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2 A DENSE LINKAGE MAP FOR A LARGE REPETITIVE GENOME: DISCOVERY OF THE SEX-
3 DETERMINING REGION IN HYBRIDISING FIRE-BELLIED TOADS (*BOMBINA BOMBINA* AND
4 *B. VARIEGATA*)

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40 **Abstract**

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42 Hybrid zones that result from secondary contact between diverged populations offer
43 unparalleled insight into the genetic architecture of emerging reproductive barriers and so
44 shed light on the process of speciation. Natural selection and recombination jointly
45 determine their dynamics, leading to a range of outcomes from finely fragmented mixtures
46 of the parental genomes that facilitate introgression to a situation where strong selection
47 against recombinants retains large unrecombined genomic blocks that act as strong
48 barriers to gene flow. In the hybrid zone between the fire-bellied toads *Bombina bombina*
49 and *B. variegata* (Anura: Bombinatoridae), two anciently diverged and ecologically distinct
50 taxa meet and produce abundant, fertile hybrids. The dense linkage map presented here
51 enables genomic analysis of the selection-recombination balance that keeps the two gene
52 pools from merging into one. We mapped 4,775 newly developed marker loci from bait-
53 enriched genomic libraries in F2 crosses. The enrichment targets were selected from a
54 draft assembly of the *B. variegata* genome, after filtering highly repetitive sequences. We
55 developed a novel approach to infer the most likely diplotype per sample and locus from
56 the raw read mapping data, which is robust to over-merging and obviates arbitrary filtering
57 thresholds. Large-scale synteny between *Bombina* and *Xenopus tropicalis* supports the
58 resulting linkage map. By assessing the sex of late-stage F2 tadpoles from histological
59 sections, we also identified the sex-determining region in the *Bombina* genome to 7 cM on
60 LG5, which is homologous to *X. tropicalis* chromosome 5, and inferred male heterogamety,
61 suggestive of an XY sex determination mechanism. Interestingly, chromosome 5 has been
62 repeatedly recruited as a sex chromosome in anurans with XY sex determination.

63

64 **Introduction**

65

66 When two genetically differentiated populations come into contact and produce fertile
67 hybrids, any existing reproductive barriers between them are tested. Theory predicts that
68 unless these barriers are strong and based on many loci across the genome,
69 recombination in the newly formed hybrid zone will with time break up ancestral
70 haplotypes into ever smaller segments (Barton 1983; Barton and Bengtsson 1986). As a
71 result, variants at neutral loci will become dissociated from loci whose alleles are barred by
72 natural selection from introgressing into the opposite gene pool. While neutral variation is
73 eventually eroded, stable allele frequency clines should remain at loci under selection. But
74 this separation of fates is a slow process that may take thousands of generations to
75 complete (Baird 1995; Kruuk et al. 1999). Prior to that, the width and shape of clines, even
76 at neutral markers, can inform about the balance between gene flow, selection, and
77 recombination in a given hybrid zone (Barton and Gale 1993). An even more detailed
78 picture emerges from the length distribution of local ancestry tracts, *i.e.* haplotype
79 segments inherited from one taxon and bounded by recombination breakpoints. For a
80 given distribution, likely combinations of hybrid zone age and selection regime may be
81 inferred (Baird 1995). Local, transient distortions in the length distribution may pinpoint
82 genomic regions under strong selection (Sedghifar et al. 2016). Local ancestry tracts are
83 the natural units of inheritance in a hybrid zone (Baird 2006) and can be inferred from
84 dense linkage maps. To access this rich source of information, we developed a linkage
85 map from F2 crosses of the fire-bellied toads *Bombina bombina* and *Bombina variegata*, a
86 textbook example (Urry et al. 2020) of hybridisation between two anciently diverged taxa.

87 Local ancestry tracts provide the most direct evidence for hybridisation, as they cannot be
88 explained by incomplete lineage sorting or convergence (Rieseberg et al. 2000). They
89 have been used to infer the number of generations required to stabilise a hybrid sunflower

90 species (Ungerer et al. 1998), uncover the lack of F2 or deeper hybrid generations in a
91 *Populus* hybrid zone (Christe et al. 2016), compare the age of two separate hybrid zones
92 of *Lissotriton* newts (Zieliński et al. 2019), detect past episodes of hybridisation (Meier et
93 al. 2017; Węcek et al. 2017; Duranton et al. 2020), localise introgressed genomic
94 segments (Huerta-Sánchez et al. 2014; vonHoldt et al. 2016), identify incompatible
95 haplotype combinations in hybrid swordfish (Powell et al. 2020), and monitor shifts in
96 genome composition in experimental *Drosophila* populations (Matute et al. 2020). The
97 rapidly growing theoretical literature infers evolutionary processes from genome-wide local
98 ancestry patterns, from the age of ancient admixture pulses (Harris and Nielsen 2013) to
99 the onset of neutral mixing with continuous gene flow (Sedghifar et al. 2015), adaptive
100 introgression (Sachdeva and Barton 2018; Shchur et al. 2019), and selection against
101 deleterious allele combinations in hybrid zones (Sedghifar et al. 2016; Hvala et al. 2018).

102 The fire-bellied toad *B. bombina* and the yellow-bellied toad *B. variegata* hybridise in
103 typically narrow (2 – 7 km wide) contact zones wherever their ranges adjoin in Central and
104 Eastern Europe (Yanchukov et al. 2006). Transcriptome-based coalescence analyses
105 suggest that their lineages split no later than 3.2 million years ago (Ma) (Pabijan et al.
106 2013; Nürnberger et al. 2016). They profoundly differ in a large number of traits, many of
107 which are likely adaptations to different habitats (Szymura 1993): *B. bombina* reproduces
108 in semi-permanent lowland ponds, whereas *B. variegata* is adapted to ephemeral aquatic
109 sites, typically at higher elevations. The hybrid zones are maintained by natural selection
110 and pose barriers to neutral gene flow, as evidenced by a sharp central allele frequency
111 step in geographic clines, strong linkage disequilibria between independently segregating
112 genetic markers, and cline stability over 50 and 70 year sampling intervals (Szymura and
113 Barton 1991; Yanchukov et al. 2006). From cline shape, Szymura and Barton (1991)
114 estimated that central hybrid populations had a 42% lower fitness than the pure taxa,
115 consistent with incompatibilities at dozens of loci. Under uniform experimental conditions,

116 embryo and tadpole survival is lower in hybrids than in the pure taxa (Kruuk et al. 1999b).
117 Despite these fitness effects, detailed analyses of transects in Poland, Croatia, Romania
118 and Ukraine based on a small (< 10) number of loci uncovered a wide range of
119 recombinants, with F1s nearly if not entirely absent (see Yanchukov et al. 2006 for a
120 summary). We wish to explore this mosaic of ancestry blocks within individuals and across
121 the hybrid zone to better understand the conundrum of abundant hybridisation despite
122 ancient divergence.

123 Based on current technology, *Bombina's* large and repetitive genome (7-10 Gb, Gregory
124 2020) precludes population genomic analysis using whole genome sequencing and
125 hampered a previous attempt to generate a linkage map (Nürnberg et al. 2003). We
126 therefore opted for targeted enrichment (reviewed in Jones and Good 2016) based on a
127 new draft assembly of a *B. variegata* genome and published *Bombina* transcriptomes
128 (Nürnberg et al. 2016), and we applied this to a controlled, three-generation
129 experimental cross between *B. variegata* and *B. bombina*. This reduced representation
130 approach (Davey et al. 2011) allowed us to filter out repetitive regions before selecting
131 enrichment targets, obviated the need to infer exon-intron boundaries (as in exome
132 capture, Neves et al. 2013) and, compared to methods based on restriction enzyme
133 digests, promised greater reproducibility and more even target coverage for this large
134 genome (Jones and Good 2016). *Bombina* belongs to the superfamily Discoglossoidea,
135 which split ~200 Ma from other anuran lineages with available genome assemblies (Feng
136 et al. 2017). Capture probes derived from *Xenopus* or *Hyla* are thus not expected to work
137 well in *Bombina* (Hedtke et al. 2013; Hutter et al. 2019). Enrichment success across taxon
138 boundaries declines sharply in the range of 5-10% absolute sequence divergence, d_{xy}
139 (Hedtke et al. 2013; Jones and Good 2016; Hutter et al. 2019). The distribution of d_{xy}
140 between *B. bombina* and *B. variegata* has a mean of 0.0202 and a mode at 0.013
141 (Nürnberg et al. 2016). We therefore expect reliable cross-taxon enrichment for the great

142 majority of targets as well as an abundant supply of ancestry-informative markers.

143 Read coverage of a given enrichment target is typically highest in the centre and drops off
144 at the ends (Chevalier et al. 2014; Harvey et al. 2016), and thus variants can vary widely in
145 their read support. Moreover, erroneously mapped reads can produce spurious signal of
146 variation (McCartney & Melstad et al. 2016). Different variants, when called separately, can
147 therefore produce contradictory signals for the same target and sample. Instead of
148 censoring data by setting arbitrary filtering thresholds, we use the total information
149 contained in reads mapped to a given target and, for each sample, computed the
150 likelihood of three possible diplotypes: *B. bombina* homozygote (BbHOM), heterozygote
151 (HET), and *B. variegata* homozygote (BvHOM). To this end, we polarised the raw read
152 mapping data so as to maximise the difference between the grandparents, a *B. variegata*
153 male and a *B. bombina* female. Across all reference positions of a given target, sequence
154 states associated more with one grandparent than the other were weighted by their read
155 support and contribute to separate scores of ‘*bombina*-ness’ and ‘*variegata*-ness’,
156 respectively. When these scores are plotted in a coordinate system, samples cluster by
157 diplotype, with homozygotes near x and y axes and heterozygotes along or near the
158 diagonal. Using this clustering and an explicit genetic model, we inferred the most likely
159 diplotypes and propagated their statistical support to the map-making stage.

160 We coupled the new linkage map with further data to answer two questions. First, we
161 analysed the homology of the molecular bait sequences against the *Xenopus tropicalis*
162 genome. The large-scale synteny across ~220 million years of anuran evolution describes
163 aspects of the likely Bombinanura ancestral chromosome state and serves as a quality
164 check of the map. Second, we coupled diplotype estimates with histological estimates of
165 F2 progeny sex; sex-biased segregation allowed us to locate the sex-determining (SD) on
166 the *Bombina* map and infer the SD mechanism. As is true for 96% of amphibians (Eggert
167 2004), *Bombina* lacks heteromorphic sex chromosomes. Frequent turnover of sex

168 chromosomes (Miura 2017; Jeffries et al. 2018) and/or very rare X-Y (or Z-W)
169 recombination events, e.g. in sex-reversed females, (Perrin 2009; Stöck et al. 2011;
170 Guerrero et al. 2012; Rodrigues et al. 2018) may counteract the expected degeneration of
171 the Y (or W) chromosome (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2000) in this clade. Biased
172 hybrid sex ratios are thought to have prompted the establishment of two new SD systems,
173 one with male heterogamety and the other with female heterogamety, in the Japanese
174 wrinkled frog *Glandirana rugosa* (Miura 2017). Given the strong selection on and rapid
175 divergence of SD systems (Coyne and Orr 2004), the map location of the *Bombina* SD
176 region will be important for our analyses. In some hybrid zones, sex-linked as opposed to
177 autosomal loci have formed steeper clines suggestive of stronger gene flow barriers
178 (*Oryctogalus*, Carneiro et al. 2013; *Gryllus*, Maroja et al. 2015; *Hyla*, Dufresnes et al.
179 2016). On the other hand, striking cases of sex-linked introgression have been found and
180 attributed to genetic conflict over the sex ratio (*Mus*, Macholán et al. 2008; *Drosophila*,
181 Meiklejohn et al. 2018). Knowledge of the location of the SD region in *Bombina* will thus be
182 critical for the analysis of the hybrid zone.

183 **Materials and Methods**

184

185 *Laboratory crosses* – A male *B. v. variegata* from Obidowa (near Nowy Targ, Poland,
186 sample acc. # ERS3926742) was crossed with a female *B. bombina* from Wodzisław
187 Małopolski (Poland, sample acc. # ERS3926743) in 2014. Eighty F1 offspring were raised
188 to maturity, and one F1 male was crossed with two F1 females to produce two F2 families
189 (families 6 and 7 in the following, see File S1 for husbandry, offspring rearing and F1
190 sample accessions). The F2 offspring were raised to advanced metamorphosis (Gosner
191 stages 42-44, Gosner 1960) and were humanely killed by MS222 (Ethyl 3-aminobenzoate
192 methanesulfonate) overdose. For 80 offspring of family 6 and 82 offspring of family 7, the
193 gonads with mesonephroi were dissected and fixed in Bouin's solution (Kiernan 1990),
194 while the remaining tissue was frozen. Toe clips were collected from the *B. bombina*
195 grandmother and each of the F1 offspring under MS222 anesthesia. The *B. variegata*
196 grandfather was euthanised by MS222 overdose and dissected for whole genome
197 sequencing. Tissue samples for DNA extraction were kept at -80 °C.

198 *Whole genome sequencing* – DNA was extracted from muscle tissue of the *B. variegata*
199 grandfather using the Invisorb Spin Tissue Minikit (Stratec, Germany). PCR-free TruSeq
200 libraries with mean insert sizes of 350 bp (n = 8) and 550 bp (n = 2) were prepared by
201 Edinburgh Genomics and sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq X, producing 6.67×10^9 (350
202 bp) and 1.05×10^9 (550 bp) read pairs (150 bp, PE). Adapter removal and quality trimming
203 were carried out with bbduk (BBMap suite v.36.76, B. Bushnell,
204 sourceforge.net/projects/bbmap/). Parameters for adapter removal were k=23, mink=8,
205 and edist=1 for R1 and k=23, mink=8, and edist=2 for R2. Quality trimming parameters
206 were trimq=20, maq=25, and minlength=50. Genome size was estimated from
207 unassembled reads with the preqc module of the String Graph Assembler (SGA, v.
208 0.10.15) (Simpson and Durbin 2012; Simpson 2014) using a subset of 1.1×10^9 read pairs.

209 All libraries were evenly represented in this and subsequent subsets.

210 *Genome Assemblies* – A subset of 1.29×10^9 read pairs (approximately $45\times$ genome
211 coverage) were assembled with the CLC Genomics Workbench (v. 9.5.3) (Qiagen, Hilden,
212 Germany) using default parameters. Repeat sequences were assembled with REPdenovo
213 (v. 2017-02-23) (Chu et al. 2016) with default parameters except
214 MIN_REPEAT_FREQ=100 (Chong Chu, pers. comm.). REPdenovo produced an
215 unmerged version of all assembled repeats and a merged version by combining repeats
216 with more than 90% identity. All quality-trimmed reads were mapped to the unmerged
217 REPdenovo output with Bowtie2 (v. 2.2.3) (Langmead and Salzberg 2012), and the 52% of
218 read pairs that did not map were extracted as the repeat-subtracted read set. We queried
219 the merged REPdenovo output against Repbase (Jurka et al. 2005; Bao et al. 2015) with
220 the Censor tool (Kohany et al. 2006, blastn and tblastx, vertebrate database, last
221 accessed 31 July 2020). Following Rogers et al. (2018), we annotated each merged
222 REPdenovo contig with the highest scoring match and mapped a subset of 7.43×10^7 read
223 pairs (approximately $2.64\times$ genome coverage) to the merged REPdenovo output with
224 Bowtie2 (v. 2.2.3) (Langmead and Salzberg 2012). Mean mapped read coverage was
225 divided by 2.64 to estimate copy number.

226 The repeat-subtracted read set was assembled with SGA and Platanus, and sequences
227 identical in these new assemblies and the previous CLC assembly were considered for
228 bait design. For the SGA (v. 0.10.15) (Simpson and Durbin 2012) assembly, we followed
229 the steps in the example assembly of a human genome (see the `./src/examples/` directory
230 of the SGA distribution) using a subset of 1.12×10^9 read pairs (approximately $40\times$
231 genome coverage). For the Platanus (v. 1.2.4) (Kajitani et al. 2014) assembly, we
232 extracted CLC contigs that matched the published *B. v. variegata* transcriptome
233 (Nürnberg et al. 2016) and 125 gene sequences from public databases based on a
234 minimum sequence identity of 90% with BLAST+ (v. 2.2.3) (Camacho et al. 2009). Reads

235 that mapped to the extracted CLC contigs with Bowtie2 (v. 2.2.3) (Langmead and Salzberg
236 2012) were assembled with the Platanus (v. 1.2.4) (Kajitani et al. 2014) assemble step.

237 *Candidate sequences and bait design* – Candidate sequences for bait design were
238 selected from the CLC assembly based on uniqueness, correct assembly, and minimal
239 redundancy. We considered subsets of CLC contigs to be unique if they did not have any
240 matches to other CLC contigs, based on an 85% sequence identity threshold with BLAST+
241 (v. 2.2.3) (Camacho et al. 2009). CLC contig sequences with exact matches (minimum
242 length 100 bp) in the SGA and Platanus assemblies were deemed correctly assembled.
243 Coverage and variant information ('bubbles') provided by Platanus was used to flag
244 overmerged sequences (see File S1 for details). To minimise the proximity of enrichment
245 targets (local redundancy), the CLC assembly was scaffolded against the *B. v. variegata*
246 transcriptome assembly (Nürnberg et al. 2016) using SCUBAT2 (G. Koutsovoulos,
247 <https://github.com/GDKO/SCUBAT2>, commit b03e770). For each SCUBAT2 path (*i.e.* a set
248 of contigs linked by exons from a single transcript), we identified the longest sequence
249 section that was unique, correct, and lacked excessive variation. We also selected
250 candidate sequences in CLC contigs (minimum length 5 kb) that were not included in any
251 SCUBAT2 paths. These were filtered as previously described, except that exact matches
252 were not confirmed against the Platanus assembly. Finally, all candidate sequence
253 positions with a BLAST+ (v. 2.2.3) (Camacho et al. 2009) alignment against the unmerged
254 REPdenovo output were hard masked.

255 We submitted 6,400 candidate sequences (minimum length 500 bp; 4,400 with known
256 gene association) to Arbor Biosciences (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA) for bait design and
257 synthesis. For each of 5,000 enrichment targets, four 100 base baits were designed that
258 aligned with 50 base offsets to a 250 base sequence stretch (2x tiling). Baits were
259 designed according to the strictest in-house criteria (no BLAST+ match to the CLC
260 assembly with $T_m > 60^\circ \text{C}$, no 'N' positions, %GC between 25 and 55, no RepeatMasker

261 matches, and $\Delta G > -8$).

262 *Enriched genomic libraries and sequencing* – Genomic DNA was extracted from the F0 *B.*
263 *bombina* grandmother, the three F1 parents, and the 162 F2 offspring using the Invisorb
264 Spin Tissue Minikit (Stratec, Germany). DNA concentrations were measured by Qubit
265 fluorometer (Invitrogen, USA) and normalized to 50 ng/ μ l. DNA extractions were then
266 fragmented with the Bioruptor Pico (Diagenode, Belgium) using 7 cycles of 30s
267 fragmentation and 60s cooling, which resulted in a mean fragment length of approximately
268 250 bp. Libraries were constructed from the fragmented DNA using the KAPA HyperPrep
269 Kit (Kapa Biosystems, South Africa) per the manufacturer's instructions, except all reaction
270 volumes were halved. Dual indexed TruSeq-like adapters were added by ligation of
271 “universal stubs”, followed by 8 cycles of PCR using indexed primers, as described by
272 (Glenn et al. 2019). SpriSelect beads (Beckman Coulter, USA) were used to size select the
273 libraries, eliminating high molecular weight fragments with a 0.6x bead to sample volume
274 ratio and low molecular weight fragments with a 1x ratio. Libraries were pooled in
275 equimolar ratios (number of samples: 1, 2, or 4) and concentrated to 7 μ l with 1x
276 SpriSelect beads. The library pools were enriched using the myBaits target capture kit
277 (Arbor Biosciences, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA) with the custom baits. Hybridisation was
278 run at 65°C for 20 hr. Enriched libraries were amplified with universal P5 and P7 primers
279 during 11 cycles of PCR (PCR conditions as per the KAPA HyperPrep Kit). Amplified
280 libraries were purified using 1x SpriSelect beads and mixed in equimolar ratios.

281 We tested the enrichment success and the effect of pooling libraries (1, 2, or 4 per
282 enrichment reaction, including mixtures of the two taxa) using a single run of the Illumina
283 MiSeq (v2 flow cell, 150 bp, PE). Because there was no apparent detriment to enriching
284 four libraries in one reaction, this level of pooling was used for the entire dataset, excluding
285 four instances with fewer than four samples. Enriched libraries of the *B. bombina*
286 grandmother, the three F1 parents, and all 162 F2 offspring were sequenced on one lane

287 of the Illumina NovaSeq (S1 flow cell, 150 bp, PE) by Edinburgh Genomics. An enriched
288 library of the *B. variegata* grandfather was included in the Miseq test.

289 *Mapping reference* – Because the enriched libraries span beyond the 250 bp bait regions,
290 we used the ‘Assembly by Reduced Complexity’ (ARC) package (v. 1.1.4-beta) (Hunter et
291 al. 2015) to determine the mapping reference for each target. ARC bins read pairs based
292 on the bait region to which they map and computes a unique *de novo* assembly for each
293 bin with SPAdes (v. 3.9.0) (Nurk et al. 2013). This process is iterative, with the last *de novo*
294 assembly used as the reference for the next mapping round until contig lengths stop
295 increasing. From the enriched read-set of the F0 *B. variegata* adult, assemblies were
296 obtained for 4,850 targets. These were aligned against the CLC target contigs using
297 BLAST+ (v. 2.2.3) (Camacho et al. 2009) in order to eliminate any sequence erroneously
298 added to assembly termini and to resolve chimeric assemblies (McCartney & Melstad et al.
299 2016). This screen resulted in mapping references for 4,763 targets (see File S1 for
300 details). For the remaining 237 targets, the entire CLC contig was used as the reference.
301 We constructed an analogous mapping reference for the *B. bombina* grandmother.

302 *Read mapping and diplotyping* – The enriched sequence data were processed as
303 previously described to produce repeat-subtracted reads sets. These were mapped with
304 Bowtie2 (v. 2.2.3) (Langmead and Salzberg 2012) to the *B. variegata* reference and, for a
305 few samples, to the *B. bombina* analogue to estimate mapping bias. Duplicates were
306 flagged with Picard (v. 2.6.0) (Broad Institute 2019) MarkDuplicates. For each bait interval,
307 the mapped read data was summarised using Samtools (v. 1.4) (Li et al. 2009) mpileup
308 and PoPoolation2 (Kofler et al. 2011) mpileup2sync. The resulting summary files contain,
309 for each sample and locus, a matrix of n columns (n = number of reference positions) and
310 six rows (sequence states of A, C, G, T, DEL, and N; Figure 1A, B) of the counts of reads
311 supporting each sequence state at each position. Note that insertions cannot be
312 represented in this matrix of *reference* coverage. These summaries were analysed using a

313 “Fast Vector” (FastVec) Mathematica (v. 12.0) (Wolfram Research, Inc. 2019) script: it
314 avoids the computational load of per-reference-position-state estimation combinatorics and
315 positions summary matrices on a linear *bombina-variegata* vector (see file S1 for details).
316 An open source Python version is under development. Briefly, the vector endpoints are
317 calculated in two steps. First, for the two F0 grandparents, the counts are divided by the
318 column totals to obtain frequencies. Subtracting the resulting *B. bombina* frequency matrix
319 from the *B. variegata* frequency matrix gives a polarised matrix where positive entries
320 represent sequence states that are more common in *B. variegata*, and negative entries are
321 states more common in *B. bombina*. Signed entries are then weighted with respect to the
322 support for this distinction in each matrix column (at each position): For a given position i ,
323 we computed the significance $Sig(i)$ of the likelihood ratio test on the raw read counts of
324 the two grandparents, comparing the hypotheses they were drawn either from the same or
325 from different multinomial distribution(s). All matrix elements in column i were then
326 multiplied by $(1 - Sig(i))$. This gave the initial weighted polarised matrix, \mathbf{M}_p (Figure 1C).
327 The raw read count matrix for each sample was multiplied by \mathbf{M}_p . The means of the
328 positive and negative entries express the average weighted read coverage of sequence
329 states associated with the *B. variegata* grandfather and the *B. bombina* grandmother,
330 respectively, for that sample. When these positive and negative scores are plotted in a
331 coordinate system, samples at a given locus typically fall into three clusters representing
332 the three diplotypes (BbHOM, HET, and BvHOM; Figure 1D), with low coverage (and/or
333 low power) individuals’ data near the origin.

334 Assuming that the clusters closest to the axes (Figure 1D) represent homozygous
335 diplotypes, the vector endpoints (currently estimated from a single individual each) can be
336 re-estimated from the combined raw count matrices over each of these clusters in a
337 second \mathbf{M}_p estimation step (now based on higher coverage). After this \mathbf{M}_p update,
338 separation of clusters such as (Figure 1D) is unchanged or improved. We reduced the

339 combined read counts of each of these clusters to a strict majority consensus, giving us a
340 set of candidate haplotypes. Truly HOM clusters should result in well supported (high
341 coverage depth) haplotype estimates. For each sample's read counts, we then computed
342 the parental likelihoods of all possible candidate haplotype combinations, accounting for
343 error, contamination (homozygote clusters: deviation from the 0° and 90°, respectively),
344 and enrichment bias (heterozygote clusters: deviation from 45°). The maximum likelihood
345 candidate haplotype pair (MLCHP) is assumed to be that with the largest total parental
346 likelihood over all individuals. The maximum likelihood diplotype for an individual is
347 reported along with its support estimates with respect to the MLCHP and across all
348 parental candidates (see File S1 for a full description).

349 We re-scored the 327 (6.5% of the total) loci that did not show the expected diplotypes in
350 the F0 (BvHOM and BbHOM) and F1 (HET, HET, and HET) individuals. For each locus,
351 coverage plots as in Figure 1 were produced for the five F0 and F1 samples. High-
352 coverage variants that segregated in the F1 generation were selected by hand and
353 annotated in a variant list extracted from the raw read matrices. A custom script then used
354 these annotated variants to rescore all samples for each of the 327 loci.

355 *Linkage map* – The linkage map was constructed with Lep-MAP3 (v. 0.2) (Rastas 2017),
356 after recoding the diplotypes BbHOM, HET, and BvHOM as genotypes AA, AC, and CC in
357 the Lep-MAP3 input file. The most likely diplotype was coded as 1, and the (MLCHP)
358 support estimates were provided for the other two diplotypes. We specified the three-
359 generation pedigree in the input file in order to obtain a joint map across both F2 families.
360 Lep-MAP3 was run with default parameters, except dataTolerance=0.001, distortionLod=0,
361 grandparentPhase=1, and LodLimit=19. The most likely sex-averaged locus order in each
362 linkage group (LG) was determined from 20 replicate runs of the OrderMarkers2 step
363 using the Kosambi mapping function. Segregation distortion (χ^2 estimates) per locus and
364 family were calculated with Lep-MAP3. We applied the following significance thresholds to

365 the χ^2 data: (1) a Bonferroni correction, dividing $\alpha = 0.05$ by the number of chromosome
366 arms (24) in *Bombina* (Morescalchi 1965; Manilo et al. 2006), as recommended by
367 Fishman and McIntosh (2019) and (2) the Benjamini and Hochberg (1995) false discovery
368 rate.

369 *Histology* - F2 gonads with mesonephroi, fixed in Bouin's solution, were dehydrated in an
370 ethanol series, embedded in paraplast (Sigma), and sectioned. The 8 μm sections were
371 stained with hematoxylin and picroaniline according to Debreuill's trichrome procedure
372 (Kiernan, 1990). Images were taken with a Nikon Eclipse E600 light microscope. Sex of
373 individuals was assessed from gonad morphology (Piprek et al. 2010; Piprek 2013, see
374 Figure S1). For some of the 162 samples, all ethanol accidentally evaporated just prior to
375 embedding. This resulted in poor quality sections that made sex determination uncertain (n
376 = 34) or impossible ($n = 7$).

377

378 *Finding the SD region* – We estimate an SD bias that arises due to the nature of the
379 crosses: In the F1s the SD haplotypes of the heterogametic parent are taxon-labeled. That
380 is, given the direction of the F0 cross (male *B. variegata* x female *B. bombina*) and
381 assuming an XY system, the F1 male passes the *B. variegata*-labeled Y haplotype to his
382 sons and the *B. bombina*-labeled X haplotype to his daughters. At the SD locus, we
383 therefore expect F2 males to be only BvHOM or HET and F2 females to be only BbHOM
384 or HET, both in equal proportions. Further, the same pattern would be expected in a ZW
385 system. We quantify this sex-homozygote bias with the following equation, where $N[]$ is a
386 count:

387
$$b = \frac{N[\text{male}BbHOM] + N[\text{female}BvHOM]}{N[HOM]} .$$

388 With an equal sex ratio and no heterozygote deficit, the null expectation is $b = 0.5$. At an

389 SD (XY or ZW) locus, b should be zero.

390 In order to identify the heterogametic sex (distinguish XY from ZW systems), we needed to
391 define a sex-limited haplotype. If this haplotype is sufficiently distinct, more than three
392 diplotype clusters will form in the *bombina-variegata* coordinate system, with strongly sex-
393 biased clusters. For each locus, we ranked clusters by their proportion of males, p_m , and
394 identified, in descending order, the minimal set of clusters that jointly contained more than
395 50% of all males. We termed the average p_m of these clusters *pMaleInMaleClusters*. At an
396 autosomal locus, the proportion of males in each cluster will be around 0.5, and
397 *pMaleInMaleClusters* must therefore be about 0.5. At the extreme, there may be a cluster
398 that contains the majority of all males and no females, such that *pMaleInMaleClusters* = 1.
399 Note that the sex-homozygote bias in the three-cluster case (BbHOM, HET, and BvHOM;
400 see above) produces less extreme estimates. At the SD locus, the BvHOM cluster would
401 be entirely male ($p_m = 1$) and contain 50% of all males. The HET cluster (expected $p_m =$
402 0.5) would need to be added to obtain more than 50% of all males, such that
403 *pMaleInMaleClusters* would be 0.75. We similarly computed *pFemaleInFemaleClusters*.

404 *Data availability* – Supplemental Material is currently attached to this document and will be
405 submitted to Figshare. We will also add the complete 3-generation genotype matrix
406 to this archive. Raw sequencing data from the WGS experiment have been
407 submitted to ENA under study accession code PRJEB35099. Raw sequence data
408 for all other samples and the genome assembly will be added to this.

409

410

411 **Results**

412 **Genome characteristics and assemblies**

413

414 From kmer frequencies (SGA (v. 0.10.15) (Simpson and Durbin 2012; Simpson 2014)
415 preqc), we obtained a *B. variegata* genome size estimate of 7.61 Gb. A second estimate of
416 8.12 Gb based on the same dataset and computed with GenomeScope 2.0 (Ranallo-
417 Benavidez et al. 2020) was provided by K.S. Jaron (pers. comm.). The average of these
418 two, 7.87 Gb, is used throughout this paper. We explored the repeat content assembled by
419 REPdenovo (v. 2017-02-23) (Chu et al. 2016) and extrapolated the repeats' presence in
420 the *B. variegata* genome based on the calculated copy number. The merged REPdenovo
421 output contained 6,039 contigs, totaling 4.5 Mbp, with 3,689 contigs matching known
422 Repbase repeats (Jurka et al. 2005; Bao et al. 2015). The most common repeats were
423 *DIRS* retrotransposons (Poulter and Goodwin 2005), which were identified in 1,539
424 REPdenovo contigs and featured prominently in the set of 200 contigs with the highest
425 copy number (Figure 2). The estimated total copy number of *DIRS* contigs was 807,858,
426 covering 0.75 Gb of the *B. variegata* genome, or just under 10% of the total genome of
427 7.87 Gb. Other DNA transposon superfamilies that accounted for significant portions of the
428 *B. variegata* genome included *Crypton* (0.21 Gb), *hAT* (0.19 Gb), and *Mariner* (0.10 Gb;
429 see Table S1 for a full list). The 2,350 REPdenovo contigs that did not have any Repbase
430 matches were estimated to cover 0.52 Gb of the *B. variegata* genome and include the
431 REPdenovo contig with the highest copy number (Figure 2).

432 We assembled the *B. variegata* F0 grandfather's genome using the CLC Genomics
433 Workbench (v. 9.5.3) (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), SGA (v. 0.10.15) (Simpson and Durbin
434 2012), and Platanus (v. 1.2.4) (Kajitani et al. 2014). CLC and SGA assembled over half of
435 the expected genome size, though both assemblies were highly fragmented (Table 1). The
436 Platanus assembly, which was intentionally focused on genic sequence, resulted in less

437 than 1 Gb of contig sequence and was also extremely fragmented. Given the
438 fragmentation, the CLC assembly was scaffolded against the *B. v. variegata* transcriptome
439 (34,790 transcripts) with SCUBAT2 (G. Koutsovoulos,
440 <https://github.com/GDKO/SCUBAT2>). SCUBAT2 assigned 73,298 CLC contigs to 13,300
441 paths (*i.e.* a set of contigs linked by exons from a single transcript).

442 **Table 1** Assembly comparison

	CLC	SGA	Platanus
Repeat-subtracted reads	No	Yes	Yes
Total contig length (Gb)	4.65	4.22	0.86
Number of contigs (x 10⁶)	4.37	7.33	4.59
Contig N50 length (bp)	1,815	823	229

443

444 **Reduced representation sequencing using non-repetitive baits**

445 Candidate sequences for bait design were chosen based on uniqueness, correct
446 assembly, and minimal redundancy, as described in the Materials and Methods. Baits were
447 synthesised for 3,983 SCUBAT paths (including 2,407 with inferred *B. bombina*
448 orthologues), 68 CLC contigs matching other genes of interest, and 949 CLC contigs
449 without known gene association (total: 5,000 targets and 20,000 baits). The 4,763 ARC-
450 assembled loci from *B. variegata*, the mapping reference, had a mean length of 673 bp,
451 more than twice the length of the 250 bp bait region. Addition of the complete CLC contigs
452 for the remaining 237 loci resulted in a total sequence length of 4.5 Mb.

453 On average, each F0, F1, or F2 sample had 1,306,372 deduplicated, on-target read pairs.
454 Only four samples had fewer than 500,000 read pairs and belonged to one poorly
455 performing enrichment pool. The average percentage of unique reads on target per
456 readset was 19.8 (range: 9.5 - 27.1%, excluding samples from the poorly performing pool).

457 The average number of post-QC read pairs per sample was 4,768,367. Mapping an
458 unenriched readset of this size to the whole genome would equate to 0.17x coverage. The
459 observed mean coverage of the 4.5 Mb mapping reference was 147x, representing about
460 865-fold enrichment. The read coverage across the 5,000 targets appeared to be normally
461 distributed (Figure S2), but we noted a potential bias when mapping the *B. bombina*
462 grandparent reads to the separate *B. variegata* and *B. bombina* references. The average
463 ratio of reads mapped to conspecific instead of the heterospecific reference was 1.1.
464 However, this appeared to be the result of a small number of loci with large discrepancies
465 (Figure S3), as the median ratio was one.

466 **Diplotyping and linkage mapping**

467 Diplotypes (BbHOM, HET, BvHOM) were inferred for the two grandparents, the three F1
468 parents, and the 162 F2 offspring. Diplotype inference failed for 136 targets, including 77
469 for which no variant positions were detected. Among the 4,864 successfully clustered
470 targets, only 25 had more than five missing diplotypes. Support estimates were greater
471 than 10 ln likelihood units for 99.3% of the dataset (Figure S4).

472 Of the 4,864 targets, 4,660 were grouped into 12 LGs by Lep-MAP3, matching the
473 published haploid chromosome number (Morescalchi 1965). We repeated the Lep-MAP3
474 analysis with the same dataset but replacing the data for 327 loci where the F0
475 grandparents and the F1 parents did not have the expected diplotype set of BvHOM,
476 BbHOM, HET, HET, and HET. For these 327 loci, the rescored data using manually
477 selected variants were used (see Materials and Methods). From this set, 154 were
478 mapped in the first analysis. In the second 'manual selection' analysis, 138 of these 154
479 were placed at the same position (± 4 cM) and the remaining 16 did not map. The 'manual
480 selection' analysis added 95 rescored targets to the map, bringing the total loci to 4,755
481 (Figure 3). This final map had a total length of 1,584 cM with 2,073 distinct map positions,

482 separated by 0.76 cM on average.

483 **Segregation distortion**

484 Across all LGs, there were eight distinct spikes in χ^2 estimates that exceeded a lower
485 significance threshold (the Bonferroni correction based on the number of chromosome
486 arms), and five of these also exceeded an upper threshold (the critical value for the
487 Benjamini and Hochberg false discovery rate; Figure 4). All eight spikes were only
488 observed in family 6, but for some family 7 showed the same trend (LG1 right-hand spike,
489 LG8 right-hand spike, and LG11). Based on the diplotype with the strongest deviation,
490 there were four spikes with a HET excess, two with a BbHOM deficit and one each with a
491 deficit and an excess of BvHOM diplotypes. Figure 4 provides χ^2 estimates for the 4755
492 mapped loci, highlighting those that may be affected by scoring error.

493 **Large-scale synteny**

494 We aligned the 5,000 *B. variegata* target sequences against the *X. tropicalis* genome
495 assembly (NCBI GCA_000004195.4, Bredeson et al.) using BLAST+ (v. 2.9.0) (Camacho
496 et al. 2009), with flags -task blastn -evalue 1E-10. Even with the large sequence
497 divergence, 737 targets from the 12 LGs had hits to the *X. tropicalis* assembly, and the
498 best blast hit was extracted. Although there are a small number of stray alignments, which
499 are potentially the result of paralogy, translocations or mapping errors, the 12 LGs
500 demonstrate obvious synteny to the *X. tropicalis* chromosomes (Figure 5). In particular, we
501 found 1:1 correspondence between *X. tropicalis* chromosomes 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 with LGs
502 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, respectively. We also noted several distinct differences, such as
503 intrachromosomal variation within these five conserved chromosomes or the split of *X.*
504 *tropicalis* chromosome 7 into LGs 8 and 9.

505 **Sex-determining region**

506 In an XY system or a ZW system, sex chromosomes would segregate in our crosses, such
507 that males cannot be BbHOM and females cannot be BvHOM in the SD region. Therefore,
508 we can identify the SD region based on the frequency, b , of these two sex-diplotype
509 combinations among homozygotes (see Materials and Methods). The global minimum
510 across all LGs is on LG5 at 116.09 cM ($b = 0.0154$), and the surrounding region (111 – 118
511 cM) on LG5 has a correspondingly low frequency ($b < 0.017$; Figure 6). Based on the null
512 hypothesis of $b = 0.5$, this region is statistically significant with $p < 10^{-20}$.

513 In order to identify the heterogametic sex, we searched the cluster plots for instances
514 where males were strongly associated with particular clusters, estimated as
515 $pMaleInMaleClusters$ (see Materials and Methods). This statistic had a mode at 0.5 and a
516 mean of 0.5534. Two $pMaleInMaleClusters$ outliers were identified, and both loci are
517 located near the identified SD region. For locus 5568 (LG5, 109.33 cM),
518 $pMaleInMaleClusters$ is 0.976, and for locus 4146 (LG5, 125.00 cM), $pMaleInMaleClusters$
519 is 0.954. We identified a strongly diverged haplotype in the male *B. variegata* grandfather
520 at locus 5,568 (Figure 7). This haplotype was inherited by the F1 father and by 59 of the
521 61 F2 offspring that were unambiguously male. Only 1 of the 60 high-certainty female F2
522 offspring carried this haplotype. These findings imply an XY system. Closer inspection of
523 locus 4146 revealed that the *B. bombina* grandmother had a duplication of the target
524 region on one chromosome and a deletion on the other. This indel configuration produced
525 the extreme $pMaleInMaleClusters$ estimate (Figure S5). No outliers were observed in the
526 analogous statistic, $pFemaleInFemaleClusters$. There is therefore no indication that *B.*
527 *bombina* has a ZW system that could be competing with the *B. variegata* XY system.

528 Discussion

529 We present here a dense *Bombina* linkage map, based on variants segregating in *B.*
530 *bombina* x *B. variegata* F2 crosses. To create this linkage map, we developed a new set of
531 molecular baits that target 4,755 loci selected from non-repetitive regions in a *de novo* *B.*
532 *variegata* genome assembly. We inferred the most likely diplotype (BvHOM, HET or
533 BbHOM) for each locus and sample from the raw read mapping data through a novel
534 delayed-calling approach (cf. Nielsen et al. 2012), which eschews scoring individual
535 variants or setting arbitrary thresholds. Using the linkage map, we identified large-scale
536 synteny between *Bombina variegata* and *Xenopus tropicalis* as well as the location of the
537 *Bombina* SD region and the underlying SD system.

538 Anuran genomes are, in general, large (average size 4.7 Gb, Gregory 2020) and have
539 extensive repeat content (over 70% in *Oophaga pumilio* (Rogers et al. 2018) and
540 *Leptobrachium leishanense* (Li et al. 2019b)). However, repeat composition is highly
541 variable among anurans. While DNA transposons make up the largest fraction of repeats
542 in *X. tropicalis* (Hellsten et al. 2010) and *L. leishanense* (Li et al. 2019), LTR
543 retrotransposons feature prominently in *Nanorana parkeri* (Sun et al. 2015) and *O. pumilio*
544 (Rogers et al. 2018). In *Rhinella marina* (Edwards et al. 2018) and *Vibrissaphora ailaonica*
545 (Li et al. 2019a) around 50% of the assembled repeats are unannotated. Our high
546 coverage short-read dataset produced a highly fragmented and partial genome assembly
547 for the *B. variegata* grandfather of our mapping crosses. Analysis of *B. variegata* repeat
548 content identified *DIRS* retrotransposons as the most common repeat (38% of annotated
549 repeat content), followed by terminal inverted repeat DNA transposons (15%) and *Crypton*
550 transposons (11%). *DIRS* and *Crypton* belong to a small subset of transposable elements
551 that use tyrosine recombinase (YR) to integrate into the genome (Poulter and Goodwin
552 2005). They each account for less than 2% of the repeat content in other anuran

553 assemblies.

554 These repeats hampered a previous attempt at *Bombina* marker development (Nürnberger
555 et al. 2003), and we therefore undertook additional efforts to exclude repeats in the present
556 study. While commercial bait design routinely masks known repeats, our bait candidates
557 were identified from genome assemblies of a repeat-subtracted read sets, filtered based
558 on known genes and selected transcripts, and screened with assembled REPdenovo
559 repeats that included repeats unknown to Repbase. Screening only with known repeats
560 could have accidentally included sequence from the REPdenovo contig with the highest
561 copy number in the bait design, as this contig had no Repbase annotation. One measure
562 of the success of our repeat filtering strategy is that 95% of the 5,000 enrichment targets
563 could be integrated into the linkage map.

564 Because target capture was not perfect, off-target reads commonly aligned to and
565 accumulated at one or both ends of the reference sequences. These reads introduced
566 heterozygous variants that contradicted the variants in the centre of the reference. This
567 was expected for a highly repetitive genome and our delayed-calling analysis pipeline was
568 designed accordingly. Overmerging adds noise to the inheritance signal at a locus,
569 reducing the power to call an individual's genotype. However late-calling eschews this low
570 power early calling step: haplotypes were instead called from the combined read data of all
571 individuals in a homozygous cluster (~ 40), and thus at >1000-fold coverage (see Materials
572 and Methods). When N is this large, the inheritance signal will dominate majority
573 consensus calling, despite an opposing overmerging signal. The converse would imply that
574 the overmerging and inheritance signal labels are swapped. Given that baits were
575 designed from the *B. variegata* genome assembly, we also expect enrichment bias in
576 heterozygous individuals. With delayed-called haplotypes, we allow for such bias by
577 maximising the likelihood of an individual's data over the admixture coefficient between
578 haplotype pairs, co-estimating bias. Genotype (diplotype) calls are thus late, powerful, and

579 robust to both overmerging and enrichment bias.

580 While the delayed calling stage of our analyses follows standard likelihood approaches, it
581 relies on an initial automated clustering of individual's raw data. To assess the properties of
582 this clustering heuristic we rescored a subset of 327 (6.5%) of loci by direct inspection, *i.e.*
583 those that did not show the expected (BvHOM, BbHOM, HET, HET, and HET) diplotype
584 estimates in the F0 and F1 generations (see Materials and Methods). Although such
585 deviations are not necessarily problematic, this subset included some challenging loci.
586 Structural variation was common, mainly homozygous or heterozygous whole-locus
587 deletions, most of which could not be mapped. A number of loci had strongly distorted
588 segregations and remained unmapped after rescoring. Among the loci that were added to
589 the map ($n = 95$), there were 70 for which more than three diplotype clusters had been
590 inferred, reflecting distinct haplotypes (alleles and/or overmergings) within one or both of
591 the grandparents. These 70 represent about 25% of such loci on the map. While the
592 analysis pipeline is set up to extract haplotypes from more than two clusters and compares
593 all candidate pairs within the likelihood framework, within-taxon sequence variation
594 appears to be the most difficult case for the clustering heuristic. This is not surprising,
595 given its design for between-taxon variation. Nonetheless at locus 5568, the heuristic
596 produced the same partition of the data as direct inspection, despite the strongly diverged
597 *B. variegata* haplotype (Figures 7 and S6). Moreover, the rescoring of loci that were part of
598 the original map brought little change: 90% of these loci were placed at essentially the
599 same map position as before.

600 Overall, there were few loci with larger than expected segregation distortion (Figure 4). We
601 report χ^2 estimates per locus and family in Table S2 to assist future analyses. The χ^2
602 spikes (Figure 4) may reflect hybrid incompatibilities or, especially in cases of homozygote
603 deficit in one taxon, inbreeding depression in the full-sib F1 crosses (Fishman and
604 McIntosh 2019). There were, however, no significant genotype associations between pairs

605 of loci from different χ^2 spikes (analyses not shown).

606 Our comparison between the *Bombina* linkage map and the *X. tropicalis* genome
607 assembly provides insights into the likely Bombinanura ancestral chromosome state, and
608 subsequent evolution, and further informs us regarding the error rate of the constructed
609 linkage map. The observed 1:1 synteny between five *X. tropicalis* chromosomes and five
610 *Bombina* LGs suggest that these chromosomes were present in the Bombinanura
611 ancestor and that the distinct chromosome boundaries have been maintained for the past
612 ~200 million years (Feng et al. 2017). The observed differences are similarly informative,
613 suggestive of either biological diversity or linkage map construction error. If we assume the
614 *Bombina* map estimation is error free for the five concordant chromosomes, and errors are
615 Poisson distributed in the intervals between 732 markers, evenly distributed over 12
616 chromosomes, then the map error rate estimate is 0.015. This estimate is conservative,
617 because the five 'error free' chromosomes have more markers than assumed. Future
618 exploration of these synteny patterns, particularly in comparison against additional
619 chromosome-scale frog assemblies (Mudd 2019), will increase our understanding of
620 anuran chromosome evolution. Since frogs are a documented example of karyotypic
621 conservatism or chromosomal bradytely (Bush et al. 1977; Baker and Bickham 1980;
622 Marks 1983), we expected low chromosome variation between *X. tropicalis* and *Bombina*,
623 though our visualization of these results is remarkably stark. This large-scale synteny as
624 well as the presence of only a few stray alignments, all of which appear to be single,
625 isolated hits, suggests that the overall structure of the linkage map agrees with the *X.*
626 *tropicalis* chromosome structure and substantiates the linkage map construction.

627 We searched for a *Bombina* SD region using the association between homozygote
628 genotypes and sex in F2 offspring. The same rationale was applied to recent linkage maps
629 of *Aedes aegypti* (Fontaine et al. 2017) and *X. tropicalis* (Mitros et al. 2019). We
630 determined the *Bombina* SD region (LG5, 111–118 cM) and at nearby locus 5568 (LG5,

631 109.61 cM), we identified a haplotype in the F0 *B. variegata* male that is strongly
632 associated with male sex in the F2 generation, indicating an XY system. A preliminary
633 analysis of *B. bombina* and *B. variegata* samples from Romania, Poland, and the Czech
634 Republic ($n = 35$ per taxon) showed that the observed sex-linkage of this haplotype is
635 fortuitous. In wild-caught *B. variegata*, it occurred at a frequency of 0.13 and in both males
636 and females. Male heterogamety was also established for *Bombina orientalis* (Kawamura
637 and Nishioka 1977), the nearest relative of *B. bombina* and *B. variegata* (MRCA ~4.6 Ma;
638 Nürnbergger et al. 2016).

639 Similar to the situation in fish (Voff et al. 2007; Gammerdinger and Kocher 2018), the
640 identity of the sex chromosome in amphibians can vary between closely related species
641 and even among populations within a species (Miura 2017; Jeffries et al. 2018).
642 Nonetheless, not all chromosomes are equally likely to take on the SD role. In anuran XY
643 systems, chromosome 1 (numbering by homology with *X. tropicalis*) features
644 disproportionately across diverse genera, such as *Rana*, *Hyla*, and *Bufo* (Brelsford et al.
645 2013; Tamschick et al. 2014; Miura 2017; Jeffries et al. 2018). All other known XY cases
646 involve chromosomes 2, 3, and 5 and within the genus *Rana* switches to chromosome 5
647 occur more often than expected by chance (Jeffries et al. 2018). Also, known genes of the
648 SD pathway are located on chromosome 1 (*Dmrt1*, *Amh*) and 5 (*FoxL2*, Jeffries et al.
649 2018). The observed pattern could arise if a relatively small number of genes in the
650 vertebrate sex determination cascade alternated in assuming the master SD role (Voff et
651 al. 2007; Graves and Peichel 2010; Herpin and Scharf 2015; Furman and Evans 2016).
652 The *Bombina* sex chromosome is indeed homologous to *X. tropicalis* chromosome 5, but
653 the *FoxL2* ortholog marker is located at 39.83 cM, well outside the SD region. Thus, the
654 *Bombina* SD gene is presently unknown.

655 Our ability to delineate the SD region relied on the heterogametic recombination rate. In
656 fact, the gradual decline of *b* towards its global minimum on LG5 (Figure 6) was caused

657 entirely by recombination in the F1 male. Chiasma counts in *B. variegata* (Morescalchi
658 1965; Morescalchi and Galgano 1973) suggest that the female:male crossover rate is
659 around 1.3 and that recombination in either sex is not localised to particular chromosome
660 regions. These observations contrast with the findings in other anurans, such as *Rana*,
661 *Hyla* and *Xenopus* (Brelsford et al. 2016a; b; Furman and Evans 2018), where the female
662 recombination rate exceeds that in males up to four-fold (in one case even 75-fold,
663 Rodrigues et al. 2013) and male crossovers are largely restricted to chromosome ends.
664 The latter ‘recombination landscape’ is common in vertebrates (Sardell and Kirkpatrick
665 2020). It should favour XY sex chromosome turnover (Jeffries et al. 2018; Sardell and
666 Kirkpatrick 2020) and contribute to the typically greater differentiation near chromosome
667 centres relative to the ends between closely related species (Haenel et al. 2018; Sardell
668 and Kirkpatrick 2020). We expect that these dynamics play a lesser role in *Bombina*.

669 The age of the *Bombina* SD system could be inferred from a phylogenetic analysis of sex
670 linkage across sister taxa. Alternatively, X-Y sequence divergence could be estimated from
671 loci in the non-recombining region (Charlesworth et al. 2005). However, none of the loci in
672 the 7 cM interval where *b* is at or near its minimum had sex-linked haplotypes and are
673 therefore presumably bracketing the SD region. Conceivably, the X and Y sequences
674 closely associated with the SD locus are so diverged that they cannot be mapped and the
675 non-recombining region is ‘invisible’ on the linkage map. Because there were no alignment
676 gaps in the *X. tropicalis* chromosome 5 homologous region (Fig. 5), we suspect that this
677 region is not very large. A small non-recombining region would be consistent with a young
678 SD system but not proof, because some old SD systems provide counterexamples (e.g.
679 Vicoso et al. 2013)

680 While whole genome sequence represents the ultimate genomic resource, it is rarely
681 attainable and commonly non-essential. For many evolutionary questions it is sufficient to
682 sample populations for small portions of genomes placed on a linkage map. This is

683 particularly true for genome-wide hybrid zone studies, where linkage disequilibria require
684 analysis in a map context but increased SNP detection provides no additional information
685 after all segregating ancestry tracts have been marked. This applies irrespective of
686 genome size. The approach is therefore particularly attractive for hybridising species with
687 large genomes, provided that markers from the non-repetitive part of the genome can be
688 identified and reliably scored. The new *Bombina* linkage map fulfills these criteria.
689 Knowledge of the SD region and of the large-scale synteny with *X. tropicalis* broadens our
690 scope for inference. In short, the map provides the much needed tool to take the analysis
691 of this classic study system to a new level.

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714

715 **Figure legends**

716

717 **Figure 1. Polarisation of the raw read coverage.** Plots show the raw read coverage
718 along the reference sequence (x-axis) of locus 332,172 for F0 *B. bombina* (A) and F0 *B.*
719 *variegata* (B). The homozygous *B. variegata* diplotype is identical to the locus sequence
720 for this individual (reference state (R) only). Four variant positions (110, 156, 224 and 343)
721 are highlighted, and the raw read counts of the six possible sequence states are noted in
722 the matrices below the plots. A polarised matrix, \mathbf{M}_p , is computed from these read counts in
723 two steps (see text, C), in which sequence states associated with *B. variegata* have
724 positive entries and sequence states associated with *B. bombina* have negative entries.
725 For each sample, raw read counts are then multiplied by \mathbf{M}_p . Average positive entries and
726 average negative entries result in a *B. bombina* score and a *B. variegata* score,
727 respectively, and when plotted in a coordinate system (D), samples can be assigned to
728 three clusters representing BbHOM, HET, and BvHOM. Note that the heterozygous
729 variants (panel A) do not interfere with the clustering into three diploypes.

730 **Figure 2. The distribution of repeat types.** We show the 200 REPdenovo contigs with
731 the highest copy number. Transposable element orders represented by more than 10
732 contigs in this set are identified by colour. The classification follows (Wicker et al. 2007).
733 Contigs without a match in Repbase (blastn and tblastx) are labeled as no match and
734 ordered separately. LTR, long terminal repeat retrotransposon; DIRS, *Dictyostelium*
735 intermediate repeat sequence; TIR, terminal inverted repeat DNA transposon.

736 **Figure 3. The *Bombina* linkage map.** The linkage map was visualised with
737 LinkageMapView (v. 2.1.2) (Ouellette et al. 2018). Horizontal bars represent marker loci.
738 Colours indicate marker density in cM/locus from 0.2 (red) to 2.1 (blue).

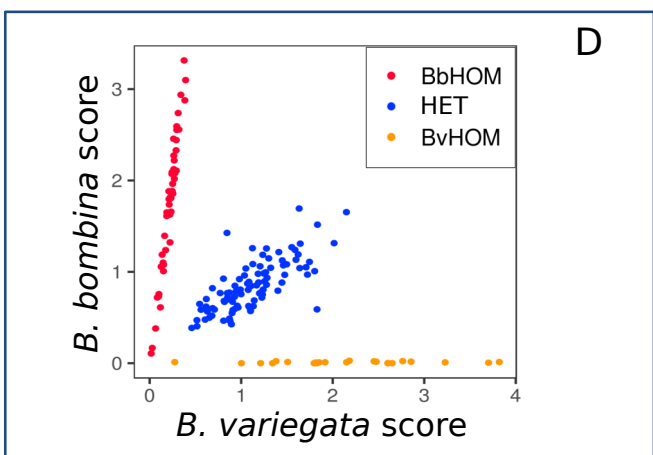
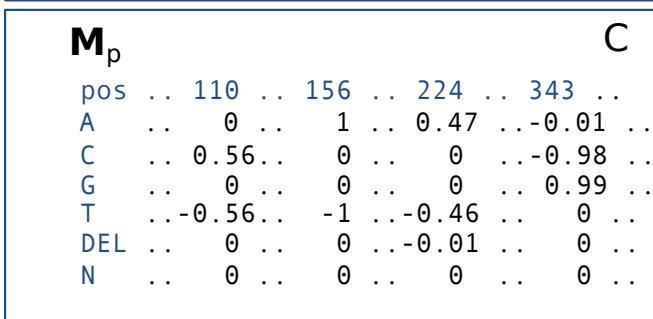
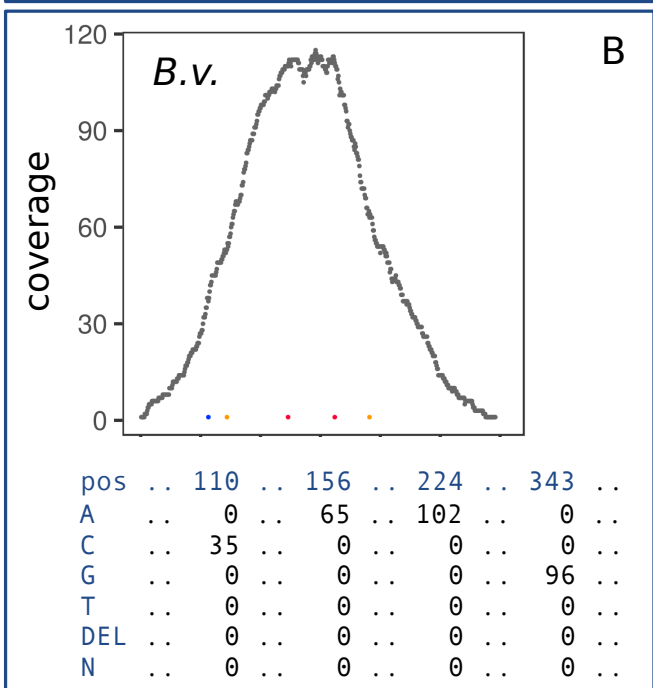
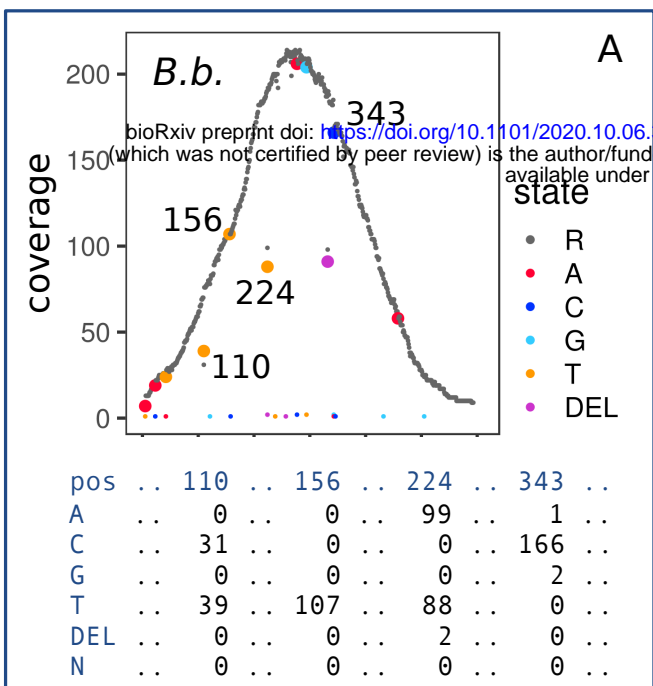
739 **Figure 4. Segregation distortion, χ^2 , by family.** Dashed horizontal lines are significance
740 thresholds: the lower line is the Bonferroni correction based on the number of
741 chromosome arms, and the upper line is the critical value for the Benjamini and Hochberg
742 false discovery rate (the experiment-wise alpha is 0.05 in both significance thresholds).
743 For each significant spike, which is indicated with an arrowhead, the genotype showing the
744 strongest deviation is noted along with a (+) or (-) label, where (+) = excess and (-) =
745 deficit. Different genotypes are separated by vertical lines above the plot. For clarity, 22
746 observations from 21 loci with $\chi^2 > 20$ are excluded from the plot.

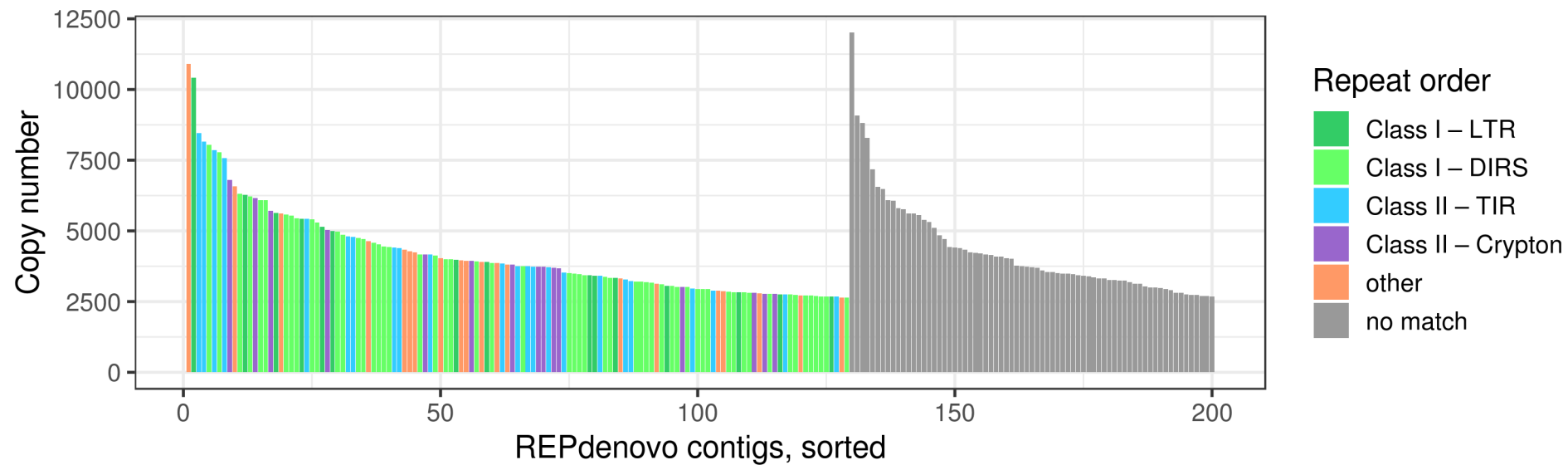
747 **Figure 5. Synteny between *B. variegata* and *X. tropicalis*.** Circos (v0.69-6) (Krzywinski
748 et al. 2009) plot of 737 *B. variegata* target sequences from the 12 LGs (Bv, unit is cM)
749 aligned against the *X. tropicalis* genome assembly (Xt, unit is Mb) with BLAST+ (v. 2.9.0)
750 (Camacho et al. 2009).

751 **Figure 6. Estimated frequencies of sex-diplotype combinations among homozygotes,**
752 **b.** The global minimum on LG5 indicates the sex determining region. The blue line
753 represents the null hypothesis of $b = 0.5$.

754 **Figure 7. Diverged haplotype based on raw read coverage at locus 5568 in the F0**
755 **generation.** Plots show the raw read coverage along the reference sequence (x-axis) for
756 F0 *B. bombina* (left) and F0 *B. variegata* (right). Sex-linked haplotype variants in the *B.*
757 *variegata* grandfather are connected with a dashed line.

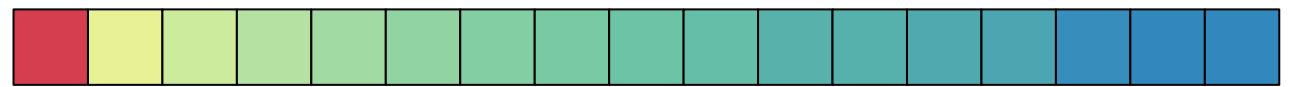
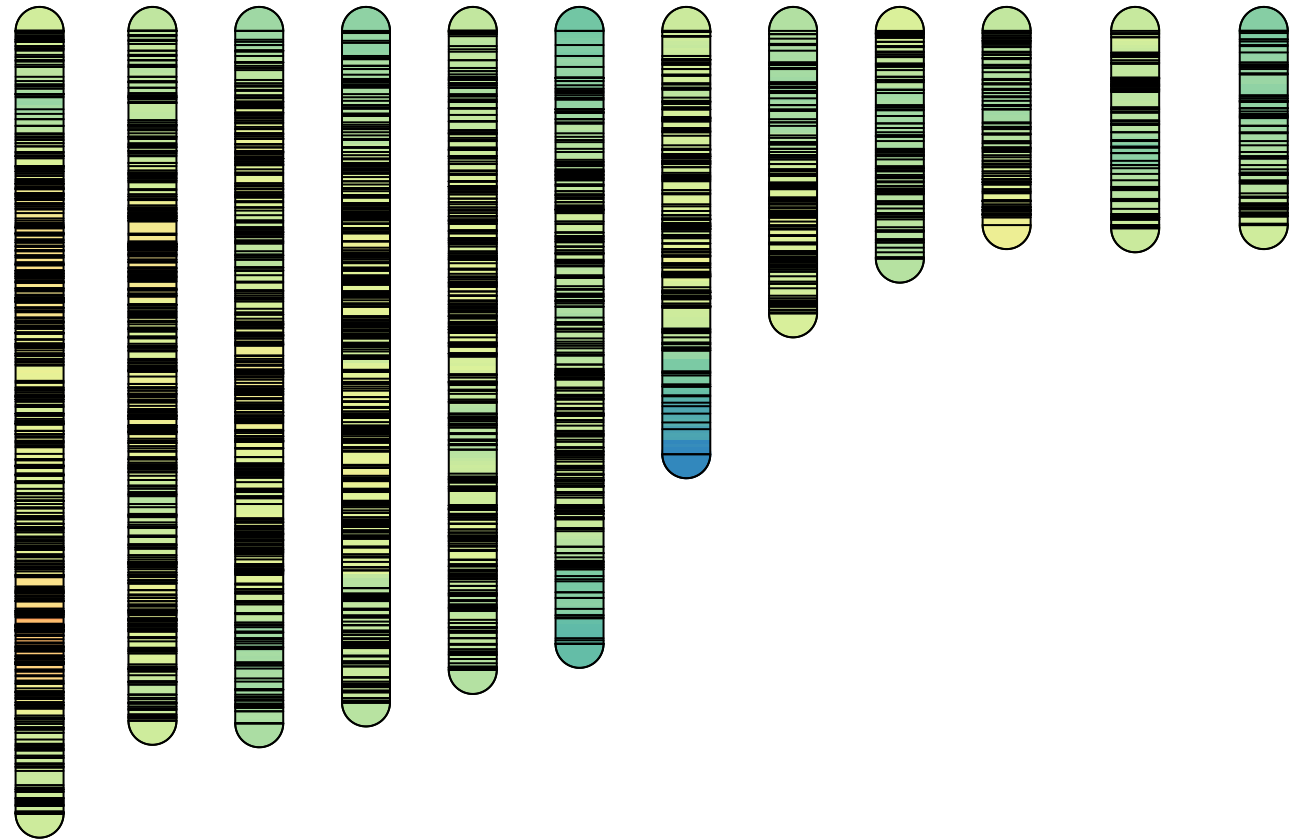
758





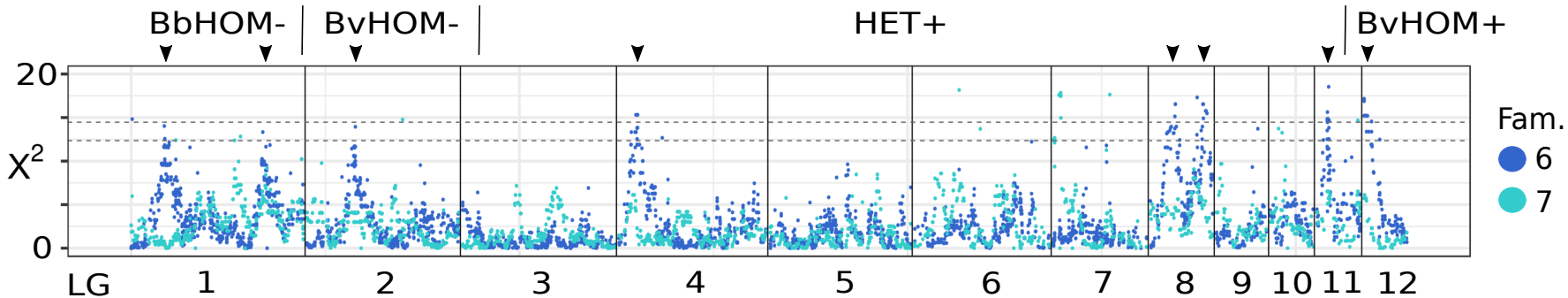
LG1 LG2 LG3 LG4 LG5 LG6 LG7 LG8 LG9 LG10 LG11 LG12

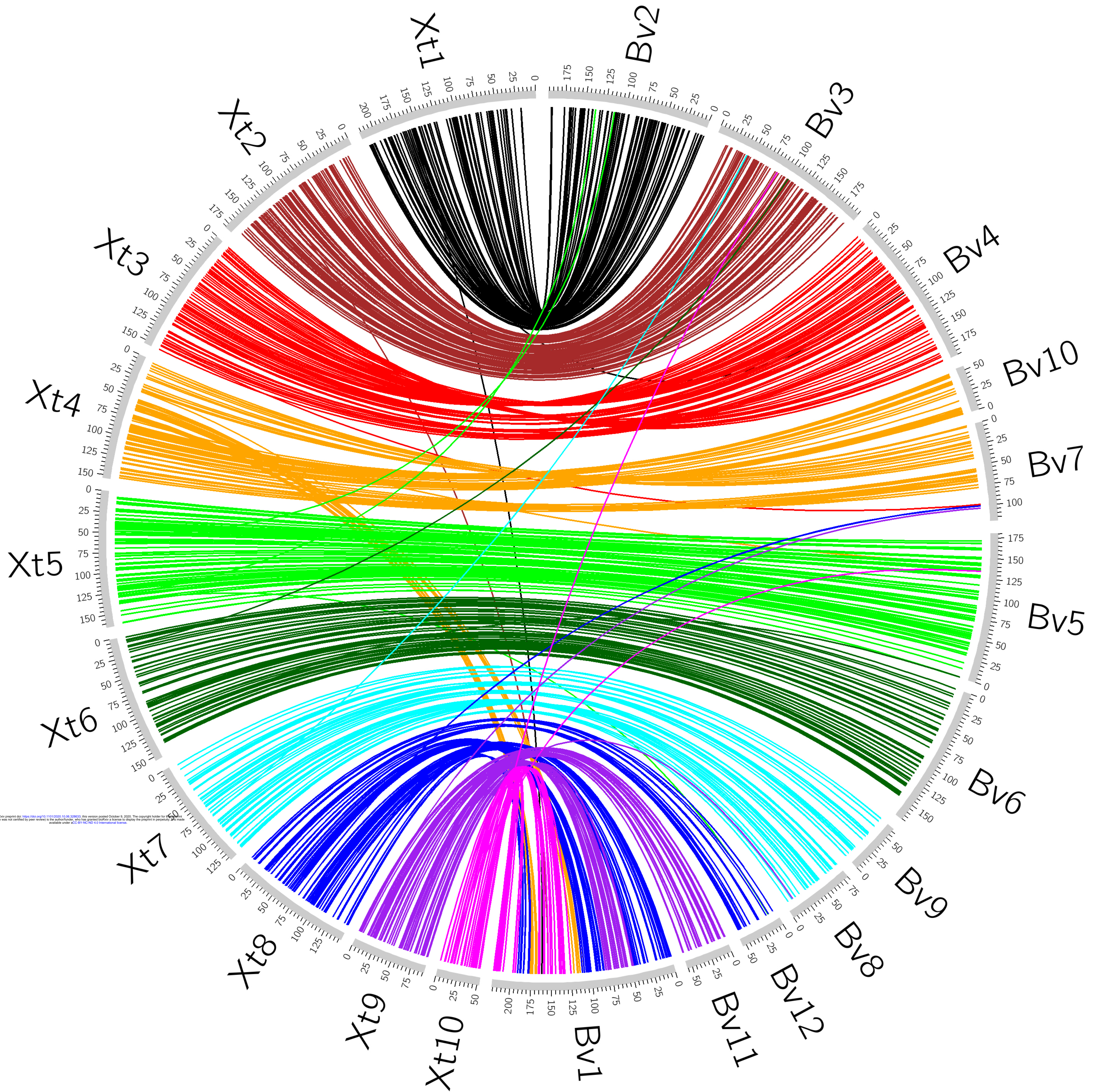
0
50
100
150
200
cM



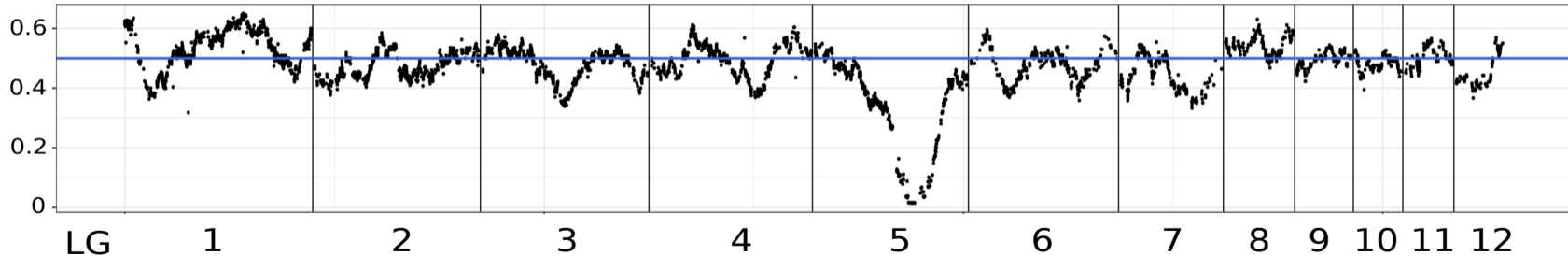
0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.9 2 2.1

Density (cM/Locus)

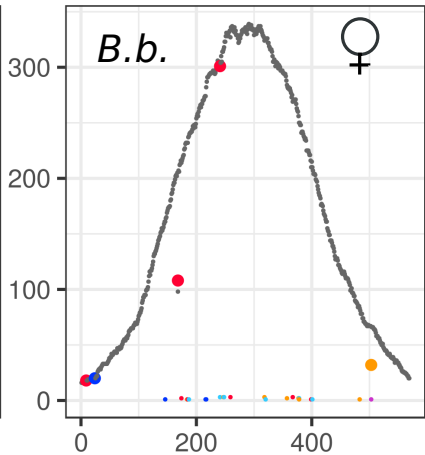
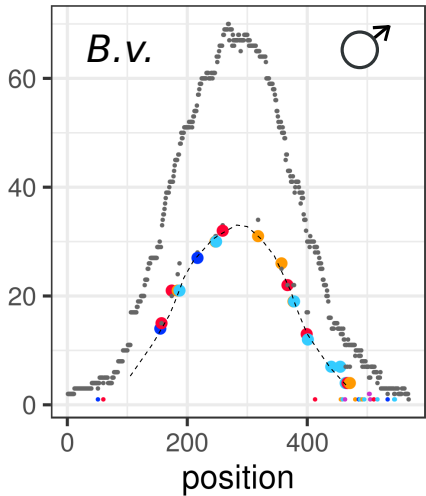




b



coverage



state

- R
- A
- C
- G
- T
- DEL