

Don't Drink and Fly: Alcohol Resistance Behavior in *Drosophila* Informs Us About Genes That Contribute to Alcoholism

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Many undergraduate students understand that model organisms are important for understanding how biology works, but may not make the connection that animal models such as *Drosophila melanogaster* can be used to understand such human conditions as Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). To address this knowledge gap, we introduced an inquiry-based laboratory module in which students perform hands-on Ethanol Behavior Mobility Assays (EMBA) using flies with either different Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) alleles or different developmental exposure to ethanol. The lab module contains a bioinformatic component for students to explore the evolutionary conservation of the ADH gene between flies and humans. The implementation of this exercise in a sophomore/junior-level Genetics course led to a high level of student satisfaction and a more integrated view of the role of model organisms in studying AUD and FAS. Funding acknowledgements: ABLE Roberta Williams Laboratory Teaching Initiative Grant and NSF HBCU-UP TIP Grant # 1912188.

Keywords: model organism, *Drosophila melanogaster*, alcoholism, fetal alcohol syndrome, behavioral assay, inquiry-based learning

Introduction

While biology laboratory classrooms often introduce undergraduate students to a variety of organisms and lecture about how these organisms can be used as models, students often do not connect that model organisms such as the common fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, can aid understanding of human diseases including Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). To ameliorate this knowledge gap, a two-course, inquiry-based module was developed for a sophomore and junior-level course that meets once per week for 1 hour and 50 minute sessions. The hands-on portion of the laboratory is simple enough to use with students of different STEM disciplines including

Chemistry and Physics freshman-level students. However, the preparation time involved may be prohibitive to large freshman-level laboratories unless support staff is available to expand and sex-sort fly strains for both the AUD-based and FAS-based exercises and the pre-ethanol exposure for the FAS-based lab. Expansion of fly stocks needs to begin 1 month in advance and it is not very time consuming; neither is exposing developing larvae to alcohol. However, depending on the instructor's background and familiarity with fruit flies, the sex-sorting of flies a day or two ahead of the class session can take up to 3 hours of intensive stereoscope work to prep full sets (4 vials) of flies for student groups. In contrast, the bioinformatic portion of the lab should translate well

to larger class sizes as virtually no preparation time is needed for that portion of the module series.

Laboratory Learning Objectives

Students participating in the experience will have the following three learning objectives for the 2-3 day laboratory module:

- Observe differences in behavioral responses of fruit fly strains with variant ADH alleles using Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to measure Sedation Time 50 (ST50) and Sedation Time 100 (ST100)
- Use the FlyBase bioinformatics tool to investigate the gene function and conservation between flies and humans
- Explain the evolutionary basis for why model organisms can be used to inform us about human diseases including Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Student Time Investment

Students at North Carolina Central University had ample time to observe the ethanol-induced behaviors for at least 1 set of either male or female flies and perform Excel analysis (calculations and graph generation) within a 2-hour lab period. To include the FlyBase bioinformatic exercise, it typically required either time outside the classroom or a second class period; hence, the two-day modular approach. Most universities have a 3-hour lab period and will likely have time for students to assay a set of males and a set of females in addition to completing the FlyBase bioinformatic exercise in one lab session.

To also complete the Adh adult fly lab, a separate lab day was required. Therefore, the series of exercises in this publication may take as little as 2 days at institutions where there is a 3-hour laboratory session and as many as 3 days for institutions having only a 2-hour laboratory period as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Flexible time needed dependent on portion of modules covered: 1, 2 or 3 lab sessions.

	1-Lab	2-Labs	3-Labs
Protocol:	Control strain assay	Adh alleles assay	FlyBase activity
Inquiry:	Which gender more resistant to alcohol?	Which Adh allele is most resistant to alcohol (AUD)?	How does the fly Adh gene compare to human Adh gene?
Discussion:	Females bigger; increased resistance = AUD	The Adh ^S allele is resistant; enzyme metabolism slower (s)	They are 54% identical, 71 % positive; research paper on varying human Adh alleles
Optional:	FlyBase activity	FlyBase activity	n/a

Student Outline

Alcohol Module Series: Investigating Alcohol Use Disorder and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Fruit Flies

Name: _____ Section: _____

Overall Learning Objectives

1. Observe differences in behavioral responses of fruit fly strains with variant ADH alleles using Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to measure Sedation Time 50 (ST50) and Sedation Time 100 (ST100)
2. Use the FlyBase bioinformatics tool to investigate the gene function and conservation between flies and humans
3. Explain the evolutionary basis for why model organisms can be used to inform us about human diseases including Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Introduction

Over the next few weeks, you will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with live animals to measure intoxicated fly behavior. In week 1, you will be provided with varying genetic backgrounds (different **Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) alleles**) and in week 2 you will use adult flies that have been reared in a chronic, alcohol-rich environmental serving as a model for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) which includes Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

Alcohol Use Disorder and the Alcohol Resistance Phenotype

According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), an estimated 88,000 people a year die from alcohol-related behaviors, which makes alcohol consumption the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Alcohol consumption at social gatherings is a social norm; however, depending on your DNA content, this “normal” behavior could easily turn into a debilitating disease. Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) is defined as a chronic relapsing brain disease which is 50-60% genetically based. One in 8 Americans suffer from an AUD. Thus, it is a fairly common, life-altering disease (<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-use-disorder>). A behavior associated with AUD is called the “**alcohol resistance**” phenotype. Humans who are resistant to the “buzz” feeling from small amounts of alcohol will consume greater amounts of alcohol to achieve the feeling they seek. In other words, there are groups of people that are resistant to the effects of alcohol due to their genetic make-up. So, they drink more alcohol, leading them to abuse the drug. Thus, an alcohol resistance phenotype is associated with **Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD)**, which include alcoholism.

Why flies?

To investigate the genes and molecular pathways that contribute to AUD, researchers turn to **model organisms** including the common fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. Did you know that fruit flies are naturally attracted to alcohol? It’s true! Multiple *Drosophila* species typically dine on fermenting fruit. What caused fruit to ferment? You guessed it: yeast. During the fermentation, the yeast produce, among other products, ethanol! Our tiny fruit fly friends are, thus, attracted to the delicious aroma of alcohol AND they have some tolerance to certain percentage of alcohol. Interestingly, *D. melanogaster* respond to alcohol similarly to humans with an initial period of hyperactivity followed by sedation. While humans and fruit flies may look vastly different, the differences are due to ~a 25% genetic difference. Surprisingly, these tiny fruit flies contain approximately 75% of the human disease-related genes in their genome. In other words, genes responsible for a whole host of human diseases are **conserved** (which means they have very similar DNA/protein coding sequences) in the humble bug. Diseases including Diabetes, Parkinson Disorder, sleep disorders, cancer, jet lag, alcoholism and many more can be studied in fruit flies. Since the genes found in fruit flies and humans are **evolutionarily conserved**, we can apply information we learn from these model organisms and apply it to human health concerns.

Function of the Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) Gene Product

The product of the alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) gene is an enzyme that converts alcohol (ethanol) to acetaldehyde in the cytoplasm, especially in liver cells. The acetaldehyde is then transported into the mitochondria where the acetaldehyde gene product converts the incredibly toxic acetaldehyde to acetic acid. Acetic acid can then enter the Krebs Cycle to produce energy for the cell (see **Figure 1**).

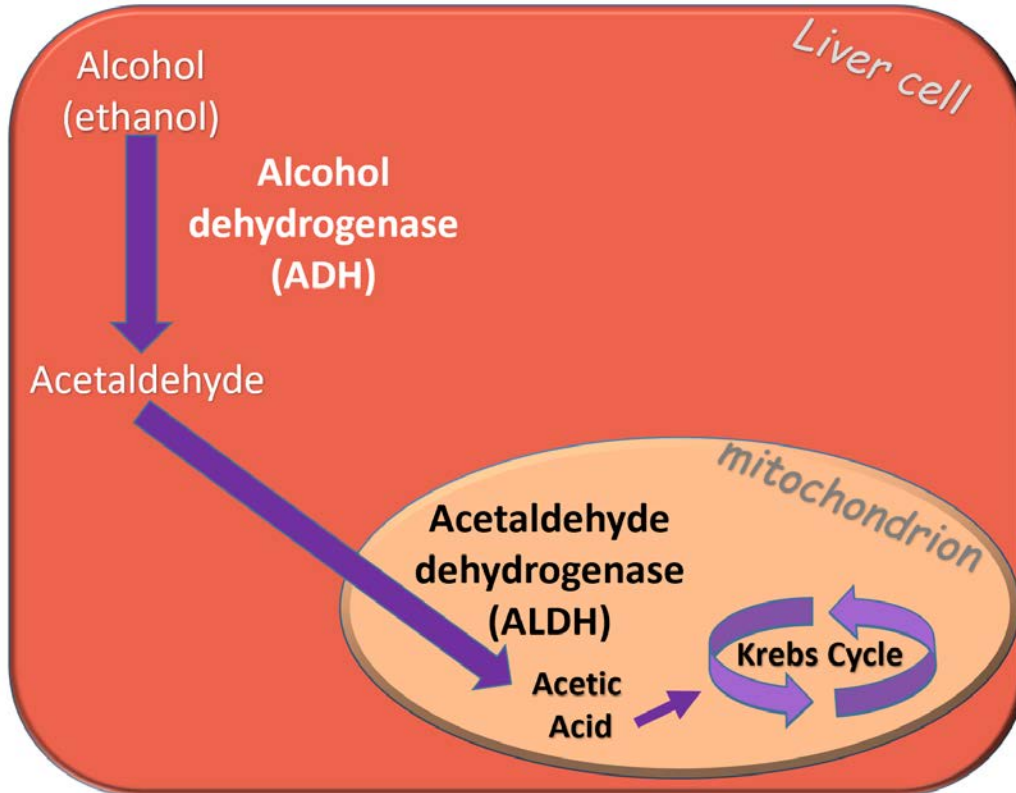


Figure 1. Alcohol is metabolized in liver cells using enzymes: cytoplasmic alcohol dehydrogenase and mitochondrial acetaldehyde dehydrogenase.

The Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) Gene Allele affects alcohol metabolism

In humans, there are different alleles of the alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) gene. Alteration of the ADH allelic sequence can impact the function of the alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme produced from the gene. For example, humans with the ADH1B or ADH1C alleles produce enzymes that rapidly convert alcohol substrate into the toxic acetaldehyde product (Edenberg, 2007). The conversion is so fast that the acetaldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) enzyme cannot keep up. This results in the person being sensitive to alcohol with phenotypes like the “flush response,” where the face turns red and the person stops drinking the alcohol as a result of the unpleasant response. Conversely, the ADH1C*2 allele is associated with resistance to the effects of alcohol. People with this allele can drink more alcohol without feeling the effects and therefore, drink more and more alcohol to obtain the “buzz.” This ADH allele is associated with Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) or alcoholism (Montane-Jane et al., 2006). Presumably, the alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme produced by the ADH1C*2 gene metabolizes the alcohol substrate to the toxic aldehyde product at a slower rate. Thus, humans have different responses to the same amount of alcohol due to differences in their genotype which contributes to their enzymatic phenotype. Since the enzymes in the cell metabolize alcohol at different rates, it impacts the overall behavior humans display in response to similar alcohol intake.

ADH alleles in *Drosophila* (fruit flies)

The *Drosophila melanogaster* genome also encodes an alcohol dehydrogenase enzyme with various alleles that affect the behavioral response of the fruit flies to the same amount of alcohol. In this lab exercise, you will empirically discover the impact of the ADH alleles on fruit fly behavior using the Ethanol Mobility Behavioral Assay (EMBA).

DAY 1) EMBAs: Control Strain either Oregon R or w¹¹¹⁸

Pre-lab Videos:

1. How to expose flies to ethanol demonstration video: <https://youtu.be/rBuxZglfQ8g>
2. JOVE article video [A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies | Protocol \(jove.com\)](https://www.jove.com/doi/10.1038/52811)

Background: Your instructor has reared flies for 10-14 days. As the adult flies emerged from the pupal cases, adult flies were collected and aged from 1-5 days and then sorted by the two sexes (male and female) into food vials.

Prediction: Make a prediction: Which sex will be more resistant to the alcohol (i.e. take longer to become sedated)? _____

Instructions: Run the EMBA assay as indicated by the protocol on the adult flies your instructor has provided and fill in the data table 1 below.

Protocol:

- 1) First, record the room temperature on your data table or sheet of paper.
- 2) Next, you will see a clean **cotton plug** sitting on your lab bench for each assay you will do. These are the plugs that you will be putting your dyed ethanol on.
- 3) Set a p1000 at **500 μ L**.
- 4) Locate the **colored 100%, 200-proof Ethanol (EtOH) [color due to food coloring]**.
- 5) **Pipette 500 μ L of the blue-tinted EtOH onto ONE side of each plug.**
- 6) You will have to quickly switch out the clean plug for the ethanol plug. Make sure to place the colored, ethanol-soaked side of the plug face down into the vial!
- 7) Get ready to press 'start' on your timer (can use cell phone) immediately once both vials of flies are exposed to the EtOH.
- 8) Observe the flies.
- 9) At 1-minute intervals, record the number of flies that are NOT mobile in the column below or your own sheet of paper. Make sure to indicate the sex (either male or female) in the top row, as well as the number or allele of your experimental strain.

RULE of THREE: Sometimes flies will appear sedated at a time point, but then will get back up and walk around. If this occurs and you have fewer flies at a later time point than you did at an earlier time point, then just count the number sedated and record it. This is when we go with the

'RULE of THREE': when the same number of flies are sedated for 3 consecutive minutes, count the first of the series of 3 as the time sedated.

10) Enter the data onto a piece of paper while in class and transfer to an Excel Worksheet outside of class as shown in a video tutorial.

11) Report the ST50 and ST100 that you have collected on the bottom of your worksheet.

12) Class data will be posted for you to complete calculations on the AVERAGE Sedation Time (ST50) when ½ of the flies have been sedated and Sedation Time 100 (ST100) when 100% of the flies in the ethanol exposure chamber have been sedated. You will calculate the average sedation times for each fly sex for tested in the class.

13) Make sure to record the following for each Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) you run.

- a. **Temperature in room:** _____
- b. **Strain of fly you are assaying (circle 1):** w¹¹¹⁸ or Oregon R

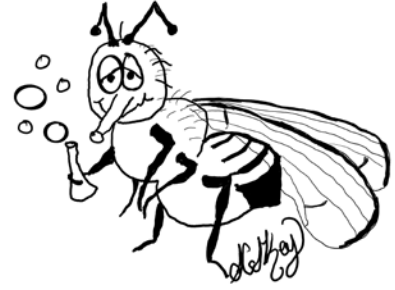
DATA TABLE 1. Record the number of flies that are sedated each minute of the assay..

Time (minutes)	Control Male w1118	Control Female w1118			
1			16		
2			17		
3			18		
4			19		
5			20		
6			22		
7			23		
8			24		
9			25		
10			26		
11			27		
12			28		
13			29		
14			30		
15			31		
			32		
			33		

Control male flies ST 50 = _____ (1/2 flies sedated)

Control female flies ST 100 = _____ (all flies sedated)

EMBA Day 2: Comparing two genetically different strains



Learning Objectives Part 1:

1. **Reiterative learning of Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) using two genetically different fly strains.**
2. **Collect data into Excel and enter into an Excel Worksheet**
3. **Determine and report the ST50 and ST100 for your EMBA**
4. **Using class data (posted after everyone submits their observational data), calculate:**
 - a. **The average ST50 and ST100 for each sex and each fly strain**
 - b. **The Standard Deviation from the Average for ST50 and ST100**
 - c. **The statistical significance for**
 - i. **Comparing female w¹¹¹⁸ to female Adh^S, Adh^F, and/or Adh^{N1} strain;**
 - ii. **Comparing w¹¹¹⁸ males to male Adh^S, Adh^F, and/or Adh^{N1} strain;**
 - iii. **Comparing w¹¹¹⁸ females to w¹¹¹⁸ males**
 - iv. **Comparing Adh^S, Adh^F, and/or Adh^{N1} females to Adh^S, Adh^F, &/or Adh^{N1} males.**

Protocol:

- 1.) First, record the room temperature on your data table or sheet of paper.
- 2.) Next, you will see a clean **cotton plug** sitting on your lab bench for each assay you will do. These are the plugs that you will be putting your dyed ethanol on.
- 3.) Set a p1000 at **500 μ L**.
- 4.) Locate the **colored 100%, 200-proof Ethanol (EtOH) [color due to food coloring]**.
- 5.) **Pipette 500 μ L of the blue-tinted EtOH onto ONE side of each plug.**
- 6.) You will have to quickly switch out the clean plug for the ethanol plug. Make sure to place the colored, ethanol-soaked side of the plug face down into the vial!
- 7.) Get ready to press 'start' on your timer (can use cell phone) immediately once both vials of flies are exposed to the EtOH.
- 8.) Observe the flies.
- 9.) At 1-minute intervals, record the number of flies that are NOT mobile in the column below or on your own sheet of paper. Make sure to indicate male or female in the top row, as well as the number of your experimental strain.
- 10.) Enter the data into an Excel Worksheet outside of class as shown in a video tutorial
- 11.) Report the ST50 and ST100 that you have collected on the bottom of your worksheet.

12.) Class data will be posted for you to complete calculations on the AVERAGE Sedation Time (ST50) when 1/2 of the flies have been sedated and Sedation Time 100 (ST100) when 100% of the flies in the ethanol exposure chamber have been sedated. You will calculate the average sedation times for each fly sex for each Adh strain tested in the class.

13.) Make sure to record the following for each Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) you run.

- a. **Temperature in room:** _____
- b. **Fly SEX assayed (circle 1):** male or female
- c. **Adh strain of fly you are assaying (circle 1) :** Adh^F, Adh^S or Adh^{N1}
- d. **Make predictions:**
 - i. **Which sex do you think will be more resistant to the alcohol? Why?**
 - ii. **How do you think your Adh allele will respond to the alcohol? Be more resistant than the control or more sensitive than the control? Why?**

14.) **Optional:** Your instructor may opt to run a tolerance assay by providing you with flies that have been exposed to ethanol once. You will expose them a second time to determine if their sedation time changes. If it takes the flies longer to become sedated, then the flies will be 'tolerant' to the effects of alcohol.

DATA TABLE 1. Record the number of flies that are sedated each minute of the assay. The first few minutes will be '0'. Copy this page for each sex and/or Adh strain you assay.

Time (minutes)	Control Fly Strain (w ¹¹¹⁸)	Adh__ fly strain
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		

16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		

W1118 ST 50 = _____ (1/2 flies sedated)

W1118 ST 100 = _____ (all flies sedated)

Adh ____ ST 50 = _____ (1/2 flies sedated)

Adh ____ ST 100 = _____ (all flies sedated)

Example EMBA Data Collected for Adh^S-containing *Drosophila melanogaster* strain.

Class Data Table 2. Fall 2020 Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) Data. Sedation Time of 50% (ST50) and ST100 EMBA Data comparing w¹¹¹⁸ genotype to Adh^S genotype of sex-sorted *Drosophila melanogaster* (*Dmel*) organisms. Room temperature was 23 °C.

Female Dmel flies				
	ST50		ST100	
	w ¹¹¹⁸	Adh ^S	w ¹¹¹⁸	Adh ^S
Student #1	27	42	63	68
Student #2	17.5	30	25	41
Student #3	23	44	56	56
Student #4	17.5	21	28	38
Student #5	17.5	39	23	52
Student #6	21	38	41	46
Student #7	11	25.5	35	39
Student #8	14.5	42	21	51
Student #9	14	18.5	28	32
MALE Dmel FLIES				
	ST50		ST100	
	w ¹¹¹⁸	Adh ^S	w ¹¹¹⁸	Adh ^S
Student #10	12	15	18	22
Student #11	8.5	12	24	24
Student #12	6	11	9	19
Student #13	7	15	12	22
Student #14	7	15	16	30
Student #15	17	12.5	25	23
Student #16	20	33	40	41
Student #17	12	27	28	36

Ethanol Assay Worksheet: Crunching & Graphing Numbers

You all will be calculating and sharing data with each other.

- 1) First, figure out your ST100 (in minutes) for each strain in your assay. The ST100 is the time at which 100% of your flies are sedated (or stationary). So, **for example**, if all 4 of your male wild type flies are sedated at 15 minutes, your ST100 would be 15. You will figure out your ST100 for both wild type and experimental strains. Please make sure to write down your experimental strain in the blank shown below (**highlighted in red**). **ALSO, please make sure you label independent values for males and females! You can fill in below.**

-Control, w¹¹¹⁸ Wild type **male** ST50: _____ mins

- Experimental Adh^{N1, S or F}(circle 1 allele) **male** ST50 (_____): _____ mins

- Control, w¹¹¹⁸ Wild type **female** ST50: _____ mins

- Experimental Adh^{N1, S or F}(circle 1 allele) **female** ST50 (_____): _____ mins

- Control, w¹¹¹⁸ Wild type **male** ST100: _____ mins

- Experimental Adh^{N1, S or F}(circle 1 allele) ST100 (_____): _____ mins

- Control, w¹¹¹⁸ Wild type **female** ST100: _____ mins

- Experimental Adh^{N1, S or F}(circle 1 allele) **female** ST100 (_____): _____ mins

- 2) Follow the JovE video to interpolate your ST50 data as needed using the attached graph paper.

- 3) Next, we will calculate the AVERAGE ST50 and ST100. You will need the class data for this! You will type your data in an Excel workbook at the instructor's bench and the Class Data Table 2 will be posted on the Blackboard.

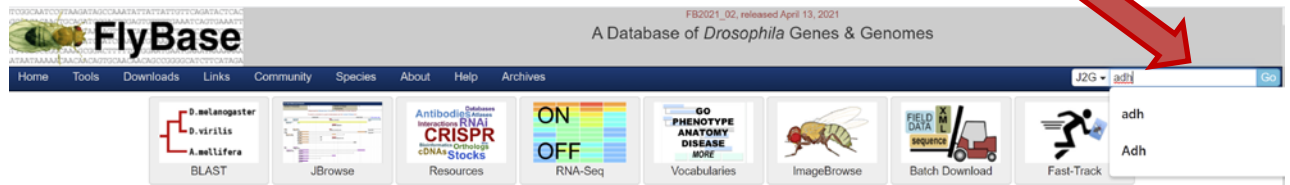
- 4) Lastly, graph your **averages** on the attached page or in Excel as demonstrated in the **Excel Tutorial Video** posted on Blackboard. Label your y-axis as time in minutes. Make sure to label each strain on the x axis. You must have your wild type control included in this graph.

Questions to answer and discuss:

1. Name at least 2 criteria that qualify a fruit fly as immobile.
2. What is the importance of putting dye in the ethanol used for this assay?
3. On average, which strain of flies lasted longer before sedation? The control flies, or experimental flies?
4. On average, which sex of fly took more time to become sedated? Males? Females? Neither: each sex took equal time? Did the results match your prediction? Explain why one sex might take longer to become sedated:
5. When it takes longer to become sedated, is the organism sensitive or resistant to alcohol?

Day 3 Bioinformatics on the Alcohol dehydrogenase (Adh) Gene

1. Using FlyBase at <http://flybase.org/> place 'adh' in the upper right-hand search box and then hit either the 'Go' button on screen or 'Enter' on your keyboard.



2. You will get the Adh gene page on FlyBase (as shown below). On the right-hand menu, select the 'Stocks and Reagents' link.

Dmel:Adh	Species	D. melanogaster
Alcohol dehydrogenase	Annotation Symbol	CG3481
protein_coding_gene	FlyBase ID	FBgn0000055
Current	Stock Availability	198 publicly available

Alcohol dehydrogenase (Adh) encodes an alcohol and acetaldehyde dehydrogenase involved in alcohol and acetaldehyde metabolism. [Date last reviewed: 2019-09-12] (FlyBase Gene Snapshot)

BG:DS01486.6, DmADH

3583-3583 Sequence location 2L:14,615,552-14,615,902 [+]

2-50 RefSeq locus NT_033779 REGION:14615552-14618902

Gene region Get Sequence Get Decorated FASTA

14,612,500 14,615,000 14,617,500 14,620,000 Full-screen view

Gene span

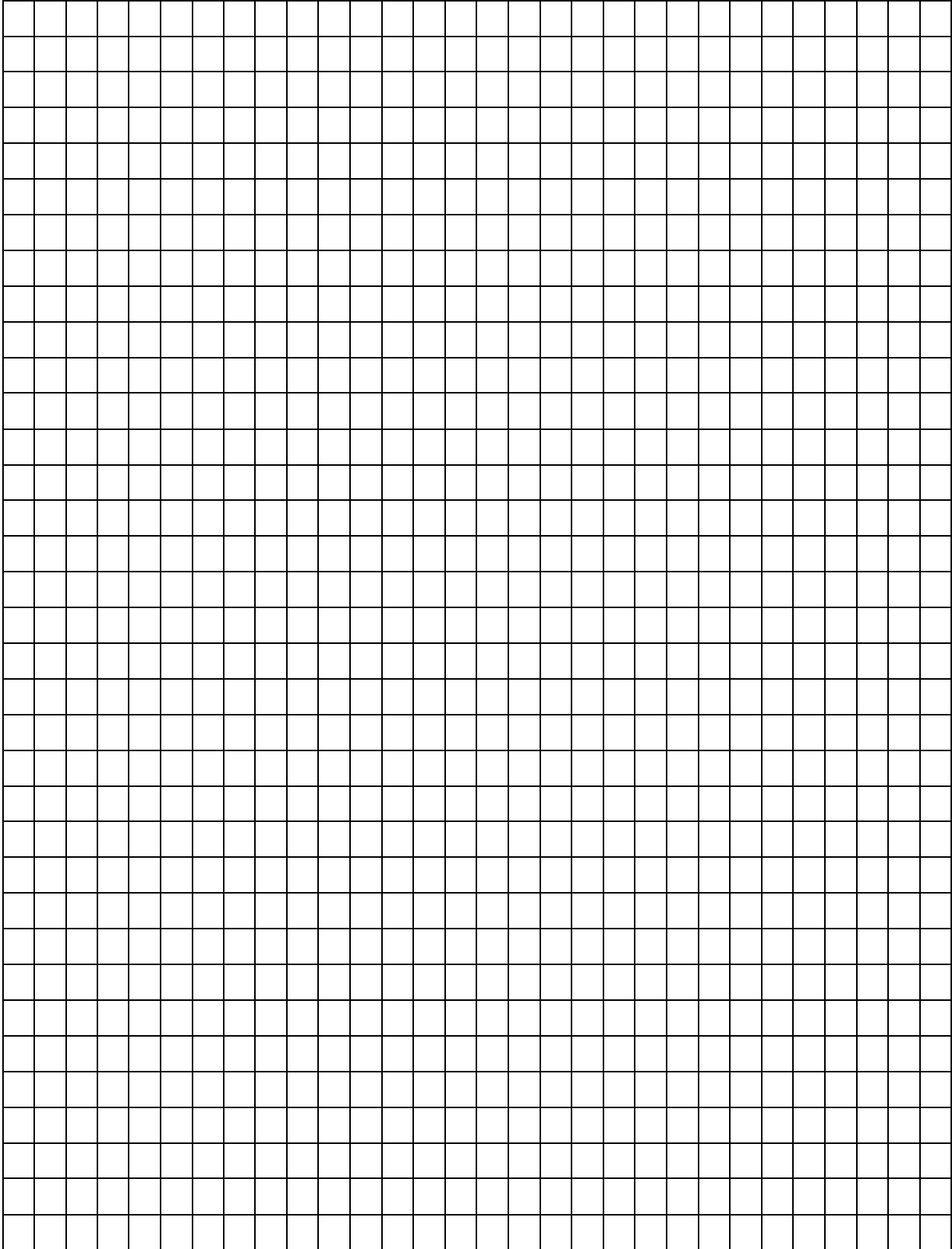
RNA:CR43411

Adh

Adh

- General Information
- Genomic Location
- Function
- Summaries
- Gene Model and Products
- Expression Data
- Alleles, Insertions, Constructs, and Aberrations
- Phenotypes
- Orthologs
- Paralogs
- Human Disease Associations
- Functional Complementations
- Interactions
- Pathways
- Genomic Location and Mapping
- Stocks and Reagents
- Other Information

3. Find your Adh allele in the fly stocks, click on the active links and find out about your allele(s). Read about each Adh allele that was assayed by the class. Write a few sentences explaining whether your prediction(s) correspond with the results and, based on what you learn about your allele in FlyBase, explain why or why not.



Day 3: FlyBase: Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) Gene in Alcohol Use Disorder in Flies and Humans.

Learning Objectives:

1. Use FlyBase including BLAST
2. Compare ADH in humans and flies
3. Analyze ModENCODE expression data of ADH gene.



Instructions: Answer questions using the LAST PAGE of this document which has the ANSWER SHEET on 1 page. Submit ONLY your answer sheet to the Blackboard Submission Portal.

Pre-Lab videos to Watch:

1. Dr. Key's Introduction to FlyBase:
<https://youtu.be/XhyXc63dhhE>
2. FlyBase for Undergrads video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL8h47fOuQ>
3. Johns Hopkins BLAST tutorial:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXEpBnUbAMo>

Lab Computer Work

1. Go to flybase.org
2. In the 'Jump to Gene' box, insert the letters "ADH" and hit 'Go'

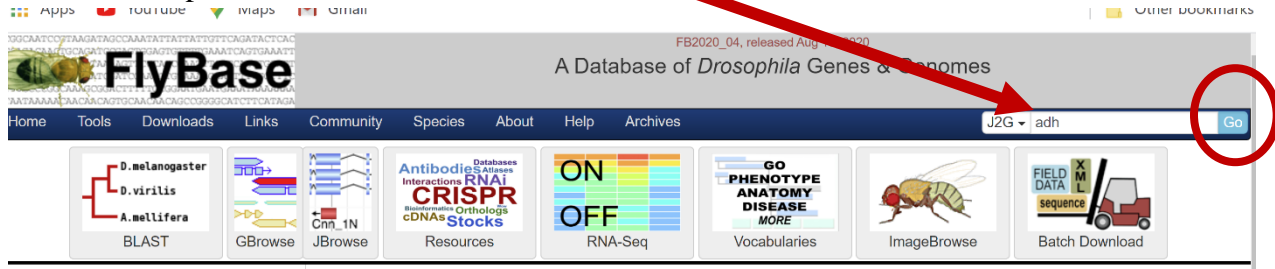


Figure 1. FlyBase search engine text box.

3. On the menu found on the right side just under the 'Jump to Gene' box, select on the 3rd link down named: "Function" (red arrow in Figure below). This will take you to the GO Summary Ribbon. Look below the GO Summary Ribbon at the table.

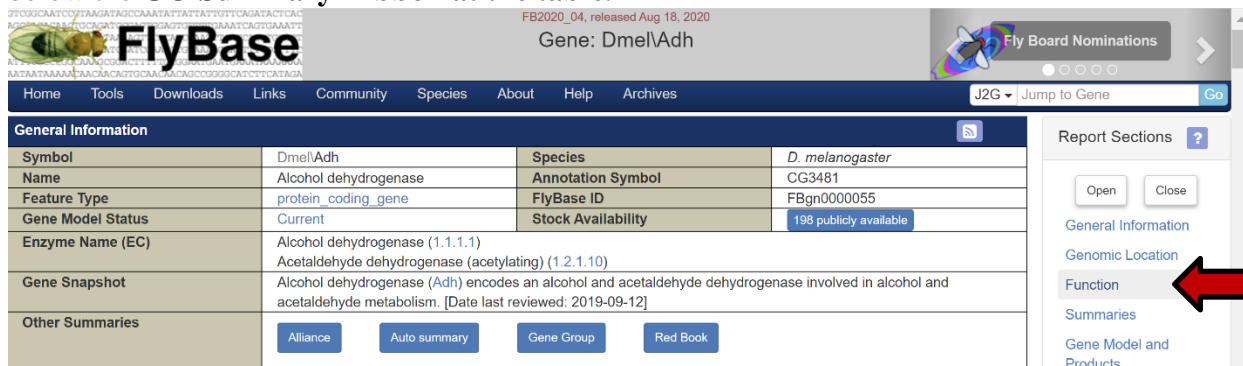


Figure 2. FlyBase right-hand menu.

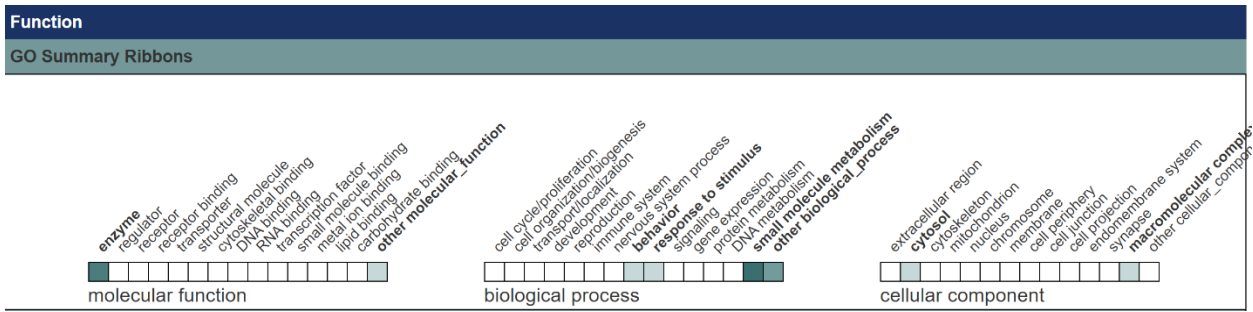


Figure 3. FlyBase GO Summary Ribbons: Ribbon 1 = molecular function, Ribbon 2 = biological processes, Ribbon 3 = cellular component.

Q#1: SATA (Select-All-That-Apply). Using the Ribbons found under the ‘GO Summary Ribbons’, to see the ‘Molecular Functions’ Ribbon. Place a checkmark in each blank below that corresponds to the ADH gene’s molecular function:

- ___ enzyme
- ___ receptor
- ___ transcription factor
- ___ small molecule binding
- ___ lipid binding
- ___ other molecular function

Q#2: Use the mouse to hover over the ‘enzyme’ button under Molecular Function graphic and write exactly the 3 names of the enzymes that appear in the drop-down box:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Q#3: SATA. Look again under the GO Summary Ribbons and place a checkmark in the blanks below that correspond to the **Biological Processes** of the ADH gene product:

- ___ cell cycle /proliferation
- ___ cell organization/biogenesis
- ___ cellular transport/localization
- ___ development
- ___ immune system
- ___ behavior
- ___ nervous system process

Q#4: SATA. Under the GO Summary Ribbons and check blanks corresponding to terms related to the ADH gene **Cell Components**:

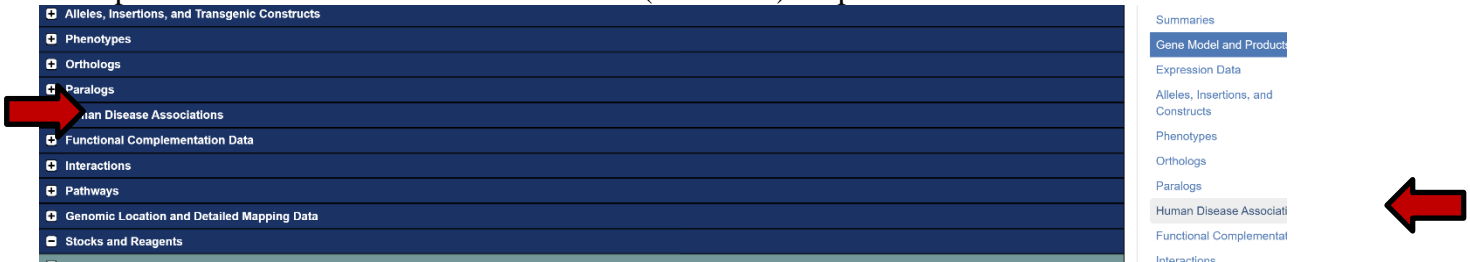
- ___ extracellular region
- ___ membrane
- ___ cell projection
- ___ neuron/synapse
- ___ Cell junction

4. Scroll down or hyperlink down to the “Orthologs” menu to expand it (red arrows).

Q#7: What is the percent amino acid (a.a.) Identity: ____ and what does ‘Identity’ mean?
 _____ What symbols in the alignment indicate ‘identity’ amino acids
 (same amino acid in both species)? _____

Q#8: What is the percent a.a. Similarity: _____ and what does ‘Similarity’ mean?
 _____ What symbols in the alignment indicate ‘similar’ amino acids (in the
 same biochemical group)? _____

7. Expand the ‘**Human Disease Model Data**’ (red arrow) drop down menu.

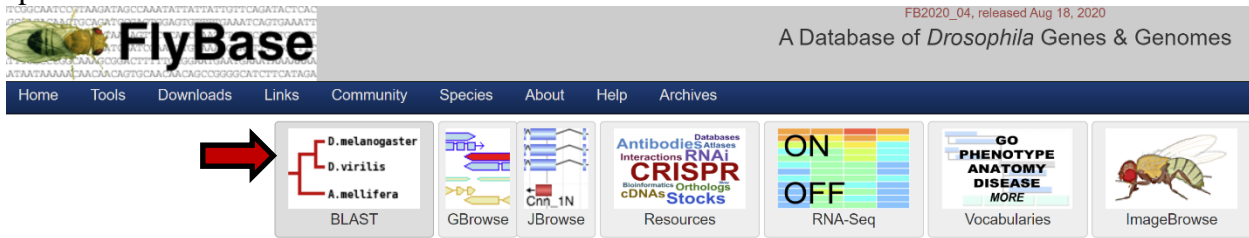


Q#9: List the 1 **human** disease that mutation of the ADH gene is linked to:

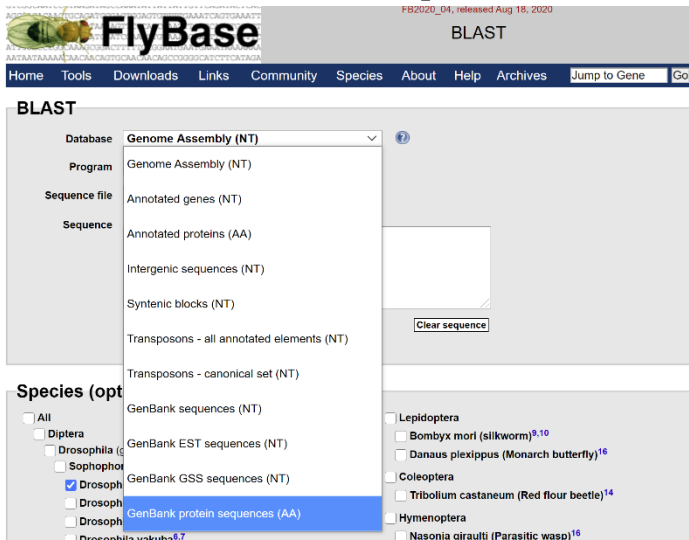
8. Copy the below sequence for HUMAN Alcohol Dehydrogenase 1a (ADH1a); displayed in FASTA format.

```
>sp|P07327|ADH1A_HUMAN Alcohol dehydrogenase 1A OS=Homo sapiens OX=9606 GN=ADH1A
PE=1 SV=2
MSTAGKVIKCKAAVLWELKKPFSIEEVEVAPPKAHEVRIKMVAVGICGTDHVVSGTMVT
PLPVILGHEAAGIVESVGEGVTTVKPGDKVIPLAIPQCGKCRICKNPESNYCLKNDVSNP
QGTLQDGTSRFTCRRKPIHHFLGISTFSQYTVVDENAVAKIDAASPLEKVCLIGCGFSTG
YGSAVNVAKVTPGSTCAVFGLGGVGLSAIMGCKAAGAARIAVDINKDKFAKAKELGATE
CINPQDYKKPIQEVLEKEMTDGGVDFSFEVIGRLDTMMASLLCCHEACGTSVIVGVPPDSQ
NLSMNPMLLLTGRTWKGAILGGFKSKECVPKLVADFMAKKFSLDALITHVLPFEKINEGF
DLLHSGKSIRTILMF
```

9. From the FlyBase Home Menu, select the Drosophila **BLAST** icon to link out to the Drosophila-specific BLAST tool.

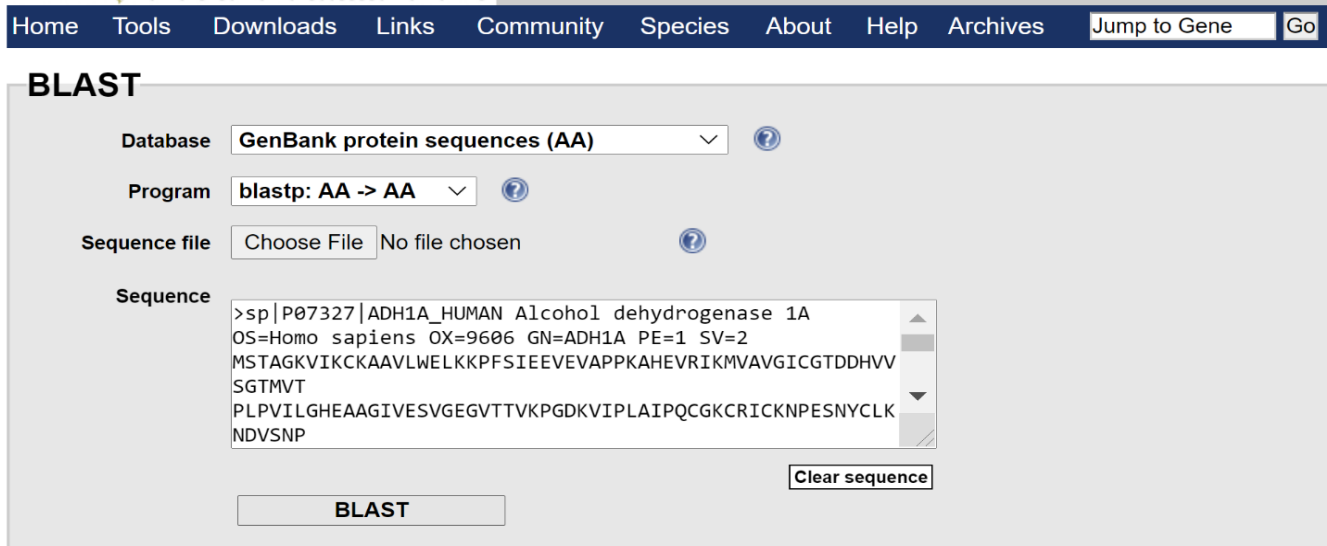


10. Click on the ‘Database’ drop down arrow and select “GenBank Protein Sequences (AA)”.



11. Then paste the *Homo sapiens* alcohol dehydrogenase 1a FASTA protein sequence you copied above into the ‘Sequence’ window.

12. Finally, hit the ‘BLAST’ button as highlighted in the next snapshot.



13. You will pull up a graphic view of the BLAST Report.

14. Click on the 5th red line... which is one of the BLAST hits.

Q#10: What is the name of the *Drosophila* protein that is identified in the BLAST report?

FB2021_05, released October 15, 2021



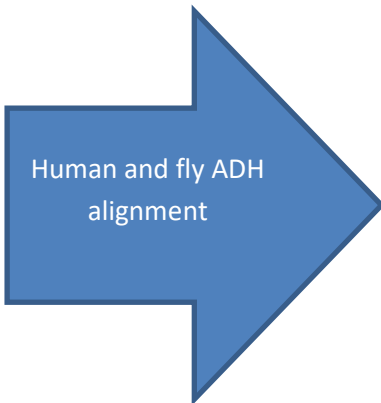
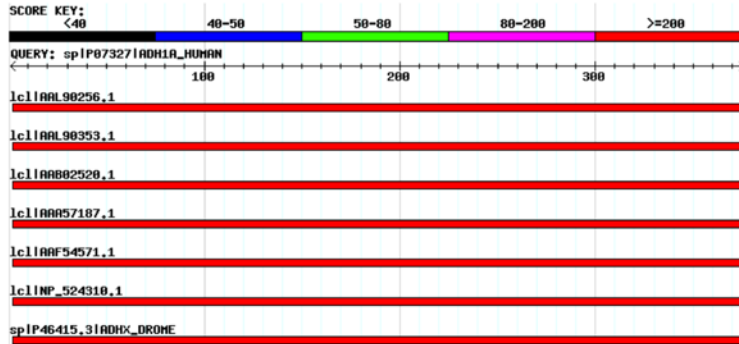
BLAST Report

Home Tools Downloads Links Community Species About Help Archives [Jump to Gene](#)

blastp 2.2.18 [Mar-02-2008]

Reference: Altschul, Stephen F., Thomas L. Madden, Alejandro A. Schaffer, Jinghui Zhang, Zheng Zhang, Webb Miller, and David J. Lipman (1997), "Gapped BLAST and PSI-BLAST: a new generation of protein database search programs", *Nucleic Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402.

Query	
Description	Length
sp P07327 ADH1A_HUMAN Alcohol dehydrogenase 1A OS=Homo sapiens OX=9606 GN=ADH1A PE=1 SV=2	375



>sp|P46415.3|ADHX_DROME RecName: Full=Alcohol dehydrogenase class-3; AltName: Full=Alcohol dehydrogenase class-III; AltName: Full=Glutathione-dependent formaldehyde dehydrogenase; Short=FALDH; Short=FDH; Short=GSH-FDH; AltName: Full=Octanol dehydrogenase; AltName: Full=S-(hydroxymethyl)glutathione dehydrogenase
Length = 379

HSP # = 1, Score = 417.157 bits (1071), Expect = 3.26302e-116
Identities = 202 / 377 (53.6%), Positives = 267 / 377 (70.8%), Gaps = 3 / 377 (0.8%)

Subject FASTA

```

Query:   2      STAGKVIKCKAAVLWELKKPFSIEEVEVAPPKAHEVRIKMVAVGICGTDHVVSGTM/TP 61
          +T GKVI CKAAV WE KKP IE++EVAPPKAHEVRIK+ A G+C TD +SG
Subject: 3      ATEGKRVITCKAAVWEAKKPLVIEDIEVAPPKAHEVRIKITATGVCHTDAFTLSGADPEG 62

Query:   62      L-PVILGHEAAGIVESVGEVTVTKPGDKVIPLAIPQCGKCRICKNPESNYLKNVDSNP 120
          L PV+LGHE AGIVESVGEVGT K GD VI L IPQC +C+ CK+ ++N C K ++
Subject: 63      LFPVVLGHEGAGIVESVGEVTVTKAGDHVIALYIPQNECKPCKSGKTNLQCKIRLTQG 122

Query:   121     QGTLDGTSRPTCRKRPIHFLGISTFSQYTVVDENAVAKIDAASPLEKVCLIGCGFSTG 180
          G + +GTSR +C+ + + HF+G STF++YTVV + ++ KI+ +ELEKVCL+GCG STG
Subject: 123     AGVMPEGTSRLSCKGQQLPHFMGTSTFAEYTVVADISLTKINEKAPLEKVCLLGGCISTG 182

Query:   181     YGSANVAVKVPSTCAVFLGGVGLSAIMGCKAAGAARIIVAVDINKDKFAKAKELGATE 240
          YG+A+N AKV GSTCAV+GLG VGL+ +GCK AGA +I +DIN DKF AK+ G T+
Subject: 183     YGAALNTARVEAGSTCAVGLGAVGLAVGLGCKAGAGKIYIDINPKFELAKKPGFTD 242

Query:   241     CINPDQY--KKPIQEVLKEMTDGGVDFSEFVIGRLDTMMASLLCCHEACGTSVIVGVPPD 298
          +NP+D K IQ L ++TDGG D++FE IG ++TM ++L H+ GTSV++GV
Subject: 243     FVNPKDVAADKGSIQNYLIDLTDGGFDYTFECIGNVNTMRSALENTHKGWGTSVIVGAVA 302

Query:   299     SQNLSMNPMLLLTGRTWKGAIIIGGFKSKECVKLVADFMAKRFSLDALITHVLPFEKINE 358
          Q+S P L+ GR WKG+ GG+S VPKLV D++ K +D ITH LP +INE
Subject: 303     GQEISTRPFQLVWGRVWKSAPGGWRVSDVPKLVEDYLLKDLVDVETITHELPLSQINE 362

Query:   359     GFDLLHSGKSIRTILMF 375
          FDL+H G+SIR+I+ +
Subject: 363     AFDLMHKGESIRSIKY 379
    
```

Q#11: If you wanted to study alcoholism in the fruit fly model organism, **how many different mutant ADH stocks** could you **order** from the Bloomington Stock Center ...

[hint: Stock (###) and if you want to see the all make sure to hit the blue box that says “**More stocks available...**” at **Bloomington**]? _____



+ Genomic Location and Detailed Mapping Data
- Stocks and Reagents
+ Stocks (198)
+ Genomic Clones (18)
+ cDNA Clones (269)
+ RNAi and Array Information
+ Antibody Information
+ Other Information

Q#12: Analyzing the BLAST hit above:

a. Record the identity score: _____

b. Record the positive score: _____

c. Record the E-value: _____

d. Is it likely that fruit flies have an alcohol dehydrogenase gene coding for the protein? Justify your answer using **Expect value (E-value)** and the percent positives in your answer.

Follow this link <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3860432/> to a research paper about Human ADH genes and answer the below questions:

Q#13: There is 1 ADH gene in fruit flies, how many different ADH genes are in humans?

Q#14: Discussion: What are some of the reasons that studying the genes associated with alcohol use disorders (AUD) is easier in fruit flies as compared to human?

ANSWER sheet for FlyBase ADH Exercise

Student name: _____ Date: _____

Q#1:

- _____ enzyme
- _____ receptor
- _____ transcription factor
- _____ small molecule binding
- _____ lipid binding
- _____ other molecular function

Q#2:

- a.** _____
- b.** _____
- c.** _____

Q#3:

- _____ cell cycle /proliferation
- _____ cell organization/biogenesis
- _____ cellular transport/localization
- _____ development
- _____ immune system
- _____ behavior
- _____ nervous system process

Q#4:

- _____ extracellular region
- _____ membrane
- _____ cell projection
- _____ neuron/synapse
- _____ cell junction

Q#5: _____

Q#6: _____

Q#7: _____

Q#8: _____

Q#9: _____

Q#10: _____

Q#11: _____

Q#12: _____

Q#13: _____

Q#14: _____

References

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/data.html>

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-use-disorder>

Edenberg, H.J. The Genetics of Alcohol Metabolism: Role of Alcohol Dehydrogenase and Aldehyde Dehydrogenase Variants. *Alcohol Res Health.* (30) 1: 5-13 (2007)

Maples, T. and A. Rothenfluh. A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies. *J. Vis. Exp.* (48), e2541, doi:10.3791/2541 (2011).

Montane-Jaime, K., Moore, S. Shafe, S., Joseph, R., Crooks, H. Carr, L., and C.L. Ehlers. ADH1C*2 allele is associated with alcohol dependence and elevated liver enzymes in Trinidad and Tobago. *Alcohol.* 39 (2): 81-86 (2006).

Pandey, U. B., and C. D. Nichols. "Human Disease Models in *Drosophila Melanogaster* and the Role of the Fly in Therapeutic Drug Discovery." *Pharmacological Reviews*, vol. 63, no. 2, 2011, pp. 411–436., doi:10.1124/pr.110.003293.

Materials

For the bioinformatics and calculation days, students will need a computer with Internet access for FlyBase bioinformatics questions (Day 1) and worksheet (Day 3). Excel program. LCD projector and computer are required for in person instructor presentations. However, pre-lab video tutorials and a pre-lab quiz have been created to reduce instructional time in the lab and maximize “hands-on” time for students.

Adult Behavioral Assays (EMBA)	Nutri-fly food	66-113	Genesee Scientific	381.45
	Narrow Vials with flugs (assays performed in the vials and the white flugs make flies visible)	32-109BF	Genesee Scientific	278.15

Reagents, Flies & Shipping costs	100% ethanol (200-proof) – 500 mL	AC-61509-50000	Fisher Scientific	2*65.22 = \$130.44
	Control (w1118) & Adh flies	See Appendix A.	Bloomington Stock Center	8*\$17 per strains = \$136
	shipping	As needed	Sigma, Genesee, Bloomington	\$200 estimate

Each student group (groups of two are recommended) will need two ethanol exposure chambers (consisting of a narrow vial that has ½ of a fly plug (flug from Genesee Scientific) or buzz plug (ThermoFisher Scientific) pushed to the bottom (without the food shown in the JOVE video protocol). Including the described exposure chamber student groups will need:

- 2 Ethanol exposure chamber
- 4 whole flugs
- P1000 & tips or disposable pipette to measure 500 µL
- 15 or 50 mL conical of 200 proof EtOH (dyed with food coloring)
- Timer
- 8-10 control flies (male or female) in a food vial

- 8-10 Adh allele flies (male or female) in a food vial
- OR
- 8-10 control flies reared on chronic exposure during 5-day larval developmental period (in a food vial)
- One recycled Styrofoam ice box

For a class of 24 students to assay 1 sex per group you will need

- 24 ethanol exposure chambers (2 per student group; 12 groups in the class)
- 48 whole flugs/buzz plugs/vial closures
- 192-240 of each sex-sorted control fly strain and experimental strain (either ADH allelic variants or ethanol-exposed flies)
- 12 p1000s and appropriate tips
- 12 conical tubes with 200 proof (100%) ethanol dyed with food coloring
- 12 timers (or have students use cell phones)
- At least 1 thermometer to provide room temperature on the whiteboard.
- 12 recycled white Styrofoam ice boxes

Notes for the Instructor

The major challenges of this laboratory include making sure to start expanding the flies well in advance and the labor-intensive sex sorting of flies a day or two before the class performs the assays. Another challenge is timing flies that eclose from the alcohol-treated pupal cases versus the untreated pupal cases. It is recommended to stagger the vial ages of the untreated organisms so as to have treated and untreated adult flies that are all between the ages of 1-5 days old. Finally, it is recommended that you have trained T.A.s and/or helper undergraduate students to assist students in flipping the flies from food vials into the ethanol exposure chambers and then exchanging dry plugs with the ethanol-containing plugs.

Assessment data was collected which demonstrated that students had positive attitudinal gains and knowledge gains by participating in this 3-day lab module focused on ethanol-induced behavior and using the FlyBase Bioinformatic database to study the different ADH alleles in *Drosophila* (see Appendix A Figure A-1 and A-2) .

Appendix B contains information on Materials and Methods to prep the wet-lab portions of the ethanol-ADH allele modules and how to organize and analyze collected data.

Appendices C and D contain two Power Points to supplement the printed lab. The first presentation was given during the ABLE workshop in June 2021 and includes YouTube links to videos recorded for pre-lab viewing and also links to YouTube posted videos of Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assays (EMBA) that students who are in quarantine or otherwise remote can observe and use with the worksheets published in this article. The second presentation in Appendix D is completely recorded on YouTube and the URL for this introductory video is also provided.

Appendix E lists questions used for 1.) post-module survey and 2.) pertinent Cumulative Lab Exam questions.

Cited References

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fasd/data.html>

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-use-disorder>

Edenberg HJ. 2007. The Genetics of Alcohol Metabolism: Role of Alcohol Dehydrogenase and Aldehyde Dehydrogenase Variants. *Alcohol Res Health*. 30 (1): 5-13.

Maples T, Rothenfluh A. 2011. A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies. *J. Vis. Exp.* (48), e2541, doi:10.3791/2541.

Montane-Jaime K, Moore S, Shafe S, Joseph R, Crooks H, Carr L, Ehlers CL. 2006. ADH1C*2 allele is associated with alcohol dependence and elevated liver enzymes in Trinidad and Tobago. *Alcohol*. 39(2): 81-86.

Pandey UB, Nichols CD. 2011. Human Disease Models in *Drosophila Melanogaster* and the Role of the Fly in Therapeutic Drug

Discovery. *Pharmacological Reviews*, 63(2): 411–436, doi:10.1124/pr.110.003293.

Acknowledgments

Thank you very much to the peer reviewers of this laboratory manuscript whose comments improved the resulting publication. Many thanks to all of the BIOL3100 Genetics students at North Carolina Central University for participating in assessments. I am grateful for the ABLE Roberta Williams TIG (this paper is aim #1 still have aims #2 & #3 to finish developing) and NSF HBCU-UP TIP Grant # 1912188.

About the Authors

Author Jenni Echeverria served as Teaching Assistant in the BIOL3100 Genetics course while she earned her Masters of Science in the Biological and Biomedical Science Department at North Carolina Central University. She now works as a Research Technician at the Duke University Immunology and Virology Quality Assessment Center (IVQAC) in the Duke University Vaccine Institute, where she has been majorly involved in Covid-19 testing and vaccine research.

Cathy Silver Key has been the instructor for the sophomore-/junior-level required Genetics course at North Carolina Central University (an HBCU) since 2005. She also teaches 4 other courses: 1.) the sophomore-level Molecular Biology of Cells (summer only); 2.) a newly developed CURE *Drosophila* Behavioural Genetics (DaBuGs) courses (NSF funded), 3.) the senior-level Inquiries in Developmental Biology course in Spring semesters, and 4.) Graduate Genetics in Fall semesters. She also maintains a research lab where she happily trains Underrepresented Minority (URM) students to become future researchers and professionals.

Appendix A: Science Education Data

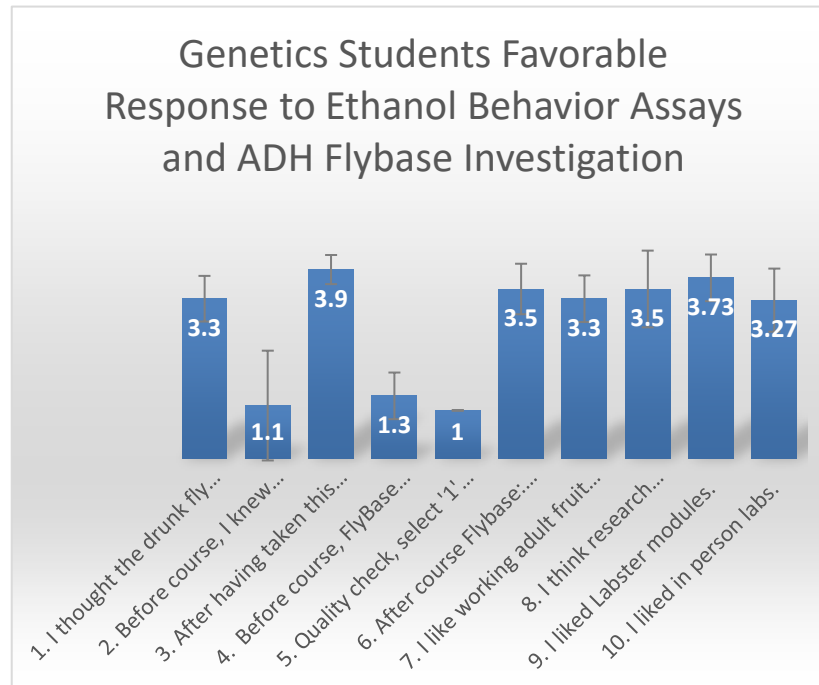


Figure A-1. Student responses to lab 3-day model on fly ethanol behavior assay and FlyBase Bioinformatic exercise. See Appendix E for full questions.

Genetics Students Perform well on F2020-S2021 Lab Exam (pertinent questions)

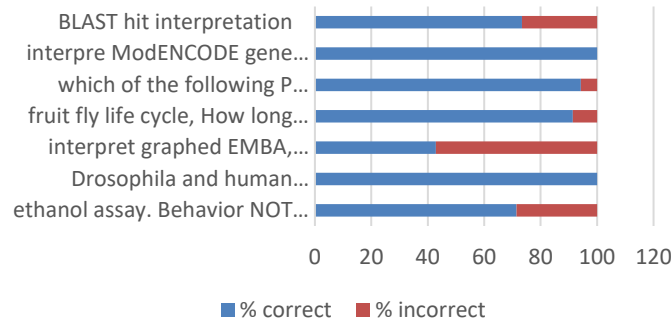


Figure A-2. Student performance on Cumulative Lab Exam suggests that most learning objectives for the 3-Day ethanol behavior and bioinformatic labs were met. One area for improvement is interpretation of graphed data. See Appendix E for full questions.

Appendix B: Materials and Methods

Table A-1. Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) *Drosophila* Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center*

Strain	Catalog Number	Phenotype	Genotype
Control w ¹¹¹⁸ strain	5905	Normal behavior, white eyes	w ¹¹¹⁸ ; Adh ⁺
Control Oregon R	5	Normal behavior, red eyes	Oregon-R-C, Adh ⁺
Adh ^F allelic strain	6040	Sensitive to ethanol, red eyes	Adh[F] Nucleotide substitution: A1490C Amino acid changes: K192T
Adh ^{N1} allelic strain	3976	Sensitive to ethanol, red eyes	Adh[N1] Nucleotide change: G14616681A Reported amino acid change: G92E
Adh ^S allelic strain	4062	Resistant to ethanol, white eyes	w[1118]; Adh[S] Nucleotide change: C8826A Amino acid change: T192K Adh-PA

* Website for Bloomington *Drosophila* Stock Center (BDSC): <https://bdsc.indiana.edu/> For Canadian professors/instructors, you will need to submit Import Permission Documentation to order the flies.

Food for *Drosophila* stocks. Dr. Key's lab makes 1 L at a time of Nutri-fly food (Cat# 66-113) from Genesee Scientific (<https://geneseesci.com/>) supplemented with Propionic Acid as per the manufacturer's instructions. Each 1 L pack makes 1 tray of narrow food vials with about 5 mL of food per vial. Food is cooked ahead of time, covered with cheesecloth to prevent random fruit flies from entering food vials while the food cools. Food should cure for 48-72 hours and then either be covered with Genesee for Narrow Vials (Genesee Sci. Cat # 59-166) and placed in 4°C or sprinkled lightly with dry yeast and cotton plugs inserted (store at either room temperature or at 4°C). Instant food from Carolina Biologicals can be used instead of cooked food (Formula 4-24 Instant *Drosophila* Medium, Blue, 1L; Catalog # 173210).

Fly Maintenance and Expansion. Maintenance of flies and sex-determination is described on the FlyMove website (<http://flymove.uni-muenster.de/>). In general, flies in narrow vials should be turned over into new food once per week if flies are kept at room temperature (once every 2 weeks if flies are at 18°C). Always keep one vial with larvae and pupae until the newly turned over vial has larvae. To expand the flies, you will want to turn flies over twice per week, keeping the flies in an incubator set to 25°C with a container of water set in the bottom of the incubator for humidity. For a class of 20-25 students where each student will handle their own vial of flies, begin the expansion 1.5 months ahead of the date needed.

Prepping flies for Ethanol Behavior Mobility Assay (EMBA). Clear all adult flies from vials 1-4 days before needed for students. One to 2 days ahead of the student "hands-on" date, anesthetize flies with CO₂ (or FlyNap) and sex sort the flies, placing 8-10 flies per vial. Flies should be no more than 5 days old for the assay.

Preparing the Ethanol Exposure Chambers. Obtain a narrow cotton vial closure called buzz plugs or flugs. Cut in half using a razor blade. Push one half down into a narrow vial using a large dry erase marker. Plug the top of the container with a whole buzz plug or flug.

Performing the ethanol RESISTANCE assay. Watch the JOVE video (Maples and Rothenfluh, 2011; [A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies | Protocol \(jove.com\)](#)) and Cathy Silver Key's video tutorial to learn how to perform the assay <https://youtu.be/rBuxZglfQ8g>.

Performing the ethanol TOLERANCE assay. The JOVE video in the Maples and Rothenfluh article also presents how to do the tolerance assay. Basically, the flies are exposed to the ethanol for the amount of time that it takes for 50% of the flies in the vial to become sedated. Then allow the flies to recover from the ethanol exposure for 4 hours. Using a fresh ethanol exposure chamber, expose the recovered flies to the same amount of ethanol (500 μ L of 100% 200 proof) as before. For this repeat ethanol exposure, observe how long it takes for 50% of the flies to become sedated: sedation time 50 (ST50). If it takes more time for the flies to become sedated during the second exposure, then the flies are said to have developed TOLERANCE to ethanol.

Appendix C: Major Workshop PowerPoint Presentation

Virtual Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education


ViABLE2021

Major Workshop:
"Don't Drink and Fly: Alcohol Resistance Behavior in *Drosophila* informs us about Human Genes that Contribute to Alcoholism"

June 17, 2021



S. Catherine Silver Key and Jennifer Echeverria
 @ North Carolina Central University

This work is funded in part by a seed grant from an ABLERoberta Williams TIG and in part by an NSF HBCU-UP TIP: EU-STEM DaBuGs Grant # 1912188



1

About NCCU (where lab implemented)

James E. Sheppard, Founder

- ✓ HBCU
- ✓ ~8,000 students
- ✓ 300 Biological & Biomedical Science
- ✓ BIOL3100(Genetics) required course

2

Teaching the Lab in 1, 2 or 3 Two-Hour Lab Sessions

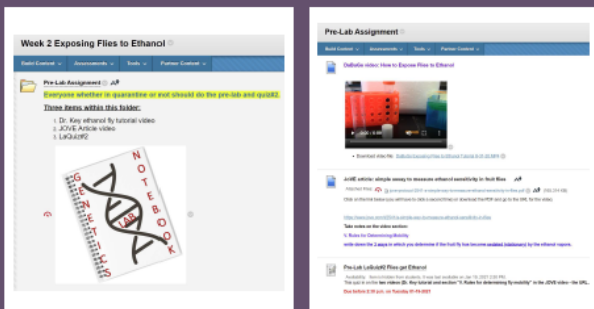
1-Lab Session Model	2-Lab Session Model	3-Lab Session Model
<p>Protocol: w1118 control strain(1 or 2 vials per student, male and/or female)</p> <p>Inquiry: which gender of flies will be more resistant to effects of alcohol?</p> <p>Presentation/Discussion: Increased resistance to the effects of alcohol contributes to Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD)</p> <p>Optional: FlyBase activity on Alcohol Dehydrogenase</p>	<p>Protocols: Do the male vs. female lab; then do the Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) lab with different ADH alleles.</p> <p>Inquiries: 1. Which gender more resistant to alcohol? 2. Which ADH allele could lead to AUD?</p> <p>Presentation/Discussion: Increased resistance to the effects of alcohol contributes to Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD)</p> <p>Optional: FlyBase activity on Alcohol Dehydrogenase</p>	<p>Protocols: 1. Do the male vs. female lab; 2. then do the Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) lab with different ADH alleles. 3. FlyBase activity on Alcohol Dehydrogenase</p> <p>Inquiries: 1. Which gender more resistant to alcohol? 2. Which ADH allele could lead to AUD? 3. Is the ADH gene similar in humans compared to flies? What can we learn about ADH expression patterns in flies and apply to humans?</p> <p>Presentation/Discussion: Increased resistance to the effects of alcohol contributes to Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD); ADH variance contributions; expression data suggest about ADH more or less resistant?</p>

3

Workshop Outline


- How to Introduce to the Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to students
- The EMBA Kit
- Perform/view the EMBA
- **BREAK**
- Crunching data and generating the graph
- Bioinformatics FlyBase worksheet
- Student feedback and learning gains

4



5

Pre-Lab Video Tutorial #1: Dr. Key Demonstrates Exposing Flies to Ethanol



Unlisted video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/rBuzZgIF08g>

6

Pre-Lab Video Tutorial #2:
Journal of Visualized Experiment (JOVE) Article

A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies

Thomas Maples¹, Adrian Rothenfluh¹
Department of Psychiatry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA
Correspondence to: Adrian Rothenfluh at adrian.rothenfluh@iowa.uiowa.edu
URL: <https://www.jove.com/video/52841>
DOI: 10.3791/52841
Keywords: Neurosciences, Issue 48, Cerebellum, behavior, alcohol, addiction
Date Published: 01/02/2011
Citation: Maples, T., Rothenfluh, A. A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies. *J. Vis. Exp.* (48): e52841, doi:10.3791/52841 (2011)

Abstract
Low doses of ethanol cause flies to become hyperactive, while high doses are aversive. The sensitivity to ethanol-induced activation or aversion is correlated with that strain's ethanol preference, and therefore sensitive is a highly relevant measure to study the genetics of alcohol responses and drinking. We demonstrate a simple way to expose flies to ethanol and measure its mobility effects. The assay will determine ethanol sensitivity, as well as ethanol tolerance induced by repeated exposure. It does not require a genetically modified fly, and can therefore be applied in any laboratory with basic fly culture tools.

Chapters

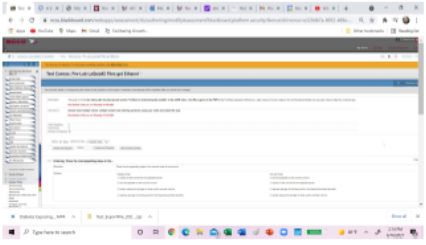
- 0:02 Title
- 0:47 Materials
- 1:40 Creating the exposure chamber
- 2:38 Exposing the flies
- 3:57 Measuring mobility
- 5:29 Rules for determining mobility
- 6:59 Calculating ST50
- 7:59 Results
- 8:27 Tolerence

Video Link
The video component of the article is available at: <https://www.jove.com/video/52841>

URL for the JOVE Maple and Rothenfluh article: [A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies | Protocol \(jove.com\)](https://www.jove.com/video/52841)

7

Pre-Lab Quiz: Only 4 questions based on the two video tutorials.



8

Workshop Outline

- How to introduce to the Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to students
- The EMBA Kit
- Perform/view the EMBA
- **BREAK**
- Crunching data and generating the graph
- Bioinformatics FlyBase worksheet
- Student feedback and learning gains


9

Workshop Outline

- How to introduce to the Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to students
- The EMBA Kit
- Perform/view the EMBA
- **BREAK**
- Crunching data and generating the graph
- Bioinformatics FlyBase worksheet
- Student feedback and learning gains

10

DAY 1) EMBA: Control Strain either Oregon R or w¹¹¹⁸



Background: Your instructor has reared flies for 10-14 days. As the adult flies emerged from the pupal cases, adult flies were collected and aged from 1-5 days and then sorted the two genders (male and female) into food vials.


Prediction: Make prediction: Which gender will be more resistant to the alcohol (i.e., take longer to become sedate)? _____

Instructions: Run the EMBA assay as indicated by the protocol on the adult flies your instructor has provided and fill in the data table 1 below.

Protocol:

11


EMBA Day 2: Comparing two genetically different strains



Learning Objectives Part 1:

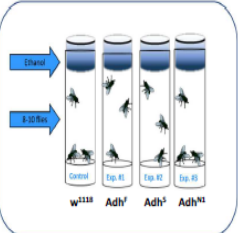
1. Reiterative learning of Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) using two genetically different fly strains.
2. Collect data into Excel to and enter into an Excel Worksheet
3. Determine and report the ST50 and ST100 for your EMBA
4. Using class data (posted after every submits their observational data), calculate:
 - a. The average ST50 and ST100 for each gender and each fly strain
 - b. The Standard Deviation from the Average for ST50 and ST100
 - c. The statistical significance for
 - i. Either female w¹¹¹⁸ compared to female Adh^S, Adh^L, and/or Adh^{N1} strain;
 - ii. comparing w¹¹¹⁸ males to male Adh^S, Adh^L, and/or Adh^{N1} strain;
 - iii. Comparing w¹¹¹⁸ females to w¹¹¹⁸ males
 - iv. Comparing Adh^S, Adh^L, and/or Adh^{N1} females to Adh^S, Adh^L, &/or Adh^{N1} males.

12



In person 'Intoxicated Fly Assays'

1. Flip flies from food vial into the ethanol exposure chamber
2. Quickly cap the top with a flug
3. To a separate flug, pipette 500 uL ethanol (dyed blue)
4. Start timer
5. Tap every minute and record observations for 10 s each tap



13

Alternate Lab for those in Quarantine

Because there are 2 vials of flies, I recommend either using a sheet of paper for the 3 columns (time, w1118 male and w1118 female) or 1/2 female.

Video compares the response of male versus female flies of the same genotype, w1118, to the same concentration and amount of 100% (200 μ l). There should be 10 flies per ethanol exposure chamber, but double check.

The temperature in the room was 21 degrees Celsius at about 10 a.m. on 9-1-2020

Three video files of 1 assay (upper time limit for a MP4 file is ~30 minutes) are loaded on YouTube. Just click each link to view video:

1. Part 1
2. Part 2
3. Part 3

14

w1118 Control EMBA on YouTube

- Female vs Male Part 1: <https://youtu.be/wCZDhDIGNA8>
- Female vs Male Part 2: <https://youtu.be/d7-rMVQn2jw>
- Female vs Male Part 3: <https://youtu.be/XGJVmBM8Ec>

15

ADH variant ethanol assays on YouTube

- Male ADH variant assay on YouTube:
 - Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2WDMe6C_fs
 - Part 2: <https://youtu.be/Rmp3Xku5wz8>
- Female ADH variant assay on YouTube:
 - Part 1: <https://youtu.be/zGtS6WZHXUw>
 - Part 2: <https://youtu.be/i6W9LTVVSw>


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Workshop Outline

- How to introduce to the Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA) to students
- The EMBA Kit
- Perform/view the EMBA
- **BREAK**
- Crunching data and generating the graph
- Bioinformatics FlyBase worksheet
- Student feedback and learning gains

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EMBA Kit Contents



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Female vs Male Part 1: <https://youtu.be/wCZDhDiGNA8>

Female vs Male Part 2: <https://youtu.be/d7-rMVQn2jw>

Female vs Male Part 3: <https://youtu.be/XGJVmBM8rEc>

Male ADH variant assay on YouTube:

- Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2WDMe6C_fs
- Part 2: <https://youtu.be/Rmp3Xku5wz8>

Female ADH variant assay on YouTube:

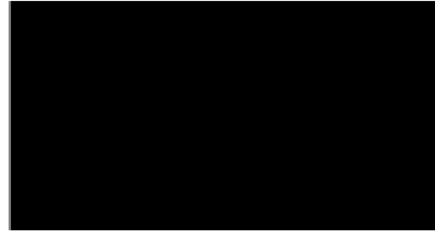
- Part 1: <https://youtu.be/zGtS6WZHXJw>
- Part 2: <https://youtu.be/l6W9LTJVVSw>

EMBA Kit Packed Up



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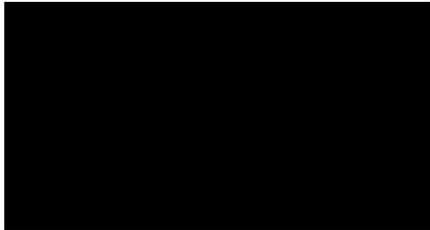
DaBuGs Video Excel Tutorial#1: 'Crunching the Numbers'



Also available on Unlisted YouTube: <https://youtu.be/A52r9AwbMIQ>

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DaBuGs Video Excel Tutorial #2: Graphing EMBA Data



Tutorial video also available on unlisted YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3b5cqdJUXg8>

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Day 3: FlyBase: Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH) Gene in Alcohol Use Disorder in Flies and Humans

Learning Objectives:

1. Use FlyBase including BLAST
2. Compare ADH in humans and flies
3. Analyze ModENCODE expression data of ADH gene.

Instructions: Answer questions using the LAST PAGE of this document which has the ANSWER SHEET on 1 page. Submit ONLY your answer sheet to the Blackboard Submission Portal.

Pre-Lab videos to Watch:

1. Flybase for Undergrads video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL8k47IOuQ>

2. BLAST tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXEpBnUbAMo>

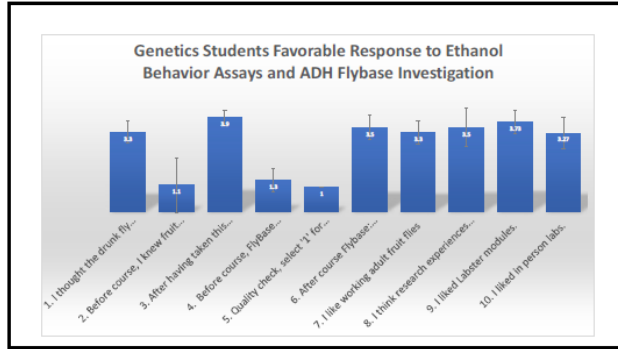


23

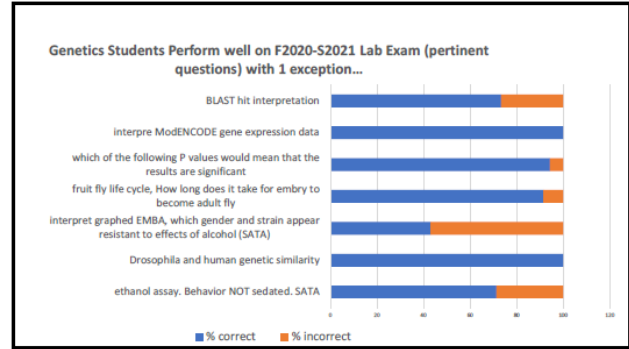
Workshop Outline

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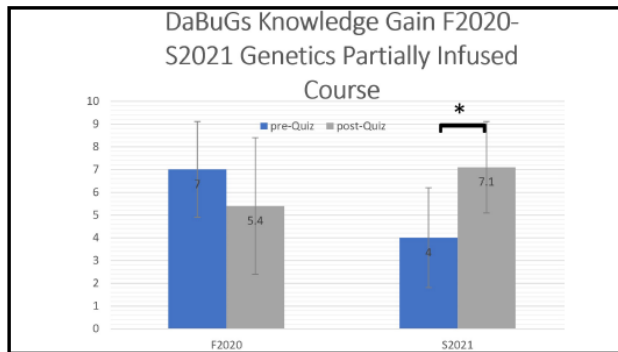
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Concluding Remarks

- Covid-19 Pandemic presented challenges, students seem to enjoy performing the intoxicated fly assays and made learning gains.

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Acknowledgements

- Jennifer Smith Echeverria, M.S.
- Essence Jackson, master's student
- ABLE Roberta Williams Teaching Initiative Grant
- NSF HBCU-UP TIP: EU-STEM DaBuGs Grant # 1912188

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Appendix D: PowerPoint to Introduce Students to Flies and ADH gene

Don't Drink and Fly! Translational Research Experience

Using Fruit Flies to Study Alcoholism in Humans

S. Catherine Silver Key, Ph.D.
in Biological & Biomedical Science NCCU

Jenni Echeverria M.S.
(now Research Technician at Duke University)

1 This Power Point presentation available on Unlisted YouTube URL:
<https://youtu.be/JiGBF4eYbbs>

Acknowledgement



- This work is funded in part by
- a seed grant from an ABLERoberta Williams Teaching Initiative Grant
- and in part by an NSF HBCU-UP Targeted Infusion Project: EU-STEM Drosophila Behavioural Genetics (DaBuGs) Grant # 1912188

This Power Point recording at: <https://youtu.be/JiGBF4eYbbs>

2

Outline

- Background on *Drosophila melanogaster*
- Why use flies?
- Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)
- How study in flies: EMBA
- Translational Research

3

Drosophila melanogaster Background

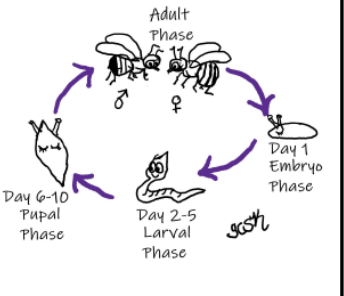
4

How long does a fruit fly live?

5

Fly Life Cycle

- 10 days to develop
- Total life span = 50-60 days




The diagram illustrates the fly life cycle as a circular process. It starts with an embryo (Day 1 Embryo Phase), followed by a larval stage (Day 2-5 Larval Phase), then a pupal stage (Day 6-10 Pupal Phase), and finally the adult phase. The adult phase shows male and female flies. A small signature 'scs' is visible at the bottom right of the diagram.

6

What do we know about fruit flies?

7



Attracted to fermenting fruit


Often reward themselves with alcohol

React to alcohol just like humans do!

8

Why use flies?

9



They are easy to keep and maintain

They have a short life cycle (6-10 days)

They share over 60-75% of genes with us!

10

Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)

11

Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)
Definition from NIH

- Problem drinking that becomes severe is given the medical diagnosis of "alcohol use disorder" or AUD. AUD is a chronic relapsing brain disorder characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences.

Alcoholism is an AUD

<https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/alcohol-health/overview-alcohol-consumption/alcohol-use-disorders>

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Genotype/Phenotype leading to AUD

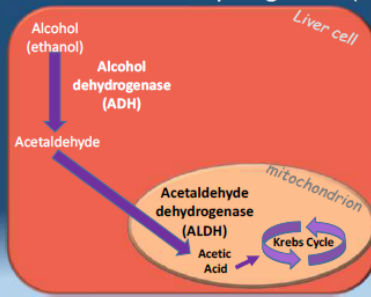
- Genetic difference
- Different alcohol metabolism
- **Alcohol Resistant Behavior**: less of a 'buzz' and therefore drink more and more to reach the 'buzz' feeling

13

What does the ADH (alcohol dehydrogenase) gene do?

14

Function of Alcohol Dehydrogenase (ADH)



15

Why Should We Care?

- 1 in 8 Americans suffer from Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)
- Alcohol responsible for over 88,000 deaths.

16

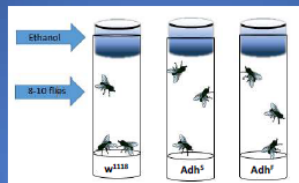
How to study Alcoholism in flies...

17

How do we use fruit flies in the lab to study alcoholism in humans?

18

Ethanol Mobility Behavior Assay (EMBA)



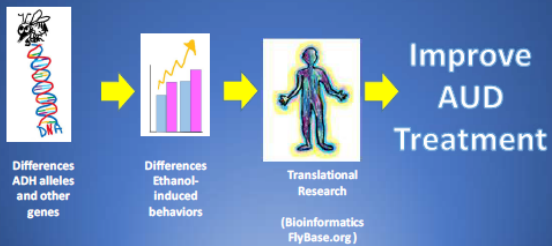
19

Translational Research

From BENCH to BEDSIDE

20

So how do we use these results?



21

NOTE!
URLs to Videos posted on YouTube
on how to do the assay and crunch the data
provided in the Manuscript Appendices!

22

References

Scholz, Henrike, et al. "The Hangover Gene Defines a Stress Pathway Required for Ethanol Tolerance Development." *Nature*, vol. 436, no. 7052, 2005, pp. 845–847.

Maples, Thomas, and Adrian Rothenfluh. "A Simple Way to Measure Ethanol Sensitivity in Flies | Protocol." *JoVE (Journal of Visualized Experiments)*, 19 Feb. 2011, www.jove.com/video/2541/a-simple-way-to-measure-ethanol-sensitivity-in-flies.

Pandey, U. B., and C. D. Nichols. "Human Disease Models in *Drosophila Melanogaster* and the Role of the Fly in Therapeutic Drug Discovery." *Pharmacological Reviews*, vol. 63, no. 2, 2011, pp. 411–436.

23

Appendix E: Assessment Questions

Pertinent Lab Exam Questions:

12. Multiple Choice: About how similar are Drosophila (fru...

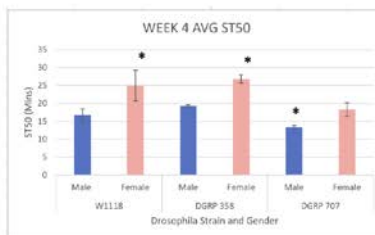
Question	About how similar are Drosophila (fruit flies) to humans at the genetic level? (Hint: AUD video lecture)
Answer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60-75% similar <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> 10-25% similar <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> 45-55% similar <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> 99% similar

13. Multiple Answer: Ethanol assay. When being exposed to...

Question	Ethanol assay. When being exposed to ethanol, what counts as mobile (NOT sedated). Select all answers that are true.
Answer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to walk across or up a surface <hr/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Able to turn themselves over <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Able to move their legs as they stay in place <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> Able to move their wings as they stay in place

14. Multiple Answer: Studying the graphed Ethanol Mobility...

Question Studying the graphed Ethanol Mobility Behavioral Assay (EMBA) data below, which gender(s) and strain(s) of flies appear RESISTANT to the effects of alcohol? (select as many as are correct, it could be as few as 1 and as many as 4)



Answer

- male DGRP-358
- male DGRP-707
- female DGRP-358
- female DGRP-707

21. Multiple Choice: Which of the following P values would...

Question Which of the following P values would mean that the results are significant?

Answer

- 0.001
- 0.1
- 0.06
- 0.6

21. Multiple Choice: The below alignment shows the results...

Points: 2

Question The below alignment shows the results one gets when the human Insulin Receptor protein is BLASTED against the Drosophila melanogaster protein database. Does the "E" indicate that the insulin receptor is present in fruit flies? Justify the answer using the most important data to indicate a significant similarity.

```

>K0ACV01662.1 INR, partial [Drosophila melanogaster]
Length = 2049
HSP # = 1, Score = 825.239 bits (2133), Expect = 0
Identifies = 522 / 1393 (37.5%), Positives = 756 / 1393 (54.3%), Gaps = 164 / 1393 (11.8%)
Subject FASTA
Query: 37   TDIKIVQGLAPLEKCTVYKIVLNLISERACQFVYRFFELVYVTEILLQFVAGLDEL 94
Subject: 286  *LKWVYED+L I L+ A - + FFEIT +T+*****KQ GL EL 334
MCRKQKTSFQKLANCTVTEPLLELIDGASFL-DRFFELVYVTEILLQFVAGLDEL
Query: 37   GLLFHLVYIHWLQVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYV 336
Subject: 335  +PPL+TNG KLF YVLY** +L D+GL+ LK+TNG +*TNG LQV T+D 414
SLIFPLVYIHWLQVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYV
Query: 157  WHLLGAVRHHIVY--RREFFEG-QLFQVWEEFHEEETIINEEDVNC----- 405
Subject: 413  W IL -V- N KEC QPS + * * T I E N C 474
WLLLABRDTGLVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYVYV
Query: 206  -WTDKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQ 243
Subject: 475  W + QG QP C + C + + CC +KLS C N + KQKQ + KCK + 533
CKSFLQVTRKPKC-RKNCIDKTCQDCLGGVYIDKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQK
Query: 244  CFFVTRFQRNQCADPCAILLAKKSCSPPVAKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQK 323
Subject: 534  CF +F+ RQV + Q + E+* + +Q+* CFQD + + +N C F 594
CFQVTRFQRNQCADPCAILLAKKSCSPPVAKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQKQK
    
```

Answer

- yes, because the E value is 0 (zero) which means there is no chance that the two sequences are different
- yes, because the gap percent is low (~11%)
- no, because the number of positive amino acids are just a little more than half
- no, because the number of identical amino acids are just a little more than one-half

15. Multiple Answer: Studying the High Throughput data bel...

Success: Question edited.

Question

Studying the High Throughput data below for a gene called Cdt2, which of the following treatments causes a **moderately high increase** in Cdt2 gene expression?

modENCODE Treatment Expression Data (modENCODE_mRNA-Seq_treatments)

Search for similarly expressed genes

Styles: linear, log, heatmap

Scales: gene maximum expression, low expression bin max, moderately high expression bin max, very high expression bin max

Guide to modENCODE expression level colors

- no/extremely low expression (0 - 0)
- very low expression (1 - 3)
- low expression (4 - 10)
- moderate expression (11 - 25)
- moderately high expression (26 - 50)
- high expression (51 - 100)
- very high expression (101 - 1000)
- extremely high expression (>1000)

log, scaled to very high expression

Treatment	expression level
extended cold, 4-day adult	13
cold shock, 4-day adult	5
heat shock, 4-day adult	17
Cadmium 50 mM 6 hrs, larvae L3	3
Cadmium 50 mM 12 hrs, larvae L3	1
Cadmium 50 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	19
Cadmium 100 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	40
Copper 0.5 mM 12 hrs, larvae L3	3
Copper 15 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	11
Zinc 5 mM 12 hrs, larvae L3	0
Zinc 4.5 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	4
Ethanol 2.5% 3 hrs, larvae L3	50
Ethanol 5% 3 hrs, larvae L3	2
Ethanol 10% 3 hrs, larvae L3	2
Caffeine 1.5 mg/ml 4 hrs, larvae L3	2
Caffeine 2.5 mg/ml 48 hrs, 4-day adult	30
Caffeine 25 mg/ml 48 hrs, 4-day adult	12
Paraquat 5 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	27
Paraquat 10 mM 48 hrs, 4-day adult	29
Rotenone 2.8µg 12 hrs, larvae L3	2
Rotenone 8.8µg 12 hrs, larvae L3	4
Sindbis virus, larval stage	2
Sindbis virus, pupal stage	5
Sindbis virus, 4-day adult male	2
Sindbis virus, 4-day adult female	19

expression level scale: very low expression, low expression, moderate express, moderately high express, high express, very high expression

Answer

Sindbis virus

- 2.5% ethanol
- 2.5 mg/ml caffeine
- 100 mM Cadmium

Post-survey questions:

Likert survey. Circle a number for each statement. 'n/a' means not applicable. '1' = strongly disagree; '5' = strongly agree.

1. I interacted with Mr. Saliim frequently.	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
2. I feel confident in using TinkerCAD.	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
3. I was satisfied with my TinkerCAD design and 3D print out.	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
4. I thought the drunk fly assay were interesting.	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree

n/a	1	2	3	4
	5. Before I took this course, I knew fruit flies could be used to study alcoholism .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	6. After having taken course, I now know that flies can be used to study alcoholism .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	7. Before I took this course, I knew how to use FlyBase .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	8. Quality check, select '1' for the response to this statement.			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	9. After having taken course, I now know how to look up a human gene in flies using FlyBase .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	10. I liked working with adult fruit flies.			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	11. I liked working with fruit fly larvae.			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	12. I liked using the Labster modules .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	13. I liked having in person labs .			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	14. I spend more time as a student than I do as an employee (at a job).			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4
	15. I think having research experiences are important for professional and/or graduate school application.			
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
n/a	1	2	3	4

Write any additional comments here (and/or on the back page):

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Citing This Article

Jennifer S. Echeverria and S. Catherine Silver Key. 2022. Don't Drink and Fly: Alcohol Resistance Behavior in *Drosophila* Informs us about Genes that Contribute to Alcoholism. Article 6 In: Boone E and Thuecks S, eds. *Advances in biology laboratory education*. Volume 42. Publication of the 42nd Conference of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE). <https://doi.org/10.37590/able.v42.art6>

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