1 **Title:** Genomic evidence for population-specific responses to coevolving parasites in a New
2 Zealand freshwater snail
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4 **Running Title:** Lake-level responses to coevolving parasites
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Abstract

Reciprocal coevolving interactions between hosts and parasites are a primary source of strong

selection that can promote rapid and often population- or genotype-specific evolutionary change.

These host-parasite interactions are also a major source of disease. Despite their importance, very

little is known about the genomic basis of coevolving host-parasite interactions in natural

populations, especially in animals. Here, we use gene expression and sequence evolution

approaches to take critical steps towards characterizing the genomic basis of interactions between

the freshwater snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and its coevolving sterilizing trematode parasite,

Microphallus sp., a textbook example of natural coevolution. We found that *Microphallus*-

infected *P. antipodarum* exhibit systematic downregulation of genes relative to uninfected *P.*

antipodarum. The specific genes involved in parasite response differ markedly across lakes,

consistent with a scenario where population-level coevolution is leading to population-specific

host-parasite interactions and evolutionary trajectories. We also used an F_{ST}-based approach to

identify a set of loci that represent promising candidates for targets of parasite-mediated selection

across lakes as well as within each lake population. These results constitute the first genomic

evidence for population-specific responses to coevolving infection in the *P. antipodarum-*

Microphallus interaction and provide new insights into the genomic basis of coevolutionary

interactions in nature.

Introduction

Host-parasite interactions constitute a primary source of natural selection and provide a powerful

means of evaluating the evolutionary response to strong selection (Hamilton 1980; Abbate *et al.*

2015). Reciprocal antagonistic selection for greater host resistance and parasite infectivity can

lead to antagonistic coevolution between host and parasite (Ehrlich & Raven 1964), which can in

turn maintain high genetic diversity (Laine 2009; Bérénos *et al.* 2011; King *et al.* 2011; van

Houte *et al.* 2016) and drive rapid evolutionary diversification (Laine 2009; Paterson *et al.* 2010;

Masri *et al.* 2015).

While a great deal is known about the genomic underpinnings of plant-pathogen

interactions (reviewed in Kover & Caicedo 2001), much less is known about animal systems, and

particularly in natural populations (Routtu & Ebert 2015). Host-parasite interactions often have a

genetic basis (*e.g.,* Paterson *et al.* 2010; Luijckx *et al.* 2013; Masri *et al.* 2015; van Houte *et al.*

2016), are linked to rapid molecular evolution (*e.g.,* Paterson *et al.* 2010; Tennessen *et al.* 2015),

and are associated with gene expression changes (*e.g.,* Barribeau *et al.* 2014; de Bekker *et al.*

2015; McTaggart *et al.* 2015). Because most studies providing important insights into the genetic

and genomic basis of host-parasite coevolutionary interactions have been limited to the laboratory

(*e.g.,* Roger *et al.* 2008; Arican-Goktas *et al.* 2014; Barribeau *et al.* 2014; but also see

Decaestecker *et al.* 2007; Routtu & Ebert 2015), we know very little about the evolutionary

genomics of host-parasite interactions in natural populations (especially animals) and whether

results from laboratory studies are recapitulated in nature (Routtu & Ebert 2015). As such,

elucidating the processes of coevolution in nature is a requirement both to characterize a primary

driver of selection and to formulate targeted strategies to fight natural parasite populations (*e.g.,*

Gleichsner *et al.* 2015; Neafsey *et al.* 2015). Characterization of parasite-mediated changes in

host gene expression provides a powerful means of deciphering the genomic basis of natural

coevolutionary interactions because expression changes are often genotype or population-specific

(*e.g.,* Barribeau *et al.* 2014), can affect host response to parasites (*e.g.,* Brunner *et al.* 2013), and

can underlie variation in resistance and susceptibility to infection (*e.g.,* Stutz *et al.* 2015).

The New Zealand freshwater snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* and its sterilizing

coevolving trematode parasite *Microphallus* sp. ("*Microphallus*") provide an especially

compelling context for characterizing the genomic basis of coevolution in natural populations.

First, selection imposed by both host and parasite is extremely strong: infected snails are

completely sterilized (Winterbourn 1973), and *Microphallus* that cannot infect the first *P.*

antipodarum by which they are ingested will die (King *et al.* 2011). Second, different *P.*

antipodarum populations experience consistently high *vs.* consistently low *Microphallus*

infection frequencies (Lively & Jokela 2002; King & Lively 2009; Vergara *et al.* 2013),

indicating that infection frequency is a major determinant of the strength of parasite-mediated

selection and, thus, the rate and mode of coevolution within each population. Third, *Microphallus*

is locally adapted to *P. antipodarum* at both within- and among-lake scales (Lively *et al.* 2004;

King *et al.* 2009), demonstrating the fine spatial scale of coevolution in this system. Fourth, the

existence of many naturally replicated and separately evolving *P. antipodarum*-*Microphallus*

interactions means that each population can be treated as a separate evolutionary experiment into

the consequences of antagonistic coevolution (Dybdahl & Lively 1996). Finally, rapid

coevolution of *P. antipodarum* and *Microphallus* has been documented in both a natural

population (Jokela *et al.* 2009) and in an experimental coevolution study (Koskella & Lively

2009).

Multiple studies suggest that coevolutionary interactions between *P. antipodarum* and

Microphallus fit a "matching alleles" infection genetics model, whereby there are no universally

infective parasites or resistant hosts (Dybdahl & Krist 2004; Lively *et al.* 2004; Osnas & Lively

2005; King *et al.* 2009). Rather, *P. antipodarum* susceptibility depends on whether the genotype

of the *Microphallus* individual matches the *P. antipodarum* individual at loci involved in

resistance. Similar matching-allele mechanisms are thought to operate in other snail-trematode

systems such as the laboratory model *Biomphalaria glabrata-Schistosoma mansoni* (reviewed in

Adema & Loker 2015). Recent studies suggest that both allelic identity (Roger *et al.* 2008) and

gene expression (Arican-Goktas 2014) are likely involved in mediating *B. glabrata* susceptibility

to *S. mansoni* infection, emphasizing the potentially central role for gene expression in

determining outcomes of host-parasite interactions in this and other snail-trematode systems

(Hotez 2013; Jurberg & Brindley 2015).

Here, we take critical steps towards illuminating the genomic basis of coevolution in this

textbook example of antagonistic coevolution (*e.g.*, Zimmer & Emlen 2013; Herron & Freeman

2014; Bergstrom & Dugatkin 2016) by using RNA-Seq to perform gene expression and F_{ST}

analyses for three replicated samples of *Microphallus*-infected *vs.* uninfected *P. antipodarum*

from each of three different lake populations. In light of existing ecological evidence for

population structure and local adaptation in this system, we expected to observe divergence

between populations at both the gene expression and genetic level, such that population of origin

as well as infection status would influence patterns of gene expression and relative levels of

genetic differentiation. Such divergence at genetic and gene expression levels should be

especially notable with respect to genes likely to be involved in the coevolutionary response to

Microphallus infection.

Materials and Methods

Sample collection, dissection, and sample selection. Adult *P. antipodarum* were collected from

shallow water (depth < 1m) habitats along the lake margins of three New Zealand lakes

(Alexandrina, Kaniere, Selfe) known to contain relatively high *Microphallus* infection

frequencies (~10-20%, Vergara *et al.* 2013; Table S1). Following transfer to the University of

Iowa, we housed snails in 15 L tanks at 16°C with a 16:8 hour light:dark cycle and supplied *ad*

libitum dried *Spirulina* (*e.g.*, Zachar & Neiman 2013) for one week to allow snails to recover

from international travel prior to dissection and RNA isolation.

Because *P. antipodarum* is polymorphic for reproductive mode and ploidy level (Lively

1987; Neiman *et al.* 2011), we confined our RNA-Seq analyses to diploid adult non-brooding

(non-reproductively active) females. These criteria ensured that we limited extraneous biological

processes that may conflate differences in gene expression related to interactions between *P.*

antipodarum and *Microphallus*. We dissected each snail to determine sex (male *vs.* female),

Microphallus infection status (infected *vs.* uninfected), and reproductive status (brooding *vs.* non-

brooding). We used the infection data to establish infection frequency for each lake sample

(Table S1). Because *Microphallus* infection fills the body cavity of *P. antipodarum*, we confined

analyses to head tissue. While the use of head tissue necessarily prevents the analysis of genes

that are solely expressed in body tissue, this approach is the only way to ensure that comparable

tissue types are isolated from both infected and uninfected snails.

All infected snails had stage five *Microphallus* infections

(http://www.indiana.edu/~curtweb/trematodes/DATA_KEY.HTM). We first separated the head

tissue of dissected snails, which does not contain *Microphallus* metacercariae, from body tissue,

and then split the dissected head tissue into two halves. We immediately submerged one half of

the head tissue in RNA*later*® Solution (Life Technologies Corporation) and stored the tissue at

4°C for 24 hours followed by storage at -80°C (according to manufacturer protocol) until RNA

extraction. The other head half was immediately snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -

80°C for flow cytometric determination of ploidy level following Krist *et al.* (2014). For each

RNA-sequencing replicate, we pooled head tissue from seven snails to obtain a sufficient amount

of tissue for RNA extraction and sequencing. We obtained three biological replicates of parasite-

infected and uninfected *P. antipodarum* from each of the three lakes, for a total of 18 replicates

and 126 snails.

RNA sequencing and *de novo* reference transcriptome assembly and annotation. We

extracted RNA following the Invitrogen TRIzol protocol (Chomczynski 1993). RNA quantity and

quality were assessed with a Bio-Rad Experion Automated Electrophoresis Station, following

manufacturer protocol for the Experion RNA analysis kit with an RQI $\geq$ 8 and a minimum of 2μg

of total RNA. RNA shearing and cDNA library preparation were completed following the

Illumina Truseq LS protocol (Illumina, San Diego, CA, 2012). Following library preparation, we

used an Illumina HiSeq 2000 for 2x100 bp paired-end RNA sequencing. Each RNA sample was

given a unique indexed adapter sequence (Illumina, San Diego, CA, 2012) and was then

separated into two halves, allowing us to sequence each sample twice in two different lanes in

order to eliminate bias due to sequencing lane (two technical replicates per sample). We obtained

a mean read length (SD) of 100.7 bp (0.96 bp) and a mean number of paired-end reads/replicated

sample/lane (SD) of 10070420 (1474539.10), for ~20000000 paired-end reads/replicate. Next, we

used FASTX Toolkit (Gordon & Hannon 2010) and FastQC (Andrews 2010) to trim adapters,

assess sequencing quality, and filter out low-quality reads from the raw RNA-Seq data (see Table

S2 for specific parameters). Quality filtering resulted in a mean sequence quality (Phred) score of

35.95, and a mean number of reads/replicate/lane (SD) of 9871440.4 (1468645.04), for a total of

~18000000 paired-end reads/replicate, about twice the coverage required to quantify expression

differences across a wide range of expression levels (Wolf 2013).

We used Trinity v. 2.0.4 (Gabherr *et al.* 2011; Haas *et al.* 2013) to generate an initial *de*

novo assembly using all of the combined filtered RNA-Seq data. First, we performed the

recommended Trinity *in silico* normalization for each replicate in order to reduce the amount of

memory required for the assembly process while maintaining a representative read set (following

Gabherr *et al.* 2011; Haas *et al.* 2013). We then used Trinity to assemble the normalized reads

(Haas *et al.* 2013), generating a transcriptome assembly with 462736 transcripts (Table S2). We

annotated protein-coding regions in the transcriptome in order to identify long ORFs of putative

genes that could be missed by homology searches and to filter out miscalled isoforms by using

the Trinity plugin TransDecoder (Haas *et al.* 2013) (Table S2). This step also lessens the

influence of sequencing errors, misassembled transcripts, chimeric sequences, and other common

assembly issues (De Wit *et al.* 2015). Next, we used hierarchical clustering based on sequence

identity to further reduce redundancy in the transcriptome assembly, as implemented in CD-HIT-

EST (Huang *et al.* 2010) (Table S2). Finally, we identified and eliminated potential contaminant

transcripts using the 'blast_taxonomy_report.pl' script from the Blobology pipeline (Kumar *et al.*

2013), blastx (Camacho *et al.* 2009) and a custom python script (available at:

github.com/jsharbrough/grabContigs). We used Blobology to filter out transcripts with non-

metazoan top blast hits, as well as Platyhelminthes (representing potential *Microphallus*

contamination). These last filtering steps provided a final reference transcriptome assembly with

62862 transcripts.

We annotated the reference transcriptome by using blastx (Camacho *et al.* 2009) with an

E-value cutoff of 1e-5. We then imported these blastx results into Blast2GO to assign gene

ontology ("GO") terms to blastx-annotated transcripts (Conesa *et al.* 2005). We obtained blastx

annotations for 10171 transcripts and both blastx and GO annotations for 15797 transcripts.

Nearly 75% of our transcriptome did not receive GO annotations, meaning that the functions of

the majority of genes in our transcriptome cannot yet be determined. This result is unsurprising in

light of a distinct deficit of mollusc genome sequence data available to aid in annotation (Kocot *et*

al. 2015); though molluscs are the most species-rich animal phylum after arthropods (Smith *et al.*

2011), only ten (~1.4%) of the 700 sequenced animal genomes available on NCBI as of

September 2016 are from molluscs.

RNA-Seq gene expression analyses, functional enrichment, and F_{ST} outlier analyses. We

used our *de novo* transcriptome as our reference for all gene expression analyses. First, we used

Tophat2 (Trapnell *et al.* 2013) to map filtered RNA-Seq reads to our *de novo* reference

transcriptome. Next, we assembled mapped reads into transcripts and estimated transcript

abundance with Cufflinks (Trapnell *et al.* 2012). We merged Cufflinks GTF and Tophat bam files

for use in CuffDiff with Cuffmerge (Trapnell *et al.* 2012). Finally, we identified and quantified

significant changes in gene expression using an FDR of 5% and Benjamini-Hochberg multiple

test correction, as implemented in CuffDiff (Trapnell *et al.* 2012). We required that fragments per

kilobase per million reads mapped (FPKM) exceeded zero to ensure that we were only comparing

expression patterns among genes transcribed in all replicates (Table S2). We visualized the gene

expression results with heatmaps, MDS plots, and dendrograms generated with cummeRbund

(Goff *et al.* 2013), and used Blast2GO to compare the functions of differentially expressed genes

and quantify the number of transcripts annotated with each GO term. We performed functional

enrichment analyses and Fisher's Exact Tests as implemented in Blast2GO to identify

significantly overrepresented functional groups among differentially expressed genes (Table S2).

We used F_{ST} outlier analyses to identify those genes with especially high levels of genetic

differentiation between infected *vs*. uninfected snails; these genes provide a set of candidates for

Microphallus-mediated selection. We filtered our reference transcriptome to include only

transcripts with fragments per kilobase per million reads mapped (FPKM) > 0 in all 18 replicates

(30685 transcripts) to ensure each replicate was represented for all loci in the F_{ST} comparisons.

We used Tophat2 (Trapnell *et al.* 2013) with the same parameters as in the gene expression

analyses to map RNA-Seq reads to the filtered transcriptome. We then used Picard Tools to

prepare mapped reads for variant discovery (http://picard.sourceforge.net), applying the

AddOrReplaceReadGroups script to add read groups to each mapped bam file. We merged

technical replicate bam files with the MergeSamFiles script, resulting in a single bam file for each

of the 18 replicates. Finally, we used the MarkDuplicates script to identify duplicate reads,

removing reads that mapped to more than one location in the transcriptome. Next, we used

Samtools mpileup (Li *et al.* 2012) to call SNPs from processed bam files.

Analyses of levels of nucleotide variation from pooled RNA-sequencing data with

programs like Popoolation2 (Kofler *et al.* 2011), which was developed to perform variant calling

and calculate F_{ST} from pooled sequencing data, can effectively identity SNPs and candidate focal

genes of selection and perform F_{ST}-based measures of genetic differentiation (*e.g.*, Fischer *et al.*

2013; Konczal *et al.* 2014). We used Popoolation2 (Kofler *et al*. 2011) to calculate F_{ST} per site.

The Popoolation2 pipeline begins by using the mpileup2sync.pl script to generate synchronized

mpileup files that were filtered for base quality (Q20). We then applied the fst-sliding.pl script to

calculate F_{ST} per site. In all cases, we required a minimum coverage of ten, a maximum coverage

of 200 (to reduce memory usage and biases introduced by inter-locus variation in gene

expression), and that each SNP was sequenced at least four times (*e.g.*, Fischer *et al.* 2013;

Konczal *et al.* 2014). We otherwise used default parameters. Finally, we filtered out SNPs with

minor allele frequencies less than 5%. We chose these parameters to account for sequencing

errors and to reduce the likelihood of obtaining false positives by ensuring that each SNP was

sequenced multiple times, at the risk of not detecting rare alleles (*e.g.,* Konczal *et al.* 2014). We

used IBM SPSS Statistics v. 23 to perform outlier analyses and identify outlier SNPs between

infected and uninfected snails. We also identified the expression patterns of each transcript

containing F_{ST} outlier SNPs based on the expression analyses detailed above and evaluated

whether transcripts containing F_{ST} outliers between infected and uninfected snails contained

outliers in multiple lake populations *vs.* only a single lake population. Finally, we compared

relative levels of genetic differentiation (mean per-SNP F_{ST} across all sites for which F_{ST} could be

estimated) between infected and uninfected snails within each lake and mean per-SNP F_{ST}

between lakes using Bonferroni-corrected Welch's t-tests as implemented within IBM SPSS

Statistics v. 23. The putative functions of transcripts representing F_{ST} outliers were assessed using

Blast2GO.

We used three complementary analytical approaches to evaluate the effect of infection

and population on gene expression and genetic differentiation (Fig. S1). First, for the "inclusive

analysis," we identified differentially expressed genes likely to be broadly important for *P.*

antipodarum response to *Microphallus* infection. We began by quantifying expression for each

transcript for all pooled replicates under both conditions (infected and uninfected) to determine

expression differences between all infected *vs.* all uninfected snails (Fig. S1a). We then compared

the annotated functions of differentially expressed genes and performed functional enrichment

analyses to determine the types of genes broadly important for infection response. Next, we

calculated mean per-SNP F_{ST} and performed F_{ST} outlier analyses to measure relative levels of

genetic differentiation within and between infected and uninfected snails and identified functional

annotations and expression patterns of each transcript containing one or more F_{ST} outlier SNPs.

Second, for the "within-lake analysis", we compared gene expression patterns between

infected *vs.* uninfected snails from each lake to characterize local (lake level) gene expression

responses to *Microphallus* infection. This analysis included pairwise comparisons between

infected and uninfected snails from within each lake population (Fig. S1b). We then compared

the functions of differentially expressed genes between infected and uninfected snails within each

lake. We also calculated mean per-SNP F_{ST} and performed F_{ST} outlier analyses between infected

and uninfected snails within each lake. Finally, we determined the functional annotation and

expression pattern of each outlier-containing transcript.

Third, in the "across-lake analysis", we compared replicates by lake and infection status.

Here, our goal was to use patterns of gene expression within and across lakes to evaluate

evidence for local adaptation and identify genes likely to be locally important for response to

Microphallus infection. We conducted every possible pairwise comparison of gene expression

between all replicates from all three lakes (Fig. S1c), allowing us to differentiate between genes

that were differentially expressed in infected *vs.* uninfected replicates across the three lakes (*i.e.*,

evidence for population-specific infection responses) and genes expressed differently across lakes

regardless of infection status (*i.e.*, expression difference due to lake of origin rather than infection

status). Annotation and functional enrichment analyses allowed us to identify putative functions

of genes that were significantly differentially expressed between infected and uninfected snails in

more than one lake population *vs.* within a single lake. We visualized these comparisons with

Euler diagrams generated with eulerAPE v3 (Micallef & Rodgers 2014). Finally, we evaluated

whether transcripts containing F_{ST} outliers between infected and uninfected snails contained

outliers in multiple lake populations *vs.* only a single lake population.

Results

Inclusive analysis: Greater downregulation of transcripts in infected snails. We identified

1408 significantly differentially expressed transcripts (FDR: 5%, Benjamini-Hochberg) between

Microphallus-infected and uninfected snails (Figs. 1a, S1a). Here, we define "upregulated" and

"downregulated" as significantly higher and lower, respectively, expression in infected snails

relative to uninfected counterparts. A significantly higher proportion of these 1408 transcripts

were downregulated (1057, ~75%) *vs.* upregulated (351, ~25%) (Fisher's Exact Test: $p < 0.0001$;

Table 1, Fig. 1a), indicating that infected *P. antipodarum* experience systematic reduction in gene

expression.

We obtained gene ontology (GO) annotations for 447 of these 1408 transcripts, 216 of

which were significantly upregulated and 231 significantly downregulated in infected snails.

Sixteen of these upregulated genes were annotated as involved in immune system processes (Fig.

S2), making these loci our strongest candidates for direct involvement in response to

Microphallus infection. The ten genes with putative brain/behaviour functions that were

upregulated in infected snails (Fig. S2) are particularly interesting candidates for future study in

light of the well-characterized influence of *Microphallus* infection on *P. antipodarum* behaviour

(*e.g.*, Levri 1999). Functional enrichment revealed that in infected snails, antigen processing and

presentation were overrepresented among upregulated genes. Processes related to transcription

and translation were overrepresented among downregulated genes, consistent with our

observation that infected snails had significantly more downregulated genes (Table S3).

Our inclusive F_{ST} analysis, comparing relative levels of genetic differentiation between

infected and uninfected snails, revealed a mean per-SNP F_{ST} (SD) of 0.0367 (0.0504) and

identified 70 outlier SNPs (mean F_{ST} of outliers (SD) of 0.3849 (0.2038)) from 59 transcripts. Of

these 59 transcripts, ten were downregulated and three were upregulated in infected snails,

meaning the majority of F_{ST} outlier-containing genes were not significantly differentially

expressed (Table 1). We obtained functional annotations for 16 of the 59 transcripts, four of

which are likely involved in immune system processes (one transcript) and response to stimuli

(three transcripts) (Tables S4, S5).

Within-lake analysis: Lake-specific responses to *Microphallus* infection. Similar to the

inclusive analysis, we observed a significantly greater proportion of downregulated *vs*.

upregulated transcripts in infected *P. antipodarum* in two of the three lakes (Table 1, Figs. 1b,

S1b). A total of 1539 transcripts were significantly differentially expressed between infected and

uninfected snails in at least one of the three pairwise tests (Fig. 1b).

Functional enrichment for the within-lake analysis revealed that various metabolic

processes are overrepresented among upregulated genes in infected snails from Alexandrina

(Table S3). We did not detect significant functional enrichment for genes upregulated in infected

snails from lakes Selfe or Kaniere. Upregulated genes in uninfected snails from Alexandrina and

Selfe are enriched for GO terms related to transcription and translation. Upregulated genes in

uninfected snails from Kaniere are enriched for pantothenate metabolism (Table S3).

The mean per-SNP F_{ST} (SD) between infected and uninfected snails within each lake was

0.0485 (0.0504), 0.0479 (0.0623), and 0.0484 (0.0617) for Alexandrina, Kaniere, and Selfe,

respectively (Fig. 2), providing evidence for population-specific levels of genetic differentiation

between infected and uninfected snails. We identified 42, 50, and 47 F_{ST} outlier SNPs between

infected and uninfected snails (mean F_{ST} of outliers (SD) of 0.3153 (0.1346), 0.3612 (0.1536),

and 0.3352 (0.1442) from Alexandrina, Kaniere, and Selfe, respectively). Similar to the inclusive

analysis, the vast majority of outlier-containing transcripts (93.5%) were not significantly

differentially expressed (Table 1).

Across-lake analysis: Lake of origin strongly influences gene expression and relative levels

of genetic differentiation. We observed 6228 significantly differentially expressed transcripts

within and across lakes (Figs. 3, S1c). ~75% (4689) of these 6228 transcripts were significantly

differentially expressed across the three lakes regardless of infection status, indicating that lake of

origin has a markedly stronger influence on gene expression than infection status (Figs. 1b, 3, 4,

S3). Similarly, when replicates are clustered based on expression profile, they group first by lake

of origin, followed by infection status. This result indicates both that population of origin is a key

determinant of gene expression in *P. antipodarum* (Figs. 3, S3) and that infection results in

predictable changes in expression (Fig. 3) that are still detectable on this background of

population divergence. These findings are consistent with and extend to the gene expression level

evidence for population-specific phenotypes (Holomuzki & Biggs 2006; Krist *et al.* 2014) and

marked population genetic structure (Neiman & Lively 2004; Neiman *et al.* 2011; Paczesniak *et*

al. 2013) in *P. antipodarum*. These results also demonstrate that both population of origin and

infection have marked consistent and systematic consequences for gene expression in this

species.

We used the total number of transcripts identified as significantly differentially expressed

between infected and uninfected snails (1539) in at least one of the three within-lake analyses

(Fig. 1b) to compare the number of significantly up or downregulated transcripts in multiple *vs*.

single populations, allowing us to determine whether snails from different lakes have similar gene

expression responses to *Microphallus* infection. This comparison revealed that nearly all of the

differentially expressed transcripts from the within-lake analysis (1447 transcripts, 94%) are only

significantly differentially expressed in a single lake. Only 6% (92) of the differentially expressed

transcripts showed significant differential expression in more than one population (Fig. 4). In

summary, the vast majority of differentially expressed transcripts between infected and

uninfected snails show significant up or downregulation in only one population, suggesting a

distinct local (lake specific) gene expression response to parasite infection.

Next, we identified the types of genes that were significantly differentially expressed in

single *vs*. multiple populations to parse out general *vs*. lake-specific infection responses. Of the 92

genes that were significantly differentially expressed in more than one lake, 22 genes were

upregulated in infected snails (Table S6). We obtained GO annotations for seven of these genes,

which had functions related to immune response, nervous system function, and metabolism. Ten

of the 70 genes found to be significantly downregulated in infected snails in more than one lake

received GO annotations, which included immune function, response to stimulus, and

transcription/translation (Table S6). 396 of the 1447 genes that were significantly differentially

expressed in only one lake received GO annotations (Fig. S2). Even though the particular genes

experiencing differential expression differ on a lake-by-lake basis, these different genes often

belong to similar GO categories (*e.g.*, immune system processes, response to stimulus, and

behaviour).

We also evaluated how many transcripts contained F_{ST} outlier SNPs in single *vs*. multiple

populations. Similar to our gene expression analyses, we found that very few transcripts (six

transcripts, ~5%) containing F_{ST} outlier SNPs between infected and uninfected snails in one

population also contained outlier SNPs in another population (three transcripts between

Alexandrina and Kaniere, two transcripts between Alexandrina and Selfe, and one transcript

between Kaniere and Selfe). This result indicates that the focal loci of *Microphallus*-mediated

selection are likely to often be population specific. Of the transcripts that contained outlier SNPs,

12, 19, and 16 transcripts were annotated for Alexandrina, Kaniere, and Selfe, respectively. Two

of these transcripts were annotated as relevant to immune system processes, 13 transcripts were

annotated as involved in response to stimuli, and six transcripts were annotated with functions

related to neurological/behavioural processes (Tables S4, S5).

Finally, we compared mean per-SNP F_{ST} across lakes as a whole, for infected replicates

only, and for uninfected replicates only. We found that F_{ST} between infected and uninfected

snails within each lake was significantly lower than the mean F_{ST} for any across-lake comparison

(Fig. 2), indicating relatively greater levels of genetic differentiation among lake populations than

between infected and uninfected snails within a population. This result is consistent with and

extends to the genome level the outcome of marker-based studies (*e.g.,* Paczesniak *et al.* 2013)

that have documented strong across-lake genetic structure in *P. antipodarum*.

Discussion

We used gene expression and F_{ST} analyses to shed light on the genomic underpinnings of

coevolution in a natural context. Most importantly, we found that population of origin is an

important factor influencing gene expression, and that infection of *P. antipodarum* by its

coevolving trematode parasite *Microphallus* elicits a marked, systematic, and population-specific

gene expression response. These results have important implications for our understanding of the

dynamics of coevolution in the *P. antipodarum-Microphallus* system, setting the stage for future

research targeted at in-depth characterization of these population-level effects on the candidate

loci that we identified. Our F_{ST} analyses allowed us to evaluate relative levels of genetic

differentiation within and among lakes and also revealed promising candidate genes for the focus

of *Microphallus*-mediated selection. These findings provide a qualitative advance by extending

evidence for local adaptation and coevolution in this textbook coevolutionary interaction to the

genomic level, demonstrating distinct local genetic and gene expression responses by *P.*

antipodarum to *Microphallus* infection. Together, these results illuminate the unique and

important insights that can come from sampling multiple natural populations of interacting hosts

and parasites.

Systematic downregulation and response to parasite infection. Our inclusive analysis revealed

that the majority of transcripts that are significantly differentially expressed in infected snails are

downregulated relative to uninfected snails. This pattern could reflect several non-mutually

exclusive phenomena, ranging from tissue/organ destruction and/or overall poor condition of

infected snails (*e.g.,* Barribeau *et al.* 2014) to reallocation of resources to genes needed for

defence against and response to *Microphallus* infection (*e.g.,* Ederli *et al.* 2015) to suppression

and/or parasitic manipulation of *P. antipodarum* gene expression by *Microphallus* as a means of

evading host immune and defence systems (*e.g.,* Levri & Lively 1996; Barribeau *et al.* 2014;

Soper *et al.* 2014; de Bekker *et al.* 2015). Regardless of the specific mechanism(s) involved, the

transcripts that are differentially expressed between infected and uninfected snails in the inclusive

analysis represent a set of genes that are most likely to be of general importance to the *P.*

antipodarum-Microphallus interaction. Our inclusive F_{ST} analyses yielded additional candidate

genes for the focus of parasite-mediated selection; the 70 SNPs from 59 genes that show

relatively high levels of genetic differentiation provide a particularly strong set of candidate loci

for *Microphallus* response. The presence of genes annotated with immune/stress responses and

with neurological and behaviour-related functions strengthens this conclusion.

Genomic evidence for population-level responses to infection. Our results demonstrate that *P.*

antipodarum response to *Microphallus* infection is largely population specific. For example, in

Alexandrina and Kaniere, the majority of significantly differentially expressed transcripts are

downregulated in infected relative to uninfected snails (73% for Alexandrina and 66% for

Kaniere). By contrast, the proportion of significantly upregulated and downregulated transcripts

is much more similar in snails from Selfe (52% *vs*. 58%, respectively). This pattern is interesting

in light of data from Vergara *et al.* (2013) suggesting that lake Selfe *P. antipodarum* have

historically experienced lower frequencies of *Microphallus* infection (3.5x lower than

Alexandrina, 1.4x lower than Kaniere; Table S1) (Vergara *et al*. 2013), suggesting that these

populations may have experienced different historical intensities of *Microphallus*-mediated

selection.

The vast majority (~87%) of differentially expressed transcripts were only significantly

differentially expressed in a single lake population, and ~75% of significantly differentially

expressed transcripts were expressed differently across lakes regardless of infection status,

highlighting the important influence of population of origin on gene expression. We also found

significantly lower levels of relative genetic differentiation between snails within *vs*. across lakes

regardless of infection status, providing an intriguing potential connection between expression

profile differences in different populations with genetic divergence between lakes. This result is

consistent with previous evidence for population structure (*e.g.* Neiman *et al.* 2004; Neiman *et al.*

2011, Paczesniak *et al.* 2013) and/or negative frequency-dependent selection driving divergence

among populations in the *P. antipodarum* system (*e.g.*, Dybdahl & Lively 1998). Together, these

results demonstrate that lake of origin has a major influence on gene expression and relative

genetic differentiation in *P. antipodarum* and provide the first genomic evidence consistent with

lake-specific interactions between *Microphallus* and *P. antipodarum*.

Candidate loci for future research. Our results provide a strong set of candidate loci for the

genomic basis of *P. antipodarum* and *Microphallus* interactions. Three of the 16 upregulated

immune-relevant genes are homologous to genes involved in response to trematode infection in

the *Biomphalaria glabrata-Schistosoma mansoni* host-parasite system (*e.g.,* Mitta *et al.* 2005;

reviewed in Coustau *et al.* 2015), suggesting these genes might play an important role in *P.*

antipodarum response to *Microphallus* infection. We also identified seven downregulated genes

with immune-related functions, including myosin light-chain kinase and fibrinogen-related

proteins, which have also been shown to contribute to resistance to infection in the *Biomphalaria-*

Schistosoma system (Mitta *et al.* 2005; Tennessen *et al.* 2015). Other significantly upregulated

genes with immune-related functions in infected snails represent further candidates for response

to *Microphallus* infection, while significantly downregulated genes with immune-related

functions have the potential to be involved in resisting infection.

Among the genes upregulated in infected snails, we observed functional enrichment for

actin, myosin, and genes with other cytoskeletal functions. Genes involved in cytoskeletal

function, including actin and myosin, are upregulated upon parasite exposure in the

Biomphalaria-Schistosoma system (reviewed in Coustau *et al.* 2015), indicating that these genes

may also contribute to response to parasite infection in *P. antipodarum*. Oxidative processes have

also been implicated in schistosome defence response in *Biomphalaria* (Adema *et al.* 2010,

reviewed in Coustau *et al.* 2015); a preliminary line of evidence that oxidative processes may also

be involved in the *P. antipodarum* trematode response is provided by significant functional

enrichment of genes involved in oxidative processes in infected snails (*e.g.*, NADH oxidation,

fatty acid beta-oxidation, energy derivation by oxidation of organic compounds).

The inclusive analysis revealed 21 upregulated and 16 downregulated genes with potential

roles in important behavioural traits (*e.g.*, foraging, locomotion, mating) (Fig. S2). These results

are consistent with evidence that exposure to (Soper *et al.* 2014) and infection by *Microphallus*

(Levri & Lively 1996; Levri 1999) affects *P. antipodarum* behaviour. In particular, infected

snails forage at a higher frequency than uninfected snails during the time of day when the

waterfowl that are *Microphallus*'s final host are active, rendering infected snails more vulnerable

to predation (Levri & Lively 1996). The implications are that these genes are a set of candidates

for potential genetic mechanisms and pathways involved in *Microphallus*-induced alterations to

P. antipodarum behaviour that could influence transmission probability. Future study of snails

from natural populations featuring little to no *Microphallus* infection (Lively 1987; Lively &

Jokela 2002) as well as manipulative experiments that allow comparisons between exposed *vs.*

unexposed and infected *vs.* uninfected individuals will provide valuable additional steps forward

by enabling differentiation between exposed but uninfected *vs.* naïve individuals.

Genes involved in the regulation of gene expression and ribosome structure and function

were overrepresented among significantly downregulated genes. These results are consistent with

our overall observation that infected snails had significantly more downregulated *vs.* upregulated

genes, suggesting that *Microphallus* infection leads to decreased overall gene expression in *P.*

antipodarum. These results are strikingly similar to a recent laboratory study showing that

bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*) exposed to particularly infective genotypes of a trypanosome

parasite (*Crithidia bombi*) downregulated more genes than unexposed bumblebees (Barribeau *et*

al. 2014). Similar results have been reported in other lab-based studies (*e.g.,* Roger *et al.* 2008;

Arican-Goktas *et al.* 2014). Our results thus extend to natural coevolving populations the growing

body of evidence that infected hosts experience systematic downregulation of gene expression.

Summary and conclusions. We present novel evidence for systematic but population-specific

genetic and gene expression responses to parasite infection in the *P. antipodarum-Microphallus*

coevolutionary interaction. These results are the first genome-level evidence for the type of

population-specific response expected under local adaptation and coevolution in this important

host-parasite system. We also identified genes with functions related to immune and defence

response and behaviour that are likely involved in the *P. antipodarum* response to *Microphallus*

infection, providing a set of candidate genes for involvement in the genomic basis of coevolution.

The targeted exploration of these genes made possible by these results will help illuminate the

genetic and genomic mechanisms that determine the outcome of interactions between coevolving

hosts and parasites in nature.

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Data Accessibility

Raw RNA sequencing reads will be deposited on the NCBI Sequence Read Archive. The

annotated reference transcriptome assembly will be deposited on GenBank. Locations of sample

sites, parameters for transcriptome assembly and analyses, and GO annotation and enrichment

analyses are in the online supplementary information. The custom python script used in our

transcriptome pipeline is available at: github.com/jsharbrough/grabContigs.

Author Contributions

LB, MN designed research; LB performed research; LB, PF, KEM analysed data; LB, MN wrote

the manuscript; JLB, JML, MN funded the study; LB, MN, PF, KEM, JLB, JML edited

manuscript.

Table and Figure Legends
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Table 1. Summary of gene expression and F_{ST} outlier analyses

| Population | Expression analyses | | | | | | F_{ST} outlier analyses | | | |
	Upregulated		Downregulated	Total	FET *p*-value		Number of F_{ST} outlier SNPs	Number of transcripts	Upregulated	Downregulated
Alexandrina	267 (0.27)	<	728 (0.73)	995	*p* < 0.0001		42	38	2	5
Kaniere	53 (0.34)	<	103 (0.66)	156	*p* = 0.0011		50	43	0	0
Selfe	267 (0.52)	≅	246 (0.48)	513	*p* = 0.4821		47	38	2	0
Inclusive	351 (0.25)	<	1057 (0.75)	1408	*p* < 0.0001		70	59	3	10

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Table 1: Summary of inclusive and within-lake analyses. Left: number of significantly
upregulated, downregulated, and total number of significantly differentially expressed genes in
infected *vs.* uninfected snails (proportion of differentially expressed genes). Right: number of F_{ST}
outlier SNPs between infected and uninfected snails, number of transcripts containing outlier
SNPs, and the number of transcripts containing outlier SNPs that were significantly upregulated
or downregulated in infected *vs.* uninfected snails.

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Fig. 1. Heatmaps representing significantly differentially expressed transcripts (higher FPKM =
higher expression). Significance was assessed with a FDR of 5% and Benjamini-Hochberg
multiple test correction. a) Inclusive analysis: 1408 significantly differentially expressed
transcripts in infected *vs.* uninfected snails. Transcripts above the black line demarcated with "*"
are downregulated in infected snails (1057), and transcripts below this line are upregulated in
infected snails (351). b) Within-lake analysis: dendrogram and heatmap representing the 6228
significantly differentially expressed transcripts across infection status and lakes. "Ax" =
Alexandrina, "Se" = Selfe, "Kn" = Kaniere, red = infected, blue = uninfected. Snails clustered by
lake of origin rather than infection status, indicating spatially structured gene expression patterns.
Highlighted regions of heatmap contain examples of: expression differences between infected and
uninfected snails within a lake (green), lake-specific expression regardless of infection status
(downregulation in Ax, blue), and across-lake upregulation in infected snails (purple).

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Fig. 2. Mean per-SNP F_{ST} (SD) calculated based on F_{ST} per site. From left to right, the first panel
is mean per-SNP F_{ST} between infected and uninfected snails within each lake, the second panel is
mean per-SNP F_{ST} between lakes (*e.g.,* AxKn = mean per-SNP pairwise F_{ST} between Alexandrina
and Kaniere), the third panel is mean pairwise F_{ST} for infected replicates only, and the fourth
panel is mean F_{ST} for uninfected replicates only. Lake acronyms follow Fig. 1. We used Welch's
t-tests to compare mean F_{ST} (+/- SD) for all possible pairwise comparisons with Bonferroni
multiple test correction (all within-lake infected *vs.* uninfected comparisons had significantly
lower F_{ST} than any of the across lake comparisons; $p < 0.0001$).

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Fig. 3. A multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot depicting how expression profiles are affected by
lake population and infection status. Closer proximity of replicates in plot space indicates a more
similar expression profile. Red = infected, blue = uninfected, diamonds = Alexandrina, triangles
= Kaniere, circles = Selfe. The elliptical outlines (red = infected replicates from each lake; blue =
uninfected replicates from each lake) delineate clustering for a particular replicate type and do not
represent formal statistical tests; these clustering patterns are further supported by a dendrogram
(Fig. S3). While the expression profiles that characterize uninfected and infected snails within
each lake reveal lake-specific gene expression responses to infection, the consistent shift to the
right along the "M1" axis for infected *vs*. uninfected snails for each lake population (highlighted
with arrows) also demonstrates across-lake commonalities in expression profiles for infected
snails.

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815 Fig. 4. Euler diagrams depicting the number of significantly differentially expressed genes in
816 infected *vs.* uninfected snails for the within-lake analysis. Left: number of upregulated genes in
817 single *vs*. multiple lake populations (*e.g*., 47 genes upregulated in Kaniere; 0 genes upregulated in
818 all three lakes). Right: number of downregulated genes in single *vs*. multiple populations. Circle
819 size is proportional to the number of genes in that category.