

## Single gene controls butterfly wing pattern

Female Common Mormon butterflies (*Papilio polytes*) are a varied lot. Some look like the black-and-white males, but others mimic the more colorful toxic swallowtail butterflies to fool predators into thinking that they are similarly distasteful.

The mimetic females come in three distinct patterns and, for decades, scientists believed that these different disguises were controlled by a “supergene”—a cluster of genes that each control different parts of the wings, but are inherited as a single block.

But Krushnamegh Kunte from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India, has now shown that the supposed supergene is, in fact, a single gene called doublesex.

**Read the full, original story: [Supergene Discovered in Lookalike Butterflies](#)**