

1 **Title:** Novitski's Distal Shift in Paracentric Inversion Evolution

2 **Author Name:** Spencer A. Koury

3 **Affiliation:** Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University

4 **Address:** 650 Life Sciences Building

5 100 Nichols Road, Stony Brook, NY 11794

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7 **Abstract:** In *Drosophila pseudoobscura* younger chromosomal inversions tend to be found
8 distal to older inversions. By examining phylogenetic series of overlapping
9 inversions for 134 gene arrangements of 13 chromosomes this pattern was
10 extended to five additional *Drosophila* species. This distinct pattern arose
11 repeatedly and independently in all six species and likely reflects an underlying
12 principle of chromosome evolution. In this study it is illustrated how
13 transmission of distal inversions is *always* favored in female meiosis when
14 crossing over in homosequential regions of overlapping inversions generates
15 asymmetric dyads. This cytogenetic mechanism for female meiotic drive is
16 described in detail and advanced as an explanation for the distal shift in
17 phylogenetic series of overlapping inversions as well as several better known
18 patterns in the evolution of serially inverted chromosomes.

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20 **Keywords:** Chromosome Evolution, Meiotic Drive, Nonrandom Disjunction, Inversion

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24 INTRODUCTION

25 The study of *Drosophila* chromosomal inversion polymorphism emerged as model
26 system for evolutionary genetics in the 1930's and played a major role in the Modern Synthesis
27 (Krimbas and Powell, 1992). Interest in inversions started to wane in the 1960's with the
28 appearance of genetic markers, such as allozymes, that could be more readily applied to many
29 other organisms. However, beginning in the 1990's, application of sequencing technology in
30 natural population genetics led to the discovery of inversions in several non-model organisms
31 and a renaissance in both empirical and theoretical research on inversion polymorphism and its
32 role in adaptation and speciation (Jones *et al.*, 2012; Kirkpatrick and Barton, 2006; Le Poul *et*
33 *al.*, 2014; Lowry and Willis, 2010). Clearly, inversion polymorphism is an aspect of structural
34 genome evolution in more than just *Drosophila*. However, for the investigation of nuanced
35 patterns and mechanisms in chromosome evolution the knowledge base developed in *Drosophila*
36 cytogenetics remains indispensable (Corbett-Detig and Hartl, 2012; Schaeffer *et al.*, 2008). As
37 information on inversion polymorphism accumulates in the post-genomic era, early studies of
38 chromosomal rearrangements in model systems will play a fundamental role in organizing these
39 abundant data to uncover the principles of chromosome evolution (Bhutkar *et al.*, 2008; Gong *et*
40 *al.*, 2005; Ranz *et al.*, 2007).

41 Inversion polymorphism in *Drosophila* was the first genetic marker system studied for
42 phylogenetic inference and natural population genetics. Central to this research was Alfred
43 Sturtevant, who first discovered chromosomal inversions, their effects in transmission genetics,
44 and described natural variation in several species (Sturtevant and Novitski, 1941; Sturtevant,
45 1917; Sturtevant, 1921; Sturtevant and Beadle, 1936; Sturtevant and Dobzhansky, 1936). In
46 1936, Sturtevant proposed to make inversion polymorphism in *D. pseudoobscura* a model

47 system for evolutionary biology through collaboration with Theodosius Dobzhansky and Sewall
48 Wright (Provine, 1981). From this collaboration came the first phylogenetic series of
49 overlapping inversions (figure 1), and would for the next four decades be expanded by
50 Dobzhansky *et alia* into the Genetics of Natural Populations I-XLIII (Dobzhansky and
51 Sturtevant, 1938; Lewontin, 1981).

52 Despite this impressive scientific history, the mechanisms governing inversion origin,
53 establishment, and maintenance remain obscure. The experimental study of spontaneous
54 mutation of inversions and their invasion in populations is logistically difficult, if not impossible,
55 and thus remains underexplored (Krimbas and Powell, 1992; Yamaguchi and Mukai, 1974).
56 Balancing selection (associative overdominance, multiple niche, *etc.*) has long been favored in
57 the maintenance of inversion polymorphism and has been variously supported by sampling
58 natural populations as well as population cage and field experiments (Dobzhansky, 1948;
59 Levitan and Etges, 2009; Schaeffer, 2008; Wright and Dobzhansky, 1946). However,
60 experimental efforts on all fronts are intrinsically biased by the idiosyncrasies of chromosomal
61 breakages and linked genetic backgrounds for the small handful of common inversions that
62 provide the genetic material for analysis (*e.g.* Dobzhansky, 1950; Levitan, 1962; Yamaguchi and
63 Mukai, 1974).

64 In contrast, non-experimental methods such as direct sequencing of inversion
65 breakpoints and surveys of molecular diversity in inverted regions have provided a historical
66 perspective on the origin of the common inversions. Common cosmopolitan inversions of *D.*
67 *melanogaster* have reduced levels of polymorphism and originated relatively recently, on the
68 order of 100,000 years ago (Andolfatto *et al.*, 1999; Corbett-Detig and Hartl, 2012; Hasson and
69 Eanes, 1996; Matzkin *et al.*, 2005; Wesley and Eanes, 1994). Similar patterns are observed for

70 the serially inverted third chromosome of *D. pseudoobscura*, where the long and complex history
71 of local adaptation and selection of epistatic effects have shaped the molecular diversity among
72 gene arrangements (Fuller *et al.*, 2016; Schaeffer, 2008; Schaeffer *et al.*, 2003; Wallace *et al.*,
73 2011; Wallace *et al.*, 2013). However, the discovery that common inversions from several
74 species exhibit long range linkage disequilibrium, epistatic fitness effects, and are associated
75 with meiotic drive renews concerns about drawing inferences from the exclusive study of this
76 relatively small sample of inversion polymorphism (Corbett-Detig and Hartl, 2012; Houle and
77 Márquez, 2015; Schaeffer *et al.*, 2003).

78 A long standing hypothesis that inversions result from ectopic recombination of
79 transposable elements or other repetitive sequence found little support in the first polymorphic
80 inversion breakpoints to be directly sequenced, *D. melanogaster*'s *In(3L)P*, *In(2L)t*, and *In(3R)P*
81 (Andolfatto *et al.*, 1999; Matzkin *et al.*, 2005; Wesley and Eanes, 1994). Outside of *D.*
82 *melanogaster*, there is both direct (Cáceres *et al.*, 1999b) and indirect (Orengo *et al.*, 2015)
83 support of this mechanism. However, in 29 fixed inversions in the *melanogaster* group, Ranz *et*
84 *al.* (2007) found only two instances of inverted repetitive sequences that would even allow this
85 mechanism to operate. Complicating this historical analysis is the tendency for transposable
86 elements to accumulate on the minority arrangements (Eanes *et al.*, 1992; Sniegowski and
87 Charlesworth, 1994), and the possibility of transposable element remnants eroding over time
88 (Puerma *et al.*, 2014; Ranz *et al.*, 2007). No unified characterization of inversion breakpoints, or
89 the mechanisms governing the process, has emerged as the breakpoints studied have ranged from
90 simple “cut and paste” to complex rearrangements including small inverted duplications and
91 deletions (Cáceres *et al.*, 1999a; Ranz *et al.*, 2007; Wesley and Eanes, 1994).

92 Beyond the molecular characterization, the cytological study of inversion breakpoints
93 along chromosome arms can also provide information about mechanisms controlling inversion
94 polymorphism. The standard null distribution would assume inversions result from a rejoining of
95 two chromosomal breakages that occur with uniform probability along the chromosome (Van
96 Valen and Levins, 1968). When compared to this null distribution, breakpoints of a given
97 inversion are observed to be further apart than expected, creating a deficiency of small inversions
98 (*e.g.* Brehm and Krimbas, 1991). When comparing breakpoints *among* inversions, the
99 breakpoints tend to be grouped closer together than expected creating extensive overlap of
100 chromosomal inversions (Novitski, 1946). Finally, rather than the expected uniform distribution,
101 serially inverted chromosomes tend to have inversion breakpoints clustered in distal regions of
102 chromosome arms (Novitski, 1946).

103 Using the direct ancestor-descendant relationships of gene arrangements within species to
104 generate phylogenetic series, it can be shown that breakpoints of derived inversions tend to lie
105 distal of the corresponding inversion breakpoints in the ancestral arrangement (Novitski, 1946;
106 Sturtevant and Dobzhansky, 1936). The telomeric progression of overlapping rearrangements
107 for serially inverted chromosomes is called Novitski's distal shift, because this little-known rule
108 of chromosome evolution was first described by Ed Novitski with cytogenetic evidence from
109 Muller element *C* of *Drosophila pseudoobscura* (Krimbas and Powell, 1992; Novitski, 1946).
110 To extend the observation of Novitski's distal shift, I examined published data from 28
111 phylogenetic series for 13 different chromosomes in six *Drosophila* species of the *obscura*
112 group. Each phylogenetic series arose independently in each species and represents the direct
113 ancestor-descendent relationship in paracentric inversion evolution. Having validated the distal
114 shift empirically, I propose a meiotic drive mechanism for the evolution of overlapping

115 chromosomal inversions that explains the progressive distal shift towards the telomere. I discuss
116 difficulties in extending this mechanism to serially inverted chromosomes and suggest the same
117 mechanism is the cause of other notable patterns in paracentric inversion evolution.

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119 MATERIALS AND METHODS

120 The cytogenetics for sixteen *Drosophila* species in the *obscura* group have been
121 published. Although most species in this group have extensive inversion polymorphism, only six
122 species had sufficient data (multiple overlapping rearrangements) to allow the construction of
123 phylogenies for overlapping paracentric inversions. Inversion phylogenies are unrooted trees.
124 Incorporating information on arrangement frequency, geographical distribution, and the
125 karyotype of interspecific hybrids, consensus ancestral arrangements (often designated
126 “Standard”) are used to polarize inversion phylogenies. Note, arrangements other than the
127 Standard may have been ancestral, as proposed for two chromosomes in *D. subobscura* and
128 demonstrated with molecular variation for *D. pseudoobscura* (Krimbas, 1992; Wallace *et al.*,
129 2011). The first gene rearrangement in a phylogenetic series is designated as the “series
130 originating inversion.” An inversion’s rank in a phylogenetic series was recorded as the minimal
131 number of inversion back steps required to obtain the ancestral arrangement. Species and
132 chromosome information for the 28 phylogenetic series of overlapping inversions used in this
133 paper are listed in table 1 with a sample series illustrated in figure 1 (see supplementary figure 1
134 for dataset from all series)

135 To quantify the distal shift, the cytogenetic location of breakpoints were converted to a
136 numerical value where the centromere position was zero and each successive cytogenetically
137 discernable region is considered one unit distal. Where ambiguity exists for an inversion

138 breakpoint location, the midpoint of the range indicated was taken. To facilitate comparison
139 across chromosomes and species, the scale for each chromosome was standardized to 100 unit
140 lengths. This quantification does not necessarily correspond to a linear function of physical
141 distance (bp) or genetic distance (cM), but it does assign a value between 0-100 for every
142 inversion breakpoint and represents its cytogenetic location on the chromosome relative to the
143 centromere. Inversion breakpoints location on this scale must be determined based on the
144 arrangement upon which that new inversion first arose, not necessarily on the standard
145 arrangement scale that is often reported in the literature. Similarly, inversion size was estimated
146 as the distance between proximal and distal inversion breakpoints on the gene arrangement upon
147 which it first occurred. Thus breakpoint location, inversion size, and phylogenetic rank for a
148 given inversion are not obvious from casual observation and these data are provided in
149 supplemental table 1.

150 To test the distal shift, inversion breakpoint location and size must be adjusted for the
151 position and size of each respective phylogenetic series. Inversion breakpoint locations were
152 therefore expressed as a deviation from the midpoint of the series originating inversion and
153 inversion size was expressed as a deviation from the average inversion size for each phylogenetic
154 series. On the standardized adjusted scale, zero represented the location of the originating
155 inversion for each series, positive values represented a distal shift, and negative values indicated
156 proximal movement of the derived inversion. Similarly, positive values indicates an above
157 average size and negative values represent a smaller than average size after standardization and
158 adjustment for each phylogenetic series.

159 Statistical analysis of the distal shift was performed by least squares regression of
160 standardized inversion breakpoint location upon the inversion's rank in a phylogenetic series.

161 For each phylogenetic series the Muller element and species were incorporated as nested
162 categorical variables in the regression analysis. Phylogenetic correction for the species term
163 (incorporating non-independence of observations due to shared ancestry) is statistically
164 inappropriate when analyzing polymorphisms unique to each species, precisely because there can
165 be no covariation due to coancestry. Separate analyses were performed for proximal and distal
166 inversion breakpoints with statistical significance of the regression coefficients assessed by two
167 sided t -test for $\beta = 0$. A statistical test for equality of slopes was performed using F -statistics for
168 the null hypothesis $\beta_{proximal} = \beta_{distal}$ (Sokal and Rohlf, 1995). Statistical significance of inversion
169 size reduction was assessed by two sided t -test for $\beta = 0$ after regression of standardized
170 inversion size on phylogenetic series.

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RESULTS

173 The quantitative analysis of 134 inversions in 28 phylogenetic series on 13 chromosomes
174 from six *obscura* group species provided strong statistical support of the telomeric progression of
175 sequentially derived inversion breakpoints (figure 2). The regression of proximal inversion
176 breakpoint location on phylogenetic rank yielded a statistically significant regression coefficient
177 ($\beta=10.00$, $t=4.54$, $df=1$, $p< 0.001$) (table 2). Distal inversion breakpoint location when
178 regressed on phylogenetic rank was also statistically significant ($\beta=7.07$, $t=2.98$, $df=1$ $p=0.004$)
179 (table 3). Variance components and the occasional statistical significance associated with nested
180 categorical variables (species, element, series) is likely a product of standardization across
181 chromosomes with heterogeneous map resolution and genetic length. Again phylogenetic
182 correction for these tests is both logically and statistically inappropriate as the inversion
183 polymorphism analyzed is unique to and arose independently in each species.

207 and rarely form phylogenetic series. When SR chromosomes do form phylogenetic series
208 (Muller element A of *D. subobscura*, element D of *D. athabasca*), they tend to be smaller series
209 and do not exhibit the distal shift or size reduction. It is likely that the very strong selection on
210 sex ratios and recombination suppression associated with the strong transmission bias of SR
211 chromosomes overwhelms the statistical signal produced the relatively weak force that drives the
212 distal shift.

213 If the distal shift observed for autosomes in these species is just an extreme illustration of
214 some underlying principle common to all paracentric inversion evolution, then a cytogenetic
215 mechanism is required for this pattern. Novitski himself presented a biased mutational model
216 after observing the non-uniform distribution of inversion breakpoints in the phylogenetic series
217 of *D. pseudoobscura* (Bernstein and Goldschmidt, 1961; Novitski, 1946; Novitski, 1961). This
218 ingenious model invokes a bias of spontaneous chromosome breakage in inversion heterozygotes
219 and remains a viable explanation awaiting experimental examination. However, as Novitski
220 noted, this model is limited to explaining the clumped distribution of inversion breakpoints and
221 alone is insufficient to explain the distal shift, size reduction, or variability of inversion
222 abundance (Novitski, 1946). Below I present an alternative mechanism with well-validated
223 assumptions that addresses all these aspects of inversion polymorphism, and does not invoke the
224 logistically untestable mutational bias assumption.

225 **Meiotic Drive Mechanism:** In *Drosophila*, recombination between different gene
226 arrangements is effectively suppressed because crossing over produces acentric and dicentric
227 meiotic products that for mechanical reasons are relegated to the polar body nuclei and never
228 included in the functional egg (Hinton and Lucchesi, 1960; Sturtevant and Beadle, 1936).
229 However, as illustrated in figure 4A, heterozygotes for overlapping inversions have a

230 homosequential region, where if crossing over were to occur, all four meiotic products would be
231 monocentric and could in principle be included in the functional egg (figure 4B). Because of the
232 figure eight pairing pattern (figure 4C), crossing over in meiosis I generates large deletions and
233 duplications resulting in dyad asymmetry (figure 4B) (Sturtevant and Beadle, 1936). In
234 *Drosophila* females, it is a thoroughly established fact that the shorter chromatid of an
235 asymmetric dyad in meiosis II has a higher probability of being included in the functional egg
236 (Lindsley and Sandler, 1965; Novitski and Sandler, 1956; Zimmering, 1955). The phenomenon
237 of unequal recovery from asymmetric dyads is known as nonrandom disjunction and is a well-
238 known form of female meiotic drive (reviewed in Novitski, 1951; Novitski, 1967).

239 For any overlapping paracentric inversions that are two steps apart in a phylogenetic
240 series, a homosequential region exists where crossing over produces asymmetric dyads
241 (Sturtevant and Beadle, 1936). Furthermore, for any such inversions, a single crossover event
242 will create dyads pairing the distal inversion with the duplications and the proximal inversion
243 with the deletions. The resulting asymmetric dyads will favor the inclusion of the chromatids
244 carrying the distal inversion and the deletions in the functional egg. Because large chromosomal
245 deletions and duplications generally form inviable zygotes, the final result is an over-
246 representation of distal inversions in the viable progeny of females heterozygous for overlapping
247 inversions.

248 This meiotic drive mechanism applies equally to included inversions (supplemental
249 figure 2), where the asymmetric dyads generated from crossing over consist of a proximal
250 duplication and distal deletion (or vice versa). The mechanism operates for inversions in
251 repulsion phase (as illustrated in figure 4) or coupling phase as observed for serially inverted
252 chromosomes (supplemental figure 3 and 4). In the latter case, the serially inverted chromosome

253 will drive against the standard arrangement only if the second inversion is distal to the first.
254 Therefore, single crossover events in homosequential regions of any two inversions (overlapping
255 or included, in repulsion or coupling phase) will unequivocally create a bias favoring the
256 inclusion of distal inversions in the functional egg. I propose that it is this intrinsic bias in
257 female meiosis that generates the distal shift in a phylogenetic series of serially inverted
258 chromosomes. This hypothesis also explains the weak tendency towards size reduction as a by-
259 product of favoring evermore distal inversions in subtelomeric regions where large inversions are
260 precluded by the position of the telomere.

261 **Challenges of Drive Theory:** This meiotic drive theory of Novitski's distal shift presents
262 several difficulties from both transmission genetic and population genetic perspectives.

263 Although crossing over in homosequential regions of overlapping inversions has been directly
264 observed, experimental investigation has been limited to X chromosomes and requires the use of
265 compound chromosomes or translocation stocks to recover recombinant products (Grell, 1962;
266 Novitski and Braver, 1954; Sturtevant and Beadle, 1936). Crossing over in shared inverted
267 regions has not yet been demonstrated for inversions of autosomes segregating in natural
268 populations. Formal genetic analysis for the common inversions of Muller element E in *D.*
269 *melanogaster* and Muller element C in *D. pseudoobscura* could not detect nonrandom
270 disjunction (Meisel and Schaeffer, 2007, Koury unpublished). However, using realistic
271 parameters for crossing over and nonrandom disjunction, expected transmission ratios do not
272 exceed $k = 0.513$ (Koury unpublished), a deviation that is on the same order of magnitude of
273 viability effects of phenotypic markers used and well within the measurement error of both
274 experiments. Nonetheless, it is not uncommon for effects below the threshold of experimental
275 detection (*e.g.* codon bias) to have major evolutionary significance. Furthermore, there are

276 experimental refinements possible with *D. melanogaster* model system currently being pursued
277 to enhance the ability to experimentally detect drive in this scenario.

278 More difficulty is encountered when considering the population genetics of the distal
279 shift. The relative rarity of inversion mutations, overlapping inversion heterozygotes, and
280 crossing over in homosequential regions (each a precondition for the next) paired with the
281 relatively weak strength of drive and the underdominance of overlapping inversion heterozygotes
282 (due to dominant lethal deletion and duplications), suggests a small role for nonrandom
283 disjunction in paracentric inversion evolution. In considering the extension to serially inverted
284 chromosomes, the later gene rearrangements can only drive at the expense of the earlier steps.
285 So this force, while of plausible importance in the first, second, or third steps of a phylogenetic
286 series, quickly becomes vanishingly small in later steps. These population genetic questions
287 require rigorous quantitative analysis beyond the scope of this paper and are the subject of a
288 forthcoming publication.

289 Interestingly, the challenges outlined in this section generate several predictions which
290 are consistent with the *obscura* group data. First, the relatively weak female meiotic drive for
291 overlapping inversions (maximum $k = 0.513$) does not generate a distal shift for SR
292 chromosomes where stronger forces are expected to prevail. Second, for the most extensive and
293 best resolved phylogenetic series (Muller element *C* of *D. athabasca*, *D. pseudoobscura*, and *D.*
294 *subobscura*), the ancestral arrangements and early steps tend to be rare or absent. Finally, for
295 autosomes no series greater than four inversion steps was observed (supplement table 1) and the
296 distal shift is relatively weak for the few inversions of rank four (figure 3).

297 **Patterns in Inversion Evolution:** It is very encouraging to note that the proposed
298 meiotic drive mechanism bears on several other patterns in inversion polymorphism. To justify

299 experimental investigation and population genetic simulations for this scenario I enumerate some
300 of these observations. The patterns of paracentric inversion variability mentioned in the
301 introduction suggest this form of structural heterozygosity has autocatalytic properties (Bernstein
302 and Goldschmidt, 1961; Novitski, 1961). The meiotic drive mechanism predicts serial inverted
303 chromosomes, especially distally placed second inversions, have intrinsic advantages in invading
304 a population already segregating for chromosomal rearrangements in the same genomic region.
305 And although this advantage does not hold for advanced stages in the phylogenetic series, the
306 approach to complete recombination suppression by favoring inversions in later stages has the
307 second order effect of reducing genetic load due to this particular form of meiotic drive (Crow
308 and Kimura, 1970).

309 In considering just three consecutive steps of a phylogenetic series (ancestral,
310 intermediate, and derived), Wallace observed that the intermediate arrangement is often absent in
311 a given population (Wallace, 1953). Wallace's "Rule of Triads" is immediately comprehensible
312 on the view that the intermediate and derived arrangements have similar gene contents and
313 fitness; however, the derived arrangement has the added benefit of driving against the ancestral
314 state and thus outcompetes the intermediate arrangement. Along these same lines, the commonly
315 observed local extirpation of arrangements of low rank in a long phylogenetic series may be
316 related to being commonly driven against.

317 Finally, although Novitski's (1961) biased mutational model explains the clustered
318 pattern of inversion breakpoints generating extensive inversion overlap, the meiotic drive theory
319 offers an equally viable alternative. The drive mechanism predicts, even with uniform
320 distribution of spontaneous inversion breakpoints, that the inversions with greatest overlap and
321 thus greatest opportunity for nonrandom disjunction, would invade natural populations. The

322 clumped distribution of observed breakpoints would therefore be the result of biases during the
323 establishment phase of inversion not from any spontaneous mutational bias.

324 Rates of spontaneous chromosomal inversion, and any biases thereof, are outside the
325 scope of reasonable experimental investigation (*cf.* Yamaguchi and Mukai, 1974 for an
326 unreasonable attempt). As a consequence it is unclear how to practically differentiate alternative
327 theories of chromosome evolution based solely on patterns of natural inversion polymorphism.
328 The meiotic drive theory of paracentric inversion evolution introduced here has the potential to
329 explain with a single mechanism a number of different chromosome patterns that were
330 previously thought to be unrelated. Furthermore, the meiotic drive theory is based on a
331 cytogenetic mechanism that is amenable to direct experimentation, thereby conferring a high
332 degree of testability to this model of chromosome evolution.

333 **Conclusion:** In a phylogenetic series of overlapping inversions in the *Drosophila* species
334 of the *obscura* group derived arrangements tend to have distally shifted breakpoints resulting in
335 smaller inversions. The distal shift, viewed *in extremis* for the hypervariable Muller element C of
336 *D. pseudoobscura* and *D. athabsaca*, likely reflects a fundamental mechanism of paracentric
337 inversion evolution, while the size reduction is simply a byproduct of the distal shift in
338 subtelomeric regions. Nonrandom disjunction of overlapping inversions was demonstrated to
339 always favor transmission of distal inversions and is hypothesized here to favor the evolution of
340 serially inverted chromosomes. Therefore, far from being selectively beneficial, inversion
341 polymorphism, serially inverted chromosomes, and the associated distal shift result from
342 intrinsic biases in meiosis and generate a substantial genetic load. This novel hypothesis requires
343 further investigation along both experimental and theoretical lines. The meiotic drive mechanism

344 proposed should be of considerable interest as it can explain Novitski's distal shift as well as
345 several related patterns of breakpoint distribution and paracentric inversion evolution.

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569 Table 1. The list of 28 phylogenetic series used in this study. Note that the 14 different
 570 Muller elements listed constitute only 13 chromosomes as elements A and D were fused
 571 to form the metacentric X chromosome in *D. athabasca*.

Species	Muller Element	Number of Series	Number of Inversions	
<i>D. subobscura</i>	A	2	4	
<i>D. subobscura</i>	B	2	7	
<i>D. subobscura</i>	C	1	8	
<i>D. subobscura</i>	D	1	2	
<i>D. subobscura</i>	E	2	7	
<i>D. athabasca</i>	A	2	6	
<i>D. athabasca</i>	B	1	3	
<i>D. athabasca</i>	C	5	30	
<i>D. athabasca</i>	D	4	8	
<i>D. azteca</i>	C	1	5	
<i>D. azteca</i>	E	1	3	
<i>D. obscura</i>	C	2	7	
<i>D. persimilis</i>	C	1	10	
<i>D. pseudoobscura</i>	C	3	34	
Total	6	14	28	134

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575 Table 2. ANOVA table for regression of proximal inversion breakpoint location on
 576 phylogenetic rank. Data corresponds to the open symbols in figure 2.

Source of Variation	df	SS	MS	F ratio	p
Regression on Rank	1	5149.37	5149.37	20.58	< 0.001
Species	5	2806.09	561.22	2.24	0.055
Element within Species	8	2620.44	327.56	1.31	0.247
Series within Element	14	6609.16	472.08	1.89	0.036
Error	105	26270.46	250.19		
Total	133	53987.24			

577 Table 3. ANOVA table for regression of distal inversion breakpoint location on
578 phylogenetic rank. Data corresponds to the shaded symbols in figure 2

Source of Variation	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F ratio</i>	<i>p</i>
Regression on Rank	1	2574.71	2574.71	8.86	0.004
Species	5	992.29	198.46	0.68	0.637
Element within Species	8	3008.67	376.08	1.29	0.254
Series within Element	14	5927.14	423.37	1.46	0.140
Error	105	30499.63	290.47		
Total	133	49107.05			

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582 Table 4. ANOVA table testing equality of slopes from regression of proximal and distal
583 inversion breakpoints against phylogenetic rank. The weighted average deviation from
584 regression ($\bar{s}_{Y.X}^2$) was calculated as described in Sokal and Rohlf (1995) using summary
585 statistics from tables 2 and 3

Source of Variation	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F ratio</i>	<i>p</i>
Variation among regressions	1	398.02	398.02	0.37	0.496
Average variation within regressions	4	4328.72	1082.18		

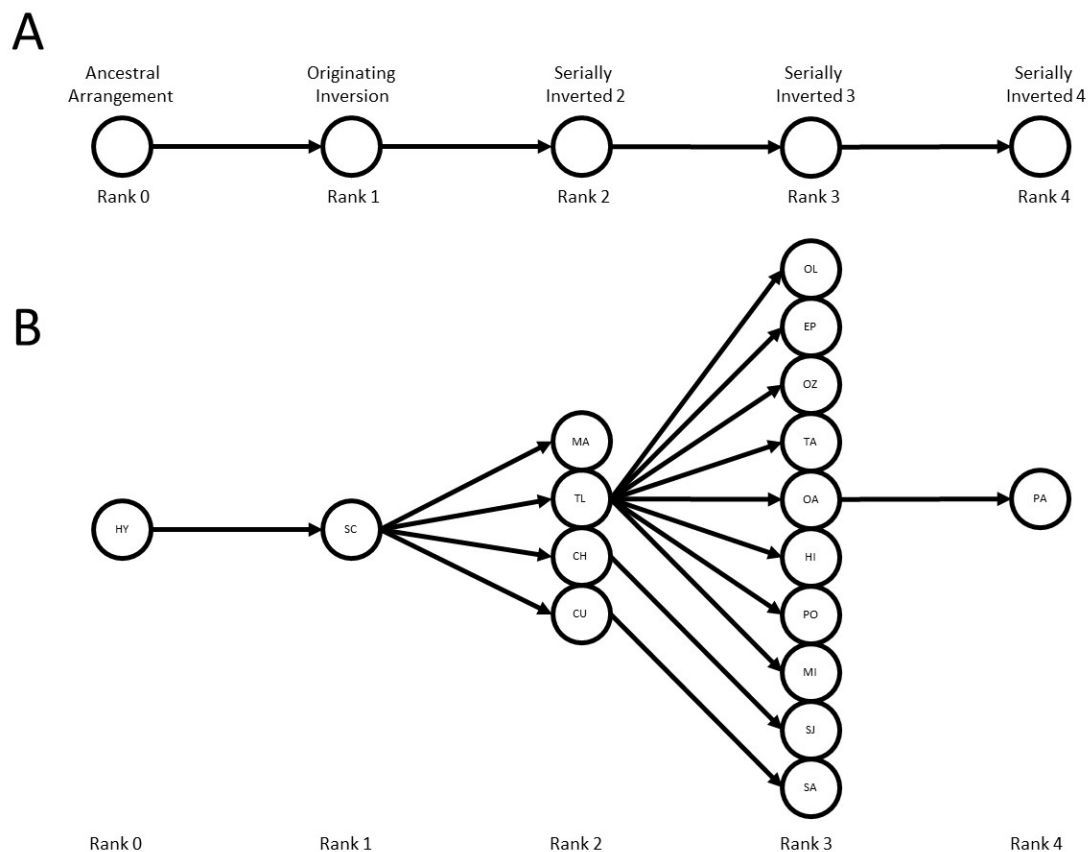
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589 Table 5. ANOVA table for regression of inversion size on phylogenetic rank. Data
590 corresponds to figure 3.

Source of Variation	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F ratio</i>	<i>p</i>
Regression on Rank	1	441.62	441.62	1.55	0.216
Species	5	16.63	3.33	0.01	> 0.999
Element within Species	8	92.43	11.55	0.04	> 0.999
Series within Element	14	94.32	6.74	0.02	> 0.999
Error	105	29886.67	284.63		
Total	133	30355.41			



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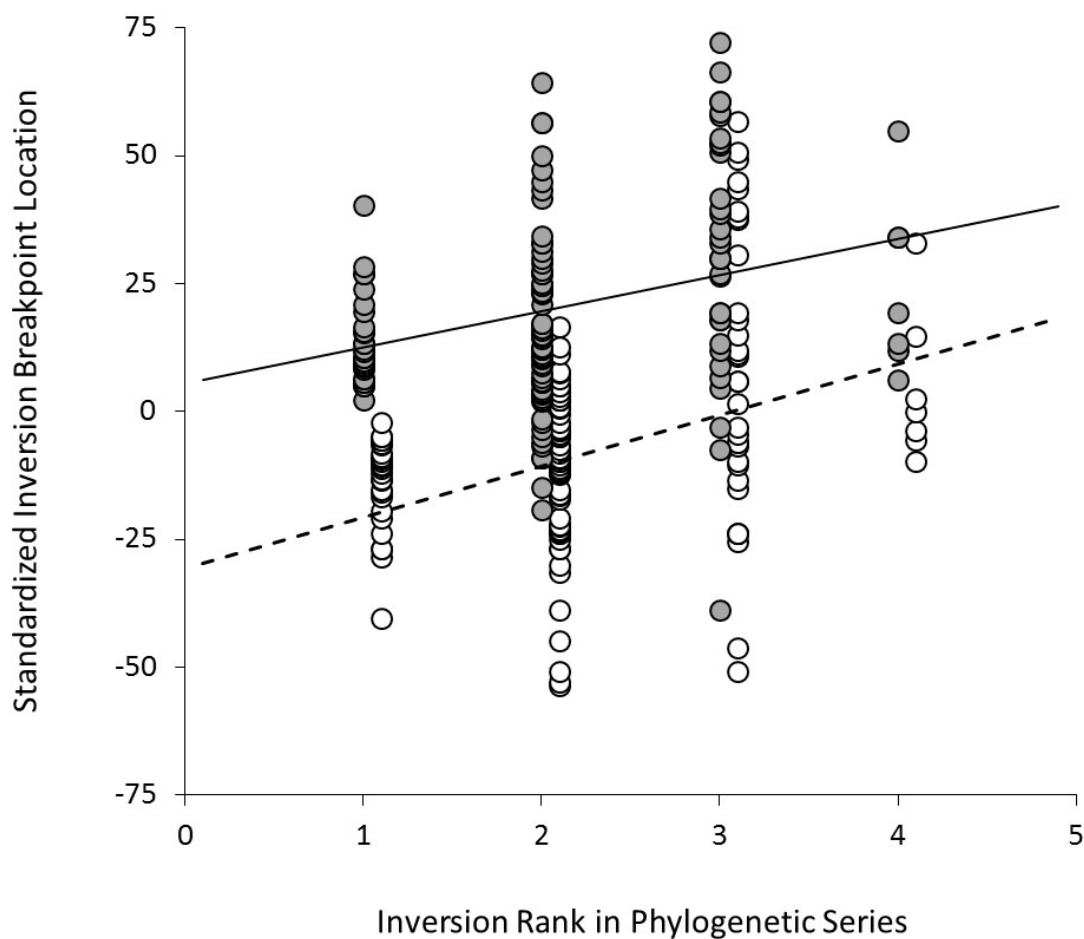
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Figure 1. Schematics of phylogenetic series. A) A simple series from ancestral arrangement (rank 0), to the series originating inversion (rank 1), and then serially inverted chromosomes of rank 2 through 4. B) The “Santa Cruz” phylogenetic series of *D. pseudoobscura* chromosome III (illustrating only arrangements repeatedly observed in natural populations). Two letter codes refer to names of each gene arrangement (*cf.* Dobzhansky and Epling, 1944).



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605 Figure 2. Standardized inversion breakpoint location regressed on phylogenetic rank.

606 Movement in the positive direction on the standardized scale is a movement toward the

607 telomere (a distal shift). Closed circles are the distal breakpoints, open circles are

608 proximal breakpoints (displaced by +0.1 units on the x-axis for ease of visualization).

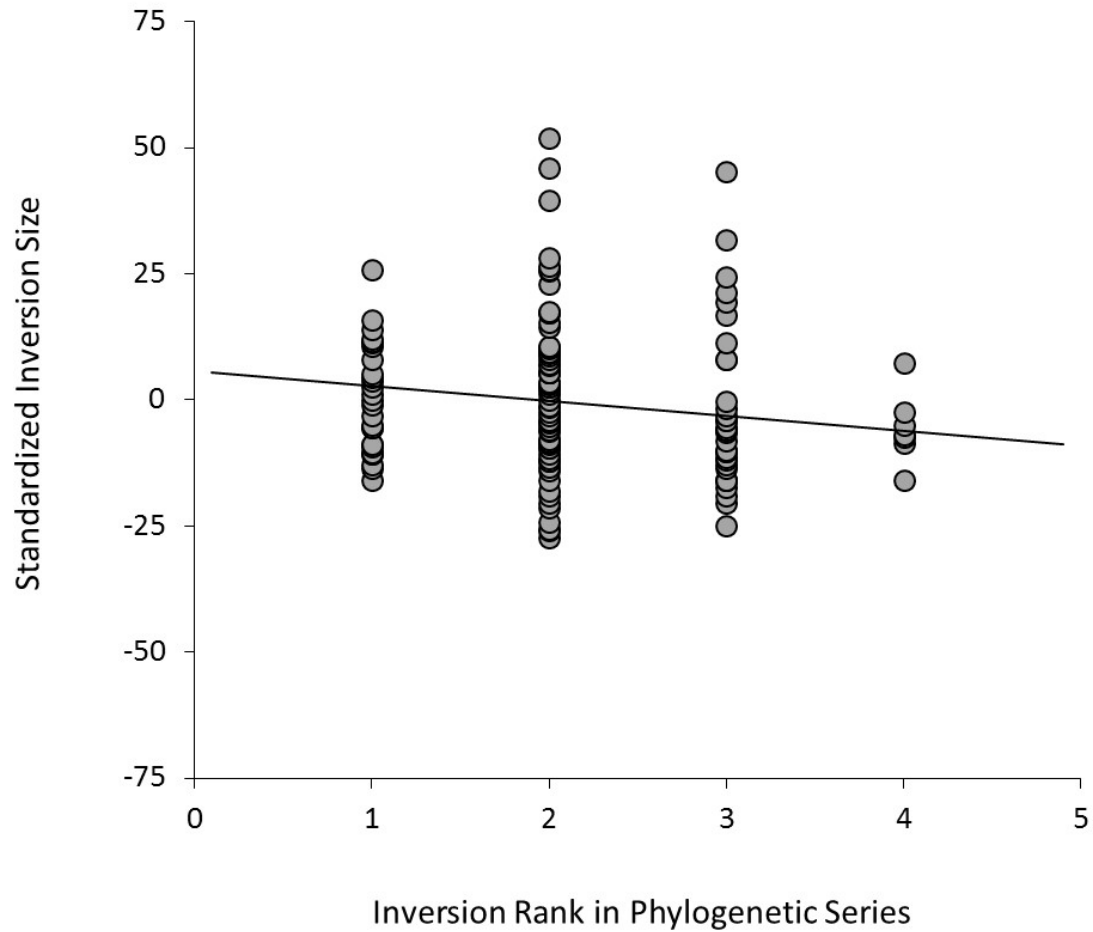
609 Statistically significant linear regression is depicted by solid line for distal breakpoints

610 and dotted line for proximal breakpoints (table 2 and 3).

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616 Figure 3. Progressive trend towards inversion size reduction in phylogenetic series. The

617 line of best fit for inversion size regressed on phylogenetic rank is depicted by solid line

618 (table 5). Regression coefficient of this line does not differ from zero with statistical

619 significance.

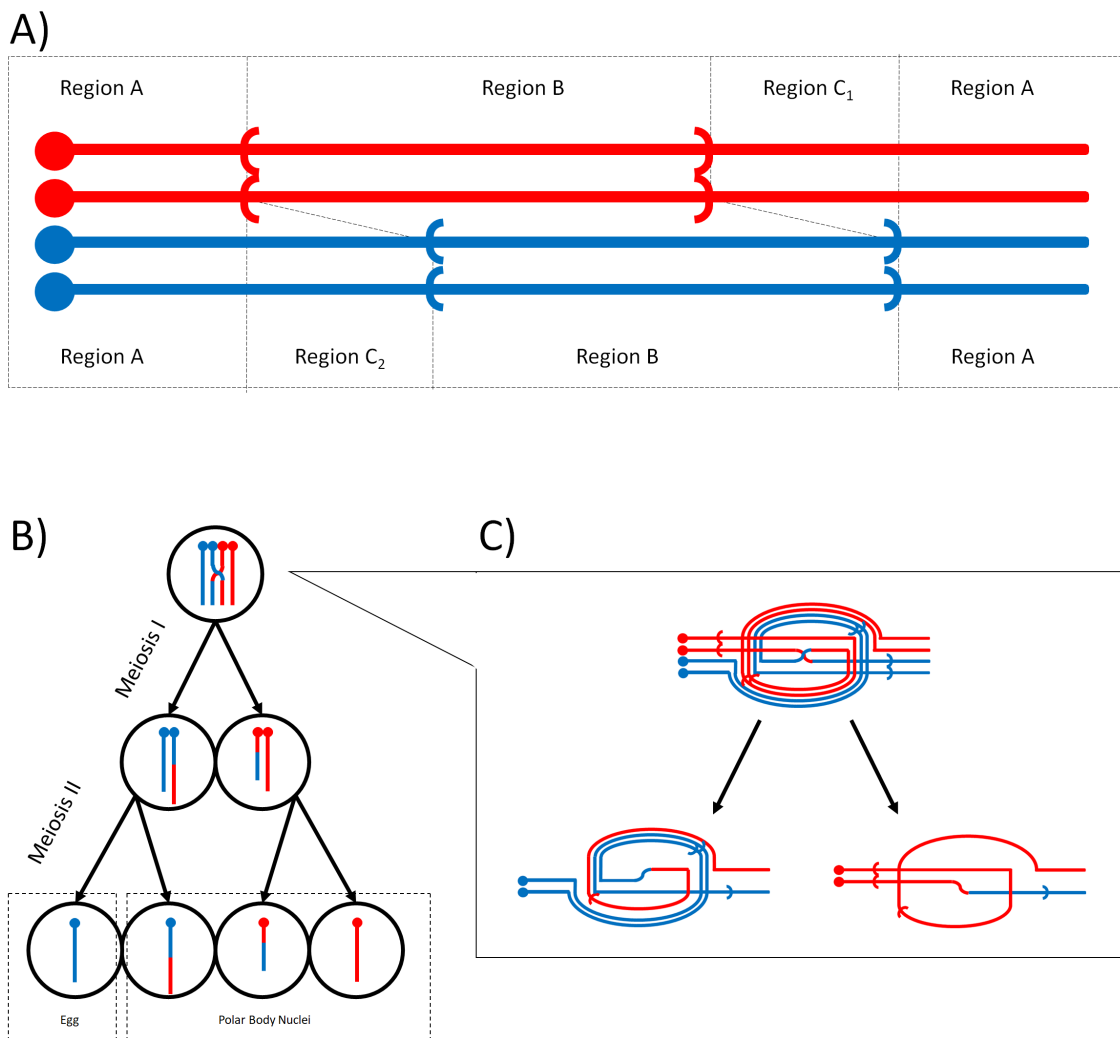
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627 Figure 4. Schematic for nonrandom disjunction of overlapping inversion. A) Four strand bundle
 628 diagram divided into homosequential regions external to inversions (Region A), regions inverted
 629 relative to one another (Region C₁ and C₂), and the homosequential region internal to inversions
 630 (Region B). B) Progression of asymmetric products from a crossover in Region B through
 631 meiosis I and II, migration of chromatids to the egg pole is probabilistic but always favors the
 632 transmission of distal inversion (blue non-recombinant chromatid). C) Figure eight pairing of
 633 overlapping inversions and the resulting asymmetric dyads resulting from crossing over in
 634 Region B, illustrating all four possible meiotic products and their relative sizes.