

1 **Repeated global migrations on different plant hosts by the tropical pathogen**

2 *Phytophthora palmivora*

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25 **Abstract**

26 The genetic structure and diversity of plant pathogen populations are the outcomes of
27 evolutionary interactions with hosts and local environments, and migration at different scales,
28 including human-enabled long-distance dispersal events. As a result, patterns of genetic variation
29 in present populations may elucidate the history of pathogens. *Phytophthora palmivora* is a
30 devastating oomycete that causes disease in a broad range of plant hosts in the tropics and
31 subtropics worldwide. The center of diversity of *P. palmivora* is in Southeast Asia, but it is a
32 destructive pathogen of hosts native to South America. Our objective was to use multilocus
33 sequence analysis to resolve the origin and historical migration pathways of *P. palmivora*. Our
34 analysis supports Southeast Asia as a center of diversity of *P. palmivora* and indicates that a
35 single colonization event was responsible for the global pandemic of black pod disease of cacao.
36 Analysis using the structured coalescent indicated that *P. palmivora* emerged on cacao and that
37 cacao has been the major source of migrants to populations in Asia, Africa, and Pacific Islands.
38 To explain these results, we hypothesize widespread introgression between the pandemic cacao
39 lineage and populations native to Asia and the Pacific Islands. The complex evolutionary history
40 of *P. palmivora* is a consequence of geographic isolation followed by long-distance movement
41 and host jumps that allowed global expansion with cacao, coconut and other hosts.

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45 With continued growth of human populations and change in global climate, there is increasing
46 concern over plant diseases affecting food crop and economic security¹. Epidemics of plant
47 disease can result in major yield losses and associated economic consequences². In low- and
48 middle-income countries, plant diseases can have a relatively larger impact on local socio-
49 economic development^{3,4}. Understanding the population biology and evolution of plant
50 pathogens can aid in disease management. For example, determining the geographic history of a
51 plant pathogen can help locate plant germplasm that co-evolved with the pathogen and exhibits
52 disease resistance, which can be employed in plant breeding programs. Knowledge of plant
53 pathogen migration patterns can lead to informed decision-making for disease prevention,
54 specifically to limit re-introductions and pathogen re-emergence⁵. Global pandemics may
55 originate from a very successful invasive population that itself is responsible for multiple
56 secondary invasions^{3,6-8}. Hence, mitigation strategies may specifically target invasive
57 populations or genotypes^{9,10}.

58 However, the above efforts can be hampered by pathogens making dramatic host jumps.
59 Host jumps are pervasive in the emergence or spread of plant pathogens and have been identified
60 as a crucial mechanism underlying pathogen diversification and ultimately speciation^{11,12}.
61 International travel and global trade over the course of human history have exposed hosts to new
62 pathogens, thus, facilitating host jumps^{1,3,9,13-15}. Deciphering complex interactions among plant
63 hosts, pathogens and human activities can elucidate major drivers behind the emergence, re-
64 emergence and dispersal of plant pathogens¹. Many such studies of pathogen emergence have
65 targeted major crop pathogens that exhibit relatively narrow host associations^{5,16-21}. When
66 pathogens have multiple host associations, can the influence of different hosts on pathogen
67 emergence and dispersal be resolved?

68 *Phytophthora* is a genus of plant-damaging Oomycetes, including more than 100
69 described species²²⁻²⁵. *Phytophthora* species can infect a broad range of plant hosts²⁶ and have
70 caused enormous economic losses to agro-ecosystems and ecological damage in natural
71 ecosystems. The relatively narrow host range pathogen *Phytophthora infestans*, causal agent of
72 potato and tomato late blight, was globally distributed on potato, leading to the Great Irish
73 Famine. In 2008, *P. infestans* spread across the Eastern United States on tomato plants for home
74 gardens²⁷. *P. ramorum* is a broad host range pathogen, which dispersed on ornamental plants
75 followed by host jumps to timber and forest trees²⁸. The resulting disease outbreaks in North
76 America and Europe have been economically costly and have changed the ecology of coastal
77 California forests²⁹. *Phytophthora palmivora* (Butler) Butler (1919) is a destructive tropical and
78 subtropical plant pathogen with a very broad host range in the tropics and subtropics^{30,31}. *P.*
79 *palmivora* causes problematic diseases of coconut and other palms (bud rot), cacao (black pod,
80 canker, and cherelle wilt), rubber (black stripe), durian (fruit rot and canker), orchids and other
81 ornamentals, and more²⁶. Annual losses due to black pod of cacao, caused primarily by *P.*
82 *palmivora*, have been estimated at more than US\$400 million per year¹⁰³ and bud rot endemics
83 have affected more than 70,000 ha of oil palm in Colombia³². However, like many other tropical
84 pathogens, research on *P. palmivora* population biology and genetics has lagged far behind
85 temperate *Phytophthora*, even though this pathogen is responsible for significant economic
86 losses. To advance research on *P. palmivora*, the genome of an isolate from cacao was recently
87 sequenced. Estimated genome size was greater than 151.23 Mb with 44 327 genes and initial
88 analysis of gene models indicated that *P. palmivora* experienced a genome doubling event³³.

89 The hypothesized center of origin of *P. palmivora* has changed over time. Initially,
90 Central or South America was suspected to be the native region of the pathogen, because of the

91 susceptibility of indigenous hosts and the apparent global distribution of the pathogen on cacao
92 (*Theobroma cacao*), which is native to South America³⁴. Findings of high levels of genetic
93 diversity in *P. palmivora* populations in Southeast Asia, particularly among isolates from native
94 hosts coconut and durian, led to the proposal that Southeast Asia is the center of origin of *P.*
95 *palmivora*^{30,35}. Recent advances in population genetics and coalescent model-based approaches
96 have revolutionized methods to identify plant pathogen centers of origin, reconstruct migration
97 pathways and reveal population genetic structure³⁶⁻⁴⁴. These new tools have substantially
98 advanced knowledge of the evolutionary history and epidemiology of major plant pathogens, but
99 have not been applied towards understanding the global spread of *P. palmivora*.

100 The main objective of this study was to describe the global population structure of *P.*
101 *palmivora* and historical migration pathways using Bayesian and coalescent model-based
102 inference approaches. We specifically addressed the following questions: (1) Are populations of
103 *P. palmivora* structured by host or geography? (2) Where is the center of origin of *P. palmivora*?
104 (3) What were the main migration pathways out of the center of origin? (4) Did host shifts drive
105 the global expansion of the *P. palmivora*?

106

107 **Results**

108 **Nucleotide diversity by geographic region.** We evaluated DNA sequence variation in four
109 genes (one mitochondrial and three nuclear) for three major geographic regions ([Table 1](#)). Higher
110 values of average pairwise nucleotide diversity (π) and Watterson's theta (θ_w) were observed in
111 the Asia-Pacific region than in Africa and the Americas. Tajima's D and Fu & Li's D* and F*
112 test statistics were not significantly different from zero except for the sample from the Americas
113 ([Table 1](#)). A significantly positive value of Tajima's D was observed for *trpI* in the Americas,

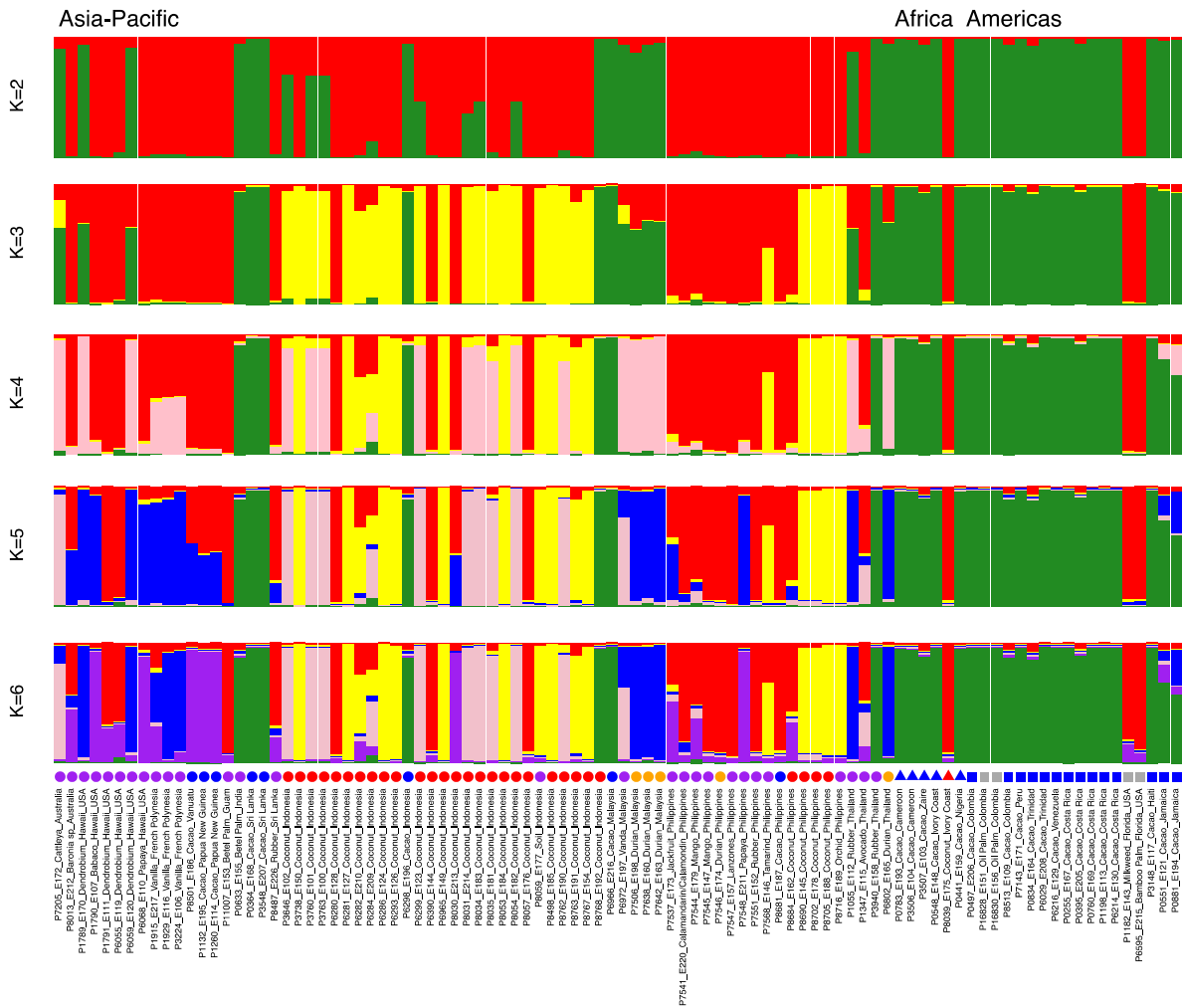
114 indicating more intermediate frequency alleles than expected under neutral evolution, while all
115 three test statistics were significantly negative for *coxII* in the Americas, indicating excessive
116 rare polymorphisms.

117 **Population subdivision and structure.** Population differentiation was tested by AMOVA
118 (Table 2). All four loci showed a significant portion of genetic variation (8-12%) distributed
119 among regions (Africa, Americas and Asia-Pacific). Differentiation between the two most
120 common hosts in the data set, coconut and cacao, explained around one quarter of the genetic
121 variation in the nuclear loci (23-27%).

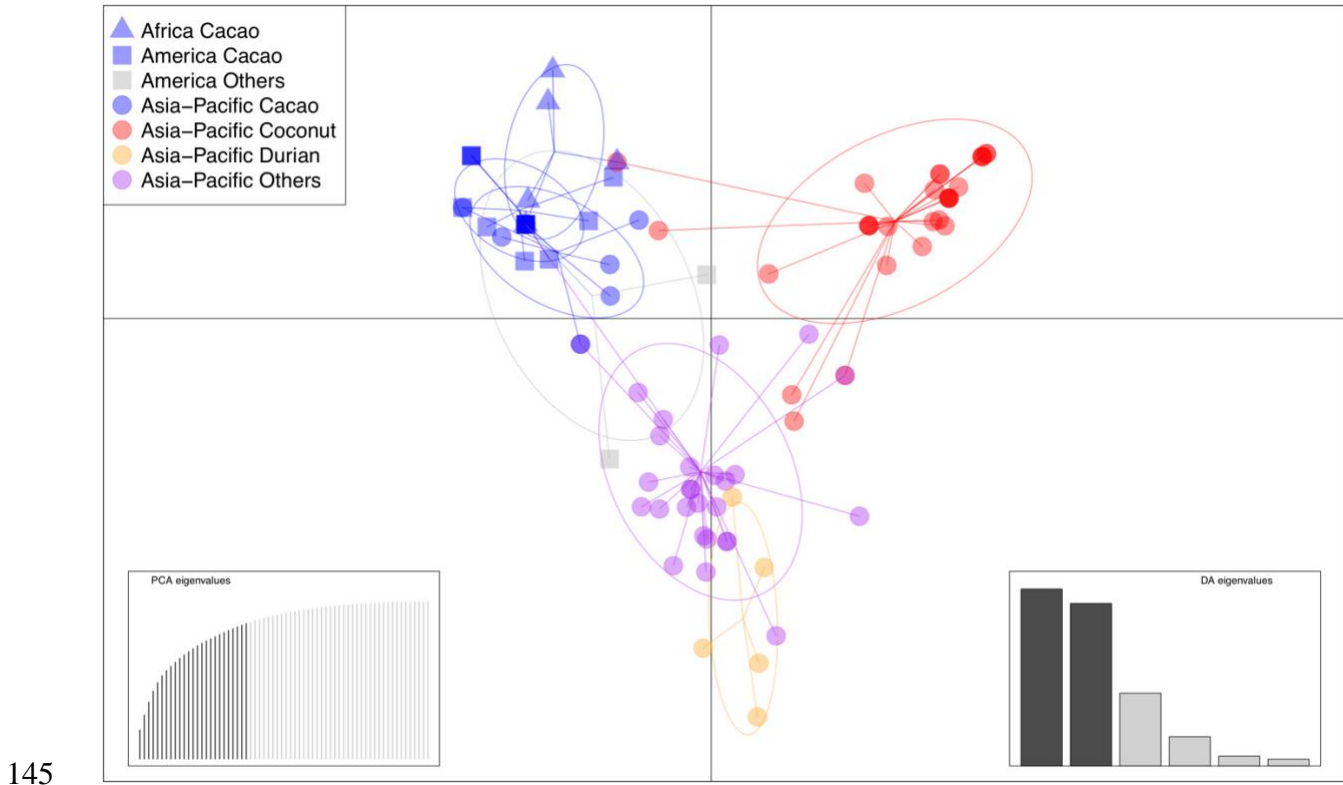
122 To further explore population structure, *P. palmivora* isolates were grouped by Bayesian
123 clustering, using an allelic data set from the three nuclear loci (Fig. 1). When the number of
124 clusters (K) was set to 2, most isolates from the Asia-Pacific region were in one cluster, and the
125 majority of isolates from Africa and Americas were in the other. As K was increased, isolates
126 from Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Pacific Island formed new clusters. Based on delta K,
127 the optimum value of K was 2. The genetic structure within the Asia-Pacific region was greater
128 than in Africa and the Americas. The small sample from south Asia (India and Sri Lanka)
129 resembled populations in Africa and the Americas, the majority of which were isolated from
130 cacao. Bayesian clustering of clone-corrected data produced the same overall pattern as the full
131 data set (Supplementary Fig. 1).

132 The non-parameterized clustering method DAPC showed the first discriminant
133 component separating isolates collected from cacao in all geographic regions from isolates
134 collected from coconut and other hosts (Fig. 2). The second discriminant component separated
135 isolates sampled from durian and other hosts from coconut and cacao isolates. Six isolates

136 collected from coconut and other hosts in the Asia-Pacific and Americas clustered with isolates
 137 from cacao, consistent with isolates shifting from cacao to other hosts.



138
 139 **Fig. 1. STRUCTURE assignments of *P. palmivora* isolates to populations for values of K**
 140 **from 2 to 6.** Greater genetic structure is apparent in the Asia-Pacific region. Origins of isolates
 141 are indicated below each bar. Isolates from cacao are indicated by a blue symbol, those from
 142 coconut with a red symbol, and those from durian with an orange symbol. Isolates with purple or
 143 gray symbols are from other hosts. Region is indicated by the shape of the symbol (circle for
 144 Asia-Pacific, triangle for Africa, square for Americas).



146 **Fig. 2. DAPC clusters of *P. palmivora* isolates from different hosts and geographic regions.**

147 All isolates collected from cacao in the three geographic regions grouped together. Asia-Pacific
148 isolates sampled from coconut and durian grouped into two largely distinct clusters.

149

150 **Global migration patterns.** Discrete Bayesian phylogeographic analysis was used to infer the

151 geographic location of the root state of each locus^{45,46}. The reconstructed root states supported

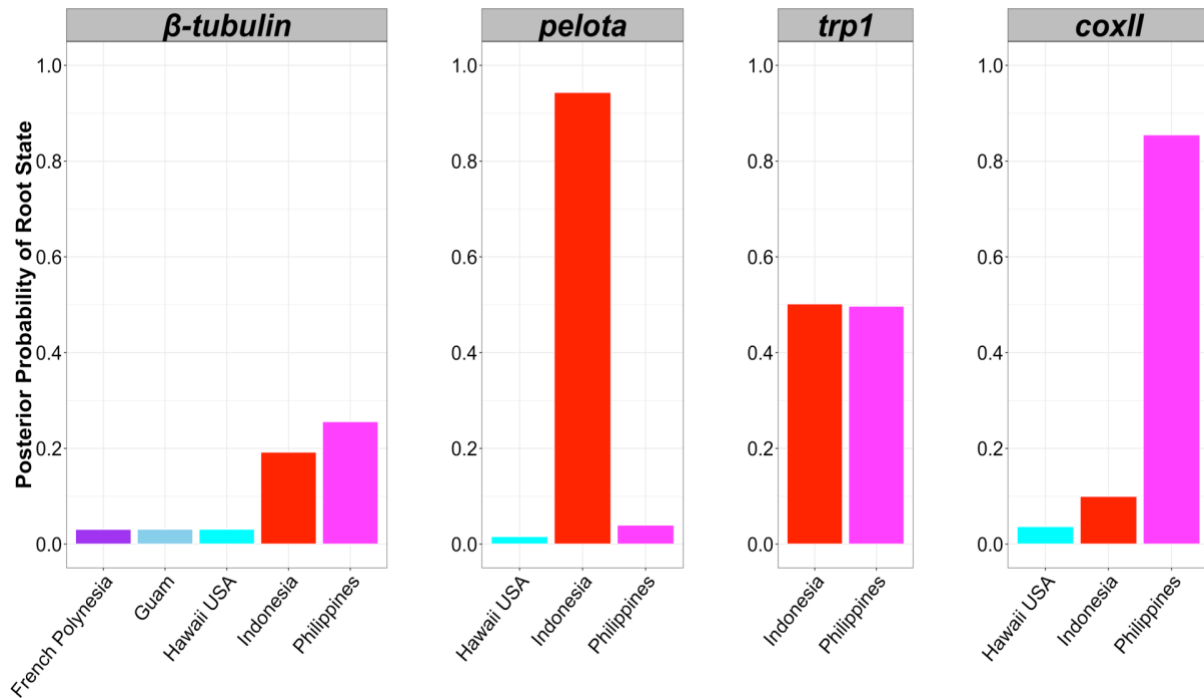
152 Indonesia and/or Philippines as the inferred evolutionary origin of our sample (Fig. 3). The

153 posterior probabilities for Philippines or Indonesia as the root state varied by locus

154 (Supplementary Table 4). The corresponding analysis with BASTA, which is not as biased by

155 sampling patterns, produced similar maximum clade credibility genealogies but with low

156 posterior probabilities for geographic root states.



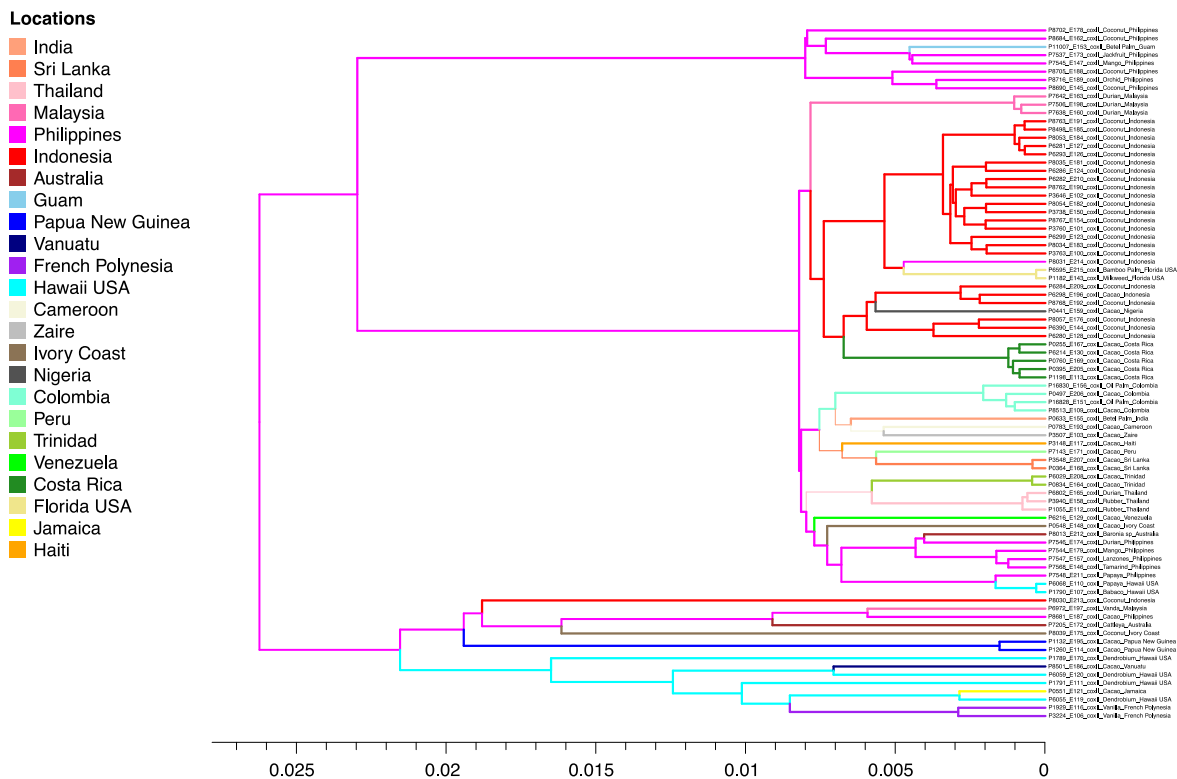
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158 **Fig. 3. Root state posterior probability values inferred using discrete phylogeographic**
159 **analysis for each location (country) by locus: *β-tubulin*, *pelota*, *trp1* and *coxII*.** The posterior
160 probabilities for an Indonesia root (red bar) and/or a Philippines root (magenta bar) are higher
161 than for the other locations (other colors) for each locus, inferred independently. Due to limited
162 space, only five locations with the five highest posterior probabilities for *β-tubulin* are shown.
163 For *pelota*, *trp1* and *cox II*, only the locations with posterior probabilities more than 0.01 are
164 shown.

165

166 The maximum clade credibility genealogies for the four loci (Fig. 4; Supplementary Figs.
167 2-4) indicate that lineages presently associated with Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
168 diverged much earlier than lineages associated with Central and South America and Central
169 Africa (mainly isolated from cacao). The mitochondrial locus, *coxII*, produced three lineages,
170 one of which shows early diversification and is represented by isolates from SE Asia, Australia,
171 Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Ivory Coast and Jamaica (Fig. 4).

172 Across loci, isolates from Pacific Islands represented lineages that diverged prior to
 173 diversification of cacao-associated lineages. We observed that isolates from different hosts
 174 within given geographic regions had distinct evolutionary histories. For example, an isolate
 175 collected from coconut in Ivory Coast had distinct ancestry from the cacao isolates collected in
 176 Central Africa, and this was also observed for isolates from Florida and Jamaica. For the nuclear
 177 loci, we observed that most of the isolates from cacao exhibited two distinct haplotypes while
 178 showing little variation within each haplotype among isolates, consistent with a clonal lineage.
 179 Isolates from Indonesia and Philippines were less likely to have two diverged alleles but they
 180 exhibited more variation among isolates.



181
 182 **Fig. 4. Maximum clade credibility genealogy for the *coxII* locus.** Colors of branches indicate
 183 the most probable geographic origin of each lineage.

184

185 **Host switching.** To complement the phylogeographic analysis and infer patterns of historical
186 migration between major host groups, we conducted a multi-locus BASTA analysis by host
187 group and region (Americas, Asia-Pacific and Africa). Based on analyses of genetic structure
188 and phylogeography, we expected that migration occurred from coconut or other native hosts in
189 SE Asia to hosts in the Pacific, to cacao in the Americas, and then back to cacao and other hosts
190 in Asia. The BASTA analysis did not confirm this pattern. Using a two-host model to determine
191 the directionality of gene flow between cacao and coconut, we inferred cacao to be the root host
192 with high posterior probabilities (≥ 0.96 for each locus) and significant migration from cacao to
193 coconut ([Supplementary Table 5a](#)). We examined if the existence of unsampled populations
194 might have affected the analyses using a three-host model with one unsampled host. Cacao and
195 the unsampled host were inferred as the root hosts with nearly even posterior probabilities. Mean
196 rates of migration from cacao to coconut and the unsampled host to coconut were moderate to
197 high, but the 95% HPD of the migration rates from the unsampled host included zero
198 ([Supplementary Table 5b](#)), indicating uncertainty in these estimates. To incorporate geography,
199 we examined a three-deme model, with populations cacao-America, cacao-Asia-Pacific and
200 coconut-Asia. Cacao-America was inferred as the root state with high posterior probabilities
201 (≥ 0.93 for each locus). Cacao-America was the major source of migrants, while cacao-Asia-
202 Pacific and coconut-Asia were the major sinks ([Table 3A](#); [Supplementary Figs. 5-8](#)).

203 Incorporating an unsampled population into this model produced uncertainty in the root state
204 with posterior probabilities of 0.63-0.68 for cacao-Asia-Pacific and 0.27-0.31 for the unsampled
205 population and wide 95% HPDs on immigration estimates from the unsampled population ([Table](#)
206 [3b](#)). To explore if all remaining hosts, other than coconuts and cacao, in the Asia-Pacific region
207 could represent the unsampled population, we examined a four-deme model replacing the

208 unsampled deme with a putative deme we designated Other-Asia-Pacific. Similar to the previous
209 models without an unsampled population, cacao-America was inferred as the root state with high
210 posterior probabilities (≥ 0.96 for each locus), and cacao-Asia-Pacific and coconut-Asia were the
211 two major sinks. Other-Asia-Pacific was inferred as a third major sink ([Table 3c](#)), which is the
212 opposite migration direction to the models incorporating an unsampled deme. Models that
213 explicitly incorporated the few cacao isolates from Africa produced results generally consistent
214 with the models without the cacao-Africa deme ([Supplementary Table 6a, b](#)).

215

216 **Discussion**

217 The evolutionary history of crop pathogens is as complex as the phylogeographic and
218 agricultural histories of their hosts and the human populations that have cultivated them. Our
219 multilocus sequence analysis of a global sample of *Phytophthora palmivora* isolates revealed
220 population subdivision among three major geographic regions (Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific)
221 and between hosts, here highly sampled cacao and coconut. We found greater genetic diversity
222 and more complex population structure within Southeast Asia as compared to other global
223 regions, and reduced genetic variation among isolates collected from cacao. Therefore, our
224 results generally support Southeast Asia as the *P. palmivora* center of diversity^{30,35}. On the other
225 hand, our analyses suggest that the Americas are a significant source of the genetic diversity now
226 observed in the Asia-Pacific region. Here, we argue that the complex evolutionary history of *P.*
227 *palmivora* reflects the history of human travel and trade in the tropics.

228 The greatest genetic diversity in *P. palmivora* appears to be within and among Pacific
229 island chains, which naturally introduce geographic isolation due to historically infrequent
230 movement of plant hosts, including by human migrations⁴⁷. Genetically diverse isolates were

231 associated with coconut palms and a variety of other tropical hosts. However, because the
232 distribution of hosts sampled was not independent of geographic region, we cannot fully separate
233 the relative influence of host and geography. For example, American and African isolates largely
234 clustered together and separately from isolates from the Asia-Pacific region, but cacao was the
235 most-sampled host in Africa and the Americas. Indeed, the population genetic structure of *P.*
236 *palmivora* on cacao suggests that a single colonization was responsible for the global pandemic
237 of *P. palmivora* causing black pod of cacao. The globally successful “cacao strain” is
238 characterized by a single *coxII* haplotype and STRUCTURE cluster based on the genotypes of
239 three nuclear loci. The most frequent haplotypes for each locus are associated with cacao. Many
240 of the isolates from the Americas, Africa, and South Asia represented this cacao-associated
241 lineage. The resulting pattern of genetic variation in the Americas produced positive values of
242 Tajima’s D test across nuclear housekeeping genes and a statistically significant negative value
243 for the mitochondrial *coxII* locus. These values are consistent with a recent population
244 bottleneck⁴⁸. In the Americas and South Asia, the “cacao strain” was isolated from palms and
245 rubber, suggesting movement from cacao to other hosts. For example, two isolates obtained from
246 cacao and oil palm in Colombia had identical sequences at the four sequenced loci. These
247 isolates shared haplotypes with isolates from cacao worldwide and commercial oil palm
248 production only began in Colombia in 1945¹⁰², therefore we infer that *P. palmivora* colonized oil
249 palm from cacao.

250 We conducted phylogeographic analyses to infer the potential historical processes behind
251 the observed patterns of genetic variation. Using discrete phylogeography, we inferred root states
252 of our *P. palmivora* sample to be Indonesia or the Philippines, depending on the locus. We might
253 expect that the pathogen has a metapopulation structure across these island nations, mediated by

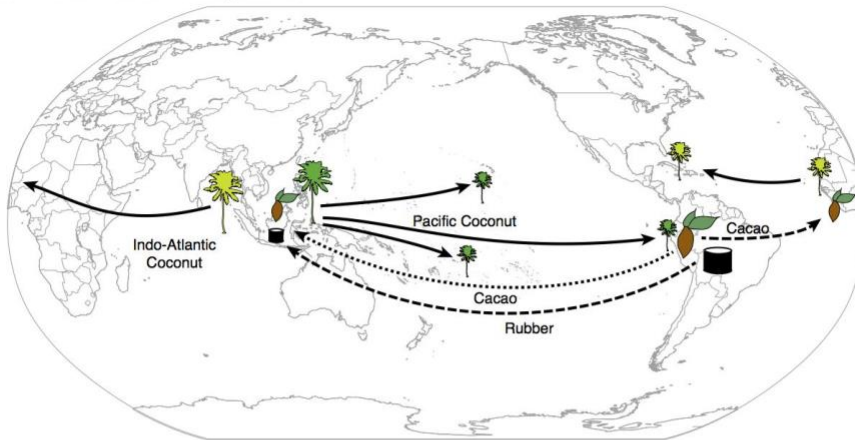
254 sea level changes joining or separating islands, dispersal of infected fruits following sea currents,
255 or, more recently, trade in hosts infected by *P. palmivora*. The corresponding BASTA analysis
256 was not able to infer a root location, and our reduced parameter analyses that grouped isolates by
257 geographic region and host group inferred an American origin. BASTA is less susceptible to the
258 effects of sampling bias, but inference of an American origin was unexpected because of the
259 higher genetic diversity of the pathogen in the Asia-Pacific region. Simulations suggest that high
260 posterior probabilities provided by the discrete model likely underestimate posterior
261 uncertainty⁴⁴. Our discrete model results reflect deep sampling in Southeast Asia, while the
262 BASTA results indicate that sampling across a greater diversity of hosts and locations is needed.
263 A long history of controversy regarding the geographic and evolutionary origin of the late blight
264 pathogen, *P. infestans*, has been exacerbated by limited sampling of wild relatives of potato in
265 the South American Andes^{49,50} and the geographic origins of many other widespread
266 *Phytophthora* pathogens are unknown.

267 Migration estimates over the history of our sample of *P. palmivora*, inferred by BASTA,
268 suggests movement from cacao in the Americas to cacao in Asia and Africa, and from cacao to
269 other hosts in Asia. Because we observed genetic diversity on other hosts, it is unlikely that the
270 sole origin of the pathogen is cacao. Indeed, we could not exclude the presence of an alternative,
271 unsampled source population. In our inferred genealogies, we observed that haplotypes were not
272 segregating independently, particularly for isolates from cacao, which likely represent an
273 asexually reproducing lineage. The phylogeny for the *coxII* mitochondrial locus showed two
274 groups of haplotypes, a large group of closely related haplotypes and a second group of low
275 frequency, diversified haplotypes, which could represent different histories of ancestral
276 populations of *P. palmivora*. One explanation for the observed patterns is introgression, perhaps

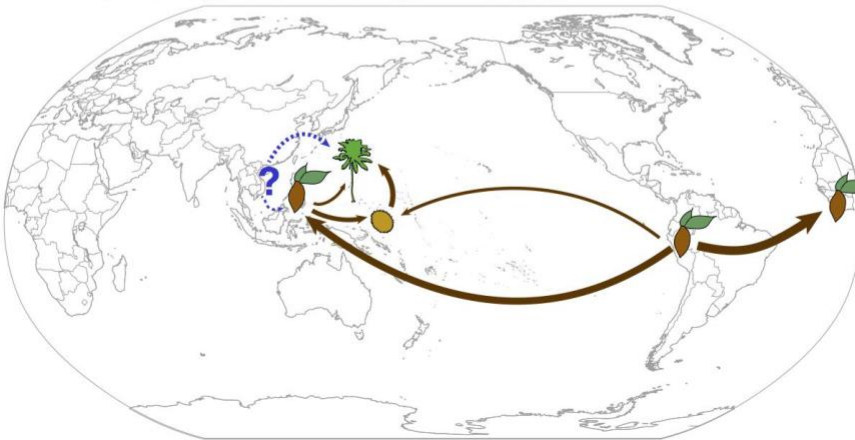
277 repeated introgression, from the pandemic lineage on cacao to endemic populations of
278 *Phytophthora* in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. We do not yet have evidence of
279 populations of *P. palmivora* or a closely related species on wild plants in the Americas which
280 could have sourced migration to Asia. However, *P. palmivora* infects important tropical cash
281 crops native to South America, including cacao⁵², rubber⁵³, and neotropical orchids⁵⁴. Genome
282 sequencing of an isolate of *P. palmivora* from cacao indicates that this pathogen underwent
283 genome doubling. We speculate that genome doubling was the consequence of a hybridization
284 event between strains of different geographic origin, because genome doubling is commonly
285 associated with interspecific hybridization⁵¹.

286 We can draw parallels between global patterns in the genetic variation of *P. palmivora*
287 and historical global movement of the hosts considered here (Fig. 5). The Philippines represents
288 one of two independent domestications of coconut (*Cocos nucifera*)^{47,55}. Historical and genetic
289 data have clarified the routes of coconut as it spread throughout the tropics and subtropics⁵⁵.
290 Various lines of evidence suggest that Pacific coconut was brought from the Philippines to
291 eastern Polynesia and to the Pacific coast of Latin America by pre-Columbian Austronesians.
292 Trade occurred in the opposite direction as well, because herbarium specimens and
293 anthropological studies suggest pre-historic introduction of sweet potato from the Pacific coast of
294 South America to Polynesia⁵⁶. Later, the Portuguese set up plantations of the South Asian
295 domestication (Indo-Atlantic genotypes) of coconut in West Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean.
296 Our findings of early divergence in our *P. palmivora* sample from the Pacific Islands is
297 consistent with early movement, possibly on Pacific coconut, whereas isolates from Ivory Coast
298 and Jamaica with deep nodes suggest movement on Indo-Atlantic coconut. *P. palmivora* infects
299 numerous other tropical fruits and ornamentals native to the Asia-Pacific region, on which the

A. Historical movement of major hosts



B. Inferred *P. palmivora* migration rates between regions and host groups



300

301 **Fig. 5. Movement of major hosts of *P. palmivora* out of their centers of origin and inferred**

302 **migration of *P. palmivora* by host group. (a)** Simplified historical movement of major *P.*

303 *palmivora* hosts. Indo-Atlantic and Pacific coconut were domesticated in South and Southeast

304 Asia, respectively. Cacao and rubber originated in South America. Many other tropical crops

305 host *P. palmivora*, including ornamentals. **(b)** Summary of BASTA inferences of *P. palmivora*

306 migration (solid lines, width proportional to mean migration rate) and potential migration from

307 an unsampled deme (dotted lines). BASTA inferred high migration rates from cacao in the

308 Americas to cacao in Asia-Pacific and Africa, and migration from cacao in Asia-Pacific to

309 coconut and other hosts (indicated by a durian fruit), as well as migration from cacao in the

310 Americas directly to other Asia-Pacific hosts.

311

312 pathogen could have dispersed or persisted over hundreds of years. If we assume that the
313 divergence in sequences of isolates from Hawaii and other Pacific Islands are associated with
314 human colonization of the Eastern Pacific islands around 1200 AD, we find that the colonization
315 of global cacao production is during the last 150-200 years, as expected. The major documented
316 movements of cacao to Africa and Asia was during the colonial period, and originated from
317 Venezuela, Trinidad and Brazil^{52,57}. Rubber is another major South American export and host of
318 *P. palmivora*, with modern plantations located in South and Southeast Asia and West Africa^{59,60}.
319 The history of rubber in Asia started with the introduction of specimen trees from the Amazon
320 region of Brazil to Ceylon, Singapore, and Penang in 1876, and rubber was established in
321 plantations in Malaysia through 1898⁵⁸.

322 We hypothesize that the diversity and genetic divergence of *P. palmivora* isolates in the
323 Asia-Pacific region is an example of host-tracking. Our suggest that there may a long history of
324 association of *P. palmivora* with coconut. Alternatively, *P. palmivora* may have long-term
325 associations with other hosts native to Southeast Asia and coconut served primarily as an early
326 vector for long-distance dispersal. The host-tracking model of plant pathogen emergence has
327 been seen in other host-pathogen systems in Southeast Asia, such as the black Sigatoka pathogen
328 *Mycosphaerella fijiensis* on banana⁶¹ and blast fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae* on rice⁶². In contrast,
329 the nearly monomorphic population *P. palmivora* found in Americas, South Asia, and Africa can
330 be explained by a pandemic lineage of *P. palmivora* on cacao, following a genetic bottleneck
331 likely associated with initial colonization of this host. The population of *P. palmivora* associated
332 with cacao resembles the pattern of emergence of globally-distributed clonal lineages of *P.*
333 *infestans* on potato^{21,63-65}. Several other oomycetes have exhibited similar genetic bottlenecks

334 upon intercontinental spread, including *Phytophthora ramorum*²⁸. These events are often
335 associated with a host jump, particularly colonization of plants for export.

336 The evolutionary and geographic history of *P. palmivora* could be clarified by
337 examination of additional isolates from uncultivated plants, which may represent older or more
338 isolated populations, or by using preserved DNA from herbarium samples. In general, the
339 distributions of crop pests and pathogens are highly dependent on the distribution of their hosts,
340 even though the specific mechanisms of global spread differ among species⁶⁶. The idiosyncrasies
341 of plant movement during human history shaped the genetic variation and structure of modern
342 populations of cultivated plants and of their pathogens. Therefore, efforts to manage disease may
343 benefit from teasing apart historical dependencies that structure host and pathogen genetic
344 variation and that are likely to mediate the plant-pathogen interaction.

345

346 **Methods**

347 ***P. palmivora* isolates.** Genomic DNA was provided from 95 isolates of *P. palmivora* in the
348 World Oomycete Genetic Resource Collection at the University of California, Riverside, USA.
349 The isolates were originally collected from 23 hosts and 22 countries on five continents (Africa,
350 Asia, Australia, North America and South America) ([Supplementary Table 1](#)). For analysis,
351 isolates were assigned to one of three large geographical regions: 1) Asia-Pacific (Asia, Australia
352 and Pacific Islands); 2) Americas (including the Caribbean islands); and 3) Africa.

353 **Multilocus sequence typing.** Four housekeeping genes known to contain variation within
354 *Phytophthora* species were used in this study: mitochondrial gene *coxII* with the adjacent
355 spacer⁶⁷, and three nuclear genes, *β-tubulin*, *pelota* and *trpI*^{68,69}. Primers for the nuclear genes

356 were modified for *P. palmivora* based on draft whole genome sequence kindly provided by S.
357 Schornack and S. Kamoun ([Supplementary Table 2](#)).

358 For PCR, a total reaction volume of 25.0 μ l was prepared including 1.0 μ l DNA template,
359 1X OneTaq master mix (NEB), 0.2 μ M primers and 3.0 μ M MgCl₂. PCR amplifications were
360 performed using the following cycling protocol: initial denaturation at 94 °C for 3 minutes;
361 followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 45 seconds, [(67 °C for 45 seconds (*pelota*); 58 °C for 45
362 seconds (*β -tubulin*); 60 °C for 45 seconds (*coxII*); 59°C for 60 seconds (*trpI*)) and 68 °C for 1
363 minute; then a final extension step was 68 °C for 10 minutes. PCR products were prepared for
364 sequencing using ExoSAP-IT (USB Corporation, Cleveland, OH, USA) and directly sequenced
365 in both directions at Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research (ICBR) at the
366 University of Florida, USA. Reads were assembled and edited using software Geneious 6.1.8
367 (<https://www.geneious.com>). For the three nuclear loci, haplotype phase was inferred using the
368 program PHASE⁷⁰, assuming diploidy. The settings for PHASE were as follows: MR0 (the
369 default model, which is the general model for recombination rate variation⁷¹); number of
370 iterations=10000 for *β -tubulin* and *trpI*, 2000 for *pelota*; thinning interval=1; burn-in=100. For
371 each nuclear locus, ten isolates that exhibited more than one heterozygous site were randomly
372 selected and cloned using the pGEM-T Easy Vector System (Promega Corporation, Madison,
373 WI, USA). Sequences were aligned with Geneious 6.1.8⁷². Indels were removed for analysis.
374 **Nucleotide diversity and neutrality tests.** Number of individuals (Nind), number of sequences
375 (Nseq), number of haplotypes (Nhap), segregating sites (S), average pairwise nucleotide
376 diversity (π)^{73,74}, Watterson's theta (θ_w)⁷⁵, Tajima's D⁷⁶⁻⁷⁹, number of mutations, number of
377 singleton mutations, Fu and Li's D* and F*^{76,77,80-85} and minimum number of recombination
378 events (Rm)⁸⁶ were determined for each of the four genes and by region using DnaSP v5⁸⁷.

379 **Population subdivision and structure.** Population subdivision among the three major
380 geographic regions (Africa, Americas and Asia-Pacific) and between two major hosts (coconut,
381 native to Southeast Asia; and cacao, native to South America) were examined for each gene
382 locus by analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) in Arlequin 3.5.2.1⁸⁸.

383 The population structure of *P. palmivora* was examined by model-based Bayesian
384 clustering carried out in STRUCTURE 2.3.4³⁶. For this analysis, allelic data were used from the
385 three nuclear loci. The program STRUCTURE estimates parameters independently in the
386 posterior probability distribution of allele frequencies. Parameters are estimated under the null
387 model of panmixia within populations, which is characterized by Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium at
388 each locus and an absence of linkage disequilibrium. The algorithm is robust to some departures
389 from these assumptions⁸⁹⁻⁹¹. Based on allele frequencies at each locus, STRUCTURE assigns Q-
390 values (inferred ancestry) to each individual. Isolate P3444 was excluded, due to missing data for
391 *pelota* and *trp1*. To reduce the effect of asexual reproduction on STRUCTURE inferences, two
392 different input files were prepared. One used the full data set of 94 isolates and a second used a
393 clone-corrected data set of 69 isolates. Clone correction is a method to remove bias caused by
394 dominant or overrepresented genotypes generated by epidemic asexual reproduction. Here, we
395 clone-corrected globally by including one representative isolate of each multilocus genotype. We
396 applied the following workflow to analyze both input files. STRUCTURE was run using the
397 admixture model, and cluster numbers (K) from K=1 to K=15 were evaluated using 500 000
398 iterations after a burn-in period of 500 000 iterations. To evaluate the stability of the results
399 across repeated runs, 20 independent runs were conducted. The runs for each value of K were
400 evaluated based on the second order rate of change of the likelihood function with respect to K⁹²
401 using the online program *Structure Harvester* v.0.6.94⁹³. Due to stochastic effects among

402 replicate STRUCTURE runs, assignment probabilities were compiled for multiple runs in the
403 program CLUMPP version 1.2, which simplifies the assessment of replicate data by calculating
404 medians⁹⁴. The parameters used were M=3, W=0 and S=2, GREEDY_OPTION=2, and
405 REPEATS=10000. The graphical visualization of the output was produced using R base function
406 ‘*barplot*’⁹⁵.

407 Population subdivision, based on allelic data from the three nuclear genes, was also
408 examined using model-free discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC) implemented
409 in the R package *adegenet* 1.4.2⁴¹. DAPC was run to confirm the results of Bayesian clustering
410 approach. DAPC does not make biological assumptions and is less computationally intensive
411 than STRUCTURE. This method maximizes the variation between groups while minimizing
412 variation within group. First, DAPC transforms the data using principal components analysis
413 (PCA) and then discriminant analysis (DA) assigns individuals to clusters. The data
414 transformation ensures that the variables inputted to DA are uncorrelated and that their number is
415 less than that of analyzed individuals, so as to overcome the drawbacks of direct application of
416 DA. The appropriate number of principal components retained in the analysis can be determined
417 by cross-validation⁴¹. Because only one isolate, P8039, was in the pre-defined coconut-Africa
418 group and could not be used for in both training and validation sets, we removed this isolate and
419 retained 93 isolates for the DAPC analyses.

420 **Genealogies and Phylogeographic Analysis.** To infer the phylogeographic history of *P.*
421 *palmivora*, genealogies were inferred by Bayesian evolutionary analysis by sampling trees
422 (BEAST) and location states by discrete trait analysis^{37,46}. We conducted separate analyses for
423 each locus, each of which is expected to have a different genealogy from the others. BEAST
424 executes ancestral reconstruction of discrete states, here location of collection, in a Bayesian

425 statistical framework for evolutionary hypothesis testing using rooted, time-measured
426 phylogenies. In this analysis, locations associated with branch nodes were characterized by
427 continuous time Markov chain models, comparable to nucleotide, codon or amino acid
428 substitution models and Bayesian stochastic search variable selection (BSSVS) was used to
429 model the phylogeographic dispersion process⁴⁵. This approach uses the geographic locations of
430 the samples to reconstruct the ancestral states of tree nodes and the root state. A strict molecular
431 clock model was used. The mutation rate was set as a constant 1.0, consequently the estimation
432 of branch lengths is in substitutions per site. We used jModelTest 2.1⁹⁶ to obtain the best fitting
433 models of nucleotide substitution for each gene alignment. A coalescent tree prior and a prior of
434 constant population size were assumed. Three replications of independent MCMC were run for
435 each locus and the first 10% of recorded states were discarded as burn-in (parameter settings in
436 [Supplementary Table 3](#)). The program was run until effective sample size estimates of greater
437 than 200 were obtained, with good mixing and convergence in independent runs, as assessed in
438 Tracer v1.6⁹⁷. Maximum clade credibility (MCC) trees were summarized by TreeAnnotator
439 based on common ancestor height⁹⁸ and visualized using R package *rBi*⁹⁹.

440 We complemented the above analysis with Bayesian structured coalescent approximation
441 (BASTA)⁴⁴ in BEAST 2.0¹⁰⁰. BASTA incorporates migration into the structured coalescent-
442 based model rather than modeling migration independently from the coalescent process as in the
443 above discrete phylogeographic analysis. BASTA phylogeographic inferences are less influenced
444 by sampling bias and variation in sampling intensity, and can include unsampled ghost demes.
445 All four loci were used in the analysis, were assumed to be unlinked, and were assigned different
446 nucleotide substitution models, as determined using jModeltest2 for each locus. The symmetric
447 BSSVS with 24 locations (shown in Fig. 4) was used to model the phylogeographic dispersion

448 process, which assumed a prior in which 60 migration rates are expected to be non-zero⁴⁵. We
449 assumed the same population size for all demes. Two billion steps were used in the MCMC
450 chain for each run, and one tree was recorded every 200 000 steps. To reduce the lengthy
451 running time and to obtain an effective sample size estimates of greater than 200 with good
452 mixing and convergence, two parallel runs with different seed numbers were implemented, and
453 the two parallel tree files for each locus were merged. The merged tree files were assessed in
454 Tracer v1.6⁹⁷. After the first 10% of recorded ‘burn-in’ states were discarded, MCC trees were
455 summarized by TreeAnnotator based on common ancestor height⁹⁸.

456 We also used BASTA to explore major between-host transmissions in relation to
457 geography by estimating migration rates between demes defined by host and region. We started
458 with a simple model of the two major hosts, cacao and coconut, to determine which of these two
459 is more likely to be the ancestral host of *P. palmivora*. We incorporated geography by splitting
460 cacao isolates into cacao-Asia-Pacific and cacao-America demes, resulting in three demes:
461 cacao-America, cacao-Asia-Pacific and coconut-Asia. We also examined the effect of adding an
462 unsampled (ghost) deme. Because we did not include isolates collected from hosts other than
463 coconuts and cacao in the Asia-Pacific region, we grouped these isolates into a deme to
464 determine if these hosts represented the unsampled (ghost) deme. Finally, we examined the
465 effect on the above models of adding a cacao-Africa deme, although the sample size from Africa
466 is small. The four loci were assumed to be unlinked and assigned different nucleotide
467 substitution models, as above. We ran migration models that allowed for asymmetric migration
468 between demes, assuming the same population size for all demes. Three hundred million steps
469 were used in the MCMC chain for each run, and one tree was recorded every 100 000 steps.

470 Mixing was assessed and trees examined as above. The MCC trees were visualized by
471 IcyTree¹⁰¹. Two replications of independent MCMC were run for each model.

472

473 **Data availability**

474 The DNA sequence data, inferred haplotypes and the analysis scripts that support the findings of
475 this study will be made available from the Dryad repository upon submission of this preprint to
476 another journal.

477

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720

721 **Author contributions**

722 JW and EMG designed the experiments. MDC contributed the DNA samples of *Phytophthora*
723 *palmivora* from the World Oomycete Genetic Resource Collection. JW performed the data
724 analyses with contributions from EMG and NDM. JW and EMG wrote the manuscript with
725 contribution from NDM and MDC. All authors reviewed and approved the manuscript.

726

727 **Competing interests**

728 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

TABLES

Table 1. Nucleotide variation by locus and geographic region. Statistics given are number of individuals (Nind), number of sequences (Nseq), number of haplotypes (Nhap), segregating sites (S), average pairwise nucleotide diversity (π), Watterson's theta (θ_w), Tajima's D, number of mutations, number of singleton mutations, Fu and Li's D* and F*, and minimum number of recombination events (Rm).

Locus	Geographic region	Nind	Nseq	Nhap	S	Π	θ_w	Tajima's D	Number of mutations	Number of singleton mutations	Fu & Li's D*	Fu & Li's F*	Rm
<i>β-tubulin</i>	Africa	6	12	4	23	0.0076	7.6	1.53	23	6	0.44	0.82	1
	America	18	36	7	30	0.0072	7.2	1.20	30	10	-0.61	<-0.01	6
	Asia-Pacific	66	132	45	55	0.0088	10.1	0.56	55	11	-0.19	0.15	14
<i>pelota</i>	Africa	6	12	6	14	0.0097	4.6	0.96	15	5	0.12	0.38	0
	America	18	36	8	20	0.0091	4.8	0.63	20	8	-1.01	-0.56	3
	Asia-Pacific	68	136	38	36	0.0108	6.6	-0.06	38	13	-1.82	-1.31	8
<i>trp1</i>	Africa	5	10	5	9	0.0053	3.2	1.42	10	2	0.71	1.00	0
	America	16	32	6	10	0.0048	2.5	2.19	10	2	0.31	1.05	2
	Asia-Pacific	69	138	24	35	0.0045	6.4	-1.24	37	10	-1.00	-1.32	6
<i>coxII</i> and spacer	Africa	5	5	2	10	0.0068	4.8	-1.19	10	10	-1.19	-1.26	0
	America	17	17	4	7	0.0018	2.1	-2.00	8	7	-2.41	-2.65	0
	Asia-Pacific	62	62	28	24	0.0083	5.1	-0.25	25	3	0.80	0.50	7

Bold: $P < 0.05$.

Table 2. Analysis of molecular variance among three major geographic regions and two major hosts.

Loci	Source of variation	Percentage of variation	F _{ST} *
<i>β-tubulin</i>	Among regions	7.77	0.08
<i>pelota</i>		10.01	0.10
<i>trp1</i>		11.54	0.12
<i>coxII</i> and spacer		8.16	0.08
<i>β-tubulin</i>	Among hosts	22.64	0.23
<i>pelota</i>		27.38	0.27
<i>trp1</i>		23.97	0.24
<i>coxII</i> and spacer		11.90	0.12

*All values of F_{ST} were statistically significant with $P < 0.05$.

Table 3. Estimates of migration rates between demes defined by hosts and geographical regions.

a. Three-deme model*

Source deme	Root state probability	Mean estimated immigration rate [95% HPD]:		
		Cacao-America	Cacao-AsiaPacific	Coconut-Asia
Cacao-America	0.93-0.94	-	0.447 [0.158-0.785]	0.108 [0-0.271]
Cacao-AsiaPacific	<0.1	0.069 [0-0.188]	-	0.306 [0.076-0.575]
Coconut-Asia	<0.1	0.031 [0-0.091]	0.043 [0-0.130]	-

* *P.palmivora* isolates from coconuts in America were not present in our sample

Bold: lower boundary of 95% HPD > 0.001

b. Four-deme model, including an unsampled deme

Source deme	Root state probability	Mean estimated immigration rate [95% HPD]:			
		Cacao-America	Cacao-AsiaPacific	Coconut-Asia	Unsampled
Cacao-America	0.63-0.68	-	0.476 [0.171-0.827]	0.11 [0-0.273]	0.069 [0-0.212]
Cacao-AsiaPacific	<0.1	0.063 [0-0.180]	-	0.314 [0.053-0.604]	0.082 [0-0.248]
Coconut-Asia	<0.1	0.031 [0-0.092]	0.048 [0-0.146]	-	0.085 [0-0.252]
Unsampled	0.27-0.31	0.076 [0-0.192]	0.113 [0-0.321]	0.272 [0-0.606]	-

Bold: lower boundary of 95% HPD > 0.001

c. Four-deme model, including a putative Others-AsiaPacific deme

Mean estimated immigration rate [95% HPD]:

Source deme	Root state probability	Cacao-America	Cacao-AsiaPacific	Coconut-Asia	Others-AsiaPacific
Cacao-America	0.95-0.97	-	0.403 [0.149-0.698]	0.104 [0-0.228]	0.222 [0.034-0.433]
Cacao-AsiaPacific	<0.1	0.037 [0-0.110]	-	0.195 [0.004-0.395]	0.316 [0.004-0.599]
Coconut-Asia	<0.1	0.018 [0-0.054]	0.047 [0-0.139]	-	0.359 [0.148-0.599]
Others-AsiaPacific	<0.1	0.028 [0-0.081]	0.050 [0-0.153]	0.052 [0-0.152]	-

Bold: lower boundary of 95% HPD > 0.001