

- 1 **Table S1.** Details of the polymorphic microsatellite loci used to genotype *D. vexillum* ramets
- 2 in this study *Abbreviations:* ng, not genotyped; bp, base pairs.

Locus	Reference / GenBank acc. no.	Repeat	Primer orientation	PCR primer sequences (5' - 3')	Dye for generic M13 primer	Alleles of the four genotyped colonies (bp)
DVEX18	KU167099	(TGA)	Forward	<u>TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT</u> TGTTTCAGGCGAGTTCATCG	6-FAM™	A (226/232)
			Reverse	CAATGAACAAACGCAACCGC		B (226/232)
						C (226)
						D (232)
						H (226 / 232)
						I (228)
DVEX19	KU167100	(CACG)	Forward	<u>TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT</u> CTGGTCAAATAACGAACGATTG	NED™	A (241)
			Reverse	TTTACGAGCAGCCAACGAAC		B (241)
						C (241 / 245)
						D (245)
						H (253)
						I (253 / 261)
DVEX23	Abbott <i>et al.</i> (2010) HM921432	(TTTG)	Forward	<u>TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT</u> GTTGAAGTAGTGCGGACAA	VIC®	A (217 / 221)
			Reverse	TGAAGACCATCAACGAGAGC		B (225 / 230)
						C (217 / 221)
						D (217 / 230)
DVEX32	Abbott <i>et al.</i> (2010) HM921437	(AAC)	Forward	<u>TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT</u> CTGCTGCTCACTGAATCACA	PET™	A (253)
			Reverse	CGATGACTTTTCTCCCCATT		B (251 / 259)
						C (251 / 259)
						D, ng
DVEX05	Abbott <i>et al.</i> (2010) HM921428	(AC)	Forward	<u>TGTA AACGACGGCCAGT</u> GCAAAACAGTTCGTGCATTT	NED™	A (160)
			Reverse	CCATCGGCTTTATGACATTG		B, ng
						C (160 / 162)
						D (156 / 160)

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5 **Table S2.** Summary of the microsatellite loci used to discriminate *D. vexillum* zooid
6 genotypes in the fusion experiments. Letters A, B, C, D, H and I refer to the different ramets
7 used while details of the microsatellite loci are given in Table S1. Abbreviations: *np*, not
8 performed; *iso*, isogeneic combination.

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	A	B	C	D	H ¹⁰ ₁₁
A	iso	-	-	-	-
B	DVEX23 DVEX32	iso	-	-	-
C	DVEX18 DVEX05 DVEX32	DVEX18 DVEX19 DVEX23	iso	-	-
D	DVEX19 DVEX23	DVEX19 DVEX23	DVEX05 DVEX23	iso	-
H	np	np	np	np	iso
I	np	np	np	np	DVEX18 DVEX19