

1 **Title:**

2 Adaptive divergence in brain composition between ecologically distinct  
3 incipient species

4

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34 **Abstract:**

35 During ecological speciation diverging populations are exposed to contrasting sensory  
36 and spatial information that present new behavioral and perceptive challenges. Here,  
37 we investigate how brain composition evolves during the early stages of speciation.  
38 The incipient species pair, *Heliconius erato cyrbia* and *H. himera*, have parapatric  
39 ranges across an environmental and altitudinal gradient. Despite continuing gene-  
40 flow, these species have divergent ecological, behavioral and physiological traits. We  
41 demonstrate that these incipient species also differ significantly in brain composition,  
42 especially in the size of sensory structures. *H. erato* has larger visual components  
43 whilst *H. himera* invests more heavily in olfaction. These differences are not  
44 explained by environmentally-induced plasticity, but reflect non-allometric shifts in  
45 brain structure. Our results suggest the adaptive evolution of brain structure and  
46 function play an important role in facilitating the emergence of ecologically distinct  
47 species, and imply that plasticity alone may be insufficient to meet the demands of  
48 novel environments.

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## 68 **Introduction**

69 Local adaptation following the colonization of novel environments promotes the  
70 origin of new species<sup>1,2</sup>. During the early stages of this process, diverging populations  
71 are exposed to contrasting sensory and spatial information that present new behavioral  
72 and perceptive challenges. These can be met by changes in brain function, often  
73 reflected in differential investment in brain components<sup>3</sup>. Analyses across  
74 phylogenetically disperse species suggest that adaptive changes in brain composition  
75 are driven by selection to meet the demands of a species' ecology<sup>4,5</sup>. In contrast,  
76 recent intraspecific studies highlight the potential for neural plasticity to facilitate  
77 optimization of brain composition to local conditions<sup>6-9</sup>. Little is known about the  
78 role of brain evolution and plasticity at the intersection of these evolutionary scales  
79 when new species emerge from locally specialized populations.

80 The role of plasticity during ecological speciation continues to be  
81 controversial<sup>10</sup>. Plasticity can increase fitness in new environmental conditions<sup>7,8,11,12</sup>,  
82 particularly after rapid environmental change<sup>13</sup>. Plasticity in trade-offs between  
83 sensory modalities could also facilitate rapid adaptation to contrasting niches without  
84 changing the energetic cost of sensory processing<sup>14</sup>. By promoting survival, adaptive  
85 plasticity could either facilitate speciation by enabling persistent exposure to  
86 contrasting environmental conditions, or inhibit speciation by facilitating local  
87 adaptation without the evolution of reproductive isolation<sup>8,12,15</sup>. Plasticity can also be  
88 costly<sup>7</sup>, particularly for energetically expensive neural tissue<sup>16</sup>. The benefits of  
89 plasticity may therefore be absent or transient depending on population dynamics and  
90 fitness landscape<sup>17,18</sup>. Indeed, plasticity may be maladaptive if populations are pushed  
91 further from fitness optima, increasing the strength of selection for heritable  
92 adaptations<sup>15</sup>. A shortage of case-studies has so far prohibited the resolution of this  
93 debate.

94 Here, we provide a novel case study focused on the roles of adaptation and  
95 plasticity in brain composition during the early stages of speciation in *Heliconius*  
96 butterflies. Speciation in *Heliconius* often involves selection favouring ecological  
97 divergence<sup>19</sup> and a number of extant taxon-pairs provide 'snap-shots' of this process  
98 at different stages of completion<sup>20,21</sup>. We studied one example involving two incipient  
99 species of *Heliconius* butterfly that have recently diverged across an environmental  
100 gradient, and reflect the transition from polymorphic races to species; *H. himera* and  
101 *H. erato cyrbia*. *H. himera* is an incipient species emerging from within the *H. erato*

102 clade<sup>22</sup>. Unlike low altitude races of *H. erato*, which are typically found in large-  
103 leaved secondary wet forest, *H. himera* is endemic to high altitude dry forest in the  
104 western border of Ecuador and Peru<sup>23</sup>. This parapatric distribution across an  
105 altitudinal gradient is maintained by strong selection<sup>24</sup>, and exposes individuals to  
106 different environmental conditions, including the distribution and intensity of  
107 different wavelengths of light, average rainfall and daily temperature range<sup>25-27</sup>.  
108 These contrasting abiotic conditions in turn shape differences in forest and foliage  
109 type, the ecological communities and predators individuals experience.

110         Adaptation to these contrasting environments has played a central role in  
111 driving speciation in these butterflies<sup>24-27</sup>. In *H. erato* and *H. himera*, strong divergent  
112 ecological selection, imposed by frequency-dependent predation of rare *Heliconius*  
113 warning patterns<sup>28,29</sup>, is augmented by assortative mating<sup>27,30,31</sup>. Both migrant and  
114 hybrid individuals are thought to suffer fitness costs when poorly matched to their  
115 environment, due to behavioural or physiological divergence<sup>27</sup>. This ecological  
116 specialization in habitat preference persists despite ongoing gene flow across a narrow  
117 contact zone, and in which 5-10% of individuals are of hybrid origin<sup>24,25</sup>. High rates  
118 of hybridization emphasize the recent origin of *H. himera*. For example, the frequency  
119 of hybrids observed between the sympatric species pair *H. melpomene* and *H. cydno*,  
120 which diverged ~1 million years ago<sup>32</sup>, is less than 0.1%<sup>33</sup>.

121         Recently, the size of brain components in *Heliconius* have been shown to have  
122 significant amounts of ontogenetic and environmentally-induced plasticity<sup>34</sup>, which  
123 could potentially facilitate specialisation to contrasting habitats during the early stages  
124 of ecological speciation. Contrary to this hypothesis, we instead demonstrate that  
125 ecological divergence has favoured adaptive shifts in the relative size of multiple  
126 brain components between *H. himera* and *H. erato*. These species differences cannot  
127 be explained solely by environmentally induced plasticity, suggesting heritable  
128 adaptations in brain structure and function have contributed to the emergence of *H.*  
129 *himera*.

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## 132 **Results and Discussion**

133 We collected *H. himera* and *H. erato cyrbia* from the forests around Vilcabamba and  
134 Balsas Canton, respectively, in Southern Ecuador (Fig. 1). These populations lie  
135 either side of a narrow hybrid zone and have previously been studied to demonstrate

136 divergence in habitat, ecology, behaviour and life history<sup>25–27,31</sup>. We quantified  
137 variation in the size of 13 major brain components, or ‘neuropils’, along with the  
138 remaining volume of the central brain (henceforth rCBR) from 16 individuals of each  
139 species using immunofluorescence staining and 3D image segmentation<sup>35</sup>. These  
140 include the major visual and olfactory neuropils, as well as the mushroom bodies,  
141 structures linked to learning and memory<sup>36</sup>, and components of the central complex, a  
142 multimodal integration and action selection center<sup>37–39</sup>.

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#### 144 *Divergence in brain composition*

145 Despite finding no significant differences between *H. himera* and *H. e. cyrba* in the  
146 overall volume of the central brain ( $t_{30} = 0.688$ ,  $p = 0.497$ ) or total neuropil volume  
147 ( $t_{30} = 0.705$ ,  $p = 0.487$ ), a Principal Component Analysis (PCA) revealed marked  
148 divergence in brain composition between the two species. Using volumetric data for  
149 13 neuropil and rCBR from 32 wild individuals, our PCA resulted in four major  
150 Principal Components (wPC), together explaining a total of 77.4% of the total  
151 variance. Of these, wPC2 (18.183% Var;  $F_1 = 33.840$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and wPC4 (8.182%  
152 Var;  $F_1 = 9.691$ ,  $p = 0.004$ ) were significantly associated with species identity  
153 (ANOVA controlling for sex) (Fig. 2A). This result is supported by a Discriminant  
154 Function Analysis (DFA), where the two species were separated along a single  
155 significant Discriminant Function (DF) (Wilks  $\lambda = 0.165$ ,  $\chi^2 = 39.664$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ;  
156 Figure 2B) with 90% of individuals assigned to the correct species group with a high  
157 degree of confidence ( $p < 0.05$ ). Re-analysis with four groups (species + sex), or on  
158 males and females separately, produced similar results (Supplemental Information).  
159 Across these multivariate analyses, components of the visual pathway including the  
160 medulla, lobula and lobula plate which are involved in processing of light, colour and  
161 movement, and the antennal lobe, the primary olfactory structure in the insect brain,  
162 had consistently strong contributions to PCs or DFs that separate *H. himera* and *H. e.*  
163 *cyrba* (Supplemental Information).

164 To further explore how individual neuropil contribute to species differences in  
165 brain composition, we next examined the scaling relationship between each neuropil  
166 and an independent measure of overall brain size (the unsegmented central brain;  
167 rCBR). The standard allometric scaling relationship ( $\log y = \beta \log x + \alpha$ ) provides a  
168 means to test for significant shifts in the allometric exponent ( $\beta$ ) or scaling factor ( $\alpha$ )

169 between species, which together describe the relationship between two traits.  
170 Conserved scaling relationships are typically interpreted as indicating the presence of  
171 some constraint that results in covariance between variables. This constraint may arise  
172 from shared developmental mechanisms (or pleiotropy), or be due to selective  
173 covariance to maintain a constant level of functional integration<sup>40</sup>. Deviation from a  
174 shared scaling relationship can therefore indicate an adaptive change in the functional  
175 relationship between two phenotypes<sup>41</sup>.

176 The majority of neuropil in the optic lobes display non-allometric shifts in  
177 scaling with rCBR between species (Supplementary Information). After correcting for  
178 multiple tests using the false-discovery rate<sup>42</sup> (for 13 neuropils), both the medulla  
179 (FDR-p < 0.001) and lobula plate (FDR-p = 0.026) show significant grade-shifts  
180 between species (difference in  $\alpha$ ), whilst the lobula shows a species difference in  $\beta$   
181 (FDR-p = 0.026) (Fig. 2C-D). There is also some support for the accessory medulla  
182 displaying a grade-shift (nominal-p = 0.044). In all cases these differences result in an  
183 increase in the size of these structures in *H. e. cyrbia*. In contrast, we identified two  
184 central brain neuropil, the antennal lobe (FDR-p = 0.042) and the posterior optic  
185 tubercule (FDR-p < 0.001), which show grade-shifts towards larger volumes in *H.*  
186 *himera* (Fig. 2E-F). These differences in scaling relationships reflect substantial  
187 differences in volume. For example, for a given brain volume the medulla and lobula  
188 will be 12.3% and 18.2% larger in *H. e. cyrbia* respectively, whilst in *H. himera* the  
189 antennal lobe will be 14.5% larger and the posterior optic tubercule 22.6% larger.

190 The results of our scaling analyses are largely consistent regardless of whether  
191 sexes are pooled or considered separately, or whether rCBR or an alternative measure  
192 of overall size (total neuropil minus the neuropil of interest) is used (Supplemental  
193 Information). Importantly, because neither rCBR nor total brain size vary between  
194 species, these differences represent changes in the volume of individual neuropil, not  
195 a concerted size change affecting all neuropil, or a shift in rCBR volume.

196

#### 197 *Covariance and composite adaptations*

198 Our analyses demonstrate that at least three of the six neuropil in the optic lobes are  
199 larger in *H. erato*. These neuropil process visual information and are both functionally  
200 interdependent and physically connected by projection neurons<sup>43,44</sup>. It is therefore  
201 likely that if one component expands, this would have knock-on effects on other  
202 neuropils. We analysed patterns of covariance between visual neuropils using linear

203 multiple regressions (controlling for species and sex) to assess whether the change in  
204 scaling relationships for multiple individual optic lobe neuropils reflect independent  
205 adaptations. This revealed that the six neuropil form a co-varying network (Fig. 2G),  
206 partially reflecting patterns of connectivity<sup>43</sup>. Correcting for this covariance, the  
207 association with species only remains significant for the medulla. This suggests  
208 changes in medulla size may be driving changes elsewhere in optic lobe. For example,  
209 medulla volume strongly co-varies with lobula plate volume ( $p = 0.003$ ), but also  
210 shows some evidence of co-variance with lobula volume ( $p = 0.069$ ; Supplemental  
211 Information).

212 We further investigated this possibility by examining the pairwise scaling  
213 relationships between medulla, lobula, lobula plate and accessory medulla. Consistent  
214 with the conclusion that variation in the size of the medulla drives changes in lobula  
215 plate size these neuropil show a major-axis shift between species along a conserved  
216 scaling relationship (Wald  $\chi^2 = 5.105$ ,  $p = 0.024$ ). However, there is also evidence of  
217 species differences in scaling exponent between the lobula and both the medulla and  
218 lobula plate (Likelihood Ratio = 12.275,  $p < 0.001$  and LR = 5.039,  $p = 0.025$   
219 respectively). The accessory medulla volume shows a grade-shift in scaling with the  
220 medulla, lobula and lobula plate, consistent with a lesser effect of species identity on  
221 this neuropil (all  $p < 0.001$ ; Supplemental Information). These analyses suggest that  
222 the species differences in size of the medulla and lobula plate may constitute a  
223 concerted adaptation, maintaining but expanding their functional relationship, whilst  
224 altering their functional association with the lobula.

225 We identify one co-varying network amongst components of the central brain;  
226 between antennal lobe volume, the mushroom body lobes and the mushroom body  
227 calyx. This may reflect the well-established role of the mushroom bodies in olfactory  
228 learning<sup>45</sup>. We found no significant association between antennal lobe and posterior  
229 optic tubercule volume, or between either of these neuropils and medulla  
230 (Supplementary Information), indicating that these may reflect functionally  
231 independent adaptations.

232

### 233 *Plasticity does not explain species differences*

234 Plasticity in the neural development and behavior has been implicated in facilitating  
235 local adaptation and catalyzing speciation by promoting survival in novel  
236 habitats<sup>7,8,18,46</sup>. Several recent studies suggest plasticity in the development of brain

237 composition contributes to locally adapted ecological morphs within species<sup>6,9</sup>.  
238 However, plasticity has significant costs<sup>7</sup> and the net benefits may therefore be  
239 transitory<sup>18</sup>.

240 *Heliconius* brains show significant amounts of environment-dependent and  
241 independent post-eclosion growth<sup>34</sup>. To test whether plasticity explains the  
242 differences we observe between *H. erato* and *H. himera*, we obtained data for an  
243 additional 10 individuals of each species reared in a common environment and  
244 repeated the analyses described above. These individuals were the progeny of females  
245 collected at the same populations as our wild individuals. First, a PCA of all neuropil  
246 volumes separated the variance across 4 PCs (iPC). Of these, iPC1 (35.068% Var,  $F_1$   
247 = 9.887,  $p = 0.006$ ) and iPC2 (17.672% Var,  $F_1 = 17.672$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ) were  
248 significantly associated with species identity. Similar results were obtained when wild  
249 and insectary reared individuals were analysed together (Fig. 3; Supplemental  
250 Information).

251 We assessed whether the neuropils contributing to these iPCs were the same  
252 as those contributing to wPC2 and wPC4 in the wild caught samples by using a  
253 regression analysis of the loading coefficients for each neuropil. Loadings of neuropil  
254 on iPC1 from the insectary-reared analysis were significantly associated with loadings  
255 on both PCs associated with species from the wild analyses (wPC2:  $t_9 = 3.438$ ,  $p =$   
256  $0.007$ ; wPC4:  $t_9 = 2.440$ ,  $p = 0.037$ ). Loadings on iPC2 are also significantly  
257 associated with loadings on wPC4 (wPC2:  $t_9 = -1.309$ ,  $p = 0.223$ ; wPC4:  $t_9 = -3.223$ ,  
258  $p = 0.001$ ). Neither iPC1 or iPC2 show any association with wPC1 or wPC3 which do  
259 not vary between species (all  $p > 0.100$ ). A DFA also shows strong support for  
260 species differences (Wilks  $\lambda = 0.028$ ,  $\chi^2 = 39.456$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and correctly assigns  
261 100% of insectary-reared individuals to the correct species group with a high degree  
262 of confidence ( $p < 0.001$ ). The DF coefficients again implicate the visual neuropil and  
263 posterior optic tubercle as potential contributors to this difference (Supplemental  
264 Information). Together these collective results strongly imply that the relative  
265 contribution of each neuropil to the species differences in brain composition in the  
266 comparison between insectary-reared individuals is similar to that between wild  
267 individuals.

268 Further analyses of the scaling relationships between each neuropil and rCBR  
269 largely confirm this conclusion. We identify the same grade-shifts towards larger

270 volumes in *H. e. cyrbia* in medulla, lobula and lobula plate, and also in two further  
271 neuropil in the optic lobes; the lamina and ventral lobula (all FDR-p < 0.05;  
272 Supplemental Information). However, grade-shifts against central brain volume are  
273 not found for the antennal lobe or posterior optic tubercle. Although these are  
274 recovered using total neuropil volume as an alternative variable, this may indicate  
275 some contribution of species differences in plasticity to the results uncovered in wild  
276 individuals (Supplemental Information).

277

278 *Divergence in neuropil volume suggests a shift in the importance of sensory*  
279 *modalities*

280 Our results imply a shift in investment in different sensory modalities in *H. e. cyrbia*  
281 and *H. himera* that may relate to their preferred habitat type. *H. e. cyrbia* invests in  
282 larger visual neuropil than *H. himera*, most notably the medulla, lobula and lobula  
283 plate. These neuropil have specific roles in processing visual information. In other  
284 insects the medulla plays a role in the parallelization of photoreceptor signals<sup>43</sup> but  
285 also contains many processing elements with dual roles in colour-vision and motion  
286 detection pathways<sup>47-49</sup>. The lobula and lobula plate integrate visual information to  
287 extract abstract features such as shape and motion; for example the lobula plate is the  
288 primary site for motion computation in insects and tracking in the optic lobe, whilst  
289 the lobula has been linked to escape and chasing behavior<sup>50</sup>. Notably, the cellular  
290 architecture of the lobula plate is known to vary extensively across species in  
291 association with differences in flight behavior<sup>51</sup>. Given the difference in forest type  
292 inhabited by *H. himera* and *H. e. cyrbia* the volumetric difference in these  
293 components may reflect contrasting demands of visual and/or spatial information  
294 related to the density of vegetation or leaf size, and subsequent changes in light  
295 intensity and polarization.

296 In contrast, *H. himera* has higher levels of relative investment in the primary  
297 olfactory neuropil, the antennal lobe. Antennal lobes are comprised of glomeruli that  
298 are innervated by axons from olfactory sensory neurons in the antennae, which  
299 expresses olfactory receptors<sup>52</sup>. These glomeruli are arranged around the antennal  
300 lobe hub where information from different glomeruli are integrated to create a  
301 combinatorial code for odour cues<sup>53</sup>. The number of glomeruli is relatively constant  
302 across Lepidoptera<sup>54</sup>, including *Heliconius*<sup>34</sup>. Across more distantly related butterflies  
303 variation in antennal lobe size is disproportionately due to variation in the volume of

304 the antennal lobe hub<sup>34</sup>. This suggests the complexity of neuronal branching in the  
305 antennal lobe hub, which likely reflects the complexity of the combinatorial code,  
306 dominates over changes in odour sensitivity, which is reflected by the volume of  
307 glomeruli<sup>34</sup>. Relative to central brain size, both the antennal lobe glomeruli (Wald  $\chi^2 =$   
308 5.674,  $p = 0.017$ ) and hub (Wald  $\chi^2 = 11.106$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) are expanded in wild *H.*  
309 *himera*, whilst maintaining a constant scaling relationship ( $\beta$ -shift LR  $< 0.001$ ,  $p =$   
310 0.991;  $\alpha$ -shift Wald  $\chi^2 = 0.940$ ,  $p = 0.330$ ). This may suggest the foraging or  
311 reproductive behavior of *H. himera* has a greater reliance on olfactory sensitivity,  
312 without changes in the complexity of olfactory repertoire utilized. The second striking  
313 expansion in *H. himera* is in one of the smallest components of the central complex,  
314 the posterior optic tubercle. In other insects, this neuropil receives a variety of  
315 inputs, including visual information from the accessory medulla, as well as  
316 mechanosensory and chemosensory information from the antennal lobes and other  
317 body parts<sup>37</sup>. Although we did not find statistical support for covariation in antennal  
318 lobe and posterior optic tubercle volume, the expansion of the posterior optic  
319 tubercle could conceivably reflect an increased input from the antennal lobe.

320 Finally, we note that our results mirror those found across more distantly  
321 related Lepidoptera with more extreme differences in ecology. For example, nocturnal  
322 moths and diurnal butterflies can be distinguished on the basis of differential  
323 expansion of the antennal lobe or medulla and lobula system<sup>34,54</sup>. Similarly, the  
324 Neotropical diurnal butterfly *Godyris zavaleta*, which is found in dark inner-forest has  
325 increased investment in the antennal lobe relative to *Heliconius* or *Danaus* which  
326 occupy habitats with greater light intensity<sup>34,54</sup>. This suggests similar selective  
327 pressures associated with divergent sensory environments may be shaping  
328 Lepidopteron brain composition across short and long evolutionary time-scales.

329

### 330 *Conclusion*

331 Speciation across environmental gradients demands local adaptation to distinct  
332 environments<sup>1,2</sup>. By focusing of a pair of incipient species we have demonstrated that  
333 this exerts selective pressure on brain composition, resulting in significant non-  
334 allometric shifts in a specific suite of brain components. Under the assumption that  
335 scaling relationships reflect stabilising selection to maintain developmental or  
336 functional associations, these non-allometric changes are likely to be driven by  
337 selection for adaptive divergence, rather than being the result of phenotypic drift.

338 Although plasticity may facilitate ecological divergence initially<sup>6-9</sup>, especially where  
339 continued gene flow prevents the build up of adaptive alleles, the costs of plasticity  
340 are predicted to render this a transitory phase<sup>7,18</sup>. Our results demonstrate that even at  
341 the early stages of speciation, where gene flow persists<sup>22,24</sup>, plasticity alone cannot  
342 explain these species differences. We suggest selection on brain structure and  
343 function may commonly play a role in facilitating the early stages of ecological  
344 speciation, and that heritable divergence will quickly outweigh the contribution of  
345 plasticity.

346

## 347 **Experimental Procedures**

### 348 *Animals*

349 Brains of wild-caught individuals were fixed within 5 hours of collection, sampling  
350 eight individuals of each sex for both species. Insectary-reared individuals were bred  
351 from wild-caught parents and raised on a common hostplant (*Passiflora biflora*) in  
352 controlled conditions in cages (c. 1 × 2 × 2 m) of mixed sex and equal densities. Five  
353 individuals of each sex were sampled for both species, aged to 10-14 days, when both  
354 sexes are sexually mature.

355

### 356 *Immunocytochemistry and imaging*

357 Brains were fixed in-situ using a Zinc-Formaldehyde solution, following a published  
358 protocol<sup>35</sup>. Further methodological details and anatomical descriptions of the  
359 *Heliconius* brain are available in Montgomery et al.<sup>34</sup>. Neuropil structure was revealed  
360 using immunofluorescence staining against a vesicle-associated protein at presynaptic  
361 sites, synapsin (anti-SYNORF1; obtained from the Developmental Studies  
362 Hybridoma Bank, University of Iowa, Department of Biological Sciences, Iowa City,  
363 IA 52242, USA; RRID: AB\_2315424) and Cy2-conjugated affinity-purified  
364 polyclonal goat anti-mouse IgG (H+L) antibody (Jackson ImmunoResearch  
365 Laboratories, West Grove, PA), obtained from Stratech Scientific Ltd., Newmarket,  
366 Suffolk, UK (Jackson ImmunoResearch Cat No. 115-225-146, RRID: AB\_2307343).

367 All imaging was performed on a confocal laser-scanning microscope (Leica  
368 TCS SP8, Leica Microsystem, Mannheim, Germany) using a 10× dry objective with a  
369 numerical aperture of 0.4 (Leica Material No. 11506511), a mechanical z-step of 2 μm  
370 and an x-y resolution of 512 × 512 pixels. The z-dimension was scaled 1.52× to

371 correct the artifactual shortening<sup>34</sup>. We assigned image regions to brain components  
372 using the Amira 5.5 *labelfield* module and defining outlines based on the brightness  
373 of the synapsin immunofluorescence. We reconstructed total central brain volume  
374 (CBR), six paired neuropils in the optic lobes, six paired and one unpaired neuropils in  
375 the central brain (CBR), and measured their volume using the *measure statistics*  
376 module. The total volume of segmented structures in the CBR was subtracted from  
377 total CBR volume to obtain a measure of unsegmented CBR (rCBR). Due to the lack  
378 of volumetric asymmetry in *Heliconius* neuropil<sup>34</sup> we measured the volume of paired  
379 neuropil from one hemisphere, chosen at random, and multiplied the measured  
380 volume by two.

381

### 382 *Statistical analyses*

383 Multivariate analyses were performed in SPSS v. 22 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL).  
384 Principal Component Analyses (PCA) were performed using segmented structures  
385 and rCBR. Species differences in PC values were analyzed using an ANOVA,  
386 including species and sex as binary cofactors, in R<sup>55</sup>. We complemented this analysis  
387 with a Discrimant Function Analysis (DFA) to test how reliably individuals can be  
388 assigned to their respective groups on the basis of their volumetric differences in  
389 neuropil. In this analysis, Wilks'  $\lambda$  provides a measure of the proportion of total  
390 variance not explained by group differences, and the  $\chi^2$  statistic provides a test for  
391 significant group differences.

392 We further explored whether the scaling relationships between each  
393 component and rCBR were conserved across *H. himera* and *H. erato cyrbia* using  
394 major axis regressions in SMATR v.3.4-3<sup>56</sup>. Using the standard allometric scaling  
395 relationship:  $\log y = \beta \log x + \alpha$ , we performed tests for significant shifts in the  
396 allometric slope ( $\beta$ ) between the species. This was followed by two further tests  
397 which assume a common slope: 1) for differences in  $\alpha$  that suggest discrete 'grade-  
398 shifts' in the relationship between two variables, 2) for major axis-shifts along a  
399 common slope. Covariance between neuropils was investigated using multiple  
400 regression. All volumes were log<sub>10</sub>-transformed before data analysis.

401

### 402 **Author Contributions**

403 Study conception and fieldwork: SHM and RMM. Insectary rearing: RMM.  
404 Dissections, acquisition of image data, analysis, interpretation and initial manuscript  
405 draft: SHM. Final interpretation and drafting: SHM and RMM.

406

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415

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543 **Figures Legends:**

544

545 **Figure 1: Distribution and ecology of *H. erato cyrbia* and *H. himera*.** A) Colour  
546 patterns and key distinguishing features of the habitats of *H. e. cyrbia* (left) and *H.*  
547 *himera* (right). B) Approximate distribution of *H. e. cyrbia* (blue) and *H. himera* (red)  
548 in southern Ecuador showing the two sample localities, Balsas Canton and  
549 Vilcabamba, and the location of the hybrid zone south of Buenavista (Bv) and  
550 Chaguarpamba (Cp), but north of Zambi (Za). Geographic ranges are based on  
551 published data from Rosser et al.<sup>57</sup> C) Variation in altitude across a transect illustrated  
552 by the grey dashed line in B. D) 3D volumetric models of the neuropil measured in *H.*  
553 *e. cyrbia* (left) and *H. himera* (right) viewed from the anterior (top row) and posterior  
554 (bottom row). VN: visual neuropil, AL: Antennal Lobe, CC: Central Complex, MB:  
555 Mushroom Body.

556

557 **Figure 2: Divergence in brain composition in wild *H. e. cyrbia* and *H. himera*.** A)  
558 Biplot between PC2 and PC4, which are both significantly different between species.  
559 *H. erato* are in blue, *H. himera* in red. Males are filled circles, females unfilled. B)  
560 Separation of species by Discriminant Function Analysis. Asterisks denote group  
561 means. C-F) Scaling relationships for all individuals between the central brain (rCBR)  
562 and the medulla (ME) (C), lobula (LOB) (D), antennal lobes (AL) (E) and posterior  
563 optic tubercule (POTU) (F). G) Patterns of covariance between neuropils in the optic  
564 lobe. Significant covariance is shown by solid black lines, with those neuropil with  
565 significantly different scaling relationships with rCBR between species shown above  
566 (interspecific allometric shifts), and those associated with species in the multiple  
567 regression shown below (LMM ~ species). \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$ .

568

569 **Figure 3: Consistent signal of divergence between wild and reared individuals.**  
570 A) Biplot of PC2 and PC3 from a pooled analysis of wild (filled circles) and reared  
571 individuals (unfilled circles). *H. erato* are in blue, *H. himera* in red. Both PC2  
572 (15.230%; Var;  $F_1 = 70.670$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ) and PC3 (13.336%; Var;  $F_1 = 26.384$ ,  $p$   
573  $< 0.001$ ) show significant differences between species. Asterisks denote group means.  
574 B-C) Regressions between the loadings of the measured neuropil on iPCs explaining  
575 species differences in reared individuals (x-axis) and wPCs explaining species  
576 differences in wild individuals (y-axis; wPC2 = green, wPC4 = grey).

577 **Tables:**

578 **Table 1**

Location <sup>1</sup>	Fig. 1D Key <sup>1</sup>	Neuropil	Allometric scaling						Multivariate analyses (wild)		
			$\beta$ (slope)		$\alpha$ (y-intercept)		major-axis shift		PCA Loadings		DFA Coefficient
			LR	FDR-p	Wald $\chi^2$	FDR-p	Wald $\chi^2$	FDR-p	PC2	PC4	DF1
OL	VN	Lamina	3.622	0.247	0.386	0.746	0.514	0.653	0.590	-0.117	-0.570
OL	VN	Medulla	0.010	0.922	22.800	<0.001	0.805	0.653	0.608	0.039	2.161
OL	VN	Accessory medulla	2.199	0.359	4.052	0.095	2.917	0.572	-0.466	-0.109	0.254
OL	VN	Lobula	9.959	0.026	11.157	0.004	1.251	0.653	0.774	0.123	0.768
OL	VN	Lobula plate	0.132	0.846	7.034	0.026	1.161	0.653	0.457	0.165	0.267
OL	VN	Ventral lobula	0.281	0.814	0.325	0.746	0.000	0.999	-0.244	0.506	-0.142
CBR	VN	Anterior optic tubercule	2.299	0.359	5.837	0.042	1.766	0.653	-0.052	0.684	-0.251
CBR	AL	Antennal lobes	7.704	0.039	0.210	0.765	0.000	0.999	-0.241	-0.214	-0.968
CBR	MB	Lobes and peduncule	0.371	0.814	0.608	0.746	0.512	0.653	-0.244	0.058	1.005
CBR	MB	Calyx	0.288	0.814	0.027	0.869	0.175	0.799	-0.118	-0.107	-1.181
CBR	CC	Central body	0.238	0.814	0.132	0.777	0.450	0.653	-0.626	0.256	0.904
CBR	CC	Protocerebral bridge	1.463	0.490	0.316	0.746	0.529	0.653	-0.019	-0.201	-0.647
CBR	CC	Posterior optic tubercule	0.012	0.922	13.841	<0.001	5.031	0.325	-0.397	-0.365	-0.032
CBR	-	rCBR	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.243	-0.230	-1.315

579

580 <sup>1</sup>OL: Optic Lobes, CBR: Central Brain, VN: visual neuropil, AL: Antennal Lobe, MB: Mushroom Body, CC: Central Complex

A

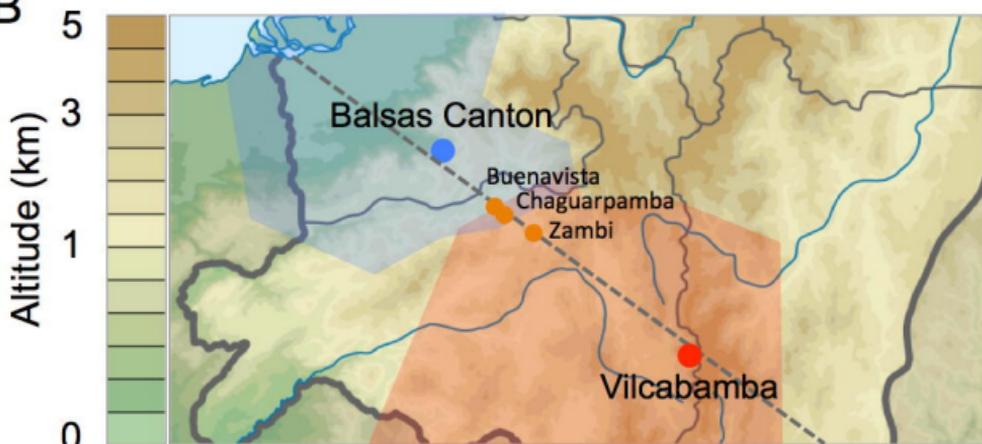
*H. erato cyrbia**H. himera*

2 cm

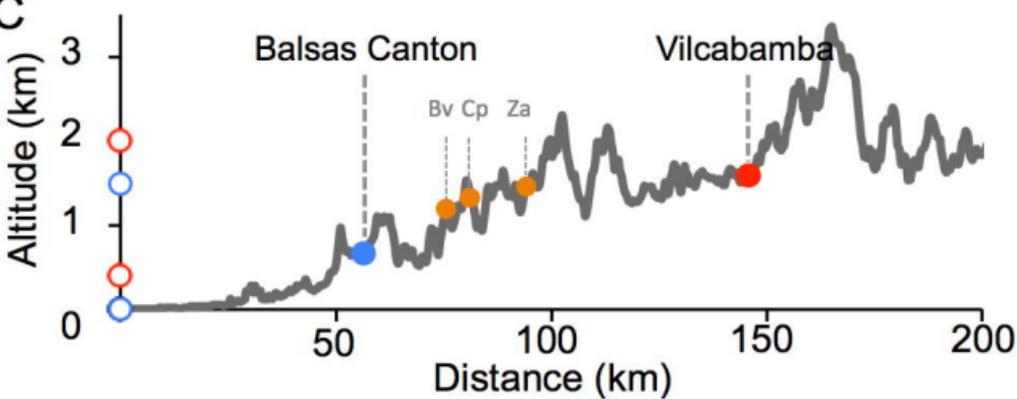
Low altitude  
Wet, secondary forest  
Large leaved vegetation

High altitude  
Dry, semi-arid forest  
High T° fluctuations

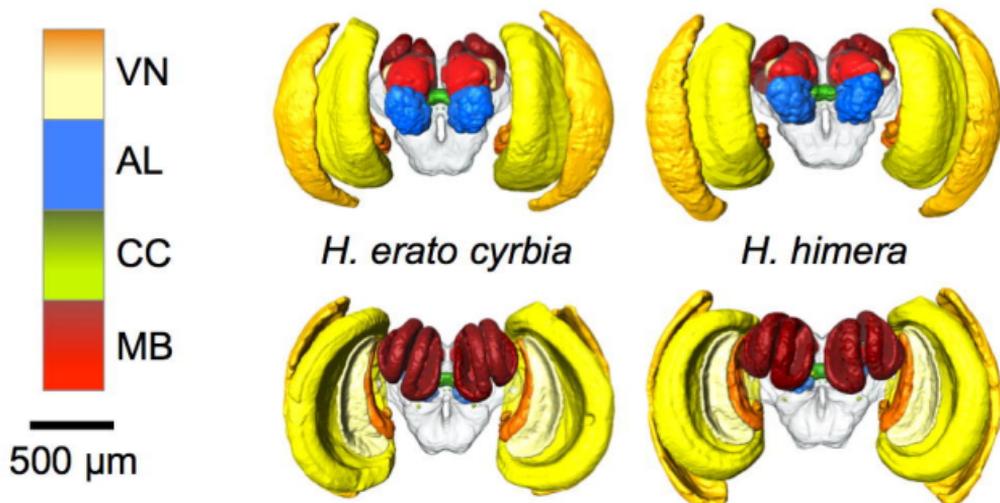
B

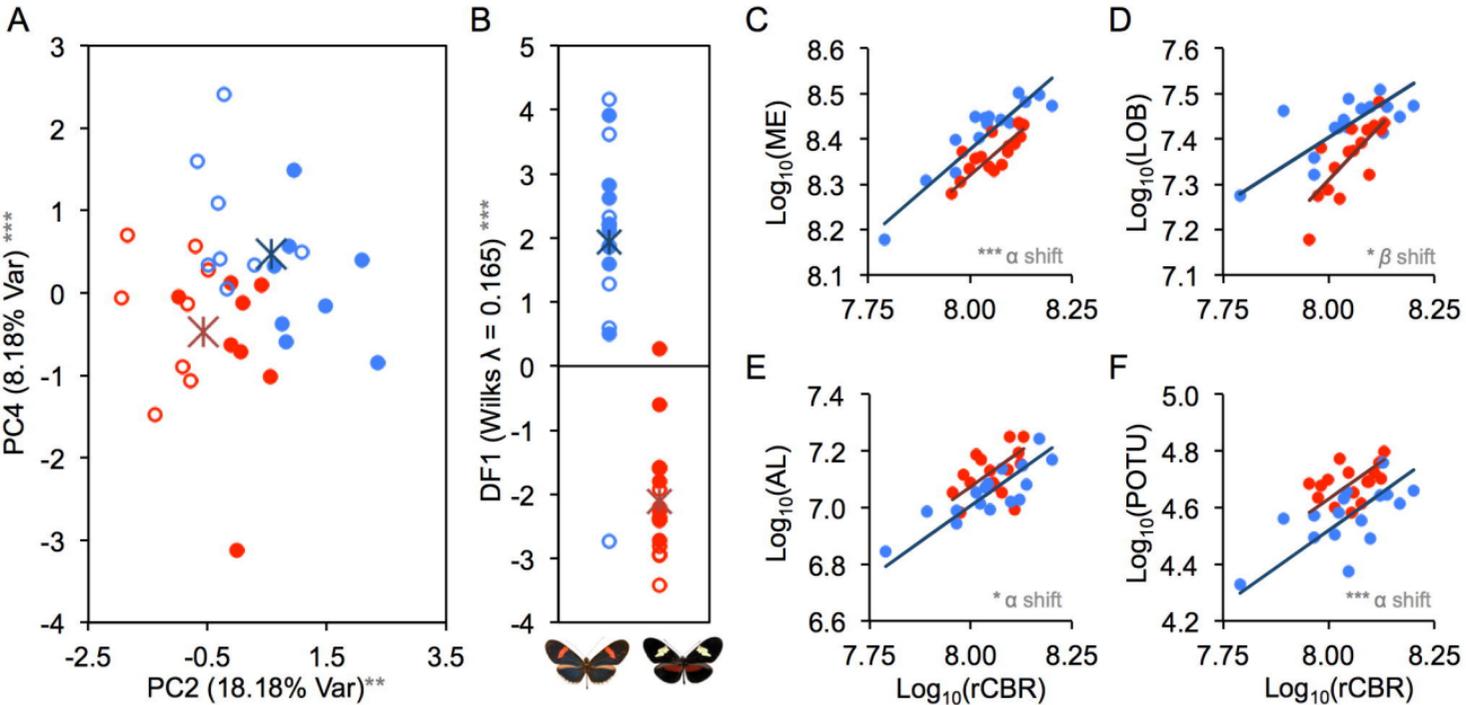


C



D





**G**

