1 **A genomic assessment of the marine-speciation paradox within the toothed whale**
2 **superfamily Delphinoidea**
3
4

Michael V Westbury[1*], Andrea A. Cabrera[1], Alba Rey-Iglesia[1], Binia De Cahsan[1], David A.
Duchêne[1], Stefanie Hartmann[2], Eline D Lorenzen[1*]
1. GLOBE Institute, University of Copenhagen, Øster Voldgade 5-7, Copenhagen,
Denmark
2. Institute of Biochemistry and Biology, University of Potsdam, Karl-Liebknecht-Str.
24-25, Potsdam, Germany

* Corresponding authors: m.westbury@sund.ku.dk, elinelorenzen@sund.ku.dk

12
Abstract

The importance of post-divergence gene flow in speciation has been documented
across a range of taxa in recent years, and may have been especially widespread in highly
mobile, wide-ranging marine species, such as cetaceans. Here, we studied individual
genomes from nine species across the three families of the toothed whale superfamily
Delphinoidea (Delphinidae, Phocoenidae, Monodontidae). To investigate the role of post-
divergence gene flow in the speciation process, we used a multifaceted approach, including:
(i) phylogenomics, (ii) the distribution of shared derived alleles, and (iii) demographic
inference. We found the divergence of lineages within Delphinoidea did not follow a process
of pure bifurcation, but was much more complex. Sliding-window phylogenomics reveal a
high prevalence of discordant topologies within the superfamily, with further analyses
indicating these discordances arose due to both incomplete lineage sorting and gene flow. D-
statistics, D-foil, and *f*-branch analyses supported gene flow between members of
Delphinoidea, with the vast majority of gene flow occurring as ancient interfamilial events.
Demographic analyses provided evidence that introgressive gene flow has likely ceased
between all species pairs tested, despite reports of contemporary interspecific hybrids. Our
study provides the first steps towards resolving the large complexity of speciation within
Delphinoidea; we reveal the prevalence of ancient interfamilial gene flow events prior to the
diversification of each family, and show contemporary hybridisation events may be
disadvantageous, as hybrid individuals do not appear to contribute to the parental species'
gene pools.

Introduction

The formation of new species involves the divergence of lineages through reproductive isolation. Isolation can initially occur in allopatry (geographical isolation without gene flow) or in sympatry (biological/ecological isolation with gene flow). Over time, isolation can be maintained and strengthened, ultimately leading to the formation of new species (Norris and Hull, 2012). While allopatric speciation requires geographical isolation plus time, sympatric speciation often requires a broader and more complicated set of mechanisms (Turelli et al., 2001). These mechanisms mostly rely on ecologically mediated natural selection. Parapatric speciation, on the other hand, encompasses intermediate scenarios of partial, but incomplete, physical restrictions to gene flow leading to speciation.

Through the analysis of whole-genome datasets, the detection of post-divergence gene flow in various distinct taxonomic groups is becoming commonplace (Árnason et al., 2018; Barlow et al., 2018; Westbury et al., 2020), demonstrating that speciation is much more complex than a simple bifurcating process (Campbell and Poelstra, 2018; Feder et al., 2012). Speciation is not an instantaneous process, but usually requires tens of thousands to millions of generations to achieve complete reproductive isolation (Butlin and Smadja, 2018; Coyne and Orr, 2004; Liu et al., 2014). The duration it takes to reach this isolation may be especially long in highly mobile marine species, such as cetaceans, due to a relative lack of geographic barriers in the marine realm, and therefore high potential for secondary contact and gene flow (Árnason et al., 2018).

The apparent inability to undergo allopatric speciation in marine species has been termed the marine-speciation paradox (Bierne et al., 2003). However, over the past decade, genomic studies have provided insights into how speciation can occur within cetaceans (Árnason et al., 2018; Moura et al., 2020). For example, initial phases of allopatry among populations of killer whales (*Orcinus orca*) may have led to the accumulation of ecological differences between populations, which strengthened population differences even after secondary contact (Foote et al., 2011; Foote and Morin, 2015). However, whether these initial phases of allopatry caused the divergence, or whether speciation occurred purely in sympatry, remains debated (Foote, 2018; Moura et al., 2015). But, these two hypotheses are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Instead, differentiation in parapatry, encompassing features of both allopatric and sympatric speciation, may have been key in the evolutionary history of cetaceans.

The toothed whale superfamily Delphinoidea represents an interesting opportunity to further explore speciation in the presence of putative interspecific gene flow. The crown root of Delphinoidea has been dated at ~19 million years ago (Ma) (95% CI 19.73 - 18.26 Ma) (McGowen et al., 2020) and has given rise to three families: (i) Delphinidae, the most species-rich family, which comprises dolphins and 'black-fish' (such as killer whales and pilot whales (*Globicephala spp.*)); (ii) Phocoenidae, commonly known as porpoises; and (iii) Monodontidae, which comprises two extant lineages, beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) and narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*).

Delphinoidea is of particular interest, as contemporary interspecific hybrids have been
reported within all three families (Delphinidae (Espada et al., 2019; Miyazaki et al., 1992;
Silva et al., 2005); Phocoenidae (Willis et al., 2004); Monodontidae (Skovrind et al., 2019)).
However, these represent recent hybridization events that occurred long after species
divergence, and their contribution to the parental gene pools is mostly unknown. The
presence of more ancient introgressive hybridization events between families, and during the
early radiations of these families, has yet to be investigated. With the rapid increase of
genomic resources for cetaceans, and in particular for species within Delphinoidea, we are
presented with the ideal opportunity to investigate post-divergence gene flow between
lineages, furthering our understanding of speciation processes in cetaceans.

Here, we utilise publicly available whole-genome data from nine species of
Delphinoidea, representing all three families, to investigate signs of post-divergence gene
flow across their genomes. Our analyses included five Delphinidae (killer whale, Pacific
white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*), long-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala
melas*), bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (*T.
aduncus*)); two Phocoenidae (harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*), finless porpoise
(*Neophocaena phocaenoides*)); and two Monodontidae (beluga, narwhal). Moreover, we
compare their species-specific genetic diversity and demographic histories, and explore how
species abundances may have played a role in interspecific hybridisation over the last two
million years.

Results and discussion

Detecting gene flow
To assess the evolutionary relationships across the genomes of the nine Delphinoidea
species investigated, we computed non-overlapping, sliding-window, maximum-likelihood
phylogenies of four different window sizes in RAxML (Stamatakis, 2014). These analyses
resulted in 43,207 trees (50 kilobase (kb) windows), 21,387 trees (100 kb windows), 3,705
trees (500 kb windows), and 1,541 trees (1 megabase (Mb) windows) (Fig. 1, Supplementary
Fig. S1, Supplementary Table S1). The 50 kb windows retrieved 96 unique topologies, 100
kb windows retrieved 47 unique topologies, 500 kb windows retrieved 16 unique topologies,
and 1 Mb windows retrieved 15 unique topologies. Regardless of window size, we retrieved
consensus support for the species tree previously reported using target-sequence capture
(McGowen et al., 2020). However, when considering the smallest window size (50 kb), we
found a considerable proportion of trees (up to 76%) with an alternative topology to the
species tree (Fig. 1A). These alternative topologies may be due to incomplete lineage sorting
(ILS) or interspecific gene flow (Leaché et al., 2014). Moreover, the higher prevalence of this
pattern in the shorter 50 kb windows may indicate that inconsistencies in topology are caused
by ancient, rather than recent, gene flow events, as recombination is expected to break up
longer introgressed regions over time (as a comparison, only 21% of windows in the 1 Mb
dataset do not show the most common topology, Fig. 1B).

We explored whether the large number of phylogenetic discrepancies in the 50kb windows could be linked to the GC content (%GC) of the windows as elevated levels of GC content can result from higher levels of GC-Biased Gene Conversion (gBGC) in regions with higher levels of recombination (Lartillot, 2013). When binning windows into either high, medium, or low levels of GC content, the most common topologies were consistent, but with slight differences in overall values (Supplementary Table S2). This result suggests that the topological discrepancies are not arising purely due to GC-content linked biases and recombination rate.

To investigate whether the alternative topologies could simply be explained by ILS, or a combination of ILS and gene flow, we ran Quantifying Introgression via Branch Lengths (QuIBL) (Edelman et al., 2019) on every twentieth tree from the 50 kb sliding-window analysis (Supplementary Table S3), as well as on a dataset that contained trees constructed using 20 kb windows with a 1 Mb slide (Supplementary Table S4). We were only able to investigate the potential cause of discordances within the Delphinidae family, as we did not recover any phylogenetic discordances between families, and all families were respectively monophyletic.

When considering the results using 50 kb windows, we found significant evidence of ILS and gene flow in all species pairwise comparisons within Delphinidae. The only comparisons that did not show significant results for gene flow were those that contained both the bottlenose and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. The lacking evidence of gene flow when both *Tursiops* species were included, suggests signals of gene flow between either *Tursiops* species and killer whale, Pacific white-sided dolphin, or pilot whale are likely remnants of ancestral gene flow events between the ancestral *Tursiops* and the given comparative species.

Similar to the 50 kb windows, the 20 kb window analysis showed a large proportion of alternative topologies within Delphinidae likely arose due to both ILS gene flow. Again, we retrieved most non-significant results when both *Tursiops* species were included in the analysis. Moreover, although we found no evidence of gene flow between killer whale and pilot whale when either *Tursiops* was included as the triplet outgroup, we found evidence of gene flow when the Pacific white-sided dolphin was the triplet outgroup. We also found no evidence for gene flow between the Indo-Pacific bottlenose and Pacific white-sided dolphins, regardless of triplet outgroup. It is difficult to ascertain why we observe discrepancies between results based on the triplet outgroup. But, taken together, our QuIBL analyses suggest a combination of ILS and gene flow played a role in shaping the evolutionary history of Delphinidae.

To further explore potential gene flow while taking ILS into account, we used D-statistics (Durand et al., 2011; Green et al., 2010). D-statistics uses a four-taxon approach [[[H1, H2], H3], Outgroup] to uncover the differential distribution of shared derived alleles, which may represent gene flow between either H1/H3 or H2/H3. Here we used baiji (*Lipotes vexillifer*) as the outgroup, and alternated ingroup positions based on the consensus topology.

In congruence with the QuIBL results, we found significant levels of gene flow within
Delphinidae. However, we also found higher levels of gene flow between the killer whale,
pilot whale, and Pacific white-sided dolphin and the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin, relative
to the bottlenose dolphin. In fact, 85 out of 86 tests showed significant signs of gene flow
both within and between families (Supplementary Table S5). The only comparison that did
not return a significant result was [[[finless porpoise, harbour porpoise], narwhal], outgroup].
This does not necessarily mean there was no gene flow between these species, but could be
caused by equal amounts of gene flow between both porpoise species and narwhal. Such
abundant signs of gene flow suggests the evolutionary history of Delphinoidea was more
complex than a simple bifurcating process. Alternatively, our findings may reflect limitations
of the D-statistic and false positives due to gene flow between ancestral lineages (Moodley et
al., 2020).

Due to the inability of the four-taxon D-statistics approach to detect the direction of
gene flow, as well as whether gene flow events may have occurred between ancestral
lineages, we used D-foil (Pease and Hahn, 2015). D-foil enables further characterization of
the D-statistics results, which may be particularly relevant given the complex array of gene
flow putatively present within Delphinoidea. D-foil uses a five-taxon approach [[H1, H2]
[H3, H4], Outgroup] and a system of four independent D-statistics in a sliding-window
fashion, to uncover (i) putative gene flow events, (ii) donor and recipient lineages, and (iii)
whether gene flow events occurred between a distantly related lineage and the ancestor of
two sister lineages, which is indicative of ancestral-lineage gene flow. However, as the input
topology requirements of D-foil are [[H1, H2] [H3, H4], Outgroup], we were only able to
investigate gene flow between families, and not within families, using this analysis. Hence,
we tested for gene flow between Delphinidae/Phocoenidae, Delphinidae/Monodontidae, and
Phocoenidae/Monodontidae.

The D-foil results underscore the complex pattern of post-divergence gene flow
between families indicated by the D-statistics. We found support for interfamilial gene flow
events between all nine species investigated, to varying extents (Supplementary Table S6).
This could reflect multiple episodes of gene flow between all investigated species.
Alternatively, the pattern could reflect ancient gene flow events between the ancestors of H1-
H2 and H3-H4 (in the topology [[H1, H2] [H3, H4], Outgroup]), with differential inheritance
of the introgressed loci in subsequent lineages. Such ancestral gene flow events have
previously been shown to lead to false positives between species pairs using D-statistics
(Moodley et al., 2020). A further putative problem with these results can be seen when
implementing D-foil on the topology [[Delphinidae, Delphinidae], [Monodontidae,
Phocoenidae], Outgroup]. We found the majority of windows support a closer relationship
between Delphinidae (ancestors of H1 and H2) and Monodontidae (H3), as opposed to the
species tree. If this result is correct, it suggests the input topology was incorrect, and the
results reflect more recent common ancestry and not gene flow. This implies Delphinidae and
Monodontidae are sister lineages, as opposed to Phocoenidae and Monodontidae. However,
this contrasts with the family topology of [Delphinidae, [Phocoenidae, Monodontidae]]

retrieved in our phylogenetic analyses (Fig. 1) and reported by others (McGowen et al., 2020;
Steeman et al., 2009).
220
Taken together, it is difficult to ascertain whether our D-statistics and D-foil results of
prevalent gene flow among most species pairs are true, or whether some results may have
arisen due to biases that can occur when attempting to infer gene flow between highly
divergent lineages. False positives and potential biases in D-statistics and D-foil can arise due
to a number of factors including (i) ancestral population structure, (ii) introgression from
unsampled and/or extinct ghost lineages, (iii) differences in relative population size of
lineages or in the timing of gene flow events, (iv) different evolutionary rates or sequencing
errors between H1 and H2, and (v) gene flow between ancestral lineages (Moodley et al.,
2020; Slatkin and Pollack, 2008; Zheng and Janke, 2018). These issues are important to
consider when interpreting our results, as the deep divergences of lineages suggest the
possibility for a number of ancestral gene flow events, as well as gene flow events between
now-extinct lineages, that may bias results.
233
Due to the large number of possible D-statistics comparisons, and difficulties
disentangling false positives that may arise due to ancient gene flow events, we performed
the f-branch test (Malinsky et al., 2021, 2018). The test takes correlated allele sharing into
account when visualising f4-ratio (similar to D-statistics) results. The f-branch results
suggested several instances of gene flow, many between ancestral lineages (Fig. 2). When
considering interfamilial gene flow events, we see excess allele sharing (fb) between the
ancestral Monodontidae branch and all Delphinidae species, which we interpret as gene flow
between the ancestral lineages of Monodontidae and Delphinidae. We also uncovered
elevated fb between the ancestor of all Delphinidae (to the exclusion of the killer whale) and
all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae species, which could suggest gene flow between
Delphinidae and the ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae lineage. However, the exclusion of
the killer whale may be due to the inability of the 4 taxon f4-ratio test to calculate gene flow
between the killer whale and ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae. Based on this limitation,
we take a conservative approach and suggest this result reflects gene flow between the
ancestral Delphinidae and ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae.
249
Further supporting the hypothesis of gene flow between the ancestral Delphinidae and
ancestral Phocoenidae/Monodontidae, we also observed signs of gene flow between the
finless porpoise and all Delphinidae species, which suggests gene flow between the finless
porpoise and ancestral Delphinidae. This seems unreasonable, as the finless porpoise
diverged from the harbour porpoise much more recently (~5 Ma) than the time to the most
recent common ancestor (tMRCA) of all Delphinidae (~10 Ma, (McGowen et al., 2020),
meaning gene flow would have occurred independently between the finless porpoise and
almost every Delphinidae species studied here. Moreover, the f-branch showed similar fb
between the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin and all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae, as well
as between the ancestral *Tursiops* and all Phocoenidae and Monodontidae. Similar to the
finless porpoise and ancestral Delphinidae, this result seems unlikely due to the divergence
times of *Tursiops*.

We also found signals of gene flow between beluga and both Phocoenidae species,
but not between narwhal and Phocoenidae. This pattern may be more parsimoniously
explained by an ancestral event between Phocoenidae and Monodontidae, where the narwhal
retained less introgressed alleles. A given fb statistic presents the signal of excess gene flow
relative to the ingroup's sister taxa (Malinsky et al., 2021). Hence, not recovering a signal of
gene flow with the sister taxa does not mean it did not occur. Rather, gene flow may have
occurred between taxa, but to a lesser degree. Taking this into account, we suggest our results
may instead be remnants of ancestral gene flow events between the ancestral Phocoenidae
and Monodontidae lineages. A lack of evidence for more recent, species-specific gene flow
events here is congruent with the sliding-window tree analyses, which consistently showed
Phocoenidae and Monodontidae as monophyletic groups.

The f-branch test also revealed interspecific gene flow events within Delphinidae may
have been common. We uncovered evidence for gene flow between the Pacific white-sided
dolphin and ancestral *Tursiops*, as well as the killer whale and ancestral *Tursiops*. However,
we are unable to dissect whether there was gene flow between the pilot whale and ancestral
Tursiops, due to the limitation of the four-taxon requirement.

To investigate whether the X chromosome may have presented a more pronounced
barrier to gene flow relative to the autosomes, we ran the f-branch test on scaffolds aligning
to the X chromosome. Results were similar to the genome-wide dataset (Supplementary Fig.
S2). The most obvious difference is that evidence for gene flow between Phocoenidae and
Monodontidae is not as pronounced as in the genome-wide dataset. It is difficult to discern
whether the lack of resolution here is due to the X chromosome constituting a smaller dataset,
or whether parts of the X chromosome were not incorporated into the recipient gene pool due
to the occurrence of more rapid reproductive isolation on the X chromosome (Payseur and
Rieseberg, 2016). The former option appears more probable, due to the consistent evidence
for gene flow between the beluga and both Phocoenidae species, which are likely the
remnants of ancestral gene flow events between Phocoenidae and Monodontidae.

By combining results acquired through sliding-window phylogenies, QuIBL, D-
statistics, Dfoil, and f-branch, we are able to better decipher the complex evolutionary history
of Delphinidae, and the signatures of interspecific gene-flow events present in most
individuals studied. We found the most probable explanation for such wide-spread signatures
to be the differential inheritance of remnant loci from ancestral gene flow events. However,
as exemplified here and due to the limitations of each method, uncovering the exact lineages
involved in these events is challenging.

Cessation of lineage sorting and/or gene flow
To further elucidate the complexity of interspecific gene flow within Delphinoidea,
we implemented F1 hybrid PSMC (hPSMC) (Cahill et al., 2016) on the autosomes of our
species of interest. This method creates a pseudo-diploid sequence by merging pseudo-
haploid sequences from two different genomes, which in our case represents two different

species. The variation in the interspecific pseudo-F1 hybrid genome cannot coalesce more
recently than the emergence of reproductive isolation between the two parental species. If
some regions within the genomes of two target species are yet to fully diverge, due to ILS or
to gene flow, hybridisation may still be possible. Therefore, we can use this method to infer
when reproductive isolation between two species may have occurred.
311

When considering the uppermost limit of when two target genomes coalesce
(equating the oldest date), and the lower confidence interval of each divergence date
(equating the most recent date) (McGowen et al., 2020), we found the majority of
comparisons (29/36) show lineage sorting and/or gene flow occurred for >50% of the post-
divergence branch length (Fig. 3, Supplementary data - hPSMC). However, we used
divergence dates estimated assuming a fixed tree-like topology without taking gene tree
discordances into account, and therefore the divergence dates may be overestimated due to
extended terminal branches from molecular substitutions of discordant loci needing to be
placed somewhere on the tree (Mendes and Hahn, 2016). Nevertheless, our results suggest
that reaching complete reproductive isolation in Delphinoidea was a slow process, due to ILS
and/or gene flow. ILS levels are known to be proportional to ancestral population sizes, and
inversely proportional to time between speciation events (Pamilo and Nei, 1988). Hence, if
ILS was the only explanation for this phenomenon, this would suggest extremely large
ancestral population sizes. An alternative explanation is the occurrence of gene flow after
initial divergence, supported by our phylogenomic, D-statistics, Dfoil, and *f*-branch results
above. Post-divergence gene flow may reflect the ability of cetacean species to travel long
distances, and the absence of significant geographical barriers in the marine environment.
Alternatively, if geographic barriers did drive initial divergence, the pattern retrieved in our
data may reflect secondary contact prior to complete reproductive isolation.
331

Our hPSMC results showed an almost simultaneous cessation of lineage sorting/gene
flow regardless of species pair within the Delphinidae family (Fig 3A), as well as
comparisons between families (Fig 3B). Based on our D-statistic/D-foil/*f*-branch results
showing many of the signals of gene flow may be remnants of ancestral gene flow events, we
hypothesise that our deep-time hPSMC results may also be produced by ILS of ancestrally
introgressed regions. If we assume the divergence dates are correct, this hypothesis also
offers an explanation regarding why the end of interfamilial ILS/gene flow occurs after the
tMRCA of the family in many cases. For example, the tMRCA of Phocoenidae is ~6Ma, and
the tMRCA of Monodontidae is ~7Ma but our hPSMC suggests that ILS/gene flow did not
stop between Phocoenidae and Monodontidae until ~5Ma. Superficially, this implies that
interfamilial gene flow occurred uniquely between beluga/finless porpoise, beluga/harbour
porpoise, narwhal/finless porpoise, and narwhal/harbour porpoise, and ceased for all species
pairs at the same time. While this may have been the case, a more likely explanation is that
lineage sorting of introgressed regions from an ancestral gene flow event was not complete
until the time periods that our hPSMC results recovered.
347

Despite our hPSMC results of long-term lineage sorting/gene flow in the majority of
species comparisons, they also suggested that lineage sorting is complete and gene flow has

ceased between all lineages in our dataset. This finding is in contrast with confirmed reports
of fertile contemporary hybrids between several of our target species, and may reflect the
inability of hPSMC to detect low levels of migration. For example, viable offspring have
been reported between bottlenose dolphins and Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins (Gridley et
al., 2018) and between bottlenose dolphins and Pacific white-sided dolphins (Crossman et al.,
2016; Miyazaki et al., 1992). Simulations have shown that in the presence of as few as
1/10,000 migrants per generation, hPSMC will suggest continued gene flow. However, this is
not the case with a rate < 1/100,000 migrants per generation. Rather, in the latter case, the
exponential increase in effective population size (Ne) of the pseudo-hybrid genome, which
can be used to infer the date at which gene flow ceased between the parental species,
becomes a more gradual transition, leading to a larger estimated time interval of gene flow
(Cahill et al., 2016). Within Delphinidae, we observe a less pronounced increase in Ne in the
pseudo-hybrids, suggesting continued, but very low migration rates (Supplementary results -
hPSMC). This finding suggests that gene flow within Delphinidae may have continued for
longer than shown by hPSMC, which may not be sensitive enough to detect low rates of
recent gene flow. Either way, our hPSMC results within and between all three families
showed a consistent pattern of long periods of lineage sorting/gene flow in Delphinoidea,
some lasting more than ten million years post divergence.
368
We further assessed the robustness of our hPSMC results to the inclusion or exclusion
of repeat regions in the pseudodiploid genome. We compared the hPSMC results when
including and removing repeat regions for three independent species pairs of varying
phylogenetic distance. These included a shallow divergence (bottlenose and Indo-Pacific
bottlenose dolphins), medium divergence (beluga and narwhal), and deep divergence
(bottlenose dolphin and beluga) (Supplementary Figs. S3 - S5). For all species pairs, results
showed that pre-divergence Ne is almost identical, and the exponential increase in Ne is just
slightly more recent when removing repeat regions, compared to when repeat regions are
included. This gives us confidence that the inclusion of repeats did not greatly alter our
results.
379
To add independent evidence for continued lineage sorting/gene flow for an extended
period after initial divergence, we compared relative divergence time between killer whale,
Pacific white-sided dolphin, and long-finned pilot whale based on the species tree and a set of
alternative topologies (Supplementary Fig. S6). We focused on Delphinidae, due to the large
number of loci per alternative topology (Supplementary Tables S1, S2, S3, and S4). By
assuming ILS and gene flow are the dominant forces behind gene-tree discordance, we can
uncover information about the timing of ILS and gene flow events among lineages, by
isolating the loci that produce each topology (Mendes and Hahn, 2016). In agreement with
our hPSMC results, this analysis showed that ILS/gene flow continued for a long time after
initial divergence. For example, we observed that the killer whale diverged from all other
Delphinidae at a relative divergence time of 0.45 (45% of the divergence time of
Delphinoidea and the baiji) in the consensus topology (Supplementary Fig. S6A). In an
alternative topology, the killer whale was placed as sister to the Pacific white-sided dolphin
(Supplementary Fig. S6B); despite still diverging from the remaining Delphinidae at

approximately the same relative timing (0.42), it diverged from the Pacific white-sided
dolphin at a relative divergence time of 0.25. As we assumed the alternative topologies only
arose due to ILS and/or gene flow, this suggested lineage sorting and/or gene flow continued
along ~40% of the post-divergence branch length. This estimate was qualitatively equivalent
to that made using hPSMC (minimally 43%). Similarly, long periods of post-divergence
lineage sorting/gene flow were observed when investigating topologies with the killer whale
and long-finned pilot whale as sister species (Supplementary Fig. S6C, ~43%), and with the
Pacific white-sided dolphin and long-finned pilot whale as sister species (Supplementary Fig.
S6D, ~37%). As the results here included alternative topologies that likely arose due to ILS
and gene flow, we propose that the numbers present a more conservative estimate. One would
expect ILS to be a more prevalent force behind discordances shortly after the species'
divergence, whereas gene flow can occur after many generations. Therefore, if we could
more confidently disentangle alternative topologies arising due to ILS from those arising due
to gene flow, we would expect much more recent relative divergence times for loci that
underwent gene flow. However, alternative topologies may have arisen due to ILS alone. But
for ILS to have continued for so long after initial divergence would suggest very large Ne in
all lineages involved, which seems unlikely and goes against our results showing ILS and
gene flow was prevalent in our dataset.
412
413   In summary, by combining findings from several analyses, and with the knowledge
414 that interspecific hybridisation is still ongoing between many of the lineages studied here, we
415 suggest that both ILS and gene flow played a major role over extended periods of time, in the
416 speciation of Delphinoidea.
417
418 **Interspecific hybridisation**
419
Making inferences as to what biological factors lead to interspecific hybridisation is
challenging, as many variables may play a role. One hypothesis is that interspecific
hybridization may occur at a higher rate during periods of low abundance, when a given
species encounters only a limited number of conspecifics (Crossman et al., 2016; Edwards et
al., 2011; Westbury et al., 2019). When considering species that have not yet undergone
sufficient divergence preventing their ability to hybridise, individuals may mate with a
related species, instead of investing energy in finding a relatively rarer conspecific mate.
427
To explore the relationship between susceptibility to interspecific hybridisation and
population size, we calculated the level of genome-wide genetic diversity for each species, as
a proxy for their Ne (Fig. 4A). Narwhal, killer whale, beluga, and long-finned pilot whale had
the lowest diversity levels, respectively, and should therefore be more susceptible to
interspecific hybridization events. A beluga/narwhal hybrid has been reported (Skovrind et
al., 2019), as has hybridisation between long-finned and short-finned pilot whales (Miralles et
al., 2016). However, hybrids between species with high genetic diversity, including harbour
porpoise (Willis et al., 2004), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (Baird et al., 2012), and
bottlenose dolphin (Espada et al., 2019; Herzingl and Johnsonz, 1997), have also been

reported, suggesting genetic diversity alone is not a good proxy for susceptibility to
hybridisation.
439
To investigate the effect of interspecific gene flow on Ne, we estimated changes in
intraspecific genetic diversity through time (Fig. 4B-D). The modeled demographic
trajectories, using a Pairwise Sequentially Markovian Coalescent model (PSMC), span the
past two million years. We could therefore assess the relationship for the three species pairs,
where the putative interval for the cessation of lineage sorting/gene flow was contained
within this period: harbour/finless porpoise (Phocoenidae), beluga/narwhal (Monodontidae),
and bottlenose/Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin (Delphinidae) (Fig. 3).
447
In the harbour porpoise, we observed an increase in Ne beginning ~1 Ma, the rate of
which increased further ~0.5 Ma (Fig. 4C). We observed a similar pattern in belugas; an
increase in Ne ~1 Ma, relatively soon after the proposed cessation of gene flow with narwhals
~1.8 - 1.2 Ma (Fig. 4D). Although Ne may reflect abundance, it is also influenced by several
other factors, including population connectivity and gene flow. If gene flow explained our
changes in Ne, we would therefore expect a decrease in Ne after gene flow ceased, but
instead we observed an increase. An increase in Ne may coincide with an increase in relative
abundance, which would increase the number of potential conspecific mates, and in turn
reduce the level of interspecific gene flow. However, this is difficult to say for certain
without more information on abundances through time.
458
We observed a different pattern in the bottlenose/Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins.
We found a relatively high population size during the period of gene flow in both species; Ne
declines ~1 - 0.5 Ma, coinciding with the putative end of gene flow ~1.2 - 0.4 Ma. The
decline in Ne could either reflect a decline in abundance, or a loss of connectivity between
the two species. In the latter, we expect levels of intraspecific diversity (and thereby inferred
Ne) to decline with the cessation of gene flow, even if absolute abundances did not change.
This is indeed suggested by our data, which showed both species undergoing the decline
simultaneously, indicative of a common cause.
467
Seven of the nine Delphinoidea genomes investigated showed a similar pattern of a
rapid decline in Ne starting ~150-100 thousands of years ago (kya) (Fig. 4B-D; the
exceptions are Pacific white-sided dolphin and narwhal). This concurrent decline could
represent actual population declines across species, or, alternatively, simultaneous reductions
in connectivity among populations within each species. Based on similar PSMC analyses, a
decline in Ne at this time has also been reported in four baleen whale species (Árnason et al.,
2018). Therefore, the species-wide pattern may reflect climate-driven environmental change.
The period of 150-100 kya overlaps with the onset of the last interglacial, when sea levels
increased to levels as high, if not higher, than at present (Polyak et al., 2018), and which may
have had a marine-wide effect on both population connectivity and sizes. The unique life
histories, distribution, and ecology of the cetacean species suggests that a combination of
both decreased population connectivity and population sizes across the different studied
species. A similar marine-wide effect has been observed among baleen whales and their prey

species in the Southern and North Atlantic Oceans during the Pleistocene-Holocene climate
transition (12-7 kya) (Cabrera et al., 2018). These results indicate that past marine-wide
environmental shifts have driven demographic changes in population across multiple marine
species.

Although speculative, we suggest that recent species-wide declines associated with
the onset of the last glacial period, may have facilitated the resurgence of hybridization
between some of the nine Delphinoidea species analysed. If interspecific hybridisation has
increased after these declines, species may already be sufficiently differentiated that offspring
fertility is reduced. Even if offspring are fertile, the high level of differentiation between
species may mean hybrids are unable to occupy either parental niche (Skovrind et al., 2019)
and are strongly selected against. A lack of significant contribution from recent hybrids to the
parental gene pools may be why we observe contemporary hybrids, but do not find evidence
of this in our analyses.

Conclusions

Allopatric speciation is generally considered the most common mode of speciation, as
the absence of gene flow due to geographic isolation can most easily explain the evolution of
ecological, behavioural, morphological, or genetic differences between populations (Norris
and Hull, 2012). However, our findings suggest that within Delphinoidea, speciation in the
presence of gene flow was commonplace, consistent with sympatric/parapatric speciation, or
allopatric speciation and secondary contact.

The ability for gene flow events to occur long after initial divergence may also
explain the presence of contemporaneous hybrids between several species. In parapatric
speciation, genetic isolation is achieved relatively early due to geographical and biological
isolation, but species develop complete reproductive isolation relatively slowly, through low
levels of migration or secondary contact events (Norris and Hull, 2012). The prevalence of
this mode of speciation in cetaceans, as suggested by our study and previous genomic
analyses (Árnason et al., 2018; Moura et al., 2020), may reflect the low energetic costs of
dispersing across large distances in the marine realm (Fish et al., 2008; Williams, 1999) and
the relative absence of geographic barriers preventing such dispersal events (Palumbi, 1994).
Both factors are believed to be important in facilitating long-distance (including inter-
hemispheric and inter-oceanic) movements in many cetacean species (Stone et al., 1990).

Our study shows that speciation in Delphinoidea was a complex process and involved
multiple ecological and evolutionary factors. Our results take a step towards resolving the
enormous complexity of speciation within this superfamily, through a multifaceted analysis
of nuclear genomes. Our study underscores the challenges of accurately interpreting some
results, due to the high levels of divergence between the target species. Moreover, while we
make inferences based on a genome-wide dataset, certain regions of the genome may have a
greater contribution to reproductive isolation than others, e.g. sex chromosomes and regions
of reduced recombination (Payseur and Rieseberg, 2016). By using the hypotheses we form

about general patterns and major processes of gene flow and speciation uncovered in our
data, we hope that future studies may be able to build on our results to make more specific
inferences as to the genomics of speciation in Delphinoidea, as additional genomic data and
new methodologies for data analysis become available.
529
530   **Methods**
531
Data collection
We downloaded the assembled genomes and raw sequencing reads from nine toothed
whales from the superfamily Delphinoidea. The data included five Delphinidae: Pacific
white-sided dolphin (NCBI Biosample: SAMN09386610), Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin
(NCBI Biosample: SAMN06289676), bottlenose dolphin (NCBI Biosample:
SAMN09426418), killer whale (NCBI Biosample: SAMN01180276), and long-finned pilot
whale (NCBI Biosample: SAMN11083132); two Phocoenidae: harbour porpoise (Autenrieth
et al., 2018) and finless porpoise (NCBI Biosample: SAMN02192673); and two
Monodontidae: beluga (NCBI Biosample: SAMN06216270) and narwhal (NCBI Biosample:
SAMN10519625). To avoid artificially inflating signals of genetic similarities between a
highly divergent outgroup and an ingroup species used as mapping reference (Liu et al.,
2021), we downloaded the assembled outgroup baiji genome (Genbank accession code:
GCF_000442215.1) as mapping reference in the gene flow analyses. Delphinoidea and the
baiji diverged ~24.6 Ma (95% CI 25.2 - 23.8 Ma) (McGowen et al., 2020).
546
Initial data filtering
To determine which scaffolds were most likely autosomal in origin, we identified
putative sex chromosome scaffolds for each genome through synteny, and omitted them from
further analysis. We found putative sex chromosome scaffolds in all ten assemblies by
aligning them to the Cow X (Genbank accession: CM008168.2) and Human Y (Genbank
accession: NC_000024.10) chromosomes. Alignments were performed using satsuma
synteny v2.1 (Grabherr et al., 2010) with default parameters. Since short scaffolds have a
higher likelihood of including assembly errors, we also removed scaffolds smaller than 100
kb from all downstream analyses.
556
Mapping
We trimmed adapter sequences from all raw reads using skewer v0.2.2 (Jiang et al.,
2014). We mapped the trimmed reads to the baiji for downstream gene flow analyses, and to
the species-specific reference genome for downstream demographic history and genetic
diversity analyses using BWA v0.7.15 (Li and Durbin, 2009) and the mem algorithm. We
parsed the output and removed duplicates and reads with a mapping quality lower than 30
with SAMtools v1.6 (Li et al., 2009). Mapping statistics can be found in supplementary tables
S7 and S8.
565
Sliding-window phylogeny
For the sliding-window phylogenetic analysis, we created fasta files for all individuals
mapped to the baiji genome using a consensus base call (-dofasta 2) approach in ANGSD

v0.921 (Korneliussen et al., 2014), and specifying the following filters: minimum read depth
of 5 (-mininddepth 5), minimum mapping quality of 30 (-minmapq 30), minimum base
quality (-minq 30), only consider reads that map to one location uniquely (-uniqueonly 1),
and only include reads where both mates map (-only_proper_pairs 1). All resultant fasta files,
together with the assembled baiji genome, were aligned, and sites where any individual had
more than 50% missing data were filtered before performing maximum likelihood
phylogenetic analyses in a non-overlapping sliding-window approach using RAxML v8.2.10
(Stamatakis, 2014). We performed this analysis four times independently, specifying a
different window size each time (50 kb, 100 kb, 500 kb, and 1 Mb). We used RAxML with
default parameters, specifying baiji as the outgroup, and a GTR+G substitution model. We
computed the genome-wide majority rule consensus tree for each window size in PHYLIP
(Felsenstein, 2005), with branch support represented by the proportion of trees displaying the
same topology. We simultaneously visualised all trees of equal sized windows using
DensiTree (Bouckaert, 2010).
583
584   We tested whether discordant phylogenetic topologies may be linked to GC content in
585   the 50kb windows. To do this, we calculated the GC content for each window and binned the
586   windows into three bins: The 33% with the lowest levels of GC content, the 33% with
587   intermediate levels, and the 33% with the highest levels of GC content.
588

Quantifying Introgression via Branch Lengths (QuIBL)
To test hypotheses of whether phylogenetic discordance between all possible triplets
can be explained by incomplete lineage sorting (ILS) alone, or by a combination of ILS and
gene flow, we implemented QuIBL (Edelman et al., 2019) in two different datasets. The first
dataset leveraged the results of the above 50 kb-window analysis, by taking every twentieth
tree from the 50kb sliding-window analysis and running it through QuIBL. The second
dataset was created specifically for this test, and contained topologies generated from 20 kb
windows with a 1 Mb slide using the phylogenetic methods mentioned above. We ran QuIBL
specifying the baiji as the overall outgroup (totaloutgroup), to test either ILS or ILS with gene
flow (numdistributions 2), the number of total EM steps as 50 (numsteps), and a likelihood
threshold of 0.01. We determined the significance of gene flow by comparing the BIC1 (ILS
alone) and BIC2 (ILS and gene flow). When BIC2 was lower than BIC1, with a difference of
> 10, we assumed incongruent topologies arose due to both ILS and gene flow. Triplet
topologies supporting the species tree, and those that had < 5 alternative topologies, were
excluded from interpretations.
604

D-statistics
To test for signs of gene flow in the face of ILS, we ran D-statistics (Durand et al.,
2011; Green et al., 2010) using all individuals mapped to the baiji genome in ANGSD, and
using a consensus base call approach (-doabbababa 2), specifying the baiji sequence as the
ancestral outgroup sequence, and the same filtering as for the fasta file construction with the
addition of setting the block size as 1Mb (-blocksize). Significance of the results was
evaluated using a block jackknife approach with the Rscript provided in the ANGSD
package. $|Z| > 3$ was deemed significant.

D-foil

As D-statistics only tests for the presence and not the direction of gene flow, we ran D-foil (Pease and Hahn, 2015), an extended version of the D-statistic, which is a five-taxon test for gene flow, making use of all four combinations of the potential D-statistics topologies. For this analysis, we used the same fasta files constructed above, which we converted into an mvf file using MVFtools (Pease and Rosenzweig, 2018). We specified the 5-taxa [[H1, H2], [H3, H4], baiji], for all possible combinations, following the species tree (Fig. 1) and a 100 kb window size. All scaffolds were trimmed to the nearest 100 kb to avoid the inclusion of windows shorter than 100 kb. The significance of each window was separately assessed by a chi-squared goodness-of-fit test within the software.

The *f*-branch statistic

To aid in the interpretation of the multitude of D-statistics comparisons, we implemented the *f*-branch test (Malinsky et al., 2021, 2018) to uncover correlations between results that may indicate ancestral gene flow events. For this analysis, we needed a variant call file (VCF). However, the raw sequencing reads for the baiji are not available. To overcome this, we simulated 100 million 150 bp reads from the assembled genome using SAMtools wgsim, which we mapped back to the baiji assembly using the same mapping parameters specified above. We constructed a multi-individual VCF of all individuals mapped to the baiji using bcftools mpileup, and filtered said VCF file to only include SNPs using BCFtools call and the -mv parameter, resulting in 138,715,767 sites for downstream analyses. We ran the multi-individual VCF through Dtrios in Dsuite v0.4 (Malinsky et al., 2021) and specified the species tree as the most common topology from our sliding window analyses, and otherwise default parameters. We ran the output from Dtrios through *f*-branch and visualised the output using the dtools.py script from Dsuite. To assess whether sex chromosomes may support a different scenario of gene flow events, we also ran the *f*-branch on scaffolds >1 Mb aligning to the X chromosome which gave us 3,728,572 sites.

Mutation rate estimation

For use in the downstream demographic analyses, we computed the mutation rate per generation for each species. To do this, we estimated the pairwise distances between all ingroup species mapped to the baiji, using a consensus base call in ANGSD (-doIBS 2), and applying the same filters as above, with the addition of only considering sites in which all individuals were covered (-minInd). The pairwise distances used in this calculation were those from the closest lineage to the species of interest (Supplementary Tables S9 and S10). The mutation rates per generation were calculated using the resultant pairwise distance as follows: mutation rate = pairwise distance x generation time / 2 x divergence time. Divergence times were taken from the full dataset 10-partition auto-correlated rate (mean) values from McGowen et al. (McGowen et al., 2020) (Supplementary Table S10). Generation times were taken from previously published data (Supplementary Table S11).

Cessation of lineage sorting and/or gene flow

To estimate when lineage sorting and/or gene flow may have ceased between each
species pair, we used the F1-hybrid PSMC (hPSMC) approach (Cahill et al., 2016). As input
we used the haploid consensus sequences mapped to the baiji that were created for the
phylogenetic analyses. Despite the possibility of producing consensus sequences when
mapping to conspecific reference genomes, we chose the baiji for all comparisons, as
previous analyses have shown the choice of reference genome does not influence hPSMC
results (Westbury et al., 2019). We merged the haploid sequences from each possible species
pair into pseudo-diploid sequences using the scripts available in the hPSMC toolsuite. We
independently ran each resultant species pair pseudo-diploid sequences through PSMC,
specifying atomic intervals 4+25*2+4+6. We plotted the results using the average (i)
mutation rate per generation and (ii) generation time for each species pair being tested. From
the output of this analysis, we visually estimated the pre-divergence Ne of each hPSMC plot
(i.e. Ne prior to the point of asymptotic increase in Ne) to be used as input for downstream
simulations. Based on these empirical results, we ran simulations in ms (Hudson, 2002) using
the estimated pre-divergence Ne, and various predefined divergence times, to find the interval
in which gene flow may have ceased between a given species pair. The time intervals and
pre-divergence Ne for each species pair used for the simulations can be seen in
supplementary table S12. The ms commands were produced using the scripts available in the
hPSMC toolsuite. We plotted the simulated and empirical hPSMC results to find the
simulations with an asymptotic increase in Ne closest to, but not overlapping with, the
empirical data. The predefined divergence times of the simulations showing this pattern
within 1.5x and 10x of the pre-divergence Ne were taken as the time interval in which gene
flow ceased.
679

680   We repeated the above analysis for three species pairs: bottlenose/Indo-Pacific
681   bottlenose dolphins, beluga/narwhal, and beluga/bottlenose dolphin, but with an additional
682   step, where we masked repeat elements of the haploid genomes using bedtools v2.26.0
683   (Quinlan, 2014) and the repeat annotations available on Genbank. Once we masked the repeat
684   elements, we re-ran the hPSMC analysis as above.
685

Relative divergence times in Delphinidae
To further examine the timing of the ending of lineage sorting and/or gene flow, we
performed phylogenetic inferences to uncover the relative divergence times on subsets of
genomic loci showing alternative topologies in Delphinidae. To do this, we masked repeats in
the same fasta files used for our other phylogenetic analyses using the baiji Genbank
annotation and bedtools (Quinlan, 2014). We extracted 1 kb windows with a 1 Mb slide from
the aligned fasta files and only kept loci containing less than 50% missing data for any
individual. We separated our data set into the loci that supported each of four sets of
relationships. These included loci that supported (i) the consensus species tree (n = 109), (ii)
the Pacific white-sided dolphin as sister to the killer-whale (n = 84), (iii) the Pacific white-
sided dolphin as sister to the clade of bottlenose dolphins, with the long-finned pilot and
killer whales in a monophyletic clade as sisters to this group (n = 48), and (iv) the Pacific
white-sided dolphin as sister to the long-finned pilot whale (n = 59).
699

As focal species, we selected to test the Pacific white-sided dolphin, killer whale, and
long-finned pilot whale, as they showed the highest number of discordances, allowing for a
more balanced comparison of divergence-time estimates among different topologies. For
each of the four sets of loci, we inferred the relative divergence times across our samples of
Delphinidae, also including the beluga and the baiji in the taxon set. We analysed each data
set independently, constrained the tree topology to that of the corresponding set of loci, and
constrained the age of the root to 1. We performed Bayesian dating using a GTR+Γ
substitution model and an uncorrelated-gamma relaxed clock model in MCMCtree, as
implemented in PAML v4.8 (Yang, 2007). The posterior distribution was approximated using
Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling, with samples drawn every 10^3 MCMC steps
over 10^7 steps, after discarding a burn-in phase of 10^5 steps. Convergence to the stationary
distribution was verified by comparing parameter estimates from two independent analyses,
and confirming that effective sample sizes were above 200 for all sampled parameters.
713
Heterozygosity
As a proxy for species-level genetic diversity, we estimated autosome-wide
heterozygosity for each of the nine Delphinoidea species. We estimated autosomal
heterozygosity using allele frequencies (-doSaf 1) in ANGSD (Korneliussen et al., 2014),
taking genotype likelihoods into account (-GL 2) and specifying the same filters as for the
fasta file construction, with the addition of adjusting quality scores around indels (-baq 1). To
ensure comparability between genomes of differing coverage, we uniquely set the subsample
filter (-downSample) for each individual to result in a 20x genome-wide coverage.
Heterozygosity was computed from the output of this using realSFS from the ANGSD
toolsuite and specifying 20 Mb windows of covered sites (-nSites).
724
Demographic reconstruction
To determine the demographic histories of all nine species over a two million year
time scale, we ran a Pairwise Sequentially Markovian Coalescent model (PSMC) (Li and
Durbin, 2011) on each diploid genome independently. We called diploid genome sequences
using SAMtools and BCFtools v1.6 (Narasimhan et al., 2016), specifying a minimum quality
score of 20 and minimum coverage of 10. We ran PSMC specifying atomic intervals
4+25*2+4+6 and performed 100 bootstrap replicates to investigate support for the resultant
demographic trajectories. PSMC outputs were plotted using species-specific mutation rates
and generation times (Supplementary Table S11).
734
735   **Figure legends:**
736
Figure 1: Sliding-Window Maximum likelihood trees of nine Delphinoidea species and
the baiji. The trees were constructed using non-overlapping sliding windows of (A) 50 kb in
length and (B) 1 Mb in length. Black lines show the consensus tree, grey lines show
individual trees. Numbers on branches show the proportion of windows supporting the node.
Branches without numbers had 100% support. Bottlenose dolphin silhouette: license Public
Domain Dedication 1.0; remaining Delphinoidea silhouettes: Chris huh, license CC-BY-SA-
3.0 (https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).

744
Figure 2: Genome-wide *f*-branch results. (A) Species tree; (B) and (C) Species tree in
expanded form, with internal branches as dotted lines. The values in the matrix refer to
excess allele sharing between the expanded tree branch (relative to its sister branch) and the
species on the *x*-axis. Lines connecting branches show: (B) gene flow events inferred directly
from the *f*-branch results; (C) gene flow events hypothesised from the *f*-branch results, while
accounting for (i) the inability to detect gene flow between sister lineages, and (ii) a lack of a
positive means less gene flow relative to the sister lineage, rather than no gene flow.

752
753 **Figure 3: Estimated divergence times and time intervals during which gene flow ceased**
754 **between species (A) within families and (B) between families**. Estimated time intervals of
755 when gene flow ceased between species pairs are based on hPSMC results and simulated
756 data. Divergence time estimates are taken from McGowen et al 2020.

757
Figure 4: Autosome-wide heterozygosity and demographic histories over the past two
million years. (A) Autosome-wide levels of heterozygosity calculated in 20 Mb sliding
windows. (B-D) Demographic history of all studied species within (B) Delphinidae, (C)
Phocoenidae, and (D) Monodontidae, estimated using PSMC. Thick coloured lines show
estimated demographic trajectory, faded lines show bootstrap support values. Colours of B-D
correspond to species' colour from A.

764
765
766
767

Acknowledgements

The work was supported by the Independent Research Fund Denmark | Natural Sciences,
Forskningsprojekt 1, grant no. 8021-00218B and the Villum Fonden Young Investigator
Programme, grant no. 13151 to EDL. AAC was funded by the Rubicon-NWO grant (project
019.183EN.005). We would like to thank all those contributing to the ever-increasing
abundance of publicly available genomic resources. Without the availability of such data, our
study would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Michael Fontaine,
Christelle Fraïsse, Camille Roux, Andrew Foote, and Simon Martin for their helpful input to
previous versions of this manuscript.

777
778 **Author contributions**

779 Conceptualization, MVW; Formal analysis, MVW, AAC, AR-I, BDC, DAD, SH; Writing –
780 Original Draft MVW; Writing – Review & Editing, All authors; Supervision, MVW, EDL;
781 Funding Acquisition, EDL

782
783 **References:**

784 Árnason Ú, Lammers F, Kumar V, Nilsson MA, Janke A. 2018. Whole-genome sequencing
785   of the blue whale and other rorquals finds signatures for introgressive gene flow. *Sci Adv*

786 **4**:eaap9873.

787 Autenrieth M, Hartmann S, Lah L, Roos A, Dennis AB, Tiedemann R. 2018. High-quality
788  whole-genome sequence of an abundant Holarctic odontocete, the harbour porpoise
789  (*Phocoena phocoena*). *Mol Ecol Resour* **18**:1469–1481.

790 Baird RW, Gorgone AM, McSweeney DJ, Ligon AD, Deakos MH, Webster DL, Schorr GS,
791  Martien KK, Salden DR, Mahaffy SD. 2012. Population structure of island associated
792  dolphins: Evidence from mitochondrial and microsatellite markers for common
793  bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the main Hawaiian Islands. *Mar Mamm Sci*.

794 Barlow A, Cahill JA, Hartmann S, Theunert C, Xenikoudakis G, Fortes GG, Paijmans JLA,
795  Rabeder G, Frischauf C, Grandal-d'Anglade A, García-Vázquez A, Murtskhvaladze M,
796  Saarma U, Anijalg P, Skrbinšek T, Bertorelle G, Gasparian B, Bar-Oz G, Pinhasi R,
797  Slatkin M, Dalén L, Shapiro B, Hofreiter M. 2018. Partial genomic survival of cave
798  bears in living brown bears. *Nat Ecol Evol* **2**:1563–1570.

799 Bierne N, Bonhomme F, David P. 2003. Habitat preference and the marine-speciation
800  paradox. *Proc Biol Sci* **270**:1399–1406.

801 Bouckaert RR. 2010. DensiTree: making sense of sets of phylogenetic trees. *Bioinformatics*
802  **26**:1372–1373.

803 Butlin RK, Smadja CM. 2018. Coupling, Reinforcement, and Speciation. *Am Nat* **191**:155–
804  172.

805 Cabrera AA, Schall E, Bérubé M, Bachmann L, Berrow S, Best PB, Clapham PJ, Cunha HA,
806  Rosa LD, Dias C, Findlay KP, Haug T, Heide-Jørgensen MP, Kovacs KM, Landry S,
807  Larsen F, Lopes XM, Lydersen C, Mattila DK, Oosting T, Pace RM, Papetti C, Paspati
808  A, Pastene LA, Prieto R, Ramp C, Robbins J, Ryan C, Sears R, Secchi ER, Silva MA,
809  Víkingsson G, Wiig Ø, Øien N, Palsbøll PJ. 2018. Strong and lasting impacts of past
810  global warming on baleen whale and prey abundance. *bioRxiv*.

811 Cahill JA, Soares AER, Green RE, Shapiro B. 2016. Inferring species divergence times using
812  pairwise sequential Markovian coalescent modelling and low-coverage genomic data.
813  *Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* **371**. doi:10.1098/rstb.2015.0138

814 Campbell CR, Poelstra JW. 2018. What is Speciation Genomics? The roles of ecology, gene
815  flow, and genomic architecture in the formation of species. *Biol J Linn Soc Lond*
816  **124**:561–583.

817 Coyne JA, Orr HA. 2004. Speciation. Sinauer Associates Sunderland, MA.

818 Crossman CA, Taylor EB, Barrett-Lennard LG. 2016. Hybridization in the Cetacea:
819  widespread occurrence and associated morphological, behavioral, and ecological factors.
820  *Ecol Evol* **6**:1293–1303.

821 Durand EY, Patterson N, Reich D, Slatkin M. 2011. Testing for ancient admixture between
822  closely related populations. *Mol Biol Evol* **28**:2239–2252.

823 Edelman NB, Frandsen PB, Miyagi M, Clavijo B, Davey J, Dikow RB, García-Accinelli G,
824  Van Belleghem SM, Patterson N, Neafsey DE, Challis R, Kumar S, Moreira GRP,
825  Salazar C, Chouteau M, Counterman BA, Papa R, Blaxter M, Reed RD, Dasmahapatra
826  KK, Kronforst M, Joron M, Jiggins CD, McMillan WO, Di Palma F, Blumberg AJ,
827  Wakeley J, Jaffe D, Mallet J. 2019. Genomic architecture and introgression shape a
828  butterfly radiation. *Science* **366**:594–599.

829 Edwards CJ, Suchard MA, Lemey P, Welch JJ, Barnes I, Fulton TL, Barnett R, O'Connell
830  TC, Coxon P, Monaghan N, Valdiosera CE, Lorenzen ED, Willerslev E, Baryshnikov
831  GF, Rambaut A, Thomas MG, Bradley DG, Shapiro B. 2011. Ancient hybridization and
832  an Irish origin for the modern polar bear matriline. *Curr Biol* **21**:1251–1258.

833 Espada R, Olaya-Ponzone L, Haasova L, Martín E, García-Gómez JC. 2019. Hybridization in
834  the wild between *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu 1821) and *Delphinus delphis* (Linnaeus
835  1758). *PLoS One* **14**:e0215020.

Feder JL, Egan SP, Nosil P. 2012. The genomics of speciation-with-gene-flow. *Trends Genet*
28:342–350.
Felsenstein J. 2005. PHYLIP (Phylogeny Inference Package) version 3.6.
Fish FE, Howle LE, Murray MM. 2008. Hydrodynamic flow control in marine mammals.
Integr Comp Biol **48**:788–800.
Foote AD. 2018. Sympatric Speciation in the Genomic Era. *Trends Ecol Evol* **33**:85–95.
Foote AD, Morin PA. 2015. Sympatric speciation in killer whales? *Heredity* **114**:537–538.
Foote AD, Morin PA, Durban JW, Willerslev E. 2011. Out of the Pacific and back again:
insights into the matrilineal history of Pacific killer whale ecotypes. *PLoS*.
Grabherr MG, Russell P, Meyer M, Mauceli E, Alföldi J, Di Palma F, Lindblad-Toh K. 2010.
Genome-wide synteny through highly sensitive sequence alignment: Satsuma.
Bioinformatics **26**:1145–1151.
Green RE, Krause J, Briggs AW, Maricic T, Stenzel U, Kircher M, Patterson N, Li H, Zhai
W, Fritz MH-Y, Hansen NF, Durand EY, Malaspinas A-S, Jensen JD, Marques-Bonet
T, Alkan C, Prüfer K, Meyer M, Burbano HA, Good JM, Schultz R, Aximu-Petri A,
Butthof A, Höber B, Höffner B, Siegemund M, Weihmann A, Nusbaum C, Lander ES,
Russ C, Novod N, Affourtit J, Egholm M, Verna C, Rudan P, Brajkovic D, Kucan Ž,
Gušic I, Doronichev VB, Golovanova LV, Lalueza-Fox C, de la Rasilla M, Fortea J,
Rosas A, Schmitz RW, Johnson PLF, Eichler EE, Falush D, Birney E, Mullikin JC,
Slatkin M, Nielsen R, Kelso J, Lachmann M, Reich D, Pääbo S. 2010. A draft sequence
of the Neandertal genome. *Science* **328**:710–722.
Gridley T, Elwen SH, Harris G, Moore DM, Hoelzel AR, Lampen F. 2018. Hybridization in
bottlenose dolphins—A case study of *Tursiops aduncus* × *T. truncatus* hybrids and
successful backcross hybridization events. *PLoS One* **13**:e0201722.
Herzingl DL, Johnsonz CM. 1997. Interspecific interactions between Atlantic spotted
dolphins (*Stenella frontalis*) and bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the
Bahamas 1985-1995. *Aquat Mamm*.
Hudson RR. 2002. Generating samples under a Wright–Fisher neutral model of genetic
variation. *Bioinformatics* **18**:337–338.
Jiang H, Lei R, Ding S-W, Zhu S. 2014. Skewer: a fast and accurate adapter trimmer for
next-generation sequencing paired-end reads. *BMC Bioinformatics* **15**:182.
Korneliussen TS, Albrechtsen A, Nielsen R. 2014. ANGSD: Analysis of Next Generation
Sequencing Data. *BMC Bioinformatics* **15**:356.
Lartillot N. 2013. Phylogenetic patterns of GC-biased gene conversion in placental mammals
and the evolutionary dynamics of recombination landscapes. *Mol Biol Evol* **30**:489–502.
Leaché AD, Harris RB, Rannala B, Yang Z. 2014. The influence of gene flow on species tree
estimation: a simulation study. *Syst Biol* **63**:17–30.
Li H, Durbin R. 2011. Inference of human population history from individual whole-genome
sequences. *Nature* **475**:493–496.
Li H, Durbin R. 2009. Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows–Wheeler
transform. *Bioinformatics* **25**:1754–1760.
Li H, Handsaker B, Wysoker A, Fennell T, Ruan J, Homer N, Marth G, Abecasis G, Durbin
R, 1000 Genome Project Data Processing Subgroup. 2009. The Sequence
Alignment/Map format and SAMtools. *Bioinformatics* **25**:2078–2079.
Liu S, Lorenzen ED, Fumagalli M, Li B, Harris K, Xiong Z, Zhou L, Korneliussen TS, Somel
M, Babbitt C, Wray G, Li J, He W, Wang Z, Fu W, Xiang X, Morgan CC, Doherty A,
O'Connell MJ, McInerney JO, Born EW, Dalén L, Dietz R, Orlando L, Sonne C, Zhang
G, Nielsen R, Willerslev E, Wang J. 2014. Population genomics reveal recent speciation
and rapid evolutionary adaptation in polar bears. *Cell* **157**:785–794.
Liu S, Westbury MV, Dussex N, Mitchell KJ, Sinding M-HS, Heintzman PD, Duchêne DA,

Kapp JD, von Seth J, Heiniger H, Sánchez-Barreiro F, Margaryan A, André-Olsen R, De
Cahsan B, Meng G, Yang C, Chen L, van der Valk T, Moodley Y, Rookmaaker K,
Bruford MW, Ryder O, Steiner C, Bruins-van Sonsbeek LGR, Vartanyan S, Guo C,
Cooper A, Kosintsev P, Kirillova I, Lister AM, Marques-Bonet T, Gopalakrishnan S,
Dunn RR, Lorenzen ED, Shapiro B, Zhang G, Antoine P-O, Dalén L, Gilbert MTP.
2021. Ancient and modern genomes unravel the evolutionary history of the rhinoceros
family. *Cell* **184**:4874–4885.e16.
Malinsky M, Matschiner M, Svardal H. 2021. Dsuite - Fast D-statistics and related admixture
evidence from VCF files. *Mol Ecol Resour* **21**:584–595.
Malinsky M, Svardal H, Tyers AM, Miska EA, Genner MJ, Turner GF, Durbin R. 2018.
Whole-genome sequences of Malawi cichlids reveal multiple radiations interconnected
by gene flow. *Nat Ecol Evol* **2**:1940–1955.
McGowen MR, Tsagkogeorga G, Álvarez-Carretero S, Dos Reis M, Struebig M, Deaville R,
Jepson PD, Jarman S, Polanowski A, Morin PA, Rossiter SJ. 2020. Phylogenomic
Resolution of the Cetacean Tree of Life Using Target Sequence Capture. *Syst Biol*
69:479–501.
Mendes FK, Hahn MW. 2016. Gene Tree Discordance Causes Apparent Substitution Rate
Variation. *Syst Biol* **65**:711–721.
Miralles L, Oremus M, Silva MA, Planes S, Garcia-Vazquez E. 2016. Interspecific
Hybridization in Pilot Whales and Asymmetric Genetic Introgression in Northern
Globicephala melas under the Scenario of Global Warming. *PLoS One* **11**:e0160080.
Miyazaki N, Hirosaki Y, Kinuta T, Omura H. 1992. Osteological study of a hybrid between
Tursiops truncatus and Grampus griseus. *Bull Natl Mus Nat Sci Ser B Bot* **18**:79–94.
Moodley Y, Westbury MV, Russo I-RM, Gopalakrishnan S, Rakotoarivelo A, Olsen R-A,
Prost S, Tunstall T, Ryder OA, Dalén L, Bruford MW. 2020. Interspecific gene flow and
the evolution of specialisation in black and white rhinoceros. *Mol Biol Evol.*
doi:10.1093/molbev/msaa148
Moura AE, Kenny JG, Chaudhuri RR, Hughes MA. 2015. Phylogenomics of the killer whale
indicates ecotype divergence in sympatry. *Heredity* **114**:48–55.
Moura AE, Shreves K, Pilot M, Andrews KR, Moore DM, Kishida T, Möller L, Natoli A,
Gaspari S, McGowen M, Chen I, Gray H, Gore M, Culloch RM, Kiani MS, Willson MS,
Bulushi A, Collins T, Baldwin R, Willson A, Minton G, Ponnampalam L, Hoelzel AR.
2020. Phylogenomics of the genus *Tursiops* and closely related Delphininae reveals
extensive reticulation among lineages and provides inference about eco-evolutionary
drivers. *Mol Phylogenet Evol* **146**:106756.
Narasimhan V, Danecek P, Scally A, Xue Y, Tyler-Smith C, Durbin R. 2016. BCFtools/RoH:
a hidden Markov model approach for detecting autozygosity from next-generation
sequencing data. *Bioinformatics* **32**:1749–1751.
Norris RD, Hull PM. 2012. The temporal dimension of marine speciation. *Evol Ecol* **26**:393–
415.
Palumbi SR. 1994. Genetic divergence, reproductive isolation, and marine speciation. *Annu
Rev Ecol Syst* **25**:547–572.
Pamilo P, Nei M. 1988. Relationships between gene trees and species trees. *Mol Biol Evol*
5:568–583.
Payseur BA, Rieseberg LH. 2016. A genomic perspective on hybridization and speciation.
Mol Ecol **25**:2337–2360.
Pease JB, Hahn MW. 2015. Detection and Polarization of Introgression in a Five-Taxon
Phylogeny. *Syst Biol* **64**:651–662.
Pease JB, Rosenzweig BK. 2018. Encoding Data Using Biological Principles: The
Multisample Variant Format for Phylogenomics and Population Genomics. *IEEE/ACM*

Trans Comput Biol Bioinform **15**:1231–1238.

Polyak VJ, Onac BP, Fornós JJ, Hay C, Asmerom Y, Dorale JA, Ginés J, Tuccimei P, Ginés A. 2018. A highly resolved record of relative sea level in the western Mediterranean Sea during the last interglacial period. *Nat Geosci* **11**:860–864.

Quinlan AR. 2014. BEDTools: The Swiss-Army Tool for Genome Feature Analysis. *Curr Protoc Bioinformatics* **47**:11.12.1–34.

Silva JM, Silva FJL, Sazima I. 2005. Two presumed interspecific hybrids in the genus *Stenella* (Delphinidae) in the Tropical West Atlantic. *Aquat Mamm* **31**:468.

Skovrind M, Castruita JAS, Haile J, Treadaway EC, Gopalakrishnan S, Westbury MV, Heide-Jørgensen MP, Szpak P, Lorenzen ED. 2019. Hybridization between two high Arctic cetaceans confirmed by genomic analysis. *Sci Rep* **9**:7729.

Slatkin M, Pollack JL. 2008. Subdivision in an ancestral species creates asymmetry in gene trees. *Mol Biol Evol* **25**:2241–2246.

Stamatakis A. 2014. RAxML version 8: a tool for phylogenetic analysis and post-analysis of large phylogenies. *Bioinformatics* **30**:1312–1313.

Steeman ME, Hebsgaard MB, Fordyce RE, Ho SYW, Rabosky DL, Nielsen R, Rahbek C, Glenner H, Sørensen MV, Willerslev E. 2009. Radiation of extant cetaceans driven by restructuring of the oceans. *Syst Biol* **58**:573–585.

Stone G, Florez-Gonzalez L, Katona S. 1990. Whale migration record. *Nature* **346**:705–705.

Turelli M, Barton NH, Coyne JA. 2001. Theory and speciation. *Trends Ecol Evol* **16**:330–343.

Westbury MV, Hartmann S, Barlow A, Preick M, Ridush B, Nagel D, Rathgeber T, Ziegler R, Baryshnikov G, Sheng G, Ludwig A, Wiesel I, Dalen L, Bibi F, Werdelin L, Heller R, Hofreiter M. 2020. Hyena paleogenomes reveal a complex evolutionary history of cross-continental gene flow between spotted and cave hyena. *Science Advances* **6**:eaay0456.

Westbury MV, Petersen B, Lorenzen ED. 2019. Genomic analyses reveal an absence of contemporary introgressive admixture between fin whales and blue whales, despite known hybrids. *PLoS One* **14**:e0222004.

Williams TM. 1999. The evolution of cost efficient swimming in marine mammals: limits to energetic optimization. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London Series B: Biological Sciences* **354**:193–201.

Willis PM, Crespi BJ, Dill LM, Baird RW, Hanson MB. 2004. Natural hybridization between Dall's porpoises (*Phocoenoides dalli*) and harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*). *Can J Zool* **82**:828–834.

Yang Z. 2007. PAML 4: phylogenetic analysis by maximum likelihood. *Mol Biol Evol* **24**:1586–1591.

Zheng Y, Janke A. 2018. Gene flow analysis method, the D-statistic, is robust in a wide parameter space. *BMC Bioinformatics* **19**:10.

A

Baiji

Killer whale

White-sided — 0.46

Pilot whale — 0.47

Bottlenose — 0.99

IndoBottle

Harbour

Finless

Beluga

Narwhal

0.01 — 0

B

Del — 0.91
0.85

Pho

Mon

0 — 0.01

A **Within families**

B **Between families**

C