- Deterministic splicing of *Dscam2* is regulated by Muscleblind
- 2 Joshua Shing Shun Li and S. Sean Millard
- 3 School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, 4072,
- 4 Australia

6

- 5 Correspondence: s.millard@uq.edu.au
- 7 Summary
- 8 Alternative splicing of genes increases the number of distinct proteins in a cell.
- 9 In the brain it is highly prevalent, presumably because proteome diversity is 10 crucial for establishing the complex circuitry between trillions of neurons. To
- provide individual cells with different repertoires of protein isoforms, however,
- 12 this process must be regulated. Previously, we found that the mutually exclusive
- 13 alternative splicing of a cell surface protein, *Dscam2* produces two isoforms
- 14 (exon 10A and 10B) with unique binding properties. This splicing event is tightly
- 15 regulated and crucial for maintaining axon terminal size, dendritic morphology
- and synaptic numbers. Here, we show that *Drosophila* Muscleblind (Mbl), a
- 17 conserved splicing factor implicated in myotonic dystrophy, controls *Dscam2*
- alternative splicing. Removing *mbl* from cells that normally express isoform B
- induces the expression of isoform A and eliminates the expression of B,
- demonstrating that Mbl represses one alternative exon and selects the other. Mbl
- 21 mutants exhibit phenotypes that are also observed in flies engineered to express
- a single isoform. Consistent with these observations, *mbl* expression is cell-type-
- 23 specific and correlates with the expression of isoform B. Our study demonstrates
- 24 how the regulated expression of a splicing factor is sufficient to provide neurons
- 25 with unique protein isoforms crucial for development.

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

Introduction Alternative splicing occurs in approximately 95% of human genes and generates proteome diversity much needed for brain wiring (Pan et al., 2008; Wang et al., 2008). Specifying neuronal connections through alternative splicing would require regulated expression of isoforms with unique functions in different cell types to carry out distinct processes. Although there are some examples of neuronal cell-typespecific isoform expression (Bell et al., 2004; Iijima et al., 2014; Lah et al., 2014; Norris et al., 2014; Schreiner et al., 2014; Tomioka et al., 2016), the mechanisms underlying these deterministic splicing events and their functional consequences remain understudied. This is due, in part, to the technical difficulties of assessing and manipulating isoform expression in vivo, and at the single cell level. Another obstacle is that most splicing regulators are proposed to be ubiquitously expressed (Nilsen and Graveley, 2010). For example, the broadly expressed SR and heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoproteins (hnRNPs) typically have opposing activities, and the prevalence of splice site usage is thought to be controlled by their relative abundances within the cell (Blanchette et al., 2009). Although there are many examples where splicing regulators are expressed in a tissue-specific manner (Calarco et al., 2009; Kuroyanagi et al., 2006; Markovtsov et al., 2000; Ohno et al., 2008; Underwood et al., 2005; Warzecha et al., 2009), until recently, reports of cell-type specific expression have been less frequent (McKee et al., 2005; Wang et al., 2018). In insects, Dscam2 is a cell recognition molecule that mediates self- and cell-typespecific avoidance (tiling) (Funada et al., 2007; Millard et al., 2007; Millard et al.,

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

2010). Mutually exclusive alternative splicing of exon 10A or 10B produces two isoforms with biochemically unique extracellular domains that are regulated both spatially and temporally (Funada et al., 2007; Millard et al., 2007). Previously, we demonstrated that cell-type-specific alternative splicing of *Drosophila Dscam2* is crucial for the proper development of axon terminal size, dendrite morphology and synaptic numbers in the fly visual system (Kerwin et al., 2018; Lah et al., 2014; Li et al., 2015). Although these studies showed that disrupting cell-specific *Dscam2* alternative splicing has functional consequences, what regulates this process remained unclear. Here, we conducted an RNAi screen and identified muscleblind (mbl) as a regulator of *Dscam2* alternative splicing. Loss-of-function (LOF) and overexpression (OE) studies suggest that Mbl acts both as a splicing repressor of *Dscam2* exon 10A and as an activator of exon 10B (hereafter Dscam2.10A and Dscam2.10B). Consistent with this finding, *mbl* expression is cell-type-specific and correlates with the expression of Dscam2.10B. Hypomorphic mbl mutants exhibit visual system phenotypes that are similar to those observed in flies engineered to express one isoform in all *Dscam2*-positive cells (single isoform strains). Similarly, driving *mbl* in mushroom body neurons that normally select isoform A, induces the expression of isoform B and generates a single isoform phenotype. Although the mbl gene is itself alternatively spliced, we found that selection of Dscam2.10B does not require a specific Mbl isoform and that human MBNL1 can also regulate Dscam2 alternative splicing. Our study provides compelling genetic evidence that the regulated expression of a highly conserved RNA binding protein, Mbl, is sufficient for the selection of *Dscam2.10B* and that disrupting this mechanism for cell-specific protein expression leads to developmental defects in neurons.

77 **Results** 78 An RNAi screen identifies mbl as a repressor of Dscam2 exon 10A selection 79 We reasoned that the neuronal cell-type-specific alternative splicing of *Dscam2* is 80 likely regulated by RNA binding proteins, and that we could identify these regulators 81 by knocking them down in a genetic background containing an isoform reporter. In 82 photoreceptors (R cells) of third instar larvae, *Dscam2.10B* is selected whereas the 83 splicing of *Dscam2.10A* is repressed (Lah et al., 2014; Tadros et al., 2016). Given that 84 quantifying a reduction in *Dscam2.10B* isoform reporter levels is challenging 85 compared to detecting the appearance of *Dscam2.10A* in cells where it is not normally 86 expressed, we performed a screen for repressors of isoform A in R cells. 87 88 To knock down RNA binding proteins, the glass multimer reporter (GMR)-GAL4 was 89 used to drive RNAi transgenes selectively in R cells. Our genetic background 90 included UAS-Dcr-2 to increase RNAi efficiency (Dietzl et al., 2007) and GMR-GFP 91 to mark the photoreceptors independent of the Gal4/UAS system (Brand and 92 Perrimon, 1993). Lastly, a *Dscam2.10A-LexA* reporter driving *LexAOp*-myristolated 93 tdTomato (hereafter Dscam2.10A>tdTom; Fig. 1A) was used to visualize isoform A 94 expression (Lai and Lee, 2006; Tadros et al., 2016). As expected, 95 Dscam2.10B>tdTom was detected in R cell projections in the lamina plexus as well as 96 in their cell bodies in the eye-disc, whereas Dscam2.10A>tdTom was not (Fig. 1C-97 1D). Overexpression of Dcr-2 in R cells did not perturb the repression of 98 Dscam2.10A (Fig 1O). We knocked down ~160 genes using ~250 RNAi lines (Fig 1B 99 and Table S1) and identified two independent RNAi lines targeting mbl that caused

aberrant expression of *Dscam2.10A* in R cells where it is normally absent (Fig 1F,

100

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

10). The penetrance increased when animals were reared at a more optimal Gal4 temperature of 29°C (Mondal et al., 2007; Ni et al., 2008) (Fig 1O). Mbl-family proteins possess evolutionarily conserved tandem CCCH zinc-finger domains through which they bind pre-mRNA. Vertebrate Mbl family members are involved in tissue-specific splicing and have been implicated in myotonic dystrophy (Pascual et al., 2006). Formerly known as mindmelt, Drosophila mbl was first identified in a second chromosome P-element genetic screen for embryonic defects in the peripheral nervous system (Kania et al., 1995). Mbl produces multiple isoforms through alternative splicing (Begemann et al., 1997; Irion, 2012), and its function has been most extensively characterized in fly muscles where both hypomorphic mutations and sequestration of the protein by repeated CUG sequences within an mRNA lead to muscle defects (Artero et al., 1998; Llamusi et al., 2013). To validate the RNAi phenotype, we tested *Dscam2.10A>tdTom* expression in *mbl* loss-offunction (LOF) mutants. Since mbl LOF results in lethality, we first conducted complementation tests on six *mbl* mutant alleles to identify viable hypomorphic combinations. These included two alleles created previously via imprecise P-element excision ( $mbl^{e127}$  and  $mbl^{e27}$ ; Begemann et al. 1997) two MiMIC splicing traps (mbl<sup>M100976</sup> and mbl<sup>M104093</sup>; (Venken et al., 2011) and two 2<sup>nd</sup> chromosome deficiencies (Df(2R)BSC154 and Df(2R)Exel6066; Fig 1F-1G). Consistent with previous reports, the complementation tests confirmed that the majority of the alleles were lethal over one another (Fig 1G) (Kania et al., 1995). However, we identified two mbl transheterozygous combinations that were partially viable and crossed these into a Dscam2.10A>tdTom reporter background. Both mbl<sup>e127</sup>/mbl<sup>M100976</sup> and mbl<sup>MI04093</sup>/mbl<sup>MI00976</sup> animals presented aberrant Dscam2.10A expression in R cells

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

when compared to heterozygous and wild-type controls (Fig 1H-O). Mbl mutant mosaic clones also exhibited aberrant Dscam2.10A>tdTom expression in R cells (Fig S1A-S1F). The weakest allele,  $mbl^{M00976}$ , which removes only a proportion of the mblisoforms, was the only exception (Fig S1E-S1F). One alternative explanation of how Dscam2.10A>tdTom expression could get switched-on in *mbl* mutants, is through exon 10 skipping. Removing both alternative exons simultaneously does not result in a frameshift mutation, and since the Gal4 in our reporters is inserted directly downstream of the variable exons (in exon 11), it would still be expressed. To test this possibility, we amplified Dscam2 sequences between exon 9 and 11 in  $mbl^{e127}/mbl^{M100976}$  transheterozygous animals using RT-PCR. In both control and *mbl* LOF mutants, we detected RT-PCR products (~690bp) that corresponded to the inclusion of exon 10 (A or B) and failed to detect products (~390bp) that would result from exon 10 skipping (Fig 1P). This suggested that Mbl is not involved in the splicing fidelity of *Dscam2.10* but rather in the selective mutual exclusion of its two isoforms. To assess whether the ratios of the two isoforms were changing in the *mbl* hypomorphic mutants, we cut the exon 10 RT-PCR products with the *ClaI* restriction enzyme that only recognizes exon 10A. Densitometric analysis then allowed us to semi-quantitatively compare the relative levels of both isoforms. There was  $\sim 25\%$  increase in the level of exon 10A inclusion in  $mbl^{e127}/mbl^{M100976}$ animals compared to controls (Fig 1P). Similarly, qRT-PCR of the mbl<sup>e127</sup>/mbl<sup>M100976</sup> animals showed a ~1.25 fold and ~0.78 fold change in exon 10A and 10B inclusion respectively, when compared to controls. Both results are consistent with the derepression we observed in our 10A reporter lines. To determine whether Mbl was specifically regulating *Dscam2* exon 10 mutually exclusive splicing, we assessed

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

other Dscam2 alternative splicing events. These included an alternative 5' splice site selection of *Dscam2* exon 19 and the alternative last exon (ALE) selection of exon 20 (Fig S2A). The expression of these different isoforms was unchanged in *mbl* hypomorphic mutants (Fig S2B). Together, our results indicate that Mbl is an essential splicing factor that specifically represses *Dscam2.10A*. Mbl is necessary for the selection of Dscam2 exon 10B Since *Dscam2* exon 10 isoforms are mutually exclusively spliced, we predicted that selection of exon 10A would lead to the loss of exon 10B selection. To test this, we conducted mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker (MARCM) (Lee and Luo, 1999) to analyse *Dscam2.10B* expression in *mbl* mutant clones. In late third instar brains, clones homozygous (GFP-positive) for mbl<sup>e127</sup> and mbl<sup>e27</sup> exhibited a dramatic reduction in *Dscam2.10B>tdTom* expression in R cell axons projecting to the lamina plexus compared to controls (Fig 2B, C, E). The absence of *Dscam2.10B>tdTom* in mbl mutant clones was more striking during pupal stages (Fig 2D), suggesting that perdurance of Mbl could explain the residual signal observed in third instar animals. These results reveal that mbl is cell-autonomously required for the selection of the Dscam2.10B. mbl expression is cell-type-specific and correlates with Dscam2.10B selection Previous studies have reported that mbl is expressed in third instar eye-discs and muscles (Artero et al., 1998; Brouwer et al., 1997). Since mbl LOF results in both the selection of *Dscam2.10A* and the loss of *Dscam2.10B*, we predicted that *mbl* expression would correlate with the presence of isoform B. To test this, we characterized several *mbl* reporters (Fig S3A). We analyzed three enhancer trap

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

strains (transcriptional reporters) inserted near the beginning of the *mbl* gene  $(mbl^{k01212}\text{-}LacZ, mbl^{NP1161}\text{-}Gal4 \text{ and } mbl^{NP0420}\text{-}Gal4)$ , as well as a splicing trap line generated by the Trojan-mediated conversion of a mbl MiMIC (Minos Mediated Integration Cassette) insertion (Fig S2A, mbl<sup>MiMIC00139</sup>-Gal4; (Diao et al., 2015). The splicing trap reporter consists of a splice acceptor site and an in-frame T2A-Gal4 sequence inserted in an intron between two coding exons. This Gal4 cassette gets incorporated into mbl mRNA during splicing and therefore Gal4 is only present when mbl is translated. Consistent with previous studies, and its role in repressing the production of *Dscam2.10A*, all four *mbl* reporters were expressed in the third instar photoreceptors (Fig 3A, S3A-S3D). We next did a more extensive characterization of mbl expression by driving nuclear localized GFP (GFP.nls) with one transcriptional  $(mbl^{NP0420}-Gal4)$  and one translational  $(mbl^{MiMIC00139}-Gal4)$  reporter. In the brain, we found that *mbl* was expressed predominantly in postmitotic neurons with some expression detected in glial cells (Fig SEC-S3H and S3J-S3M). Interestingly, we detected the translational but not the transcriptional reporter in third instar muscles (Fig S3I and S3N). The absence of expression is likely due to the insertion of the Pelement into a neural-specific enhancer, as previously described (Bargiela et al., 2014). To assess the expression of *mbl* in the five lamina neurons L1- L5, all of which express Dscam2 (Lah et al., 2014; Tadros et al., 2016), we implemented an intersectional strategy using a *UAS>stop>epitope* reporter (Nern et al., 2015) that is dependent on both FLP and Gal4. The FLP source (Dac-FLP) was expressed in lamina neurons and able to remove the transcriptional stop motif in the reporter transgene. The overlap between mbl-Gal4 and Dac-FLP allowed us to visualize mbl expression in lamina neurons at single-cell resolution (Fig 3B). As a proof of principle, we first did an intersectional analysis with a pan-neuronal reporter, elav-

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

Gal4 (Fig 3C<sub>1</sub>). We detected many clones encompassing various neuronal-cell-types including the axons of L1-L5 and R7-R8 (Fig 3C-3D). This confirmed that all lamina neurons could be detected using this strategy. Using mbl-Gal4 reporters we found that L1, R7 and R8, which expresses *Dscam2.10B*, were the primary neurons labelled. A few L4 cells were also detected, which is consistent with this neuron expressing Dscam2.10B early in development and Dscam2.10A at later stages (Tadros et al., 2016). To confirm this finding, we dissected the expression of *mbl* in lamina neurons during development. Using the same intersectional strategy, we detected a high number of L4 clones at 48hr apf (30%, n=10). This was followed by a decline at 60hr apf (26.7%, n = 30) and 72hr apf (11.8%, n = 85) reaching the lowest at eclosion (Fig. S4A and S4B;1.7%, n=242). Thus, mbl expression in L4 neurons mirrors the expression of *Dscam2.10B*. Consistent with this, L2, L3 and L5, were all detected using the intersectional strategy with Dscam2.10A-Gal4 but were not labelled using mbl-Gal4 (Fig 3E). The expression of mbl is further strengthened by an independent RNA-seq study of isolated lamina neurons during development, where mbl is detected at high levels in L1, R7 and R8 neurons (~5-100 fold more than L2-L5)(Tan et al., 2015). Together, these results show *mbl* expression correlates with the cell-typespecific alternative splicing of *Dscam2.10B*. Importantly, this suggests that simply the presence or absence of mbl can determine the selection of the Dscam2.10 isoform in a cell. Ectopic expression of multiple *mbl* isoforms is sufficient to promote the selection of Dscam2 exon 10B Since cells that select *Dscam2.10B* express *mbl* and cells that select *Dscam2.10A* lack mbl, we wondered whether it was sufficient to promote exon 10B selection in

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

Dscam2.10A-positive cells. To test this, we ectopically expressed mbl with a ubiquitous driver (Act5c-Gal4) and monitored isoform B expression using Dscam2.10B>tdTom. We focussed on the mushroom body (MB), as this tissue expresses isoform A specifically in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons at 24hr apf where mbl is not detected (Fig 3G-3H, 4A-4C). Consistent with our prediction, ectopic expression of mbl using an enhancer trap containing a UAS insertion at the 5' end of the gene  $(Act5c>mbl^{B2-EI})$ , switched on Dscam2.10B in  $\alpha'\beta'$  MB neurons, where it is normally absent (Fig 4D). Driving mbl with a MB-specific Gal4 (OK107) gave similar results (Fig 4E). Although our two Gal4 drivers expressed mbl in all MB neurons, Dscam 2.10B was only observed in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons, demonstrating that transcription of Dscam2 is a pre-requisite for this splicing modulation. Previous studies have suggested that the *mbl* gene is capable of generating different isoforms with unique functions depending on their subcellular localization (Vicente et al., 2007). This also includes the production of a highly abundant circular RNA that can sequester the Mbl protein (Ashwal-Fluss et al., 2014; Houseley et al., 2006). To assess whether Dscam2 exon 10B selection is dependent on a specific alternative variant of Mbl, we overexpressed the cDNAs of fly mbl isoforms (mblA, mblB and mblC; (Begemann et al., 1997; Juni and Yamamoto, 2009) as well as an isoform of the human MBNL1 that lacks the linker region optimal for CUG repeat binding (MBNL1<sub>35</sub>; (Kino et al., 2004; Li et al., 2008) with either Act5c-Gal4 or OK107-Gal4. These constructs all possess the tandem N-terminal CCCH motif that binds to YCGY sequences and lack the ability to produce *mbl* circRNA. In all cases, overexpression resulted in the misexpression of Dscam2.10B in  $\alpha'\beta'$  MBs (with the exception Act5C>mblC, which resulted in lethality; Fig 4D-4E). Using semi-quantitative RT-PCR from the Act5C>mbl flies, we demonstrated that overexpression of mbl did not lead to exon 10

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

270

271

272

273

274

275

skipping and that it increased exon 10B selection by 8-24% (Fig 4F), depending on the *mbl* isoform used. The inability of Mbl to completely inhibit exon 10A selection suggests that other factors or mechanisms may also contribute to cell-specific Dscam2 isoform expression (see Discussion). These results suggest that Mbl protein isoforms are all capable of *Dscam2.10B* selection and independent of *mbl* circRNA. The ability of human MBNL1 to promote the selection of exon 10B suggests that the regulatory logic for *Dscam2* splicing is likely conserved in other mutually-exclusive cassettes in higher organisms. Together, our results show that all mbl isoforms are sufficient to promote *Dscam2.10B* selection. Mbl regulates cell-type-specific *Dscam2* alternative splicing in lamina neurons To determine whether the regulatory logic of *Dscam2* alternative splicing is consistent in other cell types, we manipulated *mbl* expression in lamina neurons (L1-L5). We first asked whether mbl LOF resulted in the de-repression of Dscam2.10A in L1 neurons. To do this, we visualized *Dscam2* isoform expression in L1-L5 using an intersectional strategy similar to Figure 3 but with a different FLP source (27G05-FLP). We detected L1 and L4 neurons when using the Dscam2.10B-Gal4 reporter in a wild-type background, but not L2, L3 or L5. L1 was also not detected when using the Dscam2.10A-Gal4 reporter, where L2-L5 cells were the primary neurons labelled (Fig. 5A). Consistent with our R cell results, de-repression of *Dscam2.10A* was observed in L1 neurons in *mbl* transheterozygous animals  $(mbl^{e127}/mbl^{M100976})$  when compared to the corresponding heterozygous controls ( $mbl^{e127}/+$  and  $mbl^{M100976}/+$ , Fig 5A-5B). We next asked whether ectopic overexpression of mbl would result in aberrant Dscam.10B selection in L2, L3 and L5 neurons where it is usually repressed. For this experiment, the Gal4/UAS system was used to overexpress mbl and the LexA/LexAop

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

system was used to visualize *Dscam2* isoform expression. Using the same intersectional strategy, we found that *Dscam2-LexA* reporters showed similar patterns to the Dscam2-Gal4 reporters (Fig 5C). Pan-neuronal overexpression (elav-Gal4) of mbl caused the aberrant detection of Dscam2.10B in L2, L3 and L5 cells that normally select *Dscam2.10A* (Fig 5C-5D). Together, our results show that Mbl regulates *Dscam2* cell-type-specific alternative splicing. Importantly, the simple presence or absence of *mbl* is sufficient to determine whether a cell expresses Dscam2.10A or Dscam2.10B. Manipulation of *mbl* expression generates phenotypes observed in *Dscam2* single isoform mutants If Mbl regulates *Dscam2* alternative splicing, *mbl* LOF and OE animals should exhibit similar phenotypes to *Dscam2* isoform misexpression. Previously, we showed that flies expressing a single isoform of *Dscam2* exhibit a reduction in L1 axon arbour size and well as reduced dendritic width (Kerwin et al., 2018; Lah et al., 2014). These flies were generated using recombinase-mediated cassette exchange and express a single isoform in all *Dscam2*-positive cells (Lah et al., 2014). The reduction in axonal arbors and dendritic widths were proposed to be due to inappropriate interactions between cells that normally express different isoforms. Consistent with these previous studies, we observed a reduction in the area of L1 axon arbors (more prominent in m1 than in m5, Fig 5E-5F and 5I-5J) and the width of dendritic arrays (Fig 5G-5H and 5G) in mbl transheterozygous animals ( $mbl^{e127}/mbl^{M100976}$ ) when compared to controls. Finally, we observed a phenotype in MB neurons overexpressing mbl where the  $\beta$  lobe neurons inappropriately crossed the midline (Fig S5A-S5C). Interestingly, a similar phenotype was observed in *Dscam2A* single isoform mutants. These data demonstrate

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

that MB phenotypes generated in animals overexpressing mbl, phenocopy Dscam2 single isoform mutants. While the origin of this non-autonomous phenotype is not known, it correlates with the misregulation of *Dscam2* alternative isoform expression. **Discussion** In this study, we identify Mbl as a regulator of *Dscam2* alternative splicing. We demonstrate that removing mbl in a mbl-positive cell-type results in a switch from Dscam2.10B to Dscam2.10A selection. Ectopic expression of a variety of Mbl protein isoforms in a normally *mbl*-negative neuronal cell-type is sufficient to trigger the selection of *Dscam2.10B*. Consistent with this, transcriptional reporters demonstrate that *mbl* is expressed in a cell-type-specific manner in multiple cell-types, which tightly correlates with *Dscam2.10B*. Lastly, both *mbl* LOF and misexpression lead to phenotypes that are observed in flies that express a single *Dscam2* isoform. Our data demonstrate that *mbl* is expressed in a cell-specific fashion. In the lamina of the fly visual system, L1 and L2 neurons are developmentally very similar in terms of both morphology and gene expression (Bausenwein et al., 1992; Fischbach and Dittrich, 1989; Tan et al., 2015). The difference in *mbl* expression between these two cells is critical for their development as when expression of this splicing factor is perturbed, both cells express the same isoforms and inappropriate Dscam2 interactions lead to phenotypes in their axons and dendrites. Although, cell-specific mbl expression has been alluded to previously (Huang et al., 2008; Machuca-Tzili et al., 2011; Norris et al., 2017), our study demonstrates that mbl regulation of Dscam2 alternative splicing has functional consequences. Mbl appears to be regulated at the transcriptional level since the enhancer-trap as well as splicing-trap reporters lack the

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

347

348

349

350

components crucial for post-transcriptional regulation yet still exhibit cell-typespecific expression (Fig 3). This was unexpected as a recent study showed that mbl encodes numerous alternative isoforms that could be individually posttranscriptionally repressed by different microRNAs, thus bypassing the need for transcriptional control of the gene. It will be interesting to explore the *in vivo* expression patterns of other splicing factors in *Drosophila* to determine whether cellspecific expression of a subset of splicing factors is a common mechanism for regulating alternative splicing in the brain. The expression pattern of *mbl* and its ability to simultaneously repress exon 10A and select exon 10B suggest that this RNA binding protein and its associated co-factors are sufficient to regulate cell-type-specific splicing of Dscam2. Dscam2.10A could be the default exon selected when the Mbl complex is absent. In this way, cells that express mbl select Dscam2.10B. Consistent with this, ectopic expression of mbl in *mbl*-negative cells (L2, L3, L5 &  $\alpha$ ' $\beta$ ' neurons) results in the aberrant selection of exon 10B. Our RT-PCR data, however, argue that *Dscam2* mutually exclusive alternative splicing may be more complicated than this model. Ubiquitous expression of *mbl* increased exon B inclusion modestly (up to 24%) as measured by RT-PCR (see Fig 4F). One might expect a more pronounced shift to isoform B if Mbl were the only regulator/mechanism involved. Further studies, including screens for repressors of exon 10B, will be required to resolve this issue. The L1 axon and dendrite phenotypes generated through the LOF and ectopic expression of mbl, respectively, demonstrate that this splicing factor regulates aspects of neurodevelopment through cell-specific expression of *Dscam2* isoforms. In the

352

353

354

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

lamina, mbl expression in L1, and its absence in L2, permits these neurons to express distinct Dscam2 proteins that cannot recognise each other. Phenotypes arise in these neurons both when they are engineered to express the same isoform (Kerwin et al., 2018; Lah et al., 2014) and when mbl is misregulated (Fig 5). These data strongly link the regulation of cell-specific *Dscam2* splicing with normal neuron development. Mbl overexpression also generates a midline crossing phenotype in MB neurons that is similar to that observed in animals expressing a single isoform. This phenotype is complicated, however, by the observation that *Dscam2.10A*, but not *Dscam2.10B*, animals show a statistically significant increase in midline crossing compared to controls (Fig S4). This issue may have to do with innate differences between isoform A and isoform B that are not completely understood. It is possible that isoform A and B are not identical in terms of signalling due to either differences in homophilic binding or differences in co-factors associated with specific isoforms. Consistent with this notion, we previously reported that *Dscam2.10A* single isoform lines produce stronger phenotypes at photoreceptor synapses compared to Dscam2.10B (Kerwin et al., 2018). Together, our results demonstrate that the simple presence or absence of a splicing factor can affect neurodevelopment through the cell-specific selection of distinct isoforms of a cell surface protein. Although we provide compelling genetic evidence of how Mbl regulates the alternative splicing of *Dscam2*, the regulatory logic we discovered for *Dscam2* is likely to extend to cover the splicing events of many other genes crucial for neurodevelopment. Developmental analysis of *mbl* expression in the cells studied here suggests that it turns on after neurons have obtained their identity (similar to *Dscam2*) and is therefore well suited for regulating processes such as axon

377

378

379

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

guidance and synapse specification. Identifying these splicing events may provide clues into how the brain can diversify and regulate its repertoire of proteins to promote neural connectivity. **Experimental procedures** Fly strains Dscam2.10A-LexA and Dscam2.10B-LexA (Tadros et al., 2016), UAS-Dcr2 and UASmbl-RNAi<sup>VDRC28732</sup> (Dietzl et al., 2007), LexAop-myr-tdTomato (attP2, (Chen et al., 2014), UAS-Srp54-RNAi<sup>TRiP.HMS03941</sup>, CadN-RNAi<sup>TRiP.HMS02380</sup> and UAS-mbl-RNAi<sup>TRiP,JF03264</sup>(Ni et al., 2008), UAS-mCD8-GFP (Lee and Luo, 1999), FRT42D (Xu and Rubin, 1993),  $mbl^{e127}$  and  $mbl^{e27}$  (Begemann et al., 1997),  $mbl^{M100976}$  and  $mbl^{M104093}$ (Venken et al., 2011), Df(2R)BSC154 (Cook et al., 2012), Df(2R)Exel6066 (Parks et al., 2004), ey-FLP (Chr.1, (Newsome et al., 2000), GMR-myr-GFP, mbl<sup>NP0420</sup>-Gal4 and *mbl*<sup>NP1161</sup>-Gal4 (Hayashi et al., 2002), *mbl*<sup>k01212</sup>-LacZ (Spradling et al., 1999), mbl<sup>MiMIC00139</sup>-Gal4 (H. Bellen Lab), Dac-FLP (Chr.3, (Millard et al., 2007), UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc (attP5, (Nern et al., 2015), Dscam2.10A-Gal4 and Dscam2.10B-Gal4 (Lah et al., 2014) Act5C-Gal4 (Chr.3, from Yash Hiromi), OK107-Gal4 (Connolly et al., 1996), UAS-mblA, UASmblB and UAS-mblC (D. Yamamoto Lab), P{EP}mbl<sup>B2-E1</sup>, UAS-mblA-FLAG and *UAS-MBNL1*<sub>35</sub> (Li et al., 2008). **RNAi** screening The RNAi screen line was generated as follows: GMR-Gal4 was recombined with GMR-GFP on the second chromosome. Dscam2.10A-LexA (Tadros et al. 2016) was recombined with LexAop-myr-tdTomato on the third chromosome. These flies were

402

403

404

405

406

407

408

409

410

411

412

413

414

415

416

417

418

419

420

421

422

423

424

425

crossed together with UAS-Dcr-2 (X) to make a stable RNAi screen stock. UAS-RNAi lines were obtained from Bloomington and VDRC. Lethal UAS-RNAi stocks were placed over balancers with developmentally selectable markers. Virgin females were collected from the RNAi screen stock, crossed to UAS-RNAi males and reared at 25°C. Wandering third instar larvae were dissected and fixed. We tested between one to three independent RNAi lines per gene. In total, we imaged ~2300 third instar optic lobes without antibodies using confocal microscopy at 63X. RNAi lines tested are listed in Table S1. Semiquantitative and quantitative RT-PCR Total RNA was isolated using TRIzol (Ambion) following the manufacturer's protocol. Reverse transcription was performed on each RNA sample with random primer mix (semiquantitative, NEB) or Oligo-dT (qRT-PCR, NEB) using 200 units of M-MULV (NEB) and 1 μg of RNA in a 20 μL reaction, at 42°C for 1 hr. PCR reactions were set up with specific primers to analyse alternative splicing of various regions of *Dscam2*. Where possible, semi-quantitative PCR was performed to generate multiple isoforms in a single reaction and relative levels were compared by electrophoresis followed by densitometry. For qRT-PCR, 1µL of CDNA were added to a Luna Universal SYBR-Green qPCR Master Mix kit (NEB). Samples were added into a 200µL 96-well plate and read on the QuantStudio TM 6 Flex Real-Time PCR machine. Rq values were calculated in Excel (Microsoft). **Immunohistochemistry** Immunostaining were conducted as previously described (Lah et al. 2014). Antibody dilutions used were as follows: mouse mAb24B10 (1:20; DSHB), mouse anti-Repo

427

428

429

430

431

432

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

445

446

447

448

449

450

(1:20; DSHB), mouse anti-DAC (1:20; DSHB), mouse anti-Fas2 (1:20; DSHB) rat anti-ELAV (1:200), V5-tag:DyLight anti-mouse 550 (1:500; AbD Serotec), V5tag:DyLight anti-mouse 405 (1:200; AbD Serotec), myc-tag;DyLight anti-mouse 549 (1:200; AbD Serotec), Phalloidin: Alexa Fluor 568 (1:200; Molecular Probes), DyLight anti-mouse 647 (1:2000; Jackson Laboratory), DyLight Cy3 anti-rat (1:2000; Jackson Laboratory). **Image acquisition** Imaging was performed at the School of Biomedical Sciences Imaging Facility. Images were taken on a Leica SP8 laser scanning confocal system with a 63X Glycerol NA 1.3. Fly genotypes Specific genotypes can be found in the supplemental text. **Author contribution** J.S.S.L designed and performed all experiments. S.S.M supervised the project. J.S.S.L and S.S.M wrote the manuscript. Acknowledgements We thank Wael Tadros, Yi Chen, Larry Zipursky, Greg Neely, Louis O'Keefe, Nancy Bonini, Aljoscha Nern and Bloomington Stock Center for sharing fly stocks. We thank the Daisuke Yamamoto Lab for constructing the UAS-mbl lines deposited and maintained at the Kyoto Stock Center. We thank Shaun Walters for technical assistance on the Leica confocal microscopy. We note that Grace Shin initially

observed *Dscam2* isoform expression in the adult mushroom bodies. We thank Kevin Mutemi for his thorough characterization of *Dscam2* isoform expression in mushroom bodies during development and all midline crossing defects in *Dscam2* single isoform mutant animals. We thank Wei Jun Tan for the heroic feat of triple balancing *OK107-Gal4*. We also thank members of the Millard, Pecot, Hilliard and van Swinderen lab for their feedback. The RNAi screen was inspired by the works of Hidehito Kuroyanagi. This work was supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC grant APP1021006). J.S.S.L was supported by the Australia Postgraduate Award (Research Training Scheme) from the Australian Federal Government and the Lavidis grant in aid.

464

465

466

467

468

469

470

471

472

473

474

475

476

477

478

479

480

481

482

483

484

485

486

487

Figure legends Figure 1. Drosophila mbl is required for the repression of Dscam2 exon 10A in R cells. (A) Schematic showing the region of *Dscam2* exon 10 that undergoes mutually exclusive alternative splicing and the LexA isoform-specific reporter lines. Frameshift mutations in the exon not reported are shown. (B) Schematic RNAi screen design for identifying repressors of *Dscam2* exon 10A selection. R cells normally select exon 10B and repress exon 10A. We knocked-down RNA binding proteins in R cells while monitoring 10A expression. (C-E) *Dscam2* exon 10A is derepressed in R cells when *mbl* is knocked-down. (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>) Dscam2.10B control. R cells (green) normally select exon 10B (red). R cell terminals can be observed in the lamina plexus (angle brackets). Dscam2.10B is also expressed in the developing optic lobe (arrowhead). (D<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>3</sub>) Dscam2.10A is not expressed in R cells (green) but is expressed in the developing optic lobe (arrowhead). (E<sub>1</sub>-E<sub>3</sub>) RNAi lines targeting mbl in R cells results in the aberrant expression of Dscam2.10A in R cells. (F) Schematic of the *mbl* gene showing the location of two small deletions (E27 and E127), two MiMIC insertions (MI04093 and MI00976) and two deficiencies (Df(2R)Exel6066 and Df(2R)BSC154) used in this study. Non-coding exons are in gray, coding exons are black. (G) Complementation test of *mbl* loss-of-function (LOF) alleles. Numbers in the table represent the number of non-CyO offspring over the total. Most transheterygote combinations were lethal with the exception of  $mbl^{M100976}/mbl^{e27}$  and  $mbl^{MI00976}/mbl^{MI04093}$  (green). (H-N) Mbl transheterozygotes express Dscam2.10A in R cells. (H) Dscam2.10B control showing expression in the lamina plexus (angle brackets). (I) Dscam2.10A

489

490

491

492

493

494

495

496

497

498

499

500

501

502

503

504

505

506

507

508

509

510

511

512

control showing no expression of this isoform in R cells. (J-L) Heterozygous animals for mbl LOF alleles are comparable to control. (M-N) Two different mbl transheterozygote combinations exhibit de-repression of *Dscam2.10A* in R cells. (O) Quantification of *Dscam2.10>tdTom* expression in third instar R cells with various mbl manipulations; including RNAi knockdown (black bars) and whole animal transheterozygotes (white). Y-axis represents the number of optic lobes with R cells positive for tdTom over total quantified as a percentage. On the x-axis, the presence of a transgene is indicated with a grey box and the temperature at which the crosses were reared (25°C or 29°C) is indicated on the top. (P) Dscam2 exon 10A inclusion is increased in mbl transheterozygotes. (Top) Semiquantitative RT-PCR from different genotypes indicated. Primers amplified the variable region that includes exon 10. A smaller product that would result from exon 10 skipping is not observed. (Bottom) Exon 10A-specific cleavage with restriction enzyme ClaI shows an increase in exon 10A inclusion in mbl transheterozygotes. Percentage of exon 10A inclusion was calculated by dividing 10A by 10A+10B bands following restriction digest. The mean of exon 10A inclusion is shown at the bottom of each lane. ANOVA test with Tukey's multiple comparison test was used to compare the exon 10A inclusion. ns P > 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01. See also Figures S1 and S2. Figure 2. Drosophila mbl is necessary for the selection of Dscam2 exon 10B in R cells. (A) Schematic of our predicted mbl MARCM results using ey-FLP. WT R cell clones will be GFP(+) and Dscam2.10B>tdTom(+) (yellow), whereas mbl mutant clones will be Dscam2.10B>tdTom(-) (green). (B<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>3</sub>) Control MARCM clones (green) in 3<sup>rd</sup>

514

515

516

517

518

519

520

521

522

523

524

525

526

527

528

529

530

531

532

533

534

535

536

instar R cells (angle brackets) are positive for Dscam2.10B>tdTom (arrowhead). (C<sub>1</sub>- $C_3$ ) In  $mbl^{e27}$  clones, Dscam2.10B labelling in the lamina plexus is discontinuous and its absence correlates with the loss of Mbl (arrowhead). (D<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>2</sub>) Mbl MARCM clones from midpupal optic lobes lack *Dscam2.10B*>tdTom. (E<sub>1</sub>-E<sub>2</sub>) A different allele  $(mbl^{e127})$  exhibits a similar phenotype in third instar brains. Figure 3. mbl is expressed in a cell-specific manner that correlates with Dscam2.10B (A) A mbl-Gal4 reporter (green) is expressed in third instar R cells but not in lamina neuron precursor cells labelled with an antibody against Dacshund (DAC, red). (B) Schematic of MultiColor FlpOut (MCFO) approach to characterize *mbl* reporter expression in lamina neurons at adult stages. The UAS FlpOut construct produces an epitope-tagged version of a non-fluorescent GFP (smGFP,(Nern et al., 2015))  $(C_1-C_4)$  All lamina neurons can be detected using a MCFO strategy with a panneuronal reporter (elav-Gal4). Lamina neurons were identified based on their unique axon morphologies. (D<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>4</sub>) An intersectional strategy using *mbl-Gal4* labels primarily L1 lamina neurons. (E) Quantification of lamina neurons and R7-R8 neurons observed using the intersectional strategy. Dark green and light green boxes represent high and low numbers of labelled neurons, respectively. (F-H) Mbl is not expressed in mushroom body (MB) neurons that express *Dscam2.10A* at 24hr apf.  $(F_1-F_2)$  Dscam2.10A is expressed in  $\alpha'\beta'$  MB neurons that are not labelled by Fas2. Fas2 labels the  $\alpha\beta$  and  $\gamma$  subsets of MB neurons. (G-H) Neither *Dscam2.10B* (G<sub>1</sub>-G<sub>2</sub>) nor *mbl* (H<sub>1</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>) are detected in MB neurons. See also Figures S3 and S4.

**Figure 4.** Multiple *mbl* isoforms promte selection of *Dscam2* exon 10B

538

539

540

541

542

543

544

545

546

547

548

549

550

551

552

553

554

555

556

557

558

559

560

561

(A) Schematic showing that *mbl* is sufficient to drive *Dscam2.10B* selection in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons. (B) Control showing that Dscam2.10A (red) is expressed in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons at 24hr apf. (C) Control showing that Dscam2.10B is normally repressed in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons. (D) Overexpression of *mbl* activates Dscam2.10B selection (red) in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons. (E) Quantification of *Dscam2.10* expression in  $\alpha'\beta'$  neurons at 24-36hr apf with and without mbl OE. Control (No Gal4, grey bar), ubiquitous driver (Act5c-Gal4, black bars) and pan-mushroom body neuron driver (OK107-Gal4, white bars). Y-axis represents the number of tdTom positive (+)  $\alpha'\beta'$  over the total, expressed as a percentage. Ratio of tdTom(+)/total is shown in each bar. (F) Mbl OE increases Dscam2 exon 10B inclusion. Semiquantitative RT-PCR as in Figure 1. Exon 10Aspecific cleavage with restriction enzyme ClaI shows an increase in exon 10B inclusion in *mbl* OE animals, without exon 10 skipping. Percentage of exon 10B inclusion was calculated by dividing 10B by 10A+10B bands following electrophoresis and densitometry. The mean of exon 10B inclusion is shown at the bottom of each lane. ANOVA test with Tukey's multiple comparison test was used to compare the exon 10B inclusion. ns P > 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01, \*\*\* P < 0.001. Figure 5. Mbl regulates *Dscam2* cell-type-specific alternative splicing in lamina neurons. (A) Quantification of lamina neurons L1-L5 observed using the Dscam2.10B-Gal4 (magenta) or Dscam2.10A-Gal4 (blue) reporters with the intersectional strategy in mbl LOF animals. Green boxes represent high number of labelled neurons. Dscam2.10A is de-repressed in L1 neurons in a mbl LOF background  $(mbl^{M100976}/mbl^{e27}, hash tag).$ 

563

564

565

566

567

568

569

570

571

572

573

574

575

576

577

578

579

580

581

582

583

584

585

586

(B) Schematic of *Dscam2.10A* de-repression in *mbl* LOF L1 neurons. (C) Quantification of lamina neurons L1-L5 observed using the Dscam2.10A-LexA (blue) or *Dscam2.10B-LexA* (magenta) reporters with the intersectional strategy in animals with pan-neuronal (elav-Gal4) expression of mbl. Green boxes represent high numbers of labelled neurons. Dscam2.10B-LexA was aberrantly detected in L2, L3 and L5 neurons overexpressing *mblB* (hash tag). (D) Schematic of aberrant *Dscam2.10B* selection in L2, L3 and L5 neurons overexpressing *mbl*. (E-K) L1 neurons in mbl LOF animals have reduced axon arbor area and dendritic array width when compared to controls. (E) A representative confocal image of a control L1 axon (green) with arbors at m1 and m5 layers. (F) A representative confocal image of an L1 axon from mbl LOF animals (mbl<sup>M100976</sup>/mbl<sup>e27</sup>). (G) A representative confocal image of a control L1 dendritic array (grey). (H) A representative confocal image of a L1 dendritic array from *mbl* LOF animals  $(mbl^{M100976}/mbl^{e27})$ . (I) Quantification of L1 axon m1 arbor area (mm<sup>2</sup>). (J) Quantification of L1 axon m5 arbor area (mm²). (K) Quantification of L1 dendritic width (mm). Tukey boxplot format: middle line = median, range bars = min and max, box = 25-75% quartiles, and each data point = single cartridge. Numbers in parentheses represent total number of L1 neurons quantified. Parametric t-test was used to compare mbl LOF L1 axon arbour area with controls. Non-parametric t-test was used to compare *mbl* LOF L1 dendritic width with controls. \*\*\*\* *P*<0.0001. Bars, 5mm (E-H).

References

587

- Artero, R., Prokop, A., Paricio, N., Begemann, G., Pueyo, I., Mlodzik, M., Perez-
- Alonso, M., and Baylies, M.K. (1998). The muscleblind gene participates in the
- organization of Z-bands and epidermal attachments of Drosophila muscles and is
- regulated by Dmef2. Developmental biology 195, 131-143.
- Ashwal-Fluss, R., Meyer, M., Pamudurti, N.R., Ivanov, A., Bartok, O., Hanan, M.,
- 593 Evantal, N., Memczak, S., Rajewsky, N., and Kadener, S. (2014). circRNA
- biogenesis competes with pre-mRNA splicing. Molecular cell 56, 55-66.
- Bargiela, A., Llamusi, B., Cerro-Herreros, E., and Artero, R. (2014). Two enhancers
- 596 control transcription of Drosophila muscleblind in the embryonic somatic
- musculature and in the central nervous system. PloS one 9, e93125.
- Bausenwein, B., Dittrich, A.P., and Fischbach, K.F. (1992). The optic lobe of
- 599 Drosophila melanogaster. II. Sorting of retinotopic pathways in the medulla. Cell
- and tissue research 267, 17-28.
- Begemann, G., Paricio, N., Artero, R., Kiss, I., Perez-Alonso, M., and Mlodzik, M.
- 602 (1997). muscleblind, a gene required for photoreceptor differentiation in
- Drosophila, encodes novel nuclear Cys3His-type zinc-finger-containing proteins.
- 604 Development 124, 4321-4331.
- Bell, T.J., Thaler, C., Castiglioni, A.J., Helton, T.D., and Lipscombe, D. (2004). Cell-
- specific alternative splicing increases calcium channel current density in the pain
- 607 pathway. Neuron 41, 127-138.
- Blanchette, M., Green, R.E., MacArthur, S., Brooks, A.N., Brenner, S.E., Eisen, M.B.,
- and Rio, D.C. (2009). Genome-wide analysis of alternative pre-mRNA splicing and
- RNA-binding specificities of the Drosophila hnRNP A/B family members.
- 611 Molecular cell 33, 438-449.
- Brand, A.H., and Perrimon, N. (1993). Targeted gene expression as a means of
- altering cell fates and generating dominant phenotypes. Development 118, 401-
- 614 415.
- Brouwer, J., Nagelkerke, D., den Heijer, P., Ruiter, J.H., Mulder, H., Begemann, M.J.,
- and Lie, K.I. (1997). Analysis of atrial sensed far-field ventricular signals: a
- reassessment. Pacing and clinical electrophysiology: PACE 20, 916-922.
- 618 Calarco, J.A., Superina, S., O'Hanlon, D., Gabut, M., Raj, B., Pan, Q., Skalska, U.,
- 619 Clarke, L., Gelinas, D., van der Kooy, D., et al. (2009). Regulation of vertebrate
- 620 nervous system alternative splicing and development by an SR-related protein.
- 621 Cell 138, 898-910.
- 622 Chen, Y., Akin, O., Nern, A., Tsui, C.Y., Pecot, M.Y., and Zipursky, S.L. (2014). Cell-
- 623 type-specific labeling of synapses in vivo through synaptic tagging with
- 624 recombination. Neuron 81, 280-293.

- 625 Connolly, J.B., Roberts, I.J., Armstrong, J.D., Kaiser, K., Forte, M., Tully, T., and
- 626 O'Kane, C.J. (1996). Associative learning disrupted by impaired Gs signaling in
- Drosophila mushroom bodies. Science 274, 2104-2107.
- 628 Cook, R.K., Christensen, S.J., Deal, J.A., Coburn, R.A., Deal, M.E., Gresens, J.M.,
- Kaufman, T.C., and Cook, K.R. (2012). The generation of chromosomal deletions
- 630 to provide extensive coverage and subdivision of the Drosophila melanogaster
- 631 genome. Genome biology 13, R21.
- Diao, F., Ironfield, H., Luan, H., Diao, F., Shropshire, W.C., Ewer, J., Marr, E., Potter,
- 633 C.J., Landgraf, M., and White, B.H. (2015). Plug-and-play genetic access to
- drosophila cell types using exchangeable exon cassettes. Cell reports 10, 1410-
- 635 1421.
- Dietzl, G., Chen, D., Schnorrer, F., Su, K.C., Barinova, Y., Fellner, M., Gasser, B.,
- Kinsey, K., Oppel, S., Scheiblauer, S., et al. (2007). A genome-wide transgenic
- 638 RNAi library for conditional gene inactivation in Drosophila. Nature 448, 151-
- 639 U151.
- 640 Fischbach, K.F., and Dittrich, A.P.M. (1989). The Optic Lobe of Drosophila-
- Melanogaster .1. A Golgi Analysis of Wild-Type Structure. Cell and tissue research
- 642 258, 441-475.
- 643 Funada, M., Hara, H., Sasagawa, H., Kitagawa, Y., and Kadowaki, T. (2007). A
- honey bee Dscam family member, AbsCAM, is a brain-specific cell adhesion
- molecule with the neurite outgrowth activity which influences neuronal wiring
- during development. The European journal of neuroscience 25, 168-180.
- Hayashi, S., Ito, K., Sado, Y., Taniguchi, M., Akimoto, A., Takeuchi, H., Aigaki, T.,
- Matsuzaki, F., Nakagoshi, H., Tanimura, T., et al. (2002). GETDB, a database
- compiling expression patterns and molecular locations of a collection of Gal4
- enhancer traps. Genesis 34, 58-61.
- Houseley, J.M., Garcia-Casado, Z., Pascual, M., Paricio, N., O'Dell, K.M., Monckton,
- D.G., and Artero, R.D. (2006). Noncanonical RNAs from transcripts of the
- Drosophila muscleblind gene. The Journal of heredity 97, 253-260.
- Huang, H., Wahlin, K.J., McNally, M., Irving, N.D., and Adler, R. (2008).
- Developmental regulation of muscleblind-like (MBNL) gene expression in the
- chicken embryo retina. Developmental dynamics: an official publication of the
- American Association of Anatomists 237, 286-296.
- 658 Iijima, T., Iijima, Y., Witte, H., and Scheiffele, P. (2014). Neuronal cell type-specific
- alternative splicing is regulated by the KH domain protein SLM1. The Journal of
- 660 cell biology 204, 331-342.
- Irion, U. (2012). Drosophila muscleblind codes for proteins with one and two
- tandem zinc finger motifs. PloS one 7, e34248.

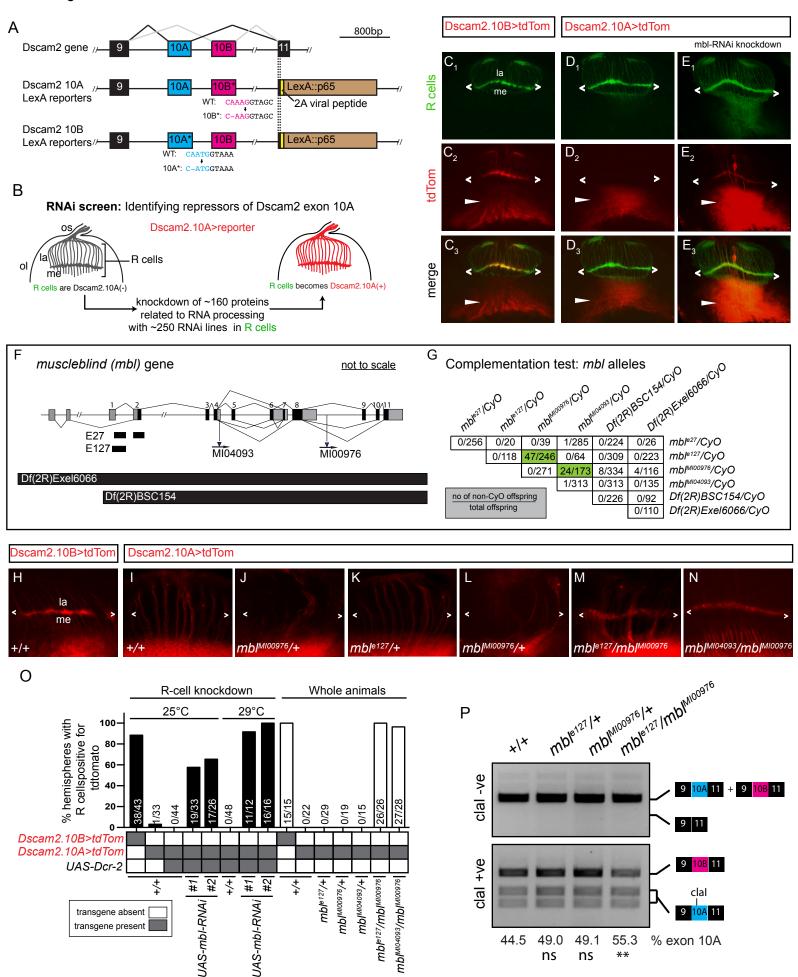
- [663] Juni, N., and Yamamoto, D. (2009). Genetic analysis of chaste, a new mutation of
- Drosophila melanogaster characterized by extremely low female sexual
- receptivity. Journal of neurogenetics 23, 329-340.
- 666 Kania, A., Salzberg, A., Bhat, M., D'Evelyn, D., He, Y., Kiss, I., and Bellen, H.J. (1995).
- 667 P-element mutations affecting embryonic peripheral nervous system
- development in Drosophila melanogaster. Genetics 139, 1663-1678.
- Kerwin, S.K., Li, J.S.S., Noakes, P.G., Shin, G.J., and Millard, S.S. (2018). Regulated
- Alternative Splicing of Drosophila Dscam2 Is Necessary for Attaining the
- Appropriate Number of Photoreceptor Synapses. Genetics 208, 717-728.
- Kino, Y., Mori, D., Oma, Y., Takeshita, Y., Sasagawa, N., and Ishiura, S. (2004).
- Muscleblind protein, MBNL1/EXP, binds specifically to CHHG repeats. Human
- 674 molecular genetics 13, 495-507.
- Kuroyanagi, H., Kobayashi, T., Mitani, S., and Hagiwara, M. (2006). Transgenic
- alternative-splicing reporters reveal tissue-specific expression profiles and
- 677 regulation mechanisms in vivo. Nature methods 3, 909-915.
- 678 Lah, G.J., Li, J.S., and Millard, S.S. (2014). Cell-specific alternative splicing of
- 679 Drosophila Dscam2 is crucial for proper neuronal wiring. Neuron 83, 1376-1388.
- Lai, S.L., and Lee, T. (2006). Genetic mosaic with dual binary transcriptional
- systems in Drosophila. Nature neuroscience 9, 703-709.
- Lee, T., and Luo, L. (1999). Mosaic analysis with a repressible cell marker for
- studies of gene function in neuronal morphogenesis. Neuron 22, 451-461.
- Li, J.S., Shin, G.J., and Millard, S.S. (2015). Neuronal cell-type-specific alternative
- splicing: A mechanism for specifying connections in the brain? Neurogenesis 2,
- 686 e1122699.
- Li, L.B., Yu, Z., Teng, X., and Bonini, N.M. (2008). RNA toxicity is a component of
- ataxin-3 degeneration in Drosophila. Nature 453, 1107-1111.
- 689 Llamusi, B., Bargiela, A., Fernandez-Costa, J.M., Garcia-Lopez, A., Klima, R.,
- 690 Feiguin, F., and Artero, R. (2013). Muscleblind, BSF and TBPH are mislocalized in
- the muscle sarcomere of a Drosophila myotonic dystrophy model. Disease
- 692 models & mechanisms 6, 184-196.
- Machuca-Tzili, L.E., Buxton, S., Thorpe, A., Timson, C.M., Wigmore, P., Luther, P.K.,
- and Brook, J.D. (2011). Zebrafish deficient for Muscleblind-like 2 exhibit features
- of myotonic dystrophy. Disease models & mechanisms 4, 381-392.
- Markovtsov, V., Nikolic, J.M., Goldman, J.A., Turck, C.W., Chou, M.Y., and Black, D.L.
- 697 (2000). Cooperative assembly of an hnRNP complex induced by a tissue-specific
- 698 homolog of polypyrimidine tract binding protein. Molecular and cellular biology
- 699 20, 7463-7479.

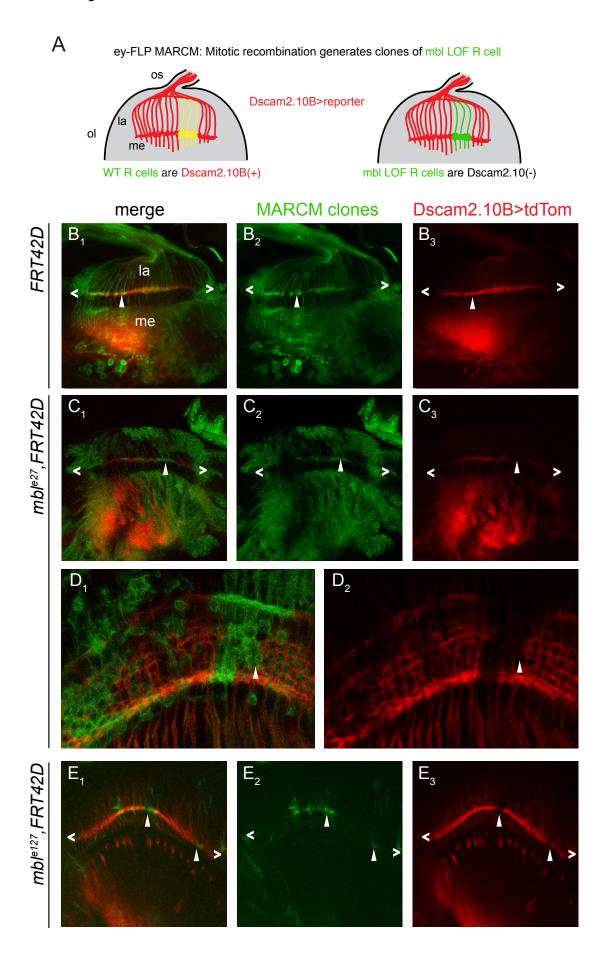
- 700 McKee, A.E., Minet, E., Stern, C., Riahi, S., Stiles, C.D., and Silver, P.A. (2005). A
- 701 genome-wide in situ hybridization map of RNA-binding proteins reveals
- anatomically restricted expression in the developing mouse brain. BMC
- developmental biology 5, 14.
- Millard, S.S., Flanagan, J.J., Pappu, K.S., Wu, W., and Zipursky, S.L. (2007). Dscam2
- mediates axonal tiling in the Drosophila visual system. Nature 447, 720-724.
- Millard, S.S., Lu, Z., Zipursky, S.L., and Meinertzhagen, I.A. (2010). Drosophila
- dscam proteins regulate postsynaptic specificity at multiple-contact synapses.
- 708 Neuron 67, 761-768.
- Mondal, K., VijayRaghavan, K., and Varadarajan, R. (2007). Design and utility of
- 710 temperature-sensitive Gal4 mutants for conditional gene expression in
- 711 Drosophila. Fly 1, 282-286.
- Nern, A., Pfeiffer, B.D., and Rubin, G.M. (2015). Optimized tools for multicolor
- stochastic labeling reveal diverse stereotyped cell arrangements in the fly visual
- 714 system. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of
- 715 America 112, E2967-E2976.
- Newsome, T.P., Schmidt, S., Dietzl, G., Keleman, K., Asling, B., Debant, A., and
- 717 Dickson, B.J. (2000). Trio combines with dock to regulate Pak activity during
- 718 photoreceptor axon pathfinding in Drosophila. Cell 101, 283-294.
- Ni, J.Q., Markstein, M., Binari, R., Pfeiffer, B., Liu, L.P., Villalta, C., Booker, M.,
- 720 Perkins, L., and Perrimon, N. (2008). Vector and parameters for targeted
- 721 transgenic RNA interference in Drosophila melanogaster. Nature methods 5, 49-
- 722 51.
- Nilsen, T.W., and Graveley, B.R. (2010). Expansion of the eukaryotic proteome by
- 724 alternative splicing. Nature 463, 457-463.
- Norris, A.D., Gao, S., Norris, M.L., Ray, D., Ramani, A.K., Fraser, A.G., Morris, Q.,
- Hughes, T.R., Zhen, M., and Calarco, J.A. (2014). A pair of RNA-binding proteins
- 727 controls networks of splicing events contributing to specialization of neural cell
- 728 types. Molecular cell 54, 946-959.
- Norris, A.D., Gracida, X., and Calarco, J.A. (2017). CRISPR-mediated genetic
- 730 interaction profiling identifies RNA binding proteins controlling metazoan
- fitness. eLife 6.
- Ohno, G., Hagiwara, M., and Kuroyanagi, H. (2008). STAR family RNA-binding
- 733 protein ASD-2 regulates developmental switching of mutually exclusive
- alternative splicing in vivo. Genes & development 22, 360-374.
- Pan, Q., Shai, O., Lee, L.J., Frey, B.J., and Blencowe, B.J. (2008). Deep surveying of
- alternative splicing complexity in the human transcriptome by high-throughput
- 737 sequencing. Nature genetics 40, 1413-1415.

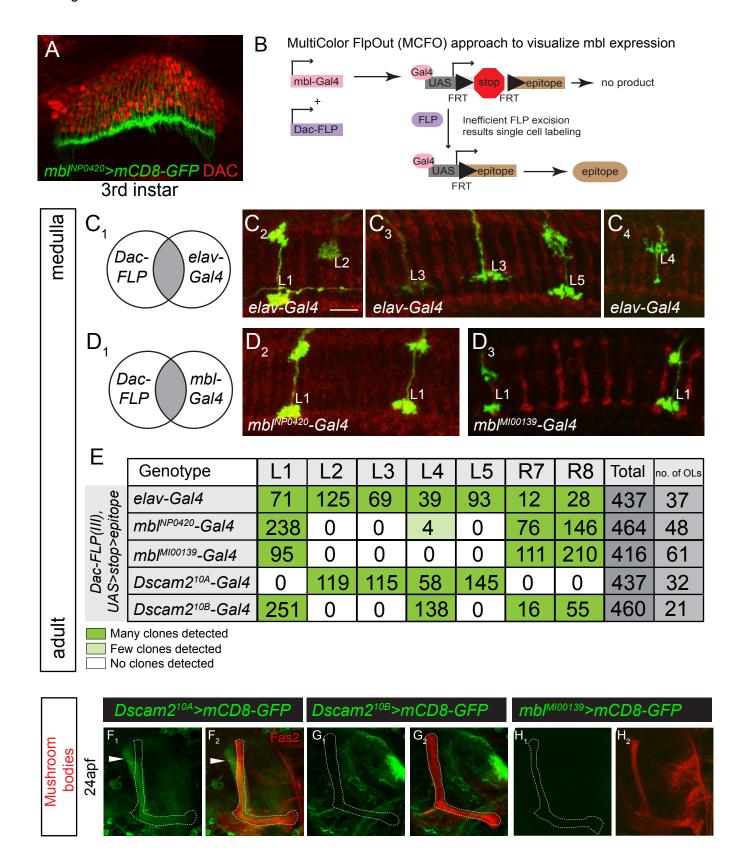
- Parks, A.L., Cook, K.R., Belvin, M., Dompe, N.A., Fawcett, R., Huppert, K., Tan, L.R.,
- 739 Winter, C.G., Bogart, K.P., Deal, J.E., et al. (2004). Systematic generation of high-
- resolution deletion coverage of the Drosophila melanogaster genome. Nature
- 741 genetics 36, 288-292.
- Pascual, M., Vicente, M., Monferrer, L., and Artero, R. (2006). The Muscleblind
- family of proteins: an emerging class of regulators of developmentally
- 744 programmed alternative splicing. Differentiation; research in biological diversity
- 745 74, 65-80.
- Schreiner, D., Nguyen, T.M., Russo, G., Heber, S., Patrignani, A., Ahrne, E., and
- 747 Scheiffele, P. (2014). Targeted combinatorial alternative splicing generates brain
- region-specific repertoires of neurexins. Neuron 84, 386-398.
- 749 Spradling, A.C., Stern, D., Beaton, A., Rhem, E.J., Laverty, T., Mozden, N., Misra, S.,
- and Rubin, G.M. (1999). The Berkeley Drosophila Genome Project gene
- disruption project: Single P-element insertions mutating 25% of vital Drosophila
- 752 genes. Genetics 153, 135-177.
- 753 Tadros, W., Xu, S.W., Akin, O., Yi, C.H., Shin, G.J.E., Millard, S.S., and Zipursky, S.L.
- 754 (2016). Dscam Proteins Direct Dendritic Targeting through Adhesion. Neuron
- 755 89, 480-493.
- 756 Tan, L., Zhang, K.X., Pecot, M.Y., Nagarkar-Jaiswal, S., Lee, P.T., Takemura, S.Y.,
- 757 McEwen, J.M., Nern, A., Xu, S., Tadros, W., et al. (2015). Ig Superfamily Ligand and
- Receptor Pairs Expressed in Synaptic Partners in Drosophila. Cell 163, 1756-
- 759 1769.
- 760 Tomioka, M., Naito, Y., Kuroyanagi, H., and Iino, Y. (2016). Splicing factors control
- 761 C. elegans behavioural learning in a single neuron by producing DAF-2c receptor.
- 762 Nature communications 7, 11645.
- 763 Underwood, J.G., Boutz, P.L., Dougherty, J.D., Stoilov, P., and Black, D.L. (2005).
- Homologues of the Caenorhabditis elegans Fox-1 protein are neuronal splicing
- regulators in mammals. Molecular and cellular biology 25, 10005-10016.
- Venken, K.J., Schulze, K.L., Haelterman, N.A., Pan, H., He, Y., Evans-Holm, M.,
- 767 Carlson, J.W., Levis, R.W., Spradling, A.C., Hoskins, R.A., and Bellen, H.J. (2011).
- 768 MiMIC: a highly versatile transposon insertion resource for engineering
- 769 Drosophila melanogaster genes. Nature methods 8, 737-743.
- Vicente, M., Monferrer, L., Poulos, M.G., Houseley, J., Monckton, D.G., O'Dell K, M.,
- 771 Swanson, M.S., and Artero, R.D. (2007). Muscleblind isoforms are functionally
- distinct and regulate alpha-actinin splicing. Differentiation; research in biological
- 773 diversity 75, 427-440.
- Wang, E.T., Sandberg, R., Luo, S., Khrebtukova, I., Zhang, L., Mayr, C., Kingsmore,
- 775 S.F., Schroth, G.P., and Burge, C.B. (2008). Alternative isoform regulation in
- human tissue transcriptomes. Nature 456, 470-476.

- Wang, Q., Abruzzi, K.C., Rosbash, M., and Rio, D.C. (2018). Striking circadian
- neuron diversity and cycling of Drosophila alternative splicing. eLife 7.
- Warzecha, C.C., Sato, T.K., Nabet, B., Hogenesch, J.B., and Carstens, R.P. (2009).
- 780 ESRP1 and ESRP2 are epithelial cell-type-specific regulators of FGFR2 splicing.
- 781 Molecular cell 33, 591-601.
- 782 Xu, T., and Rubin, G.M. (1993). Analysis of genetic mosaics in developing and
- 783 adult Drosophila tissues. Development 117, 1223-1237.

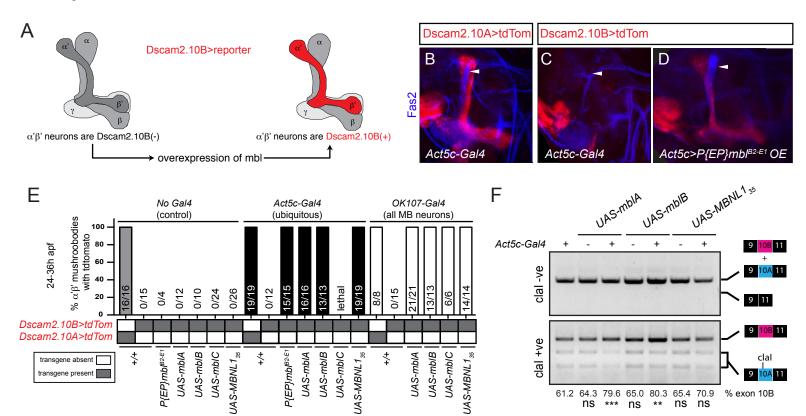
### Li et al. Figure 1.







Li et al. Figure 4.



ns \*\*\*

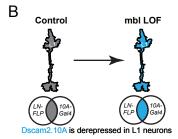
ns

\*\* ns ns

Figure 5.

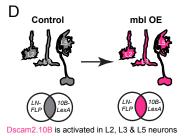
# mbl loss-of-function (LOF)

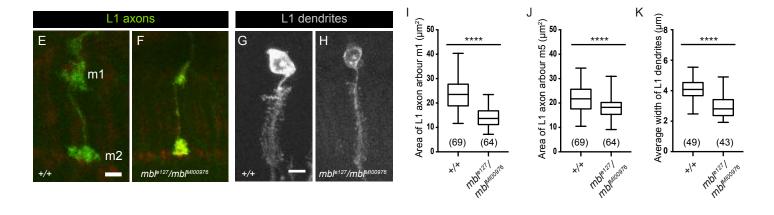
Α	Genotype		L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	Total	no. of OLs
27G05-FLP(X), UAS>stop>epitope	Dscam2 <sup>10B</sup> -Gal4	+/+	359	0	0	118	0	477	11
	Dscam2 <sup>10A</sup> -Gal4	+/+	0	94	105	58	146	403	10
		mbl <sup>e127</sup> /+	1	96	99	117	147	460	10
		mbl <sup>MI00976</sup> /+	1	102	114	111	155	483	11
		mbl <sup>e127</sup> /mbl <sup>MI00976</sup>	45 <sup>#</sup>	82	105	120	141	493	10



# mbl overexpression (OE)

С	Genotype		L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	Total	no. of OLs
27G05-FLP(X), LexAop>stop> epitope	Dscam2 <sup>10A</sup> -LexA	elav-Gal4	0	57	63	12	89	221	18
	Dscam2 <sup>10B</sup> -LexA	elav-Gal4	117	0	0	70	0	187	20
		elav-Gal4+UAS-mblB	77	65 <sup>#</sup>	31 #	29	28#	230	22





#### Fly genotypes

## R cell RNAi experiments (Figure 1)

- 1. w; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/CyO; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 2. w; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/CyO; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 3. w, UAS-Dcr-2; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/CyO; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 4. w, UAS-Dcr-2; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/UAS-mCD8-RFP; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/+
- 5. w, UAS-Dcr-2; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/UAS-mbl-RNAi(v28732); Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/+
- 6. w, UAS-Dcr-2; GMR-GFP, GMR-Gal4/+; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/UAS-mbl-RNAi(TRiP.JF03264)

### mbl whole animal experiments (Figure 1)

- 1. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 2. w; +; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 3. w; mbl<sup>e127</sup>/CyO,GFP; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 4. w; mbl<sup>M100976</sup>/CyO,GFP; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- 5. w; mbl<sup>MI04093</sup>/CyO,GFP; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/TM6B
- $6.\ w;\ mbl^{e127}/\ mbl^{M100976};\ Dscam 2.10 A-Lex A,\ Lex Aop-myr-td Tomato/+$
- 7. w;  $mbl^{MI04093}$ /  $mbl^{MI00976}$ ; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato/+

#### mbl ey-FLP MARCM experiments (Figure 2)

1. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, Tub-Gal80/FRT42D; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

- 2. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, Tub-Gal80/FRT42D, mbl<sup>e27</sup>; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+
- 3. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, Tub-Gal80/FRT42D, mbl<sup>e127</sup>; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

## mbl expression experiments (Figure 3)

 $1. w; UAS-mCD8-GFP/+; mbl^{NP0420}-Gal4/+$ 

2. w; UAS-mCD8-GFP/+; mbl<sup>M100139</sup>-Gal4/+

3. w; Dac-FLP/+; elav-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-

*UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc* 

4. w; Dac-FLP/+;  $mbl^{NP0420}\text{-}Gal4/UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-$ 

*UAS*>*stop*>*myr*::*smGdP*-*cMyc* 

5. w; Dac-FLP/+; mbl<sup>M100139</sup>-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-

*UAS*>*stop*>*myr*::*smGdP*-*cMyc* 

6. w; Dac-FLP/+; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-

*UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc* 

7. w; Dac-FLP/+; Dscam2.10B-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-

*UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc* 

8. w; +;  $mbl^{NP0420}$ -Gal4/UAS-GFP.nls

9. w; +;  $mbl^{M100139}$ -Gal4/UAS-GFP.nls

# mbl ectopic expression in MBs (Figure 4)

1. w; +; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

2. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

3. w; P{EP}mbl<sup>B2-E1</sup>/+; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

GFP/UAS-mblA

5. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-mblB

6. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-mblC

7. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, Act5c-Gal4,UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-MBNL1<sub>35</sub>

8. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-mblA; OK107-Gal4/+

9. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-mblB; OK107-Gal4/+

10. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-mblC; OK107-Gal4/+

11. w; +; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/UAS-MBNL1<sub>35</sub>; OK107-Gal4/+

#### Lamin neuron FlpOut mbl LOF (Figure 5)

1. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); Bl/CyO; Dscam2.10B-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc

2. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); Bl/CyO; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc

3. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); mbl<sup>e127</sup>/ CyO; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/

UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc

4. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); mbl<sup>MI00976</sup>/CyO; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/

UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc

5. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); mbl<sup>e127</sup>/ mbl<sup>M100976</sup>; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/

UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc.

6. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); elav-Gal4/LexAop2>stop>myr::smGdP-V5;

Dscam2.10A-LexA/TM2.

7. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); elav-Gal4/LexAop2>stop>myr::smGdP-V5;

Dscam2.10B-LexA/TM2.

8. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); elav-Gal4/LexAop2>stop>myr::smGdP-V5;

Dscam2.10B-LexA/UAS-mblB.

#### L1 axonal and dendritic defects (Figure 5)

1. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); Bl.CyO; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/ UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc.

2. w, 27G05-FLP/(+ or Y); mbl<sup>e127</sup>/ mbl<sup>M100976</sup>; Dscam2.10A-Gal4/

UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-V5-THS-UAS>stop>myr::smGdP-cMyc.

#### mbl ey-FLP mosaic experiments (Figure S1)

1. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, GMR-myr-GFP/FRT42D; Dscam2.10B-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

2. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, GMR-myr-GFP/FRT42D; Dscam2.10A-LexA, LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

3. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, GMR-myr-GFP/FRT42D, Df(2R)154; Dscam2.10A-LexA,

 $Lex A op-myr-td Tomato,\ UAS-mCD8-GFP/+$ 

4. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, GMR-myr-GFP/FRT42D, mbl<sup>e27</sup>; Dscam2.10A-LexA,

LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

5. w, ey-FLP; FRT42D, GMR-myr-GFP/FRT42D, mbl<sup>M100976</sup>; Dscam2.10A-LexA,

LexAop-myr-tdTomato, UAS-mCD8-GFP/+

## *mbl* expression (Figure S3)

- 1. w;  $mbl^{K01212}$ -LacZ
- 2. w; mbl<sup>NP1161</sup>-Gal4/CyO, UAS-LacZ
- 3. w; mbl<sup>M100139</sup>-Gal4/+; UAS-CD8-GFP/+
- 4. w; mbl<sup>MI00139</sup>-Gal4/UAS-GFP.nls
- 5. w; mbl<sup>NP0420</sup>-Gal4/UAS-GFP.nls

### MB axon defects (Figure S5)

- 1. w; +; +
- 2. w; +; Dscam2<sup>null</sup>/ Dscam2<sup>null</sup>
- 3. w; +; Dscam2A/Dscam2A
- 4. w; +; Dscam2B/ Dscam2B
- 5. w;  $mbl^{e127}/mbl^{MI00976}$
- 6. w; +; +; OK107-Gal4/+
- 7. w; UAS-mbl-RNAi(v28732)/+
- 8. w; UAS-mbl-RNAi(v28732)/+; +; OK107-Gal4/+
- 9. w;  $P\{EP\}mbl^{B2-E1}/+$
- 10. w;  $P\{EP\}mbl^{B2-E1}/+$ ; +; OK107-Gal4/+

```
11. w; +; UAS-mblA/+
```

$$13.w$$
; +;  $UAS$ - $mblB$ /+

**Figure S1.** Related to Figure 1. *Mbl* LOF results in aberrant *Dscam2*.10A reporter expression in eye mosaic clones.

(A-F) Eye mosaics of *mbl* LOF alleles cause de-repression of *Dscam2.10A>tdTom* in R cells. *WT* mosaic clones (GFP-negative) express *Dscam2.10B>tdTom* (A<sub>1</sub>-A<sub>4</sub>) but not *Dscam2.10A>tdTom* (B<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>4</sub>). *Mbl* mutant (GFP-negative) clones, *Df(2R)BSC154* show aberrant *Dscam2.10A* expression in R cells (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>). (D) mbl<sup>e27</sup> eye clones exhibit de-repression of Dscam2.10A (red). (E) Clones of a *mbl* allele that deleted only a portion of all mbl isoforms (*mbl*<sup>M100976</sup>) do not exhibit de-repression of Dscam2.10A. (F) Quantification of *Dscam2.10>tdTom* expression in third instar R cells with *mbl* LOF eye mosaic clones. Y-axis represents the number of optic lobes with R cells positive for tdTom over total number of optic lobes quantified as a percentage. On the x-axis, the presence of a transgene is indicated with a grey box.

**Figure S2.** Related to Figure 1. *Mbl* LOF is associated with increased *Dscam2.10A* inclusion without affecting other *Dscam2* splicing events.

(A) *Mbl* LOF (*mbl*<sup>e127</sup>/*mbl*<sup>M100976</sup>) does not affect other *Dscam2* splicing events.

Semiquantitative RT-PCR from different genotypes indicated. Primers amplified the variable region that includes exon 19S/19L or three alternative last exons (ALE).

Percentage of 19L inclusion was calculated by dividing the 19L band by 19L+19S.

Percentage of ALE 21A and ALE 21BL inclusion was calculated by dividing respectively the 21A and 21BL band by 21A+21BL+21BS (total). (B) Graphs of RT-PCR data from A and Figure 1P. Top graph depicts Dscam2.10A inclusion. Middle graph represents exon 19S inclusion. Bottom graph represents percentage inclusion of different ALEs. Plots show minimum (bottom line), mean (middle line) and maximum (top line) points, where individual points depict biological replicates.

Dashed line represents mean of control. (C) Quantitative RT-PCR of mbl LOF mutant  $(mbl^{e_{127}}/mbl^{Ml00976})$  show increased exon 10A inclusion and decreased exon 10B inclusion. The left graph shows Dscam2.10 levels compared to synaptobrevin (nSyb). The middle graph shows Dscam2.10A levels compared to Dscam2.10. The right graph shows Dscam2.10B levels compared to Dscam2. Bar graph format (error bars depict standard error of means). The y-axis is the relative quantity (Rq). Dashed line represents mean of control. Unpaired t-test was conducted to compare Rq levels between control and mbl LOF mutants. ns P > 0.05, \* P < 0.05, \*\* P < 0.01.

**Figure S3.** Related to Figure 3. *Mbl* is expressed in R cells, neurons and glia (A) Schematic showing the insertion locations of different *mbl* reporters. Translated regions (black) and non-translated regions (grey) are shown. (B-D) Mbl is expressed in R cells (red) in third instar eye-discs (ed). The mbl enhancer traps  $mbl^{K01212}$ -LacZ (B),  $mbl^{NP1161}$ -Gal4 (C) and splicing trap reporter mbl<sup>M100139</sup>-Gal4 (D, green) overlapped with a marker of R cells (24B10). (E-I)  $mbl^{M100139}$  > GFP.nls is expressed in neurons and muscles. (E<sub>1</sub>-E<sub>2</sub>) Representative confocal image of a mbl<sup>M100139</sup>>GFP.nls (green) adult brain co-labelled with an ELAV antibody (red). Dashed lines demarcate GFP(+) cells. Yellow solid arrowheads show GFP(+) cells that are ELAV(-). (F) Quantification of mbl in third instar and adult brains where  $\sim 90-100\%$  of GFP(+) cells are also ELAV(+) (black bars). Y-axis represents the number of GFP(+) cells positive for ELAV quantified as a percentage.  $(G_1-G_2)$  Representative confocal image of a mbl<sup>M100139</sup>>GFP.nls adult brain labelled with a Repo antibody (red). Dashed lines demarcate GFP(+) cells. White solid arrowheads show GFP(+) cells that are positive for Repo. (H) Quantification of  $mbl^{M100139} > GFP.nls$  where ~0-10% of  $mbl^{M100139} > GFP.nls$  (+) cells are also

Repo(+).Y-axis represents the number of GFP(+) cells positive for Repo quantified as a percentage. ( $I_1$ - $I_2$ )  $mbl^{Ml00139}$ >GFP.nls expression is also found in third instar muscles m4-m8, m12 and m13 (Phalloidin, red). ( $J_1$ - $J_2$ ) Representative confocal image of a  $mbl^{NP0420}$ >GFP.nls (green) adult brain co-

labelled with an ELAV antibody (red). Dashed lines demarcate GFP(+) cells. (K) Quantification of  $mbt^{NP0420} > GFP.nls$  in third instar and adult brains where ~80-90% of GFP(+) cells are also ELAV(+). (L-M) In third instar and adult brains,  $mbt^{NP0420} > GFP.nls$  overlaps minimally with Repo (red). (L<sub>1</sub>-L<sub>2</sub>) Representative confocal image of a  $mbt^{NP0420} > GFP.nls$  adult brain labelled with Repo. Dashed lines demarcate GFP(+) cells. White solid arrowheads show GFP(+) cells that are positive for Repo. (M) Quantification of  $mbt^{NP0420} > GFP.nls$  in third instar and adult brains where ~10-15% of GFP (+) cells are also Repo(+). (N<sub>1</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>)  $mbt^{NP0420} > GFP.nls$  expression is not detected in third instar muscles m4-m8, m12 and m13 (Phalloidin, red).

**Figure S4.** Related to Figure 3. *Mbl* expression is cell-type-specific and correlates with *Dscam2.10B*.

(A) Quantification of lamina neurons and R7-R8 neurons observed using the intersectional strategy during development. Two different *mbl* reporters were used. The transcriptional reporter labelled L4 cells early in development whereas the splicing trap reporter did not. This is most likely due to the lower efficiency of the splicing trap given that it produced 5X fewer L1 clones at 72hr compared to the transcriptional reporter. Green boxes represent detection of reporter expression at different hours after pupal formation (apf). (B) A plot of the percentage of L4 lamina

neurons over total lamina neurons during development (data from the *mbl* transcriptional reporter).

(C-E) Mbl is not detected in MB neurons that express Dscam2.10A in adults. (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>) Dscam2.10A is expressed in  $\alpha'\beta'$  mushroom body neurons (asterisks) but not the  $\alpha\beta$  and g subsets of MB neurons labelled by Fas2 (red). Neither Dscam2.10B (D<sub>1</sub>-D<sub>2</sub>) nor mbl (E<sub>1</sub>-E<sub>2</sub>) are expressed in MB neurons. Neurons in the midline express both Dscam2.10B and mbl (white arrowhead).

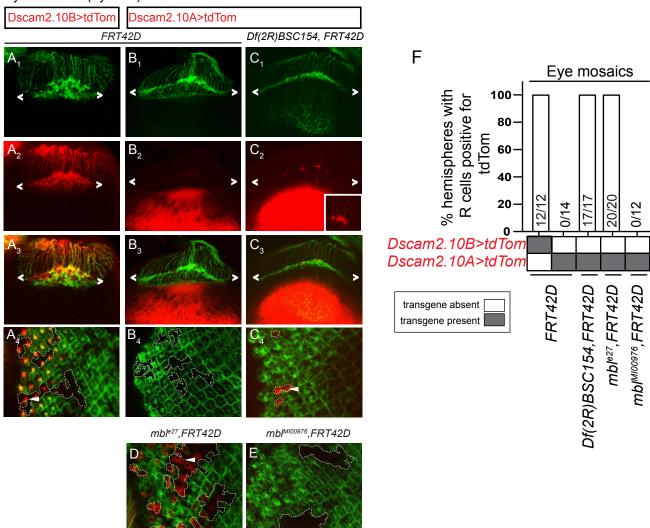
**Figure S5.** Related to Figure 4. Neurons overexpressing *mbl* phenocopy *Dscam2* single isoform mutants

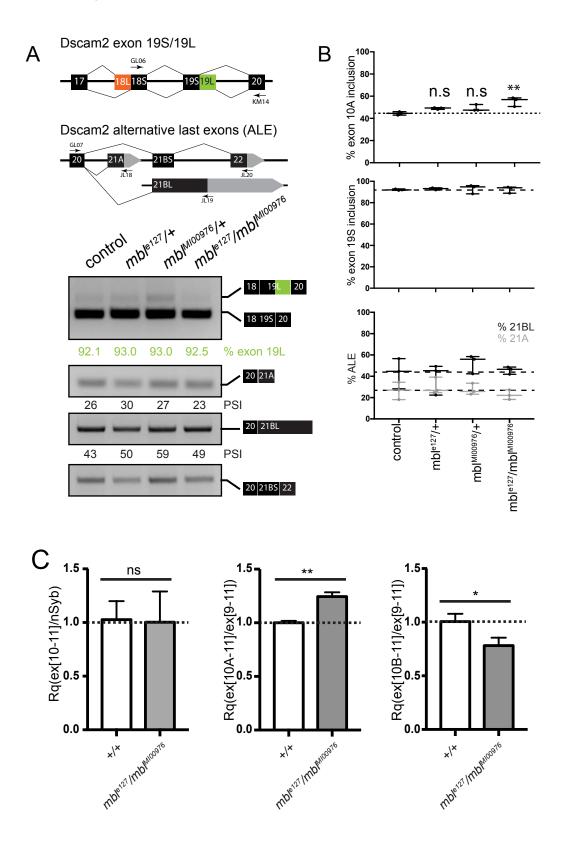
(A-B) MBs overexpressing mbl exhibit defects associated with Dscam2 single isoform mutants. (A) A representative confocal image of control adult  $\alpha\beta$  lobes (red) with clear separation between the two  $\beta$ -lobes at the midline. (B) A representative confocal image of adult  $\alpha\beta$  lobes from an animal overexpressing mblA. b-lobe axons inappropriately cross the midline (arrowhead). (C) Quantification of  $\beta$ -lobe axon midline crossing defects. Numbers in parentheses represent total number of MBs quantified. Fishers exact test was used to compare genotypes to their corresponding controls (white bars). ns (not significant) P>0.05, \* P<0.05 and \*\*\*\* P<0.0001.

**Table S1.** Related to Figure 1. List of tested RNAi that did not de-repress Dscam2.10A in R cells

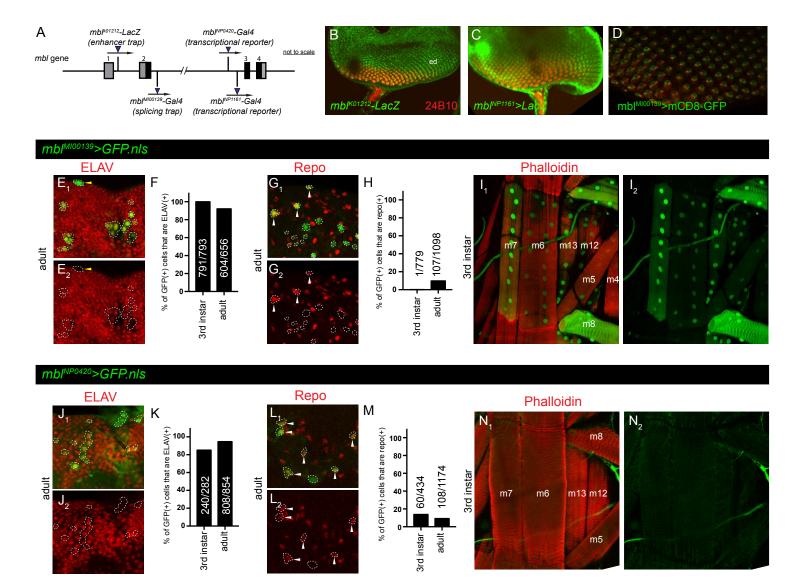
Li et al. Figure S1.

3rd instar Eye mosaics (ey-FLP)



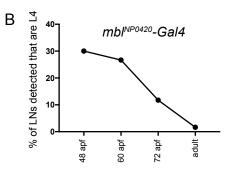


Li et al. Figure S3.



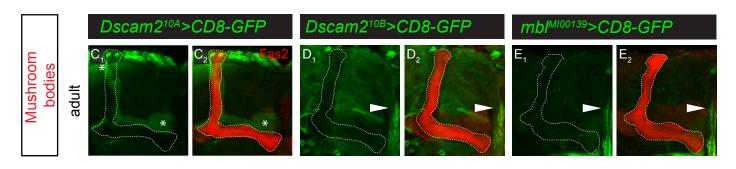
Li et al. Figure S4.

Α											
^	Genotype		L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	R7	R8	Total	no. of OLs
be		72 apf	75	0	0	10	0	10	38	133	8
FLP(III), op>epitope	mbl <sup>NP0420</sup> -Gal4	60 apf	22	0	0	8	0	15	29	74	8
c-FLP stop>		48 apf	7	0	0	3	0	1	9	20	2
Dac- UAS>st	mah IMI00139 Cald	72 apf	15	0	0	0	0	6	15	36	8
Ž	mbl <sup>MI00139</sup> -Gal4	48 apf	12	0	0	0	0	4	24	40	8

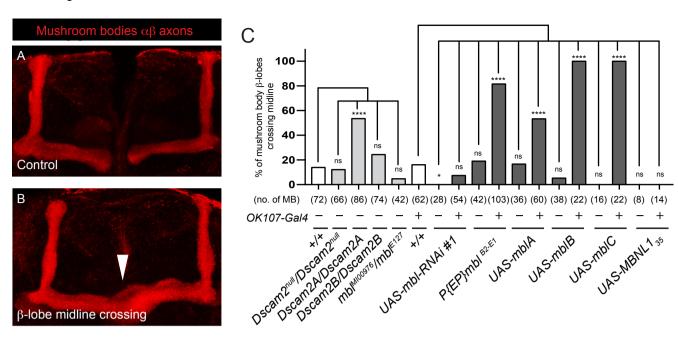


Clones detected

No clones detected



Li et al. Figure S5.



base Number	CG Number	Gene Name	RNAi ID	no. of ol/ed	no. of animals	Flybase Number	CG Number	Gene Name	RNAi ID	no. of ol/ed	no. of animals	Flybase Number	CG Number	Gene Name	RNAi ID	no. of ol/ed	no. of anir
gn0052062	CG32062	A2bp1	27286	12	6	FBgn0024698	CG10110	Cpsf160	v18009	11	6	FBgn0260944	CG17136	Rbp1	v110008	11	6
gn026239	CG6671	AGO1	33727	3	2	FBgn0024698	CG10110	Cpsf160	v110571	9	6	FBgn0030479	CG1987	Rbp1-like	v105883	10	6
gn0000114	CG31762	aret	44483	18	9	FBgn0261065	CG7698	Cpsf73	v39558	9	5	FBgn0030479	CG1987	Rbp1-like	44100	4	2
gn0004587	CG10851	B52	v38862	16	8	FBgn0000377	CG3193	cm	v25919	lethal		FBgn0260943	CG32169	rbp6	61324/CyOtb	8	4
gn0004587	CG10851	B52	v38860	4	2	FBgn0039867	CG2261	CstF-50	v43716	10	5	FBgn0015778	CG9412	rin	33392/TM6B	12	7
gn0037660	CG18005	beag	v103832	8	4	FBgn0039867	CG2261	CstF-50	v109583	8	4	FBgn0003261	CG10279	Rm62	v46908/TM6B	12	6
gn0015907	CG13425	ы	v2912	10	6	FBgn0027841	CG7697	CstF-64	v21045/CyOtb	10	6		CG16788	RnpS1	56910	10	5
gn0015907	CG13425	ы	v105271	9	5	FBgn0010220	CG12759	Dbp45A	v17306	6	3	FBgn0037707	CG16788	RnpS1	36580	6	3
gn0262475	CG6319	bru-2	50631	13	7	FBgn0010221	CG12760	Dbp45A	v104183	13	7	FBgn0005649	CG5422	Rox8	v100563	10	5
gn0264001	CG43744	Bru-3	50734	8	4	FBgn0033160	CG11107	Dhx15	v44119/CyOtb	10	6	FBgn0005649	CG5422	Rox8	v41439	12	6
gn0031883	CG11266	Caper	55742	10	6	FBgn0031601	CG3058	Dim1	v21258	10	5	FBgn0011305	CG5655	Rsf1	v22186/TM3	15	10
gn0031883	CG11266	Caper	55742	8	4	FBgn0259220	CG42320	Doa	v19066	9	5	FBgn0267790	CG9373	rump	42665/CyOtb	6	3
gn0022942	CG7035	Cbp80	v22331	12	8	FBgn0020306	CG9696	dom	v7787	2	1	FBgn0039229	CG6995	Saf-B	51759		5
gn0035136	CG6905	Cdc5	v13492	2	1	FBgn0000562	CG4051	egl	28969	8	4	FBgn0265298	CG5442	SC35	v40590	5	3
gn0035136	CG6905	Cdc5	v109369	10	5	FBgn0001942	CG9075	elF-4a	v42202	lethal		FBgn0265298	CG5442	SC35	v104978	6	3
gn0032690	CG10333	CG10333	v18132	12	8	FBgn0034237	CG4878	elF3-S9	32880	lethal		FBgn0025571	CG5836	SF1	v13426	3	2
gn0032690	CG10333	CG10333	v18133	4	2	FBgn0260400	CG4262	elav	28371	2	1	FBgn0040284	CG6987	SF2 SF2	v27775/TM3	13	1 1
gn0036277	CG10418	CG10418	v105940	11	6	FBgn0033859	CG6197	fand	v104186	10	5	FBgn0040284	CG6987		v27776/TM6B	6	4
gn0037531	CG10445	CG10445	v104753	14	7	FBgn0036850	CG10419	Gem2	v47372	13	8	FBgn0052423	CG32423	shep	43545	4	3
gn0036314	CG10754	CG10754	v31346	11	8	FBgn0036850	CG10419	Gem2	v47374	10	7	FBgn0002354	CG1420	Slu7	v103587	5	3
gn0039920	CG11360	CG11360	v38491	15	8	FBgn0259139	CG6946	glo	33668	9	6	FBgn0262601	CG5352	SmB	v40587	3	2
gn0039920	CG11360	CG11360	v38492	11	6	FBgn0259139	CG6946	glo	v27752	12	6	FBgn0262601	CG5352	SmB	v110713	12	6
gn0035692	CG13298	CG13298	55257 v18955	8	4	FBgn0001179	CG8019 CG7269	hay	v41023 v22557	12 9	8	FBgn0261933	CG10753	SmD1 SmD1	v31343/TM6B v31342	8	4
gn0035162	CG13900 CG13900	CG13900 CG13900	v18955 v108248	9	6	FBgn0014189	CG7269 CG31000	Hel25E	v22557 v33735	9	5 6	FBgn0261933	CG10753	SmD1 SmD2	v31342 v31947		1 .
gn0035163 gn0037220	CG13900 CG14641	CG13900 CG14641	v108248 v110507/CyOtb	16 11	8 6	FBgn0011224 FBgn0011224	CG31000 CG31000	heph	v33735 v110749	10 18	6 10	FBgn0261789 FBgn0261789	CG1249 CG1249	SmD2 SmD2	v31947 v31946	8	2 4
	CG14641 CG16941	CG14641 CG16941	v110507/CyOtb v20338	11	1		CG31000 CG10293	heph	v110749 v13756	18	7	-	CG1249 CG1249	SmD2 SmD2	v100690	8	4 2
gn0038464 gn0033089	CG16941 CG17266	CG16941 CG17266	v20338 v25243	10	5	FBgn0264491 FBgn0264491	CG10293 CG10293	how	v13/56 v100775	13	5	FBgn0261789 FBgn0023167	CG1249 CG8427	SmD2 SmD3	v35933	8	5
gn0033089 gn0033089	CG17266	CG17266 CG17266	v25243 v25244	2	1	FBgn0264491 FBgn0004838	CG10293 CG10377	Hrb27c, Hrp48	v16040	12	7	FBgn0023167 FBgn0261790	CG8427 CG18591	SmE	v23569	4	2
gn0029751	CG17266	CG17266 CG17764	v20541	12	7	FBgn0004838	CG10377	Hrb27c, Hrp48	31685	6	3	FBgn0261790 FBgn0261790	CG18591	SmE	v23570/TM6B	10	5
gn0029751 an0029751	CG17764	CG17764 CG17764	v101894	10	5	FBqn0004838	CG10377	Hrb27c, Hrp48	33716	8	4	FBgn0000426	CG16391 CG16792	SmF	v107644/CyOtb	lethal	1 3
gn0025751 gn0035271	CG2021	CG2021	28579	8	5	FBgn0004237	CG12749	Hrb87F, hrp36	v51759	a	6	FBgn0000426	CG16792	SmF	26734	12	6
gn0031266	CG2807	CG2807	v25162	8	5	FBgn0004237	CG12749	Hrb87F, hrp36	52937	11	6	FBgn0036641	CG16725	Smn	v100392	7	4
an0037344	CG2926	CG2926	v33589	11	5	FBgn0004237	CG12749	Hrb87F, hrp36	31244	14	8	FBgn0003449	CG4528	snf	51459	16	
gn050122	CG30122	CG30122	55209	6	3	FBgn0001215	CG9983	Hrb98DE, hrp38	I -	10	7	FBgn0003449	CG4528	snf	55914	9	5
n0031631	CG3225	CG3225	v24725	9	5	FBgn0001215	CG9983	Hrb98DE, hrp38	1	13	8	FBgn0016978	CG8749	snRNP-U1-70K	v23150	11	8
an0052533	CG32533	CG32533	v38634	1	1	FBgn0015949	CG9854	hrg	v42283	12	6	FBgn0016978	CG8749	snRNP-U1-70K	v23151	10	6
gn0052533	CG32533	CG32533	v51785	11	6	FBgn0002431	CG9484	hyd	v44675	12	6	FBgn0261792	CG5454	snRNP-U1-C	v22132	11	6
gn0031628	CG3294	CG3294	v26111/TM6B	12	6	FBgn0039691	CG1972	IntS11	v33450	7	5	FBgn0261792	CG5454	snRNP-U1-C	v22133	10	5
gn0031628	CG3294	CG3294	v26111/TM6B	12	6	FBgn0039691	CG1972	IntS11	v109408	8	5	FBgn0261791	CG9742	SNRPG	v39256	10	5
gn0053108	CG33108	CG33108	v24996	9	5	FBgn0036570	CG5222	IntS9	v110367	10	5	FBgn0015818	CG3780	Spx	v40471	9	5
gn0031229	CG3436	CG3436	55207/CyOtb	4	2	FBgn0026713	CG32604	I(1)G0007	v31908	15	8	FBgn0015818	CG3780	Spx	v40472	9	5
gn0031492	CG3542	CG3542	v26227	10	5	FBgn0026714	CG32605	I(1)G0008	v31909	4	2	FBgn0263396	CG16901	sqd, hrp40	v32395	12	6
gn0031492	CG3542	CG3542	v26229	4	2	FBgn0086444	CG10689	I(2)37Cb	v31324	9	6	FBgn0263396	CG16901	sqd, hrp40	31302	20	10
gn0031493	CG3605	CG3605	v26250	12	7	FBgn0263599	CG5931	I(3)72Ab	v43962	5	3	FBgn0036340	CG11274	SRm160	v6439	9	5
gn0031493	CG3605	CG3605	v26252	8	5	FBgn0263600	CG5932	I(3)72Ab	v110666	6	3	FBgn0036340	CG11274	SRm160	v100751	8	4
gn0035987	CG3689	CG3689	v45278	10	5	FBgn0035838	CG7942	ldbr	v110582	8	5	FBgn0015298	CG4457	Srp19	51160	lethal	1
gn0028474	CG4119	CG4119	v26395	9	5	FBgn0035838	CG7942	ldbr	55661	8	6	FBgn0024285	CG4602	Srp54	v51088	8	6
gn0028474	CG4119	CG4119	v106696/CyOtb	10	6	FBgn0034834	CG3162	LS2	v21379	11	7	FBgn0024285	CG4602	Srp54	55254	9	5
gn0034598	CG4266	CG4266	v26472	14	7	FBgn0034834	CG3162	LS2	v21380	14	7	FBgn0026370	CG8174	SRPK	v103416	9	6
gn0034598	CG4266	CG4266	v26475	4	2	FBgn0261067	CG4279	LSm1	v28793	11	6	FBgn0025702	CG11489	srpk79D	v47544	8	5
gn0031287	CG4291	CG4291	v21819/TM6B	11	6	FBgn0261067	CG4279	LSm1	v50653	10	5	FBgn0025702	CG11489	srpk79D	v47545	10	5
gn0035016	CG4612	CG4612	v52497	9	5	FBgn0033450	CG12924	Lsm11	v108336	12	6	FBgn0003520	CG5753	stau	31247	9	5
gn0039566	CG4849	CG4849	v21962	9	5	FBgn0051184	CG31184	LSm3	56892	4	2	FBgn0003559	CG17170	su(f)	v110125	6	3
gn0032194	CG4901	CG4901	v34904	11	6	FBgn0261068	CG13277	Lsm7	v23862	10	6	FBgn0003638	CG3019	su(wa)	v25597	12	9
gn0038344	CG5205	CG5205	v107282	9	5	FBgn0011666	CG5099	msi	55152	10	5	FBgn0003638	CG3019	su(wa)	v104716	10	5
gn0039182	CG5728	CG5728	v24697	14	7	FBgn0262737	CG7437	mub	v28024	16	9	FBgn0264270	CG43770	SxI	34393	10	5
gn0038927	CG6015	CG6015	34565	lethal		FBgn0014366	CG2925	noi	v20943	9	5	FBgn0037371	CG2097	Sym	v33470	9	5
gn0030631	CG6227	CG6227	v40351	11	8	FBgn0015520	CG10328	nonA-I	v101567	7	4	FBgn0038826	CG17838	syp	56972	10	5
n0030632	CG6227	CG6227	v40352	12	6	FBgn0015520	CG10328	nonA-I	52934	3	2	FBgn0038826	CG17838	syp	v33012	15	9
gn0004903	CG6354	CG6354	31333	12	9	FBgn0261619	CG5119	pAbp	v22007	9	5	FBgn0025790	CG10327	ТВРН	v38377	7	4
gn0004903	CG6354	CG6354	55662	8	4	FBgn0005648	CG2163	Pabp2	v106466	10	5	FBgn0025790	CG10327	ТВРН	v38379	10	5
gn0035675	CG6610	CG6610	v106830	10	6	FBgn0086895	CG8241	pea	v47782	9	5	FBgn0003741	CG16724	tra	v2560	12	6
gn0035675	CG6610	CG6610	31870	10	6	FBgn0027784	CG6011	Prp18	v13760	10	6	FBgn0003742	CG10128	tra2	v8868	9	5
gn0036828	CG6841	CG6841	v34253/CyOtb	10	5	FBgn0027784	CG6011	Prp18	v100287	2	1	FBgn0039117	CG10210	tst	v38356	8	4
gn0030085	CG6999	CG6999	v110143	11	7	FBgn0261119	CG5519	Prp19	v108575	11	6	FBgn0039117	CG10210	tst	v108216	12	6
n0030085	CG6999	CG6999	55157	12	6	FBgn0261119	CG5519	Prp19	v41438	3	2	FBgn0033378	CG8781	tsu	55367	11	6
n0035872	CG7185	CG7185	v107147	5	3	FBgn0036915	CG7757	Prp3	v25548	9	6	FBgn0033378	CG8781	tsu	28955	9	5
n0035872	CG7185	CG7185	34804	14	7	FBgn0036487	CG6876	Prp31	v35131	3	2	FBgn0033210	CG1406	U2A	v17358/TM6B	9	5
n0036734	CG7564	CG7564	v100562	10	5	FBgn0036487	CG6876	Prp31	v103721	6	3	FBgn0033210	CG1406	U2A	v109815	11	6
n0035235	CG7879	CG7879	56930	10	5	FBgn0033688	CG8877	Prp8	v18565	12	7	FBgn0017457	CG3582	U2af38	v110075	9	5
n0038887	CG7907	CG7907	55370	6	3	FBgn0261552	CG42670	Ps	v44710	18	9	-	CG3582	U2af38	29304	13	7
n0035253	CG7971	CG7971	v101384	10	7	FBgn0261552	CG42670	Ps	v24214	10	5	FBgn0005411	CG9998	U2af50	v24176	11	6
n0027567	CG8108	CG8108	v35344	12	7	FBgn0014870	CG8912	Psi	v28989	16	8	FBgn0005411	CG9998	U2af50	v24177	10	6
n0030697	CG8565	CG8565	v100449	10	7	FBgn0014870	CG8912	Psi	v28990	10	5	FBgn0036733	CG6322	U4-U6-60K	v34242	8	6
n0030697	CG8565	CG8565	55368	11	6	FBgn0014870	CG8912	Psi	v105135	10	7	FBgn0036733	CG6322	U4-U6-60K	v110393	10	6
gn0032883	CG9323	CG9323	v44984	12	8	FBgn0028577	CG12085	pUf68	v109796	8	4	FBgn0030354	CG1559	Upf1	43144	12	7
n0032883	CG9323	CG9323	v110410	8	4	FBgn0003165	CG9755	pum	36676	12	7	FBgn0028554	CG10203	xI6	v31203	14	8
n0015621	CG3642	Clp	v26259	12	7	FBgn0022987	CG4816	qkr54B	34896	10	5	FBgn0028555	CG10204	xI6	v100226	11	7
n0015621	CG3642	Clp	v26261	13	7	FBgn0022986	CG3613	qkr58E-1	55159	10	5	FBgn0021895	CG18426	ytr	55704	4	2
	CG43738	сро	28360	8	4	FBgn0022985	CG5821	qkr58E-2	55279/CyOtb	6	3						
n0263995	0043730								55922	10	5						