Title: Genome-wide divergence among invasive populations of *Aedes aegypti* in California

Running head title (60 chars w/ spaces): Population genomics of California *Aedes aegypti*

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Abstract

In the summer of 2013, *Aedes aegypti* Linnaeus was first detected in three cities in central

California (Clovis, Madera and Menlo Park). It has now been detected in multiple locations in central and

southern CA as far south as San Diego and Imperial Counties. A number of published reports suggest

that CA populations have been established from multiple independent introductions. Here we report

the first population genomics analyses of *Ae. aegypti* based on individual, field collected whole genome

sequences. We analyzed 46 *Ae. aegypti* genomes to establish genetic relationships among populations

from sites in California, Florida and South Africa. We identified 3 major genetic clusters within California;

one that includes all sample sites in the southern part of the state (South of Tehachapi mountain range)

plus the town of Exeter in central California and two additional clusters in central California. A lack of

concordance between mitochondrial and nuclear genealogies suggests that the three founding

populations were polymorphic for two main mitochondrial haplotypes prior to being introduced to

California. One of these has been lost in the Clovis populations, possibly by a founder effect. Genome-

wide comparisons indicate extensive differentiation between genetic clusters. Our observations support

recent introductions of *Ae. aegypti* into California from multiple, genetically diverged source populations.

Our data reveal signs of hybridization among diverged populations within CA. Genetic markers identified

in this study will be of great value in pursuing classical population genetic studies which require larger

sample sizes.

Introduction

Aedes aegypti has a short flight range, usually not actively moving more than 200 m from their breeding source [1], but is exquisitely adapted to hitchhiking in transport vehicles [2]. One central question concerning the populations dynamics of Ae. aegypti in CA therefore is whether the established populations at different locations are founded from one source population that spread across the state or if they are the result of other kinds of founding effects. A recent study revealed several, genetically distinct Ae. aegypti populations in CA presumably originating from multiple introductions from other sites in the U.S. and/or northern Mexico [3]. Insight into the population structure of CA Ae. aegypti beyond this will be necessary to fully understand the dynamics that shape the current pattern of distribution of this invasive vector species.

California (CA) had no known established local populations of Ae. aegypti prior to the summer of 2013 when it was detected in three cities in central California: Clovis, Madera and Menlo Park [4, 5, 6]. In the spring and summer of the following year, this mosquito was again found in the same three California locations and for the first time in additional communities in central California and further south in San Diego County (Figure 1). Ae. aegypti specimens have been collected over multiple years from some sites and from additional locations in both central and southern CA each year, indicating that Ae. aegypti has now become established and is spreading through large parts of the state (Figure 1).

Aedes aegypti is thought to have a short flight range, usually not actively moving more than 200 m from their breeding source [1], but is exquisitely adapted to hitchhiking in transport vehicles [2]. Recent studies revealed several, genetically distinct Ae. aegypti populations in CA originating from multiple introductions from other sites in the U.S. and/or northern Mexico [3].

Successful vector control can benefit from population genetics and genomics analyses which can provide estimates of gene flow and identify the genetic basis of phenotypes such as insecticide resistance [7] and host preference [8]. Population genomics studies are especially critical to the

development of control strategies based on genetic manipulation of vectors, which is a matter of

growing interest. Modelling, planning and monitoring activities associated with control programs require

affordable and rapid assays to distinguish vector sub-populations within a species and a deep

understanding of the processes that shape their genetic structure. It is becoming increasingly apparent

that hybridization between diverged vector populations may be an import source of new genetic

material including alleles that mediate adaptations to facilitate range expansion [9] or that promote the

evolution of resistance to insecticides [10]. Analysis of whole-genome sequencing data is the most

powerful method to detect even minor admixture [11]. Therefore, we have applied a population genomics

approach to study invasive *Ae. aegypti* populations. Here we report a preliminary analysis based on

genome sequences of 39 individual *Ae. aegypti*, collected from twelve locations throughout CA, and, for

comparison, four specimens from Florida and three from South Africa. The analyses presented here

should serve as a starting point for expanded population genomics studies aimed at understanding how

invasive mosquito species become established in new locations and how distinct populations interact on

the genetic level.

Materials and Methods

<u>Mosquito Collection</u>

Adult female *Ae. aegypti* were collected from 13 cities by personnel from Mosquito Abatement

Districts in Fresno, San Diego, and Orange Counties (Figure 2 and Supplementary Table S1). All

collections on private properties were conducted after obtaining permission from residents and/or

owners. Mosquito samples were individually stored in 80% ethanol prior to DNA extraction.

<u>Whole genome sequencing</u>

Genomic DNA was extracted using established protocols [12, 13]. DNA concentrations for each

sample were measured using the Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Life Technologies) on a Qubit instrument

(Life Technologies). A genomic DNA library was constructed for each individual mosquito using 20 ng

DNA, Qiaseq FX 96 (Qiagen, Valencia, CA), and Ampure SPRI beads (Beckman) following an established

protocol [13]. Library concentrations were measured using Qubit (Life Technologies) as described above.

Libraries were sequenced as 150 bp paired-end reads using a HiSeq 4000 instrument (Illumina) at the UC

Davis DNA Technologies Core.

<u>Sequence Analysis</u>

Raw reads were trimmed using Trimmomatic [14] version 0.36 and mapped to the *Aaeg*L5

reference genome [15] using BWA-MEM [16] version 0.7.15. Mapping statistics were calculated using

Qualimap version 2.2 [17](Table S1). Freebayes [18] version 1.0.1 was used for variant calling without

population prior. We used minimum depth of 8 to call variants for each individual [19]. Only biallelic SNPs

were used for further analysis. A missing data threshold of 20% was used to filter SNPs. A phylogenetic

tree base on the polymorphism data was constructed using the neighbor-joining algorithm as

implemented in PHYLIP [20] version 3.696. Hudson F_{ST}[21], nucleotide diversity (π) and Principal Component

Analysis (PCA) analyses was done in Python version 3.4.3 using the scikit-allel module version 0.21.1 [22].

The presence of mitochondrial pseudogenes in the nuclear genomes of *Ae. aegypti* could potentially

confound SNP calling [23]. Thus we followed the mapping recommendations suggested by Schmidt, et al. [24]

and mapped raw reads to the mitochondrial reference genome prior to mapping unmapped reads to the

nuclear genome.

We used Ae13CLOV028MT (Genbank ID: MH348176) as a reference for mapping the

mitochondrial genome because all our specimens contained a deletion between position 14,522 and

14,659 compared to the AaegL5 reference genome [24]. Variants in the mitochondrial genome were called

with Freebayes as described for the nuclear genome, but set to single ploidy. Mitochondrial coverage

was on average 160 times greater than the nuclear genome coverage with a minimum of 25-fold

difference (Supplementary Table S1). Use of properly paired reads for variant calling reduced errors

generated by failing to recognize mitochondrial pseudogenes present in the nuclear genome. The

Vcf2fasta program [25] was used to extract mitogenome sequences from the VCF file to FASTA format.

MEGA version 7.0.26 [26] was used for mitogenome alignment. Mitogenome reference sequences of *Culex*

quinquefasciatus (Genbank accession number = HQ724617), *Aedes notoscriptus* (KM676219), and *Aedes*

albopictus (NC_006817) were obtained from GenBank and added to the alignment. Sequences for the

thirteen mitochondrial protein-coding genes in *Ae. aegypti* were obtained from GenBank [27], extracted

from our dataset, and concatenated for tree construction with the maximum likelihood algorithm

implemented in MEGA.

<u>Data Visualization</u>

QGIS version 2.18 was used to create maps. Python matplotlib version 2.2.2

(https://matplotlib.org/) was used for generating plots. Inkscape (https://inkscape.org/) version 0.92

was used to edit images.

Results

We sequenced the genomes of 46 specimens of *Ae. aegypti* from California (N=39), Florida (N=4)

and South Africa (N=3) with median genome coverage of 9.6X per sample (Supplementary Table S1).

Sequence data is available through NCBI Sequence Read Archive (Study accession number: SRP106694).

Data is also available through UC Davis Popl OpenProjects AedesGenomes page [28]: Filtering for biallelic

SNPs and a minimum depth of 8 with at most 20% missing data yielded 2,919,917 final high-quality SNPs.

Principal Components Analysis based on the genotypes of these SNPs revealed four distinct

genetic clusters (Figure 3). The genetic cluster designated GC1 includes all six cities in southern CA and

includes one central CA site, Exeter. Samples from Florida also fall within this cluster. The GC2 cluster

includes the northernmost sites near the coast in Menlo Park and includes some central CA populations

at Madera and Fresno. Populations from the restricted area around Clovis and Sanger in central CA form

the GC3 cluster. The GC4 cluster includes all South African *Ae. aegypti* samples. Overall, the distribution

of the three *Ae. aegypti* genetic clusters containing CA *Ae. aegypti* have a nearly parapatric distribution

with the three groups potentially converging in the Central Valley. The population at Sanger appears to

have multiple genetic clusters occurring in sympatry. One specimen from Sanger (Ae17CON058) could

be GC2 or a hybrid of GC2 and GC3 given its values of PC2 and PC3 relative to other samples (Figure 3).

Other Principal components (PC5 and PC6 in Figure 3) indicate additional population subdivisions further

dividing Mission Viejo, Garden Grove, Exeter and Vero Beach samples from the rest of GC2 (Figure 3).

This is consistent with a previous report suggesting highly structured populations within southern CA *Ae.*

aegypti [3]. Our genome-wide SNP-based clustering results show clear subdivision between Clovis and

Fresno/Madera/Menlo Park. This may seem slightly different from published SNPchip data [3] but is

consistent with the microsatellite-based genetic clustering reported in the same study.

Windowed-F_{ST} analysis indicates genome-wide differentiation among the four genetic clusters

(Figure 4A -C). The GC1 and GC4 clusters are the most highly diverged (genome-wide average F_{ST} =

0.159). Genetic distance between GC1 and the other clusters is intermediate (Figure 4 A and B).

Nucleotide diversity (π) is highest in the middle region of each chromosome (Figure 4). These regions

correspond to the location of the centromeres (coordinates obtained from personal communications

with M. Sharakhova at Virginia Polytechnic Institute). Overall nucleotide diversity is lowest on

Chromosome 1, which contains the sex determining locus in *Ae. aegypti*. Overall nucleotide diversity is

similar in all population comparisons as indicated by difference in nucleotide diversity ($\Delta\pi = \pi_1 - \pi_2$). As a

peculiarity, the South African populations have noticeably higher nucleotide diversity in a region around

160-170 Mbp of Chromosome 1 compared to samples from the southern CA GC1.

For our only temporal comparison, we compared the genomes of samples obtained in Clovis in

2013 with those from samples collected in 2016. Overall genome divergence is negligible (F_{ST}= -0.025 ±

0.002). However, a whole genome scan using 1 Mbp windows for F_{ST} values indicates a number of

genomic regions with markedly elevated F_{ST} values (>0.1) (Figure 4D). The difference in nucleotide

diversity between 2013 and 2016 samples shows a reduction in nucleotide diversity over time in

chromosome 2 and 3 (mean π_{2013}- π_{2016} value of 4.48×10^{-5} and 5.20×10^{-5}, respectively). On the contrary,

the nucleotide diversity increased over time on Chromsome 1 (π_{2013}- π_{2016} value of -6.36×10^{-5}). However,

an increase in nucleotide diversity in 2016 compared to 2013 is visible in all three chromosomes, some

of which also coincides with highly differentiated (F_{ST} >0.1) regions. These highly differentiated regions

with relative large nucleotide diversity change may indicate genomic regions under selection

presumably as the founding population adapts to local environmental conditions [7].

Differentiation among populations within GC2 (F_{ST}=-0.052 ~ -0.007) and GC3 (F_{ST}=-0.131 ~ -

0.045) is minimal (Table S2). However, differentiation between some populations within GC1 is fairly

high (F_{ST}=0.006 ~ 0.210), especially between Exeter and the southern CA samples (F_{ST}=0.094 ~ 0.197).

This suggests potential substructure within GC2 separating Exeter and Florida samples from other

southern CA samples (Figure 3 and Figure 5). The F_{ST} distance between one sample from the town of

Sanger (sample Ae17CON058) to GC2 and GC3 clusters were equivalent (Table S2) and its placement in

the PCA (Figure 3) and phylogenetic tree (Figure 5) suggest that this individual could be a GC2/GC3

hybrid.

Estimates of F_{ST} derived from whole genome sequence data have been shown to be accurate

even with very small sample sizes (i.e. N=2/population [29]). This is due to the very large number of SNPs

(i.e. n>>1,000 loci) used in these analyses. Using conservative SNP calling with a minimum depth of 8 we

were able to calculate F_{ST} values between pairs of genetic clusters based on 2.1 – 6.3 million SNPs (mean

= 4.0 million). This well exceeds the number of loci required for an accurate assessment of F_{ST}. In

addition, we evaluated various read depths and missing data ratios and observed results consistent with

those we report here (data not shown).

Mitogenome sequence analysis revealed two major mitochondrial lineages in CA *Ae. aegypti*

(Figure 6). One lineage includes the *Ae. aegypti* reference sequence and is represented in all four genetic

clusters, the other was present in samples from GC1, GC2 and GC4. Samples from Florida and South

Africa are distributed among the two major lineages suggesting that these lineages might be present

throughout the global range of *Ae. aegypti*.

Discussion

Using nuclear genome sequence data we identified three major genetic clusters among CA *Ae.*

aegypti. These correspond roughly to geographic regions in the state (Figure 2 and 3). Our data support

the hypothesis that *Ae. aegypti* in CA currently exists as multiple, mostly isolated populations. High

genetic distance ($F_{ST} > 0.1$) as well as genome-wide differentiation (Figure 4) support multiple

introductions into CA from genetically distinct source populations as the most plausible history of this

invasion.

Two major mitochondrial lineages are present within California populations, probably

corresponding to previously described global clades [24, 30]. However, their genealogy differs from the

nuclear genome genealogy (Figures 5 and 6). This is comparable to a previous study using ND4 sequence

analysis of *Ae. aegypti* populations introduced to Florida [31]. The lack of geographic clustering of

mitochondrial lineages therefore appears to be common in invasive *Ae. aegypti* populations and is likely

due to the saltatory nature of dispersal in this species. The incongruence between nuclear and

mitochondrial gene genealogies could be due to different evolutionary rates between different loci

producing differing topologies [32, 33, 34]. It is possible that mitochondrial lineages capture historic

divergence events, while nuclear genome divergence reflects relatively recent divergence. Linkage

disequilibrium decays rapidly in mosquito genomes as seen in *Anopheles arabiensis* [35]. Thus, any contact

between two distinct *Ae. aegypti* populations may have resulted in relatively recent gene flow

homogenizing populations within a locality. In this case mitochondrial markers appear to be less useful

to determine relatively recent population divergence events in *Ae. aegypti*.

We investigated the possibility of generating SNP genotypes that are compatible with the

existing *Ae. aegypti* SNP chip dataset [36] to allow for a direct comparison of our results with those

previously published. The SNP positions provided in Evans et al. [36] were based on the initial genome

assembly AaegL1 [37]. Our BLAST results comparing AaegL1-based SNP sequences to the AaegL5 assembly

revealed numerous and significant differences, including duplicated regions (multiple matching with

high (>98%) similarity), sequence differences (arising from indel mutations), non-biallelic SNPs,

polymorphisms surrounding the target SNPs, etc. These often resulted in mismatched genotype calls

between the two different platforms, most likely displaying at least partially unintended haplotype calls

with the SNP chip. Due to these problems a direct comparison of SNP genotype calls using the published

SNP chip data with those generated from genome sequence data is deemed inappropriate and we highly

recommend taking this into account when applying SNP chip analyses in the future.

Microsatellite data from Gloria-Soria, et al. [4] and Pless, et al. [3] indicated that San Mateo (=Menlo

Park), Madera and Fresno samples were genetically similar to samples from the southeastern USA which

includes samples from Louisiana, Georgia and Florida. Pless, et al. [3] also included a population from

Exeter, CA that was also classified together with other central CA samples and south central and

southeast USA populations based on microsatellite profiles. This appears to be inconsistent with our

results. Our analysis placed the three central CA populations (Menlo Park, Madera and Fresno) in a

group (GC3) distinct from the group containing the southeast USA populations (Vero Beach and Key

West, Florida). In our analysis, the samples from Florida clustered with populations from Exeter, CA and

southern CA (GC1, Figure 3).

Contrary to the microsatellite data, the SNP chip data from the same study [3] groups the Exeter

population apart from all other CA populations including those in central CA, consistent with our

genome-wide SNP data. Unfortunately, their SNP chip data clustering results did not include samples

from the southeast USA preventing direct comparison with their SNP clustering result. This, however,

could support the view that the Exeter population, introduced in 2014 is distinct from all other CA

populations and that it was introduced independently, rather than resulting from local spread of *Ae.*

aegypti within CA.

Pless, et al. [3] PCA analyses of the SNP chip data separated Clovis (GC3) from the GC2 cluster with

some overlap. The larger number of SNPs used in our analysis (>2.9 million biallelic SNPs compared to

15,698 SNPs) may have increased the resolution, allowing us to confidently separate the two. Our data

together with previous reports strongly support multiple introductions of *Ae. aegypti* in California. The

most likely scenario includes four independent introductions: (i) Clovis area; probably in 2013 (ii)

Madera area; probably in 2013 (iii) southern CA, probably in 2014 (iv) Exeter, probably in 2014

introduced from someplace in the southeast USA like Florida. The years are based on reports from the

California vector control districts. This scenario is also in line with most of the results published based on

microsatellites and SNP chip data [3]. From our data the origin of the introductions remains dubious with

only the Exeter population showing signs of presumable derivation from the southeast USA.

The degree of genetic differentiation found in the Clovis population between the years 2013 and 2016

(Figure 4D) indicates the population is undergoing rapid changes in its genome, potentially reflecting

local adaptation, or, less likely, drift. The only other longitudinal investigation of a CA population of *Ae.*

aegypti that we are aware of compares genotypes of samples from 2013 and 2015 from Madera,

detecting almost no change within these two years [3]. Further investigation on genic features showing

significant differences between the two time points may shed light on the genes involved in local

adaptation at Clovis and the particular circumstances that drove it.

The geographic origin of CA *Ae. aegypti* populations and the means by which they were

introduced remains unclear. Perhaps the most interesting open question is what conditions facilitated

multiple introductions? Answering these questions is beyond the scope of this study and requires

additional data. Investigating samples from different origins using the same NGS platform may provide a

clearer description of *Ae. aegypti* invasion history in CA. In addition, investigation describing genomic

changes over time may provide information on local adaptation and potentially will be useful for the

control of the species in California.

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FIGURE LEGENDS

Figure 1. History of the recent *Ae. aegypti* invasion in California. The respective year of the first

detection of the species in each site is displayed on the map. * 2018 data is surveillance data available as

of July, 31, 2018. Data was derived from CalSurv Maps [38] and the CleanTOPO2 basemap [39] was used as

background.

Figure 2. Geographic origin of *Ae. aegypti* used in this study. Left map shows location of all samples

from California with the inset enlarging the Fresno/Clovis area. Top right shows a world map, bottom

central shows a Florida map and bottom right a South Africa map with all respective sampling locations.

CleanTOPO2 basemap [39] was used as background.

Figure 3. Genetic Clusters of *Ae. aegypti* based on PCA analysis. Principal Component Analysis based on

the SNP data. Principal component 1 (PC1) accounts for 6.3% of SNPs that are separating South Africa

population (GC4) from United States (US) populations. PC2 accounts for 5.6% of SNPs that separates US

populations into three groups (namely GC1, GC2 and GC3). PC3 accounts for 4.4% of SNPs separating

Central California population into two groups (GC2 and GC3). PC4 accounts for 4.2% of SNPs separating

Southern California population from Exeter (Central California) and Vero Beach, Florida populations. PC5

(3.2% SNPs) and PC6 (3.1% SNPs) further divide GC1 cluster separating Exeter, Garden Grove and

Mission Viejo and Vero Beach samples.

Figure 4. Genome-wide comparison of *Ae. aegypti* populations revealing broad highly differentiated

(F_{ST}>0.1) genomic regions. F_{ST} is marked in black dots. Nucleotide diversity (π) is marked in red for GC1,

blue for GC2, green for GC3 and light purple for GC4. Difference in nucleotide diversity (=π_1- π_2) is

marked in in gray. A: GC1 (Southern California, N=18) vs GC2 (Central California – Menlo Park, Madera

and Fresno, N=9). B: GC1 (Southern California, N=18) vs GC3 (Central California – Clovis, N=7). C: GC1

(Southern California, N=18) vs GC4 (South Africa, N=3). D: Clovis 2013 (N=3) vs 2016 (N=4). Values were

calculated using 1Mbp windows with 500Kbp steps. Vertical gray bars indicate the location of

centromeres. Other comparisons of GC2 vs GC3, GC2 vs GC4 and GC3 vs GC4 are provided in

Supplementary Figure S1.

Figure 5. Neighbor-joining tree based on pairwise nuclear genome-wide F$_{ST}$. Populations within GC1

designated in red (CA) and purple (Florida and Exeter, CA), GC2 in blue, GC3 in green, and GC4 in

magenta.

Figure 6. Maximum Likelihood tree based on mitochondrial protein-coding genes. Sample-specific

sequences for all protein-coding genes were aligned and concatenated. Labelling refers to the Principal

Component Analysis and resulting genetic clusters (GCs).

Supplementary materials

Table S1. Sample metadata including geographic coordinates, collection date and genome sequencing

related metric.

Table S2. Pairwise F$_{ST}$ values based on nuclear genome SNP data.

Figure S1. Genome-wide comparison of *Ae. aegypti* populations comparing GC2 vs GC3, GC2 vs GC4 and

GC3 vs GC4.

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Southern California

◇ ELA
◇ Garden Grove
◆ Mission Viejo
◆ San Diego
◇ Brawley
◆ Chula Vista

Central California

■ Menlo Park
■ Madera
■ Fresno
● Clovis 2013
● Clovis 2016
■● Sanger
▲ Exeter

Florida

▲ Vero Beach
▲ Key West

South Africa

⬠ Pretoria
⬠ Rooiport
⬠ Shingwedzi

A: GC1 (Southern CA, N=18) vs GC2 (Menlo Park, Madera and Fresno, N=9) - overall F_{ST} = 0.039 ± 0.001

B: GC1 (Southern CA, N=18) vs GC3 (Clovis, N=7) - overall F_{ST} = 0.056 ± 0.002

C: GC1 (Southern CA, N=18) vs GC4 (South Africa, N=3) - overall F_{ST} = 0.159 ± 0.003

D: Clovis 2016 (N=4) vs 2013 (N=3) - genome-wide F_{ST} = -0.025 ± 0.002

GC4 (South Africa, center)

Key West, FL (GC1)

GC1 (incl. Vero Beach, FL)

GC2

Reference

Ae16KEYW001

Ae15PRET1.3

Ae15RPT1e.6

NC_035159.1 Aaegl5

Ae15CLOMF3.001
Ae17CLOA002
Ae16COMF3.001
Ae17ORA169
Ae17GLA006
Ae17ORA161
Ae15IMPE002
Ae17IMPE009
Ae16VERO002
Ae16VERO003

Ae15SAMC004

Ae15SHG24.5

GC4 (South Africa, north-east)

Ae14EXET174
Ae14EXET165
Ae16VERO001
Ae14EXET135

GC1 (incl. Vero Beach, FL)

Ae15MSV030
Ae15MSV029
Ae17ORA163
Ae15MADE015
Ae16MAME035
Ae15SAMC001

GC1 & GC2

GC1 & GC2 & GC3

Ae15TRO509
Ae17FOS
Ae14SAMC...
Ae15SAND015
Ae15SAND...
Ae15SAND017
Ae16CLOV004
Ae13CLOV009
Ae16CLOV008
Ae15ARG021
Ae15ARG019
Ae16CLOV007
Ae17ARG026
Ae16CLOV030
Ae15CONS028
Ae16ARG008
Ae15FREE...

other mosquito species
(*Aedes, Culex*)