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1 WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCK GENEALOGY

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3 **A genomic inference of the White Plymouth Rock genealogy**

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24 **ABSTRACT**

25 Crossing of populations has been, and still is, a central component in domestication and breed
26 and variety formation. It is a way for breeders to utilize heterosis and to introduce new genetic
27 variation into existing plant and livestock populations. During the mid-19th century, several
28 chicken breeds that had been introduced to America from Europe and Asia became the founders
29 for those formed in the USA. Historical records about the genealogy of these populations are
30 often unclear and inconsistent. Here, we used genomics in an attempt to describe the ancestry of
31 the White Plymouth Rock (WPR) chicken. In total, 150 chickens from the WPR and 8 other
32 stocks that historical records suggested contributed to its formation were whole-genome re-
33 sequenced. The admixture analyses of the autosomal and sex chromosomes showed that the WPR
34 was likely founded as a cross between a paternal lineage that was primarily Dominique, and a
35 maternal lineage where Black Java and Cochin contributed in equal proportions. These results
36 were consistent and provided quantification with the historical records that they were the main
37 contributors to the WPR. The genomic analyses also revealed genome-wide contributions (<10%
38 each) by Brahma, Langshan, and Black Minorca. When viewed on an individual chromosomal
39 basis, contributions varied considerably among stocks.

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41 **Keywords:** Domestication, Ancestry, Admixture, Phenotype-genotype interface, Chickens

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INTRODUCTION

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The domestication of the chicken from the jungle fowl has resulted in a wide variety of populations across the world (FAO, 2015) with purposes ranging from ceremonial rites, cock fighting, and fancy plumage to production of meat and eggs for human consumption (Smith and Daniel, 1975). That differences in breeding schemes have contributed to considerable genetic diversity across domesticated populations (Wong et al., 2004) is hardly surprising, given their phenotypic diversity. The genetic diversity is lower in current commercial populations than across the ancestral breeds, likely due to the limited number of incorporated breeds (Muir et al., 2008). However, much of the standing genetic variation contributed by the founder breeds appear to remain in chicken populations that have been highly selected for many generations for meat or egg production, or both (Sheng et al., 2015; Lillie et al., 2018). A possible explanation for this diversity is that these stocks were developed via admixtures of diverse populations prior to the initiation of the breeding programs for meat or egg production. Traces of admixtures are sometimes obvious in, for example, plumage and egg color, however, genome-wide traces of such admixtures have been unexplored. The advent of genomics-based strategies have allowed for more detailed information about the admixtures, which is of both basic and applied interest. Such information has the potential to guide genomics-based crossbreeding schemes and across-population breeding-value predictions. The historical records about the genealogy of chicken stocks are often anecdotal, incomplete, or totally missing. Genomics provides a tool to explore the admixture histories and to evaluate the validity of available historical records.

The Plymouth Rock is a chicken in which the barred variety was originally developed in the USA in the mid-19th century. The precise origin, timeline, and stocks involved in its development are not clear. To our knowledge, the first mentioning of Plymouth Rocks is from an exhibition at the 1849 American Poultry Show (Robinson, 1913). They later reappeared at a show

72 in 1869 (Corbin, 1879) before becoming formally accepted into the American Poultry
73 Association (**APA**) *Standard of Excellence* in 1874 (APA, 1947). The White Plymouth Rock
74 (**WPR**) is a plumage color variety that was subsequently developed from the barred variety and
75 recognized as a breed by the APA in 1888 (APA, 1947). Documentation about the genealogy of
76 the WPR provides somewhat conflicting information regarding which breeds contributed to its
77 formation (Corbin, 1879; Dohner, 2001). For example, Plymouth Rock chickens presented at the
78 1869 show resulted from a cross between a Dominique cock and either a Black Cochin or a Black
79 Java hen (Procter, 1911; Scrivener, 2014). The base may have been broader due to the known
80 intermingling of chickens from several breeds, including White Cochin, Dark and White Brahma,
81 Black Java, Langshan, Dorking, Black Minorca, White-faced Black Spanish, and Dominique
82 (Procter, 1911; Scrivener, 2014). Corbin (1879), in his discussion of the distinction between
83 breeding Plymouth Rocks for utility and show, recognized inbreeding depression such as back
84 crossing and sib matings in what he termed "in-and-in breeding". Regardless, the Plymouth Rock
85 became a popular farmed chicken and the WPR assumed to be one of the sources for the
86 commercial broiler industry (Gordy, 1974) and one of the main breeds used for commercial
87 brown egg production (Fulton et al., 2016).

88 The objective of this study was to use genomics to explore the admixture history of the
89 eight stocks generally assumed the sources of the WPR. This, in turn, allowed evaluation of the
90 validity of available historical records of the WPR, dating back to the APA in 1888.

91 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

92 The eight stocks evaluated as contributors to the WPR were Black Cochin, Buff Cochin,
93 Partridge Cochin, Black Minorca, Black Java, Langshan, Light Brahma, and Dominique. The
94 WPR was represented by the high (**HWS**) and low (**LWS**) selected Virginia BW lines. These
95 lines were founded in 1957 as the progeny of crosses between seven partially inbred lines of

96 WPR (Siegel, 1962; Dunnington et al., 2013). Since then, they have been closed populations
97 subjected to bi-directional selection for high or low BW at eight wk of age. Pedigree analysis
98 showed that 29 (of 44) and 30 (of 51) of the 1957 founders for the HWS and LWS lines,
99 respectively, still contributed to generation 48 (Márquez et al., 2010). This is also reflected in the
100 high levels of genomic diversity that have been maintained both within and across the lines
101 (Sheng et al., 2015; Lillie et al., 2018) despite the single trait selection regime. Therefore, the
102 Virginia BW lines were considered as representative for the WPR breed, as of the mid-20th
103 century in the USA. Our thesis was that because selection was for the quantitative trait with
104 moderate heritability, their admixtures would be similar and thus serve as replicates for the
105 admixture analyses. In total, 150 chickens were used. They included generation 40 of the Virginia
106 BW lines (HWS n=29 and LWS n=30). The donor stocks, Black Cochin (n=10), Partridge
107 Cochin (n=4), Buff Cochin (n=9), Dominique (n=10), Black Java (n=10), Langshan (n=13),
108 Black Minorca (n=14), and Light Brahma (n=21), were obtained from populations at poultry
109 exhibit shows, suppliers, and small farm flocks in the United States. Table 1 presents phenotypic
110 information of these stocks. All procedures were carried out in accordance with the guidelines
111 established by Virginia Tech Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

112 ***Genotyping***

113 Libraries for sequencing the chickens from the Virginia lines were prepared using the
114 Illumina TrueSeq protocol and sequences (on average 34.3× genome coverage) obtained by
115 paired end sequencing (2 x 150 bp) on an Illumina HiSeq X at the SciLifeLab SNP&SEQ
116 Technology platform (Uppsala, Sweden). Libraries for sequencing the samples from the other 8
117 stocks were prepared using an optimized version of a *Tn5*-based protocol (Picelli et al. 2014) for
118 low-cost, high-throughput preparation of individual sequencing libraries (~1€/library). The
119 genomic DNA was fragmented and tagged using *Tn5* transposase purified from a plasmid

120 available from AddGene (<http://www.addgene.org/>, pTXB1-Tn5; ID60240) (Picelli et al. 2014).
121 Dual indexes were attached during PCR amplification and subsequent size selection was
122 performed using AMPure XP beads (Beckman: A63881). The libraries were sequenced to, on
123 average, 4.3× coverage on an Illumina Hiseq X Ten sequencer at ANOROAD (Beijing, China).
124 All samples in this study were individually sequenced. Table 2 and Figure S1 provide
125 information on sequencing depth for each population. Obtained sequence reads were mapped
126 against the ICGSC Gallus_gallus-5.0 reference genome (Nov. 2011) using BWA (Li and Durbin,
127 2010). SNP calling was performed using GATK (v3.7) (McKenna et al., 2010) using the best
128 practice pipeline. Small indels and variants with more than 2 alleles were removed. Quality
129 control was implemented using VCFtools (Danecek et al., 2011) to filter out reads that did not
130 meet the following criteria: low mapping quality variants (genotypes called < 0.5, minor allele
131 count < 3, minimum quality score < 20). The sequencing data generated for this study are
132 available in the NCBI Short Read Archive (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>), accession
133 numbers: [RELEASED IN THE PUBLISHED VERSION OF THE MANUSCRIPT].

134 *Ancestry haplotype painting*

135 Ancestry haplotype painting was performed using Chromopainter (Lawson et al., 2012). It
136 used haplotype similarity information of the individuals of the analyzed populations to infer a
137 “coancestry matrix” revealing ancestral relationships among the analyzed individuals. The
138 sharing of ancestors among populations resulted in extended shared segments of DNA where
139 each chromosome could ultimately be broken down into a series of such ancestral haplotypes. For
140 each individual and segment, the donor source was assigned a specific color (or paint) according
141 to its origin. The average copy proportion of each ancestral stock per locus was calculated
142 separately for HWS and LWS, and the mean values were used to paint the chromosome.

143 *Admixture history and percentage analyses*

144 Admixture events were inferred using an approach based on genome-wide patterns of
145 ancestry to infer which source groups were likely involved and the fine-scale information about
146 the resulting mixtures across the genomes. The method, implemented in the software Globetrotter
147 (Hellenthal et al., 2014) relies on genetic data alone and does not require *a priori* specification of
148 surrogates for the original sources of the target. Haplotype output from Chromopainter was used
149 as input to estimate whether the target population was likely to descend from admixture events of
150 the ancestral “surrogate” stocks. Here, the eight non-WPR stocks, suggested by historical records
151 as possible contributors to the WPR, were used as “surrogates”, while the HWS and LWS were
152 used as separate targets for whole-genome and chromosomal-separate analyses. Mean copy
153 proportions for each “surrogate” stocks were calculated by averaging the proportion of admixture
154 source times mixing coefficient.

155 ***Sex chromosome analyses***

156 First, the sex of individuals from the eight non-WPR stocks was determined from the
157 individual WGS sequence data. Only females are expected to have reads mapping to the W
158 chromosome, because they are the heterogametic sex (ZW), while the males are the homogametic
159 sex (ZZ), in chicken. For each individual, the missing rate on the W chromosome was obtained
160 using VCFtools (Danecek et al., 2011) and if <40%, the chicken was scored as female. To
161 evaluate the accuracy of the procedure, the 59 individuals from Virginia lines with known sex
162 were tested, and all were classified correctly. In total, 27 females and 64 males were identified
163 across the eight stocks (Table 2).

164 Next, after the sex assignment, heterozygous sites on the W chromosome were marked as
165 missing and a secondary filtering was applied to only keep individuals with at least 80% call rate.
166 The ancestry analysis was performed for using the Chromopainter (Lawson et al., 2012) /
167 Globetrotter (Hellenthal et al., 2014) pipeline, as for the autosomal chromosomes. Only females

168 were used for W, and males for the Z, chromosome analyses.

169 **RESULTS**

170 ***Whole-genome autosomal chromosome admixture analyses***

171 Admixture analyses for the HWS and LWS lines (Figure 1) revealed only minor
172 differences between them. This shows that the divergent selection for high and low body weight
173 in these lines had little impact on the estimation of the genealogy of the WPR. Although the
174 genome analyses detected admixture, they could not provide a clear inference of the date and
175 “best-guess” sources of either single or multiway admixtures. Using Chromopainter data, the
176 proportions of genome-wide contributions of the donor stocks to HWS and LWS were calculated
177 separately (Figures 2 and 3). The four major donors to the Virginia BW lines, together
178 contributing 89% of the autosomal genome, were Dominique, two of the Cochins (Buff &
179 Partridge), and Black Java. The respective values for HWS were 33, 30, and 26%. For LWS, they
180 were 30, 32, and 27%. In addition to these three major donor groups, other stocks contributing
181 more than 0.1% on the genome-wide scale were Light Brahma (4% HWS, 7% LWS) and
182 Langshan (7% HWS and 4% LWS).

183 ***Individual autosomal chromosome admixture analyses***

184 Separate admixture analyses were performed for 29 autosomal chromosomes including
185 chromosome 1 through chromosome 28 and chromosome 33 (Figures 2 and 3). Few SNP sites on
186 small chromosomes 30 (222 kb), 31 (169kb), and 32 (252kb) made the estimation of breed
187 proportions unreliable for these and they were therefore omitted from the results. Overall, the
188 pattern resembled that of the genome-wide analysis, with large contributions by Dominique,
189 Black Java and the Cochins to most chromosomes. However, both the proportions and donor
190 sources varied among the chromosomes (Figures 2 and 3). Variation was also observed between
191 the HWS (Figure 2) and LWS lines (Figure 3), suggesting that they, at least in part, resulted from

192 the strong divergent selection for BW applied to the Virginia lines.

193 Contributions by four or more stocks were present on most autosomal chromosomes, the
194 exception being chromosome 16, where only the Langshan and Black Java contributed in almost
195 equal proportions. Although Black Minorca and Black Cochin made small contributions on the
196 genome-wide scale, the chromosome-specific analyses revealed larger contributions (up to 25%)
197 by these stocks on one or several chromosomes.

198 *W-chromosome admixture analysis*

199 Historical records suggest uneven contributions of the stocks to the maternal and paternal
200 lineages of the WPR. The W-chromosome was therefore analyzed to reveal the maternal lineage
201 of the admixtures. Only the Black Java (49%) and Cochins (51%) contributed to this
202 chromosome (Figure 1). This finding is consistent with these stocks contributing only to the
203 maternal lineage, as the overall contributions to the autosomal genome are close to half of that
204 (Figure 1).

205 *Z-chromosome admixture analysis*

206 To explore the ancestry in the paternal lineage of the WPR, an admixture analysis was
207 also performed for the Z-chromosome using only male data. The analysis revealed that
208 Dominique contributed about 50% of the Z chromosome (46/52% HWS/LWS), with
209 contributions also from Black Java (28/21% HWS/LWS), Cochins (10/13% HWS/LWS), Light
210 Brahma (11/9% HWS/LWS), Black Minorca (4/3% HWS/LWS), and Langshan (1/2%
211 HWS/LWS) (Figure 1). As these results only reflect a single chromosome, the exact breed-
212 proportions will reflect admixtures as well as the effects of selection and other population genetic
213 forces acting in the WPR lines. However, the larger contributions by Dominique, Light Brahma,
214 and Black Minorca to the Z-chromosome than to the autosomal genome – together with no
215 contributions to the W-chromosome – strongly suggest that these stocks only contributed to the

216 paternal lineage. That the Cochins contributed less to the Z-chromosome than the autosomal
217 genome and the W-chromosome strongly suggests that these breeds contributed only to the
218 maternal lineage. The contribution by Black Java to the Z-chromosome was marginally smaller
219 than to the autosomal genome, making it higher than expected given that the autosomal and W-
220 chromosome analyses together imply that it only contributed to the maternal lineage. The
221 Langshan made a smaller contribution to the Z-chromosome than expected based on the
222 autosomal and W-chromosome analyses, however, because its overall contribution is so small,
223 the estimates are likely to be too imprecise to conclude more than it is expected to contribute to
224 the paternal lineage.

225 **DISCUSSION**

226 Over the last century, poultry breeding has made progress in developing elite populations
227 by utilizing genetic variation from domestic stocks across the world. The WPR has been one of
228 the major contributors to the modern broiler and brown egg layer due to its rapid growth,
229 hardiness, and good reproduction, compared to other chicken breeds (Gordy, 1974; Fulton et al.,
230 2016). According to historical records, it was developed in the USA in the mid-19th century as a
231 cross between multiple stocks that had earlier been introduced to America. However, which
232 stocks were crossed and how and at which proportions was not known with certainty. Here,
233 whole-genome re-sequencing and admixture analyses were used to evaluate the proposed
234 historical scenarios regarding the origin of the WPR. Our inference is limited to a sample of
235 breeds including those with the strongest support in the available historical records, and its
236 consistency with these suggests that only minor contributions are likely to have been missed. The
237 depth of sequencing varied between the samples and stocks. Although this will affect the quality
238 of individual SNP genotypes, we do not consider it to influence the broad overall inferences of
239 breed contributions to the WPR. Strict standards were used for SNP filtering and the breed

240 contributions later were based on haplotype analyses where possible genotyping errors in
241 individual SNPs are likely less influential.

242 ***Divergence in ancestry between HWS and LWS***

243 Only minor differences were observed in ancestry between the HWS and LWS on the
244 genomic scale. This suggests that the strong divergent selection for 56-day BW in the Virginia
245 lines between 1957 and 1997 did not have any major overall impact on the admixture signals
246 relative to the ancestral WPR population. The differences were more pronounced on individual
247 chromosomes, where the ancestry differed markedly at many locations along the genome. Such
248 differences are likely the result of population genetic processes, such as selection for high and
249 low BW, as well as drift. Subsequent analyses of the Virginia BW lines may provide more
250 insights to the relationship between the ancestry in the specific regions and the BW differences
251 between the lines that have been the result of the long-term selection experiment and historical
252 recombination. Generating the haplotype mosaic in these regions is also likely to be informative
253 for future fine mapping efforts with these lines.

254 ***Dominique is the major contributor to the White Plymouth Rock***

255 The admixture analyses showed that Dominique was the major contributing stock to the
256 WPR, which is consistent with the consensus of the available historical records (APA, 1947;
257 Dohner, 2001). The Dominique was an important contributor across autosomes of the HWS and
258 LWS lines, the exceptions being chromosomes 7 and 11, plus 16 to which it did not contribute.
259 The W-chromosome analyses suggest that the contribution of the Dominique to the WPR is
260 entirely on the paternal side, which is consistent with the available historical records (Dohner,
261 2001).

262 ***The maternal lineage of the White Plymouth Rock is dominated by Black Java and Cochin***

263 The admixture analyses of the W-chromosome showed that only two stocks, the Black

264 Java and Buff Cochin, contributed to this chromosome at near equal proportions, 49% and 51%
265 respectively. This is consistent with these stocks contributing approximately 1/4 each to the
266 autosomal genome.

267 Cochins, originating in China, are large chickens with feathered shanks. They were first
268 used for exhibition purposes in Europe due to their excessive plumage, rather than because they
269 were good layers and meat producers. They had an important role in the development of female
270 parent lines of broilers (Gyles, 1989). The Black Java is also a heavy breed that was originally
271 used for both egg and meat production, and historical records suggest that it made important
272 contributions to other breeds in the Americas such as the Jersey Giant and Rhode Island Red
273 (Ekarius, 2007). The Black Java, together with Langshan, made an interesting contribution to
274 chromosome 16, where the majority of genes have a demonstrated role in immune responses,
275 including the major histocompatibility complex (Miller and Taylor, 2016). These two breeds may
276 have important contributions to the immune gene repertoire of WPR, but further, in-depth
277 investigations would be required to understand this fully.

278 ***Contributions by Langshan, Light Brahma, and Black Minorca to the White Plymouth Rock***

279 The whole genome and Z-chromosome admixture analyses (Figure 1) illustrate that three
280 additional stocks, Langshan, Light Brahma, and Black Minorca, also contributed to the WPR
281 through the paternal lineage. The parsimonious explanation is that the initial crossings to generate
282 the Barred Plymouth Rock were made using males that were genetically and phenotypically
283 primarily Dominique. The genomic analyses suggest that these males were not purebred
284 Dominique, but rather from a population into which smaller proportions of the other stocks had
285 been previously introgressed. This explanation is consistent with historical records suggesting
286 that such mixtures were common in the USA during the mid-19th century (Corbin, 1879; Procter,
287 1911). An alternative explanation suggested by Procter (1911) is the near-simultaneous

288 development of two or more lineages, with introgression on the male side prior to line crossing in
289 the final formation of the breed.

290 ***General Comments***

291 The formation of the WPR (APA, 1947; Dohner, 2001) occurred prior to the rediscovery
292 of Mendelism. Although introgression was prevalent, as was experimentation to develop new
293 breeds, poultry breeding during this period emphasized purity of blood lines. Selection was based
294 on phenotype, and breed standards were established by the APA beginning in 1873. Chickens
295 having undesirable features were disqualified as potential breeders. By these means, desirable
296 alleles and allelic combinations were enriched in breeding flocks. The WPR, one of the
297 foundation breeds for the commercial broiler (Gordy, 1974), came from white chicks that
298 periodically hatched from matings of standardbred Barred Plymouth Rocks. This sport occurred
299 in flocks that had supposedly introgressed White Birmingham, which were recessive white (*cc*),
300 into their population and then repeatedly backcrossed to eliminate progeny with white feathers
301 (Hawes, 1988). Periodically, white chicks would appear from the barred population. Being
302 recessive, they would “breed true”, and a white variety of the Barred Plymouth Rock was easily
303 produced. Hence, the WPR.

304 It appears that with our current knowledge of Mendelian genetics and the relative
305 molecular contributions of the 8 stocks referred to as sources of the WPR, an outline of the
306 development of the Plymouth Rock was quite linear. Recessive white (*cc*) and sex-linked early
307 feathering (*k-*) are recessives to the dominant allele (Hutt, 1949), as is yellow skin (*W*Y*)
308 (Eriksson et al., 2008). Single comb (*rrpp*) is also a recessive with complimentary gene action
309 between pea comb located on chromosome 1 (Sato et al., 2010) and rose comb located on
310 chromosome 7 (Imsland et al., 2012). In addition, rose comb is associated with reduced male
311 fertility issues (Imsland et al., 2012), and single comb males benefited from preferential matings

312 due to their higher positions in the social hierarchy (Guhl and Ortman, 1953; Siegel and Dudley,
313 1963). Producing a chicken with a clean shank could be addressed over several generations. This
314 was because feathered shank (ptilopody), located on chromosome 13, was multi-allelic (Somes,
315 1992) and there were modifiers that had to be addressed (Hutt, 1949). Early writers confirm that
316 selection of clean-legged birds was necessary during the foundation of the Barred Plymouth Rock
317 (Procter, 1911). Even more complex was shank color because of epidermal and dermal issues,
318 including penetrance, multiple alleles, and modifiers (Dorshorst et al., 2010).

319 The molecular analyses presented here reflect the influence of introgressions on the
320 overall genome and specific chromosomes, using the WPR as the model. Although analyses
321 reflected a major contribution of the Dominique, the proportion of its contributions varied among
322 chromosomes. This was particularly evident for the minor contribution to chromosome 7, on
323 which rose comb is located, and no contribution to chromosome 16.

324 ***Conclusions***

325 Our genomic analyses show that the major contributors to the WPR breed were
326 Dominique males and Black Java and Cochin females. Smaller contributions by Langshan, Light
327 Brahma, and Black Minorca were also found. The current WPR breed likely originates from a
328 stock where Dominique, Langshan, Light Brahma, and Black Minorca were intermixed prior to
329 crossings involving equal proportions of females from Black Java and Cochin lineages. Overall,
330 this finding is consistent with available historical records. In addition, it resolves the proportions
331 by which the suggested stocks contributed to the WPR, as well as which of them contributed to
332 the paternal and maternal lineages of the breed.

333 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

334 ÖC and PBS initiated the study and designed the project. PBS developed the Virginia BW
335 chicken lines; PBS, ÖC, ML, RO, AM, JB, and CFH planned and conducted or supervised the

336 collection of blood for the ancestral stocks. PBS, ÖC, ML, and CFH conducted the preparation of
337 DNA and sequencing of the ancestral breeds. YZ prepared the DNA sequencing libraries for the
338 ancestral breeds. YG, YZ, and ÖC performed the sequence bioinformatics and admixture data
339 analyses. ÖC and YG summarized the results, and YG, ÖC, and PBS wrote the manuscript. All
340 authors read, edited, and approved the final manuscript.

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480 **Table 1.** Phenotypes of stocks used in genomic analyses

Stock	Phenotype			
	Feathering	Comb	Shank	
			Feathered	Color
White Plymouth Rock	Early	single	clean	yellow
Black Cochin	late	single	feathered	mixed ²
Buff Cochin	late	single	feathered	mixed ²
Partridge Cochin	late	single	feathered	mixed ²
Black Minorca	early	single	clean	black
Light Brahma	late	rose	feathered	yellow
Black Java ¹	-	single	clean	mixed ²
Dominique ¹	-	rose	clean	yellow
Langshan ¹	-	single	clean	black

481 ¹From American Poultry Association (1947)

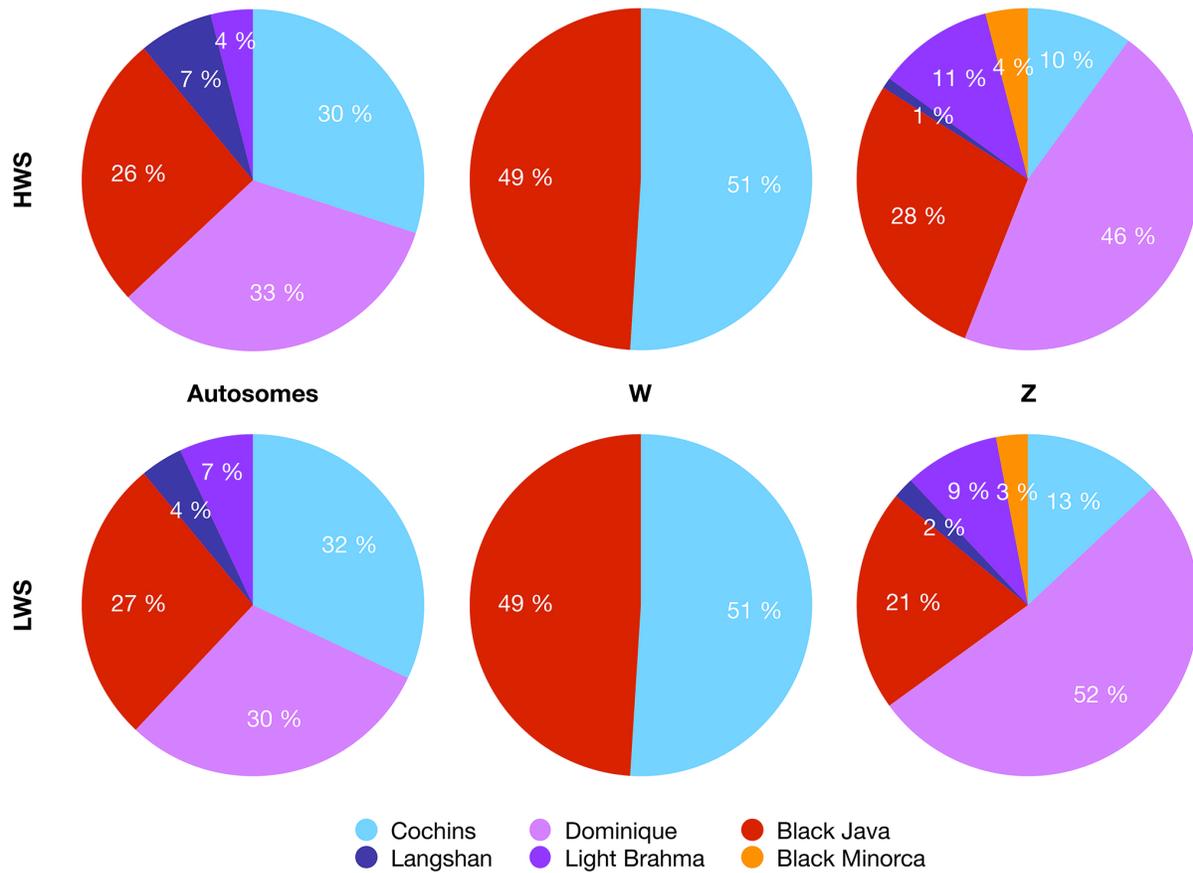
482 ²Epidermal-dermal

483 **Table 2. Population information.** Information about the evaluated stocks (total number of
 484 samples, number of females and males, and average sequencing depth). Founder stocks: stocks
 485 evaluated as potential founders for the White Plymouth Rock (WPR); HWS and LWS: the
 486 Virginia high and low BW selected lines.

	Average sequencing depth	Females	Males	Samples
Founder stocks				
Buff Cochin	3,8	1	8	9
Black Cochin	4,0	0	10	10
Partridge Cochin	5,2	0	4	4
Light Brahma	3,8	3	18	21
Black Minorca	4,3	0	14	14
Black Java	4,1	5	5	10
Langshan	4,5	10	3	13
Dominique	4,7	8	2	10
	Total	27	64	91
WPR stocks				
HWS	34,0	19	10	29
LWS	34,6	21	9	30
	Total	40	19	59

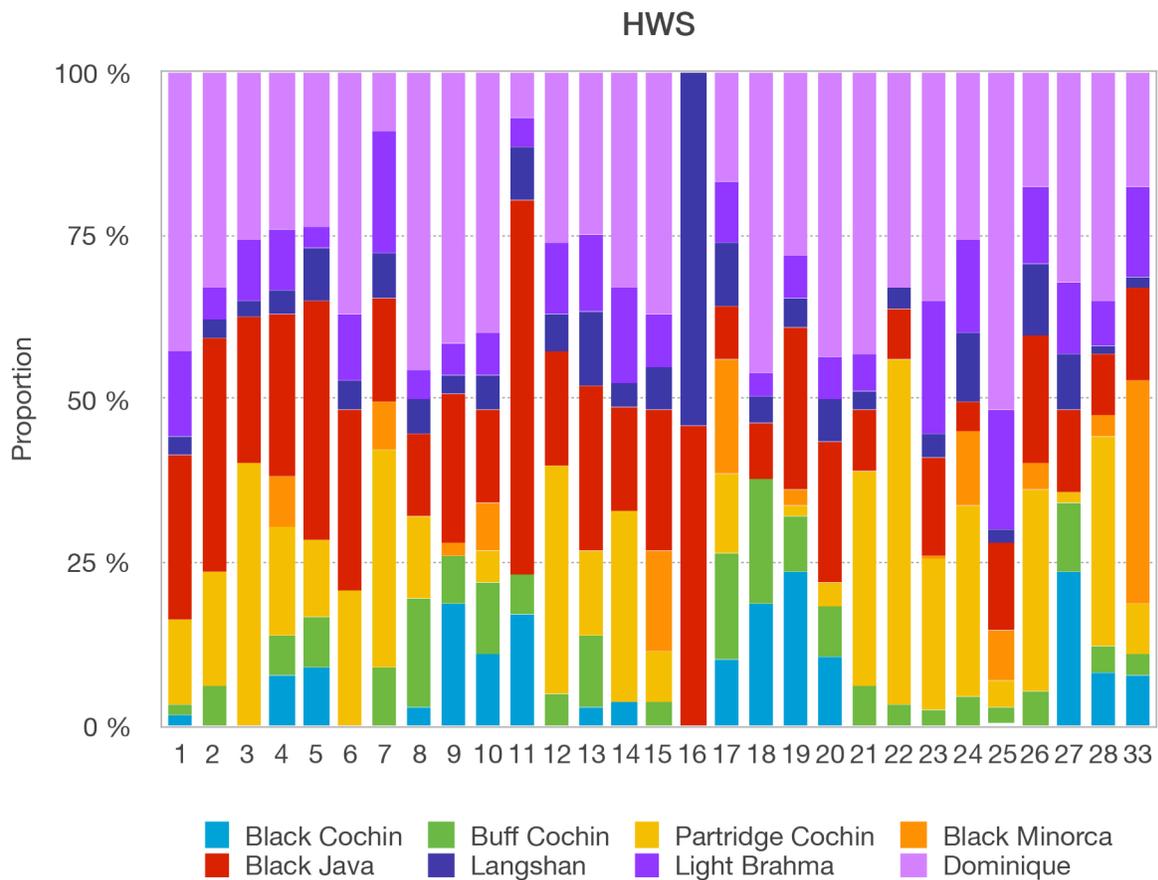
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488 **Figure 1.** The admixture proportions on autosomes and W and Z chromosomes of the founder
 489 stocks in the White Plymouth Rock (WPR) Virginia high (HWS) and low (LWS) BW selected
 490 lines.



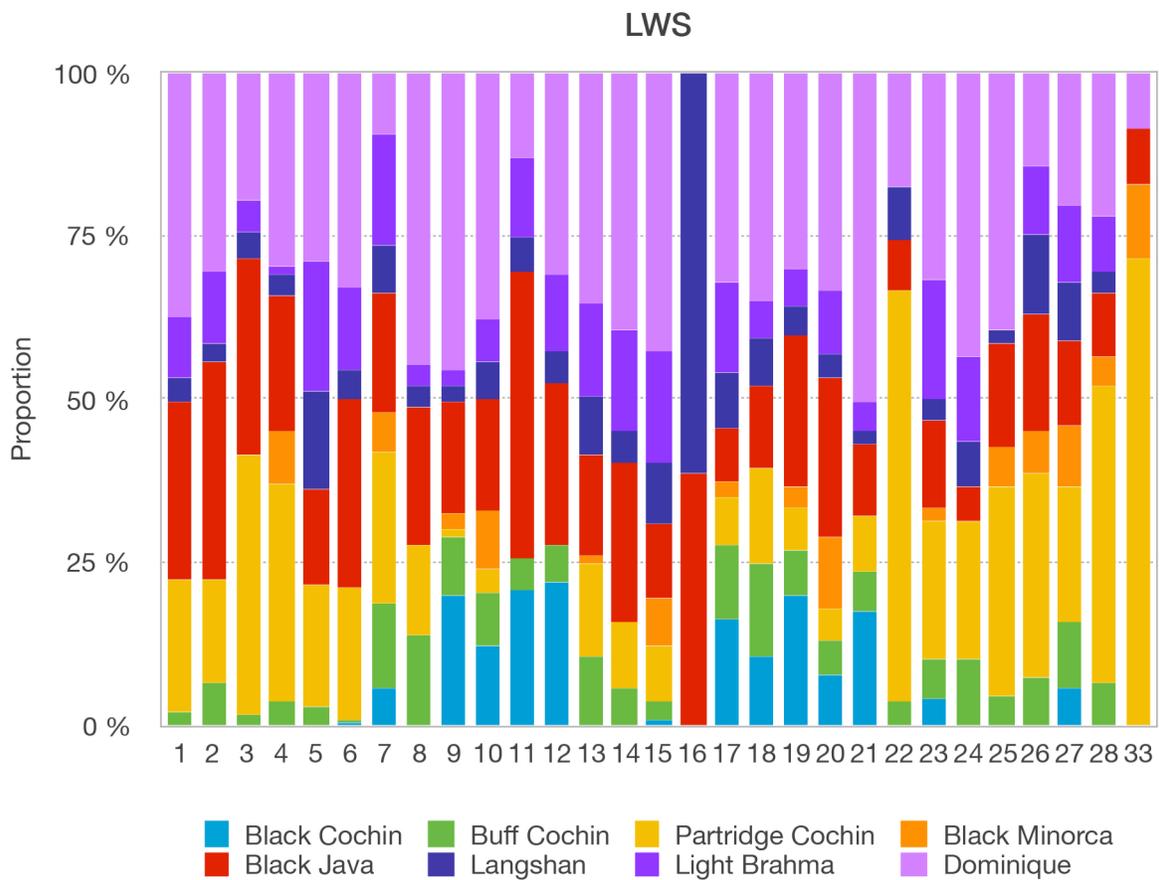
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492 **Figure 2.** Chromosome paintings illustrating the variation in stock contributions to the autosomal
 493 genome of the Virginia high BW selected line (HWS). The colors represent the respective
 494 recipient copied from different ancestry sources (purple=Light Brahma, green=Buff Cochin, dark
 495 blue=Langshan, light blue=Black Cochin, pink=Dominique, orange=Black Minorca, red=Black
 496 Java, gold=Partridge Cochin). Chromosomes are displayed along the x-axis from chromosome 1
 497 to chromosome 28 and chromosome 33. Copy proportions are displayed on the y-axis.



498

499 **Figure 3.** Chromosome painting showing the component difference among chromosomes for the
500 Virginia low BW selected line (LWS). The colors represent the respective recipient copied from
501 different ancestry sources (purple=Light Brahma, green=Buff Cochin, dark blue=Langshan, light
502 blue=Black Cochin, pink=Dominique, orange=Black Minorca, red=Black Java, gold=Partridge
503 Cochin). Chromosomes are displayed along the x-axis from chromosome 1 to chromosome 28
504 and chromosome 33. Copy proportions are displayed on the y-axis.



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