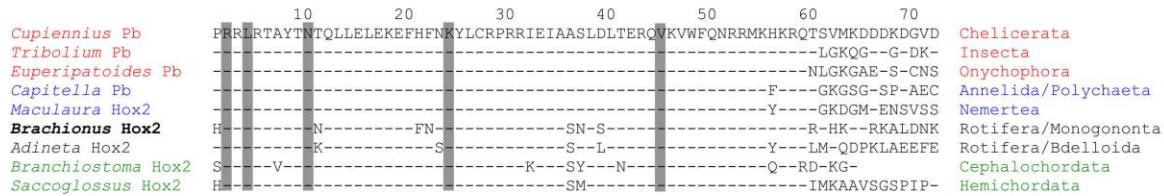
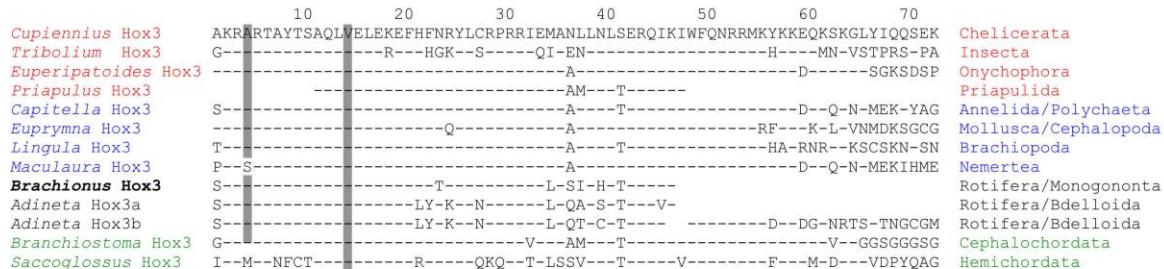


Supplementary Figure 1 | Phylogenetic position of Rotifera and Chaetognatha based on recent large scale phylogenomic studies.

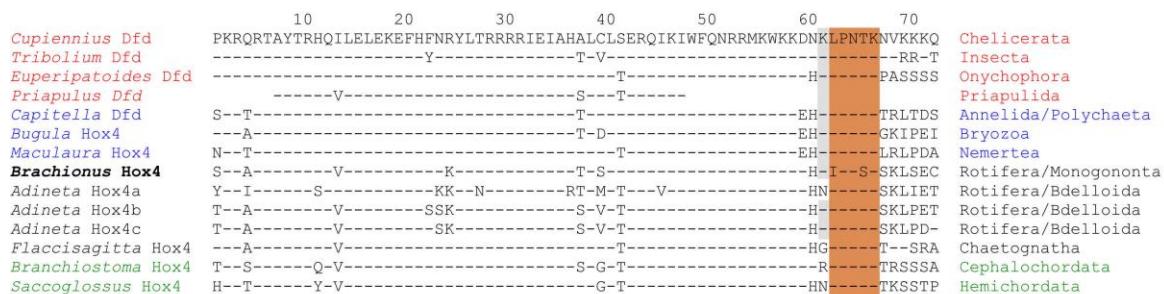
PG2: Hox2/Proboscipedia



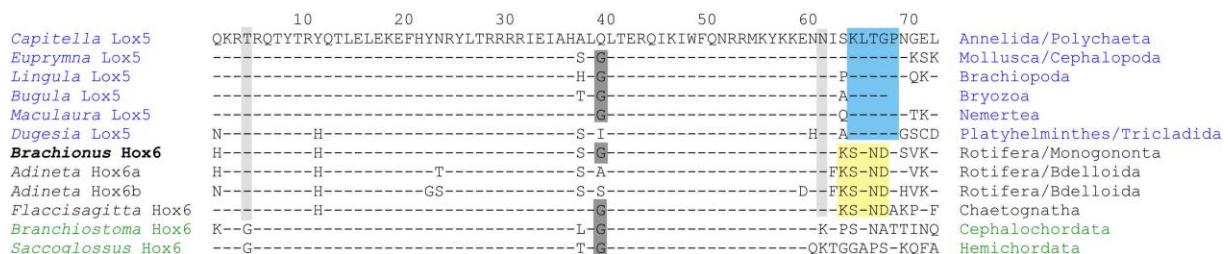
PG3: Hox3



PG4: Hox4/Deformed

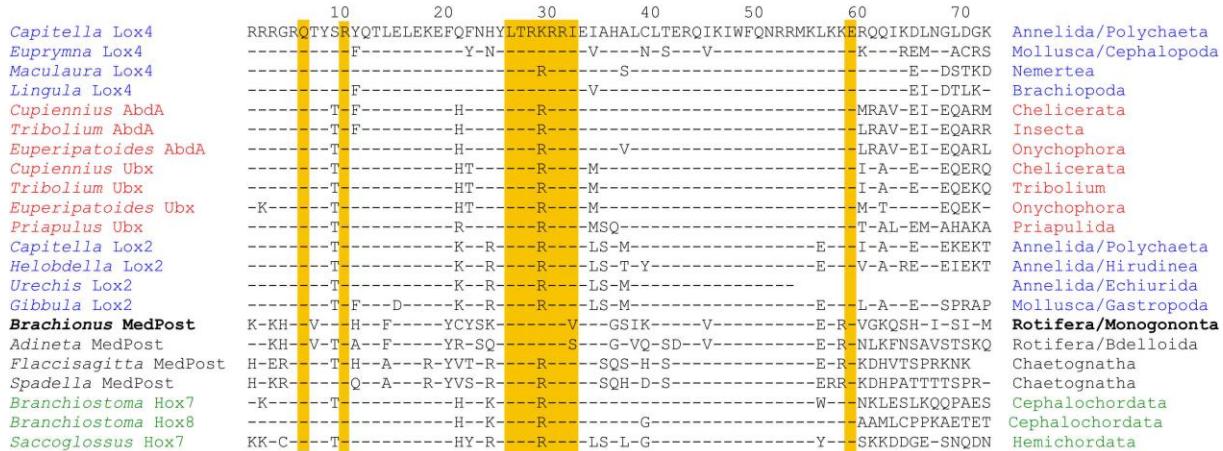


PG6: Hox6/lox5

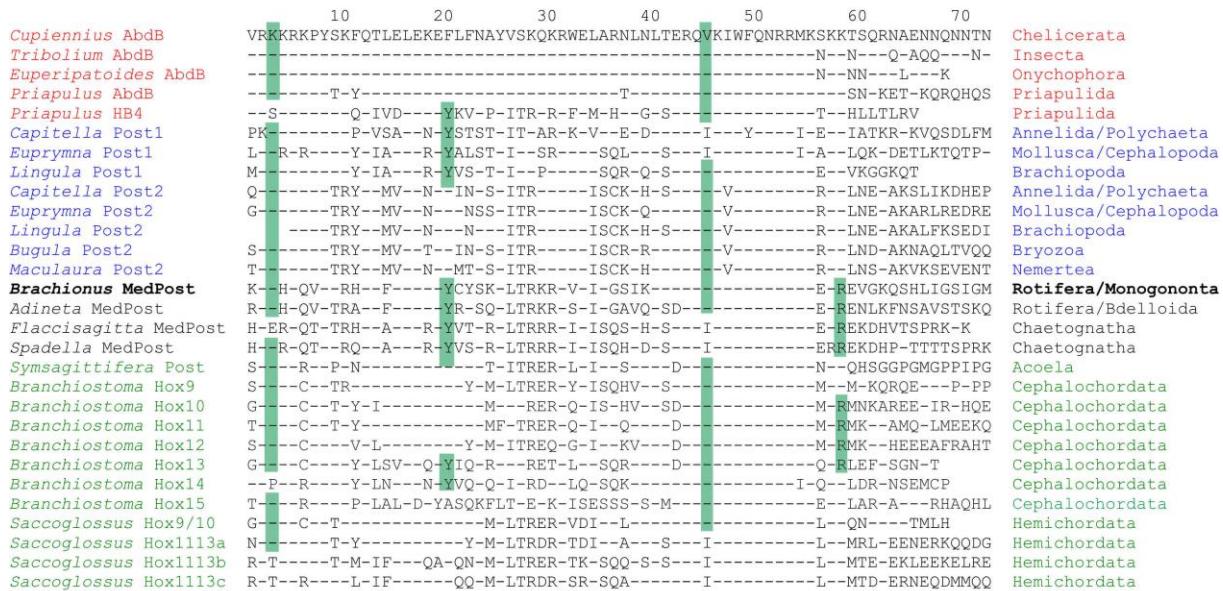


Supplementary Figure 2 | Alignment of Hox gene homeodomains and 3' flanking regions of paralog group 2, 3, 4 and 6. Dashes represent identity with respective Hox paralogs from *Cupiennius salei* shown in the top line of each group. Ecdysozoan genes listed in red, platytrichozoan genes listed in blue and deuterostome genes listed in green respectively. The following Hox signatures are marked: *Hox4/Dfd* motif highlighted in orange, *Lox5* parapeptide motif in blue and gnathiferan peptide in yellow. Residues diagnostic for different paralog groups shared by sequences recovered from *Brachionus majavacas* are highlighted in grey: dark grey boxes mark residues found in paralogs across bilaterians and residues boxed in light grey are found in protostomes only.

PG8: Hox8/Lox4/Lox2/AbdA/Ubx



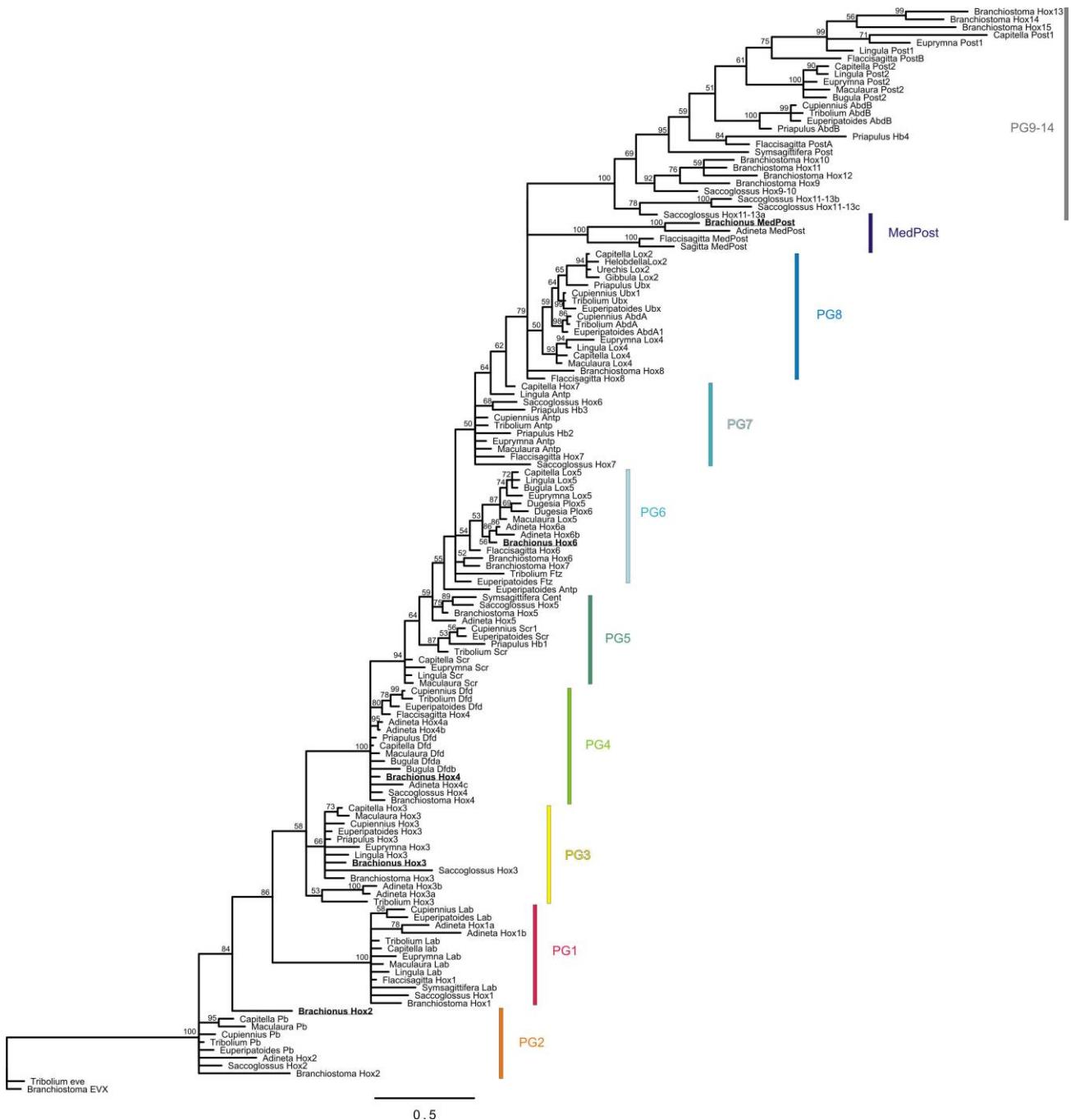
PG9-15: Hox9-15/Post1/Post2/AbdB



Summary

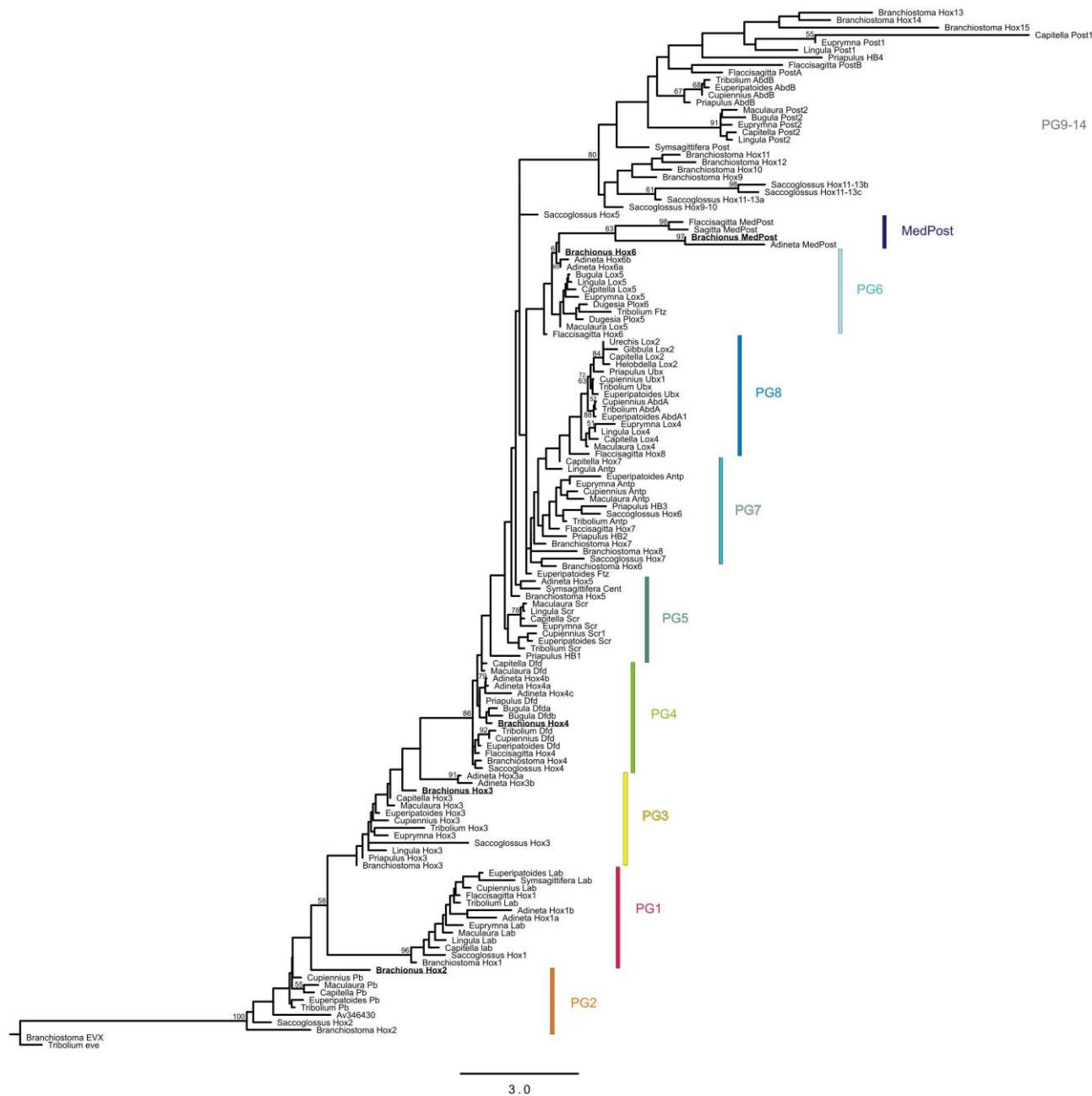


Supplementary Figure 3 | Alignment of Hox gene homeodomains and 3' flanking regions of paralog group 8 and 9-15 in comparison with the MedPost sequence recovered from *Brachionus manjavacas*. Dashes represent identity with respective Hox paralogs from *Capitella teleta* and *Cupiennius salei* shown in the top line of each group. Ecdysozoan genes listed in red, lophotrochozoan genes listed in blue and deuterostome genes listed in green respectively. Residues diagnostic for central class Hox genes shared by sequences recovered from *Brachionus majavacas* are highlighted in dark yellow and those representing residues diagnostic for posterior class Hox genes are enclosed in green boxes. In the summary residues recovered in rotifers or chaetognaths only are marked in lighter colors respectively.

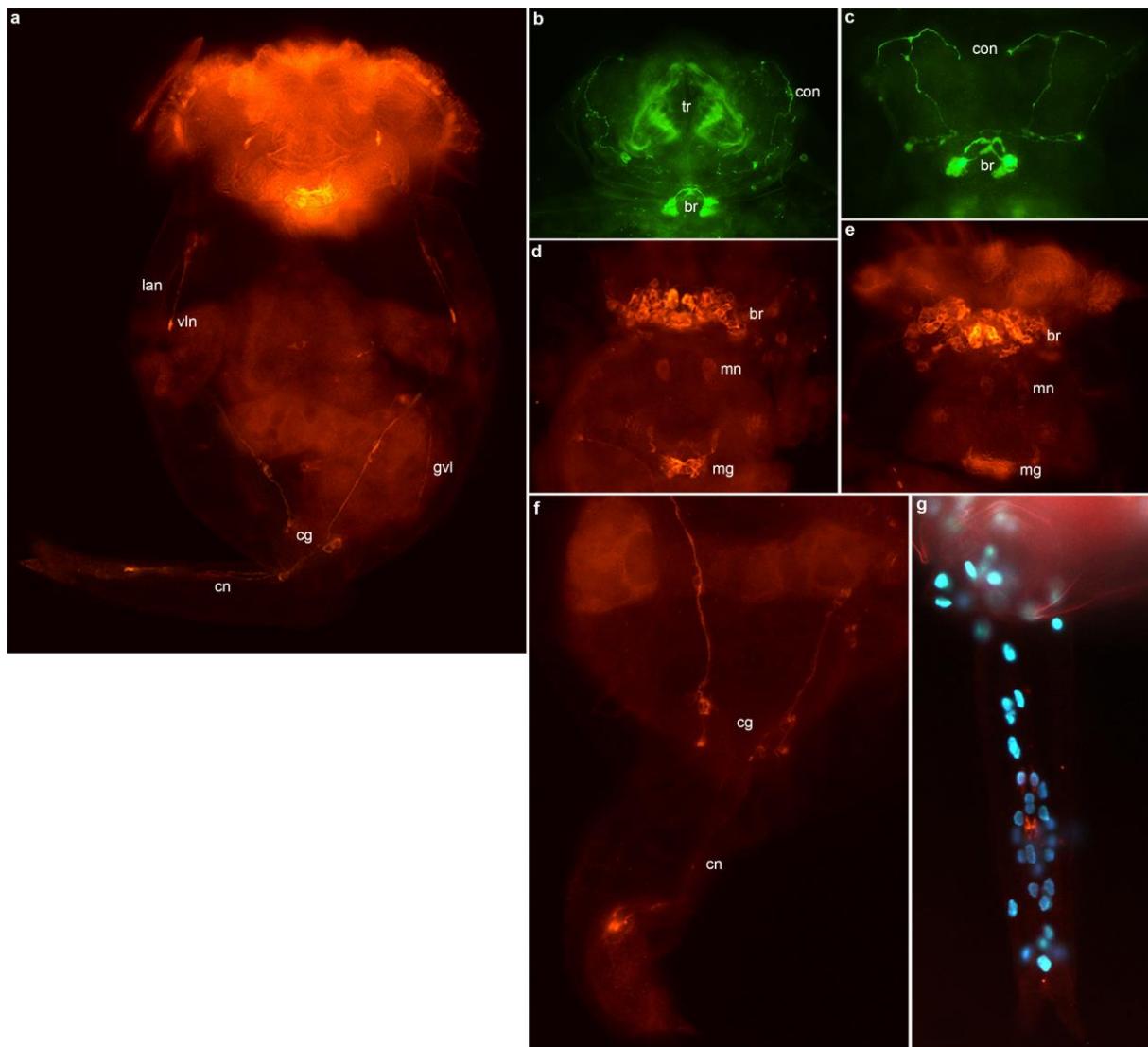


Supplementary Figure 4 | Orthology assignments for *Brachionus plicatilis* Hox genes.

Alignments of the 60 amino acid homeodomain and the 12 amino-acids 3' of the homeodomain of representative bilaterian *Hox* genes were used to conduct a Bayesian phylogenetic analysis based on 400,000 trees from 40,000,000 stationary generations. Bayesian posterior probabilities are shown above the branches. Sequences used for this analysis had been isolated from the following species: *Saccoglossus kowalevskii* (Hemichordata) and *Branchiostoma floridae* (Chordata), *Cupiennius salei* (Chelicerata), *Tribolium castaneum* (Insecta), *Euperipatoides kanangrensis* (Onychophora) and *Priapulus caudatus* (Priapulida), *Capitella teleta* (Annelida/Polychaeta), *Helobdella robusta* (Annelida/Hirudinea), *Urechis unicinctus* (Annelida/Echiurida), *Euprymna scolopes* (Mollusca/Cephalopoda), *Gibbula varia* (Mollusca/Gastropoda), *Maculaura alaskensis* (Nemertea), *Lingula anatina* (Brachiopoda), *Bugula turrita* (Bryozoa) and *Dugesia japonica* (Platyhelminthes), *Symsagittifera roscoffensis* (Xenacoelomorpha), *Flaccisagitta enflata* and *Spadella cephaloptera* (Chaetognatha) and *Brachionus manjavacas* and *Adineta vaga* (monogont and bdelloid rotifers respectively). Sequences from *B. manjavacas* are shown underlined and in bold. *B. manjavacas* possesses orthologs from *Hox* paralogy groups (PG) 2, 3, 4 and 6 and an ortholog of *MedPost*.



Supplementary Figure 5 | Orthology assignments for *Brachionus manjavacas* Hox genes. Alignments of the 60 amino acid homeodomain and the 12 amino-acids 3' of the homeodomain of representative bilaterian Hox genes were used to conduct an maximum-likelihood analysis with RAxML-HPC V8.2.9 under the LG+Γ+I model. Bootstrap support values >50 from 1000 iterations are shown above the branches. Sequences used for this analysis had been isolated from the following species: *Saccoglossus kowalevskii* (Hemichordata) and *Branchiostoma floridae* (Chordata), *Cupiennius salei* (Chelicerata), *Tribolium castaneum* (Insecta), *Euperipatoides kanangrensis* (Onychophora) and *Priapulus caudatus* (Priapulida), *Capitella teleta* (Annelida/Polychaeta), *Helobdella robusta* (Annelida/Hirudinea), *Urechis unicinctus* (Annelida/Echiurida), *Euprymna scolopes* (Mollusca/Cephalopoda), *Gibbula varia* (Mollusca/Gastropoda), *Maculaura alaskensis* (Nemertea), *Lingula anatina* (Brachiopoda), *Bugula turrita* (Bryozoa) and *Dugesia japonica* (Platyhelminthes), *Symsagittifera roscoffensis* (Xenacoelomorpha), *Flaccisagitta enflata* and *Spadella cephaloptera* (Chaetognatha) and *Brachionus manjavacas* and *Adineta vaga* (monogonont and bdelloid rotifers respectively). Sequences from *B. manjavacas* are shown underlined and in bold. *B. manjavacas* possesses orthologs from Hox paralogy groups 2, 3, 4 and 6 and an ortholog of *MedPost*.



Supplementary Figure 6 | Morphological features of the nervous system of the monogonont rotifer *Brachionus manjavacas* revealed by immunohistochemical staining on adult females. Red staining: labeling of neurons with anti-FRMFamide, green staining: labelling of neurons with anti-5HT. Blue staining: labelling of nuclei with Hoechst 33342. Anterior to the top. Ventral views except for an anteroventral view in b. br, brain; cg, caudal ganglion; cn, caudal nerves; con, coronal nerve; gvl, germovitellarial nerve loop; lan, lateral nerves; mg, mastax ganglion; mn, mastax nerve; tr, trophi; ven, ventrolateral nerves.

Supplementary Table 1 | Primers used for isolation of *Hox* gene sequences of *Brachionus manjavacas*.

Primer	Sequence 5'->3'	
ELEKEF	GAR YTN GAR AARGAR TT	universal forward <i>Hox</i> primer
WFQNRR	CKN CKR TTY TGR AAC CA	universal reverse <i>Hox</i> primer
KLARTAYT	AAG CTT GCC MGN ACN GCN TAY AC	PG1-3 <i>Hox</i> primer
AQLVELEKE	GCB CAR YTN GTH GAR YTV GAR AARG	PG3 primer
RGRQTY	MGN GGN MGN CAR ACN TA	PG4-8 <i>Hox</i> primer
BmHox2_RACEfw	TGT GTC GGC CTA GAC GTG TTG AAA TAG CGT CC	<i>Brachionus Hox2</i> 3'RACE-primer
BmHox2_RACErev	CAA ATT GGA CGC TAT TTC AAC ACG TCT AGG CCG AC	<i>Brachionus Hox2</i> 5'RACE-primer
BmHox3_RACEfw	CTT TAC CGC CTA CTT GTG CAG ACC GCG CCG CAT C	<i>Brachionus Hox3</i> 3'RACE-primer
BmHox3_RACErev	TAG TTC GAT GCG GCG CGG TCT GCA CAA GTA GC	<i>Brachionus Hox3</i> 5'RACE-primer
BmHox4_RACEfw	CAC CAG GTC CTG GAG CTG GAA AAA GAG TTC CAC	<i>Brachionus Hox4</i> 3'RACE-primer
BmHox4_RACErev	GCC TCT CGG ACA AAC TGA GTG TGT GCG CGA TCT C	<i>Brachionus Hox4</i> 5'RACE-primer
BmHox6_RACEfw	TGA CTA GAA AGA GGC GAG TTG AAA TTG CCG GAA GC	<i>Brachionus Hox6</i> 3'RACE-primer
BmHox6_RACErev	TGC TTC CGG CAA TTT CAA CTC GCC TCT TTC TAG TC	<i>Brachionus Hox6</i> 5'RACE-primer
BmMedPost_RACEfw	GCG CCG AATTGA GAT AGC GCA CTC GTT GGG	<i>Brachionus MedPost</i> 3'RACE-primer
BmMedPost_RACErev	ATC TTG ATC TGA CGC TCA GTC AAA CCC AAC GAG TGC	<i>Brachionus MedPost</i> 5'RACE-primer

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