

1 **Co-option of the Limb Patterning Program in Cephalopod Lens Development**

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18

19 **Abstract**

20 Across the Metazoa, similar genetic programs are found in the development of analogous,  
21 independently evolved, morphological features. The functional significance of this reuse and the  
22 underlying mechanisms of co-option remain unclear. Here we identify the co-option of the  
23 canonical bilaterian limb patterning program redeployed during cephalopod lens development, a  
24 functionally unrelated structure. We show radial expression of transcription factors *SP6-9/sp1*,  
25 *Dlx/dll*, *Pbx/exd*, *Meis/hth*, and a *Prdl* homolog in the squid *Doryteuthis pealeii*, similar to  
26 expression required in *Drosophila* limb development. We assess the role of Wnt signaling in the  
27 cephalopod lens, a positive regulator in the developing limb, and find the regulatory relationship  
28 reversed, with ectopic Wnt signaling leading to lens loss. This regulatory divergence suggests that  
29 duplication of SP6-9 in cephalopods may mediate this co-option. These results suggest that the  
30 limb network does not exclusively pattern appendage outgrowth but is performing a more universal  
31 developmental function: radial patterning.

## 32 INTRODUCTION

33 In the Metazoa, homologous networks of transcription factors are necessary for the  
34 development of some analogous structures in distantly related taxa. The limb patterning program  
35 is an example of this developmental process homology (Shubin et al., 1997; Erwin & Davidson,  
36 2002; Pueyo & Couso, 2005). The limb program was first identified in the development of the  
37 proximal-distal axis of the *Drosophila* leg. The transcription factor *SP6-9/sp1* is upstream of other  
38 program members, *Dlx/dll*, *Pbx/exd*, *Meis/hth*, *Dac* and *Arx/ar*, each required for patterning  
39 specific regions of limb outgrowth (Panganiban et al., 1994; Panganiban et al., 1997; Dong et al.,  
40 2001, Dong et al., 2002; Peuyo & Couso, 2005; Estella et al., 2012; Campbell & Tomlinson, 1998).  
41 This network is necessary in both vertebrate and cephalopod limb development and is expressed  
42 in a similar proximodistal pattern in a diversity of outgrowths (Panganiban et al., 1997; Shubin et  
43 al., 1997; Maas & Bei, 1997; Mercader et al., 1999; Panganiban & Rubenstein, 2002; Prpic, 2003;  
44 Angelini & Kaufman, 2005; Pueyo & Couso, 2005; Shubin et al., 2009; Moczek & Rose, 2009;  
45 Capellini et al. 2011; Lapan & Reddien, 2011; Ibarretxe et al., 2012; Grimmel et al., 2016; Sanz-  
46 Navarro et al., 2019; Ramanathan et al. 2018; Setton & Sharma; 2018; Tarazona et al., 2019; Prpic,  
47 2019). This suggests that, although each appendage is not homologous, an outgrowth program may  
48 have been present in the ancestor. Current fossil evidence and the prevalence of limbless taxa does  
49 not support an ancestor with appendages and therefore the network's ancestral function remains  
50 unclear (Shubin et al., 1997; Erwin & Davidson, 2002; Pueyo & Couso, 2005). Many alternative  
51 hypotheses have been proposed, including an ancestral role in the nervous system, body axis  
52 formation and radial patterning (Minelli, 2000; Pueyo & Couso, 2005; Lemons et al. 2010;  
53 McDougall et al., 2011; Plavicki et al., 2016; Carroll et al., 1994; Erwin & Davidson, 2002). To  
54 understand the nature of this homology and how these co-option events occur, experiments with  
55 better sampling across the phylogeny of animals and greater diversity of developmental context  
56 are required.

57 Recent work identified a duplication of SP6-9 in cephalopods (McCulloch and Koenig,  
58 2020). Both paralogs are expressed in the developing limb in the squid *Doryteuthis pealeii*, while  
59 one paralog, *DpSP6-9a*, shows unique expression in the lens-making cells during eye development  
60 (McCulloch and Koenig, 2020). With SP6-9 a known regulator in the limb patterning program,  
61 this new domain of expression could result in the co-option of the program in the cephalopod eye,  
62 providing a useful heterologous developmental context to better understand the network's  
63 function.

64 The image-forming eye is a classic example of biological complexity and the lens is a  
65 requisite innovation in all high-resolution visual systems (Darwin, 1859; Arendt, 2009; Dakin,  
66 1928; Walls, 1939; Koenig & Gross, 2020; Nilsson, 2013; Jonasova & Kozmik, 2008).  
67 Cephalopods have a single-chambered eye, morphologically convergent with the vertebrate eye,  
68 composed of a cup shaped retina and a single refractive lens (Packard, 1972). Here we perform the  
69 first in-depth molecular description of lens development in the squid *Doryteuthis pealeii*, we  
70 identify spatiotemporal expression of the limb patterning program in the developing eye and lens,  
71 and we demonstrate a negative regulatory role of canonical Wnt signaling upstream of the  
72 program.

73

## 74 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 75 Cephalopod Lentigenic Cell Differentiation and Early Anterior Segment Heterogeneity

76 The anterior of the cephalopod eye, or the anterior segment, is composed primarily of lens  
77 generating cells (lentigenic cells) (Williams, 1909; Arnold, 1967; Brahma, 1978). Lentigenic cells  
78 are arranged circumferentially around the developing lens and extend long cellular processes,  
79 fusing into plates to form the lens (Figure 1A) (Meinertzhagen, 1990; Williams, 1909; Arnold,  
80 1965; Arnold, 1967; West et al., 1995). We identified the first evidence of differentiated lentigenic  
81 cells starting at late stage 21, using a previously described nuclear morphology, unique to one of  
82 the three lentigenic cell types (LC2) (Figure 1B) (Arnold, 1967; West et al., 1995; Koenig et al.,  
83 2016). The number of LC2 cells continues to grow until reaching pre-hatching stage (Stage 29).  
84 We performed staged *in situ* hybridization for a homolog of *DpS-Crystallin*, the most abundant  
85 family of proteins in the cephalopod lens (Chiou, 1984; West et al., 1994) (Supplemental Figure  
86 1). The first evidence of expression corresponds to changes in nuclear morphology at stage 21  
87 (Figure 1C).

88 We sought to understand the molecular heterogeneity of cells in the early developing  
89 anterior segment, of which nothing is currently known. Using previously published candidates and  
90 RNA-seq data, we performed *in situ* hybridization screens at stage 23 to identify unique cell  
91 populations (Koenig et al., 2016; Ogura et al., 2013). We find *DpSix3/6* at stage 23 expressed in  
92 the anterior segment in the distal cells that make a central cup (*cc*), as well as a marginal population  
93 of cells in the most proximal tissue (*pm*) (Figure 2B''). The proximal central cells lacking *DpSix3/6*  
94 expression correspond to the LC2 population (Figure 2A'' & B''). Asymmetry along the animal  
95 anterior-posterior axis in the eye is also apparent, with enrichment on the anterior side of the animal  
96 (Figure 2B''). We also find the gene *DpLhx1/5*, expressed in a distal-marginal population of cells



97 in the anterior segment (*dm*), and excluded from the distal central cup cells (*cc*) (Figure 2C’’).  
98 Together these genes show distinct populations of cells present early in development and provide  
99 a helpful molecular map of the anterior segment tissue at this time point: central cup cells (*cc*),  
100 LC2 cells (*lc2*), proximal-marginal cells (*pm*), and distal-marginal cells (*dm*) (Figure 2) .

101

## 102 **Proximal-Distal Limb Patterning Genes in the Anterior Segment of the Cephalopod**

103 To assess whether genes involved in appendage patterning may be required for cephalopod  
104 lens development, we identified and performed *in situ* hybridization for the genes *Dlx*, *Pbx*, *Meis*,  
105 and *Dac* at stage 21 and 23 (Figure 2, Supplemental Figure 2). All genes were clearly expressed  
106 in the developing anterior segment and lentigenic cells with the exception of *DpDac* (Figure 2E-  
107 G, Supplemental Figure 2I-2J’). We find *DpDlx* and *DpSP6-9a* have overlapping expression, in  
108 the central cup cells (*cc*) and all proximal cells (LC2 and *pm*) (Figure 2D-E’’’). *DpPbx* and *DpMeis*  
109 are both broadly expressed in the anterior segment during lens development, with *DpPbx* excluded  
110 from the LC2 cells (Figure 2F’’ & 2G’’).

111 It is known that the transcription factor *aristaless* is necessary for the most distal tip of the  
112 *Drosophila* limb in the limb program (Campbell and Tomlinson, 1998). The evolutionary  
113 relationship of Prd-like homologs (Arx/Aristaless, Alx/Aristaless-like, Rx/Retinal Homeobox and  
114 Hbn/Homeobrain) is ambiguous across species (Schiemann et al., 2017). We identified three  
115 candidate Prd-like genes in *D. pealeii* and performed *in situ* hybridization for all three homologs,  
116 *DpHbn*, *DpPrdl-1* and *DpPrdl-2* (Supplemental Figure 2K, L) (Koenig et al, 2016). *DpHbn* is  
117 expressed in the anterior segment in the distal central cup cells (*cc*) while *DpPrdl-1* and *DpPrdl-*  
118 *2* are excluded from the eye (Figure 2H’’ and Supplemental Figure 2C, C’, K and L). *DpHbn*’s  
119 central, distal expression recapitulates *aristaless* expression in the developing *Drosophila* limb.

120 Our data show that the majority of the proximal-distal patterning genes in the developing  
121 limb, including *SP6-9*, *Dlx*, *Meis*, *Pbx*, as well as the Prd-like homolog, *Hbn*, show expression in  
122 concentric and overlapping cell populations surrounding the developing lens in the squid (Figure  
123 2). This pattern of expression is strikingly similar to the bullseye-like pattern of expression of these  
124 genes in the developing *Drosophila* limb imaginal disc and suggests a co-option of this regulatory  
125 program for a new function: patterning the cephalopod anterior segment and lens (Angelini &  
126 Kaufman, 2005).

127

## 128 **Canonical Wnt Signaling Genes Expressed During Anterior Segment Development**

129           The duplication of SP6-9 in cephalopods provides a substrate for the evolution of cis-  
130 regulation, which could result in novel expression of the limb patterning program in the  
131 cephalopod lens. In appendage outgrowth, active Wnt signaling is upstream of the expression of  
132 SP6-9 (Cohen, 1990; Estella et al., 2003). To assess whether Wnt may be acting upstream in the  
133 cephalopod anterior segment or whether novel regulatory mechanisms may be at play, we  
134 performed *in situ* hybridization for members of the Wnt signaling pathway at stage 21 and stage  
135 23 (Figure 3, Supplemental Figure 3). We were interested in identifying cells in the anterior  
136 segment or in adjacent tissue that may be a source of the Wnt morphogen. We performed *in situ*  
137 hybridization for seven Wnt homologs, with most *Wnt* genes expressed in the retina (Figure 3A',  
138 3C', 3D-G). *DpWnt8*, *DpWnt11* and *DpProtostome-specific Wnt* show the most robust retinal  
139 expression (3A', 3F & 3G) and *DpWnt7* is the only Wnt expressed in the anterior segment (Figure  
140 3C). *DpWnt6* showed no evidence of expression in the developing eye (data not shown). These  
141 data support the hypothesis that Wnt signals emanating from neighboring tissues could regulate  
142 anterior segment development.

143           To identify cells with potential active Wnt signaling, we analyzed the expression of Fz  
144 genes, which encode a family of Wnt receptors. We find that *DpFz* receptors are expressed broadly  
145 throughout the embryo. A subset of these (e.g. *DpFz1/2/7*, *DpFz4*, and *DpFz5/8*) are expressed in  
146 the majority of cells in the anterior segment, while others, like *DpFz9/10*, are excluded from the  
147 anterior segment (Figure 3H-K, Supplemental Figure 3). On close examination we find that  
148 *DpFz5/8* is excluded asymmetrically in the anterior segment and may be important for anterior-  
149 posterior patterning (Figure 3J' & J''). *DpFz1/2/7* is excluded from the distal-marginal cells and  
150 central cup cells and interestingly, the central cup cells lacking *DpFz1/2/7* are those that express  
151 all the limb patterning program genes (Figure 3K' & K''). These data suggested that the exclusion  
152 of active Wnt signaling may be important in the cephalopod anterior segment, supporting a  
153 potential negative regulatory role for Wnt signaling.

154

### 155 **Ectopic Wnt Activation Leads to the Loss of the Lens**

156           To assess the hypothesis that Wnt signaling is playing a negative regulatory role in anterior  
157 segment development, we utilized well-characterized pharmacological compounds that act as  
158 agonists of the Wnt pathway (Hedgepeth et al. 1997; Klein & Melton; Sato et al., 2004). We  
159 empirically determined a working concentration of both LiCl (0.15M) and CHIR99021 (250um).  
160 We bathed embryos in the compound or vehicle control for 24 hours at stage 21, the onset of  
161 lentigenic cell differentiation, and immediately fixed thereafter. Embryos were sectioned and

162 assessed for phenotypes. Stage 21 control embryos show a thickened anterior segment, identifiable  
163 lentigenic cells, and small lens primordia (Figure 3L). LiCl-treated stage 21 embryos show a  
164 complete absence of lens formation: No anterior segment thickening, lentigenic cells, or lens  
165 tissue. These data suggest that ectopic Wnt pathway activation inhibits lens and anterior segment  
166 development (Figure 3L', Supplemental Figure 4A). CHIR99021 treatment showed similar  
167 phenotypes (Supplemental Figure 4A). We assessed LiCl treated and control animals for cell death  
168 and find little difference between control and treated eyes suggesting that toxicity is unlikely the  
169 reason for these phenotypic changes (Supplemental Figure 4B).

170 We were interested in the consequence of activating the Wnt pathway after lentigenic cell  
171 differentiation. We performed the same 24 hour LiCl exposure at stage 23 and find the lens smaller  
172 and the anterior segment less thick than control animals, but lentigenic cells and lens tissue remain  
173 identifiable. This suggests that ectopic Wnt signaling does not impact cell identity in differentiated  
174 lentigenic cells (Figure 3M & M').

175 The lack of lens growth in stage 21 treated animals may be a result of an imposed delay in  
176 lens formation or it may be a result of the loss of lens potential. To differentiate between these  
177 possibilities we allowed treated animals to recover. We bathed experimental and control embryos,  
178 at both stage 21 and 23, for 24 hours, washed out the solution and allowed animals to develop for  
179 an additional 48 hours. LiCl treated stage 21 embryos never recover a lens (Figure 4N & 4N')  
180 while LiCl treated stage 23 embryos do form a small but morphologically abnormal lens (Figure  
181 4O & 4O'). This abnormal lens is larger than the lens found in animals immediately fixed after  
182 treatment, suggesting that existing lentigenic cells at stage 23 continue to contribute to lens  
183 formation and growth. However, because the stage 23 treated lens is markedly smaller than control,  
184 it suggests that further lentigenic cell differentiation is lost in treated animals. These data suggest  
185 that ectopic Wnt signaling leads to the disruption of lens potential and the lack of proper lentigenic  
186 cell differentiation.

187 Despite the remarkable loss of the lens, these data do not clearly distinguish between the  
188 loss of lentigenic cell fate or proper cell function, such as the growth of the cellular processes that  
189 form the lens. To assess if lentigenic cell fate is lost, we performed *in situ* hybridization  
190 experiments for *DpS-Crystallin* on LiCl treated animals. We saw two types of expression  
191 phenotypes, either a significant decrease (Type I) or a complete loss (Type II) in *DpS-Crystallin*  
192 expression as compared to control (Figure 4P, P' & P''). We find all *DpS-Crystallin* expression  
193 exclusively dorsal to the site of lens formation suggesting that these cells may differentiate first.  
194 These data show that ectopic Wnt signaling results in the loss of lentigenic cell fate and that our

195 treatment may have interrupted a dorsal-to-ventral wave of differentiation in some embryos  
196 (Figure 4A). In addition, we assessed other anterior segment markers, including *DpSix3/6* and  
197 *DpLhx1/5*, and these genes show a consistent loss of expression in the most severe phenotypes,  
198 (Supplemental Figure 4C).

199

## 200 **Limb Patterning Program Regulatory Evolution**

201 To address if Wnt signaling is upstream of the limb patterning program, we performed *in*  
202 *situ* hybridization of limb transcription factors after LiCl treatment (Figure 3Q-3S, Supplementary  
203 Figure 4C). Similar to *DpS-Crystallin* expression, we again see a mild reduction (Type I) or loss  
204 and severe reduction (Type II) of expression. Our milder phenotypes, again, show a dorsal  
205 asymmetry, which can be most easily seen in *DpSP6-9A*, *DpDlx* and *DpHbn* (Figure 3Q, Q', Q'',  
206 3R, R', R'' and 3S, S', S''). Changes are also visible but less obvious in *DpPbx* and *DpMeis*  
207 expression, with *DpPbx* only showing a mild phenotype (Supplemental figure 4C). These data  
208 support the placement of Wnt signaling upstream of the limb patterning program in a negative  
209 regulatory role.

210

## 211 **Conclusion**

212 Our findings indicate that the limb patterning program has been co-opted for anterior  
213 segment and lens development in cephalopods and that this co-option does not have a homologous  
214 upstream regulatory relationship with Wnt signaling as found in the limb (Estella et al., 2003;  
215 Tarazona et al., 2019). This change in signaling and the known duplication of SP6-9 identifies the  
216 paralog SP6-9a as a mediator of limb patterning program co-option in the anterior segment.  
217 Finally, with little similarity between limb and lens, our work suggests that the function of the limb  
218 patterning program in a limbless ancestor was likely a more generic developmental function than  
219 outgrowth. Considering present findings, previous work and hypotheses we conclude that the  
220 ability to pattern in a radial fashion, as previously proposed, is a more inclusive and likely ancestral  
221 function (Figure 4B) (Carroll et al., 1994; Erwin & Davidson, 2002). This work shows the  
222 cephalopod lens to be a unique context for future investigation of comparative regulatory changes  
223 responsible for co-option, and for identifying the regulatory mechanisms responsible for the  
224 emergent radial pattern found in embryos across species.

225

226

227

## 228 **Methods**

### 229 **Animal Husbandry**

230 *Doryteuthis pealeii* egg sacks were obtained from the Marine Biological Labs. Egg sacks were  
231 kept at 20 degrees Celsius. Although not required, European guidelines for cephalopod research  
232 were followed.

233

### 234 **Histology and TUNEL Staining**

235 Embryos were fixed at 4 degrees Celsius overnight in 4% PFA in filter-sterilized seawater. After  
236 fixation embryos were transitioned into 15% and 30% sucrose and embedded in TFM and stored  
237 at -80 degrees Celsius. Embryos were cryosectioned in 12 um sections, stained with Sytox Green  
238 1:1000 and Phalloidin 555 1:300 in PBS overnight (Molecular Probes). TUNEL stained tissue was  
239 processed after sectioning using the Click-iT TUNEL Alexa Fluor 488 kit according to  
240 manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen). Embryos were mounted in VECTASHIELD Hardset  
241 antifade mounting medium and imaged on a Zeiss 880 confocal.

242

### 243 **Homolog Identification and Phylogenetics**

244 Genes were preliminarily identified using reciprocal BLAST with *Mus musculus* and *Drosophila*  
245 *melanogaster* sequences as bait with the exception of S-Crystallin where previous *Doryteuthis*  
246 *opalescens* sequences were also used (Altschul et al., 1990). Top hits in the *D. pealeii*  
247 transcriptome were trimmed for coding sequence and translated to amino acid sequences. To find  
248 related sequences, BLASTp was used, searching only the RefSeq protein database in NCBI filtered  
249 for vertebrate and arthropod models, as well as spiralian models for when published annotated  
250 sequences could be found. The top hits of each gene name were downloaded and aligned with our  
251 *D. pealeii* sequences for each tree using MAFFT in Geneious (Katoh, 2002). To check sequence  
252 redundancy and proper outgroups quick trees were made using FastTree. We constructed  
253 maximum-likelihood trees on the FASRC Cannon cluster supported by the FAS Division of  
254 Science Research Computing Group at Harvard University (Price et al. 2010). Using PTHREADS  
255 RAXML v.8.2.10, we ran the option for rapid bootstrapping with search for best maximum  
256 likelihood tree, resampling with 1000 bootstrap replicates, the PROTGAMMAAUTO model of  
257 amino acid substitution, and otherwise default parameters (Stamatakis, 2014). Fasta alignments,  
258 Nexus tree files are found in the Supplemental Data Folder. All PDF versions of the trees are found  
259 in Supplemental Figure 1.

260

## 261 **Cloning and Probe Synthesis**

262 Embryos stg 21-29 were crushed in Trizol reagent. RNA was extracted using standard phenol-  
263 chloroform extraction with a clean-up using the Qiagen RNeasy Micro kit. cDNA was synthesized  
264 using iScript (Bio-Rad) according to manufacturer protocols. Primers were designed using Primer3  
265 in the Geneious software package from available transcriptomic data (Koenig et al., 2016). PCR  
266 products were ligated into the Pgem-T Easy plasmid and isolated using the Qiagen miniprep kit.  
267 Plasmids were linearized using restriction enzymes. Sense and anti-sense probes were synthesized  
268 using T7 and SP6 polymerase with digoxigenin labelled nucleotides.

269

## 270 ***In situ* Hybridization**

271 Embryos were fixed as previously described (Koenig et al. 2016) and were dehydrated in 100%  
272 ethanol and stored at -20 degrees Celsius. Whole-mount *in situ* hybridization was performed as  
273 previously described (Koenig et al., 2016). Embryos were imaged using a Zeiss Axio Zoom.V16.  
274 Embryos were fixed for sectioning overnight in 4% PFA in artificial seawater and dehydrated in  
275 100% ethanol. Embryos were transitioned into histoclear and embedded in paraffin. Embryos were  
276 sectioned on a Leica RM2235 microtome in 5-micron sections. Sections were dewaxed for *in situ*  
277 in Histoclear, rehydrated through an EtOH series, and re-fixed for 5 minutes at 4 degrees Celsius  
278 in 4% PFA in PBS. Embryos were exposed to Proteinase K for 20 minutes at 37 degrees Celsius  
279 and then quenched with glycine. The embryos were then de-acetylated with acetic anhydride.  
280 Slides were then pre-hybridized at 65 degrees Celsius for 30-60 minutes and then exposed to probe  
281 overnight. Slides were washed in 50% formamide/1x SSC/0.1% Tween-20 hybridization buffer  
282 twice, then twice in 1x SSC, .2x SSC and 0.02x SSC, all at 70 degrees Celsius. The slides were  
283 then washed at room temperature in MABT three times and blocked in Roche Blocking Buffer for  
284 an hour. Slides were incubated in Anti-Dig antibody (Roche) at 1/4000 overnight at 4 degrees  
285 Celsius. Slides were washed with MABT and then placed in AP reaction buffer. Slides were then  
286 exposed to BCIP/NBT solution until reacted and stopped in PBS. Slides were counterstained with  
287 Sytox 1:1000 overnight. Slides mounted in ImmunoHistoMount (Abcam) and imaged on a Zeiss  
288 Axioscope. *DpS-Crystallin* embryo *in situs* were transitioned to sucrose and embedded after  
289 imaging in whole-mount. Embryos were image on a Zeiss Axioscope.

290

## 291 ***Ex ovo* Experimental Culture**

292 *Ex ovo* culture was performed as previously described in Koenig, 2016. Embryos were bathed in  
293 .25 M, .15 M and .07 M LiCl and 100nm, 250nm and 500nm concentration of Wnt Agonist



294 (CHIR99021) in Pen-Step filter-sterilized seawater to determine a working concentration. Control  
295 animals were bathed in equivalent amounts of DMSO or Pen-Strep alone.

296

### 297 **Supplemental Data Files**

298 RAxML Maximum Likelihood trees, 1000 bootstraps.

299 ANTP\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

300 Axin\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

301 Cry\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

302 Dach\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

303 Dsh\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

304 Fz\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

305 GSK3\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

306 Lhx\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

307 LRP1\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

308 Pangolin\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

309 Prd\_domain\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

310 TALE\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

311 Wnt\_ML\_1000bs\_final.nex

312

313 MAFFT sequence alignments

314 ANTP\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

315 Axin\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

316 Cry\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

317 Dach\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

318 Dsh\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

319 Fz\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

320 GSK3\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

321 Lhx\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

322 LRP1\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

323 Pangolin\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

324 Prd\_domain\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

325 TALE\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

326 Wnt\_ML\_1000bs\_final.fasta

327

### 328 **Authors' contributions**

329 K.M.K. designed the experiments. S.N., K.J.M., F.N., C.D., J.C., and K.M.K. performed  
330 experiments. K.J.M. performed phylogenetic analyses. K.M.K., S.N., and K.J.M. wrote the  
331 manuscript with consultation from all authors.

332

### 333 **Competing Interests**

334 Authors declare no competing interests.

335

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354

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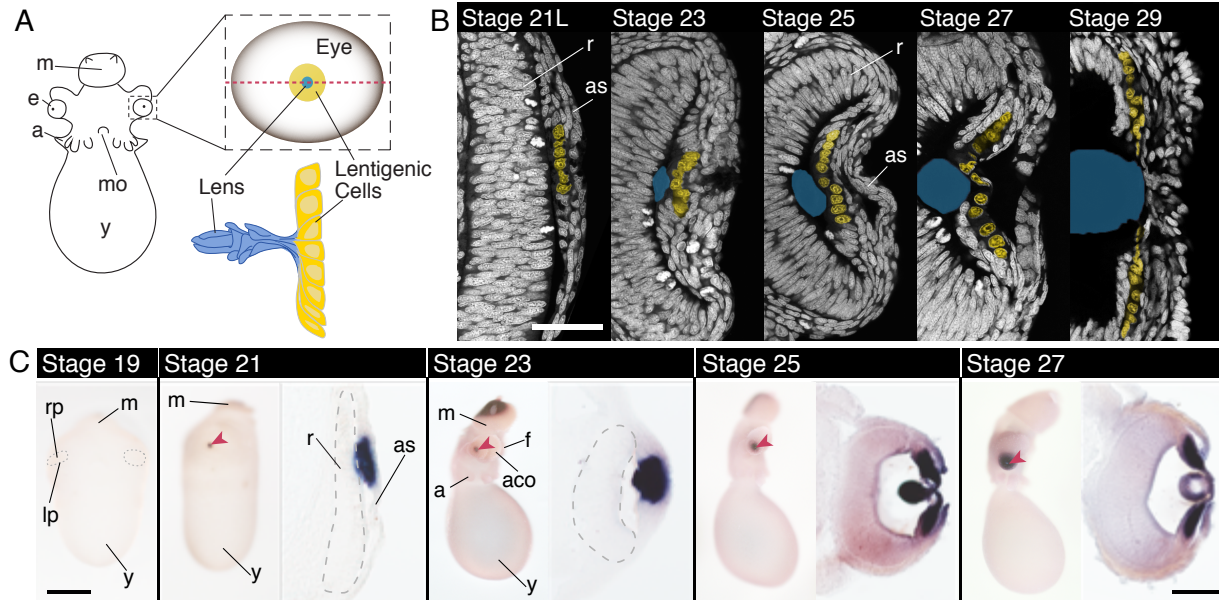
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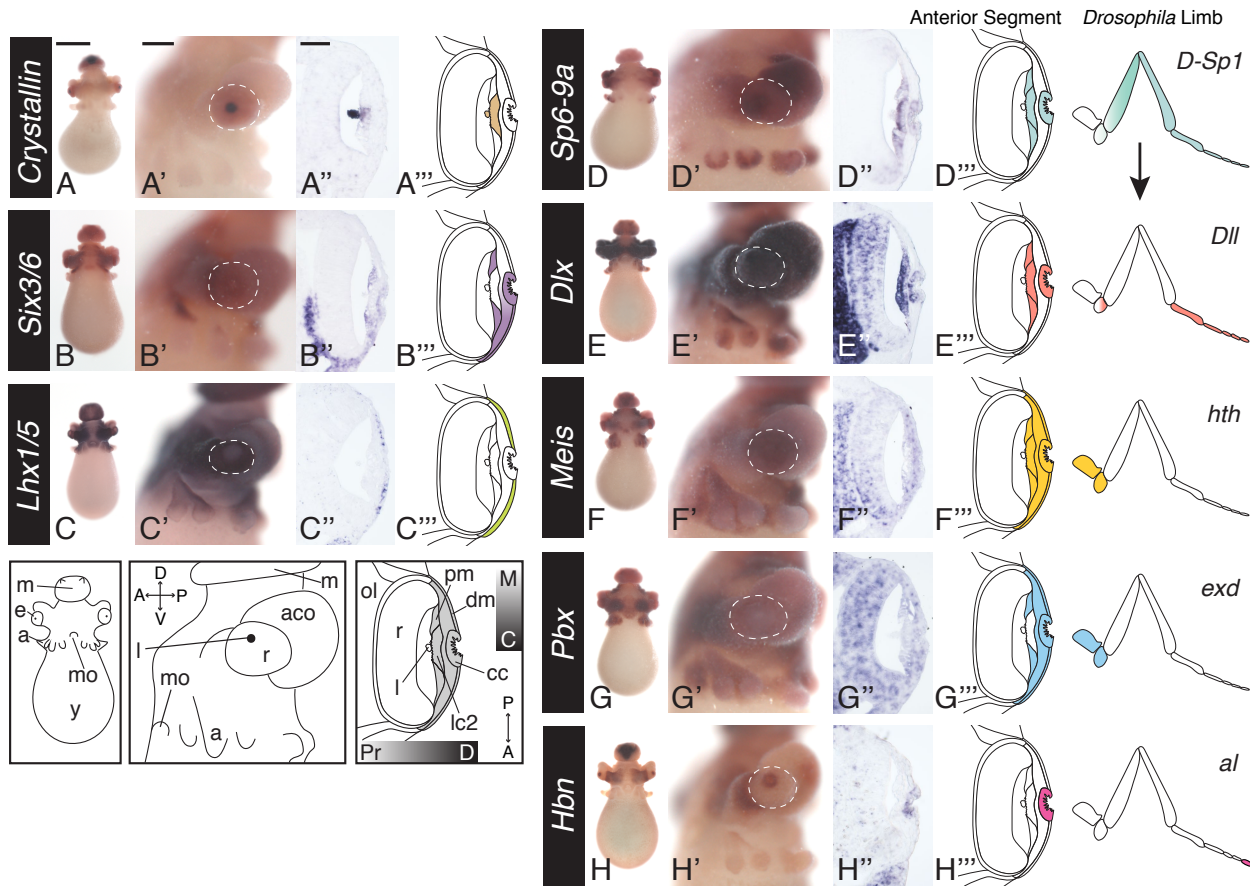
591 **Figure Titles and Legends**



592

593 **Figure 1: Lentigenic cell differentiation and *DpS-Crystallin* expression in the squid**

594 A) Cartoon diagram of a squid embryo (anterior), en face cartoon of the developing eye (red dotted  
595 line shows cross-section plane) and developing lentigenic cells and lens. (Cartoon of lens and  
596 lentigenic cells based on Arnold, 1967) B) Cross-section of the developing anterior segment at  
597 Arnold stages 21 late, 23, 25, 27 and 29 identifying differentiation of lentigenic cells (Arnold,  
598 1968). White: Sytox-Green labeling nuclei, Yellow: False-colored lentigenic cell nuclei  
599 corresponding to the LC2 population identified by nuclear morphology (Arnold, 1967; West et al.,  
600 1995; Koenig et al., 2016). Blue is the outline of the lens, as identified using phalloidin staining  
601 (not shown). First evidence of LC2 cells is late stage 21. Lentigenic cell number multiplies and  
602 distribution grows across the anterior segment (as) throughout development. Scale is 50 microns.  
603 C) *In situ* hybridization of *DpS-Crystallin* in whole-mount and cryo-section. Stage 19 is an anterior  
604 view, the boundary between the retina placode and the lip cells is highlighted with a dotted line.  
605 No *DpS-Crystallin* expression is apparent at this stage. Stage 21-27 are shown in a lateral view of  
606 the embryo on the left and a cross-section of the eye on the right. Anterior of the embryo is down  
607 in the sections. The retina is outlined with a dashed grey line in stage 21 and 23. *DpS-Crystallin*  
608 expression corresponds with LC2 lentigenic cell population. Scale is 500 microns in whole mount  
609 images. Scale is 100 microns in sectioned images. as, anterior segment; a, arm; aco, anterior  
610 chamber organ; e, eye; f, funnel lp, lip; m, mantle; mo, mouth; rp, retina placode; r, retina; y, yolk.  
611 Red arrow highlights the lens.

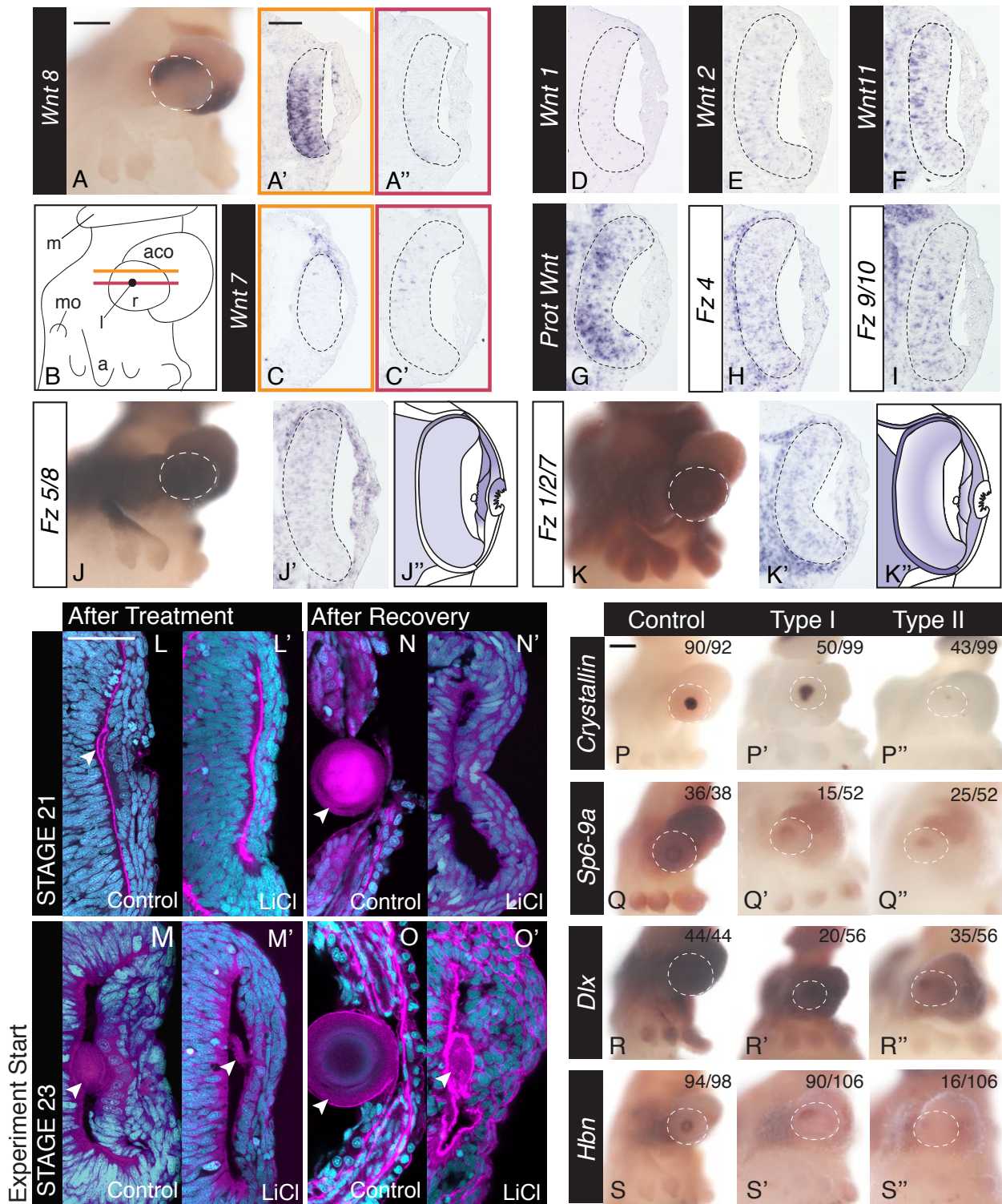


612 **Figure 2: Limb patterning program expressed in the developing anterior segment**

613 For each gene: left to right, anterior whole-mount view, lateral whole-mount view (anterior left),  
 614 cross-section (anterior is down), cartoon summary of anterior segment expression. Dotted white  
 615 outline in lateral view outlines the perimeter of the eye. A-C) Defining cell populations in the  
 616 developing anterior segment at stage 23. A, A', A'') *DpS-Crystallin* expression in the anterior  
 617 segment at stage 23, expressed in the proximal, central cells corresponding with the LC2 cells  
 618 (*lc2*). Expression is also apparent in the lens. B, B', B'') Expression of *DpSix3/6*. B'') Expression  
 619 is apparent in the distal, central cup cells (*cc*) and the proximal-marginal (*pm*) anterior segment  
 620 cells. The proximal-central cells (*lc2*) lack expression of *DpSix3/6*. C, C', C'') *DpLhx1/5*  
 621 expression. C'') Expression of *DpLhx1/5* is found in the distal-marginal cell (*dm*) population.  
 622 Expression is excluded from the central cup (*cc*). D-G) Expression of the limb patterning program  
 623 genes. Summary of the proximodistal expression of each *Drosophila* homolog during  
 624 proximodistal patterning of the limb is shown on the right H) Prd-like homolog *Homeobrain* (*Hbn*)  
 625 expression in the distal, central cup cells. *a*, arms; *aco*, anterior chamber organ; *cc*, cup cells; *dm*,  
 626 distal-marginal cells; *e*, eye; *l*, lens; *lc2*, LC2 cells; *m*, mantle; *mo*, mouth; *pm*, proximal-marginal  
 627 cells; *r*, retina; *y*, yolk. Anterior segment highlighted in grey in the cartoon. Orientation  
 628 abbreviations: M, marginal; C, central; Pr, proximal; D, Distal; A, anterior; P, posterior. Scale for  
 629 whole-mount anterior view is 500 microns. Scale for lateral whole-mount view 200 microns. Scale  
 630 for sectioned images 50 microns.

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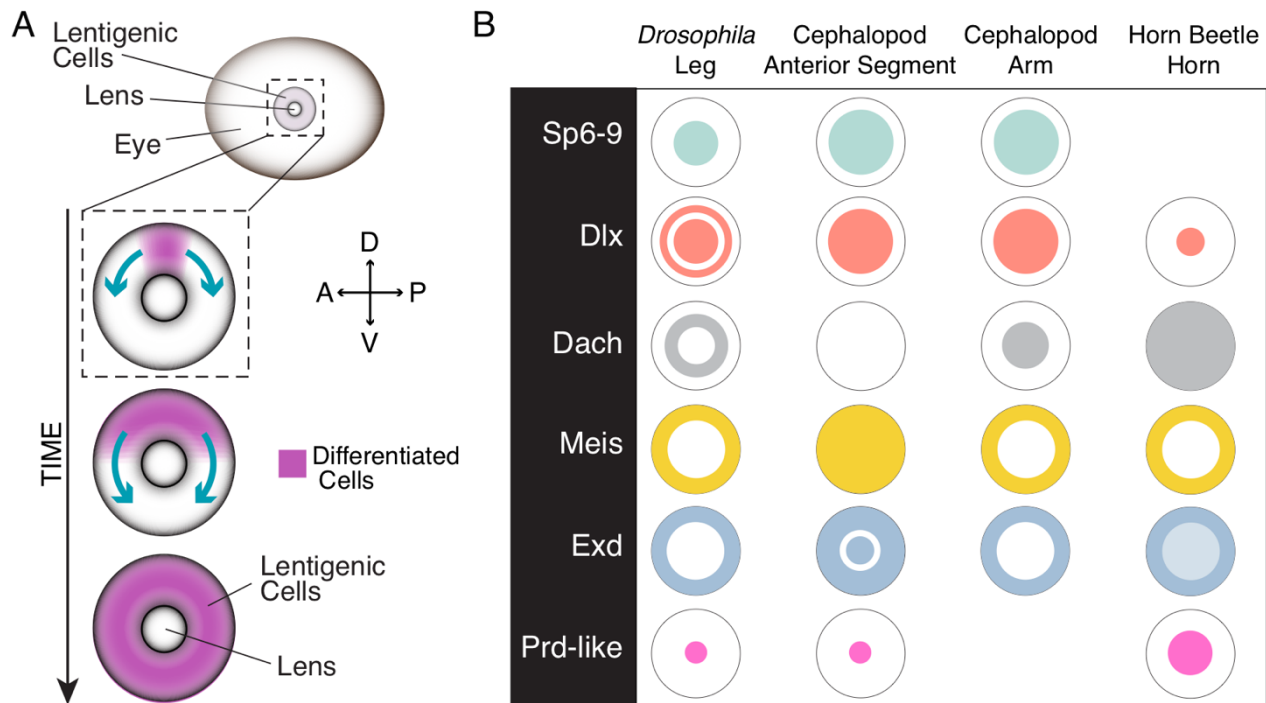




632 **Figure 3: Wnt signaling pathway expression in the developing cephalopod eye**  
 633 A-G) *Wnt* gene expression at stage 23. Based on expression, *Wnt7*, *Wnt8*, *Wnt2*, *Wnt11* and *Prot*  
 634 *Wnt* are possible candidates to signal the anterior segment. A) Lateral, whole-mount expression of  
 635 *Wnt8*. A') Dorsal retina expression of *Wnt8*. Location of the section indicated by the orange line  
 636 in B. A'') Central section lacking retina expression. Location of the section indicated by the red  
 637 line in B. B) Cartoon of the lateral whole-mount embryo at stage 23. Orange and red lines  
 638 correspond to the location of the two sections shown in A, A', and C, C'. D-G) Expression of other  
 639 *Wnt* homologs in central sections. H-K) Expression of Frizzled receptors at stage 23. *Fz1/2/7*



640 shows asymmetric expression and Fz5/8 shows specific exclusion from the central cup cells. J  
641 and K are lateral view of the whole mount expression. J'' and K'' are cartoons of expression in J'  
642 and K' respectively. Black dotted line in sectioned images show the perimeter of the retina. L-O)  
643 Anterior segment and lens morphology after Wnt agonist treatment (LiCl). Embryos were  
644 cryosectioned and stained with sytox-green (nuclei, cyan) and phalloidin (F-actin, magenta).. L  
645 and L') Control and LiCl agonist treatments started at stage 21, treated for 24 hours and fixed  
646 immediately. M and M') Control and Wnt agonist (LiCl) treatments started at stage 23 for 24 hours  
647 and fixed immediately. N and N') Control and Wnt agonist (LiCl) treatments started at stage 21,  
648 treated for 24 hours and allowed to recover for 48 hours and fixed. O and O') Control and Wnt  
649 agonist (LiCl) treatments started at stage 23, treated for 24 hours and allowed to recover for 48  
650 hours and fixed. Arrowhead highlights the lens. P-S) *In situ* hybridization of anterior segment  
651 markers after 24 hour control and LiCl treatments starting at stage 23. Phenotypes are characterized  
652 as Type I (mild) and Type II (severe). The white dotted line outlines the eye in the lateral image  
653 and the number of eyes scored in control and the two phenotypes is found in LiCl treated animals  
654 in the top right corner. Scale for all lateral whole-mount view images is 200 microns. Scale for all  
655 sectioned images is 50 microns. Anterior is down in all sectioned images. White dotted line in  
656 whole mount images identify the perimeter of the eye. *m*, mantle; *a*, arms; *aco*, anterior chamber  
657 organ; *mo*, mouth; *r*, retina; *l*, lens.  
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**Figure 4: Ectopic Wnt signaling activation leads to loss of the lens**

A) Model for lentigenic cell differentiation at stage 21. LC2 lentigenic cells differentiate on the dorsal side of the eye first, with a wave moving ventrally. Type I *DpS-Crystallin* embryos have been interrupted in progress. B) En face summary of sample radial expression of the limb patterning program across developmental contexts (Tarazona, 2019; reviewed in Moczek, 2009 and Angelini & Kaufman, 2005).

667 **Supplemental Tables**

668 Supplemental Table 1: All Primer sequences

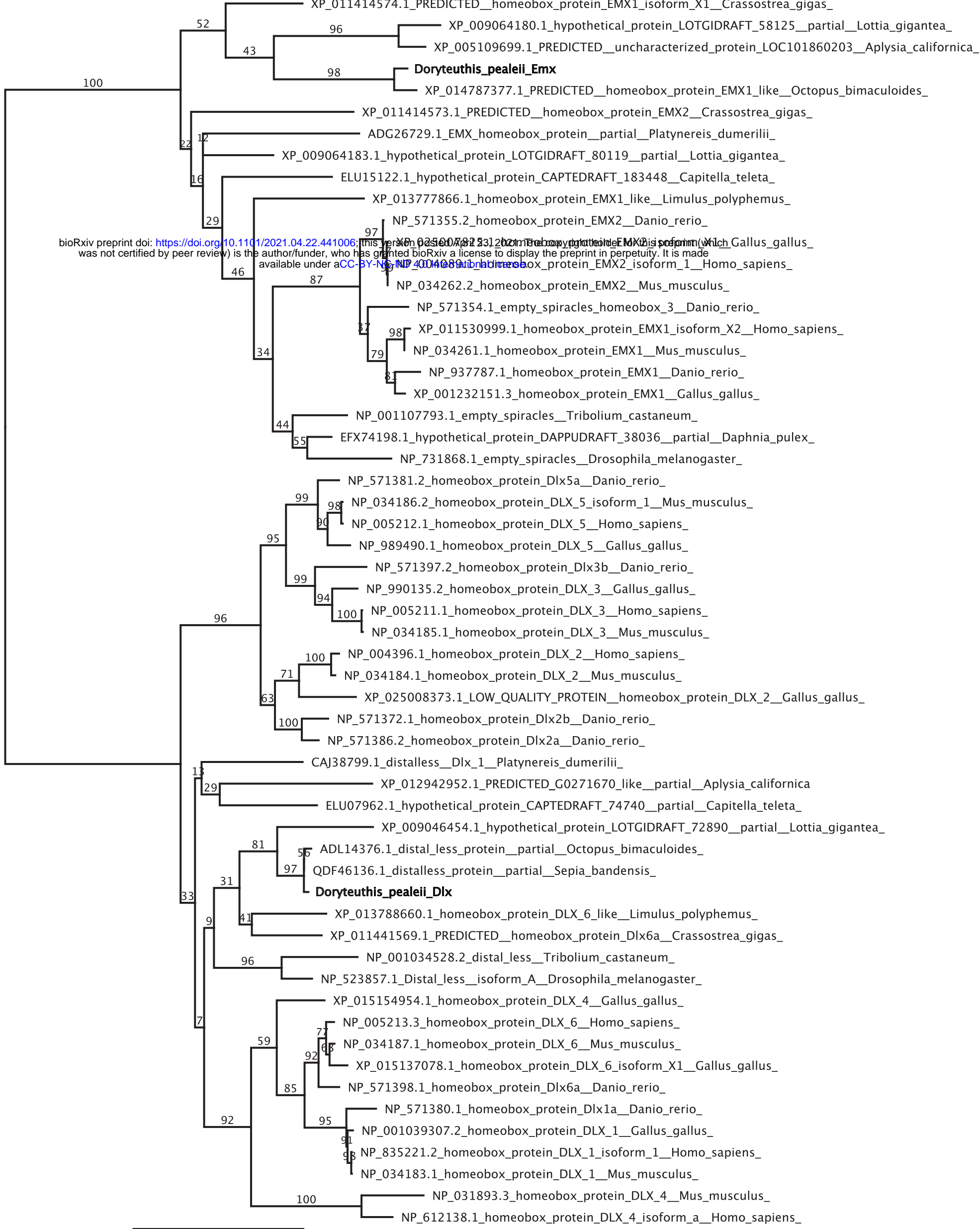
	Forward	Reverse
DpS-Crystallin	GAACATCATGTCGCACCACG	AGTTGCTCGCCTGAGAAGAC
DpLhx1/5	GAAGTGTCTTCGTGCTCCCA	ATTATCGACCGGCGAGGAAC
DpDlx	GGCAAGGCTTGGGTAAAACG	GGGGTAGCAGCGATGAGTTT
DpMeis	TAGCGTTTCCAAAAGGACCT	CCCCAATACCCGTCATACTC
DpPbx	TACTTCGGGAGCAGAGTCGA	TAGCGGTCGTGTCGTAATG
DpHbn	ATACAACGACGACGACCACC	CGCGTGAATACATCCGGGTA
DpPrdl-1	AGAACAACCCAACGTACACA	GCAAACATCGAGTGAATCCC
DpPrdl-2	TCGATTGAGGATTGATCTT	GGTTGTTGTTGTTGTTGTT
DpDac	CTGTATGGCTCCAAGTCCTC	GATCTCTGGTCGTCGTTTCA
DpGSK3	GATACGGGTGAACTGGTAGCAATC	CACCAACTGGATAGCCTCTGATG
DpLRP1	TTCCTTGAATAGCCTCATCGGTC	TTCCAAAAAGTGGGTGTGCG
DpAxin	CCCTCATTATTCTCCAACCTCCTC	CACAGAGCACTTCAAAAACGGG
DpTCF/LEF	GCTTGGGTGGCAAAATGTGC	TGCTGGACTGTTCTGGCAAAC
DpDvl	GCAGGCACTTTTTTTAGTAGCGTG	ATGTCCGTTGATGCGAGGTG
DpWnt-Prot	GACAGCCTACCTTTATGCCA	TACATTCGAGTCTTCCGTT
DpWnt1	GTTTGCTTGATTTCGTGCGA	CCCTCCAATCCCAATGAAGT
DpWnt2	GTCGTTTGTGGTCCTTGTTG	GAATGTCAGTTCAGTTGCG
DpWnt7	GTGCGTTGATGAATCTCCAC	TGTACTCCTCCGTCTTGTTG
DpWnt8	CTGCCAGATACTCCGTGACATTTAC	TTGGTTGGGGAATCGCACTG
DpWnt11	CTTGACATAGCAGCACCACACG	GAACAGTTTGCCAACAGAAGATGG
DpFz9/10	CGTAGTTTCTTGCCCGTAGAC	CGCTGTTTTGTATCAACCCCA
DpFz1/2/7	AAAGCCCCCTAAAGCATCCA	GACCATGCAATTCCACCTTG
DpFz4	TCAGTTCGTCAGCATCAACAT	CCGATATCCTCAACTGCACAA
DpFz5/8	TATTTGCTACCCACGGATCGC	CCGACCACCAACACATAAAGT

669

670 **Supplemental Figure titles**

671 **Sup Figure 1: Maximum-likelihood phylogenetic trees for genes identified in this study**

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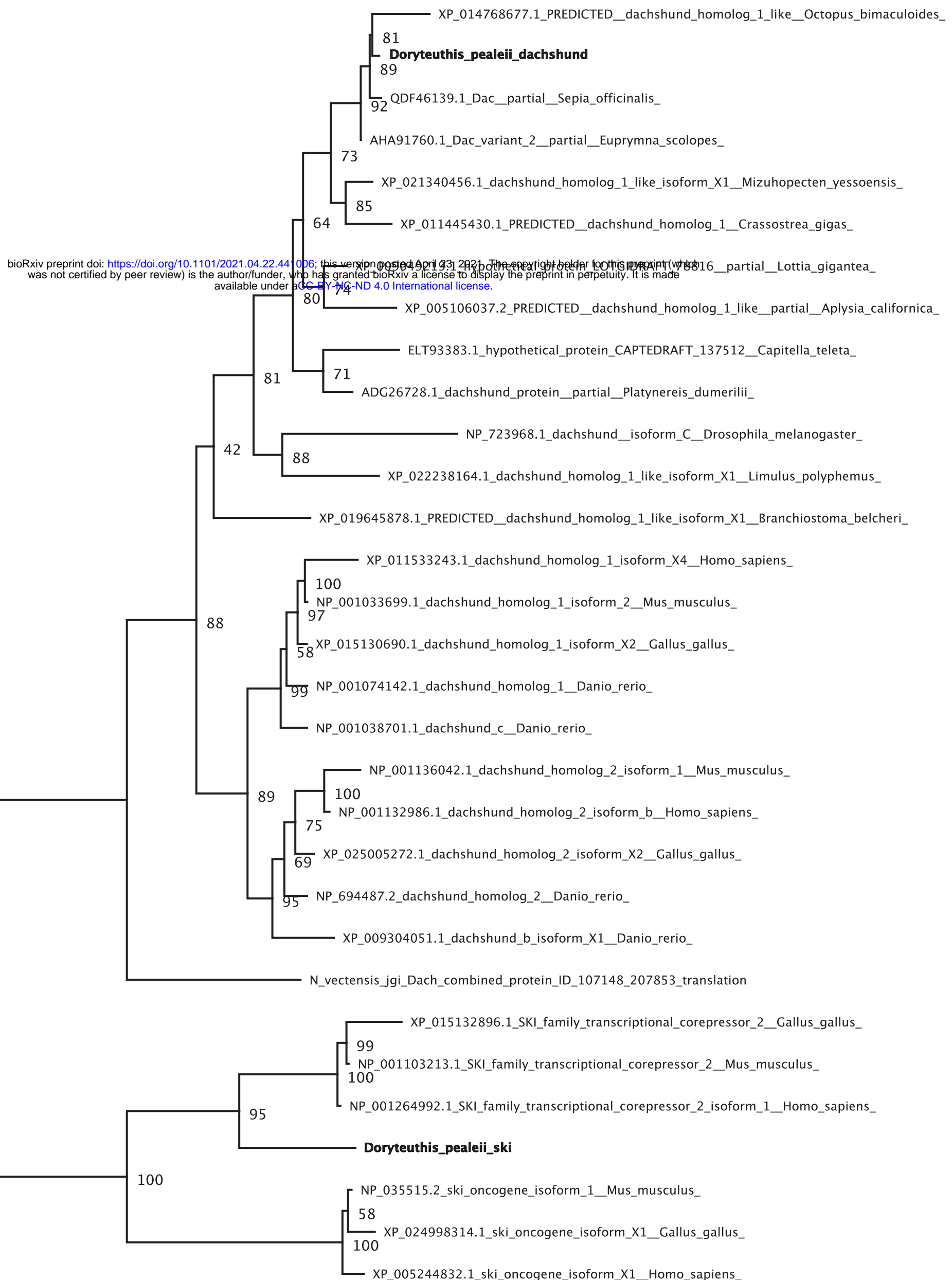
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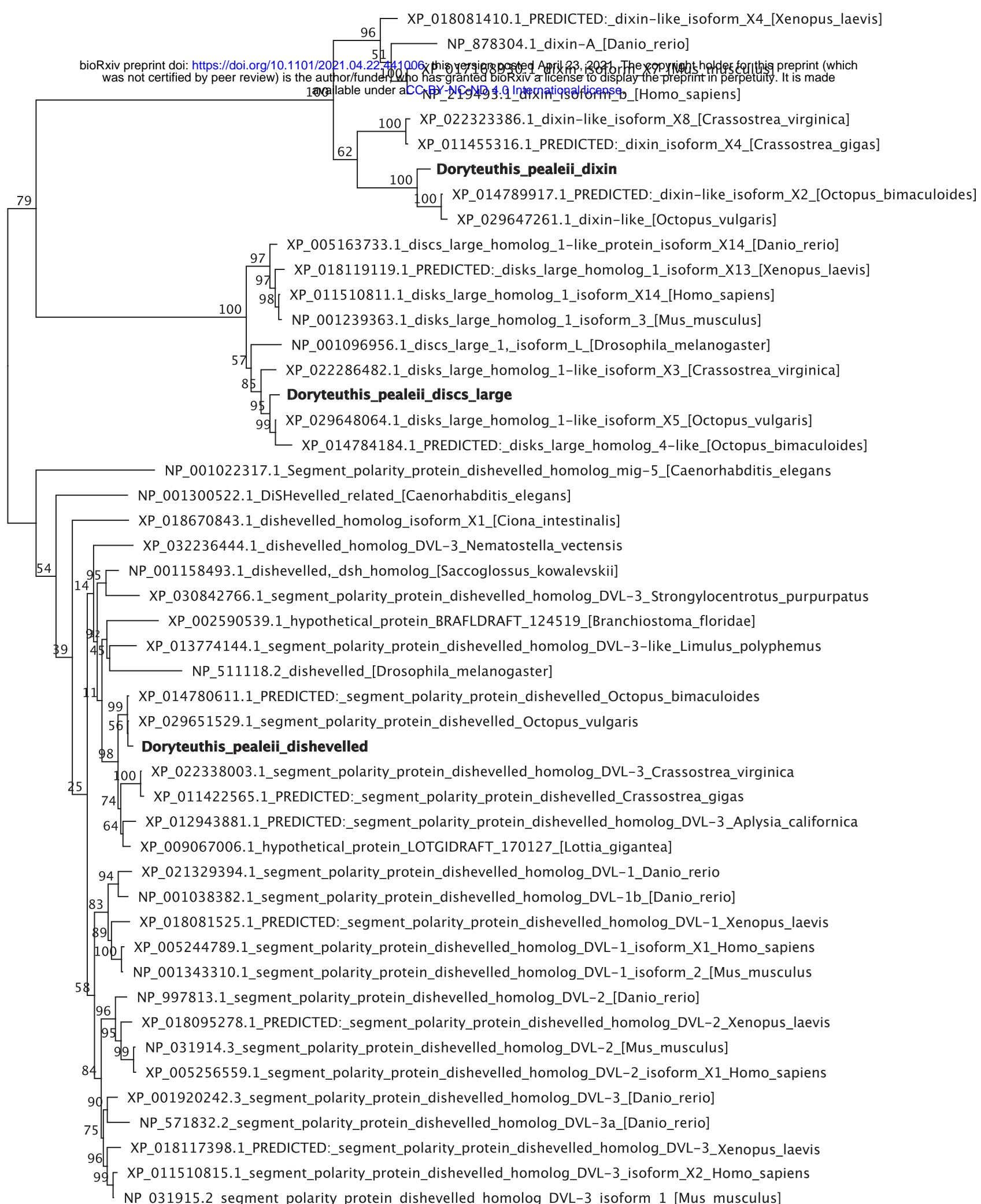




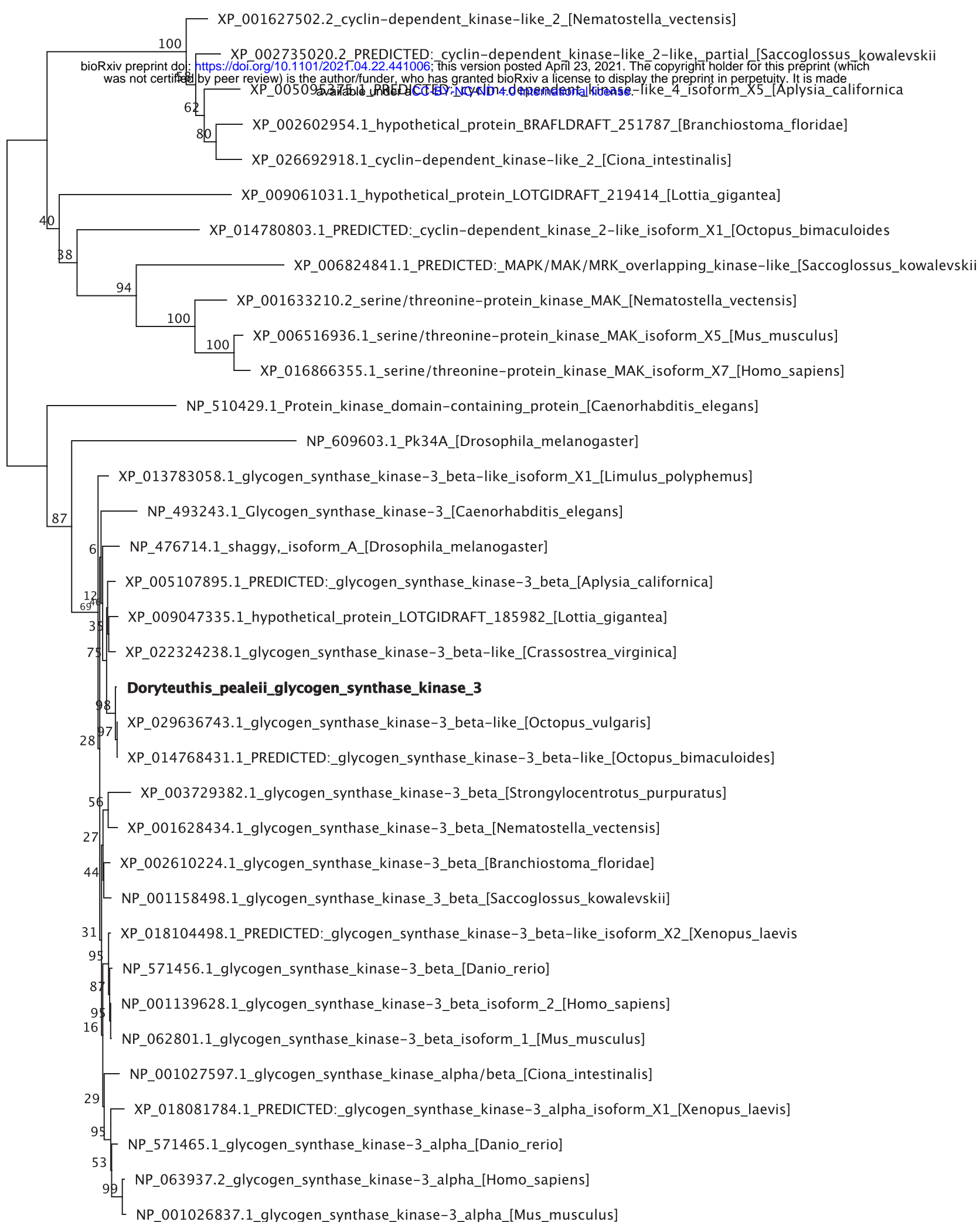
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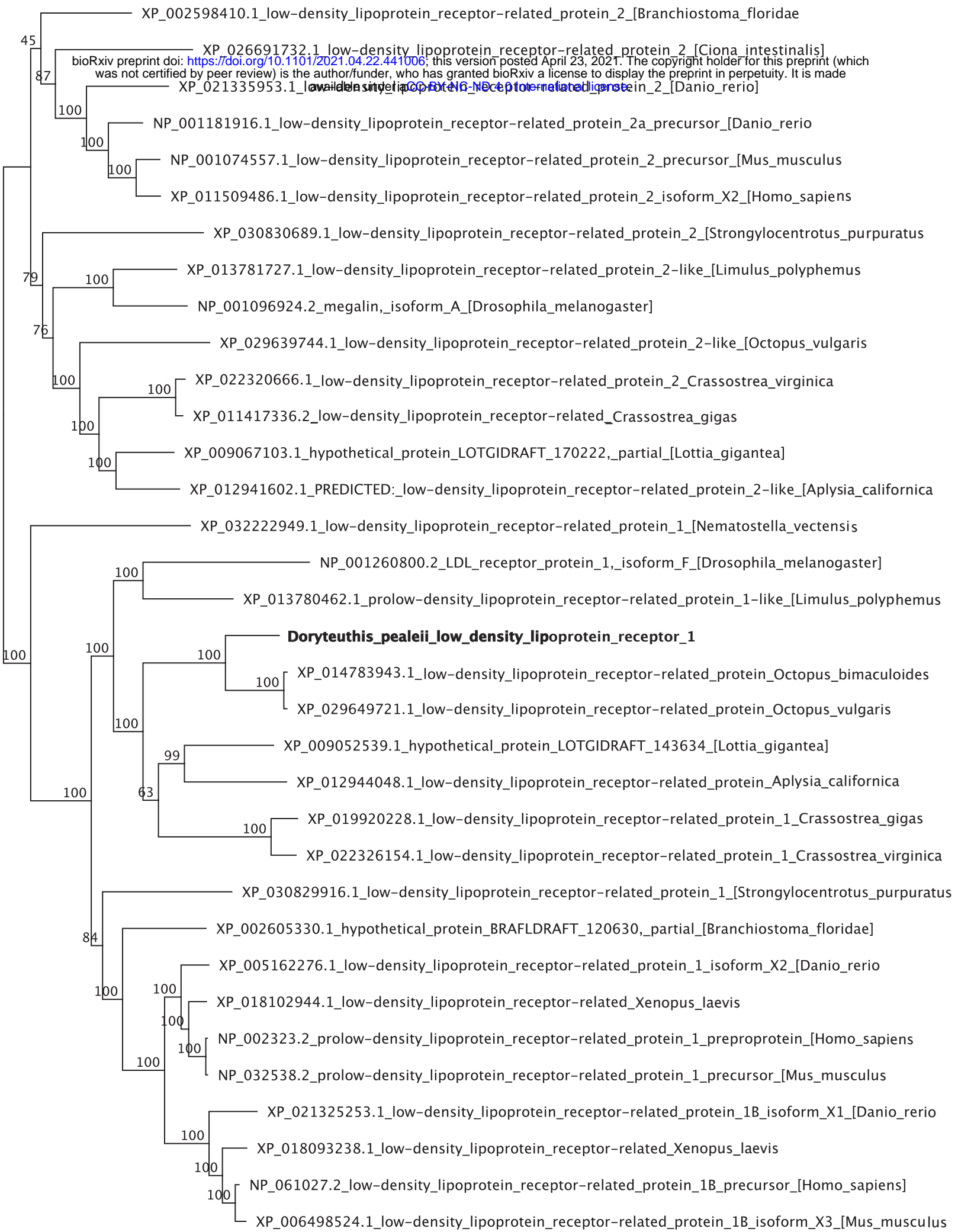






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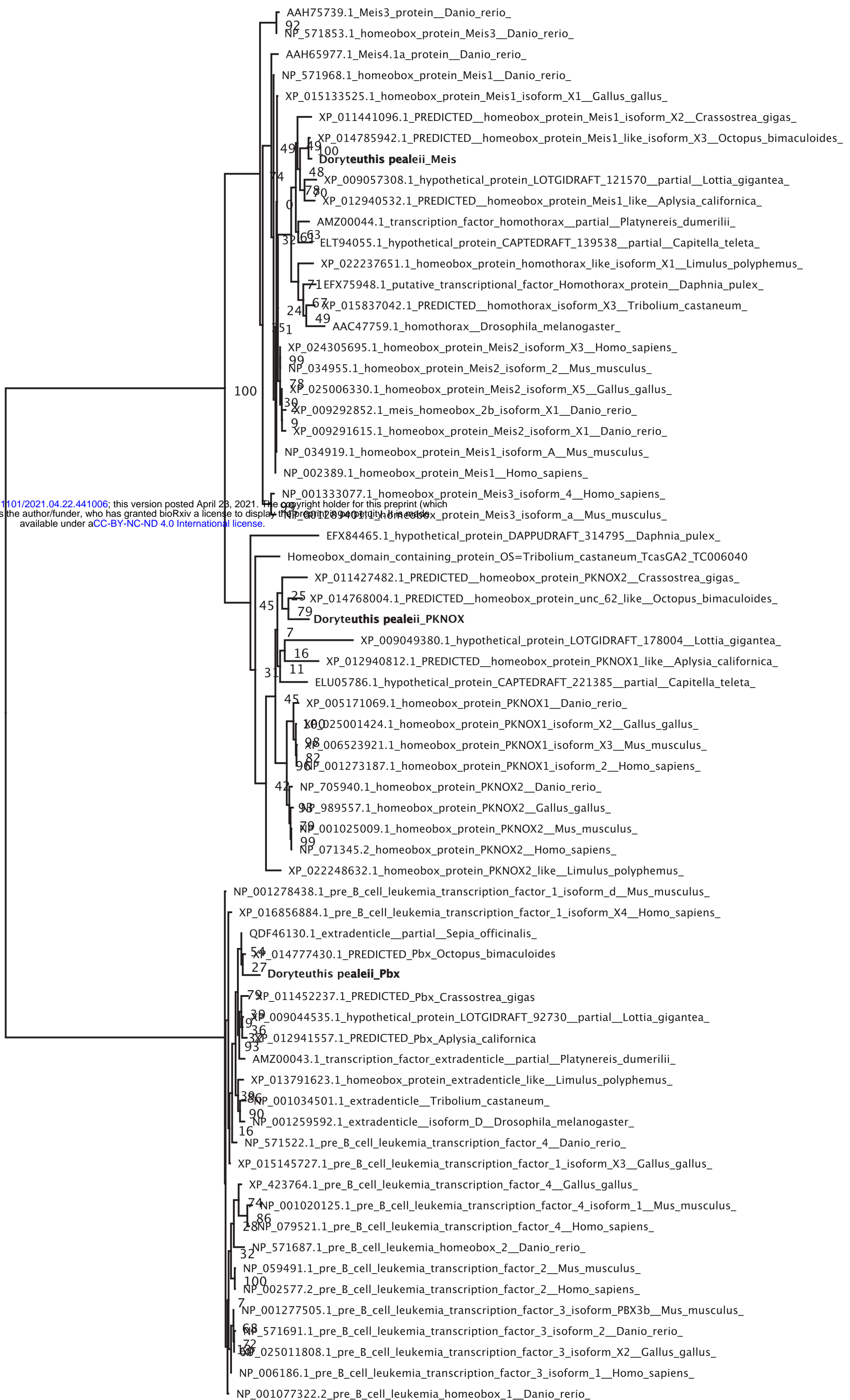




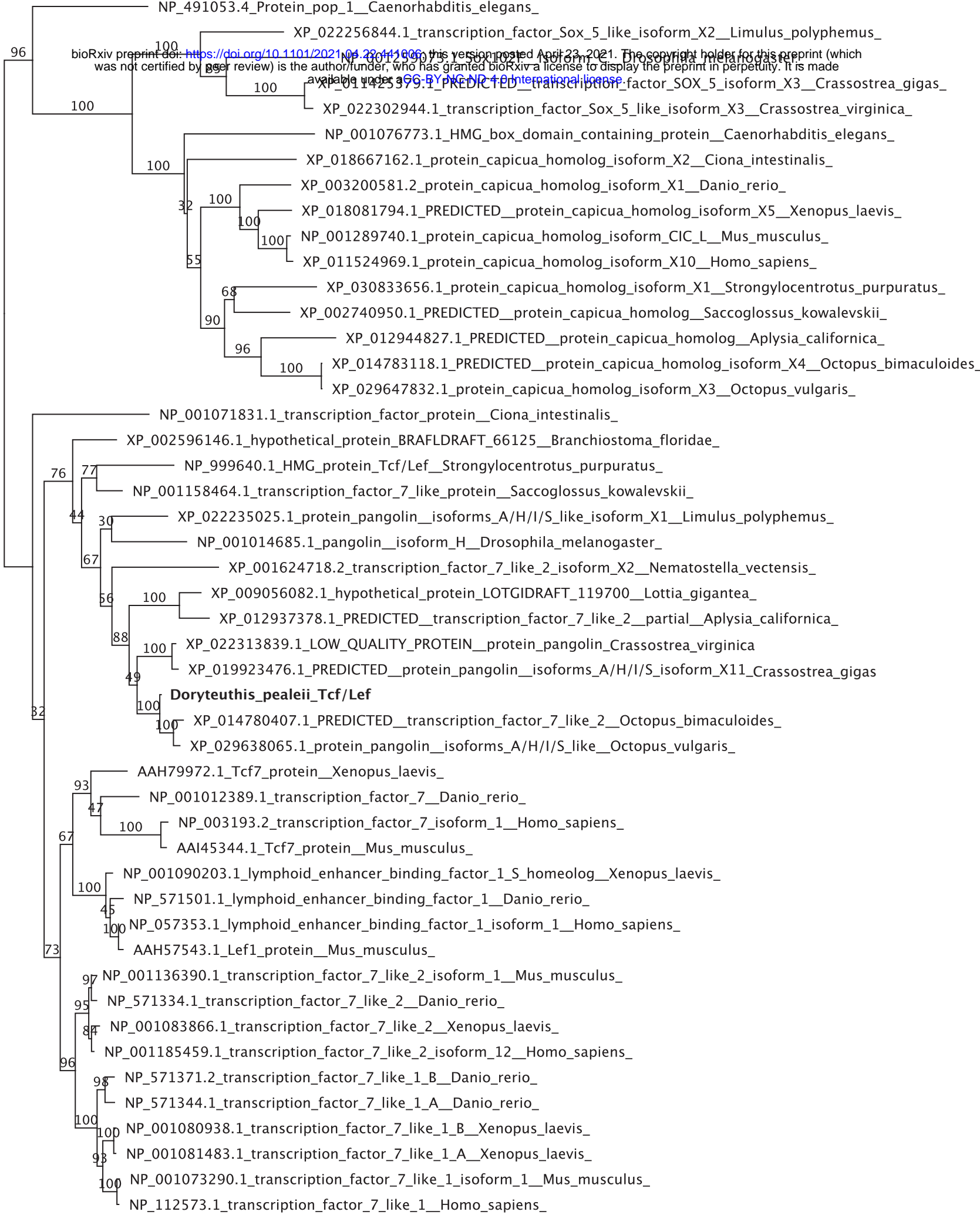
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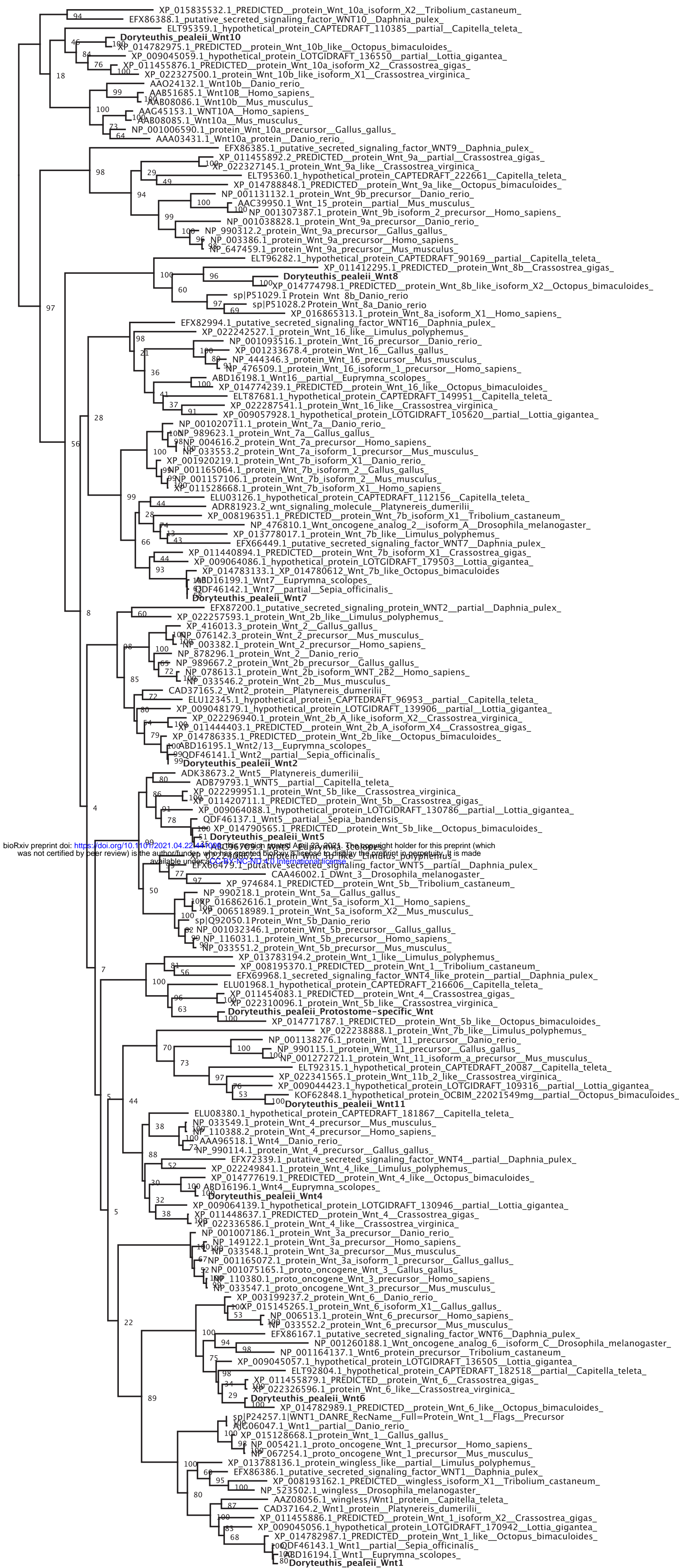
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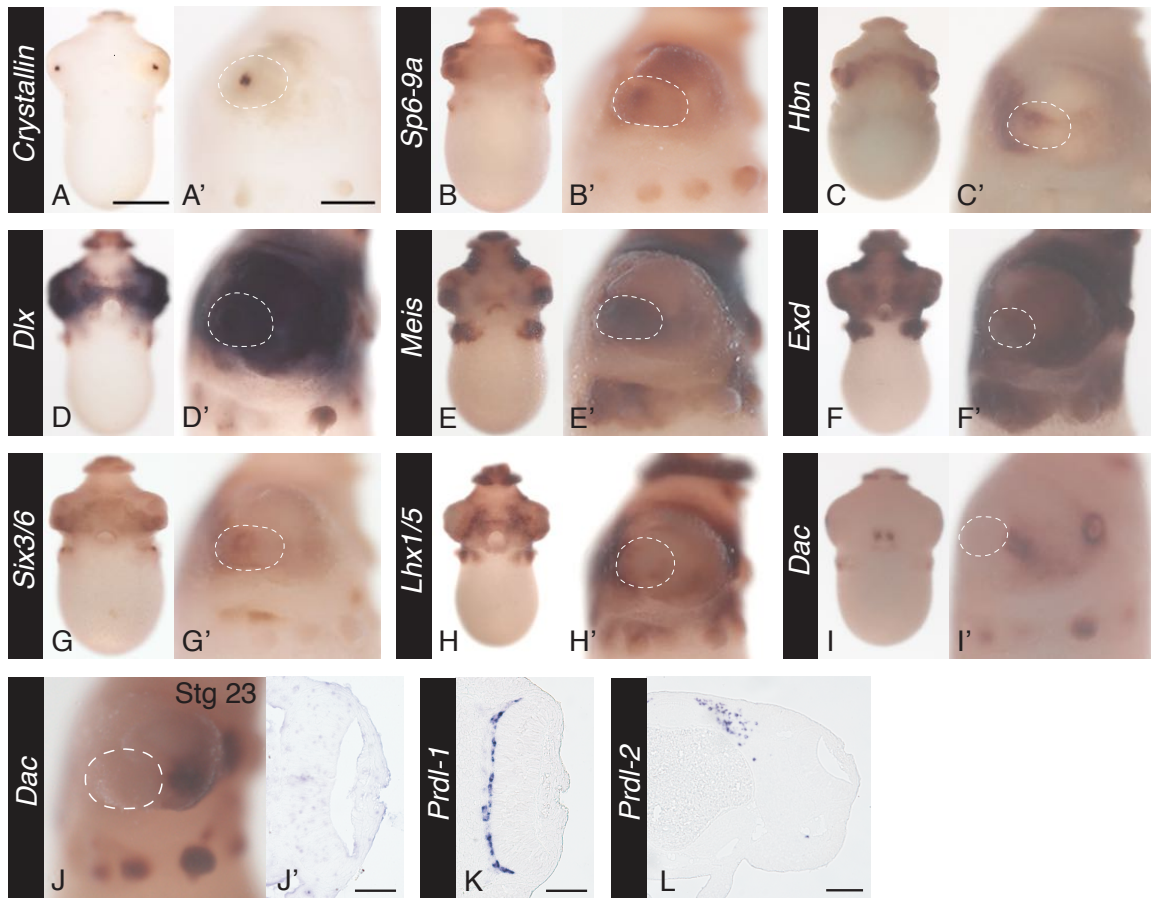








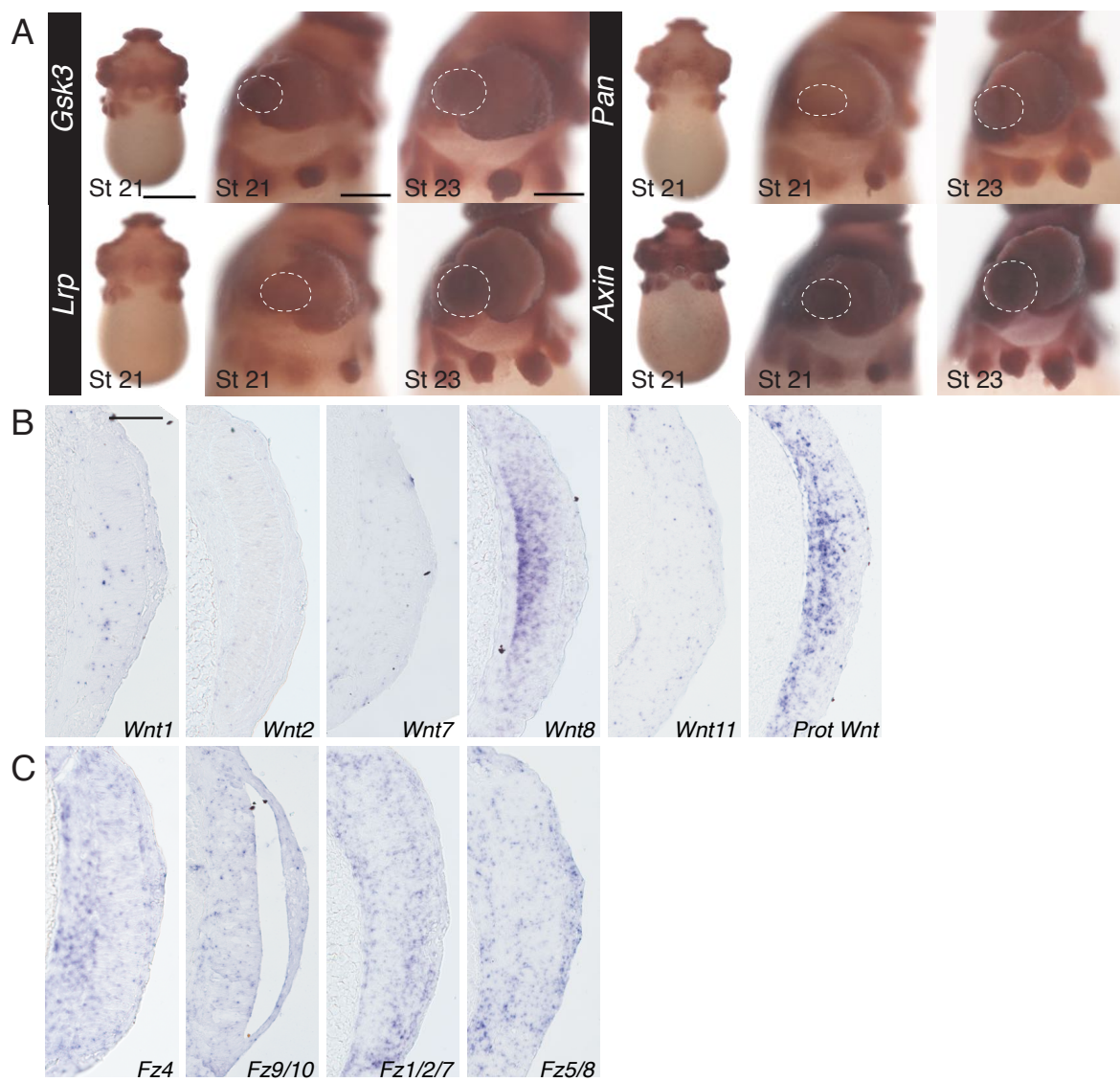
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**Sup Figure 2: Limb network supplemental data**

A-I) Gene expression at stage 21 for limb network genes. For all genes from left to right, Anterior whole-mount and lateral whole-mount, anterior to the left. Scale for whole-mount anterior view is 500 microns. Scale for lateral whole-mount view 200 microns. J, J') Stage 23 Dac expression. J) Lateral whole mount, anterior to the left. J') Sectioned image of the eye. Anterior is down. K & L) Sectioned image of expression of Prdl-1 and Prdl-2. Scale is 50 microns on eye sections, 100 microns on brain section (Prdl-2)

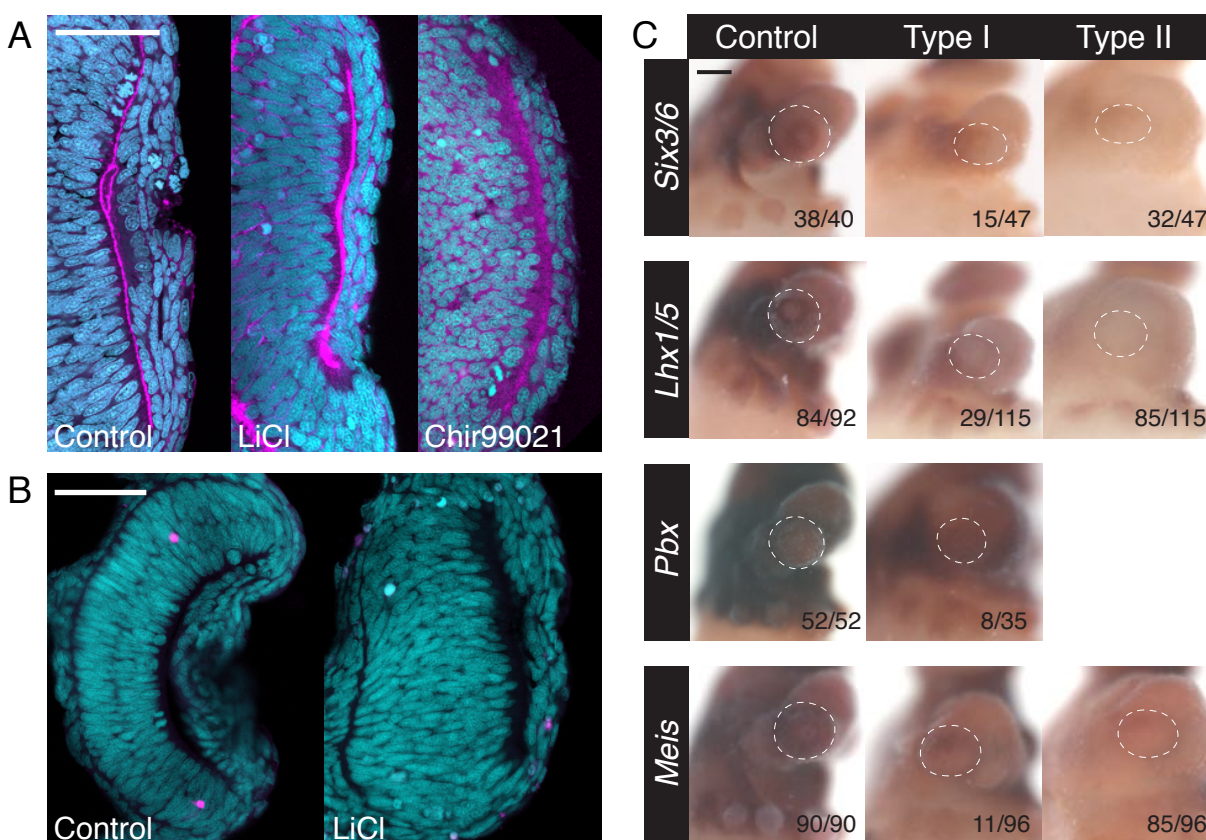


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683 **Sup Figure 3: Wnt signaling expression supplemental data**

684 A) Wnt signaling pathway member expression, *Gsk3*, *Lrp*, *Pan*, and *Axin*, at stage 21 and 23 in  
685 whole-mount. Anterior view of stage 21 and lateral views of stage 21 and stage 23 (anterior to the  
686 left). B) Wnt gene expression at stage 21 in section. Anterior is down. C) Fz receptor gene  
687 expression at stage 21. Anterior is down. Scale for whole-mount anterior view is 500 microns.  
688 Scale for lateral whole-mount view 200 microns. Scale for sectioned images 50 microns.  
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#### Sup Figure 4: Wnt agonist experiment supplemental data

692 A) Wnt agonist experiments starting at stage 21. Embryos were treated for 24 hours and fixed  
 693 immediately. LiCl and Chir99021 show similar phenotypes: Lack of anterior segment thickness  
 694 and loss of lens formation. Sytox nuclear stain in cyan, Phalloidin stain in magenta. Scale is 50  
 695 microns. B) TUNEL staining of the eye of Control and LiCl treated embryos. Sytox nuclear stain in  
 696 cyan, TUNEL stain in magenta. Similar amounts of cell death observed in control and treated  
 697 animals. Scale is 100 microns C) *In situ* hybridization of limb patterning program members and  
 698 anterior segment markers after LiCl treatment. Type I (mild) and Type II (severe) phenotype.  
 699 White dotted line outlines the eye in the lateral image. Number of eyes scored in control and the  
 700 two phenotypes found in LiCl treated animals in the bottom right corner. Scale for lateral whole-  
 701 mount view 200 microns.

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