# The genetic architecture of target-site

- resistance to pyrethroid insecticides in the
- African malaria vectors Anopheles gambiae

# and Anopheles coluzzii

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16 Abstract

Resistance to pyrethroid insecticides is a major concern for malaria vector control because these compounds are used in almost all insecticide-treated bed-nets (ITNs), and are also used for indoor residual spraying (IRS). 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 2 of the *Anopheles gambiae* 1000 Genomes Project (Ag1000G) to provide a comprehensive account of genetic variation in the *Vgsc* gene in mosquito populations

from 13 African countries. In addition to three known resistance alleles, we describe 20 other non-synonymous nucleotide substitutions at appreciable population frequency, and map these variants onto a molecular model of the protein to investigate the likelihood of a pyrethroid resistance phenotype. Thirteen of these novel alleles were found to occur almost exclusively on haplotypes carrying the known L995F kdr resistance allele (L1014F in Musca domesticus codon numbering) and may enhance or compensate for the L995F resistance phenotype. A novel mutation I1527T, adjacent to a predicted pyrethroid binding site, was found in tight linkage with V402L substitutions, similar to a combination of alleles found to cause pyrethroid resistance in several other insect species. We also analysed genetic backgrounds carrying resistance alleles, to determine which alleles have experienced recent positive selection, and to investigate the spread of resistance between species and geographical locations. We describe ten distinct haplotype groups carrying known kdr resistance alleles. Five of these groups are localised to a single geographical location, and five include haplotypes from different countries, in one case separated by over 3000 km, providing new information about the potential for the geographical spread of resistance. Markers are identified that could be used to design high-throughput, low-cost genetic assays for tracking the spread of pyrethroid resistance in the field. Our results demonstrate that the molecular basis of target-site pyrethroid resistance in malaria vectors is more complex than previously appreciated, and provide a foundation for the development of new genetic tools for insecticide resistance management.

#### 46 Introduction

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Pyrethroid insecticides have been the cornerstone of malaria prevention in Africa for almost two decades [1]. Pyrethroids are currently used in all insecticide-treated bed-nets (ITNs), and are used in indoor residual spraying (IRS) as well as in agriculture. Resistance to these insecticides is now widespread in malaria vector populations across Africa [2]. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published plans for insecticide resistance management (IRM) that emphasise the need for improvements in both our knowledge of the molecular mechanisms of resistance and our ability to monitor them in natural populations [3, 4].

The voltage-gated sodium channel (VGSC) is the physiological target of pyrethroid insecticides, and is integral to the insect nervous system. The sodium channel protein con-

sists of four homologous domains (DI-IV) each of which comprises six transmembrane segments (S1-S6) connected by intracellular and extracellular loops [5]. Pyrethroid molecules
bind to this protein, stabilise the ion-conducting active state, and thus disrupt normal
nervous system function, producing paralysis ("knock-down") and death. However, amino
acid substitutions at key positions within the protein alter the interaction with insecticide
molecules, increasing the dose of insecticide required for knock-down, known as knockdown resistance or kdr [6, 5].

In the African malaria vectors Anopheles gambiae and An. coluzzii, three substitutions have been found to cause pyrethroid resistance. Two of these substitutions occur in codon 995<sup>1</sup>, with L995F prevalent in West and Central Africa [7, 8], and L995S found in Central and East Africa [9, 8]. A third substitution, N1570Y, has been found in West and Central Africa and shown to increase resistance in association with L995F [11]. However, studies in other insect species have found a variety of other Vgsc substitutions inducing a resistance phenotype [12, 13, 5]. To our knowledge, no studies in malaria vectors have analysed genetic variation across the full Vgsc coding sequence, thus the molecular basis of pyrethroid target-site resistance has not been fully explored.

Basic information is also lacking about the spread of pyrethroid resistance in malaria 72 vectors [3]. For example, it is not clear when, where or how many times pyrethroid 73 target-site resistance has emerged. Geographical paths of transmission, carrying resistance alleles between mosquito populations, are also not known. Previous studies have found evidence that L995F occurs on several different genetic backgrounds, suggesting multiple independent outbreaks of resistance driven by this allele [14, 15, 16, 17]. However, these 77 studies analysed only small gene regions in a limited number of mosquito populations, and 78 therefore had limited resolution to make inferences about relationships between haplotypes carrying this allele. It has also been shown that the L995F allele spread from An. qambiae to An. coluzzii in West Africa [18, 19, 20, 21]. However, both L995F and L995S now have 81 wide geographical distributions [8], and to our knowledge no attempts have been made to infer or track the geographical spread of either allele across Africa. 83

Here we report an in-depth analysis of genetic variation in the *Vgsc* gene, using whole-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Codon numbering is given here relative to transcript AGAP004707-RD as defined in the AgamP4.12 geneset annotations. A mapping of codon numbers from AGAP004707-RD to *Musca domestica*, the system in which *kdr* mutations were first described [10], is given in Table 1.

genome Illumina sequence data from phase 2 of the Anopheles gambiae 1000 Genomes 85 Project (Ag1000G) [22]. The Ag1000G phase 2 resource includes data on nucleotide vari-86 ation in 1,142 wild-caught mosquitoes sampled from 13 countries, with representation of 87 West, Central, Southern and East Africa, and of both An. gambiae and An. coluzzii. We investigate variation across the complete gene coding sequence, and report population genetic data for both known and novel non-synonymous nucleotide substitutions. We then use haplotype data from the chromosomal region spanning the Vqsc gene to study 91 the genetic backgrounds carrying resistance alleles, investigate the geographical spread of resistance between mosquito populations, and provide evidence for recent positive selection. Finally, we explore ways in which variation data from Ag1000G can be used to design high-throughput, low-cost genetic assays for surveillance of pyrethroid resistance, with the capability to differentiate and track resistance outbreaks.

#### 97 Results

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#### <sup>98</sup> *Vgsc* non-synonymous nucleotide variation

To identify variants with a potentially functional role in pyrethroid resistance, we extracted single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that alter the amino acid sequence of the 100 VGSC protein from the Ag1000G phase 2 data resource [22]. We then computed their 101 allele frequencies among 16 mosquito populations defined by species and country of ori-102 gin. Alleles that confer resistance are expected to increase in frequency under selective 103 pressure, therefore we filtered the list of potentially functional variant alleles to retain 104 only those at or above 5\% frequency in one or more populations (Table 1). The resulting 105 list comprises 23 variant alleles, including the known L995F, L995S and N1570Y resistance 106 alleles, and a further 20 alleles which prior to Ag1000G had not previously been described 107 in anopheline mosquitoes. We reported 12 of these novel alleles in our overall analysis of 108 the 765 samples in the Ag1000G phase 1 data resource [23], and we extend the analyses here to incorporate SNPs which alter codon 531, 697, 1507, 1603 and two tri-allelic SNPs 110 affecting codons 402 and 490. 111 The 23 non-synonymous variants were located on a transmembrane topology map and on 112

a 3-dimensional homology model of the *Vgsc* protein. (Figure 1). The substitutions were

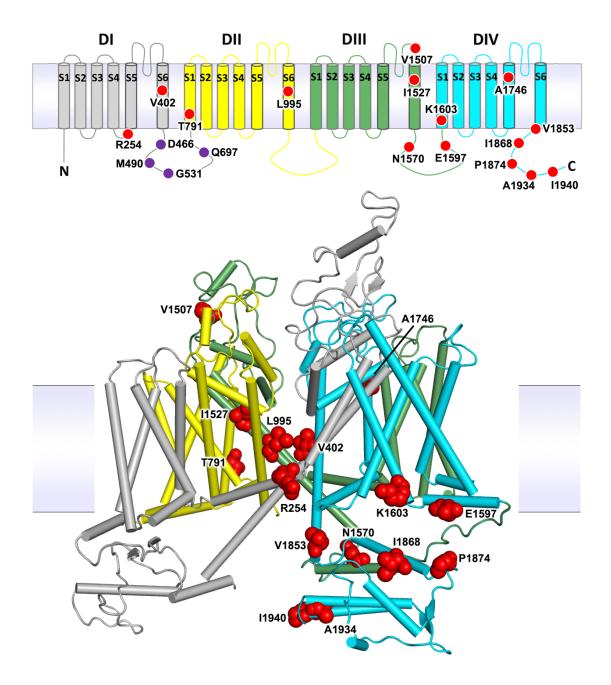


Figure 1. Voltage-gated sodium channel protein structure and non-synonymous variation. The An. gambiae voltage-gated sodium channel (AGAP004707-RD AgamP4.12) is shown as a transmembrane topology map (top) and as a homology model (bottom) in cartoon format coloured by domain. Variant positions are shown as red circles in the topology map and as red space-fill in the 3D model. Purple circles in the map show amino acids absent from the model due to the lack of modelled structure in this region.

found to be distributed throughout the channel, in all of the four internally homologous domains (DI-DIV), in S1, S5 and S6 membrane-spanning segments, in two of the intracellular loops connecting domains, and in the C-terminal tail. The S5 and S6 segments that form the central ion-conducting pore of the channel carry six of the eight segment substi-

tutions, including V402 and L995 which have been shown to produce insecticide resistance 118 phenotypes [6, 5, 7, 8, 9]. Two substitutions are located on the DIII-DIV linker including 119 the resistance conferring N1570 [11]. A further six substitutions are found concentrated 120 in the protein's carboxyl tail (C-terminus), including two alternative substitutions at the resistance associated P1874 residue [24]. The DIII-DIV linker and the C-terminus seg-122 ment interact in the closed-state channel and substitutions are found throughout this 123 intracellular subdomain. Finally, there are four novel substitutions located on the DI-DII 124 intracellular linker, but this region is missing from the model as it was not resolved in the 125 cockroach Na<sub>v</sub>PaS structure used as the model template [25].

The two known resistance alleles affecting codon 995 had the highest overall allele fre-127 quencies within the Ag1000G phase 2 cohort (Table 1). The L995F allele was at high 128 frequency in populations of both species from West, Central and Southern Africa. The 129 L995S allele was at high frequency among An. gambiae populations from Central and 130 East Africa. Both of these alleles were present in An. gambiae populations sampled from Cameroon and Gabon. This included individuals with a heterozygous L995F/S genotype 132 (50/297 individuals in Cameroon, 41/69 in Gabon). We calculated empirical p-values for 133 these heterozygous genotype counts using the Dirichlet distribution and 1,000,000 Monte 134 Carlo simulations. In Cameroon p=0.410 of simulations found higher proportions of het-135 erozygous genotypes, however in Gabon this dropped to p=0.005, suggesting there may 136 be a fitness advantage for mosquitoes carrying both alleles in some circumstances. 137

The N1570Y allele was present in Guinea An. gambiae, Ghana An. gambiae, Burkina 138 Faso (both species) and Cameroon An. qambiae. This allele has been shown to sub-139 stantially increase pyrethroid resistance when it occurs in combination with L995F, both 140 in association tests of phenotyped field samples [11] and functional tests using Xenopus 141 oocytes [26]. To study the patterns of association among non-synonymous variants, we used haplotypes from the Ag1000G phase 2 resource to compute the normalised coefficient 143 of linkage disequilibrium (D') between all pairs of variant alleles (Figure 2). As expected, 144 we found N1570Y in almost perfect linkage with L995F. Of the 20 novel non-synonymous 145 alleles, 13 also occurred almost exclusively in combination with L995F (Figure 2). These 146 included two variants in codon 1874 (P1874S, P1874L), one of which (P1874S) has previously been associated with pyrethroid resistance in the crop pest moth Plutella xylostella

Table 1. Non-synonymous nucleotide variation in the voltage-gated sodium channel gene. AO=Angola; GH=Ghana; BF=Burkina Faso; CI=Côte d'Ivoire; GN=Guinea; GW=Guinea-Bissau; GM=Gambia; CM=Cameroon; GA=Gabon; UG=Uganda; GQ=Bioko; FR=Mayotte; KE=Kenya; Ac=An. coluzzii; Ag=An. gambiae. Species status of specimens from Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Kenya is uncertain [22]. All variants are at 5% frequency or above in one or more of the 16 Ag1000G phase 2 populations, with the exception of 2,400,071 G>T which is only found in the CMAg population at 0.3% frequency but is included because another mutation is found at the same position (2,400,071 G>A) at >5% frequency and which causes the same amino acid substitution (M4901).

Variant				Population allele frequency (%)															
Position <sup>1</sup>	$Ag^2$	$Md^3$	Domain <sup>4</sup>	AOAc	$\mathrm{GH}Ac$	BFAc	CIAc	GNAc	GW	GM	CMAg	$\mathrm{GH}Ag$	BFAg	GNAg	GAAg	UGAg	GQAg	FRAg	KE
2,390,177 G>A	R254K	R261	IL45	0.0	0.009	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.313	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.203	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,391,228 G>C	V402L	V410	IS6	0.0	0.127	0.073	0.085	0.125	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,391,228 G>T	V402L	V410	IS6	0.0	0.045	0.06	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,399,997 G>C	D466H	-	LI/II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.069	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,400,071 G>A	M490I	M508	LI/II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.031	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.188
2,400,071 G>T	M490I	M508	LI/II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.003	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,402,466 G>T	G531V	G549	LI/II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.007	0.0	0.056	0.0	0.0
2,407,967 A>C	Q697P	Q724	LI/II	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.056	0.0	0.0
2,416,980 C>T	T791M	T810	IIS1	0.0	0.009	0.02	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.292	0.147	0.112	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,422,651 T>C	L995S	L1014	IIS6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.157	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.674	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.76
2,422,652 A>T	L995F	L1014	IIS6	0.84	0.818	0.853	0.915	0.875	0.0	0.0	0.525	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.326	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,429,556 G>A	V1507I	-	IIIL56	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.125	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,429,617 T>C	I1527T	I1532	IIIS6	0.0	0.173	0.133	0.085	0.125	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,429,745 A>T	N1570Y	N1575	LIII/IV	0.0	0.0	0.267	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.057	0.167	0.207	0.088	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,429,897 A>G	E1597G	E1602	LIII/IV	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.065	0.062	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,429,915 A>C	K1603T	K1608	IVS1	0.0	0.055	0.047	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,430,424 G>T	A1746S	A1751	IVS5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.292	0.141	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,430,817 G>A	V1853I	V1858	COOH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.542	0.049	0.062	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,430,863 T>C	I1868T	I1873	COOH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.261	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,430,880 C>T	P1874S	P1879	COOH	0.0	0.027	0.207	0.345	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,430,881 C>T	P1874L	P1879	COOH	0.0	0.0	0.073	0.007	0.25	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.234	0.475	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,431,061 C>T	A1934V	A1939	COOH	0.0	0.018	0.107	0.465	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2,431,079 T>C	I1940T	I1945	COOH	0.0	0.118	0.04	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.067	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Position relative to the AgamP3 reference sequence, chromosome arm 2L.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Codon numbering according to *Anopheles gambiae* transcript AGAP004707-RD in geneset AgamP4.12.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Codon numbering according to  $\it Musca~domestica~EMBL~accession~X96668~[10].$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Location of the variant within the protein structure. Transmembrane segments are named according to domain number (in Roman numerals) followed by 'S' then the number of the segment; e.g., 'IIS6' means domain two, transmembrane segment six. Internal linkers between segments within the same domain are named according to domain (in Roman numerals) followed by 'L' then the numbers of the linked segments; e.g., 'IL45' means domain one, linker between transmembrane segments four and five. Internal linkers between domains are named 'L' followed by the linked domains; e.g., 'LI/II' means the linker between domains one and two. 'COOH' means the internal carboxyl tail.

149 [24].

The abundance of high-frequency non-synonymous variants occurring in combination 150 with L995F is notable for two reasons. First, Vgsc is a highly conserved gene, expected 151 to be under strong functional constraint and therefore purifying selection, so any nonsynonymous variants are expected to be rare [12]. Second, in contrast with L995F, we did 153 not observe any high-frequency non-synonymous variants occurring in combination with 154 L995S. This contrast was clear when data on all variants within the gene were considered: 155 for haplotypes carrying the L995 allele, the ratio of non-synonymous to synonymous nu-156 cleotide diversity  $\pi_N/\pi_S$  was 20.04 times higher than haplotypes carrying the wild-type 157 allele, but for those carrying L995S  $\pi_N/\pi_S$  was 0.5 times lower than haplotypes carrying 158 the wild-type allele. These results indicate that L995F has substantially altered the se-159 lective regime for other amino acid positions within the protein. Secondary substitutions 160 have occurred and risen in frequency, suggesting that they are providing some further 161 selective advantage in the presence of insecticide pressure. 162

A novel allele, I1527T, was present in An. coluzzii from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote 163 d'Ivoire and Guinea. Codon 1527 occurs within trans-membrane segment IIIS6, imme-164 diately adjacent to residues within a predicted binding site for pyrethroid molecules, thus 165 it is plausible that I1527T could alter pyrethroid binding [27, 5]. We also found that the 166 two variant alleles affecting codon 402, both of which induce a V402L substitution, were 167 in strong linkage with I1527T ( $D' \geq 0.8$ ; Figure 2), and almost all haplotypes carrying 168 I1527T also carried a V402L substitution. Substitutions in codon 402 have been found in 169 a number of other insect species and shown experimentally to confer pyrethroid resistance 170 [5]. The species and geographical distribution of the I1527T+V402L alleles suggest they 171 arose in West African An. coluzzii and had not spread to other regions or to An. qambiae 172 at the time of sampling. The I1527T allele was present at lower frequency than L995F in all of the West African An. coluzzii populations. L995F is known to have increased in 174 frequency in West African An. coluzzii [28] and thus could be replacing I1527T+V402L 175 in these populations. The four remaining novel alleles, Q697P, G531V and two separate 176 nucleotide substitutions causing M490I, did not occur in combination with any known 177 resistance allele and were almost exclusively private to a single population (Table 1).

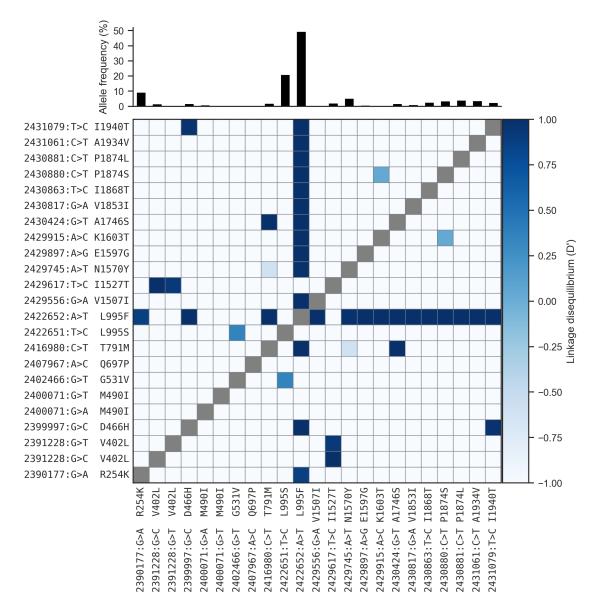


Figure 2. Linkage disequilibrium (D') between non-synonymous variants. A value of 1 indicates that two alleles are in perfect linkage, meaning that one of the alleles is only ever found in combination with the other. Conversely, a value of -1 indicates that two alleles are never found in combination with each other. The bar plot at the top shows the frequency of each allele within the Ag1000G phase 2 cohort. See Table 1 for population allele frequencies.

#### 179 Genetic backgrounds carrying resistance alleles

The Ag1000G data resource provides a rich source of information about the spread of insecticide resistance alleles in any given gene, because data are not only available for SNPs in protein coding regions, but also SNPs in introns, flanking intergenic regions, and in neighbouring genes. These additional variants can be used to analyse the genetic backgrounds (haplotypes) on which resistance alleles are found. In our initial report of

the Ag1000G phase 1 resource [23], we used 1710 biallelic SNPs from within the 73.5 kbp

Vgsc gene (1607 intronic, 103 exonic) to compute the number of SNP differences between

all pairs of 1530 haplotypes derived from 765 wild-caught mosquitoes. We then used

pairwise genetic distances to perform hierarchical clustering, and found that haplotypes

carrying resistance alleles in codon 995 were grouped into 10 distinct clusters, each with

near-identical haplotypes. Five of these clusters contained haplotypes carrying the L995F

allele (labelled F1-F5), and a further five clusters contained haplotypes carrying L995S

(labelled S1-S5).

To further investigate genetic backgrounds carrying resistance alleles, we used the Ag1000G phase 2 haplotype data from the *Vgsc* gene (2,284 haplotypes from 1,142 mosquitoes 194 [22]), to construct median-joining networks [29] (Figure 3). The network analysis improves 195 on hierarchical clustering by allowing for the reconstruction and placement of intermedi-196 ate haplotypes that may not be observed in the data. It also allows for non-hierarchical 197 relationships between haplotypes, which may arise if recombination events have occured between haplotypes. We constructed the network up to a maximum edge distance of 2 SNP differences, to ensure that each connected component captures a group of closely-related 200 haplotypes. The resulting network contained 5 groups containing haplotypes carrying 201 L995F, and a further 5 groups carrying L995S, in close correspondence with previous re-202 sults from hierarchical clustering (96.8% overall concordance in assignment of haplotypes 203 to groups). 204

The haplotype network brings into sharp relief the explosive radiation of amino acid sub-205 stitutions secondary to the L995F allele (Figure 3). Within the F1 group, nodes carrying 206 non-synonymous variants radiate out from a central node carrying only L995F, suggest-207 ing that the central node represents the ancestral haplotype carrying just L995F which 208 initially came under selection, and these secondary variants have arisen subsequently as new mutations. In F1 alone, 30 network edges (shown as red arrows - Figure 3) lead to 210 non-synonymous nodes. Many of the nodes carrying secondary variants are large, consis-211 tent with positive selection and a functional role for these secondary variants as modifiers 212 of the L995F resistance phenotype. The F1 network also allows us to infer multiple intro-213 gression events between the two species. The central (putatively ancestral) node contains haplotypes from individuals of both species, as do nodes carrying the N1570Y, P1874L and

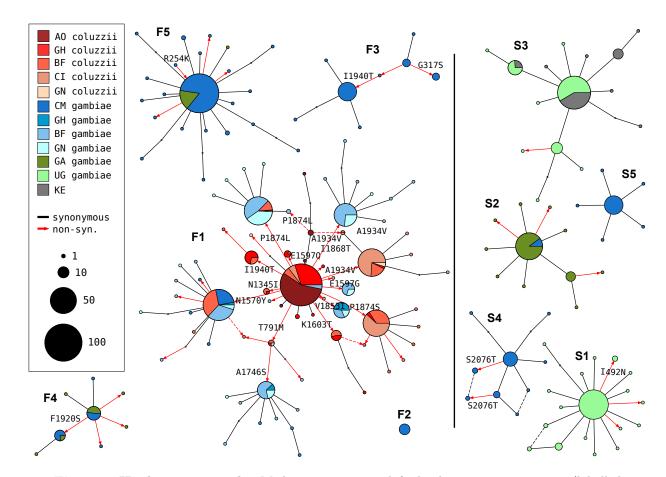


Figure 3. Haplotype networks. Median joining network for haplotypes carrying L995F (labelled F1-F5) or L995S variants (S1-S5) with a maximum edge distance of two SNPs. Labelling of network components is via concordance with hierarchical clusters discovered in [23]. Node size is relative to the number of haplotypes contained and node colour represents the proportion of haplotypes from mosquito populations/species - AO=Angola; GH=Ghana, BF=Burkina Faso; CI=Côte d'Ivoire; GN=Guinea; CM=Cameroon; GA=Gabon; UG=Uganda; KE=Kenya. Non-synonymous edges are highlighted in red and those leading to non-singleton nodes are labelled with the codon change, arrow head indicates direction of change away from the reference allele. Network components with fewer than three haplotypes are not shown.

T791M variants. This structure is consistent with an initial introgression of the ancestral F1 haplotype, followed later by introgressions of haplotypes carrying secondary mutations. The haplotype network also illustrates the constrasting levels of non-synonymous variation between L995F and L995S. Within all of the L995S groups, only eight edges lead to non-synonymous nodes and all these nodes are small (low frequency variants), thus may be neutral or mildly deleterious variants that are hitch-hiking on selective sweeps for the L995S allele.

The F1 group contains haplotypes from mosquitoes of both species, and from mosquitoes sampled in six different countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana,

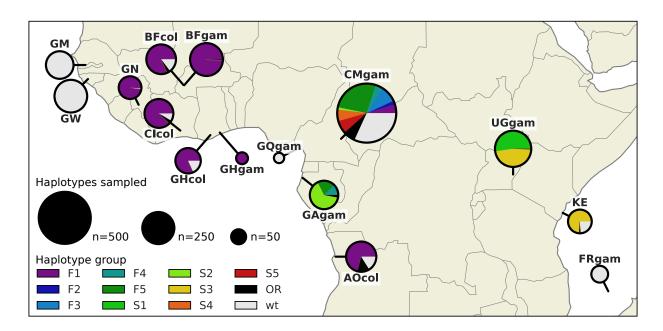


Figure 4. Map of haplotype frequencies. Each pie shows the frequency of different haplotype groups within one of the populations sampled. The size of the pie is proportional to the number of haplotypes sampled. The size of each wedge within the pie is proportional to the frequency of a haplotype group within the population. Haplotypes in groups F1-5 carry the L995F kdr allele. Haplotypes in group other resistant (OR) carry either L995F or L995S but did not cluster within any of the haplotype groups. Wild-type (wt) haplotypes do not carry any known resistance alleles.

Guinea) (Figure 4). The F4, F5 and S2 groups each contain haplotypes from both 225 Cameroon and Gabon. The S3 group contains haplotypes from both Uganda and Kenya. 226 The haplotypes within each of these five groups (F1, F4, F5, S2, S3) were nearly identi-227 cal across the entire span of the Vgsc gene  $(\pi < 4.5 \times 10^{-5} \ bp^{-1})$ . In contrast, diversity 228 among wild-type haplotypes was two orders of magnitude greater (Cameroon An. gambiae 229  $\pi = 1.4 \times 10^{-3} \ bp^{-1}$ ; Guinea-Bissau  $\pi = 5.7 \times 10^{-3} \ bp^{-1}$ ). Thus it is reasonable to assume 230 that each of these five groups contains descendants of an ancestral haplotype that carried 231 a resistance allele and has risen in frequency due to selection for insecticide resistance. 232 Given this assumption, these groups each provide evidence for adaptive gene flow between 233 mosquito populations separated by considerable geographical distances. 234 A limitation of both the hierarchical clustering and network analyses is that they rely 235 on genetic distances within a fixed genomic window from the start to the end of the 236 Vgsc gene. Anopheles mosquitoes undergo homologous recombination during meiosis in 237 both males and females, and any recombination events that occurred within this genomic 238 window could affect the way that haplotypes are grouped together in clusters or network 239

components. In particular, recombination events could occur during the geographical 240 spread of a resistance allele, altering the genetic background upstream and/or downstream 241 of the allele itself. An analysis based on a fixed genomic window might then fail to infer 242 gene flow between two mosquito populations, because haplotypes with and without a recombination event could be grouped separately, despite the fact that they share a recent 244 common ancestor. To investigate the possibility that recombination events may have 245 affected our grouping of haplotypes carrying resistance alleles, we performed a moving 246 window analysis of haplotype homozygosity, spanning Vgsc and up to a megabase upstream 247 and downstream of the gene (Supplementary Figures S1, S2). This analysis supported a refinement of our initial grouping of haplotypes carrying resistance alleles. All haplotypes 249 within groups S4 and S5 were effectively identical on both the upstream and downstream 250 flanks of the gene, but there was a region of divergence within the Vqsc gene itself that 251 separated them in the fixed window analyses (Supplementary Figure S2). The 13.8 kbp 252 region of divergence occurred upstream of codon 995 and contained 6 SNPs that were fixed differences between S4 and S5. A possible explanation for this short region of divergence 254 is that a gene conversion event has occurred within the gene, bringing a segment from 255 a different genetic background onto the original genetic background on which the L995S 256 resistance mutation occurred. 257

#### Positive selection for resistance alleles

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To investigate evidence for positive selection on non-synonymous alleles, we performed 259 an analysis of extended haplotype homozygosity (EHH) [30]. Haplotypes under recent 260 positive selection will have increased rapidly in frequency, thus have had less time to be 261 broken down by recombination, and should on average have longer regions of haplotype 262 homozygosity relative to wild-type haplotypes. We defined a core region spanning Vasc 263 codon 995 and an additional 6 kbp of flanking sequence, which was the minimum required 264 to differentiate the haplotype groups identified via clustering and network analyses. Within this core region, we found 18 distinct haplotypes at a frequency above 1% within the cohort. 266 These included core haplotypes corresponding to each of the 10 haplotype groups carrying 267 L995F or L995S alleles identified above, as well as a core haplotype carrying I1527T which 268 we labelled L1 (due to it carrying the the wild-type leucine codon at position 995). We also 269

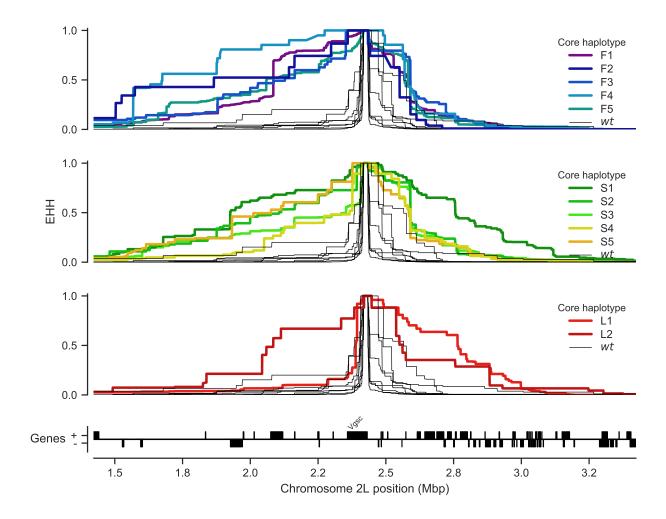


Figure 5. Evidence for positive selection on haplotypes carrying known or putative resistance alleles. Each panel plots the decay of extended haplotype homozygosity (EHH) for a set of core haplotypes centred on Vgsc codon 995. Core haplotypes F1-F5 carry the L995F allele; S1-S5 carry the L995S allele; L1 carries the I1527T allele; L2 carries the M490I allele. Wild-type (wt) haplotypes do not carry known or putative resistance alleles. A slower decay of EHH relative to wild-type haplotypes implies positive selection (each panel plots the same collection of wild-type haplotypes).

found a core haplotype corresponding to a group of haplotypes from Kenya carrying an M490I allele, which we labelled as L2. All other core haplotypes we labelled as wild-type 271 (wt). We then computed EHH decay for each core haplotype up to a megabase upstream 272 and downstream of the core locus (Figure 5). 273 As expected, haplotypes carrying the L995F and L995S resistance alleles all experience 274 a slower decay of EHH relative to wild-type haplotypes, supporting positive selection. Previous studies have found evidence for different rates of EHH decay between L995F 276 and L995S haplotypes, suggesting differences in the timing and/or strength of selection 277 [16]. However, we found no systematic difference in the length of shared haplotypes when 278

comparing F1-5 (carrying L995F) against S1-5 (carrying L995S) (Supplementary Figure 279 S3). There were, however, some differences between core haplotypes carrying the same 280 allele. For example, shared haplotypes were significantly longer for S1 (median 1.006 cM, 281 95% CI [0.986 - 1.040]) versus other core haplotypes carrying L995S (e.g., S2 median 0.593 cM, 95% CI [0.589 - 0.623]; Supplementary Figure S3). Longer shared haplotypes 283 indicate a more recent common ancestor, and thus some of these core haplotypes may 284 have experienced more recent and/or more intense selection than others. 285 The L1 haplotype carrying I1527T+V402L exhibited a slow decay of EHH on the down-286 stream flank of the gene, similar to haplotypes carrying L995F and L995S, indicating that this combination of alleles has experienced positive selection. EHH decay on the upstream 288 gene flank was faster, being similar to wild-type haplotypes, however there were two sepa-289 rate nucleotide substitutions encoding V402L within this group of haplotypes, and a faster 290 EHH decay on this flank is consistent with recombination events bringing V402L alleles 291 from different genetic backgrounds together with an ancestral haplotype carrying I1527T. The L2 haplotype carrying M490I exhibited EHH decay on both flanks comparable to hap-293 lotypes carrying known resistance alleles. This could indicate evidence for selection on the 294 M490I allele, but these haplotypes are derived from a Kenyan mosquito population where 295 there is evidence for a severe recent bottleneck [23], and there were not enough wild-type 296 haplotypes from Kenya with which to compare. Thus this signal may also be due to the 297

## Discussion

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#### Cross-resistance between pyrethroids and DDT

extreme demographic history of this population.

The VGSC protein is the physiological target of both pyrethroid insecticides and DDT [6].

The L995F and L995S alleles are known to increase resistance to both of these insecticide
classes [7, 9]. By 2012, over half of African households owned at least one pyrethroid
impregnated ITN and nearly two thirds of IRS programmes were using pyrethroids [2].

Pyrethroids were also introduced into agriculture in Africa prior to the scale-up of public
health vector control programmes, and continue to be used on a variety of crops such as
cotton [31]. DDT was used in Africa for several pilot IRS projects carried out during the

first global campaign to eradicate malaria, during the 1950s and 1960s [12]. DDT is still 308 approved for IRS use by WHO and remains in use in some locations, however within the 309 last two decades pyrethroid use has been far more common and widespread. DDT was also 310 used in agriculture from the 1940s, and although agricultural usage has greatly diminished since the 1970s, some usage remains [32]. In this study we reported evidence of positive 312 selection on the L995F and L995S alleles, as well as the I1527T+V402L combination and 313 possibly M490I. We also found 14 other non-synonymous substitutions that have arisen in 314 association with L995F and appear to be positively selected. Given that pyrethroids have 315 dominated public health insecticide use for two decades, it is reasonable to assume that the selection pressure on these alleles is primarily due to pyrethroids rather than DDT. It has 317 previously been suggested that L995S may have been initially selected by DDT usage [16]. 318 However, we did not find any systematic difference in the extent of haplotype homozygosity 319 between these two alleles, suggesting that both alleles have been under selection over a 320 similar time frame. We did find some significant differences in haplotype homozygosity 321 between different genetic backgrounds carrying resistance alleles, suggesting differences 322 in the timing and/or strength of selection these may have experienced. However, there 323 have been differences in the scale-up of pyrethroid-based interventions in different regions, 324 and this could in turn generate heterogeneities in selection pressures. Nevertheless, it is 325 possible that some if not all of the alleles we have reported provide some level of cross-326 resistance to DDT as well as pyrethroids, and we cannot exclude the possibility that 327 earlier DDT usage may have contributed at least in part to their selection. The differing 328 of resistance profiles to the two types of pyrethroids (type I, e.g., permethrin; and type 329 II, e.g., deltamethrin) [33], will also affect the selection landscape. Further sampling and 330 analysis will be required to investigate the timing of different selection events and relate 331 these to historical patterns of insecticide use in different regions.

#### Resistance phenotypes for novel non-synonymous variants

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The non-synonymous variants are distributed throughout the channel protein but can be considered in terms of three clusters: (i) the transmembrane domain, (ii) the DI-II intracellular linker and (iii) the DIII-DIV/C-terminal subdomain. The pyrethroid binding site is located in the transmembrane domain between the IIS4-S5 linker and the IIS5,

IIS6 and IIIS6 helices [34]. The I1527T substitution that we discovered in An. coluzzii 338 mosquitoes from Burkina Faso occurs in segment IIIS6 and is immediately adjacent to 339 two pyrethroid-sensing residues in this binding site [5]. It is thus plausible that pyrethroid 340 binding could be altered by this substitution. The I1527T substitution (M. domestica codon 1532) has been found in Aedes albopictus [35], and substitutions in the nearby 342 codon 1529 (M. domestica I1534T) have been reported in Aedes albopictus and in Aedes 343 aegypti where it was found to be associated with pyrethroid resistance [5, 36, 37]. We 344 found the I1527T allele in tight linkage with two alleles causing a V402L substitution (M.345 domestica V410L). Substitutions in codon 402 have been found in multiple insect species and are by themselves sufficient to confer pyrethroid resistance [5]. The fact that we 347 find I1527T and V402L in such tight mutual association is intriguing because haplotypes 348 carrying V402L alone should also have been positively selected and thus be present in one 349 or more populations. 350

The V402 residue is located towards the middle of the IS6 helix. The L995F and L995S 351 substitutions occur at a similar position on the IIS6 helix. It was proposed these S6 sub-352 stitutions confer resistance by allosterically modifying formation of the pyrethroid binding 353 site [34]. More recently the L995 kdr residue was speculated to form part of a second 354 pyrethroid binding site in the insect channel termed 'PyR2' [27, 38]. A major functional 355 effect of the L995F substitution is enhanced closed-state inactivation [39]. This contributes 356 to kdr resistance by reducing the number of channels that undergo activation, which is 357 the functional state that pyrethroids bind to with highest affinity [39]. Fast inactivation 358 involves movement of the DIV domain to form a receptor for the DIII-DIV linker fast in-359 activation particle containing the 'MFM' sequence motif (equivalent to the 'IFM' motif in 360 mammals) [40, 5]. Recent eukaryotic sodium channel structures reveal that the DIII-DIV 361 linker is in complex with the C-terminal segment in the closed-state conformation but the DIII-DIV linker appears to dissociate and bind in close proximity in the DIV S6 helix upon 363 transition to the inactivated state [25, 41]. It seems that binding of the DIII-DIV linker 364 pushes the DIV S6 helix forward to occlude the pore and produce the inactivated state 365 [41]. We suggest that substitutions located on the DIII-DIV linker and C-terminal tail may 366 perturb the conformation of this subdomain when it assembles in the closed-state channel and may subsequently affect capture or release of the DIII-DIV linker from this complex. The expected functional outcome would be altered channel inactivation, although whether inactivation is enhanced or diminished and if this compensates for a deleterious effect of L995F on channel function awaits elucidation. The N1570Y substitution on the DIII-DIV linker has been functionally characterised but inactivation kinetics in the mutant channel were found unaltered [26]. Pyrethroid sensitivity was also unaffected by N1570Y although resistance was greatly enhanced in the N1570Y + L995F double mutant [26].

The final cluster of novel variants is located on the DI-DII intracellular linker. This segment includes the novel M490I substitution that was found on the Kenyan L2 haplotypic

background potentially under selection. M490I did not occur in association with L995F or any other non-synonymous substitutions. Although we were unable to model this region, 378 we speculate that the DI-DII linker passes under the DII S4-S5 linker and these regions 379 may interact, as was found in a bacterial sodium channel structure [42]. The structural 380 effects of DI-DII substitutions may be altered interactions with the DII S4-S5 linker, the 381 movement of which is critical for formation of the pyrethroid binding site [34, 43]. Overall, there are a number of potential mechanisms by which a pyrethroid resistance phenotype 383 may arise and topology modelling reveals how many of the non-synonymous variants we 384 discover may be involved, though clearly much remains to be unravelled regarding the 385 molecular biology of pyrethroid resistance in this channel. 386

#### Design of genetic assays for surveillance of pyrethroid resistance

Entomological surveillance teams in Africa regularly genotype mosquitoes for resistance al-388 leles in Vqsc codon 995, and use those results as an indicator for the presence of pyrethroid 389 resistance alongside results from insecticide resistance bioassays. They typically do not, 390 however, sequence the gene or genotype any other polymorphisms within the gene. Thus, 391 if there are other polymorphisms within the gene that cause or significantly enhance 392 pyrethroid resistance, these will not be detected. Also, if a codon 995 resistance allele is 393 observed, there is no way to know whether the allele is on a genetic background that has also been observed in other mosquito populations, and thus no way to investigate whether 395 resistance alleles are emerging locally or being imported from elsewhere. Whole-genome 396 sequencing of individual mosquitoes clearly provides data of sufficient resolution to answer 397 these questions, and could be used to provide ongoing resistance surveillance. The cost of

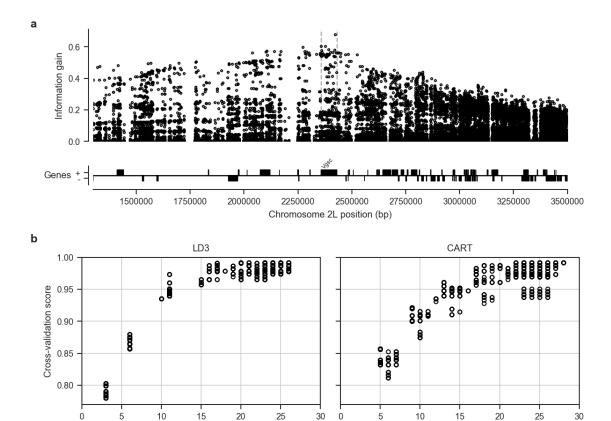


Figure 6. Informative SNPs for haplotype surveillance. a, Each data point represents a single SNP. The information gain value for each SNP provides an indication of how informative the SNP is likely to be if used as part of a genetic assay for testing whether a mosquito carries a resistance haplotype, and if so, which haplotype group it belongs to. b, Number of SNPs required to accurately predict which group a resistance haplotype belongs to. Each data point represents a single decision tree. Decision trees were constructed using either the LD3 (left) or CART (right) algorithm for comparison. Accuracy was evaluated using 10-fold stratified cross-validation.

No. SNPs in decision tree

No. SNPs in decision tree

whole-genome sequencing continues to fall, making it a practical tool for malaria vector 399 surveillance. However, to achieve substantial spatial and temporal coverage of mosquito 400 populations, it would also be necessary to develop targeted genetic assays for resistance 401 outbreak surveillance. Technologies such as amplicon sequencing [44] are already being 402 trialled on mosquitoes [45], these could scale to tens of thousands of samples at low cost 403 and could be implemented using existing platforms in national molecular biology facilities. 404 To facilitate the development of targeted genetic assays for surveillance of Vgsc-mediated 405 pyrethroid resistance, we have produced several supplementary data tables. In Supple-406 mentary Table 1 we list all 82 non-synonymous variants found within the Vgsc gene in this 407 study, with population allele frequencies. In Supplementary Table 2 we list 756 biallelic 408 SNPs, within the Vqsc gene and up to 10 kbp upstream or downstream, that are poten-409

tially informative regarding which haplotype group a resistance haplotype belongs to, and 410 thus could be used for tracking the spread of resistance. This table includes the allele 411 frequency within each of the 10 haplotype groups defined here, to aid in identifying SNPs 412 that are highly differentiated between two or more haplotype groups. We also provide Supplementary Table 3 which lists all 10,244 SNPs found within the Vgsc gene and up to 414 10 kbp upstream or downstream, which might need to be taken into account as flanking 415 variation when searching for PCR primers to amplify a SNP of interest. To provide some 416 indication for how many SNPs would need to be assayed in order to track the spread of 417 resistance, we used haplotype data from this study to construct decision trees that could classify which of the 12 groups a given haplotype belongs to (Figure 6). This analysis 419 suggested that it should be possible to construct a decision tree able to classify haplo-420 types with >95\% accuracy by using 20 SNPs or less. In practice, more SNPs would be 421 needed, to provide some redundancy, and also to type non-synonymous polymorphisms in 422 addition to identifying the genetic background. However, it is still likely to be well within the number of SNPs that could be assayed in a single multiplex via amplicon sequenc-424 ing. Thus it should be feasible to produce low-cost, high-throughput genetic assays for 425 tracking the spread of pyrethroid resistance. If combined with whole-genome sequencing 426 of mosquitoes at sentinel sites, this should also allow the identification of newly emerging 427 resistance outbreaks. 428

## 429 Methods

#### 430 Code

- All scripts and Jupyter Notebooks used to generate analyses, figures and tables are avail-
- able from the GitHub repository https://github.com/malariagen/ag1000g-phase2-vgsc-report.

#### 433 Data

- 434 We used variant calls and phased haplotype data from the Ag1000G Phase 2 AR1 data re-
- lease (https://www.malariagen.net/data/ag1000g-phase-2-ar1). Variant calls from
- 436 Ag1000G Phase 2 are also available from the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA; http:
- //www.ebi.ac.uk/ena) under study PRJEB36277.

#### Data collection and processing

For detailed information on Ag1000G WGS sample collection, sequencing, variant call-439 ing, quality control and phasing, see [23, 22]. In brief, An. gambiae and An. coluzzii 440 mosquitoes were collected from 33 sites in 13 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa: An-441 gola, Bioko, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, 442 Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mayotte and Uganda. From Angola and Côte d'Ivoire just An. coluzzii were sampled, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Guinea had samples of both An. gambiae and An. coluzzii and all other populations consisted of purely An. gambiae, except for 445 The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Kenya where species status is uncertain [22]. Mosquitoes 446 were individually whole genome sequenced on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 platform, gener-447 ating 100bp paired-end reads. Sequence reads were aligned to the An. gambiae AgamP3 448 reference genome assembly [46]. Aligned bam files underwent improvement, before variants were called using GATK UnifiedGenotyper. Quality control included removal of samples 450 with mean coverage  $\leq 14x$  and filtering of variants with attributes that were correlated 451 with Mendelian error in genetic crosses. 452 The Ag1000G variant data was functionally annotated using the SnpEff v4.1b software 453 [47]. Non-synonymous *Vgsc* variants were identified as all variants in AgamP4.12 transcript AGAP004707-RD with a SnpEff annotation of "missense". The Vgsc gene is known to 455 exhibit alternative splicing [6], however at the time of writing the An. gambiae gene 456 annotations did not include the alternative transcripts reported by Davies et al. We wrote 457 a Python script to check for the presence of variants that are synonymous according to 458 transcript AGAP004707-RD but non-synonymous according to one of the other transcripts 459 present in the gene annotations or in the set reported by Davies et al. Supplementary Table 1 includes the predicted effect for all SNPs that are non-synonymous in one or more of 461 these transcripts. None of the variants that are non-synonymous in a transcript other 462 than AGAP004707-RD were found to be above 5\% frequency in any population. 463 For ease of comparison with previous work on *Vgsc*, pan Insecta, in Table 1 and Supple-464 mentary 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 466 (EMBL accession X96668 [10]) was aligned with the An. qambiae AGAP004707-RD se-467

quence (AgamP4.12 gene-set) using the Mega v7 software package [48]. A map of equiva-468 lent codon numbers between the two species for the entire gene can be download from the 469 MalariaGEN website (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 472 phase informative reads (PIRs) and SHAPEIT2 v2.r837 [49], see [23] supplementary text 473 for more details. The SHAPEIT2 algorithm is unable to phase multi-allelic positions, 474 therefore the two multi-allelic non-synonymous SNPs within the *Vgsc* gene, altering codons 475 V402 and M490, were phased onto the biallelic haplotype scaffold using MVNcall v1.0 [50]. Lewontin's D' [51] was used to compute the linkage disequilibrium (LD) between all pairs of non-synonymous Vqsc mutations. 478

#### 479 Haplotype networks

Haplotype networks were constructed using the median-joining algorithm [29] as implemented in a Python module available from https://github.com/malariagen/ag1000g-phase2-vgsc-repo
Haplotypes carrying either L995F or L995S mutations were analysed with a maximum edge
distance of two SNPs. Networks were rendered with the Graphviz library and a composite figure constructed using Inkscape. Non-synonymous edges were highlighted using the
SnpEff annotations [47].

# 486 Positive selection

Core haplotypes were defined on a 6,078 bp region spanning *Vgsc* codon 995, from chromosome arm 2L position 2,420,443 and ending at position 2,426,521. This region was
chosen as it was the smallest region sufficient to differentiate between the ten genetic
backgrounds carrying either of the known resistance alleles L995F or L995S. Extended
haplotype homozygosity (EHH) was computed for all core haplotypes as described in [30]
using scikit-allel version 1.1.9 [52], excluding non-synonymous and singleton SNPs. Analyses of haplotype homozygosity in moving windows (Supplementary Figs. S1, S2) and pairwise haplotype sharing (Supplementary Figure S3) were performed using custom Python
code available from https://github.com/malariagen/ag1000g-phase2-vgsc-report.

#### Design of genetic assays for surveillance of pyrethroid resistance

To explore the feasibility of indentifying a small subset of SNPs that would be sufficient 497 to identify each of the genetic backgrounds carrying known or putative resistance alleles, 498 we started with an input data set of all SNPs within the Vgsc gene or in the flanking 499 regions 20 kbp upstream and downstream of the gene. Each of the 2,284 haplotypes in 500 the Ag1000G Phase 2 cohort was labelled according to which core haplotype it carried, 501 combining all core haplotypes not carrying known or putative resistance alleles together as a single "wild-type" group. Decision tree classifiers were then constructed using scikit-learn 503 version 0.19.0 [53] for a range of maximum depths, repeating the tree construction process 504 10 times for each maximum depth with a different initial random state. The classification 505 accuracy of each tree was evaluated using stratified 5-fold cross-validation. 506

## 507 Homology modelling

A homology model of the *An. gambiae* voltage-gated sodium channel (AGAP004707-RD AgamP4.12) was generated using the 3.8 Å resolution structure of the *Periplaneta americana* sodium channel Na<sub>v</sub>PaS structure (PDB code 5X0M) [25]. Sequences were aligned using Clustal Omega [54]. 50 starting models were generated using MODELLER [55]. The internal scoring function of MODELLER was used to select 10 models, which were visually inspected and submitted to the VADAR webserver [56] to assess stereochemistry in order to select the best final model. Figures were produced using PyMOL (DeLano Scientific, San Carlos, CA, USA).

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# 570 Supplementary figures

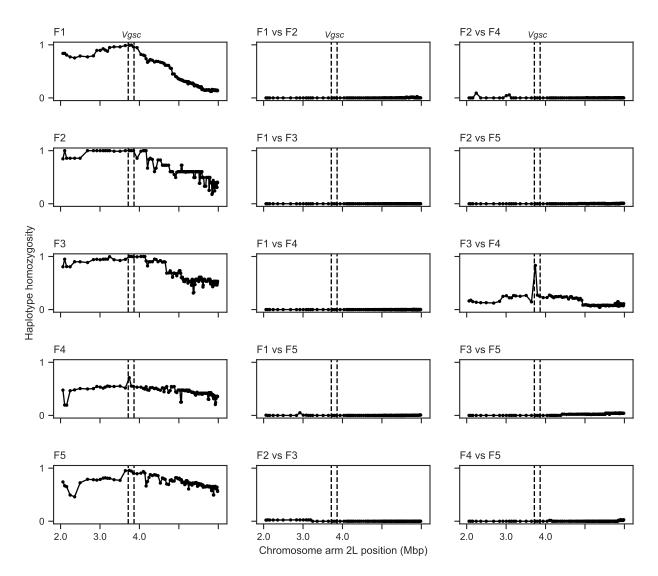


Figure S1. Windowed analysis of haplotype homozygosity for genetic backgrounds carrying the L995F allele. Each sub-plot shows the fraction of haplotype pairs that are identical within half-overlapping moving windows of 1000 SNPs. Each sub-plot in the left-hand column shows homozygosity for haplotype pairs within one of the haplotype groups identified by the network analysis. Sub-plots in the central and right-hand columns show homozygosity for haplotype pairs between two haplotype groups. If two haplotype groups are truly unrelated, haplotype homozygosity between them should be close to zero across the whole genome region. Dashed vertical lines show the location of the *Vgsc* gene.

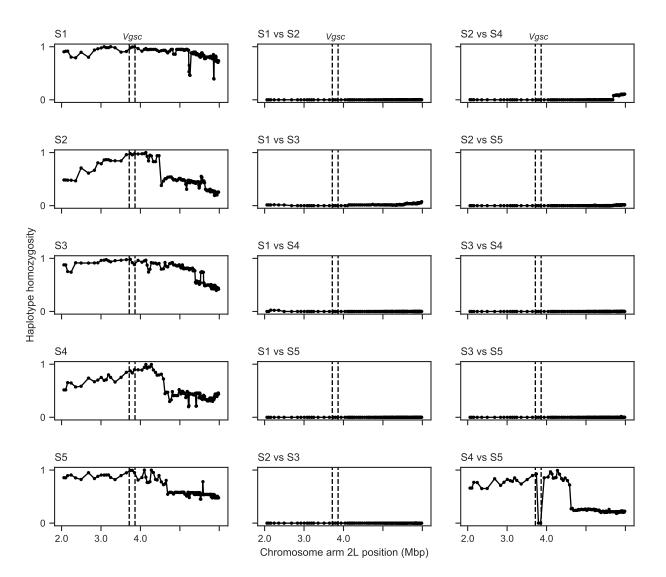


Figure S2. Windowed analysis of haplotype homozygosity for genetic backgrounds carrying the L995S allele. See Supplementary Figure S1 for explanation. Haplotype homozygosity is high between groups S4 and S5 on both flanks of the gene, indicating that haplotypes from both groups are in fact closely related.

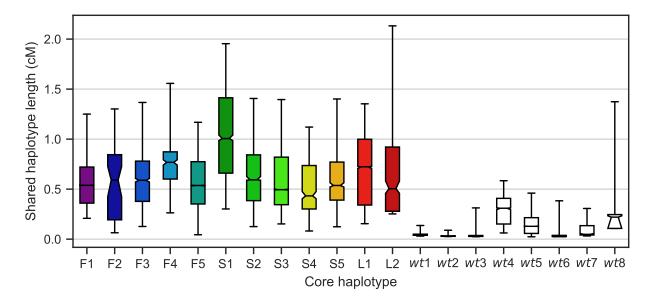


Figure S3. Shared haplotype length. Each bar shows the distribution of shared haplotype lengths between all pairs of haplotypes with the same core haplotype. For each pair of haplotypes, the shared haplotype length is computed as the region extending upstream and downstream from the core locus (*Vgsc* codon 995) over which haplotypes are identical at all non-singleton variants. The *Vgsc* gene sits on the border of pericentromeric heterochromatin and euchromatin, and we assume different recombination rates in upstream and downstream regions. The shared haplotype length is expressed in centiMorgans (cM) assuming a constant recombination rate of 2.0 cM/Mb on the downstream (euchromatin) flank and 0.6 cM/Mb on the upstream (heterochromatin) flank. Bars show the inter-quartile range, fliers show the 5-95th percentiles, horizontal black line shows the median, notch in bar shows the 95% bootstrap confidence interval for the median. Haplotypes F1-5 each carry the L995F resistance allele. Haplotypes S1-5 each carry the L995S resistance allele. Haplotype L2 carries the M490I allele. Wild-type (*wt*) haplotypes do not carry any known or putative resistance alleles.