

1 **The Evolution of Larger Size in High Altitude *Drosophila melanogaster* has a**

2 **Polymorphic Genetic Architecture**

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21 **Abstract**

22

23 Important uncertainties persist regarding the genetic architecture of adaptive trait  
24 evolution in natural populations, including the number of genetic variants involved,  
25 whether they are drawn from standing genetic variation, and whether directional  
26 selection drives them to complete fixation. Here, we take advantage of a unique  
27 natural population of *Drosophila melanogaster* from the Ethiopian highlands, which  
28 has evolved larger body size than any other known population of this species. We  
29 apply a bulk segregant quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping approach to four  
30 unique crosses between highland Ethiopian and lowland Zambian populations for  
31 both thorax length and wing length. Results indicated a persistently variable genetic  
32 basis for these evolved traits (with largely distinct sets of QTLs for each cross), and  
33 at least a moderately polygenic architecture with relatively strong effects present.  
34 We complemented these mapping experiments with population genetic analyses of  
35 QTL regions and gene ontology enrichment analysis, generating strong hypotheses  
36 for specific genes and functional processes that may have contributed to these  
37 adaptive trait changes.  
38 Finally, we find that the genetic architectures our QTL mapping results for size traits  
39 mirror those from similar experiments on other recently-evolved traits in this  
40 species. Collectively, these studies suggest a recurring pattern of polygenic  
41 adaptation in this species, in which causative variants do not approach fixation and  
42 moderately strong effect loci are present.

## 43 Introduction

44 Well into the genomic era, considerable debate persists over the types of  
45 genetic architectures that underlie adaptive evolution. For example, it is unclear  
46 how polygenic adaptive phenotypic changes tend to be – genes of major effect on  
47 adaptive traits are often reported (*e.g.* Miller et al. 2014; van't Hof et al. 2016), and  
48 in the case of local adaptation, these are more likely to overcome the homogenizing  
49 force of migration (Yeaman & Whitlock 2011). However, it is possible that most  
50 adaptive events may instead involve large numbers of small-effect changes  
51 (Pritchard & Di Rienzo 2010; Rockman 2011). It is also unclear how often adaptive  
52 variants are selected as newly occurring mutations (*e.g.* Linnen *et al.* 2009), versus  
53 selection on standing genetic variation after an environmental change (*e.g.* Colosimo  
54 *et al.* 2005). In the latter case, the detection of “soft sweeps” is a distinct and more  
55 challenging exercise than for classic “hard sweeps” (Pennings & Hermisson 2006).  
56 It is also unclear how often adaptive variants actually reach fixation, versus  
57 remaining polymorphic due to factors such as traits reaching a new optimum or  
58 threshold value, changes in selective pressures, balanced equilibria such as  
59 heterozygote advantage, or ongoing migration (Stephan 2016; Höllinger et al. 2019;  
60 Thornton 2019; Barghi & Schlötterer 2020; Barghi et al. 2020; Stephan & John  
61 2020).

62 Population genomic scans for natural selection provide some insight into the  
63 genetic basis of adaptive evolution, identifying large numbers of loci with signals of  
64 recent positive selection, and estimating the frequency at which different functional  
65 categories of sites are targeted. However, the biological basis of natural selection at

66 these loci is usually not clear from genetic variation alone, and the properties of  
67 adaptive mutations may depend on the biological process (*e.g.* morphological vs.  
68 physiological changes; Carroll 2008; Liao et al. 2010). Therefore, an essential  
69 complement to population genomic scans is detailed experimental case studies of  
70 the genetic basis of specific adaptive phenotypic changes, in order to gain a clearer  
71 and more nuanced understanding of how natural selection operates at the genetic  
72 level.

73         The molecular and evolutionary genetics model *Drosophila melanogaster*  
74 provides an efficient system for illuminating the genetic basis of evolutionary  
75 change, in part because of its ease of laboratory study, its well-developed molecular  
76 genetic toolkit, and its compact and well-annotated genome. *D. melanogaster*  
77 expanded from a warm ancestral range in southern-central Africa to occupy diverse  
78 worldwide environments (Sprengelmeyer et al. 2020). Latitude and especially  
79 altitude gradients allow the comparison of geographically proximate, closely related  
80 populations from contrasting environments. Phenotypic differences between  
81 genetically similar populations provide ideal raw material for studies of evolution at  
82 the genetic level, because the power of population genetic scans for local selection is  
83 maximized, and once the relevant genes are identified, the number of plausible  
84 causative mutations that differ between populations may be limited.

85         Size is a fundamental organismal quality. In *D. melanogaster* and other  
86 Drosophilids, larger body size is correlated with cooler latitudes (David et al. 1977;  
87 Gilchrist & Partridge 1999) and may provide a fitness advantage in cool  
88 environments (McCabe & Partridge 1997; Reeve et al. 2000; Bochdanovits & De Jong

89 2003). Instead of a direct effect of size on thermal tolerance (*Drosophila* are small  
90 enough to be virtually isothermic with their environment), higher larval density in  
91 the tropics may select for earlier pupation, leading to smaller adults, while in cooler  
92 regions viability selection may favor larger, more robust adults (Partridge & French  
93 1996).

94 In other *Drosophilid* species, larger flies are also found at higher altitudes  
95 (Stalker & Carson 1948; Norry et al. 2001), but this phenomenon was little studied  
96 in *D. melanogaster* until recently (Louis et al. 1982). In the past decade, a unique  
97 highland Ethiopian population of *D. melanogaster* was found to be the largest  
98 known naturally-occurring members of this species, with particularly enlarged  
99 wings (Pitchers et al. 2013; Klepsatel et al. 2013; Klepsatel et al. 2014; Fabian et al.  
100 2015; Lack et al. 2016a; Lack et al. 2016b). The increase in wing size is associated  
101 with lower wing loading, which can improve flight performance (*e.g.* Petavy et al.  
102 1997) and may benefit flies in highland environments that are persistently cool  
103 (limiting the speed of wing movement) and feature thinner air (providing less  
104 resistance against fly wings).

105 Comparing wing length between a highland Ethiopian population and a low  
106 altitude ancestral range population from Zambia, phenotypic differentiation ( $Q_{ST} =$   
107 0.985) greatly exceeded genetic differentiation (genome-wide  $F_{ST} = 0.151$ ),  
108 implying that directional selection acted on wing length or a pleiotropically  
109 correlated trait (Lack et al. 2016a). The species is only estimated to have occupied  
110 the Ethiopian highlands about 2,700 years ago (Sprengelmeyer et al. 2020), or  
111 roughly 40,000 fly generations ago (based on 15 generations per year; Turelli &

112 Hoffmann 1995; Pool 2015). In light of an effective population size on the order of  
113 one million for this lineage (Sprengelmeyer et al. 2020), the evolution of larger size  
114 has occurred on a recent population genetic time scale ( $\sim 0.01$  autosomal coalescent  
115 units).

116         There has been some progress on understanding the tradeoffs and  
117 mechanisms involved in this population's size evolution. Compared to a low altitude  
118 Zambian population from the ancestral range, Ethiopian flies lay fewer but larger  
119 eggs, which develop into larger adults without prolonging the larval growth phase  
120 (Lack et al. 2016b). Ethiopian size changes were found to involve increases in cell  
121 size (likely a function of increased somatic ploidy; Smith and Orr-Weaver 1991;  
122 Edgar and Orr-Weaver 2001) as well as cell proliferation (Lack et al. 2016b). The  
123 evolution of larger wings in Ethiopian *D. melanogaster* was accompanied by a  
124 decanalization of wing development, implying that ancestral buffering mechanisms  
125 had been disrupted in the course of adaptive trait evolution (Lack et al. 2016a).

126         The genetic basis of Ethiopian size evolution has not been investigated.  
127 Outside Africa, initial progress has been made to identify genes underlying latitude-  
128 size clines in *D. melanogaster* outside Africa. In Australia, *Dca* and *srp* are potential  
129 contributors to wing and body size differences, respectively (Lee et al. 2011; Chen et  
130 al. 2012). Association testing (Jumbo-Lucioni et al. 2010) and experimental  
131 evolution (Turner et al. 2011) have suggested that many genes could influence  
132 within-population body size variation. However, quantitative trait locus (QTL)  
133 mapping of size differences between high and low latitude populations has  
134 suggested a few major loci, with uneven chromosomal contributions not predicted

135 by a highly polygenic model (Calboli et al. 2003). Hence, the polygenicity of body  
136 size variation may depend on whether diversity is examined within populations  
137 where stabilizing selection may predominate, or between populations where  
138 adaptive phenotypic evolution is suspected.

139 In this study we aim to understand the genetic architecture of adaptive trait  
140 evolution, using the Ethiopian population's thorax and wing size changes as model  
141 traits. Here, thorax length represents a proxy for overall body size, whereas wing  
142 length represents a trait that has particularly evolved in this population. We focus  
143 on the polygenicity of trait evolution and genetic predictability within a population.  
144 We perform bulk segregant analysis to ascertain QTLs that are involved in thorax  
145 and wing size trait evolution. We also use population genetic statistics and Gene  
146 Ontology enrichment to find evidence of local adaptation and to identify candidate  
147 genes for future functional investigation.

148

## 149 **Material and Methods**

### 150 *Experimental Populations*

151 All flies used in the experiment had been inbred for 8 generations from wild-  
152 caught isofemale lines (Lack et al. 2015). The populations came from Fiche, Ethiopia  
153 (EF, 9.81° N, 38.63° E, alt. 3070 m) and Siavonga, Zambia (ZI, 16.54° S, 28.72° E, alt.  
154 530 m). These strains were free of any common polymorphic inversions. All flies  
155 used were raised at 20° C on medium prepared in batches of 4.5 L water, 500 mL  
156 cornmeal, 500 mL molasses, 200 mL yeast, 54 g agar, 20 mL propionic acid, and 45  
157 mL tegosept 10% (in 95% ethanol).



158

159 *Bulk Segregant Analysis*

160 To determine what region of the genome harbor the causative variants  
161 responsible for the evolution of larger thorax and wing size, bulk segregant analysis  
162 was performed to detect quantitative trait loci (QTL). Four different population  
163 cages were started with unique strains of smaller thorax and wing size (Zambia)  
164 and thorax and wing population (Ethiopia) lines. Each population cage is 28 x 14 x  
165 15 cm and has 14 vials containing the above medium. In each population cage,  
166 reciprocal crosses were established between eight inbred parental individuals of  
167 each strain (Zambia and Ethiopia). From each reciprocal cross, 125 F1 offspring of  
168 each sex were used to establish the second generation. For the duration of the  
169 experiment, non-overlapping generations were maintained at ~1200 individuals  
170 (Figure 1). Adult flies were allowed to lay eggs on the food for one week before  
171 being removed. The food vials were replaced when adult flies in the cage were 7-10  
172 days old. At the 16<sup>th</sup> generation, 600 3-5 day old female flies from each population  
173 cage were measured as described below. For each trait, thorax size and wing size,  
174 the flies were placed into pools constituting the 10% smallest ( $N=60$ ) and 10%  
175 largest ( $N=60$ ) individuals, with the remaining individuals discarded.

176

177 *Body Size*

178 To measure thorax and wing size, we followed the protocol described in Lack  
179 et al. (2016a). Thorax size measurements were in 3-5 day old adult females. From  
180 each mapping cross, females were photographed with a digital camera attached to a

181 stereo dissecting microscope (AmScope SM-4BX), and thorax length was measured  
182 from the base of the anterior humeral bristle to the posterior tip of the scutellum  
183 (Lack et al. 2016a). For wing size, we also examined 3-5 day old adult females from  
184 each of the mapping crosses. For five females per cross, a wing was removed and  
185 photographed at 509 magnification using a digital camera attached to a compound  
186 microscope (Olympus BH-2). The length and depth of each wing were then  
187 measured using ImageJ version 1.48 (<http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>), we measured a  
188 straight line drawn from the intersection of the anterior crossvein and L4  
189 longitudinal vein, to where the L3 longitudinal vein intersects the wing margin. For  
190 depth, we measured a straight line from the intersection of the L5 longitudinal vein  
191 and the posterior wing margin, passing through the intersection of the posterior  
192 crossvein and L4, and terminating at the anterior wing margin. For wing area, we  
193 imaged individual wings using the “wing grabber” apparatus described by Houle et  
194 al. (2003), and wing area was determined by outlining each wing using ImageJ  
195 version 1.48 (<http://imagej.nih.gov/ij/>), and the reported area for each cross is the  
196 mean of the five wings.

197

### 198 *Genome preparation*

199 We sequenced the genomes of pooled samples (N=30 individuals) for the  
200 parental lines and two such pools for each of the large- and small-size groups (0-5%  
201 and 5-10% extremes for each direction, summing to N=60 total for each extreme).  
202 Genomic DNA was obtained using a chloroform extraction and ethanol precipitation  
203 protocol. The DNA was fragmented with a Bioruptor sonicator (Diagenode), and

204 paired-end libraries with ~300 bp inserts prepared using NEBNext DNA Library  
205 Prep Reagent Set for Illumina (New England Biolabs no. E6000L). Each library's  
206 concentration and quality was analysed with an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent  
207 Technologies, Inc.). The prepared libraries were sequenced at UW-Madison  
208 Biotechnology Center on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 platform. Having concluded that  
209 the full 10% extremes would best be analyzed together (Pool 2016), we merged  
210 reads from the 0-5% and 5-10% pools (similar numbers of reads were obtained  
211 from these pools in each case) before proceeding with the analysis.

212

### 213 *Genome alignment*

214 All the raw data that passed the Illumina filters were processed using a Perl-  
215 scripted pipeline. Reads from each sequenced genome were mapped to the *D.*  
216 *melanogaster* reference genome (release 5.57) obtained from Flybase  
217 ([www.flybase.org](http://www.flybase.org)), with the default parameters in BWA ver. 0.6.2-r126 (Li and  
218 Durbin 2009). Using Stampy ver. 1.0.21 (Lunter and Goodson 2011), the BAM files  
219 were then remapped. With samtools ver. 0.1.18 (Li et al. 2009) reads were filtered  
220 for a mapping quality of 20 and for proper pairs. The BAM files were further  
221 processed by removing unmapped reads and sorted by coordinate, and PCR  
222 duplicates were marked using Picard ver. 1.109 (<http://picard.sourceforge.net>). To  
223 improve the alignment around indels we used GATK ver. 3.2 (McKenna et al. 2010).  
224 The average depth of coverage per genome was calculated for the parental lines and  
225 the low and high tolerant lines (Table S1).

226

## 227 *Quantitative Trait Locus (QTL) Mapping*

228 Synchronised mpileup files for the aligned genomes were created with the  
229 PoPoolation2 ver. 1.201 software package (Kofler et al. 2011). The two large (and  
230 two small) pools from a given cross were then combined with a custom perl script.  
231 Ancestry difference ( $a_d$ ) was then calculated with each biallelic SNP (Bastide et al.  
232 2016). Ancestry difference estimates the difference between the proportion of the  
233 large-fly pool's sequencing reads carrying an allele from the large (Ethiopia)  
234 parental line and that same proportion from the small-fly pool. It was estimated as:

$$235 \text{ Equation 1: } a_d = (f_L - f_S) / (p_L - p_S)$$

236 Where  $p_L$  is the frequency of the major allele in the large parent,  $p_S$  is the small  
237 parental allele,  $f_L$  is the frequency of the large parent allele in the large pool of F16  
238 offspring, and  $f_S$  is that same allele's frequency in small F16 offspring. The five  
239 chromosomal arms (X, 2L, 2R, 3L, and 3R) were divided into windows based on SNP  
240 density (Lack et al. 2015) which created 2728, 3131, 2357, 2956, and 2935  
241 windows respectively, each roughly 8.4-kb in size on average. Only sites that had a  
242 parental strain frequency difference of  $\geq 0.25$  were used in the analysis. A  
243 simulation-based inference for BSA mapping (SIBSAM) was performed (Pool 2016)  
244 to identify significant QTLs and calculate their confidence intervals and effect sizes.  
245 The scripts used for SIBSAM can be found at:  
246 <http://github.com/JohnEPool/SIBSAM1>. SIBSAM is able to evaluate both primary  
247 QTL peaks and flanking secondary QTL peaks, evaluating whether ragged peaks

248 contain significant evidence for more than one QTL. Forward simulations  
249 incorporate recombination in multiple individuals for multiple generations,  
250 selection on phenotype in the final generation with additivity, plus environmental  
251 variance, and then the sampling of sequence reads to obtain  $a_d$ .

252

### 253 *Genetic differentiation and Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis*

254 QTLs identified in the previous step will contain many genes that may or may  
255 not be involved in the evolution of these traits. To help identify the causative genes  
256 within the significant QTLs for thorax and wing size, window  $F_{ST}$  and maximum SNP  
257  $F_{ST}$  per window ("SNP  $F_{ST}$ "), and the haplotype statistic  $\chi_{MD}$  (Lange & Pool 2016)  
258 were analyzed. Genomes from Zambia (n=197) and Ethiopia (n=68) were used  
259 from the *Drosophila* Genome Nexus (Lack et al. 2015). The  $\chi_{MD}$  compares length of  
260 identical haplotype blocks among individuals in one population versus another. The  
261 comparisons are made within each of the five chromosomal arms (X, 2L, 2R, 3L, and  
262 3R), which were divided into windows based on SNP density (Lack et al. 2015)  
263 which created 2728, 3131, 2357, 2956, and 2935 windows respectively each  
264 roughly 8.4-kb in size on average. To narrow down potential candidate genes, a  
265 chromosomal arm quantile outlier approach was used to identify genes with an  
266 extreme population genetic signal. We classified outlier regions windows that were  
267 in the top 2.5% quantile in any of the three statistics. In order to form an outlier  
268 region, a maximum of two non-outlier windows are allowed between two outlier  
269 windows. Genes associated with outlier windows (overlapping them or the nearest  
270 gene in either direction) were retained for subsequent analysis.

271 We performed a gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis to identify potential  
272 functional categories that may contribute to the contrasting phenotypes found  
273 between the Zambia and Ethiopia populations. The outlier genes that were  
274 identified in the significant QTL regions were used for window-based GO  
275 enrichment analysis (Pool et al. 2012). A GO enrichment analysis was conducted for  
276 both thorax and wing size. A  $P$  value was calculated based on the probability of  
277 observing a given number of outlier genes from a GO category.  $P$  values were  
278 obtained from permutation in which outlier regions were randomly reassigned  
279 10,000 times.

280

## 281 **Results**

### 282 *Quantitative Trait Locus (QTL) Mapping*

283 We used bulk segregant analysis to perform QTL mapping for both thorax  
284 and wing length using 4 different unique between-population crosses. Each  
285 mapping population used individual inbred strains from an ancestral range Zambia  
286 population smaller thorax and wing length, and from the high altitude Ethiopia  
287 population that has evolved larger thorax and wing length. In our bulk segregant  
288 analysis, offspring of reciprocal crosses were allowed to interbreed for 16 non-  
289 overlapping generations without selection at a large population size ( $N \approx 1,200$ ).  
290 After the 16<sup>th</sup> generation, 600 adult females were measured for both thorax and  
291 wing length and the top and bottom 10% of individuals were grouped for pooled  
292 genomic sequencing (Figure 1; Materials and Methods). SIBSAM (Pool 2016) was

293 then used to identify primary and secondary QTL peaks, along with their estimated  
294 effect sizes and genomic confidence intervals.

295

### 296 *QTL mapping*

297 For thorax length, four Ethiopia × Zambia mapping crosses revealed a total  
298 of 12 significant peaks (Figure 2; Table S2). The EF8N cross had one significant peak  
299 with an estimated effect size of ~17%. EF15N had two significant peaks, each having  
300 an estimated effect size of ~15%. EF73N had the most significant peaks with a total  
301 of five, and these had estimated effect sizes that ranged between 12% and 20%.  
302 EF86N had four significant peaks with estimated effect sizes between 13% and 16%.

303 For wing length, these same four crosses revealed a total of 33 significant  
304 peaks (Figure 3; Table S3). EF8N had a total of twelve significant peaks, with  
305 estimated effect sizes that ranged between 7% and 24%. EF15N had 3 significant  
306 peaks, with estimated effect sizes that range between 16% and 24%. EF73N had a  
307 total of 10 significant peaks, with estimated effect sizes that ranged between 6% and  
308 27%. EF86N had 8 significant peaks, with estimated effect sizes that ranged  
309 between ~11%-25%.

310 In general, very different QTL landscapes were observed between  
311 independent Ethiopia/Zambia crosses (Figure 3). In some cases, QTLs do overlap  
312 between crosses, which may reflect either chance (different QTLs located close  
313 together) or else genuine sharing of causative variants underlying thorax and/or  
314 wing size. We identified QTL overlap when the QTL peak of one cross overlaps with  
315 the genomic confidence interval of another cross. For thorax length there are no

316 regions between the four Ethiopia crosses where a QTL peak overlapped with  
317 another peak's genomic confidence interval (Figure 4). However, for wing length  
318 between the four crosses there were 12 regions where QTL peaks overlapped with  
319 genomic confidence intervals involving 12 of the 33 QTLs (Figure 4). Within these  
320 overlapping peaks there are no overlap between all four crosses.

321 Some differences in the significant QTLs between crosses could represent  
322 chance detection of a shared QTL in some crosses but not others. However, with this  
323 experimental design we expect to have >90% power to detect a QTL with 20%  
324 effect size (Pool 2016). Hence, at least for several of the strongest of the QTLs  
325 detected here, their absence in other crosses is likely to reflect real differences in  
326 genetic architecture.

327

### 328 *Potential Targets of Local Adaptation Within QTL Regions*

329 Regions of the genome where the Zambia and Ethiopia populations greatly  
330 differ in their genetic variation may harbor genes involved in these adaptive traits.  
331 We used three population genetic statistics, window  $F_{ST}$ , maximum SNP  $F_{ST}$  within a  
332 window, and the haplotype statistic  $\chi_{MD}$  to identify possible candidate genes for  
333 body and wing size evolution within the significant QTLs. Using three different  
334 statistics is advantageous due to the differing power each statistic has in detecting  
335 local adaptation, depending on whether selective sweeps are complete or  
336 incomplete, or hard versus soft (Lange & Pool 2016). A quantile approach was used  
337 identify only regions that had one of the three statistics with a quantile below 0.025  
338 (Tables S4 & S5). There are many genes within these outlier regions with no known



339 role in either thorax or wing size. However, there are also genes known to be  
340 involved in size regulation.

341 For thorax length, genes corresponding to QTLs and population genetic  
342 outliers that are known to be involved in growth included *ct* (Thumm & Kadowaki  
343 2001), *spi* (Nagaraj et al. 1999), *bbc* (Liu et al. 2014), *msn* (Kadrmass et al. 2004),  
344 *RasGAP1* (Dworkin & Gibson 2006), *scyl* (Reiling and Hafen 2004), and *tara*  
345 (Bejarano et al., 2008). Of these, *bbc* and *RasGAP1* provide examples of loci with  
346 promisingly narrow  $F_{ST}$  peaks at the SNP level (Figure 5), which may merit targeted  
347 investigation by future studies. We noted that *RasGAP1* is also within a wing QTL,  
348 and is therefore relevant to the analysis described below as well.

349 Within the outlier regions for wing length, these genes included *Dronc*  
350 (Verghese et al. 2012), *Dlish* (Wang et al. 2019), *fj* (Villano & Katz 1995), *Pka-C3*  
351 (Dworkin & Gibson 2006), *salr* (Wang et al. 2017), and *Gbp1* (Koyama and Mirth  
352 2016). *Dlish* and *Pka-C3* are examples of genes with individual SNPs having high  $F_{ST}$   
353 values (Figure 6). Further functional testing will need to be conducted to establish if  
354 genetic variants found within these genes are indeed responsible for the associated  
355 phenotypes.

356

### 357 *Gene Ontology (GO) Enrichment*

358 We conducted individual GO enrichment analysis for thorax and wing length.  
359 We used only the genes found in the outlier windows located within significant QTL  
360 regions from the four crosses. Functional categories that yielded raw  $P$  values below  
361 0.001 are listed in Tables S6 & S7. These included categories either known or

362 potentially involved in body and wing size. For thorax size, the top categories  
363 included: negative regulation of Ras protein signal transduction (Prober & Edgar  
364 2002), regulation of protein polymerization (Fernández et al. 2011), and brahma  
365 complex (Krupp et al. 2005). For wing size, the top categories included:  
366 neurogenesis (Rutledge et al. 1992), ubiquitin protein ligase binding (Cornell et al.  
367 1999), cellular amino acid catabolic process (Zinke et al. 1999), cellular response to  
368 anoxia (Heinrich et al 2011), transmembrane transport (Bartscherer et al. 2006),  
369 and negative regulation of proteolysis (Lee et al. 2001). Some of these functional  
370 processes might underlie Ethiopia size adaptation, while others may be driven by  
371 unrelated trait evolution in this high altitude population.

372

## 373 **Discussion**

374 We employed quantitative and population genetic strategies to investigate the  
375 genetic architecture of adaptive size evolution in our highland Ethiopia population.  
376 Our bulk segregant analysis revealed that between the four crosses, thorax size has  
377 12 associated QTLs with moderate to large effect (~13-20%). However, between  
378 the four crosses wing size has 33 QTLs with small to large effects QTLs (~6-27%). A  
379 greater ability to detect wing length QTLs than thorax length QTLs may reflect the  
380 greater magnitude of the population difference in this trait (Lack et al. 2016b).

381 One striking result was the lack of QTL overlap between crosses for either  
382 thorax or wing size. Between the four thorax crosses there is no overlap. This is  
383 especially notable given that we have almost have very high power to detect QTLs  
384 with effect size of 20% (Pool 2016) and yet the QTL on chromosome arm 2L with

385 ~20% effect size is not present in any other cross. For wing size, there was overlap  
386 in only 12 of the 33 QTL regions and no overlap between all four crosses. The QTLs  
387 with the three largest effect sizes of over 25% are present in only one cross. The low  
388 QTL overlap between crosses could reflect persistent genetic variation at causative  
389 loci in the Ethiopian and/or Zambian populations. Given that the Ethiopian  
390 population appears to have experienced directional selection for larger size, and still  
391 maintains similar genetic variance for size traits as Zambia (Lack et al. 2016b), we  
392 suggest that some favored size variants have not reached fixation in the Ethiopian  
393 population. There are multiple reasons why favored alleles might not fix, including  
394 the Ethiopian population reaching its new optimum or threshold trait value  
395 (especially if ample standing variation means that not all large alleles needed to fix),  
396 heterozygote advantage, or ongoing adaptation. Indeed, simulation and theory have  
397 shown that depending on the genetic architecture of an adaptive trait, non-fixed  
398 causative variants may be the norm (Stephan 2016; Höllinger et al. 2019; Thornton  
399 2019; Barghi & Schlötterer 2020; Barghi et al. 2020; Stephan & John 2020).

400 Our conclusions of persistent variability underlying an evolved trait mirror  
401 similar results for pigmentation (Bastide et al. 2016) and for ethanol resistance  
402 (Sprengelmeyer et al. 2021) in this same population and others, all from mapping  
403 experiments with similar design and scale. With five traits now examined (ethanol  
404 resistance, abdominal background color, abdominal stripe width, thorax length, and  
405 wing length), consistent patterns are starting to emerge. First, these traits each  
406 average at least a few detectable QTLs per cross, with means ranging from 3 to 8.25  
407 (Table 1). Second, there is notably little QTL peak overlap between parallel mapping

408 crosses involving different strains from the same populations. Wing length and  
409 ethanol resistance have the most overlap between crosses with ~35% (Table. 1).  
410 However, thorax size crosses do not have any overlap. For each of these traits, there  
411 are moderately large effect QTLs not present in other crosses. Hence, at the  
412 population level, it is fair to say that each of these traits is at least moderately  
413 polygenic, and involves non-fixed differences between populations. Third,  
414 moderately strong QTLs are consistently present in any given cross, with the  
415 average QTL effect size ranging from 13-19% (Table 1), although undetectable  
416 smaller effects may be present as well.

417 Polygenic adaptation may have diverse outcomes, depending in part on the  
418 number of segregating variants at the onset of selection that affect a trait, as well as  
419 the magnitudes of their effect on the trait relative to the shift in trait optimum.  
420 While each of the traits summarized above might be described as “polygenic”, it is  
421 worth considering the type of polygenic adaptation that these mapping studies  
422 imply. The persistently variable genetic basis of these evolved traits may suggest a  
423 scenario of abundant standing genetic variation prior to selection for each of these  
424 traits. In light of the consistent presence of moderately strong QTLs for these traits,  
425 such standing variation may have included relatively large effect loci, which would  
426 experience relatively stronger directional selection during the trait’s evolution. An  
427 abundance of standing variation is consistent with the large population size and  
428 high genetic diversity of this species (*e.g.* Sprengelmeyer et al. 2020). Further  
429 studies will be needed to quantify the models of polygenic adaptation that  
430 experiments such as ours indicate, and to assess whether such persistent variability

431 is a widespread outcome of trait evolution not only in this species but across the  
432 tree of life.

433

434

#### 435 **Acknowledgments**

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437 bioinformatics and data collection in this project. We also thank the UW-Madison  
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439 assistance. This research was supported by the National Institutes of Health  
440 grants R01 GM111797, R01 GM127480, R35 GM136306, F32 GM106594, and T32  
441 GM007133.

442

#### 443 **Data Availability**

444 All raw sequence data has been deposited in the NIH Short Read Archive, with  
445 accession numbers given in Table S1.

446

#### 447 **Literature Cited**

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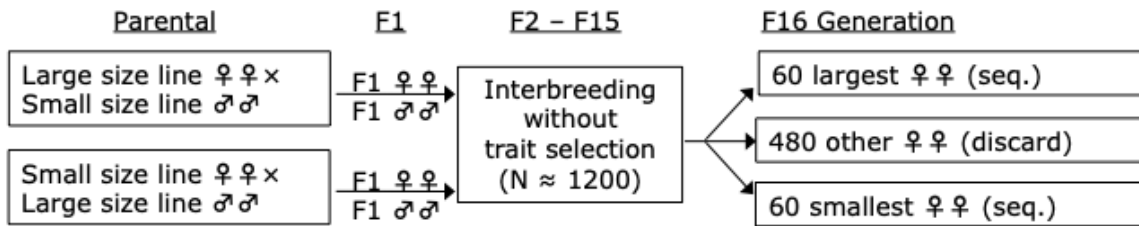
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**BULK SEGREGANT ANALYSIS (BSA):**



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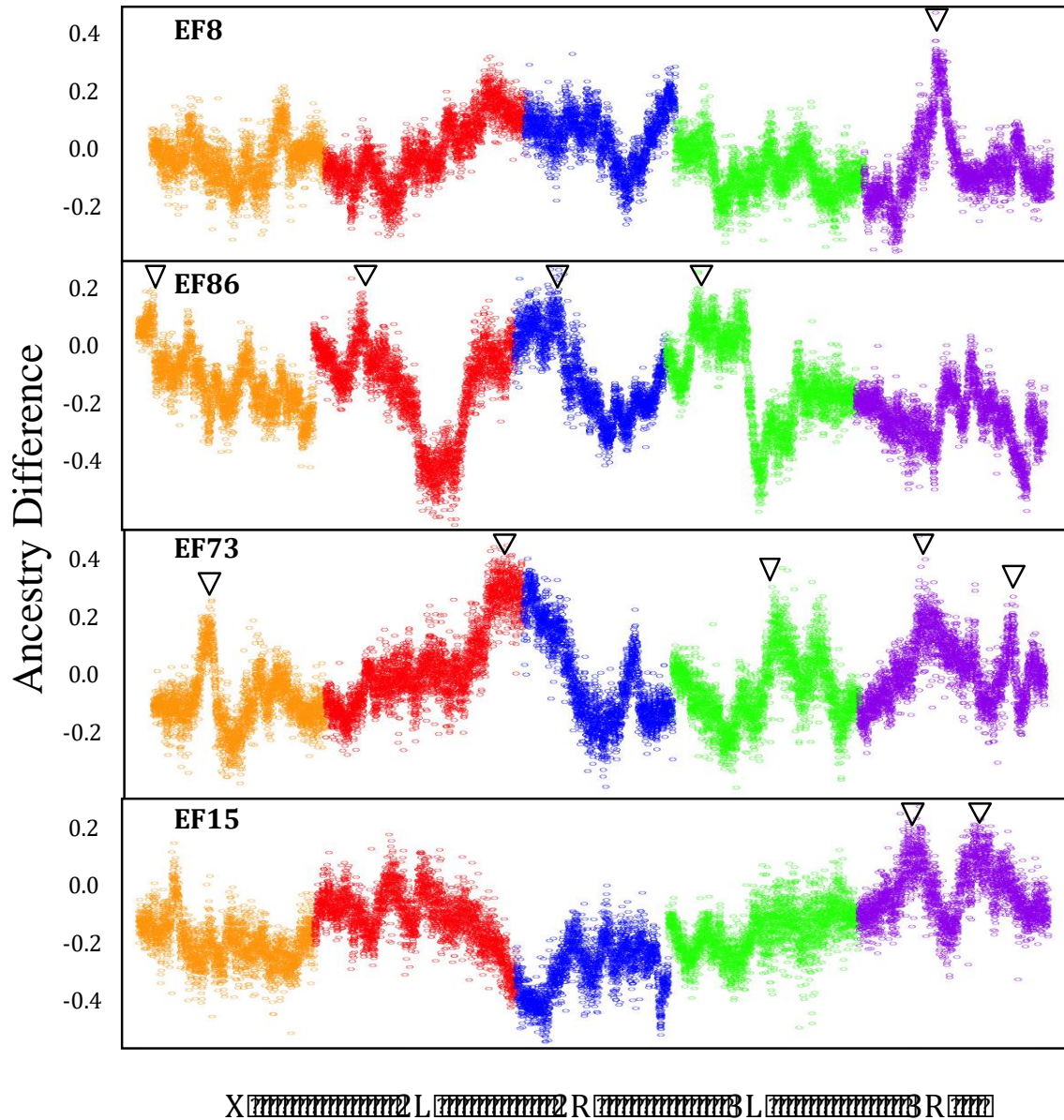
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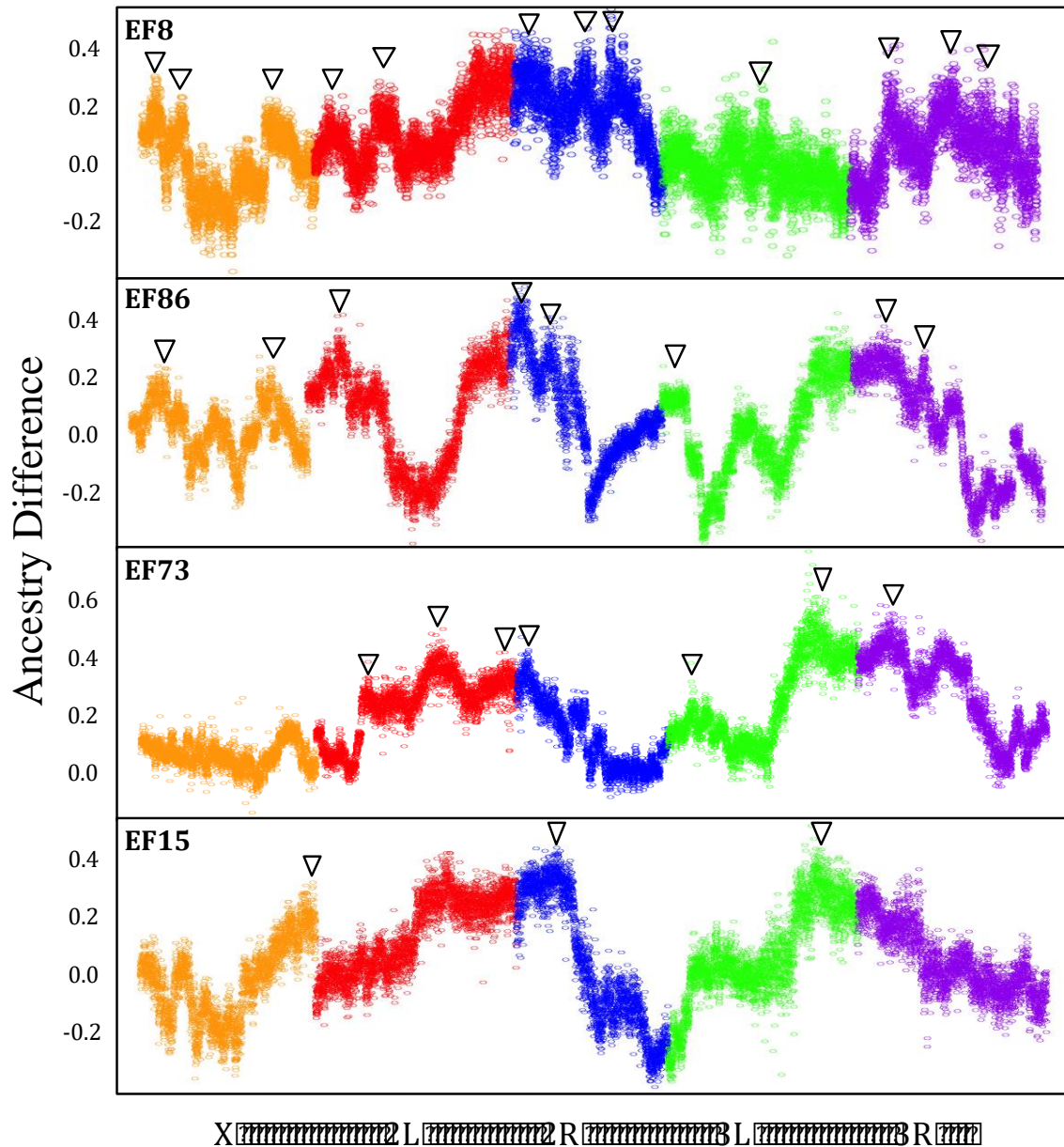
**Figure 1.** The bulk QTL mapping experimental design is illustrated. As further described in the Materials and Methods, F1 offspring of reciprocal crosses were allowed to interbreed in a relatively large population without selection until the F15 generation, at which point 600 females were sorted to obtain the top and bottom 10% for a size trait for sequencing. This design allows a large number of unique recombination events to take place, which should improve mapping performance.



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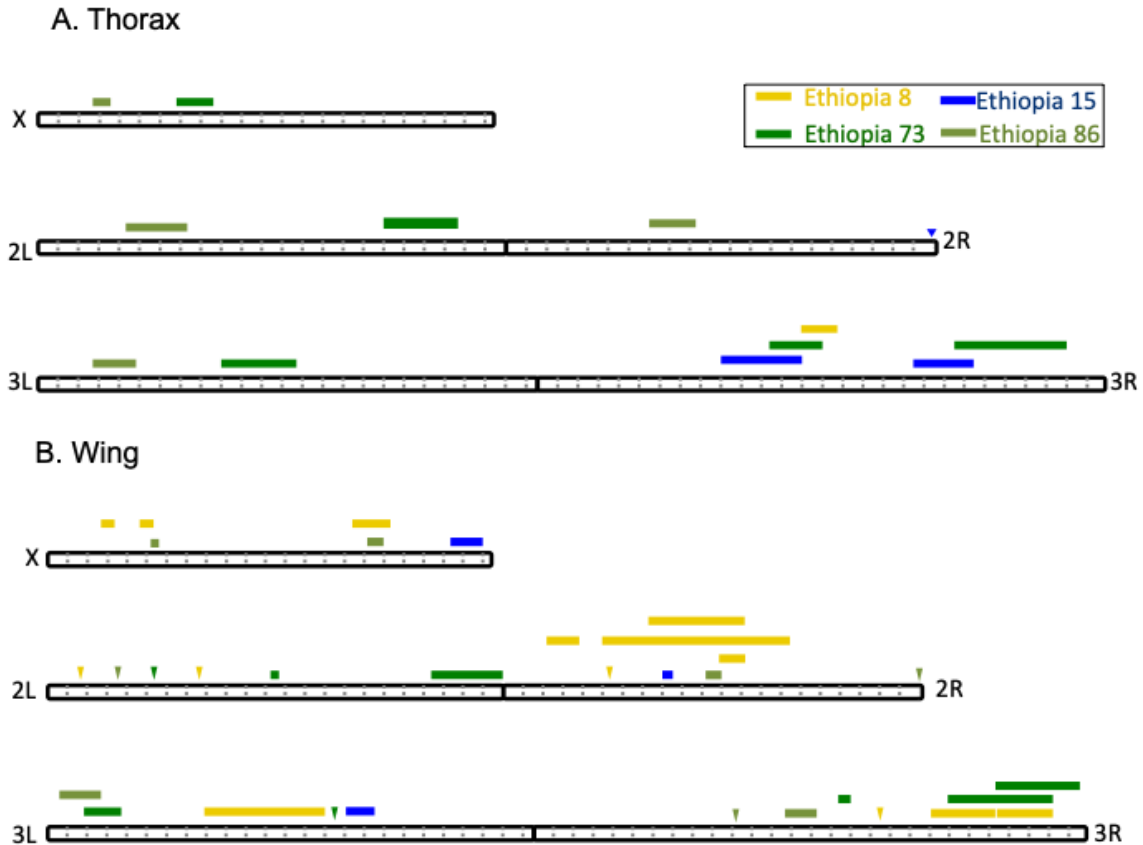
**Figure 2.** Significant QTL peaks for four Ethiopia/Zambia thorax length crosses. A point for each ~8 kb window corresponds to the average difference in ancestry from the larger parental strain between the large and small F16 pools (y-axis). Significant primary or secondary QTL peaks are denoted with an arrow. The significance threshold for primary peaks is approximately 0.17.





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**Figure 3.** Significant QTL peaks for four Ethiopia/Zambia wing length crosses. A point for each ~8 kb window corresponds to the average difference in ancestry from the larger parental strain between the large and small F16 pools (y-axis). Significant primary or secondary QTL peaks are denoted with an arrow. The significance threshold for primary peaks is approximately 0.17.



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776 **Figure 4.** The locations of significant QTLs on the five euchromatic chromosome  
777 arms of *D. melanogaster*. The colors indicate for four Ethiopia strains used in  
778 mapping crosses for **A)** thorax length and **B)** wing length. The width of each box  
779 indicates the 90% C.I. of each QTL. Intervals that are less than 10 kb in width  
780 are marked with triangles. Dotted gray lines indicate Mb increments.

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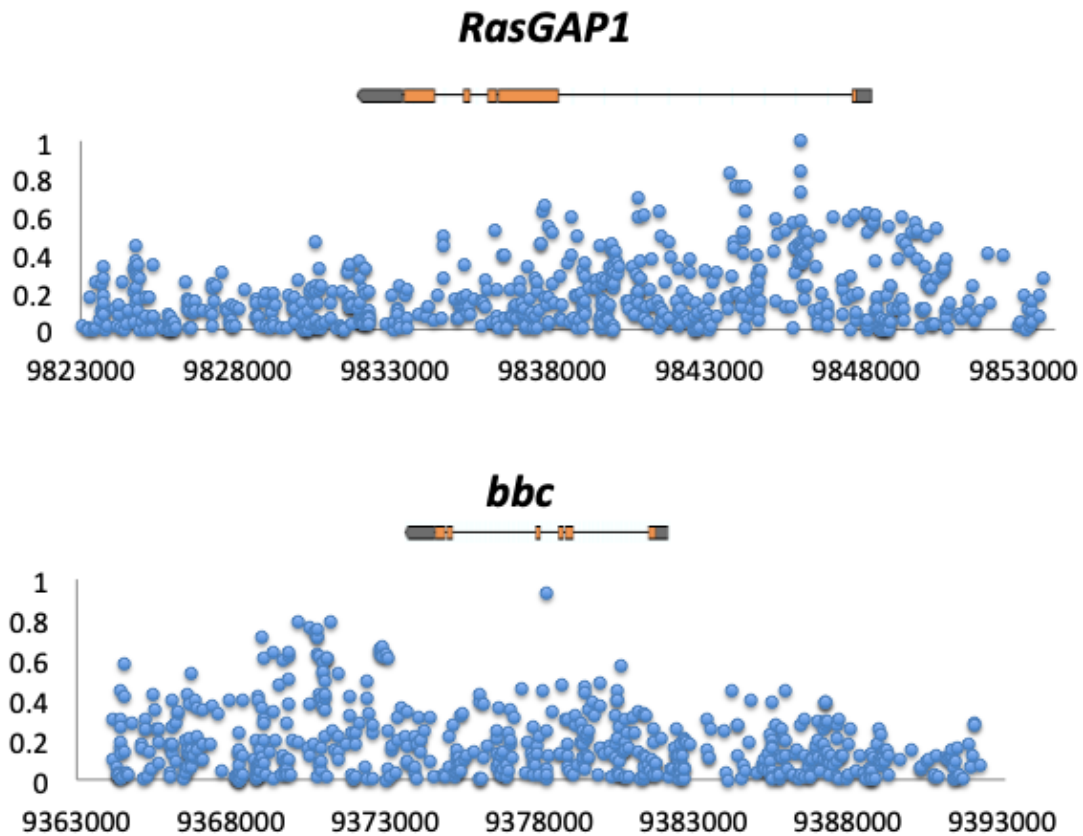
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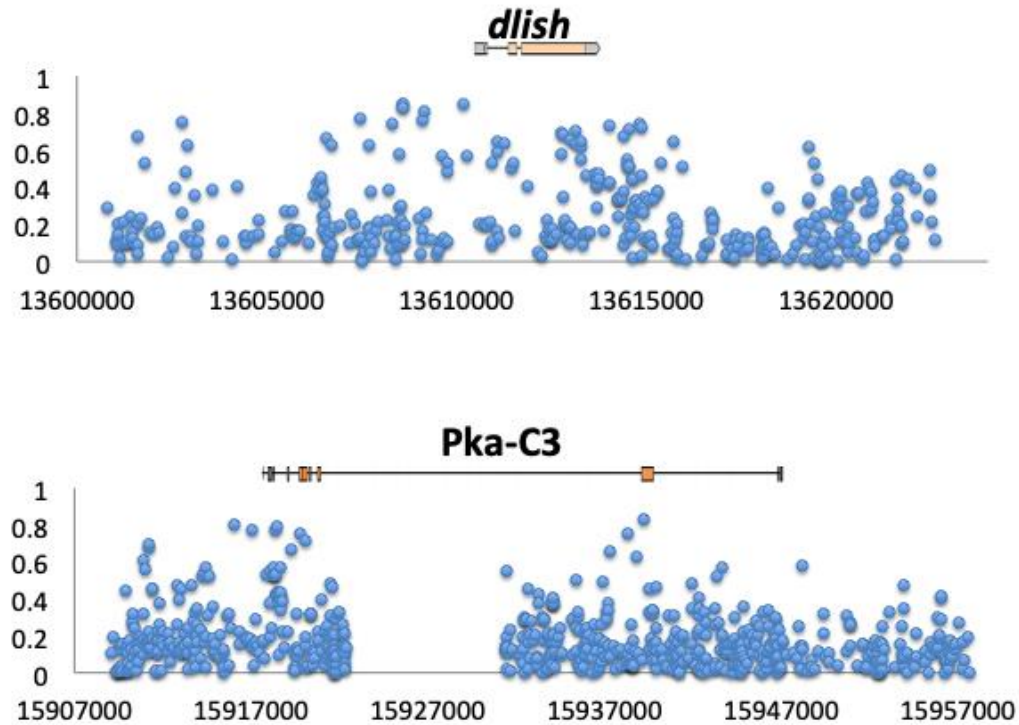
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789 **Figure 5.** At two candidate genes identified for thorax length evolution (*bbc* and  
790 *RasGAP1*), small numbers of SNPs show the highest  $F_{ST}$  values between Ethiopia and  
791 Zambia. Depicted above is the gene transcript, while the x-axis indicates bp position  
792 along the relevant chromosome arm (release 5).

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797 **Figure 6.** Peaks of SNP  $F_{ST}$  center on two candidate genes identified for wing size  
798 evolution (*dlish* and *Pka-C3*), showing elevated genetic differentiation between  
799 Ethiopia and Zambia at these genes. Depicted above is the gene transcript, while the  
800 x-axis indicates bp position along the relevant chromosome arm (release 5).

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| <b>Trait</b>       | <b>Avg. QTLs per Cross</b> | <b>Pairwise QTL Overlap</b> | <b>Avg. Effect Size</b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ethanol Resistance | 8                          | 35%                         | 14%                     |
| Thorax Length      | 3                          | 0%                          | 15%                     |
| Wing Length        | 8.25                       | 36%                         | 17%                     |
| Stripe Width       | 3                          | 8%                          | 19%                     |
| Background Color   | 5.67                       | 18%                         | 19%                     |

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811 **Table 1.** The results of bulk QTL mapping experiments for five different traits. All  
812 mapping used the same experimental design described in the Materials and  
813 Methods, aside from minor variation in the number of generations of interbreeding  
814 (15-20). Both the pigmentation stripe and pigmentation background data is from  
815 Bastide et al. (2016), while the ethanol results are from Sprengelmeyer & Pool  
816 (2021). Listed are the number of significant QTLs for each mapping population, the  
817 proportion of QTLs that overlap between parallel crosses from the same two  
818 populations, and the average QTL effect size across all mapping crosses.

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**Table S3. Locations and properties of significant QTLs identified in wing size mapping by SIBSA**

| ResistantPar | ChromArm | PeakWinStar | PeakWinStop | PeakHeight | PeakType      | PValue     |
|--------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| EF15N        | X        | 20904702    | 20909740    | 0.23377199 | primary       | 0.00046667 |
| EF15N        | 2R       | 8188459     | 8195793     | 0.32972987 | primary       | 0          |
| EF15N        | 3L       | 15922228    | 15938382    | 0.31607979 | primary       | 0          |
| EF86N        | X        | 5463507     | 5470072     | 0.24273786 | primary       | 0.00015    |
| EF86N        | X        | 16305411    | 16313884    | 0.24218895 | primary       | 0.00012    |
| EF86N        | 2L       | 3387229     | 3391271     | 0.35169247 | primary       | 0          |
| EF86N        | 2R       | 3179097     | 3193215     | 0.45434109 | primary_clusi | 0          |
| EF86N        | 2R       | 10474932    | 10485101    | 0.30755203 | secondary_cl  | 0          |
| EF86N        | 3L       | 455784      | 463634      | 0.20524852 | primary       | 0.00326667 |
| EF86N        | 3R       | 10363556    | 10371495    | 0.32910121 | primary_clusi | 0          |
| EF86N        | 3R       | 13848437    | 13855026    | 0.2943865  | secondary_cl  | 0.02797203 |
| EF8N         | X        | 3066352     | 3071088     | 0.22110349 | primary_clusi | 0.0023     |
| EF8N         | X        | 6248759     | 6256499     | 0.19644059 | secondary_cl  | 0          |
| EF8N         | X        | 16535731    | 16544112    | 0.17713694 | primary       | 0.04775    |
| EF8N         | 2L       | 1772611     | 1777569     | 0.18756562 | secondary_cl  | 0.03076923 |
| EF8N         | 2L       | 7658982     | 7663712     | 0.20783816 | secondary_cl  | 0.03846154 |
| EF8N         | 2R       | 5112157     | 5123897     | 0.31261537 | secondary_cl  | 0.00384615 |
| EF8N         | 2R       | 12022195    | 12027092    | 0.29982165 | secondary_cl  | 0.00384615 |
| EF8N         | 2R       | 14672013    | 14680160    | 0.34755072 | primary_clusi | 0          |
| EF8N         | 3L       | 10882366    | 10886176    | 0.17690647 | primary       | 0.039      |
| EF8N         | 3R       | 17528562    | 17539172    | 0.25420175 | primary_clusi | 1.00E-04   |
| EF8N         | 3R       | 21094931    | 21103488    | 0.22944425 | secondary_cl  | 0.03082192 |
| EF8N         | 3R       | 25121535    | 25127327    | 0.20182695 | secondary_cl  | 0          |
| EF73N        | 2L       | 5448027     | 5454090     | 0.30895823 | secondary_cl  | 0.016      |
| EF73N        | 2L       | 11507264    | 11514787    | 0.39403868 | primary_clusi | 0          |
| EF73N        | 2L       | 19759251    | 19766791    | 0.34496582 | secondary_cl  | 0.04       |
| EF73N        | 2R       | 3510107     | 3522552     | 0.3804457  | secondary_cl  | 0          |
| EF73N        | 2R       | 11238857    | 11249335    | 0.23019477 | secondary_cl  | 0.004      |
| EF73N        | 3L       | 2551676     | 2558009     | 0.22631683 | primary       | 0.0014     |
| EF73N        | 3L       | 14511249    | 14517354    | 0.55499451 | primary_clusi | 0          |
| EF73N        | 3R       | 15679500    | 15694164    | 0.4333253  | secondary_cl  | 0.02608696 |
| EF73N        | 3R       | 24354594    | 24365687    | 0.18778311 | primary       | 0.01586    |
| EF73N        | 3R       | 26932176    | 26936632    | 0.1955858  | primary       | 0.0113     |

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|                    | <u>Effect Size</u> | <u>Effect Size 90% CI</u> |                    | <u>QTL Location 90% CI</u> |                      |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>MatchingSim</b> | <b>PropVarExpl</b> | <b>PropVar5th</b>         | <b>PropVar95th</b> | <b>LeftBoundPo</b>         | <b>RightBoundPos</b> |
| 387                | 0.1643822          | 0.09719545                | 0.22122642         | 20525343                   | 21934418             |
| 257                | 0.23961623         | 0.17818535                | 0.28169584         | 8076976                    | 8414273              |
| 293                | 0.23173917         | 0.17295992                | 0.27589939         | 15063943                   | 16462676             |
| 325                | 0.18528431         | 0.12832031                | 0.24011869         | 5382824                    | 5594427              |
| 345                | 0.18764033         | 0.12210868                | 0.23766864         | 16161667                   | 16428059             |
| 291                | 0.25073404         | 0.20135708                | 0.29853666         | 3213559                    | 3536859              |
| 347                | 0.12134529         | 0.03983746                | 0.21869686         | 21999618                   | 3378149              |
| 347                | 0.14873684         | 0.07934142                | 0.2079711          | 10254368                   | 11002593             |
| 369                | 0.1511218          | 0.07708819                | 0.21149543         | 251545                     | 2704736              |
| 1272               | 0.17532648         | 0.10591747                | 0.23975909         | 10363556                   | 10371495             |
| 1272               | 0.1177756          | 0.05497032                | 0.19143452         | 12826840                   | 14108781             |
| 1225               | 0.13904385         | 0.07151736                | 0.20256078         | 2714235                    | 3263115              |
| 1225               | 0.1258279          | 0.06010287                | 0.18568678         | 4848276                    | 6266234              |
| 389                | 0.13038966         | 0.06095335                | 0.19344116         | 15586962                   | 17404497             |
| 112                | 0.14905406         | 0.07028348                | 0.22020014         | 1772611                    | 1777569              |
| 112                | 0.15624434         | 0.07839896                | 0.22328034         | 7658982                    | 7663712              |
| 112                | 0.23227995         | 0.11632569                | 0.28879125         | 5112157                    | 5123897              |
| 112                | 0.12936744         | 0.01133562                | 0.24881377         | 7224772                    | 12031486             |
| 112                | 0.24083484         | 0.1029423                 | 0.30856012         | 5061973                    | 14686338             |
| 392                | 0.12427832         | 0.06285144                | 0.19199097         | 8010928                    | 14179576             |
| 175                | 0.13581961         | 0.07889708                | 0.18736355         | 17528562                   | 17539172             |
| 175                | 0.07348323         | 0.04240819                | 0.13085448         | 20308960                   | 23144977             |
| 175                | 0.07340696         | 0.04538591                | 0.12810356         | 23498145                   | 26177221             |
| 116                | 0.21467493         | 0.13484872                | 0.28164547         | 5374526                    | 5527676              |
| 116                | 0.25998313         | 0.14903659                | 0.33650601         | 11291188                   | 11934541             |
| 116                | 0.0584702          | 0.00841488                | 0.19966073         | 19648840                   | 2325076              |
| 116                | 0.22065396         | 0.06152621                | 0.29973585         | 2352478                    | 3762273              |
| 116                | 0.13173246         | 0.04990698                | 0.2038664          | 11037010                   | 12168889             |
| 349                | 0.16722651         | 0.09463971                | 0.23237536         | 1786941                    | 3799405              |
| 620                | 0.27037423         | 0.21804692                | 0.32827304         | 14511249                   | 14517354             |
| 620                | 0.19954508         | 0.1429355                 | 0.26060988         | 15392115                   | 16010049             |
| 379                | 0.14124829         | 0.07070685                | 0.19557706         | 21293120                   | 26152658             |
| 405                | 0.14464796         | 0.07699061                | 0.2047368          | 23319999                   | 27758980             |