# Latitude delineates patterns of biogeography in terrestrial *Streptomyces*

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**Running Title:**   Biogeography of *Streptomyces*

**Conflict of Interest:**   None

**Originality-Significance Statement**

We provide the first population genetic evidence that patterns of *Streptomyces* biogeography,

which manifest in geographically explicit patterns of gene flow and a latitudinal gradient of

nucleotide diversity, result from dispersal limitation and regional diversification due to drift. This

contribution elucidates evolutionary processes that underlie patterns of microbial biogeography.

**Summary**

We examined the biogeography of *Streptomyces* at regional spatial scales to identify factors that

govern patterns of microbial diversity. *Streptomyces* are spore forming filamentous bacteria which

are widespread in soil. *Streptomyces* strains were isolated from perennial grass habitats sampled

across a spatial scale of more than 6,000 km. Previous analysis of this geographically explicit

culture collection provided evidence for a latitudinal diversity gradient in *Streptomyces* species.

Here we evaluate the hypothesis that this latitudinal diversity gradient is a result of evolutionary

dynamics associated with historical demographic processes. Historical demographic phenomena

have genetic consequences that can be evaluated through analysis of population genetics. We

applied population genetic approaches to analyze population structure in six of the most

numerically abundant and geographically widespread *Streptomyces* phylogroups from our culture

collection. *Streptomyces* population structure varied at regional spatial scales and allelic diversity

correlated with geographic distance. In addition, allelic diversity and gene flow are partitioned by

latitude. Finally, we found that nucleotide diversity within phylogroups is negatively correlated

with latitude. These results indicate that phylogroup diversification is constrained by dispersal

limitation at regional spatial scales and they are consistent with the hypothesis that historical

demographic processes have influenced the contemporary biogeography of *Streptomyces*.

## Introduction

Patterns of microbial biogeography have been widely documented (Whitaker *et al*., 2003; Vos and

Velicer, 2008; Bissett *et al*., 2010; Martiny *et al*., 2011; Gilbert *et al*., 2012; Hatosy *et al*., 2013),

and yet we are only beginning to understand the evolutionary forces that generate and maintain

these patterns. Explorations of biogeography are valuable because biogeographical patterns

illustrate fundamental principles of evolution and ecology. Biogeographical patterns are ultimately

governed by rates of dispersal and diversification (Martiny *et al*., 2006; Hanson *et al*., 2012). Since

microbial dispersal cannot be observed directly, rates of dispersal are typically inferred from extant

patterns of genetic diversity. It has been hypothesized that microbes disperse ubiquitously due to

their small cell size and massive population numbers (Finaly, 2002; Finlay and Fenchel, 2004).

Yet endemism and dispersal limitation have been observed for a range of microbes (Cho and

Tiedge, 2000; Green and Bohannan, 2006; Telford *et al*., 2006; Boucher *et al.*, 2011), and microbial

dispersal limitation has been verified experimentally (Bell, 2010). Contradictory findings in the

literature can be explained by at least two factors: first, dispersal constraints are likely to vary with

respect to different species and habitats; and second, methods used to define units of diversity vary

dramatically in their taxonomic and phylogenetic resolution. Each of these factors has been

discussed previously (Hanson *et al*., 2012; Choudoir *et al*., 2012), and we will only consider them

briefly here.

Patterns of microbial dispersal and gene flow appear to differ between habitats and species. At one

end of the spectrum, globally widespread microbes such as *Prochlorococcus* and *Pelagibacter*

show little variation in gene content between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans suggesting that

dispersal can homogenize genetic diversity in pelagic systems (Coleman and Chisholm, 2010). At

the other end of the spectrum are extremophiles such as *Sulfolobus* and thermophilic

*Synechococcus*, which live in island-like volcanic habitats and exhibit strong patterns of allopatric

divergence resulting from dispersal limitation (Papke *et al.*, 2003; Whitaker *et al.*, 2003; Cadillo-

Quiroz *et al.*, 2012). Terrestrial microbes fall somewhere between these extremes. For example,

soil dwelling microbes such as *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, *Burkholderia mallei*, and *Bacillus*

*anthracis* exhibit biogeographical patterns governed by dispersal limitation at regional spatial

scales (Kenefic *et al.*, 2009; Pearson *et al.*, 2009).

The phylogenetic resolution at which microbial diversity is defined can have a profound impact

on our ability to discern patterns of microbial biogeography (as reviewed Hanson *et al.*, 2012).

Surveys of SSU rRNA genes in terrestrial habitats indicate that environmental variables including

temperature (Fierer *et al.*, 2009; Miller *et al.*, 2009), pH (Fierer and Jackson, 2006; Lauber *et al.*,

2009; Rousk *et al.*, 2010), and salinity (Lozupone and Knight, 2007) are more important than

geographic distance or latitude in determining spatial patterns of microbial diversity. However,

SSU rRNA gene sequences have an extremely low rate of nucleotide substitution (Ochman *et al.*,

1999), and microbes with similar or even identical SSU rRNA genes can have extensive genomic

and ecological diversity (Welch *et al.*, 2002; Jaspers and Overmann; 2004). Thus, this marker has

low sensitivity for detecting neutral processes that drive patterns of biogeography, such as dispersal

limitation and genetic drift (Green and Bohannan, 2006; Hanson *et al.*, 2012). However, these

neutral processes are readily explored using geographically and ecologically explicit culture

collections characterized at high genetic resolution.

*Streptomyces* are ubiquitous across soil habitats, and many species are easily cultured, making this

genus an excellent candidate for making a taxon-specific survey of biogeography. Furthermore,

*Streptomyces* species have high rates of gene exchange both within and between species

(Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010). Hence, this genus is an ideal model to explore dispersal limitations

and gene flow in terrestrial systems. *Streptomyces* are gram-positive *Actinobacteria* (Kâmpfer,

2006) known for their complex developmental cycle, which entails filamentous growth and the

formation of desiccation resistant spores which are readily dispersed (Keiser *et al.*, 2000).

*Streptomyces* play a significant role in the terrestrial carbon cycle (McCarthy and Williams, 1992;

Takasuka *et al.*, 2013), represent important agricultural pathogens (Loria *et al.*, 2006; Labeda,

2011), and are prolific producers of antibiotics (Watve *et al.*, 2001). Despite their importance, we

lack an evolutionary framework to understand *Streptomyces* biogeography.

*Streptomyces* diversity varies spatially, though the influence of geographic distance and ecological

variation remains poorly resolved. Ecological adaptation constrains the environmental distribution

of *Streptomyces* and their genetic and phenotypic diversity can vary in relation to soil

characteristics at small spatial scale (1 m − 60 m) in prairie soils (Davelos *et al.*, 2004a and 2004b),

and in dune habitats (Antony-Babu *et al.*, 2008). There is also evidence for dispersal limitation at

very large (continental) spatial scales with endemic species observed in North America and Central

Asia (Wawrik *et al.*, 2007). Remarkably, genetic analysis of *Streptomyces pratensis* has revealed

that strains of this species are in linkage equilibrium (i.e. random association of alleles at different

loci) across a range that spans 1,000 km (Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010 and 2014). One

interpretation of this finding is that *Streptomyces* are subject to widespread dispersal and unlimited

gene flow at regional spatial scales. However, linkage equilibrium can also be observed for

dispersal limited species that have undergone a recent historical demographic range expansion

(Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010 and 2014). Demographic range expansion has previously been

implicated as a factor that can explain ancestral patterns of gene exchange in *Streptomyces* clades

(Andam *et al*., 2016a). Combined, these data suggest a role for both adaptive and neutral processes

in governing the diversity and biogeography of *Streptomyces*, but the evolutionary interpretation

of these data depends on the degree to which dispersal limitation drives patterns of diversity in

*Streptomyces*.

We evaluated *Streptomyces* biogeography to explore the ecological and evolutionary forces that

govern diversification within this genus.  The most powerful approach for detecting evolutionary

patterns that result from dispersal limitation is to examine taxon-specific biogeography patterns

across ecologically similar sites. This approach controls for the effects of selection and provides a

powerful test of neutral evolutionary processes (Hanson *et al.*, 2012). We constructed a taxon-

specific isolate collection of *Streptomyces* found in ecologically similar grassland sites spanning

the United States of America. In a study of *Streptomyces* species-level diversity, which evaluated

polymorphism at a single locus (*rpoB*), we observed evidence for dispersal limitation manifesting

in a latitudinal diversity gradient (Andam *et al.,* 2016b). The latitudinal diversity gradient is one

of the earliest and most well documented patterns of biogeography (Wallace, 1878; Hillebrand,

2004), but it is essentially undocumented in terrestrial bacterial systems. We hypothesize that

historical demographic phenomena associated with Pleistocene glaciation generated the latitudinal

gradient of *Streptomyces* species diversity (Andam *et al.*, 2016b). This hypothesis predicts that

dispersal and gene flow will be limited and discontinuous across latitudes which correspond to the

maximal extent of historical glaciation. The hypothesis also predicts that intra-species diversity

will vary with latitude as a consequence of limited time for diversification in northern latitudes.

These hypotheses are best addressed using population genetic approaches. Here we test these

specific predictions by using multilocus sequence analysis (MLSA) to characterize population-

level patterns of gene flow and genetic diversity within six phylogroups of *Streptomyces* which are

distributed widely across the United States.

**Results**

*Characterization of Streptomyces phylogroups*

We identified a total of 308 isolates representing the six targeted phylogroups, and these isolates

spanned 13 sites (Table 1). Strains within phylogroups share 99.4-100% SSU rRNA gene sequence

identity, and all strains share greater than 97% nucleotide identity in their SSU rRNA gene

sequences (Figure S1). Strains within phylogroups also share 97.6%-99.5% average nucleotide

identity (ANI) across concatenated MLSA loci, and all strains share greater than 88% ANI (Figure

1, Table 2). The pattern of genetic ancestry as determined by population structure analysis (see

Structure analysis, Experimental Procedures) is congruent with phylogroup boundaries (Figure

S2), and this indicates that these phylogroups approximate biological populations. We observed

122 unique MLSA haplotypes, with each phylogroup represented by 13-26 haplotypes (Figure 1,

Table 2). Good's coverage for each of the six phylogroups ranges from 0.88-1.0 for individual loci

and 0.94-1.0 for concatenated MLSA loci clustered at 99% nucleotide identity (Table S1). Hence,

allelic diversity and nucleotide diversity are well sampled (Table S1), though unique haplotypes

remain under sampled (Figure S3). The per site nucleotide diversity ($\pi$) of each phylogroup ranges

from 0.0026 to 0.011 (Table 2).

Four of the phylogroups do not match any *Streptomyces* species described in PubMLST (less than

97% ANI across MLSA loci, Figure S4A) (Jolley *et al.*, 2004). While the other two, phylogroups

WA1063 and MS152 belong to the *S. griseus* species cluster (Rong and Huang, 2010). Isolates in

phylogroup WA1063 share greater than 99% MLSA identity with *S. anulatus* and *S. praecox* and

form a monophyletic clade with these type strains (Figure S4A). Isolates in phylogroup MS152

share greater than 98% MLSA identity with *S. mediolani*, *S. albovinaceus*, and *S. griseinus* and

form a paraphyletic clade that includes these type strains (Figure S4A).

We find evidence of horizontal gene transfer consistent with previous observations of *Streptomyces*

species (Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010; Andam *et al.*, 2016a). There is significant phylogenetic

incongruence between MLSA loci (Figure S4, Table S2), suggesting that inter-species horizontal

gene transfer has shaped the phylogeny of these groups. The six phylogroups exhibit evidence of

population structure with each phylogroup composed of $3.2 \pm 0.8$ (mean $\pm$ s.d.) subpopulations

and with evidence for admixture (Figure 1). Evidence of admixture suggests horizontal gene

transfer within phylogroups and is consistent with previous evidence of gene exchange in

*Streptomyces* (Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010). Evidence of recombination within phylogroups

MAN196, MS200, MS152, and F34 (PHI test, $p < 0.05$, Table 2) further supports the conclusion

of gene exchange within populations. Furthermore, the standard index of association ($I_A$) is 0.09

for MAN125 suggesting a freely recombining population in linkage equilibrium (Table 2). In

addition, phylogroups WA1063 and MS152 share two identical *atpD* alleles (Figure S4B), but it is

not clear whether these alleles are shared as a result of contemporary horizontal gene transfer or

vertical inheritance from the most recent common ancestor of the two clades. The latter

explanation is more parsimonious given the low level of polymorphism between phylogroups

WA1063 and MS152. We do not observe evidence of inter-group horizontal gene transfer between

these six phylogroups.

*Evidence for dispersal limitation*

Strains of the six phylogroups were obtained from soil samples from 13 sites of diverse geographic

origin (Table 1). Each phylogroup was detected in $4.2 \pm 0.4$ sites, and this distribution differs

significantly from expectations for a random distribution of strains across sites (permutation test,

$p < 0.0005$), thereby rejecting the hypothesis of panmixia (*i.e.* the ability of organisms to move

freely across habitats). Each phylogroup subpopulation was observed in $2.2 \pm 0.9$ sites (mean $\pm$

s.d.), and this value is lower than expected if subpopulations are randomly distributed across the

sites occupied by each phylogroup (permutation test, $p < 0.001$). These results indicate that

phylogroup distribution is constrained geographically and that phylogroups have subpopulation

structure that is also geographically explicit.

The geographic distribution of *Streptomyces* alleles indicates dispersal limitation. Identical alleles

are shared among phylogroup members across each phylogroup's geographic range, which can

exceed 5,000 km (Figure 2, Table 1). However, dissimilarity in allele composition increases with

geographic distance, and this result is significant (Bray-Curtis dissimilarity, Mantel $r = 0.29$, $p =$

0.005) (Figure S5). Hence, alleles are more likely shared between geographically similar sites

indicating dispersal limitation with potential for long range dispersal. This result is significant for

all individual loci except *recA* (Bray-Curtis dissimilarity, *aptD* Mantel $r = 0.31$, $p = 0.004$; *gyrB* r

$= 0.22$, $p = 0.031$; *recA* r $= 0.16$, $p = 0.088$; *rpoB* r $= 0.27$, $p = 0.004$; *trpB* r $= 0.19$, p $= 0.047$). In

addition, all MLSA haplotypes (Figure 1, Figure 3) are unique to a single site, with the sole

exception being a haplotype from phylogroup MS200 which is observed in both MS and WI (Sun

Prairie).

Analysis of haplotype distribution is consistent with diversification due to dispersal limitation. We

used nested clade analysis (NCA) combined with a rigorous statistical framework to evaluate

population structure and demography (see Experimental Procedures). NCA establishes significant

phylogeographic inferences for phylogroups MAN196, MAN125, WA1063, and MS152 (Figure

3) but not for MS200 and F34. Nested clade phylogeographic inference postulates potential

evolutionary and historical demographic processes that support extant patterns of diversity and

biogeography (see legend of Figure 3). For instance, population subdivision of MAN125 across

the Pacific Northwest (Figure 3A) and MAN196 between Maine and the Pacific Northwest (Figure

3B) is consistent with restricted gene flow due to historical long distance dispersal events.

Likewise, population subdivision of MS152 and between the Southeast (MS and FL) and CA

(Figure 3C) and WA1063 between WI (Brookfield) and OR (Figure 3D) is consistent with

allopatric fragmentation.

*Latitudinal diversity gradient*

The distribution and diversity of the phylogroups reveals a latitudinal diversity gradient. Strains

from MAN125, MAN196, WA1063 occur mostly north of 40°N latitude, while strains from

MS200, MS152, F34 occur mostly south of this latitude (Table 1, Figure 2). This pattern of

North/South partitioning is significant for each phylogroup when evaluated against the expectation

of a random distribution across sites (permutation test, $p < 0.01$ for each phylogroup after

Bonferroni correction). Furthermore, partial Mantel tests were performed to evaluate the latitudinal

and longitudinal vector components of geographic distance in relation to the allele composition of

sites. There remains a significant relationship between allele composition and geographic distance

when we control for longitude, (Mantel r = 0.23, $p$ = 0.022), but this relationship is no longer

significant when we control for latitude (Mantel r = 0.15, $p$ = 0.12). This result indicates that allele

composition changes more across latitude than it does across longitude. The latitudinal partitioning

of alleles can be readily observed in the pattern of allele sharing between sites (Figure 2). Finally,

we also observed a significant relationship between per site nucleotide diversity of phylogroup

MLSA loci and the average latitude of sites in which they are found (R = -0.91, $p$ = 0.012; Figure

4). This result indicates phylogroups recovered from lower latitudes have higher genetic diversity

than those recovered from higher latitudes.

**Discussion**

We used population genetic approaches to analyze spatial patterns of genetic diversity for six

*Streptomyces* phylogroups isolated from geographically disparate but ecologically similar sites

across the United States (Table 1). The distribution of phylogroups is nonrandom and likely

dispersal limited (Figure S5) with phylogroups inhabiting geographic ranges defined by latitude

(Table 1, Figure 2). In addition, the genetic diversity of phylogroups is negatively correlated to the

latitude from which they were isolated (Figure 4). These findings suggest that there are latitudinal

barriers to dispersal, and that patterns of *Streptomyces* biogeography result from dispersal

limitation and regional diversification due to genetic drift. Furthermore, these results are consistent

with the hypothesis that historical demographic processes have influenced the contemporary

biogeography of *Streptomyces*.

The phylogroups we describe are coherent phylogenetic groups that approximate biological

populations (Figure S2). The members of each phylogroup share a distinguishable geographic

range (Table 1, Figure 2), a recent common ancestor (Figure 1), and greater than 97% ANI across

MLSA loci (Table 2). Despite geographic and genetic subpopulation structure (Figure 1),

phylogroup members frequently share identical alleles across demes. It is worth noting that since

all of the strains examined share > 97% SSU rRNA gene identity, these geographic patterns would

not be detected using standard SSU rRNA analyses methods (Figure S1). We infer the presence of

recombination within all phylogroups using both nucleotide polymorphism and phylogenetic

methods (Table 2, Table S2).

Regional patterns of biogeography among phylogroups are consistent with limitations to dispersal

and gene flow. Allopatric processes like genetic drift can drive diversification between populations

that are geographically isolated. The geographic distribution of our phylogroups is nonrandom,

and we find regional subpopulation structure within phylogroups (Figure 1, Figure 3). Although

we find identical alleles in sites thousands of kilometers apart (Figure 2, Figure S4), MLSA

haplotypes are not shared across sites (with the single exception of a haplotype shared between

MS and WI) (Figure 3). We also observe a significant distance decay relationship for MLSA allele

composition and geographic distance between sites (Figure S5). Distance decay relationships

driven by neutral processes can be challenging to identify given that environmental variables are

often spatially structured (Nekola and White, 1999). However, Andam *et al.* (2016b) shows that

*Streptomyces* community phylogenetic diversity across sites correlates significantly with latitude

and temperature but not with soil pH, soil organic matter, or rainfall. Hence, it is unlikely that these

coarse environmental variables determine regional population structure. This data implies that

while gene flow is moderate across the geographic range of a phylogroup, dispersal limitation and

genetic drift create appreciable regional population structure.

*Streptomyces* phylogroup diversity is consistent with a latitudinal diversity gradient. While the

classical description of a latitudinal diversity gradient defines diversity at the level of species

richness, these diversity gradients are also apparent at the level of intra-species genetic diversity

(Hadly, 2013). We find that latitude is a significant predictor of gene flow (Figure 2). Furthermore,

intra-phylogroup nucleotide diversity has a significant negative relationship with average latitude

(Figure 4), which is congruous with the latitudinal diversity gradient observed for diverse

macroorganisms (Hadly, 2013; Hillebrand, 2004). There is conflicting evidence for latitudinal

diversity gradients among microorganisms. Evidence for microbial latitudinal diversity gradients

comes from marine systems (Fuhrman *et al.*, 2008; Sul *et al.*, 2013; Swan *et al.*, 2013), with

contrary evidence obtained in terrestrial systems (Neufeld and Mohn, 2005; Chu *et al.*, 2010).

However, most analyses of terrestrial bacterial biogeography are derived from analyses of SSU

rRNA genes, and we show that analyses of SSU rRNA genes lack the sensitivity needed to detect

the biogeographic patterns that we observe for *Streptomyces* (Figure S1).

Several hypotheses have been advanced to explain the formation of latitudinal diversity gradients

(Wiens and Donoghue, 2004; Mittelbach *et al.*, 2007). Ecological hypotheses posit that factors

such as carrying capacity, productivity, and niche availability vary across latitude and that these

factors impose constraints on biodiversity (Currie *et al.*, 2004; Mouchet *et al.*, 2015). Evolutionary

hypotheses invoke the positive relationship between temperature and the kinetics of metabolism

to predict that evolutionary rates and cladogenesis correspond with temperature (Allen *et al.*,

2002). Historical hypotheses propose that the latitudinal diversity gradient is the product of

historical geological, ecological, or demographic events that have influenced dispersal and

diversification (Wiens and Donoghue, 2004; Stevens, 2006). For example, the influence of

Pleistocene glacial events on the biogeography of diverse species of terrestrial and aquatic plants

and animals is well documented, with postglacial range expansion giving rise to the latitudinal

partitioning of populations and species, and resulting in decreased molecular variation of northern

lineages relative to southern ancestral lineages (Soltis *et al*., 1997; Bernatch and Wilson, 1998;

Conroy and Cook, 2000; Milá *et al*., 2006; Maggs *et al*., 2008; Wilson and Veraguth, 2010). There

is also evidence that Pleistocene glaciation events have impacted both microbial communities

(Eisenlord *et al*., 2012) and populations (Kenefic *et al.*, 2009; Mikheyev *et al*., 2008).

The biogeography of our *Streptomyces* phylogroups is consistent with the hypothesis that historical

demography and dispersal limitation have produced the latitudinal diversity gradient that we

observe. For instance, MAN125 is nearly in linkage equilibrium ($I_A$ = 0.09) though its members

span a geographic range of over 2,000 km across the Pacific Northwest. Similar patterns of

recombination have also been observed in a *S. pratensis* population which spanned 1,000 km

across sites present in North Carolina and northern New York (Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010 and

2014). The observation of linkage equilibrium indicates that either the population lacks

contemporary barriers to gene flow or the population has experienced a recent historical

demographic expansion. Coupled with evidence of limitations to gene flow at regional scales

(Figure 2, Figure S5), the most parsimonious explanation for these conflicting observations is a

recent historical demographic range expansion. Conversely, latitudinal gradients in marine

bacterial diversity have been attributed to correlations between temperature and the kinetics of

metabolism (Fuhrman *et al*., 2008). This kinetic effect has been hypothesized to increase

evolutionary tempo and speciation rates in tropical latitudes and would be expected to generate

latitudinal gradients of both species diversity and nucleotide diversity (Allen *et al*., 2002). Since

latitude is correlated with temperature, we cannot completely dismiss the influence of kinetics as

a cause of the intra-group latitudinal gradient of genetic diversity in terrestrial *Streptomyces*.

However, the kinetic effects of temperature cannot account for partitioning of gene flow across

latitude, while in contrast, this is a specific prediction of the historical demography hypothesis. It

is possible, however, that unappreciated ecological variables, such as the species composition of

perennial grass communities, could shape the diversity gradient. Ultimately, it is likely that

latitudinal diversity gradients can arise from a combination of ecological, evolutionary, and

historical processes that vary in their relative influence with respect to different species and

different habitats.

Evidence for a latitudinal diversity gradient coupled with evidence of contemporary dispersal

limitation following historical demographic expansion, while not conclusive, suggests that

phylogenetic niche conservatism has contributed to the formation of the *Streptomyces* latitudinal

diversity gradient. Phylogenetic niche conservatism can cause diversity gradients when

contemporary species distributions are determined by historical climate regimes (Wiens and

Donoghue, 2004; Stevens, 2006). Climactic regimes oscillate widely across geologic time scales

and these historical changes in climate produce demographic phenomena that impact the

evolutionary dynamics of species. In particular, the genetic consequences of glaciation events are

described in depth by Hewitt (1996, 2000, and 2004). The population structure we observe in our

*Streptomyces* phylogroups is consistent with the effects of post-glacial demographic range

expansion followed by dispersal limitation and regional diversification. Dispersal limitation may

occur following range expansion as a result of density dependent blocking or by adaptive barriers

that arise after the colonization of new habitat. One of the expectations of post-glacial expansion

is "southern richness versus northern purity" (Hewitt, 2004). This is evident in the negative

correlation we observe between latitude and the nucleotide diversity of phylogroups (Figure 4).

Similar relationships between intraspecific nucleotide diversity and average latitude as result of

post-glacial colonization are evident in other systems (Bernatchez and Wilson, 1998). Williams *et*

*al*. (1998) justifies 40˚N latitude as approximating late Pleistocene glacial and non-glacial regions

with respect to species distributions in North America. Hence, the latitudinal delineation of allele

distributions for *Streptomyces* phylogroups roughly corresponds to the extent of ice coverage

during the late Pleistocene (Figure 2), which suggests historical population expansion from lower

to higher latitudes.

Haplotype distributions of phylogroups MAN125, MAN196, WA1063, and MS152 are consistent

with allopatric diversification resulting from dispersal limitation (Figure 3). Haplotype nested

clade analysis (NCA) predicts that historical dispersal events and range expansion across northern

regions resulted in limits on dispersal during intermediate timescales, allowing genetic drift to

create the phylogroup population structures observed today. There is moderate criticism of NCA

(Knowles and Maddison, 2002; Nielsen and Beumont, 2009) due to the subjective nature of

inferring historical processes and the wide potential for stochastic processes creating similar

patterns of biogeography. Yet these tools can provide useful hypotheses. Northern phylogroups

MAN125 and MAN196 share a common ancestor with southern phylogroups MS200 and F34

(Figure 1). The contemporary population structure of MAN125 and MAN196 is consistent with a

historical range expansion from a common ancestor shared by both clades (Figure 1, Figure 3).

Further population structure within each phylogroup likely resulted from barriers to gene flow and

historical dispersal events across the Pacific Northwest for MAN125 (Figure 3A) and between

Maine and the Pacific Northwest for MAN196 (Figure 3B). Analysis of haplotype distribution

within WA1063 and MS152 is also consistent with diversification of populations as a result of

gene flow limitation between the Midwest and Pacific Northwest for WA1063 (Figure 3D) and

between the Southeast and West for MS152 (Figure 3C).

Phylogroups WA1063 and MS152 share a recent common ancestor (Figure 1, Figure S2) and also

share two identical alleles at the *atpD* locus (Figure S4B). These phylogroups have distinct, non-

overlapping geographic ranges with WA1063 found in higher latitudes and MS152 in lower

latitudes (Table 1, Figure 2). WA1063 and MS152 have 0.0205 net nucleotide substitutions per

site across concatenated MLSA loci. We evaluate the possible time range for divergence between

WA1063 and MS152 by extrapolating very roughly from the nucleotide substitution rate ($\mu$ =

$4.5\text{x}10^{-9}$) and generation time (100-300 generations per year) for *E. coli* (Ochman *et al.*, 1999),

since corresponding values are not available for *Streptomyces* or their relatives. Based upon these

gross approximations, we would estimate that WA1063 and MS152 diverged 15,000-50,000 years

ago, corresponding to events in the late Pleistocene (Clayton *et al.*, 2006). Hence, it is likely that

the identical *atpD* alleles found in both WA1063 and MS152 were inherited from a shared

ancestral population (Figure S3B) as opposed to inheritance from contemporary gene exchange.

Through population genetic analysis of six *Streptomyces* phylogroups, we find evidence for

dispersal limitation associated with geographically explicit patterns of gene flow which manifest

in a latitudinal gradient of nucleotide diversity. Furthermore, these data support the hypothesis that

historical demographic processes influence the contemporary biogeography of *Streptomyces*. Due

to their spore forming capabilities and potential for long range dispersal, *Streptomyces* are an ideal

system for assessing limits on gene flow among terrestrial bacteria. Future research should seek to

determine the degree to which dispersal limitation is due to limits on spore mobility, density

dependent blocking, or a result of adaptive constraints relating to phylogenetic niche conservatism.

A better understanding of *Streptomyces* biogeography and the evolutionary forces that govern

*Streptomyces* diversification may ultimately assist in the discovery of novel genetic diversity and

possibly novel antibiotics within this genus.

**Experimental Procedures**

*Strain isolation and DNA extraction*

We previously assembled a culture collection of more than 1,000 *Streptomyces* from 15 sites across

the United States with soil sampled at 0-5 cm depth (Andam *et al.,* 2016b). Sites were selected to

represent a narrow range of ecological characteristics including meadow, pasture, or native

grasslands dominated by perennial grasses and having moderately acidic soil (pH: $6.0 \pm 1.0$; ave.

$\pm$ s.d.). Strains were isolated using uniform conditions and this will select for strains having similar

physiological characteristics. The analysis of physiologically similar strains from ecologically

similar sites improves our ability to detect biogeographical patterns that result from drift by

minimizing the importance of selection (as reviewed by Hanson *et al.*, 2012). Soil was air dried,

and *Streptomyces* strains were isolated on glycerol-arginine agar plates of pH 8.7 containing

cycloheximide and Rose Bengal (El-Nakeeb and Lechevalier, 1963; Ottow, 1972) as previously

described (Doroghazi and Buckley, 2010). Genomic DNA was extracted for each isolate from

purified cultures, which were grown by shaking at 30˚C in liquid yeast extract-malt extract medium

(YEME) containing 0.5% glycine (Kieser *et al*., 2000), by using a standard

phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol protocol (Roberts and Crawford, 2000).

The gene encoding the RNA polymerase beta-subunit (*rpoB*) provides a robust, advantageous

alternative to the SSU rRNA locus for phylogenetic analyses of the genera *Streptomyces* (Kim *et*

*al.*, 2004). We previously assessed genetic diversity of our culture collection using partial *rpoB*

sequences clustered at 0.01 patristic distances with RAMI (Pommier *et al.*, 2009), and using this

approach we identified 107 species-like phylogenetic clusters, or phylogroups (Andam *et al*.,

2016b). We selected six of these phylogroups for further analysis. These six phylogroups had the

highest numerical abundance and widest geographical distribution in our isolate collection,

representing 308 strains isolated across 13 sites (and representing 308 of the 755 strains isolated

from these 13 sites). MLSA was performed on 17-47 isolates from each phylogroup. Phylogroup

names are capitalized and based on a representative isolate; for example, phylogroup WA1063 is

named for *Streptomyces* sp. wa1063. Isolates are identified with a lowercase letter code indicating

site of origin followed by a strain number; for example, isolate wa1063 is strain 1063 isolated from

Washington (WA) state.

*Multilocus sequence analysis (MLSA)*

We adapted the MLSA scheme developed for *Streptomyces* by Guo *et al*. (2008), which targets the

five housekeeping loci *atpD*, *gyrB*, *recA*, *rpoB*, and *trpB* as described in Doroghazi and Buckley

(2010) (Table S3). The V2 and V2 regions of SSU rRNA sequences were amplified using universal

primers 8F and 1492R (Table S3). Reactions for Sanger sequencing were performed using forward

primers for all loci except *rpoB*, for which the reverse primer was used. Trace files were uniformly

screened using CAP3 (Huang and Madan, 1999), and sequences were trimmed as to discard

nucleobases with a Phred quality score below 23. Sequences were aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar,

2004), trimmed to 431 bp, 415 bp, 446 bp, 557 bp, and 489 bp, for genes *atpD*, *gyrB*, *recA*, *rpoB*,

*trpB*, respectively, and concatenated consistently with the genomic order in *Streptomyces*

*coelicolor* A3(2). SSU rRNA sequences were trimmed to 357 bp, creating an alignment spanning

the V1 and V2 regions. Gene sequences are available on GenBank with accession numbers

KX110408-KA111380.

Good's coverage estimation and haplotype rarefaction was determined using mothur (Schloss *et*

*al.*, 2009). DNA polymorphism statistics including, number of segregating sites, nucleotide

diversity, and Tajima's D, were determined with DnaSP v5 (Librado and Rozas, 2009) and LDhat

(McVean *et al.*, 2002). Population scaled mutation rates (Watterson's theta; $\theta_w = 2N_e\mu$),

recombination or gene conversion rates ($\rho = 2N_e r/2$), and relative rates of recombination ($\rho/\theta_w$) were

estimated using LDhat (McVean *et al.*, 2002) and are expressed per nucleotide site. The standard

index of association ($I_A$) was calculated from allelic data with LIAN v3.5 (Haubold and Hudson,

2000) using the Monte-Carlo test and 100 iterations. The pairwise homoplasy index (PHI) statistic

was determined using PhiPack (Bruen *et al.*, 2006), and statistical significance was evaluated

under a null hypothesis of no recombination. Sequence identity across phylogroups was calculated

with mothur (Shloss *et al.*, 2009)

*Phylogenetic reconstruction*

Maximum likelihood (ML) trees were constructed from the nucleotide sequences of individual and

concatenated MLSA loci using the generalized time reversible nucleotide substitution model

(Tavaré, 1986) with gamma distributed rate heterogeneity among sites (GTRGAMMA) supported

in RAxML v7.3.0 (Stamatakis, 2006). Bootstrap support was determined for the highest-scoring

ML tree of 20 iterations, and the number of bootstrap replicates was determined using the extended

majority rule (autoMRE) convergence criteria (Pattengale *et al.*, 2010). Root placement is defined

by *Mycobacterium smegmatis.* Significant phylogenetic incongruence between loci was

determined using the Shimodaira-Hasegawa test (Shimodaira and Hasegawa, 1999) implemented

in the R package phangorn (Schliep, 2011).

*Population structure*

Concatenated MLSA sequences were analyzed using Structure v2.3.3 (Pritchard *et al.*, 2000) to

examine population affiliation, subdivision, and admixture within and between phylogroups.

Structure was run using an admixture model with a burn-in length of $1.0E^6$ and $3.0E^6$ replicates.

The most probable number of sub-populations (k) was evaluated with 10 independent runs and

chosen using the Evanno method (Evanno *et al.*, 2005), with k = 1 through k = 6 within

phylogroups and through k = 8 between phylogroups, implemented by Structure Harvester (Earl

and vonHoldt, 2012). After choosing the most probable k-value, the program Clumpp was used to

permute outputs of the independent runs (Jakobsson and Rosenberg, 2007).

*Patterns of dispersal and gene flow*

We used permutation tests to evaluate whether phylogroup distribution across sites could be

explained by panmixia. We compared the observed distributions to those expected under a random

distribution model using 1,000 permutations to assess significance. The null model for the

permutation test assigned strains to sites as a random draw without replacement from the OTU

table while holding the number of strains sampled at each site to be invariant. In addition,

correlations between geographic distance and allele composition between sites were assessed using

Mantel and partial Mantel tests (Mantel, 1967; Smouse *et al.*, 1986). These tests were performed

with the R package ecodist (Goslee and Urban, 2007) using the Pearson correlation method and

1,000 permutations. Bray-Curtis dissimilarity was calculated from allele composition across sites.

Haplotype networks were created using a statistical parsimony procedure (Templeton *et al.*, 1987;

Templeton *et al.*, 1995) implemented in TCS v1.18 (Clement *et al.*, 2000). Nested clade

information was used to infer processes that could explain the geographic and genetic distribution

of sequences using the program GeoDis v2.2 (Posada *et al.*, 2000). Both TCS v1.18 and GeoDis

v2.2 were performed in ANeCA (Panchal, 2007).

**Acknowledgements**

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under

Grants No. DEB-1050475 and DEB-1456821. We would like to thank Ashley Campbell for her

help in generating MLSA sequences.

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**Table and Figure Legends**

**Table 1.** A total of 755 *Streptomyces* strains were isolated from 13 sites, and 308 of these strains were found to represent the six targeted phylogroups. The numbers of isolates per site that belonged to each of our target phylogroups is indicated. Isolate names begin with a letter code referring to the sample site.

| Site | Code | Latitude | Longitude | Altitude | Isolates/ Site | Isolates from *Streptomyces* sp. phylogroup | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | MAN 125 | MAN 196 | WA 1063 | MS 200 | MS 152 | F34 |
| Manley Hot Springs, AK | man | 63.87˚N | -149.02˚W | 452 m | 95 | 51 | 26 | 1 | | | |
| Denali Hwy, AK | den | 63.22˚N | -147.68˚W | 894 m | 40 | 40 | | | | | |
| Bothell, WA | wa | 47.73˚N | -122.24˚W | 132 m | 105 | 21 | 5 | 21 | | | |
| Astoria, OR | or | 46.18˚N | -123.85˚W | 40 m | 79 | | 8 | 7 | | | |
| Kennebunk, ME | me | 43.4˚N | -70.54˚W | 28 m | 85 | | 13 | | | | |
| Sun Prairie, WI | sun | 43.17˚N | -89.24˚W | 289 m | 65 | 3 | | | | 3 | |
| Brookfield, WI | b | 43.06˚N | -88.13˚W | 277 m | 22 | | | 5 | | | |
| Palo Alto, CA | st | 37.43˚N | -122.17˚W | 24 m | 34 | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Greensboro, NC | gb | 36.09˚N | -79.89˚W | 276 m | 9 | | 1 | | | 2 | |
| Troy, NC | uw | 35.71˚N | -79.88˚W | 194 m | 19 | | 4 | | 7 | | |
| Starkville, MS | ms | 33.46˚N | -88.8˚W | 119 m | 90 | | | | 11 | 8 | 2 |
| Austin, TX | t | 30.2˚N | -97.77˚W | 199 m | 42 | | | | | | 6 |
| Fort Pierce, FL | f | 27.54˚N | -80.35˚W | 0 m | 70 | | | | 7 | 5 | 48 |
| **Total** | | | | | 755 | 115 | 57 | 34 | 28 | 17 | 57 |

**Table 2.** MLSA was performed on a total of 17-47 strains from each phylogroup. Summary statistics for concatenated MLSA nucleotide sequences were determined as described in methods. Phylogroup average latitude (Ave Lat) was determined using the total number of isolates per phylogroup provided in Table 1. The standard index of association is zero for a population in linkage equilibrium.

| Phylo-group | Ave Lat | n | Haplo-types | Min ANI | S | $\pi$ | Tajima's D | $\theta_W$ | $\rho$ | $\rho/\theta_W$ | $I_A$ | $\Phi_W$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MAN125 | 60.15˚N | 45 | 25 | 99.5 | 23 | 0.0026 | 0.53 | 0.0023 | 0.0094 | 4.18 | 0.09 | 2.95E-01 |
| MAN196 | 52.84˚N | 47 | 26 | 98.5 | 65 | 0.0075 | 0.67 | 0.0063 | 0.00043 | 0.068 | 0.49 | 4.24E-02* |
| WA1063 | 47.20˚N | 19 | 13 | 98.1 | 63 | 0.0052 | -1.35 | 0.0077 | 0 | 0 | 0.43 | 4.33E-03 |
| MS200 | 33.58˚N | 27 | 21 | 98.4 | 93 | 0.0088 | -0.58 | 0.0103 | 0.0017 | 0.17 | 0.39 | 1.33E-03** |
| MS152 | 32.50˚N | 17 | 15 | 97.6 | 96 | 0.0107 | -0.51 | 0.012 | 0.0013 | 0.11 | 0.35 | 1.078E-01** |
| F34 | 28.20˚N | 36 | 22 | 97.7 | 93 | 0.0109 | 0.52 | 0.0096 | 0.0011 | 0.11 | 0.46 | 1.79E-01** |

Ave Lat: average latitude of phylogroup members
n: number of isolates subsampled for MLSA
Min ANI: minimum percent pairwise average nucleotide identity (ANI) within phylogroup members
S: segregating sites
$\pi$: per site nucleotide diversity
$\theta_W$: per site Watterson's theta ($2N_e\mu$)
$\rho$: per site rate of recombination/gene conversion ($2N_e r/2$)
$\rho/\theta_W$: relative rate of recombination to mutation
$I_A$: standard index of association
$\Phi_W$: pairwise homoplasy index (Phi) statistic with *p*-value < 0.05*, 0.01** under the null hypothesis of no recombination

**Figure 1.** Tree was constructed from concatenated MLSA loci nucleotide sequences using maximum likelihood with a GTRGAMMA evolution model. Scale bar represents nucleotide substitutions per site. The root was defined by *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. Nodes with bootstrap confidences > 80 are indicated with gray circles, and precise bootstrap values are found in Figure S4A. The colored bars in the outer ring indicate genetic contributions from different ancestral populations as inferred by Structure analysis. The shading of the inner ring indicates the latitude from which each strain was isolated according to the scale provided. The isolation site for each strain can be determined by isolate names as indicated in Table 1.

**Figure 2.** Circles depict sample sites and are labeled according to site code (Table 1). The relative abundance of each phylogroup at each site is indicated by color according to the legend, with raw counts provided in Table 1. Solid colored lines represent identical alleles shared by phylogroup members subsampled for MLSA across sites. Dashed multicolored lines depict identical *atpD* alleles shared by strains in phylogroups WA1063 and MS152 (Figure S4B).

**Figure 3.** Haplotype networks for phylogroups MAN125 (3A), MAN196 (3B), MS152 (3C), WA1063 (3D). Circles represent MLSA haplotypes whose radius is proportional to the number of isolates having that haplotype, and colors correspond to strain ancestry and subpopulation affiliation as determined by Structure analysis and defined in Figure 1. Haplotypes are labeled with a letter code referring to sample site location as indicated in Table 1 (all haplotypes for MAN125,

MAN196, MS152, and WA1063 are found exclusively at a single site). Black circles represent un-sampled, inferred haplotypes with each circle designating a single nucleotide polymorphism. The length of edges between nodes is uninformative. Dashed rectangles encompass clades that have significant phylogeographic inferences from nested clade analysis, as described in methods. Roman numerals correspond to the following inferences: I. Allopatric fragmentation; II. Long distance colonization and/or past fragmentation; III. Restricted gene flow with isolation by distance; IV. Restricted gene flow but with some long-distance gene flow over intermediate ranges not occupied by the species; or past gene flow followed by extinction of intermediate populations; V. Contiguous range expansion.

**Figure 4.** Average latitude was determined using a weighted average based on the total number of isolates per site as indicated in Table 1. Nucleotide diversity was calculated using concatenated MLSA loci and is expressed per site.