Parallel introgression, not recurrent emergence, explains apparent elevational ecotypes of polyploid Himalayan snowtrout

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Keywords: Adaptation, ecotype, convergent evolution, parallel evolution, polyploidy, introgression

Disclosure statement: Authors have nothing to disclose.

(200/200) The recurrence of similar evolutionary patterns within different habitats often reflects

2   parallel selective pressures acting upon either standing or independently occurring genetic

variation to produce a convergence of phenotypes. This interpretation (i.e. parallel divergences

4   within adjacent streams) has been hypothesized for drainage-specific morphological 'ecotypes'

observed in polyploid snowtrout (Cyprinidae: *Schizothorax*). However, parallel patterns of

6   differential introgression during secondary contact is a viable alternative hypothesis. Here, we

utilized ddRADseq (N=35,319 *de-novo* and N=10,884 transcriptome-aligned SNPs), as derived

8   from Nepali/Bhutanese samples (N=48 each), to test these competing hypotheses. We first

employed genome-wide allelic depths to derive appropriate ploidy models, then a Bayesian

10   approach to yield genotypes statistically consistent under the inferred expectations. Elevational

'ecotypes' were consistent in geometric-morphometric space, but with phylogenetic relationships

12   at the drainage-level, sustaining an hypothesis of independent emergence. However, partitioned

analyses of phylogeny and admixture identified subsets of loci under selection that retained

14   genealogical concordance with morphology, suggesting instead that apparent patterns of

morphological/phylogenetic discordance are driven by widespread genomic homogenization.

16   Here, admixture occurring in secondary contact effectively 'masks' previous isolation. Our

results underscore two salient factors:1) Morphological adaptations are retained despite

18   hybridization; and 2) The degree of admixture varies across tributaries, presumably concomitant

with underlying environmental or anthropogenic factors.

1. Introduction

Selection for local environmental conditions can drive rapid evolution, and occasionally does so within parallel systems [1]. This, in turn, can promote the emergence of unique ecotypes, or even novel species [2–4]. Adaptations to ecological gradients can also occur, especially in the absence of geographic isolation, and are commonly attributed to selection acting upon existing variation [either ancestral/standing [5,6], or that acquired through hybridization [7–11]]. These represent but two of several scenarios through which such patterns can be generated [12–14].

Divergent selection in response to ecological gradients can also facilitate speciation, even when gene flow is ongoing [15–17]. A hallmark of this process is the formation of genomic 'islands of divergence,' with selection and its cumulative effects serving to counterbalance homogenizing gene flow [18–22]. These so-called 'islands' may then expand via a hitchhiking mechanism, such that divergence is also initiated within linked genomic regions [23–26]. However, heterogeneous genomic divergence can also arise via entirely different processes, to include those wholly unrelated to speciation. This, in turn, introduces an analytical dilemma, in that the signatures of one can either obfuscate or instead emulate that of the other [27–29].

The resulting emergence of parallel ecotypes is often manifested phylogenetically as clusters within study sites or regions, rather than among eco-phenotypes [30]. However, an alternative is that ecological adaptations instead evolve via isolation followed by subsequent dispersal, such that genomic loci are now juxtaposed across both distributions and genomes [12,31,32]. 'Genomic islands' as well as phylogenetic patterns are then generated similar to those manifested by parallel divergence-with-gene-flow (per above). This can occur, for example, when introgression is constrained within localized genomic regions that underlie with adaptation to an ecological gradient [33]. Genome-wide homogenization is the result, with ancestral

branching patterns (e.g., those uniting ecotypes) now restricted to regions where permeability to

46   gene flow is reduced by selection and/or low recombination [34,35]. However, the singular

origin of an adaptive allele spread selectively via localized introgression can also yield relatively

48   similar genomic patterns [36–38].

Together, this implicates four distinct scenarios that could generate genomic landscapes

50   compatible with those expected under parallel ecotype emergence. Yet only two of these

necessitate divergence-with-gene-flow, e.g., with selection acting in a repetitive fashion on either

52   A) standing genetic variation or B) independent *de novo* mutations. In contrast, two alternative

scenarios involve adaptive variability accumulated while in isolation, followed by secondary

54   gene flow among dispersing ecotypes. This then results in: C) selective filtering against a

background of genomic homogenization; or D) the selective introgression of adaptive alleles into

56   novel populations (figure 1). Thus, while all are effectively operating in 'parallel' (e.g., in

separate river drainages or habitat patches), their relationship to the diversification process

58   differs substantially. This presents a challenge for the interpretation of such patterns, in that those

superficially similar may in fact reflect markedly different processes that potentially act in

60   concert [39–41]. A highly localized genomic architecture underlying ecotypes further

complicates this situation [42].

(a) Can parallel emergence be discriminated from parallel introgression?

64   We posit these factors can indeed be discriminated by predicting the ancestries for replicated

'pairs' of ecotypes distributed among sites (although patterns may also depend upon migration

66   rates among populations [43]). For hypotheses of 'independent emergence,' we would predict

that genealogies with regions encapsulating targets of divergent selection [i.e., scenarios (A) or

68   (B); figure 1], would lack shared ancestry among ecotypes, reflecting their independent origins.

In a similar vein, a failure to correlate with unlinked targets of selection would also be expected

70   [12]. Thus, in the case of repeated selection upon standing genetic variation, adaptive alleles will

be identical-by-descent but with flanking regions excluded (given that populations will lack

72   identical, independently-fixed haplotypes) [13,14]. Furthermore, in a scenario of independent

emergence, mutations underlying adaptation may occur at different loci altogether.

74   By contrast, a 'divergence first' model with subsequent secondary contact [scenarios (C)

or (D); figure 1] would imply that ancestries of ecotypes are both correlated with and shared

76   among ecotypes at those loci targeted for selection. However, genomic patterns can be difficult

to disentangle from those expected under a scenario of adaptive introgression (scenario D). This

78   is because gene flow during secondary contact may effectively 'swamp' divergence developed in

isolation [12,44]. In the absence of genomic resources (a frequent scenario for non-model

80   organisms), additional clarification can often be inferred from biogeographic context.

82   **(b) A case study involving *Schizothorax***

We here investigate the source of adaptive genetic variation among differentially adapted pairs

84   of rheophilic freshwater fishes occupying elevational gradients in Himalayan tributaries of the

Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers. Our study group (snowtrout; Cyprinidae: *Schizothorax* spp.) is

86   of interest in that it displays a legacy of whole-genome duplication (WGD), with variable

adaptations to high elevation habitat (both phenotypic and life-historic) [45–48]. Yet, in previous

88   studies patterns of convergence are also broadly apparent [49,50]. Additionally, the rapid

formation of multiple 'species flocks' has occurred within unique and isolated alpine lake

90   habitats [51–55], with recurrent divergences as an emerging consensus [51,56]. Here, two

Himalayan species are of particular interest: *Schizothorax progastus* and *S. richardsonii*. Both

92   are distributed along an elevational gradient, with generalized morphologies within tributaries of

the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers converging upon 'blunt-nosed' (*S. richardsonii*) in upstream

94   reaches, and 'pointed-nosed' (*S. progastus*) in downstream reaches [52,57–59].

The 'pointed-nosed' eco-phenotype displays a more terete, streamlined shape, and

96   gradually replaces the 'blunt-nosed' form longitudinally along an elevational gradient, a pattern

seemingly replicated in each of several collateral, southward-flowing tributaries in Nepal, which

98   in turn suggests the presence of ecological non-exchangeability [60]. Recent phylogenetic

analyses based on mtDNA failed to support the nominal species, with relationships occurring

100   instead at the drainage level [56]. Despite this, morphologies are consistent across drainages

[51], suggesting an independent emergence of 'blunt-nosed' phenotypes (i.e., those associated

102   with *S. richardsonii*) within each highland drainage. Morphologically convergent ecotypes are

also replicated within elevational gradients of Bhutan [61], again suggesting the formation of

104   parallel ecotypes. This suggests the potential for rapid evolution, particularly when juxtaposed

with the adaptive radiation by *Schizothorax* within isolated Rara Lake of Nepal [51,53].

106   Ploidy has been hypothesized as facilitating diversification within cyprinid fishes [62] ,

with a rapid, positive shift in net diversification occurring within three predominantly polyploid

108   subfamilies: Torinae, Schizopygopsinae, and Schizothoracinae, with the most profound effect in

the latter. Of particular interest, all three subfamilies are endemic to the Himalayan and Qinghai-

110   Tibetan Plateau (QTP) regions, and possess life-history specializations for high-elevation

existence [63]. Thus, diversification of polyploid cyprinids on the QTP and adjacent regions is

112   seemingly linked to extensive orogeny followed by periods of marked climate change [62,64–

66].

114   However, population genomic methods are currently limited in their capacity to gauge how polyploidy has driven the adaptation by *Schizothorax* to elevational gradients. Studies

116   involving non-model polyploid species (as herein) must employ methodological paradigms that assume diploidy, yet with fundamentally divergent theoretical expectations [67,68]. An

118   additional complication involves the varying degrees of divergence and/ or conservation found among ohnologs (i.e., duplicated loci originating from WGD) that potentially occur in those

120   species at intermediate stages of re-diploidization [69]. One positive is that models suitable for genotyping polyploid or mixed-ploidy data [70,71] now incorporate short-read sub-genomic

122   methods (e.g., RADseq and related methods).

        The identification of genomic adaptations to elevation in *Schizothorax* has two trenchant

124   stumbling blocks: Drivers of morphological and phylogenetic discordance are not only numerous, but also constrained by polyploidy. To compensate, we combine novel statistical

126   models and robust genotyping of non-model polyploids with expectations regarding how ancestries should be distributed across the genome. This allows us to address several questions

128   regarding the evolution of diverse *Schizothorax* lineages seemingly replicated in the Himalayan drainages of Nepal and Bhutan:

130   1. Does morphological and phylogenetic discordance in parallel Himalayan elevational gradients stem from parallel 'independent emergence (figure 1A, B), or secondary/

132   ongoing gene flow (figure 1C, D)?

           2. If A or B, do ecotypic pairs in replicated drainages show evidence of co-divergence,

134   thus indicating a shared underlying biogeographic process (e.g., periods of QTP uplift)?

136   3. If C or D, is there evidence for selection-mediated differential introgression?

4. Finally, is there evidence for either rapid co-divergence or hybridization as playing a

138   role in the formation of lacustrine ecotypes?

2. Methods

(a) Sampling and DNA preparation

142   Tissue samples (*N*=96) represent six *Schizothorax* species distributed throughout tributaries of

the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers (Bhutan and Nepal, respectively) (figure 2*a-c*). Of these,

144   *N*=48 Nepali specimens were obtained from the University of Kansas Natural History Museum

(KUNHM) (figure 2*b;* table S1, S2) and represent two riverine species ['high elevation' *S.*

146   *richardsonii* (*N*=16) and 'low elevation' *S. progastus* (*N*=8)]. These were sampled from each of

the three major Nepali drainages (Kali Gandaki, Koshi, and Karnali), except for *S. progastus*

148   from Karnali. The remaining Nepali samples (*N*=24) represent a land-locked lacustrine radiation

endemic to Lake Rara [53]. These are: *S. macrophthalmus* (*N*=8), *S. raraensis* (*N*=8), and *S.*

150   *nepalensis* (*N*=8).

Bhutanese *Schizothorax* (*N*=48) were sampled from three major Bhutanese drainages

152   (Wang Chhu, Punatsang Chhu, and Mangde Chhu: figure 2*c*; table S1) and identified as *S.*

progastus and *S. richardsonii* based upon morphological diagnoses of vouchered specimens [52].

154   However, subsequent mtDNA sequence analysis has putatively identified Bhutanese *S.*

richardsonii as another convergent high-elevation specialist, *S. oconnori* [56], a species typically

156   found on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau (QTP [72,73]) within high elevation tributaries of the

upper Brahmaputra River [herein referred to as the Yarlung-Tsangpo River (YLTR)]. They are

158   subsequently referred to herein as *S. cf. oconnori* (figure 2*c*).

Tissues were processed using the Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Inc.),

160 following manufacturer's protocols. Extracts were evaluated for presence of high-molecular

weight DNA using gel electrophoresis (2% agarose) and quantified at 2µl per sample in 200µl

162 assays using Qubit broad-range DNA fluorometry assays (Thermo Fisher Scientific). DNA (500-

1000ng of DNA per sample in 50µl reactions) was then fragmented using a restriction double-

164 digest [74] with *Pst*I (5'-CTGCAG-3') and *MspI* (5'-CCGG-3'). Digests were subsequently

visualized on 2% agarose gels, purified using AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Inc.), and

166 again quantified via Qubit fluorometer.

Samples were then standardized at 100ng of digested DNA and ligated in 30µl reactions

168 using T4 DNA ligase (New England Biolabs, Inc.) following manufacturer's protocols. Barcoded

oligonucleotide adapters were designed and employed following Peterson *et al.* [74]. After a

170 second AMPure XP purification, samples were multiplexed in groups of N=48 and size-selected

at 350-400bp (excluding adapters), using a Pippin Prep automated system (Sage Sciences).

172 Adapters for Illumina sequencing were subsequently extended via a 10-cycle PCR with Phusion

high-fidelity DNA polymerase (New England Biolabs, Inc.). Final reactions were purified via

174 AMPure XP beads and standardized per submission requirements of the DNA Core Facility

(University of Oregon Genomics & Cell Characterization Facility, Eugene, OR U.S.A.).

176 Additional quality control at the core facility included fragment size analysis (to confirm

successful amplification and the absence of artifacts) and qPCR (to assess the proportion of

178 sequenceable library). Sequencing pooled two N=48 multiplexed libraries into a single lane of

1x100 sequencing on the Illumina HiSeq 4000.

(b) Data filtering and ploidy-aware assembly

182 Raw reads were demultiplexed and filtered for initial assembly using IPYRAD [75]. Reads having

>0 barcode mismatches or >5 low-quality bases were discarded, and adapter sequences trimmed

184   using the 'strict' option. Two assemblies were performed: one *de novo* (at an 85% identity

threshold), and one using bwa to align against assembled transcriptome data (hereafter

186   'transcriptome-guided') [76]. Because the genotyping model in IPYRAD assumes diploidy [77], we

used relaxed settings so as to retain assembled paralogs (e.g., electing for more stringent filtering

188   following ploidy-aware genotyping; see below). These included a minimum depth threshold of

only 6, allowing 20 heterozygous sites per consensus locus, with up to 4 alleles at a given locus

190   within an individual.

       To explore potential ploidy variation in our samples, we first employed BWA [78] to

192   realign raw reads against the candidate locus catalog generated in our *de novo* assembly. For

ploidy model selection, we then computed allelic read depths for bi-allelic sites using a de-

194   noising procedure (NQUIRE; [79] with expectations that ploidies represent allelic depths as

follows: At ~50% in a diploid bi-allelic heterozygote (i.e., an approximate 50:50 representation

196   of each allele in an AB heterozygote); at ~33% or ~66% for triploids (=ABB or AAB possible

genotypes); and ~25%, 50%, or 75% for tetraploids (=ABBB, AABB, AAAB genotypes,

198   respectively). Log-likelihoods of the observed allelic depth distributions were extracted for

Gaussian expectations under each fixed model (e.g., 2n, 3n, or 4n), then normalized by that

200   under a model of freely variable allele depths (=$log\mathrm{L}_{Fixed}/log\mathrm{L}_{Free}$), with chosen models

representing the greatest normalized log-likelihood. Results were employed to generate prior

202   expectations for subsequent ploidy-aware genotyping and downstream filtering.

       Formatted SNPs (as .vcf) were genotyped for both *de novo* and transcriptome-guided

204   assemblies using the Bayesian variant calling pipeline in POLYRAD [70]. We first computed per-

locus H_{IND}/H_E values, a statistic representing the probability of sampling reads from two

206   different alleles at a given locus in an individual [71]. We then simulated expected H_{IND}/H_E

values given the sample size and read depth distribution from the observed data, under

208   expectations of either diploidy or tetraploidy, to define threshold values under which markers are

statistically consistent with Mendelian behavior as a 95% upper-bound of the simulated

210   distribution. Because expected values differ by ploidy, we used H_{IND}/H_E values averaged across

loci to segregate those statistically consistent with a diploid genotype model from those

212   consistent with a tetraploid model. Using H_{IND}/H_E thresholds and custom Python code

(github.com/tkchafin/polyrad_scripts/filterPolyVCF.py), we partitioned genotypes for both

214   assembled datasets into loci statistically consistent with tetraploid and diploid expectations. An

additional requirement was that >50% of individuals be genotyped at an average mean per-

216   individual depth of 20X.

218   **(c) Geometric morphometrics of Nepali fishes**

We first examined patterns of morphological convergence and divergence using geometric

220   morphometric data [51] derived from 528 images captured from museum specimens representing

all five Nepali species (for full sample metadata and KU voucher numbers, see Regmi et al. [51];

222   for those used for ddRAD, see table S2). Our analyses were restricted to the Nepali sub-tree in

that voucher specimens for Bhutanese samples were not available. Briefly, 18 landmarks were

224   targeted, focusing on head morphology (i.e., snout elongation, head depth, eye/nostril

placement), and body shape (origin/insertion of fins, upper/lower bases of the caudal fin, and

226   urostyle as most posterior point). Coordinates were then superimposed across samples using

Generalized Procrustes Analysis implemented in GEOMORPH [80]. Full details on geometric

228   morphometric data processing, including bias and sensitivity analysis, can be found in Regmi *et*

al. [51].

230   Procrustes-aligned coordinates were summarized using a principal component analysis

(PCA) in GEOMORPH [80]. We then conducted a linear discriminant analysis (LDA) using the

232   MASS R package [81], maximizing discriminant capacity with 80% of samples as a training set,

and group classifications specified as species X drainage.

(d) Phylogenetic relationships

236   Given that most phylogenomic methods cannot take into account polyploid SNP genotypes [82],

our initial phylogenies were instead built using an alignment-free method that computes

238   distances from the intersection of *k*-mer distributions in unaligned reads [83,84]. Matrices of *k*-

mer distances were then used to infer a phylogenetic tree with branch lengths using FASTME

240   [85].

The resulting topology was additionally contrasted with that inferred under a

242   polymorphism-aware (POMO) model inferred in IQ-TREE [86,87], as evaluated across 1,000

ultrafast bootstraps, with a GTR substitution model, gamma-distributed rates (N=4 categories),

244   and a virtual population size of 19.

(e) Population structure and molecular clustering

Most widely used clustering or 'assignment test' methods that examine population structure are

248   either inappropriate for polyploid data or cannot handle mixed-ploidy genotypes [67]. However,

STRUCTURE is robust in both situations [88,89], though more computationally intensive than

250   alternatives. We thus coded our mixed-ploidy genotypes as input for STRUCTURE, following

recommendations of Meirmans *et al.* [67] and Stift *et al.* [89], using 10 replicates each of *K*

252   values (= # sub-populations) ranging from $K=1$ to $K=20$. Analyses were additionally replicated

across *de novo* and transcriptome-guided assemblies, using a total MCMC length of 100,000

254   iterations following a 50,000-iteration burn-in. Input files were generated using

polyVCFtoStructure.py (github.com/tkchafin/polyrad_scripts), and results were

256   aggregated/visualized using the CLUMPAK pipeline [90], with selection of optimal *K* following

the Evanno method [91]. Final visualizations aligned the ancestry proportion bar plots aligned to

258   our SKMER phylogeny using code from Martin *et al.* [92].

Results were contrasted with ordination via discriminant analysis of principal

260   components (DAPC), performed in ADEGENET [93,94]. Samples were stratified according to

species X basin assignment (e.g., *S. progastus* from Wang Chhu), and with analyses performed

262   in three ways: 1) globally; 2) Nepal-only; and 3) Bhutan-only. The number of principal

components (PCs) retained in each case was determined using the *xvalDapc* function as a cross-

264   validation approach, with the optimal number of the root-mean-square-error (RMSE) of

assignment derived from a 10% subset (with the remaining 90% serving as a training set). This

266   was accomplished across 30 replicates per level of PC retention, up to a maximum of 300

retained PCs, resulting in 20 (globally-), 10 (Bhutanese-), and 5 (Nepali-) retained PCs.

(f) Modeling population mixture

270   We assessed hybridization within Nepali and Bhutanese sub-trees using TREEMIX [95], with a

global search across numbers of migration events (*m*) ranging from 0–5. Because markers are

272   assumed diploid, migration analyses were only performed on markers statistically-fitting diploid

expectations, as designated by POLYRAD [70]. Optimal values of *m* for each subtree were

274   determined from rates of log-likelihood change as computed in OPTM [96], which generates an

ad hoc statistic (ΔM) representing the second-order rate of change weighted by the standard

276   deviation (e.g., the 'Evanno' method; Evanno et al. 2005). Independent replicates on the full

dataset yielded identical likelihoods for some *m*-values (i.e., yielding an undefined ΔM) and,

278   given this, we assessed variability using 100 bootstrap pseudoreplicates per migration model. To

additionally discriminate among divergence scenarios among Nepali *S. richardsonii* and *S.*

280   *progastus*, we calculated a 4-taxon Patterson's *D* statistic and admixture fractions (f_4-ratio)

[97,98]. Both are formulated to test an enrichment of shared-derived site patterns between either

282   component of a lineage pair (P1 or P2), and a third lineage (P3) relative to an outgroup. The

assumed phylogenetic structure would be: (((P1, P2), P3), P4). Our interest was in shared

284   patterns, both at the level of "conspecifics" among drainages and "heterospecifics" within

drainage, and our tests were conducted such that P1 and P2 were defined by river [e.g., (*rich*X,

286   *prog*X), *rich*Y), Outgroup), where X and Y represent different drainages], and where P1 and P2

were defined per taxon-assignment [e.g., (*rich*X, *rich*Y), *prog*X), Outgroup)]. The outgroup in

288   all cases was *S. cf. oconnori* from Bhutan.

290   **(g) Testing models of co-divergence**

To test if shared (e.g. geomorphic) events may have driven co-divergence, we used the program

292   ECOEVOLITY [99], which employs a Bayesian method to compute probabilities on the number of

independent divergences across a series of pairwise comparisons. Because ECOEVOLITY is most

294   consistent when analyzing both constant and polymorphic sites [99,100], we sampled full-locus

alignments (excluding sites with either >25% missing data globally or per-population) using the

296   *phylip2ecoevolity.pl* script from Chafin et al. [101]. The event model followed a Dirichlet

process, with the prior probability distribution for the number of divergence events skewed

298   towards a model of complete independence (i.e. no co-divergence). Posterior probabilities were

computed over a total of 75,000 MCMC iterations, with a sampling frequency every 50th

300   iteration. Burn-in was automatically computed using an automated iterative procedure which

selected the number of burn-in iterations which maximized the effective sample size (ESS).

(h) Testing patterns of selection and locus-wise differentiation

304   Here we sought loci strongly associating with axes of population differentiation, and therefore

employed the program PCADAPT [102] to identify loci putatively associated with differentiation

306   of *S. richardsonii* and *S. progastus*. Detecting loci under selection is a persistent methodological

gap in those studies examining polyploid SNP data [67] and, given this, we restricted our

308   analysis to transcriptome-mapped loci that could appropriately be genotyped as diploid [70].

Analyses were performed by partitioning the data so as to target specific divergence events: *S.*

310   *richardsonii* X *S. progastus* (Gandaki); *S. richardsonii* X *S. progastus* (Koshi); *S. richardsonii* X

Lake Rara (*S. macrophthalmus*, *S. raraensis*, and *S. nepalensis*); *S. nepalensis* X *S.*

312   *macrophthalmus+raraensis*; and *S. progastus* (Bhutan) X *S. cf. oconnori*. Loci were additionally

restricted to those with a minor allele frequency (MAF) >0.05, with significance assessed using

314   α=0.01 adjusted via Bonferroni correction (where N tests = N SNPs). Transcripts encapsulating

outlier SNPs were additionally annotated with gene ontology (GO) terms for biological functions

316   using the BLAST2GO pipeline [103], searching against the SWISS-PROT and InterPro

databases [104,105]. Redundancy was reduced in GO-term annotations by measuring semantic

318   similarity using RRVGO [106] and the *Danio rerio* organismal database.

We additionally contrasted population pairs (delineated as above), using a ploidy-

320   appropriate F_{ST} measure. We calculated heterozygosity (i.e. 'gene' diversity [92]) as: $H_s = 1 -$

Σp_i^2, where p_i is the frequency of allele i [107]. Although in diploids this measure is often

322   referred to as 'expected heterozygosity,' it does not have the same relationship with

heterozygosity across ploidies [67]. Finally, we calculated genetic distance as Jost's D [108], as

324   well as absolute distance (D_{XY}) for each SNP based on allele frequencies and summarized across

loci as an arithmetic mean [109].

(i) Partitioned analysis across subsets of loci

328   As a final test of the hypothesis that divergence between pairs of *S. richardsonii-S. progastus*

represents isolation prior to secondary hybridization, we performed a partitioned analysis across

330   subsets of our data. Our prediction was as follows: If differential adaptation reflects a retention

of minor genomic regions from secondary introgression (i.e., as opposed to arising

332   independently), then disparate populations of *S. richardsonii* would be more similar at loci for

which drainage pairs (*richardsonii-progastus*) are highly diverged. We diagnosed such loci in

334   two ways: First, we computed a ratio of D_{XY} between *richardsonii-progastus* pairs within Koshi

and Gandaki rivers, and D_{XY} of *S. richardsonii* populations among drainages. Here, a value less

336   than 1.0 indicates a locus for which *richardsonii-progastus* pairs are more similar than

richardsonii-richardsonii comparisons. A value >1.0 indicates a locus for which *richardsonii-*

338   *progastus* are more highly diverged. If loci with a D_{XY} ratio >1.0 originated from hybridization,

genetic relationships among those loci should reflect a conspecific phylogeny. To assess the

340   latter, we replicated TREEMIX analyses (as above) for loci >1.0 and <1.0. As a secondary test, we

also partitioned locus-wise *richardsonii-progastus* F_{ST} into four groups, each receiving the same

342   analytical treatment as the D_{XY} ratio partitions: 1) F_{ST} = 0.0-0.249; 2) 0.25-0.49; 3) 0.50-0.749;

and 4) 0.75-1.0.

3. Results

(a) Sequence assembly and genotyping

Prior to downstream filtering, we assembled N=48,350 and 14,301 SNPs for *de novo* and

transcriptome-guided assemblies, respectively. Allele depths for biallelic sites were

overwhelmingly trimodal, with NQUIRE likelihoods suggesting tetraploidy across all study taxa

(figure 3). Raw outputs from *de novo* and transcriptome-aligned assemblies resulted in 48,350

and 14,301 loci, respectively (table S3). Three samples failed to yield genotype data for >=50%

of loci and were removed. Simulated expectations in POLYRAD yielded H_{IND}/H_E thresholds of

0.52 (diploid) and 0.65 (tetraploid). Post-filtering datasets consisted of 5,601 (2n) and 5,284 (4n)

transcriptome-mapped, and 15,547 (2n) and 19,772 *de novo* SNPs (table S3). For each assembly

method, these were divided into files containing all loci as well as subsets containing only those

statistically consistent with a diploid model. Scripts for formatting datafiles and outputs can be

found at: github.com/tkchafin/polyrad_scripts.

(b) Contrasting molecular and geometric morphometric results

Morphological DAPC showed a marked convergence of *S. richardsonii* and *S. progastus* body

shapes, regardless of origin, with Lake Rara taxa (*S. macrophthalmus*, *S. nepalensis*, and *S.*

raraensis) having weak or no differentiation (figure 4). Among the latter, *S. nepalensis* was most

intermediate between a 'Lake Rara' cluster, and that for *S. richardsonii* (and to a lesser extent, *S.*

progastus). This contrasted sharply with the clustering of Nepali specimens based solely on

ddRAD data (figure 5*a,c*), where the predominant relationship was by drainage (e.g., with Koshi

and Gandaki *S. progastus* and *S. richardsonii* grouping together).

The latter was mirrored in our phylogenetic analyses, with pairs of *S. progastus-*

368   *richardsonii* from the Koshi and Gandaki rivers being monophyletic in the alignment-free

phylogeny (figure 6*a*) and agreeing approximately with STRUCTURE-inferred assignment

370   probabilities (figure 6*b*). Optimal Evanno-derived *K* in the latter identified peaks in *DeltaK* at

K=3 and *K*=7. The former yielded a homogenous Nepali sub-tree, with only the Koshi River

372   samples somewhat distinct (figure 6*a,b*), whereas *K*=7 reveals weak differentiation, with mixed

assignment spanning basins.

374   Inferred edges in TREEMIX suggested migration between *S. progastus* of the Koshi and

Gandaki rivers, as well as between *S. progastus* of the Koshi with *S. raraensis* and *S.*

376   *macrophthalmus* of Lake Rara (figure 6*c*). However, the latter may be mis-ascribed, particularly

given the absence of sampling for *S. progastus* from the Karnali River. Furthermore, migration

378   edges in TREEMIX may also explain the mixed inter-drainage assignment seen in STRUCTURE, as

well as the non-monophyly of Koshi River *richardsonii-progastus* in our POMO analysis (figure

380   7).

Bhutanese *Schizothorax* spp. differed in that no clear delineations were found between

382   high- and low-elevation clades in *S. progastus*, and with clustering instead reflecting species-

level assignments (figure 5, 6*b*). STRUCTURE results suggested mixed assignment of *S. progastus*

384   and *S. cf. oconnori*, particularly in the Wang Chhu where both *de novo* and transcriptome-guided

results agreed (figure 6*b*). TREEMIX results also revealed evidence in multiple sub-basins for

386   exchange across species boundaries (figure 6*c* and S1). Of note, mixed assignment was also

observed between *S. progastus* (Bhutan) with those from Nepal (figure 6*c*). We could not test

388   whether this reflects retained ancestral variation (i.e., prior to divergence of Ganges and

Brahmaputra rivers), or more contemporary mixture. Patterson's *D*-statistic likewise supported

390   this mixed ancestry, both at the level of conspecifics among drainages and heterospecifics within

drainages (table S3).

(c) Co-divergence analysis

394   Co-divergence analysis rejected co-divergence for all riverine pairwise comparisons for both

Nepal and Bhutan (figure 8). One notable exception was the inferred simultaneous divergence of

396   the 'Lake Rara' lacustrine radiation (here represented as two comparisons: *S. macrophthalmus* x

S. raraensis+*S. nepalensis*; and *S. raraensis* x *S. nepalensis*; figure 8a). Here, a model of 4

398   divergences was selected for Nepal (posterior probability > 0.9; figure 8c), with the relative

timing for this radiation exceptionally recent compared to those inferred for within-drainage

400   comparisons. We note, however, that inferred divergence times are likely skewed by

introgression (e.g. figure 6c), but that the exact nature of this effect is unclear [101]. Parameter

402   estimates for all analyses post burn-in were >600.

(d) Locus-wise differentiation and outlier analysis

The greatest number of significant SNPs following Bonferroni-correction occurred in outlier

406   analysis involving Koshi and Gandaki *S. richardsonii-progastus* pairs, and from the comparison

of *S. progastus* and *S. cf. oconnori* from Bhutan (i.e. *N*=531 and 54, respectively; figure S2*a*). Of

408   these, the most substantial number of overlapping SNPs was found among Koshi and Gandaki

comparisons. Outliers in both cases had higher F_{ST} than did the genome-wide distribution

410   involving *de novo* or transcriptome-guided assemblies. This pattern was not repeated in the same

loci for Bhutan (figure S2*b*), although outlier loci in Bhutan did share a negative relationship of

412   gene diversity (H_E), as compared to *S. richardsonii-progastus* F_{ST} (figure S2*c*). Outlier F_{ST} for *S.*

richardsonii-progastus was correlated in the Gandaki *versus* Koshi rivers, but with no

414   discernible relationship with the same measure when compared to Karnali River *S. richardsonii*

and Lake Rara species, Bhutanese *S. progastus-oconnori*, nor among Bhutanese populations of

416   only *S. progastus* (figure S3). Relationships among different locus-differentiation statistics

otherwise occurred per theoretical expectations (figure S4). Hence only comparisons (above) are

418   presented for F_{ST}. Relating D_{XY} ratios to D_{XO} showed that high values were likely driven by

near-zero distances among *S. richardsonii* pairs for a subset of loci (figure S5), in line with

420   evidence from the *D*-statistics indicating shared inter-drainage ancestry among conspecifics

(table S3).

422   Although ~75% of outlier transcripts could not be assigned candidate protein products,

gene ontology (GO) term enrichment for shared outliers revealed a number of related biological

424   processes, including anatomical structure formation (GO: 0048646), up-regulation of

phosphoprotein phosphatase activity (GO: 0032516), and up-regulation of G protein coupled

426   receptor signaling (GO: 0045745)(figure S2*d*). The few outlier transcripts that could be assigned

candidate proteins in the overlapping Gandaki-Koshi set were: Aurora Kinase A (*AURKA*), Zinc

428   Finger SWIM Domain Containig Protein 6 (*ZSWIM6*), Adhesion G protein-coupled receptor A3

(*ADGRA3*), and Caspase B (*CASPB*).

(e) Partitioned ancestry and mixture analyses

432   Loci for which *richardsonii-richardsonii* divergence was greater than *richardsonii-progastus*

(i.e., D_{XY} ratio < 1.0; figure 9*a*) occurred in drainages irrespective of ecomorphological taxon-

434   assignment and corresponded to ~68%. The remaining ~32% yielded groupings consistent with

species-level taxonomy, but with migration among species suggested within the Gandaki and

436 Koshi rivers (figure 9*a*). Repeating the same analysis across loci binned by F_{ST} yielded a

transition from drainage-level at low values (with migration among mid-highland *S. progastus*)

438 towards species-level at high values (with migration within drainages) (figure 9*b*). This pattern

was consistent when loci were binned with F_{ST} estimates derived either from *S. richardsonii-*

440 *progastus* comparisons in the Gandaki or the Koshi, although the transition towards species-level

grouping was slightly protracted in the latter (figure 9*b*).

4. Discussion

444 We apply genome-wide SNP data and ploidy-aware genotyping to demonstrate that genetic and

morphologically distinct *Schizothorax* forms in Himalayan tributaries evolved prior to secondary

446 gene flow, rather than as a parallel emergence of elevational forms. In addition, highland

specialists in Nepal converged strongly onto a singular phenotype that was recapitulated in

448 phylogenetic patterns at presumed targets of selection. However, neutral variation showed signs

within each basin of homogenization among elevational pairs (*S. richardsonii* and *S. progastus*),

450 suggesting a breakdown of reproductive isolation. In Bhutan, elevational pairs (*S. progastus* and

S. cf. oconnori) exhibited low-level as mixture, suggesting that elevational pairs possess either

452 greater reproductive fidelity or instead represent an earlier stage of homogenization via

secondary gene flow.

(a) Parallel divergence *versus* parallel hybridization in Nepali snowtrout

456 Genome-wide relationships among Nepali and Bhutanese *Schizothorax* give the appearance of

recurrently emerging ecotypes, with repeated colonization of highland habitats from a mid-

458 highland progenitor occurring within each drainage (figure 5, 6). This seemingly fits the

narrative of WGDs as promoting the adaptive potential of schizothoracine fishes, as well as the broader pattern of convergence among high-elevation specialists [50,62]. Indeed, WGD-derived adaptive potential may have played a role in the parallel colonization of highland habitats by *S. richardsonii* in the Ganges tributaries of Nepal, and *S. cf. oconnori* in the Brahmaputra tributaries of Bhutan, although we note that the current study lacks geometric morphometric data for the latter.

In the case of elevational *Schizothorax* pairs in Nepal, we found that dominant ancestries shifted from grouping at the drainage-level (based on scarcely differentiated/ "neutral" loci) (irrespective of eco-morphology) towards the conspecific-level (via strongly differentiated/selected loci). However, this raises an additional question: How are adaptive phenotypes retained despite introgression being reflected within most of the genome? Here, one potential is that an allopolyploid origin of WGD in *Schizothorax* conflate the signal of hybridization. However, a lack of sub-genome divergence was found in *S. oconnori* [110], as would be expected under allopolyploidy.

It is also possible that polyploidy facilitates a greater degree of genomic exchange when compared with reproductively isolated diploid species [111]. For example, ploidy has been suggested to promoting introgression in diploid-tetraploid crosses of *Arabidopsis*, due to a circumvention of dosage-mediated postzygotic isolation [112–114]. Increased introgression has also been supported among tetraploid-tetraploid crosses (as herein), with an increase in local recombination rates as one potential mechanism. As ploidy increases, there is a relaxation of linkage as a component of purifying selection [115,116]. Similarly, increased dosage may 'mask' deleterious loads, especially in young polyploid species [117,118]. Given the young age of WGD estimated for *S. oconnori* [110], these predictions implicate a genomic landscape vastly more

482   porous than might be expected in their diploid counterparts [114]. This may also be an

underappreciated mechanism promoting the hypothesized increased adaptability of polyploids to

484   stressful or novel environments [119,120].

486   **(b) Varying rates of hybridization among drainages**

In contrast to the substantially permeable genomic landscape seen among *S. richardsonii* and *S.*

488   *progastus* pairs in Nepal, we saw a much smaller signature of gene flow in Bhutanese elevational

pairs (*S. progastus*, *S. cf. oconnori*). In addition to gene flow obscuring species boundaries

490   [92,121], contrasts between Himalayan streams and extreme freshwater habitats in the American

Southwest [121–123] also implicate the potential for anthropogenically mediated hybridization.

492   Here, 'extinction vortices' may be driven by a coupling of potentially maladaptive hybridization

combined with declining population sizes. This provides a backdrop against which climatic

494   expectations of shrinking habitats for vulnerable highland species such as *S. richardsonii* can be

contrasted [124].

496   The potential role of hybridization in demographic trends or extinction risks [125,126]

cannot be inferred from our data, nor can the environmental covariates potentially modulating

498   species boundaries be inferred without further work. Given the potential for seasonal migratory

behavior in *Schizothorax* [73,127], hydropower dams will disrupt movements, thus inadvertently

500   promoting interspecific contact. Here, we again emphasize parallels with the heavily-modified

and regulated rivers of western North America, where water policy and impoundments promote

502   hybridization [122,128], define habitat suitability [129], and alter environmental cues [130].

Though both countries have a high percentage of protected areas, our results suggest that

504   anthropogenically-mediated hybridization represents an additional dimension to consider when

balancing freshwater conservation planning [131,132].

(c) High-elevation adaptation

508   Although we found relatively little overlap in putative targets of selection (figure S2*a*), our

reduced-representation approach only surveyed a small percentage of transcripts, with poor

510   success in establishing functional annotations. Molecular convergence among high-elevation

populations has been observed in disparate human populations [133], and even among humans

512   and their domesticated species [134]. Other studies in *Schizothorax* have shown an array of

candidate genes underscoring adaptations to hypoxic and ultraviolet conditions associated with

514   elevation [135].

Schizothoracine fishes in general have been characterized as species similarly to trout

516   (Salmonidae) adapted to torrential flows, with positioning in rapid currents facilitated by body

shape [136]. A longitudinal survey of Nepali assemblages showed replacement of *S. richardsonii*

518   by *S. progastus* at decreasing elevations [60], suggesting a role for factors such as dissolved

oxygen and flow rates [137]. Turnover and narrow elevational ranges are found in other

520   Himalayan taxa as well [138,139]. Specialized sucker-like adaptations are present in *S.*

richardsonii but absent in *S. progastus* [60], and species richness in *Schizothorax* is greater at

522   mid-elevation [140], seemingly corroborating this relationship *Schizothorax*.

An interesting case of adaptation which we did not explore fully herein is that of the

524   putative species flock in Lake Rara (figure 8a). There, species overlap in geometric

morphometric space (figure 3), yet display marked differences in mouth morphology, gill raker

526   shape, spawning microhabitat choice, and diet (with *S. raraensis* insectivorous, *S. nepalensis*

herbivorous, and *S. macrophthalmus* planktivorous) [53]. We found them genetically

528 indistinguishable across several analyses, in agreement with previous studies [54,56], though this

is unsurprising given their apparent recent and rapid diversification (figure 8) [101].

5. Conclusions

532 Our results indicate that population genomics can be accomplished in a statistically appropriate

manner using non-model polyploid species with relatively minor adjustments to the traditional

534 molecular ecology workflow. However, several limitations were encountered (such as the lack of

ploidy-aware methods for outlier detection), signaling a need for further development. Despite

536 these limitations, we were able to disentangle the parallel evolution of *Schizothorax* species in

Himalayan tributaries of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, and with recurrent processes

538 implicated at differing timescales: convergent adaptation towards high-elevation environments

among major drainages (e.g., Ganges *versus* Brahmaputra), and parallel selection against

540 introgressive homogenization within drainages. With regards to the latter, we found

heterogeneous levels of admixture among populations. Finally, we rejected the hypothesis of co-

542 divergence between highland and mid-highland riverine forms, yet found the lacustrine radiation

in Lake Rara to be both recent, and rapid.

Ethics. All methods were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations.

546 Bhutanese collecting permits were in conjunction with the National Research & Development

Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries (NRDCR&LF), Ministry of Agriculture & Forests

548 (MoAF), Royal Government of Bhutan. The export of fin clips was authorized through a

Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) provided by the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC), with

550 additional approvals provided by the Department of Forests & Park Services (DoFPs) and

Bhutan Agricultural and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA). Sampling protocols were

552   approved by the University of Arkansas Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

(UA_IACUC_17064). The study was also carried out in compliance with ARRIVE guidelines

554   (https://arriveguidelines.org).

556   **Data and code accessibility**. Raw sequence data will be made available via the NCBI Short

Read Archive (SRA) pending acceptance, under BioProject PRJNA759907. Assembled datasets

558   and input files are available in the Open Science Framework repository (doi:

10.17605/OSF.IO/TMJFK). Relevant code for this research work are stored in GitHub:

560   github.com/tkchafin/polyrad_scripts and github.com/tkchafin/scripts, and have been archived

within the Zenodo repositories doi: 10.5281/zenodo.5393418 and doi: 10.5281/zenodo.5181290.

Authors contributions. All contributed to conceptualization and study design. D.R.E. collected

564   samples in Nepal. S. T., K. W., S. D., P. N., S. N., C. L., and G. P. K. coordinated and supervised

field work in Bhutan. S.T., K.W., M.E.D., M.R.D, S. D., P. N., S. N., C. L., G. P. K., and T.K.C.

566   collected samples in Bhutan. B.R. collected and curated geometric morphometric data. M.E.D.

and M.R.D. generated molecular data. T.K.C. wrote necessary codes and performed

568   bioinformatic work. B.R. and T.K.C. analyzed data. T.K.C. generated figures and drafted the

manuscript. All authors contributed to revising the final product and subsequently approved its

570   submission.

572   **Competing interests**. We declare we have no competing interests.

574   **Funding**. The National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries (NRCRLF, Bhutan)

provided logistic support and personnel with which to sample fishes. Analytical resources were

576   provided by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (Arkansas Settlement Proceeds

Act of 2000) and the Arkansas High Performance Computing Center (AHPCC). Computational

578   support was also provided by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) funded XSEDE

Jetstream cloud (award #TG-BIO200074 to T.K.C.). This research was made possible through

580   generous endowments to the University of Arkansas: The Bruker Professorship in Life Sciences

(M.R.D.), the 21st Century Chair in Global Change Biology (M.E.D.), Distinguished Doctoral

582   Fellowship award (T.K.C.), and Graduate Teaching Assistantships (K.W., T.K.C.), all of which

provided salaries and/or research funds to complete this study. T. K. C. received additional

584   support via an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in Biology under Grant No. DBI: 2010774. Any

opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of

586   the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the funding agencies nor affiliated

organizations.

Acknowledgments. Museum specimens and tissue samples for Nepal were obtained from the

590   University of Kansas Natural History Museum (KUNHM;

https://biodiversity.ku.edu/ichthyology/collections), vouchers KU:KUIT:27806-27815, 27885-

592   27887, 29043, 29050, 29233, 29234, and 29236-29238 (for specific tissue numbers, see table

s2). We thank Curator Leo Smith and Collection Manager Andrew Bentley for tissue loans and

594   use of imaging facilities at KUNHM. Nepali samples were originally collected by D.R.E., as

funded by a Fulbright Scholarship, the Explorers Club, and the National Geographic Society

596   (NGEO) Committee for Research.

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982   **Tables and Figures**

Figure 1: Pattern and process in the formation of apparent ecotypes. Ecotypy is often inferred
984   via a juxtaposition of discordant spatial, phylogenetic, and phenotypic patterns (left;
differentially adapted forms represented in gold and purple). Evolutionary scenarios (right)
986   which can generate these patterns include (A) Parallel selection upon standing variation; (B)
Recurrent de novo adaptation via independent mutation; (C) Hybridization among co-occuring
988   ecophenotypes following a common origin; or (D) The singular origin of an adaptive mutation,
which is then spread via adaptive introgression.
990

Figure 2: Sampling locality information for *N*=96 *Schizothorax* spp. selected for ddRAD sequencing. Sites represent major Himalayan tributaries of the Brahmaputra and Ganges rivers from Nepal and Bhutan (A). Samples for five species (*S.*
macrophthalmus, *S. nepalensis*, *S. progastus*, *S. raraensis*, and *S. richardsonii*) were collected from 11 sites in the major drainages of Nepal (Karnali, Gandaki, and Koshi; B). Major drainages of Bhutan (Wang Chhu, Punatsang Chhu, and Mangde Chhu) were
represented by two species (*S. progastus* and *S. cf. oconnori*) collected from 11 localities (C). *Schizothorax progastus* from both Nepal (D) and Bhutan (E) were collected from relatively lower elevations (~600-1200m), whereas *S. richardsonii* (Nepal; D) and *S. cf.*
oconnori (Bhutan; E) were generally found >1200m.

Figure 3: Evaluation of ploidy from N=48,350 ddRAD loci for six *Schizothorax* species. (Left) Distributions of base frequencies among raw reads representing bi-allelic SNPs for six *Schizothorax* spp. collected from Nepal [*S. macrophthalmus*, *S. nepalensis*, *S.*
progastus (solid line), *S. raraensis*, and *S. richardsonii*] and Bhutan [*S. cf. oconnori* and *S. progastus* (dashed line)]. (Right) Likelihoods from Gaussian Mixture Models of fixed ploidy (e.g., diploid, triploid, tetraploid), divided by the likelihood under a model
of freely variable base frequencies (=logL_{Ploidy}/logL_{Free}).

Figure 4: Discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC) of morphological shape
       variation among five *Schizothorax* species. Results represent *N*=528 individuals of *S.*
1010   *macrophthalmus*, *S. nepalensis*, *S. progastus*, *S. raraensis*, and *S. richardsonii* collected from the
       Gandaki, Karnali (to include Lake Rara), and Koshi drainages of Nepal, and Procrustes-aligned
1012   two-dimensional Cartesian coordinates for 18 anatomical landmarks.

1014

Figure 5: Visualization of genetic variation among six *Schizothorax* species, as assessed across *N*=15,547 statistically diploid SNPs. Visualizations represent the first two discriminant functions from a discriminant analysis of principal components (DAPC) computed across (A) all samples from Bhutan (*S. cf. oconnori* and *S. progastus*) and Nepal (*S. macrophthalmus*, *S. nepalensis*, *S. progastus*, *S. raraensis*, and *S. richardsonii*); (B) Only those samples from Bhutan, additionally partitioned by major drainage encompassing the samples locality (i.e., Wang Chhu, Mangde Chhu, or Punatsang Chhu); and (C) Only individuals samples in Nepal. Nepali samples are partitioned by major drainage (i.e., Gandaki, Koshi, and Karnali), with species from Lake Rara (*S. macrophthalmus*, *S. nepalensis*, and *S. raraensis*) additionally separated.

 Figure 6: Phylogenetic and population structure of *N*=93 *Schizothorax* spp. collected in major
drainages of Bhutan and Nepal. Results represent (A) an unrooted alignment/assembly free
 phylogeny inferred from k-mer distances, computed from raw ddRAD reads. Clades are grouped
by drainage, and with colored bars denoting tips grouped by taxon (*S. macrophthalmus*, *S.*
 nepalensis, *S. cf. oconnori*, *S. progastus*, *S. raraensis*, and *S. richardsonii*). (B) Bar plots are
provided for population assignments at *K*=3 and *K*=7 for (left) 10,884 transcriptome-aligned
 SNPs and (right) 35,319 *de novo* assembled SNPs. (C) TREEMIX analyses of population
mixtures, with colored arrows representing inferred migration weights.

Figure 7: Population tree generated for *N*=93 *Schizothorax* spp. divided into 13 populations using a polymorphism-aware model applied to 15,543 ddRAD SNPs. Nodal values represent bootstrap support expressed as percentage of 1,000 ultra-fast bootstraps.

Figure 8: Tests of co-divergence among lineage pairs in Nepal and Bhutan. (A) and (C) show posterior probability distributions on divergence times for Nepal and Bhutan, respectively. Nepalese results (A) represent divergence of *Schizothorax richardsonii* (=*rich.*) and *S. progastus* (=*prog.*) in the Gandaki and Koshi rivers, *S. richardsonii* from the Karnali River with the 'Lake Rara' complex, *S. macrophthalmus* (=*macrop.*) with *S. raraensis* (=*rara.*) and *S. nepalensis* (=*nepal.*). Results for Bhutan depict *S. cf. oconnori* (=*ocon.*) and *S. progastus* from the Punatsang Chhu (=*Puna.*), Mangde Chhu, and Wang Chhu rivers. (B) and (D) depict posterior (dark bars) and prior (light bars) probabilities of the numbers of co-divergences.

1050   **Figure 9**: TREEMIX analyses of population mixtures among *S. progastus* and *S. richardsonii* pairs collected from the Gandaki and
Koshi rivers of Nepal, based on partitioning different subsets of loci. (A) Loci were grouped by ratios of D_{XY} (computed between
1052   heterospecifics within each drainage) and D_{XO} (computed between conspecific *S. richardsonii*), with those loci having a D_{XY} ratio >
1.0 in both Gandaki and Koshi comparisons (i.e., greater distances among *S. richardsonii* and *S. progastus* within drainage than *S.*
1054   *richardsonii* among drainages) analyzed separately. (B) Loci were also partitioned into four bins defined by per-locus F_{ST} computed in
Gandaki (above; red) and Koshi (below; blue) pairs. Colored arrows indicate inferred migrations within each partitioned analysis, with
1056   the color indicating the migration weight.

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