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Changes in anthocyanin production during domestication of *Citrus*

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22 Author contributions

- E.B. and C.M. planned and designed the research.
- E.B., C.M., A.G-L., C.L., G.LC., L.H. performed experiments.
- 25 M.K., C.R., R.K., G. R-R., A-L.F., Y.F., L.N., Q.X. and X.D. provided plant material,
- 26 DNA, information and images.
- E.B. and C.M. wrote the manuscript with input and comments from all the other authors.
- 28 aut 29
- 29

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50 One-sentence summary 51 Ruby, a regulatory gene encoding a MYB transcription factor, is essential for 52 anthocyanin production and differences in its activity determine most of the natural 53 variation in pigmentation in *Citrus* and related genera. 54 55 Abstract 56 57 Mandarin (C. reticulata), citron (C. medica) and pummelo (C. maxima) are important 58 59 species of the genus *Citrus* and parents of the interspecific hybrids that constitute 60 the most familiar commercial varieties of citrus: sweet orange, sour orange, 61 clementine, lemon, lime and grapefruit. Citron produces anthocyanins in its young 62 leaves and flowers, as do species in genera closely related to *Citrus*, but mandarins do not and pummelo varieties that produce anthocyanins have not been reported. 63 64 We investigated the activity of the *Ruby* gene, which encodes a MYB transcription 65 factor controlling anthocyanin biosynthesis, in different accessions of a range of 66 *Citrus* species and in domesticated cultivars. A *white* mutant of lemon lacks 67 functional alleles of *Ruby*, demonstrating that *Ruby* plays an essential role in 68 anthocyanin production in *Citrus*. Almost all the natural variation in pigmentation by 69 anthocyanins in *Citrus* species can be explained by differences in activity of the 70 Ruby gene, caused by point mutations, deletions and insertions of transposable 71 elements. Comparison of the allelic constitution of Ruby in different species and 72 cultivars also helps to clarify many of the taxonomic relationships in different species 73 of Citrus, confirms the derivation of commercial varieties during domestication, 74 elucidates the relationships within the subgenus *Papeda* and allows a new genetic 75 classification of mandarins.

Keywords: anthocyanins, citrus, domestication, hybridization, MYB transcription

76 Introduction

77

78 Anthocyanins are phenolic compounds responsible for the red, blue and purple 79 colours in most angiosperm plants. They are accumulated in different tissues, 80 particularly in flower petals, fruit peel and leaves (Winkel-Shirley, 2001). 81 The pathway of anthocyanin biosynthesis is well characterized and the structural 82 genes that encode the core biosynthetic enzymes have been identified from many 83 species (Tanaka et al., 2008). These genes are coordinately induced by a conserved 84 regulatory complex formed by the interaction between MYB transcription factors, 85 bHLH transcription factors and WD40-repeat proteins, called the MBW complex (Quattrocchio et al., 1993; Ramsay and Glover, 2005; Koes et al., 2005). DNA-86 87 binding specificity is provided principally by the MYB factors. Mutations in the MYB 88 regulatory genes often result in lack of expression of the biosynthetic genes and loss 89 of anthocyanin pigmentation, as exemplified by the occurrence of 'red' and 'white' 90 varieties of grape (Kobayashi et al., 2004), apple (Espley et al., 2007) and species of 91 petunia (Quattrocchio et al., 1999; Hoballah et al., 2007) and antirrhinum (Schwinn et 92 al., 2006). 93 In *Citrus*, the ability to accumulate anthocyanins is not a universal feature (Fig. 1). In 94 lemons and limes, purple pigmentation is clearly present in young leaves and flowers 95 (new growth). In contrast, other cultivated *Citrus* varieties of economic importance 96 are completely unable to synthesize anthocyanins (Hodgson, 1967). Sweet oranges, 97 with the notable exception of the striking fruit-specific red-coloured, blood varieties, 98 do not display any anthocyanin pigmentation. 99 The taxonomy of *Citrus*, a genus of plants belonging to the family *Rutaceae* 100 (Supplemental Fig. S1), is complicated, as illustrated by the two most widely 101 accepted classification systems, those proposed by Swingle and Tanaka, 102 recognizing 16 and 162 species, respectively (Swingle, 1946; Swingle and Reece, 103 1967; Tanaka, 1977). In *Citrus*, the definition of a species is obscured by the ability

- 104 of *Citrus* species to hybridize easily within the genus and also with closely related
- 105 genera. Sexual promiscuity and thousands of years of human cultivation have
- 106 generated many hybrids whose origin cannot be inferred solely on the basis of
- 107 morphological and geographical data. However, a growing body of evidence
- supports the view that there are three basic or primary species: mandarin (C.

109 reticulata), pummelo (C. maxima) and citron (C. medica) (Scora, 1975; Barrett and 110 Rhodes, 1976). All the other 'species' are hybrids derived from these three primary 111 species (Moore, 2001). A fourth species belonging to the subgenus *Papeda* was 112 involved in the derivation of some limes (Nicolosi et al., 2000). The term 'secondary 113 species' has been used widely to define *Citrus* hybrids since most of them are 114 apomictic, polyembryonic and are normally propagated vegetatively by grafting. This 115 ensures that plants maintain their hybrid genetic constitution over generations but 116 also makes genetic studies challenging and crop improvement by conventional 117 breeding, almost impossible. Within a given species or hybrid, phenotypic 118 differences between cultivars are usually the result of spontaneous or induced 119 somatic mutations that have been selected and propagated. 120 We have previously shown that, in different blood varieties of sweet orange, the 121 insertion of retrotransposons in the promoter of *Ruby*, a regulatory gene encoding a 122 MYB transcription factor, is responsible for fruit-specific accumulation of 123 anthocyanins (Butelli et al., 2012). Here, our objective was to determine whether 124 *Ruby* controls the accumulation of anthocyanins in young leaves and flowers of 125 pigmented *Citrus* species and hybrids and whether mutations in this gene can 126 account for the inability of some *Citrus* varieties to develop pigmentation. We used 127 sequence information to determine whether the phylogeny of *Ruby* is congruent with 128 the generally accepted phylogeny of *Citrus* and the proposed ancestry of 129 commercially important hybrids. 130 131

132 **Results**

133

134 The *Ruby* locus in *Citrus* and related genera

- 135 Most taxonomists divide the group recognized as 'true *Citrus* fruit trees' into six
- 136 related genera: Citrus, Poncirus, Microcitrus, Eremocitrus, Fortunella and Clymenia
- 137 (Swingle and Reece, 1967; Supplemental Fig. S1). The genus *Citrus* is further
- 138 divided into two subgenera: *Citrus*, which includes the common cultivated plants with
- 139 commercially important fruit, and *Papeda* (Swingle, 1946; Krueger and Navarro,
- 140 2007).
- 141 We attempted a comprehensive analysis of the sequence variation at the *Ruby* locus

142 in the three primary *Citrus* species, in four members of the subgenus *Papeda*, in 143 several interspecific hybrids and in accessions belonging to four genera related to 144 *Citrus* that are relevant to understanding the regulation of anthocyanin production. 145 For each, we sequenced the *Ruby* gene and at least 1.6 kb of the region upstream of 146 the coding sequence. The species and hybrids we have studied are listed in Table1. 147 Ruby is involved in fruit-specific accumulation of anthocyanins in blood varieties of 148 sweet orange (Butelli et al., 2012). A second gene, which we named Ruby2, also 149 encodes a putative R2R3 MYB transcriptional activator with the potential to regulate 150 anthocyanin biosynthesis. The Ruby2 and Ruby genes are arranged in tandem on 151 chromosome 6 and are separated by an intergenic region ranging from 1.6 to 12 kb 152 in different species. In Citrus, all the Ruby2 alleles are predicted to encode 153 nonfunctional proteins because of the presence of different combinations of 154 deletions, frameshift and stop mutations (Supplemental Data Set S1). 155 No other genes with similarity to *Ruby* and encoding proteins belonging to subgroup 156 6 of the R2R3MYB family (known to regulate anthocyanin biosynthesis; Stracke et 157 al., 2001) were detected in the high-quality reference haploid clementine genome, 158 nor in two different genome annotation projects of sweet orange 159 (https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov; http://citrus.hzau.edu.cn/orange/). A previous 160 genome-wide targeted analysis of R2R3 MYB genes in sweet orange (Liu et al., 161 2014) and examination of the genome sequence of other *Citrus* species (QX and XD 162 personal communication) also failed to identify other paralogs of known anthocyanin-163 related MYB genes. 164 Based on these observations, the hypothesis was developed that, in all the 165 accessions belonging to the genus *Citrus*, Ruby is the only R2R3 MYB

- transcriptional activator involved in anthocyanin biosynthesis. Our objective was to
- 167 determine whether variation within the *Ruby* locus is responsible for the differential
- ability of different accessions to produce anthocyanins.
- 169

170 *Ruby* in citron

- 171 Citron (*C. medica*) is a true species with a very low level of heterozygosity. Most
- varieties are able to accumulate anthocyanins in young leaves and flowers (Fig. 1A),
- 173 where cyanidin 3-glucoside and peonidin 3-(6"-malonyl)-glucoside accounted for
- approximately 80% of the total anthocyanin content (Fabroni et al., 2016).
- 175 The three varieties of citron we tested (Table 1) contained the same *Ruby* allele,

predicted to be active and named R^{C} , in homozygous form. R^{C} was inherited,

identical in sequence, in many hybrids including lemon where its expression was

178 characterized.

179 Lying at position -902 relative to the start of transcription in R^{C} is a 5435 bp

- retrotransposon, which we named Tcl3 (Supplemental Fig. S2A and S2B). Tcl3 is 92
- and 91% identical in sequence to the two retroelements that are responsible for
- 182 anthocyanin accumulation in Mediterranean (Tcs1) and Chinese blood oranges
- 183 (Tcs2) respectively (Butelli et al., 2012). All three elements are members of the same
- 184 family of Copia-like LTR retrotransposons but, while Tcs1 and Tcs2 are intact, active
- and recently-inserted elements, Tcl3 in citron is defective and is the result of an
- ancient retrotransposition event, as deduced by the divergence of LTR sequences
- 187 that can be used to estimate the time of integration of LTR retrotransposons
- 188 (SanMiguel et al., 1998). The two LTRs of Tcl3 differ by seven nucleotides and a 10
- bp InDel, and the open reading frame of Tcl3 contains four stop mutations and one 5
- 190 bp deletion causing a frameshift mutation that would inactivate the encoded
- 191 polyprotein (Supplemental Fig. S2B and S2C). These observations, together with its
- insertion at a considerable distance from the start of transcription, suggest that the
- 193 presence of the Tcl3 retrotransposon likely has little or no impact on *Ruby*
- 194 expression.
- 195

196 *Ruby* in pummelo

- 197 Pummelo (*C. maxima*) is a true species of *Citrus* with many cultivars and high
- 198 genetic diversity. Anthocyanin pigmentation has never been reported in pummelo.
- 199 The four accessions we initially considered ('Chandler', 'Reinking', 'Siamese
- acidless' and 'Kao Pan') contain different combinations of three *Ruby* alleles that we named r^{STOPp} , r^{TATA} and r^{CAAT} (Table 1).
- The r^{STOPp} allele is characterized by the presence of a stop mutation (TGG to TGA at
- positions equivalent to +1481 in the R^{C} reference allele) in the third exon that would
- result in the truncation of the Ruby protein involving loss of its carboxy-terminal 116
- amino acids. This mutation results in a complete loss of function of the Ruby protein
- as demonstrated by the lack of anthocyanin production when a truncated cDNA was
- transiently overexpressed in Nicotiana benthamiana (Fig. 2B). In contrast, the full-
- 208 length *Ruby* cDNA induced the accumulation of visible levels of delphinidin-3-
- 209 rutinoside in *N. benthamiana* (Fig. 2A).

210 Although the coding sequences of the other two alleles identified in pummelo 211 encoded intact proteins, we detected a number of changes in the core promoter that might disrupt *Ruby* expression. The r^{TATA} allele contains a T>C change in the centre 212 213 of the putative TATA box. This mutation lies at -32 bp relative to the start of transcription (as determined in lemon; see below). In the allele r^{CAAT}, we identified 214 another T>C transition this time within a putative CAAT box (at position -73 bp 215 relative to the start of transcription and also present in r^{STOPP}). TATA and CAAT 216 boxes are *cis*-acting elements that determine the efficiency of the promoter in many 217 218 eukaryotic genes (Cooper and Hausman, 2016) and the two mutations, specific for 219 the pummelo accessions, lie in a region that is well conserved in *Citrus* and related genera (Supplemental Fig. S3A). Sweet orange carries the r^{TATA} allele from its 220 221 pummelo parent (see below and Butelli et al., 2012) and retrotransposon insertions 222 into this allele provide either a new TATA box or activate a cryptic TATA box to 223 activate *Ruby* expression in blood oranges (Butelli et al., 2012). To confirm the prediction that both r^{CAAT} and r^{TATA} alleles are not expressed, we 224 225 analyzed 'Chandler' pummelo since both alleles are present in this variety (Table 1 226 and Supplemental Fig. S3B). We were unable to isolate *Ruby* cDNA fragments and 227 we could detect no Ruby expression in leaves of 'Chandler' pummelo (Supplemental 228 Fig. S12C). Although, theoretically, the lack of expression of *Ruby* from the r^{TATA} and r^{CAAT} alleles 229 could have resulted from mutations in a closely linked regulator of *Ruby*, these 230 231 alleles failed to complement alleles of *Ruby* with interruptions in the *Ruby* coding sequence (such as r^{STOPp}) in pummelo and r^{TATA} failed to complement the alleles 232 233 from mandarin (which carry large deletions in the Ruby gene) when combined in 234 sweet orange (Butelli et al., 2012). 235 All four pummelo varieties analyzed contained at least one copy of a *Ruby* gene with 236 an intact coding sequence. Therefore, pummelo appears to maintain the potential to 237 produce anthocyanins, a potential that could be fulfilled by recombination of

- sequences lying between the mutated CAAT box allele and the mutated TATA box
- allele. Such an event is possible because pummelo, unlike the majority of cultivated
- 240 *Citrus* plants, produces true zygotic, monoembryonic seeds. Although purple
- 241 pummelo varieties have not been reported, an individual wild tree bearing purple/red-
- skinned fruit was identified by Prof. Xiuxin Deng in a mountainous region of Hubei
- 243 province, China (Supplemental Fig. S3C). Sequence analysis indicated that this

244 pigmented variety carried a Ruby allele with both an 'active CAAT box' and an 'active 245 TATA box' that might therefore be the result of such a recombination event. This unique allele, named R^{P} , was predicted to be fully active since an intact coding 246 247 sequence was under the control of a core promoter without mutations in the CAAT or TATA boxes (Fig. 3 and Supplemental Fig. S3). Although there were mismatches in 248 the sequence of the region upstream of the TATA box in the R^{P} alleles, this 249 sequence bore a greater similarity to the equivalent regions of r^{TATA} than to r^{CAAT} . 250 251 including the absence of a 22 bp deletion. Downstream of the active TATA box motif in R^{P} , the sequence differed from r^{TATA} and most of the SNPs present in the area 252 sequenced were identical between R^{P} and r^{CAAT} . (Supplemental Fig. S4). This new 253 254 active R^{P} allele supports the possibility that it might be the result of recombination. 255 Although the occurrence of such a recombination event is likely to be rare, this 256 particular individual might have been identified and preserved by the local population because of its coloured fruit peel. The phenotype of the R^{P} allele might reflect the 257 258 expression pattern of Ruby in a pigmented ancestor of pummelo, before loss-of-259 function *Ruby* alleles began to predominate as a result of evolution or human 260 selection.

261

262 *Ruby* in mandarin

The mandarin group is composed of numerous varieties with considerable genetic diversity but treated as a single species under the name *C. reticulata* according to Swingle (Garcia-Lor et al., 2015).

266 We analyzed two common types of mandarin: 'Ponkan', an old variety thought to be 267 a pure, prototypical C. reticulata (Hodgson, 1967) and 'Avana', a Mediterranean variety also known as 'Willowleaf'. The structure and the sequence of the Ruby locus 268 was identical in the two varieties and carried one allele (r^{STOPm}) with the same stop 269 mutation identified in pummelo and another (r^{DEL2}) with a 2 kb deletion involving the 270 271 first two exons and a large portion of the upstream regulatory region of Ruby (Table 1, Fig. 3 and Supplemental Fig. S5). Sequence alignments suggested that the r^{STOPm} 272 allele was derived from pummelo because the two alleles, r^{STOPm} and r^{STOPp} . showed 273 274 99% nucleotide identity and contained identical polymorphisms, including the 275 distinctive stop mutation, that were not present in *Ruby* alleles from other *Citrus* or 276 related species (Supplemental Fig. S5). Comparative sequencing of different *Citrus* 277 varieties (Wu et al., 2014) has indicated a substantial admixture from pummelo in

- 278 'Ponkan' and 'Willowleaf' mandarins. In particular, the reported nucleotide
- 279 heterozygosity in the terminal region of chromosome 6, where *Ruby* is located,
- supports the likely pummelo origin of a *Ruby* allele in some varieties of mandarin.
- 281 Since an ancestral mandarin may have had a distinct allelic composition at the *Ruby*
- locus, we looked among existing mandarins for different alleles of *Ruby*.
- 283 Tanaka recognized 36 mandarin species separated into five taxonomic groups
- (Tanaka, 1977). We sequenced the *Ruby* alleles from 17 mandarin varieties,
- representative of accessions from all five groups (Table 1).
- 286 On the basis of their constitution of *Ruby* alleles, these mandarin accessions could
- be divided into three groups (Fig. 4). Group A ($r^{DEL0.8}$, $r^{DEL0.8}$) was characterized by
- being homozygous for a deletion of ~0.8 kb that spans the first two exons of the
- 289 *Ruby* gene (between positions -175 and +629 relative to the start of transcription in
- the reference allele R^{C}). Mandarins of group B (r^{DEL2} , r^{DEL2}) were homozygous for a
- larger deletion of ~2 kb (upstream of position +729 in R^{C}). Mandarins of group C
- 292 (r^{DEL2}, r^{STOPm}) were polymorphic for *Ruby* alleles, containing one allele introgressed
- from pummelo (r^{STOPm}) and one allele with the 2 kb deletion (r^{DEL2}) also present in
- 294 group B. This polymorphic genetic constitution has probably been maintained
- because group C varieties, including 'Ponkan' and 'Willowleaf', are highly apomictic.
- None of the alleles in mandarin encode an active *Ruby* protein, explaining why
- 297 mandarins have never been associated with anthocyanin pigmentation.
- 298 The short deletion allele (*t^{DEL0.8}*) is highly polymorphic (Supplemental Fig. S5). Group
- 299 A includes varieties of Japanese origin that show admixture from other species
- 300 (Kitajima, 2007; Curk et al., 2015; Garcia-Lor et al., 2015). Our sequencing of genes
- 301 other than *Ruby* in satsumas (*C. unshiu*) suggested introgression from pummelo that
- is different from that documented in 'Ponkan' and 'Willowleaf' (Wu et al., 2014).
- 303 *Citrus tachibana*, also in group A, contained a *Ruby2* allele derived from an unknown
- 304 species as defined by distinct SNPs.
- 305 Mandarins in group B include small-fruited sour mandarins (*C. sunki* and *C. reshni*)
- of reputed Chinese origin. Unlike $r^{DEL0.8}$, the *Ruby* allele of this group with the larger
- deletion (r^{DEL2}) did not show polymorphisms within or between accessions. The long
- 2 kb deletion encompassed the short one (0.8 kb), from which it may have been
- 309 derived relatively recently.
- 310 Our data suggested that group C mandarins were derived from group B following 311 hybridization with pummelo, an event that did not restore anthocyanin biosynthesis.

312 This hybridization may have been a significant step in mandarin evolution that

introduced new features including fruit quality and general plant fitness.

Based on the allelic composition of *Ruby*, many mandarin varieties are likely to be

315 hybrids between members of the three subgroups (Fig. 4). The different

- 316 combinations of the three distinct alleles could help identify the origin and classify
- 317 mandarin varieties that tend to cluster together in phylogenetic studies.
- 318 The allelic constitution at the *Ruby* locus also indicated the involvement of other
- 319 *Citrus* species in important varieties usually classified as mandarins (Fig. 4). In
- particular, our analysis supports the conclusion that *C. nobilis* originated as a hybrid
- between mandarin (group A) and sweet orange (Hodgson, 1967). Within *C. nobilis*,
- the common accessions 'King' and 'Kunembo' inherited different *Ruby* alleles from
- 323 their sweet orange parent, confirming that they had independent origins (Penjor et
- al., 2013) (Table 1 and Fig. 4). Our analysis also confirmed a major contribution of
- 325 papeda (*C. micrantha*) to the 'Nasnaran' mandarin *C. amblycarpa* (Froelicher et al.,
- 2011). *Citrus indica*, which was considered by both Tanaka and Swingle to be a wild
- 327 mandarin species, shows no relationship to any of the other mandarins and most
- 328 likely is a true species distantly related to citron (Supplemental Fig. S6).
- 329

330 *Ruby* in *Papeda*

331 Most *Citrus* plants are hybrids derived from different combinations of the three true 332 species of *Citrus* (pummelo, mandarin and citron). Contributions from a fourth 333 species belonging to the subgenus Papeda have been demonstrated in some limes 334 (Nicolosi et al., 2000). Papeda is considered to be an old and primitive type of Citrus 335 but its monophyletic status and its subdivision from *Citrus* are debated (Federici et 336 al., 1998; Bayer et al., 2009; Carbonell-Caballero et al., 2015). We analyzed four 337 different species of Papeda (C. micrantha, C. ichangensis, C. macroptera and C. 338 *hystrix*; Table 1). All of them were able to accumulate anthocyanins in new growth 339 but to differing extents. In *C. ichangensis* pigmentation is strong (Fig. 1C) whereas in 340 *C. micrantha* pigmentation is often not visible (Fig. 1D) or limited to a trace of purple 341 on the outside of young buds (Hodgson, 1967). The Ruby alleles in C. ichangensis (R^{Pap1}, R^{Pap1}) and C. micrantha (R^{Pap2}, R^{Pap2}) were unrelated while, surprisingly, C. 342 343 macroptera and C. hystrix appeared to be identical hybrids of C. micrantha and C. 344 ichangensis (Table 1). All the Ruby alleles in Papeda had intact open reading 345 frames, consistent with their pigmented phenotypes. Both alleles from C. micrantha,

- however, had an insertion of a defective Copia-like retrotransposon (named Tcm7),
- 347 lacking both LTRs and inserted in antisense orientation 0.3 kb upstream of the
- 348 predicted start of transcription (Fig. 3). This insertion was also associated with a
- 349 large deletion of the promoter region that extends to include part of the upstream
- 350 *Ruby2* gene. The insertion of the retrotransposon and the deletion of part of the
- promoter are likely to affect the expression of *Ruby* and may explain the relatively
- weak pigmentation in new growth of *C. micrantha* compared to *C. ichangensis* (Fig.
- 353 1D and 1C respectively).
- 354

355 *Ruby* in *Citrus* hybrids

356 Many commercial *Citrus* varieties have a hybrid origin (Scora, 1975; Barrett and

- 357 Rhodes, 1976; Nicolosi et al., 2000; Moore, 2001). Hybrids derived from citron
- display intense purple pigmentation in young, developing leaves and flowers where
- anthocyanins can provide protection for vulnerable tissues undergoing new growth.
- 360 In contrast, hybrids involving mandarin and pummelo have inherited only
- 361 nonfunctional *Ruby* alleles and do not produce anthocyanins (Fig. 5 and
- 362 Supplemental Fig. S7).

363 Citron is one parent of lemon and of several hybrids often collectively defined as

- 364 'limes'. Citron is usually fertilized by self-pollination and always served as the male
- parent in the formation of cultivated hybrids (Nicolosi et al., 2000; Curk et al., 2016).
- To determine the role of *Ruby* in pigmented hybrids, we focused on lemon (*C. limon*)
- 367 because of the availability of a unique *white* mutant, 'Zagara Bianca', which is
- 368 completely unable to accumulate anthocyanins and most probably arose as bud
- sport of the cultivar 'Femminello' (Cultrone et al., 2010). The anthocyanin
- 370 composition in young leaves of the wild type accession was determined by UHPLC-
- 371 ESI-MS. Two compounds, cyanidin 3-(6"-malonyl)-β-glucoside and cyanidin 3-
- 372 glucoside, accounted for most of the anthocyanin content (Fig. 6A and Supplemental
- Fig. S8, S9 and S10). The same compounds are the main anthocyanins identified in
- 374 fruit of blood varieties of sweet orange and in new growth of many types of citrus
- cultivars, including lemon (Hillebrand et al., 2004; Fabroni et al., 2016). No
- anthocyanins could be detected in the *white* mutant. *Ruby*, was expressed in
- 377 pigmented young flowers and leaves of the wild type accession but not in the
- 378 corresponding tissues of the mutant (Fig. 6B).
- The two lemon accessions were compared by Southern blot analysis. Genomic

380 DNA, hybridized to a probe of the full-length Ruby gene (Fig. 6C), displayed two 381 distinct *Hind*III bands in wild type lemon, one of which was clearly absent in the 382 mutant (Fig. 6D). The common band present in both accessions corresponded to the *Ruby* allele r^{STOPp} carrying the nonsense mutation that disrupts protein function (Fig. 383 6C). This nonfunctional allele was inherited from pummelo via sour orange (Fig. 5). 384 The allele R^C, derived from citron, was missing in the *white* mutant, showing that 385 386 Ruby is essential for anthocyanin biosynthesis in lemon and, by inference, in other 387 species of Citrus.

The active allele of Ruby, R^{c} , encodes a transcript which translates into a predicted 388 protein of 262 amino acids with only eight differences compared to the active Ruby 389 390 protein in blood varieties of sweet orange. The start of Ruby transcription

391 (designated +1) in lemon was mapped using 5' RACE. A TATA box and a potential

- 392 CAAT box were identified at positions -34 and -74 respectively. The Ruby gene
- 393 contains three exons at positions +103 to +220, +319 to +447 and +1243 to +1783.

394 Citron was involved in the independent origin of different varieties of lime. The most

- common are Mexican lime (C. aurantifolia) and Persian lime (C. latifolia). The 395
- composition of *Ruby* alleles in Mexican lime (R^{Pap2} , R^{C}) was in agreement with 396

papeda (C. micrantha) being its female parent (Nicolosi et al., 2000). Persian lime 397

 (r^{STOPp}, R^{C}) displayed the same Ruby alleles as lemon, which is compatible with it 398

399 having been derived from a cross between lemon and Mexican lime as proposed by

400 Bayer et al., (2009) based on chloroplast DNA marker analysis and Curk et al.,

401 (2016) using nuclear and cytoplasmic marker analyses (Fig. 5).

402 The origin of other citron-derived hybrids of minor commercial importance has

- received little attention. Palestine sweet lime (C. limettioides), carried the r^{DEL0.8} allele 403
- in all the accessions analyzed (including the acidic form 'Soh Synteng'; Table 1) 404
- 405 which argues against the contribution of either sweet or sour orange as suggested

406 by Nicolosi et al. (2000) and rather suggests the presence of a pummelo x mandarin

- 407 hybrid in its parentage as proposed by Curk et al. (2014 and 2016) based on
- 408 haplotyping, nuclear and cytoplasmic DNA marker analyses. This hybrid, yet to be
- 409 identified, might also have been involved in the derivation of Meyer lemon, which
- also contains the $r^{DEL0.8}$ allele. The composition of Ruby alleles (r^{DEL2} , R^{C}) in limetta 410
- (C. limetta) was consistent with the involvement of sour orange and citron as parents 411
- 412 (Curk et al., 2014 and 2016). For Rangpur lime (*C. limonia*), the composition of *Ruby*
- alleles (r^{DEL2} , R^{C}) suggested a mandarin (group B) x citron origin. 413

- 414 The absence of anthocyanin pigmentation in flowers and leaves of many
- 415 commercially important hybrids is associated with the absence of citron in their
- 416 parentage (Fig. 5). For example, sour orange (*C. aurantium*), important for the
- 417 production of marmalade and also used widely as a rootstock in the past, is a direct
- 418 pummelo x mandarin F1 hybrid (Wu et al., 2014), confirmed by its composition of
- 419 *Ruby* alleles (r^{STOPp} , r^{DEL2}) and never produces anthocyanins.
- 420 Grapefruit (*C. paradisi*) was obtained in the West Indies in the 18th century, probably
- 421 as a natural hybrid between pummelo and sweet orange (Morton, 1987; Moore,
- 422 2001). This origin is supported by its *Ruby* alleles (r^{STOPp} , r^{DEL2}) and grapefruit never 423 produces anthocyanins.
- 424 Clementine (*C. clementina*) is considered to have arisen as a natural hybrid of sweet
- 425 orange and Mediterranean mandarin based on morphological markers and sequence
- 426 data (Hodgson, 1967; Nicolosi et al., 2000; Wu et al., 2014). Its lack of anthocyanins
- 427 is consistent with its composition of *Ruby* alleles (r^{STOPm} , r^{DEL2}) and this hybrid origin.
- 428 Sweet orange (*C. sinensis*) is considered a complex hybrid involving mandarin
- 429 (providing the predominant genetic material) and pummelo (Garcia-Lor et al., 2013b;
- 430 Xu et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2014) and the allelic composition of the *Ruby* locus (r^{TATA} ,
- 431 r^{DEL2}) confirmed this. We have been unable to detect any expression of *Ruby* in
- different tissues of common varieties of sweet orange (Butelli et al., 2012), consistent
- 433 with the complete absence of anthocyanin pigmentation. As discussed for pummelo,
- 434 from which it is derived, the allele r^{TATA} in sweet orange is characterized by a T>C
- transition within the TATA box that prevents the gene from being expressed. In two
- 436 independent blood varieties of sweet orange, however, the insertion of transposable
- 437 elements has provided either a new TATA box and transcriptional start site (Tcs1), or
- 438 promoted the use of a cryptic alternative start site (Tcs2) upstream of the T>C
- 439 mutation (Supplemental Fig. S2A and S2D; Butelli et al., 2012). Tcs1 and Tcs2 also
- 440 provide new instructions for cold-dependent, fruit-specific expression of *Ruby* but are
- unable to restore the normal pattern of anthocyanin accumulation in new growth of
- 442 leaves and flowers. These data confirm that r^{TATA} fails to express *Ruby* because it 443 has a defective TATA box.
- 444

445 Allelic constitution of *Ruby* in genera related to *Citrus*

- 446 In addition to *Citrus*, we considered three distinct genera *Poncirus, Microcitrus and*
- 447 *Fortunella* that are classified within the 'true *Citrus* fruit trees' and a more distant

genus, Severinia, considered a 'primitive *Citrus* fruit tree' (Swingle and Reece, 1967;

Supplemental Fig. S1). These genera are relevant in the context of anthocyaninpigmentation.

451 Trifoliate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*) is a species, unusually deciduous, that is

452 commonly used as a rootstock for *Citrus* scions. Young and senescent *P. trifoliata*

leaves are pigmented with anthocyanins (Supplemental Fig. S11A). *Ruby* is

454 predicted to be functional in *P. trifoliata* (Fig. 3) and the two alleles we identified

455 $(R^{PonA} \text{ and } R^{PonB})$ were very similar in sequence and both were expressed in

456 pigmented leaves (Supplemental Fig. S11B and S11C).

457 In *Microcitrus*, we initially analyzed a variety (*M. australasica* var 'Sanguinea'), native

to Australia, where it arose spontaneously (Netzel et al., 2007). This variety

459 accumulates high levels of anthocyanins not only in new growth but also in fruit peel

460 and pulp. We identified two *Ruby* alleles, R^{Mic1} and R^{Mic2} , that could be distinguished

by the presence of a 0.5 kb deletion in the promoter (between positions equivalent to

462 -887 to -364 in the R^{C} reference allele) of the R^{Mic1} allele or a subterminal in-frame

463 81 bp deletion (between positions +1650 and +1730) in the coding region of the R^{Mic2}

464 allele (Fig. 3). In different tissues, the expression of *Ruby* was associated with

anthocyanin pigmentation (Supplemental Fig. S12). Interestingly, while both alleles

466 were expressed in leaves, in fruit we could detect only monoallelic expression of

467 R^{Mic2} (Supplemental Fig. S12E), suggesting that the subterminal deletion, affecting

the aminoacid sequence of a region that is not conserved in anthocyanin-specific

469 Myb regulatory genes, is unlikely to affect protein function. To confirm the

470 functionality of the transcription factor encoded by R^{Mic2} , we transiently

471 overexpressed the corresponding cDNA in leaves of *N. benthamiana*. As shown in

Fig. 2C, the construct was able to induce anthocyanin biosynthesis fully with no

473 significant differences compared to the full-length *Ruby* cDNA isolated from 'Moro'474 blood orange.

Further analysis of the promoter region of R^{Mic^2} revealed the presence of an insertion of a 0.4 kb repetitive element with an accompanying 7.5 kb deletion involving the

477 entire *Ruby*2 gene and a translocation of 0.5 kb of DNA from chromosome 5 at a

478 position equivalent to -856 in the R^{C} reference allele (Fig. 3). The insertion, flanked

by target duplication sites, corresponded to a repetitive element containing

480 consensus motifs for SINE nonautonomous retrotransposons. Although it was

481 difficult to assess the relative effects of the insertion, the deletion and the

- translocation on the expression of the downstream *Ruby* gene, the presence of this
 rearrangement provided further evidence of the importance of transposable elements
 in reshaping gene structure and expression. This was confirmed by the analysis of a
 different variety of *M. australasica* with anthocyanin production in new growth but
- 486 green-yellow fruit that do not accumulate anthocyanins. In this accession (Table 1),
- the complex mutation in the promoter of *Ruby* was not present and both alleles
- 488 corresponded to R^{Mic1} .
- 489 We analyzed two ornamental species belonging to the genus *Fortunella*: 'Nagami'
- 490 oval kumquat (*F. margarita*), and 'Malayan' kumquat (*F. polyandra*) which do not
- 491 accumulate anthocyanins and found only nonfunctional *Ruby* alleles (r^{For}) in both
- 492 species, all carrying a single nucleotide insertion at position +444 in the second exon
- 493 that resulted in a frameshift mutation (Fig. 3). Calamondin (Citrofortunella
- 494 *microcarpa*), another common variety that is anthocyaninless, also contained this
- 495 defective allele from *Fortunella* (r^{For}) together with the $r^{DEL0.8}$ allele. This allelic
- 496 composition confirmed the presence of mandarin in its ancestry but argued against a
- 497 contribution by the sour variety 'Sunki', frequently suggested as a candidate parent
- 498 (Lai and Chen, 2008).
- 499 We sequenced *Ruby* in Chinese box orange (*Severinia buxifolia*) because this
- 500 species is a distant relative of the genus *Citrus* that is often used as an outgroup in
- 501 phylogenetic studies. Severinia buxifolia produces highly pigmented, small fruit that
- 502 become black at maturity. Both *Ruby* alleles were characterized by a repetitive
- 503 SINE-like element of 0.5 kb inserted 0.4 kb upstream of the predicted start of
- transcription (Fig. 3). As in *M. australasica* var 'Sanguinea', it is possible that the
- 505 presence of a SINE-like elements could influence the strong anthocyanin
- 506 pigmentation in fruit.
- 507

508 Phylogenetic analysis

- 509 We conducted a phylogenetic analysis of 18 *Ruby* alleles representing the diversity
- of *Citrus* and related genera. Alleles from primary species only were used in the
- analysis because the *Ruby* sequences in the hybrids are identical to those identified
- 512 in the primary parental species (Fig. 5).
- 513 Among all of the models tested via the Phylemon website (Sánchez et al., 2011), the
- one with the best fit was HKY+G+F. The phylogenetic relationships between *Citrus*
- species and their relatives inferred from the maximum-likelihood (ML) method using

this model are shown in Fig. 7.

517 The model that best fitted the data using the MEGA (Molecular Evolutionary

518 Genetics Analysis) software was the T92 model (Kimura, 1980; Tamura, 1992;

519 Tamura et al., 2011). The phylogenetic relationships between *Citrus* species and

520 their relatives inferred using MEGA software are shown in Supplemental Fig. S13.

521 Phylemon and MEGA phylogenies suggested the same relationships between *Ruby*

alleles indicating a clear separation between Citrus and related genera (strong

523 branch support). Poncirus and Microcitrus were quite distant from Citrus (high

524 bootstrap values) while Fortunella was more closely related. This analysis supported

525 the phylogenetic relationships in the *Citrinae* established using other markers

526 (Nicolosi et al., 2000; Garcia-Lor et al., 2013a and 2013b; Ramadugu et al., 2013;

527 Penjor et al., 2013) but did not reveal the distinct phylogenetic cluster of citron and

528 *Microcitrus* established using the complete chloroplast DNA of 34 species

529 (Carbonell-Caballero et al., 2015).

A division between the two subgenera, *Citrus* and *Papeda*, was not supported by our

analysis and has been challenged in other studies (Penjor et al., 2010; Carbonell-

532 Caballero et al., 2015). Instead our data suggested a polyphyletic origin of the

533 Papeda group. The Ruby alleles in C. micrantha are related to those of C. medica

and *C. indica* while the *Ruby* alleles of *C. ichangensis* clustered with the alleles from

535 mandarin. We propose that the subgenus *Papeda* contains DNA from at least two

536 distinct unrelated species (C. micrantha and C. ichangensis) and several hybrids

537 between them (such as *C. hystrix* and *C. macroptera*). This distinction could explain

538 much of the conflicting data on the origin and classification of *Papeda*. Whole

539 genome sequencing would confirm or refute these suggestions.

540 The analysis in Fig. 7 also confirmed that r^{STOPm} , one of the alleles identified in

541 common mandarin varieties such as 'Ponkan' and 'Willowleaf', lies within the clade

542 of pummelo allelles and has been introgressed into mandarin from pummelo as

543 suggested by Wu et al. (2014).

544

545

546 **Discussion**

547

548 Anthocyanins are widely distributed plant pigments with a diverse range of functions

549 and tissue distributions. Since they are not essential for plant survival, they provide a 550 unique visual marker for the occurrence of mutations and activation of transposable 551 elements, which may result in changes to the patterns of plant pigmentation as 552 demonstrated in maize, antirrhinum, petunia and blood varieties of sweet orange (Malinowski, 1935; Fincham, 1967; McClintock, 1984; Coen et al., 1986; Butelli et al., 553 554 2012).

555 *Ruby* is a regulatory gene encoding a transcription factor that is essential for 556 anthocyanin accumulation in *Citrus* and related genera. The *Ruby* locus contains two 557 potential MYB regulators of anthocyanin biosynthesis (Ruby and the inactive Ruby2). 558 Many angiosperm plants have experienced extensive duplication of these regulatory 559 genes. The amplification of MYB genes belonging to subgroup 6 that regulate 560 anthocyanin biosynthesis may be a general mechanism underlying the diversity of 561 floral pigmentation patterns as observed in petunia (Bombarely et al., 2016) and 562 antirrhinum (Schwinn et al., 2006) but might also be the result of domestication and 563 human selection as proposed for grape (Matus et al., 2008). In Citrus, the presence 564 of no more than one functional MYB regulator suggests that the production of 565 anthocyanins is not under strong selective pressure and is largely dispensable. In 566 Cucurbitaceae, the only family of plants where anthocyanin accumulation has never 567 been reported, two R2R3 MYB genes of subgroup 6 are also present but, according 568 to our analysis, neither gene encodes a functional MYB activator. Therefore, while in 569 many plant species expansion of MYB genes has resulted in evolutionary novelty, in 570 other lineages the loss of anthocyanin production is associated with molecular decay 571 of the *MYB* regulators.

572 The *Ruby* locus is very dynamic. In a limited number of accessions, we uncovered 573 six large deletions, six insertions of transposable elements, one translocation and 574 four critical mutations within the *Ruby* gene and its promoter region (Fig. 3). Most of 575 these events have had consequences on anthocyanin accumulation, ranging from a 576 complete suppression of production to complex reconfiguration of the distribution of 577 anthocyanins in different tissues. 578 Transposable elements are major forces in the evolution and rearrangement of

579 genomes and important determinants of genome size and gene expression

580 (McClintock, 1984). The insertion of Tcl3 in citron likely did not result in obvious

581 changes in pigmentation but the presence of Tcm7 in C. micrantha, accompanied by

582 a deletion, was associated with almost complete abolition of anthocyanin

583 pigmentation in new growth.

584 The strong fruit-specific pigmentation of blood varieties of sweet orange was also the 585 result of the insertion of retrotransposons (Butelli et al., 2012). Comparative analysis 586 of core promoter regions in many different accessions and the mapping of the start 587 of transcription of *Ruby* in lemon allowed us to identify a key mutation in the TATA 588 box of *Ruby* in an allele derived from the pummelo parent in the hybrid, sweet 589 orange. As a result, sweet orange has completely lost the ability to accumulate 590 anthocyanins. In blood varieties of sweet orange, the insertion of retrotransposons 591 into this non-functional promoter prompted the use of alternative TATA boxes that 592 reestablished anthocyanin production and also determined the cold-induced 593 expression of *Ruby*, specifically in fruit (Butelli et al., 2012). 594 The accumulation of anthocyanins in fruit of species distantly related to *Citrus* (*M.* 595 australasica and S. buxifolia) was also associated with the insertion of transposable 596 elements upstream of *Ruby*. In this species, the retrotransposons belong to a 597 different family, SINE, and may have been involved in changing the activity of the 598 *Ruby* promoter and the control of anthocyanin production. Normally anthocyanin 599 production in plants is induced by light (Steyn et al., 2002) and the evolution of 600 anthocyanin production within the fruit might have required the development of light-

601 independent, regulatory control of *Ruby* expression, as observed with blood oranges602 (Butelli et al., 2012)

603 The loss of anthocyanins may have occurred naturally, as a consequence of the 604 different climates in which Citrus species originated. Citron arose in high-altitude, dry 605 regions where anthocyanins are important in providing protection from high light and 606 UV irradiation (Moore, 1866; Steyn et al., 2002). In contrast, mandarin and pummelo 607 thrive in lowland tropics with high humidity and rain throughout the year (Webber, 608 1943). In these conditions, light stress may be less severe and anthocyanins less 609 important for protection of young tissues. 610 *Citrus* plants have been grown for millennia in Asia for reasons other than for food.

611 Citron has an ancient history as a sacred plant and its powerful symbolism is

associated with the fruit. Believed to be indigenous to Northeastern India, it was

absorbed into Jewish tradition and is still used in ancient religious rituals (Swingle

and Reece, 1967). China is the centre of origin of most citrus species. In Chinese

tradition, early use of *Citrus* was strictly religious and mainly associated with flowers.

616 Kumquat flowers represented luck and prosperity while the white flowers of mandarin

- and orange were symbols of purity and innocence. This symbolism has persisted
- 618 into modern Christianity (Heilmeyer, 2001; Moore and Garibaldi, 2003). The
- simultaneous occurrence of golden fruit and white blossom remains a central
- 620 element in the symbolism of *C. tachibana*, a sacred tree in Japan. It is impossible to
- 621 know the extent to which human intervention played a significant role in the selection
- of varieties of mandarin, pummelo and kumquat with pure white flowers for
- ornamental and religious purposes. Our study, however, indicates that the ability to
- accumulate anthocyanins has been lost independently, several times during *Citrus*
- evolution, as a result of mutations in the *Ruby* gene.
- 626 Analysis of the *Ruby* locus has informed us of the origin of present-day varieties of
- 627 *Citrus* and the history of their spread around the world. Although phylogenetic
- 628 inference based on the analysis of a single gene may lead to conclusions which
- 629 require further support, our analysis of *Ruby* has confirmed the widely accepted
- 630 hybrid origin of the most important cultivated *Citrus* varieties (Fig. 5) and the
- 631 phylogenetic relationships between primary species and related genera (Fig. 7). The
- analysis of *Ruby* has also shed new light on the origin of poorly studied hybrids, on
- 633 the classification of mandarins, on members of the diverse group *Papeda* and on the
- 634 occurrence of ancient introgression events across species.
- 635 The analysis of *Ruby* explains why many *Citrus* varieties have lost the ability to
- 636 accumulate anthocyanins and provides a useful tool to help in the interpretation of
- 637 the 'mosaic' structure of *Citrus* genomes.
- 638

639

640 Materials and Methods

641

642 Plant Material

- Leaves were obtained from different sources as indicated in Table 1. Plant materials
- 644 were ground in liquid nitrogen and DNA and RNA were extracted using DNeasy
- 645 Plant Mini Kit and RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's
- 646 instructions.
- 647

648 Isolation of Ruby alleles

649 For most accessions, *Ruby* alleles were isolated by PCR using primers designed to

- amplify fragments spanning the region 1.6 kp upstream of the start of the coding
- sequence to 136 bp downstream of the *Ruby* stop codon. PCR fragments were used
- directly for sequencing or cloned into the pGEM-T Easy vector (Promega). For
- 653 accessions where only direct sequencing was used, nucleotide polymorphisms were
- depicted using the IUPAC code. The active *Ruby* alleles in citron (R^{C}) and in *M*.
- 655 *australasica* var 'Sanguinea' (R^{Mic2}) were isolated by inverse PCR after restriction
- enzyme digestion with *Pst*l and *Cla*l respectively followed by self-ligation. Primer
- 657 sequences are listed in Supplemental Table S1.
- 658

659 DNA Gel Blot

- 660 DNA from leaves of lemons was digested with *Hind*III, separated by electrophoresis,
- transferred to nitrocellulose membranes and hybridized as described previously(Butelli et al., 2012).
- 663

664 **Determination of the transcriptional start site of** *Ruby*

- 665 The transcriptional start site in active alleles of Ruby was determined using RNA
- 666 extracted from young purple leaves of 'Femminello' lemon. DNase-treated RNA was
- 667 reverse transcribed using 5'/3' RACE Kit (Roche). The cDNA product was
- 668 sequenced to determine the transcriptional start nucleotide in the sequences lying
- 669 upstream of the Ruby coding sequences. Gene-specific primers listed in
- 670 Supplemental Table S1 were used for 5' end cDNA amplification according to the
- 671 manufacturer's instructions.
- 672

673 Expression analysis of Ruby

- 674 Quantification of *Ruby* expression in new growth of 'Femminello' and 'Zagara Bianca'
- 675 lemons, 'Chandler' pummelo and in pigmented fruit and leaves of *M. australasica* var
- 676 'Sanguinea' was performed by qRT-PCR as previously described (Butelli et al.,
- 677 2012). The allelic expression of *Ruby* in pigmented leaves of *P. trifoliata* and in fruit
- 678 skin of *M. australasica* var 'Sanguinea' was determined by RT-PCR followed by 679 sequencing.
- 680

681 Transient expression in *N. benthamiana* leaves

- 682 Transient expression of different Ruby cDNA constructs was carried out using the
- 683 HyperTrans system (Sainsbury et al., 2009). Ruby cDNAs were isolated from the

684 flesh of 'Moro' blood orange or the fruit peel of *M. australasica* var 'Sanguinea', PCR 685 amplified using primers listed in Supplemental Table S1 and transferred into pEAQ-686 HT-DEST1 vectors. A truncated cDNA containing the mutations identified in the alleles r^{STOPm} and r^{STOPp} was obtained using a reverse primer with a stop codon and 687 688 cDNA from 'Moro' blood orange as template. The plasmids obtained were introduced 689 into Agrobacterium tumefaciens GV3101 and the strains were infiltrated into the 690 abaxial side of leaves of four-week-old plants. Leaves were harvested 7 days after 691 infiltration.

692

693 Analysis and identification of anthocyanins

694 Leaves of lemon or *N. benthamiana* were frozen in liquid nitrogen and ground to a 695 fine powder. Approximately 200 mg of powder was extracted with 800 µL of 80% 696 methanol containing 1% HCI. LC MS/MS of anthocyanins was carried out on a 697 Nexera UHPLC system attached to an Ion-trap ToF (IT-ToF) mass spectrometer 698 (Shimadzu). Separation was on a 100×2.1mm 2.6µ Kinetex XB-C18 column 699 (Phenomenex) using the following gradient of acetonitrile (solvent B) versus 0.1% 700 formic acid in water (solvent A), run at 0.5mL.min⁻¹ and 40°C: 0 min, 2% B; 0.5 min, 701 2% B; 2 min, 10% B; 11 min, 30% B; 15 min, 90% B; 15.8 min, 90% B; 16 min, 2% 702 B: 20.1 min, 2% B. Anthocyanins were monitored by UV/visible absorbance (200-703 600nm) and positive mode electrospray MS (full spectra from m/z 200-2000 and 704 data-dependent MS2 of the most abundant precursor ions at an isolation width of 705 m/z 3.0, 50% collision energy and 50% collision gas). Anthocyanins were identified 706 on the basis of their mass, and the mass of their fragments in MS2 as well as by 707 comparison to published spectra.

708

709 Phylogenetic analysis

The sequences of the Ruby alleles were aligned using BioEdit (Hall, 1999), SeqMan 710 711 version 7.0 (http://www.dnastar.com) and SATé-II (Liu et al., 2012) software 712 applications. Analyses were performed to determine which model best matched the 713 data using Phylemon 2.0 (http://phylemon.bioinfo.cipf.es; Sánchez et al., 2011). The 714 HKY+G+F model took into account the nucleotide substitution model of Hasegawa-715 Kishino-Yano (HKY, nst=2), which allowed variable base frequencies, one transition 716 rate and one transversion rate, and took into account the nucleotide frequency (F) 717 and the gamma distribution (G). The construction of the maximum-likelihood (ML)

- 718 tree was performed using MEGA5 software with bootstrap support calculated from
- 719 1000 samples to assess the branch support.
- 720
- 721

722 Supplemental Data

- 723
- 724 The following supplemental materials are available.
- 725
- 726 Supplemental Figure S1. Classification of Citrus according to Swingle.
- 727 Supplemental Figure S2. Active Ruby alleles associated with LTR retrotransposons in blood
- 728 varieties of sweet orange and citron.
- 729 Supplemental Figure S3. Analysis of promoter sequences in pummelo.
- 730 Supplemental Figure S4. Multiple sequence alignment of *Ruby* in pummelo.
- 731 Supplemental Figure S5. Multiple sequence alignment of *Ruby* in mandarin.
- 732 **Supplemental Figure S6.** Multiple sequence alignment of *Ruby* in different species of *Citrus*.
- 733 Supplemental Figure S7. PCR analysis of Ruby in primary species and hybrids of Citrus.
- 734 Supplemental Figure S8, S9 and S10. Mass spectrometry data for peak identification of
- 735 anthocyanins in leaves of lemon.
- 736 **Supplemental Figure S11.** Expression analysis of *Ruby* in leaves of *P. trifoliata*.
- 737 Supplemental Figure S12. Expression analysis of Ruby in different tissues of M. australasica var 738 'Sanguinea'.
- 739 Supplemental Figure S13. Phylogenetic relationship between primary species of Citrus and related
- 740 genera based on the sequence of *Ruby* using MEGA software program.
- 741 Supplemental Table S1. Sequences of the primers used in the study.
- 742 Supplemental Data Set S1. Nucleotide sequence of Ruby2 in different accessions of the genus Citrus.
- 743
- 744

745

746 Figure and Table Legends

- 747
- 748 Table 1 Citrus accessions were obtained from the following sources: A: IVIA, Instituto Valenciano de
- 749 Investigaciones Agrarias, Moncada, Valencia, Spain; B: CREA-CRA, Centro di Ricerca per
- 750 l'Agrumicoltura e le Colture Mediterranee, Acireale, Italy; C: USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm
- 751 Repository for Citrus & Dates, Riverside, CA, USA; D: CRB CITRUS, INRA-CIRAD, Citrus Biological
- 752 Resource Center, San Giuliano, Corsica, France; E: Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China;
- 753 F: Jingzhou, Huannan Province, China; G: Waitrose Supermarket, Norwich, UK; H: Notcutts Garden
- 754 Centre, Norwich, UK.
- 755 In accessions of the genus Citrus, the Ruby alleles are colour-coded as follows: yellow, alleles
- 756 derived from the mandarin pool; pink, alleles in mandarin introgressed from pummelo; red, alleles

derived from pummelo; green, alleles derived from citron; olive green, alleles derived from *Papeda*; the unique allele in *C. indica* is in blue; the alleles in genera related to *Citrus* are not coloured. The lemon accession indicated with an asterisk (*) is a 'graft chimera' and contains a third *Ruby* allele that may have originated from an acidless limetta. Pictures of fruit and flowers of the accessions indicated in bold are provided in Fig.1.

- 762
- 763

Figure 1. Phenotypes of some of the accessions considered in this study and listed in Table1. For
each accession, the common and the scientific name according to Tanka's classification are provided,
together with the allelic constitution at the *Ruby* locus. Images of fruit and flowers or young leaves are
presented to show the presence or absence of anthocyanin pigmentation. Scale bar is approximately
1 cm. The images were obtained from the following sources: ◆, pictures taken by the authors; S,
UC-Riverside Citrus Variety Collection (http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu/index.html); **%**, Citrus ID
Tools (http://idtools.org/id/citrus/citrusid/); A, Radoslav Krchnavek; X; Eve and George DeLange.

772 Figure 2. Functionality of different Ruby alleles. Nicotiana benthamiana leaves were infiltrated with 773 cDNA constructs corresponding to three different Ruby alleles. The phenotypes of leaves, the colour 774 of the leaf extracts and the HPLC chromatograms at 525 nm 7 days after infiltration are shown. A, 775 Transient overexpression of *Ruby* cDNA encoding a full-length protein isolated from the flesh of 776 'Moro' blood orange. B, Transient overexpression of a cDNA construct encoding a protein with a 777 terminal deletion of 116 amino acids corresponding to the alleles found in some pummelo and 778 mandarin accessions and hybrids derived from them. C, Transient overexpression of Ruby cDNA 779 isolated from the fruit peel of Microcitrus australasica var 'Sanguinea' encoding a protein with a 27 780 amino acid subterminal deletion. D. Evidence of the identity of delphinidin-3-rutinoside in sample C by 781 positive mode electrospray MS1 and MS2. For this compound the expected mass is 611.1607 (found 782 mass 611.1633; error 4.25ppm). Note the fragment representing delphinidin (expected mass 783 303.0499) and the losses of a hexose moiety (expected loss 162.0528) and rhamnose moiety 784 (expected loss 146.0579).

785

Figure 3. Schematic representation of different *Ruby* alleles identified in primary species of *Citrus* and
related genera. Functional alleles (*R*) associated with anthocyanin pigmentation are highlighted in
purple.

789

790 Figure 4. Classification of mandarins based on the analysis of the *Ruby* gene. Mandarins can be 791 classified into three groups (A, B and C) on the basis of two deletions and an introgression from 792 pummelo. Many mandarin varieties are hybrids between members of these three groups or 793 interspecific hybrids involving other Citrus species. Citrus indica, recognized by both Tanaka and 794 Swingle as a mandarin species, is not related to mandarins. Roman numbers indicate the five 795 taxonomic groups recognized by Tanaka (Hodgson, 1967). The gradation in colour shading indicates 796 the contribution from genomes of other species. Common names for the mandarin accessions are 797 provided in Table1.

798

799 Figure 5. Segregation analysis of *Ruby* in some of the commercially important *Citrus* species and 800 hybrids considered in this study. Simplified diagram showing a single existing variety of pummelo and 801 mandarin as potential parents of both sweet and sour orange, which is highly unlikely. Light purple 802 boxes indicate species and hybrids that are able to accumulate anthocyanins and that are always 803 associated with active Ruby alleles from citron (R^{C}) or papeda (R^{Pap2}). Pink and blue arrows indicate 804 the maternal or parental contribution to the generation of a hybrid based on specific mitotypes and 805 chlorotypes as determined in previously studies. The gradation in colour shading indicates the 806 contribution from different species to the derivation of the hybrids.

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808 Figure 6. Analysis of wild type and white mutant of lemon. A, HPLC chromatogram recorded at 525 809 nm of methanol extracts from young leaves of 'Femminello' wild type (purple line) and 'Zagara Bianca' 810 (green line) lemons. Peaks marked with roman numbers indicate the main compounds identified in 811 'Femminello' and absent in 'Zagara Bianca'. Ia, cyanidin 3-glucoside; Ib, cyanidin 3-rutinoside; II, 812 cyanidin 3-(6"-malonyl)- β -glucoside; III, peonidin 3-(6"-malonylglucoside). Identification of peaks is 813 based on UHPLC-ESI-MS analysis (Supplemental Fig. S8, S9 and S10) and comparison to literature 814 data. B, Relative gRT-PCR quantification of Ruby expression in flower buds and young leaves of 815 'Femminello' and 'Zagara Bianca' lemons. Error bars represent SE of the mean. C, Schematic diagram of the two alleles of Ruby identified in lemon, R^{C} and r^{STOPp} . The different symbols are 816 817 explained in Fig. 3 and Supplemental Fig. S2A. The HindIII restriction sites and the genomic region 818 used as a probe are shown. D, Southern blot analysis of genomic DNA from different lemon varieties digested with *Hind*III and probed with a ³²P-labelled probe of the *Ruby* gene. 'Zagara Bianca', the only 819 820 variety completely unable to produce anthocyanins, doesn't display the hybridization band 821 corresponding to the active allele R^{c} . 822

Figure 7. Phylogenetic relationship between primary species of *Citrus* and related genera based on

the sequence of *Ruby*. The phylogenetic trees were generated using Phylemon software program.

825 Branch support is given in all branches. The different *Ruby* alleles are colour-coded as in Table 1.

826 The sequences of the *Ruby* gene and its promoter used for phylogenetic analysis have been

827 deposited in GenBank under accession numbers KT591672-KT591689.

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Figure 1. Phenotypes of some of the accessions considered in this study and listed in Table1. For each accession, the common and the scientific name according to Tanka's classification are provided, together with the allelic constitution at the *Ruby* locus. Images of fruit and flowers or young leaves are presented to show the presence or absence of anthocyanin pigmentation. Scale bar is approximately 1 cm. The images were obtained from the following sources: ♠, pictures taken by the authors; ᢒ, UC-Riverside Citrus Variety Collection (http://www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu/index.html); ¥, Citrus ID Tools (http://idtools.org/id/citrus/citrusid/); ≏, Radoslav Krchnavek; ス; Eve and George DeLange.





Figure 2. Functionality of different *Ruby* alleles. *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaves were infiltrated with cDNA constructs corresponding to three different *Ruby* alleles. The phenotypes of leaves, the colour of the leaf extracts and the HPLC chromatograms at 525 nm 7 days after infiltration are shown. A, Transient overexpression of *Ruby* cDNA encoding a full-length protein isolated from the flesh of 'Moro' blood orange. B, Transient overexpression of a cDNA construct encoding a protein with a terminal deletion of 116 amino acids corresponding to the alleles found in some pummelo and mandarin accessions and hybrids derived from them. C, Transient overexpression of *Ruby* cDNA isolated from the fruit peel of *Microcitrus australasica* var 'Sanguinea' encoding a protein with a 27 amino acid subterminal deletion. D, Evidence of the identity of delphinidin-3-rutinoside in sample C by positive mode electrospray MS1 and MS2. For this compound the expected mass is 611.1607 (found mass 611.1633; error 4.25ppm). Note the fragment representing delphinidin (expected mass 303.0499) and the losses of a hexose moiety (expected loss 162.0528) and rhamnose moiety (expected loss 146.0579).



Figure 3. Schematic representation of different *Ruby* alleles identified in primary species of *Citrus* and related genera. Functional alleles (*R*) associated with anthocyanin pigmentation are highlighted in purple.



Figure 4. Classification of mandarins based on the analysis of the *Ruby* gene. Mandarins can be classified into three groups (A, B and C) on the basis of two deletions and an introgression from pummelo. Many mandarin varieties are hybrids between members of these three groups or interspecific hybrids involving other *Citrus* species. *Citrus indica*, recognized by both Tanaka and Swingle as a mandarin species, is not related to mandarins. Roman numbers indicate the five taxonomic groups recognized by Tanaka (Hodgson, 1967). The gradation in colour shading indicates the contribution from genomes of other species. Common names for the mandarin accessions are provided in Table1.



Figure 5. Segregation analysis of *Ruby* in some of the commercially important *Citrus* species and hybrids considered in this study. Simplified diagram showing a single existing variety of pummelo and mandarin as potential parents of both sweet and sour orange, which is highly unlikely. Light purple boxes indicate species and hybrids that are able to accumulate anthocyanins and that are always associated with active *Ruby* alleles from citron (R^{C}) or papeda (R^{Pap2}). Pink and blue arrows indicate the maternal or parental contribution to the generation of a hybrid based on specific mitotypes and chlorotypes as determined in previously studies. The gradation in colour shading indicates the contribution from different species to the derivation of the hybrids.



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Figure 7. Phylogenetic relationship between primary species of *Citrus* and related genera based on the sequence of *Ruby*. The phylogenetic trees were generated using Phylemon software program. Branch support is given in all branches. The different *Ruby* alleles are colour-coded as in Table 1. The sequences of the *Ruby* gene and its promoter used for phylogenetic analysis have been deposited in GenBank under accession numbers KT591672-KT591689.

Common name	Swingle	Tanaka	Ruby	allalas	Source	Accession
Common name	Swiligie	Tanaka	пиру	alleles	Source	Accession
CITRON						
Diamante	C medica	C medica	B ^C	B ^c	В	Palazzelli Certif
Corsican	C medica	C medica	B^{c}	\mathbf{B}^{c}	D	SBA613
Poncire commun	C. medica	C. medica	\mathbf{B}^{c}	B^{c}	D	SRA701
Buddha's Hand	C. medica	C. medica	\mathbf{B}^{c}	\mathbf{B}^{c}	D	SRA 640
	or moulou	of moulou			_	
Chandler	C. maxima	C. maxima	TATA	CAAT	B	1A-F7P13
Beinking	C maxima	C maxima	TATA	STOPp	B	1A-F9P16
Purple-skin	C. maxima	C. maxima	TATA	B ^P	F	-
Kao Pan	C. maxima	C. maxima	P CAAT	STOPp	E	-
Siamese acidless	C. maxima	C. maxima	rCAAT		E	-
MANDARIN						
Satsuma Frost Owari	C. reticulata	C. unshiu	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL0.8}	А	IVIA175
Satsuma Okitsu	C. reticulata	C. unshiu	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL0.8}	А	IVIA195
Kishu	C. reticulata	C. kinokuni	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL0.8}	А	IVIA678
Sunki	C. reticulata	C. sunki	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{DEL2}	А	IVIA239
Cleopatra	C. reticulata	C. reshni	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{DEL2}	А	IVIA385
Ponkan	C. reticulata	C. reticulata	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{STOPm}	A,B	IVIA482; A-F10P2
Avana	C. reticulata	C. deliciosa	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{STOPm}	A,B	IVIA189; A-F21P3
Dancy	C. reticulata	C. tangerina	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{STOPm}	А	IVIA434
Fuzhu	C. reticulata	C. erythrosa	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{STOPm}	А	IVIA571
Shekwasha	C. reticulata	C. depressa	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL2}	А	IVIA238
King	C. reticulata	C. nobilis	r ^{DEL0.8}	r	А	IVIA477
Kunembo	C. reticulata	C. nobilis	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{DEL0.8}	С	CRC3346
Keraji	C. reticulata	C. keraji	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL0.8}	С	CRC3144
Oroval clementine	C. reticulata	C. clementina	r ^{DEL2}	r ^{STOPm}	В	Acireale Certif.
Nasnaran	C. reticulata	C. amblycarpa	R ^{Pap2}	R ^{Pap2}	А	IVIA478
Tachibana orange	C. tachibana	C. tachibana	r ^{DEL0.8}	r ^{DEL0.8}	A,C	IVIA237; CRC3150
Indian wild orange	C. indica	C. indica	R'	R'	A,C	IVIA550; CRC3163
PAPEDA Koffin limo	O hundrin	O huntrin	Pap1	Pap2	Δ	1)/14170
Kaffir lime	C. nystrix	C. nystrix	R Pap1	R '	A	
Melanesian papeda	C. macroptera	C. macroptera	Pap1	R Pap1	A	IVIA279
Ichang papeda	C. Icnangensis	C. Ichangensis	Pap2	R Pap2	A	IVIA235
Samuyao	C. Micranina vai	C. micranina	n -	n -	A	1V1A020
LEMON	merocarpa					
Femminello	C. limon	C. limon	rSTOPp	B^{c}	В	C-F8P2
Politi	C. limon	C. limon	r ^{STOPp}	B^{c}	B	C-F3P1
Zagara Bianca	C. limon	C. limon	rSTOPp	-	B	B-F7P3
Dulce*	C. limon	C. limon	rSTOPp	\boldsymbol{B}^{c}	r ^{DEL2} H	IVIA443
Meyer	C. limon hybrid	C. meyeri	PEL0.8	R ^c	H	-
-						
LIME						
Mexican/Key	C. aurantifolia	C. aurantifolia	R ^{Pap2}	R ^c	А	IVIA164
Persian/Tahiti	C. aurantifolia	C. latifolia	r ^{STOPp}	R ^c	G	-
Palestine sweet lime	C. aurantifolia	C. limettioides	r ^{DEL0.8}	R	С	CRC1482
Mary Ellen	C. aurantifolia	C. limettioides	r ^{DEL0.8}	R ^c	С	CRC4053
Soh Synteng	C. limon	C. limon	r ^{DEL0.8}	R	С	CRC3261
Limonette de Marrakech	C. limon	C. limetta	r ^{DEL2}	R	C,D	CRC3989; SRA829
Limetta Dolce	C. limon	C. limetta	r ^{DEL2}	R	В	C-F2P7
Pomona sweet lemon	C. limon	C. limetta		R	С	CRC4068
Rangpur Kirumakki	C. limon	C. limonia		R° –C	С	CRC4131
Rangpur Otaheite	C. limon	C. limonia	r	R	C	CRC2709
Seville orange	C auratium	C auratium	STOPp	PDEL2	G	-
cornic orango	C. adradani	C. dorution			G	
GRAPEFRUIT						
Marsh	C. paradisi	C. paradisi	r	r	G	-
Naval	Cainoncia	Cainonaia	TATA	DEL2	D	
Valoncia	C. sinensis	C. sinensis	ТАТА	DEL2	Ď	20-F1-F14
valencia Tarocco blood	C. sinensis	C. SILIELISIS	D .1	DEL2	D D	0A2-F3F1 1-F20P0
Moro blood	C. sinensie	C. sinensis	P ^{D.2}	DEL2	D P	8-F1P2
lingvian blood	C sinensis	C sinensis	D .3	DEL2		
ongrian bioou	0. 311011313	0. 3110/1313			Г	-

Fable 1. Species and	hybrids used	in this study
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Citrus-Related Genera						
PONCIRUS			_	_		
Trifoliate orange	P. trifoliata	P. trifoliata	R ^{Pon}	R ^{Pon}	В	-
MICROCITRUS						
Australian finger lime	<i>M. australasica</i> 'green fruit'	M. australasica	R ^{Mic1}	R^{Mic1}	С	CRC3661
Australian finger lime	<i>M. australasica</i> var Sanguinea	M. australasica	R ^{Mic2}	R ^{Mic1}	В	C-F5P3
FORTUNELLA						
Nagami oval kumquat Malayan kumquat Calamondin	F. margarita F. polyandra Citrofortunella microcarpa	F. margarita F. polyandra C. madurensis	r ^{For} r ^{For} r ^{For}	r ^{For} r ^{For} r ^{DEL0.8}	H A H	- IVIA375 -
SEVERINIA						
Chinese box orange	S. buxifolia	S. buxifolia	R^{Sev}	R ^{Sev}	А	IVIA147

Citrus accessions were obtained from the following sources: **A**: IVIA, Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias, Moncada, Valencia, Spain; **B**: CREA-CRA, Centro di Ricerca per l'Agrumicoltura e le Colture Mediterranee, Acireale, Italy; **C**: USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus & Dates, Riverside, CA, USA; **D**: CRB CITRUS, INRA-CIRAD, Citrus Biological Resource Center, San Giuliano, Corsica, France; **E**: Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan, China; **F**: Jingzhou, Huannan Province, China; **G**: Waitrose Supermarket, Norwich, UK; **H**: Notcutts Garden Centre, Norwich, UK. In accessions of the genus *Citrus*, the *Ruby* alleles are colour-coded as follows: yellow, alleles derived from the mandarin pool; pink, alleles in mandarin introgressed from pummelo; red, alleles derived from pummelo; green, alleles derived from *Papeda*; the unique allele in *C. indica* is in blue; the alleles in genera related to *Citrus* are not coloured. The lemon accession indicated with an asterisk (*) is a 'graft chimera' and contains a third *Ruby* allele that may have originated from an acidless limetta. Pictures of fruit and flowers of the accessions indicated in bold are provided in Fig.1.

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