

1 Population structure and clonal prevalence of scleractinian corals (*Montipora capitata* and  
2 *Porites compressa*) in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu

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20 **Abstract**

21 As the effects of anthropogenic climate change grow, mass coral bleaching events are expected to  
22 increase in severity and extent. Much research has focused on the environmental stressors  
23 themselves, symbiotic community compositions, and transcriptomics of the coral host. Globally,  
24 fine-scale population structure of corals is understudied. This study reports patterns of population  
25 structure and clonal prevalence found in *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa* in Kaneohe  
26 Bay, Oahu. Generated using ddRAD methods, genetic data reveals different patterns in each taxa  
27 despite them being exposed to the same environmental conditions. STRUCTURE and site-level  
28 pairwise  $F_{ST}$  analyses suggest population structure in *M. capitata* resembling isolation by distance.  
29 Mantel tests show strong, significant  $F_{ST}$  correlations in *M. capitata* in relation to geographic  
30 distance, water residence time, and salinity and temperature variability (range) at different time  
31 scales. STRUCTURE did not reveal strong population structure in *P. compressa*.  $F_{ST}$  correlation  
32 was found in *P. compressa* in relation to yearly average sea surface height. We also report high  
33 prevalence of clonal colonies in *P. compressa* in outer bay sites exposed to storms and high energy  
34 swells. Amongst only outer bay sites, 7 out of 23 sequenced individuals were clones of other  
35 colonies. Amongst all 47 sequenced *P. compressa* individuals, 8 were clones. Only one clone was  
36 detected in *M. capitata*. Moving forward, it is crucial to consider these preexisting patterns relating  
37 to genetic diversity when planning and executing conservation and restoration initiatives.  
38 Recognizing that there are differences in population structure and diversity between coral taxa,  
39 even on such small-scales, is important as it suggests that small-scale reefs must be managed by  
40 species rather than by geography.

41

42 **KEYWORDS:** coral, population genetics, clones, ddRAD, *Montipora*, *Porites*, structure, local  
43 adaptation

## 44 **Introduction**

45           Rapid climate change due to anthropogenic carbon emissions is one of the greatest threats  
46 to global marine biodiversity (Cheung et al. 2009). Within the past few decades, coral bleaching  
47 events have increased in occurrence and severity to the point where they are becoming  
48 commonplace (Hughes et al. 2003). Despite bleaching being a widely-known impact of climate  
49 change, the pathways by which it occurs remain poorly understood.

50           A large proportion of research has focused on the role of zooxanthellae, dinoflagellate  
51 algae of the genus *Symbiodinium* that form symbiotic relationships with coral, in mediating the  
52 bleaching response. In a zooxanthellae driven response, thermal bleaching is caused by or begins  
53 when photosystems within the symbiont cells become damaged by heat and sunlight and cells are  
54 subsequently ejected by the coral host (Jones et al. 1998, Warner et al. 1999). In addition to  
55 symbiont-related mechanisms of coral bleaching, bleaching can be a physiological response of the  
56 coral, in which case genetic variation among coral could affect their response. Some evidence  
57 exists for this mechanism. When experimentally exposed to warm water, populations of *Porites*  
58 *astreoides* from different temperature conditions (no more than 10km apart) showed different  
59 bleaching responses despite harboring the same *Symbiodinium* communities. These responses  
60 were associated with differences in gene expression and significant genetic divergence correlated  
61 with *in situ* temperature conditions (Kenkel et al. 2013, Kenkel and Matz 2016). A third  
62 mechanism for coral bleaching is the probiotic hypothesis (Reshef et al. 2006). This mechanism  
63 has highlighted the importance of microbial communities in coral mucus and tissues that change  
64 in response to abiotic conditions such as temperature (Bourne et al. 2008, Li et al. 2015). Studies  
65 have shown that increasing water temperature is associated with a shift in bacterial community

66 compositions and virulence patterns and that following temperature stress, bacterial communities  
67 slowly return to their original state (Bourne et al. 2008, Rosenberg et al. 2009).

68         These mechanisms are usually studied separately and do not consider the effect of  
69 population dynamics of the coral host. This oversight may be partly due to the difficulty of  
70 studying population genetics in many coral genera until the recent application of restriction-site  
71 associated methods, primarily in Caribbean corals (Drury et al. 2016, 2017, Devlin-Durante and  
72 Baums 2017, Forsman et al. 2017). Although microbial communities are essential to the long-term  
73 survival of corals, studying these communities without considering the genetic structuring of the  
74 coral host leads to an incomplete understanding of the drivers of bleaching events. This study seeks  
75 to understand population genetic structuring patterns of two Pacific reef-building corals,  
76 *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa*, in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu.

77         *M. capitata* and *P. compressa* were chosen as the focal species due to their wide ranges  
78 and their importance as major reef-building organisms in shallow waters of the Main Hawaiian  
79 Islands. *Montipora* are generalists in their *Symbiodinium* community composition but are generally  
80 more sensitive to environmental conditions than *Porites*, which are largely inflexible to shifting  
81 symbiont composition (Putnam et al. 2012). Growth rates differ between the taxa, with *Montipora*  
82 having high growth rates and *Porites* a comparatively low rate (Gladfelter et al. 1978, Huston  
83 1985). This suggests that there may be an inherent fitness tradeoff associated with symbiont  
84 switching ability. *Montipora* switch symbionts to optimize for fast growth at the expense of  
85 environmental sensitivity while *Porites* exhibit high symbiont fidelity that confers environmental  
86 resilience but slower growth. Because of this inherent difference, it is imperative for the field to  
87 better understand if these corals, with fundamentally different life history strategies, differ in their  
88 genetic structure.

89 Kaneohe Bay is a well-studied marine system that is uniquely positioned to explore these  
90 questions. The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) sits upon Coconut Island in the  
91 southern, sheltered portion of the bay and is the gateway for much of the research that comes out  
92 of the bay. As a result of this, episodes of extreme stress, like heatwaves and freshwater kills, are  
93 well-documented and the patterns of bleaching in 1996 and 2014 documented by researchers at  
94 HIMB provide some context for this present study (Jokiel and Brown 2004, Bahr et al. 2015a,  
95 2017). In addition to its recent temperature-related stressors, the bay has a long history of human  
96 utilization that began with Polynesian settlement and has more recently been subject to invasive  
97 species introduction, agricultural runoff, sewage discharge, and extensive dredge and fill  
98 operations (Bahr et al. 2015b). In an otherwise well-studied system, the bay is understudied in  
99 regards to the population genetics of their hallmark organisms: corals. This study sought to fill this  
100 gap in knowledge by utilizing ddRAD (Peterson et al. 2012) to understand the population structure  
101 and genetic diversity of corals within Kaneohe Bay (KB) and determine if any patterns differ  
102 between the sampled taxa.

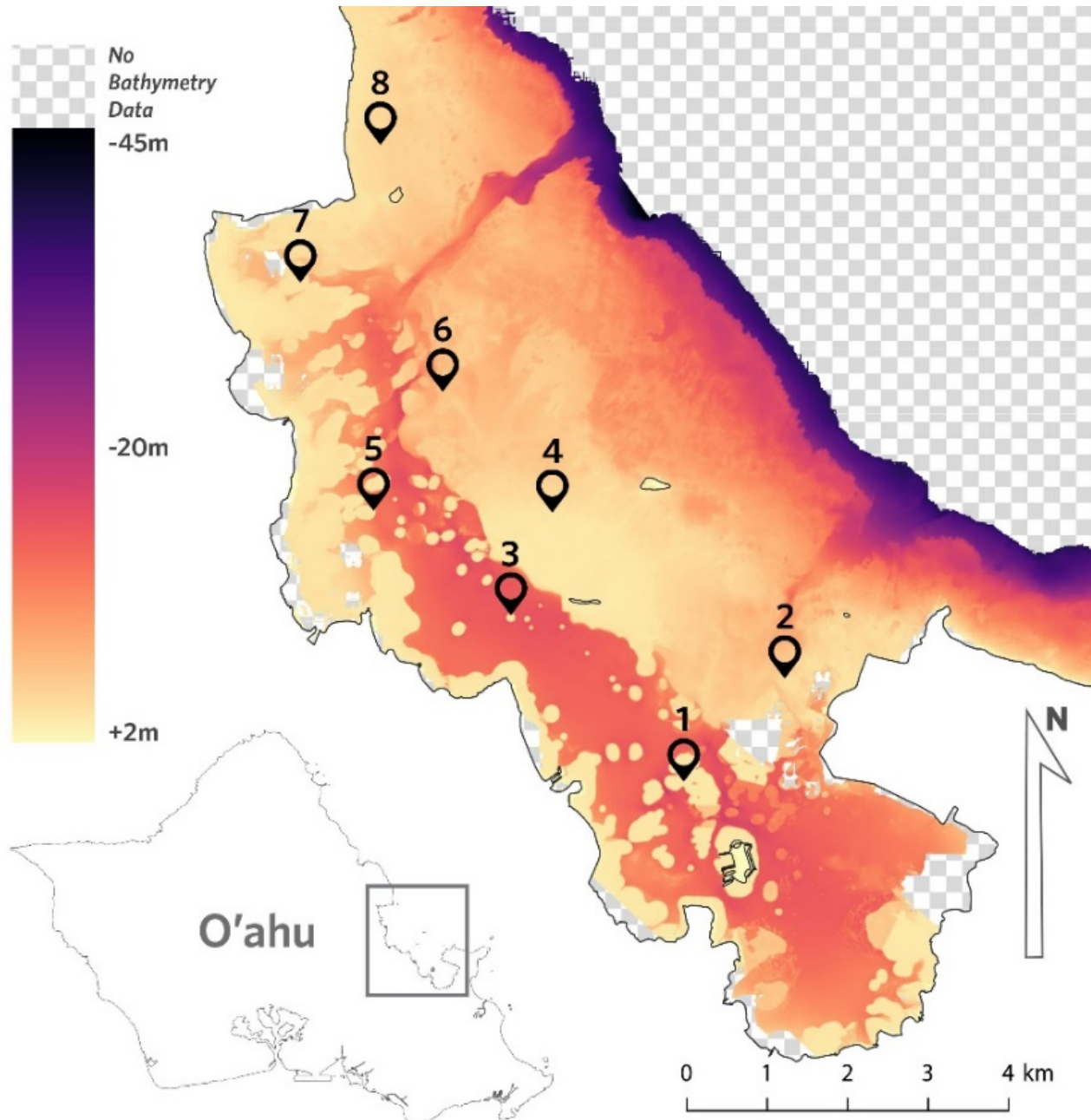
103

## 104 **Methods**

### 105 *Sample Acquisition and Preservation:*

106 Colonies of *M. capitata* and *P. compressa* were collected between August 20<sup>th</sup> and August  
107 30<sup>th</sup> of 2018 under authorization from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources  
108 Special Activity Permit (SAP) No. 2019-67. A total of 48 individuals from each species were  
109 collected from among eight sites (six individuals per site per species). Sites were evenly spaced to  
110 capture the diversity of abiotic conditions found throughout KB (**Fig. 1**, sample inventory and GPS  
111 coordinates in **Supplemental Table 1**). Samples were obtained from colonies <1m<sup>3</sup> in size

112 growing outside of prohibited areas and monitored reefs as outlined in the SAP. Sites were 1-2m  
113 in depth with the exception of site 6 which was ~5m in depth. Colonies were sampled >20m apart  
114 to minimize the possibility of fragmentary clones. Fragments ~2cm in length were taken from each  
115 individual and immediately preserved in 100% ethanol in 1.5ml microcentrifuge tubes. Samples  
116 were shipped to the continental US, transferred to sterile 5ml microcentrifuge tubes, and topped



**Figure 1:** Sampling sites within Kaneohe Bay, Oahu. Sites ranged from 1-5m in depth and six individuals per site per species were collected for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa*.

117 off with additional 100% ethanol to increase the overall ethanol concentration for long-term  
118 storage.

119

120 DNA Extraction, Library Preparation, and Sequencing:

121 Ethanol-preserved samples were placed on sterile mixed cellulose ester (MCE) membrane  
122 filter to absorb and evaporate excess ethanol. Tissue was obtained by removing the outermost  
123 ~1mm of material from a surface area of approximately 1cm<sup>2</sup> using a sterile scalpel. Removed  
124 tissue and skeletal material was pulverized in the folded MCE membrane using the side of the  
125 scalpel blade. Pulverized tissue was allowed to dry completely and transferred to a 1.5ml  
126 microcentrifuge tube. For *Montipora* samples, extractions were performed using E.Z.N.A. Tissue  
127 DNA Kits (Omega Bio-Tek) with unmodified protocols. For *Porites* samples, extractions were  
128 performed with unaltered protocols with the exception of centrifugation steps. Excessive  
129 mucopolysaccharides severely clogged spin columns and required additional time and velocity  
130 (20800RCF) to push the fluid through silica columns. Extracts were quantified using an  
131 AccuGreen™ Broad Range dsDNA Quantitation Kit (Biotium) with a Qubit 3.0 fluorometer  
132 (Invitrogen). Yields of *Montipora* extractions were all >65ng/microliter while yields for *Porites*  
133 samples ranged from 3.96ng/μl to 106ng/μl. Volumes of eluted DNA ranged from 100-250μl. Salt-  
134 ethanol precipitations using 3M sodium acetate (pH ~7.0) were performed on low concentration  
135 samples such that all met the library preparation and sequencing provider requirements of  
136 >25ng/μl concentration and >20μl volume. No laboratory methods were used to minimize  
137 symbiont contamination from Symbiodinaceae symbionts. Contamination in *Montipora* samples  
138 were anticipated to be low as fragments were taken from apical growing tips which hold low  
139 concentrations of symbionts (Oliver 1984). Based on color of sample and solution, most symbiont

140 cells in *Porites* samples were thought to have been present in solution and low contamination was  
141 expected.

142         Extracted DNA was sent to the University of Minnesota Genomics Center for the  
143 Sequence-based Genotyping (SBG) service for library preparation and sequencing. The 96  
144 samples underwent quality control and re-quantification to verify sufficient sample volume and  
145 mass. The library preparation method utilized was ddRAD (Peterson et al. 2012) using TaqI and  
146 BtgI as restriction enzymes. At the time of enzyme selection, a *Montipora capitata* genome was  
147 not yet available. Thus, enzymes were chosen based on an expected genome length of 420-552Mb  
148 as inferred from published *Acropora digitifera* and *Porites lutea* genomes. Fragments were  
149 subsequently size selected for the range of 300-744bp with an insert size of 156-600bp and then  
150 amplified. Prepared fragments were sequenced using half a lane of NextSeq 500 in high output  
151 configuration with single-end chemistry (1x150bp).

152

### 153 Data Processing and Bioinformatics:

154         Demultiplexed data was received from the University of Minnesota Genomics Center and  
155 preliminary quality control analysis was performed using FastQC  
156 ([bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/](http://bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/)). Small amounts of Nextera Transposase adapter  
157 sequences were detected and the first 15bp of each sequence were biased in their content. Trim  
158 Galore ([bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim\\_galore/](http://bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/)) was used to remove remaining  
159 adapters as well as the first 15bp of each read. Because no outgroup was sequenced, *M. spumosa*  
160 sequence data (Consortium 2015) was in-silico digested using FRAGMENTIC (Chafin et al. 2018),  
161 duplicated 10x to increase “read” depth, converted from fasta to fastq using dummy quality scores,  
162 and included in the assembly. No in-silico data was needed for *P. compressa* as ipyrad allows for



163 the inclusion of reference genotypes (*P. lutea* reference genome) as a sample in output files.  
164 Following quality checks, data for each species was assembled using the ipyrad 0.9.4 pipeline  
165 (Eaton 2014, ipyrad.readthedocs.io). Assembly of *M. capitata* reads was performed using the  
166 newly published *M. capitata* nuclear genome assembly (Shumaker et al. 2019) and assembly of *P.*  
167 *compressa* reads was performed using the *Porites lutea* genome assembly (ReFuGe 2020  
168 Consortium, Liew et al. 2016). The datatype selected was single-end ddRAD, assembly type was  
169 “reference”, and all formats were output. All other parameters were left as default.

170         PHYMLIP alignments of variant sites generated from the ipyrad assembly were input into  
171 RAxML-NG (Kozlov et al. 2019) to generate a maximum likelihood tree with bootstrap support  
172 for *M. capitata* and *P. compressa* data that were generated in this study. ModelTest-NG (Darriba  
173 et al. 2019) was used to choose appropriate models of evolution for both datasets. Using the best  
174 model of evolution, maximum likelihood analyses were then performed using 1000 standard  
175 bootstraps.

176         VCF files from the ipyrad pipeline were further filtered using VCFtools (Danecek et al.  
177 2011). Parameters --min-alleles 2 and --max-alleles 2 were used to filter for only biallelic loci and  
178 --mac 3 was used to remove minor allele counts < 3 as suggested by Linck and Battey (2019). The  
179 populations program of Stacks (Catchen et al. 2013) was then used to generate F-statistics.  
180 Between sites, loci were required to be in  $\geq 6/8$  sites in order to be processed. Within sites,  $\geq 2/3$  of  
181 the individuals were required to possess a locus in order for it to be processed. Additionally,  
182 maximum observed heterozygosity was restricted to  $\leq 0.5$  and an  $F_{ST}$  correction was applied such  
183 that if an  $F_{ST}$  value was not significantly different than 0, its value was set to 0. The same  
184 parameters were used to generate files for STRUCTURE (Pritchard et al. 2000) with the addition  
185 of --write\_random\_snp to randomly select one single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) per locus

186 to prevent the inclusion of linked loci. In STRUCTURE, five runs of 50,000 iterations across  $K=1$ ,  
187 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 were performed for each species with 10,000 iterations disposed as burn-in. The  
188 analysis methods used in this study have been utilized with great success in studies of  
189 scleractinians as well as other taxa with similar issues of reticulate evolution such as American  
190 live oaks (Cavender-Bares et al. 2015).

191 To identify clones represented in the dataset, the script `vcf_clone_detect.py`  
192 ([https://github.com/pimbongaerts/radseq/blob/master/vcf\\_clone\\_detect.py](https://github.com/pimbongaerts/radseq/blob/master/vcf_clone_detect.py)) was utilized to  
193 calculate pairwise genetic similarity between sampled colonies. A threshold of 95% similarity was  
194 supplied to classify samples as clonal.

195

#### 196 *Mantel Tests:*

197 Mantel tests were performed to test for correlations between genetic distance ( $F_{ST}$ ) and  
198 geographic distance data for each species using ade4 (Dray and Dufour 2007). Genetic distance  
199 matrices were generated using Stacks populations and geographic distance matrices were  
200 generated from GPS coordinates using Geographic Distance Matrix Generator v. 1.2.3 (Ersts n.d.).  
201 Average temperature and salinity variability (range) was calculated at daily, weekly, monthly, and  
202 yearly time scales using 12 months of ROMS model output data (May 2018-May 2019) from the  
203 Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS, [pacioos.hawaii.edu](http://pacioos.hawaii.edu)). Average sea surface  
204 height was also calculated at the different time scales. Model data was downloaded for each site  
205 GPS coordinate and the respective depth that the coral samples were collected at. Additional  
206 mantel tests were also performed using data from past publications including water residence time  
207 (Lowe et al. 2009), and average  $pCO_2$  (Fagan and Mackenzie 2007).

208

209 **Results**

210 Assembly and population summary statistics:

211       Approximately 260M reads were generated for all samples combined. Two outliers were  
212 obtained, ~11M reads for one *M. capitata* (sample ID M7W\_A) and ~43K reads for one *P.*  
213 *compressa* colony (P2\_C). P2\_C was removed from subsequent analysis due to poor read quantity  
214 and sequence quality. For *M. capitata* and *P. compressa*, the average number of reads passing  
215 default S2 ipyrad filters was 3.02M and 2.47M, respectively. Reads were assigned to ~109,000  
216 high depth clusters with an average depth of 5.43 for *M. capitata* and ~79,000 high depth clusters  
217 with an average depth of 7.94 for *P. compressa*. The final step of default filters in ipyrad resulted  
218 in 77,792 retained loci in the *M. capitata* assembly and 42,166 retained loci in the *P. compressa*  
219 assembly.

220       Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  values (**Table 1**) for sites 1-8 in *M. capitata* are relatively consistent between  
221 all sites, ranging from  $F_{ST} = 0.0452 - 0.0614$ , with a slight increase as one moves in a northwest-  
222 southeast direction. Pairwise  $F_{ST}$  values for sites 1-8 in *P. compressa* vary more between sites than  
223 in *M. capitata*,  $F_{ST} = 0.0501 - 0.1209$ , and in a northeast-southwest direction. In *M. capitata*,  
224 observed heterozygosity is similar for all sites while some variability is observed in *P. compressa*  
225 (**Table 2**). Inbreeding coefficient values,  $F_{IS}$ , vary slightly between sites, with values for *M.*  
226 *capitata* ranging from 0.033-0.053 in variant sites and values for *P. compressa* ranging from 0.015-  
227 0.088.

228       Mantel tests revealed significant correlation between *P. compressa*  $F_{ST}$  values and yearly  
229 average sea surface height. *M. capitata* values were significantly correlated with geographic  
230 distance, water residence time, yearly temperature range, monthly temperature range, weekly

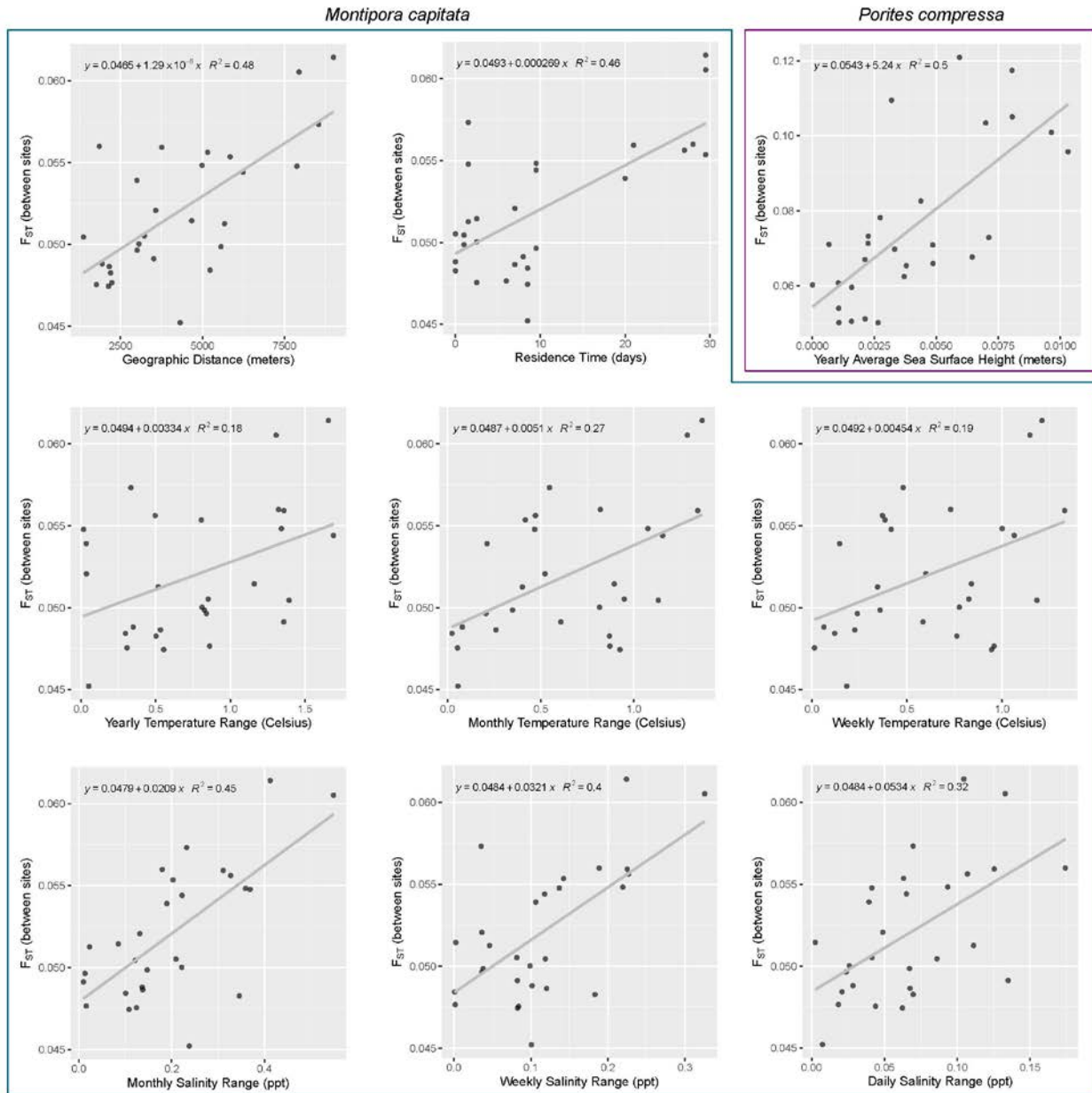
231 temperature range, monthly salinity range, weekly salinity range, and daily salinity range at an  
232 alpha level of  $p < 0.05$  (**Fig. 2**).

233

**Table 1:** Pairwise  $F_{st}$  values for each sampled site. *Montipora capitata* is shown in the top diagonal and *Porites compressa* is shown in the lower diagonal.

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8
Site 1		0.056	0.0539	0.0559	0.0556	0.0554	0.0605	0.0614
Site 2	0.1034		0.0491	0.0521	0.0499	0.0513	0.0548	0.0573
Site 3	0.0501	0.1051		0.0504	0.0486	0.0496	0.0548	0.0544
Site 4	0.0607	0.1209	0.0511		0.0477	0.0474	0.0452	0.0484
Site 5	0.0501	0.1009	0.0505	0.0625		0.0476	0.05	0.0515
Site 6	0.0653	0.1095	0.0659	0.0781	0.0676		0.0483	0.0505
Site 7	0.054	0.1175	0.0602	0.067	0.0596	0.0708		0.0488
Site 8	0.0697	0.0957	0.0713	0.0826	0.071	0.0729	0.0732	

234



**Figure 2:** Significant Mantel tests for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa* in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu. Variables shown are geographic distance ( $p=0.0014$ ), residence time ( $p=0.0392$ ), yearly temperature range ( $p=0.0223$ ), monthly temperature range ( $p=0.0047$ ), weekly temperature range ( $p=0.0138$ ), monthly salinity range ( $p=0.0057$ ), weekly salinity range ( $p=0.0128$ ), daily salinity range ( $p=0.0151$ ), and yearly average sea surface height ( $p=0.0267$ ).

235

**Table 2:** Population summary statistics for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa* at sites in Kaneohe Bay. Statistics calculated with STACKS Populations v2.4. FIS=inbreeding coefficient, Obs. Hom.=Observed homozygosity, Obs. Het.=Observed heterozygosity, Exp. Hom.=Expected homozygosity, Exp. Het.=Expected heterozygosity.

	All Positions (Variant and Fixed)															
	<i>Montipora capitata</i>								<i>Porites compressa</i>							
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8
Total Sites	64560	67795	67509	65253	68216	60254	69121	68349	64218	65973	63876	49385	65690	59174	63471	62861
Variant Sites	63707	66864	66599	64392	67289	59489	68171	67406	63457	65211	63138	48865	64911	58510	62762	62177
Private Alleles	143	136	128	92	117	108	161	139	166	1529	322	107	203	309	231	466
% Polymorphic Loci	65.099	68.57	68.803	69.269	69.173	68.704	70.588	68.831	65.348	52.315	65.471	57.665	65.573	58.742	63.257	63.001
Fis	0.032	0.04	0.049	0.053	0.041	0.04	0.044	0.045	0.078	0.015	0.074	0.058	0.082	0.073	0.08	0.087
Nucleotide Div. (pi)	0.215	0.223	0.224	0.225	0.224	0.223	0.231	0.226	0.215	0.197	0.214	0.202	0.215	0.208	0.21	0.219
	Variant Positions															
	<i>Montipora capitata</i>								<i>Porites compressa</i>							
	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3	Site 4	Site 5	Site 6	Site 7	Site 8
Obs. Hom.	0.796	0.792	0.795	0.796	0.792	0.792	0.786	0.791	0.816	0.801	0.815	0.824	0.817	0.825	0.822	0.819
Standard Error	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Obs. Het.	0.204	0.208	0.205	0.204	0.208	0.208	0.214	0.209	0.184	0.199	0.185	0.176	0.183	0.175	0.178	0.181
Standard Error	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
Exp. Hom.	0.801	0.794	0.793	0.792	0.792	0.795	0.787	0.791	0.801	0.821	0.803	0.815	0.801	0.808	0.806	0.798
Exp. Het.	0.199	0.206	0.207	0.208	0.208	0.205	0.213	0.209	0.199	0.179	0.197	0.185	0.199	0.192	0.194	0.202
Fis	0.033	0.041	0.05	0.053	0.042	0.04	0.044	0.046	0.079	0.015	0.075	0.059	0.083	0.074	0.081	0.088
Nucleotide Div. (pi)	0.218	0.226	0.227	0.228	0.227	0.225	0.234	0.229	0.218	0.2	0.217	0.204	0.218	0.211	0.213	0.222

237 Clustering Analyses:

238 Clustering analyses were performed using STRUCTURE 2.3.4 (Pritchard et al. 2000) with  
239 the admixture model. The Evanno method (Evanno et al. 2005) as implemented in STRUCTURE  
240 Harvester (Earl and vonHoldt 2012) indicated the optimal value of K for *Montipora* samples to be  
241 K=2 while the optimal value of K for *Porites* samples was found to be K=3 (Supplemental Figure  
242 1). Site-level and individual-level probability of membership for each species are shown in Fig. 3.  
243 The STRUCTURE analyses reveal clear population structure patterns in *Montipora* but no  
244 apparent clustering patterns amongst sampled *Porites*. *Montipora* samples somewhat resemble an  
245 isolation by distance scenario in which the north and south are distant geographically or  
246 environmentally from one another.

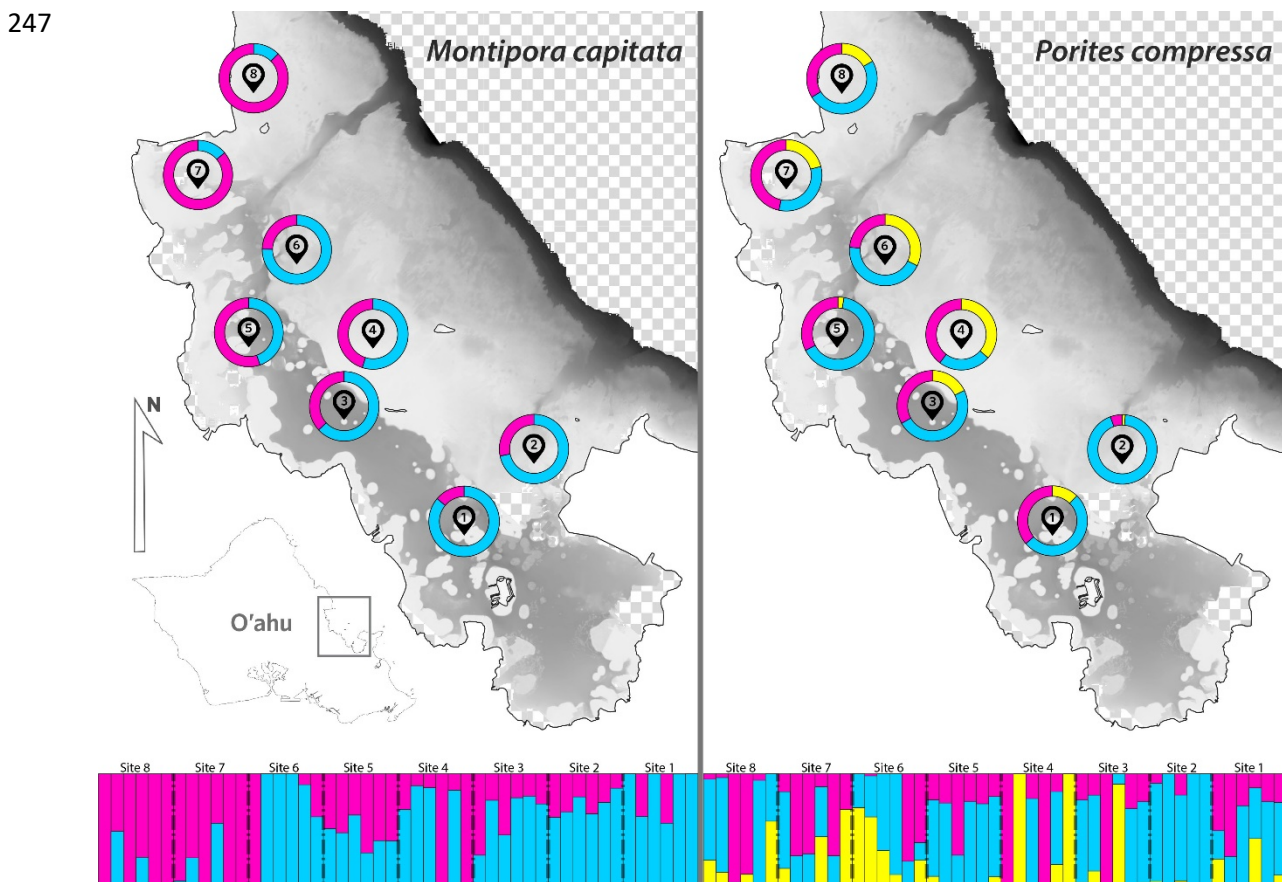
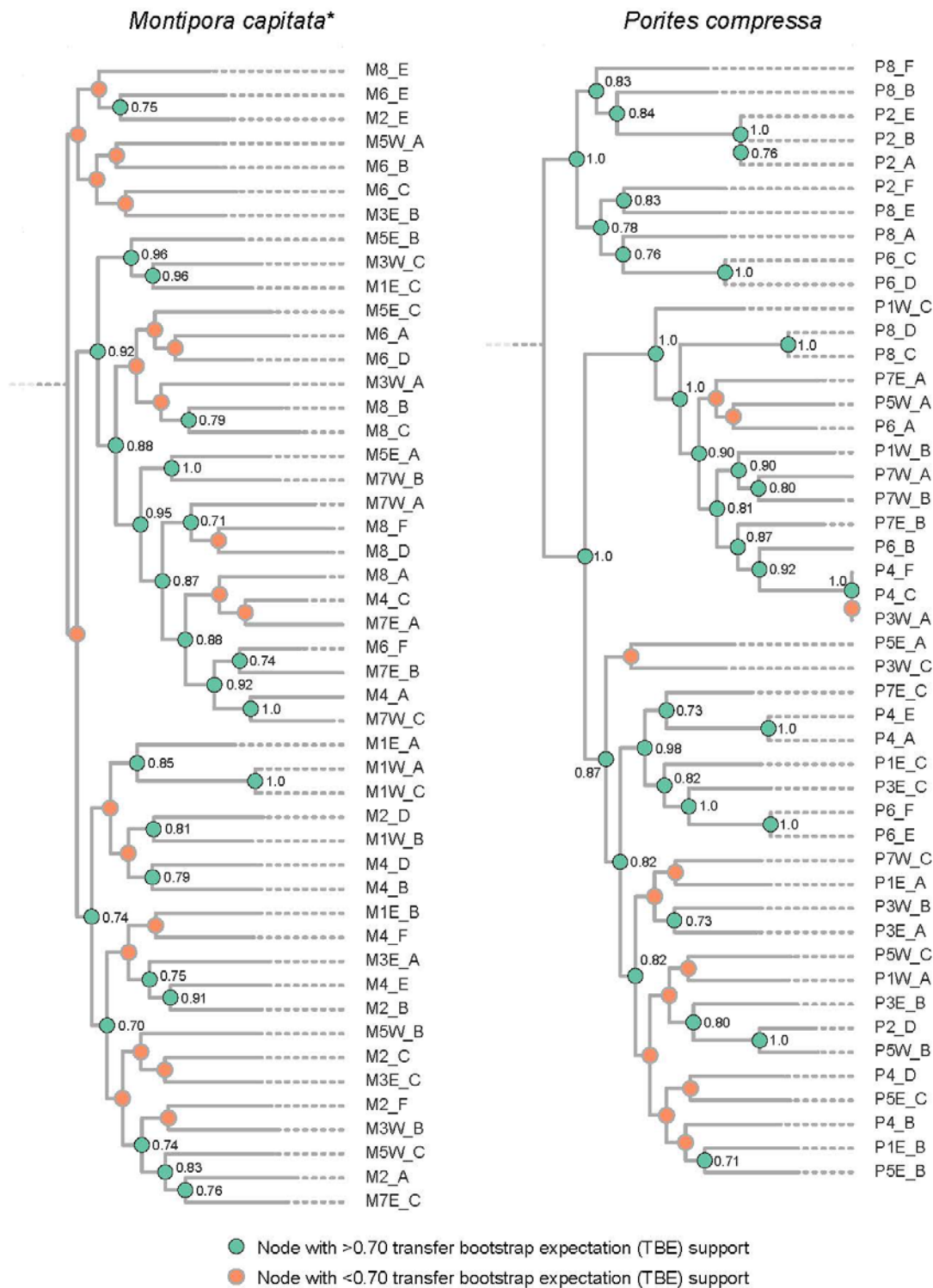


Figure 3: Site-level probability of membership (donut plots on map) and individual-level probability of cluster membership (bar plots at bottom) at K=2 and K=3, for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa*, respectively.



248

**Figure 4:** Population phylogenies of *Montipora capitata* (left) and *Porites compressa* (right). *M. capitata* phylogeny did not reach convergence after 1000 standard bootstrap iterations in RAxML-NG. *M. capitata* tree is rooted by *M. spumosa* and *P. compressa* tree is rooted by *P. lutea*.



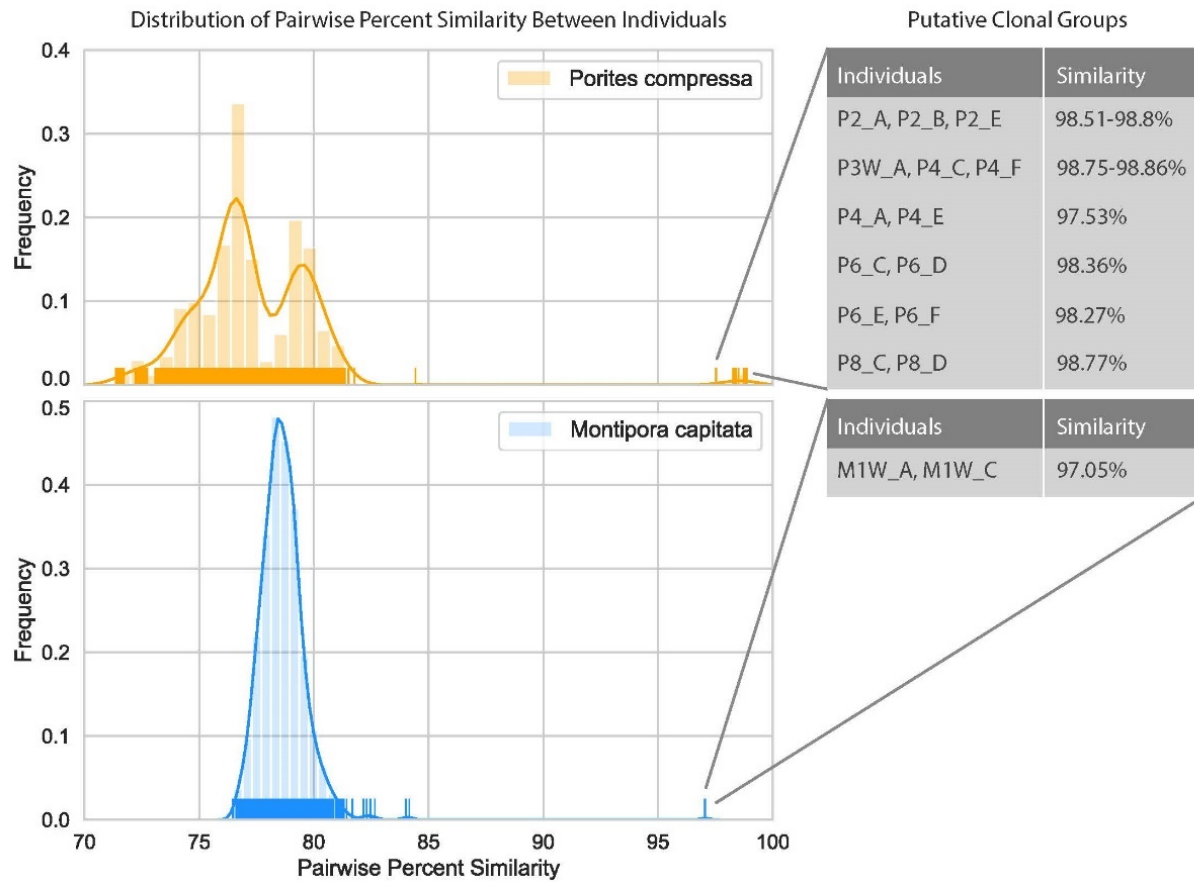
249 Maximum likelihood phylogeny:

250 According to BIC, ModelTest-NG determined the best-fit model of evolution for both *M.*  
251 *capitata* and *P. compressa* was TVM+ASC. RAxML-NG maximum likelihood analyses of  
252 *Montipora* samples did not converge after 1000 bootstrap iterations. Analysis of *Porites* data  
253 converged after 500 bootstrap iterations. Transfer bootstrap expectation (TBE) support values  
254 were mapped to the maximum likelihood tree topology and phylogenies for both species are  
255 reported in **Fig. 4**. The unconverged *M. capitata* tree was poorly supported and had strong support  
256 only at tips. The *P. compressa* tree was strongly supported at both basal and terminal nodes.

257

258 Clonal groups:

259 Analysis of pairwise percent similarity between individuals showed an average genetic  
260 similarity of 78.64% with a standard deviation (SD) of 1.05% in *Montipora capitata* and 77.37%  
261 with a SD of 2.95% in *Porites compressa*. Distribution of values was unimodal in *M. capitata* and  
262 bimodal in *P. compressa*. Clonal groups were identified by a threshold of 95%, following the logic  
263 that clonal individuals should be nearly 100% identical. In *M. capitata*, this present study found  
264 only one clonal pair of colonies, existing at site 1, adjacent to Coconut Island. In *P. compressa*,  
265 two clonal triplets and four clonal pairs were detected (**Fig. 5**). Spatially, these clonal groupings  
266 occurred predominantly at outer bay sites 2, 4, 6, and 8, with only one inner bay colony, P3W\_A,  
267 being represented as part of a clonal group. Clonal colonies made up the majority of samples  
268 recovered in sites 2, 4, and 6. At these three sites, a total of 17 genotypes were expected but only  
269 11 were detected using our sampling design and ddRAD methods.



270

**Figure 5:** Distribution of pairwise percent similarity values for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa*. Putative clonal groups (as suggested by distributions and a 95% threshold) are shown on the right.

271

## 272 Discussion

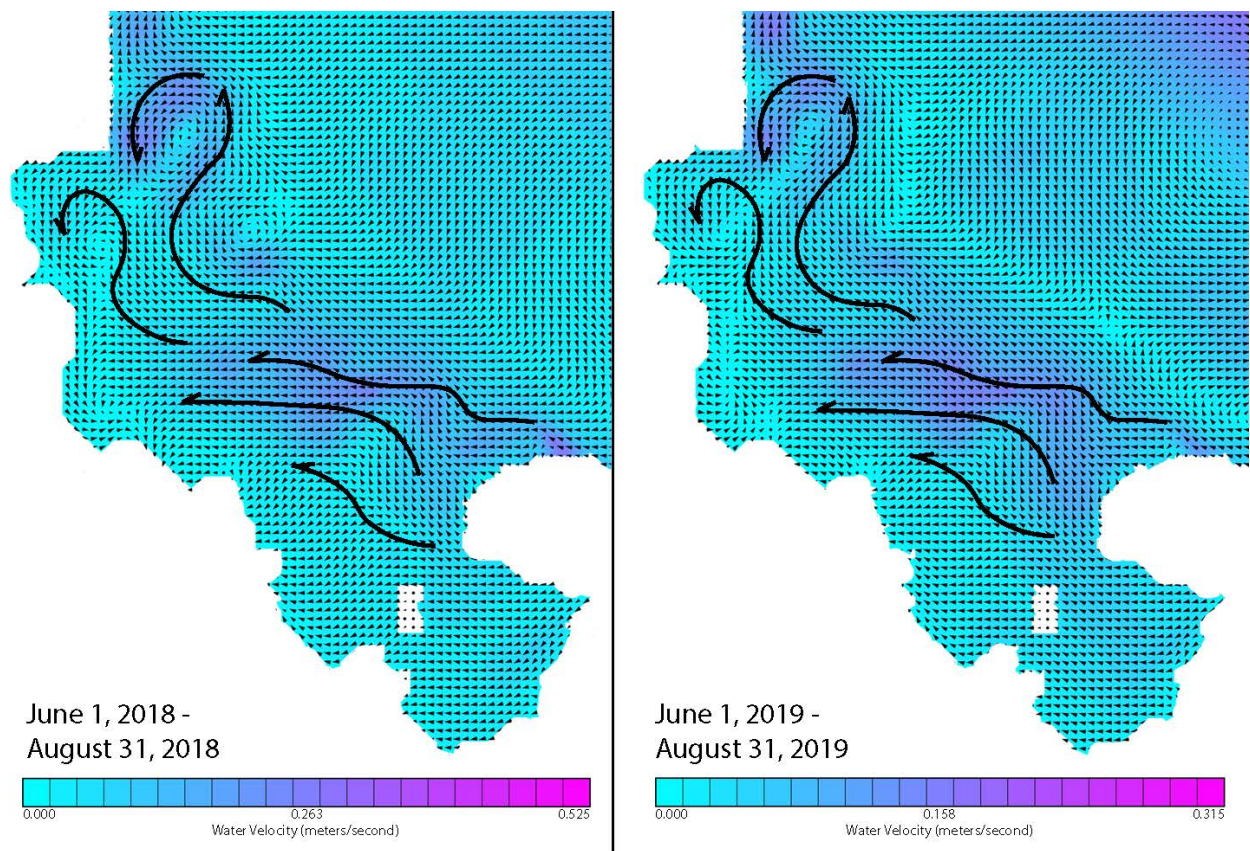
### 273 Patterns of population structure:

274 This study found signals of population structure in *M. capitata* on a very fine-scale  
275 seascape. Such a finding is unusual for both the system – broadcast spawning marine organisms –  
276 and the spatial scale. Despite findings, this study cannot discern what drives spatial patterns of  
277 structure. In this study, mantel tests revealed significant correlations between *M. capitata*  $F_{ST}$   
278 values and geographic distance, water residence time, and temperature and salinity variability at  
279 various temporal scales. Because all of these variables are linked, it is difficult to discern which  
280 variable or multiple variables drive the patterns of structure. However, global and local analyses

281 have found high-frequency temperature variability to be the most influential factor in predicting  
282 bleaching occurrence and percent coral coverage (Soto et al. 2011, Carilli et al. 2012, Safaie et al.  
283 2018). This present study, combined with results of past studies, suggest that temperature  
284 variability may be playing a role in population structure of *M. capitata* in KB. However, it is worth  
285 noting that these studies focused on either a) all reef regions globally or b) forereef systems locally  
286 and may not have captured the effect that salinity can have on fine-scale lagoonal systems such as  
287 KB.

288         In addition to parameters such as temperature and salinity, physical barriers such as ocean  
289 currents may partially explain patterns of structure in corals. The presence of the Mokapu  
290 peninsula at the eastern side of KB causes ocean currents to split the bay into a northern and  
291 southern section during the course of the coral spawning period (Richmond and Hunter 1990,  
292 Padilla-Gamiño and Gates 2012) (**Fig. 6**). Because water cannot easily escape the sheltered  
293 southern portion of the bay, the north and south are distinct in their residence times. In the north,  
294 water remains in the bay for  $\leq 5$  days while water in the south can remain in the bay for  $\geq 15$  days  
295 (Lowe et al. 2009). The distinct zones of residence in KB may partially drive patterns of settlement  
296 and population structure that we observe in this study. Acroporids have short times to settlement,  
297 typically ranging between 1-6 days (Jones et al. 2015). Due to residence times  $\geq 15$  days, southern  
298 bay sites would be restricted primarily to self-recruitment of acroporid larvae. Sites in the north  
299 experience shorter water residence times than typical time-to-settlement durations of acroporids  
300 and, thus, can export and exchange larvae with peripheral habitats. It is worth noting that the  
301 models predicting residence time in Lowe et. al were not specific to the coral spawning period.

302 No apparent spatial patterns of population structure that align with temperature, salinity, or  
303 residence time zones were detected in *P. compressa*. Carilli et al. found historical temperature  
304 variability to be an important predictor of bleaching and partial mortalities in massive *Porites* spp.  
305 (2012). However, Mantel tests utilized this present study did not suggest temperature to be an  
306 important factor. Residence time zones may not be important as typical pelagic larval duration  
307 may exceed the longest residence times found in KB. Studies of *Porites* larval duration and  
308 reproductive success are rare, but other taxa with similar massive morphologies show drastically  
309 longer larval longevities than those of acroporids (Graham et al. 2008). *P. compressa* has  
310 preference for sheltered lagoons and has been shown in models and surveys to not hold up to  
311 significant wave action (Rodgers et al. 2004, Franklin et al. 2013). Correlations between *P.*



**Figure 6:** A map of surface currents in Kaneohe Bay during the coral spawning period (June-August) of Hawaii for 2018 and 2019. Data sourced from the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System ROMS model.

312 *compressa*  $F_{ST}$  values and yearly average sea surface height found in this present study align with  
313 these models and surveys.

314 It is worth noting that in broader phylogenetic studies, *P. compressa* and *P. lobata* do not  
315 form distinct clades and morphologically identified *P. compressa* may fall in *P. lobata* dominated  
316 clades, and vice versa (Forsman et al. 2017). It is possible that cryptic species may be obfuscating  
317 patterns of structure and  $F_{ST}$ -environment correlations. A majority of *P. compressa* in outer bay  
318 sites 2, 6, and 8 form a strongly supported clade at the base of the phylogeny. Sites 2 and 6 represent  
319 regions of overlap for modeled coral range and abundance of morphologically-identified *P.*  
320 *compressa* and *P. lobata* (Franklin et al. 2013). It is plausible that this strongly-supported basal  
321 clade is present due to cryptic species or hybridization and introgression between species.  
322 Additional evidence of cryptic species or reticulate evolution can be found in distributions of  
323 percent pairwise similarity between *P. compressa* individuals (**Fig. 5**). Bimodal distributions of  
324 percent pairwise similarity may suggest populations of a single species undergoing disruptive  
325 selection or two separate taxa being represented in the genetic dataset.

326

327 *Spatial distribution of clonality:*

328 Past work to quantify prevalence of clonality in *P. compressa* found that regions with  
329 histories of disturbance contained proportionally fewer clonal colonies compared to those of sexual  
330 origin (Hunter 1993). Specifically, less disturbed locations were more likely to be space-limited  
331 and recruits of sexual origin would struggle to settle. In disturbed locations, openings would  
332 commonly exist on the benthic substrate and allow for recruitment of larvae. Although the  
333 methodology of our study was not designed specifically to address the question of clonality, we  
334 show that clonality is much more prevalent in locations in the outer bay. These regions experience

335 high energy swells and are prone to storm surge which can fragment corals or dislodge natural  
336 subspheroidal coralloliths (Glynn 1974, Roff 2008, Capel et al. 2012). However, this phenomenon  
337 appears to be biased toward *P. compressa* as few clones were detected in *M. capitata*. It is possible  
338 that clonal colony formation may be more prevalent in *P. compressa* due to fundamental  
339 differences in life history traits. When natural growth rate is slow, as in *Porites* spp., new colonies  
340 may be given a “jump start” by growing from wave-induced fragments or rolling coralloliths, rather  
341 than having to grow from larvae. Additionally, hydrodynamic studies have predicted that  
342 nudibranch larvae can settle only on sheltered areas of reefs because wave action can dislodge  
343 settling larvae (Reidenbach et al. 2009). Perhaps this same mechanism is at work in *P. compressa*  
344 and is what drives fragmentary reproduction to be favored over sexually produced larvae in reefs  
345 with high wave action. In *Montipora* spp., growth is fast and fragmentation may not offer  
346 significant benefits over reproduction that occurs sexually. Despite the advantages of clonal colony  
347 formation, asexual reproduction lowers per-population genetic diversity. If storm frequency and  
348 intensity are to increase as suggested by climate models of Hawaii (Murakami et al. 2013), it is  
349 possible that population genetic diversity of *P. compressa* populations will decrease, regardless of  
350 other pressures such as temperature increases and sedimentation.

351

352 *Phylogeographic and population structure patterns in relation to bleaching extent and recovery:*

353         Although we cannot necessarily tease apart the causality of genetic patterns in this study,  
354 it is worth noting parallels between our results and past bleaching events in KB. A study of the  
355 1996 bleaching event focused on sites with >90% coral cover and these sites contained >90% *P.*  
356 *compressa* by percent cover (Jokiel and Brown 2004). As such, we cannot compare this study to  
357 our findings of *M. capitata*. During this 1996 bleaching event, surveys were performed

358 immediately adjacent to our sites 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. In this set of surveys, it was found that sites in  
359 the inner bay (adjacent to sites 1, 3, and 5) encountered extensive bleaching while outer bay sites  
360 (adjacent to sites 2 and 6) remained mostly unscathed. Our data show that four out of five  
361 individuals at site 2 and two out of six individuals at site 6 are members of a strongly supported  
362 basal clade in the *P. compressa* phylogeny. While there are other factors that are likely to drive  
363 bleaching response, we show in this present study that there is also some level of genetic  
364 divergence between populations that exhibited different responses to bleaching thresholds.

365         In the bleaching event of 2014, the symbiont community composition of *M. capitata*  
366 colonies was monitored as bleaching progressed as well as during recovery after the event  
367 (Cunning et al. 2016). This study only included colonies in the inner bay, adjacent to our sites 1,  
368 3, and 5. Cunning et al. (2016) found that bleaching response in *M. capitata* was significantly  
369 associated with dominant symbiont clade but that the symbiont communities did not cluster  
370 spatially. Additionally, it was found that recovery rates increased the further north individuals were  
371 within the bay. Our study shows that there is population structure along a north-south gradient  
372 within KB and that this aligns with the spatial distribution of post-bleaching recovery rates.

373         It is important to note that these bleaching events were fundamentally different, as  
374 discussed by Bahr et al. (2017). The timing and environmental conditions both played a key role  
375 in their extent, severity, and mortality rates. Despite the spatial and temporal differences between  
376 events, we believe that past studies, combined with the genetic results of this study, provide some  
377 support that the population genetics of the coral host likely acts synergistically with environmental  
378 variables, stochastic events, and symbiont community compositions to produce a bleaching  
379 response.

380

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386 Grant for providing funding for this research.

387

388 **Data Accessibility**

389 Raw sequence reads generated in this study are deposited under NCBI BioProject accession  
390 number PRJNA544861. Jupyter notebooks used to process and analyze data are publicly accessible  
391 in the following GitHub repository: <https://github.com/mistergroot/kbaygen>



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- 543

544 **Supplemental materials**

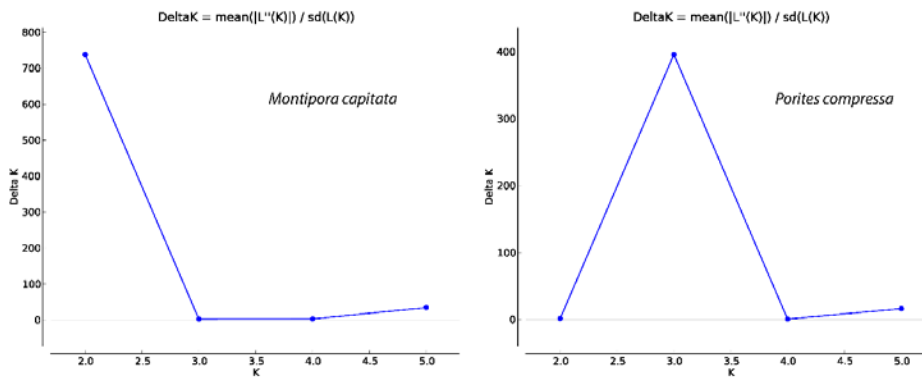
545 **Supplemental Table 1:** Sample inventory (as of 12/10/2019) and sampling coordinates of coral colony samples  
 546 obtained from Kaneohe Bay, Oahu.

Sample	Species	Sampling Location	Disposition
M1E_A	<i>Montipora capitata</i>	(21.442255, -157.795856)	Preserved in ethanol at -20°C. In possession of principal permittee.
M1E_B	" "	" "	" "
M1E_C	" "	" "	" "
M1W_A	" "	" "	" "
M1W_B	" "	" "	" "
M1W_C	" "	" "	" "
M2_A	" "	(21.454082, -157.783207)	" "
M2_B	" "	" "	" "
M2_C	" "	" "	" "
M2_D	" "	" "	" "
M2_E	" "	" "	" "
M2_F	" "	" "	" "
M3E_A	" "	(21.461603, -157.816057)	" "
M3E_B	" "	" "	" "
M3E_C	" "	" "	" "
M3W_A	" "	" "	" "
M3W_B	" "	" "	" "
M3W_C	" "	" "	" "
M4_A	" "	(21.473036, -157.816057)	" "
M4_B	" "	" "	" "
M4_C	" "	" "	" "
M4_D	" "	" "	" "
M4_E	" "	" "	" "
M4_F	" "	" "	" "
M5E_A	" "	(21.473490, -157.832663)	" "
M5E_B	" "	" "	" "
M5E_C	" "	" "	" "
M5W_A	" "	" "	" "
M5W_B	" "	" "	" "
M5W_C	" "	" "	" "
M6_A	" "	(21.487500, -157.824600)	" "
M6_B	" "	" "	" "
M6_C	" "	" "	" "
M6_D	" "	" "	" "
M6_E	" "	" "	" "
M6_F	" "	" "	" "

M7E_A	"	"	(21.499910, -157.841188)	"	"
M7E_B	"	"	"	"	"
M7E_C	"	"	"	"	"
M7W_A	"	"	"	"	"
M7W_B	"	"	"	"	"
M7W_C	"	"	"	"	"
M8_A	"	"	(21.515498, -157.832748)	"	"
M8_B	"	"	"	"	"
M8_C	"	"	"	"	"
M8_D	"	"	"	"	"
M8_E	"	"	"	"	"
M8_F	"	"	"	"	"
P1E_A	<i>Porites compressa</i>		(21.442255, -157.795856)	"	"
P1E_B	"	"	"	"	"
P1E_C	"	"	"	"	"
P1W_A	"	"	"	"	"
P1W_B	"	"	"	"	"
P1W_C	"	"	"	"	"
P2_A	"	"	(21.454082, -157.783207)	"	"
P2_B	"	"	"	"	"
P2_C	"	"	"	"	"
P2_D	"	"	"	"	"
P2_E	"	"	"	"	"
P2_F	"	"	"	"	"
P3E_A	"	"	(21.461603, -157.816057)	"	"
P3E_B	"	"	"	"	"
P3E_C	"	"	"	"	"
P3W_A	"	"	"	"	"
P3W_B	"	"	"	"	"
P3W_C	"	"	"	"	"
P4_A	"	"	(21.473036, -157.816057)	"	"
P4_B	"	"	"	"	"
P4_C	"	"	"	"	"
P4_D	"	"	"	"	"
P4_E	"	"	"	"	"
P4_F	"	"	"	"	"
P5E_A	"	"	(21.473490, -157.832663)	"	"
P5E_B	"	"	"	"	"
P5E_C	"	"	"	"	"
P5W_A	"	"	"	"	"
P5W_B	"	"	"	"	"

P5W_C	"	"	"	"	"	"
P6_A	"	"	(21.487500, -157.824600)	"	"	"
P6_B	"	"	"	"	"	"
P6_C	"	"	"	"	"	"
P6_D	"	"	"	"	"	"
P6_E	"	"	"	"	"	"
P6_F	"	"	"	"	"	"
P7E_A	"	"	(21.499910, -157.841188)	"	"	"
P7E_B	"	"	"	"	"	"
P7E_C	"	"	"	"	"	"
P7W_A	"	"	"	"	"	"
P7W_B	"	"	"	"	"	"
P7W_C	"	"	"	"	"	"
P8_A	"	"	(21.515498, -157.832748)	"	"	"
P8_B	"	"	"	"	"	"
P8_C	"	"	"	"	"	"
P8_D	"	"	"	"	"	"
P8_E	"	"	"	"	"	"
P8_F	"	"	"	"	"	"

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549 **Supplemental Figure 1:** DeltaK values for *Montipora capitata* and *Porites compressa* as evaluated by  
 550 StructureHarvester.