Supplementary Information

Expanding the CRISPR base editing toolbox in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Michael Clark¹, Christina Nguyen², Hung Nguyen¹, Aidan Tay¹, Samuel J. Beach¹, Maciej Maselko^{1,3*}, Víctor López Del Amo^{2*}

¹ Applied BioSciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia.

² Center for Infectious Diseases, Department of Epidemiology, Human Genetics, and Environmental Sciences, School of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX, 77030, USA

³ ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Macquarie University; Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia.

*Correspondence[:victor.lopezdelamo@uth.tmc.edu](about:blank) (V.L.D.A); maciej.maselko@mq.edu.au (M.M)

Supplementary figure 1. Ebony phenotypes observed in our F1 and F2 individuals. (a) A comparison between an individual ebony mutant and WT fly; these are flies from our regular stocks (WT and ebony mutant) and are not obtained from our experiments, they are shown as a reference. **(b)** A comparison between a group of ebony mutant and WT flies; these are flies from our regular stocks (WT and ebony mutant) and are not related with our experiments, they are shown as a reference. **(c)** Representative images of flies at the F1 stage, flies expressing base editors from the *actin* promoter displayed an ebony phenotype while those expressing from the *nos* promoter displayed a WT phenotype. This indicates the higher expression of the *actin* promoter in somatic tissues compared to *nos*, which is more germline specific **(d-g)** Representative images of flies at the F2 stage, all flies displayed an ebony phenotype.

Supplementary figure 2. Stop codon rates at the *ebony* **gene produced by two different gRNAs** (**a**) Targeted Cs within the gRNAs that are susceptible to be edited and converted to a T. The C to T transition at position 5 on both gRNAs induces a stop codon. (**b**) The percentage of reads with a stop codon for gRNA1 and gRNA2 ($n = 2$, data is individual measurements (points); the total number of flies used per cross is detailed in **Supplementary table 4**, data is mean ± SD). The gRNA2 displayed higher rates of codon stop generation, indicating that gRNA2 should contribute more than gRNA1 to the observed ebony phenotype in the F2 generation within all conditions tested.

Supplementary figure 3. (**a-d**) The effect of different CBE transmission modes on the base editing window was assessed by examining the four transmission pathways. Position from left (22) to right (4) represents PAM-distal to PAM-proximal regions, respectively. The *AID** Δ displayed a wider mutation window compared to the *ancBE4* and *rAPO-1* base editors.

Amplicon sequencing outcomes from surviving females

sxl target site 1

Ref. GATCAGCTGGACACGATCTTCGG 75% 17% sxl GATTAGTTGGACACGATCTTCGG Stop

sxl target site 2

Ref. ATTGCAATTGCAACAACCGCAGG 4% ATTGTAATTGCAACAACCGCAGG sxl Stop

Supplementary figure 4. C to T transition rates at *sxl* **gene within surviving females (escapees) carrying both transgenes (actin/rAPO1).** The gRNA1 introduced stop codons at the target C while the gRNA2 seemed to be almost inactive.

Supplementary figure 5. The type of modifications introduced by the *r-APO1* **base editor driven by the** *nanos* **promoter when targeting** *β-Tub* **and** *sxl* **loci. (a)** The frequency of of base substitutions at the target C bases within the *β-Tub* locus is depicted. C bases that undergo substitution to T, inducing a stop codon, are highlighted in orange on both the gRNA sequences and product purity graphs. Data presented as the mean frequency of reads with the specified substitution out of all reads harbouring a non-C nucleotide at the target base. PAM sequences (NGG) are highlighted in red. **(b)** The frequency of different types of modifications within the amplicon are depicted. The Y-axis represents the percentage of a given modification, and number of total reads within each percentage are in parenthesis. The X-axis shows the amplicon size. The quantification window refers to the area covered by the gRNA sequence (in gray) where all modifications encountered during deep sequencing are shown. Substitutions (in green) are observed within the quantification window as expected. The green peak outside the quantification window on "target site 2" represents potential polymorphisms within our fly stocks. Insertions (in red) and deletions (in purple) were not observed at any of the target sites of the *β-Tub* gene. **(c)** The frequency base substitutions at the target C bases within the *sxl* locus is shown. C bases that undergo substitution to T, inducing a stop codon, are highlighted in orange on both the gRNA sequences and product purity graphs. Data presented as the mean frequency of reads with the specified substitution out of all reads harbouring a non-C nucleotide at the target base. PAM sequences (NGG) are highlighted in red. **(d)** The frequency of modifications within the amplicon are depicted. Substitutions (in green) are observed within the quantification window for the "target site 1" and no substitutions were observed at the "target site 2", as the gRNA2 was almost inactive. Insertions (in red) and deletions (in purple) are undetectable at any of the target sites of the *sxl* gene. The observed purple peak outside the quantification window (gRNA sequence) represents potential polymorphisms within our fly lines.

Supplementary table 1: plasmids used in this study

Supplementary table 3: fly strains used in this study.

Supplementary Table 4: The samples for the Amp-Seq analysis. WT, wild-type; no.,

number; CBE, cytosine base editor

REFRENCES

- 1. Maselko, M. *et al.* Engineering multiple species-like genetic incompatibilities in insects. *Nature Communications* **11**, 1–7 (2020).
- 2. Port, F., Chen, H.-M., Lee, T. & Bullock, S. L. Optimized CRISPR/Cas tools for efficient germline and somatic genome engineering in Drosophila. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **111**, E2967–E2976 (2014).
- 3. Lindsley, D. L., Grell, E. H. & Bridges, C. B. Genetic Variations of Drosophila melanogaster. *Science* **162**, 993–993 (1968).
- 4. Ryder, E. *et al.* The DrosDel collection: a set of P-element insertions for generating custom chromosomal aberrations in Drosophila melanogaster. *Genetics* **167**, 797–813 (2004).
- 5. Bridges, C. B. & Morgan, T. H. *The Third-Chromosome Group of Mutant Characters of Drosophila Melanogaster*. (Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1923).
- 6. Venken, K. J. T., He, Y., Hoskins, R. A. & Bellen, H. J. P[acman]: A BAC transgenic platform for targeted insertion of large DNA fragments in D. melanogaster. *Science* **314**, 1747–1751 (2006).