

1 A chromosome-level reference genome for the
2 common octopus, *Octopus vulgaris* (Cuvier,
3 1797)

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25

26 Abstract

27 Cephalopods are emerging animal models and include iconic species for studying the link between
28 genomic innovations and physiological and behavioral complexities. Coleoid cephalopods possess the
29 largest nervous system among invertebrates, both for cell counts and brain-to-body ratio. *Octopus*
30 *vulgaris* has been at the center of a long-standing tradition of research into diverse aspects of cephalopod
31 biology, including behavioral and neural plasticity, learning and memory recall, regeneration, and
32 sophisticated cognition. However, no chromosome-scale genome assembly is available for *O. vulgaris* to
33 aid in functional studies. To fill this gap, we sequenced and assembled a chromosome-scale genome of
34 the common octopus, *O. vulgaris*. The final assembly spans 2.8 billion basepairs, 99.34% of which are in
35 30 chromosome-scale scaffolds. Hi-C heatmaps support a karyotype of 1n=30 chromosomes.
36 Comparisons with other octopus species' genomes show a conserved octopus karyotype, and a pattern of
37 local genome rearrangements between species. This new chromosome-scale genome of *O. vulgaris* will
38 further facilitate research in all aspects of cephalopod biology, including various forms of plasticity and
39 the neural machinery underlying sophisticated cognition, as well as an understanding of cephalopod
40 evolution.

41 Introduction

42 Coleoid cephalopods (cuttlefish, squid, and octopus) comprise about 800 extant species
43 characterized by highly diversified lifestyles, body plans, and adaptations. Cephalopod-specific traits,
44 such as complex nervous systems (Young 1964; Hochner et al. 2006; Hochner 2012; Fiorito et al. 2014;
45 Wang and Ragsdale 2019; Ponte et al. 2021), advanced learning abilities (reviewed in Marini et al. 2017),
46 and the richness in body patterning considered to be involved in camouflaging and communication
47 (Borrelli et al. 2006; Chiao and Hanlon 2019) have made this taxon ideal for studying evolutionary
48 novelties. The neural plasticity of cephalopod brains and the existence of evidence for functionally
49 analogous structures shared with mammalian brains have made cephalopods into a model comparative
50 clade for neurophysiology research (Shigeno et al. 2018; Styfhals et al. 2022).

51 Despite the technical difficulties of sequencing their typically large and repetitive genomes, the
52 available cephalopod genomes have given insights into the genomic basis for the evolution of novelty
53 (Albertin et al. 2015, 2022; Jiang et al. 2022; Kim et al. 2018; Li et al. 2020; Marino et al. 2022;
54 Schmidbaur et al. 2022). The first-published cephalopod genome, that of *Octopus bimaculoides* (Albertin
55 et al. 2015), made it clear that cephalopod genomic novelties were not attributable to whole-genome
56 duplication, as occurred in the vertebrate ancestor (Meyer and Schartl 1999; Dehal and Boore 2005).
57 Comparisons of recently available chromosome-scale genome assemblies, including those of the Boston
58 market squid *Doryteuthis pealeii* (Albertin et al. 2022) and the Hawaiian bobtail squid *Euprymna*
59 *scopipes* (Schmidbaur et al. 2022), have shown the impact of genome reorganization on novel regulatory
60 units in coleoid cephalopods. Still, it is not yet known how these units are made in terms of their gene
61 content or their evolution in separate squid and octopus lineages. In this respect, it is crucial that the
62 growing cephalopod genomics resources and approaches help obtain high-quality genomes for the
63 established experimental species.

64 The common octopus, *Octopus vulgaris*, has long been used as a model for the study of learning
65 and cognitive capabilities in invertebrates (reviewed in: Young 1964; Marini et al. 2017), and is also used
66 as a comparative system in the study of neural organization and evolution (Shigeno et al. 2018; Ponte et
67 al. 2022). Furthermore, recent advances in the culture of this species' early life stages have increased its
68 suitability for molecular approaches and have provided important developmental staging information
69 (Deryckere et al. 2020).

70 One bottleneck to studying *O. vulgaris* is the lack of a chromosome-scale genome assembly.
71 While the reported karyotype of *O. vulgaris* is 1n=28 (Inaba 1959; Vitturi et al. 1982) or 1n=30 (Gao &
72 Natsukari, 1990), to date there is no definitive answer. Existing genomic resources for *O. vulgaris* include
73 a short read-based genome assembly (Zarrella et al. 2019), and a genome annotation based on the closely

74 related *O. sinensis* genome that is supported with PacBio Iso-Seq reads and FLAM-seq curation (Styfhals
75 et al. 2022; Zolotarov et al. 2022). These resources have been valuable in characterizing the molecular
76 and cellular diversity of the developing brain (Styfhals et al. 2022), the evolution of cephalopod brains
77 (Zolotarov et al. 2022), and the non-coding RNA repertoire unique to cephalopods (Petrosino et al. 2022).
78 Further improvements to the *O. vulgaris* genome assembly and genome annotation will provide a
79 valuable resource to the cephalopod and neuroscience communities.

80 Here we describe a chromosome-scale genome assembly and annotation of the common octopus,
81 *O. vulgaris*. We have validated our assembly using available chromosome-scale genomes of octopus
82 species (Li et al. 2020, Albertin et al. 2022; Jiang et al. 2022). Our analyses reveal large-scale
83 chromosomal homologies, yet a pattern of local rearrangement within chromosomes between species.

84
85

86 Materials and methods

87 *Sample Collection*

88 One adult male *Octopus vulgaris* (780 g body weight, specimen tube3-27.05.21-GP, BioSamples
89 ERS14895525 and ERS14895526) was collected in the Gulf of Naples, Italy (40°48'04.1"N
90 14°12'32.7"E) by fishermen in May 2021. The animal was immediately sacrificed humanely following
91 EU guidelines and protocols for collection of tissues from wild animals (Andrews et al. 2013; Fiorito et
92 al. 2015) (see Data Availability for animal welfare information). The central brain masses (optic lobes,
93 OL; supra-, SEM; sub-esophageal, SUB) were dissected out (ERS14895525), and the spermatophores
94 (ERS14895526) were collected as described in Zarrella et al. (2019). All dissections were carried out on a
95 bed of ice in seawater, and the excised tissues were then weighed and flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen.

96

97 *High Molecular Weight Genomic DNA Extraction*

98 High molecular weight genomic DNA (HMW gDNA) was extracted from frozen spermatophore
99 sample (160 mg) (ERS14895526) using a salt-extraction protocol at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn
100 (Italy) following Albertin et al. 2022. Briefly, two cryopreserved sample aliquots were each lysed for 3
101 hours at 55°C in separate tubes of 3 mL lysis buffer containing proteinase K. Then 1 mL of NaCl (5M)
102 was added to each tube. The tubes were mixed by inversion then spun down for 15 minutes at 10,000 rcf.
103 The supernatants were then transferred to a new tube and 2 volumes of cold ethanol (100%) was added.
104 The DNA precipitate was then spooled, washed, resuspended in elution buffer (10 mM Tris, 0.1 mM
105 EDTA, pH 8.5), and stored at 4°C. The DNA concentration was quantified using a Qubit DNA BR Assay
106 kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and the purity was evaluated using Nanodrop 2000 (Thermo Fisher
107 Scientific) UV/Vis measurements.

108

109 *10X Genomics Library Preparation and Sequencing*

110 A 10 ng aliquot of the spermatophore HMW DNA was used to prepare a 10X Genomics Chromium
111 library (Weisenfeld et al. 2017) at the National Center for Genomic Analysis (Centre Nacional d'Anàlisi
112 Genòmica - CNAG, Spain) using the Chromium Controller instrument (10X Genomics) and Genome
113 Reagent Kits v2 (10X Genomics) following the manufacturer's protocol. The library was indexed with
114 both P5 and P7 indexing adaptors. The resulting sequencing library was checked that the insert size
115 matched the protocol specifications on an Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer with the DNA 7500 assay (Agilent).

116 The library was sequenced at CNAG with an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 with a read length of 2x151bp,
117 and was demultiplexed with dual indices (Supplementary Data 1).

118

119

120 **Long-read Whole Genome Library Preparation and Sequencing**

121 The spermatophore HMW DNA was also used to prepare one Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT)
122 1D sequencing library (kit SQK-LSK110) at CNAG. Briefly, 2.0 µg of the HMW DNA was treated with
123 the NEBNext FFPE DNA Repair Mix (NEB) and the NEBNext UltraII End Repair/dA-Tailing Module
124 (NEB). ONT sequencing adaptors were then ligated to the DNA, then the DNA was purified with 0.4X
125 AMPure XP Beads and eluted in Elution Buffer.

126 Two sequencing runs were performed at CNAG on an ONT PromethIon 24 using ONT R9.4.1 FLO-
127 PRO 002 flow cells. The libraries were sequenced for 110 hours. The quality parameters of the
128 sequencing runs were monitored by the MinKNOW platform version 21.05.8 (Oxford Nanopore
129 Technologies) and base called with Guppy, version 5.0.11 (available through
130 <https://community.nanoporetech.com>) (Supplementary Data 1).

131

132 **Omni-C Library Preparation and Sequencing**

133 A DoveTail Genomics Omni-C library was prepared at SciLifeLab (Solna, Sweden) using the flash-
134 frozen brain tissue from the same individual used to generate the ONT long reads and 10X Genomics
135 chromium reads (ERS14895525). One hundred milligrams of brain tissue were pulverized to a fine
136 powder using a mortar and pestle under liquid nitrogen. Two 20 mg aliquots of the pulverized tissue were
137 fixed in PBS with formaldehyde and disuccinimidyl glutarate (DSG), and were prepared according to the
138 manufacturer's protocol as two separate libraries. To increase the final complexity, the two libraries
139 bound to streptavidin beads were pooled together into a single tube prior to P7 indexing PCR. The
140 amplified library was sequenced at SciLifeLab on an Illumina NovaSeq 6000 with a read length of 2x150
141 bp, and was demultiplexed with one index (Supplementary Data 1).

142

143 **Nuclear Genome Assembly**

144 Sequencing produced 77Gb of ONT WGS reads (27.5x coverage) and 230.25 Gb of 10X Genomics
145 linked reads (77.7x coverage). These data were assembled with the CNAG Snakemake assembly pipeline
146 v1.0 (https://github.com/cnag-aat/assembly_pipeline) to obtain an optimal base assembly for further Hi-C
147 scaffolding. In brief, this pipeline first preprocessed the 10X reads with *LongRanger basic* v2.2.2
148 (<https://github.com/10XGenomics/longranger>) and filtered the ONT reads with *FiltLong* v0.2.0
149 (<https://github.com/rrwick/Filtlong>), and then the ONT reads were assembled with both *Flye* v2.9
150 (Kolmogorov et al. 2019) and *NextDenovo* v2.4.0 (Hu et al. 2023). The following evaluations were run on
151 both assemblies and after each subsequent step of the pipeline: BUSCO v5.2.2 (Manni et al. 2021) with
152 *metazoan_odb10* and *Merqury* v1.1 (Rhee et al. 2020) to estimate the consensus accuracy (QV) and k-mer
153 statistics, and *fasta-stats.py* for contiguity statistics. The best contig assembly was obtained with
154 *NextDenovo* (see assembly metrics Supplementary Data 2), so the remaining steps of the pipeline were
155 run on this assembly (Supplementary Figure 1 and Supplementary Data 2).

156 The assembly was polished with 10X Illumina and ONT reads using *Hypo* v1.0.3 (Kundu et al.
157 2019); collapsed with *purge_dups* v1.2.5 (Guan et al. 2020); then scaffolded with the 10X chromium
158 reads using *Tigmint* v1.2.4 (Jackman et al. 2018), *ARKS* v1.2.2 (Coombe et al. 2018) and *LINKS* v1.8.6
159 (Warren et al. 2015) following the Faircloth's Lab protocol (<http://protocols.faircloth-lab.org/en/latest/protocols-computer/assembly/assembly-scaffolding-with-arks-and-links.html>). The
160 specific parameters and versions used to assemble the *O. vulgaris* specimen are listed in Supplementary
161

162 Data 3. Finally, 310 scaffolds shorter than 1 Kb were removed from the assembly. This assembly was
163 used for scaffolding with Omni-C data.

164

165 ***Omni-C Scaffolding***

166 The Omni-C reads (863.85 million read pairs) were then mapped to the assembly (Supplementary
167 Data 4) using the recommended procedure from Dovetail Genomics (https://omni-c.readthedocs.io/en/latest/fastq_to_bam.html). In short, the reads were mapped to the reference using *bwa*
168 *mem* v0.7.17-r1188 (Li 2013) with flags *-5SP -T0*, converted to a sorted *.bam* file, and filtered to reads
169 with a minimum mapping quality of 30 with *samtools* v1.9 (Li et al. 2009) with *htslib* v1.9, and filtered to
170 keep uniquely mapping pairs with *pairtools* v0.3.0 (Open2C et al. 2023). The minimum mapping quality
171 threshold of 30 was used to accommodate for the organism's heterozygosity and repetitiveness (1.22%
172 and 68.68%, respectively. see supplementary table Supplementary Data 5). After excluding PCR
173 duplicates and improperly mated reads with *pairtools*, 231.59 million Hi-C read pairs were used to
174 scaffold the assembly with *YaHS* v1.1 (Zhou et al. 2023) in the default mode, thus initially detects and
175 corrects errors in contigs, introducing breaks at misjoins.

176

177 ***Generation of the Hi-C Heatmaps and Manual Curation***

178

179 We then manually curated the scaffolded assembly using an editable Hi-C heatmap to improve the
180 assembly's quality and to correct misassemblies. The process described below was repeated for five
181 rounds until there were no obvious improvements to make based on the Hi-C heatmap signal.

182 *Chromap* v0.2.3 (Zhang et al. 2021) was used to align the Omni-C reads to the genome with a read
183 alignment quality cutoff of Q0. The resulting *.pairs* file (quality cutoffs: 2,10) was converted using *awk* v
184 4.2.1(Aho et al. 1988) to a *.longp* file, a format used by *Juicebox Assembly Tools* (Dudchenko et al.
185 2018). We ran the script *run-assembly-visualizer.sh* from the *3D-DNA* pipeline (Dudchenko et al. 2017)
186 on the *.longp* file to generate a *.hic* file. The *generate-assembly-file-from-fasta.awk* script from the *3D-*
187 *DNA* pipeline (Dudchenko et al. 2017), and the *assembly-from-fasta.py* from the *Artisanal* pipeline
188 (Bredeson et al. 2022) were used to generate the *.assembly* files necessary to curate the *.hic* heatmap file
189 in *Juicebox Assembly Tools* (Dudchenko et al. 2018).

190 The resulting *.hic* heatmap file was visualized using the visualization tool *Juicebox* v1.11.08 (Durand
191 et al. 2016). Using the signal in the Hi-C heatmap we corrected the order and orientation of contigs within
192 the chromosome-scale scaffolds, and placed small contigs and scaffolds onto the chromosome-scale
193 scaffolds. A new *.fasta* assembly was generated from the corrected *.assembly* file by using the *assembly-*
194 *to-fasta.py* script from the *Artisanal* pipeline.

195 The corrected assembly was aligned to the chromosome-scale *O. sinensis* (GCA_006345805.1) (Li et
196 al. 2020), *O. bimaculoides* (GCA_001194135.2) (Albertin et al. 2022), and *A. fangsiao* (Jiang et al. 2022)
197 genomes using *minimap2* v2.24 (Li, 2018), *snakemake* v7.19.1-3.11.1 (Köster and Rahmann 2012) and
198 the *snakemake* script *GAP_dgenies_prep* (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7826771>). The resulting *.paf*
199 file was visualized with *D-GENIES* v1.4.0 (Cabanettes and Klopp 2018). Regions of the *O. vulgaris*
200 chromosome-scale scaffolds that had ambiguous Hi-C heatmap signal, or regions that had no obvious
201 homology to other *Octopus* spp. chromosome-scale scaffolds were removed from the chromosome-scale
202 scaffolds and retained as smaller scaffolds at the end of the genome assembly *.fasta* file. Scaffolds were
203 renamed based on homology with *O. bimaculoides* chromosomes.

204

206 **Decontamination**

207 After curation, we ran the *BlobToolKit* INSDC pipeline (Challis et al. 2020), using the NCBI *nt*
208 database (updated on December 2022) and the following BUSCO *odb10* databases: eukaryota, fungi,
209 bacteria, metazoa and mollusca. This analysis identified 226 scaffolds either matching the phylum
210 Mollusca or having no-hit in the database (Supplementary Figure 2). A total of 47 small scaffolds
211 matching other phyla (Supplementary Data 6 and Supplementary Figure 3) were considered contaminants
212 and removed from the assembly. This scaffolded and decontaminated assembly was then carried forward
213 for annotation and comparative analyses, and is available at <https://denovo.cnag.cat/octopus> and the
214 INSDC (ENA, NCBI, and DDBJ) accession number GCA_951406725.1.

215 **Nuclear Genome Annotation**

216 The gene annotation of the octopus genome assembly was obtained by combining transcript
217 alignments, protein alignments, and *ab initio* gene predictions as described below. A flowchart of the
218 annotation process is shown in Supplementary Figure 4.

219 Repeats present in the genome assembly were annotated with *RepeatMasker* v4-1-2 (Smit et al. 2013-
220 2015) using the custom repeat library available for Mollusca. Moreover, a new repeat library specific to
221 the assembly was made with *RepeatModeler* v1.0.11. After excluding repeats from the resulting library
222 that were part of repetitive protein families by performing a *BLAST* (Altschul et al. 1990) search against
223 *Uniprot*, *RepeatMasker* was rerun with this new library to annotate species-specific repeats.

224 PacBio Iso-Seq reads from several developmental stages were downloaded from NCBI
225 (PRJNA718058, PRJNA791920, PRJNA547720) (García-Fernández et al. 2019; Deryckere et al. 2021;
226 Zolotarov et al. 2022). Bulk RNA-seq from an adult octopus (Petrosino et al. 2022) was downloaded from
227 the *ArrayExpress* database under accession number E-MTAB-3957. The short and long reads were
228 aligned to the genome using *STAR* v-2.7.2a (Dobin et al. 2013) and *minimap2* v2.14 (Li, 2018) with the
229 option *-x splice:hq*. Transcript models were subsequently generated using *Stringtie* v2.1.4 (Pertea et al.
230 2015) on each *.bam* file, and then all the transcript models were combined using *TACO* v0.6.3 (Niknafs
231 et al. 2017). High-quality junctions to be used during the annotation process were obtained by running
232 *Portcullis* v1.2.0 (Mapleson et al. 2018) after mapping with *STAR* and *minimap2*. Finally, *PASA*
233 assemblies were produced with *PASA* v2.4.1 (Haas et al. 2008). The *TransDecoder* program, part of
234 the *PASA* package, was run on the *PASA* assemblies to detect coding regions in the transcripts.

235 The complete proteomes of *O. vulgaris*, *O. bimaculoides*, and *Sepia pharaonis* were downloaded
236 from *UniProt* in October 2022 and aligned to the genome using *Spaln* v2.4.03 (Iwata and Gotoh 2012).

237 *Ab initio* gene predictions were performed on the repeat-masked assembly with two different
238 programs: *Augustus* v3.3.4 (Stanke et al. 2006) and *Genemark-ES* v2.3e (Lomsadze et al. 2014) with and
239 without incorporating evidence from the RNA-seq data. Before gene prediction, *Augustus* was trained
240 with octopus-specific evidence. The gene candidates used as evidence for training *Augustus* were
241 obtained after selecting *Transdecoder* annotations that were considered complete and did not overlap
242 repeats, clustering them into genes, and selecting only one isoform per gene. These candidates were
243 aligned to the *Swissprot* NCBI database with *blastp* v2.7.1 (Altschul et al. 1990) to select only those with
244 homology to proteins. The final list of candidate genes was made of 1764 genes with *BLAST* hits to
245 known proteins with e-values smaller than 10^{-9} and greater than 55% identity.

246 Finally, all the data were combined into consensus CDS models using *EvidenceModeler* v1.1.1
247 (EVM) (Haas et al. 2008). Additionally, UTRs and alternative splicing forms were annotated via two
248 rounds of *PASA* annotation updates. Functional annotation was performed on the annotated proteins with

249 *Blast2go* v1.3.3 (Conesa et al. 2005). First, a *DIAMOND* v2.0.9 *blastp* (Buchfink et al. 2021) search was
250 made against the *nr* database. Furthermore, *Interproscan* v5.21-60.0 (Jones et al. 2014) was run to detect
251 protein domains on the annotated proteins. All these data were combined by *Blast2go* v1.3.3, which
252 produced the final functional annotation results.

253 Identification of long non-coding RNAs (lncRNAs) was done by first filtering the set of *PASA*-
254 assemblies that had not been included in the annotation of protein-coding genes to retain those longer than
255 200bp and not covered more than 80% by repeats. The resulting transcripts were clustered into genes
256 using shared splice sites or significant sequence overlap as criteria for designation as the same gene.
257

258 ***Nuclear Genome and Annotation Completeness Assessment***

259 The final *O. vulgaris* genome assembly, the annotated transcripts, the proteins from the annotated
260 transcripts, and the other available octopus genomes were assessed for completeness using BUSCO
261 databases as described above (Materials and Methods - Genome Assembly). To compare the qualities of
262 each assembly, we used *fasta_stats* (Chapman et al. 2011) shown in (Table 1). We calculated the
263 percentage of bases in the chromosome-scale scaffolds (Table 1) with *bioawk* v1.0
264 (<https://github.com/lh3/bioawk>).

265 **Mitogenome Assembly and Annotation**

266 To assemble the mitochondrial genome we employed a strategy that uses a reference bait to select the
267 mitochondrial nanopore reads, assembles those reads into a single circular contig, and then performs two
268 rounds of polishing. To obtain the mitochondrial sequences, all ONT reads with a mean quality of ≥ 10
269 were mapped with *minimap2* v2.24 (Li 2018) against the circular complete, 15,744 bp mitochondrial
270 genome of another specimen of *O. vulgaris* (NC_006353.1) (Yokobori 2004) with the *minimap2*
271 parameter *-ax map-ont*. We retained all reads with a mapping quality ≥ 13 . Approximately 5,000 ONT
272 reads passed these filters including 15 reads accounting for 181,644 total basepairs (12x coverage) with a
273 mean length of 12,112 bp.

274 All the retained ONT reads were assembled with *Flye* v2.9 (Kolmogorov et al. 2019) using the
275 options *flye --scaffold -i 2 -g 15744 --nano-raw --min-overlap 7000*. This produced one circular contig.
276 The *-i 2* option specified for *flye* caused this contig to be polished twice with the input ONT reads. After
277 polishing the length of the circular contig was 15,651 bp, and a web *blastn* search revealed that it spanned
278 the length of the NC_006353.1 mitochondrial genome. The circular mitogenome contig was rotated and
279 oriented as follows. First, we annotated the contig using *MITOS* v2.1.3 (Bernt et al. 2013) with
280 parameters *-c 5 --linear --best -r refseq81m*. Second, we use the coordinates in the *results.bed* file to
281 orient the mitogenome, so it starts with the conventional tRNA Phenyl-Alanine (trnF) (Formenti et al.
282 2021).

283 To evaluate the assembly accuracy, we first aligned the selected ONT reads back to the assembly with
284 *minimap2* and visually inspected the alignment with *IGV* v2.14.1 (Robinson et al. 2023). Finally, the
285 xcOctVulg1 mitogenome was aligned against the mitogenome of other species using *DNAdiff* v1.3 from
286 *mummer* package v3.23 (Kurtz et al. 2004). These species included the mitogenomes of another specimen
287 of *O. vulgaris* (NC_006353.1), *O. sinensis* (NC_052881.1), *O. bimaculoides* (NC_029723.1), and *A. fangsiao* (AB240156.1). From these pairwise alignments, we calculated the percent identity.

289 **Results and Discussion**

290 **DNA Sequencing**

291 Sequencing the ONT WGS library yielded 8.3 million ONT PromethIon reads containing 82.57
292 billion base pairs (Gbp) with 29.47x coverage per library. Sequencing of the 10X Genomics Chromium
293 library yielded 762 million read pairs containing 228.69 Gbp with 81.64x coverage per library. The
294 Omni-C library sequencing yielded 863.85 million read pairs, containing 259.16 Gbp of data with 33.02X
295 coverage. Details about sequence data can be found in Supplementary Data 1.

296

297 **Manual Curation and Decontamination of the Assembly**

298 Manually curating the genome assembly improved the quality of the final assembly, as 495 scaffolds
299 were placed in the chromosome-scale scaffolds, and 47 additional scaffolds were removed through the
300 contamination analysis (Table 1). The final 2.80 Gb assembly, xcOctVulg1.1, has a scaffold N50 of 118.9
301 Mb, an N90 of 18.2 Mb, QV39 and gene completeness estimated using BUSCO v5.3.2 with
302 *mollusca_odb10* of C:86.5% [S:85.8%, D:0.7%], F:3.4%, M:10.1%, n:5295 (Fig. 1C). The BUSCO score
303 with *metazoa_odb10* for the final assembly is C:92.3% [S:91.8%, D:0.5%], F:2.7%, M:5.0% (Table 2).
304 The statistics for all intermediate assemblies are shown in Supplementary Data 2. Also, in Supplementary
305 Figure 3 we show that the final assembly has been properly decontaminated.
306

307 **The Octopus Karyotype**

308 The genome assembly from this study contains 30 large scaffolds with Hi-C heatmap signal (Fig.
309 1D) that is consistent with each scaffold representing a single chromosome and resembles the Hi-C
310 heatmaps of other chromosome-scale octopus genome assemblies (Li et al. 2020; Albertin et al. 2022;
311 Jiang et al. 2022). The first reported *O. vulgaris* karyotypes from Japan and Italy were 1n=28
312 chromosomes (Inaba 1959; Vitturi et al. 1982), but later studies also using *O. vulgaris* individuals
313 sampled in Japan reported at 1n=30 (Gao and Natsukari 1990). The karyotype 1n=30 has been reported in
314 four other octopus species: *Callistoctopus minor*, *Amphioctopus fangsiao*, *Cistopus sinensis*, and
315 *Amphioctopus areolatus* (Gao and Natsukari 1990; Adachi et al. 2014; Wang and Zheng 2017). The only
316 exception is *Hapalochlaena maculosa* which does not have a confirmed karyotype, but 47 linkage groups
317 were suggested for this species (Whitelaw et al. 2022).

318 In light of the recent taxonomic designation of a new species *O. sinensis* (East Asian Common
319 Octopus) from the previously synonymous *O. vulgaris* (Gleadall 2016; Amor et al. 2017, 2019; Amor
320 2023), this suggests that the reported *O. vulgaris* karyotypes probably belong to *O. sinensis*. Dot plot
321 analyses, described below, show that *O. vulgaris* and *O. sinensis* share 30 homologous, largely collinear,
322 chromosomes (Fig. 2).

323 The final version of the *O. vulgaris* genome was aligned to the genomes of three octopus species, *O.*
324 *sinensis*, *O. bimaculoides*, and *A. fangsiao* (Fig. 2). *O. vulgaris* and *O. sinensis* have a less diverged
325 genome sequence and few inversions between homologous, collinear chromosomes. General
326 chromosomal collinearity was also observed in comparison to *O. bimaculoides* (Fig. 2). We have found
327 large-scale inversions (megabase-scaled, larger than 1Mb) throughout the genomes of two species. The
328 overall sequence similarity is lower compared to the previous pair, and a greater number of chromosomal
329 rearrangements are present, confirming that they are more diverged. This is expected considering that *O.*
330 *bimaculoides* and the *O. vulgaris*-*O. sinensis* clade diverged around 34 million years ago (mya) (Jiang et
331 al. 2022), while *O. sinensis* and *O. vulgaris* diverged just 2.5 mya (Amor et al. 2019). In Figure 2, the
332 collinearity between *O. vulgaris* and *A. fangsiao* chromosomes is visible. As expected, as *A. fangsiao* is
333 the most distant to *O. vulgaris* of the compared species, the genomes are even more rearranged.

334 Our whole-genome alignment analyses support the hypothesis that *O. vulgaris*, *O. sinensis*, *O.*
335 *bimaculoides*, and *A. fangsiao* share 30 homologous chromosomes (Fig. 2). Given the divergence time of
336 these species, these results suggest that the karyotype of the common ancestor of this clade, and perhaps
337 the common ancestor of octopuses, also had 30 chromosomes that still exist in extant species.

338 Karyotype stability was described in the squid lineage (Decapodiformes) on loliginid and sepiolid
339 squids (Albertin et al. 2022). This study has suggested that the smaller karyotype found in octopuses
340 (1n=30) compared to squids (1n=46) results from secondary fusions of a more ancestral squid
341 chromosomal complement. Recently, it has been suggested that chromosomal fusions impact
342 recombination, as well as chromosomal nuclear occupancy, in mice (Vara et al. 2021). Therefore,
343 chromosomal fusions in the common ancestor of the octopus lineage might be one of the drivers of
344 diversification, as this changes the chromosomal interactions and is hypothesized to lead to the formation
345 of novel regulatory units (Vara et al. 2021). Such events are important in light of understanding the
346 emergence of octopus-specific traits. We infer from the genome-genome comparisons that a similar
347 pattern of intrachromosomal rearrangements with the conservation of individual chromosomes is seen in
348 octopus species, as described in squids (Albertin et al. 2022). However, the loliginids and sepiolids are
349 estimated to have diverged 100 mya (Albertin et al. 2022), while the genera *Octopus* and *Amphioctopus*
350 are estimated to have diverged 44 mya (Jiang et al. 2022). Therefore, a more-distant species chromosome-

351 scale genome is needed to claim karyotype stasis in Octopodiformes. Nevertheless, future comparative
352 studies of the genomes of these closely-related species will shed light on the evolutionary history of
353 octopuses as a separate lineage of coleoid cephalopods. In addition to this, *O. vulgaris* is a model animal
354 in neurobiological studies, and having a high-quality genome will facilitate further studies of the
355 cephalopod brain.

356

357 ***Nuclear Genome Annotation***

358 In total, we annotated 23,423 protein-coding genes that produce 31,799 transcripts (1.36 transcripts
359 per gene) and encode 30,121 unique protein products. We were able to assign functional labels to 53.5%
360 of the annotated proteins. The annotated transcripts contain 8.42 exons on average, with 87% of them
361 being multi-exonic (Table 3). In addition, 1,849 long non-coding transcripts have been annotated. The
362 number of protein-coding genes annotated here is slightly lower than those reported for other octopus
363 genome assemblies, like *O. sinensis* (Li et al. 2020). After checking the general statistics of both
364 annotations (Table 3), we can observe that the genes annotated here tend to be longer (both in the number
365 of exons and global length). After comparing both methods, the main difference that we believe is
366 responsible for this difference in length is the source of the transcriptomic data, the inclusion of long-read
367 Iso-seq data in the annotation process is known to result in less fragmented and longer annotations.

368

369 ***Nuclear Genome and Annotation Completeness Assessment***

370 The BUSCO score was calculated for the *O. vulgaris*, *O. bimaculoides*, *O. sinensis*, and *A. fangsiao*
371 genomes. For the chromosome-scale *O. vulgaris* genome, the BUSCO score for a whole-genome
372 nucleotide sequence using the metazoan reference dataset was 92.3% for complete genes (954 core
373 genes). The full score can be seen in Table 2. This is an improvement considering the BUSCO score of
374 the previous *O. vulgaris* genome assembly (GCA_003957725.1) for complete genes was 63.1% (Zarrella
375 et al. 2019). Additionally, we assessed the completeness of the annotated proteome and transcriptome by
376 calculating the BUSCO score against the *metazoa_odb10* and *mollusca_odb10* databases (Supplementary
377 Data 2).

378

379 ***Mitogenome Assembly and Annotation***

380 The mitogenome assembly of the *O. vulgaris* specimen (xcOctVulg1) has a length of 15,651 bp and
381 contains 13 protein-coding, 23 ncRNA, 2 rRNA, and 21 tRNA genes. The ONT read alignment to the
382 mitogenome shows a high consensus support for each nucleotide except for 16 positions (Supplementary
383 Figure 5). These 16 positions are single nucleotide polymorphisms, not indels, and the base at each
384 position is the base with the highest coverage in the reads at that position (Supplementary Figure 6).
385 Therefore, the mitochondrial genome has a high per-base accuracy.

386 The percentages of identity (See Supplementary Data 7) between the *O. vulgaris* and other octopus
387 mitochondrial genome sequences are consistent with the phylogeny topology (Fig. 2, Supplementary Data
388 7), and previous research on octopus taxonomy. The mitochondrial genome of the specimen collected in
389 Japan and identified as *O. vulgaris* (NC_006353.1) shows a higher identity to *O. sinensis* (99.85%) than
390 to our *O. vulgaris* specimen (96.79%). The 3.21% difference between the mitogenomes of the specimen
391 from this study and NC_006353.1 is close to the estimated divergence rate (~2% divergence/million years
392 (Arbogast and Slowinski 1998)) for *O. vulgaris* and *O. sinensis* (estimated time of divergence: 2.5mya
393 (Amor et al. 2019)). These results suggest that the specimen collected in Japan and identified as *O.*
394 *vulgaris* (NC_006353.1) is more likely to be *O. sinensis*. This possibility is consistent with recent

395 morphological, molecular, and geographic delimitations made between the *O. sinensis* and *O. vulgaris*
396 species complex (Gleadall 2016; Amor et al. 2017, 2019; Amor 2023).
397

398 **Conclusion**

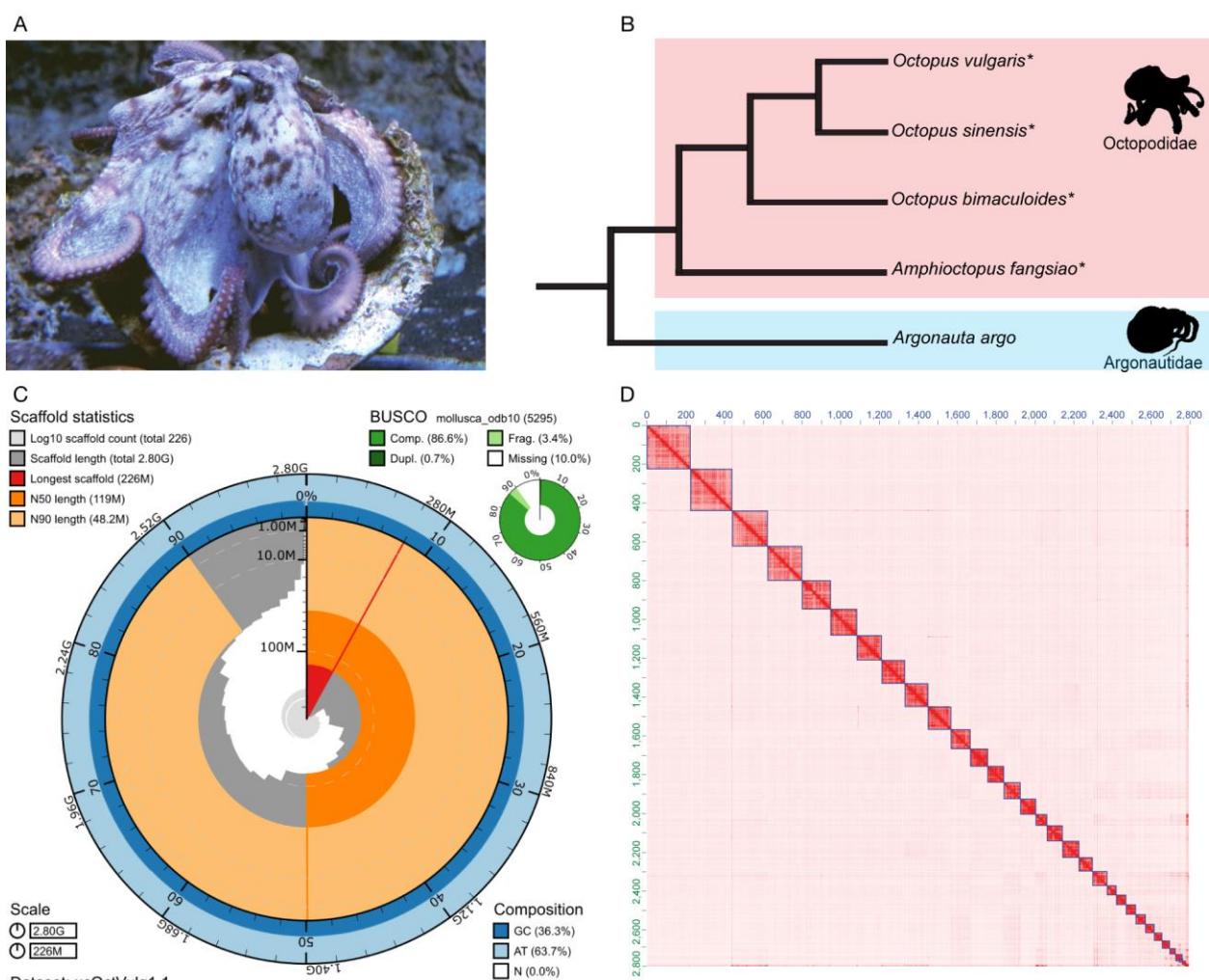
399 *Octopus vulgaris* is an important emerging model in comparative neuroscience, cognition research,
400 and evolutionary studies of cephalopods. The chromosome-scale genome assembly and annotation
401 reported here provide an improved reference for single-cell multiomics and the study of non-coding
402 regions and gene regulatory networks, that require the context of chromosome-scale sequences. This
403 assembly and annotation will also facilitate many avenues of cephalopod research, in particular analyses
404 of genome evolutionary trends in octopus and cephalopods within invertebrates. Furthermore, the
405 chromosome-scale *O. vulgaris* genome assembly will allow the estimation of chromosome rearrangement
406 rates, the emergence of novel coding and non-coding genes among octopuses, and the turnover rates of
407 putative regulatory regions. The scientific interest in *O. vulgaris* as a model animal in many fields
408 including (evolutionary) developmental biology and neuroscience will be facilitated by the availability of
409 a high-quality genome.

410 These efforts may help bridge the traditional *O. vulgaris* research on neurobiology, behavior, and
411 development to the molecular determinants involved in these fields.

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418 **Main Manuscript Figures**



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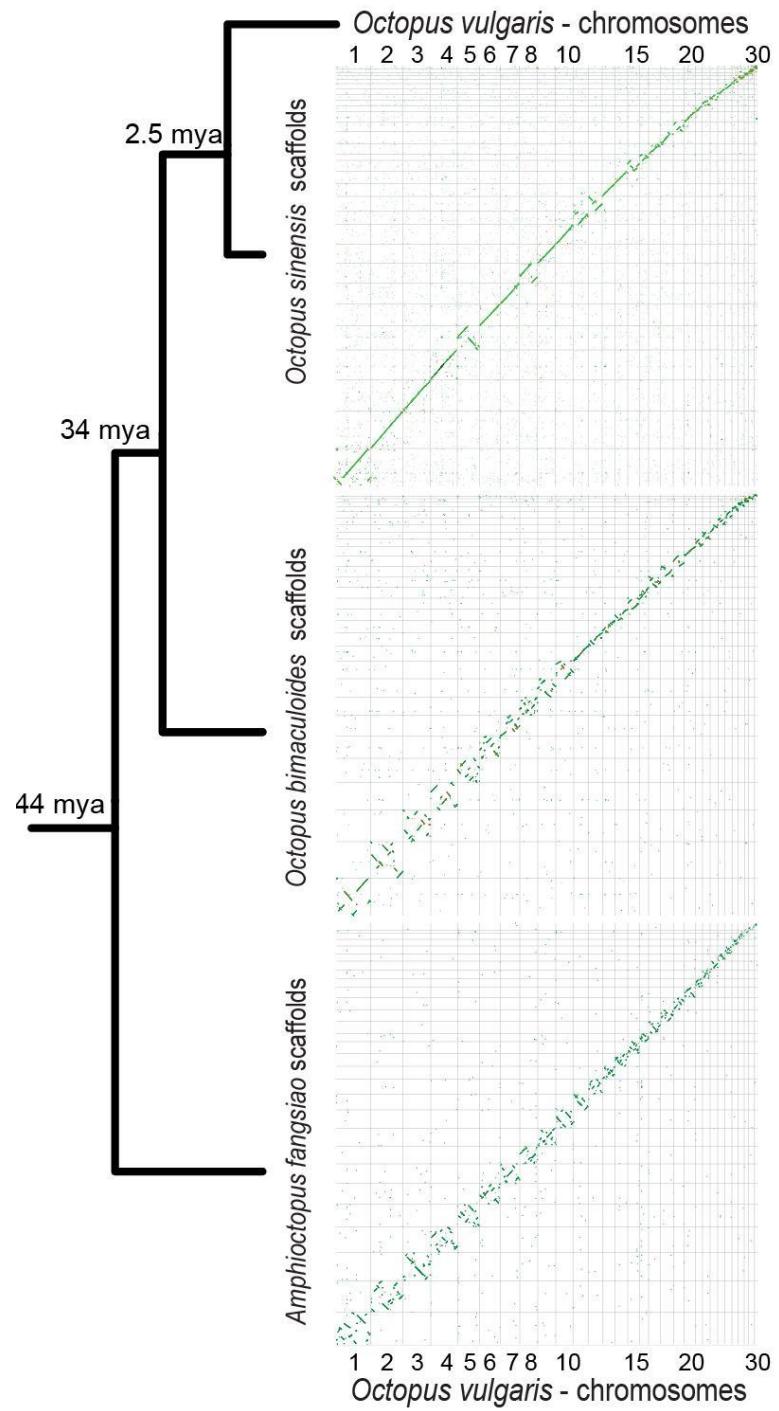
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Figure 1 | *Octopus vulgaris* assembly statistics and quality control. (A) A specimen of *O. vulgaris*. (B) A cladogram showing the phylogenetic relationship between the compared species and the family Argonautidae as an outgroup (Taite et al. 2023). Chromosome-scale genome assemblies are available for the starred species (*). (C) The snail plot shows that the final version of the chromosome-scale *O. vulgaris* assembly has N50 of 119Mb, the longest scaffold is 225Mb long, and a BUSCO score for complete genes of 86.6% against the *mollusca_odb10* database. (D) The Hi-C heatmap of the final genome assembly shows 30 chromosome-scale scaffolds with very few sequences in unplaced scaffolds. Photography credit © Antonio, Valerio Cirillo (BEOM SZN), 2023 (A).



428

429

430 **Figure 2 | Comparative analyses of available chromosome-scale Octopodidae genomes.** The figure shows the inferred
431 phylogenetic relationship (Amor et al. 2017; Jiang et al. 2022; Taite et al. 2023) and the inferred divergence times (Amor et al.
432 2019; Jiang et al. 2022) of four octopus species. The diagrams show genome-genome alignments for each species compared to
433 *O. vulgaris*.

434 Main Manuscript Tables

435 **Table 1 | Octopus genome assembly statistics.**

Assembly	Number of scaffolds	Number of contigs	Scaffold sequence total	Scaffold N50/L50	Number of scaffolds > 50 KB	% of the bases in chromosome-scaled scaffolds
Final chromosome-scale <i>O. vulgaris</i> genome	226	2758	2800.4 MB	118.9 MB/9	57	99.34
Pre-curation scaffolded assembly <i>O. vulgaris</i>	768	2776	2801.6 MB	118.3 MB/9	296	95.82
Chromosome-scale <i>O. bimaculoides</i> (Albertin et al. 2022)	145326	713915	2342.5 MB	96.9 MB/9	85	95.46
Chromosome-scale <i>O. sinensis</i> (Li et al., 2020)	13516	20491	2719.2 MB	105.9 MB/10	1800	86.09
Chromosome-scale <i>A. fangtiao</i> (Jiang et al. 2022)	6409	9099	4341.1 MB	169.7 MB/10	1769	93.05

436

437

438 **Table 2 | Octopus metazoa_odb10 BUSCO scores.**

Genome	Complete BUSCO	Single BUSCO	Duplicated BUSCO	Fragmented BUSCO	Missing BUSCO
Chromosome-scale <i>O. vulgaris</i>	92.3% [881]	91.8% [876]	0.5% [5]	2.7% [25]	5.0% [48]
Contig-level <i>O. vulgaris</i> (Zarrella et al. 2019)	63.1% [602]	62.6% [597]	0.5% [5]	24.8% [237]	12.1% [115]
Chromosome-scale <i>O. bimaculoides</i> (Albertin et al. 2022)	94.6% [903]	94.2% [899]	0.4% [4]	3.2% [31]	2.2% [20]
Chromosome-scale <i>O. sinensis</i> (Li et al., 2020)	95.7% [913]	90.5% [863]	5.2% [50]	2.6% [25]	1.7% [16]
Chromosome-scale <i>A. fangsiao</i> (Jiang et al. 2022)	93.5% [892]	91.6% [874]	1.9% [18]	3.5% [33]	3.0% [29]

439

440

441 **Table 3 | Genome annotation statistics.**

	OctVul6B annotation	Osinensis ASM634580v1 (Li et al. 2020)
Number of protein-coding genes	23,423	31,676
Median gene length (bp)	20,288	4,403
Number of transcripts	31,799	31,676
Number of exons	168,570	184,658
Number of coding exons	161,430	180,943
Median UTR length (bp)	1,255	441
Median intron length (bp)	2,467	1,520
Exons/transcript	8.42	5.83
Transcripts/gene	1.36	1
Multi-exonic transcripts	87%	81%
Gene density (gene/Mb)	8.36	11.7

442

443

444 **Data Availability Statement**

445 The data are available at <https://denovo.cnag.cat/octopus>. On the INDSC databases (ENA, NCBI,
446 DDBJ) the genome is available at accession GCA_951406725.1, and the data in BioProject PRJEB61268.
447 Euthanizing cephalopods solely for tissue removal does not require authorization from the National
448 Competent Authority under Directive 2010/63/EU and its transposition into National Legislation.
449 Samples were taken from local fishermen, and humane killing followed principles detailed in Annex IV
450 of Directive 2010/63/EU as described in the Guidelines on the Care and Welfare of Cephalopods (Fiorito
451 et al. 2015). The sampling of octopuses from the wild included in this study was authorized by the
452 Animal Welfare Body of Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Ethical Clearance: case 06/2020/ec AWB-
453 SZN). Genomes of *O. sinensis* (GCA_006345805.1) (Li et al., 2020) and *O. bimaculoides*
454 (GCA_001194135.2) (Albertin et al. 2022) were downloaded from NCBI, while the *A. fangsiao* genome
455 (Jiang et al. 2022) was downloaded from Figshare (<https://figshare.com/s/fa09f5dadcd966f020f3>).

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463 **Conflict of Interest**

464 D.T.S. is a shareholder of Pacific Biosciences of California, Inc. All other authors declare no
465 competing interests.

466 **Author Contributions**

467 Dalila Destanovic = D.D.
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476 Ivo Gut = I.G.
477 Marta Gut = M.G.
478

479 E.S., O.S. and G.P. conceived of the study design. D.D., D.T.S., O.S., T.S.A., M.G., and F.C. wrote
480 the first draft of the manuscript. G.P. collected and dissected the octopus individual sequenced for this
481 study. T.S.A., F.C., D.D., and D.T.S. assembled the genome. J.G.G. annotated the genome. D.D., J.G.G.,

482 and F.C. performed genomic analyses. D.D., D.T.S., F.C., J.G.G. and created the figures. All authors
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729

730 **Supplementary Information for:**
731 **A chromosome-level reference genome for the**
732 **common octopus, *Octopus vulgaris* (Cuvier, 1797)**

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734 Marta Gut⁶, Ivo Gut^{6,7}, Graziano Fiorito⁵, Oleg Simakov^{1,+}, Tyler S. Alioto^{6,7,+}, Giovanna Ponte^{5,+}, Eve
735 Seuntjens^{2,3,4,+}

736

737 **This PDF file includes:**

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739 Supplementary Figure 1 [Genome assembly pipeline]
740 Supplementary Figure 2 [Contamination analysis of the manually curated genome]
741 Supplementary Figure 3 [Contamination analysis of the final version of *O. vulgaris* genome]
742 Supplementary Figure 4 [Annotation workflow]
743 Supplementary Figure 5 [Alignment of ONT reads to the *O. vulgaris* mitochondrial genome.]
744 Supplementary Figure 6 [Coverage of ambiguous positions in the mitochondrial genome]

745

746 **Other Supplementary Data for this manuscript include the following:**

747

748 Supplementary Data 1 [Supplementary_Data_1.xlsx]
749 Supplementary Data 2 [Supplementary_Data_2.xlsx]
750 Supplementary Data 3 [Supplementary_Data_3.xlsx]
751 Supplementary Data 4 [Supplementary_Data_4.xlsx]
752 Supplementary Data 5 [Supplementary_Data_5.txt]
753 Supplementary Data 6 [Supplementary_Data_6.xlsx]
754 Supplementary Data 7 [Supplementary_Data_7.xlsx]

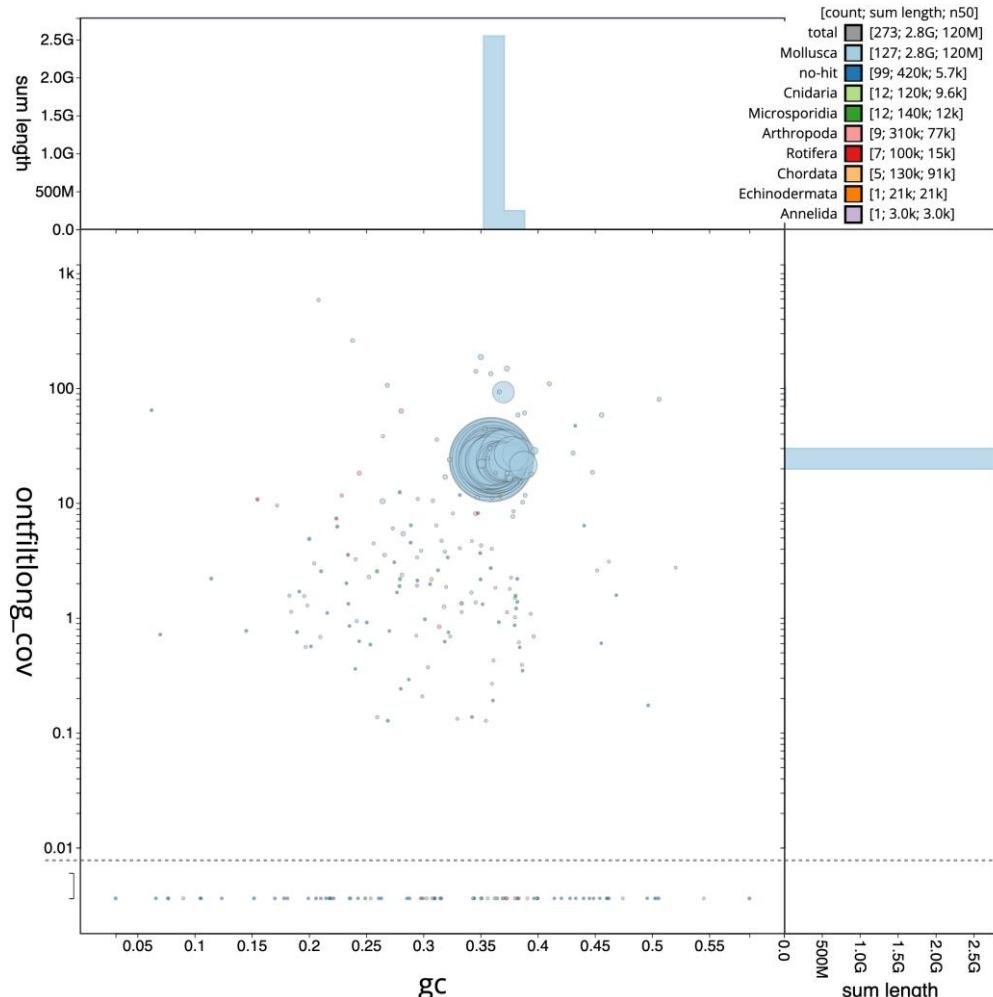
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756 Supplementary Figures



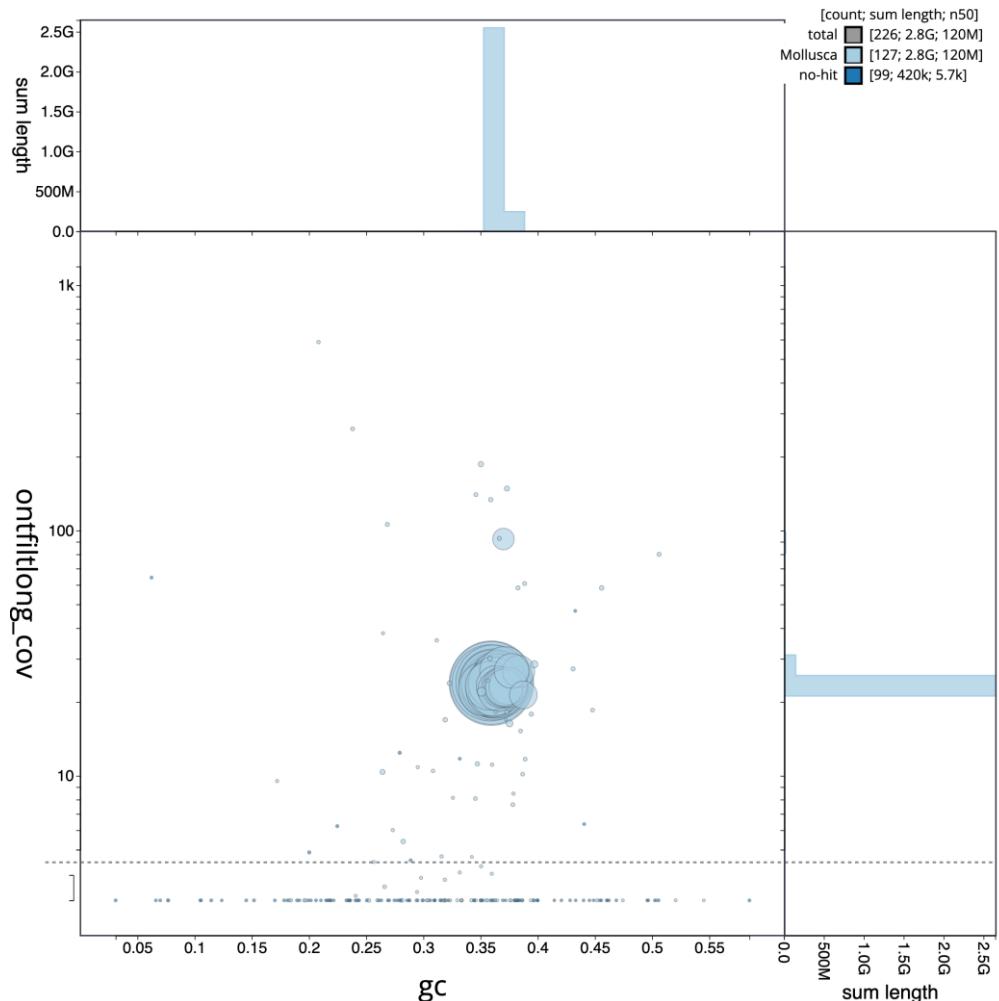
757

758 **Supplementary Figure 1 | Genome assembly pipeline.** Snakemake workflow is used to generate the scaffolded *Octopus*
759 *genome* assembly.



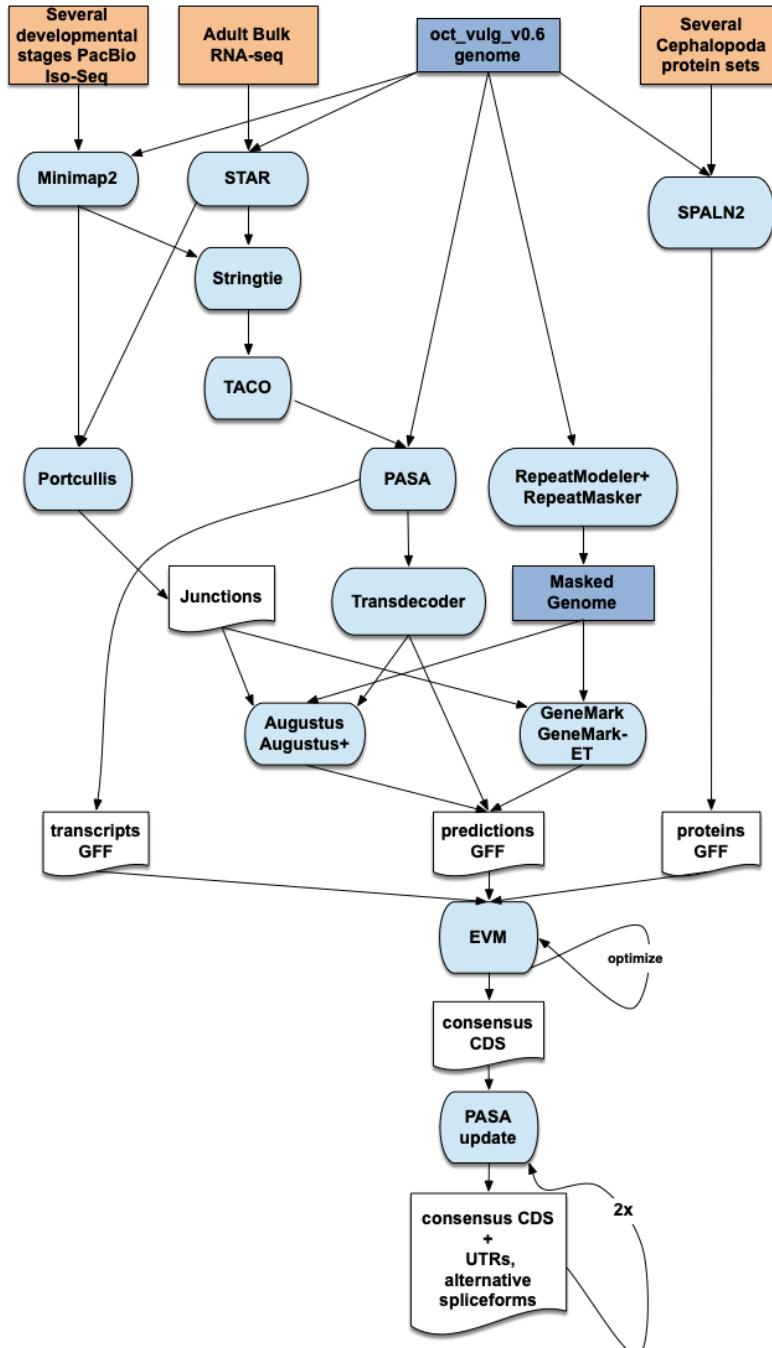
760

761 **Supplementary Figure 2 | Contamination analysis of the manually curated genome.** The original manually curated assembly
762 had some sequences belonging to other phyla. These fragments were found in the unplaced scaffolds in the assembly.



763

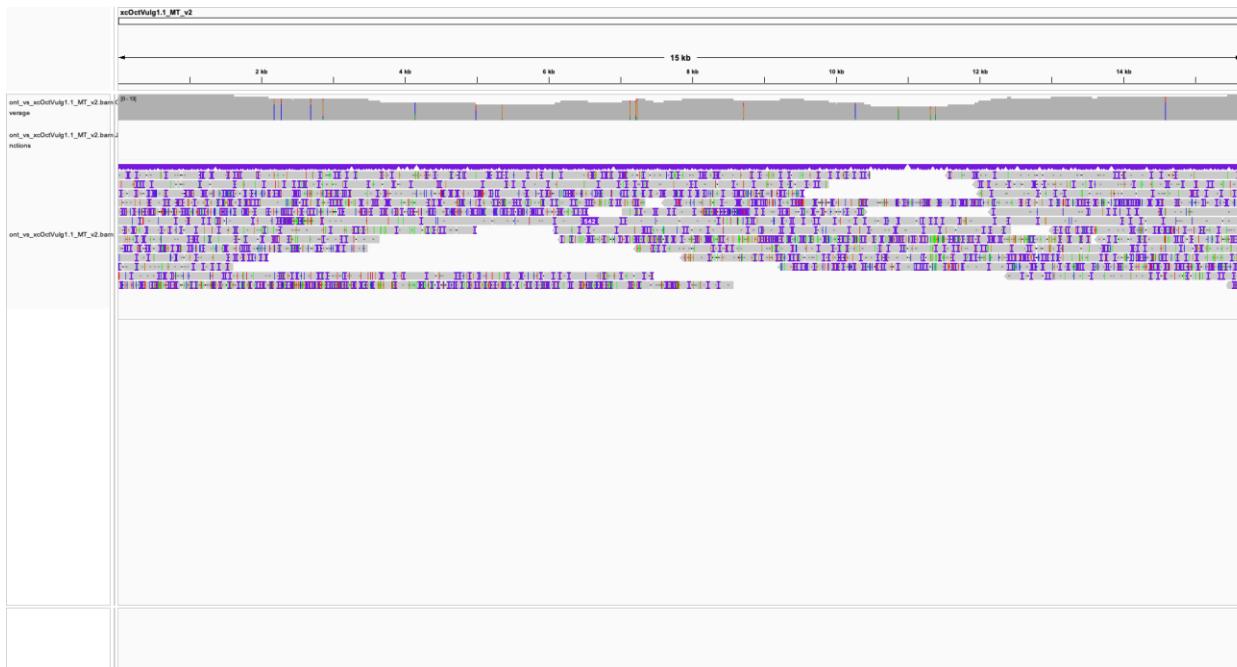
764 **Supplementary Figure 3 | Contamination analysis of the final version of *O. vulgaris* genome.** Decontamination of the
765 assembly was successful, as the molluscan and no-hit sequences were kept. This is the final version of the chromosome-scale
766 genome that was generated.



767

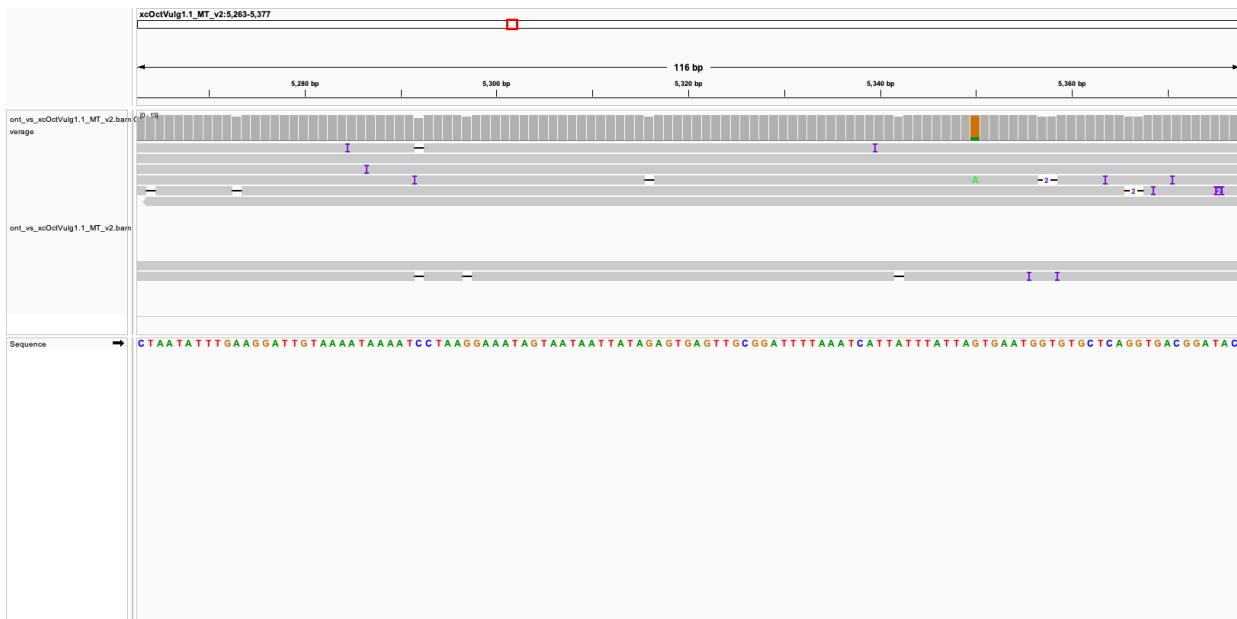
768 **Supplementary Figure 4 | Annotation workflow.** Combined data of protein sequences from different cephalopod species, and
 769 RNA sequences generated from adult and embryonic tissue were used to annotate the genome. This resulted in the annotation of
 770 CDS, UTRs, and alternative splice variants for the genome.

771



772

773 **Supplementary Figure 5 | Alignment of ONT reads to the *O. vulgaris* mitochondrial genome.** The ONT reads aligned to the
774 mitochondrial genome support the consensus of each position except for 16 nucleotides (see vertical coloured bars along the
775 coverage track).



776

777 **Supplementary Figure 6 | Coverage of ambiguous positions in the mitochondrial genome.** The 16 positions that were
778 polymorphic were single-nucleotide differences. The consensus sequence is that with the highest frequency in the reads. One
779 example is shown here, with the G in the mitogenome appearing in most of the reads except one with an A.