

1 **Extreme Y chromosome polymorphism corresponds to five male reproductive**
2 **morphs**

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21 **Author Contributions**

22 B.A.S. and J.E.M. designed research; B.A.S., J.E.M, F.B., G.R.B. conducted field work;
23 B.A.S., P.A., I.A., B.L.S.F., W.v.d.B., and J.M. conducted bioinformatic analyses; B.A.S.,
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28 **Abstract**

29 Sex chromosomes form once recombination is halted between the X and Y
30 chromosomes. This loss of recombination quickly depletes Y chromosomes of
31 functional content and genetic variation, which is thought to severely limit their potential
32 to generate adaptive diversity. We examined Y diversity in *Poecilia parae*, where males
33 occur as one of five discrete morphs, all of which shoal together in natural populations
34 where morph frequency has been stable for over 50 years. Each morph utilizes different
35 complex reproductive strategies, and differ dramatically from each other in color, body
36 size, and mating behavior. Remarkably, morph phenotype is passed perfectly from
37 father to son, indicating there are five Y haplotypes segregating in the species, each of
38 which encodes the complex male morph characteristics. Using linked-read sequencing
39 on multiple *P. parae* females and males of all five morphs from natural populations, we
40 found that the genetic architecture of the male morphs evolved on the Y chromosome
41 long after recombination suppression had occurred with the X. Comparing Y
42 chromosomes between each of the morphs revealed that although the Ys of the three
43 minor morphs that differ predominantly in color are highly similar, there are substantial
44 amounts of unique genetic material and divergence between the Ys of the three major
45 morphs that differ in reproductive strategy, body size and mating behavior. Taken
46 together, our results reveal the extraordinary ability of evolution to overcome the
47 constraints of recombination loss to generate extreme diversity resulting in five discrete
48 Y chromosomes that control complex reproductive strategies.

49 **Significance Statement**

50 The loss of recombination on the Y chromosome is thought to limit the adaptive
51 potential of this unique genomic region. Despite this, we describe an extraordinary case
52 of Y chromosome adaptation in *Poecilia parae*. This species contains five co-occurring
53 male morphs, all of which are Y-linked, and which differ in reproductive strategy, body
54 size, coloration, and mating behavior. The five Y-linked male morphs of *P. parae*
55 evolved after recombination was halted on the Y, resulting in five unique Y
56 chromosomes within one species. Our results reveal the surprising magnitude to which
57 non-recombining regions can generate adaptive diversity and have important

58 implications for the evolution of sex chromosomes and the genetic control of sex-linked
59 diversity.

60 **Introduction**

61 Sex chromosomes form when recombination is halted between the X and Y
62 chromosomes. The loss of recombination results in a host of evolutionary processes
63 that quickly deplete Y chromosomes of functional content and genetic variation,
64 severely limiting the scope for adaptive evolution¹. Y chromosomes can counter this
65 loss to some degree through a variety of mechanisms²⁻⁵, however the adaptive potential
66 of Y chromosomes is generally thought to be much lower than the remainder of the
67 genome. Typically, this results in relatively low levels of Y chromosome diversity within
68 species. The adaptive potential of non-recombining regions has far broader implications
69 beyond just Y chromosomes given the increasing realization that supergenes, linked
70 regions containing alleles at multiple loci underlying complex phenotypes, are key to
71 many adaptive traits⁶⁻¹². Many supergenes are lethal when homozygous and therefore
72 also non-recombining^{8,10}. Therefore, the processes that constrain Y chromosome
73 evolution also affect much broader areas of the genome.

74 *Poecilia parae* is a small freshwater fish found in coastal streams of South America.
75 Remarkably, males of this species are one of five distinct morphs that utilize different
76 reproductive tactics, and differ in reproductive strategy, body size, color, and mating
77 behaviour¹³⁻¹⁹ (summarized in Table S1). There are three major morphs: parae,
78 immaculata and melanzona. The parae morph has the largest body, vertical black
79 stripes, an orange tail-stripe and is highly aggressive, chasing away rival males and
80 aggressively copulating with females by force. Immaculata, resembles a juvenile
81 female. Although immaculata has the smallest body size of all morphs, it has the largest
82 relative testes and produces the most sperm, employing a sneaker copulation strategy.
83 Melanzona is sub-divided into three minor morphs, which are similar in body size and all
84 have a colored horizontal stripe (either red, yellow or blue), which they present to
85 females during courtship displays.

86 All five morphs co-occur in the same populations, and the relative frequency of morphs
87 is highly stable over repeated surveys spanning 50 years (~150 generations)^{13,14,20}. This
88 suggests that balancing selection, likely resulting from a combination of sexual and
89 natural selection, is acting to maintain these five adapted morphs. Most importantly,

90 multigeneration pedigrees show that morph phenotype is always passed perfectly from
91 father to son¹³, indicating morphs are Y-linked. Given their discrete nature and complex
92 phenotypes, it is clear that the five *P. parae* morphs are controlled by five different Y
93 chromosomes. This system therefore offers the potential for a unique insight into the
94 adaptive potential of Y chromosomes, and the role of these regions of the genome in
95 male phenotypes.

96 We have recently shown that poeciliid species closely related to *P. parae* share the
97 same sex chromosome system as *Poecilia reticulata*²¹ (guppies), however the extent of
98 Y chromosome degeneration differs markedly across the clade. Although the Y
99 chromosome in *P. reticulata* and *Poecilia wingei* contains only a small area of limited
100 degeneration²¹⁻²⁴, the entirety of the Y chromosome of *Poecilia picta* is highly
101 degenerate²¹. *P. parae* is a sister species of *P. picta*, however *P. picta* males are
102 markedly different from *P. parae* and do not resemble any of the five *P. parae*
103 morphs^{18,20,25-27}, suggesting extreme diversity was generated on the *P. parae* Y
104 chromosome after recombination was halted with the X chromosome. Work on model
105 systems has indeed shown Y chromosomes can accumulate new genetic material²⁻⁵,
106 yet these differences occur over long periods of time and are only evident when
107 comparing Ys across species. Non-model systems, such as *P. parae*, provide a unique
108 opportunity to explore the limits and role of non-recombining regions in generating
109 diversity.

110 Because *P. parae* is very difficult to breed in the lab we collected tissue from natural
111 populations in South America where all five male morphs co-occur and used linked-read
112 sequencing on multiple females and males of all five morphs. We first confirmed that *P.*
113 *parae* shares the same sex chromosome system as its close relatives^{21,22}. We went on
114 to find patterns of X-Y divergence are the same for all five Y chromosomes and
115 matches the X-Y divergence we observed in *P. picta*, suggesting that the morphs
116 emerged after Y chromosome recombination was stopped in a common ancestor of *P.*
117 *parae* and *P. picta*. Comparing the five Y chromosomes to each other, we find that while
118 the Ys of the three minor morphs (red, yellow and blue melanzona) that differ only in
119 color are highly similar, the Ys of the three major morphs (*parae*, *immaculata*, and
120 *melanzona*) that differ in reproductive strategy, body size and mating behavior are

121 significantly diverged from one another and carry substantial amounts of unique genetic
122 material. Taken together, our results reveal the surprising ability of the Y chromosome
123 to not only overcome the constraints of recombination loss, but to generate extreme
124 diversity, resulting in five discrete Y chromosomes that control complex reproductive
125 strategies.

126

127 **Results**

128 We collected 40 individual *P. parae* from natural populations in Guyana in December
129 2016, including eight red melanzona, four blue melanzona, five yellow melanzona, five
130 immaculata, seven *parae* morph males, and 11 females. 29 samples with sufficiently
131 high molecular weight were individually sequenced with 10X Genomics linked-reads.
132 We generated a *de novo* genome assembly for each of these samples. The remaining
133 11 lower molecular weight samples were individually sequenced with Illumina
134 sequencing paired end reads (see Tables S2 and S3 for sequencing and assembly
135 details).

136

137 ***The P. parae Y chromosome is highly diverged from the X and shared with P.*** 138 ***picta***

139 Degeneration of the Y chromosome results in reduced male coverage when mapped to
140 a female reference genome. The ratio of male to female mapped reads can be used to
141 identify regions where the Y and X chromosomes differ substantially from each
142 other^{21,28-30}. To do this, we used our best female *de novo P. parae* genome, based on
143 N50 and other assembly statistics (see Table S3). We then determined chromosomal
144 position of the scaffolds using the reference-assisted chromosome assembly (RACA)
145 pipeline, which combines phylogenetic and sequencing data to place scaffolds along
146 chromosomes³¹. Next we mapped reads from all 40 samples to this female assembly
147 and calculated male:female coverage, first for each of the five morphs independently,
148 and then all morphs together.

149 As we previously found in *P. picta*²¹, chromosome 8 (syntenic to *P. reticulata*
150 chromosome 12) showed a clear signal of reduced read coverage in males (Figure 1a-
151 b), indicating an XY sex determination system. Y divergence is evident across nearly
152 the entire chromosome and is largely identical to the pattern we previously observed in
153 *P. picta* (Figure 1c and Fig. S1). This suggests that these species inherited a highly
154 degenerate Y chromosome from their common ancestor, well before the origin of the *P.*
155 *parae* male morphs.

156 Short sequences representing all the possible substrings of length k that are contained
157 in a genome are referred to as k -mers, and k -mer comparisons between male and
158 female genomes has been used to identify Y chromosome sequence (Y-mers) in a wide
159 range of organisms³²⁻³⁴, including guppies³⁵ and *P. picta*²¹. We first compared all males,
160 representing all five morphs, to all females. We found a total of 27,950,090 Y-mers (of
161 31bp) that were present in at least two males but absent from all females. However,
162 only 59 of these Y-mers were present in all 23 males (Figure 2). We found only 251,472
163 k -mers present in at least two females but absent from all males, and 0 of these were
164 found in all 6 females, demonstrating our Y-mer approach had a very low false positive
165 rate.

166 We next used Y-mer analysis to further test whether recombination was halted on the Y
167 in the common ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta*. Of the 646,745 Y-mers that we
168 previously identified in at least one *P. picta* male and no females²¹, 790 *P. picta* Y-mers
169 matched Y-mers we identified in *P. parae*, consistent with a shared history of
170 suppressed recombination. Additionally, these shared Y-mers were present in males of
171 all morphs (Fig. S2) and discussed in more detail below. These shared Y-mers,
172 combined with the striking similarity in male:female read mapping (Fig. S1) provide
173 compelling evidence that the vast majority of Y chromosome recombination suppression
174 occurred in a common ancestor of *P. picta* and *P. parae*.

175

176 ***The P. parae* Y chromosomes are highly diverged from each other**

177 We next compared Y-mers across individuals, generating a phylogeny on the
178 presence/absence of Y-mers in all the *P. parae* individuals with *P. picta* as an outgroup

179 (Figure 2). Clear clades were recovered for each of the major morphs (immaculata,
180 parae and melanzona) while the three minor morphs of melanzona (red, yellow, blue)
181 were very similar to one another.

182 The phylogenetic relationships of individuals (Figure 2) closely match the relative Y-mer
183 comparisons across morphs (Figure 3). We found 64,515 Y-mers in every immaculata
184 male that were not in any parae or melanzona males (i.e. immaculata-mers), 87,629
185 melanzona-mers, and 1,435 parae-mers, suggesting that the melanzona and
186 immaculata Y chromosomes may contain more unique, non-repetitive sequence
187 compared to the parae Y. Moreover, we found 10,673 Y-mers in all melanzona and
188 parae males that did not occur in any immaculata males (Figure 2), suggesting that the
189 parae Y shares greater sequence similarity to the melanzona Y.

190 We calculated our false positive rate by randomly permuting our male samples into
191 groups regardless of morph and determining Y-mers present in all males of each group
192 that were absent from all other males. We found no unique Y-mers in groups of five or
193 more random males, and just 31 unique Y-mers in groups of four random males,
194 demonstrating the false positive rate of our morph-mer approach is exceedingly low
195 (Fig. S3).

196

197 ***Mapping morph-mers confirms high diversity of Y chromosomes***

198 The large number of morph-mers we identified could either indicate that the discrete
199 morphs are the result of low divergence across large Y chromosomes, or smaller
200 complexes of highly diverged Y sequence. To resolve this, we mapped the respective
201 set of morph-mers to the 21 *de novo* male genomes. If divergence across the morph-
202 specific Y chromosomes is low compared to each other, mapped morph-mers would be
203 dispersed across many scaffolds. Instead we found morph-mers were not evenly
204 dispersed. For example, a single melanzona scaffold (~110kb) containing 27% of all
205 melanzona-mers (23,773), and most morph-mers overlapped one another (Fig. S4 and
206 S5). This confirms our morph-mer approach identified complexes of highly diverged Y
207 sequence.

208 To compare the relative size of these diverged complexes across morphs, we identified
209 all scaffolds that contained >5 morph-mers in each individual. The average amount of
210 sequence contained within these morph-mer scaffolds was 1.3 Mb for melanzona, 3.2
211 Mb for immaculata, and just 0.1 Mb for parae individuals (Table S4). This complements
212 the relative number of Y-mers we found for each morph and together suggests the
213 amount of unique Y chromosome sequence differs across morphs, with the parae
214 morph Y containing the smallest amount of unique genetic material.

215

216 ***Read mapping confirms high divergence of Y chromosomes***

217 To determine how divergent the five Y chromosomes are from one another, we mapped
218 reads from all 39 samples to full *de novo* genome assemblies of each male morph (200
219 total alignments). Most scaffolds contain autosomal sequence, and coverage is not
220 expected to differ by sex or morph. Meanwhile, scaffolds containing morph specific
221 sequence will have higher coverage by males of the same morph (e.g. immaculata
222 reads mapped to an immaculata assembly) than coverage by males of a different morph
223 (e.g. melanzona reads mapped to an immaculata assembly). Low female coverage of
224 such scaffolds confirms these regions are on the Y and are substantially diverged from
225 the X.

226

227 As expected, when comparing coverage between males of the same morph as the
228 reference assembly and the other morphs we found average coverage was 1:1 when
229 considering all scaffolds, yet scaffolds enriched for morph-mers (containing >5) had
230 much higher coverage by males of the same morph as the reference (Figure 4).
231 Surprisingly, we found no coverage by immaculata or parae reads for nearly half
232 (40/100) of the scaffolds enriched for melanzona-mers. Similarly, 14 of the 93 scaffolds
233 enriched for immaculata-mers had no coverage when we mapped melanzona and
234 parae reads. Meanwhile, in agreement with our morph-mer analysis, all 12 of the
235 scaffolds enriched for parae-mers had nearly equal coverage by melanzona and
236 immaculata reads, once again suggesting that the parae Y contains very little unique Y
237 sequence.

238 We also found the ratio of male:female coverage was much higher for morph-mer
239 scaffolds, many of which had no female coverage, again confirming these complexes of
240 morph specific sequence are located in non-recombining regions of the Y chromosome
241 (Figure 4).

242

243 **Gene annotation of morph-mer scaffolds**

244 We identified genes on scaffolds with >5 morph-mers. In total, we found 7 genes on the
245 scaffolds containing the 59 Y-mers present in all morphs (totaling 30,558,901 bp), 291
246 genes on the immaculata scaffolds of sample P09 (totaling 9,748,162bp), 15 genes on
247 the melanzona scaffolds of sample P01 (totaling 295,057 bp), and no genes on the
248 parae morph scaffolds of P04 (totaling 127,542 bp) (Tables S5, S6 and S7).

249 Only one gene was predicted on scaffolds that were completely unique to melanzona
250 (*trim35*), and only two genes were predicted on scaffolds completely unique to
251 immaculata (*trim39* and *nirc3*). Members of the *Trim* gene family act throughout the
252 body and are well known to rapidly evolve novel functions^{36,37}. Meanwhile, *nirc3* has
253 been shown to selectively block cellular proliferation and protein synthesis by inhibiting
254 the mTOR signalling pathway³⁸, which could play a role in keeping immaculata the
255 smallest morph. Several copies of the transcription factor *Tbx3* were present on male
256 unique scaffolds in both melanzona and immaculata morphs. *Tbx* genes play key roles
257 in development and act as developmental switches³⁹⁻⁴¹, raising the possibility that it
258 could play a role in orchestrating the multi-tissue traits that differ across morphs.

259 We also found several copies of *texim* genes on male scaffolds of melanzona and
260 immaculata that most closely match *texim2* and *texim3*. While the function of *texim2*
261 and *texim3* are largely unknown they have been shown to be highly expressed in the
262 brain and testis of closely related species⁴². In *Xiphophorus maculatus*, a close relative
263 to *P. parae* (~45 mya⁴³), the transposable element *helitron* has moved *texim1* to the sex
264 determining region of the Y chromosome and duplicated it resulting in three copies of
265 *texim* that are expressed specifically in late stage spermatogenesis⁴². The copies of
266 *texim2* and *texim3* that we identified on the Y chromosome of *P. parae* are not the same

267 as those in *X. maculatus* as the Ys arose independently and the *X. maculatus* Y is not
268 chromosome 8.

269 We also found a large number of transposable elements on scaffolds enriched for the Y-
270 mers that were present in all individuals, and the scaffolds enriched for morph-mers,
271 including 90 copies of the *helitron* transposable element on scaffolds enriched for
272 melanzona-mers, and 38 copies on scaffolds enriched for immaculata-mers (Tables S9
273 and S10). It is possible that a process similar to *X. maculatus* has occurred in *P. parae*
274 where either TEs have moved *texim2* and *texim3* to Y specific sequence or Y specific
275 sequence has evolved around these genes. Future analyses are needed to determine
276 the roles of these and other genes in generating the morph-specific phenotypes.

277

278 **Discussion**

279 Recombination is widely regarded as one of the most important processes generating
280 phenotypic diversity as it produces novel allelic combinations on which selection can
281 act⁴⁴. The loss of recombination is classically assumed to prevent the generation of
282 novel large-scale phenotypes, as non-recombining regions are expected to rapidly lose
283 diversity through sweeps and background selection^{1,45-53} and have only limited potential
284 for adaptive evolution. The power of these processes to deplete non-recombining
285 regions of diversity is clearly evident in the Y chromosomes of many species¹.

286 Our results, based on both similarity of Y degeneration (Fig. S1) and shared Y-mers,
287 are consistent with recombination suppression between the X and Y chromosome in the
288 common ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta* (14.8-18.5 mya⁴³) and a highly degenerate Y
289 present at the origin of *P. parae*. Importantly, none of the characteristics that
290 differentiate the immaculata, parae or three melanzona morphs of *P. parae* are found in
291 any close relatives, which means the genetic basis of the extreme diversity in morphs
292 evolved on a non-recombining, highly degenerate Y chromosome. Given that these
293 morphs differ in a suite of complex traits, including body size, testis size, color pattern,
294 and mating strategy, it is highly likely that they are underpinned by polygenic genetic
295 architectures, which evolved on the *P. parae* Y chromosome. Consistent with complex

296 differences between morphs, we identified substantial morph-specific genetic material
297 (Figures 2-4) that was also absent in females and therefore Y-linked.

298 Although male-specific regions of the genome may experience elevated mutation
299 rates⁵⁴, it is far more likely that the high *P. parae* Y diversity was generated through
300 translocations and/or transposable element (TE) movement. Translocations have been
301 shown to increase Y-chromosome content^{2,55}. In contrast, although TE movement has
302 historically been considered to be a deleterious process, more recent reports have
303 revealed that TEs can alter regions by removing or adding regulatory or coding
304 sequence^{39,56-59}, and TEs may even act as substrate for novel genes⁶⁰. As predicted for
305 non-recombining regions, we found a large number of TEs in the five *P. parae* Y
306 chromosomes.

307

308 ***Making and Maintaining Five Morphs***

309 We found remarkable morph specific genetic diversity on the Y chromosome of *P.*
310 *parae*. Intriguingly, that diversity is maintained within populations, as evidenced by the
311 stability in morph frequencies over repeated surveys spanning 50 years, or roughly 150
312 generations^{13,14,20}. Even if alternative morphs have exactly equal fitness, populations
313 are expected to eventually fix for one morph due to drift⁶¹. Maintaining alternative
314 morphs within the same population relies on negative frequency dependent selection,
315 thus as one morph decreases in frequency its fitness increases, such as with the three
316 male morphs of the side blotched lizard⁶².

317 Previous work suggests that *P. parae* morphs are also under negative frequency
318 dependent selection¹⁴⁻¹⁷, and this could facilitate the establishment and maintenance of
319 five distinct Y chromosomes within the same species. Most new mutations are expected
320 to be lost through drift if they do not confer a high enough fitness advantage over
321 alternative alleles⁶³, but mutations resulting in a new morph would be at the lowest
322 frequencies and thus have the highest fitness, allowing them to rapidly stabilize in the
323 population. Alternatively, it is possible that the morphs arose in separate populations
324 and only later came into sympatry.

325

326 **Genetic Basis of Male Reproductive Morphs**

327 Autosomal non-recombining regions have been shown to be associated with alternative
328 reproductive strategies in a range of species^{7,9,64-68}. For example, male morphs of the
329 white throated sparrow, which differ in pigmentation and social behavior, are the result
330 of a hybridization event which instantly brought together alternative sequence and
331 halted recombination⁶⁵. Importantly, because none of the characteristics of the *P. parae*
332 morphs are found in any close relatives, it is unlikely that hybridization is the source of
333 the Y chromosomes we describe.

334 The alternative male morphs in the ruff are controlled by an autosomal supergene that
335 is composed of two alternative versions of an inverted region¹⁰. It has yet to be
336 determined whether the diversity across these ruff supergenes pre-dates the inversion
337 or arose after recombination stopped as it did in *P. parae*.

338 A large inverted region is also associated with social morphs in many ant species, this
339 region formed in a common ancestor and has been maintained by balancing selection
340 through repeated speciation events¹². Although it is possible that the multiple male
341 morphs in *P. parae* arose in an ancestor, this is less likely as they have not been
342 observed in any related species to date.

343

344 **Conclusion**

345 The role of recombination in shaping co-adapted allele complexes has long been an
346 enigma, given that recombination is both a key mechanism in generating diverse allelic
347 combinations, yet recombination also acts to break up such combinations. Here we
348 found that tremendous diversity can still be generated without the power of
349 recombination, and the Y chromosome contains remarkable adaptive potential with
350 regard to male phenotypic evolution. The five Y-linked male morphs of *P. parae*
351 emerged and diverged after recombination was halted, resulting in five unique Y
352 chromosomes within one species. Future work identifying the mechanisms by which
353 morphs are determined by these five Y chromosomes will provide much needed insight

354 to determining which evolutionary forces have led to and shaped these amazing
355 complexes and their co-evolution with the rest of the genome, which is shared across all
356 morphs.

357

358 **Methods**

359

360 ***Field Collections and DNA Isolation***

361 To ensure we accounted for natural diversity in the five Y chromosomes of *P. parae*,
362 and because this species is extremely difficult to breed in captivity, we collected all
363 samples (N=40) from large native populations around Georgetown, Guyana in 2016
364 (see Table S2 and Sandkam, et al. ¹⁸ for description of populations) (Environmental
365 Protection Agency of Guyana Permit 120616 SP: 015). Individuals were rapidly
366 sacrificed in MS-222, whole-tail tissue was dissected into EtOH and immediately placed
367 in liquid nitrogen to maintain integrity of high molecular weight (HMW) DNA. Tissue
368 samples were brought back to the lab and kept at -80° C until HMW DNA extraction.

369 HMW DNA was extracted from 25mg tail tissue of each sample following a modified
370 protocol from 10X Genomics described in Almeida *et al*²⁴. Briefly, nuclei were isolated
371 by gently homogenizing tissue with a pestle in cold Nuclei Isolation Buffer from a Nuclei
372 PURE Prep Kit (Sigma). Nuclei were pelleted and supernatant removed before being
373 digested by incubating in 70 µl PBS, 10 µl Proteinase K (Qiagen), and 70 µl Digestion
374 buffer (20mM EDTA, 2mM Tris-HCL, 10mM N-Laurylsarcosine) for two hours at room
375 temperature on a tube rotator. Tween 20 was added (0.1% final concentration) and
376 DNA was bound to SPRIselect magnetic beads (Beckman Coulter) for 20 min. Beads
377 were bound to a magnetic rack and washed twice with 70% Ethanol before eluting DNA.
378 Samples were visually screened for integrity of HMW DNA on an agarose gel. Of the 40
379 samples extracted, 29 passed initial screening and were used for individual 10X
380 Chromium linked-read sequencing (six female, seven red, five yellow, one blue, four
381 immaculata, and six parae morph). The remaining 11 samples (five female, one red,
382 three blue, one immaculata, and one parae morph) were individually sequenced on an

383 Illumina HiSeqX as 2 x 150 bp reads using the v2.5 sequencing chemistry with 300bp
384 inserts and trimmed with trimmomatic (v0.36)⁶⁹. To ensure high coverage of the Y, all 40
385 samples were individually sequenced to a predicted coverage of 40X (see Table S2 for
386 number of reads after filtering), which would result in predicted 20X coverage of the
387 haploid Y.

388

389 **10X Chromium Linked-read Sequencing and Assembly**

390 10X Chromium linked-read sequencing was performed at the SciLifeLab, Uppsala
391 Sweden. The 10X Chromium pipeline adds unique tags to each piece of HMW DNA
392 before sequencing on an Illumina platform. These tagged reads were either used
393 directly in the 10X assembly pipeline, or tags were removed using the *basic* function of
394 Longranger v.2.2.2 (10X Genomics), trimmed with trimmomatic (v0.36)⁶⁹ and treated as
395 normal Illumina reads⁷⁰ for coverage analyses (Table S2).

396 Scaffold level *de novo* genomes were assembled for each of the 29 linked-read
397 samples using the Supernova v2.1.1 software package (10X Genomics) (see Table S3
398 for assembly statistics).

399 A female chromosome level assembly was created by assigning scaffolds to
400 chromosomal positions. The female with the best *de novo* assembly (largest assembly
401 size and scaffold N50) was used for the Reference Assisted Chromosome Assembly
402 (RACA) pipeline³¹. Briefly, scaffolds were aligned with LASTZ v1.04⁷¹ against high-
403 quality chromosome level genome assemblies of a close relative (*Xiphophorus helleri*
404 v4.0; GenBank accession GCA_003331165) and an outgroup (*Oryzias latipes* v1;
405 GenBank accession GCA_002234675). Alignments were then run through the UCSC
406 chains and nets pipeline from the kentUtils software suite⁷² before passing to the RACA
407 pipeline. RACA uses alignments of short-insert and long-insert paired reads that bridge
408 scaffolds to further order and confirm scaffold arrangement. For short-insert data, 150bp
409 reads from the five females sequenced with paired-end Illumina (300bp inserts) were
410 aligned to the target assembly with Bowtie2 v2.2.9⁷³ reporting concordant mappings
411 only (--no-discordant option). For long-insert data, synthetic 150bp 'pseudo-mate-pair'
412 reads were generated from the *de novo* scaffolds of the 6 female *P. parae* samples

413 sequenced with Chromium linked-reads. To increase the likelihood that bridge reads
414 spanned scaffolds, we generated two long-insert pseudo-mate-pair libraries for each of
415 the six *de novo* female genomes, a 2.3kb insert library and a 15kb insert library, and
416 aligned these to the target assembly. RACA then used the information from both the
417 phylogenetically weighted genome pairwise alignments, and the read mapping data to
418 order the target scaffolds into longer predicted chromosome fragments.

419 To identify which chromosome is the sex chromosome and determine the extent of X-Y
420 divergence, we mapped reads from all 40 individuals to the female scaffolds that had
421 RACA generated chromosome annotations using the *aln* function of *bwa* (v0.6.1)⁷⁴.
422 Alignments were filtered for uniquely mapped reads and average scaffold coverage was
423 calculated using soap.coverage v2.7.7 (<http://soap.genomics.org.cn/>). To account for
424 differences across individuals in sequencing library size, we divided the coverage of
425 each scaffold by the average coverage across all scaffolds for each individual. Male to
426 female (M:F) fold change in coverage of each scaffold was calculated for all males, and
427 each of the five morphs as $\log_2(\text{average male coverage}) - \log_2(\text{average female}$
428 $\text{coverage})$ ⁷⁵. Upon observing chromosome 8 was the sex chromosome, we calculated
429 the 95% CI for M:F coverage by bootstrapping across all scaffolds which RACA placed
430 on the autosomes.

431

432 ***Identifying Morph specific sequence by k-mers***

433 To locate morph specific sequence, we identified morph specific *k*-mers (morph-mers)
434 and then mapped these to the respective *de novo* genome assemblies. First Jellyfish
435 v2.2.3⁷⁴ was used to identify all 31bp *k*-mers from the ‘megabubble’ output of each of
436 the 22 male *de novo* genome assemblies from supernova. The ‘megabubble’ outputs
437 from supernova include all sequence before being flattened into final phased scaffolds,
438 this minimizes any potential *k*-mer loss due to arbitrary flattening (a benefit over *k*-mers
439 from the full pseudohap output of supernova) and excludes *k*-mers from sequencing
440 errors (a benefit over *k*-mers from sequencing reads). We next identified the putative Y-
441 linked *k*-mers in each sample by removing all *k*-mers present in any of the females. For
442 female *k*-mer identification we conservatively took *k*-mers from both the megabubble

443 outputs and the raw Illumina reads of all 11 female individuals, which we used to identify
444 every 31bp *k*-mer present >3 times (this maximized the chance of including *k*-mers from
445 unassembled regions of female genomes but minimized *k*-mers from sequencing
446 errors³⁵). The *k*-mers present in females all occur either on autosomes or the X
447 chromosome, therefore by removing the female *k*-mers from all *k*-mers identified in
448 males we are left with putative Y-linked *k*-mers that we call Y-mers^{21,35}. To exclude *k*-
449 mers representing autosomal SNPs unique to a single male we required Y-mers be
450 present in at least two individuals. Since all female sequence is theoretically present in
451 males, we validated our method by identifying all *k*-mers from the six female
452 megabubbles that were not present in the male Illumina reads and found how many
453 were present in at least two female individuals.

454 We then combined all the Y-mers we found with those we previously identified in *P.*
455 *picta*²¹ and used the presence of Y-mers as character states to build a phylogeny of all
456 individuals and *P. picta*. Two runs of MrBayes v3.2.2⁷⁶ were run for 100,000 generations
457 with Y-mers treated akin to restriction sites (model F81 with rates set to equal). The SD
458 of the split frequencies between runs reached 0 indicating both runs converged on
459 identical and robust trees.

460 Monophyletic clades were recovered for each of the major morphs (*immaculata*, *parae*
461 *and melanzona*). We then identified unique Y-mers in each clade (Y-mers present in
462 every individual of that clade but not present outside that clade). This approach
463 provided us with all morph-mers (Y-mers present in every individual of a given morph
464 but not present in any individual of the other morphs).

465 These morph-mers reveal two insights: (1) at a gross level they provide a sense of how
466 much Y sequence is shared within versus across morphs and (2) mapping these morph-
467 mers to the respective *de novo* genomes allows us to identify regions of morph specific
468 sequence^{34,35,77,78}. To find these regions of morph specific sequence we first mapped
469 the corresponding set of 31bp morph-mers to each of the 22 *de novo* male genomes
470 (pseudohap style of Supernova output) using bowtie2⁷³ allowing for no mismatches,
471 gaps, or trimming. We found morph-mers disproportionately map to scaffolds, indicating

472 they came from regions of highly diverged morph-specific sequence rather than evenly
473 dispersed lowly diverged sequence (Fig. S3 and S4).

474 To verify our pipeline was identifying true Y-specific alignments we attempted to align
475 the Y-mers and all of the morph-mers to each of the six female *de novo* genome
476 assemblies and found no alignments could be made. We next verified that our morph-
477 mers were targeting morph specific sequence by attempting to align each of the morph-
478 mer datasets to individuals of the opposite morphs and again found no alignments could
479 be made.

480

481 **Coverage analysis**

482 To independently verify that the scaffolds identified by our *k*-mer approach contained
483 highly diverged sequence, we aligned each of the 39 individuals to the individual with
484 the best *de novo* genome of each morph (based on assembly size, scaffold N50, and
485 contig N50, Supplementary Table 3). Alignments were generated with the *mem* function
486 of *bwa* (v0.7.17)⁷⁴. *samtools* (v1.10) was used to remove unmapped reads and
487 secondary alignments with the *fixmate* function, and duplicates were removed with
488 *markdup*. *bamqc* was then used to assess distribution of map quality. For each
489 individual, the average coverage of each scaffold by reads with mapq >60 was
490 determined using the *depth* function of *samtools* (v1.10). Y chromosomes are notorious
491 for high incidents of transposable elements and repeats, this highly conservative filtering
492 decreased false alignments to these regions. To account for differences across
493 individuals in sequencing library size, we took the coverage of each scaffold divided by
494 that individual's coverage across all scaffolds. The average raw scaffold coverage
495 across all individuals was 29.97X, therefore any scaffold with a corrected coverage <
496 0.025 (raw coverage <1X) was considered to have a coverage of 0.

497

498 **Gene Annotation**

499 To identify genes on morph specific scaffolds we followed the pipeline described in
500 Almeida *et al*²⁴. Briefly, we took a very conservative approach by annotating only the

501 scaffolds with >5 morph-mers from each of the *de novo* references used for the
502 coverage analysis (one of each morph). The chance of a scaffold containing any
503 particular 31bp *k*-mer depends on the length of the scaffold and can be calculated
504 roughly as $0.25^{31} \times$ scaffold length. The longest male scaffold we recovered was
505 19,887,348 and therefore had the greatest chance of containing any given Y-mer;
506 4.31×10^{-12} . The most abundant morph-mers were melanzona-mers (87,629), therefore
507 the likelihood of the largest scaffold containing one melanzona-mer by chance was
508 $4.31 \times 10^{-12} \times 87,629 = 3.78 \times 10^{-7}$ and the likelihood it contains 5 melanzona-mers purely
509 by chance was roughly 7.71×10^{-33} . If we conservatively assume that all scaffolds have
510 the same probability of containing a Y-mer by chance and the male with the most
511 scaffolds had 25,416 scaffolds – there was a likelihood of 1.96×10^{-28} that a scaffold was
512 incorrectly identified.

513 We then annotated these scaffolds with MAKER v2.31.10⁷⁹. We ran the MAKER
514 pipeline twice: first based on a guppy-specific repeat library, protein sequence, EST and
515 RNA sequence data (later used to train *ab-initio* software) and a second time combining
516 evidence data from the first run and *ab-initio* predictions. We create a repeat library for
517 these scaffolds using *de novo* repeats identified by RepeatModeler v1.0.10⁸⁰ which we
518 then combined with Actinopterygii-specific repeats to use with RepeatMasker v4.0.7⁸¹.
519 Annotated protein sequences were downloaded from Ensembl (release 95)⁸² for 8 fish
520 species: *Danio rerio* (GRCz11), *Gasterosteus aculeatus* (BROADS1), *Oryzias latipes*
521 (ASM223467v1), *Poecilia latipinna* (1.0), *Poecilia mexicana* (1.0), *Poecilia reticulata*
522 (1.0), *Takifugu rubripes* (FUGU5) and *Xiphophorus maculatus* (5.0). For ESTs, we used
523 10,664 tags isolated from guppy embryos and male testis⁸³. Furthermore, to support
524 gene predictions we also used two publicly available libraries of RNA-seq data collected
525 from guppy male testis and male embryos⁸⁴ and assembled with StringTie 1.3.3b⁸⁵. As
526 basis for the construction of gene models, we combined *ab-initio* predictions from
527 Augustus v3.2.3⁸⁶, trained via BUSCO v3.0.2⁸⁷, and SNAP v2006-07-28⁸⁸. To train
528 Augustus and SNAP, we ran the MAKER pipeline a first time to create a profile using
529 the protein and EST evidence along with RNA-seq data. Both Augustus and SNAP were
530 then trained from this initial evidence-based annotation. Functional inference for genes
531 and transcripts was performed using the translated CDS features of each coding

532 transcript. Gene names and protein functions were retrieved using BLASTp to search
533 the Uniprot/Swissprot, InterProScan v5 and GenBank databases.

534

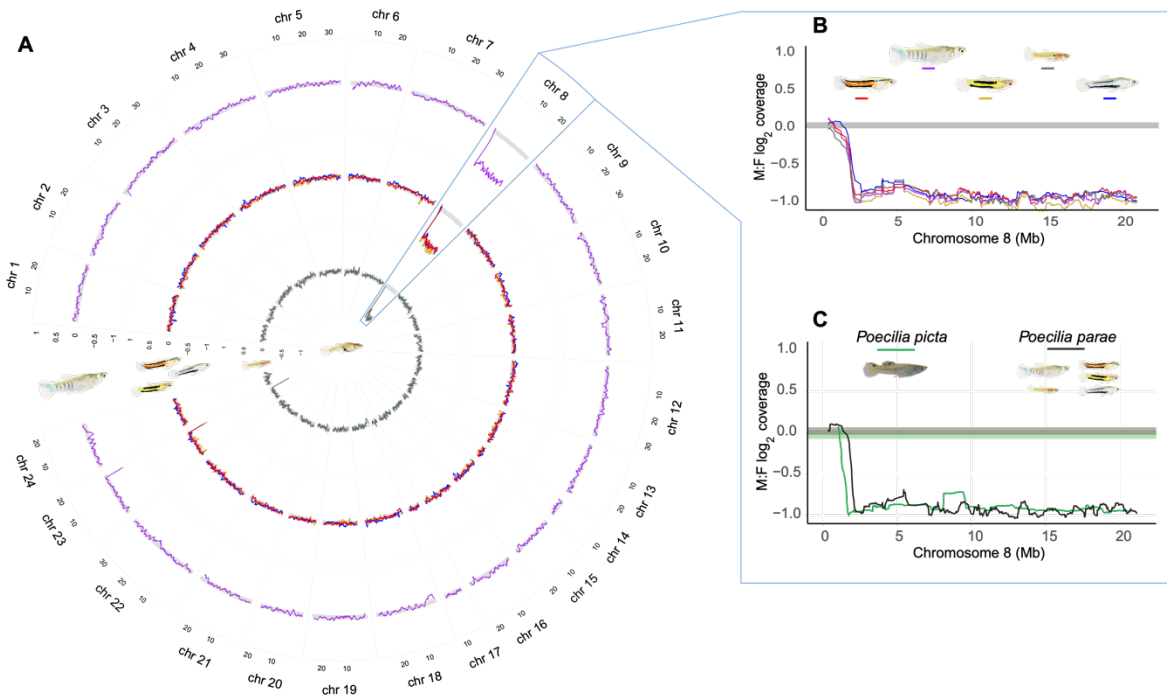
535 **Data Availability**

536 All reads will be submitted to GenBank.

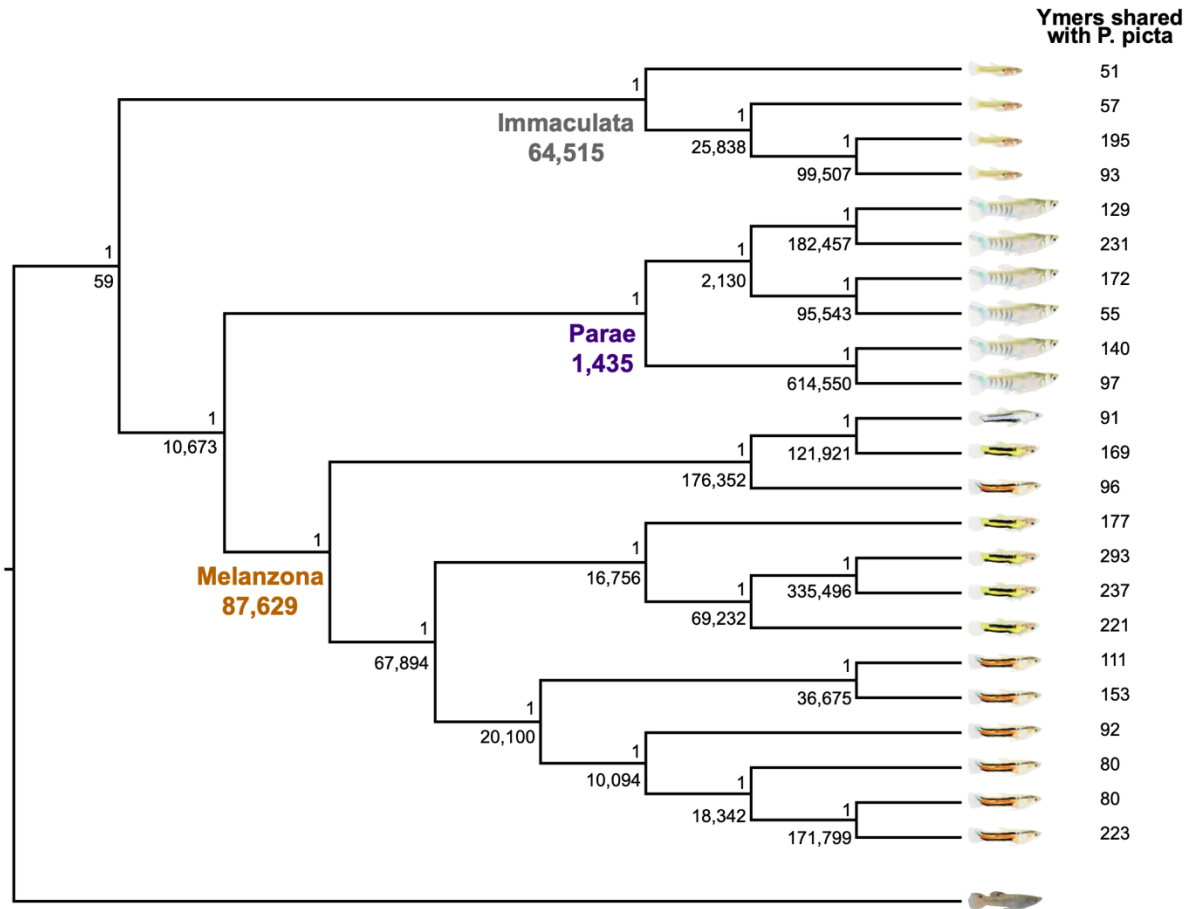
537

538 **Acknowledgements**

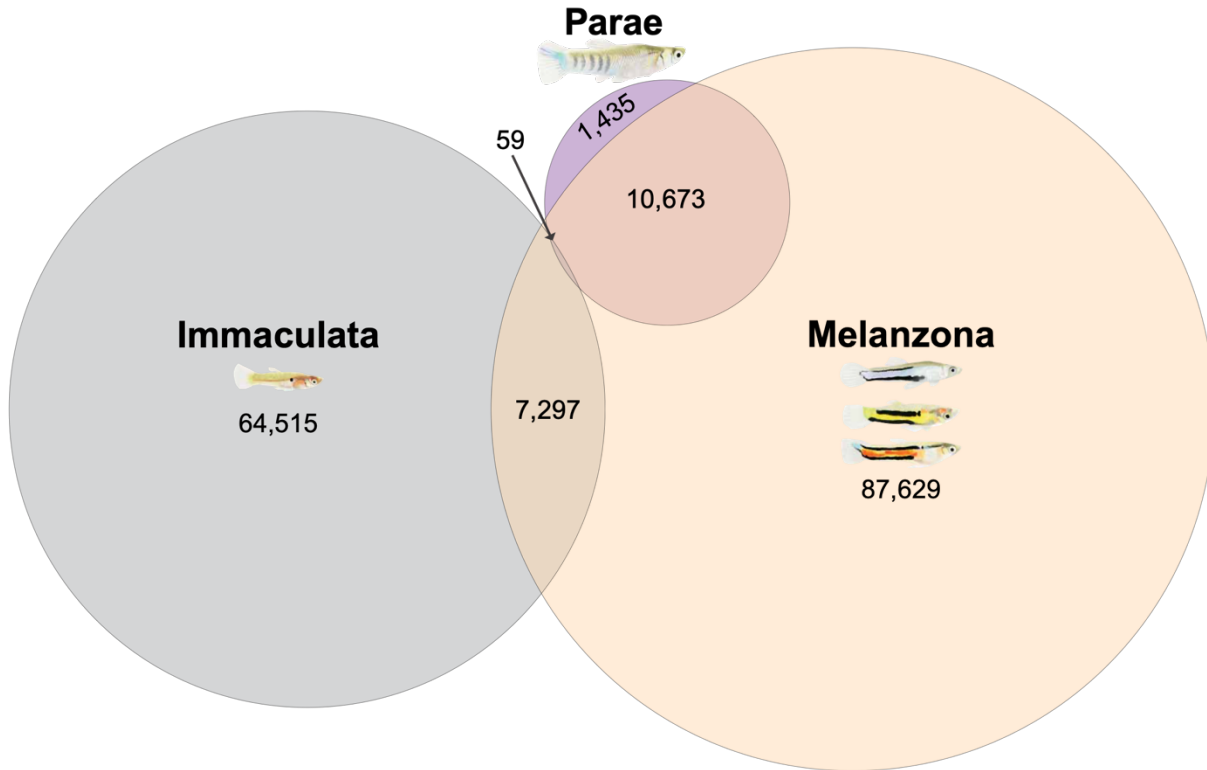
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548
549 **Figure 1.** Coverage differences between the sexes (male:female log₂) for female
550 scaffolds placed by RACA on the reference *Xiphophorus hellerii* chromosomes. (A)
551 Average immaculata (inner ring), the three melanzona (middle ring) and parae morphs
552 (outer ring) plotted across all chromosomes. Highlighted in blue is *X. hellerii*
553 chromosome 8 which is syntenic to the guppy sex chromosome (*P. reticulata*
554 chromosome 12). The decreased male coverage of chromosome 8 indicates this is also
555 the sex chromosome in *P. parae*. (B) All five *P. parae* morphs share the same pattern of
556 XY divergence, indicating a shared history of recombination suppression. (C) Pattern of
557 *P. parae* XY divergence is the same as the sister species *P. picta*, indicating
558 recombination was stopped in the common ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta* (14.8-18.5
559 mya⁴³). In each, horizontal grey-shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals
560 based on bootstrap estimates across the autosomes.

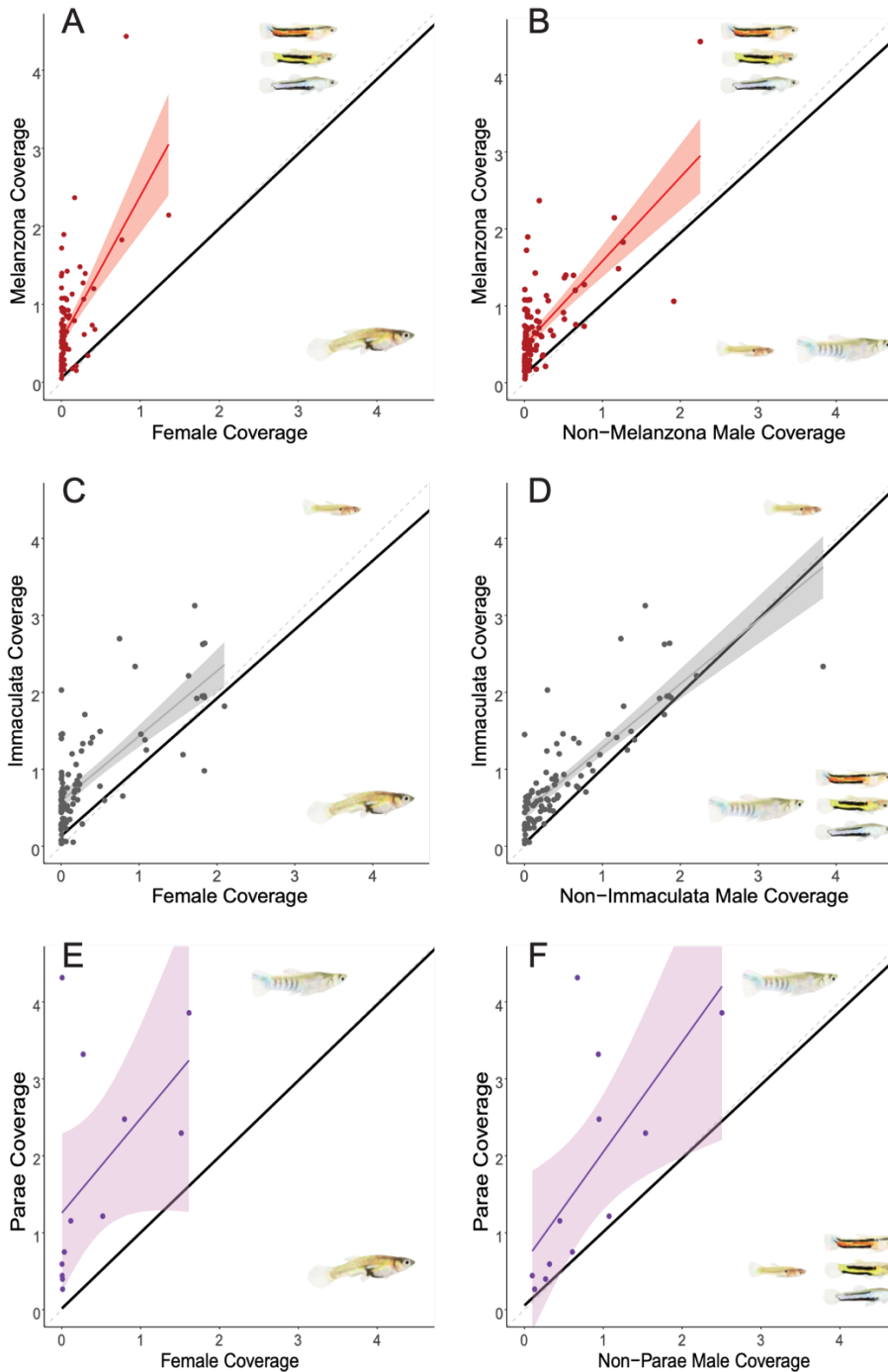


561
 562 **Figure 2.** Bayesian Y chromosome phylogeny based on presence/absence of the
 563 27,950,090 *P. parae* Y-mers and 1,646 *P. picta* Y-mers²¹ in each individual and rooted
 564 on *P. picta*. The posterior probability is presented above each node, below the node is
 565 the number of *P. parae* Y-mers unique to all members of that clade. The three major
 566 morphs of *P. parae* (immaculata, parae and melanzona) formed distinct clades and the
 567 Y-mers unique to all members of these clades are called morph-mers.



568

569 **Figure 3.** The distribution of the 27,950,090 *P. parae* Y-mers reveals strong differences
570 across morphs. While there are very few Y-mers present in all morphs, each morph
571 harbors unique Y-mers. The melanzona and parae morphs share more Y-mers with one
572 another than either share with immaculata.



573

574 **Figure 4.** Relative corrected scaffold coverage of 39 individuals when aligned to
575 melanzona (A-B), immaculata (C-D), and parae (E-F) *de novo* genomes. Scaffolds
576 containing morph-mers had higher coverage by males than females (A,C,E) confirming
577 these scaffolds contain male specific sequence. Scaffolds containing morph-mers also

578 had higher coverage by males of the reference morph than males of the other morphs
579 (B,D,F), indicating the Y chromosome sequence is substantially diverged across
580 morphs. In each, corrected scaffold coverage of focal morph is on the Y axis and
581 corrected scaffold coverage of the compared morph is on the X axis. The 1:1 line is
582 denoted as a grey dashed line. The linear regression and standard error across all
583 scaffolds are shown as a thick black line that is nearly 1:1 for all morphs (note – 95%
584 confidence interval is presented but too small to distinguish from the regression line).
585 The scaffolds containing morph-mers are shown as colored points, the linear regression
586 and standard error of morph-mer scaffolds are shown as a colored line and shaded
587 region respectively.

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