

# GigaScience

## Genome of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*, Coleoptera: Nitidulidae), a worldwide parasite of social bee colonies, provides insights into detoxification and herbivory --Manuscript Draft--

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<b>Full Title:</b>	Genome of the small hive beetle ( <i>Aethina tumida</i> , Coleoptera: Nitidulidae), a worldwide parasite of social bee colonies, provides insights into detoxification and herbivory
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<b>Funding Information:</b>	
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p><b>Abstract</b></p> <p><b>Background:</b> The small hive beetle (<i>Aethina tumida</i>, ATUMI) is an invasive parasite of bee colonies. ATUMI feeds on both fruits and bee nest products, facilitating its spread and increasing its impact on honey bees and other pollinators. We have sequenced and annotated the ATUMI genome, providing the first genomic resources for this species and for the Nitidulidae, a beetle family that is closely related to the extraordinarily species-rich clade of beetles known as the Phytophaga. ATUMI thus provides a basal view of one of the most successful known animal groups.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> The ATUMI genome encodes fewer enzymes for plant digestion than the genomes of wood-feeding beetles, but nonetheless shows signs of broad metabolic plasticity. Gustatory receptors are few in number compared to other beetles, especially receptors with known sensitivity (in other beetles) to bitter substances. In contrast, several gene families implicated in detoxification of insecticides and adaptation to diverse dietary resources show increased copy numbers. The presence and diversity of homologs involved in detoxification differs substantially from the bee hosts of ATUMI.</p> <p><b>Conclusions:</b> Metabolic plasticity and a wide array of metabolic enzymes could allow ATUMI to exploit diverse food sources within bee colonies, including plant material, hive products, and bees themselves. A minimal set of gustatory receptors is consistent with the observation that, once a host colony is invaded, food resources are predictable. Our results provide new insights into the genomic basis for local adaption and invasiveness in ATUMI, and a blueprint for control strategies that target this pest without harming their honey bee hosts.</p>
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1 **Genome of the small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*, Coleoptera: Nitidulidae), a worldwide**  
2 **parasite of social bee colonies, provides insights into detoxification and herbivory**

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23 **Abstract**

24 **Background:** The small hive beetle (*Aethina tumida*, ATUMI) is an invasive parasite of bee  
25 colonies. ATUMI feeds on both fruits and bee nest products, facilitating its spread and  
26 increasing its impact on honey bees and other pollinators. We have sequenced and annotated  
27 the ATUMI genome, providing the first genomic resources for this species and for the  
28 Nitidulidae, a beetle family that is closely related to the extraordinarily species-rich clade of  
29 beetles known as the Phytophaga. ATUMI thus provides a basal view of one of the most  
30 successful known animal groups.

31 **Results:** The ATUMI genome encodes fewer enzymes for plant digestion than the genomes of  
32 wood-feeding beetles, but nonetheless shows signs of broad metabolic plasticity. Gustatory  
33 receptors are few in number compared to other beetles, especially receptors with known  
34 sensitivity (in other beetles) to bitter substances. In contrast, several gene families implicated in  
35 detoxification of insecticides and adaptation to diverse dietary resources show increased copy  
36 numbers. The presence and diversity of homologs involved in detoxification differs substantially  
37 from the bee hosts of ATUMI.

38 **Conclusions:** Metabolic plasticity and a wide array of metabolic enzymes could allow ATUMI to  
39 exploit diverse food sources within bee colonies, including plant material, hive products, and  
40 bees themselves. A minimal set of gustatory receptors is consistent with the observation that,  
41 once a host colony is invaded, food resources are predictable. Our results provide new insights  
42 into the genomic basis for local adaption and invasiveness in ATUMI, and a blueprint for control  
43 strategies that target this pest without harming their honey bee hosts.

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44 **Keywords:** Coleoptera, pollination, *Apis mellifera*, invasive pest, phytophagy, invasive species,  
45 glycoside hydrolase.

47 **Introduction**

48 The small hive beetle (= ATUMI; *Aethina tumida* Coleoptera: Nitidulidae, Murray, 1867) is a  
49 rapidly spreading invasive species originating from sub-Saharan Africa. ATUMI is now found on  
50 all continents except Antarctica [1-4]. Outside of its endemic range, it has become an  
51 economically important parasite of social bee colonies, including honey bees, bumblebees and  
52 stingless bees [2] (Figure 1). ATUMI significantly impacts beekeeping and the regulation of  
53 honey bees and hive products worldwide. ATUMI pupate in the soil then emerge as adults to  
54 infest social bee nests [2]. Once inside the bee nest, adult ATUMI employ a “sit-and-wait”  
55 strategy, relying on the resources of the nest for nutrition and shelter until options for  
56 successful reproduction arise [2]. ATUMI eggs are laid within colonies and developing larvae  
57 feed until they leave the colony for pupation in nearby soil [2]. ATUMI larvae and adults can  
58 feed on a large variety of food sources inside and outside of social bee colonies, including fruits,  
59 meat, adult bees, bee brood and bee food stores (pollen and honey) [1, 5, 6]. Beetles and their  
60 bee hosts show elaborate behaviours. For example, honey bees attempt to confine adult  
61 ATUMI to prisons built from plant resins [6] and beetles can also manipulate guard bees to  
62 obtain food by rubbing their antennae against the guarding bees’ mandibles, inducing them to  
63 regurgitate food.

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4 66 ATUMI belongs to the beetle family Nitidulidae (sap beetles; c. 4,500 species), which  
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7 67 feed mainly on decaying vegetable matter, over-ripe fruit, or sap. The Nitidulidae belong to the  
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10 68 superfamily Cucujoidea (sap, bark and fungus beetles), which is either the sister-group of the  
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12 69 Phytophaga (leaf beetles, weevils, longhorned beetles and their relatives; [7], the most species  
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15 70 rich radiation of plant-feeding animals on Earth with >125,000 described species), or forms a  
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17 71 paraphyletic clade subtending the Phytophaga [8]. In the latter case, the Phytophaga are  
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20 72 derived from within Cucujoidea. Interestingly, the trophic habits of Nitidulidae may therefore  
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23 73 represent a transitional stage from fungivory, saprophagy, and detritivory (the typical habit(s)  
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25 74 of most Cucujoidea and its containing clade, series Cucujiformia) to phytophagy (feeding on  
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28 75 plants), the typical trophic habit of Phytophaga. Comparative studies of the ATUMI genome  
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30 76 may therefore provide new insights into the evolution and genomic basis of phytophagy in  
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33 77 beetles.

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35 78 To date, just 10 beetle genome assemblies have been released [9], of which only 7 are  
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38 79 published, despite there being >400,000 described beetle species. These are: *Tribolium*  
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41 80 *castaneum* (red flour beetle, TCAST; Tenebrionoidea: Tenebrionidae: Tenebrioninae; [10],  
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43 81 *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Asian longhorned beetle, AGLAB; Chrysomeloidea: Cerambycidae:  
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46 82 Lamiinae; [11]), *Dendroctonus ponderosae* (mountain pine beetle, DPOND; Curculionoidea:  
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48 83 Curculionidae: Scolytinae; [12]), *Hypothenemus hampei* (coffee berry borer beetle, HHAMP;  
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51 84 Curculionoidea: Curculionidae: Scolytinae; [13]), *Oryctes borbonicus* (Reunion Island scarab  
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54 85 beetle, OBORB; Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae; [14]), *Onthophagus taurus* (bull  
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56 86 headed dung beetle, OTAUR; Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae; Unpublished),  
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59 87 *Nicrophorus vespilloides* (burying beetle, NVESP; Staphylinoidea: Silphidae: Silphinae; [15]),  
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4 88 *Agrilus planipennis* (emerald ash borer, APLAN; Buprestoidea: Buprestidae: Agrilinae;  
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7 89 Unpublished), *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Colorado potato beetle, LDECE; Chrysomelidae:  
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10 90 Chrysomelinae: Doryphorini; [16]), and *Pogonus chalceus* (salt marsh beetle, PCHAL; [Carabidae](#):  
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12 91 [Trechinae](#): [Pogonini](#); Unpublished). The ATUMI genome described here joins this group as the  
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15 92 only representative from the superfamily Cucujoidea.

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17 93         Along with removing resources from honey bee colonies ATUMI plays an important role  
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20 94 in the colony microbiome. It has been reported that ATUMI is a vector of three honey bee  
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23 95 pathogens; Deformed wing virus (DWV) [17], sacbrood virus (SBV) [17], and *Paenibacillus*  
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25 96 *larvae*, the causal agent of American foulbrood disease (AFB)[18]. ATUMI appears to acquire  
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28 97 viral and bacterial pathogens through feeding. This could be through trophallaxis (oral feeding  
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30 98 by regurgitation) with infected bees, feeding on infected workers or bee brood, or by feeding  
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33 99 on contaminated hive components (i.e. wax, pollen or honey) [17].

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35 100         Though the associations of ATUMI and bee pathogens need further study, the  
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38 101 association between ATUMI and the yeast *Kodamaea ohmeri* has been well established [19-21].  
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41 102 *K. ohmeri* was first reported by Torto et al. [20] as a fungal associate of ATUMI. This fungus is  
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43 103 the causal agent of the fermentation or slime associated with ATUMI [22]. Stored pollen  
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46 104 becomes inoculated with the yeast when adult beetles invade a hive, and the resulting  
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49 105 fermentation produces volatiles that mimic the honey bee alarm pheromone. These volatiles  
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51 106 act as an aggregation kairomone for the beetles, signaling the presence of nutritional resources  
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54 107 {Torto, 2007 #396;Torto, 2007 #314; Torto, 2014 #395}. *K. ohmeri* can be found topically on  
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56 108 adults and larvae, as well as their frass [22, 23]. *K. ohmeri* has also been found in bumble bee  
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59 109 hives that have been infested by ATUMI [24]. Though ATUMI uses *K. ohmeri* as a way to identify



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110 suitable hives, the interaction between the beetle and yeast can be used against the beetle. In  
111 recent years, scientists have proposed traps utilizing *K. ohmeri* as an attractant for ATUMI [25,  
112 26].

113 A robust reference genome assembly comprised of 343.3 million base pairs was used to  
114 identify and annotate 14,076 protein coding genes, over 3000 additional transcribed features  
115 and a strong complement of repetitive DNA's, tRNA's, and transposable elements. The  
116 described protein-coding genes provide strong candidates for core metabolism and  
117 development, and suggest that these beetles, like their honey bee hosts, rely on olfactory cues  
118 and less so on chemosenses related to taste. An analysis of protein groups involved in  
119 insecticide metabolism reveals a large repertoire of detoxification enzymes to mediate  
120 xenobiotic interactions. The described resources will be useful for both chemical and non-  
121 chemical approaches for controlling this key pest of honey bees.

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123 **Data Description**

124 DNA was extracted from both larval and adult ATUMI. In total, 1,173,425,522 Illumina DNA  
125 reads (101 base-pairs [bp] per read with a 300 bp insert size, Hi-Seq 2500) were generated from  
126 12 paired-end (PE) libraries generated from three adult male beetles. Additionally 1,235,055  
127 Pacific BioSciences (PacBio) reads (average read length = 6795 bp) were generated from 40  
128 SMRT cells (Chemistry C2, PacBio, Menlo Park, CA), using DNA derived from a pooled sample of  
129 larval beetles. A two-step method was used to assemble the genome. First, the Sparse  
130 assembler was used to build short but accurate contigs from the Illumina reads [27]. The  
131 assembled contigs were used as a backbone for further assembly. Second, the PacBio reads

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4 132 were error corrected by the proovread package [28] and the error-corrected PacBio reads were  
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7 133 used to construct long contigs by filling the gaps of the backbones using Sparc package [29]. The  
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10 134 final genome assembly is deposited in Genbank as  
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12 135 [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF\\_001937115.1/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF_001937115.1/). Genes were annotated using the  
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15 136 NCBI eukaryotic annotation pipeline, resulting in a consensus gene set  
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17 137 ([https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/annotation\\_euk/Aethina\\_tumida/100/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/annotation_euk/Aethina_tumida/100/)). Illumina  
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20 138 mRNA paired-end sequencing reads (101 bp per read, >1000x transcriptome coverage)  
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23 139 reflecting an equimolar pool of all ATUMI life stages (described in [30] and downloaded from  
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25 140 USDA AgDataCommons; <https://tinyurl.com/ybanauxb>) were used to assist gene annotation.  
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28 141 Those mRNA sequencing reads were also aligned to the constructed ATUMI genome assembly  
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30 142 to evaluate the completeness of the gene set, using the TopHat2 package [31]. We further  
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33 143 assessed the completeness of the genome assembly using BUSCO (Benchmarking Universal  
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35 144 Single Copy Orthologs; [32]).

## 146 **Results and discussion**

### 147 *Genome traits, genetic diversity and phylogenetic analysis*

148 We generated a genome assembly of 343Mbp (Million base pair) comprised of 3063 contigs  
149 (contig N<sub>50</sub>=298kb; Table 1). The genome sizes of sequenced and assembled beetle species vary  
150 greatly from 160Mbp to 1.1Gbp. The size of the ATUMI genome assembly is similar to that of  
151 the red flour beetle (165.9 Mbp), but much smaller than the more derived Asian longhorn  
152 beetle (707.7 Mbp). A total of 1,293,015 heterozygous single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)  
153 positions were identified, with an average density of one SNP per 181 bp. SNP density was

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4 154 significantly different across contigs ( $P < 0.01$ ). This pattern was not related to contig size.  
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7 155 Overall, 60.2% of SNPs occurred on contigs with annotated genome features and 22.5% were  
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10 156 within gene regions.

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12 157 The NCBI eukaryotic genome annotation pipeline proposed 14,076 protein-coding  
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15 158 genes and a total of 17,436 mRNA models. When our previous RNA sequencing reads were  
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17 159 aligned to the genome assembly alongside the predicted gene models, 99.63% of the predicted  
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20 160 mRNA models and 99.56% of the predicted protein-coding genes were supported. It is possible  
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22 161 that the 64 protein-coding genes undetected by RNA-Seq were not expressed, expressed too  
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25 162 briefly, or not captured in our pooled RNA samples. Alternatively, these might reflect partial or  
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28 163 inaccurate gene models or pseudo-genes that are no longer functional in this beetle.

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30 164 By aligning the ATUMI official protein set against 2444 core Endopterygota  
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33 165 Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO), 97.5% of complete BUSCOs were  
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35 166 found (Figure 2b). We further aligned the ATUMI genome assembly against Endopterygota set  
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38 167 of BUSCOs and 92.8% of complete BUSCOs were found (Supplemental File 1). The results  
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41 168 suggest a high level of completeness in the genome assembly, as well as the official set of gene  
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43 169 models. By comparing single-copy orthologs among the sequenced beetles (ATUMI, TCAST,  
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46 170 DPOND, AGLAB, ATAUR, APLAN, HHAMP, NVESP), honey bees (AMELL) and *Drosophila*  
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48 171 *melanogaster* (DMELA), 181 shared ortholog groups were found. A phylogenetic tree was built  
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51 172 by concatenating these shared 181 orthologous groups (Figure 2a). These results suggest that  
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53 173 ATUMI is sister to TCAST and the Asian longhorned beetle (AGLAB). OrthoDB [33] orthology  
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56 174 delineation revealed that ATUMI has 7066 conserved orthologous groups with beetles and 4554  
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59 175 orthologous groups shared with ten additional insect species.

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177 *Loss and duplication of core genes from small hive beetle genome*

178 BUSCO data sets represent a core set of conserved genes. The duplication and absence of such  
179 core genes could represent important evolutionary changes in species or in lineages, as their  
180 occurrence can be variable across the insects (Figure 3). A complete protein set of 11 insect  
181 species was used for BUSCO alignment. We found 337 core Endopterygota BUSCOs that were  
182 either fragmented or completely lost from at least two predicted beetle gene sets, suggesting  
183 they were lost from the genomes of two or more species or were not identified due to  
184 incomplete gene sets. We mapped the common ancestor sequences of these 337 missing  
185 orthologs and 2442 Endopterygota BUSCOs to the Pfam database. Among the ‘lost’ orthologs,  
186 1094 protein domains were found. Among 2442 Endopterygota orthologs, 4632 protein  
187 domains were found. By comparing the count distribution of each domain between lost  
188 orthologs and overall orthologs, no significant difference was found ( $\chi^2=8.9$ ,  $df=27$ ,  $P<0.05$ ).  
189 Among the lost orthologs, a methyltransferase (MT), a glycosyltransferase (GT), and two  
190 proteins with beta-transducin repeats (WD) and zinc finger (ZF) domains, respectively showed  
191 the highest counts and were also absent from at least four beetle species (Figure 2c). When  
192 APLAN was treated as the nearest common ancestor, the pattern of gene loss significantly  
193 deviated from random ( $P > 0.05$ ). Specifically, genes missing from basal members of clades  
194 tended to be absent thereafter in that clade. For example, *methyltransferase* was lost in  
195 ATUMI, DPOND, AGLAB and HHAMP, but is present in TCAST.

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197 *Glycoside hydrolases*

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198 Glycoside hydrolases (GHs) are important enzymes that aid in the digestion of plant cell walls  
199 and carbohydrates in insects [34]; however, GHs can also contribute to additional physiological  
200 processes, including remodeling of the peritrophic matrix (PM) [35], lysosomal enzyme activity,  
201 glycoprotein oligosaccharide catabolism, immune response, and growth and development [36,  
202 37]. Despite the recalcitrance and variation of the diet of ATUMI, a limited diversity of GH  
203 families was identified in the genome compared to other beetle genomes. While phytophagous  
204 insects, such as AGLAB [7], DPOND [12] and HHAMP [13] harbored anywhere from 19-24  
205 different GH families represented by 101-199 genes, only 14 GH families represented by 91  
206 genes were identified in the ATUMI genome. Only OBORB, whose diet is unknown [14], had a  
207 lower GH family diversity and GH copy number, with 13 different families represented by 47  
208 different genes identified. No GH families unique to ATUMI were identified (Supplemental Files  
209 2 and 3).

210           The most prominent GH families in the ATUMI genome were GH 18 (20 copies), GH 31  
211 (11 copies), and GH 38 (10 copies; Figure 4). While the majority of the GH 18 and GH 38 genes  
212 had highest scoring BLASTP matches to chitinases likely linked to PM remodeling and lysosomal  
213  $\alpha$ -mannosidases, respectively, all of the GH 31 genes had matches to uncharacterized  $\alpha$ -  
214 glucosidases (four of which contained signal peptides for secretion) [38] whose substrate  
215 preferences could not be inferred with homology or domain searches. Despite their  
216 prominence in the ATUMI genome, copy numbers of GH 18 and 31 genes were similar to those  
217 found in the genome of other beetles. In contrast, GH 38 copy numbers were high in ATUMI  
218 and were exceeded only by TCAST.

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219 Using orthology searches, five orthogroups containing GHs were more prominent in the  
220 ATUMI genome compared to other beetles. These contained genes with highest scoring BLASTP  
221 matches to GH 30 glucosylceramidase (eight copies), uncharacterized GH 31  $\alpha$ -glucosidases  
222 (five copies; mentioned above), GH 16  $\beta$ -1,3-glucan binding protein (five copies), GH 38  
223 lysosomal  $\alpha$ -mannosidase (five copies; mentioned above), and GH 18 chitinase (three copies;  
224 mentioned above). While the chitinases and  $\beta$ -1,3-glucan binding proteins are likely involved in  
225 PM or exoskeleton remodeling, the glucosylceramidases are likely involved in breaking down  
226 sphingolipids. Additionally, two GH genes encoded by the ATUMI genome, which lacked  
227 orthology to other beetle GHs, included a GH 2 family gene coding for  $\beta$ -mannosidase and a GH  
228 35 family gene coding for  $\beta$ -galactosidase. While the  $\beta$ -mannosidase gene is likely associated  
229 with lysosomal degradation of N-linked glycoproteins, the GH 35  $\beta$ -galactosidase contains a  
230 signal peptide and may be linked to digestive processes. Other beetles code for GH 2  $\beta$ -  
231 mannosidases and GH 35  $\beta$ -galactosidases, so it is unclear why these two genes were not  
232 assigned to orthogroups. However, these genes are present in multiple copies in almost all  
233 beetle genomes. Thus, their evolutionary history is complex and it may be difficult to assign  
234 orthologs in some cases.

235 Overall, ATUMI lacked a diverse and expansive repertoire of GHs relative to  
236 phytophagous beetles, which may be directly linked with its diet. Pollen generally contains high  
237 concentrations of the monosaccharides, glucose and fructose [39], which can be used directly  
238 for ATP production by the glycolysis pathway (glucose) or after phosphorylation by fructokinase  
239 (fructose). Therefore, although pollen can also contain starch, sucrose, and small amounts of  
240 pectin [39], digestion of more complex carbohydrates may not be necessary, requiring a less

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241 expansive repertoire of GH enzymes relative to phytophagous beetles. Supporting this  
242 hypothesis, genes coding for enzymes capable of digesting starch were identified ( $\alpha$ -amylase),  
243 but genes coding for invertases and polygalacturonases for sucrose and pectin digestion could  
244 not be identified. Alternatively, microbial symbionts harbored by ATUMI may facilitate the  
245 breakdown of these polysaccharides as has been observed previously in AMELL [40].

246  
247 *Gustatory Receptors*

248 G-protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) comprise a large family of integral membrane proteins  
249 found in cells of all eukaryotes [41]. GPCRs function to detect extracellular stimuli, and activate  
250 cellular signal transduction pathways that ultimately lead to physiological and behavioral  
251 responses. GPCR structure includes seven trans-membrane helices, two highly conserved  
252 cysteine residues that form protein-stabilizing disulfide bonds in the extracellular regions, a G-  
253 protein activation site, and a ligand binding site(s) [42]. The GPCR is activated when a stimulus  
254 (ligand) binds to a specific site on the protein, thus triggering a conformational change in its 3-  
255 dimensional structure. This, in turn, activates an intracellular coupled G-protein, which then  
256 interacts with other signaling molecules (e.g., cAMP) or other receptors (e.g., voltage-gated  
257 channels of neuronal cells) that affect downstream physiological processes of the cell. Different  
258 GPCRs detect a wide range of different stimuli (e.g., photons, neurotransmitters,  
259 pheromones/hormones, and tastants), which in turn result in equally broad physiological and  
260 behavioral responses (e.g., phototaxis, locomotion, mating, and nutrient acquisition). In many  
261 instances, the ability of an organism to respond appropriately to such stimuli is key to their  
262 adaptability and survival.

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263 Gustatory receptors (Grs) are important components of an organism’s sensory  
264 machinery; the ability of animals to distinguish between nutritious, noxious, and possibly toxic  
265 compounds is a matter of life or death. Insect Grs belong to novel arthropod GPCR gene  
266 superfamilies, which are phylogenetically unrelated to mammalian taste receptor genes, and  
267 distinct from related insect odorant/pheromone receptor genes [43]. The Grs are associated  
268 with specialized sensory structures (e.g., pits or setae), which are located on diverse regions of  
269 the insect body, including tarsi, antennae, mouthparts, and even internally. At these sites, Grs  
270 are located on the dendritic ends of gustatory neurons, and have affinities for specific types of  
271 ligands. In insect Grs, downstream signaling cascades can proceed in either a G-protein  
272 dependent or independent manner [44, 45]. The effectiveness of the resulting signaling cascade  
273 is dependent on the specificity of differential binding of ligands to the binding site of the  
274 protein’s extracellular domain. The system has been honed over evolutionary time, and has  
275 given rise to receptors binding either sweet (attractive) or bitter (aversive) tastants, [46, 47]. An  
276 amino-acid substitution in a ligand-binding region may affect the range at which different  
277 ligand’s receptors may bind, particularly for Grs perceiving sugars [48].

278 Stemming from their importance to insect biology, GPCRs have been characterized from  
279 genomic and transcriptomic studies for a number of economically important insects, or those  
280 having an ecological and/or epidemiological significance, including TCAST [10], AGLAB [11] and  
281 now ATUMI (this study). Understanding the chemosensory abilities of insects, particularly pest  
282 insects, is important for designing possible means of control that target the insect’s ability to  
283 find and/or distinguish among nutrients or to detect poisons, and/or developing baits  
284 containing insecticides formulated with highly attractive substances. ATUMI is an economically



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285 important pest of AMELL colonies, and in some regions of the world, poses a significant threat  
286 to honey bee colony health and the vitality of beekeeping industries. Even though food sources  
287 outside of social bee colonies may play a role [5], field data so far [49] suggest that bee colonies  
288 are the key factor for ATUMI adult maintenance and successful reproduction. To gain insights  
289 into the molecular sensory repertoire available to ATUMI for distinguishing between different  
290 tastants, here we provide a preliminary analysis of the gustatory receptor gene (*Gr*) repertoire  
291 of ATUMI.

292 General features of the cladogram include *Gr* genes grouping into four main clades that  
293 correspond with perception of different tastants (sweet or bitter; Figure 5). Designations of the  
294 type of substance perceived by the receptors come from literature reports for other taxa (e.g.,  
295 *Drosophila* sp.), and from databases (above), or from location of uncharacterized proteins  
296 within the cladogram. A group of apparently highly conserved genes encoding proteins for  
297 perceiving sweet substances (clades *5a* and *64a-f*) is separate from other groups that show  
298 higher sequence variability; a pattern seen in other studies (e.g., [50]). Proteins of *Gr5a* and  
299 *Gr64a-f* can form heterodimeric complexes at receptor sites, and may or may not be necessary  
300 together for perception of different sugars [51, 52]. ATUMI appears to lack a *Gr5a* gene (Table  
301 2; Figure 5), suggesting this gene may not be necessary for perceiving sweet tastants. In this  
302 group of ATUMI *Gr* genes, it is interesting to note that one candidate with a very long branch-  
303 length (XP\_019866072) encodes a 379 amino-acid protein derived from 3 exons, and has a very  
304 long intron. It is unclear why this gene is so distinct compared to the relatively highly conserved  
305 sequences for other related *Gr* genes.

306 A major finding is that ATUMI has a substantially depauperate repertoire of *Gr* genes

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307 compared to both AGLAB and TCAST. Based on the cladogram, ATUMI is represented in each of  
308 the major gene lineages (Figure 5). Thus, the low number of *Gr* genes in ATUMI is more likely  
309 the result of a lack of gene expansion in particular lineages or subfamilies of *Gr* genes rather  
310 than gene loss. A similarly small number of *Grs* is evident in the honey bee genome [53]. In that  
311 species, the relatively reduced *Gr* gene repertoire may be a consequence of restricted dietary  
312 breadth (specialist on pollen and nectar), and also possibly arises from the processing of  
313 collected foods by adult workers and microbes, which may reduce the load of plant secondary  
314 compounds. AMELL larvae are fed processed foods by attending nurse bees, so they may not  
315 need an expansive repertoire of *Grs* to discriminate among different tastants [50]. Because of  
316 the close affinity of ATUMI with honey bees, including sharing a similar diet, the evolutionary  
317 pressures limiting expansion of *Gr* genes in ATUMI may be similar. As an example, TCAST, a  
318 dietary generalist, shows a significant expansion in the *Gr28a/b* gene complex (Table 2); genes  
319 in this complex may be important for perceiving plant secondary compounds [54]. A similar  
320 reason may explain expansion of the *Gr2a* gene subfamily observed for both TCAST and AGLAB,  
321 although AGLAB has a more specialized diet than TCAST. Interestingly, honey bees have a  
322 greatly expanded repertoire of odorant receptor (*Or*) genes [50]; a full examination of the *Or*  
323 gene repertoire of ATUMI should be undertaken to determine whether a similar expansion is  
324 observed for ATUMI.

326 *Voltage-gated sodium channel*

327 The voltage-gated sodium channel ( $Na_{v1}$ ) is responsible for generating action potentials in  
328 neurons. Functional channels typically consist of an  $\alpha$ -subunit that is responsible for the flow of

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ions across the membrane and auxiliary subunits (i.e. tipE, TEH1-4, or  $\beta$ -subunits) that modify channel gating and kinetics. The  $\alpha$ -subunit is comprised of four repetitive domains (I-IV) that contain six transmembrane segments (S1-6). Of these transmembrane segments, S1-4 act as voltage sensors, especially S4 which contains many positively charged residues. The pore is formed by S5-6 and associated re-entrant loops [55]. Pyrethroids and DDT act on the  $Na_{v1}$  channel by maintaining the open state of the channel via interactions with two proposed binding sites [56, 57]. A diverse collection of mutations in  $Na_{v1}$  has been identified in many populations of pyrethroid-resistant pests and neurophysiological studies of heterologously-expressed channels have confirmed the role of these mutations in pyrethroid resistance [58].

The annotated ATUMI sodium channel contains an open reading frame of 6147 bases (XM\_020010801.1) that encodes a 2048 amino acid protein (XP\_019866360.1). Only a single transcript and protein were predicted from the ATUMI assembly, however,  $Na_{v1}$  is known to possess optional and alternative exons in some insects [59-61]. Interestingly, the optional exons a, b, and j were identified in the predicted ATUMI protein, while optional exons e, f, h, and i were not. Two pairs of alternative exons c/d and k/l were previously identified. Of these pairs, the predicted protein contained alternative exons c and l. This predicted inclusion of exons c and l is not likely representative of actual exon use, as exons d and k are the most commonly included exons in many species at many life stages [59-63]. Further cloning experiments to determine the actual optional and alternative exon use in ATUMI  $Na_{v1}$  should be informative.

A large number of mutations in  $Na_{v1}$  have been associated with target site resistance to pyrethroids and DDT [58]. We did not identify such mutations in ATUMI nor is this species known to be resistant to these insecticides. Therefore, this sequence serves as a reference for a

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351 susceptible target site for pyrethroids and DDT. GardStar® (Y-Tex, Cody WY) contains the  
352 pyrethroid permethrin and is labeled for use as a soil drench around honey bee colonies to kill  
353 wandering larvae and pupae. Although not currently labeled for ATUMI control, tau-fluvalinate  
354 (sold as Apistan®) also is effective at killing ATUMI [64, 65]. Should these products be used  
355 more frequently to control ATUMI, they will undoubtedly select for resistant mutations in the  
356 sodium channel as has occurred for the honey bee parasitic mite, *Varroa destructor* [66].

357  
358 *Acetylcholinesterase*

359 Acetylcholinesterase (Ace) cleaves acetylcholine (ACh) to regulate the effect of the  
360 neurotransmitter in the synaptic cleft. In insects, Ace is the target of organophosphate (OP) and  
361 carbamate insecticides and mutations in Ace result in target-site insensitivity to these two  
362 insecticide classes [67, 68].

363 ATUMI is predicted to possess active forms of both Ace1 (XP\_019871456.1) and Ace2  
364 (XP\_019866656.1) and these proteins share high identity to the respective Ace orthologs in  
365 other insects (Supplemental File 2). Ace mutations involved in OP resistance [68, 69] are found  
366 to be in the susceptible state in the predicted Ace proteins of ATUMI (Table 3). In the cases  
367 where an alternative amino acid was found in ATUMI (i.e, ATUMI\_Ace2 position 198), that same  
368 amino acid was seen in other insects that were presumably sensitive to OPs, so it does not likely  
369 confer resistance.

370 Ace2 performs primary acetylcholine esterase activity in honey bees, while Ace1 is the  
371 primary enzyme in beetles and most other insects [70]. Therefore identifying compounds that  
372 only inhibit ATUMI\_Ace1 may provide a level of ATUMI-specific control. CheckMite+™ (Bayer

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373 Health Care LLC, Shawnee Mission, KS) contains the organophosphate, coumaphos, and is  
374 currently labeled for in-hive use to control *V. destructor* and ATUMI [64, 71]. *Varroa destructor*  
375 has been shown to be resistant to coumaphos, due to metabolic adaptations to esterases [72,  
376 73].

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4 377 *ATP-Binding Cassette Proteins*

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7 378 ATP-binding cassette (ABC) proteins are a large, diverse family of proteins found in most  
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9 379 organisms, from bacteria to plants and vertebrates. The name is derived from the protein  
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11 380 domains used to bind and hydrolyze ATP, a function most ABC proteins use to engage in active  
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13 381 transport of molecules across cell membranes. As such, most of these proteins are comprised  
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15 382 of two types of domains: the nucleotide-binding domain (NBD), and the transmembrane  
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17 383 domain (TMD). To function as transporters, two NBDs and two TMDs are required, so several  
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19 384 ABC transporters, known as full transporters, possess two of each. However, many ABC  
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21 385 transporters only possess a single NBD and a single TMD; known as half transporters, these  
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23 386 proteins function in homo- or heterodimers to transport target substances. ABC proteins can be  
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25 387 separated into eight subfamilies, designated A-H, based on differences in NBD sequences.  
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33 388 This family of transporters is perhaps most notable for moving toxins into or out of  
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35 389 cells, which has resulted in the identification of several of these proteins playing a role in the  
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37 390 resistance of cancer cells to multiple drug treatments (Multi-Drug Resistant, MDR). So it is not  
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39 391 surprising that some of these proteins have been identified as having roles in insect  
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41 392 susceptibility or resistance to certain insecticides (Reviewed by {Dermauw, 2014 #70}). In spite  
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43 393 of their importance for shaping pest control methods, these genes are under-studied in insects,  
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45 394 with few having been fully characterized in any species. The status of ATUMI as a pest of bee  
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47 395 hives makes it important to understand what role ABC genes may play in how beekeepers  
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49 396 control this species.  
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56 397 The beetle genetic model organism, TCAST, has had its full suite of ABC-family genes  
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58 398 identified through a combination of RNA-seq and genomic analysis. In this species, 74 genes  
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399 have been identified (Table 4; {Broehan, 2013 #71;Grubbs, 2015 #72}). The translation products  
400 of these genes were used to query the ATUMI genome, in which 56 ABC genes were identified  
401 (Table 4). In most respects, the makeup of ABC genes in ATUMI resemble those found in TCAST  
402 - both species have identical numbers of ABC-B, D, E, F, and H subfamily members. Indeed, the  
403 numbers of members in the D-F and H subfamilies are highly conserved, with DMELA having the  
404 same number, and clear one-to-one relationships can be seen in these subfamilies among the  
405 members from each species (Figure 6). It should be noted that members of subfamilies E and F  
406 do not function as transporters, and are highly conserved, including in number, between insects  
407 and humans. Moreover, RNAi targeting ABC-E and one of the ABC-F genes in TCAST resulted in  
408 complete mortality, suggesting that the cellular roles of these genes may also be conserved.  
409 The ABC-B subfamily also appears well conserved, and may be worth further scrutiny in ATUMI,  
410 since this subfamily has been associated with resistance to several classes of pesticides in  
411 multiple species [74].

412 ATUMI differed from TCAST in member counts for three ABC subfamilies (Table 4). The  
413 first was subfamily A, for which only four members could be identified in ATUMI, relative to the  
414 ten found in TCAST and DMELA, or even the nine found in some other insect species  
415 . However, it is important to note that ABC-A genes are fairly large full transporters, and as such  
416 are often complex and difficult to identify in full. So, it is likely that some of the ABC-A genes are  
417 either not present in the current genome assembly, or are too fractured to recognize. It is also  
418 interesting to note that the beetle ABC-A genes appear to segregate from those of DMELA  
419 (Figure 6), suggesting possible pesticide targets against ATUMI, which may not harm other  
420 species, including pollinators.

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421 TCAST appears to have one more ABC-G gene than does ATUMI; specifically, ATUMI  
422 appears to lack an ortholog of the well-studied DMELA eye-pigment transporter known as  
423 Brown (Bw). Eye color in DMELA is determined by two pigment families, ommochromes and  
424 pteridines, both of which require the ABC transporter, White, which dimerizes with Scarlet to  
425 import ommochromes, or Bw to import pteridines. However, many other insect species only  
426 use ommochromes to pigment eyes [75], so when initial work on the ABC genes in TCAST failed  
427 to identify an ortholog to Bw, researchers concluded that since the protein was not required for  
428 eye pigmentation, it had been lost in TCAST. However, later work was able to identify an  
429 ortholog by focusing on only the most conserved portions of a protein that had otherwise  
430 substantially diverged [75]. It is possible that similar divergence has also prevented clear  
431 identification of a Bw ortholog in ATUMI. Otherwise, most other ABC-G genes have clear one-  
432 to-one orthologs in all three species (Figure 6).

433 The largest subfamily, the ABC-C genes, is known to play roles in multi-drug resistance  
434 in human disease, and some have been associated with Bt resistance in lepidopterans [74].  
435 ATUMI has fewer ABC-Cs than TCAST, but more than DMELA. At first, this might suggest a  
436 beetle-specific expansion as well as a TCAST-specific expansion. Indeed, there is a suite of  
437 expansions that may be beetle-specific (Figure 6), although comparisons to more species would  
438 be required to confirm this. However, each species also appears to have its own expansions;  
439 TCAST and ATUMI expansions are often tandem, as can be seen by the number of genes found  
440 on the same linkage groups/scaffolds (Figure 6). Indeed, there are surprisingly few clear one-to-  
441 one orthologous relationships, suggesting rapid evolution of ABC-C genes to fill species-specific



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442 needs. To understand ATUMI responses to pesticides, these ATUMI-specific expansions may be  
443 worth further study.

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445 *Gluthatione-S-Transferase*

446 Gluthatione-S-Transferases (GSTs) are conjugases that bind glutathione to a wide variety of  
447 substrates such as plant allelochemicals, insecticides, reactive oxygen species, and metabolic  
448 products that can provide detoxification, antioxidant, excretion, and transport functions [76],  
449 [77], [78]. Insect GSTs are widely studied due to their role in insecticide resistance [79].  
450 Genomic analyses show that insects possess between 10 to 41 genes that encode GSTs  
451 distributed across 8 classes (i.e. Delta, Epsilon, Omega, Sigma, Theta, Zeta, Microsomal, and  
452 Unclassified) [80].

453           In the ATUMI genome, 49 GSTs were identified, 9 of which displayed isoforms (Figure 7;  
454 Table 5). The number of genes in the ATUMI genome is very similar to what has been identified  
455 in TCAST, especially in the Delta, Epsilon, Sigma, and Theta classes. Relative to other insects,  
456 ATUMI and TCAST have expansions in the Epsilon, Sigma, Zeta, and Microsomal GST classes,  
457 which supports the hypothesis that these may be Coleoptera-specific class expansions [80]. The  
458 small number of genes in the Delta class for both ATUMI and TCAST suggests a class contraction  
459 or lack of expansion within the beetles.

460           Classically, increases in the expression and activity Delta and Epsilon classes confer  
461 resistance to diverse classes of insecticides such organophosphates, organochlorines (DDT), and  
462 pyrethroids [77], [79]. These two GST classes tend to be the most numerous and dynamic in  
463 terms of expansions and contractions [80]. Therefore it would appear that ATUMI possesses a

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464 wide diversity of GSTs, especially in the Epsilon class, to detoxify insecticides utilized for their  
465 control.

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468 *Cytochrome P450*

469 The Cytochrome P450 monooxygenases (CYP450s) are classified as phase I metabolic  
470 enzymes which are involved in the biosynthesis, bioactivation, and regulation of endogenous  
471 compounds such as hormones, fatty acids, and sterols as well as detoxification of xenobiotic  
472 compounds such as plant allelochemicals and insecticides. Overexpression of CYP450s often  
473 underlies high levels of detoxification-mediated insecticide resistance in many insects [81] [82]  
474 [83]. In the 69 insect genomes that have been published, more than 7,500 P450 genes have  
475 been identified in 208 families across 4 clans (CYP2, CYP3, CYP4 and Mitochondrial) [84].

476 In ATUMI, we found 116 genes across the 4 CYP clans (Figure 8, Table 6). The CYP2 and  
477 mitochondrial clans contained 8 and 10 genes, respectively, and orthologs were identified in  
478 other species. The conservation in sequence and number is expected as many of the genes in  
479 these clans are involved in ecdysteroid biosynthesis [85]. In contrast to the conserved CYP2 and  
480 mitochondrial clans, there are clear expansions in CYP3 and CYP4 compared to other species.  
481 These expansions are typified by large expansions of a single family that lacks orthologs in other  
482 species [86]. Within the CYP3 clan, the 55 genes are clustered in smaller blooms with the largest  
483 consisting of 13 genes. The 43 genes belonging to the CYP4 clan of ATUMI is among the largest  
484 seen in insects [7] with a noticeably large bloom of 20 genes. The species-specific expansions in  
485 the CYP3 and CYP4 clans may reflect differences in the diverse diets and chemical

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4 486 communication pathways of these insects. Additionally, CYPs in the CYP3 and CYP4 clans have  
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7 487 been implicated in insecticide resistance [87] [88] [89]. A lack of diversity in these clans may  
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10 488 underlie the high sensitivity to insecticides in the honey bee [90]. In contrast, the rapid onset of  
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12 489 insecticide resistance ATUMI may be facilitated by large number of CYPs in the CYP3 and CYP4  
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15 490 clans.

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20 492 *Carboxyl/Choline Esterases*

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22 493 Carboxyl/Choline Esterases (COEs) are capable of metabolizing a wide variety of substrates and  
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25 494 their activity is involved in a number of physiological processes such as bioactivation of juvenile  
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28 495 hormone and regulating acetylcholine interactions at the synapse [91] [92]. Increases in the  
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30 496 amount of esterase expression and mutations in the catalytic site of esterases confer insecticide  
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33 497 resistance [93] [94]. Insects possess a wide variety of COEs that are broadly classified as  
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35 498 intracellular or dietary (Clades A-C), secreted pheromone/hormone processing (Clades D-G),  
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38 499 and neurodevelopmental (Clades H-M) [91].

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40 500 The ATUMI genome contained 60 genes encoding putative COEs, with only one  
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43 501 displaying multiple isoforms (Figure 9). The number of genes in the secreted and  
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46 502 neurodevelopmental groups was mostly consistent with other insects (Table 7). The expansion  
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48 503 of Clade E (Secreted  $\beta$ -esterase) is consistent with a similar expansion in TCAST. This expansion  
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51 504 is not entirely characteristic of Coleoptera as DPOND and AGLAB only have 4 and 1 member of  
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53 505 Clade E, respectively [7]. The 10 genes for neuroligins is nearly twice the number seen in other  
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56 506 insects [11] [90] [95]. Nevertheless, the general conservation in sequence and number suggests  
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59 507 critical roles for these COEs across insects. In contrast to COEs in the secreted and

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508 neurodevelopmental groups, a vast majority of ATUMI COEs in the intracellular or dietary class  
509 lacked clear orthologs in TCAST, AMELL, or DMELA. This expansion of intracellular or dietary  
510 esterases is consistent with expansions observed in other insect genomes. These species-  
511 specific expansions of intracellular or dietary esterases may be due to dietary differences  
512 among these insects. Dietary esterases may also contribute to insecticide resistance [91].  
513 Therefore, this expansive array of dietary esterases may allow ATUMI to detoxify insecticides  
514 that may be used for control.

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**517 Implications**

518 ATUMI is an expanding invasive pest of honey bees, disrupting managed bee colonies and  
519 arguably having a strong impact on feral on naturally occurring colonies. We anticipate the  
520 resources described here will lead to novel methods to track and control this pest. The ATUMI  
521 genome also reveals numerous evolutionary distinctions relative to other sequenced  
522 arthropods. These distinctions help clarify the sensory cues used by ATUMI and the dietary  
523 habits of this beetle, and of beetles (order Coleoptera) more broadly.

524

**525 Methods**

*526 DNA extraction*

527 ATUMI adults were collected from a population maintained by the USDA-ARS Honey Bee  
528 Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory (Baton Rouge, LA) in November 2013. ATUMI  
529 larvae were collected March 8, 2014, from a continuous culture of small hive beetles

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4 530 maintained at the USDA-ARS Bee Research Laboratory. For adult beetles, extractions were  
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7 531 carried out on individual whole male beetles using the Qiagen DNAEasy kit (n = 4 beetles  
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10 532 extracted). Larval DNA was extracted from a total of 150 second-instar larvae in 30 groups of  
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12 533 five larvae each. Larvae were crushed using a plastic pestle in 1ml of freshly prepared CTAB  
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15 534 buffer consisting of 100 mM TrisHCl (pH 8.0), 20 mM EDTA (pH. 8.0), 1.4 M NaCl, 2% CTAB and  
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17 535 0.2% b-mercaptoethanol. The suspension was incubated at 65°C for 60 minutes, with gentle  
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20 536 mixing at 0, 20, and 40 minutes. Samples were centrifuged for 2 min at 14k rpm (2081 g) in an  
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23 537 Eppendorf microcentrifuge tube rotor. 500 µl of the supernatant was moved into a new tube  
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25 538 containing using a wide-bore pipette into a sterile tube containing 500 µl  
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28 539 chloroform:isoamylalcohol (24:1). After gentle mixing by hand, tubes were centrifuged at 14k  
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30 540 rpm for 15 min. Approximately 400 µl of the aqueous layer was transferred into new tubes  
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33 541 containing 250 µl cold isopropanol, followed by gentle mixing and incubation at 4°C for 30  
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35 542 minutes. Samples were centrifuged at 14k rpm for 30 min a 4°C, and then the supernatant was  
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38 543 poured off. Pellets were washed with 1 ml cold 75% EtOH and centrifuged again for 2 min. (14k  
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41 544 rpm). After the supernatant was poured off, the resulting pellets were washed in 1 ml cold  
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43 545 100% EtOH, centrifuged for 2 min, after which the EtOH was poured off, the pellets were spun  
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46 546 for an additional 30 seconds, and the last of the wash was removed by pipette. Pellets were air-  
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48 547 dried for 30 minutes and the resulting DNA pellet was resuspended in 50 µl ddH<sub>2</sub>O. Samples  
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51 548 were incubated for 30 min with 2.5 µl of an RNase cocktail at 37°C, followed by gentle addition  
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54 549 of 5 µl of 7M NaOAc and 100 µl EtOH. After 30 minutes of incubation on wet ice, the DNA  
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56 550 samples were spun at 12k rpm for 30 min, washed once with 70% EtOH, dried and suspended in  
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4 551 20 µl ddH<sub>2</sub>O. Extracts were pooled and assayed by gel electrophoresis to ensure DNA integrity  
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7 552 and by Nanodrop (ThermoFisher, Inc.) for quantification (180 ng/µl in 25 µl, 45 µg total DNA).  
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12 554 *Phylogenetic and genetic diversity of beetles*  
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15 555 The official protein sets of ATUMI, the red flour beetle (*Tribolium castaneum*) [10], mountain  
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17 556 pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) [96], Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora*  
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20 557 *glabripennis*) [11], dung beetle (*Onthophagus taurus*;  
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22 558 [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCA\\_000648695.1/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCA_000648695.1/)), emerald ash borer (*Agrilus*  
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25 559 *planipennis*; [https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF\\_000699045.1/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/assembly/GCF_000699045.1/)), coffee borer beetle  
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28 560 (*Hypothenemus hampei*) [97], burying beetle (*Nicrophorus vespilloides*) [98], scarab beetle  
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30 561 (*Oryctes borbonicus*) [14], honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) [99], and fruit fly (*Drosophila*  
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33 562 *melanogaster*) [100] were used to query the BUSCO Endopterygota ortholog set. Single copy  
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35 563 orthologs shared by all 11 insect species were further used for phylogenetic analysis. Protein  
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38 564 sequences of these orthologous groups (OGs) were aligned using MUSCLE [101]. Alignments  
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41 565 were quality trimmed with trimAl [102] and the orthologous groups were concatenated for use  
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43 566 in phylogenetic analysis. A maximum likelihood (ML) tree search was implemented using the  
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46 567 program RAxML version 8.2.9 [103] with 1000 bootstrap replicates. The final tree was viewed  
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48 568 and edited with TreeGraph2 [104]. Microsatellite markers were identified in the ATUMI  
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51 569 genome assembly using the Microsatellite Search and Building Database (MSDB) package [105].  
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54 570 The raw Illumina gDNA reads, used to assemble the ATUMI genome, were re-aligned to the  
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56 571 assembly using BWA [106]. The aligned reads were used to identify single nucleotide  
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4 572 polymorphism (SNP) positions using GATK (version 3.6; [107]), and the further annotated with  
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7 573 SNPEFF [108].  
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### 12 575 *Gustatory Receptors*

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15 576 The repertoire of gustatory receptors has been preliminarily characterized for TCAST [109] (62  
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17 577 Grs) and *A. glabripennis* [11]. Additionally, online databases have listed gustatory receptors for  
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20 578 *T. castaneum*, including UniProtKB ([www.uniprot.org](http://www.uniprot.org) [110]), and BeetleBase  
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22 579 ([www.Beelebase.org](http://www.Beelebase.org) [111]). Amino acid sequences for putative and identified *Gr* genes were  
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25 580 compiled from these resources and truncated to remove redundancies. The compiled TCAST  
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28 581 gene set contained 71 *Gr* genes. To identify and enumerate gustatory receptors for AGLAB and  
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30 582 ATUMI, amino acid sequences of TCAST gustatory receptor genes were submitted to the ATUMI  
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33 583 RefSeq gene set and genome assembly using BLASTP and TBLASTN, respectively. Putative *Gr*  
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35 584 genes for both species were selected from hits based on an E-score  $\leq$  to  $E^{-100}$ . Using the data set  
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38 585 of *Gr* genes compiled for *T. castaneum*, 38 and 11 putative *Gr* proteins were identified for  
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40 586 AGLAB and ATUMI, respectively. Sequences were aligned using MUSCLE [101]. The PhyML  
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43 587 program (v3.1/3.0 aLRT) was used to build a phylogenetic tree using maximum likelihood  
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46 588 method [41, 112]. The tree was further edited and visualized with the TreeDyn (v198.3)  
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48 589 program [113]. All analyses from the sequence alignment to tree reconstruction were  
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51 590 performed on the phylogeny.fr platform [114]. Sequences obtained in Newick format from  
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54 591 this platform were used as input in the ITOL program to construct and visualize using an  
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56 592 unrooted, circular phylogenetic tree [115].  
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4 594 *ABC Transporters*

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7 595 Potential ATUMI ABC genes homologous to TCAST ABCs were identified using protein BLAST to  
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9 596 search with each TCAST ABC sequence using WebApollo at <https://i5k.nal.usda.gov/aethina->  
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11 tumida. Protein sequences from ATUMI, TCAST, and DMELA were then compiled, and trimmed  
12 597 to exclude all but 51 residues around the Walker B motif of the nucleotide binding domain. This  
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14 598 51-amino-acid sequence was then used to build the phylogenetic tree (See Table 3 for the  
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16 599 sequences used from ATUMI). The maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree was constructed  
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18 600 using the program MEGA, version 7 [116], using default parameters in all categories except: LG  
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20 601 model of amino-acid substitution with Gamma distributed substitution rates (based on Best  
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22 602 Model determination within the MEGA program), and Partial Deletion treatment of  
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24 603 gaps/missing data [117].  
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35 606 *Insecticide targets and detoxification genes*

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38 607 The predicted proteins from the official gene set of ATUMI (taxid 116153) were queried with  
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40 608 TCAST orthologs for gene families and pathway members related to insecticide resistance via  
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42 609 BLASTP. Putative orthologs in ATUM were designated by >95% query coverage and E-value <1E<sup>-</sup>  
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44 610 <sup>100</sup>.  
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51 612 **Additional files**

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53 613 **File S1 MS-Word. Detailed material and methods.**

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55 614 **File S2 MS-Excel. Orthology assignments for glycoside hydrolases (GHs) coded by ATUMI.**

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57 615 **File S3 MS-Excel. Protein identifiers for orthogroup assignments.**  
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**Data and Material**

Data supporting the results of this article are deposited at NCBI-Bioproject PRJNA256171.

619

**Abbreviations**

ATUMI: small hive beetle; BUSCO: Benchmarking Universal Single Copy Orthologs

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**Competing Interest**

The authors declare no competing interest.

625

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629

630

**Author contribution**

J.D.E. and Q.H. designed the study. E.S. analyzed digestive proteins. D.M., B.D., N. G., S. C., N. E.,

M. L., S. R. and F. R. analyzed detoxification genes. J.D.E., D.M., B.D., N. G., S. C., N. E., M. L., S.

R., P. N., F. R. and Q.H. wrote the manuscript.

635

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641 **Tables**

642

643 **Table 1.** Assembly statistics of the small hive beetle genome assembly

Illumina (genome coverage)	535
PacBio (genome coverage)	50
Assembly size (Mbp)	234.3
Number of contigs	3063
Largest contig (Kbp)	2683.7
Smallest contig (Kbp)	1.26
N50 (Kbp)	298.8
Number of contig > 10 Kbp	2236
Number of contig > N50	192
Number of protein coding genes	14076
Number of mRNAs	17463
Density of SNPs (bps per SNP position)	177
Density of microsatellites (loci per Kbp)	8.23

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4 **649 Table 2.** The number of gustatory receptor (Gr) genes from major groups for three coleopteran  
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7 **650** species; the small hive beetle, ATUMI, AGLAB, and TCAST and their putative coding for  
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10 **651** detecting either bitter or sweet tastants.  
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12 **652**

Species	Gustatory receptor group					Tastant type		
	2a	5a	28a/b	43a	64a-f	Total	Bitter	Sweet
<b>AGLAB</b>	11	1	7	1	6	26	19	7
<b>ATUMI</b>	3	0	2	2	4	11	5	6
<b>TCAST</b>	12	3	30	12	14	71	42	29

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28 **653**  
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30 **654** Table 3. Evaluation of resistance mutations in acetylcholine esterase and their status in ATUMI.  
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33 **655** *Torpedo* Ace position number, the resistant mutations are described in [68].  
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<i>Torpedo</i>	Ace	ATUMI_Ace1	Resistant Mutations	ATUMI_Ace1
Position		Position		State
<b>119</b>		189	G247S, G119D	G
<b>128</b>		198	D237E	D
<b>201</b>		270	A302S	A
<b>227</b>		296	G265A, G262A	G
<b>290</b>		358	F290V	F
<b>331</b>		399	S431F, F445W, F439C	F

<i>Torpedo</i>	Ace	ATUMI_Ace2	Resistant Mutations	ATUMI_Ace2
Position		Position		State
<b>78</b>		114	F139L, F115S	F
<b>82</b>		118	E81K	E
<b>129</b>		177	I161V/T	I
<b>151</b>		198	V180L	I
<b>227</b>		280	G265A, G262A/V	G
<b>238</b>		290	S291G	T
<b>290</b>		358	F330Y, F237Y	F
<b>328</b>		383	G365A, G368A	G
<b>396</b>		452	G488S	G

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**Table 4:** Numbers of ABC genes in each species, by subfamily

Species	Subfamily								Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
ATUMI	4*	6	24	2	1	3	13*	3	56
TCAST	10	6	35	2	1	3	14	3	74
DMELA	10	8	14	2	1	3	15	3	56

657 Table 5. Comparison of the number of GSTs between ATUMI, AMELL, DMELA, and TCAST [80],  
 658 [90].

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GST Class	ATUMI	AMELL	DMELA	TCAST
<b>Delta</b>	3	1	11	3
<b>Epsilon</b>	19	0	14	19
<b>Omega</b>	1	1	5	3
<b>Sigma</b>	7	4	1	7
<b>Theta</b>	1	1	4	1
<b>Zeta</b>	5	1	2	1
<b>Microsomal</b>	6	2	1	5
<b>Unclassified</b>	7	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	49	10	38	41

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661 Table 6. Comparison of CYP450 genes in ATUMI, AMELL, DMELA, and TCAST.

P450 Clan	ATUMI	AMELL	DMELA	TCAST
<b>CYP2</b>	8	8	6	8
<b>CYP3</b>	55	28	36	82
<b>CYP4</b>	43	4	32	49
<b>Mitochondrial</b>	10	6	11	10
<b>Total</b>	116	46	85	149

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4 666 Table 7. Comparison of COE from *Aethina tumida* to *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Tribolium*  
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7 667 *castaneum*, and *Apis mellifera*. Nomenclature and gene counts follow McKenna 2016 [11]and  
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9 668 Claudianos 2006. [90].  
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COE Subfamily	<i>ATUMI</i>	<i>AMELL</i>	<i>DMELA</i>	<i>TCAST</i>
<b>Clades A-C (Dietary)</b>	27	8	13	55
<b>Clade D (Integument Esterases)</b>	2	1	3	5
<b>Clade E (Secreted <math>\beta</math>-esterase)</b>	8	3	3	10
<b>Clade F (JH Esterases)</b>	3	1	2	1
<b>Clade H (Glutactins)</b>	2	0	4	2
<b>Clade I (Unknown Function)</b>	1	2	2	2
<b>Clade J (Acetylcholinesterases)</b>	2	2	1	2
<b>Clade K (Gliotactin)</b>	1	1	1	2
<b>Clade L (Neuroligins)</b>	10	5	4	5
<b>Clade M (Neurotactins)</b>	4	1	2	1
<b>Total</b>	60	24	35	85

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4 671 **Figure Legends**

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10 673 **Figure 1.** *Aethina tumida* (A) adult and (B) larva. Photos courtesy of Alex Wild Photography,  
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12 674 used with permission.

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17 676 **Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree and estimated completeness of the genomes of 11 insect species.**

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20 677 A) The phylogenetic tree was constructed on protein sequences of 181 single copy orthologs  
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22 678 shared among all 11 insect species. All nodes have 100% bootstrap support. AMELL and DMELA  
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25 679 were used as outgroups. Branch lengths are shown for each node. B) Completeness of official  
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28 680 protein sets of each insect species were assessed by aligning to the Endopterygota sets of  
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30 681 benchmarking universal single-copy orthologs (BUSCOs). For ATUMI, 97.5% of complete  
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33 682 BUSCOs were found. C) The pervasiveness of gene loss during endopterygote evolution. From  
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35 683 the domain counts of lost BUSCOs, methyltransferase (MT), glycosyltransferase (GT) and  
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38 684 leucine rich repeats (LRR) are among the top 5% of total domains and are commonly lost from  
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41 685 multiple species. WD and ZF red boxes indicate that the gene is lost, while white boxes indicate  
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43 686 that the gene is maintained in each species.

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48 688 **Figure 3. Gene duplication events plotted against the average gene duplication event per**

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51 689 **gene.** The protein sets of the small hive beetle, red flour beetle, mountain pine beetle, Asian  
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53 690 longhorned beetle, dung beetle, emerald ash borer, coffee borer beetle, burying beetle, scarab  
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56 691 beetle, honey bee and fruit fly were searched against the Endopterygota BUSCO set using  
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59 692 BLAST. Redundant proteins (including recent paralogs and those with known alternative

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4 693 splicing) were used to quantify the average number of duplication events per gene in each  
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7 694 species.

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12 696 **Figure 4. Glycoside hydrolase (GH) family copy numbers identified from beetle genomes.**

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15 697 Genes coding for glycoside hydrolases were identified using Pfam domain assignments [118]  
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17 698 and genome assemblies and coding gene predictions were obtained from NCBI (GenBank  
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20 699 Accession Numbers: GCA\_000390285.1 AGLAB, GCA\_000355655.1 DPOND, GCA\_001412225.1  
21  
22 700 *N. vespilloides*, GCA\_001443705.1 *O. borbonicus*, GCA\_000002335.3 TCAST) with the exception  
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24  
25 701 of *H.s hampei*, which was downloaded from [https://genome.med.nyu.edu/coffee-](https://genome.med.nyu.edu/coffee-beetle/cbb.html)  
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27 702 [beetle/cbb.html](https://genome.med.nyu.edu/coffee-beetle/cbb.html). Families are color coded from green to red based on their relative abundance  
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30 703 (total count/total number of GH genes) with red representing GH families that are highly  
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33 704 abundant ( $\geq 25\%$  of the total GH genes) and green representing GH families of lesser abundance  
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35 705 ( $\leq 0.01\%$ ). Notably, the GH profiles of ATUMI and TCAST (neither of which feed on living plant  
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38 706 material) differ strongly from the GH profiles of the phytophagous beetles, even though they all  
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41 707 belong to the same infraorder, suggesting that diet, in part, might be driving the differences in  
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43 708 GH family members and copy numbers. AGLAB=Asian longhorned beetle (*A. glabripennis*);  
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46 709 HHAMP=Coffee berry borer (*H. hampei*); DPOND=Mountain pine beetle (*D. ponderosae*);  
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48 710 NVESP=burying beetle (*N. vespilloides*); OBORB=scarab beetle (*O. borbonicus*); ATUMI=small  
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51 711 hive beetle, and TCAST=red flour beetle (TCAST).

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53 712 **Figure 5. Maximum likelihood cladogram for gustatory receptor genes from three coleopteran**  
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56 713 **species.** The small hive beetle, *Aethina tumida* (ATUMI; green labels/lines), the Asian long  
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59 714 horned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Agla; red labels/lines), and the red flour beetle,

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4 715 *Tribolium castaneum* (TCAST; blue labels/lines). Individual genes are labeled with species  
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7 716 identifier and GenBank accession number. Scale bar for branch lengths represents 0.1 amino  
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10 717 acid substitutions per site. Ring around cladogram indicates gene families coded for perceiving  
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12 718 bitter (yellow) and sweet (pink) tastants.

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17 720 **Figure 6. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree of ABC proteins from ATUMI (At), TCAST (Tc),**  
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20 721 **and DMELA (Dm).** ATUMI genes are marked in blue, TCAST in green, and DMELA in purple. ABC  
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22 722 subfamilies are indicated with colored lines to the right of the tree. Names for DMELA proteins  
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25 723 were taken from Flybase (<http://flybase.org/reports/FBgg0000552>), and include the Flybase  
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28 724 number for reference. TCAST names are taken from the two papers in which the genes were  
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30 725 identified [75, 119], with the NCBI Refseq accession number provided for reference. ATUMI  
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33 726 names were generated for this paper by combining the subfamily of the identified sequence  
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35 727 with the scaffold on which the encoding gene may be found; if multiple ABC genes of a  
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38 728 particular subfamily were found on the same scaffold, the sequences were given an additional  
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41 729 letter designation based on their relative location, reading left to right on the scaffold as shown  
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43 730 in WebApollo. For reference, the scaffold number and base coordinates for the gene have also  
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46 731 been included.

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51 733 **Figure 7. Maximum Likelihood phylogenetic tree of glutathione-S-transferase (GST) proteins.**  
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54 734 The bootstrap consensus tree inferred from 1000 replicates is taken to represent the  
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56 735 evolutionary history of the taxa *A. tumida* (ATUMI) in green; *A. mellifera* (AMELL) in black; *D.*  
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59 736 *melanogaster* (DMELA) in blue; and *T. castaneum* (Tribol) in red identified manually using the

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737 Uniprot and Pfam databases. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50%  
738 bootstrap replicates are collapsed. Initial tree(s) for the heuristic search were obtained  
739 automatically by applying Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms to a matrix of pairwise distances  
740 estimated using a JTT model, and then selecting the topology with superior log likelihood value.  
741 All positions with less than 95% site coverage were eliminated. The tree was annotated and  
742 visualized with the iTOL web tool ([itol.embl.de/](http://itol.embl.de/)).

743  
744 **Figure 8. Maximum Likelihood phylogenetic tree of the cytochrome P450 detoxification**  
745 **system.** The bootstrap consensus tree inferred from 1000 replicates is taken to represent the  
746 evolutionary history of the taxa *A. tumida* (ATUMI) in green; *A. mellifera* (AMELL) in black; *D.*  
747 *melanogaster* (DMELA) in blue; and *T. castaneum* (Tribol) in red identified manually using the  
748 Uniprot and Pfam databases. Branches corresponding to partitions reproduced in less than 50%  
749 bootstrap replicates are collapsed. Initial tree(s) for the heuristic search were obtained  
750 automatically by applying Neighbor-Join and BioNJ algorithms to a matrix of pairwise distances  
751 estimated using a JTT model, and then selecting the topology with superior log likelihood value.  
752 All positions with less than 95% site coverage were eliminated. P450s are clustered to CYP2,  
753 CYP3, CYP4 and mitochondrial clans. The tree was annotated and visualized with the iTOL web  
754 tool ([itol.embl.de/](http://itol.embl.de/)) [120].

755  
756 **Figure 9. Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree of carboxylesterase (COE) genes.** The  
757 maximum likelihood bootstrap consensus tree (1000 replicates) showing the relationships  
758 among COE genes from the genomes of *A. tumida* (ATUMI) in green; *A. mellifera* (AMELL) in

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4 759 black; *D. melanogaster* (DMELA) in blue; and *T. castaneum* (Tribol) in red, identified manually  
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7 760 using the Uniprot and Pfam databases. Branches corresponding to partitions recovered in less  
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10 761 than 50% of bootstrap replicates are collapsed. Starting tree(s) for the heuristic search were  
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12 762 obtained automatically using neighbor-joining and BioNJ algorithms applied to a matrix of  
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15 763 pairwise distances estimated using a JTT model, and then selecting the topology with the  
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17 764 superior log likelihood value. All positions with less than 95% site coverage were eliminated.  
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20 765 The phylogenetically distinct clusters were named according to established nomenclature for  
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22 766 COE genes [11]. The tree was annotated and visualized with the iTOL web tool [120].  
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**B**



**A**

Figure 1

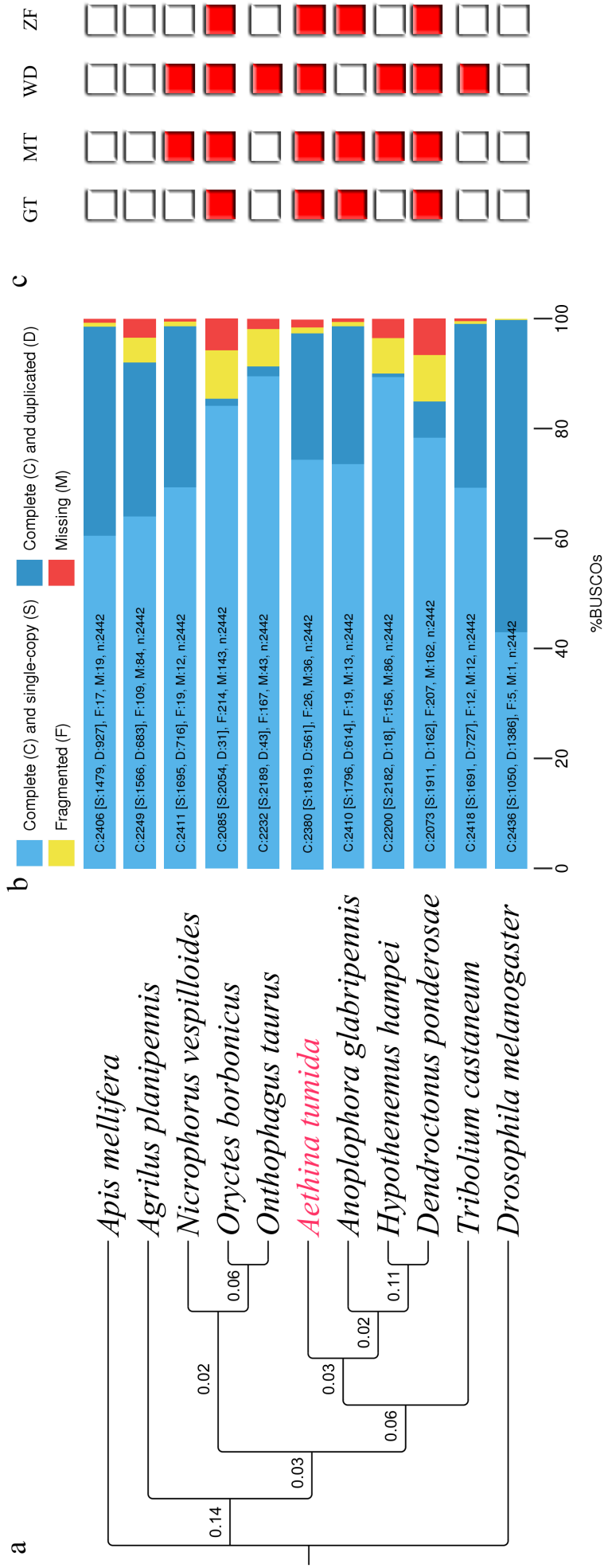


Figure 2

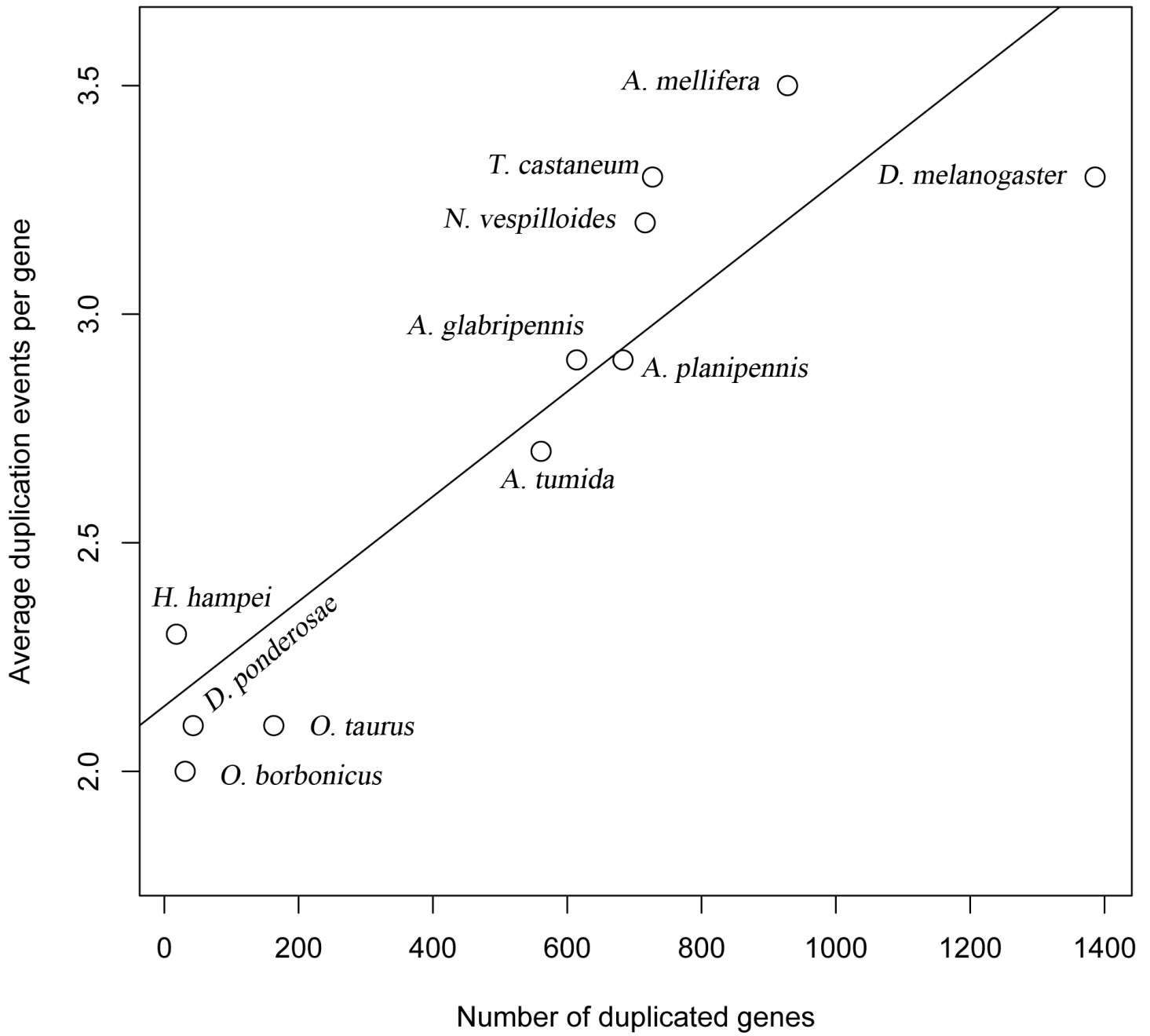


Figure 3

The dendrogram at the top of the table shows the hierarchical clustering of 31 GH families. The tree splits into two main clusters: 'Phytophagous' (left) and 'Other' (right). The 'Phytophagous' cluster includes families GH1, GH2, GH5, GH9, GH10, GH13, GH15, GH16, GH18, GH20, GH22, GH28, GH30, GH31, GH32, GH35, GH37, GH38, GH39, GH45, GH47, GH48, GH63, GH67, GH79, GH85, and GH99. The 'Other' cluster includes families GH1, GH2, GH5, GH9, GH10, GH13, GH15, GH16, GH18, GH20, GH22, GH28, GH30, GH31, GH32, GH35, GH37, GH38, GH39, GH45, GH47, GH48, GH63, GH67, GH79, GH85, and GH99.

Family	ALB	CBB	DPOND	NIC	ORY	SHB	TCAS
GH1	59	21	25	8	2	8	13
GH2	5	2	3	8	1	5	6
GH5	6	2	2	0	0	0	0
GH9	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
GH10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
GH13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GH15	2	2	2	4	1	3	2
GH16	4	5	11	1	3	7	3
GH18	25	19	11	18	13	18	22
GH20	8	8	10	14	8	8	10
GH22	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
GH28	17	7	23	0	0	0	0
GH30	7	1	2	3	1	8	5
GH31	17	6	10	6	7	11	8
GH32	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
GH35	10	5	10	3	0	4	4
GH37	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
GH38	10	7	7	7	5	10	11
GH39	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
GH45	2	3	9	0	0	0	0
GH47	4	4	4	5	3	6	4
GH48	1	4	8	0	0	0	0
GH63	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
GH67	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GH79	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
GH85	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
GH99	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>95</b>
	<b>Phytophagous</b>			<b>Other</b>			

Figure 4



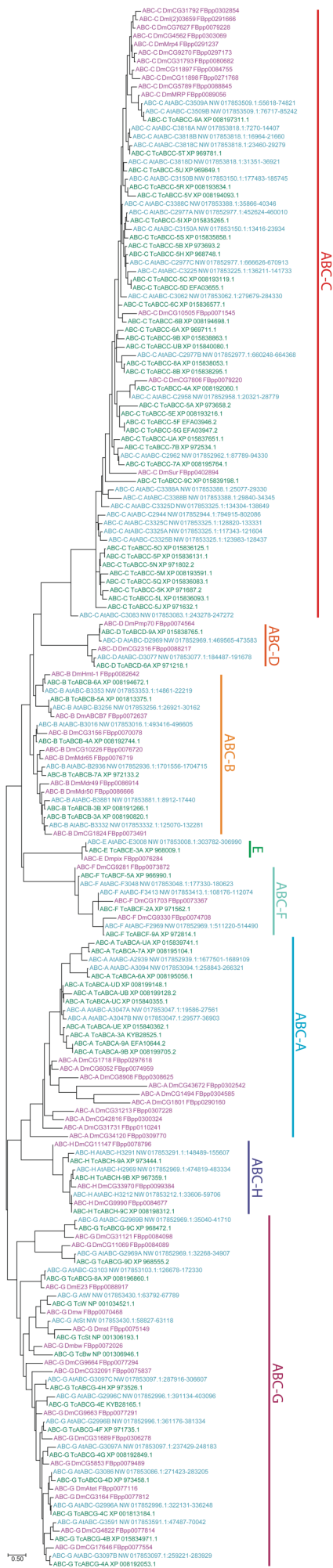


Figure 6



# COE Classification

- Clade D: Integument Esterases
- Clade E: B- and Pheromone Esterases
- Clade F: Juvenile Hormone Esterases
- Clade H: Glutatactins
- Clade I: Unknown Function
- Clade J: Acetylcholinesterases
- Clade K: Gliotactins
- Clade L: Neuroligins
- Clade M: Neurtactins

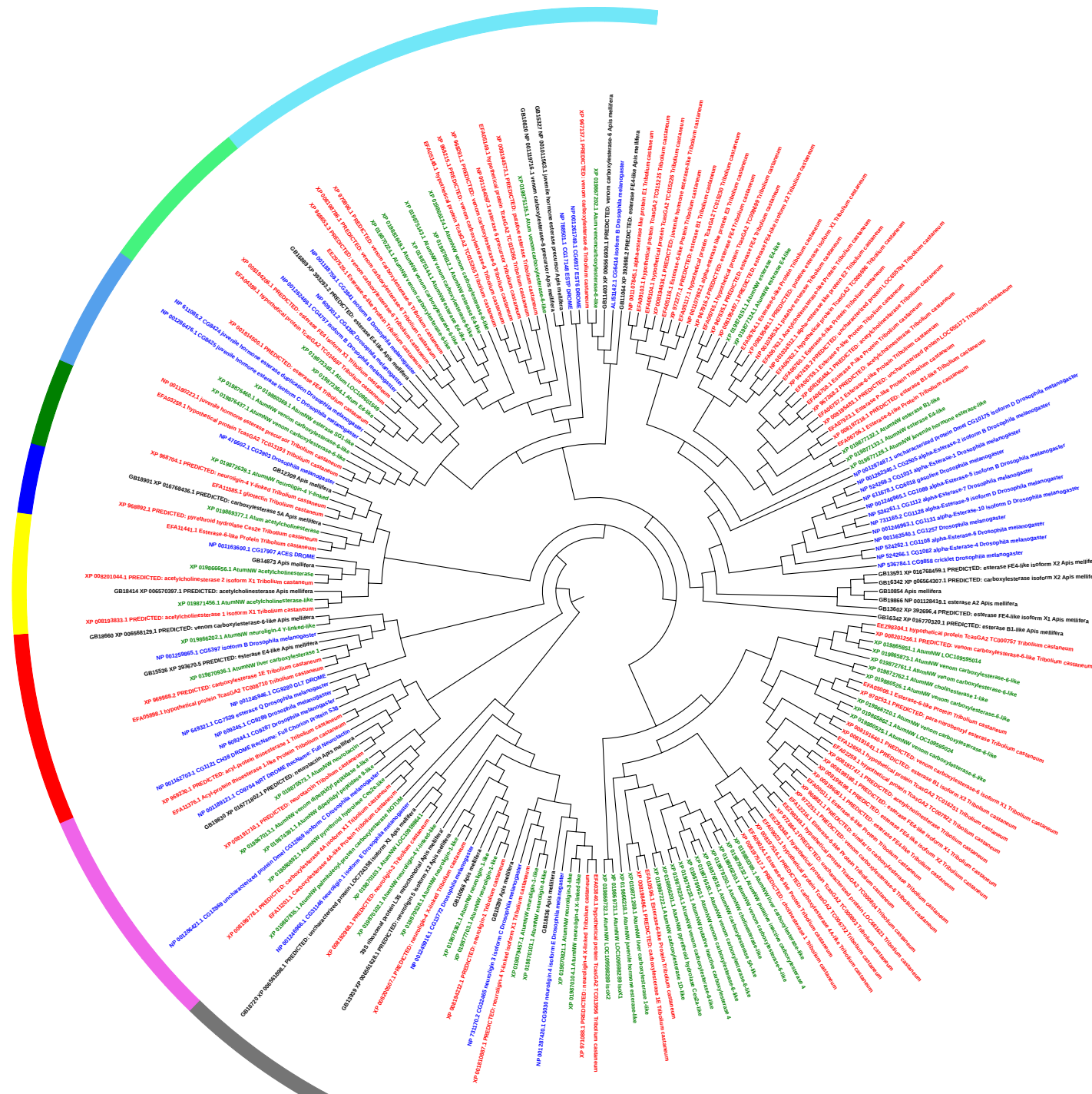


Figure 7

# P450 Clans

- Mitochondrial
- CYP2 Clan
- CYP3 Clan
- CYP4 Clan

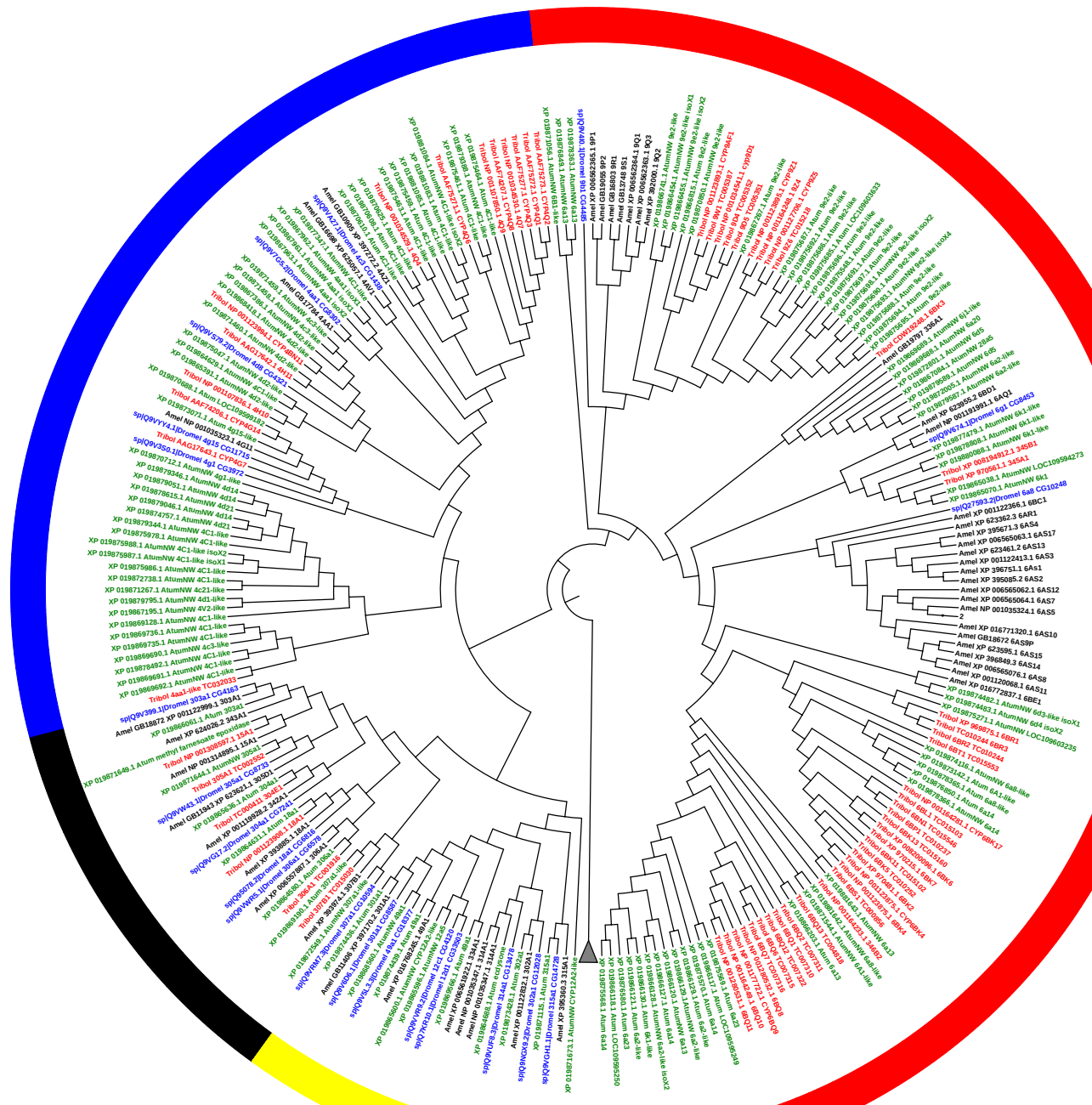


Figure 8

- GST Class**
- Delta
  - Epsilon
  - Omega
  - Sigma
  - Theta
  - Zeta
  - Microsomal
  - Unclassified

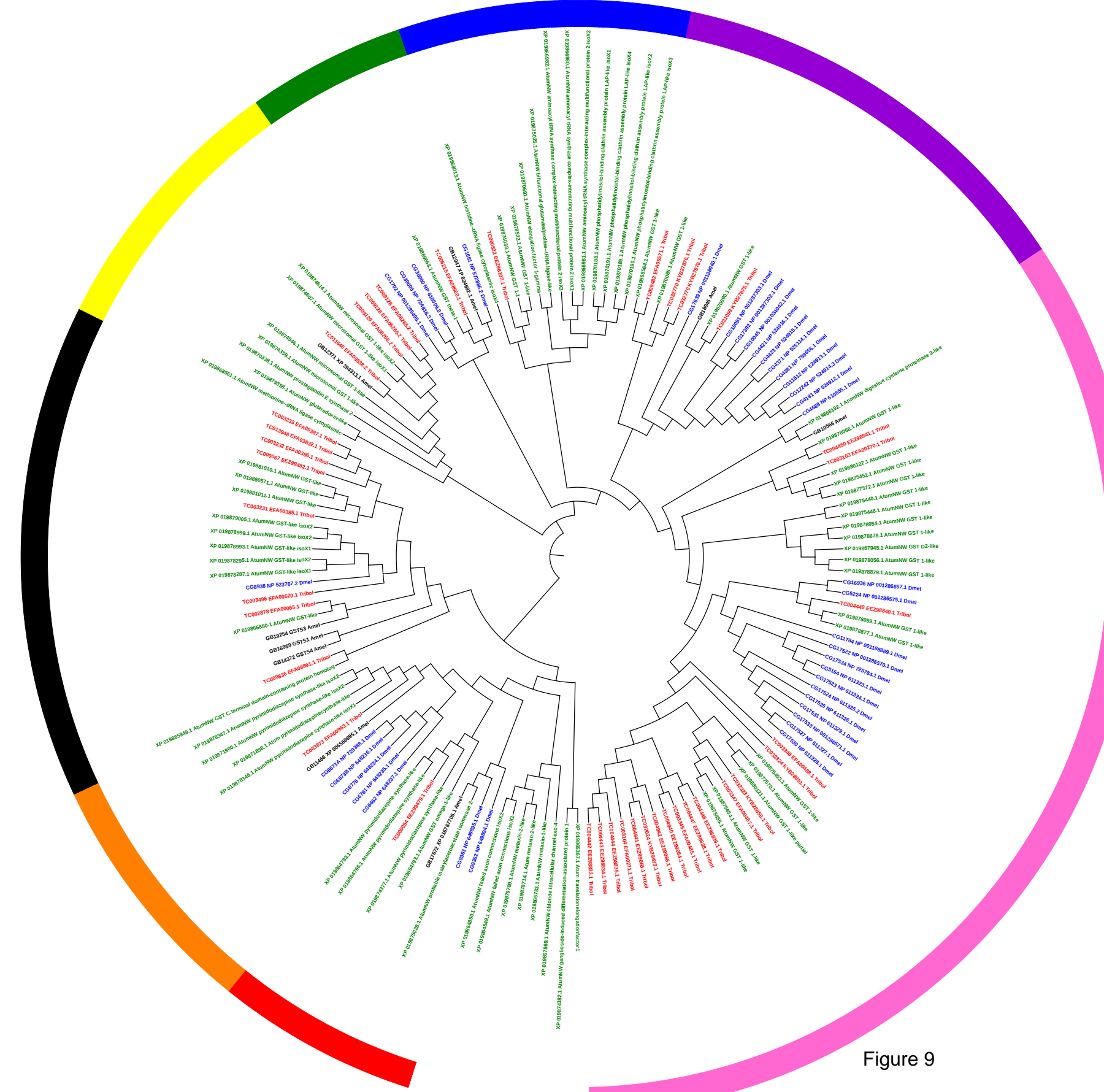
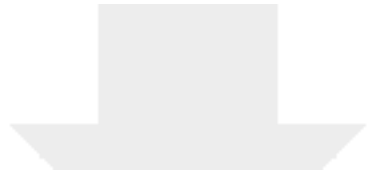


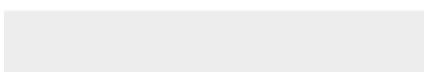
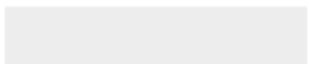
Figure 9

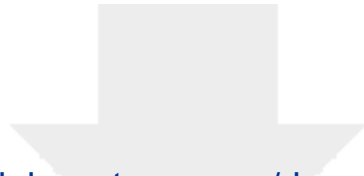


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