



41 **Abstract**

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43 *Drosophila melanogaster* males perform a series of courtship behaviors that, when successful,  
44 result in copulation with a female. For over a century, mutations in the *yellow* gene, named for its  
45 effects on pigmentation, have been known to reduce male mating success. Prior work has  
46 suggested that *yellow* influences mating behavior through effects on wing extension, song, and/or  
47 courtship vigor. Here, we rule out these explanations, as well as effects on the nervous system  
48 more generally, and find instead that the effects of *yellow* on male mating success are mediated  
49 by its effects on pigmentation of male-specific leg structures called sex combs. Loss of *yellow*  
50 expression in these modified bristles reduces their melanization, which changes their structure  
51 and causes difficulty grasping females prior to copulation. These data illustrate why the  
52 mechanical properties of anatomy, and not just neural circuitry, must be considered to fully  
53 understand the development and evolution of behavior.

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## 78 Introduction

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80 “The form of any behavior depends to a degree on the form of the morphology performing it”  
81 -Mary Jane West-Eberhard, 2003

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83 Over 100 years ago in Thomas Hunt Morgan’s fly room, Alfred Sturtevant described what is  
84 often regarded as the first example of a single gene mutation affecting behavior (Sturtevant,  
85 1915; reviewed in Drapeau *et al.*, 2003; Cobb, 2007; Greenspan 2008): he noted that *yellow*  
86 mutant males, named for their loss of black pigment that gives their body a more yellow  
87 appearance (Figure 1A), mated successfully with wild-type females much less often than wild-  
88 type males. In 1956, in what is often regarded as the first ethological study (reviewed in Cobb,  
89 2007; Greenspan 2008), Margaret Bastock compared courtship of *yellow* mutant and wild-type  
90 males and concluded that despite all courtship actions being present, loss of *yellow* function  
91 likely reduces courtship vigor or drive, leading to copulation inhibition (Bastock 1956). Despite  
92 more recent data consistent with this hypothesis (Drapeau *et al.* 2003), the precise mechanism by  
93 which the *yellow* gene affects male mating success in *D. melanogaster* has remained a mystery.  
94 Consequently, Bastock’s statement about *yellow* from her 1956 paper is equally true today: “It  
95 seemed worthwhile therefore to examine more closely one example of a gene mutation affecting  
96 behavior and to ask two questions, (1) how does it bring about its effect? [and], (2) what part  
97 might it play in evolution?”

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99 The *D. melanogaster yellow* gene encodes a protein hypothesized to act either structurally  
100 (Geyer *et al.*, 1986) or enzymatically (Wittkopp *et al.*, 2002) in the synthesis of dopamine  
101 melanin, and a Yellow homolog has been shown to bind dopamine and other biogenic amines in  
102 the sand fly *Lutzomyia longipalpis* (Xu *et al.*, 2011). The interaction between Yellow and  
103 dopamine might explain the protein’s effects on male mating success because dopamine acts as a  
104 modulator of male courtship drive in *D. melanogaster* (Zhang *et al.*, 2016). These effects of  
105 dopamine are mediated by neurons expressing the gene *fruitless (fru)* (Zhang *et al.*, 2016), which  
106 is a master regulator of sexually dimorphic behavior in *D. melanogaster* that can affect every  
107 component of courtship and copulation (reviewed in Villella and Hall, 2008). *fru* has also been  
108 shown to regulate expression of *yellow* in the central nervous system (CNS) of male *D.*  
109 *melanogaster* larvae (Drapeau *et al.*, 2003). These observations suggest that the pleiotropic  
110 effects of *yellow* on male mating success might result from effects of *yellow* in the adult CNS,  
111 particularly in *fru*-expressing neurons. Consistent with this hypothesis, functional links between  
112 the pigment synthesis pathway and behavior mediated by the nervous system have previously  
113 been reported for other pigmentation genes (Hotta and Benzer, 1969; Heisenberg, 1971; Borycz  
114 *et al.*, 2002; Richardt *et al.*, 2002; True *et al.*, 2005; Suh and Jackson, 2007).

115

## 116 Results and Discussion

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118 *fruitless-expressing cells do not mediate the effect of yellow on male mating success*

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120 *D. melanogaster* males perform multiple behaviors, including tapping, chasing, singing, and  
121 genital licking, before attempting to copulate with females by curling their abdomen and  
122 grasping the female (Figure 1B, Movie 1). In one-hour trials, we found that virgin males  
123 homozygous for a null allele of the *yellow* gene (*y1*) successfully mated with wild-type virgin  
124 females only 3% of the time, whereas wild-type males mated with wild-type virgin females 93%

125 of the time (Figure 1C). Videos of mating trials indicated that the difference in mating success  
126 between wild-type and *yellow* males did not come from differences in courtship activity (Figure  
127 1D-H) (compare Movies 1 and 2), but rather from differences in the ability of *yellow* and wild-  
128 type males to initiate copulation (compare Movies 3 and 4).

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130 To determine whether *yellow* activity in *fru*-expressing cells is responsible for this difference in  
131 mating success, we used the UAS-GAL4 system (Brand and Perrimon, 1993) to drive expression  
132 of *yellow-RNAi* (Dietzl *et al.*, 2007) with *fru<sup>GAL4</sup>* (Stockinger *et al.*, 2005), knocking down native  
133 *yellow* expression in these cells. We also used *fru<sup>GAL4</sup>* to drive *yellow* expression in *y<sup>1</sup>* mutants.  
134 In both cases, we found no significant effect on male mating success (Figure 2A,B), showing that  
135 expression of *yellow* in *fru*-expressing cells is neither necessary nor sufficient for *yellow*'s effect  
136 on male mating success.

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138 *Doublesex-expressing cells require yellow for normal male mating success*

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140 To continue searching for cells responsible for *yellow*'s effects on mating, we examined a 209 bp  
141 sequence 5' of the *yellow* gene called the "mating-success regulatory sequence" (MRS) because  
142 deletion mapping indicated it was required for male mating success (Drapeau *et al.* 2006). We  
143 hypothesized that the MRS might contain an enhancer driving *yellow* expression and found that  
144 ChIP-seq data indicates the Doublesex (Dsx) transcription factor binds to this region *in vivo*  
145 (Clough *et al.*, 2014). Like *fru*, *dsx* expression is required to specify sex-specific behaviors in *D.*  
146 *melanogaster* (Rideout *et al.*, 2010; Robinett *et al.*, 2010; reviewed in Villella and Hall, 2008;  
147 Yamamoto and Koganezawa, 2013), suggesting that *yellow* expression regulated by Dsx through  
148 the MRS enhancer might be responsible for its effects on male mating behavior. We found that  
149 reducing *yellow* expression in *dsx*-expressing cells with either of two different *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* drivers  
150 (Robinett *et al.*, 2010; Rideout *et al.*, 2010) strongly reduced male mating success (Figure 2C,  
151 Supplementary Figure S1A), whereas restoring *yellow* activity in cells expressing *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* in *y<sup>1</sup>*  
152 mutants significantly increased male mating success compared with *y<sup>1</sup>* controls (Figure 2D,  
153 Supplementary Figure S1B). Video recordings of male flies with reduced *yellow* expression in  
154 *dsx*-expressing cells showed the same mating defect observed in *y<sup>1</sup>* mutants: males seem to  
155 perform all courtship actions normally, but repeatedly failed to copulate (Movie 5). We therefore  
156 conclude that *yellow* expression is required in *dsx*-expressing cells for normal male mating  
157 behavior.

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159 To determine whether the MRS sequence might be the enhancer mediating *yellow* expression in  
160 *dsx*-expressing cells that affect male mating success, we manipulated *yellow* expression with  
161 GAL4 driven by a 2.7kb DNA region located 5' of *yellow* that includes the wing, body, and  
162 putative MRS enhancers (Gilbert *et al.*, 2006, Supplementary Figure S2A). Altering *yellow*  
163 expression with this GAL4 driver modified pigmentation as expected but did not affect male  
164 mating success (Supplemental Figure S2B-D), possibly because this GAL4 line did not show any  
165 detectable expression in the adult CNS (Supplementary Figure S2E). To test more directly  
166 whether the MRS was necessary for male mating success, we deleted 152 bp of the 209 bp MRS  
167 sequence using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing (Bassett *et al.*, 2013) (Supplemental Figure S2F,G).  
168 We found that this deletion had no significant effect on male mating success (Supplemental  
169 Figure S2H), contradicting the previous deletion mapping data (Drapeau *et al.*, 2006). We

170 conclude therefore that *yellow* expression in *dsx*-expressing cells affecting mating behavior must  
171 be mediated by other *cis*-regulatory sequences associated with the *yellow* gene.

172  
173 *dsx*-expressing cells outside the CNS require *yellow* for normal male mating success

174  
175 Although *dsx* is expressed broadly throughout the fly (Robinett *et al.*, 2010; Rideout *et al.*,  
176 2010), we hypothesized that its expression in the nervous system would be responsible for  
177 *yellow*'s effects on mating because *yellow* has been reported to be expressed in the adult brain  
178 (Hinaux *et al.*, 2018) and behavioral effects of other pigmentation genes are mediated by neurons  
179 (Hotta and Benzer, 1969; Heisenberg, 1971; Borycz *et al.*, 2002; True *et al.*, 2005). However, we  
180 found that suppressing *yellow* expression in the larval CNS, dopaminergic neurons, or  
181 serotonergic neurons (Supplementary Figure S3), or in all neurons (Figure 2E) or all glia (Figure  
182 2F), had no significant effect on male mating success. Specifically reducing *yellow* expression in  
183 either all *dsx*-expressing neurons (Figure 2G) or all *dsx*-expressing glutamatergic neurons that  
184 are required for genital coupling (Pavlou *et al.*, 2016) (Figure 2H) also had no significant effect  
185 on male mating success. In addition, when we examined *yellow* expression in adult brains, we  
186 were only able to observe non-specific signal at the anterior of the adult brain in females (Figure  
187 2J,K). Given this lack of evidence that *yellow* is required in neuronal cells for normal male  
188 mating behavior, we limited *dsx*<sup>GAL4</sup> activation of *yellow* expression in *y*<sup>1</sup> mutants to non-  
189 neuronal cells and found that these flies exhibited a substantial increase in male mating success  
190 compared with *y*<sup>1</sup> mutant males (Figure 2I), showing that *yellow* expression in non-neuronal *dsx*-  
191 expressing cells is required for normal male mating behavior.

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193 To identify which non-neuronal *dsx*-expressing cells require *yellow* expression for normal male  
194 mating success, we screened ten *dsx*-enhancer GAL4 lines that each contains a different ~3 kb  
195 region of *dsx* noncoding sequence (Figure 2L; Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2008). Two of these lines, *42D04*-  
196 *GAL4* and *40F03*-*GAL4*, significantly decreased male mating success when driving *yellow*-RNAi  
197 (Figure 2M). These two GAL4 drivers contain overlapping sequences from intron 2 of *dsx*  
198 (Figure 2L), suggesting that their similar effects result from reduction of *yellow* expression in the  
199 same cells. Line *42D04*-*GAL4* had stronger effects than *40F03*-*GAL4* (Figure 2N), so we  
200 performed all further analyses with this line. Males with *yellow* reduced by *42D04*-*GAL4*  
201 performed courtship behavior in a pattern similar to *y*<sup>1</sup> mutant males: males performed all  
202 precopulatory courtship behaviors normally, but repeatedly failed to copulate, even after hours of  
203 attempts (Movie 6). These data indicate that some or all cells in which *42D04*-*GAL4* drives  
204 expression require *yellow* expression for normal male mating behavior.

205  
206 *Sex combs require yellow expression for normal male mating success*

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208 *42D04*-*GAL4* drives expression in a sexually dimorphic pattern in multiple neurons of the adult  
209 male (Figure 3A,B) and female CNS (Supplemental Figure S4A,B), consistent with previously  
210 described *dsx*<sup>GAL4</sup> expression in the posterior cluster, the abdominal cluster, and, in males, in the  
211 prothoracic TN1 neurons (Robinett *et al.*, 2010). *42D04*-*GAL4* also drives expression in male  
212 and female larval CNS and genital discs, with expression in the genital tissues persisting into the  
213 adult stage only in females (Supplemental Figure S4C-G). Finally, we observed *42D04*-*GAL4*  
214 expression at the base of the sex combs (also observed by Robinett *et al.* 2010), which are  
215 modified bristles used during mating (Cook, 1975; Ng and Kopp 2008; Hurtado-Gonzales *et al.*,

216 2015) that are present only on the first tarsal segment of adult male forelegs (Figure 3C-F).  
217 Yellow protein is expressed in sex combs (Hinaux *et al.*, 2018, Figure 3G,H), where it is  
218 presumably required for synthesis of black dopamine melanin in the sex comb “teeth”. This  
219 expression of *yellow* in sex comb cells is driven by enhancer sequences in the *yellow* intron  
220 (Supplementary Figure S5), potentially explaining why manipulating *yellow* expression using  
221 GAL4 driven by sequences 5’ of the *yellow* gene failed to affect mating. Driving expression of  
222 *yellow*-RNAi with *42D04-GAL4* eliminated expression of an mCherry tagged version of the  
223 native Yellow protein in sex combs and strongly reduced black melanin in the sex combs (Figure  
224 3I-L) but not the abdomen (Supplemental Figure S4J).

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226 To test the impact of *yellow* expression in sex combs on male mating behavior, we used *42D04-*  
227 *GAL4* to drive *yellow*-RNAi, but inhibited the function of *42D04-GAL4* in the CNS with *nysb-*  
228 *GAL80* (courtesy of Julie Simpson). These flies showed no GAL4 activity in the CNS (Figure  
229 3M,N), but lost black melanin in the sex combs (Figure 3O) and had significantly reduced male  
230 mating success (Figure 3P). High-speed videos (1000 frames per second) revealed that *yellow*  
231 mutant ( $y^1$ ) males fail repeatedly to grasp the female abdomen with their sex combs when  
232 attempting to mount and copulate (Movie 7), whereas wild-type males more readily grasp the  
233 female with their melanized sex combs and initiate copulation efficiently (Movie 8). These  
234 observations suggest that *yellow* expression in sex combs affects their melanization, which in  
235 turn affects their function.

### 236 237 *Sex comb melanization is required for efficient grasping, mounting and copulation*

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239 To test whether sex comb melanization (as opposed to some other unknown effect of losing  
240 *yellow* expression in sex combs) is critical for male sexual behavior, we suppressed expression of  
241 *Laccase2* (Arakane *et al.*, 2005; Riedel *et al.*, 2011) in sex combs using *42D04-GAL4* and  
242 *Laccase2-RNAi* (Dietzl *et al.*, 2007). *Laccase2* is required to oxidize dopamine into dopamine  
243 quinones and thus acts upstream of Yellow in the melanin synthesis pathway (Figure 4A; Riedel  
244 *et al.*, 2011). Males with *Laccase2* suppressed in sex combs lacked both black and brown  
245 dopamine melanin, making these sex combs appear translucent (Figure 4B). These males  
246 displayed strongly reduced mating success compared with wild-type males (Figure 4C) and  
247 behavioral defects similar to those observed for  $y^1$  mutants (Movies 9,10), including inefficient  
248 grasping of the female for mounting and copulation. We noticed, however, that flies with  
249 *Laccase2-RNAi* driven by *42D04-GAL4* also showed a loss of melanin in the aedeagus  
250 (Supplementary Figure S6A), which is the main part of the male genitalia used for copulation,  
251 despite no visible expression of *42D04-GAL4* in the adult male genitalia (Supplementary Figure  
252 S4G) nor changes in aedeagus pigmentation in  $y^1$  mutants (Supplementary Figure 6A). We  
253 therefore used subsets of the *42D04* enhancer (Supplementary Figure S6B) to drive expression of  
254 *Laccase2-RNAi*, separating the effects of expression in the sex combs from expression in the  
255 genitalia (Supplementary Figure S6C). Male mating success was reduced when *Laccase2*  
256 suppression reduced melanization in the sex combs, but not the genitalia (Supplementary Figure  
257 S6D-G).

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259 How can sex comb melanization affect sex comb function? In insects, melanization impacts not  
260 only the color of the adult cuticle but also its mechanical stiffness (Xu *et al.*, 1997; Kerwin *et al.*,  
261 1999; Vincent and Wegst, 2004; Anderson 2005; Arakane *et al.*, 2005; Suderman *et al.*, 2006;

262 Riedel *et al.*, 2011; Noh *et al.*, 2016). For example, expressing *Laccase2-RNAi* in *D.*  
263 *melanogaster* wings softens the cuticle to such a degree that the wings collapse (Riedel *et al.*,  
264 2011). Butterflies lacking dopamine melanin due to loss of *yellow* or another gene required for  
265 melanin synthesis, *Dopa decarboxylase*, show changes in the fine structure of their wing scales  
266 (Matsuoka and Monteiro, 2018), and we also observed structural changes in *D. melanogaster* sex  
267 comb teeth lacking *yellow* or *Laccase2* expression using scanning electron microscopy (SEM),  
268 with a crack appearing in one of the *Laccase2-RNAi* comb teeth (Figure 4D). We conclude that  
269 these structural changes in sex combs are responsible for inhibiting the *yellow* mutant male's  
270 ability to grasp a female for mounting and copulation (Movie 10). Interestingly, Wilson *et al*  
271 (1976) also proposed "that there may be a structural basis for the behavioural effects of the  
272 [*yellow*] mutant" based on their observations of behavior in *yellow* mutant males.

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274 Data from other *Drosophila* species are also consistent with this structural hypothesis.  
275 Specifically, *yellow* mutants in *D. subobscura*, *D. pseudoobscura*, and *D. gaucha*, all of which  
276 have sex combs, show reduced male mating success (Rendel, 1944; Tan, 1946; Frias and  
277 Lamborot, 1970; Pruzan-Hotchkiss *et al.*, 1992) whereas *yellow* mutants in *Drosophila*  
278 *willistoni*, a species that lacks sex combs (Kopp, 2011; Atallah *et al.*, 2014), do not (Da Silva *et*  
279 *al.*, 2005). Sex comb morphology is highly diverse among species that have sex combs (Kopp,  
280 2011), but these structures generally seem to be melanized (Supplementary Figure S7; Tanaka *et*  
281 *al.*, 2009) and used to grasp females (Movies 11-15). Our high-speed video recordings of mating  
282 in *D. anannasae*, *D. bipectinata*, *D. kikkawai*, *D. malerkotiana*, and *D. takahashi* show that  
283 differences in sex comb morphology (Supplementary Figure S7) correspond with differences in  
284 how (where on the female and with which part of the male leg) the male grasps the female prior  
285 to copulation (Movies 11-15). It remains unclear how *D. willistoni* males (and males of other  
286 species without sex combs) are able to efficiently grasp females prior to copulation (Movie 16).

## 287 288 *Conclusion*

289  
290 Taken together, our data show that melanization of a secondary sexual structure affects mating in  
291 *D. melanogaster*. Specifically, we find that the reduced mating success of *D. melanogaster*  
292 *yellow* mutant males, which was perceived as a behavioral defect for decades, is caused by  
293 changes in the morphology of the structures used during mating. These observations underscore  
294 that behavior cannot be understood by studying the nervous system alone; anatomy and behavior  
295 function and evolve as an interconnected system.

## 296 **Materials and Methods**

### 297 298 *Fly stocks and maintenance*

299  
300 The following lines were used for this work: *y1* [which was backcrossed into a wild-type  
301 (*Canton-S*) line for 6 generations before starting our experiments; the *y1* allele contains an A to  
302 C transversion in the ATG initiation and is considered a null allele (Geyer *et al.*, 1990)]; *Canton-*  
303 *S* as wild-type (courtesy of Scott Pletcher); *UAS-yellow-RNAi* obtained from the Vienna  
304 *Drosophila* Resource Centre (VDRC) (Dietzl *et al.*, 2007, KK106068); *y1;UAS-y* (BDSC 3043);  
305 *elav-GAL4* (BDSC 49226); *nsyb-GAL4* (BDSC 39171); *repo-GAL4* (BDSC 7415); *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>*  
306 (Robinett *et al.*, 2010) (courtesy of Bruce Baker); *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* (Rideout *et al.*, 2010) (courtesy of

307 Stephen Goodwin); *fru<sup>GAL4</sup>* (Stockinger *et al.*, 2005) (courtesy of Barry Dickson); the following  
308 Janelia enhancer trap GAL4 lines (Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2008): *40A05-GAL4* (BDSC 48138), *41D01-*  
309 *GAL4* (BDSC 50123), *42D02-GAL4* (BDSC 41250), *41F06-GAL4* (BDSC 47584), *41A01-GAL4*  
310 (BDSC 39425), *42D04-GAL4* (BDSC 47588), *40F03-GAL4* (BDSC 47355), *39E06-GAL4*  
311 (BDSC 50051), *42C06-GAL4* (BDSC 50150), *40F04* (BDSC 50094); *y<sup>mCherry</sup>* (courtesy of  
312 Nicolas Gompel); *nsyb-GAL80* (courtesy of Julie Simpson); *UAS-Laccase2-RNAi* obtained from  
313 the VDRC (Dietzl *et al.*, 2007, KK101687); *dsx<sup>GAL4-DBD</sup>* (Pavlou *et al.*, 2016) (courtesy of  
314 Stephen Goodwin); *vGlur<sup>dVP16-AD</sup>* (Gao *et al.*, 2008) (courtesy of Stephen Goodwin); BDSC  
315 6993; BDSC 49365; BDSC 6927; BDSC 45175; BDSC 3740; BDSC 5820; BDSC 8848  
316 (courtesy of Shinya Yamamoto); BDSC 7010 (courtesy of Shinya Yamamoto); *TPH-GAL4*  
317 (courtesy of Shinya Yamamoto); *wing-body-GAL4* (BDSC 44373); *D. melanogaster yellow 5' up*  
318 *EGFP reporter* (Kalay and Wittkopp, 2010) (courtesy of Gizem Kalay); *D. melanogaster yellow*  
319 *intron EGFP reporter* (Kalay and Wittkopp, 2010) (courtesy of Gizem Kalay); *vasa-Cas9*  
320 (BDSC 51324); *UAS-cytGFP* (courtesy of Janelia Fly Core); *pJFRC12-10XUAS-IVS-myr::GFP*  
321 (courtesy of Janelia Fly Core). All flies were grown at 23°C with a 12 h light-dark cycle with  
322 lights on at 8AM and off at 8PM on standard corn-meal fly medium.

323

## 324 **Behavior**

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### 326 *Mating assays*

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328 Virgin males and females were separated upon eclosion and aged for 4-7 d before each  
329 experiment. Experiments were carried out at 23°C on a 12 h light dark cycle with lights on at 8  
330 AM and off at 8 PM on standard corn-meal fly medium. Males were isolated in glass vials, and  
331 females were group housed in standard plastic fly vials at densities of 20-30 flies. All mating  
332 assays were performed at 23°C between 8-11AM or 6-9PM. For each assay replicate, a single  
333 virgin male and female fly were gently aspirated into a 35 mm diameter Petri dish (Genesee  
334 Scientific, catalog #32-103) placed on top of a 17 inch LED light pad (HUION L4S) and  
335 immediately monitored for 60 min for courtship and copulation activity. All genotypes tested  
336 initiated courtship (including tapping, chasing, wing extension, genital licking, and attempted  
337 copulation) towards the female. Any genotype that copulated within the 60 min window was  
338 noted. Except for the experiment described in Figure 5, all female targets in mating assays were  
339 wild-type (*Canton-S*). Percent mated in 60 min was then calculated as the number of replicates  
340 that mated divided by the total number of replicates and multiplied by 100.

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### 342 *Courtship analysis*

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344 For courtship analysis, 60 min videos were recorded using Canon VIXIA HF R500 camcorders  
345 mounted to Manfrotto (MKCOMPACTACN-BK) aluminum tripods. To calculate courtship  
346 indices in Figure 1 between wild-type and *y1* males, the amount of time males spent engaged in  
347 courtship: tapping, chasing, wing extension, genital licking, or attempted copulation was  
348 quantified for the first 10 min of the assay and divided by the total 10 min period. We chose to  
349 quantify courtship activity within the first 10 min of the assay, because wild-type (*Canton-S*)  
350 males will often begin copulating after this window, while *y1* males will continue to court  
351 throughout the entire 60 min period. Wing extension bouts were quantified by noting every  
352 unilateral wing extension bout for each genotype within the first 10 min of the assay.



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### *Song analysis*

Courtship song was recorded as described previously (Arthur *et al.*, 2013). All genotypes were recorded simultaneously. Song data was segmented (Arthur *et al.*, 2013) and analyzed (<http://www.github.com/dstern/BatchSongAnalysis>) without human intervention. *P*-values for one-way ANOVAs were estimated with 10,000 permutations (<http://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/44307-randanova1>).

### *High-speed video capture*

For high-speed video capture of attempted mounting and copulation events, virgin males and females were isolated upon eclosion and aged for 4-7 d before each assay. Using a Fascam Photron SA4 (courtesy of Gwyneth Card) mounted with a 105 mm AF Micro Nikkor Nikon lens (courtesy of Gwyneth Card), we recorded individual pairs of males and females that were gently aspirated into a single well of a 96 well cell culture plate (Corning 05-539-200) partially filled with 2% agarose and covered with a glass coverslip. We recorded mounting and copulation attempts at 1000 frames per second (fps) and played back at 30 fps. Most wild-type males attempted mounting 3-5 times before copulating, whereas *yl*, *yellow-RNAi*, and *Laccasse2-RNAi* males repeatedly attempted mounting without engaging in copulation, mirroring the videos we captured on the Canon VIXIA HF R500 at 30 fps.

### *Imaging sex combs and genitalia*

Sex comb images highlighting different melanization states (Figure 3I, J, O; Figure 4B) were taken using a Zeiss Axio Cam ERc 5s mounted on a Zeiss Axio Observer A1 Inverted Microscope. Front legs were cut and placed sex comb side down on a microscope slide (Fisher brand 12-550-123) and imaged through a 40x objective. Images were processed using AxioVision LE software. Abdomens and genitalia images highlighting different melanization states of the aedeagus and female genital bristles were captured using a Canon EOS Rebel T6 camera mounted with a Canon MP-E 65 mm macro lens. Genitalia images were processed in Adobe Photoshop (version 19.1.5) (Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, CA).

Focus Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscope (FIB-SEM) images (Figure 4D) were taken by placing individual, dissected legs on carbon tape adhered to a SEM pin stud mount with sex combs facing up. The samples were then coated with a 20-nm Au layer using a Gatan 682 Precision Etching and Coating System, and imaged by SEM in a Zeiss Sigma system. The samples were imaged using a 3-nA electron beam with 1.5 kV landing energy at 2.5MHz.

### *Immunohistochemistry and confocal imaging*

#### *Central Nervous System*

Dissections, immunohistochemistry, and imaging of fly central nervous systems were done as previously described (Aso *et al.*, 2014). In brief, brains and VNCs were dissected in Schneider's insect medium and fixed in 2% paraformaldehyde (diluted in the same medium) at room

399 temperature for 55 min. Tissues were washed in PBT (0.5% Triton X-100 in phosphate buffered  
400 saline) and blocked using 5% normal goat serum before incubation with antibodies. Tissues  
401 expressing GFP were stained with rabbit anti-GFP (ThermoFisher Scientific A-11122, 1:1000)  
402 and mouse anti-BRP hybridoma supernatant (nc82, Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank,  
403 Univ. Iowa, 1:30), followed by Alexa Fluor® 488-conjugated goat anti-rabbit and Alexa Fluor®  
404 568-conjugated goat anti-mouse antibodies (ThermoFisher Scientific A-11034 and A-11031),  
405 respectively. Tissues expressing mCherry-tagged Yellow protein ( $y^{mCherry}$ ) were stained with  
406 rabbit anti-dsRed (Clontech 632496, 1:1000) and rat anti-DN-Cadherin (DN-Ex #8,  
407 Developmental Studies Hybridoma Bank, Univ. Iowa, 1:100) as neuropil marker, followed by  
408 Cy<sup>TM</sup>3-conjugated goat anti-rabbit and Cy<sup>TM</sup>5-conjugated goat anti-rat antibodies (Jackson  
409 ImmunoResearch 111-165-144 and 112-175-167), respectively. After staining and post-fixation  
410 in 4% paraformaldehyde, tissues were mounted on poly-L-lysine-coated cover slips, cleared, and  
411 embedded in DPX as described. Image z-stacks were collected at 1  $\mu$ m intervals using an  
412 LSM710 confocal microscope (Zeiss, Germany) fitted with a Plan-Apochromat 20x/ 0.8 M27  
413 objective. Images were processed in Fiji (<http://fiji.sc/>) and Adobe Photoshop (version 19.1.5)  
414 (Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, CA).

415

#### 416 *Sex combs and genitalia*

417

418 Adult flies were 2-7 d old and pupae were 96 h old after pupal formation (APF) for the EGFP  
419 reporter experiment summarized in Supplementary Figure S11. Flies were anesthetized on ice,  
420 submerged in 70% ethanol, rinsed twice in phosphate buffered saline with 0.1 % Triton X-100  
421 (PBS-T), and fixed in 2% formaldehyde in PBS-T. Forelegs and genitalia/abdomen tips were  
422 removed with fine scissors and mounted in Tris-buffered (pH 8.0) 80% glycerol. Serial optical  
423 sections were obtained at 1.5  $\mu$ m or 0.5  $\mu$ m intervals on a Zeiss 880 confocal microscope with a  
424 LD-LCI 25x/0.8 NA objective (genitalia) or a Plan-Apochromat 40x/1.3 NA objective  
425 (appendages/tarsal sex combs). The native fluorescence of GFP, mCherry and autofluorescence  
426 of cuticle were imaged using 488, 594 and 633 lasers, respectively. Images were processed in  
427 Fiji (<http://fiji.sc/>), Icy (<http://icy.bioimageanalysis.org/>) and Adobe Photoshop (version  
428 19.1.5) (Adobe Systems Inc., San Jose, CA).

429

#### 430 *Statistics*

431

432 Statistical tests were performed in R for Mac version 3.3.3 (R Core Team 2018) using Fisher's  
433 exact tests to test for statistically significant effects of 2 x 2 contingency tables, Chi-square tests  
434 to test for statistically significant effects of contingency tables greater than 2 x 2 with Bonferroni  
435 corrections for multiple comparisons, and two-tailed Student's t-tests to test for statistically  
436 significant effects of pairwise comparisons of continuous data with normally distributed error  
437 terms. For song analysis, one-way ANOVAs were performed in MATLAB version R2017a (The  
438 MathWorks, Inc.).

439

#### 440 *Generation of the mating regulatory sequence (MRS) deletion line*

441

442 Using the 209 bp region mapped in Drapeau *et al.* (2006) between -300 and -91 bp upstream of  
443 *yellow*'s transcription start site, we designed two single guide RNA (gRNA) target sites at -291  
444 bp and -140 bp that maximized the MRS deletion region, given constraints of identifying NGG

445 PAM sites required for CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing (Supplementary Figure S2F). We in-vitro  
446 transcribed these gRNAs using a MEGAscript T7 Transcription Kit (Invitrogen) following the  
447 PCR-based protocol from Bassett *et al.* (2013). Two 1 kb homology arms were PCR amplified  
448 from the *yellow* locus immediately upstream and downstream of the gRNA target sites using the  
449 forward and reverse primers with NcoI and BglII tails, respectively, for the Left Arm (5'-  
450 TTACCATGGGGGATCAAGTTGAACCAC-3', 5'-  
451 GGAGATCTGGCCTTCATCGACATTTA-3') and the forward and reverse primers with Bsu36I  
452 and MluI tails, respectively, for the Right Arm (5'-  
453 TACATCCCTAAGGCCTGATTACCCGAACACT-3', 5'-  
454 TATACGCGTTGCCATGCTATTGGCTTC-3') and cloned into pHD-DsRed-attP (Gratz *et al.*,  
455 2014; Addgene Plasmid # 51019) in two steps, digesting first with NcoI and BglII (Left Arm) to  
456 transform the Left Arm and second with Bsu36I and MluI (Right Arm) to transform the Right  
457 Arm, flanking the 3xP3::DsRed, attP, and LoxP sites. Homology arms were ligated into pHD-  
458 DsRed-attP using T4 DNA Ligase (ThermoFisher Scientific), and products were transformed  
459 into One Shot TOP10 (Invitrogen) DH5 alpha competent cells. Purified donor plasmid was then  
460 co-injected at 500 ng/uL with the two gRNAs at 100 ng/uL total concentration into a *vasa-Cas9*  
461 (BDSC 51324) line. Flies were then screened for DsRed expression in the eyes, and Sanger  
462 sequenced verified for a 3xP3::DsRed replacement of the MRS region (Supplementary Figure  
463 S2F). We confirmed that we deleted 152 bp of the 209 bp region based on Sanger sequencing the  
464 CRISPR/Cas9 cut sites (Supplementary Figure S2F). Next, we crossed  $y^{AMRS+3xP3::DsRed}$  with a  
465 Cre-expressing fly line (courtesy of Bing Ye, University of Michigan) to excise 3xP3::DsRed  
466 and screened for flies that lost DsRed expression in the eyes. Finally, we PCR-gel verified that  
467 DsRed was indeed removed in creation of the  $y^{AMRS}$  line using the forward and reverse primers,  
468 respectively (5'- CAGTCGCCGATAAAGATGAACACTG-3', 5'-  
469 CAAGGTGATCAGGGTCACAAGGATC-3') (Supplementary Figure S2G).

470

#### 471 ***Generation of the 42D04-GAL4 enhancer sub-fragment pBPGUw lines***

472

473 Enhancer sub-fragments (2 kb, 2 kb, 1.3 kb, 1.3 kb, and 1.3 kb for *42D04\_A,B,C,D,E-GAL4*,  
474 respectively) were synthesized as IDT gene blocks (sequences available in Supplementary File  
475 S1) based off of the 42D04 *D. melanogaster dsx* enhancer sequence (FBsf0000164494)  
476 (Supplementary Figure S7). The gene blocks were designed with 5' and 3' Gibson tails to  
477 facilitate Gibson assembly (Gibson *et al.*, 2009) into the GAL4 plasmid pBPGUw (Pfeiffer *et al.*,  
478 2008; Addgene Plasmid #17575) after digestion with FseI and AatII. Products were transformed  
479 into Mix and Go! DH5 alpha competent cells (Zymo). Clones were selected by ampicillin  
480 resistance on Amp-LB plates (60mg/mL). Purified plasmids were injected at 500 ng/uL into the  
481 phiC31 integrase-expressing 86Fb landing site line *BDSC 24749* (courtesy of Rainbow  
482 Transgenics) for phiC31 attP-attB integration and screened for using a mini-white marker.

483

#### 484 **Acknowledgments**

485

486 We thank members of the Wittkopp and Stern labs for helpful discussions. For fly strains, we  
487 thank Bruce Baker, Carmen Robinett, Stephen Goodwin, Barry Dickson, Scott Pletcher, Julie  
488 Simpson, Shinya Yamamoto, Bing Ye, Nicolas Gompel, Gizem Kalay, The Bloomington  
489 *Drosophila* Stock Center, The Vienna *Drosophila* RNAi Center, and the *Janelia* Fly Core for fly

490 strains. For fly injections, we thank Rainbow Transgenics Inc. For technical support with  
491 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM), we thank Harald Hess and Song Pang. For use of the  
492 Photron for high-speed video capture, we thank Gwyneth Card and W. Ryan Williamson. CNS  
493 dissections, immunostaining, and imaging were performed by the Janelia Project Technical  
494 Resource team with special thanks to Gudrun Ihrke, Kari Close, and Christina Christoforou. We  
495 thank Nicolas Gompel, Abby Lamb, and Henry Ertl for comments on the manuscript. **Funding:**  
496 University of Michigan, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Peter Olaus  
497 Okkelberg Research Award, National Institutes of Health (NIH) training grant T32GM007544,  
498 and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Janelia Graduate Research Fellowship to J.H.M.; NIH  
499 R01 GM089736 and 1R35GM118073 to PJW. **Data and materials availability:** All data is  
500 available in the main text or the supplementary materials.

501

## 502 **Competing Interests**

503

504 Patricia J Wittkopp: Senior editor, eLife. The other authors declare that no competing interests  
505 exist

506

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## 764 **Figure Legends**

765

### 766 **Fig. 1. The *Drosophila melanogaster yellow* gene is required for male mating success**

767 (A) Photographs comparing wild-type and *yellow* (*y1*) body pigmentation (Nicolas Gompel). (B)  
768 Snapshots from videos illustrating *D. melanogaster* courtship behaviors. (C) *y1* males (yellow)  
769 showed significantly lower mating success levels compared to wild-type males (black) in non-  
770 competitive, one-hour trials. Sample sizes are shown at the top of each barplot. (D-H) *y1* males  
771 showed similar levels of courtship activity and song compared to wild-type males. (D) Courtship  
772 index: the proportion of time a male engages in courtship activity divided by the total  
773 observation period. (E) Wing extension bouts: the number of unilateral wing extensions during  
774 the observation period. (F) Pulses per minute. (G) Sine per minute. (H) Inter pulse interval. (D-  
775 H) Show individual points that represent single fly replicates. Circles represent means and lines  
776 SD. Significance was measured using Fisher's exact test in (C), Student's t-tests (two-tailed) in  
777 (D,E), and one-way ANOVA in (F-H). \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ . n.s., not significant.

778

### 779 **Fig. 2. *yellow* expression in non-neuronal *doublesex*-expressing cells, but not *fruitless*- 780 expressing cells, is necessary and sufficient for male mating success**

781 (A,B) Neither expressing *yellow-RNAi* nor *yellow-cDNA* in *fru*-expressing cells using *fru*<sup>GAL4</sup>  
782 (Stockinger *et al.*, 2005) affected male copulation. (C) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* in *dsx*-  
783 expressing cells using *dsx*<sup>GAL4</sup> (Robinett *et al.*, 2010) significantly inhibited male mating success.  
784 (D) Expressing *yellow* in *dsx*-expressing cells using *dsx*<sup>GAL4</sup> in a *y1* mutant background was  
785 sufficient to restore male mating success. (E,F) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using pan-neuronal  
786 (*elav-GAL4* and *nsyb-GAL4*) and pan-glia (*repo-GAL4*) drivers did not affect male mating  
787 success. (G) Restricting *yellow-RNAi* expression to *dsx*-expressing neurons using the split-GAL4  
788 technique, combining *dsx*<sup>GAL4-DBD</sup> (Pavlou *et al.*, 2016) with *elav*<sup>VP16-AD</sup> (Luan *et al.*, 2006), did  
789 not affect male mating success. (H) Restricting *yellow-RNAi* expression to *dsx*-expressing  
790 glutamatergic neurons using the split-GAL4 technique, combining *dsx*<sup>GAL4-DBD</sup> (Pavlou *et al.*,  
791 2016) with *vGlut*<sup>VP16-AD</sup> (Gao *et al.*, 2008) did not affect male mating success. (I) Expressing  
792 *yellow* in *dsx*-expressing cells restricted outside the CNS using *dsx*<sup>GAL4</sup> and *nsyb-GAL80*  
793 (courtesy of Julie Simpson) in a *y1* mutant background significantly increased male mating  
794 success. (J,K) Brain and ventral nerve cord of adult male and female *y*<sup>mCherry</sup> flies stained with  
795 anti-N-Cadherin (N-cad) antibody labeling neuropil (white) and anti-DsRed antibody labeling  
796 Yellow::mCherry (red). We observed sparse, inconsistent signal outside the CNS at the top of the  
797 brain in males (white arrow), and especially females (white arrow), but we were unable to  
798 confirm a previous report that *y*<sup>mCherry</sup> is expressed in the adult brain (Hinaux *et al.*, 2018). (L)  
799 Diagram of the male exon structure of the *dsx* locus highlighting 10 genomic fragments between  
800 1.7 and 4 kb used to clone Janelia enhancer trap GAL4 drivers (Pfeiffer *et al.*, 2008). Black  
801 boxes indicate coding exons. White boxes indicate 5' and 3' UTRs, and the arrow in exon 2  
802 denotes the transcription start site. (M) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using each Janelia *dsx-GAL4*  
803 driver identified *42D04-GAL4* and *40F03-GAL4* as affecting male mating success when  
804 compared with the *yellow-RNAi* control. (N) A replicate experiment comparing *42D04-GAL4*  
805 and *40F03-GAL4* effects on male mating success with both GAL4 and UAS parental controls  
806 confirmed the significant effect of *42D04-GAL4* but not *40F03-GAL4*. We attribute differences  
807 in the *40F03-GAL4* effect between (M) and (N) to between experiment variability in the levels  
808 of male mating success; each common genotype tested in (M), for example, mated at higher  
809 levels in (N), but *42D04-GAL4* consistently showed a significant effect relative to controls.  
810 Sample sizes are shown at the top of each barplot. Significance was measured using Chi-square

811 tests with Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ .  
812 n.s., not significant.

813

814 **Fig. 3. *yellow* expression in non-neuronal *42D04-GAL4* expressing cells is necessary for sex**  
815 **comb melanization and male mating success**

816 (A,B) Brain and ventral nerve cord of adult male fly stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for  
817 myrGFP expressed using *42D04-GAL4* and counterstained with anti-nC82 (magenta) for  
818 neuropil. (C) Wild-type (wt) *D. melanogaster* adult male fly highlighting the location of sex  
819 combs (Nicolas Gompel). (D) Close up of a wild-type (wt) sex comb on the first tarsal segment  
820 (ts1) of the front leg (courtesy of Nicolas Gompel). (E) Bright field illumination of a male front  
821 leg expressing cytGFP (green) in sex-comb cells using *42D04-GAL4*. (F) Confocal image of the  
822 sex comb cells expressing cytGFP (green) with *42D04-GAL4* and leg cuticle autofluorescence  
823 (blue). (G) Confocal image of a  $y^{mCherry}$  male leg highlighting native  $y^{mCherry}$  sex comb expression  
824 (red). (H) Zoomed in confocal image shown in (G) with leg cuticle autofluorescence (blue) and  
825 native  $y^{mCherry}$  sex comb expression (red). (I) Wild-type (wt) sex comb. (J) Loss of black melanin  
826 in sex combs in males expressing *yellow-RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4*. (K) Co-localization of  
827  $y^{mCherry}$  (red) at the base of the sex comb cells expressing cytGFP (green) with *42D04-GAL4*. (L)  
828 Loss of  $y^{mCherry}$  (red) at the base of the sex comb cells expressing cytGFP (green) and *yellow-*  
829 *RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4*. (M,N) Brain and ventral nerve cord of adult male expressing *nsyb-*  
830 *GAL80* to block GAL4 activity in the CNS, stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for myrGFP  
831 expressed using *42D04-GAL4*, and counterstained with anti-nC82 (magenta) for neuropil. (O)  
832 Loss of black melanin in sex combs in *nsyb-GAL80* males expressing *yellow-RNAi* using *42D04-*  
833 *GAL4*. (P) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4* in males expressing *nsyb-GAL80*  
834 significantly inhibited male mating success. Scale bars in (I), (J), and (O) measure 12.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .  
835 Sample sizes are shown at the top of each barplot. Significance was measured using Chi-square  
836 tests with Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

837

838 **Fig. 4. Sex comb melanization is specifically required for male mating success**

839 (A) Simplified version of the insect melanin synthesis pathway. (B) Light microscopy images of  
840 sex combs from wild-type (wt), *y1*, and *42D04-GAL4; UAS-Laccase2-RNAi* males. Expressing  
841 *Laccase2-RNAi* in sex combs completely blocked melanin synthesis. (C) Expressing *Laccase2-*  
842 *RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4* in males significantly inhibited male mating success. (D) Scanning  
843 Electron Microscopy (SEM) of sex combs from wild-type (wt), *y1*, and *Laccase2-RNAi* males  
844 (expressed using *42D04-GAL4*). Compared to wild-type, sex comb teeth in *y1* mutants appeared  
845 thinner and smoother, whereas *Laccase2-RNAi* sex comb teeth appeared even smoother than *y1*  
846 mutants, and one comb tooth had a visible crack in the cuticle (white rectangle, enlarged on the  
847 right). Scale bars in (B) measure 12.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Sample sizes are shown at the top of each barplot.  
848 Significance in was measured using Chi-square tests with Bonferroni corrections for multiple  
849 comparisons. \*\*\*\* $P < 0.0001$ .

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857 **Supplementary Figures**

858

859 **Supplemental Figure S1. *yellow* expression in *dsx*-expressing cells is necessary and**  
860 **sufficient for male mating success**

861 (A) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* in *dsx*-expressing cells using *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* (Rideout *et al.*, 2010)  
862 significantly inhibited male mating success. (B) Expressing *yellow* in *dsx*-expressing cells using  
863 *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* in a *y1* mutant background was sufficient to restore male mating success. (C) Expressing  
864 *yellow-RNAi* using *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* (Rideout *et al.*, 2010) partially reduced black melanin levels in the  
865 male A5 and A6 abdominal tergites, consistent with prior work (Williams *et al.* 2008, Rogers *et*  
866 *al.* 2014, Kalay *et al.* 2016). (D) Expressing *yellow* using *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>* partially elevated black melanin  
867 levels in the male A5 and A6 abdominal tergites. Sample sizes are shown at the top of each  
868 barplot. Significance was measured using Chi-square tests with Bonferroni corrections for  
869 multiple comparisons. \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

870

871 **Supplemental Figure S2. The mating regulatory sequence (MRS) from Drapeau *et al.***  
872 **(2006) does not affect male mating success**

873 (A) Diagram of the *yellow* locus highlighting the putative “mating regulatory sequence” (MRS)  
874 (pink) region mapped in Drapeau *et al.* (2006) and a predicted *dsx* binding site (yellow)  
875 identified by ChIP-seq in Clough *et al.* (2014). The predicted binding site was identified based  
876 on *in vivo* Doublesex occupancy data (PWM score = 88.7) localized between 356,273 and  
877 356,286 bp on the X chromosome (see Supplementary Table S2 in Clough *et al.*, 2014). The  
878 wing-body enhancer region is indicated in blue, which was cloned upstream of GAL4 in Gilbert  
879 *et al.* (2006) to make the *wing-body-GAL4* line. (B) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using *wing-body-*  
880 *GAL4* reduced black melanin to *y1* levels, and expressing *yellow* in a *y1* mutant background  
881 using *wing-body-GAL4* restores black melanin synthesis to wild-type (wt) levels. (C) Expressing  
882 *yellow-RNAi* using *wing-body-GAL4* did not inhibit male mating success. (D) Expressing *yellow*  
883 using *wing-body-GAL4* in a *y1* mutant background did not restore male mating success. (E)  
884 Brain and VNC of adult male and female flies stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for  
885 myrGFP expressed using *wing-body-GAL4* and counterstained with anti-nC82 (magenta) for  
886 neuropil. (F) Diagram illustrating the CRISPR/Cas9-facilitated homology-directed repair (HDR)  
887 strategy used to excise and replace the MRS (pink) with pHD-DsRed-attP (red) (Gratz *et al.*,  
888 2014). Two sgRNAs (pink letters) were designed towards target PAM sites (blue letters) at the  
889 most 5' and 3' bounds of the MRS (scissors). Sanger sequencing chromatograms illustrate the  
890 location of each cut site (black arrows) relative to the transcription start site. DsRed was removed  
891 using Cre-lox recombinase (Siegal and Hartl 1996). (G) PCR validation of DsRed removal and  
892 MRS deletion. (H) Excising the putative MRS did not inhibit male mating success. Sample  
893 sizes are shown at the top of each barplot. Significance was measured using Chi-square tests with  
894 Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons. \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ . n.s., not significant.

895

896 **Supplemental Figure S3. Expressing *yellow-RNAi* in subsets of CNS tissue does not affect**  
897 **male mating success**

898 (A,B) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using a series of CNS, dopaminergic, and serotonergic GAL4  
899 drivers did not affect male mating success. Significance was measured using Chi-square tests  
900 with Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons. Sample sizes are shown at the top of each  
901 barplot. Significance was measured using Chi-square tests with Bonferroni corrections for  
902 multiple comparisons. n.s., not significant.

903

904 **Supplemental Figure S4. Expression pattern of *42D04-GAL4***

905 (A,B) Brain and VNC of adult female fly stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for myrGFP  
906 expressed using *42D04-GAL4* and counterstained with anti-nC82 (magenta) for neuropil. (C) L3  
907 larval female genital disc stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for cytGFP expressed using  
908 *42D04-GAL4*, anti-Dll (red) for Distal-less expression, and counterstained with DAPI (blue) for  
909 DNA (courtesy of Janelia Fly Light). (D) Adult female genitalia native cytGFP (green) expressed  
910 using *42D04-GAL4*. (E) L3 CNS native cytGFP (green) expressed using *42D04* (F) L3 larval  
911 male genital disc stained with anti-GFP (green) antibody for cytGFP expressed using *42D04-*  
912 *GAL4*, anti-Dll (red) for Distal-less expression, and counterstained with DAPI (blue) for DNA  
913 (courtesy of Janelia Fly Light). (G) Adult male genitalia did not show native cytGFP expression  
914 using *42D04-GAL4*. (H) L3 larval posterior spiracle (white arrowhead) native cytGFP (green)  
915 expression. (I) L3 larva whole body highlighting native cytGFP (green) expression in the genital  
916 disc (white arrowhead). (J) Expressing *yellow-RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4* does not affect body  
917 pigmentation relative to wild-type (wt) flies.

918

919 **Supplemental Figure S5. *yellow* EGFP reporters localize *yellow* sex comb expression to the**  
920 **intronic bristle enhancer**

921 (A) Diagram of the *yellow* locus highlighting two *D. melanogaster* enhancer regions [5' up  
922 including the wing, body, and putative MRS enhancers reported in Geyer and Corces (1987),  
923 Martin *et al.*, (1989), and Drapeau *et al.*, (2006); and intron, including the bristle and putative sex  
924 comb enhancer reported in Geyer and Corces (1987) and Martin *et al.*, (1989)] that were cloned  
925 upstream of an EGFP reporter in Kalay and Wittkopp (2010). (B) Confocal image of a 96 h old  
926 (APF) pupal sex comb expressing cytGFP under the control of the 5' up enhancer region. (C)  
927 Confocal image of a 96 h APF pupal sex comb expressing cytGFP under the control of the  
928 intronic enhancer region, highlighting expression in bristle sockets, sex comb sockets, and sex  
929 comb teeth.

930

931 **Supplemental Figure S6. Genetic dissection of the *42D04-GAL4* enhancer confirms the**  
932 **specific role of sex comb melanization, and not the aedeagus, in male mating success**

933 (A) Expressing *Laccase2-RNAi* using *42D04-GAL4* blocked melanin synthesis in the aedeagus.  
934 (B) Diagram of the male exon structure of the *dsx* locus highlighting the strategy used to dissect  
935 the *42D04-GAL4* expression pattern. Five new GAL4 lines were created by synthesizing  
936 different sized sub-fragments of the *42D04-GAL4* enhancer fragment and cloning them upstream  
937 of GAL4 (see Supplemental Materials and Methods). Note, *42D04\_B-GAL4* could not be  
938 maintained, since female flies expressing GAL4 using this enhancer region were all sterile and  
939 showed necrotic growths on their genitalia. (C) Expression pattern of *42D04\_A, C, D, and E-*  
940 *GAL4* lines. Expressing cytGFP using *42D04\_A-GAL4* showed GFP (green) localized to bristle  
941 sockets, and *42D04\_E-GAL4* shows bright GFP in the sex comb and lower leg region. *42D04\_C-*  
942 *GAL4* and *42D04\_D-GAL4* did not show GFP expression in the legs. Expressing *Laccase2-RNAi*  
943 using *42D04\_A-GAL4* and *42D04\_E-GAL4* blocked melanin synthesis in the sex combs but not  
944 the aedeagus. (D) Expressing *Laccase2-RNAi* using *42D04\_A-GAL4* and *42D04\_E-GAL4*  
945 inhibited male mating success. Sample sizes are shown at the top of each barplot. Significance  
946 was measured using Chi-square tests with Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons.  
947 \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ , \*\*\*\* $P < 0.001$ . n.s., not significant.

948

949 **Supplementary Figure S7. *Drosophila* species with varying sex comb morphology used for**  
950 **high-speed video assays**

951 *D. anannasae*, *D. bipectinata*, *D. kikkawai*, *D. malerkotiana*, and *D. takahahi* male front  
952 forelegs, highlighting variation in sex comb morphology (Nicolas Gompel).

953

954

955 **Movies**

956

957 **Movie 1. Wild-type courtship and copulation**

958

959 **Movie 2. *y1* courtship with wild-type female**

960

961 **Movie 3. Wild-type copulation**

962

963 **Movie 4. Copulation attempts between *y1* male and wild-type female after 3 h of courtship**

964

965 **Movie 5. Copulation attempts between male expressing *yellow-RNAi* in *dsx<sup>GAL4</sup>*-expressing**  
966 **cells and wild-type female**

967

968 **Movie 6. Copulation attempts between male expressing *yellow-RNAi* in *42D04-GAL4*-**  
969 **expressing cells and wild-type female**

970

971 **Movie 7. High-speed (1000 fps) video capture of copulation attempts between *y1* male and**  
972 **wild-type female**

973

974 **Movie 8. High-speed (1000 fps) video capture of wild-type copulation**

975

976 **Movie 9. Copulation attempts between male expressing *Laccase2-RNAi* in *42D04-GAL4*-**  
977 **expressing cells and wild-type female**

978

979 **Movie 10. High-speed (1000 fps) video capture of copulation attempts between male**  
980 **expressing *Laccase2-RNAi* in *42D04-GAL4*-expressing cells and wild-type female**

981

982 **Movie 11. *Drosophila anannasae* wild-type copulation**

983

984 **Movie 12. *Drosophila bipectinata* wild-type copulation**

985

986 **Movie 13. *Drosophila kikkawai* wild-type copulation**

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988 **Movie 14. *Drosophila malerkotiana* wild-type copulation**

989

990 **Movie 15. *Drosophila takahashi* wild-type copulation**

991

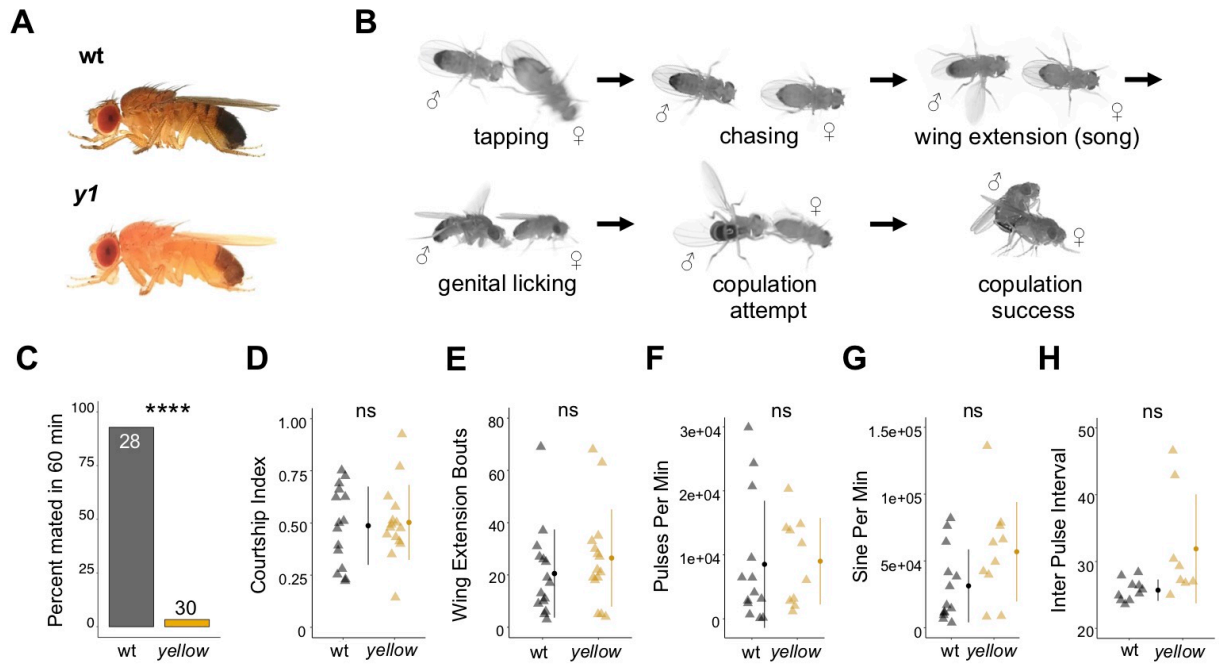
992 **Movie 16. *Drosophila willistoni* wild-type copulation**

993

994

995

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

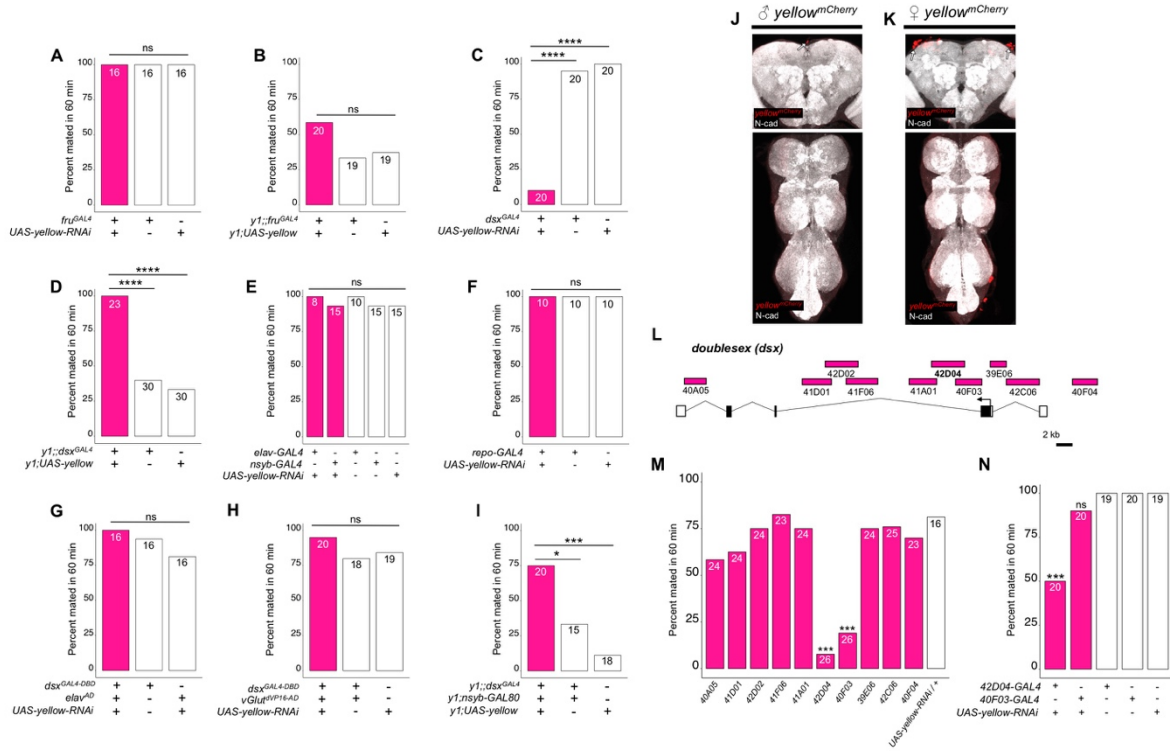




Figure 3

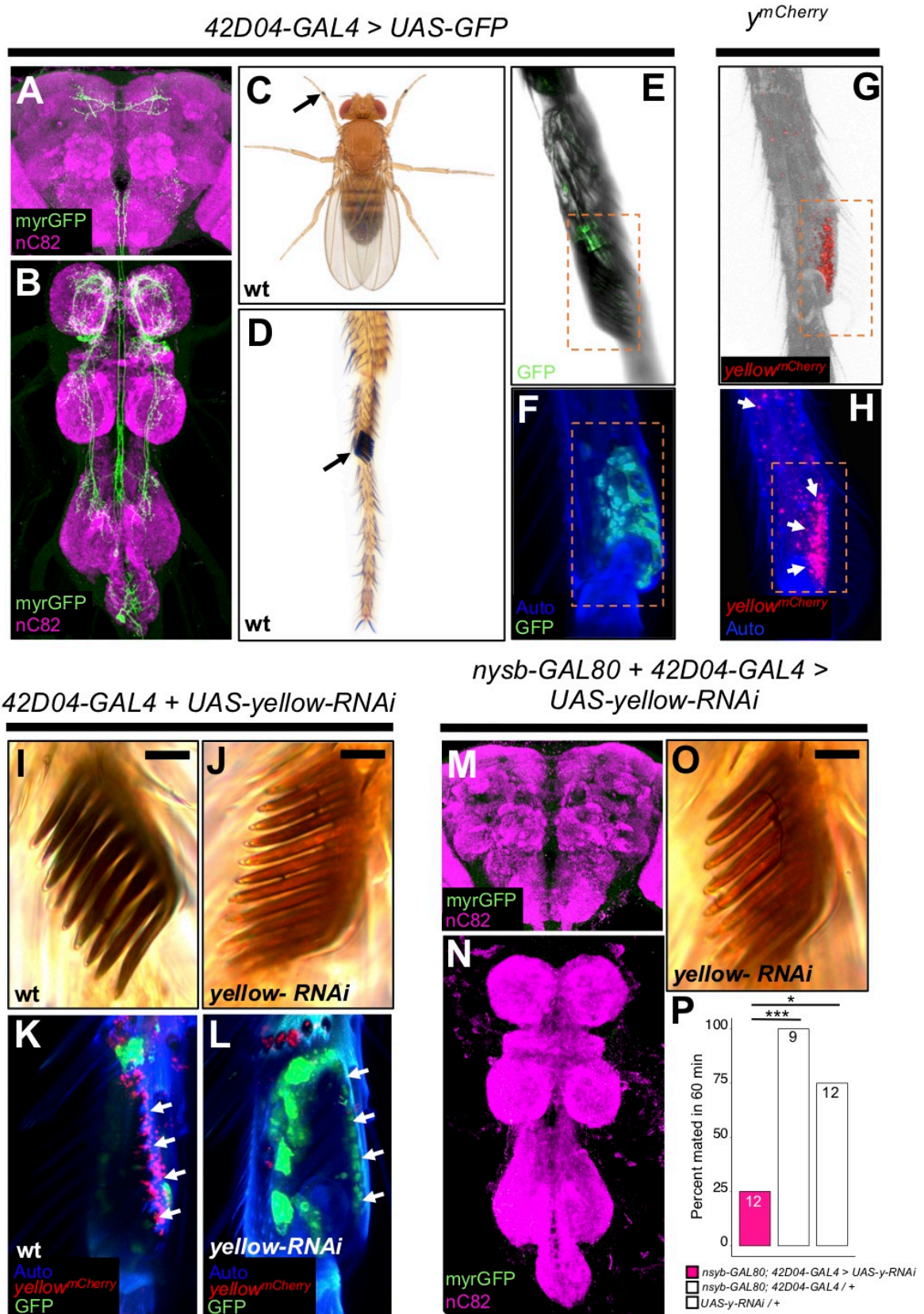
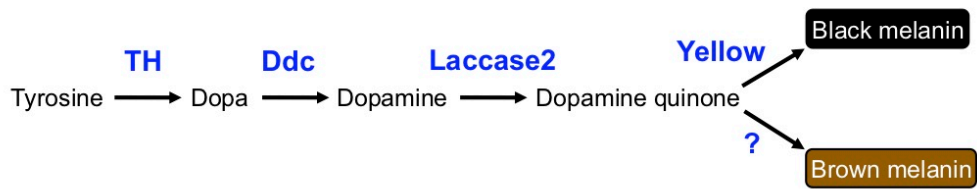
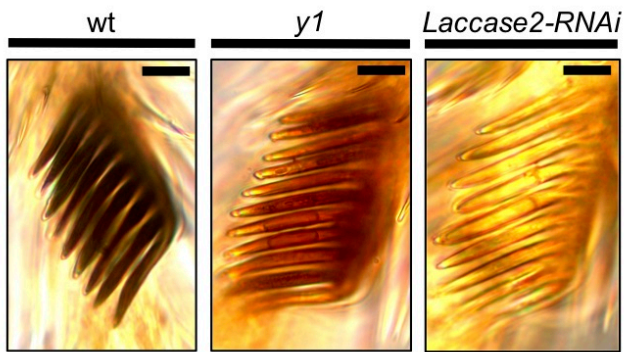


Figure 4

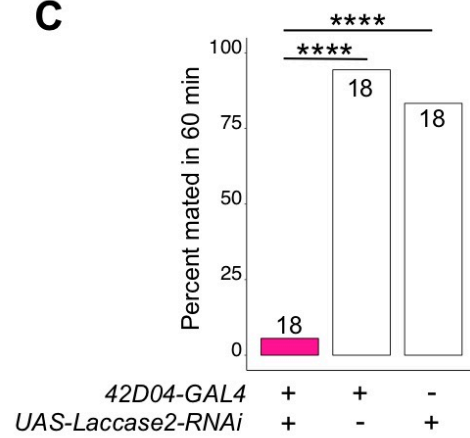
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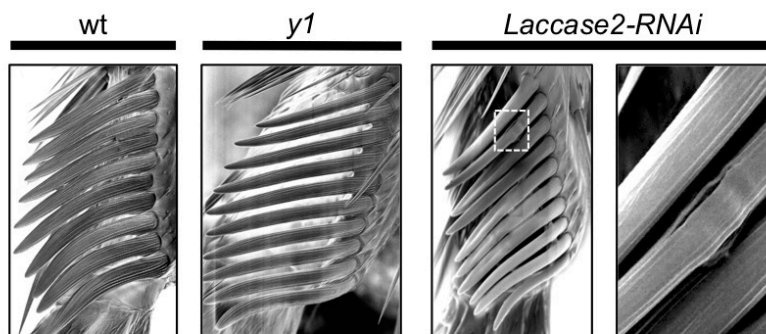
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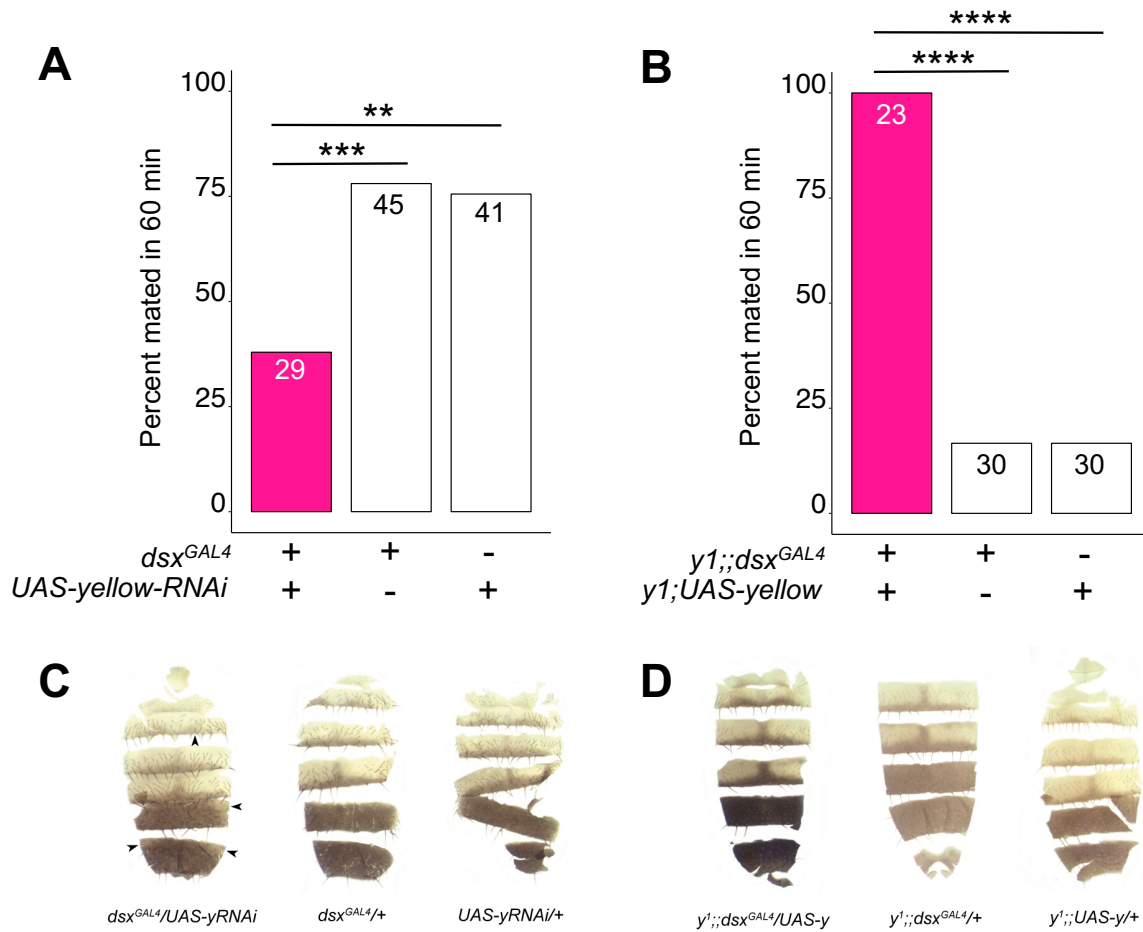
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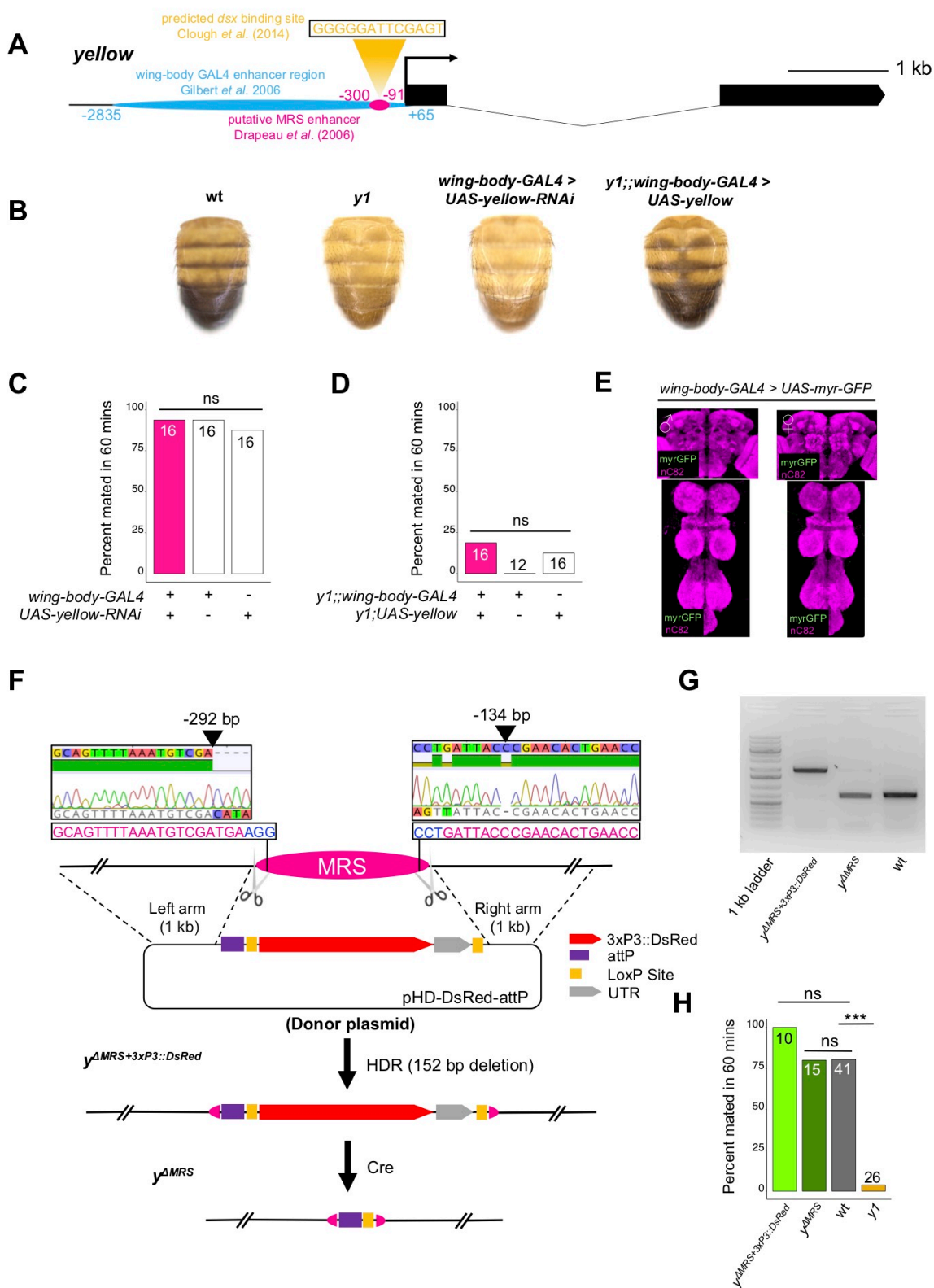
D



## Supplementary Figure S1



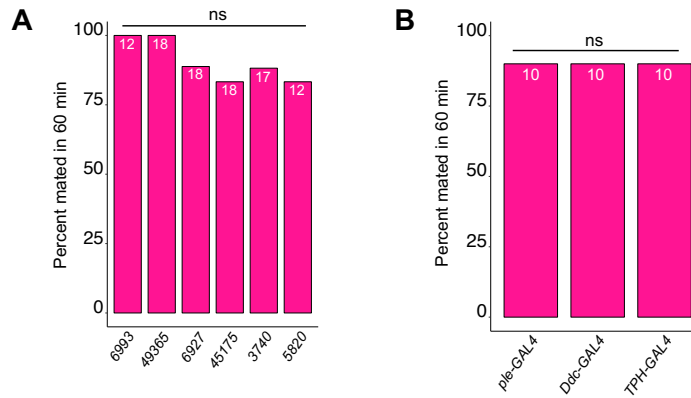
## Supplementary Figure S2



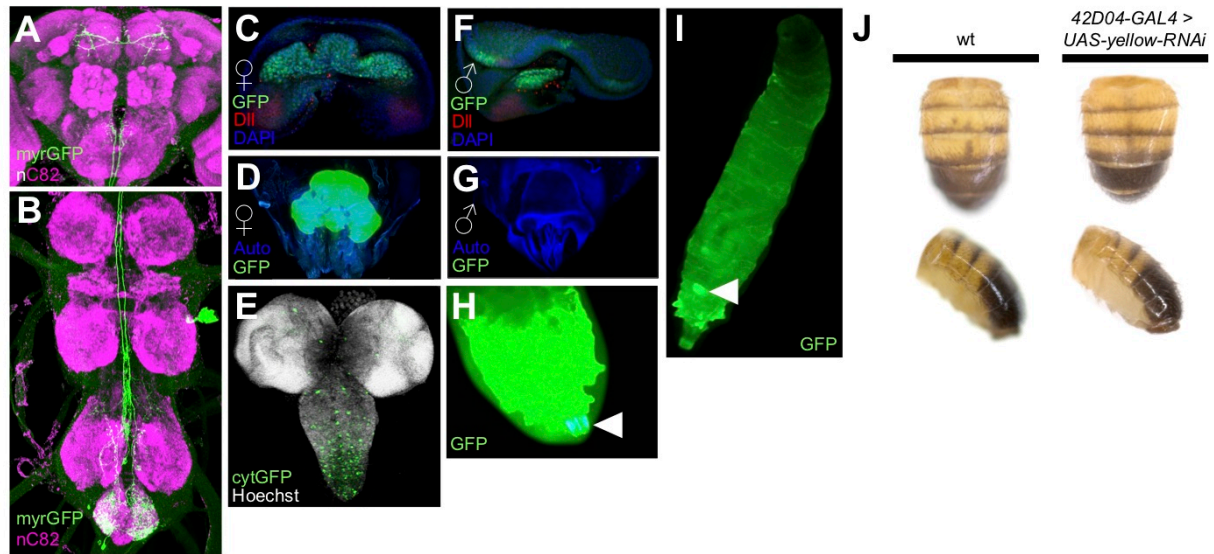
## Supplementary Figure S3

### **BDSC Stock #**    **GAL4 expression pattern**

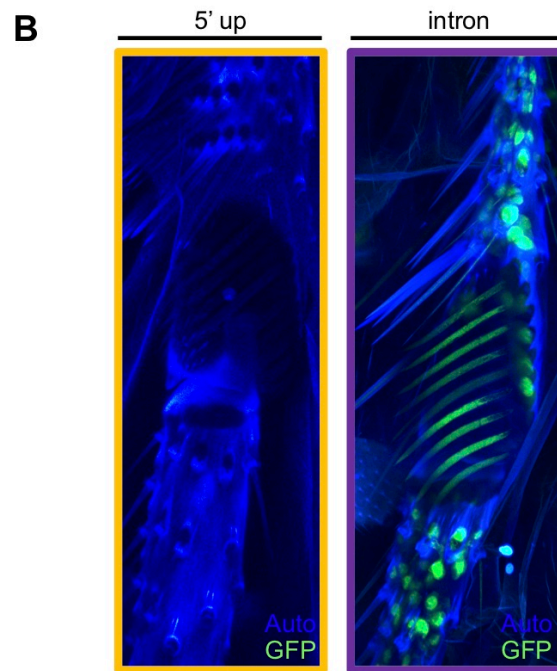
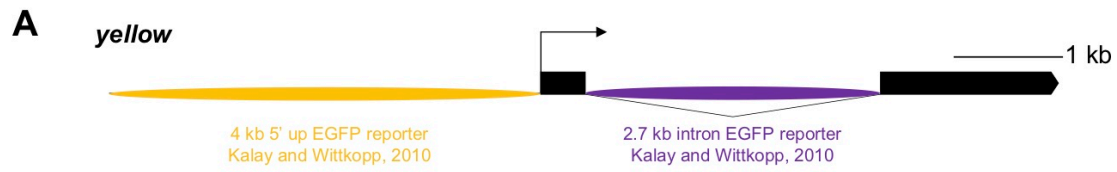
6993	GAL4 expressed in larval brain, Bolwig's nerve and salivary glands.
49365	Expresses GAL4 under the control of DNA sequences in or near Lim3
6927	GAL4 expression pan-neural in late embryos, in a subset of motor neurons in 3rd instar larvae, and enriched in mushroom bodies in adults.
45175	Expresses GAL4 under the control of DNA sequences in or near InR
3740	GAL4 pattern in third instar larva: brain - optic proliferative center, laminar precursor cells, not in discs.
5820	GAL4 expressed in neuroblasts and neurons.
8848 (ple-GAL4)	Expresses GAL4 in dopaminergic cells (gift from Shinya Yamamoto)
7010 (Ddc-GAL4)	Expresses GAL4 in dopaminergic and serotonergic neurons under the control of Ddc (gift from Shinya Yamamoto)
TPH-GAL4	Expresses GAL4 in serotonergic cells (gift from Shinya Yamamoto)



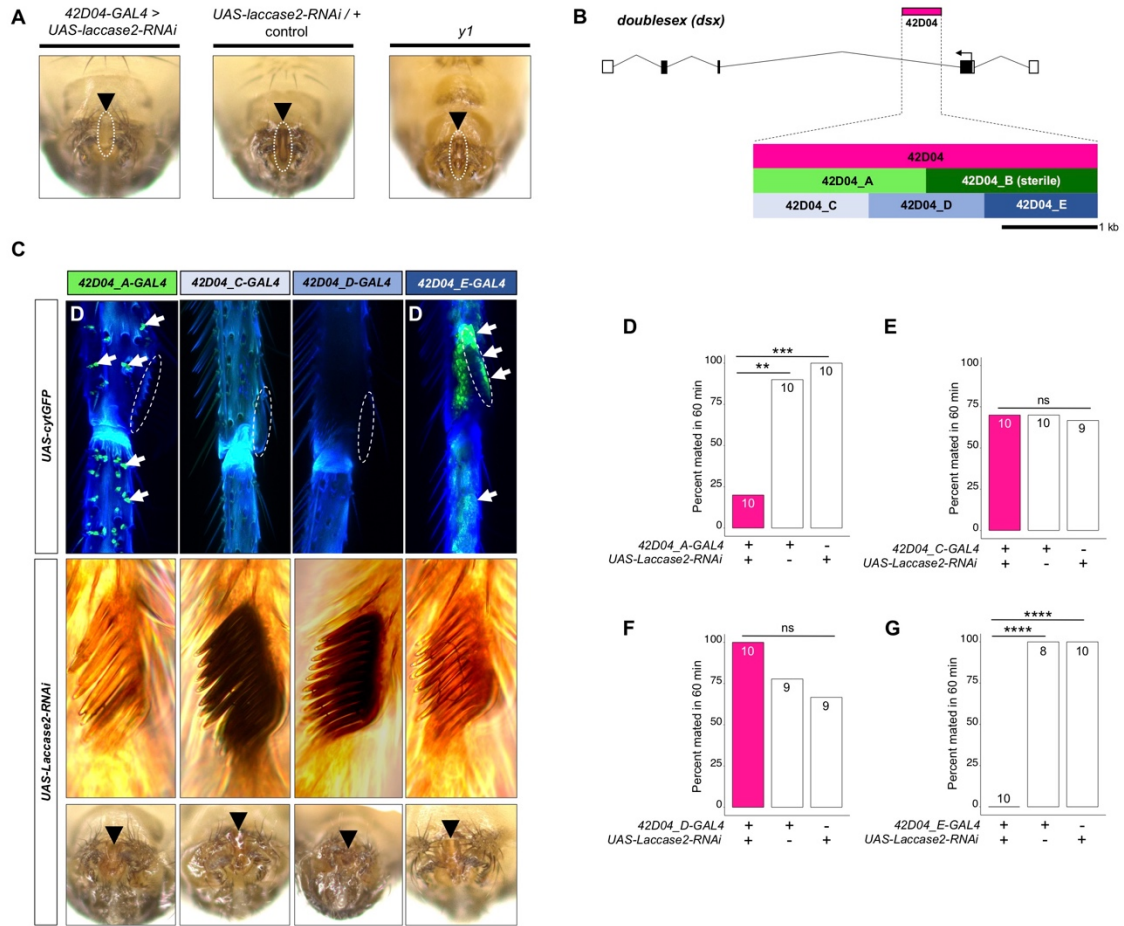
## Supplementary Figure S4



## Supplementary Figure S5



## Supplementary Figure S6





## Supplementary Figure S7

