1. Supplementary methods

1.1 Husbandry

Hypsibius exemplaris (Gasiorek, Stec, Morek & Michalczyk, 2018) adult strain was sourced from Sciento in 2018. Cultures were kept in 50 ml – 75 ml Chalkley's media (CM; CaCl2 0.006 g/L, KCl 0.004 g/L, NaCl 0.1 g/L in autoclaved ddH2O) at 22 Co in 12h dark – 12h light cycle. Once a month the medium was changed by filtering animals with a (50 μm) mesh and washing off them with fresh media. Animals were fed once every two weeks with 1 ml Chlorococcus sp. algae culture.

1.2 Sampling for RNAseq and cell lysis

Hypsibius exemplaris (Gasiorek, Stec, Morek & Michalczyk, 2018) cultures were monitored for egg-laying events. Egg laying is done in conjunction with molting, therefore right after egg laying the adult exits the cuticle leaving behind the eggs in the shed exuvia. At room temperature, the first cleavage commences after 2 hours post-laying by which time adults have left the exuvia (Gabriel et al., 2007). Before collection surfaces and tools used for the collection were cleaned with RNaseZap and filtered tips were used throughout the collection to avoid RNase contamination. Animals, where the adult and embryos were present together, were selected from the cultures. Staging of embryos was performed under an Axioscope Zeiss microscope with differential interference contrast (DIC) settings. Embryos were dissected from the exuvia with Tungsten needles and washed three times in CM. Afterward, there were transferred into 4.4 μl of lysis solution (2.4 μl of 1:19 Triton-X and RNAse inhibitor 40U/μl from MegaScript T7 transcription kit diluted in nuclease-free water; 1 μl 10mM each dNTP; 1 μl 5 μM oligo-dT) (Picelli, Björklund, et al., 2014; Picelli, Faridani, et al., 2014). Sampled embryos were transferred to PCR strip tubes (one embryo in each tube), labeled, and snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen. In order to crack the eggshell of the embryos three cycles of snap freezing and thawing were used. Snap freezing was achieved with liquid nitrogen, thawing with a 42 Co water bath, and each step lasted 30 seconds. Following this samples were shipped to GeneCore (EMBL Genomics Core Facilities) where RNA extraction and amplification (18 PCR cycles proved to be the most optimal) were performed according to the Smart-Seq2 protocol (Picelli et al., 2014). Sequencing was performed with 75 base pair single-end reads on a single lane of a NextSeq machine.

1.3 RNAseq and associated dataset retrieval

The collection of RNAseq datasets was done manually through SRA-explorer [\(SRA-explorer\)](https://sra-explorer.info/) in 2021. NCBI's sequence read archive (SRA) was searched for keywords covering topics related to this project (e.g. "oocyte", "egg", "early development"). Filtering criteria for datasets were the following: reads had to originate from RNAseq experiments, species of origin had to belong to the Metazoa lineage, biological replicates had to be included, and sampling had to cover early development up until gastrulation. If the criteria were met, then the raw fastq files were downloaded. Where possible, genomic resources were also downloaded from Ensembl, NCBI or ParaSite databases.

Sequences generated or retrieved during this project were quality inspected using FastQC. Raw fastq files were trimmed using fastp (Chen et al., 2018). Adapter removal, low-quality nucleotide trimming, low complexity filtering, and base correction with paired-end data were applied. Upon completion, fastq files were inspected again with FastQC. All subsequent applications were done with trimmed fastq files.

1.4 Transcriptome assemblies

In the case of the species where genomic resources were unavailable transcriptomes were *de novo* assembled. An over-assembly approach was chosen as it improves the quality of the assembly (Hölzer & Marz, 2019; Surget-Groba & Montoya-Burgos, 2010). With this approach, multiple assembly software, multiple studies, and multiple k-mer sizes produce a diverse set of contigs. These contigs then can be filtered using various strategies to achieve a final, non-redundant transcriptome. The three main assemblers used were: Trinity, TransAbyss, and RNASpades. K-mer sizes were chosen according to read sizes. After trimming reads had a distribution of varying lengths, the shortest one was used as reference length for k-mer choice. The k-mer had to be of a minimum length of 50% read length and could not exceed 80% read length size. In this range several k-mer values were chosen for different assemblies. A notable exception to this is Trinity, which has a fixed k-mer value of 32.

Assemblies were then concatenated for each species and using the EvidentialGene pipeline further processed (Gilbert, 2019). Non-redundant transcripts are retained and from them, open reading frames are predicted, from which coding sequences and subsequently protein sequences are retrieved. Homology information is also added by aligning coding sequences to the uniprot-swissprot database (Bateman et al., 2021) with the ultrafast diamond aligner (Buchfink et al., 2014). The quality of each assembly was evaluated with BUSCO scores (Simão et al., 2015). This was run in proteome mode and in all cases it was used against the metazoa_odb10 database.

Despite having a published genome, *Hypsibius exemplaris* transcriptome was assembled de novo for use. This was done for two reasons: the current annotation of the genome lacks UTR sequence annotations and the de novo transcriptome assembly improved the mappability of reads considerably during quantification. This discrepancy could be attributed to the lack of embryonic stages during the genome annotation for the genome version nHd3.0 (Yoshida Yuki and Koutsovoulos, 2017). The quality of this transcriptome was of comparable quality to the genome based on BUSCO analysis (Suppl. Figure 5, Suppl. Table 2).

A fixed species tree topology was retrieved from Open Tree of Life (Redelings & Holder, 2017). Branch lengths for this tree were adjusted according to the orthogroups used by OrthoFinder's algorithm to estimate a species phylogeny. These orthogroups were separately realigned, concatenated and used for estimation of branch lengths for the fixed topology species tree (Suppl. Figure 6).

1.5 Quantification and differential gene expression analysis

If genomic sequences were available, then that was used as a decoy during indexing of the cDNA sequences, otherwise, cDNA sequences were indexed directly. Quantifications were done with mapping validation, bias awareness enabled, and bootstrapping.

A separate approach using the zFPKM normalization approach was also tested (Hart et al., 2013). The list of maternal genes proved to be highly similar in the two cases. Due to its simplicity with similar results, the cut-off value was favored for downstream analyses.

Functional enrichment analysis was done in R programming language environment. Functional annotations were either imported from available genomic resources or assigned *de novo*. For the latter two strategies were used: the transcriptome assembly provided homology information was used for inferring gene ontology annotations or a web-service tool Pannzer2 assigned high probability annotations. For the enrichment itself, the clusterProfiler package's enricher() and enrichGO() functions were utilized (Törönen et al., 2018; Yu et al., 2012). The former was used in cases with custom gene ontological annotation databases built *de novo*, the latter for available annotations. If custom annotations were provided to enricher() as a background set all GO annotations retrieved for all genes per each species were used. All ontological categories were tested and considered enriched with a cut-off value of < 0.05 for the adjusted p-values. Both categories of maternal genes were tested this way separately, ordering of the genes was done by the absolute value of the log2 fold changes in the degraded category and the TPM values for the non-degraded genes. In the case of enrichment of the fitted models, a similar approach was used. The enricher() function was utilized and as a background set all annotated terms for all orthogroups were utilized. Orthogroups were annotated using a custom script and the UniProtKB database was used for homology inference (Bateman et al., 2021). For each orthogroup, GO terms were associated using the UniprotR package (Soudy et al., 2020) .

Information on the lengths of different architectural characteristics of genes were extracted from their genome annotations. Species, where only coding sequence and intron lengths were available, were omitted. Where multiple feature sizes were annotated due to alternative splicing events the means of these lengths were taken. For plotting the mean lengths or proportions were used.

2. Supplemental results

2.1 Transcriptome assemblies

BUSCO scores evaluate the completeness of a predefined gene set characteristic of a lineage against the transcriptome. Based on the BUSCO scores the assembly pipeline resulted in consistently complete transcriptomes (Suppl. Figure 5, Suppl. Table 2). Some species displayed more open reading frames (ORFs) than transcripts, this is a well-known phenomenon during transcriptome assemblies whereby chimeric transcripts are assembled (Gilbert, 2019). Nevertheless, the predicted coding sequences are of reasonable numbers and their annotation based on the UniProt database (Bateman et al., 2021) suggests high quality transcriptomes.

3. Supplementary bibliography

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Suppl. figure 5. BUSCO scores distribution of the de novo assembled transcriptomes used in this project.

Suppl. Table 1. Summary statistics for de novo transcriptome assemblies (ORF – open reading frame). *-in number of nucleotides.

Suppl. Figure 6. Species phylogeny according to ROTL with branch lengths estimated from OrthoFinder and scaled to fossil data from TimeTree. Axis denotes millions of years.

Suppl. figure 7. Gene ontological (GO) enrichment result for maternal genes. (A) On the left each dot represents a significantly enriched GO term in each column, rows represent species.

Suppl. figure 8. Gene ontological (GO) enrichment result for degraded maternal genes. (A) On the left each dot represents a significantly enriched GO term in each column, rows represent species.

Suppl. Figure 9. Comparison of 3`-UTR lengths across species. Log transformed lengths are compared across species. Maternal genes are subdivided mutually exclusively into degraded maternal genes, maternal genes persistently expressed, and reference genes which don't belong into neither category. White dots represent the medians of the distributions. Adjusted Wilcoxon ranksum test significances are also displayed. ns – not significant, * = pval < 0.05, ** = pval < 0.01, *** = pval < 0.001 and **** = pval $< 10^{-4}$

Suppl. figure 10. Phylogenetic signal present in the fitted models. (A) Proportion of orthogroups with significant phylogenetic signal present. (B) The distribution of Blomberg's K value for the orthogroups according to their best fitting evolutionary models. The dashed line represents the expected Blomberg's K value for the Brownian motion model. (C) The proportion of orthogroups with phylogenetic signal present (p-value <= 0.05) or not detected.

Suppl. Figure 11. AICc distribution after the model fitting process for each tested model. For each orthogroups the best fitting model's AICc was considered. Dashed lines represent the cut-off value used for filtering the best fitting model, together with the permutation test (not shown).

Suppl. Figure 12. Gene ontology terms enriched for each tested evolutionary model.

Suppl. Table 2. Table displaying results of Wilcoxon rank-sum test over all the ϴ estimates for all extended Ornstein-Uhlenbeck models. All pairwise comparisons between reproductive modes are included.

Suppl. Table 3. Table displaying effect size results of Wilcoxon rank-sum test over all the ϴ estimates for all extended Ornstein-Uhlenbeck models. All pairwise comparisons between reproductive modes are included. Magnitudes of the effect sizes are determined according to Cohen (1988).

Table 4. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest optima within each reproductive mode in OUM models.

Suppl. figure 13. Parameter estimates for orthogroups where OUMA models were found to be the best fitting model. (A) Distribution of α estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (B) The relative number of highest and lowest α values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. (C) Distribution of Θ estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (E) The number of highest and lowest ϴ values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results are displayed above (A) and (C) for comparisons of parameter estimates across reproductive modes.

Suppl. Table 5. Tables for Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between parameter comparisons for OUMA models. P-values are found in (A) and the effect sizes in (B).

Suppl. Table 6. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest α estimates within each reproductive mode in OUMA models.

Suppl. Table 7. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest optima within each reproductive mode in OUMA models.

Suppl. Figure 14. Parameter estimates for orthogroups where OUMV models were found to be the best fitting model. (A) Distribution of σ^2 estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (B) The relative number of highest and lowest σ^2 values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. (C) Distribution of Θ estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (E) The number of highest and lowest ϴ values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results are displayed above (A) and (C) for comparisons of parameter estimates across reproductive modes.

Suppl. Table 8. Tables for Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between parameter comparisons for OUMV models. P-values are found in (A) and the effect sizes in (B).

Suppl. Table 9. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest σ² estimates within each reproductive mode in OUMV models.

Suppl. Table 10. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest optima within each reproductive mode in OUMV models.

Suppl. Figure 15. Parameter estimates for orthogroups where BMS models were found to be the best fitting model. (A) Distribution of σ^2 estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (B) The relative number of highest and lowest σ^2 values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. (C) Distribution of Θ estimates for the reproductive modes in both expression dataset (above) and fold change dataset (below). (E) The number of highest and lowest ϴ values for both datasets in all three reproductive modes. Wilcoxon rank-sum test results are displayed above (A) and (C) for comparisons of parameter estimates across reproductive modes.

Suppl. Table 11. Tables for Wilcoxon rank-sum test results between σ² parameter comparisons for BMS models. P-values are found in (A) and the effect sizes in (B).

Suppl. Table 12. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest σ2 estimates within each reproductive mode in BMS models.

Suppl. Table 13. Table containing the results of Pearson's χ^2 test for determining if there is a bias towards having highest or lowest optima within each reproductive mode in BMS models.

Suppl. Figure 16. Correlation heatmap of parameter estimates for single-regime models. (A) Correlation structure of parameters for the OU1 models. (B) Correlation structure for the BM1 models.

Suppl. Figure 17. Correlation structure of parameter estimates and other variables for OUM models. (A) Correlation structure for expression data following OUM models. Correlation coefficients without p-values < 0.05 are not displayed in cells. (B) Correlation structure for fold change data following OUM models. (C) Linear relationship between mean expression within orthogroups and the OUM ϴ estimates for all reproductive modes and data types (expression and fold change).

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Suppl. Figure 18. Correlation structure of parameter estimates and other variables for OUMA models. (A) Correlation structure for expression data following OUMA models. Correlation coefficients without p-values < 0.05 are not displayed in cells. (B) Correlation structure for fold change data following OUMA models. (C) Linear relationship between mean expression within orthogroups and the OUMA parameter estimates for all reproductive modes and data types (expression and fold change).

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Suppl. Figure 19. Correlation structure of parameter estimates and other variables for OUMV models. (A) Correlation structure for expression data following OUMV models. Correlation coefficients without p-values < 0.05 are not displayed in cells. (B) Correlation structure for fold change data following OUMV models. (C) Linear relationship between mean expression within orthogroups and the OUMV parameter estimates for all reproductive modes and data types (expression and fold change).

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Suppl. Figure 20. Correlation structure of parameter estimates and other variables for BMS models. (A) Correlation structure for expression data following BMS models. Correlation coefficients without p-values < 0.05 are not displayed in cells. (B) Correlation structure for fold change data following BMS models. (C) Linear relationship between mean expression within orthogroups and the BMS parameter estimates for all reproductive modes and data types (expression and fold change).

Suppl. Figure 21. Linear relationship depicted between mean expression values and number of species in each orthogroup. Each model is represented as a separate subplot. Standard linear model is represented by the blue line with confidence intervals represented as the gray area around the blue line.