

1 Title: **Genome sequence for the blue-flowered Andean shrub *Iochroma cyaneum* reveals**  
2 **extensive discordance across the berry clade of Solanaceae**

3

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17 **Abstract**

18

19 The tomato family, Solanaceae, is a model clade for a wide range of applied and basic research  
20 questions. Currently, reference-quality genomes are available for over 30 species from seven  
21 genera, and these include numerous crops as well as wild species (e.g., *Jaltomata sinuosa* and  
22 *Nicotiana attenuata*). Here we present the genome of the showy-flowered Andean shrub  
23 *Iochroma cyaneum*, a woody lineage from the tomatillo subfamily Physalideae. The assembled  
24 size of the genome (2.7Gb) is more similar in size to chilipepper (2.6Gb) than to other sequenced  
25 diploid members of the berry clade of Solanaceae (e.g., potato, tomato, and *Jaltomata*). Our  
26 assembly recovers 92% of the conserved orthologous set, suggesting a nearly complete genome  
27 for this species. Most of the genomic content is repetitive (69%), with gypsy elements alone  
28 accounting for 52% of the genome. Despite the large amount of repetitive content, most of the 12  
29 *Iochroma* chromosomes are highly syntenic with tomato. Bayesian concordance analysis  
30 provides strong support for the berry clade, including *Iochroma*, but reveals extensive  
31 discordance along the backbone, with placement of pepper and *Jaltomata* being highly variable  
32 across gene trees. The *Iochroma* genome contributes to a growing wealth of genomic resources  
33 in Solanaceae and underscores the need for expanded sampling of diverse berry genomes to  
34 dissect major morphological transitions.

35

36 **Keywords:** berry clade, concordance, gene family, genome assembly, Physalideae, transposable  
37 element, species tree, tomatillo

38 **Abbreviations**

39 LTR, Long terminal repeat; LINE, Long interspersed nuclear elements

## 40 1 | INTRODUCTION

41  
42 Advances in comparative genomics rely on moving from assembling high-quality genomes from  
43 single model species to building model clades (Rogers, 2018). Model clades, as described by  
44 Donoghue and Edwards (Donoghue & Edwards, 2019), are lineages in which we sample densely  
45 across species to identify evolutionary transitions and build multilayered datasets to understand  
46 the mechanisms and drivers of those transitions. The genomic layer of clade biology has been  
47 quickly accumulated in taxa with small genomes (Feng et al., 2020; B. Y. Kim et al., 2021;  
48 Miyauchi et al., 2020), but more slowly in plants, where genomes can be as large as 149 Gb  
49 (Pellicer et al., 2010). Still, clusters of genomes have been built around plant model species and  
50 crops, where comparative evolutionary studies can result in direct applications (Ma et al., 2021;  
51 Mohd Saad et al., 2021).

52 One such emerging model clade is the tomato family, Solanaceae. This family comprises  
53 nearly 3000 species, roughly 40 of which have been domesticated, particularly in the fleshy-  
54 fruited subclade Solanoideae (Pickersgill, 2007; Samuels, 2015). The first published genome  
55 from this clade was potato (X. Xu et al., 2011), closely followed by tomato (Sato et al., 2012).  
56 More recently sequenced economically important species include tobacco (Sierro et al., 2014),  
57 chilipepper (S. Kim et al., 2014), eggplant (Barchi et al., 2019; Hirakawa et al., 2014a) and  
58 wolfberry (Cao et al., 2021). In addition to these crops and model organisms, many wild species  
59 have recently been sequenced, e.g. members of *Nicotiana* (S. Q. Xu et al., 2017), *Petunia*  
60 (Bombarely et al., 2016), *Solanum* (Aversano et al., 2015; Razali et al., 2017; Schmidt et al.,  
61 2017), *Capsicum* (Qin et al., 2014), and *Jaltomata* (M. Wu et al., 2018). These taxa capture wide  
62 trait variation, from fleshy to dry fruits, self-incompatible to self-compatible, and annuals to

63 perennials. Accordingly, comparative analyses have provided insights into the genomic basis for  
64 a range of key traits. Studies in this family have been particularly informative with respect to  
65 developmental processes (S. Kim et al., 2014), such as fruit ripening, and the evolution of  
66 specialized metabolites, such as the defensive alkaloids and the colorful flavonoids and  
67 carotenoids (Cardenas et al., 2015; Gebhardt, 2016).

68 Here we present a *de novo* assembly of the genome of *Iochroma cyaneum*, a blue-  
69 flowered shrub native to the Andes. The genus *Iochroma* falls in the large fleshy-fruited  
70 subfamily (Solanaceae) (Särkinen et al., 2013) and is related to tomatillos (*Physalis*) and  
71 chilipeppers (*Capsicum*) (Deanna et al., 2019). Unlike species in these genera, *Iochroma* species  
72 are woody shrubs or treelets, with some reaching up to 15m (Shaw, 1998). Moreover, while its  
73 close relatives in the tomatillo tribe Physalideae are largely insect-pollinated (Knapp, 2010),  
74 most species of *Iochroma* are specialized for hummingbird pollination (Smith, Hall, et al., 2008).  
75 Their colorful tubular flowers arranged in large inflorescences, along with the ease of  
76 hybridization among species of different colors (Smith & Baum, 2007), have made them  
77 increasingly popular in the horticultural trade (Meerow et al., 2004). Given their wide range of  
78 flower colors and sizes, *Iochroma* has served as a model for understanding the ecological factors  
79 and genetic mechanisms that drive floral evolution (Muchhala et al., 2014; Smith, Ane, et al.,  
80 2008; Smith & Rausher, 2011).

81 Comparative genomic analyses of *Iochroma* and related taxa have the potential to provide  
82 new insights into the evolutionary history of Solanaceae broadly as well as the changes unique to  
83 this hummingbird-pollinated lineage. For example, phylogenomic analyses may reveal  
84 discordant gene histories, even in parts of the tree that were well-supported in previous  
85 phylogenetic analyses with fewer markers (Gagnon et al., 2021). Moreover, the expansion of

86 sequenced genomes will allow us to isolate major genomic events, such as the amplification of  
87 repetitive content, rearrangements, and the gain and loss of coding genes, which may be tied to  
88 particular morphological or ecological transitions. In particular, the addition of the *Iochroma*  
89 genome will likely divide the branch between the Solanaeae (*Solanum* + *Jaltomata*) and  
90 Capsiceae (*Capsicum*+*Lycianthes*) clades, helping us to distinguish genomic variation unique to  
91 those lineages with variation that is shared due to common ancestry. In order to explore these  
92 evolutionary questions, we assembled and annotated a *de novo* genome for *Iochroma cyaneum*  
93 and applied phylogenetic and comparative analyses to estimate its relationship to other  
94 Solanaceae along with historical changes in genome content.

95

## 96 **2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS**

97

### 98 **2.1 | Genome sequencing and assembly**

99

100 Genomic DNA was prepared from fresh leaf material of *Iochroma cyaneum* (voucher: Smith 265  
101 (WIS)) using the 2XCTAB protocol (Doyle & Doyle, 1987). We chose *I. cyaneum* because it is  
102 the type of the genus and exhibits the deep violet flowers for which the genus is named  
103 (Bentham, 1845). Although native to the northern Andes, this species is widely cultivated as an  
104 ornamental, with several commercial varieties (Meerow et al., 2004; Shaw, 1998). The  
105 sequenced accession was grown from seed from cultivated material at the Missouri Botanical  
106 Garden and originally collected from the wild by W. G. D'Arcy.

107 Paired-end libraries with an insert size of 400 bp were sequenced on four lanes of an  
108 Illumina Hi-Seq 2000 flow cell. Mate pair libraries of 2- and 5-kb were sequenced on two lanes.

109 Additionally, we sequenced a Hi-C library (Phase Genomics, Seattle, WA) on one lane of a Hi-  
110 Seq 4000 with 100x paired-end reads to assemble the contigs into larger scaffolds. All Illumina  
111 sequencing was completed at the Cornell Weill Genome Sequencing Facility and the numbers of  
112 reads are provided in Table S1. Nanopore sequencing was performed on 6 flow cells of an  
113 Oxford Nanopore Minion device to provide an additional 5,809,839 reads. Nanopore and  
114 Illumina reads were assembled with MaSurca v 3.3.2 (Zimin et al., 2013) and polished with three  
115 rounds of Pilon v1.23 (Walker et al., 2014) using Illumina reads. Hi-C data was processed using  
116 the 3D-DNA v180922 pipeline (Dudchenko et al., 2017), and the scaffolds were manually edited  
117 in Juicebox (Dudchenko et al., 2018). Gaps were filled with LR\_gapcloser (G. C. Xu et al.,  
118 2019), and Pilon was used to correct errors.

119

## 120 **2.2 | Analysis of repeat content**

121

122 We examined repetitive DNA in *Iochroma* and additional Solanaceae genomes for comparison.  
123 For this purpose, we downloaded assemblies for the chilipepper *C. annuum* cv. CM334 v.1.55  
124 (S. Kim et al., 2014), the tomato *S. lycopersicum* v.4.0 (Sato et al., 2012), *Petunia axillaris*  
125 v.1.6.2 (Bombarely et al., 2016), and *Nicotiana attenuata* r.2.0 (S. Q. Xu et al., 2017) from  
126 solgenomics.net and peppergenome.snu.ac.kr. We used LTRHarvest (Ellinghaus et al., 2008) and  
127 LTR\_finder (Xu and Wang, 2007) to identify de novo putative LTR retrotransposons and  
128 LTR\_retriever with default settings to filter the results and reduce false positives (Ou & Jiang,  
129 2018). We then masked each genome using RepeatMasker v4.0.7 (Smit et al., 2013-2015) with  
130 the resulting LTR library and then used RepeatModeler v2.0.1 (Flynn et al., 2020) to identify  
131 additional repeats in the remaining unmasked regions of the genome. Known protein-coding

132 sequences were excluded from the RepeatModeler library using the ProtExcluder.pl script  
133 (Campbell et al., 2014). For each genome, the LTR\_retriever and RepeatModeler libraries were  
134 then joined to generate a final library, which was used to mask the genome. We obtained  
135 coverage values from the RepeatMasker output, by using the fam\_coverage.pl and  
136 fam\_summary.pl scripts included with LTR\_retriever, and inputting the estimated sizes of each  
137 genome.

138

### 139 **2.3 | Annotation**

140

141 To aid in annotation, we conducted RNA-seq on four pools of tissues (developing  
142 corollas, vegetative tissue (shoot plus root), reproductive tissue (stamen plus pistil), and  
143 seedlings) from the same accession of *I. cyaneum*. Total RNA was extracted using the Spectrum  
144 Kit (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) with on-column DNase digestion (Qiagen, Valencia, CA).  
145 The corolla RNA was prepared with a TruSeq kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA) and sequenced with  
146 half of a lane of Hi-Seq2000 with 100bp paired-end reads. We also carried out 454 GS-FLX  
147 Titanium sequencing (half of plate) on normalized libraries for the corolla RNA IU at Indiana  
148 University's Center for Genomics and Bioinformatics. The remaining RNAs for the other tissues  
149 were prepared with the TruSeq kit and sequenced on a single lane of HiSeq 2500, with 100bp  
150 single reads. The 454 reads were collapsed using cd-hit v. 4.6.8 (Li & Godzik, 2006). Illumina  
151 and 454 reads were mapped to the genome assembly using Hisat2 v2.1.0) (D. Kim et al., 2015).  
152 The bam files containing mapped reads were provided as input to the BRAKER2.-2.1.5-2  
153 pipeline (Bruna et al., 2021), which makes use of both GeneMark-ET (Lomsadze et al., 2014)  
154 and AUGUSTUS (Hoff & Stanke, 2019) for gene prediction.

155           Functional annotation of predicted coding genes was performed by BLASTp v2.2.31+  
156 (Altschul et al., 1990) to the UniProt (Boutet et al., 2016) and TrEMBL (Boeckmann et al., 2003)  
157 databases using an e-value cut off of  $1e^{-20}$ . We also removed any predicted proteins both with  
158 few to no mapped reads (FPKM<0.01) and which had no hits with in the NCBI NR, tomato, or  
159 pepper databases. Protein domains were predicted with InterProScan v5.46-81.0 (Jones et al.,  
160 2014) and genes labeled as transposons were discarded. BUSCO v. 3 analysis (Simão et al.,  
161 2015), with the Embryophyta dataset, was used to quantify genome and annotation content and  
162 examine the completeness of the genome assembly and annotation in comparison with other  
163 published genomes. We used OrthoFinder v2.5.2 (Emms & Kelly, 2015) to identify groups of  
164 orthologous genes shared between *Iochroma*, pepper, tomato and coffee. For pepper and tomato,  
165 we used the same genome assemblies as cited above and for coffee, we used *Coffea canephora*  
166 v.1.0 (Denoeud et al., 2014). These results were used to create a Venn diagram depicting shared  
167 and unique gene clusters across taxa.

168           Finally, we used maximum likelihood methods to identify significantly expanded and  
169 contracted gene families in *Iochroma*. For these analyses, we expanded our sampling to include  
170 all the tips that were present in the phylogenetic analysis (see below). Again, we used  
171 OrthoFinder to identify groups of orthologous genes found in one or more of the species. We  
172 input these gene families from Orthofinder and the species tree (see below) into CAFE v.3.0  
173 (Han et al., 2013). Before inputting, the tree was ultrametricized with penalized likelihood using  
174 the `chronopl()` function in the R package APE (Paradis et al., 2004). For the gene families  
175 showing significant expansion and contraction ( $p<0.05$ ) in *Iochroma*, we conducted BLAST  
176 searches to examine their possible functions. We extracted the two longest sequences from each  
177 expanded or contracted orthogroup in *Iochroma* and ran BLAST searches using DIAMOND



178 blastp v0.9.30.131 (Buchfink et al., 2015). We kept the top hits for each of those sequences and  
179 retrieved the list of gene ontology (GO) terms for them with InterProScan. The resulting list of  
180 expanded or contracted *Iochroma* orthogroups and their associated GO terms was input to topGO  
181 (Alexa & Rahnenfuhrer, 2021) for enrichment analyses. We searched for enrichment in GO  
182 terms associated with biological functions and used Fisher's exact test to determine significance.

183

## 184 **2.4 | Phylogeny estimation**

185

186 We investigated the phylogenetic relationship of *I. cyaneum* to other Solanaceae using Bayesian  
187 concordance analysis (BCA) (Ane et al., 2007; Baum, 2007). This approach estimates the  
188 population or species tree with branch lengths in coalescent units using quartet methods along  
189 with the proportion of the genome that supports each clade in this tree (Larget et al., 2010). We  
190 included 7 other species of Solanaceae (*Petunia axillaris*, *Nicotiana attenuata*, *Solanum*  
191 *tuberosum*, *S. lycopersicum*, *S. melongena*, *Capsicum annuum*) plus *Ipomoea triloba*  
192 (Convolvulaceae) (S. Wu et al., 2018) and *Coffea canephora* (Rubiaceae) as outgroups. For the  
193 Solanaceae genomes, we used the same assembly versions and sources as listed above. For  
194 species tree estimation, we first generated posterior distributions of gene trees for the 1355  
195 single-copy genes from the Orthofinder analysis that were present in all genomes (zero missing  
196 data). Each protein alignment was run in MrBayes v.3.2.7a (Ronquist & Huelsenbeck, 2003) for  
197 2 million generations, sampling every 100 generations, with a mixed prior on amino acid models,  
198 an exponential prior on branch lengths with mean set to 0.001, and a gamma distribution for rate  
199 heterogeneity across sites with an estimated proportion of invariant sites. Convergence was  
200 assessed with the potential scale reduction factor (PSRF), which was near 1.0 for all model

201 parameters for all genes. We removed the first 5000 trees as burn-in and summarized the  
202 remaining sample from the posterior with the mbsum program in BUCKy 1.4.4 (Larget et al.,  
203 2010). We estimated the population tree and the concordance factors (CFs) in BUCKy with four  
204 MCMC chains, each of 1 million steps and the initial value for the discordance parameter, alpha,  
205 set to 1. The results of the concordance analysis were summarized as a population tree with  
206 branch lengths in coalescent units, rooted on the outgroup taxa, and concordance factors with  
207 credibility intervals for each clade.

208

## 209 **2.5 | Synteny analysis**

210

211 In order to assess patterns of synteny between *I. cyaneum* and closely related crop genomes, we  
212 first created whole genome alignments with NUCmer v3.1, part of the MUMmer software (Kurtz  
213 et al., 2004). For visualization, the alignments were then filtered to select one-to-one aligned  
214 segments with a minimum length of maximal exact matches of 2000, as well as either a  
215 minimum alignment identity of 88, in the case of *I. cyaneum* in comparison to *C. annuum*, or of  
216 85, in the case of *I. cyaneum* to *S. lycopersicum* and *C. annuum* to *S. lycopersicum*. The  
217 coordinates of the filtered alignments were then input as links to generate plots using Circos  
218 v0.69-6 (Krzywinski et al., 2009). We used tomato as a benchmark for numbering and orienting  
219 the *Iochroma* pseudomolecules.

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222

223

## 224 3 | RESULTS

225

### 226 3.1 | Genome assembly and annotation

227

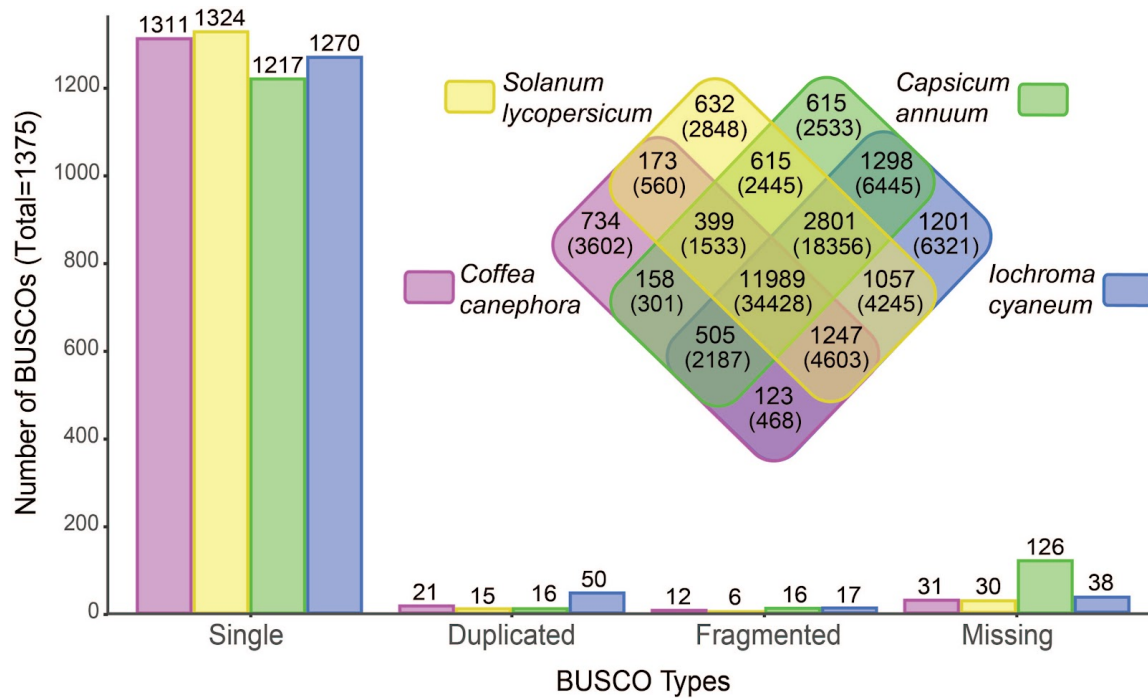
228 The length of our de novo sequence assembly for *Iochroma cyaneum* is 2.7 Gb, making it very  
229 similar to *Capsicum annuum* (Table 1). This assembled size for *I. cyaneum* is slightly smaller  
230 than the size previously estimated from flow cytometry, ca. 3.2Gb (Gates et al., 2016). Our  
231 chromosome-level assembly (Fig. S1) was quite similar to *C. annuum*, with 84% of the assembly  
232 anchored, and our sequencing strategy resulted in a lower percentage of N bases and gaps (Table  
233 1). Although the genomes of *Iochroma* and *Capsicum* are over three times the size of those in  
234 sequenced *Solanum* species (Bolger et al., 2014; Hidakawa et al., 2014b; Sato et al., 2012), we  
235 recovered similar numbers of annotated genes (Table 1). Our annotation for *Iochroma* includes  
236 92% of the highly conserved benchmarking universal single-copy orthologs (BUSCOs). Overall,  
237 the BUSCO analysis showed few fragmented or missing BUSCOs (Figure 1), suggesting that the  
238 quality of the genome is on par with those of related economically important plants. In addition  
239 to these highly conserved orthologous genes, we found a large number of unique gene clusters in  
240 *I. cyaneum*, nearly twice those found in tomato or pepper (Figure 1).

241 Our CAFE analyses revealed a strong bias toward gene family expansion in *Iochroma*. A  
242 total of 1959 gene families had a significant change in size along the *Iochroma* branch ( $p < 0.05$ )  
243 with 654 contracted and 1305 expanded (Supplemental Table S2). The contracted families were  
244 spread across a range of biological processes, with the most significant enrichment in  
245 ribonucleoprotein complex assembly ( $p = 0.0043$ , Supplemental Figure S2). By contrast, the most  
246 highly enriched GO terms for the expanded gene families were all related to pollen recognition

247 (p=0.00037, Supplemental Figure S3). We used BLAST searches to determine the identity of the  
 248 nine expanded families with this GO term, and all appear to be G-type lectin S-receptor-like  
 249 serine/threonine-protein kinases (Supplemental Table S3).

	<i>Ioichroma cyaneum</i>	<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>
<b>Genome assembly total length (Mb)</b>	2716.02	2633.68	782.52
<b>Percentage of assembly assigned to chromosomes</b>	84.13	86.00	98.77
<b>Number of contigs</b>	37,881	117,244	448
<b>Contig N50 (kb)</b>	212.94	55.87	6007.83
<b>Longest contig (kb)</b>	3996.25	608.96	26291.69
<b>Number of N bases (Mb)</b>	0.64	78.12	0.04
<b>Number of gaps</b>	19176	217286	435
<b>Number of genes</b>	38,625	34,903	34,075
<b>Repeat percentage of genome (%)</b>	69.35	72.26	58.30

250  
 251 **TABLE 1** Summary statistics for *Ioichroma cyaneum* genome assembly compared to  
 252 closely related Solanaceae. Values for assembly length, number of N bases, and number of  
 253 gaps based on currently available assemblies on SolGenomics.net (SL4.0 for tomato and  
 254 v.1.55 for pepper) calculated with assembly-stats 0.1.4 (Trizna, 2020). Contig statistics were  
 255 calculated with the same tool after splitting the assemblies at Ns. Remaining values estimated  
 256 during the comparative repeat analyses (Figure 3) or, for annotation information, gathered  
 257 from the literature (Hosmani et al., 2019; S. Kim et al., 2014).

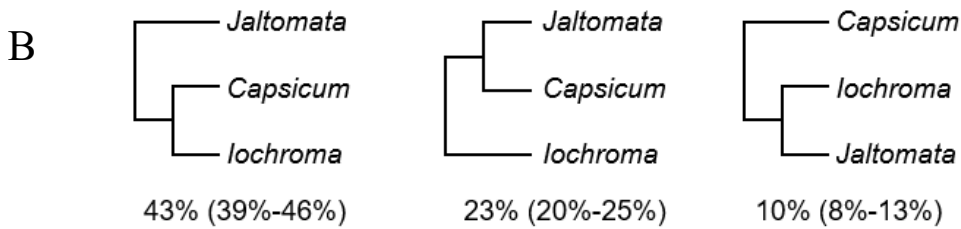
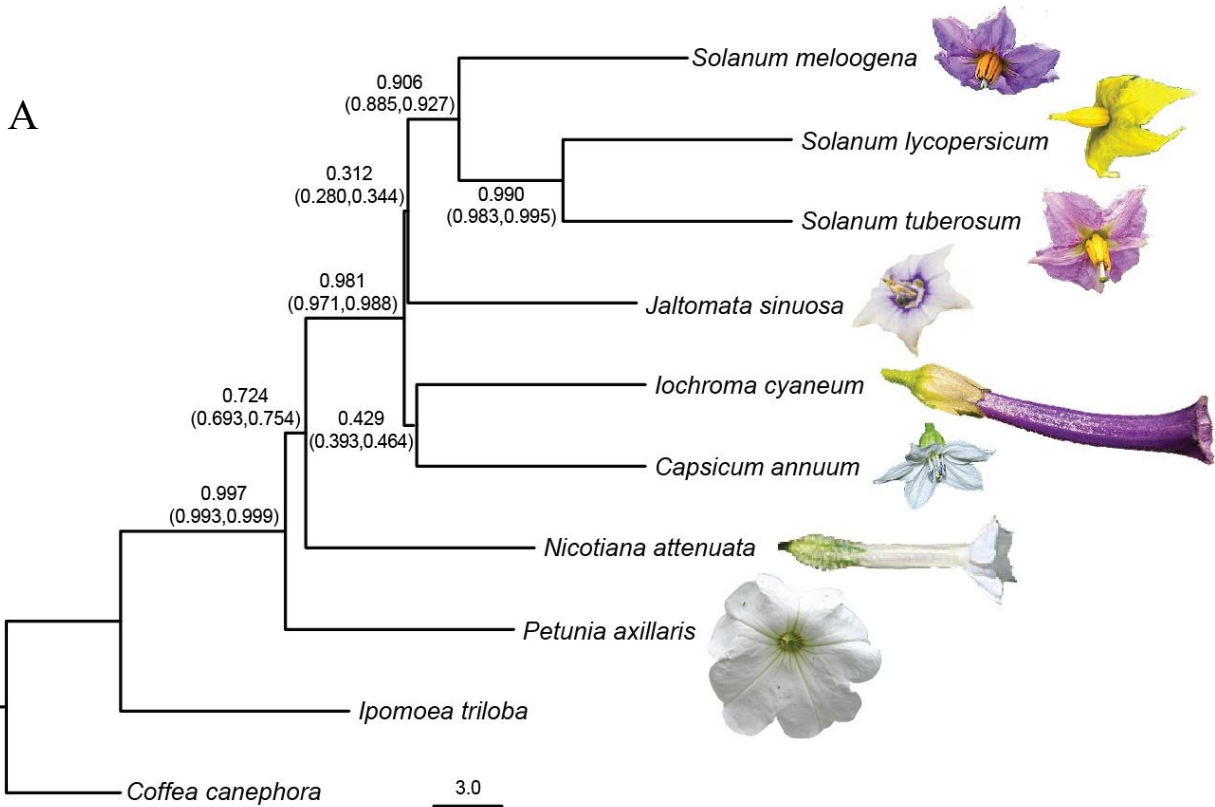


258  
 259 **FIGURE 1** Comparison of *I. cyaneum* annotation to related crop genomes. Bar graph  
 260 shows the results of the BUSCO analysis, with coffee, tomato, pepper, and *I. cyaneum*, left to  
 261 right, for each BUSCO type. The numbers of genes in each category are shown at the top of  
 262 each bar. Inset is a Venn diagram showing the results of the orthogroup analysis, with unique  
 263 and shared clusters shown for each species. The total numbers of genes in each orthogroup  
 264 are shown in parentheses.

265  
 266 **3.2 | Phylogeny**

267  
 268 Our phylogenetic analysis recovered the core relationships among lineages of Solanaceae that  
 269 have been estimated in previous studies (Olmstead et al., 2008; Särkinen et al., 2013). *Nicotiana*  
 270 is sister to the large fleshy-fruited clade containing tomato, potato, eggplant, *Jaltomata*, pepper  
 271 and *Iochroma* (CF=0.72; Figure 2A). Together, they form the X=12 clade, united by the base  
 272 chromosome number of 12 (Olmstead & Palmer, 1992). We find strong agreement across the  
 273 1355 genes for all the relationships within *Solanum* (CF=0.91-0.99), but less so among the other

274 fleshy-fruited species. For example, the estimated proportion of the genome for which the true  
275 tree places *Capsicum* sister to *Iochroma* is 0.43 and there is even less agreement regarding the  
276 placement of *Jaltomata*. Indeed, the population tree shown in Figure 2 varies from the primary  
277 concordance tree in *Jaltomata*'s position, putting it instead sister to *Capsicum* + *Iochroma* with a  
278 CF of 0.32, with an overlapping credibility interval (0.287-0.353) (Supplemental Table S4). We  
279 also estimate a sizeable proportion (23%) of the genome supporting a *Jaltomata*+*Capsicum*  
280 relationship (Figure 2B), and 19% placing *Capsicum* closer to *Solanum* than to *Iochroma*  
281 (Supplemental Table S4). Overall, these analyses point to significant discordance along the  
282 backbone of the berry clade, with large numbers of loci supporting alternate relationships to  
283 those in the population tree.



284

285 **FIGURE 2** Phylogenetic position of *Iochroma*. (A) Population tree for Solanaceae  
 286 estimated with BUCKY. Branch lengths are in coalescent units, and branches are annotated  
 287 with the estimated genome-wide concordance factors (with credibility intervals in  
 288 parentheses). Each concordance factor corresponds to the proportion of the genome  
 289 estimated to have the clade in its history. Photos are from wikimedia commons with the  
 290 exception of *Jaltomata sinuosa* (image from Thomas Mione, CCSU). (B) Genome-wide  
 291 variation in the relationships among *Jaltomata*, *Iochroma*, and *Capsicum*. Concordance  
 292 factors (and their credibility intervals) are shown as percentages.

293

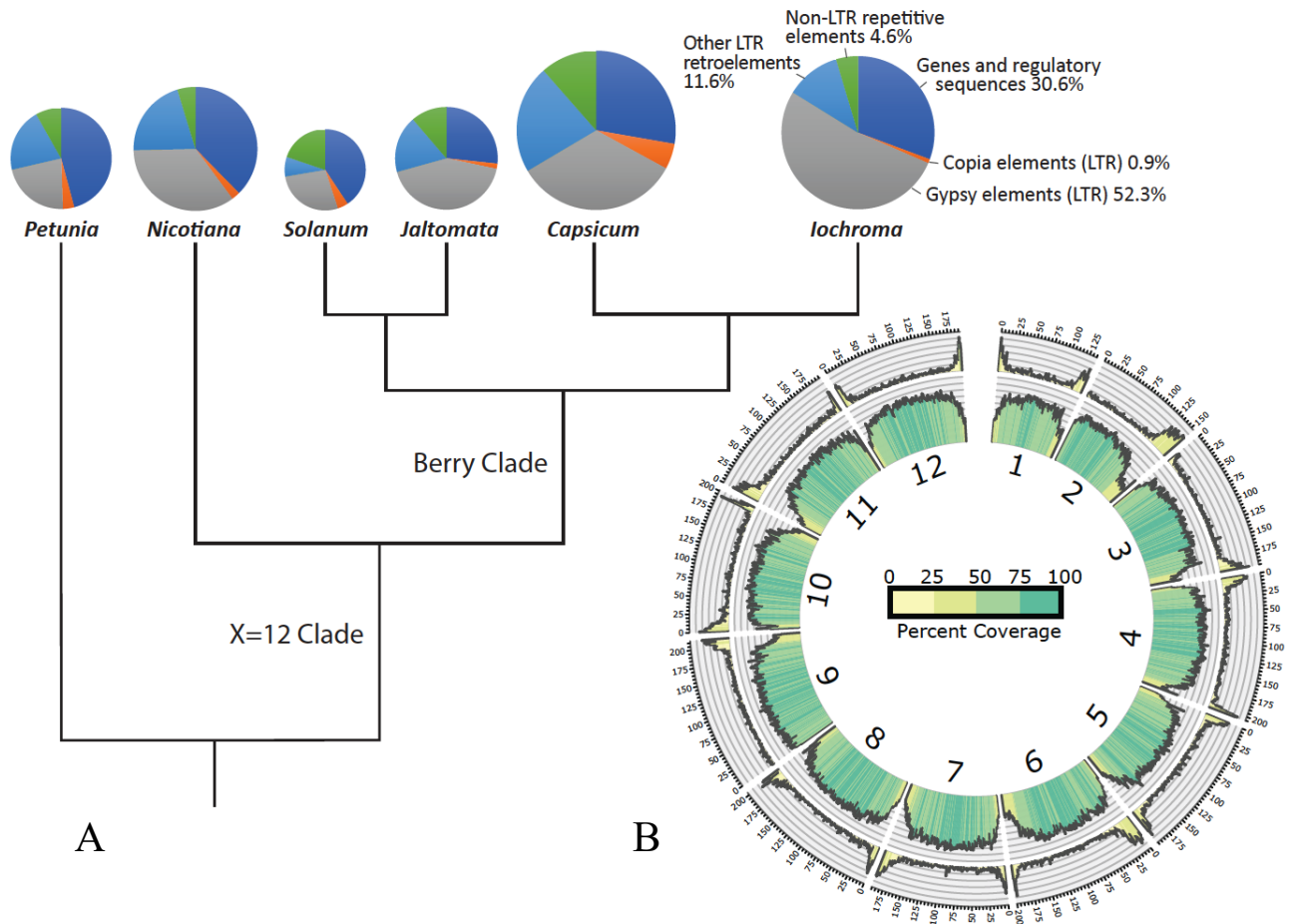
### 294 3.3 | Repetitive content in *Iochroma*

295

296 Our analyses show that the *Iochroma* genome comprises largely repetitive content as in other  
297 Solanaceae, and indeed in most plant genomes (Feschotte et al., 2002). Only 31% of the  
298 *Iochroma* genome is non-repetitive, which is slightly more than *Capsicum* and *Jaltomata* but less  
299 than the other genomes analyzed (Figure 3A, Supplemental Table S5). Despite being closely  
300 related and sharing similar percentages of repetitive DNA, the composition of the repeats varies  
301 markedly between *Iochroma* and *Capsicum*. In *Iochroma*, *gypsy* elements account for the  
302 majority of the repetitive content (75%) and over half (52%) of the entire genome. The other  
303 types of elements have contracted in *Iochroma*, which has a smaller proportion of *copia* elements  
304 among its LTR repeats than any other Solanaceae examined (Supplemental Table S5). In this  
305 context, it is worth noting that all the lineages have a significant fraction of repetitive elements  
306 that cannot be classified, either within interspersed repeats or as a type of LTR specifically.  
307 Nonetheless, as the same pipeline was applied to all taxa, the estimated variation in the fraction  
308 of each element in the genome points to substantial macroevolutionary shifts in the composition  
309 of the repetitive DNA.

310 We also examined how this repetitive content was distributed along chromosomes within  
311 the *I. cyaneum* genome. We found that the non-repetitive genic regions are clustered at the very  
312 ends of the chromosomes while the centromeric regions tended to be less gene rich and more  
313 repetitive (Figure 3B). While most chromosomes have genic regions at either end, two of them  
314 (chromosomes 2 and 9) have only a single cluster at one end. This chromosomal organization  
315 (with repetitive DNA most dense at the center and coding regions at the distal ends) is common  
316 for plant genomes and was also observed in *Capsicum* (S. Kim et al., 2014).



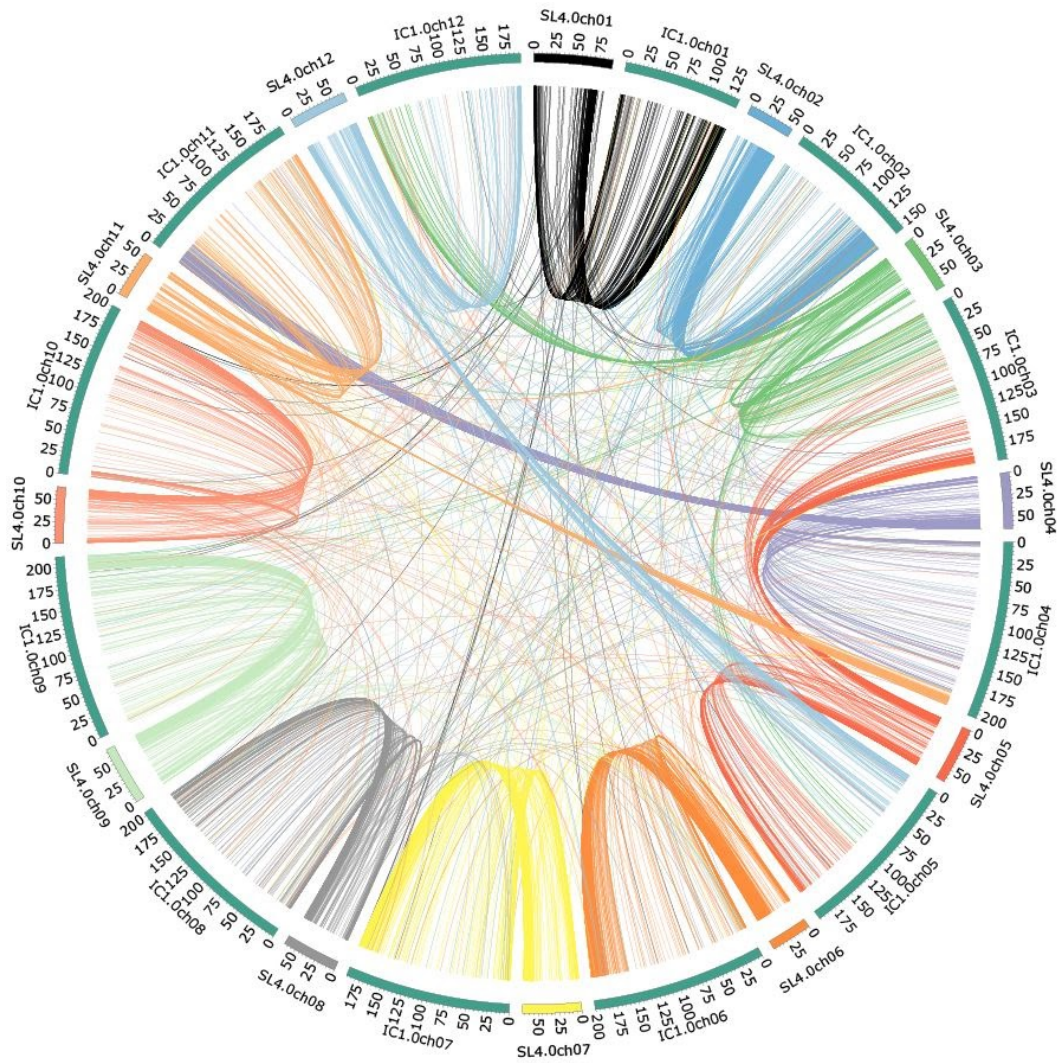


317 **FIGURE 3** Repetitive content in *Iochroma* and related Solanaceae. (A) Phylogenetic  
 318 relationships from Figure 2. The pie charts for each species are proportional to genome size.  
 319 The other LTR retroelements category includes caulimovirus, ERK and unknown  
 320 retroelements and the non-LTR elements category includes LINEs, DNA elements, simple  
 321 and low complexity repeats, and other unclassified repetitive elements (see Supplementary  
 322 Table S2). (B) The distribution of repetitive content across *Iochroma* chromosomes. The  
 323 inside ring shows the percentage of repetitive content in each 1 Mb window and the outside  
 324 ring shows the percentage of annotated genic content in that window, where the gray lines  
 325 denote 10% increments. Each genomic window is colored to show the percent coverage of  
 326 repetitive content in that window, as indicated by the legend in the center. Chromosomes are  
 327 numbered and ordered following patterns of synteny with tomato (Figure 4). The length of  
 328 each chromosome is shown with the outermost ring in units of Mb.

329 **3.4 | Collinearity between *Iochroma* and other Solanaceae**

330

331 Despite the large difference in genome size between *Iochroma* and tomato, we found strong  
332 synteny for much of the genome. Most *Iochroma* chromosomes (1, 2, 4, 6-10) were easily  
333 aligned to tomato, having only small structural arrangements between the two taxa. For example,  
334 the content of *Iochroma* chromosome 9 closely matches that of tomato chromosome 9, although  
335 a few areas that match more highly to sectors of tomato chromosomes 1 and 11 (Figure 4). We  
336 did, however, observe some connections that indicate major rearrangements between the two  
337 taxa. In one clear case, the roughly 20Mb at 3' end of tomato chromosome 4 is highly syntenic  
338 with the 5' end of *Iochroma* chromosome 11, suggesting a translocation event (Figure 4). This  
339 relationship between chromosome 4 and 11 is apparent in our synteny analysis of *Iochroma* and  
340 pepper (Figure S4) but not pepper and tomato (Figure S5), which is consistent with a  
341 translocation event specific to the *Iochroma* branch of the phylogeny. In fact, visual comparison  
342 of the two synteny maps (tomato vs. *Iochroma*, Figure 4, and tomato vs. pepper, Figure S5)  
343 points to no major shared re-arrangements in *Iochroma* and *Capsicum*, suggesting that instead  
344 most of the translocations and inversions are lineage-specific. This result is consistent with the  
345 likely short duration of shared history of the two genera (Figure 2).



346  
 347 **FIGURE 4** Patterns of synteny between tomato and *Iochroma*. Tomato and *Iochroma cyaneum*  
 348 chromosomes are shown with lines connecting syntenic segments. Line coloring follows tomato. The  
 349 length of each chromosome is marked in 25Mb increments.

350  
 351 **4 | DISCUSSION**

352  
 353 The family Solanaceae has witnessed an explosion in whole genome sequencing accompanied by  
 354 efforts to expand beyond crop species into wild relatives (Bolger et al., 2014; Cao et al., 2021;  
 355 M. Wu et al., 2018). Analyses of these new genomes have solidified aspects of the family's

356 evolutionary history, such as the whole genome triplication at the base of the family (Bombarely  
357 et al., 2016; Cao et al., 2021; Sato et al., 2012), while also revealing the complexities of the  
358 phylogenetic relationships and genomic rearrangements (Barchi et al., 2019). As the first  
359 member of the tomatillo subfamily (Physalideae) with a chromosome-level assembly, our  
360 analysis of the *Iochroma* genome brings new insights regarding the radiation of the berry clade  
361 and the accompanying changes in genome size, content and organization.

362

#### 363 **4.1 | Discordance along the berry clade backbone**

364

365 Phylogenetic analyses including *Iochroma* together with seven other Solanaceae points to  
366 significant discordance within the berry-fruited clade Solanoideae. This clade includes the  
367 pepper and its allies (Capsiceae), tomatillo and its allies (Physalideae) and the large genus  
368 *Solanum* and its sister genus *Jaltomata* (Solaneae). Recent family-level analyses with plastid and  
369 nuclear markers have shown strong support for the dominant relationship, with *Capsicum* more  
370 closely related to *Physalis* and *Jaltomata* sister to *Solanum* (Olmstead et al., 2008; Särkinen et  
371 al., 2013). Nevertheless, alternative relationships have often appeared in phylogenetic analyses  
372 (Bohs & Olmstead, 1997; Olmstead et al., 1999; Smith & Baum, 2006) and previous  
373 phylogenomic analyses suggest extensive discordance involving *Capsicum* and *Jaltomata* (M.  
374 Wu et al., 2018). Our Bayesian concordance analysis expands the scope of this discordance, as  
375 the relationship of *Iochroma* to these two taxa is also highly variable across the genome.  
376 Following previous family-level studies (Olmstead et al., 2008; Särkinen et al., 2013), we  
377 expected *Iochroma* to be most closely related to *Capsicum* and indeed, 43% of the genes in the  
378 genome are estimated to follow this dominant history (Figure 2A). However, many genes show

379 alternative resolutions, i.e., with *Capsicum* sister to *Jaltomata* (22%) or *Jaltomata* sister to  
380 *Iochroma* (10%) (Figure 2B). Meanwhile, the position of *Jaltomata* is nearly evenly split across  
381 gene trees between appearing as sister to *Solanum* (31%) versus sister to *Capsicum+Iochroma*  
382 (32%). These patterns contrast with other nodes in the tree (e.g., the common ancestor of  
383 *Solanum*, the common ancestor of Solanaceae), where nearly all genes share the same underlying  
384 history. The high discordance along the backbone of the berry clade may reflect a range of  
385 evolutionary processes, including hybridization and introgression or incomplete lineage sorting  
386 due to rapid radiation and/or large population sizes (Maddison, 1997). In the case of *Iochroma*,  
387 the large difference between the dominant history (43% for *Capsicum* sister) and the minor  
388 histories (22%, 10%) is most consistent with incomplete lineage sorting (Baum, 2007).  
389 Expanding the phylogenomic analysis to include other major lineages of the large and diverse  
390 berry clade (ca. 2000 species) would be valuable to distinguish among these possible causes.

391

## 392 **4.2 | Gene family evolution in *Iochroma***

393

394 Although quite similar in total genome size, our annotation pipeline retrieved more gene models  
395 in *Iochroma* than were estimated in pepper (38.6K vs 34.9K, Table 1), and we estimate a slightly  
396 higher proportion of non-repetitive (including genic) content in *Iochroma* (30.6% vs. 27.7%).  
397 Consistent with the possibility of gene family expansion along the *Iochroma* lineage, the  
398 orthogroup analysis recovered a larger number of unique orthogroups compared to pepper and  
399 more genes in those orthogroups (Figure 1). Using maximum likelihood birth-death models, we  
400 estimated significant expansions in 1305 gene families (Supplemental Table S2), and we found  
401 that these families were enriched for function in pollen recognition (Figure S3). BLAST searches

402 suggest that these orthogroups that are significantly expanded in *Iochroma* and involved in  
403 pollen recognition are G-type lectin S-receptor-like serine/threonine-protein kinases. Receptor  
404 kinases are known to play an important role in sporophytic self-incompatibility in the Brassiceae,  
405 but they have not been documented to be involved in pollen recognition in species with  
406 gametophytic self-incompatibility, like Solanaceae (Kachroo et al., 2001; McCubbin & Kao,  
407 2000). Beyond pollination, these G-type lectin receptor-like kinases (LecRLKs) are known to be  
408 involved in other aspects of signalling, in particular, mediating responses to insect attacks  
409 (Gilardoni et al., 2011). Plant-insect interactions have emerged as major drivers of genome  
410 evolution, especially in Solanaceae (De-la-Cruz et al., 2021; Fan et al., 2020), and our findings  
411 from *Iochroma* suggest that LecRLKs merit additional investigation as mediators of these  
412 interactions (Sun et al., 2020).

413

### 414 **4.3 | Diversity and distribution of repetitive DNA**

415

416 With a genome estimated at 3.2Gb with flow cytometry (Gates et al., 2016) and 2.7Gb in our  
417 reference assembly (Table 1), *Iochroma* presents the largest diploid genome sequenced in the  
418 Solanaceae thus far, and is most similar in size to *Capsicum*. The large size of the pepper  
419 genome compared to tomato was attributed to the expansion of repetitive content, and in  
420 particular, LTR retroelements (S. Kim et al., 2014). Using a single pipeline for six Solanaceae  
421 species, we estimated that the proportion of the genome occupied by LTRs in *Iochroma* is even  
422 higher than in pepper and roughly 1.5 times that in tomato (Supplemental Table S5). We also  
423 uncovered a high turn-over in the type of LTR retrotransposon in *Iochroma*, which has much  
424 higher proportion of *gypsy* elements compared to pepper (81% versus 55%) and a

425 correspondingly smaller proportion of the other classes of retroelements (Figure 3, Supplemental  
426 Table S5). Thus, while the genomes of these species are both composed of over 60% LTR  
427 retrotransposons, the individual classes of element have shifted dramatically in frequency,  
428 possibly due to rounds of TE expansion and contraction (i.e., the genomic ‘accordion’, Kapusta  
429 et al., 2017). Although LTR retrotransposons, like other transposable elements (TEs), seem to be  
430 largely inactive (Feschotte et al., 2002), lineage specific amplification and contractions are often  
431 uncovered in comparative genomic analyses in plants (e.g., Lee et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2019).  
432 Whole genome duplications and hybridization events are hypothesized to trigger TE proliferation  
433 (Wendel et al., 2016), offering an intriguing area for future research given the apparent  
434 frequency of hybridization in Iochrominae (Smith & Baum, 2006) and possibly more broadly in  
435 the tomatillo clade (Zamora-Tavares et al., 2016).

436         As in many plant genomes, we also found that the repetitive content in the *Iochroma*  
437 genome is found in the centers of the chromosomes, with genic regions clustered at the tips  
438 (Figure 3B). This organization is common to plants with metacentric chromosomes, and the  
439 repetitive content plays a key role in coordinating chromosome movement during meiosis and  
440 mitosis (Nagaki et al., 2003; Zhong et al., 2002). All twelve chromosomes of *I. cyaneum* are  
441 metacentric, and such highly symmetric karyotypes are typical in the genus (Deanna et al.,  
442 2018). Tomato and pepper share this karyotype (mostly or all metacentric; Chiarini et al., 2018)  
443 and in turn, this chromosomal organization, with an expanse of repetitive content at the center  
444 and gene-rich content only near the ends (Jouffroy et al., 2016; S. Kim et al., 2014).

445         Despite their similarity in genome organization, pattern of synteny between these three  
446 taxa suggest several major rearrangements. The comparison of tomato and *Iochroma* revealed  
447 regions of up to 50Mb with disrupted synteny, likely due to translocations, towards the ends of

448 chromosomes 4, 5, 11 and 12 (Figure 4). Given that *Iochroma* is more closely related to pepper  
449 than to tomato, we expected fewer rearrangements between them, but instead observed less  
450 synteny than with tomato (Supplemental Figure S4). These results suggest that genomic events  
451 such as large translocations, inversions, and deletions, are frequent at this ca. 20-million year  
452 intergeneric scale (Barchi et al., 2019) and that a much more dense taxon sampling will be  
453 needed to infer the order and timing of any particular event. The addition of a high-quality  
454 reference genome for *Physalis* (Lemmon et al., 2018) will aid in determining which of the  
455 rearrangements that appear distinct to *Iochroma* are in fact shared more widely across the  
456 tomatillo clade. Karyotypic analyses across Physalideae point to several shifts in chromosome  
457 size, symmetry, and number that can help to guide taxon sampling (Deanna et al., 2018;  
458 Rodriguez et al., 2020). With more targeted sampling across the berry clade together with the  
459 development of new comparative genomic tools (e.g., GENESPACE, Lovell et al., 2018), we  
460 may look toward building a berry core-genome that captures the shared elements in fleshy-  
461 fruited common ancestor as well as a pan-genome that spans the genomic diversity of the clade.

462

## 463 **5 | CONCLUSIONS**

464

465 With clusters of genomes emerging around crop species of Solanaceae, our challenge now is to  
466 expand in terms of phylogenetic diversity, using wild species to span the connections between  
467 these clusters. The berry clade of Solanaceae comprises roughly 50 genera (Hunziker, 2001), but  
468 20 genomes sequenced thus far include only 5 of these. As a member of the tomatillo clade, the  
469 addition of the *Iochroma* splits the evolutionary path between pepper and tomato, with slightly  
470 closer affinity to pepper. Nevertheless, our phylogenetic analyses reinforce and expand the



471 findings of M. Wu et al. (2018), namely that the relationships among berry clade genera are  
472 highly discordant across the genome. This discordance has important implications for  
473 downstream applications of these comparative genomics resources. For example, the genes that  
474 underlie traits of interest, such as fruit characteristics or secondary metabolites, may not follow  
475 the inferred species tree, potentially leading to incorrect inferences about the number and timing  
476 of evolutionary transitions (Hahn & Nakhleh, 2016). Moreover, the disagreement about  
477 relationships means there is no clear sister group for genomic comparison with crop-containing  
478 genera (*Solanum*, *Capsicum*). Instead, functional comparative studies will need to make use of  
479 the suite of sequenced berry clade genomes to reconstruct gene histories and dissect the origins  
480 of mutations with functional consequences (Martin & Orgogozo, 2013). Adding genomic  
481 resources for other genera is unlikely to resolve the deeply discordant backbone of the berry  
482 species tree, but will allow us to build a more complete picture of the evolutionary diversification  
483 of this economically important clade of plants.

484

#### 485 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

486 Raw sequencing reads used in the assembly of the genome are available from the NCBI database  
487 under BioProject PRJNA777841. The completed genome assembly and annotation files are  
488 available on the Sol Genomics Network (<https://solgenomics.net>) website.

489

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494

495 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

496 This research was conceived by SDS and designed by SDS, SRS, LAM, and DJG. SDS provided  
497 the materials, and DAH and FWL completed the nanopore sequencing. Preliminary analyses  
498 were carried out by JAV, AH, and SRS. Final analyses were completed by AFP, JZ, and SDS.  
499 SDS drafted the manuscript and all authors have reviewed and approved the submission.

500

501 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

502 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

503

504 **ETHICAL STANDARD**

505

506 Research conducted for this manuscript complies with the ethical rules applicable for this  
507 journal, as stated in the Instructions for Authors.

508

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**Table S1** Number of reads from each of the sequenced libraries

Library type	Number of lanes / cells	Total number of reads
Paired-end with 400bp inserts (first round)	2	768,000,000
Paired-end with 400bp inserts (second round)	2	738,216,828
Mate pair with 2kb inserts	1	396,495,640
Mate pair with 5kb inserts	1	406,371,714
Nanopore	6	5,809,839
Hi-C	2	644,055,990



Links to Supplemental Tables S2 and S3

**TABLE S2** [Change in size of orthogroups in \*Ioichroma\*](#). Increases or decreases in size (estimated) by CAFE along with p-values for the significance of that change.

**TABLE S3** [Enriched gene ontology \(GO\) terms among expanded gene families](#). The GO enrichment analysis indicated significant enrichment associated with GO:0048544. The nine significantly expanded gene families with this GO term are listed along with the estimated increase in size along the *Ioichroma* branch from CAFE and the top BLAST hits for the longest transcripts in that orthogroup from *Ioichroma* (IC) and *Capscium* (CA).

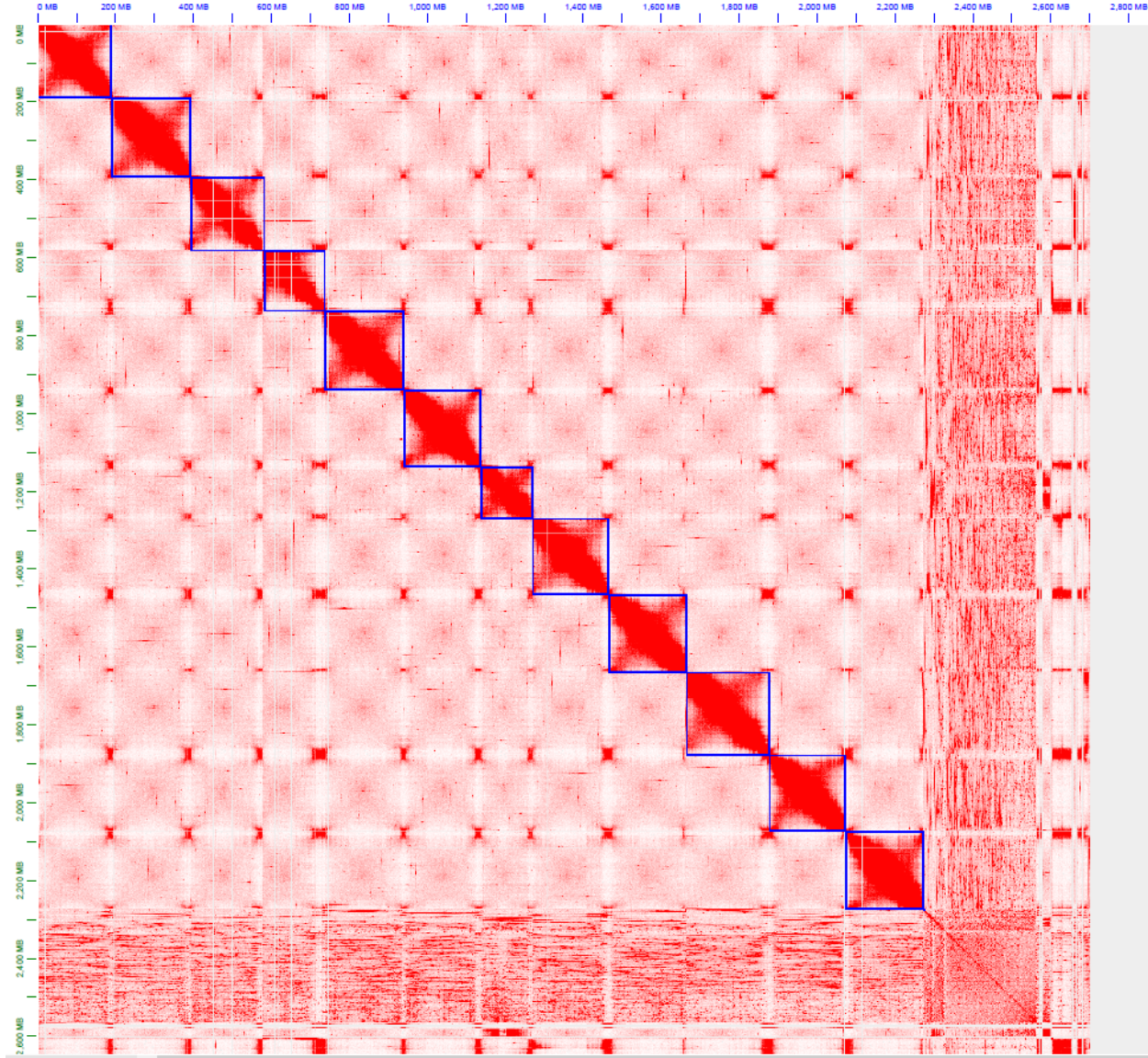
**Table S4** Concordance factors (CF) for splits not present in the population tree, greater than 0.05. Credibility intervals for CFs are shown below estimates in parentheses. Taxa are abbreviated to the first letter of the genus name and first three letters of species name (e.g. Smel=*Solanum melongena*).

<b>Split</b>	<b>Sample-wide CF</b>	<b>Genome-wide CF</b>	<b>SD of mean sample-wide CF</b>
{Smel,Slyc,Natt,Itri,Stub,Paxi,Ccan Icya,Jsin,Cann}	0.320 (0.299,0.341)	0.320 (0.287,0.353)	0.005
{Smel,Icya,Slyc,Natt,Itri,Stub,Paxi,Ccan Jsin,Cann}	0.225 (0.206,0.244)	0.225 (0.196,0.255)	0.004
{Smel,Slyc,Jsin,Stub,Cann Icya,Natt,Itri,Paxi,Ccan}	0.188 (0.170,0.206)	0.188 (0.161,0.216)	0.003
{Smel,Icya,Slyc,Jsin,Itri,Stub,Cann,Ccan Natt,Paxi}	0.188 (0.171,0.205)	0.188 (0.162,0.215)	0.003
{Smel,Icya,Slyc,Jsin,Stub Natt,Itri,Cann,Paxi,Ccan}	0.144 (0.127,0.162)	0.144 (0.119,0.170)	0.003
{Smel,Slyc,Natt,Itri,Stub,Cann,Paxi,Ccan Icya,Jsin}	0.101 (0.083,0.118)	0.101 (0.078,0.125)	0.005
{Smel,Icya,Slyc,Stub,Cann Jsin,Natt,Itri,Paxi,Ccan}	0.086 (0.070,0.102)	0.086 (0.065,0.108)	0.004
{Smel,Icya,Slyc,Jsin,Stub,Cann,Paxi Natt,Itri,Ccan}	0.080 (0.066,0.095)	0.080 (0.060,0.102)	0.003
{Smel,Slyc,Stub,Cann Icya,Jsin,Natt,Itri,Paxi,Ccan}	0.057 (0.046,0.069)	0.057 (0.041,0.075)	0

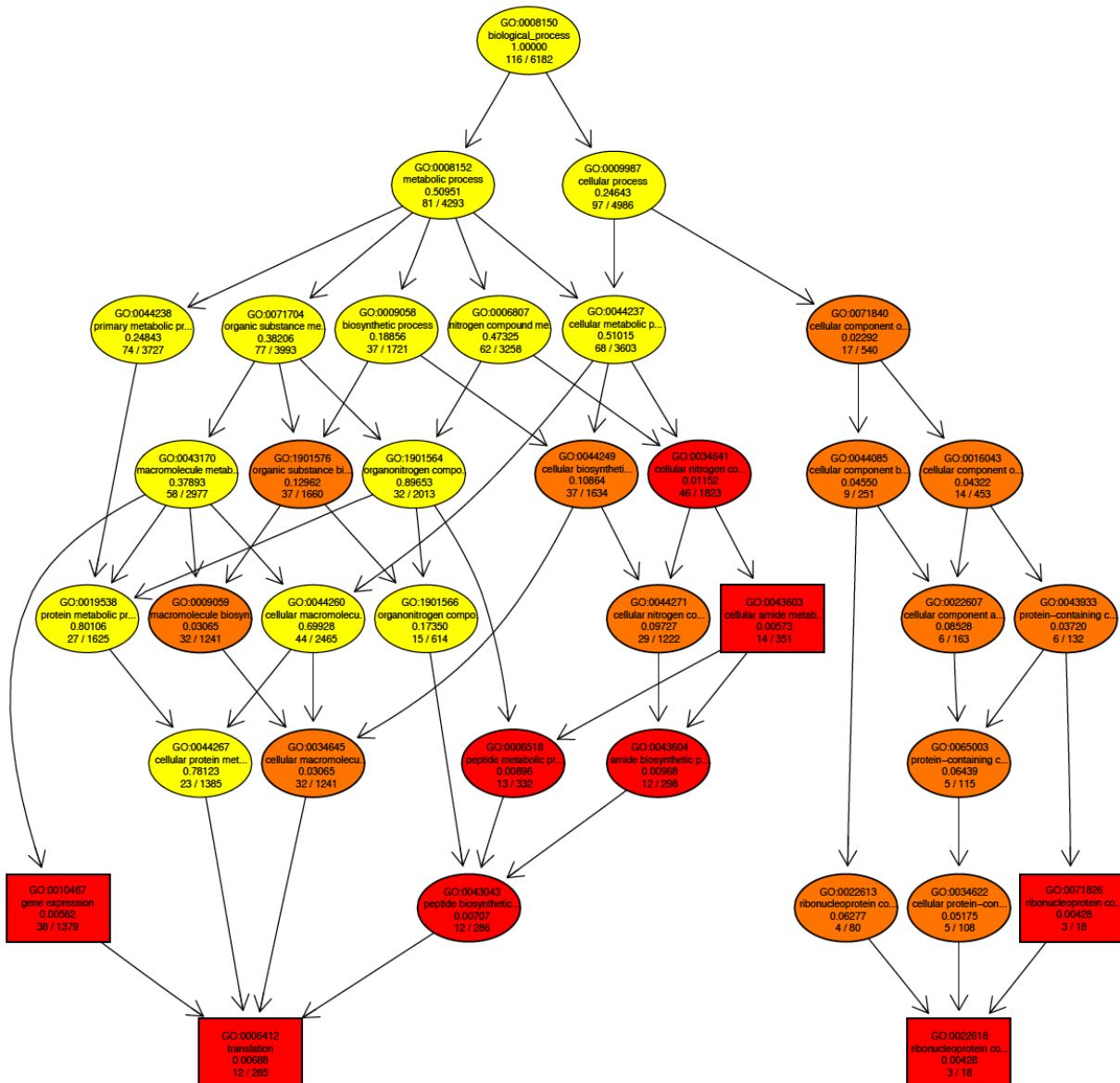
**Table S5** Repeat analysis across Solanaceae. Major classes of repeats identified by RepeatModeler are interspersed repeats (including long terminal repeats (LTRs), long interspersed nuclear elements (LINEs), DNA repeats), simple repeats and low complexity repeats. These are shown in bold. Percentages for interspersed repeats and the two types of non-interspersed repeats are out of 100% of the genome. The LTRs are broken down in their subcategories (*copia*, *gypsy*, etc), with the percentages (out of all LTRs) shown.

	<i>Iochroma cyaneum</i>	<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	<i>Jaltomata sinuosa</i>	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	<i>Nicotiana attenuata</i>	<i>Petunia axillaris</i>
<b>Interspersed Repeats:</b>	<b>68.69%</b>	<b>71.55%</b>	<b>72.64%</b>	<b>57.90%</b>	<b>61.73%</b>	<b>53.08%</b>
LTR	64.73%	60.79%	62.04%	39.49%	57.66%	45.98%
LINE	0.43%	0.48%	0.76%	0.99%	0.28%	0.74%
DNA	0.22%	1.25%	0.81%	0.84%	0.45%	1.48%
Unclassified	3.31%	9.03%	9.04%	16.58%	3.34%	4.88%
<b>Other (non interspersed) repeats:</b>						
Simple Repeats	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>0.57%</b>	<b>0.53%</b>	<b>1.16%</b>	<b>0.53%</b>	<b>0.90%</b>
Low complexity	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>0.14%</b>	<b>0.15%</b>	<b>0.24%</b>	<b>0.12%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>
<b>Total repetitive content</b>	<b>69.35%</b>	<b>72.26%</b>	<b>73.32%</b>	<b>59.30%</b>	<b>62.38%</b>	<b>54.16%</b>
<b>LTR Subcategories</b>						
<i>copia</i>	1.35%	8.57%	2.61%	10.75%	3.87%	7.88%
<i>gypsy</i>	80.73%	55.20%	68.39%	69.40%	60.37%	47.71%
Unknown	17.82%	35.91%	28.67%	19.12%	35.69%	44.24%
Caulimovirus	0.08%	0.32%	0.33%	0.73%	0.06%	0.15%
ERVK	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.008%
Pao	0.00%	0.00%	0.001%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

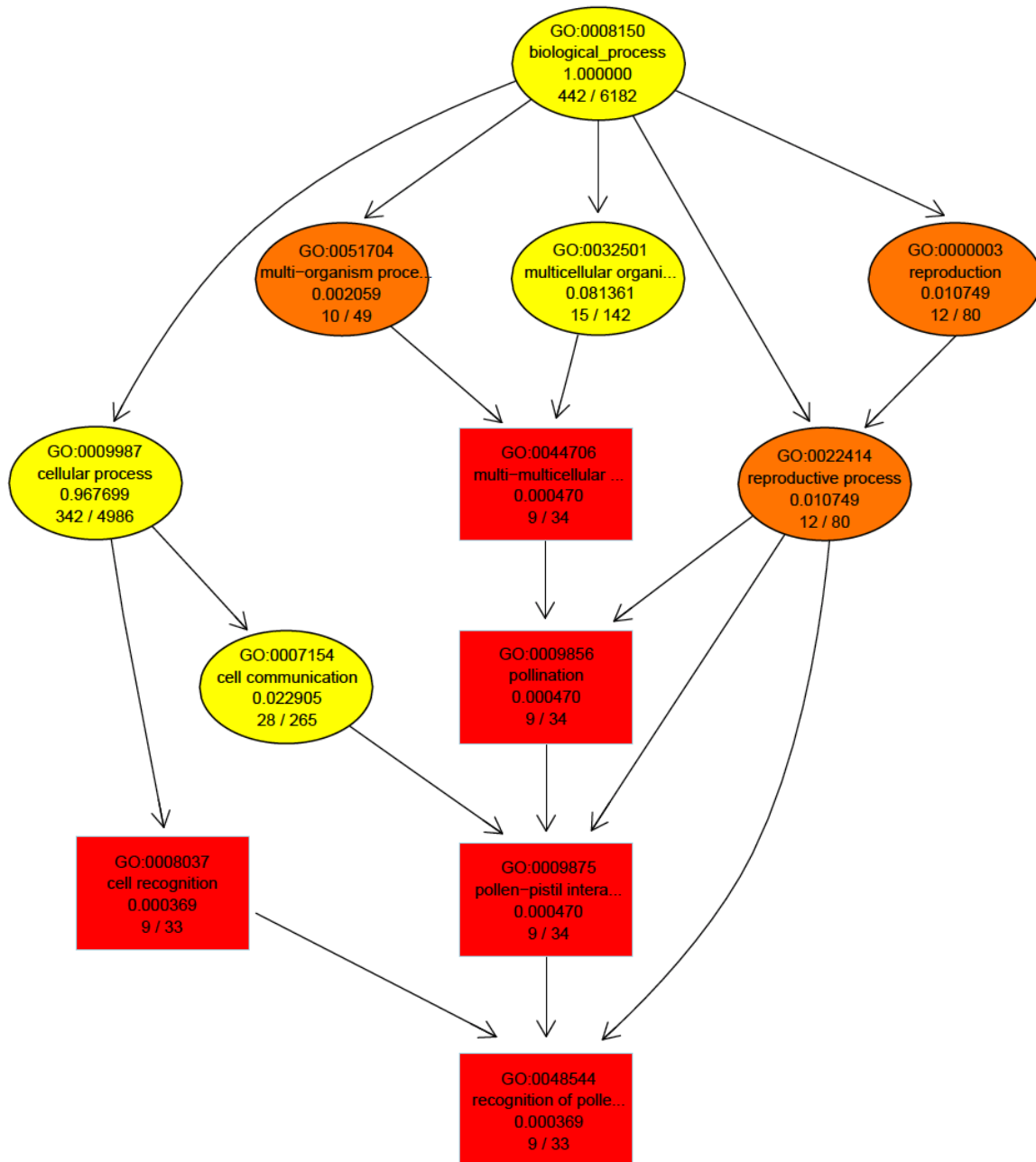
**Figure S1** Hi-C heatmap showing 12 assembled chromosomes.



**Figure S2** Directed subgraph for the top five gene ontology (GO) terms from enrichment analysis of the contracted gene families identified by CAFE. The level of significance for each GO term is indicated by the color, with yellow being non-significant, orange being moderately significant, and red being highly significant. The top five terms are shown in the red boxes. A descriptor and p-value are given for each GO term along with the level of enrichment (here the number of gene families in the contracted set compared to the entire set of gene families in *Iochroma*).



**Figure S3** Directed subgraph for the top five gene ontology (GO) terms from enrichment analysis of the expanded gene families identified by CAFE. The level of significance for each GO term is indicated by the color, with yellow being non-significant, orange being moderately significant, and red being highly significant. The top five terms are shown in the red boxes. A descriptor and p-value are given for each GO term along with the level of enrichment (here the number of gene families in the expanded set compared to the entire set of gene families in *Iochroma*).





**Figure S4** Patterns of synteny between *Iochroma* and pepper. Pepper chromosomes (*C. annuum* assembly v. 1.55) and *Iochroma cyaneum* (v. 1.0) are shown with lines connecting syntenic segments. Line coloring follows pepper.





**Figure S5** Patterns of synteny between tomato and pepper. Tomato chromosomes (*S. lycopersicum* assembly v.4.0) and pepper chromosomes (*C. annuum* assembly v. 1.55) are shown with lines connecting syntenic segments. Line coloring follows tomato.

