Postmating reproductive barriers contribute to the incipient sexual isolation of

US and Caribbean *Drosophila melanogaster*

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Running title: Postmating barriers and admixture

Abstract

The nascent stages of speciation start with the emergence of sexual isolation.

Understanding the influence of reproductive barriers in this evolutionary process is an

ongoing effort. We present a study of *Drosophila melanogaster* populations from the

southeast United States and Caribbean islands undergoing incipient sexual isolation.

The existence of premating reproductive barriers have been previously established, but

these types of barriers are not the only source shaping sexual isolation. To assess the

influence of postmating barriers, we investigated putative postmating barriers of female

remating and egg laying behavior, as well as hatchability of eggs laid and female

longevity after mating. In the central region of our putative hybrid zone of American and

Caribbean populations, we observed lower hatchability of eggs laid accompanied by

increased resistance to harm after mating to less related males. These results illustrate

that postmating reproductive barriers acting alongside premating barriers in a complex

secondary contact zone. Furthermore, our findings suggest hybrid incompatibilities,

likely due to the nature of genomic admixture of populations in the area, are influential

even at the early phases of sexual isolation.

Running Title

Postmating barriers in US and Caribbean fruit flies

Key Words

sexual conflict, egg laying, hatchability, remating, sperm toxicity, chase away

selection

Introduction

The onset of speciation is driven by reproductive barriers that reduce gene flow and result in reproductive isolation between populations. These barriers are classified by the temporal nature of their effect: prezygotic barriers occur before fertilization, while postzygotic barriers occur after fertilization (Coyne & Orr, 2004). The latter can be further divided into extrinsic and intrinsic categories, depending on whether the barrier interacts with external factors (e.g. environmental, individuals) or internal factors (e.g. genetic incompatibilities) (Seehausen *et al.*, 2014). Speciation involves multiple reproductive barriers of varying effect sizes (Coyne & Orr, 2004; Seehausen *et al.*, 2014), and identifying the interaction and strengths of reproductive barriers at play is vital to characterizing the process of speciation.

Drosophila is particularly well-suited to study reproductive barriers because this genus spans the whole speciation spectrum, from non-interbreeding species to hybridizing species (Bono & Markow, 2009) and populations (Yukilevich & True, 2008b). Empirical studies of sexual selection in *D. melanogaster* have investigated the evolution of prezygotic isolation - mate choice, male morphology, and courtship behavior (Hollocher, 1997; Yukilevich & True, 2008a). Postzygotic barrier mechanisms are also known to have an influence in *Drosophila*, but these studies have been limited to the hybridizing species *D. mojavensis/D. arizonae* (Bono & Markow, 2009) and *D. melanogaster/D. simulans* (Matute *et al.*, 2014).

Many natural forces influence the development of reproductive barriers; one example is

sexual conflict, derived from the competing reproductive interests between males and

females (Parker, 1979). Males may benefit from overriding the mating preferences

evolved by females, and females consequently evolve resistance to these male

'coercion' tactics (Holland & Rice, 1998). Males are then selected for novel or more

exaggerated traits - perpetuating an endless evolutionary chase between the sexes

(Parker, 1979; Civetta & Singh, 1995; Rice, 1996; Chapman *et al.,* 2003; Arnqvist &

Rowe, 2005; Arbuthnott *et al.,* 2014). This phenomenon of conflict in reproductive

optima has been experimentally demonstrated to promote an antagonistic male-female

coevolution that is the essence of sexual isolation which precedes speciation (Parker,

1979; Holland & Rice, 1998; Chapman *et al.*, 2003).

In *Drosophila melanogaster*, male sperm consists of accessory gland proteins that

reduce female remating rates and increase egg laying (Chapman *et al.,* 2003; Wolfner,

1997). Reduced receptivity to remating will also decrease the female's opportunity to

mate with another male that could result in fitter progeny. Increased egg laying and the

trauma from mating reduces female lifespan (Fowler & Partridge, 1989). As a result,

females develop resistance to these harmful male traits, and males subsequently evolve

new methods to discourage females from mating with other males (Arnqvist & Rowe,

2005). It has been suggested that females should be more resistant to males they have

coevolved with ('homotypic') compared to males they have not coevolved with

('heterotypic'). However, these effects vary across populations, and ecological context

appears to be a factor (Arbuthnott *et al.*, 2014). This rapid, cyclical process termed

sexually antagonistic coevolution has been demonstrated not only in *Drosophila* species

(Knowles & Markow, 2001), but also in other organisms like water striders (Rowe &

Arnqvist, 2002). Coevolution by sexual conflict is a strong force behind reproductive

isolation, which may lead to speciation in specific circumstances (Martin & Hosken,

2003).

Furthermore, the evolution of Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilities (DMIs) between

populations is known to promote speciation. Neutral allelic substitution within a

population can be incompatible with loci of a divergent population, and these

incompatibilities are thought to be generated by various forms of genomic conflict

(Seehausen *et al.*, 2014). Negative epistasis reduces the overall viability and sterility of

their hybrids, acting as a powerful force underlying incipient reproductive isolation.

A powerful approach to understanding the strength and dynamics of postzygotic

isolation is the study of hybrid zones, regions where divergent populations interbreed

and produce offspring (Harrison, 1990; Harrison, 1993). A secondary hybrid zone

emerges when two genetically and geographically distinct populations interbreed after

expansion or migration (Jiggens & Mallet, 2000). One striking example of a secondary

hybrid zone has been discovered in the Caribbean Islands and southeastern United

States. In this region, two distinct populations of *D. melanogaster,* originating from west

Africa and Europe (Kao *et al.,* 2014; Yukilevich et al., 2010), have recently come into

secondary contact (Bergland *et al.,* 2014). After a migration event from Africa to current

day Europe, these populations have been evolving in allopatry for approximately 10,000

to 15,000 years (Capy *et al.,* 1986). Secondary contact occurred in two waves, first with

west African flies migrating to the Caribbean Islands during the transatlantic slave trade

400 to 500 years ago, and then the European flies arriving to the east coast US with

European colonists <200 years ago (Capy *et al.,* 1986; Duchen *et al.*, 2013).

Caribbean populations have peculiar morphological, behavioral, and pheromonal

differences. They display exceptional African-like morphology based on body size,

allozyme frequencies, hydrocarbon composition, and sequence variation (Kao et al.,

2014; Capy *et al.,* 1986; Caracristi & Schlotterer, 2003; Yukilevich & True, 2008a).

Sequence data suggest that United States flies display higher proportion of African

alleles than do European flies, suggesting Caribbean populations as a potential source

of African alleles introgression for North America populations (Kao et al. 2014;

Yukilevich et al., 2010; Caracristi & Schlotterer, 2003; Yukilevich & True, 2008b; Capy

et al., 1986). Mating preferences and other premating/prezygotic reproductive barriers

have been formally treated in this system showing partial sexual isolation between west

African flies and American flies, but not Caribbean flies and male courtship behavior

differing between American and Caribbean flies (Yukilevich & True 2008a, b). However,

the presence of postmating sexual isolation in these American and Caribbean

populations remains unexplored.

Our study aims to explore the role of postmating reproductive barriers in a *Drosophila*

melanogaster secondary contact hybrid zone and to better understand how patterns of

postmating barriers reflect the colonization history of fly populations in the area. We

have investigated the role of remating, female egg laying, hatchability of laid eggs, and

female longevity after mating with different males as putative postmating reproductive

barriers. These phenotypes are good candidates for assaying the roles of extrinsic and

intrinsic postmating reproductive barriers. We measured each of these phenotypes in

females from different locations in the southeastern US and Caribbean islands to

examine them for geographical patterns – which may reveal if and how these barriers

affect this secondary contact zone of *Drosophila melanogaster* and by investigating

these barriers, we provide insight into how these mechanisms of speciation function in a

genetically admixed system.

Materials and Methodology

Fly Lines and Rearing Conditions

For our phenotypic assays, we used 23 isofemale lines of *Drosophila melanogaster*

collected in the summer of 2004 and 2005 (Yukilevich & True, 2008b). The origins of the

Drosophila are as follows (TABLE 1; FIGURE 1): Birmingham, AL (lines 1-1 and 1-2);

Selba, AL (lines 2-1 and 2-2); Meridian, MS (lines 3-1 and 3-2); Thomasville, GA (lines

4-1 and 4-2); Tampa Bay, FL (lines 5-1 and 5-2); Sebastian, FL (line 6-1); Freeport,

Grand Bahamas-west (lines 7-1 and 7-2); Bullock's Harbor, Berry Islands (lines 8-1 and

8-2); Cockburn Town, San Salvador (lines 9-1 and 9-2); George Town, Exumas (lines

10-1 and 10-2); Mayaguana, Mayaguana (lines 11-1 and 11-2); Port Au Prince, Haiti

(lines 12-1 and 12-2). Latitude and longitude coordinates can be found in Yukilevich

and True (2008b). All flies were maintained at 25 °C in vials on a standard cornmeal diet

(recipe available upon request) and entrained under a 12hr light:12hr dark regime.

Map Number	Location	Line(s) in order of decreasing latitude (N to S)	Line ID#'s (Yukilevich and True, 2008b)
1	Birmingham, AL	1-1 and 1-2	21, 39 and 21, 36
2	Selba, AL	2-1 and 2-2	20, 28 and 20, 17
3	Meridian, MS	3-1 and 3-2	24, 2 and 24, 9
4	Thomasville, GA	4-1 and 4-2	13, 34 and 13, 29
5	Tampa Bay, FL	5-1 and 5-2	4, 12 and 4, 27
6	Sebastian, FL	6-1	28, 8
7	Freeport, Grand Bahamas - West	7-1 and 7-2	33, 16 and 33, 11
8	Bullock's Harbor, Berry Islands	8-1 and 8-2	40, 23 and 40, 10
9	Cockburn Town, San Salvador	9-1 and 9-2	42, 23 and 42, 20
10	George Town, Exumas	10-1 and 10-2	36, 9 and 36, 12
11	Mayaguana, Mayaguana	11-1 and 11-2	43, 19 and 43, 18
12	Port Au Prince, Haiti	12-1 and 12-2	H, 29 and H, 25

TABLE 1: Locations, strain names, and line ID numbers of fly lines used in assays

Egg laying, Hatchability, and Remating Rate Assays

Virgin females were collected from all 23 isofemale lines. Male flies up to one day old

were collected from two lines (lines 1-2 and 11-1) located at polar ends of our

geographical study region. We chose these two lines as sources for male flies based on

clinal distance as well as maximal difference between courtship profiles and physical

characteristics (Yukilevich & True, 2008b) to account for female mate preference, which

has been previously established (Yukilevich & True, 2008a). All flies were collected on

light CO2 anesthesia and aged for three to four days before entering our assays. We

set up a full factorial experiment in which females from each of the isofemale lines were

crossed with the two lines from which males were collected. Each cross was replicated

15 times.

All flies were live manipulated using aspirators for the remainder of the phenotypic

assays to avoid any physiological and behavioral effects of CO_2 anesthesia (Badre *et*

al., 2005). Assays lasted 24 days and were conducted in two stages. During the first 10

days (i.e. first stage) female remating rates and egg laying rates were measured over a

10-day period; during the following 14 days (i.e. second stage) hatchability rates were

quantified.

In the first stage, females were transferred daily by aspirator into new vials with

standard cornmeal fly food and blue food coloring. The dye helped visualize eggs laid

by females without causing any variability in their behavior (Bergland, 2012). The vials

also had 20 uL of a 10% diluted active yeast mixture to stimulate females' reproductive

activity. At lights on (i.e. dawn) on the initial day of the first stage, individual females

were aspirated into a vial with two males from either one of the two male lines for

mating. Approximately 90 minutes were allocated for copulation to occur, and all males

were discarded immediately after this time period using an aspirator. Females that did

not mate on the first day did not continue in the assay. Fecundity assays were

conducted daily after the females were transferred into new vials. To assess short-term

and long-term receptivity to remating effects, each individual female was introduced to

two new males of the same genotype from her initial mating on the fourth and eighth

day of the assay. Again we allowed 90 minutes on both remating days for copulations to

occur, and all males were discarded via aspirator thereafter.

Incorrectly sexed vials in which the female - instead of the male - were accidentally

discarded were not included in later analysis. Remaining vials that passed the first stage

of the experiment were monitored daily for fly eclosion. Flies that eclosed were recorded

and discarded immediately. Fly eclosion monitoring ended when either (a) three

consecutive days of zero fly eclosions occurred or (b) 14 days of monitoring was

reached - whichever occurred first. All phenotyping assays during the first and second

stages were conducted within the first three hours of lights on (i.e dawn). All flies from

the first stage and eclosing vials in the second stage were incubated at a controlled 25

°C with a light timer set for a 12hr light: 12hr dark regime.

Longevity Assays

Female flies used in our longevity assays come from (arranged from north to south)

Selba, Alabama, USA (line 2-2), Thomasville, Georgia, USA (line 3-1), Freeport, Grand

Bahamas-west (line 7-2), Bullock's Harbor, Berry Islands (line 8-1), and Port Au Prince,

Haiti (line 12-2). Representative 'American' and 'Caribbean' males were derived lines

originating from the same male collection lines used in egg laying, hatchability, and

remating assays, Birmingham, Alabama, USA (line 1-2) and Mayaguana, Mayaguana

(line 11-1), respectively. 'Homotypic' crosses were defined as male and female both of

either American or Caribbean origin (i.e. American x American or Caribbean x

American). "Heterotypic" crosses were defined as male and female from different origins

(i.e. American x Caribbean or Caribbean x American). Males and females from the

same origin were assumed to be more related and genetically similar to each other than

those from different origins based on previous evidence (Yukilevich & True, 2008b).

Virgin females were collected on light CO_2 anesthesia and aged singly in vials for four

days. Males were collected in the same manner and aged in groups of five per vial. We

performed crosses in two separate rounds, which lasted approximately 70 and 80 days.

In the first round, we crossed female flies from Selba, Alabama, USA and Port Au

Prince, Haiti to either our representative 'American' or 'Caribbean' male. There were 50

replicates for each unique cross. Because of the large effect size from our initial round,

we had 25 replicates for each type of cross in the rest of our lines. In each round, aged

female flies were placed with five male flies for 48 hours to ensure mating occurred.

Male flies were discarded using an aspirator after the mating period. Female flies were

then observed on a regular basis five days per week. Dates of deaths were recorded

until the end of the 70 and 80-day observation periods. The females were transferred to

fresh vials every seven days.

Post-mating behavior data analysis

We examined the effects of geographic location on the total number of eggs laid by

females, the total hatchability of those egg laid, and the propensity of females to remate

three and seven days after initial mating day. For egg laying and hatchability, we used

ANOVA to test the effects of latitude and longitudinal coordinates (i.e. geographic

position effects). We also used the male and female identity and phenotyping blocks to

account for the variation from genotypes of male and females in addition to

experimental block effects.

Because remating was scored as a binary variable of whether or not the female

copulated on the two remating days, we used logistic regression models to assess the

effects of geographic location while controlling for male and female genotypes and block

effects on short- and long-term female receptivity to remating. The significance of

longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates and model fits were assessed using analysis of

deviance tables.

We performed a permutation test to investigate the significance of the lower hatchability

rates in the three central locations as revealed by logistic regression models as well as

through visual confirmation of plots. We calculated the difference in hatchability

between the five lines from our three central locations and the hatchability of all other fly

lines (18 lines). We then randomly assigned fly lines into groups of 5 and 18 and

calculated the difference in hatchability between these two groups. These permutations

were repeated 10,000 times. P-values were calculated by the number of times the

difference in hatchability between these two groups were equal to or greater than our

observed value divided by our 10,000 permutations. The line with the lowest

hatchability was removed for a follow-up permutation test to confirm that the lower

hatchability was only due to the effect of one line. Similar permutation tests were

conducted on total egg counts to determine that lower hatchability was also not due to

lower egg counts via ascertainment bias. Hatchability of eggs laid by females mated to

representative 'American' and 'Caribbean' males were performed separately, and P-

values from these tests were corrected using the Bonferroni method.

All analyses were performed in R and the code for the permutation test is available

upon request.

Longevity data analysis

Survival analysis is used for temporal data of waiting times to an event with censored

data. We employed methods from survival analysis to examine our data. We analyzed

the waiting times of female death after homotypic or heterotypic mating. Females that

escaped or survived past our observational periods were considered censored data

points. The first step of survival analysis is to estimate survival functions for each of our

crosses, $S(t)$, which in our study is the probability of a female living longer than time, t.

This can be done non-parametrically using the Kaplan-Meier method (Kleinbaum &

Klein, 2012). Parametric models were tested (i.e. exponential, log-normal, log-logistic,

and generalized gamma), but none yielded a good fit (data not shown). After survival

curves were fitted, we used it to estimate the cumulative hazard function, H(t), for each

type of cross. The cumulative hazard function shows the cumulative probability that a

female has expired up to time, t.

The most common statistical test used for comparing survival distributions is the log-

rank test. However, this test has the proportional hazards assumption, which requires

that the hazard functions of the two groups being compared are parallel. Hazard

functions for our comparisons of female longevity after heterotypic and homotypic

matings were plotted and visually checked for the crossing of hazard curves. When

hazard curves cross, the proportional hazards assumption is violated so another test

must be conducted because the standard log-rank test has little to no power (Klein &

Moeschberger, 1997). We chose to use a combined weighted log-rank test, which takes

into account crossing hazard curves (Bathke *et al.*, 2005). This improved log-rank test

has more power than the standard log-rank tests when the hazard functions cross and

the hazard ratio is not proportional.

All analyses were performed in R using the 'survival' package to estimate the survival

curves and hazard functions. The package 'emplik' was used as part of the improved

log-rank test. The R code can be obtained online

(http://www.ms.uky.edu/%7Emai/research/LogRank2006.pdf).

Results

Egg counts

Egg counts for each line were shown using side-by-side boxplots with locations

arranged from the northernmost to the southernmost location, left to right (FIGURE 2A,

2B). It does not appear that egg counts follow a clinal or other geographical pattern for

females mated to representative 'American' or 'Caribbean' males. There is much

variation amongst the lines, but the median egg count for each location is approximately

the same except for when the females from location 6 (line 6-1; Sebastian, FL) were

mated to Caribbean males (FIGURE 2B). The ANOVA model showed that that most of

the variance of egg laying was accounted for by male ($p = 0.00167$) and female

($p<0.0001$) genotypes as well as block effects ($p < 0.0001$) and that longitude and

latitude were not significant influences ($p = 0.32767$, $p = 0.49860$). (SUPPLEMENTARY

TABLE 1)

Remating

Short- and long-term remating rates for each isofemale line were plotted against latitude

and longitude coordinates (SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 1, 2). Short-term remating

rates were generally lower (range of rates : 0-30%) than long-term remating rates

(range of rates: 0-60%). Remating rates do not appear to be influenced by location,

which was investigated further with logistic regression.

The full logistic regression model evaluating effects of latitude and longitude while

controlling for male and female genotypes and block effects found that latitude ($p =$

0.11) or longitude ($p = 0.35$) were not useful in predicting short-term remating rates with

similar results for long-term remating rates (lon p = 0.7616, lat p = 0.6361). Male

genotype was also not a significant influence on short-term or long-term remating rates

(p = 0.4848 and p = 0.1240) (SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 2, 4). The reduced models

removing latitude and longitude as predictors showed that they were not significantly

influencing remating rates (SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 3, 5). Female identities in both

logistic models for short- and long- term remating rates were significant, giving evidence

that female genotypes could influence remating rates. However, when we fitted a model

for long-term remating rates with a male x female interaction term, results showed that

this interaction term was not significant (p = 0.0959) (SUPPLEMENTAL TABLE 6, 7).

Hatchability

Hatchability for the various locations in the southeast US and Caribbean Islands were

visualized using side-by-side boxplots with locations arranged from the northernmost to

the southernmost location, left to right (FIGURE 2C, 2D). Hatchability in the three

middle locations (location 4, 28, 33) at the border of the southeast US and Caribbean

Islands appear lower than the locations on the edges in both the graphs displaying

hatchability of females mated to American males (FIGURE 2C) and Caribbean males

(FIGURE 2D).

Our ANOVA model took into account male and female identities and male/female

genotype interactions on hatchability as well as experimental block effects while

assessing influences of longitude and latitude (TABLE 2). Longitude had a significant

effect on hatchability (F=3.954, p=0.472) while latitude did not (F=1.4, p = 0.2372)

further suggesting that geographic location had some influence on hatchability rates as

indicated by the dip in hatchability in FIGURE 2C,D.

	DF	Sum Sq	Mean Sq	F value	P(>F)
Block	14	2.934	0.2096	4.688	<3.22e-08*
Female	22	7.722	0.3510	7.853	<2e-16*
Male	1	0.887	0.8869	19.844	9.84e-06*
Latitude	1	0.063	0.0626	1.400	0.2372
Longitude	1	0.177	0.1767	3.954	0.0472*
Female:Male	22	1.298	0.0590	1.320	0.1493
Residuals	672	30.035	0.0447		
Residuals	672	5097909			

TABLE 2: ANOVA table for hatchability model

To evaluate the significance of the dip in hatchability rates, we performed permutation

tests as described in our methods section. We found that the hatchability in the middle

three locations was significantly lower than the rates in the surrounding locations

regardless of the female being mated to an American male ($p < 0.0001$) or Caribbean

male ($p <0.0001$). Results were similar when the location with the lowest hatchability

rate was removed (28: Sebastian, FL, USA) and the permutation tests performed again

(females mated to American male: $p = 0.0056$; females mated to Caribbean male: $p =$

0.0272). Similar tests were conducted on egg counts to investigate whether the lower

hatchability was due to lower egg counts (i.e. ascertainment bias from not observing

enough progeny). No significant differences in egg counts between females from the

middle locations and the outer locations were found regardless of whether they were

mated to American males ($p = 0.3192$) or Caribbean males ($p = 0.7584$). The same

results were yielded when we removed the influence of the extremely low middle

location, 28: Sebastian, FL, USA, (mated to American males: $p=0.3016$, mated to

Caribbean males: $p = 1.0$). These results suggest a generalizable central location effect

on hatchability.

Longevity

Five female lines were measured for longevity after experiencing homotypic or

heterotypic matings. The homotypic cross survival curves for females from lines 2-2, 3-

1, and 12-2 were consistently higher than the survival curves of females in heterotypic

crosses (FIGURE 3A, B, E). There were no apparent differences between homotypic

and heterotypic survival curves of females originating from lines 7-2 or 8-1 (Figure 3C,

D).

Isofemale line	T time of crossing hazards	p-value from improved log rank
3-1	37	0.04096407
8-1	42	0.4246727
7-2	40	0.6260448
12-2	23	0.02706502
2-2	61	0.3129819

TABLE 3: Improved Log-rank Test Results

Hazard curves for all crosses and lines revealed non-proportional hazards in almost all

cases of homotypic and heterotypic matings (SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE 3). Crossing

points of all hazard functions were visually estimated for use in the improved log-rank

tests (TABLE 3). The improved log-rank tests showed evidence that females after

heterotypic matings had shorter lifespans than females in homotypic matings for

females from lines 3-1 and 12-2 ($p = 0.0410$ and $p = 0.0271$). Although, females of line

2-2 visually displayed a reduced lifespan when involved in heterotypic matings (FIGURE

3A), these results were not significant in our statistical test ($p = 0.3130$).

Discussion

We examined several potential postmating reproductive barriers including remating

rates, egg laying rates, hatchability, and female longevity that may potentially influence

a system in the early stages of sexual isolation (Yukilevich and True 2008b). Our results

illustrate the possible relationship between reproductive barriers and genetic admixture.

Genetic admixture likely affects offspring fitness

We observed an interesting hatchability rate 'valley' produced by isofemale lines

originating from our three central locations spanning the border of the United States and

the Caribbean Islands (i.e. locations 5, 6, 7). These locations correspond to areas of

high African and European admixture (Kao et al., 2014). This result may highlight the

presence of essential genetic differences between American and Caribbean fly

populations, which could have manifested as an intrinsic postzygotic barrier between

these two populations. This type of evidence is indicative of the presence of Bateson-

Dobzhansky-Muller incompatibilities (DMI), which are negative epistatic interactions and

the most common form of intrinsic postzygotic isolation (Presgraves, 2010). A reduction

in the fitness of 'hybrid' offspring here restricts the product of gene flow between

American and Caribbean *D. melanogaster* populations. A more thorough investigation

of these lines and genome sequences are required to confirm the presence of DMIs, but

are beyond the scope of this study.

Females evolve resistance to toxic males

We examined female longevity after mating with males that were more or less

genetically related to them, as defined by physical distance, which does correlate with

geographical distance (Kao et al., 2014). These results from the longevity assay were

the inverse of our hatchability assays. Females originating from locations 7 and 8 did

not seem as affected by heterotypic matings compared to females from the northern

and southernmost locations (i.e. locations 2, 3, 12). It is known that male sperm has

toxic effects on females after mating (Rice, 1996) and in response to this game of

sexual conflict (at least in the laboratory), females develop 'resistance' against males

that they coevolve with in the same environment (Arbuthnott *et al.*, 2014). Our findings

not only support this coevolution tactic, but also illustrates that these patterns can

naturally occur outside of the laboratory.

Conclusions

Our study of postmating reproductive barriers along with previous investigations into

premating barriers (Yukilevich & True 2008a, b) illustrate that pre- and post-mating

barriers could be evolving at the same time and is not necessarily sequential. While our

findings contribute to the ever-growing breadth of knowledge about sexual isolation and

speciation, it also sheds light on the complexity of the interplay between isolating

mechanisms and genetic admixture. Overall our data suggests that long-term

postmating consequences - offspring fitness and female lifespan reduction - are of

greater influence in this particular incipient sexual isolation scenario than when

compared to more immediate postmating behavioral responses such as egg laying and

remating receptivity. We have also observed the very possible effects of admixture at

the border between the United States and Caribbean islands (i.e. locations 5, 6, 7) (Kao

et al., 2014) leading to interesting interactions between partially isolating mechanisms.

Greater genetic admixture in flies originating from this area could promote the lower

hatchability of eggs laid by females from these populations if American and Caribbean

flies are genetically distinct enough to increase the possibility of DMIs occurring

(Gompert *et al.,* 2012). The same genetic admixture could also contribute towards

female hardiness against harm from mating with a wider range of genetically diverse

males, which in turn can compensate for lower hatchability by increasing reproductive

lifespan.

We did not find any evidence that egg laying rates or remating rates influenced the

reproductive success in a systematic way with regard to these isofemale lines from the

southeast United States and Caribbean Islands. However, the lack of evidence from our

study does not imply that these behaviors in general are not influential postmating

reproductive barriers. Current views of speciation regard the process as a sliding

continuum in which speciation can move forward or step back and may even be

arrested at intermediate stages (Seehausen *et al.*, 2014). Depending on the driving

force of speciation, different types of reproductive barriers form at particular stages

(Seehausen *et al.*, 2014). Thus, it may be that these postmating behaviors could be of

importance at other stages in the speciation continuum, in which case, other species in

the *Drosophila* genus may be better candidates to further investigate this question.

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Figures and Legends

FIGURE 1: Map of locations used in postmating assays with numbers corresponding to

those of Table 1.

FIGURE 2: Egg counts of females mated with A) American males and B) Caribbean

males. Hatchability of females mated with C) American males and D) Caribbean males.

Each box plot is a isofemale line arranged from the northernmost location (left) to the

southernmost location (right). Numbers on the X-axis correspond to those of Table 1.

607   FIGURE 3: Survival curves of females of isofemale lines A) 2-2, B) 3-1, C) 7-2, D) 8-1,

608   E) 12-2 after experiencing homotypic (solid line) or heterotypic (dashed line) matings. *

609   indicates significant p-value < 0.05