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1 Mapping and sequencing of a significant quantitative trait locus 2 affecting resistance to Koi herpesvirus in common carp

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12

13

14 Abstract

15

16

17 Cyprinids are the most highly produced group of fishes globally, with common carp being one
18 of the most valuable species of the group. Koi herpesvirus (KHV) infections can result in high
19 levels of mortality, causing major economic losses, and is listed as a notifiable disease by the
20 World Organisation for Animal Health. Selective breeding for host resistance has the potential
21 to reduce morbidity and losses due to KHV. Therefore, improving knowledge about host
22 resistance and methods of incorporating genomic data into breeding for resistance may
23 contribute to a decrease in economic losses in carp farming. In the current study, a population
24 of 1,425 carp juveniles, originating from a factorial cross between 40 sires and 20 dams was
25 challenged with KHV. Mortalities and survivors were recorded and sampled for genotyping by
26 sequencing using Restriction Site-Associated DNA sequencing (RADseq). Genome-wide
27 association analyses were performed to investigate the genetic architecture of resistance to
28 KHV. A genome-wide significant QTL affecting resistance to KHV was identified on linkage
29 group 44, explaining approximately 7 % of the additive genetic variance. Pooled whole genome
30 resequencing of a subset of resistant (n = 60) and susceptible animals (n = 60) was performed
31 to characterize QTL regions, including identification of putative candidate genes and functional

32 annotation of associated polymorphisms. The TRIM25 gene was identified as a promising
33 positional and functional candidate within the QTL region of LG 44, and a putative premature
34 stop mutation in this gene was discovered.

35

36 **Introduction**

37

38 Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* and *Cyprinus rubrofuscus*), is one of the most highly produced
39 aquaculture fish species globally (FAO, 2015), being farmed in a wide variety of environments
40 and production systems (Balon 1995). However, in common with many aquaculture species,
41 only a minority of farmed carp are derived from family-based selective breeding programs
42 (Vandeputte 2003; Janssen *et al.* 2017). The potential for selective breeding to enhance
43 production in carp is highlighted by several studies, but much of the production of commercial
44 stock is still generated via intraspecific crossbreeding (Kocour *et al.* 2005, 2007; Vandeputte
45 *et al.* 2008; Nielsen *et al.* 2010; Prchal *et al.* 2018).

46

47 Koi herpesvirus (KHV), also known as Cyprinid herpesvirus-3 (CyHV-3), is one of the main
48 threats to carp production. The first major outbreaks were recorded in 1998 (Hedrick *et al.*
49 2000), and subsequent outbreaks in many carp producing countries were reported worldwide
50 (Haenen *et al.* 2004). The seriousness of the KHV threat is highlighted by its listing as a
51 notifiable disease by the European Union (Taylor *et al.* 2010) and the World Organization for
52 Animal Health (OIE 2018). Selective breeding is a valuable tool for contributing to sustainable
53 food production through the prevention and management of infectious outbreaks in a wide
54 range of species (Bishop and Woolliams 2014). This may be particularly true in aquaculture
55 species, due to moderate to high heritabilities of disease resistance documented in numerous
56 cases (Ødegård *et al.* 2011; Houston 2017), and successful examples of disease control using

57 marker-assisted breeding, e.g. the case of the IPN virus in Atlantic salmon; *Salmo salar*
58 (Houston *et al.* 2008; Moen *et al.* 2009).

59

60 Several studies have investigated the genetic basis of KHV resistance in carp (utilizing data
61 and samples collected from disease challenge trials), showing encouraging results with large
62 variation in survival both between families (Dixon *et al.* 2009; Tadmor-Levi *et al.* 2017) and
63 between strains (Shapira *et al.* 2005; Piačková *et al.* 2013). Results from candidate gene
64 association studies have suggested a possible role for polymorphism in MHC loci (Rakus *et al.*
65 2009) and Interleukin-11 (Kongchum *et al.* 2011) in host resistance to KHV. Taken together,
66 these studies indicate that selective breeding has the potential to increase resistance to KHV,
67 with potential downstream benefits for the carp aquaculture industry and fish welfare.
68 However, to date, genome-wide polymorphisms have not been applied to investigate the
69 genetic architecture of resistance to KHV.

70

71 Restriction-site associated DNA sequencing (RADseq) (Baird *et al.* 2008) and similar
72 genotyping by sequencing techniques have been widely applied to generated genome-wide
73 SNP markers due to their cost-efficiency in a wide range of aquaculture species (Robledo *et al.*
74 2017), including common carp ((Palaiokostas *et al.* 2018a). Various genome wide
75 association studies (GWAS) using this technique have been published in aquaculture species
76 (e.g. Campbell *et al.* 2014; Palti *et al.* 2015). GWAS have been used to study disease resistance
77 in various aquaculture species including salmonids (Correa *et al.* 2015, 2017; Vallejo *et al.*
78 2017; Barría *et al.* 2018; Robledo *et al.* 2018), catfish (Zhou *et al.* 2017), European sea bass
79 (Palaiokostas *et al.* 2018b) and Pacific oyster (Gutierrez *et al.* 2018) amongst others. With the
80 notable exception of the aforementioned case of IPN resistance in salmon, the GWAS results
81 have pointed to a polygenic or oligogenic architecture for disease resistance in aquaculture

82 species. The main aim of this study was to investigate genetic resistance to KHV in common
83 carp using a RADseq approach. Classical genome wide association study (GWAS) and
84 weighted genomic best linear unbiased predictor (WGBLUP) approaches were taken to
85 examine the genetic architecture of resistance. Finally, pooled whole genome sequencing
86 (PWGS) was performed in a subset of samples with divergent resistance and susceptibility to
87 characterize and annotate QTL regions, and to identify potential gene candidates and
88 polymorphisms involved in KHV resistance.

89

90 **Materials and Methods**

91 **Sample collection and disease challenge**

92 A population of Amur Mirror Carp was created at the University of South Bohemia in České
93 Budějovice, Czech Republic in May 2014 using artificial insemination (Vandeputte *et al.* 2004)
94 involving four factorial crosses of five dams x ten sires (20 dams and 40 sires in total).
95 Incubation of eggs was performed in 9 L Zugar jars at 20°C. At the first swimming stage,
96 randomly sampled progeny from each mating (of approximately equal total volume) were
97 pooled and stocked into several nursery earthen ponds at stocking density of 150,000 larvae /
98 ha and reared under semi-intensive pond conditions throughout the growing season (from May
99 to September). Before the challenge test a random sample of 1,500 fish described above were
100 tagged and fin clipped for DNA extraction. These fish were the same as those described in
101 Palaiokostas *et al.* (2018a). These animals were acclimatized for five days at water temperature
102 of 22 °C and bathed in FMC solution (formalin, malachite green, methylene blue using a dose
103 of 2 mL per 100 L of water) to eliminate ectoparasites. Subsequently, the fish were transferred
104 to Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) in Brno (Czech Republic) to perform the KHV disease
105 challenge test. A small (n = 215) sample of koi carp were challenged alongside the Amur mirror
106 carp as a positive control, since Koi carp are highly susceptible to KHV.

107 A cohabitation challenge was performed in a 1,400 L tank equipped with recirculation and
108 biological filtration. Koi carp received an intraperitoneal injection with 0.2 mL culture medium
109 containing 10^4 TCID₅₀ / mL KHV at day 0 and were added into the tank with challenged fish.
110 Mortality of individual fish was recorded twice a day for a period of 35 days post infection
111 (dpi). Presence of KHV on a sample of dead fish (n = 100) was confirmed by PCR according
112 to guidelines by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science, UK (Cefas)
113 (Pokorova et al. 2010). The experiment was run until mortalities were negligible, implying that
114 survivors were resistant. The entire experiment was conducted in accordance with the law on
115 the protection of animals against cruelty (Act no. 246/1992 Coll. of the Czech Republic) upon
116 its approval by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) of the VRI and
117 appropriate state authority. All people conducting the experiment hold a certificate about
118 qualification to conduct experiments on the live animals, and the VRI is accredited for the
119 culture of experimental animals according to the aforementioned law.

120

121 **Library preparation and sequencing**

122 The RAD library preparation protocol followed the methodology originally described in Baird
123 *et al.* (2008) and presently in detail in Palaiokostas et al (2018a). Briefly, template DNA was
124 digested using the *Sbf*I (recognizing the CCTGCA|GG motif) high fidelity restriction enzyme
125 (New England Biolabs; NEB). DNA shearing was conducted with a Pico bioruptor
126 (Diagenode). Following a final gel elution step into 20 μ L EB buffer (MinElute Gel
127 Purification Kit, Qiagen), 66 libraries (24 animals each) were sent to BMR Genomics (Italy),
128 for quality control and high-throughput sequencing. RAD libraries were run in fourteen lanes
129 of an Illumina NextSeq 500, using 75 base paired-end reads (v2 chemistry).

130

131 Whole genome sequencing libraries (n = 4) from pooled DNA samples (30 animals each
132 library) of susceptible and resistant animals were constructed using the Illumina TruSeq DNA
133 PCR free kit (350bp insert). Sequencing was performed in Edinburgh Genomics facilities using
134 two lanes of Illumina HiSeq 4000.

135

136 **SNP discovery and genotyping**

137 The process of obtaining the SNP genotype data from the RADSeq reads was described in
138 detail in Palaikostas *et al* (2018a). Briefly, sequenced reads were aligned to the common carp
139 reference genome assembly version *GCA_000951615.2* (Xu *et al.* 2014) using bowtie2
140 (Langmead and Salzberg 2012). The aligned reads were sorted into RAD loci and SNPs were
141 identified using the Stacks software 1.4 (Catchen *et al.* 2011). The SNPs were detected using
142 a minimum stack depth of at least ten or five for the parental and offspring samples
143 respectively. SNPs with minor allele frequency (MAF) below 0.01, greater than 20 % missing
144 data, and deviating from expected Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium in the parental samples ($P <$
145 $1e-06$) were discarded. R/hsphase (Ferdosi *et al.* 2014) software was used for parentage
146 assignment allowing for a maximum genotyping error of 4 %. The pedigree obtained was
147 further validated for possible erroneous assignments using FImpute (Sargolzaei *et al.* 2014). In
148 total, 1,214 offspring were uniquely assigned, forming 195 full-sib families (40 sires, 20 dams).
149 Since the carp reference genome assembly is currently very fragmented, a medium density
150 linkage map of 12,311 SNPs grouped in 50 linkage groups was created (Palaikostas *et al.*
151 2018b), and used to orientate the results from the GWAS.

152

153 **Heritability estimation**

154

155 The probit link function was used to connect the observed binary phenotype (0 = dead, 1
156 = alive) with the underlying liability scale. Variance components were estimated using the

157 R/BGLR (Pérez and de Los Campos 2014) software with the following animal model:

$$158 \mathbf{l} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{Z}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}, (1)$$

159 where \mathbf{l} is the vector of latent variables, \mathbf{b} is the vector of the fixed effects (cross, standard
160 length), \mathbf{X} is the incidence matrix relating phenotypes with the fixed effects, \mathbf{Z} is the
161 incidence matrix relating phenotypes with the random animal effects, \mathbf{u} is the vector of
162 random animal effects $\sim N(0, \mathbf{A}\sigma_g^2)$ [where \mathbf{A} corresponds to the pedigree-based
163 relationship matrix and is replaced by \mathbf{G} for analyses using the genomic relationship matrix
164 (VanRaden 2008) and σ_g^2 is the additive genetic variance], \mathbf{e} the vector of residuals $\sim N(0,$
165 $\mathbf{I}\sigma_e^2)$ where σ_e^2 is the residual variance.

166 The parameters of this model were estimated through Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)
167 using Gibbs sampling (11 M iterations; burn-in: 1 M; thin: 1,000). Convergence of the
168 resulting posterior distributions was assessed both visually (inspecting the resulting
169 MCMC plots) and analytically using R/coda v0.19-1 (Plummer *et al.* 2006). Heritability
170 for the trait of survival during the KHV challenge (on the underlying liability scale) was
171 estimated using the following formula:

$$172 h^2 = \frac{\sigma_g^2}{\sigma_g^2 + \sigma_e^2}$$

173
174 where σ_g^2 is the previous estimated additive genetic variance and σ_e^2 the residual variance.

175 Residual variance on the underlying scale is not identifiable in threshold models
176 (Goldstein *et al.* 2002; Nakagawa and Schielzeth 2013) and was therefore fixed to 1.

177

178 **Genome wide association analysis (GWAS)**

179 To test the association between individual SNPs and resistance to KHV, a classical genome
180 wide association study (CGWAS) was performed using R/gaston (Perdry and Dandine-
181 Roulland 2016). The mixed model applied for overall survival had the same format as in

182 (1) with the addition of including each SNP as a fixed effect. The variance components
 183 were estimated using the penalized quasi-likelihood approach (Chen *et al.* 2016). The
 184 genome-wide significance threshold was calculated using a Bonferroni correction ($0.05 /$
 185 N), where N represents the number of tested SNPs.

186 Weighted genomic best linear unbiased predictor (WGBLUP) was performed (Wang *et al.*
 187 2012) using direct genomic values (DGV) (Lourenco *et al.* 2015; Zhang *et al.* 2016). The
 188 weighted genomic relationship matrix was initially created following VanRaden (2008) as:

$$189 \mathbf{G}^* = \mathbf{ZDZ}'\mathbf{q}$$

190 where \mathbf{Z} is the design matrix relating genotypes of each locus, \mathbf{D} is a weight matrix for all
 191 SNPs, and \mathbf{q} is a weighting vector derived from observed SNP frequencies. SNP weights were
 192 calculated using the nonlinearA method (VanRaden 2008). Briefly the steps for performing
 193 WGBLUP were as follows (Wang *et al.* 2012):

- 194 a) Initialize $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{I}$ and $t=1$, where \mathbf{I} the identity matrix and t is the iteration number.
- 195 b) Calculate \mathbf{G}^* .
- 196 c) Estimate DGVs.
- 197 d) Estimate SNP effects from GEBVs : $\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} = \mathbf{qDZ}'\mathbf{G}^*\hat{\mathbf{u}}$, where $\hat{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}$ the vector of SNP
 198 effects and $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ the vector of DGV
- 199 e) Calculate the weight for each SNP: $d_{ii}^{(t+1)} = 1.125 \frac{|\hat{\alpha}_i|}{sd(\hat{\alpha})}^{-2}$, where $\hat{\alpha}_i$ the estimated SNP
 200 effect (VanRaden 2008).
- 201 f) Normalize SNP weights so the total genetic variance remains constant.
- 202 g) Loop to step d) until convergence (10^{-14}).

203

204 Convergence of SNP weights was tested using the convergence criterion BLUPF90 uses for
 205 variance components estimation

$$206 C = \frac{\sum_i (\theta_i - \xi_i)^2}{\sum_i \theta_i^2}$$

207 Percentage of additive genetic variance was estimated by non-overlapping windows of 10
 208 adjacent SNPs as follows:

209

$$210 \quad \frac{\text{Var}(\alpha_i)}{\sigma_g^2} \times 100\% = \frac{\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^{i=10} z_i \hat{\alpha}_i)}{\sigma_g^2} \times 100\%$$

211

212 where $\text{var}(\alpha_i)$ the additive genetic variance of the tested window of adjacent SNPs and σ_g^2

213 the total additive genetic variance. The weighted GBLUP analyses were performed using

214 THRGIBBSF90 for estimating DGVs (Miszta *et al.* 2002) combined with iterations of

215 PreGSF90 and PostGSF90 (Aguilar *et al.* 2011) until convergence (10^{-14}).

216

217 **Pooled whole genome sequencing analysis**

218 Pools of genomic DNA (25 ng / ul) from 60 survivors and 60 mortalities from the disease

219 challenge experiment were prepared. These animals originated from 20 full-sib families,

220 and the family structure was balanced between the resistant and susceptible pools.

221 Libraries were prepared using the TruSeq DNA PCR free kit (350 bp insert size) and

222 sequenced in two lanes of an Illumina HiSeq 4000 using paired-end sequencing by

223 Edinburgh Genomics.

224 Reads were QC-filtered (phred score above 30) and trimmed to 140 bp long using

225 Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger *et al.* 2014). Reads were aligned to the carp reference genome

226 *GCA_000951615.2* (Xu *et al.* 2014) using bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg 2012). SNP

227 identification was performed using Burrows-Wheeler Aligner v0.7.8 (BWA-mem, Li

228 2013). Pileup files describing the base-pair information at each genomic position were

229 generated from the alignment files using the mpileup function of Samtools v1.6 (Li *et al.*

230 2009) requiring minimum mapping and base quality of 20. A Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel

231 test was performed to test the significance of the allele frequency differences using

232 Popoolation 2 v1.201 (Kofler *et al.* 2011). Only those genomic positions with at least 6

233 reads of the alternative allele across all pools and a maximum coverage of 50 reads and a

234 minimum of 8 in all pools were considered SNPs. All QC-filtered SNPs were annotated
235 using SNPeff (Cingolani *et al.* 2012).

236

237 **Data availability**

238 Raw reads were deposited in the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI)
239 repository under project ID PRJNA414021. Table S1 contains the phenotypic data. Table S2
240 contains the pedigree. Table S3 contains the genotypic data.

241

242 **Results**

243

244 **Disease challenge**

245

246 Mortalities began at 12 dpi reaching a maximum between 21 and 24 dpi (98 – 130 mortalities
247 per day) decreasing thereafter with no mortalities observed after 35 dpi (Figure 1). The overall
248 mortality in the KHV challenge experiment for the Amur Mirror Carp was 66 %. All observed
249 mortalities displayed typical KHV symptoms (e.g. weakness, lethargy, loss of equilibrium,
250 erratic swimming, sunken eyes, excessive mucous production, increased respiratory rate,
251 discoloration, and hemorrhagic lesions on the skin and gills). The presence of KHV was
252 confirmed in all tested samples ($n = 100$).

253

254 **Heritability estimation**

255

256 There was marked between-family variation in survival rate for both sires (6 – 83 %) and dams
257 (0 – 52 %), suggesting the existence of considerable genetic variation for host resistance.
258 Heritability estimates of overall survival for the pedigree and genomic relationship matrix on
259 the underlying scale were 0.61 (HPD interval 95%: 0.42 – 0.80) and 0.50 (HPD interval 95%:
260 0.38 – 0.63) respectively.

261 **Genome wide association approaches - SNP annotation in QTL region**

262

263 The three SNPs with the highest association according to classical GWAS were located on
264 linkage group 44 (chromosome 33; $P < 1e-05$; denoted by stars in Fig 2). This QTL was also
265 identified using the WGBLUP approach (Figure 3) suggesting it accounted for approximately
266 7 % (convergence obtained after 5 iterations) of the additive genetic variance on the underlying
267 scale. In addition the WGBLUP identified QTLs explaining more than 1% of the additive
268 genetic variance in linkage groups 34 (~ 2.5%) and 42 (~ 1.1%). Whole genome sequencing
269 data from the pools of resistance and susceptible animals was used to discover and annotate
270 additional SNPs in the QTL region (Figure 4), and potential candidate genes were identified.
271 Further, SNPs with significant allele frequency differences (P -value < 0.05) between the two
272 groups were identified. A SNP coding for a putative premature stop codon was identified in
273 gene TRIM25 (Glu258*), an E3 ubiquitin ligase with a major role in initiation of intracellular
274 antiviral response to herpesviruses (Gupta *et al.* 2018).

275

276 **Discussion**

277

278

279 In the current study, high throughput sequencing was applied to study genetic resistance of
280 common carp to KHV. While genomic data in the form of genetic markers can be a valuable
281 addition to selective breeding for disease resistance, how to apply this data depends on the
282 underlying genetic architecture. In the case of traits controlled by a major QTL, it may be most
283 effective to use marker-assisted selection, while in the case of polygenic traits genomic
284 selection is likely to be preferable. Modern genomic tools also facilitate high resolution study
285 of the genomic regions underpinning genetic resistance, facilitating identification and
286 annotation of promising functional candidate genes which may play a direct role in differential
287 host response to infection.

288 Following pedigree reconstruction using the RAD SNP data, the heritability of resistance as
289 measured by survival on the underlying scale was estimated to be 0.61 (pedigree) and 0.50
290 (genomic). This is an unusually high heritability estimate, but is comparable to the estimated
291 of 0.79 that was previously documented for this trait (Ødegård *et al.* 2010). These independent
292 high estimates of heritability of resistance to KHV highlight that selective breeding has major
293 potential for producing carp with increased resistance. Additionally, in a recent study of
294 introgression of KHV resistance from a wild carp strain to a farmed carp strain, significant
295 additive genetic variation in resistance was detected (Tadmor-Levi *et al.* 2017). Furthermore,
296 the authors showed that resistant carp do become infected, implying that resistance is due to an
297 effective host response to infection (Tadmor-Levi *et al.* 2017). Early stage host response to
298 KHV infection is likely to have a major interferon pathway component, with Interferon $\alpha\beta$, and
299 interleukin 12 suggested to play a major role in Koi and Red common carp (Hwang *et al.* 2017).

300

301 The CGWAS resulted in the identification of genome-wide significant QTL on linkage group
302 44. While this test is the most commonly used association analysis, it fails to utilize all available
303 information since it does not consider linkage disequilibrium between adjacent SNPs, resulting
304 in reduced statistical power as opposed to methods where all SNPs are used simultaneously
305 (Wang *et al.* 2012). The WGBLUP approach incorporates multiple SNPs and combines the
306 computational efficiency of GBLUP with an increased statistical power for QTL detection
307 (Zhang *et al.* 2016). However, WGBLUP has limitations as well like the heuristic influence
308 regarding optimal number of iterations and the difficulty to determine appropriate significance
309 levels for the identified QTL (Wang *et al.* 2012; Lourenco *et al.* 2015; Zhang *et al.* 2016). The
310 recent implementation of nonlinearA (VanRaden 2008) in PostGSF90 (Misztal *et al.* 2018)
311 may help circumvent the issue of optimal number of iterations due to its better convergence
312 properties. NonlinearA benefits particularly in situations where a non normal prior distribution

313 more accurately describes the trait under study (VanRaden 2008). In the current study, both
314 CGWAS and WGBLUP provided significant evidence for the existence of a QTL associated
315 with resistance to KHV on linkage group 44, explaining approximately 7 % of the genetic
316 variation in a highly heritable trait.

317

318 The SNP with highest association in the CGWAS was located ~6.5 Kb upstream of TRIM25,
319 an E3 ubiquitin ligase with a major role in initiation of intracellular antiviral response to
320 herpesviruses. Auto-ubiquitination of TRIM25 is a viral strategy for functional inactivation
321 of the pattern recognition protein RIG1, and subsequent cellular interferon response (Gack *et*
322 *al.* 2008). In the PWGS, the majority of the SNPs with significant allele frequency differences
323 between the resistant and susceptible pools were annotated as 'intergenic'. However,
324 interestingly, a putative premature stop mutation in position 258 of the carp TRIM25 protein
325 was identified. TRIM25 has 649 - 682 amino acids (isoform dependant), and therefore this stop
326 mutation is highly likely to result in loss of function. The premature stop causing allele is rare
327 in the population, but reads of this allele were more common in the susceptible (n = 11) than
328 the resistance (n = 3) pools, albeit the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test p-value for this SNP was
329 only nominally significant (0.049). This may fit with a loss of function of TRIM25 in
330 susceptible fish, being unable to trigger an appropriate antiviral response.

331

332 It will be interesting to study whether this single genome-wide significant QTL for resistance
333 to KHV has an effect in other carp populations and strains. Follow up functional studies of
334 candidate genes in the QTL region, including assessment of gene expression response to
335 infection and the differential response between alternate QTL types, may be a fruitful avenue
336 to shortlist functional candidate genes. Currently, TRIM25 and its premature stop mutation
337 seem to be the most promising candidates, and additional genotyping of this SNP alongside

338 directed functional studies may help to test if it may be causative for the QTL. While the QTL
339 identified in the current study was highly significant, the proportion of genetic variation
340 explained was relatively moderate, implying multifactorial causal mechanisms underlying host
341 resistance. Nonetheless, it is plausible that genetic markers within the QTL region may have
342 value for marker-assisted selection, either directly or via a genomic prediction strategy with
343 increased weighting on QTL-region SNPs.

344

345 **Conclusions**

346 In conclusion, the results from the current study demonstrate that SNP markers generated via
347 RADseq are effective at studying the genetic variation in resistance to KHV in a common carp
348 breeding population. The RAD-derived SNPs facilitated the identification of a genome-wide
349 significant QTL on LG 44 affecting resistance to KHV. The sequencing and annotation of the
350 QTL regions provided candidate functional genes and polymorphisms for future study to
351 understand the mechanisms underlying the QTL. This QTL may have value for selective
352 breeding via incorporation into marker-assisted or genomic selection, albeit genetic resistance
353 to KHV in common carp appears to be multifactorial in nature.

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371 **Competing interests**

372

373 The authors declare that they have no competing interests

374

375

376 **Author contributions**

377 TV, MK, MP, VP, RH conceived the study, contributed to designing the experimental
378 structure. MK, MP, VP share on establishing and on-growing the experimental stock, P.I.T.
379 tagging and fin clipping the fish. TV, DP, LP carried out the own KHV challenge experiment.
380 CP carried out DNA extractions, RAD library preparation and sequence data processing. CP,
381 and RH carried out parentage assignment and the quantitative genetic analyses. All authors
382 contributed to drafting the manuscript.

383

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617 Figures legends

618

619 Figure 1. Daily mortality levels of fish during the KHV challenge experiment.

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622 Figure 2. Classical Genome wide association plot for overall survival during the KHV
623 challenge.

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625 Figure 3. WGBLUP for resistance to KHV. The additive genetic variance explained was
626 calculated using windows of 10 adjacent SNPs.

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628 Figure 4. Annotation of the QTL region on LG 44 including identification of putative genes in
629 the region, functional annotation of SNPs.

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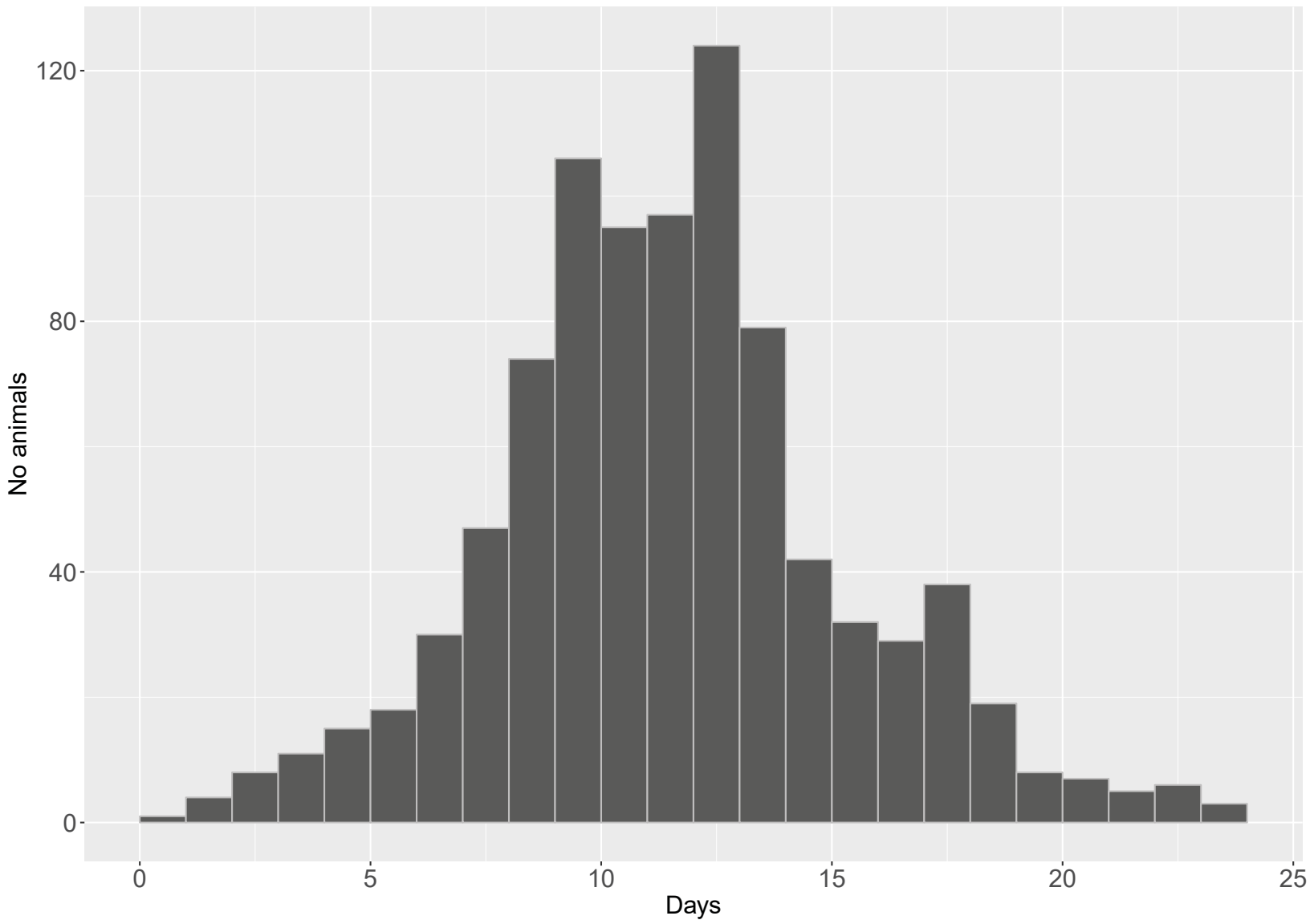
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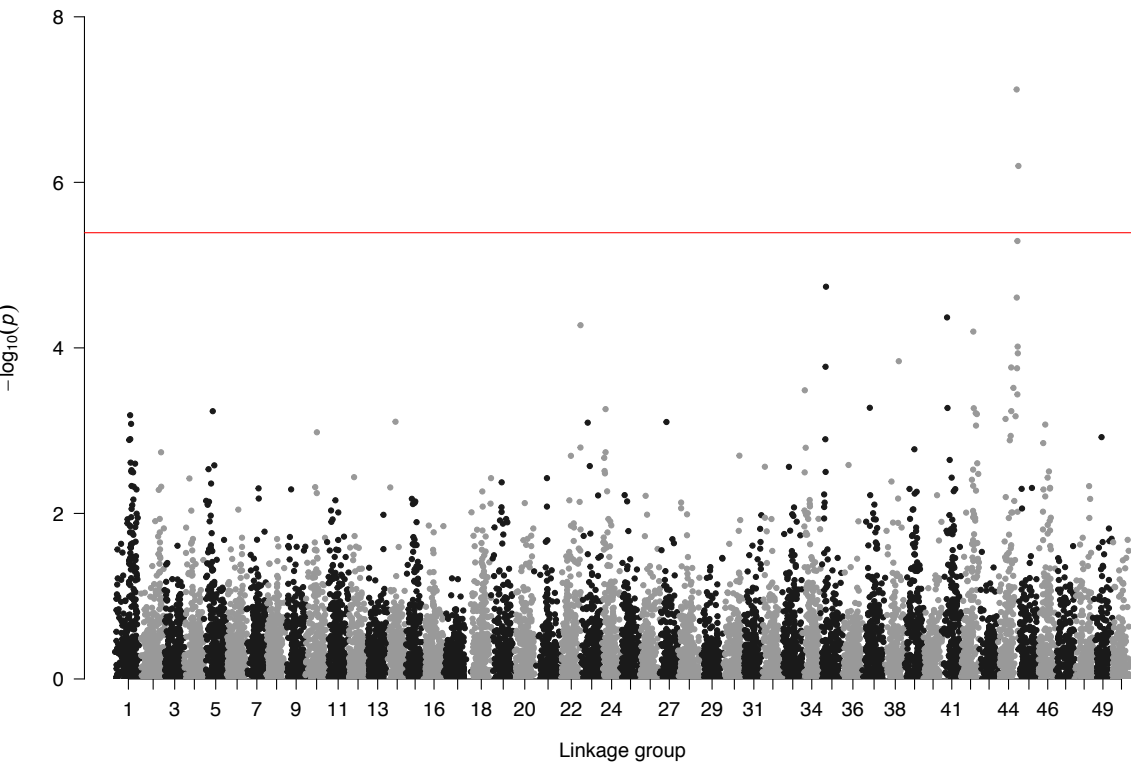
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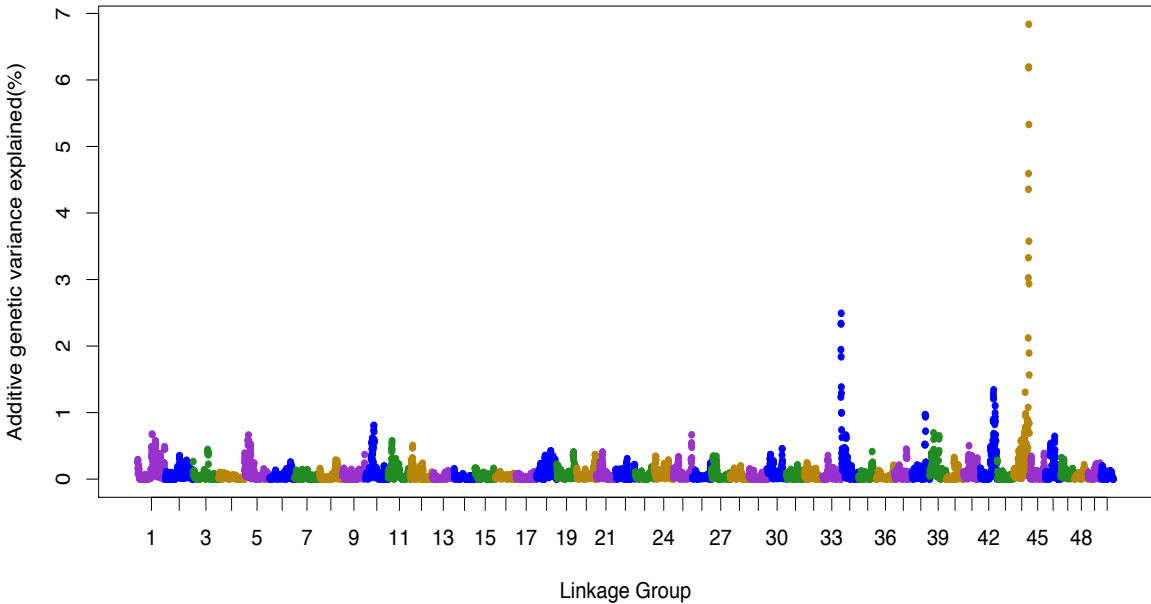
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☆ GWAS most significant SNPs

● UTR variant
● Missense variant
● Stop gain mutation
● Intergenic variant
○ Intron variant
● Synonymous variant

