

**TITLE:**

Radical amino acid changes persist longer in the absence of sex

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**DATA ARCHIVAL LOCATION:**

Sequence data – GenBank  
Python scripts – <https://github.com/jsharbrough>

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Harmful mutations are ubiquitous and inevitable, and the rate at which these mutations  
3 are removed from populations is a critical determinant of evolutionary fate. Closely  
4 related and otherwise similar sexual and asexual taxa provide a particularly powerful  
5 setting in which to study deleterious mutation elimination because sexual reproduction  
6 should facilitate mutational clearance by reducing selective interference between sites  
7 and by allowing the production of offspring with different mutational complements than  
8 their parents. Here, we compared the rate of removal of conservative and radical  
9 nonsynonymous mutations from mitochondrial genomes of sexual vs. asexual  
10 populations of *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, a New Zealand freshwater snail species  
11 with coexisting and ecologically similar sexual and asexual lineages. Our analyses  
12 revealed that radical changes are removed from populations at significantly higher rates  
13 than conservative changes and that sexual lineages eliminate these radical changes  
14 more rapidly than asexual counterparts. Taken together, these results indicate that  
15 reduced efficacy of purifying selection in asexual lineages allows harmful mutations to  
16 remain polymorphic longer than in sexual lineages, potentially influencing the outcome  
17 of competition between sexual and asexual lineages.

## 18 INTRODUCTION

19 One of the primary hypothesized advantages for sexual reproduction is the clearance of  
20 harmful mutations, which is expected to be much more effective when linkage  
21 disequilibria (LD) are disrupted by sex (Hill and Robertson 1966). Although this LD  
22 disruption should be most apparent in the nuclear genome, biparental inheritance and  
23 meiotic recombination in the nuclear genome should also decrease LD between the  
24 nuclear genome and the mitochondrial genome (i.e., mitonuclear LD). Reduced  
25 mitonuclear LD should therefore decrease the extent to which selection against  
26 deleterious mitochondrial mutations is impeded by simultaneous selection on nuclear  
27 variants (Normark and Moran 2000; Neiman and Taylor 2009). The evolutionary  
28 consequences of sexual reproduction (i.e., elevated efficacy of natural selection) should  
29 therefore extend beyond the nuclear genome to cytoplasmic genomes, which are  
30 typically uniparentally transmitted and often lack recombination (Barr et al. 2005).  
31 Accordingly, the uniparental inheritance of both mitochondrial and nuclear genomes and  
32 reduced or absent meiotic recombination that characterize asexual reproduction should  
33 result in effectively complete mitonuclear LD, such that nuclear and mitochondrial  
34 genomes are co-transmitted from mother to daughter. This elevated mitonuclear LD,  
35 combined with simultaneous selection on nuclear variants, should impede selection in  
36 the cytoplasmic genomes of asexual lineages (Normark and Moran 2000). Reduced  
37 efficacy of selection in the cytoplasmic genomes of asexual lineages is most obviously  
38 linked to accumulation of *slightly* deleterious mutations over time (Gabriel et al. 1993;  
39 Neiman and Taylor 2009); however, the Hill-Robertson effect (i.e., smaller  $N_e$ 's) is  
40 expected to reduce the efficacy of selection with respect to *all* mutational changes. The

41 implications are that although most strongly deleterious mutations should eventually be  
42 purged from asexual populations, these mutations will tend to remain polymorphic for a  
43 longer period of time than similar mutations in sexual populations. This means that even  
44 severely deleterious changes will have a higher probability of fixation by random drift in  
45 asexual vs. sexual lineages.

46         The co-transmission of nuclear and cytoplasmic genomes might also confer  
47 benefits. In particular, the heritability of epistatic variation should be elevated in asexual  
48 lineages, with the implication that multilocus genotypes (e.g., genes encoding multi-  
49 subunit enzymes) harbored in asexuals might experience relatively effective coevolution  
50 (Neiman and Linksvayer 2006). The transition to permanent linkage of nuclear and  
51 cytoplasmic genomes could therefore result in particularly rapid coevolution of  
52 cytoplasmic genomes and their corresponding nuclear-encoded interacting partners  
53 following the loss of sex. Because both (1) accelerated accumulation of harmful  
54 mutations and (2) elevated rates of epistatic coevolution in asexual lineages should  
55 result in increased evolutionary rates at nonsynonymous sites in the mitochondrial  
56 genomes of asexual lineages compared to those of sexual lineages, it is critical to  
57 distinguish between the types of nonsynonymous mutations that are accumulating in  
58 asexual lineages.

59         The prediction that asexual lineages should experience a higher rate of  
60 accumulation of harmful mutations has found support from animal (Neiman et al. 2010;  
61 Henry et al. 2012) and plant (Voigt-Zielinski et al. 2012; Hollister et al. 2015; Lovell et al.  
62 2017) taxa. While these results represent important steps towards understanding the  
63 genomic consequences of asexuality, the evolutionary mechanisms underlying these

64 observations remain unclear, in large part because the extent to which accumulated  
65 mutations are actually deleterious in asexuals has not been evaluated. This type of  
66 information is especially important in light of substantial evidence that nonsynonymous  
67 mutations are likely to vary widely in fitness effects (Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2007;  
68 Boyko et al. 2008). Predicting and characterizing the fitness effects of these  
69 nonsynonymous mutations remains a central area of focus in evolutionary biology  
70 (Keightley and Charlesworth 2005; Xue et al. 2008; Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2009;  
71 Andolfatto et al. 2011; Halligan et al. 2011). Here, we take advantage of the fact that the  
72 biochemical properties of amino acids represent useful heuristics for inferring effects of  
73 mutations on protein phenotype (Zhang 2000; Hanada et al. 2007; Popadin et al. 2007)  
74 to take critical steps towards assessing whether mutations likely to influence fitness  
75 accumulate differently in asexual than in sexual lineages.

76         The removal of deleterious mutations (and the fixation of beneficial mutations)  
77 depends upon the efficacy of selection as well as the fitness effect of mutations, such  
78 that elevated  $N_e$  and reduced LD in sexual vs. asexual populations should result in more  
79 rapid removal of deleterious mutations for the former (Birky and Walsh 1988). As such,  
80 comparing rates and patterns of evolution across reproductive modes while  
81 incorporating information about mutational severity will provide a powerful glimpse into  
82 the evolutionary dynamics governing the removal of deleterious mutations. The New  
83 Zealand freshwater snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* is ideally suited to evaluate this  
84 critically important evolutionary process because otherwise similar obligately sexual and  
85 obligately asexual *P. antipodarum* frequently coexist within New Zealand lake  
86 populations (Lively 1987; Jokela et al. 1997), enabling direct comparisons across

87 reproductive modes, and, thereby, across genomes that experience predictable  
88 variation in the efficacy of selection.

89         Asexual lineages of *P. antipodarum* are the product of multiple distinct transitions  
90 from sexual *P. antipodarum* (Neiman and Lively 2004; Neiman et al. 2011), meaning  
91 that these asexual lineages represent separate natural experiments into the  
92 consequences of the absence of sex. Neiman et al. (2010) showed that asexual  
93 lineages of *P. antipodarum* experience a higher rate of nonsynonymous substitution in  
94 their mitochondrial genomes than sexual lineages. Here, we qualitatively extend these  
95 studies by using whole mitochondrial genomes to evaluate whether sexual lineages  
96 distinguish between radical and conservative changes more effectively than asexual  
97 lineages. This approach allowed us to evaluate whether harmful mutation accumulation  
98 is detectable within species and, if so, whether this phenomenon is driven by more  
99 effective selection in sexual lineages vs. relatively rapid mitonuclear coevolution in  
100 asexual lineages. The outcome of these analyses emphasizes fundamental differences  
101 in the rate of accumulation of conservative vs. radical nonsynonymous mutations and  
102 suggests that radical mutations persist longer in mitochondrial genomes of asexual  
103 lineages of *P. antipodarum* compared to sexual counterparts, likely as a consequence  
104 of reduced efficacy of purifying selection.

105

## 106 **MATERIALS & METHODS**

107 **Sequencing.** We analyzed 31 whole mitochondrial genomes from eight sexual lineages  
108 and 23 asexual lineages of *P. antipodarum* and 1 whole mitochondrial genome from the  
109 closely related *Potamopyrgus estuarinus*, representing the wide-ranging mitochondrial

110 genetic diversity of this species in New Zealand along with several invasive lineages  
111 (European, North American, see Table S1, Figure 1, Neiman and Lively 2004; Neiman  
112 et al. 2011; Paczesniak et al. 2013). We obtained 19 publicly available mitochondrial  
113 genomes (4 sexual, 14 asexual, 1 *P. estuarinus*, Accession Nos.: GQ996415 –  
114 GQ996433, Neiman et al. 2010), sequenced eight mitochondrial genomes (2 sexual, 6  
115 asexual) using bi-directional Sanger sequencing on an ABI 3730 (Applied Biosystems,  
116 Foster City, CA), and sequenced and assembled five mitochondrial genomes (2 sexual,  
117 3 asexual) using 2x100 bp paired-end sequencing on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 (Illumina,  
118 Inc., San Diego, CA) as part of the ongoing *P. antipodarum* nuclear genome project. For  
119 all newly sequenced lineages, we determined ploidy and thus reproductive mode (2x –  
120 sexual;  $\geq 3x$  – asexual) using flow cytometry following the protocol outlined in (Neiman  
121 et al. 2011; Neiman et al. 2012; Paczesniak et al. 2013; Krist et al. 2014) and extracted  
122 total genomic DNA following a mollusk-adapted phenol-chloroform extraction protocol  
123 (Fukami et al. 2004). We cleaned DNA extractions using the Zymo Clean and  
124 Concentrate Kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA), re-suspended DNA in 30-100  $\mu$ L of T-low-  
125 E buffer (10mM Tris pH8.0, 0.1mM EDTA), and determined DNA concentration and  
126 purity for each sample on a NanoDrop 1000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA).  
127 For the eight Sanger-sequenced samples, we amplified mitochondrial genomes in four  
128 overlapping fragments using primers and programs designed in Neiman et al (2010).  
129 PCR products were cleaned with Shrimp Exo shrimp alkaline phosphatase (Werle et al.  
130 1994) and directly sequenced with internal sequencing primers (Table S2). Sanger-  
131 sequenced mitochondrial genomes were assembled and manually edited in  
132 Sequencher 5.0 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI). Only unambiguous sites

133 supported by  $\geq 2$  reads were included in the assemblies. For the remaining five DNA  
134 samples, we constructed sequencing libraries using the Illumina Nextera DNA Library  
135 Prep Kit and sequenced 2x100 bp paired-end reads on a single lane of an Illumina  
136 HiSeq 2500. Following read trimming and quality control ( $\geq 30$  Phred quality score)  
137 using the Fastx-toolkit (Gordon and Hannon 2010), we assembled mitochondrial  
138 genomes *de novo* using the CLC Genomics Work Bench (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany).  
139 Consensus base calls were then determined for sites with  $>10x$  coverage and Phred-  
140 scaled quality scores  $>30$ . Sites with  $>1$  read supporting a minor allele (i.e.,  
141 heteroplasmies) were not used in this analysis. All newly sequenced mitochondrial  
142 genomes have been deposited in GenBank (Accession Nos.: *sequences will be*  
143 *uploaded to GenBank upon acceptance*).

144

145 **Phylogenetic analysis.** We aligned whole mitochondrial genome sequences from the  
146 31 *P. antipodarum* lineages and one *P. estuarinus* sample using MAFFT v7.305b  
147 (Kato and Standley 2013) and manually edited the alignments in MEGA v5.2.2 (Kumar  
148 et al. 2008), Supplementary File S1). We used jModelTest 2, which uses a corrected  
149 Akaike Information Criterion (AICc), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC) and  
150 performance-based decision theory (DT) in a Maximum Likelihood (ML) framework,  
151 (Darriba et al. 2012), to select appropriate models of molecular evolution. Of the 1,624  
152 possible models evaluated by jModelTest 2, two models produced the highest log-  
153 likelihood scores across all three model estimators: TIM3 (Posada 2003) and GTR  
154 (Tavaré 1986), both with invariant sites (I) and a Gamma distribution of site classes (G).  
155 We therefore used both models (TIM3+I+G, GTR+I+G) to infer ML-based phylogenies



156 using PAUP\*4.0 (Swofford and Sullivan 2009) with 1,000 bootstrap replicates each and  
157 assuming the following priors: TIM3+I+G: lset – base = (0.2587, 0.1736, 0.1748), nst =  
158 6, rmat = (2.7926, 49.1045, 1.0000, 2.7926, 37.8686), rates = gamma, shape = 0.8150,  
159 ncat = 4, pinvar = 0.4550; GTR+I+G: lset – base = (0.2597, 0.1736, 0.1738), nst = 6,  
160 rmat = (1.5661, 37.1103, 0.5913, 2.9024, 28.5161), rates = gamma, shape = 0.8380,  
161 ncat = 4, pinvar = 0.4610. We also inferred the phylogeny for these mitochondrial  
162 genomes under a Bayesian statistical framework using MrBayes v3.2 (Ronquist et al.  
163 2012) assuming the following priors: nucmodel = 4by4, nst = mixed, ploidy = haploid,  
164 rates = invgamma, ngammacat = 4, number of generations =  $10^6$ , relative burn-in = 25%,  
165 number of chains = 4, heating parameter = 0.5, revmat = all GTR submodels have equal  
166 probabilities, statefreq = dirichlet, shape = exponential (1.0), pinvar = uniform (0.0, 1.0),  
167 ratemultiplier = fixed (1.0), topology = all topologies equally probable, brlens =  
168 unconstrained: gammaDir (1.0, 0.1, 1.0, 1.0). After ensuring that the number of  
169 generations ( $10^6$  generations) and burn-in ( $2.5 \times 10^5$  generations) were sufficient for the  
170 log probability of trees to plateau, trees were sampled every 500 generations, resulting  
171 in 24,016 trees of which 2,045 contributed to the 95% credible tree set. We visualized  
172 ML majority rule trees and the consensus Bayesian tree in FigTree v1.4 (Rambaut  
173 2007); only nodes with bootstrap values  $\geq 60$  and posterior probabilities  $\geq 75$  were used  
174 in subsequent tests of molecular evolution (Figure 1).

175         After extracting and concatenating the 13 protein-coding regions from the  
176 alignment (~11.2 kbp, 3,738 amino acids) and for all 32 lineages, we mapped all  
177 mutational changes in protein-coding regions to the fixed tree topology (described  
178 above) according to the rules of parsimony. Only non-homoplasious changes were

179 considered in subsequent phylogenetic analyses of molecular evolution. In our  
180 population genetic analyses, we considered all sites that were variable within *P.*  
181 *antipodarum* (including homoplasious sites) to be polymorphic and all sites that were  
182 distinct between *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus* to be substitutions.

183

184 **Identifying conservative and radical amino acid changes.** To compare mitochondrial  
185 mutation accumulation across mutational types, we classified nonsynonymous changes  
186 as “conservative” changes when the derived amino acid had similar biochemical  
187 properties to the ancestral amino acid and “radical” changes when the derived amino  
188 acid had markedly different biochemical properties compared to the ancestral amino  
189 acid. We used seven different amino acid classification schemes, three drawn from  
190 (Zhang 2000), three drawn from Hanada et al. (2007), and a modified Grantham  
191 scheme based on amino acid composition, polarity, and volume (Grantham 1974) to  
192 evaluate rates and patterns of radical and conservative amino acid evolution (Table 1).  
193 While there is some overlap between different classification schemes, each scheme  
194 highlights different amino acid properties that are likely to shape protein evolution. For  
195 example, amino acid charge is a major determinant of protein folding (Perutz et al.  
196 1965; Anfinsen 1973; Nakashima et al. 1986; Bashford et al. 1987; Wright et al. 2005)  
197 and three-dimensional structure (Lesk and Chothia 1980; Geisler and Weber 1982;  
198 Doms et al. 1988; Rumbley et al. 2001), changes between polar and non-polar amino  
199 acids may expose or bury key interaction residues in membrane-associated proteins  
200 (von Heijne 1992), and volume and aromaticity can both affect protein folding and play a  
201 role in protein-protein interactions (Burley and Petsko 1985). Classification schemes 4

202 and 7 (Table 1) are unique in that they are based on evolutionary information (although  
203 classification scheme 7 largely fits with charge and polarity classifications), meaning  
204 that these schemes incorporate aspects of other amino acid characteristics into their  
205 classifications. Using these seven amino acid classification schemes, we developed an  
206 overall index of the degree of amino acid change that we termed Conservative-Radical  
207 Index (CRI). For each possible amino acid change, we calculated CRI by averaging  
208 across the seven amino acid classification schemes (radical changes assigned a value  
209 = 1, conservative changes assigned a value = 0), such that CRI = 1.0 indicates that the  
210 amino acid change in question was radical in all amino acid classification schemes (e.g.,  
211 V  $\leftrightarrow$  E) whereas CRI = 0.0 indicates that the amino acid change in question was  
212 conservative in all amino acid classification schemes (e.g., V  $\leftrightarrow$  I). Amino acid  
213 changes with CRI  $\leq$  0.5 were treated as conservative changes and amino acid changes  
214 with CRI  $>$  0.5 were treated as radical changes (Table S3). All analyses of molecular  
215 evolution and population genetics were repeated for each amino acid scheme  
216 individually as well as for the classification scheme-averaged classifier. All mutational  
217 types were defined relative to the invertebrate mitochondrial genetic code  
218 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Utils/wprintgc.cgi#SG5>).

219 We then calculated the number of mutational target sites per codon for each  
220 different type of mutational change (i.e., synonymous, nonsynonymous, conservative  
221 nonsynonymous, and radical nonsynonymous) to ensure that we properly accounted for  
222 the different probabilities of different types of mutational changes (Table S4). To confirm  
223 that the number of each of type of site was properly calculated, we checked that the  
224 number of nonsynonymous sites and the number of synonymous sites per codon

225 summed to three and that the number of conservative nonsynonymous sites and the  
226 number of radical nonsynonymous sites per codon summed to the number of  
227 nonsynonymous sites per codon (Zhang 2000). Of particular note is that the “GTG”,  
228 “TTG”, “ATT”, “ATC”, and “ATA” codons can all be used as alternative start codons in  
229 invertebrate mitochondrial genomes (only the GTG alternative start codon was  
230 observed in the present dataset), which we accounted for in our site calculations.

231  
232 **Molecular evolution and population genetic analyses.** To evaluate the relative  
233 intensity of selection acting on different types of mutational changes, we estimated rates  
234 of substitution between *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus* (Li et al. 1985), ratios of  
235 polymorphism to divergence (McDonald and Kreitman 1991), nucleotide diversity  
236 (Watterson 1975; Nei and Li 1979; Fu and Li 1993), and site frequency spectra (SFS) in  
237 protein-coding regions of the mitochondrial genome for each mutational type using all  
238 seven amino acid classification schemes and the scheme-averaged classifier with a  
239 custom python tool (available at  
240 <https://github.com/jsharbrough/PolymorphismsSubstitutions>). For codons with multiple  
241 hits, we assumed the fewest number of nonsynonymous changes necessary to explain  
242 the data.

243 To compare rates of molecular evolution in *P. antipodarum* relative to *P.*  
244 *estuarinus*, we first calculated substitution rates for each mutational type in *P.*  
245 *antipodarum* as in Li et al. (1985), corrected these estimates for multiple hits using the  
246 Jukes-Cantor model of molecular evolution (Jukes and Cantor 1969), and estimated  
247 variance as in Jukes and Cantor (1969). We then compared 95% confidence intervals

248 (CIs) of substitution rates between *P. antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus*, estimated as  
249  $95\% \text{ CI} = 2\sqrt{(\text{variance})}$  for each substitution type, such that non-overlapping CIs  
250 indicate statistically different rates of substitution. We also took advantage of the non-  
251 homoplasious changes mapped to our fixed tree topology (see above) to compare  
252 branch lengths for synonymous, nonsynonymous, conservative, and radical changes  
253 relative to *P. estuarinus*. We estimated branch lengths by summing the mapped  
254 changes for each lineage and mutational type and dividing the number of changes by  
255 the number of mutational target sites (Table S4). We then used pairwise Wilcoxon  
256 Signed-Rank (WSR) tests and the Holm procedure for correcting for multiple  
257 comparisons to determine whether branch lengths differed across mutational types  
258 (Holm 1979). We next used McDonald-Kreitman (MK) tests to compare molecular  
259 evolution in conservative vs. radical changes using a series of Fisher's Exact Tests  
260 (FET): (1) synonymous changes to conservative changes, (2) synonymous changes to  
261 radical changes, and (3) conservative changes to radical changes. All statistical tests  
262 were performed in R v3.2.4 (R Core Team 2016).

263 To compare patterns of polymorphism within species, we estimated nucleotide  
264 diversity using  $\theta_\pi$  – hereafter  $\pi$  – (Nei and Li 1979) and  $\theta_w$  – hereafter  $\theta$  – (Watterson  
265 1975), and their respective variances (as in Durrett 2008) within *P. antipodarum*. We  
266 compared levels of nucleotide diversity across mutational types by constructing 95%  
267 CIs for each mutational type using 10,000 bootstrap replicates. For each bootstrap  
268 replicate, we randomly selected 3,738 codons with replacement and recalculated all  
269 population genetic statistics for each replicate using a custom Python tool (available at  
270 <https://github.com/jsharbrough/popGenBootstrapping>). We also performed an estimate

271 of  $\theta$  using only private polymorphisms – hereafter  $\theta_U$  – because private polymorphisms  
272 represent relatively recent changes and are therefore not as phylogenetically  
273 constrained as older polymorphisms (Fu and Li 1993). We compared levels of these  
274 private polymorphisms across mutational types using the same bootstrapping approach  
275 as with  $\pi$  and  $\theta$  using a custom Python tool to compare CIs for each mutational type  
276 and compute  $p$  values (available at <https://github.com/jsharbrough/bootstrapPvalues>),  
277 which rank-orders bootstrap replicates and tests the degree to which bootstrap  
278 distributions overlap (i.e., perfect overlap of bootstrap distributions:  $p > 0.9999$ , no  
279 overlap of bootstrap distributions:  $p < 0.0001$ ). Because deleterious changes should be  
280 found at lower frequencies than relatively neutral changes, we also compared the SFS  
281 across mutational types using a series of Goodness-of-Fit (GoF) analyses assuming a  
282  $\chi^2$  distribution, first for nonsynonymous, conservative, and radical polymorphisms vs.  
283 synonymous polymorphisms, and second for conservative vs. radical polymorphisms.  
284 We performed these GoF analyses with the `chisq()` function in R v3.2.4 (R Core Team  
285 2016) and visualized species-wide polymorphism levels using the R package `ggplot2`  
286 (Wickham 2016).

287         After establishing that the substitution rate for radical amino acid changes is  
288 lower than for conservative amino acid changes and that radical changes exhibit lower  
289 nucleotide diversity within species than conservative changes (see Results, Figure 2),  
290 we compared rates of mutation accumulation of conservative and radical amino acid  
291 changes across reproductive modes. To compare rates of molecular evolution in sexual  
292 vs. asexual lineages, we first used the mapped changes to estimate synonymous-  
293 corrected branch lengths for conservative and radical changes separately using WSR

294 tests. We also performed these same comparisons on internal branches only and on  
295 branch tips only to test whether patterns of mutation accumulation across reproductive  
296 modes were robust across evolutionary time.

297 We next compared polymorphism levels for conservative and radical changes  
298 across reproductive modes by dividing our sample into sexual ( $n = 8$ ) and asexual ( $n =$   
299  $23$ ) groups and separately calculating  $\pi$ ,  $\theta$ , and  $\theta_U$  for each mutational type. Asexual *P.*  
300 *antipodarum* have already been shown to accumulate nonsynonymous changes more  
301 rapidly than their sexual counterparts (Neiman et al. 2010), leading to the *a priori*  
302 expectation that asexual lineages should exhibit higher levels of nucleotide diversity at  
303 nonsynonymous sites than sexual lineages. To address whether this prediction was met,  
304 we calculated a test statistic,  $D_{AS}$ , in which  $D_{AS} = \bar{x}_{Asex} - \bar{x}_{Sex}$  where  $\bar{x}$  represents the  
305 diversity-related population genetic statistic under consideration. We then constructed a  
306 null distribution for each of these statistics using a custom-built python program  
307 (available at <https://github.com/jsharbrough/conRadNullDistribution>), which randomly  
308 assigned lineages without replacement to one of two groups: group 1 ( $n = 23$ ,  
309 representing the asexual lineage sample size) and group 2 ( $n = 8$ , representing the  
310 sexual lineage sample size), calculated the difference between the two groups,  $D_{12}$ ,  
311 where  $D_{12} = \bar{x}_1 - \bar{x}_2$ , for each population genetic statistic, and repeated this process  
312 10,000 times. Because we expected asexual lineages to exhibit higher levels of  
313 nonsynonymous polymorphism than sexual lineages, we conducted one-tailed tests of  
314 polymorphism across reproductive modes ( $H_0: D_{AS} = 0$ ;  $H_A: D_{AS} > 0$ ) by comparing  $D_{AS}$   
315 to the null distribution for each population genetic statistic (i.e.,  $\pi$ ,  $\theta$ , and  $\theta_U$ ) for  
316 synonymous sites, synonymous-corrected conservative sites, and synonymous-

317 corrected radical sites. We inferred  $p$  values directly from these comparisons using a  
318 custom python tool (available at <https://github.com/jsharbrough/distributionPValues>) and  
319 visualized null distributions and test statistics using the ggplot2 package for R (Wickham  
320 2016).

321

## 322 **RESULTS**

323 **Phylogenetic analysis of mitochondrial genetic diversity in *P. antipodarum*.** We

324 used 32 whole mitochondrial genomes to infer a phylogeny of sexual and asexual *P.*

325 *antipodarum* relative to a *P. estuarinus* outgroup using Maximum Likelihood and

326 Bayesian methods (Figure 1). We found evidence for substantial intraspecific genetic

327 variation within *P. antipodarum* (mean pairwise genetic distance  $\approx 0.025$  changes/site).

328 This analysis also revealed relatively deep divergence for one entirely asexual clade

329 (clade A; mean pairwise distance between clade A vs. clades B/C  $\approx 0.035$  changes/site),

330 especially relative to the more minor divergence within clades B and C (mean pairwise

331 distance within B/C  $\approx 0.013$ ). Clade A is composed mostly of lineages from the North

332 Island of New Zealand (Lakes Waikaremoana and Tarawera), but also includes one

333 lineage from Wales as well as two lineages collected from lakes on the South Island of

334 New Zealand (Lakes Brunner and Kaniere). Clades B/C are predominantly composed of

335 lineages collected from the South Island of New Zealand (Lakes Alexandrina, Brunner,

336 Grasmere, Gunn, Heron, Ianthe, Kaniere, Lady, McGregor, Poerua, Rotoiti, and

337 Rotoroa); however, two invasive lineages (collected from Lake Superior in Duluth, MN,

338 USA and Denmark), one North Island lineage (collected from Lake Waikaremoana), and



339 a lineage collected from Lake Alexandrina form a monophyletic, all-asexual clade within  
340 clade C.

341 We next used the rules of parsimony to map the 1,524 non-homoplasious  
342 changes (out of 1,711 total variable sites) present in the ~11 kbp protein-coding region  
343 of the mitochondrial genome onto this tree topology (Figure 1). In all, there were 814  
344 synonymous substitutions and 35 nonsynonymous substitutions between *P.*  
345 *antipodarum* and *P. estuarinus*. Of these 35 nonsynonymous substitutions, 30 were  
346 considered conservative amino acid changes and 5 were considered radical amino acid  
347 changes by our scheme-averaged classifier index, CRI (see Materials and Methods).  
348 Within *P. antipodarum*, we observed 651 synonymous polymorphisms and 211  
349 nonsynonymous polymorphisms; CRI classified 151 of these sites as conservative  
350 amino acid polymorphisms and 60 as radical amino acid polymorphisms (Figure 2b).

351  
352 **Substitution rates and polymorphism levels for conservative vs. radical amino**  
353 **acid changes.** Using the mapped changes to calculate branch-specific estimates of  
354 Jukes-Cantor-corrected substitution rate ( $K$ ), we found that branch-specific estimates of  
355  $K_S$  (mean +/- standard deviation = 0.48 +/- 0.012 changes/site) were significantly higher  
356 than branch-specific estimates of  $K_A$  (mean +/- standard deviation = 0.0077 +/-  $8.0 \times 10^{-4}$   
357 changes/site; WSR  $V = 496$ ,  $p = 1.2 \times 10^{-6}$ ),  $K_C$  (mean +/- standard deviation = 0.013  
358 +/-  $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$  changes/site; WSR  $V = 496$ ,  $p = 1.2 \times 10^{-6}$ ), and  $K_R$  (mean +/- standard  
359 deviation = 0.0029 +/-  $6.8 \times 10^{-4}$  changes/site; WSR  $V = 496$ ,  $p = 1.2 \times 10^{-6}$ ), indicating  
360 that nonsynonymous changes evolve at slower rates than do synonymous changes  
361 (Figure 2a). Branch-specific estimates of  $K_C$  were also significantly higher than branch-

362 specific estimates of  $K_R$  (WSR  $V = 496$ ,  $p = 1.2 \times 10^{-6}$ ), indicating that among amino  
363 acid-changing mutations, radical amino acid changes evolve particularly slowly (Figure  
364 2a). In accordance with branch-specific estimates, species-wide estimates of  
365 substitution rates that only use fixed differences between *P. antipodarum* and *P.*  
366 *estuarinus* revealed that  $K_S$  was significantly greater than  $K_A$  ( $p < 0.05$ ),  $K_C$  ( $p < 0.05$ ),  
367 and  $K_R$  ( $p < 0.05$ ), and that  $K_C$  was significantly greater than  $K_R$  ( $p < 0.05$ ; Table 2). In  
368 summary, branch-specific and species-wide estimates of substitution rate indicate that  
369 nonsynonymous sites have lower rates of substitution than synonymous sites and that  
370 radical nonsynonymous sites have lower rates of substitution than conservative  
371 nonsynonymous sites.

372 To determine the probability of fixation of conservative vs. radical  
373 nonsynonymous polymorphisms, we performed pairwise MK tests of selection across all  
374 mutational types. We found that nonsynonymous (FET:  $p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ), conservative  
375 (FET:  $p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ), and radical (FET:  $p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$ ) amino acid polymorphisms were  
376 significantly less likely to reach fixation than synonymous polymorphisms (Table 3,  
377 Figure 2b). There was a trend for conservative polymorphisms to become fixed within *P.*  
378 *antipodarum* at higher rates than radical polymorphisms, but this difference was not  
379 significant (FET:  $p = 0.098$ ). These data indicate that nonsynonymous changes have a  
380 lower probability of fixation than synonymous changes, but that there is no difference in  
381 fixation probabilities across different types of nonsynonymous changes.

382 To investigate how conservative and radical changes evolve within species, we  
383 estimated nucleotide diversity for synonymous, nonsynonymous, conservative  
384 nonsynonymous, and radical nonsynonymous changes using the frequency-dependent

385 measure  $\pi$ , the frequency-independent measure  $\theta$ , and a measure of private nucleotide  
386 diversity  $\theta_U$ , treating all lineages as a single population. Comparisons of  $\pi$  revealed that  
387 nonsynonymous, conservative, and radical sites exhibited lower levels of nucleotide  
388 diversity ( $p_{\pi S-\pi A} < 0.0002$ ;  $p_{\pi S-\pi C} < 0.0002$ ;  $p_{\pi S-\pi R} < 0.0002$ ), as did comparisons of  $\theta$   
389 ( $p_{\theta S-\theta A} < 0.0002$ ;  $p_{\theta S-\theta C} < 0.0002$ ;  $p_{\theta S-\theta R} < 0.0002$ ), and  $\theta_U$  ( $p_{\theta_U-S-\theta_U-A} < 0.0002$ ;  $p_{\theta_U-S-\theta_U-C} <$   
390  $0.0002$ ;  $p_{\theta_U-S-\theta_U-R} < 0.0002$ ) than synonymous sites, indicating that all types of  
391 nonsynonymous changes are eliminated from *P. antipodarum* genomes more rapidly  
392 than synonymous changes (Table 2, Figure 2c). We also found that  $\pi_C$  and  $\theta_C$  were  
393 significantly greater than  $\pi_R$  ( $p = 0.0004$ ) and  $\theta_R$  ( $p < 0.0002$ ), respectively (Table 2,  
394 Figure 2c); however,  $\theta_{U-C}$  and  $\theta_{U-R}$  are statistically indistinguishable within *P.*  
395 *antipodarum* ( $p = 0.072$ , Table 2, Figure S3). Because asexual lineages likely  
396 experience distinct demographic forces that sexual lineages do not (Charlesworth and  
397 Wright 2001; Kaiser and Charlesworth 2009) we also compared these population  
398 genetic statistics using only sexual lineages and found evidence of similarly elevated  
399 intensity of selection against radical vs. conservative polymorphisms as in analyses  
400 incorporating all *P. antipodarum* mitochondrial genome sequences (Figure S1).

401 Finally, we compared allele frequencies of different mutational types by  
402 comparing their SFS (Figure 2d, Table 2). We found that nonsynonymous ( $\chi^2 = 56.14$ ,  
403  $df = 7$ ,  $p = 8.9 \times 10^{-10}$ ), conservative ( $\chi^2 = 28.57$ ,  $df = 7$ ,  $p = 1.7 \times 10^{-4}$ ), and radical SFS  
404 ( $\chi^2 = 35.04$ ,  $df = 7$ ,  $p = 1.1 \times 10^{-5}$ ) are significantly left-skewed (i.e., excess of rare  
405 variants) relative to synonymous changes. We did not detect any differences in  
406 conservative vs. radical SFS ( $\chi^2 = 6.36$ ,  $df = 4$ ,  $p = 0.17$ ). Together, these data indicate  
407 that all types of nonsynonymous changes are found in lower numbers and at lower

408 frequencies than synonymous changes and that radical amino acid polymorphisms tend  
409 to be found in lower numbers and at lower frequencies than conservative amino acid  
410 polymorphisms.

411

412 **Efficacy of purifying selection in sexual vs. asexual lineages.** To evaluate the  
413 degree to which the efficacy of selection is reduced in asexual vs. sexual lineages of *P.*  
414 *antipodarum*, we used a set of 1,524 synapomorphic and autapomorphic changes to  
415 estimate sexual and asexual lineage branch lengths relative to outgroup *P. estuarinus*  
416 and compare relative rates of conservative and radical amino acid molecular evolution.  
417 After accounting for the number of mutational target sites (Table S4) and correcting for  
418 multiple hits (Jukes and Cantor 1969), we found that asexual lineages exhibited higher  
419 rates of evolution at synonymous sites (mean  $K_S$  +/- SD = 0.48 +/- 0.013 synonymous  
420 substitutions/ synonymous site) than sexual lineages (mean  $K_S$  +/- SD = 0.47 +/- 4.4 x  
421  $10^{-3}$  synonymous substitutions/ synonymous site, MWU  $W = 142$ ,  $p = 0.025$ ), potentially  
422 indicating that the mitochondrial genomes of asexual lineages of *P. antipodarum*  
423 experience higher mutation rates than their sexual counterparts. We therefore corrected  
424 nonsynonymous rates of molecular evolution with synonymous rates to ensure that we  
425 could adequately compare efficacy of selection acting on conservative and radical  
426 changes across reproductive modes. We did not detect a difference in the rate of  
427 molecular evolution at conservative sites in sexual vs. asexual lineages (MWU:  $W = 95$ ,  
428  $p = 0.91$ , Figure 3a, Table 4). By contrast, we did find that asexual lineages exhibit  
429 significantly higher rates of molecular evolution at radical sites than sexual lineages  
430 (MWU:  $W = 168$ ,  $p = 6.5 \times 10^{-4}$ , Figure 3b, Table 4), indicating that asexual lineages

431 accumulate radical amino acid changes more rapidly than sexual lineages. We obtained  
432 a similar pattern of accelerated accumulation of radical amino acid changes in asexual  
433 vs. sexual lineages when excluding branch tips from the analysis ( $K_C/K_S$  – MWU:  $W =$   
434  $84, p = 0.74$ ;  $K_R/K_S$  – MWU:  $W = 168, p = 6.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ), indicating that this pattern is  
435 robust across evolutionary time.

436 We next compared patterns of polymorphism across reproductive modes and  
437 mutational types using  $\pi$  and  $\theta$ . For each mutational type, we calculated an estimate of  
438 nucleotide diversity for asexuals and sexuals separately, using the difference  $D$  as a  
439 test statistic to compare against a null distribution (see Methods for a description on  
440 how this null distribution was constructed). Asexuals exhibited slightly higher levels of  
441 synonymous polymorphism (mean  $\pi_S$  +/- variance =  $0.066 \pm 0.025$  synonymous  
442 changes/ synonymous site; mean  $\theta_S$  +/- variance =  $0.053 \pm 0.015$  synonymous  
443 changes/ synonymous site) than sexual lineages (mean  $\pi_S$  +/- variance =  $0.043 \pm$   
444  $0.019$  synonymous changes/ synonymous site; mean  $\theta_S$  +/- variance =  $0.040 \pm 0.016$   
445 synonymous changes/ synonymous site,  $D_\theta = 0.013, p = 0.15$ ), but the differences were  
446 not significant (Figure S3). Although sexual and asexual lineages do not appear to differ  
447 in terms of synonymous polymorphism levels,  $K_S$ , which is robust to shifts in  
448 demography, was elevated in asexual compared to sexual lineages and the possibility  
449 that differential effects of neutral processes might change in response to the transition  
450 to asexuality (Charlesworth and Wright 2001; Kaiser and Charlesworth 2009) meant  
451 that accounting for levels of neutral polymorphism across reproductive modes was still  
452 warranted. We therefore corrected nonsynonymous estimates of nucleotide diversity  
453 with the corresponding synonymous rate (Table 4, Figure 4b). For both  $\pi$  and  $\theta$ , there

454 was no evidence that sexual lineages differed from asexual lineages in the level of  
455 conservative amino acid polymorphism ( $D_{\pi} = -8.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $p = 0.91$ ;  $D_{\theta} = 0.014$ ,  $p = 0.70$ ).  
456 The same analyses applied to radical amino acid polymorphisms revealed significantly  
457 higher levels in asexual vs. sexual lineages ( $D_{\pi} = 0.012$ ,  $p = 0.049$ ;  $D_{\theta} = 0.035$ ,  $p = 1.5 \times$   
458  $10^{-3}$ ).

459 Clade A asexuals appear to be genetically distinct relative to the rest of the *P.*  
460 *antipodarum* dataset (Figure 1), raising the question of whether this group might be  
461 contributing disproportionately to our observations of elevated radical amino acid  
462 polymorphism levels in asexual *P. antipodarum*. We therefore repeated the  
463 comparisons of  $\pi$  and  $\theta$  with clade A excluded, using the clade B sexuals as an  
464 outgroup to clade C (Table 4, Figure 4b). In this more limited analysis, we again found  
465 that asexuals harbored higher levels of radical ( $D_{\pi} = 0.023$ ,  $p = 0.0038$ ;  $D_{\theta} = 0.050$ ,  $p <$   
466  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ ) but not conservative amino acid polymorphism ( $D_{\pi} = -5.7 \times 10^{-4}$ ,  $p = 0.60$ ;  $D_{\theta}$   
467  $= 4.0 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $p = 0.74$ ), indicating that the clade A asexuals were not entirely responsible  
468 for the patterns of elevated radical amino acid polymorphism in *P. antipodarum*  
469 asexuals.

470 To account for the phylogenetic non-independence of asexual lineages in *P.*  
471 *antipodarum* in our population genetic analyses, we also compared levels of private  
472 polymorphism across reproductive modes and mutational types (Figure 4c, Table 4).  
473 Because private polymorphisms should often represent relatively young mutations,  
474 these polymorphisms can be used to estimate rates of mutation accumulation since the  
475 transition to asexuality. Sexual lineages exhibited slightly higher levels of synonymous  
476 private polymorphism ( $\theta_{U-S} \pm \text{variance} = 6.5 \times 10^{-3} \pm 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  synonymous changes/

477 synonymous site) compared to asexual lineages ( $\theta_{U-S} \pm$  variance =  $4.8 \times 10^{-3} \pm 1.3 \times$   
478  $10^{-3}$  synonymous changes/ synonymous site), but the difference was not significant ( $D_{\theta U}$   
479 =  $-1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ,  $p = 0.057$ ). After correcting for private synonymous polymorphism levels,  
480 we found that asexual lineages (asex  $\theta_{U-C}/\theta_{U-S} \pm$  variance =  $0.53 \pm 0.18$   
481 conservative nonsynonymous changes/ conservative nonsynonymous site) exhibited  
482 significantly higher levels of both private conservative amino acid polymorphism (sex  $\theta_{U-}$   
483  $C/\theta_{U-S} \pm$  variance =  $0.25 \pm 0.11$  conservative nonsynonymous changes/ conservative  
484 nonsynonymous site;  $D_{\theta U} = 0.28$ ,  $p = 3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ) and private radical amino acid  
485 polymorphism (asex  $\theta_{U-R}/\theta_{U-S} \pm$  variance =  $0.33 \pm 0.10$  radical nonsynonymous  
486 changes/ radical nonsynonymous site) than sexual lineages (sex  $\theta_{U-R}/\theta_{U-S} \pm$  variance  
487 =  $0.055 \pm 0.022$  radical nonsynonymous changes/ radical nonsynonymous site;  $D_{\theta U} =$   
488  $0.27$ ,  $p = 0.5.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ). The lower levels of private polymorphism in sexual compared to  
489 asexual lineages for both conservative and radical mutational types indicates that  
490 selection is less effective in asexual lineages, and that this effect is detectable even  
491 over relatively short time scales.

492

## 493 **DISCUSSION**

### 494 **Radical amino acid changes accumulate in the absence of sex**

495 Together, these results are consistent with the expectation that radical mutations are  
496 usually more harmful than conservative mutations (Freudenberg-Hua et al. 2003; Smith  
497 2003), and demonstrate that radical and conservative mutations appear to experience  
498 very different histories of selection in natural populations. In particular, we provide  
499 evidence from a non-model system featuring reproductive mode polymorphism (a



500 primary determinant of  $N_e$ ) that there exists more stringent purifying selection on radical  
501 vs. conservative mutational types, a pattern detectable even at the intraspecific level.  
502 Indeed, comparisons of both substitution and polymorphism reveal that radical changes  
503 experience a higher intensity of purifying selection than do conservative changes in *P.*  
504 *antipodarum* (Figure 2). This result indicates that radical amino acid changes usually  
505 impart substantially more severe fitness effects than conservative changes and are  
506 therefore expected return to mutation-selection-drift equilibrium more rapidly than  
507 conservative amino acid changes (Fisher 1930).

508 We also found that asexual *P. antipodarum* lineages experience higher rates of  
509 radical amino acid substitution and exhibit higher incidences ( $\theta$ ) and frequencies ( $\pi$ ) of  
510 radical amino acid polymorphisms than sexual counterparts, suggesting that asexual *P.*  
511 *antipodarum* experience a relatively high rate of accumulation of likely harmful  
512 mutations in their mitochondrial genomes. We take this result as evidence that  
513 mutations in asexual lineages experience smaller  $N_e$ 's than in sexual lineages, meaning  
514 that the elimination of even strongly deleterious mutations should occur more slowly in  
515 asexual than in sexual lineages. Theoretical (Ohta 1987; Charlesworth et al. 1993;  
516 Charlesworth and Wright 2001) and empirical (Eyre-Walker and Keightley 2007; Wright  
517 et al. 2008; Katju et al. 2015) work support this conclusion, suggesting that populations  
518 with low  $N_e$  should harbor a larger proportion of “effectively neutral” mutations than  
519 populations with large  $N_e$ . The somewhat surprising upshot of this prediction is that  
520 even severely deleterious mutations become more effectively neutral and thus more  
521 likely to be subject to fixation by drift when  $N_e$  is low. The absence of any detectable  
522 differences in sexual and asexual lineages in their rate of removal of conservative



523 changes would seem to suggest that the conservative changes observed in this dataset  
524 are evolving via neutral processes in both sexual and asexual lineages. Only radical  
525 amino acid changes exhibit severe enough effects on fitness to be differentially  
526 maintained in asexual vs. sexual lineages, highlighting the utility of distinguishing  
527 between mutations with different effects on fitness when comparing the efficacy of  
528 selection across lineages.

529         The observations that radical mutations are more likely to be deleterious than  
530 conservative mutations and that asexual *P. antipodarum* accumulate radical  
531 nonsynonymous mutations more rapidly than sexual *P. antipodarum* raise the intriguing  
532 possibility that asexual *P. antipodarum* might exhibit decreased mitochondrial function  
533 compared to sexual counterparts. The presumed severity of some mutations in these  
534 genomes (e.g., a nonsense mutation in *nad2* of one asexual lineage that would truncate  
535 the NAD2 protein by three amino acids) suggests that either mitochondrial function is  
536 decreased in at least some asexual lineages or that asexuals possess one or more  
537 mechanisms to compensate for deleterious mutation load (e.g., RNA editing). RNA  
538 editing of mitochondrially encoded transcripts has been observed in a variety of plant  
539 taxa (Covello and Gray 1989; Gualberto et al. 1989) and in the mitochondrially encoded  
540 tRNAs of land snails (Yokobori and Paabo 1995); whether *P. antipodarum* employs  
541 similar strategies has not been addressed. Asexual lineages of *P. antipodarum* do  
542 exhibit substantial phenotypic variation for mitochondrial function, variation that has been  
543 linked to mitonuclear genotype (Sharbrough et al. 2017). Future work evaluating  
544 mitochondrial function at the organelle and organismal levels in *P. antipodarum* will be  
545 essential to understanding how the efficacy of selection influences the relative success

546 of sexual vs. asexual lineages and the maintenance and distribution of sexual *P.*  
547 *antipodarum*.

548 While we interpret these results as a consequence of reduced efficacy of  
549 selection in asexual lineages, another possible (and non-mutually exclusive)  
550 explanation is that the co-transmission (and thus, effective linkage) between the nuclear  
551 and mitochondrial genomes in asexuals has facilitated the persistence and spread of  
552 beneficial nonsynonymous mutations via selection imposed by cooperation with  
553 nuclear-encoded genes (Blier et al. 2001; Meiklejohn et al. 2007). Because asexuals co-  
554 transmit their nuclear and mitochondrial genomes, mutations in either genome may  
555 cause decreases in mitochondrial function. Therefore, long-term co-transmission of the  
556 nuclear and mitochondrial genomes may provide a scenario in which asexuals  
557 experience relatively strong selection favoring compensatory mutation(s). We have not  
558 detected any evidence of positive selection acting in the mitochondrial genome of *P.*  
559 *antipodarum* (e.g., codon-by-codon  $d_N/d_S < 1$ , Neutrality Index  $> 1$  for all 13 protein-  
560 coding genes, sliding window  $\pi_A/\pi_S < 1$  at all sites; Sharbrough et al. in preparation),  
561 though indirect evidence that a particular mitochondrial haplotype is spreading among  
562 asexual lineages hints that selection favoring particular mitochondrial haplotypes or  
563 mitonuclear combinations might be involved (Paczesniak et al. 2013). Evaluation of  
564 rates and patterns of evolution in the nuclear-encoded mitochondrial genes that make  
565 up  $\geq 95\%$  of the genes that influence mitochondrial function (Sardiello et al. 2003),  
566 coupled with the functional analyses mentioned above, will ultimately be needed to  
567 determine whether mitonuclear linkage in asexuals is at least in part responsible for  
568 elevated retention of apparently harmful mutations in mitochondrial genomes.

569           Ultimately, inefficient removal of deleterious mutations in asexual lineages is only  
570 important to the maintenance of sex and/or the persistence of asexual lineages if those  
571 mutations, in fact, negatively affect fitness. Recent empirical evidence suggests that  
572 harmful mutations indeed play a role in asexual lineage deterioration: Tucker et al.  
573 (2013) found that obligately asexual *Daphnia* suffer from gene conversion-type  
574 processes that decrease heterozygosity and subsequently expose deleterious recessive  
575 alleles, leading to lineage deterioration. By contrast, our data indicate that asexual *P.*  
576 *antipodarum* harbor elevated numbers of deleterious mutations due to relatively  
577 ineffective removal of existing mutations despite being visible to selection rather than  
578 exposure of recessive deleterious alleles that can accumulate in nuclear genomes.  
579 Because mitochondrial genotype is critically important to organismal function and fitness  
580 (Ellison and Burton 2006; Hoekstra et al. 2013; Pichaud et al. 2013), this increased load  
581 of likely harmful mutations could potentially contribute to negative phenotypic  
582 consequences in asexuals, though the same phenomenon would need to also apply to  
583 asexual nuclear genomes in order to provide the short-term advantages necessary to  
584 maintain sexual reproduction within a population (Maynard Smith 1978). Given that the  
585 nuclear genome is the site of the vast majority of gene content and recombination in  
586 sexual lineages, our observation of elevated retention of deleterious mutations in  
587 mitochondrial genomes of asexual *P. antipodarum* leads us to predict that the nuclear  
588 genome is also likely to exhibit substantial differences in deleterious mutational load and  
589 efficacy of selection across reproductive modes.

590

591 **Mitonuclear LD and the efficacy of purifying selection in mitochondrial genomes**

592 For decades, deleterious mutation accumulation has been thought to be an unavoidable  
593 hallmark of mitochondrial genome evolution (Gabriel et al. 1993; Neiman and Taylor  
594 2009); however, this widely held assumption that has been recently called into question  
595 by several empirical examples of relatively effective natural selection operating in  
596 mitochondrial genomes compared to nuclear genomes (Cooper et al. 2015; Konrad et al.  
597 2017). The extent to which mitochondrial genomes actually undergo mutational  
598 meltdown has profound implications for a number of downstream evolutionary  
599 hypotheses including the compensatory model of mitonuclear coevolution (Rand et al.  
600 2004; Dowling et al. 2008; Niehuis et al. 2008; Osada and Akashi 2012; Havird et al.  
601 2015), the evolution of mitonuclear reproductive incompatibilities that could contribute to  
602 speciation (Harrison and Burton 2006; Niehuis et al. 2008; Burton and Barreto 2012; Hill  
603 2016), introgressive mitochondrial replacement (Toews and Brelsford 2012; Sloan et al.  
604 2017), and rates of extinction (Lynch et al. 1993; Havird et al. 2016), among others  
605 (Sloan et al. 2017). If natural selection is indeed effective in mitochondrial genomes  
606 (especially purifying selection), selection to alleviate deleterious epistatic interactions  
607 between nuclear and mitochondrial genomes may not play as central a role in the  
608 generation of eukaryotic diversity as previously thought (Montooth et al. 2010; Adrion et  
609 al. 2016).

610 While the results presented here are restricted to mitochondrial genomes, they  
611 do provide empirical evidence into the efficacy of selection operating in mitochondrial  
612 genomes in conditions of low vs. high  $N_e$ . In conditions of low  $N_e$  (i.e., asexual lineages),  
613 elevated selective interference appears to increase rates of deleterious mutation  
614 accumulation in mitochondrial genomes. That is, as expected under the Hill-Robertson

615 effect, the higher mitonuclear LD experienced by mitochondrial genomes “trapped” in  
616 asexual lineages is associated with mitochondrial mutation accumulation. It follows that  
617 mitochondrial genomes that appear to experience relatively effective purifying selection  
618 (e.g., the mitochondrial genomes in sexual lineages of *P. antipodarum*), there must be  
619 some mechanism (likely sexual reproduction) whereby the Hill-Robertson effect is  
620 ameliorated. Based on this logic, we predict that taxa with relatively low rates of  
621 mitochondrial mutation accumulation (e.g., *Caenorhabditis*, *Drosophila*) would also  
622 exhibit low levels of mitonuclear LD compared to taxa with relatively high rates of  
623 mitochondrial mutation accumulation (e.g., *Nasonia*, *Tigriopus*). Contrary to these  
624 expectations, the taxa in which some of the most powerful evidence for effective  
625 selection in mitochondrial genomes has been presented also exhibit perturbations to  
626 sexual reproduction that would be expected to *increase* mitonuclear LD: male  
627 *Drosophila* rarely undergo recombination during meiosis (Vazquez et al. 2002), and *C.*  
628 *elegans* are predominantly selfing (Felix and Braendle 2010). Clearly, investigation into  
629 the genetic mechanisms that promote and restrict mitochondrial mutation accumulation  
630 in some lineages but not others is necessary if we are to understand the role  
631 mitonuclear coevolution has played in eukaryotic evolution.

632

633 TABLES

**Table 1. Amino acid classification schemes.**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Zhang (2000)	Zhang (2000)	Zhang (2000)	Hanada et al. (2007)	Hanada et al. (2007)	Hanada et al. (2007)	Grantham (1974)
Charge	Polarity	Polarity & Volume	Correlation with $K_A/K_S$	Charge & Aromaticity	Polarity & Volume	Charge & Polarity
A, C, F, G, I, L, M, N, P, Q, S, T, V, W, Y	C, D, E, G, H, K, N, Q, R, S, T, Y	A, G, P, S, T	A, C, G, N, P, S, T	A, C, G, I, L, M, N, P, Q, S, T, V	A, F, G, I, L, M, P, V, W	A, F, I, L, M, P, V, W
		D, E, N, Q	F, H, K, Q, R, W, Y	F, W, Y	C, N, Q, S, T, Y	C, G, N, Q, S, T, Y
H, K, R		I, L, M, V				
		H, K, R	I, L, M, V	H, K, R	H, K, R	H, K, R
D, E	A, F, I, L, M, P, V, W	F, W, Y	D, E	D, E	D, E	D, E

634

**Table 2. Substitution rate and nucleotide diversity across mutational types in *P. antipodarum* mitochondrial genomes.**

Mutational Type	$K^a$ (95% CI)	$\pi^b$ (95% CI)	$\theta^b$ (95% CI)	$\theta_U^b$ (95% CI)
Syn	0.41 <sup>d</sup> (0.38 - 0.44)	0.064 <sup>d</sup> (0.058 - 0.069)	0.063 <sup>d</sup> (0.058 - 0.067)	$8.7 \times 10^{-3d}$ ( $6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.011)
Nsyn	$4.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.7 \times 10^{-3}$ - $5.5 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$4.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $3.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $5.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con <sup>c</sup>	$6.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $9.0 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $7.5 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$8.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $6.7 \times 10^{-3}$ - $9.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad <sup>c</sup>	$1.2 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $1.3 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.5 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $1.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.7 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $7.6 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-1	$5.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $7.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.8 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.7 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.6 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$7.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $6.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $8.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-1	$4.3 \times 10^{-4e}$ (0 - $1.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.5 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $7.8 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.6 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-2	$5.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $3.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $8.1 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.1 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.3 \times 10^{-3}$ - $7.5 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-2	$1.4 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $1.5 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.4 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $2.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-3	$8.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.1 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.012)	$7.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $6.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $9.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$9.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $7.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.011)	$3.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-3	$1.8 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $6.5 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.0 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$4.5 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $3.5 \times 10^{-3}$ - $5.2 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-4	$7.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.4 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.010)	$6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.4 \times 10^{-3}$ - $8.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$8.4 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $6.9 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.010)	$2.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-4	$1.9 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $7.1 \times 10^{-4}$ - $3.1 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.1 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$4.6 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $5.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.4 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$ - $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-5	$7.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $9.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$7.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $6.1 \times 10^{-3}$ - $8.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$9.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $7.8 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.011)	$3.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-5	$9.4 \times 10^{-4e}$ (0 - $1.9 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.7 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $9.5 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.8 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.5 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-6	$7.1 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ - $9.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$6.7 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.3 \times 10^{-3}$ - $7.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-6	$1.3 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.4 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $3.0 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.8 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $3.0 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Con-7	$7.6 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.7 \times 10^{-3}$ - 0.010)	$6.2 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $7.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$7.5 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $5.9 \times 10^{-3}$ - $8.7 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.9 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.0 \times 10^{-3}$ )
Rad-7	$1.3 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.3 \times 10^{-4}$ - $2.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$3.4 \times 10^{-3e}$ ( $2.6 \times 10^{-3}$ - $4.3 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$5.0 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $4.1 \times 10^{-3}$ - $6.0 \times 10^{-3}$ )	$2.3 \times 10^{-3}$ ( $1.2 \times 10^{-3}$ - $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ )

<sup>a</sup> - 95% CIs estimated from equation (1) in Methods

<sup>b</sup> - 95% CIs estimated from 10,000 bootstrap replicates

<sup>c</sup> - Mutational type defined by CRI score

<sup>d</sup> - All nonsynonymous mutational types had significantly lower values ( $p < 0.05$ ) than synonymous sites

<sup>e</sup> - Value significantly lower than corresponding value for conservative sites, with  $p < 0.05$

636 **Table 2. Substitution rate and nucleotide diversity across mutational types in *P.***  
637 ***antipodarum* mitochondrial genomes.** For each mutational type, we estimated  
638 substitution rates ( $K$ ), nucleotide diversity ( $\pi$  and  $\theta$ ), and private allele diversity ( $\theta_U$ )  
639 using seven distinct amino acid classification schemes plus a model-averaged classifier  
640 (CRI). We used 95% CIs (parenthetical listed below population statistic) to compare  
641 evolutionary rates for different types of mutations.  
642



**Table 3. McDonald-Kreitman tests of selection across mutational types in *P. antipodarum* mitochondrial genomes.**

	Syn	Nsyn (Nsyn/Syn)	Con <sup>a</sup> (Con/Syn)	Rad <sup>a</sup> (Rad/Syn)
Polymorphism	651	211 (0.043)	151 (0.037)	60 (6.1 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> )
Divergence	814	35 (0.32)	30 (0.23)	5 (0.092)
FET vs. Syn	-	$p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$	$p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$	$p < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$
FET vs. Con	-	$p = 0.59$	-	$p = 0.098$

<sup>a</sup> – Mutational type defined by CRI score

643

**Table 4. Population genetic comparisons of conservative and radical mutations in sexual vs. asexual lineages of *P. antipodarum*.**

	Con <sup>a</sup>			Rad <sup>a</sup>			<i>p</i> <sup>b</sup>
	Sex	Asex	<i>p</i> <sup>b</sup>	Sex	Asex	<i>p</i> <sup>b</sup>	
<i>K/K<sub>S</sub></i> (variance)	0.026 (0.024 - 0.029)	0.026 (0.022 - 0.030)	0.95	4.77 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> (3.60 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> - 5.94 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> )	6.32 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> (3.90 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> - 8.73 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> )	6.5 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	
	Con <sup>a</sup>			Rad <sup>a</sup>			<i>p</i> <sup>c</sup>
	Sex	Asex	<i>D</i>	Sex	Asex	<i>D</i>	
Polymorphisms	53	113	-	13	54	-	-
$\pi/\pi_S$ (variance)	0.11 (0.058 - 0.16)	0.099 (0.036 - 0.061)	-7.5 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.030 (0.017 - 0.043)	0.043 (0.027 - 0.059)	0.013	0.049
$\theta/\theta_S$ (variance)	0.12 (0.070 - 0.17)	0.13 (0.061 - 0.14)	7.0 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.029 (0.018 - 0.041)	0.068 (0.049 - 0.087)	0.039	1.5 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>
$\theta_U/\theta_{U-S}$ (variance)	0.25 (0.14 - 0.36)	0.53 (0.35 - 0.70)	0.28	0.055 (0.033 - 0.077)	0.33 (0.23 - 0.43)	0.27	5.9 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>

<sup>a</sup> - Mutational type defined by CRI score

<sup>b</sup> - Mann-Whitney U test

<sup>c</sup> - One-tailed test of significance ( $H_A: D > 0$ )

644 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

645 **Figure 1. Whole-mitochondrial genome phylogeny for *P. antipodarum* and an**  
646 **outgroup, *P. estuarinus*.** Consensus phylogenetic tree depicting evolutionary  
647 relationships of 23 asexual (red) and eight sexual (blue) *P. antipodarum* mitochondrial  
648 genomes. Tree topology was inferred using Maximum Likelihood (ML, performed in  
649 PAUP\*) and Bayesian (performed in MrBayes) methods. Two models of molecular  
650 evolution identified by jModelTest v 2.0 (GTR + I + G, TIM3 + I + G) were used to infer  
651 ML-based trees, while the model of molecular evolution was directly inferred from the  
652 alignment over  $1.0 \times 10^6$  generations for the Bayesian (MrBayes) tree. Branch support  
653 from the GTR + I + G ML approach and from the Bayesian consensus tree is listed  
654 below branches (bootstrap support/posterior probability). Asterisks indicate nodes for  
655 which both ML models exhibited > 90 bootstrap support. Numbers above each line  
656 represent the numbers of non-homoplasious mutational changes, with the ratio of  
657 synonymous: nonsynonymous changes in plain font and the ratio of conservative:  
658 radical changes in bold font and parentheses. Clade A represents a particularly distinct  
659 group of asexual lineages.

660

661 **Figure 2. Molecular evolution and population genetics of synonymous,**  
662 **nonsynonymous, conservative, and radical mutations in *P. antipodarum***  
663 **mitochondrial genomes.** a) Branch-specific estimates of synonymous-corrected  
664 substitution rates for all nonsynonymous changes (black), conservative nonsynonymous  
665 changes (blue), and radical nonsynonymous changes (orange), as identified by the  
666 model-averaged amino acid classification scheme (CRI). Error bars represent standard

667 deviations of branch-specific substitution rates. Lower-case letters reflect statistical  
668 groupings based on pairwise Mann-Whitney U tests ( $p < 0.017$ ). b) Ratios of  
669 polymorphism to divergence for synonymous, all nonsynonymous, conservative  
670 nonsynonymous, and radical nonsynonymous changes. Lower-case letters reflect  
671 statistical groupings based on pairwise Fisher's Exact Tests ( $p < 0.013$ ). c) Nucleotide  
672 diversity estimated using  $\pi$  (circles) and  $\theta$  (triangles) for all nonsynonymous (black),  
673 conservative nonsynonymous (blue), and radical nonsynonymous (orange) sites. Error  
674 bars reflect variance calculated as in Durrett (2008). Radical nonsynonymous sites  
675 exhibit significantly lower levels of nucleotide diversity than conservative sites ( $p <$   
676  $0.0002$ ) for both measures of polymorphism. d) Site frequency spectra of synonymous  
677 (white), nonsynonymous (black), conservative nonsynonymous (blue), and radical  
678 nonsynonymous (orange) polymorphisms within *P. antipodarum*.

679

680 **Figure 3. Molecular evolution of conservative and radical amino acid**

681 **substitutions in *P. antipodarum*.** Branch-specific estimates of a) synonymous-

682 corrected conservative nonsynonymous substitution rates did not differ across sexual

683 (blue) and asexual (red) lineages ( $W = 95$ ,  $p = 0.91$ ), but b) synonymous-corrected

684 radical nonsynonymous substitution rates were significantly higher in asexual lineages

685 than in sexual lineages ( $W = 168$ ,  $p = 6.5 \times 10^{-4}$ ).

686

687 **Figure 4. Population genetic comparisons of conservative and radical amino acid**

688 **polymorphism in sexual (blue) vs. asexual (red) lineages of *P. antipodarum*.** a)

689  $\pi_N/\pi_S$  (circles) and  $\theta_N/\theta_S$  (triangles) in sexual vs. asexual lineages for conservative and

690 radical sites. b)  $\pi_N/\pi_S$  (circles) and  $\theta_N/\theta_S$  (triangles) in sexual vs. asexual lineages for  
691 conservative and radical sites. Only lineages from clade C were used in this analysis. c)  
692 Private polymorphism ( $\theta_{U-N}/\theta_{U-S}$ ) in sexual vs. asexual lineages for conservative and  
693 radical sites. Error bars reflect variance calculated as in Durrett (2008). For all  
694 comparisons, one-tailed  $p$  values (i.e., Asex > Sex) are indicated by asterisks (\* –  $p <$   
695 0.05, \*\* –  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\* –  $p < 0.001$ ).

696 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

697 The authors do not declare a conflict of interest.

698

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714

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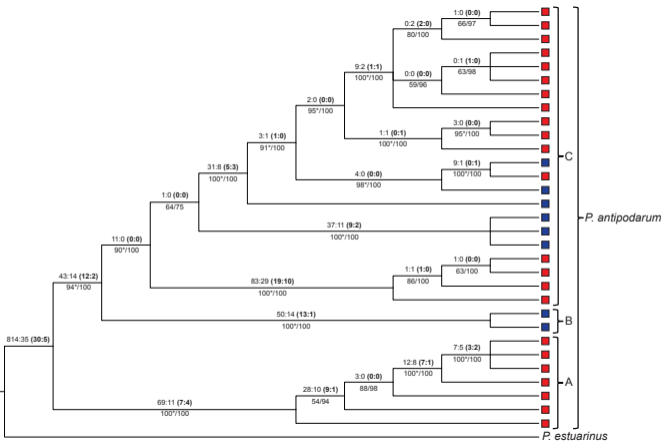
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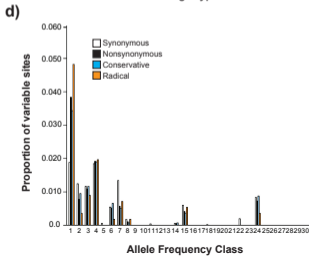
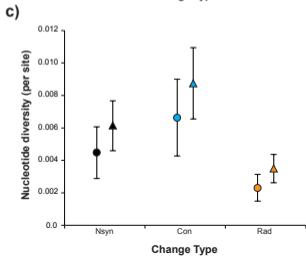
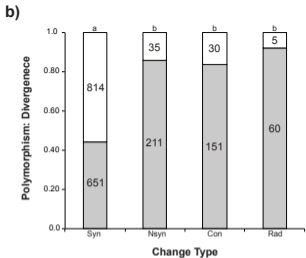
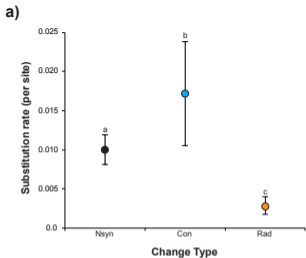
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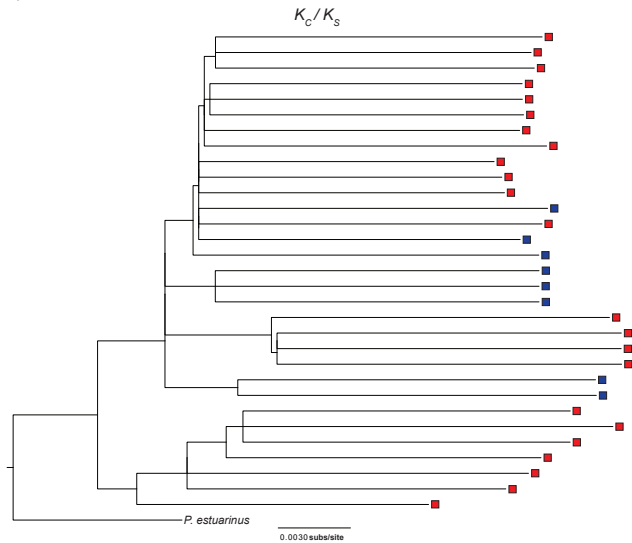


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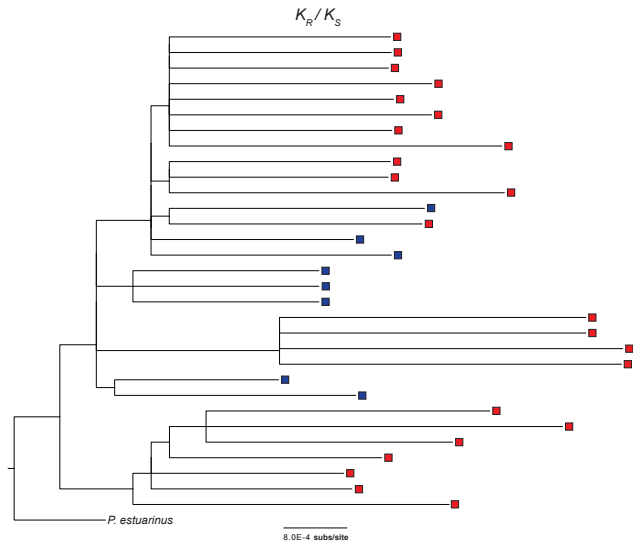


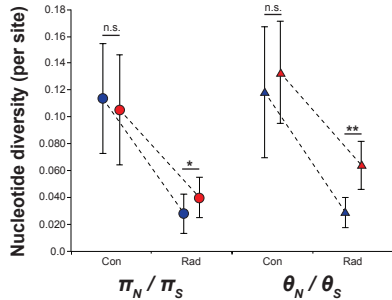
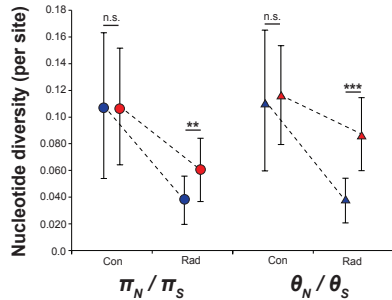


a)



b)



**a)****b)****c)**