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Tony Gamble

*Marquette University*, [anthony.gamble@marquette.edu](mailto:anthony.gamble@marquette.edu)

Anthony J. Geneva

*University of Rochester*

Richard E. Glor

*University of Kansas*

David Zarkower

*University of Minnesota - Minneapolis*

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# Anolis Sex Chromosomes Are Derived from A Single Ancestral Pair

Tony Gamble

Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Anthony J. Geneva

Department of Biology, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York

Richard E. Glor

Biodiversity Institute and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

David Zarkower

Department of Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## Abstract

To explain the frequency and distribution of heteromorphic sex chromosomes in the lizard genus *Anolis*, we compared the relative roles of sex chromosome conservation versus turnover of sex-determining mechanisms. We used model-based comparative methods to reconstruct karyotype evolution and the presence of heteromorphic sex chromosomes onto a newly generated *Anolis* phylogeny. We found that heteromorphic sex chromosomes evolved multiple times in the genus. Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) of repetitive DNA showed variable rates of Y chromosome degeneration among *Anolis* species and identified previously

undetected, homomorphic sex chromosomes in two species. We confirmed homology of sex chromosomes in the genus by performing FISH of an X-linked bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) and quantitative PCR of X-linked genes in multiple *Anolis* species sampled across the phylogeny. Taken together, these results are consistent with long-term conservation of sex chromosomes in the group. Our results pave the way to address additional questions related to *Anolis* sex chromosome evolution and describe a conceptual framework that can be used to evaluate the origins and evolution of heteromorphic sex chromosomes in other clades.

The discovery that the males and females of many species have morphologically distinct (heteromorphic) sex chromosomes provided some of the first direct evidence for the nature of inheritance and initiated more than a century of work on sex chromosome divergence and its consequences (Wilson [1905](#); Morgan [1911](#)). Interest in how and why sex chromosomes diverge has intensified with the recognition that sex chromosomes play a central role in core evolutionary processes such as speciation, sex-specific adaptation, and genetic conflict (Presgraves [2008](#); Bachtrog et al. [2009](#); Meiklejohn and Tao [2010](#); Zhou and Bachtrog [2012](#)).

Theoretical and empirical work suggests that sex chromosomes can exhibit strikingly predictable divergence patterns over time. The prevailing model of sex chromosome evolution was developed primarily from empirical observations in a limited number of well-studied model taxa with heteromorphic sex chromosomes (e.g., *Drosophila* and mammals). In this model, degeneration of the heterogametic sex chromosome (the Y or W) follows evolution of a sex-determining locus and reduced recombination in the vicinity of this locus (Muller [1914](#); Ohno [1967](#); Rice [1996](#); Charlesworth and Charlesworth [2000](#); Graves [2006](#)). Among vertebrates, this model goes a long way toward explaining the presence of the heteromorphic sex chromosomes in most mammals, birds, and snakes. Most vertebrate species, however, including the vast majority of fish, amphibians, and lizards do not have heteromorphic sex chromosomes (Hillis and Green [1990](#); Devlin and Nagahama [2002](#); Ezaz et al. [2009b](#)). The lack of morphologically distinct sex chromosomes in these species challenges the simple model of sex chromosome degeneration and suggests that frequent sex chromosome turnover or related processes can limit sex chromosome degeneration, potentially influencing the downstream evolutionary consequence of this differentiation on speciation and other evolutionary phenomena (Grossen et al. [2011](#); Stöck et al. [2011](#)). Here we use phylogenetic, cytogenetic, and molecular approaches to test alternative models of sex chromosome evolution in a species-rich lizard genus.

## The Classic Model of Sex Chromosome Evolution

Sex chromosomes evolve from autosomes (Muller [1914](#); Ohno [1967](#)). The first step in their evolution is thought to be the appearance of a gene, via mutation or translocation, which controls the sex determination pathway (Rice [1996](#); Charlesworth and Charlesworth [2000](#); Graves [2006](#)). Recombination is then restricted around the sex-determining locus and linked sexually antagonistic alleles (Bergero and Charlesworth [2008](#)). Regions of reduced recombination then expand as the biased inheritance of sex chromosomes causes natural selection to favor the evolution or recruitment of sexually antagonistic loci (Rice [1987](#); Charlesworth et al. [2005](#); Bergero and Charlesworth [2008](#)). Lack of recombination can ultimately lead to the degeneration of the heterogametic sex chromosome either by drift or the inability to purge deleterious alleles fixed by selection at linked loci (Rice [1987](#); Charlesworth et al. [2005](#); Bergero and Charlesworth [2008](#)).

In general, heterogametic sex chromosomes show a net loss of genes, an accumulation of sex-specific alleles, and a gain of repetitive DNA sequences. This degeneration is expected to result in morphological differences between the X and Y (or Z and W) chromosomes that are cytogenetically diagnosable (Graves [2006](#), [2008](#)). Divergence in the gene content of X and Y chromosomes provides an opportunity for sex-specific and sexually antagonistic adaptation to occur on these chromosomes. The hemizyosity of the X (or Z) that results from this degeneration is also thought to explain the disproportionate role of sex chromosomes in speciation. Haldane's rule, which heterogametic interspecific hybrids suffer negative fitness consequences more often than the

homogametic sex, is one of the most universal patterns in evolutionary biology (Haldane [1922](#)). The prevailing explanation for this pattern, the dominance theory, states that if genetic incompatibilities between species are mostly recessive, they will be masked if they occur on autosomes but will contribute to the reduced fitness of males if they occur on the X (Turelli and Orr [1995](#)). Sex chromosome divergence may also lead to serious biological challenges, including dysfunction caused by dosage differences in the X-linked or W-linked genes between the two sexes. Although many taxa with strongly differentiated sex chromosomes have evolved efficient mechanisms for dosage compensation, the challenge of evolving such mechanisms may provide strong selective pressure against sex chromosome degeneration (Adolfsson and Ellegren [2013](#)).

Applied broadly, the classic model of sex chromosome degeneration predicts that all species with genetic sex determination should eventually evolve heteromorphic sex chromosomes, or even lose the heterogametic chromosome (Y or W) altogether (Graves [2006](#), [2008](#)). Support for this prediction can be found in several well-studied vertebrate groups including mammals, birds, and snakes. Species within each of these clades possess homologous sex chromosomes and exhibit varying degrees of sex chromosome heteromorphy. However, even some members of these well-studied groups possess homomorphic sex chromosomes that appear to have been maintained over relatively long periods of evolutionary time. For example, ratites (ostriches and their kin) and boas and pythons have homomorphic sex chromosomes while most other bird and snake species have heteromorphic sex chromosomes (Shetty et al. [1999](#); Matsubara et al. [2006](#); Nanda et al. [2008](#)). Homomorphic sex chromosomes in these clades resemble the ancestral autosomes and contain fewer repetitive sequences and possess more functional genes than their heteromorphic orthologs in related species (Matsubara et al. [2006](#); O'Meally et al. [2010](#)). Heteromorphic sex chromosomes are relatively rare in most other vertebrate lineages including fish, amphibians, and lizards (Hillis and Green [1990](#); Devlin and Nagahama [2002](#); Ezaz et al. [2009b](#)). In these clades, a few species with heteromorphic sex chromosomes are scattered among a majority of species generally lacking chromosomal heteromorphism. Understanding sex chromosome evolution in these lineages is critical to understanding whether the classic model, and the evolutionary processes it explains, apply broadly to most vertebrates, or just to a few select lineages.

## Explaining Persistence of Homomorphic Sex Chromosomes

Two hypotheses, which are not mutually exclusive, can explain the widespread occurrence of homomorphic sex chromosomes observed across most vertebrate species (Stöck et al. [2011](#)). The first hypothesis, which we refer to as the “conservation” hypothesis, because it involves conservation of sex chromosome homology among related species, posits variable rates of degeneration of the heterogametic sex chromosomes. Under this hypothesis, variation in sex chromosome heteromorphism can be caused by a variety of processes that either change the size of sex chromosomes or slow the rate of degeneration. Occasional recombination between the X and Y in certain frog species, for example, can “refresh” the heterogametic sex chromosome and slow degeneration (Perrin [2009](#); Guerrero et al. [2012](#)). In primates, meanwhile, sex chromosome degeneration may be slowed by intrachromosomal gene conversion among duplicated genes on the Y chromosome that counteracts degeneration due to a lack of homologous recombination (Rozen et al. [2003](#); Connallon and Clark [2010](#)). The conservation hypothesis is the preferred model explaining the evolution of sex chromosomes in birds and snakes (Shetty et al. [1999](#); Matsubara et al. [2006](#)).

An alternative to the conservation hypothesis is the “turnover” hypothesis, in which newly evolved sex chromosomes are homomorphic because they are too young for degeneration to have rendered them cytogenetically distinct (Charlesworth et al. [2005](#); Volff et al. [2007](#)). Turnover has been observed among several closely related fish and amphibian species (Takehana et al. [2007](#); Tanaka et al. [2007](#); Volff et al. [2007](#); Henning et al. [2008](#); Ross et al. [2009](#); Miura et al. [2012](#)) and inferred at higher taxonomic levels in lizards, amphibians, and fish (Hillis and Green [1990](#); Mank et al. [2006](#); Ezaz et al. [2009b](#); Gamble [2010](#)). Indeed, new sex-determining mechanisms appear to have evolved repeatedly across the vertebrate phylogeny and the sex chromosomes of

many vertebrate species are not homologous (Mank et al. [2006](#); O'Meally et al. [2012](#)). It is less clear, however, whether turnover is broadly responsible for the commonly observed variation in sex chromosome heteromorphy among closely related species.

We investigate conservation and turnover of sex chromosomes in a diverse and well-studied lizard genus (*Anolis*) comprised mostly of species with homomorphic sex chromosomes. Anoles are ideally suited for this work for several reasons. First, all species studied to date are characterized by genetic sex determination (Gorman [1973](#); Viets et al. [1994](#)). Second, preliminary evidence suggests a role for *Anolis* sex chromosomes in the evolution of reproductive isolation (Webster [1977](#)). Third, karyotypes are available for one quarter of the nearly 400 recognized species of *Anolis* lizards; two-thirds of species have homomorphic sex chromosomes and those that do not have male heterogamety, either XY or XXY chromosomes (Gorman and Atkins [1966](#), [1968](#), [1969](#); Olmo [2005](#)). Fourth, the recently completed genome of *A. carolinensis* recovered evidence for cryptic or homomorphic sex chromosomes and provides a foundation for identification of sex chromosome specific markers that are necessary to assess sex chromosome homology (Alföldi et al. [2011](#)).

The conservation and turnover hypotheses make a number of specific predictions that can be tested with phylogenetic, cytogenetic, and genetic analyses of *Anolis*. First, the conservation hypothesis predicts that transitions will only occur from the homomorphic to the heteromorphic state, and not vice versa, whereas the turnover hypothesis predicts that transitions will occur in both directions. We test this hypothesis using phylogenetic comparative methods. Second, the conservation hypothesis predicts sex chromosome homology across species whereas the turnover hypothesis predicts that sex chromosomes will not be homologous. We test this hypothesis using cytogenetic and molecular methods. Finally, we test whether changes in chromosome number co-occur with changes in sex chromosome complement (e.g., homomorphic, XY or XXY). Our findings bear not only on the processes at play in *Anolis* sex chromosome evolution but also provide a conceptual framework to evaluate the origins and evolution of sex chromosomes in other clades. They also help explain the widespread variation in sex chromosome heteromorphy observed throughout vertebrates.

## Materials and Methods

### Phylogenetic Analyses

We generated a new phylogeny of *Anolis* species using ~1500 bp of the mitochondrial genome including the entire NADH dehydrogenase subunit 2 (*ND2*), five flanking tRNAs, and the 5' end of cytochrome c oxidase (*COI*) gene. By combining data from recently published *Anolis* datasets (Mahler et al. [2010](#); Rabosky and Glor [2010](#); Castañeda and deQueiroz [2011](#)) with additional sequences from GenBank and newly generated sequences for 10 species, we obtain a dataset that includes 216 species. Previously unsampled species were amplified and sequenced following previously published protocols (Glor et al. [2001](#)), and subsequently assembled and edited using Geneious version 5.4 (Drummond et al. [2011](#)). Coding regions were aligned by eye and tRNAs were aligned using a secondary structural model (Kumazawa and Nishida [1993](#)). In total, we compiled sequence data for 216 *Anolis* species plus three outgroup taxa, with one sequence for each species (Table S1).

We estimated phylogenies using the Bayesian Metropolis coupled Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMCMC) approach implemented in MrBayes version 3.1.2 (Ronquist and Huelsenbeck [2003](#)). We used a heating parameter of 0.01 and partitioned data by codon position, plus an additional partition for tRNAs. We selected models of molecular evolution for each partition by comparing Akaike information criterion (AIC) scores in jModeltest version 0.1.1 (Posada [2008](#)). We evaluated convergence using two strategies. First, we used Tracer version 1.5 (Rambaut and Drummond [2007](#)) to identify a plateau of likelihood scores and posterior estimates of model parameters for the two independent runs. Second, we used AWTY (Nylander et al. [2008](#)) to examine the cumulative posterior probabilities of tree bipartitions using the “cumulative” utility, and compared bipartition

posterior probabilities between independent analyses with the “compare” utility. We defined burn-in as the point at which posterior probabilities in both runs reached a stationary distribution. Final MrBayes analyses were run for 70 million generations, with the first 35 million discarded as burn-in and the remaining trees used to generate a consensus tree and posterior probabilities of nodes calculated as the frequency of a node among the posterior sample of trees.

To simultaneously estimate the topology and relative timing of the anole diversification, we conducted a Bayesian uncorrelated relaxed clock analysis in BEAST (Drummond et al. [2012](#)). We constrained *Anolis* monophyly and set the root age to an arbitrary uniform distribution from 95 to 105. We used a Yule speciation topology prior with the MrBayes consensus tree as the starting tree. We performed four independent analyses each for 50 million generations, sampling trees every 10,000 generations. We assessed convergence and concordance among these four analyses using Tracer and AWTY, as described above. We removed trees from the first 25 million generations as burn-in, combined the output of independent runs, and calculated the maximum clade credibility (MCC) chronogram for the remaining posterior sample (10,000 trees) using the LogCombiner and TreeAnnotator utilities included in BEAST (Drummond et al. [2012](#)).

## Chromosomal Evolution

We conducted comparative analyses on the posterior distribution of trees inferred by BEAST after pruning trees to include only the 98 taxa for which DNA sequence data, sex chromosome complement, and chromosome number were available (Table S1).

We collected karyotypic data for anole species from ChromoRep, a database of karyotypic data for over 2000 reptiles (Olmo [2005](#)). We cross-referenced data from ChromoRep with the original sources and in the two instances where they disagreed we used data from the original publication. We also supplemented this dataset with records from an additional unpublished account (Lieb [1981](#)). For each species, we recorded chromosome count as the haploid chromosome number of females. We coded sex chromosome complement as homomorphic or heteromorphic (XY or XXY). Species with morphologically indistinguishable sex chromosomes, so-called “cryptic” or homomorphic sex chromosomes (*sensu* Ezaz et al. [2005](#)), such as the recently described *A. carolinensis* XY system (Alföldi et al. [2011](#)), were coded as homomorphic.

We inferred ancestral states of sex chromosome complement both as a multistate character (homomorphic, XY and XXY) and as a binary character (heteromorphic or homomorphic) using an MCMC approach and the BayesMultiState function in BayesTraits version 1.0 (Pagel et al. [2004](#)). To account for uncertainty in estimates of topology and branch length, we performed these analyses on a set of 10,000 trees drawn from the stationary posterior distribution of trees inferred by BEAST. Trees are archived in Dryad (doi:10.5061/dryad.dp848). We performed preliminary analyses to optimize the following three parameters: (1) the per generation deviation in rates (ratedev), (2) the distribution shape and range of prior values for the reversible jump hyperprior (rjhp), and (3) the number of generations required for the MCMC estimates to achieve stationarity. From these preliminary analyses, we determined a ratedev equal to 0.05 and rjhp priors drawn from an exponential distribution between 0 and 30 achieved an average proposal acceptance rate of 18% (range 0–42). Parameter estimates converged prior to 100,000 generations, therefore in our final analysis we conservatively discarded the first 200,000 generations as burn-in. We inferred ancestral states for all nodes and ran a final analysis using these parameters for 20 million generations.

Using binary state reconstructions, we evaluated three models of sex chromosome evolution: (1) a model with equal rates of transition from heteromorphic to homomorphic sex chromosomes and from homomorphic to heteromorphic; (2) a model with independent rates for each type of change; and (3) a model with heteromorphic to homomorphic transitions fixed at zero. The first and second models, which include a nonzero rate of transition from heteromorphic to homomorphic sex chromosomes, are expected to be incompatible with

the conservation hypothesis while the third model is incompatible with the turnover hypothesis. We evaluated the fit of these alternative models by calculating Bayes factors:  $2(\log[\text{harmonic mean likelihood model 1}] - \log[\text{harmonic mean likelihood model 2}])$ .

## Correlation Test

Heteromorphic sex chromosomes, including XY and XXY complements, occur in a variety of *Anolis* lineages. The presence of XXY sex chromosome complements suggests a possible role for the evolution of sex chromosome heteromorphism by fusion or fission with autosomes. We used the repeated independent evolution of sex chromosome heteromorphism in anoles to test for a relationship between chromosome number evolution and the evolution of sex chromosome heteromorphism. Specifically, we inferred ancestral states of chromosome number to test whether changes in sex chromosome heteromorphism and changes in chromosome number co-occur on the same branches of the anole phylogeny.

We used chromEvol version 1.3 (Mayrose et al. [2010](#)), a maximum likelihood based approach specifically designed for ancestral state reconstruction of chromosomal data, to infer ancestral states for chromosome number. We evaluated two models of chromosome evolution. The first model estimates a constant but independent rate of chromosome loss and gain—model M0 sensu Mayrose et al. ([2010](#)); the second model estimates linear rates of chromosome loss and gain that are correlated with the total number chromosomes present—model M5 sensu Mayrose et al. ([2010](#)). The suitability of these models was evaluated using AIC scores and Akaike weights. We did not evaluate models that involve polyploidization as no genome duplication events appear to have occurred in any *Anolis* species.

We used two-tailed Fisher's exact test to assess whether changes in sex chromosome complement, for example, transitions between homomorphic and heteromorphic states or between XY and XXY, significantly coincide with changes in chromosome number. Using the maximum-likelihood model inferred by chromEvol, we filtered all branches for those with an inferred change in chromosome number greater than 0.5. To test for a correlation between change in sex chromosome complement and transitions in chromosome number, we sorted branches into those with chromosome number transitions and those without, and branches that involve a change in sex chromosome complement and those that do not.

## Cytogenetics

We examined chromosomes from five *Anolis* species to evaluate two distinct and related hypotheses. First, we tested whether repetitive sequences associated with Y chromosome degeneration in other vertebrate taxa occur on the Y chromosomes of anoles. Second, we assessed X chromosome homology among each of these five *Anolis* species using both fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) and quantitative PCR (qPCR).

We prepared chromosome spreads from both males and females of five *Anolis* species (*A. carolinensis*, *A. sagrei*, *A. grahami*, *A. lineatopus*, and *A. distichus*) from fibroblast cultures established from tail clips (Ezaz et al. [2008](#); Main et al. [2012](#)). Cells were arrested in metaphase using vinblastine sulfate (1 mg/ml) for 2–3 h. We collected cells after trypsin digestion and incubated them in a hypotonic solution (0.07 M KCl) for 20 min at 37°C. After hypotonic treatment, cells were centrifuged and fixed through a series of five washes in methanol:acetic acid (3:1). Cell suspensions were dropped onto clean glass slides, allowed to air dry, dehydrated in an ethanol series (70%, 95%, 100%), and stored at –80°C until used.

## Testing Y Chromosome Degeneration

To test the hypothesis that some degree of Y chromosome degeneration occurs in anoles, we hybridized a GATA minisatellite repeat onto metaphase spreads. The GATA repeat, also called the Bkm satellite repeat, is one of several repetitive sequences that has been shown to accumulate on the heterogametic sex chromosomes of multiple animal species and is a good candidate marker for estimating the amount of molecular divergence

between the X and Y chromosomes within species (Singh et al. [1980](#); Nanda et al. [1990](#); Singh et al. [1994](#); O'Meally et al. [2010](#)). (GATA)<sub>n</sub> probes were generated by PCR in the absence of template DNA (Ijdo et al. [1991](#)) using (GATA)<sub>7</sub> and (TATC)<sub>7</sub> primers. Probes were labeled via nick translation with Chromatide/Alexa Fluor fluorescently labeled dUTP 488–5 (Life Technologies); excitation 490 nm, emission 520 nm. Sizes of the nick-translated fragments were checked by electrophoresis on a 1% Tris-borate-EDTA gel. Labeled DNA was ethanol precipitated and resuspended in 100 µl hybridization buffer (Ezaz et al. [2005](#)), denatured at 72°C for 10 min, and snap-cooled on ice for 5 min. We added 20 µl of probe to each slide, affixed a cover slip using rubber cement, heated slides again to 72°C for 5 min, and incubated overnight at 37°C. Slides were washed once at 60°C in 0.4% saline-sodium citrate (SSC), 0.3% Igepal CA-630 (Sigma Aldrich) for 2 min followed by a second 2-min wash in 2% SSC, 0.1% Igepal CA-630 at room temperature. Slides were dehydrated in an ethanol series (70%, 95%, 100%) and air-dried. We stained slides with 4,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) and mounted a cover slip using Permafluor (Lab Vision). Fluorescent signals were visualized on a Zeiss Imager Z1 microscope using a Zeiss MRm camera. Images were captured using Zeiss Axiovision software.

## Testing X Chromosome Homology

We used two methods to test for homology of the X chromosome across *Anolis*. First, we used FISH to ask whether an X-linked bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) identified by the *A. carolinensis* genome project maps to male and female metaphase spreads in five *Anolis* species in a pattern consistent with a single origin of male heterogamety in the genus. Second, we used qPCR of autosomal and X linked loci in males and females of nine species to test whether expected amounts of DNA generated by this procedure are consistent with the presence of targeted loci on autosomes or sex chromosomes. Male genomic DNA should have half the quantity of X-linked genes as measured by qPCR compared to females because males have only one copy of the X chromosome. Species with sex chromosomes lacking homology to *A. carolinensis* sex chromosomes should show no sex-specific biases in the quantification of both of these X-linked genes.

*FISH*: The X-linked BAC, 206M13–CHORI318, is localized to the *A. carolinensis* X chromosome, and FISH of this BAC to *A. carolinensis* metaphase spreads confirmed that it is present in two copies in females and one copy in males (Alföldi et al. [2011](#)). In addition, the sequenced ends of 206M13 (NCBI clone ID: 29314537) correspond to an unmapped linkage group, GL343282, which contains fragments of four protein coding genes: *snap29*, *serpind1*, *pi4ka*, and *cltcl1*. Orthologs of these genes occur on chicken chromosome 15, which is syntenic with the *A. carolinensis* X chromosome (Alföldi et al. [2011](#)). All *A. carolinensis* genome data were referenced using draft assembly AnoCar2.0 on the UCSC Genome Browser (Meyer et al. [2013](#)) and NCBI assembly database (Wheeler et al. [2007](#); Benson et al. [2010](#)).

BAC DNA was labeled by nick translation (Nick Translation Kit—Abbott Molecular) using Orange—552 dUTP (Enzo Life Science); excitation 552 nm, emission 576 nm. The labeled DNA was precipitated with COT-1 DNA, sheared *A. carolinensis* genomic DNA, sodium acetate and 95% ethanol, then dried and resuspended in 50% formamide hybridization buffer. The probe/hybridization buffer mix were denatured at 73°C and hybridized onto the slide for 24 h at 37°C. After hybridization, the FISH slides were washed in a 2× SSC solution at 72°C for 15 sec, and counterstained with DAPI stain. Fluorescent signals were visualized on an Olympus BX61 microscope workstation (Applied Spectral Imaging, Vista, CA) with DAPI and Texas Red filter sets. Images were captured using an interferometer-based CCD cooled camera (ASI) and BandView ASI software.

*qPCR*: FISH of an X chromosome BAC allowed us to determine sex chromosome homology among *Anolis* species, but we were limited with this approach to species where we had established cell lines for cytogenetics. Failure to sample the full breadth of *Anolis* diversity, particularly species from the basal Dactyloa clade, meant that any inferences made from cytogenetic results would not necessarily apply to the entire genus. We therefore used



qPCR to expand our taxon sampling and screen additional *Anolis* species for genomic copy number of two X-linked genes in *A. carolinensis*.

We performed qPCR using two autosomal genes, *kank1* (chromosome 2) and *ngfb* (chromosome 4); and two X-linked genes, *pi4ka* and *cltcl1*. *ngfb* was used as the reference in all experiments. The two X-linked genes occur on the same BAC used to perform FISH experiments, 206M13–CHORI318. Selecting genes from this BAC made results from the FISH experiments and qPCR results broadly comparable as they evaluate similar genic content.

We conducted qPCR on two to three individuals of each sex (see Table S2) for nine *Anolis* species. This included the five species for which we had cytogenetic data to verify that qPCR could replicate the BAC FISH results. qPCR was performed using FastStart SYBR green (Roche) on an Eppendorf Realplex2 Mastercycler. Reactions were conducted in duplicate using 10 ng of genomic DNA in 12  $\mu$ l reactions. PCR primers are listed in Table S3. Cycle conditions involved an initial denaturation of 95°C for 10 min followed by 40 cycles of 95°C for 20 sec, 52°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 40 sec; and a final step to produce a melting curve going from 60°C to 95°C over 15 min with fluorescent data measured continuously. Reaction efficiencies were calculated for each gene and each species using a series of five serial dilutions (1/10) in duplicate. Data were analyzed using the comparative quantification approach, which measured the relative amount of a gene in a group of male samples compared to a group of female samples, in REST 2009 software (Pfaffl et al. [2002](#)). Standard error and 95% confidence intervals of the normalized quantification values were calculated with 5000 bootstrap replicates.

## Results

### Phylogenetic Analyses

MrBayes and BEAST analyses of our 216 species dataset converged by all metrics. The topology and node support estimated by both analyses are very similar to each other (Fig. S1) and consistent, at well-supported nodes, with other recently published *Anolis* phylogenies (Mahler et al. [2010](#); Rabosky and Glor [2010](#); Alföldi et al. [2011](#); Castañeda and deQueiroz [2011](#)).

### Sex Chromosome Evolution

We used phylogenetic comparative methods to infer the ancestral sex chromosome states and test alternative models of chromosome evolution that are compatible with either the conservation or turnover hypotheses. The common ancestor to all anoles was inferred to have homomorphic sex chromosomes, a result suggested by previous studies (Gorman [1973](#)). The ancestral state reconstruction inferred three transitions from homomorphic to XXY, five from homomorphic to XY, a single transition from XXY to XY, and no reversions to a homomorphic state.

Bayes factor analysis favored a model compatible with conservation, with the rate of transition from heteromorphic to homomorphic sex chromosome fixed at 0. The two turnover models: separate rates for heteromorphic to homomorphic and homomorphic to heteromorphic transitions, and a model where all transition rates were equal, were less well supported (Table [1](#)). When both rates were estimated, BayesTraits inferred a heteromorphic to homomorphic transition rate an order of magnitude lower than homomorphic to heteromorphic transitions (Table [1](#)).

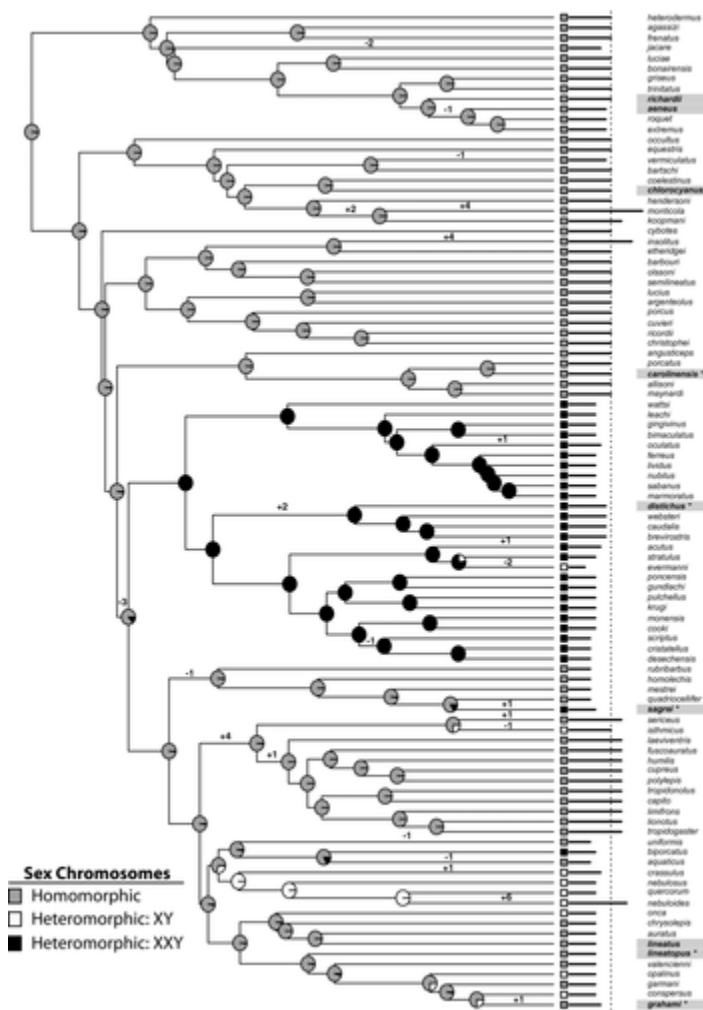
**Table 1.** Comparison of full and constrained models of sex chromosome evolution and parameter estimates

Model	Rate: Het. $\rightarrow$ Hom.	Rate: Hom. $\rightarrow$ Het.	Harmonic mean lnL	Bayes factor (vs. best model)
Het. $\rightarrow$ Hom. = 0	0.0000	0.0037	-34.2427	0.0000
Rates different	0.0004	0.0036	-35.8609	3.2364
Equal rates	0.0032	0.0032	-36.2698	4.0542

Het = heteromorphic; Hom = homomorphic.

## Correlation Test

Ancestral states for chromosome number were inferred using chromEvol. AIC scores favored a constant rates model of chromosome evolution over linear rates. The maximum-likelihood reconstruction inferred  $1n = 18$  chromosomes (haploid number of chromosomes) in the ancestor of anoles with 13 gains and 10 losses (summarized in Fig. 1, complete reconstruction Fig. S2). Changes in chromosome number were inferred to occur in terminal branches as well as branches nested deeply within the anole radiation. Three terminal branches are inferred to have undergone large gains in chromosome number (changes in haploid chromosome number between 4 and 6; Fig. S2). One of these is on the branch leading to *A. monticola*, which has four more chromosome pairs than its closest relatives and lacks any metacentric macrochromosomes. Webster et al. (1972) hypothesized this pattern was the result of Robertsonian fission of all of the ancestor's macrochromosomes. We report here a similar scenario in *A. nebuloides*, which has six more chromosome pairs than its inferred ancestor, lacks metacentric macrochromosomes, and retains the same fundamental number (the number of chromosomal arms) as closely related species. The final instance of a large gain (on the branch leading to *A. insolitus*) cannot be assessed because the distribution of macro- and microchromosomes in this species is not known (Webster et al. 1972).



**Figure 1** *Anolis* phylogeny generated from *ND2* data inferred using BEAST. The phylogeny is pruned to include only species with cytogenetic data. Sex chromosome complement is indicated by colored squares on the tips of the branches. Pie charts on each node indicate the posterior probability of that ancestor having homomorphous (gray), XY (white), or XXY (black) sex chromosomes. Species highlighted in gray were used in qPCR experiments. Species with asterisks (\*) were used for cytogenetic experiments. Horizontal bars to the left of species names indicate the number of haploid chromosomes in each

species. The vertical dashed line marks  $1n = 18$ , the inferred ancestral chromosome complement. Branches inferred to have undergone changes in female  $1n$  chromosome number are labeled with the direction and magnitude of change.

Chromosome number changes occurred in a higher proportion of branches that also experienced a change in sex chromosome complement (3/9) compared to branches that did not experience a change in sex chromosome complement, although the difference was not statistically significant (20/185;  $P = 0.0761$ ; Table 2).

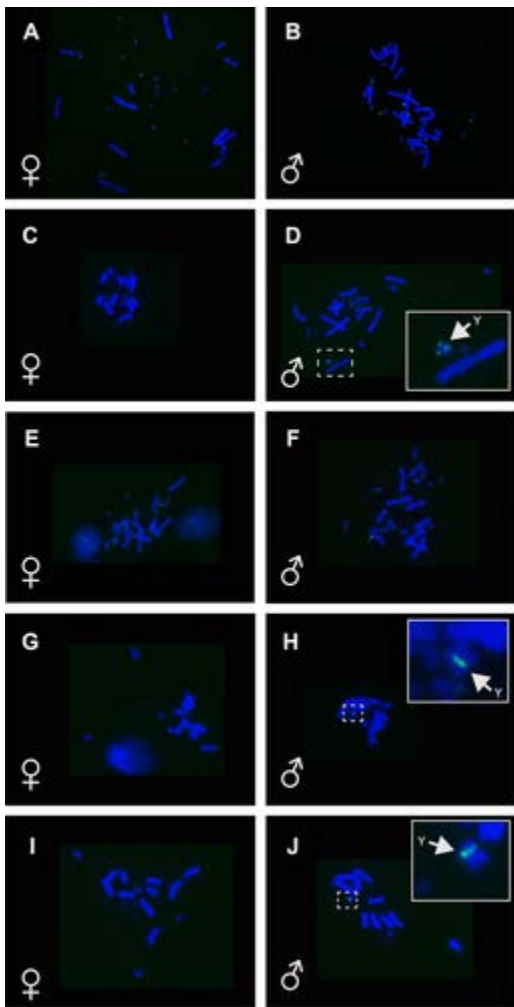
**Table 2.** Counts of tree edges sorted into edges with inferred transitions in sex chromosome complement and for the presence of an inferred change in chromosome number on that edge

	No chromosome number change	Chromosome number change
Sex chromosome change	6	3
No sex chromosome change	165	20

## Cytogenetics

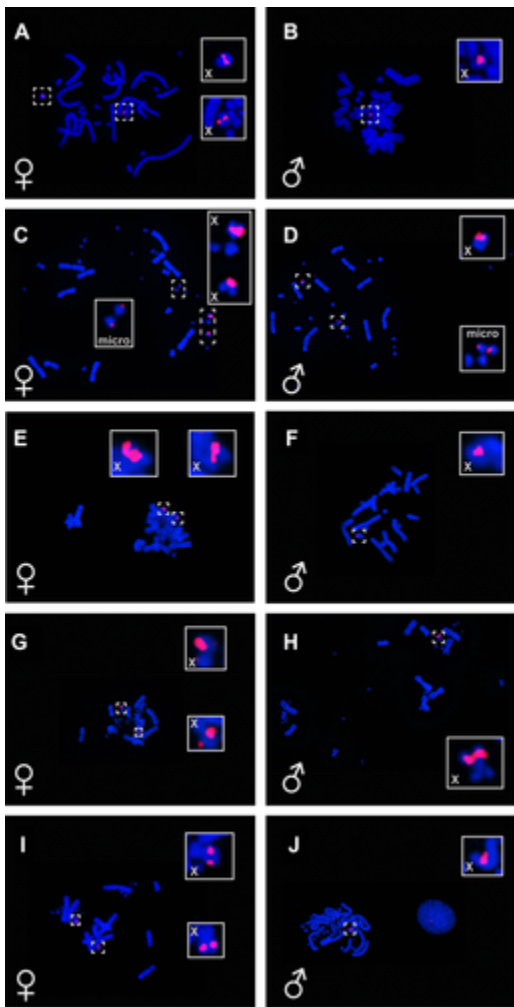
Chromosome number for the five *Anolis* species from which we obtained metaphase spreads was concordant with published karyotypes (Table S1). Chromosome number in *A. grahami* varied from  $2n = 29$ –36. This intraspecific variation in chromosome number was due to disparities in the number of microchromosomes and is largely consistent with previous cytogenetic research on the species showing  $2n = 30$ –37 (Blake 1986).

We identified previously unreported Y chromosomes in both *A. grahami* and *A. lineatopus* via sexually dimorphic accumulation of GATA repeats. We observed accumulation of GATA repeats in a discrete band on one of the small metacentric chromosomes in males and no GATA hybridization in females (Fig. 2H, J). GATA accumulation also appeared on the *A. distichus* Y chromosome (Fig. 2D). No sex-specific differences in GATA accumulation were apparent in *A. carolinensis* or *A. sagrei* (Fig. 2A, B, E, F).



**Figure 2** Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) of the GATA minisatellite to chromosomes of males and females of five *Anolis* species. (A) *Anolis carolinensis* female (TG1424), (B) *A. carolinensis* male (TG1423), (C) *A. distichus* female (TG1446), (D) *A. distichus* male (TG1445), (E) *A. sagrei* female (TG1463), (F) *A. sagrei* male (TG1459), (G) *A. lineatopus* female (TG1487), (H) *A. lineatopus* male (TG1488), (I) *A. grahami* female (TG1490), (J) *A. grahami* male (TG1493). Sex-specific hybridization on the Y chromosome, when identified, is indicated by an arrow. Solid lines indicate magnified views of areas in dashed lines.

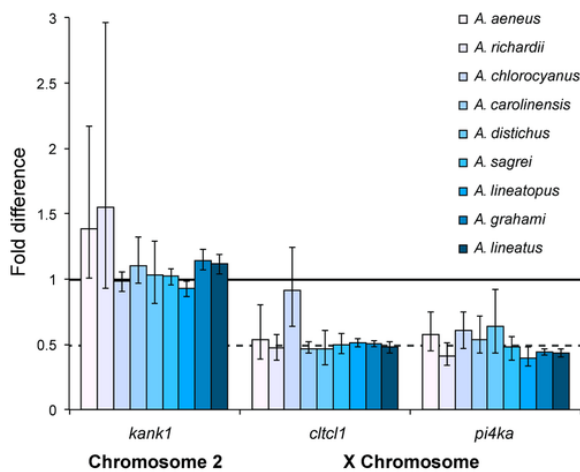
The X-specific BAC 206M13 hybridized to two microchromosomes in *A. carolinensis* females and one microchromosome in males (Fig. 3) replicating previously published results (Alföldi et al. 2011). This sexually dimorphic hybridization pattern was also seen in the other four *Anolis* species we examined (Fig. 3). One of the XXY species examined, *A. distichus*, showed some additional BAC hybridization near the centromeres of two acrocentric microchromosomes (Fig. 3C, D).



**Figure 3** Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) of an X-linked BAC (206M13) to chromosomes of males and females of five *Anolis* species. The BAC is found in two copies in females and one copy in males in all sampled species. (A) *Anolis carolinensis* female (TG1424), (B) *A. carolinensis* male (TG1423), (C) *A. distichus* female (TG1446), (D) *A. distichus* male (TG1445), (E) *A. sagrei* female (TG1463), (F) *A. sagrei* male (TG1459), (G) *A. lineatopus* female (TG1487), (H) *A. lineatopus* male (TG1488), (I) *A. grahami* female (TG1491), (J) *A. grahami* male (TG1493). Solid lines indicate magnified views of areas in dashed lines.

### qPCR

qPCR indicated that two genes known to be X-linked in *A. carolinensis*, *pi4ka*, and *ctcl1* have quantification values in males that are half that of females for all *Anolis* species examined except *A. chlorocyanus*, which was hemizygous only for *pi4ka* (Fig. 4). These X-linked genes also have quantification values in males that are half that of autosomal genes in both sexes. Standard error of quantification values did not encompass 1 for any X-linked genes in males with the exception of *ctcl1* in *A. chlorocyanus* (Table S4). A value of 1 indicates equal quantification between males and females.



**Figure 4** Relative quantification and standard error of autosomal (*kank1*) and putative X-linked (*cltcl1* and *pi4ka*) genes in male *Anolis* compared to females using qPCR of genomic DNA. A value of one (solid horizontal line) is equivalent to standard diploid copy number, for example, single copy autosomal genes and X-linked genes in females, a value of 0.5 (dashed horizontal line) is expected of hemizygous loci, for example, X-linked genes in males. Species identification, from left to right: *A. aeneus*, *A. richardii*, *A. chlorocyanus*, *A. carolinensis*, *A. distichus*, *A. sagrei*, *A. lineatopus*, *A. grahami*, and *A. lineatus*.

## Discussion

### Independent Origins of Sex Chromosome Heteromorphism And Variable Rates of Y Chromosome Degeneration

Comparative phylogenetic analyses reject a turnover model in anoles yet indicate that sex chromosome heteromorphy has evolved repeatedly in multiple independent *Anolis* lineages. Our discovery of sex chromosome homology across sampled *Anolis* species further supports the conservation hypothesis in *Anolis*. The co-occurrence of heteromorphic and homomorphic sex chromosomes in anoles results from variable, lineage-specific rates of Y chromosome degeneration among species rather than repeated turnover of sex chromosomes or sex-determining mechanisms. Rates of Y chromosome degeneration can vary due to several processes. Stochasticity related to variation in effective population size, mutation rate, and the fitness effects of individual mutations can affect rates of Y chromosome degeneration (Bachtrog [2008](#)). In addition, Y chromosome degeneration does not appear to occur in a strict linear fashion meaning rates of gene loss may stabilize after an initial burst of degeneration (Bachtrog [2008](#); Hughes et al. [2012](#)). Indeed, Y chromosome degeneration need not automatically translate to chromosomal heteromorphism at all as revealed by recent research on snake sex chromosomes (Vicoso et al. [2013](#)).

The presence of heteromorphic sex chromosomes raises the question of how *Anolis* species that possess them mitigate the deleterious effects of Y chromosome degeneration. Turnover in sex chromosomes and sex-determining mechanisms is one of several strategies that can remedy the adverse effects of recombination suppression and Y chromosome degeneration (Blaser et al. [2013](#)). The accumulation of deleterious mutations on the nonrecombining portion of the Y chromosome eventually will result in the loss of function of some Y-linked alleles (Charlesworth [1978](#); Vicoso and Bachtrog [2009](#)). This can reduce expression levels of affected genes by one-half in males and presumably lead to a reduction in fitness. The best-known strategy to deal with the loss of genes on the degenerating Y chromosome is to evolve some means of dosage compensation to balance expression levels of genes on the X chromosome with the expression levels of autosomal genes in both males and females (Charlesworth [1978](#); Vicoso and Bachtrog [2009](#)). Global dosage compensation mechanisms are known from several groups with ancient sex chromosome systems and highly degenerate (or absent) Y

chromosomes, for example, *Drosophila*, mammals, and *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Straub and Becker [2007](#)). In these species, dosage compensation operates differently on the X chromosome (increasing, reducing, or silencing expression from X) and involves different molecular mechanisms. Indirect evidence has also been used to suggest the presence of dosage compensation in at least one squamate reptile species (Quinn et al. [2007](#)). Other clades, for example, birds, snakes, and Lepidoptera, appear to have partial or incomplete dosage compensation where some, but not all, sex-linked genes are dosage compensated (Itoh et al. [2007](#); Harrison et al. [2012](#); Adolfsson and Ellegren [2013](#); Vicoso et al. [2013](#)). Indeed, the failure to evolve an effective dosage compensation mechanism could help prevent sex chromosome degeneration (Adolfsson and Ellegren [2013](#)). Another possible solution to the loss of alleles on the degenerating Y chromosome involves occasional recombination between homologous X and Y genes to “refresh” degenerating genes on the Y, a so-called “fountain of youth” (Perrin [2009](#); Stöck et al. [2011](#); Guerrero et al. [2012](#); Stöck et al. [2013](#)). Fruitful areas for future research include determining whether *Anolis* have a full or partial dosage compensating mechanism and, if they meet the assumptions of the “fountain of youth” hypothesis, finding evidence for occasional recombination between the X and Y.

XXY systems have evolved three times in *Anolis* (Fig. [1](#)). We examined sex chromosome homology in two of those instances, that is, the clade containing *A. distichus* and in *A. sagrei*. We observed BAC FISH signal on two chromosomes in the female and one chromosome in the male in both species. This pattern is consistent with either fusion of the Y chromosome to an autosome or fission of the X chromosomes (White [1973](#); Kitano and Peichel [2012](#)). The coincident evolution of an XXY system with an increase in chromosome number in *A. sagrei* suggests evolution via a fission of the X chromosomes. We observed some X chromosome BAC hybridization near the centromere of two acrocentric microchromosomes in *A. distichus*. Two scenarios that could explain this pattern are the translocation of X-linked sequence to the microchromosomes or fission of ancestral X chromosomes to generate a new chromosome pair. Distinguishing between these two situations is not possible with our current data but FISH of additional autosomal and X-linked BACs could help test these hypotheses.

## Chromosomal Evolution

Chromosomal changes are often associated with major evolutionary transitions such as speciation events (Olmo [2005](#)). Indeed this correlation has been used as evidence to suggest a mechanistic model of chromosomal speciation (King [1995](#)). Although the sampling in this study is insufficient to properly analyze for any impact of chromosome number and sex chromosome complement on diversification rates, two general patterns are revealed by our analyses. First, changes in chromosome number (both increases and decreases) are distributed throughout the phylogeny of *Anolis*. This scenario contrasts with that of another squamate genus, *Sceloporus*, in which changes in chromosome number are concentrated on internal nodes followed by diversification of taxa all with similar or identical karyotypes (Leaché and Sites [2010](#)). The distribution of losses and gains in chromosome number also contrasts with a previous study in mammals, which found that lineages are biased for either fission or fusion (Pardo-Manuel de Villena and Sapienza [2001](#)). Our reconstruction of chromosome evolution in *Anolis* reveals no evidence of a similar bias. Second, transitions from homomorphic to heteromorphic sex chromosomes occur throughout the *Anolis* phylogeny. Seven of the nine transitions in sex chromosome complement occur on terminal branches. Although this finding by itself might suggest reduced diversification rates among lineages with heteromorphic sex chromosomes, the remaining two transitions occur at deeply nested nodes with many descendant species. Furthermore, many of the taxa with terminal changes in sex chromosome complement have unsampled sister species that may share the same heteromorphic sex chromosomes. This suggests that in *Anolis* the evolution of heteromorphic sex chromosomes does not appear to be a direct path to increased or decreased diversification.

Valenzuela and Adams ([2011](#)) found increased rates of change in chromosome number in turtles were associated with changes in sex-determining mechanism. Using a different approach we found a similar, though nonsignificant, trend in anoles. Although these authors suggest natural selection based mechanisms to explain correlated change in chromosome number and sex-determining mechanisms, the association we recover in anoles may simply reflect that heteromorphism occasionally evolves by way of fissions of sex chromosomes thus simultaneously creating heteromorphic sex chromosomes and changing chromosome number but retaining sex chromosome homology.

Brandley et al. ([2006](#)) present the only other explicitly phylogenetic examination of chromosome number evolution in *Anolis* although their analysis was confined to the *A. cristatellus* series. Our results are concordant with theirs and we find changes in chromosome number occurring on the same branches within the *A. cristatellus* series. In *Anolis*,  $2n = 36$  has been hypothesized as the ancestral number of chromosomes (Gorman and Atkins [1969](#); Webster et al. [1972](#); Gorman [1973](#); Paull et al. [1976](#); Gorman et al. [1983](#)), a result confirmed here.

## Homology of *Anolis* Sex Chromosomes

Comparative BAC mapping and qPCR revealed X chromosome homology among sampled *Anolis* species, indicating a single origin of sex chromosomes present in their most recent common ancestor. This supports the conservation hypothesis and makes *Anolis* one of the most species-rich vertebrate clades to have sex chromosome systems that are homologous to each other and derived from the same ancestral XY chromosome pair. Other species-rich vertebrate clades with stable sex chromosome systems such as eutherian mammals, birds, and snakes have proven important models in understanding the role of sex chromosomes in speciation, dosage compensation, and genome evolution (Ohno [1967](#); Edwards et al. [2005](#); Graves [2006](#); Ellegren [2007](#); Wilson and Makova [2009](#); Vicoso et al. [2013](#)) and *Anolis* provides an additional model for future comparative studies.

Homology of *Anolis* sex chromosomes indicates that *Anolis* species lacking heteromorphic sex chromosomes do indeed have sex chromosomes but these are homomorphic. This is illustrated by the recent finding of a homomorphic XX/XY system in *Anolis carolinensis* using BAC FISH (Alföldi et al. [2011](#)). Further support is provided by our identification of homomorphic Y chromosomes in both *A. grahami* and *A. lineatopus* using FISH of repetitive DNA. qPCR results also bear this out. Our data confirm male heterogamety is more widespread in *Anolis* than published karyotypic data suggest and the lack of heteromorphic sex chromosomes cannot be used to dismiss male heterogamety in *Anolis* species. This finding likely applies to other vertebrate groups, for example, garter snakes (Vicoso et al. [2013](#)), and thus the observation of a few species with heteromorphic sex chromosomes nested within a larger clade of species lacking heteromorphic sex chromosomes should not automatically require an appeal to the turnover hypothesis.

Sex chromosomes have not previously been identified in *A. grahami* and *A. lineatopus*, although C-banding in several male *A. grahami* showed differential staining in one of the small pairs of metacentric chromosomes, with one chromosome being more heavily stained than the other (Blake [1983](#)). Blake ([1983](#)) was hesitant to identify these as sex chromosomes because he only examined males, but it appears this is the same chromosomal pair that hybridized with the X-linked BAC and the sexually dimorphic accumulation of GATA repeats in our experiments.

Variation in the accumulation of repetitive GATA sequences among sampled *Anolis* species highlights the stochastic nature of Y chromosome evolution. The differential accumulation of the GATA probe clearly identified the Y chromosome in three of the five *Anolis* species sampled here: *A. distichus*, *A. grahami*, and *A. lineatopus*. Failure to identify the Y chromosome in *A. sagrei* and *A. carolinensis* using this technique may be due to the small Y chromosomes of both species, as the Y is a microchromosome in both (De Smet [1981](#); Alföldi et



al. [2011](#)), as well as the accumulation of GATA in both species on multiple microchromosomes further complicating identification of the putative Y chromosome. Additionally, the GATA minisatellite is just one of many repetitive DNA sequences that are known to accumulate on vertebrate Y chromosomes, and sex chromosomes in a variety of species can show very different patterns when hybridized with diverse repetitive DNA sequences (O'Meally et al. [2010](#); Pokorná et al. [2011](#); Cioffi et al. [2012](#)). Performing FISH with several different repetitive DNA sequences might allow cytogenetic identification of the Y chromosome in both species.

The gene *cltcl1* is X-linked in *A. carolinensis* but qPCR showed equal quantification in both male and female *A. chlorocyanus*. There are several possible explanations for this result. One possibility is that *cltcl1* occurs in a pseudoautosomal region of the Y chromosome in *A. chlorocyanus*. An alternative is that *cltcl1* has moved off of the X chromosome and is now autosomal. Distinguishing between these hypotheses is not possible given our data. Copy number in the X-linked *pi4ka* was half as much in males compared to females, similar to other sampled *Anolis*, and appears to remain X-linked in *A. chlorocyanus* confirming partial X chromosome homology with *A. carolinensis*.

## Conclusions

Turnover and conservation have both been suggested as mechanisms to explain the lack of sex chromosome heteromorphism in most vertebrate species. Using cytogenetic and phylogenetic comparative analyses of anoles, we find evidence supporting the conservation hypothesis of sex chromosome evolution as the primary mechanism in this group. Heteromorphic sex chromosomes have evolved multiple times throughout the genus but they are derived from a single ancestral pair. Furthermore, the degree of Y chromosome degeneration varies among lineages as measured both by heteromorphism and repeat accumulation. This study represents the first attempt to contrast turnover and conservation in a diverse and well-sampled clade. These results highlight the utility of combining phylogenetic comparative methods with cytogenetics and molecular genetics in understanding the origins and evolution of sex chromosomes. Only a handful of studies have used both approaches to fully explore the evolutionary origins of sex chromosomes in a clade, but none have been performed in a group where both turnover and conservation represent viable alternative hypotheses (Tanaka et al. [2007](#); Takehana et al. [2008](#); Ezaz et al. [2009a](#); Ross et al. [2009](#); Pokorná et al. [2012](#)). Further use of these methods will undoubtedly prove useful in explaining the widespread variation in sex chromosome heteromorphy observed in other vertebrate groups.

Our results pave the way to using *Anolis* to address additional questions related to sex chromosome evolution. *Anolis* sex chromosomes provide an opportunity to investigate Y chromosome degeneration (or lack thereof) in a comparative framework. Much effort has been made to investigate the evolution of sex chromosomes because they have been implicated in a number of core evolutionary processes including dosage compensation, genetic conflict, adaptation, and speciation in a wide variety of taxa. For example, X-linked loci are related to hybrid male sterility in *Drosophila* (Presgraves [2008](#)), mosquitoes (Slotman et al. [2004](#)), and mice (Good et al. [2008](#); White et al. [2012](#)). Similarly, Z-linked markers are associated with pre- and postzygotic isolation in birds (Edwards et al. [2005](#); Saether et al. [2007](#)) and butterflies (Jiggins et al. [2001](#)). Within anoles, sex chromosomes may be involved in sterility of hybrid F1 males derived from *A. brevirostris* and *A. distichus* (Webster [1977](#)). Finally, there is evidence that dosage compensation is more prevalent in species with XY sex-determining systems than in ZW systems (Mank [2013](#)). *Anolis* provides another exemplary XY vertebrate model to test these and other hypotheses.

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## Data Archiving

The doi for our data is [10.5061/dryad.dp848](https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.dp848).

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