



DATA NOTE

The genome sequence of the September Thorn moth, *Ennomos erosaria* (Denis & Schiffermüller), 1775

[version 1; peer review: 2 approved]

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Abstract

We present a genome assembly from an individual female *Ennomos erosaria* (the September Thorn moth; Arthropoda; Insecta; Lepidoptera; Geometridae). The genome sequence is 423.1 megabases in span. Most of the assembly is scaffolded into 32 chromosomal pseudomolecules, including the Z and W sex chromosomes. The mitochondrial genome has also been assembled and is 16.3 kilobases in length.

Keywords

Ennomos erosaria, September Thorn moth, genome sequence, chromosomal, Lepidoptera



This article is included in the [Tree of Life](#) gateway.

Open Peer Review

Approval Status  

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Species taxonomy

Eukaryota; Opisthokonta; Metazoa; Eumetazoa; Bilateria; Protostomia; Ecdysozoa; Panarthropoda; Arthropoda; Mandibulata; Pancrustacea; Hexapoda; Insecta; Dicondylia; Pterygota; Neoptera; Endopterygota; Amphiesmenoptera; Lepidoptera; Glossata; Neolepidoptera; Heteroneura; Ditrysia; Obtectomera; Geometroidea; Geometridae; Ennominae; *Ennomos*; *Ennomos erosaria* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775 (NCBI:txid934814)).

Background

The September Thorn *Ennomos erosaria* is one of a group of superficially similar-looking moths in the family Geometridae. It is distinguished from the other Thorns by its plain or only very slightly speckled wings, that range in colour from yellow to dark brown, and cross-lines, which, although they are variable, usually converge near the trailing edge of the wing (Waring *et al.*, 2017).

Although its common name might suggest that it has a limited flight season that does not overlap with other thorns, the single generation of *Ennomos erosaria*, is on the wing from July to early October. It overwinters as an egg on the foodplant and the larva feed from April to early July before pupating between the leaves (Waring *et al.*, 2017). The main foodplants are oaks *Quercus* spp., birches *Betula* spp., limes *Tilia* spp. and Beech *Fagus sylvatica* (Skinner & Wilson, 2009; Waring *et al.*, 2017).

Ennomos erosaria is currently endangered in the United Kingdom (UK), its numbers having declined by 87% in the 40 years to 2007 (Conrad *et al.*, 2006; Fox *et al.*, 2013). Its range in the UK is mostly limited to England and Wales and lowland Scotland, but while numbers have been decreasing more rapidly in the south of the country since 2000, it remains common in most areas (Waring *et al.*, 2017).

Here we present a chromosomal-level whole genome sequence for *Ennomos erosaria*, based on one female specimen from Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, UK.

Genome sequence report

The genome was sequenced from a female *Ennomos erosaria* (Figure 1) collected from Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire, UK (51.77, -1.34). A total of 30-fold coverage in Pacific Biosciences single-molecule HiFi long reads was generated. Primary assembly contigs were scaffolded with chromosome conformation Hi-C data. Manual assembly curation corrected 13 missing joins or mis-joins and removed 4 haplotypic duplications, reducing the scaffold N50 by 1.80%.

The final assembly has a total length of 423.1 Mb in 55 sequence scaffolds with a scaffold N50 of 14.6 Mb (Table 1). The snail plot in Figure 2 provides a summary of the assembly statistics, while the distribution of assembly scaffolds on GC proportion and coverage is shown in Figure 3. The cumulative assembly plot in Figure 4 shows curves for subsets of scaffolds assigned to different phyla. Most (99.65%) of the assembly sequence was assigned to 32 chromosomal-level



Figure 1. Photograph of the *Ennomos erosaria* (ilEnnEroa1) specimen used for genome sequencing.

scaffolds, representing 30 autosomes and the Z and W sex chromosomes. Chromosome-scale scaffolds confirmed by the Hi-C data are named in order of size (Figure 5; Table 2). Chromosome W and Chromosome Z were assigned by read coverage statistics. While not fully phased, the assembly deposited is of one haplotype. Contigs corresponding to the second haplotype have also been deposited. The mitochondrial genome was also assembled and can be found as a contig within the multifasta file of the genome submission.

The estimated Quality Value (QV) of the final assembly is 60.4 with *k*-mer completeness of 100.0%, and the assembly has a BUSCO v completeness of 98.7% (single = 98.3%, duplicated = 0.4%), using the lepidoptera_odb10 reference set (*n* = 5,286).

Metadata for specimens, BOLD barcode results, spectra estimates, sequencing runs, contaminants and pre-curation assembly statistics are given at <https://links.tol.sanger.ac.uk/species/934814>.

Methods

Sample acquisition and nucleic acid extraction

A female *Ennomos erosaria* (specimen ID Ox000574, ToLID ilEnnEroa1) was collected from Wytham Woods, Oxfordshire (biological vice-county Berkshire), UK (latitude 51.77, longitude -1.34) on 2020-07-05 using a light trap. The specimen was collected and identified by Douglas Boyes (University of Oxford) and preserved on dry ice. The specimen used for Hi-C and RNA sequencing (specimen ID Ox003092, ToLID ilEnnEroa2) was collected from the same location on 2022-07-22 using a light trap. The specimen was collected and identified by Liam Crowley (University of Oxford) and preserved on dry ice.

Table 1. Genome data for *Ennomos erosaria*, ilEnnEroa1.1.

Project accession data		
Assembly identifier	ilEnnEroa1.1	
Species	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	
Specimen	ilEnnEroa1	
NCBI taxonomy ID	934814	
BioProject	PRJEB66772	
BioSample ID	SAMEA7701438	
Isolate information	ilEnnEroa1, female: abdomen (PacBio DNA sequencing) ilEnnEroa2: head and thorax (Hi-C scaffolding and RNA sequencing)	
Assembly metrics*		Benchmark
Consensus quality (QV)	60.4	≥ 50
k-mer completeness	100.0%	≥ 95%
BUSCO**	C:98.7%[S:98.3%,D:0.4%], F:0.3%,M:1.0%,n:5,286	C ≥ 95%
Percentage of assembly mapped to chromosomes	99.65%	≥ 95%
Sex chromosomes	ZW	localised homologous pairs
Organelles	Mitochondrial genome: 16.3 kb	complete single alleles
Raw data accessions		
PacificBiosciences Sequel IIe	ERR12102463, ERR12102462	
Hi-C Illumina	ERR12102445	
PolyA RNA-Seq Illumina	ERR12102444	
Genome assembly		
Assembly accession	GCA_963580505.1	
Accession of alternate haplotype	GCA_963580315.1	
Span (Mb)	423.1	
Number of contigs	97	
Contig N50 length (Mb)	9.2	
Number of scaffolds	55	
Scaffold N50 length (Mb)	14.6	
Longest scaffold (Mb)	19.26	

* Assembly metric benchmarks are adapted from column VGP-2020 of "Table 1: Proposed standards and metrics for defining genome assembly quality" from [Rhie et al. \(2021\)](#).

** BUSCO scores based on the lepidoptera_odb10 BUSCO set using version v5.4.3. C = complete [S = single copy, D = duplicated], F = fragmented, M = missing, n = number of orthologues in comparison. A full set of BUSCO scores is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/Ennomos_erosarius/dataset/GCA_963580505.1/busco.

The workflow for high molecular weight (HMW) DNA extraction at the Wellcome Sanger Institute (WSI) Tree of Life Core Laboratory includes a sequence of core procedures: sample

preparation; sample homogenisation, DNA extraction, fragmentation, and clean-up. In sample preparation, the ilEnnEroa1 sample was weighed and dissected on dry ice ([Jay et al., 2023](#)).

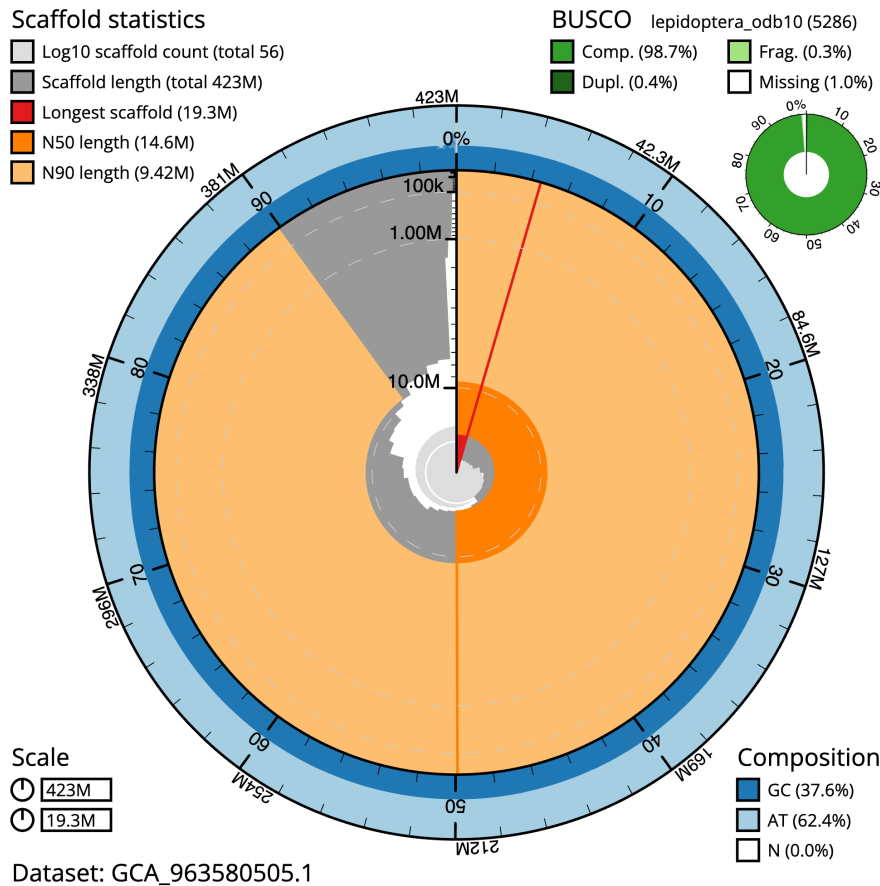


Figure 2. Genome assembly of *Ennomos erosaria*, ilEnnEroa1.1: metrics. The BlobToolKit snail plot shows N50 metrics and BUSCO gene completeness. The main plot is divided into 1,000 size-ordered bins around the circumference with each bin representing 0.1% of the 423,092,927 bp assembly. The distribution of scaffold lengths is shown in dark grey with the plot radius scaled to the longest scaffold present in the assembly (19,264,547 bp, shown in red). Orange and pale-orange arcs show the N50 and N90 scaffold lengths (14,589,179 and 9,417,489 bp), respectively. The pale grey spiral shows the cumulative scaffold count on a log scale with white scale lines showing successive orders of magnitude. The blue and pale-blue area around the outside of the plot shows the distribution of GC, AT and N percentages in the same bins as the inner plot. A summary of complete, fragmented, duplicated and missing BUSCO genes in the lepidoptera_odb10 set is shown in the top right. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/Ennomos_erosarius/dataset/GCA_963580505.1/snail.

Tissue from the abdomen was homogenised using a PowerMasher II tissue disruptor (Denton *et al.*, 2023a). HMW DNA was extracted using the Automated MagAttract v1 protocol (Sheerin *et al.*, 2023). DNA was sheared into an average fragment size of 12–20 kb in a Megaruptor 3 system with speed setting 30 (Todorovic *et al.*, 2023). Sheared DNA was purified by solid-phase reversible immobilisation (Strickland *et al.*, 2023): in brief, the method employs a 1.8X ratio of AMPure PB beads to sample to eliminate shorter fragments and concentrate the DNA. The concentration of the sheared and purified DNA was assessed using a Nanodrop spectrophotometer and Qubit Fluorometer and Qubit dsDNA High Sensitivity Assay kit. Fragment size distribution was evaluated by running the sample on the FemtoPulse system.

RNA was extracted from head and thorax tissue of ilEnnEroa2 in the Tree of Life Laboratory at the WSI using the RNA

Extraction: Automated MagMax™ mirVana protocol (do Amaral *et al.*, 2023). The RNA concentration was assessed using a Nanodrop spectrophotometer and a Qubit Fluorometer using the Qubit RNA Broad-Range Assay kit. Analysis of the integrity of the RNA was done using the Agilent RNA 6000 Pico Kit and Eukaryotic Total RNA assay.

Protocols developed by the WSI Tree of Life laboratory are publicly available on protocols.io (Denton *et al.*, 2023b).

Sequencing

Pacific Biosciences HiFi circular consensus DNA sequencing libraries were constructed according to the manufacturers' instructions. Poly(A) RNA-Seq libraries were constructed using the NEB Ultra II RNA Library Prep kit. DNA and RNA sequencing was performed by the Scientific Operations core at the WSI on Pacific Biosciences Sequel IIe (HiFi) and Illumina NovaSeq 6000 (RNA-Seq) instruments. Hi-C data were

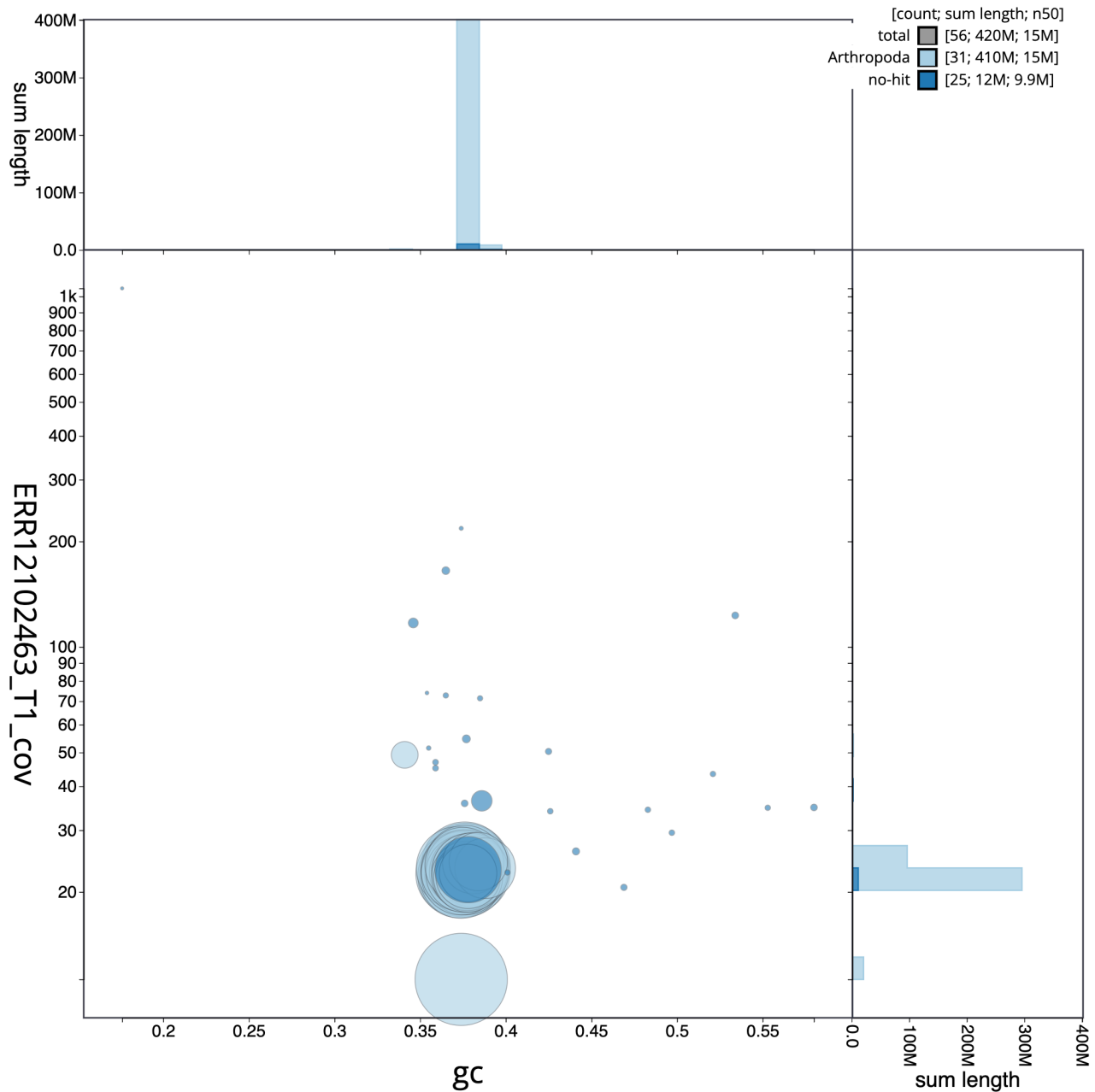


Figure 3. Genome assembly of *Ennomos erosaria*, iEnnEroa1.1: BlobToolKit GC-coverage plot. Sequences are coloured by phylum. Circles are sized in proportion to sequence length. Histograms show the distribution of sequence length sum along each axis. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/Ennomos_erosarius/dataset/GCA_963580505.1/blob.

also generated from \$HIC_TISSUE tissue of iEnnEroa2 using the Arima2 kit and sequenced on the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 instrument.

Genome assembly and curation

Assembly was carried out with Hifiasm (Cheng *et al.*, 2021) and haplotypic duplication was identified and removed with purge_dups (Guan *et al.*, 2020). The assembly was then

scaffolded with Hi-C data (Rao *et al.*, 2014) using YaHS (Zhou *et al.*, 2023). The assembly was checked for contamination and corrected using the TreeVal pipeline (Pointon *et al.*, 2023). Manual curation was performed using JBrowse2 (Diesh *et al.*, 2023), HiGlass (Kerpedjiev *et al.*, 2018) and PretextView (Harry, 2022). The mitochondrial genome was assembled using MitoHiFi (Uliano-Silva *et al.*, 2023), which runs MitoFinder (Allio *et al.*, 2020) or MITOS

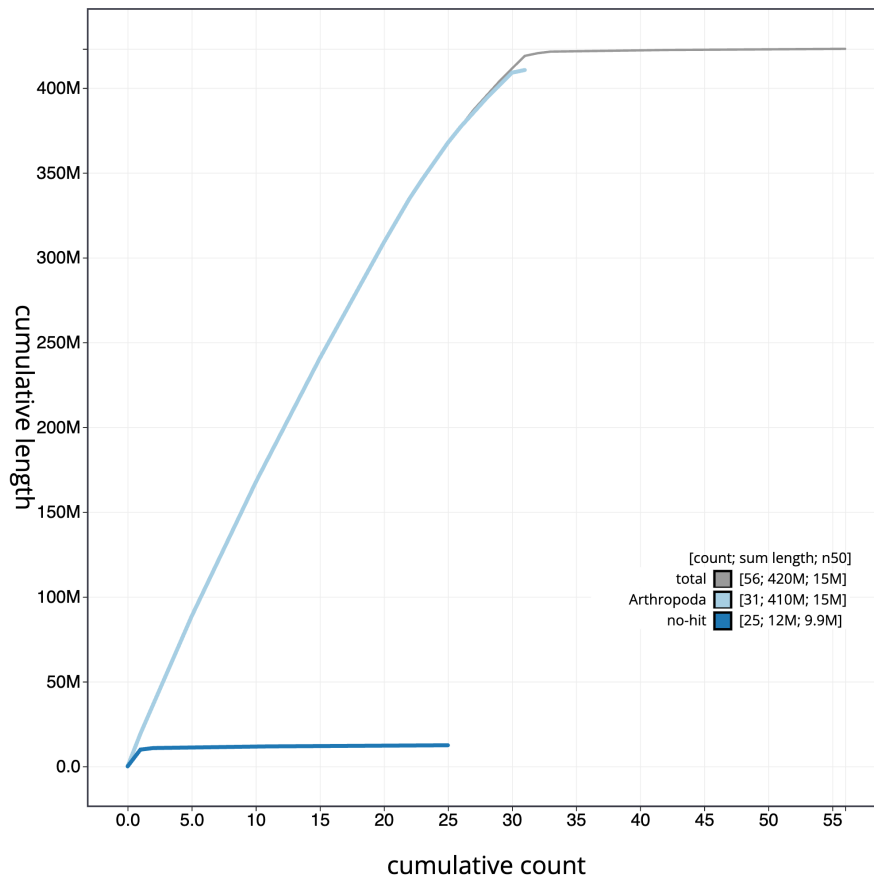


Figure 4. Genome assembly of *Ennomos erosaria*, iEnnEroa1.1: BlobToolKit cumulative sequence plot. The grey line shows cumulative length for all sequences. Coloured lines show cumulative lengths of sequences assigned to each phylum using the buscogenes taxrule. An interactive version of this figure is available at https://blobtoolkit.genomehubs.org/view/Ennomos_erosarius/dataset/GCA_963580505.1/cumulative.

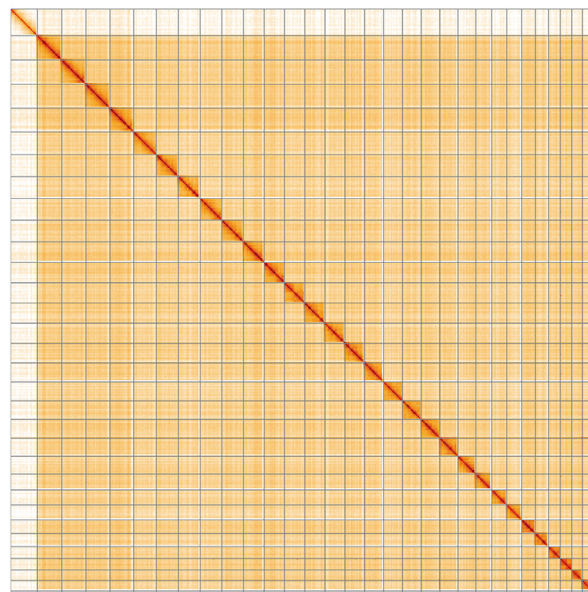


Figure 5. Genome assembly of *Ennomos erosaria*, iEnnEroa1.1: Hi-C contact map of the iEnnEroa1.1 assembly, visualised using HiGlass. Chromosomes are shown in order of size from left to right and top to bottom. An interactive version of this figure may be viewed at <https://genome-note-higlass.tol.sanger.ac.uk/l/?d=LIUdIc4KQbe53ZQ-IOb7xA>.

Table 2. Chromosomal pseudomolecules in the genome assembly of *Ennomos erosaria*, iEnnEroa1.

INSDC accession	Chromosome	Length (Mb)	GC%
OY756978.1	1	17.52	37.5
OY756979.1	2	17.41	37.5
OY756980.1	3	17.29	37.5
OY756981.1	4	17.05	37.5
OY756982.1	5	16.28	37.5
OY756983.1	6	15.87	37.0
OY756984.1	7	15.71	37.5
OY756985.1	8	15.59	37.5
OY756986.1	9	15.57	37.0
OY756987.1	10	14.11	37.5
OY756988.1	11	14.86	37.5
OY756989.1	12	14.67	37.5
OY756990.1	13	14.59	37.5
OY756991.1	14	14.54	37.5
OY756992.1	15	14.4	37.5
OY756993.1	16	13.63	37.5
OY756994.1	17	13.62	37.5
OY756995.1	18	13.48	38.0
OY756996.1	19	13.46	38.0
OY756997.1	20	13.02	37.5
OY756998.1	21	12.85	38.0
OY756999.1	22	11.39	38.0
OY757000.1	23	10.85	37.5
OY757001.1	24	10.72	38.0
OY757002.1	25	9.9	38.0
OY757003.1	26	9.42	38.0
OY757004.1	27	8.45	38.0
OY757005.1	28	8.29	39.0
OY757006.1	29	7.68	38.5
OY757007.1	30	7.44	38.0
OY757008.1	W	1.58	34.0
OY756977.1	Z	19.26	37.5
OY757009.1	MT	0.02	18.0

(Bernt *et al.*, 2013) and uses these annotations to select the final mitochondrial contig and to ensure the general quality of the sequence.

Final assembly evaluation

The final assembly was post-processed and evaluated with the three Nextflow (Di Tommaso *et al.*, 2017) DSL2 pipelines “sanger-tol/readmapping” (Surana *et al.*, 2023a), “sanger-tol/genomenote” (Surana *et al.*, 2023b), and “sanger-tol/blobtoolkit” (Muffato *et al.*, 2024). The pipeline sanger-tol/readmapping aligns the Hi-C reads with bwa-mem2 (Vasimuddin *et al.*, 2019) and combines the alignment files with SAMtools (Danecek *et al.*, 2021). The sanger-tol/genomenote pipeline transforms the Hi-C alignments into a contact map with BEDTools (Quinlan & Hall, 2010) and the Cooler tool suite (Abdennur & Mirny, 2020), which i (Kerpedjiev *et al.*, 2018) Glass (Kerpedjiev *et al.*, 2018). It also provides statistics about the assembly with the NCBI datasets (Sayers *et al.*, 2024) report, computes *k*-mer completeness and QV consensus quality values with FastK and MerquryFK, and a completeness assessment with BUSCO (Manni *et al.*, 2021).

The sanger-tol/blobtoolkit pipeline is a Nextflow port of the previous Snakemake Blobtoolkit pipeline (Challis *et al.*, 2020). It aligns the PacBio reads with SAMtools and minimap2 (Li, 2018) and generates coverage tracks for regions of fixed size. In parallel, it queries the GoT database (Challis *et al.*, 2023) to identify all matching BUSCO lineages to run BUSCO (Manni *et al.*, 2021). For the three domain-level BUSCO lineage, the pipeline aligns the BUSCO genes to the Uniprot Reference Proteomes database (Bateman *et al.*, 2023) with DIAMOND (Buchfink *et al.*, 2021) blastp. The genome is also split into chunks according to the density of the BUSCO genes from the closest taxonomically lineage, and each chunk is aligned to the Uniprot Reference Proteomes database with DIAMOND blastx. Genome sequences that have no hit are then chunked with seqtk and aligned to the NT database with blastn (Altschul *et al.*, 1990). All those outputs are combined with the blobtools suite into a blobdir for visualisation.

All three pipelines were developed using the nf-core tooling (Ewels *et al.*, 2020), use MultiQC (Ewels *et al.*, 2016), and make extensive use of the Conda package manager, the Bioconda initiative (Grüning *et al.*, 2018), the Biocontainers infrastructure (da Veiga Leprevost *et al.*, 2017), and the Docker (Merkel, 2014) and Singularity (Kurtzer *et al.*, 2017) containerisation solutions.

Table 3 contains a list of relevant software tool versions and sources.

Wellcome Sanger Institute – Legal and Governance

The materials that have contributed to this genome note have been supplied by a Darwin Tree of Life Partner. The submission of materials by a Darwin Tree of Life Partner is subject to the ‘Darwin Tree of Life Project Sampling Code of Practice’,

Table 3. Software tools: versions and sources.

Software tool	Version	Source
BEDTools	2.30.0	https://github.com/arq5x/bedtools2
Blast	2.14.0	ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/executables/blast+/
BlobToolKit	4.3.7	https://github.com/blobtoolkit/blobtoolkit
BUSCO	5.4.3 and 5.5.0	https://gitlab.com/ezlab/busco
bwa-mem2	2.2.1	https://github.com/bwa-mem2/bwa-mem2
Cooler	0.8.11	https://github.com/open2c/cooler
DIAMOND	2.1.8	https://github.com/bbuchfink/diamond
fasta_windows	0.2.4	https://github.com/tolkit/fasta_windows
FastK	427104ea91c78c3b8b8b49f1a7d6bbeaa869ba1c	https://github.com/thegenemyers/FASTK
GoaT CLI	0.2.5	https://github.com/genomehubs/goat-cli
Hifiasm	0.16.1-r375	https://github.com/chhyip123/hifiasm
HiGlass	44086069ee7d4d3f6f3f0012569789ec138f42b84a a44357826c0b6753eb28de	https://github.com/higlass/higlass
MerquryFK	d00d98157618f4e8d1a9190026b19b471055b22e	https://github.com/thegenemyers/MERQURY.FK
MitoHiFi	2	https://github.com/marcelauliano/MitoHiFi
MultiQC	1.14, 1.17, and 1.18	https://github.com/MultiQC/MultiQC
NCBI Datasets	15.12.0	https://github.com/ncbi/datasets
Nextflow	23.04.0-5857	https://github.com/nextflow-io/nextflow
PretextView	0.2	https://github.com/wtsi-hpag/PretextView
purge_dups	1.2.3	https://github.com/dfguan/purge_dups
samtools	1.16.1, 1.17, and 1.18	https://github.com/samtools/samtools
sanger-tol/genomenote	1.1.1	https://github.com/sanger-tol/genomenote
sanger-tol/readmapping	1.2.1	https://github.com/sanger-tol/readmapping
Seqtk	1.3	https://github.com/lh3/seqtk
Singularity	3.9.0	https://github.com/sylabs/singularity
TreeVal	1.0.0	https://github.com/sanger-tol/treeval
YaHS	yahs-1.1.91eebc2	https://github.com/c-zhou/yahs

which can be found in full on the Darwin Tree of Life website [here](#). By agreeing with and signing up to the Sampling Code of Practice, the Darwin Tree of Life Partner agrees they will meet the legal and ethical requirements and standards set out within this document in respect of all samples acquired for, and supplied to, the Darwin Tree of Life Project.

Further, the Wellcome Sanger Institute employs a process whereby due diligence is carried out proportionate to the nature of the materials themselves, and the circumstances under which they have been/are to be collected and provided for use. The purpose of this is to address and mitigate any

potential legal and/or ethical implications of receipt and use of the materials as part of the research project, and to ensure that in doing so we align with best practice wherever possible. The overarching areas of consideration are:

- Ethical review of provenance and sourcing of the material
- Legality of collection, transfer and use (national and international)

Each transfer of samples is further undertaken according to a Research Collaboration Agreement or Material Transfer Agreement entered into by the Darwin Tree of Life Partner, Genome Research Limited (operating as the Wellcome Sanger

Institute), and in some circumstances other Darwin Tree of Life collaborators.

Data availability

European Nucleotide Archive: *Ennomos erosarius* (September thorn). Accession number PRJEB66772; <https://identifiers.org/ena.embl/PRJEB66772> (Wellcome Sanger Institute, 2023). The genome sequence is released openly for reuse. The *Ennomos erosaria* genome sequencing initiative is part of the Darwin Tree of Life (DTOL) project. All raw sequence data and the assembly have been deposited in INSDC databases. The genome will be annotated using available RNA-Seq data and presented through the [Ensembl](#) pipeline at the European Bioinformatics Institute. Raw data and assembly accession identifiers are reported in [Table 1](#).

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Members of the University of Oxford and Wytham Woods Genome Acquisition Lab are listed here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7125292>.

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Members of Wellcome Sanger Institute Scientific Operations: Sequencing Operations are listed here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10043364>.

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Members of the Tree of Life Core Informatics collective are listed here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5013541>.

Members of the Darwin Tree of Life Consortium are listed here: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4783558>.

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Jason Charamis 

Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas, Irákleion, Greece

This genome assembly report presents a high-quality chromosomal-level sequence of the endangered September Thorn moth (*Ennomos erosaria*) from the UK's Darwin Tree of Life project. The assembly spans 423.1 Mb across 32 chromosomes including Z and W sex chromosomes, with excellent technical metrics (scaffold N50: 14.6 Mb, BUSCO completeness: 98.7%, QV: 60.4). Using PacBio HiFi sequencing and Hi-C scaffolding, researchers achieved 99.65% chromosomal assignment. Given the species' 87% population decline over 40 years, this genomic resource provides crucial foundation data for conservation genetics, evolutionary studies, and understanding this Geometridae family member's biology.

Is the rationale for creating the dataset(s) clearly described?

Yes

Are the protocols appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and materials provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

Are the datasets clearly presented in a useable and accessible format?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Arthropod Comparative Genomics

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Reviewer Report 01 October 2024

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James Mallet 

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

This is another useful genome assembly to add to the many other British species already carried out in the Darwin Tree of Life series. The chromosomal level assembly seems well done from the reported coverage and BUSCO scores etc.

I have no other particularly useful comments.

I noticed one phrase that could be reworded: "the density of the BUSCO genes from the closest taxonomically lineage" -- I would say "...from the taxonomically closest lineage".

Is the rationale for creating the dataset(s) clearly described?

Yes

Are the protocols appropriate and is the work technically sound?

Yes

Are sufficient details of methods and materials provided to allow replication by others?

Yes

Are the datasets clearly presented in a useable and accessible format?

Yes

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Reviewer Expertise: Lepidoptera genetics and evolution

I confirm that I have read this submission and believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.