

Table of contents

ABSTRACT	5
INTRODUCTION	7
MECHANICAL FORCES IN MORPHOGENESIS AND ORGANOGENESIS	8
MUSCLE-TENDON SYSTEM IN <i>DROSOPHILA MELANOGASTER</i>	9
<i>Indirect Flight Muscles (IFMs) development</i>	9
<i>Tendon cells development</i>	11
NOTUM EPITHELIUM MORPHOGENESIS.....	11
NOTUM EPITHELIUM AND CUTICLE EXOSKELETON INTERACTION.....	12
TENSION IN THE NOTUM EPITHELIUM	13
HYPOTHESIS	15
GENERAL PURPOSE	15
SPECIFIC AIMS	15
MATERIALS AND METHODS	16
FLY STOCKS	16
GAL4/UAS BINARY SYSTEM	17
GEOMETRIC MORPHOMETRIC ANALYSIS	18
MUSCLE ABLATION.....	20
LIVE-IMAGING	20
IMAGE ANALYSIS	21
WIENER-GRANGER CAUSALITY TEST.....	22
QUANTIFICATION OF <i>CHASCON</i> AND <i>DUMPY</i> MRNA LEVELS	22
RESULTS	23
MUSCLE ABSENCE AFFECTS SHAPE AND SIZE OF ADULT DORSAL THORAX	23
MUSCLE ABSENCE DOES NOT AFFECT NOTUM EPITHELIUM MIGRATION.....	29
DISTRIBUTION OF FORCES ALONG NOTUM EPITHELIUM IS MODIFIED AFTER DLMS ELIMINATION	33
CHASCON ABSENCE AFFECTS ADULT DORSAL THORAX SHAPE.....	35
CHASCON IS REQUIRED FOR NOTUM EPITHELIUM MIGRATION	38
CHASCON IS REQUIRED TO COUNTERACT PULLING FORCES GENERATED BY MUSCLE CONTRACTION.	46
CHASCON IS REQUIRED FOR EPITHELIAL-CUTICLE ATTACHMENT	48

MUSCLE ABSENCE DOES NOT AFFECT *CHASCON* AND *DUMPY* EXPRESSION 49

DISCUSSION 52

CONCLUSIONS 57

REFERENCES 58

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... 65