

Life-History Evolution and the Genetics of Fitness Components in *Drosophila melanogaster*

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ABSTRACT Life-history traits or “fitness components”—such as age and size at maturity, fecundity and fertility, age-specific rates of survival, and life span—are the major phenotypic determinants of Darwinian fitness. Analyzing the evolution and genetics of these phenotypic targets of selection is central to our understanding of adaptation. Due to its simple and rapid life cycle, cosmopolitan distribution, ease of maintenance in the laboratory, well-understood evolutionary genetics, and its versatile genetic toolbox, the “vinegar fly” *Drosophila melanogaster* is one of the most powerful, experimentally tractable model systems for studying “life-history evolution.” Here, I review what has been learned about the evolution and genetics of life-history variation in *D. melanogaster* by drawing on numerous sources spanning population and quantitative genetics, genomics, experimental evolution, evolutionary ecology, and physiology. This body of work has contributed greatly to our knowledge of several fundamental problems in evolutionary biology, including the amount and maintenance of genetic variation, the evolution of body size, clines and climate adaptation, the evolution of senescence, phenotypic plasticity, the nature of life-history trade-offs, and so forth. While major progress has been made, important facets of these and other questions remain open, and the *D. melanogaster* system will undoubtedly continue to deliver key insights into central issues of life-history evolution and the genetics of adaptation.

KEYWORDS FlyBook; life-history evolution; fitness components; fitness; variation; selection; adaptation; trade-offs; plasticity

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ADAPTATION by natural selection is based on heritable variation in Darwinian fitness, *i.e.*, genetic and phenotypic variation in net fitness (Lewontin 1974; Roff 1992, 2002; Stearns 1992; Charlesworth 1994, 2013). Net fitness can be approximated by the expected lifetime reproductive success of a genotype (Charlesworth 1994), but this requires information on, for example, lifetime fecundity and fertility, and can thus be difficult to estimate in many organisms (Clutton-Brock 1988; Fowler *et al.* 1997; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000). Studies of the evolution and genetics of Darwinian fitness have therefore mostly relied on analyzing life-history traits or fitness components, *i.e.*, phenotypic characters that affect an organism's survival and reproduction, a field called life-history evolution (Cole 1954; Knight and Robertson 1957; Lewontin 1965; Stearns 1976, 1978, 1992, 2000; Charlesworth 1980, 1994, 2003, 2013; Clutton-Brock 1988; Partridge and Harvey 1988; Rose 1991; Roff 1992, 2002; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Houle 2001; Flatt and Heyland 2011; Fabian and Flatt 2012). The analysis of the causes and consequences of genetic and phenotypic variation in life-history traits is central to our understanding of natural selection, and adaptation (Stearns 1976, 1992; Charlesworth 1994).

A life-history trait or fitness component can be technically defined as a phenotypic character for which an increased trait value causes an increase in net fitness when all other traits are being held constant (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000); together, these fitness components determine the multivariate phenotype called fitness (Knight and Robertson 1957; Lande 1982; Lande and Arnold 1983; Charlesworth 1993a). Major life-history traits include, *e.g.*, size at birth, developmental rate, age and size at reproductive maturity, number and size of offspring, age- or size-specific schedules of fecundity and fertility, age- or size-specific schedules of survival, and life span (Knight and Robertson 1957; Stearns 1976, 1992; Roff 1992, 2002). These traits are connected to each other through phenotypic, physiological, and/or genetic correlations, especially so-called trade-offs, *i.e.*, negative correlations between fitness components (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Charlesworth 1990; Roff 1992, 2002; Houle 2001; Zera and Harshman 2001; Flatt 2011; Flatt and Heyland 2011).

While evolutionary ecologists have analyzed life-history evolution predominantly from a phenotypic point of view (Stearns 1976, 1978, 1992, 2000; Roff 1992, 2002), there is also a rich tradition of investigating the quantitative and population genetics of fitness components (Lewontin 1974; Charlesworth 1980, 1994, 2003, 2015; Roff 1992; Stearns 1992; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000). At the theoretical level, this work has led to the development of mathematical models for selection in age-structured populations with overlapping generations (Charlesworth 1980, 1994, 2003), whereas experiments—most of them carried out in *Drosophila melanogaster*—have produced fundamental insights into the origin, amount, and maintenance of genetic variation for fitness-related traits and the genetics of life-history adaptations (Mukai 1964; Prout 1971a,b; Lewontin 1974; Simmons and Crow 1977; Hedrick and Murray 1983; Mackay 1985; Sved 1989; Houle *et al.* 1994b; Latter and Sved 1994; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). Moreover, laboratory studies of large-effect mutants and transgenes have examined the genetic basis of growth, size, reproduction, and life span in several model organisms including *Drosophila* (Tatar 1999, 2000; Clancy *et al.* 2001; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Tatar *et al.* 2001a, 2003; Partridge and Gems 2002; Oldham and Hafen 2003; Flatt *et al.* 2005; Partridge *et al.* 2005a; Edgar 2006; Mirth and Riddiford 2007; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Flatt and Heyland 2011).

Here, I review what has been learned about the genetics and evolution of life-history traits in the vinegar fly *D. melanogaster* (Figure 1). Due to its rapid generation time, small size, high fertility, and short life; cosmopolitan distribution; ease of sampling, laboratory breeding, and manipulation; well-understood development and physiology; and its versatile genetic toolbox [*e.g.*, balancer chromosomes, classical mutants, transgenes, RNA interference (RNAi), and clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)/Cas9], this species has proved to be one of the most powerful models for investigating the genetics and other aspects of life-history evolution and adaptation.



Figure 1 The vinegar fly (*D. melanogaster*), here depicted sitting on a ripe banana in a kitchen, is a human commensal (Lachaise *et al.* 1988; Keller 2007; Markow 2015; Mansourian *et al.* 2018) and represents the probably most intensely studied model organism, having first been bred in the laboratory in the early 1900s (Köhler 1994; Mohr 2018). As reviewed here, this holometabolous insect has been widely used in studies of life-history evolution, genetics of fitness components, correlated responses to selection and trade-offs, and the evolution of aging. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

Consequently, the *D. melanogaster* system has been widely used to address many fundamental questions in evolutionary biology, including for example:

- What is the mutation rate for fitness-related traits and for total fitness?
- How much genetic variation is there for fitness components?
- What evolutionary processes maintain variation in fitness components?
- Which loci and polymorphisms underpin variation in fitness components?
- What are the causes of trade-offs between fitness components?
- Given trade-offs between growth, survival, and reproduction, how does selection optimize overall life history (the so-called “general life-history” or “reproductive effort” problem)?
- How does aging (senescence) evolve?
- What are the patterns of life-history plasticity and genotype-by-environment interactions for fitness-related traits?

The long history of the *D. melanogaster* model, and its sophisticated experimental techniques, mean that these and other major questions have been examined in more detail than in most other organisms. Consequently, a vast amount of information on the genetics and evolution of fitness components in *D. melanogaster* is available; my aim here is to provide a summary and point of entry into this large body of literature.

Overview of *D. melanogaster* Life History

For natural selection to occur two conditions—one phenotypic and one genetic—must be fulfilled (Stearns 1992): the phenotypic condition is that individuals must vary in reproductive success (*i.e.*, fitness, as determined by the phenotypic

components of fitness = life-history traits); the genetic condition is that there must be heritable variation for the trait under selection and that the trait is correlated with reproductive success (Robertson 1966). Before discussing the genetics of fitness components, I summarize some general aspects of the life cycle and phenotypic life history of *D. melanogaster*.

The following description is mainly based on Ashburner *et al.* (2005); additional references are given where appropriate. For more details see Ashburner *et al.* (2005) on the general biology, life cycle, and development of *D. melanogaster*; Parsons (1975), Roff (1992), Prasad and Joshi (2003), and David *et al.* (2004) on life history; Parsons (1975), Powell (1997), David *et al.* (2004), Markow and O’Grady (2008), Markow (2015), and Mansourian *et al.* (2018) on aspects of the natural history and ecology; and Lachaise *et al.* (1988) and Keller (2007) on the evolutionary history and biogeography of *D. melanogaster*.

The egg-to-adult life cycle

The vinegar fly *D. melanogaster* is a human commensal (Figure 1) of eastern sub-Saharan African origin (Lachaise *et al.* 1988; Keller 2007); it migrated out of Africa ~12,000–19,000 years ago and subsequently became cosmopolitan (Li and Stephan 2006; Laurent *et al.* 2011; Duchon *et al.* 2013). It is a holometabolous insect that undergoes a complete metamorphosis from its larval form to its adult (imago) state (Figure 2). Adults breed on and larvae develop in rotten, fermenting fruit (Lachaise *et al.* 1988; Keller 2007), with yeasts that grow on the fruit being nutritionally critical for proper larval development (Sang 1978; Begon 1982). *D. melanogaster* is commonly referred to as a (or the) “fruit fly”; however, this is not entirely accurate since it does not directly feed on fruits (unlike flies of the family Tephritidae), but rather on microbes (yeasts and bacteria) associated with them. The name vinegar fly is derived from the fact that *D. melanogaster* is strongly attracted to acetic acid, the compound that gives vinegar its pungent smell, and which accumulates in fermenting fruits (Jouandet and Gallio 2015). Interestingly, recent work suggests that marula fruit, an important human staple food in the ancestral African range of *D. melanogaster*, might be the ancestral host and might have driven the close commensalism between flies and humans (Mansourian *et al.* 2018; also *cf.* Lachaise *et al.* 1988).

Development from the egg to the adult takes ~9–10 days under optimal standard conditions in the laboratory (~25°, 60% humidity, nutritious food, and no overcrowding) (Figure 2). There can be considerable variation in egg-to-adult development time within large cohorts of flies or among wild-type strains, in the range of ~8–16 days after egg laying (AEL). The adult eclosion peak typically occurs ~10–11 days AEL, and by 15–16 days AEL > 99% of the viable flies have eclosed (Welbergen and Sokolowski 1994; Flatt 2004a; Flatt and Kawecki 2007). As mentioned above, females lay eggs on decaying fruit in the wild or on food medium in the laboratory; larvae hatch ~22–24 hr AEL

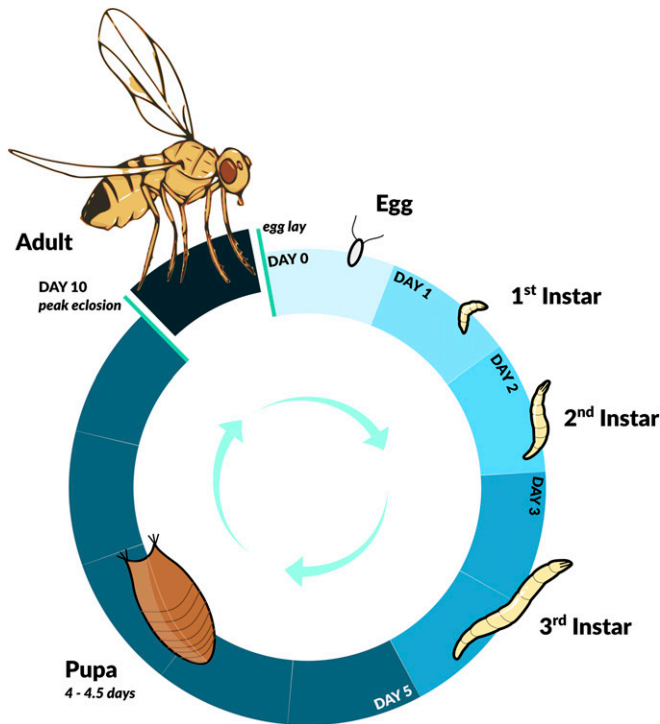


Figure 2 The preadult life cycle of *D. melanogaster*. At 25° the developmental cycle, from the fertilized egg to the adult fly (imago), proceeds through three larval instar stages and one pupal stage, and takes ~10 days. For a depiction of the adult part of the life cycle see Figure 3. See main text for further details. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

(Markow *et al.* 2009). The proportion of eggs that produce larvae (hatchability) is ~90% at the beginning of life but then decreases with age (David *et al.* 1974, 1975; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a). The larvae go through three larval stages (instars; L1–L3) in ~4 days (L1 and L2: 24 hr, and L3: 48 hr) (Bakker 1959) (Figure 2). At the L1 stage larvae feed on the surface, whereas upon molting to the L2 stage the larvae burrow into the food. Approximately 5 days AEL, the larvae stop feeding, leave the food, and begin to wander around in search of an optimal site for pupariation. The pupal period, *i.e.*, the time from pupariation to adult eclosion, lasts ~4–4.5 days. The proportion of egg-to-adult survival (“viability”) is often ~70–80% (Welbergen and Sokolowski 1994; Zwaan *et al.* 1995a; Gasser *et al.* 2000; Flatt 2004a; Flatt and Kawecki 2007).

For reviews of the physiology of growth and development, the attainment of “critical size,” and the genetics of size control, which are not discussed here, see Oldham and Hafen (2003), Prasad and Joshi (2003), Edgar (2006), Mirth and Riddiford (2007), Mirth and Shingleton (2012), and Ghosh *et al.* (2013), and references therein.

The adult life history

Upon eclosion, females are sexually unreceptive for ~8–12 hr; they reach sexual maturity within 1–4 (typically 3–4) days after eclosion, while males become mature ~2 days posteclosion

(Pitnick *et al.* 1995; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a) (Figure 3). Female and male size at maturity (using thorax length as a size proxy) is ~0.9–1.15 and ~0.85–0.95 mm, respectively (the total body length is ~2–3 mm) (Robertson and Reeve 1952; David *et al.* 1977; Roff 1981; Telonis-Scott *et al.* 2005; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014); body size depends positively on development time (Alpatov 1929; Robertson 1960a).

Parentage analyses show that *D. melanogaster* females in natural populations typically mate with several males, even though the last male has the largest share of paternity (“last male sperm precedence”) (*e.g.*, Giardina *et al.* 2017; Laturney *et al.* 2018; and references therein). Giardina *et al.* (2017) analyzed mating rates in a wild population and inferred that female flies mate a bit less than once per day, and that mating takes place in the early morning or late afternoon. For reviews of courtship and mating behavior see Spieth (1974) and Greenspan and Ferveur (2000).

Females can lay up to ~100 eggs per day during peak fecundity, which is typically reached between ~3 and 5 days after eclosion, and might produce ~1000–3000 eggs in a lifetime (Shapiro 1932; Gowen and Johnson 1946; McMillan *et al.* 1970a,b; David *et al.* 1974; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a). Age-specific and lifetime fecundity can be highly variable among individual females, laboratory strains, or wild populations measured in the laboratory (Bergland *et al.* 2012; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a,b; Durham *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015). Under optimal, sheltered laboratory conditions lifetime reproductive success (total number of progeny surviving to adulthood) can be ~500–1500 offspring (Partridge *et al.* 1986; Partridge 1988; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a; Nguyen and Moehring 2015); in females, peak fecundity is often highly correlated with lifetime fecundity (Gowen and Johnson 1946; but *cf.* Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a). For example, the average number of offspring produced by females has been found to be in the order of ~600 (mean: 615; range 0–1455) and 1700 (mean: 1699; range: 426–3198) for offspring produced by males (*cf.* Partridge *et al.* 1986; Partridge 1988). These numbers likely represent upper bounds and are probably markedly different from the situation in the field, *e.g.*, because of environmental fluctuations (*e.g.*, in food availability), environmentally imposed (“extrinsic”) mortality, and the presumably short lifetime of flies in the wild (Partridge 1988).

The maximum daily rate of egg production scales positively with the number of ovarioles, structures that represent “production lines” for making eggs within the paired ovaries (David 1970; King 1970; Boulétreau-Merle *et al.* 1982); females have ~15–20 ovarioles per ovary, so ~30–40 in total (King 1970; Wayne *et al.* 1997). Female fecundity increases with body size and, as mentioned above, size increases with development time (Alpatov 1929; Robertson 1960a; David and Bocquet 1974; Roff 1981). For a review of lifetime reproductive success in *D. melanogaster* see Partridge (1988), for behavioral aspects of reproduction see Markow and O’Grady (2005), and for reproductive ecology see Markow and O’Grady (2008).

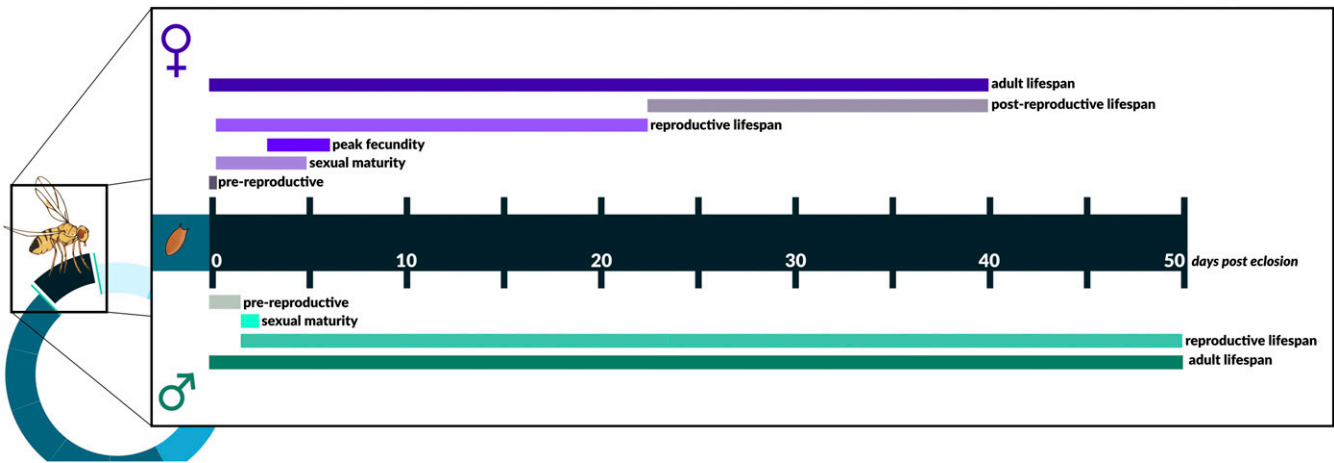


Figure 3 The adult life history of *D. melanogaster*. The figure gives (very approximate) timelines for the major life-history events and stages, including reproductive maturation, reproductive activity, and the overall life span of female and male flies. The durations of the different events and phases are mainly based on values obtained under optimal, protected laboratory conditions; however, estimates can vary widely among studies (*i.e.*, depending on laboratory conditions, populations and strains assayed, etc.) and might therefore not be representative of the situation in the wild. See main text for further details; see Figure 2 for a depiction of the preadult life cycle. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

In the laboratory, the adult life span of vinegar flies is on average ~30–40 days for females and typically ~5–10 days longer for males, but there can be tremendous variation among individuals, lines, populations, and environmental conditions, in the range of ~3–90 days (Pearl and Parker 1924; Rose 1984b; Chippindale *et al.* 1993; Partridge *et al.* 1999a; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a; Durham *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Ivanov *et al.* 2015); some wild-caught strains have a mean life span of > 80 days when measured in the laboratory (Linnen *et al.* 2001) (Figure 3). Unmated females and males live ~10–20 days longer than mated flies (“survival cost of mating”; Partridge *et al.* 1986, 1987; Fowler and Partridge 1989; Partridge and Fowler 1992).

Under protected laboratory conditions flies can also exhibit postreproductive life span (PRLS) (Rogina *et al.* 2007; Mueller *et al.* 2009; Khazaeli and Curtsinger 2010; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a). For example, Klepsatel *et al.* (2013a) tracked the life histories of individual female flies from three wild-caught populations and found that females have a reproductive life span of ~20–22 days, during which they were fertile and produced viable offspring, followed by a postreproductive period of ~14–15 days, during which fertility dropped to zero and which made up ~40% of total life span. Because the duration of this period was not correlated with other fitness components, the authors concluded that PRLS observed under optimal, protected laboratory conditions likely represents a nonadaptive, random “add-on” at the end of reproductive life rather than a correlate of selection on reproductive fitness (Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a; *cf.* Reznick *et al.* 2005).

In the wild, the adult survival of flies is likely dramatically shorter than under optimal laboratory conditions. In a mark-recapture study, Rosewell and Shorrocks (1987) estimated average adult survival rates per day (ϕ) of 0.66 for females and 0.72 for males, giving a mean life expectancy ($-1/\ln[\phi]$)

of ~2.4–3 days. However, sample sizes in this study were small and the robustness of these estimates remains somewhat unclear [also see Boesiger (1968) and Boulétreau (1978)]. Notably, under some environmental conditions adult flies can persist for 6–9 months in the laboratory or under winter conditions in outdoor enclosures (see discussion of “reproductive dormancy” below). These observations indicate that vinegar flies possess the somatic ability to live much longer than usually thought, possibly also in the wild.

Quantitative Variation in Life-History Traits

I have already mentioned the large variation of fitness components in *D. melanogaster*; we now discuss the patterns, causes, and maintenance of this variability. As is true for phenotypic characters in general, phenotypic variation (V_P) for life-history traits is due to genetic differences [genetic variation (V_G)] and/or nongenetic differences [environmental variation (V_E)] among individuals (Fisher 1918; Stearns 1992; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Roff 1997; Lynch and Walsh 1998; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Walsh and Lynch 2018). Because evolution by natural selection requires heritable variation in fitness-related traits among individuals in a population (Robertson 1966; Charlesworth and Edwards 2018; Walsh and Lynch 2018), the genetic component of phenotypic variation is the major driver of life-history evolution (Roff 1992; Stearns 1992). Life-history traits represent so-called quantitative traits, *i.e.*, characters such as body height in humans for which variation is not discrete but continuous (or at least approximately so). This continuous distribution has two causes: the summing over of (i) the effects of many loci of typically small effect (polygeny) and (ii) environmental effects that influence the trait (East 1910; Fisher 1918; Stearns 1992; Falconer and Mackay

1996; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Charlesworth and Edwards 2018).

Below, I first discuss variation and covariation in fitness components with an emphasis on phenotypes (phenotypic variation within and among populations, focusing mainly on clines; correlations and trade-offs between fitness components; and patterns of life-history plasticity and genotype-by-environment interactions); then, I summarize what we know about the amount and maintenance of genetic variability in life-history traits. For background on quantitative genetics see Falconer and Mackay (1996), Roff (1997), Lynch and Walsh (1998), and Walsh and Lynch (2018).

Phenotypic patterns of life-history variation and covariation

Numerous studies, too many to discuss in detail, have measured phenotypic variation in fitness components by assaying these traits under standard laboratory conditions or, to examine plasticity, across different environmental conditions (e.g., Pearl and Parker 1921, 1922, 1924; Pearl 1932; Gowen and Johnson 1946; Buzzati-Traverso 1955; Knight and Robertson 1957; Robertson 1957b, 1960a; Kenyon 1967; McMillan *et al.* 1970b; Lewontin 1974; Parsons 1975; David and Cappy 1988; Tanaka and Yamazaki 1990; Gebhardt and Stearns 1992, 1993a,b; Draye *et al.* 1994; Draye and Lints 1995, 1996; James *et al.* 1997; Prasad and Joshi 2003; David *et al.* 2004; Gibert *et al.* 2004; Mackay 2004; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a,b, 2014; Behrman *et al.* 2015; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Hangartner *et al.* 2015; Mackay and Huang 2018; and Lewontin *et al.* 2003, which provide a compilation of Dobzhansky's classical work in *D. pseudoobscura*).

Such studies have measured fitness components, depending on their aims, using a variety of approaches, including measurements performed on individuals or groups (e.g., cohorts) of flies from laboratory mass culture (e.g., wild-derived flies in population cages), on strains derived from mass culture (e.g., laboratory wild-type strains such as *Oregon R*, *Canton-S*, or *Samarkand*), isofemale lines (established as full-sib families from a single inseminated wild-caught female), inbred lines (yielding homozygous estimates of fitness components), wild chromosome extraction lines (maintained over balancer chromosomes), recombinant inbred lines, mutation accumulation (MA) lines, and so forth (also see discussion below; e.g., Muller 1928; EHéritier and Teissier 1933; Mukai 1964; Parsons and Hosgood 1967; Mukai *et al.* 1972; Lewontin 1974; Parsons 1975; Mackay 1985, 2001a,b, 2004; Tanaka and Yamazaki 1990; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Gayon and Veuille 2001; David *et al.* 2005; Mackay and Huang 2018).

Together, this vast body of work has revealed that there generally exist large amounts of phenotypic variation for components of fitness, both within and among populations, including traits such as development time, larval competitive ability, viability, size at eclosion, age-specific fecundity and fertility, lifetime reproductive success, age-specific mortality,

life span, various stress resistance traits, reproductive dormancy, and so forth. Much of this variation is genetically based and therefore can, at least potentially, respond to selection (Roff and Mousseau 1987; Houle 1992, 1998; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015), as we shall discuss below.

The large extent of within-population life-history variability is well exemplified by considering the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP), a set of 205 inbred lines, derived from a population collected at a farmers' market in Raleigh (NC). Dozens of genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have used these lines to map the genetic basis of phenotypic variance for a multitude of traits including several major fitness components; many of these mapping efforts have been aided by the fact that the DGRP lines often differ markedly, sometimes even extremely, from each other for various fitness-related traits (Mackay and Huang 2018). For example, Durham *et al.* (2014) used the DGRP panel to measure mated life span, age-specific fecundity (at weeks 1, 3, 5, and 7), and lifetime fecundity and to estimate the amounts of phenotypic, genetic, and environmental variation: the authors observed massive amounts of variation at all levels, with phenotypic coefficients of variation (CV_P = ratio of phenotypic SD divided by the mean) for these traits ranging between ~39 and 264%. However, estimates of phenotypic and genetic variances (and covariances) for fitness components are expected to be quite different in panels of inbred lines as compared to outbred populations, due to homozygosity and inbreeding depression in the former [e.g., see Charlesworth and Charlesworth (2010)].

Major patterns of differentiation for life-history traits have also been observed among natural populations of *D. melanogaster* when measured in the laboratory (e.g., Lemeunier *et al.* 1986; Coyne and Beecham 1987; David and Cappy 1988; James and Partridge 1995; James *et al.* 1995, 1997; de Jong and Bochdanovits 2003; David *et al.* 2004; Gibert *et al.* 2004; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Hoffmann and Weeks 2007; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a,b, 2014; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Hangartner *et al.* 2015). So-called clines provide a particularly compelling example of among-population variation of fitness components, as we discuss next.

Among-population variation and life-history clines: Clines are defined as systematic changes in the frequency of phenotypes or genotypes among populations that are spread along continuous environmental gradients through space, e.g., across latitude (Huxley 1938; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). They are often thought to be driven by spatially varying selection, especially when similar clines are found repeatedly in different species or across distinct geographic areas within species (Haldane 1948; Levene 1953; Mayr 1963; Dobzhansky 1970; Slatkin 1975; Felsenstein 1976; Endler 1977, 1986; Hedrick 1986; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Yeaman 2015). However, they can also arise from nonadaptive

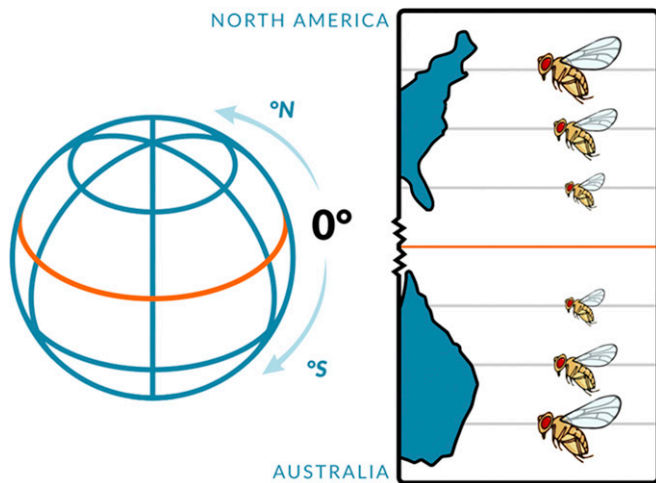


Figure 4 Latitudinal life-history clines in *D. melanogaster*. On multiple continents and subcontinents, spanning temperate to subtropical/tropical regions, fly populations exhibit major differences in fitness components across latitudes. For example, in the northern hemisphere there exists a well-established latitudinal cline for body size along the North American east coast, with flies being larger in temperate populations (e.g., Maine) but smaller in subtropical/tropical areas (e.g., Florida). This pattern is matched, in an upside-down manner, in the southern hemisphere, for example along the Australian east coast. Such parallel clines exist for several fitness-related traits and imply that these clines are (at least partly) shaped by spatially varying selection. For example, high-latitude flies are typically not only larger but also less fecund, more stress-resistant, and longer-lived than flies from subtropical/tropical locales. See main text for further details; also see Figure 6. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

factors such as population structure and demography, for example admixture (Endler 1977; Bergland *et al.* 2016; Flatt 2016).

While clines have been investigated in many organisms, they have been particularly well studied in *D. melanogaster* (Figure 4; e.g., Lemeunier *et al.* 1986; David and Capy 1988; van Delden and Kamping 1997; de Jong and Bochdanovits 2003; David *et al.* 2004; Gibert *et al.* 2004; Hoffmann and Weeks 2007; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Fabian *et al.* 2012, 2015; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Hangartner *et al.* 2015; Kapun *et al.* 2016a,b; Durmaz *et al.* 2018, 2019).

Many studies have observed various fitness components to vary latitudinally (and sometimes also altitudinally) among natural populations of *D. melanogaster*, including clines in developmental rate (James and Partridge 1995; Van't Land *et al.* 1999); larval growth efficiency (Robinson and Partridge 2001); viability (Folguera *et al.* 2008); body size and size-related traits (David and Bocquet 1975; Coyne and Beecham 1987; Capy *et al.* 1993; Imasheva *et al.* 1994; James *et al.* 1995, 1997; Van't Land *et al.* 1999; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Kapun *et al.* 2016b; Durmaz *et al.* 2019); ovariole number (David and Bocquet 1975; Capy *et al.* 1993); fecundity (Schmidt *et al.* 2005a; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Fabian *et al.* 2015); egg size (Azevedo *et al.* 1996); starvation, desiccation, and cold- and heat-stress

resistance (Da Lage *et al.* 1990; Karan *et al.* 1998; Hoffmann *et al.* 2002, 2005; Frydenberg *et al.* 2003; Durmaz *et al.* 2018; Rajpurohit *et al.* 2018); the propensity to undergo reproductive dormancy under cold conditions (Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Schmidt and Paaby 2008); and life span (Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Durmaz *et al.* 2018; also see Mitrovski and Hoffmann 2001; Sgrò *et al.* 2013).

For several of the above-mentioned traits, patterns of clinal differentiation have been observed in a parallel manner on multiple continents and subcontinents that span across both temperate and subtropical/tropical areas; thus it seems likely that in many cases these clines are shaped, at least in part, by spatially varying selection (Mayr 1963; David and Capy 1988; de Jong and Bochdanovits 2003; Rako *et al.* 2006; Hoffmann and Weeks 2007; Fabian *et al.* 2012, 2015; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Kapun *et al.* 2016a,b). For example, flies from temperate regions often tend to be phenotypically and genetically larger, less fecund, more stress-resistant, and longer-lived than flies from subtropical/tropical climates (Figure 4).

This combination of fitness-related traits suggests a hypothetical selection regime whereby at high latitudes seasonal stresses (overwinter survival and ephemeral food resources) impose strong selection for increased stress resistance, metabolic reserves, and somatic maintenance at the cost of reduced fecundity, whereas warm climates with ample feeding and breeding opportunities favor increased larval competitive ability and high fecundity, at the expense of reduced size and decreased maintenance (Paaby and Schmidt 2009; cf. Sevenster and Van Alphen 1993; James and Partridge 1995; de Jong and Bochdanovits 2003). These opposite sets of trait values might be viewed as representing “pro maintenance and survival” vs. “pro reproduction” life-history “modes” or “strategies” (Flatt *et al.* 2013), which reflect local adaptation and life-history trade-offs across geography (Paaby *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Kapun *et al.* 2016b; Durmaz *et al.* 2018, 2019).

The direct causes of spatially varying selection underlying life-history clines remain poorly understood in most cases (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Kapun *et al.* 2016a,b; Durmaz *et al.* 2018, 2019). A possible exception is body size, a major fitness proxy: around the world, flies from high-latitude populations are larger than those from low-latitude populations [Figure 4; Misra and Reeve 1964 (in *D. subobscura*); David and Bocquet 1975; Coyne and Beecham 1987; David and Capy 1988; James *et al.* 1995, 1997; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Kapun *et al.* 2016b; Durmaz *et al.* 2019], as is also the case for many other animals (“Bergmann’s rule”; Mayr 1963). The principal determinant underlying this pattern in flies appears to be temperature. Consistent with temperature being the causative factor, flies bred at lower temperature in experimental evolution studies in the laboratory evolve genetically larger size [Anderson 1973 (*D. pseudoobscura*); Cavicchi 1978, 1989, 1991; Huey *et al.* 1991; Partridge *et al.* 1994a; Santos *et al.* 1994; Bochdanovits and de Jong 2003a; de Jong and

Bochdanovits 2003; Prasad and Joshi 2003] and show evidence for local adaptation to the cold (Partridge *et al.* 1994a; Bochdanovits and de Jong 2003b; *cf.* Nunney and Cheung 1997). Similarly, high-altitude flies are typically significantly larger than those from low elevations, with the parallelism between latitude and altitude being most parsimoniously explained by temperature (Pitchers *et al.* 2013; Klepsatel *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Lack *et al.* 2016).

What drives this pattern (Atkinson and Sibly 1997)? Ectotherms such as insects commonly exhibit an inverse relationship between developmental temperature and size [“temperature–size rule” (TSR); Atkinson 1994]. Several competing hypotheses have been put forward to account for the TSR phenomenon, including inevitable biophysical constraints on growth *vs.* various adaptive mechanisms (Ghosh *et al.* 2013). For the case of larval development in *D. melanogaster*, Ghosh and colleagues (2013) found that, in contrast to the hawkmoth *Manduca sexta*, the signal to terminate growth is initiated at a smaller (so-called) critical size at higher temperatures. Together with the evidence above, this suggests that the TSR represents an adaptive response to temperature, yet at the proximate level it is apparently achieved via distinct mechanisms in different species (Ghosh *et al.* 2013).

In contrast, some thermal experimental evolution studies in *D. subobscura* and *D. melanogaster* have failed to faithfully replicate the clinal patterns observed in natural populations, suggesting that temperature might not be the sole factor driving clinality (Santos *et al.* 2005; Kellermann *et al.* 2015). While these findings do not necessarily rule out that temperature is the causal factor in the wild (Huey and Rosenzweig 2009), they suggest that the natural pattern of clinal selection is much more complex than the one imposed in experimental evolution (*cf.* Kapun *et al.* 2016a,b).

Clines in *D. melanogaster* can thus serve as an insightful test bed for probing the causes and consequences of life-history adaptations in wild populations of flies. Beyond their phenotypic effects, clines have also been extensively studied in terms of population genomics (Turner *et al.* 2008, Kolaczowski *et al.* 2011, Fabian *et al.* 2012, Bergland *et al.* 2014; Kapun *et al.* 2014, 2016a; Reinhardt *et al.* 2014; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Machado *et al.* 2016).

Correlations between life-history traits and trade-offs: To function properly, and to survive and reproduce, organisms must work as well-integrated entities. Although it can be conceptually or practically convenient to define and measure single traits, organisms are obviously not collections of well separable, independent characters (Stearns 1984, 1989b; 1992; Wagner 2001; Pigliucci and Preston 2004; Flatt *et al.* 2005; Flatt and Heyland 2011; Martin *et al.* 2015). This also applies to fitness components, which are commonly tightly integrated through various developmental, physiological, and genetic mechanisms that result in positive or negative correlations (covariances) between life-history traits (Bell and Koufopanou 1986; Stearns 1989a, 1992; Zera and

Harshman 2001; Prasad and Joshi 2003; Flatt *et al.* 2005, 2013; Roff 2007; Roff and Fairbairn 2007; Flatt 2011; Flatt and Heyland 2011; Hughes and Leips 2017). Life-history traits should thus be viewed from a multivariate perspective as a set of interrelated traits that jointly determine reproductive success or fitness (Lande 1982; Lande and Arnold 1983; Charlesworth 1993a; Roff 2007).

Correlations between traits arise from genetic and/or non-genetic (environmental) sources of covariance; to the extent that they are genetically determined, they imply that the traits cannot evolve independently (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Roff 1997, 2002, 2007). While phenotypic correlations do not necessarily reflect underlying genetic correlations and can arise from environmental sources, they can be reasonably good predictors of genetic correlations, especially for morphological traits (“Cheverud’s conjecture”; Roff and Mousseau 1987; Cheverud 1988; Roff 1995).

The best-known type of life-history correlation are “trade-offs,” defined as negative correlations between components of fitness (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Roff 1992, 2007, 2002; Prasad and Joshi 2003; Hughes and Leips 2017). For example, levels of reproductive effort might trade off with growth or survival (“costs of reproduction”; reproductive effort model; Fisher 1930; Williams 1966). To the extent that phenotypic trade-offs are rooted in negative genetic correlations, they might represent evolutionary (genetic) constraints: selection for an increased value of one fitness-related trait causes a correlated decrease of the value of the other fitness component and might thus constrain their independent evolution.

Phenotypic and genetic correlations between fitness components in *D. melanogaster* are pervasive, and have commonly been observed in quantitative genetic studies and analyses of correlated responses to selection in the laboratory [see below and Prasad and Joshi (2003)]. For example, as mentioned above, high- and low-latitude flies typically differ with respect to the values of several life-history traits, suggesting multivariate correlations and trade-offs within and, due to local adaptation along the cline, among populations (Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Flatt *et al.* 2013; Paaby *et al.* 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2015; Durmaz *et al.* 2019). Although there are many exceptions and patterns can be extremely variable across studies (Rose and Charlesworth 1981a; Giesel *et al.* 1982; Roff and Mousseau 1987; Gromko 1995), the following correlations tend often to be observed [see Stearns and Partridge (2001), Prasad and Joshi (2003), and section on correlated responses below]: usually positive correlations between development time, size at eclosion, ovariole number, and fecundity; commonly a negative correlation between life span and early fecundity; sometimes a trade-off between early and late-life fecundity; often a positive correlation between total (lifetime) fecundity and life span; and typically no consistent correlations between development time and/or size with life span (Alpatov 1929; Robertson 1957a,b, 1960; David and Bocquet 1974, 1975; Rose and Charlesworth 1981a,b; Giesel *et al.* 1982; Luckinbill *et al.* 1984; Rose

1984b, 1991; Bell and Koufopanou 1986; Roff and Mousseau 1987; Tucić *et al.* 1988; Tanaka and Yamazaki 1990; Roff 1992; Stearns 1992; Zwaan *et al.* 1995a,b; Lefranc and Bundgaard 2000; Stearns *et al.* 2000; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Harshman 2003; Prasad and Joshi 2003; Rose *et al.* 2004; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Bergland *et al.* 2008; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Flatt 2011; Fabian *et al.* 2015).

Fitness components in flies are also frequently correlated with traits that confer the ability to resist and survive various stresses, and environmental insults [reviewed in Prasad and Joshi (2003); *cf.* section on correlated responses]. Although stress resistance traits are not usually defined as life-history traits *sensu stricto*, they represent important fitness components because they contribute to somatic maintenance and thus to survival. Such stress resistance traits include, for example, resistance to starvation, desiccation, oxidative stress, and cold and heat, with resistance being measured as survival after exposure (Service 1987; Rose *et al.* 1992, 2004; Lin *et al.* 1998; Hoffmann and Harshman 1999; Harshman *et al.* 1999a; Harshman and Haberer 2000; Hoffmann *et al.* 2001, 2005; Salmon *et al.* 2001; Wang *et al.* 2001, 2006; Prasad and Joshi 2003; Arking 2006; Rion and Kawecki 2007; Goenaga *et al.* 2010; Tower 2011; Kellermann *et al.* 2012a,b; Hansen *et al.* 2013; Kalra and Parkash 2014; Wit *et al.* 2015). Correlations between classical fitness components and stress resistance traits are often seen in long-lived genotypes (long-lived mutants; flies selected for increased life span), where increased life span and reduced early life fecundity go together with increased resistance to one or multiple stressors (Hoffmann and Harshman 1999; Rion and Kawecki 2007; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Flatt 2011; Hansen *et al.* 2013).

What is the genetic basis of life-history correlations and trade-offs? Genetic correlations between fitness components measure the degree to which two life-history traits are affected by one or several loci as the result of pleiotropy and/or linkage disequilibrium (LD) among the loci affecting the trait (Stearns 1992; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Roff 1997, 2007; Conner and Hartl 2004; Hughes and Leips 2017). Given that recombination can break down LD readily, pleiotropy is likely the predominant factor in causing stable (nontransient) genetic correlations (Roff 1997, 2007). Pleiotropic effects on the values of two traits can either be positive (+, +), negative (–, –), or antagonistic (+, – or –, +); positive and negative pleiotropy cause positive genetic correlations, while antagonistic pleiotropic effects cause negative genetic correlations. A major but underappreciated caveat is that a lack of genetic correlation does not always imply a lack of pleiotropy: if alleles or loci vary in the signs and magnitudes of their pleiotropic effects, the effects might cancel each other out, resulting in a net correlation of zero (“variable pleiotropy”; Gromko *et al.* 1991; Gromko 1995; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Lyman and Mackay 1998; Flatt and Kawecki 2004). Only “consistent” pleiotropic effects will, on average, lead to significant correlations between fitness components.

Experimental work in *D. melanogaster* and other species has revealed that mutational correlations between fitness components arising from deleterious *de novo* mutations are typically positive: this is because most deleterious mutations affect two or more fitness components negatively in the same direction, with different mutations doing so to a different extent (Houle *et al.* 1994b; Keightley and Ohnishi 1998; Pletcher *et al.* 1998; also see below). Yet, in terms of standing genetic variance in equilibrium populations, we expect to find negative genetic correlations (trade-offs) for at least some pairs of fitness components (Charlesworth 1990, 1993b, 1994). Because selection exhausts V_A for net fitness, alleles with unconditionally beneficial effects on two or more fitness components should become fixed, whereas alleles with deleterious pleiotropic effects on multiple fitness-related traits should be eliminated (Hazel 1943). Hence, the remaining standing variance for fitness components might represent segregating alleles that exhibit antagonistic pleiotropy (AP) and that cause negative genetic covariances between life-history traits (Hazel 1943; Dickerson 1955; Robertson 1955; Charlesworth 1980, 1990, 1993b, 1994; Rose 1982, 1985; Houle 1991; Curtsinger *et al.* 1994; Roff 1997; Lynch and Walsh 1998; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000).

Many studies in *D. melanogaster* and other organisms support the existence of negative genetic correlations between fitness components consistent with trade-offs and AP (also *cf.* section on correlated responses). For instance, the genetically based trade-off between early fecundity and life span, observed in many selection experiments, lends strong support to a central explanation for the evolution of senescence (aging): under the AP hypothesis of the evolution of aging, due to Medawar (1946, 1952) and Williams (1957), senescence evolves because, when the force of selection declines with age, selection favors alleles with beneficial effects on early life fitness components even when they have deleterious effects late in life (Charlesworth 1980; Rose and Charlesworth 1981a,b; Rose 1991; Charlesworth 1993b, 1994; Partridge and Barton 1993; Rose and Bradley 1998; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Flatt and Promislow 2007; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Flatt 2011; Gaillard and Lemaître 2017; Austad and Hoffman 2018; Flatt and Partridge 2018). Overall, the existence of AP alleles in *D. melanogaster* (and other model organisms such as *Caenorhabditis elegans*) is well supported by laboratory analyses of large-effect mutants and transgenic constructs [see Tatar *et al.* (2001a) and reviews in Tatar *et al.* (2003), Kenyon (2005), Partridge *et al.* (2005a), Flatt and Schmidt (2009), Paaby and Schmidt (2009), Flatt (2011), Flatt *et al.* (2013), Hughes and Leips (2017), and Austad and Hoffman (2018)], and a growing body of evidence suggests that segregating polymorphisms in natural populations has pleiotropic effects on fitness components consistent with genetic trade-offs (Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Mackay 2010; Paaby *et al.* 2014; Durmaz *et al.* 2019).

Although it seems clear that at the genetic-level trade-offs are caused by genetic correlations due to AP (and/or LD), little is known about their underlying proximate causes, especially their physiological underpinnings (Scheiner *et al.* 1989; Rose and Bradley 1998; Leroi 2001; Zera and Harshman 2001; Barnes and Partridge 2003; Flatt *et al.* 2005, 2008; Flatt and Kawecki 2007; Harshman and Zera 2007; Roff 2007; Flatt and Heyland 2011; Flatt 2011; Metcalf 2016; Hughes and Leips 2017). This is a major unresolved problem that limits our understanding of the functional constraints that act on the evolution of life histories (Box 1).

For instance, it is usually assumed that at the physiological level, genetically based trade-offs might manifest themselves as allocation trade-offs between processes that compete for energetic resources such as growth, reproduction, survival, and somatic maintenance (Fisher 1930; Williams 1966; Sibly and Calow 1985; van Noordwijk and de Jong 1986; Scheiner *et al.* 1989; Houle 1991; de Jong and van Noordwijk 1992; Perrin and Sibly 1993; Rose and Bradley 1998; Houle 2001; Metcalf 2016; Nestel *et al.* 2016; Ng'oma *et al.* 2017); this is commonly called the “Y model” (de Jong and van Noordwijk 1992). However, while allocation trade-offs are commonly invoked, they are rarely firmly established; and while AP-effect loci underlying genetic trade-offs might be involved in resource acquisition and/or allocation, they could have effects that are independent of resource allocation, *i.e.*, involving other types of physiological and/or structural constraints (Scheiner *et al.* 1989; Tatar and Carey 1995; Leroi 2001; Barnes and Partridge 2003; Flatt 2009, 2011; Tatar 2011; Metcalf 2016; Hughes and Leips 2017). Indeed, despite some evidence in favor of resource allocation trade-offs [reviewed in Boggs (2009), Nestel *et al.* (2016), and Ng'oma *et al.* (2017)], studies that have examined the physiological basis of life-history trade-offs in flies, *i.e.*, by measuring details of resource acquisition *vs.* allocation and/or energy metabolism, have found little or no evidence for the classical resource allocation model (Djawdan *et al.* 1996; Simmons and Bradley 1997; Min *et al.* 2006; O'Brien *et al.* 2008; Grandison *et al.* 2009a; also *cf.* Flatt 2011; Tatar 2011; Ng'oma *et al.* 2017). Moreover, several studies have found that trade-offs can be “uncoupled,” *e.g.*, by genetic or dietary manipulation [reviewed in Flatt (2011) and Flatt and Partridge (2018)]. In sum, phenotypic and genetic correlations are only remotely connected to constraints on life-history evolution (Charlesworth 1990; Houle 1991; also *cf.* Roff and Fairbairn 2007; Conner 2012; Metcalf 2016), and the expression of trade-offs can be highly dynamic and contingent (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Flatt 2011; Ng'oma *et al.* 2017; Hughes and Leips 2017).

Environmental variation and life-history plasticity: Another fundamental aspect of the quantitative genetics of life-history traits is phenotypic plasticity, *i.e.*, the ability of a single genotype to produce multiple phenotypes across environments (Stearns 1989c, 1992; Scheiner 1993; Via *et al.* 1995; Roff 1997; Flatt 2005). Plasticity, which is mechanistically due

to differences in gene expression across environments, represents the environmental (nongenetic) variance in the phenotype (V_E), *i.e.*, all phenotypic variation that is due to environmental effects (Falconer and Mackay 1996; Flatt 2005). Although it is commonly assumed that most plasticity is adaptive, environmentally induced variation can be neutral or even maladaptive (Steiner and Tuljapurkar 2012; Acasuso-Rivero *et al.* 2019); in fact, plasticity might often be physiologically inevitable and/or caused by random environmental changes, including “microenvironmental” variation (“developmental noise”; Flatt 2005). For introductions regarding plasticity see chapter 3 in Stearns (1992) and chapter 6 in Roff (1997); for book-length treatments see Schlichting and Pigliucci (1998), Pigliucci (2001), West-Eberhard (2003), DeWitt and Scheiner (2004), and Whitman and Ananthakrishnan (2009).

There are several methods for conceptualizing and analyzing plasticity (Stearns 1992; Scheiner 1993; Via *et al.* 1995; Roff 1997): for quantitative traits in continuous environments, a convenient way is to measure a genotype's phenotypic value across several values of the environmental parameter (*e.g.*, temperature): the resulting curve (function) maps the phenotype to the environment and is called the genotype's “reaction norm.” The steeper the slope of the reaction norm, the higher the degree of plasticity (Stearns 1992; Roff 1992, 1997; Flatt 2005): most life-history traits are typically highly sensitive to changes in the environment (Price and Schluter 1991; Houle 1992; Travis 1994; Nylin and Gotthard 1998; Flatt *et al.* 2013). Genetic variation for plasticity is present when the genotypes in a population differ in the slope and/or curvature of their reaction norms across environments: this is called “genotype–environment interaction” (GxE), and the model for partitioning the total phenotypic variance of a trait can then be written as $V_P = V_G + V_E + V_{G \times E}$ (Stearns 1992; $V_E + V_{G \times E} = V_{PL}$ = plastic variance).

Life-history plasticity can be evolutionarily important for at least four reasons. First, if there are significant amounts of GxE for fitness components, and if there exist recurring, predictable environmental changes (*i.e.*, reliable environmental cues), selection might favor genotypes with “optimal” (fitness maximizing) phenotypic responses to changes in the environment (“optimal reaction norm”: Stearns and Koella 1986; *cf.* Via *et al.* 1995; Rueffler *et al.* 2006). Selection for adaptive plastic life-history responses is expected to cause an erosion of genetic variation in reaction norms at the population level, leading to a genetically “canalized” bundle of reaction norms (Flatt 2005; Acasuso-Rivero *et al.* 2019). However, even though life-history traits are expected to be highly sensitive to environment on theoretical grounds (Price and Schluter 1991; Houle 1992), a recent meta-analysis has found that they might not necessarily be more or less plastic than other (morphological or behavioral) traits (Acasuso-Rivero *et al.* 2019). Importantly, this analysis suggests that plasticity of life-history traits, despite the proximity of these traits to fitness, might often be neutral or maladaptive (Acasuso-Rivero *et al.*

Box 1 What is the functional nature of life-history trade-offs?

“It would be instructive to know not only by what physiological mechanisms a just apportionment is made between the nutriment devoted to the gonads and that devoted to the rest of the parental organism, but also what circumstances in the life-history and environment would render profitable the diversion of a greater or lesser share of the available resources towards reproduction.” R. A. Fisher (1930, p. 43–44).

Genetic correlations are merely statistical descriptions (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Roff 2007): many experiments have found correlations consistent with trade-offs, but they are not informative about their causes (Charlesworth 1990; Houle 1991; Partridge and Barton 1993; Gromko 1995; Hughes and Leips 2017). Notably, theory shows that the relationship between genetic covariances (or the genetic variance–covariance matrix, **G**) and underlying functional constraints might be complex and indirect, so that only little about the former can be learned from the latter (Pease and Bull 1988; Charlesworth 1990; Houle 1991). In equilibrium populations, positive genetic correlations for trait pairs embedded in a higher-dimensional system of fitness components do not rule out that these traits are involved in negative genetic correlations and thus subject to constraint; therefore, finding positive genetic correlations does not exclude trade-offs (Pease and Bull 1988; Charlesworth 1990, 1993b). On the other hand, negative genetic correlations indicate that constraints might be at play, yet there are always some positive genetic correlations between particular trait pairs expected to be present at equilibrium (Charlesworth 1990). Hence, analyses of genetic correlations (or **G**) shed little light on functional constraints (Pease and Bull 1988; Charlesworth 1990). This is echoed by Houle (1991), who modeled genetically based resource allocation trade-offs between life-history traits: “The form of **G** does not necessarily reveal the constraint on resource acquisition inherent in the system, and therefore studies estimating **G** do not test for the existence of life-history tradeoffs. Characters may evolve in patterns that are unpredictable from **G**.” Similarly, using simulations, Gromko (1995) found that correlated responses to selection can be strictly constrained even when the genetic correlation is zero.

The rather crude insights into trade-offs gained from analyzing correlations thus call for detailed analyses of “functional architecture,” *i.e.*, the pathways that connect genotypes to phenotypes (Houle 1991, 2001; Chippindale *et al.* 1993, 1997; Finch and Rose 1995; Rose and Bradley 1998; Leroi 2001; Barnes and Partridge 2003; Flatt *et al.* 2005; Roff 2007; Flatt and Heyland 2011; Hughes and Leips 2017; Ng’oma *et al.* 2017; Flatt and Partridge 2018).

2019; *cf.* Steiner and Tuljapurkar 2012); convincing cases of adaptive life-history plasticity thus require robust empirical evidence (Travis 1994; Flatt *et al.* 2013; see below). Second, plasticity changes the genetic response of the trait(s) to selection across environments (Stearns *et al.* 1991; Stearns 1992): it does so by modulating (i) how genetic variation for fitness components is expressed across environments (depending on the environment, phenotypic differences between genotypes can be blurred, amplified, or their phenotypic ranking reversed) and (ii) the phenotypic expression (the magnitude and/or sign) of genetic correlations between different environments. Importantly, plasticity and G×E can change, for example, a negative correlation in one environment into a positive correlation in another (Stearns 1989c, 1992), which explains why the expression of trade-offs is often dynamic and contingent. Third, a related point is that under changing environments, G×E interactions for fitness components and net fitness can maintain genetic variation (Mukai 1988; Gillespie 1991; Stearns 1992; Mackay 2010). Fourth, plasticity can allow for compensation among fitness components, so that a fitness reduction through a plastic change in one trait might be balanced by increased fitness through a plastic response in another trait (Stearns 1992; Flatt 2005).

In *D. melanogaster*, life-history plasticity and reaction norms have been particularly well investigated with regard to the effects of temperature, nutrition, and crowding [Imai 1933; Parsons 1961; David *et al.* 1983; Gebhardt and Stearns 1988, 1993a,b (*D. mercatorum*); Zwaan *et al.* 1992; Chippindale *et al.* 1993; Delpuech *et al.* 1995; Huey *et al.* 1995; Zamudio *et al.* 1995; Crill *et al.* 1996; De Moed *et al.* 1997; James *et al.* 1997; Nunney and Cheung 1997; Prasad and Joshi 2003; Gibert *et al.* 2004; Rose *et al.* 2004; Trotta *et al.* 2006; Tatar 2007, 2011; de Jong and Van der Have 2009; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Whitman and Ananthakrishnan 2009; Schmidt 2011; Flatt *et al.* 2013; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013b; Flatt 2014; Clemson *et al.* 2016; Mathur and Schmidt 2017; van Heerwaarden and Sgrò 2017], and also with respect to adult reproductive dormancy (Saunders *et al.* 1989; Tatar and Yin 2001; Tatar *et al.* 2001b; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Flatt *et al.* 2013).

In terms of thermal plasticity, a multitude of studies has established that flies raised at cool temperatures (*e.g.*, ≤ 18°) develop more slowly; show reduced viability; eclose as adults at a larger size (*e.g.*, larger thoraces and wings, and increased dry weight); exhibit reduced sexual dimorphism for size; have reduced ovariole number, decreased early fecundity, and lower “thermal fecundity performance”; produce eggs

that are larger; are more cold- and starvation-resistant; and live longer than flies raised at warmer temperatures (e.g., $\geq 25^\circ$) [Alpatov and Pearl 1929; Alpatov 1930; Maynard Smith 1958 (in *D. subobscura*); Zwaan *et al.* 1992; David *et al.* 1994, 1997, 2011; Partridge *et al.* 1994a,b; Delpuech *et al.* 1995; James and Partridge 1995; Azevedo *et al.* 1996; Crill *et al.* 1996; De Moed *et al.* 1997; James *et al.* 1997; Nunney and Cheung 1997; French *et al.* 1998; Trotta *et al.* 2006; Folguera *et al.* 2008; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013b, 2019; Fallis *et al.* 2014; Mathur and Schmidt 2017; Ørsted *et al.* 2019]. With respect to fecundity performance and reproductive fitness, a temperature of $\sim 25^\circ$ seems to be invariably optimal (Klepsatel *et al.* 2013b, 2019).

Thermal plasticity of gene expression (“transcriptional plasticity”) has also been studied, for example in the context of population-level plasticity, thermal reaction norms and GxE (Zhou *et al.* 2012; Carreira *et al.* 2013; Chen *et al.* 2015), fluctuating temperatures (Sørensen *et al.* 2016), and latitudinal clines [Levine *et al.* 2011; Chen *et al.* 2012; Zhao *et al.* 2016; Porcelli *et al.* 2016 (*D. subobscura*); Clemson *et al.* 2016]. Such studies can be informative about the mechanisms underlying thermal life-history plasticity.

Notably, Nunney and Cheung (1997) found that size changes in response to rearing temperature are accompanied by changes in early fecundity and longevity, which support the hypothesis that the thermal reaction norm for size represents an adaptive plastic response. It is noteworthy in this context that the plastic response of size to temperature seems to parallel the genetic response of size to thermal laboratory selection and presumably, in the case of latitudinal clines (see above), to natural selection (Nunney and Cheung 1997).

The idea that thermal reaction norms are shaped by selection, and that this selection erodes genetic variation for thermal plasticity, is consistent with the observation that population-level reaction norms for six populations (from Africa and Europe, spanning tropical and temperate areas) assayed for size-related traits, ovariole number, and fecundity performance across seven fluctuating temperature regimes (ranging on average from 14 to 30°) were remarkably parallel, with little evidence for GxE (Klepsatel *et al.* 2013b). Similarly, an analysis of 19 populations across the eastern Australian cline did not find any latitudinal differentiation in plasticity for developmental time, thorax length, and wing size (James *et al.* 1997). Yet, many studies have observed significant amounts of variation for plasticity of fitness components in response to thermal change, both within and among populations [Parsons 1977 (*D. simulans*), 1978; Murphy *et al.* 1983 (*D. simulans*); Scheiner *et al.* 1989; Gebhardt and Stearns 1993a; Van’t Land *et al.* 1999; Vieira *et al.* 2000; Lazzaro *et al.* 2008; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013b; Fallis *et al.* 2014; Mathur and Schmidt 2017; Lafuente *et al.* 2018; Ørsted *et al.* 2019], including latitudinal differentiation in plasticity. For example, Mathur and Schmidt (2017) found that, in contrast to low-latitude North American populations, high-latitude populations are more responsive to cold exposure and exhibit more rapid recovery from chill coma in

response to cold temperatures in the field, suggesting differential patterns of local adaptation for adaptive plasticity along the cline. In terms of uncovering the genetic basis of thermal plasticity for body size, important recent progress has been made by Lafuente *et al.* (2018) who applied a GWAS approach to the DGRP lines.

Another, and perhaps the most fundamental, environmental factor in the life of the vinegar fly is nutrition, which is obviously critical for development, growth, survival, and reproduction; it is also central to the notion of resource allocation trade-offs discussed above (cf. Nestel *et al.* 2016). Effects of diet quality and quantity on many aspects of fly development, growth, physiology, and life history have been studied in great detail, beginning > 100 years ago and using a variety of different natural fruit, and various laboratory-made and chemically defined (“holidic”), food media (Delcourt and Guyenot 1910; Northrop 1917; Baumberger 1919; Sturtevant 1921; Beadle *et al.* 1938; Tatum 1939; Sang 1956, 1978; Robertson 1960a; Sang and King 1961; Begon 1982; Ashburner *et al.* 2005; Bass *et al.* 2007; Tatar 2007, 2011; Lee and Micchelli 2013; Piper *et al.* 2014). Most of the early work [reviewed in Sang (1978)] focused on the dietary requirements for proper larval development, growth, and the attainment of adult size, a research tradition that has become increasingly molecular, and has led to modern studies of growth control and metabolism (Britton and Edgar 1998; Britton *et al.* 2002; reviewed in Edgar 2006; Géminard *et al.* 2006; Baker and Thummel 2007; Leopold and Perrimon 2007; Tennessen and Thummel 2011; Hansen *et al.* 2013). Research on how nutrition impacts *Drosophila* life history has focused on numerous aspects, including the effects of malnutrition, overfeeding, dietary restriction (DR), calories, the ratio (“balance”) of diet components, and of specific nutrients such as essential amino acids.

Not surprisingly, food shortage during development (e.g., reduction or deprivation of yeast, or whole-food dilution) increases developmental time, and decreases body size and size-related traits (Beadle *et al.* 1938; Bublly *et al.* 2001; Tu and Tatar 2003; Layalle *et al.* 2008; Vijendravarma *et al.* 2011; Klepsatel *et al.* 2018). Beadle *et al.* (1938) found that larvae stopped growing and died after a few days if starved before 70–72 hr AEL but, when starved after this time, larvae would grow into very small adults which, as shown by Tu and Tatar (2003), have 50% fewer ovarioles, greatly reduced fecundity, and shortened life span. Conversely, larval overfeeding, e.g., on a high-sugar diet, markedly prolongs development, reduces size, and increases fat storage (Palanker Musselman *et al.* 2011; Reis 2016); similarly, overfeeding in the adult stage leads to weight gain, increased fat storage, and can shorten life span (Skorupa *et al.* 2008; Morris *et al.* 2012).

Given the importance of fecundity and adult survival in determining fitness, the effects of diet on these adult traits are especially interesting. Generally, adult food deprivation or very restricted diets reduce fecundity and life span, whereas high food levels increase fecundity but decrease

life span (Hollingsworth and Burcombe 1970; Chapman and Partridge 1996; Good and Tatar 2001; Tatar 2011). Interestingly, within a range of relatively low-to-intermediate food concentrations (usually in the adult stage; but see below), one can observe so-called DR effects (specifically defined as reduced food intake without malnutrition); the hallmarks of such DR effects are that they extend life span but reduce fecundity. This phenomenon, first discovered in rats in 1935, has been examined by many studies in *Drosophila*, with a strong focus on understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying DR-induced longevity [for the first demonstration of DR in *Drosophila* see Chippindale *et al.* (1993); also see Chapman and Partridge (1996), Mair *et al.* (2003, 2005), Magwere *et al.* (2004), Bross *et al.* (2005), Burger *et al.* (2007), Min *et al.* (2007), Ja *et al.* (2009), and Burger *et al.* (2010); reviewed in Partridge *et al.* (2005b,c), Piper *et al.* (2005, 2011), Pletcher *et al.* (2005), Tatar (2007, 2011), Mair and Dillin (2008), Flatt (2014), Tatar *et al.* (2014), Hoedjes *et al.* (2017), and Kapahi *et al.* (2017)]. While DR is usually implemented at the adult stage, several studies have found that a (not too strongly) restricted juvenile diet can also extend adult life span (Economos and Lints 1984; May *et al.* 2015; Stefana *et al.* 2017); remarkably, depending on the adult diet, larval yeast DR can double median life span, a carry-over effect caused by the larval diet-induced suppression of toxic, life span-shortening lipids produced by the adults (Stefana *et al.* 2017).

Initially it was thought that the effects of adult DR might be caused by reduced intake of calories (“caloric restriction”), but it was later found that they are in fact independent of calories (Mair *et al.* 2005; also *cf.* Min *et al.* 2007; Tatar 2011); careful studies that manipulated yeast and sugar in different combinations discovered that DR extends life span because of the reduced amount of dietary yeast (relative to sugar), the major source of protein in the fly diet, suggesting that the main determinant is the ratio of protein to carbohydrate (Lee *et al.* 2008; Skorupa *et al.* 2008; Bruce *et al.* 2013; Lee 2015; Tatar *et al.* 2014). These insights were aided by the advent of the “nutritional geometry” framework, providing a quantitative method for examining multidimensional dietary responses (Lee *et al.* 2008; Simpson and Raubenheimer 2012; Flatt 2014, Tatar *et al.* 2014). The role of yeast is also underscored by observations showing that the quality and species of dietary yeast fungi has profound effects on fly life history (Begon 1982; Bass *et al.* 2007; Anagnostou *et al.* 2010; Grangeteau *et al.* 2018). In contrast, sugar has overall rather little effect on life span but increasing amounts reduce fecundity (Bass *et al.* 2007; Min *et al.* 2007). Subsequently, research in this area has led to the realization that dietary proteins (and essential amino acids) from yeast are crucial for egg production, but that they have major life span-shortening effects (Min and Tatar 2006; Grandison *et al.* 2009a; Lee *et al.* 2014; Piper *et al.* 2017; also *cf.* Flatt 2009; Tatar *et al.* 2014; Hoedjes *et al.* 2017).

From an evolutionary genetic perspective, several studies have reported substantial amounts of genetic variance for

dietary plasticity within and among populations (or strains) of *D. melanogaster* for various fitness-related and metabolic traits, and for the DR response itself, *e.g.*, using quantitative genetics estimation or experimental evolution approaches [Gebhardt and Stearns 1988 (*D. mercatorum*); Hillesheim and Stearns 1991; Gebhardt and Stearns 1993a; Bergland *et al.* 2008; Grandison *et al.* 2009b; Reed *et al.* 2010; Dick *et al.* 2011; Metaxakis and Partridge 2013; Zajitschek *et al.* 2016, 2019; Ng’oma *et al.* 2019]. Thus, fly populations are expected to be able to rapidly adapt to specific diets or changing dietary conditions.

In terms of molecular mechanisms, insights into the physiological underpinnings of DR and dietary plasticity have come from analyses of gene expression changes (Pletcher *et al.* 2002; Carsten *et al.* 2005; Gershman *et al.* 2007; Ding *et al.* 2014; Whitaker *et al.* 2014; Stanley *et al.* 2017; Zandveld *et al.* 2017; Hemphill *et al.* 2018), and many studies have sought to identify genes that underlie DR-induced longevity using mutants and transgenes, with growing (but still ambiguous) evidence for an involvement of genes in the insulin/insulin-like growth factor signaling (IIS)/target of rapamycin (TOR) pathways [reviewed in Tatar *et al.* (2014); also *cf.* discussion in Flatt (2009), Hoedjes *et al.* (2017), and Flatt and Partridge (2018)]. However, there is still little evidence for any specific gene to be functionally required for the life span increase under DR (Tatar 2007, 2011; Flatt 2014; Tatar *et al.* 2014).

Evolutionary biologists have been particularly interested in DR because it might represent an example of adaptive plasticity and underpin dynamic resource allocation trade-offs. Specifically, it has been hypothesized that DR is an adaptive response to temporary food shortage or starvation, whereby the organism withdraws energetic resources away from costly reproductive functions and reallocates them into somatic maintenance and survival functions until nutritional conditions that are more favorable for reproduction have returned (Holliday 1989; Masoro and Austad 1996; Kirkwood and Shanley 2005; also *cf.* Flatt 2011, 2014), a prediction consistent with the “disposable soma” theory for the evolution of aging and life histories (Kirkwood 1977), and supported by a theoretical model (Shanley and Kirkwood 2000). However, there is increasing evidence that this interpretation in terms of adaptive resource reallocation might not be correct: (i) flies that have been genetically sterilized, which should bring many (but perhaps not all) physiological activities geared toward reproduction to a halt, exhibit full life span expansion when exposed to DR (Mair *et al.* 2004); (ii) females flies that have evolved on and adapted to a DR diet evolve reduced life span without showing a concomitant evolutionary increase in fecundity [Zajitschek *et al.* 2019; males in contrast evolve higher reproductive success without reduced survival (Zajitschek *et al.* 2016)]; and (iii) flies kept under DR conditions and then switched back to a full diet perform worse in terms of survival and fecundity than flies continuously kept on a rich diet (McCracken *et al.* 2019). Thus, while in many species

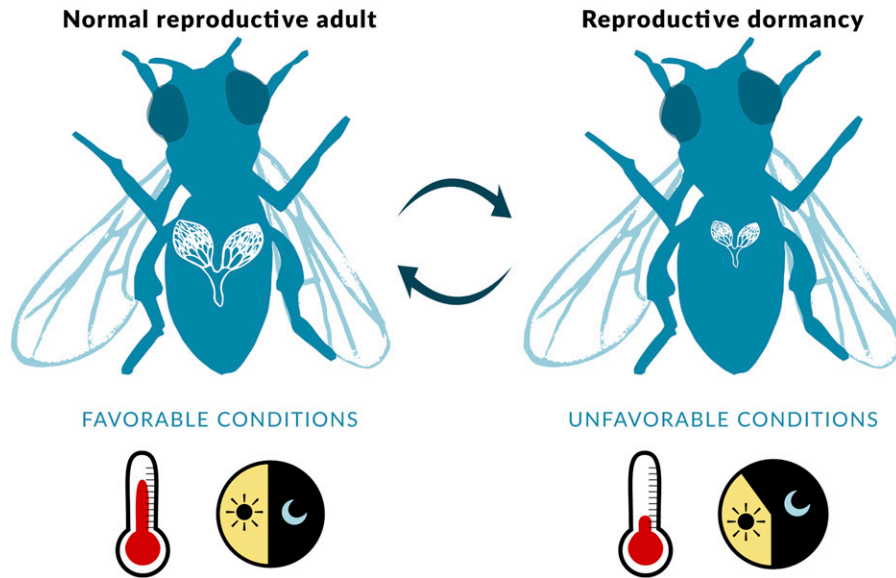


Figure 5 Adult reproductive dormancy in *D. melanogaster*. In response to cool temperatures and short day lengths, some populations of vinegar flies can undergo a plastic, reversible state of adult reproductive dormancy (often referred to as reproductive diapause). This syndrome is associated with ovarian arrest in females (causing small, nonvitellogenic ovaries, as illustrated in the figure) or arrested spermatogenesis in males, increased levels of stress resistance, and greatly improved adult survival. See main text for further details. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

DR increases life span (Nakagawa *et al.* 2012) and usually reduces fecundity (Moatt *et al.* 2016), the intuitively appealing idea that this response has evolved as a flexible and adaptive resource reallocation strategy might be wrong. Clearly, from an evolutionary point of view, much more work is required to determine the potential fitness costs and benefits of DR, and to elucidate the adaptive or non-adaptive nature of this kind of dietary plasticity.

Plastic responses to larval crowding in laboratory cultures, which can have major effects on fitness-related traits, have also been investigated [reviewed in Prasad and Joshi (2003)]. Strong crowding (hundreds of larvae *vs.* 50–100 larvae per vial) leads to a major food shortage and hence intense competition, and increases the levels of noxious metabolic waste (ammonia) produced by the larvae (Shiotsugu *et al.* 1997; Borash *et al.* 1998). The phenotypic consequences of increased larval crowding include increased larval and pupal mortality, markedly prolonged development time, increased pupation height, often dramatically reduced adult size at eclosion, reduced fecundity, decreased lipid content, and reduced starvation resistance [reviewed in Prasad and Joshi (2003); *cf.* Joshi (1997), Shiotsugu *et al.* (1997), Mueller and Joshi (2000), and Borash and Ho (2001)]. The effects of larval crowding on life span likely depend on a balance between exposure to toxic metabolic waste *vs.* food limitation: the former can decrease life span (Shiotsugu *et al.* 1997), while the latter (if not too severe) increases life span (see above; Chippindale *et al.* 1993) so that larval crowding is sometimes found to extend adult life span (Miller and Thomas 1958; Lints and Lints 1969; Zwaan *et al.* 1991; Klepsatel *et al.* 2018). This life span-extending effect of larval crowding has recently been explained as being due to the reduced availability of dietary yeast caused by increased larval competition (Klepsatel *et al.* 2018; see above). Effects of adult crowding on life history are less well understood but

can include reduced fecundity and life span (*cf.* Prasad and Joshi 2003).

One of the most interesting cases of life-history plasticity in the fly is reproductive dormancy (Figure 5); dormancy refers to a state of environmentally induced arrest of growth, development, and activity accompanied by decreased metabolic function, and which promotes somatic persistence [reviewed in Tatar and Yin (2001), Emerson *et al.* (2009a), Schmidt (2011), and Flatt *et al.* (2013)].

D. melanogaster enters such a state of dormancy in response to low temperature ($\leq 12\text{--}13^\circ$) and reduced (short-day) photoperiod (≤ 12 hr light); under such conditions, dormant flies are characterized by ovarian arrest (halted vitellogenesis) in females and arrested spermatogenesis in males, improved resistance to oxidative and heat stress (as well as other stressors), negligible rates of senescence, and increased adult life span (Saunders *et al.* 1989, 1990; Saunders and Gilbert 1990; Tatar and Yin 2001; Tatar *et al.* 2001b; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Emerson *et al.* 2009a,b; Schmidt 2011; Kubrak *et al.* 2016; Lirakis *et al.* 2018). The effects of low temperature on dormancy induction tend to be stronger than the effects of photoperiod (Emerson *et al.* 2009b).

Because in the vinegar fly—in contrast to some other insects including other *Drosophila* species—this state is rapidly induced, rather “shallow,” and can easily be “broken” by increasing temperature and lengthening the photoperiod (Saunders *et al.* 1989; Saunders and Gilbert 1990; Saunders and Bertossa 2011), it might not present a proper “diapause” but rather a state of “quiescence”; on the other hand, because it is under neuroendocrine control and seems to be adaptive (see below), it does exhibit some major hallmarks of proper diapause (*cf.* Tatar *et al.* 2001b; Tatar and Yin 2001; Flatt *et al.* 2005, 2013).

Interestingly, there is geographic (clinal) and genetic variation for dormancy expression in *D. melanogaster*: while

genotypes from some populations can enter dormancy readily in response to low temperatures and short-day photoperiod, others have low or zero dormancy propensity (Williams and Sokolowski 1993; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b, 2008; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Emerson *et al.* 2009b; Fabian *et al.* 2015). This pattern is most clearly seen along the North American east coast where the propensity of dormancy expression follows a latitudinal cline: flies from temperate, seasonal high-latitude populations (*e.g.*, from Maine) show much greater dormancy inducibility than flies from subtropical/tropical low-latitude populations (*e.g.*, from Florida) (Williams and Sokolowski 1993; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b, 2008; Schmidt and Paaby 2008; Emerson *et al.* 2009b).

In Europe, the propensity to undergo dormancy exhibits a similar but considerably shallower north–south latitudinal cline as compared to North America (Pegoraro *et al.* 2017). Along the Australian east coast, dormancy expression is also clinal but the pattern is nonlinear, with dormancy incidence being lowest in subtropical Australia, and then increasing toward both temperate and tropical Australia (Lee *et al.* 2011); however, the pattern is similar to the cline along the North American east coast when considering a similar latitudinal range as in North America.

When experimentally isolated in the laboratory and measured under nondormancy-inducing conditions, Schmidt *et al.* (2005b) found that “high-dormancy” genotypes (*i.e.*, strains that always undergo dormancy under dormancy-inducing conditions) have lower early fecundity, improved resistance to starvation and cold stress, reduced age-specific mortality, and longer life span as compared to “low-dormancy” genotypes, suggesting that the ability to undergo dormancy forms part of a pleiotropic, polymorphic life-history syndrome (*cf.* Flatt *et al.* 2013).

Several lines of evidence suggest that *D. melanogaster* can overwinter in temperate areas on several continents, despite this species being an ancestrally tropical insect (Izquierdo 1991; Mitrovski and Hoffmann 2001; Boulétreau-Merle and Fouillet 2002; Boulétreau-Merle *et al.* 2003; Hoffmann *et al.* 2003); this is consistent with population genetic studies that have observed temporally persistent population structure, implying that flies might overwinter locally [Ives (1945, 1970) for North America; also *cf.* Izquierdo (1991) and references therein]. This has led to the hypothesis that dormancy in *D. melanogaster* represents an overwintering strategy (Williams and Sokolowski 1993; Schmidt *et al.* 2005a,b), similar to the winter diapause observed in northern *Drosophila* species (Lumme 1978; also *cf.* Tatar and Yin 2001; Tatar *et al.* 2001b; Flatt *et al.* 2013). This notion is supported by population cage experiments by Schmidt and Conde (2006) who observed that under stressful conditions (alternating bouts of starvation and cold stress), the frequency of genotypes able to express dormancy increased over time relative to the frequency of nondormant genotypes, whereas under favorable control conditions the opposite pattern was found. In favor of the overwintering hypothesis, Paul Schmidt (personal communication) has observed that

flies can live for up to 6 months under standard dormancy conditions, and Marko Brankatschk (personal communication) has found that adult flies can live up to 9 months when kept under temperatures fluctuating $\sim 8^\circ$ and on a plant diet, which, in contrast to a yeast-based diet, confers increased cold tolerance (also *cf.* Brankatschk *et al.* 2018).

Perhaps consistent with the idea that dormancy is an adaptation of temperate populations of *D. melanogaster* to cold climates, Fabian *et al.* (2015) found that dormancy inducibility was $< 2\%$ among 119 lines from across 10 sub-Saharan African populations; this low diapause propensity was independent of whether the lines came from lowland or from high-altitude populations (also *cf.* Schmidt 2011). However, Zonato *et al.* (2017) and Lirakis *et al.* (2018) have recently reported positive dormancy induction in African strains, even though non-African admixture was not ruled out as an explanation; according to Zonato *et al.* (2017), dormancy might represent an ancestral adaptation to unfavorable seasonal changes (*cf.* Fabian *et al.* 2015). Whichever the case may be—overwintering adaptation or a stress response to other unfavorable conditions—the evidence to date suggests that dormancy represents a case of adaptive life-history plasticity.

The physiological mechanisms underlying dormancy have been probed using gene expression analyses (Kubrak *et al.* 2014; Zhao *et al.* 2016). These, as well as several genetic studies, have identified a major role of neuroendocrine pathways in affecting dormancy, especially the IIS pathway and secondary downstream hormones such as juvenile hormone and ecdysone [reviewed Tatar and Yin (2001), Flatt *et al.* (2005), Emerson *et al.* (2009b), Schmidt (2011), and Flatt *et al.* (2013)]. For North American populations, Schmidt *et al.* (2008) have mapped diapause propensity to the *couch potato* locus, a gene involved in neural development and possibly endocrine regulation; and a study by Williams *et al.* (2006) has implicated the IIS signaling gene *PI3 kinase* in explaining natural variation in dormancy inducibility. Notably, loss-of-function laboratory mutations in the IIS pathway “phenocopy” important aspects of dormancy [Tatar *et al.* (2001a); reviewed in Tatar and Yin (2001), Flatt *et al.* (2005, 2013), Emerson *et al.* (2009b), and Schmidt (2011)]. Interestingly, and beyond dormancy, growing evidence suggests that variation in IIS makes a major contribution to life-history clines (Paaby *et al.* 2010, 2014; Fabian *et al.* 2012; Flatt *et al.* 2013; Durmaz *et al.* 2019). In European populations, dormancy has been linked to a polymorphism at the *timeless* locus, a gene involved in the circadian clock (Sandrelli *et al.* 2007; Tauber *et al.* 2007; Zonato *et al.* 2018).

Together, the literature above suggests that many fitness components in *D. melanogaster* are highly plastic. Yet, we still know little about the potential inevitability, costs, and benefits of life-history plasticity and the evolutionary forces that shape it.

The amount and maintenance of genetic variation for fitness components

Populations of *D. melanogaster* harbor extensive amounts of genetic variation in fitness components. This is evidenced by

a large number of quantitative genetic studies (and laboratory evolution; see below). For reviews see Lewontin (1974), Simmons and Crow (1977), Crow and Simmons (1983), Hedrick and Murray (1983), Charlesworth (1987), Roff and Mousseau (1987), and Mukai (1988); the treatment here mainly follows the syntheses of Charlesworth and Hughes (2000) and Charlesworth (2015).

To examine the effects of *de novo* mutations or of standing genetic variation on the variability of life-history traits, quantitative genetic studies of *Drosophila* have analyzed net fitness using genotypic (sometimes also interspecific) competition assays or, the majority of them, fitness components under laboratory conditions (Reed and Reed 1948, 1950; Knight and Robertson 1957; Mukai 1964, 1984, 1988; Prout 1971a,b; Sved 1971, 1989; Bundgaard and Christiansen 1972; Lewontin 1974; Mukai *et al.* 1974; Simmons and Crow 1977; Jungen and Hartl 1979; Haymer and Hartl 1982, 1983; Crow and Simmons 1983; Hedrick and Murray 1983; Kusakabe and Yamazaki 1984; Yamazaki and Hirose 1984; Mackay 1985; Charlesworth 1987, 2015; Tanaka and Yamazaki 1990; Crow 1993; Houle *et al.* 1994b, 1997; Latter and Sved 1994; Fowler *et al.* 1997; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000).

Many of these studies have taken advantage of balancer chromosomes, using them to isolate wild-type chromosomes and study their effects on fitness components (Muller 1928; *cf.* Lewontin 1974; Simmons and Crow 1977; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). Balancer chromosomes carry multiple inversions that suppress crossing over along a particular chromosome when in heterozygous state with a homologous wild-type chromosome; moreover, most balancer stocks carry recessive lethals (thus preventing the homozygosity of the balancer chromosome) and dominant phenotypic marker mutations (Muller 1928; Ashburner *et al.* 2005). This powerful technique can be used to study the effects of *de novo* mutations on variation in fitness components (the mutational component of the genetic variance, V_M ; Simmons and Crow 1977): fully or partially recessive deleterious (including lethal) mutations that occur spontaneously on the wild-type chromosome can be completely sheltered from selection by being kept continuously in a nonrecombining, heterozygous state over the balancer, by backcrossing male heterozygotes to females from the balancer strain (Muller 1928; Lewontin 1974), in MA experiments (Mukai 1964, 1969; Mukai *et al.* 1972; Ohnishi 1977; Houle *et al.* 1994b, 1997; Charlesworth *et al.* 2004; Ávila *et al.* 2006; Keightley *et al.* 2009; Schrider *et al.* 2013; also *cf.* Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). Another application is to use balancers to extract a set of independent wild-type chromosomes from natural populations and measure trait values of fitness components of flies homozygous for such chromosomes. Moreover, by performing intercrosses between such sets of chromosomes (“diallel” crosses), one can measure the effects on fitness components of one of the major chromosomes (either the *X*, second, or third) independent of the other chromosomes. This information can

be used to estimate the additive and dominance components of genetic variance, V_A and V_D (Mukai *et al.* 1974; Mukai and Nagano 1983; Kusakabe and Mukai 1984; Mukai 1988; Hughes 1995; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). A third method is to compete nonlethal wild-type chromosomes against a balancer in population cages to estimate the fitness effects of the wild homozygous chromosomes relative to the heterozygous chromosomes (Sved 1971, 1975; Wilton and Sved 1979; Latter and Sved 1994; *cf.* Fowler *et al.* 1997 for an extension of this method).

What have we learned from > 50 years of quantitative genetic studies of *Drosophila* life history? One emerging conclusion is that newly arising deleterious mutations make a major contribution to standing genetic variation in net fitness and genetic load; this is revealed by the unmasking of concealed variability, which is not detectable in outbred populations, among homozygotes upon inbreeding (Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). For example, if a set of wild-type second or third chromosomes in *Drosophila* is made homozygous, often ~30% of the chromosomal homozygotes are lethal (Simmons and Crow 1977; Crow 1993; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). However, some estimates can be considerably higher: for instance, Mukai and Nagano (1983) found a frequency of lethal-carrying chromosomes of 0.55 for a population from Florida [also *cf.* Simmons and Crow (1977) for a review]. In contrast to the second and third chromosome, only a few lethals are found on the *X* chromosome because *X*-linked lethal alleles are exposed to selection in (hemizygous) males and thus are rapidly eliminated from the population (Crow 1993; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). Crosses between distinct lines, each with different lethal chromosomes, produce viable heterozygous offspring in close to 100% of cases. This implies that most recessive lethal variants affect distinct genes and that the high frequency of chromosomes with lethal mutations is caused by individually rare mutations distributed over many loci (Crow 1993; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). Based on a literature analysis, Charlesworth and Hughes (2000) conclude that deleterious mutations typically lead to reductions of net fitness when in homozygous or heterozygous states of at least ~1% and ~5%, respectively [see Simmons and Crow (1977), Crow and Simmons (1983), Crow (1993), García-Dorado and Caballero (2000), and Charlesworth and Charlesworth (2010)].

A related inference is that most deleterious mutations affecting fitness are likely to be partially recessive, not fully recessive or additive (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). For example, even fully recessive lethal mutations (with a dominance coefficient $h = 0$) have average heterozygous fitness effects of ~2–3% (Crow 1993; García-Dorado and Caballero 2000), and mutations with small homozygous effects on fitness have h -values that are considerably larger than zero. For example, estimates from MA experiments suggest that such mildly deleterious mutations have dominance coefficients in the range

of $h = 0.1\text{--}0.4$, with an average of $\sim 0.20\text{--}0.25$ (Crow and Simmons 1983; Crow 1993; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; García-Dorado and Caballero 2000; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Charlesworth 2015). The literature summarized above thus suggests that most standing variation in net (total) fitness in populations of *D. melanogaster* is fueled by the input of mildly deleterious, partially recessive mutations (Simmons and Crow 1977; Crow and Simmons 1983; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015).

The accumulation of deleterious mutations is also fundamentally important for the evolution of aging or senescence. According to the MA theory of aging (Medawar 1952), mutations with detrimental effects confined to old age classes are effectively neutral and attain higher equilibrium allele frequencies under mutation–selection balance than early acting deleterious alleles [reviewed in Rose (1991), Charlesworth (1993b, 2000, 2001), Partridge and Barton (1993), Hughes and Reynolds (2005), Partridge and Gems (2002), Flatt and Schmidt (2009), Paaby and Schmidt (2009), Charlesworth and Charlesworth (2010), and Flatt and Partridge (2018)]. Analyses of the age-specific properties of quantitative genetic parameters in *D. melanogaster* (e.g., V_A , V_D , and inbreeding depression) provide support for this theory (Hughes and Charlesworth 1994; Charlesworth and Hughes 1996; Hughes *et al.* 2002; Reynolds *et al.* 2007; Hughes 2010; Felix *et al.* 2012; Durham *et al.* 2014). However, alternative models predict similar patterns of age-specific genetic variance under both MA and AP (Moorad and Promislow (2009); yet, there is currently little evidence for the kind of age-specific changes in allelic effects and dominance variance assumed by these models (Hughes 2010). Importantly, by using the DGRP lines to examine the age-specific fitness effects of individual single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), Durham *et al.* (2014) found a major increase in the number of SNPs affecting fecundity with increasing age, with minimal overlap among SNPs across ages. Thus, there is overall quite strong empirical evidence for MA in maintaining genetic variance in senescence.

Interestingly, the selective effects of new, mildly detrimental mutations in *Drosophila*, as inferred from quantitative genetic studies, are markedly underestimated by analyses of DNA sequence variability: this implies the existence of mutations with relatively large fitness effects that make a major but underappreciated contribution to mutational input and standing variation for fitness (Charlesworth 2015). This could be because genomic analyses might miss contributions of transposable element insertions or of other large insertion/deletions (Charlesworth 2015). A contribution from inversion polymorphisms seems more unlikely because most quantitative genetic studies have been performed with inversion-free lines (Charlesworth 2015) but can, generally speaking, not be ruled out as an important source of fitness variation in natural populations (Kapun and Flatt 2019).

For detrimental mutations, mutation rates (U) have also been estimated from MA experiments, either using assays of

fitness components (mainly viability) or sequencing analyses [Charlesworth *et al.* (2004), Ávila *et al.* (2006), and Haag-Liautard *et al.* (2007); for earlier estimates see Houle *et al.* (1992, 1994a)], with U_D being defined as the total mutation rate per diploid genome to deleterious alleles for autosomal sites. MA experiments have produced an extremely large range of estimates for U_D , from 0.02 to 1.2 (Charlesworth *et al.* 2004; Nishant *et al.* 2009; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010). The most current estimate, based on combining estimates for U from DNA sequence comparisons across species with direct estimates of the mutation rate from DNA sequences in MA lines, is a genome-wide deleterious mutation rate of ~ 1.2 for the diploid genome (Haag-Liautard *et al.* 2007), but this estimate must be regarded as provisional as it is subject to large uncertainty (Charlesworth 2015).

Newly arisen deleterious mutations typically impact multiple fitness components simultaneously (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). This inference is supported by several facts. First, many MA experiments have consistently found positive mutational correlations between multiple fitness components (Houle *et al.* 1994b; Martorell *et al.* 1998; Pletcher *et al.* 1998; Keightley and Ohnishi 1998). Second, as a consequence, the effects of deleterious mutations on individual fitness components are typically only a fraction of their effects on net (total) fitness, with an average effect of a mutation on a trait of $\sim 25\text{--}40\%$ of its overall effect on fitness (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). Third, the fitness reduction caused by making wild chromosomes from natural populations homozygous is typically a multiple of the homozygous reduction seen for viability (Crow and Simmons 1983; Latter and Sved 1994). This means that most deleterious mutations have pleiotropic effects on several fitness components that go in the same direction, thus causing positive correlations.

While standing variation for net fitness seems to be dominated by an input of partially recessive mildly deleterious mutations, most studies have found that genetic variance for fitness components is dominated by additive variance, with a relatively minor contribution of nonadditive variance (e.g., V_D) (Kusakabe and Mukai 1984; Charlesworth 1987; Roff and Mousseau 1987; Mukai 1988; Houle 1992; Crnokrak and Roff 1995; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Hill *et al.* 2008). Consistent with additivity, most life-history traits seem to be affected by many loci of small effect; however, in some cases traits exhibit rather large values of V_D (relative to V_A and inbreeding depression) that are compatible with the existence of a few genes with relatively large effects (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; *cf.* Hughes 1995, 1997).

Importantly, while narrow-sense heritabilities ($h^2 = V_A/V_P$) for life-history traits are typically lower (average: $\sim 10\text{--}12\%$ and range: $\sim 0\text{--}60\%$) than those for morphological or physiological traits (Roff and Mousseau 1987), Houle (1992) has found that fitness components harbor *significantly more* additive variance than morphological traits when V_A is divided by the square of the trait mean ($V_A/m^2 = \text{mean-standardized}$

Box 2 How is genetic variation for fitness maintained?

Two broad types of explanation have been proposed to explain the maintenance of variation in natural populations (Dobzhansky 1955; Lewontin 1974). The “classical hypothesis” posits that most novel variation in populations is caused by the input of rare deleterious mutations (Muller 1950); it essentially represents a model of purifying selection and mutation–selection balance. The “balanced hypothesis,” on the other hand, suggests that most loci are polymorphic and that balancing selection maintains several alleles in the population (Dobzhansky 1955).

As argued above, the data at hand rule out the idea that the observed variability in fitness components in *Drosophila* is solely due to mutation–selection balance (Charlesworth 1987; Mukai 1988; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). Thus, it is likely that some types of balancing selection make a major contribution to the maintenance of variation in fitness components, as Dobzhansky (1955) had envisaged.

Yet, classical models of balancing selection, involving overdominance (heterozygote advantage), seem in most cases to be incompatible with the data (Charlesworth and Hughes 2000): quantitative genetic studies often find that there is too much additive relative to dominance variance, and too much variance of chromosomal homozygotes as compared to chromosomal heterozygotes for this model to explain the maintenance of variation for net fitness (Kusakabe and Mukai 1984; Mukai 1988; Houle 1992).

However, an interesting possibility compatible with the data is AP (see Roff 1997; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Mackay 2010): if two alleles at a locus affect two traits, with the directionality of their homozygous effects on a given trait being opposite, and if the allele that is beneficial with respect to a given trait is dominant over the deleterious allele (“dominance reversal”), heterozygote advantage for net fitness can result (Rose 1982, 1985; Curtsinger *et al.* 1994; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; also *cf.* Hazel 1943). Thus, in such a situation, there can be additive genetic variance for fitness components among loci even if there is no V_A for net fitness. Theory suggests that this mechanism might lead to the maintenance of stable polymorphisms (Rose 1982, 1985; Curtsinger *et al.* 1994; also *cf.* Charlesworth and Hughes 1996; Roff 1997). This hypothesis is consistent with empirical estimates of the ratio of dominance to additive genetic variance for life-history traits (Roff 1997; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000) and empirical observations of pleiotropic effects of natural polymorphisms on various life-history traits (Paaby *et al.* 2014; Durmaz *et al.* 2019; also see section on correlated responses).

A similar uncoupling between the effects of a locus on a fitness component and fitness can occur under spatially and/or temporally varying selection, GxE, or frequency-dependent selection (Mukai *et al.* 1974; Mukai 1988; Gillespie 1991; Stearns 1992; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000). For example, Wittmann *et al.* (2017) have recently developed a model of seasonally fluctuating selection, based on AP with dominance reversal, which can explain the maintenance of multilocus polymorphisms; this might account for seasonal fluctuations of allele frequencies and fitness components in temperate populations of *D. melanogaster* (Bergland *et al.* 2014; Behrman *et al.* 2015). This model suggests that the conditions under which temporally varying selection can maintain variation are less restrictive than previously thought. Similarly, as discussed in the context of clines above, spatially varying selection provides an attractive mechanism for explaining the maintenance of balanced polymorphisms (Levene 1953; Slatkin 1975; Felsenstein 1976; Endler 1977; Hedrick 1986; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Yeaman 2015; Kapun and Flatt 2019), and trade-offs due to AP might explain the maintenance of spatial variation in fitness components (*e.g.*, Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Paaby *et al.* 2014; Durmaz *et al.* 2018, 2019).

Moreover, both theory and experiments show that frequency- or density-dependent selection—due to interactions among individuals—as well as gene flow (migration) can also generally have a major impact on the maintenance of genetic variation [*e.g.*, discussed in Lewontin (1955), Barton and Turelli (1989), Sokolowski *et al.* (1997), Bürger (2000), Mappes *et al.* (2008), Saltz *et al.* (2012), and references therein].

Finally, what is the role of epistasis in maintaining variation (*e.g.*, Mackay 2010, 2014)? Despite evidence for pervasive epistasis among individual loci in *Drosophila*, also at the level of fitness (*e.g.*, Yamamoto *et al.* 2009; Huang *et al.* 2012; Corbett-Detig *et al.* 2013), most genetic variation is additive (Hill *et al.* 2008). These notions are not incompatible as epistasis can generate substantial additive variance, especially when alleles are at extreme frequencies (Hill *et al.* 2008; Mackay 2014). Nonetheless, epistasis might have important implications for the maintenance of variation. For example, with suppressing epistasis it is possible that the amount of stabilizing selection is overestimated and mutational variance is underestimated (Yamamoto *et al.* 2009; Mackay 2014). If this is true, the inference that mutation–selection balance is insufficient to explain the maintenance of variation might need to be revisited. Moreover, in finite populations subject to inbreeding and drift, epistatic variance can become converted into additive variance, which can contribute to the response to selection (*e.g.*, Mackay 2014; Hill 2017).

additive variance = square of the coefficient of additive variation, CV_A^2) instead of being divided by V_P [for estimates of CV_A and CV_D see, e.g., Charlesworth and Hughes (2000)]. Because heritability estimates can suffer from inherent positive correlations between the numerator (V_A) and components of V_P in the denominator, the mean-scaled additive variance is a better predictor of “evolvability,” i.e., the potential to respond to selection, than heritability (Hansen *et al.* 2011).

This leads to an interesting conundrum (Houle 1992; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Charlesworth 2015). Fisher’s Fundamental Theorem of Natural Selection implies that selection should exhaust additive genetic variance for fitness, so that there should be no additive genetic variance for fitness in an equilibrium population under selection alone (Fisher 1930; *cf.* Charlesworth 1987). This leads to the prediction that traits closely connected to fitness should exhibit very little or no additive genetic variance (Robertson 1955; Mousseau and Roff 1987; Roff and Mousseau 1987; Price and Schluter 1991; Houle 1992). How can this discrepancy be explained?

Several explanations have been put forward to account for the low heritability of fitness components and their excess of additive genetic variance (Charlesworth 1987, 2015; Mukai 1988; Price and Schluter 1991; Houle 1992; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000). The fact that for fitness components, as compared to other traits, estimates of h^2 are much lower than estimates of CV_A^2 might be explained by higher amounts of residual variation V_R ($V_P = V_A + V_R$, where V_R is the sum of nonadditive genetic variance components and environmental variance) (Houle 1992). Because V_D is expected to contribute relatively little to V_R (but see below), this implies that V_E makes a major contribution to the variability of fitness components (also see section on plasticity). A large amount of V_E could result from fitness traits typically integrating (environmental) variability over the entire lifetime of an organism, maybe much more so than other traits (Price and Schluter 1991; Houle 1992). This argument is supported by theoretical work suggesting that much phenotypic variation in fitness components might be due to neutral stochastic (environmental or demographic) “noise” (Steiner and Tuljapurkar 2012). Yet, a meta-analysis of published data on trait plasticity has found that life-history traits are not necessarily more plastic than other traits (Acasuso-Rivero *et al.* 2019).

A second more fundamental explanation for the high values of V_A for fitness components (as revealed by estimates of CV_A^2) is that life-history traits are influenced by many more loci than other traits (Houle 1992, 2001; the “target size” hypothesis). In support of this, Houle (1998) found high correlations between mutational target sizes and mutational variances, suggesting that traits with a complex highly polygenic architecture, such as fitness components, are larger targets for mutational input than more simple traits. The mutational target size hypothesis is clearly an appealing explanation for the high levels of V_A for fitness components, but

the large amounts of V_A appear to contradict the expectation that there should be no additive variance for fitness in an equilibrium population.

Generally, the available quantitative genetic estimates suggest that there is too much additive genetic variance for fitness components and more inbreeding depression than can be explained by mutational input and mutation-selection balance alone (Kusakabe and Mukai 1984; Charlesworth 1987, 2015; Mukai 1988; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000). For example, the value of V_A for viability—estimated for second chromosomes subject to MA and inbreeding depression—is expected to be much greater than 0.001, while estimates of V_A from natural populations are at least twice as large, suggesting that > 50% of the additive variance for fitness components is not accounted for by mutation (Mukai 1988; Charlesworth *et al.* 2004, Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010).

What then explains the high amount of (additive) variance in fitness components? This issue bears directly on one of the two central questions of population genetics (Lewontin 1974; Mackay 2010; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010): (i) how much variation is there in natural populations and (ii) what evolutionary forces maintain this variation? While the first problem can be considered solved, especially due to the advent of DNA sequencing, the maintenance of variation in quantitative polygenic traits remains incompletely understood (Johnson and Barton 2005) (Box 2).

Life-History Evolution in the Laboratory

The fact that populations of *D. melanogaster* often harbor large amounts of variation available for selection to act upon is most powerfully illustrated by selection experiments in the laboratory [reviewed in Lewontin (1974), Wright (1984), and Powell (1997)], a framework called laboratory evolution, laboratory selection, or experimental evolution (*sensu lato*). The forerunners of this approach were the early population cage experiments of L’Héritier and Teissier (L’Héritier and Teissier 1933; also *cf.* Gayon and Veuille 2001), and Wright and Dobzhansky (1946).

Essentially three types of laboratory evolution experiments can be distinguished (e.g., Bennett and Lenski 1999): (i) laboratory natural selection (= experimental evolution *sensu stricto*; sometimes called “quasi-natural” selection), where the researcher surveys evolutionary changes of replicated populations in response to different experimentally imposed conditions (e.g., environmental, demographic, genetic, social, *etc.*); (ii) artificial selection (or “selective breeding”), where the researcher directly selects breeding individuals based on their phenotype or genotype for further breeding (the approach classically used in animal and plant breeding); and (iii) laboratory culling, where the experimenter imposes an extreme environmental condition (e.g., usually causing high mortality), representing a stringent selective screen, with only a small proportion of the individuals contributing to the next generation [this design

has elements of both (i) and (ii)]. For general reviews of these methods see Hill and Caballero (1992), Rose *et al.* (1996), Bennett and Lenski (1999), Scheiner (2002), Fuller *et al.* (2005), Kawecki *et al.* (2012), and the edited volume by Garland and Rose (2009).

As reviewed in detail by Prasad and Joshi (2003) and as briefly summarized below, laboratory evolution experiments have contributed greatly to our understanding of many aspects of life-history evolution and evolutionary genetics in general (e.g., Lewontin 1974; Stearns 1992; Roff 1992, 1997; Charlesworth 1994; Powell 1997; Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Harshman 2003; Rose *et al.* 2004; Burke and Rose 2009; Garland and Rose 2009).

Laboratory selection on fitness components

Many studies have imposed laboratory selection on fitness components in flies, either by direct artificial selection or indirectly in response to specific environmental conditions. Fitness components that have been successfully subjected to artificial selection include developmental time (Clarke *et al.* 1961; Prout 1962; Bakker 1969; Zwaan *et al.* 1995a), age at sexual maturity [Hudak and Gromko 1989; Promislow and Bugbee 2000 (*D. simulans*)], copulation duration (Gromko *et al.* 1991), size at eclosion [= size at maturity; Robertson and Reeve 1952; Robertson 1959, 1960b; Druger 1962 (*D. pseudoobscura*); Hillesheim and Stearns 1991, 1992; Partridge and Fowler 1993; Partridge *et al.* 1999b; Turner *et al.* 2011], ovariole number (Robertson 1957a; Engstrom 1971), (early) fecundity (Bell *et al.* 1955; Rose and Charlesworth 1981b; Rose 1984a; Reeve and Fairbairn 1999; Charlesworth *et al.* 2007), egg size (Bell *et al.* 1955; Parsons 1964; Schwarzkopf *et al.* 1999), late-life fertility and life span (Rose and Charlesworth 1981b; Luckinbill *et al.* 1984; Rose 1984b; Partridge and Fowler 1992; Partridge *et al.* 1999a; Remolina *et al.* 2012; May *et al.* 2019), direct family selection on life span without selection for late-life fertility (Zwaan *et al.* 1995b), and various stress resistance traits (Service *et al.* 1985; Hoffmann and Parsons 1993; Hoffmann and Harshman 1999; Harshman *et al.* 1999a; Rose *et al.* 2004; Rion and Kawecki 2007).

Life-history evolution in *Drosophila* has also been investigated in response to several environmental conditions using laboratory natural selection (experimental evolution *sensu stricto*), including adaptation to laboratory culture conditions [evolutionary “domestication”; Matos *et al.* 2000 (in *D. subobscura*); Sgrò and Partridge 2000, 2001; Houle and Rowe 2003; Simões *et al.* 2007 (in *D. subobscura*); cf. Promislow and Tatar 1998], temperature [Anderson 1973 (in *D. pseudoobscura*); Cavicchi 1978; Cavicchi *et al.* 1989, 1991; Huey *et al.* 1991; Partridge *et al.* 1994a,b; James and Partridge 1995; Azevedo *et al.* 1996; Bochdanovits and de Jong 2003a; Tobler *et al.* 2015], nutrition (including selection for starvation resistance, adaptation to different larval and adult diets, DR, *etc.*; Robertson 1960b,c; Hillesheim and Stearns 1991, 1992; Chapman *et al.* 1994; Hoffmann

and Harshman 1999; Nusbaum and Rose 1999; Bochdanovits and de Jong 2003a; Rion and Kawecki 2007; Kolss *et al.* 2009; Kristensen *et al.* 2011; Vijendravarma *et al.* 2011, 2012; Zajitschek *et al.* 2016, 2019; Hoedjes *et al.* 2019; May *et al.* 2019), humidity (Kennington *et al.* 2003), levels of extrinsic (environmental) mortality at the adult stage (Gasser *et al.* 2000; Stearns *et al.* 2000), reverse life-history evolution back to the ancestral state (Teotónio and Rose 2000; Teotónio *et al.* 2009), and so forth.

A growing number of so-called “Evolve and Resequencing” (E&R) studies have examined the genomic basis of adaptive responses in laboratory evolution experiments in *Drosophila* using next-generation resequencing technology [reviewed in Schlötterer *et al.* (2014), (2015)], including investigations of the evolution of development time and correlated traits (Burke *et al.* 2010), size (Turner *et al.* 2011), life span and late-life fertility (Remolina *et al.* 2012; Carnes *et al.* 2015; Fabian *et al.* 2018; Hoedjes *et al.* 2019), egg size (Jha *et al.* 2015), starvation (Hardy *et al.* 2017) and desiccation resistance (Kang *et al.* 2016), and thermal adaptation (both in *D. melanogaster* and *D. simulans*; Orozco-terWengel *et al.* 2012; Tobler *et al.* 2013; Kapun *et al.* 2014; Barghi *et al.* 2019). These studies have yielded major insights into the dynamics of allele frequency changes, linked selection due to hitchhiking (“genetic drift”), and the identity of genomic regions and loci that might underpin adaptation.

What general conclusions can be drawn from the work on laboratory evolution in the fly? The studies above imply that life-history adaptation in *Drosophila* is often very rapid and, at least initially, not limited by mutational input: it appears to proceed mainly from a large store of standing variation (often involving alleles at intermediate frequencies, consistent with balancing selection), likely via polygenic responses at many loci and maybe also soft sweeps [see data and discussion in Charlesworth *et al.* (2007), Teotónio *et al.* (2009), Burke *et al.* (2010), Pritchard and Di Rienzo (2010), Pritchard *et al.* (2010), Orozco-terWengel *et al.* (2012), Messer and Petrov (2013), Charlesworth (2015), Garud *et al.* (2015), Barghi *et al.* (2019), Höllinger *et al.* (2019), and Kelly and Hughes (2019)]. This conjecture is not new but is now supported by much stronger empirical evidence: Lewontin (1974) stressed that “. . . the results of artificial selection experiments remain the strongest evidence we have of widespread genetic variation for genes that are relevant to characters of adaptive significance” (p. 93) and “Certainly the most extreme form of the classical hypothesis, which allows only a handful of rare mutations to be heterozygous in each individual, is contradicted by the selection results. Some substantial number of loci contributing to adaptive morphological and physiological characters must be segregating at intermediate allelic frequencies” (p. 94).

Correlated responses to selection and trade-offs

Laboratory evolution in *Drosophila* has also illuminated our understanding of correlations between fitness components and trade-offs (Harshman 2003; Prasad and Joshi 2003).

Table 1 Summary of selection experiments on *D. melanogaster* life history [updated based on a figure in the Ph.D. thesis of Zwaan (1993) and first published in modified form by Stearns and Partridge (2001)]

		Correlated response to selection							
		Larval competition	Development time	Body size	Longevity	Early fecundity	Late fecundity	Starvation resistance/fat content	Desiccation resistance
Selected trait	Larval competition								
	Development time	+		+	0	+	-		
	Body size	-	+		+/-	+	-		
	Longevity	0	0	0/-		-	0/-	+	
	Early fecundity		+	+	0/-		0/-	-	0
	Late fecundity		0/+	0/+	+/-	-		0/+	0/+
	Starvation resistance/fat content		0/+		0/+				+
	Desiccation resistance		0/+	0	+	-		+	

The table represents a correlation matrix where the rows represent the focal life-history traits on which selection was applied and the columns represent the traits in which a correlated evolutionary response to selection was measured. Included are also two physiological traits (starvation and desiccation resistance) that also represent components of fitness contributing to somatic maintenance (survival); the expression of these traits can depend on nutritional conditions. The signs (0, +, and -) indicate the sign/direction of the correlated response; sometimes responses were not consistent (or even opposite) across different laboratories (e.g., 0/-, 0/+, or +/-) (also cf. Ackermann *et al.* 2001). The data in the matrix are based on results from (in alphabetical order) Buck *et al.* (2000), Chippindale *et al.* (1994, 1996, 1998), Force *et al.* (1995), Gasser *et al.* (2000), Graves *et al.* (1992), Harshman *et al.* (1999a,b), Hillesheim and Stearns (1991, 1992), Hoffmann and Parsons (1989, 1993), Luckinbill *et al.* (1984, 1988), Mueller (1987), Partridge and Fowler (1992, 1993), Partridge *et al.* (1999a,b), Reeve and Fairbairn (1999), Remolina *et al.* (2012), Rose (1984b), Rose and Charlesworth (1981b), Rose *et al.* (1992), Service *et al.* (1985, 1988), Stearns *et al.* (2000), and Zwaan *et al.* (1995a,b). Note that the matrix above does not represent a comprehensive or complete summary of the vast literature on correlated life-history responses in *D. melanogaster*. For reviews and discussion also see Stearns and Partridge (2001), Prasad and Joshi (2003), Harshman (2003), and Stearns and Medzhitov (2016).

A powerful way to establish genetic trade-offs is to apply selection on a focal life-history trait and to identify which other traits exhibit correlated responses to selection (Roff 1997; but cf. Gromko *et al.* 1991; Gromko 1995). Table 1 summarizes the results of 30 studies of direct and correlated life-history responses in *D. melanogaster* across 12 laboratories [Stearns and Partridge (2001) and Stearns and Medzhitov (2016); also cf. reviews in Bell and Koufopanou (1986), Stearns (1992), Harshman (2003), Prasad and Joshi (2003), and Rose *et al.* (2004)]. Overall, the results from these experiments suggest that:

- Flies selected for prolonged development have larger size at eclosion; conversely, flies selected for larger size exhibit increased development time.
- Females selected for increased early fecundity take longer to develop and are larger; conversely, flies selected for prolonged development or larger size exhibit increased early fecundity.
- Flies selected for increased longevity have decreased early fecundity.
- Flies selected for late-life fertility—and thus increased life span—exhibit improved stress (starvation or desiccation) resistance; conversely, selection for increased stress resistance is typically correlated with longer life span.

Importantly, several of these responses (or their absence) have been consistently observed across independent studies and laboratories: e.g., selection for longer life span (either by postponing reproduction or via direct selection for life span) typically leads to the correlated evolution of reduced early fecundity (Luckinbill *et al.* 1984; Rose 1984b; Zwaan *et al.*

1995b; Partridge *et al.* 1999a; Remolina *et al.* 2012). Fewer data exist about the correlated response of life span to selection for increased early fecundity (or early fitness more generally): while Reeve and Fairbairn (1999) observed no consistent effect on life span of selection for increased early fecundity, Stearns *et al.* (2000) found that after 50 generations of experimental evolution under high adult mortality, thus imposing strong selection on early fitness, flies had evolved faster development, earlier age at maturity, smaller size at eclosion, higher early fecundity, and shorter life span. The notion that selection for increased early fecundity might lead to the correlated evolution of shorter life span is also supported by two selection experiments in *Tribolium* flour beetles (Sokal 1970; Mertz 1975). Thus, it seems likely that the trade-off between early fecundity and life span might be symmetrical [but see Reeve and Fairbairn (1999)].

Another consistent pattern across most experiments is that selection for increased late-life fecundity/increased life span does not affect development time and/or body size, or vice versa, suggesting that development does not have a major impact on longevity (Luckinbill *et al.* 1984, 1988; Chippindale *et al.* 1994; Zwaan *et al.* 1995a,b; Partridge *et al.* 1999a; Buck *et al.* 2000; cf. discussion in McCulloch and Gems 2003).

These experiments thus provide robust evidence that fitness components are intimately connected through genetic (and the resulting developmental, physiological, and phenotypic) correlations (Stearns 1989a, 1992; Charlesworth 1990). The observed trade-offs are consistent with (but not proof of) AP alleles underlying genetic correlations; in particular, the commonly observed trade-off between early

fecundity and longevity is consistent with the AP hypothesis of the evolution of aging (Medawar 1946, 1952; Williams 1957; Rose and Charlesworth 1981a,b; Rose 1991; Charlesworth 1993b, 1994; Partridge and Barton 1993; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Rose *et al.* 2004; Hughes and Reynolds 2005; Flatt and Promislow 2007; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Charlesworth and Charlesworth 2010; Gaillard and Lemaître 2017; Austad and Hoffman 2018; Flatt and Partridge 2018).

Inadvertent selection, GxE, and interpretational caveats

Although we have learned a great deal from the data above, the interpretation of life-history selection experiments is not always straightforward (Partridge and Barton 1993; Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Prasad and Joshi 2003).

As indicated in Table 1, some correlated responses are inconsistent across studies and laboratories. One explanation for this might be variable pleiotropy: high variability in the signs and magnitudes of pleiotropic effects across selected loci can cause inconsistent correlated responses to selection, thus rendering the correlated responses difficult to predict; a related issue is that correlated responses to selection in the laboratory are not always well predicted by knowledge of genetic correlations (Gromko *et al.* 1991; Gromko 1995; *cf.* Flatt and Kawecki 2004).

Inadvertent selection or unintended differences between selection regimes can also cause interpretational problems. As discussed by Promislow and Tatar (1998), some selection experiments for postponed senescence might have been subject to inadvertent selection for early life performance (rapid development and high early fecundity) and to strongly relaxed selection on the later part of adult life, due to the typical, discrete 2-week culture regime of the base stocks used in many of these experiments: under such regimes alleles for adult fitness traits that are expressed after 4 days of adult age are sheltered from selection, possibly leading to the accumulation of late-acting mutations (*cf.* Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Sgrò and Partridge 2000, 2001). In such a situation, correlations between early and late fitness components might not be due AP, but could instead arise from LD between the newly accumulated mutations and alleles affecting early or late-age traits under direct selection (Promislow and Tatar 1998; also *cf.* Clark 1987).

GxE interactions can also obscure correlated responses and might arise from unintended differences between selection regimes, for example differences in nutrition, and from selection lines being measured under assay conditions that differ from those in the selection regime (Leroi *et al.* 1994a,b; Rose *et al.* 1996; Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Ackermann *et al.* 2001). Similarly, correlations might be masked by GxE interactions when populations are exposed to novel conditions, for instance when wild-caught flies are brought into the laboratory and they are adapting to the laboratory conditions (Service and Rose 1985; Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Matos *et al.* 2000; Sgrò and Partridge 2000; Simões *et al.* 2007; Klepsatel *et al.* 2013a).

Some of the inconsistent (or occasionally even opposite) life-history responses among different laboratories in Table 1 might thus—at least in part—be due to differences between selection and assay environments within the same laboratory, or to differences between assay environments among laboratories, *i.e.*, a type of genotype- (or selection regime) by-environment interaction (Harshman and Hoffmann 2000; Ackermann *et al.* 2001). In support of this notion, when life-history selection lines from laboratories in Basel, Groningen, Irvine, and London were all measured in each of these laboratories, Ackermann *et al.* (2001) found clear interactions between origin and assay environment for early fecundity, a highly environmentally sensitive (plastic) trait (also *cf.* Charlesworth *et al.* 2007; May *et al.* 2019). In contrast, for longevity, development time and body size interactions between selection regime and assay environment were not significant, yet in several cases measurements in different environments would have led to opposite conclusions for these traits with respect to the effects (or direction) of selection.

A selection experiment by Partridge *et al.* (1999a) set out to avoid some of these difficulties by using a long-standing (> 28 years), laboratory-adapted, outbred base population maintained in population cages with overlapping generations as the starting material for a selection experiment on age at reproduction and by measuring selection under conditions identical to those during selection. Importantly, similar to earlier experiments, breeding from older adult flies led to an evolutionary increase in life span (albeit not increased late-life fertility) at the expense of reduced early life fertility, thus strongly suggesting that the trade-off between early fecundity and longevity is driven by AP. However, in contrast to some earlier studies (see Table 1), no correlated responses were found for developmental traits such as development time, larval competitive ability, and size at eclosion (Partridge *et al.* 1999a).

The Loci Underlying Variation in Fitness Components

Understanding how variation in fitness components, or ultimately in fitness itself, maps into genetic variation at underlying causative loci is a central and long-standing problem of evolutionary genetics (Lewontin 1974; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Houle 2001; Mackay 2010; Barrett and Hoekstra 2011; Rockman 2012). Genes and alleles that affect fitness components in *D. melanogaster* have been identified and studied by both molecular and evolutionary biologists, using two quite distinct genetic research traditions and approaches (Rose *et al.* 2011; *cf.* discussion in Stearns *et al.* 1993; Stern 2000; de Jong and Bochdanovits 2003; Flatt 2004b).

The first approach, which might be called “Mendelian genetics” (or “transmission genetics”, “molecular genetics”, or “functional genetics”), has mainly employed large-effect, laboratory-generated, complete (amorphic) or partial (hypomorphic) loss-of-function mutants (*e.g.*, isolated from

mutant screens) or transgenic constructs (overexpression, RNAi, etc.) to examine genetic effects upon fitness components, in particular on life span (Stearns *et al.* 1993; Stearns and Kaiser 1993, 1996; Orr and Sohal 1994; Kaiser *et al.* 1997; Lin *et al.* 1998; Tatar 1999, 2000; Rogina *et al.* 2000; Silbermann and Tatar 2000; Tower 2000; Clancy *et al.* 2001; Stearns and Partridge 2001; Tatar *et al.* 2001a, 2003; Partridge and Gems 2002; Harshman 2003; Oldham and Hafen 2003; Flatt and Kawecki 2004; Hwangbo *et al.* 2004; Kenyon 2005; Partridge *et al.* 2005a; Ford and Tower 2006; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Magwire *et al.* 2010; Tower 2011).

This work has contributed significantly to our understanding of the developmental, physiological, and molecular underpinnings of traits such as growth, size, and life span and their regulation. For example, it has led to the important realization that molecular signaling pathways such as the IIS pathway can have evolutionarily conserved effects on life span [reviewed in Flatt (2004b) and Partridge (2018)]. However, while these analyses have illuminated major aspects of the “functional architecture” of fitness-related traits, the genes identified in such experiments do not necessarily harbor segregating alleles that contribute to standing genetic variation for traits in natural, evolving populations (Flatt 2004; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Birney 2016; Vonesch *et al.* 2016; Fabian *et al.* 2018; Durmaz *et al.* 2019).

The second approach, taken by evolutionary and quantitative geneticists, has thus focused on the effects of genetic variation in outbred populations of *D. melanogaster*, and might be called “experimental evolutionary genetics” or “experimental population genetics” (including “quantitative genetics”) (Lewontin 1974; Falconer and Mackay 1996; Roff 1997; Lynch and Walsh 1998; Charlesworth and Hughes 2000; Mackay 2001a,b, 2004, 2010; Harshman 2003; Flatt 2004b; Flatt and Kawecki 2004; Geiger-Thornsberry and Mackay 2004; Mackay *et al.* 2006; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Paaby and Schmidt 2009; Barrett and Hoekstra 2011; Rose *et al.* 2011; Walsh and Lynch 2018). For instance, numerous studies have used quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping to identify chromosomal regions and individual genes that affect fitness components such as ovariole number, fecundity, and life span (Leips and Mackay 2000, 2002; Vieira *et al.* 2000; Mackay 2001a,b, 2004, 2010; Gockel *et al.* 2002; Calboli *et al.* 2003; Geiger-Thornsberry and Mackay 2004; Leips *et al.* 2006; Mackay *et al.* 2006, 2009; Wilson *et al.* 2006; Bergland *et al.* 2008; Flatt and Schmidt 2009; Paaby and Schmidt 2009). Figure 6 illustrates a specific example of a natural, balanced life-history polymorphism that underpins clinal adaptation, and Table 2 lists a selection of examples of naturally occurring life-history variants that were identified using the second, “evolutionary” approach [for more comprehensive reviews see Flatt and Schmidt (2009) and Paaby and Schmidt (2009)]. Generally, there are still relatively few cases of naturally segregating life-history loci and polymorphisms that have been identified and studied in detail.

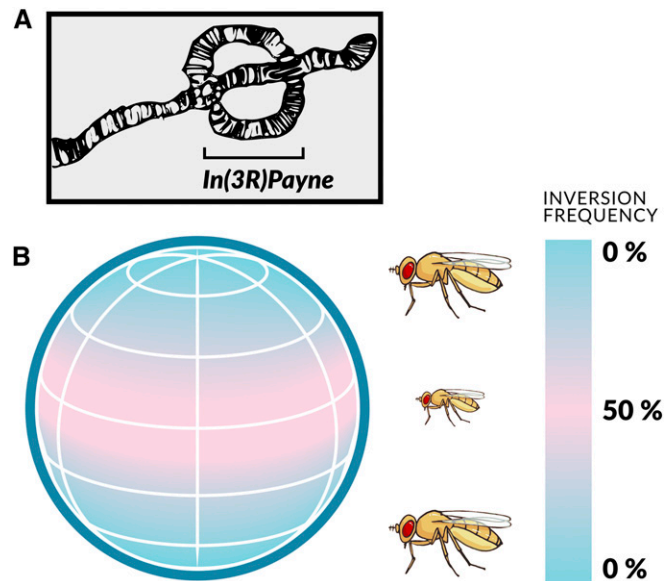


Figure 6 An example of a naturally segregating life-history polymorphism in *D. melanogaster*. (A) A polytene third chromosome of a fly heterozygous for the *In(3R)Payne* inversion polymorphism, *i.e.*, the fly carries one normal noninverted third chromosome (standard arrangement) and one homologous chromosome with the inverted arrangement. In the region spanned by the inversion, the inverted and standard arrangements have paired by forming a loop structure (inversion loop). (B) Around the world, the *In(3R)Payne* inversion polymorphism is typically at intermediate frequency in warm climates but decreases in frequency toward temperate regions. Experiments show that the inversion confers small body size, decreased stress resistance, and shorter life span, while flies carrying the standard arrangement are characterized by the opposite phenotypes. This balanced polymorphism makes a major contribution to the well-known clines for these fitness components. Because the inversion affects several quantitative fitness-related traits that are likely to be affected by multiple loci inside the inversion, this polymorphism has been hypothesized to represent a life-history “supergene.” Also see Figure 4. Figure credit: Chloé Schmidt (University of Manitoba).

The “molecular” vs. “evolutionary” approaches have become increasingly unified through modern genomic and genetic methods (Rose *et al.* 2011), including fine-scale mapping from QTL to quantitative trait nucleotides, GWAS, scans for signatures of selection down to SNPs, and E&R experiments (Mackay *et al.* 2009, 2012; Barrett and Hoekstra 2011; Rose *et al.* 2011; Rockman 2012; Schlötterer *et al.* 2014, 2015; Adrion *et al.* 2015; Stephan 2016; Mackay and Huang 2018). For example, GWAS have identified many candidate loci (typically SNPs) for fitness components such as development time, body size and size-related traits, ovariole number, age-specific and lifetime fecundity, life span, oxidative stress resistance, and chill coma recovery (Jordan *et al.* 2012; Mackay *et al.* 2012; Weber *et al.* 2012; Burke *et al.* 2014; Durham *et al.* 2014; Ivanov *et al.* 2015; Highfill *et al.* 2016; Vonesch *et al.* 2016; Lobell *et al.* 2017; Lafuente *et al.* 2018; Mackay and Huang 2018).

Functional analysis and validation of the phenotypic effects of natural alleles can now be achieved with a variety of methods (see *e.g.*, Table 2), including—at the level of nucleotides—with CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing, *e.g.*, coupled with quantitative

Table 2 Examples of natural variants or polymorphisms affecting *D. melanogaster* life history

Gene	Variant type	Origin of variant	Affected trait(s)	Analysis method	Reference
<i>bellwether (blw)</i>	AG/GT polymorphism in promoter region	Identified in a selection experiment for longevity	Life span	Transgenic constructs	Garcia <i>et al.</i> (2017)
<i>catecholamines up (catsup)</i>	QTL alleles; naturally segregating SNPs and indel polymorphisms	QTL mapping between inbred strains and alleles from a single population	Life span, locomotory behavior, sensory bristle number; (alleles have nonpleiotropic effects on these traits)	QTL mapping; association mapping; DCT; mutant alleles	Carbone <i>et al.</i> (2006), Mackay <i>et al.</i> (2006)
CG9509	SNPs in <i>cis</i> -regulatory (enhancer) region	Several natural populations	Larval growth rate, body weight, wing size, insecticide and female cold tolerance	Hypomorphic allele; transgenic RNAi; association study	Glaser-Schmitt and Parsch (2018)
<i>couch potato (cpo)</i>	SNPs	Latitudinal cline	Reproductive dormancy	QTL mapping; DCT	Schmidt <i>et al.</i> (2008)
<i>dopa decarboxylase (Ddc)</i>	QTL alleles; naturally segregating SNPs	Single natural population	Life span	QTL mapping; DCT	Pasyukova <i>et al.</i> (2000), Leips and Mackay (2002), De Luca <i>et al.</i> (2003)
<i>Drip</i> (aquaporin)	QTL alleles; molecular nature unknown	Single natural population	Fecundity	QTL mapping; DCT; transgenic RNAi	Bergland <i>et al.</i> (2012)
<i>foxo</i>	Clinally varying two-SNP variant; GG vs. AT haplotype, identified from population genomic analyses of the cline	Latitudinal cline	Viability, body size, size-related traits, starvation resistance	Recombinant outbred populations that differ in allelic state using DGRP lines	Durmaz <i>et al.</i> (2019)
<i>I am not dead yet (Indy)</i>	Hoppel transposon insertion variant	Several natural populations	Life span, fecundity	Insertion homo- and heterozygotes from natural lines	Zhu <i>et al.</i> (2014)
<i>Insulin-like receptor (InR)</i>	Indel polymorphism	Latitudinal cline	Body size, fecundity, life span	Lines that differ in allelic state, isolated from natural populations with balancers	Paaby <i>et al.</i> (2010, 2014)
<i>In(3R)Payne</i> (see Figure 6)	Inversion polymorphism	Latitudinal cline	Body size, size-related traits, cold-shock mortality, starvation resistance, life span	Association study; inversion and noninverted homokaryotype lines isolated from natural populations	Weeks <i>et al.</i> (2002); Rako <i>et al.</i> (2006) Kapun <i>et al.</i> (2016b), Durmaz <i>et al.</i> (2018)
<i>Menin1 (Mnn1)</i>	SNP/amino acid polymorphism	Latitudinal cline	Hatch rate, UV sensitivity, chill coma recovery, starvation resistance	Transgenic lines differing in allelic state	Sveteć <i>et al.</i> (2019)
<i>methuselah (mth)</i>	Wild-derived alleles	Several natural populations; latitudinal cline	Life span, fecundity, oxidative stress resistance	QCT	Paaby and Schmidt (2008); also <i>cf.</i> Schmidt <i>et al.</i> (2000)
<i>neurofibromin 1 (Nf1)</i>	Indel polymorphism	Latitudinal cline	Wing size, developmental time	Association study	Lee <i>et al.</i> (2013)
<i>Phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3-kinase, PI3K) (Dp110)</i>	Autosomal recessive vs. dominant natural variants; molecular nature unknown	Natural populations	Reproductive dormancy	Segregation analysis; DCT; QCT; transgenic constructs	Williams <i>et al.</i> (2006)
<i>shuttle craft (stc)</i>	QTL alleles	QTL mapping between inbred strains	Life span	DCT; QCT	Pasyukova <i>et al.</i> (2004)
<i>S6 kinase (S6K)</i>	QTL alleles	QTL mapping between inbred strains	Total protein levels, glycogen storage, life span, immune response	QCT	Cho <i>et al.</i> (2010)
<i>tailup (tup)</i>	QTL alleles	QTL mapping between inbred strains	Life span	DCT; QCT	Mackay <i>et al.</i> (2006)

The table provides examples of naturally segregating alleles and polymorphisms that affect fitness components in *D. melanogaster*. In several of these cases there is evidence suggesting that these polymorphisms have pervasive pleiotropic effects upon multiple fitness-related traits and that they are maintained by some sort of balancing selection, for instance due to spatially varying (clinal) selection and/or antagonistic pleiotropy/trade-offs. For more detailed reviews see Paaby and Schmidt (2009) and Flatt and Schmidt (2009). For the example of the inversion polymorphism *In(3R)Payne*, mentioned in the table, see Figure 6. DCT, deficiency complementation testing/mapping; Indel, insertion/deletion; DGRP, *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel; QCT, quantitative complementation testing; RNAi, RNA interference.

complementation or reciprocal hemizyosity tests (Stern 2014; Turner 2014; cf. Ding *et al.* 2016 for an example); yet, functional genetic analysis and validation can be technically challenging, and are still relatively rarely done by evolutionary geneticists.

Several major conclusions have emerged from the work reviewed above. First, as stated by Mackay *et al.* (2009): “*QTL alleles with large effects are rare. . . the bulk of genetic variation for quantitative traits is due to many loci with [small] effects.*” [cf. discussion in Rockman (2012); but see below]. Second, fitness components and other quantitative traits have highly complex genetic architectures, *i.e.*, they are affected by many loci whose effects can be highly contingent, *e.g.*, sex-, environment-, or genetic background-specific (cf. Mackay 2010). Third, many alleles with effects on fitness components have pleiotropic effects, which are often AP effects; this is consistent with the notion that variance for fitness might be maintained by AP/trade-offs; it also supports the AP theory of the evolution of aging (cf. Mackay 2010). Fourth, genome-wide analyses (GWAS and E&R) have found relatively little overlap between “canonical” candidate loci, as identified by the first approach, and loci that harbor segregating alleles in natural or laboratory populations (Remolina *et al.* 2012; Vonesch *et al.* 2016; Fabian *et al.* 2018).

There may be several reasons for this. One reason could be that the analyses using the first approach are biased toward detecting large effects. A second reason might be that, because fitness components are so polygenic, mutant screens might be far away from “saturation.” A third idea is that canonical large-effect candidate genes are functionally so important that they are under strong selective constraints in natural populations and therefore do not harbor any standing variation (Remolina *et al.* 2012; Fabian *et al.* 2018; Flatt and Partridge 2018). Fourth, as pointed out by Charlesworth and Hughes (2000) and Charlesworth (2015), some fitness components seem to be affected by relatively few loci of major effect, especially when they harbor dominance variance, implying that the search for large-effect life-history polymorphisms might be fruitful. Indeed, several examples suggest that segregating life-history polymorphisms can have relatively large effects (Schmidt *et al.* 2008; Bergland *et al.* 2012; Paaby *et al.* 2014; Durmaz *et al.* 2019). However, with pervasive suppressing epistasis or linked antagonistic-effect loci, the effects of isolated variants might exceed their net effects in their native genomic background and context (Bernstein *et al.* 2019; also cf. Lewontin 1974).

Conclusions

Here, I have summarized a large body of work concerned with the genetics of fitness components and the evolution of life-history traits in *D. melanogaster*. To conclude, I would like to highlight a few general key points:

1. Outbred populations of *D. melanogaster* typically harbor substantial amounts of variation for life-history traits and

other fitness components. Although selection is expected to rapidly and relentlessly erode additive genetic variance for fitness, fitness components exhibit a lot of variability, in fact substantially more additive genetic variance relative to the trait mean than morphological or other traits. Fitness components thus have a high degree of evolvability, *i.e.*, a large potential to respond to selection.

2. A fundamental and still not satisfactorily resolved question is how this large pool of variability in fitness components is maintained, despite strong selection. One major idea is that fitness components, due to their highly polygenic architecture, receive more mutational input than other, less complex traits. However, while mutation–selection balance certainly plays an important role in maintaining life-history variation, it cannot fully account for it; some sort of balancing selection must be invoked. Yet, classical balancing selection via overdominance is in most cases inconsistent with the available data. It is therefore probable that other types of balancing selection—*e.g.*, AP with dominance reversal, causing fitness overdominance; spatially and/or temporally varying selection; frequency-dependent selection; and/or GxE interactions—contribute significantly to maintaining variation in fitness components. Resolving the details of this issue is a central problem of evolutionary genetics and at the heart of the long-standing debate between the classical hypothesis, due to Muller, and the “balanced” hypothesis, due to Dobzhansky (Lewontin 1974).
3. Consistent with large stores of standing variation for fitness components maintained by balancing selection in populations of *D. melanogaster*, laboratory evolution experiments do not appear to be limited (at least not initially) by mutational input and often produce rapid, strong responses to selection, with evidence that alleles at intermediate frequencies play a major role in the response. At least in the short-run, life-history adaptation in *D. melanogaster* thus appears to proceed mainly via polygenic responses at many loci and possibly also through soft sweeps.
4. Trade-offs between fitness components, observed as negative genetic correlations or as correlated responses to selection, are consistent with AP; studies of candidate genes using large-effect mutants or transgenes, or of naturally occurring, segregating life-history polymorphisms, suggest that AP is common. Such AP might be a major source of balancing selection (see above). Yet, still little is known about the mechanistic basis of life-history trade-offs, for example to what extent they impinge on resource allocation, a concept that is commonly invoked but rarely tested.
5. Studies of latitudinal clines also suggest that balancing (spatially varying) selection and trade-offs across geography (local adaptation) play a major role in the maintenance of life-history polymorphisms.
6. Both quantitative genetic analyses and laboratory evolution experiments have provided qualitative support for the MA and AP theories of the evolution of senescence.

7. Relatively few alleles and polymorphisms underpinning life-history evolution have been identified and examined in detail. Most fitness components seem to be influenced by many genes with small, often pleiotropic effects; a few traits may be influenced by a small number of polymorphic genes with relatively large effects. Knowing about the transmission and quantitative genetic properties of life-history loci is critical for our ability to test population and quantitative genetic models of selection, adaptation, the evolution of senescence, genetic architecture, and so forth.

As the major progress reviewed above illustrates, studies of *D. melanogaster* have greatly illuminated many important problems in life-history evolution and evolutionary genetics. Yet, despite many decades of work, several fundamental issues—for example the nature of balancing selection that maintains standing variance for fitness components—remain fascinating open questions in need of more future work.

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