

Honey bee aggression supports a link between gene regulation and behavioral evolution

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A prominent theory states that animal phenotypes arise by evolutionary changes in gene regulation, but the extent to which this theory holds true for behavioral evolution is not known. Because “nature and nurture” are now understood to involve hereditary and environmental influences on gene expression, we studied whether environmental influences on a behavioral phenotype, i.e., aggression, could have evolved into inherited differences via changes in gene expression. Here, with microarray analysis of honey bees, we show that aggression-related genes with inherited patterns of brain expression are also environmentally regulated. There were expression differences in the brain for hundreds of genes between the highly aggressive Africanized honey bee compared with European honey bee (EHB) subspecies. Similar results were obtained for EHB in response to exposure to alarm pheromone (which provokes aggression) and when comparing old and young bees (aggressive tendencies increase with age). There was significant overlap of the gene lists generated from these three microarray experiments. Moreover, there was statistical enrichment of several of the same *cis* regulatory motifs in promoters of genes on all three gene lists. Aggression shows a remarkably robust brain molecular signature regardless of whether it occurs because of inherited, age-related, or environmental (social) factors. It appears that one element in the evolution of different degrees of aggressive behavior in honey bees involved changes in regulation of genes that mediate the response to alarm pheromone.

Changes in gene regulation are believed to underlie the evolution of novel animal phenotypes (1–4). Emerging from studies of animal development, evidence for this theory consists largely of differences in temporal or spatial patterns of gene expression related to morphological evolution (see ref. 5 for a review). The extent to which this theory holds true for the evolution of other complex traits such as behavior is largely unknown (6). However, the underlying process is consistent with the idea that phenotypic evolution proceeds by Waddington’s “genetic assimilation” of plastic responses to the environment (7, 8), which should hold widely true for behavior.

We explored this theory for behavior by taking advantage of a new perspective on the effects of “nature and nurture.” With the advent of routine transcriptomic profiling, it is now possible to study nature and nurture in terms of hereditary and environmental effects on brain gene expression, respectively (9). We used this perspective to determine whether environmental influences on a behavioral phenotype could have evolved into inherited differences via changes in gene regulation. One indication of this would be hereditary and environmental influences on the expression of common genes. For that purpose, we studied whether changes in gene regulation could be involved in the evolution of differences in aggressive behavior in the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*).

We used honey bee aggression because extensive prior analysis has shown that it is a rich and intricate behavioral system complete with well-defined environmental, maturational, and inherited components (10, 11). All honey bee colonies respond aggressively when their colony is disturbed or attacked, but there is striking variation

in the intensity of their response. In docile colonies only a few bees may respond, whereas in more aggressive colonies, the response may involve hundreds or even thousands of stinging individuals. Colony defense begins when “guard” bees detect a disturbance at the hive entrance and release alarm pheromone, which alerts the entire colony. Older bees (who mostly forage for nectar and pollen) are more likely to respond aggressively than younger bees, but a subset of the colony’s older bees, “soldiers,” are the first to seek out and attack an intruder. The most prominent example of inherited differences in honey bee aggression is the extremely aggressive disposition of Africanized honey bees (AHB) compared with European honey bees (EHB). AHB have spread through most of the New World after the introduction in 1957 of the African subspecies, *A. m. scutellata* (12), causing deaths of humans and animals in some parts of their newly inhabited range due to massive stinging responses. AHB derive from hybridization between *A. m. scutellata* and EHB (predominantly *A. m. ligustica* in the New World). AHB mostly have *A. m. scutellata*-like behavioral traits, especially a highly aggressive colony defense (13).

Aggression is a complex, polygenic trait (14). An appropriate test of the idea that there is a common molecular basis for differences in aggression due to environmental, maturational, or inherited factors thus requires analysis of multiple genes in different pathways. We therefore obtained transcriptional profiles with microarray analysis.

Results and Discussion

Hereditary Influences. There were hundreds of differences in brain gene expression between three groups of co- and cross-fostered AHB and EHB: guards, soldiers and foragers, all under typical field conditions (Table 1). The number of genes differentially expressed between AHB and EHB increased with increased involvement in colony defense (foragers < guards < soldiers), suggesting that some of these genes are involved in the regulation of aggressive behavior even though AHB and EHB differ in several behavioral traits (10, 12). Several genes differentially expressed in the brains of AHB and EHB (“AHB list”) are implicated in the regulation of aggression in

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Table 1. Aggression-related brain gene regulation in honey bees as a function of heredity, alarm pheromone exposure, and age

| Experiment | No. of genes | Raw <i>P</i> value |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| AHB/EHB Guard | | |
| Individual genotype (I) | 249 | <0.0015 |
| Colony genotype (C) | 494 | <0.0025 |
| I × C | 64 | <0.0005 |
| AHB/EHB Soldier | | |
| Individual genotype (I) | 538 | <0.0025 |
| Colony genotype (C) | 830 | <0.005 |
| I × C | 114 | <0.0055 |
| AHB/EHB Forager | | |
| Individual genotype (I) | 58 | <0.00025 |
| Colony genotype (C) | 346 | <0.0015 |
| I × C | 190 | <0.001 |
| Alarm pheromone | 437 | <0.0025 |
| Old/Young | 1396 | <0.0055 |

Number of genes differentially expressed in each experiment. A false discovery rate (FDR) adjusted *P* value <0.05 was used as the threshold to determine statistical significance. I, differences due to individual genotype (AHB/EHB); C, differences due to colony genotype. Gene lists are in [Dataset S1](#). Results based on individual brain gene expression profiles for 230 bees, involving a total of 332 microarrays (178, 64, and 90 for AHB/EHB, alarm pheromone and young/old experiments, respectively). For AHB/EHB, *n* = 5 bees per behavioral group per colony, except in one AHB and one EHB colony where 4 soldiers were analyzed, *n* = 2 colonies each of AHB and EHB; for alarm pheromone, *n* = 10 bees per group per colony, *n* = 2 colonies; for young/old bees, *n* = 12 bees per group per colony, *n* = 3 colonies.

other organisms, e.g., *NMDA receptor 2* and *metabotropic glutamate receptor B* (15).

Bees were cross-fostered to explore the effects of both individual worker and colony genotype on brain gene expression. Principal component analysis (PCA) revealed clear effects of both (Fig. 1). Differences in individual genotype (AHB or EHB) accounted for ≈30% of the variation in brain gene expression (PC2), whereas differences in host colony genotype accounted for ≈25% (PC3). The colony effects agree with previous findings showing that EHB reared in AHB colonies are more aggressive than when reared in EHB colonies, whereas AHB reared in EHB become less aggressive (16). These results also emphasize the close relationship between brain gene expression and aggression. Similar findings of genotype–environment interactions (17) results reflect an emerging appreciation of the potent influences of social environment on both brain gene expression and naturally occurring behavior (9).

Alarm Pheromone Influences. Prior research has shown that the alarm pheromone isopentyl acetate induces both an instantaneous aggressive response and a longer-term sensitization, which is associated with an up-regulation of the immediate early gene and transcription factor *c-Jun* in the antennal lobes (18). Consistent with these results, exposing EHB to alarm pheromone at the hive

entrance for 1 min affected brain expression of hundreds of genes, measured 1 h later (Table 1). Among the genes significantly up-regulated were several involved in biogenic amine signaling (*Dopa decarboxylase*, *Tyramine receptor*, and *Octopamine receptor beta-2*), which have been implicated in the regulation of aggression in both vertebrates (19) and invertebrates (20, 21). *c-Jun* was also up-regulated again [false discovery rate (FDR) adjusted *P* value = 0.1]. These results demonstrate strong effects of a very brief environmental stimulus on brain gene expression, which might be related to behavioral sensitization.

Common Brain Transcriptional Networks Associated with Inherited and Environmentally Induced Differences in Aggression.

Aggression shows a robust brain molecular signature regardless of whether it occurs because of inherited or environmental factors. Three results demonstrate similarities in the genes differentially regulated between AHB and EHB (AHB list) and in response to alarm pheromone (“alarm pheromone list”). First, ≈5–10% of the genes on each AHB list (guard, soldier, and forager) were also regulated by alarm pheromone, ≈2–3× higher than predicted by chance (*P* < 0.01, hypergeometric test; See Table 1, Table 2, and [Table S1](#)). Second, AHB and alarm pheromone brain gene expression profiles were significantly positively correlated (guard: *r* = 0.14, *P* = 0.004; soldier: *r* = 0.23, *P* < 0.001; forager: *r* = 0.16, *P* < 0.001; [Table S2](#)). Alarm pheromone thus causes AHB-like changes in brain gene expression in EHB. Third, seven of the genes on the alarm pheromone list are located within previously identified quantitative trait loci for AHB aggression, as are 12 from the AHB list (21) ([Table S3](#)). Among them, *14-3-3ε*, a gene up-regulated in the brains of human suicide victims (22), was up-regulated in AHB soldier brains in this study and also in a relatively aggressive EHB strain (21). These and other genes that appear on one or more of our gene lists are good candidates for effectors of honey bee aggression. Their number and diversity underscore the complexity and polygenic nature of this behavioral trait.

We also compared the AHB and alarm pheromone lists with a previously published list of genes differentially expressed in the brain between young and old EHB (23) (Table 1). Aggressive tendencies increase with age in honey bees, because old individuals are more easily aroused by alarm pheromone (24). We again detected significant overlap of gene lists; 3–7× higher than was predicted by chance for AHB, alarm pheromone, and genes that were differentially expressed in old and young bees (Table 3). Among the genes regulated in all three contexts were *moody* and *Cyp6Q1* ([Table S4](#)), which have been implicated in aggression in rodents (25) (the mammalian ortholog of *moody* is the *Melatonin receptor 1A*, whose ligand increases aggressiveness) and in reproductive competition in *Drosophila* (26), respectively. There were also significant positive correlations among the AHB, alarm pheromone, and old bee brain gene expression profiles, with the strongest results for AHB soldiers ([Table S2](#)).

Bioinformatic analysis of *cis*-regulatory motifs provided addi-

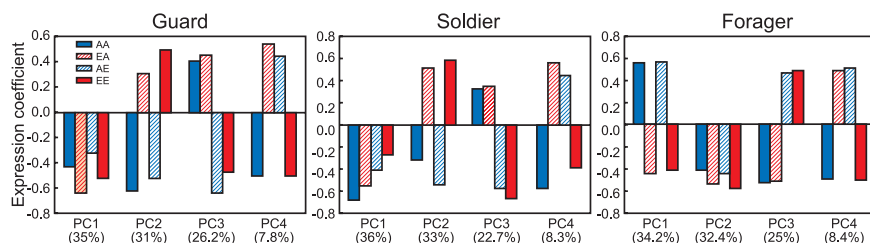


Fig. 1. PCA reveals effects of individual and colony genotype on aggression-related brain gene expression. Co- and cross-fostering produced the following four groups of soldiers, guards, and foragers: AA, AHB reared in AHB colony; EA, EHB in AHB colony; AE, AHB in EHB colony; and EE, EHB in EHB colony. Groups with similar expression coefficients are more similar to each other in terms of brain gene expression. The first pattern (PC1) reflects variation in brain gene expression that is similar across the four groups; PC2 is associated with differences in individual (AHB or EHB) genotype; PC3, with differences in colony genotype; and PC4, with differences in cross-fostered vs. non-cross-fostered bees.

Table 4. *cis*-regulatory motifs (and corresponding transcription factors) consistently associated with up-regulated gene sets from all three experiments in Table 1

| Motif | Transcription factor | Combined P value (π_c) | AHB soldier P value | Alarm pheromone P value | Old bee P value |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| All differentially expressed genes | | | | | |
| CACGCG | <i>Hairy</i> (Dmel) | 1.35E-05 | 0.00012 | 0.00016 | 0.007 |
| Trl | <i>Trl</i> (Dmel) | 4.49E-05 | 0.00058 | 0.004 | 0.0088 |
| WHWWWWWWW | unknown | 8.69E-05 | 0.00035 | 0.0063 | 0.0119 |
| V_AHR_Q5 | <i>AHR</i> (Hs) | 0.00015 | 0.00035 | 0.0138 | 0.011 |
| V ETF_Q6 | <i>ETF</i> (Hs) | 0.00035 | 0.0066 | 0.0037 | 0.027 |
| Deaf1 | <i>Deaf1</i> (Dmel) | 0.00048 | 0.0149 | 0.028 | 0.00067 |
| MGAAD | <i>Hsf</i> (Dmel) | 0.00074 | 0.0107 | 9.21E-05 | 0.043 |
| As above, minus those common to two or more gene lists | | | | | |
| CACGCG | <i>Hairy</i> (Dmel) | 0.00043 | 0.00025 | 0.0085 | 0.032 |
| MGAAD | <i>Hsf</i> (Dmel) | 0.00058 | 0.0099 | 0.00027 | 0.038 |
| V_CDP1_01 | <i>CDP</i> (Hs) | 0.00062 | 0.038 | 0.0085 | 0.0028 |
| Ap | <i>ap</i> (Dmel) | 0.0009 | 0.0019 | 0.0073 | 0.05 |
| Trl | <i>Trl</i> (Dmel) | 0.00097 | 0.0017 | 0.04 | 0.02 |
| Klf4 | <i>Klf4</i> (Hs) | 0.0012 | 0.042 | 4.5E-05 | 0.026 |
| CACNNG | unknown | 0.0017 | 0.0064 | 0.045 | 0.031 |
| Deaf1 | <i>Deaf1</i> (Dmel) | 0.0018 | 0.0098 | 0.072 | 0.00055 |

Shown are the P values of association for each experiment (Fisher exact test, see *SI Text*). The significance of each motif association across all experiments is shown in Column 3 (π_c), based on the combined measure P_c from Columns 4–6. The corresponding empirical P value $\pi_c(P_c^{(e)})$ and its FDR for multiple hypothesis correction was calculated (see *SI Text*). Only motifs with FDR < 0.001 are reported. The bottom half of the table shows eight most-significant motifs discovered from the same procedure if the gene sets were purged of any genes that belonged to two or more gene sets. Only soldiers were analyzed because their brain gene expression profiles were most similar to those of alarm-pheromone-exposed and old bees. Transcription factor motifs from: Dmel, *Drosophila melanogaster*; Hs, *Homo sapiens*.

regions in the bee brain (mushroom bodies and optic lobes), the results likely accurately reflect the global neurogenomic state of the aroused bee brain.

We did not expect to find an association between increased behavioral arousal and decreased brain metabolism. Behavioral arousal is associated with increased whole body metabolic activity in honey bees (32).

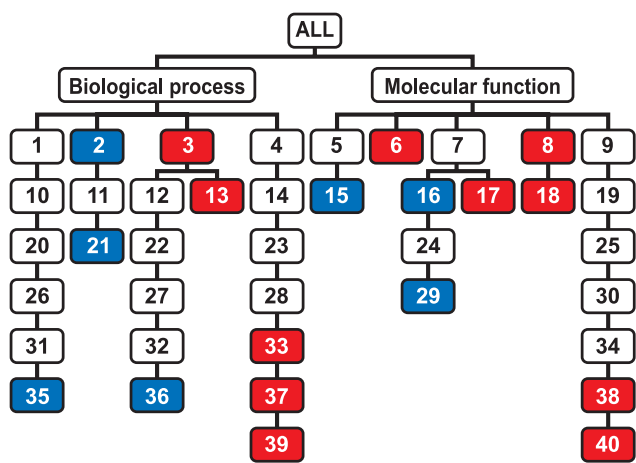


Fig. 2. GO functional analysis of genes associated with aggression: GO biological process and molecular function categories that were significantly enriched among the genes associated with aggression in all three experiments, i.e., as a function of heredity, alarm pheromone, and age (Table 4). Diagram represents GO categories hierarchically from top to bottom. Each box represents a GO category. Blue, up-regulation; red, down-regulation. Significantly enriched categories: (2) response to stimulus, (3) metabolic process, (6) electron carrier activity, (8) structural molecule activity, (13) oxidation reduction, (15) protein binding, (16) isomerase activity, (17) oxidoreductase activity, (18) structural constituent of ribosome, (21) detection of external stimulus, (29) inositol-3-phosphate synthase activity, (33) regulation of S phase, (35) visual perception, (36) inositol biosynthetic process, (37) regulation of S phase of mitotic cell cycle, (38) monovalent inorganic cation transmembrane transporter activity, (39) positive regulation of S phase of mitotic cell cycle, and (40) hydrogen ion transmembrane transporter activity. Other GO terms given in *SI Text*.

The association was all the more surprising considering that the alarm pheromone experiment demonstrated a causal relationship: Exposure to alarm pheromone increases behavioral arousal (18) and we showed that it decreased brain metabolism. Alarm pheromone exposure also is known to increase metabolic activity in honey bees (33) and higher cytochrome *c* oxidase activity is associated with increased aggressive behavior in rodents and lizards (34). However, a correlation between reduced metabolism and aggression has been reported for some regions of the human brain (35).

We speculate that decreased brain metabolism in aroused bees, if reflective of reduced background neural activity, could function as a “contrast enhancement” mechanism to enhance the bees’ ability to locate or respond to a threat. Decreased brain metabolism reflects decreased neural activity in rats (36) and monkeys (37), and decreased neuronal activity in the human visual cortex has been reported to lead to improved visual representations of salient shapes (38). Another possibility is that our findings relate to some sort of energy tradeoff between the brain and the rest of the body. This notion is based on the (untested) assumption that, as in vertebrates (39), the insect brain consumes a disproportionately large share of the body’s total glucose utilization. According to this idea, arousal-related increases in metabolic rate require a decrease in brain metabolism, at least for a “fight or flight” type of innate behavior. This tradeoff might not exist for a behavior that must be learned; learning is associated with increased brain metabolism (40–42). The relationship between brain metabolism and behavioral performance deserves more study.

Conclusion

Previous research has shown that there are striking differences in aggression between honey bee colonies, and our research has shown that aggression-related brain gene expression in honey bees is subject to strong inherited and environmental influences. AHB and EHB differed in the expression of hundreds of genes, with the strongest differences seen in those bees most-strongly engaged in colony defense. Environmental effects were seen both in terms of effects of alarm pheromone and colony environment on brain gene expression. Based on these findings we find support for the idea that changes in gene regulation underlie the evolution of behavioral diversity.

between two gene lists and an extended version of the hypergeometric test for the overlap between three gene lists. For a universe of N items and three randomly sampled subsets of sizes n_1 , n_2 , and n_3 , respectively, we calculated the probability of an overlap of size l as per the formula below, by summing over all possible values of the overlap k ($\geq l$) between the first two sets. This probability was then used to calculate a P value for the test, by summing over values of l that are greater than or equal to the observed overlap of the three sets.

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\min(n_1, n_2)} \frac{\binom{n_1}{k} \binom{N-n_1}{n_2-k} \binom{k}{l} \binom{N-k}{n_3-l}}{\binom{N}{n_2} \binom{N}{n_3}}$$

cis-Regulatory Analysis: Motif Collection. Motifs representing experimentally characterized binding specificities were collected from FlyREG (*D. melanogaster*), Transfac (*D. melanogaster*, *Homo sapiens*), and JaspAr (*H. sapiens*). Computationally predicted motifs (*D. melanogaster*) from Xie et al. (51) were also included. We had a compendium of 602 motifs.

cis-Regulatory Analysis: Determining Genes Targeted by a Transcription Factor Motif. To determine whether a gene has a motif in its promoter, we considered the 5 Kbp upstream region of the gene, by using the *A. mellifera* genome (Amel_v2.0) and Release 1 of the official gene set (48). Methods were performed as in ref. 23 (see *SI Text*).

Measurements of Brain Mitochondrial Enzyme Activities. Each sample consisted of mitochondrial preparations from a pool of five brains, with bees from two colonies per behavioral group per experiment. Mitochondrial activities were

measured 60 min after alarm pheromone exposure. Brain metabolism of AHB soldiers from AHB colonies was compared with EHB soldiers from EHB colonies. Brains were homogenized at 4 °C in ice-cold SET buffer (0.25M sucrose, 0.5 mM potassium EGTA, 10 mM Tris, pH 7.4) by using a Dounce homogenizer, then centrifuged for 3 min at $2,000 \times g$ at 4 °C. The pellet was then centrifuged again for 3 min at $2,000 \times g$ at 4 °C, and the resulting supernatant was centrifuged at $12,000 \times g$ at 4 °C for 15 min to obtain a crude mitochondrial fraction. The mitochondrial pellet was subsequently resuspended in 200 μ L ice-cold 3% Ficoll solution and layered onto 800 μ L ice-cold 6% Ficoll solution, then centrifuged for 10 min at $11,500 \times g$ at 4 °C. The final pellet was resuspended to a final volume of 1 mL in MSH buffer (210 mM mannitol, 70 mM sucrose, 5 mM Hepes, pH 7.4) or a hypotonic buffer containing 25 mM KH_2PO_4 , pH 7.2 and 5 mM MgCl_2 , then stored on ice until use. Samples were used within 4 h of isolation. Total protein concentration was determined by using a Pierce Micro BCA Protein Assay Kit (ThermoFisher Scientific). See *SI Text* for measurement of mitochondrial enzyme activities.

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Supporting Information

Alaux et al 10.1073/pnas.0907043106

SI Text

Soldier Trap. To obtain soldier bees, a net trap fitting the dimensions of the beehive with 4 triangular pieces of white wood (two 55.5×90 cm and two 45.5×90 cm) was placed on top of the opened hive. After stimulation, the trap was removed and the hive-top closed to prevent the soldiers inside it from escaping. The trap was then placed inside a freezer at -18°C for 5 min.

cis-Regulatory Analysis. Determining genes targeted by a transcription factor motif. We masked exons (of adjacent genes) and short tandem repeats of period ≤ 5 bp [Tandem Repeat Finder (1), command-line arguments 2 3 5 80 10 25 5 -m -d] present in the promoter, and removed all masked positions, thus obtaining promoters of variable lengths (≤ 5 Kbp). We “scanned” each resulting promoter with a sliding window of 500-bp length, in shifts of 250 bp. Each window was scored for presence of the motif by using the Hidden Markov Model-based approach used in ref. 2. This raw score was converted to an empirical P value based on raw scores of randomly generated windows of the same length and guanine-cytosine content. Each promoter was thus associated with a list of “score P values” of varying sizes because the masked promoters are of varying lengths and are covered by varying number of 500-bp windows. Let k be the number of window P values associated with a gene’s promoter, and let β be a significance threshold (e.g., 0.05) at which we wish to associate the gene with the motif. We computed $\alpha = 1 - (1 - \beta)^{1/k}$ and used this as a threshold on the window-score P value. If any window has score P value below this threshold α , then the corresponding promoter (and gene) is designated as a target of the motif.

Associating motifs with gene sets. Each motif was tested for association with differentially regulated gene sets in each experiment, as follows: Let U_T and D_T be the sets of genes up- and down-regulated in experiment T (i.e., alarm pheromone, old, or soldier). Each set was partitioned into genes that are targeted by the motif (as determined above, with $\beta = 0.01$) and genes that are not. A Fisher exact test was performed on the 2×2 contingency table (up vs. down, motif target vs. nontarget), and the 1-tailed P value was the statistical measure of association between the gene set U_T and the motif. By repeating the same test for the 2×2 contingency table: (down vs. up, motif target vs. nontarget), we obtained a P value for the association between the gene set D_T and the motif.

Motifs associated consistently with genes influenced by heredity and environment. A motif was tested for consistent association with up-regulated gene sets from all three experiments as follows. (The same procedure was repeated with down-regulated gene sets.) Let $P_1, P_2,$ and P_3 be the 1-tailed P values of association of the motif with the up-regulated gene sets in the three experiments, respectively. We considered the combined measure

$$P_c = 1 - (1 - P_1)(1 - P_2)(1 - P_3).$$

We denote this random variable as P_c and its observed value as $P_c^{(o)}$. Under the null hypothesis that each of P_1, P_2, P_3 is uniformly distributed, we computed the probability π_c that the combined measure P_c has a value less than or equal to the observed value $P_c^{(o)}$, i.e., a 1-tailed P value for the combined measure P_c , as follows:

$$\pi_c(x) = \Pr(P_c \leq x) = \Pr\left(\prod_j (1 - P_j) \geq 1 - x\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1 - \Pr\left(\prod_j (1 - P_j) \leq 1 - x\right) \\ &= 1 - (1 - x) \sum_{i=0}^2 (-1)^i \frac{(\ln(1 - x))^i}{i!}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last step is due to the fact that $1 - P_j$ is uniformly distributed in $[0,1]$ under the null hypothesis.

The random variable P_c has the desirable property that it is low only if each of P_1, P_2, P_3 is low, and thus captures consistent motif association (low P value) in all three experiments. (Contrast this with the product of the three P_j ’s, which may be low even if one or two of the P_j ’s is close to 1.) However, the P value π_c computed above corresponds to the strong null hypothesis that every individual P_j is uniformly distributed. We therefore empirically estimated the appropriate thresholds to use for this P value, as described below.

Multiple hypothesis correction. We simulated random gene sets of the same size as the original gene sets in each experiment, obtained the π_c for each motif, calculated how many motifs have a π_c below a specific threshold τ , and computed an average of this number over 1,000 independent simulations. This is the empirical expectation of the number of tests with π_c below τ , and was used to estimate a false discovery rate (FDR) corresponding to each $\pi_c(P_c^{(o)})$ in the tests with the original gene sets. Only motifs with estimated FDR < 0.001 are reported in Table 5.

Extreme value distribution. We considered the minimum $\pi_c(P_c^{(o)})$ over all motifs, representing the extent of the strongest consistent motif association. We then computed the corresponding minimum value from each of the 1,000 random simulations described above, and the histogram thus obtained provides us with an estimate of the Extreme Value Distribution of $\pi_c(P_c^{(o)})$. This allowed us to estimate an empirical P value for the minimum $\pi_c(P_c^{(o)})$.

mRNA Quantification by Real-Time Quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR).

We determined whether alarm pheromone exposure induces an up-regulation of the transcription factor *c-Jun* in antennal lobes (ALs) (Fig. S1). Seven control and pheromone-exposed workers per colony were analyzed. We also verified the expression levels of 4 genes (*Uvop*, *Gβe*, *trp*, and *TpnCI*) in whole brains of bees from two Africanized honey bee (AHB) colonies compared with bees from two European honey bee (EHB) colonies (Fig. S3). Five to seven workers (mainly AHB workers) per colony were analyzed. Because the expression levels of the tested genes did not differ significantly between the two AHB colonies and between the two EHB colonies (1-tailed permutation test, $P = 0.18$ for each test), results were pooled for analysis.

Whole brains and ALs were dissected, frozen, and then homogenized in TRIzol (Invitrogen Life Technologies) before extracting RNA with the Qiagen RNeasy kit for total RNA with on-column DNase I treatment (Qiagen). Forty nanograms from the two ALs and 200 ng from whole brains were reverse-transcribed with random hexamers by using the RETROscript kit (Ambion). mRNA quantification was performed using an ABI Prism 7900 sequence detector and the SYBR green detection method (Applied Biosystems). *c-Jun* mRNA levels were normalized to the *rp49* “housekeeping” gene as control (expression level did not vary: $P = 0.64$ for each test) and those of *Uvop*,

Gβ_e, *trp*, and *TpnCI* were normalized to the external control *rcp1* (expression level did not vary; $P = 0.11$ for each test). A list of primers is given in Table S5.

Measurements of Mitochondrial Enzyme Activities. Activity of NADH:ubiquinone oxidoreductase was assayed as previously described (3, 4). Briefly, brain mitochondria were lysed by freeze-thawing 3 times in hypotonic buffer (25 mM KH_2PO_4 , pH 7.2, 5 mM MgCl_2) and added to an assay buffer consisting of 65 μM ubiquinone₁, 130 μM NADH, 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ antimycin A, and 2.5 mg/mL BSA in the presence or absence of rotenone. Oxidation of NADH was measured at 340 nm for 5 min at 30 °C by using a SpectraMax M2 microplate reader (Molecular Devices), after which 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ rotenone was added to the reaction. Activity was then measured for another 5 min and the difference in rate before and after treatment with rotenone was used to determine complex I activity. The molar absorbance coefficient used for NADH was 6.22 $\text{mM}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$.

Complex IV activity was measured by using a Cytochrome *c* Oxidase Assay kit (Sigma) as per manufacturer instructions. The decrease in absorption at 550 nm, representing oxidation of ferrocytochrome *c*, was monitored over time on a SpectroMax M2 microplate reader (Molecular Devices) at room temperature. Activity was then calculated by using the following formula: $(\Delta\text{absorbance}_{550\text{ nm}}/\text{min} \times 28.8)/40 \times 21.84$, where 21.84 represents the $\Delta\epsilon^{\text{mM}}$ between ferrocytochrome *c* and ferricytochrome *c* at 550 nm, and 28.8 represents the dilution factor multiplied by the total reaction volume.

Complex V (ATP synthase) activity was determined by measuring the decrease in NADH absorption at 340 nm in the presence or absence of 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ oligomycin, a specific inhibitor of the F_1F_0 complex of ATPase, at 30 °C as previously described (5). Mitochondria were freeze-thawed as before and added to an assay medium consisting of 4 mM ATP, 25 mM Tris-Cl (pH 7.4), 25 mM KCl, 5 mM MgCl_2 , 200 μM NADH, 1.5 mM phosphoenolpyruvate, 5 units lactate dehydrogenase, 3 units pyruvate kinase, and 2.5 μM rotenone.

In addition, assays of ATP production in the presence or absence of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ rotenone (complex I inhibitor), 0.25 mM KCl (complex IV inhibitor), or 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ oligomycin (complex V inhibitor) were also performed by using an ATPlite Luminescence Assay System (Perkin-Elmer). Freeze-thawed mitochondria were prepared as above and the lysates incubated at 30 °C in a reaction buffer containing 65 μM ubiquinone₁, 130 μM NADH, and 2.5 mg/mL BSA. Aliquots were removed every minute and processed according to manufacturer instructions, and luminescence was detected by using a SpectroMax M2 microplate reader.

All measurements were corrected for background and crude

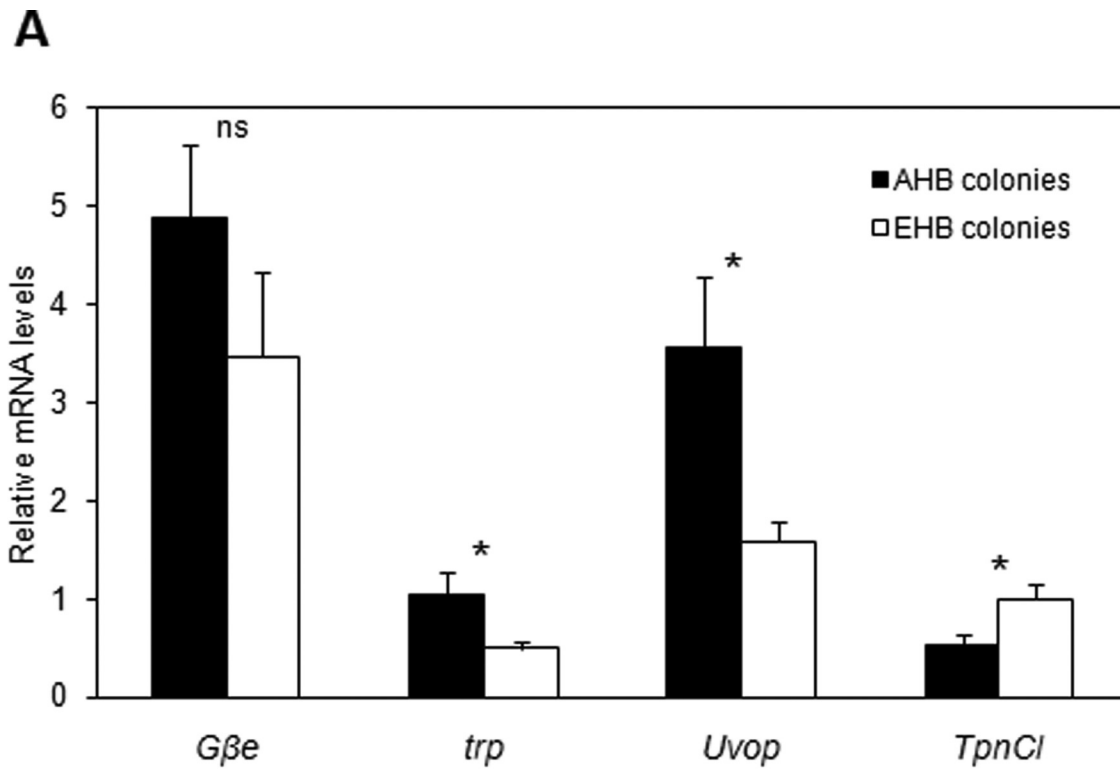
protein concentration and analyzed by using 1-way ANOVA with Tukey posthoc testing.

Functional analysis. The list of GO categories from Fig. 2 is shown below:

1. Multicellular organismal process.
2. Response to stimulus.
3. Metabolic process.
4. Biological regulation.
5. Binding.
6. Electron carrier activity.
7. Catalytic activity.
8. Structural molecule activity.
9. Transmembrane transporter activity.
10. System process.
11. Detection of stimulus.
12. Cellular metabolic process.
13. Oxidation reduction.
14. Regulation of biological process.
15. Protein binding.
16. Isomerase activity.
17. Oxidoreductase activity.
18. Structural constituent of ribosome.
19. Substrate-specific transmembrane transporter activity.
20. Neurological system process.
21. Detection of external stimulus.
22. Alcohol metabolic process.
23. Regulation of cellular process.
24. Intramolecular lyase activity.
25. Ion transmembrane transporter activity.
26. Sensory perception.
27. Alcohol biosynthetic process.
28. Regulation of cell cycle.
29. Inositol-3-phosphate synthase activity.
30. Cation transmembrane transporter activity.
31. Sensory perception of light stimulus.
32. Polyol biosynthetic process.
33. Regulation of S phase.
34. Inorganic cation transmembrane transporter activity.
35. Visual perception.
36. Inositol biosynthetic process.
37. Regulation of S phase of mitotic cell cycle.
38. Monovalent inorganic cation transmembrane transporter activity.
39. Positive regulation of S phase of mitotic cell cycle.
40. Hydrogen ion transmembrane transporter activity.

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B

| Honeybee annotations | Gene name | Microarrays (AHB/EHB) | qRT-PCR (AHB/EHB) |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| GB10545 | <i>Gβe</i> | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| GB16264 | <i>trp</i> | 1.4 | 2.1 |
| GB18171 | <i>Uvop</i> | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| GB10545 | <i>TpnCl</i> | 0.8 | 0.5 |

Fig. 53. Validation of microarray results with real-time qRT-PCR. (A) Brain expression levels of four genes identified from microarray analysis as showing different expression levels between AHB vs. EHB. Data normalized to expression levels of *rcp1*. (B) Ratio of mean expression levels (AHB/EHB) from array and qRT-PCR results are shown. qRT-PCR samples were from independent biological replicates, not used for microarray analysis. Means \pm SE shown. Significant differences were determined by using a 1-tailed permutation test (*, $P < 0.05$).

Table S1. Aggression-related brain gene regulation in honey bees: Number of genes overlapping between gene sets regardless of direction

| Experiment | Old bee | | | | AHB guard | | | | AHB soldier | | | | AHB forager | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Expected | Observed no. | <i>RF</i> | <i>P</i> value | Expected | Observed no. | <i>RF</i> | <i>P</i> value | Expected | Observed no. | <i>RF</i> | <i>P</i> value | Expected | Observed no. | <i>RF</i> | <i>P</i> value |
| Alarm pheromone | 55.3 | 151 | 2.7 | <0.0001 | 10 | 24 | 2.4 | <0.0001 | 21.8 | 55 | 2.5 | <0.0001 | 2.3 | 7 | 3 | <0.008 |
| Old bee | | | | | 28.8 | 54 | 1.9 | <0.0001 | 63.7 | 147 | 2.3 | <0.0001 | 6.8 | 21 | 8.1 | <0.0001 |
| AHB guard (I) | | | | | | | | | 11.6 | 81 | 7 | <0.0001 | 1.2 | 24 | 19.5 | <0.0001 |
| AHB soldier (I) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2.7 | 29 | 10.7 | <0.0001 |
| Alarm pheromone | 55.3 | 151 | 2.7 | <0.0001 | 19.8 | 63 | 3.2 | <0.0001 | 33.6 | 64 | 1.9 | <0.0001 | 13.9 | 27 | 1.9 | <0.0001 |
| Old bee | | | | | 57.1 | 128 | 2.2 | <0.0001 | 98.3 | 195 | 2 | <0.0001 | 40.3 | 85 | 2.1 | <0.0001 |
| AHB guard (C) | | | | | | | | | 35.4 | 155 | 4.4 | <0.0001 | 14.6 | 91 | 6.2 | <0.0001 |
| AHB soldier (C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 24.9 | 106 | 4.3 | <0.0001 |

Data are from the following: Experiment 1, AHB vs. EHB (guards, soldiers, and foragers); Experiment 2, alarm pheromone induced; and Experiment 3, old vs. young bees. Expected, the number of genes expected to overlap in all three experiments by chance alone; *RF*, representation factor; I, individual genotype; C, colony genotype. The statistical significance of the overlap between two lists was determined using an exact hypergeometric test and an extended version of the hypergeometric test for the overlap between three lists (see [SI Text](#)).

Table S2. Correlation analysis for genes differentially expressed as a function of genotype, alarm pheromone exposure, and age

| Experiment | Alarm pheromone | | Old bee | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|
| | <i>r</i> | <i>P</i> value | <i>r</i> | <i>P</i> value |
| AHB Guard (I) | 0.139 | 0.004 | 0.062 | 0.02 |
| AHB Soldier (I) | 0.229 | <0.001 | 0.277 | <0.001 |
| AHB Forager (I) | 0.161 | <0.001 | 0.302 | <0.001 |
| AHB Guard (C) | 0.207 | <0.001 | 0.059 | 0.026 |
| AHB Soldier (C) | 0.189 | <0.001 | 0.349 | <0.001 |
| AHB Forager (C) | 0.357 | <0.001 | 0.15 | <0.001 |
| Alarm pheromone | — | — | 0.429 | <0.001 |
| Old bee | 0.65 | <0.001 | — | — |

Correlations were performed on expression values for genes regulated by alarm pheromone or differentially expressed between old and young individuals and the expression values of the same genes from the other lists that are listed. Log₂-transformed ratios were used. I, individual genotype; C, colony genotype.

Table S3. Genes regulated by alarm pheromone and/or differentially expressed between AHB/EHB, and found in independently derived aggression quantitative trait loci (6)

| Bee genes | Fly orthologs | Molecular function | Biological process |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Alarm pheromone | | | |
| GB10390 ↓ | <i>Pros25</i> | Endopeptidase activity | ATP-dependent proteolysis; cell proliferation |
| GB18971 ↑ | <i>l(1)G0232</i> | Rhodopsin-like receptor activity | G-protein-coupled receptor protein signaling pathway |
| GB12020 ↓ | <i>ubl</i> | Unknown | Protein modification process |
| GB12504 ↑ | <i>CkIIβ</i> | Casein kinase activity | Mushroom body development; circadian rhythm; signal transduction |
| GB15016 ↑ | <i>Hsc70-3</i> | ATPase activity | Sleep; response to heat; defense response; protein folding; RNA interference |
| GB14502 ↑ | <i>MED22</i> | RNA polymerase II transcription mediator activity | Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter |
| GB13698 ↓ | <i>Psf2</i> | Transcription elongation regulator activity | Positive regulation of S phase of mitotic cell cycle |
| AHB/EHB, individual genotype | | | |
| Guard | | | |
| GB19009 ↓ | — | — | — |
| GB16258 ↑ | — | — | — |
| Soldier | | | |
| GB19009 ↓ | — | — | — |
| GB19676 ↑ | <i>CG8165</i> | Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter | Transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter |
| GB15582 ↑ | <i>14-3-3ε</i> | Regulation of transcription, protein complexes, protein trafficking | Response to external stimulus; nonassociative learning |
| AHB/EHB, colony genotype | | | |
| Guard | | | |
| GB14502 ↓ | <i>MED22</i> | RNA polymerase II transcription mediator activity | Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter |
| GB11198 ↓ | <i>CG34347</i> | Actin binding; structural constituent of cytoskeleton | Cytoskeleton organization and biogenesis |
| Soldier | | | |
| GB14824 ↑ | <i>CG7675</i> | Oxidoreductase activity, acting on CH-OH group of donors | Metabolic process |
| GB18618 ↑ | <i>htt</i> | Microtubule binding; protein binding | Axon cargo transport |
| GB19676 ↑ | <i>CG8165</i> | Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter | Transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter |
| GB19319 ↓ | <i>Rpl12</i> | Zinc ion binding; transcription regulator activity | Transcription from RNA polymerase I promoter |
| GB17741 ↓ | <i>CG7849</i> | Unknown | Unknown |
| GB19681 ↓ | <i>Ctr1A</i> | Copper ion transmembrane transporter activity | Copper ion transport |
| Forager | | | |
| GB14824 ↓ | <i>CG7675</i> | Oxidoreductase activity, acting on CH-OH group of donors | Metabolic process |
| GB18557 ↑ | <i>α-Spec</i> | Cytoskeletal protein binding | Synaptic transmission; regulation of cellular component organization and biogenesis |

Arrows indicates up- or down-regulated by alarm pheromone and in AHB vs. EHB bees. Known functions of orthologs of these genes are shown. Quantitative trait loci were derived in a separate study based on an assay that measured propensity to sting in response to a disturbance to the colony (in the field), and involved different bees derived from crosses between AHB and EHB (6). —, unknown.

Table S4. Genes that were up- and down-regulated in all three experiments, i.e., responsive to heredity, alarm pheromone, and age, are shown with their fly and human orthologs

| Bee oligo | Bee gene | Fly orthologs | Human orthologs |
|----------------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Up-regulated | | | |
| AM00762 | — | — | — |
| AM01806 | — | — | — |
| AM02192 | — | — | — |
| AM02336 | — | — | — |
| AM02847 | GB10220 | — | — |
| AM02986 | GB10356 | — | — |
| AM03461 | GB10836 | <i>Hsc70Cb</i> | <i>HSPA4 (hsp70)</i> |
| AM03846 | GB11223 | <i>His3:CG33803</i> | <i>HIST2H3</i> |
| AM04192 | GB11572 | <i>Inos</i> | <i>AC008397.7 (MIP synthase)</i> |
| AM04834 | GB12215 | <i>Droj2</i> | <i>DNAJA4</i> |
| AM05318 | GB30506 | <i>Gp93</i> | <i>HSP90B1</i> |
| AM05381 | GB12766 | <i>Arr2</i> | — |
| AM06103 | GB13501 | — | — |
| AM06766 | GB14166 | — | — |
| AM08435 | GB15853 | <i>Kap-α1</i> | <i>KPNA</i> |
| AM08741 | GB16163 | — | — |
| AM09086 | GB16507 | <i>CG1600</i> | — |
| AM10198 | GB17624 | <i>CHORD</i> | <i>CHORDC1</i> |
| AM10664 | GB18094 | <i>tj</i> | <i>MAF</i> |
| AM12432 | GB19885 | <i>CG1516</i> | <i>PC</i> |
| AM12790* | GB11487 | <i>moody</i> | <i>MTNR1a</i> |
| Down-regulated | | | |
| AM02193 | — | — | — |
| AM02582 | — | — | — |
| AM03140 | GB10513 | <i>CG14286</i> | <i>C8orf33</i> |
| AM03851 | GB11228 | <i>His3.3A</i> | <i>H3F3B</i> |
| AM06007 | GB13404 | <i>Ts</i> | <i>TYMS</i> |
| AM06580 | GB13982 | <i>Faa</i> | <i>FAH</i> |
| AM07997* | GB15409 | <i>Cyp6 g1</i> | — |
| AM08023 | GB15436 | <i>CG10674</i> | <i>C19orf56</i> |
| AM08856 | GB16276 | <i>SmB</i> | <i>SNRPB</i> |
| AM10511 | GB17938 | <i>CG1756</i> | — |
| AM10649 | GB18078 | <i>CG9646</i> | <i>C22orf9</i> |
| AM10750 | GB18183 | — | — |
| AM11126 | GB18566 | — | — |
| AM11255 | GB18694 | — | — |
| AM11556 | GB19000 | <i>Tim9a</i> | <i>TIMM9</i> |
| AM12010 | GB19459 | <i>Psf1</i> | <i>GIN51</i> |
| AM12536 | GB19989 | <i>CG4875</i> | <i>AC068533.6 (RPC9)</i> |

Asterisks indicate genes that were regulated at a slightly less stringent threshold in one experiment (*moody* was up-regulated in AHB foragers at FDR = 0.097 and *Cyp6 g1* was down-regulated by alarm pheromone at FDR = 0.057). —, unknown.

Table S5. Oxidative phosphorylation pathway downregulated in aggressive bees

| | Bee gene | Fly orthologs | Alarm Pheromone | Old Bee | AHB Soldier (I) | AHB Soldier (C) |
|--|----------|---|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Complex I NADH-coenzyme Q oxidoreductase | GB15948 | CG10320 | ■ | | ■ | ■ |
| | GB18920 | Pdsw | ■ | | ■ | |
| | GB10916 | CG9306 | ■ | | ■ | |
| | GB10474 | CG12400 | | | ■ | ■ |
| | GB13526 | CG3621 | | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | GB10859 | CG2014 | | | | ■ |
| | GB15438 | CG15434 | | | | ■ |
| | GB17095 | CG9140 | | ■ | | |
| | GB16917 | CG12203 | | ■ | | |
| | GB10406 | CG6020 | | ■ | | |
| | GB15102 | mitochondrial acyl carrier protein 1 | | ■ | | |
| Complex II Succinate-Q oxidoreductase | GB12875 | CG6666 | | ■ | | |
| Complex III Q-cytochrome c oxidoreductase | GB12164 | CG30354 | ■ | | | |
| | GB14417 | CG14482 | | ■ | | ■ |
| | GB10344 | Oxen | | | | ■ |
| | GB12510 | CG4769 | | ■ | | |
| Complex IV Cytochrome c oxidase | GB18028 | CG14235 | ■ | | | |
| | GB15238 | CG9065 | | | ■ | ■ |
| | GB30388 | cyclope | | | ■ | ■ |
| | GB20012 | CG10664 | | ■ | ■ | |
| | GB15816 | Cytochrome c oxidase subunit Va | | | ■ | |
| | GB17614 | CG2249 | | ■ | | |
| Complex V ATP synthase | GB16494 | ATPase coupling factor 6 | ■ | | ■ | ■ |
| | GB18417 | CG4692 | ■ | | | |
| | GB15629 | Oligomycin sensitivity-conferring protein | | ■ | ■ | |
| | GB10989* | Vha68-2 | | | | ■ |
| | GB16751 | lethal (2) 06225 | | | | ■ |
| | GB14791 | bellwether | | ■ | | |
| | GB15291 | ATP synthase-γ chain | | ■ | | |

This was performed by using the DAVID annotation tool (<http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/>) that presents information on molecular pathways from the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathways (<http://www.genome.jp/kegg/>) (7). Asterisk indicates up-regulation. I, individual genotype; C, colony genotype. Colors indicate the three different experiments.

