

## Long-term balancing selection on chromosomal variants associated with crypsis in a stick insect

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## 1 Abstract

2 How polymorphisms are maintained within populations over long periods of time remains  
3 debated, because genetic drift and various forms of selection are expected to reduce  
4 variation. Here, we study the genetic architecture and maintenance of phenotypic morphs  
5 that confer crypsis in *Timema cristinae* stick insects, combining phenotypic information  
6 and genotyping-by-sequencing data from 1360 samples across 21 populations. We find two  
7 highly divergent chromosomal variants that span megabases of sequence and are associated  
8 with color polymorphism. We show that these variants exhibit strongly reduced effective  
9 recombination, are geographically widespread, and probably diverged millions of  
10 generations ago. We detect heterokaryotype excess and signs of balancing selection acting  
11 on these variants through the species' history. A third chromosomal variant in the same  
12 genomic region likely evolved more recently from one of the two color variants and is  
13 associated with dorsal pattern polymorphism. Our results suggest that large-scale genetic  
14 variation associated with crypsis has been maintained for long periods of time by  
15 potentially complex processes of balancing selection.

## 16 Introduction

17 Crypsis is a widespread trait that reduces the risk of prey or predators from becoming  
18 initially detected when in plain sight, for example through background matching (Stevens  
19 & Merilaita, 2009). It is a central element in prey-predator interactions, and its selective  
20 advantage can be substantial and involve reduced metabolic costs and higher survival  
21 probability. However, much remains unknown about the details of the genetic basis of  
22 crypsis, and the evolutionary processes involved in its origin and maintenance (Stevens &  
23 Merilaita, 2009; Skelhorn & Rowe, 2016). Here we study the genetic basis and evolutionary  
24 processes that maintain different cryptic morphs within populations of a stick insect.

25 Although some species only exist as a single, highly optimized cryptic form, others are  
26 polymorphic. New morphs might recurrently evolve but be transient through their  
27 subsequent replacement, for example if predators initially avoid unfamiliar morphs  
28 (predator wariness; Mappes *et al.*, 2005). Polymorphisms might also be maintained by gene  
29 flow-selection balance (e.g., King & Lawson, 1995; Hoekstra *et al.*, 2004), negative  
30 assortative mating (e.g., Tuttle *et al.*, 2016; Hedrick *et al.*, 2016), or various mechanisms of  
31 balancing selection (Hedrick *et al.*, 1976). Balancing selection can result from: (i) variable  
32 microhabitats that can induce spatially or temporally varying selection (Charlesworth &  
33 Charlesworth, 2010), (ii) frequency-dependent selection, for example based on predator  
34 behavior (apostatic selection; Clarke, 1969; Allen, 1988; Bond & Kamil, 1998), or (iii)  
35 heterozygote advantage. Despite this, changing selection pressures, allele turnover, or  
36 genetic drift in finite populations are expected to eventually remove existing variants  
37 (Charlesworth, 2006; Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 2010). Consequently, balancing  
38 selection is often regarded a common, albeit predominantly short-term, mechanism for  
39 maintaining variation (Asthana *et al.*, 2005; Charlesworth, 2006; Fijarczyk & Babik, 2015).

40 The nature of selection on color polymorphisms can also affect their genetic architecture.

41 For example, heterozygotes that exhibit intermediate trait values can be selected against if  
42 selection is divergent between discrete environments. Accordingly, many polymorphic  
43 species show dominant trait expression for color patterns, often realized as dominance  
44 hierarchies in cases with more than two morphs (Clarke & Sheppard, 1972; Joron *et al.*,  
45 2011; Johannesson & Butlin, 2017). Given the potentially high selective pressure against  
46 maladapted color morphs, finely tuned genetic architectures that result in strongly  
47 dominant trait expression can evolve, with heterozygotes being phenotypically similar or  
48 even identical to one homozygote (Le Poul *et al.*, 2014). Alternatively, phenotypically  
49 different heterozygotes might not be selected against, for example if intermediate niches  
50 exist, or if effectively no intermediates occur because one of the homozygotes is lethal  
51 (Hedrick, 2012; Le Poul *et al.*, 2014; Kuepper *et al.*, 2016; Tuttle *et al.*, 2016).

52 If more than one locus is required to generate alternative morphs and if recombinant  
53 phenotypes are selected against, genetic architectures that keep multiple adaptive alleles in  
54 linkage disequilibrium (LD) can evolve (Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 1975; Yeaman, 2013;  
55 Kirkpatrick & Barrett, 2015; Charlesworth, 2016). This can for instance be achieved by  
56 tight physical linkage, genetic modifiers of recombination, or structural changes such as  
57 chromosomal rearrangements. Chromosomal rearrangements have the advantage that they  
58 reduce recombination only in heterokaryotypes, thus facilitating purging of deleterious  
59 mutations through normal recombination in homokaryotypes (Otto & Lenormand, 2002;  
60 Kirkpatrick, 2010). However, chromosomal rearrangements can also reduce fitness in  
61 heterokaryotypes (Rieseberg, 2001; Kirkpatrick & Barton, 2006; Faria & Navarro, 2010), a  
62 situation that will act against the maintenance of polymorphisms within populations.

63 Such selective processes acting on color polymorphisms and the genetic architecture of  
64 the traits involved have been investigated in a variety of organisms, providing evidence  
65 consistent with the wide range of ecological and genetic outcomes described above (e.g.,  
66 Cook, 1998; Nachman *et al.*, 2003; Joron *et al.*, 2011; Richards *et al.*, 2013; Kunte *et al.*,

67 2014; Kuepper *et al.*, 2016; Lamichhaney *et al.*, 2016; Tuttle *et al.*, 2016; van't Hof *et al.*,  
68 2016). However, less is known about the extent to which cryptic polymorphisms differ from  
69 the frequently studied colorful outcomes of sexual selection or mimicry (Stevens &  
70 Merilaita, 2009). Crypsis differs from mimicry as morph frequencies are independent of the  
71 population dynamics or evolution of a model species (Endler, 1981), and some morphs  
72 might become fixed by directional selection if they go undetected by predators (Bond &  
73 Kamil, 1998). Thus, processes other than apostatic selection or predator wariness might  
74 drive the maintenance of variation in species exhibiting cryptic phenotypes. In addition, it  
75 remains unclear how often cryptic polymorphisms are maintained within populations over  
76 long periods of time by balancing selection (Gray & McKinnon, 2007), versus being an  
77 ephemeral outcome of environmental changes (e.g., van't Hof *et al.*, 2016) or a balance  
78 between gene flow and selection (e.g., King & Lawson, 1995; Hoekstra *et al.*, 2004).

79 Here, we address these unresolved issues in understanding the evolution and  
80 maintenance of cryptic color morphs by studying populations of the stick insect *Timema*  
81 *cristinae*. This species has three color and color-pattern morphs that are adapted to  
82 different microhabitats (details below). Combining genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) and  
83 phenotypic data from hundreds of samples across 21 populations we investigate the  
84 maintenance and genetic architecture of this polymorphism.

## 85 **Study system**

86 The genus *Timema* comprises 21 described species of herbivorous stick insects in  
87 southwestern North America (Sandoval *et al.*, 1998; Vickery & Sandoval, 2001; Law &  
88 Crespi, 2002; Nosil *et al.*, 2002). All *Timema* are wingless and rely on crypsis as protection  
89 against avian predators while resting on their host plants (Sandoval, 1994a). Their body  
90 coloration approximate colors of stems, fruits, needles or leaves of their hosts, and most

91 species exhibit color or color-pattern polymorphisms (Sandoval *et al.*, 1998; Crespi &  
92 Sandoval, 2000; Comeault *et al.*, 2015, 2016). In two species (*T. cristinae* and *T. podura*),  
93 variation in color or color-pattern has been experimentally linked to fitness variation in the  
94 face of visual predation, supporting the adaptive nature of the polymorphisms and their role  
95 in crypsis (Sandoval, 1994a,b; Nosil, 2004; Sandoval & Nosil, 2005; Nosil & Crespi, 2006).

96 We focus here on *T. cristinae*, which is endemic to chaparral vegetation in a  
97 mountainous region surrounding Santa Barbara, California. *T. cristinae* is polymorphic for  
98 two distinct body color morphs found within populations: a common green morph  
99 matching coloration of leaves, and a rarer melanistic (i.e., dark gray or red) morph  
100 approximating coloration of stems or fruits of their host plants, or soil (Fig. 1a; Sandoval,  
101 1994a,b; Comeault *et al.*, 2015). These color morphs will be referred to as ‘green’ and  
102 ‘melanistic’ hereafter. Compared to green morphs, melanistic *T. cristinae* are more cryptic  
103 to avian predators on the woody tissue of their host plants but less so on leaves, and show  
104 higher resistance to fungal infections (Comeault *et al.*, 2015).

105 *T. cristinae* primarily uses *Adenostoma fasciculatum* and *Ceanothus spinosus* as host  
106 plants. As an adaptation to the differently shaped and colored leaves of these host species,  
107 the green morph exhibits an additional polymorphism for the presence or absence of a  
108 white longitudinal dorsal stripe (‘green-striped’ and ‘green-unstriped’ pattern morphs  
109 hereafter). The stripe visually divides the body into two slim parts and increases survival  
110 on the narrow needle-like leaves of *Adenostoma*. In contrast, the white stripe is conspicuous  
111 on the broad leaves of *Ceanothus* and reduces survival on this host (Sandoval, 1994a;  
112 Sandoval *et al.*, 1998; Nosil, 2004; Nosil & Crespi, 2006).

113 Pattern morph frequencies vary across the landscape according to gene flow-selection  
114 balance between the often patchily distributed host plants (Sandoval, 1994b). Thus, the  
115 green-striped morph tends to be more common on *Adenostoma* and the green-unstriped  
116 morph more common on *Ceanothus* (Sandoval, 1994a,b; Nosil *et al.*, 2002). By contrast, the

117 melanistic morph, which does not express the stipe, occurs at  $\sim 11\%$  within populations of  
118 either host plant and, although slightly more common in hot and dry climates, does not  
119 vary substantially in frequency across the landscape (Comeault *et al.*, 2015). Thus,  
120 intra-population polymorphism of color morphs is likely not strongly driven by gene flow  
121 between populations differing in morph frequency.

122 Previous studies suggest that the genetic architecture for either color or pattern involves  
123 one or a few loci of large effect, and that color and pattern loci are distinct but physically  
124 linked. These studies further showed that the green variant is fully dominant to melanistic,  
125 while the stripe is partially recessive (Sandoval, 1994a,b; Comeault *et al.*, 2015). Thus,  
126 intermediates for color do not exist but incompletely or faintly green-striped *T. cristinae* are  
127 occasionally observed in the field (Sandoval, 1994a), reflecting the imperfect dominance for  
128 pattern (Comeault *et al.*, 2015), or recombination among multiple loci controlling this trait.

129 Despite this background, numerous fundamental aspects of the evolution of these  
130 polymorphisms remain unresolved, which we investigated here. For example, whether  
131 different cryptic morphs have existed over extended periods of time is unknown, as is the  
132 potential contribution of different mechanisms of balancing selection or negative assortative  
133 mating in maintaining variation. It is also unknown whether the genetic architecture of  
134 cryptic traits involves reduced recombination between potentially many loci or is more  
135 aligned with a single locus. Our results show that the color polymorphism in *T. cristinae* is  
136 not recent and involves a large genomic region under balancing selection that almost  
137 completely lacks genetic exchange between divergent variants. Nevertheless,  
138 heterokaryotypes are in excess, possibly caused by heterokaryotype advantage selection. We  
139 discuss our results in light of general issues concerning the long-term maintenance of  
140 adaptive polymorphism.

## 141 **Materials and Methods**

### 142 **Samples**

143 We analyzed data from 1360 *T. cristinae* from 21 populations throughout the species  
144 range, which were sampled in spring 2013 and preserved in ethanol (Fig. 2; Table S1). To  
145 study in detail the mechanisms maintaining color and pattern morphs within populations  
146 and their genomic outcomes, we first focused analyses on a single site for which we had a  
147 large sample size ( $n = 435$ ) and where *Adenostoma* and *Ceanothus* host plants co-occur.  
148 This population, named N1 (N34°31.034', W119°47.790'), comprises an area of about 50 x  
149 70 m and has not previously been studied. Using sweep nets we collected from N1 a total of  
150 94 and 341 *T. cristinae* on 32 *Adenostoma* and 64 *Ceanothus* plant individuals,  
151 respectively. We then tested if our findings can be replicated by re-analyzing a second  
152 population with a large sample size (FHA), using data from 600 previously published  
153 samples (Comeault *et al.*, 2015). *Adenostoma* dominates this site and all *T. cristinae* were  
154 collected from this host. We detected major chromosomal variants associated with color  
155 morphs in both populations. We thus investigated if these were geographically widespread  
156 using previously published data from 19 additional populations sampled on either  
157 *Adenostoma* or *Ceanothus* throughout the species range (5–20 individuals per population,  
158 325 in total; Fig. 2; Table S1; Riesch *et al.*, 2017).

### 159 **Phenotype characterization**

160 Using digital photographs, we scored dorsal color as ‘melanistic’ or ‘green’, and dorsal  
161 pattern in green individuals as ‘green-striped’ or ‘green-unstriped’. Because photographs  
162 were taken of most, but not all, collected *T. cristinae*, sample sizes were lower than for  
163 genetic data: 409 mostly sexually-immature *T. cristinae* from N1, 588 adult samples from

164 FHA (Comeault *et al.*, 2015), and 305 adult samples from 18 additional populations  
165 (Riesch *et al.*, 2017). For detailed analyses in N1 and FHA, we further classified phenotypes  
166 as ‘green-incomplete’ if a dorsal stripe was present but faint or not developed along the full  
167 body length. Depending on the markedness of the stripe, these phenotypes were scored as  
168 either ‘green-striped’ or ‘green-unstriped’ otherwise.

169 For FHA, we also analyzed a number of previously published continuous measurements  
170 on sexually-mature individuals (Comeault *et al.*, 2015; Riesch *et al.*, 2017): percent of the  
171 dorsal body area striped (% striped), body length (BL), and the following six continuous  
172 traits on color channels: lateral green-blue (latGB), lateral red-green (latRG), lateral  
173 luminance (i.e., brightness; latL), dorsal green-blue (dorGB), dorsal red-green (dorRG), and  
174 dorsal luminance (dorL). We could not obtain these measurements for N1 because  
175 standardized photographs of adult individuals were not taken.

## 176 Genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS)

177 We obtained genomic DNA from all 435 specimens from N1 and prepared individually  
178 barcoded restriction-site associated DNA libraries using protocols as for the other  
179 previously published samples (Comeault *et al.*, 2015; Riesch *et al.*, 2017). Libraries were  
180 single-end sequenced on three Illumina HiSeq2000 lanes at the National Center for Genome  
181 Research (Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA). We filtered raw sequences and used BOWTIE2  
182 (Langmead & Salzberg, 2012) to map reads to the *T. cristinae* reference genome  
183 (Soria-Carrasco *et al.*, 2014; Riesch *et al.*, 2017), which comprises 13 linkage groups (LGs),  
184 likely corresponding to the chromosomes of the species ( $2n = 25/26$ , X0/XX; Schwander &  
185 Crespi, 2009). We called variants using SAMTOOLS and BCFTOOLS (Li, 2011), and after  
186 discarding variants where less than 90% of samples were covered, we retained 304 168  
187 bi-allelic SNPs with mean coverage depth per SNP per individual of  $\sim 5x$ .

188 We re-analyzed sequence data for 600 individuals from FHA (Comeault *et al.*, 2015,  
189 NCBI BioProject PRJNA284835), after excluding two individuals with low sequence  
190 coverage. We called and filtered variants as above and retained 384 611 bi-allelic SNPs with  
191 mean coverage depth per SNP per individual of  $\sim 7x$ .

192 We combined sequences from 325 *T. cristinae* that were sampled from 19 additional  
193 populations distributed across the species range (Riesch *et al.*, 2017, NCBI BioProject  
194 PRJNA356885) with 20 individuals from each N1 and FHA. Samples from N1 and FHA  
195 were chosen such that all main karyotypes (below) were included, and served as references  
196 to determine whether the same karyotypes were present across the species range. We used  
197 settings for sequence filtering, mapping and variant calling as above and retained 626 854  
198 bi-allelic SNPs with mean coverage depth per SNP per individual of  $\sim 5x$ . Further details  
199 are provided in the Supplemental Information.

## 200 **Identification of genomic clusters**

### 201 **Principal component analysis (PCA):**

202 We conducted PCA separately for populations N1, FHA, and the combined data set of 21  
203 populations. Because missing genotype information can affect principal components, we  
204 first re-called SNPs for PCA analyses, requiring at least 99% of individuals to be covered,  
205 retaining 62 542, 168 020, and 99 008 SNPs, respectively. To account for genotype  
206 uncertainty, we used a Bayesian model and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) to obtain  
207 joint posterior probabilities for genotypes and allele frequencies given the genotype  
208 likelihoods estimated by BCFTOOLS, along with Hardy-Weinberg priors, as in past work  
209 (Nosil *et al.*, 2012; Gompert *et al.*, 2012, 2014). We further excluded variants with a minor  
210 allele frequency (MAF)  $< 1\%$ , and randomly selected SNPs to achieve at least 100 bp  
211 distance among variants, retaining 11 751, 30 297, and 8 758 SNPs for N1, FHA, and the

212 combined data set, respectively.

213 We collapsed posterior genotype probabilities into a single value per individual and locus  
214 (i.e., posterior mean of alternative allele dosage, ranging from zero to two), centered values  
215 for each SNP by subtracting the mean over all individuals, and conducted a PCA on the  
216 genotype covariance matrix on the centered but unscaled values using the *prcomp* function  
217 in R (R Core Team, 2016). Visual inspection of PCA scatter plots revealed three striking  
218 genotypic clusters on the first two PC axes (Figs. S1a and S2a). To investigate this  
219 clustering in more detail, we sequentially removed 48 and 37 genome-wide PCA outliers as  
220 in Price *et al.* (2006) for populations N1 and FHA, respectively. Briefly, PCAs were visually  
221 inspected after each iteration of outlier removal and remaining samples were subjected to a  
222 new iteration until individuals peripheral of the main clusters were eliminated (Figs. S1 and  
223 S2; more details on the process of outlier removal and discussion of outliers in Supplemental  
224 Information). PCA applied separately to each LG revealed that genomic clustering could  
225 be attributed to variation on LG8 only, and that the three main clusters further split on  
226 LG8 into a total of six clusters (Fig. 1b; Figs. S1 to S5). We defined these PCA clusters for  
227 N1 and FHA by first grouping individuals by k-means clustering on the first 10 PC axes  
228 computed from SNPs on LG8 only (*kmeans* function in R, with 10 initial centers). We then  
229 obtained assignment probabilities for individuals per cluster by applying linear discriminant  
230 analysis of the first 10 PC axes as explanatory variables and cluster assignment as grouping  
231 factor (*lda* function in R, MASS library; leave-one-out cross-validation), and retained  
232 samples with at least 80% assignment probability for any cluster for further analyses (Fig.  
233 1c; Tables S2 and S3; Fig. S4b). We then tested for an association between PCA clusters  
234 and phenotypic morphs using  $\chi^2$  tests with the *chisq.test* function in R and significance  
235 values computed by Monte Carlo simulation with 100 000 replicates.

### 236 **Model-based cluster assignment:**

237 Given the distinctive arrangement of PCA clusters on only one LG, their association with  
238 color and pattern morphs, and the known dominance relationships for color and pattern  
239 loci (Sandoval, 1994a,b; Comeault *et al.*, 2015), we suspected that clusters were caused by  
240 divergent chromosomal variants existing as homo- and heterokaryotypes (i.e.,  
241 heterokaryotypes are located in-between the homokaryotypes in the PCA plot). We thus  
242 predicted that by assigning diploid genomic ancestry to each locus and individual, hetero-  
243 or homozygous ancestries would prevail for genomic regions causing these clusters (e.g.,  
244 three main PCA clusters could then be described by diploid combinations of two ancestry  
245 clusters ‘melanistic’ and ‘green’, Fig. 1d; and six PCA clusters by diploid combinations of  
246 three ancestry clusters ‘melanistic’, ‘green-striped’ and ‘green-unstriped’, Fig. 1c).

247 We used the software STRUCTURE to obtain locus-specific estimates of ancestry for  
248 SNPs on LG8 (the site-by-site output from the linkage model; Pritchard *et al.*, 2000; Falush  
249 *et al.*, 2003). To test if individuals from different PCA clusters represent homozygous and  
250 heterozygous combinations of two main ancestry clusters of which one is further subdivided,  
251 we set the number of ancestry clusters to  $k = 2$  or  $k = 3$ . To obtain karyotype assignments  
252 for tests of Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium (HWE) and phenotypic differences among  
253 karyotypes (below), we also ran STRUCTURE using all individuals from population N1 and  
254 FHA (i.e., including PCA outliers; 435 and 600 samples) using SNPs on three adjacent  
255 scaffolds on LG8 that showed a particularly strong signal of genetic clustering (‘scaffolds  
256 931, 318, and 1440’ hereafter). We set  $k = 2$  as we were interested in karyotype estimates  
257 for the main axis of variation (i.e., ‘melanistic’ versus ‘green’ variants). We repeated this  
258 analysis for the combined data set of 21 populations to test if variants are geographically  
259 spread and in HWE. Further details of preparation of STRUCTURE input files and settings  
260 are provided in the Supplemental Information.

## 261 Multi-locus genome-wide association mapping

262 To map color and pattern traits, we used population FHA where we had a better record of  
263 phenotypic traits and a larger number of samples than for N1. Although these traits have  
264 previously been mapped in FHA (Comeault *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Riesch *et al.*, 2017), we  
265 re-mapped them here using the sets of SNPs and individuals used in our other analyses to  
266 make results compliant (i.e., using the same version of the *T. cristinae* reference genome  
267 and excluding PCA outliers). We excluded individuals with ambiguous phenotype data  
268 (i.e., classified differently by two researchers), and scored both color and pattern as binary  
269 traits. We restricted mapping to SNPs assigned to linkage groups and excluded SNPs with  
270 MAF < 1%, retaining 180 512 SNPs and 552 samples for color, and 180 506 SNPs and 498  
271 samples for pattern mapping (only green individuals were used for the latter). We mapped  
272 traits using Bayesian sparse linear mixed models (BSLMs) with the probit model  
273 implemented in the software GEMMA (Zhou *et al.*, 2013), as in previous work (Comeault  
274 *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Riesch *et al.*, 2017, details in Supplemental Information).

## 275 Population genomic statistics

276 We found that the six PCA clusters were indeed associated with homo- and  
277 heterokaryotypic combinations of three chromosomal variants (see Results). To obtain  
278 information regarding the evolutionary processes affecting these variants and the time  
279 scales involved, we computed and compared different population genomic statistics. This  
280 was done across the genome within or between PCA clusters, depending on the prediction  
281 being tested. Specifically, we estimated relative and absolute between-cluster divergence  
282 ( $F_{ST}$  and  $D_{xy}$ , respectively), within-cluster nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ), and a measure of  
283 between-cluster, intra-locus LD ( $Z_g$ ; Storz & Kelly, 2008). In addition, we surveyed  
284 chromosomal variants for signals of recent positive selection ('selective sweeps') by

285 estimating extended haplotype homozygosity within and between clusters (iES and Rsb;  
286 Tang *et al.*, 2007). All statistics were computed in non-overlapping 20-kb windows. We  
287 provide below an overview of the logic behind our analyses, with details of how the  
288 statistics were calculated provided in the Supplemental Information.

289 Balancing selection might target a single locus, multiple loci, or structural genomic  
290 changes such as chromosomal inversions. The genomic processes of balancing selection and  
291 their expected outcomes arising at or linked to inversion breakpoints are highly similar to  
292 those expected for a single or multiple linked selected loci. Loci subject to long-term  
293 varying selection are expected to show elevated nucleotide diversity between alleles sampled  
294 from different subpopulations (or here, different chromosomal variants) relative to diversity  
295 within them (Hudson & Kaplan, 1988; Charlesworth *et al.*, 1997; Kelly & Wade, 2000;  
296 Nordborg & Innan, 2003; Storz & Kelly, 2008). In contrast, new alleles that were rapidly  
297 driven to high or intermediate frequencies by selection will show reduced diversity  
298 compared to ancestral alleles or neutral loci (Sabeti *et al.*, 2002; Voight *et al.*, 2006).  
299 Similarly, for a sufficiently old inversion polymorphism maintained by balancing selection,  
300 alleles of sites linked to inversion breakpoints are expected to show longer coalescent times  
301 (i.e., elevated  $\pi$ ; Wakeley, 2008) when sampled from heterokaryotypes compared to either  
302 genome-wide expectations or alleles sampled from any homokaryotype (Navarro *et al.*, 2000;  
303 Guerrero *et al.*, 2012). In contrast, the evolution of a new inversion will eliminate diversity  
304 within inversion homokaryotypes, which will only slowly recover through genetic exchange  
305 with the standard type. As recombination is more likely in the center of the inversion,  
306 reduced diversity will remain near the breakpoints until new mutations accumulate  
307 (Navarro *et al.*, 1997, 2000; Guerrero *et al.*, 2012).

308 In addition, increased levels of LD are expected to build up at and closely linked to  
309 selected loci or inversion breakpoints that are maintained by balancing selection  
310 (Charlesworth *et al.*, 1997; Kelly, 1997; Storz & Kelly, 2008; Peischl *et al.*, 2013; Wallace

311 *et al.*, 2013). LD can also extend over larger genomic regions following a selective sweep,  
312 but is expected to decay over time with increasing physical distance from single selected  
313 loci (Sabeti *et al.*, 2002; Slatkin, 2008), and at a slower rate for multiple linked selected loci  
314 or inversions where recombination is suppressed (Navarro & Barton, 2002; Wallace *et al.*,  
315 2013; Peischl *et al.*, 2013).

316 We were interested in detecting genetic regions subject to balancing selection (including  
317 putative inversion breakpoints that might be associated with divergent chromosomal  
318 variants), and in investigating whether chromosomal variants show indications for recent or  
319 ancient evolution. We thus examined the genome for heterogeneity in  $Z_g$ ,  $D_{xy}$ , and  $R_{sb}$   
320 between homokaryotypic clusters, and compared  $\pi$  in homokaryotypic clusters to  $\pi$  in their  
321 corresponding heterokaryotypic cluster along the genome. To facilitate comparison among  
322 the different statistics we used, we defined ‘high-differentiation scaffolds’ for each pair of  
323 homokaryotypic cluster as scaffolds with mean  $F_{ST}$  above or equal the 97.5% quantile of all  
324 scaffolds from the 13 LGs. Scaffolds 931, 318, and 1440 (above) are a subset of these  
325 high-differentiation scaffolds (Fig. 3 shows their positions on LG8).

326 To further investigate the mechanisms and the history of balancing selection, we  
327 computed additional statistics for whole populations, irrespective of chromosomal variants  
328 (i.e., genetic clusters). We contrasted statistics that are informative regarding balancing  
329 selection in the sampled generation (i.e., HWE), and those indicative of such selection in the  
330 recent or distant past (i.e., LD and Tajima’s D; Garrigan & Hedrick, 2003; Hedrick, 2006).  
331 Specifically, we computed Burrow’s composite measure of within-population LD ( $\Delta$ ; Weir,  
332 1979) between pairs of SNPs, and Tajima’s D (Tajima, 1989) in non-overlapping 20-kb  
333 windows. Increased LD can indicate that multi-locus balancing selection acted consistently  
334 during the recent history of populations (Navarro & Barton, 2002; Garrigan & Hedrick,  
335 2003; Hedrick, 2006). Positive values of Tajima’s D can arise if mutations accumulated  
336 independently among polymorphic variants, which is expected if balancing selection acted

337 over extended periods of time in the distant past (Simonsen *et al.*, 1995; Garrigan &  
338 Hedrick, 2003; Hedrick, 2006). As positive Tajima's D can potentially also result from  
339 directional positive selection that differs from the standard full-sweep model (Przeworski  
340 *et al.*, 2005), we used linear regression to test whether increased Tajima's D is associated  
341 with decreased  $\pi$  or increased iES in any of the homokaryotypic clusters, indicating that  
342 recent positive selection on one chromosomal variant might have caused an excess of  
343 intermediate-frequency alleles in the whole population and increased Tajima's D. Because  
344 Tajima's D or LD can equally be affected by recent population dynamics, we compared  
345 these statistics computed for different scaffolds on LG8 to genome-wide expectations.

## 346 **Divergence dating**

347 We estimated divergence time between chromosomal variants by two different methods.  
348 First, we used the program BEAST 2 (Bouckaert *et al.*, 2014), including previously  
349 published genetic data and divergence times of four related *Timema* species (Riesch *et al.*,  
350 2017, NCBI BioProject PRJNA356405). We based estimations on scaffolds 931, 318, and  
351 1440, or on high-differentiation scaffolds common to all three pairwise combinations of  
352 homokaryotypic clusters, without assuming a chromosomal inversion. Second, we used  
353 Approximate Bayesian Computation (ABC), based on scaffolds 931, 318, and 1440,  
354 assuming the presence of a chromosomal inversion (details in Supplemental Information).

## 355 **Tests for HWE and heterokaryotype excess**

356 To further test for balancing selection in the sampled generation, we tested for  
357 heterokaryotype excess relative to HWE. We classified individuals as homo- or  
358 heterokaryotypes of the two main chromosomal variants 'melanistic' and 'green', given their  
359 diploid genomic ancestry on scaffolds 931, 318, and 1440 assigned by STRUCTURE and

360  $k = 2$  (above). To define karyotypes we used thresholds for STRUCTURE admixture  
361 proportions ( $q$ ) that best delimited clusters for each data set ( $0.3 < q < 0.7$ ,  
362  $0.32 < q < 0.68$ , and  $0.38 < q < 0.62$  for N1, FHA, and the combined data set, respectively;  
363 Fig. S6). We used the obtained karyotype counts to apply an exact test for HWE  
364 (Wigginton *et al.*, 2005), using R code from  
365 [http://csg.sph.umich.edu/abecasis/Exact/r\\_instruct.html](http://csg.sph.umich.edu/abecasis/Exact/r_instruct.html). We further measured  
366 the direction of deviation from HWE using the fixation index  $F = (H_E - H_O)/H_E$ , where  
367  $H_E$  and  $H_O$  are the expected and observed heterokaryotype frequencies.

### 368 **Mating preference models**

369 We used a modeling approach to test to what extent heterokaryotype advantage selection or  
370 mating preferences likely contribute to the observed frequencies of main karyotypes. We  
371 considered two models, one of negative assortative mating and one of universal mating  
372 advantage of the melanistic morph (Comeault *et al.*, 2015). We assumed that m and G  
373 variants correspond to a single locus with two alleles associated with melanistic and green  
374 morphs and controlling mating preferences, and with selection acting on one or both  
375 homokaryotypes. We first computed equilibrium genotype proportions for various strengths  
376 of mating preference and selection, and then obtained the probability of sampling the  
377 genotype counts observed in N1 or FHA from these proportions (details in Supplemental  
378 Information).

### 379 **Test for phenotypic differences among karyotypes**

380 We used linear modeling to investigate whether phenotypic traits (i.e., body length and six  
381 continuous color traits measured for individuals from FHA) are associated with karyotype.  
382 Individuals were classified as homo- and heterokaryotypes for the ‘green’ and ‘melanistic’

383 variants as before. We determined whether adding either karyotype or binary color state as  
384 explanatory variable improved models by analysis-of-deviance and by difference in Akaike's  
385 Information Criterion ( $\Delta$ AIC; including sex and % striped as covariates; details in  
386 Supplemental Information).

## 387 Results

388 We first report results of genomic analyses in population N1, and then complement them  
389 with analyses involving phenotype measurements, or karyotype assignments across the  
390 species range. Unless stated otherwise, results reported in the main article were obtained  
391 from N1 as only this population had all three chromosomal variants present as  
392 homokaryotypes in adequate quantities. Comparable results from FHA are provided in the  
393 Supplemental Information.

### 394 Phenotypic morphs are associated with highly divergent genetic 395 clusters

396 The first axis of variation in the genome-wide PCA analysis showed three striking genotypic  
397 clusters that were almost perfectly associated with color morph (i.e., two green clusters and  
398 one melanistic cluster; x-axis in Fig. S1f). This clustering by color was explained by LG8  
399 only (Fig. S3), and PCA restricted to variants on LG8 revealed additional clustering on the  
400 second axis of variation that was associated with pattern morphs (Fig. 1b).

401 We assigned individuals to the six conspicuous clusters on the first two PC axes using a  
402 model-free clustering algorithm. These clusters showed a pronounced non-random  
403 association with phenotypic morphs ( $\chi^2_{(15, N=357)} = 647$ , p-value = 0.00001, Cramér's  $V =$   
404 0.78; Fig. 1c; Table S2). We suspected that the observed structure was caused by three

405 divergent chromosomal variants associated with color and pattern and existing in homo-  
406 and heterokaryotypic combinations. We refer to these variants and resulting clusters as  
407 follows: (i) three chromosomal variants m, U, and S (i.e., ‘melanistic’, ‘green-unstriped’,  
408 and ‘green-striped’); (ii) six PCA clusters mm, UU, SS, mU, mS, and US, resulting from all  
409 six possible homo- or heterokaryotypic combinations of these chromosomal variants (Fig.  
410 1c); (iii) three main karyotypes mm, mG, and GG, resulting from STRUCTURE analysis  
411 with  $k = 2$  (i.e., ‘green-unstriped’ and ‘green-striped’ variants pooled as ‘green’; Fig. 1d).  
412 We provide further support for our notations below.

### 413 Genetic differentiation between clusters

414 To more finely determine the genomic regions generating genetic clustering, we estimated  
415 genome-wide  $F_{ST}$  between pairwise combinations of homokaryotypic clusters (mm, UU, and  
416 SS). This revealed that  $F_{ST}$  between clusters ranged among 20-kb windows from values near  
417 zero to one, but that strong differentiation was almost entirely restricted to one region of  
418  $\sim 13$  megabases of sequence covering  $\sim 29\%$  of LG8 (Fig. 3). Absolute divergence measured  
419 as  $D_{xy}$  (Fig. 4) and joint allele frequency spectra (Fig. S7) further confirmed strong  
420 differentiation and putatively evolutionary independence between m and U or m and S  
421 variants. The observed block-like pattern of high  $F_{ST}$  is reminiscent of the genomic outcome  
422 of a chromosomal inversion that suppresses effective recombination and genetic exchange  
423 among chromosomal variants (e.g., Cheng *et al.*, 2012; Corbett-Detig & Hartl, 2012;  
424 Lamichhaney *et al.*, 2016; Tuttle *et al.*, 2016), although future work is needed to test this  
425 hypothesis directly.

## 426 Genetic clusters represent distinct chromosomal variants

427 STRUCTURE analyses with  $k = 2$  confirmed that the three main clusters on PC axis 1  
428 represent homo- and heterozygous combinations of two ancestry clusters (i.e., m and G;  
429 Fig. 1d; Figs. S8 and S9). By defining  $k = 3$ , we could also support that genomic clusters  
430 on PC axis 2 represent homo- and heterozygous combinations of a further subdivision of G  
431 identified with  $k = 2$  (Figs. S10 and S11). This is consistent with our expectation of three  
432 chromosomal variants m, U, and S. Their associations with phenotype are in agreement  
433 with previous results on dominance and linkage within and among color and pattern loci  
434 mapped to LG8 (Comeault *et al.*, 2015). We further confirmed that our second population,  
435 FHA, showed patterns of genomic clustering and differentiation that were very similar to  
436 N1, although the UU karyotype was not identified and likely not strongly represented  
437 (Table S3; Figs. S2, S4, S5 and S12), which prevented comparisons among all three  
438 homokaryotypic clusters.

## 439 Multi-locus genome-wide association mapping

440 Multi-locus genome-wide association mapping in population FHA confirmed that candidate  
441 SNPs for color and pattern are located within the boundaries defining divergent  
442 chromosomal variants on high-differentiation scaffolds on LG8 (except one pattern  
443 candidate SNP on LG4; Fig. 3; Tables S4 to S7). However, the specific positions of  
444 candidate SNPs should be interpreted very cautiously given the particularly high levels of  
445 LD in this region (below; Figs. 4 and 5b; Fig. S13b). For this reason, we did not pursue  
446 further functional annotation of candidate SNPs.

447 **Chromosomal variants are ancient and present throughout the**  
448 **species range**

449 The high level of divergence among chromosomal variants suggests that they have coexisted  
450 for a sufficient amount of time to build up genetic differentiation. To investigate the  
451 evolutionary history of the three chromosomal variants in more detail, we determined  
452 several statistics for homokaryotypic (mm, UU, and SS) and heterokaryotypic clusters (mU,  
453 mS, and US) that are informative regarding divergence time and the processes of selection.  
454 We restricted our analyses to LG8 given that genetic clustering and association with  
455 phenotypic morphs was largely confined to this part of the genome.

456 We found that the genomic region of high  $F_{ST}$  between chromosomal variants also  
457 showed considerably elevated  $D_{xy}$  and  $Z_g$  between the melanistic variant (m) and either  
458 green variant (U or S), compared to genome-wide expectations (Fig. 4). This suggests the  
459 region was subject to varying selection between variants (Storz & Kelly, 2008). Similarly,  $\pi$   
460 within mU and mS heterokaryotypes was elevated, while  $\pi$  within mm and UU  
461 homokaryotypes approached background levels of diversity, resembling the expected  
462 outcomes for an old inversion polymorphism maintained by balancing selection (Fig. 6;  
463 Navarro *et al.*, 2000; Guerrero *et al.*, 2012). Nevertheless, mm and UU homokaryotypes also  
464 showed deviations in  $\pi$  and  $R_{sb}$  along LG8, consistent with the effects of more recent  
465 differential selection (Figs. 4 and 6; Fig. S14).

466 In contrast with the pronounced differentiation between the melanistic and either green  
467 variant, when we compared the two green variants, U and S, we found that  $D_{xy}$  and  $Z_g$   
468 were only slightly elevated compared to genome-wide expectations (Fig. 4). Increased  
469 haplotype homozygosity and significantly reduced levels of  $\pi$  within SS homozygotes further  
470 suggest that the green-striped variant experienced a considerable recent selective sweep  
471 (Figs. 4 and 6; Fig. S14). Our results thus support a recent evolution of the green-striped

472 variant, consistent with a young polymorphism or new chromosomal inversion (Navarro  
473 *et al.*, 2000; Guerrero *et al.*, 2012; DeGiorgio *et al.*, 2014).

474 We further evaluated the age of the chromosomal variants using BEAST 2 and ABC.  
475 BEAST 2 analyses estimated m and U variants to have split 13.5 or 8.0 million years (Ma)  
476 ago, based on scaffolds 931, 318, and 1440 or on high-differentiation scaffolds, respectively  
477 (95% highest posterior density intervals: 2.3–20.0 or 2.3–15.2 Ma; Fig. S15; one year  
478 corresponds to one generation in *T. cristinae*). By contrast, we estimated U and S variants  
479 to have split more recently, 2.7 or 1.8 Ma ago, based on the two sets of scaffolds,  
480 respectively (95% highest posterior density intervals: 0.6–5.7 or 0.7–3.3 Ma). When using  
481 ABC, meaningful time estimates were not possible due to a wide spread of the posterior  
482 distribution (median: 0.87 million generations, 2.5 and 97.5% quantiles: 0.018 and 39.3  
483 million generations; Figs. S16 and S17). This might reflect uncertainty in parameter  
484 estimates affecting divergence time, or an old polymorphism has reached equilibrium and  
485 thus provides little information on divergence time under a simple mutation model.

486 A sufficiently old and balanced polymorphism might be spread through large parts of the  
487 species range. To test this expectation, we re-analyzed samples from 19 localities across the  
488 species distribution. Isolation-by-distance contributes to pronounced genetic divergence  
489 among *T. cristinae* populations (Nosil *et al.*, 2012; Riesch *et al.*, 2017), rendering analyses  
490 of differentiation between the only slightly differentiated U and S chromosomal variants  
491 difficult (Fig. S18). We thus considered here only the two main chromosomal variants (m  
492 and G) identified by STRUCTURE with  $k = 2$ . We found that m variants were indeed  
493 present in all populations at considerable and similar frequencies (mean 0.37, s.d. 0.12; Fig.  
494 2; Table S1). This finding is consistent with geographically widespread balancing selection  
495 within populations, as opposed to gene flow-selection balance among divergent populations.  
496 It also suggests that balancing selection may have acted for an extended period of time,  
497 particularly given the low dispersal distance of *T. cristinae* (i.e., meters to dozens of meters

498 per generation; Sandoval, 2000) and the patchiness of the habitat.

## 499 **Further consideration of mechanisms of balancing selection**

500 We investigated the mechanisms and the history of balancing selection using additional  
501 population genetic parameters that are informative regarding balancing selection at  
502 different time scales. To determine the potential mechanisms of balancing selection in the  
503 current generation, we tested for deviations from HWE for the two main chromosomal  
504 variants m and G. In N1, we found that heterokaryotypes were in considerable excess  
505 relative to their expected frequency (15.5% more heterokaryotypes than expected; fixation  
506 index  $F = -0.16$ , p-value = 0.00119; Fig. 5a; Table S1). FHA showed a similar  
507 heterokaryotype excess (16.7% more than expected;  $F = -0.17$ , p-value = 0.00004; Table  
508 S1; Fig. S13a). Estimates from additional populations across the species range suggest that  
509 heterokaryotype excess could be widespread, although not necessarily ubiquitous (10 out of  
510 19 populations showed  $F < 0$ ; Table S1). Although low sample sizes preclude a definitive  
511 test for HWE in all 19 populations, heterokaryotype excess is clearly evident in both  
512 populations for which we had large sample sizes.

513 To examine if balancing selection acted in the past, we calculated within-population LD  
514 ( $\Delta$ ) and Tajima's D. We found increased  $\Delta$  ranging over several hundreds of kb distance  
515 between SNPs for high-differentiation scaffolds, relative to other scaffolds (Fig. 5b; Fig.  
516 S13b). This is consistent with high levels of between-cluster, intra-locus LD ( $Z_g$ )  
517 determined above, which measures a different aspect of LD. Further, Tajima's D was  
518 elevated for high-differentiation scaffolds compared to other scaffolds on LG8 or  
519 genome-wide expectation (Fig. 5c; Fig. S13c; p-value =  $5.076 \times 10^{-15}$  or  $< 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ,  
520 Mann-Whitney U tests). We found no evidence that increased Tajima's D in  
521 high-differentiation scaffolds was caused by recent positive selection on any chromosomal

522 variant (Figs. S19 and S20). Our results thus indicate that balancing selection maintained  
523 the polymorphism on LG8 during the past. As an extended genomic region shows these  
524 signals of balancing selection, our results further indicate that selection targets many linked  
525 loci or a region of strongly reduced recombination (Kelly & Wade, 2000; Navarro & Barton,  
526 2002; Nordborg & Innan, 2003).

## 527 **Testing for potential causes of heterokaryotype excess**

528 The observed heterokaryotype excess could arise through two main and potentially  
529 overlapping mechanisms: negative assortative mating or heterozygote advantage selection.  
530 Our data suggest that negative assortative mating between melanistic and green morphs is  
531 unlikely to have caused the heterokaryotypes excess. Specifically, the equilibrium frequency  
532 of the recessive color allele is expected to be  $\sim 0.71$  for various strengths of negative  
533 assortative mating (Hedrick *et al.*, 2016). However, we observe much lower frequencies of  
534 0.33 and 0.36 for m variants in populations N1 and FHA, respectively (assuming here that  
535 m and G chromosomal variants are perfectly associated with color morphs, which is largely  
536 consistent with our results). Moreover, mating trials do not support negative assortative  
537 mating in *T. cristinae*, where, if anything, melanistic morphs have a universal mating  
538 advantage (Comeault *et al.*, 2015). We further tested which strengths of heterokaryotype  
539 advantage selection and mating preferences could explain the observed karyotype  
540 frequencies in N1 and FHA. A model for negative assortative mating and one for universal  
541 mating advantage of the melanistic morph both indicate that heterokaryotype advantage  
542 selection likely contributes generating the observed frequencies, although we cannot fully  
543 exclude alternative scenarios (Figs. S21 and S22).

544 Given some evidence for heterokaryotype advantage, we tested if heterokaryotypes differ  
545 from homokaryotypes in traits known to affect survival in *T. cristinae* (Nosil & Crespi,

546 2006). We found that karyotypic state had a minor but significant effect on body length  
547 and all continuous color traits tested (after Benjamini and Hochberg adjustment; Table S8;  
548 Fig. S23). The effect of karyotype remained significant with models only addressing  
549 variation between green morphs with mG versus GG karyotypes (Table S9). Future work is  
550 required to determine whether phenotypic differences among karyotypes affect fitness and  
551 contribute to heterokaryotype excess.

## 552 Discussion

553 *T. cristinae* exhibits three color and pattern morphs that are cryptic on different plant  
554 parts and on different plant species. The frequent co-occurrence of melanistic and green  
555 color morphs on the same host plants allowed us to address the putative duration and  
556 evolutionary mechanisms maintaining the cryptic polymorphism within populations of this  
557 species. Despite genetic drift and changing selection pressures being expected to eventually  
558 lead to the loss of existing variants (Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 2010), our results  
559 support that color morphs have been maintained over extended periods of time by  
560 balancing selection. We have revealed that the color polymorphism is associated with  
561 highly divergent chromosomal variants involving several megabases of sequence.  
562 Interestingly, our results suggest that heterokaryotype advantage might contribute to  
563 maintaining this chromosomal polymorphism. This is surprising because incomplete  
564 dominance or recombination in heterokaryotypes might result in maladaptive intermediate  
565 phenotypes that do not match either stems or leaves of either host plant. We here discuss  
566 four aspects of our results: (i) the genetic architecture of crypsis; (ii) the maintenance of  
567 polymorphisms through time; (iii) the mechanisms of that maintenance; and (iv) the  
568 implications for adaptation and speciation.

## 569 Genetic architecture of crypsis

570 The genetic architecture of cryptic color and pattern polymorphism in *T. cristinae* agrees  
571 with two main observations of the genetic basis of discrete color polymorphisms in a variety  
572 of organisms (Llaurens *et al.*, 2017). First, color and pattern exhibit dominance hierarchies  
573 (also see Sandoval, 1994a,b; Comeault *et al.*, 2015), in line with findings in other organisms  
574 (Clarke & Sheppard, 1972; Joron *et al.*, 2011; Le Poul *et al.*, 2014; Johannesson & Butlin,  
575 2017). Second, in several species color polymorphisms were mapped to regions of reduced  
576 recombination such as chromosomal inversions or supergenes (Joron *et al.*, 2011; Richards  
577 *et al.*, 2013; Kunte *et al.*, 2014; Wellenreuther *et al.*, 2014; Kuepper *et al.*, 2016;  
578 Lamichhaney *et al.*, 2016; Tuttle *et al.*, 2016). Our results revealed that in *T. cristinae*  
579 color and pattern traits are associated with an extended genomic region, consistent with  
580 highly reduced recombination. Patterns of  $Z_g$  and  $\pi$  further indicate that recombination is  
581 reduced between different karyotypes relative to within them, consistent with the presence  
582 of a chromosomal inversion, as are the particular patterns of  $F_{ST}$  and  $\pi$  along the genome  
583 (Figs. 3, 4 and 6). Nevertheless, if selection targets many linked loci so that recombination  
584 among them is effectively reduced through low fitness of recombinants, similar outcomes are  
585 expected without an inversion (Kelly & Wade, 2000; Navarro & Barton, 2002; Nordborg &  
586 Innan, 2003). Future work is required that explicitly test for the presence of a chromosomal  
587 inversion, and whether different variants are the result of several linked inversions (e.g.,  
588 Joron *et al.*, 2011) or evolved by rare recombination events in heterokaryotypes (e.g.,  
589 Imsland *et al.*, 2012). Further, studies on the cytogenetics of the genus that extend  
590 previous work (Schwander & Crespi, 2009) and that determine fitness effects of crossover  
591 events in inversion heterozygotes are needed.

592 The agreement in the genetic architecture of crypsis in *T. cristinae* with that of color  
593 polymorphic traits in various other species suggests that architectures that prevent

594 formation of maladapted phenotypic intermediates without reducing gene flow genome-wide  
595 might be a common evolutionary outcome. The presumably opposing selective advantage of  
596 melanistic and green morphs on different plant parts and the seeming absence of positive  
597 assortative mating between them is theoretically expected to select for chromosomal  
598 rearrangements that reduce recombination between locally adapted alleles at multiple loci  
599 (Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 1975; Yeaman, 2013; Kirkpatrick & Barrett, 2015;  
600 Charlesworth, 2016). However, it remains to be determined whether chromosomal variants  
601 in *T. cristinae* indeed contain multiple genes controlling color or pattern, which mutations  
602 are causal, and whether additional traits adaptive to different plant parts map to the same  
603 genomic region.

## 604 Maintenance of polymorphisms through time

605 Our results are consistent with chromosomal variants in *T. cristinae* having been  
606 maintained by balancing selection through the recent and distant history of the species. LD  
607 is expected to decay or build up over tens to thousands of generations by recombination,  
608 gene flow, or genetic drift (Garrigan & Hedrick, 2003; Hedrick, 2012). Increased LD in  
609 high-differentiation scaffolds relative to the genomic background (Figs. 4 and 5b; Fig. S13b)  
610 indicates that recombination or gene flow was reduced, or drift increased in this genomic  
611 region. This is consistent with balancing selection acting during the recent history of  
612 populations, but can also be caused by a selectively neutral inversion polymorphism.  
613 However, in this latter case we would not expect the polymorphism to be present in all  
614 populations, which we observed here (Fig. 2; Table S1). Tajima's D is affected by mutation  
615 and selection, where a signal of balancing selection might require many thousands or  
616 millions of generations to be generated or lost, although the statistic can also be influenced  
617 by more recent population dynamics such as genetic drift and population structure  
618 (Simonsen *et al.*, 1995; Garrigan & Hedrick, 2003; Hedrick, 2012). As recent population

619 dynamics will affect Tajima's D genome-wide (i.e., not restricted to high-differentiation  
620 scaffolds), we conclude that past balancing selection enabling the accumulation of  
621 independent substitutions within chromosomal variants is more likely (Fig. 5c; Figs. S7 and  
622 S13c). Further, the particular patterns in  $\pi$ ,  $D_{xy}$ , and  $Z_g$  along the genome between color  
623 variants are consistent with an old inversion polymorphism (Navarro *et al.*, 2000; Guerrero  
624 *et al.*, 2012; Peischl *et al.*, 2013) or long-term multi-locus balancing selection (Kelly &  
625 Wade, 2000; Navarro & Barton, 2002; Nordborg & Innan, 2003; Storz & Kelly, 2008).

626 The long-term maintenance of polymorphisms is considered to be probably unusual  
627 (Asthana *et al.*, 2005; Charlesworth, 2006; Fijarczyk & Babik, 2015). In *Drosophila*  
628 *melanogaster*, for example, inversion polymorphisms are commonly short-lived and  
629 frequently less than hundreds of thousands of years old ( $< 1 N_e$  generations; Andolfatto  
630 *et al.*, 1999, 2001; Corbett-Detig & Hartl, 2012). Similarly, polymorphic inversions in  
631 *Anopheles gambiae* were maintained for less than 11 000 years ( $< 2.7 N_e$  generations; White  
632 *et al.*, 2007, 2009). However, polymorphisms have also been shown to persist for millions of  
633 years in some species, such as *Drosophila pseudoobscura* (up to 2 Ma; Schaeffer, 2008;  
634 Wallace *et al.*, 2013), the ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*: 3.8 Ma; Lamichhaney *et al.*, 2016), or  
635 in the form of sex chromosomes (Charlesworth, 2016), and can even be shared across  
636 species boundaries (Wiuf *et al.*, 2004; White *et al.*, 2009; Leffler *et al.*, 2013; Novikova  
637 *et al.*, 2016). Our results for *T. cristinae* are compatible with the examples for old  
638 polymorphisms, and indicate that the forces of balancing selection have likely been strong  
639 and continuous over time to prevent the loss of this variation. As several *Timema* species  
640 related to *T. cristinae* are polymorphic for color, it will be interesting to test in future work  
641 whether color alleles pre-date speciation events. Alternatively, polymorphisms can be  
642 acquired by introgression from a related taxon (e.g., Besansky *et al.*, 2003; Feder *et al.*,  
643 2003), which can falsely suggest their long-term maintenance within a species. We regard  
644 recent introgression as unlikely given that speciation events in the genus occurred millions

645 of generations ago and *T. cristinae* being geographically isolated from other *Timema*  
646 species (Law & Crespi, 2002; Riesch *et al.*, 2017), although we cannot exclude introgression  
647 from a now extinct species (e.g., Tuttle *et al.*, 2016).

## 648 **Mechanisms of the maintenance of polymorphisms**

649 We detected a pronounced excess of heterokaryotypes within several populations that  
650 cannot easily be explained by negative assortative mating or universal mating advantage of  
651 the melanistic morph alone (Fig. 5a; Table S1; Figs. S13a, S21 and S22). Instead,  
652 heterokaryotypes might have a fitness advantage over homokaryotypes, for example because  
653 of selective trade-offs (e.g., Johnston *et al.*, 2013), associative overdominance (Pamilo &  
654 Palsson, 1998; Charlesworth & Willis, 2009), improved crypsis resulting from differences in  
655 body color compared to homokaryotypes (Tables S8 and S9; Fig. S23), or a combination of  
656 these processes.

657 Although heterozygote advantage can constitute a simple mechanism of balancing  
658 selection, it remains controversial whether it maintains variants over extended periods of  
659 time (Clarke, 1979; De Boer *et al.*, 2004; Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 2010; Spurgin &  
660 Richardson, 2010; Sellis *et al.*, 2011; Hedrick, 2012). Indeed, few empirical examples exist  
661 where heterozygote advantage selection is considered to maintain polymorphisms (reviewed  
662 by Gemmell & Slate, 2006; Hedrick, 2006, 2011, 2012), often due to a mutant allele that  
663 confers improved fitness but is lethal in homozygotes. However, such a polymorphism is  
664 expected to be short-lived as it will be lost once a new allele evolves that is not associated  
665 with a fitness cost (Clarke, 1979; Charlesworth & Charlesworth, 2010; Hedrick, 2012).

666 Similarly, heterokaryotype excess involving highly differentiated chromosomal variants  
667 often includes lethality of one homokaryotype, where the polymorphism is commonly  
668 maintained by negative assortative mating (e.g., Wang *et al.*, 2013; Kuepper *et al.*, 2016;

669 Lamichhaney *et al.*, 2016; Tuttle *et al.*, 2016). However in *T. cristinae*, despite the  
670 presumably long divergence time between color variants, both homokaryotypes are  
671 represented. The system might however eventually transition to the more commonly  
672 observed situation described above, for example through the accumulation of recessive  
673 deleterious mutations in the rare variant.

674 In addition to heterokaryotype excess, additional processes of balancing selection  
675 probably contribute to the maintenance of color polymorphism in *T. cristinae*. In  
676 particular, the availability of micro-niches (i.e., stems and leaves) on each host plant likely  
677 support the maintenance of two color morphs (Levene, 1953; Nagylaki, 2009). Universal  
678 mating advantage of the melanistic morph might further prevent the stochastic or selective  
679 loss of the less common melanistic variant (Fig. S22). Thus, although apostatic selection  
680 and predator wariness are often considered important mechanisms maintaining  
681 polymorphisms in species that use color traits as protection against predation (Clarke,  
682 1979; Allen, 1988; Mappes *et al.*, 2005; Bond, 2007; Wellenreuther *et al.*, 2014), our results  
683 suggest that the long-term maintenance of the cryptic polymorphism within *T. cristinae*  
684 populations can instead be driven by several other, collectively acting forms of balancing  
685 selection.

## 686 **Implications for adaptation and speciation**

687 Polymorphisms might also be lost through speciation, as divergent selection or reduced  
688 recombination between distinct chromosomal variants can drive the evolution of  
689 reproductive isolation (Coyne & Orr, 1998; Navarro & Barton, 2003; Butlin, 2005;  
690 Kirkpatrick & Barton, 2006; Schluter & Conte, 2009; Faria & Navarro, 2010; Hugall &  
691 Stuart-Fox, 2012; Charron *et al.*, 2014). The fine-scaled, temporally and spatially highly  
692 heterogeneous habitats of *T. cristinae*, however, might instead promote the long-term

693 maintenance of polymorphisms (Gray & McKinnon, 2007; Svardal *et al.*, 2015; Gulisija &  
694 Kim, 2015), perhaps amplified by small local population sizes that can further delay  
695 speciation (Claessen *et al.*, 2008). Reproductively isolated small populations, if they arise,  
696 might also not persist as they are expected to rapidly accumulate deleterious mutations  
697 (Lynch *et al.*, 1995) and are less likely to hold the phenotypic variation necessary to  
698 withstand rapidly changing selection pressures (Nei *et al.*, 1975; Forsman & Wennersten,  
699 2016).

700 In conclusion, our work indicates that several interacting mechanisms of balancing  
701 selection may maintain adaptive polymorphisms over extended periods of time, despite  
702 individual mechanisms often being regarded to maintain variation only short-term. It  
703 remains to be determined whether and how often processes of balancing selection other  
704 than apostatic selection or predator wariness, as suggested by our work, are important  
705 drivers in maintaining cryptic color polymorphisms in other species. Finally, the melanistic  
706 versus green color morphs of *T. cristinae* illustrate how long-term maintenance of adaptive  
707 polymorphisms in micro-niches might constitute an alternative evolutionary outcome to  
708 speciation, particularly in fine-scaled heterogeneous environments (e.g., Gray & McKinnon,  
709 2007). Most broadly, our results show how population genomics can yield powerful insights  
710 into evolutionary processes and dynamics when combined with ecological data, ideally from  
711 multiple traits and across the species range.

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## 1015 Data Accessibility

1016 The genetic data from population N1 has been deposited in the NCBI Short Read Archive  
1017 (BioProject PRJNA386212). Phenotypic and processed genetic data used for analysis as  
1018 well as simulation code have been archived in Dryad (doi:10.5061/dryad.jt644).

## 1019 **Author Contributions**

1020 DL, KL, and PN conceived the project. DL, VSC, RV, and SRD performed data analyses.  
1021 TEF and RR collected data. ZG contributed to computer code and discussions. DL and  
1022 PN wrote the manuscript, and all authors contributed to further writing and revisions.

1023 **Tables and Figures**

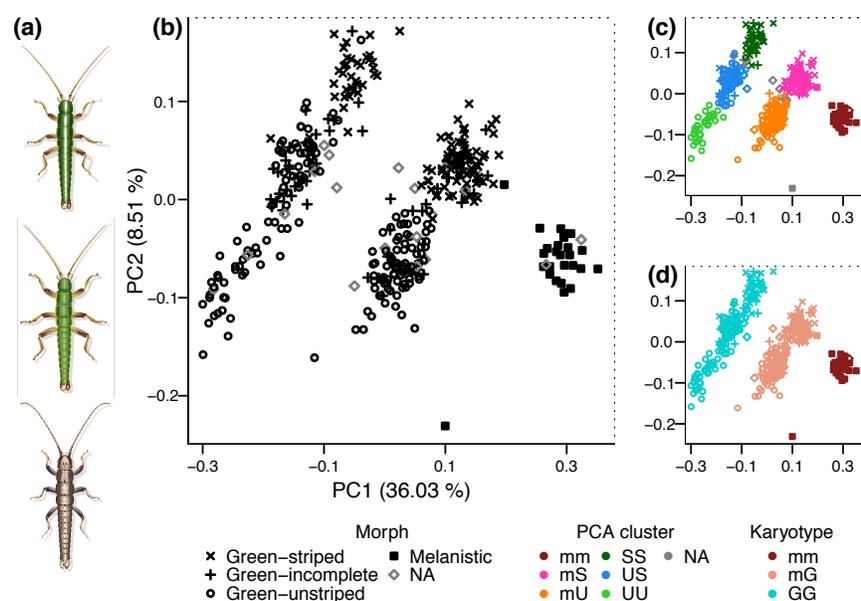


Figure 1: Genetic structure on LG8 associated with phenotypic morphs in population N1. (a) Three *T. cristinae* morphs cryptic on leaves or stems of their host plants: green-striped, green-unstriped, and melanistic. (b) Principal component axis one (PC1) shows clustering by color morph, with two distinct clusters for green morphs (crosses, pluses, and circles) and one cluster for the melanistic morph (filled squares). Principal component axis two (PC2) shows a gradient by pattern morph, from green-unstriped (circles) to green-striped morphs (crosses). (c) K-means clustering and linear discriminant analysis were used to define six PCA clusters, corresponding to diploid combinations of three chromosomal variants 'melanistic' (m), 'green-striped' (S), and 'green-unstriped' (U). (d) STRUCTURE with  $k = 2$  identified two main chromosomal variants 'melanistic' (m) and 'green' (G), resulting in three main karyotypes by their diploid combinations. PCA outlier individuals were excluded in (b) and (c) and are not shown in (d).

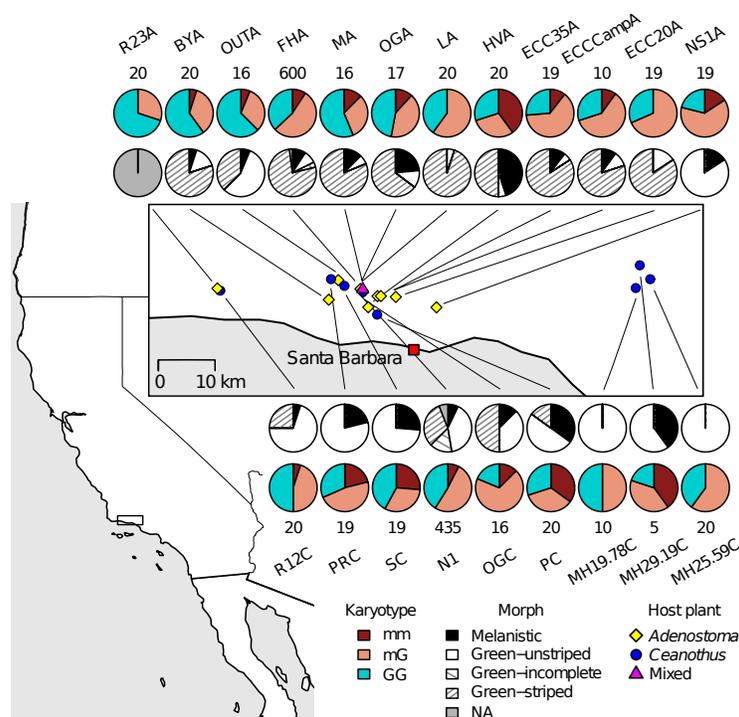


Figure 2: Sampling localities, karyotype and morph frequencies for 21 *T. cristinae* populations. Samples were obtained from 12 populations on *Adenostoma* host plants (yellow diamonds), eight populations on *Ceanothus* host plants (blue circles), and one mixed population (N1, magenta triangle) across the species distribution around Santa Barbara, California. Pie charts in the top and bottom rows show karyotype frequencies estimated by genetic clustering using STRUCTURE with  $k = 2$  (i.e., corresponding to m and G chromosomal variants). Pie charts in the second and third rows give morph frequencies for *Adenostoma* hosts (top) and *Ceanothus* or mixed hosts (bottom). Population names and sample sizes are indicated.

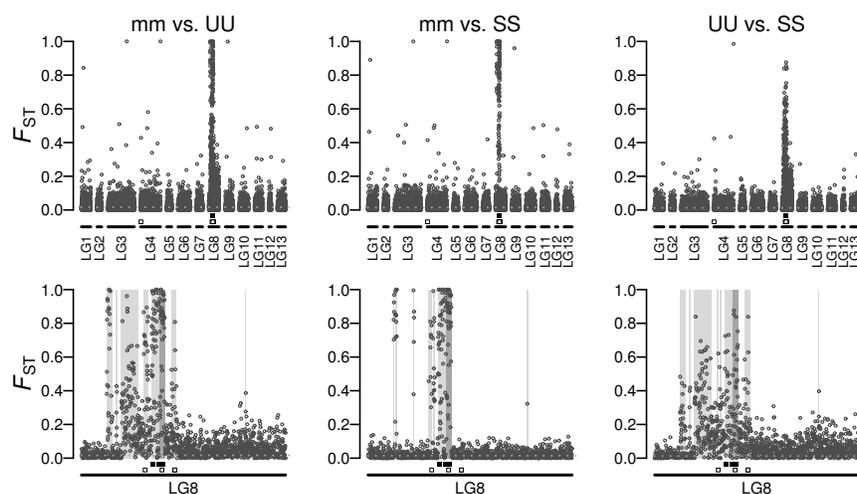


Figure 3: Genome-wide differentiation between pairs of homokaryotypic clusters in population N1. Top row,  $F_{ST}$  for non-overlapping 20-kb windows and all LGs; bottom row, LG8 only. Gray dotted lines show genome-wide 50% quantiles, and squares on the x-axis indicate positions of candidate SNPs for color (closed symbols) and pattern (open symbols). High-differentiation scaffolds are highlighted in gray, with a darker shade indicating a subset of three scaffolds that were treated separately in some analyses (scaffolds 931, 318, and 1440). The distinctive blocks of high  $F_{ST}$  on LG8 span approximately 13 Mb.

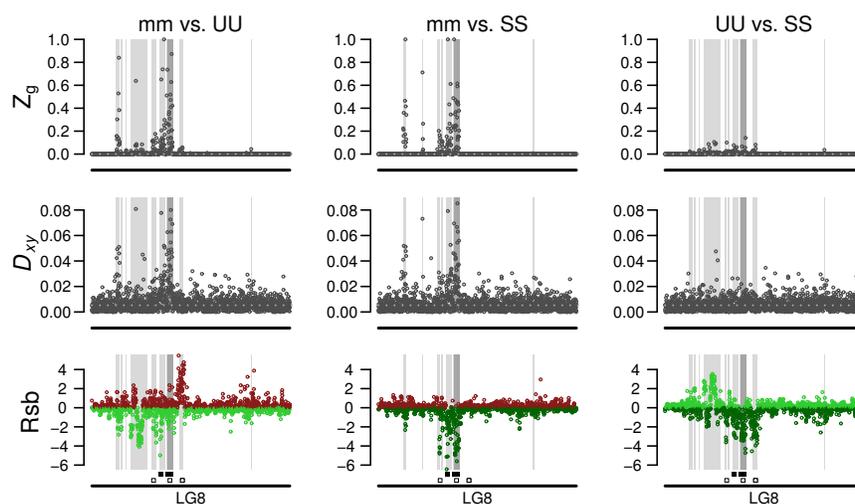


Figure 4: Population genomic parameters along LG8 for pairs of homokaryotypic clusters in population N1. Regions of high intra-locus LD ( $Z_g$ ) and increased absolute genetic divergence ( $D_{xy}$ ) between clusters coincide with high-differentiation scaffolds (Fig. 3; highlighted in gray). Extreme values in  $R_{sb}$  indicate that regions of extended haplotype homozygosity differ among clusters. All statistics were calculated in non-overlapping 20-kb windows. Gray dotted lines show genome-wide 50% quantiles for  $Z_g$  and  $D_{xy}$ , and squares on the x-axis indicate positions of candidate SNPs for color (closed symbols) and pattern (open symbols).

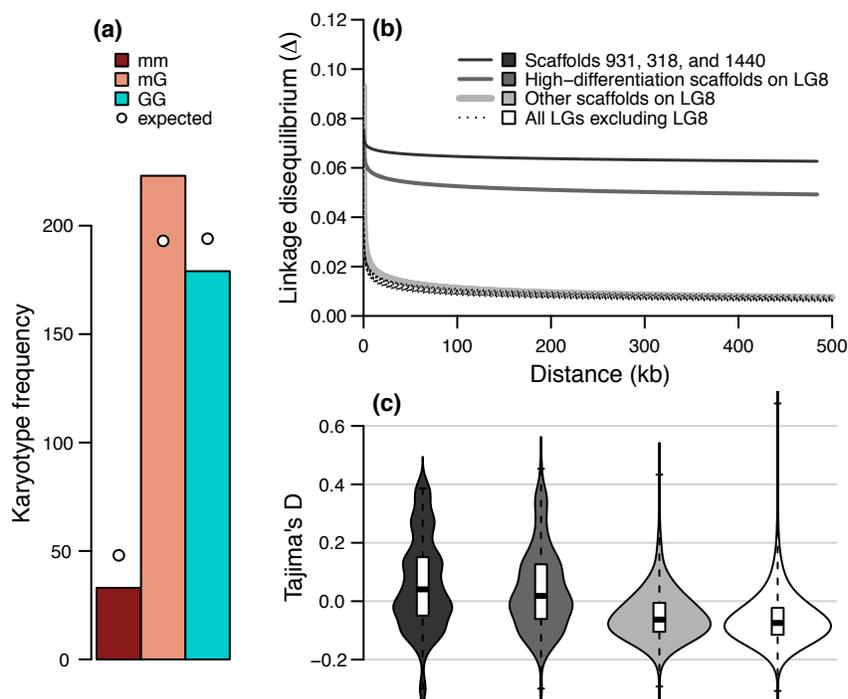


Figure 5: History of balancing selection in population N1. (a) Karyotype frequencies. Bars show observed karyotype counts, and circles indicate expected counts for a population in HWE. (b) Decay of LD with physical distance between pairs of SNPs summarized for different sets of scaffolds on LG8 and for all other LGs. The y-axis shows Burrow's composite measure of Hardy Weinberg and LD ( $\Delta$ ). Lines were fitted by non-linear regression. (c) Tajima's D statistic for non-overlapping 20-kb windows for different sets of scaffolds on LG8 and for all other LGs combined. White boxes range from the first to third quartile, black horizontal bars give the median, whiskers extend to the data extremes, and shapes are Gaussian kernel densities.

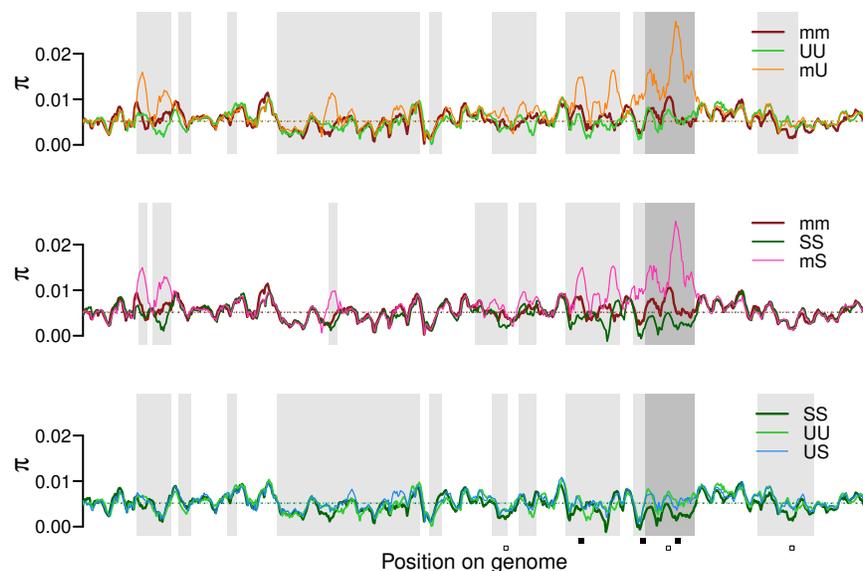


Figure 6: Nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$ ) along LG8 for all clusters in population N1. Approximately one third of LG8 is shown. Each panel shows  $\pi$  for two homokaryotypic clusters and their corresponding heterokaryotypic cluster. Orange and pink lines in the top two panels show regions of increased diversity in heterokaryotypes between melanistic and green variants (mU or mS) relative to diversity within homokaryotypes (mm, UU, or SS), coinciding with high-differentiation scaffolds (Fig. 3; highlighted in gray). Increased diversity is not observed for heterokaryotypes between green-unstriped and green-striped variants (US; bottom panel, blue line). Lines depict smoothed estimates from non-overlapping 20-kb windows. Dotted lines show genome-wide 50% quantiles, and squares on the x-axis indicate positions of candidate SNPs for color (closed symbols) and pattern (open symbols).