Outbreaks of target-site resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in the African malaria vectors *Anopheles gambiae* and *Anopheles coluzzii*

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Work in progress

15 Abstract

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Resistance to pyrethroid insecticides is a major concern for malaria vector control, because these are the only compounds approved for use in insecticide-treated bed-nets (ITNs). Pyrethroids target the voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC), an essential component of the mosquito nervous system, but substitutions in the amino acid sequence can disrupt the activity of these insecticides, inducing a resistance phenotype. Here we use Illumina whole-genome sequence data from phase 1 of the Anopheles gambiae 1000 Genomes Project (Ag1000G) to provide a comprehensive account of genetic variation at the *Vgsc* locus in mosquito populations from 8 African countries. In addition to three known resistance variants, we describe 18 non-synonymous variants at appreciable frequency in one or more populations that are previously unknown in mosquitoes. For each variant we predict a resistance phenotype based on genetic evidence for positive selection, patterns of linkage between variants, and functional evidence from other species. We then analyse the genetic backgrounds on which resistance variants are found, to refine our understanding of the origins and spread of resistance between species and geographical locations. We identify ten distinct outbreaks of resistance, of which five appear to be localised to a single geographical location, and five have spread between two or more countries. The most successful and widespread outbreak (F1) originates in West Africa and has subsequently spread to countries in Central and Southern Africa. Our results demonstrate that the molecular basis of pyrethroid resistance in African malaria vectors is more complex than previously appreciated, and provide a foundation for the design of new genetic tools for outbreak surveillance to inform insecticide resistance management and track the further spread of resistance

Introduction

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An estimated 663 million cases of malaria were averted in Africa between 2000 and 2015 due to public health interventions, of which 68% were prevented by insecticide-treated bednets (ITNs) and 10% through indoor residual spraying of insecticides (IRS) [1]. However, over this same period, insecticide resistance has become increasingly prevalent in malaria vector populations [2, 3]. Four chemical classes of insecticides—organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids and organochlorines—are licensed for use in public health, but only pyrethroids are approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for use in ITNs. Pyrethroids are also commonly used for IRS and in agriculture, and mosquito populations are under pressure to evolve molecular mechanisms of pyrethroid resistance. There is evidence that pyrethroid resistance has a direct impact on the effectiveness of ITNs and

IRS [4, 5], although assessing the impact on disease prevalence is difficult and has been hampered by the fact that pyrethroid resistance is now so pervasive that it is difficult to find mosquito populations with pyrethroid susceptibility at baseline to serve as controls [6]. Nevertheless, the position of WHO remains that insecticide resistance poses a grave threat to the substantial gains made in reducing malaria across Africa [7, 6]. Improvements are needed in our ability to monitor resistance, and gaps must be filled in our knowledge of the molecular basis of resistance.

The voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC) is the physiological target of pyrethroids and 57 of the organochlorine DDT and is integral to the insect nervous system, involved in the transmission of nerve impulses. Both pyrethroids and DDT have a similar mode of action, binding to sites within the protein channel and preventing normal nerve function, causing paralysis ("knock-down") and then death. However, amino acid substitutions at key po-61 sitions within the channel can alter the interaction with the insecticide molecule, thereby substantially increasing the dosage of insecticide required for knock-down (described as "knock-down resistance" or kdr [8]). If this tolerance exceeds the dosage present in ITNs or on indoor surfaces following IRS, these interventions may be rendered ineffective [4, 5]. In the African malaria vectors Anopheles gambiae and An. coluzzii, three substitutions have been found in natural populations and shown experimentally to cause pyrethroid 67 and DDT resistance. Two of these substitutions occur in codon 995^1 , with the Leucine \rightarrow Phenylalanine (L995F) substitution prevalent in West and Central Africa [9, 3], and the Leucine \rightarrow Serine (L995S) substitution found in Central and East Africa [10, 3]. A third variant N1570Y has been found in association with L995F in Central Africa and shown to 71 increase resistance above L995F alone [12]. 72

Target-site resistance to pyrethroids and DDT has also been studied in a range of other insect species, including disease vectors as well as domestic and crop pests. Because of its essential function, the VGSC protein is highly conserved across insect species [13], and therefore knowledge gained from one species is relevant to another. Many resistance-associated variants have been described in these other species, and thus there are many possible amino acid substitutions that could induce a resistance phenotype in malaria

¹Codon numbering is given here relative to transcript AGAP004707-RA as defined in the AgamP4.4 gene annotations. A mapping of codon numbers from AGAP004707-RA to *Musca domestica*, the system in which the *kdr* mutations were first discovered [11], is given in Table 1 and in @@Supplementary data.

vectors other than the known variants in codons 995 and 1570 [14, 15]. Some of these variants fall within transmembrane domains, and thus may directly interact with insecticide molecules [16, 13]. However, functional studies have also demonstrated that variants within internal linker domains can substantially enhance the level of resistance, when present in combination with channel modifications [12]. Most previous studies of An. gambiae and/or An. coluzzii have performed targeted sequencing of small regions within the gene [17, 18, 19], and there has been no comprehensive survey of variation across the entire gene in multiple mosquito populations.

Insecticide resistance monitoring in malaria vector populations now often incorporates some form of genetic assay to detect the allele present at Vgsc codon 995 (e.g. [20]). Both alleles are present at high frequency in multiple geographical locations, and the L995F allele is present in both An. qambiae and An. coluzzii [3]. The extent of mosquito migration remains an open question, however mosquitoes do travel between different locations and have the potential to spread resistance alleles from one population to another (adaptive gene flow) [21]. Hybridization between mosquito species also occurs and has the potential to transfer resistance alleles between species (adaptive introgression); studies in West Africa have shown that the L995F allele has been transferred from An. qambiae into An. coluzzii populations [22, 23]. A resistance allele may also arise independently in multiple populations in the absence of gene flow [24], either because of multiple mutational events occurring after insecticides are introduced (selection on new mutations), or because resistance alleles were already present at low frequency in mosquito populations prior to insecticide use (selection on standing variation). Previous studies have found evidence 100 that the L995F allele occurs on several different genetic backgrounds, suggesting multiple 101 origins of resistance [17, 18]. However, these studies have used information from only a 102 small region of the gene, and have limited resolution to make inferences about geographical 103 origins or history of spread. Better information about the origins and spread of resistance 104 could improve insecticide resistance monitoring and inform strategies for insecticide resis-105 tance management. 106

Here we report an in-depth analysis of the *Vgsc* locus using genotype and haplotype data from phase 1 of the *Anopheles gambiae* 1000 Genomes Project (Ag1000G) [25]. These data are derived from whole-genome Illumina sequencing of 765 individual mosquitoes

collected from natural populations in 8 African countries. Here we describe a number of
new analyses to confirm, extend and elaborate on preliminary results regarding the *Vgsc*locus previously reported as part of a broader analysis of the Ag1000G phase 1 dataset
[25]. Our aim is to provide a comprehensive account of genetic variation at the *Vgsc*locus and its implications for the management of pyrethroid resistance in natural vector
populations.

To identify single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with a potentially functional role in

116 Results

117 Functional variation

pyrethroid resistance, we extracted SNPs from the Ag1000G phase 1 data resource that 119 alter the amino acid sequence of the VGSC protein, and computed their allele frequencies 120 among 9 populations defined by species and country of origin. SNPs that confer resistance 121 are expected to increase in frequency under selective pressure, and we refined the list of 122 potentially functional SNPs to retain only those at an appreciable frequency (>5%) in one 123 or more populations (Table 1). The resulting list comprises 20 SNPs, including the known 124 L995F, L995S and N1570Y variants, and a further 17 SNPs not previously described in 125 these species. We reported 15 of these novel SNPs in our initial analysis of the Ag1000G 126 phase 1 data [25], and we extend the analyses here to incorporate two tri-allelic SNPs 127 affecting codons 402 and 410. 128 The two alleles in codon 995 are clearly the main drivers of resistance at this locus. 129 The L995F allele at high frequency in populations of both species from West, Central and 130 Southern Africa, and the L995S allele at high frequency among An. gambiae populations 131 from Central and East Africa (Table 1; [25]). All haplotypes carrying L995F or L995S have 132 evidence for strong recent positive selection [25]. Both alleles were present in populations 133 sampled from Cameroon and Gabon, including some individuals with a hybrid L995F/S genotype. Within these populations, the L995F and L995S alleles were (@@TODO were 135 not?) in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (P=@@), thus there does not (@@does?) appear to 136 be selection against hybrids. 137 The I1527T allele is present in An. coluzzii from Burkina Faso at 14% frequency, and 138

Table 1. Non-synonymous nucleotide variation in the voltage-gated sodium channel gene. AO=Angola; BF=Burkina Faso; GN=Guinea; CM=Cameroon; GA=Gabon; UG=Uganda; KE=Kenya; GW=Guinea-Bissau; Ac=An. coluzzii; Ag=An. gambiae. All variants are at 5% frequency or above in one or more of the 9 Ag1000G phase 1 populations, with the exception of 2,400,071 G>T which is only found in the CMAg population at 0.4% frequency but is included because another mutation (2,400,071 G>A) is found at the same position causing the same amino acid substitution (M490I); and 2,431,019 T>C (F1920S) which is at 4% frequency in GAAg but also found in CMAg and linked to L995F.

Var	Population allele frequency (%)									Function			
Position ¹	Ag^2	Md^3	\overline{AOAc}	BFAc	$\mathrm{GN}Ag$	BFAg	CMAg	GAAg	UGAg	KE	GW	Domain ⁴	Resistance phenotype ⁵
2,390,177 G>A	R254K	R261	0	0	0	0	32	21	0	0	0	IN (I.S4-I.S5)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,391,228 G>C	V402L	V410	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TM (I.S6)	I1527T enhancer (predicted)
2,391,228 G>T	V402L	V410	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TM (I.S6)	I1527T enhancer (predicted)
2,399,997 G>C	D466H	-	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	IN (I.S6-II.S1)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,400,071 G>A	M490I	M508	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	IN (I.S6-II.S1)	none (predicted)
2,400,071 G>T	M490I	M508	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	IN (I.S6-II.S1)	none (predicted)
2,416,980 C>T	T791M	T810	0	1	13	14	0	0	0	0	0	TM (II.S1)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,422,651 T>C	L995S	L1014	0	0	0	0	15	64	100	76	0	TM (II.S6)	driver
2,422,652 A>T	L995F	L1014	86	85	100	100	53	36	0	0	0	TM (II.S6)	driver
2,424,384 C>T	A1125V	K1133	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	IN (II.S6-III.S1)	none (predicted)
2,425,077 G>A	V1254I	I1262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	IN (II.S6-III.S1)	none (predicted)
2,429,617 T>C	I1527T	I1532	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TM (III.S6)	driver (predicted)
2,429,745 A>T*	N1570Y	N1575	0	26	10	22	6	0	0	0	0	IN (III.S6-IV.S1)	L995F enhancer
2,429,897 A>G	E1597G	E1602	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	IN (III.S6-IV.S1)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,429,915 A>C	K1603T	K1608	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TM (IV.S1)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,430,424 G>T	A1746S	A1751	0	0	11	13	0	0	0	0	0	TM (IV.S5)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,430,817 G>A	V1853I	V1858	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,430,863 T>C	I1868T	I1873	0	0	18	25	0	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,430,880 C>T	P1874S	P1879	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,430,881 C>T	P1874L	P1879	0	7	45	26	0	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,431,019 T>C	F1920S	Y1925	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,431,061 C>T	A1934V	A1939	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)
2,431,079 T>C	I1940T	I1945	0	4	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	IN (IV.S6-)	L995F enhancer (predicted)

¹ Position relative to the AgamP3 reference sequence, chromosome arm 2L. Variants marked with an asterisk (*) failed conservative variant filters applied genome-wide in the Ag1000G phase 1 AR3 callset, but appeared sound on manual inspection of read alignments.

² Codon numbering according to *Anopheles gambiae* transcript AGAP004707-RA in geneset AgamP4.4.

³ Codon numbering according to *Musca domestica* EMBL accession X96668 [11].

⁴ Position of the variant within the protein. IN=internal domain; TM=trans-membrane domain. The protein contains four homologous repeats (I-IV), each having six transmembrane segments (1-6). Codes in parentheses identify the specific domain, e.g., "I.S4" refers to trans-membrane segment 4 in repeat I, and "IS4-IS5" refers to the linker segment between I.S4 and I.S5.

⁵ Phenotype predictions are based on population genetic evidence and have not been confirmed experimentally.

there is evidence that haplotypes carrying this allele have been positively selected [25]. 139 Codon 1527 occurs within trans-membrane domain segment III.S6, immediately adja-140 cent to a second predicted binding pocket for pyrethroid molecules, thus it is plausible that 141 I1527T could alter insecticide binding (@@REF Dong). We also found that the two variant alleles affecting codon 402, both of which induce a V402L substitution, were in strong 143 linkage with I1527T (D'>@@N; Figure 1), and almost all haplotypes carrying I1527T 144 also carried a V402L substitution. The most parsimonious explanation for this pattern 145 of linkage is that the I1527T mutation occurred first, and mutations in codon 402 subse-146 quently arose on this genetic background. Codon 402 also occurs within a trans-membrane segment (I.S6), and the V402L substitution has by itself been shown experimentally to 148 increase pyrethroid resistance in @@species and Xenopus oocytes (@@REFs). However, 149 because V402L appears secondary to I1527T in our cohort, we classify I1527T as a putative 150 resistance driver and V402L as a putative enhancer. Because of the limited geographical 151 distribution of these alleles, we hypothesize that the I1527T+V402L combination represents a pyrethroid resistance allele that arose in West African An. coluzzii populations; however, 153 the L995F allele is at higher frequency (85%) in our Burkina Faso An. coluzzii population, 154 and is known to be increasing in frequency (@@REFs), therefore L995F may provide a 155 stronger resistance phenotype and is replacing I1527T+V402L in these populations. 156

Of the other 16 SNPs, 13 occurred almost exclusively in combination with L995F (Figure 157 @@; @@REF Ag1000G). These include the N1570Y allele, known to enhance pyrethroid 158 resistance in An. qambiae in combination with L995F. These also include two variants 159 in codon 1874 (P1874S, P1874L). P1874S has previously been found in a colony of the 160 crop pest Plutoblah blahdiblah with a pyrethroid resistance phenotype, but has not been 161 shown to confer resistance experimentally. 10 of these variants, including N1570Y and 162 P1874S/L, occur within internal linker domains of the protein, and so fit the model of variants that may enhance or compensate for the driver phenotype by modifying channel 164 gating behaviour (@@CHECK; @@REFs). The remaining 3 variants are within trans-165 membrane domains, and so may enhance resistance by @@TODO how. Because of the 166 tight linkage between these 13 SNPs and the L995F allele, we classify all as putative L995F 167 enhancers, although experimental work is required to confirm a resistance phenotype.

The remaining 3 variants (M490I, A1125V, V1254I) do not occur in combination with any

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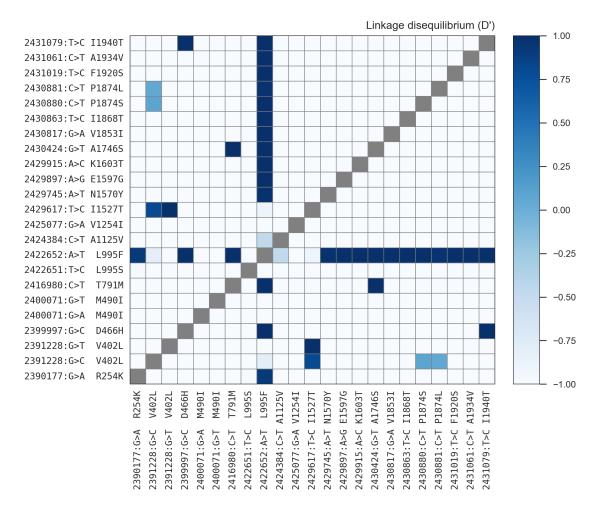


Figure 1. Linkage disequilibrium between non-synonymous variants. A value of 1 indicates that the two variants always occur in combination, and conversely a value of -1 indicates that the two variants never occur in combination. @TODO nuance this?

known resistance allele, and do not appear to be associated with haplotypes under selection
(@@REF Ag1000G). A possible exception is the M490I allele found at 18% frequency in
the Kenyan population, although the fact that this population has experienced a recent
population crash makes it difficult to test for evidence of selection at this locus. All 3
variants occur in internal linker domains, and so do not fit the model of a resistance
driver, although experimental work is required to rule out a resistance phenotype.

76 Haplotype structure

Although it is known that pyrethroid resistance is increasing in prevalence in malaria vector populations across Africa, it has not been clear whether this is being driven by the spread of resistance alleles via gene flow, or by resistance alleles emerging independently in

multiple locations, or by some combination of both processes. The Ag1000G data resource 180 provides a potentially rich source of information about the evolutionary and demographic 181 history of insecticide resistance in any given gene, because data are available not only for 182 SNPs in gene coding regions, but also SNPs in introns and flanking intergenic regions, and in neighbouring genes. These additional variants can be used to analyse the genetic 184 backgrounds (haplotypes) on which resistance alleles are found. In sexually reproducing 185 species, DNA sequences are transmitted from parents to progeny in chunks, rearranged via 186 recombination at each generation, and haplotypes convey information about this history 187 of transmission and recombination, especially when haplotypes from many individuals can be compared. 189

In our initial analysis of the Vqsc (@@REF Ag1000G), we used 1710 biallelic SNPs 190 from within the @@70 kbp Vgsc gene (@@N exonic, @@N intronic) to compute the num-191 ber of SNP differences between all pairs of 1530 haplotypes derived from 765 wild-caught 192 mosquitoes. This genetic distance measurement is a rough proxy for the degree of relatedness between haplotypes, in the sense that two haplotypes with a small number of 194 SNP differences must be closely related and share a common ancestor in the recent past. 195 This measurement cannot be used to directly estimate the time to most recent common 196 ancestor (TMRCA) for any pair of haplotypes, however, because it does not account for 197 the possibility of recombination events within the gene, which is increasingly likely for 198 pairs of haplotypes that are more distantly related. Nevertheless, it provides a useful tool 199 for exploring patterns of similarity and dissimilarity within the data. To visualise these 200 patterns, we used the pairwise genetic distances to perform hierarchical clustering, which 201 groups similar haplotypes together into clusters. We found that haplotypes carrying resis-202 tance alleles were grouped into 10 distinct clusters. Five of these clusters carried the L995F 203 allele (labelled F1-F5), and a further five clusters carried L995S (labelled S1-S5). Within each cluster, haplotypes were nearly identical across all 1710 SNPs (spanning @@70 kbp), 205 and therefore each cluster represents a collection of haplotypes with a very recent common 206 ancestor. Within some of these clusters, we found haplotypes from mosquitoes collected 207 from different locations. Specifically, cluster F1 contained haplotypes from Guinea, Burk-208 ina Faso, Cameroon and Angola; clusters @@ each contained haplotypes from Cameroon and Gabon; and cluster @@ contained haplotypes from Uganda and Kenya. The F1 clus-210

ter also contained haplotypes from both *An. gambiae* and *An. coluzzii* individuals. If
we assume that haplotypes within each cluster share a common ancestor since the introduction of insecticides, which is reasonable given the high degree of similarity, then each
of these clusters provides evidence that resistance alleles have been spreading between
geographical locations and species via adaptive gene flow. Here we present several new
analyses of these haplotype data, to confirm our initial inferences regarding gene flow, and
provide further details regarding the origins and movement of resistance alleles.

To provide an alternative view of the genetic similarity between haplotypes carrying resistance alleles, we used haplotype data from within the Vgsc gene region to construct median-joining networks (Figure 2). This analysis is very similar to hierarchical cluster-

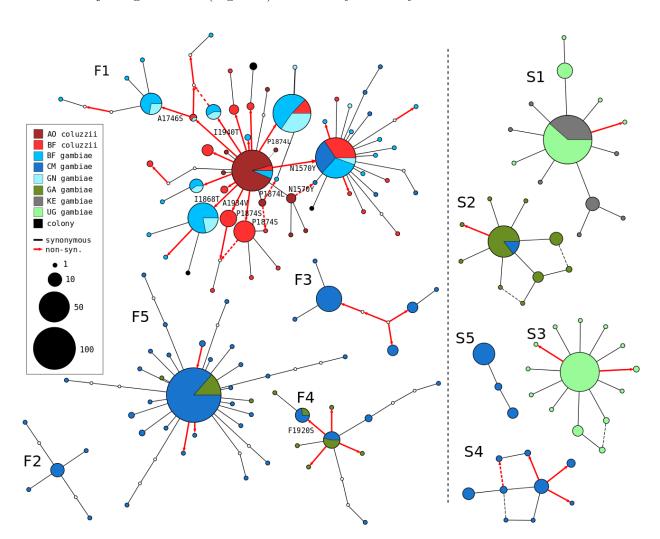


Figure 2. Haplotype networks. @@TODO redo the figure. @@TODO annotate non-syn edges in cluster F3. @@TODO mention if any clusters fixed for non-syn variants so not shown. @@TODO annotate other non-syn edges, e.g., in S4?

ing, except that it allows for the reconstruction and placement of intermediate haplotypes
that may not be observed in the data. We constructed these networks up to a maximum
distance of @@2 SNP differences, to ensure that each connected component in the resulting networks represents a collection of haplotypes with a recent common ancestor, and
thus which is also likely to be minimally affected by recombination within the gene. For
haplotypes carrying L995F, the resulting network confirms the presence of five distinct
clusters, with close correspondance to the clusters F1-F5 identified previously. The L995S
network also confirms five distinct clusters, in concordance with our previous analysis.

The haplotype networks bring into sharp relief the explosive evolution of amino acid 229 substitutions secondary to the L995F allele. Within the F1 network, nodes carrying non-230 synonymous variants radiate out from a central node carrying only L995F, indicating that 231 the central node represents the ancestral haplotype carrying L995F alone which initially 232 came under selection, and these secondary variants have arisen subsequently as new mu-233 tations. Many of the nodes carrying secondary variants are large, consistent with positive selection and a functional role for these secondary variants as enhancers of the L995F re-235 sistance phenotype. The F1 network also allows us to infer multiple introgression events 236 between the two species. The central (ancestral) node comprises haplotypes from both 237 species, as do nodes carrying the N1570Y, P1874L, and @@TODO one more variant@@. 238 This structure is consistent with an initial introgression of the ancestral F1 haplotype, followed by introgression of haplotypes carrying secondary mutations. The contrast between 240 the haplotype networks for the L995F and L995S alleles is striking because of the near-241 total absence of non-synonymous variation within the L995S networks. As we reported 242 previously, this difference is highly significant – the ratio of non-synonymous to synony-243 mous nucleotide diversity (@@piN/piS) is @@N times higher among haplotypes carrying 244 L995F relative to haplotypes carrying L995S (@@Test; P=@@) (@@REF Ag1000G). Some secondary variants are present within the L995S networks, but all are at low frequency, 246 and thus may be neutral or mildly deleterious variants that are hitch-hiking on selective 247 sweeps for the L995S allele. 248

While the haplotype clustering and network analyses provide evidence for the spread of resistance alleles via adaptive gene flow, and for the secondary evolution of L995F enhancer alleles, they have several limitations. Within haplotype clusters where gene flow

has occurred, they have poor resolution to infer the origin and direction of gene flow. This 252 is because the analyses only leverage information about genetic distance within the Vqsc 253 gene, and for very recent events, insufficient time has elapsed for informative mutations 254 to accumulate within this relatively small genome region. Also, the fact that we observe five distinct clusters for each of the codon 995 alleles suggests that each cluster is in some 256 sense independent from the others, and thus gene flow is not required for resistance to 257 emerge in multiple geographical locations. However, the threshold for the genetic distance 258 at which we have chosen to divide haplotypes into different networks or clusters is to 259 a certain extent arbitrary, and based on an intuitive sense of how much variation could have accumulated among the descendants of a single resistant ancestor since the onset of 261 selective pressure. We also need to clarify what we mean by "independent", as there are 262 several possible scenarios under which resistance could evolve in multiple populations in 263 the absence of gene flow. Finally, analyses of genetic distance within a fixed genome region 264 can be confounded by recombination events occurring within that region. For example, 265 a recombination event within the Vqsc gene upstream of codon 995 could cause us to 266 split a collection of haplotypes into two clusters, even though they are ancestrally related 267 within the region downstream of the recombination event. In the next sub-sections we 268 provide some conceptual foundations to help clarify these ambiguities, and use analyses 269 of haplotype sharing from the genome regions flanking the Vqsc gene to provide finer 270 resolution to diagnose recent gene flow events. 271

272 Insecticide resistance outbreaks

To provide an aid to further interpretation of the genetic data, and relating them to the 273 challenges of insecticide resistance management, we introduce the concept of an insec-274 ticide resistance outbreak. Informally, we define a resistance outbreak by analogy 275 with the epidemiological concept of an outbreak, as a rapid increase in the prevalence 276 of insecticide resistance among mosquitoes at a particular place and time. Note that 277 this does not imply that the overall abundance of mosquitoes is increase, just that the 278 relative frequency of resistance within mosquito populations is increasing. We also re-279 quire that all occurrences of insecticide resistance within the same outbreak are connected 280 by a chain of transmission of resistance alleles from parent to progeny mosquitoes, and thus can be traced back to a single resistant common ancestor. A resistance outbreak can be **localised**, meaning that it affects a small group of mosquitoes of a single species from a limited geographical area. Alternatively, a resistance outbreak may be **spreading**, meaning that resistance alleles have been transmitted since the introduction of insecticides by interbreeding of mosquitoes of different species and/or originating from different geographical locations.

Our goal for the *Vgsc* gene can now be restated, which is to perform an insecticide 288 resistance outbreak analysis. We would like to diagnose how many separate outbreaks have 289 occurred, which outbreaks are localised, and which are spreading. For spreading outbreaks, we would like to reconstruct the path of transmission of resistance alleles between mosquito 291 populations, and to provide information on the probable source. We would, of course, also 292 like to identify the primary and secondary genetic factors that are driving each outbreak. 293 Stated in this way, it is easier to discuss how this information is potentially relevant 294 to insecticide resistance management, and to frame key epidemiological questions. For example, we would like to begin to build a picture of where and when local conditions 296

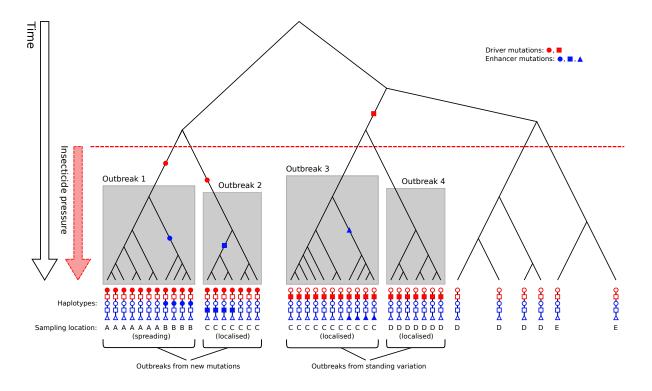


Figure 3. Illustration of insecticide resistance outbreaks. @@TODO explanation.

have favoured the evolution of insecticide resistance, and whether those conditions are 297 relatively patchy (and hence outbreaks are mainly localised) or whether conditions are 298 consistent over broad areas (and hence can support a spreading outbreak). We would also 299 like to know which mosquito populations are sufficiently connected to enable outbreak spread, and if there is any consistent pattern to the direction of spread. This information 301 could be relevant to discussions about how resources for insecticide resistance management 302 might be targeted, what strategies are appropriate in which settings, and where and when 303 insecticide resistance management needs to be coordinated between different countries 304 and/or at different levels of administration.

For clarity, we also define the concept of an insecticide resistance outbreak formally 306 in terms of coalescent theory, as a collection of lineages (1) sharing a resistance driver 307 allele by descent, (2) coalescing more recently than the onset of insecticide pressure, and 308 (3) having increased in frequency because of positive selection due to insecticides. This 309 definition is illustrated for four hypothetical outbreaks in Figure 3. Because mosquitoes 310 are sexually recombining, genealogical trees vary along the genome, and so we define 311 resistance outbreaks with respect to a specific gene locus, which for the present study 312 is codon 995 within the Vqsc gene. Note that separate outbreaks may be driven by 313 the same resistance allele, and this can occur if multiple mutational events occur after 314 the introduction of insecticides (Figure 3, outbreaks 1 and 2), or if a resistance allele 315 is present in mosquito populations as standing variation prior to insecticide use (Figure 316 3, outbreaks 3 and 4). Here we are primarily concerned with whether outbreaks are 317 localised or spreading, because this has immediate epidemiological relevance. We do not 318 attempt to infer whether separate outbreaks with the same driver allele arose via standing 319 variation or new mutations, however this is an interesting biological question to address 320 in future studies. As a technical note, there is a simple correspondance with terminology 321 conventionally used in the population genetics literature to describe selective sweeps. At 322 a given gene locus, a hard selective sweep gives rise to a single resistance outbreak, and a 323 soft selective sweep gives rise to multiple resistance outbreaks. 324

325 Outbreak analysis from haplotype age

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As described above, haplotype data from genome regions both within and flanking the 326 Vasc gene provide a higher resolution for reconstructing recent historical events. To lever-327 age this information, we used a heuristic approach to estimate the time to most recent 328 common ancestor (TMRCA) or "age" for each pair of haplotypes in our dataset, centering 329 the analysis on Vgsc codon 995. For each pair of haplotypes, we estimated the length 330 of the region shared identical by descent (IBD), and the number of mutations that have 331 accumulated since the most recent common ancestor. We then combined these two pieces 332 of information to produce a point estimate for the haplotype age (Methods). We studied 333 the overall distribution of pairwise haplotype ages (Figure 4), and used hierarchical clus-334 tering to construct a dendrogram and visualise the overall age structure (Figure 5). We 335 caution that although the estimated ages are in units of generations, these estimates have 336 not been calibrated, and there is substantial uncertainty regarding both the mutation and 337 recombination rate parameters. The ages therefore should not be interpreted as reliable 338 absolute values, but they can be compared to each other to investigate the relative age of 339 different events. 340

A key feature of the overall age distribution is that it is bimodal, with a minor mode of haplotypes coalescing recently, and a major mode coalescing further in the past (Figure 4). This is expected at an insecticide resistance locus experiencing one or more resistance outbreaks. Within each outbreak, all haplotypes share a very recent common ancestor, but between outbreaks and among haplotypes without any resistance allele, haplotypes are

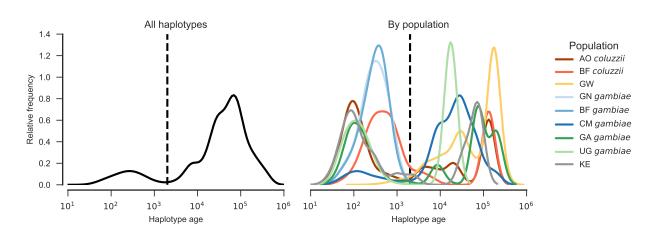


Figure 4. Haplotype age distribution. @@TODO caption.

more distantly related, and the distribution of ages is influenced by mosquito population 346 size and other demographic factors. In particular, mosquito populations generally have 347 a large effective population size (@@REF Ag1000G), and so in the absence of selection, 348 haplotypes are expected to coalesce slowly. The bimodal age distribution is not due to geographical population structure, because the same bimodality is observed within several 350 populations. We take the midpoint between these two modes as an estimate for the earliest 351 time of onset of selective pressure due to insecticides, and thus for the maximum age of 352 a resistance outbreak. To identify haplotype clusters representing putative resistance 353 outbreaks, we then cut the haplotype dendrogram at this maximum outbreak age (Figure 5). Comparing this to previous analyses of haplotype structure based on genetic distance, 355 we find clusters F1-F5 and S1-S3 recapitulated with close correspondence, and S4 and 356 S5 merged into a single cluster. We label a new cluster "L@@" representing an outbreak 357 driven by the I1527T allele in combination with one or the other V402L allele. We also label 358 a cluster "L@@" capturing a set of haplotypes from Kenya carrying the M490I variant, although the fact that these haplotypes all share a recent common ancestor may be a 360 reflection of the unusual demography of the Kenyan population which has experienced 361

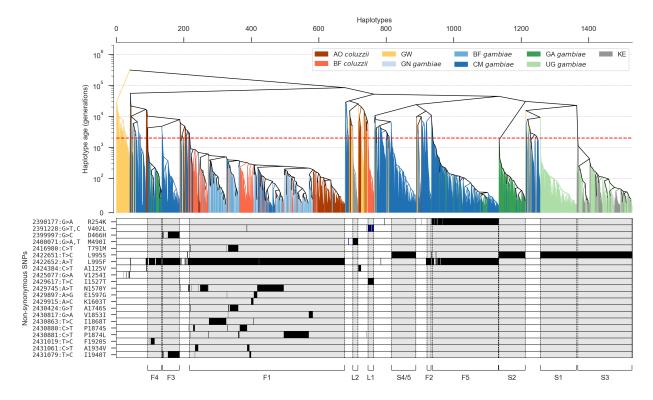


Figure 5. Clustering of haplotypes by age. @@TODO caption.

a severe population crash (@@REF) and not be due to recent selection for insecticide resistance. As in earlier analyses, clusters F1, F4, F5 and S3 all include haplotypes sampled from multiple geographical locations, and thus represent spreading outbreaks. Clusters F2, F3, S1, S2, S4/5 and L1 include only haplotypes from a single sampling location, and thus appear to represent localised outbreaks.

We then studied the distribution of haplotype ages within each spreading outbreak, to 367 attempt to reconstruct information about the historical path of transmission of resistance 368 alleles between locations. To do this, we grouped the haplotypes within each spreading 369 outbreak by sampling location, and compared the distribution of haplotype ages both within and between locations. To aid in interpreting these data, we define three possi-371 ble spreading scenarios, being: (1) a directional spread from one population to another; 372 (2) spread from an unsampled population into the sampled populations; and (3) a com-373 plex scenario involving multiple gene flow events. In Figure 6 we illustrate the expected 374 genealogy and haplotype age distribution under each of these scenarios. 375

The clearest result was obtained for outbreak F1 (Figure 7). Within this outbreak, haplotypes from Cameroon and Angola are significantly younger than haplotypes from Burkina Faso and Guinea. The age distributions are consistent with an outbreak originating in West Africa and subsequently spreading towards Cameroon and separately towards

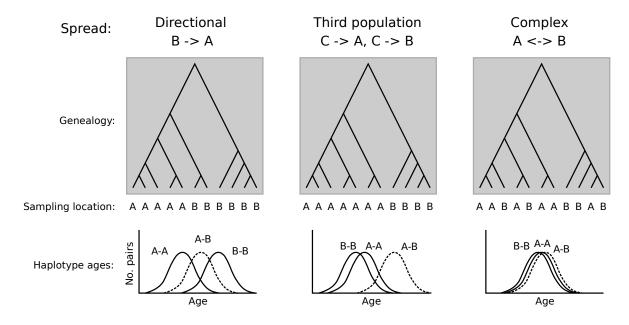


Figure 6. Inferring history of spread from haplotype ages. @@TODO explain.

Angola. We were surprised that the age distributions for An. gambiae and An. coluzzii 380 from Burkina Faso are very similar, despite the fact that previous studies have shown that 381 introgression has occurred from An. gambiae into An. coluzzii. This may indicate that 382 the initial introgression event happened during the early phases of the outbreak, but is 383 also consistent with a complex history of multiple gene flow events between the species. 384 Outbreaks F4, F5 and S2 each involve haplotypes from both Cameroon and Gabon. 385 Interpreting the age distributions for these outbreaks is difficult, because mosquitoes from 386 Gabon were collected at a much earlier time point (2000) than mosquitoes from Cameroon 387 (20@@). If our haplotype age estimates were well-calibrated, and we also had reliable estimates for the number of mosquito generations per year, then we might be able to 389 adjust for this time difference, however we are not able to do so presently. An interesting 390 feature of these outbreaks, however, is that we would expect haplotypes from Gabon to 391 appear older due to the time of sampling, which is observed for outbreak S2 but not 392 for F4 or F5. Indeed, S2 is at a high frequency among all Gabon haplotypes and a low 393 frequency among Cameroon haplotypes, whereas the reverse is true for F4 and F5. These data suggest that F4 and F5 have spread from Cameroon towards Gabon, while S2 has 395 spread in the opposite direction. A lot can happen in mosquito populations in @@N years, 396 however, and these conclusions remain highly speculative pending further sampling from 397 both locations. 398

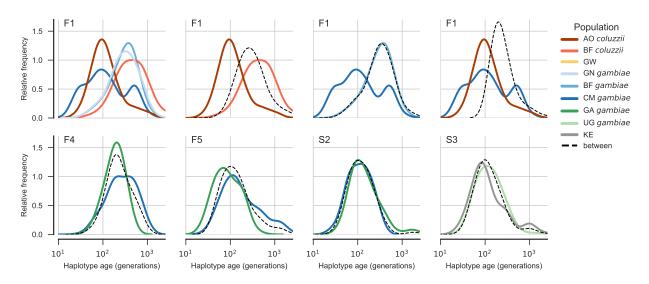


Figure 7. Haplotype age distributions within spreading outbreaks. @@TODO caption.

For outbreak S3 involving haplotypes from Uganda and Kenya, the age distributions 399 do not suggest any clear direction of gene flow. This could reflect multiple gene flow 400 events in either or both directions. However, another outbreak (S1) is localised in Uganda 401 and represented within the Ugandan population at roughly equal frequency with S3. If 402 transmission was occurring from Uganda towards Kenya, we might expect both outbreaks 403 to have spread to Kenya. Thus the localisation of S1 suggests S3 has spread into Uganda 404 from Kenya or another location. Again, this conclusion remains tentative and requires 405 confirmation via further sampling. 406

To summarise these conclusions in a concise way, we have depicted the distribution and 407 spread of resistance outbreaks via the map shown in Figure 8. We have plotted haplotypes 408 from each sampling location as a pie chart. The overall size of each pie chart represents 409 the number of haplotypes sampled, and coloured wedges within each pie represent the 410 frequency of each resistance outbreak within the population. Coloured arrows are used 411 to depict our inferences regarding the transmission paths for spreading outbreaks. Our conclusions regarding direction of spread for outbreaks F4, F5, S2 and S3 are tentative, 413 and we indicate this with a question mark. Because of the relatively sparse geographical 414 representation within the Ag1000G phase 1 dataset, and the fact that collections were 415 not synchronized but span several years, we cannot be precise about the geographical 416

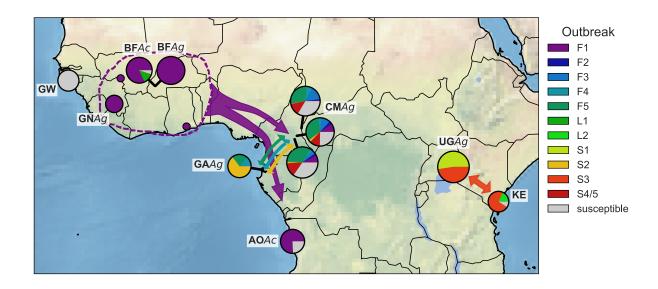


Figure 8. Geographical distribution of resistance outbreaks. @@TODO caption. @@TODO explain Clarkon and Norris points.

origins of these resistance outbreaks. Even for outbreak F1 where we have clear evidence
of spread from West Africa towards Central and Southern Africa, we have only sampled
mosquitoes from Guinea and Burkina Faso, and the true source of the outbreak may not
be either of these countries. We indicate this uncertainty regarding the outbreak source
as a coloured area with a dashed border. This representation is imperfect, as is our
knowledge regarding the sources and transmission paths of these outbreaks, but we hope
this depiction may at least serve to stimulate further sampling, analysis and discussion,
with the aim of improving our knowledge of resistance outbreaks for *Vgsc* as well as other
insecticide resistance genes.

Design of genetic assays for outbreak surveillance

The insecticide resistance outbreaks we have identified here are undoubtedly ongoing, 427 affecting many more mosquito populations than we have sampled in Ag1000G phase 1, 428 and continuing to spread. In addition, other outbreaks may be occurring in populations 429 that we have not sampled, or in populations we have sampled but since the sampling 430 date. Whole-genome sequencing of individual mosquitoes clearly provides data of sufficient resolution to identify resistance outbreaks and also to provide ongoing outbreak 432 surveillance. The cost of whole-genome sequencing continues to fall, with the present 433 cost being approximately 100 GBP to obtain $\sim 30 \times$ coverage of an individual Anopheles 434 mosquito genome. Mobile sequencing technology is also developing rapidly [26], and may 435 be a realistic prospect for mosquito whole-genome sequencing within a few years. There 436 is an interim period, however, during which it may be more practical to develop targeted 437 genetic assays for outbreak surveillance that could scale to tens of thousands of mosquitoes 438 at low cost. For example, both next-generation and mobile sequencing platforms can be 439 used for amplicon sequencing, where specific genome regions are amplified and sequenced 440 in highly multiplexed libraries. 441 To facilitate the development of targeted genetic assays for Vqsc insecticide resistance 442 outbreak surveillance, we have produced two supplementary data tables. In Supplemen-443 tary Table 1 we provide a list of all biallelic SNPs discovered with high confidence in this 444 study within the Vqsc gene and in the 100 kbp upstream and downstream flanking re-445 gions. Both amplicon sequencing and genotyping by mass spectrometry require the design 446

of PCR primers to amplify the targeted genome region. To aid in primer design, for each 447 SNP we provide the flanking sequence for 250 bp upstream and downstream of the SNP 448 position, including information about polymorphisms within these flanking regions. Not 449 all SNPs are informative for detecting whether an individual mosquito carries a haplotype 450 from a resistance outbreak, and we provide some summary statistics for each SNP to aid in 451 the selection of the most informative SNPs. For each SNP we report the allele frequencies 452 within each of the outbreaks identified here, as well as for populations of susceptible hap-453 lotypes. We also provide the overall variance in allele frequencies, the information gain, 454 and the Gini impurity for each SNP. Note that recombination events are more likely at increasing distances upstream and downstream of the resistance variants under selection, 456 and thus the most informative SNPs are found closest to the resistance variants within 457

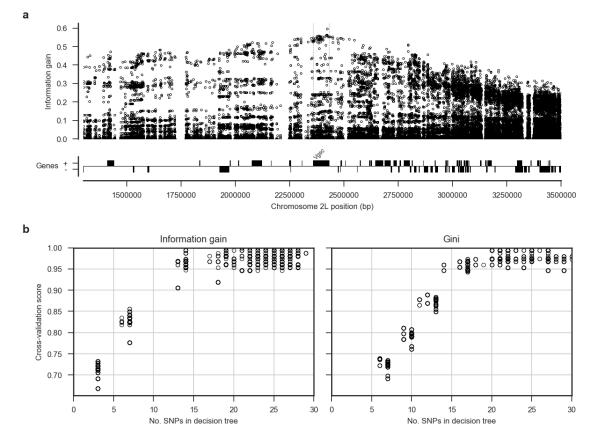


Figure 9. Informative SNPs for outbreak surveillance. a, Each data point represents a single SNP. The information gain value for each SNP provides an indication of how informative the SNP is likely to be if used as part of a genetic assay for testing whether a mosquito carries a resistance haplotype, and if so, which resistance outbreak it derives from. b, Number of SNPs required to accurately classify which outbreak a haplotype derives from. Decision trees using either information gain or the Gini impurity index as the decision criterion. Accuracy was evaluated using 10-fold stratified cross-validation.

the gene (Figure 9). However, SNPs with some information gain are available throughout the gene and in flanking regions.

We suggest that the design of a genetic assay proceed by (1) performing an initial 460 round of filtering to remove SNPs which are not informative (e.g., low information gain); (2) performing a round of primer design to remove SNPs for which primers are unlikely to 462 be successful; (3) performing a full analysis of the remaining SNPs to select a subset that is 463 sufficient to classify all outbreaks identified here; (4) finalise primer designs for the chosen 464 panel of SNPs. A possible methodology for step 3 would be to use an algorithm such 465 as ID3 to build a decision tree. To aid in the development of a classification algorithm, in Supplementary Table 2 we provide our classification for each of the 1530 haplotypes 467 sampled here, along with the alleles carried by each haplotype for each of the SNPs included 468 in Supplementary Table 1. To test the methodology, we constructed decision trees using 469 either information gain (LD3) or the Gini impurity index as a decision criterion, and using 470 all available SNPs from within the *Vgsc* plus 20 kbp flanking regions as input features (i.e., assuming primers could be designed in all cases). Figure 9b shows the cross-validation 472 scores obtained for trees constructed allowing increasing numbers of SNPs. This analysis 473 suggests that it should be possible to construct a tree able to classify haplotypes from all 474 10 resistance outbreaks with >95% accuracy using 15 SNPs or less. 475

476 Recombination

As mentioned earlier, analyses of haplotype structure based on genetic distance within the fixed window of the Vqsc gene could be affected if recombination events occurred 478 within the gene. Our analyses of haplotype age should be less affected by recombination, 479 because they explicitly take recombination into account, estimating the positions at which 480 recombination events have occurred to interrupt regions shared IBD between pairs of 481 haplotypes. However, these analyses were based on a heuristic method for estimating 482 recombination breakpoints, and there are several potential sources of error. To study 483 the evidence for recombination within the genome region spanning the Vqsc gene, and 484 provide some additional confirmation that our inferences regarding insecticide resistance 485 outbreaks have not been affected by recombination or other sources of error, we performed 486 an additional analysis of genetic distance between haplotypes. We first constructed a 487

putative ancestral haplotype for each of the outbreaks we identified, by starting from 488 the codon 995 position and separately moving upstream and downstream, assuming the 489 major allele at each SNP bifurcation point represents the ancestral haplotype. We then 490 computed the genetic distance (D_{XY}) between each of our sampled haplotypes and each of the inferred ancestral outbreak haplotypes, computing the distance in @@ overlapping 492 windows of @@ bp across a 2 Mbp region spanning the Vqsc gene. The results for outbreaks 493 F1-F5 are plotted in Figure 10, and outbreaks S1-S4/5 are shown in Figure ??. In these 494 plots we expect that all haplotypes from a given outbreak should share very close genetic 495 similarity $(D_{XY} \approx 0)$ with each other and with the ancestral haplotype for that outbreak within the *Vgsc* gene itself, with an increasing number of haplotypes recombining away 497 from the ancestral outbreak haplotype as we move away from the gene in either the 498 upstream or downstream direction. Conversely, haplotypes from one outbreak should not 499 share any close genetic similarity $(D_{XY} > 0)$ with the inferred ancestral haplotype from 500 a different outbreak, either within the Vgsc gene or in flanking regions. The results for all outbreaks are largely consistent with this expectation. For this 502 analysis we treated S4/5 as a single outbreak, as indicated by the haplotype age analysis, 503 and we can gain some insight into why these two were split into separate clusters in earlier 504

analysis we treated S4/5 as a single outbreak, as indicated by the haplotype age analysis, and we can gain some insight into why these two were split into separate clusters in earlier analyses. All haplotypes in the S4/5 outbreak share close similarity with the ancestral haplotype on both flanks of the *Vgsc* gene, but there is a short region of within the gene where a subset of haplotypes are diverged. This region of divergence accounts for the S4/S5 split in earlier analyses. @@TODO explain @@TODO also note relatively low divergence among F2, F3, F4 on upstream flank and explain

Discussion

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⁵¹¹ @@TODO Discuss accessibility, have we missed any functional variation?

@@TODO Discuss weaknesses, caveats and potential improvements to method for esti mating haplotype age.

@@TODO What are the implications for insecticide resistance management? Realistically how could this information be used?

@@TODO What about DDT? If prior selection for DDT resistance, how might this

complicate the picture? Do we see any evidence for multiple phases of selection?

@@TODO Speculate on why L995F but not L995S has evolved secondary variation.

519 Methods

Code

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All scripts and Jupyter Notebooks used to generate analyses, figures and tables are avail-

able from the GitHub repository https://github.com/malariagen/agam-vgsc-report.

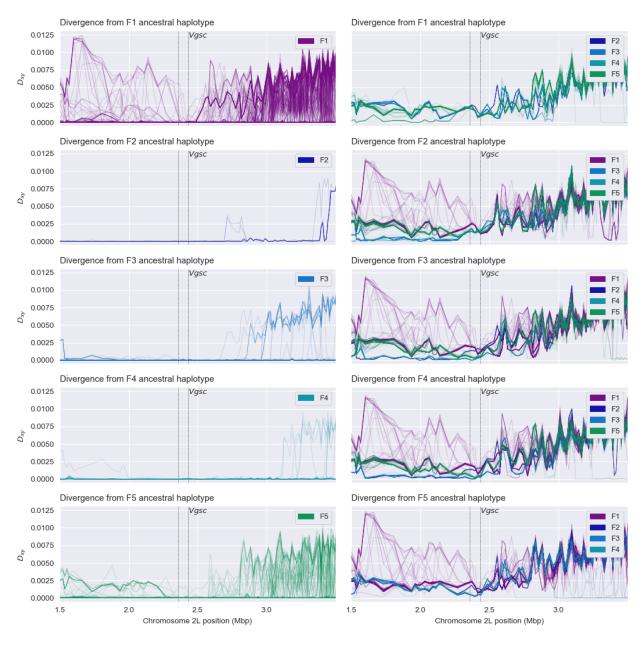


Figure 10. Recombination and ancestral haplotypes for L995F. @@TODO legend

523 Data

We used variant call data from the phase 1 AR3 release and phased haplotype data from AR3.1. These data are publically downloadable via ftp from https://www.malariagen.

net. @@add ENA from paper

Data collection and processing

For detailed information on Ag1000g WGS sample collection, sequencing, variant calling, 528 quality control and phasing see [25]. In brief, An. gambiae and An. coluzzii mosquitoes 529 were collected from eight countries across Sub-Saharan Africa: Angola, Burkina Faso, 530 Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya and Uganda. From Angola just An. 531 coluzzii were sampled, Burkina Faso had samples of both An. qambiae and An. coluzzii 532 and all other populations consisted of purely An. qambiae except for Kenya and Guinea 533 Bissau, where species status is uncertain [25]. Mosquitoes were individually whole genome 534 sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 platform, generating 100bp paired-end reads. Sequenced reads were aligned to the [An. gambiae] AgamP3 reference genome assembly 536 [27]). Aligned bam files underwent improvement, before variants were called using GATK 537 UnifiedGenotyper. Quality control included removal of samples with mean coverage <= 538 14x and an accessibility map was employed following a similar approach to that used for 539 human data by The 1000 Genomes Project Consortium [28]). Various quality control filters were applied to remove samples and SNPs with poor quality data. This process produced a call set containing @@n SNPs genotyped in 765 wild-caught individual mosquitoes [25]. 542 The Ag1000g variant data was functionally annotated using the SnpEff v4.1b software 543 which allowed investigation of potential phenotype altering variants within Vgsc [29]. Nonsynonymous Vgsc variants were identified as all variants in AGAP004707, 2L:2358158-2431617, with a SnpEff annotation of âĂIJmissenseâĂİ and an ALT allele frequency of >5% in at least one of the nine mosquito populations, with the exceptions of the multi-547 allelic SNP 2L:2400071 G>A which is shown despite only being found in An. gambiae from 548 Cameroon at 0.4% frequency, as the G>T variant at the same position which causes the 549 same codon change (M490I), is found above 5% frequency in Kenya. F1920S is included for 550 continuity with recent An. $gambiae\ Vgsc$ research [25]. A minimum ALT allele frequency 551

was employed to discriminate towards variants that may be undergoing selective sweeps and against less informative low frequency alleles.

For ease of comparison with previous work on *Vgsc*, pan Insecta, in Table 1 we report codon numbering for both *An. gambiae* and *Musca domestica* (the species in which the gene was first discovered). The *M. domestica Vgsc* sequence (EMBL accession X96668 - [11]) was aligned with the *An. gambiae* AGAP004707-RA sequence (AgamP4.4 gene-set), using the Mega v7 software package [30]. A map of equivalent codon numbers between the two species can be download from the MalariaGEN website (@@include as supplementary data file?)- https://www.malariagen.net/sites/default/files/content/blogs/domestica_gambiae_map.txt.

Haplotypes for each chromosome of each sample were estimated (phased) using using 562 phase informative reads (PIRs) and SHAPEIT2 v2.r837 [31], see [25] supplementary text 563 for more details. The SHAPEIT2 algorithm is unable to phase multi-allelic positions, 564 therefore the two multi-allelic non-synonymous SNPs within the Vgsc gene (>5% ALT frequency in at least one population), altering codons V402 and M490, were phased onto the haplotypes using MVNcall v1.0 [32]. Conservative filtering had removed one of the 567 three known insecticide resistance conferring kdr variants, N1570Y [12]. After manual 568 inspection of the read alignment revealed that the SNP call could be confidently made, it 569 was added back into the data set and then also phased onto the haplotypes using MVNcall. 570 To evaluate the linkage disequilibrium (LD) of non-synonymous Vqsc mutations with the 571 two most widespread kdr resistance mutations (L995S/F), the D1 statistic was calculated 572 using haplotypes. 573

Haplotype networks

Discerning the relationships between similar haplotypes can be difficult when using bifurcating trees as, inherently, the distance between the leaves at the tips (haplotypes) will be
small. As these relationships may be informative of the history of selection, we utilised
a network approach to elucidate them. We constructed haplotype networks using the
median-joining algorithm [33] as implemented in a custom Python script available from
https://github.com/malariagen/agam-vgsc-report Networks were rendered with the
graphviz library and a composite figure constructed using Inkscape.

582 Haplotype age

Haplotype age. @@TODO - AM -Length of shared haplotype and number of mutations between them are informative of ageâĂę -Pairwise t values were hierarchically clustered and visualised as a dendrogram using the Python library Scipy and its cluster hierarchy functions linkage method. -Cutting the dendrogram at @@generations clustered haplotypes together into haplogroupsâĂę - Naming of haplogroups with reference to Ag1000g... -dendro figure/distro figures/map - Python libraries...

589 Recombination

590 Recombination. @@TODO - AM - Absolute divergence dxy...

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