

1 **Title**

2 **Extreme Y chromosome polymorphism corresponds to five male reproductive morphs of**
3 **a freshwater fish**

4 **Author List**

5 Benjamin A Sandkam^{a*}, Pedro Almeida^b, Iulia Darolti^a, Benjamin Furman^a, Wouter van der Bijl^a, Jake
6 Morris^b, Godfrey Bourne^c, Felix Breden^d, Judith E. Mank^a

7 **Affiliations**

8 a. Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada

9 b. Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment, University College London, London WC1E 6BT,
10 United Kingdom

11 c. Department of Biology, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121, USA

12 d. Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, Canada

13

14 *** Corresponding Author:** Benjamin A Sandkam

15 **Email:** sandkam@zoology.ubc.ca

16

17 ORCIDiDs: 0000-0002-5043-9295, 0000-0002-7082-3577, 0000-0002-7366-1868, 0000-0002-0137-2610,

18 0000-0001-9762-6314, 0000-0002-2450-513X

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 Loss of recombination between sex chromosomes often depletes Y chromosomes of functional content
25 and genetic variation, which might limit their potential to generate adaptive diversity. Males of the
26 freshwater fish *Poecilia parae* occur as one of five discrete morphs, all of which shoal together in natural
27 populations where morph frequency has been stable for over 50 years. Each morph utilizes a different
28 complex reproductive strategy, and morphs differ dramatically in color, body size, and mating behavior.
29 Morph phenotype is passed perfectly from father to son, indicating there are five Y haplotypes
30 segregating in the species, which encode the complex male morph characteristics. Here, we examine Y
31 diversity in natural populations of *P. parae*. Using linked-read sequencing on multiple *P. parae* females
32 and males of all five morphs, we find that the genetic architecture of the male morphs evolved on the Y
33 chromosome after recombination suppression had occurred with the X. Comparing Y chromosomes
34 between each of the morphs, we show that although the Ys of the three minor morphs that differ in color
35 are highly similar, there are substantial amounts of unique genetic material and divergence between the
36 Ys of the three major morphs that differ in reproductive strategy, body size and mating behavior.
37 Altogether, our results suggest that the Y chromosome is able to overcome the constraints of
38 recombination loss to generate extreme diversity, resulting in five discrete Y chromosomes that control
39 complex reproductive strategies.

40 **Introduction**

41 Sex chromosomes form when recombination is halted between the X and Y chromosomes. The loss of
42 recombination results in a host of evolutionary processes that quickly deplete Y chromosomes of
43 functional content and genetic variation, severely limiting the scope for adaptive evolution¹. Y
44 chromosomes can counter this loss to some degree through a variety of mechanisms²⁻⁵, however the
45 adaptive potential of Y chromosomes is generally thought to be much lower than the remainder of the
46 genome. Typically, this results in relatively low levels of Y chromosome diversity within species. The
47 adaptive potential of non-recombining regions has far broader implications beyond just Y chromosomes
48 given the increasing realization that supergenes, linked regions containing alleles at multiple loci
49 underlying complex phenotypes, are key to many adaptive traits⁶⁻¹². Many supergenes are lethal when
50 homozygous and therefore also non-recombining^{8,10}. Therefore, the processes that constrain Y
51 chromosome evolution also affect much broader areas of the genome.

52 *Poecilia parae* is a small freshwater fish found in coastal streams of South America. Remarkably, males
53 of this species occur as one of five distinct morphs, *parae*, *immaculata*, *melanzona red*, *melanzona*
54 *yellow*, and *melanzona blue*, each of which utilizes distinct reproductive tactics, with associated
55 differences in body size, color, and mating behaviours¹³⁻¹⁹ (summarized in Supplementary Table 1). The
56 *parae* morph has the largest body, vertical black stripes, an orange tail-stripe and is highly aggressive,
57 chasing away rival males and aggressively copulating with females by force. *Immaculata* resembles a
58 juvenile female. Although *immaculata* has the smallest body size of all morphs, it has the largest relative
59 testes and produces the most sperm, employing a sneaker copulation strategy. The three *melanzona*
60 morphs are similar in body size and have a colored horizontal stripe (either red, yellow or blue), which
61 they present to females during courtship displays. We refer to the three minor morphs of *melanzona*
62 collectively as the *melanzona* morph.

63 All five morphs co-occur in the same populations, and the relative frequency of morphs within populations
64 (on average: ~35% *immaculata*, ~35% *parae*, and ~30% *melanzona*) is highly stable over repeated
65 surveys spanning 50 years (~150 generations)^{13,14,20}. This suggests that balancing selection, likely
66 resulting from a combination of sexual and natural selection, is acting to maintain these five adapted

67 morphs. Most importantly, multigeneration pedigrees show that morph phenotype is always passed
68 perfectly from father to son¹³, indicating the five *P. parae* morphs are controlled by five different Y
69 chromosomes. This system therefore offers the potential for a unique insight into the adaptive potential of
70 Y chromosomes, and the role of these regions of the genome in male phenotypes.

71 Y chromosomes are formed once recombination with the X is halted¹, and the loss of recombination on
72 the Y leads to a complex cascade of non-adaptive processes that lead to the rapid buildup of
73 heterochromatin and loss of gene activity²¹⁻²³. However, the process of Y degeneration is not linear²⁴, and
74 although poeciliid species closely related to *P. parae* share the same homologous sex chromosome as
75 *Poecilia reticulata*²⁵ (guppies), the extent of Y chromosome degeneration differs markedly across the
76 clade. Although the Y chromosome in *P. reticulata* and *Poecilia wingei* contains only a small area of
77 limited degeneration²⁵⁻²⁸, the entirety of the Y chromosome of *Poecilia picta* is highly degenerate²⁵. *P.*
78 *parae* is a sister species of *P. picta* (diverging ~14.8 mya²⁹), however *P. picta* males are markedly
79 different from *P. parae* and do not resemble any of the five *P. parae* morphs^{18,20,30-32}, suggesting
80 remarkable diversity was generated on the *P. parae* Y chromosome after recombination was halted with
81 the X chromosome. Work on model systems has indeed shown Y chromosomes can accumulate new
82 genetic material²⁻⁵, yet these differences occur over long periods of time and are only evident when
83 comparing Ys across species. Non-model systems, such as *P. parae*, provide a unique opportunity to
84 explore the limits and role of non-recombining regions in generating diversity.

85 Because *P. parae* is very difficult to breed in the lab, we collected tissue from natural populations in South
86 America where all five male morphs co-occur, and used linked-read sequencing on multiple females and
87 males of all five morphs. Linked-read sequencing allowed us to overcome many of the technical
88 difficulties that traditional short-read methods run into when working on regions rich in repeats and
89 transposable elements, which are often associated with sex chromosomes. We first confirmed that *P.*
90 *parae* shares the same sex chromosome system as its close relatives^{25,26}. We went on to find patterns of
91 X-Y divergence are the same for all five Y chromosomes and matches the X-Y divergence we observed
92 in *P. picta*, suggesting that the morphs emerged after Y chromosome recombination was stopped in a
93 common ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta*. Comparing the five Y chromosomes to each other, we find
94 that while the Ys of the three minor morphs (red, yellow and blue melanzona) that differ only in color are

95 highly similar, the Ys of the three major morphs (*parae*, *immaculata*, and *melanzona*) that differ in
96 reproductive strategy, body size and mating behavior are significantly diverged from one another and
97 carry substantial amounts of unique genetic material. Taken together, our results reveal the surprising
98 ability of the Y chromosome to not only overcome the constraints of recombination loss, but to generate
99 extreme diversity, resulting in five discrete Y chromosomes that correspond to complex reproductive
100 strategies.

101

102 **Results**

103 We collected 40 individual *P. parae* from natural populations in Guyana in December 2016, including
104 eight red *melanzona*, four blue *melanzona*, five yellow *melanzona*, five *immaculata*, seven *parae* morph
105 males, and 11 females. 29 samples with sufficiently high molecular weight DNA were individually
106 sequenced with 10X Genomics linked-reads (including all morphs and several females). We generated a
107 *de novo* genome assembly for each of these samples. The remaining 11 lower molecular weight samples
108 were individually sequenced with Illumina sequencing paired end reads (see Supplementary Tables 2 and
109 3 for sequencing and assembly details).

110

111 ***The P. parae Y chromosome is highly diverged from the X and shared with P. picta***

112 Degeneration of the Y chromosome results in reduced male coverage when mapped to a female
113 reference genome. Therefore, the ratio of male to female mapped reads can be used to identify regions
114 where the Y and X chromosomes differ substantially from each other^{25,33-35}. To do this, we used our best
115 female *de novo P. parae* genome, based on N50 and other assembly statistics (see Supplementary Table
116 3). We then determined chromosomal position of the scaffolds using the reference-assisted chromosome
117 assembly (RACA) pipeline, which combines phylogenetic and sequencing data to place scaffolds along
118 chromosomes³⁶. Next we mapped reads from all 40 samples to this female assembly and calculated
119 male:female coverage, first for each of the five morphs independently, and then all morphs together.

120 As we previously found in *P. picta*²⁵, chromosome 8 (syntenic to *P. reticulata* chromosome 12) showed a
121 clear signal of reduced read coverage in males (Figure 1a-b), indicating an XY sex determination system.
122 Y divergence is evident across nearly the entire chromosome and is largely identical to the pattern we
123 previously observed in *P. picta* (Figure 1c and Extended Data Fig. 1). This suggests that these species
124 inherited a highly degenerate Y chromosome from their common ancestor, well before the origin of the *P.*
125 *parae* male morphs.

126 Short sequences representing all the possible substrings of length k that are contained in a genome are
127 referred to as k -mers, and k -mer comparisons between male and female genomes has been used to
128 identify Y chromosome sequence using Y-specific k -mers (Y-mers) in a wide range of organisms³⁷⁻³⁹,
129 including guppies⁴⁰ and *P. picta*²⁵. We first compared all males, representing all five morphs, to all
130 females. We found a total of 27,950,090 Y-mers (of 31bp) that were present in at least two males but
131 absent from all females. However, only 59 of these Y-mers were present in all 23 males (Figure 2). To
132 evaluate the number of false positive Y-mers identified by our approach, we used the same pipeline on
133 females since all female k -mers should be present in males. We found only 251,472 k -mers to be present
134 in at least two females but absent from all males (0 of these were found in all 6 females). This suggests
135 that only about 0.9% of the 27,950,090 Y-mers identified are false positives.

136 We next used Y-mer analysis to further test whether recombination was halted on the Y in the common
137 ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta*. Of the 646,745 Y-mers that we previously identified in at least one *P.*
138 *picta* male and no females²⁵, 790 *P. picta* Y-mers matched Y-mers we identified in *P. parae*, consistent
139 with a shared history of suppressed recombination. Additionally, these shared Y-mers were present in
140 males of all morphs (Extended Data Fig. 2), discussed in more detail below. To evaluate whether the
141 number of Y-mers shared between species was due to chance we compared the female specific k -mers
142 that we previously identified in *P. picta*²⁵ to the female specific k -mers from *P. parae* we identified above.
143 We found only 80 *P. picta* female-specific k -mers were also female specific k -mers in *P. parae*. Therefore,
144 there were significantly more Y-mers shared between *P. picta* and *P. parae* than would be expected by
145 chance ($\chi^2 = 1258$, DF = 1, $P < 0.0001$), supporting a shared history of recombination suppression. These
146 shared Y-mers, combined with the striking similarity in male:female read mapping (Extended Data Fig. 1)

147 provide compelling evidence that the vast majority of Y chromosome recombination suppression occurred
148 in a common ancestor of *P. picta* and *P. parae*.

149

150 ***The P. parae Y chromosomes are highly diverged from each other***

151 We next compared Y-mers across individuals, generating a phylogeny on the presence/absence of Y-
152 mers in all the *P. parae* individuals with *P. picta* as an outgroup (Figure 2). Clear clades were recovered
153 for each of the major morphs (immaculata, parae and melanzona) while the three minor morphs of
154 melanzona (red, yellow, blue) were very similar to one another. The monophyly of morphs further
155 indicates that the Y-mers we recovered are not random false positives, and that morphs have distinct Y
156 chromosomes.

157 The phylogenetic relationships of individuals (Figure 2) closely match the relative Y-mer comparisons
158 across morphs (Figure 3). We found 64,515 Y-mers in every immaculata male that were not in any parae
159 or melanzona males (i.e. immaculata-mers), 87,629 melanzona-mers, and 1,435 parae-mers, suggesting
160 that the melanzona and immaculata Y chromosomes may contain more unique sequence compared to
161 the parae Y. Moreover, we found 10,673 Y-mers in all melanzona and parae males that did not occur in
162 any immaculata males (Figure 2), suggesting that the parae Y shares greater sequence similarity to the
163 melanzona Y.

164 We calculated our false positive rate by randomly permuting our male samples into groups regardless of
165 morph and determining Y-mers present in all males of each group that were absent from all other males.
166 We found no unique Y-mers in groups of five or more random males, and just 31 unique Y-mers in groups
167 of four random males, demonstrating the false positive rate of our morph-specific Y-mer (morph-mer)
168 approach is exceedingly low (Extended Data Fig. 3).

169

170 ***Mapping morph-mers confirms high diversity of Y chromosomes***

171 The large number of morph-mers we identified could either indicate that the discrete morphs are the
172 result of low divergence across large Y chromosomes, or smaller complexes of highly diverged Y

173 sequence. To resolve this, we mapped the morph-mers to the 21 *de novo* male genomes. We found the Y
174 chromosomes contain regions of highly diverged Y sequence, indicated by morph-mers disproportionately
175 mapping to a few scaffolds, and not being evenly dispersed. For example, a single melanzona scaffold
176 (~110kb) containing 27% of all melanzona-mers (23,773), and most morph-mers overlapped one another
177 (Extended Data Fig. 4 and 5). This confirms our morph-mer approach identified complexes of highly
178 diverged Y sequence.

179 To compare the relative size of these diverged complexes across morphs, we identified all scaffolds that
180 contained >5 morph-mers in each individual. The average amount of sequence contained within these
181 morph-mer scaffolds was 1.3 Mb for melanzona, 3.2 Mb for immaculata, and just 0.1 Mb for parae
182 individuals (Supplementary Table 4). This complements the relative number of Y-mers we found for each
183 morph and together suggests the amount of unique Y chromosome sequence differs across morphs, with
184 the parae morph Y containing the smallest amount of unique genetic material.

185

186 ***Read mapping confirms extensive divergence of Y chromosomes***

187 To determine how divergent the five Y chromosomes are from one another, we mapped reads from all 39
188 samples to the best full *de novo* genome assembly of each male morph (195 total alignments). Most
189 scaffolds contain autosomal sequence, and coverage is not expected to differ by sex or morph.
190 Meanwhile, scaffolds containing morph specific sequence will have higher coverage by males of the
191 same morph (e.g. immaculata reads mapped to an immaculata assembly) than coverage by males of a
192 different morph (e.g. melanzona reads mapped to an immaculata assembly). Low female coverage of
193 such scaffolds confirms these regions are on the Y and are substantially diverged from the X.

194 As expected, when comparing coverage between males of the same morph as the reference assembly
195 and the other morphs we found average coverage was 1:1 when considering all scaffolds, yet scaffolds
196 enriched for morph-mers (containing >5) had much higher coverage by males of the same morph as the
197 reference (Figure 4). Surprisingly, we found no coverage by immaculata or parae reads for nearly half
198 (40/100) of the scaffolds enriched for melanzona-mers. Similarly, 14 of the 93 scaffolds enriched for
199 immaculata-mers (containing ~48kb) had no coverage when we mapped melanzona and parae reads.

200 Meanwhile, in agreement with our morph-mer analysis, all 12 of the scaffolds enriched for parae-mers
201 had nearly equal coverage by melanzona and immaculata reads, once again suggesting that the parae Y
202 contains very little unique Y sequence.

203 We also found the ratio of male:female coverage was much higher for morph-mer scaffolds, many of
204 which had no female coverage, again confirming these complexes of morph specific sequence are
205 located in non-recombining regions of the Y chromosome (Figure 4).

206

207 ***Gene annotation of morph-mer scaffolds***

208 We identified genes on scaffolds with >5 morph-mers. In total, we found 7 genes on the scaffolds
209 containing the 59 Y-mers present in all morphs (totaling 30,558,901 bp), 291 genes on the immaculata
210 scaffolds of sample P09 (totaling 9,748,162bp), 15 genes on the melanzona scaffolds of sample P01
211 (totaling 295,057 bp), and no genes on the parae morph scaffolds of P04 (totaling 127,542 bp)
212 (Supplementary Tables 5, 6 and 7).

213 Only one gene was predicted on scaffolds that were completely unique to melanzona (*trim35*), and only
214 two genes were predicted on scaffolds completely unique to immaculata (*trim39* and *nirc3*). Members of
215 the *Trim* gene family act throughout the body and are well known to rapidly evolve novel functions^{41,42}.
216 Meanwhile, *nirc3* has been shown to selectively block cellular proliferation and protein synthesis by
217 inhibiting the mTOR signalling pathway⁴³, which could play a role in keeping immaculata the smallest
218 morph. Several copies of the transcription factor *Tbx3* were present on male unique scaffolds in both
219 melanzona and immaculata morphs. *Tbx* genes play key roles in development and act as developmental
220 switches⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶, raising the possibility that it could play a role in orchestrating the multi-tissue traits that differ
221 across morphs.

222 We also found several copies of *texim* genes on male scaffolds of melanzona and immaculata that most
223 closely match *texim2* and *texim3*. While the function of *texim2* and *texim3* are largely unknown they have
224 been shown to be highly expressed in the brain and testis of closely related species⁴⁷. In *Xiphophorus*
225 *maculatus*, a close relative to *P. parae* (~45 mya²⁹), the transposable element *helitron* has moved *texim1*
226 to the sex determining region of the Y chromosome and duplicated it resulting in three copies of *texim*

227 that are expressed specifically in late stage spermatogenesis⁴⁷. The copies of *texim2* and *texim3* that we
228 identified on the Y chromosome of *P. parae* are not the same as those in *X. maculatus* as the Ys arose
229 independently and the *X. maculatus* Y is not chromosome 8. Future analyses are needed to determine
230 the roles of these and other genes in generating the morph-specific phenotypes.

231

232 ***Interspersed repeats and morph-mer scaffolds***

233 We next assessed the accumulation of interspersed elements on the Y chromosomes in our samples.
234 Repeatmasker revealed a large number of transposable elements on scaffolds enriched for the Y-mers
235 (present in all males) and morph-mer-enriched scaffolds (Supplementary Tables 8-12). These include 90
236 copies of the *helitron* transposable element on scaffolds enriched for melanzona-mers, and 38 copies on
237 scaffolds enriched for immaculata-mers.

238 Interspersed repeats indicate the current and/or previous presence of transposable elements in a region
239 and can provide a measure of transposable element activity⁴⁸. We found transposable element activity on
240 autosomes and the X chromosome to be in line with other vertebrate genomes⁴⁹, as indicated by
241 interspersed repeats comprising an average of 27.25% of the *de novo* female genomes (Supplementary
242 Table 11). However, the male scaffolds enriched for morph-mers were composed of substantially higher
243 proportions of interspersed repeats (melanzona: $P < 0.0001$, $t = 6.798$, $df = 17$; parae morph: $P < 0.0001$,
244 $t = 16.20$, $df = 10$; immaculata: $P = 0.0322$, $t = 2.587$, $df = 8$) (Extended Data Fig. 6). The proportion of Y
245 sequence comprised of interspersed repeats also differed by morph, with Melanzona (59.28%) being
246 higher than both parae morph (44.11%) ($P = 0.0053$, $t = 3.193$, $df = 17$) and immaculata morph (40.66%)
247 ($P = 0.0140$, $t = 2.780$, $df = 15$) (Supplementary Table 11, Extended Data Fig. 6).

248

249 **Discussion**

250 Recombination is widely regarded as one of the most important processes generating phenotypic
251 diversity as it produces novel allelic combinations upon which selection can act⁵⁰. The loss of
252 recombination is classically assumed to result in reduced genetic diversity through sweeps and

253 background selection^{1,23,51-58} and have only limited potential for adaptive evolution. The power of these
254 processes to deplete non-recombining regions of diversity is clearly evident in the Y chromosomes of
255 many species¹.

256 Our results, based on both similarity of Y degeneration (Extended Data Fig. 1) and shared Y-mers,
257 together with the recent reports of complete dosage compensation in both *P. parae*⁵⁹ and *P. picta*²⁵, are
258 consistent with recombination suppression between the X and Y chromosome in the common ancestor of
259 *P. parae* and *P. picta* (14.8-18.5 mya²⁹) and a highly degenerate Y present at the origin of *P. parae*.
260 Importantly, none of the characteristics that differentiate the immaculata, parae or three melanzona
261 morphs of *P. parae* are found in any close relatives. Therefore, although it is possible that the morphs
262 evolved in an ancestor and were subsequently lost in all lineages except *P. parae*, the more parsimonious
263 explanation is that the genetic basis of the extreme diversity in morphs evolved on a non-recombining,
264 highly degenerate *P. parae* Y chromosome (Extended Data Fig. 1). Given that these morphs differ in a
265 suite of complex traits, including body size, testis size, color pattern, and mating strategy, *P. parae* morph
266 diversity is likely underpinned by either polygenic genetic architectures directly on the Y, or novel genetic
267 elements on the Y that regulate larger regions of the genome, as observed in *Drosophila*⁶⁰. Consistent
268 with complex phenotypic differences between morphs, we identified substantial morph-specific genetic
269 material (Figures 2-4) that was also absent in females and therefore Y-linked.

270 Although male-specific regions of the genome may experience elevated mutation rates⁶¹, it is also likely
271 that the high *P. parae* Y diversity was generated through translocations and/or accumulation of
272 interspersed repeats (eg. transposable element (TE) movement). Translocations have been shown to
273 increase Y-chromosome content^{2,62}. In contrast, although TE movement has historically been considered
274 to be a deleterious process, more recent reports have revealed that TEs can alter regions by removing or
275 adding regulatory or coding sequence^{44,63-66}, and TEs may even act as substrate for novel genes⁶⁷. As
276 predicted for non-recombining regions, we found a large number of TEs in the five *P. parae* Y
277 chromosomes. In all morphs we found substantially more of the Y chromosomes were composed of
278 interspersed repeats compared to the autosomes and X chromosome. Meanwhile the percentage of Y
279 sequence composed of interspersed repeats differed between the morphs, further suggesting that TE

280 activity may have played an important role in generating the diversity and divergence of these five non-
281 recombining Y chromosomes.

282

283 ***Making and Maintaining Five Morphs***

284 We found substantial morph specific genetic diversity on the Y chromosome of *P. parae*. Intriguingly, that
285 diversity is maintained within populations, as evidenced by the stability in morph frequencies over
286 repeated surveys spanning 50 years, or roughly 150 generations^{13,14,20}. Even if alternative morphs have
287 exactly equal fitness, populations are expected to eventually fix for one morph due to drift⁶⁸. Maintaining
288 alternative morphs within the same population relies on negative frequency dependent selection, thus as
289 one morph decreases in frequency its fitness increases, such as with the three male morphs of the side
290 blotched lizard⁶⁹.

291 Previous work suggests that *P. parae* morphs are also under negative frequency dependent selection¹⁴⁻¹⁷,
292 and this could facilitate the establishment and maintenance of five distinct Y chromosomes within the
293 same species. Most new mutations are expected to be lost through drift if they do not confer a high
294 enough fitness advantage over alternative alleles⁷⁰, but mutations resulting in a new morph would be at
295 the lowest frequencies and thus have the highest fitness, allowing them to rapidly stabilize in the
296 population. Alternatively, it is possible that the morphs arose in separate populations and only later came
297 into sympatry.

298

299 ***Genetic Basis of Male Reproductive Morphs***

300 Autosomal non-recombining regions have been shown to be associated with alternative reproductive
301 strategies in a range of species^{7,9,71-75}, yet the formation of the nonrecombining regions underlying
302 alternative reproductive strategies in *P. parae* differs from those previously described. For example, male
303 morphs of the white throated sparrow, which differ in pigmentation and social behavior, are the result of a
304 hybridization event which instantly brought together alternative sequence and halted recombination⁷².
305 Importantly, because none of the characteristics of the *P. parae* morphs are found in any close relatives,

306 it is unlikely that hybridization is the source of the Y chromosomes we describe. The alternative male
307 morphs in the ruff are also controlled by an autosomal supergene which is composed of two alternative
308 versions of an inverted region¹⁰. It has yet to be determined whether the diversity across these ruff
309 supergenes pre-dates the inversion or arose after recombination stopped as it did in *P. parae*. A large
310 inverted region is also associated with social morphs in many ant species, this region formed in a
311 common ancestor and has been maintained by balancing selection through repeated speciation events¹².
312 Although it is possible that the multiple male morphs in *P. parae* arose in an ancestor, this is less likely as
313 they have not been observed in any related species to date (including four species that diverged after Y
314 recombination was stopped). The novel formation of the non-recombining regions associated with *P.*
315 *parae* alternative reproductive strategies make this a powerful system for future work to explore the
316 genetic basis of male reproductive morphs.

317

318 **Conclusion**

319 The role of recombination in shaping co-adapted allele complexes has long been an enigma, given that
320 recombination is a key mechanism in generating diverse allelic combinations, yet recombination also acts
321 to break up such combinations. Our results suggest that substantial diversity can be generated without
322 the power of recombination, and the Y chromosome retains remarkable adaptive potential with regard to
323 male phenotypic evolution. Our work indicates that the five Y-linked male morphs of *P. parae* emerged
324 and diverged after recombination was halted, resulting in five unique Y chromosomes within one species.
325 Future work identifying the mechanisms by which morphs are determined by these five Y chromosomes
326 will provide much needed insight to determining which evolutionary forces have led to and shaped these
327 amazing complexes and their co-evolution with the rest of the genome, which is shared across all
328 morphs.

329

330 **Methods**

331

332 **Field Collections and DNA Isolation**

333 To ensure we accounted for natural diversity in the five Y chromosomes of *P. parae*, and because this
334 species is extremely difficult to breed in captivity, we collected all samples (N=40) from three large native
335 populations around Georgetown, Guyana in 2016 (see Supplementary Table 2 and Sandkam, et al. ¹⁸ for
336 description of populations) (Environmental Protection Agency of Guyana Permit 120616 SP: 015).
337 Individuals were rapidly sacrificed in MS-222, whole-tail tissue was dissected into EtOH and immediately
338 placed in liquid nitrogen to maintain integrity of high molecular weight DNA. Tissue samples were brought
339 back to the lab and kept at -80° C until high molecular weight DNA extraction. All samples were collected
340 in accordance with national and institutional ethical guidelines (Canadian Council on Animal Care,
341 University of British Columbia).

342 High molecular weight DNA was extracted from 25mg tail tissue of each sample following a modified
343 protocol from 10X Genomics described in Almeida *et al*²⁸. Briefly, nuclei were isolated by gently
344 homogenizing tissue with a pestle in cold Nuclei Isolation Buffer from a Nuclei PURE Prep Kit (Sigma).
345 Nuclei were pelleted and supernatant removed before being digested by incubating in 70 µl PBS, 10 µl
346 Proteinase K (Qiagen), and 70 µl Digestion buffer (20mM EDTA, 2mM Tris-HCL, 10mM N-
347 Laurylsarcosine) for two hours at room temperature on a tube rotator. Tween 20 was added (0.1% final
348 concentration) and DNA was bound to SPRIselect magnetic beads (Beckman Coulter) for 20 min. Beads
349 were bound to a magnetic rack and washed twice with 70% Ethanol before eluting DNA. Samples were
350 visually screened for integrity of high molecular weight DNA on an agarose gel. Of the 40 samples
351 extracted, 29 passed initial screening and were used for individual 10X Chromium linked-read sequencing
352 (six female, seven red, five yellow, one blue, four immaculata, and six parae morph). The remaining 11
353 samples (five female, one red, three blue, one immaculata, and one parae morph) were individually
354 sequenced on an Illumina HiSeqX as 2 x 150 bp reads using the v2.5 sequencing chemistry with 300bp
355 inserts and trimmed with trimmomatic (v0.36)⁷⁶. To ensure high coverage of the Y, all 40 samples were
356 individually sequenced to a predicted coverage of 40X (see Supplementary Table 2 for number of reads
357 after filtering), which would result in predicted 20X coverage of the haploid Y.

358

359 **10X Chromium Linked-read Sequencing and Assembly**

360 10X Chromium linked-read sequencing was performed at the SciLifeLab, Uppsala Sweden. The 10X
361 Chromium pipeline adds unique tags to each piece of high molecular weight DNA before sequencing on
362 an Illumina platform. These tagged reads were either used directly in the 10X assembly pipeline, or tags
363 were removed using the *basic* function of Longranger v.2.2.2 (10X Genomics), trimmed with trimmomatic
364 (v0.36)⁷⁶ and treated as normal Illumina reads⁷⁷ for coverage analyses (Supplementary Table 2).

365 Scaffold level *de novo* genomes were assembled for each of the 29 linked-read samples using the
366 Supernova v2.1.1 software package (10X Genomics) (see Supplementary Table 3 for assembly
367 statistics).

368 A female chromosome level assembly was created by assigning scaffolds to chromosomal positions. The
369 female with the best *de novo* assembly (largest assembly size and scaffold N50) was used for the
370 Reference Assisted Chromosome Assembly (RACA) pipeline³⁶. Briefly, scaffolds were aligned with
371 LASTZ v1.04⁷⁸ against high-quality chromosome level genome assemblies of a close relative
372 (*Xiphophorus helleri* v4.0; GenBank accession GCA_003331165) and an outgroup (*Oryzias latipes* v1;
373 GenBank accession GCA_002234675). Alignments were then run through the UCSC chains and nets
374 pipeline from the kentUtils software suite⁷⁹ before passing to the RACA pipeline. RACA uses alignments
375 of short-insert and long-insert paired reads that bridge scaffolds to further order and confirm scaffold
376 arrangement. For short-insert data, 150bp reads from the five females sequenced with paired-end
377 Illumina (300bp inserts) were aligned to the target assembly with Bowtie2 v2.2.9⁸⁰ reporting concordant
378 mappings only (--no-discordant option). For long-insert data, synthetic 150bp 'pseudo-mate-pair' reads
379 were generated from the *de novo* scaffolds of the 6 female *P. parae* samples sequenced with Chromium
380 linked-reads. To increase the likelihood that bridge reads spanned scaffolds, we generated two long-
381 insert pseudo-mate-pair libraries for each of the six *de novo* female genomes, a 2.3kb insert library and a
382 15kb insert library, and aligned these to the target assembly. RACA then used the information from both
383 the phylogenetically weighted genome pairwise alignments, and the read mapping data to order the target
384 scaffolds into longer predicted chromosome fragments.

385 To identify which chromosome is the sex chromosome and determine the extent of X-Y divergence, we
386 mapped reads from all 40 individuals to the female scaffolds that had RACA generated chromosome
387 annotations using the *aln* function of *bwa* (v0.6.1)⁸¹. Alignments were filtered for uniquely mapped reads
388 and average scaffold coverage was calculated using *soap.coverage* v2.7.7
389 (<http://soap.genomics.org.cn/>). To account for differences across individuals in sequencing library size,
390 we divided the coverage of each scaffold by the average coverage across all scaffolds for each individual.
391 Male to female (M:F) fold change in coverage of each scaffold was calculated for all males, and each of
392 the five morphs as $\log_2(\text{average male coverage}) - \log_2(\text{average female coverage})$ ⁸². Upon observing
393 chromosome 8 was the sex chromosome, we calculated the 95% CI for M:F coverage by bootstrapping
394 across all scaffolds which RACA placed on the autosomes (1000 replicates; mean of 20 scaffolds without
395 replacement).

396

397 ***Identifying Morph specific sequence by k-mers***

398 To locate morph specific sequence, we identified morph specific *k*-mers (morph-mers) and then mapped
399 these to the respective *de novo* genome assemblies. First Jellyfish v2.2.3⁸¹ was used to identify all 31bp
400 *k*-mers from the 'megabubble' output of each of the 22 male *de novo* genome assemblies from
401 supernova. We next identified the putative Y-linked *k*-mers in each sample by removing all *k*-mers present
402 in any of the females. For female *k*-mer identification we conservatively took *k*-mers from both the
403 megabubble outputs and the raw Illumina reads of all 11 female individuals, which we used to identify
404 every 31bp *k*-mer present >3 times (this maximized the chance of including *k*-mers from unassembled
405 regions of female genomes but minimized *k*-mers from sequencing errors⁴⁰). The *k*-mers present in
406 females all occur either on autosomes or the X chromosome, therefore by removing the female *k*-mers
407 from all *k*-mers identified in males we are left with putative Y-linked *k*-mers that we call Y-mers^{25,40}. To
408 exclude *k*-mers representing autosomal SNPs unique to a single male we required Y-mers be present in
409 at least two individuals. Since all female sequence is theoretically present in males, we validated our
410 method by identifying all *k*-mers from the six female megabubbles that were not present in the male
411 Illumina reads and found how many were present in at least two female individuals.

412 We then combined all the Y-mers we found with those we previously identified in *P. picta*²⁵ and used the
413 presence of Y-mers as character states to build a phylogeny of all individuals and *P. picta*. Two runs of
414 MrBayes v3.2.2⁸³ were run for 100,000 generations with Y-mers treated akin to restriction sites (model
415 F81 with rates set to equal and default priors). The SD of the split frequencies between runs reached 0
416 indicating both runs converged on identical and robust trees.

417 Monophyletic clades were recovered for each of the major morphs (*immaculata*, *parae* and *melanzona*).
418 We then identified unique Y-mers in each clade (Y-mers present in every individual of that clade but not
419 present outside that clade). This approach provided us with all morph-mers (Y-mers present in every
420 individual of a given morph but not present in any individual of the other morphs).

421 These morph-mers reveal two insights: (1) at a gross level they provide a sense of how much Y sequence
422 is shared within versus across morphs and (2) mapping these morph-mers to the respective *de novo*
423 genomes allows us to identify regions of morph specific sequence^{39,40,84,85}. To find these regions of morph
424 specific sequence we first mapped the corresponding set of 31bp morph-mers to each of the 22 *de novo*
425 male genomes (pseudohap style of Supernova output) using bowtie2⁸⁰ allowing for no mismatches, gaps,
426 or trimming. We found morph-mers disproportionately map to scaffolds, indicating they came from regions
427 of highly diverged morph-specific sequence rather than evenly dispersed lowly diverged sequence
428 (Extended Data Fig. 3 and 4).

429 To verify our pipeline was identifying true Y-specific alignments we attempted to align the Y-mers and all
430 of the morph-mers to each of the six female *de novo* genome assemblies using bowtie2⁸⁰ (see above)
431 and found no alignments could be made. We next verified that our morph-mers were targeting morph
432 specific sequence by attempting to align each of the morph-mer datasets to individuals of the opposite
433 morphs and again found no alignments could be made.

434

435 **Coverage analysis**

436 To independently verify that the scaffolds identified by our *k*-mer approach contained highly diverged
437 sequence, we aligned each of the 39 individuals to the individual with the best *de novo* genome of each
438 morph (based on assembly size, scaffold N50, and contig N50, Supplementary Table 3). Alignments were

439 generated with the *mem* function of *bwa* (v0.7.17)⁸¹. *samtools* (v1.10)⁸⁶ was used to remove unmapped
440 reads and secondary alignments with the *fixmate* function, and duplicates were removed with *markdup*.
441 *bamqc* was then used to assess distribution of map quality. For each individual, the average coverage of
442 each scaffold by reads with mapq ≥ 60 was determined using the *depth* function of *samtools* (v1.10)⁸⁶. Y
443 chromosomes are notorious for high incidence of transposable elements and repeats¹, this highly
444 conservative filtering decreased false alignments to these regions. To account for differences across
445 individuals in sequencing library size, we took the coverage of each scaffold divided by that individual's
446 coverage across all scaffolds. The average raw scaffold coverage across all individuals was 29.97X,
447 therefore any scaffold with a corrected coverage < 0.025 (raw coverage $< 1X$) was considered to have a
448 coverage of 0.

449

450 **Gene Annotation**

451 To identify genes on morph specific scaffolds we followed the pipeline described in Almeida *et al*²⁸.
452 Briefly, we took a very conservative approach by annotating only the scaffolds with >5 morph-mers from
453 each of the *de novo* references used for the coverage analysis (one of each morph). The chance of a
454 scaffold containing any particular 31bp *k*-mer depends on the length of the scaffold and can be calculated
455 roughly as $0.25^{31} \times$ scaffold length. The longest male scaffold we recovered was 19,887,348 and
456 therefore had the greatest chance of containing any given Y-mer; 4.31×10^{-12} . The most abundant morph-
457 mers were melanzona-mers (87,629), therefore the likelihood of the largest scaffold containing one
458 melanzona-mer by chance was $4.31 \times 10^{-12} \times 87,629 = 3.78 \times 10^{-7}$ and the likelihood it contains 5
459 melanzona-mers purely by chance was roughly 7.71×10^{-33} . If we conservatively assume that all scaffolds
460 have the same probability of containing a Y-mer by chance and the male with the most scaffolds had
461 25,416 scaffolds – there was a likelihood of 1.96×10^{-28} that a scaffold was incorrectly identified.

462 We then annotated these scaffolds with MAKER v2.31.10⁸⁷. We ran the MAKER pipeline twice: first
463 based on a guppy-specific repeat library, protein sequence, EST and RNA sequence data (later used to
464 train *ab-initio* software) and a second time combining evidence data from the first run and *ab-initio*
465 predictions. We created a repeat library for these scaffolds using *de novo* repeats identified by

466 RepeatModeler v1.0.10⁸⁸ which we then combined with Actinopterygii-specific repeats to use with
467 RepeatMasker v4.0.7⁸⁹. Annotated protein sequences were downloaded from Ensembl (release 95)⁹⁰ for
468 8 fish species: *Danio rerio* (GRCz11), *Gasterosteus aculeatus* (BROADS1), *Oryzias latipes*
469 (ASM223467v1), *Poecilia latipinna* (1.0), *Poecilia mexicana* (1.0), *Poecilia reticulata* (1.0), *Takifugu*
470 *rubripes* (FUGU5) and *Xiphophorus maculatus* (5.0). For ESTs, we used 10,664 tags isolated from guppy
471 embryos and male testis⁹¹. Furthermore, to support gene predictions we also used two publicly available
472 libraries of RNA-seq data collected from guppy male testis and male embryos⁹² and assembled with
473 StringTie 1.3.3b⁹³. As basis for the construction of gene models, we combined *ab-initio* predictions from
474 Augustus v3.2.3⁹⁴, trained via BUSCO v3.0.2⁹⁵, and SNAP v2006-07-28⁹⁶. To train Augustus and SNAP,
475 we ran the MAKER pipeline a first time to create a profile using the protein and EST evidence along with
476 RNA-seq data. Both Augustus and SNAP were then trained from this initial evidence-based annotation.
477 Functional inference for genes and transcripts was performed using the translated CDS features of each
478 coding transcript. Gene names and protein functions were retrieved using BLASTp to search the
479 Uniprot/Swissprot, InterProscan v5 and GenBank databases.

480

481 ***Identifying Transposable Element Activity***

482 To compare activity of transposable elements in morph-linked Y scaffolds to the rest of the genome
483 (autosomes and the X chromosome) we identified the proportion of sequence comprised of interspersed
484 repeats. Sequences identified as interspersed repeats are both current transposable elements and the
485 flanking sequence that is left behind when transposable elements leave a region, and thus act as a
486 measure of transposable element activity within a region⁴⁸. To build a repeat library for all *P. parae*
487 repeats we first used RepeatModeler v1.0.10 to create repeat libraries from the best female *de novo*
488 genome, and from the morph-linked scaffolds (scaffolds with >5 morph-mers) from each male. We then
489 combined individual *de novo* repeat libraries with the Actinopterygii-specific repeats to create the full *P.*
490 *parae* repeat library. This combined repeat library was used to identify interspersed repeats in the *de*
491 *novu* genome from each female and the morph-linked scaffolds of each male using RepeatMasker v4.0.7.
492 The percentage of total interspersed repeats was compared with a one-way ANOVA in Prism v.9.0.0

493 which revealed significant differences ($P < 0.0001$, $F(3,25) = 17.98$). Unpaired t-test were then used to
494 follow up the significant main effect.

495

496 ***Confirming diversity is unique to Y chromosome***

497 To further confirm the extreme divergence across morphs is unique to the Y chromosome (and not cryptic
498 subpopulations) we built phylogenies of each of the autosomes. To do this we aligned reads from each
499 individual to the female scaffolds that had RACA generated chromosome annotations using the *mem*
500 function of *bwa* (v0.6.1)⁸¹. Duplicates were marked with *samtools* (v1.10)⁸⁶. Variants were called using the
501 *call* function of *bcftools* (v1.11) before generating consensus sequences of the longest scaffold from each
502 autosome using the consensus function of *bcftools* with the -l flag (providing IUPAC ambiguity codes for
503 polymorphic sites). For each autosome, the sequence from all 40 individuals were aligned using the
504 MAFFT⁹⁷ plugin for Geneious Prime with default parameters. Approximate-maximum-likelihood trees
505 were generated using FastTree (v2.1.12)⁹⁸ plugin for Geneious with default parameters (Extended Data
506 Fig. 7).

507

508 **Data Availability**

509 All of the data generated for this study are archived in the Sequence Read Archive (under BioProject ID
510 _) at the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra).

511 **Code Availability**

512 All scripts and pipelines are available at https://github.com/manklab/Poecilia_parae_Y_Diversity

513

514 **References**

515

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763

764 **Author Contributions**

765 B.A.S. and J.E.M. designed research; B.A.S., J.E.M, F.B., G.R.B. conducted field work; B.A.S., P.A., I.A.,
766 B.L.S.F., W.v.d.B., and J.M. conducted bioinformatic analyses; B.A.S., P.A., I.A., B.L.S.F., W.v.d.B., J.M.,
767 G.R.B., F.B. and J.E.M. wrote the paper.

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769 **Competing Interests**

770 The authors declare no competing interests.

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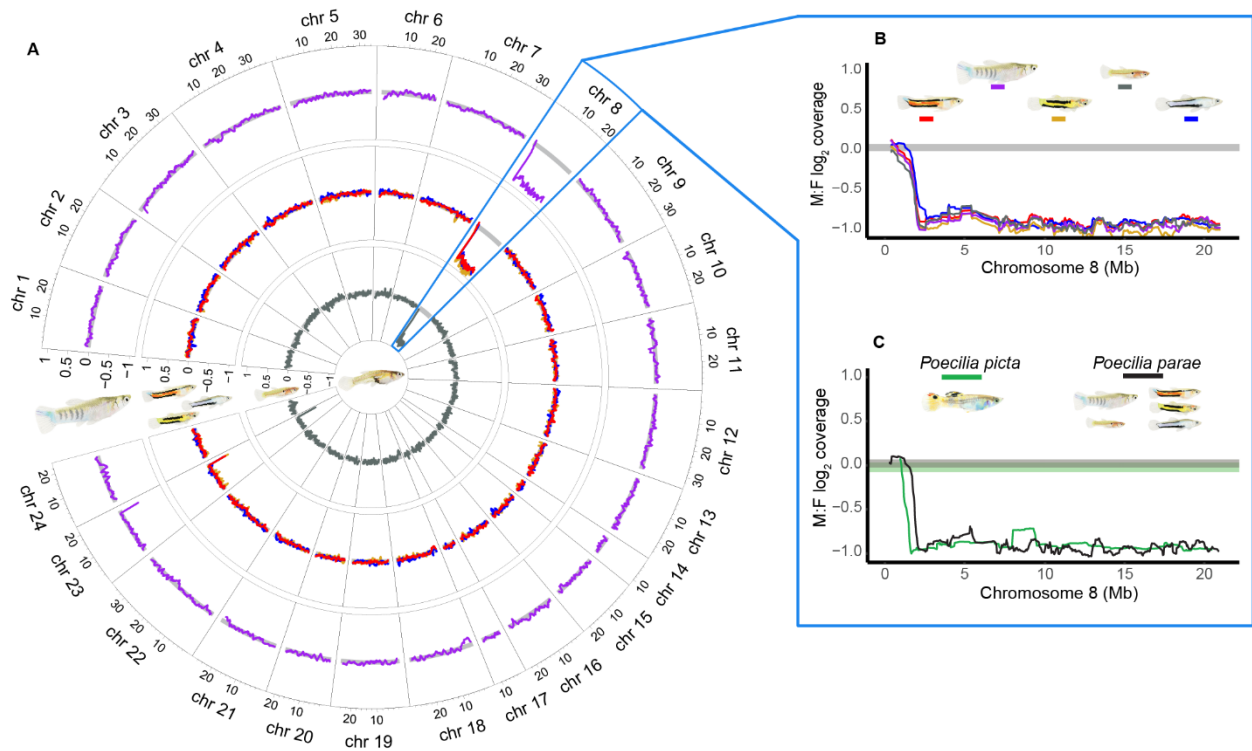
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793 **Figure 1.** Coverage differences between the sexes (male:female \log_2) for female scaffolds placed by
 794 RACA on the reference *Xiphophorus hellerii* chromosomes. (A) Average immaculata (inner ring), the
 795 three melanzona (middle ring) and parae morphs (outer ring) plotted across all chromosomes. Highlighted
 796 in blue is *X. hellerii* chromosome 8 which is syntenic to the guppy sex chromosome (*P. reticulata*
 797 chromosome 12). The decreased male coverage of chromosome 8 indicates this is also the sex
 798 chromosome in *P. parae*. (B) All five *P. parae* morphs share the same pattern of XY divergence,
 799 indicating a shared history of recombination suppression. (C) Pattern of *P. parae* XY divergence is the
 800 same as the sister species *P. picta*, indicating recombination was stopped in the common ancestor of *P.*
 801 *parae* and *P. picta* (14.8-18.5 mya²⁹). In each, horizontal grey-shaded areas represent the 95%
 802 confidence intervals based on bootstrap estimates across the autosomes.

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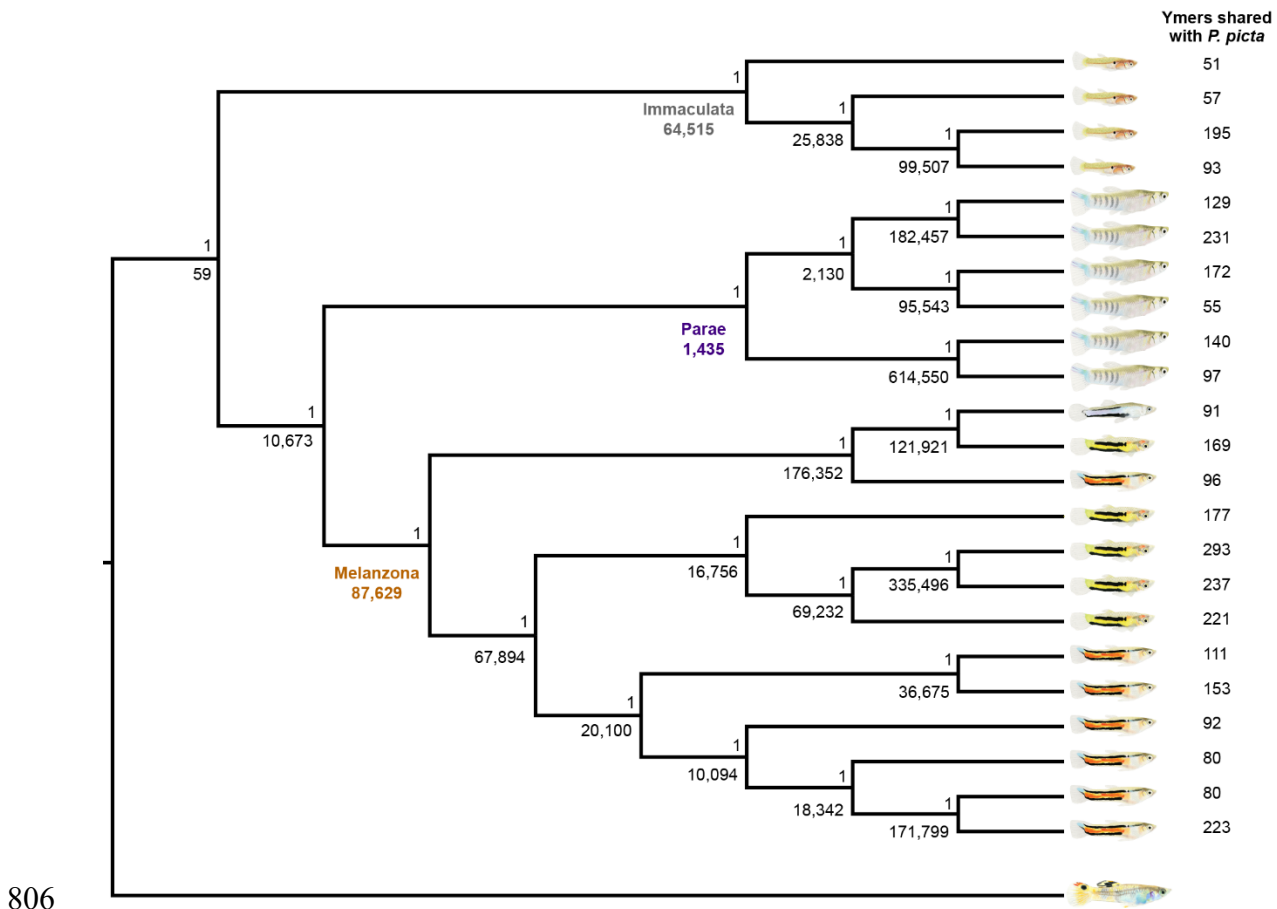
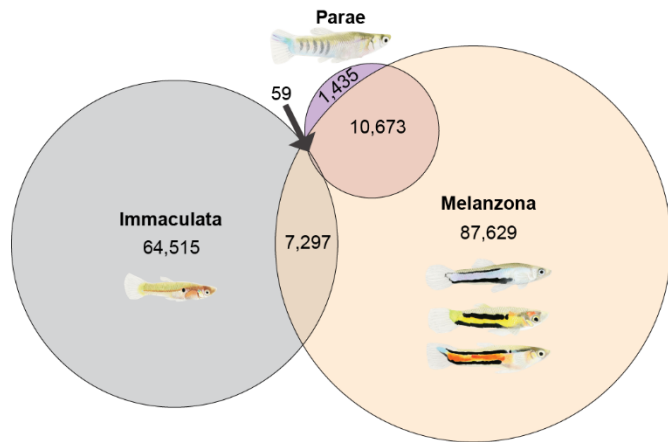


Figure 2. Bayesian Y chromosome phylogeny based on presence/absence of the 27,950,090 *P. parae* Y-mers and 1,646 *P. picta* Y-mers²⁵ in each individual and rooted on *P. picta*. The posterior probability is presented above each node, below the node is the number of *P. parae* Y-mers unique to all members of that clade. The three major morphs of *P. parae* (immaculata, parae and melanzona) formed distinct clades and the Y-mers unique to all members of these clades are called morph-mers.



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820 **Figure 3.** The distribution of the 27,950,090 *P. parae* Y-mers reveals strong differences across morphs.

821 While there are very few Y-mers present in all morphs, each morph harbors unique Y-mers. The

822 melanzona and parae morphs share more Y-mers with one another than either share with immaculata.

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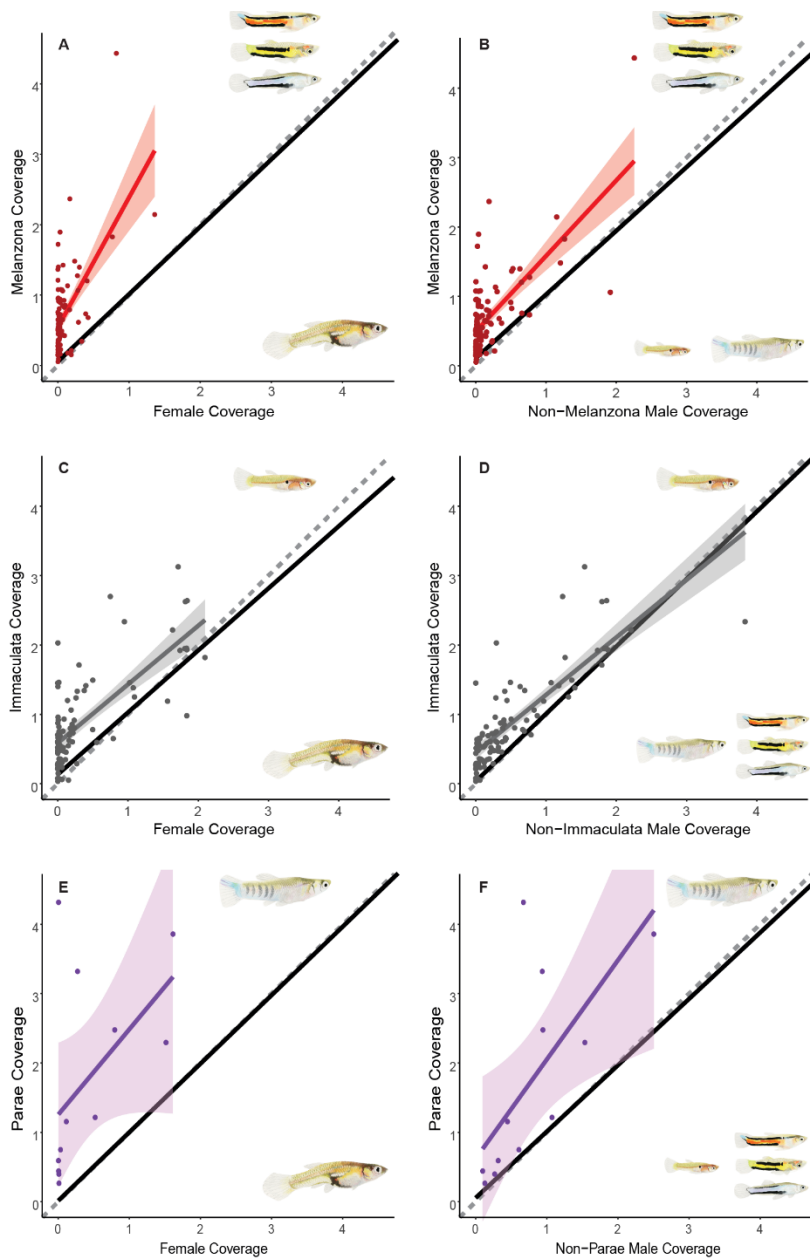
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837 **Figure 4.** Relative corrected scaffold coverage of 39 individuals when aligned to melanzona (A-B),
 838 immaculata (C-D), and parae (E-F) *de novo* genomes. Scaffolds containing morph-mers (colored) had
 839 higher coverage by males than females (A,C,E) confirming these scaffolds contain male specific
 840 sequence. Scaffolds containing morph-mers also had higher coverage by males of the reference morph
 841 than males of the other morphs (B,D,F), indicating the Y chromosome sequence is substantially diverged
 842 across morphs. In each, corrected scaffold coverage of focal morph is on the Y axis and corrected
 843 scaffold coverage of the compared morph is on the X axis. The 1:1 line is denoted as a grey dashed line.

844 The linear regression and standard error across all scaffolds are shown as a thick black line that is nearly
845 1:1 for all morphs (note – 95% confidence interval is presented but too small to distinguish from the
846 regression line). The scaffolds containing morph-mers are shown as colored points, the linear regression
847 and standard error of morph-mer scaffolds are shown as a colored line and shaded region respectively.

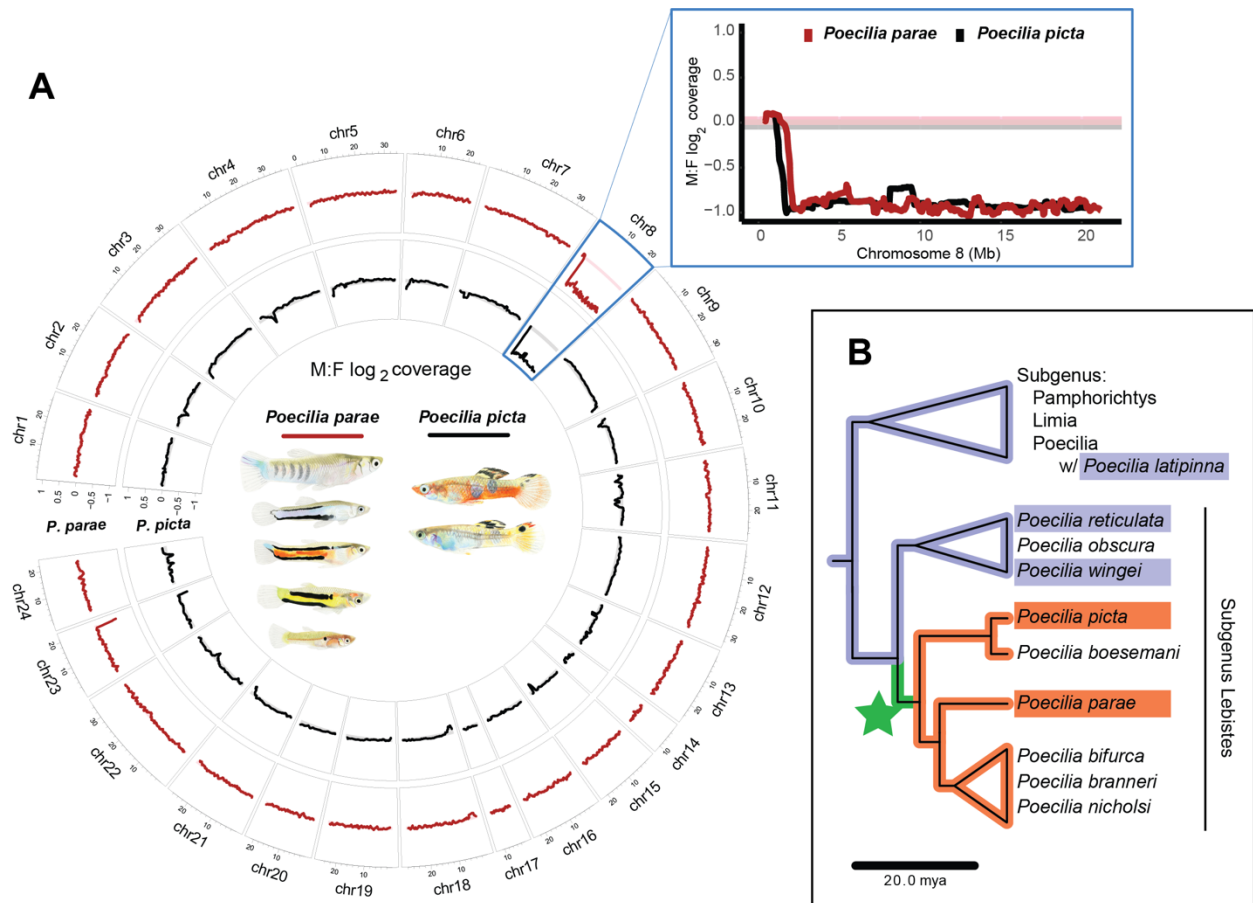
Supplementary Information for

Extreme Y chromosome polymorphism corresponds to five extreme male reproductive morphs of a freshwater fish

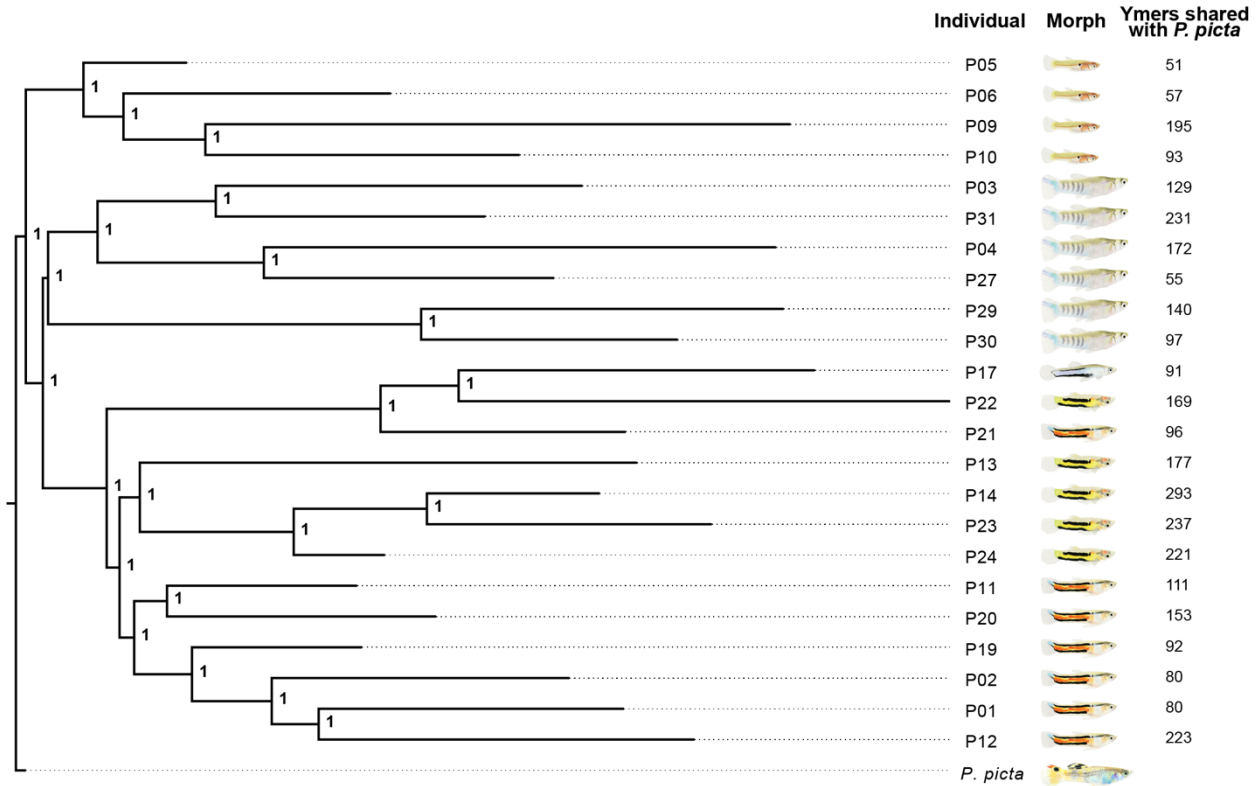
Benjamin A Sandkam*, Pedro Almeida, Iulia Darolti, Benjamin Furman, Wouter van der Bijl, Jake Morris, Godfrey Bourne, Felix Breden, Judith E. Mank

*Benjamin A Sandkam

Email: sandkam@zoology.ubc.ca



Extended Data Fig. 1 Divergence between X and Y in *Poecilia parae* and the sister species *Poecilia picta* indicate recombination was stopped before the five morphs controlled by the Y chromosome evolved in *Poecilia parae*. (A) M:F \log_2 coverage of RACA anchored scaffolds for all five morphs of *P. parae* (red) and the close relative *P. picta* (black)²⁵. Lines represent sliding window of 15 scaffolds. Shaded bars represent the 95% confidence interval based on bootstrapping coverage across the autosomes for *P. parae* (pink) and *P. picta* (grey). (B) Phylogeny from The Fish Tree of Life²⁹. Orange indicate species for which chr 8 is known to be the Y and is highly diverged from the X. Blue indicates species for which chr 8 is known to be not degraded²⁵. Green star denotes the branch on which X-Y recombination was arrested and the Y chromosome diverged. None of the male morphs of *P. parae* are found in other species, making the most parsimonious explanation that all five morphs arose after recombination stopped.

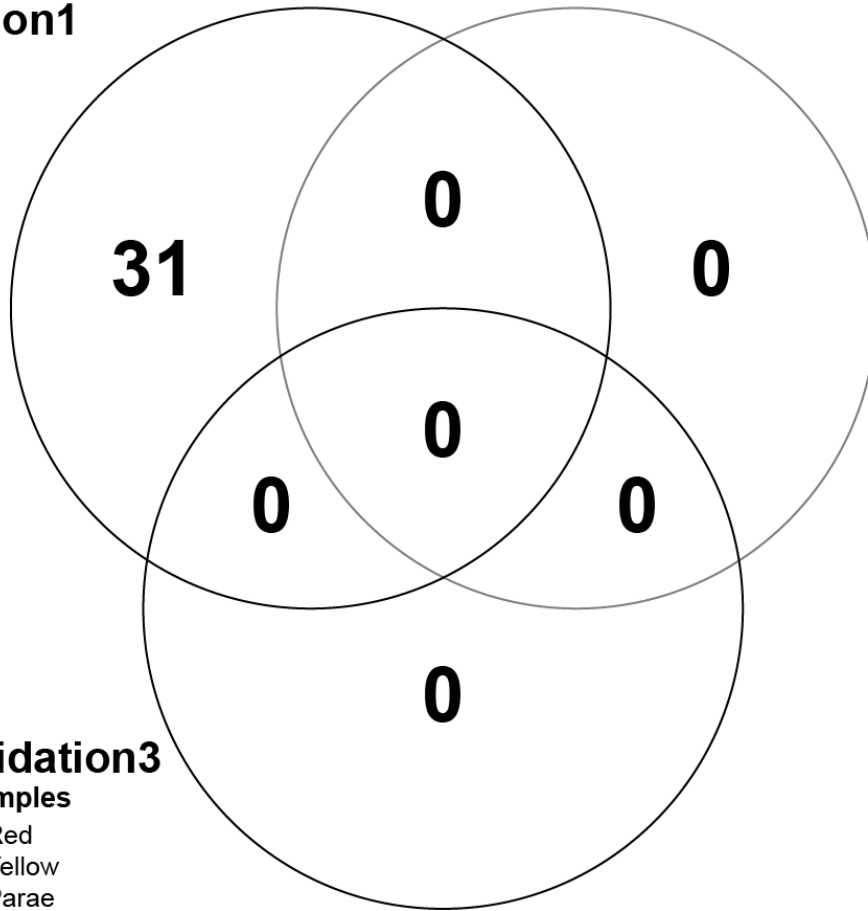


Extended Data Fig. 2 Bayesian phylogeny built on presence/absence of the 27,950,090 *P. parae* Y-mers and the 646,754 *P. picta* Y-mers in each individual and rooted on *P. picta* (as in Figure 2). The posterior probability is presented at each node. The number of Y-mers each individual shares with *P. picta* Y-mers is denoted to the right. *P. picta* Y-mers are distributed across all morphs indicating that they have been segregating on non-recombining regions of the Y chromosome since recombination was stopped in the common ancestor of *P. parae* and *P. picta*.

Validation1

4 Samples

1 Red
1 Yellow
1 Parae
1 Immac.



Validation2

5 Samples

1 Red
1 Yellow
1 Parae
1 Immac.
1 Blue

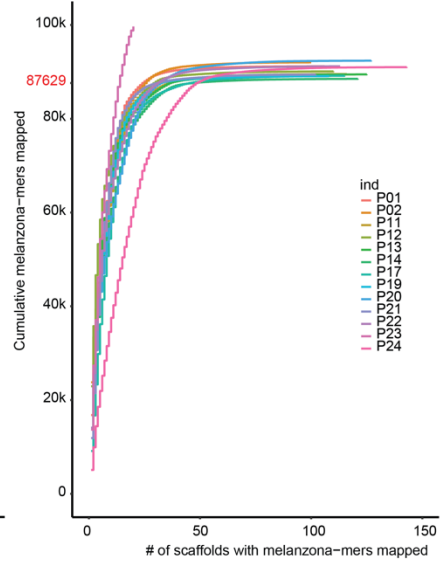
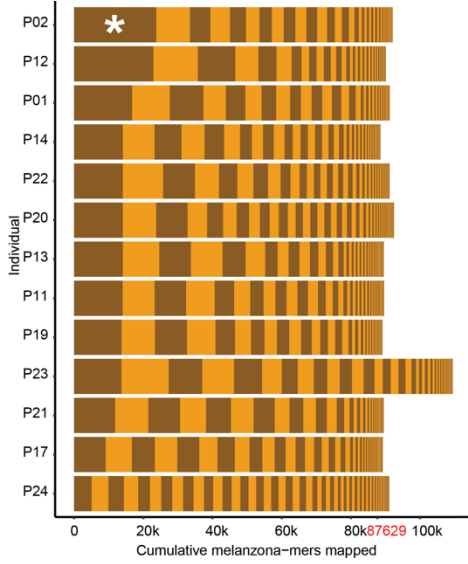
Validation3

9 Samples

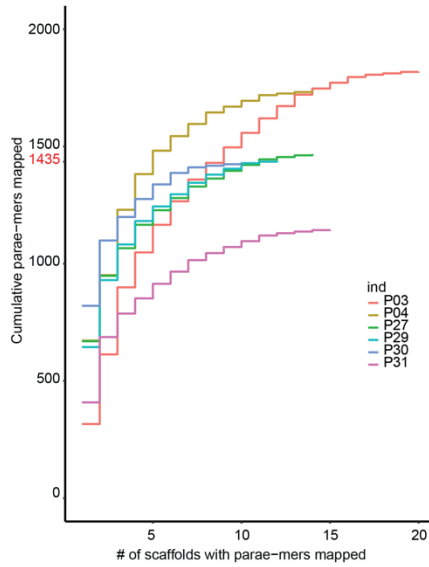
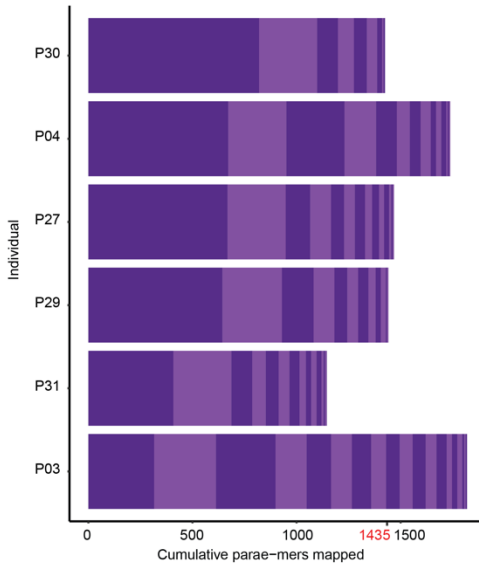
2 Red
2 Yellow
2 Parae
2 Immac.
1 Blue

Extended Data Fig. 3 Validation of morph-mer identification pipeline using random sets of individuals from each of the different morphs. Different samples were used for each set except for blue where the 1 sample was used in validation set 2 and validation set 3. There were a low number of Y-mers unique to sets of four random individuals and zero Y-mers unique to sets with more than four individuals. This demonstrates the false positive rate of our morph-mer analysis was quite low because all major morphs had at least four individuals.

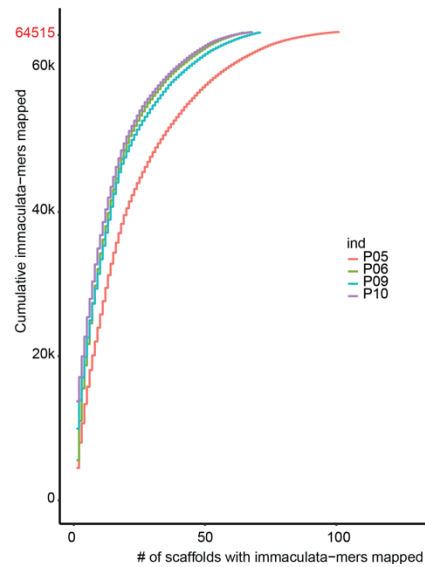
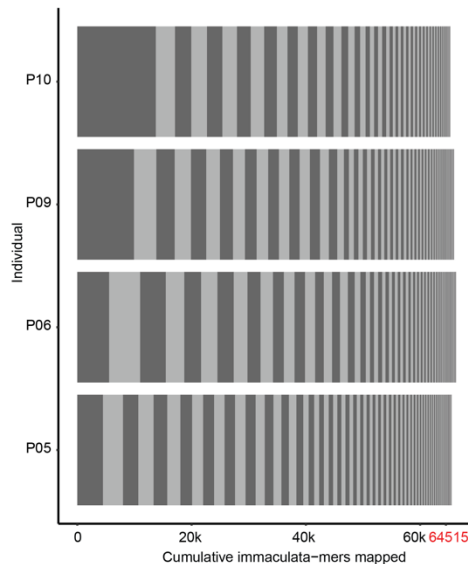
Melanzona-mers



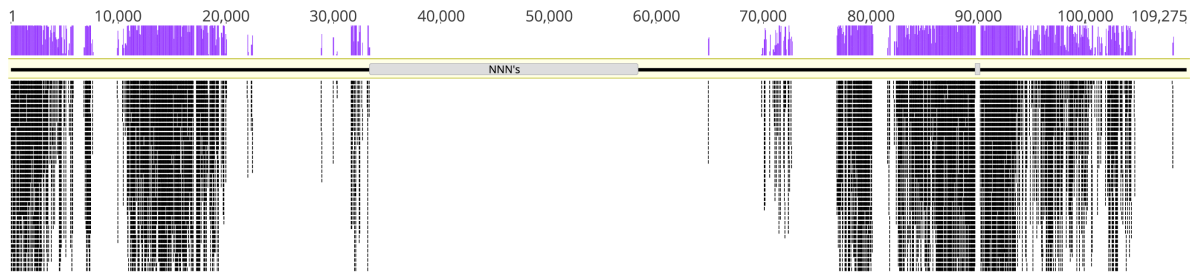
Parae-mers



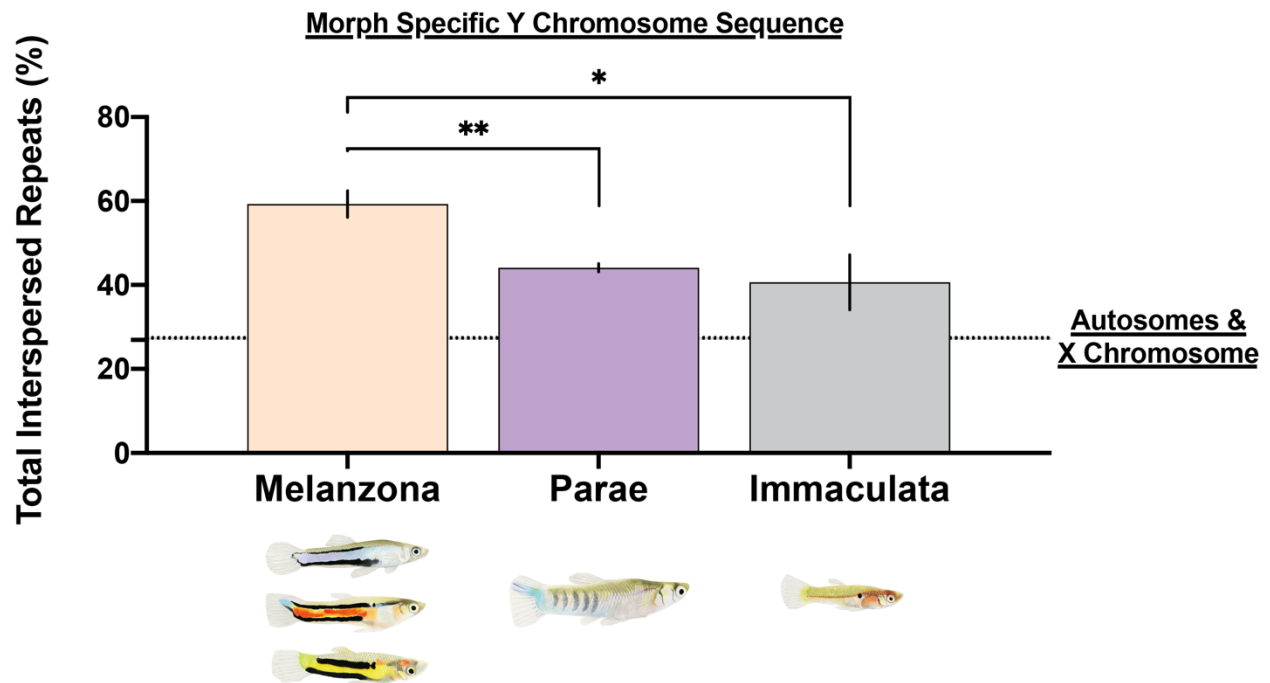
Immaculata-mers



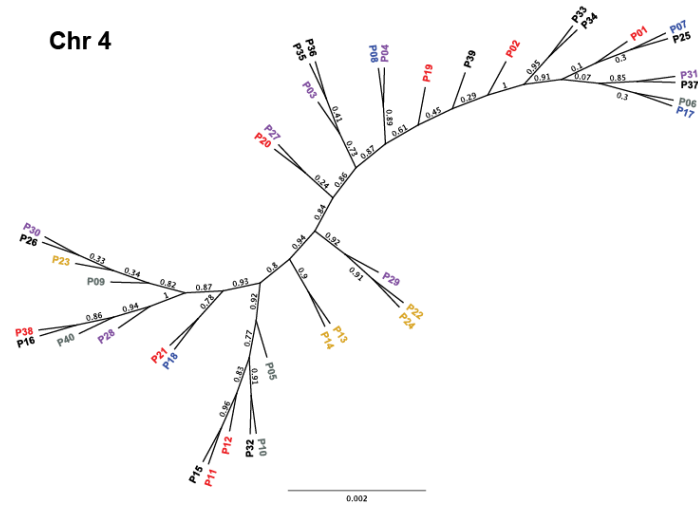
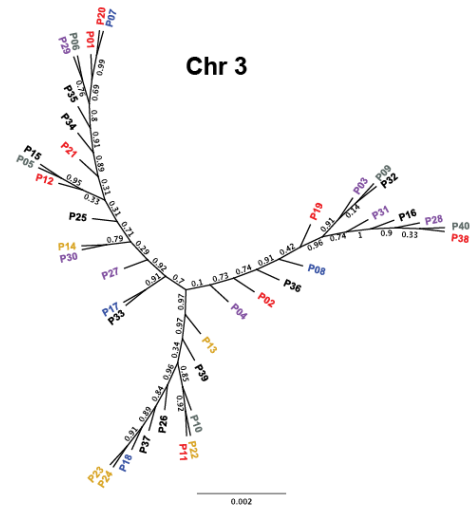
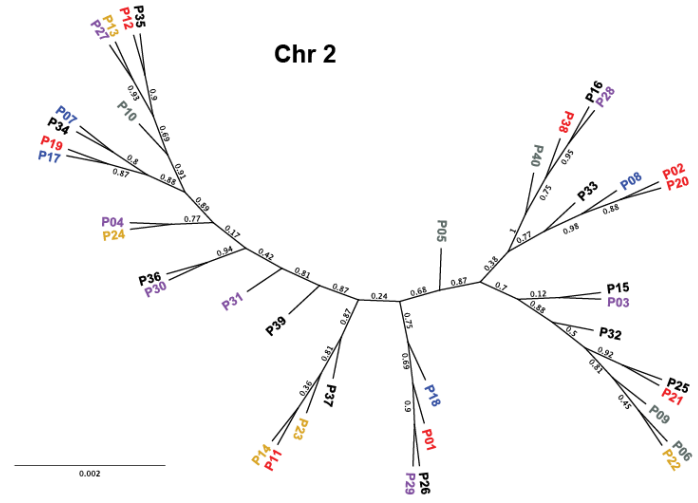
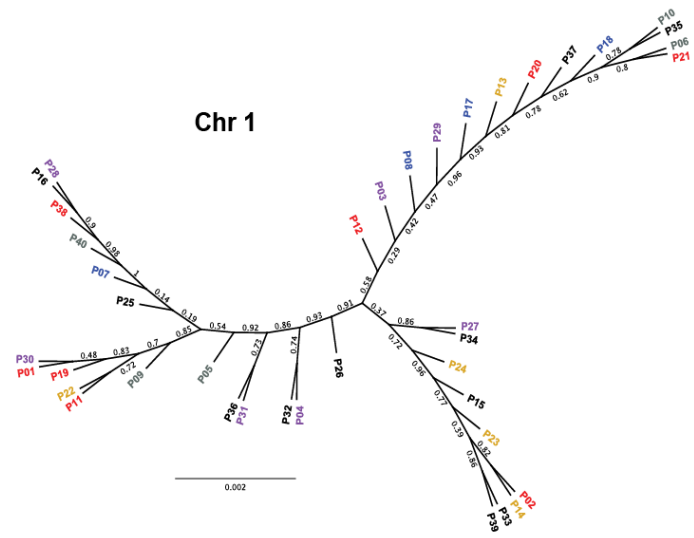
Extended Data Fig. 4 Mapping distribution for each set of morph-mers mapped to *de novo* scaffolds of males of that morph with no mismatches, gaps, or trimming. There was a low incidence of individual morph-mers mapping to more than one scaffold (0 of the 59 Y-mers were contained in more than one scaffold across all males; 0 of the 1,435 parae-mers were contained in more than one scaffold in parae males; 131 of the 87,629 melanzona-mers were contained in more than one scaffold in melanzona males; 138 of the 64,515 immaculata-mers were contained in more than one scaffold in immaculata males). Left: cumulative morph-mers mapped for each individual, each change in hue is a different scaffold. A large percentage of morph-mers generally map to just one or a few scaffolds indicating that our *k*-mer approach reveals regions of highly diverged morph specific sequence rather than single SNPs distributed throughout the genome. Right: cumulative morph-mers mapped presented as a function of the number of scaffolds. The strong deviation from 1:1 shows morph-mer mapping is non-random and further supports the morph-mers approach is identifying regions of morph specific sequence. The total number of unique morph-mers identified for that morph is indicated in red on the axis (note the variation in number of morph-mers mapped is due to some individuals having morph-mers map to multiple scaffolds). Astrix in P02 of the melanzona-mers indicates the example alignment scaffold with melanzona-mers presented in Supplementary Figure 5.



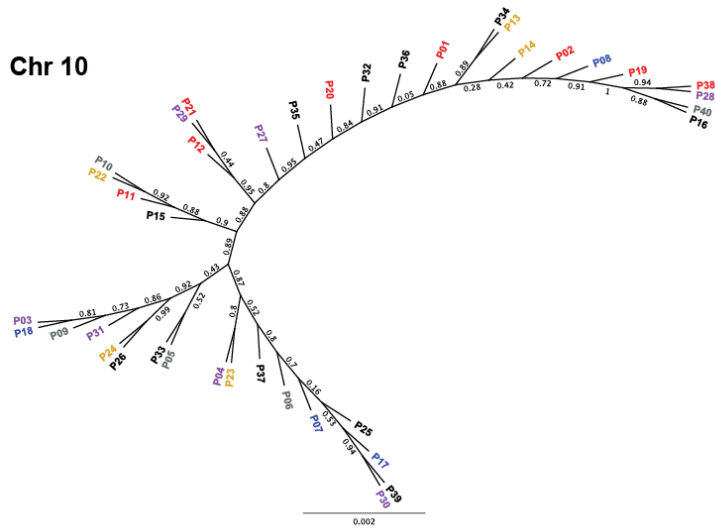
Extended Data Fig. 5 Melanzona-mers aligned to scaffold 104666 of sample P02 with no mismatches, gaps, or trimming. Each 31bp melanzona-mer is shown aligned below the reference sequence, and coverage is shown in purple above the reference sequence. Of the 87,629 unique melanzona-mers; 23,773 aligned to this scaffold. Regions of Ns are denoted on the reference genome in grey and explain a lack of melanzona-mers aligning to these regions. The strong clustering and overlapping nature of the melanzona-mers indicates sequence is highly diverged both from females and from the other morphs.



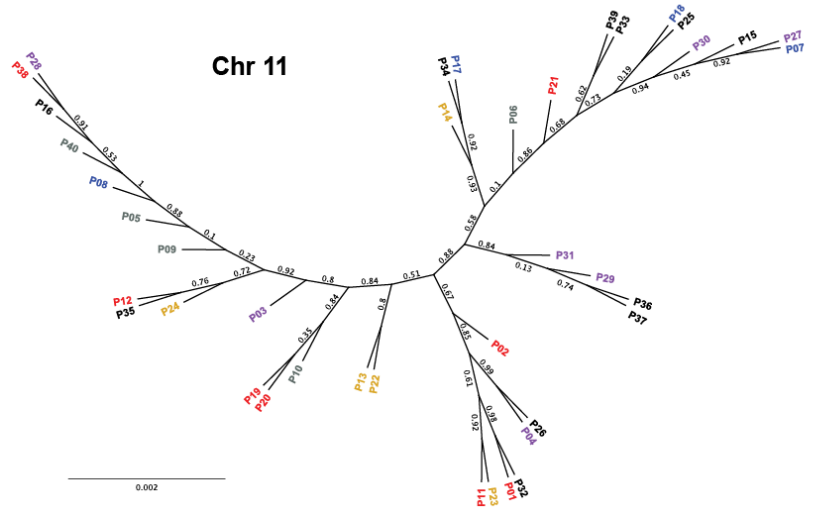
Extended Data Fig. 6 Morph specific Y chromosome sequence is composed of significantly more interspersed repeats than the autosomes and X chromosome. For males, only scaffolds containing >5 morph-specific Y-mers were evaluated, ensuring sequence is morph-specific and Y linked. To determine rates of autosomes and X chromosomes, female full *de novo* genomes were evaluated. Stars indicate significant differences between morphs (* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$).



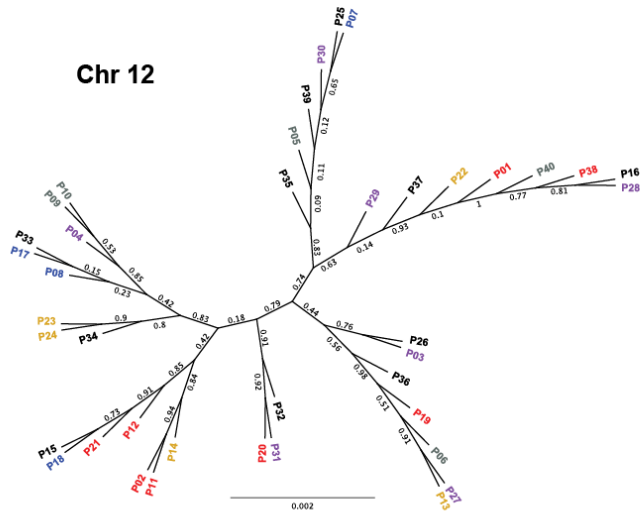
Chr 10



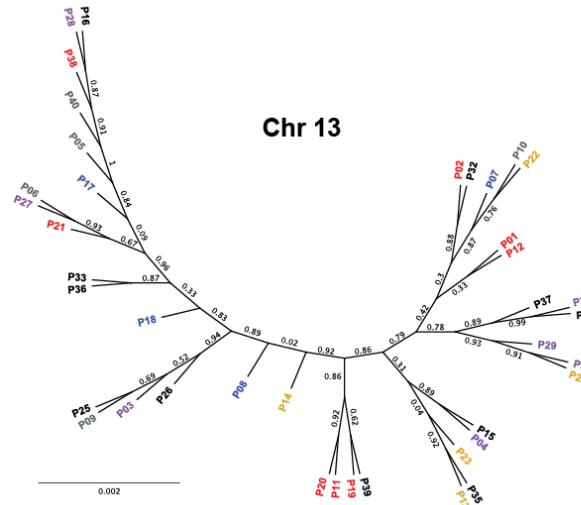
Chr 11

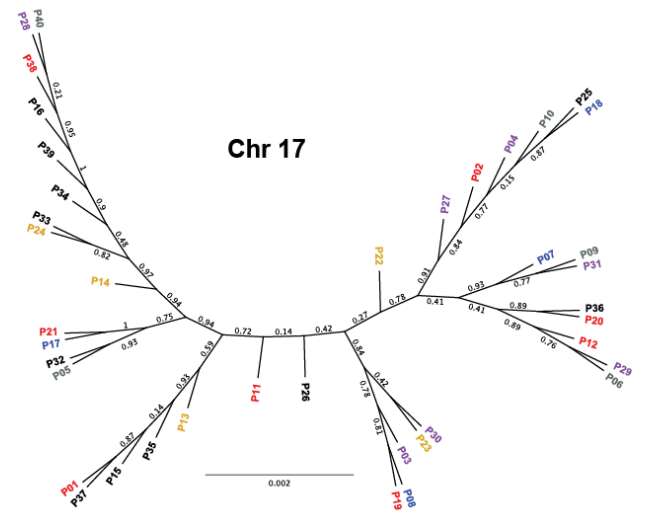
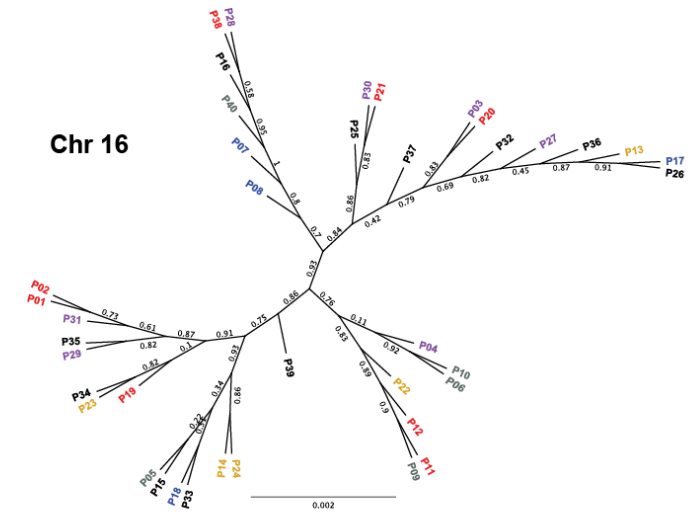
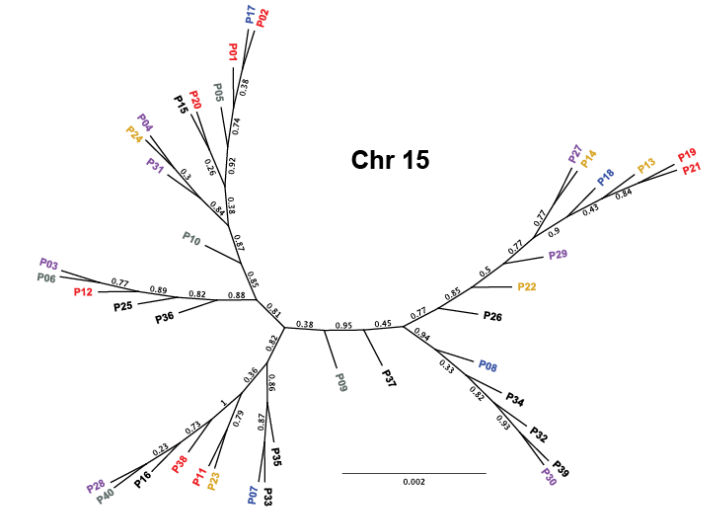
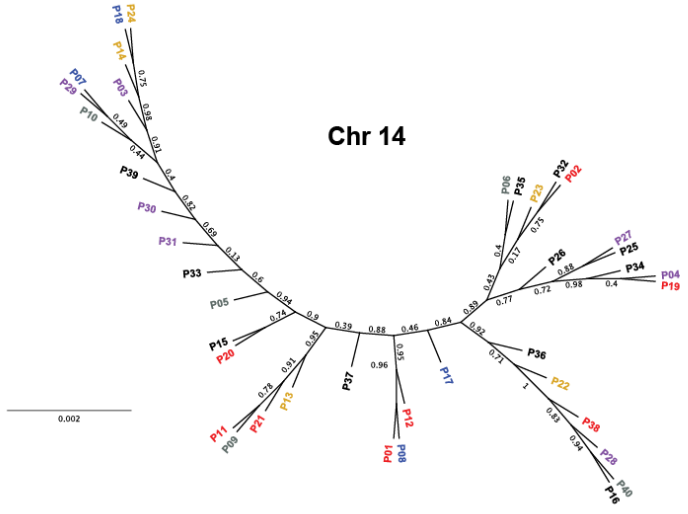


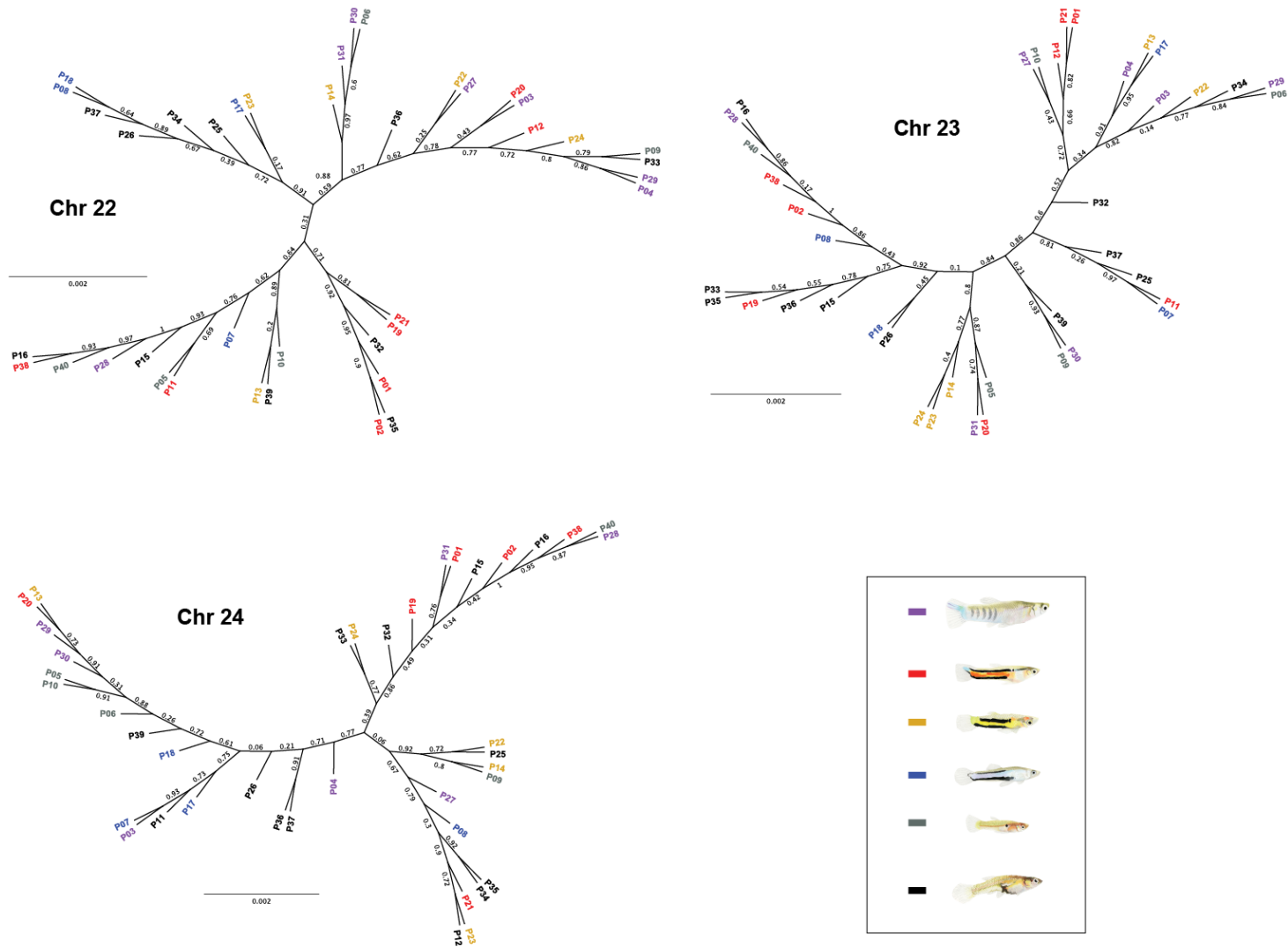
Chr 12



Chr 13












Extended Data Fig. 7 Unrooted approximately-maximum-likelihood trees (FastTree) of each of the autosomes confirm that the extreme divergence across morphs is specific to the Y chromosome, and not the result of cryptic sub-populations. Trees were built using the consensus sequence of the longest scaffold from each chromosome (as identified by RACA). Tips denote sample name, color indicates morph, and numbers on branches indicate FastTree support value.

Supplementary Table 1. Phenotypic characteristics that differ across the five male morphs of *Poecilia parae*.

| |  |  |  |  |  | Ref. |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|-------|
| <i>Physiology</i> | | | | | | |
| Body Size | Large | Small | Medium | Medium | Medium | 1 |
| Color Pattern | Vertical stripes | Resembles juvenile female | Horizontal stripes | Horizontal stripes | Horizontal stripes | 1,2,3 |
| Coloration | Silver/purple | None | Red | Yellow | Blue | 1,2,3 |
| Absolute Testis Mass | Medium (90% of immaculata) | Largest | Small (70% of immaculata) | Medium (90% of immaculata) | Small (70% of immaculata) | 1 |
| Testis/Body Mass | Intermediate | High | Low | Intermediate | Low | 1 |
| Sperm Midpiece | Long | Short | Long | Long | Long | 1 |
| Flagellum Length | Short | Long | Short | Intermediate | Short | 1 |
| Sperm per Ejaculate | Fewer | Most | Fewer | Fewer | Fewer | 1 |
| Sperm Length | Short | Long | Short | Long | Short | 1 |
| <i>Behavior</i> | | | | | | |
| Interaction w/ other males | Highly aggressive | Non-aggressive | Aggressive | Aggressive | Non-aggressive | 3 |
| Courtship Behavior | Force copulate | Sneak copulate | Display | Display | Display | 1 |

- (1) Hurtado-Gonzales and Uy. 2009. *Anim. Behav.* **77**, 1187-1194. (2) Lindholm *et al.* 2004. *Heredity* **92**, 156-162.
 (3) Hurtado-Gonzales and Uy. 2010. *BMC Evol Biol* **10**, 391. (4) Liley. 1966. *Behaviour Supplement* **13**, 1-197.

Supplementary Table 2. Sequencing method (10X Chromium linked reads or direct PE Illumina) and number of paired reads used for coverage analyses of all 40 wild caught individuals.

| Morph | Sample | Population | Sequencing | # Paired Reads |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Females | P 15 | Cemetery | 10X | 566,474,152 |
| | P 26 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 586,091,672 |
| | P 32 | Cemetery | 10X | 642,872,944 |
| | P 34 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 599,429,008 |
| | P 36 | Cemetery | 10X | 587,807,726 |
| | P 37 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 586,019,978 |
| | P 16 | Cemetery | Illumina | 755,768,880 |
| | P 25 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 861,217,302 |
| | P 33 | Cemetery | Illumina | 591,002,416 |
| | P 35 | Cemetery | Illumina | 813,848,774 |
| | P 39 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 541,464,112 |
| Immaculata Morph | P 05 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 665,696,764 |
| | P 06 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 687,641,508 |
| | P 09 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 666,405,666 |
| | P 10 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 628,472,300 |
| | P 40 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 492,568,288 |
| Parae Morph | P 03 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 636,937,278 |
| | P 04 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 673,606,290 |
| | P 27 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 682,154,596 |
| | P 29 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 697,480,156 |
| | P 30 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 598,808,486 |
| | P 31 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 634,574,988 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------|----------|-------------|
| | P 28 | Cemetery | Illumina | 799,757,386 |
| Red Melanzona Morph | P 01 | Cemetery | 10X | 605,264,908 |
| | P 02 | Cemetery | 10X | 599,899,768 |
| | P 11 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 663,454,532 |
| | P 12 | Cemetery | 10X | 679,401,488 |
| | P 19 | Cemetery | 10X | 619,323,522 |
| | P 20 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 614,834,422 |
| | P 21 | Cemetery | 10X | 564,829,682 |
| | P 38 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 789,618,098 |
| Yellow Melanzona Morph | P 13 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 632,280,752 |
| | P 14 | West Watuka | 10X | 622,311,946 |
| | P 22 | Seawall Trench | 10X | 649,735,580 |
| | P 23 | West Watuka | 10X | 674,089,582 |
| | P 24 | West Watuka | 10X | 587,826,556 |
| Blue Melanzona Morph | P 17 | Cemetery | 10X | 705,952,894 |
| | P 07 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 771,876,214 |
| | P 08 | Cemetery | Illumina | 479,310,754 |
| | P 18 | Seawall Trench | Illumina | 813,513,894 |

Supplementary Table 3. Assembly statistics for each of the 29 genomes *de novo* assembled by Supernova. Bold samples indicate those used for follow-up coverage analyses. Genome size is expected to be ~730Mb based on close relatives with known genome sizes (*Poecilia reticulata* 731Mb, *Xiphophorus helleri* 730Mb).

| Morph | Sample | Assembly Size (Mb) | Scaffold N50 (kb) | No. Scaffolds ≥ 10 kb | No. Scaffolds ≥ 1 kb | Contig N50 (kb) | Phased N50 (kb) | Coverage |
|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Red Melanzona | P01 | 663.83 | 3201.95 | 2081 | 20376 | 38.36 | 2252.96 | 53X |
| | P02 | 664.43 | 2150.00 | 2493 | 20516 | 38.78 | 1359.88 | 51X |
| | P11 | 562.45 | 44.07 | 17986 | 70941 | 23.36 | 70.98 | 52X |
| | P12 | 661.61 | 3683.18 | 2114 | 22269 | 37.97 | 2240.87 | 60X |
| | P19 | 582.84 | 47.86 | 17071 | 67134 | 23.08 | 100.55 | 48X |
| | P20 | 611.40 | 45.28 | 18734 | 63207 | 23.45 | 94.87 | 42X |
| | P21 | 665.11 | 1679.06 | 2677 | 20797 | 38.28 | 1266.47 | 51X |
| Yellow Melanzona | P13 | 654.30 | 1212.01 | 3205 | 23821 | 36.88 | 1120.80 | 53X |
| | P14 | 616.95 | 50.94 | 16711 | 58496 | 24.61 | 115.13 | 49X |
| | P22 | 665.85 | 61.08 | 15566 | 53875 | 27.00 | 137.91 | 46X |
| | P23 | 655.37 | 97.46 | 12443 | 43298 | 27.22 | 190.30 | 61X |
| | P24 | 234.10 | 17.09 | 13932 | 117930 | 13.32 | 5.82 | 45X |
| Blue Melanzona | P17 | 654.75 | 1995.50 | 2568 | 23989 | 33.84 | 1598.03 | 63X |
| Parae Morph | P03 | 655.50 | 93.43 | 12361 | 43771 | 28.68 | 165.34 | 51X |
| | P04 | 658.87 | 599.09 | 4375 | 25416 | 34.50 | 599.94 | 55X |
| | P27 | 667.40 | 274.95 | 6754 | 28937 | 30.94 | 312.62 | 59X |
| | P29 | 599.06 | 38.95 | 20291 | 68801 | 21.92 | 84.43 | 46X |
| | P30 | 341.91 | 20.87 | 17566 | 108816 | 15.66 | 40.56 | 39X |
| | P31 | 604.74 | 39.45 | 20427 | 65373 | 21.69 | 91.41 | 44X |
| Immaculata | P05 | 71.97 | 14.71 | 4740 | 138919 | 13.03 | 5.44 | 42X |
| | P06 | 623.35 | 46.83 | 18525 | 62105 | 24.07 | 105.78 | 53X |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| | P09 | 651.69 | 3308.41 | 2291 | 22613 | 35.38 | 2284.14 | 61X |
| | P10 | 650.86 | 105.21 | 11446 | 39921 | 28.88 | 183.48 | 52X |
| Female | P15 | 69.89 | 15.53 | 4441 | 140510 | 13.68 | 3.91 | 44X |
| | P26 | 96.86 | 13.50 | 6848 | 144112 | 11.90 | 6.34 | 38X |
| | P32 | 600.79 | 40.57 | 19565 | 62451 | 23.02 | 75.27 | 48X |
| | P34 | 508.35 | 34.52 | 18503 | 79658 | 20.75 | 92.35 | 37X |
| | P36 | 329.51 | 23.33 | 15804 | 103659 | 16.40 | 35.28 | 18X |
| | P37 | 382.74 | 23.43 | 18121 | 95193 | 17.16 | 41.07 | 21X |

Supplementary Table 4. Amount of sequence in scaffolds with >5 morph-mers. Bold indicates samples used for annotation.

| Morph | Sample | Number of Scaffolds | Scaffold N50 (kb) | Amount of sequence |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melanzona Morph | P01 | 77 | 20.23 | 995,370 |
| | P02 | 80 | 25.71 | 1,122,565 |
| | P11 | 85 | 14.89 | 865,095 |
| | P12 | 81 | 27.33 | 1,153,044 |
| | P13 | 92 | 66.15 | 1,610,202 |
| | P14 | 91 | 15.42 | 926,825 |
| | P17 | 104 | 3169.34 | 4,250,903 |
| | P19 | 82 | 20.11 | 990,514 |
| | P20 | 94 | 18.81 | 877,954 |
| | P21 | 80 | 25.52 | 1,070,743 |
| | P22 | 95 | 28.44 | 1,164,800 |
| | P23 | 98 | 25.18 | 1,283,990 |
| | P24 | 113 | 7.69 | 668,430 |
| Parae Morph | P03 | 19 | 17.37 | 164,531 |
| | P04 | 14 | 9.57 | 127,542 |
| | P27 | 14 | 8.17 | 84,778 |
| | P29 | 12 | 15.89 | 90,235 |
| | P30 | 9 | 24.16 | 96,497 |
| | P31 | 14 | 11.35 | 114,805 |
| Immaculata Morph | P05 | 126 | 5.53 | 521,712 |
| | P06 | 100 | 24.92 | 1,035,078 |
| | P09 | 100 | 5995.38 | 9,748,162 |
| | P10 | 81 | 155.60 | 1,388,117 |

Supplementary Table 5. Genes annotated on the scaffolds with the Y-mers that are present in every male.

| Gene Name | Copies |
|---|---------------|
| CRYBB1 | 3 |
| CRYBA4 | 1 |
| GGTA1 | 1 |
| Retrovirus-related Pol polyprotein from type-2 retrotransposable element R2DM | |
| Retrovirus-related Pol polyprotein from type-1 retrotransposable element R2 | |

Supplementary Table 6. *Melanzona morph*: Genes predicted on sample P01 (red melanzona) scaffolds containing >5 melanzona-mers and >1.5-fold melanzona male: female coverage. Scaffolds with >0.025X coverage by melanzona males but <0.025X coverage by females are considered 'Male Unique'. Scaffolds with >0.025X coverage by melanzona males but <0.025X coverage by non-melanzona males are considered 'Melanzona Unique'.

| Gene | P01 Scaffold | Melanzona:Female Coverage | Melanzona:Non-Melanzona Coverage |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TRIM35 | 111589_P01 | Male Unique | Melanzona Unique |
| Tbx3 | 113310_P01 | Male Unique | 5.08 |
| Tbx3 | 113310_P01 | Male Unique | 5.08 |
| Texim2 | 114702_P01 | Male Unique | 14.57 |
| KAT7 | 115621_P01 | Male Unique | 4.09 |
| Retrovirus-related | 111503_P01 | Male Unique | 3.15 |
| Texim3 | 111503_P01 | Male Unique | 3.15 |
| Translation initiation factor IF-2 (low E) | 112167_P01 | 15.69 | 0.55 |
| Texim2 | 103684_P01 | 13.63 | 10.75 |
| Unknown | 103684_P01 | 13.63 | 10.75 |
| Unknown | 111891_P01 | 8.69 | 4.48 |
| LINE-1 type transposase | 115646_P01 | 3.78 | 3.52 |
| Texim2 | 112537_P01 | 1.67 | 2.12 |
| Unknown | 112537_P01 | 1.67 | 2.12 |
| Amyloid-beta A4 precursor | 116260_P01 | 1.91 | 0.97 |

Supplementary Table 7. *Immaculata morph*: Genes predicted on sample P09 scaffolds containing >5 immaculata-mers and >1.5 fold immaculata male: female coverage. Scaffolds with >0.025X coverage by immaculata males but <0.025X coverage by females are considered 'Male Unique'. Scaffolds with >0.025X coverage by immaculata males but <0.025X coverage by non-immaculata males are considered 'Immaculata Unique'.

| Gene | P09 Scaffold | Immac:Female Coverage | Immac:Non-Immac Coverage |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| NLRC3 | 124510_P09 | Male Unique | Immaculata Unique |
| Trim39 | 125211_P09 | Male Unique | Immaculata Unique |
| Ty3 retrotransposon | 141715_P09 | Male Unique | 2.01 |
| MSI1 | 143420_P09 | Male Unique | 11.57 |
| Tbx3 | 143386_P09 | Male Unique | 2.40 |
| Trypsin-2 | 143386_P09 | Male Unique | 2.40 |
| R2DM retrovirus | 154564_P09 | Male Unique | 3.94 |
| Tbx3 | 140269_P09 | Male Unique | 1.62 |
| TBX3 | 87093_P09 | Male Unique | 0.94 |
| GPI-anchored protein 58 | 102953_P09 | 4.14 | 8.25 |
| NLRC3 | 139939_P09 | 4.06 | 7.46 |
| unknown | 139939_P09 | 4.06 | 7.46 |
| NLRC3 | 124079_P09 | 4.13 | 3.01 |
| Cetn3 | 137893_P09 | 1.57 | 1.15 |
| Retrovirus PABLB | 149075_P09 | 4.17 | 2.08 |
| Texim2 | 131979_P09 | 3.90 | 1.31 |
| unknown | 126759_P09 | 5.56 | 1.27 |
| unknown | 148405_P09 | 3.56 | 1.95 |

Supplementary Table 8. Scaffolds containing >5 of the 59 Y-mers present in all males contain 8,547 transposable elements in their 30,558,901bp.

| Class/family | Copies identified by repeat masker |
|---------------------|---|
| DNA | 264 |
| DNA/CMC-EnSpm | 297 |
| DNA/Crypton-V | 10 |
| DNA/Dada | 13 |
| DNA/Ginger-1 | 13 |
| DNA/IS3EU | 62 |
| DNA/Kolobok-T2 | 32 |
| DNA/MULE-MuDR | 27 |
| DNA/Maverick | 99 |
| DNA/Merlin | 31 |
| DNA/P | 5 |
| DNA/PIF-Harbinger | 63 |
| DNA/PIF-ISL2EU | 63 |
| DNA/PiggyBac | 12 |
| DNA/Sola-1 | 2 |
| DNA/TcMar | 8 |
| DNA/TcMar-ISRm11 | 34 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tc1 | 4626 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tc2 | 30 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tigger | 5 |
| DNA/Zisupton | 31 |
| DNA/hAT | 17 |
| DNA/hAT-Ac | 314 |
| DNA/hAT-Blackjack | 14 |
| DNA/hAT-Charlie | 225 |
| DNA/hAT-Tip100 | 75 |

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| DNA/hAT-hAT5 | 35 |
| DNA/hAT-hAT6 | 11 |
| LINE/Dong-R4 | 120 |
| LINE/I | 54 |
| LINE/L1 | 77 |
| LINE/L1-Tx1 | 30 |
| LINE/L2 | 776 |
| LINE/Penelope | 14 |
| LINE/R2-Hero | 2 |
| LINE/RTE-BovB | 361 |
| LINE/Rex-Babar | 399 |
| LTR/Copia | 6 |
| LTR/ERV1 | 37 |
| LTR/Gypsy | 113 |
| LTR/NGaro | 65 |
| LTR/Pao | 36 |
| RC/Helitron | 22 |
| Retroposon | 4 |
| SINE | 1 |
| SINE/tRNA-Core-RTE | 1 |
| SINE/tRNA-V | 7 |
| SINE/tRNA-V-RTE | 4 |

Supplementary Table 9. Scaffolds containing >5 melanzone-mers contain 392 transposable elements in their 995,370bp.

| Class/family | Copies identified by repeat masker |
|---------------------|---|
| DNA | 13 |
| DNA/CMC-EnSpm | 22 |
| DNA/Dada | 1 |
| DNA/IS3EU | 11 |
| DNA/Kolobok-T2 | 3 |
| DNA/Maverick | 10 |
| DNA/Merlin | 3 |
| DNA/PIF-Harbinger | 1 |
| DNA/PIF-ISL2EU | 1 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tc1 | 3 |
| DNA/Zisupton | 2 |
| DNA/hAT | 6 |
| DNA/hAT-Ac | 27 |
| DNA/hAT-Charlie | 28 |
| DNA/hAT-Tip100 | 2 |
| LINE/I | 2 |
| LINE/L1 | 24 |
| LINE/L1-Tx1 | 2 |
| LINE/L2 | 38 |
| LINE/RTE-BovB | 27 |
| LINE/Rex-Babar | 1 |
| LTR/Copia | 3 |
| LTR/ERV1 | 5 |
| LTR/Gypsy | 43 |
| LTR/Pao | 22 |
| RC/Helitron | 90 |
| SINE/tRNA-Core-RTE | 2 |

Supplementary Table 10. Scaffolds containing >5 immaculata-mers contain 2,565 transposable elements in their 9,748,162bp.

| Class/Family | Copies identified by repeat masker |
|---------------------|---|
| DNA | 103 |
| DNA/CMC-EnSpm | 104 |
| DNA/Crypton-H | 1 |
| DNA/Crypton-V | 7 |
| DNA/Dada | 4 |
| DNA/Ginger-1 | 3 |
| DNA/IS3EU | 47 |
| DNA/Kolobok-T2 | 13 |
| DNA/MULE-MuDR | 8 |
| DNA/MULE-NOF | 1 |
| DNA/Maverick | 25 |
| DNA/Merlin | 25 |
| DNA/P | 1 |
| DNA/PIF-Harbinger | 20 |
| DNA/Sola-1 | 1 |
| DNA/TcMar | 4 |
| DNA/TcMar-ISRm11 | 9 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tc1 | 1026 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tc2 | 21 |
| DNA/TcMar-Tigger | 4 |
| DNA/Zisupton | 8 |
| DNA/hAT | 12 |
| DNA/hAT-Ac | 145 |
| DNA/hAT-Blackjack | 2 |
| DNA/hAT-Charlie | 68 |
| DNA/hAT-Tip100 | 39 |
| DNA/hAT-hAT5 | 18 |
| DNA/hAT-hAT6 | 4 |
| DNA/hAT-hobo | 1 |
| LINE/Dong-R4 | 37 |
| LINE/I | 21 |
| LINE/L1 | 28 |
| LINE/L1-Tx1 | 7 |

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| LINE/L2 | 340 |
| LINE/Penelope | 3 |
| LINE/R2-Hero | 1 |
| LINE/RTE-BovB | 112 |
| LINE/Rex-Babar | 112 |
| LTR/Copia | 1 |
| LTR/ERV1 | 12 |
| LTR/Gypsy | 55 |
| LTR/Ngaro | 14 |
| LTR/Pao | 9 |
| RC/Helitron | 38 |
| Retroposon | 1 |
| SINE/tRNA-Core-L2 | 45 |
| SINE/tRNA-V | 4 |
| SINE/tRNA-V-RTE | 1 |

Supplementary Table 11. Proportion of morph-linked Y scaffolds (scaffolds containing > 5 of the respective morph-mer dataset) made up of interspersed repeats. In females proportion of total *de novo* genome made up of interspersed repeats. Interspersed repeats indicate transposable element activity. Comparing proportion of interspersed repeats between morph-linked Y scaffolds and female genomes indicates increased effect of transposable element activity on the Y chromosomes.

| Morph | Sample | Sequence in morph-specific Y scaffolds (bp) | % Sequence Comprised of Total Interspersed Repeats |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| Red Melanzona | P01 | 995,370 | 68.08 |
| | P02 | 1,122,565 | 66.38 |
| | P11 | 865,095 | 65.15 |
| | P12 | 1,153,044 | 58.75 |
| | P19 | 990,514 | 63.80 |
| | P20 | 877,954 | 64.38 |
| | P21 | 1,070,743 | 60.04 |
| Yellow Melanzona | P13 | 1,610,202 | 42.22 |
| | P14 | 926,825 | 67.07 |
| | P22 | 1,164,800 | 61.72 |
| | P23 | 1,283,990 | 59.16 |
| | P24 | 668,430 | 65.33 |
| Blue Melanzona | P17 | 4,250,903 | 28.59 |
| Parae Morph | P03 | 164,531 | 46.20 |
| | P04 | 127,542 | 40.99 |
| | P27 | 84,778 | 45.32 |
| | P29 | 90,235 | 44.59 |
| | P30 | 96,497 | 41.21 |
| | P31 | 114,805 | 46.36 |
| Immaculata | P05 | 521,712 | 53.98 |
| | P06 | 1,035,078 | 47.84 |
| | P09 | 9,748,162 | 24.35 |
| | P10 | 1,388,117 | 36.48 |
| Female (Full genome) | P15 | 469,458,131 | 28.72 |
| | P26 | 524,160,639 | 27.55 |
| | P32 | 760,885,093 | 26.97 |
| | P34 | 728,337,754 | 26.88 |
| | P36 | 650,681,137 | 26.42 |
| | P37 | 660,609,987 | 26.98 |

Supplementary Table 12. Composition of interspersed repeats on the Y linked scaffolds by TE type for each morph (mean \pm standard error).

| | Melanzona | Immaculata | Parae |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LINE | 12.37% \pm 0.40 | 12.87% \pm 1.31 | 8.12% \pm 1.51 |
| SINE | 0 | 0.01% \pm 0.01 | 0 |
| Penelope | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DNA transposons | 3.89% \pm 0.80 | 8.07% \pm 2.29 | 3.94% \pm 1.22 |
| LTR elements | 10.81% \pm 0.69 | 6.41% \pm 1.38 | 10.23% \pm 1.19 |
| Unclassified | 72.92% \pm 0.73 | 72.65% \pm 1.23 | 77.71% \pm 2.14 |