

1 The evolution and genetics of sexually dimorphic “dual” mimicry in the butterfly *Elymnias*  
2 *hypermnestra*

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25

26 **ABSTRACT**

27 Sexual dimorphism is a major component of morphological variation across the tree of  
28 life, but the mechanisms underlying phenotypic differences between sexes of a single species are  
29 poorly understood. We examined the population genomics and biogeography of the common  
30 palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*, a dual mimic in which female wing color patterns are either  
31 dark brown (melanic) or bright orange, mimicking toxic *Euploea* and *Danaus* species,  
32 respectively. As males always have a melanic wing color pattern, this makes *E. hypermnestra* a  
33 fascinating model organism in which populations vary in sexual dimorphism. Population  
34 structure analysis revealed that there were three genetically distinct *E. hypermnestra* populations,  
35 which we further validated by creating a phylogenomic species tree and inferring historical  
36 barriers to gene flow. This species tree demonstrated that multiple lineages with orange females  
37 do not form a monophyletic group, and the same is true of clades with melanic females. We  
38 identified two SNPs near the color patterning gene *WntA* that were significantly associated with  
39 the female color pattern polymorphism, suggesting that this gene affects sexual dimorphism.  
40 Given *WntA*'s role in color patterning across Nymphalidae, *Elymnias hypermnestra* females  
41 demonstrate the repeatability of the evolution of sexual dimorphism.

42

## 43 INTRODUCTION

44 Understanding the relationship between genetic variability and the many levels of  
45 biological diversity is a central aim of genomics. Single genes of large effect are often found to  
46 be responsible for striking examples of adaptive variation [1, 2]. Thus, much morphological  
47 diversity is derived from genetic variation at a relatively small number of genetic loci [3-6].  
48 Mimetic butterflies are models for studying the relationship between exceptional phenotypic  
49 diversity resulting from limited genetic diversity for a number of reasons, including the manifest  
50 adaptive value of mimetic phenotypes, the fecundity and ease of rearing butterflies, and the  
51 incredible morphological diversity of butterflies [7, 8]. Unraveling the genomic and  
52 developmental basis of butterfly phenotypes has advanced understanding of the evolution of  
53 sexual dimorphism [9], mimicry [5], and evolvability [10].

54 The Batesian mimetic butterfly genus *Elymnias* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Satyrinae)  
55 lends itself to the study of mimicry and sexual dimorphism because its 53 recognized species can  
56 vary dramatically in the color, pattern, and wing size to mimic a variety of different model  
57 species in the families Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Papilionidae, Erebidae (Arctiinae), and  
58 Zygaenidae throughout tropical and subtropical Asia [11, 12]. Moreover, only dorsal or both  
59 dorsal and ventral wing surfaces may be mimetic, and individual species can mimic multiple  
60 models via morphological differences that vary between sexes, locales, or syntopic forms [13,  
61 14]. Within the genus *Elymnias* there are several examples of allopatrically distributed species  
62 mimicking the same widespread model, thereby resembling each other, and of different  
63 populations or forms of a single species mimicking different models [13,14]. The most  
64 widespread and locally abundant species in this genus is the common palmfly, *E. hypermnestra*  
65 [11]. This species is a “dual mimic” [15]: it is sexually dimorphic and each sex resembles a  
66 dramatically different model species. All males of this palm-feeding species resemble melanic,  
67 unpalatable models in the genus *Euploea* [13, 16] (figure 2). However, female mimicry is

68 geographically variable: some disjunct populations are sexually dimorphic with orange females  
69 that mimic *Danaus*, while other populations are monomorphic, and melanic females mimic  
70 *Euploea* models along with the males (figures 1 and 2). Orange and melanic females do not co-  
71 occur. Naïve, captive insectivorous birds (*Pycnonotus sinensis formosae*, *Zosterops japonicus*  
72 *simplex*, and *Copsychus malabaricus*) with no prior exposure to the model or mimic readily  
73 consume adult males, orange females, and melanic females representing four *E. hypermnestra*  
74 subspecies, indicating the species is a palatable Batesian mimic (S.-H. Yen, unpublished data).  
75 This species provides a unique opportunity to study the genomic basis of dual mimicry to assess  
76 whether the trait is controlled by loci known to control sexual dimorphism [2, 17], mimicry [6,  
77 18, 19], or both. In addition, the experimental advantages of this variable and widespread species  
78 might allow identification of loci that play an important role in the tremendous morphological  
79 diversity of its congeners.

80 Here, we examine the evolution and biogeography of sexually dimorphic dual mimicry in  
81 *E. hypermnestra*. Orange females of *E. h. tinctoria* (Thailand) and *E. h. baliensis* (Bali) produce  
82 orange patterns using different combinations of ommochrome pigments, suggesting independent  
83 evolution of orange morphs in these two geographically distant populations [20]. However, the  
84 evolutionary history and current population structure of *E. hypermnestra* were unknown, making  
85 it impossible to distinguish between single- and multi-origin scenarios. Moreover, while  
86 researchers have identified many genes that control the development of mimetic color patterning  
87 in butterflies [5], including *doublesex*, responsible for female-limited polymorphic mimicry in  
88 *Papilio polytes* [2, 21], the genes controlling sexually dimorphic dual mimicry are not  
89 understood. Since *E. hypermnestra* is dimorphic in some regions and monomorphic in others,  
90 this species has the potential to elucidate how sex-specific effects emerge and contribute to  
91 phenotypic variation. We assembled a high-quality reference genome and then resequenced low-  
92 coverage reads from 45 individuals representing 18 subspecies across the species' range. This

93 allowed us to address three questions: 1) What is the population history and current population  
94 genetic structure of *E. hypermnestra*? 2) Does the orange female color pattern have a single  
95 evolutionary origin? 3) What gene(s) are responsible for whether a population is dimorphic with  
96 orange females or monomorphic with melanic females?

97

## 98 **RESULTS**

### 99 ***Genetic structure of E. hypermnestra populations***

100 We first assembled a reference genome for *E. hypermnestra baliensis* to facilitate  
101 downstream analyses. Using k-mer analysis [22] and SCO content evaluation [23,24], we found  
102 that the *E. hypermnestra* reference genome presented here is among the best assembled, most  
103 complete, and least redundant nymphalid genomes available (electronic supplementary material,  
104 table S1). To better understand natural variation in *Elymnias hypermnestra* across its large  
105 distribution spanning *ca.* 55 longitudinal degrees from western India to eastern Indonesia, we  
106 resequenced the genomes of 45 samples with at least ~20X coverage representing 18 subspecies  
107 across Asia (figure 1a, electronic supplementary material, table S2) . We called SNPs in our  
108 resequenced data relative to the reference genome. This genome-wide SNP data indicated  
109 substantial genetic structure. The samples formed three distinct clusters in a principal component  
110 analysis of these data (figure 1b). We calculated fixation ( $F_{ST}$ ) indices between each pair of  
111 subspecies and found the same three populations (electronic supplementary material, figure S1).  
112 The same three groups were also identified by ADMIXTURE [25] (figure 1c). Increasing the  
113 number of putative populations increased the likelihood of the admixture model, but the results  
114 assuming 2-5 populations all had comparable cross-validation errors (electronic supplementary  
115 material, figure S2).

116

117 ***Repeated evolution of the Danaus mimetic color patterns in Elymnias hypermnestra***

118 A 6-locus intraspecific phylogeny of *E. hypermnestra* suggested that neither orange nor  
119 melanic females were monophyletic, but support values on this tree were low (electronic  
120 supplementary material, appendix S1). We therefore inferred a species tree with ASTRAL using  
121 gene trees from 3,000 unlinked, autosomal 10 kb windows. This tree was also inconsistent with  
122 either orange or melanic female morphs forming a monophyletic group (figure 2), as there were  
123 5 melanic and 4 orange lineages. Trees inferred from Z-linked windows or complete mtDNA  
124 genomes (electronic supplementary material, figure S3) were topologically similar to the species  
125 tree inferred from autosomal loci (figure 2). The *E. h. hainana* subspecies/genetic population was  
126 distinctive in the PCA (figure 1b) and in the species tree, where all five samples form a strongly  
127 supported branch (figure 2). However, samples of this subspecies were not monophyletic in the  
128 6-locus tree (electronic supplementary material, appendix S1), underscoring the potential bias of  
129 inferring intraspecific phylogeny using only few protein-coding markers [26].

130 We developed a coalescent model using the phylogeny of *E. hypermnestra* to examine  
131 when a given number of gene flow events are likely to have occurred during the evolutionary  
132 history of *E. hypermnestra*. Our species tree suggested that most subspecies are monophyletic  
133 (figure 2), so, while we recognize that subspecies are not necessarily monophyletic groups [27],  
134 we treated each subspecies as a group for computational ease. We found residual covariance  
135 between taxa in our model that was best explained by gene flow (electronic supplementary  
136 material, figure S4a). Some gene flow events were between melanic clades in different regions,  
137 but others were between melanic and orange clades, suggesting that gene flow was not only  
138 between subspecies with the same female morphs, consistent with results from *Papilio polytes*  
139 [28].

140 Finally, we used EEMS [29] to visualize estimated relative migration rates across  
141 geographic space (electronic supplementary material, figure S4b). Our results were consistent  
142 with biogeographic patterns evident in the species tree (figure 2). EEMS predicted several strong  
143 barriers to gene flow. The strongest barrier coincides with Wallace's Line, a well-known

144 biogeographic demarcation that separates Bali (orange females) from Lombok (melanic females)  
145 and extends northward between Borneo and Sulawesi [30]. A second barrier separates Sumatra  
146 (melanic females) from Java (orange females), and the third barrier separates melanic *E. h.*  
147 *hainana* from all other populations. Intraspecific genetic diversity was highest on the Asian  
148 mainland and decreased from west to east along the Indo-Australian Archipelago (electronic  
149 supplementary material, figure S5).

150

151 ***A genome-wide association study of the orange Danaus-like color pattern suggests reuse of***  
152 ***WntA***

153 To identify the genetic locus or loci associated with orange and melanic female color  
154 patterns in *E. hypermnestra*, we performed genome wide association mapping of female color  
155 patterns using the full SNP call set from the 45 re-sequenced samples. If male butterflies were  
156 sequenced, their collection locality was used to infer the female color pattern from that area. We  
157 performed the GWAS using GEMMA [31] because it incorporates population structure and  
158 relatedness among samples. We saw no peaks in the unaligned genome without an equivalent in  
159 the aligned genome (electronic supplementary material, figure S5).

160 While many sites fell above the 1% false discovery rate (FDR), correcting for multiple  
161 testing, these sites had relatively little linkage disequilibrium. Importantly, the most strongly  
162 associated sites had no other neighbors (figure 3). This was consistent with our gene tree of the  
163 200 bp region surrounding these SNPs in which neither orange nor melanic color patterns were  
164 monophyletic (electronic supplementary material, figure S3c).

165 The two most strongly associated sites were 3 base pairs apart; both exceed 1% FDR  
166 (figure 3a). Adding the population structure (as measured by the first principal component from  
167 the PCA) as a covariate removed neither of these sites (electronic supplementary material, figure  
168 S7). Looking at the genotype of the two sites on the scaffold (figure 3b, electronic supplementary  
169 material, figure S7), we observed that they predicted wing pattern almost perfectly (electronic

170 supplementary material, table S6). These sites were 150 kb away from *WntA*, a patterning gene  
171 that has repeatedly been shown to be involved in melanization across the family Nymphalidae  
172 [32].

173

174 **DISCUSSION**

175 ***Repeated evolution of a mimetic color pattern***

176 Females of the dual mimic *E. hypermnestra* either resemble *Euploea* with a melanic color  
177 pattern similar to males, or have an orange color pattern mimicking *Danaus*. Our analyses shed  
178 light on the evolutionary and genetic mechanisms responsible for the geographic mosaic of  
179 female color pattern in this facultatively sexually dimorphic species.

180 Our analysis of population structure suggested the presence of three genetic populations  
181 in *E. hypermnestra*. The first group represented the described subspecies *Elymnias hypermnestra*  
182 *hainana* found in Taiwan, southern China including Hainan, northern Vietnam, and central Laos  
183 (figure 1). The second genetic population comprised *E. hypermnestra* found on Java, the Lesser  
184 Sunda Islands, and Seram. The third included individuals from South Asia including Sri Lanka,  
185 Indochina south of *hainana*, and Sumatra (figure 1). The geographic border between *E. h.*  
186 *hainana* and the rest of *E. hypermnestra*'s range coincides with the Hoang Lien Son Range and  
187 surrounding high elevation areas in the “Tail of the Himalayas.” The other border between  
188 genetic populations lies between Java and Sumatra. While these are currently separate land  
189 masses, the two islands were conjoined during Pleistocene low sea stands together with Borneo  
190 and the Thai-Malay peninsula to form a single land mass along the edge of the continental shelf,  
191 Sundaland [30]. Thus, the border of these populations lacks an obvious barrier to dispersal,  
192 though this area is frequently associated with genetic discontinuities within and between other  
193 butterfly species [Lohman, unpublished data]. While all *E. h. hainana* females are melanic, the  
194 other two populations include areas with orange females and areas with melanic females, which  
195 could be explained by the convergent evolution of color patterns in disjunct locales.

196 We were able to trace the evolutionary history of the orange/melanic transition using  
197 phylogenetic analysis. As suggested by our species tree, the orange and melanic morphs of  
198 *Elymnias hypermnestra* did not form monophyletic groups. This is not uncommon in butterflies –  
199 for instance, a single morph of *Heliconius* may prevail in a given region, but actually comprise  
200 distinct *Heliconius* species that are only monophyletic at color pattern loci [33]. It is still unclear  
201 why variability between melanic and orange morphs of *E. hypermnestra* evolved and how it is  
202 maintained. The lack of monophyletic female color patterns in *E. hypermnestra* may result from  
203 a geographic mosaic of selection to mimic the most common unpalatable model in a region.  
204 While differences in *Danaus* and *Euploea* local abundance have not been demonstrated [Yen,  
205 unpublished data], they tend to live in different habitats [11]. Characterization of the host plants,  
206 predators, and butterfly communities where different female forms live may shed light on this  
207 issue, including assessment of model species abundance. Moreover, studying geographic  
208 variability in the chemical ecology of the mimicry ring may provide insight on the relationship  
209 between mimetic morphs and their models [34].

210

### 211 **WntA and the orange/melanic shift**

212 To identify genetic factors underlying the shift between orange and melanic color  
213 patterns in *E. hypermnestra*, we performed a genome-wide association study (GWAS) of female  
214 color pattern. In GWAS analyses of similar systems, there are usually large peaks of many linked  
215 sites [2]. This raises the question of why there is apparently little linkage disequilibrium (LD) in  
216 this system. One possibility is that LD is lost because of filtering. On average, we identified one  
217 polymorphic site every 100 bp. Another possible explanation is that, unlike most previous  
218 functional genomics studies on Lepidoptera, this study sampled butterflies across a wide  
219 geographic range with strong population structure. Most other work was done within a narrower  
220 geographic range. For instance, all butterflies sampled in Kunte et. al. [2] were from a single F3  
221 generation. When we compared our GWAS (figure 4) to results of other studies with

222 geographically extensive sampling (such as those on *Arabidopsis*), we found similarly rapid  
223 linkage decay resulting in narrow peaks [35, 36].

224 Many previous studies demonstrate that *WntA* is associated with color patterning in other  
225 nymphalid butterflies. In *Heliconius*, *WntA* is related to a color pattern transitions among  
226 different species, and is typically expressed in regions of the butterfly wing that are melanic in  
227 mature adults [37]. Moreover, linkage mapping has shown that *WntA* is associated with a similar  
228 transition in *Limenitis arthemis*; in this case, an ancient *cis*-regulatory element mediates a  
229 transition from a mimetic white banded to a non-mimetic, unbanded form [38, 39]. These data on  
230 these two SNPs in *E. hypermnestra* were consistent with them being *cis*-regulatory elements  
231 regulating *WntA* 150 kb downstream. While this is an unusually long distance between a  
232 regulatory element and its target, it is not unprecedented. Regulatory elements have even been  
233 found megabases away from the genes they regulate [40], and *optix* enhancers have been shown  
234 to be up to 220 kb away in *Heliconius* [41, 42]. We found pronounced similarities between  
235 *WntA*'s known effects on wing patterning in butterflies and the phenotype observed in *Elymnias*  
236 *hypermnestra*. For instance, Mazo-Vargas *et al.* [32] created CRISPR *WntA* knockouts for a  
237 variety of nymphalids and found two conserved characteristics of *WntA*. First, *WntA* typically  
238 acts on the Basalis (B), the Central Symmetry System (CSS), and the Marginal Band System  
239 (MBS), three regions of butterfly wings which are conserved across nymphalids. Moreover,  
240 *WntA* is typically expressed in melanic regions, likely because it is associated with upregulation  
241 of melanin. Both traits were found in the orange/melanic switch in *Elymnias hypermnestra*  
242 (figure 2), further suggesting that *WntA* is involved in this transition of female color pattern.

243 The potential involvement of *WntA* in *E. hypermnestra* mimicry polymorphism suggests  
244 that the gene functions somewhat differently than in *Heliconius* or *Limenitis*. Mimicry in *E.*  
245 *hypermnestra* is sexually dimorphic: while females may be orange, males are always melanic  
246 [13]. This implies that polymorphism affects females differently than males. Several mechanisms  
247 are plausible: by upregulating *WntA* in melanic females; downregulating *WntA* in orange

248 females; or changing the spatial pattern of *WntA* expression. This is an unusual example of a  
249 single gene involved in both sexually dimorphic and non-sexually dimorphic mimicry. This  
250 suggests a slightly different role for *WntA* in this system than in others, where *WntA* affects both  
251 sexes. Future functional genomics work can elucidate the specific nature of *WntA* on this  
252 variation. Two other peaks in our GWAS stood out, one on chromosome 20 and one on  
253 chromosome 6. Many of the genes have unknown functions, suggesting an angle for further  
254 research (electronic supplementary material, table S6).

255 ***Predictability of evolution***

256 Studies on wing patterns in Nymphalidae have revealed that a common toolkit of genes,  
257 including *optix*, *cortex*, and *WntA*, underlie wing patterning and support the hypothesis that  
258 evolutionary outcomes can be predictable [2, 10, 37, 38]. This study complements work on the  
259 predictability of evolution in two critical ways. For one, *Elymnias* diverged from the clade with  
260 *Limenitis* and *Heliconius* over 80 million years ago [43], making this one of the oldest cases of  
261 gene re-use in Nymphalidae that has been studied. Moreover, this demonstrates how sexual  
262 dimorphism can create variation with a single component of the toolkit: the same gene, *WntA*,  
263 seems to underlie sexually monomorphic variation and sexually dimorphic variation. This  
264 variation, in turn, allows for a greater phenotypic diversity than single genes of large effect  
265 would establish alone. The seemingly adaptive variability between sexes and among populations  
266 of *Elymnias hypermnestra* has provided a fascinating natural experiment to study the genomic  
267 basis and evolution of a novel sexually dimorphic trait.

268

269 **METHODS**

270 ***Reference genome assembly and quality***

271 The *E. hypermnestra* reference genome was generated from two *E. hypermnestra*  
272 *baliensis* females from Bali. We isolated DNA from thorax tissue using a phenol–chloroform  
273 extraction method and constructed Illumina paired-end (PE) libraries with insert sizes 250 and

274 500 bp using the KAPA Hyper Prep Kit (KR0961 – v1.14) from 2  $\mu$ g genomic DNA [44]. We  
275 constructed mate pair (MP) libraries with insert sizes of 2 kb, 6 kb, and 15 kb using the Nextera  
276 Mate Pair Library Prep kit (FC-132-1001) and 4  $\mu$ g genomic DNA (electronic supplementary  
277 material, table S3). The five, unique barcoded libraries were pooled in a ratio of 59:30:6:3:2 and  
278 sequenced 2x100 bp on a single lane of Illumina HiSeq 4000 (electronic supplementary material,  
279 table S2). We trimmed low-quality regions and adapters from raw PE reads using Trimmomatic  
280 v0.36 [45] where bases in the reads that were below a quality score of 15 were trimmed using a  
281 sliding window of 4 bp and all reads less than 36 bp in length were discarded. We used Platanus  
282 v1.2.4 [44] to trim adapter sequences and low quality regions from mate pair reads. Trimmed  
283 libraries were assembled using the default settings of Platanus v1.2.4 and the assembly was  
284 polished using Redundans v0.13a (default settings; 46). We removed scaffolds <5 kb from this  
285 assembly, generated a species-specific repeat library, and masked repeats using RepeatScout  
286 1.0.5 and RepeatMasker 4.0.8 [47, 48], respectively, to produce the final assembly. We  
287 estimated genome size and heterozygosity using 21-mer frequencies in the raw 250 bp PE library  
288 using GenomeScope [22].

289 We assessed the quality of our assemblies and other well-assembled nymphalid genomes  
290 using BUSCO v3 and the endopterygota gene set (2,440 single-copy orthologs) from OrthoDB  
291 v9 [23, 24]. The accessions of the assemblies tested are in the supplementary table. We assigned  
292 *E. hypermnestra* scaffolds to *Melitaea cinxia* chromosomes using RaGOO [49, 50]. This pipeline  
293 assigned 206/947 scaffolds (542 Mb/566 Mb) to chromosomes.

294 Finally, we generated a preliminary gene annotation set for the *E. hypermnestra* genome  
295 using MAKER v3.01.02 [51, 52]. We used *de novo* transcripts from *Bicyclus anynana* (NCBI  
296 BioProject) as evidence for transcription, as no transcriptome data exist for *Elymnias*. We  
297 downloaded raw reads from BioProject PRJEB10924 using the SRA toolkit, trimmed remaining  
298 adapters using Trimmomatic, and assembled transcripts using Trinity v2.8.0 [53] with default  
299 settings. Furthermore, we used protein sequences from the UniProt/SwissProt protein database

300 [54], and RefSeq protein models for *Danaus plexippus*, *Papilio xuthus*, *Bombyx mori*, *Vanessa*  
301 *tameamea*, *Pieris rapae*, and *Drosophila melanogaster* as evidence for protein-coding regions.  
302 We trained SNAP using this evidence, then used SNAP, Augustus v3.2 with *Heliconius*  
303 *melpomene* parameters, and GeneMark-ES 4 with MAKER to generate the final gene models  
304 (55). We functionally annotated predicted proteins using BLASTp against the Uniprot/SwissProt  
305 database and combined that information using scripts included in MAKER.

306

307 ***Whole genome resequencing and quality control***

308 Adult *E. hypermnestra* were collected in the wild and preserved in ethanol and/or by  
309 freezing at -80° C (Table S1) before genomic DNA was extracted from thorax tissue using a  
310 phenol–chloroform DNA extraction protocol. We constructed ~250 bp paired-end libraries using  
311 the KAPA Hyper Prep Kit (KAPA Biosystems) and sequenced them to ~20X coverage using 2 x  
312 80 bp Illumina NextSeq 500 (Table S1). We trimmed adapters and low-quality regions from raw  
313 resequencing reads using TrimGalore 0.6.1 and cutadapt v1.18 [56], then removed reads  
314 containing overrepresented sequences (identified using FastQC). We mapped reads to the *E.*  
315 *hypermnestra* reference genome using Bowtie2 v2.3.0-beta7 with parameter “--very-sensitive-  
316 local” [57]. We marked duplicate reads using PicardTools v2.8.1 and realigned around indels  
317 using the Genome Analysis ToolKit’s (GATK, v3.8) RealignerTargetCreator and IndelRealigner.  
318 Finally, we called SNPs using the GATK UnifiedGenotyper with default settings except for the  
319 following values: heterozygosity prior = 0.02; minimum allowable base quality score = 30; and  
320 minimum mapping quality = 20 [58]. We removed genotypes with phred-scaled quality < 10. We  
321 then produced FASTA formatted genome sequences for each individual using the GATK  
322 FastaAlternateReferenceMaker [59]. Our data reached ~20X coverage on average and had  
323 average mapping rates of 94.76% (electronic supplementary material, table S3).

324

325 ***Population structure analyses***

326 We inferred *E. hypermnestra* population structure with ADMIXTURE 1.3.0 [25]. We  
327 first performed linkage-disequilibrium-based pruning on our SNP dataset using plink v1.90,  
328 including only SNPs with  $r^2 < 0.10$  in 50-bp sliding windows with 10-bp steps according to  
329 plink's --indep-pairwise utility. This yielded 108,189 SNPs. We ran ADMIXTURE with 10-fold  
330 cross-validation for parameters  $k = 2$  through 10. We looked at the cross-validation error and the  
331 value of  $k$  that minimized the residuals (electronic supplementary material, figure S2, 60). We  
332 performed principal component analysis on the same filtered data set using plink [61].

333

334

335 ***Phylogenetic analyses***

336 Since linkage disequilibrium returns to background levels over ~50 kb in *Heliconius* [62],  
337 we split the *E. hypermnestra* genome into non-overlapping 10 kb windows, kept every fifth  
338 window, then extracted alignments of sequences for each window from individual fastas with  
339 GATK. We tested for recombination within each alignment using PhiPack [63], then filtered out  
340 windows with recombination  $p$  values  $> 1e-10$  and at least 100 informative sites. PhiPack uses  
341 patterns of polymorphism to infer the probability of past recombination events; as  $p$ -values  
342 decrease, the probability of recombination in the tested window increases. We randomly selected  
343 3,000 autosomal alignments that passed these filters and inferred an unpartitioned gene tree from  
344 each using IQ-TREE, which selected the best model with ModelFinder and estimated branch  
345 support using 1000 ultrafast bootstraps [64-66]. Finally, we inferred a species tree using the  
346 default settings of ASTRAL-III [67], which computed a consensus topology with support  
347 values derived from the fraction of gene trees that support a particular four-taxon topology  
348 (quartet scores).

349

350 ***Genome-wide association for color***

351 We filtered out SNPs with 10 or more missing alleles or minor allele frequency < 0.10  
352 from the unpruned data set for a total of 5.4 million SNPs. We assigned phenotypes to each  
353 sample based on that population's female wing color pattern (electronic supplementary material,  
354 table S2), then computed site-wise Wald  $\chi^2$  test *p*-values using GEMMA v0.98, including  
355 GEMMA's centered kinship matrix as a covariate [31]. We calculated genome-wide cutoff  
356 scores using the false discovery rate method [68]. GWA results were plotted by ordering *E.*  
357 *hypermnestra* scaffolds to the *Melitaea cinxia* chromosome-level assembly [49].

358

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369

### 370 **Author's Contributions**

371 D.J.L. and M.R.K. conceived and designed the study; D.M.R., N.W.V., and S.N. performed  
372 analyses and collected data; S.H.Y., D.P., D.J.L. collected specimens; N.W.V., D.J.L. and  
373 M.R.K. directed the project; D.M.R., N.W.V., and D.J.L. wrote the manuscript with input from  
374 all co-authors.

375

### 376 **Data Accessibility Statement**

377 The reference genome and sequence data generated for this study are publicly available at NCBI  
378 under BioProject accessions PRJNA660054 and PRJNA660057.

379

380 **Competing Interests**

381 The authors declare they have no competing interests.

382

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## FIGURES

Figure 1.

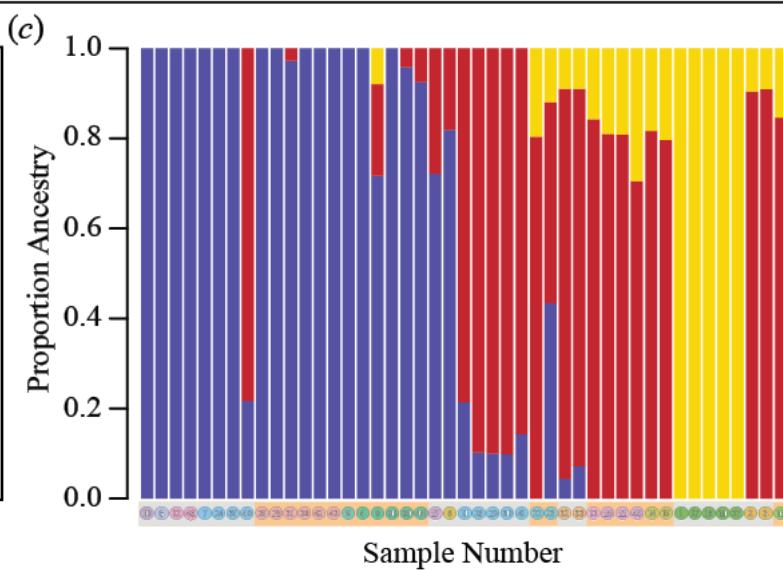
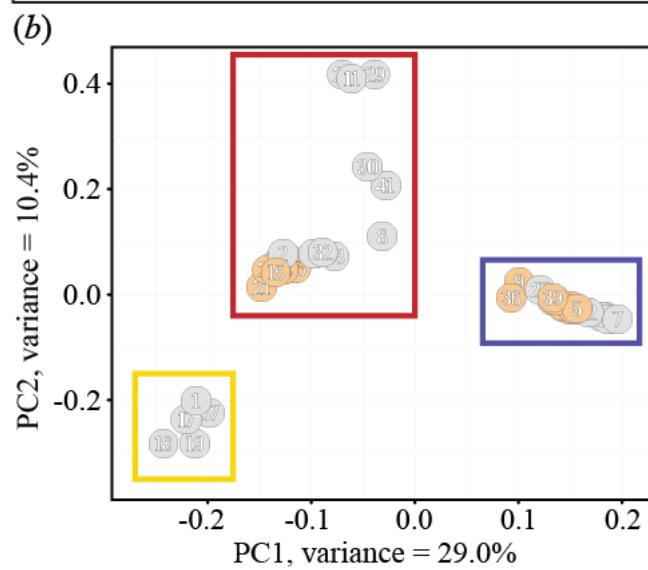
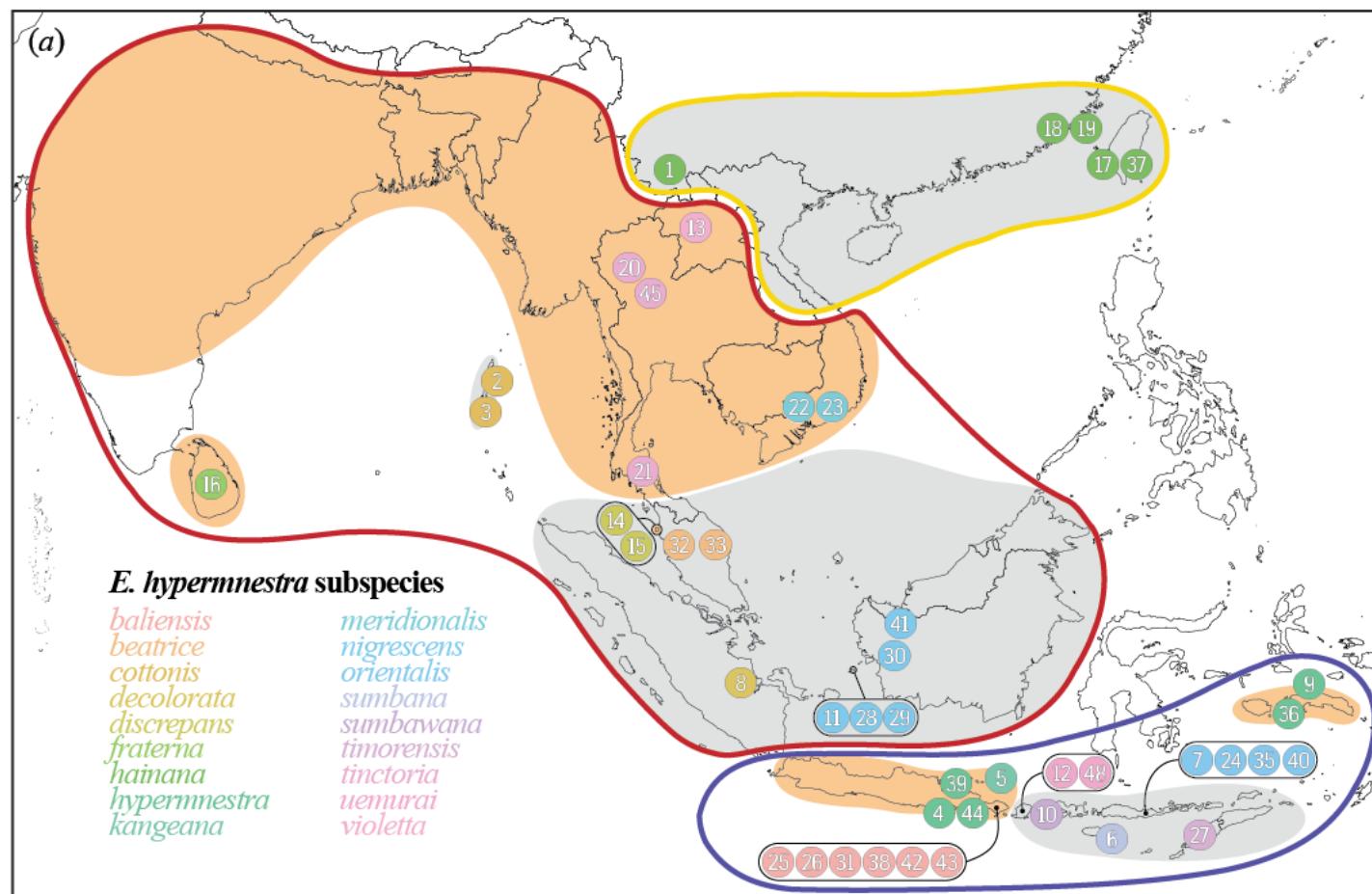
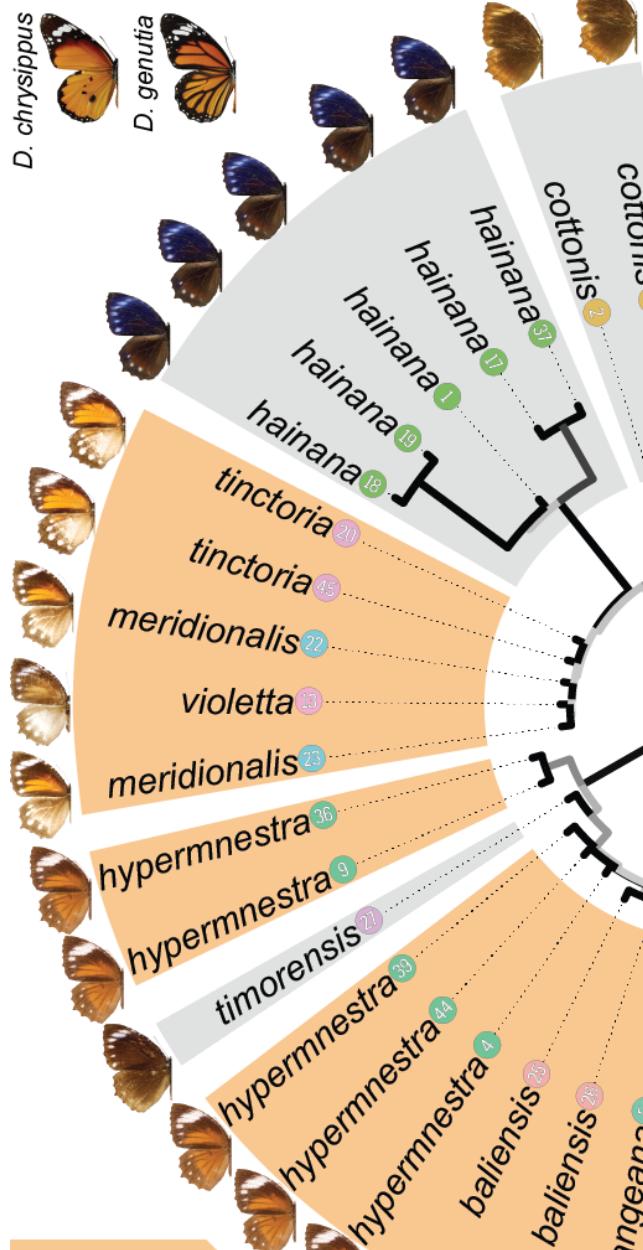
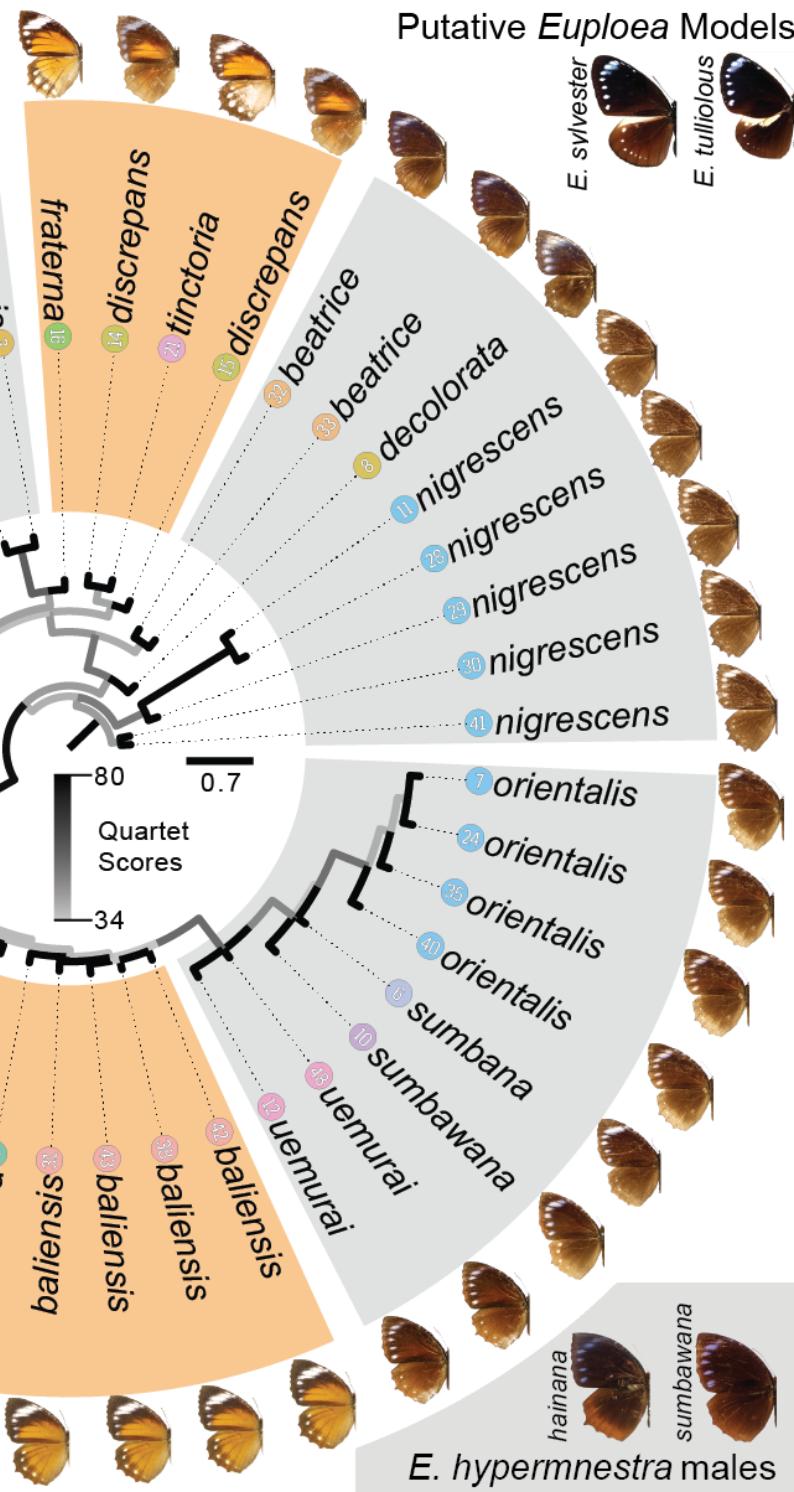


Figure 2.

Putative *Danaus* Models

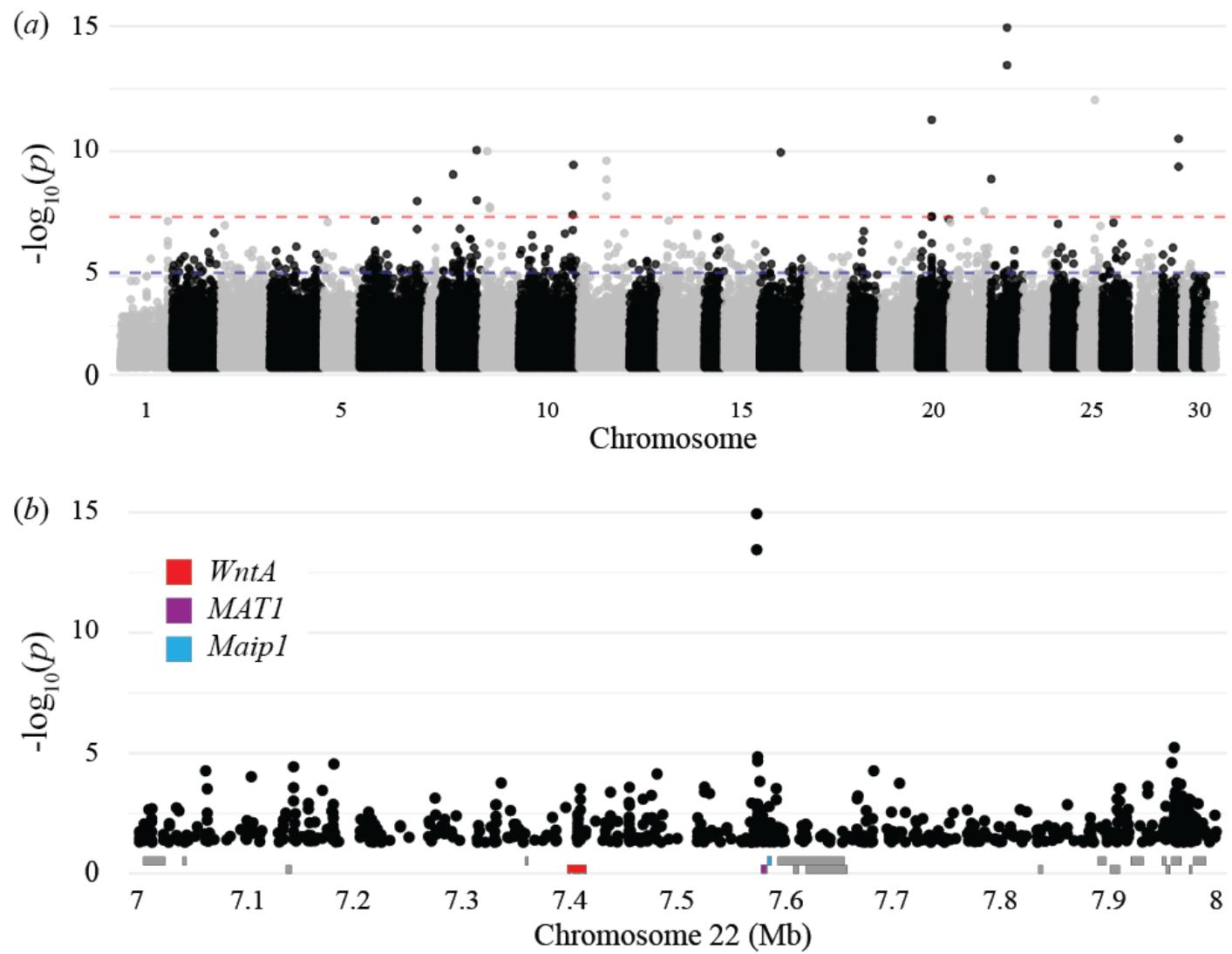


Putative *Euploea* Models



*E. hypermnestra* males

**Figure 3**



**FIGURE LEGENDS**

**Figure 1.** *Elymnias hypermnestra* comprises three genetically and geographically distinct populations. (a) The geographic distribution of 48 *E. hypermnestra* populations representing 15 subspecies. Orange females and melanic females are indicated with background colors, demonstrating disjunct distributions of each color pattern. Collection locations of each specimen used in this study are indicated with its sample ID (electronic supplementary material, table S1), which is colored to indicate its subspecies. The dark outlines on the map indicate genetically distinct populations, as inferred by (b) principal component analysis. The points in this plot indicate sample ID and color pattern. The same three populations are indicated by an (c) ADMIXTURE plot. The sample ID and color pattern are indicated below each bar.

**Figure 2.** An ASTRAL species tree of *Elymnias hypermnestra* based on 3000 random autosomal 10 kb windows infers multiple clades of melanic and orange female forms. Branch color indicates quartet score branch support. The sample IDs correspond to the same numbers in Fig. 1, and their color indicates subspecies affiliation. Orange or dark backgrounds indicate the female color pattern of the lineage, and representative images of females of the same subspecies as each sample are shown around the periphery. Images of the putative model species mimicked by orange and melanic females are provided at the top. Representative males of four subspecies are shown at the bottom.

**Figure 3.** (a) Association between *Elymnias hypermnestra* female color pattern and genetic variation. *p*-values are from SNP-wise Wald tests. Blue and red dashed lines represent the 10% and 1% false discovery rates (FDR), respectively. The full GWA results (with unplaced scaffolds) are shown in electronic supplementary material, figure S6. (b) An enlargement of chromosome 22 in Figure 4a; depicting the region of the two SNPs most significantly associated with female color pattern. The locations of 3 nearby genes in the *Melitaea cinxia* reference genome are shown below the plot.

