

1    Assembled chromosomes of the blood fluke  
2    *Schistosoma mansoni* provide insight into the  
3    evolution of its ZW sex-determination system

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5    Sarah K Buddenborg<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Alan Tracey<sup>1</sup>, Duncan J Berger<sup>1</sup>, Zhigang Lu<sup>1</sup>, Stephen R Doyle<sup>1</sup>,  
6    Beiyuan Fu<sup>1</sup>, Fengtang Yang<sup>1</sup>, Adam J Reid<sup>1</sup>, Faye H Rodgers<sup>1</sup>, Gabriel Rinaldi<sup>1</sup>, Geetha  
7    Sankaranarayanan<sup>1</sup>, Ulrike Böhme<sup>1,3</sup>, Nancy Holroyd<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Berriman<sup>1\*</sup>

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9    <sup>1</sup> Wellcome Sanger Institute, Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridgeshire CB10 1SA, UK

10    <sup>2</sup> Morgridge Institute for Research, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA

11    <sup>3</sup> Institute of Systems, Molecular and Integrative Biology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 7ZB, UK

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13    \* Corresponding authors

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## 19 ABSTRACT

### 20 Background

21 *Schistosoma mansoni* is a flatworm that causes a neglected tropical disease affecting millions  
22 worldwide. Most flatworms are hermaphrodites but schistosomes have genotypically  
23 determined male (ZZ) and female (ZW) sexes. Sex is essential for pathology and transmission,  
24 however, the molecular determinants of sex remain unknown and is limited by poorly resolved  
25 sex chromosomes in previous genome assemblies.

### 26 Results

27 We assembled the 391.4 Mb *S. mansoni* genome into individual, single-scaffold chromosomes,  
28 including Z and W. Manual curation resulted in a vastly improved gene annotation, resolved  
29 gene and repeat arrays, trans-splicing, and almost all UTRs. The sex chromosomes each  
30 comprise pseudoautosomal regions and single sex-specific regions. The Z-specific region  
31 contains 932 genes, but on W all but 29 of these genes have been lost and the presence of five  
32 pseudogenes indicates that degeneration of W is ongoing. Synteny analysis reveals an ancient  
33 chromosomal fusion corresponding to the oldest part of Z, where only a single gene—encoding  
34 the large subunit of pre-mRNA splicing factor U2AF—has retained an intact copy on W. The  
35 sex-specific copies of U2AF have divergent N-termini and show sex-biased gene expression.

### 36 Conclusion

37 Our assembly with fully resolved chromosomes provides evidence of an evolutionary path taken  
38 to create the Z and W sex chromosomes of schistosomes. Sex-linked divergence of the single  
39 U2AF gene, which has been present in the sex-specific regions longer than any other extant  
40 gene with distinct male and female specific copies and expression, may have been a pivotal  
41 step in the evolution of gonochorism and genotypic sex determination of schistosomes.

## 42 KEYWORDS

43 sex chromosomes, schistosomiasis, centromere, gametologues, sex determination,  
44 gonochorism, sex chromosome evolution, spliced-leader trans-splicing, gene clusters

## 45 BACKGROUND

46 *Schistosoma mansoni* is one of three main schistosome species that causes schistosomiasis, a  
47 neglected tropical disease that affects ~240 million people worldwide [1]. Within the Phylum  
48 Platyhelminthes (flatworms), schistosomes are remarkable; while virtually all other flatworm  
49 families are hermaphrodites, family schistosomatidae are gonochoristic (separate sexes) and  
50 sexually dimorphic as adults. Sex is genetically determined with heterogametic females (2n=16,  
51 ZW) and homogametic males (2n=16, ZZ).

52 Adult female worms reside within the gynecophoric canal of adult males and the paired worms  
53 produce several hundred eggs a day. The eggs either traverse the intestinal wall to reach the  
54 lumen and be excreted in faeces or become trapped in host tissues, mainly liver and intestine,  
55 driving the pathology associated with schistosomiasis [2]. It has been postulated [3,4] that  
56 dimorphism and gonochorism in schistosomes is an evolutionary adaptation to their residence  
57 in the venous system, close to capillary beds of warm-blooded host species; a division of labor  
58 between the sexes enables both a muscular male body to move against the blood flow of large  
59 veins and a thin slender female body shape to deposit eggs in small venules, allowing their  
60 efficient exit. However, the adaptions required to develop this dimorphism are unclear, limited  
61 by a lack of understanding of sex-linked molecular mechanisms, including unresolved sex  
62 chromosomes.

63 Despite major advances in the quality and quantity of published genome assemblies, sex  
64 chromosomes that are limited to the heterogametic sex (W and Y) are underrepresented in the  
65 growing list of whole genome assemblies. These sex-specific chromosomes are usually present

66 at a lower copy number than autosomes, and the problem of assembling them is compounded  
67 by difficult to resolve highly repetitive sequences and by genetic divergence between the sex  
68 chromosomes, such that they can vary along their lengths [5]. There are exceptions—notably  
69 the recent publication of the eel genome [6] included resolved centromeres, subtelomeric  
70 sequences and the highly repetitive Y chromosome short arm containing no gaps—but other  
71 sex chromosome assemblies, such as the *Drosophila* Y chromosome [7] and *Gallus gallus* W  
72 chromosome [8], are in fragmented states and even the reference human Y chromosome  
73 assembly [9] lacks continuity between the heterochromatic and euchromatic regions.

74 Degeneration of sex-limited chromosomes (W or Y) often distinguishes them from the shared (Z  
75 or X) chromosomes. Along the W chromosome of schistosomes, extensive  
76 heterochromatinization and the accumulation of satellite repeats, has been described, including  
77 a large satellite repeat SM-alpha [10]. Extensive gene loss, or pseudogene-formation is also  
78 expected but without an adequate W assembly, it has not previously been possible to  
79 comprehensively describe the W-specific gene and repeat content that may play an important  
80 role in sex determination.

81 The *S. mansoni* genome was first published as a draft assembly [11], followed by a more  
82 contiguous version (v5) three years later [12] that took advantage of high throughput short-read  
83 sequencing technology. At that stage, as much as 80% of the genome had been assigned to  
84 chromosomes but gaps were prolific and large regions remained unresolved. The Z and W  
85 sequences were assembled together into merged scaffolds, with multiple Z-specific sequences  
86 and almost no resolution of W-specific sequences. As part of a sustained commitment to  
87 produce a complete genome sequence, in the present study, we have significantly improved  
88 upon previous efforts using a combination of long-read sequencing technology, optical mapping  
89 and manual curation to generate a highly contiguous chromosome-scale assembly that includes  
90 a fully assembled Z chromosome and a contiguous representation of the highly repetitive W  
91 chromosome. Our fully resolved reference genome is a key pre-requisite for understanding the

92 evolution of sexual dimorphism in schistosomes and exposes sex-linked protein-coding and  
93 non-coding genes tentatively involved in sex determination.

94 **RESULTS**

95 **The chromosome-level genome of *Schistosoma mansoni***

96 Using a combination of PacBio long-read and Illumina short-read sequencing, optical mapping,  
97 fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH), Hi-C, and manual curation, we have assembled  
98 complete chromosomes from the 391.4 Mb genome of *S. mansoni*, including resolution of its Z  
99 and W sex chromosomes. The assemblies of chromosomes 2, 5, 6 and 7 comprise single  
100 scaffolds with telomeric repeats at either end; the remaining 5 chromosomes are also single  
101 scaffolds with a telomere at one end and sub-telomeric sequence at the other (Figure 1a,b).  
102 The number of gaps has decreased by 96% from 8,640 in the previous assembly to just 356  
103 (Table 1).

Table 1.

	v5	v9
Assembly size (Mb)	364.5	391.4
Gaps	8,640	356
Repeat Content (Mb)	191.8	213.2
<b>Scaffolds</b>		
Number	885	9
N50 (Mb)	32.1	52.8
N90 (Mb)	0.547	25
Largest (Mb)	65.5	89.1
<b>Gene statistics</b>		
Protein-coding genes	10,116	9,794
Novel genes*	-	810
Deleted genes	-	867
Pfam annotated	66.9%	70.3%

Transcript statistics		
Transcripts	11,075	14,031
Alternative splicing	6.9%	27.9%
Average exons per transcript	5.9	7.9

104  
105 The total repeat content of the assembly is 213.2 Mb (Table S1), a 21.4 Mb increase compared  
106 with the previously published version [12], reflecting the ability of PacBio long-read sequencing  
107 to account for repetitive regions that were previously difficult to assemble. For instance, an  
108 array of rRNA genes known as the nucleolar organizer region (NOR) of chromosome 3 (Figure  
109 1) was highly collapsed in the earlier assembly and is now fully resolved. Newly resolved  
110 repetitive regions also include arrays of tandemly duplicated protein-coding genes enabling us  
111 to obtain a more accurate count for genes previously thought to be present as single copies.  
112 Two striking examples are the major egg antigens IPSE (IL-4-inducing principle of *S. mansoni*  
113 egg) and omega-1. These genes, specifically expressed in the eggs, have been intensely  
114 studied due to their roles in immune-modulation, pathogenesis and mechanisms of egg  
115 translocation to the intestinal lumen [13–16]. IPSE and omega-1 transcripts are encoded by  
116 paralogous gene arrays of at least 13 and 7 gene copies, respectively. In fact, based on the  
117 depth of coverage of aligned sequencing reads, these numbers are likely to be even higher and  
118 may contain as many as 20 and 14 copies of IPSE and omega-1, respectively (Figure S2).  
119 We extended the analysis to identify other clusters of genes with conserved functions. Across  
120 the genome, there are 44 clusters of genes sharing similar predicted functions based on their  
121 protein (Pfam) domains, more than twice the number of clusters and domain types as seen in  
122 the previous v5 published genome version (Table S2). Clusters of *S. mansoni* Kunitz protease  
123 inhibitors and elastases are striking. Eleven Kunitz protease inhibitors (PF00014) exist in a  
124 cluster and 25 copies of elastase (PF00089; trypsin) are found across two clusters. The well-  
125 studied SmKI-1 (Smp\_147730 in v5; Smp\_311660, Smp\_311670, and Smp\_337730 in v9), is  
126 known to be involved in defense mechanisms of *S. mansoni* within the mammalian host [17].  
127 The elastases are an expanded group of serine proteases originally noted for their role in host

128 skin penetration, but are also expressed in intra-molluscan stages, where they likely facilitate  
129 movement of the parasite through snail tissue [18,19].

## 130 Annotation improvements through manual curation

131 We have significantly improved upon previous gene annotations of the *S. mansoni* genome.  
132 Using Augustus [20] and extensive RNA-seq evidence (Table S3) for gene prediction, followed  
133 by extensive manual curation, the total number of genes has decreased from 10,116 to 9,794  
134 (excluding genes on scaffolds that correspond to alternative haplotypes; Table S4), compared  
135 to the v5 genome. This is the lowest number of genes for any sequenced platyhelminth; for  
136 instance, the cestodes *Echinococcus multilocularis* [21] and *Hymenolepis microstoma* [22] have  
137 10,663 and 10,139 genes, respectively. In spite of the modest net reduction in genes, a total of  
138 3,610 updates to gene models from v5 to v9 have been made, including 810 new, 867 deleted,  
139 344 merged, 189 multiple copies, 190 split, and 1,210 with large structural changes (defined as  
140 >20% of coding region affected; Figure S3; Tables S5-S6). Using BUSCO v3.0.2 [23], the *S.*  
141 *mansoni* protein set was estimated to be 95.3% complete based on the representation of  
142 eukaryota orthologs (full genome-level BUSCO results at Table S7).

143 Spliced leader (SL) trans-splicing is an mRNA maturation process where an independently  
144 transcribed SL exon is transferred to a pre-mRNA. SL sequences originate from SL genes 613  
145 bp in length, consisting of a 36 bp exon sequence (position 144–181 bp) flanked by an  
146 upstream precursor sequence (1–143 bp) and a downstream intron (182–613 bp) (Figure S1).  
147 A ~1 Mb tandem array containing 41 full-length spliced-leader (SL) RNA genes has been  
148 resolved on chromosome 6 (Figure S1), together with an additional 109 partial gene sequences  
149 that contain the exon sequence only in the same array. On most other chromosomes, 1–4 SL  
150 gene fragments containing the exon sequence can also be found. Using RNA-seq data from all  
151 life cycle stages with an improved gene set (Table S3), we located SL receptor sequences in  
152 the transcripts of 6,641 genes in the primary assembly (i.e. no haplotypes), indicating that the  
153 majority of genes (66.3%) encode at least one trans-spliced isoform compared to 6.9% reported

154 in the previous assembly (Table S8). This number is similar to the nematode *Caenorhabditis*  
155 *elegans* where ~70% are identified as being trans-spliced [24].

156 The complexity of gene structures has increased substantially; the average number of exons  
157 per gene has increased from 5.9 to 7.9 (Table 1) and 97.7% of transcripts have both 5' and 3'  
158 untranslated regions (UTRs) annotated (Table S9). Further, the proportion of genes with  
159 alternative splicing to generate distinct transcribed isoforms has increased from 6.9% to 27.9%.  
160 Systematic improvements to gene finding and gene structural changes have enabled a richer  
161 set of putative functions to be ascribed to the *S. mansoni* proteome, reflected in the 47 new  
162 protein (Pfam) domains to *S. mansoni* from new genes and 79 new Pfams domains annotated  
163 in genes with improved gene structure (Table S10).

## 164 Centromere motif conservation and divergence

165 *S. mansoni* chromosomes are monocentric [25], each with a cytologically distinguishable  
166 primary constriction (Figure 1a). The centromeric sequences are large repeat arrays that, on all  
167 chromosomes except 4 and Z, are highly conserved within a centromeric array and are  
168 between 93.1–98.5% similar to a 123 bp centromeric repeat proposed by Melters et al. [26]  
169 (Figure S4; Table S11). Between the centromeres of different chromosomes, the sequence  
170 conservation is more variable: 56% identity between the two most divergent centromere  
171 monomers (chromosomes Z and 6) and 100% identity between the centromeres of  
172 chromosomes 2 and 3 (Figure S4). The unit size is typical of the centromeric repeats of many  
173 other species [26], including the platyhelminth *Hymenolepis microstoma* [22]. The centromeric  
174 repeats for chromosomes 4 and Z have diverged from each other and from those of other  
175 chromosomes (Figure S4); their respective repeat units are 107 and 175 bp, and they are only  
176 82 and 59% identical to the consensus from Melters et al. Centromeric repeats were previously  
177 estimated to comprise 0.48% of the genome (1.9 Mb) [26], but after including the divergent  
178 centromeres and estimating the degree to which all centromeric repeats were under-  
179 represented in the assembly based on mapped sequence coverage (from three PCR-free

180 Illumina libraries), we estimate that centromeres make up at least 1.15% (4.5 Mb) of the  
181 genome.

## 182 Architecture of the Z chromosome

183 Our new assembly includes a full-length 88 Mb Z chromosome that includes defined,  
184 recombining pseudoautosomal regions 1 (10.7 Mb) and 2 (42.9 Mb) and a non-recombining  
185 33.1 Mb Z-specific region. In contrast to the previously published v5 assembly [12], where the Z  
186 chromosome was only partially resolved, the new sequence is 27.2 Mb larger with  
187 misassemblies corrected along its length, aided by the new long-range information that has  
188 been incorporated (Figure 2). In particular, the sequence that is unique to the Z chromosome  
189 (i.e., the Z-specific region, or ZSR), is clearly visible based on the lower depth of coverage of  
190 resequencing reads mapped from heterogametic females. The ZSR is flanked by two regions  
191 that are common to both sex chromosomes, termed pseudoautosomal region (PAR) 1 and 2.

192 Based on the earlier assembly (v5), it was previously shown [27] that the Z chromosome  
193 comprises different sub-regions or strata that have evolved differentially in the African and  
194 Asian *Schistosoma* lineages from a common 'Ancestral' stratum that is common to both  
195 lineages. Using the v9 assembly as a reference, where the ZSR is now resolved as a 33.2 Mb  
196 continuous sequence (Figure 2; Table S12), we plotted coverage of mapped sequencing reads  
197 across Z chromosome orthologs from four schistosome species (*S. mansoni*, *S. rodhaini*, *S.*  
198 *haematobium*, *S. japonicum*) and the hermaphroditic trematode *Echinostoma caproni*. In  
199 contrast to the relatively uniform mapped coverage for *E. caproni*, the ZSRs for the  
200 *Schistosoma* species are clearly visible, with a 19.1 Mb Ancestral shared region (ZSR2; ZSR  
201 coordinates 13,993,393-33,063,208) that has extended more recently in different directions  
202 amongst the African (*S. haematobium*, *S. rodhaini*, *S. mansoni*) and Asian species (*S.*  
203 *japonicum*). It also appears that in the Asian *S. japonicum*, two inversions have resulted in  
204 orthologues changing position and, therefore, creating coverage anomalies near the ZSR  
205 boundaries. The more recent 14 Mb African stratum (ZSR1; ZSR coordinates 1 - 13,993,392)

206 extends beyond the centromere but is shorter than the Ancestral stratum (ZSR2). In contrast to  
207 the single, contiguous Z-specific region in the v9 assembly, the v5 assembly contained two  
208 blocks of what we now know to be PAR fragments which were incorrectly located inside the  
209 sex-specific region. It was previously reported that blocks of sequence shared by Z and W are  
210 located in the large region of recombination repression (i.e. the ZSR) [28]; based on this  
211 observation, Hirai, Hirai, and LoVerde [29] proposed three inversions in homologous Z/W  
212 regions from Z to W occurred before heterochromatinization, followed by at least one more  
213 inversion. These conclusions do not hold true in v9 and can now be attributed to misassemblies  
214 in v5.

215 To gain further insight into the evolutionary origins of the ZSR, we looked at the relationship  
216 between the Z chromosome and the chromosomal sequences of distantly related tapeworms.  
217 We have previously shown that flatworm genome structure can be defined based on conserved  
218 chromosome synteny blocks [30] (Figure 3b). When orthologs of *S. mansoni* and tapeworms  
219 are compared, synteny is largely preserved between these blocks, even though collinearity is  
220 disrupted. It is evident that one end of the Z chromosome is highly related to chromosome 3 of  
221 *Echinococcus multilocularis* and the other end is highly related to chromosome 5. When taken  
222 in isolation, the orthology evidence equally supports an ancient fusion in the schistosome  
223 lineage or an ancient fission in the tapeworm lineage. However, the position of the junction  
224 between the chromosome synteny blocks coincides with the position of the Ancient stratum  
225 (Figure 3a), suggesting that a fusion in the schistosome lineage is likely to have played a role,  
226 resulting in suppressed recombination.

227 For neutral positions in the genome, the genetic diversity present is expected to reflect the  
228 number of copies of that region in the genome [31]. For the ZSR, the relative number of copies  
229 is 0.75 relative to autosomes (1.0), thus the diversity is expected to be lower than that of  
230 autosomes. Along the ZSR, we identified 352 genes in the African stratum and 580 in the  
231 Ancient stratum, which are flanked by 229 and 1,071 protein-coding genes in PAR1 and PAR2,  
232 respectively. We calculated the median nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) across the protein-coding genes

233 of the autosomes and PARs and Z-specific regions (Figure 4; Table S13) using published  
234 genome variation data [32]. Across 50 kb windows, the autosomes have a median  $\pi$  range of  
235 0.0026 to 0.0039. The PARs have a similar median  $\pi$  range to that of the autosomes at 0.0027  
236 to 0.0032 in females and 0.0027 to 0.0034 in males suggesting that recombination between ZW  
237 and ZZ bivalents in the PARs is similar to that of the autosomal chromosomes. Also, the median  
238  $\pi$  of the ZSR is significantly lower than that of the PARs for both males and females ( $p<0.001$ ;  
239 Mann-Whitney test). We observed significantly lower  $\pi$  values in the Z African stratum when  
240 compared to the Z Ancestral stratum in both male and female samples ( $p<0.001$ ; Mann-Whitney  
241 test), consistent with the effective population size of the Ancestral stratum being smaller for  
242 longer. The  $\pi$  values of the Z chromosome are close to that which would be expected in a  
243 neutral equilibrium with equal and constant male and female populations sizes  
244 ( $\pi_Z/\pi_{\text{Autosomes}}=0.75$ ; [31] with  $\pi_Z/\pi_{\text{Autosomes}}=0.71$  in males and  $\pi_Z/\pi_{\text{Autosomes}}=0.70$  in females).

## 245 Assembling the W Chromosome

246 The W chromosome shares >50 Mb of sequence with the Z chromosome in the  
247 pseudoautosomal regions, PAR1 and PAR2, that flank a highly repetitive W-specific region  
248 (WSR) (Figure 5; Table S12). In the v5 assembly, the highly repetitive W-specific region could  
249 not be resolved beyond ~100 small and unordered contigs (1.1 Mb); by sequencing clonal  
250 females on multiple sequencing platforms, we resolved 22 repeat-rich W-specific scaffolds  
251 totalling 3.7 Mb (Figure S5). In many cases, the long reads used in our assembly were  
252 insufficient to fully span the arrays of repeats in the W chromosome. As a result, unique  
253 sequences are represented but the number of repeat units in many of the repeat arrays is vastly  
254 underestimated. After manual curation of the major repeat blocks, the W-specific assembly  
255 scaffolds were further ordered, oriented and linked by identifying as few as one, long PacBio  
256 subreads that spanned two consecutive blocks (Table S14). Metaphase FISH was also used to  
257 localize and orient three W-specific scaffolds that could not be placed through computational  
258 assembly methods (Figure S5).

259 Previous karyotype measurements from 22 female metaphase cells [33] showed the W  
260 chromosome to be approximately 14% longer than the Z chromosome, a figure we confirmed  
261 with our own measurements of 14.7% using 6 female metaphase cells (Table S15; Figure S6).  
262 In particular, a long repetitive region in the short (p) arm of the W chromosome accounts for  
263 much of this size difference and is responsible for the p-arm being ~40% of the W-chromosome  
264 length. Assuming a uniform density along the chromosome, relative measured lengths of other  
265 chromosomes with known assembly sizes (Figure S6), and genomic coverage of W-specific  
266 repeats (Table S16), we estimate the size of the W-specific region (WSR) to be ~46 Mb.  
267 However, given that this region is heterochromatic and, therefore, more densely packed, its true  
268 size could be much longer. We attempted to estimate the degree to which repetitive regions  
269 remain collapsed within the assembly by mapping high-coverage Illumina sequencing reads  
270 from adult females. Extrapolating the read depth across repetitive regions (Table S16; see next  
271 section for results on W repeats) and comparing it with the median coverage for the genome  
272 (Table S17; ERS039722), we estimate a length of 17.6 Mb for the W-specific region. Clearly the  
273 mapping approach is inaccurate for estimating the true size of these collapsed regions. In fact,  
274 there are many regions of repetitive sequence in W where very few Illumina reads are mapped,  
275 indicating that certain repeat motifs are underrepresented in the sequence data. So-called  
276 “dark” and “camouflaged” regions of genomes have previously been reported, where specific  
277 sequencing technologies perform poorly (e.g. short tandem repeats, duplicated regions, regions  
278 with high GC content, non-random fragmentation) [34,35].

279 **Repeat classification and heterochromatinization of the W  
280 chromosome**

281 Like the human Y chromosome, the *S. mansoni* W chromosome is largely heterochromatic with  
282 a large proportion of its length composed of satellite repeats. There are just three bands of  
283 euchromatin on the W chromosome (chevrons in Figure 5) [10,33]. Because some individual  
284 PacBio reads contained tandem arrays of the same repeat unit, we were able to assemble

285 complete repeat units. Within the WSR constitutive heterochromatin, we characterized 36  
286 unique repeats, named smw01-smw36 (Figure 5; Table S16). The 36 W-specific repeats  
287 comprise >95% of the assembled length of the W-specific region.  
288 Of the 36 repeats, five (smw07, smw20, smw21, smw25, smw29) are related to the previously  
289 described 337 bp retrotransposable element SM $\alpha$ t-2 [36,37]. Although a variant of SM $\alpha$ t-2 has  
290 been previously published as female-specific (SMAlphafem-1; NCBI accession U12442), we  
291 found one complete copy (coordinates: 23,37,004–23,936,670; 92.3% identity, 99.7%  
292 coverage, e-value 9.07e-133) and 38 partial copies (>75.0% identity; >95.0% coverage) on the  
293 Z chromosome. Metaphase FISH has shown striking fluorescence of a SM $\alpha$ t-2-related probe  
294 hybridizing near the short arm euchromatic gap [33,37]. However, across the v9 genome, we  
295 found SM $\alpha$ t-2 repeats sporadically distributed on all autosomes and both sex chromosomes  
296 [38], but only as a large tandem array on the W chromosome, corresponding to the smw07  
297 repeat found near the euchromatic band of the short arm [33].  
298 Interestingly, 21 of the repeats can be grouped into five distinct families, where members within  
299 each family share at least 75.0% nucleotide identity, suggesting they may have evolved from a  
300 common ancestor including an SM $\alpha$ (aka SM-alpha and SMAlpha-fem) retrotransposon repeat  
301 family (smw03, 07, 20, 21, 29) (Table S16).

## 302 Gametologues and their possible role in schistosome sex 303 determination

304 The ZSR contains a total of 932 protein-coding genes. Of these, only 33 have clear  
305 homologous copies (termed gametologues) on the W chromosome, all within the WSR (Table  
306 S18). Although there is some positional clustering, extensive rearrangements by inversions,  
307 repeat expansions and transposable elements have largely disrupted collinearity between the  
308 WSR and the ZSR. The more recent African stratum contains 31 of the gametologues. For two  
309 of these, the corresponding W-copies have duplicated; there are three copies of genes

310 encoding DnaJ domain proteins (heat shock protein 40 member B6) and two copies encoding a  
311 hypothetical protein with no discernible conserved features. At least five of the gametologues in  
312 the African stratum have degenerated into pseudogenes on W that have not yet been lost.  
313 Considering the longest transcript for each gene, the W gametologues have an average of 55  
314 amino acids less per protein sequence than the Z gametologues (Table S19). Only three W  
315 gametologues (spliceosome-associated protein, Smp\_310950; ENTH domain-containing  
316 protein, Smp\_303540; splicing factor U2AF 35 kDa small subunit, Smp\_348830) are longer  
317 than their Z counterparts. Most Z and W gametologues are highly similar with average amino  
318 acid identities of >80% across their entire lengths using the Needle Wunsch algorithm in the  
319 EMBOSS package [39]. Excluding the five W pseudogenes and their Z gametologues, the  
320 gametologue pair with the greatest divergence was Smp\_348820 on W and Smp\_031310 on Z  
321 (encoding 40S ribosomal subunit S26) with only 47.6% identity. However, as with other low-  
322 similarity pairs, it was not possible, even through manual curation, to rule out gene finding  
323 inaccuracies due to a lack of isoform-specific transcript data.  
324 We used previously published sex- and stage-specific RNA-seq [40,41] to analyse differences  
325 in expression between the Z and W gametologue pairs (Figure 6). As expected, using unique  
326 mapping reads only for analysis, very few male reads mapped to the W gametologues. There  
327 were slight differences in the levels of expression between male and female samples for the Z  
328 gametologues, although RNA-seq coverage and replicate number from some of these samples  
329 were inadequate to enable robust analysis and interpretation. It has been shown one  
330 gametologue pair, encoding DnaJ homolog subfamily B member 4, have diel expression in  
331 males and females with the Z gametologue (Smp\_336770) with the Z gametologue cycling  
332 in adult females, males, and male heads, and the W gametologue (Smp\_020920) cycling in  
333 females [42]. Expression of several W gametologues in female samples indicates possible  
334 stage-specific activity (such as Smp\_317860, DnaJ heat shock protein family member B6) that  
335 is expressed in female larval cercariae and pre-dimorphic mammalian-stage schistosomula but

336 not in adults; however, the Z gametologue to this gene, Smp\_022330, shows consistent  
337 expression values across all stages.

338 There is an almost complete lack of gametologues in the Ancestral stratum, which is consistent  
339 with this part of the chromosome having become sexually differentiated earlier and  
340 degenerative processes thus having been underway for longer. Within this long tract of  
341 degenerated sequence, two gametologues are clear exceptions. The first of these is a long  
342 multi-exon gene on Z, encoding a protein with ankyrin repeats and helicase domains. The  
343 corresponding gametologue on W is a pseudogene with several frameshifts and missing exons  
344 (Figure S7a). The second gametologue is predicted to encode the large subunit of splicing  
345 factor U2 snRNP auxiliary factor (Smp\_019690 on Z and Smp\_348790 on W). Strikingly, the  
346 sequences are almost identical (>95%) for most of their lengths but have divergent N-terminal  
347 sequences. After correcting for an artifactual frameshift in the W chromosome consensus  
348 sequence (based on aligned RNA-seq reads; Figure S7b), the copy on W shares the single-  
349 exon structure but the first 125 aa share only 45% identity.

350 **DISCUSSION**

351 Our chromosome-scale assembly and curated annotation significantly extends the genetic  
352 resources for *S. mansoni*, and provides a more robust scaffold for genome-wide and functional  
353 genomic approaches for this important but neglected pathogen. It has enabled a greatly  
354 improved definition of the gene content, with the sequences of more than 25% of genes  
355 changed with >20% of coding region affected, and better resolution of those present in  
356 repetitive arrays, such as those encoding spliced leader RNA and stage-specific gene families.  
357 Amongst the gene families, many are known to encode highly abundant products —such as  
358 IPSE, omega-1, elastases, Kunitz protease inhibitors—that are important in host-parasite  
359 interactions. Major egg antigens omega-1 and IPSE are associated with a Th2 immune  
360 response in the host resulting in granulomatous inflammation around trapped parasite eggs

361 [43]. Given the critical role of the intestinal granuloma for the egg translocation from the blood  
362 vessels to the intestinal lumen [44], genome expansions of these genes might have  
363 represented a selective advantage.

364 A major advance is in the analysis of schistosome sex chromosome evolution. Our previous  
365 analysis of orthologue synteny across the flatworms showed that the *S. mansoni* Z  
366 chromosome corresponds to two or more chromosomes in tapeworms [30]. From those data  
367 alone, it was not possible to determine whether a chromosome fusion had occurred in the  
368 schistosome lineage or whether it was a fission in tapeworms. However, in several other taxa,  
369 including filarial nematodes and several lepidoptera, a chromosomal fusion has underpinned the  
370 genesis of sex chromosomes [45,46]. We therefore speculate that a fusion has similarly  
371 occurred in the ancestral schistosome, creating a new pre-sex autosomal chromosome. The  
372 fusion event could have resulted in an isolated sex-determining locus that was advantageous to  
373 females and/or antagonistic to hermaphrodite worms. Consistent with this hypothesis, we show  
374 that the position of the putative fusion is within the oldest part of the Z-specific region of the  
375 chromosome and, within it, there is a single protein-coding ancestral gene (U2AF; splicing  
376 factor U2AF 65 kDa subunit) and a single pseudogene that are common to all African and Asian  
377 schistosomes. The alternative hypothesis to explain the observed synteny would require a  
378 fission at that position somewhere in the tapeworm lineage. This would have occurred prior to  
379 the formation of a sex determining region and the fission would, therefore, have played no role.

380 As one of two genomes found in the earliest-diverging part of the sex chromosomes, we identify  
381 the W gametologue encoding the pre-mRNA splicing factor U2AF 65 kDa subunit  
382 (Smp\_348790) as a leading candidate gene for involvement in schistosome sex-determination.  
383 U2AF has been studied extensively in *Drosophila* for its association with the master sex-  
384 determining protein Sex-lethal (Sxl) [51] that is expressed exclusively in female flies. Sxl  
385 competes with U2AF binding to inhibit the splicing and translation of the *msl-2* gene (male-  
386 specific-lethal-2) [52,53]. Considering that sex is determined by inhibition of U2AF binding to  
387 pre-mRNA in *Drosophila*, it is tempting to speculate that the *S. mansoni* female-specific W copy

388 of U2AF may antagonise the activity of the Z copy to inhibit the splicing of one or more genes.  
389 Further implicating U2AF in sex determination, the sex-specific regions also contain a homolog  
390 of the U2AF 35kDa subunit. In many taxa, U2AF is a heterodimer composed of large and small  
391 subunits that are required for spliceosome assembly in order to remove intron sequences from  
392 pre-mRNAs. U2AF binds to the 3' splice site and polypyrimidine tract of introns in a complex  
393 with several other small nucleolar ribonucleoproteins (snRNPs) bound to the 5' splice donor,  
394 committing pre-mRNA to splicing (see review [50]). Our identification of U2AF2 is independently  
395 validated by Elkrewi et al. [49], who show using a search strategy based on the differential  
396 distribution of k-mers, that U2AF2 is the only intact gene in the ancient stratum of the ZSR.

397 How has sexual dimorphism evolved in schistosomatidae? The characterization of  
398 chromosomal fusions resulting the sex chromosomes, distinct evolutionary strata among closely  
399 related species, and the identification of U2AF allows us to propose a model of a model of the  
400 evolution of the schistosome sex chromosomes (Figure 8). At some point during the evolution  
401 of the Z and W sex chromosomes, the centromeric repeats diverged. It is not possible to know  
402 whether the centromere divergence occurred simply as a result of recombination or whether it  
403 played a more pivotal role in driving the suppression of recombination. Given the location of the  
404 centromere towards the far end of the more recent African stratum of the ZSR, the centromere  
405 divergence could have enabled a large expansion of the ZSR in the common ancestor of the  
406 African lineage of parasites. The high homology in amino acid sequence along with the  
407 conservation of functional domains between the gametologues suggests function has not  
408 changed between the gametologue pairs. Analysis of existing RNA-seq revealed sex- and  
409 stage-specific expression of the Z and W gametologues that could play a role in female-specific  
410 development. The duplication and triplication of two Z gametologues on W may be important in  
411 maintaining gene dosage or specialized female expression for those genes and is worthy of  
412 future study.

413 Although sexual dimorphism needs not rely on the existence of sex chromosomes and not all  
414 sexually dimorphic traits need to be linked to sex chromosomes [55], there must have been

415 selective pressure to isolate sexually antagonistic and/or advantageous loci on non-  
416 recombining regions of sex chromosomes [56,57]. Unlike many species in which a master sex-  
417 determining gene triggers male or female development, the absence of a W chromosome-  
418 specific genes suggests that multiple sex-determining loci were isolated on the sex  
419 chromosomes to produce separate sexes. With this in mind, we hypothesize that the W-copy of  
420 U2AF is regulating other gametologues or even genes located on the autosomes to control the  
421 suppression of male or female function. Identifying downstream interactions of U2AF with other  
422 genes is a critical next step for uncovering the mechanisms involved in schistosome sex  
423 determination. For example, do posttranslational modifications or splicing of W gametologues  
424 by U2AF directly inhibit the activity of a male-promoting product or create a male-lethal product?  
425 Future studies are needed to understand the functional role the gametologues like U2AF play in  
426 schistosome sex biology.

## 427 CONCLUSIONS

428 *S. mansoni* is the most studied trematode and an accurate genome sequence underpins  
429 research into this important pathogen as well as enabling it to serve as a model for other  
430 trematodes. As the first species with completely assembled Z and W sex chromosomes, the *S.*  
431 *mansoni* genome provides a novel resource for studying other ZW organisms and is a crucial  
432 resource for future investigation into the sexual biology of schistosomes. The results presented  
433 provide a significant advance toward understanding the evolution of sex chromosomes among  
434 the Schistosomatidae. As the agent of a prominent neglected tropical disease, understanding  
435 the evolutionary origins and molecular mechanism of sex determination in schistosomes may  
436 reveal new vulnerabilities to combat these parasites. The identification of the W-copy of U2AF  
437 as a candidate sex determining factor is clearly a major first step. This new assembly and  
438 annotation has already assisted in a broad range of studies on schistosomiasis including  
439 monitoring genetic diversity in field strains [32,58], the discovery of alleles under selection for  
440 resistance to the antihelminthic praziquantel [59], and the analysis of stage- and sex-specific

441 epigenetic changes [60–62]. Future studies using this resource will undoubtedly continue to  
442 reveal novel biological insights into schistosome development, infection, host-parasite  
443 interactions, and pathogenicity.

## 444 METHODS

### 445 Parasite material

#### 446 *Schistosoma mansoni* developmental stages

447 A summary of the parasite material for genome and transcriptome sequencing can be found in  
448 Table S17 and Table S3, respectively. Unless otherwise specified, the different *S. mansoni*  
449 developmental stages were collected following described protocols [63,64]. Unless otherwise  
450 noted, samples for RNA extraction were resuspended in 1 ml of TRIzol and stored at -80°C until  
451 a standard TRIzol RNA extraction method was performed. Genomic DNA was extracted using a  
452 standard phenol:chloroform DNA extraction method.

#### 453 Sporocysts

454 Sporocysts were collected from Brazilian *B. glabrata* snails (BgBre) infected with 10 miracidia of  
455 their sympatric Brazilian *S. mansoni* (SmBre) strain. Secondary (daughter) sporocysts were  
456 dissected from 20 snails at 15 days and 4.5 weeks after infection. Following RNA extraction,  
457 DNA was removed with the Ambion® DNA-free™ Kit following the standard procedure and  
458 purified with the RNeasy® Mini Kit (QIAGEN).

#### 459 Cercariae

460 At 4.5 weeks post exposure to 15-30 miracidia each, snails were washed, transferred to a  
461 beaker containing ~50 ml conditioned water, and placed under light to induce cercarial

462 shedding. Cercariae were collected and water was replaced every 30 minutes for 2 hours.

463 Cercariae were incubated on ice for 30 minutes and concentrated by centrifugation at 1500 x g

464 for 30 minutes at 4°C.

465 Snails exposed to single miracidium each were tested for patent infection after 5 weeks by

466 exposure to light to collect genomic DNA from pooled male and pooled female cercariae. Snails

467 with patent infection were kept and exposed to light every three days. Cercariae collected from

468 each snail were stored for DNA extraction. Sex of the cercariae was identified by PCR [65].

469 Schistosomula and adult worms

470 Briefly, water containing cercariae was filtered, cercariae were washed, and tails were sheared

471 off by ~20 passes through a 22-G emulsifying needle. Schistosomula bodies were separated

472 from the sheared tails by Percoll gradient centrifugation, washed, and cultured at 37°C under

473 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

474 Adult worms were collected by portal perfusion from experimentally-infected mice at 6, 13, 17,

475 21, 28 and 35 days post infection following methods previously described [66]. Clonal female or

476 male adult worms were collected from mice infected with PCR-confirmed female or male

477 cercariae, respectively, shed from single monomiraculum-infected snails.

478 For RNA preparation, samples were thawed on ice and transferred to MagNA Lyser Green

479 Beads (Roche Molecular Systems, Inc). The samples were homogenized using the FastPrep-24

480 instrument (MB Biomedicals, UK) for two 20 second pulses with a speed setting of 6. A

481 standard TRIzol RNA extraction followed and RNA was concentrated using RNA Clean and

482 Concentrator Kit (Zymo Research) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. RNA

483 quality was assessed on the Bioanalyzer (Agilent) and samples with the highest quality were

484 chosen for reverse transcription.

485 Miracidia

486 Livers were removed from hamsters 49 days post-infection with cercariae of the Liberian strain  
487 of *S. mansoni* and homogenised in PBS. The homogenate was centrifuged for 10 minutes at  
488 5,500 x g at 4°C and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet was washed twice by  
489 resuspension in 0.9% NaCl followed by centrifugation as above. The pellet was resuspended in  
490 fresh conditioned water, exposed to light, and miracidia were collected. Miracidia were  
491 centrifuged for 30 minutes at 15,000 rpm at 4°C. Pelleted miracidia were resuspended in 100 µl  
492 TriFast (Peqlab) before storage at -80°C. The miracidia were allowed to thaw at room  
493 temperature before homogenisation with a polypropylene pestle, and snap frozen in liquid  
494 nitrogen. This was repeated twice more before TriFast was added to 500 µl. RNA was then  
495 extracted according to the manufacturer's instructions. Extracted RNA was quantified using a  
496 BioPhotometer plus (Eppendorf). RNA quality was assessed with the Bioanalyzer RNA 600  
497 Pico Kit (Agilent).

498 Illumina and PacBio genome sequencing

499 Clonal male and female mate pair libraries (3 kb fragment size) were prepared from cercariae  
500 genomic DNA, following a modified SOLiD 5500 protocol adapted for Illumina sequencing [67].  
501 Additionally, genomic DNA from clonal male and clonal female adult material was used to make  
502 separate PCR-free 400-550 bp Illumina libraries following previously described protocols [68],  
503 with the exception of using Agencourt AMPure XP beads for sample clean-up and size  
504 selection. Genomic DNA was precipitated onto beads after each enzymatic stage with an equal  
505 volume of 20% polyethylene glycol 6000 and 2.5 M sodium chloride solution. Beads were not  
506 separated from the sample throughout the process until after the adapter ligation stage. Fresh  
507 beads were then used for final size selection. Illumina libraries were sequenced on either a  
508 HiSeq 2000 or 2500 (Table S17).

509 Genomic DNA from *S. mansoni* clonal female adults was used to prepare a SMRTbell library  
510 following the Pacific Biosciences protocol '20 kb Template Preparation Using BluePippin Size-  
511 selection System'. The resulting library was used to produce 40 SMRT cells on the Pacific  
512 Biosciences RSII platform. We also prepared a PacBio library using genomic DNA from a pool  
513 of male cercariae from a snail monomiracidium-infection producing 28 SMRT cells on the  
514 Pacific Biosciences RSII platform (Table S17).

515 Optical mapping for genome assembly corrections and increased  
516 resolution

517 Female clonal cercariae were used to make agarose plugs using the CHEF Genomic DNA Plug  
518 Kit (Bio-Rad) following methods previously described [69]. High molecular weight *S. mansoni*  
519 genomic DNA was prepared by proteinase K lysis of trypsin-digested adults mixed with molten  
520 agarose set in plugs. DNA molecules were stretched and immobilized along microfluidic  
521 channels before digestion with the restriction endonucleases *BamHI* and *NheI*, yielding a set of  
522 ordered restriction fragments in the order that they occur within the genome.

523 The optical data was generated and analysed using the Argus Optical Mapping System from  
524 OpGen and associated MapManager and MapSolver software tools. As the *S. mansoni*  
525 genome is significantly larger than the 100 Mb cut-off suggested by OpGen for *de novo*  
526 assembly, OpGen's GenomeBuilder software was used to generate targeted local optical map  
527 assemblies from the sequence contigs to provide additional mapping information. The median  
528 coverage of fluorescently-labelled molecules in the optical contigs from which consensus  
529 sequences were built was 30x. The raw data for each optical map contig were manually  
530 scrutinized using OpGen's AssemblyViewer software, allowing us to validate accuracy (i.e.  
531 consistent coverage of  $\geq 20x$ ). Contigs with a visible dip in raw molecular coverage were

532 discarded as assembly errors. This resulted in a set of manually curated, non-redundant optical  
533 contig consensus sequences that were generated near remaining scaffold gaps, rather than  
534 being generated to cover the whole genome, due to finite computational and analytical  
535 resources. Comparison of sequence contigs with validated optical contig consensus sequences  
536 allowed further scaffolding of the genome assembly and resolution of misassemblies as  
537 necessary in Gap5.

### 538 *de novo* assemblies and manual curation

539 We combined existing short read data [11,12] with additional Illumina data, long PacBio reads  
540 (Table S17), optical contigs, and genetic markers [70], to construct an intermediary genome  
541 assembly (version 7; GCA\_000237925.3) that could be used by the public immediately while  
542 time-intensive manual curation took place. Misassemblies were corrected using long-read  
543 evidence, as well as optical map data and genetic markers [70]. Remaining gaps were filled  
544 using gap-filling software [71,72]. Genetic markers [70] and an updated genetic linkage  
545 map(unpublished data, Chevalier et al) were used to assign further scaffolds to chromosomes,  
546 and to aid improvement and validation of the rest of the assembly. Version 7 contains 10  
547 chromosomal scaffolds (8 chromosomes plus two scaffolds whose coordinates are known in the  
548 W chromosome; 95.91% of scaffolded bases), 13 scaffolds assigned to an autosome with  
549 known coordinates (11 of these are primarily repetitive scaffolds), 20 W-specific scaffolds  
550 without chromosomal coordinates, 17 scaffolds not assigned to a chromosome, and one  
551 mitochondrial scaffold.

552 Following the v7 assembly submission, we further improved the assembly, particularly in  
553 assembling all W-specific contigs and in creating individual chromosomal scaffolds for both Z  
554 and W sex chromosomes. To assemble the W chromosome, we first produced separate *de*

555 *novo* assemblies for Illumina and then used Spades [73] and CANU [74]) to assemble PacBio  
556 genomic reads that did not map to the v7 assembly with >500bp of soft-clipping. Second, the *de*  
557 *novo* assemblies were screened against the NCBI NR database in order to screen out any non-  
558 *S. mansoni* sequences. New contigs were examined in Gap5 [75] for absence of mapped reads  
559 from a male Illumina library (PCR-free pooled male cercariae) and presence of mapped reads  
560 from the PCR-free pooled female cercariae Illumina library (Table S17). Manual improvement  
561 was performed in Gap5 [75]. Putative new W-specific contigs were examined for sequence  
562 similarity to the 22 existing W-specific scaffolds in v7 to determine unique W-specific contigs. All  
563 genomic reads (Table S17) were re-mapped to the new assembly and concordant soft-clipped  
564 sequences were extended. This process was continued iteratively until no further progress  
565 could be made, by which point all contigs terminated in tandem repeats. At this point, the  
566 PacBio subreads were surveyed to find long read evidence linking the W chromosome tandem  
567 repeats together (Table S16). This elucidated the order of the repeats and W-specific regions to  
568 construct a single W chromosome scaffold.

569 Z and W-specific chromosomal regions were determined from mapping coverage of PCR-free  
570 female Illumina libraries (Table S17) with ~22x coverage in the ZSR and ~44x coverage in the  
571 PARs, as expected in ZW females. Female-only libraries were used to manually identify  
572 gametologues on the W chromosome.

573 We resolved the haplotypic diversity that typically exists in genome assemblies by sequencing  
574 clonal parasites derived from single miracidium-infected snails. Haplotype genes were  
575 determined in Gap5 [75] by identifying genes with half coverage, and localisation to a single  
576 scaffold that is also half coverage, as compared to non-haplotype scaffolds. An erroneously  
577 classified W chromosome scaffold (SM\_V7\_W019) from v7 was re-classified as a chromosome  
578 1 haplotype. Haplotypes are represented in 259 scaffolds (2.74% of scaffolded bases) (Table  
579 S4; DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5149023).

580

581 Metaphase fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) to confirm order of W-  
582 specific scaffolds

583 *S. mansoni* NMRI strain daughter sporocysts from *B. glabrata* snails were dissected at 29 days  
584 post exposure. Sporocysts were placed in 0.05% (0.5mg/ml) colchicine (Sigma-Aldrich) and  
585 titurated ~20 times using an 18G blunt-end needle. This single cell suspension was incubated  
586 at room temperature for 2-4 hrs to arrest cell division. Cells were spun at 500 x g for 5 min,  
587 incubated in nuclease-free water for 20 min at room temperature, and then preserved in ice-  
588 cold 3:1 methanol:acetic acid fixative.

589 Several primer sets were designed to amplify 15 kb-30 kb fragments using the 22 W-specific  
590 scaffolds identified post-v7. Fragments were amplified using either PrimeSTAR GXL  
591 polymerase (TaKaRa Bio) or LA Taq Hot Start Version Polymerase (TaKaRa Bio) per the  
592 manufacturer's instructions. The PCR products were run on an agarose gel and bands of the  
593 targeted size were cut and isolated using the QIAEX II Gel Extraction Kit (Qiagen). We  
594 successfully amplified sufficient DNA for labelling for scaffolds W005, W002, and W014 to  
595 confirm their order in the v9 assembly (Figure S5). Multiplex metaphase FISH and karyotyping  
596 were done following the procedures previously described [76].

597 Arima-HiC data to validate the *S. mansoni* v9 assembly

598 The Arima-HiC Kit for Animal Tissues (Arima Genomics; Material Part Numbers: A510008  
599 Document Part Number: A160140 v00 Release Date: November 2018) was used following the  
600 manufacturer's instructions with ~100 fresh female *S. mansoni* worms as input. An Illumina  
601 library was made using the Swift Biosciences Accel-NGSO 2S Plus DNA Library Kit, with the  
602 modified Arima Genomics protocol. The library was sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq X Ten  
603 platform resulting in high resolution with >260x coverage of the genome (Table S17). Arima-HiC  
604 data was aligned to the v7 assembly using BWA [77]; version 0.7.17). The HiC contact map  
605 was made with PretextMap (<https://github.com/wtsi-hpag/PretextMap>) and viewed in

606 PretextView (<https://github.com/wtsi-hpag/PretextView>) (Figure 1). Minor misassemblies and  
607 placement of previously 31 unplaced scaffolds were done manually in Gap5 [75].

608 **Illumina RNA-seq and PacBio IsoSeq transcriptome  
609 sequencing across *S. mansoni* developmental stages**

610 Illumina RNA-seq libraries were prepared with the TruSeq RNA Library Prep Kit following the  
611 manufacturer's protocol. The Smart-seq2 protocol [78] was followed as described to synthesize  
612 full length cDNA from 1 µg total RNA for PacBio IsoSeq full-length transcript sequencing. cDNA  
613 was amplified in 12 cycles PCR and size fractionated in SageELF electrophoresis system  
614 (Sage Science). One or more cDNA size fractions were pooled for the library preparation. For  
615 some samples, libraries were produced from more of the size fractions obtained from the  
616 SageELF, with the aim of reducing size bias in the PacBio RSII sequencing reads (Table S3).

617 **Heterozygosity in Z and W sex chromosomes and nucleotide diversity in  
618 the Z chromosome**

619 Genome-wide SNP calling was performed using GATK HaplotypeCaller with PCR-free Illumina  
620 genomic libraries (Table S17) and 7 previously published samples (12663\_1\_4, 12663\_2\_4,  
621 7164\_6, 7164\_7, 7307\_7, 7307\_8, 8040\_3) [32].

622 To calculate nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ), median and mean autosomal coverage was calculated for  
623 all samples in the Crellin *et al.* data set [32]. Individuals with  $>10x$  median and mean coverage  
624 on Z and W chromosomes were retained (54 male and 61 female). Of these, the ZSR:PAR ratio  
625 was calculated. Individuals with  $>0.70$  ZSR:PAR ratio and a PAR/ZSR  $<1.5$  were designated as  
626 males and individuals with  $<0.70$  ZSR:PAR ratio and a PAR/ZSR  $>1.5$  were designated as  
627 females. This resulted in a data set consisting of 54 males and 61 females. We used PIXY  
628 (v.0.95.01) [79] to calculate  $\pi$  in 50 kb sliding, non-overlapping windows across each

629 chromosome separately for male and female populations for the autosomes. Nucleotide  
630 diversity for the ZSR and PARs was calculated in 5 kb sliding, non-overlapping windows. We  
631 then calculated the bootstrapped (95%) confidence intervals for each population median using  
632 1000 bootstrap samples of genomic windows for each population using previously published  
633 methods [58] (  
634 [https://github.com/duncanberger/PZQ\\_POPGEN/blob/master/Figures/figure\\_2.md](https://github.com/duncanberger/PZQ_POPGEN/blob/master/Figures/figure_2.md)). We  
635 compared nucleotide diversity between ZSR and the PARs for male individuals testing for  
636 significance using an unpaired t-test.

### 637 W-repeat classification and quantification

638 Dot plots were generated for each repeat array on the W chromosome contigs to ensure that a  
639 representative repeat unit was selected from each visually distinct section of each repeat array.  
640 This process yielded 36 unique repeat unit sequences subsequently named smw01-smw36.  
641 The 36 repeat units were compared, pairwise, using blastn with a word size of 6 and dust off.  
642 For each comparison with an e-value <0.01, the percentage identity and bit score was recorded  
643 and plotted in a matrix plot to reveal similarities between repeat units that define repeat unit  
644 families (i.e. Sm- $\alpha$ ).

645 An attempt was made to computationally quantify the W-repeats. Using female PCR-free  
646 Illumina data (sample 6520\_5; Table S17), gDNA reads were mapped to 19 known single and  
647 multi-copy genes (e.g. SmVAL, omega-1) and to all 36 identified W-repeat sequences. Using  
648 bedtools coverage on 50 bp windows from the resulting bam file, the single-copy genes had a  
649 median coverage of 67 with a range of 54 to 72 and a median of median coverages of 67.  
650 SmVAL had double this (151x) and omega-1 had 10 times this (671x) as expected. Taking  
651 normal coverage to be 67x, W coverage should be half that at 33.5x. From this we calculated  
652 an estimated expected size for our W-repeats (Table S16).

### 653 Gene finding

654 Protein-coding genes

655 A new protein-coding gene set was produced for the v9 assembly from evidence-based  
656 predictions from Augustus [20] with Illumina and PacBio transcriptome reads (Table S3),  
657 followed by manual curation. Repeat Modeller v2.0.1 [80] and Repeat Masker v4.1.2 on  
658 sensitive mode [81] were run to identify, classify, and mask repetitive elements, including low-  
659 complexity sequences and interspersed repeats. The masked genome was then used for gene  
660 finding with Augustus v3.2.2 [82] with the following parameters designed to predict one or more  
661 splice-forms per gene: `--species=schistosoma2 --UTR=1 --alternative-from-evidence=1`. To  
662 predict better gene models and alternative splicing, we used extrinsic information as evidence  
663 (i.e. 'exonpart' and 'intron' hints in Augustus) based on Illumina short reads of all life stages  
664 except egg (set priority = 4 in the hints file), and PacBio Iso-seq reads of three life stages (male,  
665 female and schistosomula; priority = 40) (Table S3).

666 To facilitate the comparison of gene sets between assemblies, we also transferred the latest  
667 gene models from v5 (based on GeneDB in July 2017) to v7 using RATT [83] with the PacBio  
668 setting. The transferred gene models were then compared to those from *de novo* predictions  
669 using gffcompare v0.9.9d [84], to determine consensus or novel transcripts (blastn hit of <94%  
670 coverage or nucleotide identity <78% between the two assembly versions). When changes  
671 occurred compared to a previous gene model, namely an amino acid sequence had changed  
672 >20% in either identity or coverage as determined by blastp, or the gene was merged with  
673 another gene, or split into several new genes, a new identifier (starting with Smp\_3) was  
674 assigned and the old Smp number(s) was kept as a previous systematic id (PSID). Otherwise,  
675 the previous v5 Smp identifier was transferred to the v7 gene model. Genes that were related to  
676 retrotransposons in v5, or not transferred by RATT to the v7 assembly, were not kept in the new  
677 gene set. From v7 to v9, gene models were transferred using Liftoff [85]. For gene models with  
678 structural changes compared to the v5 gene set, or potentially novel genes predicted by  
679 Augustus in the v7 and v9 assemblies, we have carefully inspected them and curated them in  
680 Web Apollo [86] (Tables S5, S6).

681 For functional annotation, blastp v2.7.0 against SwissProt was used to predict product  
682 information, and InterproScan v5.25 [87]) to predict product protein domains and Gene  
683 Ontology terms. For some genes their product information was preserved from the v5 gene set  
684 (taken from GeneDB) if the evidence code was not “Inferred from Electronic Annotation”.

685 Coverage of UTRs in the genome sequence was calculated as following: first we extract the 5'-  
686 and 3'- UTR annotations from the gff file, adding up the total UTR length for each transcript, and  
687 then for each gene, we took the transcript with longest UTR as a representative. Finally, all  
688 UTRs were summed up for calculating the coverage. Other feature statistics were calculated  
689 using Eval v2.2.8 [88].

690 To recover possible additional novel genes from Boroni *et al* [89], the CDS/transcript sequences  
691 were obtained directly from the authors and aligned to the v9 gene set using blast, where genes  
692 with hits were considered as existing. For those without hits to current gene models, their  
693 sequences were aligned to the whole genome using blastn and PROMer [90]. Genes with hits  
694 to multiple scaffolds were discarded. For genes hitting to the same scaffold the overlapping hit  
695 regions were merged using “bedtools merge” and set as “exon” in a gff. All possible models  
696 were manually inspected in Apollo using the same RNA-seq tracks as in the publication. We  
697 found evidence for 8 of the 759 putative novel genes reported by Boroni *et al.* [89] (Table S20).

698 We initially assessed genome completeness using BUSCO v3.0.2 [23]. Although only 85.8%  
699 complete eukaryota orthologs were found in the genome sequence (using “--mode genome”;  
700 Table S7), representation is expected to be considerably less than 100% in platyhelminths due  
701 to their phylogenetic distance from other species in the BUSCO databases [22]. It is known that  
702 BUSCO applied to genomic sequences underestimates the completeness of assemblies due to  
703 the difficulty of detecting complete genes in the assembly [91] providing further explanation for  
704 missing orthologs. As an alternative, we tested the completeness of our predicted gene models  
705 using BUSCO (“--mode proteins”) and recovered 95.3% complete eukaryota orthologs.

706 Transfer RNAs (tRNAs)

707 tRNAscan v.1.3.1 [92], was used to identify transfer RNAs (tRNAs) in the *S. mansoni* v9  
708 assembly. The algorithm was run with default parameters except for “--forceow --cove”.

709 Long intergenic non-coding RNAs (lincRNAs)

710 In order to locate long intergenic non-coding RNAs in v9 of the *S. mansoni* genome assembly,  
711 we used RATT [83] to migrate previously generated annotation [93] from v5 to v9. To this end,  
712 we downloaded the published annotation as a GFF file, transformed it to EMBL file (as required  
713 by RATT) and proceeded to migrate the annotations using the “PacBio” setting of RATT. From  
714 a total of 7,029 lincRNAs annotated in v5, 6,876 transfers were made (6,874 unique, two  
715 duplications) and 273 lincRNAs were not transferred.

716 Spliced-leader RNAs (SL RNAs)

717 Using RNA-seq data (Table S3), we have located SL (spliced leader) sequences in 6,497  
718 genes (Table S8) or 66.3% of all annotated genes in the primary assembly. SL sequences were  
719 identified using the canonical *S. mansoni* SL sequence  
720 AACCGTCACGGTTTACTCTTGTGATTGTTGCATG (Genbank M34074.1 [94]) and a custom  
721 in-house spliced leader detection script [95]  
722 ([https://github.com/stephenrdoyle/hcontortus\\_genome/blob/5543173b7ee83b903d976931813d85f96f7a6e13/03\\_code/hcontortus\\_genome.section5\\_workbook.md](https://github.com/stephenrdoyle/hcontortus_genome/blob/5543173b7ee83b903d976931813d85f96f7a6e13/03_code/hcontortus_genome.section5_workbook.md)). The script first trims a  
724 predefined SL sequence from the 5' end of RNA-seq reads allowing for a minimum length  
725 match with an allowed error rate of 10% using Cutadapt [96]. The trimmed sequences are  
726 extracted, sorted, and counted, making a sequence logo. The trimmed reads are mapped to the  
727 genome using HiSat2 [97] and a BAM file of the mapped trimmed reads is generated for  
728 visualisation. A BED file is also made of the splice site coordinates along with a WebLogo [98]  
729 of 20 bp surrounding the splice site. Finally, the script determines the coverage of splice sites

730 with transcript starts, (200 bp upstream and 30 bp downstream of the annotated start codon)  
731 and internal CDSs, accounting for both misannotated and internal splice variants.

732 Following published methods [30], we looked for alternative SL sequences using a custom  
733 python script to identify reads that (a) aligned to annotated genes, or within 500 bp upstream,  
734 and (b) were soft-clipped by more than 5 bp at the 5' end relative to the annotated gene. Soft-  
735 clipped sequences were clustered using CD-HIT-EST v4.7 [99] and only one prominent cluster  
736 was identified. Thus, the *S. mansoni* SL sequence appears to be highly conserved within the  
737 genome, and there is only one sequence with the abundance of the known SL sequence,  
738 occurring in around 10% of the randomly chosen RNA reads.

### 739 Gene clusters and gene density in the *S. mansoni* genome

740 To explore whether there are particular gene functions overrepresented on some  
741 chromosomes, we searched for genomically adjacent genes (>=3) with the same Pfam  
742 annotations. To investigate whether gene families that had been incorrectly collapsed in the v5  
743 assembly and are now expanded in the v9 assembly, this analysis was performed for both v5  
744 and v9 using Pfam annotations from InterproScan (see “Protein coding genes” section above).  
745 For clusters with at least 5 genes, the start coordinates of the first and last genes as well as the  
746 number of genes were indicated (Table S2).

747 IPSE and omega-1 were found to be multi-copy genes clustered in two tandem repeat regions.  
748 In order to compare how many bases of curated IPSE and omega-1 genes could be mapped to  
749 the v5 and v7 assemblies, we ran Exonrate with a max intron size of 1,500 bp for both IPSE  
750 and omega. The IPSE gene Smp\_112110 was used in Exonrate, but for omega-1, the mRNA  
751 sequence was used because the omega-1 gene has a long and complex gene structure. GFF  
752 files were produced of mapped features for IPSE and omega-1 which served to illustrate how  
753 many copies of these genes could be annotated.

754 The IPSE v9 sequence is 199,167 bp with the equivalent v5 sequence is 86,067 bp. The gap in  
755 v9 is approximately 29 kb larger than the total of the gaps in v5 in this region. There are  
756 approximately 84 additional kilobases in v9 in this region mostly due to expansion of repeat  
757 sequence to give a closer representation of reality (Figure S2). Likewise, the omega-1 v9  
758 sequence is 155,103 bp and the v5 sequence is 105,726 bp. There is a 29,982 bp increase due  
759 to a large gap in v9, leaving 19,395 bp of additional sequence mainly due to expansion of the  
760 repeat array.

## 761 Gene expression across different *S. mansoni* life stages and sexes

762 To explore gene transcript levels across different life stages and between males and females,  
763 previously published RNA-seq data [40,41] was used. Briefly, reads were mapped to *S.*  
764 *mansoni* v9 genome using STAR v2.4.2a [100]. Counts per gene and TPMs were summarised  
765 with StringTie v2.1.4 [101]. Mean TPM values were calculated for samples of the same life  
766 stage and sex and log-transformed. For gametologue expression, only unique mapping reads  
767 were used for quantification.

768 In comparing gene expression of gametologues on WSR and ZSR regions, the ACT genome  
769 browser [102] was used with PROmer version 3.07 [103] to show sequence similarity. A  
770 transposon inserted into the Smp\_318710 pseudogenes was annotated based on PROmer  
771 sequence similarity to other transposons on ZSR. For Figure 7, bm\_1, bm\_2, bm\_3 male  
772 libraries and bf\_1, bf\_2, bf\_3 female libraries were used [104]. For Figure S7b, bf\_1 was used.

## 773 Identification of centromeres and telomeres

774 A 123 bp tandem repeat motif was identified in *S. mansoni* by Melters *et al* [26] due to its high  
775 abundance (~1% of the genomic reads), relative to all other tandem repeats in the genome. The  
776 original consensus was derived from multiple chromosomes and an almost identical motif is  
777 present in chromosomes 1-3, 5-7, and W (Table S11). On both chromosome 4 and Z, single

778 candidate tandem repeats were identified with broadly similar repeat lengths and sequences to  
779 previously described consensus motif [26].

780 We examined repeats in Gap5 [75], taking only the portion of the repeat with the centromere  
781 tandem repeat motif. Centromere size estimates (Table S11) were based on Illumina genomic  
782 sequencing from female clonally-derived cercariae (sample ERS039722 from Table S17)  
783 mapped to 1 representative repeat unit of each of the 8 centromere repeats. As a control, reads  
784 were also mapped to the 1st 121 bp of the genomic sequence covered by 12 known single copy  
785 genes. These 12 genes gave us a median coverage of 15x. From this we were able to  
786 extrapolate sizes for each of the 8 centromeric repeats which totalled 2.25 Mb.

787 A MAFFT/Jalview alignment was created from all centromere motif sequences [105] and a  
788 neighbor-joining tree was constructed using the ETE Toolkit Phylogenetic tree viewer [106]  
789 (Table S11). Centromere motif sequence similarity was assessed using the alignment tool  
790 PRSS with the Smith-Waterman algorithm ([https://embnet.vital-it.ch/software/PRSS\\_form.html](https://embnet.vital-it.ch/software/PRSS_form.html)  
791 [107,108].

792 Hirai and LoVerde [109] determined the sequence motif of schistosome telomeres (CCCTAA  
793 repeat) through FISH detection. In African schistosomes, the telomeric repeat sequence can be  
794 found in the heterochromatin and centromere of the W chromosome. Because it is theorized  
795 that *Schistosoma* originated in Asia (see review [110]), the African schistosomes experienced  
796 more gene shuffling than the Asian schistosomes, accounting for the presence of telomeric  
797 repeats outside the ends of the chromosomes [111].

## 798 Abbreviations

799 PAR: pseudoautosomal region

800 WSR: W-specific region

801 ZSR: Z-specific region

802 BUSCO: Benchmarking Universal Single Copy Orthologs

803 Mb: megabase

804 Kb: kilobase

805 bp: base pair

806 aa: amino acid

807 tRNA: transfer RNA

808 lincRNA: long intergenic non-coding

809 SL: spliced leader

810 SLTS: spliced leader trans-splicing

811 NOR: nucleolar organizer region; rDNA

## 812 Declarations

### 813 Ethics approval

814 To propagate the life cycle of the *Schistosoma mansoni* NMRI strain (Puerto Rican) and obtain

815 different developmental stages of the parasite, BALB/c mice and susceptible BB02 strain

816 *Biomphalaria glabrata* snails are routinely infected with parasites at the Wellcome Sanger

817 Institute (WSI). The mouse infections were conducted under Home Office Project Licence No.

818 80/2596 and No. P77E8A062, and all protocols were presented and approved by the Animal

819 Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) of the WSI. The AWERB is constituted as required

820 by the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012. With the

821 exception of sporocysts and miracidia, all life cycle stages were collected at the WSI.

822 *Schistosoma mansoni* SmBRE strain sporocysts dissected from infected BB02 *B. glabrata*  
823 snails were collected at The University of Perpignan laboratory which has permission A 66040  
824 from both the French Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche and the French Ministère de  
825 l'Education Nationale de la Recherche et de la Technologie for experiments on animals and  
826 certificate for animal experimentation (authorization 007083, decree 87-848 and 2012201-0008)  
827 for the experimenters. Housing, breeding and animal care follow the national ethical  
828 requirements.

829 *Schistosoma mansoni* NMRI strain miracidia were collected at Justus-Liebig-University Giessen  
830 Institute for Parasitology. Animal experiments were approved by the Regional Council  
831 (Regierungspräsidium), Giessen, Germany (V54-19 c 20/15 c GI 18/10), which are in  
832 accordance with the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for  
833 experimental and other scientific purposes (ETS No 123; revised Appendix A).

## 834 Consent for publication

835 Not applicable

## 836 Availability of data and materials

837 The primary genome assembly generated and analyzed during this study are available on the  
838 European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) website under project accession PRJEB13987. Additional  
839 assembled haplotypes, haplotype annotations, and primary assembly annotations can be found  
840 in permanent links at WormBase ParaSite under BioProject PRJEA36577 and at Zenodo  
841 DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5149023. All other data generated or analyzed during this study are  
842 included in this published article and its supplementary information files.

843

## 844 Competing interests

845 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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848 Open Access, the authors have applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author  
849 Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission.

## 850 Authors' contributions

851 MB designed research, which was coordinated by NH; SKB and GR maintained the parasite life  
852 cycle and generated parasite material, SKB, DB, and GS prepared genomic DNA, RNA and  
853 transcriptome sequencing libraries; BF, FY, and SKB performed FISH experiments; SKB, AT,  
854 ZL, SD, DB, FR, AJR, UB analyzed data; SKB drafted the complete manuscript, with sections of  
855 text contributed by AT, AJR and ZL. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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865 *vivo* sporocysts for RNA-seq.

## 866 Figure and table legends

867 **Figure 1: Ideograms of the *S. mansoni* chromosomes with HiC plots showing end-to-end**  
868 **chromosomal resolution.** (a) Representative ZZ (male) and ZW (female) *S. mansoni*  
869 metaphase spreads, karyotypes, and ideograms. The yellow arrowheads point to the nucleolar  
870 organizer region (NOR; rDNA). Grey regions are euchromatic DNA, black are constitutive  
871 heterochromatin (C-band) regions, blue is confirmed telomeric sequence, and light blue bands  
872 are confirmed sub-telomeric sequence. (b) HiC visualization plots from genome version 5 (left)  
873 and version 9 (right) with the yellow arrowhead pointing to the NOR in chromosome 3.

874 **Table 1: Genome-wide statistics for the *S. mansoni* haploid v9 assembly compared to the**  
875 **previous v5 assembly.** The v9 assembly size has grown considerably with the addition of 26.9  
876 Mb. The number of gaps present between versions was reduced by 96%, the majority of which  
877 are now only present in the collapsed repeat regions of the W chromosome. The chromosomes  
878 are assembled into 9 scaffolds (autosomes 1-7, W, and Z). Characterization of SLTS (spliced  
879 leader trans-splicing) in the transcripts has increased our previous estimates of only 7% of  
880 transcripts being trans-spliced to over 72% in the current assembly. \*Completely new,  
881 previously partial, or previously unannotated.

882 **Figure 2: Improvements in the Z-specific region of the Z chromosome between the**  
883 **previous v5 *S.mansoni* genome assembly and current v9 assembly.** Assemblies were  
884 compared using PROmer and visualized in ACT. The v5 assembly contained a partially  
885 resolved Z chromosome with misassemblies and between the Z-specific region (ZSR) and  
886 pseudoautosomal regions (PARs). Corrected inversions from v5 to v9 are shown in lighter blue.  
887 Coverage of mapped sequencing reads from female-only sequencing libraries highlight the ZSR  
888 as a region with approximately half the depth of coverage as pseudoautosomal regions.

889 **Figure 3: Z-specific regions of African and Asian *Schistosoma* spp. evolved differentially**  
890 **from an ancestral region that coincides with a likely fusion between chromosomes.** (a)

891 Evolutionary strata are defined through  $\log_2$  genome coverage on the x-axis of one-to-one  
892 orthologs in four schistosomes and the hermaphroditic platyhelminth *Echinostoma caproni*. The  
893 African-specific stratum in dark purple defines Z-specific region 1 (ZSR1) of *S. mansoni* where  
894 approximately half coverage is seen in the African schistosomes *S. mansoni*, *S. rodhaini*, and  
895 *S. haematobium*. The Asian-specific stratum in green has reduced coverage specific only to *S.*  
896 *japonicum* with two possible inversions shown in green brackets. The ancestral *Schistosoma*  
897 stratum represents the schistosome orthologs ancestrally isolated to the Z sex chromosome  
898 between all schistosome species. (b) Tapeworm orthologs and chromosome synteny blocks  
899 show evidence of the fusion in the schistosome lineage between chromosomes 3 and 5 of the  
900 tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Figure 3b adapted from Olson *et al* [30].

901 **Figure 4: Median nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ; pi) across the protein-coding genes of the**  
902 **autosomes, PARs, and Z-specific regions using published genome variation data [32].**  
903 Median nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ; pi) was calculated separately for males (left) and females (right)  
904 in 50 kb windows (a,b) or 5 kb windows (c-f) across all protein-coding genes. Pi is shown for the  
905 autosomes (a,b), PARs and ZSRs (c,d) and combined autosomal regions and ZSRs (e,f).

906 **Figure 5: Detailed, annotated idiograms of the Z and W sex chromosomes.** (a) The true  
907 size of the W chromosome is approximately 14% larger than Z which can be accounted for in  
908 the large expansion of repeats in the WSR. All but 36 genes have been lost on the WSR with 5  
909 of those being pseudogenes and 2 present in triplicate and duplicate. Chevrons mark the  
910 approximate location of 3 euchromatin bands in the WSR. (b) The assembled size of the WSR  
911 is ~6 Mb, less than its true size of ~46 Mb because of 36 collapsed repeats. (c) C-banding  
912 shows the alternating AT- and GC-rich DNA repeats present in the WSR.

913 **Figure 6: Illumina RNA-seq expression of the W and Z gametologues in adult paired and**  
914 **naive male and female *S. mansoni* worms.** Unique mapping of RNA-seq to the gametologues  
915 reveals relatively similar expression of the Z gametologues between males and females for  
916 most gametologues. As expected, the W gametologues show expression limited to the female

917 samples. Lines connect gametologue pairs between Z and W. In two cases, the W  
918 gametologue exists in triplicate or duplicate (see W gametologues Smp\_317860, Smp\_317870,  
919 Smp\_348710 and Smp\_318680, Smp\_318860).

920 **Figure 7: A comparison of U2AF 65 kDa subunit gametologues on the Z and W**  
921 **chromosomes.** The gametologues of the large, 65 kDa subunit of U2AF (Z: Smp\_019690; W:  
922 Smp\_348790) are shown on ZSR (top) and WSR (bottom). Predicted transcript sequences in  
923 yellow. Sequence similarity was determined using PROmer and shows that the N-terminal  
924 region of the coding sequence (blue) is more diverse. The black arrow head highlights the  
925 position of a likely sequencing error on WSR which causes a frameshift, but which has been  
926 corrected in the gene model. Unnormalised coverage of RNA-seq reads is shown for female  
927 (bf\_1, bf\_2, bf\_3) and male samples (bm\_1, bm\_2, bm\_3). This highlights male expression on  
928 only the ZSR, with lower female coverage on ZSR and WSR as expected. Numbers above  
929 gene models indicate position on the contigs, numbers above RNA-seq coverage indicate  
930 maximum read depth.

931 **Figure 8: Hypothetical illustration of the schistosome Z and W sex chromosome**  
932 **evolution.** A chromosomal fusion between two ancestral schistosome autosomes occurred  
933 near the ZSR stratum boundary (see Figure 3) creating a new set of autosomes. Followed by,  
934 or in conjunction with, this fusion event, a male antagonistic and/or female advantageous locus  
935 was isolated on the pre-sex chromosomes (see Figure 6; potentially pre-mRNA splicing factor  
936 U2AF). The need to isolate the phenotypic effects of the gene(s) in this locus on the pre-W  
937 chromosome required recombination suppression (see Figure 4). Isolation of additional loci with  
938 sex-specific effects and elimination and/or pseudogenization of non-sex-specific coding loci is  
939 evidenced in Fig 5. Following initial recombination suppression, extensive  
940 heterochromatinization of W ensured long-term recombination suppression between W and Z  
941 sex-specific regions and resulted in the huge expansion of repeats in the W-specific region  
942 (Figure 5; Table S16)

## 943 Additional Files

944 Additional file 1: **Supplementary Tables S1 to S20**

## 945 Supplementary Figures Titles and Legends

946 Figure S1: **Array of spliced-leader RNA genes on chromosome 6 of the *S. mansoni* genome.** On chromosome six, a 62.6 kb locus exists containing 41 full-length spliced leader RNA genes (top track). An additional 109 partial gene sequences that contain the spliced leader exon sequence only exist in the same array (bottom track).

950

951 Figure S2: **Resolving the repetitive IPSE and omega-1 loci.** Genes in the (a) IPSE loci and  
952 (b) Omega-1 locus shown in v9 through gene model annotations (top tracks) and genomic  
953 coverage mapping (bottom tracks) with yellow boxes to connect gene annotations to genomic  
954 coverage. The annotations show the v9 gene models, some of which coincide with elevated  
955 read coverage. The histogram in the coverage plots show depth of read coverage and  
956 compared with the flanking regions, the depth is elevated in the IPSE and omega-1 loci  
957 suggesting these gene arrays are smaller in this assembly than their true size.

958 Figure S3: **Gene changes from genome v5 to v9 of *S. mansoni*.** There have been a total of  
959 3,610 gene changes represented by 810 new, 867 deleted, 344 merged, 189 multiple copies,  
960 190 split, and 1,210 structurally changed. The bar graph shows totals of different protein-coding  
961 gene changes in the primary assembly (i.e. no gene fragments, haplotypes, or pseudogenes).

962

963 Figure S4: **Alignment of the centromeric repeat sequences relatedness between all *S.***  
964 ***mansoni* chromosomes.** MAFFT/Jalview alignment of a single centromeric repeat unit from  
965 each chromosome shows high similarity between chromosomes 1-3, 5-7, and W.  
966 Chromosomes 1-3, 5-7, and W are 93.1-98.5% identical to a 123bp centromeric repeat

967 proposed by Melters *et al* [26]. The centromeric repeats for chromosomes 4 and Z are diverged  
968 from the other chromosomes.

969 **Figure S5: Validation of the assembly and placement of W-specific scaffolds using**  
970 **metaphase FISH.** Twenty-two W-specific scaffolds existed after computational and manual  
971 assembly. Scaffold W007 contained the junction from PAR1 into the WSR and scaffold W016  
972 spanned the WSR into PAR2. The centromeric repeat for the W chromosome was in scaffold  
973 W002 (7.65-7.75 Mb) with the orientation of this contig inferred from alignment of centromere  
974 sequence in this scaffold. The remaining 8 scaffolds with gametologues (purple) and 11  
975 scaffolds without gametologues (black), whose positions and orientations could not be  
976 determined using sequence data alone, were placed using metaphase FISH.

977  
978 **Figure S6: Measurements of Z and W chromosomes from 6 female metaphase cells.** The  
979 W chromosome is approximately 14.7% larger than the Z chromosome based on  
980 measurements taken of the chromosomes from the metaphase figures shown. Measurements  
981 were taken using the measurement tool in Inkscape. This figure is consistent with previously  
982 published measurements from 22 female metaphase cells [33].

983 **Figure S7: Comparisons of ancestral region gametologues between ZSR and WSR.** (a)  
984 The Z gametologue Smp\_158310 is clearly expressed in males (red RNA-seq coverage) and  
985 females (blue RNA-seq coverage), but the W gametologue Smp\_318710 is not. Furthermore,  
986 the gene model is incomplete on WSR and there is a transposon inserted within the gene (red  
987 bar), resulting in a pseudogene. The genes are inverted between ZSR and WSR, indicated by  
988 the overlapping sequence similarity bars. (b) The genome sequence for the WSR gametologue  
989 of U2AF 65kDa (Smp\_348790) subunit contains a single base insertion, suggesting a possible  
990 frameshift mutation. However, RNA-seq reads show that this is a sequencing error and the  
991 corrected gene model based on this data results in an N-terminal amino acid sequence more  
992 similar to, although still somewhat divergent from, the Z gametologue (Smp\_019690).

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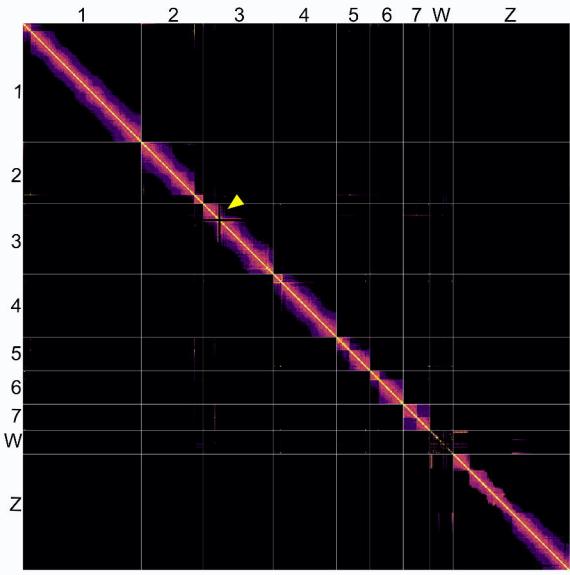
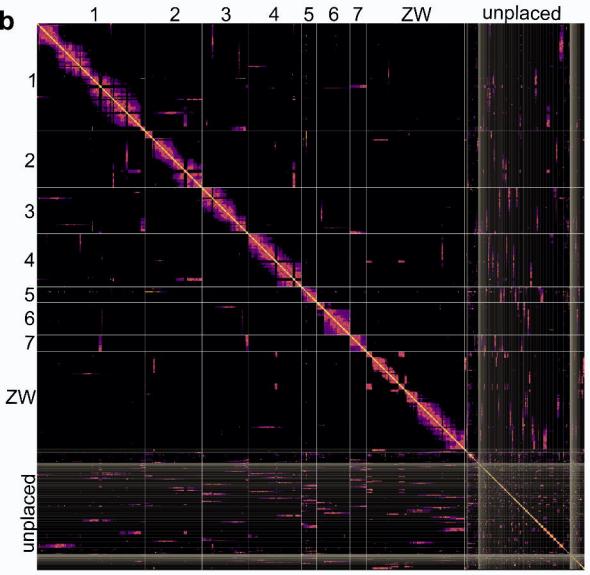
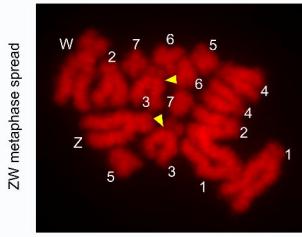
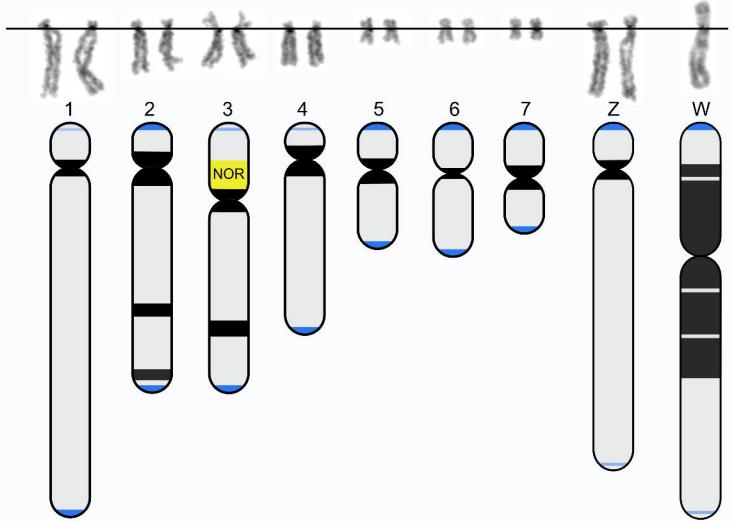
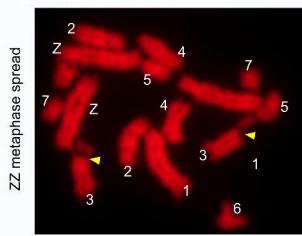
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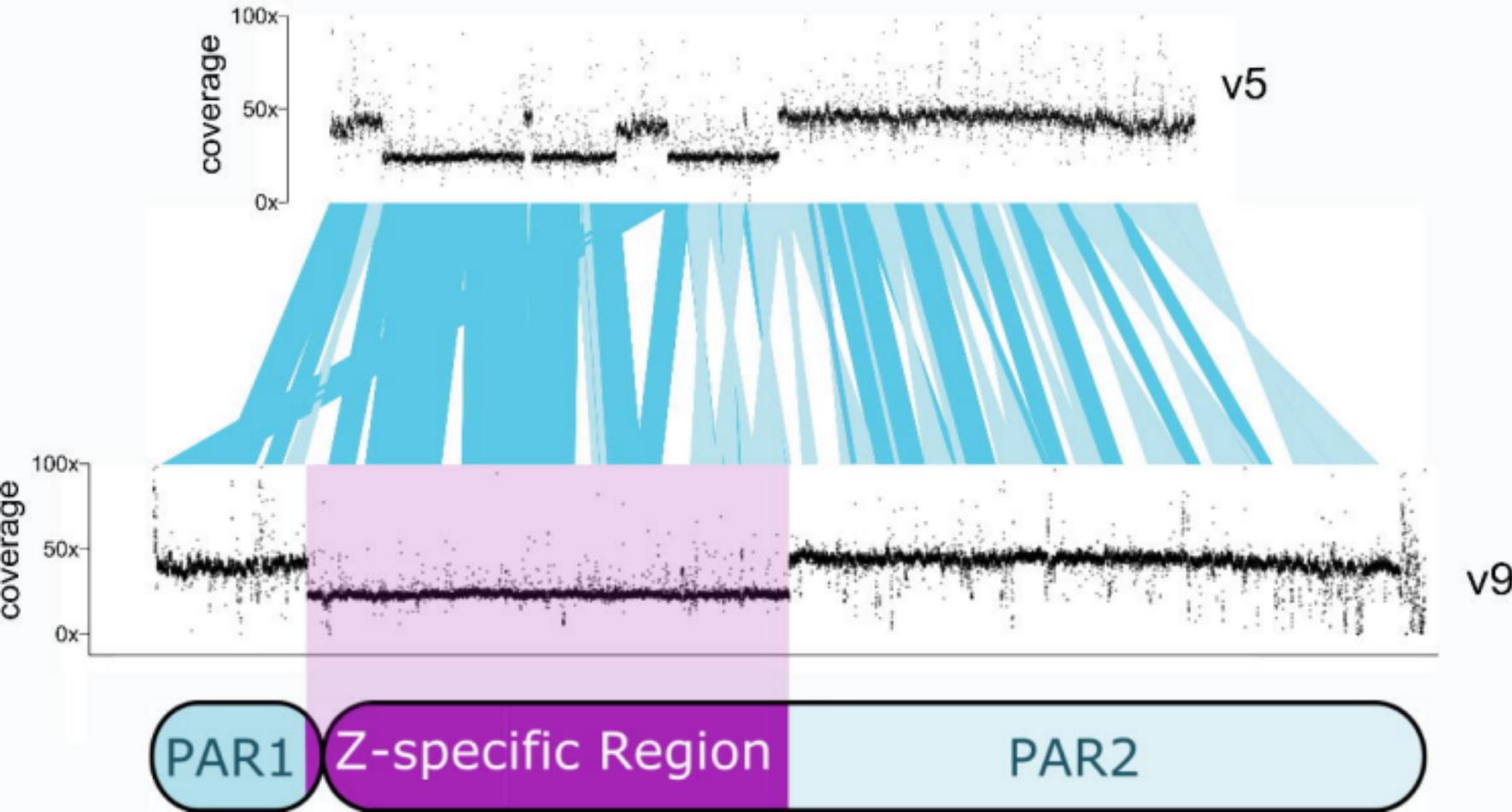
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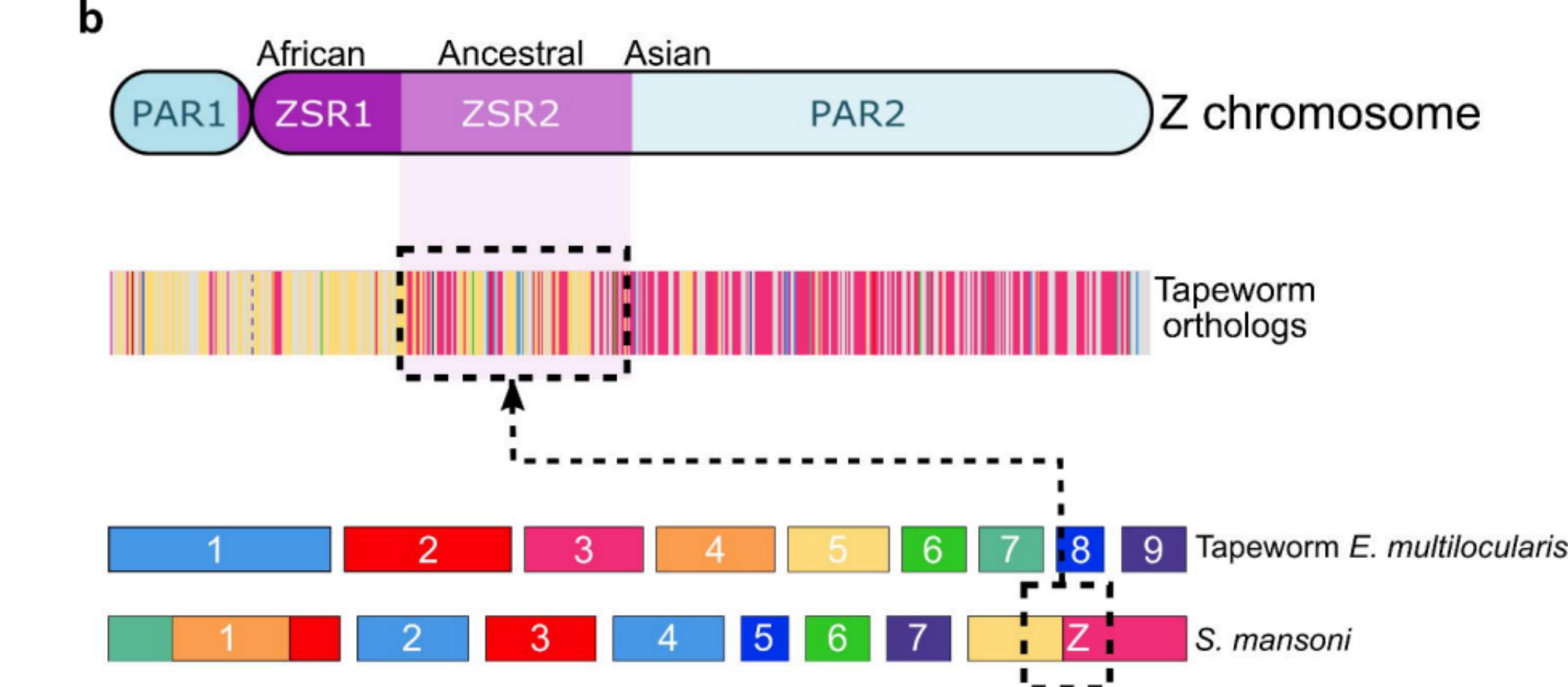
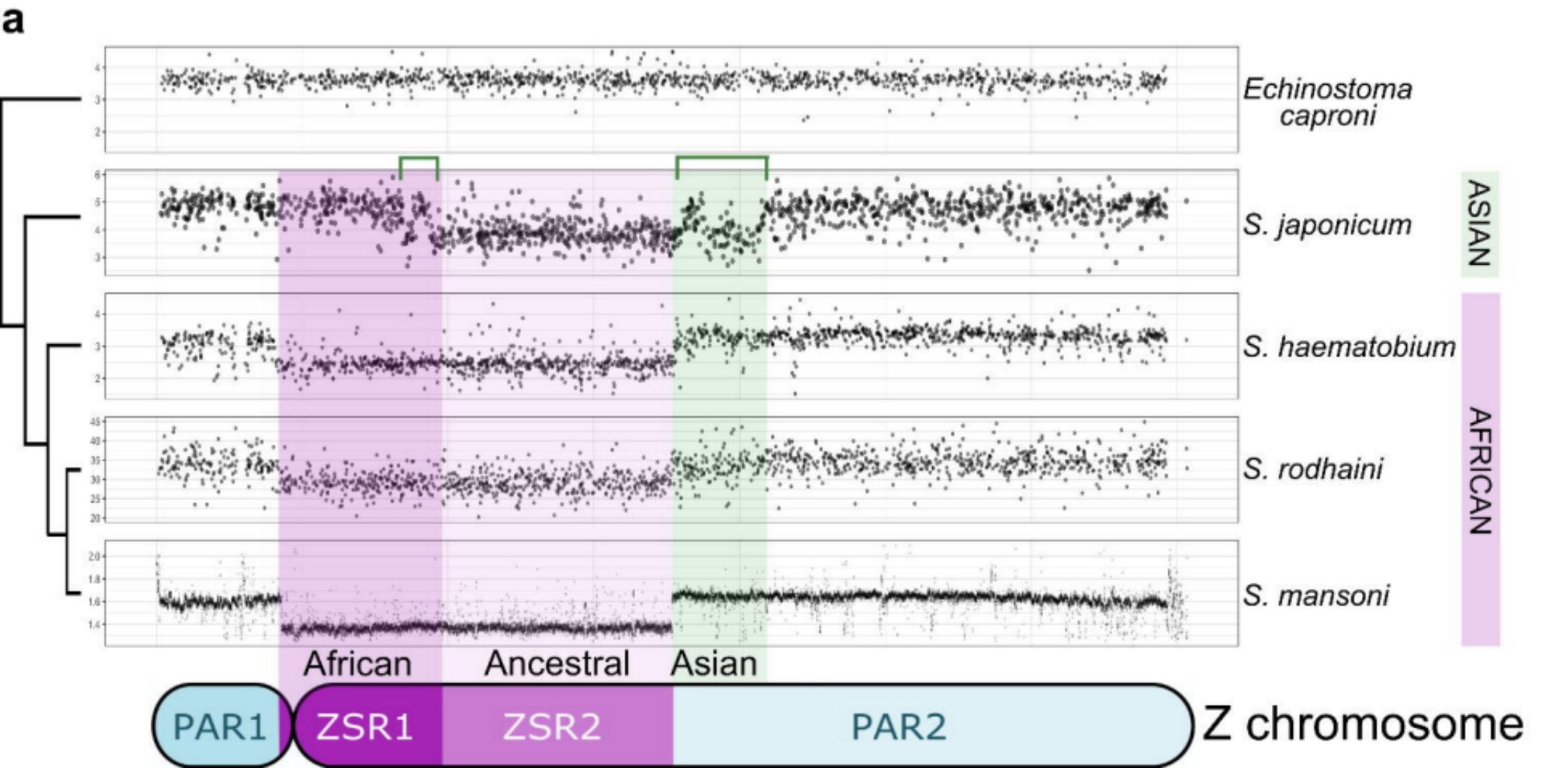
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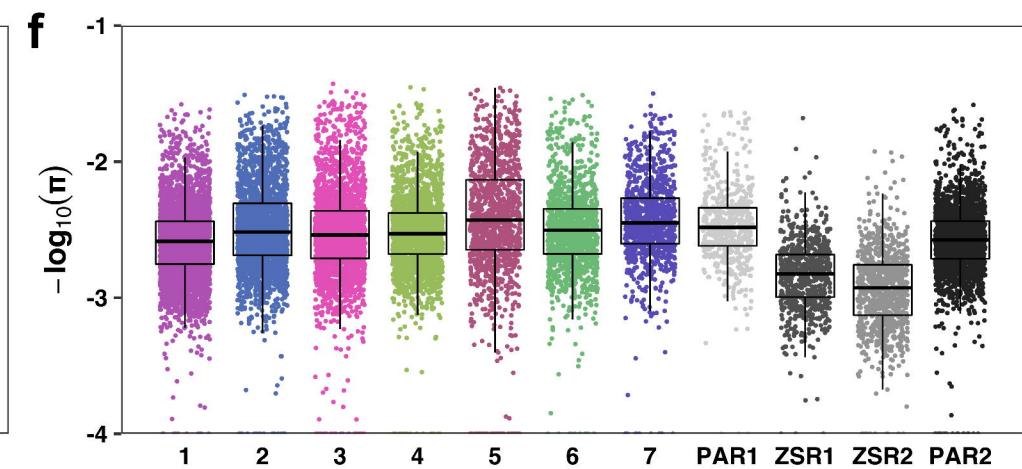
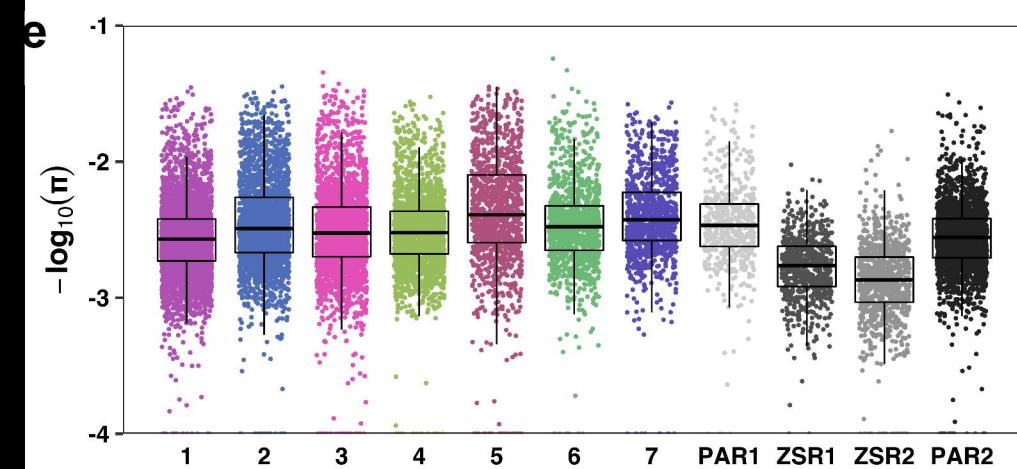
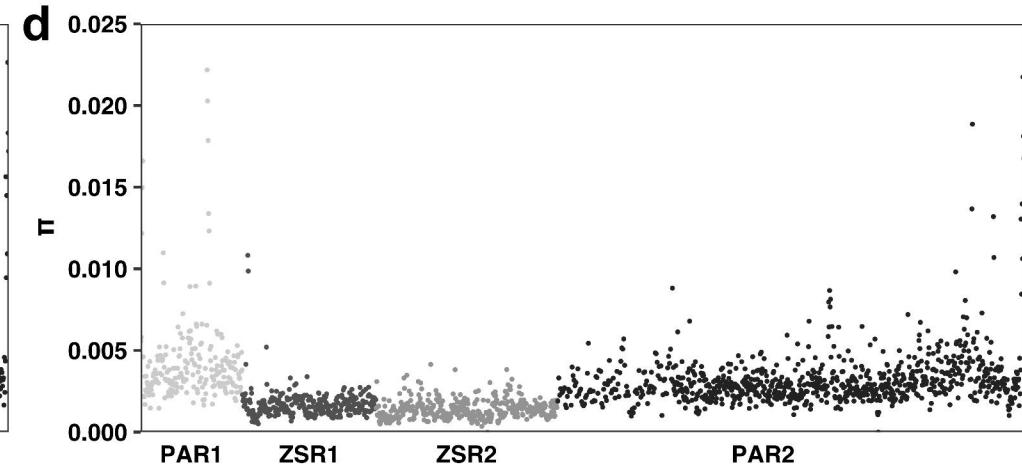
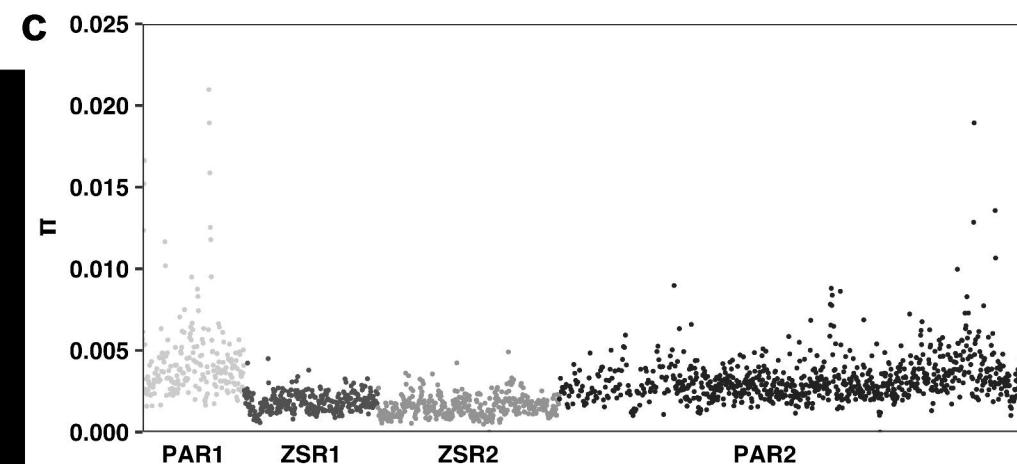
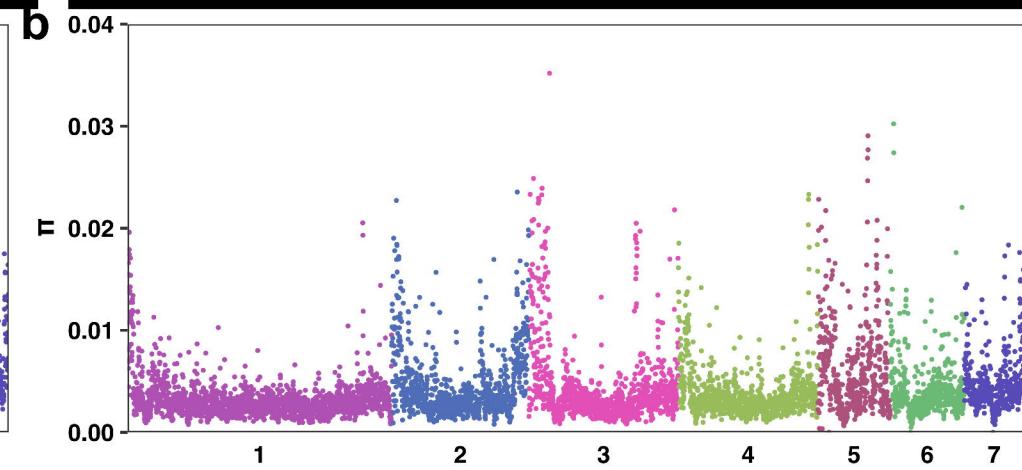
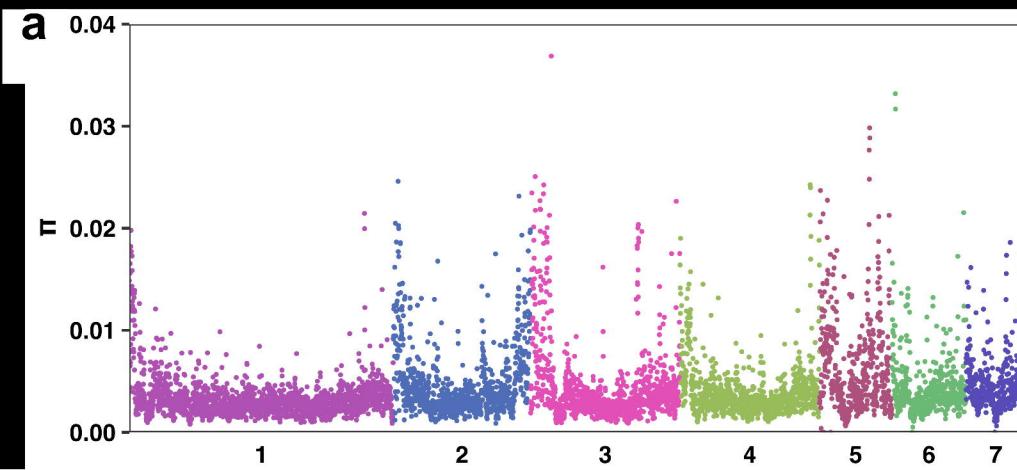
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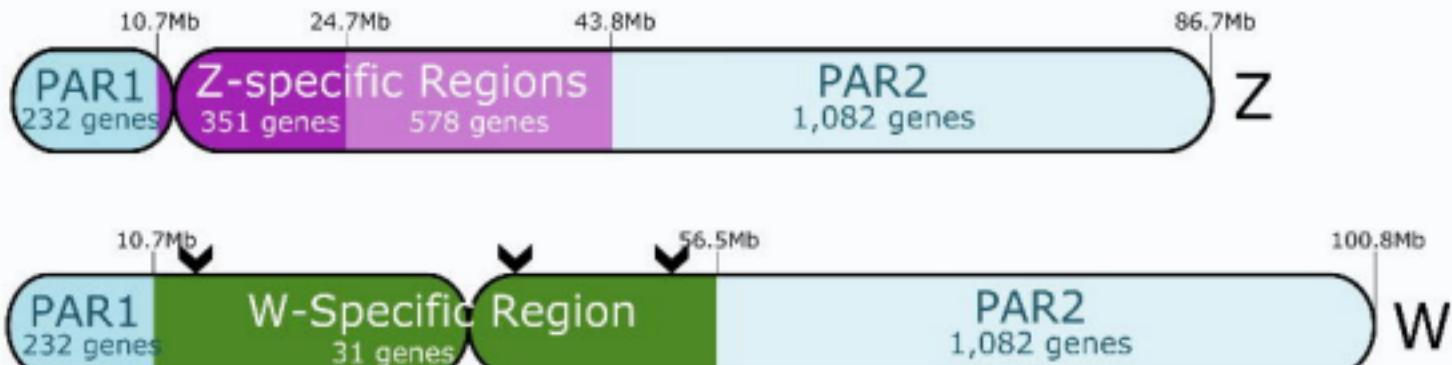
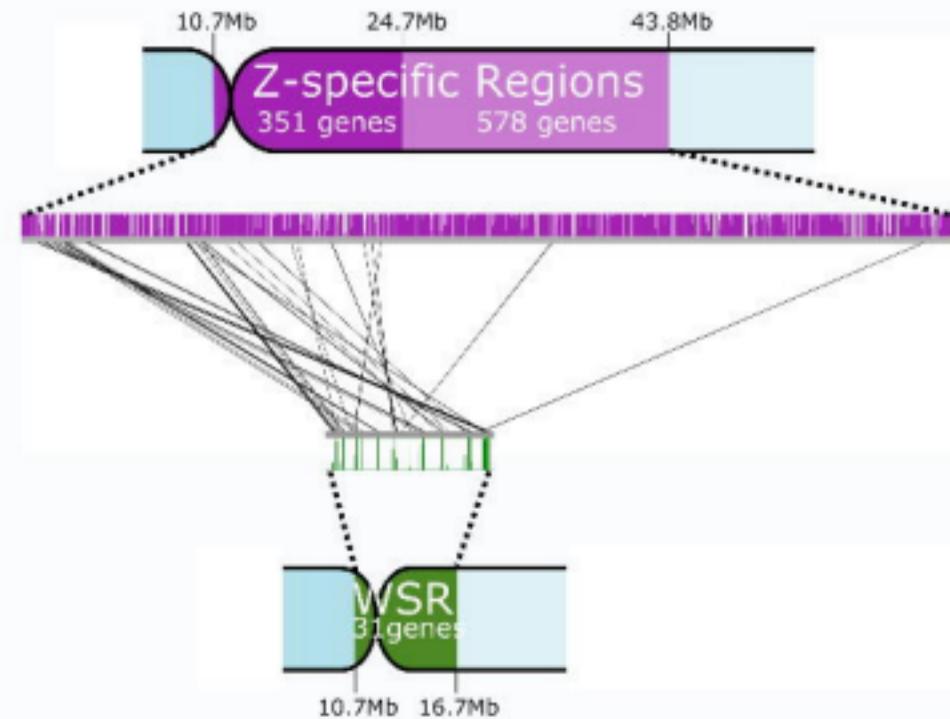
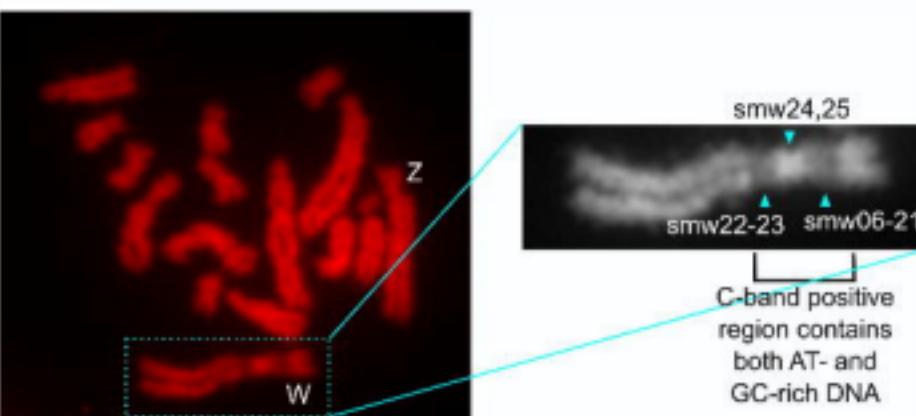


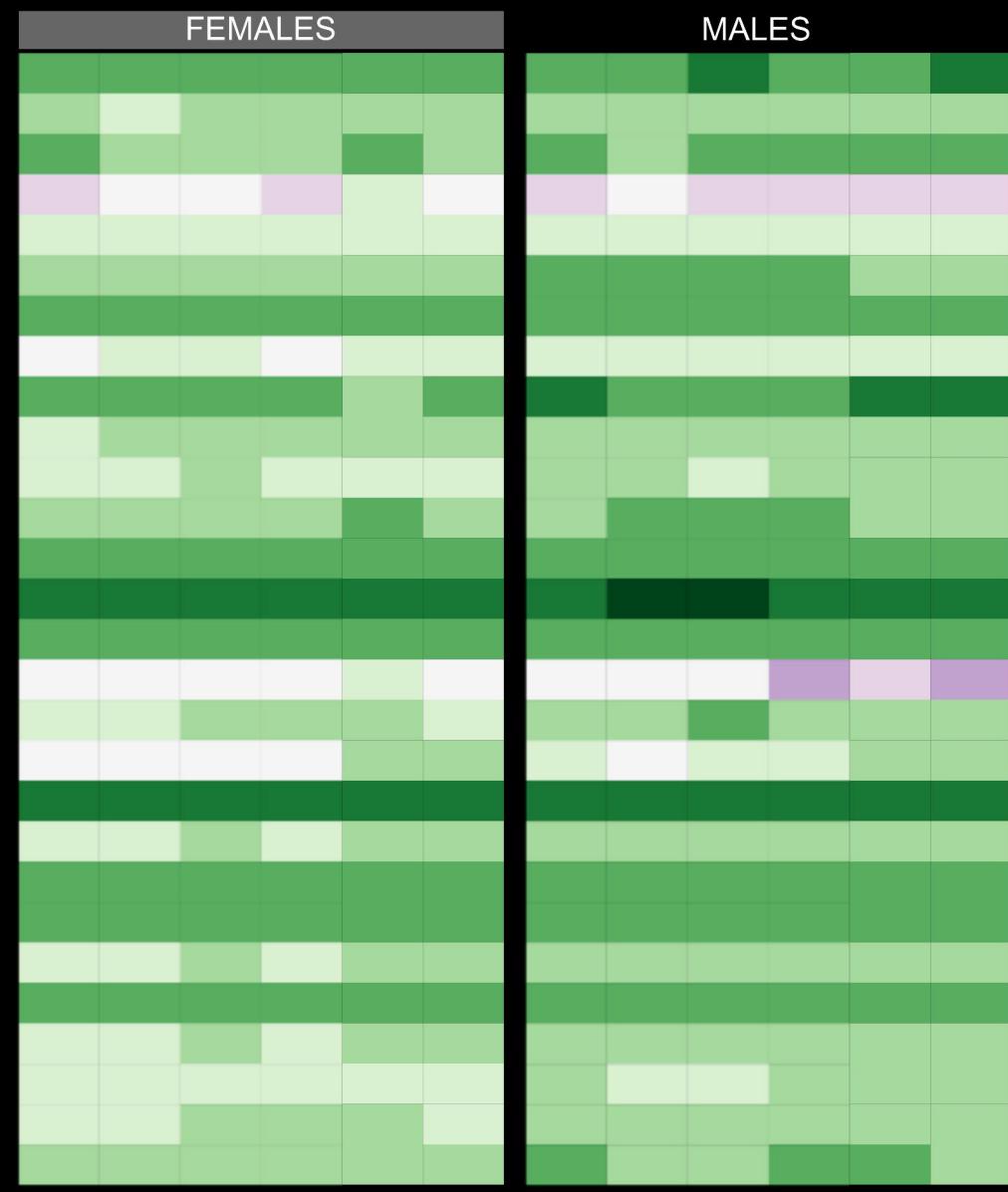
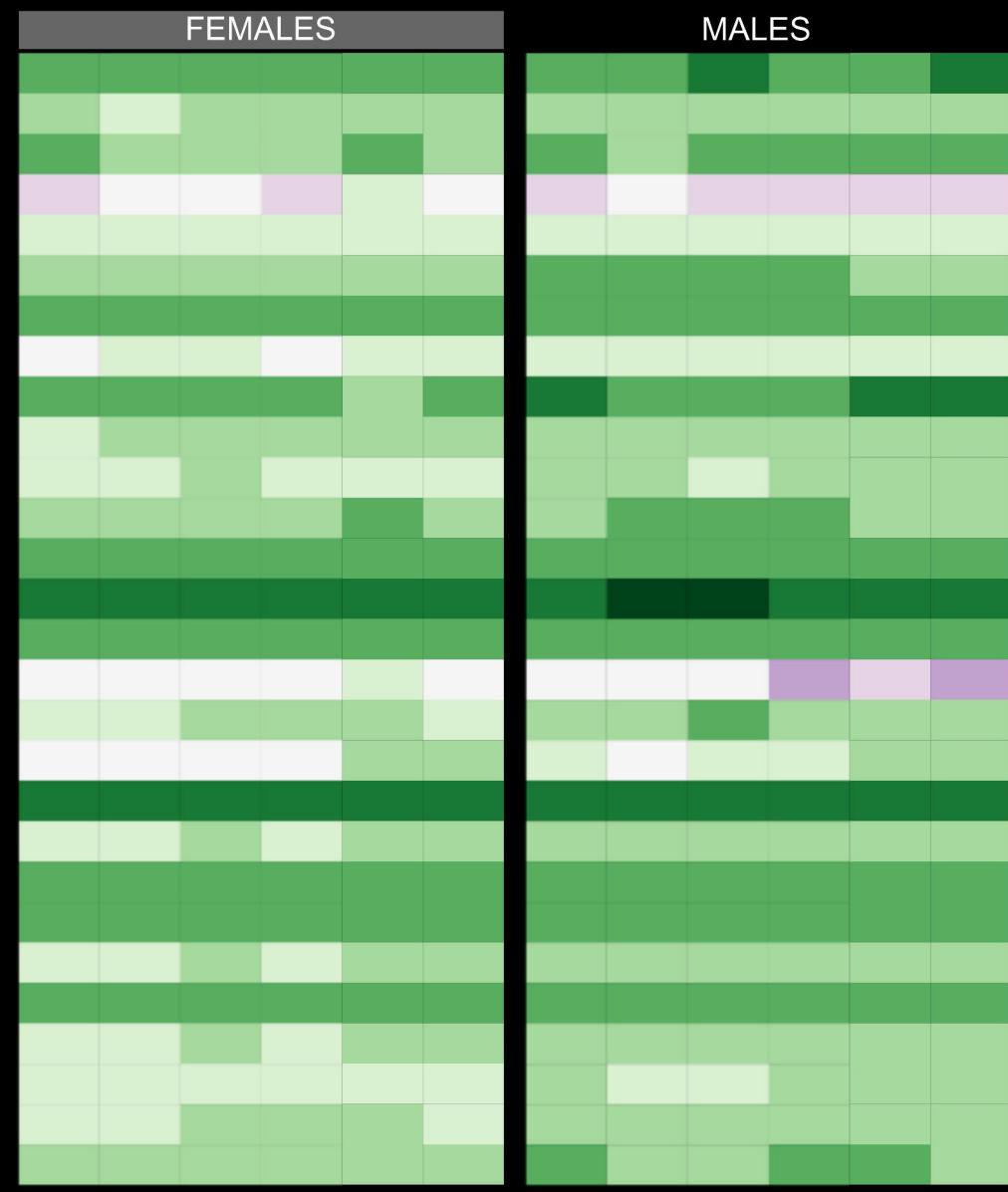
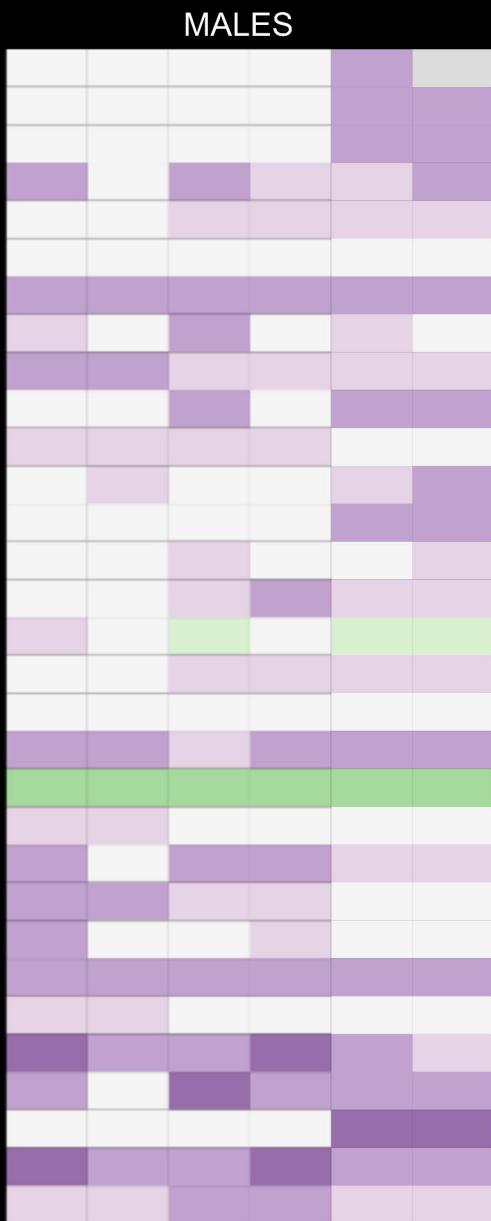
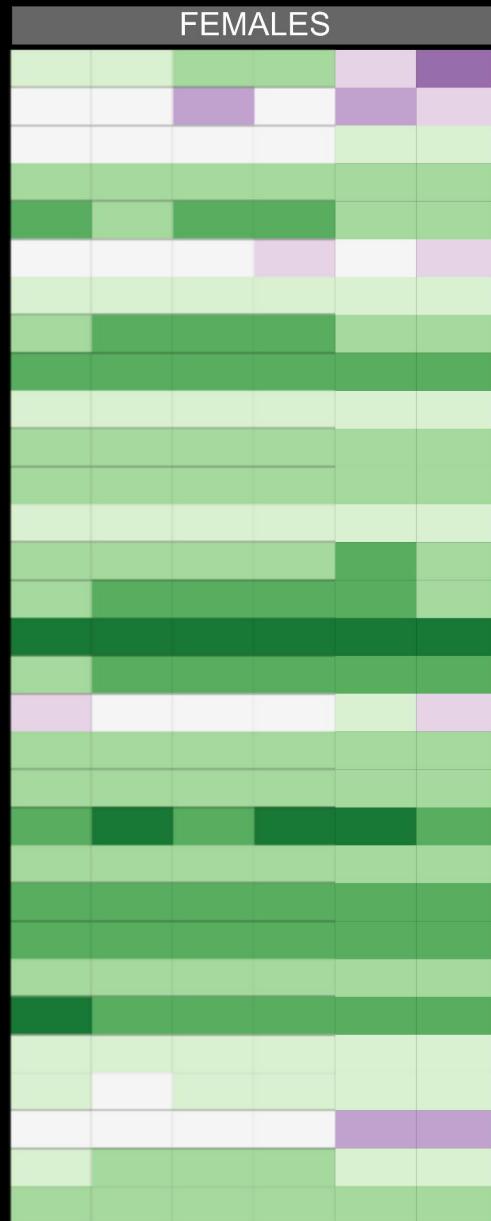
# Z chromosome





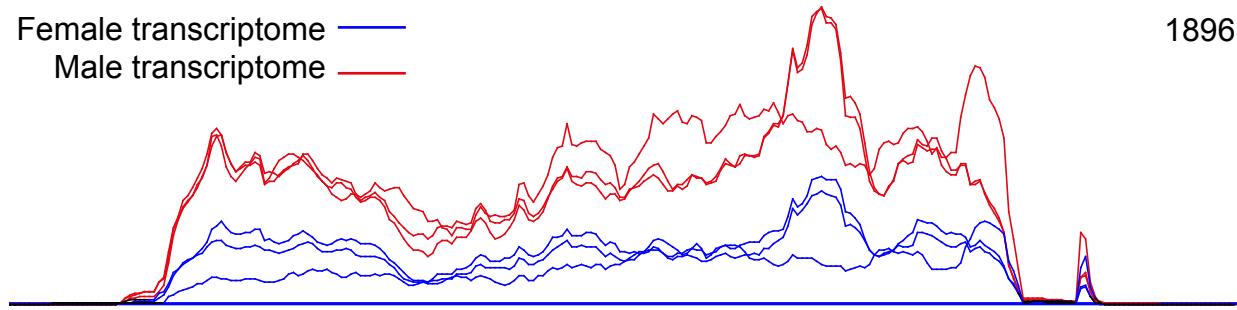


**a** True Z and W chromosomes**b** Assembled ZSR and WSR**c**

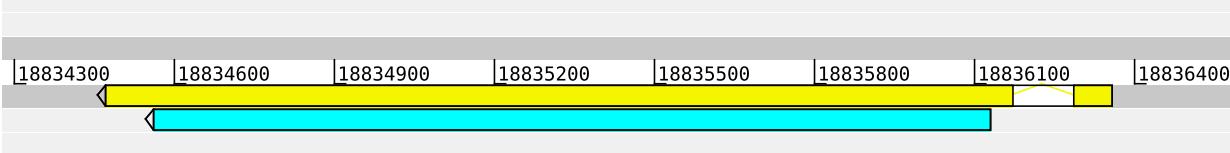


Female transcriptome —  
Male transcriptome —

1896

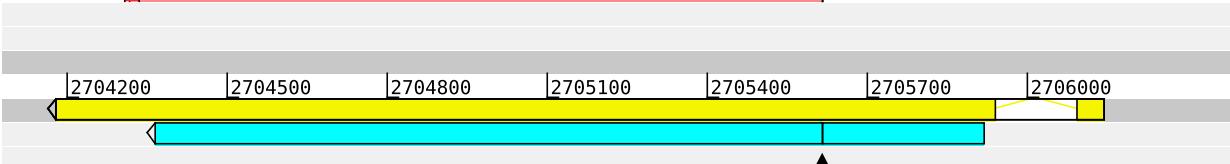


ZSR  
Fwd  
Rev

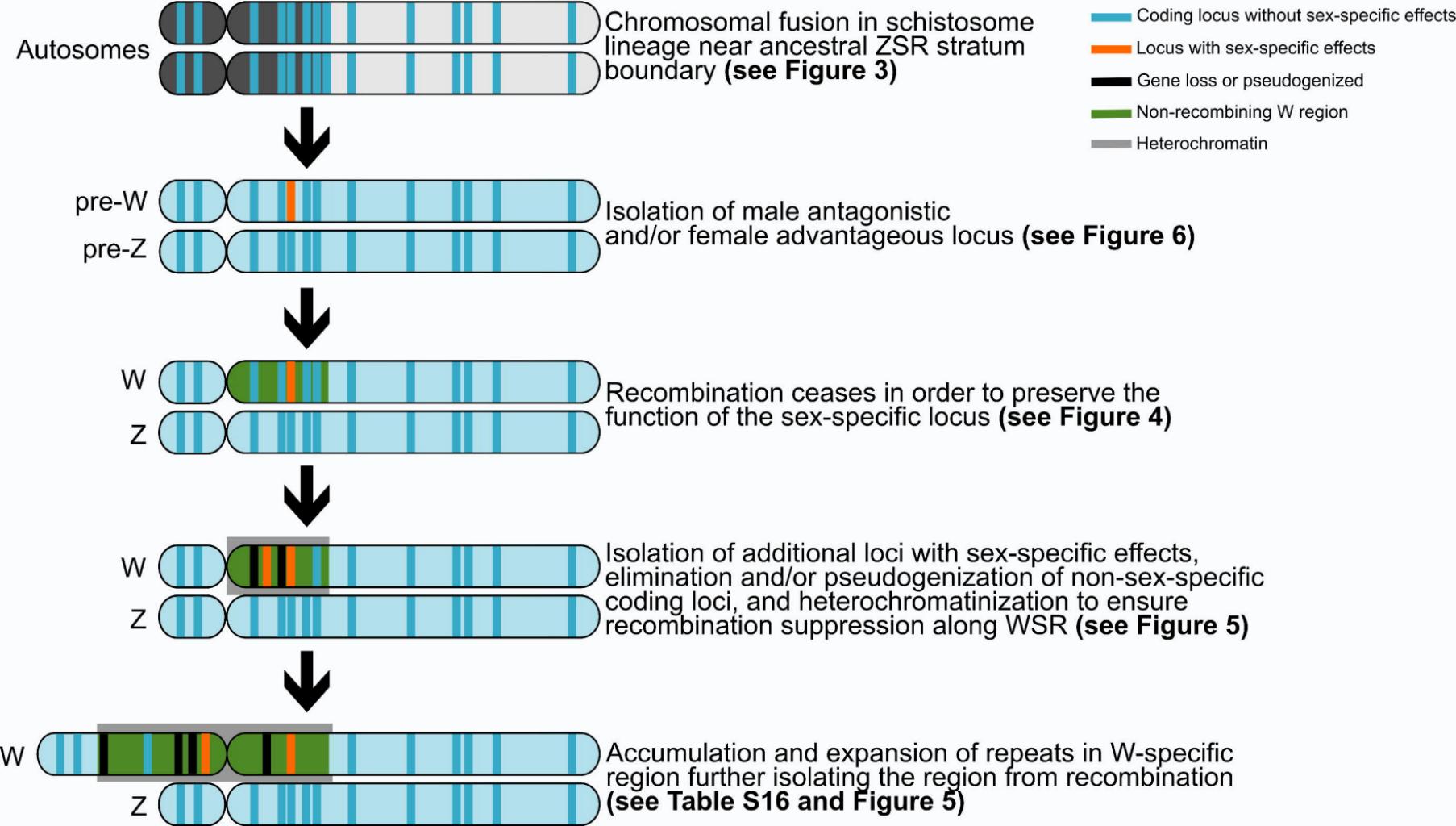


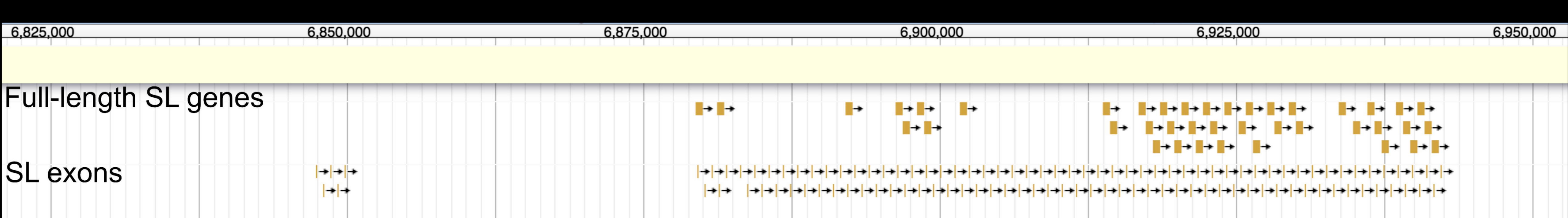
Sequence  
similarity

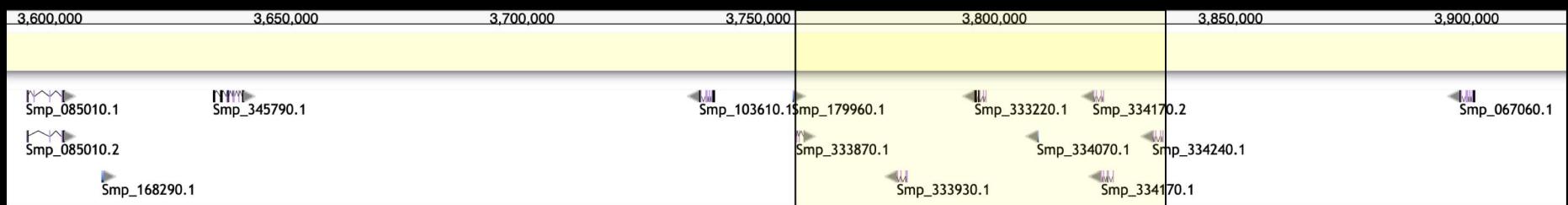
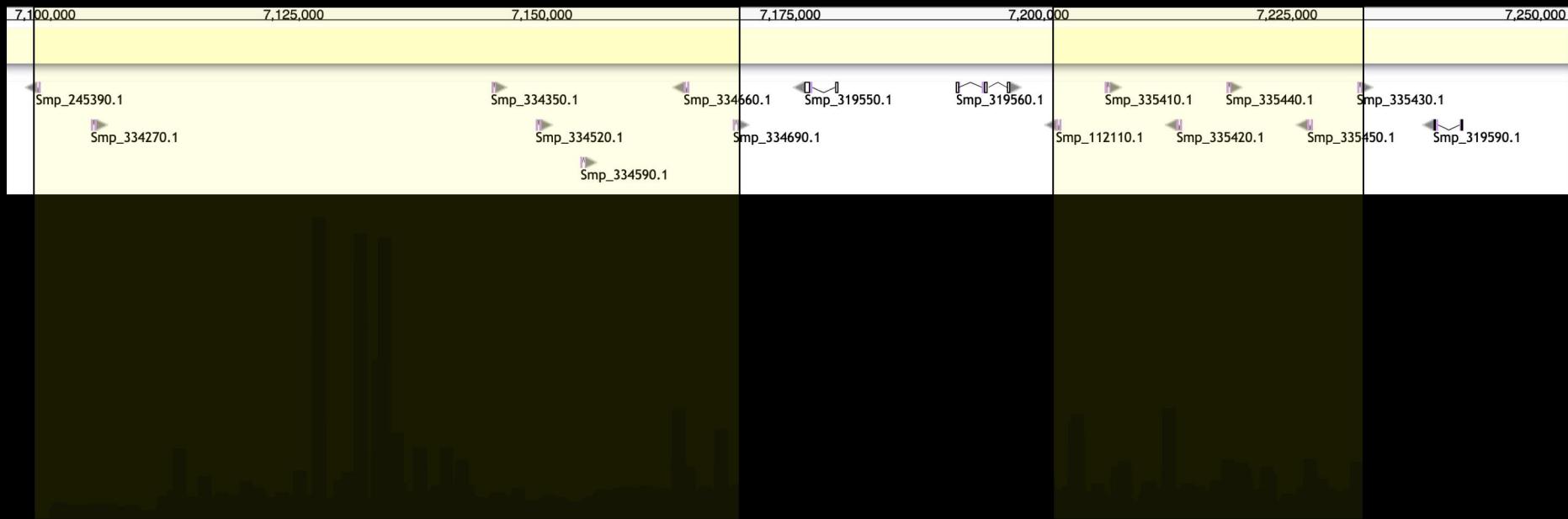
WSR  
Fwd  
Rev

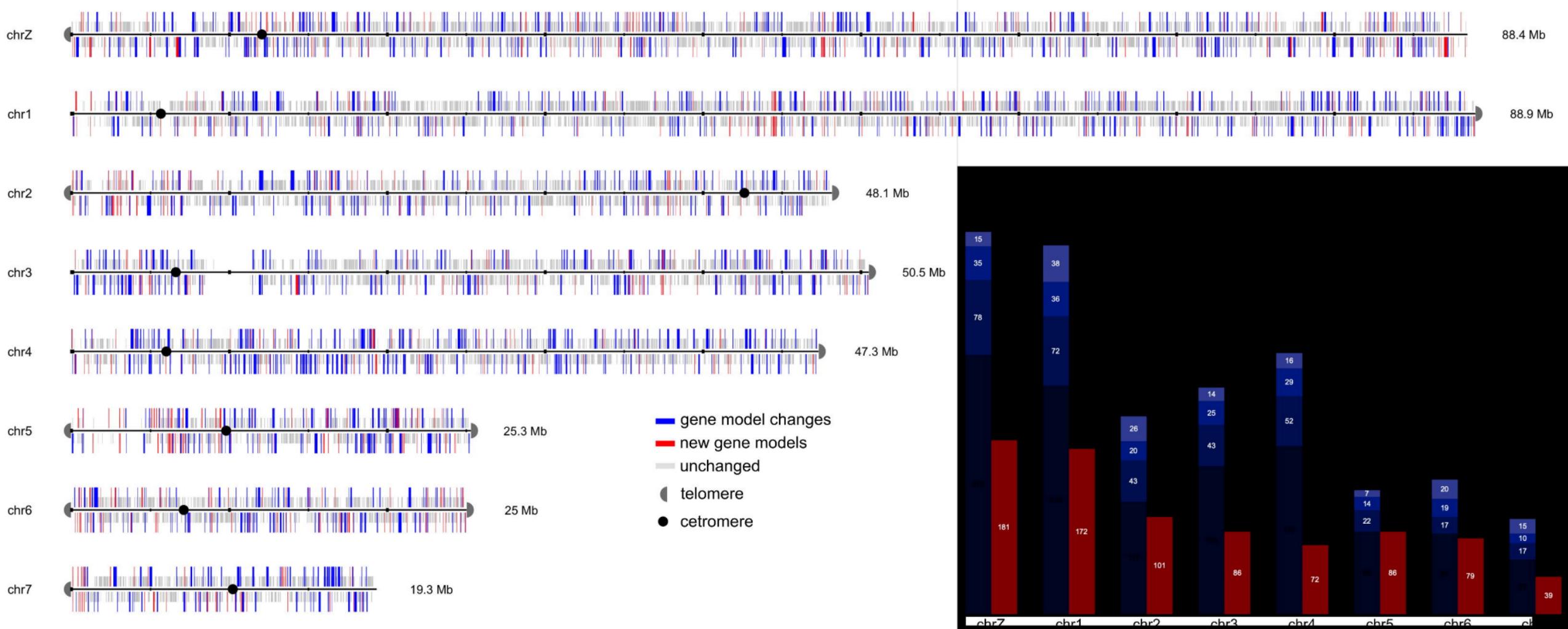


506

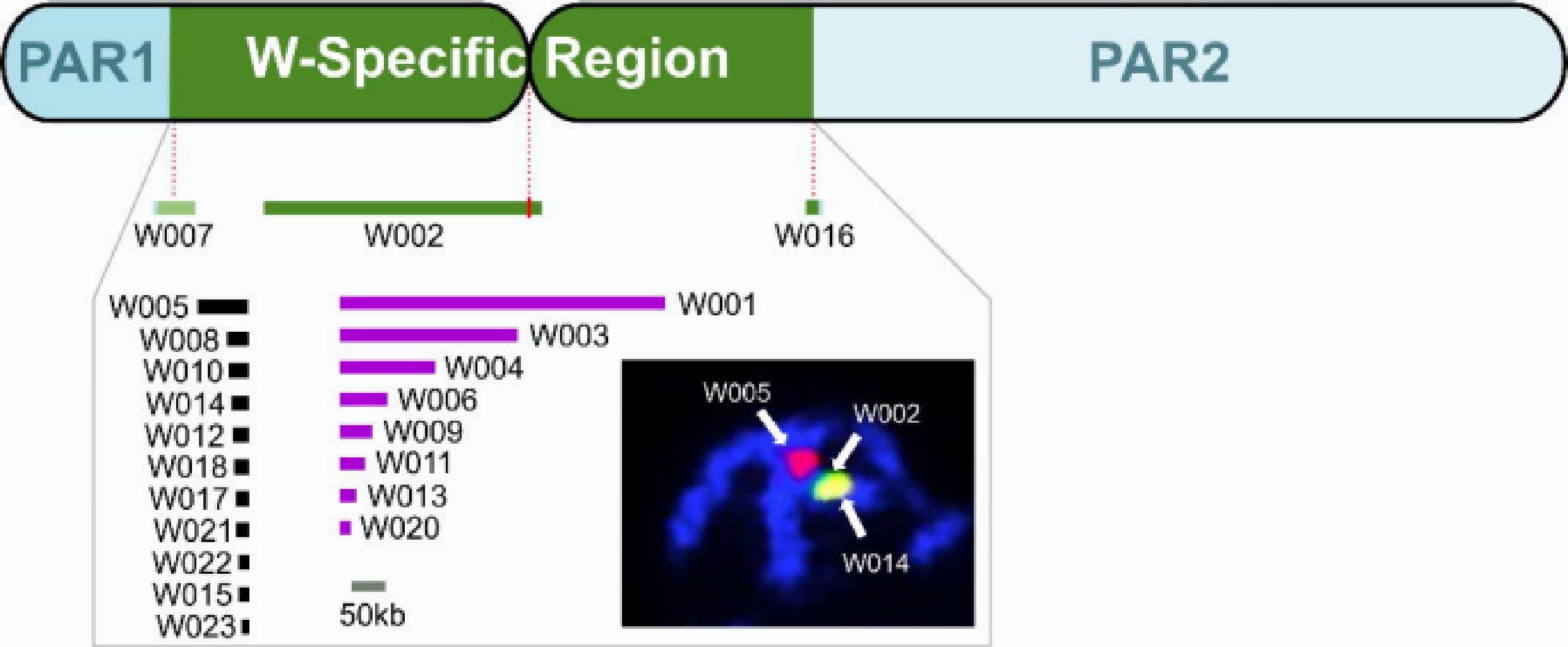




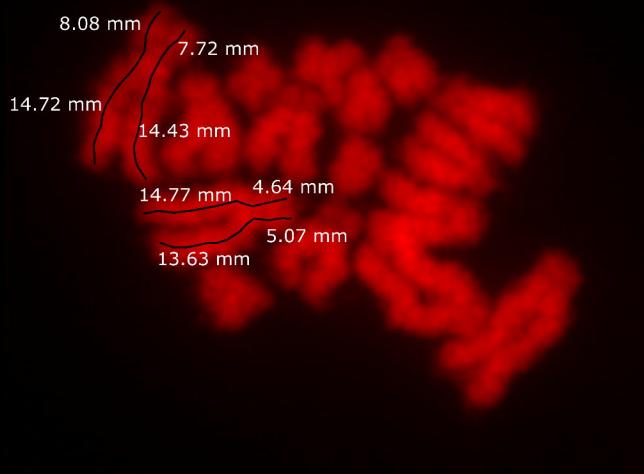




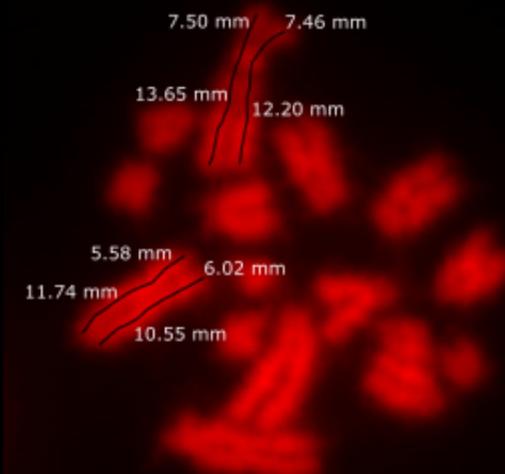




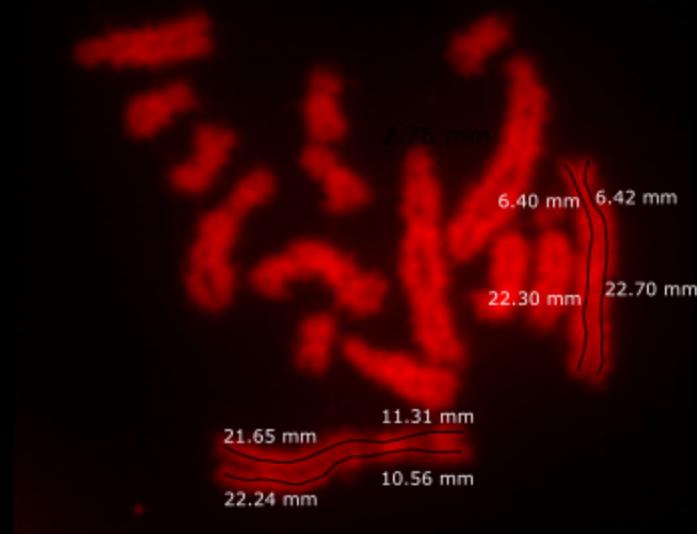
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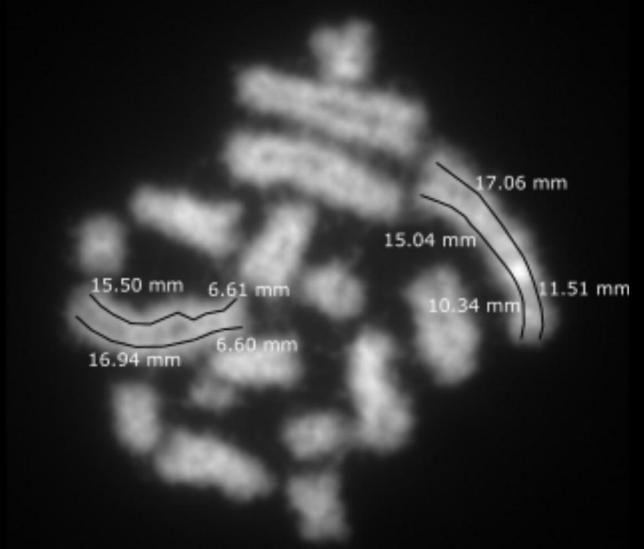
"Figure 5"



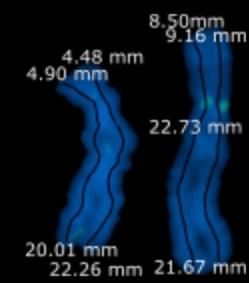
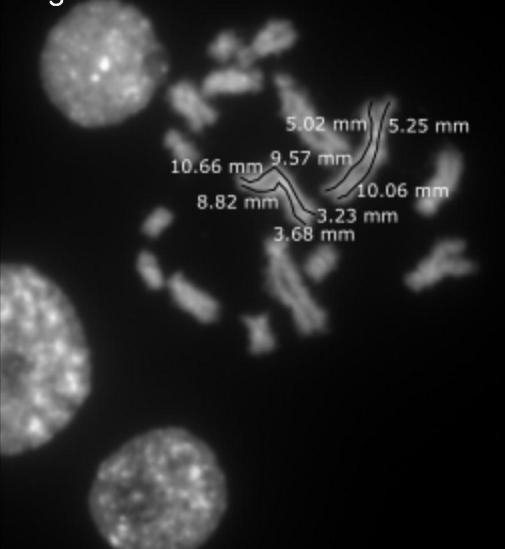
"Figure 7"



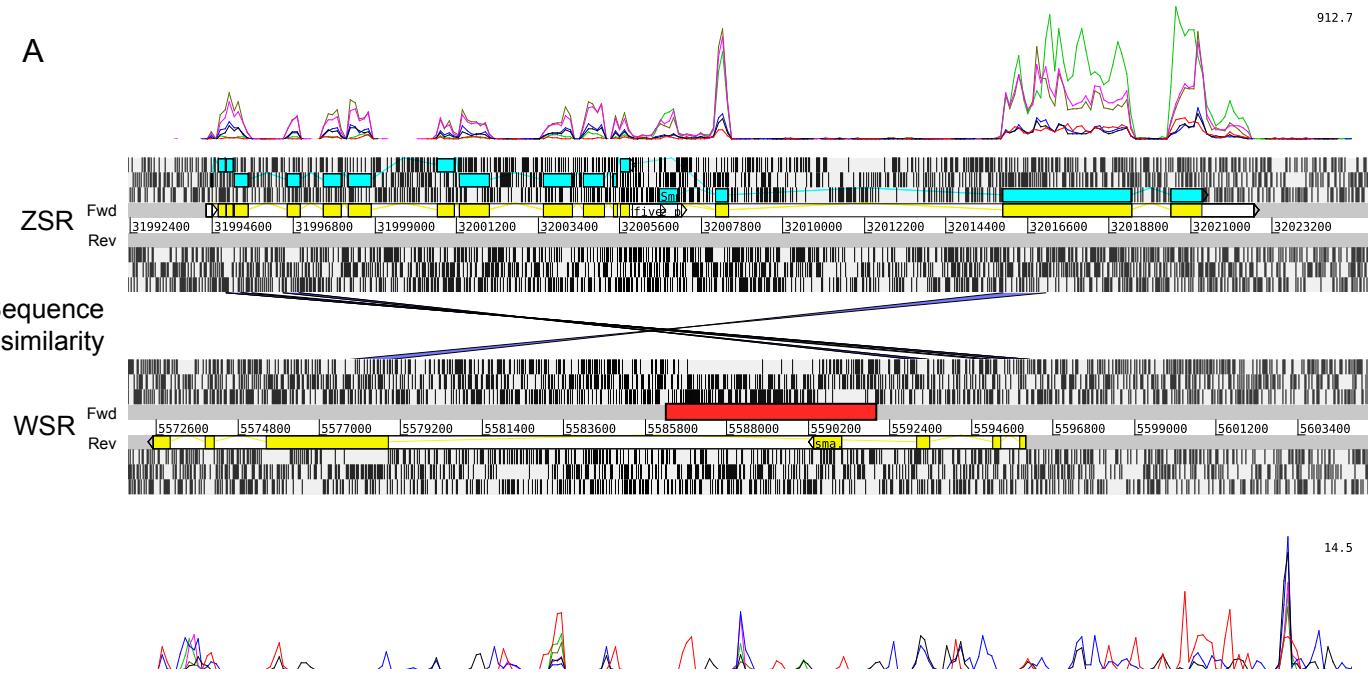
"Figure 8"



"Figure 9"



A



B

