

Ongoing transposition in cell culture reveals the phylogeny of diverse *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines.

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ABSTRACT Cultured cells are widely used in molecular biology despite poor understanding of how cell line genomes change *in vitro* over time. Previous work has shown that *Drosophila* cultured cells have a higher transposable element (TE) content than whole flies, but whether this increase in TE content resulted from an initial burst of transposition during cell line establishment or ongoing transposition in cell culture remains unclear. Here we sequence the genomes of 25 sub-lines of *Drosophila* S2 cells and show that TE insertions provide abundant markers for the phylogenetic reconstruction of diverse sub-lines in a model animal cell culture system. Analysis of DNA copy number evolution across S2 sub-lines revealed dramatically different patterns of genome organization that support the overall evolutionary history reconstructed using TE insertions. Analysis of TE insertion site occupancy and ancestral states support a model of ongoing transposition dominated by episodic activity of a small number of retrotransposon families. Our work demonstrates that substantial genome evolution occurs during long-term *Drosophila* cell culture, which may impact the reproducibility of experiments that do not control for sub-line identity.

KEYWORDS *Drosophila*
transposable element
copy number variation
genome evolution
cell culture

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Ben-David *et al.* 2018; Liu *et al.* 2019), or how to identify and minimize the impact of such diversity (Hughes *et al.* 2007; Ben-David *et al.* 2018). Establishing general rules for cell culture genome evolution and mitigating its influence will likely require analysis of multiple cell lines from many different species since the pattern and process of genome evolution *in vivo* is known to vary across taxa (Lynch 2007).

Early studies in the model insect *Drosophila melanogaster* showed a high abundance of multiple transposable element (TE) families in cell lines relative to the genomes of whole flies (Potter *et al.* 1979; Ilyin *et al.* 1980). More recently, analysis of whole genome sequence (WGS) data revealed between ~800 to ~3000 non-reference TE insertions in different *Drosophila* cell lines, with LTR retrotransposons making up the bulk of these new insertions (Rahman *et al.* 2015). Proliferation of TEs in *Drosophila* cultured cell genomes could be explained by a burst of transposition during initial establishment of cell lines, by ongoing TE insertion during routine cell culture, or a combination of both processes (Echalier 1997). Di Franco *et al.* (1992) contrasted the stability of TE profiles among sub-lines of one of the oldest

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1 *Drosophila* cell lines (Kc) (Junakovic *et al.* 1988) with elevated TE
2 abundance in a newly-established cell line (inb-c) and concluded
3 that the increased TE abundance in *Drosophila* cell lines resulted
4 from an initial burst of transposition during the establishment
5 of a new cell line, with relative stasis thereafter. However, com-
6 parison of old and new cultures from different cell lines is not a
7 definitive test of whether ongoing TE proliferation occurs during
8 routine culture because of differences in the founder genotypes
9 and cell type of independently established cell lines. More re-
10 cently, Sytnikova *et al.* (2014) provided evidence for transposition
11 after initial cell line establishment in *Drosophila* by showing an
12 increase in abundance of the ZAM element in a continuously cul-
13 tured sub-line of the OSS cell line (OSS_C) relative to a putative
14 frozen progenitor sub-line (OSS_E). More recent work by Han
15 *et al.* (2021) revealed that the early version of the OSS reported in
16 Sytnikova *et al.* (2014) (OSS_E) is actually a misidentified version
17 of a related cell line (OSC) and thus it is unclear if the ZAM
18 activation in OSS occurred during or after the establishment of
19 the OSS lineage. Documenting whether ongoing transposition
20 in cell culture occurs is important since this process can lead to
21 genomic variation among sub-lines that could impact functional
22 studies and, more practically, provide useful markers for cell
23 line identification and reconstruction of cell line evolutionary
24 history (Han *et al.* 2021; Mariyappa *et al.* 2021).

25 Here we contribute to the understanding of genome evolution
26 during long-term animal cell culture using a large sample
27 of sub-lines of *Drosophila* Schneider Line 2 (S2) cells, one of the
28 most widely-used non-mammalian cell culture systems. S2 cells
29 were established from embryonic tissue of an unmarked stock
30 of Oregon-R flies in December 1969 (Schneider 1972) and are
31 likely to be derived from macrophage-like hemocytes (Schneider
32 1972; Echalier 1997). Two other cell lines, S1 (August 1969) and
33 S3 (February 1970), were derived from the same ancestral fly
34 stock (Schneider 1972) and can serve as outgroups to analyze
35 evolution in the S2 lineage. Since their establishment, S2 cells
36 have been distributed widely and grown more extensively than
37 S1 or S3 cells (Lee *et al.* 2014). Many different sub-lines of S2 cells
38 have been established by labs in the *Drosophila* community, some
39 of which have been donated back to the *Drosophila* Genomics
40 Resource Center (DGRC) for maintenance and distribution. In
41 general, the provenance and relationships among sub-lines of
42 S2 cells are unknown, as is the extent of their genomic or phe-
43 notypic diversity. At least one sub-type of S2 cells, called S2R+
44 (for S2 receptor plus), is known to have distinct phenotypes
45 from other S2 cell lines such as expressing the Dfrizzled-1 and
46 Dfrizzled-2 membrane proteins and having the desirable prop-
47 erty of being more adherent to surfaces in tissue culture (Yana-
48 gawa *et al.* 1998). In addition to their ubiquity and diversity, S2
49 cells are a good model to study genome evolution in animal cell
50 culture because of their relatively small genome size, which per-
51 mits cost-effective whole-genome sequencing, and the wealth of
52 prior biological knowledge in *D. melanogaster*.

53 In this study, we report new WGS data for 25 sub-lines of
54 S2 cells as well as the outgroup S1 and S3 cell lines. We ana-
55 lyze these data together with public WGS samples for S2R+ and
56 mbn2 (recently shown by Han *et al.* (2021) to be a misiden-
57 tified lineage of S2) and demonstrate that TE insertions provide
58 abundant markers to reconstruct the evolutionary history of
59 S2 sub-lines. These data reveal that publicly available S2 sub-
60 lines form a monophyletic group defined by two major clades
61 (A and B), and suggest that misidentification of available S2
62 cultures by other *Drosophila* cell lines is limited. We also show

63 that genome-wide copy number profiles support the major phy-
64 logenetic relationships among S2 sub-lines inferred using TE
65 profiles. Using TE site occupancy and ancestral states, we infer
66 that TE insertion has occurred on all internal branches of the S2
67 phylogeny, but that only a small subset of *D. melanogaster* TE
68 families have proliferated during S2 evolution, most of which
69 are retrotransposons that do not encode a retroviral envelope
70 (*env*) gene. Together, these results support the conclusions that
71 TE insertions provide useful markers of S2 sub-line identity and
72 genome organization and that TE proliferation in *Drosophila* so-
73 matic cell culture is primarily driven by an ongoing, episodic,
74 cell-autonomous process that does not involve deregulation of
75 global transpositional control mechanisms.

Materials and Methods

Genome sequencing

We sequenced the genomes of 29 samples of S1, S2, or S3 cells
78 to understand the genomic diversity and evolutionary rela-
79 tionships of publicly available sub-lines of S2 cells. Frozen stocks
80 for each of these 29 samples were ordered from the *Drosophila*
81 Genomics Resource Center (DGRC), American Type Culture Col-
82 lection (ATCC), Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und
83 Zellkulturen (DSMZ), and Thermo Fisher. DNA was prepared
84 directly from thawed samples without further culturing. Stock
85 or catalogue numbers for these publicly available cell lines can
86 be found in Table S1. Cells were defrosted and 250 μ l of the cell
87 suspension was aliquoted and spun down for 5 min at 300g. The
88 supernatant was discarded and the DNA from the cell pellet
89 was extracted using the Qiagen DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Cat.
90 No. 69504). DNA preps were done in three batches, each of
91 which contained an independent sample of S2-DRSC (DGRC-
92 181) to identify any potential sample swaps and to assess the
93 reproducibility of phylogenetic clustering based on TE profiles.
94 The triplicate samples of S2-DRSC were from the same freeze
95 of this cell sub-line performed by DGRC (Daniel Mariyappa,
96 personal communication). Illumina sequencing libraries were
97 generated using the Nextera DNA sample preparation kit (Cat.
98 No. FC-121-1030), AMPure XP beads were then used to purify
99 and remove fragments <100bp, and libraries were normalized
100 and pooled prior to being sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 2500
101 flow cell using a 101bp paired-end layout.

In addition, we analyzed public WGS data for a sample
103 of S2R+ (unpublished results; G. Dias, S. Han, P. Basting, R.
104 Viswanatha, N. Perrimon, and C.M. Bergman) and three sam-
105 ples of mbn2, a cell line which was recently shown to be a mis-
106 identified lineage of S2 cells (Han *et al.* 2021). A summary of the
107 sequence data analyzed for each of the 33 samples in this study
108 can be found in Table S1.

Prediction of non-reference TE insertions

111 Non-reference TE insertions were detected in each sample us-
112 ing trimmed paired fastq sequences as input for the TEMP
113 (Zhuang *et al.* 2014) module in McClintock (v2.0) (Nelson *et al.*
114 2017). We used TEMP to predict non-reference TEs based on
115 previous results showing TEMP predictions are the least de-
116 pendent on coverage and read length relative to other com-
117 ponent methods in McClintock (Han *et al.* 2021). By default,
118 McClintock filters predictions made by TEMP by requiring
119 at least one read support on both sides of insertion and at
120 least 10% TE allele frequency. The major sequences (chr2L,
121 chr2R, chr3L, chr3R, chr4, chrM, chrY, and chrX) from the *D.*
122 *melanogaster* dm6 assembly were used as a reference genome

1 (Hoskins *et al.* 2015). The TE library used for McClintock analysis was a slightly modified version of the Berkeley *Drosophila* 2 Genome Project canonical TE dataset described in Sackton *et al.* 3 (2009) (https://github.com/bergmanlab/transposons/blob/master/releases/D_mel_transposon_sequence_set_v10.2.fa).

4 Genome-wide non-reference TE predictions generated by McClintock were filtered to exclude TEs in low recombination 5 regions using boundaries defined by Cridland *et al.* (2013) lifted 6 over to dm6 coordinates, as in Han *et al.* (2021). Our analysis 7 was restricted to normal recombination regions since low 8 recombination regions have high reference TE content which 9 reduces the ability to predict non-reference TE insertions (Bergman 10 *et al.* 2006; Manee *et al.* 2018). Low recombination regions 11 included in our analyses were defined as chrX:405967–20928973, 12 chr2L:200000–20100000, chr2R:6412495–25112477, chr3L:100000– 13 21906900, chr3R:4774278–31974278. We also excluded INE-1 14 family from the subsequent analysis since this family has been 15 reported to be inactive in *Drosophila* for millions of years (Singh 16 and Petrov 2004; Wang *et al.* 2007). Filtered non-reference TE 17 predictions were then clustered across genomic coordinates and 18 samples. TEs predicted in different samples in the same cluster 19 were required to directly overlap and be on the same strand. 20 Clustered non-reference TE predictions were then filtered to 21 exclude low-quality predictions using the same criteria as in Han 22 *et al.* (2021). Briefly, non-reference TE loci with a single TE family 23 per locus and one prediction per sample were retained.

27 **Phylogenetic analysis of cell sub-line samples using TE insertion 28 profiles**

29 Genome-wide non-reference TE predictions were then converted 30 to a binary presence/absence matrix as input for phylogenetic 31 analysis. Phylogenetic trees of cell sub-lines were built using 32 Dollo parsimony in PAUP (v4.0a168) (Swofford 2003). Phylogenetic 33 analysis was performed using heuristic searches with 34 50 replicates. A hypothetical ancestor carrying the assumed 35 ancestral state (absence) for each locus was included as root in 36 the analysis (Batzer and Deininger 2002; Han *et al.* 2021). “De- 37 scribeTrees chgList=yes” option was used to assign character 38 state changes to all branches in the tree. Finally, node bootstrap 39 support for the most parsimonious tree was computed by 40 integrating 100 replicates generated by PAUP using SumTrees 41 (v4.5.1) (Sukumaran and Holder 2010).

42 **Copy number analysis of cell sub-line samples**

43 BAM files generated by McClintock were used to generate 44 copy number profiles for non-overlapping windows of the dm6 45 genome using Control-FREEC (v11.6) (Boeva *et al.* 2012). 10 kb 46 windows were used for Control-FREEC analyses unless specified 47 otherwise. Windows with less than 85% mappability were 48 excluded from the analysis based on mappability tracks generated 49 by GEM (v1.315 beta) (Derrien *et al.* 2012). Baseline ploidy 50 was set to diploid for S1 and tetraploid for all other samples, 51 according to ploidy levels for S1, S2, S2R+, S3, and mbn2 cells 52 estimated by Lee *et al.* (2014). The minimum and maximum 53 expected value of the GC content was set to be 0.3 and 0.45, 54 respectively.

55 **Results**

56 **Genome-wide TE profiles reveal the evolutionary relationships 57 among Schneider cell sub-lines**

58 Previously, we showed that genome-wide TE profiles can be 59 used to uniquely identify *Drosophila* cell lines and provide in-

sight into the evolutionary history of clonally-evolving sub-lines 60 derived from the same cell line (Han *et al.* 2021). Here, we 61 propose that TE profiles can also be used to infer the currently 62 unknown evolutionary relationships for a large panel of diverse 63 sub-lines originating from a widely-used animal cell line, 64 *Drosophila* S2 cells. We generated paired-end Illumina WGS 65 data for a panel of 25 *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines from multiple lab 66 origins (Table S1), including triplicate samples of one sub-line 67 (S2-DRSC) to act as an internal control, and for the S1 and S3 68 cell lines that were derived from the same ancestral fly stock 69 (Oregon-R) as the S2 lineage (Schneider 1972). In our analy- 70 sis, we also included a S2R+ sub-line from the *Drosophila* RNAi 71 Screening Center (DRSC) with publicly available WGS data from 72 a forthcoming study (unpublished results; G. Dias, S. Han, P. 73 Basting, R. Viswanatha, N. Perrimon, and C.M. Bergman) and 74 three mbn2 cell sub-line samples from Han *et al.* (2021) (Table 75 S1). mbn2 cells were originally reported to have a distinct origin 76 (Gateff *et al.* 1980), but recent genomic analysis has shown 77 that currently-circulating mbn2 cells are a mis-identified lineage 78 of S2 cells (Han *et al.* 2021), although it remains unknown 79 to which lineage mbn2 cells are most closely related. Using 80 TEMP (Zhuang *et al.* 2014), we predicted between 655 and 2924 81 non-reference TE insertions in the euchromatic regions of these 82 Schneider cell line samples (Table S2). Each sample had a unique 83 profile of non-reference TE insertions (File S1).

84 We performed phylogenetic analysis using genome-wide TE 85 profiles of all Schneider cell line samples using the Dollo parsimony 86 approach (Han *et al.* 2021). This approach fits the assumptions 87 of the homoplasy-free nature of TE insertions (Shedlock 88 and Okada 2000; Salem *et al.* 2003; Xing *et al.* 2005; Platt *et al.* 89 2015; Lammers *et al.* 2017, 2019) while also accommodating the false 90 negative TE predictions inherent to short-read-based TE detection 91 methods (Nelson *et al.* 2017; Rishishwar *et al.* 2017; Vendrell- 92 Mir *et al.* 2019). The most parsimonious tree revealed several 93 expected patterns that suggest using TE profiles to infer the 94 evolutionary relationship among Schneider cell lines is reliable (Figure 95 1A; File S2). First, most internal nodes have high bootstrap 96 support. All weakly-supported nodes are close to the terminal 97 taxa, which presumably is due to the lack of phylogenetically- 98 informative TE insertions that differentiate very closely related 99 sub-lines or sample replicates. Second, using a hypothetical 100 ancestor representing the state without any non-reference inser- 101 tions to root the tree, S1 and S3 cell lines were independently 102 reconstructed as outgroups for the S2 sub-lines in the phylogeny, 103 as expected based on their independent origin from the same 104 ancestral fly stock (Schneider 1972). Third, replicate samples 105 of S2-DRSC cluster as nearest taxa and form a monophyletic 106 clade with 100% bootstrap support. Fourth, all samples from 107 S2R+, which are sub-lines of S2 with unique phenotypic char- 108 acteristics (Yanagawa *et al.* 1998), form a monophyletic clade 109 with 100% bootstrap support. Finally, all mbn2 sub-lines form 110 a monophyletic clade with 100% bootstrap support embedded 111 within a monophyletic clade of S2 sub-lines that itself has 100% 112 bootstrap support. These results suggest that TE profiles can 113 be used to reliably infer the evolutionary relationship among 114 diverse sub-lines of a widely-used animal cell line, and that 115 there is no evidence for any S2 sub-lines in our dataset being a 116 misidentified non-S2 *Drosophila* cell lines.

117 The phylogeny of Schneider cell lines built using TE profiles 118 revealed a major split in the history of S2 cell line evolution, 119 resulting in two sister lineages which we labelled as “Clade A” 120 and “Clade B” (Figure 1). Clade A is comprised of one sub-

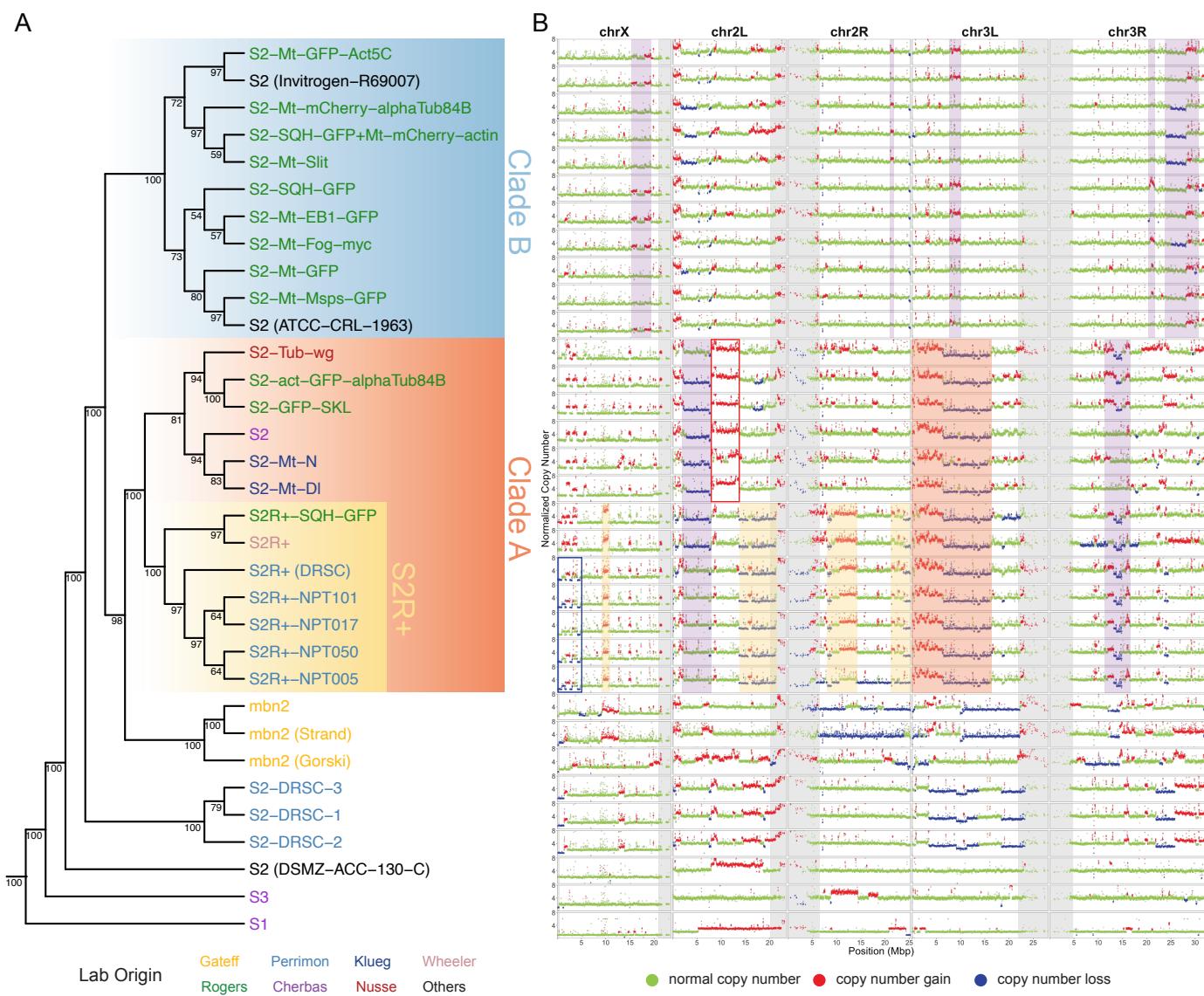


Figure 1 TE and CNV profiles reveal the evolutionary relationship among S2 sub-lines. (A) Dollo parsimony tree including a panel of 26 S2 sub-lines with diverse lab origins, two S1 and S3 sub-lines to serve as outgroups in the phylogeny, and three mbn2 sub-lines that were inferred to be misidentified S2 lines by Han *et al.* (2021). Replicate samples for S2-DRSC were also included. The phylogeny was constructed using genome-wide non-reference TE insertions predicted by TEMP (Zhuang *et al.* 2014). Percentage bootstrap support was annotated below each node. *Drosophila* Genomics Resource Center (DGRC) cell line names are used as taxa labels. Samples obtained from other sources are labeled in the format of “cell line name (source name)”. Taxa labels were colorized based on original labs in which cell sub-lines were developed. (B) Copy number profiles for samples included in panel A separated by chromosome arms. Each data point represents normalized copy number (ratio*ploidy) for a given 10kb window estimated by Control-FREEC (Boeva *et al.* 2012). Data points for each window are colorized by CNV status (red: CNV gain; green: no CNV; blue: CNV loss), which are based on the comparison between normalized copy number computed by Control-FREEC and baseline ploidy estimated by Lee *et al.* (2014). Red shading indicates CNVs that are exclusively shared by all S2 sub-lines in Clade A. Yellow shading indicates CNVs that are exclusively shared by S2R+ sub-lines. The red box in chromosome X represents CNVs that are exclusively shared by all S2 sub-lines in Clade A that are not S2R+. The blue box in chromosome arm 2L represents CNVs that are exclusively shared by S2R+ sub-lines from the Perrimon lab. Purple shading indicates CNVs that are exclusively and shared by a subset of S2 sub-lines within Clade A or Clade B. Low recombination regions are shaded in grey.

1 clade containing all seven S2R+ sub-lines and another sub-clade
 2 containing six S2 sub-lines, one of which is the canonical S2 sub-
 3 line distributed by DGRC (DGRC-6). Clade B is comprised of
 4 11 S2 sub-lines including sub-lines from Invitrogen and ATCC.
 5 The presence of S2 sub-lines in both clade A and clade B, but

6 the presence of S2R+ sub-lines in clade B, implies that the S2 cell
 7 line designation is paraphyletic (i.e., some S2 sub-lines are more
 8 closely related to S2R+ than to other S2 sub-lines). In some cases,
 9 Schneider cell lines from the same lab cluster together (e.g. S2R+
 10 sub-lines from the Perrimon lab and S2 sub-lines from the Klueg

1 lab, respectively). However, S2 sub-lines from the Rogers lab
2 were placed in different major clades of the S2 phylogeny (three
3 S2-sub-lines in Clade A, nine S2-sub-lines in Clade B, Figure 1),
4 demonstrating that the same lab can use divergent sub-lines of
5 S2 from different major clades that have potentially different
6 genome organization (see below).

7 The majority of S2 sub-lines we surveyed in this study were
8 placed within Clade A and Clade B based on their TE profiles.
9 However, two S2 sub-lines, S2-DRSC and S2 (DSMZ-ACC-130-
10 C), were independently placed as outgroups for the two major
11 clades of S2, suggesting that they are highly divergent S2
12 lineages. S2-DRSC is routinely used for RNAi screens at the
13 *Drosophila* RNAi Screening Center (DRSC) and was recently do-
14 nated to DGRC. Its relationship to the canonical S2 sub-line from
15 DGRC (i.e., DGRC-6) was previously not known. Our results
16 suggest that S2-DRSC and S2 (DGRC-6) are not closely related
17 sub-lines, which could explain the phenotypic and functional
18 differences between these two sub-lines reported in previous
19 studies (Cherbas *et al.* 2011; Wen *et al.* 2014; Lee *et al.* 2014; Lee
20 and Oliver 2015).

21 mbn2 sub-lines cluster in a monophyletic clade that is sis-
22 ter to Clade A (98% bootstrap support) but is clearly contained
23 within a monophyletic lineage containing all S2 samples. This
24 observation is consistent with previous results reported by Han
25 *et al.* (2021) proposing that mbn2 is a misidentified S2 lineage.
26 Han *et al.* (2021) showed that mbn2 clusters with S2-DRSC be-
27 fore clustering with S2R+. However, our results showed that
28 the mbn2 clade clusters Clade A (containing S2R+ sub-lines)
29 before clustering with S2-DRSC. We interpret this discrepancy
30 as being caused by the sparse sampling and use of low coverage
31 sequencing data for S2 and S2R+ from the modENCODE project
32 in the previous study (Han *et al.* 2021), which led to insufficient
33 signal to infer the evolutionary relationship of the mbn2 clade
34 within S2 sub-line diversity.

35 **Genome-wide copy number profiles correlate with history of 36 S2 sub-lines**

37 To further investigate potential genomic heterogeneity among
38 Schneider cell lines and cross-validate our phylogenetic recon-
39 struction based on TE profiles, we generated copy number pro-
40 files for all samples in our dataset (Figure 1B) using Control-
41 FREEC (Boeva *et al.* 2012). Two patterns in the copy number
42 profiles generated suggested that our approach to characterize
43 segmental variation in our cell sub-lines was robust. First, we ob-
44 served a high concordance in copy number profiles for replicate
45 samples of S2-DRSC (Figure 1B). Second, copy number profiles
46 we generated using our new data for S1, S2R+, S2-DRSC, and
47 S3 are broadly consistent with profiles for these cell lines using
48 data generated by the modENCODE project reported previously
49 in Lee *et al.* (2014) (Figure S2).

50 Copy number profiles for S2 sub-lines revealed a substantial
51 amount of segmental copy number variants (CNVs) among dif-
52 ferent clades in the S2 phylogeny (Figure 1B). The major Clades
53 A and B have distinct patterns of CNV variation, with S2 sub-
54 lines in Clade A having many CNVs, while sub-lines in Clade
55 B have very few CNVs throughout their genomes (Figure 1B).
56 CNVs that are exclusively shared by sub-lines in Clade A but
57 not present in clade B are readily apparent, such as the ~15Mbp
58 copy number gains and losses on chromosome arm 3L (Figure
59 1B, red shading). The two main sub-clades within Clade A are
60 also distinguished by sub-clade-specific CNVs: several copy
61 number gains and losses on chromosome X, arm 2L, and arm 2R

62 are exclusively shared by all S2R+ sub-lines (Figure 1B, yellow
63 shading), while a ~5Mbp copy number gain on chromosome
64 arm 2L is exclusively shared by non-S2R+ sub-lines (Figure 1B,
65 red box). Within the S2R+ clade, there are also copy number
66 losses in the distal regions of chromosome X that are exclusively
67 shared by S2R+ sub-lines from the Perrimon lab (Figure 1B, blue
68 box). Furthermore, S2-DRSC and S2 (DSMZ-ACC-130-C) have
69 distinct copy number profiles that differ from other S2 sub-lines
70 in Clade A and Clade B (Figure 1B), supporting the inference
71 based on TE profiles that these are divergent S2 lineages. Finally,
72 CNV profiles for mbn2 samples have distinct copy number pro-
73 files that differ from all other S2 sub-lines, consistent with the
74 interpretation that mbn2 cells are a divergent lineage of S2. In
75 addition, we note that the abundance and diversity of CNVs
76 in mbn2 sub-lines resembles the CNV diversity observed for
77 S2 sub-lines in Clade A (Figure 1B), the major S2 clade which
78 the mbn2 is inferred to be most closely related to based on TE
79 profiles.

80 We also observed some examples where reversals of CNVs
81 may have arisen by somatic recombination or aneuploidy. For
82 example, S2R+, S2R+-SQH-GFP, and most S2 sub-lines in Clade
83 A (except S2-Tub-wg) share a ~5Mbp copy number loss in chro-
84 mosome arm 2L (Figure 1B). This pattern could be explained by
85 a segmental deletion event occurring in the common ancestor
86 of sub-lines in Clade A, followed by reversals of the deletion in
87 S2-Tub-wg and in the common ancestor of S2R+ sub-lines from
88 Perrimon lab through somatic recombination (Figure 1B). In ad-
89 dition, a copy number loss on the entire chromosome arm 2R can
90 be observed for S2R+-NPT005 but not for other S2R+ sub-lines,
91 which can be explained by a whole-arm aneuploidy event. Over-
92 all, these results suggest that copy number changes contribute to
93 substantial diversity in genome organization among S2 sub-lines
94 and that shared patterns of CNVs are broadly consistent with
95 the evolutionary relationships among S2 sub-lines inferred from
96 TE profiles (Figure 1A).

97 **Evidence for ongoing transposition during long-term S2 cell 98 culture**

99 In the absence of secondary events such as segmental deletion,
100 ancestral non-reference TE insertions from the original fly strain
101 or that arose during cell line establishment will be clonally-
102 inherited by all descendant sub-lines. Ancestral insertions in
103 regions without copy number loss should not provide any phy-
104 logenetic signal, and thus a simple model of TE proliferation dur-
105 ing cell line establishment with no subsequent genome evolution
106 cannot jointly explain (i) the overall increase in TE abundance
107 and (ii) phylogenetically-informative nature of TE insertions in
108 S2 cells. Two other contrasting models can however account
109 for both features of the TE landscape in S2 genomes. Under
110 the "Early transposition and subsequent deletion" model (Fig-
111 ure 2A), the increase in TE abundance is caused by a massive
112 proliferation of TEs during cell line establishment, with sub-
113 sequent copy number loss events shared by descendant cell lines
114 indirectly explaining the phylogenetic signal of genome-wide
115 TE profiles. Under the "Ongoing transposition in cell culture"
116 model (Figure 2A), it is not necessary to invoke any TE prolif-
117 eration during cell line establishment, and both the overall increase
118 in TE abundance and phylogenetic signal of TE profiles result
119 from the ongoing accumulation of TE insertions during routine
120 cell culture that are inherited by descendant cell lines.

121 These alternative models can be distinguished by analyzing
122 TE profiles in regions of the genome without copy number loss

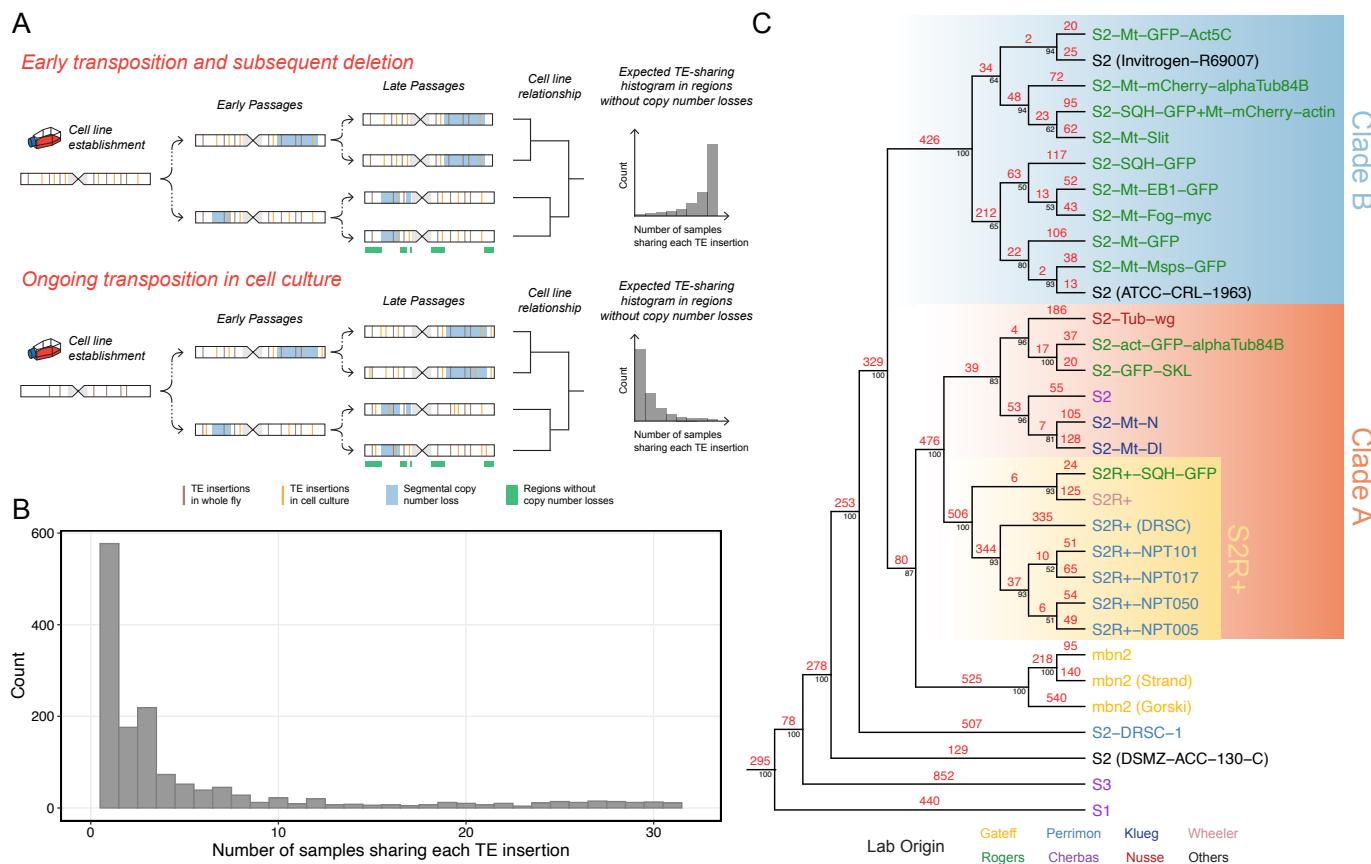


Figure 2 TE profiles suggest ongoing transposition in S2 cell culture. (A) Two hypotheses that could explain the mode of TE amplification in *Drosophila* S2 cell culture and how the resulting TE profiles could help infer the relationship among different cell sub-lines. Note that the schematic models represent genome-wide TE distributions combining all haplotypes. Therefore, given that S2 cells are tetraploid (Lee *et al.* 2014), a copy number loss event that occurred in one haplotype should only wipe out some TEs that are heterozygous in the affected region. (B) Histogram shows the distribution of the number of *Drosophila* S2 sub-line samples that share each TE insertion in regions of chromosome X without major shared copy number losses (chrX:500000-20928973). (C) Dollo parsimony tree including 26 *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines constructed using non-reference TE predictions made by TEMP (Zhuang *et al.* 2014). Samples from S1, S3, and mbn2 cell lines were also included. The number of TE insertions estimated using ancestral state reconstruction were annotated in red above each branch. Percentage bootstrap support was annotated in black below each node. *Drosophila* Genomics Resource Center (DGRC) cell line names are used as taxa labels. Samples obtained from other sources are labeled in the format of “cell line name (source name)”. Taxa labels were colorized based on original labs in which cell sub-lines were developed.

1 events. In regions without shared copy-number-loss events, the
 2 “Early transposition and subsequent deletion” model predicts
 3 that TE insertions will be shared by the majority of sub-lines
 4 and that TE profiles will not have strong phylogenetic signal to
 5 infer the evolutionary history of S2 sub-lines. In contrast, the
 6 “Ongoing transposition in cell culture” model predicts that few
 7 TEs will be shared by all sub-lines in regions without shared
 8 copy-number-loss events, and that TE profiles in these regions
 9 will be able to reconstruct evolutionary history of S2 sub-lines
 10 in a similar manner as genome-wide TE profiles. To test these
 11 alternative models, we analyzed TE profiles in a ~15Mbp region
 12 in chromosome X that does not include significant copy number
 13 loss across all S2 sub-lines we surveyed (Figure S1B, purple shading). Our analysis revealed that the majority of TE insertions in
 14 regions of the X chromosome without shared copy number loss
 15 events are exclusive to one or a subset of S2 sub-line samples
 16 (Figure 2B). Phylogenetic analysis of non-reference TE insertions
 17 in the same region of chromosome X generated a most parsimo-

19 nious tree that has the same major topological features as the
 20 one built from genome-wide TE profiles (Figure S1A). Together,
 21 these results provide evidence against the “Early transposition
 22 and subsequent deletion” model and suggest that the genome-
 23 wide TE profiles used to infer evolutionary relationship of S2
 24 sub-lines are contributed mainly by ongoing lineage-specific
 25 transposition during cell culture.

A subset of LTR retrotransposon families have episodically inserted during S2 cell line history

To gain additional insights into the dynamics of TE activity during the history of S2 cell line evolution, we mapped TE insertions on the phylogeny of *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines using ancestral state reconstruction based on the most parsimonious scenario of TE gain and loss under the Dollo model (Batzer and Deininger 2002; Ray *et al.* 2006; Han *et al.* 2021) (Figure 2C). The Dollo model favors TE insertions to be gained once early in the phylogeny over parallel gains of TEs in different sub-lineages (Farris 1977)

1 and is thus conservative with respect to the number of inferred
2 transposition events on more terminal branches of the tree. The
3 most parsimonious reconstruction of TE insertions mapped on
4 the Schneider cell line phylogeny reveals a substantial number
5 of TE insertions on branches at all depths in the phylogeny (Figure
6 2C). For example, we observe over 250 TE insertions on each
7 ancestral branch that split the divergent S2 lineages S2-DRSC
8 and S2 (DSMZ-ACC-130-C) from the major S2 clades, and more
9 than 400 TE insertions on the ancestral branches leading to both
10 major Clades A and B. Likewise, more than 500 TE insertions are
11 mapped on the ancestral branch leading to the S2R+ clade. This
12 pattern of abundant insertion on most major internal branches of
13 the phylogeny provides further support to the "Ongoing trans-
14 position in cell culture" model.

15 We then aggregated inferred TE insertions on each branch
16 by TE family to visualize branch- and family-specific TE inser-
17 tion profiles. This analysis revealed that only a subset of 125
18 recognized TE families in *D. melanogaster* contribute to the high
19 transpositional activity in S2 cell culture (Figure 3B; File S3). The
20 top ten TE families with highest overall activities are all retro-
21 transposons, including eight LTR retrotransposons (*blood*, *copia*,
22 297, *3S18*, 1731, *diver*, *mdg1* and 17.6) and two non-LTR retro-
23 transposons (*jockey* and *Juan*). The majority of the most active
24 TE families in S2 cells do not encode a retroviral *env* gene (8/10;
25 80%), with only the 297 and 17.6 Ty3/gypsy families having
26 the potential to form infectious virus-like particles (Lerat and
27 Capy 1999; Malik *et al.* 2000; Stefanov *et al.* 2012). This analysis
28 also revealed that the pattern of TE family activity varies sub-
29 substantially on different branches of the S2 phylogeny (Figure 3).
30 For example, families such as 17.6, 297, and 1731 have relatively
31 high activity in branches prior to the split of Clade A and B
32 (branch 33-36; "early S2") and in the early branches within Clade
33 A and S2R+ (branch 48,49), but relatively low activity within
34 Clade B. In contrast, families such as *jockey*, *blood*, and *3S18* have
35 relatively low activity in "early S2" branches and relatively high
36 activity across all branches within Clade A and B. We also ob-
37 served TE family activity that is sub-line-specific, including the
38 proliferation of *gtwin* that occurred only in S2-Mt-Dl (Figure 3),
39 a sub-line of S2 that was transformed to express wild-type Delta
40 from a Cu-inducible metallothionein promoter (FBtc0000152).
41 Together, these results suggest that the increase in abundance of
42 TEs during S2 cell culture is caused by a small subset of retro-
43 transposon families, and that there have been episodic periods
44 of family-specific transposition during the evolutionary history
45 of S2 cells.

46 Discussion

47 Here we used genome-wide TE and copy number profiles to
48 reveal the evolutionary relationships and genomic diversity
49 among a large panel of diverse *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines. Our
50 TE-based phylogenetic analysis showed that all S2 sub-lines sam-
51 pled form a single monophyletic clade that is an ingroup to the
52 expected outgroup S1 and S3 cell lines. This result suggests that
53 no S2 sub-line in our dataset is a misidentified non-S2 *Drosophila*
54 cell line, and implies relatively low rates of cross-contamination
55 in the community between S2 cells and other *Drosophila* cell lines.
56 Our results also revealed two major clades of S2 sub-lines that
57 are supported by copy number profiles. One major clade that
58 we labeled as "Clade A" includes all S2R+ sub-lines and several
59 S2 sub-lines. This clade is characterized by substantial copy
60 number changes across the autosomes. The other major clade
61 we labeled as "Clade B" and includes only S2 sub-lines with

62 mostly euploid genomes. These results imply that the "S2" sub-
63 line designation is paraphyletic and that there can be substantial
64 genomic heterogeneity among sub-lines labeled as S2. We also
65 found that some S2 sub-lines originating from the same lab were
66 reconstructed in different major clades of S2, providing evidence
67 that heterogeneity in S2 genome content has the potential to
68 influence experimental results within a single laboratory. We
69 note that since we do not have information about the number of
70 passages leading to each sample in our dataset, we cannot quan-
71 titatively relate how TE insertion or copy number changes occur
72 as a function of evolutionary time. Thus, differences in genomic
73 variability among Clades A and B may simply reflect the number
74 of passages rather than intrinsic differences in genome stability.
75 Future mutation accumulation experiments would be needed
76 to estimate rates of transposition and copy number evolution in
77 S2 cell culture and could help date the divergence time among
78 major branches of the S2 tree.

79 Our phylogeny of S2 sub-lines also clarifies the origin of
80 S2R+ cells, a lineage whose increased adherence to tissue cul-
81 ture surfaces has led to its use in nearly 600 primary publica-
82 tions (FBtc0000150). S2R+ cells were first reported by Yanagawa
83 *et al.* (1998) who showed that S2R+ cells are responsive to Wing-
84 less signaling and expressed the Wingless receptors Dfrizzled-1
85 and Dfrizzled-2, in contrast to S2 cells from the Nusse lab
86 (presumably represented by a Clade A sub-line like S2-Tub-
87 wg). Yanagawa *et al.* (1998) report that the founding sub-line
88 of the S2R+ lineage was obtained from Dr. Tadashi Miyake
89 Lab, who stated that these cells were "were obtained directly
90 from Dr. Schneider and stored frozen in his laboratory." This
91 reported history has led the DGRC to conclude that S2R+ cells
92 are "more similar to the original line established in the Schneider
93 laboratory than any of the other S2 isolates in our collection."
94 (<https://dgrc.bio.indiana.edu/cells/S2Isolates>). In contrast to
95 this reported history, our results place the S2R+ lineage as a
96 derived clade inside Clade A, rather than at the base of the
97 S2 phylogeny as would be expected if S2R+ cells were a basal
98 lineage that reflects the original state of all S2 sub-lines. Fur-
99 thermore, our results indicate that the increased adherence and
100 Wingless responsiveness of S2R+ cells are derived features, sug-
101 gesting that they may have arisen as adaptations to propagation
102 in cell culture. Further work will be necessary to understand
103 the mechanisms that caused the *in vitro* evolution of these pheno-
104 types, however preliminary analysis suggests that the gain of
105 expression for Dfrizzled-1 and Dfrizzled-2 was not caused by
106 increased copy number in the ancestor of S2R+ sub-lines, nor is
107 the inferred lack of expression of these genes in other S2 isolates
108 due to complete deletion of these loci (Figure S3).

109 Our phylogenetic hypothesis for the evolution of Schneider
110 cell lines also allowed us to test competing models to explain
111 the proliferation of TEs in *Drosophila* cell culture. Analysis of TE
112 site occupancy in regions of the genome without shared copy
113 number loss provided evidence against the "Early transposition
114 and subsequent deletion" model while supporting the "Ongo-
115 ing transposition in cell culture" model. Likewise, analysis of
116 ancestral states provided additional evidence for the "Ongoing
117 transposition in cell culture" model. One potential issue with
118 our analysis of inferred TE ancestral states is the possibility of
119 false-positive (FP) and false-negative (FN) non-reference TE
120 predictions. In principle, a random FP prediction is unlikely to be
121 shared by multiple cell samples and thus should only lead to a
122 falsely reconstructed insertion on the terminal branches under
123 the Dollo model. This suggests that the number of TE insertions

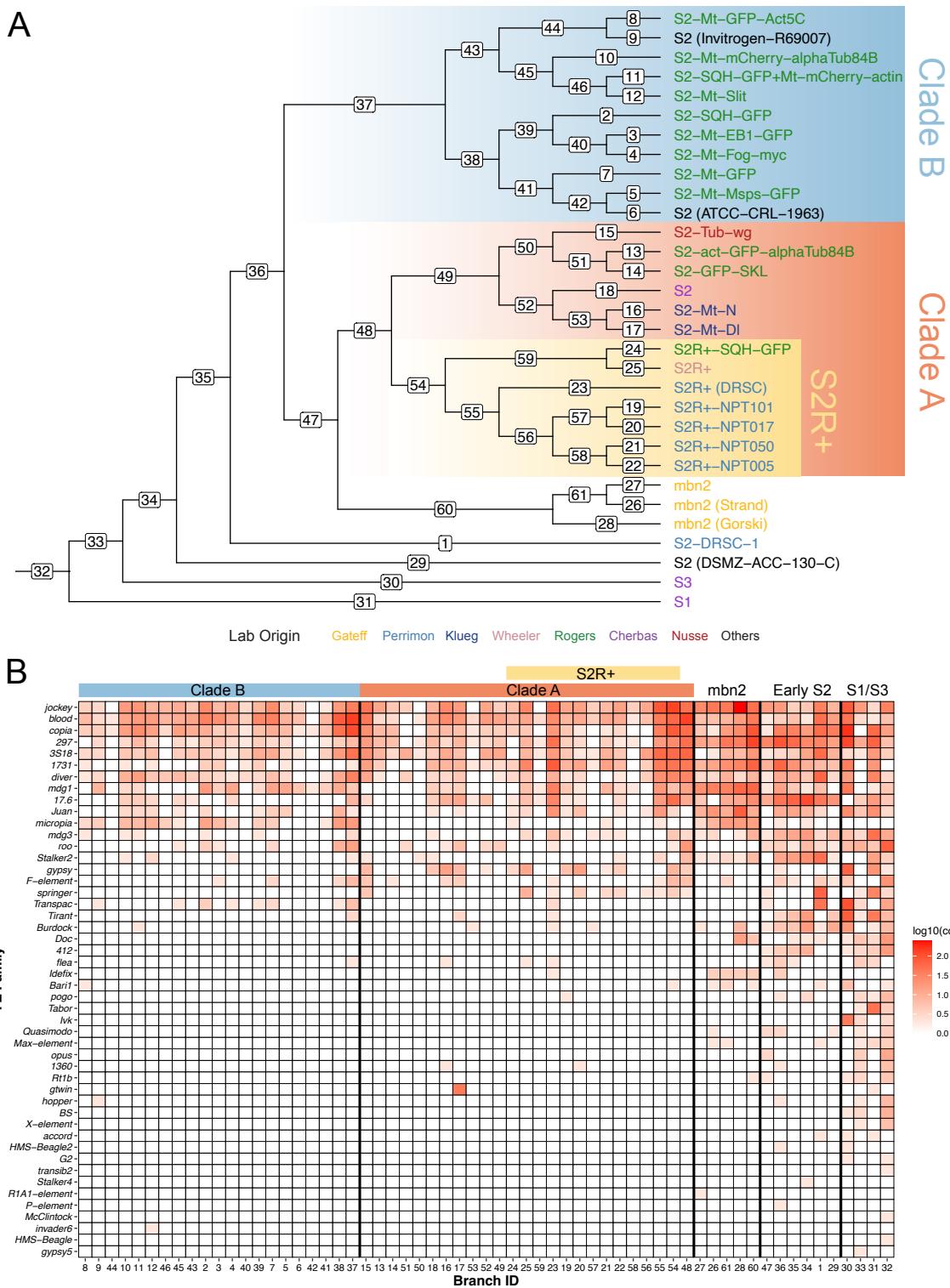


Figure 3 Ongoing transposition in *Drosophila* S2 culture is contributed by a small subset of LTR retrotransposon families. (A) Dollo parsimony tree including 26 *Drosophila* S2 sub-lines constructed using non-reference TE predictions made by TEMP (Zhuang *et al.* 2014). Samples from S1, S3, and mbn2 cell lines were also included. Taxa labels were colorized in the same way as Figure 1 and Figure 2C. Branch ID is annotated on each branch. (B) Heatmap showing the number of estimated family-specific TE insertions on each branch of the tree in panel A. The heatmap is colorized by log-transformed ($\log_{10}(\text{count}+1)$) number of gains per family per branch, sorted top to bottom by overall non-reference TE insertion gains per family across all branches, and sorted left to right into clades representing major clades of S2 phylogeny with major clade color codes indicated at the top of the heatmap.

1 reconstructed on the terminal branches of our trees may be over-
2 estimated. Conversely, a random FN would most likely lead to
3 falsely reconstructed deletion on the terminal branch under the
4 Dollo model. Thus, random FP and FN TE predictions should
5 have a limited impact on our phylogenetic and ancestral state
6 reconstruction analyses and thus not majorly affect the conclu-
7 sion that there are substantial numbers of TE insertions on most
8 internal branches of the tree, as expected under the "Ongoing
9 transposition in cell culture" model.

10 Additionally, our ancestral state reconstruction analysis re-
11 vealed that only a subset of TE families have high transpositional
12 activity in S2 cell culture. Most active TE families in S2 cells are
13 retrotransposons that do not encode a functional retroviral *env*
14 gene and thus are not capable of infecting another cell, suggest-
15 ing that TE proliferation in *Drosophila* cell culture is mainly a
16 cell-autonomous process. Furthermore, the fact that we do not
17 observe activation of all TE families suggests transposition in S2
18 is not due to global deregulation of all TEs but is caused by some
19 form of family-specific regulation. Finally, our ancestral state
20 reconstruction analysis revealed that transposition of active TE
21 families in S2 culture is episodic. Some TE families such as 17.6,
22 297, and 1731 have relatively higher activities in the early stage
23 of S2 evolution, while other families such as *jockey*, *blood*, and
24 3S18 were more active within two major clades of S2. **Arkhipova**
25 *et al.* (1995) provided two non-mutually exclusive hypotheses
26 for proliferation of TEs in cell lines: 1) ongoing transposition is
27 more easily tolerated in cultured cells and is no longer under
28 strong negative selection as it is in the whole flies; or 2) there
29 exist specific factors that control TE transposition, and their ac-
30 tions are altered significantly in cell culture. Our observation
31 of family-specific, episodic TE activity during S2 cell line evolu-
32 tion favors changes in TE regulation over global relaxation of
33 selection to explain TE proliferation in *Drosophila* cell culture.
34 However, more work is needed to understand the mechanism by
35 which TE copy number regulation is relaxed in a family-specific
36 fashion in S2 cells and other *Drosophila* cell lines.

37 Overall, this study revealed ongoing somatic TE insertions
38 and copy number changes as mechanisms for genome evolution
39 in *Drosophila* S2 cell culture in the 50 years of its history since
40 establishment (Schneider 1972). These results provide new in-
41 sights into cell line genome evolution for a non-human metazoan
42 species, and add to the genomic and phenotypic heterogeneities
43 within cell culture that have been reported for the human HeLa
44 cell line (Liu *et al.* 2019) and MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines (Ben-
45 David *et al.* 2018). Together, these findings suggest that rapid
46 genome evolution and sub-line heterogeneity are common fea-
47 tures of animal cell lines evolving *in vitro*. Future work is needed
48 to further characterize the rates and patterns of cell line genome
49 evolution in a diversity of systems to better understand how *in*
50 *vitro* genome evolution changes affect cell line phenotypes and
51 functional outcomes.

52 Data Availability

53 Raw sequencing data generated in our study is available in the
54 SRA under BioProject PRJNA603568. Supplemental Material
55 available at **TBD**. File S1 contains nonredundant BED files from
56 McClintock runs using TEMP module on the dataset including
57 33 *Drosophila* cell line samples (reference TEs, *INE-1* insertions
58 and TEs in low recombination regions excluded). File S2 contains
59 clustered TE profiles in the format of binary presence/absence
60 data matrix including 33 *Drosophila* cell line samples (reference
61 TEs, *INE-1* insertions and TEs in low recombination regions

62 excluded). File S3 includes data matrix of the number of non-
63 reference TE insertion gain events per family on each branch of
64 the most parsimonious tree used for the heatmap in Fig. 3B.

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