# Draft genomes of a male and female Australian jacky dragon

# (Amphibolurus muricatus)

Ran Tian<sup>1,2,‡</sup>, Hao Dong<sup>1,‡</sup>, Fan Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Hao Yu<sup>1</sup>, Enqing Pei<sup>1</sup>, Chengcheng Shi<sup>3,4</sup>, Guangyi Fan<sup>3,4</sup>, Sarah L. Whiteley<sup>5,6</sup>, Clare E. Holleley<sup>6</sup>, Inge Seim<sup>1,7</sup>, Arthur Georges<sup>5,8\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Integrative Biology Laboratory, College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210046, China

<sup>2</sup> Jiangsu Key Laboratory for Biodiversity and Biotechnology, College of Life Sciences, Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing 210046, China

<sup>3</sup> BGI-Qingdao, Qingdao 266555, China

<sup>4</sup> BGI-Shenzhen, Shenzhen 518083, China

<sup>5</sup> Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra ACT 2617, Australia

<sup>6</sup> Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

<sup>7</sup> School of Biology and Environmental Science, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane Qld 4000, Australia

<sup>8</sup> AusARG consortium, Bioplatforms Australia, Macquarie University NSW 2109, Australia

<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding author: Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia. E-mail: <u>georges@aerg.canberra.edu.au</u>

<sup>‡</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work and share first authorship.

## 1 ABSTRACT

2 Australia is remarkable for its lizard diversity, with very high endemicity because of 3 continental-scale diversification and adaptive radiation during prolonged isolation. We 4 employed stLFR linked-read technology to generate male and female draft genomes of the 5 jacky dragon Amphibolurus muricatus, an Australian dragon lizard (family Agamidae). The 6 assemblies are 1.8 Gb in size and have a repeat content (39%) and GC content (42%) similar 7 to that of other dragon lizards. The longest scaffold was 39.7 Mb (female) and 9.6 Mb (male), 8 with corresponding scaffold N50 values of 6.8 Mb and 1.6 Mb. The BUSCO (Sauropsida 9 database) completeness percentages were 90.2% and 88.8% respectively. These statistics are 10 comparable to those for other lizard genomes. Phylogenetic comparisons show that 11 Australian dragon lizard species split from a common ancestor about 35.4 million years ago. 12 The draft A. muricatus assemblies will be a valuable resource for understanding lizard sex 13 determination and the evolution and conservation of Australian dragon lizards. 14 15 **Keywords**: agamid lizard; Agamidae; squamate; nuclear genome; genome assembly 16 17

- 18
- 19

### 20 Introduction

21 The Australian jacky dragon Amphibolurus muricatus (Figure 1) is a lizard that is 22 widespread in dry sclerophyll forests of south-eastern and eastern Australia (Cogger 2014). It 23 is a model species for biogeography (Pepper et al. 2014), evolutionary biology (Warner et al. 24 2013; Warner and Shine 2008), social behaviour (Peters and Evans 2003; Woo and Rieucau 25 2013) and development (Whiteley et al. 2021; Esquerré et al. 2014). 26 Species in the genus Amphibolurus and Chlamydosaurus are a major clade in the 27 Australian radiation of the Agamidae (Hugall et al. 2008). The draft assembly of A. 28 muricatus, together with that of Pogona vitticeps (Georges et al. 2015), represents the first 29 foray into generating the necessary high-quality genomes for the Agamidae. In particular, 30 A.muricatus occupies mesic habitats and so is intermediate between the Australian water 31 dragon Intellagama lesueurii and the forest dragon Lophosaurus boydii that occupy hydric 32 habitats, and the central bearded dragon *Pogona vitticeps* and the Lake Eyre dragon 33 Ctenophorus maculosus, for example, that occupy more xeric habitats. As such, it is one of 34 several species important for understanding genomic adaptation to the progressive aridity that 35 has occurred in Australia in the past 15 Myr. Amphibolurus muricatus is also of particular 36 interest because it has temperature-dependent sex determination (TSD) (Harlow and Taylor 37 2000) and it is unclear as to whether this arises from classical TSD or a combination of 38 genetic and environmental influences (Whiteley et al. 2021). Studies of the underlying 39 mechanisms of TSD require a genome assembly and knowledge of genome organisation to 40 identify genes on the sex chromosomes of species with genotypic sex determination (GSD) 41 and their chromosomal and gene homology in closely related TSD species. This is 42 particularly so in species with TSD that show evidence of cryptic residual or de novo 43 genotypic influence on offspring sex ratios, as is suspected for A. muricatus (Whiteley et al. 44 2021). 45 Here, we generated draft, annotated genome assemblies for a male and a female A. 46 *muricatus* that are comparable in contiguity and completeness to other published agamid 47 genomes. We used transcriptomes sequenced and assembled for A. muricatus and published

48 assemblies (*Anolis*, *Varanus* and *Pogona*) to annotate the genomes. Our assemblies will

49 provide a resource to increase capacity and accelerate the progress of studies into the

50 evolution, ecology, and conservation of Australian dragon lizards.

- 51
- 52
- 53

## 54 Materials and methods

55

### 56 Sample collection

57 To reduce the high heterozygosity that presented difficulties in the assembly of the genome of 58 Pogona vitticeps (Georges et al., 2015), we generated inbred lines of A. muricatus. The 59 founding male and female pair were sourced from the wild and bred in captivity. The two 60 animals used to generate the genome were obtained from the fourth generation of the inbred 61 pedigree produced by sib-sib matings and back crossing (see Figure S1 for the complete 62 pedigree). The male (AA069033) and female (AA069032) individuals used for the genome 63 and transcriptome sequencing were humanely euthanised via intraperitoneal injection of 64 sodium pentobarbitone (60 mg/ml in isotonic saline). Organs were rapidly dissected and snap 65 frozen in liquid nitrogen. 66 67 **DNA extraction** 

High molecular weight DNA was extracted from liver (female) and blood (male). DNA yield
and quality was assessed using a NanoDrop spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
Waltham, MA, USA) and a Qubit fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and pulse-field gel
electrophoresis.

72

# 73 Assembly 1.0: A 10x Genomics linked-read sequencing assembly

74 Male and female A. *muricatus* genome sequencing libraries were constructed on the 75 Chromium system (10x Genomics, Pleasanton, CA, USA) by the Ramaciotti Centre for 76 Genomics (Sydney, Australia). The Chromium instrument enables unique barcoding of long 77 stretches of DNA on gel beads. The barcodes allow later reconstruction of long DNA 78 fragments from a series of short DNA fragments with the same barcode (i.e., linked-reads). 79 After barcoding, DNA was sheared into smaller fragments and sequenced on the NovaSeq 80 6000 platform (Illumina, CA, USA) to generate 151 bp paired-end (PE) reads. A total of 81 904.9 M raw 10x Genomics Chromium linked-reads were generated. Raw 10x data were 82 assembled with Supernova v2.1.1 (Weisenfeld et al. 2017) and a FASTA file was generated 83 using the 'pseudohap style' option in Supernova mkoutput. All female (~450 M) and male 84 (~550 M) read pairs were used (female sequencing depth ca 50.3×; male, ca 47.8×). The 85 resulting assemblies were further scaffolded with ARKS v1.0.3 (Coombe et al. 2018), reusing 86 the 10x reads and the companion LINKS program (v1.8.7) (Warren et al. 2015). ARKS 87 employs a k-mer approach to map linked barcodes to the contigs in the initial Supernova

- assembly to generate a scaffold graph with estimated distances for LINKS input. These
- assemblies were denoted AmpMurF\_1.0 (female) and AmpMurM\_1.0 (male). We used
- 90 GapCloser v1.12 (part of SOAPdenovo2) (Luo et al. 2012) to fill gaps in the assembly.
- 91 GapCloser was run using the parameter -1 150) and clean 10x Genomics reads PE reads.
- 92

# 93 Assembly 1.1: Further scaffolding of assembly 1.0 using RNA-seq data

- 94 We attempted to improve the v1.0 genome assemblies' contiguity using RNA-sequencing
- 95 reads. RNA-seq reads (from brain, ovary, and testis; see below) were filtered (i.e., cleaned) to
- 96 remove adapters and low-quality reads using Flexbar v3.4.0 and used to further re-scaffold
- 97 the v1.0 assemblies (FASTA files before gapclosing) with P\_RNA\_scaffolder (Zhu et al.
- 98 2018). The default Flexbar settings discards all reads with any uncalled bases. A final round
- 99 of scaffolding was performed on the resulting assemblies using L\_RNA\_scaffolder (Xue et
- al. 2013). These assemblies were denoted AmpMurF\_1.1 (female) and AmpMurM\_1.1
- 101 (male). As before, GapCloser and clean 10x Genomics reads were used to fill gaps.
- 102

# 103 Assembly 2.0: Further scaffolding of assembly 1.0 using SLR-superscaffolder

- 104 As an alternative approach, we attempted to improve the v1.0 genome assemblies' contiguity
- 105 using SLR-superscaffolder (Guo et al. 2021). Briefly, SLR-superscaffolder employs single
- 106 tube long fragment read (stLFR) sequencing (Wang et al. 2019) reads (see section below) to
- 107 generate hybrid genome assemblies. The software was run with default parameters except for
- 108 PE\_SEED\_MIN=300 (minimum contig size to fill; default 1000). These assemblies were
- 109 denoted AmpMurF\_2.0 (female) and AmpMurM\_2.0 (male). GapCloser and clean stLFR
- 110 reads (with the barcode removed using https://github.com/BGI-
- 111 Qingdao/stLFR\_barcode\_split) were used to fill gaps.
- 112

# 113 Assembly 3.0: An stLFR linked-read sequencing assembly

- 114 We also generated independent assemblies for the individuals sequenced on the 10x
- 115 Genomics Chromium system using single tube long fragment read (stLFR) sequencing
- 116 (Wang et al., 2019). BGI (Brisbane, Australia) generated ~100× coverage 100-bp paired-end
- 117 reads (plus a 42-bp stLFR barcode on the right/\_2 read) per individual. Low-quality reads,
- 118 PCR duplicates, and adaptors were removed using SOAPnuke v1.5 (Chen et al. 2018). All
- 119 female (~1,517 M) and male (~1,427 M) read pairs were utilised. The stLFRdenovo pipeline
- 120 (https://github.com/BGI-biotools/stLFRdenovo), which is based on Supernova v2.11 and

- 121 customised for stLFR data, was used to generate a *de novo* genome assembly. The
- 122 stLFRdenovo tool 'FillGaps' was used to fill gaps.
- 123

# 124 **RNA-seq and transcriptome assembly**

- 125 Raw data 125 bp PE reads, generated on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 instrument was filtered
- 126 using Flexbar v3.4.0 (Roehr et al. 2017; Dodt et al. 2012) with default settings (eliminates
- 127 reads with any uncalled bases). Any residual ribosomal RNA reads (the majority removed by
- 128 poly(A) selection prior to sequencing library generation) were removed using SortMeRNA
- 129 v2.1b (Kopylova et al. 2012) against the SILVA v119 ribosomal database (Quast et al. 2013).
- 130 Tissue transcriptomes were de novo assembled using Trinity v2.11.0 (Haas et al. 2013;
- 131 Grabherr et al. 2011; Henschel et al. 2012) and assessed using BUSCO.
- 132

## 133 Genome annotation

- 134 We identified repetitive elements by integrating homology and de novo prediction data.
- 135 Protein-coding genes were annotated using homology-based prediction, de novo prediction,
- 136 and RNA-seq-assisted prediction methods.
- 137 Homology-based transposable elements (TE) annotations were obtained by
- 138 interrogating a genome assembly with known repeats in the Repbase database v16.02 (Bao et
- al. 2015) using RepeatMasker v4.0.5 (DNA-level) (Tarailo-Graovac and Chen 2009) and
- 140 RepeatProteinMask (protein-level; implemented in RepeatMasker). De novo TE predictions
- 141 were obtained using RepeatModeler v1.1.0.4 (Smit and Hubley 2010) and LTRharvest v1.5.8
- 142 (Ellinghaus et al. 2008) to generate database for a RepeatMasker run. Tandem Repeat Finder
- 143 (v4.07) (Benson 1999) was used to find tandem repeats (TRs) in the genome. A non-
- 144 redundant repeat annotation set was obtained by combining the above data.
- 145 Protein-coding genes were annotated using homology-based prediction, de novo
- 146 prediction, and RNA-seq-assisted [generated from ovary, testis, and brain (both sexes)]
- 147 prediction methods. Sequences of homologous proteins from three lizards [Anolis
- 148 *carolinensis* (green anole) assembly AnoCar2.0 (RefSeq assembly GCF\_000090745.1)
- 149 (Alfoldi et al. 2011); Varanus komodoensis (Komodo dragon) assembly ASM479886v1
- 150 (GCA\_004798865.1) (Lind et al. 2019); and *Pogona vitticeps* (central bearded dragon)
- assembly pvi1.1 (GCF\_900067755.1)] (Georges et al. 2015) were downloaded from NCBI.
- 152 These protein sequences were aligned to the repeat-masked genome using BLAT v0.36 (Kent
- 153 2002). GeneWise v2.4.1 (Birney et al. 2004) was employed to generate gene structures based
- 154 on the alignments of proteins to a genome assembly. De novo gene prediction was performed

using AUGUSTUS v3.2.3 (Stanke et al. 2006), GENSCAN v1.0 (Burge and Karlin 1997),

- and GlimmerHMM v3.0.1 (Majoros et al. 2004) with a human training set. Transcriptome
- 157 data (clean reads) were mapped to the assembled genome using HISAT2 v2.1.0 (Kim et al.

158 2019) and SAMtools v1.9 (Li et al. 2009), and coding regions were predicted using

159 TransDecoder v5.5.0 (Grabherr et al. 2011; Haas et al. 2013). A final non-redundant

160 reference gene set was generated by merging the three annotated gene sets using

161 EvidenceModeler v1.1.1 (EVM) (Haas et al. 2008) and excluding EVM gene models with

162 only ab initio support. The gene models were translated into amino acid sequences and used

163 in local BLASTp (Camacho et al. 2009) searches against the public databases Kyoto

164 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG; v89.1) (Kanehisa and Goto 2000), NCBI non-

redundant protein sequences (NR; v20170924) (O'Leary et al. 2016), Swiss-Prot (release-

- 166 2018\_07) (UniProt Consortium 2012), and InterPro (v69.0) (Mitchell et al. 2019).
- 167

### 168 **Phylogeny and divergence time estimation**

169 In addition to A. carolinensis, V. komodoensis and P. vitticeps (see section above), the

170 genome and sequences of homologous proteins from *Gekko japonicus* (Schlegel's Japanese

171 gecko) assembly Gekko\_japonicus\_V1.1 (GCA\_001447785.1) (Liu et al. 2015) and Crotalus

*tigris* (tiger rattlesnake) assembly ASM1654583v1 (GCA\_016545835.1) (Margres et al.

173 2021) were downloaded from NCBI. The genome and annotations of Ophisaurus gracilis

174 (Anguidae lizard) were downloaded from GigaDB (Song et al. 2015a; Song et al. 2015b). No

175 gene annotation data were available for three species: Intellagama lesueurii (Australian water

176 dragon; assembly EWD\_hifiasm\_HiC generated as part of the AusARG consortium and

- 177 (downloaded from DNA Zoo (Dudchenko et al. 2018; Cheng et al. 2021; Dudchenko et al.
- 178 2017)) and the Chinese agamid lizards *Phrynocephalus przewalskii* (Przewalski's toadhead
- 179 agama) (Gao et al. 2019) and Phrynocephalus vlangalii (Ching Hai toadhead agama) (Gao et

al. 2019) (CNGBdb accession no. CNP0000203). Their protein-coding genes were annotated

181 using homology-based prediction, de novo prediction, and RNA-seq-assisted prediction

182 methods (see genome annotation section above).

We identified 4,441 high-confidence 1:1 orthologs by interrogating the predicted proteins from the gene models of ten species using SonicParanoid v1.3.0 (Cosentino and Iwasaki 2019). The corresponding coding sequences (CDS) for each species were aligned using PRANK v100802 (Loytynoja and Goldman 2005) and filtered by Gblocks v0.91b (Talavera and Castresana 2007) to identify conserved blocks (removing gaps, ambiguous sites, and excluding alignments less than 300 bp in size), leaving 4,441 genes. Maximum-

- 189 likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees were generated using RaxML v7.2.8 (Stamatakis 2006)
- and IQ-Tree v2.1.3 (Minh et al. 2020) with three CDS data sets: the whole coding sequence
- 191 (whole-CDS), first codon positions, and fourfold degenerate (4d) sites. Identical topologies
- 192 and similar support values were obtained (1,000 bootstrap iterations were performed). The
- 193 divergence time between species was estimated using MCMCTree [a Bayesian molecular
- 194 clock model implemented in PAML v4.7 (Yang 2007)] with the JC69 nucleotide substitution
- 195 model, and the whole-CDS ML tree and concatenated whole-CDS supergenes as inputs. We
- 196 used 100,000 iterations after a burn-in of 10,000 iterations. MCMCTree calibration points
- 197 (million years ago; Mya) were obtained from (Oliver and Hugall 2017) (crown age of
- 198 Australian agamids 27.1 Mya, with 95% CI 20.1-37.7) and TimeTree (Kumar et al. 2017): *G*.
- 199 japonicus-P. przewalskii (190-206 Mya), V. komodoensis-O. gracilis (121-143 Mya), V.
- 200 komodoensis-C. tigris (156-174 Mya), V. komodoensis-A. carolinensis (155-175 Mya), I.
- 201 lesueurii-A. carolinensis (139-166 Mya), I. lesueurii-P. przewalskii (73-93 Mya), I. lesueurii-
- 202 A. muricatus (25.5-42.4 Mya), P. vitticeps-A. muricatus (20.2-34.6 Mya).

#### 203 **Results and discussion**

204

#### 205 Draft genome assembly and comparisons with other squamates

206 The genome-wide heterozygosity of our inbred A. muricatus lines was estimated (from stLFR 207 data) to range from 0.66% (female) to 0.73% (male), slightly lower than the central bearded 208 dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) (0.85%) (Georges et al. 2015). We generated four genome 209 assemblies per sample. The v1.0 assemblies were generated using 10x Genomics Chromium 210 data and the Supernova assembler and further refined using ARKS and LINKS. The v1.1 211 assemblies employed P\_RNA\_scaffolder (uses RNA-seq reads from brain, ovary, and testis) 212 (**Table S1**) and L RNA scaffolder (uses Trinity transcriptome assemblies) (**Tables S2** and 213 **S3**) to improve the v1.0 assemblies, while the v2.0 assemblies used SLR-superscaffolder and 214 stLFR reads to improve the v1.0 assemblies. Finally, the 3.0 assemblies were generated using 215 stLFR reads alone and Supernova. While re-scaffolding of the assemblies generated using 216 10x Genomics Chromium sequencing improved the initial v1.0 assembly (in particular, SLR-217 superscaffolder), assembly using stLFR data alone gave the best assembly result (**Table 1**). 218 The final, v3.0 assemblies have a total scaffold length (i.e., containing gaps) of  $\sim 1.8$  Gb. The 219 longest scaffold was 39.7 Mb (female; AmpMurF\_3.0) and 9.6 Mb (male; AmpMurM\_3.0), 220 and the corresponding scaffold N50 values of 6.9 and 1.6 Mb. The contig N50s were 67.2 kb 221 (AmpMurF\_3.0) and 59.3 kb (AmpMurM\_3.0). The N50 values are similar to those of other 222 squamate genome assemblies (Figure 2), except for the chromosome-assigned assemblies of 223 Australian water dragon (Intellagama lesueurii; scaffold N50 268.9 Mb and contig N50 11.2 224 Mb), tiger rattlesnake (Crotalus tigris; scaffold and contig N50 2.1 Mb) (Margres et al. 225 2021), green anole (Anolis carolinensis; scaffold N50 150.1 Mb and contig N50 79.9 kb), and 226 Komodo dragon (Varanus komodoensis; scaffold N50 23.8 Mb and contig N50 189.3 kb) 227 (Lind et al. 2019). 228 The BUSCO metrics of the A. muricatus assemblies also compare well to other 229 squamate assemblies, including agamids from Australia [P. vitticeps (Georges et al. 2015) 230 and I. lesueurii (Australian water dragon)] and China (toad-headed agamas of genus 231 *Phrynocephalus* sp. (Gao et al. 2019)) (Figure 3) and Table S5). 232 233

- **Genome annotation**
- 234 The A. muricatus assemblies are composed of ~38% repeat elements and have a GC content
- 235 of ~42% (Tables S4 and S6), similar to that of P. vitticeps (Georges et al. 2015) – with
- 236 LINEs being the predominant subtype. Protein-coding genes were annotated by combining

- transcriptome evidence with homology-based (A. carolinensis, V. komodoensis, and P.
- vitticeps) and de novo gene prediction methods. Gene statistics (Table S8) (see (Georges et
- al. 2015)) and gene set BUSCO scores (Table S9) are comparable to other squamates. Using
- ab inito, transcriptome, and homology-based prediction methods, we functionally annotated
- 241 21,655 (95.12%) and 21,799 (94.70%) protein-coding genes in the female and male assembly
- 242 (Tables S10 and S11) and recovered 89.2% and 88.2% of 7,480 sauropsid (i.e., non-avian
- 243 reptiles and birds) benchmarking universal single-copy orthologs (BUSCOs), respectively.
- 244

### 245 **Phylogenetic relationships**

- 246 To construct a time-calibrated species tree (Figure 4), we identified 4,441 high-confidence
- single-copy orthologs from the female A. muricatus assembly and nine other squamate
- 248 species. There are currently five agamid lizard genome assemblies: three Australian dragon
- 249 lizard assemblies (A. muricatus, P. vitticeps, and I. lesueurii) and two toad-headed agama
- assemblies (genus *Phrynocephalus*) (Gao et al. 2019; Georges et al. 2015). Our analysis
- shows that the five agamid species shared an ancestor about 78.0 Mya [72.6-88.4 Mya 95%]
- credibility interval (CI)]. We estimate that the three Australian dragon lizard species split
- from a common ancestor about 35.4 Mya (95% CI 31.5-38.4), while the lineages leading to
- A. muricatus and P. vitticeps diverged 26.7 Mya (95% CI 20.6-31.0). These observations
- agree with previous dating from a small set of genes and fossil data (Hugall et al. 2008;
- 256 Oliver and Hugall 2017).
- 257

### 258 **Conclusions and perspectives**

- 259 In this study, we generated the first annotated genome assemblies of *Amphibolurus*
- 260 *muricatus*. Overall, the assemblies are similar in quality to a range of squamate genomes and
- will be immediately useful for the understanding of agamid lizard evolution, ecology, and
- 262 conservation.

### 263 Data availability

- 264 A. muricatus raw 10x Genomics genome and transcriptome sequencing reads have been
- 265 deposited to the NCBI Short Read Database (BioProject ID: PRJNA767251). Raw stLFR
- 266 genome sequencing reads have been deposited at the China National GeneBank Nucleotide
- 267 Sequence Archive (CNSA: https://db.cngb.org/cnsa) under accession number CNP0004768.
- 268 The male and female *A. muricatus* assemblies are available at Zenodo (Tian et al. 2023a).
- 269 Gene annotation files and associated FASTA files for A. muricatus (assembly AmpMurF\_3.0
- and AmpMurM\_3.0), I. lesueurii, P. przewalskii, and P. vlangalii are available at Zenodo
- 271 (Tian et al. 2023b). A. muricatus transcriptome assemblies are available at Zenodo (Tian et al.
- 272 2021). Various scripts used for data processing and analyses are available on GitHub at
- 273 https://github.com/sciseim/JackyDragon.
- 274

# 275 Acknowledgements

- 276 We thank Dr Wendy Ruscoe and Jacqui Richardson for their assistance in generating the
- 277 inbred line of *A. muricatus* and for animal husbandry.
- 278

# 279 Conflict of interest

- 280 The authors declare there is no conflict of interest.
- 281

### 282 **Ethics Approvals**

- 283 All sampling and breeding experiments were conducted with approval of the Animal Ethics
- 284 Committee of the University of Canberra and in accordance with their Standard Operating285 Procedures.
- 286

### 287 **Funding**

- 288 Financial support for this work was provided by an Australian Research Council Discovery
- 289 Grant (DP170101147; to A.G. and C.E.H.), a specially-appointed Professor of Jiangsu
- 290 Province grant (to I.S.), the Jiangsu Science and Technology Agency (to I.S.), the Jiangsu
- 291 Foreign Expert Bureau (to I.S.), the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Technology (grant
- JSSCTD202142 to I.S.), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant 32270441
- 293 to R.T.), the National Key Programme of Research and Development, Ministry of Science
- and Technology (grant 2022YFF1301601 to R.T.), and a 2023-2025 China Association for
- 295 Science and Technology Young Talent project (to R.T.).
- 296

### 297 Literature cited

- Alfoldi, J., F. Di Palma, M. Grabherr, C. Williams, L. Kong *et al.*, 2011 The genome of the
   green anole lizard and a comparative analysis with birds and mammals. *Nature* 477
   (7366):587-591.
- Bao, W., K.K. Kojima, and O. Kohany, 2015 Repbase Update, a database of repetitive
   elements in eukaryotic genomes. *Mob DNA* 6:11.
- Benson, G., 1999 Tandem repeats finder: a program to analyze DNA sequences. *Nucleic* Acids Res 27 (2):573-580.
- Birney, E., M. Clamp, and R. Durbin, 2004 GeneWise and Genomewise. *Genome Res* 14
   (5):988-995.
- Burge, C., and S. Karlin, 1997 Prediction of complete gene structures in human genomic
   DNA. *J Mol Biol* 268 (1):78-94.
- Camacho, C., G. Coulouris, V. Avagyan, N. Ma, J. Papadopoulos *et al.*, 2009 BLAST+:
   architecture and applications. *BMC Bioinformatics* 10:421.
- Chen, Y., Y. Chen, C. Shi, Z. Huang, Y. Zhang *et al.*, 2018 SOAPnuke: a MapReduce
   acceleration-supported software for integrated quality control and preprocessing of
   high-throughput sequencing data. *Gigascience* 7 (1):1-6.
- Cheng, H., G.T. Concepcion, X. Feng, H. Zhang, and H. Li, 2021 Haplotype-resolved de
   novo assembly using phased assembly graphs with hifiasm. *Nat Methods* 18 (2):170 175.
- 317 Cogger, H., 2014 Reptiles and amphibians of Australia: CSIRO publishing.
- Coombe, L., J. Zhang, B.P. Vandervalk, J. Chu, S.D. Jackman *et al.*, 2018 ARKS:
   chromosome-scale scaffolding of human genome drafts with linked read kmers. *BMC Bioinformatics* 19 (1):234.
- Cosentino, S., and W. Iwasaki, 2019 SonicParanoid: fast, accurate and easy orthology
   inference. *Bioinformatics* 35 (1):149-151.
- Dodt, M., J.T. Roehr, R. Ahmed, and C. Dieterich, 2012 FLEXBAR-Flexible Barcode and
   Adapter Processing for Next-Generation Sequencing Platforms. *Biology (Basel)* 1
   (3):895-905.
- Dudchenko, O., S.S. Batra, A.D. Omer, S.K. Nyquist, M. Hoeger *et al.*, 2017 De novo
   assembly of the Aedes aegypti genome using Hi-C yields chromosome-length
   scaffolds. *Science* 356 (6333):92-95.
- Dudchenko, O., M.S. Shamim, S.S. Batra, N.C. Durand, N.T. Musial *et al.*, 2018 The
   Juicebox Assembly Tools module facilitates de novo assembly of mammalian
   genomes with chromosome-length scaffolds for under \$1000. *BioRxiv*:254797.
- Ellinghaus, D., S. Kurtz, and U. Willhoeft, 2008 LTRharvest, an efficient and flexible
   software for de novo detection of LTR retrotransposons. *BMC Bioinformatics* 9:18.
- Esquerré, D., J.S. Keogh, and L.E. Schwanz, 2014 Direct effects of incubation temperature
   on morphology, thermoregulatory behaviour and locomotor performance in jacky
   dragons (Amphibolurus muricatus). *Journal of Thermal Biology* 43:33-39.
- Gao, W., Y.B. Sun, W.W. Zhou, Z.J. Xiong, L. Chen *et al.*, 2019 Genomic and
   transcriptomic investigations of the evolutionary transition from oviparity to
   viviparity. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 116 (9):3646-3655.
- Georges, A., Q. Li, J. Lian, D. O'Meally, J. Deakin *et al.*, 2015 High-coverage sequencing
  and annotated assembly of the genome of the Australian dragon lizard Pogona
  vitticeps. *Gigascience* 4:45.
- Grabherr, M.G., B.J. Haas, M. Yassour, J.Z. Levin, D.A. Thompson *et al.*, 2011 Full-length
   transcriptome assembly from RNA-Seq data without a reference genome. *Nat Biotechnol* 29 (7):644-652.

346	Guo, L., M. Xu, W. Wang, S. Gu, X. Zhao et al., 2021 SLR-superscaffolder: a de novo
347	scaffolding tool for synthetic long reads using a top-to-bottom scheme. BMC
348	Bioinformatics 22 (1):158.
349	Haas, B.J., A. Papanicolaou, M. Yassour, M. Grabherr, P.D. Blood et al., 2013 De novo
350	transcript sequence reconstruction from RNA-seq using the Trinity platform for
351	reference generation and analysis. Nat Protoc 8 (8):1494-1512.
352	Haas, B.J., S.L. Salzberg, W. Zhu, M. Pertea, J.E. Allen et al., 2008 Automated eukaryotic
353	gene structure annotation using EVidenceModeler and the Program to Assemble
354	Spliced Alignments. Genome Biol 9 (1):R7.
355	Harlow, P.S., and J.E. Taylor, 2000 Reproductive ecology of the jacky dragon
356	(Amphibolurus muricatus): an agamid lizard with temperature dependent sex
357	determination. Austral Ecology 25 (6):640-652.
358	Henschel, R., M. Lieber, LS. Wu, P.M. Nista, B.J. Haas et al., 2012 Trinity RNA-Seq
359	assembler performance optimization, pp. 45 in <i>Proceedings of the 1st Conference of</i>
360	the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment: Bridging from the
361	eXtreme to the campus and beyond. Association for Computing Machinery, Chicag,
362	IL, USA.
363	Hugall, A.F., R. Foster, M. Hutchinson, and M.S. Lee, 2008 Phylogeny of Australasian
364	agamid lizards based on nuclear and mitochondrial genes: implications for
365	morphological evolution and biogeography. Biological Journal of the Linnean Society
366	93 (2):343-358.
367	Kanehisa, M., and S. Goto, 2000 KEGG: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes.
368	<i>Nucleic Acids Res</i> 28 (1):27-30.
369	Kent, W.J., 2002 BLATthe BLAST-like alignment tool. Genome Res 12 (4):656-664.
370	Kim, D., J.M. Paggi, C. Park, C. Bennett, and S.L. Salzberg, 2019 Graph-based genome
371	alignment and genotyping with HISAT2 and HISAT-genotype. Nat Biotechnol 37
372	(8):907-915.
373	Kopylova, E., L. Noe, and H. Touzet, 2012 SortMeRNA: fast and accurate filtering of
374	ribosomal RNAs in metatranscriptomic data. Bioinformatics 28 (24):3211-3217.
375	Kumar, S., G. Stecher, M. Suleski, and S.B. Hedges, 2017 TimeTree: A Resource for
376	Timelines, Timetrees, and Divergence Times. Mol Biol Evol 34 (7):1812-1819.
377	Li, H., B. Handsaker, A. Wysoker, T. Fennell, J. Ruan et al., 2009 The Sequence
378	Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. <i>Bioinformatics</i> 25 (16):2078-2079.
379	Lind, A.L., Y.Y.Y. Lai, Y. Mostovoy, A.K. Holloway, A. Iannucci et al., 2019 Genome of
380	the Komodo dragon reveals adaptations in the cardiovascular and chemosensory
381	systems of monitor lizards. Nat Ecol Evol 3 (8):1241-1252.
382	Liu, Y., Q. Zhou, Y. Wang, L. Luo, J. Yang et al., 2015 Gekko japonicus genome reveals
383	evolution of adhesive toe pads and tail regeneration. Nat Commun 6:10033.
384	Loytynoja, A., and N. Goldman, 2005 An algorithm for progressive multiple alignment of
385	sequences with insertions. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 102 (30):10557-10562.
386	Luo, R., B. Liu, Y. Xie, Z. Li, W. Huang et al., 2012 SOAPdenovo2: an empirically
387	improved memory-efficient short-read de novo assembler. Gigascience 1 (1):18.
388	Majoros, W.H., M. Pertea, and S.L. Salzberg, 2004 TigrScan and GlimmerHMM: two open
389	source ab initio eukaryotic gene-finders. Bioinformatics 20 (16):2878-2879.
390	Margres, M.J., R.M. Rautsaw, J.L. Strickland, A.J. Mason, T.D. Schramer et al., 2021 The
391	Tiger Rattlesnake genome reveals a complex genotype underlying a simple venom
392	phenotype. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 118 (4).
393	Minh, B.Q., H.A. Schmidt, O. Chernomor, D. Schrempf, M.D. Woodhams et al., 2020 IQ-
394	TREE 2: New Models and Efficient Methods for Phylogenetic Inference in the
395	Genomic Era. <i>Mol Biol Evol</i> 37 (5):1530-1534.

396	Mitchell, A.L., T.K. Attwood, P.C. Babbitt, M. Blum, P. Bork et al., 2019 InterPro in 2019:
397	improving coverage, classification and access to protein sequence annotations.
398	Nucleic Acids Res 47 (D1):D351-D360.
399	O'Leary, N.A., M.W. Wright, J.R. Brister, S. Ciufo, D. Haddad et al., 2016 Reference
400	sequence (RefSeq) database at NCBI: current status, taxonomic expansion, and
401	functional annotation. <i>Nucleic Acids Res</i> 44 (D1):D733-745.
402	Oliver, P.M., and A.F. Hugall, 2017 Phylogenetic evidence for mid-Cenozoic turnover of a
403	diverse continental biota. Nat Ecol Evol 1 (12):1896-1902.
404	Pepper, M., M.D. Barquero, M.J. Whiting, and J.S. Keogh, 2014 A multi-locus molecular
405 406	phylogeny for Australia's iconic Jacky Dragon (Agamidae: Amphibolurus muricatus): Phylogeographic structure along the Great Dividing Range of south-eastern Australia.
407	Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 71:149-156.
408	Peters, R.A., and C.S. Evans, 2003 Introductory tail-flick of the Jacky dragon visual display:
409	signal efficacy depends upon duration. <i>Journal of Experimental Biology</i> 206
410	(23):4293-4307.
411	Quast, C., E. Pruesse, P. Yilmaz, J. Gerken, T. Schweer et al., 2013 The SILVA ribosomal
412	RNA gene database project: improved data processing and web-based tools. <i>Nucleic</i>
413	Acids Res 41 (Database issue):D590-596.
414	Roehr, J.T., C. Dieterich, and K. Reinert, 2017 Flexbar 3.0 - SIMD and multicore
415	parallelization. <i>Bioinformatics</i> 33 (18):2941-2942.
416	Smit, A.F., and R. Hubley, 2010 RepeatModeler Open-1.0. 2008-2015. Available at
417	http://www.repeatmasker.org.
418	Song, B., S. Cheng, Y. Sun, X. Zhong, J. Jin et al., 2015a Anguidae lizard
419	(Ophisaurusgracilis) genome assembly data. Dryad Digital Repository. doi
420	10:100119.
421	Song, B., S. Cheng, Y. Sun, X. Zhong, J. Jin et al., 2015b A genome draft of the legless
422	anguid lizard, Ophisaurus gracilis. Gigascience 4:17.
423	Stamatakis, A., 2006 RAxML-VI-HPC: maximum likelihood-based phylogenetic analyses
424	with thousands of taxa and mixed models. <i>Bioinformatics</i> 22 (21):2688-2690.
425	Stanke, M., O. Keller, I. Gunduz, A. Hayes, S. Waack et al., 2006 AUGUSTUS: ab initio
426	prediction of alternative transcripts. Nucleic Acids Res 34 (Web Server issue):W435-
427	439.
428	Talavera, G., and J. Castresana, 2007 Improvement of phylogenies after removing divergent
429	and ambiguously aligned blocks from protein sequence alignments. Syst Biol 56
430	(4):564-577.
431	Tarailo-Graovac, M., and N. Chen, 2009 Using RepeatMasker to identify repetitive elements
432	in genomic sequences. Curr Protoc Bioinformatics Chapter 4:Unit 4 10.
433	Tian, R., H. Guo, C. Yang, G. Fan, S.L. Whiteley et al., 2021 Assembled transcriptomes of
434	ovary, testis, and brain (male and female) of Amphibolurus muricatus (jacky dragon)
435	generated using Trinity v2.11.0, https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5523684. Zenodo.
436	Tian, R., H. Guo, C. Yang, C. Shi, G. Fan et al., 2023a Draft de novo genome assemblies of a
437	male and female Amphibolurus muricatus (jacky dragon),
438	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8211053. Zenodo.
439	Tian, R., H. Guo, C. Yang, C. Shi, G. Fan et al., 2023b Gene annotations of Amphibolurus
440	muricatus (jacky dragon), Intellagama lesueurii (Australian water dragon),
441	Phrynocephalus przewalskii (Przewalski's toadhead agama), and Phrynocephalus
442	vlangalii (Ching Hai toadhead agama), <u>https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8210940</u> .
443	Zenodo.
444	UniProt Consortium, 2012 Reorganizing the protein space at the Universal Protein Resource
445	(UniProt). Nucleic Acids Res 40 (Database issue):D71-75.
-	

- 446 Wang, O., R. Chin, X. Cheng, M.K.Y. Wu, Q. Mao et al., 2019 Efficient and unique 447 cobarcoding of second-generation sequencing reads from long DNA molecules 448 enabling cost-effective and accurate sequencing, haplotyping, and de novo assembly. 449 Genome Res 29 (5):798-808. 450 Warner, D., and R. Shine, 2008 The adaptive significance of temperature-dependent sex 451 determination in a reptile. *Nature* 451 (7178):566-568. 452 Warner, D.A., T. Uller, and R. Shine, 2013 Transgenerational sex determination: the 453 embryonic environment experienced by a male affects offspring sex ratio. *Scientific* 454 reports 3 (1):1-4. 455 Warren, R.L., C. Yang, B.P. Vandervalk, B. Behsaz, A. Lagman et al., 2015 LINKS: 456 Scalable, alignment-free scaffolding of draft genomes with long reads. Gigascience 457 4:35. 458 Weisenfeld, N.I., V. Kumar, P. Shah, D.M. Church, and D.B. Jaffe, 2017 Direct 459 determination of diploid genome sequences. Genome Res 27 (5):757-767. 460 Whiteley, S.L., A. Georges, V. Weisbecker, L.E. Schwanz, and C.E. Holleley, 2021 461 Ovotestes suggest cryptic genetic influence in a reptile model for temperature-462 dependent sex determination. Proceedings of the Royal Society B 288 463 (1943):20202819. 464 Woo, K., and G. Rieucau, 2013 Efficiency of aggressive and submissive visual displays 465 against environmental motion noise in Jacky dragon (Amphibolurus muricatus). 466 *Ethology Ecology & Evolution* 25 (1):82-94. 467 Xue, W., J.T. Li, Y.P. Zhu, G.Y. Hou, X.F. Kong et al., 2013 L RNA scaffolder: scaffolding 468 genomes with transcripts. BMC Genomics 14:604. 469 Yang, Z., 2007 PAML 4: phylogenetic analysis by maximum likelihood. Mol Biol Evol 24 470 (8):1586-1591. 471 Zhu, B.H., J. Xiao, W. Xue, G.C. Xu, M.Y. Sun et al., 2018 P\_RNA\_scaffolder: a fast and 472 accurate genome scaffolder using paired-end RNA-sequencing reads. BMC Genomics 473 19 (1):175.
- 473 474
- 475

# 476 Figure legends





- 479 David Cook Wildlife Photography.
- 480

477



483 **Figure 2** Comparison of the contiguity of two *A. muricatus* assemblies and nine publicly

484 available squamate assemblies. N(x)% graphs show the (A) contig and (B) scaffold lengths

485 (y-axis), where x% (x-axis) of the genome assembly consist of scaffolds and contigs of at

486 least that size. Dashed, grey lines denote N50 and N90 values. AmpMurF\_3.0 and

487 AmpMurM\_3.0. denotes the female and male *A. muricatus* assembly, respectively

488





**Figure 3** BUSCO assessment of assemblies from ten squamate species. All genome

492 assemblies were examined using the same version and library of BUSCO (v5.0.0 with the

493 7,480-gene sauropsida\_odb10 dataset). AmpMurF\_3.0 and AmpMurM\_3.0. denotes the





**Figure 4** Inferred phylogeny of ten squamate species based on whole-coding sequences of

4,441 1:1 orthologs. Numbers at nodes represent the estimated divergence time from present
(million years ago; Mya) between lineages. Agamid (family Agamidae) lineages are indicated

- 504 in red.

# 508 Tables

# 509 Table 1 A. *muricatus* genome assembly statistics. Lengths in base pairs (bp).

510 Note: assembly 1.0 denotes 10x Genomics Supernova; assembly 1.1, 10x Genomics Supernova + RNA read + Trinity scaffolding; assembly 2.0,

511 10x Genomics Supernova (assembly 1.0) + SLR-superscaffolder (with stLFR reads); assembly 3.0, stLFR Supernova. Unmasked assemblies

512 were interrogated.

Assembly methods	Female	Female	Female	Female	Male	Male	Male	Male
	(AmpMurF_1.0)	(AmpMurF_1.1)	(AmpMurF_2.0)	(AmpMurF_3.0)	(AmpMurM_1.0)	(AmpMurM_1.1)	(AmpMurM_2.0)	(AmpMurM_3.0)
Contig number	154,897	124,200	154,961	145,095	180,498	151,787	180,576	95,472
Contig length	1,746,759,340	1,750,545,991	1,747,055,957	1,804,035,661	1,735,812,295	1,741,048,453	1,736,173,368	1,752,355,218
Contig N50 (bp)	25,056	37,220	25,053	67,166	21,019	28,761	21,019	59,294
Contig max length	209,568	348,284	209,568	645,479	196,238	288,200	196,238	773,372
Scaffold number	66,776	57,227	55,562	97,556	89,344	73,856	74,726	45,762
Scaffold length	1,840,499,790	1,841,491,868	1,871,715,150	1,868,109,324	1,831,120,515	1,833,283,242	1,854,210,455	1,804,786,947
Scaffold N50 (bp)	371,335	720,518	1,003,329	6,818,063	180,405	369,860	323,786	1,568,728
Scaffold max length	4,131,007	6,534,950	6,926,244	39,679,044	1,944,226	6,446,322	3,040,810	9,582,854
Gaps (bp)	93,740,450	90,945,877	124,659,193	64,073,663	95,308,220	92,234,789	118,037,087	52,431,729
Gaps (%)	5.09	4.94	6.66	3.43	5.20	5.03	6.37	2.91
GC content (%)	41.76	41.77	41.76	41.75	41.69	41.70	41.70	41.67





N(X) length (bp)



