

The effect of common inversion polymorphisms *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo* on patterns of transcriptional variation in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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1 **Abstract**

2 Chromosomal inversions are an ubiquitous feature of genetic variation. Theoretical models describe several
3 mechanisms by which inversions can drive adaptation and be maintained as polymorphisms. While inversions have
4 been shown previously to be under selection, or contain genetic variation under selection, the specific phenotypic
5 consequences of inversions leading to their maintenance remain unclear. Here we use genomic sequence and
6 expression data from the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel to explore the effects of two cosmopolitan
7 inversions, *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo*, on patterns of transcriptional variation. We demonstrate that each inversion has
8 a significant effect on transcript abundance for hundreds of genes across the genome. Inversion affected loci (IAL)
9 appear both within inversions as well as on unlinked chromosomes. Importantly, IAL do not appear to be
10 influenced by the previously reported genome-wide expression correlation structure. We found that five genes
11 involved with sterol uptake, four of which are Niemann-Pick Type 2 orthologs, are upregulated in flies with
12 *In(3R)Mo* but do not have SNPs in LD with the inversion. We speculate that this upregulation is driven by genetic
13 variation in *mod(mdg4)* that is in LD with *In(3R)Mo*. We find that there is little evidence for regional or position
14 effect of inversions on gene expression at the chromosomal level but do find evidence for the distal breakpoint of
15 *In(3R)Mo* interrupting one gene and possibly disassociating the two flanking genes from regulatory elements.

16 **Introduction**

17 Chromosomal inversions, in which a portion of linear DNA sequence is flipped in its orientation, are a common
18 member of the menagerie of DNA polymorphisms, and have been found in diverse organismal populations such as
19 humans, plants, and fruit flies (KRIMBAS and POWELL 1992; KIDD *et al.* 2010; LOWRY and WILLIS 2010). In many cases,
20 large chromosomal inversions have profound impacts on phenotype and disease (FEUK 2010). For instance
21 recurrent inversions are responsible for an estimated 43% of hemophilia A cases (LAKICH *et al.* 1993). Inversions can
22 also have beneficial effects. A 900kb inversion on human chromosome 17 (q21.31) has been shown to be
23 associated with higher female fecundity in the Icelandic population (STEFANSSON *et al.* 2005). In populations of the
24 malaria vector *An. gambiae* a large chromosomal inversion on chromosome 2L (2La) is associated with desiccation
25 resistance and thus segregates at high frequencies in arid environments (FOUET *et al.* 2012). These examples are

26 the very tip of the iceberg—inversion polymorphisms have been implicated in numerous phenotypic differences
27 among a host of organisms, however little is known about the mechanisms by which inversions confer their
28 phenotypic effects.

29 Perhaps the single best studied inversions are those from *Drosophila*, in part made famous by the pioneering work
30 of Dobzhansky (DOBZHANSKY and STURTEVANT 1938). Dobzhansky focused much attention on spatial and temporal
31 variation in frequency of large inversions of *D. pseudoobscura* and showed in broad strokes that clear fitness
32 differences were responsible for the regular patterns of frequency change observed. These findings in turn spurred
33 a large body of population genetics theory to explain the establishment and selective persistence of inversions in
34 natural populations (LEVENE and DOBZHANSKY 1958; FRASER *et al.* 1966; ANDERSON *et al.* 1967; TOBARI and KOJIMA 1967).
35 As postulated by Sturtevant (1921), crossover suppression induced in inversion heterozygotes can mean that a
36 single adaptive allele within an inversion may suffice for the selective invasion of that rearrangement (Haldane
37 1937). Such lowered levels of recombination and attendant increases in linkage disequilibrium (LD) could thus
38 present the opportunity for subsequent coadaptation of multiple genes near inversion breakpoints (STURTEVANT
39 and MATHER 1938; DOBZHANSKY 1947). Conversely locally adapted alleles that predate the rearrangement on the
40 same chromosome might aid the establishment of an inversion simply because of the reduction in recombination
41 rates between such loci (KIRKPATRICK and BARTON 2006). Further, inversions might have direct fitness effects, for
42 instance by deletion or changes in gene expression near the inversion breakpoints (KIRKPATRICK and KERN 2012). At
43 present we have precious little information as to the variants responsible for differential fitness effects associated
44 with inversions.

45 In *Drosophila melanogaster* paracentric inversions spanning several megabases are common and have been found
46 in populations across the globe (Stalker 1976, 1980; Knibb *et al.* 1981; Sezgin *et al.* 2004; Anderson *et al.* 2005;
47 Umina *et al.* 2005). Much of this segregating inversion polymorphism is associated with latitudinal clines in
48 *D. melanogaster*, an historically tropical species adapting along tropical-to-temperate climatic gradients in Australia
49 and North America (KNIBB *et al.* 1981; WEEKS *et al.* 2002; DE JONG and BOCHDANOVITS 2003; SEZGIN *et al.* 2004;
50 REINHARDT *et al.* 2014; SCHRIDER *et al.* 2016). Clinally varying phenotypes that are associated with inversions include
51 heat resistance, cold tolerance, and body size (Weeks *et al.* 2002; Anderson *et al.* 2003; de Jong and Bochdanovits

52 2003). Clinal variation of inversion frequency in *D.melanogaster* has been shown via population genetic
53 approaches to be due to selection independent of demography (Reinhardt *et al.* 2014; Kapun *et al.* 2016), though
54 migration has been suggested to generate these patterns along with local adaptation (BERGLAND *et al.* 2016).
55 Indeed, inversions have been observed to have a major effect on several phenotypes that vary between temperate
56 and tropical populations across several *Drosophila* species and these clines have been stable since their discovery
57 roughly 80 years ago (HOFFMANN *et al.* 2004; COGNI *et al.* 2017). Unfortunately, while the associations are known,
58 the molecular mechanisms at work determining differential phenotypes as a result of inversion status are still
59 unknown.

60 Recent population genomic projects in *D.melanogaster*, such as the Drosophila Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP)
61 and Drosophila Population Genomics Project (DPGP), have opened the opportunity to study inversions
62 systematically as these resources have captured segregating inversions from North America and Africa (POOL *et al.*
63 2012; MACKAY *et al.* 2012; LANGLEY *et al.* 2012; HOULE and MÁRQUEZ 2015). Corbett-Detig *et al.* (2012)
64 bioinformatically mapped previously unknown breakpoints of several inversions, a task that was tedious for even
65 single inversions prior to whole genome sequencing (WESLEY and EANES 1994; ANDOLFATTO *et al.* 1999; MATZKIN *et al.*
66 2005). For instance Corbett-Detig *et al.* (2012) discovered the breakpoints associated with numerous inversions
67 and demonstrated the expected increase in LD near inversion breakpoints and elevated differentiation between
68 inverted and standard arrangement chromosomes at the nucleotide level. In parallel with the exponential increase
69 in population genomic resources, large-scale phenotypic association studies of these same genotypes have been
70 accumulating (MACKAY *et al.* 2012; VONESCH *et al.* 2016; TELONIS-SCOTT *et al.* 2016). These include numerous
71 phenotypes previously associated with inversion polymorphism such as body size (WEEKS *et al.* 2002) and
72 desiccation resistance (HOFFMANN *et al.* 2005).

73 A logical place to look for inversion effects that may influence suites of phenotypes would be transcript level
74 variation. Previous findings strongly suggest that inversions could be important drivers of adaptation with gene
75 expression variation as a potential molecular mechanism (CHAMBERS 1991; LÓPEZ-MAURY *et al.* 2008; FRASER 2013).
76 Indeed inversions could affect patterns of transcript variation in a number of ways: **1)** genes at or near inversion
77 breakpoints may become disabled or separated from their regulatory apparatus, thus inversions may have direct

78 effects on transcription, **2**) increased LD in inversions due to crossover suppression may increase linkage with gene
79 expression Quantitative Trait Loci (eQTL), and thus alternative alleles of the inversion may be associated with
80 differential expression of genes within the inversion (i.e. indirect, cis-eQTL associated with the inversion), **3**) eQTL
81 in LD with the inversion might themselves regulate genes outside of the inversion (i.e. indirect, trans-eQTL
82 associated with the inversion), or **4**) the large-scale nature of *Drosophila* inversions may create global changes in
83 the organization of chromatin or nuclear localization of the chromosomes such that genes are differentially
84 regulated between inversion and standard karyotypes. Thus inversions may have a direct effect on global patterns
85 of transcription, and act as trans eQTL themselves. Indeed earlier studies of transcriptional variation in
86 *D.melanogaster* have hinted at the influence of inversions on genome wide patterns of gene expression (AYROLES *et*
87 *al.* 2009; MASSOURAS *et al.* 2012; HUANG *et al.* 2015). Here we address the effect of two cosmopolitan inversions,
88 *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo*, on patterns of transcription by using whole-genome sequence, gene expression, and
89 inversion call data from the DGRP.

90 **Methods/Materials**

91 **Materials:** Processed expression data previously reported in (Ayroles *et al.* 2009) was downloaded from
92 ArrayExpress (KOLESNIKOV *et al.* 2015). We accepted inversion state calls for each of the DGRP lines where
93 cytological and bioinformatic inversion calls for *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo* agree and removed lines from analyses where
94 there was any disagreement (CORBETT-DETIG *et al.* 2012a; HUANG *et al.* 2014; HOULE and MÁRQUEZ 2015). Using the
95 same databases, we removed Individuals from lines likely heterozygous for *In(2L)t* or *In(3R)Mo*. Expression
96 analyses were performed with 34 lines (136 individuals), with two lines homozygous for *In(2L)t* and seven lines
97 homozygous for *In(3R)Mo*. There were 26 lines homozygous for the Standard arrangement at both *In(2L)t* and
98 *In(3R)Mo*, as one line was homozygous for both inversions. We calculated LD between *In(2L)t* and SNPs using 181
99 lines including 19 inversion bearing lines. We calculated LD between *In(3R)Mo* and SNPs using 197 lines including
100 17 inversion bearing lines. To maintain consistency with Affymetrix library files, dm3/BDGP release 5 genomic
101 coordinates and annotations corresponding to BDGP version 5.49 were used in conjunction with the Affymetrix
102 *Drosophila* 2 Release 35 library file update.

103 **Methods:**

104 Statistical analyses were performed in R (R CORE TEAM 2013) using the functions (lm), (anova), (quantile),
105 (qvalue), (phyper), and (ggplot2).

106 **3' UTR Array Analysis:**

107 *Correlation structure:* Pairwise gene expression correlation coefficients were calculated by linear regression on all
108 unique pairwise combinations of probe sets, excepting self-comparisons. Correlation coefficients reported here as
109 adjusted r^2 from the R function (lm). Gene expression modules used here were reported in Ayroles et al (2009).
110 Null distributions of uniquely occupied clusters for each inversion were generated by permuting the occupied
111 cluster for each gene 100,000 times and calculating the total unique clusters occupied by inversion affected loci
112 (IAL) for each permutation.

113 *Inversion effect on expression:* Linear regressions of sex, inversion, and Line effects with expression as the response
114 were performed for each probe set:

115
$$Y_{ijkl} = \mu + A_i + B_j + C_k + D_{kl} + \epsilon_{ijkl}$$

116 for individual expression value, Y_{ijkl} , in response to i^{th} Sex, A_i , j^{th} *In(2L)t* state, B_j , k^{th} *In(3R)Mo* state, C_k , and the l^{th}
117 Line in the j^{th} *In(2L)t* state, D_{kl} , with ϵ_{ijkl} as the error term in Lines. Model testing was performed using (add1) and
118 (drop1) in R to add interaction terms or remove main effect terms from the above model, respectively.
119 Interaction terms were added one at a time to the main effects and tested for each probe set. An AIC is reported
120 for each model with a lower absolute value being preferred when comparing two models. The effect of adding an
121 interaction term between Sex and *In(2L)t* or Sex and *In(3R)Mo* varied by probe set, but the above model was the
122 best fit for 10,082 of the probe sets. Models with and without an interaction term between inversions performed
123 the same for all loci thus we chose the less complex model. Similarly, the above model was the best fit for 12,994
124 probe sets when compared to dropping any of the main effect terms. We calculated p -values of the observed F
125 values as percentiles of the F distributions generated by 10,000 permutations sampling each inversion
126 independently without replacement. Multiple testing correction was performed by calculating q -values using the R

127 package (`qvalue`) with FDR=0.05 (STOREY and TIBSHIRANI 2003) on the permutation-derived p -values. Proportion
128 of variance explained by each effect was calculated as η^2 . Magnitude and direction of inversion effect was
129 calculated as Cohen's d (COHEN 1988). Cohen's d is a description of the difference between two standardized
130 distributions and the expected proportion of overlap between the distributions can be estimated given a false
131 positive rate. For example, for two distributions, each with a standard deviation of 1, a Cohen's d of 1 represents a
132 difference of 1 standard deviation between the means and a ~62% expected overlap given a false positive rate of
133 5%.

134 **Functional Annotation Enrichment:** Functional annotation profiling was performed using the `g:Profiler` online
135 portal of `g:GOST` using default settings (REIMAND *et al.* 2016) (version `r1622_e84_eg31`). Ambiguous 3'UTR probe
136 sets were resolved manually if possible, or ignored if they overlapped transcripts for more than one gene.

137 **SNP-Inversion LD:** Linkage disequilibrium (LD) was calculated as $r^2 = D' / p_s(1-p_s)p_i(1-p_i)$ for each diallelic SNP S and
138 inversion I , with major allele frequencies p_s and p_i , using a custom bash script. For each SNP, significance was
139 calculated as a chi-squared (χ^2) transformation with 1 degree of freedom of r^2 as $\chi^2 = Nr^2$, where N is the sample
140 size. Significant LD was defined as a SNP with sample size of at least 60, minor allele frequency of 10% for both the
141 SNP and inversion state, and $\chi^2 >$ critical value ($p=0.05$, $d.f.=1$) with Bonferroni correction for all SNPs on that
142 chromosome arm ($n=967774$, $\chi^2 > 29.65329$ and 947970 , $\chi^2 > 29.61321$ for `chr2L` and `chr3R`, respectively). The
143 sample size and minor allele frequency cutoffs ensured that there were at least six representative lines bearing
144 minor alleles. Genes were considered in significant LD with inversion state if at least one significant SNP was found
145 within the annotated gene region (FlyBase v5.49).

146 **IAL physical clustering:** To see if inversion affected loci (IAL) were physically clustered within the genome, we
147 examined physical clustering by measuring the coefficient of variance (CV) of distances between genes by
148 chromosome arm. Location and length of each gene was used from FlyBase v5.49. Distance between neighboring
149 genes was calculated as the distance between ends of gene annotated regions of neighboring genes. Distance from
150 the most distal or proximal genes to the distal or proximal endpoint, respectively, was not included. CV was
151 calculated as the standard deviation divided by the mean of the distribution of intergenic distances for each

152 chromosomal arm (SOKAL and ROHLF 1995). We defined the intergenic distance between overlapping gene regions
153 as zero. Null distributions of intergenic distances for each chromosome and each inversion were generated by
154 100,000 random samples, without replacement, of the same number of genes from a chromosome arm as the
155 number of IAL for that chromosome arm and inversion, then calculating the distances between those genes.
156 Confidence intervals were calculated as 2.5%-97.5% quantiles from the corresponding random sample distribution.

157 **Transcription factor-target gene interactions:** Transcription factors (TFs) and target genes (TGs) were defined by
158 Drosophila Interaction Database modMine (CONTRINO *et al.* 2012) (v2015_12). Genes in this analysis were those
159 that are present in Affymetrix Drosophila2 genome array annotation (Release 35), DroID TF-TG database
160 v2015_12, and FlyBase v5.49 annotation. Over/under-representation of genes with significant inversion effect on
161 expression as targets of transcription factors with SNPs in LD with inversion state was calculated as the probability
162 of the observation given the hypergeometric distribution.

163 Custom scripts, data, and analysis results can be found online at <https://github.com/kern-lab/lavingtonKern> ,
164 including file descriptions in the AnalysisFiles.readme document.

165 **Results**

166 To examine what influence, if any, common inversion polymorphisms have on patterns of transcription in the
167 Drosophila genome we combined publically available genome sequences(MACKAY *et al.* 2012), their associated
168 karyotype calls (CORBETT-DETIG *et al.* 2012a; HUANG *et al.* 2014; HOULE and MÁRQUEZ 2015), and previously published
169 microarray based expression data(AYROLES *et al.* 2009). We validated the use of a model with only main effects of
170 Sex, Line, and two cosmopolitan inversions, *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo* using the R functions (add1) and (drop1). This
171 main effects model performed better than any model having any of the main effect terms removed or with the
172 addition of any interaction term (see Methods). After correction for multiple testing (see Methods), we found 229
173 and 498 total probe sets with significant inversion effects for *In(2L)t* and *In(3R)Mo*, respectively, hereafter referred
174 to as inversion affected loci (IAL) (Figure 1). These IAL occur both within the inversions themselves (40 *In(2L)t*, 111
175 *In(3R)Mo*), outside the inversions but near the breakpoints (3 *In(2L)t*, 38 *In(3R)Mo* within 1Mb of the breakpoint),
176 as well as scattered throughout the genome (134 *In(2L)t*, 181 *In(3R)Mo*; see Table 1). This is a large number of loci

177 with transcript abundance variation correlating with inversion state; however, we note that the inversion effect
178 contribution to variance is relatively small for the vast majority of loci (Supplemental data).

179 One explanation for the large number of IAL found across the genome is that few loci are directly affected by the
180 inversion and the remaining loci are affected indirectly by an expression variation correlation structure, previously
181 described by Ayroles et al (2009). We addressed this correlation structure by the numbers of unique expression
182 modules occupied by, and the distribution of correlation coefficients of, IAL as compared to all genes. If a
183 significant portion of the IAL we observe are due to expression variation correlation, then we would expect that
184 IAL occupy fewer expression modules than the same number of genes drawn at random. We would also expect the
185 mean correlation of IAL between IAL to be higher than the genome wide average. We observe IAL occupy more
186 modules than expected at random for both *In(2L)t* (71 obs; 38-56 95% c.i.) and *In(3R)Mo* (108 obs ; 65-87 95% c.i.).
187 For both inversions, we did not observe higher mean correlation between IAL between IAL and non-IAL or the
188 genome-wide mean (Table 2).

189 We then examined the inversion effect on gene expression variation for four distinct categories of effect: 1.) *cis*- or
190 2.) *trans*-inversion effects of SNPs in LD with the inversion, 3.) direct effects of the inversion by interrupting genes,
191 and 4.) regional effects of chromosomal rearrangement.

192 ***Cis*-Inversion effect of SNPs in LD with the inversion**

193 Our model explicitly tests the effect of chromosomal arrangement on expression variation and here we focus on
194 SNP variation as the main driver of the inversion effect by taking advantage of LD between the inversion state and
195 SNP variants. LD with inversions is highest at the breakpoints and decays in both directions from each breakpoint
196 as expected (Figure 2) (WESLEY and EANES 1994; ANDOLFATTO *et al.* 2001; LANGLEY *et al.* 2012; CORBETT-DETIG *et al.*
197 2012b). To determine *cis*-effects of the inversions we tested for over-representation of IAL among loci in LD with
198 inversion state. This ignores the location of the loci and focuses on the correlation of SNP alleles with the inversion
199 state. As expected, few loci in LD with the inversion were located on a different chromosomal arm (3 with *In(2L)t*,
200 and 2 with *In(3R)Mo*) and IAL in LD are located only on the same chromosomal arm (Table 3). We observed a
201 significant overrepresentation of IAL with SNPs in LD with inversion state (Table 4).

202 ***Trans*-inversion effect of SNPs in LD with the inversion**

203 Our expectation of a *cis*-inversion effect is dependent on SNP variation in LD with the inversion. By the same
204 rationale, a *trans*-inversion effect may be detected as an IAL without SNP variation in LD with the inversion, as we
205 observe with a majority of IAL for each inversion (181 of 192 for *In(2L)t* and 323 of 425 for *In(3R)Mo* (see Table 4).
206 Assuming SNP variation is the basis of expression variation, one trivial explanation of a *trans*-inversion effect is SNP
207 variation in transcription factors in LD with the inversion acting on downstream targets. The TFs in this case need
208 not be IAL as SNPs in protein coding regions of TFs can give rise to expression variation in downstream targets.
209 However, we found no over- or underrepresentation of IAL that are targets of TFs with SNPs in LD with either
210 inversion (Table 5). A possible example of *trans*-inversion effect was found by functional analysis of IAL and
211 discussed below.

212 **Direct effect of inversions by disrupting genes at breakpoints**

213 Nucleotide sequence variation at each breakpoint of an inversion can truncate transcribed gene regions and
214 disassociate transcribed regions from transcription factor binding sites and other regulatory elements. Truncation
215 most likely leads to down-regulation of genes and rearrangement of regulatory elements and can lead to up- or
216 downregulation of genes at either breakpoint. The closest IAL to any of the four breakpoints are near the distal
217 breakpoint of *In(3R)Mo*. *CG1951* and *βGalNAcTB* are within 2.5kb inside and outside of the inversion region,
218 respectively, and *Ss12* is interrupted by the breakpoint. All three are downregulated in the presence of the
219 inversion. The next closest IAL is 24 kb away. The closest IAL to the proximal breakpoint of *In(3R)Mo* are 32kb
220 away. It is also important to note that loci immediately surrounding the proximal breakpoint are not
221 transcriptionally affected by the rearrangement, so the presumed disassociated regulatory elements from the
222 distal end are not altering expression of loci at the proximal end. The closest IAL to the proximal and distal
223 breakpoints of *In(2L)t* are 34kb and 37kb away, respectively, and thus probably too far to have been affected by
224 direct effects of the breakpoint.

225 **Regional effect of chromosomal rearrangement**

226 We tested for regional effects of chromosomal rearrangement by looking for over- or underrepresentation of
227 genes in LD with the inversion as IAL. We did observe more IAL than expected in LD with each inversion (Table 4)
228 and a trend of transcriptional downregulation across the *In(2L)t* region (Figure 3 A & D), but note that the effect
229 size is relatively small. Near the breakpoints, patterns of inversion effect direction are generally small and not likely
230 significantly different from zero (Figure 3 B,C,E & F). The pattern of downregulation immediately surrounding the
231 distal breakpoint of *In(3R)Mo* is moderate and appears to be driven by three loci: *CG1951*, *Ssl2*, and *64GalNAcTB*.
232 This is likely a direct effect of the inversion on *Ssl2*, as the breakpoint interrupts this gene proximal to *CG1951*
233 (CORBETT-DETIG *et al.* 2012a), and possibly disassociation of regulatory elements from coding sequence with respect
234 to *CG1951* and *64GalNAcTB*.

235 We also examined whether IAL tend to cluster together by physical location along chromosomes, which could arise
236 from more localized regional effects. We measured physical clustering as the coefficient of variation (CV) of
237 distances between genes, for the global CV, and between IAL by chromosome arm. For each arm, IAL for both
238 inversions were less clustered than the distribution of all genes, although *In(3R)Mo* IAL are more clustered on
239 chromosome 3R than we would expect for the same number of randomly drawn genes, but are still less clustered
240 than the genomic background generally (Table 6).

241 **Functional analysis**

242 Coadapted alleles segregating with an inversion should also be in LD with the inversion breakpoints. We used
243 gProfiler g:GOST functional profiling to detect overrepresentation of functional groups in sets of IAL. The sets of IAL
244 that we analyzed were those IAL in LD with the inversion (Table 2) or targets of another gene with variation
245 segregating with the inversion (Table 4). Functional analysis of IAL for each inversion yielded significant groups only
246 when considering all *In(3R)Mo* IAL or only IAL where inversion state explains at least 15% of expression variance
247 (Supplemental data). Sterol transport is significant in both cases ($p=0.022$ for all, $p=0.000116$ for $\geq 15\%$ variance)
248 and catalytic activity term (GO:0003824) is significant when considering all IAL ($p=0.000146$). We found no
249 significant functional groups when considering any similar grouping of *In(2L)t* IAL.

250 The sterol transport group found to be enriched among *In(3R)Mo* IAL includes four of the eight Niemann-Pick type
251 2 orthologs (*Npc2b*, *Npc2c*, *Npc2f*, *Npc2g*) (HUANG *et al.* 2007), along with *Apoltp*. All five genes are upregulated in
252 association with the inverted arrangement, suggesting an increase of sterol uptake in *In(3R)Mo* bearing flies. In the
253 context of the expression samples, most of these genes are preferentially expressed in the adult gut (modENCODE,
254 Contrino *et al.* 2012). While the four NPC2s are on chromosome 3R (Figure 4), *Apoltp* is on chromosome 2L, and
255 none of these genes contain a SNP in the gene region that is in significant LD with *In(3R)Mo*, or each other, and
256 only *Npc2f* is within the inversion region (Figure 5). It is possible that the significant upregulation of the sterol
257 transport group is a downstream effect of *mod(mdg4)*, which is an IAL near the proximal breakpoint (Figure 4) and
258 in LD with *In(3R)Mo* (Figure 5). *mod(mdg4)* is a chromatin protein associated with *Npc2b* as well as other
259 chromatin proteins and TFs associated with all eight *Npc2* orthologs (Supplemental data). We address this exciting
260 finding in further detail in the Discussion.

261 Discussion

262 Despite decades of research on polymorphic inversions in *Drosophila melanogaster*, and despite an overwhelming
263 consensus that inversions are maintained due to selection, we have little understanding of the targets of selection
264 in these inversions that leads to their maintenance (cf. Kirkpatrick and Kern 2012). Here we examine the role of
265 transcriptional variation induced by cosmopolitan inversions to explore what effect, if any, inversions might have
266 on gene expression that itself might be selectively favored. Besides gross rearrangement effects, we examined
267 gene disruption at inversion breakpoints, IAL in LD with the inversion, and IAL not in LD with the inversion. We
268 assumed that multiple functionally linked IAL to be potentially coadapted so long as they contained SNPs in LD
269 with the inverted arrangement. We also assumed that *trans*-inversion effects, IAL not in LD with the inversion,
270 could be the result of these loci interacting with TFs in LD with the inversion or epistatic interactions with loci in
271 LD. We note that while sample size of *In(2L)t* bearing individuals in the expression analysis is small (8 of 136), we
272 were still able to detect a relatively large number of significant loci across the genome. We believe that our
273 methods were conservative and limit the number of false positives at the expense of a likely high number of false
274 negatives. We argue that we are accounting for the small sample sizes in our analyses and interpretations. We also

275 note that we could not address over- or under-dominance in this study as we examined only lines known to be
276 homozygous for either arrangement of *In(2L)t* or *In(3R)Mo*.

277 Of particular concern was what role, if any, expression correlation had on our findings. To explore this we
278 considered pairwise correlation coefficients and previously described expression modules (AYROLES *et al.* 2009).
279 One could imagine that the true false discovery rate would be much higher than anticipated due to expression
280 correlation of multiple loci from the same expression module. We found that IAL for both inversions occupied
281 more expression modules than we would expect when drawing genes at random. Even when considering just the
282 pairwise expression correlation, we found that IAL for both inversions were slightly less correlated on average than
283 the genome wide mean. These observations suggest that the inversion effects arose independent of the underlying
284 correlation structure.

285 We found many loci of significant effect, yet most have a modest contribution to expression variation. Importantly,
286 the only evidence of direct structural influence on patterns of expression was at a single breakpoint that appears
287 to be due to the inversion mutation interrupting gene regions but not moving genes to a different region of the
288 chromosome. That is, there was no appreciable pattern of up- or down-regulation of genes along the chromosome
289 with respect to the location of inversion breakpoints. Perhaps unsurprisingly, we did find an overabundance of
290 expression perturbation within the inversion regions themselves. This would suggest the effect is possibly due to
291 genetic, rather than the structural, variation in LD with the inversion. That is, transcription variation associated
292 with the inversion is due to genetic variation at the gene level and not the rearrangement of loci.

293 Inversion polymorphism can be maintained by reduced recombination between locally coadapted alleles within
294 inversions (DOBZHANSKY and OTHERS 1970), both with (NEI *et al.* 1967; PEPPER 2003) or without epistasis (KIRKPATRICK
295 and BARTON 2006). Clinal inversion variation in *D.melanogaster* within *In(3R)Payne* in Australian populations and
296 *In(3R)Payne*, *In(2R)NS*, and *In(2L)t* in American populations has been shown to be due to selection rather than
297 demographic history and indicative of coadaptation (KENNINGTON *et al.* 2006; KOLACZKOWSKI *et al.* 2011; KAPUN *et al.*
298 2016). We reasoned that one might be able to detect epistatic coadaptation through functional analysis of IAL.
299 Coadaptation of non-interacting loci would likely result in either no significant functional groups or multiple,

300 unrelated significant groups. We found functional annotation enrichment only when we considered all IALs with
301 respect to *In(3R)Mo*. This would suggest that either one locus or a few coadapted, but non-interacting, loci
302 segregate with these inversions to maintain polymorphic inversions. However, it is still possible that coadapted loci
303 could be overlooked in our analysis; certainly the existing annotation is incomplete. Moreover, our statistical
304 power to detect IAL suffers due to the constraints of the number of inversions captured in the DGRP dataset.
305 Nevertheless our observation that there are multiple IAL within the inversion with argues strongly for the role that
306 inversions play as modifiers of recombination which may hold adaptive haplotypes together.

307 Our strongest functional finding, that sterol uptake associated with *In(3R)Mo*, appears to be driven by genetic
308 variation in a single locus as a *trans*-inversion effect. Four of the five genes in this cluster are located on
309 chromosome 3R, however none of these genes have a SNP in significant LD with *In(3R)Mo*, or with each other
310 (Supplemental data), and only one is found within the inversion region (*Npc2f*). This would rule out effective
311 coadaptation of these genes and suggest that the location of these genes on the same chromosome as the
312 inversion is coincidence. Assuming the upstream effector of the sterol transport is a transcription factor, it could
313 contain a SNP that alters either its protein-coding sequence or expression. Either scenario would require that the
314 genetic variant responsible for the upregulation of the four *Npc2s* in question would have to be in LD with
315 *In(3R)Mo*. Only one TF, *mod(mdg4)*, annotated in DroiDb as interacting with any (*Npc2b*) of the five sterol
316 transport IAL contains a SNP in LD with *In(3R)Mo*. Furthermore, *mod(mdg4)* is itself an IAL and also located near
317 the proximal breakpoint of *In(3R)Mo*. We speculate that inversion associated expression variation detected in this
318 functional group is under control of *mod(mdg4)*.

319 Increased sterol uptake fits nicely with the positive correlation of *In(3R)Mo* frequency with latitude (KAPUN *et al.*
320 2014). *Npc2* genes control sterol homeostasis via uptake of dietary sterols in *D.melanogaster*(HUANG *et al.* 2007;
321 CARVALHO *et al.* 2010; NIWA *et al.* 2011). Two species of *Drosophila* differentially express *Npc2's* in response to cold
322 acclimation, though the patterns differ between the two (PARKER *et al.* 2015). Increased dietary cholesterol
323 increases cold tolerance in *Drosophila melanogaster* (SHREVE *et al.* 2007), however, *D.melanogaster* takes up
324 phytosterols more efficiently than cholesterol (COOKE and SANG 1970). Furthermore, *D.melanogaster* is a sterol
325 auxotroph (CARVALHO *et al.* 2010; NIWA *et al.* 2011) that utilizes dietary sterols preferentially to biosynthesizing

326 different sterols from dietary sterols (CARVALHO *et al.* 2012). This would suggest that *In(3R)Mo* carrying
327 *D.melanogaster* could be cold-acclimated due to increased uptake of dietary sterols, rather than the upregulation
328 of cholesterol production.

329 It is difficult to interpret results for *In(2L)t* without a clear functional annotation group associated with the inverted
330 state. Assuming *In(2L)t* is under selection (KAPUN *et al.* 2016), the simplest interpretation is that *In(2L)t*
331 polymorphism is maintained by only a small number of loci in LD with the inversion. It is possible that one or more
332 loci in LD with *In(2L)t* contain protein coding variation under selection and no appreciable transcript abundance
333 variation with respect to chromosomal arrangement. We note that there are only 14 IAL in LD with *In(2L)t*
334 (Supplemental data). While a lack of a significant functional group may be dissatisfying, this does provide a
335 manageable candidate list for validation of single targets.

336 **Conclusion**

337 We found that two different cosmopolitan inversions in *D.melanogaster* have some effect on the expression of
338 hundreds of genes across the genome. While we caution that our sample sizes, particularly for *In(2L)t*, are very
339 small, the permutation approach that we have taken is conservative. The genetic variation responsible for the
340 observed transcriptional variation is only in small part due to the inversion event itself, with the majority of the
341 variation being the result of either allelic variation in LD with the inversions, trans-effects of regulators that also
342 are in LD with the inversions, or as of yet uncharacterized, indirect effects of the inversions. Our results mirror
343 those of a recent report on transcriptional variation caused by inversions in *Drosophila pseudoobscura* (FULLER *et al.*
344 2016). Fuller *et al.* demonstrated quite convincingly that the well-studied polymorphic inversions of *D.*
345 *pseudoobscura* are modulating levels of transcription at multiple life history stages and even found hints of trans-
346 effects. However, due to experimental design constraints they could not examine inversion effects on unlinked
347 chromosomes. Our findings extend this pattern to *Drosophila melanogaster* and show that inversions are affecting
348 loci genome-wide. While we have begun to parse the possible causes of IAL, our focus on available data limits the
349 statistical power of our study. Thus it will be important to conduct carefully designed experiments on inversion

350 polymorphism in *D.melanogaster* to elucidate the true extent of influence of inversions on genome-wide patterns
351 of transcription.

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355

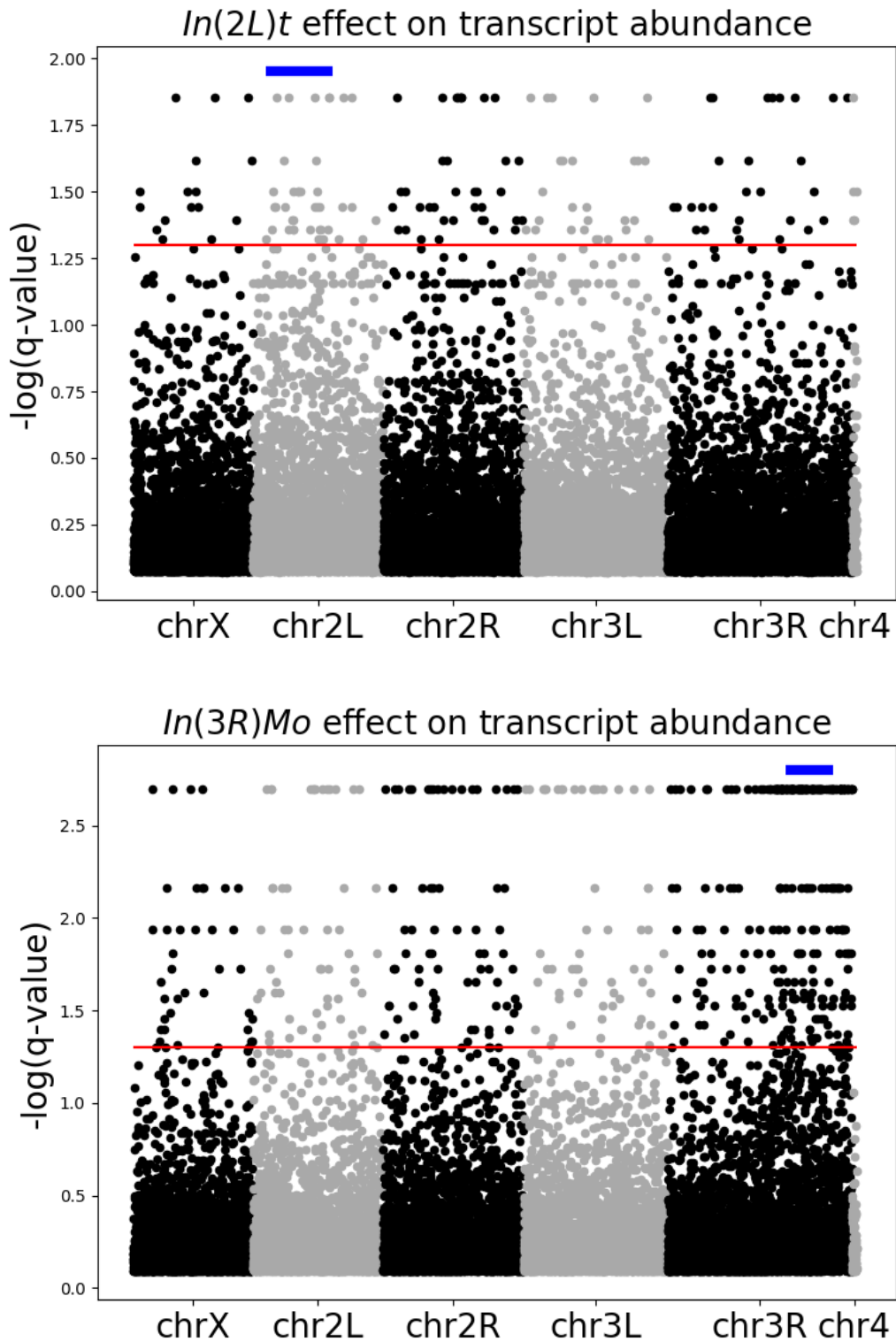
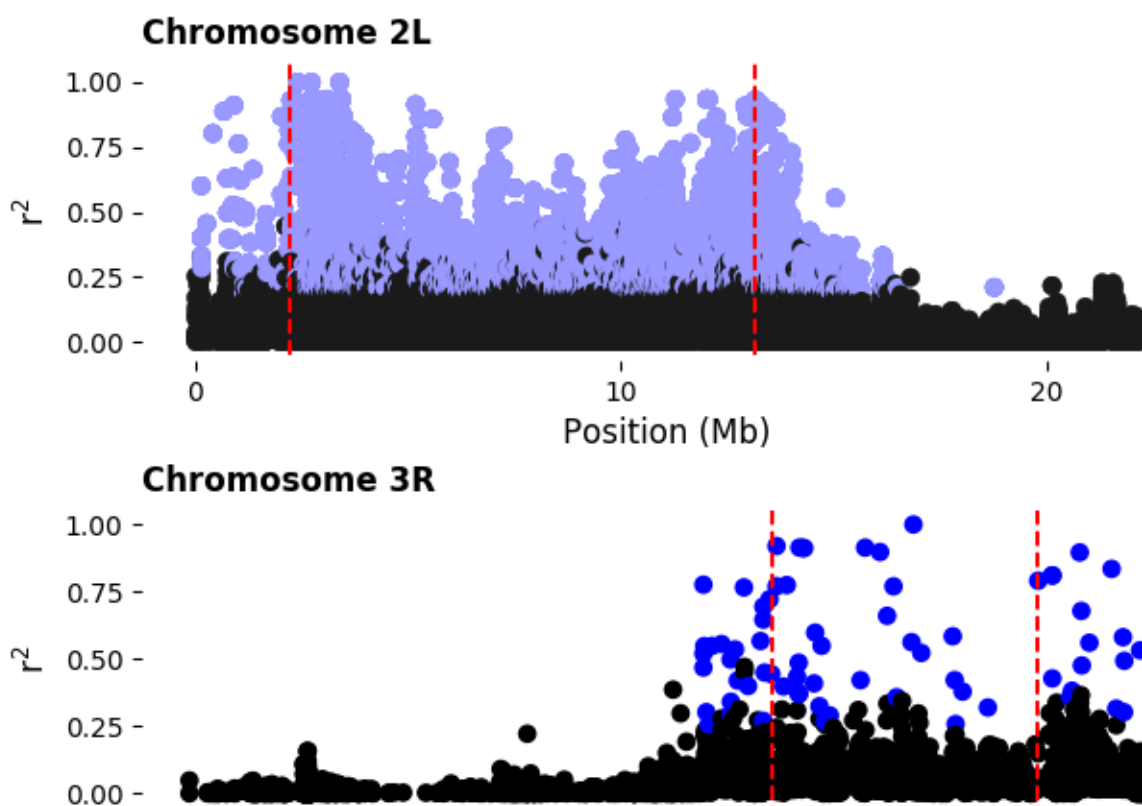
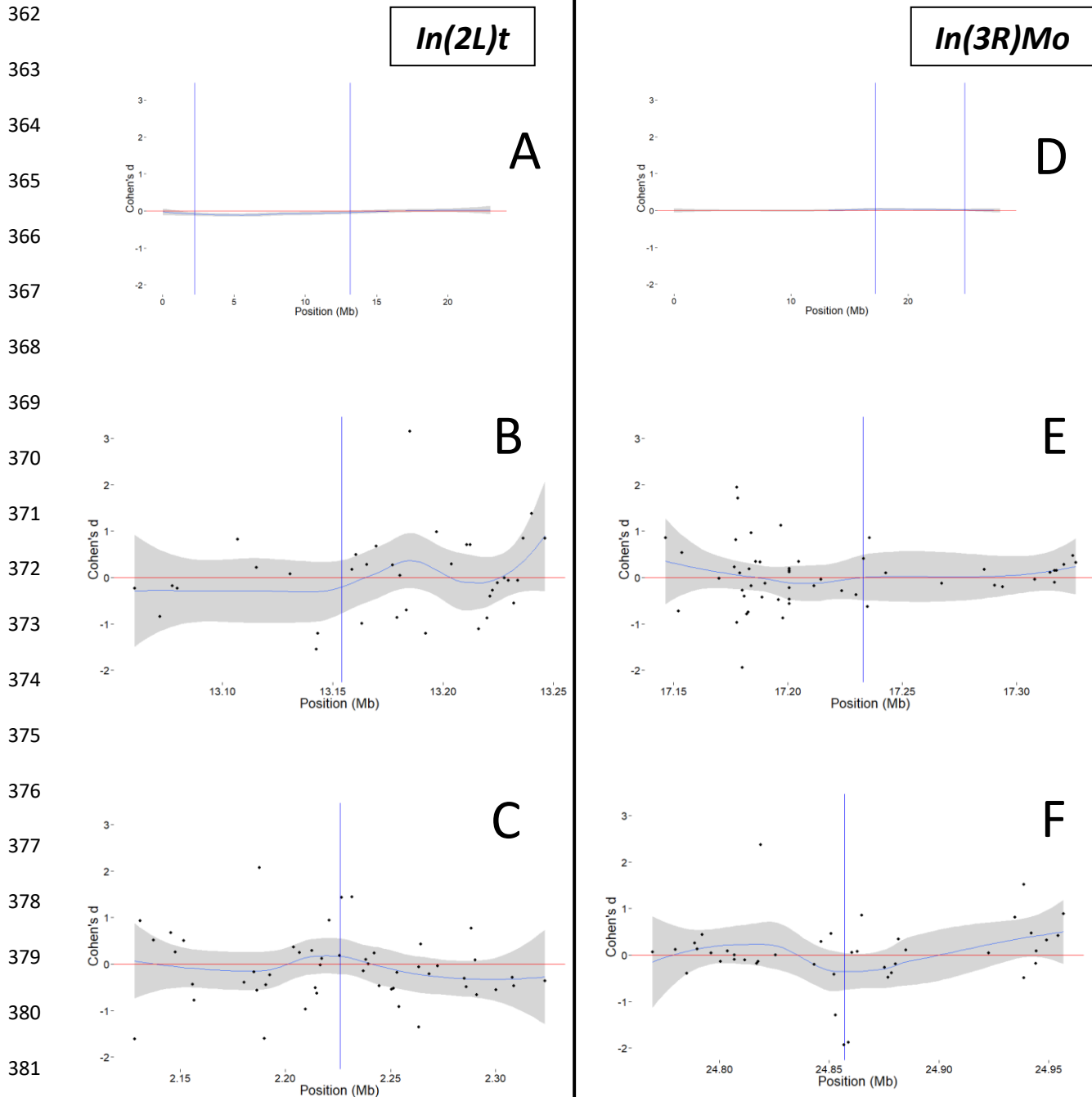


Figure 1. Manhattan plot of log transformed, Bonferroni corrected p-values for an *In(2L)t* (top) and *In(3R)Mo* (bottom) inversion effect on transcription for each probe set across the genome. The blue bar above the points indicates the genomic location of the inversion. The red horizontal line represents the genome-wide significance threshold of $p=5 \times 10^{-8}$

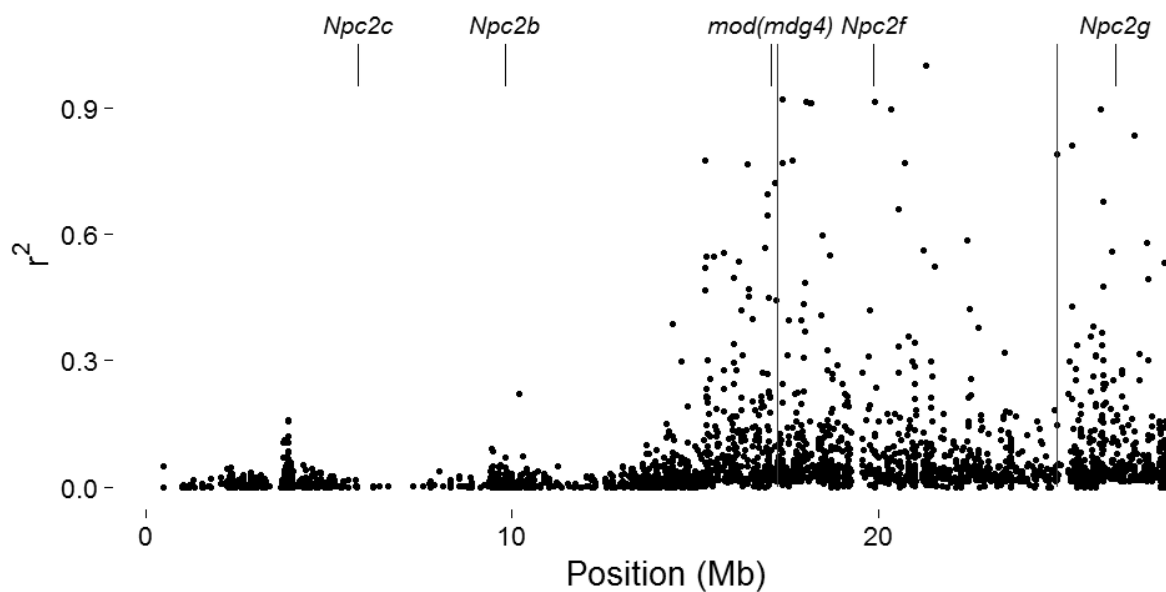
359



360 Figure 2. Linkage disequilibrium between SNPs and inversion state. Disequilibrium is measured as r^2 .
361 Inversion and SNP, and are in significant LD with the inversion are shown in light blue ($p < 0.05$, Bonferroni
correction for all SNPs detected by chromosome arm).



382 Figure 3. Cohen's d of inversion effect for probe sets by location. Cohen's d for *In(2L)t* effect across chromosome
383 2L (A) and for *In(3R)Mo* effect across chromosome 3R (D). Loess curves (polynomial line) and 95% confidence
384 intervals (shaded area) for 200kb surrounding each breakpoint: *In(2L)t* (B) proximal and (C) distal, *In(3R)Mo*
385 proximal (E) and distal (F). Inversion breakpoints are depicted as vertical lines. Loess curves and confidence
386 intervals generated by (`geom_smooth`) function in R package (`ggplot2`). Positive values of Cohen's d
387 represent increased transcript levels associated with the inverted chromosome state and negative values
388 represent decreased transcript levels.



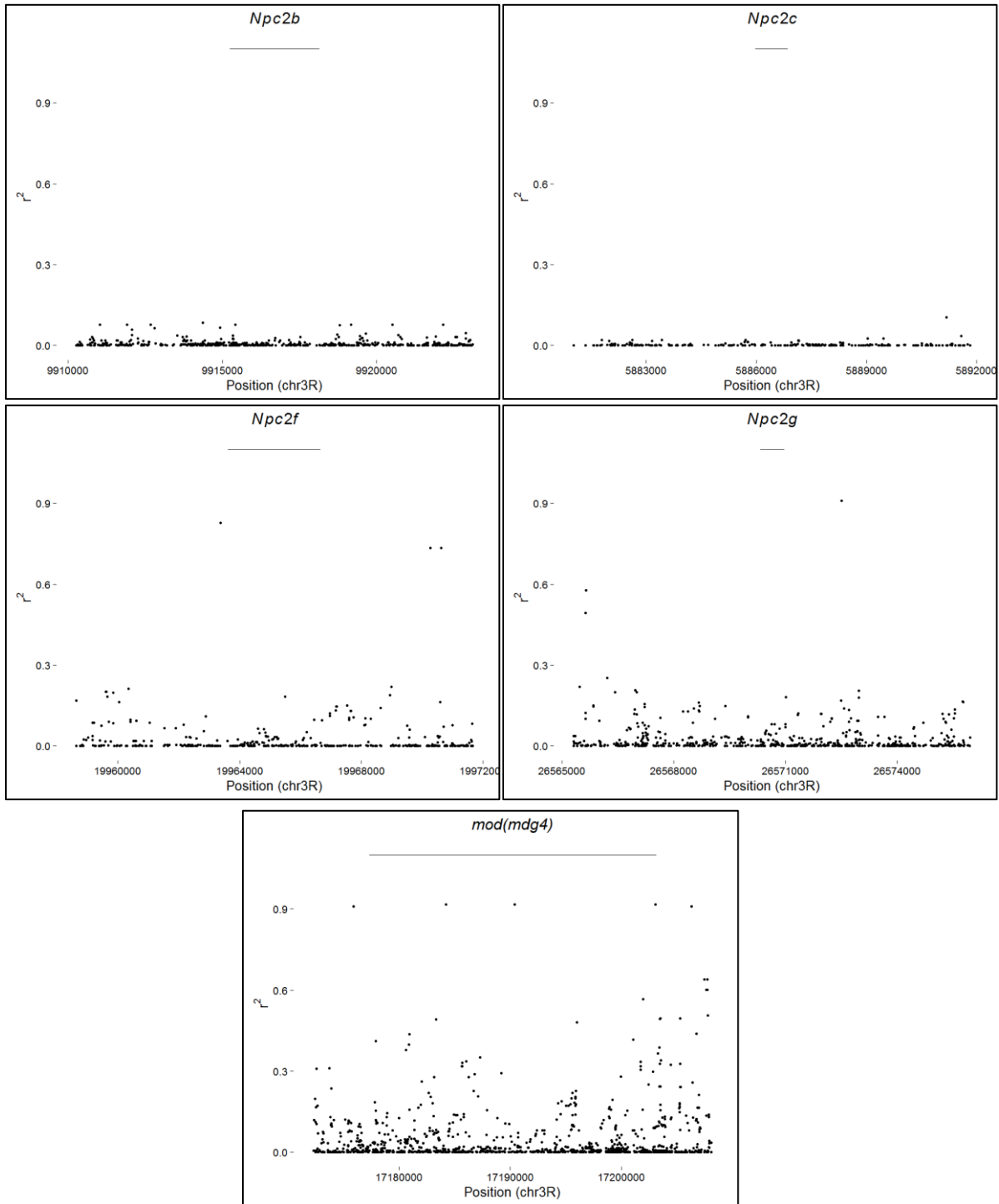
389

390 Figure 4. Location of *Npc2s* and *mod(mdg4)* on chromosome 3R. Long vertical lines represent breakpoints of
391 *In(3R)Mo*. Only *mod(mdg4)* contains a SNP in LD with *In(3R)Mo*.

392

393

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395

396

397 Figure 5. Correlation of SNPs with *In(3R)Mo* by gene. All SNPs within gene regions and within 5kb up- and down-
398 stream of each gene: *Npc2b*, *Npc2c*, *Npc2f*, *Npc2g*, and *mod(mdg4)*. Thin horizontal bars above each plot represent
399 the gene region for that gene.

400

	Within Inversion	Outside Inversion, on same Chr	< 1Mb outside Inversion	Chr 2L	Chr 2R	Chr 3L	Chr 3R	Chr X	Chr 4
<i>In(2L)t</i>	40	18	3	61	42	36	35	17	4
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>	111	133	38	44	58	49	244	30	0

401

402 Table 1. Location of IAL. Counts of IAL between breakpoints, on the same chromosome as the inversion but outside
403 of the breakpoints, and those on the same chromosome as the inversion but outside, and within 1Mb, of the
404 breakpoints, as well as total IAL on each chromosome arm for each inversion.

		Mean r^2
<i>In(2L)t</i>	IAL x IAL	0.0965
	IAL x other	0.0962
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>	IAL x IAL	0.1025
	IAL x other	0.1042
	Genome-wide	0.1181

405 Table 2. Pairwise correlation of gene expression. Mean r^2 was calculated from all pairwise correlation for the set
406 description. IAL x IAL is the set of all pairwise correlation coefficients of expression between IAL for that inversion.
407 IAL x other is the set of correlation coefficients of expression between IAL and all other (non-IAL).
408

		chr2L	chr2R	chr3L	chr3R	chrX
<i>In(2L)t</i>	All loci	370	1	0	1	1
	IAL	11	0	0	0	0
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>	All loci	0	2	0	663	0
	IAL	0	0	0	110	0

409

410 Table 3. Location of loci with SNPs in LD with inversions. Loci are identified as BDGP v5.49 and Affymetrix library
411 v.35 annotated gene regions containing SNPs in significant LD with the inversion (see Methods).

412

Inversion	Total Genes	Total IAL	IAL in LD with Inversion	Genes in LD with Inversion	E[X]	p(E[X]>x)
<i>In(2L)t</i>	11969	192	11	372	6	0.01683
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>		425	102	744	26	6.08×10^{-35}

413 Table 4. IAL in LD with inversion. Expected counts (E[X]) and p-values are calculated by hypergeometric
414 distribution with uncorrected p-value cutoff of p=0.025 for the two-tailed test. Genes included in analyses are
415 annotated in both BDGP v5.49 and Affymetrix library version 35.
416

Inversion	Total Genes	DroID TFs with Sig SNPs	Total DroID TF targets	Total DroID TF targets also IAL	Targets of Sig SNP DroID TFs also IAL	E[X]	p(E[X]>x)
<i>In(2L)t</i>	10623	3	3802	181	53	65	0.96260
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>		8	2373	385	99	86	0.04801

417 Table 5. IAL as targets of Transcription Factors with SNPs in LD with inversion. Expected counts E[X] and p-values
418 calculated by hypergeometric distribution with uncorrected p-value cutoff of p=0.025 for the two-tailed test.
419 Genes included in these analyses are annotated in BDGP v5.49, Affymetrix library v.35, and DroIDb v2015_12.
420

	<i>ln(2L)t</i>		Genome	<i>ln(3R)Mo</i>	
	95% conf. int.	Obs	Obs	Obs	95% conf. int.
chr2L	0.882-1.366	1.338	2.612	1.417	0.834-1.305
chr2R	0.834-1.341	1.066	3.11	1.176	0.853-1.287
chr3L	0.806-1.352	0.979	2.812	1.129	0.829-1.278
chr3R	0.786-1.341	1.015	2.681	1.676	1.07-1.312
chrX	0.724-1.399	1.152	2.814	0.944	0.734-1.295

421 Table 6. Gene location dispersion as described by the Coefficient of Variation (CV). Observed genome CV's
422 calculated from loci in both Flybase ver.5.49 and Affymetrix Drosophila2 r35 annotation databases by chromosome
423 arm. See Methods for details.

424 **Supplemental Tables**

425

Inversion	Total Genes	Total IAL	IAL Inside Inversion	Genes Inside Inversion	E[X]	$p(E[X]>x)$
<i>In(2L)t</i>	11969	192	41	1279	20	4.3045×10^{-6}
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>		425	112	871	31	7.6×10^{-36}

426 Supplemental Table 1. IAL inside inversion region. Expected counts E[X] and p-values are calculated by
 427 hypergeometric distribution with uncorrected p-value cutoff of $p=0.025$ for the two-tailed test. Genes included in
 428 analyses are annotated in both BDGP v5.49 and Affymetrix library version 35.

429

Inversion	Total Genes	Total IAL	IAL as F_{st} outliers	Total F_{st} outliers	E[X]	$p(E[X]>x)$
<i>In(2L)t</i>	11969	192	35	1992	32	0.24089
<i>In(3R)Mo</i>		425	79		71	0.12336

430 Supplemental Table 2. IAL as F_{st} outliers in clinal populations. Populations from Reinhardt et al (2014). Number of
 431 genes reflect the overlap between the unique Affymetrix Drosophila 2 annotated genes and FlyBase r5.49
 432 annotations. Outliers are from the $p=0.05$ tail of the empirical distribution of 1kb windows (see Reinhardt et al
 433 (2014)).

434

435 **Supplemental Methods**

436 **Pairwise LD between SNPs:** was calculated with a custom Linux script as r^2 and χ^2 calculated as $\chi^2 = Nr^2$, as
437 described in Methods. We used the DGRP and excluded lines where either *In(2L)t* or *In(3R)Mo* was suspected to be
438 segregating, We included SNPs that fell within the specified gene regions as annotated in FlyBase v5.49. SNPs with
439 no base calls across all tested lines were excluded. Significance level was corrected for 843,051 tests (all unique, LD
440 calculations for 1299 SNPs).
441

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