













BRIEF COMMUNICATION



## A standardized nomenclature and atlas of the male terminalia of *Drosophila melanogaster*

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### ABSTRACT

Animal terminalia represent some of the most diverse and rapidly evolving structures in the animal kingdom, and for this reason have been a mainstay in the taxonomic description of species. The terminalia of *Drosophila melanogaster*, with its wide range of experimental tools, have recently become the focus of increased interest in the fields of development, evolution, and behavior. However, studies from different disciplines have often used discrepant terminologies for the same anatomical structures. Consequently, the terminology of genital parts has become a barrier to integrating results from different fields, rendering it difficult to determine what parts are being referenced. We formed a consortium of researchers studying the genitalia of *D. melanogaster* to help establish a set of naming conventions. Here, we present a detailed visual anatomy of male genital parts, including a list of synonymous terms, and suggest practices to avoid confusion when referring to anatomical parts in future studies. The goal of this effort is to facilitate interdisciplinary communication and help newcomers orient themselves within the exciting field of *Drosophila* genitalia.

### ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 17 June 2019  
Revised 26 July 2019  
Accepted 4 August 2019  
Published online 19 August 2019

### KEYWORDS

Genitalia; terminalia; anatomy; *Drosophila melanogaster*; nomenclature

## Introduction

Insect terminalia, which usually encompass the male and female genitalia and analia, are among the most diverse and complex morphological structures [1]. In *Drosophila*, they have been the subjects of three research disciplines that led to different terminologies. The earliest of these is *ontogeny*, which aimed at identifying the segmental origin of the different structures and how they sexually differentiate during development from the larval genital disc in *D. melanogaster*. It is thanks to this discipline that the 'traditional terminology' was established [2–4] and continues to be used by contemporary developmental biologists [5]. Most

of the terms currently annotated in FlyBase ([www.flybase.org](http://www.flybase.org)) are based on the traditional system.

The second discipline was *phylogenetics*, which aimed at describing the diversity of terminalia among drosophilids in order to group species according to their similarities in these structures. The earliest comparative studies [6,7] standardized the 'traditional terminology' in *Drosophila* systematics [e.g. 8]. However, following the publication of McAlpine's Manual of Nearctic Diptera [9], an effort to standardize morphological terms of putatively homologous structures across the Diptera emerged [10,11]. Subsequently, the resulting 'revised terminology' was widely accepted by

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*Drosophila* systematists [12–14], although some terms, such as parameres, paraphyses or gonopods, remained problematic because they sometimes refer to structures not related by clear homology in different species [15,16].

Recently, a third discipline, *functional morphology*, has emerged, aiming at understanding the role that each genital structure may play during copulation [17–23]. With advanced techniques such as laser surgery and tomography scanning, this approach has enhanced our understanding of the functional roles of genital anatomy. However, researchers in this discipline used a mixture of traditional and revised terminologies [24] that can lead to confusion as community members from different disciplines assimilate the literature.

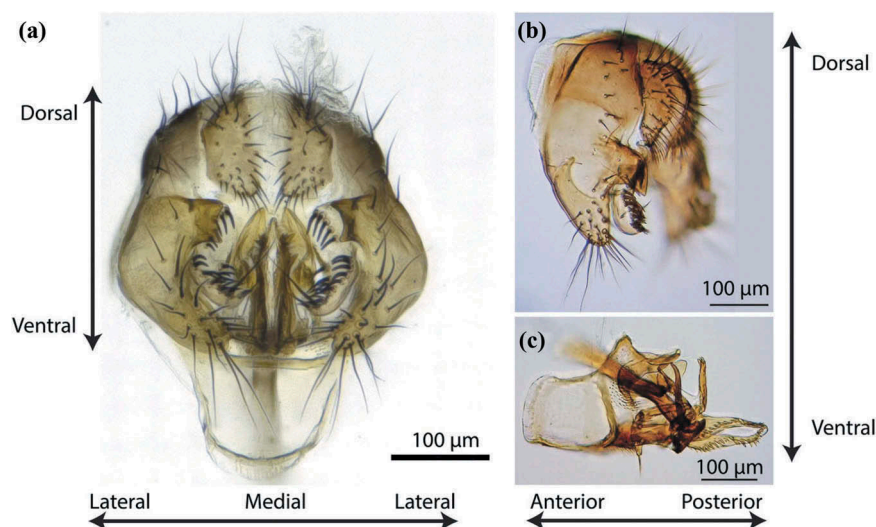
Believing that the breadth and richness of the three research disciplines offers a unique opportunity for integrative biology, the purpose of the current paper is to unify terminology of *Drosophila* male terminalia (Figure 1). As a group of researchers working on different aspects of *Drosophila* terminalia, we think that a unified system would facilitate exchanges between research fields. Although some researchers highlighted the usefulness of the traditional system in providing meaningful English terms (e.g. clasper vs. surstylus), the majority opted for the phylogenetic tradition which captures homology

relationships between species. Consequently, we provide an update of the terminalia terminology found in FlyBase. For the problematic terms (parameres, paraphyses, and gonopods), we relied on Sinclair's [25] and Cumming and Wood's [26] revisions of Diptera terminalia nomenclature to propose new terms not previously used in *Drosophila* biology (namely, pregonites, postgonites, and gonocoxites). Although we restricted our revision to male terminalia, we do so with the intention to address female terminology later.


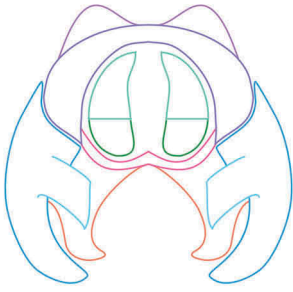



















## Results and discussion

### A visual atlas of adult *D. melanogaster* male terminalia

In much of the past literature, genital morphology was rendered by hand-drawings, and the names of different parts were indicated by lines pointing to each structure. As new researchers join this growing field, it can be quite difficult to grasp the exact extent of a structure based on these drawings. In order to make the revised nomenclature as useful as possible, we provide here a visual guide to this terminology which shows both drawings and cuticle images that outline the full extent of each named part (Figures 2, 3). It is important to note that the exact size and shape of these structures, such as



**Figure 1.** (a) Light microscope preparation of the entire male terminalia of *D. melanogaster* Canton S. (b) Caudolateral view of the peripheral structures. (c) Ventrolateral view of the phallic structures. Scale bars are 100 µm. Note that the exact size and shape of terminalia structures, such as the epandrial posterior lobe, vary within *D. melanogaster* [27,28].


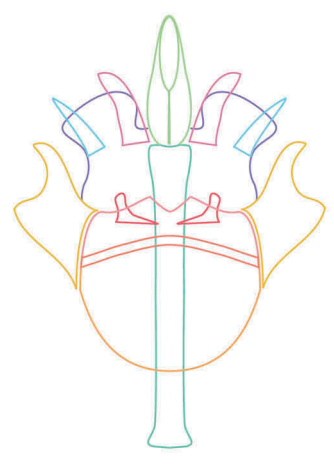























							
Periphallic structures				Old FlyBase terminology	2019 Revised FlyBase		
					genital arch	Epandrial anterodorsal phragma	epandrium
						Epandrial dorsal lobe	
			Posterior lobe			Epandrial posterior lobe	
			Lateral plate			Epandrial ventral lobe	
			Pons/Decasternum			Subepandrial sclerite	
			Clasper			Surstylus	
					anal plate	Cercal dorsal lobe	cercus
						Cercal ventral lobe	

**Figure 2.** Visual atlas of periphallid structures. Light microscopy images (Canton S strain) and diagrams representing the broad divisions and substructures of epandrium and cercus. The images are oriented dorsal (top) to ventral (bottom). Previous FlyBase terms are on the left and 2019 revised terms are on the right.

the epandrial posterior lobe, can vary within *D. melanogaster* [27,28]. In Table 1, we propose a unified nomenclature of the various anatomical elements containing definitions and references to previously used terms. Conversely, Table 2 provides correspondence from previously used terms to the unified nomenclature. Although the current set of nomenclature is centered around *D. melanogaster*, we have adopted general terms

such that most should also apply to other Drosophilidae species.

The male terminalia of *D. melanogaster* corresponds to the entire set of external structures in the distal half of the male abdomen (Figures 1–3), i.e. segments 8–10. It derives from the genital disc, which comprises three primordia: a reduced Abdominal segment 8 primordium, which in females gives rise to most genital structures but in

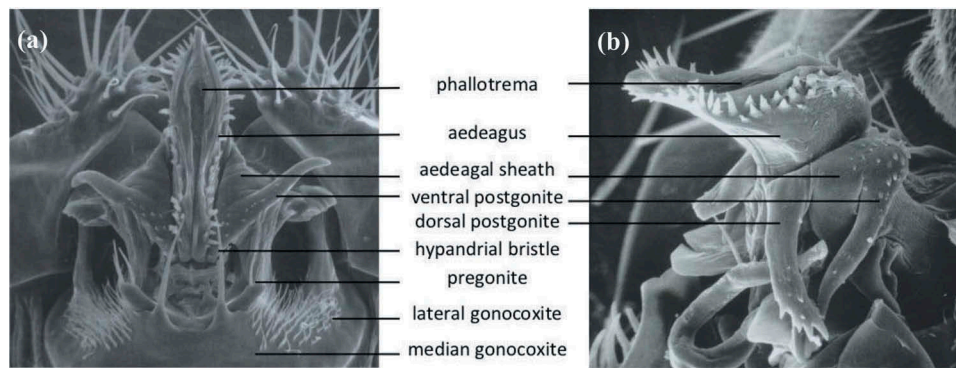
					
Phallic structures			Old FlyBase terminology	2019 Revised Flybase	
			Dorsal paramere	aedeagus	Dorsal postgonite
					Ventral postgonite
			Penis mantle/ male gonopod		Aedeagal sheath
			Penis		Aedeagus
			Aedeagal apodeme	Phallapodeme	
			Ventral paramere	hypandrium	Pregonite
					Lateral gonocoxite
					Median gonocoxite
					Transverse rod
					Hypandrial phragma
			Hypandrium		

**Figure 3.** Visual atlas of phallic structures. Light microscopy images (Canton S strain) and diagrams representing the broad divisions and substructures of phallus and hypandrium. The images are oriented posterior (top) to anterior (bottom). Previous FlyBase terms are on the left and the 2019 revised terms are on the right.

males gives rise only to a miniature eighth tergite (here termed the epandrial anterodorsal phragma, see below); an Abdominal segment 9 primordium, forming the male genitalia, and the Abdominal

segment 10 primordium, making the analia [29]. During development, the *D. melanogaster* male genitalia rotate 360 degrees clockwise, causing the internal organs to loop around the gut; this rotation and





**Figure 4.** Scanning electron micrographs of the phallic structures in (a) ventral and (b) lateral views, from L. Tsacas' collection at the National Museum of Natural History, Paris (Courtesy of the Museum).

thus the dorsal/ventral designation of the genitalia varies within Diptera [30]. We dissected and imaged adult cuticle preparations of a *D. melanogaster* wild type strain (Canton S), and provide cuticle images as well as drawings of the distinct parts in Figures 1–3. To maximize clarity, we present each part both in isolation and in the context of intact tissue, and we indicate the outlines of each anatomical component (Figures 2, 3).

We have subdivided the terminalia into two parts, periphallic structures, which are secondarily connected to the intromittent organ (Figure 2) and the phallic structures, which comprise the intromittent organ and structures directly connected to it (Figure 3). These two classes are easily separable via dissection in the adult.

### Periphallic portions of the terminalia

Periphallic structures comprise the cercus (former anal plate), the epandrium (former genital arch), the pair of surstyli (former claspers) and the subepandrial sclerite (former pons) that connects the surstyli to the other periphallic structures (Figure 1). Although periphallic structures are not directly involved in transferring sperm, several of them (cercus, surstylus, and epandrial posterior lobe) have been implicated in grasping onto the female during copulation [17–19,22,31–34]. Additionally, although many of these structures do not show obvious boundaries in *D. melanogaster*, they are far more complex in its close relatives, suggesting that there are natural subdivisions of these structures in some species. For example, while the ventral margin of the cercus forms a relatively flat cuticle in *D. melanogaster*, it

bears a lobe-like extension in *D. bipectinata* that affects copulatory success [23,24]. Furthermore, the dorsal and ventral parts of the cercus accumulate distinct levels of *engrailed* in *D. melanogaster* (Figure 3(f) in [35]).

### Subdivision and nomenclature of phallic parts

During copulation, several parts of the male genitalia enter the female vagina: the aedeagus, part of the phallapodeme, the ventral and dorsal postgonites, and the aedeagal sheath [18,36]. All of these structures except the phallapodeme form the intromittent organ or phallus. The aedeagus is perhaps the most complex structure of the male genitalia of *D. melanogaster* (Figure 4): it is covered with cuticular projections and its shape varies broadly between closely related species (see Figures 13, 14, 16, 17 of [37, 38]). The postgonites are flexible relative to the aedeagus; they move progressively during mating and have been implicated in producing copulatory wounds in females [18]. The aedeagal sheath surrounds the aedeagus and the postgonites dorso-laterally. It also moves outwards during mating. The movement of the postgonites and the aedeagal sheath may be induced through the complex musculature found in the phallus (Figure 5; [18]).

The hypandrium is a large structure that surrounds the phallus ventrally. It can be broken down into several identifiable substructures. We consider the posterior part to be fused gonocoxites (see below) and divide each gonocoxite into two parts, lateral and median. The fused median

**Table 1.** Definition of the terms in the standardized nomenclature.**Parts****Male analia** (FBbt:00004825).

Definition: The entire set of external structures in the distal half of the male abdomen, i.e. segment 10, that makes up the anal apparatus (*cerci* and anus). It develops from the male genital disc.

**Male genitalia** (FBbt:00004828).

Definition: Set of internal and external structures originating from segments 8–9, that makes up the genital apparatus. It develops from the male genital disc.

**Male terminalia** (FBbt:00004835).

Definition: The entire set of external structures in the distal half of the male abdomen, i.e. segments 8–10, that makes up the *male genitalia* and *male analia*. It develops from the male genital disc.

**Sclerites****Aedeagal sheath** (FBbt:00004845)

FlyBase synonyms: male gonopod, male paramere, penis mantle.

Definition: A membranous process that dorsally connects to the two posterior sides of the *hypandrium*, embracing the *aedeagus* and both pairs of *postgonites*.

Synonyms: phallus envelope [38], penis mantle [48,49], gonopod [16,18], posterior paramere [6,8], dorsal arch [15].

**Aedeagus** (FBbt:00004852)

FlyBase synonyms: penis.

Definition: A tubular organ with a single external opening called *phallotreme*. The aedeagus is entirely membranous and laterally covered with fringe-like, irregular rows of long and blunt scales.

Synonyms: penis [3,48,49], phallus [38].

**Cercal dorsal lobe** (FBbt:00048379)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Dorsal portion of the cercus bearing long thin *cercal dorsal bristles*.

**Cercal ventral lobe** (FBbt:00048380)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Ventral portion of the cercus bearing short rigid *cercal ventral bristles*.

Synonyms: secondary clasper [7].

**Cercus** (FBbt:00004844)

FlyBase synonyms: anal plate.

Definition: Paired tergite that lies immediately lateral to the anus in males. There are two of these in a male individual.

Synonyms: abdominal tergite 10 [48]; anal plate [3,7,38,48,49], cercus [15,16].

**Dorsal postgonite** (FBbt:00048381)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Dorsal branch of the postgonite, covered with tiny scales.

Synonyms: dorsal branch of basal process [18], dorsal paramere [49].

**Epandrial anterodorsal phragma** (FBbt:00048382)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: thin sclerite connecting the *epandrium* to abdominal tergites 6 and 7.

Synonyms: abdominal tergite 8 [48], phragma [3,7,38,49].

**Epandrial dorsal lobe** (FBbt:00048383)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Dorsal portion of the *epandrium* above the *epandrial posterior lobe*. The two dorsal lobes are fused into a single sclerite. It contains about 8 long thin bristles.

**Epandrial posterior lobe** (FBbt:00004841)

FlyBase synonyms: posterior lobe.

Definition: Lobe on the posterior region of the *epandrium*. It is posterior to the *epandrial ventral lobe* and mostly covers the *surstylus*.

Synonyms: posterior process [7,48], posterior lobe [3,38,49], dorsal branch of the ventral epandrial lobe [15], lateral lobe [50], ventral lobe [32], ventral process [32].

**Epandrial ventral lobe** (FBbt:00004842)

FlyBase synonyms: lateral plate.

Definition: Lobe ventral to the *epandrial dorsal lobe* and anterior to the *epandrial posterior lobe*. It contains about 22 long thin bristles.

Synonyms: lateral plate [49], pouch [48], toe [7], epandrial ventral lobe [15].

**Epandrium** (FBbt:00004839)

FlyBase synonyms: genital arch, abdominal tergite 9.

Definition: Horseshoe-shaped tergite which, dorsally, surrounds the male cerci. It contains about 30 *epandrial bristles* on each side. The left and right sides of the epandrium are connected by the *subepandrial sclerite*. The ventral part of each side of the epandrium is divided into an *epandrial ventral lobe* and an *epandrial posterior lobe*.

Synonyms: abdominal tergite 9 [48], genital arch [3,7,38,48], epandrium [15,16,38].

**Gonocoxite** (FBbt:00048384)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Part of the *hypandrium* posterior to the *hypandrial transverse rod*. It is posteriorly protruded into the *lateral gonocoxite* and the *median gonocoxite*.

Synonyms: abdominal sternite 9 [3], novasternum [6,38], gonopod [15].

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued).

**Hypandrial phragma** (FBbt:00048385)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Part of the *hypandrium* anterior to the *hypandrial transverse rod*.

Synonyms: intersegmental phragma [3], ventral fragma [6], ventral phragma [38], hypandrium [15], hypandrial apodeme [18].

**Hypandrial transverse rod** (FBbt:00048386)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Sclerotized line extended transversally from left to right that separates the *hypandrium* into the *gonocoxite* and the *hypandrial phragma*.

Synonyms: transversal thickening of the hypandrium [48], sclerotized rod [38].

**Hypandrium** (FBbt:00004847)

FlyBase synonyms: abdominal sternite 9.

Definition: The male ninth abdominal sternum which extends beneath the phallus. Its posterior ends are dorsally connected to the *aedeagal sheath*. The hypandrium is composed of the *gonocoxite* posteriorly, the *hypandrial phragma* anteriorly and the *hypandrial transverse rod* in between.

Synonyms: novasternum [51,52], hypandrium [12,16,38,48].

**Lateral gonocoxite** (FBbt:00004849)

FlyBase synonyms: hypandrial process.

Definition: Lateral part of the *gonocoxite*. It comprises a sclerotized pocket into which the female ovipositor inserts during copulation. It is connected with *epandrium* (*epandrial ventral lobe* and *epandrial posterior lobe*) via two pairs of muscle bundles (*male genital muscles IV* and *male genital muscles V*).

Synonyms: outer process [48], lateral process [6], lateral expansion [38], paramere [10,53].

**Median gonocoxite** (FBbt:00048387)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Medial part of the *gonocoxite*, which bears the *hypandrial bristle*. The two gonocoxites are medially fused into a single sclerite bearing the two hypandrial bristles.

**Periphallic sclerite** (FBbt:00048388)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Sclerites that are used during mating to grasp the female oviscapt from the outside. They include the *epandrium*, the *surstyli* and the *cerci*.

**Phallapodeme** (FBbt:00003524)

FlyBase synonyms: aedeagal apodeme, basal apodeme of penis.

Definition: Long, slender apodeme extending from the base of the *phallus* into the body.

Synonyms: aedeagal apodeme [15,16], basal apodeme of penis [3,6], penis apodeme [48,49], phallapodeme [38]

**Phallotreme** (FBbt:00048389)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: External opening of the aedeagus.

Synonyms: gonopore [11,12,15,54], phallotreme [32], secondary gonopore [25].

**Phallic sclerites** (FBbt:00048390)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Sclerites that are used during mating to penetrate or facilitate penetrating the female vagina. They include the *phallus*, the *phallapodeme* and the *hypandrium*.

Synonyms: penis apparatus [49].

**Phallus** (FBbt:00004850)

FlyBase synonyms: aedeagus.

Definition: The main part of the *male genitalia* used for intromission. The distal portion, through which the male ejaculates, is the *aedeagus*. The basal portion consists of a pair of bifurcate processes called *postgonites* and the *aedeagal sheath*.

Synonyms: aedeagus. Note that the aedeagus corresponds to another anatomical part in the new nomenclature.

**Postgonite** (FBbt:00004854)

FlyBase synonyms: dorsal paramere.

Definition: Bifurcate process on the basal portion of the *phallus*. The *dorsal postgonite* is covered with tiny scales, whereas the *ventral postgonite* has a texture similar to gooseflesh. The dorsal and ventral postgonites are parallel to the aedeagus at rest and spread laterally during erection.

Synonyms: posterior paramere [6,38], dorsal gonapophysis [48], basal process [16], inner paraphysis [15].

**Pregonite** (FBbt:00004855)

FlyBase synonyms: ventral paramere.

Definition: A pair of lobes arising from and attached to the *hypandrium*, anterior to the phallus. They bear small *pregonal bristles*.

Synonyms: hypandrial process [49], paramere [16], paraphysis [10], anterior paramere [6,8], ventral gonapophysis [48].

**Subepandrial sclerite** (FBbt:00004840)

FlyBase synonyms: pons, decasternum.

Definition: A bridge-like sclerite that internally connects the two sides of the *epandrium* beneath the anus.

Synonyms: abdominal sternite 10 [48], decasternum [15,55], bridge [38,48], pons [49].

**Surstylus** (FBbt:00004843)

FlyBase synonyms: clasper.

Definition: Paired hook-shaped sclerotized lobe that extends ventrally from the *subepandrial sclerite* and surrounds the phallus. It contains 25 thorn-like bristles (*surstylar teeth*) in a curved band and one *long surstylar bristle* at the end.

Synonyms: inner lobe of tergite 9 [3], coxopodite [3], clasper [48], primary clasper [7], forceps [38], surstylus [15,16].

(Continued)

**Table 1.** (Continued).**Ventral postgonite** (FBbt:00048391)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Ventral branch of the postgonite, covered with tiny scales.

Synonyms: ventral branch of basal process [18], ventral paramere [49].

**Setation****Cercal bristle** (FBbt:00048392)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *cercus*. There are nearly 40 of these.**Cercal dorsal lobe bristle** (FBbt:00048393)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *cercal dorsal lobe*. They are longer and less rigid than the *cercal ventral lobe bristle*.**Cercal ventral lobe bristle** (FBbt:00048394)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *cercal ventral lobe*. They are shorter and more rigid than the *cercal dorsal lobe bristle*.**Epandrial bristle** (FBbt:00048395)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *epandrium*. There are 30 of these.**Epandrial dorsal lobe bristle** (FBbt:00048396)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *epandrial dorsal lobe*. There are 8 of these.**Epandrial ventral lobe bristle** (FBbt:00048397)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *epandrial ventral lobe*. There are 22 of these on each lobe.**Hypandrial bristle** (FBbt:00004472)Definition: Long bristle located on the *median gonocoxite*. There are two of these on the *hypandrium*.**Hypandrial hair** (FBbt:00004473)Definition: Fine hair on the *median gonocoxite*. There is a group of these.**Male terminalia sensillum** (FBbt:00004469)Definition: Any sensillum that is part of some *male terminalia*.**Pregonal bristle** (FBbt:00048398)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: Any bristle that is part of the *pregonite*. They are 3 of these.**Surstylar long bristle** (FBbt:00004471)

FlyBase synonyms: clasper long bristle.

Definition: Single long bristle at the end of the *surstylus*. Sometimes there is more than one long bristle per surstylus.**Surstylar teeth** (FBbt:00004470)

FlyBase synonyms: clasper tooth.

Definition: Thorn-like bristles of the *surstylus*. There are 25 of these arranged in a curved band.

Synonyms: clasper teeth [56], prenisetae [10].

**Musculature****Male genital muscle I** (FBbt:00003552)

FlyBase synonyms: penis protractor muscle.

Definition: A pair of large muscle bundles connecting the anterior end of the *phallapodeme* and the base of *aedeagal sheath* + *lateral gonocoxite*, which works as the protractor muscles of the *phallus* and its associated structures.

Synonyms: aedeagus protractor muscle, muscles i [18].

**Male genital muscle II** (FBbt:00110926)

FlyBase synonyms: penis retractor muscle.

Definition: A pair of muscle bundles connecting the base of *phallus* and the *hypandrial phragma* which works as the retractor muscles of the *phallus* and its associated structures.

Synonyms: aedeagus retractor muscle, muscles ii [18].

**Male genital muscle III** (FBbt:00048399)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: A pair of muscle bundles connecting the base of *aedeagal sheath*, the *lateral gonocoxite* and the *hypandrial phragma*.

Synonyms: muscles iii [18].

**Male genital muscle IV** (FBbt:00048400)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: A pair of muscle bundles connecting the *lateral gonocoxite* and the *epandrial ventral lobe*.

Synonyms: muscles iv [18].

**Male genital muscle V** (FBbt:00048401)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: A pair of muscle bundles connecting the *lateral gonocoxite* below the *epandrial posterior lobe*.

Synonyms: muscles v [18].

**Male genital muscle VI** (FBbt:00048402)

FlyBase synonyms: New term.

Definition: A pair of muscle bundles connecting the *hypandrial phragma* and the abdominal sternite 6.

Synonyms: muscles vi [18].



**Table 2.** Table of correspondence between terms previously used in publications and term of the standardized nomenclature.

Previous terminology	Synonym in the new nomenclature	Reference
abdominal sternite 10	Subepandrial sclerite	[48]
abdominal sternite 9*	Gonocoxite	[3]
abdominal sternite 9*	Hypandrium	old FlyBase terminology
abdominal tergite 10	Cercus	[48]
abdominal tergite 8	Epandrial anterodorsal phragma	[48]
abdominal tergite 9	Epandrium	[48]
aedeagal apodeme	Phallapodeme	[16, 15]
anal plate	Cercus	[48, 7, 3, 38, 49]
anterior paramere	Pregonite	[6, 8]
basal apodeme of penis	Phallapodeme	[3, 6]
basal process	Postgonite	[16]
bridge	Subepandrial sclerite	[48, 38]
cercus	Cercus	[16, 15]
clasper	Surstylus	[48]
clasper teeth	Surstylar teeth	[56]
coxopodite	Surstylus	[3]
decasternum	Subepandrial sclerite	[55, 15]
dorsal arch	Aedeagal sheath	[15]
dorsal branch of basal process	Dorsal postgonite	[18]
dorsal branch of the ventral epandrial lobe	Epandrial posterior lobe	[15]
dorsal gonapophysis	Postgonite	[48]
dorsal paramere*	Dorsal postgonite	[49]
dorsal paramere*	Postgonite	old FlyBase terminology
epandrial ventral lobe	Epandrial ventral lobe	[15]
forceps	Surstylus	[38]
genital arch	Epandrium	[48, 7, 3, 38]
gonopod*	Gonocoxite	[15]
gonopod*	Aedeagal sheath	[16, 18]
gonopore	Phallotreme	[11, 54, 12, 15]
hypandrial apodeme	Hypandrial phragma	[18]
hypandrial process	Pregonite	[49]
hypandrium	Hypandrial phragma	[15]
inner lobe of tergite 9	Surstylus	[3]
inner paraphysis	Postgonite	[15]
intersegmental phragma	Hypandrial phragma	[3]
lateral expansion	Lateral gonocoxite	[38]
lateral lobe	Epandrial posterior lobe	[50]
lateral plate	Epandrial ventral lobe	[49]
lateral process	Lateral gonocoxite	[6]
male paramere	Aedeagal sheath	old FlyBase terminology
novasternum*	Gonocoxite	[6, 38]
novasternum*	Hypandrium	[51, 52]
outer process	Lateral gonocoxite	[48]
paramere*	Lateral gonocoxite	[53, 10]
paramere*	Pregonite	[16]
paraphysis	Pregonite	[10]
penis	Aedeagus	[48, 3, 49]
penis apodeme	Phallapodeme	48, 49
penis apparatus	Phallic sclerites	[49]
penis mantle	Aedeagal sheath	[48, 49]
phallotreme	phallotreme	[32]
phallus	Aedeagus	[38]
phallus envelope	Aedeagal sheath	[38]
phragma	Epandrial anterodorsal phragma	[7, 3, 38, 49]
pons	Subepandrial sclerite	[49]
posterior lobe	Epandrial posterior lobe	[3, 38, 49]
posterior paramere*	Postgonite	[6, 38, 8]
posterior paramere*	Aedeagal sheath	[6]
posterior process	Epandrial posterior lobe	[48, 7]
pouch	Epandrial ventral lobe	[48]
prensisetae	Surstylar teeth	[10]
primary clasper	Surstylus	[7]
sclerotized rod	Hypandrial transverse rod	[38]
secondary clasper	Cercal ventral lobe	[7]

(Continued)

Table 2. (Continued).

Previous terminology	Synonym in the new nomenclature	Reference
secondary gonopore	Phallotrema	[25]
toe	Epandrial ventral lobe	[7]
transversal thickening of the hypandrium	Hypandrial transverse rod	[48]
ventral branch of basal process	Ventral postgonite	[18]
ventral fragma	Hypandrial phragma	[6]
ventral gonapophysis	Pregonite	[48]
ventral lobe	Epandrial posterior lobe	[32]
ventral paramere*	Pregonite	old FlyBase terminology
ventral paramere*	Ventral postgonite	[49]
ventral phragma	Hypandrial phragma	[38]
ventral process	Epandrial posterior lobe	[32]

\*Note that these previously used terms correspond to multiple anatomical parts in the new nomenclature.

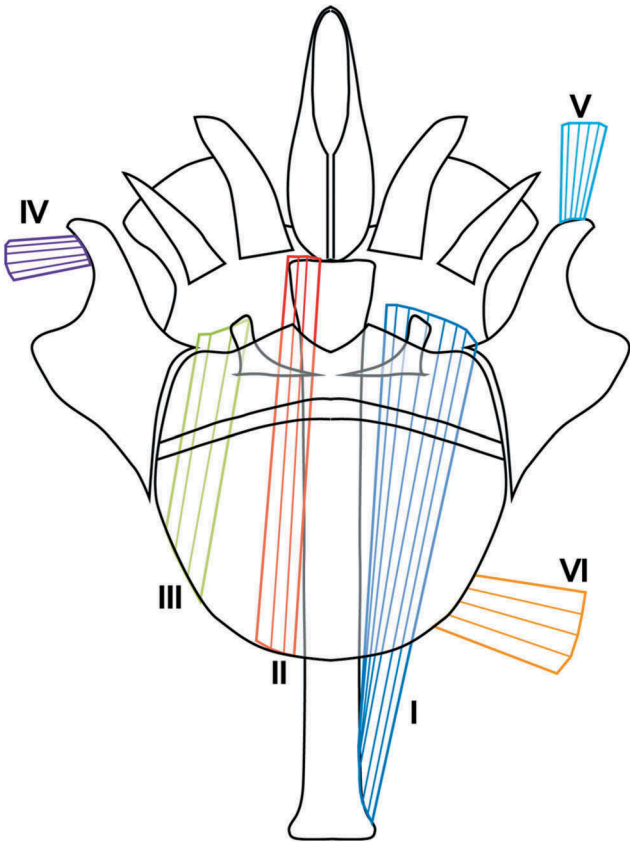


Figure 5. Musculature of the phallic structures. Same diagram of cuticular parts as in Figure 3 (ventral view). Muscles are indicated in distinct colors and numbered I to VI [18]. These muscles are bilateral. For sake of clarity, muscles are shown either on the left or on the right side of the diagram. See Table 1 for muscles description.

gonocoxites host a pair of large bristles [39,40]. They connect to the phallus via the two pregonites. Each pregonite displays two to three smaller bristles.

### Justifying the separation/individuality of parts

It is important to note that the boundary of each anatomical element is based largely on defined cuticular ridges observed in the adult. However, some key parts lack clear boundaries with other adjacent tissues. Examples include the epandrial posterior lobe, cercal ventral and dorsal lobes, and sub-parts of the hypandrium. We envision that in these cases, a careful analysis of cellular formation during development will be necessary to precisely define the boundaries of separate parts. Experiments that map the spatial expression patterns of regulatory genes such as transcription factors further support the boundaries of each anatomical element, and could motivate further refinements into smaller sub-parts [35,41].

### Implications of our system to the terminological debate within Diptera

The term ‘surstylus’ has been proposed by Crampton [42] to refer to the clasp organs that are associated with the dorsal compartment of the genitalia (*i.e.* epandrium) in Eremoneuran (Higher) Diptera to which *Drosophila* belongs. In non-Eremoneuran (Lower) Diptera and in other related insect orders, the clasp organs consist of appendices, the gonopods, comprised of two sub-structures, the gonocoxites and the gonostyli, that are associated with the ventral compartment of the genitalia (*i.e.* the hypandrium). Crampton’s view, which would later be called the ‘surstylar concept’ [43], postulates that the gonostyli have been lost

whereas the gonocoxites remain associated with the hypandrium in Eremoneurans. This view has a wide acceptance among Dipterologists [25,26,44], as well as between *Drosophila* systematists who have opted for a revised terminology [10,15,16]. For example, the term gonopod, whereas used for different structures in *D. melanogaster* (see Tables 1 and 2), has always been applied to ventral structures associated with the phallic portions.

However, alternative hypotheses for the origin of the Eremoneuran dorsal claspers exist, *i.e.* the ‘gonostylar concept’, postulating that Eremoneuran dorsal claspers are homologous to the ventral gonopods (mostly to the gonostyli) of non-Eremoneuran Diptera [reviewed in 43]. Zatwarnicki [43] further considered the subepandrial sclerite [*medandrium* in 43] to be homologous to the gonocoxites. Although evaluating these concepts goes far beyond the scope of our paper, we believe that further research in *Drosophila* could ultimately help elucidating the origin of the Eremoneuran dorsal claspers. For example, *Abd-B* mutants in *D. melanogaster* genital disc transform the phallic structures, as well as a part of the surstylus (clasper), into a leg [45]. This supports the idea that the ventral parts of the Eremoneuran genitalia are of appendicular origin (as the name gonopod, *i.e.* genital leg, would suggest), but it also suggests that a part (not the whole) of the surstylus might be of appendicular origin. Further mapping of transcription factors expression in the different compartments of the male terminalia between *D. melanogaster* [e.g. 41] and other non-Eremoneuran Diptera could shed light on the deep homology between these structures. At the time being, and because our major aim is to unify terms used by *Drosophila* biologists, we have opted here for the terminology based on the ‘surstylar concept’, and we hope that this would prompt further research on these questions.

### **Incorporating the new standardized terminology into diverse ongoing studies**

The revised terminology described here should facilitate cross-disciplinary synthesis of our knowledge of genital function, development, and evolution. We have worked with the FlyBase team to integrate these terms into their anatomy ontology [46,47]. Although we focused on the *D. melanogaster*

terminalia, a standardized terminology is vital/crucial for the ease of comparing various species. Thus, it is our hope that these terms will facilitate descriptions of homologous and novel structures in other insect species. It was important for us to include as much of the community of researchers working on *Drosophila* genital morphology as possible to reach consensus in the definition and deployment of this terminology. We suggest that when publishing studies that name these structures, authors use the terms of the revised terminology, while parenthetically citing alternate synonyms such as familiar terms, e.g. surstylus (clasper). For those who would like to use familiar terms (perhaps for the purpose of continuity with previous publications), we would strongly recommend that the revised terminology is presented parenthetically, e.g. clasper (surstylus). This way, the broader scientific community can understand and integrate results with as few barriers to comprehension as possible.

Studies of *Drosophila* genitalia have provided examples of large-scale differences between males and females, vital taxonomic traits to distinguish species from one another, and important factors in the reproductive incompatibility between species. Yet, the complexity of the genitalia itself presents barriers to the study of these fascinating anatomical parts. This problem has been aggravated by variability in nomenclature, which has further impeded entry into this field. The revision and visual atlas of male genital structures provided here will hopefully allow for increased communication across a range of disciplines and welcome new scientists to this growing field.

### **Materials and methods**

A Canton S line of *Drosophila melanogaster* (Bloomington # 64349) was used for all imaging. Adult males were dissected in 100% EtOH with micro-forceps and mounted in PVA Mounting Medium (BioQuip). For Figure 1(a), the sample was imaged at 500× magnification with a digital microscope VHX 2000 (Keyence) using lens VH-Z20R/W. For Figure 1(b,c) digital images were taken at different depths of focus using a Dino-Lite® Microscope Eyepiece Camera (AM7025X, AnMo Electronics Corporation) on an Olympus BX50 microscope and stacked with CombineZP

1.0 (<https://combinezp.software.informer.com/>). For Figures 2 and 3, samples were imaged at 16× magnification on a Leica M205C microscope with a Leica DFC425 camera or at 20× magnification on a Leica DM 2000 with a Leica DFC540 C camera. Images from the former microscope were Z stack-compiled with the Leica Application Suite to allow for optimal focus. Images of the epandrial anterodorsal phragma, epandrial dorsal lobe, epandrial posterior lobe, epandrial ventral lobe, subepandrial sclerite, cercal dorsal lobe, cercal ventral lobe, lateral gonocoxite, median gonocoxite, transverse rod, and hypandrial phragma were modified in Adobe Photoshop via the eraser tool to isolate full parts along sutures to provide the clearest view of each part in its entirety. Photoshop was used because dissection of the various parts would be difficult.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Clare Pilgrim and Steve Mangold for working with us to integrate our terminology into the FlyBase anatomy ontology, as well as the reviewers and Tadeusz Zatwarnicki for their useful comments.

## Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

## Funding

Funding was provided by H2020 European Research Council (FP7/2007-2013 Grant Agreement no. 337579) to VC, by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences (FP4/2014-2019 GM107387) to MR, by the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR-18-CE02-0008) to AY, by the National Institutes of General Medical Sciences (R35GM118170) to MLS.

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