

## Finding Selection in All the Right Places

### LAB 9

#### Notes:

- *Start the computer in Windows.* Hold down the Option key during start up to get to the MacOS/Windows choice.
- Terms in green are included in the Glossary.

#### Objectives:

1. Use published genome data to look for evidence of selection in individual genes.
2. Understand the need for DNA sequence alignment before sequence analysis.
3. Understand the use of the McDonald-Kreitman test.
4. Form hypotheses for the inferred presence or absence of selection on individual genes.

#### Your Mission:

Your goal for this lab is to analyze **5 genes** in the *Drosophila pseudoobscura* genome for evidence of natural selection. Each pair of students will have a different set of genes. ***You must bring a flash drive to lab so your TA can transfer your gene sequences to it.*** These analyses have not been performed before, so you will be publishing your results in a professional and publically accessible database. You will begin this process in lab this week and complete it on your own as two lab assignments due at the beginning of your next lab period.

You will perform this analysis in three steps for each gene (although you'll only complete step 3 for two genes):

Step 1: Analyze the alignment of the DNA sequences.

Step 2: Perform two versions of the McDonald-Kreitman test on the sequences and interpret the results.

Step 3: Research two of the genes to form hypotheses to explain the results of the tests.

You will complete the first two steps in lab this week (and submit your results as the first of two lab assignments) and then finish the third step on your own as a second lab assignment.

#### Product:

For ***each of your five genes*** you will need to...

- 1- **Add the data** to the class database, including attaching your FASTA file. See the Instructions for Data Entry on page 20.
- 2- **Complete** the relevant portion of lab assignment 6 on Sakai.

#### **AND**

For **two** of your five genes you need to **complete Step 3** and submit it via Sakai in lab assignment 7.

**Background:**

**Before lab**, you should read pp 256-263 "The Neutral Theory as a Null Hypothesis: Detecting Natural Selection on DNA Sequences" in your Freeman & Herron *Evolutionary Analysis* textbook. Pay particular attention to the section entitled "Comparing Silent and Replacement Changes within and between Species" on pp 258-259.

John McDonald and Martin Kreitman proposed a test of the **neutral hypothesis** (Kimura 1983) in 1991. Their test is based on a comparison of **synonymous** and **nonsynonymous SNPs** within and between species. Under **neutrality**, the ratio of **synonymous fixed** substitutions (differences) between species should be the same as the ratio of **synonymous polymorphisms** within species. Therefore, if these two ratios are significantly **different**, it is evidence that natural selection or some other process besides the combination of mutation and genetic drift is acting on the gene or the chromosomal region around the gene.

One way to present the results of the **McDonald-Kreitman test** is to use the values to calculate the **Neutrality Index (NI)**:

$$NI = \frac{P_n/P_s}{D_n/D_s}$$

where  $P_n$  is the number of **nonsynonymous** within species **polymorphisms**,  $P_s$  is the number of **synonymous** within species **polymorphisms**,  $D_n$  is the number of **nonsynonymous** between species fixed differences, and  $D_s$  is the number of **synonymous** between species fixed differences. The **neutral** expectation is that  $NI=1$ , so any significant deviation from 1 suggests that some non-neutral force such as natural selection is acting on the gene. If  $NI < 1$ , there is an excess of fixation of non-neutral substitutions ( $D_n$  is higher than expected), which suggests positive selection is driving a change in the gene. If  $NI > 1$ , there is a deficiency of fixation of non-neutral substitutions ( $D_n$  is lower than expected), suggesting that either negative selection is preventing the fixation of harmful mutations that exist in the population as low-frequency **polymorphisms**, or that balancing selection is acting to maintain **polymorphism** within one or both of the species. *Note: the results only suggest these interpretations if the deviation from 1 is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).* Deviations from 1 that are *not* statistically significant *cannot* be interpreted as being different from neutral expectations.

A modification of the **McDonald-Kreitman test** uses only **four-fold degenerate codons** (where the third site of the codon can be any nucleotide without changing the amino acid) for the count of **synonymous/neutral** sites. This is considered a more conservative measure because **four-fold degenerate** sites are more **neutral** since all possible mutations still result in the same amino acid and are therefore presumably **neutral**, whereas for **two-fold degenerate codons** (where the third site can be one of two nucleotides without changing the amino acid), only a third of the mutations are **neutral**.

Usually the **standard** and **modified McDonald-Kreitman tests** will have the same results in terms of direction of **NI** and significance. If the **standard MK test** has a significant result and the **modified test** does not, but the **NI** and **p** values are similar, these should not be considered contradictory results. This is because by limiting **neutral** mutations to **four-fold degeneracies**, the total number of **neutral** differences will always decrease which will likely make it more difficult to see a significant deviation from **neutral** expectations. If these two tests show results that show wildly different **p** values or **NI's**, the explanation is likely to differ on a case-by-case

basis. If by some chance you encounter such a result, you will only be asked to speculate as to a cause.

### Pre-step: Where did these sequences come from?

When researchers want to find the sequence of a particular region of DNA, whether that region is a single gene, an entire chromosome, or an entire genome, the length of the DNA strand that can be sequenced at a time (the “read” length) is limited by the method and technology used. Until a few years ago, the maximum individual read length was about 1 kilobase. That maximum is now in the tens of kilobases, but the process is still pretty cumbersome so that all of the sequences obtained for an entire genome (the *D. pseudoobscura* genome is 185,000 kb and the human genome is 3,300,000 kb) using these methods takes a lot of analysis to put together (as it did for the human genome). A different technology became available in the last ten years that is *much* faster, but produces even shorter reads – only about 100-500 bp.

With any of these methods, the problem is putting these smaller pieces together since what you really *want* is a much longer sequence (like a whole chromosome or entire genome). Remember that you don’t know where a particular read should go relative to the others ahead of time. They *don’t* come numbered 1-1000 so that all that is necessary is pasting the sequences together in order. So, how do researchers put these reads together?

The key is that some of the reads end up overlapping. Computer programs look for these overlapping stretches of sequence in a process called sequence assembly to generate the consensus sequence – the best hypothesis for the sequence for the entire long DNA region.

Here is an example of how this “shotgun sequencing” process works. The sequencing process outputs these 21 fragments:

```
oursco  enyear  father  oughtf
Foursc  eands   arsago  rfathe  forth
rscore  andsev  yearsa  hersbr
reands  goourf  brough
oursco  dseven  sagoou  father  htfort
```

Find the overlapping regions and use them to line up the fragments:

```
oursco          enyear          father  oughtf
Foursc eands          arsago  rfathe          forth
  rscoreandsev  yearsa          hersbr
        reands          goourf          brough
oursco  dseven  sagoou  father          htfort
oursco          enyear          father  oughtf
```

Then use the lined up fragments to construct the complete phrase:

```
Four|sc  e|and|s  |  ars|ago|  r|fathe  |          |forth
  r|score|and|sev  |years|a  |  |  hers|br  |
  |  re|and|s  |  |  go|our|f          |brough  |
our|sco  |  d|seven|  s|ago|ou  |father  |          ht|fort
Four|score|and|seven|years|ago|our|fathers|brought|forth
```

Now try it for these sequence reads:

```
CTATCTCCCACGAGGATACT
CTAAAGGACAAAAATATTCT
ATGGCTCTAGCTATCTCCCA
CAGATTTTGCTAAAGGACAA
CGAGGATACTCAGATTTTGC
```

\*\* What is the consensus sequence you built from these reads?

The *D. pseudoobscura* and *D. miranda* consensus sequences that we obtained from Mohamed Noor’s lab here at Duke were assembled in this manner.

**Step 1: Analyze alignment**

Why do sequences from different individuals, sequences, or species need to be aligned before they can be analyzed?

\*\* Consider the 5 sequences below. How many polymorphic sites (base pair positions that are not the same nucleotide for all 5 samples – this includes if there is a space for some but not all) are there? Hint: make a mark underneath each polymorphic site in the colored table and then count your marks.

A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								
A	A	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T												
A	T	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								
A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T	
A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	G	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								

This can be easier to see if each nucleotide is highlighted with a different color (which you can do with the colored highlighters on your lab bench).

A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								
A	A	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T												
A	T	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								
A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	C	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T	
A	A	A	A	A	G	G	A	G	T	C	A	A	G	T	A	T	T	G	G	A	A	A	T	T	C	T	G	C	A	T								

\*\* Look at the color-coded sequences more carefully, paying close attention to the patterns made by the colors. Pay particular attention to the sequences that are different lengths than the others. Do you notice anything about the color pattern? Could you shift the sequences in any way to make the patterns match better? What do you think caused these changes?



Your TA will transfer your gene sequences onto your flash drive. You will receive one .fas file for each gene that contains sequences from approximately 11 sequences of *D. pseudoobscura* and three sequences of *D. miranda*. The name of each file is the name of the gene whose sequences are in that file.

1- The first thing you will need to do is look up some information about your gene. Here are the steps to do that.

- **Go to** flybase.org

Click on the "Data Type" tab of the Quick Search box.

Make sure to check the box next to "include non-Dmel drosophilid species" and choose "genes" from the "Data Class" drop-down menu.

**Search for "YourGeneName"** by entering that in the "Enter text" box (substituting the actual name of your gene for "YourGeneName")

Click **Search**.

- If multiple results are presented in a list, **click on the link for "Dpse\YourGeneName"**

The page that loads contains information about this gene in *D. pseudoobscura*. There is currently no database of *D. miranda* genes, but these two species have diverged so recently that we will assume that the location information from *D. pseudoobscura* is correct for *D. miranda* as well.

- **Find the location of your gene**

Next to "Sequence location," there should be a small number, a colon, two numbers separated by two periods, and then either a + or a – in brackets. The first, smaller number identifies the chromosome that the gene is located on. The two bigger numbers indicate the start and end points of your gene on the chromosome in base pairs from the end of the chromosome assembly. The plus or minus identifies which strand the coding sequence is on. See the image on the next page where these numbers are indicated.

\*\* What chromosome is your gene on in *D. pseudoobscura*? Write this information and the URL for your gene's FlyBase page in the appropriate space on the gene report page (one for each gene included at the end of this lab handout – an example of a completed gene report page is provided on p 26).

\*\* What are the beginning and end points for the location of the coding sequence for your gene in *D. pseudoobscura*? Write this information in the appropriate space on the gene report page

Gene name

General Information			
Symbol	Dpse <b>bcd</b>	Species	<i>D. pseudoobscura pseudoobscura</i>
Name	bicoid	Annotation symbol	<b>GA10255</b>
Feature type	protein_coding_gene	FlyBase ID	FBgn0086857
Gene Model Status	Current	Stock availability	None publicly available
Also Known As	bcd		
Genomic Location			
Chromosome (arm)	2	Recombination map	2-
Cytogenetic map		Sequence location	2:19,791,836..19,793,667 [+]
Genomic Maps			
FlyBase GBrowse			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Summary Information</li> <li>❑ Recent Updates</li> <li>❑ Detailed Mapping Data</li> <li>❑ Gene Model &amp; Products</li> <li>❑ Expression Data</li> <li>❑ Alleles &amp; Phenotypes</li> <li>❑ Gene Ontology: Function, Process &amp; Cellular Component ( 4 unique terms )</li> <li>❑ Sequence Ontology: Class of Gene</li> <li>❑ Interactions &amp; Pathways</li> <li>❑ <b>Orthologs</b> Needed in Step 3</li> <li>❑ Stocks &amp; Reagents</li> <li>❑ Other Information</li> <li>❑ External Crossreferences &amp; Linkouts</li> <li>❑ Synonyms &amp; Secondary IDs ( 8 )</li> <li>❑ References ( 33 )</li> </ul>			

location

chromosome

coding strand

click for introns

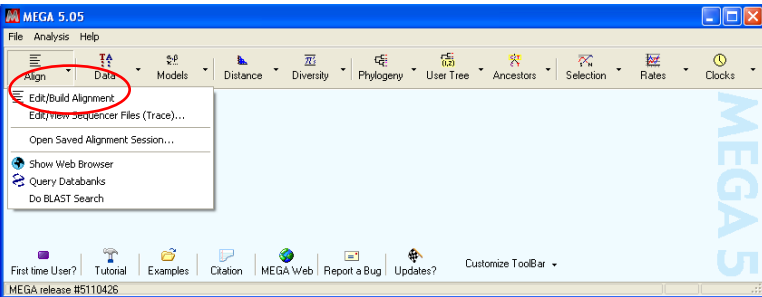
To discover whether your gene contains one or more **introns**, click on the "Get genome region" button. **Exons** will be shown in **BLUE UPPER CASE LETTERS**, while **introns** will be shown in black lower case letters as seen in the image below (this gene consists of four **exons** separated by three **introns**).

\*\* Record the number of **exons** for your gene in the appropriate space of the gene report.

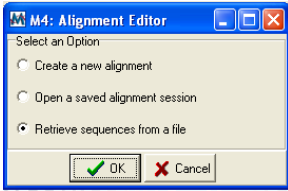


2- **Open the gene .fas file** that you received from your TA in the program **Mega**.

- **Start the Mega program** by clicking on the  icon in the Taskbar.
- **Go to Align -> Edit/Build Alignment** in the **Mega** window that opens.



- **Select "Retrieve sequences from a file"** and click the popup.



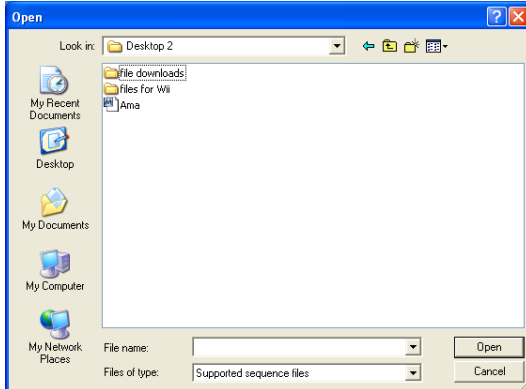
OK in



- **Open your .fas gene file.**

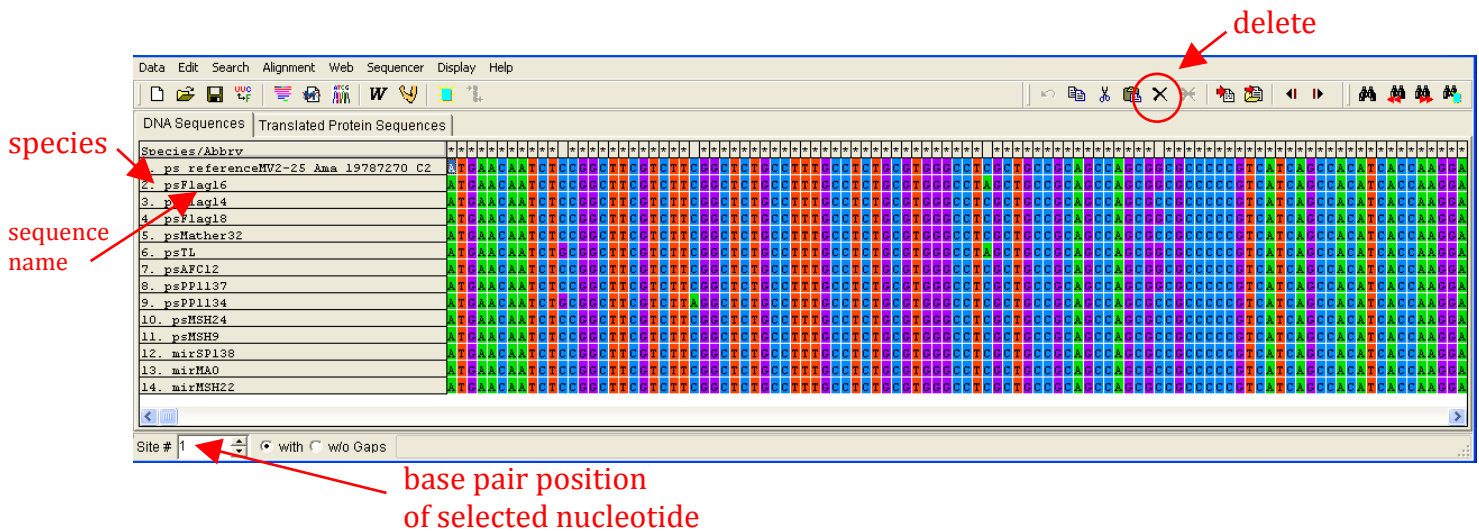
In the next window that opens:

- navigate to your first gene file,
- select it,
- click Open.



- **The Mega sequence alignment window** (shown below).

The name of each sequence consists of SpeciesStrainName, where the species is abbreviated "ps" for *D. pseudoobscura* and "mir" for *D. miranda*.



- **Familiarize yourself with the Mega window.**

\*\* What do the asterisks along the top row indicate?

\*\* What does a deletion in only one sequence look like (if your gene doesn't have any, see if one of your classmates' does)?

\*\* How about an insertion in only one sequence (if your gene doesn't have any, see if one of your classmates' does)?

### 3- Check for problems in the alignment.

- **Scan for problematic sequences.** Any sequence that has multiple **indels**.  
**Delete** any sequence that has 3 or more **indels** *and* at least one **frameshift** that lasts for more than 15 bp (ie is not corrected by more **indels** within the next 15 bps).
- **Evaluate the number of unknown nucleotides (N's).** This step is necessary since the MK test will ignore any site in which even one sequence has a deletion or N. Since we need to maximize the amount of data that the MK test includes, we need to determine whether we'd have more data using a sequence's sequence even though it has N's and deletions, or if we'd be able to include more data if we deleted that sequence's sequence entirely. Follow the procedure below to make this determination.
  - **Count the number of N's and deletions** in each sequence, paying attention to the species of each. If your gene has a lot, you may want to use the N-count.xls spreadsheet available on Sakai. Your TA will show you how to use it.
  - Determine which sequence of each species has the **most N's+deletions**.
  - If the **percentage of N's+deletions** out of the total number of nucleotides in the sequence is **more** than the **percentage that one sequence** represents of the total number of sequences, then **delete that sequence**. See the example below.
  - **Repeat** for the sequence with the next most N's+deletions, remembering that your cutoff has changed since the total number of sequences for that species has changed. See the example below.
  - **Keep repeating** until you keep a sequence, then follow the same procedure for the **other species**.

**Example:** Gene is 948 bp long.

Dp sequence	N's+deletions	Dm sequence	N's+deletions
1	0	1	318
2	0	2	444
3	0	3	315
4	0		
5	0		
6	0		
7	0		

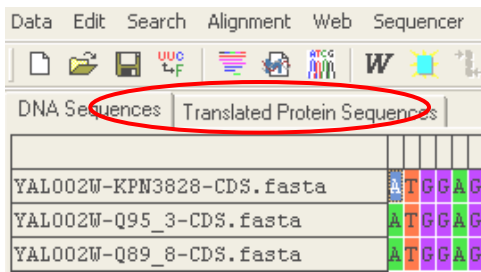
8	55		
9	0		
10	0		
11	0		

Sequence 8 is the only *D. pseudoobscura* sequence with any N's or deletions and it has 55. 55 is 5.8% of 948. 1 out of 11 total *D. pseudoobscura* sequences is 9%. Since  $5.8\% < 9\%$ , we keep the sequence and are done with *D. pseudoobscura*.

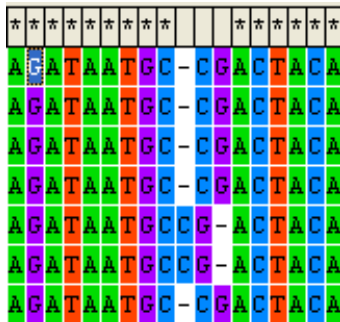
Sequence 2 has the most N's and deletions in *D. miranda* with 444. 444 is 46.8% of 948. 1 out of 3 total *D. miranda* sequences is 33.3%. Since  $46.8\% > 33.3\%$ , we delete the sequence and go on to the sequence with the next most N's and deletions.

Sequence 1 has the next most N's and deletions in *D. miranda* at 318. 318 is 33.5% of 948. 1 out of 2 total *D. miranda* sequences (since 1 of the original 3 was deleted, 2 remain) is 50%. Since  $33.5 < 50\%$ , we keep the sequence and are done.

- If you made any changes to any of the sequences, you need to **re-align them**.
  - Click on the **Alignment button** **W** near the top of the window.
  - A popup will probably appear saying that nothing is selected and asking if it should select all – **click OK**.  
If you don't see this popup, make sure all of the sequences were selected, if not, click cancel.
  - A window of **alignment** parameters will appear – the default values are fine, so **click OK**.  
**Mega** will then perform the **alignment**, which may take a minute or two.
  
- **Check your gene's protein sequence.**
  - Click on the **"Translated Protein Sequences" tab** near the top of the screen. (All the default choices are fine, so just click "yes" or "OK" until it translates.)
  - **Look for any STOP codons** (indicated by an asterisk shaded gray) in the middle of the sequence.
  - **Delete any sequences** in which you found **STOP codons** more than 20% of the length of the gene from the "real" **STOP codon**.
  - **A small gene** (<500 bp) with premature **STOP codons** in more than one sequence are likely to have been incorrectly identified as protein-coding genes and therefore **unusable** for our purposes. Tell your TA the name of the gene and **get a different FAS file from him/her**. *If you don't complete five genes, you will lose points!!!*



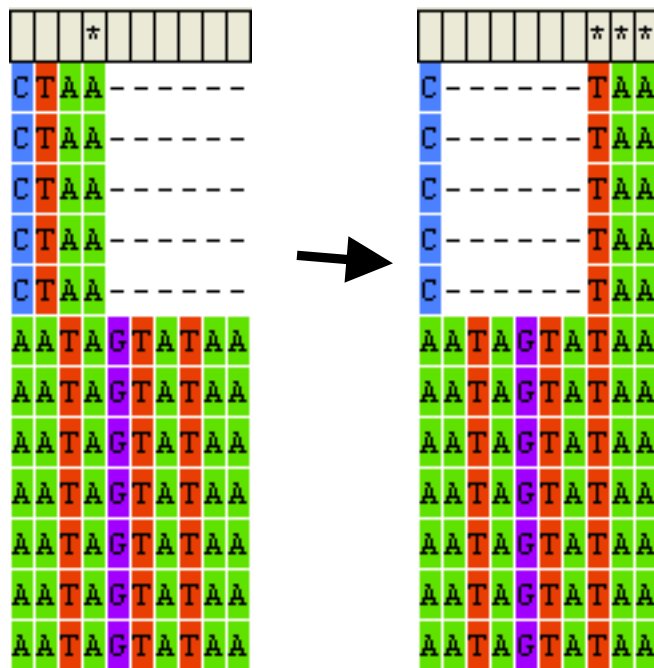
- o Click on the “DNA Sequences” tab near the top of the screen to return to the DNA sequences.
- Check for places where the automated alignment has made obvious mistakes like the one shown below. Correct any such mistakes you find.



- Again, if you made any changes to any of the sequences, you need to re-align them.
  - o Click on the Alignment button **W** near the top of the window.
  - o A popup will probably appear saying that nothing is selected and asking if it should select all – click **OK**.  
If you don't see this popup, make sure all of the sequences were selected, if not, click cancel.
  - o A window of alignment parameters will appear – the default values are fine, so click **OK**.  
Mega will then perform the alignment, which may take a minute or two.

5- Align STOP codons.

- If the gene is shorter in one species than the other and the alignment places the deletions in the shorter sequences after the STOP codon, change it so the STOP codon is last (aligned with the STOP codon of the other species) by typing in the relevant characters (G, A, T, or -). See the images below.



6- Once all suspicious nucleotides/sites/sequences have been analyzed and all necessary changes made, you need to **save the final alignment** for the next step.

- To do this, first be sure you **have the DNA Sequences tab open** (*not* the Translate Protein Sequences tab!).
- **Go to Data -> Export Alignment -> FASTA format**
- **Navigate** to where you want to save the file (on your own flash drive if you're in lab)
- **Name the file alignedGeneName**, where you replace "GeneName" with the name of your specific gene (ex. alignedGA10255).

7- **Count the number of sequences you have for each species.**

\*\* Record this information in the appropriate space of the gene report.

8- **Count the polymorphic indels.**

The **McDonald-Kreitman Test** is going to calculate the number of *substitutions* that are **polymorphic** within one of the two species and **fixed** between the two species, but it would be potentially interesting to have this information about **indels** as well.

So, while you still have the **alignment** for your gene open, **and paying close attention to which sequences are *D. pseudoobscura* and which are *D. miranda*:**

- **Count the number of indels that are found in *some but not all D. pseudoobscura* sequences** (polymorphic indels).

For example, a **polymorphic indel** could be a deletion seen in two of eight *D. pseudoobscura* sequences.

It is possible for an **indel** to be **polymorphic** in both species, in which case include it in both counts.

- Repeat this count for **indels** that are found in *some but not all D. miranda* sequences.
- Count the **indels** that are found in *all D. pseudoobscura* sequences **but no D. miranda** sequences, and vice versa (indels fixed between species).

An indel fixed between species is one seen in all *D. pseudoobscura* sequences and none of the *D. miranda* sequences or all *D. miranda* sequences and none of the *D. pseudoobscura* sequences.

\*\* Write this information in the appropriate spaces on the gene report.

## Step 2: McDonald-Kreitman Test

- 1- **Open your aligned .fas file in Notepad** by right-clicking on the file, choosing "Open With -> Choose Program," and then scrolling down to Notepad, clicking on it, then clicking OK.
  - If necessary, add carriage returns before the ">'s" identifying each sequence to make the sequences easier to see.
- 2- Now open a web browser (Firefox and Internet Explorer are both installed on the lab computers) and **go to <http://mkt.uab.es>**
- 3- You will perform 2 different **McDonald-Kreitman Tests** using this website. For the first one:
  - **Check the boxes** to the left of "**Analyze synonymous changes**" and "**Analyze non-synonymous changes**" and also **to the right of "Analyze synonymous changes"** to set **synonymous** changes as **neutral**. See the figure below.

Standard & Generalized  
McDonald-Kreitman Test

MKT Menu  
Main  
Help  
Example  
Contact us  
Cite Us

RESOURCES  
Databases with MKT estimates  
DPDB  
ManPol  
Sequence Analysis Tools  
POA

Standard MKT | Advanced MKT | Multi-locus MKT | **Main Parameters**

NAME OF THE ANALYSIS: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPES OF SITES TO ANALYZE: (Only comparisons involving two mutually exclusive types of site are allowed)

Analyze synonymous changes

Analyze non-synonymous changes

Analyze four-fold degenerate sites/changes ?

Analyze two-fold degenerate sites/changes ?

Analyze non-degenerate sites/changes ?

SET AS NEUTRAL (The Neutral Class selected will be compared to another type of site)

PASTE THE SEQUENCES ( Example ) (Format must be FASTA)

Species 1

Paste *D. pseudoobscura* sequences here

Species 2

Paste *D. miranda* sequences here

Upload a file:  No file chosen

Upload a file:  No file chosen

ANNOTATIONS

Species 1

Species 2

\* If you uploaded a file with the sequences, please write a line for each sequence with its annotations as follows:  
Sequence 1 --> 1..500 from the first position until the position 500  
Sequence 2 --> 1..200,205..500 from the first position until the position 200, and from the position 250 until the position 500 etc.

After checking the 3 boxes and pasting in the sequences, click this tab

check these 3 boxes



- The **Proportion of adaptive substitutions ( $\omega$ )** is  $1 - \text{NI}$ , which was mentioned in lecture, but we will not be including in our lab interpretations;
- The  **$d^2$  value\***, which compares the within species **polymorphism** ratio to the between species fixed differences (divergence) ratio, with the null hypothesis being that these two ratios are equal;
- And the **p-value\***, which is simply the probability of obtaining that particular  $d^2$  result if the null hypothesis is true and should be used to determine whether the **McDonald-Kreitman** result is significant. Like the mkt.uab.es website, we will use a **p-value of 0.05 for the significance level**. *So results with a p-value of greater than 0.05 should be considered not significant and therefore show no evidence of deviation from neutral expectations.*

\* Note that the calculated  $d^2$  value has *already* been compared to  $d^2$  critical values and a p-value reported. You *do not* need to compare the  $d^2$  value to a table of critical values.

**Your MKT Results**

Comparison Number:	Neutral Region:	Testing Region:	Counts correspond to SITES/CHANGES:
<a href="#">Comparison 1</a>	1 (synonymous)	1 (non-synonymous)	Changes

Genetic code: Universal Code

INPUT SEQUENCES for Region 1:

Number of Sequences for Species 1: 11  
 Number of Sequences for Species 2: 3

Length of the Alignment: 669  
 Percentage of gaps within the alignment (excluding end gaps): 0.0%

View Alignment for Region 1  
 (Sequences were already aligned)

[JaView](#)

Input Sequences: [202081\\_1.txt](#)

SEE RESULTS:  Divergence corrected by Jukes&Cantor  Without any correction for divergence

*Record any of these numbers that you haven't already*

*Select this radio button*



**Comparison 1:**  
**NEUTRAL REGION: 1 (synonymous)**  
**TESTING REGION: 1 (non-synonymous)**  
**CHANGES**

**Contingency table:**

	Polymorphism	Divergence	TOTAL
Neutral	31	6	37
Non-Neutral	2	3	5
TOTAL	33	9	42

**Estimates:**

Neutrality Index (NI): 0.129  
 Proportion of adaptive substitutions ( $\alpha$ ): 0.870

$\chi^2$  value: 5.015  
 p-value: **0.025**

*Use this value to determine significance*

In the above example, the Neutrality Index is 0.129, which is less than 1, and this result is statistically significant with  $p=0.025$ . This means that there is an excess of fixation of non-neutral mutations ( $D_n$  is higher than expected), which suggests that positive selection is driving a change in this gene.

- \*\* Arginine is one of the amino acids with the most codons encoding it, while tryptophan is one of the amino acids with the least. Using a codon table, determine how many single base pair mutations to the arginine codon CGA (written in RNA, but the answer would be the same for mutations to the DNA, right?) would be **synonymous** and how many would be **nonsynonymous**. Do the same for the tryptophan codon UGG. So what can you say about the possible number of **synonymous** and **nonsynonymous** substitutions for all codons?
  
- \*\* There are three possible relationships that could be seen in the Contingency Table (think about comparing the **nonsynonymous/synonymous** ratios of between and within species). What are they and what does each one mean?
  
- \*\* Record the values in the Contingency Table, the  $\chi^2$  value, and the p-value in the appropriate spaces in the Gene Report page.
  
- \*\* What are the implications of the **McDonald-Kreitman** results for your gene? Write this information in the appropriate space on the Gene Report page.

4- For the second, modified **McDonald-Kreitman Test**:

- **Go back to the first page** of the site by clicking **"Main"** in the lefthand menu.
  - This time, **check the boxes** to the left of **"Non-synonymous changes"** and **"Four-fold degenerate sites/changes"** and check the box to the right of **"Four-fold degenerate sites/changes"** to set that as neutral.
  - As before, paste all of your *D. pseudoobscura* sequences from Notepad in a single block into the **Species 1 box** and paste all of your *D. miranda* sequences from Notepad in a single block into the **Species 2 box**.
  - **Click on the "Main Parameters" tab.**
  - **Uncheck the box next to "Align Sequences."** See the above figure.
  - **Click on the "Run Test" button to perform the modified McDonald-Kreitman Test.** See the above figure.
  - Be sure to **select the "Without any correction for divergence" radial button.**
  - The results are in the same format, except that now the **"Neutral"** values are the **numbers of four-fold degenerate mutations.**
- \*\* Record the values in this Contingency Table, the  $\chi^2$  value, and the p-value in the appropriate spaces in the gene report page.
- \*\* What are the implications of these modified McDonald-Kreitman results for your gene? Write this information in the appropriate space on the gene report page.

### Step 3: Research Your Gene

*You need to complete step 3 for two of your five genes. Choose ones with significant McDonald-Kreitman results, if possible, or ones where the standard and modified McDonald-Kreitman results differ. This part is to be completed by each student independently (**not** with your lab partner, although you can choose the same genes) and is due at the beginning of the next lab period (turned in via Sakai and the database).*

You now need to do some online research to **find out the function of your gene's product**. Start from the **FlyBase** page for your gene that you used to find the gene's location. Click on the **"Orthologs"** option towards the bottom of the page (indicated in the figure in Step 1). Click on "AAA Orthologs..." and then **"Dmel\YourGeneName"** next to "Drosophila melanogaster," which will take you to the entry for this gene in *D. melanogaster*. Then click on the **"Summary Information"** option right under the location map which should contain information about the gene's function. If you can't find the function on FlyBase, you can try other searches (be sure any information you find is for *D. pseudoobscura*

or *D. melanogaster*), but be sure you **list any and all sites** in your answer on the gene report page (found on Blackboard).

If you see something like “**predicted ORF**” or “**predicted gene**” in the information for your gene, there will not be any information available about its product because no information is known. These tags indicate that the DNA sequence contains all the features of a gene (an open reading frame or ORF), however no gene product has been identified at this time. If you find significant MK results for one of these regions, it’s an extremely interesting finding! Your results provide very strong support that this region is actually protein forming and that it is under some sort of selection. Further investigation of these regions (or any genes with significant results) could be a fantastic independent project!

When reporting your findings, be sure you put the function in your own words, **do not** copy directly from your source, as this is plagiarism. See the example gene function page posted on the Sakai syllabus page for this week’s lab for a model of how to report this information.

Once you know the function of your gene’s product, form a hypothesis relating your MK results to this function. Submit the functions of your two genes and the two hypotheses in lab assignment 7 on Sakai.

FAY, J., WYKCOFF, G. J. and WU, C. I. (2001). Positive and negative selection on the human genome. *Genetics* **158**: 1227-1234.

KIMURA, M. (1983). *The neutral theory of Molecular Evolution*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

McDONALD, J. H. and M. KREITMAN. (1991). Adaptive protein evolution at the *Adh* locus in *Drosophila*. *Nature* **351**: 652-654.

RAND, D. M. and L. M. KANN. (1996). Excess amino acid polymorphism in mitochondrial DNA: contrasts among genes from *Drosophila*, mice, and humans. *Mol. Biol. Evol.* **13**: 735-748.

## Instructions for Data Entry

You will enter the data from the genes you analyzed into the class database. The data set consists of the information from the Gene Report page you completed for each gene. You need to submit an entry for each of your genes. ***However, the data for each gene should be entered only once, so you and your lab partner should submit only once, together.***

Follow these instructions to enter your data:

- 1- Go to <https://geneticsevolution.biology.duke.edu/>
- 2- If you aren't already signed in (because you signed into Sakai, ACES, etc already), do so by clicking on the "Login" link at the top right of the table.
- 3- Click on the "Add Gene" link at the top right of the table.
- 4- Enter the data from your Gene Report page. Where to enter each should be clear. Pay close attention to the specific notes below:
  - for the start and end locations of your gene, do *not* include commas
  - for % gaps, do *not* include the percent sign (%)
  - for NI, Chi-sq Result, and P value, if your result is "null," then leave the entry box ***blank*** (the database will automatically convert these to "null" for you)
  - only check the box next to "Significant?" if your P value is less than 0.05 (your result is significant)
  - *be sure to enter your section number or your TA won't be able to find your entry to grade!!!!*
  - You only need to add the Gene Function URL and Gene Function for the two genes you research for Step 3.
  - *Attach your aligned FASTA file (the one you named "alignedGeneName") by clicking on the "Choose File" button next to "Upload FASTA File."*
  - *Be sure to add your lab partner from the list of available students by searching for their name, clicking on them, and then clicking on the blue right arrow to move them to the "Chosen Students" box!!!*

If by some chance your partner's name is not on the list, you'll need to save (see below) and add them as described below.

- o After you've saved, logout of the database using the "logout" link at the top right.
- o Your partner should login and then logout again – sorry, this is just how the NetID system works!
- o You login to the database again.
- o Click the "My Genes" link next to the "Add Gene" link at the top right of the table.
- o Click on the "Edit" link on the far right of the entry for the gene you just saved.
- o Now follow the instructions above for adding your partner's name and save again.

- 5- Save your entry by clicking the "Save" button on the upper right.
- 6- Check the information you entered is correct:
  - Click the "My Genes" link next to the "Add Gene" link at the top right of the table.
  - Click on the entry for the gene you just saved.
  - If you find any mistakes, click on the "Edit" link under your section, make any changes necessary in the form that loads (same as originally data entry screen), and save again. Note that the system won't allow you to save unless you've made a change – if you don't need to edit just click Back on your browser to get out of this screen.
- 7- You can edit ***your*** gene entries any time before the due date.

***You will lose points if your data is not in the database!***

## ***Glossary***

### alignment

a way of arranging sequences of DNA, RNA, or protein to identify equivalent regions that may be a consequence of relationships between the sequences. Sequence alignments are usually represented as tables where each sequence is a row and matching bases are aligned in columns. Mismatches can be interpreted as point mutations and gaps can be interpreted as indels introduced into one or both lineages in the time since they diverged.

### balancing selection

a number of processes, including heterozygote advantage and negative frequency-dependent selection, by which multiple alleles are actively maintained in a population

### base pair

a metric used to describe the length of a DNA or RNA sequence by counting the number of nucleotide bases

### bp. See base pair

### complement

a sequence whose bases will hydrogen bond to the bases of a previously mentioned reference sequence

### complementary. *See* complement

### consensus sequence

the DNA (or amino acid) sequence made up of the most common nucleotides (or amino acids) after multiple sequence reads are aligned

### coverage

the number of reads the consensus sequence for a particular region of DNA is based on

### *Drosophila miranda*

a species of black fruit fly, very closely related to *Drosophila pseudoobscura*, native to western North America

### *Drosophila pseudoobscura*

a species of black fruit fly native to North America

### *D. miranda* *See* *Drosophila miranda*

### *D. pseudoobscura* *See* *Drosophila pseudoobscura*

### exons

the DNA segments of a gene that contain the sequences that, through transcription and translation, are eventually represented in the final polypeptide product

**fixed substitutions/differences**

a base substitution or difference between species or populations where one group has only one allele and the other group has only the other allele

**four-fold degenerate codon**

a codon whose third site can be any nucleotide without changing the amino acid

**frameshift**

a mutation in a DNA sequence that occurs when the number of nucleotides inserted or deleted is not a multiple of three, so that every codon beyond the point of insertion or deletion is read incorrectly during translation

**indel**

a type of mutation caused by the insertion or deletion of one or more bases

**intron**

any segment of DNA that lies between coding regions (exons) of a gene. Introns are transcribed but are spliced out of the RNA product and are not represented in the polypeptide encoded by the gene

**kb. *See* kilobase****kilobase**

a measurement of DNA or RNA sequence length, equal to one thousand bases

**McDonald-Kreitman test (standard)**

a test for natural selection based on the prediction that, according to the Neutral Theory, the ratio of nonsynonymous to synonymous substitutions in between-species comparisons should equal the ratio of nonsynonymous to synonymous polymorphisms in within-species comparisons

**Mega**

the software program we use to align sequences

**MK test *See* McDonald-Kreitman test (standard)****modified McDonald-Kreitman test**

considers only four-fold degenerate sites to be neutral. Compare to McDonald-Kreitman test (standard)

**neutral hypothesis**

the hypothesis that observed base substitutions are neither good or bad with respect to fitness, and therefore fluctuate randomly in the population because of genetic drift

## neutral theory

a theory that models the rate of fixation of alleles with no effect on fitness; also associated with the claim that the vast majority of observed base substitutions are neither good or bad with respect to fitness.

## neutrality

evolution occurring due to mutation and genetic drift alone

## Neutrality Index (NI)

one way to present the results of the McDonald-Kreitman test:

$$NI = \frac{P_n/P_s}{D_n/D_s}$$

where  $P_n$  is nonsynonymous within-species polymorphism,  $P_s$  is synonymous within-species polymorphism,  $D_n$  is nonsynonymous between-species fixed differences, and  $D_s$  is synonymous between-species fixed differences

NI *See* Neutrality Index

## nonsynonymous variation

differences in DNA sequence that result in changes in the amino acid sequence of the encoded protein

## polymorphic sites

DNA base positions for which there are more than one nucleotide seen when comparing different aligned sequences

## polymorphism

existence in multiple forms

## positive selection

selection that causes a new or rare variant to increase in frequency and eventually be fixed

## purifying selection

negative selection, selection acting to remove new deleterious mutations

## read

a stretch of DNA that was the product of a sequencing reaction

## single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)

a single base position in the DNA sequence at which different individuals have *different* nucleotides

standard McDonald-Kreitman test *See* McDonald-Kreitman test (standard)

## STOP codon



a three base RNA sequence that signals the end of translation (polypeptide formation), may also refer to the equivalent sequence in the gene's DNA. In RNA, the STOP codons are UAA, UAG, and UGA.

synonymous variation

differences in DNA sequence that do not result in changes in the amino acid sequence of the encoded protein

two-fold degenerate codon

a codon whose third site can be one of two nucleotides without changing the amino acid

Name: Julie NoorSection # and TA name: 1, Julie Noor**Gene Report**1- Name of gene: Ubx Other names: GA10294

FlyBase URL:

<http://flybase.org/reports/FBgn0243536.html>2- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: 2 Coding sequence location: 17467809-17543471Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: 4Number of *D. pseudoobscura* 9 and *D. miranda* 3 sequences used in analyses.3- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* 0 and *D. miranda* 0Number of indels fixed between species 0Length of aligned sequence (in bp): 1158 % gaps in alignment: 28.7

4- Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous	7	1
nonsynonymous	0	0
nonsyn/syn ratio	0	0

NI: NULL  $\chi^2$  value: NULL p-value: NULL significant? NULL

5- Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous	5	1
nonsynonymous	0	0
nonsyn/syn ratio	0	0

NI: NULL  $\chi^2$  value: NULL p-value: NULL significant? NULL6- Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together:  
There is no significant difference from neutral expectations, so no evidence that natural selection is acting on this gene or its protein product.

Is the function of this gene's product known? If so, what is it? Be sure to include the name of the gene and the source(s) of your information (a URL is fine).

*The gene Ubx (or Ultrabithorax or GA10294) is a protein coding gene that codes for a homeobox protein of the antenapedia type. There is experimental evidence that its protein has the molecular functions of protein binding, RNA polymerase II distal enhancer sequence-specific DNA binding, sequence-specific DNA binding, protein domain specific binding, and DNA binding. There is also experimental evidence that the protein is involved in the following biological processes: biological regulation, system development, cell fate commitment, regulation of developmental process, appendage development, cellular process, mesoderm morphogenesis, renal tubule development, regulation of RNA metabolic process, post-embryonic organ morphogenesis, specification of organ identity, open tracheal system development, muscle cell differentiation, segment specification, and cardiovascular system development.*

<http://flybase.org/reports/FBgn0003944.html>

Form a hypothesis to explain the standard and modified MK results in light of the above functional information and briefly outline an experiment to test this hypothesis. Be sure to reiterate both sets of MK results. Include the source of any additional information you use (a URL is fine), if you didn't use any additional information, no reference is necessary.

*Both the standard and the modified MK tests showed no significant evidence of natural selection acting on the Ubx gene. This is a very surprising result given the essential role this gene's product plays in development. Given this role, it would have been predicted that negative selection would have been acting on this gene to prevent changes (which almost certainly would be deleterious), but the MK results don't support this prediction. However, there were absolutely no nonsynonymous substitutions found in the 826 base pairs examined by the tests either within species or between species. This suggests that negative selection may have actually been acting on this gene, but so strongly that the MK tests couldn't detect it. The MK test only detects negative selection when there are some within species polymorphisms*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section # and TA name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Report**

1- Name of gene: \_\_\_\_\_ Other names: \_\_\_\_\_

FlyBase URL: \_\_\_\_\_

2- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: \_\_\_\_\_ Coding sequence location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_ sequences used in analyses.

3- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of indels fixed between species \_\_\_\_\_

Length of aligned sequence (in bp): \_\_\_\_\_ % gaps in alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

4- Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

5- Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

6- Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section # and TA name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Report**

1- Name of gene: \_\_\_\_\_ Other names: \_\_\_\_\_

FlyBase URL: \_\_\_\_\_

2- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: \_\_\_\_\_ Coding sequence location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_ sequences used in analyses.

3- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of indels fixed between species \_\_\_\_\_

Length of aligned sequence (in bp): \_\_\_\_\_ % gaps in alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

4- Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_ .<sup>2</sup> value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

5- Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_ .<sup>2</sup> value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

6- Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section # and TA name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Report**

1- Name of gene: \_\_\_\_\_ Other names: \_\_\_\_\_

FlyBase URL: \_\_\_\_\_

2- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: \_\_\_\_\_ Coding sequence location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_ sequences used in analyses.

3- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of indels fixed between species \_\_\_\_\_

Length of aligned sequence (in bp): \_\_\_\_\_ % gaps in alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

4- Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

5- Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

6- Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section # and TA name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Report**

1- Name of gene: \_\_\_\_\_ Other names: \_\_\_\_\_

FlyBase URL: \_\_\_\_\_

2- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: \_\_\_\_\_ Coding sequence location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_ sequences used in analyses.

3- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of indels fixed between species \_\_\_\_\_

Length of aligned sequence (in bp): \_\_\_\_\_ % gaps in alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

4- Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

5- Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

6- Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section # and TA name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gene Report**

7- Name of gene: \_\_\_\_\_ Other names: \_\_\_\_\_

FlyBase URL: \_\_\_\_\_

8- *Drosophila pseudoobscura* chromosome: \_\_\_\_\_ Coding sequence location: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exons in *Drosophila pseudoobscura*: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_ sequences used in analyses.

9- Number of polymorphic indels in *D. pseudoobscura* \_\_\_\_\_ and *D. miranda* \_\_\_\_\_

Number of indels fixed between species \_\_\_\_\_

Length of aligned sequence (in bp): \_\_\_\_\_ % gaps in alignment: \_\_\_\_\_

10-Standard McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

11-Modified McDonald-Kreitman results (Contingency Table and the two calculated nonsynonymous/synonymous ratios):

	Polymorphisms	Divergences
synonymous		
nonsynonymous		
nonsyn/syn ratio		

NI: \_\_\_\_\_  $\chi^2$  value: \_\_\_\_\_ p-value: \_\_\_\_\_ significant? \_\_\_\_\_

12-Implications of the standard and modified MK results when considered together: