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3 **Identification of cold-responsive genes in a New Zealand alpine stick insect**
4 **using RNA-Seq**

5
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20
21 **Abstract**

22 The endemic New Zealand alpine stick insect *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 regularly experiences sub-zero
23 temperatures in the wild. 454-based RNA-Seq was used to generate a *de novo* transcriptome and
24 differentiate between treatments to investigate the genetic basis of cold tolerance. Non cold-treated
25 individuals were compared to those exposed to 0 °C for 1 h followed by a 1 h recovery period at 20 °C.
26 We aligned 607,410 Roche 454 reads, generating a transcriptome of 5,235 contigs. Differential
27 expression analysis ranked candidate cold responsive genes for qPCR validation by *P*-value. The top nine
28 up-regulated candidates, together with eight *a priori* targets identified from previous studies, had their
29 relative expression quantified using qPCR. Three candidate cold responsive genes from the RNA-Seq
30 data were verified as significantly up-regulated, annotated as: *prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1*
31 (*P4HA1*), *staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1 (snd1)* and *cuticular protein analogous to*
32 *peritrophins 3-D2 (Cpap3-d2)*. All three are novel candidate genes, illustrating the varied response to
33 low temperature across insects.

34
35 **Keywords:** stick insect,

36

37 **1. Introduction**

38

39 Temperature is a critical variable affecting the performance and distribution of insects (Chown and
40 Nicolson, 2004). The New Zealand alpine zone was formed approximately 5 Mya ago during the
41 Kaikoura Orogeny (Batt and Braun, 1999; Batt *et al.*, 2000; Chamberlain and Poage 2000). This recent
42 origin has led to substantial adaptive radiation with all major New Zealand insect lineages represented
43 in alpine habitats (Buckley and Simon, 2007); in particular, the incidence of alpine stick insects (order
44 Phasmatodea) is globally unusual (Salmon, 1991). Out of the 23 endemic New Zealand species from 10
45 genera (Buckley and Bradler, 2010), only *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 (Voucher specimen NZAC03009458 from
46 New Zealand Arthropod Collection, Landcare Research, Auckland, New Zealand) is exclusively found at
47 high elevations (600 to 1,409 m above sea level). This species inhabits the mountain ranges of the
48 north-west South Island, which regularly experience sub-zero temperatures throughout the year
49 (Salmon, 1991). All life stages of this species overwinter (A.B. Dennis and L.T. Dunning, unpublished
50 observations), with those alive at the end of the summer capable of surviving through until spring.
51 At low temperatures all insects need to mitigate problems associated with reduced cell membrane
52 fluidity (Overgaard *et al.*, 2005), changes in ion concentration (Košťál *et al.*, 2007), induction of
53 apoptotic pathways and other non-freezing cold injuries (Bale, 2002). In addition, lower sub-freezing
54 temperatures lead to a risk of internal ice formation, against which cold-hardy alpine insects adopt
55 freeze avoidant or freeze tolerant strategies (Wharton, 2011). In New Zealand, the majority of alpine
56 insects survive by being moderately freeze tolerant with no incidence of freeze avoidance currently
57 recorded (Wharton, 2011). Nothing is known about cold tolerance in any stick insects.

58 Very little is known concerning the genes underpinning cold tolerance in cold-hardy insects, as most
59 studies focus on chill-susceptible *Drosophila* species (Hoffmann, 2010). However, *Drosophila* studies
60 have identified a number of candidate genes associated with the molecular response to cold. The most
61 prominent include heat shock proteins (Qin *et al.*, 2005) and the *Frost* gene (Goto, 2001). A plethora of
62 other genes and proteins have also been identified as up-regulated in response to low temperature in a
63 variety of insects, with functions related to stress, metabolism, cuticles, membranes, gene regulation,
64 cytoskeletal and immune function (Denlinger and Lee, 2010; Teets *et al.*, 2012). Many of those
65 identified do not overlap between species (Qin *et al.*, 2005; Colinet *et al.*, 2007; Robich *et al.*, 2007;
66 Clark and Worland, 2008; Li and Denlinger, 2008; Denlinger and Lee, 2010); we expect that this diversity
67 reflects interspecific variation in response to cold, and is not solely a product of differing
68 methodologies. Additionally, cold tolerance is plastic over both short-term (rapid cold hardening; Lee
69 *et al.*, 1987) and long-term (seasonal acclimation) temporal scales. Gene expression is not essential for
70 this plasticity (Sinclair *et al.*, 2007) but underpins long term responses to, preparation for, and recovery

71 from cold-shock. To fully comprehend the molecular mechanisms underpinning the variation in insect
72 responses to the cold there is a need to extend genome-based studies beyond the Diptera, in particular
73 to include insects that experience sub-zero temperatures in the wild.

74 High-throughput sequencing (HTS) and RNA-Seq have allowed the investigation of species that are not
75 established genetic models, yet display adaptations that make them pertinent to an array of ecological
76 and physiological questions (Wang *et al.*, 2009). However, RNA-Seq is still to be applied explicitly to cold
77 tolerant insects and their response to low temperature (Storey and Storey, 2012). Methods previously
78 adopted to identify genes differentially expressed as a consequence of low temperature include cDNA
79 library screening (Bilgen *et al.*, 2001), suppressive subtractive hybridisation (SSH; Rinehart *et al.*, 2007;
80 Robich *et al.*, 2007) microarrays (Qin *et al.*, 2005; Laayouni *et al.*, 2007; Sørensen *et al.*, 2007; Purać *et al.*
81 *et al.*, 2008; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Teets *et al.*, 2012) and quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR; Clark and
82 Worland, 2008). Although microarrays have the potential to provide whole-transcriptome snapshots,
83 the ability to identify novel transcriptional profiles associated with cold tolerance is limited by the
84 original starting material used to construct a cDNA array (Wang *et al.*, 2009). Even with genome-based
85 arrays (such as those used for *Drosophila*), there is a limited ability to distinguish between splice
86 variants, patterns of allelic expression and to quantify low abundant transcripts (Wang *et al.*, 2009). By
87 applying HTS to insects across a range of cold-tolerance phenotypes it will not only be possible to
88 uncover novel genes but also allow the development of a more complete picture of the complexity and
89 common features that underlie insect cold tolerance.

90 In this study, we use HTS and *de novo* transcriptome alignment to identify novel candidate genes
91 associated with recovery from cold-shock in *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2, a cold-hardy stick insect currently
92 lacking genomic resources.

93

94 **2. Materials and Methods**

95

96 *2.1 Field collections*

97 Alpine *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 specimens were collected from Sewell Peak, the Paparoa Range, New
98 Zealand (42° 24.312 S, 171° 20.585 E, elevation 822 m). Samples for HTS at the University of Otago, HTS
99 at Landcare Research and quantitative RT-PCR (qPCR) were collected on the 20/03/2009, 11/02/2011
100 and 27/01/2012, respectively. At Sewell Peak, temperatures in late summer can still drop to a few
101 degrees above freezing (A.B. Dennis and T.R. Buckley, unpubl. observations). Collections were
102 transported live to Landcare Research, Auckland. They were kept en masse in a vivarium for a minimum
103 period of 3 weeks for acclimatisation in 12:12 light:dark cycle under ambient room temperature and
104 humidity prior to experimentation. A constant diet of freshly collected pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros*
105 *excelsa*) was provided. All subsequent procedures were performed exclusively on adult females.

106

107 *2.2 Cold-shock treatments*

108 The control groups were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen directly from approximately 20 °C. Cold-shock
109 experiments were performed immediately afterwards. The stick insects were held at 0 °C for 1 h in 50
110 mL Falcon tubes that had been pre-immersed in ice baths. A 1 h recovery at approximately 20 °C
111 followed this treatment. Previous studies associating cold exposure to gene expression have used a
112 similar temperature and recovery period (Goto, 2001; Sinclair *et al.*, 2007; Teets *et al.*, 2012). We
113 expect that *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* would potentially encounter 0 °C in the field at any time of year (A.B.
114 Dennis & T.R. Buckley, unpublished observations). All insects survived the treatment and were moving
115 in a coordinated fashion at the end of the recovery period. Insects were then directly snap frozen and
116 stored at -80 °C.

117

118 *2.3 RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis*

119 All experiments used the head, antennae and prothorax of the animals. These were removed with
120 sterilised scalpel blades and ground in liquid nitrogen using a mortar and pestle. mRNA was extracted
121 using Dynabeads mRNA DIRECT™ Kit (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA; cat. no. 610.06) following the
122 manufacturer's protocol, with one amendment; samples were passed through QIAshredder columns
123 (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany, cat. no. 79656) for sample homogenisation and DNA shearing. RNA quantity
124 was determined by spectrophotometry prior to cDNA library construction (Roche, Mannheim,
125 Germany, "cDNA Rapid Library Preparation Method Manual-GS FLX Titanium Series", October 2009
126 (Rev. Jan 2010)). Individual libraries were tagged with MID-labelled primers during preparation. cDNA
127 Libraries were sent to the University of Otago High-Throughput DNA Sequencing Unit for purification
128 and sequencing on a Roche 454 GS FLX sequencer.

129 To increase the number of reads for *de novo* transcriptome assembly, two additional samples were
130 sequenced at Landcare Research (Auckland). Total RNA was extracted using the TRIzol (Invitrogen, cat.
131 no. 15596-018) RNA isolation method, followed by mRNA purification using the Oligotex mRNA Spin-
132 Column Protocol (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany, cat. no. 70022). Quality and concentration of RNA
133 extractions was assessed using a NanoDrop ND-1000 spectrophotometer (NanoDrop Technologies,
134 Wilmington, DE, USA) and an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA). cDNA
135 libraries were constructed using the cDNA Rapid Library Preparation Manual Method (Roche,
136 Mannheim, Germany, GS Junior Titanium Series, May 2010 (Rev. June 2010)). Individual libraries were
137 tagged with MID-labelled primers during preparation. Library quality was assessed using the Agilent
138 2100 Bioanalyzer and TBS 380 Fluorometer (Turner Biosystems, Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Sequencing was
139 performed on a 454 GS Junior (Roche, Mannheim, Germany).

140 For qPCR samples, total RNA was extracted using TRIzol (Invitrogen, cat. no. 610.06) according to the
141 manufacturer's protocol. A further RNA clean-up was performed using the RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, cat.
142 no. 74104). Quality and concentration of RNA extractions were assessed using a NanoDrop ND-1000
143 spectrophotometer. Contaminating DNA was removed using the Ambion DNA-free™ DNase Treatment
144 kit (Invitrogen, cat. no. AM1906). The first strand cDNA synthesis used the SuperScript III First Strand Kit
145 (Invitrogen, cat. no. 18080-051). Successful DNase treatment and cDNA preparation were verified using
146 post and pre cDNA synthesis samples as a template for PCR. Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate (G3P, F1 = 5'-
147 TGCCAGGCAGTTGGTGGTGC-3', R1 = 5'-ATTCGGCCGCATCGGTGCC-3'), which amplifies products from
148 both genomic DNA and cDNA (442 bp), was used to check for successful removal of genomic DNA from
149 pre cDNA synthesis templates. Enolase primers (ENO, F1 = 5'-AGCACTACCACGGAAAGGGGGT-3', R1 = 5'-
150 ACCATGGTGCCCCAGCCATT-3') amplify an approximately 1,000 bp product from cDNA only and
151 successful amplification was an indication of cDNA quality. PCRs consisted of 2.5 µL of 2mM dNTP
152 (Roche, Mannheim, Germany), 1 µL of 10 µM bovine serum albumin (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA),
153 2.5 µL of 10X FastStart Taq DNA Polymerase PCR Buffer with MgCl₂ (Roche), 1.5 U FastStart Taq DNA
154 Polymerase (Roche) and 10 pmol of the forward and reverse primers (Sigma-Aldrich) in a total volume
155 of 25 µL. Amplifications were performed on a GeneAmp PCR system 9700 thermal cycler (Applied
156 Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) using the following parameters: 5 min at 95 °C; 40 cycles of 1 min at
157 94 °C, 1 min at 60 °C and 1 min at 72 °C; and 10 min at 72 °C. Successful amplification was assessed by
158 gel electrophoresis on 1% agarose gels containing 0.5 mg mL⁻¹ ethidium bromide.

159

160 *2.4 454 transcriptome alignment*

161 Sequences were cleaned, trimmed and aligned using Newbler GS De novo Assembler (V. 2.5.3).
162 Redundancy within the alignment was removed using the Geneious (Drummond *et al.*, 2012) *de novo*
163 assembler with two different sequence similarity cut-offs (custom sensitivity with default parameters,
164 minimum overlap = 40 bp and sequence similarity = 100% or 90%). Reassembled Isotigs (putative genes
165 and their splice variants) are subsequently referred to as contigs and were manually checked to assess
166 validity and to ensure they were not the result of repetitive DNA (e.g. microsatellites).

167 The alignment was annotated using Blast2GO (Conesa *et al.*, 2005) on the 4th of September 2011
168 against the nr and SwissProt databases (minimum e-value cut-off < 1⁻¹⁰). To identify non annotated
169 contigs selected for qPCR verification from the differential expression (DE) analysis, the contig
170 sequences were searched against an unpublished Illumina transcriptome from the same species (L.T.
171 Dunning *et al.* unpublished). Any matching Illumina contigs that were longer were subsequently
172 searched against the SwissProt and nr databases.

173

174 *2.5 Sequence counts and differential expression*

175 Sequence counts for each individual contig were generated by mapping the Newbler-trimmed data
176 back onto the alignment using PanGEA (v. 1.04) (Kofler *et al.*, 2009). Reads retained for further analysis
177 had to map unambiguously to one contig, have a minimum alignment length of 40 bp, incorporate
178 >20% of the read length and a minimum sequence similarity of 85%. To be considered for subsequent
179 DE analysis each contig had to have a combined total of at least ten counts.

180 DE analysis in R (V. 2.13.0) (R Development Core Team, 2012) used DESeq (V. 1.4.1) (Anders and Huber,
181 2010), edgeR (V. 2.2.5) (Robinson *et al.*, 2010) and baySeq (V. 1.6.0) (Hardcastle and Kelly, 2010)
182 packages. DESeq and edgeR are similar exact test approaches, whereas baySeq employs a Bayesian
183 method to assign likelihoods to specified models. All methods use the negative binomial distribution
184 that compensates for higher levels of biological than technical variation. Raw counts were normalised
185 for library size using the *calcNormFactors* and *estimateSizeFactors* functions in edgeR and DESeq,
186 respectively. The quantile normalised counts from edgeR were used for subsequent analysis in baySeq.
187 In edgeR both common and the more stringent tagwise dispersion methods for estimating DE were
188 used. Two models were specified for analysis in baySeq; equal expression between all samples and
189 differential expression between the control and cold-shocked treatments. baySeq calculated DE with
190 and without transcript length as an additional normalisation factor. Analysis was performed with
191 10,000 iterations and 100 bootstraps.

192

193 2.6 qPCR verification

194 The results of the DE analysis were ranked by *P*-value or likelihood depending on the R package used.
195 Subsequent qPCR verification of candidate cold tolerance genes was performed. Eight *a priori* genes
196 (**Table 3**) identified as differentially expressed or with a possible role in cold tolerance from previous
197 studies found in the *de novo* transcriptome were also targeted, along with *alkb5* (selected by eye from
198 corrected sequence counts). In addition, three stably expressed genes identified by DE analysis (*P*-value
199 > 0.8; > 1,000 counts) across treatments were selected as references to normalise relative expression
200 levels among genes. These were: glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase 2 (*g3p2*), paramyosin
201 long form (*myp1*) and elongation factor 1-alpha 2 (*ef1a2*). Primers were designed with stringent
202 criteria using the Primer3 (Rozen and Helen, 2000) plugin in Geneious (Drummond *et al.*, 2012). All
203 primers had a *T_m* of 59-61 °C (except NADH_F1 *T_m* = 57.62 °C), GC content between 40-60%, were 18-
204 25 base pairs long and amplify a product between 60-150 bp in length (Supplementary material A).
205 qPCR was performed using LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I Master mix (Roche, Mannheim, Germany, cat.
206 no. 04707516001), 0.25 µM each primer and approximately 5 ng of template cDNA with a total reaction
207 volume of 10 µl. Reactions were carried out on a LightCycler 480 (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) with the
208 default cycling parameters and 60 °C annealing temperature. Two treatments (control versus cold-
209 shock) with three biological repeats, each with three technical repeats and three negative controls

210 were, carried out per gene. All genes were analysed in two 384-well plates. A preliminary run and
211 subsequent melting curve analysis was used to exclude genes where more than one product was
212 amplified. Quantification cycle (C_q) values for each reaction were calculated using LinRegPCR
213 (Ramakers *et al.*, 2003). Primer efficiencies were calculated on average for each gene. Technical
214 replicates where the efficiency was greater than 5% of the mean were excluded from subsequent
215 analysis. The most suitable reference genes and normalisation factors were calculated using geNorm
216 (Vandesompele *et al.*, 2002) based on the geometric means. For the first plate *ef1a2* and *myp1* were
217 selected and for the second plate *g3p2* and *myp1* were used. An approximate Pfaffl (Pfaffl, 2001)
218 method generated relative amounts of each target gene. The raw relative expression values were
219 natural log transformed and a one tailed t-test used to access significant differential expression
220 between treatments.

221

222 3. Results

223

224 3.1 Transcriptome generation

225 Four individually-tagged cDNA libraries, each constructed from the head, antennae and prothorax of a
226 single *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2, were sequenced on the Roche 454 GS FLX platform producing a total of
227 524,120 sequences (**Table 1**). This dataset was supplemented with a further 83,112 Roche 454 GS
228 Junior sequences from two cDNA libraries constructed from the head, antennae and prothorax of
229 additional individuals. The resulting 607,410 sequences comprised 291,936,440 nucleotides with a
230 median read length of 482 bp (mean = 481; SD = 112). Raw data were submitted to the National Centre
231 for Biotechnology and Information (NCBI) (Sequence Read Archive (SRA) submission number
232 SRA057228). After trimming to remove bases with low quality scores, adapters and MID barcodes
233 there were 514,993 (84.79%) sequences, 150,267,849 (51.47%) nucleotides and a median sequence
234 length of 313 bp (mean = 292; SD = 99).

235 An initial Newbler alignment produced 5,827 isotigs longer than 50 bp with a median length of 593 bp
236 (mean = 843; SD 928). These belonged to 4,490 isogroups (putative genes). To remove redundancy the
237 alignment was reassembled using the Geneious *de novo* assembler (Drummond *et al.*, 2012) which
238 reduced the number of contigs to 5,235. This new alignment incorporated 78% of the original sequence
239 data with a median contig length of 588 bp (mean = 819; SD 884). The longest contig was 20,518 bp
240 (BLASTx to SwissProt identified this contig as a cDNA encoding Twitchin). 1,058 contigs were longer
241 than 1,000 bp and 3,240 contigs were greater than 500 bp. Sequence counts were generated by
242 mapping the Newbler trimmed reads back onto the alignment. Between 65 - 67% of raw reads (total =
243 327,870 sequences) for each sample mapped back to 2,602 contigs that had a combined total at least
244 ten counts; these were used for subsequent differential expression analysis.

245 The complete *de novo* transcriptome was annotated (with an *E*-value < 1⁻¹⁰) using three approaches: (1)
246 BLASTn against the non redundant (nr) protein database identified 2,630 (50 %) contigs, (2) BLASTx
247 against nr database identified 2,060 (39 %) contigs and (3) BLASTx against the SwissProt database
248 identified 1,991 (38 %) contigs. All contigs are subsequently referred to by their top BLAST match.
249 Nineteen of the 20 most commonly hit species for the lowest *E*-value BLASTx match against the nr
250 database (**Figure 1**) were insects, apart from *Daphnia pulex*. In spite of polyA selection during cDNA
251 library preparation, a substantial number of rRNA sequences remained (17-22% of reads from each
252 sample were identified as 18S and 28S rRNA).

253

254 3.2 Expression analysis

255 Relative mRNA abundances were compared between cold-exposed (1 h at 0 °C followed by 1 h at 20 °C)
256 and control (kept at 20 °C throughout) individuals to identify differentially-expressed candidate cold-
257 responsive genes. Using edgeR with common dispersion two down-regulated contigs were detected
258 (adjusted *P*-value of < 0.05) during recovery from cold-shock. The other tests did not reveal any further
259 candidates with the limited biological replication (*n* = 2) resulting in high false discovery rates. A
260 relaxation of the stringency to uncorrected *P*-value was permitted as qPCR should identify any false
261 positives. Using edgeR with common dispersion 168 contigs were identified as differentially expressed
262 (94 up, 74 down, *P*-value < 0.05) (**Figure 2**). The edgeR with tagwise dispersion analysis identified 106
263 differentially expressed contigs (56 up, 50 down, *P*-value < 0.05). DESeq identified 10 differentially
264 expressed contigs (7 up, 3 down, *P*-value < 0.05). The baySeq analyses identified 2 up-regulated contigs
265 (likelihood > 0.80). A full list of all significant differentially regulated genes can be found in
266 Supplementary material C.

267 Up-regulated contigs during recovery from cold-shock were ranked by *P*-value, with the top four from
268 each of the five analyses shown in **Table 2** (*n* = 11 due to redundancy between results). No common
269 contig was identified by the five approaches, but *staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1*
270 (*snd1*) was in the top four differentially expressed contigs for at least one of the analyses in the three R
271 packages implemented (edgeR, DESeq and baySeq).

272

273 3.3 qPCR verification

274 Of the eleven candidates identified from RNA-Seq differential expression analysis as up-regulated
275 (**Table 2**), nine were verified using qPCR with samples from new biological replicates (*n*=3) exposed to
276 the same treatments. Of the nine genes, three were statistically significantly up-regulated in cold-
277 exposed individuals (**Figure 3**). These were *prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1* (*P4HA1*, *P*-value =
278 0.0327), *snd1* (*P*-value = 0.0065) and *cuticular protein analogous to peritrophins 3-D2* (*Cpap3-d2*, *P*-

279 value = 0.0469). None of the eight cold-responsive genes (**Table 3**) selected *a priori* from the literature
280 were significantly differentially expressed (**Figure 3**).

281

282 **4. Discussion**

283

284 This study exploits recent developments in HTS and *de novo* transcriptomics to investigate the genetic
285 basis of cold tolerance in an alpine New Zealand stick insect. This is the first study to apply RNA-Seq
286 specifically to cold-hardy insects and their response to mild cold exposure. No prior assumption or
287 genomic information was required to discover three novel cold-responsive genes.

288 We identified three robust candidate genes that are up-regulated in response to a mild cold shock in
289 *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2*. These genes are *snd1*, *P4HA1* and *Cpap3-d2* and are associated with
290 transcription, amino acid metabolism and cuticular organisation, respectively. As such, these new
291 candidates differ in function from those identified in other insect species. The low number of genes
292 identified in our study may be due to the response by gene expression response to cold being slow,
293 although in *Drosophila* the window of acute gene expression response to cold-shock starts to decline
294 after three hours (Sinclair et al., 2007). We note that few genes with acute responses to cold exposure
295 have been identified in *Drosophila* (Qin et al., 2005), and that longer recovery leads to the up-regulation
296 of different gene sets in that species (Zhang et al., 2011). The limited biological replication (n = 2) for
297 the RNA-Seq and differential expression analysis likely led to a high false discovery rate. However, the
298 conservative two-tier approach of RNA-Seq coupled with subsequent qPCR validation corrects for Type
299 1 error and allows confidence in the three cold-responsive genes we identified. However, it is likely
300 that with further power and a wider range of treatment and recovery conditions, it will be possible to
301 identify additional cold-responsive genes in this species.

302 No orthologues selected *a priori* from the literature showed differential expression in response to cold
303 exposure in *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2*. However, because of the small number of transcriptomic studies
304 outside of Diptera, coupled with few studies using cold-hardy species, we are unable to determine
305 whether this difference is because hemimetabolous insects and Diptera have different responses to
306 cold, or due to 0 °C being a relatively mild cold stress for an alpine insect. Data loggers (A.B. Dennis &
307 T.R. Buckley, unpublished observations) indicate that temperatures in the microhabitat are quite stable
308 near 0 °C beneath snow pack and that (even in the summer) 0 °C is a temperature experienced during a
309 cold night, suggesting that 0 °C is ecologically-relevant for this species. We are also unable to
310 determine whether the observed changes indicate a repair response to damage, or a preparatory
311 response associated with acclimation to cold. As the RNA-Seq approach becomes more widely
312 adopted, it will be possible to compare cold responses in a phylogenetic context, helping to address
313 some of these questions.

314

315 *4.1 Cold-responsive genes*

316 The *snd1* gene encodes a complex, six-domain, multifunctional protein with many biological functions
317 (Ying and Chen, 2012; Sundstrom *et al.*, 2009). *Snd1* is cleaved by caspase-3-like enzymes in apoptosis
318 (Sundstrom *et al.*, 2009). Rapid cold-hardening in *Drosophila* reduces apoptosis and lowers caspase-3-
319 like protein levels (Yi *et al.*, 2007), and we speculate that elevated expression of *snd1* in cold-shocked
320 *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* may be associated with this process. In other organisms the *snd1* protein is also
321 associated with the accumulation of mRNA into stress granules (Gao *et al.*, 2010; Weissbach and
322 Scadden, 2012) and the cleavage of double-stranded RNA (Caudy *et al.*, 2003). Thus, it is possible that
323 *snd1* expression is part of a general stress response in *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2*, rather than being
324 specifically cold-related. Further experiments monitoring the response of *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* to other
325 abiotic stresses could identify if up-regulation of *snd1* is cold-specific.

326 *PAHA1* encodes an oxidoreductase enzyme catalysing the hydroxylation of proline to hydroxyproline
327 during the maturation of collagen, and possibly other proteins (Mann *et al.*, 1996; Shoulders and
328 Raines, 2009; Gorres and Raines, 2010). The *PAHA1* enzyme also modifies proline residues of incorrectly
329 folded collagen after stress in human cells (Vonk *et al.*, 2010). Thus, increased expression of the *PAHA1*
330 gene in *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* might be associated with stabilisation or the refolding of proteins that
331 were denatured by the cold-shock treatment, or to stabilise structural peptides in anticipation of future
332 cold exposures.

333 The final robust candidate we identified was *Cpap3-d2*, which has been previously identified in genome
334 sequences of *Tribolium castaneum*, *Nasonia vitipennis* and *Acyrtosiphon pisum* (Jasrapuria *et al.*,
335 2010). *Cpap3-d2* is associated with the epidermal cuticle of *T. castaneum*, and different *Cpap*
336 transcripts appear to affect the rigidity of the cuticle in the elytra and hindwings (Jasrapuria *et al.*, 2010;
337 Dittmer *et al.*, 2011). Increased expression of cuticular proteins has been recorded in cold-shocked and
338 diapausing *D. melanogaster* (Qin *et al.*, 2005, Baker and Russell, 2009), after cold exposure in *Aphidius*
339 *colemanni* (Colinet *et al.* 2007) and in overwintering *Cucujus clavipes puniceus* larvae (Carrasco *et al.*,
340 2011). The changes in the expression of cuticular proteins with cold shock are currently unexplained,
341 and we suggest that establishing how the cuticle structure is modified by cold shock, whether *Cpap3-d2*
342 is responsible for these changes, and how this contributes to overall cold tolerance maybe profitable
343 avenues for future research.

344

345 **5 Conclusion**

346

347 *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* regularly experiences sub-zero temperatures in the alpine environment. This
348 study is the first to apply high-throughput sequencing and *de novo* transcriptome alignment to

349 specifically address the response of a cold-hardy insect species to low temperature. This method clearly
 350 offers promise for future studies of cold tolerance in non-model organisms. In the current study RNA-
 351 Seq was a more successful approach than screening for *a priori* genes from other species. This allowed
 352 us to identify three *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 genes that responded to cold-shock, but had not been
 353 identified as cold-responsive in other insects.

354

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508 Figures

- 509
- 510 **Figure 1:** Species distribution of the top BLASTx matches for each annotated contig from the *de novo*
 511 assembled *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* transcriptome. Out of the 5,235 contigs, 2,060 (39 %) matched entries
 512 in the non redundant protein (nr) database using Blast2GO (E-value cut-off < 1⁻¹⁰).
- 513
- 514 **Figure 2:** Volcano plot showing relative mRNA abundances of each contig in the *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2*
 515 transcriptome between non cold-treated Individuals and those exposed to 0 °C for one hour, with a
 516 further hour recovery (*n* = 2). Differential expression analysis was performed with an exact test
 517 approach using edgeR with common dispersion. Grey points = contigs with *P*-value > 0.05, black points
 518 = contigs with *P*-value < 0.05. Shaded boxes represent areas with a significant *P*-value and at least a two-
 519 fold change in mRNA abundance as a result of treatment. Contigs where expression is not recorded in
 520 one of the treatments, resulting in an infinite fold change, are not plotted. The three contigs verified as
 521 differentially expressed using qPCR are labelled: prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1 (*P4HA1*),
 522 staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1 (*snd1*) and a cuticular protein analogous to
 523 peritrophins 3-D2 (*Cpap3-d2*).

524

525 **Figure 3:** Boxplots showing relative mRNA abundance from qPCR for each gene between non cold-
526 treated (white box plots) *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 individuals and those exposed to 0 °C for one hour, with
527 a further hour recovery (grey box plot) ($n = 3$). Boxplot pairs on a grey background represent the
528 reference genes used for normalisation of abundances between treatments. Boxplots on white
529 background in top panel depict differentially expressed genes identified from RNA-Seq data (**Table 2**).
530 Boxplots on white background in bottom panel shows *a priori* genes identified in previous studies
531 (**Table 3**). * = samples with significant t-test P -values (< 0.05) from natural log transformed relative
532 abundance values. Dark line indicates median, box represents 25th and 75th percentile with whiskers
533 representing maximum and minimum values.
534

535 **Table 1:** The number of raw 454 sequences obtained for each *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 cDNA library, its
 536 treatment, and the percentage used in the final *de novo* transcriptome alignment. Raw data was
 537 submitted to the National Centre for Biotechnology and Information (NCBI) with Sequence Read
 538 Archive (SRA) submission number [SRA057228](#).

539

Sample	Treatment	# Sequences	# Sequences in alignment
MMT016	Cold-shock	101,379	79,382 (78.3%)
MMT017	Cold-shock	107,242	81,039 (75.6%)
MMT018	Control	160,584	124,300 (77.4%)
MMT019	Control	154,915	118,845 (76.8%)
MMT086	Control	44,480	68,779 (82.8%)
MMT0135	Cold-shock	38,632	
	Total:	607,232	472345 (77.8%)

540

541

542 **Table 2:** Differential expression analysis results for the top ranked up-regulated genes in response to
 543 cold-shock from *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2 RNA-Seq data. The relative mRNA abundances between
 544 individuals exposed to 0 °C for one hour, with a further hour recovery, were compared to non cold-
 545 treated individuals ($n = 2$). Contigs were ranked by P -value/Likelihood depending on which analysis was
 546 used, boxes shaded grey are non-significant results. Three exact test approaches (edgeR with common
 547 dispersion, edgeR with tagwise dispersion and DESeq) and two Bayesian methods (baySeq with and
 548 without contig length) were performed. All top four ranked contigs for each analysis shown were
 549 selected for validation using qPCR ($n = 11$ due to redundancy between results).

550

Contig	Results	edgeR (common dispersion)	edgeR (tagwise dispersion)	DESeq	baySeq (without length)	baySeq (with length)
<i>snd1</i>	Rank	22	1	1	859	2
	Result	4.98E-03	3.08E-04	5.37E-03	0.066	0.816
<i>C-01744</i>	Rank	37	30	29	3**	33
	Result	1.68E-02	1.87E-02	1.53E-01	0.715	0.517
<i>Cpap3-d2</i>	Rank	46	4	21	1	4**
	Result	1.90E-02	3.88E-03	1.10E-01	0.815	0.774
<i>P4HA1</i>	Rank	47	7	24	2	1
	Result	2.19E-02	5.12E-03	1.23E-01	0.803	0.871
<i>Copia</i>	Rank	9	23	4	28	47
	Result	2.47E-03	1.43E-02	3.65E-02	0.463	0.617
<i>cadn*</i>	Rank	1	2	2	186	77
	Result	1.72E-04	7.79E-04	6.49E-03	0.207	0.352
<i>csde1</i>	Rank	21	3	8	10	6
	Result	4.74E-03	3.48E-03	5.22E-02	0.602	0.729
<i>C-04525</i>	Rank	29	22	20	4**	3**
	Result	7.94E-03	1.27E-02	1.03E-01	0.709	0.780
<i>SF3a</i>	Rank	2	5	3	551	55
	Result	5.12E-04	3.88E-03	1.57E-02	0.109	0.422
<i>restin</i>	Rank	3	11	7	515	37
	Result	2.52E-02	8.73E-03	4.50E-02	0.115	0.485
<i>thil*</i>	Rank	4	6	6	95	23
	Result	1.80E-03	4.88E-03	4.46E-02	0.295	0.585

551

552 Full contig BLAST annotations are: *snd1* = staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1, *C-01744* = non annotated
 553 contig 01744, *Cpap3-d2* = Cuticular protein analogous to peritrophins 3-D3, *P4HA1* = Prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1,
 554 *Copia* = Copia protein, *cadn* = neural cadherin, *csde1* = cold shock domain-containing protein e1, *C-04525* = non annotated
 555 contig 04525, *SF3a* = Spliceosome associated protein and *restin* = restin. Rank of contig out of: 1,186 for edgeR with common
 556 dispersion, 1,188 for edgeR with tagwise dispersion, 1,292 for DESeq and 1,145 for both baySeq analyses. Results show P -value
 557 for edgeR & DESeq, likelihood for baySeq. * = contig not used in subsequent qPCR analysis due to non-specific amplification of
 558 target DNA. ** = in the top four up-regulated genes for baySeq analyses, but the robust approach means the likelihood value is
 559 non-significant.

560 **Table 3:** The eight *a priori* candidate genes for qPCR analysis present in the *Micrarchus* nov. sp. 2
 561 transcriptome that have been previously identified in low temperature studies as having a role in cold
 562 tolerance. All genes/proteins were shown to be up-regulated in response to low temperature except for
 563 *glna2* (gene product up-regulated) and *pgi* (genotype, not regulation, affects cold stress resistance).

Gene		Species
<i>atpa</i>	ATP synthase subunit alpha	<i>Sarcophaga crassipalpis</i> (Li and Denlinger, 2008)
<i>glna2</i>	glutamine synthetase 2	<i>S. crassipalpis</i> (Michaud and Denlinger, 2007)
<i>hsp70</i>	heat shock protein 70	<i>Aphidius colemani</i> (Colinet <i>et al.</i> , 2007)
<i>hsp90</i>	heat shock protein 90	<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> (Qin <i>et al.</i> , 2005)
<i>NDUFA</i>	NADH: ubiquinone dehydrogenase	<i>Oryza sativa</i> * (Yan <i>et al.</i> , 2006)
<i>pgi</i>	phosphoglucose isomerase	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i> (Kallioniemi and Hanski, 2011), <i>Lycaena tityrus</i> (Karl <i>et al.</i> , 2008), <i>Chrysomela aeneicollis</i> (Rank <i>et al.</i> , 2007)
<i>dcam</i>	S-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase proenzyme	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> * (Rowland <i>et al.</i> , 2008)
<i>sahha</i>	S-adenosyl-l-homocysteine hydrolase a	<i>Homo sapiens</i> * (Zieger <i>et al.</i> , 2011)

564

565 * = are genes from species that are not insects. These genes were selected for qPCR analysis as they were also in the top 10 %
 566 of up-regulated contigs in the RNA-Seq data (ranked by *P*-value from the edgeR with tagwise dispersion)

567

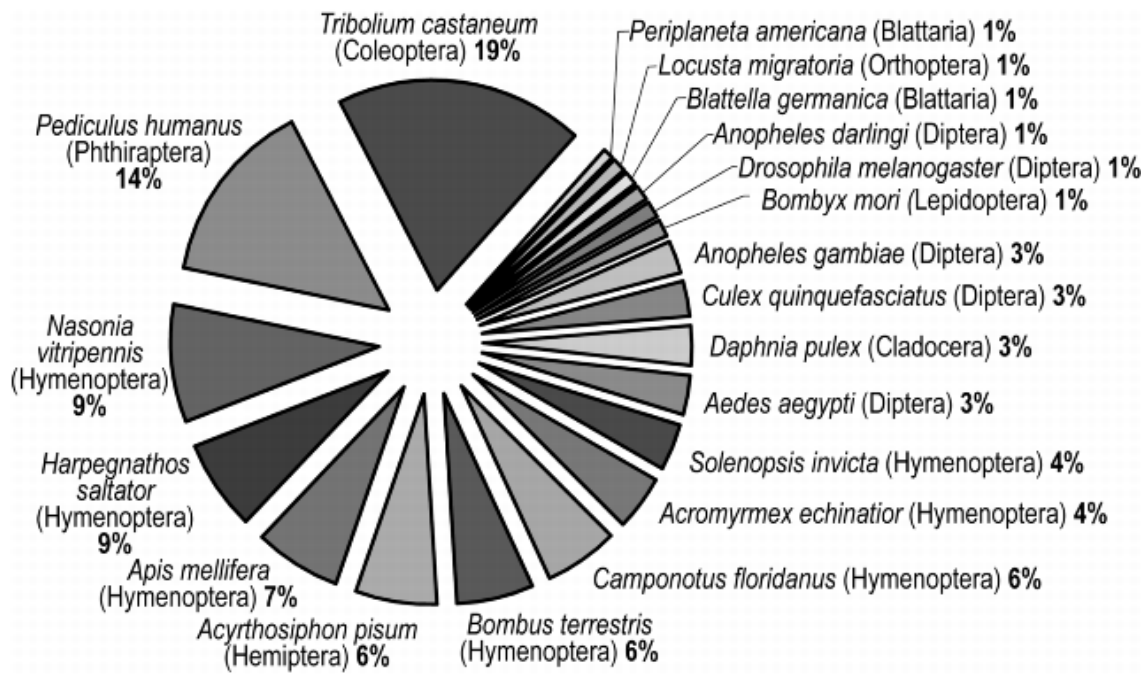


Figure 1

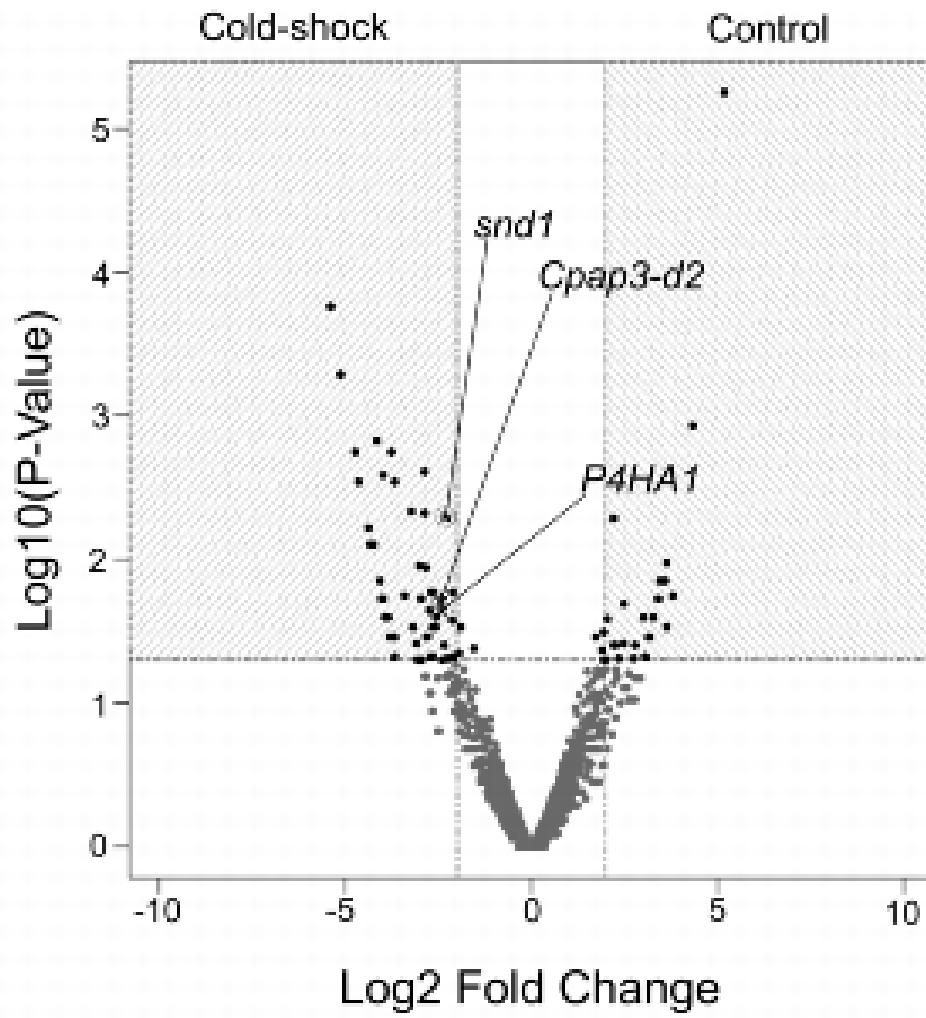


Figure 2

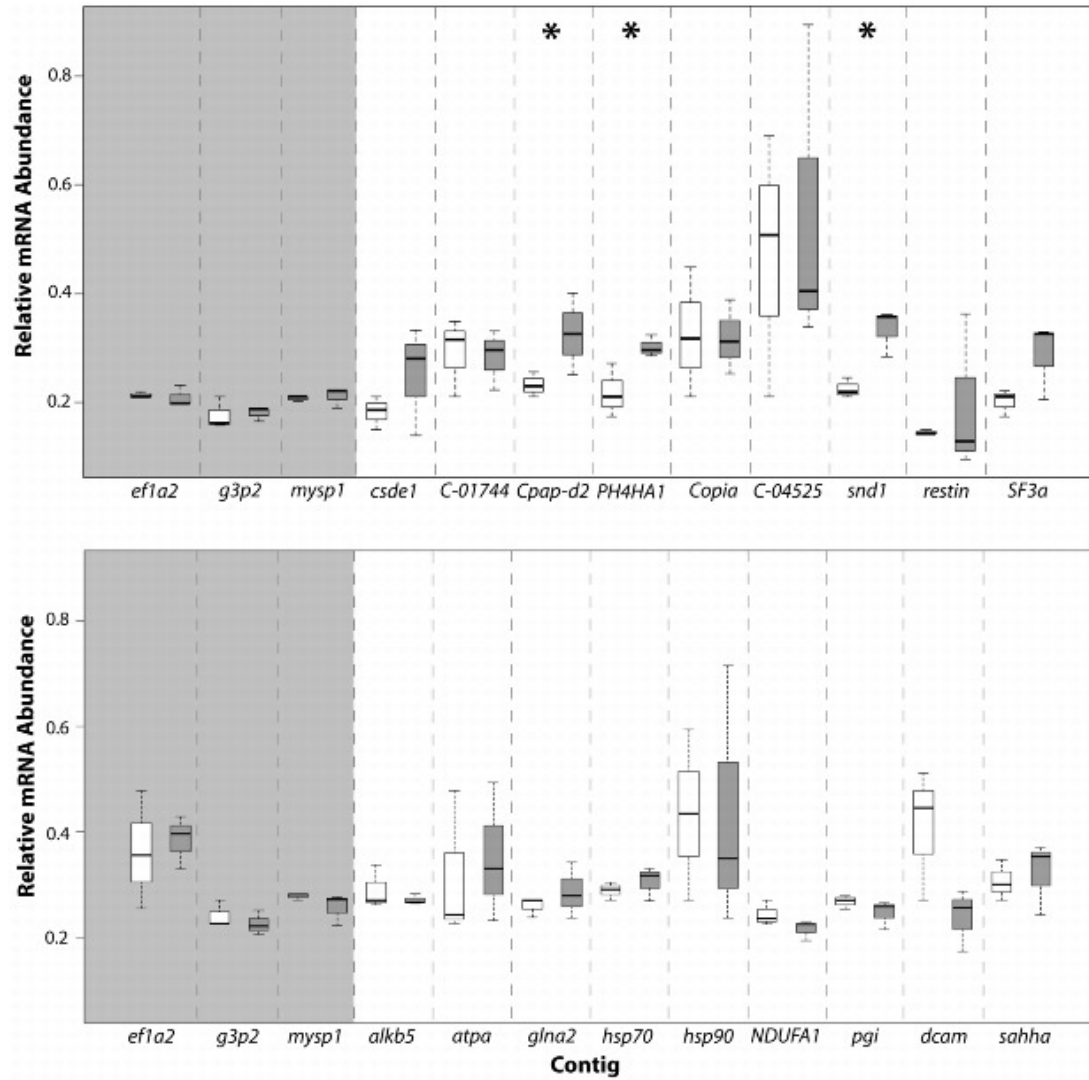


Figure 3

Supplementary material A -Primer sequences for RT-qPCR. Annotations from BLASTx against

SwissProt database unless otherwise stated.

Annotation (e-value < 1 ⁻¹⁰)	Primer	Sequence (5' - 3')
atp synthase subunit alpha (<i>atpa</i>)	atpa_F1 atpa_R1	TCGAGCGCGAGTTCCTCCAA TTGCCCTCCTTCGCGATGCT
Paramyosin long form (<i>myp1</i>)	myp1_F1 myp1_R1	TGCTTGGCGCGGATAAGCGA AGGCAGCTACAAGAACAGGAGGGC
glutamine synthetase 2 cytoplasmic (<i>glna2</i>)	glna2_F1 glna2_R1	TCTTCGCGCATCGCCTTGGT TCGTGGTGACCTTCGACCCCAA
s-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase proenzyme (<i>dcam</i>)	dcam_F1 dcam_R1	CACGTTTGACCTGTTTCATACCAGCG ACCAATGAGAGGGACAGCAAGAACA
heat shock protein 90 (<i>hsp90</i>)	hsp90_F1 hsp90_R1	CATGCGGCCAGGATATACCAGCA AGCATCCTCGCCTTCGCTT
staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1 (<i>snd1</i>)	snd1_F1 snd1_R1	TCGCAAAAGCTCGCACCGCT TGTGCCCTCTCCCTTCAGGCT
heat shock protein 70 (<i>hsp70</i>)	hsp70_F1 hsp70_R1	GGGGATGGTGGTGTTCGCTTT GCCATCTTGGCTGGCGACAAGT
elongation factor 1-alpha 2 (<i>ef1a2</i>)	ef1a2_F1 ef1a2_R1	TCTCTGCCCTGCCACTGTCAT ACCGGCCTTTCCTGCGAAACT
Unannotated contig01744 (C-01744)	C-01744_F1 C-01744_R1	TGCGAAGACAAGCTTTAGAGACCGT ACCCTCTTAAGGACGAGCGCCA
s-adenosyl-L-homocysteine hydrolase a (<i>sahha</i>)	sahha_F1 sahha_R1	GCTGCCTGCAGCGCATTTATGG TGTTGGCGGAAAGGTGGCA
glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase 2 (<i>g3p2</i>)	g3p2_F1 g3p2_R1	ACCGTCCCTCCACAACCTTGCCA TGGCACCACTTGCCAAGGTCA
Unannotated contig01822 (C-01822)	C-01822_F1 C-01822_R1	AGGTGAAGCCGAAAGGTTGGCA AGGACTGCGAAATCGTCCTCC
Phosphoglucose isomerase (<i>pgi</i>)	pgi_F1 pgi_R1	ACTACGCCACAGGCCCATAGT TGGTGGATCAGCTGGTAGAAGGC
Unannotated contig02740 (C-02740)	C-02740_F1 C-02740_R1	AGATGGTTACACATGCCACACCCAA ACAGGCAAGGGTGTGTTGCCA
Unannotated contig02855 (C-02855)	C-02855_F1 C-02855_R1	AGCCTTGACACCCTCTTCCAAC TGAAGACTGCGGGTGAGCTGT
probable alpha-ketoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase (<i>alkb5</i>)	alkb5_F1 alkb5_R1	TCGTTTCGACAGTTGCGACCCA TGACCGGGCCCTCTTAGAAACA

cold shock domain-containing protein e1 (<i>csde1</i>)	csde1_F1 csde1_R1	TTGTCGCCAGAACGCAGGGT AACCGCGGGGAGTGCTTCTT
Unannotated contig04525 (<i>C-04525</i>)	C-04525_F1 C-04525_R1	TGCTTTGGAGGCGGGCTTGT CGGCAACAGCGAAGTGCTGA
nadh: ubiquinone dehydrogenase (BLAST x / <i>nr</i>) (<i>NDUFA1</i>)	NDUFA1_F1 NDUFA1_R1	TGTCTTGGGAGTTGCTTTGAAGTGG GGACACGGTGGTACTGTGTTTGACA
Tribolium castaneum spliceosome associated protein mrna (BLAST n / <i>nr</i>) (<i>SF3a</i>)	SF3a_F1 SF3a_R1	GGCTGGCCAAAGAAGCCAAGGA TTGCTGCAGTTGGCGTGGCT
restin (<i>restin</i>)	restin_F1 restin_R1	TCCACCAGCCTCTGCAAGTCCT TGACGCGTGCTGCCAGTCAA

Supplementary material - File B – Contigs from *Micrarchus nov. sp. 2* transcriptome used for qPCR analysis

	Selected ¹	Contig Length (bp)	BLASTx against nr database	E-Value	BLASTn against nr database	E-Value	BLASTx against SwissProt database	E-Value	MMT16 (cold-shock) Counts ²	MMT17 (cold-shock) Counts ²	MMT18 (control) Counts ²	MMT19 (control) Counts ²	qPCR one-tailed t-test P-value
<i>P4HA1</i>	DE	755	Prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1 [Acromyrmex echinator]	3.21E-120	PREDICTED: Nasonia vitripennis prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-2-like (LOC100116138), mRNA	3.45E-105	Prolyl 4-hydroxylase subunit alpha-1; Short=4-PH alpha-1; AltName: Full=Procollagen-proline,2-oxoglutarate-4-dioxygenase subunit alpha-1	5.78E-91	17	14	2	3	3.27E-02
<i>snd1</i>	DE	2383	ebna2 binding protein p100	0.0E+00	stronglyocentrotus purpuratus staphylococcal nuclease domain containing 1 mrna	1.5E-61	snd1_ponab ame: full=staphylococcal nuclease domain-containing protein 1 ame: full=100 kda coactivator ame: full=p100 co-activator	0.0E+00	93	33	12	13	6.51E-03
<i>C-04525</i>	DE	441	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	9	8	1	0	3.65E-01
<i>Cpap3-d2</i>	DE	1333	Nasonia vitripennis cuticular protein analogous to peritrophins 3-D2 (Cpap3-d2), mRNA	1.13E-160	cuticular protein analogous to peritrophins 3-D2 precursor [Tribolium castaneum]	6.68E-120	---NA---	---NA---	17	15	3	2	4.69E-02
<i>csde1</i>	DE	568	cold shock domain-containing protein e1-like isoform 3	1.2E-36	acyrthosiphon pisum cold shock domain-containing protein e1- transcript variant 3 mrna	1.9E-65	csde1_human ame: full=cold shock domain-containing protein e1 ame: full=n-ras upstream gene protein ame: full=protein unr	2.1E-11	30	7	3	2	2.01E-01
<i>Copia</i>	DE	724	hypothetical protein TcasGA2_TC015470 [Tribolium castaneum]	4.34E-72	Medicago truncatula chromosome 8 clone mth2-182o15, complete sequence	4.48E-12	Copia protein; AltName: Full=Gag-int-pol protein; Contains: RecName: Full=Copia VLP protein; Contains: RecName: Full=Copia protease	1.57E-38	43	0	3	2	4.91E-01
<i>C-01744</i>	DE	1461	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	11	10	3	1	4.69E-01
<i>restin</i>	DE	285	restin (reed-steinberg cell-expressed intermediate filament-associated protein)	3.3E-18	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	30	0	2	0	3.83E-01
<i>SF3a</i>	DE	357	---NA---	---NA---	tribolium castaneum spliceosome associated protein mrna	5.2E-13	---NA---	---NA---	0	28	0	1	6.15E-02
<i>cadn</i>	DE	637	cadherin- isoform h	1.7E-39	acyrthosiphon pisum neural-cadherin-like mrna	9.7E-51	cadn_drome ame: full=neural-cadherin ame: full=cadherin-n short=dn-cadherin flags: precursor	2.0E-31	2	33	1	0	NA*
<i>thil</i>							thil_mouse ame: full=acetyl-						

	DE	328	acetoacetyl- thiolase	2.1E-27	tetraodon nigroviridis full-length cdna	8.6E-29	mitochondrial ame: full=acetoacetyl- thiolase flags: precursor	2.5E-25	4	18	0	1	NA*
atpa	<i>a priori</i>	1938	atp synthase subunit mitochondrial	0.0E+00	drosophila erecta gg22793 (dere\gg22793) mrna	0.0E+00	atpa_drome ame: full=atp synthase subunit mitochondrial ame: full=protein bellwether flags: precursor	0.0E+00	66	61	76	61	3.63E-01
glna2	<i>a priori</i>	4702	glutamine synthetase 2 cytoplasmic	5.7E-159	drosophila erecta gg18416 (dere\gg18416) mrna	2.0E-158	glna2_drome ame: full=glutamine synthetase 2 cytoplasmic ame: full=glutamate--ammonia ligase 2	2.4E-149	70	85	48	48	2.46E-01
dcam	<i>a priori</i>	3811	s-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase proenzyme	4.4E-144	pediculus humanus corporis s-adenosylmethionine mrna	7.4E-49	dcam_drome ame: full=s-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase proenzyme short= etdc short=samdc contains: ame: full=s-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase alpha chain contains: ame: full=s-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase beta chain flags: precursor	1.1E-104	121	140	16	72	5.02E-02
hsp70	<i>a priori</i>	2264	heat shock protein 70	0.0E+00	drosophila melanogaster heat shock protein cognate 4 (hsc70-4) transcript variant mrna	0.0E+00	hsp7d_manse ame: full=heat shock 70 kda protein cognate 4 short=hsc 70-4	0.0E+00	253	294	308	258	2.48E-01
sahha	<i>a priori</i>	1453	s-adenosylhomocysteine hydrolase	0.0E+00	tetraodon nigroviridis full-length cdna	0.0E+00	sahha_xenla ame: full=adenosylhomocysteinease a short= cyase a ame: full=s-adenosyl-l-homocysteine hydrolase a	0.0E+00	27	33	15	10	4.02E-01
pgi	<i>a priori</i>	902	phosphoglucose isomerase	2.4E-175	drosophila sechellia gm20655 (dsec\gm20655) mrna	1.7E-163	g6pi_droya ame: full=glucose-6-phosphate isomerase short=gpi ame: full=phosphoglucose isomerase short=pgi ame: full=phosphohexose isomerase short=phi	1.7E-168	3	7	2	4	1.47E-01
NDUFA1	<i>a priori</i>	428	nadh:ubiquinone dehydrogenase	1.4E-33	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	---NA---	13	7	3	1	9.65E-02
hsp90	<i>a priori</i>	2608	heat shock protein 90	0.0E+00	locusta migratoria heat shock protein 90 complete cds	0.0E+00	hs90b_horse ame: full=heat shock protein hsp 90-beta	0.0E+00	62	47	43	43	4.47E-01
alkb5	Counts	704	probable alpha-ketoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase abh5	7.9E-55	xenopus laevis alkylation repair homolog 5 mrna	9.5E-39	alkb5_xenla ame: full=probable alpha-ketoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase abh5 ame: full=alkylated dna repair protein alkb homolog 5	1.4E-53	8	9	2	1	2.50E-01
myp1	Reference	3708	long form-like	0.0E+00	nasonia vitripennis long	0.0E+00	myp1_drome ame: full=	0.0E+00	1275	1142	1477	1074	NA

					form-like mrna		long form						
ef1a2	Reference	1989	elongation factor 1-alpha	0.0E+00	drosophila melanogaster elongation factor 1alpha48d transcript variant mrna	0.0E+00	ef1a2_drome ame: full=elongation factor 1-alpha 2 short=ef-1-alpha-2	0.0E+00	327	333	350	369	NA
g3p2	Reference	1433	glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase	0.0E+00	oncometopia nigricans glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase complete cds	0.0E+00	g3p2_drome ame: full=glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase 2 ame: full=glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase ii short=gapdh ii	0.0E+00	86	70	87	83	NA

Selected¹ = Selected for qPCR from the differential expression analysis (DE), from the literature (*a priori*) or the by eye from the raw counts (Counts)

Counts² = edgeR quantile corrected counts used for differential expression analysis

* = not use for qPCR analysis due to non-specific amplification of target DNA based on melt curve s

