1 Evolutionary transition to XY sex chromosomes associated with Y-linked duplication of a

2 male hormone gene in a terrestrial isopod

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- 4 Aubrie Russell¹, Sevarin Borrelli¹, Rose Fontana¹, Joseph Laricchiuta¹, Jane Pascar^{1,2}, Thomas
- 5 Becking³, Isabelle Giraud³, Richard Cordaux³, Christopher H. Chandler^{1*}
- 6
- ⁷ ¹Department of Biological Sciences, State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY,
- 8 United States
- 9 ²Current address: Center for Reproductive Evolution, Department of Biology, Syracuse
- 10 University, Syracuse, NY, United States
- ³Laboratoire Ecologie et Biologie des Interactions, Equipe Ecologie Evolution Symbiose,
- 12 Université de Poitiers, UMR CNRS 7267 Poitiers, France
- 13
- 14 *Corresponding author:
- 15 Christopher H. Chandler
- 16 Department of Biological Sciences
- 17 State University of New York at Oswego
- 18 <u>christopher.chandler@oswego.edu</u>
- 19
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- 21

22 Abstract

23

24	Sex chromosomes are highly variable in some taxonomic groups, but the evolutionary
25	mechanisms underlying this diversity are not well understood. In terrestrial isopod crustaceans,
26	interactions with Wolbachia, a vertically transmitted endosymbiont causing male-to-female sex
27	reversal, are thought to drive rapid evolutionary turnovers in sex chromosomes. Here, we use
28	surgical manipulations and genetic crosses, plus genome sequencing, to examine sex
29	chromosomes in the terrestrial isopod Trachelipus rathkei. Although an earlier cytogenetics
30	study suggested a ZZ/ZW sex chromosome system in this species, we surprisingly find that in
31	our study population, sex is determined by an XX/XY system. Consistent with a recent
32	evolutionary origin for this XX/XY system, the putative male-specific region of the genome is
33	small. The genome shows evidence of sequences horizontally acquired from past Wolbachia
34	infections, as well as evidence of Y-linked duplications of the androgenic gland hormone gene,
35	thought to be a possible target for sex reversal by Wolbachia. Overall, these results are
36	consistent with the hypothesis that reproductive endosymbionts such as Wolbachia can promote
37	quick turnover of sex determination mechanisms in their hosts.
38	

40 Introduction

41

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

58

Evolutionary theory holds that the formation of sex chromosomes begins when an autosome acquires a sex-determining locus (Rice 1996). Subsequently, recombination around the sexdetermining locus is selected against because of sexually antagonistic selection (Bergero & Charlesworth 2009). For instance, selection should favor mutations that are beneficial in males but deleterious in females when those alleles are linked to a dominant male-determining allele; recombination, on the other hand, would break up this linkage and result in females that carry these male-beneficial alleles. The non-recombining region is then expected to spread in the 66 presence of continued sexually antagonistic selection, and may eventually span the whole sex 67 chromosome, except for the usual presence of a small recombining pseudo-autosomal region 68 (Charlesworth et al. 2005). Once recombination has ceased, the non-recombining sex 69 chromosome, such as the Y chromosome in mammals or the W chromosome in birds, is 70 expected to degenerate. Non-recombining genes frequently undergo pseudogenization, 71 acquiring nonsense mutations or transposable element insertions (Charlesworth & Charlesworth 72 2000). At the same time, gene trafficking can occur when selection promotes the translocation 73 of formerly autosomal genes to the sex chromosomes (Emerson et al. 2004). 74 75 Different species appear to be at different stages of sex chromosome evolution. For instance, 76 the sex chromosomes of therian mammals are highly conserved, having originated ~160 million 77 years ago (Potrzebowski et al. 2008; Veyrunes et al. 2008). The highly degenerated, 78 heteromorphic Y chromosome represents an advanced stage of sex chromosome evolution. In 79 other taxonomic groups, on the other hand, sex chromosomes appear to undergo more frequent 80 evolutionary turnovers (Pennell et al. 2018; Cioffi et al. 2013; Myosho et al. 2015; Jeffries et al. 81 2018; Ross et al. 2009; Vicoso & Bachtrog 2015). Such young sex chromosomes may have little 82 or no recombination suppression, differentiation in gene content, or sex chromosome dosage 83 compensation, and may not be detectable by traditional cytogenetic methods because they are 84 visually indistinguishable (homomorphic) (Vicoso & Bachtrog 2015; Gamble et al. 2014). Sex 85 chromosomes may even be polymorphic within a species, with different sex-determining loci 86 segregating within or among populations (Traut 1994; Meisel et al. 2016; Ogata et al. 2008; 87 Orzack et al. 1980).

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

mutations, and the 'hot potato' model (van Doorn & Kirkpatrick 2007; Blaser et al. 2013, 2014).
In some organisms, interactions with vertically transmitted reproductive endosymbionts are also
thought to influence the evolution of their hosts' sex determination mechanisms (Rigaud et al.
1997; Cordaux et al. 2011). However, many of these models have been difficult to test in nature.
This problem is exacerbated by the fact that, while sex chromosomes have been extensively
studied in model organisms like *Drosophila*, studies are more sparse in non-model organisms.

99 One group that has received relatively little attention is crustaceans. Different crustacean 100 species show a variety of distinct sex determining mechanisms, yet there are very few 101 crustacean species in which candidate master sex-determining genes have been identified 102 (Chandler et al. 2018, 2017). Within crustaceans, perhaps one of the best-studied groups in 103 terms of sex determination is the terrestrial isopods (Oniscidea). Terrestrial isopod species have 104 a mix of XY and ZW systems, along with reports of a few parthenogenic species and 105 populations (Rigaud et al. 1997; Johnson 1986; Fussey 1984). The bacterial endosymbiont 106 Wolbachia also influences sex determination by causing male-to-female sex reversal in some 107 isopod hosts (Bouchon et al. 1998; Cordaux et al. 2004). In fact, interactions with Wolbachia are 108 thought to drive rapid evolutionary turnover of the sex chromosomes in terrestrial isopods. This 109 hypothesis is supported by multiple lines of evidence. For instance, in the common pillbug 110 Armadillidium vulgare, a copy of the Wolbachia genome horizontally integrated into the host 111 genome (formerly known as the f element) led to the origin of a new W chromosome (Leclercq 112 et al. 2016). A recent phylogenetic analysis also identified, at minimum, several transitions in 113 heterogametic systems along the isopod phylogeny, including closely related species pairs with 114 different sex chromosome systems (Becking et al. 2017). Moreover, only a few species of 115 terrestrial isopods are known to have heteromorphic sex chromosomes, in which the X and Y, or 116 Z and W, chromosomes are visually distinguishable in cytogenetics experiments (Rigaud et al. 117 1997), and WW or YY individuals are often viable and fertile (Juchault & Rigaud 1995; Becking

et al. 2019), suggesting that the W and Y chromosomes have not lost any essential genes inthese species.

120

121 In this study, we examined sex determination in the widespread species Trachelipus rathkei. 122 This species was previously established by cytogenetic methods to have heteromorphic, albeit 123 slightly, Z and W sex chromosomes (Mittal & Pahwa 1980). We sought to confirm female 124 heterogamety by crossing females to sex-reversed neo-males (which have female genotypes 125 but male phenotypes), and assessing the sex ratio of the resultant progenies. Surprisingly, we 126 found that, at least in our focal population, sex is determined by an XX/XY system, suggesting a 127 recent sex chromosome turnover. To test this hypothesis, we performed whole-genome 128 sequencing. Consistent with a recent origin of an XX/XY sex determination system, we find 129 evidence that the putative male-specific region of the genome is small, and we identified a male-130 specific partial duplication of the androgenic gland hormone (AGH) gene, a rare example of a 131 candidate sex-determining gene in a crustacean. In addition, although our study population 132 does not appear to harbor current Wolbachia infections, we find genomic evidence of past 133 infections. Overall, our results are consistent with the hypothesis that sex-reversing 134 endosymbionts like Wolbachia can drive rapid evolutionary turnover of sex chromosomes in 135 their hosts. 136 137 Methods 138 139 Animal collection and husbandry 140 141 We sampled wild isopods from Rice Creek Field Station (RCFS) at SUNY Oswego in Oswego,

142 NY. We captured animals using a combination of methods. First, we haphazardly searched

143 through leaf litter, logs, and rocks. We also used "potato traps", made by carving out a 1-2 cm

diameter core from a potato and placing it in the litter for 1-2 weeks. Finally, we constructed
pitfall traps from plastic cups buried in the ground with the rim of the cup flush with the ground.
The primary species captured were *Oniscus asellus* and *Trachelipus rathkei*, but we also
captured *Philoscia muscorum*, *Hyloniscus riparius*, *Trichoniscus pusillus*, and occasionally *Cylisticus convexus*. Species identification was performed in the field and confirmed in the lab,
where we also determined the phenotypic sex of specimens.

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151 Isopods were housed in plastic food storage containers with holes in the lids for air exchange. 152 on a substrate of moistened soil. Containers were checked twice weekly. Animals were fed 153 carrots and dried leaves ad libitum. The photoperiod was kept on a schedule of 18:6 light 154 hours:dark hours in the summer and and 14:10 in the winter. We isolated ovigerous females in 155 individual containers, and separated offspring from their mothers upon emergence from the 156 marsupium. We initially sexed offspring at six to eight weeks old, and separated males from 157 females to prevent sibling mating. We then double-checked offspring sex at roughly two week 158 intervals thereafter until four months of age to watch for individuals that might have shown late 159 signs of sexual differentiation. Terrestrial isopods are known to store sperm from a single mating 160 to fertilize future broods. Therefore, for experimental crosses we only used T. rathkei females 161 that were born in the lab, separated from brothers as soon as they could be sexed, and which 162 had not produced any offspring by 12 months of age.

163

164 Wolbachia testing

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We used PCR assays to detect *Wolbachia* in *T. rathkei* individuals. DNA was extracted from one or two legs, depending on the size of the animal. We ruptured the leg tissue in 400 µL deionized water along with a few 0.5 mm zirconia/silica beads (enough to cover the bottom of the tube) using a bead beater machine. Samples were lysed following a protocol of 2500 RPM 170 for 10 seconds, followed by 4200 RPM for 10 seconds, and finally 4800 RPM for 10 seconds. 171 The tube was then visually inspected to confirm the leg was sufficiently pulverized. We then 172 transferred the lysate to a new tube, added 60 µL of a 5% Chelex® 100 molecular biology grade 173 resin suspension, and incubated for 15 minutes at 100° C. After incubation, we centrifuged the 174 extract at 16,000g for 3 minutes, and reserved 80 µL of supernatant for PCR testing. We 175 confirmed successful DNA extraction using the mitochondrial primers HCO2198/LCO1490 176 (Folmer et al. 1994). We performed PCRs in 10 µL reactions, using 4.95 µL of molecular biology 177 grade water, 2 µL NEB OneTag Buffer, 1 µL of mixed dNTPS at a final concentration of 2mM for 178 each dNTP, 1 µL of a 5 µM solution of each primer, and 0.05 µL of NEB OneTag. For the 179 mitochondrial primer set, PCR conditions included an initial denaturation of 94° C for 1 minute; 5 180 cycles of 94° C denaturation for 30s, 45° C annealing for 90s, and 68° C extension for 60s. The 181 samples then underwent 35 cycles of 94° C for 30s, 51° C for 90s, and 68° C for 60s. This was 182 followed by a final extension step of 68° C for 5 minutes. To test for Wolbachia, we performed 183 PCR using Wolbachia-specific primers targeting the wsp (81f/691r) and ftsZ (ftsZf1/ftsZr1) 184 genes (Braig et al. 1998; Werren John H. et al. 1995). We performed PCRs in 10 µL reactions, 185 using 4.95 µL of molecular biology grade water, 2 µL NEB OneTag Buffer, 1 µL of mixed dNTPs 186 at a final concentration of 2mM for each dNTP, 1 µL of either wsp or ftsZ primers, and 0.05 µL 187 of NEB OneTag. PCR conditions contained an initial denaturation of 95°C for 5 minutes, 188 followed by 36 cycles of 95° C for 60s, 54° C for 60s, and 68°C for 3 minutes. This was followed 189 by a final extension step at 68° C for 10 minutes.

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191 Androgenic gland implantation and crosses

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193 To test whether sex is determined by a ZZ/ZW or XX/XY system of sex determination in our

194 population of *T. rathkei*, we performed crosses between females and experimentally sex-

195 reversed neo-males. Juvenile female *T. rathkei* were implanted with live androgenic glands,

196 according to (Becking et al. 2017). Male donors and female recipients were selected from large 197 lab-reared broods with even (~1:1) sex ratios. An adult male was sacrificed by decapitation, and 198 live androgenic glands were dissected into Ringer solution (393 mM NaCl. 2 mM KCl. 2 mM 199 CaCl₂·2H₂O, 2 mM NaHCO₃). Female recipients were between 5 and 8 weeks old, an age at 200 which males and females begin to become distinguishable, but at which sexual development is 201 not complete. The gland was injected using a pulled glass pipette into a hole pierced with a 202 dissecting needle in the 6th or 7th segment of the juvenile female's pereon. Recipients were 203 isolated in a small plastic container with a moist paper towel for recovery and observation. 204 Experimental animals were monitored for signs of male development. Any animal that failed to 205 develop male genitalia by 4 months post-implantation was considered to be a failed injection. 206 After maturation, adult neo-males were placed in individual containers with 1-3 previously 207 unmated females. Crosses were monitored twice weekly to check for signs of reproduction in 208 females. Gravid females were then isolated into their own containers until parturition. 209 210 Genome sequencing 211 212 All raw sequencing data and the draft genome assembly are available under NCBI BioProject 213 PRJNA633105. Data analysis scripts are available at 214 https://github.com/chandlerlab/trachelipus genome. 215 216 We performed whole-genome sequencing using a combination of Illumina, PacBio, and Oxford 217 Nanopore sequencing, with multiple sequencing samples of each sex (Table 1). Because we

218 expected the *T. rathkei* genome to be large, repetitive, and highly polymorphic, and because we

219 expected to need to isolate DNA from multiple individuals, we established a partially inbred

- 220 laboratory line using offspring from a single female collected from RCFS. We mated brothers
- and sisters from this female for two generations in the lab prior to collecting genetic samples

from the third generation for sequencing. DNA was collected for sequencing using the Qiagen
DNEasy Blood and Tissue Kit following the manufacturer's instructions. DNA was quantified
using the Qubit DNA Broad Range assay kit, and the A260/280 value was checked with a
Nanodrop spectrophotometer. Samples were stored at -80°C prior to being shipped to the
sequencing center. Illumina sequencing was performed at the State University of New York at
Buffalo Genomics and Bioinformatics Core Facility.

228

229 For PacBio sequencing, we had to pool DNA from multiple individuals to obtain sufficient 230 quantities of DNA for library preparation. We performed separate DNA extractions from three 231 individuals of each sex as above. Then, we pooled the DNA from the three individuals of each 232 sex and concentrated it using Ampure XP beads (Beckman-Coulter). Briefly, we washed the 233 beads three times in molecular biology grade water, once in Qiagen buffer EB, and finally re-234 suspended the beads in their original buffer. We then added equal volumes of Ampure XP 235 suspension to the DNA samples, mixed them on a shaker for 15 minutes, placed the tubes on a 236 magnetic bead separator, and removed the supernatant. We washed the beads twice with 1.5 237 mL of 70% ethanol, and finally eluted the DNA samples in 30 µL of Qiagen buffer EB. 238 Sequencing libraries were prepared and sequenced at the University of Delaware Sequencing & 239 Genotyping Center on a PacBio RSII.

240

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

245

246 Genome assembly

248 We performed a hybrid assembly combining the short- and long-read sequence data. We first 249 removed adapters and trimmed the Illumina sequencing data using Trimmomatic v. 0.36 (Bolger 250 et al. 2014): we removed leading and trailing bases, as well as internal windows of at least 4bp. 251 with a quality score of 5 or lower, and discarded any reads shorter than 36bp after trimming. We 252 then used SparseAssembler (Ye et al. 2012) to assemble the cleaned Illumina data from sample 253 Mpool (to minimize the number of sequence polymorphisms that would be present in the data 254 with additional samples), using two different kmer sizes (k=51 and k=61). After performing 255 preliminary quality checks using Quast (Gurevich et al. 2013), we decided to proceed with the 256 k=61 assembly, which had the longer total length and N50 (Supplementary Table 1). However, 257 because we suspected the genome might still contain high levels of heterozygosity despite two 258 generations of inbreeding, we used Redudans (Pryszcz & Gabaldón 2016) to remove putative 259 allelic contigs from the Illumina-only assembly; we set identity and overlap thresholds of 95%. 260

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

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We next performed hybrid assembly using DBG2OLC (Ye et al. 2016), which accepts a shortread assembly (rather than raw short-read sequence data) and long-read sequence data (in this case, our PacBio and Oxford Nanopore reads) as input. We tested out a range of different parameter values: from the Redundans-filtered assembly, we first removed contigs less than 100bp or 200bp; we tested kmer sizes of 17 and 19; for the kmer coverage threshold, we tried values of 2 and 5; and for the minimum overlap, we tried values of 10 and 30. We used an

273	adaptive threshold of 0.01.	These assemblies ranged in size from	~5.2 Gb to 8.5 Gb; we

- selected three assemblies across the range of total sizes for further processing.
- 275

276 We next corrected errors in these assemblies, caused by the relatively high error rates in long-277 read sequence data. In the standard DBG2OLC pipeline, the resulting contigs are corrected 278 using the contigs from the short-read assembly and from the long reads using Sparc (Ye & Ma 279 2016); however, in our initial attempts, large portions of the assemblies went uncorrected, 280 perhaps because we had relatively low-coverage long-read data. Therefore, instead we 281 performed three rounds of error correction using Pilon (Walker et al. 2014), by mapping the raw 282 Illumina sequence reads to each assembly using bbmap (first two rounds; (Bushnell et al. 283 2017)) and bwa mem (third round; with the parameters -A 1 -B 1 -O 1 -E 1 -k 11 -W 20 -d 0.5 -L 284 6 for mapping to an error-prone assembly; (Li 2013)). 285 286 Finally, we assessed the quality of each assembly using BUSCO v.3.0.2 (Simão et al. 2015), 287 with the arthropod reference gene set, and selected the assembly with the greatest number of 288 BUSCO reference genes present for further analysis. 289 290 To remove contaminants from the final assembly, we generated blob plots using Blobtools v.1.0 291 (Laetsch & Blaxter 2017). To accomplish this, we BLASTed all contigs against the NCBI nucleotide (nt) database using megablast (Morgulis et al. 2008) and against Uniprot reference 292 293 proteomes using diamond blastx (Buchfink et al. 2015). We then removed any contigs that were 294 identified as coming from plants, fungi, viruses, or bacteria, except for those matching 295 Wolbachia. 296

297 <u>Genome annotation</u>

We used RepeatModeler v.1.0.10, which uses RECON (Bao & Eddy 2002), RepeatScout (Price et al. 2005), and Tandem Repeat Finder (Benson 1999), to construct a custom repeat library for *T. rathkei*. Because we were unable to run RepeatModeler successfully using the full assembly, we ran RepeatModeler on a random subset 40% of the contigs; this should still successfully identify most repetitive elements in the genome as long as all repeat families are still well represented in the subset. We then masked the assembly using RepeatMasker 4.0.7 (Tarailo-Graovac & Chen 2009).

306

307 We annotated coding sequences using the MAKER pipeline (Cantarel et al. 2008). We initially 308 ran MAKER using assembled transcript sequences (est2genome=1) from previously available 309 data from one wild-caught male and one wild-caught female T. rathkei from the same population 310 (Becking et al. 2017) (SRR5198727, SRR5198726), along with protein alignments against 311 Uniprot-Swissprot (version March 2020) and used the resulting output to train SNAP (Korf 312 2004). To train AUGUSTUS (Stanke et al. 2006) we used the output from the BUSCO quality 313 assessment described earlier. We then completed a final round of MAKER using the trained 314 gene models.

315

316 Development of sex-linked PCR markers

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We used multiple approaches to develop male-specific, putatively Y-linked PCR markers. Initial attempts to perform a genomic assembly with male samples and then identify contigs with zero coverage in females were unsuccessful. We therefore developed a complementary approach by looking for male-specific k-mers in the raw sequencing reads. We used kmc v.3.1.0 (Kokot et al. 2017) to count all the canonical 21-mers in each of the Illumina sequencing datasets (in other words, each 21-mer and its reverse complement were considered to be the same k-mer during counting). We then searched for k-mers that occurred at least 8 times in the Mpool Illumina sequencing dataset and a total of at least 3 times combined across the lower coverage M2, M5,
M6, and wildM samples, but which were completely absent from all female samples. We then
extracted all sequence reads containing these candidate male-specific k-mers using mirabait
v.4.0.2 (Chevreux et al. 1999), and assembled them using Spades v.3.11.1 (Bankevich et al.
2012).

330

331 To test male-specificity of these contigs, we used polymerase chain reaction (PCR). We 332 developed PCR primers for a subset of candidate male-specific contigs. To identify the best 333 candidates, we first mapped raw sequencing reads from all male and female samples to the full 334 genome sequence plus the candidate male-specific contigs, and identified contigs that had 335 coverage in male samples but not female samples; we also avoided contigs that showed 336 evidence of containing repeat elements, after BLAST searches against the whole genome 337 assembly. We designed primers using PRIMER3 (Untergasser et al. 2012, 3). In these PCRs, 338 primers were initially screened using template DNA from two male samples and two female 339 samples; primers that showed evidence of sex specificity after this first PCR were re-tested 340 using a larger number of samples. PCR primers were initially tested using a cycle of 98°C for 3 341 minutes, followed by 40 cycles of 98°C for 15s, 50°C for 35s, and 68°C for 60s; this was 342 followed by a final extension step of 68°C for 10 minutes. For samples that did not amplify under 343 this program, a gradient PCR was run to determine optimal annealing temperature. All PCRs 344 were performed using the same recipe and reaction conditions as the Wolbachia PCRs 345 described above.

346

We also identified open reading frames (ORFs) in these candidate male-specific contigs using
Transdecoder v.4.0.0 (Haas & Papanicolaou 2016), and annotated the ORFs using Trinotate
v.3.1.1 (Bryant et al. 2017). Subsequently, we designed additional primers targeting these
ORFs.

- 351
- 352 Results
- 353
- 354 No Wolbachia and balanced sex ratios in *T. rathkei*
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356 Among the 100+ individuals captured and tested between 2015 and 2017, no T. rathkei from 357 RCFS conclusively tested positive for Wolbachia. This was not due to inadequate testing 358 protocols; for instance, a captive population of *Porcellio laevis* housed in our lab shows nearly a 359 100% infection rate using the same methods (not shown). Approximately 150 T. rathkei broods 360 were raised in the lab from either mated, wild-caught females or first-generation crosses. The 361 mean and median brood sizes of this species in our lab were 27.1 and 22.5 offspring, 362 respectively, and the vast majority of these broods had a balanced sex ratio (Supplementary 363 Table 2). Thus, the prevalence of *Wolbachia* and other sex ratio distorters is at most very low in 364 this population of *T. rathkei*. In addition, some wild-caught females produced broods even after 365 several months to a year in isolation in the lab (Supplementary Table 2), confirming that this 366 species is capable of long-term sperm storage. 367 368 Crossing sex-reversed individuals indicates an XY sex determination system 369 370 Five juveniles implanted with androgenic glands survived to mature into males; they were 371 crossed with virgin females from families with normal sex ratios. Each putative neo-male was 372 paired with 2 to 3 females, and each female produced 1-3 broods of offspring. Two of these 373 males sired broods with balanced sex ratios (not significantly different from a 1:1 ratio of males 374 to females; Table 2); these were likely individuals that would have developed into males even 375 without the AG implantation, and thus are uninformative with respect to the sex determination 376 system (Becking et al. 2017). However, three other males produced only female offspring,

377	consistent with an XX/XY system (XX neo-male × XX female yields all XX and therefore 100%
378	female offspring) but not a ZZ/ZW system (ZW neo-male × ZW female expected to produce 1/4
379	ZZ, 1/2 ZW, and 1/4 WW offspring, thus 75% female or 66.7% female depending on whether
380	WW genotypes are viable).

381

382 Genome assembly

383

The draft genome assembly of *T. rathkei* is approximately 5.2 Gb in total length. The genome is highly repetitive, consisting of approximately 70% repetitive elements. Transposable elements constitute the largest repeat category, with LINEs, followed by DNA elements and LTRs, being the most represented (Figure 1). All repeat families seem to have a single divergence peak of around 7-10% (Figure 1).

389

Despite its large size, the draft assembly is likely only partially complete, with ~25% of arthropod BUSCO genes missing (Table 3). There were 15,805 transcripts assembled from the previously available transcriptome dataset whose best hits in blastn searches against the NCBI nt database and diamond blastx searches against Uniprot-Swissprot were from other arthropods; of those, only 53% had nearly full-length matches in the genome (\geq 90% of the transcript length at \geq 90% sequence identity), suggesting some missing data and/or remaining uncorrected sequencing errors in the draft assembly as well.

397

We screened the *T. rathkei* genome for *Wolbachia* nuclear insertions by BLASTing the assembled contigs against a collection of *Wolbachia* genome sequences, and then BLASTing the matching regions against all representative bacterial genomes from RefSeq to rule out false positives. After this filtering step, we were left with 1010 high confidence matches (best BLAST hit in a *Wolbachia* genome, e-value < 1 x 10⁻⁶) spread across 719 contigs, with a total length of

403	~350 kb for the matching sequences (Supplementary Table 3), much smaller than a typical full
404	Wolbachia genome of about 1 - 1.6 Mb on average (Sun et al. 2001). These likely horizontally
405	acquired sequences clustered closely with Wolbachia strain wCon from the isopod Cylisticus
406	convexus (Badawi et al. 2018) with 100% bootstrap support, in a group sister to $wVulC$ and the f
407	element of Armadillidium vulgare (Leclercq et al. 2016) (Figure 2). Moreover, there were
408	multiple insertions carrying sequences similar to the cytoplasmic incompatibility genes cifA and
409	<i>cifB</i> genes (LePage et al. 2017; Beckmann et al. 2017; Lindsey et al. 2018). These <i>cifA</i> - and
410	cifB-like sequences probably represent nonfunctional pseudogenes, however, as they show
411	evidence of being broken up by insertions (Supplementary Figure 1).
412	
413	Searching for candidate sex-determining genes
414	
415	We identified ~6.04 x 10^6 21-mers as potentially male-specific, suggesting there is
416	approximately 6 Mb of male-specific sequence content in the genome. However, when we
417	isolated the raw sequencing reads containing those 21-mers and assembled them, we obtained
418	89.4 Mb of assembled sequences, suggesting the male-specific region may be as large as \sim 90
419	Mb, but still shares significant similarity with the X chromosome. Even if up to 90 Mb of
420	sequence is partially sex-linked, this represents just 1.7% of the genome, consistent with an
421	evolutionarily young Y chromosome in this species.
422	
423	Of the initial 16 candidate Y-linked PCR markers designed from anonymous sequences, none
424	showed the expected pattern of male-specific amplification in our early tests (Supplementary
425	Table 4). This may be due to the highly repetitive nature of the <i>T. rathkei</i> genome, despite our
426	best efforts to target primers to non-repetitive sequences.
427	

428 Because the candidate male-specific contigs were assembled from Illumina data only and thus 429 short and fragmented, we were unable to screen them for annotated candidate sex-determining 430 genes using the typical MAKER pipeline. However, we were able to identify open reading 431 frames (ORFs) and annotate them like transcripts using Trinotate (Bryant et al. 2017). Two 432 contigs in the male-specific assembly showed homology to the androgenic gland hormone 433 (AGH) gene upon annotation, suggesting there may be a Y-linked duplication of the AGH gene. 434 Therefore, we designed PCR primers specifically targeting one of the Y-linked AGH-like 435 sequences (AGHY1 on NODE 44048 length 535; F: 5'-ATTCTTGACTCTCCCCACGA-3'; R: 436 5'-TCTCCAACTACGATTTCGTTAATT-3'). These primers resulted in a PCR product of the 437 expected size (195 bp) in all male samples screened (7/7), but not in any of the female samples 438 (0/7), all of which were unrelated wild-caught individuals, confirming the male-specificity of this 439 AGH allele.

440

441 This AGH sequence could be either a male-specific duplication of the AGH gene, or a Y-linked 442 allele that has diverged from an X-linked copy (in other words, gametologs). To distinguish 443 between these possibilities, we examined the sequencing depth of these genes and of other 444 putatively single-copy genes (identified in the BUSCO analysis) in male and female sequencing 445 samples. If the male-specific AGH sequence is a gametolog of an X-linked sequence, we would 446 expect the total sequencing depth of all AGH sequences (putative autosomal and putative Y-447 linked) to be the same in both the pooled male and pooled female samples, with the female 448 sample having a higher average sequencing depth for the putative X-linked AGH sequences 449 (since they would be homozygous for the X-linked gametologs, while males would be 450 hemizygous for the X-linked gametologs). If, on the other hand, the male-specific AGH 451 sequences are Y-linked duplicates, and not allelic to the other AGH sequences in our assembly, 452 we would expect the shared autosomal AGH sequences to have similar sequencing depth in 453 both male and female samples, and the combined sequencing depth of all AGH sequences

(putative autosomal and putative Y-linked) would be higher in the male sample. Our results
were consistent with the latter scenario, suggesting these are Y-linked duplicates rather than
gametologs (Figure 3). Note that sequencing depth of AGHY1 and AGHY2, though much lower
in the female sample than in the male sample, is still non-zero in the female sample, probably
because of ambiguously mapped reads due to high similarity between the Y-linked and
autosomal copies.

460

461 Because the male-specific AGH sequences were found only in our Illumina data, we were 462 unable to assemble them into long contigs, even after repeated attempts to assemble them 463 individually with different assemblers and parameter values (not shown); all these contigs were 464 \sim 600bp or less in length. Thus we are unable to determine whether these are complete 465 duplicates of the whole gene, or fragments. Nevertheless, a phylogenetic analysis suggests that 466 one of the Y-linked duplicates is a copy of the other, rather than an independent duplication of 467 an autosomal copy, and based on branch lengths they are as divergent from one another as 468 AGH orthologs in different species (Figure 3). In addition, these Y-linked copies seem to lack an 469 intron that is present in the autosomal copies (Figure 4), suggesting they may have originated 470 via retrotransposition.

471

472 We also find some evidence of additional autosomal duplicates of the androgenic gland 473 hormone (AGH) gene. Two contigs in the full assembly contained annotated transcripts with at 474 least partial homology to the expressed transcript identified as the AGH sequence, and a third 475 contained no annotated genes but still showed high sequence similarity to AGH in BLAST 476 searches. However, not all of the annotated exons in the first two copies matched the expressed 477 transcript, and there were unannotated portions of the same contigs that did show sequence 478 similarity to the transcript (Figure 4). Moreover, some of the matching portions of the assembled 479 contigs had less than 90% sequence identity to the expressed transcript, and analysis of the

480 sequencing depth of these regions reveals that one has very low coverage, suggesting it may 481 be an assembly artifact (see below). Thus, we cannot rule out the possibility that some of these 482 possible autosomal duplicates represent assembly and/or annotation artifacts. If they are real, 483 these autosomal duplicates appear to be specific to Trachelipus, occurring after its divergence 484 from *Porcellio* (Figure 3), but they may still be nonfunctional. 485 486 Discussion 487 488 Possible sex chromosome polymorphism and recent transition to XY sex chromosomes in 489 Trachelipus rathkei 490 491 We have shown that, at least in our upstate New York population, sex determination in the 492 terrestrial isopod Trachelipus rathkei is based on an XX/XY sex chromosome system. Two 493 independent lines of evidence support this finding: first, crosses between females and sex-494 reversed neo-males yielded all female offspring (Table 2), consistent with an XX/XY system but 495 not a ZZ/ZW system (Becking et al. 2017); second, we have identified PCR primers that only 496 amplify a product in male samples, indicating the presence of a male-specific genomic region, 497 i.e., a Y chromosome. 498 499 Our findings run counter to a previously published study showing evidence of female 500 heterogamety in this species based on cytogenetics; in that study, female germ cells contained 501 one set of unpaired chromosomes (presumably, the Z and W sex chromosomes), while male 502 germ cells did not (Mittal & Pahwa 1980). There are multiple possible explanations for this 503 contradiction. First, it is possible that the previous study incorrectly identified the species of 504 study specimens, as no information on identification is given in the paper; however, T. rathkei is 505 relatively easy to distinguish from other cosmopolitan terrestrial isopod species by its five pairs

506 of pleopodal "lungs" (most superficially similar species such as *Porcellio scaber* have only two 507 pairs; (Hatchett 1947; Shultz 2018)). In addition, that study was published before feminizing 508 Wolbachia was widely recognized in terrestrial isopods. It is therefore theoretically possible that 509 the females used in that study carried an XY genotype but were feminized by Wolbachia, while 510 the males in that study might have carried a YY genotype, perhaps resulting from a cross 511 between an XY father and a sex-reversed XY or YY mother which failed to transmit Wolbachia 512 (Becking et al. 2019). However, we found no evidence of sex-reversing Wolbachia in our T. 513 rathkei population.

514

515 Perhaps the most likely explanation is sex chromosome polymorphism. Indeed, this would not 516 be unprecedented, as sex determination in terrestrial isopods is thought to evolve rapidly 517 (Rigaud et al. 1997; Cordaux et al. 2011; Becking et al. 2017), and within-species sex 518 chromosome polymorphisms are documented in a few other species. For instance, two 519 subspecies of Porcellio dilatatus, P. dilatatus dilatatus and P. dilatatus petiti have XX/XY and 520 ZZ/ZW systems, respectively (Juchault & Legrand 1964; Legrand et al. 1974; Becking et al. 521 2017). In addition, multiple sex determining elements segregate in populations of the common 522 pillbug Armadillidium vulgare (Juchault et al. 1992), including a novel W chromosome that 523 resulted from the integration of an almost entire Wolbachia genome into the host genome 524 (Leclercg et al. 2016). Outside terrestrial isopods, sex chromosome polymorphisms are also 525 documented in a range of other arthropods and vertebrates (Rodrigues et al. 2013; Orzack et al. 526 1980; Franco et al. 1982; Ogata et al. 2008). *T. rathkei* is probably non-native in North America 527 where this study was conducted (Jass & Klausmeier 2000), as well as perhaps in India where 528 the prior study on cytogenetics was done (Mittal & Pahwa 1980). Given its cosmopolitan 529 distribution, and the fact that other terrestrial isopods have moderate to high levels of genetic 530 diversity (Romiguier et al. 2014), it might not be especially surprising for T. rathkei to harbor

531 multiple polymorphic sex-determining loci. Hopefully future follow-up work can further

532 characterize geographic variation in sex determination in this species.

533

534 Regardless of whether or not sex determination is polymorphic in *T. rathkei*, the sex 535 chromosomes in this species are likely evolutionarily young because it is nested within a clade 536 that mostly consists of ZZ/ZW species (Becking et al. 2019). In addition, the putative male-537 specific region of its genome is relatively small, displaying only moderate divergence from 538 candidate gametologous sequences, similar to other terrestrial isopods examined so far (Chebbi 539 et al. 2019; Becking et al. 2019). Given that we found genomic evidence of a past association 540 with Wolbachia in this species and that infection by Wolbachia has been found in other T. 541 rathkei populations (Cordaux et al. 2012), this observation is consistent with the hypothesis that 542 transitions in sex determination mechanisms may be triggered by Wolbachia and other 543 endosymbionts that manipulate host reproduction (Rigaud et al. 1997; Cordaux et al. 2011). If 544 other populations of T. rathkei with different sex determination mechanisms can be identified, it 545 may be possible to leverage this system to further study the mechanisms and selective forces 546 influencing transitions in sex determination mechanisms. In addition, studies of sex 547 determination in a phylogenetic context involving other members of the family Trachelipodidae 548 would shed further light on the origins of the X and Y chromosomes in T. rathkei. 549 550 Genome size, structure, and repetitive elements 551 552 The draft genome assembly of *T. rathkei* is especially large, at around 5.2 Gb, with

approximately 29% GC content. The actual genome is likely to be even larger, given that ~25%

of the BUSCO arthropod orthologs were missing in our assembly. By comparison, genomes of

pillbugs in the genus *Armadillidium* tend to be smaller at around 1.2 - 2 Gb in size (Chebbi et al.

556 2019; Becking et al. 2019), but other terrestrial isopods have genomes ranging to over 8 Gb

(Gregory 2020), and other crustacean relatives such as amphipods also have large genomes
(Rees et al. 2007; Rivarola-Duarte et al. 2014; Kao et al. 2016), so *T. rathkei* is not out of the
ordinary for this group.

560

561 The *T. rathkei* genome contains a large proportion of repetitive elements, in particular 562 transposable elements (Figure 1). The most common transposable element families are LINEs, 563 DNA elements, and LTRs, similar to Armadillidium vulgare and A. nasatum (Chebbi et al. 2019; 564 Becking et al. 2019). The distribution of divergence values, with a single mode around 7-10% 565 divergence, suggests that most repeat families expanded around the same time as in A, vulgare 566 and A. nasatum; however, unlike in A. vulgare, T. rathkei shows no evidence of a second more 567 recent burst in DNA element activity. Simple repeats also comprise a substantial portion of the 568 genome; even manually looking through the assembled contigs reveals a high abundance of 569 (TA)x repeats.

570

571 *Wolbachia* insertions

572

573 We found many contigs with high similarity to the Wolbachia genome (Supplementary Table 3), 574 even though we were unable to detect current Wolbachia infections in our population using 575 PCR. This is not surprising given that Wolbachia is relatively common in terrestrial isopods and 576 arthropods in general (Cordaux et al. 2012; Pascar & Chandler 2018; Medina et al. 2019), has 577 been found in other populations of T. rathkei (Cordaux et al. 2012), and that horizontal transfers 578 of Wolbachia DNA into host genomes is also common (Dunning Hotopp 2011). These 579 Wolbachia insertions seem to be most closely related to strain wCon from C. convexus, which 580 does not induce male-to-female sex reversal, but rather causes cytoplasmic incompatibility 581 (Moret et al. 2001; Badawi et al. 2018). Consistent with this, we find that several copies of the 582 cytoplasmic incompatibility genes cifA and cifB among these insertions in the T. rathkei genome

583	(Supplementary Figure 1). Thus, these past <i>T. rathkei</i> infections may have caused cytoplasmic
584	incompatibility rather than host sex reversal, but it is possible that the same Wolbachia strain
585	may have multiple effects on host phenotypes.

586

587 <u>Candidate sex-determining genes and repeated duplication of the AGH gene</u>

588

589 Male differentiation in terrestrial isopods is controlled by the androgenic gland hormone, AGH. 590 AGH is a peptide hormone similar in structure to insulin, and is secreted by the androgenic 591 gland (Martin et al. 1999). AGH expression is sufficient to transform juvenile female isopods into 592 fertile males (Martin et al. 1999). Presumably, in wild-type males, the primary sex-determining 593 signal triggers the differentiation of the androgenic glands during development, which then 594 secretes AGH. Interestingly, the draft genome of T. rathkei contains multiple AGH-like 595 sequences. While some of these may be assembly artifacts, there is evidence three at least 596 partial Y-linked sequences, of which one was confirmed by PCR to be male-specific. These 597 duplications seem to be specific to *T. rathkei* (Figure 5), though other members of the genus 598 Trachelipus or the family Trachelipodidae have yet to be examined. Consistent with this, a past 599 study found no evidence of any expressed AGH duplications in other terrestrial isopod species 600 except Porcellio gallicus (Cerveau et al. 2014).

601

In many other species, novel sex chromosomes have arisen via duplication of a sex-determining gene. For instance, duplicates of the vertebrate gene *Dmrt1* have evolved into master sexdetermining signals on the W and Y chromosomes, respectively, in the frog *Xenopus laevis* (Yoshimoto et al. 2008) and the medaka *Oryzias latipes* (Nanda et al. 2002; Matsuda et al. 2002, 2007), while a Y-linked duplicate of the anti-Müllerian hormone gene is a candidate master sex-determining gene in the teleost fish *Odontesthes hatcheri* (Hattori et al. 2012). The presence of Y-linked AGH copies in *T. rathkei*, and no other obvious open reading frames homologous to known sex determination or sex differentiation genes, makes these genes obvious candidates for the master male-determining signal in *T. rathkei*. Unfortunately, we were unable to assemble full copies of these Y-linked AGH homologs because they only showed up in our Illumina data, not in our low-coverage long read data. Future deep sequencing using long reads should further clarify the molecular evolution of these genes. In addition, expression studies should determine which of these genes are expressed, in what tissues, and at what stages.

616

617 If one of these AGH duplicates is indeed the master sex-determining signal in *T. rathkei*, this 618 could support the idea of a transition in sex determination mechanisms triggered by Wolbachia 619 and other reproductive endosymbionts (Rigaud et al. 1997; Cordaux et al. 2011). AGH may be a 620 primary molecular target by which Wolbachia causes male-to-female sex reversal in isopod 621 hosts, as injection with AGH does not cause female-to-male sex reversal in individuals infected 622 by Wolbachia (Juchault & Legrand 1985; Cordaux & Gilbert 2017). Thus, Wolbachia may 623 impose strong selection (via female-biased sex ratios) favoring duplication and divergence of 624 the AGH gene to escape this sex reversal. The finding that T. rathkei may have historically been 625 infected by a Wolbachia strain causing cytoplasmic incompatibility does not necessarily negate 626 this finding, as the same *Wolbachia* strain can have multiple effects on host phenotypes.

627

628 Conclusions

629

We have shown that the terrestrial isopod *Trachelipus rathkei* uses an XX/XY sex chromosome system, at least in upstate New York, in contrast to a past cytogenetic study suggesting a ZZ/ZW mechanism (Mittal & Pahwa 1980). In line with this, whole-genome sequencing and follow-up PCRs demonstrate the existence of male-specific, Y-linked copies of the androgenic gland hormone gene in this species. These findings highlight the role of gene duplication in the

- 635 evolution of sex chromosomes and support the possibility that reproductive endosymbionts like
- *Wolbachia* may favor evolutionary transitions in host sex determination mechanisms.

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641

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Sample name	Sex	Notes	Platform/ read length	Total data (Gb)	Ref.	Accession Number
M-pool	М	Pool of three brothers, lab-reared	Illumina, 2x100	191.6	This study	SRR11797365
F-pool	F	Pool of three sisters, lab-reared	Illumina, 2x100	191.9	This study	SRR11797364
M2	М	One male, lab- reared	Illumina, 2x250	22.3	This study	SRR11797360
M5	М	One male, lab- reared	Illumina, 2x250	20.6	This study	SRR11797359
M6	М	One male, lab- reared	Illumina, 2x250	23.6	This study	SRR11797358
F3	F	One female, lab- reared	Illumina, 2x250	131.5	This study	SRR11797357
F4	F	One female, lab- reared	Illumina, 2x250	26.8	This study	SRR11797356
Wild-M	М	One male, wild- caught	Illumina, 2x100	14.1	(Chandler et al. 2015)	SRR4000567
Wild-F	F	One female, wild- caught	Illumina, 2x100	14.4	(Chandler et al. 2015)	SRR4000573
PB-F1	F	Pool of three sisters, lab-reared	PacBio	22.2	This study; (Peccoud et al. 2017)	SRR11797355
PB-F2	F	Pool of three sisters, lab-reared	PacBio	1.3	This study; (Peccoud et al. 2017)	SRR11797354
PB-M	М	Pool of three brothers, lab-reared	PacBio	3.9	This study; (Peccoud et al. 2017)	SRR11797353
ONT-F	F	One female	ONT	0.4	This study	SRR11797363
ONT-M1	М	One male	ONT	3.9	This study	SRR11797362
ONT-M2	М	One male	ONT	3.3	This study	SRR11797361

644	Table 1.	Trachelipus	rathkei DNA	samples	used for	genomic	sequencing.
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647 **Table 2.** Sex ratios from crosses between putative neo-males (juvenile females implanted with

648 an androgenic gland) and females. *p* gives the probability of the observed or a more extreme

result (pooling the data for each neo-male) under a balanced sex ratio (i.e., assuming each

650 individual offspring has an equal probability of being male or female).

651

Neo-male	Female	Number of female offspring	Number of male offspring	p
D-4-7	1	23	0	5.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁴
	2	14	0	
	3	7	0	
G-4-22	1	16	8	0.13
	2	17	14	
	3	13	13	
F-4-9	1	36	0	1.7 x 10 ⁻¹⁸
	2	23	0	
10-8	1	24	35	0.19
	2	40	40	
AGS169-2	1	45	0	2.1 x 10 ⁻²⁵
	2	37	0	

652

654	Table 3. Assembly	v statistics for the T.	rathkei draft genome.
			rad mor aran gomerner

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%)

657 Figure Legends

658

Figure 1. Distribution of divergence levels for repetitive elements in the *Trachelipus rathkei*aenome.

661

662 Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree showing the position of candidate horizontally transferred 663 Wolbachia segments in the Trachelipus rathkei genome. Numbers by nodes indicate bootstrap 664 support. The tree was generated by concatenating all candidate Wolbachia insertions in T. 665 rathkei longer than 1000 bp, along with the best-matching regions in the reference Wolbachia 666 genomes, aligning with MUSCLE v. 3.8.31 (Edgar 2004), filtering alignments with trimal v. 667 1.2rev59 (Capella-Gutiérrez et al. 2009), selecting a model using ModelTest-NG v. 0.1.6 668 (Darriba et al. 2020), and running the analysis in RAxML-NG v. 0.9.0 (Stamatakis 2014) with 669 100 bootstrap replicates. 670

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

674

Figure 4. Possible duplicates of the androgenic gland hormone gene in the *Trachelipus rathkei* genome. The green bars represent the sequence of the expressed AGH sequence, assembled from previously available transcriptome data. Gray bars represent contigs in the draft genome assembly, and the pink bars on contigs represent annotated exons. Purple segments connecting portions of the transcript to portions of contigs represent BLAST hits. The incongruence between annotated exons and BLAST matches between the transcript and contigs suggests the annotation still contains some errors.

- 683 **Figure 5.** Phylogenetic tree showing relationships among AGH sequences from terrestrial
- 684 isopods. AGH2 and AGHY3 are missing from this phylogeny because those sequences were
- 685 omitted because of their short length. The tree was generated using all AGH-like sequences
- 686 from *T. rathkei* of at least 100 bp, along with reference AGH nucleotide sequences from other
- species, aligning them with MUSCLE v. 3.8.31 (Edgar 2004), selecting a model using
- 688 ModelTest-NG v. 0.1.6 (Darriba et al. 2020), and running the analysis in RAxML-NG v. 0.9.0
- 689 (Stamatakis 2014) with 100 bootstrap replicates.
- 690
- 691
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982 Figure 1



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985 Figure 2



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988 Figure 3



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AGHY3, NODE_65428_length_363_cov_4.945205

994 Figure 5

