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**Evolutionary transition to XY sex chromosomes
associated with Y-linked duplication of a male hormone
gene in a terrestrial isopod**

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1 **Evolutionary transition to XY sex chromosomes associated with Y-linked duplication of a**
2 **male hormone gene in a terrestrial isopod**

3

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20

21 **Abstract**

22

23 Sex chromosomes are highly variable in some taxonomic groups, but the evolutionary
24 mechanisms underlying this diversity are not well understood. In terrestrial isopod crustaceans,
25 evolutionary turnovers in sex chromosomes are frequent, possibly caused by *Wolbachia*, a
26 vertically-transmitted endosymbiont causing male-to-female sex reversal. Here, we use surgical
27 manipulations and genetic crosses, plus genome sequencing, to examine sex chromosomes in
28 the terrestrial isopod *Trachelipus rathkei*. Although an earlier cytogenetics study suggested a
29 ZZ/ZW sex chromosome system in this species, we surprisingly find multiple lines of evidence
30 that in our study population, sex is determined by an XX/XY system. Consistent with a recent
31 evolutionary origin for this XX/XY system, the putative male-specific region of the genome is
32 small. The genome shows evidence of Y-linked duplications of the gene encoding the
33 androgenic gland hormone, a major component of male sexual differentiation in isopods. Our
34 analyses also uncover sequences horizontally acquired from past *Wolbachia* infections,
35 consistent with the hypothesis that *Wolbachia* may have interfered with the evolution of sex
36 determination in *T. rathkei*. Overall, these results provide evidence for the co-occurrence of
37 multiple sex chromosome systems within *T. rathkei*, further highlighting the relevance of
38 terrestrial isopods as models for the study of sex chromosome evolution.

39

40

41 Introduction

42

43 Although sexual reproduction is shared by most eukaryotes, a variety of different cues can
44 trigger individuals to follow a male, female, or hermaphroditic developmental plan (Conover and
45 Kynard, 1981; Tingley and Anderson, 1986; Janzen and Phillips, 2006; Ospina-Álvarez and
46 Piferrer, 2008; Verhulst *et al.*, 2010). In many eukaryotes, sex is primarily determined
47 genotypically, often involving sex chromosomes, although other mechanisms, such as polygenic
48 systems and haplodiploidy, are also known (Vandeputte *et al.*, 2007; Heimpel and de Boer,
49 2008). Sex chromosomes in animals are usually grouped into two main classes: XY systems, in
50 which males are heterogametic (XY) and females are homogametic (XX); and ZW systems, in
51 which females are heterogametic (ZW) and males are homogametic (ZZ). However, non-genetic
52 cues can also play an important role in some species. For instance, environmental factors, such
53 as temperature or population density, influence or determine phenotypic sex in reptiles, fishes,
54 and invertebrates (Conover and Kynard, 1981; Tingley and Anderson, 1986; Janzen and
55 Phillips, 2006). In some cases, cytoplasmic factors, including sex-reversing endosymbionts,
56 such as *Wolbachia*, microsporidia, and paramyxids can serve as a sex-determining signal (Terry
57 *et al.*, 1998; Bouchon *et al.*, 1998; Kageyama *et al.*, 2002; Negri I *et al.*, 2006; Pickup and
58 Ironside, 2018).

59

60 Evolutionary theory holds that the formation of sex chromosomes begins when an autosome
61 acquires a sex-determining locus (Rice, 1996). Subsequently, recombination around the sex-
62 determining locus is selected against because of sexually antagonistic selection (Bergero and
63 Charlesworth, 2009). For instance, selection should favor mutations that are beneficial in males
64 but deleterious in females when those alleles are linked to a dominant male-determining allele;
65 recombination, on the other hand, would break up this linkage and result in females that carry
66 these male-beneficial alleles. The non-recombining region is then expected to spread in the

67 presence of continued sexually antagonistic selection, and may eventually span the whole sex
68 chromosome, except for the usual presence of a small recombining pseudo-autosomal region
69 (Charlesworth *et al.*, 2005). Once recombination has ceased, the non-recombining sex
70 chromosome, such as the Y chromosome in mammals or the W chromosome in birds, is
71 expected to degenerate. Non-recombining genes frequently undergo pseudogenization,
72 acquiring nonsense mutations or transposable element insertions (Charlesworth and
73 Charlesworth, 2000). At the same time, gene trafficking can occur when selection promotes the
74 translocation of formerly autosomal genes to the sex chromosomes (Emerson *et al.*, 2004).

75

76 Different species appear to be at different stages of sex chromosome evolution. For instance,
77 the sex chromosomes of therian mammals are highly conserved, having originated ~160 million
78 years ago (Potrzebowski *et al.*, 2008; Veyrunes *et al.*, 2008). The highly degenerated,
79 heteromorphic Y chromosome represents an advanced stage of sex chromosome evolution. In
80 other taxonomic groups, on the other hand, sex chromosomes appear to undergo more frequent
81 evolutionary turnovers (Ross *et al.*, 2009; Cioffi *et al.*, 2013; Vicoso and Bachtrög, 2015;
82 Myosho *et al.*, 2015; Pennell *et al.*, 2018; Jeffries *et al.*, 2018). Such young sex chromosomes
83 may have little or no recombination suppression, differentiation in gene content, or sex
84 chromosome dosage compensation, and may not be detectable by traditional cytogenetic
85 methods because they are visually indistinguishable (homomorphic) (Gamble *et al.*, 2014;
86 Vicoso and Bachtrög, 2015). Sex chromosomes may even be polymorphic within a species, with
87 different sex-determining loci segregating within or among populations (Orzack *et al.*, 1980;
88 Traut, 1994; Ogata *et al.*, 2008; Meisel *et al.*, 2016).

89

90 Unfortunately, we still have a limited understanding of why evolutionary turnovers of sex
91 chromosomes are rare in some groups but frequent in others. A variety of models have been
92 proposed to explain why these turnovers occur, including sexual antagonism, where a novel

93 sex-determining allele spreads because of its association with another allele with sex-specific
94 effects (van Doorn and Kirkpatrick, 2007); the accumulation of deleterious mutations on the
95 nonrecombining sex chromosome (Blaser et al., 2013); and the 'hot potato' model, which
96 suggests that the accumulation of both sexually antagonistic and deleterious mutations can lead
97 to repeated sex chromosome turnovers (Blaser et al., 2014). In some organisms, interactions
98 with vertically transmitted reproductive endosymbionts are also thought to influence the
99 evolution of their hosts' sex determination mechanisms (Rigaud *et al.*, 1997; Cordaux *et al.*,
100 2011). However, many of these models have been difficult to test in nature. This problem is
101 exacerbated by the fact that, while sex chromosomes have been extensively studied in model
102 organisms like *Drosophila*, studies are more sparse in non-model organisms.

103

104 One group that has received relatively little attention is crustaceans. Different crustacean
105 species show a variety of distinct sex determining mechanisms, yet there are very few
106 crustacean species in which candidate master sex-determining genes have been identified
107 (Chandler *et al.*, 2017, 2018). Within crustaceans, perhaps one of the best-studied groups in
108 terms of sex determination is the terrestrial isopods (Oniscidea). Terrestrial isopod species have
109 a mix of XY and ZW systems, along with reports of a few parthenogenic species and
110 populations (Fussey, 1984; Johnson, 1986; Rigaud *et al.*, 1997). The bacterial endosymbiont
111 *Wolbachia* also influences sex determination by causing male-to-female sex reversal in some
112 isopod hosts (Bouchon *et al.*, 1998; Cordaux *et al.*, 2004). In fact, interactions with *Wolbachia*
113 are thought to drive rapid evolutionary turnover of the sex chromosomes in terrestrial isopods.
114 For instance, in the common pillbug *Armadillidium vulgare*, a copy of the *Wolbachia* genome
115 horizontally integrated into the host genome (known as the *f* element) led to the origin of a new
116 W chromosome (Leclercq *et al.*, 2016). A recent phylogenetic analysis also identified several
117 transitions in heterogametic systems along the isopod phylogeny, including closely related
118 species pairs with different sex chromosome systems (Becking *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, only a

119 few species of terrestrial isopods are known to have heteromorphic sex chromosomes, in which
120 the X and Y, or Z and W, chromosomes are distinguishable in cytogenetics experiments
121 (Rigaud *et al.*, 1997), and WW or YY individuals are often viable and fertile (Juchault and
122 Rigaud, 1995; Becking *et al.*, 2019), suggesting that the W and Y chromosomes have not lost
123 any essential genes in these species.

124

125 In this study, we examined sex determination in the widespread species *Trachelipus rathkei*.
126 This species was previously established by cytogenetic methods to have heteromorphic, albeit
127 slightly, Z and W sex chromosomes (Mittal and Pahwa, 1980), and is nested within a clade that
128 appears ancestrally to possess a ZZ/ZW sex determination mechanism (Becking *et al.*, 2017).
129 We sought to confirm female heterogamety by crossing females to sex-reversed males (which
130 have female genotypes but male phenotypes), and assessing the sex ratio of the resulting
131 progenies, which will differ depending on the sex chromosome system (XX neo-male × XX
132 female yields all XX and therefore 100% female offspring; ZW neo-male × ZW female expected
133 to produce 1/4 ZZ, 1/2 ZW, and 1/4 WW offspring, thus 75% female or 66.7% female depending
134 on whether WW genotypes are viable). Surprisingly, we found that, at least in our focal
135 population, sex is determined by an XX/XY system, suggesting a recent sex chromosome
136 turnover. To test this hypothesis, we performed whole-genome sequencing. Consistent with a
137 recent origin of an XX/XY sex determination system, we find evidence that the putative male-
138 specific region is small relative to the whole genome, and we identified a male-specific, partial
139 duplication of the androgenic gland hormone (AGH) gene, a rare example of a candidate sex-
140 determining gene in a crustacean. In addition, although our study population does not appear to
141 harbor current *Wolbachia* infections, we find genomic evidence of past infections. Overall, our
142 results are consistent with the hypothesis that *Wolbachia* endosymbionts may have interfered
143 with the evolution of sex determination in *T. rathkei*.

144

145 **Methods**

146

147 Animal collection and husbandry

148

149 We sampled wild isopods from Rice Creek Field Station (RCFS) at SUNY Oswego in Oswego,
150 NY. We captured animals using a combination of methods. First, we haphazardly searched
151 through leaf litter, logs, and rocks. We also used “potato traps”, made by carving out a 1-2 cm
152 diameter core from a potato and placing it in the litter for 1-2 weeks. Finally, we constructed
153 pitfall traps from plastic cups buried in the ground with the rim of the cup flush with the ground.
154 The primary species captured were *Oniscus asellus* and *T. rathkei*, but we also captured
155 *Philoscia muscorum*, *Hyloniscus riparius*, *Trichoniscus pusillus*, and occasionally *Cylisticus*
156 *convexus*. Species identification was performed in the field and confirmed in the lab, where we
157 also determined the phenotypic sex of specimens.

158

159 Isopods were housed in plastic food storage containers with holes in the lids for air exchange,
160 on a substrate of moistened soil. Containers were checked twice weekly. Animals were fed
161 carrots and dried leaves *ad libitum*. The photoperiod was kept on a schedule of 18:6 light hours:
162 dark hours in the summer and 14:10 in the winter. We isolated ovigerous females in individual
163 containers, and separated offspring from their mothers upon emergence from the marsupium.
164 We initially sexed offspring at six to eight weeks old, and separated males from females to
165 prevent sibling mating. We then double-checked offspring sex at roughly two week intervals
166 thereafter until four months of age to watch for individuals that might have shown late signs of
167 sexual differentiation. Terrestrial isopods are known to store sperm from a single mating to
168 fertilize future broods. Therefore, for experimental crosses we only used *T. rathkei* females that
169 were born in the lab, separated from brothers as soon as they could be sexed, and which had
170 not produced any offspring by 12 months of age.

171

172 Wolbachia testing

173

174 We used PCR assays to test for *Wolbachia* presence in *T. rathkei* individuals. DNA was
175 extracted from one or two legs, depending on the size of the animal. We ruptured the leg tissue
176 in 400 μ L deionized water along with a few 0.5 mm zirconia/silica beads (enough to cover the
177 bottom of the tube) using a bead beater machine. Samples were lysed following a protocol of
178 2500 RPM for 10 seconds, followed by 4200 RPM for 10 seconds, and finally 4800 RPM for 10
179 seconds. The tube was then visually inspected to confirm the leg was sufficiently pulverized. We
180 then transferred the lysate to a new tube, added 60 μ L of a 5% Chelex® 100 molecular biology
181 grade resin suspension, and incubated for 15 minutes at 100° C. After incubation, we
182 centrifuged the extract at 16,000g for 3 minutes, and reserved 80 μ L of supernatant for PCR
183 testing. We confirmed successful DNA extraction using the mitochondrial primers
184 HCO2198/LCO1490 (Folmer *et al.*, 1994). We performed PCRs in 10 μ L reactions, using 4.95
185 μ L of molecular biology grade water, 2 μ L NEB OneTaq Buffer, 1 μ L of mixed dNTPS at a final
186 concentration of 2mM for each dNTP, 1 μ L of a 5 μ M solution of each primer, and 0.05 μ L of
187 NEB OneTaq. For the mitochondrial primer set, PCR conditions included an initial denaturation
188 of 94° C for 1 minute; 5 cycles of 94° C denaturation for 30s, 45° C annealing for 90s, and 68° C
189 extension for 60s. The samples then underwent 35 cycles of 94° C for 30s, 51° C for 90s, and
190 68° C for 60s. This was followed by a final extension step of 68° C for 5 minutes. To test for
191 *Wolbachia*, we performed PCR using *Wolbachia*-specific primers targeting the *wsp* (81f/691r)
192 and *ftsZ* (*ftsZf1/ftsZr1*) genes (Werren John H. *et al.*, 1995; Braig *et al.*, 1998). We performed
193 PCRs in 10 μ L reactions, using 4.95 μ L of molecular biology grade water, 2 μ L NEB OneTaq
194 Buffer, 1 μ L of mixed dNTPS at a final concentration of 2mM for each dNTP, 1 μ L of either *wsp*
195 or *ftsZ* primers, and 0.05 μ L of NEB OneTaq. PCR conditions contained an initial denaturation
196 of 95°C for 5 minutes, followed by 36 cycles of 95° C for 60s, 54° C for 60s, and 68°C for 3

197 minutes. This was followed by a final extension step at 68° C for 10 minutes. Positive PCR tests
198 would not necessarily be able to distinguish between a true infection and a copy of the
199 *Wolbachia* genome horizontally integrated into the host genome, but the absence of a PCR
200 product should be a reliable indicator that these *Wolbachia* sequences are not present (at least
201 at detectable levels).

202

203 Androgenic gland implantation and crosses

204

205 To test whether sex is determined by a ZZ/ZW or XX/XY system of sex determination in our
206 population of *T. rathkei*, we performed crosses between females and experimentally sex-
207 reversed neo-males. Juvenile female *T. rathkei* were implanted with live androgenic glands,
208 according to (Becking *et al.*, 2017). Male donors and female recipients were selected from large
209 lab-reared broods with even (~1:1) sex ratios. An adult male was sacrificed by decapitation, and
210 live androgenic glands were dissected into Ringer solution (393 mM NaCl, 2 mM KCl, 2 mM
211 CaCl₂·2H₂O, 2 mM NaHCO₃). Female recipients were between 5 and 8 weeks old, an age at
212 which males and females begin to become distinguishable by the appearance of external male
213 genitalia, but at which sexual development is not complete. Occasionally, young males may still
214 be mistaken for females at this stage, if the male genitalia are not sufficiently developed, and
215 thus it is common for some fraction of the recipients in these experiments to carry male
216 genotypes (Becking *et al.*, 2017); nevertheless, it is important for transplant recipients to be as
217 young as possible for sex reversal to be complete. The androgenic gland was injected using a
218 pulled glass pipette into a hole pierced with a dissecting needle in the 6th or 7th segment of the
219 juvenile female's pereon. Recipients were isolated in a small plastic container with a moist
220 paper towel for recovery and observation. Experimental animals were monitored for signs of
221 male development. Any surviving animal that failed to develop male genitalia by 4 months post-
222 implantation was considered to be a failed injection. After maturation, adult neo-males were

223 placed in individual containers with 1-3 previously unmated females. Crosses were monitored
224 twice weekly to check for signs of reproduction in females. Gravid females were then isolated
225 into their own containers until parturition.

226

227 Genome sequencing

228

229 We performed whole-genome sequencing using a combination of Illumina, PacBio, and Oxford
230 Nanopore sequencing, with multiple sequencing samples of each sex (Supplementary Table 1).
231 Because we expected the *T. rathkei* genome to be large, repetitive, and highly polymorphic, and
232 because we expected to need to isolate DNA from multiple individuals, we established a
233 partially inbred laboratory line using offspring from a single female collected from RCFS. We
234 mated brothers and sisters from this female for two generations in the lab prior to collecting
235 genetic samples from the third generation for sequencing. DNA was collected for sequencing
236 using the Qiagen DNEasy Blood and Tissue Kit following the manufacturer's instructions. DNA
237 was quantified using the Qubit DNA Broad Range assay kit, and the A260/280 value was
238 checked with a Nanodrop spectrophotometer. Samples were stored at -80°C prior to being
239 shipped to the sequencing center. Illumina sequencing was performed at the State University of
240 New York at Buffalo Genomics and Bioinformatics Core Facility.

241

242 For PacBio sequencing, we had to pool DNA from multiple individuals to obtain sufficient
243 quantities of DNA for library preparation. We performed separate DNA extractions from three
244 individuals of each sex as above. Then, we pooled the DNA from the three individuals of each
245 sex and concentrated it using Ampure XP beads (Beckman-Coulter). Briefly, we washed the
246 beads three times in molecular biology grade water, once in Qiagen buffer EB, and finally re-
247 suspended the beads in their original buffer. We then added equal volumes of Ampure XP
248 suspension to the DNA samples, mixed them on a shaker for 15 minutes, placed the tubes on a

249 magnetic bead separator, and removed the supernatant. We washed the beads twice with 1.5
250 mL of 70% ethanol, and finally eluted the DNA samples in 30 μ L of Qiagen buffer EB.
251 Sequencing libraries were prepared and sequenced at the University of Delaware Sequencing &
252 Genotyping Center on a PacBio RSII.

253

254 We also supplemented our PacBio dataset with Oxford Nanopore sequencing data. We isolated
255 DNA from a single *T. rathkei* female and two separate males using a Qiagen DNEasy Kit as
256 described above. We then performed sequencing on Oxford Nanopore Minion flowcells (R9.4)
257 with the Rapid Sequencing Kit (SQK-RAD004) following the manufacturer's instructions.

258

259 Genome assembly

260

261 We performed a hybrid assembly combining the short- and long-read sequence data, closely
262 mirroring the bioinformatics pipeline used to generate previously published isopod genome
263 assemblies (Chebbi *et al.*, 2019; Becking *et al.*, 2019). We first removed adapters and trimmed
264 the Illumina sequencing data using Trimmomatic v. 0.36 (Bolger *et al.*, 2014); we removed
265 leading and trailing bases, as well as internal windows of at least 4 bp, with a mean quality
266 score of 5 or lower, and discarded any reads shorter than 36 bp after trimming. We then used
267 SparseAssembler (Ye *et al.*, 2012) to assemble the cleaned Illumina data from sample Mpool,
268 This dataset was chosen because it had decent coverage (~38x), was generated from a PCR-
269 free sequencing library, and came from male samples (so that Y chromosome sequences would
270 be present); additional male sequencing samples were excluded from this initial assembly to
271 minimize the number of sequence polymorphisms that would be present in the data with
272 additional samples. This first assembly was performed using two different kmer sizes (k=51 and
273 k=61). After performing preliminary quality checks using Quast (Gurevich *et al.*, 2013), we
274 decided to proceed with the k=61 assembly, which had the longer total length and N50

275 (Supplementary Table 2). However, because we suspected the genome might still contain high
276 levels of heterozygosity despite two generations of inbreeding, we used Redundans (Pryszcz
277 and Gabaldón, 2016) to remove putative allelic contigs from the Illumina-only assembly; we set
278 identity and overlap thresholds of 95%.

279

280 Prior to performing hybrid assembly, we used the short reads to correct sequencing errors in the
281 long reads using FMLRC (Wang *et al.*, 2018) with the default settings, except requiring a
282 minimum count of 3 to consider a path (-m 3). PacBio and Oxford Nanopore reads derived from
283 female isopods were corrected using Illumina sample Fpool, while long reads from male
284 samples were corrected using sample Mpool.

285

286 We next performed hybrid assembly using DBG2OLC (Ye *et al.*, 2016), which accepts a short-
287 read assembly (rather than raw short-read sequence data) and long-read sequence data (in this
288 case, our combined PacBio and Oxford Nanopore reads) as input. We tested out a range of
289 different parameter values: from the Redundans-filtered assembly, we first removed contigs less
290 than 100 bp or 200 bp; we tested kmer sizes of 17 and 19; for the kmer coverage threshold, we
291 tried values of 2 and 5; and for the minimum overlap, we tried values of 10 and 30. We used an
292 adaptive threshold of 0.01. These assemblies ranged in size from ~5.2 Gb to 8.5 Gb; we
293 selected three assemblies across the range of total sizes for further processing.

294

295 We next corrected errors in these assemblies, caused by the relatively high error rates in long-
296 read sequence data. In the standard DBG2OLC pipeline, the resulting contigs are corrected
297 using the contigs from the short-read assembly and from the long reads using Sparc (Ye and
298 Ma, 2016); however, in our initial attempts, large portions of the assemblies went uncorrected,
299 perhaps because we had relatively low-coverage long-read data. Therefore, instead we
300 performed three rounds of error correction using Pilon (Walker *et al.*, 2014), by mapping the

301 trimmed Illumina sequence reads to each assembly using bbmap (first two rounds; (Bushnell *et*
302 *al.*, 2017)) and bwa mem (third round; with the parameters -A 1 -B 1 -O 1 -E 1 -k 11 -W 20 -d
303 0.5 -L 6 for mapping to an error-prone assembly; (Li, 2013)).

304

305 Finally, we assessed the quality of each of the three candidate assemblies using BUSCO
306 v.3.0.2 (Simão *et al.*, 2015), with the arthropod reference gene set, and selected the assembly
307 with the greatest number of BUSCO reference genes present for further analysis.

308

309 To remove contaminants from the final assembly, we generated blob plots using Blobtools v.1.0
310 (Laetsch and Blaxter, 2017). To accomplish this, we BLASTed all contigs against the NCBI
311 nucleotide (nt) database using megablast (Morgulis *et al.*, 2008) and against Uniprot reference
312 proteomes using diamond blastx (Buchfink *et al.*, 2015). We then removed any contigs that
313 were identified as coming from plants, fungi, viruses, or bacteria, except for those matching
314 *Wolbachia*.

315

316 Genome annotation

317

318 We used RepeatModeler v.1.0.10, which uses RECON (Bao and Eddy, 2002), RepeatScout
319 (Price *et al.*, 2005), and Tandem Repeat Finder (Benson, 1999), to construct a custom repeat
320 library for *T. rathkei*. Because we were unable to run RepeatModeler successfully using the full
321 assembly, we ran RepeatModeler on a random subset 40% of the contigs; this should still
322 successfully identify most repetitive elements in the genome as long as all repeat families are
323 well represented in the subset. We then masked the assembly using RepeatMasker 4.0.7, and
324 used the data generated by RepeatMasker on divergence between each individual repeat and
325 the consensus sequence for that family to examine the history of transposable element activity
326 in *T. rathkei* (Tarailo-Graovac and Chen, 2009).

327

328 We annotated coding sequences using the MAKER pipeline (Cantarel *et al.*, 2008). We initially
329 ran MAKER v2.31.9 using assembled transcript sequences (est2genome=1) from previously
330 available data from one wild-caught male and one wild-caught female *T. rathkei* from the same
331 population (Becking *et al.*, 2017). This transcriptome was generated by assembling the male
332 and female samples separately, each with two assemblers, Trinity v2.8.4 (Grabherr *et al.*, 2011)
333 and TransLiG v1.3 (Liu *et al.*, 2019), and then merging and filtering the transcriptome
334 assemblies with EvidentialGene v4 (Gilbert, 2019). This initial annotation also incorporated
335 protein alignments against Uniprot-Swissprot (version March 2020), and the resulting output was
336 used to train SNAP (Korf, 2004). To train AUGUSTUS (Stanke *et al.*, 2006) we used the output
337 from the BUSCO quality assessment described earlier. We then completed a final round of
338 MAKER using the trained gene models, retaining the transcript and protein alignments from
339 earlier as evidence.

340

341 Development of sex-linked PCR markers

342

343 We used multiple approaches to develop male-specific, putatively Y-linked PCR markers. Initial
344 attempts to perform a hybrid Illumina-PacBio genomic assembly with only male samples and
345 then identify contigs with zero coverage in females were unsuccessful. We therefore developed
346 a complementary approach by looking for male-specific k-mers using just the raw Illumina
347 sequencing reads. We chose a value of k=21 because it should be large enough that most k-
348 mers will not occur more than once in the genome sequence, yet small enough to minimize the
349 impact of sequencing errors (Vurture *et al.*, 2017). We used kmc v.3.1.0 (Kokot *et al.*, 2017) to
350 count all the canonical 21-mers in each of the Illumina sequencing datasets (in other words,
351 each 21-mer and its reverse complement were considered to be the same k-mer during
352 counting). We then searched for k-mers that occurred at least 8 times in the Mpool Illumina

353 sequencing dataset and a total of at least 3 times combined across the lower coverage M2, M5,
354 M6, and wildM samples, but which were completely absent from all female samples. We then
355 extracted all Illumina sequence reads containing these candidate male-specific k-mers using
356 mirabait v.4.0.2 (Chevreux *et al.*, 1999), and assembled them using Spades v.3.11.1 (Bankevich
357 *et al.*, 2012). We also performed a reciprocal analysis looking for female-specific k-mers (which
358 are not expected in an XX/XY system), searching for k-mers that occurred at least 8 times in the
359 Fpool Illumina sequencing dataset, a total of at least 3 times combined across the F3, F4, and
360 wildF samples, but which were completely absent from all male samples.

361

362 To test male-specificity of these contigs, we used PCR. We developed PCR primers for a
363 subset of candidate male-specific contigs. To identify the best candidates, we first mapped raw
364 sequencing reads from all male and female Illumina samples to the full genome sequence plus
365 the candidate male-specific contigs, and identified contigs that had coverage in male samples
366 but not female samples; we also avoided contigs that showed evidence of containing repeat
367 elements, after BLAST searches against the whole genome assembly. We designed primers
368 using PRIMER3 (Untergasser *et al.*, 2012, p. 3). In these PCRs, primers were initially screened
369 using template DNA from two male samples and two female samples; primers that showed
370 evidence of sex specificity after this first PCR were re-tested using a larger number of samples.
371 PCR primers were initially tested using a cycle of 98°C for 3 minutes, followed by 40 cycles of
372 98°C for 15s, 50°C for 35s, and 68°C for 60s; this was followed by a final extension step of 68°C
373 for 10 minutes. For samples that did not amplify under this program, a gradient PCR was run to
374 determine optimal annealing temperature. All PCRs were performed using the same recipe and
375 reaction conditions as the *Wolbachia* PCRs described above.

376

377 We also identified open reading frames (ORFs) in these candidate male-specific contigs using
378 Transdecoder v.4.0.0 (Haas and Papanicolaou, 2016), and annotated the ORFs using Trinotate

379 v.3.1.1 (Bryant *et al.*, 2017). Subsequently, we designed additional primers targeting one of the
380 candidate ORFs (F: 5'-ATTCTTGACTCTCCCCACGA-3'; R: 5'-
381 TCTCCAACACTACGATTTTCGTTAATT-3').

382

383 **Results**

384

385 No *Wolbachia* and balanced sex ratios in *T. rathkei*

386

387 Among the 100+ individuals captured and tested between 2015 and 2017, no *T. rathkei* from
388 RCFS conclusively tested positive for *Wolbachia*. This was not due to inadequate testing
389 protocols; for instance, a captive population of *Porcellio laevis* housed in our lab shows nearly a
390 100% infection rate using the same methods (not shown). Approximately 150 *T. rathkei* broods
391 were raised in the lab from either mated, wild-caught females or first-generation crosses. The
392 mean and median brood sizes of this species in our lab were 27.1 and 22.5 offspring,
393 respectively, and the vast majority of these broods had a balanced sex ratio (Supplementary
394 Table 3). Thus, the prevalence of *Wolbachia* and other sex ratio distorters is at most very low in
395 this population of *T. rathkei*. In addition, some wild-caught females produced broods even after
396 several months to a year in isolation in the lab (Supplementary Table 3), confirming that this
397 species is capable of long-term sperm storage.

398

399 Crossing sex-reversed individuals indicates an XY sex determination system

400

401 Five juveniles implanted with androgenic glands survived to mature into males; they were
402 crossed with virgin females from families with normal sex ratios. Each putative neo-male was
403 paired with 2 to 3 females, and each female produced 1-3 broods of offspring. Two of these
404 males sired broods with balanced sex ratios (not significantly different from the null hypothesis

405 of a 1:1 ratio of males to females; Table 1). These males were likely individuals that would have
406 developed into males even without the AG implantation, but were initially mis-identified as
407 juvenile females probably due to incomplete sexual differentiation at that early stage. Thus,
408 these crosses are uninformative with respect to the sex determination system. A similar rate of
409 “failed” crosses was observed in a recent study following identical protocols in other isopod
410 species, including species without any evidence of sex chromosome polymorphism, suggesting
411 that sexing juveniles for AG implantation at these early stages is difficult due to the possibility of
412 incomplete sexual differentiation (Becking *et al.*, 2017). Three other males produced only female
413 offspring, consistent with an XX/XY system (XX neo-male × XX female yields all XX and
414 therefore 100% female offspring) but not a ZZ/ZW system (ZW neo-male × ZW female expected
415 to produce 1/4 ZZ, 1/2 ZW, and 1/4 WW offspring, thus 75% female or 66.7% female depending
416 on whether WW genotypes are viable; Table 1).

417

418 Genome assembly

419

420 All sequencing data have been deposited in the NCBI SRA under the project accession number
421 PRJNA633105 (sequencing runs are SRR11797353-SRR11797365, SRR4000573, and
422 SRR4000567); the draft assembly has been deposited under accession number
423 GCA_015478945.1. The draft genome assembly of *T. rathkei* is approximately 5.2 Gb in total
424 length. The genome is highly repetitive, consisting of approximately 70% repetitive elements.
425 Transposable elements constitute the largest repeat category, with LINEs, followed by DNA
426 elements and LTRs, being the most represented (Figure 1). All repeat families seem to have a
427 single divergence peak of around 7-10% (Figure 1).

428

429 Despite its large size, the draft assembly is likely only partially complete, with ~25% of arthropod
430 BUSCO genes missing (Table 2). For an independent assessment of assembly completeness,

431 we also estimated the proportion of transcripts from the previously available transcriptome
432 dataset that were present in the assembly. There were 15,805 transcripts assembled from that
433 previously available transcriptome whose best hits in blastn searches against the NCBI nt
434 database and diamond blastx searches against Uniprot-Swissprot were from other arthropods
435 (and thus were unlikely to come from bacterial contaminants); of those, only 53% had nearly
436 full-length matches in the genome ($\geq 90\%$ of the transcript length at $\geq 90\%$ sequence identity),
437 suggesting some missing data and/or remaining uncorrected sequencing errors in the draft
438 assembly as well. At a more relaxed cutoff of at least 50% of the transcript having BLAST hits in
439 the genome at $\geq 90\%$ sequence identity, then 91% of transcripts appear to be represented
440 somewhere in the assembly, suggesting that most transcripts are indeed present in the
441 assembly but may be partial fragments rather than whole gene sequences.

442

443 We screened the *T. rathkei* genome for *Wolbachia* nuclear insertions by BLASTing the
444 assembled contigs against a collection of *Wolbachia* genome sequences, and then BLASTing
445 the matching regions against all representative bacterial genomes from RefSeq to rule out false
446 positives. After this filtering step, we were left with 1,010 high confidence matches (best BLAST
447 hit in a *Wolbachia* genome, e-value $< 1 \times 10^{-6}$) spread across 719 contigs, with a total length of
448 ~ 350 kb for the matching sequences (Supplementary Table 4), much smaller than a typical full
449 *Wolbachia* genome of about 1 - 1.6 Mb on average (Sun *et al.*, 2001). These may represent
450 independent small insertions into the host genome, or one or more larger insertions that were
451 subsequently broken up by mobile elements or other genomic rearrangements, or which
452 assembled into separate contigs due to insufficient data. These likely horizontally acquired
453 sequences were closely related to *Wolbachia* strain *wCon* from the isopod *Cylisticus convexus*
454 (Badawi *et al.*, 2018), the feminizing *Wolbachia* strain *wVuIC*, and the *f* element of *A. vulgare*
455 (Leclercq *et al.*, 2016) (Figure 2).

456

457 Searching for candidate sex-determining genes

458

459 We identified $\sim 6.04 \times 10^6$ 21-mers as potentially male-specific, suggesting there is a minimum of
460 6 Mb of male-specific sequence content in the genome. However, when we isolated the raw
461 Illumina sequencing reads containing those 21-mers and assembled them, we obtained 89.4 Mb
462 of assembled sequences, suggesting the male-specific region may be as large as ~ 90 Mb, but
463 still shares significant similarity with the X chromosome. Even if up to 90 Mb of sequence is
464 partially sex-linked, this represents just 1.7% of the genome.

465

466 As a negative control, we also screened for k-mers specific to females. We identified 9.11×10^5
467 female-specific 21-mers using the same criteria as our analysis for male-specific k-mers, or
468 approximately 15% the number of male-specific k-mers. The observation that there are far more
469 male-specific 21-mers than there are female-specific 21-mers in our dataset suggests that most
470 of these are from real male-specific genomic sequences.

471

472 Of the initial 16 candidate Y-linked PCR markers designed from anonymous sequences, none
473 showed the expected pattern of male-specific amplification in our early tests (Supplementary
474 Table 5). This may be due to (1) the highly repetitive nature of the *T. rathkei* genome, despite
475 our best efforts to target primers to non-repetitive sequences, or (2) low divergence between X-
476 and Y-linked copies.

477

478 Because the candidate male-specific contigs were assembled from Illumina data only and thus
479 short and fragmented, we were unable to screen them for annotated candidate sex-determining
480 genes using the typical MAKER pipeline. However, we were able to identify open reading
481 frames (ORFs) and annotate them like transcripts using Trinotate (Bryant *et al.*, 2017). Three
482 contigs in the male-specific assembly showed homology to the androgenic gland hormone

483 (AGH) gene upon annotation, suggesting there may be a Y-linked duplication of the AGH gene.
484 Therefore, we designed PCR primers specifically targeting one of the Y-linked AGH-like
485 sequences (AGHY1 on NODE_44048_length_535, see Methods for primer sequences; same
486 PCR cycling conditions as the other candidate sex-specific primers). These primers resulted in a
487 PCR product of the expected size (195 bp) in all male samples screened (7/7), but not in any of
488 the female samples (0/7), all of which were unrelated wild-caught individuals, confirming the
489 male-specificity of this AGH allele.

490

491 This AGH sequence could be either a male-specific duplication of the AGH gene, or a Y-linked
492 allele that has diverged from an X-linked copy (in other words, gametologs). To distinguish
493 between these possibilities, we examined the sequencing depth of these genes and of other
494 putatively single-copy genes (identified in the BUSCO analysis) in male and female Illumina
495 sequencing data. If the male-specific AGH sequence is a gametolog of an X-linked sequence,
496 we would expect the total sequencing depth of all AGH sequences (putative autosomal and
497 putative Y-linked) to be the same in both the pooled male and pooled female samples, with the
498 female sample having a higher average sequencing depth for the putative X-linked AGH
499 sequences (since they would be homozygous for the X-linked gametologs, while males would
500 be hemizygous for the X-linked gametologs). If, on the other hand, the male-specific AGH
501 sequences are Y-linked duplicates, and not allelic to the other AGH sequences in our assembly,
502 we would expect the shared autosomal AGH sequences to have similar sequencing depth in
503 both male and female samples, and the combined sequencing depth of all AGH sequences
504 (putative autosomal and putative Y-linked) would be higher in the male sample. Our results
505 were consistent with the latter scenario, suggesting these are Y-linked duplicates rather than
506 gametologs (Figure 3). Note that sequencing depth of AGHY1 and AGHY2, though much lower
507 in the female sample than in the male sample, is still non-zero in the female sample, probably

508 because of ambiguously mapped reads due to high similarity between the Y-linked and
509 autosomal copies.

510

511 Because the male-specific AGH sequences were found only in our Illumina data, we were
512 unable to assemble them into long contigs, even after repeated attempts to assemble them
513 individually with different assemblers and parameter values (not shown); all these contigs were
514 ~600 bp or less in length. Thus we are unable to determine whether these are complete
515 duplicates of the whole gene, or fragments. Nevertheless, a phylogenetic analysis suggests that
516 one of the Y-linked duplicates is a copy of the other, rather than an independent duplication of
517 an autosomal copy, and based on branch lengths they are as divergent from one another as
518 AGH orthologs in different species (Figure 5). In addition, these Y-linked copies seem to lack an
519 intron that is present in the autosomal copies (Figure 4), suggesting they may have originated
520 via retrotransposition. Note that AGHY1 and AGHY2 seem to be duplicates of the same region
521 of the AGH gene (Figure 4), suggesting they are indeed two duplicates (the fact that both copies
522 have appreciable sequencing depth in the pooled male sample, and are ~20% divergent at the
523 DNA sequence level, suggests that these are real duplicates and not assembly artifacts;
524 moreover, they cannot be allelic sequences because all the males in the Illumina samples that
525 they were assembled from were siblings, carrying the same Y chromosome). AGHY3, on the
526 other hand, covers a different region of the AGH gene (Figure 4), so AGHY3 may not be an
527 additional third duplicate, but may instead be a part of AGHY1 or AGHY2 that just assembled
528 into a separate contig.

529

530 We also find some evidence of additional autosomal duplicates of the androgenic gland
531 hormone (AGH) gene. Two contigs in the full assembly contained annotated transcripts with at
532 least partial homology to the expressed transcript identified as the AGH sequence, and a third
533 contained no annotated genes but still showed high sequence similarity to AGH in BLAST

534 searches. However, not all of the annotated exons in the first two copies matched the expressed
535 transcript, and there were unannotated portions of the same contigs that did show sequence
536 similarity to the transcript (Figure 4). Moreover, some of the matching portions of the assembled
537 contigs had less than 90% sequence identity to the expressed transcript, and analysis of the
538 sequencing depth of these regions reveals that one has very low coverage, suggesting it may
539 be an assembly artifact (see below). Thus, we cannot rule out the possibility that some of these
540 possible autosomal duplicates represent assembly and/or annotation artifacts. If they are real,
541 these autosomal duplicates appear to be specific to *Trachelipus*, occurring after its divergence
542 from *Porcellio* (Figure 5), but they may still be nonfunctional.

543

544 **Discussion**

545

546 We have shown that, at least in our upstate New York population, sex determination in the
547 terrestrial isopod *T. rathkei* is based on an XX/XY sex chromosome system. Two independent
548 lines of evidence support this finding: first, crosses between females and sex-reversed neo-
549 males yielded all female offspring (Table 1), consistent with an XX/XY system but not a ZZ/ZW
550 system (Becking *et al.*, 2017); second, we have identified PCR primers that only amplify a
551 product in male samples, indicating the presence of a male-specific genomic region, i.e., a Y
552 chromosome.

553

554 Our findings run counter to a previously published study showing evidence of female
555 heterogamety in this species based on cytogenetics; in that study, female germ cells contained
556 one set of unpaired chromosomes (presumably, the Z and W sex chromosomes), while male
557 germ cells did not (Mittal and Pahwa, 1980). There are multiple possible explanations for this
558 contradiction. First, it is possible that the previous study incorrectly identified the species of
559 study specimens, as no information on identification is given in the paper; however, *T. rathkei* is

560 relatively easy to distinguish from other cosmopolitan terrestrial isopod species by its five pairs
561 of pleopodal “lungs” (most superficially similar species such as *Porcellio scaber* have only two
562 pairs; (Hatchett, 1947; Shultz, 2018)). In addition, that study was published before feminizing
563 *Wolbachia* was widely recognized in terrestrial isopods. It is therefore theoretically possible that
564 the females used in that study carried an XY genotype but were feminized by *Wolbachia*, while
565 the males in that study might have carried a YY genotype, perhaps resulting from a cross
566 between an XY father and a sex-reversed XY or YY mother which failed to transmit *Wolbachia*
567 (Becking *et al.*, 2019).

568

569 Perhaps the most likely explanation is sex chromosome differences between populations.
570 Indeed, this would not be unprecedented, as sex determination in terrestrial isopods is thought
571 to evolve rapidly (Rigaud *et al.*, 1997; Cordaux *et al.*, 2011; Becking *et al.*, 2017), and within-
572 species sex chromosome polymorphisms are documented in a few other species. For instance,
573 two subspecies of *Porcellio dilatatus*, *P. dilatatus dilatatus* and *P. dilatatus petiti* have XX/XY
574 and ZZ/ZW systems, respectively (Juchault and Legrand, 1964; Legrand *et al.*, 1974; Becking *et*
575 *al.*, 2017). In addition, multiple sex determining elements segregate in populations of the
576 common pillbug *A. vulgare* (Juchault *et al.*, 1992), including a novel W chromosome that
577 resulted from the integration of an almost entire *Wolbachia* genome into the host genome
578 (Leclercq *et al.*, 2016). Outside terrestrial isopods, sex chromosome polymorphisms are also
579 documented in a range of other arthropods and vertebrates (Orzack *et al.*, 1980; Franco *et al.*,
580 1982; Ogata *et al.*, 2008; Rodrigues *et al.*, 2013). *T. rathkei* is probably non-native in North
581 America where this study was conducted (Jass and Klausmeier, 2000), as well as perhaps in
582 India where the prior study on cytogenetics was done (Mittal and Pahwa, 1980). Given its
583 cosmopolitan distribution, and the fact that other terrestrial isopods have moderate to high levels
584 of genetic diversity (Romiguier *et al.*, 2014), it might not be especially surprising for *T. rathkei* to
585 harbor multiple polymorphic sex-determining loci. Nevertheless, the XX/XY system seems to be

586 fixed, or at least the majority, in our population: multiple segregating sex-determining factors
587 within a single populations usually result in sex-biased broods (Denholm *et al.*, 1986; Basolo,
588 1994), including in other isopods like *A. vulgare* (Rigaud and Juchault, 1993); however, we
589 observed only a few (out of 131) sex-biased broods from wild-caught gravid females or lab-
590 reared females outside of our sex reversal experiments, and never observed any single-sex
591 broods. Moreover, the male-specific primer pair we designed amplified successfully in all tested
592 wild-caught males, and none of the wild-caught females, albeit with modest sample sizes.
593 Hopefully future follow-up work can further characterize geographic variation in sex
594 determination in this species.

595

596 Regardless of whether or not sex determination is polymorphic in our population of *T. rathkei*,
597 we propose that the ZZ/ZW sex chromosomes in this species are more likely to be ancestral,
598 and that the XX/XY system is derived. First, *T. rathkei* is nested within a clade that mostly
599 consists of ZZ/ZW species (Becking *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, the previous study finding a ZZ/ZW
600 system in *T. rathkei* was based on the presence of heteromorphic sex chromosomes in female
601 meiotic spreads (Mittal and Pahwa, 1980), suggesting that the Z and W have been diverging
602 long enough to be cytogenetically distinguishable, in contrast to other isopods examined so far
603 showing homomorphic sex chromosomes (Rigaud *et al.*, 1997). In addition, the putative male-
604 specific region of the *T. rathkei* genome does not contain any genes that are essential for male
605 reproduction or spermatogenesis, since phenotypic males with an XX genotype still sired
606 offspring in our sex-reversal experiments, and the male-specific region is only a small portion of
607 the total genome, similar to other terrestrial isopods examined so far (Chebbi *et al.*, 2019;
608 Becking *et al.*, 2019). This male-specific region is probably at least 6 Mb and has an upper size
609 limit of around 90 Mb, but these estimates include sequences that retain high similarity to X-
610 linked copies; indeed, most of the candidate male-specific primers we tested failed to show sex-
611 specific amplification patterns. These observations suggest that this Y chromosome may be

612 evolutionarily young, since it has not had time to accumulate major differences from the X.
613 Given that we found genomic evidence of a past association with *Wolbachia* in this species and
614 that infection by *Wolbachia* has been found in other *T. rathkei* populations (Cordaux *et al.*,
615 2012), this scenario is consistent with the hypothesis that transitions in sex determination
616 mechanisms may be triggered by *Wolbachia* and other endosymbionts that manipulate host
617 reproduction (Rigaud *et al.*, 1997; Cordaux *et al.*, 2011). If other populations of *T. rathkei* with
618 different sex determination mechanisms can be identified, it may be possible to leverage this
619 system to further study the mechanisms and selective forces influencing transitions in sex
620 determination mechanisms. In addition, studies of sex determination in a phylogenetic context
621 involving other members of the family Trachelipodidae would shed further light on the origins of
622 the X and Y chromosomes in *T. rathkei*.

623

624 The draft genome assembly of *T. rathkei* is especially large, at around 5.2 Gb, with
625 approximately 29% GC content. The actual genome is likely to be even larger, given that ~25%
626 of the BUSCO arthropod orthologs were missing in our assembly. By comparison, genomes of
627 pillbugs in the genus *Armadillidium* tend to be smaller at around 1.2 - 2 Gb in size (Chebbi *et al.*,
628 2019; Becking *et al.*, 2019), but other terrestrial isopods have genomes ranging to over 8 Gb
629 (Gregory, 2020), and other crustacean relatives such as amphipods also have large genomes
630 (Rees *et al.*, 2007; Rivarola-Duarte *et al.*, 2014; Kao *et al.*, 2016), so *T. rathkei* is not out of the
631 ordinary for this group.

632

633 The *T. rathkei* genome contains a large proportion of repetitive elements, in particular
634 transposable elements (Figure 1). The most common transposable element families are LINEs,
635 DNA elements, and LTRs, similar to *A. vulgare* and *A. nasatum* (Chebbi *et al.*, 2019; Becking *et al.*,
636 2019, 2020). The distribution of divergence values, with a single mode around 7-10%
637 divergence (Figure 1), suggests that most repeat families expanded around the same time as

638 previously shown in *A. vulgare* and *A. nasatum*; however, unlike in *A. vulgare*, *T. rathkei* shows
639 no evidence of a second more recent burst in DNA element activity. Simple repeats also
640 comprise a substantial portion of the genome; even manually looking through the assembled
641 contigs reveals a high abundance of (TA)_x repeats. It would be interesting to examine the
642 repeat content of the male-specific portion of the genome. Unfortunately, however, we were only
643 able to recover male-specific sequences from the short-read Illumina data, and this portion of
644 the genome assembly is highly fragmented, precluding more detailed analysis. Hopefully,
645 additional long-read sequencing data will allow us to examine transposable element dynamics in
646 this area in the future.

647

648 We found many contigs with high similarity to the *Wolbachia* genome (Supplementary Table 4),
649 even though we were unable to detect current *Wolbachia* infections in our population using
650 PCR. This is not surprising given that horizontal transfers of *Wolbachia* DNA into host genomes
651 is common ([Dunning Hotopp, 2011](#)), and that *Wolbachia* is relatively common in terrestrial
652 isopods and arthropods in general ([Cordaux et al., 2012](#); [Pascari and Chandler, 2018](#); [Medina et al., 2019](#)) and has been found in other populations of *T. rathkei*. These *Wolbachia* insertions are
653 closely related to other *Wolbachia* strains from isopods, including feminizing strains ([Cordaux et al 2004](#), [Leclercq et al 2016](#)). This suggests that *T. rathkei* may have been infected with a
654 feminizing *Wolbachia* strain in the past, even though no firm conclusion can be drawn solely
655 from phylogenetic evidence. If so, it is conceivable that *Wolbachia* may have been involved in
656 the sex chromosome turnover we characterized in *T. rathkei*, as previously hypothesized
657 ([Rigaud et al 1997](#), [Cordaux and Gilbert 2017](#)).

660

661 Male differentiation in terrestrial isopods is controlled by the androgenic gland hormone, AGH.
662 AGH is a peptide hormone similar in structure to insulin, and is secreted by the androgenic
663 gland ([Martin et al., 1999](#)). AGH expression is sufficient to transform juvenile female isopods

664 into fertile males (Martin *et al.*, 1999). Presumably, in wild-type males, the primary sex-
665 determining signal triggers the differentiation of the androgenic glands during development,
666 which then secretes AGH. Interestingly, the draft genome of *T. rathkei* contains multiple AGH-
667 like sequences, unlike *A. vulgare*, which has a single copy (Chebbi *et al.* 2019). While some of
668 these may be assembly artifacts, there is evidence of at least two partial Y-linked sequences
669 (assembled from Illumina sequencing reads containing male-specific k-mers), of which one was
670 confirmed by PCR to be male-specific. These duplications seem to be specific to *T. rathkei*
671 (Figure 5), though other members of the genus *Trachelipus* or the family Trachelipodidae have
672 yet to be examined. Consistent with this, a past study found no evidence of any expressed AGH
673 duplications in other terrestrial isopod species except *Porcellio gallicus* (Cerveau *et al.*, 2014).

674

675 In many other species, novel sex chromosomes have arisen via duplication of a sex-determining
676 gene. For instance, duplicates of the vertebrate gene *Dmrt1* have evolved into master sex-
677 determining signals on the W and Y chromosomes, respectively, in the frog *Xenopus laevis*
678 (Yoshimoto *et al.*, 2008) and the medaka *Oryzias latipes* (Matsuda *et al.*, 2002, 2007; Nanda *et*
679 *al.*, 2002), while a Y-linked duplicate of the anti-Müllerian hormone gene is a candidate master
680 sex-determining gene in the teleost fish *Odontesthes hatcheri* (Hattori *et al.*, 2012). The
681 presence of Y-linked AGH copies in *T. rathkei*, and no other obvious open reading frames
682 homologous to known sex determination or sex differentiation genes, makes these genes
683 obvious candidates for the master male-determining signal in *T. rathkei*. Sex-specific genomic
684 regions like the Y and W chromosomes are also expected to acquire sexually antagonistic
685 alleles (van Doorn and Kirkpatrick, 2007, 2010; Charlesworth, 2017). Thus, if functional these
686 duplicates might instead provide male fitness benefits rather than serving as a master male sex-
687 determining gene. Unfortunately, we were unable to assemble full copies of these Y-linked AGH
688 homologs because they only showed up in our Illumina data, not in our low-coverage long read
689 data. Future deep sequencing using long reads should further clarify the molecular evolution of

690 these genes. In addition, expression studies should determine which of these genes are
691 expressed, in what tissues, and at what stages.

692

693 We have shown that the terrestrial isopod *T. rathkei* uses an XX/XY sex chromosome system,
694 at least in upstate New York, in contrast to a past cytogenetic study suggesting a ZZ/ZW
695 mechanism (Mittal and Pahwa, 1980). In line with this, whole-genome sequencing and follow-up
696 PCRs demonstrate the existence of male-specific, Y-linked copies of the androgenic gland
697 hormone gene in this species. These findings highlight the role of gene duplication in the
698 evolution of sex chromosomes and they further establish terrestrial isopods as models to study
699 the evolution of sex determination systems and the mechanisms underlying their transitions.

700

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702

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714

715

716 **Table 1.** Sex ratios from crosses between putative neo-males (juvenile females implanted with
717 an androgenic gland) and females. The last three columns give the results of chi-square tests
718 testing whether the observed sex ratios (pooling the results for each male) are significantly
719 different from predicted ratios of 1 female: 1 male, 2 female : 1 male, and 3 female : 1 male.
720

Neo-male	Female	Number of female offspring	Number of male offspring	50F:50M	66F:33M	75F:25M
D-4-7	1	23	0	$\chi^2 = 44$ $p = 3.28 \times 10^{-11}$	$\chi^2 = 22$ $p = 2.73 \times 10^{-6}$	$\chi^2 = 14.7$ $p = 1.28 \times 10^{-4}$
	2	14	0			
	3	7	0			
G-4-22	1	16	8	$\chi^2 = 1.49$ $p = 0.22$	$\chi^2 = 3.56$ $p = 0.059$	$\chi^2 = 14.3$ $p = 1.54 \times 10^{-4}$
	2	17	14			
	3	13	13			
F-4-9	1	36	0	$\chi^2 = 59$ $p = 1.58 \times 10^{-14}$	$\chi^2 = 29.5$ $p = 5.59 \times 10^{-8}$	$\chi^2 = 19.7$ $p = 9.22 \times 10^{-6}$
	2	23	0			
10-8	1	24	35	$\chi^2 = 0.87$ $p = 0.35$	$\chi^2 = 26.6$ $p = 2.50 \times 10^{-7}$	$\chi^2 = 62.2$ $p = 3.17 \times 10^{-15}$
	2	40	40			
AGS169-2	1	45	0	$\chi^2 = 82$ $p = 1.36 \times 10^{-19}$	$\chi^2 = 41$ $p = 1.52 \times 10^{-10}$	$\chi^2 = 27.3$ $p = 1.71 \times 10^{-7}$
	2	37	0			

721

722

723 **Table 2.** Assembly statistics for the *T. rathkei* draft genome.

Total length	5,181,251,014 bp
Number of contigs	421,784
N50	39,761 bp
GC content	29.0%
Complete BUSCO genes	533 single copy (51.9%); 39 duplicated (3.7%)
Fragmented BUSCO genes	203 (19.0%)
Missing BUSCO genes	271 (25.4%)

724

725

726 **Figure Legends**

727

728 **Figure 1.** Distribution of divergence levels for repetitive elements in the *T. rathkei* genome.

729

730 **Figure 2.** Phylogenetic tree showing the relationship of candidate horizontally transferred
731 *Wolbachia* segments in the *T. rathkei* genome to other *Wolbachia* isolates. The *T. rathkei*
732 *Wolbachia* insertion (indicated by the asterisk) is closely related to *Wolbachia* isolates from
733 other isopods, and its closest relative is the wCon from *Cylisticus convexus*. Numbers by nodes
734 indicate bootstrap support. Branch lengths represent average number of substitutions per site.
735 The tree was generated by concatenating all candidate *Wolbachia* insertions in *T. rathkei* longer
736 than 1,000 bp, along with the best-matching regions in the reference *Wolbachia* genomes
737 (found with BLAST), aligning with MUSCLE v.3.8.31 (Edgar, 2004), filtering alignments with
738 trimal v. 1.2rev59 (Capella-Gutiérrez *et al.*, 2009), selecting a model using ModelTest-NG v.
739 0.1.6 (Darriba *et al.*, 2020), and running the analysis in RAxML-NG v. 0.9.0 (Stamatakis, 2014)
740 with 100 bootstrap replicates.

741

742 **Figure 3.** Distribution of sequencing depth for single-copy BUSCO genes in male and female
743 Illumina sequencing datasets (M-pool and F-pool). Labeled dots indicate the sequencing depth
744 for the different AGH copies in each sample.

745

746 **Figure 4.** Possible duplicates of the androgenic gland hormone gene in the *T. rathkei* genome,
747 including male-specific duplicates (on the right). The green bars represent the sequence of the
748 expressed AGH sequence, assembled from previously available transcriptome data. Gray bars
749 represent contigs in the draft genome assembly, and the pink bars on contigs represent exons
750 annotated by MAKER. Dark blue segments connecting portions of the transcript to portions of
751 contigs represent BLAST hits; light purple connector segments represent BLAST hits in reverse

752 orientation. The incongruence between annotated exons and BLAST matches between the
753 transcript and contigs suggests the annotation still contains some errors.

754

755 **Figure 5.** Phylogenetic tree showing relationships among AGH sequences from terrestrial
756 isopods. AGH2 and AGHY3 are missing from this phylogeny because those sequences were
757 omitted because of their short length. The tree was generated using all AGH-like sequences
758 from *T. rathkei* of at least 100 bp, along with reference AGH nucleotide sequences from other
759 species, aligning them with MUSCLE v. 3.8.31 (Edgar, 2004), selecting a model using
760 ModelTest-NG v. 0.1.6 (Darriba *et al.*, 2020), and running the analysis in RAxML-NG v. 0.9.0
761 (Stamatakis, 2014) with 100 bootstrap replicates.

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766 **References**

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