

High-throughput genotyping of a full voltage-gated sodium channel gene via genomic DNA using target capture sequencing and analytical pipeline MoNaS to discover novel insecticide resistance mutations

Kentaro Itokawa^{1,2,3}, Koji Yatsu¹, Tsuyoshi Sekizuka^{1,3}, Yoshihide Maekawa², Osamu Komagata^{2,3}, Masaaki Sugiura⁴, Tomonori Sasaki⁵, Takashi Tomita², Makoto Kuroda¹, Kyoko Sawabe², and Shinji Kasai^{2*}

1. Pathogen Genomics Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan

2. Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan

3. Antimicrobial Resistance Research Center, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Japan

4. Global Research and Development Department, Fumakilla Limited, Japan

5. Research and Development Department, Fumakilla Limited, Japan

*To whom correspondence should be addressed: kasacin@nih.go.jp

Abstract

In insects, voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC) is the primary target site of pyrethroid insecticides. Various amino acid substitutions in the VGSC protein, which are selected under insecticide pressure, are known to confer insecticide resistance. In the genome, the VGSC gene consists of more than 30 exons sparsely distributed across a large genomic region, which often exceeds 100 kbp. Due to this complex genomic structure of VGSC gene, it is often challenging to genotype full coding nucleotide sequences (CDSs) of VGSC from individual genomic DNA (gDNA). In this study, we designed biotinylated oligonucleotide probes from annotated CDSs of VGSC of Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. The probe set effectively concentrated (>80,000-fold) all targeted regions of gene VGSC from pooled barcoded Illumina libraries each constructed from individual *A. albopictus* gDNAs. The probe set also captured all homologous VGSC CDSs except some tiny exons from the gDNA of other Culicinae mosquitos, *A. aegypti* and *Culex pipiens* complex, with comparable efficiency as a result of the high nucleotide-level conservation of VGSC. To enhance efficiency of the downstream bioinformatic process, we developed an automated pipeline to genotype VGSC after capture sequencing—MoNaS (Mosquito Na⁺ channel mutation Search)—which calls amino acid substitutions and compares those to known resistance mutations. The proposed method and our bioinformatic tool should facilitate the discovery of novel amino acid variants conferring insecticide resistance on VGSC and population genetics studies on resistance alleles (with respect to the origin, selection, and migration etc.) in both clinically and agriculturally important insect pests.

Key words: Targeted enrichment, Variant analysis, Voltage Gated Sodium Channel, Insecticide resistance, Mosquitos

Introduction

Synthetic pyrethroids are currently the most frequently used insecticides for the control of clinically important mosquitos. The mode of pyrethroid's toxicity is inhibition of the voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC) in the nervous system (Lund & Narahashi, 1983). Developed resistance against pyrethroids, which is known as knockdown resistance (*kdr*), was first reported in housefly, *Musca domestica*, in 1950s (Busvine, 1951). The *kdr* phenotype as well as another distinct phenotype, super-*kdr*, was eventually linked to amino acid (aa) substitutions on the two positions, L1014F and L1014F+M918T, respectively, on the gene coding VGSC protein (Miyazaki, Ohyama, Dunlap, & Matsumura, 1996; Williamson, Martinez-Torres, Hick, & Devonshire, 1996). Currently, same aa substitutions as well as various other aa substitutions have been found to be associated with resistance in many medical and agricultural insect pests (Dong et al., 2014; Rinkevich, Du, & Dong, 2013). With this historical background, aa substations in variety of insect species are often projected to corresponding aa position in *M. domestica* VGSC for comparison. Actually, VGSC is highly conserved among insects, and many resistance-conferring aa substitutions are seen parallely in different species (Davies, Field, Usherwood, & Williamson, 2007). Therefore, it is relatively straightforward to infer the effect of certain aa substitutions in any species if the effect of those substitutions has already been elucidated. However, sequencing analysis of an entire coding sequence (CDS) of the VGSC gene from genomic DNA (gDNA) is complicated because VGSC genes typically consist of many (>30) small exons sparsely distributed across a large genomic region, which often exceeds 100 kbp. Therefore, strategies employing direct sequencing of PCR-amplified genomic fragments usually target only restricted regions where the known resistance-conferring substitutions are frequently found; e.g., IIS5–6 (Dong et al., 2014; Rinkevich et al., 2013). Such a bias may lower the chance of discovering novel resistance mutations existing outside the region investigated.

Aedes albopictus, or Asian tiger mosquito, is a medically important mosquito species ubiquitously present on most continents on the Earth. In some regions where the other effective vector, *A. aegypti*, is absent, the species often take a main role for transmitting Chikungunya and Dengue viruses (Kutsuna et al., 2015; Reiter, Fontenille, & Paupy, 2006).

The *kdr* substitution in *A. albopictus* had not been reported until the F1534C allele was discovered in Singapore 2009 (S Kasai et al., 2011). Since this discovery, F1534C and other *kdr* substitutions at the same aa position, F1534S and F1534L, were reported from in *A. albopictus* in various geographic locations worldwide (H. Chen et al., 2016; Marcombe, Farajollahi, Healy, Clark, & Fonseca, 2014; Xu et al., 2016). More recently, we also discovered the new *kdr* substitution V1016G in *A. albopictus* by extending the region of the search for mutations (Shinji Kasai et al., 2019).

The next-generation sequencing (NGS) technology has revolutionary reduced the cost and time of DNA sequencing by orders of magnitude. The recent *Anopheles gambiae* 1000 Genomes project, Ag1000G, has uncovered a number of previously unknown nonsynonymous mutations in the *VGSC* gene in *A. gambiae* and *A. coluzzii* (Clarkson et al., 2018), some of which have been suspected to cause resistance directly or indirectly. The study also showed that even neutral variations within or flanking the *VGSC* locus represent valuable information to infer the origin and evolution of resistance. Although whole-genome sequencing may discover novel variants of *VGSC* unequivocally, this naive approach is still too costly per sample just for analyzing *VGSC*. Alternatively, we considered an enrichment approach involving hybridization of oligo DNA/RNA (Gnirke et al., 2009) which is often employed to selectively sequence targeted genomic regions for studies e.g. on genotyping of disease-related genes in humans. This technology is aimed at increasing the depth of reads and the number of samples to be multiplexed per given sequencing capacity in return for limiting the region to be analyzed. In this study, we designed biotinylated oligonucleotide DNA probes from *A. albopictus* *VGSC* CDSs. The probe set efficiently concentrated targeted regions from the gDNA of individual *A. albopictus*. Although the probe set was designed from the *A. albopictus* *VGSC* gene, the same probe set captured most CDSs of *A. aegypti* and *Culex pipiens* complex as a result of the high nucleotide conservation of *VGSC*. This technology allows for full-CDS analysis of the complex *VGSC* gene in a relatively low-cost and highly multiplexed manner, which is expected to promote discoveries of novel resistance-conferring aa substitutions both in medical and agricultural insect pests.

Materials and Methods

Design of custom probes

The full-length VGSC gene (AALF000723-RA in gene set: AaloF1.2) was found in scaffold JXUM01S000562 in the genome assembly of an *A. albopictus* Foshan strain, AaloF1 (X.-G. Chen et al., 2015) hosted on vectorbase.org (Giraldo-Calderón et al., 2015). Because the annotation missed some CDSs (entire exon 19c for instance), we refined the annotation by aligning shotgun-sequenced NGS reads of VGSC cDNA (Shinji Kasai et al., 2019) using Hisat2 (Kim, Langmead, & Salzberg, 2015) and the *M. domestica* VGSC protein sequence (GenBank accession No.: AAB47604) via BLASTX (Altschul, Gish, Miller, Myers, & Lipman, 1990). Compared to AaloF1.2, the refined annotation included three added CDSs, and four extended CDSs (see detail in Table S1). Among the 35 coding CDSs in total, sizes of 34 (32 + 2 mutually excluding exons) CDSs matched to the *A. aegypti* VGSC CDSs annotated by Davies et al. (2007). Therefore, the numbering of exons in this paper was set to be concordant with the *A. aegypti* VGSC exons described by Davies et al. (2007). The additional optionally used 45 bp small exon, referred to as exon 16.5 here, was found in cDNA data between exons 16 and 17 in the genome. All CDS sequences, some of which contained a flanking intronic region (for tiny exons less than 120 bp in size) were submitted to the IDT website (<https://sg.idtdna.com>) to design 120 bp xGen Lockdown biotinylated oligonucleotide DNA probes with 2× Tiling density option. We also included some exons of other genes flanking VGSC (AALF020128, AALF020129, AALF020130, AALF000725, AALF000726, AALF000727, AALF000728, and AALF000730) or a gene nested in the intronic region of VGSC (AALF020132) during the probe design to take advantage of the population genetic analysis in future studies. From 15 kbp genomic regions in total, 229 probes were designed (Table S2), of which 145 target VGSC. Nonetheless, in the more recent contiguous assembly of the C6/36 cell line (see below), AALF020132, AALF000725, AALF000726, AALF000727, AALF000728, and AALF000730 are not located in the same assembly with the VGSC locus. For this reason, in this paper, we evaluate the performance of the probe set only in terms of VGSC CDS enrichment.

Samples

Fifty-six mosquitos either belonging to species *A. albopictus*, *A. aegypti* or *Culex pipiens* complex—either kept in the laboratory or caught in the wild (Table 1)—served as a source of gDNA. Of those, strains Aalb-SP, Aaeg-SP, and Cpip-JPP were already known to possess haplotypes with 1534C, 989P-1016G, and 1014F aa variants, respectively (Hardstone et al., 2007; S Kasai et al., 2014; Shinji Kasai et al., 2019).

gDNA extraction

gDNA was individually extracted from the whole body of an adult or pupa using the MagExtractor Genome Kit (TOYOBO). The protocol was modified to conduct the extraction in 8-strip PCR tubes or a 96-well PCR plate as follows. The whole body of a single insect was homogenized in a PCR well containing 50 µl of the Lysis & Binding Solution and zirconia beads (ø 2 mm; Nikkato) in TissueLyser II (QIAGEN) at 25 Hz for 30 s. After that, the samples were centrifuged at 2000 × *g* for 1 min to precipitate large debris, and each supernatant was transferred to a new well containing 50 µl of the Lysis & Binding Solution and 5 µl of DNA-binding Magnetic Beads. The solution was shaken in MicroMixer E-36 (TAITEC) at the maximum speed (2500 rpm) for 10 min, and then, on a magnetic plate, the supernatant was discarded. The beads bound to DNA were washed twice with 100 µl of the Washing Solution and twice with 75% ethanol each. Finally, DNA was eluted with 50 µl of low-TE buffer (0.1 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0) by shaking in MicroMixer E-36 at the maximum speed for 10 min. The obtained DNA was quantified with the Qubit Highly Sensitive DNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen). The obtained DNA concentration ranged from 2.3 to 8.6 ng/µl for *A. albopictus*, 5.3 to 10 ng/µl for *A. aegypti*, and 7.8 to 11 ng/µl for *C. pipiens* complex mosquitos.

Library construction and hybridization capture

Illumina libraries with TruSeq barcode adapters were prepared using NEBNext Ultra II FS DNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (NEB) on the 1/4 scale of the manufacturer-suggested protocol. Briefly, 4 µl of the gDNA extracted above (without adjusting the concentration) was mixed with 0.4 µl of the Enzyme Mix, 1.4 µl of Reaction Buffer, and 1.2 µl of H₂O on ice. The

mixture was then incubated at 37 °C for 10 min followed by incubation at 65 °C for 30 min. Those end-prepped DNAs were directly ligated with Illumina adapters by the addition of 0.5 µl of TruSeq 96 dual-index adapters (Illumina) instead of adapters supplied with the kit, 6 µl of the Ligation Master Mix, and 0.2 µl of Ligation Enhancer, with incubation at 20 °C for 15 min. Next, the libraries were incubated at 65 °C for 30 min to inactivate the ligase; then, all the 56 libraries were pooled together in a single 1.5 ml LoBind tube (Eppendorf). The pooled library was purified with 1.2× SPRIselect (Beckman Coulter) and eluted with 20 µl of low-TE buffer. A 7 µl aliquot of the pooled library was aliquoted and mixed with 0.8 µl of a 10 µg/µl UltraPure Salmon Sperm DNA Solution (Invitrogen) in a PCR-tube. Then, the mixture was concentrated by incubation at 80 °C for 10 min while the lid of the tube and thermal cycler were opened. The concentrated library mix was hybridized, captured, and washed with the designed oligo DNA probe set and the xGen Hybridization and Wash Kit (IDT). After that, the streptavidin magnetic beads were subjected to PCR amplification with HiFi Kapa (Kapa Biosystems) for 12 cycles. The amplified library was purified with 1.2× SPRIselect beads and quantified by real-time PCR using P5 and P7 adapter primers and qPCR double quencher probe (6-FAM)-5'-ACACTCTTT-(ZEN)-CCCTACACGACGCTCTTC-3'-(Iowa Black FQ) (IDT) in the PrimeTime Gene Expression Master Mix (IDT). Serial dilutions of the phiX library (Illumina) were used for construction of the standard curve. The quantified library was sequenced on Illumina MiniSeq with the Mid Output Kit (Illumina) for 151 cycles from both ends along with the libraries from other studies.

Reference genomes and annotation for VGSC

Although the probe sets were designed from assembly AaloF1, we chose a C6/36 cell line genome assembly, canu_80X_arrow2.2 (Miller et al., 2018), as a reference genome of *A. albopictus* for further bioinformatic analysis because this assembly has better contiguity and fewer scaffolds than AaloF1 does. In the canu_80X_arrow2.2 assembly, the whole VGSC gene was found in scaffolds MNAF02001058.1 and MNAF02001442.1 annotated as Gene IDs LOC109421922 and LOC109432678, respectively, in the NCBI *Aedes albopictus* Annotation Release 101. The two VGSC genes were assumed to be redundant haplotigs. To avoid dual mapping of the NGS reads, we purged MNAF02001442 by hard-masking this

entire scaffold (replacing all bases with the “N” character) rather than MNAF02001058.1 because LOC109432678 in MNAF02001442.1 has a single frame-shifting nucleotide deletion in the thymine homopolymer track within exon 4 (TTTTTT → TTTTT), which was suspected due to an uncorrected base-calling error. LOC109421922 was defined by the number of transcriptional variants in the NCBI’s annotation because VGSC is known to have complex alternative splicing patterns (Davies et al., 2007). Nevertheless, we simplified the VGSC gene model into two possible transcriptional variants to build a GFF3 annotation file for annotating aa changes. These two transcripts include all the regions of mandatory or optional CDSs but differ by the two mutually exclusive exons “19c/k” and “26d/l,” where one carries exons “19c” and “26k,” and the other contains exons “19d” and “26l.” CDSs of all the transcriptional variants of LOC109421922 were merged via overlaps. Those merged CDSs perfectly matched AaloF1 except for LOC109421922 including exon 16.5 and except for one mutually exclusive exon “26k” whose sequence itself was found to be intact in MNAF02001058.1.

The VGSC gene in the chromosome level assembly of the *A. aegypti* genome, AaegL5.0 (Matthews et al., 2018), was annotated in the same manner. The whole VGSC gene is encoded as AAEL023266 (the NCBI *Aedes aegypti* Annotation Release 101) on chromosome 3. AAEL023266 has 13 transcripts, these CDSs were merged via overlaps as in the canu_80X_arrow2.2 assembly of *A. albopictus*. AAEL023266 appeared to be lacking an exon corresponding to exon 16.5, whereas we found its sequence between exons 16 and 17. AAEL023266, however, contains an additional exon between exons 11 and 12. The 21 bp small exon was assumed to correspond to exon “12” in the *Anopheles gambiae* genome described by Davies et al. (2007) and is situated within the intracellular loop between domains I and II. We found the sequence homologous to this exon also in the two *A. albopictus* genome assemblies, AaloF1 and canu_80X_arrow2.2; thus, which means we had failed to include this exon in the probe design. The complete VGSC sequence was also found in scaffold NIGP01000811 and was assumed to be a redundant haplotigs. This scaffold was purged from the assembly by hard-masking.

In *C. quinquefasciatus* genome assembly Cpip_J2 (Arensburger et al., 2010), the VGSC gene is located in scaffold supercont3.182. The VGSC gene in supercont3.182, however,

contains shorter exon 13 which was truncated by scaffolding gap and lacks the entire exon 14. Complete exons 13 and 14 were found in another scaffold, supercont3.1170, which contains an incomplete VGSC gene probably as a haplotig. We fused contig AAWU01037504.1 containing exons 13 and 14 of VGSC from supercont3.1170 into supercont3.182 to restore the complete coding sequence of the VGSC gene, thereby creating supercont3.182_2 (Fig. S1A). The VGSC in supercont3.182 (and supercont3.182_2) still contained *kdr* aa substitutions, L932F and I936V, as already reported by Davies et al. (2007) plus unusual frameshifting deletions in exons 26I and 32 (Fig. S1B). For these reasons, supercont3.182_2 was further polished by the *consensus* module in BCFtools (Danecek & McCarthy, 2017) with the “-H 1” option using the variant information for Cpip-JNA-01 in the VCF file generated as described below, thereby finally resulting in supercont3.182_3. The latter scaffold was added to the genome assembly, and the original scaffolds supercont3.182 and supercont3.1170 were purged by hard-masking. We were not able to find an exon corresponding to “exon 16.5” in *A. albopictus* and *A. aegypti*.

Bioinformatic analysis

The FASTQ data were mapped to the reference using *BWA mem* (v.0.7.17) (Li & Durbin, 2009) with default options. The resultant BAM files were sorted by the *sort* program from the SAMtools suite (v.1.9) (Li et al., 2009), and we removed PCR duplicates by the *rmdup* programs from the SAMtools. Variant calling was performed on the resulting BAM files of each species in the FreeBayes software (v.1.2.0) (Garrison & Marth, 2012) with default options. The variant annotation (for aa changes) was conducted with the *csq* program from the BCFtools suite (v.1.9) (Danecek & McCarthy, 2017) with options “-l -p a”. Finally, the discovered aa changes were projected onto the corresponding position in the *M. domestica* VGSC protein sequence (GenBank accession No.: AAB47604). Those bioinformatic processes (Fig. 1A) were automated in pipeline tools *MoNaS* (*Mosquito Na⁺* channel mutation *Search*; <https://github.com/ltokawaK/MoNaS>) written in the Python3 script language.

For estimating the level of enrichment, five sets of random data on whole-genome shotgun

paired-end reads (150 bp × 2, 300 ± 50 bp insert length, 1 million read pairs) from each reference genomic assembly were simulated in the *wgsim* software (<https://github.com/lh3/wgsim>). The *multicov* program from the Bedtools suite (v.2.27.1) (Quinlan & Hall, 2010) was applied to calculate the number of reads overlapping with any targeted CDS regions. Nucleotide identities of exons were calculated using *Muscle* (Edgar, 2004) and BioPython's *Phylo* package (Talevich, Invergo, Cock, & Chapman, 2012). *R* (v.3.5.1) (R_Development_Core_Team, 2014) and the *ggplot2* package (Wickham, 2016) were utilized for summarizing and visualizing the data.

Results

For the 56 mosquito gDNA samples, 4.9 million demultiplexed read pairs (150 bp PE) in total were obtained after a single run of Illumina MiniSeq. From those samples, 40–170, 50–120, and 63–100 thousand read-pairs were obtained from each individual mosquito of species *A. albopictus* and *A. aegypti* and *C. pipiens* complex, respectively. The raw read data were deposited to DDBJ Sequence Read Archive (DRA) under BioProjectID: PRJDB7889. In *A. albopictus*, 44% of all reads on average overlapped with any of the VGSC CDSs under study (Reads overlapping per kilobase exon and per million sequenced reads: RPKM = 6.5×10^4), which was approximately 8.3×10^4 -fold enrichment compared to simulated random data on whole-genome shotgun sequencing (Fig. 2). Although the probe set was designed based on the *A. albopictus* genomic sequence, the same probe set captured VGSC CDSs from the gDNA of *A. aegypti* and *C. pipiens* complex at an on-target rate similar to that of *A. albopictus* (Fig. 2).

Fig. 3 shows a distribution of median and minimum sequencing depths within each CDS in each individual sample after PCR duplicates were removed. In *A. albopictus*, most nucleotides in all exons were covered deeply with minimum bias in all samples. In *A. aegypti* and *C. quinquefasciatus*, however, some exons were covered at relatively low depth partly or entirely. In particular, exons 2 and 16.5 were covered at nearly or absolutely zero depth.

Fig. 4 presents a distribution of the allele balance in genotypes containing single or multiple nucleotide variants (SNVs or MNVs). The ratio of the first allele in a heterozygous genotype was distributed mostly around 50%, which was substantially different from the homozygous

genotype (near 100%) except for one SNV or MNV site in exon 32 of the *A. albopictus* gene located in the GGT (Gly) trinucleotide tandem repeats variable in length near the C-terminus of VGSC, where accurate calling of the genotype is difficult.

Aa substitutions identified at the end of the MoNaS pipeline are listed in Table 2. Of those, F1534C in Aalb-SP (Shinji Kasai et al., 2019), S989P and V1016G in Aaeg-SP (S Kasai et al., 2014), and L1014F in Cpip-JPP (Hardstone et al., 2007), all previously known to exist in those strains, were recalled correctly. In the Aaeg-Mex strain, V410L, V1016I, and F1534C variants, which are known as *kdr* (Brengues et al. 2003; Haddi et al. 2017; Kawada et al. 2009), were detected. Other aa substitutions detected—C749*Y (*in mosquito aa coordinates because there was no corresponding aa in *M. domestica*), A2023T and G2046E in *A. albopictus*, S723T in *A. aegypti*, and K109R, Y319F, T1632S, E1633D, E1856D, G2051A, and A2055V in *C. pipiens* complex—are not known for their effects on insecticide susceptibility.

Discussion

In this study, we evaluated potential of targeted enrichment sequencing of VGSC CDSs from the gDNA of mosquitos using hybridization capture probes. The result of the experiment is quite promising: most nucleotides of VGSC CDSs were covered at sufficient read depths even in samples with less than a 30 Mbp (0.1 million read-pairs) sequencing effort.

Even though the probe set was designed on the basis of the *A. albopictus* genome sequence only, it successfully enriched VGSC CDSs from the gDNA of two other Culicinae mosquito species, *A. aegypti* and *C. pipiens* complex, which are estimated to have diverged 71.4 and 179 million years ago, respectively, from *A. albopictus* (X.-G. Chen et al., 2015). Although the estimated entire efficiency of enrichment was lower by approximately 50% in *C. pipiens* samples than in *A. albopictus* samples, the on-target ratio was still comparable or rather higher in *C. pipiens* (Fig. 2). This result can be explained by the much smaller genome size of *C. pipiens* complex (579 Mb in the CpipJ2 assembly) as compared to *A. albopictus* (2.25 Gbp in the C6/36 assembly). Applicability of a single probe set to multi species (e.g., the same genus or family) is clearly advantageous because this obviates the

need to prepare each custom probe sets specific for each single species and may enable capture even in species lacking prior genome information. Nonetheless, the evolutionary distance will limit the range of species that one probe set can be applied. In this study, the mapping results on each exon indicated that capture efficiency decreased in some exons (Fig. 3). The empirical observation suggests that less than 87.5% in identity or less than 60 bp in size for the homology track of targets could decrease the efficiency of capture significantly (Fig. 5). Especially, our probe set failed to capture two optionally used exons, 2 and 16.5, in *A. aegypti* and *C. pipiens* complex, which are among the smallest exons targeted (Fig. 3). It is assumed that those tiny exons alone do not provide enough thermostability for probe–target DNA duplex during the capture. Because the probes for those small exons contain flanking intronic sequences of the *A. albopictus* genome, those flanking sequences may have provided enough homology region to capture sequences from this species. Although it is straightforward to optimize our probe set further at least for the two other species of mosquito simply by adding species specific probes for those exons and flanking intronic regions, small exons in general will be a major challenge when a probe set is aimed to be used for a group of species rather than specific targets because the homology in an intronic region will decay more rapidly than that in an exonic region during speciation. We also missed another exon corresponding to “exon 12” in *Anopheles gambiae* described by Davies et al. (2007) during probe design (see Materials and Methods). Such tiny and rarely used exons may be difficult to annotate without high-quality high-throughput RNA sequencing data. Nevertheless, in mosquitoes, all such tiny exons are actually situated on the N-terminal intracellular loop or the intracellular loop between domains I and domain II in VGSC, where no resistance-associated mutation has been found so far (Dong et al., 2014). Therefore, it is not clear whether ignoring those small exons of VGSC from analysis does pose a serious problem for insecticide resistance research.

The process of genotyping VGSC carried out in this study was automated in MoNaS. This program sequentially runs tools conducting mapping of NGS reads to a reference, sorting, removal of PCR duplicates, indexing for BAM files, variant calling, variant annotation, and finally integration of these results across multiple samples into a single table with conversion of the aa coordinates to those corresponding to the *M. domestica* VGSC protein. The

automation in MoNaS allows researchers to process raw NGS reads of many samples via a simple command line operation without expert knowledge of the bioinformatics field. MoNaS can be run locally with appropriate genome reference data. Also, a web-service of MoNaS implemented with JBrowse alignment viewer (Buels et al., 2016) is provided by NIID Pathogen Genomics Center's severer (<https://gph.niid.go.jp/monas>) (Fig. 1B).

Acknowledgements

This research was partially supported by the Research Program on Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (JP19fk0108067) from Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and by Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases (J-GRID) from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and AMED.

Authors' contributions

KI and SK designed the study. KI and OK designed the capture probes. KI and TT refined the annotation of the VGSC gene. KI conducted all the experiments. KI, TSe, KY, and MK contributed to the bioinformatic analysis and development of MoNaS. SK, YM, MS and TSa contributed maintaining the laboratory colony or collected specimens of mosquitoes in the field. KI drafted this manuscript. All the coauthors critically revised the manuscript and approved it for publication.

Data accessibility

Raw NGS reads obtained in this study were deposited to DDBJ Sequence Read Archive (BioProjectID: PRJDB7889, see Table 1). Annotation information for VGSC and new reference sequence of VGSC gene in *C. pipens* complex used in this study (supercont3.182_3) are provided in S3 Appendix.zip file. Web service and source codes of

MoNaS are hosted in <https://gph.niid.go.jp/monas> and <https://github.com/ltokawaK/MoNaS>, respectively.

Reference

- Altschul, S. F., Gish, W., Miller, W., Myers, E. W., & Lipman, D. J. (1990). Basic local alignment search tool. *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 215(3), 403–410. doi:10.1016/S0022-2836(05)80360-2
- Arensburger, P., Megy, K., Waterhouse, R. M., Abrudan, J., Amedeo, P., Antelo, B., ... Atkinson, P. W. (2010). Sequencing of *Culex quinquefasciatus* establishes a platform for mosquito comparative genomics. *Science*, 330(6000), 86–88. doi:10.1126/science.1191864
- Brengues, C., Hawkes, N. J., Chandre, F., Mccarroll, L., Duchon, S., Guillet, P., ... Hemingway, J. (2003). Pyrethroid and DDT cross-resistance in *Aedes aegypti* is correlated with novel mutations in the voltage-gated sodium channel gene. *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*, 17(1), 87–94. doi:10.1046/j.1365-2915.2003.00412.x
- Buels, R., Yao, E., Diesh, C. M., Hayes, R. D., Munoz-Torres, M., Helt, G., ... Holmes, I. H. (2016). JBrowse: a dynamic web platform for genome visualization and analysis. *Genome Biology*, 17(1), 66. doi:10.1186/s13059-016-0924-1
- Busvine, J. R. (1951). Mechanism of Resistance to Insecticide in Houseflies. *Nature*, 168(4266), 193–195. doi:10.1038/168193a0
- Chen, H., Li, K., Wang, X., Yang, X., Lin, Y., Cai, F., ... Ma, Y. (2016). First identification of kdr allele F1534S in VGSC gene and its association with resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in *Aedes albopictus* populations from Haikou City, Hainan Island, China. *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, 5(1), 31. doi:10.1186/s40249-016-0125-x
- Chen, X.-G., Jiang, X., Gu, J., Xu, M., Wu, Y., Deng, Y., ... James, A. A. (2015). Genome sequence of the Asian Tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, reveals insights into its biology, genetics, and evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(44), E5907–E5915. doi:10.1073/pnas.1516410112
- Clarkson, C. S., Miles, A., Harding, N. J., Weetman, D., Kwiatkowski, D., Donnelly, M., &

Consortium, T. & Anopheles gambiae 1000 G. (2018). The genetic architecture of target-site resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in the African malaria vectors *Anopheles gambiae* and *Anopheles coluzzii*. *BioRxiv*, 323980. doi:10.1101/323980

Danecek, P., & McCarthy, S. A. (2017). BCFtools/csq: haplotype-aware variant consequences. *Bioinformatics*, 33(13), 2037–2039. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btx100

Davies, T. G. E., Field, L. M., Usherwood, P. N. R., & Williamson, M. S. (2007). A comparative study of voltage-gated sodium channels in the Insecta: implications for pyrethroid resistance in Anopheline and other Neopteran species. *Insect Molecular Biology*, 16(3), 361–75. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2583.2007.00733.x

Dong, K., Du, Y., Rinkevich, F., Nomura, Y., Xu, P., Wang, L., ... Zhorov, B. S. (2014, July). Molecular biology of insect sodium channels and pyrethroid resistance. *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*. NIH Public Access. doi:10.1016/j.ibmb.2014.03.012

Edgar, R. C. (2004). MUSCLE: multiple sequence alignment with high accuracy and high throughput. *Nucleic Acids Res*, 32(5), 1792–1797. doi:10.1093/nar/gkh340

Garrison, E., & Marth, G. (2012). Haplotype-based variant detection from short-read sequencing. Retrieved from <http://arxiv.org/abs/1207.3907>

Giraldo-Calderón, G. I., Emrich, S. J., MacCallum, R. M., Maslen, G., Dialynas, E., Topalis, P., ... Lawson, D. (2015). VectorBase: an updated bioinformatics resource for invertebrate vectors and other organisms related with human diseases. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 43(D1), D707–D713. doi:10.1093/nar/gku1117

Gnirke, A., Melnikov, A., Maguire, J., Rogov, P., LeProust, E. M., Brockman, W., ... Nusbaum, C. (2009). Solution hybrid selection with ultra-long oligonucleotides for massively parallel targeted sequencing. *Nature Biotechnology*, 27(2), 182–189. doi:10.1038/nbt.1523

Haddi, K., Tomé, H. V. V., Du, Y., Valbon, W. R., Nomura, Y., Martins, G. F., ... Oliveira, E. E. (2017). Detection of a new pyrethroid resistance mutation (V410L) in the sodium channel of *Aedes aegypti*: a potential challenge for mosquito control. *Scientific Reports*, 7(1), 46549. doi:10.1038/srep46549

Hardstone, M., Leichter, C., Harrington, L., Kasai, S., Tomita, T., & Scott, J. (2007). Cytochrome P450 monooxygenase-mediated permethrin resistance confers limited and larval specific cross-resistance in the southern house mosquito, *Culex pipiens quinquefasciatus*.

- Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology*, 89(3), 175–184. doi:10.1016/j.pestbp.2007.06.006
- Kasai, S, Komagata, O., Itokawa, K., Shono, T., Ng, L. C., Kobayashi, M., & Tomita, T. (2014). Mechanisms of pyrethroid resistance in the dengue mosquito vector, *Aedes aegypti*: target site insensitivity, penetration, and metabolism. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*, 8(6), e2948. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0002948
- Kasai, S, Ng, L. C., Lam-Phua, S. G., Tang, C. S., Itokawa, K., Komagata, O., ... Tomita, T. (2011). First detection of a putative knockdown resistance gene in major mosquito vector, *Aedes albopictus*. *Jpn J Infect Dis*, 64(3), 217–221. Retrieved from <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21617306>
- Kasai, Shinji, Caputo, B., Tsunoda, T., Cuong, T. C., Maekawa, Y., Lam-Phua, S. G., ... Tomita, T. (2019). First detection of a Vssc allele V1016G conferring a high level of insecticide resistance in *Aedes albopictus* collected from Europe (Italy) and Asia (Vietnam), 2016: a new emerging threat to controlling arboviral diseases. *Eurosurveillance*, 24(5), 1700847. doi:10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2019.24.5.1700847
- Kawada, H., Higa, Y., Komagata, O., Kasai, S., Tomita, T., Thi Yen, N., ... Takagi, M. (2009). Widespread Distribution of a Newly Found Point Mutation in Voltage-Gated Sodium Channel in Pyrethroid-Resistant *Aedes aegypti* Populations in Vietnam. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*, 3(10), e527. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0000527
- Kim, D., Langmead, B., & Salzberg, S. L. (2015). HISAT: A fast spliced aligner with low memory requirements. *Nature Methods*. doi:10.1038/nmeth.3317
- Kutsuna, S., Kato, Y., Moi, M. L., Kotaki, A., Ota, M., Shinohara, K., ... Ohmagari, N. (2015). Autochthonous Dengue Fever, Tokyo, Japan, 2014. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, 21(3), 517–520. doi:10.3201/eid2103.141662
- Li, H., & Durbin, R. (2009). Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform. *Bioinformatics*, 25(14), 1754–1760. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp324
- Li, H., Handsaker, B., Wysoker, A., Fennell, T., Ruan, J., Homer, N., ... Durbin, R. (2009). The Sequence Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. *Bioinformatics*, 25(16), 2078–2079. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btp352
- Lund, A. E., & Narahashi, T. (1983). Kinetics of sodium channel modification as the basis for the variation in the nerve membrane effects of pyrethroids and DDT analogs. *Pesticide*

Biochemistry and Physiology, 20(2), 203–216. doi:10.1016/0048-3575(83)90025-1

Marcombe, S., Farajollahi, A., Healy, S. P., Clark, G. G., & Fonseca, D. M. (2014). Insecticide Resistance Status of United States Populations of *Aedes albopictus* and Mechanisms Involved. *PLoS ONE*, 9(7), e101992. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0101992

Matthews, B. J., Dudchenko, O., Kingan, S. B., Koren, S., Antoshechkin, I., Crawford, J. E., ... Vosshall, L. B. (2018). Improved reference genome of *Aedes aegypti* informs arbovirus vector control. *Nature*, 563(7732), 501–507. doi:10.1038/s41586-018-0692-z

Miller, J. R., Koren, S., Dilley, K. A., Puri, V., Brown, D. M., Harkins, D. M., ... Shabman, R. S. (2018). Analysis of the *Aedes albopictus* C6/36 genome provides insight into cell line utility for viral propagation. *GigaScience*, 7(3). doi:10.1093/gigascience/gix135

Miyazaki, M., Ohyama, K., Dunlap, D. Y., & Matsumura, F. (1996). Cloning and sequencing of the para-type sodium channel gene from susceptible and kdr-resistant German cockroaches (*Blattella germanica*) and house fly (*Musca domestica*). *MGG Molecular & General Genetics*, 252(1–2), 61–68. doi:10.1007/BF02173205

Quinlan, A. R., & Hall, I. M. (2010). BEDTools: a flexible suite of utilities for comparing genomic features. *Bioinformatics*, 26(6), 841–842. doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btq033

R_Development_Core_Team. (2014). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. *R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria*. Retrieved from <http://www.r-project.org>

Reiter, P., Fontenille, D., & Paupy, C. (2006). *Aedes albopictus* as an epidemic vector of chikungunya virus: another emerging problem? *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, 6(8), 463–464. doi:10.1016/S1473-3099(06)70531-X

Rinkevich, F. D., Du, Y., & Dong, K. (2013). Diversity and convergence of sodium channel mutations involved in resistance to pyrethroids. *Pesticide Biochemistry and Physiology*, 106(3), 93–100. doi:10.1016/j.pestbp.2013.02.007

Saavedra-Rodriguez, K., Urdaneta-Marquez, L., Rajatileka, S., Moulton, M., Flores, A. E., Fernandez-Salas, I., ... Black, W. C. th. (2007). A mutation in the voltage-gated sodium channel gene associated with pyrethroid resistance in Latin American *Aedes aegypti*. *Insect Mol Biol*, 16(6), 785–798. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2583.2007.00774.x

Srisawat, R., Komalamisra, N., Eshita, Y., Zheng, M., Ono, K., Itoh, T. Q., ... Rongsriyam, Y.

(2010). Point mutations in domain II of the voltage-gated sodium channel gene in deltamethrin-resistant *Aedes aegypti* (Diptera: Culicidae). *Applied Entomology and Zoology*, 45(2), 275–282. doi:10.1303/aez.2010.275

Talevich, E., Invergo, B. M., Cock, P. J., & Chapman, B. A. (2012). Bio.Phylo: A unified toolkit for processing, analyzing and visualizing phylogenetic trees in Biopython. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 13(1), 209. doi:10.1186/1471-2105-13-209

Wickham, H. (2016). *ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis*. Springer-Verlag New York. Retrieved from <http://ggplot2.org>

Williamson, M. S., Martinez-Torres, D., Hick, C. A., & Devonshire, A. L. (1996). Identification of mutations in the houseflypara-type sodium channel gene associated with knockdown resistance (kdr) to pyrethroid insecticides. *MGG Molecular & General Genetics*, 252(1–2), 51–60. doi:10.1007/BF02173204

Xu, J., Bonizzoni, M., Zhong, D., Zhou, G., Cai, S., Li, Y., ... Chen, X.-G. (2016). Multi-country Survey Revealed Prevalent and Novel F1534S Mutation in Voltage-Gated Sodium Channel (VGSC) Gene in *Aedes albopictus*. *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 10(5), e0004696. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0004696

Table 1 Mosquito samples used in this study

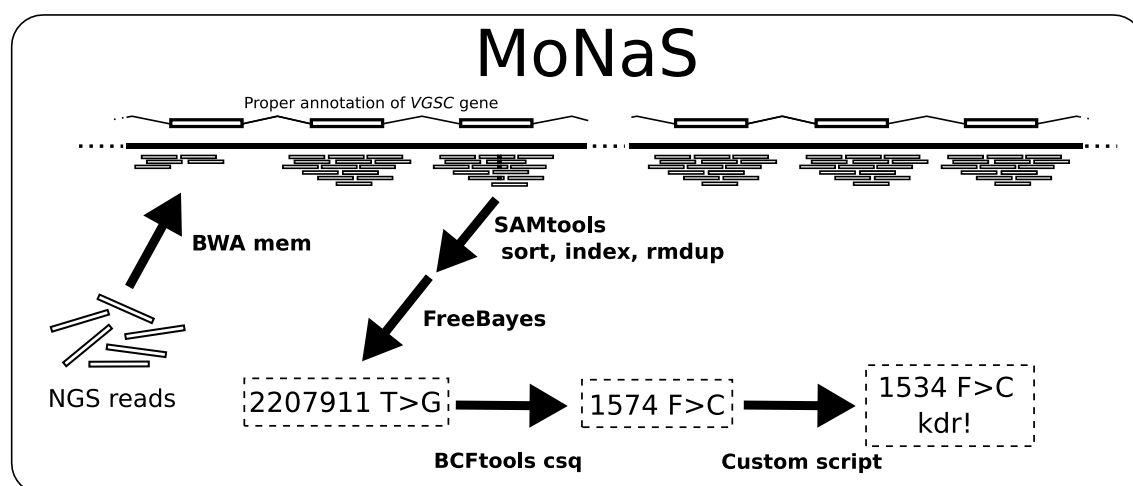
ID	Species	Lab. Colony / Wild	num	Description	DDBJ Accession no.
Aalb-SP	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Lab. Colony	8	Originated from Singapore in 2016. This strain is known to possess 1534C <i>kdr</i> variant (Kasai et al., 2019).	DRR167925–932
Aalb-Viet	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Hanoi, Viet Nam in 2016.	DRR167935–936
Aalb-Okayama	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Okayama, Japan in 2015.	DRR167923–924
Aalb-Toyama	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Tokyo, Japan in 2015.	DRR167933–934
Aalb-Ishigaki	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Ishigaki-zima, Okinawa, Japan in 2016.	DRR167921–922
Aalb-Yona	<i>A. albopictus</i>	Wild	8	Caught wild from Yonaguni-zima, Okinawa, Japan in 2017.	DRR167937–944
Aaeg-Mex	<i>A. aegypti</i>	Lab. Colony	16	Originated from Monterrey, Mexico in 2008.	DRR167897–912
Aaeg-SP	<i>A. aegypti</i>	Lab. Colony	8	Originated from Singapore in 2009. This strain is known to possesses 989P–1016G <i>kdr</i> haplotype (Kasai 2014).	DRR167913–920
Cpip-JNA	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	This strain was selected for <i>CYP9M10</i> genotype (Itokawa et al., 2011) from JHB strain originated from Johannesburg, South Africa in 2001 (Arensburger et al., 2010).	DRR167945–946
Cpip-JPP	<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Saudi Arabia, selected by permethrin for 20 generations (Amin et al., 1989). This strain is known to possesses 1014F <i>kdr</i> variant (Hardstone et al., 2007) .	DRR167947–948
Cpip-Ryo	<i>C. pipiens pallens</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Originated from Kanagawa, Japan in 2015.	DRR167951–952
Cpip-JP_mix	<i>C. pipiens</i> form <i>molestus</i>	Lab. Colony	2	Mixed from several lab. colonies originated from different places of Japan in 2003–2004.	DRR167949–950

Table 2 Detected amino-acid substitutions

Species	Population	n	Amino-acid substitutions (num. of homozygous, heterozygous individuals)
<i>A. albopictus</i>	Aalb-SP	8	F1534C**(8,0); A2023T(8,0)
	Aalb-Viet	2	A2023T(0,1)
	Aalb-Okayama	2	C749*Y(0,1); A2023T(0,1); G2046E(0,1)
	Aalb-Toyama	2	A2023T(0,1)
	Aalb-Ishigaki	2	A2023T(1,0)
	Aalb-Yona	8	A2023T(0,2)
<i>A. aegypti</i>	Aaeg-Mex	16	V410L**(1,7); S723T(1,7); V1016I**(1,7); F1534C**(16,0)
	Aaeg-SP	8	S989P**(8,0); V1016G**(8,0)
<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	Cpip-JNA	2	K109R(0,1); T1632S(0,1); E1633D(0,1); G2051A(0,1); A2055V(0,1)
<i>C. quinquefasciatus</i>	Cpip-JPP	2	R261K(2,0); L1014F**(2,0)
<i>C. pipiens pallens</i>	Cpip-Ryo	2	Y319F(2,0); T1632S(0,2); E1633D(0,2)
<i>C. pipiens</i> form <i>molestus</i>	Cpip-JP_mix	2	Y319F(2,0); L1014F**(2,0); T1632S(2,0); T1633D(2,0); E1856D(2,0)

The amino-acid coordination is *M. domestica* except C749Y with asterisk (*) since there was no corresponding amino-acid in *M. domestica* (genbank id: AAB47604). Double asterisks (**) indicate known *kdr* substitutions conferring pyrethroid resistance. Variants seen on the Gly repeats near the C-terminal are omitted.

(A)



(B)

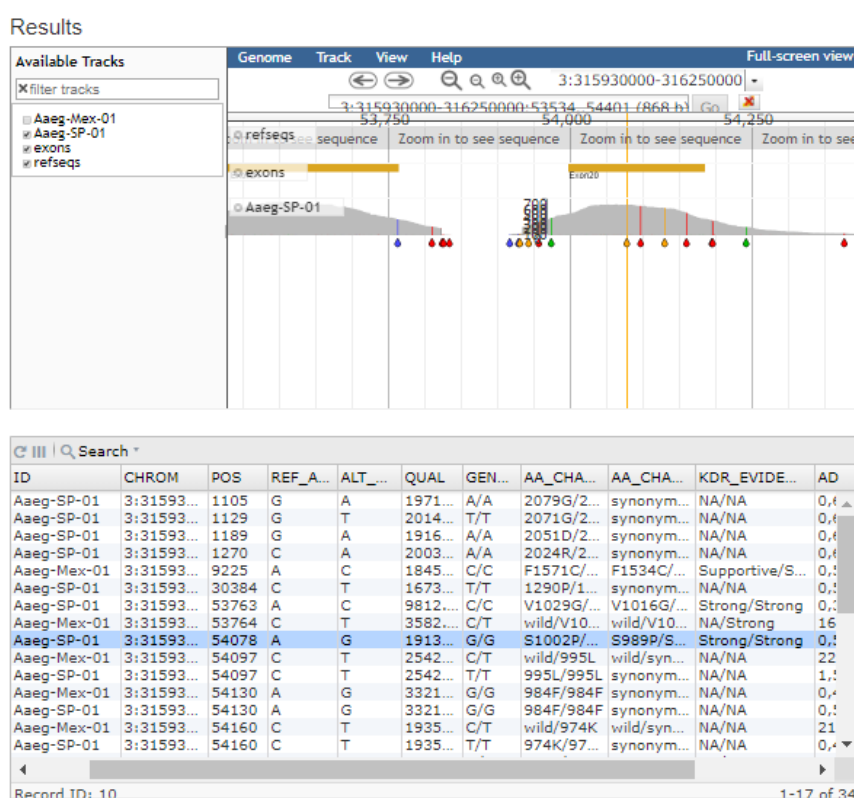


Fig. 1 Analytical pipeline MoNaS

(A) A diagram for analytical pipeline MoNaS. MoNaS executes several bioinformatic tools to call variants and aa substitutions. Finally, a custom script converts species aa coordinates to the standard housefly aa coordinates, tells whether each aa substitution is among the known listed *kdr* substitutions and creates a human-readable table from Variant Call Format (VCF). (B) Image of the result output page from MoNaS web-service.

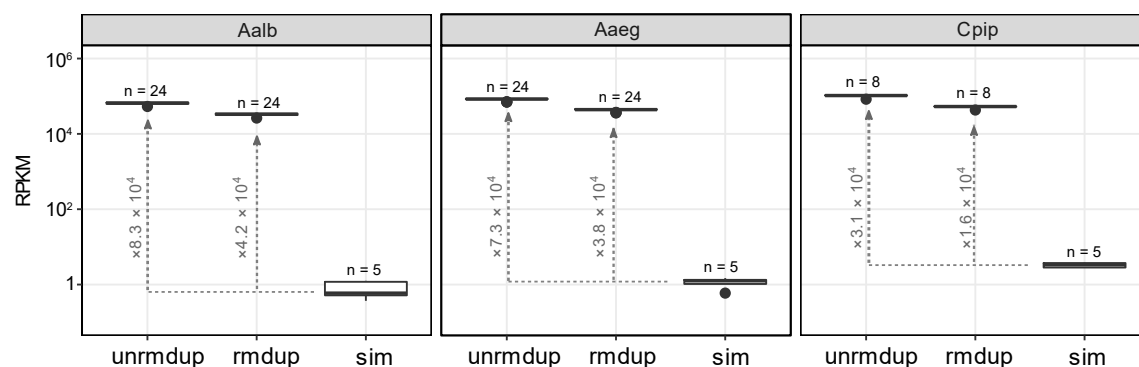


Fig. 2 The NGS reads are enriched in targeted VGSC exons by capture

Distributions of RPKM (number of sequencing reads overlapping to the targeted VGSC exons per 1 kbp total exon length and one million reads) for *A. albopictus* (Aalb), *A. aegypti* (Aaeg) and *C. pipiens* complex (Cpip). Labels “unrmDup” and “rmDup” indicate before and after removal of PCR duplicates, respectively. Label “sim” indicates simulated whole genome shotgun (WGS) reads randomly drawn from genome of each species (replicated five times in each species). The values associated with dotted line with arrowhead indicate sizes of fold-change (levels of enrichment) compared to simulated WGS data.

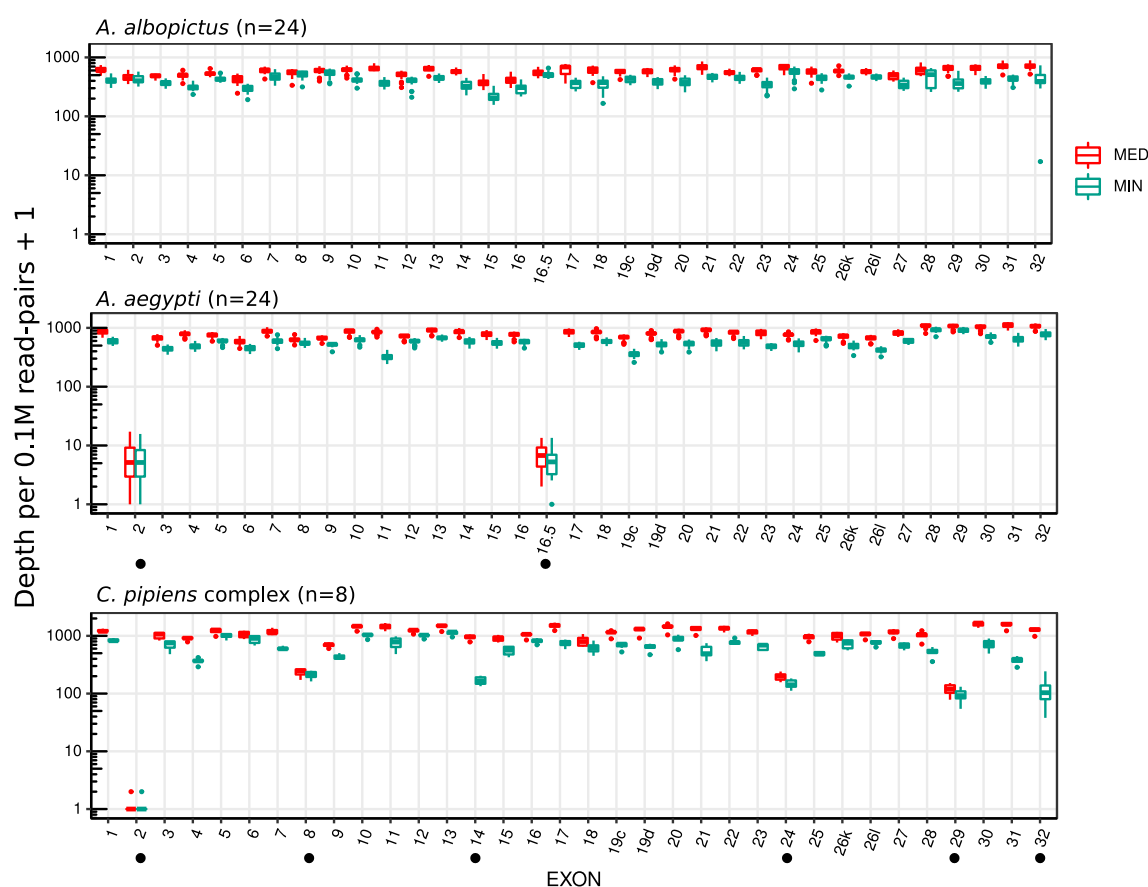


Fig. 3 Coverage of targeted VGSC exons

Distribution of median (MED) and minimum (MIN) depths per nucleotide (on a logarithmic scale) within each exon and each individual sample after PCR duplicates were removed. Exons labeled with "●" contained nucleotide sites with relatively low coverage.

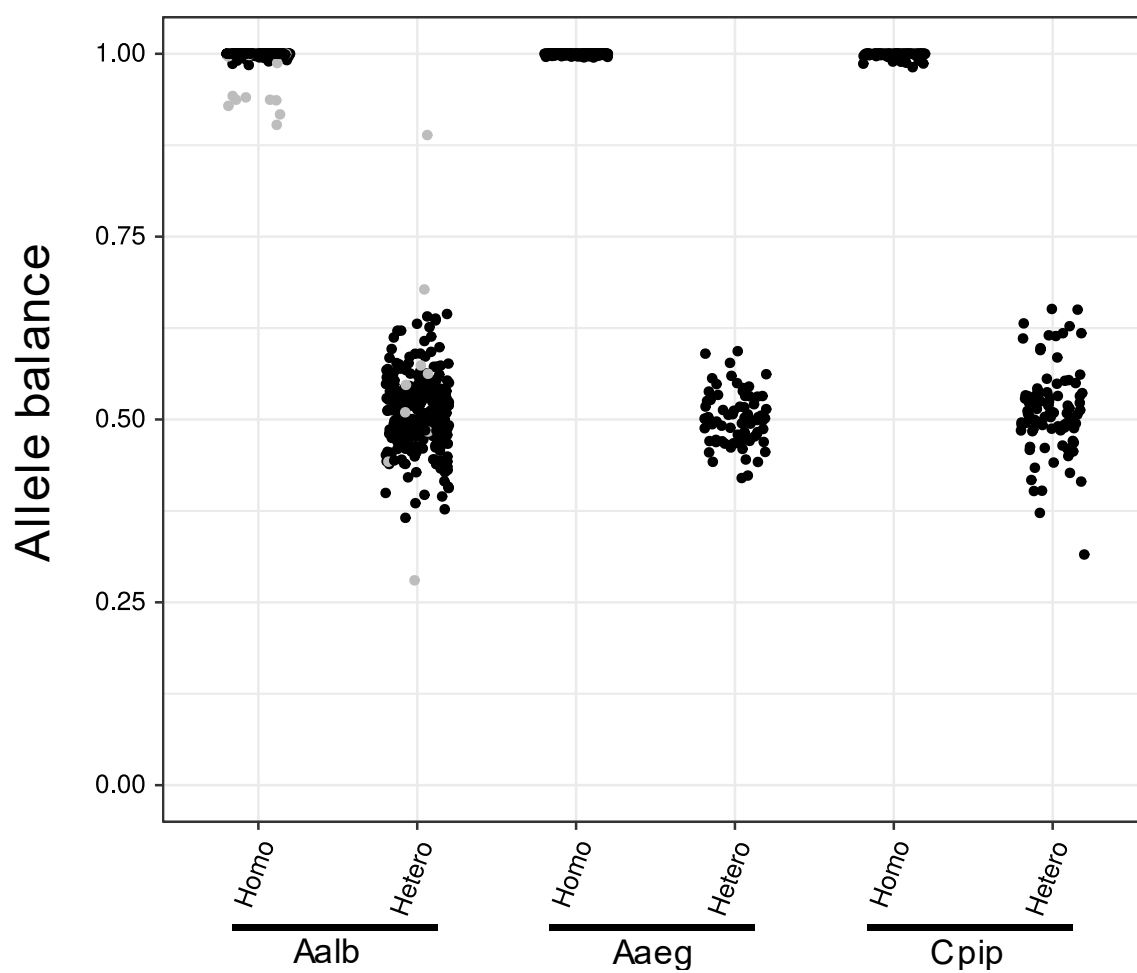


Fig. 4 The allele balance in genotypes containing a variant

The distribution of allele balance in read depth for each allele at heterozygous or homozygous genotypes containing alternative allele(s). The balance was calculated as [read depth of the first allele in "GT" info] / [total depth] in the VCF format. Gray points in *A. albopictus* are at the genotype at GGT (Gly) trinucleotide repeats in exon32.

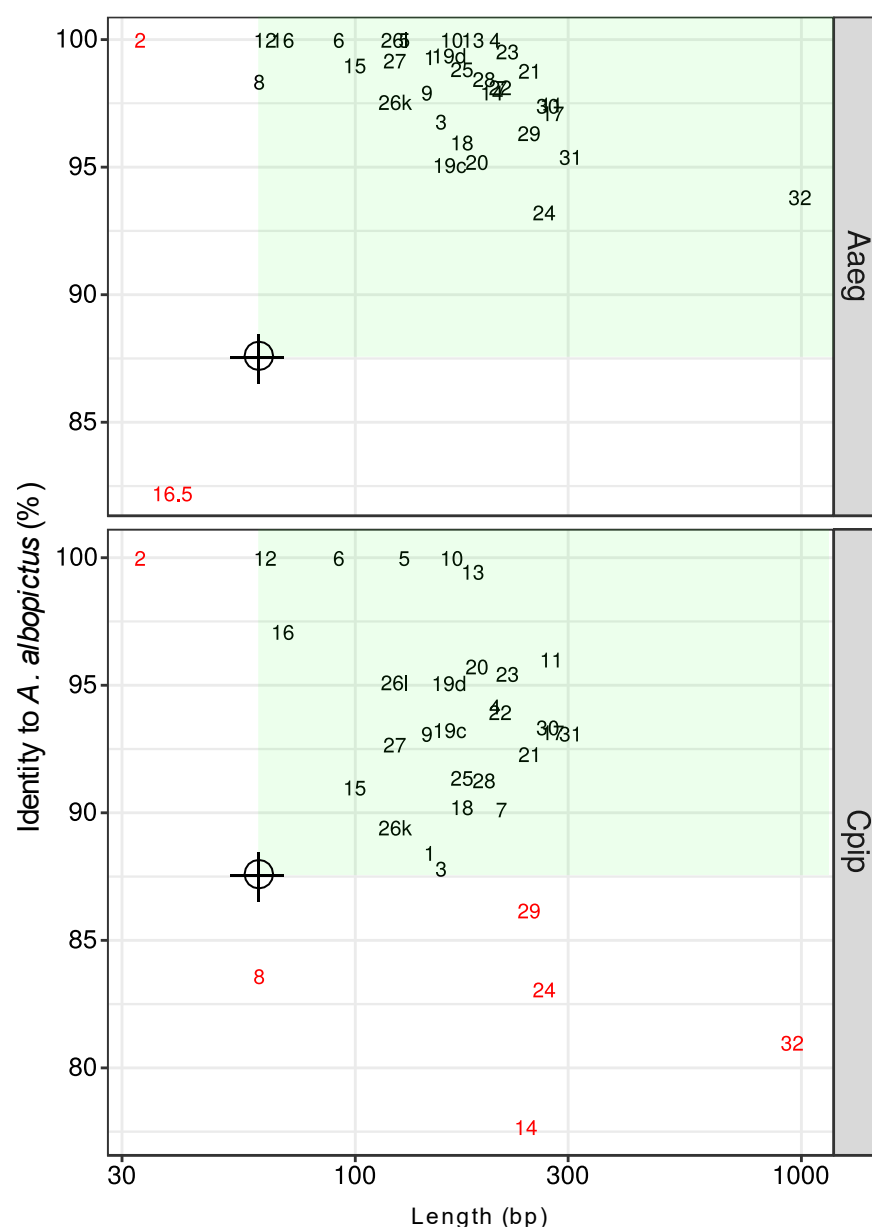


Fig. 5 Length and conservation of the VGSC exons (CDSs) targeted

Length (on a logarithmic scale) and percentage identity to *A. albopictus* of each exon in *A. aegypti* and *C. pipiens* complex. Red exon names are those with low-coverage nucleotides in Fig. 3. The green area represents >60 bp length and >87.5% identity.