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² Two sets of wing homologs in the crustacean, ³ Parhyale hawaiensis

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7 The origin of insect wings is a biological mystery that has fascinated scientists for centuries. 8 Through extensive investigations performed across various fields, two possible wing origin 9 tissues have been identified; a lateral outgrowth of the dorsal body wall (tergum) and ancestral proximal leg structures^{1,2}. With each idea offering both strengths and weaknesses, 10 11 these two schools of thought have been in an intellectual battle for decades without 12 reaching a consensus³. Identification of tissues homologous to insect wings from linages 13 outside of Insecta will provide pivotal information to resolve this conundrum. Here, through expression analyses and CRISPR/Cas9-based genome-editing in the crustacean, 14 15 Parhyale hawaiensis, we show that a wing-like gene regulatory network (GRN) operates 16 both in the crustacean terga and in the proximal leg segments, suggesting that (i) the 17 evolution of a wing-like GRN precedes the emergence of insect wings, and (ii) that both of these tissues are equally likely to be crustacean wing homologs. Interestingly, the presence 18 19 of two sets of wing homologs parallels previous findings in some wingless segments of insects, where wing serial homologs are maintained as two separate tissues⁴⁻⁷. This 20 21 similarity provides crucial support for the idea that the wingless segments of insects indeed 22 reflect an ancestral state for the tissues that gave rise to the insect wing, while the true 23 insect wing represents a derived state that depends upon the contribution of two distinct 24 tissues. These outcomes point toward a dual origin of insect wings, and thus provide a 25 crucial opportunity to unify the two historically competing hypotheses on the origin of this evolutionarily monumental structure. 26

The identification of serially homologous structures can be a powerful approach to reveal
the life history of complex structures, as serially homologous structures can undergo varying
degrees of evolutionary change in different body parts (such as in different segments of
insects)^{8,9}. Recent molecular attempts to identify wing serial homologs in some wingless
segments of insects have shed light on the insect wing origin debate^{4-7,10}, some of which have

32 suggested that wings have a dual origin and are formed from a combination of the two previously proposed origin tissues⁴⁻⁷. However, this approach is inherently limited to the lineages where 33 34 wings have already evolved, preventing us from obtaining a comprehensive evolutionary history of this structure. Identifying homologous tissues between different taxa can circumvent this 35 36 limitation by helping us reconstruct the tissues that were likely present in the common ancestor 37 of these groups, thus providing crucial information on how novel structures arise. As a member 38 of a sister group to insects, the crustacean, Parhyale hawaiensis, provides an excellent opportunity to broaden the search for wing homologs. *Parhyale* are a well-established crustacean 39 model for evo-devo studies¹¹⁻¹³ and their dorso-ventral (DV) body plan remains largely similar to 40 41 that of insects. Both of the tissues that correspond to the two proposed wing origins, the dorsal 42 terga and the proximal leg segments (Fig. 1a), are present in *Parhyale*, allowing us to evaluate 43 the evolutionary relationship of these tissues to the insect wing and other wing serial homologs. 44 We first investigated the possible wing homologs in *Parhyale* via expression and functional analysis of vestigial (vg). The vg gene in insects is considered a critical wing gene 45 because of its unique function in the ectoderm to orchestrate wing development^{14,15} and its 46 potential to induce ectopic wings when overexpressed in certain contexts^{16,17}. We and others have 47 48 previously demonstrated that vg is quite powerful at identifying tissues serially homologous to wings in the wingless segments of insects^{3,4,7,10,18,19}. In *Parhyale*, we found that the vg ortholog 49 (Ph-vg, Extended Data Fig. 1) is expressed in the edge of the terga, as well as in parts of the 50 proximal leg, including the edge of the coxal plate (cp) and part of the basis (Fig. 1d, SI movie 51 52 1). In addition, knocking out (KO) *Ph-vg* via CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing (Extended Data Fig. 53 2) resulted in deletion of the tergal edge, the entire cp, and the expansion of the basis (Fig. 1b 54 and e, SI movie 2 and 3), validating the functionality of *Ph-vg* in these tissues. The penetrance of 55 these Ph-vg KO phenotypes was very high, with the majority of G0 somatic cells displaying all 56 relevant phenotypes (Extended Data Table 1 and 2). Intriguingly, although the gills of crustaceans have been previously proposed as crustacean wing homologs²⁰, the gills of *Ph-vg* KO 57 58 individuals remain intact (Fig. 1c and f, SI movie 2 and 3), suggesting that the gill of Parhyale 59 may not be related to insect wings (however, the homology among crustacean gills requires 60 further evaluation). Together, these findings suggest that both the terga (a dorsal tissue) and the proximal leg segments (homologous to insect pleural plates^{21–23} (Bruce et al. accompanying ms)) 61 62 are the possible wing homologs in this crustacean.

63 To further investigate the genetic overlap between the two vg-dependent tissues in 64 Parhyale and insect wings, we analyzed two additional genes in Parhyale, nubbin (Ph-nub) and 65 apterous (Ph-ap) (Extended Data Fig. 1). In insects, nub is strongly expressed in future wing tissues and loss of its function disrupts the development of wing-related tissues^{5,24-26}. *ap* is 66 expressed in the dorsal compartment of the wing as well as in the tergum in Drosophila²⁷⁻²⁹ and 67 other insects^{26,30}. In the *Drosophila* wing disc, ap acts as the dorsal selector to establish the DV 68 69 organizer²⁷. Both *nub* and *ap* have been used previously to identify wing homologs in crustaceans, leading to the identification of the gill as a potential wing homolog²⁰. In *Parhyale*, 70 *Ph-nub* is expressed strongly in the gill and weakly but broadly in the cp (Fig. 1g, SI movie 4). 71 72 nub is also expressed in a ring pattern in each segment of the leg, which appears to match the nub 73 leg segmental expression of various arthropods^{31,32} (Fig. 1g, SI movie 4). Upon knock-out, *Ph*-74 nub mutants consistently show loss of gills (Fig. 1j, Extended Data Fig. 3, Extended Data Table 75 1 and 2, SI movie 5). *Ph-nub* KO also causes reduction or curling of the cp, as well as leg 76 miniaturization (Fig. 1h and i, SI movie 5). Interestingly, although the presence of *Ph-nub* 77 expression in terga is somewhat ambiguous, we detected occasional mild tergal defects in Ph-78 nub KO individuals (Extended Data Table 2, Extended Data Fig. 4). Therefore, in Parhyale, the 79 nub gene is essential for the proper formation of terga, as well as various leg components, 80 including the gill, cp, and distal leg segments.

81 We previously identified the two classes of ap genes in arthropods, termed apA and apB, 82 with *apA* being a dominant paralog during wing development^{26,33}. The *ap* gene that has previously been tested in another crustacean appears to belong to the apB class^{20,26} (Extended 83 Data Fig. 1). We identified two ap genes in Parhyale, corresponding to the two classes (Ph-apA 84 85 and *Ph-apB*) (Extended Data Fig. 1). Our expression analysis revealed that *Ph-apA* is the relevant *ap* paralog for wing homolog identification, as *Ph-apB* is only expressed in the brain of 86 Parhyale (Extended Data Fig. 5). In contrast, Ph-apA is expressed diffusely throughout the terga, 87 88 cp, and basis (Fig. 1k, SI movie 6) and acutely where the cp and gill join the coxa (Fig. 1k'). apA 89 KO (Extended Data Fig. 2 and 3, Extended Data Table 1) causes curling in the edge of the terga, 90 the cp, and in the expansion of the basis (Fig 11 and m, SI movie 7). In addition, apA KO 91 individuals are often missing the entire gill, even though *Ph-apA* expression is limited to the base 92 of the gill (Fig. 1n, Extended Data Table 2, SI movie 7). Full deletion or severe reduction of all 93 relevant tissues (the tergum, cp, and gill) was also observed with apA KO, but we were only able

to recover one such individual (Extended Data Fig. 4). This low penetrance of severe KO
phenotype might be due to high lethality when the majority of the somatic cells are *apA* KO.
Taken together, our expression and functional analyses for the three "wing" genes in *Parhyale*have revealed that, although the expression and functional domains for each of these genes do
not overlap completely, all three genes are critical for the formation of both terga and
components of the proximal leg (Fig. 2a). Therefore, both of these two tissues are equally likely
to be the wing homologs of crustaceans.

101 The debate on the origin of insect wings is like a pendulum that has been swinging back and forth between the two possible origin tissues for more than 200 years³. Previous molecular 102 evidence of a wing GRN operating in crustacean gills²⁰ strongly swayed this pendulum in the 103 104 direction of a proximal leg origin of insect wing. Our identification of the wing-like GRN 105 operating in both the terga and the proximal leg segments prior to the evolution of insect wings 106 returns the swinging pendulum back to a neutral position, where either origin tissue can be 107 implicated. As mentioned, there is a third direction for the pendulum to swing, namely toward a dual origin of insect wings³. Although not new, this idea has only recently been gaining 108 momentum^{4-7,34,35}. Below, we argue that the data presented here provide critical support for the 109 110 dual origin model, and in combination with previous observations of wing serial homologs in 111 wingless segments of insects, push the pendulum further in this new direction. First, the 112 functional dependency of the two tissues on the wing-like GRN is not due to a common cell 113 lineage of these tissues, as cell lineage tracing in the developing Parhyale embryo has identified 114 that the tergum and the leg (including the most proximal components such as coxa) have different identities even early in development 36 . These data establish that the separation of these 115 116 two lineages of tissues is deep in evolutionary time. Second, the presence of two separate sets of 117 tissues per segment in Parhyale, both of which rely on a similar wing-like GRN, is reminiscent 118 of the situation observed in the wingless segments of some insects where wing serial homologs are maintained as two separate tissues of tergal and pleural (i.e. ancestral proximal leg) nature⁴⁻ 119 ^{7,19} (Fig 2). This similarity provides crucial support for the idea that the wingless segments of 120 121 insects indeed reflect a plesiomorpic (ancestral) state for wing serial homologs, while the bona 122 *fide* insect wing represents an apomorphic (derived) state that depends upon the contribution of two distinct tissues $(i.e. a dual origin)^{19}$. 123

124 It is intriguing to speculate how a similar GRN has come to operate in the two distinct 125 tissues (the terga and the proximal leg segments). Co-option of the GRN from one tissue to the other is a strong possibility that has recently been proposed³⁷. Another possibility is shared 126 127 ancestry between the terga and the proximal leg segments, as suggested in the accompanying 128 paper (Bruce et al. accompanying ms). In either case, our data indicate that the wing-like GRN 129 was already operating in both the terga and the proximal leg segments in the common ancestor of 130 hexapods and crustaceans prior to the evolution of bona fide wings. It is also worth mentioning 131 that the gill in *Parhyale* might not be homologous to insect wings, despite some genetic overlaps 132 observed between these two structures. A previous study has demonstrated that the gill GRN has a larger overlap with the insect "respiratory GRN"³⁸. Furthermore, here we showed that the gill 133 134 lacks dependency on *Ph-vg*, a critical wing gene in insects. Therefore, the crustacean gill might 135 be more homologous to the insect respiratory system than to the wing.

136 The evolutionary route from the two sets of wing homologs to the *bona fide* insect wing 137 is still a mystery for future studies. The accompanying paper highlights one of the critical steps 138 in the evolution of insect wings, *i.e.* the evolution of pleural plates (Bruce et al. accompanying 139 ms). Bruce et al., provides compelling evidence supporting the idea that the most proximal part 140 of the *Parhyale* leg (coxa) is equivalent to the insect subcoxa, a structure that has evolved into 141 pleural plates in modern insects^{21–23}. Considering our finding that similar wing-like GRNs are 142 operating in both the terga and the proximal leg, the merger of the proximal leg into the body 143 wall to form the pleural plates of insects could have been a key step in bringing these highly 144 similar developmental modules closer together. Subsequently, this event may have caused a 145 "cross-wiring" of the two similar GRNs operating in these two tissues, resulting in one fused 146 tissue now functionally dependent on the merged GRN (*i.e.* an ancestral wing GRN) (Fig. 2b). Although the evidence for a dual origin of insect wings is mounting^{3-7,34,35}, this third 147 148 hypothesis requires rigorous further testing from various fields. Recently established genetic techniques (such as the CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing used in this study) will allow us to delve 149

150 deeper into the molecular basis underlying the evolution of insect wings. Meanwhile, the

151 pendulum of the wing origin debate continues to attract more researchers to the unveiling of the

152 origin and history of this evolutionarily monumental structure.

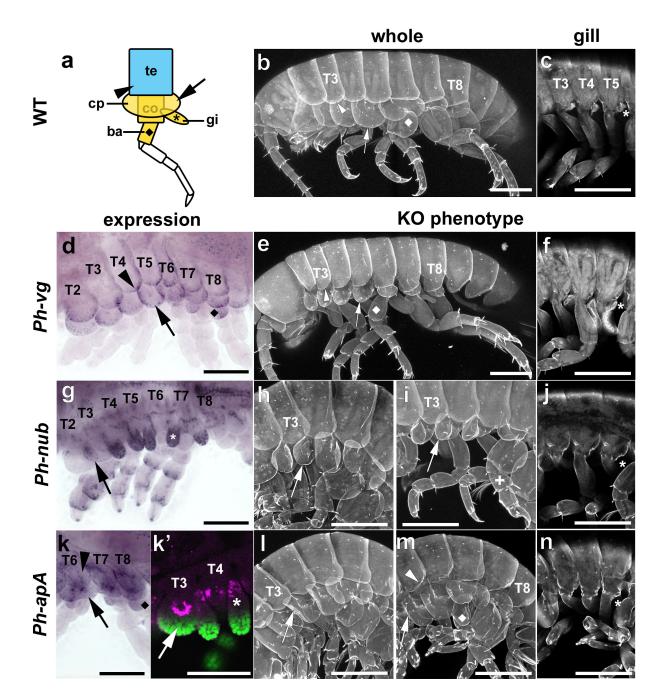
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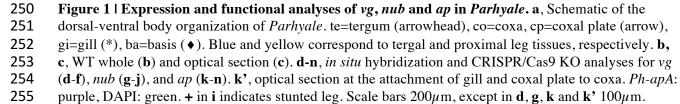
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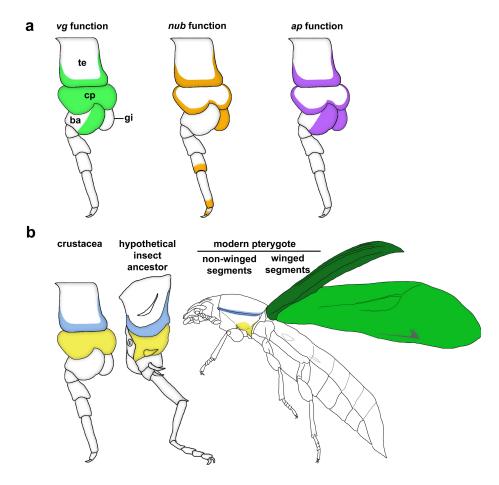
Acknowledgements We thank Nipam Patel and Heather Bruce for technical assistance and sharing their preprint, and Xavier
 Franch-Marro for the *Ph-vvl* clone. We also thank the Center for Bioinformatics and Functional Genomics (CBFG) and the
 Center for Advanced Microscopy and Imaging (CAMI) at Miami University for technical support, Shuxia Yi for technical
 assistance, and Takahiro Ohde, Ana Fernándes, David Linz, Nipam Patel, Heather Bruce, Arnaud Martin, and other members of
 the Tomoyasu and Patel labs for helpful discussion. This work is supported by the Miami University Faculty Research Grants
 Program (CFR) (to YT), the National Science Foundation (NSF) (IOS1557936 to YT), an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (to
 CC-H), and EDEN: Evo-Devo- Eco Network (NSF-IOS0955517 to CC-H).

Author Contributions C. CH. and Y.T. conceived the experiments. C. CH. performed the experiments. C. CH and Y.T. analysed the data and wrote the manuscript.









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258 Figure 2 | The proposed wing homologs of *Parhyale* and the evolutionary relationship among wing 259 **homologs.** a, the functional domains of the three genes examined in this study. te=tergum, cp=coxal plate, gi=gill, ba=basis. **b**, the evolutionary relationship among wing homologs. The tergal edge (blue) 260 261 and proximal leg segment (cp, yellow) are two possible crustacean wing homologs, in which two similar 262 wing-like GRNs operate (left in **b**). These crustacean tissues correspond to the two proposed wing origin 263 tissues; the crustacean tergum corresponds to the insect tergum, and the crustacean proximal leg segments 264 to the insect pleural plates (middle in **b**). A similar situation can be found in the wingless segments of 265 pterygote insects (right in **b**, tergal and pleural tissues are colored in blue and yellow, respectively). A 266 wing-like GRN operates in both of these tissues, and they merge to form a complete wing upon homeotic 267 transformation⁴⁻⁶, indicating that both tissues are wing serial homologs in the wingless segments of 268 pterygotes (right in **b**). Through these observations, we propose that, prior to the evolution of insect 269 wings, the apterygote ancestor of hexapods possessed two distinct tissues (of tergal and pleural nature), 270 both of which had similar wing-like GRNs operating in them (middle in b). The evolution of pleural 271 plates from the most proximal leg segment (*i.e.* subcoxa) has juxtaposed these two distinct tissues that 272 rely on a similar GRN, which might have resulted in one functional unit of tissues (green) with a "cross-273 wired" GRN (ancestral wing GRN). In contrast, in the wingless segments, Hox genes have evolved to 274 prevent this merger, maintaining the tissues serially homologous to wings as two separate sets (one of 275 tergal and the other of pleural nature).