary Table 3). The protein encoded by this gene contains an RNA-binding (RAP)

domain, but all three missense variants are not found in the domain. The other gene

(*LOC101893231*, which does not have a predicted mitochondrial function) has three missense

alleles at which genotypic males are heterozygous and sex-reversed male are homozygous

(Supplementary Table 3). One of three missense sites (at position 29,021 in the scaffold of the

reference genome) in this gene is found in a proline aminopeptidase P II domain. For all

missense alleles in both genes, we inferred the III allele as the one in common between

genotypic and sex-reversed males and the III^M allele as the one unique to genotypic males.

However, the inferred III^M alleles are not specific to the III^M chromosome because all III^M alleles

in *LOC101894698* and one of the III^M alleles in *LOC101893231* (at position 29,021) were found

in the reference genome (which comes from a genotypic female without a III^M chromosome).

Therefore, some of the III^M alleles in these genes are segregating as polymorphic variants on the

proto-X chromosome.

An alternative explanation of our candidate proto-Y contigs (ctg2382 and ctg2522) is that they

are paralogous sequences that have been duplicated on the proto-Y chromosome, creating a

second Y-linked copy of the genes within the duplicated region. Intra-chromosomal duplications

are a common feature of Y chromosomes (Skaletsky et al. 2003; Hughes et al. 2010; Soh et al.

2014; Bachtrog et al. 2019; Ellison and Bachtrog 2019). It is therefore possible that the

sequences we classify as on the proto-X are actually present on both the proto-X and proto-Y,

while the contigs we classify as proto-Y sequences are intra-chromosomal duplications on the

proto-Y. However, even in this scenario, the proto-Y sequences are still unique to the proto-Y.

Therefore, our interpretations are unlikely to be affected by whether the sequences we classify as

proto-Y are true gametologs of the proto-X or intra-chromosomal duplications on the proto-Y.

Gene expression divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes

We next tested if differences in *cis*-regulatory sequences between the proto-Y and proto-X

chromosomes contribute to expression differentiation. We quantified differential expression

between the proto-X and proto-Y chromosome copies of the third chromosome genes by

measuring allele-specific expression (ASE) in normal (genotypic) males carrying a III^M proto-Y

chromosome and sex-reversed (III/III) males with no proto-Y chromosome. Comparing

genotypic and sex-reversed males allows us to control for the effect of sexually dimorphic gene

expression on the inference of divergence between the proto-Y (III^M) and proto-X (III)

chromosomes.

To quantify ASE of genes in genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) males, we used

existing RNA-seq data (Son et al. 2019) along with our new Oxford Nanopore long read

sequencing data. We used the IDP-ASE pipeline (Deonovic et al. 2017), which is more accurate

when a hybrid of short and long reads is provided as input. This is because the long reads are

used to construct haplotypes, which are used to estimate ASE from the RNA-seq data (see

Materials and Methods). This approach differs from our comparison of proto-X and proto-Y

contigs because the ASE analysis does not require separate assembly of proto-X and proto-Y

contigs. Instead, IDP-ASE uses the raw long read sequences from genotypic and sex reversed

males to phase haplotypes when inferring ASE. We measured ASE as the proportion of iterations

in a Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) simulation in which the expression of a focal

haplotype is estimated as >0.5. This proportion gives a measure of ASE ranging from 0 (extreme

ASE in favor of one allele) to 1 (extreme ASE in favor of another allele), with 0.5 indicating

equal expression of both alleles. We are unable to determine if the focal haplotype refers to the

III^M or III allele across the entire third chromosome, but we do differentiate between these alleles

for a handful of genes where we are able to perform manual curation (see below).

We assigned each gene with sufficient expression data into one of five bins of ASE. The

proportions of iterations with focal haplotypes >0.5 were overrepresented at five values (0, 0.25,

0.5, 0.75, and 1) both in genotypic and sex-reversed males (Supplementary Figure 2 and 3).

These proportions may be overrepresented because we only sampled two genotypes for our ASE

analysis, which caused us to have a non-continuous distribution of proportions. We divided the

proportion of iterations with the focal haplotypes >0.5 into five bins, with each bin capturing one

of the five most common proportions (Supplementary Figure 2 and 3): 1) extreme ASE, with a

value between 0 and 0.125; 2) moderate ASE, with a value between 0.125 and 0.375; 3) non-

ASE, with a value between 0.375 and 0.625; 4) moderate ASE, with a value between 0.625 and

0.875; and 5) extreme ASE, with a value between 0.875 and 1. In the analysis below, we

considered a gene to have ASE if it falls into one of the two bins of extreme ASE; genes in the

non-ASE bin (proportion of focal haplotype >0.5 between 0.375 and 0.625) were classified as

having non-ASE. Genes with moderate ASE were excluded from most of our analyses in order to

be conservative about ASE assignment.

We first investigated ASE of genes we identified at the two loci where we have separate proto-X

and proto-Y contigs from our genome assembly (Supplementary Table 2). We had enough

sequence coverage and heterozygous sites to estimate ASE in 5/7 genes. Two mitochondrial

genes (*LOC101894537* and *LOC101894698*) had extreme ASE in genotypic males and moderate

ASE in sex-reversed males. The elevated ASE in genotypic males is suggestive of expression

divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X copies. Three genes (*LOC101892763*,

LOC101893231, and *LOC101894024*) exhibited extreme ASE in sex-reversed males and non-

ASE or moderate ASE in genotypic males. Elevated ASE in sex-reversed males is not expected

because they are genotypic females with two copies of the proto-X chromosome. This result

suggests there is not large-scale expression divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X

chromosomes. The limited expression divergence (Supplementary Table 2) and paucity of fixed

amino acid differences (Supplementary Table 3) between proto-Y and proto-X gametologs are

consistent with minimal differentiation between the house fly proto-Y and proto-X

chromosomes.

We next examined ASE across the entire third chromosome. If the III^M proto-Y chromosome is

differentiated in gene expression from its homologous III proto-X chromosome because of

differences in *cis*-regulatory alleles across the entire third chromosome, then we expect a higher

fraction of genes with ASE on the third chromosome in the genotypic (III^M/III) males than in the

sex-reversed (III/III) males. In contrast to that expectation, we did not find an excess of genes

with ASE in genotypic males compared to ASE genes in sex-reversed males on the third

chromosome relative to other chromosomes (Figure 3A and Supplementary Table 4; Fisher's

exact test, $P = 0.6996$). This result suggests that the III^M proto-Y chromosome is not broadly

differentiated in *cis*-regulatory alleles from the standard third (proto-X) chromosome. This

provides evidence that the early stages of Y chromosome evolution do not involve chromosome-

wide changes in gene regulation.

We next identified individual genes with differences in ASE between genotypic (III^M/III) and

sex-reversed (III/III) males. There are 95 third chromosome genes with ASE in the genotypic

males that are non-ASE in the sex-reversed males (Supplementary Table 5). These genes could

have ASE in III^M males because of differences in *cis* regulatory sequences between the III^M and

standard third chromosome. To test whether the observed number of third chromosome genes

with ASE in genotypic males that are non-ASE in sex-reversed males is in excess of a null

expectation, we determined the number of third chromosome genes with ASE in sex-reversed

males that are non-ASE in genotypic males (i.e., the opposite of what we did above to find the

first set of 95 genes). There are 76 third chromosome genes with ASE in the sex-reversed males

that are non-ASE in genotypic males (Supplementary Table 5). We also identified 241 genes on

other chromosomes with ASE in genotypic males that are non-ASE in sex-reversed males, as

well as 281 genes on other chromosomes with ASE in sex-reversed males that are non-ASE in

genotypic males (Figure 3B and Supplementary Table 5). We do not expect any difference in

ASE between genotypic and sex reversed males for chromosomes other than the third.

Comparing genes with and without ASE on the third chromosome and the rest of the genome,

there is indeed an excess of third chromosome genes with ASE in genotypic males that are non-

ASE in sex-reversed males (Figure 3B and Supplementary Table 5; Fisher's exact test, $P =$

0.03467). These results suggest that, while the III^M proto-Y chromosome is not broadly

differentiated in *cis*-regulatory sequences from the standard third (proto-X) chromosome, there is

an excess of individual genes with *cis*-regulatory differences between the III^M proto-Y and its

homologous proto-X chromosome.

Male-specific selection on individual proto-Y genes could be responsible for ASE in genotypic

III^M males. In this scenario, male-specific selection would favor *cis*-regulatory variants that drive

up- or down-regulation of the III^M copy of a gene (Parsch and Ellegren 2013; Mank 2017). These

sex-specific selection pressures are expected to have the greatest effect for genes closest to the

male-determining *Mdmd* locus because those genes are most likely to be co-inherited with *Mdmd*

(Charlesworth et al. 2014). Unfortunately, we lack a chromosome-scale assembly of the house

fly genome (Scott et al. 2014; Meisel and Scott 2018), which prevents us from testing if genes

with ASE are clustered on the third chromosome in close proximity to the *Mdmd* locus.

Up-regulation of the Y-allele and male-biased expression of a testis-expressed gene

We next tested if genes with ASE are differentially expressed between genotypic males, sex-

reversed males, and females. A relationship between ASE and sexually dimorphic expression

would suggest that up- or down-regulation of Y-linked alleles affects sexually dimorphic

phenotypes. We started by selecting genes that we had previously identified as differentially

expressed between genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) males (Son et al. 2019). These

two genotypes have nearly the same expression profiles, with a small number of differentially

expressed genes. We were specifically interested in genes on the third (proto-sex) chromosome

with "discordant sex-biased expression". Discordant sex-biased genes have male-biased

expression in genotypic males (i.e., upregulated relative to phenotypic females) and female-

biased expression in the sex-reversed males (downregulated relative to phenotypic females), or

vice versa. This pattern of expression is suggestive of *cis*-regulatory divergence between the

proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes—a hypothesis that was presented but not tested in our

previous study (Son et al. 2019). Here, we test that hypothesis by determining if any third

chromosome genes with discordant sex-biased expression have ASE consistent with *cis*-

regulatory divergence between the proto-Y (III^M) and proto-X (III) alleles.

We identified a single gene (*LOC101899975*) with discordant sex-biased gene expression out of

the 95 genes on the third chromosome with ASE in the genotypic (III^M/III) males that are non-

ASE in the sex-reversed (III/III) males. This gene is homologous to *dynein assembly factor 5,*

axonemal (human gene *DNAAF5* and *Drosophila melanogaster* gene *HEATR2*). The gene, which

we refer to as *M. domestica HEATR2* (*Md-HEATR2*), is expected to encode a protein that

functions in flagellated sperm motility (Diggle et al. 2014), and it has strong testis-biased

expression in *D. melanogaster* (Chintapalli et al. 2007). *Md-HEATR2* has male-biased expression

in the abdomens of genotypic males and female-biased expression in the abdomens of sex-

reversed males (Son et al. 2019), suggesting that expression differences between the III^M proto-Y

and the standard third (proto-X) chromosome cause the male-biased expression of the gene in the

genotypic males.

We identified three diagnostic variant sites for ASE within *Md-HEATR2* (Figure 4A), which are

all synonymous SNPs. The genotypic (III^M/III) males are heterozygous and the sex-reversed

(III/III) males are homozygous at all diagnostic sites. We inferred the allele on the standard third

chromosome as the one in common between genotypic and sex-reversed males, and the III^M

allele as the one unique to genotypic males at each diagnostic variant site. Curiously, all three

III^M alleles are found in the reference genome, suggesting that these synonymous variants are not

fixed differences between the proto-Y and proto-X. *Md-HEATR2* is expressed higher in III^M

genotypic males than in sex-reversed males (Figure 4A). In the III^M genotypic males, the III^M

(Y-linked) alleles are expressed higher than the X-linked alleles, indicating that the Y-linked

alleles are associated with the up-regulation of the gene in III^M genotypic males relative to sex-

reversed males (Figure 4A). The copy of *Md-HEATR2* on the III^M proto-Y chromosome is

therefore up-regulated relative to the proto-X copy, consistent with higher expression of *Md-*

HEATR2 in genotypic males.

Using our Nanopore sequencing reads mapped to the reference genome, we examined 1,273 base

pairs upstream of *Md-HEATR2* to identify diagnostic sites that could be responsible for

regulating the expression differences between the proto-X and proto-Y alleles. We chose that

distance because it includes the first variable site we could identify on the scaffold containing

Md-HEATR2 in our Nanopore data (i.e., including a larger region would not provide any

additional information). We found twelve variable sites with different alleles (SNPs and small

indels) between genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) males (Figure 4B). We next

examined whether these sites are located within a potential transcription factor (TF) binding

region. We found five TF binding regions predicted upstream of *Md-HEATR2* using the

'Tfsitescan' tool in the 'object-oriented Transcription Factors Database' (Ghosh 2000). However,

none of the twelve variable sites are found within any predicted TF binding regions (Figure 4C).

It is possible that the *cis*-regulatory sequences responsible for differential expression are located

outside of the region we were able to investigate, which would be consistent with our failure to

identify fixed differences in the exons between the proto-Y and proto-X copies of *Md-HEATR2*.

A long distance would reduce the genetic linkage between the *cis*-regulatory region and

transcribed sequence, allowing for the X-Y differentiation of the regulatory region without

differentiation of the transcribed gene. Further work is needed to determine how the differential

expression of the proto-X and proto-Y copies of *Md-HEATR2* is regulated.

We hypothesize that the upregulation of the proto-Y copy of *Md-HEATR2* is the result of

selection for higher expression in males. We think that the *cis*-regulatory region is under

selection, rather than the protein-coding sequence, because we fail to find any protein coding

differences between the proto-X and proto-Y copies, and the synonymous differences we

observe are not fixed differences. HEATR2 is involved in dynein arm assembly (Diggle et al.

2014), and axonemal dynein is essential for flagellated sperm motility (Kurek et al. 1998;

Carvalho et al. 2000). Therefore, it may be beneficial to male fitness to have higher expression of

Md-HEATR2 in testis. However, HEATR2 also functions in mechanosensory neurons in

Drosophila (Diggle et al. 2014). There may be conflict over the *cis*-regulatory sequences that

promote expression in testis and neurons, which may prevent up-regulation of the proto-X copy

of *Md-HEATR2* in testis. These opposing (i.e., sexually antagonistic) selection pressures on *Md-*

HEATR2 expression would be resolved in a Y-linked copy that is only under selection in males

(Rice 1996b). Alternatively, the expression differences between sex-reversed and genotypic

males could be caused by differences in tissue scaling between genotypes (Montgomery and

Mank 2016). For example, if genotypic males have larger testes and if the proto-Y allele is

preferentially expressed in testis, then it will appear as if genotypic males have higher expression

of *Md-HEATR2*. Even in this model, there is ASE associated with testis-specific expression,

which is consistent with male-specific selection favoring the proto-Y allele.

The up-regulation or testis-biased expression of the proto-Y copy of *Md-HEATR2* may not

completely resolve sexually antagonistic selection pressures on *Md-HEATR2* expression because

of three notable features of house fly genetics. First, Y-linked alleles are only under male-

specific selection when they are in complete genetic linkage with a male-determining gene

(Charlesworth et al. 2014). Complete linkage between loci can be caused by recombination

suppressors (e.g., chromosomal inversions) that prevent genetic exchange between the X and Y

chromosomes (Rice 1987; Charlesworth 2017). While there is no direct evidence for inversions

or other suppressors of recombination on the house fly third chromosome, crossing over in male

meiosis is rare in most flies (Gethmann 1988). A general lack of recombination in males would

prevent X-Y exchange. However, male recombination has been documented in house fly

(Feldmeyer et al. 2010), suggesting that X-Y exchange is possible. Second, female house flies

can carry proto-Y chromosomes if they also carry the female-determining *Md-tra^D* allele (Hamm

et al. 2015). Female-transmission of the proto-Y provides another avenue for X-Y exchange in

the absence of an inversion or other suppressor of recombination on the proto-Y or proto-X. We

observe alleles in *Md-HEATR2* and other third chromosome genes that are found on both the

435 proto-Y and proto-X (Supplementary Table 3), which is consistent with either X-Y

436 recombination or ancestral polymorphisms that predate the formation of the proto-sex

437 chromosome. Third, when females carry a proto-Y chromosome, there will be selection against

438 male-beneficial, female-detrimental sexually antagonistic alleles, which will further prevent the

439 resolution of sexual conflict.

441 Selection on proto-Y alleles in females, along with X-Y recombination that moves proto-X

442 alleles onto the proto-Y, will reduce the efficacy of male-specific selection pressures on sexually

443 antagonistic alleles of *Md-HEATR2*. The extent of these effects will depend on the frequency of

444 proto-Y chromosomes found in females. First, the extent to which selection in females acts

445 against male-beneficial sexually antagonistic alleles depends on the frequency with which the

446 proto-Y chromosomes are found in females (Rice 1984). Second, if recombination rate is

447 sexually dimorphic, the rate of population level recombination between the male-determiner and

448 *Md-HEATR2* will depend on how often the proto-Y chromosomes are found in females (Sardell

449 et al. 2018). Notably, the frequencies of proto-Y chromosomes and the female-determining *Md-*

450 *tra^D* allele vary across populations (Hamm et al. 2015; Meisel et al. 2016). Therefore, the

451 frequency with which females carry proto-Y chromosomes will vary across populations,

452 suggesting that selection against male-beneficial *cis*-regulatory alleles of *Md-HEATR2* on the

453 proto-Y may be population-specific.

455 The expression divergence of the proto-X and proto-Y copies of *Md-HEATR2* could constitute

456 an early stage of X-Y differentiation before chromosome-wide X-Y differentiation occurs

457 (Bachtrog 2013). Young Y chromosomes have very similar gene content as their ancestral

458 autosomes. In contrast, old Y chromosomes are more likely to have only retained genes with

459 male-specific functions or recruited genes associated with testis expression from other autosomes

460 (Koerich et al. 2008; Kaiser et al. 2011; Mahajan and Bachtrog 2017). Our results suggest that

461 changes in the expression of individual Y-linked genes that were retained from the ancestral

462 autosome could have important phenotypic effects during early Y chromosome evolution,

463 consistent with gene-by-gene divergence on the young Y chromosomes (Wei and Bachtrog

464 2019).

Conclusions

We investigated gene sequence and expression differences between the house fly III^M proto-Y chromosome and its homologous proto-X to determine how a very young proto-Y/proto-X pair diverge shortly after the proto-Y was formed. To those ends, we used genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) males because they are phenotypically almost the same and only differ in whether they carry a proto-Y chromosome (Hediger et al. 2010; Son et al. 2019). We observe elevated heterozygosity on the proto-sex chromosome in genotypic males (Figure 1), which could be indicative of chromosome-wide sequence differentiation between the proto-Y and proto-X. Alternatively, elevated heterozygosity in genotypic males could merely be a result of being heterozygous for the third chromosome. Consistent with this alternative hypothesis, when we previously substituted a third chromosome without *Mdmd* onto a common genetic background, the effect on gene expression was comparable to substituting a III^M chromosome on the same background (Son et al. 2019).

Our subsequent analyses suggest that the house fly III^M proto-Y chromosome is differentiated in sequence and expression from its homologous proto-X chromosome at individual genes, but not chromosome-wide. This is consistent with previous work that found evidence for gene-by-gene divergence in a young neo-Y chromosome (Wei and Bachtrog 2019). For example, we only identified two genomic loci (containing a total of 7 genes) that are sufficiently differentiated to assemble into separate proto-X and proto-Y contigs (Figure 2). Notably, 5/7 of those genes have mitochondrial functions, suggesting that mitochondrial function in sperm might be an important target of male-specific selection during the early evolution of a Y chromosome. We did not identify any fixed differences in the protein-coding sequences between the proto-X and proto-Y gametologs of the five mitochondrial genes (Supplementary Table 3), or in the sequence of *Md-HEATR2* (Figure 4), providing further evidence for minimal differentiation between the proto-X and proto-Y. This also suggests that sex-specific selection may be operating on *cis* regulatory sequences of these genes. Consistent with this hypothesis, two of the mitochondrial genes are differentially expressed between the proto-Y and proto-X (Supplementary Table 2). Despite these intriguing examples, there is only a moderate excess of genes with evidence for differential expression between the proto-Y and proto-X (Figure 3). The number of genes with ASE on the

third chromosome only in genotypic males, and not in sex-reversed males, is small; we identify

fewer than 100 genes that meet these criteria, which is less than 5% of the 2,524 genes assigned

to the third chromosome (Meisel and Scott 2018).

We identified one gene on the third chromosome (*Md-HEATR2*) with ASE in genotypic males

that is non-ASE in sex-reversed males and has discordant sex-biased expression between

genotypic and sex-reversed males (Figure 4). We hypothesize that expression divergence of *Md-*

HEATR2 could be an example of very early X-Y differentiation of individual genes that results

from sex-specific selection. Notably, *Md-HEATR2* is expected to have important functions in

spermatogenesis or sperm motility (Diggle et al. 2014; Fuller 1993), similar to the five

mitochondrial genes contained within genomic regions that are divergent between the proto-Y

and proto-X. Male fertility is an important target of selection during the evolution of old Y

chromosomes (Carvalho et al. 2009; Hughes et al. 2010), and our results suggest that selection

on male fertility is also an important driver of X-Y divergence during the early evolution of sex

chromosomes. Our results also suggest that these selection pressures during the earliest stages of

Y chromosome evolution drive gene-by-gene, rather than chromosome-scale, changes in gene

expression.

Materials and Methods

Fly strain

We analyzed RNA-seq data and performed Oxford Nanopore sequencing on a house fly strain

that allows for identification of genotypic (III^M/III) males and sex-reversed (III/III) males

(Hediger et al. 2010). This is because the standard third chromosome (III) in this strain has the

recessive mutations *pointed wing* and *brown body*. Sex-reversed males (and normal females)

have both mutant phenotypes, whereas genotypic males are wild-type for both phenotypes

because the III^M chromosome has the dominant wild-type alleles. The RNA-seq data that we

analyzed (available at NCBI GEO accession GSE126689) comes from a previous study that used

double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) targeting *Md-tra* to create sex-reversed phenotypic males that

have a female genotype without a proto-Y chromosome (Son et al. 2019). This is because active

Md-tra drives female development and inactive *Md-tra* triggers male development (Hediger et

al. 2010). We compared gene expression in the abdomens of sex-reversed males, genotypic

males that received a sham treatment of dsRNA targeting GFP, and genotypic females that are

phenotypically female. We analyzed data from three replicates of each genotype and treatment,

with each replicate consisting of a single fly abdomen (Son et al. 2019). We used genotypic

males and sex-reversed males from the same strain that were subjected to the same treatment for

genome sequencing using the Oxford Nanopore long read technology.

<u>Oxford Nanopore sequencing</u>

We performed Oxford Nanopore sequencing of one genotypic (III^M/III) male and one sex-

reversed (III/III) male created from the same strain and using the same *Md-tra* dsRNA treatment

as a previous RNA-seq study (Son et al. 2019). DNA was isolated with a phenol/chloroform

protocol (see Supplementary Materials). Oxford Nanopore Sequencing libraries were prepared

with the 1D genomic DNA Ligation kit (SQK-LSK109, Oxford Nanopore), following the

manufacturer's protocol. DNA from the genotypic male and sex-reversed male was used to

create a separate sequencing library for each genotype. Following the manufacturer's protocol,

15 uL of each library, along with sequencing buffer and loading beads (totaling 75 uL), were

separately loaded onto two different R9.4 flow cells (i.e., the libraries from the genotypic and

sex-reversed males were run on separate flow cells) until no pores were available on a MinION

sequencer (Oxford Nanopore).

We performed two different base calling pipelines, using the Guppy pipeline software version

3.1.5 (Oxford Nanopore). First, for the IDP-ASE analysis, we used parameter options with "--

calib_detect --qscore_filtering --min_qscore 10". Second, for the genome assembly we used the

default parameters. We used different parameters for IDP-ASE because base quality affects

accurate haplotyping used to estimate ASE (see below), and we therefore used a higher threshold

for the base quality. For the IDP-ASE analysis, the base called reads were aligned to the house

fly genome assembly v2.0.2 (Scott et al. 2014) using Minimap2 version 2.17 with the "-ax map-

ont" parameter (Li 2018).

Genome assembly, transcript alignment, and sequence divergence

We used wtdbg2 to assemble our base called Oxford Nanopore reads using the default

parameters (Ruan and Li 2020). To find genic regions in our genome assembly, we aligned

house fly transcripts (from Annotation Release 102) as a query against our genome assembly

contigs using BLAT with a minimum mapping score of 50 (Kent 2002). We considered BLAT

alignments to be gene copies only if the matched sequence length in the BLAT alignments

covers at least half of the original (annotated) transcript length. We selected contigs in our

assembly that contain genes that are assigned to the third chromosome in the reference genome.

We used two approaches to differentiate the proto-Y and proto-X contigs. In both approaches we

specifically focused on pairs of contigs that contain the same genes because they are indicative

of X-Y divergence (i.e., one contig likely contains a proto-Y sequence, and the other contains a

proto-X sequence). First, we tested if one contig contains a copy of *Mdmd*, which allows us to

designate that contig as the proto-Y copy (and the other is proto-X). *Mdmd* is not present in the

annotated house fly genome because the genome was sequenced from female DNA (Scott et al.

2014). To find *Mdmd* copies in our genome assembly, we used the sequence of the *Mdmd*

transcript (Sharma et al. 2017) as a query to find contigs containing *Mdmd* with BLAST using an

e-value cutoff of 1e-3 (Altschul et al. 1990). Second, we used a *k*-mer comparison approach to

differentiate the proto-X and proto-Y contigs (Carvalho and Clark 2013). In this approach, we

used a *k*-mer size of 15 to measure the percent unmatched by female reads (%UFR) for every

contig in our assembly, with higher values indicating an increased likelihood that a contig is Y-

linked. The female reads were from the genome project (BioProject accession PRJNA176013;

Scott et al. 2014), and we included the III[M] male Oxford Nanopore sequencing reads we

generated for validation of the bit-array. We followed the options suggested to identify Y

sequences in *Drosophila* genomes (Carvalho and Clark 2013), as described previously (Meisel et

al. 2017). We used the R package Gviz (Hahne and Ivanek 2016) to visualize genes that are

present in III[M] (proto-Y) contigs and III (proto-X) contigs.

Variant calling

We used available RNA-seq data (Son et al. 2019) to identify genetic variants (SNPs and small

indels) that differentiate the III^M proto-Y chromosome from the standard third (proto-X)

chromosome, and then we tested if III^M males have elevated heterozygosity on the third

chromosome as compared to sex-reversed males (Meisel et al. 2017). We used the Genome

Analysis Toolkit (GATK) pipeline for calling variants in the RNA-seq data from the *Md-tra*

RNAi experiment in (Son et al. 2019), following the best practices for SNP and indel calling on

RNA-seq data (McKenna et al. 2010; Meisel et al. 2017). First, we used STAR (Dobin et al.

2013) to align reads from three genotypic (III^M/III) male libraries and three sex-reversed (III/III)

male libraries to the (female) reference assembly v2.0.2 (Scott et al. 2014). The reference

genome was sequenced from the aabys strain, which differs from the one we used in our

experiment and has males that carry the Y^M proto-Y chromosome. The aligned reads were used

to generate a new reference genome index from the detected splice junctions in the first

alignment run, and then a second alignment was performed with the new reference. We next

marked duplicate reads from the same RNA molecule and used the GATK tool

'SplitNCigarReads' to reassign mapping qualities to 60 with the 'ReassignOneMappingQuality'

read filter for alignments with a mapping quality of 255. Indels were detected and realigned with

'RealignerTargetCreator' and 'IndelRealigner'. The realigned reads were used for base

recalibration with 'BaseRecalibrator' and 'PrintReads'. The base recalibration was performed in

three sequential iterations in which recalibrated and filtered reads were used to train the next

round of base recalibration, at which point there were no beneficial effects of additional base

recalibration as verified by 'AnalyzeCovariates'. We next used the recalibrated reads from all

three replicates of genotypic and sex-reversed males to call variants using 'HaplotypeCaller'

with emission and calling confidence thresholds of 20. We applied 'genotypeGVCFs' to the

variant calls from the two types of males for joint genotyping, and then we filtered the variants

using 'VariantFiltration' with a cluster window size of 35 bp, cluster size of 3 SNPs, FS > 20,

and QD < 2. The QD filter simultaneously considers read depth and variant quality so that a

separate read depth filter is not needed during variant filtration. Because this filtration is applied

during the joint genotypic step, all variants are genotyped using the combined information across

both types of males, eliminating the need to separately cross-reference read mapping information

across genotypes. The final variant calls were used to identify heterozygous variants within

genes and to estimate ASE with the IDP-ASE tool (see below) using the coordinates from the

genome sequencing project, annotation release 102 (Scott et al. 2014). If a locus has different

variants (e.g. a reference allele and an alternative allele), we considered the locus heterozygous.

We measured relative heterozygosity within each gene in genotypic (III^M/III) and sex-reversed

(III/III) males as the number of heterozygous variants in genotypic males for a given gene (h_G)

divided by the total number heterozygous variants in both genotypic and sex-reversed males

(h_{SR}), times one hundred: $100h_G/(h_G + h_{SR})$. To annotate each variant within coding sequences,

we used SnpEff with filter options "-onlyProtein", "-no-intergenic", "-no-downstream", "-no-

upstream", "-no-intron", and "-no-utr" (Cingolani et al. 2012).

For the variant calling from Nanopore long reads, the base called reads were indexed using fast5

files with the 'index' module of Nanopolish version 0.11.1 (Quick et al. 2016), and they were

aligned with Minimap2 version 2.17 (Li 2018) to house fly genome assembly v2.0.2 (Scott et al.

2014). The aligned and raw reads were used to call variants using the "variants" module of

Nanopolish version 0.11.1 with the "--ploidy 2" parameter (Quick et al. 2016). We used a python

script 'nanopolish_makerange.py' provided in the package to split the genome into 50 kb

segments because it was recommended to use the script for large datasets with genome size more

than 50 kb.

<u>Allele-specific expression</u>

ASE is the unequal expression of the maternal and paternal alleles in a diploid. Estimating ASE

with a single reference genome generates bias in the ASE measurement because RNA-seq reads

from the allele found in the reference genome could preferentially map to the reference genome

relative to reads from alternative alleles (Stevenson et al. 2013). This read-mapping bias can be

reduced by filtering out clusters of variants found in close proximity (Stevenson et al. 2013;

Zimmer et al. 2016). We accomplished this by excluding all clusters of 3 or more SNPs found

within windows of 35 bp (see above), which is similar to the recommended filtering parameters

to reduce mapping bias (Stevenson et al. 2013). Our filtering step retained only 21.3% of all

SNPs, which we consider to be high confidence SNPs for inferring ASE. In comparison, Zimmer

et al. (2016) applied a filter of 6 SNPs per 100 bp, which we find retains 30.4% of all SNPs in

our data. Therefore, the filter we have applied to remove SNP clusters is as stringent or more

stringent than those previously used to reduce mapping biases that could affect measurements of

ASE.

We investigated if there is elevated ASE on the third chromosome in males carrying one III^M

proto-Y and one proto-X chromosome compared to sex-reversed males with two proto-X

chromosomes. To do this, we implemented the IDP-ASE tool at the gene level with house fly

genome annotation release 102 (Scott et al. 2014), following the developers' recommended

analysis steps (Deonovic et al. 2017). The IDP-ASE software was supplied with raw and aligned

reads created by RNA-seq (Son et al. 2019) and Nanopore sequencing, as well as variant calls

(SNPs and small indels) in RNA-seq reads created by GATK. We only used the Nanopore reads

for phasing haplotypes in the IDP-ASE run, and not for variant calling, because there was less

than $10\times$ coverage across the house fly genome (i.e., too low for reliable variant calling).

The prepared data from each gene was next run in an MCMC sampling simulation to estimate

the haplotype within each gene with a Metropolis-Hastings sampler (Bansal et al. 2008). The

software estimates the proportion of each estimated haplotype that contributes to the total

expression of the gene (ρ) from each iteration using slice sampling (Neal et al. 2003). A value of

ρ=0.5 indicates equal expression between two alleles, whereas ρ<0.5 or ρ>0.5 indicates ASE.

The MCMC sampling was run with a 1000 iteration burn-in followed by at least 500 iterations

where data were recorded. The actual number of iterations was automatically adjusted by the

software during the simulation to produce the best simulation output for quantifying ASE within

a gene. The IDP-ASE simulation generated a distribution of ρ for each gene across all post-burn-

in iterations, and then it calculated the proportion of iterations with $\rho > 0.5$. This proportion was

used to estimate the extent of ASE for each gene. For example, if all iterations for a gene have ρ

> 0.5, then the proportion is 1 and the gene has strong evidence for ASE of one allele. Similarly,

if all iterations for a gene have $\rho < 0.5$, then the proportion is 0 and the gene has strong evidence

for ASE of the other allele. In contrast, if half of the iterations have $\rho > 0.5$ and the other half

have $\rho < 0.5$, then the proportion is 0.5 and there is not any evidence for ASE. In our subsequent

analysis, we only included genes with at least 10 mapped reads combined across three RNA-seq

libraries from the genotype under consideration.

We used the output of IDP-ASE to compare expression of the III^M (proto-Y) and III (proto-X)

alleles in genotypic males. IDP-ASE only quantifies ASE within bi-allelic loci, so we only

included genes with heterozygous sites within transcripts in genotypic (III^M/III) or sex-reversed

(III/III) males. In addition, we removed heterozygous variants with the same genotype in

genotypic and sex-reversed males because they do not allow us discriminate between the proto-Y

and proto-X alleles. Removing these variants may have also sped up the simulation times, but

this was not rigorously investigated. To discriminate between the III^M and III alleles, we used

haplotypes estimated during IDP-ASE runs and genotypes inferred from GATK for genotypic

(III^M/III) and sex-reversed (III/III) males. For example, using genotypes called using GATK

from the RNA-seq data, we first identified sites with heterozygous alleles in genotypic males and

homozygous alleles in sex-reversed males. Next, we inferred the allele in common between

genotypic and sex-reversed as the III allele, and the other allele that is unique to genotypic males

as the III^M allele. Lastly, we matched those sites to the haplotypes estimated by IDP-ASE to

quantify ASE within each genotype.

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Whole Genome Shotgun accession JACCFA000000000 under BioProject accession

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Figure legends

Figure 1. Elevated heterozygosity on the third and X chromosomes in genotypic (III^M/III) males relative to sex-reversed (III/III) males. The boxplots show the distributions of the percent of heterozygous variants per gene in the genotypic males relative to the sex-reversed males (% III^M heterozygous variants) on each chromosome. Muller element nomenclature for each chromosome is shown in parentheses (Meisel and Scott 2018). See Materials and Methods for the calculation of % III^M heterozygous variants. Values more than 50% indicate more heterozygous variants in genotypic (III^M/III) males, and less than 50% indicates more heterozygous variants in sex-reversed males. The median across autosomes I, II, IV, and V is represented by a dashed line.

Figure 2. Two proto-X and proto-Y loci identified in the III^M genome assembly. (A) One locus was identified with a truncated *Mdmd* on the proto-Y (ctg2382) and the same three genes on both the proto-X (ctg1607) and proto-Y. (B) One locus was identified with four genes on both the proto-X (ctg1519) and proto-Y (ctg2522). The two contigs (ctg2522 and ctg1519) were assigned to the proto-Y and proto-X based on sequences that are enriched in the male relative to female reads (see Supplementary Figure 1).

Figure 3. Evidence for moderately elevated ASE on the third (proto-Y) chromosome in III^M males. (A) Proportions of genes with ASE in genotypic (III^M) or sex-reversed (III) males on each chromosome. There is not a significant difference on any chromosome between the two genotypes. (B) Proportions of genes with ASE in genotypic males and non-ASE in sex-reversed males on the third chromosome and all other chromosomes (left two bars). Proportions of genes with non-ASE in genotypic males and ASE in sex-reversed males on the third chromosome and all other chromosomes (right two bars). The asterisk indicates a significant difference ($p<0.05$) in the number of genes in these categories as determined by Fisher's exact test.

Figure 4. Allele-specific expression (ASE) of *Md-HEATR2*. (A) Diagnostic variable sites for ASE in the *Md-HEATR2* gene are based on haplotypes estimated in IDP-ASE. Read depth is measured as fragments per million mapped reads (FPM) in III^M males, sex-reversed (SR) males, and the III^M or III allele in III^M males. (B) Variable sites that differ between genotypic (III^M) males and sex-reversed males (triangles) across 1,273 base pairs upstream of *Md-HEATR2* were identified using Oxford Nanopore long reads only. (C) Transcription factor (TF) binding motifs predicted within 1,273 base pairs upstream of *Md-HEATR2*. The starting position of each motif is given, along with its length (in parentheses). None of the variable sites overlap with predicted TF motifs. All positions are coordinates in scaffold NW_004764965.1 of the reference genome assembly (Scott et al. 2014).

949   **Figure 1**

951 **Figure 2**

953 **Figure 3**

955 **Figure 4**

Supplementary Materials

Identification of two candidate proto-X/proto-Y loci

We identified one contig containing *Mdmd* in the III^M assembly (ctg2382) that contains the same three genes as another contig (ctg1607) without *Mdmd* (Figure 2A). We infer the contig with *Mdmd* to be the proto-Y sequence, and the one without to be from the proto-X. There are two additional contigs containing *Mdmd* in our III^M genome assembly, but we did not find any corresponding proto-X contigs for these (Supplementary Figure 1). These other two contigs with *Mdmd* either contain loci without sufficient X-Y divergence to assemble into separate proto-X and proto-Y contigs, or we did not sequence deep enough to capture enough proto-X reads to assemble the proto-X gametolog. The male-determining regions of the house fly proto-Y chromosomes contain both complete and truncated copies of *Mdmd* (Sharma et al. 2017), and ctg2382 contains two truncated copies of *Mdmd*. The genomic region corresponding to this contig is found in a single scaffold of the reference genome (NW_004774683.1), which was previously assigned to the third chromosome (Meisel and Scott 2018). There are three genes at this locus, and they are present in the same order in the reference genome, the proto-Y contig, and proto-X contig (Figure 2A).

We found the second locus using a *k*-mer comparison approach to test for contigs containing sequences that are enriched in males relative to females (Carvalho and Clark 2013). Here, we compared *k*-mers in our Nanopore III^M male reads and the Illumina reads used to generate the reference (female) genome assembly (Scott et al. 2014) to our III^M male assembly. We then calculated the percent of each contig in our III^M assembly that is unmatched by female reads (%UFR), which we expect to be 100% for a Y chromosome contig that only contains male-specific *k*-mers. We did not identify any contigs with greater than 27.4%UFR (Supplementary Figure 1), which is consistent with the minimal sequence divergence between the proto-Y and proto-X chromosomes (Meisel et al. 2017). To determine an expectation for what constitutes a %UFR of a proto-Y contig in our assembly, we calculated %UFR for the three contigs that each contain copies of *Mdmd* (Supplementary Figure 1). The largest %UFR of any contig with

Mdmd is 13.8% (ctg3705). We used this value as a threshold to find proto-Y contigs that do not contain *Mdmd*.

We found 275 contigs with a %UFR>13.8, nine of which (Supplementary Table 1) contain protein-coding genes that were previously assigned to the third chromosome (Meisel and Scott 2018). One gene (LOC101898200, which encodes histone H3) was found on six different contigs with %UFR>13.8 (and an additional 27 contigs with %UFR<13.8). Histone gene clusters are a common feature of most metazoan genomes, and the multiple copies are under tight regulatory control (McKay et al. 2015; Duronio and Marzluff 2017).These contigs with high %UFR and copies of histone H3 genes are either false positives or not of substantial phenotypic relevance. Two of the other contigs with %UFR>13.8 (ctg3539 and ctg8407) each contain 1-2 genes that are found as multiple copies on other contigs (all with a %UFR<13.8). One of those genes (LOC109612838 on ctg3539) encodes a protein with predicted reverse transcriptase and RNase H activity, suggesting that it is a retrotransposon (Finnegan 2012). Another gene (LOC109613819 on ctg8407) encodes a protein with zinc finger and integrase domains, also consistent with a transposable element (Volff 2006). We exclude these contigs from our subsequent analysis because they likely reflect transposable element expansions within the house fly genome. We only found one contig with a %UFR>13.8 (ctg2522, which has 16.9%UFR) that has a single corresponding contig (ctg1519) with the same four genes (Supplementary Table 1). We assigned ctg2522 to the proto-Y chromosome and ctg1519 to the proto-X (Figure 2B). All four genes shared by both contigs are mapped to the third chromosome in the reference genome. These four genes are present in the same order and same orientation in the reference genome (on scaffold NW_004764689.1), the proto-Y contig, and proto-X contig.

DNA isolation with phenol/chloroform protocol

A single genotypic male and a single sex-reversed male with detached wings were each transferred to a 1.5 mL tube with 0.5 mL homogenization buffer (4.1 g sucrose, 15 mL 1M Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 0.5M EDTA, 100 mL dH$_2$O) and then homogenized using a pestle set into a tissue grinder homogenizer. To each tube we added 40 uL of 10% SDS and 2.5 uL of 10 mg/mL Proteinase K, and then we incubated the tube at 65°C for 30 min. We next added 2 uL of 4

mg/mL RNase to each tube and incubated at 37°C for 15 min. We added 48 uL of 5M KAc to each tube and placed on ice for 30 min. Then we centrifugated the tubes at 14000 rpm for 10 min at 4°C, and the supernatant was transferred into a new tube using a wide-bore pipette tip (all subsequent steps of transfer and mixing during DNA extraction were also done with wide-bore pipette tips to prevent DNA shearing). We added 250 uL phenol and 250 uL chloroform to the extracted supernatant in the new tube, mixed briefly, spun at 14000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C, and then transferred the supernatant into a new tube. We next added 500 uL chloroform to the supernatant in the new tube, mixed well, and spun a 14000 rpm for 5 min at 4°C. We then transferred the supernatant into a new tube. We added 40 uL of 3M NaAc and 800 uL of 95% ethanol to the supernatant in the new tube, mixed briefly, spun at 14000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C, and then carefully poured off all supernatant. We next added 800 uL of 70% ethanol to the remaining pellet, mixed briefly to wash the pellet, spun at 14000 rpm for 15 min at 4°C, removed the supernatant, and then resuspended the pellet in 30 uL of nuclease-free water.

Supplementary Figure 1. Histograms of the percent unmatched by female reads (%UFR) for all contigs in the III^M male genome assembly. Three contigs with *Mdmd* are shown, with their %UFR in parentheses.

Supplementary Figure 2. Histograms of third chromosome genes in different ASE categories. ASE was measured in (A) genotypic (III^M/III) and (B) sex-reversed (III/III) males. ASE is measured as the proportion of iterations in which a focal haplotype is >0.5 of the alleles expressed across iterations in an MCMC simulation. We consider a gene to have ASE if the proportion is <0.125 or >0.875. Genes with a proportion of focal haplotypes between 0.375 and 0.625 are classified as not having ASE.

(A)

Genotypic (III^M) males

Proportion of focal haplotype > 0.5

(B)

Sex-reversed (III) males

Proportion of focal haplotype > 0.5

Supplementary Figure 3. Histograms of allele-specific expression (ASE) in genes for all chromosome are shown in the genotypic (III^M/III) males and the sex-reversed (III/III) males. Muller element nomenclature (from *Drosophila*) for each chromosome is given in parentheses (Meisel and Scott 2018). If a gene is expressed equally between two alleles, the proportion of the focal haplotype is 0.5; otherwise, the proportion is greater or less than 0.5.

Supplementary Table 1. Nine contigs in the III^M male assembly contain genes that are assigned to the third chromosome and have a %UFR>13.8. The genes on each contig are listed.

Contig ID	Gene	# copies of gene	%UFR of contig
ctg2522	LOC101894374	1	16.9
	LOC101894024	1	
	LOC101894537	1	
	LOC101894698	1	
ctg3539	LOC101888429	1	15.4
	LOC109612838	1	
ctg8407	LOC109613819	1	16.6
ctg1423	LOC101898200	6	14.5
ctg4658	LOC101898200	2	14.0
ctg5526	LOC101898200	1	17.3
ctg8144	LOC101898200	1	14.8
ctg9654	LOC101898200	1	20.1
ctg10432	LOC101898200	1	15.9

Supplementary Table 2. Genes on contigs with differentiated proto-Y (III^M) and proto-X (III) copies. There are two pairs of contigs (each pair contains a proto-Y contig and a proto-X contig). Results of a test for ASE in genotypic (III^M/III) males are shown in the second to last column and ASE of the sex-reversed (III^M/III) males in the last column. ASE was not estimated for some genes due to low sequence coverage.

			ASE category	
Contigs	Gene ID	Protein product	Genotypic (III^M/III) male	Sex-reversed (III/III) male
Proto-Y (III^M): ctg2382 (41,324 bps) Proto-X (III): ctg1607 (66,106 bps)	LOC101893231	probable Xaa-Pro aminopeptidase 3	Moderate ASE	Extreme ASE
	LOC101892763	transcriptional adapter 1	Non-ASE	Extreme ASE
	LOC101893053	delta(3,5)-Delta(2,4)-dienoyl-CoA isomerase, mitochodiral	Not estimated	Not estimated
Proto-Y (III^M): ctg2522 (39,000 bps) Proto-X (III): ctg1519 (56,029 bps)	LOC101894374	mitochondrial ornithine transporter 1-like	Not estimated	Not estimated
	LOC101894024	mitochondrial ornithine transporter 1	Moderate ASE	Extreme ASE
	LOC101894537	mitochondrial ornithine transporter 1-like	Extreme ASE	Moderate ASE
	LOC101894698	fast kinase domain-containing protein 5, mitochondrial	Extreme ASE	Moderate ASE

Supplementary Table 3. Missense alleles in coding sequences of two genes on the proto-Y and proto-X contigs. LOC101894698 has also five variable sites that are all synonymous, which are not shown in the table. Variants in coding sequences of the other three genes on the proto-Y and proto-X (LOC101892763, LOC101894024, and LOC101894537) are synonymous and not shown in the table.

Gene	Position at scaffold	III^M male genotype	III male genotype	III^M allele	Reference genome allele
LOC101894698	117354	T/A	A/A	T	T
	118649	C/T	T/T	C	C
	118909	T/C	C/C	T	T
LOC101893231	17382	C/T	C/C	T	C
	17429	A/G	A/A	G	A
	29021	G/A	A/A	G	G

Supplementary Table 4. Counts of ASE genes and non-ASE genes on each chromosome in genotypic (III^M/III) males and sex-reversed (III/III) males.

Chromosome (Muller element)	# genes with ASE in III^M males	# genes with non-ASE in III^M males	# genes with ASE in III males	# genes with non-ASE in III males	Odds ratio	95% CI of odds ratio
III(A)	456	413	438	412	1.038574	0.8555646 - 1.2606663
genome except III(A)	**1635**	**1089**	**1711**	**1010**	**0.886281**	**0.7933539 - 0.9900421**
I(B)	320	222	334	212	0.915002	0.7123784 - 1.1750187
II(E)	465	314	513	291	0.840134	0.6821523 - 1.0344483
IV(D)	394	249	395	215	0.861373	0.6798614 - 1.0908786
V(C)	448	296	460	288	0.947652	0.7654588 - 1.1730543
X(F)	8	8	9	4	0.720539	0.102255 - 4.754933

Supplementary Table 5. Counts of genes with ASE on each chromosome in genotypic (III^M/III) males and sex-reversed (III/III) males. The total number of genes (# genes) in each chromosome group with ASE measurements in both genotypic and sex-reversed males (second column), # genes with ASE in genotypic males and non-ASE in sex-reversed males (third column), and # genes with non-ASE in genotypic males and ASE in sex-reversed males (fourth column) are shown. Bold indicates statistical significance ($P < 0.05$)

Chromosome (Muller element)	# genes	ASE in III^M males and non-ASE in III males # genes	non-ASE in III^M males and ASE in III males # genes	Fisher's Exact Test Odds ratio compared with III(A)	95% CI
III(A)	1420	95	76		
genome except III(A)	4201	**241**	**281**	**1.45665**	**1.014895 - 2.095777**
I(B)	824	51	59	1.444139	0.8688985 - 2.4078676
II(E)	1236	**68**	**86**	**1.578592**	**0.9961489 - 2.5100267**
IV(D)	966	**55**	**76**	**1.724145**	**1.063163 - 2.809137**
V(C)	1149	67	77	1.434875	0.8982881 - 2.2981210
X(F)	26	0	0	0	0 - Infinity

Supplementary Table 6. Counts of ASE genes based on the division of ASE measurements into five bins, following the rules described in the Methods. ASE proportions are sorted in the order of extreme (1st and 5th), moderate (2nd and 4th), and no (3rd) ASE. Only extreme ASE was used in the comparisons with non-ASE presented in the main text.

Chr (ME)	Sections for ASE proportions	# of genes in genotypic (III^M/III) Males			# of genes in sex-reversed (III/III) Males		
I(B)	1st (extreme ASE)	167	320		167	334	
	5th (extreme ASE)	153		627	167		667
	2nd (moderate ASE)	158	307		167	333	
	4th (moderate ASE)	149			166		
	3rd (non-ASE)	222	222	222	212	212	212
II(E)	1st (extreme ASE)	270	465		291	513	
	5th (extreme ASE)	195		972	222		1013
	2nd (moderate ASE)	251	507		258	500	
	4th (moderate ASE)	256			242		
	3rd (non-ASE)	314	314	314	291	291	291
III(A)	1st (extreme ASE)	215	456		220	438	
	5th (extreme ASE)	241		1043	218		1050
	2nd (moderate ASE)	312	587		333	612	
	4th (moderate ASE)	275			279		
	3rd (non-ASE)	413	413	413	412	412	412
IV(D)	1st (extreme ASE)	217	394		214	395	
	5th (extreme ASE)	177		754	181		794
	2nd (moderate ASE)	189	360		201	399	
	4th (moderate ASE)	171			198		
	3rd (non-ASE)	249	249	249	215	215	215
V(C)	1st (extreme ASE)	258	448		268	460	
	5th (extreme ASE)	190		891	192		908
	2nd (moderate ASE)	220	443		239	448	
	4th (moderate ASE)	223			209		
	3rd (non-ASE)	296	296	296	288	288	288
X(F)	1st (extreme ASE)	3	8		4	9	
	5th (extreme ASE)	5		21	5		23
	2nd (moderate ASE)	7	13		4	14	
	4th (moderate ASE)	6			10		
	3rd (non-ASE)	5	5	5	4	4	4

Supplementary Table 7. The number of annotated genes assigned to each chromosome (Muller elements in parentheses) and total length of the corresponding chromosomes in base pairs (bp).

Chromosomes (Muller elements)	# genes on chromosomes	Size in length (bp)
I(B)	2128	73015049
II(E)	3175	95424831
III(A)	2271	76855929
IV(D)	2400	76690558
V(C)	2660	81074832
X(F)	47	1486543
Unassigned	3859	345856202
Total	16540	750403944

Supplementary Data 1. A VCF file called with the RNA-seq reads
Supplementary Data 2. A VCF file called with the Oxford Nanopore reads
Supplementary Data 3. k-mer comparison in the III^M male genome assembly
Supplementary Data 4. IDP-ASE (allele-specific expression) output for the genotypic males
Supplementary Data 5. IDP-ASE (allele-specific expression) output for the sex-reversed males

Supplementary Data 1 and 2 are available at Dryad (https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.280gb5mnk or https://datadryad.org/stash/share/6f4xn0dRAu8j2SQXCmqKICv95gYfpGzlhoR5SYLJZy0)

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