Constitutive activation of cellular immunity underlies the evolution of resistance to infection

Alexandre B. Leitão[*], Ramesh Arunkumar[*], Jonathan P. Day, Emma M. Geldman, Francis M. Jiggins

Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom

* contributed equally

1   **Abstract**

Organisms rely on inducible and constitutive immune defences to combat

infection. Constitutive immunity enables a rapid response to infection but may

carry a cost for uninfected individuals, leading to the prediction that it will be

favoured when infection rates are high. When we exposed populations of

Drosophila melanogaster to intense parasitism by the parasitoid wasp

Leptopilina boulardi, they evolved resistance by developing a more reactive

cellular immune response. Using single-cell RNA sequencing, we found that

immune-inducible genes had become constitutively upregulated. This was the

result of resistant larvae differentiating precursors of specialized immune cells

called lamellocytes that were previously only produced after infection.

Therefore, populations evolved resistance by genetically hard-wiring an induced

immune response to become constitutive.

Main

A fundamental division within immune systems is between induced and

constitutive immune defences. Constitutive immunity is always active, even in

the absence of infection. For example, uninfected individuals produce natural

antibodies[1], immune cells and antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) [2]. In contrast,

induced immune responses are triggered after infection, which frequently

involve amplifying existing constitutive factors. This can include immune cells

proliferating and differentiating, and the massive upregulation of AMPs and

cyotoxic molecules [2]. Constitutive immunity is fast, allowing hosts to avoid

becoming infected altogether or to rapidly clear infections. However, immune

defences can be costly, diverting limited resources from other fitness-related

traits [3] or damaging the host through immunopathology [4]. While induced

immune responses only incur these costs after infection, they are always present

for constitutive immunity, even in the absence of infection. This trade-off

between speed and cost is predicted to govern the allocation of host investment

into constitutive and induced immunity [5,6]. Theoretical models predict that the

key parameter determining which type of defence should be favoured is the

frequency that hosts are exposed to infection—more frequent exposure favours

constitutive defences [5]. In support of this, bacteria tend to evolve phage

resistance by altering surface receptors when exposure is high and rely on

induced CRISPR-Cas immunity when exposure is low [7]. However, to our

knowledge the key prediction that high rates of parasitism lead to induced

immune responses becoming constitutively expressed has not been

demonstrated.

To investigate these questions, we examined how the constitutive and induced

cellular immune defences of *Drosophila melanogaster* evolve under high parasite

pressure. Cellular immunity in *D. melanogaster* involves blood cells called

hemocytes, which play the equivalent role to leukocytes in vertebrates. In

uninfected larvae there are two morphological classes of hemocytes.

Plasmatocytes constitute the majority of cells and have diverse functions

including phagocytosis and AMP production [8]. Crystal cells are a less abundant

specialized cell type that produces the prophenoloxidase molecules PPO1 and

PPO2, which are processed into enzymes required for the melanization of

parasites [9]. Infection can trigger an induced response, where these cell types

proliferate, and cells called lamellocytes differentiate from plasmatocytes and

prohemocytes in the lymph gland [8]. Lamellocytes are large flat cells with a

specialised role in killing large parasites like parasitic wasps (parasitoids). When

a parasitoid injects its egg into *D. melanogaster* larvae, plasmatocytes adhere to

the egg. Then, as lamellocytes differentiate they create additional cellular layers

known as a 'capsule'. Finally, the capsule is melanised by the activity of

phenoloxidases produced in crystal cells and lamellocytes [9]. The melanin

physically encases the parasitoid and toxic by-products of the melanisation

reaction likely contribute to parasite killing [10].

There is substantial genetic variation in susceptibility to parasitoid infection

within *D. melanogaster* populations [11], and this is associated with differences in

hemocyte composition [12,13]. Here, we used a combination of experimental

evolution with physiological assays and single-cell RNA sequencing to examine

how a high rate of parasitism by the parasitoid wasp *L. boulardi* affects

constitutive and induced immune defences.

The evolution of resistance is associated with a more reactive immune

response

To investigate the evolution of the cellular immune response, we allowed

genetically diverse populations of *D. melanogaster* to evolve under intense levels

of parasitism. We established an outbred population from 377 wild-caught *D.*

melanogaster females, and used this to found six experimental populations that

were maintained at population sizes of 200 flies. In three of these populations,

larvae were infected every generation, and flies that survived by encapsulating

and melanising the wasp were used to establish the next generation (High

Parasitism populations). The other three populations were maintained in the

same conditions but without infection (No Parasitism populations). In line with

previous studies [12,14], the High Parasitism populations increased in resistance

over the generations (Fig. 1A, Selection regime x Generation: χ^2= 91.41, d.f.= 1,

$p<10^{-15}$). After 33 generations, a mean of 76% of flies survived infection in the

High Parasitism populations, compared to 10% in the No Parasitism controls.

As populations evolved resistance, they melanised parasitoids at a higher rate

(Fig. 1A). This could result from increased basal reactivity of the encapsulation

immune response, or because the flies are evolving to escape the effects of

immunosuppressive molecules produced by the parasite. To distinguish these

possibilities, we measured the ability of each population to react to an inert

object. When a small volume of paraffin oil is injected into the larval haemocoel,

it remains as a sphere and can be encapsulated [15]. Populations that evolved

without parasitism show a very limited reaction to the oil droplets (Fig. 1B). In

contrast, approximately half of larvae from selected populations encapsulate the

oil droplet (Fig. 1B; Selection Regime: $F_{1,4}$=24.53, p=0.008). Therefore, high levels

of parasitism led to the cellular immune system evolving a more reactive

encapsulation response.

Figure 1 Encapsulation rate during selection for parasitoid resistance. (A) The

proportion of infected larvae that gave rise to adult flies with visible capsules. An

outbred population of *D. melanogaster* (source, grey square) was used to found six

populations that were parasitized every generation with *L. boulardi* (blue) or maintained

without infection (grey). (B) The proportion of larvae encapsulating oil droplets at

generation 33. Dots represent the proportion of larvae in replicate populations and bars

represent the mean per selection regime.

Constitutive upregulation of immune-induced genes

Underlying induced immune responses is a transcriptional response to infection, so we examined how the hemocyte transcriptome altered in populations that evolved under high levels of parasitism. We harvested hemocytes from *Drosophila* larvae and sequenced the transcriptomes of individual cells using the 10X Genomics platform. Initially, we pooled the data from scRNA-seq to investigate global changes in hemocyte gene expression. As expected, 48 hours post infection there was a strong transcriptional response to infection (Fig. 2A, X axis; Data S1). Strikingly similar transcriptional changes occurred in uninfected flies that had evolved under high rates of parasitism for 26 generations (Fig. 2A, Y axis; Data S1). Taking the 173 genes that had at least a 50% change in transcript levels after infection or selection, in every case the direction of change was the same after infection and adaptation to high parasitism (Fig. 2A; Data S1). We verified that the evolved response mimicked the induced response by using quantitative PCR (qPCR) to measure the expression of the lamellocyte marker *atilla* and the anti-parasitoid effector gene *PPO3* (Fig. S1). Again, we found that high rates of parasitism led to these immune-induced genes becoming constitutively upregulated. Therefore, as populations evolved resistance, the induced transcriptional response to infection has become genetically hard-wired and constitutive.

We took the same approach to examine how the induced transcriptional response to infection changed as populations evolved resistance. We found that the transcriptional response to infection involved the same genes in the different

populations (Fig. 2B). However, the magnitude of the changes in gene expression

was substantially less in populations that had evolved under high parasite

pressure (Fig. 2B). Therefore, the increase in constitutive gene expression has

been matched by a decrease in induced expression. Again, this was verified by

qPCR (Fig. S1). Combining the constitutive and induced changes in gene

expression, the hemocyte transcriptome after infection is similar in the

populations that evolved under high levels of parasitism and the controls (Fig.

2C). Therefore, an induced response has become genetically fixed, as opposed to

selection leading to a greater total response.

Figure 2. Changes in gene expression following selection for resistance and

parasitoid infection. (A) Constitutive gene expression following 26 generations of

selection for resistance to the parasitoid wasp *L. boulardi* (y-axis). (B) The induced

change in gene expression following infection with *L. boulardi* in populations selected for

resistance (y-axis). (C) The combined induced and constitutive change in gene

expression following selection for resistance and infection (y-axis).   All are compared to

the change in gene expression following infection in populations maintained without

parasitoid infection (x-axis). The black diagonal indicates the 1:1 line. The genes *atilla*

and *PPO3* are highlighted. Colour represents the density of overlain points. Relative

expression is expressed as $\log_2$(fold change).

scRNA-seq reveals novel hemocyte types

The global changes in hemocyte transcriptomes could result from a change in the

relative proportion of cell types in the hemocyte population, or from a shift in

gene expression within existing cell types. The three classical *Drosophila*

hemocyte types were originally defined morphologically, but emerging single

cell transcriptomic data suggests that *Drosophila* hemocyte populations are more

complex than this [16-19]. Excluding cells that did not express the pan-hemocyte

markers *Hemese* or *Serpent* [20,21], we grouped 19,344 larval hemocytes into nine

clusters based on their transcriptomes (Fig. 3A). Neither infection nor selection

leads to the appearance of new cell states (Fig. 3B).

We identified two large clusters of plasmatocytes. The largest was PLASM1,

which we classify as the cycling plasmatocyte state as it had the greatest number

of replicating cells in the G2M or S phase (Fig. S2). The 5,712 cells in this cluster

had high expression of genes associated with plasmatocytes (*Col4a1*, *Pxn*, *eater*,

Hml, *NimC1*[21]) and actively replicating cells (*stg* [22], *polo*[23] and *scra*[24]) (Fig. S3).

The next largest cluster, PLASM2, contained 2,874 plasmatocytes that were

enriched for the genes encoding rRNA (Fig. S4) or involved in the ribosome

biogenesis (Data S3). There were two smaller plasmatocyte clusters. The AMP

cluster contained 196 cells with elevated expression of genes encoding

antimicrobial and antifungal peptides, including *Drs*, *Mtk* and *CecA1* (Lemaitre

and Hoffmann 2007, Fig. S4; Data S3). The MET cluster contained 283 cells with

high expression of the heat shock proteins *Hsp24* and *Hsp27* and genes involved

in organic acid metabolism (Fig. S4; Data S3). The crystal cells formed a single

cluster of 906 cells (Fig. S6). Three clusters of cells, LAM 1, 2 and 3, had elevated

expression of one or more lamellocyte marker genes [21] (Fig. S5) and contained

1,260, 5,104 and 3,000 cells respectively.

 Figure 3. Cell states of *Drosophila melanogaster* larval hemocytes. Two-dimensional

UMAP projections and cell state classification. (A) All 19,344 cells combined. PLASM:

plasmatocytes; MET: metabolic plasmatocyte cluster; AMP: antimicrobial peptide

plasmatocyte cluster; LAM: lamellocytes; CC: crystal cells. (B) Cells from populations that

had undergone 26 generations of selection with no parasitism (top panels) or high

parasitism (bottom panels), and were either uninfected (left panels) or 48 hours post

infection (right panels). 64-333 million reads were sequenced in each of the eight 10X

libraries that we generated (Data S2). The number of cells detected per library ranged

from 787 to 3,463 (Fig. S6).

Inducible cell states are present constitutively in resistant populations

Lamellocytes are key effector cells in the anti-parasitoid immune response. In

populations that evolved without exposure to parasitoids, infection resulted in a

large increase in the number of cells in all three lamellocyte clusters (LAM1-3,

Fig. 3B and 4A). In populations that evolved under high levels of parasitism, this

inducible response become constitutive, with uninfected larvae having 3-5 fold

more cells in LAM1 and 2 (Fig. 4A). However, this was matched by a reduction in

the induced response, so the final number of cells in these clusters after infection

was similar regardless of whether the populations had adapted to high or low

parasitism rates (Fig. 4A). These results held when replicate populations were

analyzed separately (Fig. S7A, B) or when the number of cells in each library

were down-sampled to match the library with the least number of cells (Fig.

S7C). Therefore, high infection rates led to the inducible differentiation of

specialised immune cells becoming genetically fixed.

To investigate the developmental origins of this change, we reconstructed the

pathway by which plasmatocytes differentiate into mature lamellocytes. By

subclustering the cells and ordering them along a pseudotemporal scale, we

found a single lineage starting from the self-cycling plasmatocytes (PLASM1) and

ending in LAM3 (Figs. 4B). Along this lineage there was a decrease in cell

replication, with the largest fraction of cells in the G2M and S phase in PLASM1

and the largest fraction in G1 in LAM3 (Fig. S8). Importantly, controlling for the

effects of cell cycle had a negligible impact on the clustering (Table S1) and the

trajectory of lamellocyte differentiation (Fig. S9). The expression of the effector

gene *PPO3,* the lamellocyte marker *atilla* and other marker genes all increased as

cells progressed along this trajectory (Fig. 4C, 4D and S10, Data S4). On the other

hand, genes involved in extracellular matrix organization—a house-keeping

function of plasmatocytes [25,26]—were down-regulated as cells differentiated

(Data S5). Together, these results suggest that LAM1 cells are immature

lamellocytes, while LAM3 cells are mature lamellocytes. Comparing our

populations, the inducible production of LAM1 cells has become entirely

constitutive in the populations evolved under high rates of parasitism, while

much of the LAM3 response remains inducible. This suggests that high infection

rates result in the cellular immune response becoming 'primed' by constitutively

producing the precursors of the cells required for parasite killing.

Figure 4. Changes in cell state following infection and adaptation to high rates of

parasitism. (A) Proportion of different cell states after infection and selection. (B)

Trajectory of lamellocyte differentiation. Plasmatocyte progenitors and lamellocytes

were subclustered, the trajectories inferred from multi-dimensional principle

components analysis, and the lineage projected onto the two-dimensional UMAP plot. (C-

D) Log2 expression levels of *atilla* and *PPO3*. Relative expression levels were estimated

from normalized and scaled unique molecular identifier counts.

Morphological differentiation of immune cells remains an inducible

response

Lamellocytes are classically defined morphologically as large flattened cells. As
expected, the proportion of morphologically identifiable lamellocytes increased
after infection (Figs 5A and Fig. S11A; Treatment: χ^2= 48.14, d.f= 1, p=3.97x10^{-12}). However, in contrast to our analysis of single cell transcriptomes, there was
little difference between selection regimes in either the induced or constitutive
proportion of these cells (Figs 5A and Fig. S11A; Selection regime x Treatment:
χ^2= 0.16, d.f= 1, p=0.69; Selection regime: χ^2= 0.41, d.f= 1, p=0.52). This suggests
that while the transcriptional state of cells has been constitutively activated, the
change in cell morphology remains an inducible response. To test this
hypothesis, we used microscopy to measure both cell morphology and, as a
marker of the transcriptional state of the cells, *atilla* expression (Fig. S12). In line
with our scRNAseq data, both infection and adaptation to high parasitism rates
increases the proportion of *atilla* positive cells (Fig. 5C; Selection Regime x
Treatment: F=16.3, d.f=1,8, p=0.004). However, among the *atilla* positive cells,
infection had a large effect on cell size (Fig. 5C; Treatment: F=31.8, d.f.=1,7,
p=0.0008), while selection had a small effect (Fig. 5C; Selection Regime: F=7.2,
d.f.=1,7, p=0.03). Therefore, while selection has resulted in the constitutive
transcriptional activation of cells, changes in cell morphology remain largely an
inducible response.

Figure 5. Changes in the morphology and number of cells following infection and

adaptation to high parasitism rates. (A) The proportion hemocytes that were morphologically

identified as lamellocytes and (B) the concentration of total circulating hemocytes in no infection

conditions (grey outline) and 48 hours post infection (red outlines). Samples were collected from

populations that evolved 34 generation with high parasitism (blue bars) or no parasitism (grey

bars) (C) Cell size and *atilla* expression. The expression of *atilla* was measured as the

fluorescence intensity resulting from immunohistochemistry staining. Cell size was measured

along the major axis. Replicated populations from each selection regime are represented by

different symbols and the proportion of cells in each quarter of the plot is shown.

In addition to the change in the transcriptional state of cells, we found that the

populations maintained under strong parasite pressure evolved a constitutive

increase in the absolute number of hemocytes in circulation (Fig. 5B and Fig.

S11B, Selection regime: χ^2= 22.37, d.f= 1, p=2.25x10^{-6}). This supports results

from previous selection experiments [13,27] and comparative analyses [28], and is

another aspect of the induced response that has become constitutive.

Conclusions

Our results provide support for the hypothesis that natural selection favours

constitutive defences when infection is common [5–7] by demonstrating that an

inducible immune response becomes constitutive when populations frequently

encounter a parasite. The induced immune response to parasitoids relies on the

differentiation of lamellocytes from embryonic-derived plasmatocytes, lymph

gland prohemocytes [8] and lymph gland plasmatocytes [18]. Evidence for immature

lamellocytes has previously come from patterns of marker gene expression [29,30]

and recent scRNAseq data [17,19]. Our results show that *Drosophila* populations

evolve to produce these cells constitutively if they are frequently exposed to

infection. However, this change in the transcriptional state of cells was not

accompanied by morphological differentiation. Genes involved in cytoskeleton

dynamics such as *βTub60D* and *shot* are among the genes with the greatest

increases in expression as lamellocytes differentiate (Fig. S10, Data S4) and these

may be required for the final step of changing cell shape [31]. Together, our results

suggest populations that adapt to high parasitism rates have their cellular

immune defences in a state of readiness, with the final step of cell differentiation

remaining an inducible response.

Evolving resistance to parasitoid wasps is costly in *Drosophila* [12,14,32], so

inducible immunity may be an adaptation that allows uninfected individuals to

avoid this cost under low parasitism conditions. The physiological mechanism

that causes the cost is unknown. It is possible that the differentiation of

immature lamellocytes diverts resources from other fitness related traits.

Lamellocyte differentiation is energy-demanding and results in the increased

expression of glycolysis genes in hemocytes after infection [3]. This cost may be

borne by uninfected flies in our resistant populations, as we found that genes

involved in trehalose uptake and catabolism [33], *Trehalase* and *Tret1-1*, are

upregulated by both infection and selection (Fig. S13). Another possibility is that

a more reactive cellular immune response may increase the effects of

immunopathology.

After infection, whether the host or parasitoid survives is a race between the

parasitoid development and the formation of a cellular capsule by the immune

system [34]. Constitutive differentiation of immature lamellocytes may allow

lamellocytes to be produced more rapidly upon infection. Furthermore, cytotoxic

molecules could be more readily available. This is supported by an increase in

the constitutive expression of *PPO3* in populations adapted to high rates of

parasitism. *PPO3* encodes a intracellular prophenoloxidase that, when active, is

responsible for the melanization of lamellocytes [9]. Along with the increase in the

total number of hemocytes, the constitutive activation of the cellular immune

response likely explains the greatly increased resistance of populations adapted

to high rates of parasitism.

313   **Methods**

Artificial selection

An outcrossed *D. melanogaster* population was founded from the progeny of 377

females collected in July 2018 from banana and yeast traps set up in an allotment

plot in Cambridge, UK (52°12'12.5"N 0°09'00.6"E). Single females were sorted

into vials with cornmeal food (per 1200ml water: 13g agar, 105g dextrose, 105g

maize, 23g yeast, 35ml Nipagin 10% w/v) to create isofemale lines. From the

progeny of each isofemale line, 5 females and 5 males lines were sorted into a

population cage to create the source population with 3770 flies. Flies from the

source population were allowed to lay eggs overnight in 90mm agar plates (per

1500ml water: 45g agar, 50g dextrose, 500ml apple juice, 30ml Nipagin 10%

w/v) spread with yeast paste (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* – Sigma-Aldrich #YSC2).

Eggs were removed from the agar plate with phosphate buffered saline (PBS)

and a paintbrush, collected in 15ml centrifuge tubes and allowed to settle on the

bottom of the tube. 500μl of egg solution were transferred into a 1.5ml

microcentrifuge tube. 5μl of egg solution were transferred into plastic vials with

cornmeal food and incubated at 25°C, in a 14 hours light/10 hours dark cycle

and 70% humidity. 48 hours after egg transfer, a single female wasp was added

into vials for infection treatments and allowed to infect larvae for 24 hours. Vials

from infection and no infection treatments were incubated for 12 days in total.

Flies from infection treatment with visible capsules were collected and randomly

sorted into triplicate selection lines (NSRef1-3). Flies from no infection

treatment were sorted into triplicate control populations (C1-3). Consecutive

generations of selection were maintained with the same protocol described.

Population sizes were maintained at 200 adult flies for all populations, at

roughly 50% sex ratio.

Estimation of encapsulation ratio

To determine encapsulation ability, 10 vials per line were prepared without

infection and 20 vials with infection according to the selection protocol

described above. Flies emerging from the no infection vials (control flies) were

counted. Flies from infected vials were discriminated for the presence/absence

of capsules by squishing anesthetized flies between two glass slides and

observing under a dissecting microscope. Encapsulation ratio was calculated

according to the formula:

$$Encapsulation\ Ratio = \frac{Capsules}{Control - Uninfected}$$

In the formula, Capsules represent the mean number of flies from infection vials

with visible capsules and Uninfected represent the mean number of flies with no

discernable capsule. Control represent the mean number of flies from vials with

no infection. With this method we have an estimate of proportion of infected flies

with successful encapsulation per line.

Wasp maintenance

Leptopilina boulardi strain NSRef [35] was maintained in a very susceptible *D.*

melanogaster outbreed population named CAMOP2. Cornmeal vials were

prepared with 6μl of eggs as described above. Two female wasps and one male

were added to each vial. Vials were incubated for 24 days at 25°C, in a 14 hours

light/10 hours dark cycle and 70% humidity. Adult wasps were collected and

maintained in cornmeal vials with a drop of honey.

Oil injection

Egg solutions were prepared in 1.5ml microcentrifuge tubes as described above.

15μl of eggs were transferred into 50mm diameter plastic plates with cornmeal

food. Plates were incubated for 72h at 25°C. Borosilicate glass 3.5" capillaries

(Drummond Scientific Co. 3-000-203-G/X) were pulled to form thin needles in a

needle puller (Narishige PC-10). The needle was backfilled with paraffin oil

(Sigma-Aldrich #M5904) with a syringe and attached to a nanoinjector

(Drummond Scientific Co. Nonoject II). Late 2nd instar and early 3rd instar larvae

were carefully removed with forceps from cornmeal food plates and placed on

filter paper, in groups of 20. Larvae were carefully injected with 4.6nl of oil. After

injection, $_{dd}$H$_2$0 was added with a brush to remove the larvae and a total of 40

larvae were transferred into a cornmeal food vial and incubated at 25°C. After 48

hours larvae were removed with a 15% w/v sugar solution and transferred into

$_{dd}$H$_2$O droplets on top of a plastic plate. Larvae were observed under a dissecting

microscope and scored for the presence of melanization in the oil droplet.

Hemocyte counts

To estimate hemocyte concentration, eggs were transferred into cornmeal vials

following the artificial selection protocol described above and incubated at 25°C.

In infection treatment vials, 3 female wasps were allowed to infect larvae for 3

hours, 48 hours post egg transfer. This protocol guarantees a high infection ratio

[36] and reduces the time window for the treatment. Vials from all treatments were

incubated for a total of 4 days. 3rd instar larvae were collected from the food

vials, washed in $_{dd}$H$_2$O, dried in filter paper and transferred to a multispot

porcelain plate in groups of 10. Hemolymph was collected by tearing the larval

cuticle from the ventral side. 2μl of hemolymph were rapidly collected and

diluted in 8μl of Neutral Red (1.65g/L PBS – Sigma-Aldrich #N2889) to help

visualize the cells. The diluted hemolymph was transferred into a Thoma

chamber and the number of hemocytes in 0.1µl was counted. Plasmatocytes and

lamellocytes were distinguished by morphology [37].

Quantitative PCR

To analyze the expression of *PPO3* and *atilla*, RNA was extracted from hemocytes

pooled from 50-70 larvae, 24h post infection. Larvae were cleaned in $_{dd}H_2O$,

dried in filter paper and transferred into a well of a multispot porcelain plate

with 100µl of PBS. Hemolymph was collected by tearing the ventral side of the

larval cuticle. Samples were homogenized in 400µl TRIzol [Ambion #15596018]

and kept at -80°C. For RNA extraction, samples were defrosted and centrifuged

for 10min at 4°C at 12.000g. 160µl of supernatant was transferred into 1.5ml

microcentrifuge tubes, 62.5µl of chloroform [Fisher Scientific #C/4920/08] was

added, tubes were shaken for 15s and incubated for 3min. After a 10min

centrifugation at 12,000g at 4°C, 66µl of the aqueous phase was transferred into

a 1.5µl microcentrifuge tube, 156µl of isopropanol [Honeywell #33539] added

and the solution thoroughly mixed. After 10min incubation samples were

centrifuged for 10min at 12.000g at 4°C and the supernatant was removed. RNA

was washed with 250µl 70% ethanol, centrifuged for 2min at 12.000g at 4°C.

Ethanol was removed, samples dried, 20µl of nuclease free water [Ambion

#AM9930] was added and samples incubated at 45°C for 10min. cDNA was

prepared from RNA samples with GoScript reverse transcriptase (Promega)

according to manufacture instructions. cDNA was diluted 1:10. Exonic primers

for *D. melanogaster PPO3* and *atilla* were designed in NCBI Primer-BLAST online

tool: (PPO3_qPCR_2_Fw: 5'-GATGTGGACCGGCCTAACAA-3'; PPO3_qPCR_2_Rev 5'-

GATGCCCTTAGCGTCATCCA-3'; atilla_qPCR2_Fw: 5'-

ACCCACCAAATATGCTGAAACA-3'; atilla_qPCR2_Rv: TTGATGGCCGATGCACTGT).

The gene *RpL32* was used to normalize gene expression (RpL32_qPCR_F-d: 5'-

TGCTAAGCTGTCGCACAAATGG-3'; RpL_qPCR_R-h 5'-

TGCGCTTGTTCGATCCGTAAC-3'; [38]. Sensifast Hi-Rox SyBr kit (Bioline) was used

to perform the RT-qPCR on a StepOnePlus system (ThermoFisher Scientific).

Each sample was duplicated (qPCR technical replica). The PCR cycle was 95°C for

2min followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 5s, 60°C for 30s.

Hemocyte immunohistochemistry

Larvae were prepared in the same conditions as for hemocyte counts, described

above. Larvae were washed in $_{dd}H_2O$, dried on filter paper and transferred into a

well of multispot porcelain plate with 25µl PBS. Hemolymph was collected by

tearing the ventral cuticle with forceps and the hemocyte suspension was

transferred into a reaction well of a microscope slide (Marienfeld, #1216330).

Samples were incubated for 30min in a humid chamber, fixed for 20 min with

3.8% formaldehyde (Sigma-Aldrich #F8775) and washed 3 times with PBS. Cells

were blocked and permeabilized with 0.01% Triton-X and 1% NGS diluted in

PBS for 30 min and washed 3 times with PBS. Primary antibody against *atilla*

(L1, 1:100, [39]) was added with 1% NGS overnight at 4°C. Primary antibody was

washed with PBS for 5 min 3 times and secondary antibody (Alexa Fluor 488,

anti-mouse, 1:1000) was applied overnight at 4°C. Cells were washed 3 times

with PBS and stained with Hoechst 33342 (Invitrogen #H3570, 1µg/ml) and

phalloidin (Alexa Fluor 594, Invitrogen #A12381, dilution 1:2000) for 30min.

After cells were washed 3 times with PBS, cover slides were mounted with

Vectashield (Vector laboratories).

Image acquisition and analysis

Images were acquired in a Leica DM6000 fluorescence microscope with a 40x

objective. Images were analyzed with Fiji version 1.0 [40]. Cells were identified

based on actin and nuclear staining and manually outlined with the selection

tool. Maximum intensity of *atilla* staining and length of the major axis was

recorded for each cell. The threshold for staining intensity was obtained by

measuring intensity of cells that were stained following the

immunohistochemistry protocol (described above) but with no primary

antibody. The threshold for cell size was obtained from a independent set of

images where cells were measured and classified as lamellocytes.

Statistical analysis

All statistical analyses were performed using R. Encapsulation proportions

during artificial selection were arcsine transformed and analyzed with a general

linear mixed effects model where selection treatment, generation and the

interaction term were considered fixed factors and population a random

variable. Oil melanization proportions were arcsine transformed and selection

regime was used as an explanatory variable in a linear model. To analyze *atilla*

and *PPO3* expression from qPCR results we used a mixed effects model with

treatment, selection regime and the interaction term as fixed effects and

population and target gene as random variables. Total hemocyte counts and the

arcsine transformed lamellocyte proportions were analyzed with mixed effects

models with treatment and selection regime as explanatory variables and

population as a random variable. Proportions of cells considered atilla$^+$ with

immunohistochemistry staining were analyzed with a linear model with

treatment, selection regime and the interaction term as explanatory variables. In

all cases, significance was assessed with ANOVA.

Hemocyte preparation for scRNAseq

Larvae from both selection regimes and infection treatments were obtained

following the protocol for hemocyte counting, as described above. 80 to 140

larvae per biological replica were cleaned in PBS and dried on filter paper.

Larvae were transferred into 200µl PBS and dissected by tearing the ventral

cuticle. 200µl of hemocyte solution were collected and filtered (Flowmi cell

strainer 70µm). The cell suspension was carefully transferred into a 15ml

centrifuge tube with OptiPrep solution (Sigma-Aldrich D1556; 540µl OptiPrep

and 1460µl PBS). Samples were centrifuged at 170g for 20 min in a swinging

bucket centrifuge at 4°C with no brake. The first two layers of 100µl were then

carefully removed and hemocytes were counted in a Thoma chamber. The

sample fraction with more hemocytes was used for encapsulation in 10X single

cell platform at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute. Library preparation

was performed with standard protocols of single cell 3' V2 chemistry 10X

Genomics.

Read alignments and cell detection

Demultiplexed FASTQ data files were aligned to a custom-built *D. melanogaster*

reference obtained from FlyBase FB2018_02 Dmel Release 6.21 [41] and created

using the Cell Ranger pipeline (https://support.10xgenomics.com/single-cell-

gene-expression/software/overview/welcome, last accessed 23-03-2020). Less

than 1,000 cells were detected in libraries generated from control and selected

populations in one of the three replicates (replicate two). This replicate was

dropped in further analysis. 25,128 cells were identified across the two

remaining replicates. The entire sequence of data filtering and clustering is listed

in Fig. S14. Most of the analyses were done in R versions 3.6 [42] and we used the

Tidyverse, gridExtra and cowplot packages to manipulate and plot the data.

Normalization, integration and dimensionality reduction

Seurat version 3.1.1 [43] was used to process and analyze the single cell count

matrix. Unique molecular identifier (UMI) count matrices obtained from Cell

Ranger were normalized using a scaling factor of 10,000 and log-normal

transformation. 2,000 highly variable genes were discovered using the 'vst'

method (Data S6). Count matrices from individual samples were integrated

allowing for a maximum of 50 dimensions and 2,000 anchor features.

We identified 281 cells that expressed fewer than 250 features or more

than 2,500 features and 5,387 cells that did not express either *He* or *Srp*, two

pan-hemocyte markers [21]. These cells were removed from the constituent

samples. Following this, the count matrices were normalized, highly variable

features were identified, and the samples were re-integrated.

Mean fold change in gene expression

To combine data across cells to examine gene expression differences between

treatments, we performed the data integration steps utilizing all possible

anchors features in Seurat. In doing so, a total of 7,716 genes were used for

integrating the sample count matrices (Data S6). Fold changes in expression

between treatments were obtained from the output of *FindMarkers* with min.pct

and logfc.threshold both set to 0. The fold change was converted to a $\log_2$ scale

and plotted using the R package LSD.

Clustering cells from scRNA-seq

Cells were clustered in Seurat. First, expression levels were scaled and percent

mitochondria, number of features and UMI count per cell were regressed out.

Then, we performed PCA and UMAP dimensionality reductions allowing for 50

dimensions. We did a first round of clustering using the 'pca' reduction and a

clustering 'resolution' of 0.2. We identified markers upregulated in each cluster

using the function *FindAllMarkers* with 'min.pct' and 'logfc.threshold' both set to

0.25 and tested for differential expression using MAST [44]. We conduced

enrichment analyses on upregulated cluster markers using the Flymine database

and tool [45] with the 2,000 highly variable genes as the background list. We

identified significantly enriched gene ontology categories [46] and pathways from

the KEGG and Reactome [47,48] in each cluster.

Enrichment analyses from the first round of clustering indicated one

cluster, comprising of 28 cells, was highly enriched for sperm-cell expressed

genes (Data S7 - cluster 9). These cells were removed from the constituent

sample count matrices and the data were re-integrated. In the second round of

clustering, a 'resolution' of 0.3 was used and we discovered that cluster 9 (48

cells) and cluster 10 (41 cells) were enriched for genes associated with muscle

and fat body tissues, respectively (Data S8). These cells were removed from the

constituent sample count matrices and data were re-integrated. For round three

of clustering, a 'resolution' of 0.3 was utilized. At this point, the 19,344 remaining

cells were partitioned into nine clusters.

We identified the *D. melanogaster* orthologs of human cell cycle markers

identified in Tirosh et al. [49] using the EBI database [50]. The expression levels of

these cell cycle genes were used to classify cells by phase using the function

CellCycleScoring in Seurat. Regressing out the difference between the G2M and S

phases had a minimal impact on the cell cluster classification for all but one

cluster (Table S2). The greater discordance among the lamellocyte cluster CC-5 is

due to the placement of cells differentiating along a single lineage into discrete

clusters.

We tested if using all possible anchors rather than just the highly variable

ones had an impact on data integration and clustering. Clustering the data set the

7,716 anchors using the same resolution (0.3) largely revealed the same cell

clusters save for the appearance of two very small clusters comprising of 113

and 56 cells (cluster 9 and 10 - Table S3). Also, this data set showed that the

proportion of lamellocytes (represented by clusters 1,2,4 and 5) increased

following high parasitism and infection (Fig. S15) suggesting the choice of

anchors did not result in erroneous patterns. When necessary, we converted the

Flybase IDs to gene symbols using the org.Dm.eg.db database v.3.7 [51]. The R

package reshape2 [52] was used to estimate proportions of cells in each cluster.

Subclustering lamellocytes

We performed subclustering on lamellocytes and their plasmatocyte progenitors

to better resolve the trajectory of cell differentiation. Clusters 1, 2, 4 and 5 from

round three clustering had enriched expression of described lamellocyte

markers (*ItgaPS4*, *atilla*, *mys*, *PPO3* - [21]) and, therefore, these cells were isolated

for subclustering (Fig. S16). Cluster 0 from round three clustering was identified

as the progenitor plasmatocyte population based on the expression of five

plasmatocyte markers (*Col4a1*, *Pxn*, *eater*, *Hml*, *NimC1* - [21]) and three cell cycle

markers (*stg* – [22], *polo* – [23] and *scra* – [24]) (Fig. S17).

The presumed lamellocytes and plasmatocyte progenitor were subset

from the constituent sample count matrices. The cell count matrices for each

sample were normalized and 2,000 highly variable features were found.

Following this, dimensionality reduction and round one of subclustering was

performed using a 'resolution' parameter of 0.3. In round one of subclustering,

we identified 79 cells that were significantly enriched for markers representing

crystal cells (Fig. S18 & Data S9 - cluster 5). These cells were moved to the

crystal cell cluster and we did a second round of subclustering on the remaining

cells. We followed the same data integration and clustering steps but used a

resolution of 0.2. The original cluster identities for lamellocytes and

plasmatocyte progenitor cells were replaced with their new identities inferred

from the subclustering.

Trajectory inference

We used the software Slingshot [53] to conduct pseudotime analysis. We used all

50 PCA dimensions estimated from Seurat for trajectory inference and ensured

lineages were not inferred past endpoints by setting stretch to 0. The cluster

with the highest expression of the three cell cycle markers (*stg*, *polo* and *scra*)

was set as starting cluster.

2000 highly variable genes were utilized for identifying lineage markers.

A random forest model was fit to identify the genes best able to predict the

pseudotime values using R tidymodels. The R package 'Ranger' was used for

implementation of the random forest using mtry = 200, trees = 1400, and min_n

= 15 and variable importance was ranked by Gini impurity.

Cluster definitions

We performed pathway enrichment analyses on all non-lamellocyte clusters

with the aim of defining them according to their inferred biological function.

First, upregulated cluster markers were identified through pairwise differential

expression tests. The cluster of interest was compared with PLASM1 using the

function *FindMarkers* with 'min.pct' and 'logfc.threshold' both set to 0.25. Genes

with significant upregulation in each cluster were identified using the MAST test

statistic (Data S10) after performing Bonferroni correction on the obtained *P*-

values. Markers upregulated in each cluster were used for pathway enrichment

analysis. Markers for the plasmatocyte progenitor population were identified

through comparisons to the cell types containing other plasmatocyte-type cells.

These markers were used for pathway enrichment analyses using the approach

described in previous sections.

References

1.   Savage, H. P. *et al.* Blimp-1-dependent and -independent natural antibody

production by B-1 and B-1-derived plasma cells. *J. Exp. Med.* **214**, 2777–

2794 (2017).

2.   Lemaitre, B. & Hoffmann, J. The host defense of Drosophila melanogaster.

Annu. Rev. Immunol. **25**, 697–743 (2007).

3.   Bajgar, A. *et al.* Extracellular Adenosine Mediates a Systemic Metabolic

Switch during Immune Response. *PLoS Biol.* **13**, 1–23 (2015).

4.   Graham, A. L., Allen, J. E. & Read, A. F. Evolutionary causes and

consequences of immunopathology. *Annu. Rev. Ecol. Evol. Syst.* **36**, 373–

397 (2005).

5.   Shudo, E. & Iwasa, Y. Inducible defense against pathogens and parasites:

Optimal choice among multiple options. *J. Theor. Biol.* **209**, 233–247

(2001).

6.   Boots, M. & Best, A. The evolution of constitutive and induced defences to

infectious disease. *Proc. R. Soc. B Biol. Sci.* **285**, (2018).

7.   Westra, E. R. *et al.* Parasite exposure drives selective evolution of

constitutive versus inducible defense. *Curr. Biol.* **25**, 1043–1049 (2015).

8.   Honti, V., Csordás, G., Kurucz, É., Márkus, R. & Andó, I. The cell-mediated

immunity of Drosophila melanogaster: hemocyte lineages, immune

compartments, microanatomy and regulation. *Dev. Comp. Immunol.* **42**,

47–56 (2014).

9.   Dudzic, J. P., Kondo, S., Ueda, R., Bergman, C. M. & Lemaitre, B. Drosophila

innate immunity: regional and functional specialization of

prophenoloxidases. *BMC Biol.* **13**, 81–97 (2015).

10.   Nappi, A. J., Poirié, M. & Carton, Y. The Role of Melanization and Cytotoxic

By-Products in the Cellular Immune Responses of Drosophila Against

Parasitic Wasps. in *Advances in Parasitology* 99–121 (2009).

11.   Kraaijeveld, A. R. & Godfray, H. C. J. Geographic Patterns in the Evolution of

Resistance and Virulence in Drosophila and Its Parasitoids. *Am. Nat.* **153**,

S61–S74 (1999).

12.   McGonigle, J. E. *et al.* Parallel and costly changes to cellular immunity

underlie the evolution of parasitoid resistance in three Drosophila species.

PLoS Pathog. **13**, (2017).

13.   Kraaijeveld, A. R., Limentani, E. C. & Godfray, H. C. Basis of the trade-off

between parasitoid resistance and larval competitive ability in Drosophila

melanogaster. *Proc. Biol. Sci.* **268**, 259–61 (2001).

14.   Fellowes, M. D., Kraaijeveld, A. R. & Godfray, H. C. Trade-off associated with

selection for increased ability to resist parasitoid attack in Drosophila

melanogaster. *Proc Biol Sci* **265**, 1553–1558 (1998).

15.   Havard, S., Eslin, P., Prévost, G. & Doury, G. Encapsulation ability: Are all

Drosophila species equally armed? An investigation in the *obscura* group.

Can. J. Zool. **87**, 635–641 (2009).

16.   Fu, Y., Huang, X., Zhang, P., Leemput, J. Van De & Han, Z. Single-cell RNA

sequencing identifies novel cell types in Drosophila blood. *J. Genet.*

Genomics (2020) doi:10.1016/j.jgg.2020.02.004.

17.   Gopal Tattikota, S. *et al.* A single-cell survey of Drosophila blood. *bioRxiv*

(2019) doi:10.1101/2019.12.20.884999.

18.   Cho, B. Single-cell transcriptome maps of myeloid blood cell lineages in

Drosophila. *bioRxiv* (2020).

19.   Cattenoz, P. B. *et al.* Temporal specificity and heterogeneity of Drosophila

immune cells . *EMBO J.* 1–25 (2020) doi:10.15252/embj.2020104486.

20.   Vivancos, R. B. V. & Giangrande, A. glide/gcmIs Expressed and Required in

the Scavenger Cell Lineage. *Dev. Biol.* **191**, 118–130 (1997).

21.   Banerjee, U., Girard, J. R., Goins, L. M. & Spratford, C. M. *Drosophila* as a

Genetic Model for Hematopoiesis. *Genetics* **211**, 367–417 (2019).

22.   Edgar, B. A. & O'Farrell, P. H. The three postblastoderm cell cycles of

Drosophila embryogenesis are regulated in G2 by string. *Cell* **62**, 469–480

(1990).

23.   Glover, D. M. Polo kinase and progression through M phase in Drosophila:

a perspective from the spindle poles. *Oncogene* **24**, 230–237 (2005).

24.   Oegema, K., Savoian, M. S., Mitchison, T. J. & Field, C. M. Functional Analysis

of a Human Homologue of the Drosophila Actin Binding Protein Anillin

Suggests a Role in Cytokinesis. *J. Cell Biol.* **150**, 539–552 (2000).

25.   Olofsson, B. & Page, D. T. Condensation of the central nervous system in

embryonic Drosophila is inhibited by blocking hemocyte migration or

neural activity. *Dev. Biol.* **279**, 233–243 (2005).

26.   Bunt, S. *et al.* Hemocyte-Secreted Type IV Collagen Enhances BMP

Signaling to Guide Renal Tubule Morphogenesis in Drosophila. *Dev. Cell* **19**,

296–306 (2010).

27.   Mcgonigle, J. E. *et al.* Parallel and costly changes to cellular immunity

underlie the evolution of parasitoid resistance in three Drosophila species.

PLoS Pathog. **13(10)**, 1–20 (2017).

28.   Eslin, P. & Prevost, G. Hemocyte load and immune resistance to Asobara

tabida are correlated in species of the Drosophila melanogaster subgroup.

J. Insect Physiol. **44**, 807–816 (1998).

29.   Honti, V. *et al.* Cell lineage tracing reveals the plasticity of the hemocyte

lineages and of the hematopoietic compartments in Drosophila

melanogaster. *Mol. Immunol.* **47**, 1997–2004 (2010).

30.   Anderl, I. *et al.* Transdifferentiation and Proliferation in Two Distinct

Hemocyte Lineages in Drosophila melanogaster Larvae after Wasp

Infection. *PLoS Pathog.* **12**, 1–34 (2016).

31.   Rizki, T. M. & Rizki, R. M. Parasitoid-induced cellular immune deficiency in

Drosophila. *Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci.* **712**, 178–94 (1994).

32.   Kraaijeveld, A. R. & Godfray, H. C. Trade-off between parasitoid resistance

and larval competitive ability in Drosophila melanogaster. *Nature* **389**,

278–280 (1997).

33.   Mattila, J. & Hietakangas, V. Regulation of carbohydrate energy metabolism

in Drosophila melanogaster. *Genetics* (2017)

doi:10.1534/genetics.117.199885.

34.   Kim-Jo, C., Gatti, J. L. & Poirié, M. Drosophila cellular immunity against

parasitoid wasps: A complex and time-dependent process. *Front. Physiol.*

10, (2019).

35.   Varaldi, J., Petit, S., Boulétreau, M. & Fleury, F. The virus infecting the

parasitoid Leptopilina boulardi exerts a specific action on superparasitism

behaviour. *Parasitology* **132**, 747–756 (2006).

36.   Leitão, A. B. *et al.* Independent effects on cellular and humoral immune

responses underlie genotype-by-genotype interactions between

Drosophila and parasitoids. *PLoS Pathog.* **15**, 1–13 (2019).

37.   Rizki, T. M. Alterations in the haemocyte population of Drosophila

melanogaster. *J. Morphol.* **100**, 437–458 (1957).

38.   Longdon, B. *et al.* The Causes and Consequences of Changes in Virulence

following Pathogen Host Shifts. *PLoS Pathog.* **11**, 1–18 (2015).

39.   Kurucz, É. *et al.* Definition of Drosophila hemocyte subsets by cell-type

specific antigens. *Acta Biol. Hung.* **58**, 95–111 (2007).

40.   Schindelin, J. *et al.* Fiji: An open-source platform for biological-image

analysis. *Nature Methods* vol. 9 676–682 (2012).

41.   Thurmond, J. *et al.* FlyBase 2.0: the next generation. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **47**,

D759–D765 (2019).

42.   R Core Team. A language and environment for statistical computing. R

722   Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. *https://www.R-*

723   *project.org/* (2018).

724 43. Stuart, T. *et al.* Comprehensive Integration of Single-Cell Data. *Cell* **177**,

725   1888-1902.e21 (2019).

726 44. Finak, G. *et al.* MAST: a flexible statistical framework for assessing

727   transcriptional changes and characterizing heterogeneity in single-cell

728   RNA sequencing data. *Genome Biol.* **16**, 278 (2015).

729 45. Lyne, R. *et al.* FlyMine: an integrated database for Drosophila and

730   Anopheles genomics. *Genome Biol.* **8**, R129 (2007).

731 46. Huang, D. W., Sherman, B. T. & Lempicki, R. A. Bioinformatics enrichment

732   tools: paths toward the comprehensive functional analysis of large gene

733   lists. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **37**, 1–13 (2009).

734 47. Kanehisa, M. *et al.* From genomics to chemical genomics: new

735   developments in KEGG. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **34**, D354–D357 (2006).

736 48. Fabregat, A. *et al.* The Reactome pathway Knowledgebase. *Nucleic Acids*

737   *Res.* **44**, D481–D487 (2016).

738 49. Tirosh, I. *et al.* Dissecting the multicellular ecosystem of metastatic

739   melanoma by single-cell RNA-seq. *Science (80-.).* **352**, 189–196 (2016).

740 50. Madeira, F. *et al.* The EMBL-EBI search and sequence analysis tools APIs in

741   2019. *Nucleic Acids Res.* **47**, W636–W641 (2019).

742 51. Carlson, M. org.Dm.eg.db: Genome wide annotation for Fly. *R Packag.*

743   *version 3.7.0.* (2018).

744 52. Wickham, H. Reshaping Data with the **reshape** Package. *J. Stat. Softw.* **21**,

(2007).

53.   Street, K. *et al.* Slingshot: cell lineage and pseudotime inference for single-

cell transcriptomics. *BMC Genomics* **19**, 477 (2018).

Acknowledgements: The Genomics Core Facility at Cancer Research UK

Cambridge Institute, G. Raddi and S. Tattikota provided protocols for the

scRNAseq. **Funding:** This work was funded by Natural Environment Research

Council grant NE/P00184X/1 to FJ and AL, an EMBO Postdoctoral Fellowship to

AL (ALT-1556) and a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of

Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF-516634-2018, Committee: 187) to RA.

Competing Interests: None. **Author Contributions:** AL, RA and FMJ designed

the study and wrote the paper with input from the other authors. AL, JD and EG

performed the *Drosophila* work. AL and JD generated the sequencing data. RA

analysed the sequence data. **Data and materials availability:** Unprocessed

single cell sequence reads were deposited in the Sequence Read Archive

(accession: SRP256887, Bioproject: PRJNA625925). Cell count matrices for all

detected genes, cluster identities and processed scRNA-seq results were

deposited into Gene Expression Omnibus (accession: GSE148826). The R script

used to analyze the scRNA-seq data is available on Github (Repository:

dmel_scRNA_hemocyte).